ICS08

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Recitation 3

Machine-Level Programming I: Introduction

Topics

- Assembly Programmer's Execution Model
- Accessing Information
  - Registers
  - Memory
- Arithmetic operations

IA32 Processors

Totally Dominate Computer Market

Evolutionary Design

- Starting in 1978 with 8086
- Added more features as time goes on
- Still support old features, although obsolete

Complex Instruction Set Computer (CISC)

- Many different instructions with many different formats
  - But, only small subset encountered with Linux programs
- Hard to match performance of Reduced Instruction Set Computers (RISC)
- But, Intel has done just that!

X86 Evolution: Programmer's View

Name	Date	Transistors
8086	1978	29K

- 16-bit processor. Basis for IBM PC & DOS
- Limited to 1MB address space. DOS only gives you 640K

Name	Date	Transistors
80286	1982	134K

- Added elaborate, but not very useful, addressing scheme
- Basis for IBM PC-AT and Windows

Name	Date	Transistors
386	1985	275K

- Extended to 32 bits. Added "flat addressing"
- Capable of running Unix
- Linux/gcc uses no instructions introduced in later models

X86 Evolution: Programmer's View

Name	Date	Transistors
486	1989	1.9M
Pentium	1993	3.1M
Pentium/MMX	1997	4.5M

- Added special collection of instructions for operating on 64-bit vectors of 1, 2, or 4 byte integer data

Name	Date	Transistors
PentiumPro	1995	6.5M

- Added conditional move instructions
- Big change in underlying microarchitecture

X86 Evolution: Programmer's View

Name	Date	Transistors
Pentium III	**1999**	**8.2M**

- Added "streaming SIMD" instructions for operating on 128-bit vectors of 1, 2, or 4 byte integer or floating point data
- Our fish machines

Name	Date	Transistors
Pentium 4	**2001**	**42M**

- Added 8-byte formats and 144 new instructions for streaming SIMD mode

X86 Evolution: Clones

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD)

- Historically
  - AMD has followed just behind Intel
  - A little bit slower, a lot cheaper
- Recently
  - Recruited top circuit designers from Digital Equipment Corp.
  - Exploited fact that Intel distracted by IA64
  - Now are close competitors to Intel
- Developing own extension to 64 bits

X86 Evolution: Clones

Transmeta

- Recent start-up
  - Employer of Linus Torvalds
- Radically different approach to implementation
  - Translates x86 code into “Very Long Instruction Word” (VLIW) code
  - High degree of parallelism
- Shooting for low-power market

