

Assembly Programming with NASM (and GAS)

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NASM Data Directives

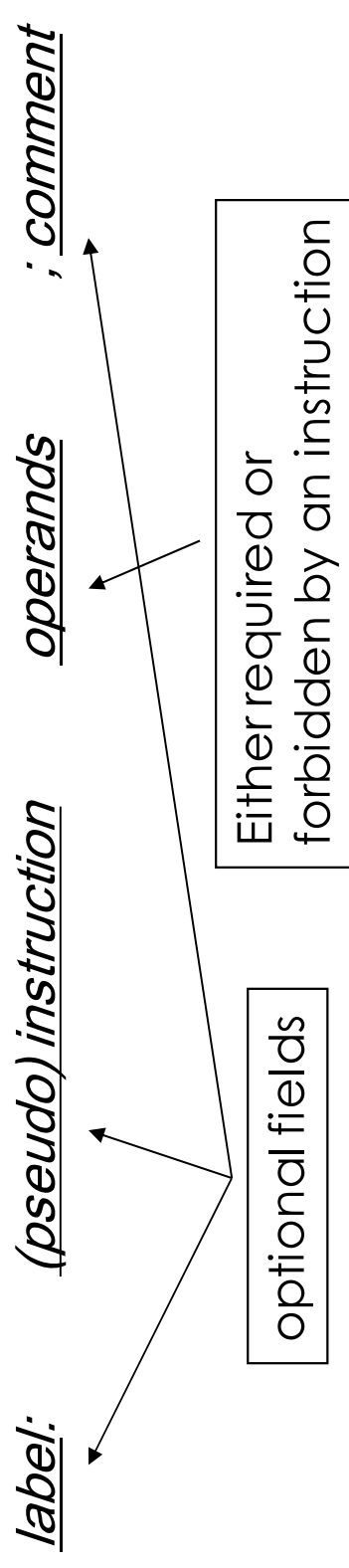
► L1	db	0	; byte
► L2	dw	1000	; word
► L3	db	110101b	; byte
► L4	db	12h	; byte
► L5	db	17o	; byte
► L6	dd	1A92h	; double word
► L7	resb	1	; uninitialized byte
► L8	db	'A'	; ascii code = 'A'
► L9	db	0,1,2,3	; 4 bytes
► L10	db	'w','o','r','d',0	; string
► L11	db	'word', 0	
► L12	times 100 db	0	; 100 bytes of zero
► L13	resw	100	; 100*2(word bytes)

Data Types in IA32 (AT&T format)

C declaration	Intel data type	Assembly code suffix	Size (bytes)
char	Byte	b	1
short	Word	w	2
int	Double word	l	4
long int	Double word	l	4
long long int	—	—	4
char *	Double word	l	4
float	Single precision	s	4
double	Double precision	l	8
long double	Extended precision	t	10/16

Instruction Basics

Each NASM standard source line contains a combination of the 4 fields



1. **Backslash (\)** uses as the line continuation character: if a line ends with backslash, the next line is considered to be a part of the backslash-ended line.
2. **No restrictions on white space** within a line.
3. A colon after a label is optional.

Example Program

```
1 int simple(int *xp, int y)
2 {
3     int t = *xp + y;
4     *xp = t;
5     return t;
6 }
```

```
1 simple:
2     pushl
3     movl
4     movl
5     movl
6     addl
7     movl
8     popl
9     ret
```

```
Save frame
Create new
Retrieve
Retrieve
Add *xp to
Store t at
Restore fi
Return
```

```
%ebp
%esp, %ebp
8(%ebp), %edx
12(%ebp), %eax
(%edx), %eax
%eax, (%edx)
%ebp
```

Operand Modes

Source **Destination**

C Analog

movl	Imm	{	Reg	movl \$0x4,%eax	temp = 0x4;
			Mem	movl \$-147, (%eax)	*p = -147;
	Reg	{	Reg	movl %eax,%edx	temp2 = temp
			Mem	movl %eax, (%edx)	*p = temp;
	Mem	{	Reg	movl (%eax), %edx	temp = *p;

Examples

Data directives (different to MASM)

- ▶ **Mov al, [L1]** ; copy byte at L1
- ▶ **Mov eax, L1** ; eax = address of byte at L1
- ▶ **Mov [L1], ah** ; copy ah into byte at L1
- ▶ **Mov eax, [L6]** ; copy double word
- ▶ **Add eax, [L6]** ; eax = eax + double word at L6
- ▶ **Add [L6], eax** ; double word at L6 += eax
- ▶ **Mov al, [L6]** ; copy first byte of double word at L6 into al
- ▶ **Mov [L6], 1** ; operation size is not specified
- ▶ **Mov dword [L6], 1** ; store a 1 at L6

Instructions: Setup

- ▶ **STACK**
 - ▶ can be used as a convenient place to store data temporarily
 - ▶ Also used for making subprogram calls, passing parameters and local variables
 - ▶ Data can only be added in double word units
- ▶ **PUSH**
 - ▶ inserts a double word on the stack by **subtracting 4 from ESP**
 - ▶ And then stores the double word at [ESP]
- ▶ **POP**
 - ▶ reads the double word at [ESP]
 - ▶ And then adds 4 to ESP

Instructions: Setup

- ▶ Call subprogram
- ▶ CALL
 - ▶ Make an unconditional jump to a subprogram
 - ▶ And pushes the address of the next instruction on the stack
- ▶ RET
 - ▶ Pops off an address
 - ▶ And jumps to that address.
- ▶ When using this inst.: It is very important that one manages the stack correctly so that **the right number is popped off by the instruction**.

Example

```
void swap(int *xp, int *yp)
{
    int t0 = *xp;
    int t1 = *yp;
    *xp = t1;
    *yp = t0;
}
```

swap:

```
    pushl %ebp
    movl %esp,%ebp
    pushl %ebx
```

} Set Up

```
    movl 12(%ebp),%ecx
    movl 8(%ebp),%edx
    movl (%ecx),%eax
    movl (%edx),%ebx
    movl %eax, (%edx)
    movl %ebx, (%ecx)
```

} Body

```
    movl -4(%ebp),%ebx
    movl %ebp,%esp
    popl %ebp
    ret
```

} Finish

Example (contd.)

