Assembly Language Programming

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Title Block

- Contains info about the program and/or subroutine

Should include:

- Name of the program/routine
- Author
- Date of creation and the date of revision (if applicable)
- Function (what it does)
- Process (how it does the function if not self explanatory)
- On Call (What information needs to be passed to the program/routine and where the information must be located when the program/routine is started)
- Returns (where will the answer be stored)

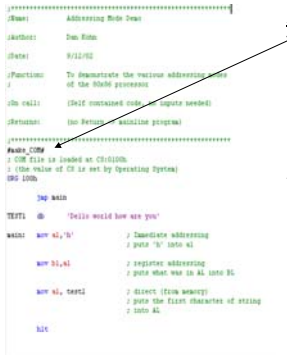
Assembler Directives

The **Output File Type Directives:**

#MAKE_COM#
#MAKE_BIN#
#MAKE_BOOT#
#MAKE_EXE#

You can insert these directives in the source code to specify the required output type for the file.

ORG – Where to place the program in memory



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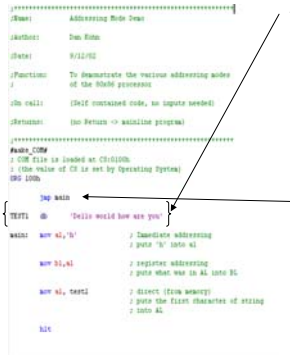


Variables, arrays and strings

- Programs typically place numeric values, strings and variable space in memory at the top of a program. In this example the string "Dello world how are you" is place in memory to be used later on.
- Because this is stored in memory you must have a JMP instruction to jump over this space and point to the first instruction in the program.

Labels

Point to lines of code (for jump instructions and subroutines)

Operation Codes

ASM instructions (mnemonics)

Operands

Registers, constants, addresses (labels) or variables

Comments

Should describe WHY something is being done (not what it is doing – the code tells you that). Start with ; (semicolon)

```
mov al, testl
```

Destination Operand – where the result ends up

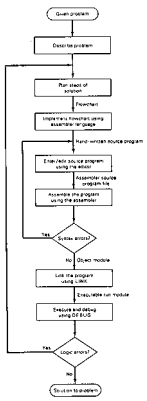
Source Operand

Program Development

Section 3.2

Program Development Cycle

[Fig 3.2 page 66]



Step 1 – Describe the Problem

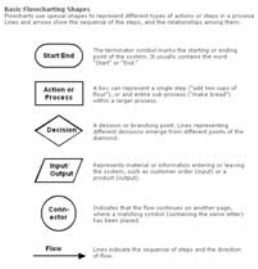
- A programmer cannot program a solution to a problem until he/she understands the problem!
- Divide and conquer! Break larger tasks into smaller ones!

Step 2 - Plan the Solution

- Algorithm - A formula or set of steps for solving a particular problem. To be an algorithm, a set of rules must be unambiguous and have a clear stopping point. Algorithms can be expressed in any language, from natural languages like English to programming languages. [They can also be expressed by using flowcharts].

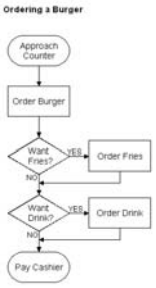
http://www.pcwebopedia.com

Step 3 - Flowchart



http://www.smartdraw.com/resources/centers/flowcharts/tutorial1.htm

Flowcharting (example)



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- Step 4 – Convert flowchart to ASM code
- Step 5 – Enter code into an editor program
- Step 6 – Compile the code
- Step 7 – Debug the syntax (Repeat steps 5-7 until it compiles)
- Step 8 – Debug the logic (repeat steps 5-8 until the program works correctly)