FAIL

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Abstract

This is a reference manual for FAIL, a fast, one-pass assembler for PDP-10 and PDP-6 machine language. FAIL statements, pseudo-operations, macros, and conditional assembly features are described. Although FAIL uses substantially more main memory than MACRO-10, it assembles typical programs about five times faster. FAIL assembles the entire Stanford time-sharing operating system (two million characters) in less than four minutes of CPU time on a KA-10 processor. FAIL permits an ALGOL-style block structure which provides a way of localizing the usage of some symbols to certain parts of the program, such that the same symbol name can be used to mean different things in different blocks.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Basic Syntax</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Statements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1 Instruction Statement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1.1 Opcode Field</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1.2 Accumulator (AC) Field</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1.3 Indirect (Q) Field</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1.4 Address Field</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1.5 Index Field</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2 Halfword Statement</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.3 Full-Word Expression</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.4 Truncated Expression</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.5 Input-Output Instruction Statement</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.5.1 Device Selection Field</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.6 Comment Field</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.7 Statement Termination</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Expressions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Atoms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1 Identifiers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2 Values</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3 Constants</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3.1 Simple Numbers</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3.2 Decimal Numbers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3.3 Floating-Point Numbers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3.4 Ascii Constants</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3.5 Sixbit Constants</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4 Symbols</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4.1 Labels</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4.2 Parameters (Assignment Statements)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4.3 Variables</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4.4 Predefined Symbols</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4.5 Half-Killed Symbols</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4.6 Block Structure</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4.7 Linkage with Separately Assembled Programs</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4.8 Symbols and Arrows</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.5 Complex Atoms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.5.1 Atomic Statements</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.5.2 Literals</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Pseudo-Ops

3.1 Destination of Assembled Code
  3.1.1 LOC, RELOC, and ORG .................................. 22
  3.1.2 SET and USE ........................................... 22
  3.1.3 PHASE and DEPHASE ..................................... 23
  3.1.4 HISEG .................................................. 24
  3.1.5 TWOSEG .................................................. 24
  3.1.6 LIT .................................................... 25
  3.1.7 VAR ..................................................... 25

3.2 Symbol Modifiers
  3.2.1 OPDEF .................................................. 26
  3.2.2 BEGIN and BEND ........................................ 26
  3.2.3 GLOBAL ................................................ 26
  3.2.4 INTERNAL and ENTRY .................................... 27
  3.2.5 EXTERNAL .............................................. 27
  3.2.6 LINK and LINKEND ....................................... 27
  3.2.7 LOAD and LIBRARY ...................................... 28
  3.2.8 PURGE ................................................ 28
  3.2.9 XPUNGE ............................................... 29
  3.2.10 SUPPRESS and ASUPPRESS ................................ 29
  3.2.11 UNIVERSAL and SEARCH ................................ 29

3.3 Entering Data
  3.3.1 DEC and OCT ........................................... 30
  3.3.2 BYTE .................................................. 30
  3.3.3 POINT ................................................ 31
  3.3.4 XWD .................................................. 31
  3.3.5 IOWD .................................................. 31
  3.3.6 ASCII, ASCIZ, ASCOD, and SIXBIT ....................... 32
  3.3.7 RADIX50 .............................................. 32

3.4 Reserving Space for Data
  3.4.1 BLOCK ................................................ 33
  3.4.2 INTEGER and ARRAY .................................... 33

3.5 Assembler Control Statements
  3.5.1 TITLE ................................................ 34
  3.5.2 END and PRGEND ....................................... 34
  3.5.3 COMMENT .............................................. 34
  3.5.4 RADIX ............................................... 35
  3.5.5 INSERT ............................................... 35

3.6 Listing Control Statements
  3.6.1 TITLE and SUBTTL ..................................... 36
  3.6.2 LIST, XLIST, and XLISTI ................................ 36
  3.6.3 LALL and XALL ....................................... 36
  3.6.4 NOLIT ............................................... 36
  3.6.5 NOSYM ............................................... 37
# Table of Contents

3.6.6 CREF and XCREF .................................................. 37
3.6.7 PAGE .............................................................. 37
3.6.8 PRINTX ............................................................ 33

4. Macro Operations .................................................... 38

4.1 Macros ........................................................................ 38
    4.1.1 Macro Bodies ..................................................... 38
    4.1.2 Concatenation ..................................................... 39
    4.1.3 Arguments in Macro Definitions ............................. 39
    4.1.4 Macro Calls ....................................................... 40
    4.1.5 Arguments in Macro Calls .................................... 40
    4.1.6 How Much is Eaten by a Macro Call ....................... 41
    4.1.7 Complex Example .............................................. 42

4.2 FOR .......................................................................... 43
    4.2.1 String FOR ....................................................... 43
    4.2.2 Character FOR ................................................... 44
    4.2.3 Arithmetic FOR ................................................. 44

4.3 REPEAT ..................................................................... 45

4.4 Conditional Assembly ................................................. 46
    4.4.1 Numeric IFs ....................................................... 46
    4.4.2 Text IFs .......................................................... 46
    4.4.3 Symbol IFs ....................................................... 47

Appendices ...................................................................... 48

A Command Language .................................................... 48

B Relocatable and Undefined Values ................................. 50

C Predefined Opcodes .................................................... 51

D Stanford Character Set ................................................ 56

E Summary of Character Interpretations ............................ 57

Index .............................................................................. 59
1. Introduction

FAIL is an assembly program for PDP-6 and PDP-10 machine language. FAIL operates in one pass, which means that it reads the input file only once; the linking loader program (LOADER or LINK-10) completes any aspects of the assembly which could not be done by FAIL. The efficiencies which have been employed in its coding make FAIL five times faster than MACRO-10, the DEC assembler.

FAIL processes source program statements by translating mnemonic operation codes into the binary codes needed in machine instructions, relating symbols to numeric values, and assigning relocatable or absolute core addresses for program instructions and data. The assembler can prepare a listing of the program which includes a representation of the assembled code. Also, the assembler notifies the user of any errors detected during the assembly.

FAIL has a powerful macro processor which allows the programmer to create new language elements to perform special functions for each programming job.

FAIL permits an ALGOL-style block structure which provides a way of localizing the usage of symbols to particular parts of the program, called blocks. Block structure allows the same symbol name to be given different meanings in different blocks.

The reader of this manual should be familiar with the PDP-10 instruction set, which is described in both DECsystem-10 System Reference Manual and PDP-10 and PDP-6 Instruction Sets (SAIGON-71).

Other documents of interest:

Petit, P. RAID, SAILON-58, September 1969
Harvey, B. Monitor Command Manual, SAILON-54.3, December 1973

The following are available in the DECsystem-10 Software Notebooks:

Cross-Reference Listing: CREF, June 1973
DECsystem-10 Operating System Commands, February 1974
DECsystem-10 Monitor Calls, June 1973
2. Basic Syntax

This section describes the basic components of a typical FAIL source program. It covers the normal mode of turning each source statement into a binary word. Pseudo-operations and macro features are explained in later sections.

This section is organized in a top-down manner: the complex constructs, statements, are described first, followed by a description of the language elements from which statements are built, etc.

Statements are the elements of the language that generate machine code and other binary data. A statement is generally free format, consisting of several fields, each of which is an expression. Expressions are composed of atoms and operators. The operators signify typical arithmetic and boolean operations, such as addition or logical OR. Atoms are either constants, symbols, or complex atoms.

2.1 Statements

Statements are the syntactic units which actually produce code. The statements that are described in this section usually generate one word of code. A null statement, which consists of no expressions, generates no code. A typical statement consists of one or more expressions separated by spaces, commas, or parentheses.

There are five kinds of statements: instruction statements, full-word expressions, truncated expressions, halfword statements, and input-output statements. The most common of these is the instruction statement. Also, there are pseudo-operations (called pseudo-ops), which are described in section 3, page 22. A pseudo-op may direct FAIL to perform an assembler control function or to assemble data in a particular format.

The examples that are given below are intended to be as general as possible. In most cases, many of the indicated fields may be omitted.

2.1.1 Instruction Statement

OPCODE AC, @ADDRESS(INDEX) ; COMMENT

An instruction statement is used to assemble one machine instruction. The typical format is shown above; the parts will be explained later. Any portion of the instruction statement may be omitted. The comment field is not really part of the instruction statement, but may be included on the same line for clarity and conciseness. The parts may appear in any order, except that the opcode field, if present, must be the first expression. Also, each part must be syntactically identifiable. The form above is hallowed by years of use; departure from it will render a program less intelligible to other readers.
If the opcode field is omitted, all other fields will be recognized and handled normally, unless the address expression is the first field seen, in which case the statement is treated as a full-word expression.

2.1.1 Opcode Field

If the first atom appearing in the statement (excluding labels and assignment statements) is an identifier, it will be looked up in the opcode table to see if it is an opcode, in which case the opcode alone will be returned as the first expression, overriding any significance it may have as a symbol. An opcode (short for operation code) may be a machine instruction mnemonic, a UUO mnemonic, a pseudo-op, or a user-defined opcode (see OPDEF in section 3.2.1, page 26). An opcode, if it appears, must be the first thing in the statement (except for labels or assignment statements).'

If an opcode is a pseudo-op mnemonic, FAIL will process that particular pseudo-op as appropriate. The syntax of pseudo-ops differs from that of normal statements.

If an opcode is a machine instruction, UUO mnemonic, or user opcode, its value is placed in the binary word being assembled. These opcodes are treated as having full-word values, but in most cases only the opcode field (bits 0-8) is non-zero. A few machine instructions, and many UUO mnemonics, specify values for other fields as well. The values of the other fields (except the address field, if non-zero) can be modified by subsequent operands.

Whenever an opcode is recognized, it is immediately processed without regard for any arithmetic operator that might follow. Although FAIL tries to allow a symbol and opcode with the same name to co-exist, it cannot resolve the ambiguity in all circumstances; it is a good idea to avoid conflicts as much as possible. FAIL will not recognize an identifier as an opcode if the identifier is followed by any one of the characters colon (:), left-arrow (←), up-arrow (↑), tilde (~), or number sign (#).

2.1.1.2 Accumulator (AC) Field

If an expression appears in a statement followed by exactly one comma, its value will be placed in the accumulator field of the current word (bits 9-12), possibly replacing the accumulator field indicated by an opcode. This expression must be defined, available, and absolute (some of these terms are defined in section 2.3.2, page 8). For the sake of brevity, "accumulator" is often written as "AC".

2.1.1.3 Indirect (@) Field

If one or more at-sign characters (@) appear as part of a statement, the indirect bit (bit 13) will be turned on in the word being assembled. The at-sign may appear anywhere in the statement as long as it is not embedded inside symbols or expressions. The character open single quote (‘) may be used as an alternative to at-sign.
2.1.4 Address Field

If in a statement an expression appears which is neither enclosed in parentheses nor followed by a comma, it is considered to be an address expression unless it is the first expression (including the opcode) in the statement. Address expressions are truncated to 18 bits and placed in the address field (bits 18-35) of the word being assembled.

Only one address field may be assembled per statement; an attempt to assemble more than one is an error. This error sometimes occurs because an undefined opcode is used, which is treated as an expression in case it is really an undefined symbol. This error can also occur when an opcode includes an address field and the user attempts to supply another address field.

2.1.5 Index Field

If an expression is enclosed in parentheses in a statement, the right half of its value will be ORed into the left half of the current word. Also, if no address field has appeared yet, the left half of its value will be ORed into the right half of the current word. The expression must be defined, available, and absolute. This construct is most commonly used for specifying the index field (bits 14-17).

Sometimes, this construct is used for putting left-half quantities in address fields, or as a general halfword-swapping operation. Often when this is done, the expression in parentheses must be enclosed in brackets (< and >) to force its evaluation as an atomic statement; see section 2.3.5.1, page 20. If the left half of the expression is non-zero, the word will be flagged as containing an address field, making another address field illegal.

Examples:

```
MOVEI 2, -1(6) ; assembles 201106 777777
MOVSI 1,<JRST>, ; assembles 205040 254000
```

2.1.2 Halfword Statement

EXPR , , , ADDRESS(1 NOEX) ; COMMENT

If an expression is followed by comma-comma (, , ), it will be placed in the left halfword of the current location, and FAIL will continue to process an address field, index field, and indirect field. This is more convenient than the XWD pseudo-op for assembling halfwords since it allows the entire effective address to be specified in the usual way. The only restriction is to beware of possible interpretation of the first symbol as an opcode. If the expression followed by the comma-comma is not the first thing assembled in the word, the warning message "Illegal" will be printed, although the statement will assemble correctly. This prevents confusion if an extra comma is typed after an accumulator field.
2.1.3 Full-Word Expression

EXPR ; COMMENT

When the first expression in a statement is not preceded by a comma and is not an opcode, FAIL assumes that the expression is a full-word expression. The entire 36-bit value of the expression is placed in the current word. The full-word expression is the only ordinary statement (i.e., not a pseudo-op) that assembles a single expression with a full 36-bit value. Full-word expressions are treated as address fields for purposes of the multiple address field error.

