

Machine-Level Programming II: Control Flow

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Giving credit where credit is due

- Most of slides for this lecture are based on slides created by Drs. Bryant and O'Hallaron, Carnegie Mellon University.
- I have modified them and added new slides.

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Topics

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

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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

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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
 $(a > 0 \ \&\& \ b < 0 \ \&\& \ (a - b) < 0) \ || \ (a < 0 \ \&\& \ b > 0 \ \&\& \ (a - b) > 0)$

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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 $a \&b < 0$

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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)

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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
```

%eax	%ah	%al
%edx	%dh	%dl
%ecx	%ch	%cl
%ebx	%bh	%bl
%esi		
%edi		
%esp		
%ebp		

Note
inverted
ordering!

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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)

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Conditional Branch Example

```

_max:
    pushl %ebp
    movl %esp,%ebp          } Set Up

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

L9:
    movl %ebp,%esp
    popl %ebp
    ret                      } Finish
    
```

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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 } Skipped when x <= y
L9:              # Done:
    
```

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"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

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"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
```

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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:

```
{
    Statement1;
    Statement2;
    ...
    Statementn;
}
```

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

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"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

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Actual "While" Loop Translation

C Code

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

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;
}
```

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

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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:
```

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"For" Loop Example

```
/* Compute x raised to nonnegative power p */
int ipwr_for(int x, unsigned p) {
    int result;
    for (result = 1; p != 0; p = p>>1) {
        if (p & 0x1)
            result *= x;
        x = x*x;
    }
    return result;
}
```

Algorithm

- Exploit property that $p = p_0 + 2p_1 + 4p_2 + \dots + 2^{n-1}p_{n-1}$
- Gives: $x^p = x_0 \cdot x_1^2 \cdot (x_2^2)^2 \cdot \dots \cdot ((x_{n-1}^2)^{2^{n-1}})^{2^{n-1}}$
- $x_i = 1$ when $p_i = 0$
- $x_i = x$ when $p_i = 1$
- Complexity $O(\log p)$

Example
 $3^{10} = 3^2 \cdot 3^8$
 $= 3^2 \cdot ((3^2)^2)^2$

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ipwr Computation

```
/* Compute x raised to nonnegative power p */
int ipwr_for(int x, unsigned p) {
    int result;
    for (result = 1; p != 0; p = p >> 1) {
        if (p & 0x1)
            result *= x;
        x = x * x;
    }
    return result;
}
```

result	x	p
1	3	10
1	9	5
9	81	2
9	6561	1
531441	43046721	0

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"For" Loop Example

```
int result;
for (result = 1;
     p != 0;
     p = p >> 1) {
    if (p & 0x1)
        result *= x;
    x = x * x;
}
```

General Form

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

Init

```
result = 1
```

Test

```
p != 0
```

Update

```
p = p >> 1
```

Body

```
{
    if (p & 0x1)
        result *= x;
    x = x * x;
}
```

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"For" → "While"

For Version

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

While Version

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

Do-While Version

```
Init;
if (!Test)
    goto done;
do {
    Body
    Update ;
} while (Test)
done:
```

Goto Version

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

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"For" Loop Compilation

Goto Version

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

Init

```
result = 1
```

Test

```
p != 0
```

Update

```
p = p >> 1
```

```
result = 1;
if (p == 0)
    goto done;
loop:
    if (p & 0x1)
        result *= x;
    x = x * x;
    p = p >> 1;
    if (p != 0)
        goto loop;
done:
```

Body

```
{
    if (p & 0x1)
        result *= x;
    x = x * x;
}
```

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```
typedef enum
{ADD, MULT, MINUS, DIV, MOD, BAD}
op_type;

char unparse_symbol(op_type op)
{
    switch (op) {
        case ADD :
            return '+';
        case MULT:
            return '*';
        case MINUS:
            return '-';
        case DIV:
            return '/';
        case MOD:
            return '%';
        case BAD:
            return '?';
    }
}
```