New Species: IA64

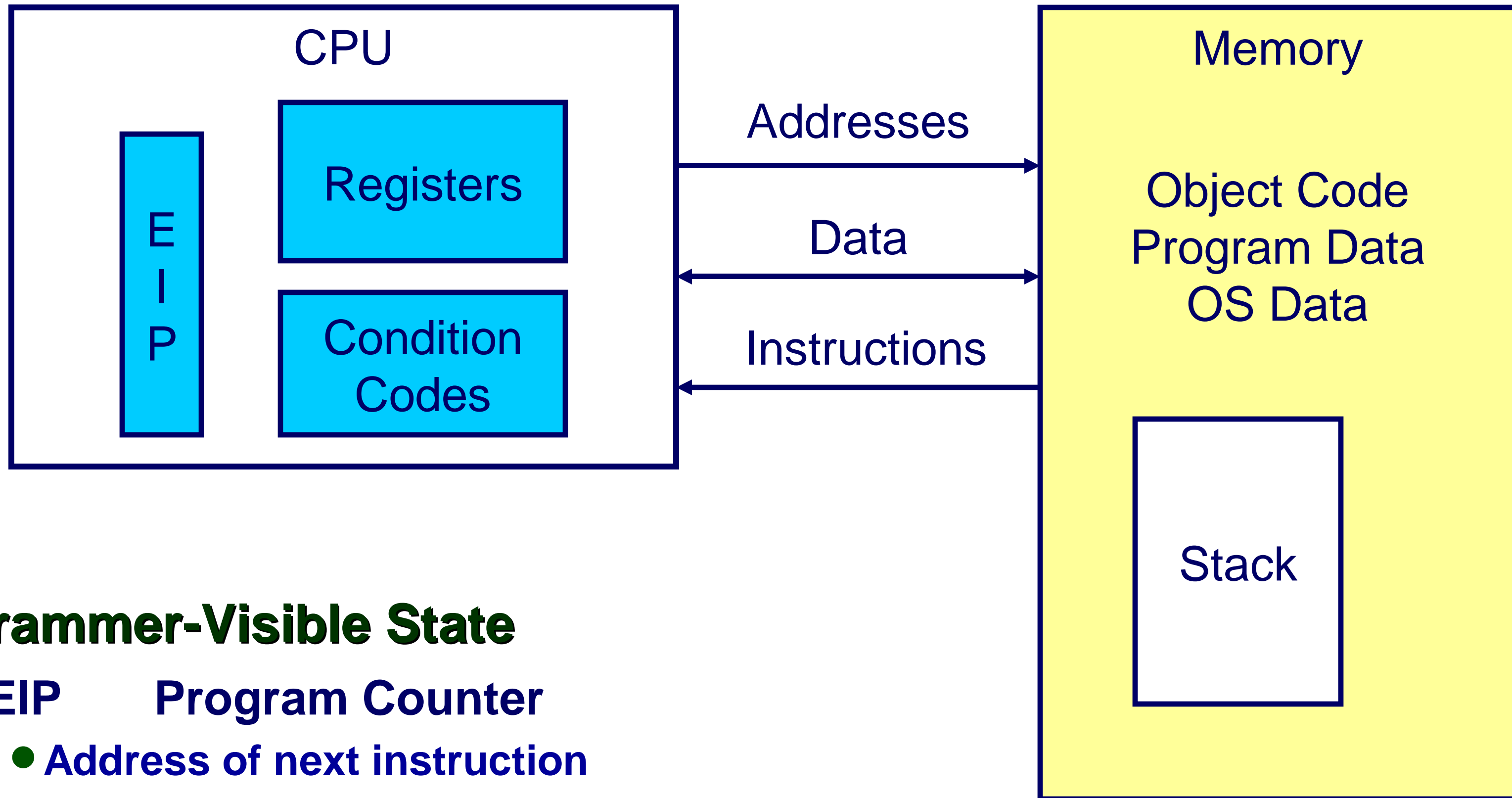
Name	Date	Transistors
Itanium	2001	10M

- Extends to IA64, a 64-bit architecture
- Radically new instruction set designed for high performance
- Will be able to run existing IA32 programs
  - On-board "x86 engine"
- Joint project with Hewlett-Packard

