

Z80Asm.py - Z80 Cross Assembler for Windows and Linux

Introduction

Z80Asm.py is a new assembler for 8080, Z80 and Z180 code, written in Python 3, so that it will run on both Windows and Linux (also any other operating system with a reasonable Python 3 implementation). It can generate machine code as either binary images or Intel Hex format files for writing to ROM (EPROM, EEPROM, or Flash).

One of the features of this program is that it supports multiple styles of coding, outlined below. It is also able to reformat source code from one style to another.

MA Style

This is the style of coding used by Martin Allcorn's BBC Basic assembler. The identifying features of this style are:

- Labels (call and jump destinations and data addresses) appear on a line of their own, prefixed by a stop ".".
- Opcodes start in column 1.

This mode has been tested by assembling the source of the CFX-II ROM and confirming that the resulting binary image is consistent with Martin's original.

The special macros needed to assemble the "System Diagnostic Cartridge" have not been implemented. It would not be difficult to add these but I would prefer to add a general macro capability.

M80 Style

This is not (yet) a complete emulation of the CP/M M80 assembler, but more a convenient designation of the style of coding. Macros have not been implemented. The identifying features of this style are:

- Labels generally appear on the same line as the instruction to which they refer, followed by a colon ":".
- Opcodes are generally indented.

This mode has been tested by assembling the CP/M and SDX ROMs from the source by Andy Key. For more details see the section on M80 / L80 emulation below.

ZASM Style

This is similar to M80 style, differing only in the interpretation of pseudo-ops.

PASMO Style

PASMO is a Z80 cross assembler typically used in ZX Spectrum circles (<http://pasmo.speccy.org/>). Its main difference from M80 style is that labels are not case sensitive. Reformatting to PASMO style is not (yet) supported, but would not be very different to reformatting to M80 style.

Usage

```
usage: Z80Asm [-h] [-v] [-b [BINARY]] [-f FILL] [-x [HEX]] [-n] [-l [LIST]]
             [--list-cond] [-a] [-o [OUTPUT]] [-r {MA,M80,ZASM}]
             [--multi-inc] [-m] [-k [KEEP]] [-e] [-t {8080,Z80,Z180}] -s
             {MA,M80,PASMO,ZASM} [-p] [-c CSEG] [-d DSEG] [--debug]
             [source [source ...]]
```

Assemble Z80 code written in different styles

positional arguments:

source The Z80 source file(s)

optional arguments:

-h, --help	show this help message and exit
-v, --version	show program's version number and exit
-b [BINARY], --binary [BINARY]	Machine code in binary format
-f FILL, --fill FILL	Fill byte for undefined addresses
-x [HEX], --hex [HEX]	Machine code in Intel hex format
-n, --number-build	Append build number to assembled file names
-l [LIST], --list [LIST]	List file
--list-cond	List false conditional code
-a, --address	Show load address as well as relocation
-o [OUTPUT], --output [OUTPUT]	Reformatted source file
-r {MA,M80,ZASM}, --reformat {MA,M80,ZASM}	Style for reformatted source (default M80)
--multi-inc	Include files multiple times in reformatted source
-m, --modeline	Emacs modeline in reformatted source
-k [KEEP], --keep [KEEP]	Keep pass 1 list file
-e, --echo	Echo source to screen
-t {8080,Z80,Z180}, --cpu-type {8080,Z80,Z180}	The processor type
-s {MA,M80,PASMO,ZASM}, --style {MA,M80,PASMO,ZASM}	The style of the Z80 source
-p, --permissive	Ignore some syntax errors
-c CSEG, --cseg CSEG	Start address for code segment
-d DSEG, --dseg DSEG	Start address for data segment
--debug	Show assembler debug info

Details

-b [BINARY], --binary [BINARY]

Save the machine code as a binary image file. Optionally followed by the name of the file. If no file name is specified, defaults to the root of the source file name with a ".bin" extension.

-f FILL, --fill FILL

If the source leaves gaps in the generated machine code, then these gaps have to be filled using padding bytes in the image. This option specifies the byte to use. If the switch is omitted, then a default of 0xFF is used.

-x [HEX], --hex [HEX]

Save the machine code as an Intel hex file. Optionally followed by the name of the file. If no file name is specified, defaults to the root of the source file name with a ".hex" extension. It is possible to save both binary and hex images.

-n, --number-build

Append "__Bnnn", where nnn is the build number (see below) to the binary and/or hex image file names (before the extension).