If a full-word expression contains any undefined symbols, unavailable symbols, or strange relocation constants, the entire word will be updated with the value of the expression when it becomes known. This will obliterate any index, indirect, or accumulator field appearing after the expression on the line. If the expression actually has only an 18-bit value, this can be fixed by prefixing the expression with a comma (i.e., by using a truncated expression). If a full-word value is actually needed and the problem is not just one of availability (curable by the use of GLOBAL or down-arrow (↓); see section 2.3.4.6, page 16), it may be necessary to use an explicit expression to set the accumulator, index, and indirect fields.

2.1.4 Truncated Expression

, EXPR ; COMMENT

If a comma appears before any expression in a statement, it flags the current word as containing data in order to force a subsequent expression to be treated as an address field even when it is the only expression in the statement. This can be used to form an M-bit truncated expression. Note that a statement consisting of a single comma will assemble a zero word.

2.1.5 Input-Output Instruction Statement

OPCODE DEV, @ADDRESS(index) ; COMMENT

An input-output instruction statement is used to assemble one hardware I/O instruction. Most parts are the same as in an instruction statement, except that a device selection field appears instead of an accumulator field. Also, the opcode portion must be one of the PDP-10 hardware input-output instructions (e.g., DATAO). Note that hardware I/O instructions are not related to operating system UUOs.

2.1.5.1 Device Selection Field

The same syntax and restrictions that apply to an accumulator field apply also to the device selection field. The value of the device selection field is placed in bits 3-9 of the current word. This value is often called the device code.
2.1.6 Comment Field

When FAIL’s statement processor encounters a carriage return or semicolon (;), all characters up to the next line feed or form feed are completely ignored except for listing and certain macro processor functions (see section 4.1, page 38). Upon reaching the line feed or form feed, the comment is terminated. Usually, this is used to insert a relevant comment at the end of a line of code.

2.1.7 Statement Termination

A statement is terminated by a comment or by any of the characters line feed, double-arrow (\(\rightarrow\)), right’ bracket (\(\rceil\)), or right broket (\(\rceil\)) when not processing a comment. When a statement is terminated, the value of the current word (if any) is returned. A statement returns no value at all if no expressions appear in it or if it is a pseudo-op which assembles no code. Terminating a statement with one of the bracket characters often has special significance, as in atomic statements or literals. Double-arrow can be used for assembling more than one statement on a line, but will not terminate a comment.

2.2 Expressions

Expressions are built from atoms connected by operators which allow the specification of values based upon arithmetic and logical functions of several values. These expressions follow essentially the same rules as conventional programming languages. Each operand in an expression may be an atom, an atomic statement, or an expression in parentheses, preceded by any number of unary operators. If parentheses are used, the expression inside the parentheses is evaluated before performing any operations using that operand. If a unary operator appears, its function will be evaluated before any operations using that operand (but after the expression in parentheses, if parentheses are used). Multiple unary operators are evaluated from right to left, so \(-1\) is processed as \(-(-1)\). Finally, these operands can be connected with binary infix operators whose order of evaluation is determined by their assigned precedence levels (highest first) and is left-to-right for operators of the same level. An expression may, of course, consist of a single operand (i.e., atom) with no operators at all.

Surrounding an entire expression with parentheses sometimes signifies an index field (see section 2.1.1.5, page 4). All arithmetic is integer or boolean; no type conversion is done for floating-point operands.
The following is a list of the available operators and their precedence levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Precedence Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Addition</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Subtraction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Multiplication</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/</td>
<td>Division</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp;</td>
<td>Logical AND</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>^</td>
<td>Logical OR</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>^=</td>
<td>Exclusive OR</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;&gt;=</td>
<td>Logical Left-Shift</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!</td>
<td>Negation (two's complement)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!</td>
<td>Logical NOT (one's complement)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If an expression contains any undefined values, its own value is undefined. If an expression is used in a context where undefined values are legal, FAIL retains a structure describing the evaluation needed, called a Polish fixup for its similarity to Polish arithmetic notation, in order to complete the evaluation when the unknowns become defined. As soon as all values in the expression are defined, a fixup will be output (to the loader) to correct the value (or the value will be corrected directly in the case of a literal). If the expression is not completely defined by the end of the assembly (due to external references or errors), the Polish structure is sent to the loader for evaluation at load time. In other words, the right thing usually happens with a partially undefined expression as long as it is legal in the context where it is used.

Expressions may also begin with any number of labels or assignment statements, which have no effect on the value of the expression.

Examples

```
FOO@2 ;value of FOO shifted left 2 bits
(BAR=-1)@-2 ;value of BAR-1 shifted right 2 bits
(A+2)*B ;same value as above
-(A+2)*B ;another way (The symbol A must be defined and available. See Atomic Statements, section 2.3.5.1, page 20)
=60*60 "A"-40
[F0]-1 ;even literal9 can appear in expressions
FOO: BAR4 105 ;the value of this expression is 105
;labels and assignment statements have no effect on the value of the expression
```
2.3 Atoms

An atom is the most basic syntactic element. An atom is either a symbol or a constant. There are also complex atoms which are not really atoms at all, but which can be used in the same way as atoms in forming expressions. Every atom represents a value.

2.3.1 Identifiers

Identifiers are very basic syntactic elements. They have many different uses, all of which involve referring to something by a convenient symbolic name. The uses of identifiers will be covered as the various applications arise. Identifiers may be defined either by the programmer or by FAIL.

The characters legal in an identifier are letters, digits, and the four characters dollar sign ($), percent sign (%), point (.), and underscore (_). An identifier is any non-null string of characters from this set, delimited by characters not from this set, except that the first character of an identifier must not be a digit. Only the first six characters of an identifier are significant, and upper and lower case letters are treated as equivalent. Thus "FOOBAR" and "foobart" are equivalent identifiers. Also, "_" is considered equivalent to ".", so, for example, "A-7" and "A. 7" are equivalent identifiers.

Certain identifiers have special meaning in FAIL, and cannot be used except with their own special meanings. Some of these reserved identifiers are IFAVL, IFDEF, IFDIF, IFE, IFG, IFGE, IFIDN, IFL, IFLE, IFMAC, IFN, IFNAVL, IFNDEF, IFNMAC, IFNOP, IFOP, IOWD, .FNAM1, .FNAM2, ".", and "$".

2.3.2 Values

Most of the normal assembly process consists of translating text strings into their corresponding binary values. The main transformation happens when the atomic elements are converted to their binary representations; these are combined by binary operations into more complex constructs.

Often the final 36-bit value of an atom depends upon information not available at the time the atom is seen. This value may become known when a later part of the program is assembled, or it may not be known until the program is actually loaded. Consequently, up until the final loading of a program into a core image, its representation must be a slightly expanded form of simple binary so that the steps necessary to complete the calculation of all binary values can be adequately described. Partially defined values are commonly used in writing FAIL programs; several mechanisms exist to enable FAIL (and the loader) to handle such values correctly. The full impact of forward references and relocatable values is discussed in appendix B, page 50.

Some of the different kinds of values that often occur in FAIL are distinguished by particular names: relocatable, absolute, defined, undefined, available, and unavailable. The definitions that follow involve symbols and block structure to some extent. Refer to section 2.3.4, page 11, and section 2.3.4.6, page 15, for further elucidation.
A value that depends on where the program is when it is loaded in core is called relocatable. Relocatable values occur most frequently when some location in the program or in the data is referred to. Values that do not depend on where the program is located are called absolute or un relocatable. An example of an absolute value is a constant. Another example of an un relocatable value is the length of a table (that is, the difference between two relocatable values).

A symbol is an identifier that has a value. A symbol is defined when a value is assigned to it. A symbol can be referenced before it is defined, that is, when the value of the symbol is undefined. FAIL makes sure that the right thing happens when the value becomes defined as long as an undefined value is legal in the particular context where it is used.

A symbol that is defined is said to be available (after the point of definition) in the block where it is defined. When another (lower) block is entered, such a symbol becomes unavailable unless the programmer has taken steps to force the availability of that symbol in lower blocks.

2.3.3 Constants

Constants are the simplest forms of atoms; their values do not depend on context or previous operations (with the exception of the radix for interpretation of numbers). Constants are absolute, i.e., independent of where the program is loaded. A constant may be one of several types of numerical or text constants. In addition to the atomic constants described here, there are various data entry pseudo-ops described in section 3.3, page 30.

2.3.3.1 Simple Numbers

A simple number consists of a string of digits, optionally followed by the letter "B" and one or two additional digits which represent a scale factor. The digit string is interpreted as a number in the current radix. Since the radix is initialized to 8, simple numbers are usually interpreted as octal by default. In this case, the accumulation is done by logical shifting, so the number is considered unsigned. If the radix is anything other than 8, the accumulation is done by multiplication, and the sign bit cannot be set (but a negative number can be entered as an expression). The current radix can be set with the RADIX pseudo-op (see section 3.5.4, page 35).

The one- or two-digit argument following the "B", interpreted in decimal, specifies the low-order bit position of the number in the word. The number is shifted left logically a number of bit positions equal to 35 (decimal) minus the argument.

Examples:

```
1743
2
254B8
1B33 ; equivalent to 4
28B18
10B37 ; equivalent to 2
```
2.3.3.2 Decimal Numbers

Decimal numbers provide a way of entering decimal information regardless of the current radix. A decimal number is a simple number preceded by an equal sign (=). Since decimal numbers are handled identically to simple numbers except for the radix, the "B" shifting operation may also be used with decimal numbers.

Examples:

-100
-69
-10B27

2.3.3.3 Floating-Point Numbers

Numbers may also be entered in standard floating-point notation, in which case they will be converted to PDP-10 single-precision floating-point format. Floating-point numbers are always interpreted in decimal regardless of the current radix. Note that any arithmetic performed by FAIL on numbers is always integer arithmetic, even if the operands are floating-point numbers.

A floating-point number consists of two strings of digits, separated by a decimal point and followed by an optional scale factor. The digit strings before and after the decimal point represent the integer and fraction parts of the floating-point number, respectively. The scale factor is the letter "E", an optional minus sign, and one or two digits. The number following the "E" specifies a power of ten by which the number will be multiplied.

Although the fraction part of the number may be omitted, it is probably better to include the redundant 0 to avoid a possible future conflict that could arise if FAIL were modified to allow a decimal point following a digit string to signify a decimal number.

Examples:

03781 ; equivalent to 107.0
0.13
18. ; better to write this as 10.0
1.86E05
31.4159E-1
6E1 ; presently equivalent to 690.0

2.3.3.4 Ascii Constants

Constants may also be specified as the ascii value of a character or string of characters. The ascii value of a character is its 'I-bit code in the Stanford Character Set, a modified form of the US ASCII code (see appendix D, page 56). An ascii constant is written as a string of characters not containing a double quote ('"'), enclosed with double quotes, e.g., "Foo". If the string is null,
Basic Syntax

i.e., "", the resulting value will be zero. If the string contains exactly one character the resulting value will be the ascii value of that character. If the string contains more than one character, each additional character will shift the total left 7 bits and add its own value, much as an octal number is accumulated. This results in packing characters into right-justified 7-bit bytes. Only the low-order 36 bits of the total are used, so if more than 5 characters appear in the string, only the last 5 characters and the low-order bit of the sixth-from-last character will affect the value.

This right-justified form is not the standard way of packing text for addressing with byte instructions, but is intended mainly for small immediate operands, etc. Text pseudo-ops (described in section 3.3.6, page 32) are used to store text in the usual left-justified format in multiple words.

Examples:

"A" ; 101 octal
"AC" ; 2753
"fooob" ; 337576130362

2.3.3.5 Six bit Constants

Another character code that is frequently used is sixbit. It is a modified version of ascii code which uses only 6, instead of 7, bits in order to pack 6 characters into a word rather than 5.

The -basic ascii to sixbit transformation consists of subtracting 40 (octal) from the ascii code, which maps ascii 40-137 (all the printing characters of 64-character ASCII) into the desired 0-77. Since the 140-177 range consists mostly of lower-case versions of the 100-137 characters, a better transformation also maps this range to 40-77. The method used by FAIL is to copy the 100 bit into the 40 bit and set the 100 bit to 0. The inverse transformation is accomplished by adding 40 to each sixbit character.

Sixbit constants can be specified in FAIL in the same way as ascii constants, except that close single quotes (apostrophes) (') should be used instead of double quotes. Naturally, if more than one character appears in the string, the shifting will be 6 bits at a time instead of 7, and the last 6 characters of the string will always be completely significant. Again, a pseudo-op is available (see section 3.3.6, page 32) to pack longer strings into multiple words.

Examples:

'a' ; 41
'DSK ' ; 44635300000
'gronker' ; 62576534562

2.3.4 Symbols

Symbols are one of the most important features provided by an assembler. One capability provided by symbols is the ability to abbreviate a complex expression with a single identifier.
Another is to represent an assembly parameter, so that its value can be changed at the symbol definition only, without having to modify the places where the parameter is used. A third use is to represent values which are difficult for the programmer to calculate, such as values dependent upon exactly where certain parts of the program are stored.

