

Structured Programming in Assembler Session 16321

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Who am I?

- Richard Cebula HLASM, IBM Hursley, UK
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- Develop and support the following products:
 - HLASM
 - SuperC
 - XREF
 - IDF
 - DISASM
 - Structured Programming Macros



- Structured Programming for Assembler!?
- Control sections C-, R-, DSECTs, COM and DXD's
- The location counter and USING statements
- Type-checking in HLASM
- Structured Programming Macros (SPMs)



- Structured Programming for Assembler!?
 - Yes!
 - HLASM is the High Level Assembler providing an extensive list of features for assembler programmers
 - HLASM can help programmers to:
 - Organise their assembler code better
 - Maintain their code better
 - Increase code reuse
- Remember, HLASM is available for all z Systems operating systems: z/OS, z/VM, z/VSE, z/Linux (inc. z/TPF)



Control sections

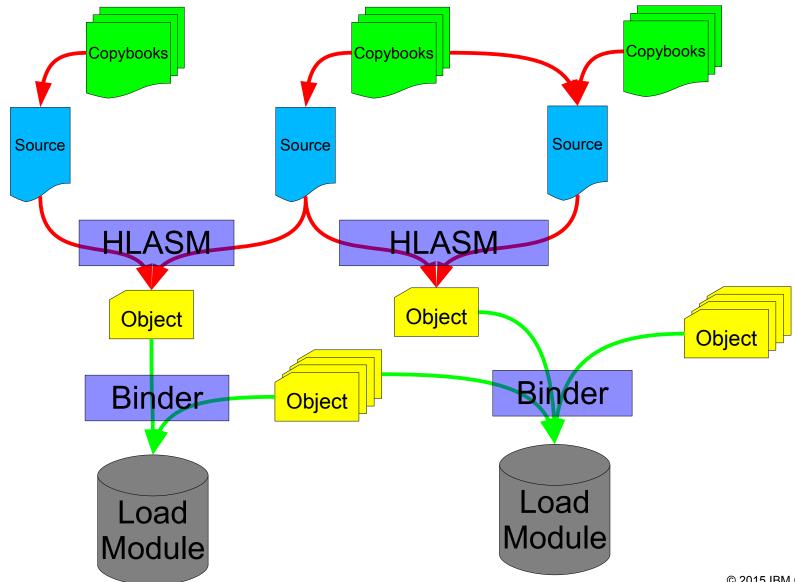


HLASM Structured Programming – Source and Object Modules

- An HLASM program consists of a number of sections of varying types
- The programmer should distinguish between:
 - Source Module
 - The source module is the division of code during assembly time
 - Each source module is assembled into a separate object module
 - Note that there is not always a 1-to-1 relationship between a source file and a source module
 - Object Module
 - The object module is the produced output from the assembler
 - The layout of the object module is determined by the type assembler options used
 - HLASM supports OBJ, GOFF and ELF object file formats



