CMSC216: Assembly Basics and x86-64

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Logistics

Reading Bryant/O'Hallaron

- ▶ Skim Ch 2.7-8: Floating Point Layout
- ▶ Now Ch 3.1-7: Assembly, Arithmetic, Control
- ▶ Later Ch 3.8-11: Arrays, Structs, Floats
- ▶ Any overview guide to x86-64 assembly instructions such as Brown University's x64 Cheat Sheet

Assignments

Goals

- ▶ Lab06: Assembly Coding
- ▶ HW06: Assembly Debugging Both relevant to P3
- ▶ P2: Due Fri 11-Oct-2024 NOTE: Line Count Limits to aid your later conversion to assembly
- ▶ Assembly Basics
- \triangleright x86-64 Overview
- ▶ Assembly Arithmetic
- ▶ Assembly Control and %rip

Announcements

P1 / Exam 1 Grades posted

- ▶ Regrade requests open through Sat 12-Oct
- ▶ See pinned Piazza post with advice on asking for regrades

The **Many** Assembly Languages

- ▶ Most **microprocessors** are created to understand a **binary machine language**
- ▶ Machine Language provides means to manipulate internal memory, perform arithmetic, etc.
- ▶ The Machine Language of one processor is **not understood** by other processors

MOS Technology 6502

- ▶ 8-bit operations, limited addressable memory, **1 general purpose register**, powered notable gaming systems in the 1980s
- ▶ Apple IIe, Atari 2600, Commodore
- ▶ Nintendo Entertainment System / Famicom

IBM Cell Microprocessor

- ▶ Developed in early 2000s, 64-bit, many cores (execution elements), many registers (32 on the PPE), large addressable space, fast multimedia performance, is a **pain** to program
- ▶ Playstation 3 and Blue Gene Supercomputer

Assemblers and Compilers

- ▶ **Compiler**: chain of tools that translate high level languages to lower ones, may perform optimizations
- ▶ **Assembler**: translates text description of the machine code to binary, formats for execution by processor, late compiler stage
- ▶ Consequence: The compiler can **generate assembly code**
- ▶ Generated assembly is a pain to read but is often quite fast
- ▶ Consequence: A compiler on an Intel chip can generate assembly code for a different processor, **cross compiling**

Our focus: The x86-64 Assembly Language

- \triangleright x86-64 Targets Intel/AMD chips with 64-bit word size Reminder: 64-bit "word size" *≈* size of pointers/addresses
- \blacktriangleright Lineage of \times 86 family
	- ▶ 1970s: 16-bit systems like Intel 8086
	- ▶ 1990s: IA32 (Intel 32-bit systems like 80386 and 80486)
	- ▶ 2000s: $x86-64$ (64-bit extension by AMD)

 \triangleright x86-64 is backwards compatibility, consequently much cruft

- \triangleright Can run compiled code from the 70's / 80's on modern processors without much trouble BUT means 50-year-old instructions must be preserved
- \triangleright x86-64 is not the assembly language you would design from scratch today, it's the assembly you have to code against
- ▶ RISC-V is a new assembly language that is "clean" as it has no history to support (and few CPUs run it)
- ▶ Warning: Lots of information available on the web for Intel assembly programming **BUT** some of it is dated, IA32 info which may not work on 64-bit systems

x86-64 Assembly Language Syntax(es)

- ▶ Different assemblers understand different syntaxes for the same assembly language
- ▶ GCC use the GNU Assembler (GAS, command 'as file.s')
- ▶ GAS and Textbook favor AT&T syntax so **we will too**
- ▶ NASM assembler favors Intel, may see this online

- ▶ Use of % to indicate registers
- \triangleright Use of q/1/w/b to indicate 64 / 32 / 16 / 8-bit operands
- ▶ Register names are bare
- ▶ Use of QWORD etc. to indicate operand size

Generating Assembly from C Code

- ▶ gcc -S file.c will stop compilation at assembly generation
- ▶ Leaves assembly code in file.s
	- \triangleright file.s and file. S conventionally assembly code though sometimes file.asm is used
- \triangleright By default, compiler generates code that is often difficult for humans to interpret, may include re-arrangements, "conservative" compatibility assembly, etc. increasing size of assembly considerably
- ▶ gcc -Og file.c: optimize for debugging, generally makes it easier to read generated assembly, aligns somewhat more closely to C code