A symbol is an identifier which at some point in the program (or possibly in an external program) is assigned a value which will be associated with that identifier whenever it is used in a context where symbols are recognized (see section 2.1.1.1, page 3, and section 4.1.4, page 40, for discussion of possible conflicts with opcodes or macros). The point at which a value is assigned to a symbol is said to be the point where it is defined.

In most circumstances, a symbol may be used to stand for a value either before or after it is defined. A symbol is said to be referenced when it is used to stand for a value. If this reference occurs earlier in the source file(s) than the definition, it is said to be a forward reference; if the reference follows the definition, it is said to be a backward reference. Backward references can be handled fairly easily, by merely replacing the symbol by its known value. However, forward references create some complication since FAIL does not know the value of the symbol until later in the file.

Two-pass assemblers avoid the forward reference problem by assembling the program twice. On the first pass the assembler calculates the value for each symbol; on the second pass these known values are used when the corresponding symbols are referenced. This method probably has the smaller storage requirements, but it requires more cpu time since the entire source file is scanned twice.

FAIL uses the one-pass approach to save execution time (at the expense of increasing the storage requirements). In this method, each forward reference assembles an incomplete word, but sufficient information is included in the binary file to enable the loader to complete the assembly. Part of the necessary mechanism exists in the loader anyway in order to handle externally defined symbols, which must be treated as forward references even by a two-pass assembler. Information placed in the binary file to update the value of an incompletely assembled word is referred to as a fixup.

Because of the problem of forward references in a one-pass assembler, the meaning of "defined" as used in this manual is not "defined somewhere within the program"*, but rather "defined in the program before the place being considered". In this sense a symbol is not considered to be "defined" at the time of a forward reference, even if it is defined later in the program.

A symbol may be defined in one of four ways. It may be defined as a label, as a parameter, or as a variable, or it may be a predefined symbol. These types of symbols are discussed in the following subsections.

2.3.4.1 Labels

Labels are the most common type of symbol. They are used as symbolic references to locations in the program. Labels help to keep such references independent of the exact placement of those parts of the program in the core image. The value of a label is calculated automatically by FAIL,
so that the programmer need not keep careful account of the exact numeric locations of all parts of his program.

A **label** is defined by simply writing an identifier followed by a colon (:) at the beginning of any expression being scanned. This will normally define the symbol as equal to the location counter, i.e., the location where the next word will be assembled. However, in some circumstances involving the use of literals (section 2.3.5.2, page 20) or the PHASE pseudo-op (section 3.1.3, page 23), the value of the label may differ from the location counter. The value assigned to a label is usually relocatable because the location counter is initialized to relocatable zero, but it may be absolute.

Although labels may occur at the beginning of any expression, they almost always occur at the beginning of a line. This convention improves the readability of programs by keeping labels in a place where they are easily recognized.

In order to detect possible conflicts in label usage, FAIL does not allow any label to be defined more than once. (However, FAIL block structure allows a label to be redefined in different blocks; see section 2.3.4.6, page 15.) Once a symbol has been defined as a label, it cannot be redefined; a symbol cannot be defined as a label if it has any previous definition. An attempt to do either of these things will result in a multiple definition error message, and the new definition will not take effect.

**Examples:**

```
LOOP: JRST LOOP ; points to itself
FOO:    ; labels the location of the next instruction
```

### 2.3.4.2 Parameters (Assignment Statements)

A parameter is a symbol that is given an arbitrary 38-bit value by an assignment statement. Actually, the final value is 36 bits, but since either 18-bit halfword may be relocatable two more bits are included in the representation of the value. The basic format of an assignment statement is an identifier followed by a left-arrow (\(\Leftarrow\)) followed by an expression. The 38-bit value of the expression, which must be defined, will be given to the specified symbol. An equal sign (\(=\)) may also be used as an alternative to left-arrow to allow partial compatibility with other assemblers, but if the first atom after the \(=\) begins with another \(=\) to indicate a decimal number, at least one space should separate the two to distinguish them from \(-=\), which has a different function (see section 2.3.4.5, page 15).

As with labels, any number of assignment statements may appear at the beginning of any expression, but they are normally written as separate statements for improved readability. In its full generality, an assignment statement may define more than one symbol by beginning with several symbol names, each followed by a left-arrow, and finally followed by the expression, whose value will be given to all symbols mentioned.

Unlike labels, parameters may be redefined as often as desired. Once a parameter has been defined, each reference to it will use the value in effect at the time of that reference (i.e., as of the
last assignment). The value appearing in the symbol table in the binary output file will be the last value assigned. The value used for forward references (i.e., before the first definition) will be that of the first assignment. Note that this is an incompatibility with two-pass assemblers, which would instead use the last value assigned during pass one.

Examples:

```
F00=105
BAR=+69
BLEATCH+BARF+LOSS+F00+BAR#3
gar# =97           ;note space between # is necessary
```

2.3.4.3 Variables

Variables are symbols whose values are the addresses of cells automatically allocated by FAIL for data storage. A variable is usually created by immediately following a symbol reference with a number sign (#). The symbol, which must not be previously defined, is declared to be a variable and will have its location assigned when the location of the variables area is known (see section 3.1.7, page 25). The symbol is not defined at this point; it cannot be used in contexts which do not allow forward references. However, it can be used as any other forward-referenced symbol; the number sign need not be used with more than one occurrence of the symbol. Similar effects can also be obtained with the INTEGER and ARRAY pseudo-ops (see section 3.4.2, page 33).

Examples:

```
SETZH FOO#
H0VE1 A,BAR#1
```

2.3.4.4 Predefined Symbols

Predefined symbols are available for use in all circumstances where symbols are recognized.

Two predefined symbols, point (.) and dollar-point($.) refer to the location counter, which is the location where the next complete word will be stored. In the absence of special circumstances, "." and ":" have the same value; "." is the one usually used. These values are usually relocatable but may be absolute; see section 3.1.1, page 22.

The reason for having two of these symbols is that some features of FAIL create complications affecting the location counter; see the discussion of literals (section 2.3.5.2, page 20) and the PHASE pseudo-op (section 3.1.3, page 23).

Examples:

```
JRST .-1
JUHPN 1,$,+3
```
The predefined symbols, .FNAM1 and .FNAM2 refer to the name of the current source file. The value of .FNAM1 is the 36-bit binary representation of the source file name; .FNAM2 has the value of the source file extension (or second file name).

2.3.4.5 Half-Killed Symbols

Symbols are included in the binary output file to aid debugging and to allow the loader to link several programs together. The debuggers (RAID and DDT) have symbolic disassemblers which take binary words and interpret their fields to display mnemonic opcodes, addresses, accumulator names, etc. Sometimes, the user wants to prevent particular symbol names from being displayed by the symbolic disassembler. Symbols that have been marked to prevent their display are called half-killed. Half-killing a symbol is useful for parameters which might incorrectly be displayed as core addresses or accumulator names. Half-killing is also handy for labels in code that is relocated at runtime. The debuggers do recognize half-killed symbols when they are input.

FAIL treats half-killed symbols precisely the same as other symbols, except, when the symbol is written in the binary output file, a bit is set to inform the debugger that the symbol is half-killed.

In FAIL, half-killing a symbol is accomplished by doubling the defining character (e.g., :., cc, or ==). In the case of ==, the two equal signs must not be separated by any spaces, because this is how the ambiguity is resolved with respect to the other use of equal sign to indicate decimal numbers. A parameter will be half-killed if any one of its definitions specifies half-killing.

Examples:

```plaintext
ERRFLG--100 ; the usual way of writing it
IOFLG ← 2000 ; this can have spaces anywhere
BUFFSIZ ← 100 ; but this can't (100 is octal)
BUFFSIZ == 100 ; since this means decimal, not half-killed
BUFFSIZ === 100 ; this is unambiguous (100 is decimal)
BUFFSIZ -- = 100 ; (100 is decimal)
LOOP: : SKIPN A, (B) ; a half-killed label
```

2.3.4.6 Block Structure

Block structure is very basic to the usage of symbols. This section may be skipped if the reader does not plan to use block structure. The one thing to remember is that in the absence of block structure any symbol which is defined is also available.

FAIL block structure provides a way of localizing the usage of symbols to particular parts of the program, called blocks. Block structure allows the same symbol name to be given different meanings in different blocks. The block structure used in FAIL is similar to that of ALGOL, but is somewhat less restrictive.

A program is considered to be a block whose name is the same as the program name (set by the TITLE statement; see section 3.5.1, page 34). Each block may contain any number of inner
blocks, but the depth of nesting may not exceed 17 (decimal). A definition of a symbol, a user-defined opcode (see section 3.2.1, page 26), or a macro (see section 4, page 38) applies only within the scope of the outermost block in which it is defined. The scope of a block includes the scope of each block it contains, unless the symbol (etc.) in question is defined again in an inner block, in which case the more local definition takes precedence within the scope of that block. A block is delimited by a BEGIN statement and a BEND statement (see section 3.22, page 26).

Features exist in FAIL for controlling the block level of symbols. If a symbol, when defined as a label or parameter, is preceded by an up-arrow (\u2193), it will be treated as if it were defined in the next-outer block. If a double up-arrow (\u2013\u2193) is used, the symbol will be treated as though it were defined in the outermost block of the program. These features are most commonly used for such things as making subroutine entry points available to outer blocks when the subroutines themselves are contained in blocks. In simple cases, this could be done by beginning the block after the entry label(s) or even after some of the code, but this makes reading the routine more difficult and hence the up-arrow construct is preferred. Tilde (\~) may be used instead of up-arrow.

Here are some examples of symbol usage, with and without block structure. Both examples generate the same code:

```
  F001:  J RST F001
          J RST F002
          J RST F003
          J RST F005
  BEGIN
    F002:  J RST F001
          J RST F002
          J RST F003
          J RST F005
  END

  %F003:  J RST F002
          J RST F003
  BEGIN
    %F005:  J RST F002
            J RST F003
            F001:  J RST F004
            F002:  J RST F004
  END

  F001:  J RST F001
          J RST F002
          J RST F003
          J RST F005
  BEGIN
    F002:  J RST F001
          J RST F002
          J RST F003
          J RST F005
  END

  F002:  J RST F004
          J RST F004
  BEND

  F004:  J RST F004
          J RST F004
  BEND
```

A complication arises with FAIL block structure due to the absence of the ALGOL requirement that all identifiers be declared at block entry time. FAIL allows forward references, yet does not require any declaration of symbols other than their defining occurrences. Hence, FAIL cannot decide whether to use an existing outer-block version of a symbol or to make a forward reference to a more local definition that may occur later.

To resolve this ambiguity, FAIL always considers a symbol reference to be a forward reference when the symbol has not been defined in the current block, even if it has been defined in some outer block. If no other definition is given by the time the block ends, then the outer-block definition is used to resolve the forward reference. While in the inner block in this situation, the outer-block symbol is still said to be defined, but it is also said to be unavailable. Thus block structure forces many references to be forward references, even when they would not otherwise be such.
Macros and user-defined opcodes cannot be forward-referenced. Such symbols are always available; references to them will use their outer-block definitions.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Opcode</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOO</td>
<td>MOVSI 1, -62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAR</td>
<td>CAME 2, ZOT(1)</td>
<td>so is BAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AOBJN 1, BAR</td>
<td>BAR is referenced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEGIN</td>
<td></td>
<td>FOO and BAR are defined, but now unavailable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOSS</td>
<td>MOVE11, 0</td>
<td>LOSS is defined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>JRST LOSS</td>
<td>a backward reference to LOSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>JRST FOO</td>
<td>this is treated as a forward reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOO</td>
<td>HRRM 6, LOSS</td>
<td>this is treated as a forward reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAZ</td>
<td>JRST BAR</td>
<td>this refers to this block's FOO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>JRST FOO</td>
<td>The outer-block definition of BAR becomes available at this END. A fixup is emitted to fix the reference to BAR at BAZ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many contexts do not accept forward references (e.g., accumulator and index fields). In these contexts unavailable symbols cannot be used, even if they are defined. Therefore, FAIL provides two mechanisms for forcing defined symbols to be available to lower blocks. One is the down-arrow mechanism, which is used at the defining occurrence of the symbol, and the other is the GLOBAL pseudo-op (see section 3.2.3, page 26), which is used in the referencing block.

