

Understand  
how to set  
condition codes

Understand  
how to read  
condition codes

Understand  
how CPU uses  
branching



# x86 Transfer Control

- ① Conditional Codes
- ② Jumping

# Three Basic Kinds of Instructions

- Transfer data
  - MOV, LEA
- Arithmetic function
  - ADD, SUB, IMUL, SAL, SAR, SHR, XOR, AND, OR
  - INC, DEC, NEG, NOT
- Transfer control
  - JMP, JE, JNE, JS, JNS, JG, JGE, JL, JLE, JA, JB

# Condition Codes

Implicitly set by  
arithmetic or logical  
operations (~~L~~EA)

CF

Carry Flag

Carry out of the MSB

unsigned

ZF

Zero Flag

0

SF

Sign Flag

Negative value

signed

OF

Overflow Flag

Two's complement overflow

signed

# Condition Codes Examples

CF

(unsigned)  $t < \text{(unsigned) } a$

ZF

$t == 0$

**$t = a + b$**

SF

$t < 0$

OF

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

# Set Condition Codes

**CMP** S1, S2

**cmpb cmpw cmpl cmpq**

Sets condition codes based on  $S2 - S1$

**cmpq %rax, %rbx**

CF

ZF

SF

OF

**TEST** S1, S2

**testb testw testl testq**

Sets condition codes based on S2 & S1

**testq %rax, %rax**

CF

ZF

SF

OF

# Accessing the Condition Codes

1. Set a byte to 0 or 1
2. Conditionally jump to other program part
3. Conditionally transfer data

# The SET Instructions

## 1. Set a byte to 0 or 1

SET     D

sete	setne	sets	setns
setg	setge	setl	setle
seta	setae	setb	setbe

comp:

```
cmpq %rsi, %rdi
setl %al
movzbl %al, %eax
ret
```

**a < b**

0x1

rax

eax

al

# SET Instructions

Instruction	Synonym	Condition	Description
sete	setz	ZF	Equal / Zero
setne	setnz	$\sim$ ZF	Not Equal / Not Zero
sets		SF	Negative
setns		$\sim$ SF	Nonnegative
setg	setnle	$\sim$ (SF^OF)& $\sim$ ZF	Greater (signed)
setge	setnl	$\sim$ (SF^OF)	Greater or Equal
setl	setnge	(SF^OF)	Less (signed)
setle	setng	(SF^OF) ZF	Less or Equal
seta	setnbe	$\sim$ CF& $\sim$ ZF	Above (unsigned)
setae	setnb	$\sim$ CF	Above or Equal
setb	setnae	CF	Below (unsigned)
setbe	setna	CF   ZF	Below or Equal



# Accessing the Condition Codes

## 2. Conditionally jump to other program part

J      Label

je	jne	js	jns
jg	jge	jl	jle
ja	jae	jb	jbe

jmp label

jmp \*Operand

} Unconditional jumps

# Conditional Jumps

Instruction	Synonym	Condition	Description
je	jz	ZF	Equal / Zero
jne	jnz	$\sim$ ZF	Not Equal / Not Zero
js		SF	Negative
jns		$\sim$ SF	Nonnegative
jg	jnle	$\sim$ (SF^OF)& $\sim$ ZF	Greater (signed)
jge	jnl	$\sim$ (SF^OF)	Greater or Equal
jl	jnge	(SF^OF)	Less (signed)
jle	jng	(SF^OF) ZF	Less or Equal
ja	jnbe	$\sim$ CF& $\sim$ ZF	Above (unsigned)
jae	jnb	$\sim$ CF	Above or Equal
jb	jnae	CF	Below (unsigned)
jbe	jna	CF   ZF	Below or Equal

# Jump Instruction Example

```
long absdiff
(long x, long y)
{
    long result;
    if (x > y)
        result = x-y;
    else
        result = y-x;
    return result;
}
```

x in %rdi  
y in %rsi

```
absdiff:
    cmpq    %rsi, %rdi
    jle     .L4
    movq    %rdi, %rax
    subq    %rsi, %rax
    ret
.L4:
    movq    %rsi, %rax
    subq    %rdi, %rax
    ret
```

# Accessing the Condition Codes

## 3. Conditionally transfer data

**CMOV S, R**

<code>cmovne</code>	<code>cmovne</code>	<code>cmovs</code>	<code>cmovns</code>
<code>cmovg</code>	<code>cmovge</code>	<code>cmovl</code>	<code>cmovle</code>
<code>cmova</code>	<code>cmovae</code>	<code>cmovb</code>	<code>cmovbe</code>

not require control transfer

# Conditional Move

Instruction	Synonym	Condition	Description
cmove	cmovz	ZF	Equal / Zero
cmovne	cmovnz	$\sim$ ZF	Not Equal / Not Zero
cmovs		SF	Negative
cmovns		$\sim$ SF	Nonnegative
cmovg	cmovnle	$\sim$ (SF^OF)& $\sim$ ZF	Greater (signed)
cmovge	cmovnl	$\sim$ (SF^OF)	Greater or Equal
cmovl	cmovnge	(SF^OF)	Less (signed)
cmovle	cmovng	(SF^OF) ZF	Less or Equal
cmova	cmovnbe	$\sim$ CF& $\sim$ ZF	Above (unsigned)
cmovae	cmovnb	$\sim$ CF	Above or Equal
cmovb	cmovnae	CF	Below (unsigned)
cmovbe	cmovna	CF   ZF	Below or Equal