HLASM Structured Programming – Source and Object Modules



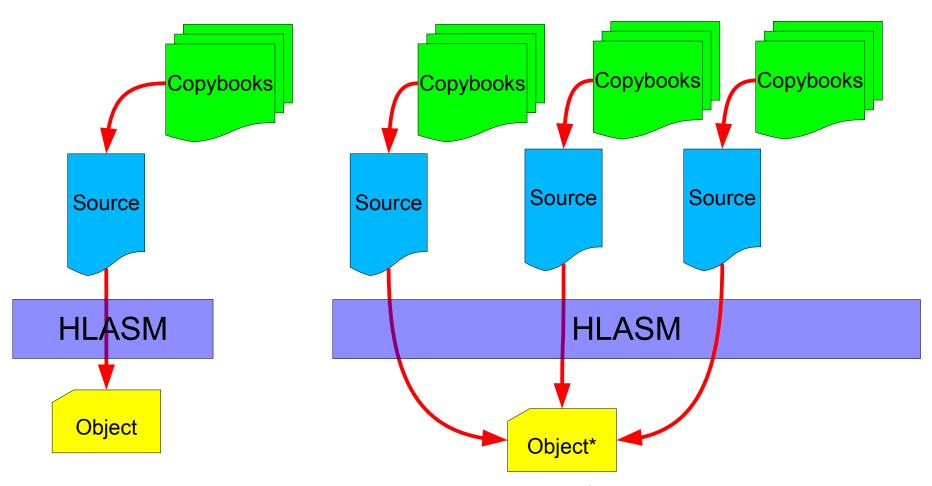


HLASM Structured Programming – Source Module – Sections

- Source module is comprised of 1 or more assembler statements
- Starts with any assembler statement except for MEXIT and MEND
- Ends with an END statement
- The BATCH option allows for more than a single source module to be specified in the same input stream
 - HLASM can take many source files on the same input stream, e.g. via use of the COPY statement
 - If HLASM encounters an END statement during processing then it completes assembling the source module.
 - If further input is found and the BATCH option is on (the default) then HLASM begins the assembly of a new source module



HLASM Structured Programming – Single VS Batch Assembly



In batch mode, all output is written to a single output object file.

*On z/Linux, use RPM asma90-1.6.0-27 or higher with the -R option to output to an object archive



HLASM Structured Programming – Object Module – Sections

- In the load module model, a control section is the smallest subdivision of a program that can be located as a unit
- Each assembled control section contains the object code for machine instructions and data
- Each source module (consisting of 1 or more source files) is assembled into 1 relocatable object module.
- The binder combines the object code of 1 or more sections into a load module (or program object)
 - The binder also calculates any addresses and space needed for common sections and external dummy sections from different object module
- The program loader loads the load module into virtual storage and converts any relocatable addresses into fixed locations



HLASM Structured Programming – Creating Sections

- The first section of a program maybe initiated via the START, CSECT or RSECT assembler instructions
 - START initiates the first or only section of a source module
 - CSECT can be used anywhere in the source module to initiate or continue a control section
 - RSECT similar to CSECT but causes the assembler to check for possible violations of reenterability
- Unnamed sections are those that do not have a name although this is valid, it is not recommended.



HLASM Structured Programming – Reference Control Sections

- Reference control sections are used for referencing storage areas or to describe data and are not assembled into object code
 - Started by the DSECT, COM and DXD statements
 - As with other forms of control sections, they continue until interrupted by either another control section or an END statement
- DSECT Dummy control section
 - Reference control section that describes the layout of data in storage without reserving any virtual storage
 - There is no object code nor space in the object module reserved. A DSECT will cause the assembler to assign location values for the DSECT's symbols relative to its beginning
 - Data can be referred to symbolically by using the symbols defined in the dummy section



HLASM Structured Programming – Reference Control Sections

- COM Common control section
 - Allows for the definition of a common storage area in one or more source modules
 - At link time, only one copy of a COM section is created for all the object modules being linked as a single program
 - Only the storage area is provided the data must be provided at execution time
- External dummy sections
 - Created via DXD, DSECT and CXD instructions or via the Q-type address constant
 - To use:
 - Use a DXD instruction to define the external dummy section
 - Provide a Q-type constant to address the external dummy section
 - Use the CXD instruction to obtain the total length of all external dummy sections
 - Allocate the storage required as calculated by the CXD
 - Address the allocated storage (plus any offset into the areas as required)



HLASM Structured Programming – Subroutines

- Breaking sections of code out into subroutines is one of the easiest ways to structure programs.
- If the subroutine is close to the code that calls it then the following code should suffice:

```
bas r14, mysubroutine
```

However, if the subroutine is beyond the range of an active using then an A-type address constant should be used instead:

```
1     r15,=A(mysubroutine)
basr     r14,r15
```

This technique only works for addresses which can be resolved during assembly time.



HLASM Structured Programming – External Subroutines

- An external reference is a symbol that is unresolvable at assembly time. Instead, the symbol is resolved by the binder when the object files are linked together.
- To make a symbol externally available, the module in which the symbol is declared must either define it as the name of a control section or as an ENTRY, e.g.:

MYSUB ENTRY

- Note that START, CSECT, RSECT are automatically considered as ENTRY symbols
- In the module that references the external symbol, the external symbol must be declared as EXTRN before being used:

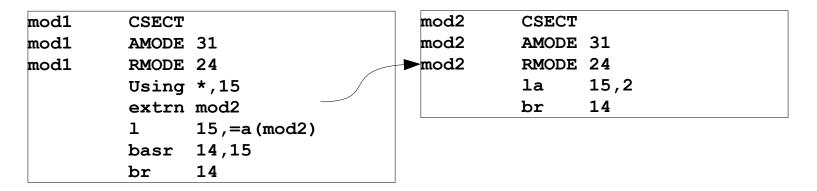
```
EXTRN MYSUB
...some code...
subaddr dc a(MYSUB)
```

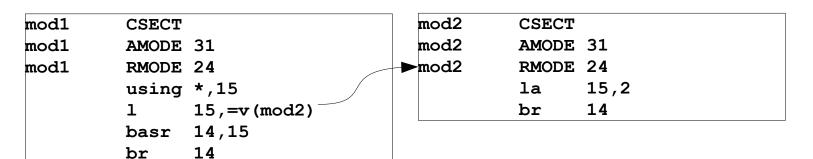
- The WXTRN instruction can also be used instead of EXTRN. However
 - For EXTRN, if the symbol is not found from the list of modules being linked, then a library search is performed to try and find the symbol
 - For WXTRN, no library search is performed



HLASM Structured Programming – External Subroutines

• Alternatively, the V-type constant automatically declares a symbol as EXTRN:







HLASM Structured Programming – Using CSRs – z/OS only

- For z/OS 1.13 and above, with HLASM APAR PM74898 applied and for GOFF only...
- Conditional Sequential RLDs, (CSRs) allow an assembler programmer to specify multiple external references in a single V-type address constant separated by colons, e.g.:

```
my modules     dc v(mod1:mod2:mod3)
```

- The assembler program continues to use the V-type as normal but:
 - When the binder goes to resolve the external symbol, it will resolve it to the first available external symbol
 - If the first symbol isn't present, then the 2nd available symbol is chosen and so on...
- For a more detailed look at how to use CSRs see:

http://www.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=swg21598283



The location counter and USINGs



HLASM Structured Programming – Using the location counter

- The location counter is an internal count from the start of the source module in bytes and is represented by the symbol *
- The LOCTR instruction maybe used to specify multiple location counters within a control section.
- Each location counter is given consecutive addresses and the order of location counters produced is dependent on the order in which they are defined
- A location counter continues until it is interrupted by the START, CSECT, DSECT, RSECT, CATTR or LOCTR instructions
- Specifying LOCTR to an already defined location counter will resume that counter



HLASM Structured Programming – The USING statement

- The USING specifies a base register for a series of location counter displacements to a particular symbol within a control section
- There have been improvements to HLASM's USING statement including 'Labeled USINGs' and 'Dependent USINGs'
 - Labeled USINGs
 - Allow simultaneous references to multiple instances of an object
 - Allow one object to be referenced per register
 - Dependent USINGS
 - Address multiple objects with a single register
 - Allow for a program to require fewer base registers
 - Allow for dynamic structure remapping during execution



HLASM Structured Programming – Labeled USINGs

- The labeled USING statement has the syntax in the form:
 - qualifier USING base,register
- A symbol can be referenced by prefixing it with a qualifier and therefore the same symbol may be addressed by 2 or more base registers at the same time, e.g.

```
* COPY THE CUSTOMER DETAILS TO THE NEW CUSTOMER RECORD

CSTMR1 USING CUST_DATA,R4

CSTMR2 USING CUST_DATA,R5

MVC CSTMR2.CUST_DETAILS,CSTMR1.CUST_DETAILS

L R3,NEW_CUST_NUMBER

ST R3,CSTMR2.CUST_NUM
```

 Without labeled USINGs, the above MVC would have to be written using manually calculated offsets, e.g.

```
* COPY THE CUSTOMER DETAILS TO THE NEW CUSTOMER RECORD
USING CUST_DATA,R5

MVC CUST_DETAILS,CUST_DETAILS-CUST_DATA(R4)
```



HLASM Structured Programming – Dependent USINGs

- A dependent USING is one that specifies an anchor location rather than a register as its operand
- Allows the programmer to address more than one DSECT at the same time using the same base register

```
* ADDRESS THE DATA IN BOTH XPL_DATA AND REQI_DATA
USING XPL_DATA,R10
USING REQI_DATA,L_XPL_DATA+XPL
LA R1,XPL_INPUT
LA R2,REQI_INPUT
```