Register	Variable
%ecx	yp
%edx	xp
%eax	t1
%ebx	t0

```
void swap(int *xp, int *yp)
{
    int t0 = *xp;
    int t1 = *yp;
    *xp = t1;
    *yp = t0;
}
```

```
movl 12(%ebp),%ecx # ecx = yp
movl 8(%ebp),%edx  # edx = xp
movl (%ecx),%eax   # eax = *yp (t1)
movl (%edx),%ebx   # ebx = *xp (t0)
movl %eax, (%edx)  # *xp = eax
movl %ebx, (%ecx)  # *yp = ebx
```

Offset	
12	yp
8	xp
4	Rtn adr
0	Old %ebp
-4	Old %ebp

Example (contd.)

%eax	
%edx	
%ecx	
%ebx	
%esi	
%edi	
%esp	
%ebp	0x104

```

movl 12(%ebp), %ecx    # ecx = yp
movl 8(%ebp), %edx     # edx = xp
movl (%ecx), %eax      # eax = *yp (t1)
movl (%edx), %ebx      # ebx = *xp (t0)
movl %eax, (%edx)      # *xp = eax
movl %ebx, (%ecx)      # *yp = ebx

```

Offset

yp 12

xp 8

4

%ebp → 0

-4

123
456
0x120
0x124
Rtn adr

Example (contd.)

%eax	
%edx	
%ecx	0x120
%ebx	
%esi	
%edi	
%esp	
%ebp	0x104

```
movl 12(%ebp), %ecx # ecx = yp
movl 8(%ebp), %edx # edx = xp
movl (%ecx), %eax # eax = *yp (t1)
movl (%edx), %ebx # ebx = *xp (t0)
movl %eax, (%edx) # *xp = eax
movl %ebx, (%ecx) # *yp = ebx
```

[illegible]

Example (contd.)

%eax	
%edx	0x124
%ecx	0x120
%ebx	
%esi	
%edi	
%esp	
%ebp	0x104

```

movl 12(%ebp), %ecx    # ecx = yp
movl 8(%ebp), %edx     # edx = xp
movl (%ecx), %eax      # eax = *yp (t1)
movl (%edx), %ebx      # ebx = *xp (t0)
movl %eax, (%edx)      # *xp = eax
movl %ebx, (%ecx)      # *yp = ebx

```

123	
456	
0x120	yp
0x124	xp
Rtn adr	

	Offset
	12
	8
	4
%ebp	→ 0
	-4

Example (contd.)

%eax	456
%edx	0x124
%ecx	0x120
%ebx	
%esi	
%edi	
%esp	
%ebp	0x104

```
movl 12(%ebp), %ecx    # ecx = yp
movl 8(%ebp), %edx     # edx = xp
movl (%ecx), %eax      # eax = *yp (t1)
movl (%edx), %ebx      # ebx = *xp (t0)
movl %eax, (%edx)      # *xp = eax
movl %ebx, (%ecx)      # *yp = ebx
```

	Offset
yp	12
xp	8
%ebp	0
	-4

Example (contd.)

%eax	456
%edx	0x124
%ecx	0x120
%ebx	123
%esi	
%edi	
%esp	
%ebp	0x104

```
movl 12(%ebp), %ecx # ecx = yp
movl 8(%ebp), %edx # edx = xp
movl (%ecx), %eax # eax = *yp (t1)
movl (%edx), %ebx # ebx = *xp (t0)
movl %eax, (%edx) # *xp = eax
movl %ebx, (%ecx) # *yp = ebx
```

	Offset
yp	12
xp	8
%ebp →	0
	-4
Rtn adr	
0x124	
0x120	
456	
123	

Example (contd.)

%eax	456
%edx	0x124
%ecx	0x120
%ebx	123
%esi	
%edi	
%esp	
%ebp	0x104

```
movl 12(%ebp), %ecx    # ecx = yp
movl 8(%ebp), %edx     # edx = xp
movl (%ecx), %eax      # eax = *yp (t1)
movl (%edx), %ebx      # ebx = *xp (t0)
movl %eax, (%edx)      # *xp = eax
movl %ebx, (%ecx)      # *yp = ebx
```

	Offset
yp	12
xp	8
%ebp	0
	-4

Example (contd.)

%eax	456
%edx	0x124
%ecx	0x120
%ebx	123
%esi	
%edi	
%esp	
%ebp	0x104

```
movl 12(%ebp), %ecx # ecx = yp
movl 8(%ebp), %edx # edx = xp
movl (%ecx), %eax # eax = *yp (t1)
movl (%edx), %ebx # ebx = *xp (t0)
movl %eax, (%edx) # *xp = eax
movl %ebx, (%ecx) # *yp = ebx
```

[illegible]

Some Integer Instructions

Format Computation

Two-Operand Instructions

addl	Src, Dest	Dest = Dest + Src	
subl	Src, Dest	Dest = Dest - Src	
imull	Src, Dest	Dest = Dest * Src	
sall	k, Dest	Dest = Dest << k	Also called shll
sarl	k, Dest	Dest = Dest >> k	Arithmetic
shrl	k, Dest	Dest = Dest >> k	Logical

k is an immediate value or contents of %cl

Some Integer Instructions

Format	Computation
--------	-------------

Two-Operand Instructions

<code>xorl Src, Dest</code>	<code>Dest = Dest ^ Src</code>
<code>andl Src, Dest</code>	<code>Dest = Dest & Src</code>
<code>orl Src, Dest</code>	<code>Dest = Dest Src</code>

