

SECR2033
Computer Organization and Architecture
Module 3 & Lab 1

Module 3 Introduction to Assembly Language Programming

Objectives:

- To understand the interaction between computer hardware, operating systems, and application programs.
- To apply and test theoretical information given in computer architecture and operating systems courses.
- To write the basic of assembly language and execute the program.

Module 3 Introduction to Assembly Language Programming

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Basic Elements of Assembly Language
- 3.3 Example: Adding and Subtracting Integers
- 3.4 Defining Data
- 3.5 Symbolic Constants
- 3.6 Summary

3.1 Introduction



- Assembly language is the oldest programming language, and of all languages, bears the <u>closest</u> resemblance to native <u>machine</u> language.
- *Machine language* is a numeric language specifically understood by a computer's processor (the CPU).
- Assembly language provides <u>direct access</u> to computer hardware, requiring us to understand much about your computer's architecture and operating system.
- Each assembly language instruction <u>corresponds</u> to a single machine-language instruction.

Module 3 Introduction to Assembly Language Programming

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Basic Elements of Assembly Language

- 3.3 Example: Adding and Subtracting Integers
- 3.4 Defining Data
- 3.5 Symbolic Constants
- 3.6 Summary

- ☐ Integer Constants
- □ Real Number Constants
- Character & String Constants
- Reserved Words
- Identifiers
- Directives
- Instructions
- Operands
- Comments
- Registers

3.2 Basic Elements of Assembly Language



- Generally, assembly language is not hard to learn if you're happy writing short programs that do practically nothing.
- Describing the basic elements will help us to write our first programs in assembly language.

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(1) Integer Constants

An integer constant (or integer literal) is made up of an optional leading sign, one or more digits, and an optional suffix character (called a radix) indicating the number's base:

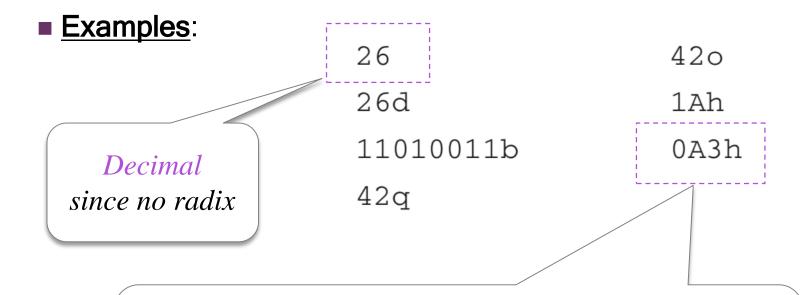
$$[\{+|-\}]$$
 digits $[radix]$

Radix may be one of the following (uppercase or lowercase):

h	Hexadecimal	r	Encoded real
q/o	Octal	t	Decimal (alternate)
d	Decimal	У	Binary (alternate)
b	Binary		



If no radix is given, the integer constant is assumed to be decimal.



A hexadecimal constant beginning with a letter must leading with **zero** to prevent the assembler from interpreting it as an identifier.

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(2) Real Number Constants

- Represented as decimal reals or encoded (hexadecimal) reals.
- A decimal real contains an optional <u>sign</u> followed by an <u>integer</u>, a decimal point, an optional <u>integer</u> that expresses a fraction, and an optional <u>exponent</u>:

[sign]integer.[integer][exponent]

The syntax for the sign and exponent:

Examples: Valid real number constants:

3

(3) Character & String Constants

- A character constant is a single character enclosed in single or double quotes.
- Examples:

■ ASCII character = 1 byte.

A string constant is a sequence of characters (including spaces) enclosed in single or double quotes.

Examples:

```
'ABC'
'X'
"Good night, Gracie"
'4096'
```

Each character occupies a single byte.



Embedded quotes are permitted when used in the manner shown by the following examples:

```
"This isn't a test"
'Say "Good night," Gracie'
```

'Say "COA is easy"'



(4) Reserved Words

Reserved words cannot be used as identifiers:

- o Instruction mnemonics (MOVE, ADD, MUL)
- Directives (INCLUDE)
- Type attributes (BYTE, WORD)
- Operators (+, -)
- Predefined symbols (@data)

(5) Identifiers

- An identifier is a programmer-chosen name.
- It might identify a *variable*, a *constant*, a *procedure*, or a *code label*.
 - May contain 1 247 characters, including digits.
 - Not case-sensitive (by default).
 - First character must be a letter (A..Z, a..z), _, @, ? or \$
 - Subsequent character may also be a digit.
 - Identifier cannot be the same as assembler reserved word.



