# Conditional Processing

Computer Organization &
Assembly Language Programming

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[Adapted from slides of Dr. Kip Irvine: Assembly Language for Intel-Based Computers]

Most Slides contents have been arranged by Dr Muhamed Mudawar & Dr Aiman El-Maleh from Computer Engineering Dept. at KFUPM

#### Presentation Outline

- Boolean and Comparison Instructions
- Conditional Jumps
- Conditional Loop Instructions
- Translating Conditional Structures
- Indirect Jump and Table-Driven Selection
- Application: Sorting an Integer Array

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slide 2/55

#### **AND Instruction**

- Bitwise AND between each pair of matching bits AND destination, source
- Following operand combinations are allowed

AND

AND reg, reg

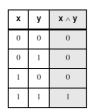
AND reg, mem

AND reg, imm

AND mem, reg

AND mem, imm

 AND instruction is often used to clear selected bits Operands can be 8, 16, or 32 bits and they must be of the same size



0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1

AND 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1

cleared 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 unchanged

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slide 3/55

## Converting Characters to Uppercase

AND instruction can convert characters to uppercase

'a' = 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 1

b' = 0.1100010

'A' = 0 1 **0** 0 0 0 0 1

'B'= 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0

Solution: Use the AND instruction to clear bit 5

mov ecx, LENGTHOF mystring

mov esi, OFFSET mystring

L1: and BYTE PTR [esi], 11011111b ; clear bit 5

inc esi

loop L1

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slide 4/55

#### **OR** Instruction

- Bitwise OR operation between each pair of matching bits OR destination, source
- Following operand combinations are allowed

OR

```
OR reg, reg
```

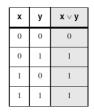
OR reg, mem

OR reg, imm

OR mem, reg

OR mem, imm

 OR instruction is often used to set selected bits Operands can be 8, 16, or 32 bits and they must be of the same size



```
0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1
OR 11 1 1 0 0 0 0
set 11 1 1 0 1 1 unchanged
```

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slide 5/55

## Converting Characters to Lowercase

❖ OR instruction can convert characters to lowercase

'A' = 0 1 **0** 0 0 0 0 1

'B'= 0 1 **0** 0 0 0 1 0

'a' = 0 1 **1** 0 0 0 0 1

b' = 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 0

Solution: Use the OR instruction to set bit 5

```
mov ecx, LENGTHOF mystring
```

mov esi, OFFSET mystring

1: or BYTE PTR [esi], 20h ; set bit 5

inc esi

loop L1

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slide 6/55

## Converting Binary Digits to ASCII

OR instruction can convert a binary digit to ASCII

Solution: Use the OR instruction to set bits 4 and 5

or al,30h ; Convert binary digit 0 to 9 to ASCII

- ❖ What if we want to convert an ASCII digit to binary?
- ❖ Solution: Use the AND instruction to clear bits 4 to 7

and al,0Fh ; Convert ASCII '0' to '9' to binary

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slide 7/5

#### **XOR Instruction**

- Bitwise XOR between each pair of matching bits XOR destination, source
- Following operand combinations are allowed

**XOR** 

XOR reg, reg

XOR reg, mem

XOR reg, imm

XOR mem, req

XOR mem, imm

 XOR instruction is often used to invert selected bits Operands can be 8, 16, or 32 bits and they must be of the same size

х	у	<b>x</b> ⊕ <b>y</b>
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

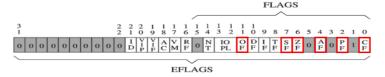
0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1 XOR 11 1 1 0 0 0 0 inverted 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 unchanged

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slide 8/55

## Affected Status Flags



#### The six status flags are affected

- 1. Carry Flag: Cleared by AND, OR, and XOR
- 2. Overflow Flag: Cleared by AND, OR, and XOR
- 3. Sign Flag: Copy of the sign bit in result
- 4. Zero Flag: Set when result is zero
- 5. Parity Flag: Set when parity in least-significant byte is even
- 6. Auxiliary Flag: Undefined by AND, OR, and XOR

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1:1 0/5

## String Encryption Program

- ❖ Tasks:
  - ♦ Input a message (string) from the user
  - ♦ Encrypt the message
  - ♦ Display the encrypted message
  - ♦ Decrypt the message
  - ♦ Display the decrypted message
- Sample Output

Enter the plain text: Attack at dawn.