Itanium 2	2002	221M

- Big performance boost

Assembly Programmer's View



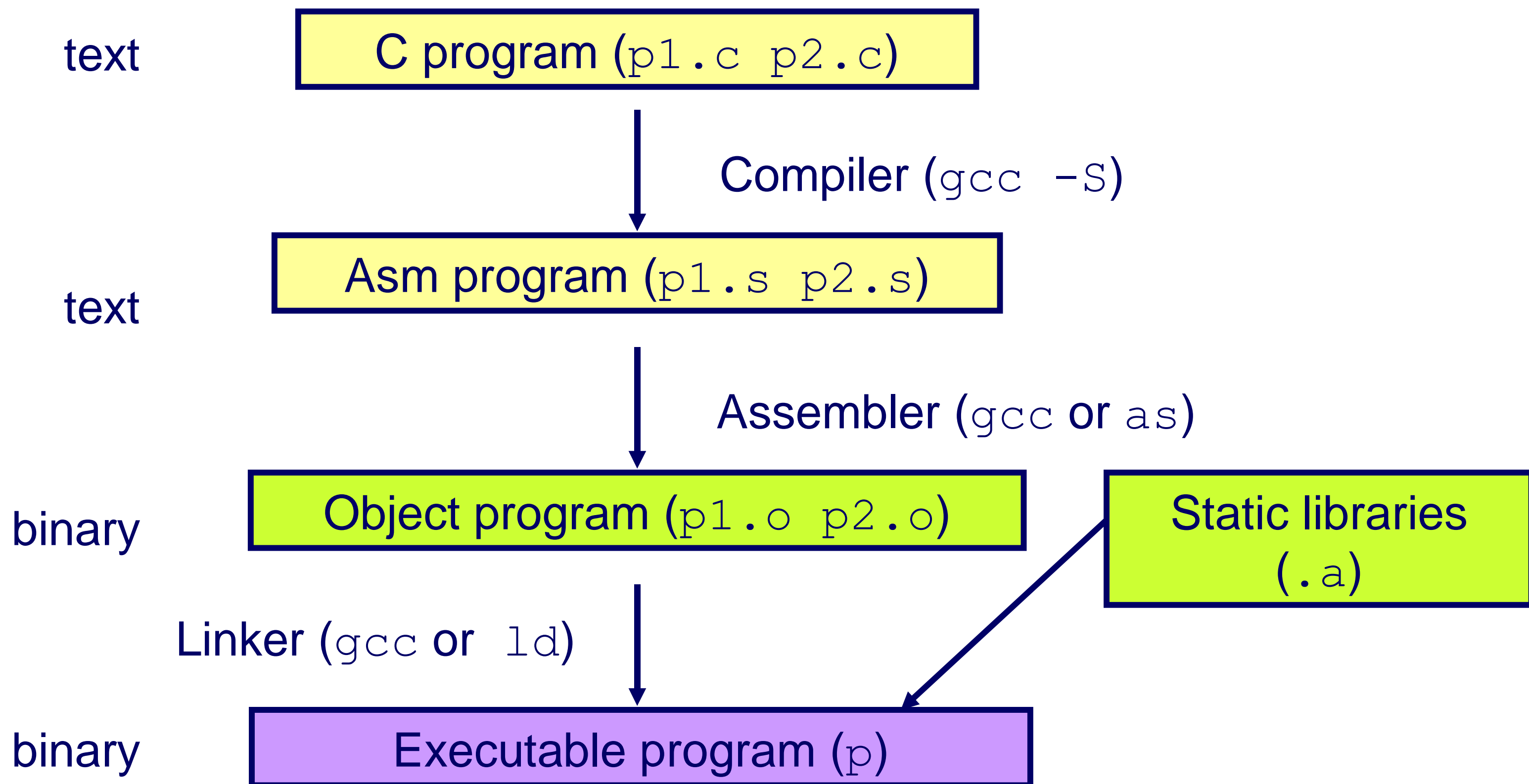
Programmer-Visible State

- **EIP Program Counter**
  - Address of next instruction
- **Register File**
  - Heavily used program data
- **Condition Codes**
  - Store status information about most recent arithmetic operation
  - Used for conditional branching

- **Memory**
  - Byte addressable array
  - Code, user data, (some) OS data
  - Includes stack used to support procedures

Turning C into Object Code

- **Code in files `p1.c p2.c`**
- **Compile with command: `gcc -O p1.c p2.c -o p`**
  - **Use optimizations (`-O`)**
  - **Put resulting binary in file `p`**



Compiling Into Assembly

C Code

```
int sum(int x, int y)
{
  int t = x+y;
  return t;
}
```

Generated Assembly

```
_sum:
    pushl %ebp
    movl %esp,%ebp
    movl 12(%ebp),%eax
    addl 8(%ebp),%eax
    movl %ebp,%esp
    popl %ebp
    ret
```

Obtain with command

```
gcc -O -S code.c
```

Produces file `code.s`

Assembly Characteristics

Minimal Data Types

- “Integer” data of 1, 2, or 4 bytes
  - Data values
  - Addresses (untyped pointers)
- Floating point data of 4, 8, or 10 bytes
- No aggregate types such as arrays or structures
  - Just contiguously allocated bytes in memory

