

Princeton University
COS 217: Introduction to Programming Systems
A Subset of IA-32 Assembly Language

1. Instruction Operands

1.1. Immediate Operands

Syntax: $\$i$

Semantics: Evaluates to i . Note that i could be a label...

Syntax: $\$label$

Semantics: Evaluates to the memory address denoted by $label$.

1.2. Register Operands

Syntax: $\%r$

Semantics: Evaluates to $\text{reg}[r]$, that is, the contents of register r .

1.3. Memory Operands

Syntax: $disp(\%base, \%index, scale)$

Semantics:

$disp$ is a literal or label.

$base$ is a general purpose register.

$index$ is any general purpose register except EBP.

$scale$ is the literal 1, 2, 4, or 8.

One of $disp$, $base$, or $index$ is required. All other fields are optional.

Evaluates to the contents of memory at a certain address. The address is computed using this formula:

$$disp + \text{reg}[base] + (\text{reg}[index] * scale)$$

The default $disp$ is 0. The default $scale$ is 1. If $base$ is omitted, then $\text{reg}[base]$ evaluates to 0. If $index$ is omitted, then $\text{reg}[index]$ evaluates to 0.

2. Commonly Used Memory Operands

| Syntax | Semantics | Description |
|--|--|---|
| <i>label</i> | disp: <i>label</i> base: (none) index: (none) scale: (none) $\text{mem}[0 + (0 * 0) + \text{label}]$ $\text{mem}[\text{label}]$ | <p>Direct Addressing. The contents of memory at a certain address. The offset of that address is denoted by <i>label</i>.</p> <p>Often used to access a long, word, or byte in the bss, data, or rodata section.</p> |
| (% <i>r</i>) | disp: (none) base: <i>r</i> index: (none) scale: (none) $\text{mem}[\text{reg}[\textit{r}] + (0 * 0) + 0]$ $\text{mem}[\text{reg}[\textit{r}]]$ | <p>Indirect Addressing. The contents of memory at a certain address. The offset of that address is the contents of register <i>r</i>.</p> <p>Often used to access a long, word, or byte in the stack section.</p> |
| <i>i</i> (% <i>r</i>) | disp: <i>i</i> base: <i>r</i> index: (none) scale: (none) $\text{mem}[\text{reg}[\textit{r}] + (0 * 0) + \textit{i}]$ $\text{mem}[\text{reg}[\textit{r}] + \textit{i}]$ | <p>Base-Pointer Addressing. The contents of memory at a certain address. The offset of that address is the sum of <i>i</i> and the contents of register <i>r</i>.</p> <p>Often used to access a long, word, or byte in the stack section.</p> |
| <i>label</i> (% <i>r</i>) | disp: <i>label</i> base: <i>r</i> index: (none) scale: (none) $\text{mem}[\text{reg}[\textit{r}] + (0 * 0) + \text{label}]$ $\text{mem}[\text{reg}[\textit{r}] + \text{label}]$ | <p>Indexed Addressing. The contents of memory at a certain address. The offset of that address is the sum of the address denoted by <i>label</i> and the contents of register <i>r</i>.</p> <p>Often used to access an array of bytes (characters) in the bss, data, or rodata section.</p> |
| <i>label</i> (, <i>%r</i> , <i>i</i>) | disp: <i>label</i> base: (none) index: <i>r</i> scale: <i>i</i> $\text{mem}[0 + (\text{reg}[\textit{r}] * \textit{i}) + \text{label}]$ $\text{mem}[(\text{reg}[\textit{r}] * \textit{i}) + \text{label}]$ | <p>Indexed Addressing. The contents of memory at a certain address. The offset of that address is the sum of the address denoted by <i>label</i>, and the contents of register <i>r</i> multiplied by <i>i</i>.</p> <p>Often used to access an array of longs or words in the bss, data, or rodata section.</p> |

3. Assembler Mnemonics

Key:

src: a source operand
dest: a destination operand
I: an immediate operand
R: a register operand
M: a memory operand
label: a label operand

For each instruction, at most one operand can be a memory operand.

