Machine-Level Programming II: Control

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These Slides

- **Control: Condition codes**
- Conditional branches
- Loops
- Switch Statements

Processor State (x86-64, Partial)

- **Information about currently executing program**
  - Temporary data (`%rax`, …)
  - Location of runtime stack (`%rsp`)
  - Location of current code control point (`%rip`, …)
  - Status of recent tests (**CF, ZF, SF, OF**)

Registers

`%rax`	`%r8`
`%rbx`	`%r9`
`%rcx`	`%r10`
`%rdx`	`%r11`
`%rsi`	`%r12`
`%rdi`	`%r13`
`%rsp`	`%r14`
`%rbp`	`%r15`

Current stack top

`%rip` **Instruction pointer**

`CF` `ZF` `SF` `OF` **Condition codes**

Condition Codes (Implicit Setting)

- **Single bit registers**
  - **CF** Carry Flag (for unsigned) **SF** Sign Flag (for signed)
  - **ZF** Zero Flag **OF** Overflow Flag (for signed)

- **Implicitly set (think of it as side effect) by arithmetic operations**

  Example: **`addq`** *Src,Dest* ↔ `t = a+b`

  CF set if carry out from most significant bit (unsigned overflow)

  ZF set if `t == 0`

  SF set if `t < 0` (as signed; i.e., copy of sign bit)

  OF set if two's-complement (signed) overflow
  `(a>0 && b>0 && t<0) || (a<0 && b<0 && t>=0)`

- **Not set by `leaq` instruction**

Condition Codes (Explicit Setting: Compare)

- **Explicit Setting by Compare Instruction**
  - **`cmpq`** *Src2*, *Src1*
  - **`cmpq 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` (as signed)
  - OF set if two's-complement (signed) overflow
    `(a>0 && b<0 && (a-b)<0) || (a<0 && b>0 && (a-b)>0)`

Condition Codes (Explicit Setting: Test)

- **Explicit Setting by Test instruction**
  - **`testq`** *Src2*, *Src1*
    - **`testq b,a`** like computing **`a&b`** without setting destination

  - Sets condition codes based on value of *Src1* & *Src2*
  - Useful to have one of the operands be a mask

  - ZF set when `a&b == 0`
  - SF set when `a&b < 0`

Reading Condition Codes

- **SetX Instructions**
  - Set low-order byte to 0 or 1 based on condition codes

SetX	Condition	Description
`sete`	`ZF`	Equal / Zero
`setne`	`~ZF`	Not Equal / Not Zero
`sets`	`SF`	Negative ("Sign")
`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 >)
`setae`	`~CF`	Above or equal (unsigned >=)
`setb`	`CF`	Below (unsigned <)
`setbe`	`CF|ZF`	Below or equal (unsigned <=)

x86-64 Integer Registers

`%rax`	`%al`	`%r8`	`%r8b`
`%rbx`	`%bl`	`%r9`	`%r9b`
`%rcx`	`%cl`	`%r10`	`%r10b`
`%rdx`	`%dl`	`%r11`	`%r11b`
`%rsi`	`%sil`	`%r12`	`%r12b`
`%rdi`	`%dil`	`%r13`	`%r13b`
`%rsp`	`%spl`	`%r14`	`%r14b`
`%rbp`	`%bpl`	`%r15`	`%r15b`

- Can reference low-order byte

Reading Condition Codes (Cont.)