Primitive Operations

- Perform arithmetic function on register or memory data
- Transfer data between memory and register
  - Load data from memory into register
  - Store register data into memory
- Transfer control
  - Unconditional jumps to/from procedures
  - Conditional branches

Machine Instruction Example

```
int t = x+y;
```

```
addl 8(%ebp),%eax
```

Similar to expression
`x += y`

```
0x401046:     03 45 08
```

C Code

- Add two signed integers

Assembly

- Add 2 4-byte integers
  - “Long” words in GCC parlance
  - Same instruction whether signed or unsigned
- Operands:

`x`:	Register	`%eax`
`y`:	Memory	M[`%ebp+8`]
`t`:	Register	`%eax`

  » Return function value in `%eax`

Object Code

- 3-byte instruction
- Stored at address `0x401046`

Disassembling Object Code

Disassembled

```
00401040 <_sum>:
   0:       55                  push    %ebp
   1:       89 e5               mov     %esp,%ebp
   3:       8b 45 0c            mov     0xc(%ebp),%eax
   6:       03 45 08            add     0x8(%ebp),%eax
   9:       89 ec               mov     %ebp,%esp
   b:       5d                  pop     %ebp
   c:       c3                  ret
   d:       8d 76 00            lea     0x0(%esi),%esi
```

Disassembler

`objdump -d p`

- **Useful tool for examining object code**
- **Analyzes bit pattern of series of instructions**
- **Produces approximate rendition of assembly code**
- **Can be run on either `a.out` (complete executable) or `.o` file**

What Can be Disassembled?

```
% objdump -d WINWORD.EXE

WINWORD.EXE:     file format pei-i386

No symbols in "WINWORD.EXE".
Disassembly of section .text:

30001000 <.text>:
30001000:  55             push   %ebp
30001001:  8b ec          mov    %esp,%ebp
30001003:  6a ff          push   $0xffffffff
30001005:  68 90 10 00 30 push   $0x30001090
3000100a:  68 91 dc 4c 30 push   $0x304cdc91
```

- **Anything that can be interpreted as executable code**
- **Disassembler examines bytes and reconstructs assembly source**