Some Integer Instructions

Format Computation

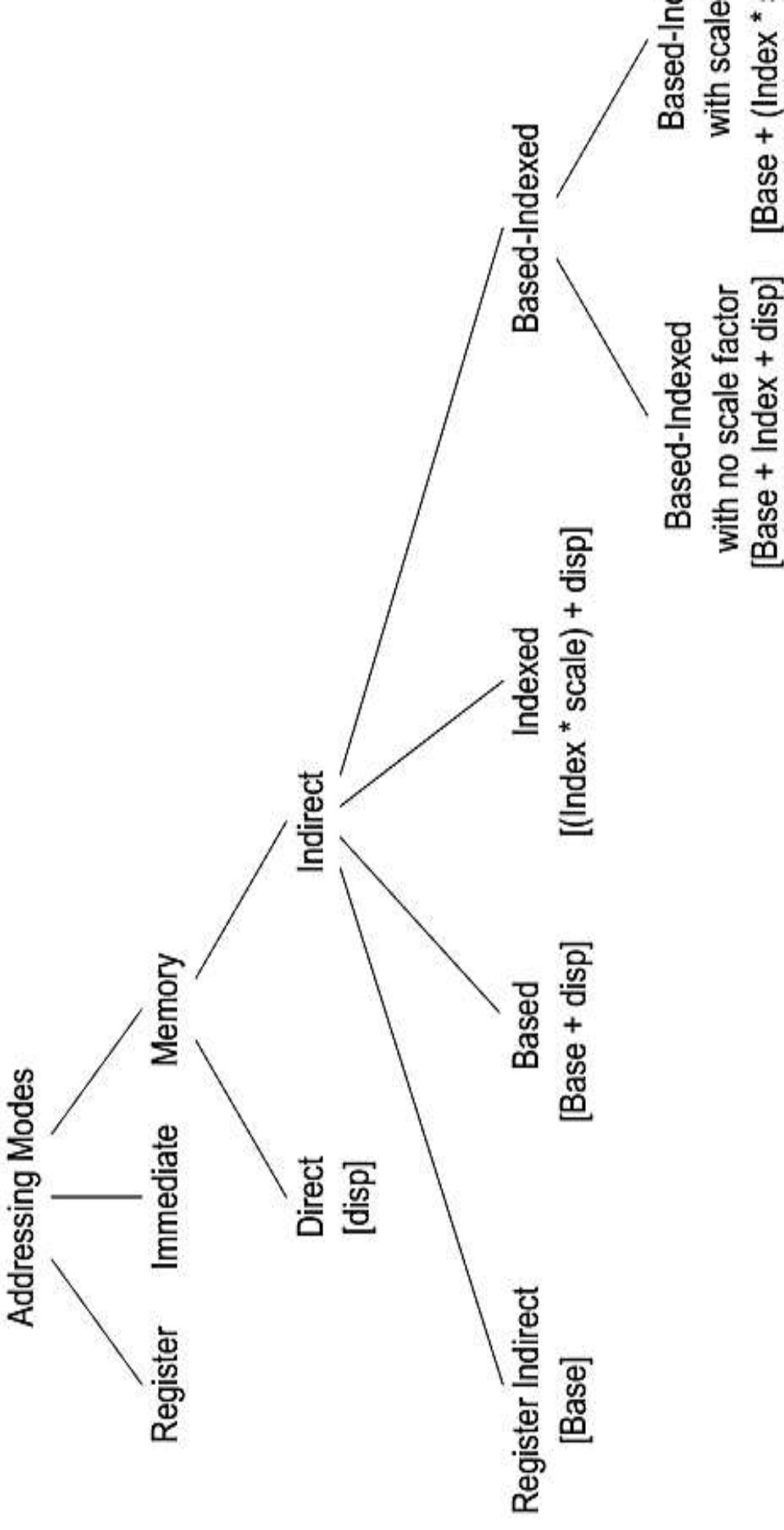
One-Operand Instructions

<code>incl Dest</code>	<code>Dest = Dest + 1</code>
<code>decl Dest</code>	<code>Dest = Dest - 1</code>
<code>negl Dest</code>	<code>Dest = -Dest</code>
<code>notl Dest</code>	<code>Dest = ~Dest</code>

Operands in X86

- ▶ Register: **MOV EAX, EBX**
 - ▶ Copy content from one register to another
- ▶ Immediate: **MOV EAX, 10h**
 - ▶ Copy constant to register
- ▶ Memory: different addressing modes
 - ▶ Typically at most one memory operand
 - ▶ Complex address computation supported

Addressing modes (32-bits)



Addressing modes

- ▶ Direct: **MOV EAX, [10h]**
 - ▶ Copy value located at address 10h
- ▶ Indirect: **MOV EAX, [EBX]**
 - ▶ Copy value pointed to by register BX
- ▶ Indexed: **MOV AL, [EBX + ECX * 4 + 10h]**
 - ▶ Copy value from array ($BX[4 * CX + 0x10]$)
- ▶ Pointers can be associated to type
 - ▶ **MOV AL, byte ptr [BX]**

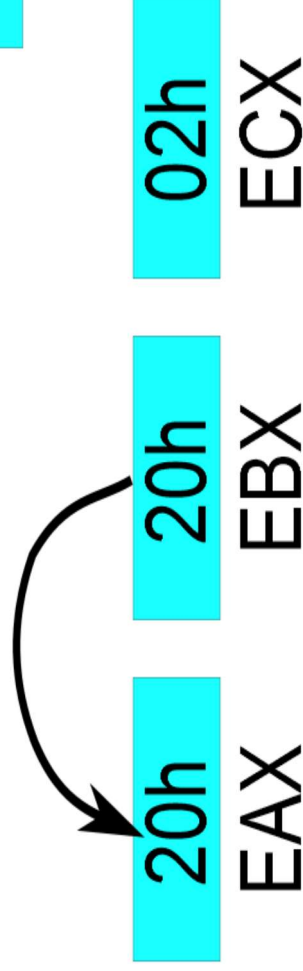
Operands and addressing modes: Register

mov AL, BL

12h 10h

...

34h 20h
56h 21h
78h 22h



Operands and addressing modes:

Immediate

mov AL, 10h

10h

EAX

20h

EBX

02h

ECX

12h

10h

...

