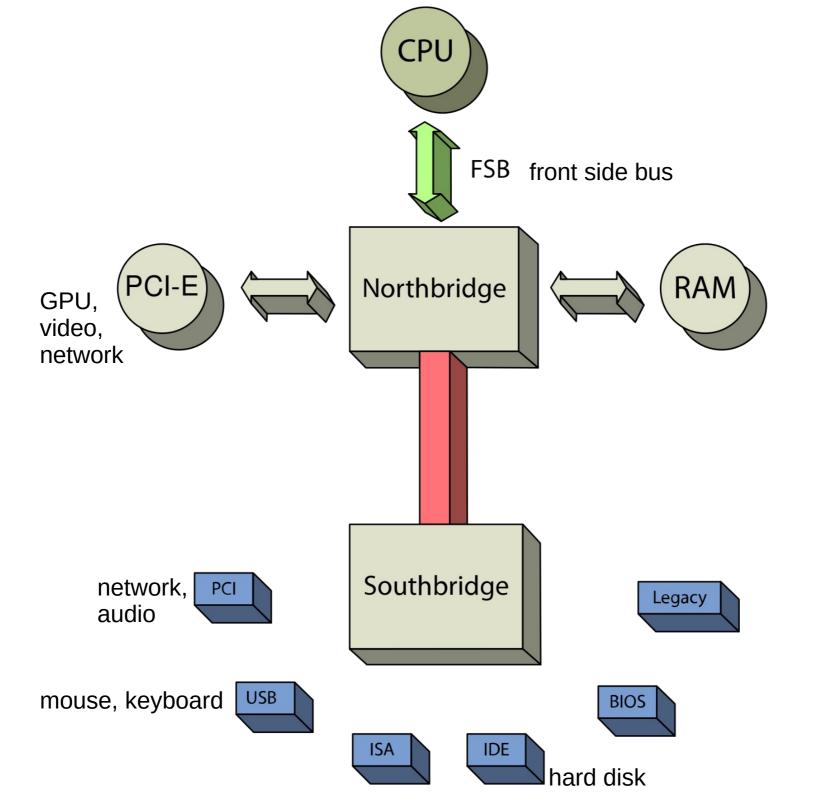
Intel 32-bit architecture

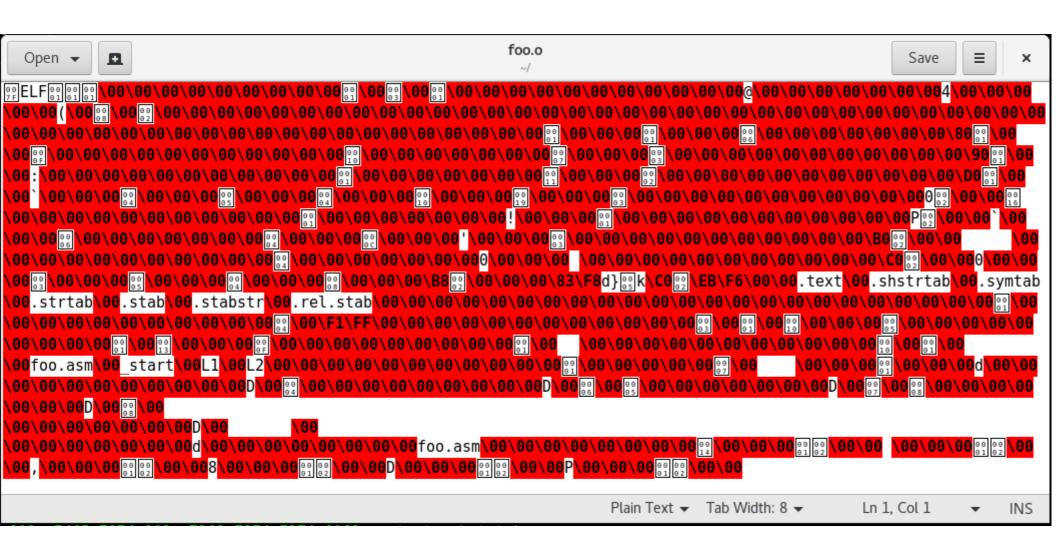
Also known as:

- IA-32
- x86
- x86-32



```
; A simple x86 program mov eax, 2
L1:
cmp eax, 100
jge L2
imul eax, 2
jmp L1
L2:
```

- nasm -f elf -gstabs foo.asm
- Id -o foo -m elf_i386 foo.o

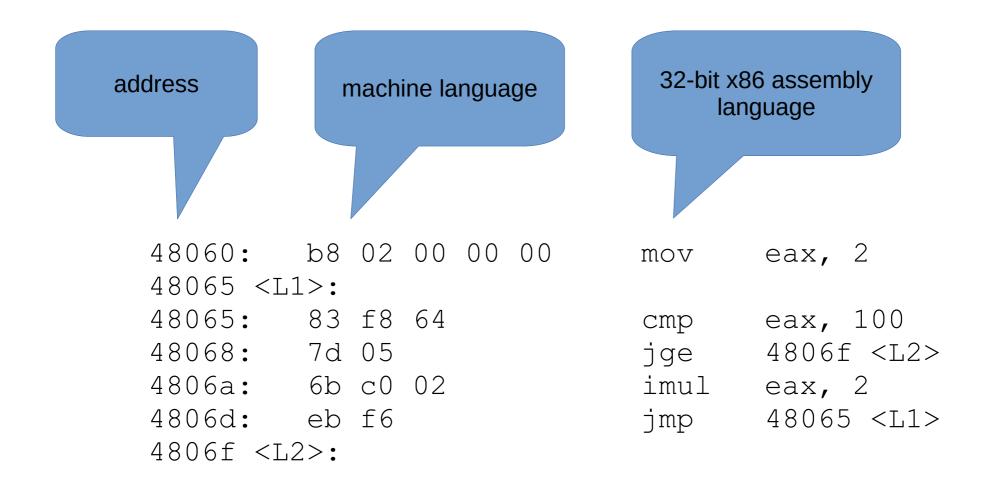


foo.o - GHex

File Edit View Windows Help 0000017200 00 05 00 00 00 04 00 00 08 00 00 08 00 00 08 8 02 00 00 83 F8 64 7D 05 6B C0 02 EB F6 00 00 2E 74 65 78 74 00d}.k....text. 000001972E 73 68 73 74 72 74 61 62 00 2E 73 79 6D 74 61 62 00 2E 73 74 72 74 61 62 00 2E 73 74 61 62 00 2E 73 74 61 62 .shstrtab..symtab..strtab..stab..stab str..rel.stab........... 000001E100 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 04 00 F1 FF 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 03 00 01 00 10 00 00 05 00 0000020600 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 01 00 13 00 00 0F 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 01 00 09 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 0000022B00 10 00 01 00 00 66 6F 6F 2E 61 73 6D 00 5F 73 74 61 72 74 00 4C 31 00 4C 32 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00foo.asm. start.L1.L2....... 0000027500 00 00 44 00 06 00 05 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 44 00 07 00 08 00 00 00 00 00 00 44 00 08 00 0A 00 00 00 00 00 ..D.....d....d....foo.asm..... 000002BF00 14 00 00 00 01 02 00 00 20 00 00 01 02 00 00 00 01 02 00 00 20 00 00 01 02 00 00 38 00 00 00 01 02 00 00 44 00 00 00 000002E401 02 00 00 50 00 00 00 01 02 00 00 P

32-bit x86 assembly address machine language language 0:b8 02 00 00 00 eax,0x2mov 5:83 f8 64 eax, 0x64 cmp 8:7d 05 jge 0xf a: 6b c0 02 imul eax,0x2d:eb f6 0x5 jmp

Object file disassembly. No symbols, addresses start from zero.



Executable file disassembly. Symbols are maintained, addresses are absolute.

helloworld.asm
Assembly language
source code.
(You write this,)

helloworld.o
Object file.
We don't care much
about this in this class.

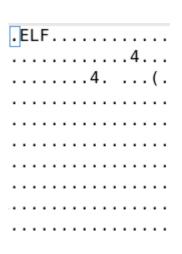
helloworld
(or helloworld.exe on Windows)
Machine language executable.
(You run this.)