CISC Properties

Instruction can reference different operand types

- Immediate, register, memory

Arithmetic operations can read/write memory

Memory reference can involve complex computation

- Rb + S*Ri + D
- Useful for arithmetic expressions, too

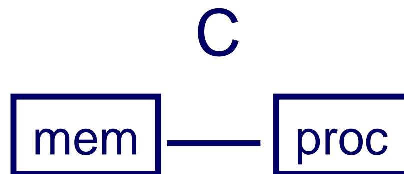
Instructions can have varying lengths

- IA32 instructions can range from 1 to 15 bytes

Summary: Abstract Machines

Machine Models

C



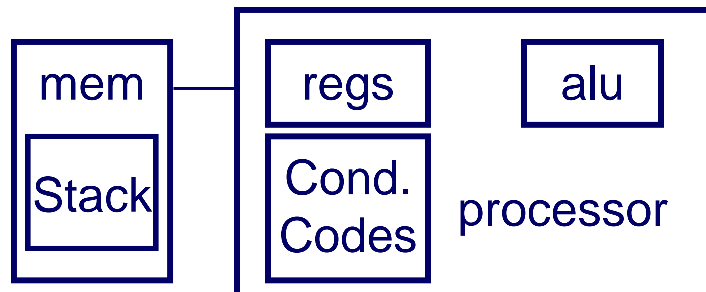
Data

1) `char`
2) `int`, `float`
3) `double`
4) `struct`, array
5) pointer

Control

1) loops
2) conditionals
3) `switch`
4) Proc. call
5) Proc. return

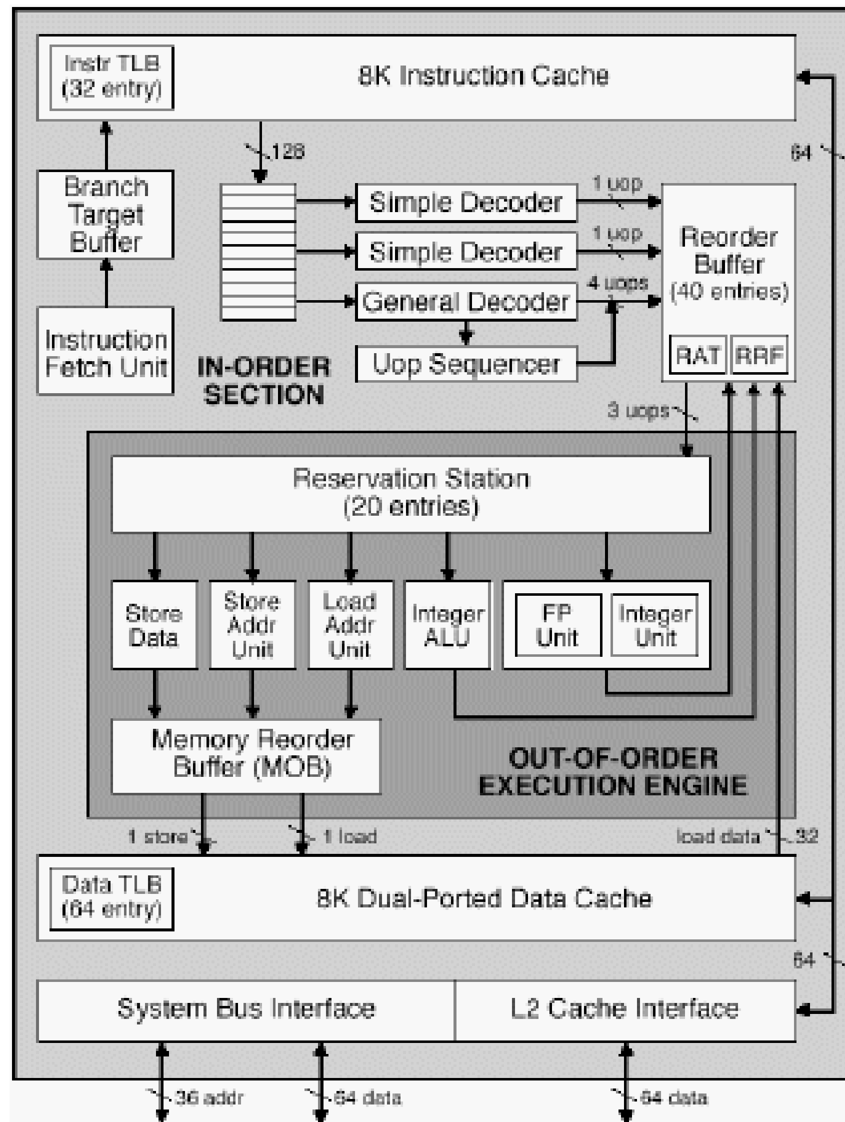
Assembly



1) byte
2) 2-byte word
3) 4-byte long word
4) contiguous byte allocation
5) address of initial byte

3) branch/jump
4) `call`
5) `ret`

PentiumPro Block Diagram



Microprocessor Report
2/16/95

PentiumPro Operation

Translates instructions dynamically into "Uops"

- 118 bits wide
- Holds operation, two sources, and destination

Executes Uops with "Out of Order" engine

- Uop executed when
  - Operands available
  - Functional unit available
- Execution controlled by "Reservation Stations"
  - Keeps track of data dependencies between uops
  - Allocates resources

Consequences

- Indirect relationship between IA32 code & what actually gets executed
- Tricky to predict / optimize performance at assembly level

Machine-Level Programming II: Control Flow

Topics

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

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)

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

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

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

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

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

"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;
}
```

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
```

Registers

```
%edx   x
%eax   result
```

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

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:
```

"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;
  }
```

"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:
```

Switch Statements

```
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 '?';
  }
}
```

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

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
• • •
Targ*n*-1

Jump Targets

Targ0: Code Block 0

Targ1: Code Block 1

Targ2: Code Block 2

• • •

Targ*n*-1: Code Block *n*–1

Approx. Translation

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

Jump Table

Table Contents

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

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
   0x08048737
   0x08048740
   0x08048747
   0x08048750
   0x08048757
```