Example of Generating Assembly from C

```
>> cat exchange.c <br>
* show C file to be translated
// exchange.c: sample C function
// to compile to assembly
long exchange(long *xp, long y){<br>
\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ \text{long } x = \text{if } x = 0 \end{array}# involves pointer deref
  *xp = y;return x;
}
\geq \frac{1}{2} \frac{1# -Og: debugging level optimization
                                                                # -S: only output assembly
>> cat exchange.s <br>
\longrightarrow show assembly output
            .file "exchange.c"
            .text
            .globl exchange
            .type exchange, @function
exchange: \qquad \.LFB0:
           .cfi_startproc<br>movq (%rdi), %rax
                                                              # pointer derefs in assembly
           movq %rsi, (%rdi) # uses registers
            ret
            .cfi_endproc
.LFE0:
            .size exchange, .-exchange
            .ident "GCC: (GNU) 11.1.0"
            .section .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```
gcc -Og -S mstore.c

```
> cat mstore.c \qquad # show a C file
long mult2(long a, long b);
void multstore(long x, long y, long *dest){
 long t = mult2(x, y);
 *dest = t:
}
> gcc -Og -S mstore.c + + Compile to show assembly
                                     # -Og: debugging level optimization
                                     # -S: only output assembly
> cat mstore.s \longrightarrow cat mstore.s
       .file "mstore.c"
       .text
      .globl multstore \qquad # function symbol for linking
       .type multstore, @function
multstore: # beginning of mulstore function
LFRO.cfi_startproc # assembler directives
      pushq %rbx # assembly instruction<br>
cfi def cfa offset 16 # directives
       .cfi def cfa offset 16.cfi offset 3, -16
      movq %rdx, %rbx # assembly instructions<br>
call mult2@PLT # function call
      cal1 mm1+2@PI.Tmovq %rax, (%rbx)
      popq %rbx
       .cfi_def_cfa_offset 8
      ret # function return
       .cfi_endproc
```
Every Programming Language

Look for the following as it should almost always be there

- □ Comments
- \Box Statements/Expressions
- □ Variable Types
- □ Assignment
- \Box Basic Input/Output
- **Function Declarations**
- \Box Conditionals (if-else)
- □ Iteration (loops)
- \Box Aggregate data (arrays, structs, objects, etc)
- □ Library System

Exercise: Examine col simple_asm.s

Take a simple sample problem to demonstrate assembly:

Computes Collatz Sequence starting at $n=10$: if n is ODD $n=n*3+1$; else $n=n/2$. Return the number of steps to converge to 1 as the **return code** from *main()*

The following codes solve this problem

- ▶ Kauffman will Compile/Run code
- ▶ Students should study the code and predict what lines do
- \blacktriangleright Illustrate tricks associated with gdb and assembly $\frac{1}{12}$

Exercise: col simple asm.s

```
1 ### Compute Collatz sequence starting at 10 in assembly.
2 .section .text
 3 .globl main
 4 main:
 5 movl $0, \t%r8d # int steps = 0;<br>6 movl $10, \t%c x # int n = 10;
 6 \text{movl} $10, % ecx \frac{100}{7}T. \Omega\Omega\Omega8 cmpl $1, %ecx # while(n > 1){ // immediate must be first<br>9 jle .END # n <= 1 exit loop
 9 jle .END # n <= 1 exit loop
10 movl $2, %esi # divisor in esi<br>11 movl %ecx,%eax # prep for divis
11 movl %ecx,%eax # prep for division: must use edx:eax
12 cqto # extend sign from eax to edx<br>
13 idivl %esi # divide edx:eax by esi
13 idivl %esi # divide edx:eax by esi
14 \qquad # eax has quotient, edx remainder<br>15 \qquad 15 cmpl $1, %edx # if(n % 2 == 1) {<br>16 ine .EVEN # not equal, go
16 ine .EVEN # not equal, go to even case
17 .ODD:
18 imull $3, %ecx # n = n * 3<br>19 incl %ecx # n = n + 119 \text{incl } \%ecx \# n = n + 1 OR n^{++}<br>20 \text{imp } . UPDATE \# }
20 jmp .UPDATE # \#<br>21 EVEN: \#21 .<mark>EVEN:</mark><br>22 sarl $1.%ecx # n =
22 sarl $1, %ecx \# n = n / 2; via right shift<br>23 UPDATE
23 .UPDATE:<br>24 incl %r8d
24 incl %r8d # steps++;
25 jmp . LOOP # }
26 .END:
27 movl %r8d, %eax # r8d is steps, move to eax for return value
28 ret
29
```
Answers: x86-64 Assembly Basics for AT&T Syntax

- ▶ Comments are one-liners starting with #
- ▶ Statements: each line does ONE thing, frequently text representation of an assembly instruction

movq %rdx, %rbx # move rdx register to rbx

▶ Assembler directives and labels are also possible:

- ▶ Variables: mainly **registers**, also memory ref'd by registers maybe some named global locations
- ▶ Assignment: instructions like movX that put move bits into registers and memory
- ▶ Conditionals/Iteration: assembly instructions that jump to code locations
- ▶ Functions: code locations that are **labeled** and global
- \blacktriangleright Aggregate data: none, use the stack/multiple registers
- ▶ Library System: link to other code

So what *are* these Registers?

- ▶ Memory locations directly wired to the CPU
- ▶ Usually very fast to access, faster than **main memory**
- ▶ Most instructions involve registers, access or change reg val

Example: Adding Together Integers

- \blacktriangleright Ensure registers have desired values in them
- \blacktriangleright Issue an addX instruction involving the two registers
- ▶ Result will be stored in a register