-l [LIST], --list [LIST]

Save a list file showing the source code, generated machine code and any error messages. If no file name is specified, defaults to the root of the source file name with a ".lst" extension.

--list-cond

List false conditional code by default. n be controlled by pseudo-ops.

-a, --address

For relocated code (see below) show both the location in the binary image, and the addresses at which the code will be executed. If omitted only the execution addresses are shown.

-o [OUTPUT], --output [OUTPUT]

Save a reformatted version of the input source code. If no file name is specified, defaults to the root of the source file name with an extension the lower case version of the reformatted style.

-r {MA,M80,ZASM}

The coding style to use for reformatted source code. If not specified, defaults to "M80".

-m, --modeline

Adds an Emacs style modeline to the top of the list file and reformatted source file to specify the tab spacing (8 spaces) to use when displaying / editing the file. Many other editors understand Emacs modelines.

-k [KEEP], --keep [KEEP]

Normally the list file generated during the first pass is overwritten by the second pass listing. For some errors it can be useful to compare the first and second pass listing. This option preserves the listing from the first pass. If no file name is specified, then it defaults to the root name of the source file, followed by "_p1.lst".

-e, --echo

Echo source lines to the screen as they are processed in order to display progress. Otherwise only error messages and their corresponding source lines are displayed.

-t {8080,Z80,Z180}, --cpu-type {8080,Z80,Z180}

Specifies the CPU to assemble for. Defaults to "Z80". Specifying "Z180" enables additional opcodes. For 8080, Intel style opcodes are used.

-s {MA,M80,ZASM,PASMO}, --style {MA,M80,ZASM,PASMO}

Specifies the style of the source code. One of these options must be selected.

-p, --permissive

Allow a slightly looser coding style. Features enabled by this option include:

- Label matching in expressions is case insensitive. By default labels have to match in case.
- Labels may be multiply defined, providing all definitions result in the same value. By default labels may only be defined in one location.

-c CSEG, --cseg CSEG

Start address for code segment. Defaults to 0x0000.

-d DSEG, --dseg DSEG

Start address for data segment. Defaults to end of code segment.

--debug

Include information to assist debugging the expression evaluator in the list file. Probably only of interest to the author.

A number of the above options are followed by an optional file name. If the next parameter following one of these options does not begin with a dash "-", it will be taken as the file name. This could result in the source file name being mistaken for the option file name. For this reason it is recommended that the options are specified in the order given above, with the style option last.

M80 / L80 Emulation

With the CP/M M80 assembler, code is generated in two stages:

- Firstly source code files were assembled to relocatable object files using M80.
- These object files were then linked together to form the final executable using L80.

As a consequence of this two stage process, there are two types of labels in the source code:

- Local labels, which are only relevant to the current source file (and any included files), and which may be reused (for different purposes) in other source files.
- Global labels, which are passed to L80, and must be unique across all the source files forming the final executable.

Z80Asm emulates this two stage process in a single operation. In order to do so, all of the sources that would be assembled in separate M80 steps are specified on the command line. These are then assembled to the final executable in one step. In order for this to work, Z80Asm still retains the distinction between global and local labels. Only global labels are visible across all of the source files listed on the command line. Each command line source has its own set of local labels. This is different to files specified by "INCLUDE" pseudo-ops, which are considered to be part of the source of the file which includes them, and therefore have access to the same local labels.

L80 was designed to generate CP/M COM files, and therefore generates the following memory layout by default:

0x0100	JP <start address>
0x0103	Data segment
?	Code segment

Z80Asm uses a different memory layout by default:

0x0000	Code segment
?	Data segment

Therefore to generate a CP/M COM file it is necessary to:

- Use the option "--cseg 0x100" to specify the start location.
- Explicitly code the jump to start in the source. If working with existing M80 source, this could be in an additional short source file, which is listed first on the command line.

M80 / L80 features that are not emulated include:

- M80 macros are not currently supported.
- There is no ability to search libraries of relocatable code to satisfy external references.

