# Assembly Language for x86 Processors 6th Edition

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**Chapter 6: Conditional Processing** 

Slides prepared by the author

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## **Chapter Overview**

- Boolean and Comparison Instructions
- Conditional Jumps
- Conditional Loop Instructions
- Conditional Structures
- Application: Finite-State Machines
- Conditional Control Flow Directives

#### **Boolean and Comparison Instructions**

- CPU Status Flags
- AND Instruction
- OR Instruction
- XOR Instruction
- NOT Instruction
- Applications
- TEST Instruction
- CMP Instruction

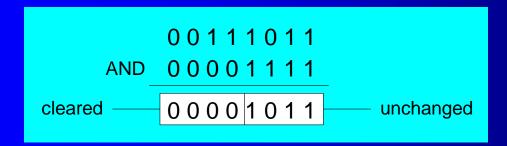
## Status Flags - Review

- The Zero flag is set when the result of an operation equals zero.
- The Carry flag is set when an instruction generates a result that is too large (or too small) for the destination operand.
- The Sign flag is set if the destination operand is negative, and it is clear if the destination operand is positive.
- The Overflow flag is set when an instruction generates an invalid signed result (bit 7 carry is XORed with bit 6 Carry).
- The Parity flag is set when an instruction generates an even number of 1 bits in the low byte of the destination operand.
- The Auxiliary Carry flag is set when an operation produces a carry out from bit 3 to bit 4

#### AND Instruction

- Performs a Boolean AND operation between each pair of matching bits in two operands
- Syntax:

(same operand types as MOV)



#### AND

| х | у | <b>x</b> ∧ <b>y</b> |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 0 | 0 | 0                   |
| 0 | 1 | 0                   |
| 1 | 0 | 0                   |
| 1 | 1 | 1                   |

#### **OR** Instruction

- Performs a Boolean OR operation between each pair of matching bits in two operands
- Syntax:

OR destination, source

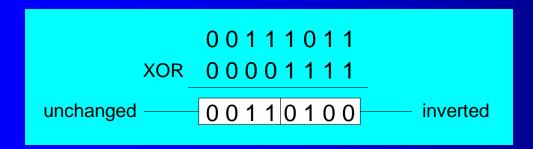
00111011 OR 00001111 unchanged 0011111 set OR

| х | у | <b>x</b> ∨ <b>y</b> |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 0 | 0 | 0                   |
| 0 | 1 | 1                   |
| 1 | 0 | 1                   |
| 1 | 1 | 1                   |

#### XOR Instruction

- Performs a Boolean exclusive-OR operation between each pair of matching bits in two operands
- Syntax:

XOR destination, source





| х | у | x ⊕ y |
|---|---|-------|
| 0 | 0 | 0     |
| 0 | 1 | 1     |
| 1 | 0 | 1     |
| 1 | 1 | 0     |

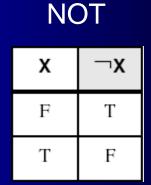
XOR is a useful way to toggle (invert) the bits in an operand.

#### NOT Instruction

- Performs a Boolean NOT operation on a single destination operand
- Syntax:

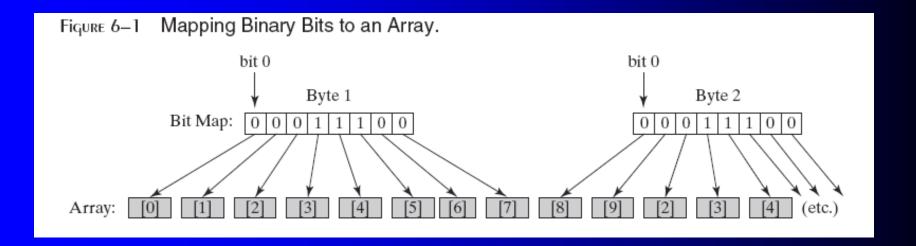
NOT destination

NOT 00111011 11000100 inverted



## Bit-Mapped Sets

- Binary bits indicate set membership
- Efficient use of storage
- Also known as bit vectors



