Systems I

Machine-Level Programming III: Control Flow

Topics

- **Condition Codes**
  - **Setting**
  - **Testing**
- **Control Flow**
  - **If-then-else**
  - **Varieties of Loops**

Controlling program execution

We can now generate programs that execute linear sequences of instructions

- Access registers and storage
- Perform computations

But - what about loops, if-then-else, etc.?

Need ISA support for:

- Comparing and testing data values
- Directing program control
  - Jump to some instruction that isn't just the next sequential one
  - Do so based on some condition that has been tested

Condition Codes

Single Bit Registers

`CF`	Carry Flag	`SF`	Sign Flag
`ZF`	Zero Flag	`OF`	Overflow Flag

Implicitly Set By Arithmetic Operations

`addl` *Src,Dest*

C analog: `t = a + b`

- CF set if carry out from most significant bit
  - Used to detect unsigned overflow
- ZF set if `t == 0`
- SF set if `t < 0`
- OF set if two's complement overflow

```
(a>0 && b>0 && t<0) || (a<0 && b<0 && t>=0)
```

Not Set by `leal` instruction

Setting Condition Codes (cont.)

Explicit Setting by Compare Instruction

`cmpl` ***Src2,Src1***

- `cmpl b,a` like computing `a-b` without setting destination
- CF set if carry out from most significant bit
  - Used for unsigned comparisons
- ZF set if `a == b`
- SF set if `(a-b) < 0`
- OF set if two's complement overflow

```
(a>0 && b<0 && (a-b)<0) || (a<0 && b>0 && (a-b)>0)
```

Setting Condition Codes (cont.)

Explicit Setting by Test instruction

`testl` ***Src2,Src1***

- Sets condition codes based on value of ***Src1*** `&` ***Src2***
  - Useful to have one of the operands be a mask
- `testl b,a` like computing `a&b` without setting destination
- ZF set when `a&b == 0`
- SF set when `a&b < 0`

Reading Condition Codes

SetX Instructions

- Set single byte based on combinations of condition codes

SetX	Condition	Description
`sete`	`ZF`	Equal / Zero
`setne`	`~ZF`	Not Equal / Not Zero
`sets`	`SF`	Negative
`setns`	`~SF`	Nonnegative
`setg`	`~(SF^OF)&~ZF`	Greater (Signed)
`setge`	`~(SF^OF)`	Greater or Equal (Signed)
`setl`	`(SF^OF)`	Less (Signed)
`setle`	`(SF^OF)|ZF`	Less or Equal (Signed)
`seta`	`~CF&~ZF`	Above (unsigned)
`setb`	`CF`	Below (unsigned)

Reading Condition Codes (Cont.)

SetX Instructions

- Set single byte based on combinations of condition codes
- One of 8 addressable byte registers
  - Embedded within first 4 integer registers
  - Does not alter remaining 3 bytes
  - Typically use `movzbl` to finish job

```
int gt (int x, int y)
{
  return x > y;
}
```

Body

```
movl 12(%ebp),%eax    # eax = y
cmpl %eax,8(%ebp)     # Compare x : y
setg %al              # al = x > y
movzbl %al,%eax       # Zero rest of %eax
```

Note inverted ordering!

Jumping

jX Instructions

- Jump to different part of code depending on condition codes

jX	Condition	Description
`jmp`	`1`	Unconditional
`je`	`ZF`	Equal / Zero
`jne`	`~ZF`	Not Equal / Not Zero
`js`	`SF`	Negative
`jns`	`~SF`	Nonnegative
`jg`	`~(SF^OF)&~ZF`	Greater (Signed)
`jge`	`~(SF^OF)`	Greater or Equal (Signed)
`jl`	`(SF^OF)`	Less (Signed)
`jle`	`(SF^OF)|ZF`	Less or Equal (Signed)
`ja`	`~CF&~ZF`	Above (unsigned)
`jb`	`CF`	Below (unsigned)

Conditional Branch Example

```
int max(int x, int y)
{
  if (x > y)
    return x;
  else
    return y;
}
```

```
_max:
        pushl %ebp
        movl %esp,%ebp

        movl 8(%ebp),%edx
        movl 12(%ebp),%eax
        cmpl %eax,%edx
        jle L9
        movl %edx,%eax
L9:

        movl %ebp,%esp
        popl %ebp
        ret
```

