

Notes on Binary/BCD Conversion

There are two methods for doing binary to BCD conversion. The first method makes use of the equation given by

$$b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_2 b_1 b_0 = 2^n b_n + 2^{n-1} b_{n-1} \dots 2^2 b_2 + 2 b_1 + b_0$$

or,

$$b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_2 b_1 b_0 = b_0 + 2(b_1 + 2(b_2 + \dots + 2(b_{n-1} + 2b_n)))$$

If all of the operations in this equations are done using decimal arithmetic then the result will be in BCD.

The second method relies on the mod operator (%) and division by 10. If the digits of a binary number are $b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_2 b_1 b_0$ and the digits of the equivalent BCD number are given by $d_N d_{N-1} \dots d_2 d_1 d_0$ then $d_0 = b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_2 b_1 b_0 \bmod 10$. Likewise, $d_1 = (b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_2 b_1 b_0) / 10 \bmod 10$ etc.

Both of these methods can be used to do the conversion and either can be written in assembly language or in C or in a mix of the two.

The following examples illustrate how this is done for a 12 bit binary number which converts to a 4 digit BCD number. All of the examples are done on an 8051 processor which has four I/O ports. The binary number is stored in P0:P1 and the BCD result is returned in P2:P3.

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;BCDConversion3.a51
; This program converts a 12 bit binary number into BCD. All of the is done in
; assembly code. Algorithm is: binary number = b0 + 2b1 + 4 b2 + ... + 2^11*b11
; or
; binary number = b0 + 2*(b1 + 2*(b2 + 2*(b3 ... + 2*(b10 + 2*b11))))))
; where all arithmetic is done in BCD.
MainSeg SEGMENT CODE
SubPgms SEGMENT CODE
;
CSEG at 0h
    ljmp Start
RSEG MainSeg
Start: mov P0, #0FH ;Test data in P0:P1
        mov P1, #0FFH
        mov r4, #0 ;r4:r5 holds the bcd number
        mov r5, #0
        mov a, P0
        anl a, #0FH ;Limit P0:P1 to 12 bits
        mov r6, a ;r6:r7 holds the number to convert
        mov r7, P1
        mov r0, #5
ShLp:  call ShiftLeft ;Shift R6:R7 left 5 times
        djnz r0, ShLp
        call AddCyDecimal
        mov r0, #11
MLp:   call Times2Decimal
        call ShiftLeft
        call AddCyDecimal
        djnz r0, MLp
        mov P3, r5
        mov P2, r4
Last:  sjmp Last

RSEG SubPgms
ShiftLeft:clr c ;Shifts r6:r7 one place left.
            mov a, r7 ; shifts zeros in from right.
            rlc a
            mov r7, a
            mov a, r6
            rlc a
            mov r6, a
            ret

AddCyDecimal: ;Add carry to R4:R5 and adjusts decimal
            mov a, r5 ;First argment in R4:R5 (R5 is LSByte)
            addc a, #0 ;Add in carry
            da a ;fix decimal
            mov r5, a
            mov a, r4 ;Repeat for upper byte
            addc a, #0
            da a
            mov r4, a ;Answer returned in R4:R5
            ret

Times2Decimal: ;Doubles R4:R5 and decimal adjusts
            mov a, r5 ;Argument in R4:R5 with R5 as LSByte
            add a, r5 ;Add R7 to itself to double it
            da a ;fix decimal
            mov r5, a
            mov a, r4 ;Repeat for upper byte. Tuck in carry
            addc a, r4
            da a
            mov r4, a ;Answer returned in R4:R5
            ret