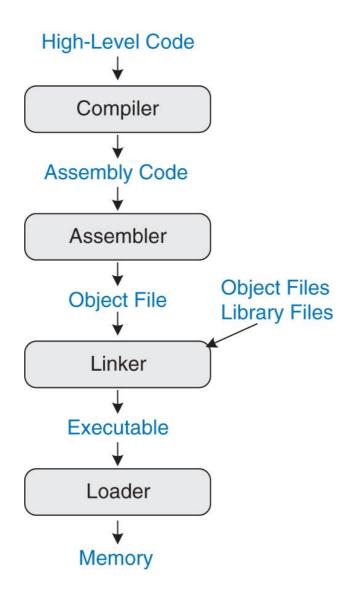
```
section .data
hello_text: db "Hello, world", 10
hello_text_len equ $-hello_text
section .text
global _start
_start:
    mov eax, 4
    mov ebx, 1
    mov ecx, hello_text
    mov edx, hello_text_len
    int 80h
    mov eax, 1
assemble
    nasm
```

mov ebx,0 int 80h

intermediary object file

link ld





Steps for translating and starting a program

```
#include <stdio.h>

// function declaration
int another_function();

int main() {
    // function call
    int val = another_function();
    printf("%d\n", val);
    return 0;
}
```

```
// function definition
int another_function() {
   return 42;
}
```



test



gcc -o test a.c b.c

stdio.h

```
This function is a possible cancellation point and therefore not marked with __THROW. */

extern int printf (const char *__restrict __format, ...);

/* Write formatted output to S. */

extern int sprintf (char *__restrict __s,

const char *__restrict __format, ...) __THROWNL;
```

Header files usually contain declarations, not definitions.

```
main.asm
section .text
global start
extern helper function
start:
    call helper function
    mov eax, 1
    mov ebx, 0
     int 80h
nasm -f elf -gstabs main.asm -o main.o
main.o
```

```
helper.asm
```

```
section .data
the string: db "Hello from helper", 10
section .text
global helper function
helper function:
   push ebp
    mov ebp, esp
   mov eax, 4
   mov ebx, 1
   mov ecx, the string
   mov edx, 18
    int 80h
   mov esp, ebp
   pop ebp
    ret
```

nasm -f elf -gstabs helper.asm -o helper.o

helper.o

```
main.asm
                                                helper.asm
                                                 section .data
section .text
                                                 the string: db "Hello from helper", 10
global start
                                                 section .text
extern helper function
                                                global helper function
 start:
                                                helper function:
     call helper function
                                                     push ebp
                                                     mov ebp, esp
     mov eax, 1
     mov ebx, 0
                                                matching extern and global
     int 80h
                                          allow symbols to be declared in different
                                                translation unit than defined
nasm -f elf -gstabs main.asm -o main.o
                                                     mov esp, ebp
                                                     pop ebp
                                                     ret
main.o
                                                nasm -f elf -gstabs helper.asm -o helper.o
                                                       helper.o
```

nm tool will examine contents of object files.

T -- identifies an exported code symbol defined in this module

U -- identifies an symbol undefined in this module

d -- identifies a non-exported data symbol defined in this module

```
objdump -t main.o
main.o:
         file format elf32-i386
SYMBOL TABLE:
00000000 l df *ABS* 00000000 main.asm
00000000 l d .text 00000000 .text
0000000
             *UND* 00000000 helper_function
00000000 g
              .text 00000000 start
 objdump -t helper.o
           file format elf32-i386
helper.o:
SYMBOL TABLE:
00000000 l
                   00000000 helper.asm
           df *ABS*
00000000 l
           d .data 00000000 .data
00000000 l d .text 00000000 .text
00000000 q
              .text 00000000 helper function
```

```
main.o
```

main.o: file format elf32-i386

Disassembly of section .text:

00000000 < start>:

0: call 1 < start + 0x1 >

5: mov eax,0x1 a: mov ebx,0x0

f: int 0x80



helper.o

helper.o: file format elf32-i386

Disassembly of section .text:

00000000 <helper function>:

0: push ebp

1: mov ebp,esp

3: mov = eax, 0x4

8: mov = ebx, 0x1

d: mov = ecx, 0x0

12: mov = edx, 0x11

17: int 0x80

19: mov esp,ebp

1b: pop ebp

1c: ret

ld -o test -m elf_i386 main.o helper.o

test





```
main.o
            file format elf32-i386
main.o:
Disassembly of section .text:
00000000 < start>:
        call
               1 < start+0x1>
   0:
   5:
              eax,0x1
        mov
              ebx,0x0
   a:
        mov
   f:
        int
               0x80
```

helper.o

```
file format elf32-i386
helper.o:
Disassembly of section .text:
00000000 <helper function>:
   0:
       push
              ebp
   1:
              ebp,esp
       mov
   3:
              eax,0x4
       mov
   8:
              ebx,0x1
       mov
  d:
       mov
              ecx,0x0
              edx,0x11
  12:
       mov
  17:
       int
              0x80
  19:
       mov
              esp,ebp
  1b:
       pop
              ebp
  1c:
       ret
```

disassembly of object files shows code, but call destination is invalid, and addresses are relative

ld -o test -m elf_i386 main.o helper.o

test

```
test
```

804903c:

с3

```
file format elf32-i386
test:
Disassembly of section .text:
08049000 < start>:
 8049000: e8 1b 00 00 00
                                    call
                                           8049020 <helper function>
 8049005: b8 01 00 00 00
                                           eax,0x1
                                    mov
 804900a: bb 00 00 00 00
                                           ebx,0x0
                                    mov
 804900f:
           cd 80
                                           0x80
                                    int
08049020 <helper function>:
 8049020:
            55
                                    push
                                           ebp
 8049021: 89 e5
                                           ebp,esp
                                    mov
 8049023: b8 04 00 00 00
                                           eax,0x4
                                    mov
 8049028: bb 01 00 00 00
                                           ebx,0x1
                                    mov
          b9 00 a0 04 08
 804902d:
                                           ecx,0x804a000
                                    mov
 8049032:
           ba 12 00 00 00
                                           edx,0x12
                                    mov
            cd 80
 8049037:
                                           0x80
                                    int
 8049039:
           89 ec
                                           esp,ebp
                                    mov
 804903b:
            5d
                                           ebp
                                    pop
```

ret

```
test
```

```
file format elf32-i386
test:
Disassembly of section .text:
08049000 < start>:
 8049000: e8 1b 00 00 00
                                    call
                                           8049020 <helper function>
 8049005: b8 01 00 00 00
                                           eax,0x1
                                    mov
 804900a: bb 00 00 00 00
                                           ebx,0x0
                                    mov
 804900f:
            cd 80
                                            0x80
                                    int
08049020 <helper function>:
 8049020:
            55
                                    push
                                           ebp
 8049021: 89 e5
                                           ebp,esp
                                    mov
 8049023: b8 04 00 00 00
                                           eax,0x4
                                    mov
 8049028: bb 01 00 00 00
                                           ebx,0x1
                                    mov
          b9 00 a0 04 08
 804902d:
                                           ecx,0x804a000
                                    mov
 8049032:
            ba 12 00 00 00
                                            edx,0x12
                                             90
 8049037:
            cd 80
                                    in
 8049039:
            89 ec
                                    mov
 804903b:
            5d
                                    pop
 804903c:
            с3
```

Linked executable code.

Addresses are absolute. Symbol references are resolved.

```
demo2.c
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
int helper function();
int main() {
    int val = helper function();
   printf("%d\n", val);
    return 0;
```

demo1.asm

```
section .text
global helper function
helper function:
    mov eax, 42
    ret
```

nasm -f elf -gstabs demo1.asm -o demo1.o





gcc -o demo2 demo2.c demo1.o -m32



demo2

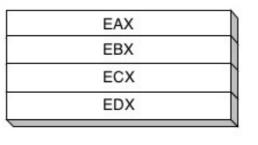
E15 vs E20 vs IA-32

| | E15 | E20 | IA-32 |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| Memory | Sixteen 12-bit cells of instruction ROM, no data memory | 8192 16-bit cells of mixed instruction/data RAM | Up to 4GB of mixed instruction/data RAM |
| Registers | Four 4-bit registers | Seven general- purpose 16-bit registers | Eight 32-bit general- purpose, eight 80-bit floating point, six 32-bit segment registers, plus various vector, debug, and system registers |
| Instructions | 11 unique instruction mnemonics | 13 instructions, 3 psuedo-instructions | About 981 unique instruction mnemonics, considerably more if variations of operand type are taken into account |
| Real-world use | none | none | Probably in your computer right now |

32-bit General-Purpose Registers

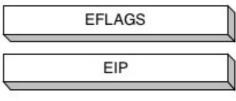
Our basic 32-bit registers are EAX, EBX, ECX, EDX, EBP, ESP, ESI, and EDI.

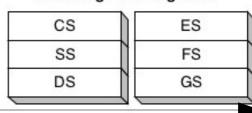
We will ignore the segment registers CS, SS, DS, ES, FS, GS.





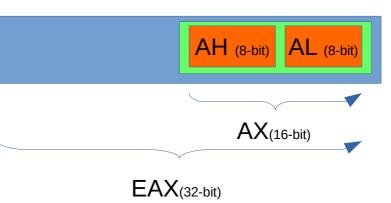
16-bit Segment Registers





Portions of EAX, EBX, ECX, and EDX can be named and accessed separately.

We have 16-bit registers AX, BX, CX, DX; and 8-bit registers AH, AL, BH, BL, CH, CL, DH, DL.



