AN669

Embedding Assembly Routines into C Language Using a Floating Point Routine as an Example

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INTRODUCTION

With the advent of MPLAB-C, the Microchip C-compiler, many PICmicro™ users need to embed existing assembly language routines and/or Microchip application notes into C. This application note explains how to embed an assembly language program into MPLAB-C, version 1.10, and the issues therein. For example, embedding interrupt save and restore must be done using assembly language. Also, critical timing routines may require assembly. The 32-bit floating point multiply routine from AN575 is used to illustrate this process. The remaining 32-bit floating point math routines are embedded into individual C functions and are included in the file accompanying this application note.

PROCEDURE

For this example, we'll use a PIC16C74A with 4K Program Memory, and 192 bytes of RAM.

Embedding assembly routines

In order to embed an assembly language routine in C code place the `#asm` and `#endasm` directives around the assembly routine. Furthermore, if this is a subroutine, as is the case with the floating point multiply, then embed the assembly code within a C function declaration. The `#asm` construct is illustrated in Example 1 with an excerpt from the 32-bit floating point routine.

EXAMPLE 1: #ASM, #ENDASM CONSTRUCT

```
void fpm32(void)
{
#asm

FPM32     MOVF     AEXP,W        ;test for zero
          BTFSS    _Z            ;arguements
          MOVF     BEXP,W
          BTFSC    _Z
          GOTO     RES032M

M32BNE0   MOVF     AARGB0,W
          XORWF    BARGB0,W
          MOVWF    SIGN           ;save sign
          MOVF     BEXP,W         ;in SIGN
          ADDWF    EXP, F
          MOVLW    EXPBIAS-1

   ;...etc.
#endasm
}
```

Locating the Routine in Program Memory, `GOTO`s and `CALL`s

There are two 2K word pages of program memory in the PIC16C74A. Program memory 000h to 7FFh is page 0, 800h to FFFh is page 1. By making `fpm32()` a C function, MPLAB-C initializes the appropriate page bit in the PCLATH register before the subroutine call is made. (See data sheet for more on PCLATH).

A potential problem could arise, however, if the new C function, `fpm32(),` crosses the page boundary (7FFh,800h). MPLAB-C does not insert code into the assembly code to initialize the page bits (remember MPLAB-C does take care of paging for function calls). That means it is up to the programmer to either; 1) add assembly language to initialize PCLATH appropriately, or 2) move the entire `#asm` function within a single page. Option 1 involves more work. The programmer must first compile the C code, then analyze the listing file to see if the assembly function crossed a page boundary. Finally, add the appropriate assembly language to initialize PCLATH then re-compile. This solution is not desirable since every time new C code is added to or deleted from the program, the routine, `fpm32()` can potentially move across the page boundary. Option 2 is the simplest solution - to locate the C function in a single page.

To illustrate, lets force fpm32() to cross the page boundary. A pragma directive is required to locate a routine (Example 2).

EXAMPLE 2: FORCING FPM32 TO CROSS THE PAGE BOUNDARY

```
#pragma memory ROM [MAXROM-0x7F0] @ 0x7F0;
#include "fpm32.inc"
```

The listing file generated is shown in Example 3. Notice the statement GOTO MTUN32 at address 0x7FC. However, the routine MTUN32 is located at address 0x801. Remember, with the PIC16C74A the GOTO instruction only has an eleven bit address range. With the GOTO MTUN32 example, one more bit of address is needed to branch to 0x801 from 0x7FC. The extra bit of address is located in the PCLATH register. That means assembly code would have to be inserted into the floating point routines to initialize PCLATH before each GOTO. Since this solution is not desirable, the best approach is to locate the floating point subroutine in a single page. For example, change the pragma directive in Example 2 to locate the routine at 0x800.

It is important to note that when fpm32() is called as a C function, the page bit in PCLATH is updated by MPLAB-C. In other words MPLAB-C adds the necessary assembly language code needed to call fpm32() or any other C function. The C function is called correctly, but once within the C function, the raw embedded assembly language might have GOTOs or CALLs that cross over the page boundary and cause problems.