- HLASM will add the offset from REQI_DATA to XPL_DATA in order to generate the offsets for the fields in the REQI_DATA DSECT based off register 10
- The displacement limit for a dependent using is still limited to 4095 (as usual)



HLASM Structured Programming – Labeled Dependent USINGs

 Dependent USINGs can also have a label allowing for some complex USING issues to be easily resolved using a single a base register

	USING E,7		1 Top level
*			
D1E	USING D,D1	1	2 Map D1 into E at D1
D1F1	USING F,D1E.F1	2	3 Map F1 into D1 at F1
D1F2	USING F,D1E.F2	2	3 Map F2 into D1 at F2
D1F3	USING F,D1E.F3	2	3 Map F3 into D1 at F3
*		İ	2 Middle level
D2E	USING D,D2	1	Map D2 into E at D2
D2F1	USING F,D2E.F1	3	3 Map F1 into D2 at F1
D2F2	USING F,D2E.F2	3	3 Map F2 into D2 at F2
D2F3	USING F,D2E.F3	3	3 Map F3 into D2 at F3
*		İ	2 Middle level
D3E	USING D,D3	1	Map D3 into E at D3
D3F1	USING F,D3E.F1	4	3 Map F1 into D3 at F1
D3F2	USING F,D3E.F2	4	3 Map F2 into D3 at F2
D3F3	USING F,D3E.F3	4	3 Map F3 into D3 at F3

* Move DSECTs named D within E

MVC D1,D2



HLASM Structured Programming – Labeled Dependent USINGs

```
* Move fields named X within DSECTs described by F
   MVC D1F1.X1,D1F1.X2 Within bottom—level DSECT D1F1
   MVC D1F3.X2,D1F1.X1   Across bottom—level DSECTs in D1
   MVC D3F2.X2,D3F3.X2   Across bottom—level DSECTs in D3
   MVC D2F1.X1,D3F2.X2   Across bottom—level DSECTs in D2 & D3

* Move DSECTs named F within DSECTs described by D
   MVC D3E.F1,D3E.F3   Within mid—level DSECT D3E
   MVC D1E.F3,D2E.F1   Across mid—level DSECTs D1E, D2E
```

Across top-level DSECTs D1, D2

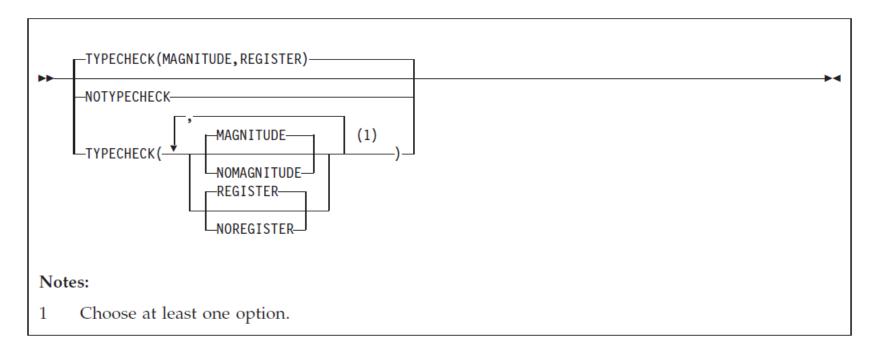


HLASM Type Checking



HLASM Structured Programming – Type checking - TYPECHECK

- HLASM provides a number of type-checking facilities to assist make programs safer to change
- HLASM type-checking is provided by the TYPECHECK option:





HLASM Structured Programming – Type checking - TYPECHECK

MAGNITUDE

 Causes HLASM to perform magnitude validation of signed immediate data fields, e.g.:

```
000000 A718 FFFF 0FFFF 7 lhi 1,x'ffff'

** ASMA320W Immediate field operand may have incorrect sign or magnitude
```

REGISTER

 Causes HLASM to perform type checking of register fields of machine instruction operands, e.g.:

```
00001 7 fpr1 equ 1,,,,fpr
000000 A718 FFFF 0FFFF 8 lhi fpr1,x'ffff'
** ASMA323W Symbol fpr1 has incompatible type with general register field
```

