#### Assembly Language for Intel-Based Computers, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

Kip R. Irvine

Chapter 6: Conditional Processing

## **Chapter Overview**

- Boolean and Comparison Instructions
- Conditional Jumps
- Conditional Loop Instructions
- Conditional Structures
- Application: Finite-State Machines
- Decision Directives

2

## **Boolean and Comparison Instructions**

- CPU Status Flags
- AND Instruction
- OR Instruction
- XOR Instruction
- NOT Instruction
- Applications
- TEST Instruction
- CMP Instruction

### Status Flags - Review

- The Zero flag is set when the result of an operation equals zero.
- The Carry flag is set when an instruction generates a result that is too large (or too small) for the destination operand. (unsigned)
- The Sign flag is set if the destination operand is negative, and it is clear if the destination operand is positive.
- The Overflow flag is set when an instruction generates an invalid signed result. (signed)
- The Parity flag is set when an instruction generates an even number of 1 bits in the low byte of the destination operand.
- The Auxiliary Carry flag is set when an operation produces a carry out from bit 3 to bit 4

## **AND** Instruction

- Performs a Boolean AND operation between each pair of matching bits in two operands
- Syntax:

AND *destination, source* (same operand types as MOV)





x	у	x ∧ y
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

# **OR** Instruction

- Performs a Boolean OR operation between each pair of matching bits in two operands
- Syntax:

OR destination, source





x	у	$\bm{x} \vee \bm{y}$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1

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# **XOR** Instruction

- Performs a Boolean exclusive-OR operation between each pair of matching bits in two operands
- Syntax:



XOR destination, source



XOR is a useful way to toggle (invert) the bits in an operand.

# **NOT Instruction**

- Performs a Boolean NOT operation on a single destination operand
- Syntax:

NOT destination

NOT

NOT 00111011 11000100 inverted

х	<b>¬X</b>
F	Т
Т	F

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#### Applications (1 of 3)

- Task: Convert the character in AL to upper case.
- Solution: Use the AND instruction to clear bit 5.

mov	al,'a'	;	AL	=	01100001b
and	al,11011111b	;	AL	=	0100001b

#### Applications (2 of 3)

- Task: Convert a binary decimal byte into its equivalent ASCII decimal digit.
- Solution: Use the OR instruction to set bits 4 and 5.

mov	al,6	;	AL =	00000110b
or	al,00110000b	;	AL =	00110110b

The ASCII digit '6' = 00110110b

## Applications (3 of 3)

- Task: Jump to a label if an integer is even.
- Solution: AND the lowest bit with a 1. If the result is Zero, the number was even.

mov ax,wordVal
and ax,1 ; low bit set?
jz EvenValue ; jump if Zero flag set

JZ (jump if Zero) is covered in Section 6.3.

Your turn: Write code that jumps to a label if an integer is negative.

11

## **TEST** Instruction

- Performs a nondestructive AND operation between each pair of matching bits in two operands
- No operands are modified, but the Zero flag is affected.
- Example: jump to a label if either bit 0 or bit 1 in AL is set.

test al,0000011b jnz ValueFound

• Example: jump to a label if neither bit 0 nor bit 1 in AL is set.

test al,00000011b

jz ValueNotFound

#### CMP Instruction (1 of 3)

- Compares the destination operand to the source operand
  - Nondestructive subtraction of source from destination (destination operand is not changed)
- Syntax: CMP destination, source
- Example: destination == source



• Example: destination < source

mov al,4 cmp al,5 ; Carry flag set

#### CMP Instruction (2 of 3)

• Example: destination > source

mov al,6	
cmp al,5	; $ZF = 0$ , $CF = 0$

(both the Zero and Carry flags are clear)

## CMP Instruction (3 of 3)

The comparisons shown here are performed with signed integers.