EXAMPLE 3: FPM32 FORCED TO ADDRESS 0x7F0 TO SHOW CROSSING FROM PAGE 0 TO PAGE 1

```
void fpm32 (void)
{

#asm
              .
              . some code here
              .
07F0 0838          FPM32       MOVF     AEXP,W        ;test for zero arguments
07F1 1D03                      BTFSS    _Z
07F2 0839                      MOVF     BEXP,W
07F3 1903                      BTFSC    _Z
07F4 284E                      GOTO     RES032M

07F5 0826          M32BNE0     MOVF     AARGB0,W
07F6 0633                      XORWF    BARGB0,W
07F7 00AE                      MOVWF    SIGN          ;save sign in SIGN
07F8 0839                      MOVF     BEXP,W
07F9 07B8                      ADDWF    EXP, F

07FA 307E                      MOVLW    EXPBIAS-1
07FB 1C03                      BTFSS    _C
07FC 2801                      GOTO     MTUN32        ;****** WON'T WORK !

07FD 02B8                      SUBWF    EXP,F
07FE 1803                      BTFSC    _C
07FF 2843                      GOTO     SETFOV32M     ;set multiply overflow flag
0800 2804                      GOTO     MOK32

0801 02B8          MTUN32      SUBWF    EXP,F         ;****** IN PAGE 1 !
0802 1C03                      BTFSS    _C
0803 2854                      GOTO     SETFUN32M
              .
              . some more code here
              .
#endasm
}
```

Assembly Language Variables, Include Files, etc.

For the floating point math routines of AN575, there is one include file which contains important constant and register declarations: `math16.inc`. This file of declarations is rather extensive, however, it is straightforward to convert it to C. Example 4 shows a segment of the `math16.inc` requiring some attention for the conversion.

EXAMPLE 4: MATH16.INC EXCERPT FROM AN575. ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE FILE

```
B0      equu     0
```

These Constant and Variable Declarations Need to be Converted to C Language Declarations

Example 5 shows the equivalent C constant and variable declarations. The equates in assembly language create constants. The equivalent C language is a `#define`. Moreover, variables are declared in assembly language by equating a variable name to a register RAM location (i.e. `AARGB7 equ 0x20`). In C the variables are declared by assigning a type to the variable. In the listing in Example 5, `AARGB7` is declared as an unsigned integer data type.

EXAMPLE 5: THE CONVERTED MATH16C.C FILE. C LANGUAGE FILE

```
#define  B0     0
#define  B1     1
#define  B2     2
#define  B3     3
#define  B4     4
#define  B5     5
#define  B6     6
#define  B7     7
#define  MSB    7
#define  LSB    0
         .
         . etc.
         .
unsigned int AARGB0 @ ACCB0;       // most significant byte of argument A
unsigned int AARGB1 @ ACCB1;
unsigned int AARGB2 @ ACCB2;
unsigned int AARGB3 @ ACCB3;
unsigned int AARGB4 @ ACCB4;
unsigned int AARGB5 @ ACCB5;
unsigned int AARGB6 @ ACCB6;
unsigned int AARGB7 @ ACCB7;       // least significant byte of argument A
unsigned int AARG   @ ACC;         // most significant byte of argument A
```

USING 32-BIT FLOATING POINT MULTIPLY

Using the 32-bit floating point multiply supplied with AN575 in a C program is straightforward. First, copy the entire routine from the file `fpm32.a16` (from AN575). Then, create a function with the same name as the assembly routine.

Lets take a well known formula:

$$A = \pi r^2$$

Let,

π = 3.141592654

r = 12.34567898 meters

Find A:

We need to convert the previous decimal numbers to Microchip 32-bit floating point. Use `fpm32` (from AN575), to solve the equation. We will use MPLAB-C and use our C function named `fpm32()`. The main routine is listed in Example 6.

AN575 comes with a handy utility called `fprep.exe`. This Microchip file is a DOS executable. When running `fprep`, you can enter in a decimal number and it displays the hexadecimal floating point number. Table 1 shows the numbers in our example and their equivalent floating point formats.