Switch Statements

Implementation Options

- Series of conditionals
 - Good if few cases
 - Slow if many
- Jump Table
 - Lookup branch target
 - Avoids conditionals
 - Possible when cases are small integer constants
- GCC
 - Picks one based on case structure
- Bug in example code
 - No default given

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Jump Table Structure

Switch Form

```
switch(op) {
    case val_0:
        Block 0
    case val_1:
        Block 1
    . . .
    case val_n-1:
        Block n-1
}
```

Jump Table

```
jtab:
    Targ0
    Targ1
    Targ2
    .
    .
    Targn-1
```

Jump Targets

```
Targ0: Code Block 0
Targ1: Code Block 1
Targ2: Code Block 2
.
.
Targn-1: Code Block n-1
```

Approx. Translation

```
target = JTab[op];
goto *target;
```

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Switch Statement Example

Branching Possibilities

```
typedef enum
{ADD, MULT, MINUS, DIV, MOD, BAD}
op_type;

char unparse_symbol(op_type op)
{
    switch (op) {
        * * *
    }
}
```

Enumerated Values

```
ADD 0
MULT 1
MINUS 2
DIV 3
MOD 4
BAD 5
```

Setup:

```
unparse_symbol:
    pushl %ebp          # Setup
    movl %esp,%ebp      # Setup
    movl 8(%ebp),%eax    # eax = op
    cmpl $5,%eax        # Compare op : 5
    ja .L49             # If > goto done
    jmp *.L57(,%eax,4)   # goto Table[op]
```

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Assembly Setup Explanation

Symbolic Labels

- Labels of form .LXX translated into addresses by assembler

Table Structure

- Each target requires 4 bytes
- Base address at .L57

Jumping

- jmp .L49
- Jump target is denoted by label .L49
- jmp *.L57(,%eax,4)
- Start of jump table denoted by label .L57
- Register %eax holds op
- Must scale by factor of 4 to get offset into table
- Fetch target from effective Address .L57 + op*4

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Jump Table

Table Contents

```
.section .rodata
.align 4
.L57:
.long .L51 #0p = 0
.long .L52 #0p = 1
.long .L53 #0p = 2
.long .L54 #0p = 3
.long .L55 #0p = 4
.long .L56 #0p = 5
```

Enumerated Values

```
ADD 0
MULT 1
MINUS 2
DIV 3
MOD 4
BAD 5
```

Targets & Completion

```
.L51:
    movl $43,%eax # '+'
    jmp .L49
.L52:
    movl $42,%eax # '*'
    jmp .L49
.L53:
    movl $45,%eax # '-'
    jmp .L49
.L54:
    movl $47,%eax # '/'
    jmp .L49
.L55:
    movl $37,%eax # '%'
    jmp .L49
.L56:
    movl $63,%eax # '?'
    # Fall Through to .L49
```

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Switch Statement Completion

```
.L49:
    movl %ebp,%esp # Done:
    popl %ebp      # Finish
    ret           # Finish
```

Puzzle

- What value returned when op is invalid?

Answer

- Register %eax set to op at beginning of procedure
- This becomes the returned value

Advantage of Jump Table

- Can do k-way branch in O(1) operations

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Object Code

Setup

- Label .L49 becomes address 0x804875c
- Label .L57 becomes address 0x8048bc0

```
08048718 <unparse_symbol>:
08048718: 55          pushl %ebp
08048719: 89 e5       movl %esp,%ebp
0804871b: 8b 45 08    movl 0x8(%ebp),%eax
0804871e: 83 f8 05    cmpl $0x5,%eax
08048721: 77 39       ja 0804875c <unparse_symbol+0x44>
08048723: ff 24 85 c0 8b jmp *0x8048bc0(,%eax,4)
```

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Object Code (cont.)

