Assembly Language for Intel-Based Computers, 4th Edition

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Chapter 6: Conditional Processing

Chapter Overview

- Boolean and Comparison Instructions
- Conditional Jumps
- Conditional Loop Instructions
- Conditional Structures
- Application: Finite-State Machines
- Using the .IF Directive

Boolean and Comparison Instructions

- CPU Status Flags
- AND Instruction
- OR Instruction
- XOR Instruction
- NOT Instruction
- Applications
- TEST Instruction
- CMP Instruction

Status Flags - Review

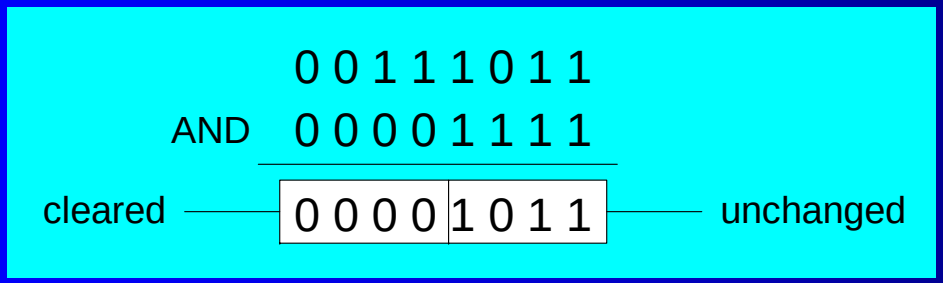
- The Zero flag is set when the result of an operation equals zero.
- The Carry flag is set when an instruction generates a result that is too large (or too small) for the destination operand.
- The Sign flag is set if the destination operand is negative, and it is clear if the destination operand is positive.
- The Overflow flag is set when an instruction generates an invalid signed result.
- Less important:
  - The Parity flag is set when an instruction generates an even number of 1 bits in the low byte of the destination operand.
  - The Auxiliary Carry flag is set when an operation produces a carry out from bit 3 to bit 4.

AND Instruction

- Performs a Boolean AND operation between each pair of matching bits in two operands
- Syntax:

  AND *destination, source*

  (same operand types as MOV)



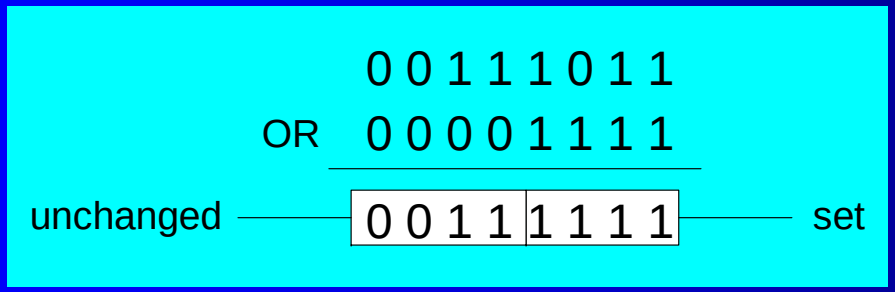
AND

x	y	x ∧ y
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

OR Instruction

- Performs a Boolean OR operation between each pair of matching bits in two operands
- Syntax:

  OR *destination, source*



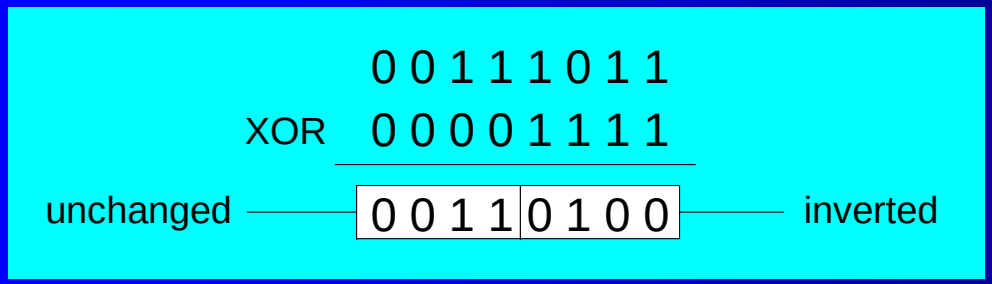
OR

x	y	x ∨ y
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1

XOR Instruction

- Performs a Boolean exclusive-OR operation between each pair of matching bits in two operands
- Syntax:

  XOR *destination, source*



XOR

x	y	x ⊕ y
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

XOR is a useful way to toggle (invert) the bits in an operand.