34h

20h

56h

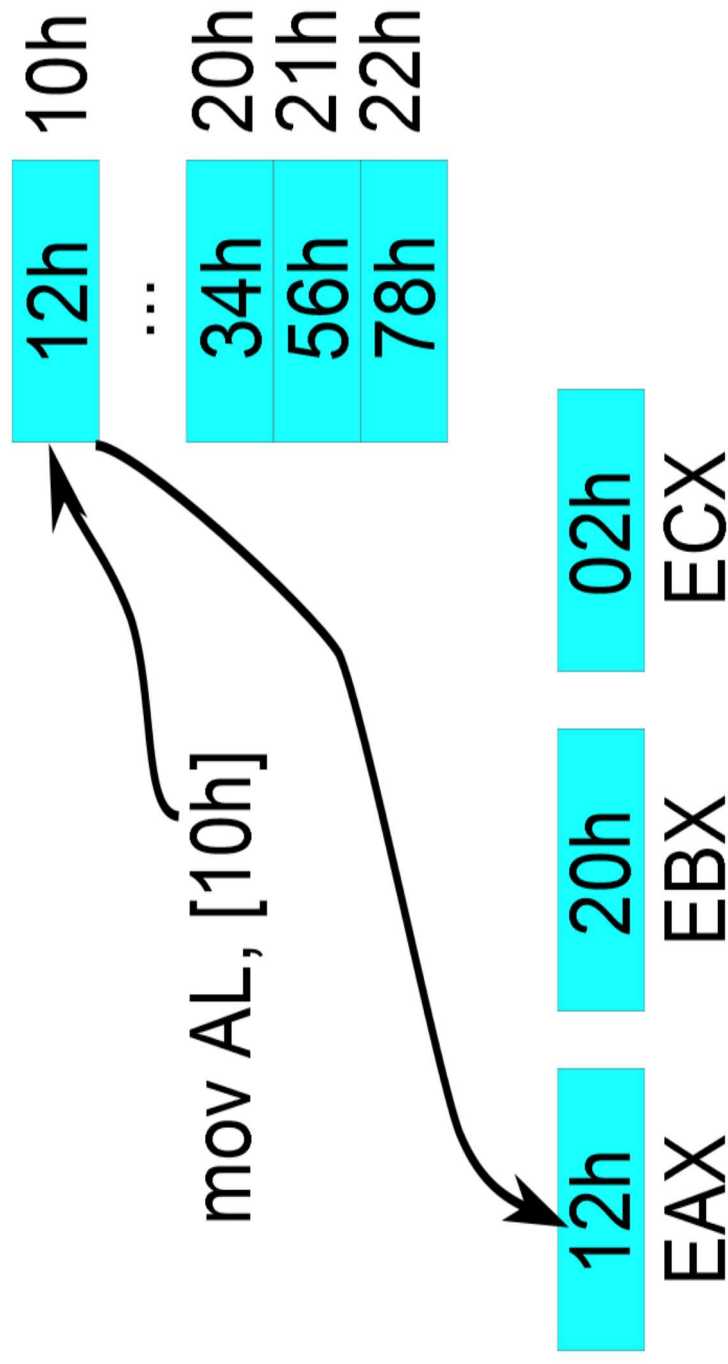
21h

78h

22h

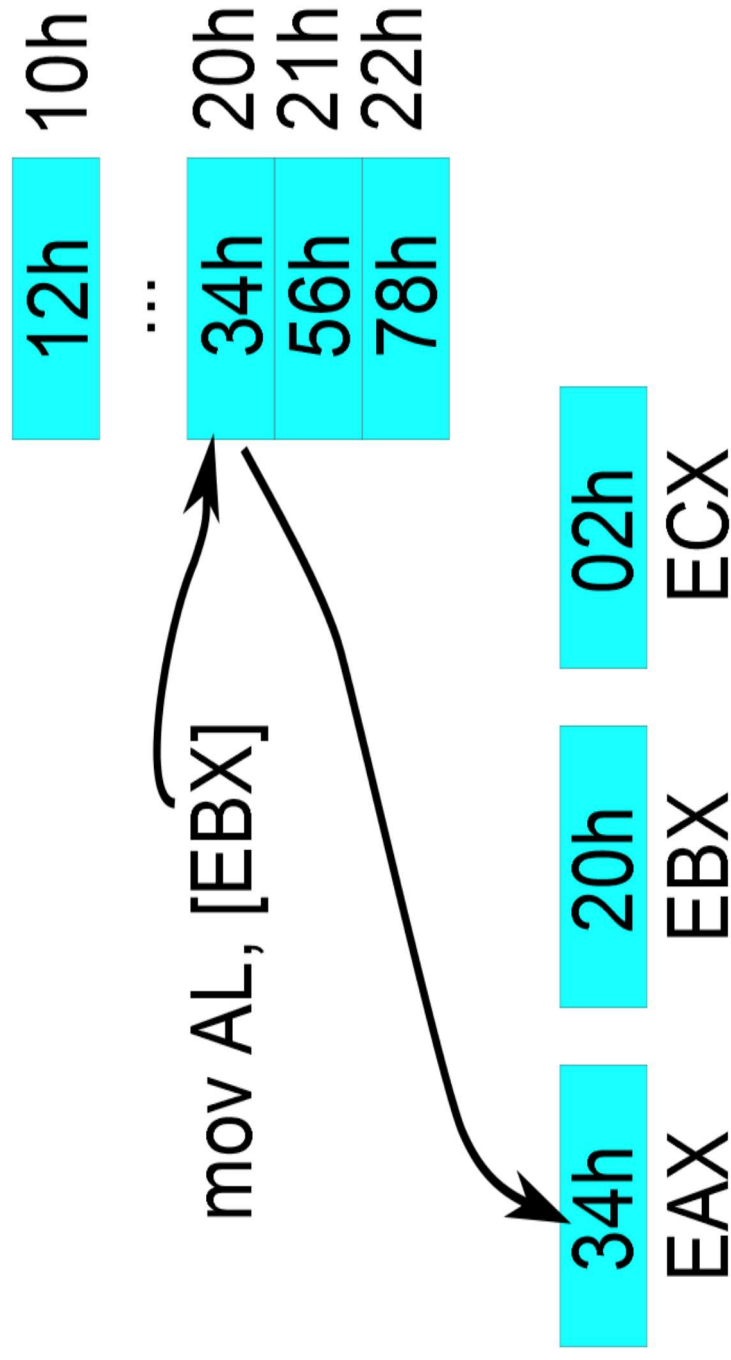
Operands and addressing modes:

Direct

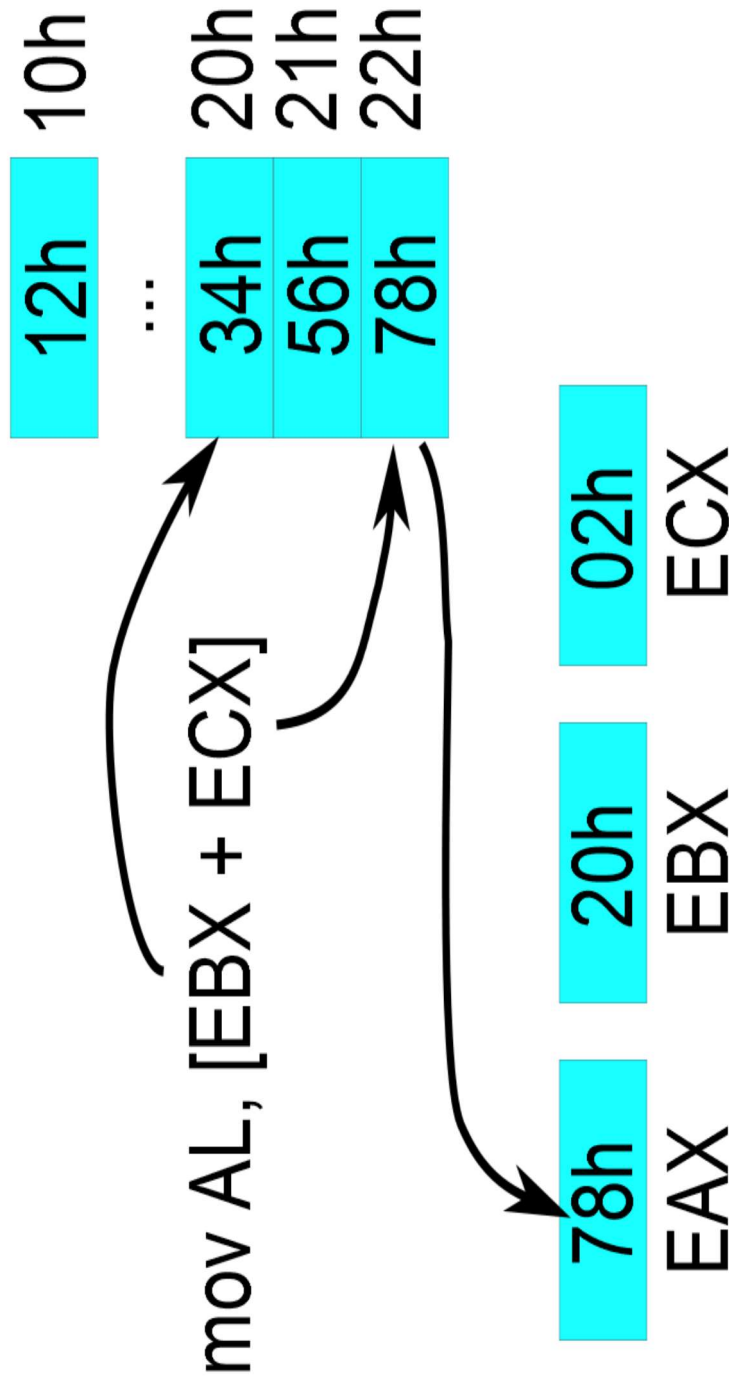


Operands and addressing modes:

Indirect



Operands and addressing modes: Indexed



Generic 32bit Addressing Mode

► **Segment + Base + (Index * Scale) + displacement**

CS	EAX	EAX	1	no displacement
SS	EBX	EBX	2	8-bit displacement
DS	ECX	ECX	4	32-bit displacement
ES	EDX	EDX	8	
FS	ESI	ESI		
GS	EDI	EDI		
	EBP	EBP		
	ESP			

Addressing Mode GNU-AS

► **D(Rb, Ri, S)** **Mem [Reg[Rb] + S*Reg[Ri] + D]**

- D: Constant "displacement" 1, 2, or 4 bytes
- Rb: Base register: Any of 8 integer registers
- Ri: Index register: Any, **except** for **%esp**
 - Unlikely you'd use %ebp, either
- S: Scale: 1, 2, 4, or 8

GAS - Indexed Addressing Modes

- ▶ **Special Cases**
 - ▶ (Rb, Ri) *Mem [Reg[Rb] + Reg[Ri]]*
 - ▶ D(Rb, Ri) *Mem [Reg[Rb] + Reg[Ri] + D]*
 - ▶ (Rb, Ri, S) *Mem [Reg[Rb] + S*Reg[Ri]]*

Solve the Followings:

Expression
<code>0x8(%edx)</code>
<code>(%edx,%ecx)</code>
<code>(%edx,%ecx,4)</code>
<code>0x80(,%edx,2)</code>

► Given:

<code>%edx</code>	<code>0xf000</code>
<code>%ecx</code>	<code>0x100</code>

Another Programming Example

Objective:

- ▶ Take an integer through Command-line
- ▶ Print the value
- ▶ Add 1 to that
- ▶ Print the result

Another Program (1)

```
SECTION .text
    global main

main:
    ; set-up phase
    push ebp
    mov ebp, esp

    ; finish phase
    mov esp, ebp
    pop ebp
    ret
```

Another Program (2)

```
SECTION .text
    global main

main:
    ; set-up phase
    push ebp
    mov ebp, esp

    ; get the command-line data
    mov ebx, DWORD [esp + 12]    ; get argv starting address
    mov ebx, [ebx + 4]          ; get the second argument data

    ; finish phase
    mov esp, ebp
    pop ebp
    ret
```

Another Program (3)

```
SECTION .data
msg:  db  "You Entered - %s", 10, 0  ; print argv[1] data

SECTION .text
extern printf
global main

main:
; set-up phase
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
```

Another Program (3)

```
; get the command-line data
mov ebx, DWORD [esp + 12]    ; get argv starting address
mov ebx, [ebx + 4]           ; get the second argument data

; print the value
push ebx                     ; put data on stack for call
push msg                     ; print the value
call printf

; finish phase
add esp, 8                   ; esp back to start
mov esp, ebp
pop ebp
ret
```

Another Program (4)

```
SECTION .data
msg:  db      "You Entered - %s", 10, 0  ; print argv[1] data
msg2: db      "This is int - %d", 10, 0  ; print INT equivalent

SECTION .text
extern printf
extern atoi
global main

main:
; set-up phase
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
```