Cipher text: «¢çÄîä-Ä¢-ïÄÿü-Gs

Decrypted: Attack at dawn.

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slide 10/55

## Encrypting a String

The following loop uses the XOR instruction to transform every character in a string into a new value

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slide 11/55

#### **TEST Instruction**

- Bitwise AND operation between each pair of bits
  TEST destination, source
- The flags are affected similar to the AND Instruction
- However, TEST does NOT modify the destination operand
- ❖ TEST instruction can check several bits at once

```
♦ Example: Test whether bit 0 or bit 3 is set in AL
```

- ♦ Solution: test al, 00001001b ; test bits 0 & 3
- ♦ We only need to check the zero flag

```
; If zero flag => both bits 0 and 3 are clear
```

; If Not zero => either bit 0 or 3 is set

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slide 12/55

#### **NOT Instruction**

- Inverts all the bits in a destination operand
  - NOT destination
- ❖ Result is called the 1's complement
- Destination can be a register or memory

NOT

NOT reg



❖ None of the Flags is affected by the NOT instruction

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slide 13/55

#### CMP Instruction

CMP (Compare) instruction performs a subtraction

Syntax: CMP destination, source

Computes: destination - source

- Destination operand is NOT modified
- ❖ All six flags: OF, CF, SF, ZF, AF, and PF are affected
- CMP uses the same operand combinations as SUB
  - ♦ Operands can be 8, 16, or 32 bits and must be of the same size
- ❖ Examples: assume EAX = 5, EBX = 10, and ECX = 5

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slide 14/55

## Unsigned Comparison

- CMP can perform unsigned and signed comparisons
  - ♦ The destination and source operands can be unsigned or signed
- ❖ For unsigned comparison, we examine ZF and CF flags

Unsigned Comparison		CF
unsigned destination < unsigned source		1
unsigned destination > unsigned source		0
destination = source	1	

To check for equality, it is enough to check ZF flag

❖ CMP does a subtraction and CF is the borrow flag

CF = 1 if and only if unsigned destination < unsigned source

❖ Assume AL = 5 and BL = -1 = FFh
cmp al, bl ; Sets carry flag CF = 1

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slida 15/55

## Signed Comparison

❖ For signed comparison, we examine SF, OF, and ZF

Signed Comparison	Flags
signed destination < signed source	SF ≠ OF
signed destination > signed source	SF = OF, ZF = 0
destination = source	ZF = 1

- ❖ Recall for subtraction, the overflow flag is set when ...
  - ♦ Operands have different signs and result sign ≠ destination sign
- CMP AL, BL (consider the four cases shown below)

Case 1	AL = 80	BL = 50	OF = 0	SF = 0	AL > BL
Case 2	AL = -80	BL = -50	OF = 0	SF = 1	AL < BL
Case 3	AL = 80	BL = -50	OF = 1	SF = 1	AL > BL
Case 4	AL = -80	BL = 50	OF = 1	SF = 0	AL < BL

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slide 16/55

## Next ...

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slide 17/55

#### Conditional Structures

- ❖ No high-level control structures in assembly language
- Comparisons and conditional jumps are used to ...
  - ♦ Implement conditional structures such as IF statements
  - ♦ Implement conditional loops
- Types of Conditional Jump Instructions
  - ♦ Jumps based on specific flags
  - ♦ Jumps based on equality
  - ♦ Jumps based on the value of CX or ECX
  - ♦ Jumps based on unsigned comparisons
  - ♦ Jumps based on signed comparisons

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slide 18/55

# Jumps Based on Specific Flags

- ❖ Conditional Jump Instruction has the following syntax:
  Jcond destination ; cond is the jump condition
- Destination Destination Label
- ❖ Prior to 386