## Bit-Mapped Set Operations

Set Complement

```
mov eax,SetX
not eax
```

Set Intersection

```
mov eax,setX
and eax,setY
```

Set Union

```
mov eax,setX
or eax,setY
```

## Applications (1 of 5)

- Task: Convert the character in AL to upper case.
- Solution: Use the AND instruction to clear bit 5.

```
mov al, 'a' ; AL = 01100001b
and al,11011111b ; AL = 01000001b
```

#### Applications (2 of 5)

- Task: Convert a binary decimal byte into its equivalent ASCII decimal digit.
- Solution: Use the OR instruction to set bits 4 and 5.

```
mov al,6 ; AL = 00000110b
or al,00110000b ; AL = 00110110b
```

The ASCII digit '6' = 00110110b

#### Applications (3 of 5)

- Task: Turn on the keyboard CapsLock key
- Solution: Use the OR instruction to set bit 6 in the keyboard flag byte at 0040:0017h in the BIOS data area.

This code only runs in Real-address mode, and it does not work under Windows NT, 2000, or XP.

## Applications (4 of 5)

- Task: Jump to a label if an integer is even.
- Solution: AND the lowest bit with a 1. If the result is Zero, the number was even.

```
mov ax,wordVal
and ax,1 ; low bit set?
jz EvenValue ; jump if Zero flag set
```

JZ (jump if Zero) is covered in Section 6.3.

Your turn: Write code that jumps to a label if an integer is negative.

## Applications (5 of 5)

- Task: Jump to a label if the value in AL is not zero.
- Solution: OR the byte with itself, then use the JNZ (jump if not zero) instruction.

ORing any number with itself does not change its value.

#### **TEST Instruction**

- Performs a nondestructive AND operation between each pair of matching bits in two operands
- No operands are modified, but the Zero flag is affected.
- Example: jump to a label if either bit 0 or bit 1 in AL is set.

```
test al,00000011b
jnz ValueFound
```

Example: jump to a label if neither bit 0 nor bit 1 in AL is set.

```
test al,00000011b
jz ValueNotFound
```

#### CMP Instruction (1 of 3)

- Compares the destination operand to the source operand
  - Nondestructive subtraction of source from destination (destination operand is not changed)
- Syntax: CMP destination, source
- Example: destination == source

```
mov al,5
cmp al,5
; Zero flag set
```

Example: destination < source</li>

```
mov al,4
cmp al,5
; Carry flag set
```

#### CMP Instruction (2 of 3)

Example: destination > source

```
mov al,6
cmp al,5 ; ZF = 0, CF = 0
```

(both the Zero and Carry flags are clear)

#### CMP Instruction (3 of 3)

The comparisons shown here are performed with signed integers.

Example: destination > source

```
mov al,5
cmp al,-2 ; Sign flag == Overflow flag
```

Example: destination < source</li>

```
mov al,-1
cmp al,5 ; Sign flag != Overflow flag
```

#### What's Next

- Boolean and Comparison Instructions
- Conditional Jumps
- Conditional Loop Instructions
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- Conditional Control Flow Directives

#### **Conditional Jumps**

- Jumps Based On . . .
  - Specific flags
  - Equality
  - Unsigned comparisons
  - Signed Comparisons
- Applications
- Encrypting a String
- Bit Test (BT) Instruction

#### Jcond Instruction

 A conditional jump instruction branches to a label when specific register or flag conditions are met

#### Specific jumps:

```
JB, JC - jump to a label if the Carry flag is set
JE, JZ - jump to a label if the Zero flag is set
JS - jump to a label if the Sign flag is set
JNE, JNZ - jump to a label if the Zero flag is clear
JECXZ - jump to a label if ECX = 0
```

#### Jcond Ranges

- Prior to the 386:
  - jump must be within –128 to +127 bytes from current location counter
- x86 processors:
  - 32-bit offset permits jump anywhere in memory

## 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 |

# **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 Unsigned Comparisons

| 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)                   |
| JВ       | 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)                   |

## 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)                       |

#### Applications (1 of 5)

- Task: Jump to a label if unsigned EAX is greater than EBX
- Solution: Use CMP, followed by JA

```
cmp eax,ebx
ja Larger
```

- Task: Jump to a label if signed EAX is greater than EBX
- Solution: Use CMP, followed by JG

```
cmp eax,ebx
jg Greater
```

## Applications (2 of 5)

Jump to label L1 if unsigned EAX is less than or equal to Val1

Jump to label L1 if signed EAX is less than or equal to Val1

```
cmp eax, Val1
jle L1
```