- **SetX Instructions:**
  - Set single byte based on combination of condition codes
- **One of addressable byte registers**
  - Does not alter remaining bytes
  - Typically use `movzbl` to finish job
    - 32-bit instructions also set upper 32 bits to 0

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

Register	Use(s)
`%rdi`	Argument `x`
`%rsi`	Argument `y`
`%rax`	Return value

```
  cmpq   %rsi, %rdi    # Compare x:y
  setg   %al           # Set when >
  movzbl %al, %eax     # Zero rest of %rax
  ret
```


Exercise Break: More Conditions

- **Every condition can be negated by putting "n" in the mnemonic, for "not"**
  - We skipped some of these conditions in the previous table, because they were equivalent to others
- **Which other conditions are these equivalent to?**

1. `setng`: not greater than
2. `setnbe`: not below or equal

Equivalents of More Conditions

- **Intuition: cover three cases: <, =, >**
- **`setng` not greater than (signed)**
  - If not greater, than either less than or equal: `setle`
  - Check conditions:
    - ~(~(SF ^ OF) & ~ZF) = ~~(SF ^ OF) | ~~ZF = (SF ^ OF) | ZF ✓
- **`setnbe` not below or equal (unsigned)**
  - If not below or equal, must be above: `seta`
  - Check conditions:
    - ~(CF | ZF) = ~CF & ~ZF ✓

Today

- Control: Condition codes
- **Conditional branches**
- Loops
- Switch Statements

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 (Old Style)

- **Generation**

```
> gcc –Og -S –fno-if-conversion control.c
```

```
long absdiff
  (long x, long y)
{
  long result;
  if (x > y)
    result = x-y;
  else
    result = y-x;
  return result;
}
```

```
absdiff:
   cmpq    %rsi, %rdi  # x:y
   jle     .L4
   movq    %rdi, %rax
   subq    %rsi, %rax
   ret
.L4:       # x <= y
   movq    %rsi, %rax
   subq    %rdi, %rax
   ret
```

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument x
%rsi	Argument y
%rax	Return value

Expressing with Goto Code

- **C allows goto statement**
- **Jump to position designated by label**

```
long absdiff
  (long x, long y)
{
    long result;
    if (x > y)
        result = x-y;
    else
        result = y-x;
    return result;
}
```

```
long absdiff_j
  (long x, long y)
{
    long result;
    int ntest = x <= y;
    if (ntest) goto Else;
    result = x-y;
    goto Done;
 Else:
    result = y-x;
 Done:
    return result;
}
```


General Conditional Expression Translation (Using Branches)

C Code

```
val = Test ? Then_Expr : Else_Expr;
```

```
val = x>y ? x-y : y-x;
```

Goto Version

```
  ntest = !Test;
  if (ntest) goto Else;
  val = Then_Expr;
  goto Done;
Else:
  val = Else_Expr;
Done:
  . . .
```

- Create separate code regions for then & else expressions
- Execute appropriate one

Using Conditional Moves

- **Conditional Move Instructions**
  - Instruction supports:
    if (Test) Dest ← Src
  - Supported in post-1995 x86 processors
  - GCC tries to use them
    - But, only when known to be safe
- **Why?**
  - Branches are very disruptive to instruction flow through pipelines
  - Conditional moves do not require control transfer

C Code

```
val = Test
    ? Then_Expr
    : Else_Expr;
```

Goto Version

```
  result = Then_Expr;
  eval = Else_Expr;
  nt = !Test;
  if (nt) result = eval;
  return result;
```


Conditional Move Example

```
long absdiff
  (long x, long y)
{
    long result;
    if (x > y)
        result = x-y;
    else
        result = y-x;
    return result;
}
```

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument x
%rsi	Argument y
%rax	Return value

```
absdiff:
   movq    %rdi, %rax  # x
   subq    %rsi, %rax  # result = x-y
   movq    %rsi, %rdx
   subq    %rdi, %rdx  # eval = y-x
   cmpq    %rsi, %rdi  # x:y
   cmovle  %rdx, %rax  # if <=, result = eval
   ret
```

Bad Cases for Conditional Move

Expensive Computations

```
val = Test(x) ? Hard1(x) : Hard2(x);
```

- Both values get computed
- Only makes sense when computations are very simple

Risky Computations

```
val = p ? *p : 0;
```

- Both values get computed
- May have undesirable effects

Computations with side effects

```
val = x > 0 ? x*=7 : x+=3;
```

- Both values get computed
- Must be side-effect free

Today

- Control: Condition codes
- Conditional branches
- **Loops**
- Switch Statements

