

String Comparisons

* Block data manipulation occurs with MOVS, LODS, STOS, ZNS and OUTS.

* SCAS B/W/D/Q \Rightarrow String Scan

- scan within a memory with a register.

\Rightarrow Source and destination operand fixed by default.

- Only the flag bits changed after execution.

\Rightarrow Destination operand:

ES: DI

Source Operand: AL, AX, EAX

D = used for auto increment or decrement

CX = used for bit count to scan or repeat count.

* two repeat instructions can be used here.

REPNE \Rightarrow Repeat if not equal

REPE \Rightarrow Repeat if equal

slide-71 \rightarrow Example

⊛ CMPS B/W/D/Q ⇒ String Compare

- compare two data blocks in memory

⇒ Source and Destination operand is fixed by default.

- Only the flag bits changed after execution.

⇒ Destination operand:

ES: DI

Source Operand:

DS: SI

D = used for direction
CX = used for repeat
count on data block
size for compare

⇒ two repeat instruction can be used

⇒ REPE & REPNE

Slide-73 → Example

⇒ Control the execution flow.

⊛ There are two types of jump instruction:

① Unconditional Jump ⇒ JMP ⇒ No Restriction

② Conditional Jump ⇒ Jxxx/Jxx/Jx ⇒ Label need to be close to the jump instruction. Limit
above - 126 byte
below - 127 byte

- Unsigned C.J.
- Signed C.J.
- Single flag/bit C.J.

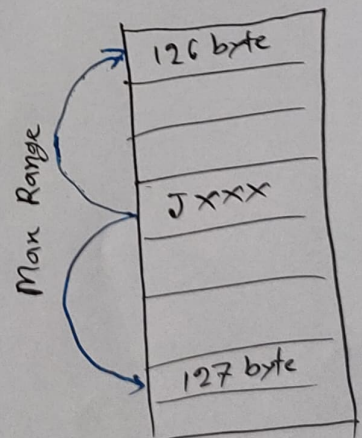
⊛

Unsigned ⇒ above/below ⇒ JA

Signed ⇒ greater/less ⇒ JG

flag bits ⇒ JO

→ Overflow flag



⊗ Importance of ~~sig.~~ signed and unsigned!

Let's say,

$AX = 7FFF\ H \Rightarrow$ Positive for signed number
0111 Sign bit (+)

$BX = 8000\ H \Rightarrow$ negative for signed number
1000 sign bit (-)

\Rightarrow

$CMP\ AX, BX ; AX - BX = ? (-)$

✗ $JA\ NSU ;$ if $AX > BX \Rightarrow$ for unsigned its false

✓ $JG\ NSU ;$ if $AX > BX \Rightarrow$ for signed its true

⊗ For extended ASCII character:

80 H \rightarrow FF H
1000 1111
(-) for signed (-) for signed

\Rightarrow we need to use unsigned conditional jump.

\Rightarrow for other case, we can use both signed or unsigned conditional jump.

⊛ Handling the range of conditional jump:

TOP:

; body of the loop

DEC CX ; Decrement Counter - arithmetic operation, flag bits will change (Z)

JNZ TOP ; if Z flag is not set as 0, jump to TOP

MOV AX, BX ; if conditional jump is false, it will execute as normal.

⇒ This code will work perfectly as soon as the label TOP is within the 126 byte range. What about if the label is far away than the JNZ instruction over 126 byte?
It will not work.

⇒ Solution:

TOP:

; body of the loop

DEC CX

JNZ BOTTOM

MOV AX, BX

BOTTOM:

JMP TOP ; unconditional jump, no restriction can jump anywhere.

⇒ So, the range problem is solved. But another problem is here. MOV instruction will execute as normal flow as well as JMP will also

execute in normal execution flow, even after the JNZ is false, it will execute. And it will cause an infinite loop execution.

⇒ Solution:

TOP:

; body of the loop

DEC CX

JNZ BOTTOM

JMP EXIT ; in normal flow it will jump to the exit.
ignore the BOTTOM label.

BOTTOM:

JMP TOP

EXIT:

MOV AX, BX ; after that normal execution flow will occur.

⊛ High Language Structure:

⇒ We have used a lot of function, method in high level language like C. (C) like if, if else, switch-case etc.

We already see how ~~if~~ loop work in low level language. Now we will see the structure of if then, if else, switch-case etc.

6.2/ ZF-THEN \Rightarrow Replace number in AX by its absolute value
 \Rightarrow (Modulus)

Algorithm:

IF $AX < 0 \Rightarrow$ we need to inverse the condition for executing 'then'

THEN

replace AX by $-AX$

\Rightarrow in this case \neq on \geq

END_IF

Code:

CMP AX, 0 ; $AX - 0$

JGE END_IF ; $AX \geq 0$ exit ~~loop~~ if else continue normal flow

NEG AX ; it will execute ^{as} normal flow, when $AX < 0$

END_IF:

; normal execution flow

6.3/ ZF-THEN-ELSE

\Rightarrow Suppose AL, BL contain extended ASCII characters. Display the character which come first in sequence.
 need to use unsigned conditional jump

Algorithm:

IF $AL \leq BL \Rightarrow$ we need to inverse the condition $\Rightarrow \leq$ on $>$

~~IF~~

THEN

display the character in AL

ELSE

display the character in BL

END_IF

Code:

MOV AH, 2 ; prepare to display

; IF start

CMP AL, BL ; AL - BL

JA ELSE ; if $AL > BL$ goto else

; then

MOV DL, AL ; mov al to output. normal execution flow if above condition false.