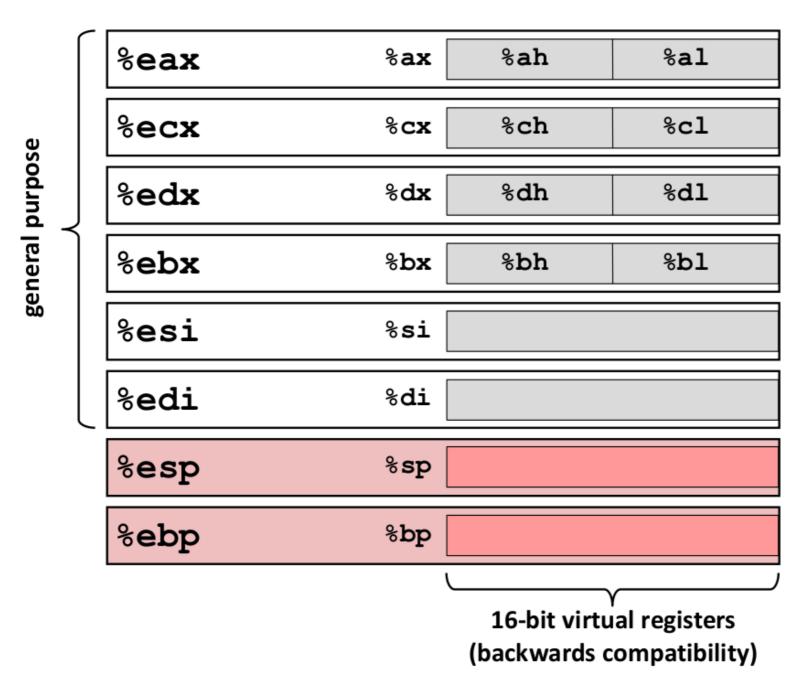
Portions of EBP, ESP, ESI, and EDI can be named and accessed separately.

We have 16-bit registers BP, SP, SI, and DI.



EIP cannot be accessed directly, but it can be changed with the JMP instruction. EFLAGS cannot be accessed directly, but it contains important bit-size flags like the zero flag. The segment registers are set up by the OS and you generally don't want to mess with them.

Some History: IA32 Registers



Origin (mostly obsolete)

accumulate

counter

data

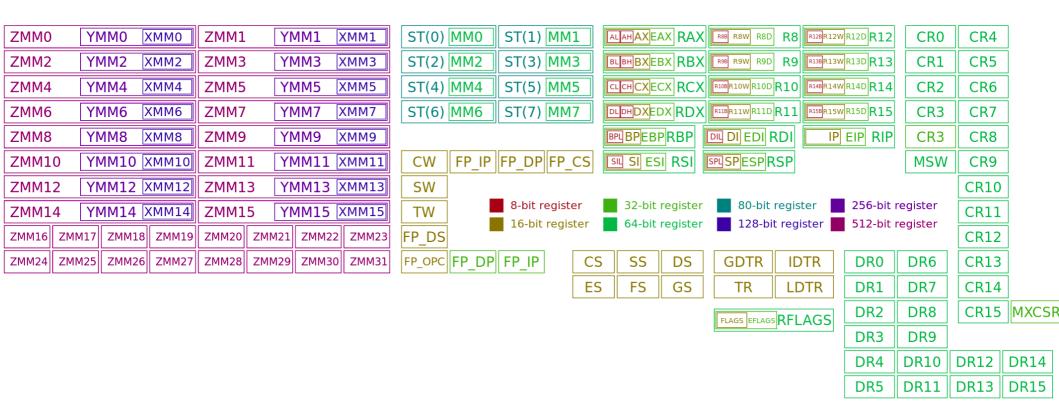
base

source index

destination index

stack pointer base pointer

x86-64 register file



Syntax

Numeric literals

- must begin with a digit 0-9

- decimal: 53

- hex: 0x53 or 53h

- binary: 010101b

- ffh is not a numeric literal! you must type Offh or Oxff

- Note the difference between mov bh, ah and mov bh, 0ah!
 - mov bh, ah: move the value of register ah into register bh
 - mov bh, 0ah: move the value numeric literal 0ah (=10 decimal) into bh

Comments

comments begin with a semicolon and continue to the end of the line

```
mov eax, 53; this is a comment
```

NASM numeric literals

```
; decimal
        ax,200
mov
                         ; still decimal
        ax,0200
mov
                         ; explicitly decimal
        ax,0200d
mov
                         ; also decimal
        ax,0d200
mov
        ax,0c8h
                         ; hex
mov
                         ; hex again: the 0 is required
        ax,$0c8
mov
        ax, 0xc8
                         ; hex yet again
mov
                         ; still hex
        ax, 0hc8
mov
                         ; octal
        ax,310q
mov
        ax, 3100
                         ; octal again
mov
                           octal yet again
        ax,00310
mov
                           octal yet again
        ax,0q310
mov
                           binary
        ax,11001000b
mov
        ax,1100 1000b
                           same binary constant
mov
        ax,1100_1000y
                         ; same binary constant once more
mov
                         ; same binary constant yet again
        ax,0b1100_1000
mov
        ax,0y1100_1000
                         ; same binary constant yet again
mov
```

Syntax

Instructions

- mov eax, 53
 - comma between operands
 - no comma after opcode
 - the destination register is usually on the *left*
 - here, we are moving immediate value 53 into register eax
- mov eax, ebx
 - same opcode can apply to register-register operations
 - here, we are moving register ebx into register eax
- mov eax, [53]
 - memory accesses are denoted with square brackets []
 - here, we are moving the content of the dword at address 53 into register eax
- -mov [53], eax
 - here, we are moving the content of register eax into the dword at address 53
- mov eax, [ebx]
 - here, we are moving the dword pointed to by register ebx into register eax
- mov [eax], ebx
 - here, we are moving the value of register ebx into the dword pointed to by register eax

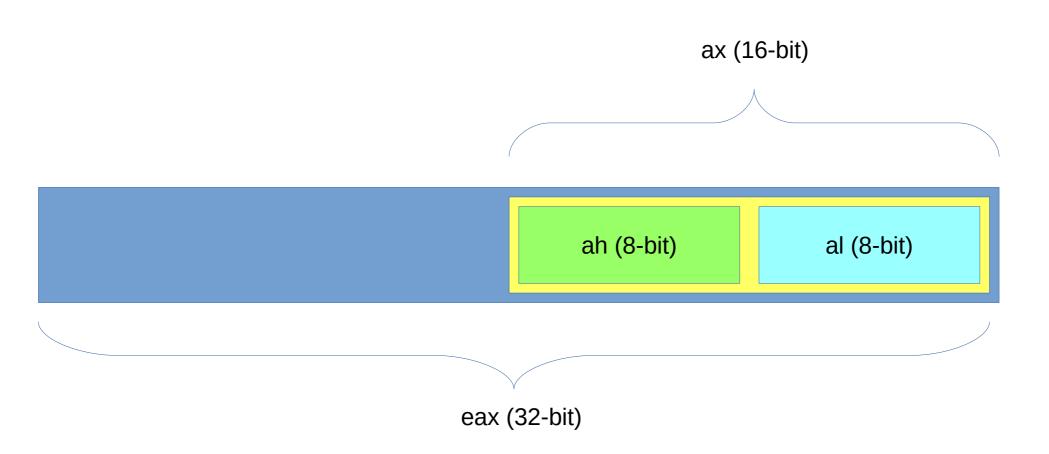
Syntax

Instructions

- mov 53, eax
 - invalid. Can't move into an immediate
- mov [eax], [ebx]
 - invalid. Maximum of one memory access per instruction
 - We have to rewrite this in two steps:

```
mov ecx, [ebx]
mov [eax], ecx
```

Nested registers



Note that modifying a register will also modify all registers that it overlaps with. For example, changing ah will also change ax and eax.