Jump Table

- Doesn't show up in disassembled code
- Can inspect using GDB
- gdb code-examples
 - (gdb) x/6xw 0x8048bc0
 - Examine 6 hexadecimal format "words" (4-bytes each)
 - Use command "help x" to get format documentation

```
0x8048bc0 <_fini+32>:
0x08048730
0x08048730
0x08048740
0x08048740
0x08048750
0x08048750
0x08048757
```

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Extracting Jump Table from Binary

Jump Table Stored in Read Only Data Segment (.rodata)

- Various fixed values needed by your code

Can examine with objdump

objdump code-examples -s --section=.rodata

- Show everything in indicated segment.

Hard to read

- Jump table entries shown with reversed byte ordering

```
Contents of section .rodata:
8048bc0 30870408 37870408 40870408 47870408 0...7...@...G...
8048bd0 50870408 57870408 46616374 28256429 P...W...Fact(%d)
8048be0 203d2025 6c640a00 43686172 203d2025 = %ld..Char = %
...
```

- E.g., 30870408 really means 0x08048730

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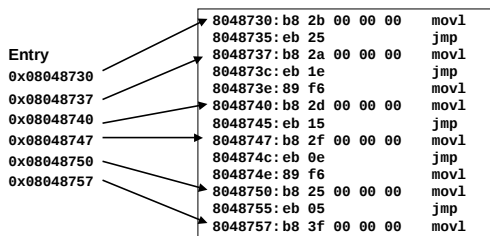
Disassembled Targets

```
8048730: b8 2b 00 00 00 movl $0x2b,%eax
8048735: eb 25 jmp 804875c <unparse_symbol+0x44>
8048737: b8 2a 00 00 00 movl $0x2a,%eax
804873c: eb 1e jmp 804875c <unparse_symbol+0x44>
804873e: 89 f6 movl %esi,%esi
8048740: b8 2d 00 00 00 movl $0x2d,%eax
8048745: eb 15 jmp 804875c <unparse_symbol+0x44>
8048747: b8 2f 00 00 00 movl $0x2f,%eax
804874c: eb 0e jmp 804875c <unparse_symbol+0x44>
804874e: 89 f6 movl %esi,%esi
8048750: b8 25 00 00 00 movl $0x25,%eax
8048755: eb 05 jmp 804875c <unparse_symbol+0x44>
8048757: b8 3f 00 00 00 movl $0x3f,%eax
```

- movl %esi,%esi does nothing
- Inserted to align instructions for better cache performance

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Matching Disassembled Targets



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Sparse Switch Example

```
/* Return x/111 if x is multiple
   && <= 999. -1 otherwise */
int div111(int x)
{
    switch(x) {
        case 0: return 0;
        case 111: return 1;
        case 222: return 2;
        case 333: return 3;
        case 444: return 4;
        case 555: return 5;
        case 666: return 6;
        case 777: return 7;
        case 888: return 8;
        case 999: return 9;
        default: return -1;
    }
}
```

- Not practical to use jump table
 - Would require 1000 entries
- Obvious translation into if-then-else would have max. of 9 tests

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Sparse Switch Code

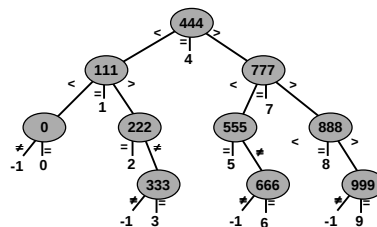
```
movl 8(%ebp),%eax # get x
cmpl $444,%eax # x:444
je L8
jg L16
cmpl $111,%eax # x:111
je L5
jg L17
testl %eax,%eax # x:0
je L4
jmp L14
...
```

- Compares x to possible case values
- Jumps different places depending on outcomes

```
L5:
    movl $1,%eax
    jmp L19
L6:
    movl $2,%eax
    jmp L19
L7:
    movl $3,%eax
    jmp L19
L8:
    movl $4,%eax
    jmp L19
...
```

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Sparse Switch Code Structure



- Organizes cases as binary tree
- Logarithmic performance

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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

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