Computer Architecture (Practical Class) Assembly: Arithmetic Operations

Luís Nogueira

Departamento de Engenharia Informática Instituto Superior de Engenharia do Porto

Imn@isep.ipp.pt

2022/2023

Introduction

- Most of the operations are given as instruction classes, as they can have different variants with different operand sizes
 - For example, the instruction class add consists of four addition instructions: addb, addw, addl, and addq, adding bytes, words, double words, and quad words, respectively
- Recall that type conversion has higher precedence than arithmetic operations
 - We can only operate on arguments of the same size
 - Moving from a smaller to a larger data size can involve either sign extension (for signed values) or zero extension (for unsigned values)
- Do not forget that instructions that move or generate 32-bit register values also set the upper 32 bits of the register to zero

2 / 25

Arithmetic operations: ADD

- The ADD instruction adds two integers
- Usage: add origin, destination
- Performs the operation destination = destination + origin (the result is placed in destination
- origin can be a memory address, a constant value or a register
- destination can be a memory address or a register
- As for any other instruction, a memory address for origin and destination cannot be used simultaneously
- The ADD instruction can add numbers of 8(b), 16(w), 32(l), or 64(q) bits

ADD instruction examples

Adding bytes, words, double words (longs), and quads

```
addb $10, %al  # adds 10 to the 8-bit AL register; AL=AL+10

addw %bx, %cx  # adds the value of BX to CX (16 bits); CX=CX+BX

addl var1(%rip), %eax  # adds the 32-bit value in var1 to EAX; EAX=EAX+var1

addl %eax, %eax  # adds EAX to itself; EAX=EAX+EAX

addg %rcx, %rax  # adds RCX to RAX; RAX=RAX+RCX
```

Arithmetic operations: SUB

- The SUB instruction subtracts two integers
- Usage: sub origin, destination
- Performs the operation destination = destination origin (the result is placed in destination
- origin can be a memory address, a constant value or a register
- destination can be a memory address or a register
- A memory address for origin and destination cannot be used simultaneously
- The SUB instruction can subtract numbers of 8(b), 16(w), 32(l), or 64(q) bits

SUB instruction examples

Subtracting bytes, words, double words (longs), and quads

```
subl $10, %eax  # subtract 10 to the current value of EAX; EAX=EAX-10
subw %bx, %cx  # subtract the value of BX to CX (16 bits); CX=CX-BX
subb var1(%rip), %al  # subtract the 8-bit value in var1 to AL; AL=AL-var1
subq %rcx, %rax  # subtract RCX to RAX; RAX=RAX-RCX
```

Arithmetic Operations: INC and DEC

- The INC and DEC instructions increment (INC) and decrement (DEC) an integer by one, respectively
- Usage: inc destination dec destination
- performs the operation destination = destination +/-1;
- destination can be a memory address or a register
- the INC and DEC instructions can be used in numbers of 8(b), 16(w), 32(l) or 64(q) bits

INC/DEC instructions examples

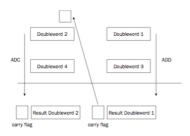
Increment/Decrement bytes, words, double words (longs), and quads

```
incq %rax  # RAX=RAX+1 (64 bits)
incl %eax  # EAX=EAX+1 (32 bits)
incw %bx  # BX=BX+1 (16 bits)
decb %cl  # CL=CL-1 (8 bits)
```

Arithmetic Operations: Add with Carry (ADC)

adc origin, destination

- The ADC instruction can be used to add two integer values, along with the value contained in the carry flag set by a previous addition
- If your program treats the bits in a register as unsigned numbers, you must watch
 to see if your arithmetic sets the carry flag on, indicating the result is wrong (more
 on this in the next class)
- Performs the operation: destination = destination + origin + CF
- The ADC instruction can add numbers of 8(b), 16(w), 32(l), or 64(q) bits



Arithmetic Operations: Add with Carry - Example

Add With Carry (ADC) Example

```
.global adctest
adctest:
    ...
    movb $0xFF, %al
    movb $0x1, %ah
    movb $0x1, %bl
    movb $0x0, %bh

# bl = bl + al (8 bits)
    addb %al, %bl

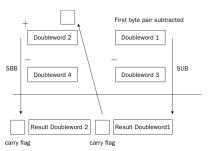
# bh = bh + ah + CF (8 bits)
    adcb %ah, %bh

...
    ret
```

Arithmetic Operations: Subtract with Borrow (SBB)

sbb origin, destination

- The SBB instruction can be used to subtract two integer values, along with the value contained in the carry flag set by a previous subtraction
- If your program treats the bits in a word as unsigned numbers, you must watch to see if your arithmetic sets the carry flag on, indicating the result is wrong (more on this in the next class)
- Performs the operation: destination = destination (origin + CF)
- The SBB instruction can subtract numbers of 8(b), 16(w), 32(l), or 64(q) bits.