Register examples

```
mov eax, 0xf0f0f0f0 ; set eax (32-bit) to 0xf0f0f0f0
mov ax, 0xabab ; set ax (16-bit) to 0xabab
; eax is now 0xf0f0abab
add eax, 1 ; eax is now 0xf0f0abac
```

```
mov eax, 0xabababab ; set eax (32-bit) to 0xabababab mov al, 0xff ; set al (8-bit) to 0xff ; eax is now 0xabababff add al, 1 ; eax is now 0xababab00
```

Syntax

Labels

- identify an address by name, rather than by number
- rules:
 - alphanumeric characters, plus underscore
 - must begin with a letter
 - may also begin with a period, for local labels

Code labels

- to define a label, just give its name, followed by a colon
- to use it, just refer to it by name

```
mov eax, 0
loop1:
add eax, 1
cmp eax, 50
jne loop1
```

Data labels

- labels may identify an address that can be used as a pointer or immediate

Sizes

| | size | register examples | directive |
|-------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| byte | 8 bits | ah, al, bh, bl, | db |
| word | 16 bits (two bytes) | ax, bx, cx, dx, | dw |
| dword | 32 bits (four bytes) | eax, ebx, ecx, edx, | dd |
| qword | 64 bits (eight bytes) | rax, rbx, rcx, rdx, | dq |

Sections

Syntax

- There are three sections we care about
 - text: you put your code here

mov [uninitialized 32byte buffer], ah

- data: your put your initialized global data here
 - use db, dw, dd, dq to store data
- bss: you put your uninitialized global data here

```
- use resb, resw, resd, resq to allocate space
my favorite string: db "Here is an initialized value."
some number: dd 42
    ; db means "direct bytes", i.e. directly input these bytes into memory
    ; the label's value is the address of the beginning of this memory region
section .bss
uninitialized 32byte buffer: resb 32
    ; resb means "reserve bytes" i.e. reserve 32 bytes of memory,
    : without initial value
    ; the label's value is the address of the beginning of this memory region
section .text
global start
                      ; the special start label identifies the
start:
                      ; first instruction to run
; your code goes here
```

Syntax

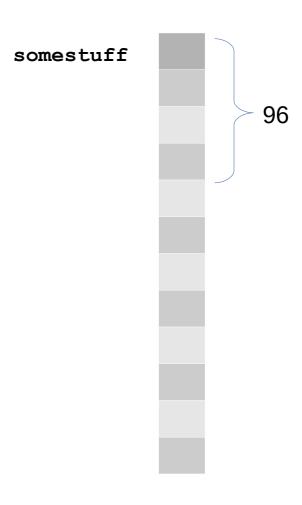
Typecasts

- Usually, the size of an operand is implicit:
 - mov eax, 53h
 - I am storing a dword in eax, because eax is a 32-bit register
 - mov [my data], ax
 - I am writing a word into memory, because ax is a 16-bit register
- Sometimes, the size of the operand cannot be inferred automatically
 - mov [my data], 53h
 - How much data am I moving? Am I moving a byte? word? dword? qword?
 - The assembly doesn't and will refuse this instruction: "operation size not specified"
- Specify the size explicitly
 - mov dword [my data], 53h; store four bytes in memory: 00000053
 - mov word [my_data], 53h ; store two bytes in memory: 00053
 - mov byte [my data], 53h ; store one byte in memory: 53

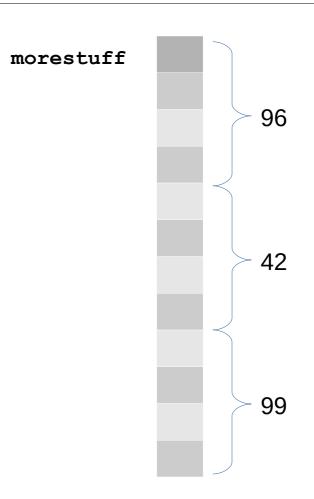
Instructions vs Directives

- Instructions (e.g. **mov**, **jmp**, **add**, etc) are translated by the assembler into machine language, which can be run by the processor. Every instruction has a corresponding binary machine language representation, just like in E15 and E20.
- Directives are commands to the assembler that don't necessarily correspond to bytes in machine language. For example: **include** (include an external file), **dd** (insert raw dwords into the output stream), **section** (tells the assembler which part of the output stream to write to), etc

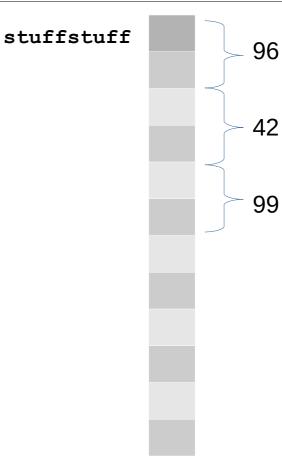
```
somestuff: dd 96
    ; at address somestuff
    ; allocate one dword (32-bit),
    ; initialized to value 96
```



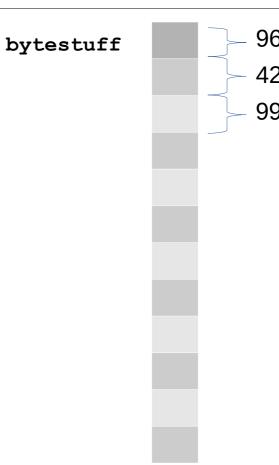
```
morestuff: dd 96, 42, 99
    ; at address morestuff, allocate dword 96
    ; at address morestuff+4, allocate dword 42
    ; at address morestuff+8, allocate dword 99
```



```
stuffstuff: dw 96, 42, 99
    ; at address stuffstuff, allocate word (16-bit) 96
    ; at address stuffstuff+2, allocate word 42
    ; at address stuffstuff+4, allocate word 99
```

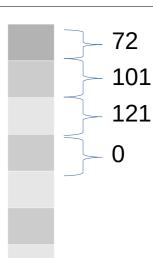


```
bytestuff: db 96, 42, 99
    ; at address bytestuff, allocate byte (8-bit) 96
    ; at address bytestuff+1, allocate byte 42
    ; at address bytestuff+2, allocate byte 99
```



```
strstuff: db "Hey",0
    ; at address strstuff, allocate byte (8-bit) "H" (72)
    ; at address strstuff+1, allocate byte "e" (101)
    ; at address strstuff+2, allocate byte "y" (121)
    ; at address strstuff+3, allocate byte 0
```





Directives

| section | Subsequent assembly is applied to one of the executable's sections (usually text, data, or bss) |
|------------------------|---|
| db, dw, dd, dq | Insert initialized literal data (of bytes, word, dword, qword) |
| resb, resw, resd, resq | Reserve space for uninitialized data |
| global | Mark a symbol as global, i.e. visible outside of this linker unit |
| equ | Define compile-time symbol to a particular value |
| • | comment |

Directives, unlike opcodes, are not translated directly into machine language; instead, they provide commands to the assembler.

Unlike in E20, x86 assembly supports different kinds of operands on the same opcode. So we can (often) use immediate values, registers, and memory addresses. The [] notation always signifies a memory access.

```
mov eax, 5
mov eax, some label
```

Store the immediate value 5 into the 32-bit register eax.

The destination register is on the *left*, in most cases.

```
mov eax, ebx
```

Store the value of register ebx into register eax.

```
mov eax, [5]
mov eax, [some label]
```

Get the 32-bit value starting at memory cell address 5, and store it into register eax.

```
mov eax, [ebx]
```

Get the 32-bit value starting at the memory cell address stored in register ebx, and store it into eax. In other words, *dereference the pointer* in ebx.

mov eax, [ebx]

Let's say ebx stores the value 0x8040. We interpret that as a memory address.

eax is a 32-bit register, so we need to read 32 bits from memory.

Each memory cell is one byte, so we need to read 4 cells.

Starting at the address in ebx, that means addresses 8040, 8041, 8042, and 8043. Each address has the byte value shown in the table.

Because x86 is a *little-endian* architecture, we combine the values in those cells in least-significant-first order, i.e. 0xd84ba045.

And *that* is the value that we store in eax.

| addr | val |
|------|-----|
| 803f | 23 |
| 8040 | 45 |
| 8041 | a0 |
| 8042 | 4b |
| 8043 | d8 |
| 8044 | 3b |

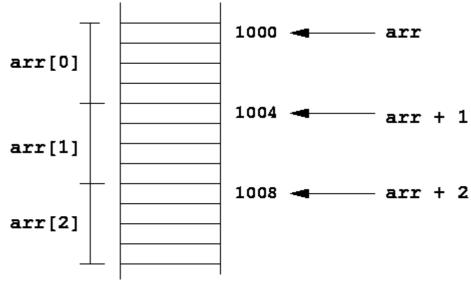
Memory access sizes

```
mov eax, [ebx]; read a DWORD mov ax, [ebx]; read a WORD mov ah, [ebx]; read a BYTE
```

```
mov [ebx], eax; write a DWORD mov [ebx], ax; write a WORD mov [ebx], ah; write a BYTE
```

Note that the size of the pointer must always be 32-bit, regardless of the size of the value written to memory.

Accessing arrays



The array begins at address arr (in this case, 1000). To calculate the address of the nth element of the array, assuming that all elements have size s (in this case 4), we use the formula:

$$addr_n = arr + n * s$$

We can use the memory scaling operands to do this all in one step:

mov eax,
$$[ebx * 4 + arr]$$

where arr stores the base address of the array, a constant; ebx stores the element number; and the value at that location is put into eax.