"Do-While" Loop Example

C Code

```
long pcount_do
  (unsigned long x) {
  long result = 0;
  do {
    result += x & 0x1;
    x >>= 1;
  } while (x);
  return result;
}
```

Goto Version

```
long pcount_goto
  (unsigned long x) {
  long result = 0;
 loop:
  result += x & 0x1;
  x >>= 1;
  if(x) goto loop;
  return result;
}
```

- Count number of 1's in argument **x** ("popcount")
- Use conditional branch to either continue looping or to exit loop

"Do-While" Loop Compilation

Goto Version

```
long pcount_goto
  (unsigned long x) {
  long result = 0;
 loop:
  result += x & 0x1;
  x >>= 1;
  if(x) goto loop;
  return result;
}
```

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument **x**
%rax	result

```
    movl    $0, %eax     #  result = 0
.L2:                     # loop:
    movq    %rdi, %rdx
    andl    $1, %edx     #  t = x & 0x1
    addq    %rdx, %rax   #  result += t
    shrq    %rdi         #  x >>= 1
    jne     .L2          #  if (x) goto loop
    rep; ret             #  synonym of "ret"
```


General "Do-While" Translation

C Code

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

Goto Version

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

- **Body:**

```
{
  Statement1;
  Statement2;
  …
  Statementn;
}
```


General "While" Translation #1

- "Jump-to-middle" translation
- Used with -Og

While version

```
while (Test)
  Body
```

Goto Version

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

While Loop Example #1

C Code

```
long pcount_while
  (unsigned long x) {
  long result = 0;
  while (x) {
    result += x & 0x1;
    x >>= 1;
  }
  return result;
}
```

Jump to Middle

```
long pcount_goto_jtm
  (unsigned long x) {
  long result = 0;
  goto test;
 loop:
  result += x & 0x1;
  x >>= 1;
 test:
  if(x) goto loop;
  return result;
}
```

- Compare to do-while version of function
- Initial goto starts loop at test

General "While" Translation #2

- "Do-while" conversion
- Used with –O1

While version

```
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:
```


While Loop Example #2

C Code

```
long pcount_while
  (unsigned long x) {
  long result = 0;
  while (x) {
    result += x & 0x1;
    x >>= 1;
  }
  return result;
}
```

Do-While Version

```
long pcount_goto_dw
  (unsigned long x) {
  long result = 0;
  if (!x) goto done;
 loop:
  result += x & 0x1;
  x >>= 1;
  if(x) goto loop;
 done:
  return result;
}
```

- Compare to do-while version of function
- Initial conditional guards entrance to loop

"For" Loop Form

General Form

```
for (Init; Test; Update )
    Body
```

```
#define WSIZE 8*sizeof(int)
long pcount_for
  (unsigned long x)
{
  size_t i;
  long result = 0;
  for (i = 0; i < WSIZE; i++)
  {
    unsigned bit =
      (x >> i) & 0x1;
    result += bit;
  }
  return result;
}
```

Init

```
i = 0
```

Test

```
i < WSIZE
```

Update

```
i++
```

Body

```
{
  unsigned bit =
    (x >> i) & 0x1;
  result += bit;
}
```


"For" Loop → While Loop

For Version

```
for (Init; Test; Update )
    Body
```

While Version

```
Init;
while (Test ) {
    Body
    Update;
}
```


For-While Conversion

Init

```
i = 0
```

Test

```
i < WSIZE
```

Update

```
i++
```

Body

```
{
  unsigned bit =
    (x >> i) & 0x1;
  result += bit;
}
```

```
long pcount_for_while
  (unsigned long x)
{
  size_t i;
  long result = 0;
  i = 0;
  while (i < WSIZE)
  {
    unsigned bit =
      (x >> i) & 0x1;
    result += bit;
    i++;
  }
  return result;
}
```