END

```

```

/*BCDConversion.c
This program converts a 12 bit binary number into BCD
All of the bit manipulation and BCD adjustment is done in C
Algorithm is
  binary number = b0 + 2b1 + 4 b2 + ... + 2^11*b11
  or
  binary number = b0 + 2*(b1 + 2*(b2 + 2*(b3 ... + 2*(b10 + 2*b11)))))))))
  where all arithmetic is done in BCD.
*/
#include<reg51.h>
unsigned int DecimalAdjust(unsigned int num);
void main()
{unsigned int num, bcd;
  unsigned char i;
  bcd = 0;
  P1 = 0xff;P0 = 0x0f;          //MSBbyte in P0, LSByte in P1
  num = (P1 + 256*P0) & 0x0FFF; //Form a 12 bit number
  num = num << 5;              //msb to far left
  bcd = bcd + (unsigned int)CY; //msb to bcd
  for(i=0;i<11;i++)
    {bcd = bcd*2;              //multiply by 2 eleven times
     bcd = DecimalAdjust(bcd); //Always decimal adjust
     num = num << 1;
     bcd = bcd + (unsigned int)CY; //Add in next bit
     bcd = DecimalAdjust(bcd); //Decimal adjust
    }
  P3 = bcd;
  P2 = bcd/256;
}
unsigned int DecimalAdjust(unsigned int bcd)
{unsigned char nibble;
  nibble = bcd & 0x0f;          //add 6 to any nibble > 1001
  if(nibble > 9)                // carry propagates to next nibble
    bcd = bcd + 6;
  nibble = (bcd >> 4) & 0x0f;
  if(nibble > 9)
    bcd = bcd + 0x60;
  nibble = (bcd/256) & 0x0f;     //8-bit shift
  if(nibble > 9)
    bcd = bcd + 0x600;
  nibble = ((bcd/256) >> 4) & 0x0f;
  if(nibble > 9)
    bcd = bcd + 0x6000;
  return bcd;
}

```

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/*BCDConversion2.c
This program converts a 12 bit binary number into BCD. All of the bit manipulation
and BCD adjustment is done in assembly code.
Algorithm is
binary number = b0 + 2b1 + 4 b2 + ... + 2^11*b11
or
binary number = b0 + 2*(b1 + 2*(b2 + 2*(b3 ... + 2*(b10 + 2*b11))))))
where all arithmetic is done in BCD.
*/
#include<reg51.h>
extern unsigned int Times2Decimal(unsigned int bcd);
extern unsigned int AddCyDecimal(unsigned int bcd);
void main()
{unsigned int num, bcd;
 unsigned char i;
 bcd = 0;
 P1 = 0xff;P0 = 0x0f; //MSBbyte in P0, LSByte in P1
 num = (P1 + 256*P0) & 0x0FFF; //Form a 12 bit number
 num = num << 5; //msb to far left
 bcd = bcd + (unsigned int)CY; //msb to bcd
 for(i=0;i<11;i++)
 {bcd = Times2Decimal(bcd);
 num = num << 1;
 bcd = AddCyDecimal(bcd);
 }
 P3 = bcd;
 P2 = bcd/256;
}
***** EXTERNAL ASSEMBLY MODULE 1 *****
;AddCyDecimal.a51
;Adds carry to R6:R7 and decimal adjusts the result
public _AddCyDecimal
AddCy SEGMENT CODE
RSEG AddCy
_AddCyDecimal:
 mov a, r7 ;First argument in R6:R7 (R7 is LSByte)
 addc a, #0 ;Add in carry
 da a ;fix decimal
 mov r7, a
 mov a, r6 ;Repeat for upper byte
 addc a, #0
 da a
 mov r6, a ;Answer returned in R6:R7
 ret
END
***** EXTERNAL ASSEMBLY MODULE 2 *****
;Times2Decimal.a51
;Multiplies the argument in R6:R7 by 2 and decimal adjusts result
public _Times2Decimal
Times2 SEGMENT CODE
RSEG Times2
_Times2Decimal:
 mov a, r7 ;Argument in R6:R7 with R7 as LSByte
 add a, r7 ;Add R7 to itself to double it
 da a ;fix decimal
 mov r7, a
 mov a, r6 ;Repeat for upper byte. Tuck in carry
 addc a, r6
 da a
 mov r6, a ;Answer returned in R6:R7
 ret
END

```

```
#include<reg51.h>
//Convert to BCD by using mod function.  Converts a 12 bit number
// in P0:P1 into a 4 digit BCD number in P2:P3
void main(void)
{unsigned int num;
 unsigned char d0, d1, d2, d3;
 P1 = 0xff;P0 = 0x0f;    //0xFFF is max 12 bit number
 num = P1 + (P0 << 8);
 d0 = num % 10;
 num = num/10;
 d1 = num%10;
 num = num/10;
 d2 = num%10;
 num = num/10;
 d3 = num%10;
 P3 = d0 + (d1 << 4);
 P2 = d2 + (d3 << 4);
}
```

Summary of Results:

Using Bits algorithm	Size in bytes	Lines of code	Total states executed
All Assembly	75	53	503
All C Code ^{Note 1}	217	37	2130
Mixed C and Assembly ^{Note 1}	131	47	995

Note 1:Includes 389 states and 15 bytes of startup code.

Using mod 10 algorithm	Size in bytes	Lines of code	Total states executed
All C Code ^{Note 1}	217	15	1050

Note 1:Includes 389 states and 15 bytes of startup code.