

# Assembly Control Flow

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## Assembly Execution

- Program runs in many registers
- Asm instructions stored in memory

Program Counter (PC)  $\rightarrow$  special register  
stores address of next  
instruction to execute

Update every

$\text{PC} += \text{size of bytes of current instruction}$

## Unconditional Looping

→ Interfere with PC, set it back to earlier instruction

jmp moves PC

jmp Label

direct jump

jmp \*Operand

indirect jump

ex.

jmp 404f8 <label + 0xb> # instruction at 404f8

jmp \*%rax # instruction at address in %rax

## Control

C

```
if (x > y) {  
    // a  
}  
else {  
    // b  
}
```

asm

Calculate condition, then execute code

Compare

cmp S1, S2

Execute

je/jz # jump if equal

jne/jnz # jump if not equal

jl/jge # jump if less

⋮

ex.

cmp \$2, 0b01

jg [target]

// jump if 0b01 > 2

CPU has condition code ("global vars") automatically

keeping track of info about most recent arith, logical  
operations - cmp stores, conditional jmp reads this

(single-bit registers)

ex.

CF Carry flag - detect MSB carry out  
(unsigned overflow)

ZF Zero flag - yielded zero

SF Sign flag - yielded negative

OF Overflow flag - two's complement overflow

:

cmp does subtraction, updating condition codes

test does same thing but with bitwise AND

Other arith/logical instructions also update condition codes except lea

## If statements

C

```
int if_then(int param1) {  
    if (param1 == 0) {  
        param1 += 1;  
    }  
    return param1 * 2;  
}
```

asm

```
    db cmp $0x6, -1(%edi)  
    dq jne de  
    db add $0x1, -1(%edi)  
    de lea (%edi, %edi, 1), %eax  
    ei retq
```

asm    pseudocode

Test

Jump to else-body if test fails

If-body

Jump to past else-body

Else-body

Past else-body

## Loops

While loops

Jump to test

Body

Test

Jump to body if success

For loop

Init

Jump to test

Body

Update

Test

Jump to body if success

## Condition code instructions other than jmp

set    conditionally    Sets byte to 0 or 1

mov    new versions can move if condition true