Practical problem

- When mixing data of different sizes, you must make the right choice of arithmetic instructions, sign extensions, and zero extensions. These depend on subtle aspects of type conversion and the interactions between the arithmetic instructions
- This is illustrated by the following C function:

Mixing different sizes in arithmetic instructions

```
int x,y; // 32 bits (signed)
long fun(){
  long t1 = (long)x + y;
  long t2 = (long)(x+y);
  return t1 - t2;
}
```

- The two additions in this function proceed as follows:
 - Recall that type conversion has higher precedence than addition, and so the first
 addition calls for x to be converted to 64 bits, and by operand promotion y is also
 converted. Value t1 is then computed using 64-bit addition
 - On the other hand, t2 is computed by performing a 32-bit addition and then extending this value to 64 bits

Practical problem

• The equivalent Assembly code for this function is as follows:

Mixing different sizes in arithmetic instructions

```
fun:
   movslq x(%rip), %rax
                           # Convert x to long
   movslq v(%rip),%rdx
                           # Convert v to long
   addq %rdx,%rax
                           # t1 (64-bit addition)
   movl y(%rip), %edx
                           # Move v to %edx (lower 32 bits of RDX)
   addl x(%rip), %edx # t2 (32-bit addition)
   movslq %edx, %rdx
                        # Convert t2 to long
   subq
          %rdx, %rax
                           # Return t1 - t2
   ret
```

- The two additions in this function proceed as follows:
 - t1 is computed by first sign extending the arguments. The movslq instructions take the 32 bits of x and y and sign extend them to 64 bits in registers %rax and %rdx. The addq instruction then performs 64-bit addition to get t1
 - t2 is computed by performing 32-bit addition with x and y. This value is sign extended to 64 bits (within a single register) to get t2

Arithmetic Operations: Multiplication

- Multiplying two 64-bit signed or unsigned integers can yield a product that requires 128 bits to represent. Intel refers to a 16-byte quantity as an oct word
- There are "one-operand" instructions that support generating the full 128-bit product of two 64-bit numbers
 - One argument must be in register %rax, and the other is given as the instruction source operand
 - ullet The product is then stored in registers % rdx (high-order 64 bits) and % rax (low-order 64 bits)
- There is also a "two-operand" multiply instruction, generating a 64-bit product from two 64-bit operands
 - Recall that when truncating the product to 64 bits, both unsigned multiply and two's-complement multiply have the same bit-level behaviour

Arithmetic Operations: Unsigned Multiplication (MUL)

mul origin

- The MUL instruction multiplies two unsigned integers
- Performs the operation: $destination = origin \times operand2$
- origin can be a memory address or a register
- operand2 is the RAX, EAX, AX or AL register, depending on the size of origin
- destination is the RDX:RAX, EDX:EAX, DX:AX or AX registers, depending on the size of origin;

Size of origin	operand2	destination
8 bits	AL	AX
16 bits	AX	DX:AX
32 bits	EAX	EDX:EAX
64 bits	RAX	RDX:RAX

• The MUL instruction can multiply numbers of 8(b), 16(w), 32(l), or 64(q) bits.

