

ARM Instruction Set Architecture

Subset for Fundamentals of Computer Science students. The following subset is based on GNU as Assembler, and includes pseudo-operations.

Instruction Format (syntax)

ADD Rd Rn Rm/#imm
SUB Rd Rn Rm/#imm
MUL Rd Rn Rm
AND Rd Rn Rm/#imm
EOR Rd Rn Rm/#imm
ORR Rd Rn Rm/#imm
MVN Rd Rm/#imm
CMP Rn Rm/#imm
MOV Rd Rm/#imm
B label
BEQ label
BGT label
BLT label
BL label
BX Rd
LDR Rd [Rn, Rm/#imm]
STR Rd [Rn, Rm/#imm]
LDRB Rd [Rn, Rm/#imm]
STRB Rd [Rn, Rm/#imm]
PUSH { register list }
POP { register list }

Directive Format (syntax)

.arm
.align number
.data
.end
.global name
.text

.type name, %function
label:
.int number
.float number
.string "string of ASCII chars"

Instruction effects (semantics)

$Rd = Rn + Rm/\#imm$
 $Rd = Rn - Rm/\#imm$
 $Rd = Rn * Rm/\#imm$ capped at 32 bits!
 $Rd = Rn \& Rm/\#imm$
 $Rd = Rn \wedge Rm/\#imm$
 $Rd = Rn | Rm/\#imm$
 $Rd = \sim Rm/\#imm$
Status \leftarrow comparison ($<$, $>$, $==$) of Rn and Rm/#imm
 $Rd = Rm/\#imm$
jump to label (unconditional)
jump to label if previously compared values were equal
jump to label if previously compared $Rn > Rn/\#imm$
jump to label if previously compared $Rn < Rn/\#imm$
function call (label is the function name/entry point)
return from function (always as BX lr)
 $Rd = mem[Rn+Rm/\#imm]$ (32 bit copy)
 $mem[Rn+Rm/\#imm] = Rd$ (32 bit copy)
 $Rd = mem[Rn+Rm/\#imm]$ (8 bit copy)
 $mem[Rn+Rm/\#imm] = Rd$ (8 bit copy)
Push registers onto stack
Pop registers from stack

Directive effects (semantics)

Specify ARM assembly
Specify alignment to $\langle number \rangle$ bytes; defaults to 4
Begin data section
End of assembly program
Declare globally visible identifier
Begin code section
Specify that identifier $\langle name \rangle$ is a function name (you also need to declare a label with that name!)
Specify a position which can be referred to in jump instructions
Define a 32-bit integer constant
Define a floating point constant
Define a character string constant