```
addl %eax, %ebx
# add ints in eax and ebx, store result in ebx
```
addq %rcx, %rdx # add longs in rcx and rdx, store result in rdx

▶ Note instruction and register names indicate whether 32-bit int or 64-bit long are being added

x86-64 "General Purpose" Registers

Many "general purpose" registers have special purposes and conventions associated such as

▶ Return Value: %rax / %eax / %ax

- ▶ Function Args 1 to 6: %rdi, %rsi, %rdx, %rcx, %r8, %r9
- ▶ Stack Pointer (top of stack): %rsp
- ▶ Old Code Base Pointer: %rbp, historically start of current stack frame but is not used that way in modern codes

Note: There are also Special Registers like %rip and %eflags which we will discuss later.

Register Naming Conventions

- ▶ AT&T syntax identifies registers with prefix %
- ▶ Naming convention is a historical artifact
- ▶ Originally 16-bit architectures in x86 had
	- \blacktriangleright General registers ax, bx, cx, dx ,
	- ▶ Special Registers si, di, sp, bp
- \blacktriangleright Extended to 32-bit: eax, ebx, ..., esi, edi, ...
- \triangleright Grew again to 64-bit: rax, rbx, ..., rsi, rdi, ...
- \blacktriangleright Added Eight 64-bit regs $r8, r9, \ldots, r14, r15$ with 32-bit portion $r8d, r9d, \ldots$, 16-bit $r8w, r9w, \ldots$, etc.
- **Instructions must match registers sizes:**

addw %ax, %bx # word (16-bit) addl %eax, %ebx # long word (32-bit) addq Trax , Trbx # quad-word (64-bit)

▶ When hand-coding assembly, easy to mess this up, assembler will error out

Hello World in x86-64 Assembly : Not that Easy

- ▶ Non-trivial in assembly because **output is involved**
	- \blacktriangleright Try writing helloworld.c without printf()
- ▶ Output is the business of the **operating system**, always a request to the almighty OS to put something somewhere
	- ▶ **Library call**: printf("hello"); mangles some bits but eventually results with a ...
	- ▶ **System call**: Unix system call directly implemented in the OS **kernel**, puts bytes into files / onto screen as in write(1, buf, 5); // file 1 is screen output

This gives us several options for hello world in assembly:

- 1. hello printf64.s: via calling printf() which means the C standard library must be (painfully) linked
- 2. hello64.s via direct system write() call which means no external libraries are needed: OS knows how to write to files/screen. Use the 64-bit Linux calling convention.
- 3. hello32.s via direct system call using the older 32 bit Linux calling convention which "traps" to the operating system.

(Optional): The OS Privilege: System Calls

- \triangleright Most interactions with the outside world happen via Operating System Calls (or just "system calls")
- ▶ User programs indicate what service they want performed by the OS via making system calls
- ▶ System Calls differ for each language/OS combination
	- ▶ x86-64 Linux: set %rax to system call number, set other args in registers, issue syscall
	- ▶ IA32 Linux: set %eax to system call number, set other args in registers, issue an **interrupt**
	- ▶ C Code on Unix: make system calls via write(), read() and others (studied in CSCI 4061)
	- ▶ Tables of Linux System Call Numbers
		- \triangleright 64-bit (335 calls)
		- \triangleright 32-bit (190 calls)
	- ▶ Mac OS X: very similar to the above (it's a Unix)
	- ▶ Windows: use OS wrapper functions
- ▶ OS executes **priveleged** code that can manipulate any part of memory, touch internal data structures corresponding to files, do other fun stuff discussed in CSCI 4061 / 5103

Basic Instruction Classes

- ▶ Means we won't hit all 4,834 pages of the Intel x86-64 Manual
- ▶ Brown University's x64 Cheat Sheet has a good overview
- \triangleright x86 Assembly Guide from Yale is also good but is limited to 32-bit coverage

Data Movement: movX instruction

movX SOURCE, DEST # move/copy source value to dest

Overview

- \blacktriangleright Moves data...
	- ▶ Reg to Reg
	- ▶ Mem to Reg
	- ▶ Reg to Mem
	- \blacktriangleright Imm to ...
- ▶ Reg: register
- ▶ Mem: main memory
- ▶ Imm: "immediate" value (constant) specified like
	- \blacktriangleright \$21 : decimal
	- \triangleright \$0x2f9a : hexadecimal
	- ▶ **NOT 1234** (mem adder)
- ▶ More info on operands next

Examples

64-bit quadword moves movq $$4$, %rbx # rbx = 4; movq $\sqrt[n]{r}$ bx, $\sqrt[n]{r}$ ax # rax = rbx; movq $$10$, $(\%rcx)$ # * $rcx = 10$;

32-bit longword moves movl $$4$, %ebx # ebx = 4; movl %ebx, %eax $#$ eax = ebx; movl \$10, $(\% rcx)$ # * $rcx = 10$; Note variations

- ▶ movq for 64-bit (8-byte)
- ▶ movl for 32-bit (4-byte)
- ▶ movw for 16-bit (2-byte)
- ▶ movb for 8-bit (1-byte)

Operands and Addressing Modes

In many instructions like movX, operands can have a variety of forms called **addressing modes**, may include constants and memory addresses

Exercise: Show movX Instruction Execution

Code movX_exercise.s movl \$16, %eax movl \$20, %ebx movq \$24, %rbx ## POS A movl %eax,%ebx movq %rcx,%rax ## POS B movq $$45$, $(\text{rad}x)$ movl \$55,16(%rdx) ## POS C movq \$65,(%rcx,%rbx) movq \$3,%rbx TNTTTAI. Lookup. . .

movq \$75,(%rcx,%rbx,8) ## POS D

Registers/Memory

May need to look up addressing conventions for things like. . .

movX %y,%x # reg y to reg x movX $$5.(%x)$ # 5 to address in $%x$

Answers Part 1/2: movX Instruction Execution

#!: On 64-bit systems, ALWAYS use a 64-bit reg name like %rdx and movg to copy memory addresses; using smaller name like %edx will miss half the memory addressing leading to major memory problems

Answers Part 2/2: movX Instruction Execution

 $movg$ \$65, $(9rcv, 9rbv)$

gdb Assembly: Examining Memory

gdb commands print and x allow one to print/examine memory memory of interest. Try on movX_exercises.s