- mov [foobar], eax
 - Moves the 32-bit value from register eax to the memory location identified by label foobar
 - Equivalent to E20:
 - sw \$eax, foobar(\$0)
 - However, on Intel, each memory cell is 8-bits. How can we write a 32-bit value to memory?
 - Answer: we write to four consecutive memory cells, starting at foobar
- Any multibyte value can be expressed as a sequence of bytes
 - 7432 is too big for one byte
 - In binary, it's 00011101 00001000
 - In hex, it's 0x1d08 = 0x1d; 0x08

- Let's say eax = 2882400018 = 0xabcdef12
 - mov [foobar], eax

| Address | foobar+0 | foobar+1 | foobar+2 | foobar+3 |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Value | 0x12 | 0xef | 0xcd | 0xab |

- Let's say eax = 500 = 0x1f4
 - mov [foobaz], eax

| Address | foobaz+0 | foobaz+1 | foobaz+2 | foobaz+3 |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Value | 0xf4 | 0x01 | 0x00 | 0x00 |

- mov ebx, [foobaz]
 - Will read 4 bytes in least-significant-to-most-significant order
 - Thereafter, ebx == 0x1f4 == eax

- Let's say ax = 43981 = 0xabcd
 - mov [foobar], ax

| Address | foobar+0 | foobar+1 |
|---------|----------|----------|
| Value | 0xcd | 0xab |

- Let's say ax = 500 = 0x1f4
 - mov [foobaz], ax

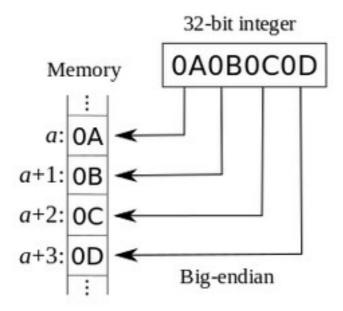
| Address | foobaz+0 | foobaz+1 |
|---------|----------|----------|
| Value | 0xf4 | 0x01 |

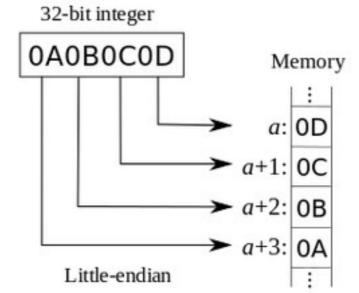
- Let's say ah = 4 = 0x4
 - mov [foobar], ah

| Address | foobar+0 |
|---------|----------|
| Value | 0x04 |

- Let's say al = 255 = 0xff
 - mov [foobaz], al

| Address | foobaz+0 |
|---------|----------|
| Value | 0xff |





Consider:

```
mov eax, 0x12345678
mov [foobar], eax
mov bx, [foobar]
mov ch, [foobar]
```

What is the final value of bx and ch?

Consider:

mov eax, 0x12345678 mov [foobar], eax mov bx, [foobar] mov ch, [foobar]

| Address | Value |
|----------|-------|
| foobar+0 | 78 |
| foobar+1 | 56 |
| foobar+2 | 34 |
| foobar+3 | 12 |

- What is the final value of bx and ch?
 - bx = 0x5678
 - ch = 0x78

Consider:

mov eax, 0xabcdef mov [foobar], eax

mov [foobar+2], eax

mov [foobar+4], ah

| Address | Value |
|----------|-------|
| foobar+0 | |
| foobar+1 | |
| foobar+2 | |
| foobar+3 | |
| foobar+4 | |
| foobar+5 | |

What is the final value the array starting at foobar?

Consider:

mov eax, 0xabcdef

mov [foobar], eax mov [foobar+2], eax mov [foobar+4], ah

| Address | Value |
|----------|-------|
| foobar+0 | ef |
| foobar+1 | cd |
| foobar+2 | ef |
| foobar+3 | cd |
| foobar+4 | cd |
| foobar+5 | 00 |

- What is the final value the array starting at foobar?
 - ef cd ef cd cd 00

Strings in x86

Different programming languages use different internal representations of strings. All of these forms must be expressible in assembly language. Therefore, there is no single way to express strings in assembly language.

All strings are finite sequences of characters, so we need a way to express the characters as well as the length.

section .data
mystring:
 db "Hello", 0

| Char | "H" | "e" | " " | " " | "o" | NUL |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Numeric | 72 | 101 | 108 | 108 | 111 | 0 |

C-style strings are used when you define a string with **char*** in C or C++. Each character occupies one byte. Their length is indicated by a zero-valued sentinel byte at the end of the string.

Pros:

- Easy to write and use.
- Allowed unlimited length.

Cons:

- Calculating the length of the string requires walking the whole strings, in O(n) time.
- The body of the string cannot contain a zero byte, making it unsuitable for some kinds of data.

Strings in x86

Different programming languages use different internal representations of strings. All of these forms must be expressible in assembly language. Therefore, there is no single way to express strings in assembly language.

All strings are finite sequences of characters, so we need a way to express the characters as well as the length.

section .data mystring: db 5, "Hello"

| Char | ENQ | "H" | "e" | " " | " " | "o" |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Numeric | 5 | 72 | 101 | 108 | 108 | 111 |

Pascal-style strings store their length separately, typically before the character values.

Pros:

- Finding the length is done in O(1) time.
- Body of string can contain any character.

Cons:

• Maximum string size is limited. In this case, the length is one byte, so a string cannot be longer than 255 characters.

Strings in x86

Different programming languages use different internal representations of strings. All of these forms must be expressible in assembly language. Therefore, there is no single way to express strings in assembly language.

All strings are finite sequences of characters, so we need a way to express the characters as well as the length.

Char Numeric

| "H" | NUL | "j" | NUL | | | | | NUL | NUL |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 72 | 0 | 105 | 0 | 61 | 216 | 68 | 222 | 0 | 0 |

Multibyte string encodings may use more than one byte for each character. Such encodings include UTF-16, UTF-32, UCS-2, UCS-4. In the example above, we show a UTF-16-encoded string with C-style sentinel. Here, each character occupies at least two bytes, and some, rarer characters ocupy more. Note that character encoding is orthogonal to the question of length marking.

Pros:

• Can represent more than just ASCII characters, such as foreign alphabets, emojis, etc.

Cons:

 Length calculation, indexing, and other operations are necessarily O(n) and harder to implement.

Operand types

| Immediate operand | mov eax, 5 |
|--|---|
| Register operand | mov eax, ebx |
| Memory operand (label) | some_variable: dd 5 mov eax, [some_variable] mov [some_variable], eax |
| Memory operand (register) | mov eax, [ebx] mov [ebx], eax |
| Memory operand (offset) | some_string: resb 20 mov ah, [some_string+ebx] |
| Memory operand (scaling) | some_array: resd 20 mov eax, [some_array+ebx*4] |
| Double memory operand (ILLEGAL) | mov [some_variable], [another_variable] |
| Memory and imm operands, with typecast | mov byte [ecx], 3 mov byte ptr [ecx], 3 |

| С | IA-32 |
|--|---|
| a = a+b; | add eax, ebx |
| a++; | inc eax |
| a += 2; | add eax, 2 |
| a = (a-b)*(c-d); | sub eax, ebx sub ecx, edx mul eax, ecx |
| a = 53; | mov eax, 53 |
| if (a==53) a -= 1; else a += 1; | cmp eax, 53 jne L1 dec eax jmp L2 L1: inc eax L2: |
| if (a==53) a -= 1; a += 1; | cmp eax, 53 jne L1 dec eax L1: inc eax |

| С | IA-32 |
|---|---|
| while (a<100) a*=2; | L1: cmp eax, 100 jge L2 imul eax, 2 jmp L1 L2: |
| int arr[34]; int a = 0; for (int c=0; c<34; c++) a += arr[c]; | xor eax, eax xor ecx, ecx L1: cmp ecx, 34 jge L2 add eax, [arr + ecx * 4] inc ecx jmp L1 L2: |
| int arr[34]; int a = 0; int *c = &arr[0]; while (c < arr+34) a+=*(c++); | mov ecx, arr xor eax, eax L1: cmp ecx, arr + 34 * 4 jge L2 add eax, [ecx] add ecx, 4 jmp L1 L2: |

| С | IA-32 and Linux syscall |
|---|---|
| printf("Hello\n"); | section .data mystr: db "Hello",10 section .text mov eax, 4 mov ebx, 1 mov ecx, mystr mov edx,6 int 80h |
| char my_str[32]; fgets(my_str, 32, stdin); | section .bss my_str: resb 32 section .text mov eax, 3 mov ebx, 0 mov ecx, my_str mov edx, 32 int 80h |
| exit(0); | mov eax, 1 mov ebx, 0 int 80h |

A digression on interrupts

- Interrupts are signals to the OS.
- The "interrupt vector table" is a table of pointers to OS code for handling various conditions.
- Many interrupts are generated by hardware or CPU events, but some are generated by software by the INT opcode.

| IVT Offset | INT # | Description |
|--|--|--|
| 0x0000 0x0004 0x0008 0x000C 0x0010 0x0014 0x0018 0x001C 0x0020 0x0024 0x0028 0x0028 0x002C 0x0030 | 0x00 0x01 0x02 0x03 0x04 0x05 0x06 0x07 0x08 0x09 0x0A 0x0B 0x0B | Divide by 0 Reserved NMI Interrupt Breakpoint (INT3) Overflow (INTO) Bounds range exceeded (BOUND) Invalid opcode (UD2) Device not available (WAIT/FWAIT) Double fault Coprocessor segment overrun Invalid TSS Segment not present Stack-segment fault |
| 0x0034 | 0x0D | General protection fault |
| 0x0038 0x003C | 0x0E 0x0F | Page fault Reserved |
| 0x0040 | 0x10 | x87 FPU error |
| 0x0044 | 0x11 | Alignment check |
| 0x0048 | 0x12 | Machine check |
| 0x004C | 0x13 | SIMD Floating-Point Exception |
| 0x00xx | 0x14-0x1F | Reserved |
| 0x0xxx | 0x20-0xFF | User definable |

System calls

- Interface to operating system from application
- Vary between operating systems
- Provides services such as:
 - File access (open, read, write, close, seek, etc)
 - Network access (socket, accept, listen, bind, etc)
 - Directory access (mkdir, rmdir, rename, etc)
 - Process management (exec, kill, getpid, etc)
 - Memory allocation (brk, mmap, etc)
 - Hardware access (ioctl)
 - Privileged operations for OS tools (chroot, setuid, reboot, etc)
 - And many more

I/O

Consider:

cout << "Hello world";</pre>

What is cout? What operation is being performed here?