• Example: destination > source

mov al,5
cmp al,-2 ; Sign flag == Overflow flag

• Example: destination < source

mov al,-1
cmp al,5 ; Sign flag != Overflow flag

# What's Next

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## **Conditional Jumps**

- Jumps Based On . . .
  - Specific flags
  - Equality
  - Unsigned comparisons
  - Signed Comparisons
- Applications
- Encrypting a String
- Bit Test (BT) Instruction

## Jcond Instruction

- A conditional jump instruction branches to a label when specific register or flag conditions are met
- Examples:
  - JB, JC jump to a label if the Carry flag is set
  - JE, JZ jump to a label if the Zero flag is set
  - JS jumps to a label if the Sign flag is set
  - JNE, JNZ jump to a label if the Zero flag is clear
  - JECXZ jumps to a label if ECX equals 0

## Jcond Ranges

- Prior to the 386:
  - jump must be within –128 to +127 bytes from current location counter
- IA-32 processors:
  - 32-bit offset permits jump anywhere in memory

## **Jumps Based on Specific Flags**

Mnemonic	Description	Flags
JZ	Jump if zero	ZF = 1
JNZ	Jump if not zero	ZF = 0
JC	Jump if carry	CF = 1
JNC	Jump if not carry	CF = 0
JO	Jump if overflow	OF = 1
JNO	Jump if not overflow	OF = 0
JS	Jump if signed	SF = 1
JNS	Jump if not signed	SF = 0
JP	Jump if parity (even)	PF = 1
JNP	Jump if not parity (odd)	PF = 0

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### **Jumps Based on Equality**

Mnemonic	Description
JE	Jump if equal ( <i>leftOp</i> = <i>rightOp</i> )
JNE	Jump if not equal ( $leftOp \neq rightOp$ )
JCXZ	Jump if $CX = 0$
JECXZ	Jump if ECX = 0

## Jumps Based on Unsigned Comparisons

Mnemonic	Description
JA	Jump if above (if <i>leftOp</i> > <i>rightOp</i> )
JNBE	Jump if not below or equal (same as JA)
JAE	Jump if above or equal (if <i>leftOp</i> >= <i>rightOp</i> )
JNB	Jump if not below (same as JAE)
JB	Jump if below (if <i>leftOp &lt; rightOp</i> )
JNAE	Jump if not above or equal (same as JB)
JBE	Jump if below or equal (if <i>leftOp</i> <= <i>rightOp</i> )
JNA	Jump if not above (same as JBE)

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## **Jumps Based on Signed Comparisons**

Mnemonic	Description
JG	Jump if greater (if <i>leftOp</i> > <i>rightOp</i> )
JNLE	Jump if not less than or equal (same as JG)
JGE	Jump if greater than or equal (if $leftOp >= rightOp$ )
JNL	Jump if not less (same as JGE)
JL	Jump if less (if <i>leftOp &lt; rightOp</i> )
JNGE	Jump if not greater than or equal (same as JL)
JLE	Jump if less than or equal (if <i>leftOp</i> <= <i>rightOp</i> )
JNG	Jump if not greater (same as JLE)

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#### Applications (1 of 5)

- Task: Jump to a label if unsigned EAX is greater than EBX
- Solution: Use CMP, followed by JA

cmp eax,ebx

ja Larger

- Task: Jump to a label if signed EAX is greater than EBX
- Solution: Use CMP, followed by JG

cmp eax,ebx

jg Greater

#### Applications (2 of 5)

• Jump to label L1 if unsigned EAX is less than or equal to Val1

```
cmp eax,Vall
jbe L1 ; below or equal
```

• Jump to label L1 if signed EAX is less than or equal to Val1

cmp eax,Vall jle L1

## Applications (3 of 5)

• Compare unsigned AX to BX, and copy the larger of the two into a variable named Large

```
mov Large,bx
cmp ax,bx
jna Next
mov Large,ax
Next:
```

• Compare signed AX to BX, and copy the smaller of the two into a variable named Small

mov	Small,ax
cmp	bx,ax
jnl	Next
mov	Small,bx
Next:	

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### Applications (4 of 5)

 Jump to label L1 if the memory word pointed to by ESI equals Zero

```
cmp WORD PTR [esi],0
je L1
```

 Jump to label L2 if the doubleword in memory pointed to by EDI is even

```
test DWORD PTR [edi],1
jz L2
```

#### Applications (5 of 5)

- Task: Jump to label L1 if bits 0, 1, and 3 in AL are all set.
- Solution: Clear all bits except bits 0, 1,and 3. Then compare the result with 00001011 binary.

and al,00001011b	; clear unwanted bits
cmp al,00001011b	; check remaining bits
је ці	; all set? jump to Li

#### Your turn . . .

- Write code that jumps to label L1 if either bit 4, 5, or 6 is set in the BL register.
- Write code that jumps to label L1 if bits 4, 5, and 6 are all set in the BL register.
- Write code that jumps to label L2 if AL has even parity.
- Write code that jumps to label L3 if EAX is negative.
- Write code that jumps to label L4 if the expression (EBX – ECX) is greater than zero.