Reformatting

The option of reformatting code is mainly intended to improve readability for people who are used to a particular style of formatting. Some issues to be aware of when using reformatted code:

- Labels:

- Z80Asm (in all modes), treats all characters in a label as significant. By default the characters must match in case (so loop:, Loop:, and LOOP: are different labels).
- It is believed that Martin's assembler treats all characters as significant, but ignores case.
- M80 only considers the first 6 characters of a label. This is why a new assembler was required, rather than just reformatting Martin's code to M80.
- ZASM only considers the first 8 characters of a label. All labels are converted to upper case.
- Relocations:
 - Only M80 (and Z80Asm) have the concept of code and data segments, which makes it difficult to translate some M80 code into formats suitable for the other assemblers.
 - The ORG pseudo-op and other relocation pseudo-ops are interpreted differently by the different assemblers, and by Z80Asm in the different styles. Z80Asm attempts to translate these appropriately when reformatting, but the translation is not always reversible.
- Pseudo-ops:
 - Z80Asm attempts to recognise most of the pseudo-ops from MA, M80 and ZASM assemblers. When reformatting, there is often not a suitable equivalent pseudo-op to translate to.
 - A number of the M80 pseudo-ops start with a stop ".", and will therefore be regarded as a label by Martin's assembler.
- Include files:
 - All include files are merged into the reformatted source.
 - The INCLUDE statement is converted into a comment.

Relocated Code

For code that is initially loaded in ROM, but is then either paged to a different address, or copied into RAM there are two relevant addresses:

Location counter:

Location of the code in ROM / image file.

Program counter:

Location where the code is executed and address for calls and jumps.

The three different styles of coding differ in the pseudo-ops used to specify these addresses.

MA Style

OFFSET [address]

Sets the program counter to the specified address, and remembers the offset between the program counter and location counter. If no address is specified, resets the program counter to the location counter, and sets the offset to zero.

ORG address

Sets the location counter to the specified address and the program counter to the location counter plus the previously remembered offset.

M80 Style (and PASMO Style)

ORG address

Sets both the location and program counters to the specified address.

.PHASE address

Sets just the program counter to the specified absolute address.

.DEPHASE

Resets the program counter to the location counter.

ZASM Style

LOAD address

Sets the location counter to the specified address.

ORG [address]

Sets the program counter to the specified address. If no address is specified resets the program counter to the location counter. (Note: The original ZASM does not support omitting the ORG address).

Pseudo-ops

The following pseudo-ops are recognised by Z80Asm (in addition to the location ops given in the previous section). Most of these pseudo-ops are recognised for all styles, irrespective of which style they originated from.

IF expression

IFT expression

If the expression evaluates to non-zero, code to the corresponding ELSE or ENDIF is emitted. If zero, following code is not emitted. The following code must still be syntactically correct to enable reformatting.

IFF expression

If the expression evaluates to zero, code to the corresponding ELSE or ENDIF is emitted. If non-zero, following code is not emitted. The following code must still be syntactically correct to enable reformatting.

ELSE

Reverses the effect of the corresponding IFx pseudo-op. If code was being emitted previously then the following code up to the corresponding ENDIF will not be emitted. If code was not being emitted (and is not suppressed by an outer condition), then code up to the corresponding ENDIF will be emitted. The following code must still be syntactically correct to enable reformatting.

ENDIF

Terminates a section of conditional code.

label[:] EQU expression

Assigns the value of the expression to a label. The colon after the label is optional (ZASM requires it). The absolute addresses of all labels are used in evaluating the expression, and the result (if an address) is absolute.

END

Marks the end of a source file.

LIST

.LIST

Turns on output to the list file (if enabled).

NOLIST

.XLIST

Turns off output to the list file.

.LFCOND

Turn on the listing of non-assembled conditional code.

.SFCOND

Turn off the listing of non-assembled conditional code.

.TFCOND

Toggles the listing of non-assembled conditional code. Reverses the effect of the --list-cond command option or the previous .TFCOND pseudo-op.

NAME name

Specifies a name for the code. Ignored by Z80Asm.

TITLE title

Specifies a title for the code. Ignored by Z80Asm.

INCLUDE filename

Includes the contents of the specified source file at this location. File name matching is case insensitive (even on Linux). For MA style any RISCOS file type (comma and number) at the end of the file name is ignored. For the other styles, if no extension is specified it is assumed to be the same as that for the original source file specified on the command line. If generating reformatted output, all the included files are in the single output file, multiple outputs are not generated. The include statement is converted to a comment in the reformatted output.

.COMMENT delim

Text up to the next occurrence of the specified delimiter character is included in the list file as a comment, with no processing.

.PRINTF delim

.PRINTX delim

Text up to the next occurrence of the specified delimiter character is included in the list file and output to the terminal as a comment, with no processing.

DATE

Include the current date as a 10 byte string in the generated machine code.

BUILD

If not previously used, read the current build number from the file "build" in the current directory (as a 4 byte integer), increment it and save the new value. Include the build number as a 5 byte string in the generated machine code.