Another Program (4)

```
; get the command-line data
mov ebx, DWORD [esp + 12]    ; get argv starting address
mov ebx, [ebx + 4]           ; get the second argument data

; print the value
push ebx                     ; put data on stack for call
push msg                     ; print the value
call printf

; convert to integer
add esp, 4                   ; stack points to entry edx
call atoi                    ; call atoi - return in EAX?
```


Another Program (4)

; get return value and add 1

```
add esp, 4  
inc eax
```

```
; esp points to start  
; increase eax for testing
```

; print the result

```
push eax  
push msg2  
call printf
```

```
; push arg for print  
; push print message
```

; finish phase

```
add esp, 8  
mov esp, ebp  
pop ebp  
ret
```

```
; esp back to start
```

Another Program (final)

```
SECTION .data
msg:  db      "You Entered - %s", 10, 0      ; print argv[1] data
msg2: db      "This is int - %d", 10, 0      ; print INT equivalent

SECTION .text
extern printf
extern atoi
global main

main:
; set-up phase
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
```

Another Program (final)

```
; get the command-line data
mov ebx, DWORD [esp + 12]    ; get argv starting address
mov ebx, [ebx + 4]           ; get the second argument data

; print the value
push ebx                     ; put data on stack for call
push msg                     ; print the value
call printf

; convert to integer
add esp, 4                   ; stack points to entry edx
call atoi                    ; call atoi - return in EAX?
```

Another Program (final)

; get return value and add 1

```
add esp, 4  
inc eax
```

```
; esp points to start  
; increase eax for testing
```

; print the result

```
push eax  
push msg2  
call printf
```

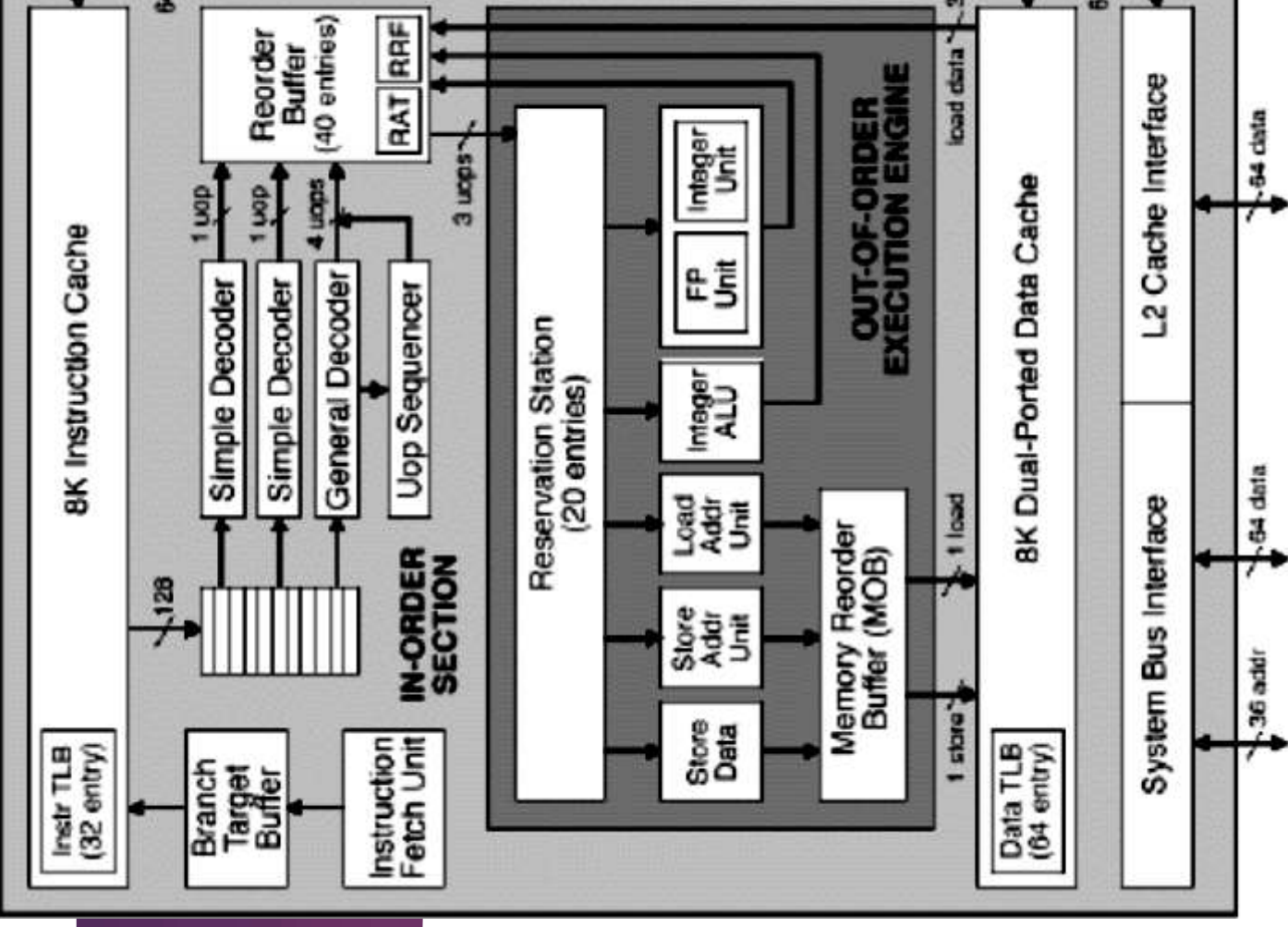
```
; push arg for print  
; push print message
```

; finish phase

```
add esp, 8  
mov esp, ebp  
pop ebp  
ret
```

```
; esp back to start
```

PentiumPro Block Diagram



Operations

- ▶ Translates instructions dynamically into “Uops” / “μops”
 - ▶ 128 bits wide
- ▶ Holds
 - ▶ Operation 32
 - ▶ Two sources, and + 32 + 32
 - ▶ Destination + 32 = 128bits **WHY??**
- ▶ Executes Uops with “**Out of Order**” engine
 - ▶ Uop executed when
 1. Operands are available
 2. Functional unit available

Operations

- ▶ Execution controlled by “Reservation Stations”
 - ▶ Keeps track of data **dependencies** between uops
 - ▶ Allocates resources
- ▶ Consequences
 - ▶ Indirect relationship between
 - ▶ IA32 code &
 - ▶ What actually gets executed
- ▶ Tricky to predict / optimize performance at assembly level

