x86 Introduction

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x86

- Yet another processor architecture...

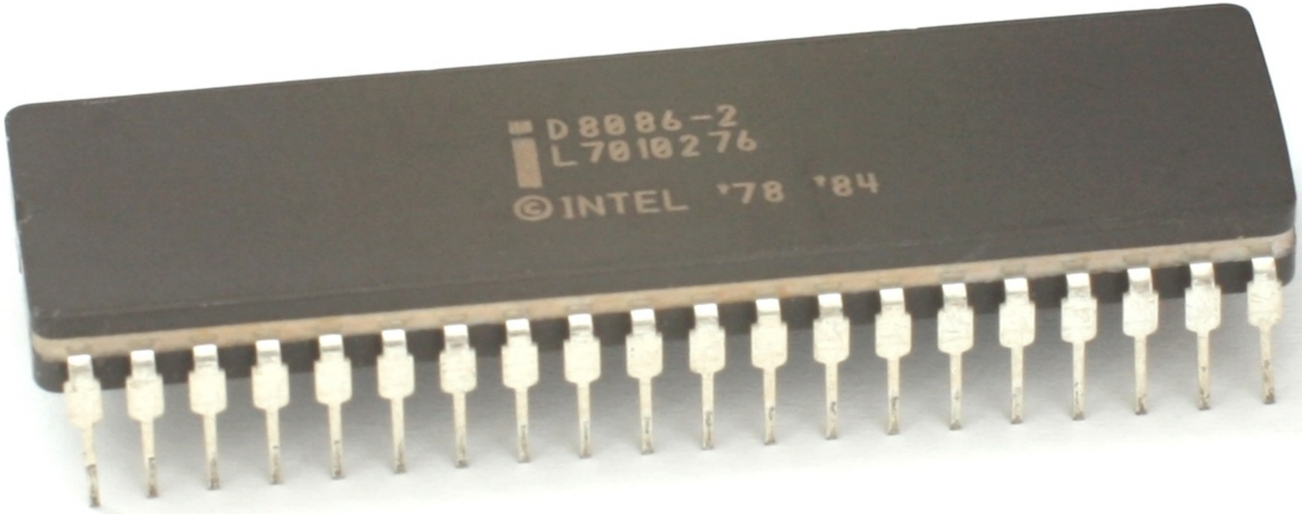
- Why do we care?

- x86 is the dominant chip in today's computers (Mac, Windows, Linux)
  - 100 million chips sold per year
  - $5 billion annual development budget

- We will focus on C programs get compiled into x86 machine code

history

8086



- 16-bit processer released in 1978 by Intel
- 8 16-bit internal registers, 20-bit address bus
- Ahead of its time, too expensive, slow sales
- 8-bit processors dominated the market

8088

- Scaled down version of 8068

- 8-bit data bus instead of 16-bit

- But looked the same from programmer's perspective

- Clock speed 4.77 MHz

- Chosen by IBM for its PC, released 1981
  - IBM PC for sale for $1,265 ($3,360 in 2016 dollars)
  - Apple][for sale for $1,355 ($3,599 in 2016 dollars)

80286

- Released by intel in 1981, used in IBM AT in 1984
- More instructions, e.g., support for multi-tasking
- Faster
  - clock speed 4.77 MHz $\rightarrow$ 6 MHz
  - average number of cycles per instructions 12 $\rightarrow$ 4.5
- Downward compatible: "real" mode vs. "protected" mode

386

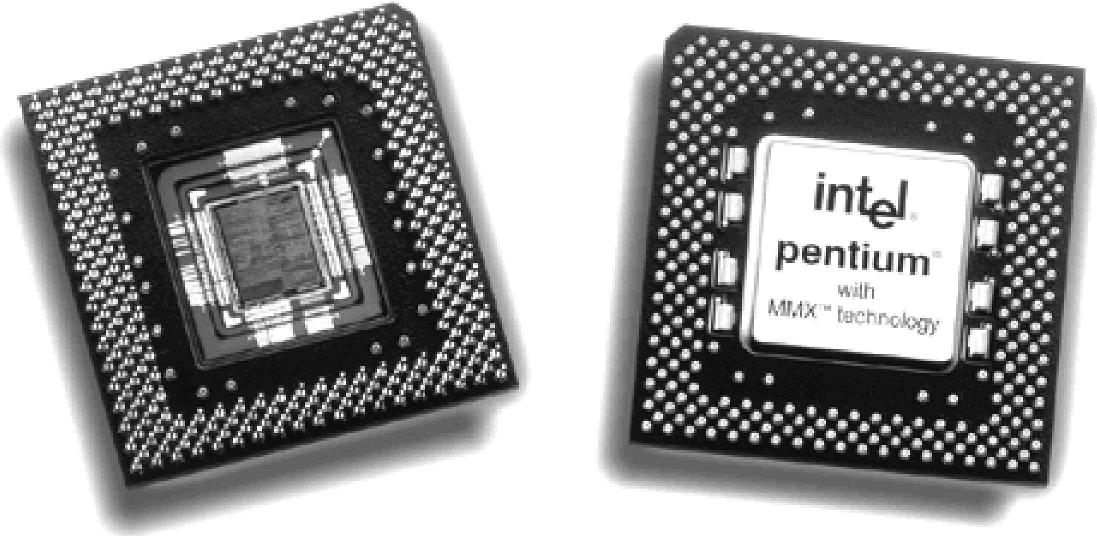
- Released in 1985, in computers late 1986, popular until early 1990s
- 32-bit processor, but downward compatible to 286, 8086
- Virtual real mode
  - allows different processes use different parts of memory
  - crashes do not affect whole systems

  → true multi-tasking

486

- Up to 120 MHz
- Average number of cycles per instructions 4 $\rightarrow$ 2
- Internal L1 cache (hit ratio 90-95%)
- Burst memory (after initial load, 12 bytes transfered in 1 cycle)
- Internal math co-processor
- Enabled graphical user interfaces ("Windows")

586 (Pentium)



- 75-266 MHz
- 2 data paths: can execute 2 instructions in parallel
- 2 internal caches: instruction and data

And so on...