- The @ symbol is used extensively by the assembler as a prefix for predefined symbols, so avoid using as identifiers.
- Make identifier names <u>descriptive</u> and <u>easy</u> to understand.
- **Examples** of some valid identifiers:

var1	Count	\$first
_main	MAX	open_file
myFile	xVal	_12345

(6) Directives

■ A directive is a command embedded in the source code that is recognized and acted upon by the assembler:

- Not execute at runtime.
- Can define variables, macros, and procedures.
- Different assemblers have different directives.



Example to show the difference between directives and instructions:

Tells the assembler to reserve space in the program for a doubleword variable.

myVar DWORD 26

; DWORD directive

mov eax, myVar

; MOV instruction

Executes at runtime, copying the contents of myVar to the EAX register.

(7) Instructions

- An instruction is an executable statement when a program is assembled.
- *Instructions* are translated by the *assembler* into machine language bytes, which are loaded and executed by the CPU at runtime.
- Four basic parts: ☐ Label (optional)
 - Instruction mnemonic (required)
 - Operand(s) (usually required)
 - □ Comment (optional)

(a) Labels

- target:

 mov ax,bx

 ...
 jmp target
- A label is an identifier that acts as a place marker for instructions and data.
- Follow identifier rules.

Data Label

Identifies the location of a variable.

Examples: Defines a variable named count.

count DWORD 100

Code Label

Used as targets of jumping and looping instructions that end with a colon (:) character.

■ Examples: jmp instruction transfers control to the label target, creating a loop.

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(b) Instructions Mnemonic

An instruction mnemonic is a short word that identifies the operation carried out by an instruction.

Examples:

mov	Move (assign) one value to another
add	Add two values
sub	Subtract one value from another
mul	Multiply two values
jmp	Jump to a new location
call	Call a procedure

- Assembly language instructions can have between zero and three operands (depending on the type of instruction).
- The following table contains several sample operands:

Example	Operand Type	
96, 2019h, 1011b	Constant (immediate value)	
2 + 4	Constant expression	
eax, ebx, ax, ah	Register	
count	Memory (Data Label)	



Examples of assembly language instructions having varying numbers of operands:

- Comments are an important way for the writer of a program to describe/tell about the program's design to a person reading the source code.
- Typical comments:
 - Description of the program's purpose.
 - Names of persons who created and/or revised the program.
 - Program creation and revision dates.
 - Technical <u>notes</u> about the program's implementation.

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Type of Comments

Single-line

begin with semicolon (;)

```
; This is line 1.
```

- ; This is line 2.
- ; This is line 3.

Block / Multi-line

- begin with COMMENT directive & any a programmer-chosen character.
- end with the same programmer-chosen character.

```
COMMENT!
This line is comment 1.
This line is comment 2.
!
```

Review Questions



- 1. Identify valid suffix characters used in integer constants.
- 2. (Yes/No): Is A5h a valid hexadecimal constant?
- 3. (Yes/No): Does the multiplication operator (*) have a higher precedence than the division operator (/) in integer expressions?
- 4. Write a constant expression that divides 10 by 3 and returns the integer remainder.
- 5. Show an example of a valid real number constant with an exponent.
- 6. (Yes/No): Must string constants be enclosed in single quotes?
- 7. Reserved words can be instruction mnemonics, attributes, operators, predefined symbols, and ______.
- 8. What is the maximum length of an identifier?
- 9. (True/False): An identifier cannot begin with a numeric digit.