I/O

Consider:

cout << "Hello world";</pre>

What is cout? What operation is being performed here?

Answer:

cout is a C++ stream.

We are inserting (sending) the given data to the stream, causing it to appear on the screen. We use the overloaded << operator.

cout is a stream corresponding to *standard output*, the usual destination for output from a program. In order to implement this behavior, the insertion operator must invoke a system call. In assembly language, we will invoke the system call directly.

• I/O = Input/Output

- Sending data to, or receiving data from, some external component. Examples:
 - reading/writing a file
 - sending/receiving network data
 - putting data on the screen
 - reading user input from keyboard
- You're already familiar with these tasks in C++ via streams:
 - putting data on the screen, reading input from keyboard:

```
cout << "Please type a number";</li>
int num; cin >> num;
Writing a file:
fostream f("myfile.txt");
f << "Some data";</li>
```

- Here, cout, cin, and f are *streams* that correspond to data sources and/or sinks.
- When doing I/O through system calls, we must similarly specify the source or sink.
 - For the screen and keyboard, these will be **stdout** and **stdin**, respectively.

Linux system calls

- On IA-32, invoked via software interrupt
 - int 80h
- On IA-64, invoked via dedicated opcode
 - syscall
- In either case, signals OS to interrupt current application
 - OS halts application, examines parameters, performs service, and resumes application
- Application must set up parameters to call in registers

Linux system calls: a partial list

https://web.archive.org/web/20200727064105/http://shell-storm.org/shellcode/files/syscalls.html

| eax | Name | Source | ebx | ecx | edx |
|-----|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| 1 | sys_exit | kernel/exit.c | int | - | - |
| 2 | sys_fork | arch/i386/kernel/ process.c | struct pt_regs | - | - |
| 3 | sys_read | fs/read_write.c | unsigned int | char * | size_t |
| 4 | sys_write | fs/read_write.c | unsigned int | const char * | size_t |
| 5 | sys_open | fs/open.c | const char * | int | int |
| 6 | sys_close | fs/open.c | unsigned int | - | - |
| 7 | sys_waitpid | kernel/exit.c | pid_t | unsigned int * | int |
| 8 | sys_creat | fs/open.c | const char * | int | - |
| 9 | sys_link | fs/namei.c | const char * | const char * | - |
| 10 | sys_unlink | fs/namei.c | const char * | - | - |
| 11 | sys_execve | arch/i386/kernel/ process.c | struct pt_regs | - | - |
| 12 | sys_chdir | fs/open.c | const char * | - | - |
| 13 | sys_time | kernel/time.c | int * | - | - |
| 14 | sys_mknod | fs/namei.c | const char * | int | dev_t |
| 15 | sys_chmod | fs/open.c | const char * | mode_t | - |
| 16 | sys_lchown | fs/open.c | const char * | uid_t | gid_t |
| 18 | sys_stat | fs/stat.c | char * | struct | - |

Linux system calls: an example

| eax | Name | Source | ebx | ecx | edx |
|-----|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| 1 | sys_exit | kernel/exit.c | int | - | - |
| 2 | sys_fork | arch/i386/kernel/ process.c | struct pt_regs | - | - |
| 3 | sys_read | fs/read_write.c | unsigned int | char * | size_t |
| 4 | sys_write | fs/read_write.c | unsigned int | const char * | size_t |

- sys_write is used to write bytes to a file handle
 - file handles can refer to actual files, network sockets, or terminals
- The table tells us how to call it:
 - eax always selects which system call
 - Other parameters are in ebx, ecx, edx, as necessary
 - The table uses C syntax to express the parameters
 - Once you set up the parameters, invoke the syscall via int 80h

Linux system calls: an example

| eax | Name | Source | ebx | ecx | edx |
|-----|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| 1 | sys_exit | kernel/exit.c | int | - | - |
| 2 | sys_fork | arch/i386/kernel/ process.c | struct pt_regs | - | - |
| 3 | sys_read | fs/read_write.c | unsigned int | char * | size_t |
| 4 | sys_write | fs/read_write.c | unsigned int | const char * | size_t |

The number of the system call goes in eax

The file handle goes in ebx

The address of the data goes in ecx

The number of bytes to write goes in edx

You get a file handle:

- by opening a file
- by creating a network socket
- in addition:
 - 0 = stdin
 - 1 = stdout
 - 2 = stderr

| eax | Name | Source | ebx | ecx | edx |
|-----|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| 1 | sys_exit | kernel/exit.c | int | - | - |
| 2 | sys_fork | arch/i386/kernel/ process.c | struct pt_regs | - | - |
| 3 | sys_read | fs/read_write.c | unsigned int | char * | size_t |
| 4 | sys_write | fs/read_write.c | unsigned int | const char * | size_t |

- sys_exit is used to terminate the application
 - this is better than infinite looping!
 - it allows the OS to reclaim the application resources in an orderly manner

| eax | Name | Source | ebx | ecx | edx |
|-----|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------|--------|
| 1 | sys_exit | kernel/exit.c | int | - | - |
| 2 | sys_fork | arch/i386/kernel/ process.c | struct pt_regs | - | - |
| | sys_read | fs/read_write.c | unsigned in | shar * | size_t |
| | sys_write | fs/read_write.c | unsigned | | |

exit is used to termi

The number of the system call goes in eax

better than infinite s the OS to reclair rderly manner The "exit status" goes in ebx.
The exit status can be used to communicate success or failure to another application. Traditionally, zero means success. Maximum value is 255.

This is equivalent to the return value of main in C/C++.

```
int main() {
    ....
    return 0; // status ok
}
```

| eax | Name | Source | ebx | ecx | edx |
|-----|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| 1 | sys_exit | kernel/exit.c | int | - | - |
| 2 | sys_fork | arch/i386/kernel/ process.c | struct pt_regs | - | - |
| 3 | sys_read | fs/read_write.c | unsigned int | char * | size_t |
| 4 | sys_write | fs/read_write.c | unsigned int | const char * | size_t |

sys_read reads data from a file descriptor

| eax | Name | Source | ebx | есх | edx |
|-----|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| 1 | sys_exit | kernel/exit.c | int | - | - |
| 2 | sys_fork | arch/i386/kernel/ process.c | struct pt_regs | - | - |
| 3 | sys_read | fs/read_write.c | unsigned int | char * | size_t |
| 4 | sys_write | fs/read_write.c | signed int | const char * | size_t |

sys_read reads data m a file descriptor

The number of the system call goes in eax

The file descriptor to read from.

Use 0
for stdin (usually keyboard).

Pointer to buffer where to store the data.

Size of buffer, i.e. maximum number of bytes to read.