- 1995 Pentium Pro: Conditional move instruction
- 1997 Pentium MMX: Instructions for 64 bit vectors of integers
- 1999 Pentium III: Instructions for 128 bit vectors of floats
- 2000 Pentium 4: Double precision floating point
- 2004 Pentium 4E: 64 bit, hyper-threading of 2 processes in parallel
- 2006 Core 2: Multiple cores on chip
- 2008 Core i7: 4 cores $\times$ 2 hyperthreading
- 2011 Core i7: 256 bit vector instructions

Today: Intel Xeon Platinum 8180M

- 28 cores, 56 threads
- 2.5-3.8 GHz
- 38.5 MB Cache (L1, L2, L3)
- Can address 1.5 TB RAM
- Uses 205 Watt
- List price $13011

architecture

RISC vs. CISC

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- CISC = Complex Instruction Set Computer, e.g., x86
  - instructions of different complexity and length (1-15 bytes)
  - some very complex: vector operations on floats
  - complexities, but were increasingly addressed with more hardware (Xeon E7 processors have 2.6 billion transistors)

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- Stack pointer: SP
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- Additional floating point registers: ST(0)-ST(7)

Operands

- As in 6502, operands can be registers and memory locations

- For instance addition
  - `add EAX, EBX    ; add two registers`
  - `add EAX, 42     ; add value 42 to register value`
  - `add EAX, [ff02] ; add value from memory location ff02 to register`
  - `add [ff02], EAX ; as above, store result in memory`
  - `add [ff02], 20  ; add 20 to value stored in memory location ff02`

Addressing Modes

- Addressing modes similar to 6502
  - mov [ff02], EAX ; load from address ff02
  - mov [ESP], EAX ; load from address specified in register ESP
  - mov [ESP+40], EAX ; address is register value + 40
  - mov [ESP+EBX], EAX ; address is sum of register values

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- To deal with different data sizes: scaled index
  - mov [60+EDI*4], EAX ; scale index register value
  - mov [60+EDI*4+EBX], EAX ; scale index register, add base

Data Sizes

- Operations work on 8, 16, 32, or 64 bit data sizes

- Examples
  - add AH, BL ; 8 bit
  - add AX, BX ; 16 bit
  - add AX, -1 ; 16 bit (-1 = ffff)

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  - `add EAX, EBX    ; 32 bit`
  - `add EAX, -1     ; 16 bit (-1 = ffffffff)`
  - `add RAX, RBX    ; 64 bit`

Data Types

C	Intel type	Assembly suffix	Bytes
char	byte	b	1
short	word	w	2
int	double word	l	4
long	quad word	q	8
float	single precision	s	4
double	double precision	d	8

Status Flags

- Same kind of status flags as 6502
  - CF: carry flag
  - ZF: zero flag
  - SF: sign flag
  - OF: overflow flag

- Used in conditional branches
  - jz: jump if zero
  - jc: jump if carry

instructions

Data Movement

- Just one command: mov
- Used for
  - load
  - store
  - transfer between registers
  - copy from memory to memory

Stack Operations

- Basic stack operations
  - push: place value on stack
  - pop: retrieve value from stack
- Jumps
  - call: call a subroutine (store return address on stack)
  - ret: return from sub routine

Arithmetic and Logic

- Basic math: add, sub, mul, div, neg
- Counter: inc, dec
- Boolean: and, or, xor, not
- Shift: shl, shr

Control

- Compare two values: `cmp`
- Test (Boolean and): `test`
- Map flags to register: `setz, setnz, ...`
- Jump: `jmp`
- Branch: `jz, jnz, ...`
- Conditional move: `cmovz, cmovnz, ...`

Code Example: Fibonacci

- Note: 32 bit indicated by
  - l (long int) in instructions: movl
  - extended register names: %eax, %ebx, %ecx, %edx

```
    movl $0, %ebx                ; ebx = secondlast = 1
    movl $1, %eax                ; eax = last = 0
loop:
    cmp  $0, %ecx                ; %ecx is input value n
    jne  end                     ; if n != 0 loop
    movl %eax, %edx              ; tmp = last
    add  %edx, %ebx              ; tmp += secondlast
    movl %ebx, %eax              ; shift last -> secondlast
    movl %edx, %ebx              ; shift tmp -> last
    dec  %ecx                    ; n = n - 1
    jmp loop
end:
```

Vector Operations

- 128 bit allows encoding of 4 single precision floats (32 bit each)

- Instructions that
  - load vector of 4 floats into memory
  - multiply each element of a vector
  - store vector of 4 floats

- Example

```
movups %xmm0,[%ebx+%ebx] ; loads 4 floats in first register (xmm0)
movups %xmm1,[%eax+%ebx] ; loads 4 floats in second register (xmm1)
mulps %xmm0,%xmm1        ; multiplies both vector registers
movups [%eax+%ebx],%xmm0 ; write back the result to memory
```