  Jump must be within

  –128 to +127 bytes
  from current location
- IA-32 32-bit offset permits jump anywhere in memory

Mnemonic	Description	Flags
JZ	Jump if zero	ZF = 1
JNZ	Jump if not zero	ZF = 0
JC	Jump if carry	CF = 1
JNC	Jump if not carry	CF = 0
JO	Jump if overflow	OF = 1
JNO	Jump if not overflow	OF = 0
JS	Jump if signed	SF = 1
JNS	Jump if not signed	SF = 0
JP	Jump if parity (even)	PF = 1
JNP	Jump if not parity (odd)	PF = 0

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slide 19/55

## Jumps Based on Equality

Mnemonic	Description
JE	Jump if equal $(leftOp = rightOp)$
JNE	Jump if not equal ( $leftOp \neq rightOp$ )
JCXZ	Jump if $CX = 0$
JECXZ	Jump if ECX = 0

- ❖ JE is equivalent to JZ
- ❖JNE is equivalent to JNZ

❖ JECXZ

Checked once at the beginning Terminate a loop if ECX is zero

```
jecxz L2 ; exit loop
L1: . . . ; loop body
loop L1
L2:
```

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slide 20/55

## Examples of Jump on Zero

❖ Task: Check whether integer value in EAX is even Solution: TEST whether the least significant bit is 0 If zero, then EAX is even, otherwise it is odd

```
test eax, 1 ; test bit 0 of eax
jz EvenVal ; jump if Zero flag is set
```

❖ Task: Jump to label L1 if bits 0, 1, and 3 in AL are all set Solution:

```
and al,00001011b ; clear bits except 0,1,3 cmp al,00001011b ; check bits 0,1,3 je L1 ; all set? jump to L1
```

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slide 21/55

# Jumps Based on Unsigned Comparison

Mnemonic	Description
JA	Jump if above (if $leftOp > rightOp$ )
JNBE	Jump if not below or equal (same as JA)
JAE	Jump if above or equal (if $leftOp >= rightOp$ )
JNB	Jump if not below (same as JAE)
JB	Jump if below (if $leftOp < rightOp$ )
JNAE	Jump if not above or equal (same as JB)
JBE	Jump if below or equal (if $leftOp \le rightOp$ )
JNA	Jump if not above (same as JBE)

Task: Jump to a label if unsigned EAX is less than EBX

Solution:

cmp eax, ebx
jb IsBelow

JB condition CF = 1

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slide 22/55

## Jumps Based on Signed Comparisons

Mnemonic	Description
JG	Jump if greater (if leftOp > rightOp)
JNLE	Jump if not less than or equal (same as JG)
JGE	Jump if greater than or equal (if $leftOp >= rightOp$ )
JNL	Jump if not less (same as JGE)
JL	Jump if less (if leftOp < rightOp)
JNGE	Jump if not greater than or equal (same as JL)
JLE	Jump if less than or equal (if $leftOp \le rightOp$ )
JNG	Jump if not greater (same as JLE)

Task: Jump to a label if signed EAX is less than EBX

Solution:

cmp eax, ebx
jl IsLess

JL condition OF # SF

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slide 23/55

## Compare and Jump Examples

Jump to L1 if unsigned EAX is greater than Var1

Solution:

cmp eax, Varl ja L1 JA condition CF = 0, ZF = 0

Jump to L1 if signed EAX is greater than Var1

Solution:

cmp eax, Varl

JG condition OF = SF, ZF = 0

Jump to L1 if signed EAX is greater than or equal to Var1

Solution:

cmp eax, Var1 jge L1 JGE condition OF = SF

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slide 24/55

## Computing the Max and Min

Compute the Max of unsigned EAX and EBX

```
Solution:

mov Max, eax ; assume Max = eax cmp Max, ebx jae done mov Max, ebx ; Max = ebx done:
```

Compute the Min of signed EAX and EBX

```
Solution:

mov Min, eax ; assume Min = eax cmp Min, ebx jle done mov Min, ebx ; Min = ebx done:
```