Review Questions

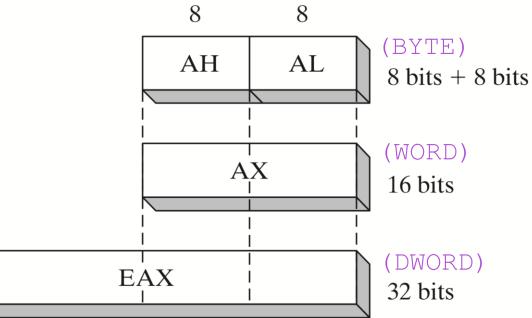


- 11. (True/False): Assembler directives execute at runtime.
- 12. (*True/False*): Assembler directives can be written in any combination of uppercase and lowercase letters.
- 13. Name the four basic parts of an assembly language instruction.
- 14. (*True/False*): MOV is an example of an instruction mnemonic.
- 15. (True/False): A code label is followed by a colon (:), but a data label does not have a colon.
- 16. Show an example of a block comment.
- 17. Why would it not be a good idea to use numeric addresses when writing instructions that access variables?



■ *Registers* are high-speed storage locations directly inside the CPU, designed to be accessed at much <u>higher speed</u> than conventional memory.

The general-purpose registers are primarily used for arithmetic and data movement.





■ The same overlapping relationship exists for the EAX, EBX, ECX, and EDX registers:

32-Bit	16-Bit	8-Bit (High)	8-Bit (Low)
EAX	AX	АН	AL
EBX	BX	ВН	BL
ECX	CX	СН	CL
EDX	DX	DH	DL

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Program Template

Program Template

- Assembly language programs have a simple structure, with small variations.
- When begin a new program, it helps to start with an <u>empty shell</u> <u>program</u> with all basic elements in place.
- Redundant typing can be avoided by filling in the missing parts and saving the file under a <u>new name</u>.
- The next protected-mode program (Template.asm) can easily be customized.

```
TITLE Program Template
                                   (Template.asm)
; Program Description:
; Author:
; Creation Date:
; Revisions:
; Date:
INCLUDE Irvine32.inc
.data
     ; (insert variables here)
.code
main PROC
     ; (insert executable instructions here)
    exit
main ENDP
     ; (insert additional procedures here)
END main
```

Write the following program in textpad or notepad and save as Template.asm.

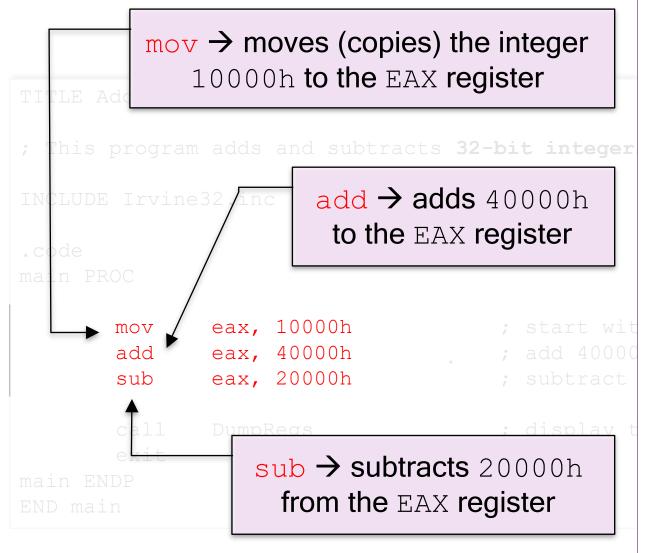
Program 3.1:

```
TITLE Program Template
                              (Template.asm)
; This is a template program
INCLUDE Irvine32.inc
.data
       ; (insert all variables here)
.code
main PROC
       ; (insert all executable instructions here)
       call
                                      ; display the registers
            DumpRegs
       exit
main ENDP
        ; (insert all additional procedures here)
END main
```

Example: Adding & Subtracting

- Registers are used to hold the intermediate data, and we call a library subroutine to display the contents of the registers on the screen.
- Next is the program source code.
- Let's go through the program line indicated by the red font.

```
TITLE Add and Subtract
                              (AddSub.asm)
; This program adds and subtracts 32-bit integers
INCLUDE Irvine32.inc
.code
main PROC
           eax, 10000h
                                     : start with 10000h
       mov
           eax, 40000h
                                     ; add 40000h
       add
                                     ; subtract 20000h
           eax, 20000h
       sub
       call
              DumpRegs
                                     ; display the registers
       exit
main ENDP
END main
```



EAX = OFC40000h

EAX = 00010000h

EAX = 00050000h

EAX = 00030000h



■ The following is a snapshot of the program's output, generated by the call to DumpRegs:

```
EAX=00030000 EBX=7FFDF000 ECX=00000101 EDX=FFFFFFF ESI=000000000 EDI=000000000 EBP=0012FFF0 ESP=0012FFC4 EIP=00401024 EFL=000000206 CF=0 SF=0 ZF=0 OF=0
```

