

Comparison & Conditional Jumps

§4.5, §6.2.8, §6.3

Conditional Jumps... For Real This Time

- ▶ You have seen one conditional jump instruction
 - ▶ How to implement *if* ($ECX == 0$) { ... } *else* { ... }
 - ▶ How to implement *while* ($ECX == 0$) { ... }
 - ▶ How to implement *do* { ... } *while* ($ECX == 0$)
 - ▶ And the same with the condition $ECX \neq 0$
- ▶ **How do you perform comparisons other than “ $ECX == 0$ ” and “ $ECX \neq 0$ ”?**
 - ▶ Perform a `CMP` (Compare) to set flags
 - ▶ Then perform a conditional jump

Example 1: Comparison, Jumps

```

; Read a signed integer into EAX
call ReadInt
cmp eax, 100
jge big ← JGE = Jump if Greater or Equal
; If we reach here, eax < 100 (based on flags set by cmp)
jmp done
big: ; If we reach here, eax ≥ 100
done: exit
    
```

Example 2: Comparison, Jumps

```

; Read a signed integer into EAX
call ReadInt
cmp eax, 10
jle small ← JLE = Jump if Less or Equal
; If we reach here, eax > 10 (based on flags set by cmp)
jmp done
small: ; If we reach here, eax ≤ 10
done: exit
    
```

Subtraction & Comparison

- ▶ How does the `SUB` instruction affect the flags?

Unsigned	ZF	CF
Dest < Src		
Dest = Src		
Dest > Src		

Signed	Flags
Dest < Src	SF ?= OF
Dest = Src	ZF = ?
Dest > Src	SF ?= OF

Subtraction & Comparison

- ▶ How does the `SUB` instruction affect the flags?

Unsigned	ZF	CF
Dest < Src	0	1
Dest = Src	1	0
Dest > Src	0	0

Signed	Flags
Dest < Src	SF ≠ OF
Dest = Src	ZF = 1
Dest > Src	SF = OF

- ▶ Integer values can be compared by subtracting the values and then looking at the flags!
- ▶ The `CMP` (Compare) instruction subtracts values but does **not** store the result; it only sets flags

Topics Covered in Notes:

- CMP instruction



Jumps Based on Specific Flags

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

Activity 10 #1



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



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 $leftOp \geq rightOp$)
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 $leftOp \leq rightOp$)
JNG	Jump if not greater (same as JLE)

Activity 10



Jumps Based on Unsigned Comparisons

Mnemonic	Description
JA	Jump if above (if $leftOp > rightOp$)
JNBE	Jump if not below or equal (same as JA)
JAЕ	Jump if above or equal (if $leftOp \geq rightOp$)
JNB	Jump if not below (same as JAЕ)
JB	Jump if below (if $leftOp < rightOp$)
JNAЕ	Jump if not above or equal (same as JB)
JBE	Jump if below or equal (if $leftOp \leq rightOp$)
JNA	Jump if not above (same as JBE)

Activity 10



Jumps Based on Comparisons

Unsigned Comparisons ("Above/Below")

Mnemonic	Description
JA	Jump if above (if $leftOp > rightOp$)
JNBE	Jump if not below or equal (same as JA)
JAЕ	Jump if above or equal (if $leftOp \geq rightOp$)
JNB	Jump if not below (same as JAЕ)
JB	Jump if below (if $leftOp < rightOp$)
JNAЕ	Jump if not above or equal (same as JB)
JBE	Jump if below or equal (if $leftOp \leq rightOp$)
JNA	Jump if not above (same as JBE)

Signed Comparisons ("Greater/Less")

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 $leftOp \geq rightOp$)
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 $leftOp \leq rightOp$)
JNG	Jump if not greater (same as JLE)

Activity 10 #2



Conditional Jumps and Flags



- Remember: JA, JB, JL, JG, etc. are based on **flags**
- It's *conventional* to use `cmp` to set the flags
- But if some other instruction changes the flags, the jump will be based on its flags

```
.data
msg BYTE "3 < 5", 0

mov ah, 3
mov al, 5
cmp ah, al
jnl done

mov edx, OFFSET msg
call WriteString
done: exit
```

```
mov ah, 3
mov al, 5
sub ah, al
jnl done

mov edx, OFFSET msg
call WriteString
done: exit
```

Translating Do-While Loops



```
do {
    // body
} while (eax < ebx)
```

↓

```
start: ; body
      cmp eax, ebx
      jl start or jnb start
      (signed)      (unsigned)
```

Translating While Loops



```
while (eax < ebx) {
    // body
}
```

↓

```
start: cmp eax, ebx
      jnl finish or jnb finish
      ; body
      jmp start
finish:
```

Translating Counted Loops



```
for (eax = 0; eax < 10; eax++) {
    // body
}
```

→

```
eax = 0
while (eax < 10) {
    // body
    eax++
}
```

↓

```
start: mov eax, 0
      cmp eax, 10
      jnl finish or jnb finish
      ; body
      inc eax
      jmp start
finish:
```

Translating If Statements



```
if (eax < ebx) {
    // a
} else {
    // b
}
```

↓

```
cmp eax, ebx
jnl zelse or jnb zelse
; a
jmp zendif ; Don't forget this!
zelse: ; b
zendif:
```

Exercises



- Will the jump be taken?

```
mov ah, 70h
add ah, 10h
jo some_label
```

Exercises



2. Will the jump be taken?

```
mov ah, -1
cmp ah, 5
jl some_label
```

Exercises



3. Will the jump be taken?

```
mov ah, -1
cmp ah, 5
jb some_label
```

Exercises



4. Will the jump be taken?

```
mov ah, 0FFh
cmp ah, -1
je some_label
```

Exercises



5. Will the jump be taken?

```
mov eax, 0FFh
cmp eax, -1
je some_label
```

Exercises



6. Will the jump be taken?

```
mov al, 100

mov ah, 25
add ah, 75

cmp ah, al
je some_label
```

Exercises



7. Will the jump be taken?

```
mov al, 100
add al, 50
cmp al, 100
jg some_label
```