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slida 25/55

## Application: Sequential Search

```
; Receives: esi = array address
            ecx = array size
            eax = search value
; Returns: esi = address of found element
search PROC USES ecx
  jecxz notfound
L1:
  cmp [esi], eax ; array element = search value?
       found ; yes? found element
  add esi, 4
                  ; no? point to next array element
  loop L1
notfound:
  mov esi, 0; if not found then esi = 0
found:
  ret
                    ; if found, esi = element address
search ENDP
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```

#### BT Instruction

- ❖ BT = Bit Test Instruction
- ❖ Syntax:

BT r/m16, r16

BT r/m32, r32

BT r/m16, imm8

BT r/m32, imm8

- ❖ Copies bit *n* from an operand into the Carry flag
- ❖ Example: jump to label L1 if bit 9 is set in AX register

```
bt AX, 9 ; CF = bit 9
jc L1 ; jump if Carry to L1
```

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slide 27/55

#### Next...

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slide 28/55

#### LOOPZ and LOOPE

❖ Syntax:

LOOPE destination

LOOPZ destination

❖ Logic:

```
\Rightarrow ECX = ECX - 1
```

Useful when scanning an array for the first element that does not match a given value.

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slide 29/55

#### LOOPNZ and LOOPNE

❖ Syntax:

LOOPNZ destination

LOOPNE destination

❖ Logic:

```
\Rightarrow ECX \leftarrow ECX -1;
```

♦ if ECX > 0 and ZF=0, jump to destination

Useful when scanning an array for the first element that matches a given value.

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slide 30/55

## LOOPZ Example

The following code finds the first negative value in an array

```
.data
array SWORD 17,10,30,40,4,-5,8
.code
  mov esi, OFFSET array - 2 ; start before first
  mov ecx, LENGTHOF array ; loop counter
L1:
  add esi, 2 ; point to next element
  test WORD PTR [esi], 8000h ; test sign bit
  loopz L1 ; ZF = 1 if value >= 0
  jnz found ; found negative value
notfound:
    . . . ; ESI points to last array element
found:
    . . . ; ESI points to first negative value
```

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slide 31/55

#### Your Turn . . .

Locate the first zero value in an array

If none is found, let ESI be initialized to 0

```
.data
array SWORD -3,7,20,-50,10,0,40,4
.code
  mov esi, OFFSET array - 2 ; start before first
  mov ecx, LENGTHOF array ; loop counter
L1:
  add esi, 2 ; point to next element
  cmp WORD PTR [esi], 0 ; check for zero
  loopne L1 ; continue if not zero
  JE Found
  XOR ESI, ESI
  Found:
```

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slide 32/55

#### Next ...

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elida 33/55

#### Block-Structured IF Statements

- ❖ IF statement in high-level languages (such as C or Java)
  - ♦ Boolean expression (evaluates to true or false)
  - ♦ List of statements performed when the expression is true
  - ♦ Optional list of statements performed when expression is false
- ❖ Task: Translate IF statements into assembly language
- Example:

```
if( var1 == var2 )
  X = 1;
else
  X = 2;
```

```
mov eax,var1
cmp eax,var2
jne elsepart
mov X,1
jmp next
elsepart:
mov X,2
next:
```

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slide 34/55

# Your Turn . . .

- Translate the IF statement to assembly language
- All values are unsigned

```
if( ebx <= ecx )
{
  eax = 5;
  edx = 6;
}</pre>
```

```
cmp ebx,ecx
ja next
mov eax,5
mov edx,6
next:
```

There can be multiple correct solutions

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slide 35/55

#### Your Turn . . .

- ❖ Implement the following IF in assembly language
- All variables are 32-bit signed integers

```
if (var1 <= var2) {
  var3 = 10;
}
else {
  var3 = 6;
  var4 = 7;
}</pre>
```

```
mov eax,var1
cmp eax,var2
jle ifpart
mov var3,6
mov var4,7
jmp next
ifpart:
mov var3,10
next:
```

There can be multiple correct solutions

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slide 36/55

## Compound Expression with AND

- HLLs use short-circuit evaluation for logical AND
- If first expression is false, second expression is skipped