NOTYPECHECK

Turns off all type-checking



HLASM Structured Programming – Type checking – User types

• The DC and DS statements allow users to create their own "Program Types" using the P parameter, e.g.:

```
my_data dc cap(c'read')13'this is my data'
```

- The value of the program type is returned via the SYSATTRP macro function
- The value of the assembler type is returned via the SYSATTRA macro function
- The value of the type *attribute* is returned via the macro T' operator



HLASM Structured Programming - Type checking - EQU

- The EQU statement can be used to:
 - Specify a 32-bit value used as the program type (4th operand of EQU)
 - Specify a register type (5th operand of EQU)
- The program type for an EQU symbol will be returned via the SYSATTRP function as for macro symbols
- The register types that are available to use are:
 - AR Access registers
 - CR, CR32, CR64 Control registers
 - FPR Floating point registers
 - GR, GR32, GR64 General purpose registers
 - VR z13 vector registers
- Note that there is no vector register type-checking on pre-z/Architecture vector instructions
 - The hardware hasn't been available to use for a while now...don't use them!!



Structured Programming Macros



- HLASM provides a set of Structured Programming Macros (SPMs) as part of the HLASM Toolkit feature
- The SPMs provide
 - Branching structures (if) IF, ELSEIF, ELSE, ENDIF
 - Looping structures (Do) DO, ITERATE, DOEXIT, ASMLEAVE, ENDDO
 - Searching STRTSRCH, ORELSE, ENDLOOP, ENDSRCH, EXITIF
 - N-way branching CASENTRY, CASE, ENDCASE
 - Selection on general sequential cases SELECT, WHEN, NEXTWHEN, OTHERWISE, ENDSEL
- Why use SPMs?
 - Improve code readability, maintainability, understandability
 - Faster application development
 - Cleaner code
 - Eliminates extraneous labels makes it easier to revise



• Ever seen some code like this?

CHK1	ICM	2,15,RETCODE	RETURN CODE 0?
	BC	8, RETOK	BRANCH TO RETURN OK
	SLL	2,2	MAKE BRANCH OFFSET
	ICM	3,15,RESN	RETURN NOT 0 AND REASON PRESENT?
	BC	7, RESTAB(2)	BRANCH INTO REASON TABLE
CHK2	L	15, CHKRES	CALL CHECKRES SUBROUTINE
	BALR	14,15	
	LTR	15,15	RETURN OK?
	BC	8,CHK1	GOTO REPEAT CHECKS
	BC	1,RETOK	RETURN WILL DO
	BC	4,CHK1	LOOKUP REASON
RETOK	С	2,=F'3'	WAS RETURN LESS THAN 3?
	BC	4,CHKERRL4	YES
	LA	3,0	
	BC	15,CONT242	CONTINUE CODE
CHKERRL4	L	15,0MINERR	OUTPUT MINOR ERROR
CONT242	• •	•	



• Ever seen someone make a fix like this?

CHK1	ICM	2,15,RETCODE	RETURN CODE 0?
	BC	8, RETOK	BRANCH TO RETURN OK
	SLL	2,2	MAKE BRANCH OFFSET
CHK1B	ICM	3,15,RESN	RETURN NOT 0 AND REASON PRESENT?
	BC	7, RESTAB(2)	BRANCH INTO REASON TABLE
CHK2	L	15, CHKRES	CALL CHECKRES SUBROUTINE
	BALR	14,15	
	LTR	15,15	RETURN OK?
	BC	8,CHK1	GOTO REPEAT CHECKS
	BC	1, RETOK	RETURN WILL DO
	BC	4,CHK1 B	LOOKUP REASON
RETOK	С	2,=F'3'	WAS RETURN LESS THAN 3?
	BC	4,CHKERRL4	YES
	LA	3,0	
	BC	15, CONT242	CONTINUE CODE
CHKERRL4	L	15,0MINERR	OUTPUT MINOR ERROR
CONT242			