"For" Loop Do-While Conversion

C Code

```
long pcount_for
  (unsigned long x)
{
  size_t i;
  long result = 0;
  for (i = 0; i < WSIZE; i++)
  {
    unsigned bit =
      (x >> i) & 0x1;
    result += bit;
  }
  return result;
}
```

- Initial test can be optimized away

Goto Version

```
long pcount_for_goto_dw
  (unsigned long x) {
  size_t i;
  long result = 0;
  i = 0;                          Init
  if (!(i < WSIZE))               ! Test
    goto done;
loop:
  {
    unsigned bit =
      (x >> i) & 0x1;             Body
    result += bit;
  }
  i++;                            Update
  if (i < WSIZE)                  Test
    goto loop;
done:
  return result;
}
```


Today

- Control: Condition codes
- Conditional branches
- Loops
- **Switch Statements**

Switch Statement Example

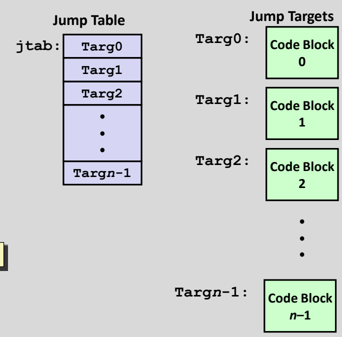
```
long switch_eg
   (long x, long y, long z)
{
    long w = 1;
    switch(x) {
    case 1:
        w = y*z;
        break;
    case 2:
        w = y/z;
        /* Fall Through */
    case 3:
        w += z;
        break;
    case 5:
    case 6:
        w -= z;
        break;
    default:
        w = 2;
    }
    return w;
}
```

- Multiple case labels
  - Here: 5 & 6
- Fall through cases
  - Here: 2
- Missing cases
  - Here: 4

Jump Table Structure

Switch Form

```
switch(x) {
  case val_0:
    Block 0
  case val_1:
    Block 1
    • • •
  case val_n-1:
    Block n–1
}
```



Translation (Extended C)

```
goto *JTab[x];
```


Switch Statement Example

```
long switch_eg(long x, long y, long z)
{
    long w = 1;
    switch(x) {
      . . .
    }
    return w;
}
```

Setup:

```
switch_eg:
    movq    %rdx, %rcx
    cmpq    $6, %rdi     # x:6
    ja      .L8
    jmp     *.L4(,%rdi,8)
```

What range of values go to .L8?

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument x
%rsi	Argument y
%rdx	Argument z
%rax	Return value

Note that w not initialized here

Switch Statement Example

```
long switch_eg(long x, long y, long z)
{
    long w = 1;
    switch(x) {
      . . .
    }
    return w;
}
```

Setup:

```
switch_eg:
    movq    %rdx, %rcx
    cmpq    $6, %rdi       # x:6
    ja      .L8            # Use default
    jmp     *.L4(,%rdi,8)  # goto *JTab[x]
```

Indirect jump

Jump table

```
.section    .rodata
  .align 8
.L4:
  .quad    .L8   # x = 0
  .quad    .L3   # x = 1
  .quad    .L5   # x = 2
  .quad    .L9   # x = 3
  .quad    .L8   # x = 4
  .quad    .L7   # x = 5
  .quad    .L7   # x = 6
```

Assembly Setup Explanation

- **Table Structure**
  - Each target requires 8 bytes
  - Base address at `.L4`
- **Jumping**
  - Direct: `jmp .L8`
  - Jump target is denoted by label `.L8`
  - Indirect: `jmp *.L4(,%rdi,8)`
  - Start of jump table: `.L4`
  - Must scale by factor of 8 (addresses are 8 bytes)
  - Fetch target from effective Address `.L4 + x*8`
    - Only for $0 \le x \le 6$

Jump table

```
.section    .rodata
  .align 8
.L4:
  .quad    .L8   # x = 0
  .quad    .L3   # x = 1
  .quad    .L5   # x = 2
  .quad    .L9   # x = 3
  .quad    .L8   # x = 4
  .quad    .L7   # x = 5
  .quad    .L7   # x = 6
```


