# IBJ Format Working-Notes 2v0 John D. McMullin 31 September 2023

Note: This document is not intended to be a complete formal description of IBJ format

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# 1. Philosophy

The IBJ format is a textual representation used to provide an interface between the code generator stage and the Object file generator stage of a compiler.

It is an Instruction Set Architecture neutral format, aimed at describing how to generate the Object file contents. The same IBJ file can be used to generate ELF or COFF object files.

## 2. File Layout

Each line of an IBJ file represents an IBJ record encoded using ASCII characters.

An IBJ record contains a array sequence of ASCII characters [1..N] starting with an ASCII character in the range: ('A' .. 'W') used to indicate the IBJ record type.

So IBJ record type is indicated by character[1].

Characters[2..N] are encoded hexadecimal numbers stored as ASCII ('0'..'9','A'..'F' or 'a'..'f') in pairs. Each pair of characters represents a byte value.

Characters [2..3] form a byte count of the number of following Hex characters, where:

Character[2] is the high nibble value (as a Hex value).

Character[3] is the low nibble value (as a Hex value).

This limits the number of subsequent bytes to a maximum of 255 after the count byte.

Thus, the first Hex character containing specific data about the IBJ record info is character[4] where the format of the following bytes depends on the IBJ record type.

Record Character	IBJ Type	IBJ Purpose
Α	IF OBJ	plain object code
В	IF DATA	data seg offset code word
С	IF CONST	const seg offset code word
D	IF DISPLAY	display seg offset code word
E	IF JUMP	unconditional jump to label
F	IF JCOND	cond jump to label JE, JNE, JLE, JL, JGE, JG
G	IF CALL	call a label
Н	IF LABEL	define a label
I	IF FIXUP	define location for stack fixup instruction
J	IF SETFIX	stack fixup <location> <amount></amount></location>
K	IF REQEXT	external name spec
L	IF REFLABEL	relative address of label
M	IF REFEXT	external name relative offset code word (call external)
N	IF BSS	BSS segment offset code word
0	IF COTWORD	Constant table word
Р	IF DATWORD	Data segment word
Q	IF SWTWORD	switch table entry - actually a label ID
R	IF SOURCE	name of the source file
S	IF DEFEXTCODE	define a code label that is external
Т	IF DEFEXTDATA	define a data label that is external
U	IF SWT	switch table offset code word
V	IF LINE	line number info for debugger
W	IF ABSEXT	external name absolute offset code word (data external)

# 3. Data Types

Data-type	Size		Format		
	Hex	Bytes	Н	Hex Char	'0''9','A''F' or 'a''f' as ASCII char
			В	Byte Value	0255
			W	16 bit Word value	065536
			Α	8-bit ASCII Character	
Byte	2	1	HH =	В	
			H[1]	= High value nibble	
			H[2]	= Low value nibble	
Condition	2	1	HH =	В	
			B = ?		
LabelNo	4	2	ннн	H = BB = W	
			H[1]H[2] = High value byte		
			H[3]H[4] = Low value byte		
ShortInt	4	2	ннн	H = BB = W	
			H[1]H	H[2] = High value byte	
			H[3]H	H[4] = Low value byte	
HexString	N	N/2	HHI	HH = BB	
			This forms a sequence of byte values where each byte is in the		e values where each byte is in the
			range 0255.		
NameString	N	N/2	HHHH = AA		
					CII characters or a string
				the first ASCII character	
			A[N/2] the last ASCII character		

# 4. IBJ RECORDS

#### 3.1.OBJ

Instruction:	'A'	Data	HexString				
Effect:							
Notes:	plain	plain object code (in binary format)					
Error:							
Example:	A020FBFC0 As assembler text						
	MOVSX %EAX,%AX						

#### 3.2. DATA

Instruction:	'B'	Data		ShortInt	
Effect:					
Notes:	data seg offset code word				
Error:					
Example:					

#### **3.3. CONST**

Instruction:	'C'	Data		ShortInt	
Effect:					
Notes:	const seg offset code word				
Error:					
Example:					

#### 3.4. DISPLAY

Instruction:	'D'	Data		ShortInt	
Effect:					
Notes:	display seg offset code word				
Error:					
Example:					