- Maybe the previous slides were a contrived example...you'd be surprised...
 - CHK1B might be an easy fix for now but what will the code be like when we reach CHK9C ... We've all seen it happen...
- Why does assembler code have a reputation for always being an unmaintainable mess?
 - Code gets maintained rather than developed...
 - Documentation gets lost...
 - Programmer's make bad choices...
- What can we do to fix this?
 - Structure your code
 - Don't call everything tmp1, tmp2, temp1, temp2, etc.
 - Use HLASM 's facilities to help you



- To use just copy in the ASMMSP copybook
 - By default, the SPMs produce based branch on condition instructions. To cause the SPMs to produce relative branch instructions, use the ASMMREL macro:

ASMMREL ON

- Global variables used by the macros begin with &ASMA_
- User-visible macros have meaningful mnemonics
 - Internal non-user macros begin with ASMM



HLASM Structured Programming – SPMs - IF...

- Provides simple selection for a given condition or instruction
- Multiple forms of IF statement:
 - IF (condition)
 - IF (instruction, parm1,parm2,condition)
 - IF (compare instruction,parm1,condition,parm2)
 - IF CC=condition_code
- Conditions may be joined together with Boolean operators
 - AND
 - OR
 - ANDIF
 - A OR B AND C \rightarrow A OR (B AND C) but A OR B ANDIF C \rightarrow (A OR B) AND C
 - ORIF
 - A AND B ORIF C OR D → (A AND B) OR (C OR D)
 - NOT



- Provides simple selection for a given condition or instruction
- Multiple forms of IF statement:
 - IF (condition)

```
LT R1,CUSTOMER_NUMBER

IF (Z) THEN

Code to assign a new customer number

ELSEIF (N) THEN

Code for negative customer number - error

ELSE

Look up the customer and do something useful

ENDIF
```



- Provides simple selection for a given condition or instruction
- Multiple forms of IF statement:
 - IF (condition)

```
LT R1,CUSTOMER_NUMBER

IF (Z) THEN

Code to assign a new customer number

ELSEIF (N) THEN

Code for negative customer number - error

ELSE

Look up the customer and do something useful

ENDIF
```

THEN is actually a comment – not needed



- Provides simple selection for a given condition or instruction
- Multiple forms of IF statement:
 - IF (instruction, parm1,parm2,condition)

```
IF (LT,R1,CUSTOMER_NUMBER,Z) THEN

Code to assign a new customer number

ELSEIF (N) THEN

Code for negative customer number - error

ELSE

Look up the customer and do something useful

ENDIF
```



- Provides simple selection for a given condition or instruction
- Multiple forms of IF statement:
 - IF (compare instruction,parm1,condition,parm2)



- Provides simple selection for a given condition or instruction
- Multiple forms of IF statement:
 - IF (compare instruction, parm1, condition, parm2)

Remember to continue statements

X

X



The following are the condition mnemonics permitted by the SPMs

Case	Condition Mnemonics	Meaning	Complements
After compare instructions	H, GT	Higher, greater	NH, LE
	L, LT	Less than	NL, GE
	E, EQ	Equal	NE
After arithmetic instructions	P	Plus	NP
	M	Minus	NM
	Z	Zero	NZ
	O	Overflow	NO
After test under mask instructions	O	Ones	NO
	M	Mixed	NM
	Z	Zero	NZ



- Provides simple selection for a given condition or instruction
- Multiple forms of IF statement:
 - IF CC=condition code

```
L R15,TRREME

TRT 0(1,R6),0(R15)

IF CC=0,OR,CC=2 Did the operation complete?

Yes - let's examine register 2 for TRT result...

ELSE

Data was examined but there is still more to go...

Examine the result and re-drive the instruction

ENDIF
```



- Provides iterative execution
- Multiple forms of DO statement:
 - DO ONCE/INF...
 - DO FROM=(Rx,i),TO=(Ry+1,j),BY=(Ry,k)...
 - DO WHILE=(condition)...
 - DO UNTIL=(condition)...
- Loop control keywords
 - DOEXIT uses IF-macro style syntax to exit the current DO or any containing labeled DO
 - ASMLEAVE unconditionally exit the current DO or any containing labeled DO
 - ITERATE requests immediate execution of the next loop iteration for the current or any containing labeled DO