Linux system calls: putting it together

```
section .data
hello text:
   db "Hello, world", 10 ; string includes newline char
section .text
global start
start:
; Print the given string
                       ; select write syscall
   mov eax, 4
                       ; file handle: stdout
   mov ebx, 1
   mov edx, 13
                         ; length of string
   int 80h
                          ; do it
; We're done, tell the OS to kill us
              ; select exit syscall
   mov eax, 1
                      ; exit status
   mov ebx, 0
   int 80h
                         ; do it
; We never get here
```

The most useful IA-32 instructions: arithmetic

| Instruction | Example | Meaning |
|-------------------|---------------|---|
| add | add EAX, EBX | EAX = EAX + EBX |
| subtract | sub EAX, EBX | EAX = EAX - EBX |
| add immediate | add EAX, 200 | EAX = EAX + 200 |
| signed multiply | imul EBX | EDX:EAX = EAX * EBX |
| | imul ECX, EBX | ECX = ECX * EBX |
| | imul ECX, 200 | ECX = ECX * 200 |
| unsigned multiply | mul ECX | EDX:EAX= EAX * ECX |
| signed divide | idiv ECX | EAX = EDX:EAX / ECX; EDX = EDX:EAX % ECX |
| unsigned divide | div ECX | EAX = EDX:EAX / ECX; EDX = EDX:EAX % ECX |

The most useful IA-32 instructions: logic

| Instruction | Example | Meaning |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| bitwise and | and EAX, EBX | EAX = EAX & EBX |
| bitwise or | or EAX, EBX | EAX = EAX EBX |
| shift left logical | shl EAX, CL | EAX = EAX << CL |
| shift right logical (unsigned) | shr EAX, CL | EAX = EAX >>> CL |
| bitwise xor | xor EAX, EBX | EAX = EAX ^ EBX |
| arithmetic (signed) right shift | sar EAX, EBX | EAX = EAX >> EBX |

The most useful IA-32 instructions: data transfer

| Instruction | Example | Meaning |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| move | mov EAX, EBX | EAX = EBX |
| | mov EAX, 200 | EAX = 200 |
| | mov EAX, [EBX] | EAX = memory[EBX] |
| | mov EAX, [label + ESI * 4] | EAX = memory[label + ESI * 4] |
| | mov EAX, [EBX+ESI*4+2] | EAX = memory[EBX+ESI*4+2] |
| | mov [EBX], EAX | memory[EBX] = EAX |
| push | push EAX | ESP = ESP - 4; memory[ESP] = EAX |
| pop | pop EAX | EAX = memory[ESP]; ESP = ESP + 4 |

The most useful IA-32 instructions: conditionals

| Instruction | Example | Meaning |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Compare | cmp eax, ebx | Set control flags: ZF, CF, OF, SF |
| Unconditional jump | jmp label | EIP = label |
| Conditional jump | je label jz label | jump if ZF |
| | jne label jnz label | jump if !ZF |
| | jecxz label jcxz label | jump if ECX == 0 jump if CX == 0 |
| | jc label | jump if CF |
| | jnc label | jump if !CF |
| Signed comparison | jl label jg label jle label jge label | jump if SF != OF jump if !ZF && SF == OF jump if ZF SF != OF jump SF == OF |
| Unsigned comparison | jb label ja label jbe label jae label | jump if CF jump if !CF && !ZF jump if CF ZF jump if !CF |

OF = overflow flag; set when ALU operation on numbers of the same sign give a different sign in the result

CF = carry flag; set when ALU operation on numbers results in a carry out, or borrow on subtract

ZF = zero flag; set when ALU operation on numbers results in zero

SF = sign flag; set when ALU operation on numbers results in negative number (i.e. high bit is set)

The most useful IA-32 instructions: other stuff

| Instruction | Example | Meaning |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| function call | call label | push EIP and jump to label |
| function return | ret | pop address and jump to it |
| function return and stack clean-up | ret 8 | pop address and jump to it, then add 8 to esp |
| increment | inc EAX | EAX = EAX + 1 |
| decrement | dec EAX | EAX = EAX - 1 |
| no operation | nop | do nothing |
| exchange | xchg EAX, EBX | swap the values in the two registers |
| system call | int 80h | invoke a system-defined interrupt; useful mainly for system calls |

mov — Move (Opcodes: 88, 89, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8E, ...)

The mov instruction copies the data item referred to by its second operand (i.e. register contents, memory contents, or a constant value) into the location referred to by its first operand (i.e. a register or memory). While register-to-register moves are possible, direct memory-to-memory moves are not. In cases where memory transfers are desired, the source memory contents must first be loaded into a register, then can be stored to the destination memory address.

```
mov <reg>,<reg>
mov <reg>,<mem>
mov <mem>,<reg>
mov <reg>,<const>
mov <mem>,<const>
Examples
mov eax, ebx — copy the value in ebx into eax
mov byte ptr [var], 5 — store the value 5 into the byte at location var
```

```
push — Push stack (Opcodes: FF, 89, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8E, ...)
```

The push instruction places its operand onto the top of the hardware supported stack in memory. Specifically, push first decrements ESP by 4, then places its operand into the contents of the 32-bit location at address [ESP]. ESP (the stack pointer) is decremented by push since the x86 stack grows down - i.e. the stack grows from high addresses to lower addresses.

```
Syntax
push <reg32>
push <mem>
push <con32>
Examples
push eax — push eax on the stack
push [var] — push the 4 bytes at address var onto the stack
```

pop — Pop stack

The pop instruction removes the 4-byte data element from the top of the hardware-supported stack into the specified operand (i.e. register or memory location). It first moves the 4 bytes located at memory location [SP] into the specified register or memory location, and then increments SP by 4. *Syntax*

pop <reg32>

pop <mem>

Examples

pop edi — pop the top element of the stack into EDI.

pop [ebx] — pop the top element of the stack into memory at the four bytes starting at location EBX.

lea — Load effective address

The lea instruction places the *address* specified by its second operand into the register specified by its first operand. Note, the *contents* of the memory location are not loaded, only the effective address is computed and placed into the register. This is useful for obtaining a pointer into a memory region.

Syntax

lea <reg32>,<mem>

Examples

lea edi, [ebx+4*esi] — the quantity EBX+4*ESI is placed in EDI.

lea eax, [var] — the value in *var* is placed in EAX.

lea eax, [val] — the value *val* is placed in EAX.

add — Integer Addition

The add instruction adds together its two operands, storing the result in its first operand. Note, whereas both operands may be registers, at most one operand may be a memory location.

```
Syntax
add <reg>,<reg>
add <reg>,<mem>
add <mem>,<reg>
add <mem>,<con>
Examples
add eax, 10 — EAX ← EAX + 10
add BYTE PTR [var], 10 — add 10 to the single byte stored at memory address var
```

sub — Integer Subtraction

The sub instruction stores in the value of its first operand the result of subtracting the value of its second operand from the value of its first operand. As with add

```
Syntax
sub <reg>,<reg>
sub <reg>,<mem>
sub <mem>,<reg>
sub <reg>,<con>
sub <mem>,<con>
Examples
sub al, ah — AL ← AL - AH
sub eax, 216 — subtract 216 from the value stored in EAX
```

inc, dec — Increment, Decrement

The inc instruction increments the contents of its operand by one. The dec instruction decrements the contents of its operand by one.

```
Syntax inc <reg> inc <mem> dec <reg>
```

dec <mem>

Examples

dec eax — subtract one from the contents of EAX.

inc DWORD PTR [var] — add one to the 32-bit integer stored at location var

```
imul — Integer Multiplication
```

- The imul instruction has two basic formats: two-operand (first two syntax listings above) and three-operand (last two syntax listings above).
- The two-operand form multiplies its two operands together and stores the result in the first operand. The result (i.e. first) operand must be a register.
- The three operand form multiplies its second and third operands together and stores the result in its first operand. Again, the result operand must be a register. Furthermore, the third operand is restricted to being a constant value.

Syntax

```
imul <reg32>,<reg32>
```

imul <reg32>,<mem>

imul <reg32>,<reg32>,<con>

imul <reg32>,<mem>,<con>

Examples

imul eax, [var] — multiply the contents of EAX by the 32-bit contents of the memory location *var*. Store the result in EAX.

imul esi, edi, 25 — ESI → EDI * 25

idiv — Integer Division

The idiv instruction divides the contents of the 64 bit integer EDX:EAX (constructed by viewing EDX as the most significant four bytes and EAX as the least significant four bytes) by the specified operand value. The quotient result of the division is stored into EAX, while the remainder is placed in EDX.

Syntax

idiv <reg32>

idiv <mem>

Examples

idiv ebx — divide the contents of EDX:EAX by the contents of EBX. Place the quotient in EAX and the remainder in EDX.

idiv DWORD PTR [var] — divide the contents of EDX:EAX by the 32-bit value stored at memory location *var*. Place the quotient in EAX and the remainder in EDX.

```
and, or, xor — Bitwise logical and, or and exclusive or
```

These instructions perform the specified logical operation (logical bitwise and, or, and exclusive or, respectively) on their operands, placing the result in the first operand location.

```
Syntax
and <reg>,<reg>
and <reg>,<mem>
and <mem>,<reg>
and <reg>,<con>
and <mem>,<con>
or <reg>,<reg>
or <reg>,<mem>
or <mem>,<reg>
or <reg>,<con>
or <mem>,<con>
xor <reg>,<reg>
xor <reg>,<mem>
xor <mem>,<reg>
xor <reg>,<con>
xor <mem>,<con>
Examples
and eax, 0fH — clear all but the last 4 bits of EAX.
xor edx, edx — set the contents of EDX to zero.
```

not — Bitwise Logical Not

Logically negates the operand contents (that is, flips all bit values in the operand).

Syntax

not <reg>

not <mem>

Example

not BYTE PTR [var] — negate all bits in the byte at the memory location var.

neg — Negate

Performs the two's complement negation of the operand contents. Syntax neg <reg> neg <mem> Example neg eax — $EAX \rightarrow -EAX$

```
shl, shr — Shift Left, Shift Right
```

the value in CL.