Program 3.2:

Write the following program in textpad or notepad and save as AddSub.asm.

```
TITLE Add and Subtract
                               (AddSub.asm)
; This program adds and subtracts 32-bit integers
INCLUDE Irvine32.inc
.code
main PROC
                                       ; start with 10000h
               eax, 10000h
       mov
       add
            eax, 40000h
                                       ; add 40000h
              eax, 20000h
                                       ; subtract 20000h
       sub
       call
               DumpReas
                                       ; display the registers
       exit
main ENDP
END main
```

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- Intrinsic Data Types
- Data Definition Statement
- □ Little Endian Order
 - Defining BYTE and SBYTE Data
- Defining WORD and SWORD Data
- Defining DWORD and SDWORD Data
- □ Defining QWORD, TBYTE, Real Data
- Defining Real Number Data
- □ Adding Variables to AddSub Program

3.4 Defining Data



Intrinsic Data Types

- Each intrinsic data types describes a set of values that can be assigned to variables and expressions of the given type.
- The essential characteristic of each type is its size in bits:
 - \rightarrow 8, 16, 32, 48, 64, and 80.
- The assembler is <u>not case sensitive</u>, so a directive such as DWORD can be written as dword, Dword, dWord, and so on.

Table: Intrinsic Data Types.

Туре	Usage
BYTE	8-bit unsigned integer. B stands for byte
SBYTE	8-bit signed integer. S stands for signed
WORD	16-bit unsigned integer (can also be a Near pointer in real-address mode)
SWORD	16-bit signed integer
DWORD	32-bit unsigned integer (can also be a Near pointer in protected mode). D stands for double
SDWORD	32-bit signed integer. SD stands for signed double
FWORD	48-bit integer (Far pointer in protected mode)
QWORD	64-bit integer. Q stands for quad
TBYTE	80-bit (10-byte) integer. T stands for Ten-byte

Data Definition Statement

- A data definition statement sets aside storage in memory for a variable, with an optional name.
- It creates variables based on intrinsic data types (see previous table).
- A data definition has the following syntax:

[name] directive initializer [,initializer]...

Examples:

count	DWORD	12345
nombor	BYTE	63
huruf	BYTE	'M'
nilai	WORD	25h,7Ah,99h

At least one

initializer

Little Endian Order

- x86 Processors store and retrieve data from memory using little endian order (low to high).
- The Least Significant Byte (LSB) is stored at the first memory address allocated for the data.
- The remaining bytes are stored in the next consecutive memory positions.
- Example: Double word 12345678h

Offset:	Value:	
0000:	78	(8 bits)
0001:	56	(8 bits)
0002:	34	(8 <i>bits</i>)
0003:	12	(8 bits)

Defining BYTE and SBYTE Data

- The BYTE (define byte) and SBYTE (define signed byte) directives allocate storage for one or more unsigned or signed values.
- Each initializer must fit into 8 bits (1 Byte) of storage.

```
'A'
value1
                      ; character constant
        BYTE
value2
                        smallest unsigned byte
        BYTE
                255
                        largest unsigned byte
value3
       BYTE
               -128
                      ; smallest signed byte
value4
       SBYTE
               +127
                      ; largest signed byte
value5
       SBYTE
value6
       BYTE
                      ; uninitialized byte
```



■ Sequences of bytes in memory:

			Offset:	Value:
			0000:	'A'
			0001:	0
			0002:	FF
value1 value2	BYTE BYTE	'A' 0	0003:	80
value3	BYTE	255	0004:	7 F
value4 value5	SBYTE SBYTE	-128 +127		/ Г
value6	BYTE	?	0005:	

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Multiple Initializer

■ If multiple initializers are used in the same data definition, its label refers only to the offset of the first initializer.