JMP DISPLAY ; jump to display section for interrupt.
; ignore else statement

ELSE:

MOV DL, BL ; mov bl to output register

DISPLAY:

INT 21H ; display it. normal execution flow

END-IF:

; normal execution flow

6.4/

Switch-Case

⇒ if AX contains a negative number, put -1 in BX; if AX contains 0, put 0 in BX; if AX contains a positive number, put 1 in BX.

Algorithm:

CASE AX

< 0 : put -1 in BX

= 0 : put 0 in BX

> 0 : put 1 in BX

END_CASE

} no need to invent the condition in switch-case structure

Code!

; CASE AX

CMP AX, 0 ; test ax, AX-0

JL NEGATIVE ; AX < 0

JE ZERO ; AX = 0

JG POSITIVE ; AX > 0. we can use the code of positive section here directly. Because, in this case if above two condition is false then, AX must be positive.

NEGATIVE:

MOV BX, -1

JMP END-CASE ; exit to avoid other statement of another case.

ZERO :

MOV BX, 0

JMP END-CASE

POSITIVE:

MOV BX, 1 ; no need to exit as it will execute as normal flow.

END-CASE:

; normal execution flow

6.6 AND (??)

⇒ Read a character, and if it's an uppercase letter, display it.

Algorithm:

Read a character in AL

IF ('A' ≤ character && character ≤ 'Z') ⇒ again we need to inverse the condition

THEN display character

END-IF

range 41H → 54H
we can use signed conditional jump

Code:

; read a character

MOV AH, 1 ; prepare for read

INT 21H ; read char in AL

; if statement

CMP AL, 'A' ; AL - 'A' test

JL END-IF ; AL < 'A' go to end-if, as one condition is fail

CMP AL, 'Z' ; A compare with 'Z'

JG END-IF ; AL > 'Z' go to exit, any one false exit the if statement

; if both condition false that means its uppercase letter, display it by normal execution flow

MOV DL, AL ; moving to output register

MOV AH, 2 ; prepare to display

INT 21H ; show output

END-IF:

; normal execution flow as if statement end here.

6.7/ OR (11)

⇒ Read a character if its 'y' or 'Y', display it, otherwise terminate it.

Algorithm:

Read a character in AL

IF (character = 'x' || character = 'y') \Rightarrow no need to inverse
for OR structure

THEN

display it

ELSE

terminate the program

END-IF

Code:

; read a character

MOV AH, 1 ; prepare to read

INT 21H ; read character in AL

; if condition

CMP AL, 'x' ; comparing with 'x' ; AL-'x'

JE THEN ; any one true execute the if statement

CMP AL, 'y' ; comparing with 'y' ; AL-'y'

JE THEN ; any one true execute the if statement

JMP ~~IF~~ ELSE ; if both are false go to else

THEN :

MOV AH, 2 ; prepare to display

MOV DL, AL ; moving to output register

INT 21H ; display it

JMP END-IF ; ignoring the ELSE statement

ELSE :

MOV AH, 4CH ; DOS Exit

INT 21H

END-IF:

; normal execution flow.

⊗ Extra: AND, OR min

⇒ read a character, if it is a uppercase letter or a number then display it.

Algorithm:

Read a character in AL

if (~~A~~ ('A' <= AL && AL <= 'Z') || ('0' <= AL && AL <= '9'))

THEN
display it

END-IF

Code:

; read a character

MOV AH, 1 ; prepare to read

INT 21H ; read character in AL

; 1st condition

CMP AL, 'A' ; comparing with 'A'

JL SECOND-CONDITION ; need to check 2nd condition

CMP AL, 'Z' ; comparing with 'Z'

JG SECOND-CONDITION ; need to check 2nd condition

JMP THEN ; if both false, then 1st condition true and
need to execute the statement under if.
no need to check second condition

SECOND-CONDITION:

; we are now in second condition
that's means first condition false

CMP AL, '0'

JL END-ZF ; AL < '0', then any one false will make
the second condition also False
and need to exit if

CMP AL, '9'

JG END-ZF ; AL > '9', then goto exit.

~~JMP THEN~~ ; if both fail, then go a normal flow

THEN : ; normal execution flow if for second condition

MOV DL, AL ; moving to output register

MOV AH, 2 ; prepare for output

INT 21H ; display it

END-ZF:

; normal execution flow

H.W. \Rightarrow All Example

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Done