Arithmetic Operations: Unsigned Multiplication - Example

Unsigned Multiplication Example

```
.global multest
multest:
...
movw $200, %ax
movw $2, %cx

# multiply %cx by %ax
# result in %dx:%ax
mulw %cx
...
ret
```

Arithmetic Operations: Signed Multiplication (IMUL)

imul origin imul origin, destination

- The IMUL instruction multiplies two signed integers
- imul origin
 - The use of registers is the same as presented in MUL
- imul origin, destination
 - Performs $destination = destination \times origin$
 - origin can be a memory address, a constant value or a register (16, 32, or 64-bit)
 - destination can be a 16,32, or 64-bit register

Arithmetic Operations: Signed Multiplication - Example

Signed Multiplication Example

Arithmetic Operations: Division

- Signed and unsigned divisions are only supported through single-operand instructions
- Their behaviour is similar to the single-operand multiply instructions
 - The dividend is the 128-bit value stored in registers %rdx (high-order 64 bits) and %rax (low-order 64 bits)
 - The divisor is given as the instruction operand
 - ullet The instruction stores the quotient in register % rax and the remainder in register % rdx
- For most practical cases, the dividend is given as a value up to 64 bits
 - This value should be stored in register %rax
 - The bits of %rdx should then be set to either all zeros (unsigned arithmetic) or the sign bit of %rax (signed arithmetic)

div divisor idiv divisor

- The DIV/IDIV instruction is used for unsigned/signed division
- Performs the operations:
 - quotient = dividend ÷ divisor
 - remainder = dividend mod divisor
- divisor can be a memory address or a register
- dividend is the RDX: RAX, EDX:EAX, DX:AX or AX register, depending on the size of divisor
- The quotient and remainder of the division are put in different sections of the RAX and RDX registers, depending on the size of divisor

Size of divisor	dividend	quotient	remainder
8 bits	AX	AL	AH
16 bits	DX:AX	AX	DX
32 bits	EDX:EAX	EAX	EDX
64 bits	RDX:RAX	RAX	RDX

Arithmetic Operations: Unsigned Division - Example

Unsigned Division Example

```
.global divtest
divtest:
...

# dividend: ax
movw $100, %ax
# divisor: cl
movb $3, %cl

# divides %ax by %cl
# remainder in %ah
# quotient in %al
divb %cl
...
ret
```

Important note

Always initialize all bits of the dividend!

Very bad idea!

```
.global bad_div
bad_div:
  # dividend: eax
  mov1 $100, %eax
  # divisor: ecx
  movl $3, %ecx
  # divides %edx: %eax by %ecx
  # Problem: the unkown content in %edx becomes part of the dividend
  # remainder in %edx
  # quotient in %eax
  divl %ecx
  . . .
  ret
```

- Preparing the dividend depends on whether unsigned (div) or signed (idiv) division is to be performed
- In the former case, the higher order part of the dividend must be set to 0
- In the latter case, a set of instructions is used to produce a correct dividend before a division instruction through sign extension
- The Intel-syntax conversion instructions:
 - cbw sign-extend byte in %al to word in %ax
 - cwde sign-extend word in %ax to double word (long) in %eax
 - cwd sign-extend word in %ax to double word (long) in %dx : %ax
 - cdq sign-extend double word (long) in %eax to quad word in %edx : %eax
 - cdqe sign-extend double word (long) in %eax to quad word in %rax
 - cqo sign-extend quad in %rax to oct word in %rdx : %rax
- are called cbtw, cwtl, cwtd, cltd, cltq, and cqto in AT&T naming
 - This is one of the few instructions whose GAS name is very different from the Intel version. GAS accepts either mnemonic, but Intel-syntax assemblers like NASM may only accept the Intel names

Correct sign extension

```
.global div_ok:
...
# dividend: %eax
movl $-100, %eax
# converts the signed long in %eax to the signed double long in %edx:%eax
cltd
# divisor: ecx
movl $3, %ecx
# divides %edx:%eax by %ecx (remainder in %edx, quotient in %eax)
idivl %ecx
...
ret
```

Practice problem

A C function *arithprob* that accesses the global variables a, b, c, and d has the following body:

$$return \ a*b + c*d;$$

It compiles to the following Assembly code:

arithprob.s

```
arithprob:

movl d(%rip), %ecx

movslq %ecx, %rcx

movb b(%rip), %sil

movsbl %sil, %esi

imulq c(%rip), %rcx

imull a(%rip), %esi

movslq %esi, %rsi

addq %rsi, %rcx

movq %rcx, %rax

ret
```

Based on this Assembly code, determine the types of each of the global variables and write a function prototype describing the return type for *arithprob*. The return of an Assembly function up to a 64-bit value is placed in *%rax* (or parts of it)