HLASM Structured Programming - SPMs - DO...INF

- Provides iterative execution
- Multiple forms of DO statement:
 - DO INF → infinite loop

```
* Count the number of customers

XGR R2,R2 Clear the counter

DO INF

LT R3,CUSTOMER_NUMBER(R2) Get the next customer

DOEXIT (Z) Exit if at end

ALGFI R2,L'CUSTOMER_REC Increment counter

ENDDO
```



- Provides iterative execution
- Multiple forms of DO statement:
 - DO FROM → Counted loop note that this generates a BCT

```
* Output only top 10 customers

DO FROM=(R1,10)

L R3,CUSTOMER_NUMBER(R1) Get customer

OUTPUT_CUSTOMER CUST=R3 Call subroutine
ENDDO
```



- Provides iterative execution
- Multiple forms of DO statement:
 - DO FROM → Counted loop note that this generates a BXH

```
Clear process flag
XC FLAG, FLAG
IF
    (CLI, INPUT RECORD, NE, C'*')
                                            Not a comment?
    DO
            FROM = (R1, 1), TO = (R5, 72), BY = (R4, 1)
                                   Get next character
        LA R2, INPUT RECORD (R1)
           (CLC, 0(5,R2), EQ, = 'END'), AND,
        IF
                                                                X
            (CLI, FLAG, EQ, 2)
                                        Process the END record
            ASMLEAVE
                                        Leave the process loop
        ENDIF
    ENDDO
ENDIF
```



HLASM Structured Programming – SPMs – DO...Backwards...

- Provides iterative execution
- Multiple forms of DO statement:
 - DO FROM → Counted loop note that this generates a BXH

```
XC FLAG, FLAG
                                             Clear process flag
IF
    (CLI, INPUT RECORD, NE, C'*')
                                             Not a comment?
            FROM= (R1,1), TO= (R5,72), BY= (R4,-1)
    DO
                                              Get next character
        LA R2, INPUT RECORD (R1)
            (CLC, 0(5, R2), EQ, = 'END'), AND,
        IF
                                                                  X
            (CLI, FLAG, EQ, 2)
                                         Process the END record
            ASMLEAVE
                                         Leave the process loop
        ENDIF
    ENDDO
ENDIF
```



HLASM Structured Programming – SPMs – SELECT...

Provides selective execution similar to an IF

```
SELECT

WHEN (CLI, PREFIX, EQ, C'+')

MVC OUT_BUFFER (L'STMT_MACROEXP), STMT_MACROEXP

WHEN (CLI, PREFIX, EQ, C'=')

MVC OUT_BUFFER (L'STMT_COPYBOOK), STMT_COPYBOOK

WHEN (CLI, PREFXI, EQ, C' ')

MVC OUT_BUFFER (L'STMT_NORMAL), STMT_NORMAL

OTHERWISE

BAL R14, ERROR_ROUTINE Listing isn't correct...

J EXIT_ROUTINE

ENDSEL

* Output the type of statement encountered
...
```



Summary

- Control sections C-, R-, DSECTs, External dummy sections
 - CSECT, RSECT, DSECT, DXD, COM
- The location counter and USING statements
 - LOCTR
 - Labeled USINGs
 - Dependent USINGs
- Structured Programming Macros (SPMs)
 - IF...ELSEIF...ELSE...ENDIF
 - DO WHILE / UNTIL / FROM...ENDDO
 - SELECT...WHEN...OTHERWISE...ENDSEL
 - ASMLEAVE, DOEXIT



Where can I get help?

- z/OS V2R1 Elements and Features
 http://www.ibm.com/systems/z/os/zos/bkserv/v2r1pdf/#IEA
- HLASM Publications
 http://www.ibm.com/systems/z/os/zos/library/bkserv/v2r1pdf/#ASM
- HLASM Programmer's Guide (SC26-4941-06)
 http://publibz.boulder.ibm.com/epubs/pdf/asmp1021.pdf
- HLASM Language Reference (SC26-4940-06)
 http://publibz.boulder.ibm.com/epubs/pdf/asmr1021.pdf
- HLASM Toolkit Features User's Guide (GC26-8710-10)
 http://publibz.boulder.ibm.com/epubs/pdf/asmtug21.pdf
- z/Architecture Principles of Operation http://www.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=isg2b9de5f05a9d57819852571c500428f9a