■ Examples:

list1	BYTE	10,20,30
	BYTE	00100010b
list2	BYTE	41h,'A',

Initializers can use different radixes in a single data definition

Offset:	Value: D	ata label:
0000:	10	list1
0001:	20	list1+1
0002:	30	list1+2
0003:	00100010	list1+3
0004:	41h	list2
0005:	'A'	list2+1

3

 $Character(\ \)$ will

concatenates these two

source code lines into a

single statement

Defining Strings

- To define a string of characters, enclose them in <u>single</u> or <u>double</u> quotation marks.
- The most common type of string ends with a null byte (containing 0).

```
greeting1 BYTE "Good afternoon",0
greeting2 BYTE 'Good night',0
greeting3 \
BYTE "Welcome to the "
BYTE "Computer Organization"
BYTE "and Architecture".
```



■ The hexadecimal codes <code>ODh</code> and <code>OAh</code> are alternately called CR/LF (Carriage-Return / Line-Feed) or end-of-line characters.

```
greeting1 BYTE "Welcome to the COA class"

BYTE "with me.", 0dh, 0ah

BYTE "If you wish to pass, please"

BYTE "study hard.", 0dh, 0ah, 0
```

The **DUP** directive tells the **assembler** to duplicate an expression a given number of times

DUP Operator



- The DUP operator allocates <u>storage for multiple data items</u>, using a <u>constant</u> expression as a counter.
- It is particularly useful when allocating space for a string or array.

```
BYTE 20 DUP(0) ; 20 bytes, all equal to 0
BYTE 20 DUP(?) ; 20 bytes, uninitialized
BYTE 3 DUP("COA") ; 9 bytes: "COACOACOA"
BYTE 10,2 DUP(0),20 ; 4 bytes: 0Ah,00,00,14h
```

)ata

Defining WORD and SWORD Data

■ The WORD (define word) and SWORD (define signed word) directives create storage for one or more 16-bit (2-Byte) integers.

■ Examples:

```
65535
                        ; largest unsigned value
word1
        WORD
               -32768
                        ; smallest signed value
word2
        SWORD
                        ; uninitialized, unsigned
word3
        WORD
                        ; triple characters
word4
        WORD
               "BMW"
               1,2,3
                       ; array of words
myList
       WORD
               4 DUP(?); uninitialized, unsigned
myArray
        WORD
```

Defining DWORD and SDWORD Data



■ The DWORD (define doubleword) and SDWORD (define signed doubleword) directives allocate storage for one or more 32-bit (4-byte) integers:

12345678h ; unsigned DWORD val1 val2 SDWORD -2147483648 signed

 \rightarrow -2147483648 is in $decimal \rightarrow 80000000h$

> Remember little endian?

Offset:

0000:

0004:

Value (4 Bytes):

78 56

00

34 12 000080 Data lahel:

varl

var2

3

Defining QWORD, TBYTE, Real Data

- The QWORD (define quadword) directive allocates <u>storage</u> for 64-bit (8-byte) values.
- The TBYTE directive to declare packed BCD (*Binary Coded Decimal*) variables in a 10-byte package

Examples:

```
      quad1
      QWORD
      1234567812345678h

      intVal
      TBYTE
      8000000000000001234h; valid

      intVal
      TBYTE
      -1234; invalid
```

Constant initializers must be in hexadecimal

Defining Real Number Data

- REAL4 defines a 4-byte single-precision real variable.
- REAL8 defines an 8-byte double-precision real, and
- REAL10 defines a 10-byte double extended-precision real. Each requires one or more real constant initializers.

rVal1	REAL4	-1.2	
rVal2	REAL8	3.2E-260	
rVal3	REAL10	4.6E-4096	
ShortArray	REAL4	20 DUP(0.0)	



Table: Standard Real Number Types.

Data Type	Significant Digits	Approximate Range
Short real	6	1.18×10^{-38} to 3.40×10^{38}
Long real	15	2.23×10^{-308} to 1.79×10^{308}
Extended-precision real	19	3.37×10^{-4932} to 1.18×10^{4932}