# CMOV Instruction Example

```
long absdiff
(long x, long y)
{
    long result;
    if (x > y)
        result = x-y;
    else
        result = y-x;
    return result;
}
```

x in %rdi  
y in %rsi

```
absdiff:
    movq    %rdi, %rax
    subq    %rsi, %rax
    movq    %rsi, %rdx
    subq    %rdi, %rdx
    cmpq    %rsi, %rdi
    cmovle  %rdx, %rax
    ret
```

# Do-While Loops

```
long pcount_do
(unsigned long x)
{
    long result = 0;
    do {
        result += x & 0x1;
        x >>= 1;
    } while (x);
    return result;
}
```

x in %rdi

```
pcount_do:
    movl    $0, %eax
.L2:
    movq    %rdi, %rdx
    andl    $1, %edx
    addq    %rdx, %rax
    shrq    %rdi
    jne     .L2
    rep; ret
```

# Do-While Loops

```
long pcount_goto
(unsigned long x)
{
    long result = 0;
loop:
    result += x & 0x1;
    x >>= 1;
    if(x) goto loop;
    return result;
}
```

x in %rdi

```
pcount_do:
    movl    $0, %eax
.L2:
    movq    %rdi, %rdx
    andl    $1, %edx
    addq    %rdx, %rax
    shrq    %rdi
    jne     .L2
    rep; ret
```



# “Do-While” Translation

```
do  
  Body  
while (Test);
```



```
Loop:  
  Body  
  if (Test)  
    goto Loop
```

```
while (Test)  
  Body;
```



```
goto test;  
loop:  
  Body  
test:  
  if (Test)  
    goto loop;  
done:
```

# While Loop Example 1

```
long pcount_while
(unsigned long x) {
    long result = 0;
    while (x) {
        result += x & 0x1;
        x >>= 1;
    }
    return result;
}
```

```
long pcount_goto_jtm
(unsigned long x)
{
    long result = 0;
    goto test;
loop:
    result += x & 0x1;
    x >>= 1;
test:
    if(x) goto loop;
    return result;
}
```

# “While” Translation

```
while (Test)  
  Body
```



```
if (!Test)  
  goto done;  
do  
  Body  
  while(Test);  
done:
```



```
if (!Test)  
  goto done;  
loop:  
  Body  
  if (Test)  
    goto loop;  
done:
```

# While Loop Example 2

```
long pcount_while
(unsigned long x) {
    long result = 0;
    while (x) {
        result += x & 0x1;
        x >>= 1;
    }
    return result;
}
```

```
long pcount_goto_dw
(unsigned long x)
{
    long result = 0;
    if (!x) goto done;
loop:
    result += x & 0x1;
    x >>= 1;
    if(x) goto loop;
done:
    return result;
}
```

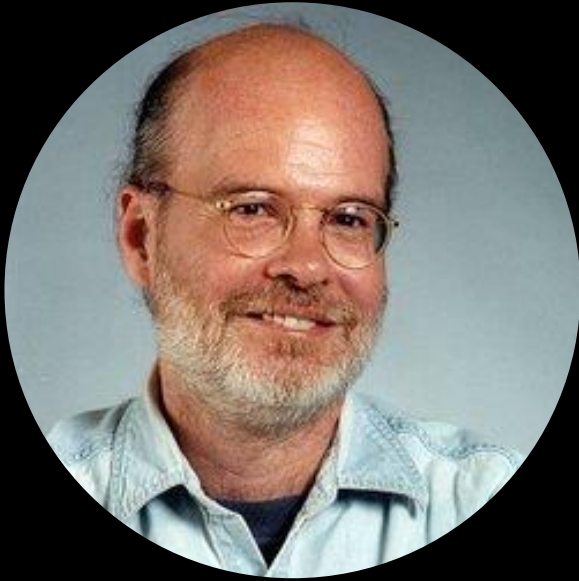
# For Loops

```
#define WSIZE 8*sizeof(int)
long pcount_for (unsigned long x)
{
    size_t i;
    long result = 0;
    for (i = 0; i < WSIZE; i++)
    {
        unsigned bit = (x >> i) & 0x1;
        result += bit;
    }
    return result;
}
```

```
long pcount_for_goto_dw (unsigned long x) {
    size_t i;
    long result = 0;
    i = 0;
    if (!(i < WSIZE))
        goto done;
loop:
    {
        unsigned bit = (x >> i) & 0x1;
        result += bit;
    }
    i++;
    if (i < WSIZE)
        goto loop;
done:
    return result;
}
```

# Summary

- Transfer control
  - JMP
  - JE, JNE, JS, JNS, JG, JGE, JL, JLE, JA, JB
- Condition Codes
  - CF, ZF, SF, OF
  - CMP, TEST, SET
  - CMOV



Charles Petzold

American programmer, Microsoft MVP

“ Programming in machine code is like eating with a toothpick.

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