The down-arrow mechanism is the more commonly used method, since this problem is most often associated with particular symbols (accumulator names, assembly parameters, etc.). Preceding the symbol name in a label or assignment statement with a down-arrow (\( \downarrow \)) causes that symbol to remain available whenever inner blocks are entered. Usually it is dangerous to redefine such symbols locally, since any forward references will have incorrectly referred to the outer-block definition. Consequently a warning message is printed in this case, but if no forward references are made to the local version, it will assemble correctly. However, if the redefinition of a down-arrowed parameter is effective at its original block level (possibly via \( \uparrow \) or \( \uparrow \uparrow \)), FAIL will change the original definition without complaint. This allows redefinition of global parameters from inner blocks. A question mark (\( ? \)) may be used instead of down-arrow.
Examples:

\[ \downarrow A + 1 \]
\[ B \leftarrow 2 \]
\[ \downarrow \text{FOO} \leftarrow 63 \]
BEGIN
\[ \text{ADD B, A} \]
\[ \text{MOVE A, B} \]
\[ \text{At5} \]
\[ \text{B \leftarrow 6} \]
\[ \text{MOVE A, B} \]
\[ \uparrow \text{FOO} \leftarrow 105 \]
BEND

; some accumulator (AC) definitions
; and a parameter
; this is ill legal because AC symbols must be available
; but this is legal since A is available
; by \downarrow
; this will produce a message and is too late to affect the instruction above
; this is legal and will fix up the MOVE
; to be MOVE 1, 6
; whereas this will be MOVE 5, 6
; this is legal since it is "aimed" at the FOO in the outer block

There are further details in section 3.22, page 26, and section 3.2.3, page 26, about the block structure pseudo-ops BEGIN, BEND, and GLOBAL.

2.3.4.7 Linkage with Separately Assembled Programs

It is sometimes desirable to have a program which is assembled in several parts, either to save reassembling the entire program for each change or because the program is written in a mixture of languages. Even with a single assembly it is usually necessary to use some of the job data area symbols, and sometimes symbols from the debuggers (RAID or DDT), all of which are reached through the linking loader. In this context, the word program refers to the result of one assembly or compilation, and thus a core image may contain several programs.

To allow reasonable communication between these programs, the loader allows symbol definitions to be passed between programs. For this purpose, symbols are divided into two classes, local symbols and global symbols. (There is no relation between the GLOBAL pseudo-op and the global symbols discussed here.)

Symbols are normally considered local, which means that they will not be available outside their own program and may be defined in more than one program without conflict. Global symbols, however, are available to all programs and hence must not have conflicting definitions within the set of programs to be loaded. The easiest way to declare a symbol to be global is to follow some occurrence of the symbol by an up-arrow. This flags the symbol as a global without specifying whether it is defined in this program or another program, since FAIL will have figured that out by the end of the assembly. Undefined globals (external symbols) will have appropriate fix up information passed to the loader for resolution when the defining programs are loaded. Globals may also be declared with the EXTERNAL (section 3.2.5, page 27) and INTERNAL (section 3.2.4, page 27) pseudo-ops.
Declaring a symbol global forces its scope to the outermost block in the same way as does a double up-arrow. Therefore, if a symbol is defined and declared global in an inner block, there must not be a conflicting definition in an outer block.

One other related feature is the library mechanism. A library is a file that contains a set of utility programs. Each program in the library may be loaded independent of the others, depending on whether it is required by the programs that have been loaded thus far. To implement this, there is associated with each program in the library (in one or more entry blocks) a list of certain global entry points defined in that program. In most cases these are the names of the routines contained in the program. When the loader is in library search mode, it loads only those programs for which at least one of the entry points corresponds to an existing unsatisfied global request (external symbol). Only those programs actually needed are loaded from the library; the rest are ignored. The ENTRY pseudo-op (section 3.2.4, page 27) is used to declare symbols to be entry points which will be available to a library search.

### 2.3.4.8 Symbols and Arrows

This is a brief restatement of the ways that identifiers are used as symbols in conjunction with arrows.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syntax</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>↑SYM:</td>
<td>SYM is available at the next-outer block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↑↑BOL←+10</td>
<td>BOL is half killed and available at the outermost block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↑↑ZOT≤-69</td>
<td>ZOT is available at the outermost block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓A↑-7</td>
<td>A is global and available to lower blocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOO↑:</td>
<td>FOO is global and defined here (internal), available at the outermost block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUSHJ P, BAZ↑</td>
<td>BAZ is global, may be external, available at the outermost block</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2.3.5 Complex Atoms

Two constructs exist which assemble one or more statements in much the same way as FAIL's normal top-level statement processor, but then return as an atom the value associated with the statement(s) assembled, rather than outputting the binary data. Both of these constructs involve the use of opening and closing characters to delimit the text. For an atomic statement, broken brackets, called *brackets* ( and ), are the delimiters. For literals, the delimiters are square brackets ([ and ]).

When the opening character is recognized, FAIL saves its present state and enters an auxiliary statement-assembly loop, continuing to assemble statements until a statement is encountered which terminates with the closing character. The closing character is located as a statement delimiter, not by keeping a count of the opening and closing characters. Thus if the delimiter character appears in a text constant, it will not be counted toward the match; also, attempting to use a comment (see
section 2.1.6, page 6) in the final statement of the sequence will prevent recognition of the closing delimiter. Note that this method of counting brokets is different from the macro processor, which counts brokets rigidly, independent of context. Nesting of complex atoms is handled by the recursive nature of FAIL's statement processor.

2.3.5.1 Atomic Statements

When it is useful to have the value of an entire statement treated as an atom, enclose that statement in brokets. Some number of statements will be assembled as described above, and the value of the first word assembled will be returned as the value of the atom, just as if the corresponding number had been typed. The values of any additional words assembled up to the closing broket will be ignored, although their side effects (if certain pseudo-ops are used) may remain. For example, if one of the multiple-word text pseudo-ops is used inside brokets, only the first text word will be returned, and the rest will be dispatched to the great bit bucket in the sky. This type of atom is constrained by FAIL to be handled as a number, so all symbols used in this context must be defined and available.

Examples:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{\texttt{<JRST>}} & \quad \text{; equivalent to 254000000000} \\
\text{\texttt{<JRST 105}} & \quad \text{;254000000105 will be the value} \\
\text{\texttt{JRST BAR}} & \quad \text{;and this statement won't do anything except} \\
& \quad \text{;possibly produce an error message if BAR} \\
\text{\texttt{>}} & \quad \text{;isn't defined and available} \\
\text{\texttt{>}} & \quad \text{;this broket will end it, not the one above}
\end{align*}
\]

2.3.5.2 Literals

Although the PDP-10 instruction set allows a large percentage of constants to be specified as immediate operands, it is still frequently necessary to reference constants stored elsewhere in memory. Instead of explicitly setting up these constants and referencing them by labels, it is possible to reference these constants as literals. The basic function of literals is to allow the programmer to write the value of the desired constant directly (i.e., literally), while the assembler automatically allocates a memory location for it; stores the value in it, and supplies the address of the cell for the reference. Also, an operation called constants optimization occurs, which consists of comparing (the binary value of) each literal with previous literals to see if the required constant has already been allocated, in which case the existing cell will be used rather than allocating another. This avoids multiple copies of a given constant.

To use a literal, put a statement of the desired value in square brackets and use it as an atom. The value (of the literal) will be the address of the literal in memory, which is treated like an undefined symbol since the actual location will not be assigned until later (usually the end of the program; also, see section 3.1.6, page 25). Literals can be used only where forward references are legal.
Because of the constants optimization, it is often dangerous (and considered poor form) to write a program which changes the contents of a literal. Such a change affects all parts of the program attempting to use that constant, which is not usually the desired effect.

A literal may contain more than one word if desired. The syntax of literals is basically the same as that of atomic statements, except that all words assembled are used. Multiple-word literals are most commonly used to store long text strings, but may be used to store sequences of instructions. There is no rigid limit on the maximum size of a literal, but large literals do consume assembler core fairly rapidly.

For purposes of assembling code in literals, it should be noted that the predefined symbol "$" retains its value during the assembly of a literal, rather than referring to the current location within the literal. Thus it refers to the location where the reference to the outermost literal is being made. The current location within the (current) literal can be referred to by using the symbol "$" (but this may not do the right thing if the PHASE pseudo-op is in use).

Naturally, labels may appear inside literals, but if they do they will be assigned the value of the current location within the literal, rather than the value outside. (Labels that appear inside literals are called literal-labels.) This is the only time that FOO: and FOO+ assign different values to FOO. The location of a literal is unknown at the time it is processed; hence, labels that are defined within literals (and "it" when used inside literals) are undefined symbols. For example, it is illegal to say FOO+: inside a literal because assignment statements do not accept undefined values. Note also that constants optimization will still occur with labeled literals, and this may result in several labels having the same value, if appropriate.

Examples:

```
PUSH P, 151
OUTSTR [ASCII/FOOBAR/]
JRST [MOVE]C,12
    PUSHJ P, WRCH
    SUB P,[1,1]
    JRST .+1]

PUSHJ P, [YTST]: CAIE C,"Y"
    CAIN C,"y"
    AOS (P)
    POPJ P, ).

PUSHJ P, YTST
    ; calling the above subroutine
```
3. Pseudo-Ops

Most statements are translated into operations for the computer to perform when the program is executed. Pseudo-ops (short for *pseudo-operations*), on the other hand, signify operations to be performed at assembly time. Some of these operations affect the behavior of the assembler in particular ways; others serve as convenient methods of entering data in commonly used formats.

### 3.1 Destination of Assembled Code

The assembler uses a location counter to keep track of the location where the code it is assembling will go. This counter is initialized to relocatable 0 at the start of the assembly; it is incremented by 1 for each instruction assembled. The value in the location counter is the location where the next word assembled will go.

#### 3.1.1 LOC, RELOC, and ORG

The contents of the location counter can be changed with the LOC, RELOC, and ORG statements.

The LOC pseudo-op takes one argument, an expression, which must be defined and available. The effect of LOC is to put the value of the expression into the location counter and to set the relocation of the counter to absolute, regardless of the relocation of the argument.

The RELOC statement has the same effect as the LOC statement except that the relocation is set to relocatable, regardless of the relocation of the argument.

The ORG statement has the same effect as the LOC and RELOC statements except that the relocation is set to the relocation of the argument.

Whenever LOC, RELOC or ORG is used, the current value (and relocation) of the location counter is saved (there is only one such saved-location counter, not one for each pseudo-op). A LOC, RELOC, or ORG statement with no argument will cause the saved value and relocation to be swapped with the current value (and relocation) of the location counter.

#### 3.1.2 SET and USE

It is possible to have multiple location counters and to switch back and forth among them. Only the currently active location counter is incremented. Location counters may be given any names which fit the syntax of identifiers. There is no relationship between location counters and labels with the same name.
The SET pseudo-op is used to initialize a location counter. It takes two arguments separated by a comma. The first is the name of the location counter; the second is the value to which the counter will be set. SET has the same effect as ORG except that it changes the indicated location counter and has no effect on the current location counter unless it is the same as the indicated one. SET is usually used to create a new location counter.

The USE pseudo-op is used to change location counters. It takes one argument, the name of the location counter to change to. USE causes the current location counter value to be saved away and the value of the indicated counter to be used. If a subsequent USE indicates the location counter which was saved away, the value it had when it was saved away will become the current value. If the indicated location counter has not appeared in a SET before its appearance in a USE (i.e., if it has no value), it will be given the value of the current location counter. The location counter which the assembler starts with has a blank name (i.e., a null argument indicates this first one).

In the example below, a close single quote (apostrophe) (') is used to denote that the value it follows is relocatable. This is the convention that FAIL uses when making a listing of the assembled code.

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0'</td>
<td>JRST FOO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1'</td>
<td>JRST BAZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2'</td>
<td>SET GARP, 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2'</td>
<td>USE GARP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>JRST FOO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>USE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2'</td>
<td>JRST FOO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.3 PHASE and DEPHASE

It is sometimes desired to assemble code in one place which will later be moved by the program itself to another place. In this case, it is desired that labels be defined as referring to locations in the place where the code will be moved, rather than where the assembler will put it. To accomplish this, the PHASE pseudo-op is used. PHASE has one argument, the location to which the next word assembled will be moved by the program. For instance, if, while the location counter is at 74, a PHASE 32 appears and a label appears on the next line, the label will be given the value 32, but the code on that line will be placed in location 74. Under these circumstances, the "." symbol will have the value 32, but the "$" symbol will have the value 74. The PHASE pseudo-op remains in effect until cancelled by a DEPHASE pseudo-op (no argument).

If a RELOC, LOC, or ORG pseudo-op (see section 3.1.1, page 22) appears while PHASE is in effect, the following considerations apply. If the relocation of the location counter remains unchanged by the RELOC (or LOC or ORG), then the value of the 'phase will be offset by the same amount as the location counter changes. That is, the value of "." and "$" will be changed by the same amount. If the relocation of the location counter changes and the relocation of the
phase was the same as the relocation of the (old) location counter, then the relocation of the phase will be changed and the phase will be offset by the same amount as the location counter changes. Otherwise, the error message indeterminate Phase due to RELOC will occur and FAIL will dephase.

3.1.4 HISEG

This statement outputs information directing the loader to load the program into the high segment. It should appear before any code is assembled.

3.1.5 TWOSEG

This statement directs FAIL and the loader to assemble and load a two-segment program. This complicates the relocation process because the loader must maintain two relocation constants, one for each segment. Since only one bit of relocation information is available for each value in the relocatable binary file, a kludge is used to decide which relocation to apply to each relocatable value. To do this, the loader compares the unrelocated value to a quantity known as the high-segment origin, which is the first address used for the high segment within that program. Any value greater than or equal to this quantity will be considered a high-segment address, while any value less than this quantity will be considered a low-segment address. When the value in question is a location specifier, the choice of relocation will determine which segment the code is actually loaded into.

