

Get to know the  
condition codes

Understand  
how computer  
control  
program flow

Understand  
looping and  
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
<code>cmove</code>	<code>cmovz</code>	ZF	Equal / Zero
<code>cmovne</code>	<code>cmovnz</code>	$\sim$ ZF	Not Equal / Not Zero
<code>cmovs</code>		SF	Negative
<code>cmovns</code>		$\sim$ SF	Nonnegative
<code>cmovg</code>	<code>cmovnle</code>	$\sim$ (SF^OF)& $\sim$ ZF	Greater (signed)
<code>cmovge</code>	<code>cmovnl</code>	$\sim$ (SF^OF)	Greater or Equal
<code>cmovl</code>	<code>cmovnge</code>	(SF^OF)	Less (signed)
<code>cmovle</code>	<code>cmovng</code>	(SF^OF) ZF	Less or Equal
<code>cmova</code>	<code>cmovnbe</code>	$\sim$ CF& $\sim$ ZF	Above (unsigned)
<code>cmovae</code>	<code>cmovnb</code>	$\sim$ CF	Above or Equal
<code>cmovb</code>	<code>cmovnae</code>	CF	Below (unsigned)
<code>cmovbe</code>	<code>cmovna</code>	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;
}
```

```

void switch_eg
(long x, long n, long *dest)
{
    long val = x;
    switch(n) {
    case 100:
        val *= 13;
        break;
    case 102:
        val += 10;
        /* Fall Through */
    case 103:
        val += 11;
        break;
    case 104:
    case 106:
        val *= val;
        break;
    default:
        val = 0;
    }
    *dest = val;
}

```

Block 0

Block 1

Block 2

Block 3

Block 4

nt

```

switch_eg:
    subq    $100,%rsi
    cmpq    $6,%rsi
    ja      .L8
    jmp     *.L4(,%rsi,8)
.L3:
    leaq    (%rdi,%rdi,2),%rax
    leaq    (%rdi,%rax,4),%rdi
    jmp     .L2
.L5:
    addq    $10,%rdi
.L6:
    addq    $11,%rdi
    jmp     .L2
.L7:
    imulq   %rdi,%rdi
    jmp     .L2
.L8:
    movl    $0,%edi
.L2:
    movq    %rdi,(%rdx)
    ret

```

Block 0

Block 1

Block 2

Block 3

Block 4

# Jump table

Jump to  $.L4 + \%rsi \times 8$

```
.section .rodata
.align 8
.L4:
    .quad    .L3
    .quad    .L8
    .quad    .L5
    .quad    .L6
    .quad    .L7
    .quad    .L8
    .quad    .L7
```

```
switch_eg:
```

```
    subq    $100,%rsi
    cmpq    $6,%rsi
    ja      .L8
    jmp     *.L4(,%rsi,8)
```

```
.L3:
```

```
100    leaq    (%rdi,%rdi,2),%rax
101    leaq    (%rdi,%rax,4),%rdi
102    jmp     .L2
```

Block 0

```
.L5:
```

```
102    addq    $10,%rdi
```

Block 1

```
.L6:
```

```
103    addq    $11,%rdi
104    jmp     .L2
```

Block 2

```
.L7:
```

```
104    imulq   %rdi,%rdi
106    jmp     .L2
```

Block 3

```
.L8:
```

```
    movl     $0,%edi
```

Block 4

```
.L2:
```

```
    movq     %rdi,(%rdx)
    ret
```



# Jump table

Jump to  $.L4 + \%rsi \times 8$

```
.section .rodata
.align 8
.L4:
    .quad    .L3
    .quad    .L8
    .quad    .L5
    .quad    .L6
    .quad    .L7
    .quad    .L8
    .quad    .L7
```

Block 0

.L3

Block 1

.L5

Block 2

.L6

Block 3

.L7

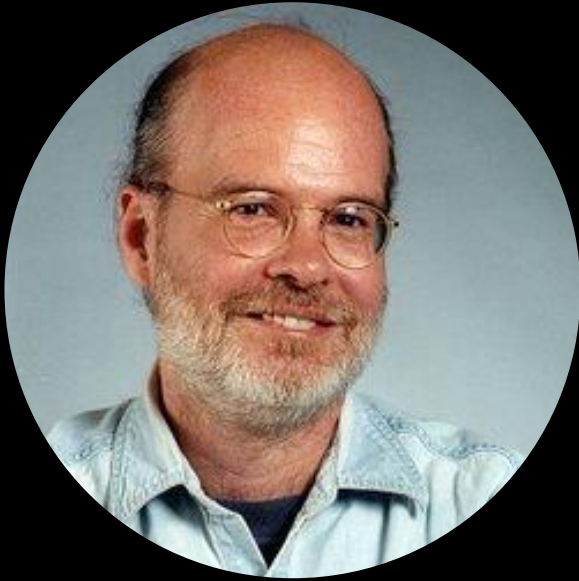
Block 4

.L8

.L4

# 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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