Machine View

- ▶ **EIP (Program Counter)**

- ▶ Address of next instruction

- ▶ **Register File**

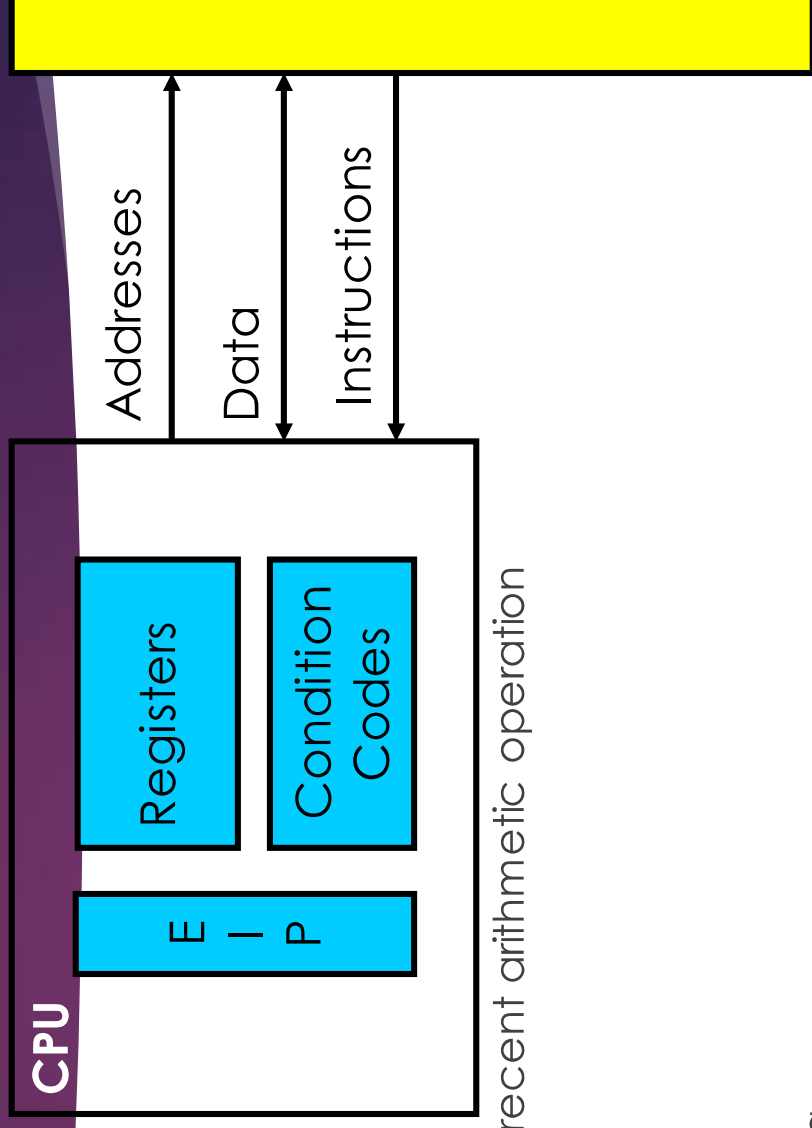
- ▶ Heavily used program data

- ▶ **Condition Codes**

- ▶ Store status information about most recent arithmetic operation
- ▶ Used for conditional branching

- ▶ **Memory**

- ▶ Byte addressable array
- ▶ Code, user data, (some) OS data
- ▶ Includes stack used to support procedures



Flow Control Instructions

- ▶ JMP
- ▶ JCC
- ▶ CALL
- ▶ RET

Revisit EFLAGS

eflags register

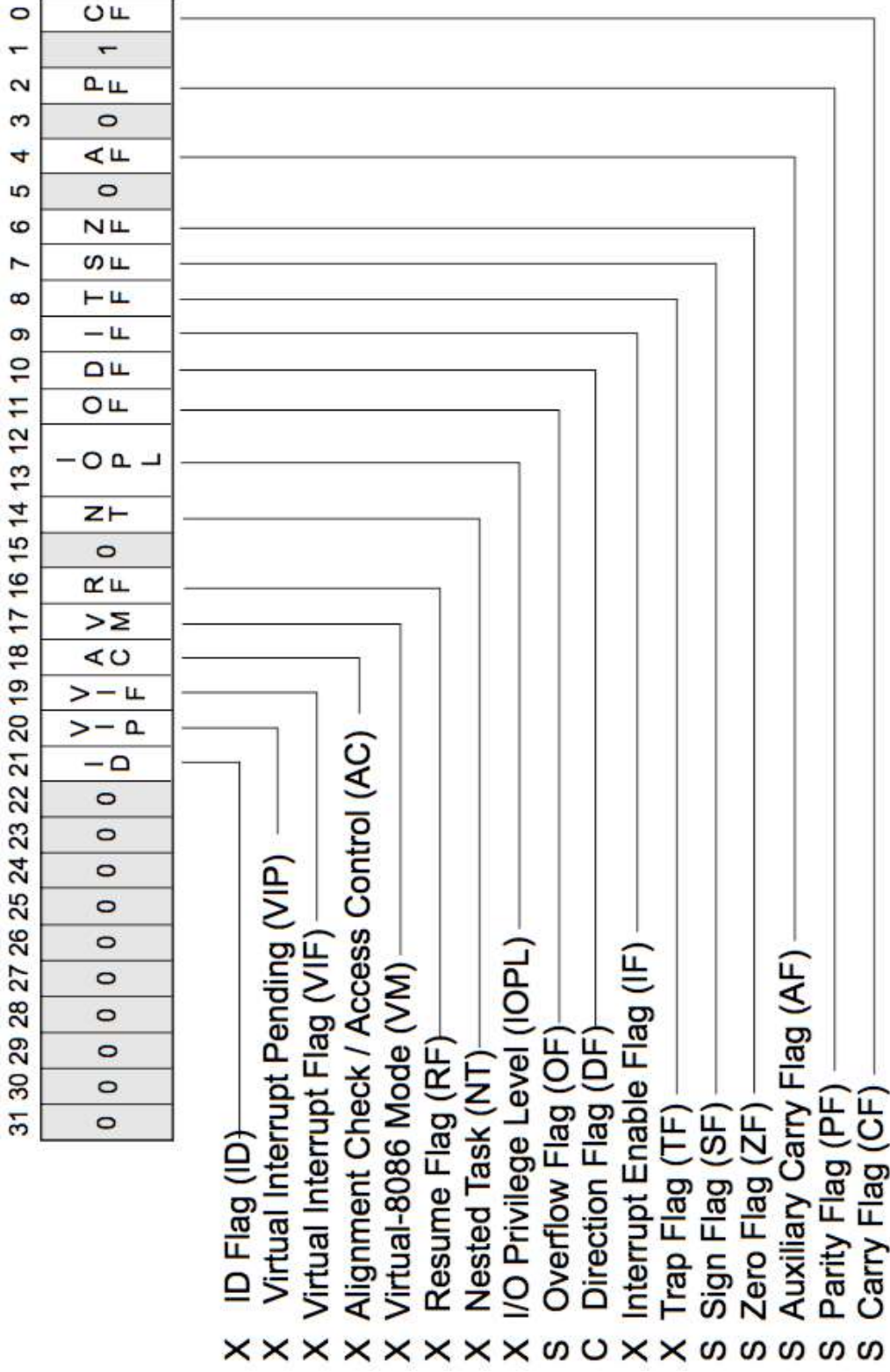
0	0	31
0	0	30
0	0	29
0	0	28
0	0	27
0	0	26
0	0	25
0	0	24
0	0	23
0	0	22
ID		21
VIP		20
VIF		19
AC		18
VM		17
RF		16
0		15
NT		14
IOPL		13
OF		11
DF		10
IF		9
TF		8
SF		7
ZF		6
0		5
AF		4
0		3
0		2