Unfortunately, there is a possible bug in this relocation method. It is possible to have an expression which evaluates, through normal relocation arithmetic, to a relocatable quantity whose unrelocated value does not correspond to the segment the relocation was originally derived from. For example, if FOO is a label at high segment location 120, it will probably have a value of relocatable 400120. The expression FOO-400000 would be calculated by FAIL to have the value relocatable 120. This value would be passed directly to the loader since Polish appears unnecessary. However, the loader would apply the low-segment relocation to this value and probably have incorrect results. At present, the best way to get around this is to say FOOx1-400000, which will force the Polish to be passed to the loader. ..

The high-segment origin is specified by an optional argument to the TWOSEG pseudo-op, or set to the default of 400000 in its absence. In this case a RELOC 400000 followed by a RELOC 0 will initialize the dual location counter to assemble into the low segment and to switch segments whenever a RELOC statement with no argument is encountered (see section 3.1.1, page 22). Like HISEG, TWOSEG should be used before any code is assembled.
Example:

```
TITLE EXAMPLE
PDLEN=+100
P+17
TWOSEG 400000 ;initialize to two segments
RELOC 0 ;initialize dual location counters
RELOC 400000 ;now assemble code in the high segment
START: TDZA 1,1
MOVNI 1,1
MOVEM 1,RPGSW#
CALL 0
MOVE P, [LOWD,PDLEN,PDLIST]
RELOC ;set the relocation to low segment
PDLIST: BLOCK PDLEN ;define space for data storage
RELOC ;set location counter to the high segment
PUSHJ P, CORINI ;code is assembled in the high segment
;the rest of the program goes here
RELOC ;back to the low segment
VAR ;do variable8 in the low segment
RELOC ;to the high segment
LIT ;and literals here
END START
```

3.1.6 LIT

The LIT statement causes all previously defined literals to be placed where the LIT statement occurs. The LIT statement must not appear inside a literal. If a two segment sharable program is being assembled, LIT should appear in the upper segment.

3.1.7 VAR

The VAR statement causes all variables which appeared with a # in this block (or a sub-block of this one) to be placed where the VAR appears. VAR must not appear inside a literal. If a two segment sharable program is being assembled, VAR should appear in the lower segment.
3.2 Symbol Modifiers

The pseudo-ops in this section perform several functions, all relating to the definition or availability of symbols, or affecting the linkage of this program to others.

3.2.1 OPDEF

The OPDEF statement has the following form:

```
OPDEF symbol value
```

OPDEF inserts the symbol into FAIL’s opcode table with the indicated value. The symbol, which is a user-defined opcode, may then be used as any other opcode. The value part of the OPDEF must be defined and available. User-defined opcodes are sometimes called opdefs because of the pseudo-op by which they are defined.

3.2.2 BEGIN and BEND

The BEGIN statement is used to start a block. The block it starts will end at the corresponding BEND statement. The BEGIN may be followed by an identifier that will be used as the name of that block. DDT and RAID recognize block names. If no identifier appears, the assembler will create one of the form A. 000, where the 000 will be replaced by the block number of this block in octal. (The block number is initialized to zero and incremented for each BEGIN.) There is no relationship between labels and blocks with the same name. All text following the identifier is ignored until the next line feed or double-arrow.

BEND may be followed by an identifier which, if present, is compared to the block name of the block being ended; if they don’t match, FAIL prints an error message.

FAIL does not require block names to be unique; however, the loader and the debuggers sometimes depend on unique block names, so the user would be wise to avoid conflicts.

For a discussion of block structure, see section 2;3.4.6, page 15.

3.2.3 GLOBAL

The GLOBAL pseudo-op should be followed by a list of symbols separated by commas. Each symbol should be defined in an outer block. The effect of GLOBAL is to find the nearest outer block in which that symbol is defined and to make the definition in that block immediately available in the block in which the GLOBAL appears. GLOBAL does not affect the definition of the symbol in any intervening blocks.
If a symbol has been declared GLOBAL in a block and later is redefined in that block, the redefinition affects the definition in the outer block where GLOBAL found the original definition. Doing this causes strange effects if the definition was not in the next-outer block; it should not be done without some careful thought. The GLOBAL pseudo-op has no relation to the concept of global symbols.

### 3.2.4 INTERNAL and ENTRY

These statements declare certain locally defined symbols to be internal symbols. Internal symbols are those which are made available to other programs by the loader. INTERNAL (or ENTRY) should be followed by a list of symbols separated by commas. These symbols need not be defined before the INTERNAL (or ENTRY) statement appears, but they must be defined by the end of the program.

ENTRY emits special library entry blocks to the loader; see section 2.3.4.7, page 19. ENTRY statements must appear before any other statements that emit code, except that it is specifically legal to precede ENTRY statements by a TITLE statement.

### 3.2.5 EXTERNAL

The EXTERNAL statement declares that certain symbols are external symbols. An external symbol is a symbol that is declared internal in some other program. EXTERNAL is followed by a list of symbols separated by commas. The loader will fix up any references to an external symbol when the program in which it is defined is loaded.

Symbols must not be defined at the time they are declared with an EXTERNAL statement. If an external symbol is subsequently defined, it is automatically converted to an internal symbol.

If any occurrence of a symbol is immediately followed by an up-arrow (f), that symbol is made external if it is not yet defined, or internal if it is defined. If an external symbol is subsequently defined, it will be made internal.

### 3.2.6 LINK and LINKEND

LINK and LINKEND are used to establish a single-linked list among several separately assembled programs. Each linked list is identified by a link number in the range 1-20 (octal). The formats are

- `LINK number, location`
- `LINKEND number, location`
The number is the link number; the location is the address where the link information will be stored. The effect is to allow 20 lists to be threaded through several separately assembled programs.

The loader initializes each link (and iinkend) to zero. LINK N, FOO causes the loader to store in FOO the current value of link N. Then link N is set to (point at) FOO. LINKEND N, BAZ causes the the loader to store the address BAZ as the iinkend for link N. When the loader finishes loading all programs, the final value of each link will be stored in the corresponding iinkend address, only if that address is non-zero. The LINKEND feature allows the head of the list to be in a known place, rather than in the last place LINKed.

### 3.2.7 LOAD and LIBRARY

The LOAD pseudo-op causes the loader to load a specific REL file as a consequence of loading the program in which this pseudo-op occurs. The format is

```
LOAD DEV:FILE[PRJ,PRG]
```

The DEV: field is optional (the default is DSK:); it specifies the device where the REL file can be found. The [PRJ, PRG] field is optional; it has the usual meaning. The file named must have the extension REL (this is a loader restriction).

In non-Stanford FAIL installations, the file name is scanned in accordance with the convention that prevails at that site.

The LIBRARY pseudo-op is similar to LOAD, except that instead of loading the file, the loader will search the named file as a library.

### 3.2.8 PURGE

The PURGE pseudo-op takes a list of symbols, separated by commas, as its argument. Each of the symbols named will be purged, i.e., removed from FAIL's symbol table. A purged symbol can be an opcode, macro, label or other symbol. For PURGE to be legal, the symbol must be defined and available when the PURGE occurs. Some symbols, such as variable names literal-labels, and global symbols, cannot be purged. Purged symbols are not passed to the loader or debugger.

PURGE searches the symbol table for opcodes first, then macro names, and finally labels (and parameters). This means that if a symbol has a definition as both an opcode and a label, purging that symbol will delete the opcode, and a second purge of that symbol will delete the label definition.

If the identifier name of some purged symbol is used after the purge, FAIL makes a new and totally different symbol, which has no relation to the purged symbol. The CREF program will also consider such a symbol to be different from the purged symbol.
Caution: if an opcode, pseudo-op, or other predefined symbol is purged, it will remain unavailable to subsequent assemblies performed by the FAIL core-image from which it was purged. Also, it is unwise to purge a macro while it is being expanded.

3.2.9 XPUNGE

XPUNGE is used to delete all local symbols from one block. XPUNGE takes effect only at the next BEND (or END or PRGEND) statement following the XPUNGE. At that BEND, most local symbols will not be emitted to the loader. This decreases the size of the REL file and makes loading it faster. Block names, internal and external symbols, variables, and literal-labels will be passed to the loader.

3.2.10 SUPPRESS and ASUPPRESS

When a parameter file (i.e., a file that contains assembly parameters for use in several assemblies) is used in assemblies, many symbols get defined but are never used. Unused defined symbols take up space in the binary file. Unused symbols may be removed from symbol tables by means of the SUPPRESS or ASUPPRESS pseudo-ops. These pseudo-ops control a suppress bit associated with each symbol; if the suppress bit is on and the symbol is not referenced, the symbol will not be output to the binary file.

SUPPRESS takes a list of symbols, separated by commas, as its argument. The suppress bit is turned on for each symbol named. A symbol may be an opdef, a parameter, or a label. The symbol should be defined before the SUPPRESS statement occurs.

ASUPPRESS turns on the suppress bit for every user-defined symbol and opcode that exists in the symbol table at the time the ASUPPRESS occurs.

Variables, literal-labels, internals, and entry point symbols are never suppressed. Externals that are not referenced can be suppressed.

If ASUPPRESS appears in a universal program (see section 3.2.11, page 29), then all symbols in the universal symbol table will have the suppress bit set when they are used in a subsequent SEARCH.

3.2.11 UNIVERSAL and SEARCH

The UNIVERSAL pseudo-op has the same syntax as TITLE (see section 3.5.1, page 34). In addition to the functions of TITLE, UNIVERSAL declares the symbols defined in this program to be universal symbols. Universal symbols are symbols which can be accessed by other programs that are assembled after the universal symbols have defined. That is, UNIVERSAL causes symbols to be retained by FAIL after it finishes assembling the universal file. When subsequent files are assembled (using this copy of FAIL, which has the universal symbols), the universal
symbols can be accessed as any other local symbols. The program name set by UNIVERSAL is used to name the universal symbol table created to contain the universal symbols defined by this program. Only outer block symbols (and macros and opdefs) are retained in the universal symbol table. Variables, literal-labels, and internal symbols are not retained.

Universal files are intended for making definitions, not for assembling code. The usual use for a universal file is to define opcodes, macros and parameters for subsequent assemblies. It is not wise to include relocatable symbols in the universal file. The exception is that a universal file may declare a symbol to be external; that declaration can be used by subsequent assemblies that search this universal symbol table.

SEARCH controls access to the universal symbols. SEARCH takes a list of arguments, each of which is the name of a universal symbol table. For each universal table named, all the symbols in that table are added to the end of the main symbol (or macro or opcode) table. Then, when the symbol table is searched, if there is no other definition of the symbol, the universal definition will be found. Universal symbols are considered to be defined at the outer block. If such symbols are to be made available to inner blocks, they must be defined with a down-arrow, or declared GLOBAL.

3.3 Entering Data

3.3.1 DEC and OCT

The DEC and OCT statements both take a string of arguments, each a number, separated by commas. The radix is temporarily set for this one statement to 10 for DEC or to 8 for OCT. The numbers are placed in successive locations.

Examples:

```
DEC 5,9,4096
OCT 5,11,10000
```

;assembles three words
;assembles the same three words

3.3.2 BYTE

The BYTE statement is used to enter bytes of data. Arguments in parentheses indicate the byte size to be used until the next such argument. The first argument of a BYTE statement must be a byte size argument. Other arguments are the byte values. An argument may be any expression that is defined, available, and absolute. Arguments in parentheses (byte size) are interpreted in decimal (base 10) and other arguments in the prevailing radix. Bytes are deposited with the byte instructions, so if a byte will not fit in the current word, it will be put in the left part of the next word. Unused parts of words are filled with zeros. Byte size arguments are not surrounded by commas, but other arguments are separated by commas. For instance, the statement
BYTE (7)3,5(11)6

will put two 'I-bit bytes (3 and 5) and an I I-bit byte (6) in a word, left justified.

Two successive delimiters, i.e., two commas or a comma and parenthesis, indicate a null argument, which is the same as a zero.

3.3.3 POINT

The POINT pseudo-op assembles a byte pointer in one word. The first argument should be an expression and is interpreted in decimal. The expression must be defined and available. It indicates the byte size, and its value is placed in the size field of the assembled word. The second argument should contain one or more of an index field, an address field, and an at-sign. The third field, if present, indicates the bit position of the low order bit of the byte, i.e., its value is subtracted from 35 (decimal) and placed in the position field. It is interpreted in decimal and must be available. If the third argument is omitted (no comma should be present after the second argument), the position field is set to 36 (decimal) so that the first time the pointer is incremented, it will point to the first byte of the word.

3.3.4 XWD

The XWD statement takes two arguments, separated by a comma, and assembles a single word with the value of the first argument in the left half and the value of the second argument in the right half. Both arguments must be present.