NOT Instruction

- Performs a Boolean NOT operation on a single destination operand
- Syntax:

  NOT *destination*

```
NOT   0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1
      -----------------
      1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0   inverted
```

NOT

X	¬X
F	T
T	F

Applications (1 of 5)

- Task: Convert the character in AL to upper case.
- Solution: Use the AND instruction to clear bit 5.

```
mov al,'a'                    ; AL = 01100001b
and al,11011111b              ; AL = 01000001b
```

Applications (2 of 5)

- Task: Convert a binary decimal byte into its equivalent ASCII decimal digit.
- Solution: Use the OR instruction to set bits 4 and 5.

```
mov al,6                    ; AL = 00000110b
or  al,00110000b            ; AL = 00110110b
```

The ASCII digit '6' = 00110110b

Applications (3 of 5)

- Task: Turn on the keyboard CapsLock key
- Solution: Use the OR instruction to set bit 6 in the keyboard flag byte at 0040:0017h in the BIOS data area.

```
mov ax,40h                          ; BIOS segment
mov ds,ax
mov bx,17h                          ; keyboard flag byte
or BYTE PTR [bx],01000000b          ; CapsLock on
```

This code only runs in Real-address mode, and it does not work under Windows NT, 2000, or XP.

Applications (4 of 5)

- Task: Jump to a label if an integer is even.
- Solution: AND the lowest bit with a 1. If the result is Zero, the number was even.

```
mov ax,wordVal
and ax,1                ; low bit set?
jz  EvenValue           ; jump if Zero flag set
```

JZ (jump if Zero) is covered in Section 6.3.

Your turn: Write code that jumps to a label if an integer is negative.

Applications (5 of 5)

- Task: Jump to a label if the value in AL is not zero.
- Solution: OR the byte with itself, then use the JNZ (jump if not zero) instruction.

```
or  al,al
jnz IsNotZero           ; jump if not zero
```

ORing any number with itself does not change its value.

TEST Instruction

- Performs a nondestructive AND operation between each pair of matching bits in two operands
- No operands are modified, but the Zero flag is affected.
- Example: jump to a label if either bit 0 or bit 1 in AL is set.

```
test al,00000011b
jnz  ValueFound
```

- Example: jump to a label if neither bit 0 nor bit 1 in AL is set.

```
test al,00000011b
jz   ValueNotFound
```

CMP Instruction (1 of 3)

- Compares the destination operand to the source operand
  - Nondestructive subtraction of source from destination (destination operand is not changed)
- Syntax: CMP *destination, source*
- Example: destination == source

```
mov al,5
cmp al,5                    ; Zero flag set
```

- Example: destination < source

```
mov al,4
cmp al,5                    ; Carry flag set
```

CMP Instruction (2 of 3)

- Example: destination > source

```
mov al,6
cmp al,5                    ; ZF = 0, CF = 0
```

(both the Zero and Carry flags are clear)

The comparisons shown so far were unsigned.

CMP Instruction (3 of 3)

The comparisons shown here are performed with signed integers.

- Example: destination > source

```
mov al,5
cmp al,-2                ; Sign flag == Overflow flag
```

- Example: destination < source

```
mov al,-1
cmp al,5                 ; Sign flag != Overflow flag
```

Conditional Jumps

- Jumps Based On . . .
  - Specific flags
  - Equality
  - Unsigned comparisons
  - Signed Comparisons
- Applications
- Encrypting a String
- Bit Test (BT) Instruction

J*cond* Instruction

- A conditional jump instruction branches to a label when specific register or flag conditions are met

- Examples:
  - JB, JC jump to a label if the Carry flag is set
  - JE, JZ jump to a label if the Zero flag is set
  - JS jumps to a label if the Sign flag is set
  - JNE, JNZ jump to a label if the Zero flag is clear
  - JECXZ jumps to a label if ECX equals 0

Jumps Based on Specific Flags

Mnemonic	Description	Flags
JZ	Jump if zero	ZF = 1
JNZ	Jump if not zero	ZF = 0
JC	Jump if carry	CF = 1
JNC	Jump if not carry	CF = 0
JO	Jump if overflow	OF = 1
JNO	Jump if not overflow	OF = 0
JS	Jump if signed	SF = 1
JNS	Jump if not signed	SF = 0
JP	Jump if parity (even)	PF = 1
JNP	Jump if not parity (odd)	PF = 0

Jumps Based on Equality

Mnemonic	Description
JE	Jump if equal (*leftOp* = *rightOp*)
JNE	Jump if not equal (*leftOp* ≠ *rightOp*)
JCXZ	Jump if CX = 0
JECXZ	Jump if ECX = 0

Irvine, Kip R. Assembly Language for Intel-Based Computers, 2003.