3.1. Data Transfer Mnemonics

| Syntax | Semantics | Description |
|--|--|---|
| <code>mov{l,w,b} srcIRM, destRM</code> | $dest = src;$ | Move. Copy <i>src</i> to <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: None |
| <code>movsb{l,w} srcRM, destR</code> | $dest = src;$ | Move Sign-Extended Byte. Copy byte operand <i>src</i> to word or long operand <i>dest</i> , extending the sign of <i>src</i> . Flags affected: None |
| <code>movswl srcRM, destR</code> | $dest = src;$ | Move Sign-Extended Word. Copy word operand <i>src</i> to long operand <i>dest</i> , extending the sign of <i>src</i> . Flags affected: None |
| <code>movzb{l,w} srcRM, destR</code> | $dest = src;$ | Move Zero-Extended Byte. Copy byte operand <i>src</i> to word or long operand <i>dest</i> , setting the high-order bytes of <i>dest</i> to 0. Flags affected: None |
| <code>movzwl srcRM, destR</code> | $dest = src;$ | Move Zero-Extended Word. Copy word operand <i>src</i> to long operand <i>dest</i> , setting the high-order bytes of <i>dest</i> to 0. Flags affected: None |
| <code>push{l,w} srcIRM</code> | $reg[ESP] = reg[ESP] - \{4,2\};$ $mem[reg[ESP]] = src;$ | Push. Push <i>src</i> onto the stack. Flags affected: None |
| <code>pop{l,w} destRM</code> | $dest = mem[reg[ESP]];$ $reg[ESP] = reg[ESP] + \{4,2\};$ | Pop. Pop from the stack into <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: None |
| <code>lea{l,w} srcM, destR</code> | $dest = \&src;$ | Load Effective Address. Assign the address of <i>src</i> to <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: None |
| <code>cld</code> | $reg[EDX:EAX] = reg[EAX];$ | Convert Long to Double Register. Sign extend the contents of register EAX into the register pair EDX:EAX, typically in preparation for <code>divl</code> . Flags affected: None |
| <code>cwtd</code> | $reg[DX:AX] = reg[AX];$ | Convert Word to Double Register. Sign extend the contents of register AX into the register pair DX:AX, typically in preparation for <code>divw</code> . Flags affected: None |
| <code>cbtw</code> | $reg[AX] = reg[AL];$ | Convert Byte to Word. Sign extend the contents of register AL into register AX, typically in preparation for <code>divb</code> . Flags affected: None |
| <code>leave</code> | Equivalent to: <code>movl %ebp, %esp</code> <code>popl %ebp</code> | Pop a stack frame in preparation for leaving a function. Flags affected: None |