3.3.5 IOWD

IOWD is a permanently defined macro (see section 4, page 38). Its definition is

DEFINE IOWD (A,B)<XWD -(A),B-1>

IOWD takes two arguments and assembles a word in which the negative of the first argument goes in the left halfword and one less than the value of the second argument goes in the right halfword. This format (i.e., negative word count, and memory address minus 1) is often used in communicating with the operating system to specify the address and length of a data block. Also, IOWD may be used to initialize an accumulator for use as a push down pointer.
3.3.6 ASCII, ASCIZ, ASCID, and SIXBIT

There are four text statements: ASCII, ASCIZ, ASCID, and SIXBIT. Each takes as its argument a string of characters starting and ending with, and not otherwise containing, some non-blank character which serves as a delimiter. This delimiter should not be any one of the characters: left-arrow (←), colon (:), up-arrow (↑), tilde (~), or number sign (#).

**ASCII** puts the '1-bit representation of each successive character in the string (excluding the delimiters) in successive words, 5 characters per word, until the string is exhausted. The low order bit of each word and the left-over part of the last word are filled with zero.

**ASCIZ** is the same as ASCII except that if the last character is the 5th of a word, a word of zero is added at the end. This is to ensure that there is at least one 0 byte at the end.

**ASCID** works as ASCII except that the low order bit of each word generated is a 1. ASCID assembles data suitable for either the III or Data Disc display systems at Stanford. Also, the ASCID format is used for line numbers in the SOS editor.

**SIXBIT** works as ASCII except that the characters are converted to the sixbit representation and packed 6 to a word. The last word is filled out with zeros if necessary. Ascii characters are converted to sixbit by replacing the 40 bit with the 100 bit and removing the 100 bit.

3.3.7 RADIX50

This pseudo-op takes two arguments, separated by a comma. The first argument is a number; the second argument is an identifier. The value assembled by the RADIX50 statement is the radix50 representation of the identifier, with the number ORed into the high-order 6 bits. The 2 low-order bits of the number are cleared before ORing.

**Radix50** is the representation used for symbol names in the loader, DDT, and RAID. Radix50 is used to condense 6-character symbols into 32 bits. Legal characters are reduced to a value in the range 0-47 octal. The radix50 value is obtained by accumulating a total composed of each character value times a weight. The weight is the power of 50 (octal) corresponding to the character position. The weight of the rightmost non-blank character is 1; the second from the right has weight 50; the third has weight 50×50; etc. The correspondence between characters and their radix50 value is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Radix50 Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>→</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td>45,47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>45,47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.4 Reserving Space for Data

3.4.1 BLOCK

The BLOCK statement is used to reserve a storage area for data. The value of the argument is added to the location counter, so subsequent statements will be assembled beyond the area reserved by BLOCK. The argument must be defined and available. A warning will be given if the argument is negative. The loader will initialize each word reserved by the BLOCK statement to zero; however, well-written programs do their own initialization. Note that the BLOCK pseudo-op has no relation to block structure.

BLOCK N and ORG . +N are equivalent.

3.4.2 INTEGER and ARRAY

INTEGER should be followed by a list of symbols, separated by commas. Each of these symbols is then treated as a variable, i.e., as though it had appeared in the block where the INTEGER appears, followed by a number sign.

The ARRAY statement takes a list of arguments separated by commas. Each argument is a symbol followed by an expression in brackets. The effect is similar to INTEGER, except that the expression (which ought to be defined and available) denotes the number of locations to be reserved (as in BLOCK), with the symbol being the address of the first one. For example,

ARRAY FOO [10], BAZ [20]

will reserve 10 words for FOO and 20 words for BAZ. The symbols FOO and BAZ are not defined by this statement; they can only be used where forward references are legal.
3.5 Assembler Control Statements

3.5.1 TITLE

TITLE names the program and sets the heading for the pages of the listing. There should be precisely one TITLE statement per program; it should appear before any statement that generates code.

TITLE should be followed by a string of characters, the first part of which should be an identifier. That identifier is used as the program name which DDT and RAID will recognize. It is also used as the name of the outermost block.

The string of characters in the TITLE statement is printed as a part of the heading on all pages subsequent to the one on which the TITLE statement appears; if TITLE appears on the first line of a page, it also affects the heading on that page. The string used in the heading for TITLE is terminated by the first carriage return or semicolon.

If no TITLE statement appears before the first symbols are emitted (generally, at the first BEND or END), then FAIL will generate a title with program name ".MAIN". If a TITLE statement appears after code has been emitted (except for entry blocks), the resulting binary file may be unsuitable for use as part of a library file.

3.5.2 END and PRCEND

The END statement is the last statement of a program. It signals the assembler to stop assembling; no text following it will be processed. If an argument is given, it is taken as the starting address of the program.

An END statement includes implicit VAR and LIT statements (see section 3.1.7, page 25, and section 3.1.6, page 25). That is, all outstanding variables and literals are placed starting at the current value of the location counter when the END is seen. Variables are put out first.

PRCEND is used in place of END when it is desired to assemble more than one program to and/or from a single file. It behaves exactly like END, including taking an optional argument as the starting address, and then restarts FAIL completely, except that I/O is undisturbed. It therefore cannot appear in a macro expansion or similar situation. PRCEND is particularly useful for directly assembling a library which consists of many small programs.

3.5.3 COMMENT

The first non-blank character following the COMMENT pseudo-op is taken as the delimiter. All text from it to the line feed following the next occurrence of this delimiter is ignored by the
assembler, except that it is passed to the listing file. The delimiter should not be any one of the characters left-arrow (←), colon (:), up-arrow (↑), tilde (~), or number sign (#).

3.5.4 RADIX

The RADIX statement changes the prevailing radix until the next RADIX statement is encountered. It has no effect on numbers preceded by an equal sign. The one argument of RADIX is interpreted in the current radix unless it is preceded by a equal sign. Thus, the statement RADIX 10 will have no effect (since 10 in the current radix equals the current radix). The radix may be set to almost anything, but for radices above 10 (decimal) there are no digits to represent 10, 11, etc. Zero is not permitted, and 1 should be avoided if one is going to use either an arithmetic FOR macro or a macro argument with this radix.

3.5.5 .INSERT

The .INSERT pseudo-op causes FAIL to remember its position in the current input file and then start reading (and assembling) another file. When the end of the inserted file is reached, FAIL continues processing the original file from the point where it left off. The format is:

. INSERT DEV:FILE.EXT [PRJ,PRG]

The DEV: field is optional (the default is DSK:); it specifies the device where the inserted file can be found. The [PRJ,PRG] field is optional; it has the usual meaning. In non-Stanford FAIL installations, the file name is scanned in accordance with the convention that prevails at that site.

This pseudo-op will not work if it appears in the input stream from any device other than DSK, since random access features are required to accomplish the repositioning of the file.
3.6 Listing Control Statements

These pseudo-ops affect the format of the assembly listing. Several descriptions below refer to command line switches; appendix A, page 48, describes the command line format and the different switches.

3.6.1 TITLE and SUBTTL

The TITLE statement can be used to set the heading that appears on the pages of the listing. See section 3.5.1, page 34.

SUBTTL is followed by a string of characters which is used as a subheading on all subsequent pages until another SUBTTL appears. If SUBTTL appears on the first line of a page, it will affect the subheading of that page also. The string used in the heading for SUBTTL is terminated by the first carriage return or semicolon.

3.6.2 LIST, XLIST, and XLISTI

The XLIST statement causes listing to stop until the next LIST statement. LIST causes listing to resume if it has been stopped by an XLIST or XLISTI statement. Otherwise it is ignored. LIST is the default.

The XLISTI statement has exactly the same effect as XLIST unless the /I switch was used in the command string, in which case it is ignored.

3.6.3 LALL and XALL

XALL causes the listing of the body of macros, REPEATs, and FORs to be suppressed during macro expansion. LALL causes it to start up again. LALL is the default.

3.6.4 NOLIT

This statement causes the binary listing of code in literals to be suppressed. This has the same effect as /L in the command string.
3.6.5 NOSY M

This statement disables the listing of the symbol table, counteracting /S in the command string.

3.6.6 CREF and XCREF

These turn on and off the emission of information to CREF, the Cross-Reference Listing program. These pseudo-ops have no effect unless /C was used in the command string. CREF is the default.

3.6.7 PAGE

This pseudo-op has the same function as a form feed; it is included for compatibility with MACRO-10. A form feed is placed in the listing immediately following PAGE. The effect is to skip to the top of the next page of the listing. Use of this pseudo-op will destroy the correspondence between listing pages and source file pages, so its use is generally not recommended.

3.6.8 PR INTX

This pseudo-op causes the line on which it appears to be printed on the user's terminal. This is sometimes useful for giving a progress report during long assemblies.
4. Macro Operations

The FAIL macro processor provides features for modifying the input text stream in many ways, such as the ability to abbreviate a frequently occurring sequence with a single identifier or to iterate the input of a stream of text a number of times. In both cases, substitutions can be specified which allow each different occurrence of the text to be somewhat modified. Provision for making the assembly of a body of text conditional on any of a variety of circumstances is also included.

4.1 Macros

Macros are named text strings which may have substitutable arguments. Macros may be used whenever the same or similar pieces of text (code) occur in several places. A macro has a name and a macro body; also, it may have a concatenation character and an argument list. The several characteristics of a macro are specified by a DEFINE statement.

DEFINE and the macro name must appear on the same line. The macro name is an identifier; it may be followed by an optional concatenation character, which must also be on the same line as DEFINE. The formal arguments, if any, are enclosed in parentheses and separated by commas. The argument list may occur on a subsequent line. The macro body, enclosed in braces ( and ), appears after the argument list in DEFINE.

In the macro processor, braces and brokets are equivalent, i.e., "(" and ")" are equivalent, as are ":" and ":". The equivalence between brokets and braces applies at all times within the macro processor; the text and examples that follow use braces, but brokets can be used instead. The macro processor counts braces independent of context; specifically, braces and brokets that appear in comments, text constants, etc. are counted by the macro processor. In the discussion that follows, “non-blank character” omits both blank and tab characters.

4.1.1 Macro Bodies

The macro body may be any string of characters, subject to the restriction that the right and left braces must be balanced. The macro body itself is enclosed in braces and appears after the argument list in a DEFINE statement. The macro body is stored in FAIL's memory, associated with the macro name. At any point following the DEFINE statement, the macro body will be substituted for occurrences of the macro name.
4.1.2 Concatenation

The concatenation character may be any non-blank character (excluding also carriage return, line feed, and right brace) that appears in DEFINE after the macro name and before the argument list and macro body. This character may then be used to delimit identifiers so that they will be recognized as arguments. Appearances of this character will be deleted from the macro body whenever they appear. This allows a macro argument to be part of an identifier, instead of an entire identifier. See the example at the end of section 4.1.6, page 42.

4.1.3 Arguments in Macro Definitions

Arguments in macro definitions must be identifiers. A list of them, enclosed in parentheses, may appear after the macro name in the definition. If no list of arguments appears before the macro body, it is assumed that there are no arguments.

Each instance of an identifier in the macro body which is the same as one of the arguments will be replaced with the string of text corresponding to that argument when the macro is called. Thus, if FUDLY is one of the arguments in the definition of a macro and the following text appears in the body:

A+FUDLY B

then FUDLY will be recognized as an argument. But if the following appears:

A+FUDLYB

then, since FUDLYB is an identifier and is different from FUDLY, it will not be recognized as an argument. To concatenate the "B" above with an actual argument, use a concatenation character. For example, if the concatenation character is "c" and

A+FUDLYcB

appears in the macro body, then FUDLY will be recognized as an argument, and the "c" will disappear when the macro is expanded.

Here is a sample macro definition:

```
DEFINE FOO (AC, ADDRS)
    IMOVNI AC, 3
    IMUL AC, ADDRS
    ADDI AC, 37
    "MOVEM AC, ADDRS+1"
```

If the text:

```
FOO (A, FAR+B+7)
```

appears in the program somewhere after the DEFINE above, it will expand into:
4.1.4 Macro Calls

A macro name may appear anywhere and will be replaced by the macro body, as long as the name appears as an identifier and is considered to be an identifier by the assembler. A macro name may appear alone on a line or in the accumulator, index, or address field. If the macro name appears in a context where it is not considered to be an identifier, the macro will not be expanded. For example, macro names that appear in a comment or in the text argument of an ASCII statement will not be expanded. Also, there are some other cases where a macro name will not be expanded:

- the macro name in DEFINE,
- the formal argument list in DEFINE and FOR,
- the symbol name in OPDEF, PURGE, SUPPRESS and RADIX50,
- the tested symbol in a symbol IF,
- the block name in BEGIN and BEND,
- the location counter name in USE and SET,
- the universal symbol table name in SEARCH, and
- the program name in TITLE and UNIVERSAL.

Macros may be used recursively. That is, a macro body may contain a macro call or macro definition. However, if such macro calls are nested too deep, the macro push-down list may overflow, resulting in an error message and termination of the assembly. If this occurs, the /P switch should be used in the command string. Every occurrence of /P in the command string causes the assembler to allocate an extra 200 (octal) words of memory for the macro push-down list (see appendix A, page 48).