Adding Variables to AddSub Program

- Using the AddSub.asm program from previous section, we can add a data segment containing several doubleword variables.
- The program in next slide.

```
TITLE Add and Subtract
                              (AddSub.asm)
; This program adds and subtracts 32-bit integers
INCLUDE Irvine32.inc
.code
main PROC
           eax, 10000h
                                     : start with 10000h
       mov
           eax, 40000h
                                     ; add 40000h
       add
                                     ; subtract 20000h
           eax, 20000h
       sub
       call
              DumpRegs
                                     ; display the registers
       exit
main ENDP
END main
```

```
TITLE Add and Subtract, Version 2
                                         (AddSub2.asm)
; This program adds and subtracts 32-bit integers
; and stores the sum in a variable.
INCLUDE Trvine32.inc
.data
val1 dword 10000h
val2 dword 40000h
val3 dword 20000h
                                              Data Segment
finalVal dword ?
.code
main PROC
                                    ; start with 10000h
           eax,val1
       mov
       add
              eax, val2
                                    ; add 40000h
       sub
              eax, val3
                                    ; subtract 20000h
       mov finalVal, eax
                                    ; store the result (30000h)
       call DumpRegs
                                    ; display the registers
       exit
main ENDP
END main
```

Program 3.3:

Write the following program in textpad or notepad and save as AddSub2.asm.

```
TITLE Add and Subtract
                              (AddSub2.asm)
; This program adds and subtracts 32-bit integers
; and stores the sum in a variable.
INCLUDE Trvine32.inc
.data
finalVal DWORD ?
.code
main PROC
                                      : start with 10000h
       mov eax, 10000h
       add
           eax, 40000h
                                      ; add 40000h
       sub
           eax, 20000h
                                      : subtract 20000h
              finalVal, eax
                                      ; store the result (30000h)
       mov
       call
                                      ; display the registers
               DumpReas
       exit
main ENDP
END main
```

- 1. Create an uninitialized data declaration for a 16-bit signed integer.
- 2. Create an uninitialized data declaration for an 8-bit unsigned integer.
- 3. Create an uninitialized data declaration for an 8-bit signed integer.
- 4. Create an uninitialized data declaration for a 64-bit integer.
- 5. Which data type can hold a 32-bit signed integer?
- 6. Declare a 32-bit signed integer variable and initialize it with the smallest possible negative decimal value. (*Hint:* Refer to integer ranges in Chapter 1.)
- 7. Declare an unsigned 16-bit integer variable named wArray that uses three initializers.
- 8. Declare a string variable containing the name of your favorite color. Initialize it as a null-terminated string.
- 9. Declare an uninitialized array of 50 unsigned doublewords named dArray.
- 10. Declare a string variable containing the word "TEST" repeated 500 times.
- 11. Declare an array of 20 unsigned bytes named **bArray** and initialize all elements to zero.
- 12. Show the order of individual bytes in memory (lowest to highest) for the following doubleword variable:

val1 DWORD 87654321h

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- Overview
- □ Equal-Sign (=) Directive
- EQU Directive

3.5 Symbolic Constants



- A symbolic constant (or symbol definition) is created by associating an identifier (a symbol) with an integer expression or some text.
- Symbols do not reserve storage.

	Symbol	Variable
Uses storage?	No	Yes
Value changes at runtime?	No	Yes

Equal-Sign (=) Directive

- Use the equal-sign directive (=) to create symbols representing integer expressions.
- The syntax:

- expression is a 32-bit integer (expression or constant)
- may be redefined
- name is called a symbolic constant
- Example:

```
name EQU expression
name EQU symbol
name EQU <text>
```



- The EQU directive associates a symbolic name with an integer expression or some arbitrary text.
- Examples:

For integer

```
PI EQU <3.1416>

pressKey EQU <"Press any key to continue...",0>

.
.
. .
. .
. data
prompt BYTE pressKey
```

Program 3.4:

Write the following program in textpad or notepad and save as main.asm.

```
TITLE TEST
                      (main.asm)
 This is an executable program
                                                  For adding
; with EQU directive
                                                   new line
INCLUDE Irvine32.inc
myName EQU <"Write your name here", 0dh, 0ah, 0>
.data
myMessage BYTE myName
.code
main PROC
       call Clrscr
                                     ; to clear screen
       mov edx, offset myMessage; start with the address
       call WriteString
                                    ; display the message
       exit
main ENDP
END main
```

Output:



Write your name here Press any key to continue . . .

- 1. Use this as the format for your lab report
- 2. Answer all activities and submit your lab report (pdf only) on e-learning by 8 March 5pm



Lab 1 - COA

Group Members:

Member 1

Member 2

Member 3

Activity 1

Exercise 3.1:



What are the sequences of bytes (in hexadecimal) in storage.