```
if ((al > bl) && (bl > cl)) {X = 1;}

; One Possible Implementation ...
  cmp al, bl    ; first expression ...
  ja L1    ; unsigned comparison
  jmp next
L1: cmp bl,cl    ; second expression ...
  ja L2    ; unsigned comparison
  jmp next
L2: mov X,1    ; both are true
next:
```

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slide 37/55

## Better Implementation for AND

```
if ((al > bl) \&\& (bl > cl)) \{X = 1;\}
```

The following implementation uses less code

By reversing the relational operator, We allow the program to fall through to the second expression

Number of instructions is reduced from 7 to 5

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slide 38/55

# Your Turn . . .

- ❖ Implement the following IF in assembly language
- All values are unsigned

```
if ((ebx <= ecx) &&
          (ecx > edx))
{
    eax = 5;
    edx = 6;
}
```

```
cmp ebx,ecx
ja next
cmp ecx,edx
jbe next
mov eax,5
mov edx,6
next:
```

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slide 39/55

## Application: IsDigit Procedure

Receives a character in AL

Sets the Zero flag if the character is a decimal digit

```
if (al >= '0' && al <= '9') {ZF = 1;}
```

```
IsDigit PROC
    cmp al,'0'    ; AL < '0' ?
    jb L1     ; yes? ZF=0, return
    cmp al,'9'    ; AL > '9' ?
    ja L1     ; yes? ZF=0, return
    test al, 0    ; ZF = 1
L1: ret
IsDigit ENDP
```

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slide 40/55

## Compound Expression with OR

- HLLs use short-circuit evaluation for logical OR
- ❖ If first expression is true, second expression is skipped

```
if ((al > bl) \mid | (bl > cl)) \{X = 1; \}
```

Use fall-through to keep the code as short as possible

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slide 41/55

## WHILE Loops

A WHILE loop can be viewed as

IF statement followed by

The body of the loop, followed by

Unconditional jump to the top of the loop

```
while( eax < ebx) { eax = eax + 1; }
```

This is a possible implementation:

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slide 42/55

# Your Turn . . .

Implement the following loop, assuming unsigned integers

```
while (ebx <= var1) {
   ebx = ebx + 5;
   var1 = var1 - 1
}</pre>
```

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slide 43/55

## Yet Another Solution for While

Check the loop condition at the end of the loop No need for JMP, loop body is reduced by 1 instruction

```
while (ebx <= var1) {
   ebx = ebx + 5;
   var1 = var1 - 1
}</pre>
```

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slide 44/55

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slide 45/55

## Indirect Jump

- Direct Jump: Jump to a Labeled Destination
  - ♦ Destination address is a constant
    - Address is encoded in the jump instruction
    - Address is an offset relative to EIP (Instruction Pointer)
- Indirect jump
  - ♦ Destination address is a variable or register
    - Address is stored in memory/register
    - Address is absolute
- ❖ Syntax: JMP mem32/reg32
  - → 32-bit absolute address is stored in mem32/reg32 for FLAT memory
- Indirect jump is used to implement switch statements

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slide 46/55

#### Switch Statement

Consider the following switch statement:

```
Switch (ch) {
   case '0': exit();
   case '1': count++; break;
   case '2': count--; break;
   case '3': count += 5; break;
   case '4': count -= 5; break;
   default : count = 0;
}
```

- How to translate above statement into assembly code?
- ❖ We can use a sequence of compares and jumps
- ❖ A better solution is to use the indirect jump

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slide 47/55

# Implementing the Switch Statement

```
case0:
    exit
case1:
   inc count
    jmp exitswitch
case2:
    dec count
    jmp exitswitch
case3:
    add count, 5
    jmp exitswitch
case4:
    sub count, 5
    jmp exitswitch
default:
   mov count, 0
exitswitch:
```

There are many case labels. How to jump to the correct one?

Answer: Define a jump table and use indirect jump to jump to the correct label

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slide 48/55

## Jump Table and Indirect Jump

- Jump Table is an array of double words
  - ♦ Contains the case labels of the switch statement
  - ♦ Can be defined inside the same procedure of switch statement