3.2. Arithmetic Mnemonics

| Syntax | Semantics | Description |
|--|---|--|
| <code>add{l,w,b} srcIRM, destRM</code> | $dest = dest + src;$ | Add. Add <i>src</i> to <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>adc{l,w,b} srcIRM, destRM</code> | $dest = dest + src + C;$ | Add with Carry. Add <i>src</i> and the carry flag to <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>sub{l,w,b} srcIRM, destRM</code> | $dest = dest - src;$ | Subtract. Subtract <i>src</i> from <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>inc{l,w,b} destRM</code> | $dest = dest + 1;$ | Increment. Increment <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, P |
| <code>dec{l,w,b} destRM</code> | $dest = dest - 1;$ | Decrement. Decrement <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, P |
| <code>neg{l,w,b} destRM</code> | $dest = -dest;$ | Negate. Negate <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>imull srcRM</code> | $reg[EDX:EAX] = reg[EAX] * src;$ | Signed Multiply. Multiply the contents of register EAX by <i>src</i> , and store the product in registers EDX:EAX. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>imulw srcRM</code> | $reg[DX:AX] = reg[AX] * src;$ | Signed Multiply. Multiply the contents of register AX by <i>src</i> , and store the product in registers DX:AX. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>imulb srcRM</code> | $reg[AX] = reg[AL] * src;$ | Signed Multiply. Multiply the contents of register AL by <i>src</i> , and store the product in AX. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>idivl srcRM</code> | $reg[EAX] = reg[EDX:EAX] / src;$ $reg[EDX] = reg[EDX:EAX] \% src;$ | Signed Divide. Divide the contents of registers EDX:EAX by <i>src</i> , and store the quotient in register EAX and the remainder in register EDX. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>idivw srcRM</code> | $reg[AX] = reg[DX:AX] / src;$ $reg[DX] = reg[DX:AX] \% src;$ | Signed Divide. Divide the contents of registers DX:AX by <i>src</i> , and store the quotient in register AX and the remainder in register DX. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>idivb srcRM</code> | $reg[AL] = reg[AX] / src;$ $reg[AH] = reg[AX] \% src;$ | Signed Divide. Divide the contents of register AX by <i>src</i> , and store the quotient in register AL and the remainder in register AH. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>mull srcRM</code> | $reg[EDX:EAX] = reg[EAX] * src;$ | Unsigned Multiply. Multiply the contents of register EAX by <i>src</i> , and store the product in registers EDX:EAX. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>mulw srcRM</code> | $reg[DX:AX] = reg[AX] * src;$ | Unsigned Multiply. Multiply the contents of register AX by <i>src</i> , and store the product in registers DX:AX. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>mulb srcRM</code> | $reg[AX] = reg[AL] * src;$ | Unsigned Multiply. Multiply the contents of register AL by <i>src</i> , and store the product in AX. |
| <code>divl srcRM</code> | $reg[EAX] = reg[EDX:EAX] / src;$ $reg[EDX] = reg[EDX:EAX] \% src;$ | Unsigned Divide. Divide the contents of registers EDX:EAX by <i>src</i> , and store the quotient in register EAX and the remainder in register EDX. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>divw srcRM</code> | $reg[AX] = reg[DX:AX] / src;$ $reg[DX] = reg[DX:AX] \% src;$ | Unsigned Divide. Divide the contents of registers DX:AX by <i>src</i> , and store the quotient in register AX and the remainder in register DX. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| <code>divb srcRM</code> | <code>reg[AL] = reg[AX]/src;</code> <code>reg[AH] = reg[AX]%src;</code> | Unsigned Divide. Divide the contents of register AX by <i>src</i> , and store the quotient in register AL and the remainder in register AH. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
|-------------------------|--|--|

3.3. Bitwise Mnemonics

| Syntax | Semantics | Description |
|--|--|---|
| <code>and{l,w,b} srcIRM, destRM</code> | <code>dest = dest & src;</code> | And. Bitwise and <i>src</i> into <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>or{l,w,b} srcIRM, destRM</code> | <code>dest = dest src;</code> | Or. Bitwise or <i>src</i> into <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>xor{l,w,b} srcIRM, destRM</code> | <code>dest = dest ^ src;</code> | Exclusive Or. Bitwise exclusive or <i>src</i> into <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>not{l,w,b} destRM</code> | <code>dest = ~dest;</code> | Not. Bitwise not <i>dest</i> . Flags affected: None |
| <code>sal{l,w,b} srcIR, destRM</code> | <code>dest = dest << src;</code> | Shift Arithmetic Left. Shift <i>dest</i> to the left <i>src</i> bits, filling with zeros. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>sar{l,w,b} srcIR, destRM</code> | <code>dest = dest >> src;</code> | Shift Arithmetic Right. Shift <i>dest</i> to the right <i>src</i> bits, sign extending the number. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>shl{l,w,b} srcIR, destRM</code> | (Same as <code>sal</code>) | Shift Left. (Same as <code>sal</code>). Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>shr{l,w,b} srcIR, destRM</code> | (Same as <code>sar</code>) | Shift Right. Shift <i>dest</i> to the right <i>src</i> bits, filling with zeros. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |

3.4. Control Transfer Mnemonics

| Syntax | Semantics | Description |
|--|---|--|
| <code>cmp{l,w,b} srcIRM1, srcRM2</code> | <code>reg[EFLAGS] = srcRM2 comparedWith srcIRM1</code> | Compare. Compute <i>src2</i> - <i>src1</i> and set flags in the EFLAGS register based upon the result. Flags affected: O, S, Z, A, C, P |
| <code>test{l,w,b} srcIRM1, srcRM2</code> | <code>reg[EFLAGS] = srcRM2 andedWith srcIRM1</code> | Test. Compute <i>src2</i> & <i>src1</i> and set flags in the EFLAGS register based upon the result. Flags affected: S, Z, P (O and C set to 0) |
| <code>jmp label</code> | <code>reg[EIP] = label;</code> | Jump. Jump to <i>label</i> . Flags affected: None |
| <code>j{e,ne} label</code> | <code>if (reg[EFLAGS] appropriate)</code> <code>reg[EIP] = label;</code> | Conditional Jump. Jump to <i>label</i> iff the flags in the EFLAGS register indicate an equality or inequality (respectively) relationship between the most recently compared numbers. Flags affected: None |
| <code>j{l,le,g,ge} label</code> | <code>if (reg[EFLAGS] appropriate)</code> <code>reg[EIP] = label;</code> | Signed Conditional Jump. Jump to <i>label</i> iff the condition codes in the EFLAGS register indicate a less than, less than or equal to, greater than, or greater than or equal to (respectively) relationship between the most recently compared numbers. Flags affected: None |
| <code>j{b,be,a,ae} label</code> | <code>if (reg[EFLAGS] appropriate)</code> <code>reg[EIP] = label;</code> | Unsigned Conditional Jump. Jump to <i>label</i> iff the condition codes in the EFLAGS register indicate a below, below or equal to, above, or above or equal to (respectively) relationship between the most recently compared numbers. Flags affected: None |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| <code>call label</code> | <code>reg[ESP] = reg[ESP] - 4;</code> <code>mem[reg[ESP]] = reg[EIP];</code> <code>reg[EIP] = label;</code> | Call. Call the function that begins at <i>label</i> . Flags affected: None |
| <code>call *srcR</code> | <code>reg[ESP] = reg[ESP] - 4;</code> <code>mem[reg[ESP]] = reg[EIP];</code> <code>reg[EIP] = reg[srcR];</code> | Call. Call the function whose address is in <i>src</i> . Flags affected: None |
| <code>ret</code> | <code>reg[EIP] = mem[reg[ESP]];</code> <code>reg[ESP] = reg[ESP] + 4;</code> | Return. Return from the current function. Flags affected: None |
| <code>int srcIRM</code> | Generate interrupt number <i>src</i> | Interrupt. Generate interrupt number <i>src</i> . Flags affected: None |

4. Assembler Directives

| Syntax | Description |
|--|--|
| <code>label:</code> | Record the fact that <i>label</i> marks the current location within the current section |
| <code>.section ".sectionname"</code> | Make the <i>sectionname</i> section the current section |
| <code>.skip n</code> | Skip <i>n</i> bytes of memory in the current section |
| <code>.align n</code> | Skip as many bytes of memory in the current section as necessary so the current location is evenly divisible by <i>n</i> |
| <code>.byte bytevalue1, bytevalue2, ...</code> | Allocate one byte of memory containing <i>bytevalue1</i> , one byte of memory containing <i>bytevalue2</i> , ... in the current section |
| <code>.word wordvalue1, wordvalue2, ...</code> | Allocate two bytes of memory containing <i>wordvalue1</i> , two bytes of memory containing <i>wordvalue2</i> , ... in the current section |
| <code>.long longvalue1, longvalue2, ...</code> | Allocate four bytes of memory containing <i>longvalue1</i> , four bytes of memory containing <i>longvalue2</i> , ... in the current section |
| <code>.ascii "string1", "string2", ...</code> | Allocate memory containing the characters from <i>string1</i> , <i>string2</i> , ... in the current section |
| <code>.asciz "string1", "string2", ...</code> | Allocate memory containing <i>string1</i> , <i>string2</i> , ..., where each string is '\0' terminated, in the current section |
| <code>.string "string1", "string2", ...</code> | (Same as <code>.asciz</code>) |
| <code>.globl label1, label2, ...</code> | Mark <i>label1</i> , <i>label2</i> , ... so they are accessible by code generated from other source code files |
| <code>.equ name, expr</code> | Define <i>name</i> as a symbolic alias for <i>expr</i> |
| <code>.lcomm label, n [,align]</code> | Allocate <i>n</i> bytes, marked by <i>label</i> , in the bss section [and align the bytes on an <i>align</i> -byte boundary] |
| <code>.comm label, n, [,align]</code> | Allocate <i>n</i> bytes, marked by <i>label</i> , in the bss section, mark <i>label</i> so it is accessible by code generated from other source code files [and align the bytes on an <i>align</i> -byte boundary] |
| <code>.type label,@function</code> | Mark <i>label</i> so the linker knows that it denotes the beginning of a function |

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