Assembly Language for Intel-Based Computers, 4th Edition

Kip R. Irvine

Lecture 23: Finite State Machines, WHILE operator

Slides prepared by Kip R. Irvine

Revision date: 07/11/2002

Modified by Dr. Nikolay Metodiev Sirakov

- Chapter corrections (Web) Assembly language sources (Web)

Application: Finite-State Machines

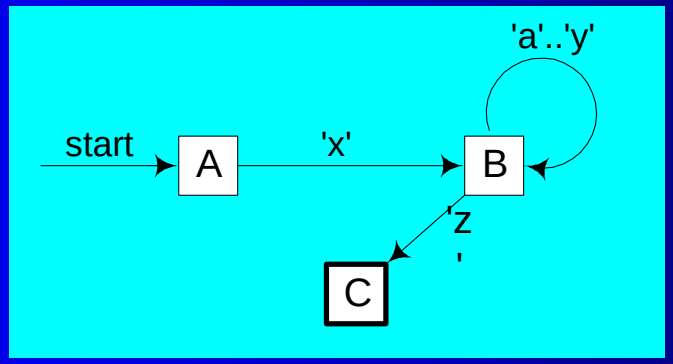
- A finite-state machine (FSM) is a graph structure that changes state based on some input. Also called a state-transition diagram.
- We use a graph to represent an FSM, with squares or circles called nodes, and lines with arrows between the circles called edges (or arcs).
- A FSM is a specific instance of a more general structure called a directed graph (or digraph).
- Three basic states, represented by nodes:
  - Start state
  - Terminal state(s)
  - Nonterminal state(s)

Finite-State Machine

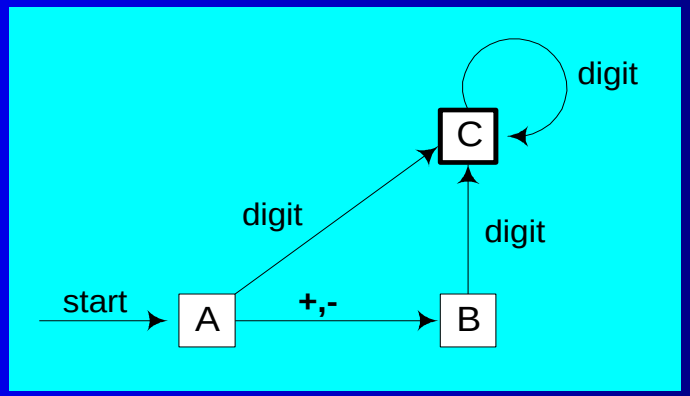
- Accepts any sequence of symbols that puts it into an accepting (final) state
- Can be used to recognize, or validate a sequence of characters that is governed by language rules (called a regular expression)
- Advantages:
  - Provides visual tracking of program's flow of control
  - Easy to modify
  - Easily implemented in assembly language

FSM Examples

- FSM that recognizes strings beginning with 'x', followed by letters 'a'..'y', ending with 'z':

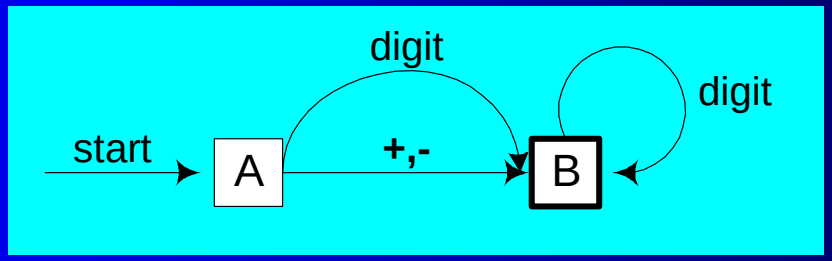


- FSM that recognizes signed integers:



Your turn . . .

- Explain why the following FSM does not work as well for signed integers as the one shown on the previous slide:



Implementing an FSM

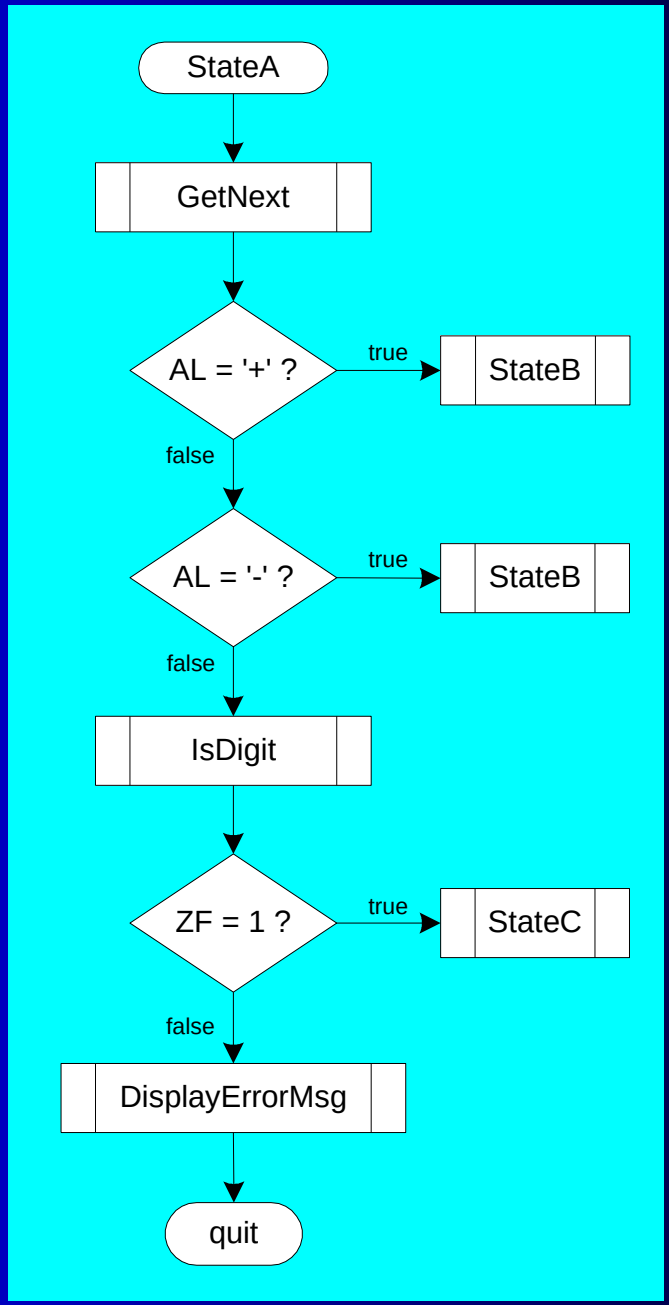
The following is code from State A in the Integer FSM:

```
StateA:
    call Getnext              ; read next char into AL
    cmp al,'+'                ; leading + sign?
    je StateB                 ; go to State B
    cmp al,'-'                ; leading - sign?
    je StateB                 ; go to State B
    call IsDigit              ; ZF = 1 if AL = digit
    jz StateC                 ; go to State C
    call DisplayErrorMsg      ; invalid input found
    jmp Quit
```

View the Finite.asm source code.

Flowchart of State A

State A accepts a plus or minus sign, or a decimal digit.



Your turn . . .

- Draw a FSM diagram for hexadecimal integer constant that conforms to MASM syntax.
- Draw a flowchart for one of the states in your FSM.
- Implement your FSM in assembly language. Let the user input a hexadecimal constant from the keyboard.

Using the .IF Directive

- Runtime Expressions
- Relational and Logical Operators
- MASM-Generated Code
- .REPEAT Directive
- .WHILE Directive

Runtime Expressions

- .IF, .ELSE, .ELSEIF, and .ENDIF can be used to evaluate runtime expressions and create block-structured IF statements.
- Examples:

```
.IF eax > ebx
   mov edx,1
.ELSE
   mov edx,2
.ENDIF
```

```
.IF eax > ebx && eax > ecx
   mov edx,1
.ELSE
   mov edx,2
.ENDIF
```

- MASM generates "hidden" code for you, consisting of code labels, CMP and conditional jump instructions.

Relational and Logical Operators

Operator	Description
expr1 == *expr2*	Returns true when *expression1* is equal to *expr2*.
expr1 != *expr2*	Returns true when *expr1* is not equal to *expr2*.
expr1 > *expr2*	Returns true when *expr1* is greater than *expr2*.
expr1 >= *expr2*	Returns true when *expr1* is greater than or equal to *expr2*.
expr1 < *expr2*	Returns true when *expr1* is less than *expr2*.
expr1 <= *expr2*	Returns true when *expr1* is less than or equal to *expr2*.
! *expr*	Returns true when *expr* is false.
expr1 && *expr2*	Performs logical AND between *expr1* and *expr2*.
expr1 || *expr2*	Performs logical OR between *expr1* and *expr2*.
expr1 & *expr2*	Performs bitwise AND between *expr1* and *expr2*.
CARRY?	Returns true if the Carry flag is set.
OVERFLOW?	Returns true if the Overflow flag is set.
PARITY?	Returns true if the Parity flag is set.
SIGN?	Returns true if the Sign flag is set.
ZERO?	Returns true if the Zero flag is set.

MASM-Generated Code

```
.data
val1   DWORD 5
result DWORD ?
.code
mov eax,6
.IF eax > val1
mov result,1
.ENDIF
```

Generated code:

```
    mov eax,6
    cmp eax,val1
    jbe @C0001
    mov result,1
@C0001:
```

MASM automatically generates an unsigned jump (JBE).

MASM-Generated Code

```
.data
val1    SDWORD 5
result SDWORD ?
.code
mov eax,6
.IF eax > val1
mov result,1
.ENDIF
```

Generated code:

```
    mov eax,6
    cmp eax,val1
    jle @C0001
    mov result,1
@C0001:
```

MASM automatically generates a signed jump (JLE).

.REPEAT Directive

Executes the loop body before testing the loop condition associated with the .UNTIL directive.

Example:

```
; Display integers 1 - 10:

mov eax,0
.REPEAT
    inc eax
    call WriteDec
    call Crlf
.UNTIL eax == 10
```

.WHILE Directive

Tests the loop condition before executing the loop body The .ENDW directive marks the end of the loop.

Example:

```
; Display integers 1 - 10:

mov eax,0
.WHILE eax < 10
    inc eax
    call WriteDec
    call Crlf
.ENDW
```

The End