Machine-Level Programming II: Control

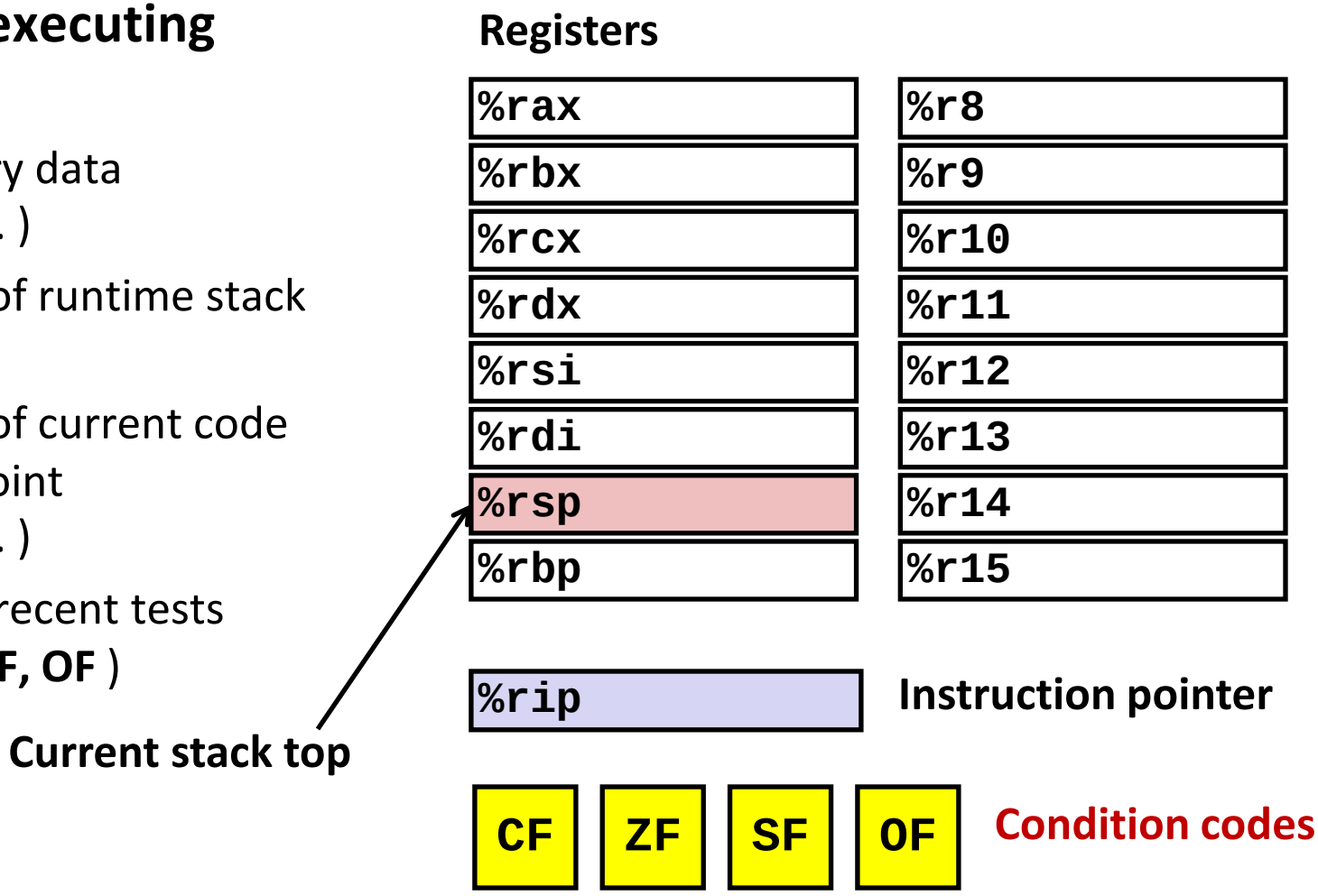
CS 485G-006: Systems Programming

Lectures 6 and 7: 1–3 Feb 2016

Adapted from slides by R. Bryant and D. O'Hallaron (http://csapp.cs.cmu.edu/3e/instructors.html)

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**)



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 as a side effect of 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)

  OF set if two's-complement (signed) overflow

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

  If both inputs have same sign but result has opposite sign.

- **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

    No registers are changed!