#### Applications (3 of 5)

 Compare unsigned AX to BX, and copy the larger of the two into a variable named Large

```
mov Large,bx
cmp ax,bx
jna Next
mov Large,ax
Next:
```

 Compare signed AX to BX, and copy the smaller of the two into a variable named Small

```
mov Small,ax
cmp bx,ax
jnl Next
mov Small,bx
Next:
```

## Applications (4 of 5)

 Jump to label L1 if the memory word pointed to by ESI equals Zero

```
cmp WORD PTR [esi],0
je L1
```

 Jump to label L2 if the doubleword in memory pointed to by EDI is even

```
test DWORD PTR [edi],1
jz L2
```

#### Applications (5 of 5)

- Task: Jump to label L1 if bits 0, 1, and 3 in AL are all set.
- Solution: Clear all bits except bits 0, 1,and 3. Then compare the result with 00001011 binary.

#### Your turn . . .

- Write code that jumps to label L1 if either bit 4, 5, or 6 is set in the BL register.
- Write code that jumps to label L1 if bits 4, 5, and 6 are all set in the BL register.
- Write code that jumps to label L2 if AL has even parity.
- Write code that jumps to label L3 if EAX is negative.
- Write code that jumps to label L4 if the expression (EBX – ECX) is greater than zero.

## **Encrypting a String**

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

```
KEY = 239
                       ; can be any byte value
BUFMAX = 128
.data
buffer BYTE BUFMAX+1 DUP(0)
bufSize DWORD BUFMAX
.code
                       ; loop counter
  mov ecx, bufSize
  mov esi,0
                       ; index 0 in buffer
L1:
  ; point to next byte
   inc esi
   loop L1
```

## 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

View the Encrypt.asm program's source code. Sample output:

```
Enter the plain text: Attack at dawn.
```

Cipher text: «¢¢Äîä-Ä¢-ïÄÿü-Gs

Decrypted: Attack at dawn.

## BT (Bit Test) Instruction

- Copies bit n from an operand into the Carry flag
- Syntax: BT bitBase, n
  - bitBase may be r/m16 or r/m32
  - n may be r16, r32, or imm8
- Example: jump to label L1 if bit 9 is set in the AX register:

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### Conditional Loop Instructions

- LOOPZ and LOOPE
- LOOPNZ and LOOPNE

#### LOOPZ and LOOPE

Syntax:

LOOPE destination
LOOPZ destination

- Logic:
  - ECX ← ECX 1
  - if ECX > 0 and ZF=1, jump to destination
- Useful when scanning an array for the first element that does not match a given value.

In 32-bit mode, ECX is the loop counter register. In 16-bit real-address mode, CX is the counter, and in 64-bit mode, RCX is the counter.

#### **LOOPNZ** and **LOOPNE**

- LOOPNZ (LOOPNE) is a conditional loop instruction
- Syntax:

LOOPNZ destination

LOOPNE destination

- Logic:
  - ECX ← 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.

### LOOPNZ Example

The following code finds the first positive value in an array:

```
.data
array SWORD -3,-6,-1,-10,10,30,40,4
sentinel SWORD 0
.code
   mov esi, OFFSET array
   mov ecx, LENGTHOF array
next:
   test WORD PTR [esi],8000h ; test sign bit
                               ; push flags on stack
   pushfd
   add esi, TYPE array
   popfd
                               ; pop flags from stack
   loopnz next
                               ; continue loop
                               ; none found
   jnz quit
   sub esi, TYPE array
                               ; ESI points to value
quit:
```

#### Your turn . . .

Locate the first nonzero value in the array. If none is found, let ESI point to the sentinel value:

```
.data
array SWORD 50 DUP(?)
sentinel SWORD OFFFFh
.code
   mov esi, OFFSET array
   mov ecx, LENGTHOF array
                                    ; check for zero
L1: cmp WORD PTR [esi],0
    (fill in your code here)
quit:
```