TABLE 1: PICmicro™ 32-BIT FLOATING POINT REPRESENTATIONS OF OUR EXAMPLE

	Microchip Floating Point Equivalent			
Decimal Number	**EXP**	**B0 (MSB)**	**B1**	**B2 (LSB)**
π = 3.141592654	0x80	0x49	0x0F	0xDB
r = 12.34567898 meters	0x82	0x45	0x87	0xE7
A = 478.8283246 m^2 -- fprep.exe calculated result	0x87	0x6F	0x6A	0x07
A = 478.8283246 m^2 -- PIC16C74A measured result using MPLAB 3.12 and PICMASTER 16J probe	0x87	0x6F	0x6A	0x07

EXAMPLE 6: MAIN ROUTINE TO TEST OUT OUR NEW 32-BIT FLOAT MULTIPLY IN C

```
#include "16c74a.h"
#include "math16c.c"
#include "fpm32.inc"
                              // Notice that fpm32 is located in page 0
                              // Thus, all GOTOs reside in the same page.
void main (void)
{
  AEXP   = 0X80;              // PI = 3.141592654
  AARGB0 = 0X49;
  AARGB1 = 0X0F;
  AARGB2 = 0XDB;
  BEXP   = 0X82;              // r = 12.34567898
  BARGB0 = 0X45;
  BARGB1 = 0X87;
  BARGB2 = 0XE7;

  fpm32();                    // AARG =  PI * r
                              // you must reload r into BARG since
                              // fpm32() destroys BARG.
  BEXP   = 0X82;              // r = 12.34567898
  BARGB0 = 0X45;
  BARGB1 = 0X87;
  BARGB2 = 0XE7;
  fpm32();                    // AARG = (PI*r)*r
  while(1);
}
```

SUMMARY

For this discussion only the 32-bit floating point multiply is used. However, the same principles of embedded assembly language routines into C code can be used with other assembly language routines. A summary list of a step- by- step process to embed assembly code into your C code is below:

- Convert assembly register `EQU` equates to C variable types such as `unsigned int.`
- Convert constants to `#define` in C.
- Place the assembly code into a subroutine using `#asm` and `#endasm`
- To avoid paging issues in parts with multiple program memory pages, force the code to an address where it will not cross a page boundary. For example:

  `#pragma memory ROM [MAXROM-0x800] @ 0x800;`
- Macros and conditional assembly will have to be rewritten in actual in-line assembly code. The MPLAB-C compiler does not support these higher level assembly options to the same degree as the assembler, MPASM.

For your convenience, all the 32-bit floating point routines in application note AN575 are provided in a zip file along with this application note. Each routine has been separated to work as a stand-alone routine. There is a separate file for each floating point routine. The files may be included individually into your C code. Table 2 shows a list of all the files and routines included with this application note.

TABLE 2: 32-BIT FLOATING POINT C FILES/FUNCTIONS INCLUDED WITH THIS APPLICATION NOTE

AN575 Original Assembly Routine/file *	Equivalent C file/function	Purpose
-	example.c	The example `main()` routine calculating the area given the radius. (uses fpm32)
FLO2432	flo2432.inc	24-bit integer to 32-bit floating point conversion
FLO3232	flo3232.inc	32-bit integer to 32-bit floating point conversion
FPD32	fpd32.inc	32-bit floating point divide
FPM32	fpm32.inc	32-bit floating point multiply
FPA32 FPS32	fpsa32.inc fps32() 32-bit subtract fpa32() 32-bit add	32-bit floating point add 32-bit floating point subtract
INT3224	int3224.inc	32-bit floating point to 24-bit integer conversion
INT3232	int3232.inc	32-bit floating point to 32-bit integer conversion
NRM3232	nrm3232.inc	32-bit normalization of unnormalized 32-bit floating point numbers
NRM4032	nrm4032.inc	32-bit normalization of unnormalized 40-bit floating point numbers
math16.inc	math16c.c	variables and constants need for the floating point functions

* Check Microchip web site and bulletin board for latest code.

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