These instructions shift the bits in their first operand's contents left and right, padding the resulting empty bit positions with zeros. The shifted operand can be shifted up to 31 places. The number of bits to shift is specified by the second operand, which can be either an 8-bit constant or the register CL. In either case, shifts counts of greater then 31 are performed modulo 32.

```
Syntax
shl <reg>,<con8>
shl <mem>,<con8>
shl <reg>,<cl>
shl <mem>,<cl>
shr <reg>,<con8>
shr <mem>,<con8>
shr <mem>,<col>
shr <mem>,<cl>
shr <mem>,<cl>
shr <mem>,<cl>
Examples
shl eax, 1 — Multiply the value of EAX by 2 (if the most significant bit is 0)
shr ebx, cl — Store in EBX the floor of result of dividing the value of EBX by 2<sup>n</sup> wheren is
```

jmp — Jump

Transfers program control flow to the instruction at the memory location indicated by the operand.

Syntax
jmp <label>
Example
jmp begin — Jump to the instruction labeled begin.

jcondition — Conditional Jump

These instructions are conditional jumps that are based on the status of a set of condition codes that are stored in a special register called the *machine status word*. The contents of the machine status word include information about the last arithmetic operation performed. For example, one bit of this word indicates if the last result was zero. Another indicates if the last result was negative. Based on these condition codes, a number of conditional jumps can be performed. For example, the jz instruction performs a jump to the specified operand label if the result of the last arithmetic operation was zero. Otherwise, control proceeds to the next instruction in sequence.

A number of the conditional branches are given names that are intuitively based on the last operation performed being a special compare instruction, cmp (see below). For example, conditional branches such as jle and jne are based on first performing a cmp operation on the desired operands.

Syntax

```
je <label> (jump when equal)
```

- jne <label> (jump when not equal)
- jz <label> (jump when last result was zero)
- ig <label> (jump when greater than)
- ige <label> (jump when greater than or equal to)
- jl <label> (jump when less than)
- ile <label> (jump when less than or equal to)

Example

cmp eax, ebx

jle done

If the contents of EAX are less than or equal to the contents of EBX, jump to the label *done*. Otherwise, continue to the next instruction.

cmp — Compare

Compare the values of the two specified operands, setting the condition codes in the machine status word appropriately. This instruction is equivalent to the sub instruction, except the result of the subtraction is discarded instead of replacing the first operand.

```
Syntax
cmp <reg>,<reg>
cmp <reg>,<mem>
cmp <mem>,<reg>
cmp <reg>,<con>
Example
cmp DWORD PTR [var], 10
jeq loop
```

If the 4 bytes stored at location *var* are equal to the 4-byte integer constant 10, jump to the location labeled *loop*.

call, **ret** — Subroutine call and return

These instructions implement a subroutine call and return. The call instruction first pushes the current code location onto the hardware supported stack in memory (see the push instruction for details), and then performs an unconditional jump to the code location indicated by the label operand. Unlike the simple jump instructions, the call instruction saves the location to return to when the subroutine completes.

The ret instruction implements a subroutine return mechanism. This instruction first pops a code location off the hardware supported in-memory stack (see the pop instruction for details). It then performs an unconditional jump to the retrieved code location.

Syntax call <label> ret

When comparing *signed* integers, you should use jl, jg, jle, and jge. When comparing *unsigned* integers, you should use jb, ja, jbe, and jae. Why? And why don't we have separate conditionals for (in)equality?

Consider these two 16-bit numbers:

ax= 1000000110010001

bx= 00000000110000

Which is bigger?

When comparing *signed* integers, you should use jl, jg, jle, and jge. When comparing *unsigned* integers, you should use jb, ja, jbe, and jae. Why?

And why don't we have separate conditionals for (in)equality?

Consider these two 16-bit numbers:

| | Unsigned | 2's complement |
|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| ax= 1000000110010001 | 33169 | -32367 |
| bx= 00000000110000 | 48 | 48 |

Which is bigger?

When comparing *signed* integers, you should use jl, jg, jle, and jge. When comparing *unsigned* integers, you should use jb, ja, jbe, and jae. Why?

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| bx= 00000000110000 | 48 | 48 |

Which is bigger?

```
cmp ax, bx jq foobar
```

; -32367 > 48 -- WILL NOT branch

cmp ax, bx

ja foobar ; 33169 > 48 -- WILL branch

When comparing *signed* integers, you should use jl, jg, jle, and jge. When comparing *unsigned* integers, you should use jb, ja, jbe, and jae. Why?

And why don't we have separate conditionals for (in)equality?

| Comparison | Signed | Unsigned |
|------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| < | jl jump if less | <pre>jb jump if below</pre> |
| > | jg jump if greater | ja jump if above |
| <= | <pre>jle jump if less or equal</pre> | <pre>jbe jump if below or equal</pre> |
| >= | <pre>jge jump if greater or equal</pre> | <pre>jae jump if above or equal</pre> |
| == | <pre>je/jz jump if equal/jump if zero</pre> | |
| != | jne/jnz jump if not equal/jump if not zero | |

Unsigned comparison implementation

| Unsigned comparison | jb label ja label | jump if CF jump if !CF && !ZF |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| | jbe label | jump if CF ZF |
| | jae label | jump if !CF |

As on E15, cmp is implemented in terms of subtraction.

Zero flag (ZF) is set when the difference between two operands is zero.

Carry flag (CF) is set when an addition results in a carry, or a subtraction results in a borrow

| 1011 | 0011 |
|--------|--------|
| - 0111 | - 1011 |
| 0100 | 1100 |

Unsigned comparison implementation

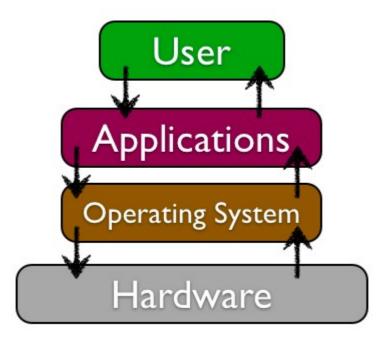
| Unsigned comparison | jb label ja label | jump if CF jump if !CF && !ZF |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| | jbe label | jump if CF ZF |
| | jae label | jump if !CF |

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We will focus on application software. Such programs are typically invoked by the operating system (for example, when the user clicks on the appropriate file). Application software communicates with the operating system by way of *system calls*, by which means it can request services, such as:

Accessing a file on disk

Accessing the network

Interfacing with the user (e.g. screen, keyboard, mouse, etc)
Interfacing with other applications (shared memory, pipes, etc)

| | Intel x86 FLAGS register ^[1] | | | | | |
|-------|---|--|---------|--|--|--|
| Bit # | Abbreviation | Description | | | | |
| | FLAGS | | | | | |
| 0 | CF | Carry flag | Status | | | |
| 1 | | Reserved, always 1 in EFLAGS [2] | | | | |
| 2 | PF | Parity flag | Status | | | |
| 3 | | Reserved | | | | |
| 4 | AF | Adjust flag | Status | | | |
| 5 | | Reserved | | | | |
| 6 | ZF | Zero flag | Status | | | |
| 7 | SF | Sign flag | Status | | | |
| 8 | TF | Trap flag (single step) | Control | | | |
| 9 | IF | Interrupt enable flag | Control | | | |
| 10 | DF | Direction flag | Control | | | |
| 11 | OF | Overflow flag | Status | | | |
| 12-13 | IOPL | I/O privilege level (286+ only), always 1 on 8086 and 186 | System | | | |
| 14 | NT | Nested task flag (286+ only), always 1 on 8086 and 186 | System | | | |
| 15 | | Reserved, always 1 on 8086 and 186, always 0 on later models | | | | |
| | | EFLAGS | | | | |
| 16 | RF | Resume flag (386+ only) | System | | | |
| 17 | VM | Virtual 8086 mode flag (386+ only) | System | | | |
| 18 | AC | Alignment check (486SX+ only) | System | | | |
| 19 | VIF | Virtual interrupt flag (Pentium+) | System | | | |
| 20 | VIP | Virtual interrupt pending (Pentium+) | System | | | |
| 21 | ID | Able to use CPUID instruction (Pentium+) | System | | | |
| 22 | | Reserved | | | | |
| 23 | | Reserved | | | | |

etc, etc... the rest are reserved.

You can't access EFLAGS directly, but you can put it on the stack and pop it from the stack with the PUSHF/PUSHFD and POPF/POPFD instructions.

In addition, some flag bits can be manipulated individually, e.g. CLD/STD will clear or set the direction flag; CLI/STI will clear or set the interrupt flag.

The conditional jump (Jcc) instructions use several flag bits as input, e.g. JC will jump when the carry flag is set.

Most arithmetic and compare instructions will set some flags.

Euclid's Algorithm on the SPARC