# Encrypting a String

The following loop uses the XOR instruction to transform every character in a string into a new value.

```
KEY = 239 ; can be any byte value
BUFMAX = 128
.data
buffer BYTE BUFMAX+1 DUP(0)
bufSize DWORD BUFMAX
.code
  mov ecx,bufSize ; loop counter
  mov esi,0 ; index 0 in buffer
L1:
  xor buffer[esi],KEY ; translate a byte
  inc esi ; point to next byte
  loop L1
```

# String Encryption Program

- Tasks:
  - Input a message (string) from the user
  - Encrypt the message
  - Display the encrypted message
  - Decrypt the message
  - Display the decrypted message

View the <u>Encrypt.asm</u> program's source code. Sample output:

```
Enter the plain text: Attack at dawn.
Cipher text: «¢¢Äîä-Ä¢-ïÄÿü-Gs
Decrypted: Attack at dawn.
```

# BT (Bit Test) Instruction

- Copies bit *n* from an operand into the Carry flag
- Syntax: BT *bitBase, n* 
  - bitBase may be *r/m16* or *r/m32*
  - n may be *r16, r32*, or *imm8*
- Example: jump to label L1 if bit 9 is set in the AX register:

bt	AX,9	;	CF = bit 9
jc	L1	;	jump if Carry

# **Bit Testing Instructions**

- BT (bit test)
- BTC (bit test and complement)
- BTR (bit test and clear)
- BTS (bit test and set)

# What's Next

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## **Conditional Loop Instructions**

- LOOPZ
- LOOPE
- LOOPNZ
- LOOPNE

# LOOPZ and LOOPE

• Syntax:

LOOPE *destination* LOOPZ *destination* 

- Logic:
  - ECX  $\leftarrow$  ECX 1
  - if ECX > 0 and ZF=1, jump to *destination*
- Useful when scanning an array for the first element that does not match a given value.

36
# LOOPNZ and LOOPNE

- LOOPNZ (LOOPNE) is a conditional loop instruction
- Syntax:

LOOPNZ *destination* LOOPNE *destination* 

- Logic:
  - ECX  $\leftarrow$  ECX 1;
  - if ECX > 0 and ZF=0, jump to *destination*
- Useful when scanning an array for the first element that matches a given value.

37

# LOOPNZ Example

The following code finds the first positive value in an array:

```
.data
array SWORD -3,-6,-1,-10,10,30,40,4
sentinel SWORD 0
.code
   mov esi, OFFSET array
   mov ecx, LENGTHOF array
next:
   test WORD PTR [esi],8000h ; test sign bit
   pushfd
                              ; push flags on stack
   add esi, TYPE array
   popfd
                              ; pop flags from stack
                           ; continue loop
   loopnz next
   jnz quit
                            ; none found
   sub esi, TYPE array ; ESI points to value
quit:
```

Locate the first nonzero value in the array. If none is found, let ESI point to the sentinel value:

```
.data
array SWORD 50 DUP(?)
sentinel SWORD 0FFFFh
.code
   mov esi, OFFSET array
   mov ecx, LENGTHOF array
                                   ; check for zero
L1: cmp WORD PTR [esi],0
   (fill in your code here)
quit:
```

# ... (solution)

```
.data
array SWORD 50 DUP(?)
sentinel SWORD 0FFFFh
.code
   mov esi, OFFSET array
   mov ecx, LENGTHOF array
L1: cmp WORD PTR [esi],0 ; check for zero
   pushfd
                              ; push flags on stack
   add esi, TYPE array
   popfd
                              ; pop flags from stack
   loope L1
                              ; continue loop
   jz quit
                              ; none found
   sub esi, TYPE array ; ESI points to value
quit:
```

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## **Block-Structured IF Statements**

Assembly language programmers can easily translate logical statements written in C++/Java into assembly language. For example:



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Implement the following pseudocode in assembly language. All values are unsigned:



(There are multiple correct solutions to this problem.)