```
jumptable DWORD case1, case1, case2, case3, case4

Assembler converts labels to addresses
```

Indirect jump uses jump table to jump to selected label

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slide 49/55

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slide 50/55

#### **Bubble Sort**

Consider sorting an array of 5 elements: 5 1 3 2 4

```
First Pass (4 comparisons)
                                       1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub> 3 2 4
   Compare 5 with 1 and swap:
                                                         (swap)
                                       1 3×5 2 4
1 3 2×5,4
   Compare 5 with 3 and swap:
                                                         (swap)
   Compare 5 with 2 and swap:
                                                         (swap)
                                       1 3 2 4<sup>×</sup>5
   Compare 5 with 4 and swap:
                                                         (swap)
                                                      largest
Second Pass (3 comparisons)
   Compare 1 with 3 (No swap):
                                       1 3<sub>\/</sub>2 4 5
                                                         (no swap)
                                       1 2<sup>\(\)</sup>3 4 5
   Compare 3 with 2 and swap:
                                                         (swap)
   Compare 3 with 4 (No swap):
                                       1 2 3 4 5
                                                         (no swap)
Third Pass (2 comparisons)
   Compare 1 with 2 (No swap):
                                       1 2 3 4 5
                                                         (no swap)
   Compare 2 with 3 (No swap):
                                       1 2 3 4 5
                                                         (no swap)
No swapping during 3<sup>rd</sup> pass ⇒ array is now sorted
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```

## Bubble Sort Algorithm

❖ Algorithm: Sort array of given size

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slide 52/55

#### Bubble Sort Procedure - Slide 1 of 2

```
; bubbleSort: Sorts a DWORD array in ascending order
            Uses the bubble sort algorithm
; Receives: ESI = Array Address
            ECX = Array Length
; Returns: Array is sorted in place
;-----
bubbleSort PROC USES eax ecx edx
outerloop:
  dec ECX
               ; ECX = comparisons
       sortdone ; if ECX == 0 then we are done
  jz
  mov EDX, 1
               ; EDX = sorted = 1 (true)
  push ECX
                ; save ECX = comparisons
  push ESI
                ; save ESI = array address
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```

## Bubble Sort Procedure - Slide 2 of 2

```
innerloop:
   mov EAX, [ESI]
   cmp EAX,[ESI+4] ; compare [ESI] and [ESI+4]
   jle increment
                       ; [ESI] <= [ESI+4]? don't swap</pre>
   xchg EAX,[ESI+4]
                      ; swap [ESI] and [ESI+4]
   mov [ESI],EAX
                       ; EDX = sorted = 0 (false)
   mov EDX,0
increment:
                       ; point to next element
   add ESI,4
   loop innerloop
                      ; end of inner loop
                       ; restore ESI = array address
   pop ESI
   pop ECX
                       ; restore ECX = comparisons
   cmp EDX,1
                       ; sorted == 1?
   jne outerloop
                       ; No? loop back
sortdone:
   ret
                       ; return
bubbleSort ENDP
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```

## Summary

- ❖ Bitwise instructions (AND, OR, XOR, NOT, TEST)
  - ♦ Manipulate individual bits in operands
- CMP: compares operands using implied subtraction
  - ♦ Sets condition flags for later conditional jumps and loops
- Conditional Jumps & Loops
  - ♦ Flag values: JZ, JNZ, JC, JNC, JO, JNO, JS, JNS, JP, JNP
  - ♦ Equality: JE(JZ), JNE (JNZ), JCXZ, JECXZ
  - ♦ Signed: JG (JNLE), JGE (JNL), JL (JNGE), JLE (JNG)
  - ♦ Unsigned: JA (JNBE), JAE (JNB), JB (JNAE), JBE (JNA)
  - ♦ LOOPZ (LOOPE), LOOPNZ (LOOPNE)
- ❖ Indirect Jump and Jump Table

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slide 55/55