.8080

The following code is in Intel format for the 8080 chip.

.Z80

The following code is in Zilog format for the Z80 chip.

.Z180

The following code is in Zilog format for the Z180 chip.

ASEG

The locations referenced in the following section are absolute. This is the default if nothing else is specified.

CSEG

The locations referenced in the following section are relative to the start of the code segment.

DSEG

The locations referenced in the following section are relative to the start of the data segment.

EXT label [,label [...]]
EXTRN label [,label [...]]
ENTRY label [,label [...]]
PUBLIC label [,label [...]]

Declares each of the labels listed to be global, having a common value across all the source files listed on the command line. A location label may also be made global by following it by two colons.

EQU decimal_number

Include the specified number as a 4 byte little-endian integer value in the generated machine code.

DB expression [,expression]...
DEFB expression [,expression]...

Include the specified list of byte values in the generated machine code. If the expression is a string, then all the bytes of the string are output.

DW expression [,expression]...
DEFW expression [,expression]...

Include the specified list of values in the generated machine code as 2 byte little-endian word values.

DC string [,string]...
DEFC string [,string]...

Include each of the listed strings in the generated machine code, with the msb of the last byte of each string set.

(M80 style only) DS value

Reserve the specified number of bytes of space in the machine code for variables. In a binary image the space is padded with the fill byte.

(MA and ZASM styles) DS string, [,string]...
DEFS string, [,string]...

Include each of the listed strings in the generated machine code.

BYTE expression

Reserve the specified number of bytes of space in the machine code for variables. In a binary image the space is padded with the fill byte.

WORD expression

Reserve the specified number of 2 byte words of space in the machine code for variables. In a binary image the space is padded with the fill byte.

Expressions

As far as practical Z80Asm allows expressions from any style to be used in any style of source code, only restricting items to a particular style where otherwise there would be ambiguity.

Numeric Constants

In the following, the number of digits shown (as lower case letters) is illustrative only, and the number used (up to the maximum allowed by the data type) is optional.

%bbbbbbbbb
bbbbbbbbbB

Binary constant.

nnnnnnnQ

Octal constant.

dddd
ddddD

Decimal constant.

&hhhh (MA style only)
#hhhh
dhhhhH (the leading digit must be 0-9, so for example 0F123H)
0xhhhh

Hex constant.

"c"
+ASC"c" (MA style only)

The ASCII value of a single character.

False is represented by zero, and true by all bits set.

String Constants

Strings may be enclosed in single or double quotes. The opening and closing quotes must match. A quote of the opposite style may be included. To include a quote of the enclosing style, double it. In ZASM style, bytes in a string may be specified in hex with the escape sequence \xx. A backslash is generated by doubling it.

Operators

The following operators are supported in expressions:

Operator	Rank	Description
Brackets	10	Sub-expression.
LOW	9	Low byte of value.
HIGH	9	High byte of value.
*	8	Multiply.
/	8	Divide.
MOD	8	Modulus.
SHL, <<	8	Shift left.
SHR, >>	8	Shift right.
+	7	Unitary plus.
-	7	Unitary minus.
~	7	Bitwise not.
+	6	Binary addition.
-	6	Binary subtraction.
LT, <	5	Less than.
LE, <=	5	Less than or equal.
EQ, ==, =	5	Equal.
NE, !=	5	Not equal.
GE, >=	5	Greater than or equal.
GT, >	5	Greater than.
NOT	4	Bitwise not.
AND, &	3	Bitwise and.
OR, !	2	Bitwise or.
XOR, ^	2	Bitwise xor.
End of expression	1	End of expression

Examples

To assemble the CFX-II ROM from Martin's code:

```
Z80Asm.py -b -l -s MA -p CFX-II-Main,281
```

You may find that there are a couple of typo's in the files from Dave's site.

To assemble the SDX ROM from the code on Andy's site:

```
Z80Asm.py -b -l -c 0x2000 -s M80 SDXMAIN.MAC SDXDISC.MAC SDXFDSC.MAC SDXBAS.MAC  
SDXFMT.MAC SDXSTAT.MAC SDXSD.MAC SDXRAM.MAC
```

The resulting file is less than 8KB long, free space in the ROM. Andy's makefile has another source file which adds padding to the end, and then uses the Linux routine "dd" to skip the space from the default COM start at 0x0100 and the start of ROM at 0x2000, and then copies exactly 8KB.