45

Implement the following pseudocode in assembly language. All values are 32-bit signed integers:



#### (There are multiple correct solutions to this problem.)

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# Compound Expression with AND (1 of 3)

- When implementing the logical AND operator, consider that highlevel languages use short-circuit evaluation
- In the following example, if the first expression is false, the second expression is skipped:

if (al > bl) AND (bl > cl) X = 1;

# Compound Expression with AND (2 of 3)

This is one possible implementation . . . Not short-circuit



Examples

# Compound Expression with AND (3 of 3)

Short-circuit

if (al > bl) AND (bl > cl)
 X = 1;

But the following implementation uses 29% less code by reversing the first relational operator. We allow the program to "fall through" to the second expression:



Implement the following pseudocode in assembly language. All values are unsigned:



#### (There are multiple correct solutions to this problem.)

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# Compound Expression with OR (1 of 2)

- When implementing the logical OR operator, consider that highlevel languages use short-circuit evaluation
- In the following example, if the first expression is true, the second expression is skipped:

if (al > bl) OR (bl > cl) X = 1;

### Compound Expression with OR (1 of 2)

```
if (al > bl) OR (bl > cl)
X = 1;
```

We can use "fall-through" logic to keep the code as short as possible:



## WHILE Loops

A WHILE loop is really an IF statement followed by the body of the loop, followed by an unconditional jump to the top of the loop. Consider the following example:

```
while( eax < ebx)
    eax = eax + 1;</pre>
```

This is a possible implementation:

lon

Implement the following loop, using unsigned 32-bit integers:

```
while( ebx <= val1)
{
    ebx = ebx + 5;
    val1 = val1 - 1
}</pre>
```



# Table-Driven Selection (1 of 3)

- Table-driven selection uses a table lookup to replace a multiway selection structure
- Create a table containing lookup values and the offsets of labels or procedures
- Use a loop to search the table
- Suited to a large number of comparisons



# Table-Driven Selection (2 of 3)

Step 1: create a table containing lookup values and procedure offsets:

```
.data
CaseTable BYTE 'A' ; lookup value
DWORD Process_A ; address of procedure
EntrySize = ($ - CaseTable)
BYTE 'B'
DWORD Process_B
BYTE 'C'
DWORD Process_C
BYTE 'D'
DWORD Process_D
NumberOfEntries = ($ - CaseTable) / EntrySize
```

## Table-Driven Selection (3 of 3)

Step 2: Use a loop to search the table. When a match is found, we call the procedure offset stored in the current table entry:



#### Indirect call requires the NEAR PTR operator.

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# Application: Finite-State Machines

- A finite-state machine (FSM) is a graph structure that changes state based on some input. Also called a state-transition diagram.
- We use a graph to represent an FSM, with squares or circles called nodes, and lines with arrows between the circles called edges (or arcs).
- A FSM is a specific instance of a more general structure called a directed graph (or digraph).
- Three basic states, represented by nodes:
  - Start state
  - Terminal state (s)
  - Nonterminal state (s)

# Finite-State Machine

- Accepts any sequence of symbols that puts it into an accepting (final) state
- Can be used to recognize, or validate a sequence of characters that is governed by language rules (called a regular expression)
- Advantages:
  - Provides visual tracking of program's flow of control
  - Easy to modify
  - Easily implemented in assembly language

60

## **FSM Examples**

• FSM that recognizes strings beginning with 'x', followed by letters 'a'..'y', ending with 'z':



• FSM that recognizes signed integers:



Web site Examples

61

• Explain why the following FSM does not work as well for signed integers as the one shown on the previous slide:



## Implementing an FSM

The following is code from State A in the Integer FSM:

StateA:	
call Getnext	; read next char into AL
cmp al, '+'	; leading + sign?
je StateB	; go to State B
cmp al,'-'	; leading - sign?
je StateB	; go to State B
call IsDigit	; ZF = 1 if AL = digit
jz StateC	; go to State C
call DisplayErrorMsg	; invalid input found
jmp Quit	

View the Finite.asm source code.



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## **IsDigit Procedure**

Receives a character in AL. Sets the Zero flag if the character is a decimal digit.