Jumps Based on Unsigned Comparisons

Mnemonic	Description
JA	Jump if above (if *leftOp* > *rightOp*)
JNBE	Jump if not below or equal (same as JA)
JAE	Jump if above or equal (if *leftOp* >= *rightOp*)
JNB	Jump if not below (same as JAE)
JB	Jump if below (if *leftOp* < *rightOp*)
JNAE	Jump if not above or equal (same as JB)
JBE	Jump if below or equal (if *leftOp* <= *rightOp*)
JNA	Jump if not above (same as JBE)

Irvine, Kip R. Assembly Language for Intel-Based Computers, 2003.

Jumps Based on Signed Comparisons

Mnemonic	Description
JG	Jump if greater (if *leftOp* > *rightOp*)
JNLE	Jump if not less than or equal (same as JG)
JGE	Jump if greater than or equal (if *leftOp* >= *rightOp*)
JNL	Jump if not less (same as JGE)
JL	Jump if less (if *leftOp* < *rightOp*)
JNGE	Jump if not greater than or equal (same as JL)
JLE	Jump if less than or equal (if *leftOp* <= *rightOp*)
JNG	Jump if not greater (same as JLE)

Applications (1 of 5)

- Task: Jump to a label if unsigned EAX is greater than EBX
- Solution: Use CMP, followed by JA

```
cmp eax,ebx
ja  Larger
```

- Task: Jump to a label if signed EAX is greater than EBX
- Solution: Use CMP, followed by JG

```
cmp eax,ebx
jg  Greater
```

Applications (2 of 5)

- Jump to label L1 if unsigned EAX is less than or equal to Val1

```
cmp eax,Val1
jbe L1              ; below or equal
```

- Jump to label L1 if signed EAX is less than or equal to Val1

```
cmp eax,Val1
jle L1
```

Applications (3 of 5)

- Compare unsigned AX to BX, and copy the larger of the two into a variable named Large

```
    mov Large,bx
    cmp ax,bx
    jna Next
    mov Large,ax
Next:
```

- Compare signed AX to BX, and copy the smaller of the two into a variable named Small

```
    mov Small,ax
    cmp bx,ax
    jnl Next
    mov Small,bx
Next:
```

Applications (4 of 5)

- Jump to label L1 if the memory word pointed to by ESI equals Zero

```
cmp WORD PTR [esi],0
je  L1
```

- Jump to label L2 if the doubleword in memory pointed to by EDI is even

```
test DWORD PTR [edi],1
jz   L2
```

Applications (5 of 5)

- Task: Jump to label L1 if bits 0, 1, and 3 in AL are all set.
- Solution: Clear all bits except bits 0, 1,and 3. Then compare the result with 00001011 binary.

```
and al,00001011b        ; clear unwanted bits
cmp al,00001011b        ; check remaining bits
je  L1                  ; all set? jump to L1
```

Your turn . . .

- Write code that jumps to label L1 if either bit 4, 5, or 6 is set in the BL register.
- Write code that jumps to label L1 if bits 4, 5, and 6 are all set in the BL register.
- Write code that jumps to label L2 if AL has even parity.
- Write code that jumps to label L3 if EAX is negative.
- Write code that jumps to label L4 if the expression (EBX – ECX) is greater than zero.

Encrypting a String

The following loop uses the XOR instruction to transform every character in a string into a new value.

```
KEY = 239
.data
buffer BYTE BUFMAX DUP(0)
bufSize DWORD ?
.code
   mov ecx,bufSize          ; loop counter
   mov esi,0                ; index 0 in buffer
L1:
   xor buffer[esi],KEY      ; translate a byte
   inc esi                  ; point to next byte
   loop L1
```

String Encryption Program

- Tasks:
  - Input a message (string) from the user
  - Encrypt the message
  - Display the encrypted message
  - Decrypt the message
  - Display the decrypted message

View the Encrypt.asm program's source code. Sample output:

```
Enter the plain text: Attack at dawn.
Cipher text: «¢¢Äîä-Ä¢-ïÄÿü-Gs
Decrypted: Attack at dawn.
```

BT (Bit Test) Instruction

- Copies bit *n* from an operand into the Carry flag
- Syntax: BT *bitBase, n*
  - bitBase may be *r/m16* or *r/m32*
  - n may be *r16, r32*, or *imm8*
- Example: jump to label L1 if bit 9 is set in the AX register:

```
bt AX,9                    ; CF = bit 9
jc L1                      ; jump if Carry
```