4.1.5 Arguments in Macro Calls

The list of arguments to a macro call may be enclosed in parentheses, or not. The arguments themselves are separated by commas. For example, if FOO is the name of a macro that requires two arguments, FOO A,FARB+7 and FOO (A,FARB+7) have the same effect.

If the argument list is enclosed in parentheses, then the first argument begins with the first character after the "(" , even if it is blank. Subsequent arguments begin with the first character after the comma that terminates the previous argument. Arguments do not include the comma or ")" used to terminate them. Arguments are scanned until the matching ")" is seen.

If the argument list is not enclosed in parentheses, the first argument begins with the first non-blank character after the macro name. Subsequent arguments begin with the first character after the comma that terminated the previous argument. Arguments do not include the comma or other
character used to terminate them. Arguments are scanned until any one of right bracket, right broket, right brace, semicolon, or carriage return is seen.

Two commas in a row with nothing in between signify a null argument, i.e., an argument that consists of no characters. If more arguments are called for than are supplied, the last ones are considered to be null. If more arguments are supplied than are called for, the extras are ignored by the macro processor; see section 4.1.6, page 41.

Unless the first character of an argument is "I", the argument terminates at the first comma, right parenthesis, right brace (or broket), right bracket, or carriage return. If the first character of an argument is "I" (or "."), then all characters included between the matching braces are taken as the argument. This allows the argument to contain commas, parentheses, etc. which would not be legal otherwise, but the braces must be kept balanced. In addition, all characters between the "I" that closes the argument and the next argument terminator are ignored. This allows the continuation of a list of arguments from one line to the next (i.e., enclose the last argument on the line in braces and put the comma for it at the start of the next line).

If the first character of an argument is a backslash (\) or right-arrow (→), then the next thing after the backslash (or right-arrow) is considered to be an expression (and it better be defined). The expression is evaluated and the value is converted to a string of ascii digits in the current radix (the radix ought not be 1). This string of digits is taken as the argument. All characters from the end of the expression to the next argument termination character (comma, etc.) are ignored.

4.1.6 How Much is Eaten by a Macro Call

When a macro call appears, some of the text following the macro name is considered to be part of the call. Any text that is not part of the macro call will be assembled as usual. For instance, if

```
DEFINE FOO (A) {A +7/6}
```

has appeared, then when

```
MOVE A,FOO (3) (6) ;comment
```

appears, it will be assembled as

```
MOVE A,3 + 7/6 (6) ;comment
```

Thus, the text FOO (3) is considered to be part of the macro call and is “eaten”.

The following rules govern how much text gets eaten in a macro call. If the macro was defined as having no arguments, then only the macro name and any following spaces (or tabs) are eaten. If the macro was defined as having arguments and the first non-blank character after the macro name is a left parenthesis, then everything from the macro name to the right parenthesis which closes the argument list, inclusive, is eaten. If the macro was defined as having arguments and the first non-blank character is not a left parenthesis, then everything from the macro name to the comma or carriage return which terminates the last macro argument used is eaten. Thus, if
parentheses are not used and too few arguments are supplied, everything from the macro name to the carriage return will be eaten. If parentheses are not used and the macro was defined as having arguments and enough or too many arguments are supplied, then everything from the macro name to the comma (or carriage return) which terminates the last argument used will be eaten.

Example:

```
DEFINE FOO $(A,B)(A&B)
MOVE1 FOO 1,2,,37(6); will expand to:
; MOVE1 1,2,,37(6)
; "FOO1,2," has been eaten
```

4.1.7 Complex Example

This example is given without a full explanation. It shows an example of an information carrying macro. The macro BAR is expanded (by being redefined) every time that ADD1 is used. The \BAR in the definition of ADD 1 is necessary to cause the evaluation of BAR as an expression (which causes a macro expansion to occur).

Example:

```
DEFINE BAR {0,}
DEFINE FOO (A,B,C) {DEFINE BAR {0,<B,
C>}}
DEFINE ADD1(X) {FOO (\BAR,X)}
DEFINE SEC (A,B) {B}

;BAR = 0 ,
ADD1(X1)
;BAR = 0,<
; X1
ADD1(X2)
;BAR = 0,<
; X1
; X2
ADD1(X3)
;BAR = 0,<
; X1
; x2
; X3
SEC (\BAR) ; THIS GENERATES THE FOLLOWING:
; X1
; x2
; x3
```
4.2 FOR

There are three types of FORs; all have the same general form. Each consists of the word FOR, an optional concatenation character, a range specifier, and a FOR-body. The FOR statement expands into the text of its FOR-body, possibly with substitutions, repeated once for each element in the range of the FOR. FOR replaces the IRP and IRPC pseudo-ops found in MACRO-IO.

The optional concatenation character is specified by following the word FOR with an at-sign followed immediately by the concatenation character. If a FOR is used inside a macro and concatenation of FOR arguments is desired, it is necessary to have a concatenation character specified for the FOR which is different from the one for the macro.

The range specifier is different for each type of FOR and will be explained below. The FOR statement may have one or two formal arguments which are specified in the range specification.

The FOR-body has the same form as a macro body; the text is enclosed in braces, and braces must be balanced.

4.2.1 String FOR

The range specification consists of one or two formal argument identifiers, followed by either the identifier “IN” or the containment character (c), followed by an argument list. The argument list has the same syntax as a macro call argument list (see section 4.1.5, page 40), but the list must be in parentheses. The effect is that the body of the FOR is assembled once for each element in the argument list, and that element is substituted for the first (or only) formal argument each time. The second formal argument, if present, will have the remainder of the argument list (starting with the element following the one currently substituted for the first argument) substituted for it.

Examples:

Source

FOR A IN((QRN,(<JRST 4,>)),STORP)
{MOVSI 13, A
PUSHJ P, GORP
}

Expand i on

MOVSI 13,QRN
PUSHJ P, GORP
MOVSI 13,(<JRST 4,>)
PUSHJ P, GORP
MOVSI 13,STORP
PUSHJ P, GORP

Source

- FOR ZOT,FUB c (A,B,C,D)
{MOVEIZOT,137;FUB LEFT
}

Expand i on

MOVE1 A,137;B,C,D LEFT
MOVE1 8,137;D LEFT
MOVE1 0,137;LEFT
4.2.2 Character FOR

The range specifier consists of one or two formal arguments followed by either the letter "E" or the character epsilon (ε), followed by a string of characters enclosed in braces. The only restriction on the string of characters is that the braces must balance. The body of the FOR is assembled once for each character in the list, with that character substituted for the first formal argument each time and the rest of the string substituted for the second formal argument, if any.

Examples:

```
Source
FOR ZOT, FUB <ABCD>
    MOVEI ZOT, 137; FUB LEFT

Source
FOR @$ QRNE {AZ105}
    ZORP@$QRN+0
```

Expans i on

```
MOVE1 A,137; BCD LEFT
MOVE1 8,137; CD LEFT
MOVEIC,137; D LEFT
MOVE1 0,137; LEFT
```

4.2.3 Arithmetic FOR

This type of FOR is similar to the ALGOL FOR statement. The range specifier consists of one or two formal arguments followed by a left-arrow, followed by two or three expressions, separated by commas. The expressions are like the two or three arguments of a FORTRAN DO statement. The value of the first is the starting value, the value of the second is the ending value, and the value of the third is the increment. If the third expression is not present, 1 is used as the increment.

The body of the FOR is assembled repeatedly, first for the starting value, then for the starting value plus the increment, etc. until it has been assembled once for each such value which is less than or equal to the ending value (greater than or equal if the increment is negative). If the starting value is already greater than the ending value (less than, for negative increment), the FOR body is not assembled at all. For each repetition, the current value is converted to ascif digits in the current radix, and that string is substituted for the formal argument(s) (both arguments have the same value). Note that all expressions must be defined, available, and absolute.
Examples (assume RADIX = 8):

Source

```plaintext
FOR I+I+3, 25, 7
{XWD FOO, 1
```

Expansion

```plaintext
XWD FOO, 4
XWD FOO, 13
XWD FOO, 22
```

Source

```plaintext
FOR $ZOT+11, 4, -1
{ZOTQ$ZOT : ZOT +3
```

Expansion

```plaintext
ZOTQ11 : 1 1 +3
ZOTQ10 : 1 0 +3
ZOTQ7 : 7 +3
ZOTQ6 : 6 +3
ZOTQ5 : 5 +3
ZOTQ4 : 4 +3
```

4.3 REPEAT

The REPEAT statement is included for compatibility with MACRO-IO. The format is

```plaintext
REPEAT exp, {text}
```

The expression `exp` is evaluated, and the text is assembled that number of times, with a carriage return and line feed inserted at its end each time. The text is like a macro body: braces must balance.

For example, the statement:

```plaintext
REPEAT 3, {0
```

will expand to:

```plaintext
0
0
0
```

define REPEAT (N, TXT) $ for I < 1, N $ TXT$
4.4 Conditional Assembly

The conditional assembly opcodes (the **IFS**) are like macros: they will be recognized wherever they appear, as long as the assembler sees them as identifiers. Thus, an IF need not be the first thing on a line. Attempts to use **IFS** as symbols will produce erroneous results.

4.4.1 Numeric **IFS**

There are six numeric **IFS**:

- **IFE** `exp, {text}` assembles text if `exp`\(\neq 0\)
- **IFN** `exp, {text}` assembles text if `exp`\(\neq 0\)
- **IFG** `exp, {textf` assembles text if `exp`\(>0\)
- **IFL** `exp, {textf` assembles text if `exp`\(<0\)
- **IFGE** `exp, {textf` assembles text if `exp`\(\geq 0\)
- **IFLE** `exp, {textf` assembles text if `exp`\(\leq 0\)

The expression `exp` is evaluated. If its value bears the indicated relation to zero, the text is assembled once; otherwise it is not assembled. The text, which is called the **IF-body**, is like a macro body: braces must balance.

Examples:

- **IFE** `3, (ZOT)` assembles nothing
- **IFGE** `15, (JRST START)` assembles JRST START
- **PUSHJ P, IFN PARM, {BAR} FOO` assembles PUSHJ P, BAR; FOO if PARM\(\neq 0\)
- **PUSHJ P, IFN PARM, {BAR} FOO` assembles PUSHJ P, FOO if PARM\(= 0\)

4.4.2 Text **IFS**

There are two text **IFS**. They are **IFIDN** and **IFDIF**, which stand for “if identical" and “if different", respectively. The format is

- **IFIDN** `{text1} {text2} {text3}`

The texts can be any string of characters in which the braces balance. For **IFIDN**, if the two strings `text1` and `text2` are identical in each and every character, the string `text3` will be assembled, otherwise it will not. For **IFDIF**, if `text1` and `text2` are different, `text3` will be assembled, otherwise it will not.
4.4.3 Symbol IFs

There are eight symbol IFs. They are IFDEF, IFNDEF, IFAVL, IFNAVL, IFOP, IFNOP, IFMAC, and IFNMAC. A typical example is

\[
\text{IFDEF symbol, \{text\}}
\]

If the indicated condition is true for the symbol, the text is assembled; otherwise it is not. These conditionals come in pairs; if one of a pair is true, the other is false.

IFDEF is true if the symbol is defined in this block or in an outer block. Defined symbols may be either opcodes, macro names, labels, or parameters. IFDEF will be true if the symbol could be used on a line by itself (ignoring possible future definitions).

IFAVL is true if the symbol is available. That is, IFAVL is true if the symbol is defined as an opcode or macro or if it has been defined in this block, declared global in this block and defined in an outer block, or defined in an outer block with a down-arrow.

IFOP is true if the symbol is defined as an opcode.

IFMAC is true if the symbol is defined as a macro (including the IFs, IOWD, and the predefined symbols . FNAM 1, . FNAM2, "$", and ".").
Command Language

The basic format of a FAIL command is

\[
\text{binary-file, listing-file-source-file-1, \ldots, source-file-n}
\]

File specifications consist of

\[
\text{device: file}
\]

If \textit{device:} is missing, DSK: is assumed. Either (or both) output file(s) may be omitted. If the \textit{listing-file} is included, a comma must precede it. Source-file names are separated by commas. The device name for source files is sticky, so to change devices the device name must be explicit, \textit{even if it is} DSK:. Multiple source files are concatenated as one assembly. \textit{If the last source-file} name on a line ends with a comma (and carriage return-line feed) then the next line is taken as a continuation of this command.

\textbf{If no file extension is given for the binary and list files, REL and LST are assumed, respectively (in the non-Stanford FAIL, CRF is the default extension for the list file). If no extension is given for the source file(s), FAI is tried first; failing that, a blank extension is tried.}

Switches should follow file names and may be either of the slash type or parentheses type (e.g., "/x" or "(x)").