MyData DWORD 3740625, 2 DUP(2ABCD0Eh)

MyData DWORD 3740625, 2 DUP(2ABCD0Eh)

Solution 3.1:

 \rightarrow 3740625 is in decimal \rightarrow 003913D1h

Offset:	Value:	Offset:	Value:
0000:		0006:	
0001:		0007:	
0002:		0008:	
0003:		0009:	
0004:		000A:	
0005:		000B:	

Activity 2

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Exercise 3.2:

What are the sequences of bytes (in hexadecimal) in storage.

MyData2 WORD 2 DUP(4Fh),?, 'B',25,500Dh

MyData2 WORD 2 DUP(4Fh),?, 'B', 25, 500Dh

Solution 3.2:

$$\Rightarrow B = 42h$$

$$\Rightarrow 25_{10} = 19h$$

Offset:	Value:	Offset:	Value:
0000:		0006:	
0001:		0007:	
0002:		0008:	
0003:		0009:	
0004:		000A:	
0005:		000B:	

Activity 3

Exercise 3.3:

You are given the following code snippets. Answer these questions (in Hex).

- 1. Duplicate template-lab as Lab1Ex3
- Update main.asm with the code in the box and build project
- 3. Debug the code and display the 4 windows (registers, memory, watch, autos) to get the values below
- Screenshot your VS2019 with the 4 windows while running debugging to put in lab report
- AH =
- AX =
- BX =

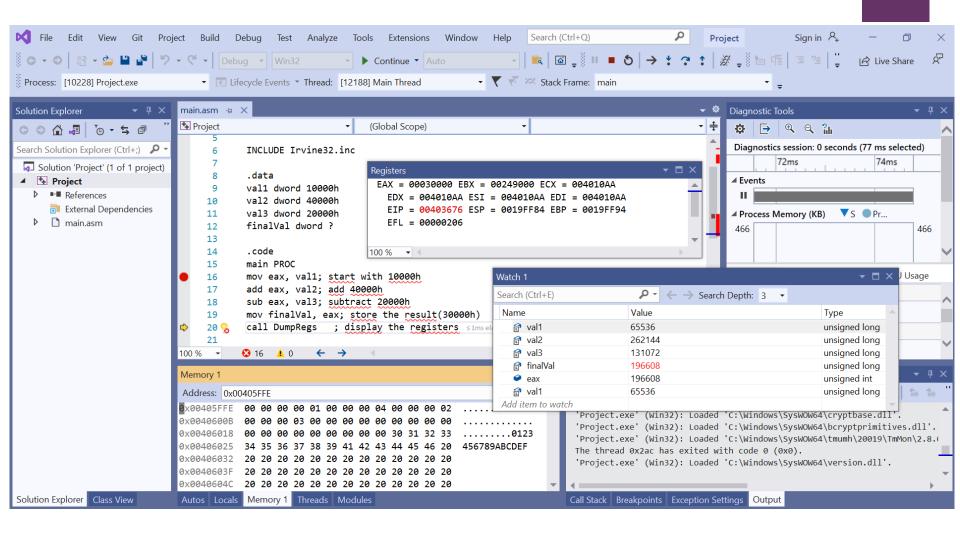
```
.data
cth BYTE 34H
cth2 BYTE 55H
```

val1 WORD 6677H val2 WORD 8899H

.code
main PROC

MOV AX,0
MOV AH, cth
MOV BX,0
MOV BX, val1+1
exit
main ENDP

+ Example screenshot for lab



3.7 Summary



- An integer expression is a mathematical expression involving integer constants, <u>symbolic</u> constants, and <u>arithmetic operators</u>.
- Assembly language has a set of reserved words with special meanings that may only be used in the correct context.
- Operands are values passed to instructions. An assembly language instruction can have between zero and three operands, each of which can be a <u>register</u>, <u>memory operand</u>, or <u>constant expression</u>.



- Each assembler recognizes intrinsic data types, each of which describes a set of values that can be assigned to variables and expressions of the given type: BYTE, WORD, DWORD, REAL8
- x86 processors <u>store</u> and <u>retrieve</u> data from memory using little endian order.

Programming Exercise



3.1 Using the AddSub program as a reference, write a program that subtracts three integers using only 16-bit registers.

Insert a call DumpRegs statement to display the register values.