  - **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)
```

    If a and –b have the same sign but a – b has the opposite sign.

Condition Codes (Explicit Setting: Test)

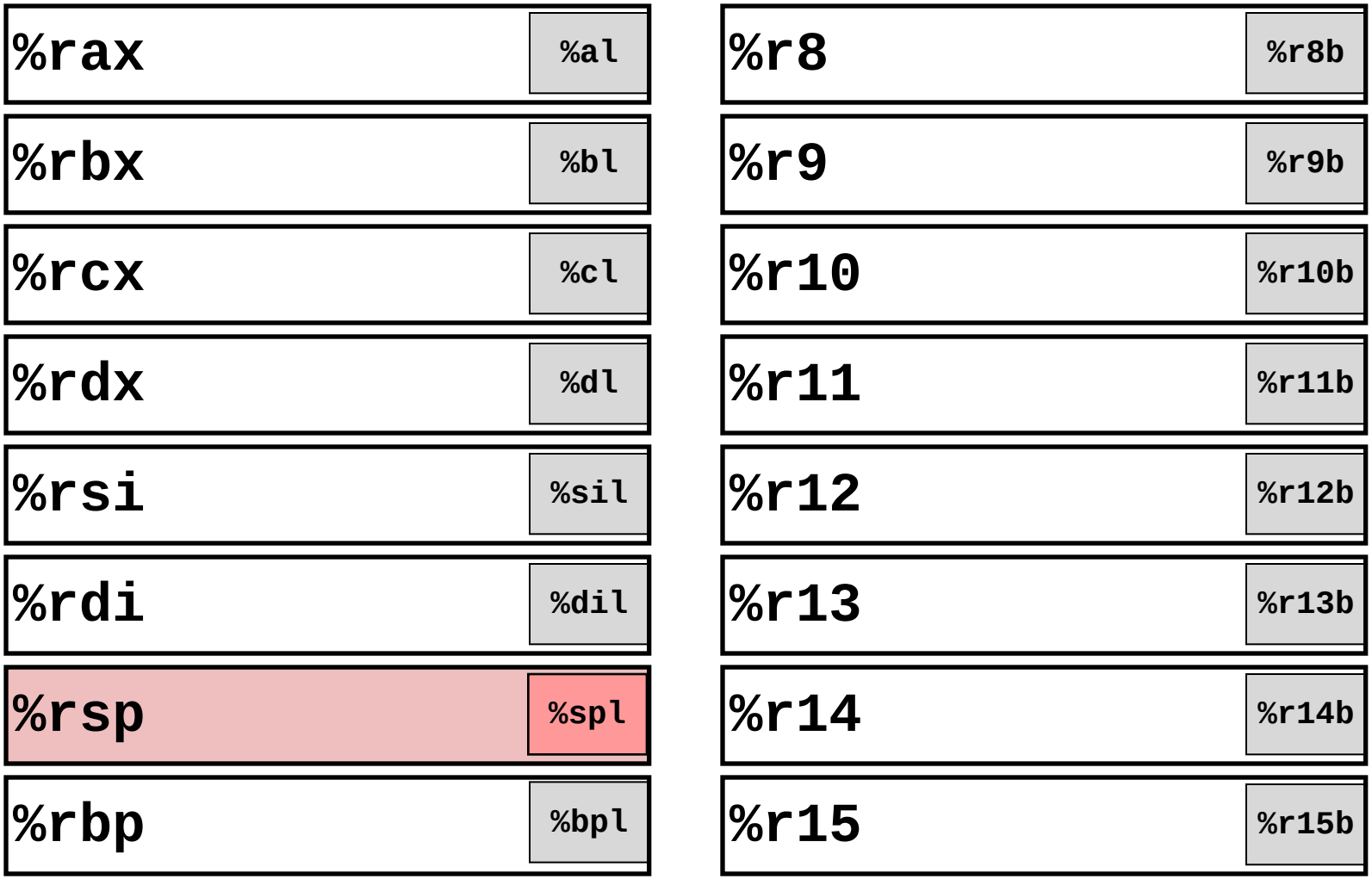
- **Explicit Setting by Test instruction**
  - **`testq`** *Src2*, *Src1*
    - **`testq b,a`** like computing **`a&b`** without setting destination
  - Sets condition codes based on value of *Src1* & *Src2*
  - Useful to have one of the operands be a mask
  - **ZF set** when **`a&b == 0`**
  - **SF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

Reading Condition Codes

- **SetX Instructions**
  - Set single byte based on combinations of condition codes
  - Must specify a byte register.

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)

x86-64 Integer Registers: low-order byte



`setg %al` — Sets low-order byte of %rax. Other 7 bytes unaffected.

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:
    - Move a **b**yte to a **l**ongword (32-bits) and **z**ero-extend.
    - Writing to a 32-bit register like this also sets 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
```

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

```
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_goto
  (long x, long y)
{
    int ntest = x <= y;
    if (ntest) goto lesseq;
    return x-y;
lesseq:
    return y-x;
}
```

- **gcc generates exactly the same assembler code!**
  - Goto isn't "more efficient" than structured programming,
  - Even if it is closer to how the machine works.

General Conditional Expression Translation

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:
  . . .
```

- Test is expression returning integer
  - If false (0), evaluate else_expr and use its value
  - If true (≠ 0), evaluate then_expr and use its value
- Create separate code regions for then & else expressions
  - Execute appropriate one
- Yet again, gcc generates exactly the same assembler code as for **if**!

Using Conditional Moves

- **Conditional Move Instructions**
  - Instruction supports:

    if (Test) Dest ← Src
  - Supported in post-1995 x86 processors
  - GCC –O2 tries to use them
    - But, only when known to be safe
- **Why?**
  - Branches are very disruptive to instruction flow through pipelines and to the instruction cache.
  - Conditional moves do not require control transfer
- **Why not?**
  - Has to evaluate both cases. If one is expensive, we must pay.
  - If one case has side effects (including pointer deference), it might not be safe to evaluate both cases!

Conditional Move Example

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

gcc –O2 –S absdiff.c

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  # check x-y
    cmovle  %rdx, %rax  # if <=, result = eval
    ret
```

"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
```

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

- gcc translates while loops in one of two ways
- #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 the loop at the test

General "While" Translation #2

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:
```

- "If-do-while" conversion.
- Used with –O1 and higher.
- Duplicates the test!

While Loop Example #2

C Code

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

If-Do-While Goto Version

```
long pcount_goto_ifdo
  (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;
}
```

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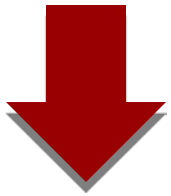
"For" Loop → While Loop → Goto

For Version

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



While Version

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

Goto Version (if-do-while)

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

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 To Goto 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;
}
```

Goto Version

```
long pcount_goto_for
  (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;
}
```

- Initial test can be optimized away in this case

Summarizing

- **C Control**
  - if-then-else
  - do-while
  - while, for
  - switch
- **Assembler Control**
  - Conditional jump
  - Conditional move
  - Compiler generates code sequence to implement more complex control
- **Standard Techniques**
  - Loops converted to do-while or jump-to-middle form