Jump Table

Jump table

```
.section    .rodata
  .align 8
.L4:
  .quad    .L8   # x = 0
  .quad    .L3   # x = 1
  .quad    .L5   # x = 2
  .quad    .L9   # x = 3
  .quad    .L8   # x = 4
  .quad    .L7   # x = 5
  .quad    .L7   # x = 6
```

```
switch(x) {
case 1:       // .L3
    w = y*z;
    break;
case 2:       // .L5
    w = y/z;
    /* Fall Through */
case 3:       // .L9
    w += z;
    break;
case 5:
case 6:       // .L7
    w -= z;
    break;
default:      // .L8
    w = 2;
}
```


Code Blocks (x == 1)

```
switch(x) {
case 1:       // .L3
    w = y*z;
    break;
  . . .
}
```

```
.L3:
   movq    %rsi, %rax  # y
   imulq   %rdx, %rax  # y*z
   ret
```

Register	Use(s)
`%rdi`	Argument `x`
`%rsi`	Argument `y`
`%rdx`	Argument `z`
`%rax`	Return value

Handling Fall-Through

```
long w = 1;
  . . .
switch(x) {
  . . .
case 2:
    w = y/z;
    /* Fall Through */
case 3:
    w += z;
    break;
  . . .
}
```

```
case 2:
    w = y/z;
    goto merge;
```

```
case 3:
        w = 1;

merge:
        w += z;
```


Code Blocks (x == 2, x == 3)

```
long w = 1;
  . . .
switch(x) {
  . . .
case 2:
    w = y/z;
    /* Fall Through */
case 3:
    w += z;
    break;
  . . .
}
```

```
.L5:                        # Case 2
   movq    %rsi, %rax
   cqto
   idivq   %rcx         #  y/z
   jmp     .L6          #  goto merge
.L9:                        # Case 3
   movl    $1, %eax     #  w = 1
.L6:                        # merge:
   addq    %rcx, %rax   #  w += z
   ret
```

Register	Use(s)
`%rdi`	Argument `x`
`%rsi`	Argument `y`
`%rdx`	Argument `z`
`%rax`	Return value

Code Blocks (x == 5, x == 6, default)

```
switch(x) {
  . . .
  case 5:  // .L7
  case 6:  // .L7
      w -= z;
      break;
  default: // .L8
      w = 2;
}
```

```
.L7:                       # Case 5,6
   movl  $1, %eax    #  w = 1
   subq  %rdx, %rax  #  w -= z
   ret
.L8:                       # Default:
   movl  $2, %eax    #  2
   ret
```

Register	Use(s)
`%rdi`	Argument `x`
`%rsi`	Argument `y`
`%rdx`	Argument `z`
`%rax`	Return value

Exercise Break: `switch` Bounds

- **Every jump table needs to check that the index is in bounds**
  - For each of these code patterns, what indexes are allowed?

```
cmpq     $5, %rax
ja       .Ldefault
jmp      *.L1(,%rax,8)

andq     $7, %rax
jmp      *.L2(,%rax,8)

movzbl   8(%rbp), %eax
jmp      *.L3(,%rax,8)
```


Summarizing

- **C Control**
  - if-then-else
  - do-while
  - while, for
  - switch
- **Assembler Control**
  - Conditional jump
  - Conditional move
  - Indirect jump (via jump tables)
  - Compiler generates code sequence to implement more complex control
- **Standard Techniques**
  - Loops converted to do-while or jump-to-middle form
  - Large switch statements use jump tables
  - Sparse switch statements may use decision trees (if-elseif-elseif-else)

Summary

- **Today**
  - Control: Condition codes
  - Conditional branches & conditional moves
  - Loops
  - Switch statements
- **Next Time**
  - Stack
  - Call / return
  - Procedure call discipline