```
(gdb) tui enable # TUI mode
(gdb) layout asm # assembly mode
(gdb) layout reg # show registers
(gdb) stepi # step forward by single Instruction
(gdb) print $rax # print register rax
(gdb) print *(\text{grad } x) # print memory pointed to by rdx
(gdb) print (char *) $rdx # print as a string (null terminated)
(gdb) x $r8 # examine memory at address in r8
(gdb) x/3d fr8 * * same but print as 3 4-byte decimals
(gdb) x/6g x8 + x same but print as 6 8-byte decimals
(gdb) x/s fr8 \qquad # print as a string (null terminated)
(gdb) print *((int*) $rsp) # print top int on stack (4 bytes)
(gdb) x/4d $rsp # print top 4 stack vars as ints
(gdb) x/4x $rsp # print top 4 stack vars as ints in hex
```
Many of these tricks are needed to debug assembly.

Register Size and Movement

- ▶ Recall %rax is 64-bit register, %eax is lower 32 bits of it
- ▶ Data movement involving small registers **may NOT overwrite** higher bits in extended register
- ▶ Moving data to low 32-bit regs automatically zeros high 32-bits movabsq \$0x1122334455667788, %rax # 8 bytes to %rax movl \$0xAABBCCDD, %eax # 4 bytes to %eax ## %rax is now 0x00000000AABBCCDD
- ▶ Moving data to other small regs DOES NOT ALTER high bits movabsq \$0x1122334455667788, %rax # 8 bytes to %rax m ovw $\texttt{\$OxAABB}, \texttt{\%ax}$ $\texttt{A}\texttt{x}$ # 2 bytes to $\texttt{\%ax}$ ## %rax is now 0x112233445566AABB

▶ Gives rise to two other families of movement instructions for moving little registers (X) to big (Y) registers, see movz_examples.s ## movzXY move zero extend, movsXY move sign extend movabsq \$0x112233445566AABB,%rdx $movzwa %dx, %xax # %xax is 0x0000000000000000ABB$ $movswq %dx$, $movswq$ $movswq$

Exercise: movX differences in Main Memory

Show the result of each of the following copies to main memory in sequence.

Answers: movX to Main Memory 1/2

Answers: movX to Main Memory 2/2

| rax | 0x00000000DDCCFFEE |

addX : A Quintessential ALU Instruction

addX B , A $\#$ $A = A+B$

OPERANDS:

addX %reg, %reg addX (%mem),%reg addX %reg, (%mem) addX \$con, %reg addX \$con, (%mem)

No mem+mem or con+con

EXAMPLES:

addl $(\text{``rsi}, \text{``rx}, 4), \text{``edi}$ # edi = edi+rsi[rax] (int)

- ▶ Addition represents most 2-operand ALU instructions well
- ▶ Second operand A is modified by first operand B, No change to B
- ▶ Variety of register, memory, constant combinations honored
- ▶ addX has variants for each register size: addq, addl, addw, addb

Optional Exercise: Addition

Show the results of the following addX/movX ops at each of the specified positions