#### 3.5.JUMP

Instruction:	'E'	TargetLabel		LabelNo	
Effect:					
Notes:	unconditional jump to label				
Error:					
Example:					

#### **3.6.JCOND**

Instruction:	'F'	JumpCondition	Condition
		TargetLabel	LabelNo
Effect:			
Notes:	cond	jump to label JE, JNE, JLE, JL, JGE, JG	
Error:			
Example:			

#### 3.7. CALL

Instruction:	'G'	TargetLabel	LabelNo
Effect:			
Notes:	call a la		
Error:			
Example:			

#### **3.8. LABEL**

Instruction:	'H'	LabelDef		LabelNo
Effect:				
Notes:	define a label			
Error:				
Example:				

#### **3.9. FIXUP**

Instruction:	'l' Fixupld		ShortInt				
		StringSize	Byte				
		NameString	NameString				
Effect:							
Notes:	define	location for stack fixup instruction					
Error:							
Example:							

#### 3.10. SETFIX

		1 <del>-</del> 1	
Instruction:	'J'	FixupId	ShortInt
		Offset	ShortInt
		Events	ShortInt
		Trap	ShortInt
		From	ShortInt
Effect:			
Notes:	stack f	ixup <location> <amount></amount></location>	
Error:			
Example:			

#### 3.11. REQEXT

Instruction:	'K'	ExternalName		NameString
Effect:				
Notes:	external name spec			
Error:				
Example:			•	

3.12. REFLABEL

Instruction:	'L'	LabelRefNo	ShortInt	
		Offset	ShortInt	
Effect:				
Notes:	relative address of label			
Error:				
Example:				

#### 3.13. REFEXT

Instruction:	'M'	ExtNameRef	ShortInt
		Offset	ShortInt
Effect:			
Notes:	external name relative offset code word (call external)		
Error:			
Example:			

#### 3.14. BSS

Instruction:	'N'	Offset		ShortInt	
Effect:					
Notes:	BSS s	segment offset cod	e word		
Error:					
Example:					

#### 3.15. COTWORD

Instruction:	'O'	Data	ShortInt	
Effect:				
Notes:	Cons	tant table word		
Error:				
Example:				

#### 3.16. DATWORD

Instruction:	'P'	Data		ShortInt
Effect:				
Notes:	Data segment word			
Error:				
Example:				

### 3.17. SWTWORD

Instruction:	'Q'	SwitchLabelNo	ShortInt	
Effect:				
Notes:	switch table entry - actually a label ID			
Error:				
Example:				

### 3.18. SOURCE

Instruction:	'R'	FileName	NameString
Effect:			

Notes:	name of the source file				
Error:					
Example:					

#### 3.19. **DEFEXTCODE**

Instruction:	'S'	ExtCodeName	NameString	
Effect:				
Notes:	define a code label that is external			
Error:				
Example:				

#### 3.20. DEFEXTDATA

Instruction:	'T'	ExtDataName	NameString	
Effect:				
Notes:	define a data label that is external			
Error:				
Example:				

#### 3.21. SWT

Instruction:	'U'	TableOffset	ShortInt
Effect:			
Notes:	switch table offset code word		
Error:			
Example:			

#### 3.22. LINE

Instruction:	'V'	LineNo		ShortInt
Effect:				
Notes:	line number info for debugger			
Error:				
Example:				

#### 3.23. ABSEXT

Instruction:	'W'	ExtNameRefNo	ShortInt	
		Offset	ShortInt	
Effect:				
Notes:	external name absolute offset code word (data external)			
Error:				
Example:				

## Appendix 1. Example IBJ file

This file has had excess IBJ records removed but is still a legal IBJ file.

R0962696C626F2E696D70

V020500

H02E803

S05787A65726F

I0C0000015A45524F434F554E54

V020600

A02C705

B040000000

A040000000

V020700

A02C9C3

V020900

H02E903

S0478696E63

IOC100001494E4352454D454E54

V020A00

A02FF05

B040000000

V020B00

A02C9C3

V020D00

H02EA03

S0478646563

IOC1C000144454352454D454E54

V020E00

A02FF05

B040000000

V020F00

A02C9C3

V021100

H02EB03

S067876616C7565

I0828000156414C5545

V021200

A01A1

B040000000

A02C9C3

V021300

J0A280000000000000000000

V021500

P020000

P020000