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 = %
 …
```

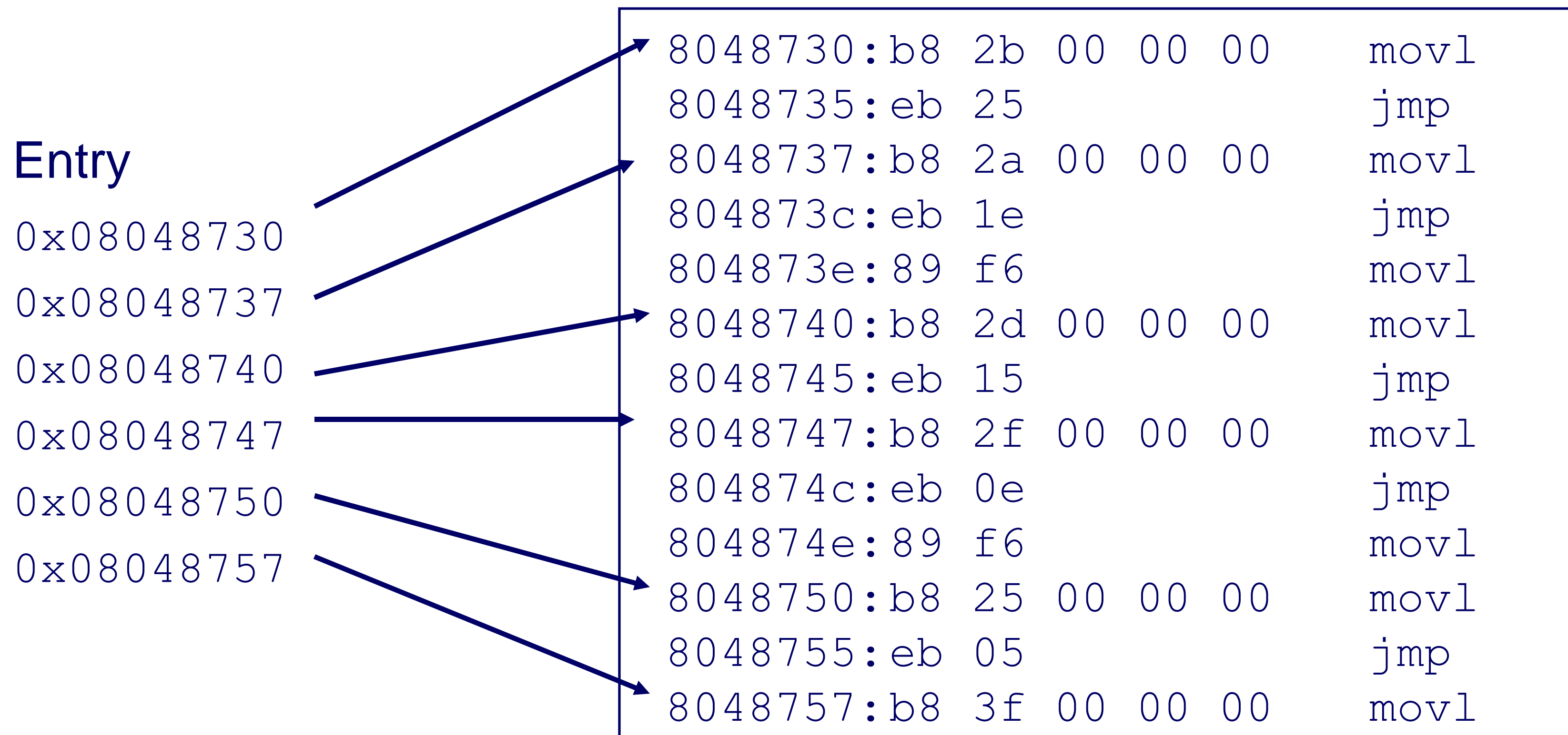
- E.g., `30870408` really means `0x08048730`

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**

Matching Disassembled Targets



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