- Device switches (must follow the name of the affected file):

  \begin{align*}
  \text{nA} & \text{ advance magnetic tape n files} \\
  \text{nB} & \text{ backspace magnetic tape n files} \\
  \text{T} & \text{ skip to logical end of magnetic tape} \\
  \text{W} & \text{ rewind magnetic tape} \\
  \text{Z} & \text{ zero DECTape directory}
  \end{align*}

- Assembler switches (may appear after any file name):

  \begin{align*}
  \text{C} & \text{ make a cross-reference (CREF) listing} \\
  \text{F} & \text{ don't pause after errors (inverse of R)} \\
  \text{I} & \text{ ignore XLIST1 pseudo-op} \\
  \text{J} & \text{ turn on cross-reference listing output} \\
  \text{K} & \text{ turn off cross-reference listing output} \\
  \text{L} & \text{ don't list literal values with text} \\
  \text{N} & \text{ don't list assembly errors on TTY} \\
  \text{R} & \text{ pause after each assembly error} \\
  \text{S} & \text{ list symbol table} \\
  \text{U} & \text{ underline macro expansions on listing} \\
  \text{nV} & \text{ set the number of lines/page in listing to n} \\
  \text{X} & \text{ don't list macro expansions}
  \end{align*}

The \textit{P} switch is used to allocate extra space for the macro push-down list (PDL), which is normally \textbf{200} (octal) locations long. If recursive macros are used, more space may be needed. The macro \textbf{PDL} will be expanded by \textbf{200} words for every occurrence of the \textit{P} switch in the command string. A numeric argument may given with the \textit{P} switch to specify a multiple of 200 words by which to expand the PDL.
Sometimes, assembly parameters are specified from the user terminal, rather than being included in the source program. Suppose the line `SEGSW++1` needs to be included in the assembly of the file `BAZ`. The following command sequence would do that (and make a cross-reference listing of `BAZ`):

```bash
BAZ,BAZ/C+TTY:,DSK:BAZ
SEGSW++1
↑Z
```

The text is typed to FAIL and terminated with control-Z (↑Z) (at Stanford displays, control-meta-line feed is used instead of control-Z). Using RPG (known elsewhere as COMPIL), the command sequence would be

```rpg
COMPILE/CREF TTY:F+DSK:BAZ
SEGSW++1
↑Z
```

The file name F is needed to satisfy the RPG syntax; the device name OSK: is needed to switch the default input device to DSK.

If the command `FILEe` is seen, the named file will be read and interpreted as containing a series of commands of the usual form.

The command `FILE!` causes FAIL to exit and run the named program. The default device for this command is SYS:.

To provide some compatibility with RPG-style commands, FAIL accepts "=" for ",=" in the command line. Also, either "+" or ";" may be used instead of ",," to separate source-file names.
Relocatable and Undefined Values

FAIL binary programs are usually required to be relocatable, i.e., loadable anywhere in a core image. Many values depend upon the absolute location of a program within its core image, e.g., the target address of a branch instruction. The final determination of these values must be made by the loader.

The problem of relocation can usually be reduced to a question of whether or not to augment a value by the relocation constant, which is simply the location at which the loader decides to begin loading this program. The mechanism for handling this involves associating with each value a relocation factor, which is (at load time) to be multiplied by the relocation constant and added to the value. For the simple relocation mechanism to work, the relocation factor must be a constant and either 0 or 1. Since 36 bits may contain two 18-bit addresses, a relocation factor is provided for each halfword. Thus, a value which is completely determined except for simple relocation can be expressed in 38 bits. A value in which at least one relocation factor is non-zero is said to be relocatable; one in which both are zero is said to be unreachable or absolute.

There is a more general, less efficient mechanism for delaying calculations until load time. This is used in more complex cases where the simple relocation scheme is inadequate. Whenever a value cannot be calculated immediately and cannot be handled by the relocation mechanism because it requires some other type of deferred calculation, the value is said to be undefined. Undefined values are represented by relatively complex structures which are retained in FAIL for final evaluation or, if necessary, passed to the loader for evaluation. Undefined values are illegal in those contexts which require the value to be immediately known, including some situations where the relocation factor mechanism is legal. The legality of undefined or relocatable values is indicated in the discussion of each possible usage.
Predefined Opcodes

The standard machine instruction mnemonics of the PDP-10 (KA-10) are defined in FAIL.

When the Stanford version of FAIL is started, it obtains from the system the definitions for all system UUOs and CALLIs that are available at the time of the assembly.

The table that follows includes all the pseudo-ops, machine instruction mnemonics, special symbols, and UUO mnemonics currently available at Stanford. The indication SAIL is used to indicate UUOs and machine instructions available only at Stanford. The indication UUO is used to mark system calls that are also available on a DEC system. Hardware I/O instructions are indicated by I/O; these instructions are not available to normal user programs. Machine instruction mnemonics for the KI-10 processor are available as a conditional assembly feature in FAIL; these are flagged with the indication KI. The entry for each pseudo-op includes the page number where that pseudo-op is explained.

Note that there are sometimes subtle differences between DEC system UUOs and Stanford UUOs; consult the appropriate reference manual. Also note that some DEC mnemonics conflict with those used at Stanford.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>s.</th>
<th>Predefined</th>
<th>page 14</th>
<th></th>
<th>BLT</th>
<th>251088,8</th>
<th>SAIL</th>
<th>DIVB</th>
<th>237808,8</th>
</tr>
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<td>.</td>
<td>Predefined</td>
<td>page 14</td>
<td></td>
<td>BUFLN</td>
<td>CALL 1408842</td>
<td>SAIL</td>
<td>DIVI</td>
<td>235808,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.</td>
<td>Predefined</td>
<td>page 15</td>
<td></td>
<td>BYTE</td>
<td>Pseudo-Op</td>
<td>page 38</td>
<td>DIVH</td>
<td>236888,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.</td>
<td>Pseudo-Op</td>
<td>page 35</td>
<td></td>
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<td>128888,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.</td>
<td>Pseudo-Op</td>
<td>page 28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DMVMM</td>
<td>1248888,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.</td>
<td>Pseudo-Op</td>
<td>page 28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>121888,8</td>
</tr>
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<td>SAIL</td>
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<td>CALLI 488185</td>
<td>SAIL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>DROB</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>792188,8</td>
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<td>CALLI 488118</td>
<td>SAIL</td>
<td></td>
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Stanford Character Set

The Stanford Character Set is displayed in the following table. The three-digit octal code for a character is composed of the number at the left of its row plus the digit at the top of its column. For example, the code for A is 100 or 101.

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NUL Nul I
TAB Horizontal Tab
LF Line Feed
VT Vertical Tab
FF Form Feed
CR Carriage Return
SP Space
ALT Alt tmode
BS Back Space
Summary of Character Interpretations

The characters listed below have special meaning in the contexts indicated. These interpretations do not apply when these characters appear in text strings or in comments.

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
sets indirect bit in instructions; precedes concatenation character in FOR
used for identifiers; B and E are special in numbers; E is special in FOR

definits literals, value part of OPOEF, size in ARRAY, PPN in LOAD
evalute a macro argument and converts the result to a digit string
see left bracket (133)

oves a symbol definition to an outer block; makes a symbol INTERNAL or
EXTERNAL; illegal as the delimiter in ASCIZ, COMMENT, etc.
denotes assignment statement; arithmetic FOR; illegal as the delimiter in
ASCIZ, COMMENT, etc.
same as at-sign (188)
same as upper case letters, except in text constants

delimits macro bodies, IF-bodies, FOR-bodies, macro arguments

delimits macro bodies, IF-bodies, FOR-bodies, macro arguments

same as right brace (176)

illegal in input
Index

\$ 14, 21, 23
. 24, 21, 23
.FNAMI 15
.FNAM2 15
.INSERT 35
.LIBRARY 28
.LOAD 28

absolute 9, 14, 50
AC 3
Accumulator Field 3
Address Field 4
apostrophe 11, 23
Arguments in Macro Calls 40
Arguments in Macro Definitions 39
Arithmetic FOR 44
ARRAY 33
ASCID 32
ASCII character set 56
Ascii Constants 10
ASCII pseudo-op 32
ASCIZ 32
Assembler Control Statements 34
assignment statement 13
ASUPPRESS 29
at-sign 3, 43
atomic statement 4, 6, 20
atoms 6, 8
available 9, 15, 17

backslash 41
backward reference 12
BEGIN 26
BEND 26
blank 38
block 9
block number 26
BLOCK pseudo-op 33
Block Structure 15
braces 38, 41, 44
brackets 19, 33, 41
breaks 4, 19, 20, 38, 41
BYTE 30
byte pointer 31

carriage return 6, 34, 36, 39, 41
Character FOR 44
character interpretations 57
close single quote 11, 23
colon 3, 13, 15, 32, 35
comma 3, 5, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 38, 40, 44, 48
comma-comma 4
Command Language 48
comment 6
COMMENT pseudo-op 34
COMPIL 49
Complex Atoms 19
cocatenation character 39, 43
Conditional Assembly 46
Constants 9
constants optimization 20
containment character 43
cocentrol-meta-line feed 49
cocontrol-Z 49
CREF 1, 37, 48
CREF pseudo-op 37
Cross-Reference Listing 37, 48

DDT 1, 15, 18, 26, 32, 34
DEC pseudo-op 30
Decimal Numbers 10
decimal point 10
DEFINE pseudo-op 38
defined 9, 12
DEPHASE 23
Destination of Assembled Code 22
device code 5
device selection Field 5
dollar sign 8
dollar-point 14, 21, 23
double quote 10
double-arrow 6
down-arrow 5, 17, 19, 47

END 34
Entering Data 30
ENTRY 19, 27
entry blocks 19, 27
entry point 19
epsilon 44
equal sign 10, 13, 15, 35
Expressions 6
EXTERNAL 18, 27
external symbols 18, 27
fixup 12
Floating-Point Numbers 10
FOR 43
FOR-body 43
form feed 37
formal arguments 43
forward reference 12, 33
Full-Word Expression 5
GLOBAL pseudo-op 26
global symbols 18
Half-Killed Symbols 15
Halfword Statement 4
hardware input-output instruction 5
hardware instruction 3, 51
high segment 24
HISEG 24
Identifiers 8
IF-body 46
IFAVL 47
IFDEF 47
IFDIF 46
IFE 46
IFG 46
IFGE 46
IFIDN 46
IFL 46
IFLE 46
IFMAC 47
IFN 46
IFNAVL 47
IFNDEF 47
IFNMAC 47
IFNOP 47
IFOP 47
Index Field 4
indirect bit 3
Indirect Field 3
Input-Output Instruction Statement 5
Instruction Statement 2
INTEGER 33
INTERNAL 18, 27
internal symbols 27
IOWD 31
IRP 43
IRPC 43
Labels 12
LALL 36
left-arrow 3, 13, 15, 19, 32, 35, 44
library 19
library search mode 19
line feed 6, 34, 39
LINK 27
Linkage with Separately Assembled Programs 18
LINKEND 27
LIST 36
Listing Control Statements 36
LIT 25, 34
literal-label 21, 28, 29, 30
literals 19, 20, 25, 34
loader 1, 7, 8, 12, 18, 19, 24, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 50
LOC 22
local symbols 18
location counter 13, 14, 22
machine instruction 3, 51
Macro Bodies 38
Macro Calls 40
Macros 38
multiple definition 13
multiple location counters 22
NOLIT 36
NOSYM 37
null argument 41
null statement 2
number sign 3, 14, 25, 32, 33, 35
Numbers 9
Numeric IFS 46
OCT 30
octal 9
Opcode Field 3
OPDEF 26
opdefs 26
open single quote 3
operator 6
ORG 22
PAGE pseudo-op 37
parameter 13
parentheses, 4, 6, 30, 38, 39, 40, 43, 48
percent sign 8
PHASE 23
FAIL

point 8, 14, 21, 23
POINT pseudo-op 31
Polish fixup 7
Predefined Opcodes 51
PRGEND 34
PRINTX 37
program 18
Pseudo-Ops 22
PURGE 28

question mark 17

RADIX 35
RADIX 50 32
RAID 1, 15, 18, 26, 32, 34
range specifier 43
reference 12
RELOC 22
relocatable 9, 13, 14, 50
relocation constant 50
relocation factor 50
REPEAT 45
reserved identifiers 8
Reserving Space for Data 33
right-arrow 41
RPG 49

SEARCH 29
segment 24
semicolon 6, 34, 36, 41
SET 22
Simple Numbers 9
sixbit 32
Sixbit Constants 11
SIX BIT pseudo-op 32
slash 48
special characters 57
Stanford Character Set 56
starting address 34
Statement Termination 6

Statements 2
String FOR 43
SUBTTL 36
SUPPRESS 29
suppress bit 29
symbol 9
Symbol IFs 47
Symbol Modifiers 26
Symbols 11

tab 38
Text IFs 46
text statements 32
tilde 3, 16, 32, 35
TITLE 34
Truncated Expression 5
two-segment program 24
TWOSEG 24

unavailable 9, 16
undefined 9, 50
underbar 8
UNIVERSAL 29
universal program 29
universal symbols 29
unrelocatable 9, 50
up-arrow 3, 16, 18, 19, 27, 32, 35
USASCII 10
USE 22
user-defined opcode 26
uu0 1, 3, 5, 51

Values 8
VAR 25, 34
Variables 14, 25, 33, 34

XALL 36
XCREF 37
XLIST 36
XLISTI 36
XPUNGE 29
XWD 31