Reserved flags

System flags

Arithmetic flags

Revisit EFLAG



S Indicates a Status Flag

C Indicates a Control Flag

X Indicates a System Flag

☐ Reserved bit positions. DO NOT USE. Always set to values previously read.

JMP: jump

► Syntax:

JMP *dest*

► Operation (absolute jump):

EIP \leftarrow *dest*

► Operation (relative jump):

EIP \leftarrow EIP + *dest*

-	-	-	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	---

of df sf zf of pf

Unconditional Jumps

- ▶ Jmp statement label
- ▶ We have two types of jumps,
 - ▶ Intersegment
 - ▶ Intrasegment
- ▶ Address can be in a register, variable or label.

Unconditional Jumps

► Example:

```
Start:  MOV AX, 0  
        INC AX,  
        JMP Start
```

Jcc: short jump conditional

► Syntax:

Jcc dest

► Operation:

```
if (cc)
    EIP ← EIP + dest
endif
```

- **Notes:** *cc* is any of the condition codes. *dest* must be within a signed 8-bit range (-128 to 127).

-	-	-
---	---	---

of df sf :

Condition Codes

- Implicitly Set By Arithmetic Operations

addl Src, Dest

C analog: $t = a + b$

- CF set if carry out from most significant bit

- Used to detect unsigned overflow

- ZF set if $t == 0$

- SF set if $t < 0$

- OF set if two's complement overflow

$(a > 0 \ \&\& \ b > 0 \ \&\& \ t < 0) \ || \ (a < 0 \ \&\& \ b < 0 \ \&\& \ t \geq 0)$

- **Not** Set by `leal` instruction

Condition Codes

Suffix	Meaning	Flags
O	Overflow	OF=1
NO	No Overflow	OF=0
C	Carry	CF=1
B	Below	
NAE	Not Above nor Equal	
NC	No Carry	CF=0
NB	Not Below	
AE	Above or Equal	

Condition Codes (continued)

Suffix	Meaning	Flags
Z	Zero	ZF=1
E	Equal	
NZ	Not Zero	ZF=0
NE	Not Equal	
BE	Below or Equal	CF=1 OR ZF=1
NA	Not Above	
A	Above	CF=0 AND ZF=0
NBE	Not Below nor Equal	

Condition Codes (continued)

Suffix	Meaning	Flags
S	<i>Sign</i>	SF=1
NS	<i>Not Sign</i>	SF=0
P	<i>Parity</i>	PF=1
PE	<i>Parity Even</i>	
NP	<i>Not Parity</i>	PF=0
PO	<i>Parity Odd</i>	

Condition Codes (continued)

Suffix	Meaning	Flags
L	<i>Less</i>	SF<>OF
NGE	<i>Not Greater nor Equal</i>	
GE	<i>Greater or Equal</i>	SF=OF
NL	<i>Not Less</i>	
LE	<i>Less or Equal</i>	ZF=1 OR SF<>OF
NG	<i>Not Greater</i>	
G	<i>Greater</i>	ZF=0 AND SF=OF
NLE	<i>Not Less nor Equal</i>	

Condition Codes (continued)

- ▶ **Above** and **Below** are used for unsigned integer comparisons.
- ▶ **Greater** and **Less** are used for signed integer comparisons.

Conditional Jumps

- ▶ Dependent on condition codes.
- ▶ Example:

JZ → jump if zero flag is set.

Conditional Codes

- Code the following C routine using assembly language instructions.
 - Add a value X to eax;
 - If $x < 0$
 - Then
 - ... (body for negative condition)
 - Else if $x = 0$
 - ... (body for zero condition)
 - Else
 - ... (body for positive condition)
 - End if

Conditional Codes

► Solution

```
Add eax, X      ;add a value to eax
JNS elseifZero  ;jump if eax is not negative
...              ; code for negative condition
JMP endCheck

elseifZero:
JNZ elsePos    ; jump if x is not zero
...              ; code for zero condition
JMP endCheck

elsePos: ...    ; code for positive balance
endCheck:
```


Conditional Codes

Add eax, X	;add a value to eax	Add a value X to eax
JNS elseifZero	;jump if eax is <i>not negative</i>	If $x < 0$
...	; code for negative condition	Then
JMP endCheck		... (body for negative condition)
elseifZero:		Else if $x = 0$
JNZ elsePos	; jump if x is not zero	... (body for zero condition)
...	; code for zero condition	Else
JMP endCheck		... (body for positive condition)
elsePos:		End if
...	; code for positive balance	
endCheck:		