Set Up

Body

Finish

Conditional Branch Example (Cont.)

```
int goto_max(int x, int y)
{
  int rval = y;
  int ok = (x <= y);
  if (ok)
    goto done;
  rval = x;
done:
  return rval;
}
```

- C allows "goto" as means of transferring control
  - Closer to machine-level programming style
- Generally considered bad coding style

```
   movl 8(%ebp),%edx    # edx = x
   movl 12(%ebp),%eax   # eax = y
   cmpl %eax,%edx       # x : y
   jle L9               # if <= goto L9
   movl %edx,%eax       # eax = x
L9:                  # Done:
```

Skipped when x ≤ y

“Do-While” Loop Example

C Code

```
int fact_do
  (int x)
{
  int result = 1;
  do {
    result *= x;
    x = x-1;
  } while (x > 1);
  return result;
}
```

Goto Version

```
int fact_goto(int x)
{
  int result = 1;
loop:
  result *= x;
  x = x-1;
  if (x > 1)
    goto loop;
  return result;
}
```

- Use backward branch to continue looping
- Only take branch when “while” condition holds

"Do-While" Loop Compilation

Goto Version

```
int fact_goto
  (int x)
{
  int result = 1;
loop:
  result *= x;
  x = x-1;
  if (x > 1)
    goto loop;
  return result;
}
```

Registers

%edx x

%eax result

Assembly

```
_fact_goto:
  pushl %ebp          # Setup
  movl %esp,%ebp      # Setup
  movl $1,%eax        # eax = 1
  movl 8(%ebp),%edx   # edx = x

L11:
  imull %edx,%eax     # result *= x
  decl %edx           # x--
  cmpl $1,%edx        # Compare x : 1
  jg L11              # if > goto loop

  movl %ebp,%esp      # Finish
  popl %ebp           # Finish
  ret                 # Finish
```

General "Do-While" Translation

C Code

```
do
   Body
   while (Test);
```

Goto Version

```
loop:
   Body
   if (Test)
      goto loop
```

- *Body* can be any C statement
  - Typically compound statement:

```
{
   Statement_1;
   Statement_2;
      ...
   Statement_n;
}
```

- *Test* is expression returning integer
  - = 0 interpreted as false ≠0 interpreted as true

"While" Loop Example #1

C Code

```
int fact_while
  (int x)
{
  int result = 1;
  while (x > 1) {
    result *= x;
    x = x-1;
  };
  return result;
}
```

First Goto Version

```
int fact_while_goto
  (int x)
{
  int result = 1;
loop:
  if (!(x > 1))
    goto done;
  result *= x;
  x = x-1;
  goto loop;
done:
  return result;
}
```

- Is this code equivalent to the do-while version?
- Must jump out of loop if test fails

Actual "While" Loop Translation

C Code

```
int fact_while(int x)
{
  int result = 1;
  while (x > 1) {
    result *= x;
    x = x-1;
  };
  return result;
}
```

- Uses same inner loop as do-while version
- Guards loop entry with extra test

Second Goto Version

```
int fact_while_goto2
  (int x)
{
  int result = 1;
  if (!(x > 1))
    goto done;
loop:
  result *= x;
  x = x-1;
  if (x > 1)
    goto loop;
done:
  return result;
}
```

General "While" Translation

C Code

```
while (Test)
  Body
```

Do-While Version

```
  if (!Test)
    goto done;
  do
    Body
    while(Test);
done:
```

Goto Version

```
  if (!Test)
    goto done;
loop:
  Body
  if (Test)
    goto loop;
done:
```

Summarizing

C Control

- if-then-else
- do-while
- while
- switch

Assembler Control

- jump
- Conditional jump

Compiler

- Must generate assembly code to implement more complex control

Standard Techniques

- All loops converted to do-while form
- Large switch statements use jump tables

Conditions in CISC

- CISC machines generally have condition code registers

Conditions in RISC

- Use general registers to store condition information
- Special comparison instructions
- E.g., on Alpha:

```
cmple $16,1,$1
```

  - Sets register $1 to 1 when Register $16 <= 1

Summary

Instruction support for control flow

- Test/Compare instructions modify condition codes
- Branch/Jump instructions can conditionally execute based on condition code
- ….and set program counter (%eip) point to some instruction elsewhere in the program

Next time

- More loop examples
- Switch statements and jump tables