# ... (solution)

```
.data
array SWORD 50 DUP(?)
sentinel SWORD OFFFFh
. code
   mov esi, OFFSET array
   mov ecx, LENGTHOF array
L1: cmp WORD PTR [esi],0
                               ; check for zero
   pushfd
                                ; push flags on stack
   add esi, TYPE array
   popfd
                                ; pop flags from stack
   loope L1
                                ; continue loop
                                ; none found
   jz quit
   sub esi,TYPE array
                                ; ESI points to value
quit:
```

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#### **Conditional Structures**

- Block-Structured IF Statements
- Compound Expressions with AND
- Compound Expressions with OR
- WHILE Loops
- Table-Driven Selection

#### Block-Structured IF Statements

Assembly language programmers can easily translate logical statements written in C++/Java into assembly language. For example:

```
if( op1 == op2 )
   X = 1;
else
   X = 2;
```

```
mov eax,op1
  cmp eax,op2
  jne L1
  mov X,1
  jmp L2
L1: mov X,2
L2:
```

#### Your turn . . .

Implement the following pseudocode in 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 are multiple correct solutions to this problem.)

#### Your turn . . .

Implement the following pseudocode in assembly language. All values are 32-bit signed integers:

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

```
mov eax,var1
cmp eax,var2
jle L1
mov var3,6
mov var4,7
jmp L2
L1: mov var3,10
L2:
```

(There are multiple correct solutions to this problem.)

## Compound Expression with AND (1 of 3)

- When implementing the logical AND operator, consider that HLLs use short-circuit evaluation
- In the following example, if the first expression is false, the second expression is skipped:

```
if (al > bl) AND (bl > cl)
  X = 1;
```

### Compound Expression with AND (2 of 3)

```
if (al > bl) AND (bl > cl)
  X = 1;
```

#### This is one possible implementation . . .

### Compound Expression with AND (3 of 3)

```
if (al > bl) AND (bl > cl)
  X = 1;
```

But the following implementation uses 29% less code by reversing the first relational operator. We allow the program to "fall through" to the second expression:

#### Your turn . . .

Implement the following pseudocode 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:
```

(There are multiple correct solutions to this problem.)

### Compound Expression with OR (1 of 2)

- When implementing the logical OR operator, consider that HLLs use short-circuit evaluation
- In the following example, if the first expression is true, the second expression is skipped:

```
if (al > bl) OR (bl > cl)
  X = 1;
```

### Compound Expression with OR (2 of 2)

```
if (al > bl) OR (bl > cl)
  X = 1;
```

We can use "fall-through" logic to keep the code as short as possible:

## WHILE Loops

A WHILE loop is really an IF statement followed by the body of the loop, followed by an unconditional jump to the top of the loop. Consider the following example:

```
while( eax < ebx)
  eax = eax + 1;</pre>
```

This is a possible implementation:

#### Your turn . . .

Implement the following loop, using unsigned 32-bit integers:

```
while( ebx <= val1)
{
    ebx = ebx + 5;
    val1 = val1 - 1
}</pre>
```

#### Table-Driven Selection (1 of 4)

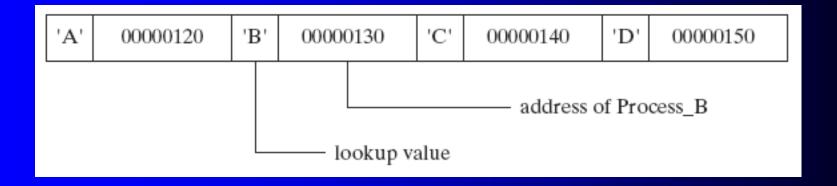
- Table-driven selection uses a table lookup to replace a multiway selection structure
- Create a table containing lookup values and the offsets of labels or procedures
- Use a loop to search the table
- Suited to a large number of comparisons

#### Table-Driven Selection (2 of 4)

Step 1: create a table containing lookup values and procedure offsets:

#### Table-Driven Selection (3 of 4)

#### Table of Procedure Offsets:



#### Table-Driven Selection (4 of 4)

Step 2: Use a loop to search the table. When a match is found, call the procedure offset stored in the current table entry:

```
mov ebx, OFFSET CaseTable
                                   ; point EBX to the table
   mov ecx, NumberOfEntries
                                   ; loop counter
L1: cmp al, [ebx]
                                   ; match found?
   jne L2
                                   ; no: continue
   call NEAR PTR [ebx + 1]
                                   ; yes: call the procedure
   call WriteString
                                   ; display message
   call Crlf
    jmp L3
                                   ; and exit the loop
L2: add ebx, EntrySize
                                   ; point to next entry
    loop L1
                                   ; repeat until ECX = 0
L3:
             required for
           procedure pointers
```

#### What's Next

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### **Application: Finite-State Machines**

- A finite-state machine (FSM) is a graph structure that changes state based on some input. Also called a state-transition diagram.
- We use a graph to represent an FSM, with squares or circles called nodes, and lines with arrows between the circles called edges.

### **Application: Finite-State Machines**

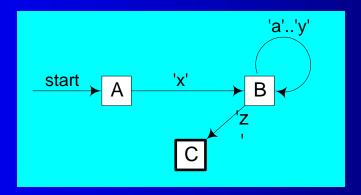
- A FSM is a specific instance of a more general structure called a directed graph.
- Three basic states, represented by nodes:
  - Start state
  - Terminal state(s)
  - Nonterminal state(s)

#### Finite-State Machine

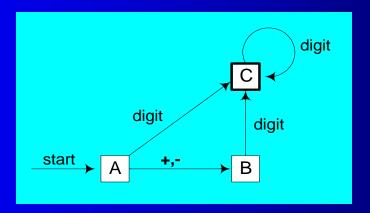
- Accepts any sequence of symbols that puts it into an accepting (final) state
- Can be used to recognize, or validate a sequence of characters that is governed by language rules (called a regular expression)
- Advantages:
  - Provides visual tracking of program's flow of control
  - Easy to modify
  - Easily implemented in assembly language

## Finite-State Machine Examples

 FSM that recognizes strings beginning with 'x', followed by letters 'a'...'y', ending with 'z':

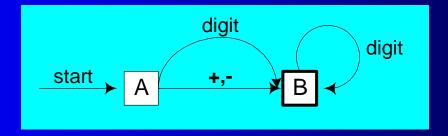


FSM that recognizes signed integers:



#### Your Turn . . .

 Explain why the following FSM does not work as well for signed integers as the one shown on the previous slide:



### Implementing an FSM

The following is code from State A in the Integer FSM:

```
StateA:
   call Getnext
                           ; read next char into AL
   cmp al, '+'
                           ; leading + sign?
   ie StateB
                           ; go to State B
   cmp al, '-'
                           ; leading - sign?
   ie StateB
                           ; go to State B
   call IsDigit
                           ; ZF = 1 if AL = digit
   jz StateC
                           ; go to State C
   call DisplayErrorMsq
                           ; invalid input found
   jmp Quit
```

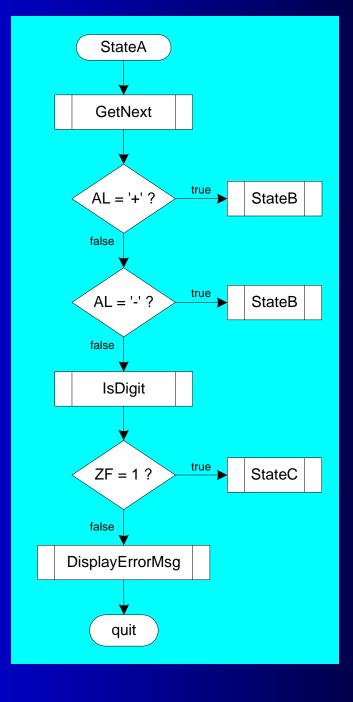
View the Finite.asm source code.

### IsDigit Procedure

Receives a character in AL. Sets the Zero flag if the character is a decimal digit.

#### Flowchart of State A

State A accepts a plus or minus sign, or a decimal digit.



#### Your Turn . . .

- Draw a FSM diagram for hexadecimal integer constant that conforms to MASM syntax.
- Draw a flowchart for one of the states in your FSM.
- Implement your FSM in assembly language. Let the user input a hexadecimal constant from the keyboard.

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## **Creating IF Statements**

- Runtime Expressions
- Relational and Logical Operators
- MASM-Generated Code
- .REPEAT Directive
- .WHILE Directive

### Runtime Expressions

- .IF, .ELSE, .ELSEIF, and .ENDIF can be used to evaluate runtime expressions and create block-structured IF statements.
- Examples:

```
.IF eax > ebx
    mov edx,1
.ELSE
    mov edx,2
.ENDIF
```

```
.IF eax > ebx && eax > ecx
    mov edx,1
.ELSE
    mov edx,2
.ENDIF
```

 MASM generates "hidden" code for you, consisting of code labels, CMP and conditional jump instructions.

# Relational and Logical Operators

| Operator       | Description   |
|----------------|---|
| expr1 == expr2 | Returns true when expression1 is equal to expr2.                          |
| expr1 != expr2 | Returns true when expr1 is not equal to expr2.                            |
| expr1 > expr2  | Returns true when expr1 is greater than expr2.                            |
| expr1 >= expr2 | Returns true when <i>expr1</i> is greater than or equal to <i>expr2</i> . |
| expr1 < expr2  | Returns true when expr1 is less than expr2.                               |
| expr1 <= expr2 | Returns true when expr1 is less than or equal to expr2.                   |
| ! expr         | Returns true when <i>expr</i> is false.                                   |
| expr1 && expr2 | Performs logical AND between expr1 and expr2.                             |
| expr1    expr2 | Performs logical OR between <i>expr1</i> and <i>expr2</i> .               |
| expr1 & expr2  | Performs bitwise AND between expr1 and expr2.                             |
| CARRY?         | Returns true if the Carry flag is set.                                    |
| OVERFLOW?      | Returns true if the Overflow flag is set.                                 |
| PARITY?        | Returns true if the Parity flag is set.                                   |
| SIGN?          | Returns true if the Sign flag is set.                                     |
| ZERO?          | Returns true if the Zero flag is set.                                     |

```
.data
val1   DWORD 5
result DWORD ?

.code
    mov eax,6
mov eax,6
.IF eax > val1
    mov result,1
.ENDIF
Generated code:

mov eax,6
cmp eax,val1
jbe @C0001
mov result,1
@C0001:
```

MASM automatically generates an unsigned jump (JBE) because val1 is unsigned.

```
.data
val1    SDWORD 5
result SDWORD ?

.code
    mov eax,6
mov eax,6
.IF eax > val1
    mov result,1
.ENDIF
Generated code:

mov eax,6
cmp eax,val1
jle @C0001
mov result,1
@C0001:
```

MASM automatically generates a signed jump (JLE) because val1 is signed.

```
.data
result DWORD ?
.code
mov ebx,5
mov eax,6
mov eax,6
.IF eax > ebx
    mov result,1
.ENDIF
Generated code:

mov ebx,5
mov eax,6
cmp eax,ebx
jbe @C0001
mov result,1
@C0001:
```

MASM automatically generates an unsigned jump (JBE) when both operands are registers . . .

```
.data
result SDWORD ?
.code

mov ebx,5
mov eax,6

.IF SDWORD PTR eax > ebx
   mov result,1
.ENDIF
Generated code:

mov ebx,5
mov eax,6
cmp eax,ebx
jle @C0001
mov result,1
@C0001:
```

... unless you prefix one of the register operands with the SDWORD PTR operator. Then a signed jump is generated.

#### .REPEAT Directive

Executes the loop body before testing the loop condition associated with the .UNTIL directive.

#### Example:

```
; Display integers 1 - 10:
mov eax, 0
.REPEAT
   inc eax
   call WriteDec
   call Crlf
.UNTIL eax == 10
```

#### .WHILE Directive

Tests the loop condition before executing the loop body The .ENDW directive marks the end of the loop.

#### Example:

```
; Display integers 1 - 10:

mov eax,0
.WHILE eax < 10
  inc eax
  call WriteDec
  call Crlf
.ENDW</pre>
```

### Summary

- Bitwise instructions (AND, OR, XOR, NOT, TEST)
  - manipulate individual bits in operands
- CMP compares operands using implied subtraction
  - sets condition flags
- Conditional Jumps & Loops
  - equality: JE, JNE
  - flag values: JC, JZ, JNC, JP, ...
  - signed: JG, JL, JNG, ...
  - unsigned: JA, JB, JNA, ...
  - LOOPZ, LOOPNZ, LOOPE, LOOPNE
- Flowcharts logic diagramming tool
- Finite-state machine tracks state changes at runtime



### 4C 6F 70 70 75 75 6E