IsDigit PROC	
cmp al,'0'	; $ZF = 0$
jb ID1	
cmp al,'9'	; $ZF = 0$
ja ID1	
test ax,0	; ZF = 1
ID1: ret	
IsDigit ENDP	

### Flowchart of State A

State A accepts a plus or minus sign, or a decimal digit.



- Draw a FSM diagram for hexadecimal integer constant that conforms to MASM syntax.
- Draw a flowchart for one of the states in your FSM.
- Implement your FSM in assembly language. Let the user input a hexadecimal constant from the keyboard.

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67

## **Decision Directives**

- MASM provides decision directives
  - Make it easy to code multiway branching logic
- The directives cause the assembler to generate CMP and conditional jump instructions in the background
  - Listing file

# Using the .IF Directive

- Runtime Expressions
- Relational and Logical Operators
- MASM-Generated Code
- .REPEAT Directive
- .WHILE Directive

# **Runtime Expressions**

- .IF, .ELSE, .ELSEIF, and .ENDIF can be used to evaluate runtime expressions and create block-structured IF statements.
- Examples:

.IF eax > ebx	.IF eax > ebx $\&$ eax > ecx
mov edx,1	mov edx,1
.ELSE	.ELSE
mov edx,2	mov edx,2
.ENDIF	.ENDIF

• MASM generates "hidden" code for you, consisting of code labels, CMP and conditional jump instructions.

70

# **Relational and Logical Operators**

Operator	Description
expr1 == expr2	Returns true when <i>expression1</i> is equal to <i>expr2</i> .
expr1 != expr2	Returns true when <i>expr1</i> is not equal to <i>expr2</i> .
expr1 > expr2	Returns true when <i>expr1</i> is greater than <i>expr2</i> .
expr1 >= expr2	Returns true when <i>expr1</i> is greater than or equal to <i>expr2</i> .
expr1 < expr2	Returns true when <i>expr1</i> is less than <i>expr2</i> .
expr1 <= expr2	Returns true when <i>expr1</i> is less than or equal to <i>expr2</i> .
! expr	Returns true when <i>expr</i> is false.
expr1 && expr2	Performs logical AND between <i>expr1</i> and <i>expr2</i> .
expr1    expr2	Performs logical OR between <i>expr1</i> and <i>expr2</i> .
expr1 & expr2	Performs bitwise AND between expr1 and expr2.
CARRY?	Returns true if the Carry flag is set.
OVERFLOW?	Returns true if the Overflow flag is set.
PARITY?	Returns true if the Parity flag is set.
SIGN?	Returns true if the Sign flag is set.
ZERO?	Returns true if the Zero flag is set.

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## **MASM-Generated Code**



MASM automatically generates an unsigned jump (JBE) because val1 is unsigned.
### **MASM-Generated Code**



MASM automatically generates a signed jump (JLE) because val1 is signed.

## **MASM-Generated Code**



MASM automatically generates an unsigned jump (JBE) when both operands are registers . . .

## **MASM-Generated Code**



... unless you prefix one of the register operands with the SDWORD PTR operator. Then a signed jump is generated.

## .REPEAT Directive

Executes the loop body before testing the loop condition associated with the .UNTIL directive.

Example:

REPEAT

statements

.UNTIL condition

```
; Display integers 1 - 10:
mov eax,0
.REPEAT
    inc eax
    call WriteDec
    call Crlf
.UNTIL eax == 10
```

# .WHILE Directive

Tests the loop condition before executing the loop body The .ENDW directive marks the end of the loop.

Example:

.WHILE condition statements

. ENDW

```
; Display integers 1 - 10:
mov eax,0
.WHILE eax < 10
    inc eax
    call WriteDec
    call Crlf
.ENDW
```

# Summary

- Bitwise instructions (AND, OR, XOR, NOT, TEST)
  - manipulate individual bits in operands
- CMP compares operands using implied subtraction
  - sets condition flags
- Conditional Jumps & Loops
  - equality: JE, JNE
  - flag values: JC, JZ, JNC, JP, ...
  - signed: JG, JL, JNG, ...
  - unsigned: JA, JB, JNA, ...
  - LOOPZ, LOOPNZ, LOOPE, LOOPNE
- Flowcharts logic diagramming tool
- Finite-state machine tracks state changes at runtime

78

#### The End



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79