```
addq $1, \text{rcx} # con + reg
addq \sqrt[n]{r}bx,\sqrt[n]{r}ax # reg + reg
## POS A
addq (\sqrt[n]{r}dx), \sqrt[n]{r}cx # mem + reg
addq \sqrt[n]{r}bx, (\sqrt[n]{r}dx) # reg + mem
addq $3, (\frac{9}{4}xdx) # con + mem
## POS B
addl $1,(%r8,%r9,4) # con + mem
add1 $1, %r9d # con + reg
addl %eax,(%r8,%r9,4) # reg + mem
add1 $1, \frac{0}{0} # con + regaddl (\frac{9}{6}r8, \frac{9}{6}r9, 4), \frac{9}{6}eax # mem + reg
## POS C
```


Answers: Addition

The Other ALU Instructions

- ▶ Most ALU instructions follow the same patter as addX: two operands, second gets changed.
- ▶ Some one operand instructions as well.

leaX: Load Effective Address

- ▶ Memory addresses must often be loaded into registers
- ▶ Often done with a leaX, usually leag in 64-bit platforms
- ▶ Sort of like "address-of" op & in C but a bit more general

Division: It's a Pain (1/2)

- ▶ idivX operation has some special rules
- ▶ Dividend must be in the rax / eax / ax register
- ▶ Sign extend to rdx / edx / dx register with cqto
- ▶ idivX takes one **register** argument which is the divisor
- \blacktriangleright At completion

▶ rax / eax / ax holds quotient (integer part)

```
\triangleright rdx / edx / dx holds the remainder (leftover)
```
division.s:

```
movl $15, %eax # set eax to int 15
cqto # extends 0 sign bit (positive) to edx
## combined 64-bit register %edx:%eax is
## eax: 0x00000000 0000000F = 15
## exx: 0x00000000 00000000 = 0
mov1 $2, %esi # set esi to 2
idivl %esi # divide combined register by 2
## 15 div 2 = 7 rem 1
## %eax == 7, quotient
## %edx == 1, remainder
```
answer in eax, return ret

Compiler avoids division whenever possible: compile col unsigned.c and col signed.c to see some tricks. 36

Division: It's a Pain (2/2)

 \triangleright When performing division on 8-bit or 16-bit quantities, use instructions to sign extend small reg to all rax register $#$ ## division with 16-bit shorts from division.s
movq \$0.%rax # set rax to all 0's movq \$0,%rax # set rax to all 0's
movq \$0,%rdx # set rdx to all 0's $#$ set rdx to all $0's$ # rax = 0x00000000 00000000 # rdx = 0x00000000 00000000 movw $$-17$, $\%$ ax $*$ set ax to short -17 # rax = 0x00000000 0000FFEF # rdx = 0x00000000 00000000 cwtl $#$ "convert word to long" sign extend ax to eax $#$ rax = 0x00000000 FFFFFFFFF # rdx = 0x00000000 00000000 cltq # "convert long to quad" sign extend eax to rax # rax = 0xFFFFFFFF FFFFFFEF # rdx = 0x00000000 00000000 cqto $\frac{1}{4}$ sign extend rax to rdx # rax = 0xFFFFFFFF FFFFFFEF # rdx = 0xFFFFFFFF FFFFFFFF movq \$3, %rcx # set rcx to long 3
idivq %rcx # divide combined r # divide combined rax/rdx register by 3 $#$ rax = 0xFFFFFFFFF FFFFFFFFB = -5 (quotient) $\#$ rdx = 0xFFFFFFFF FFFFFFFFF. = -2 (remainder)