Lecture 11: Addressing Modes (Part 1)

- Operand Types (a review)
- Addressing Modes
- WORD and BYTE PTR

Basic Operand Types

- Three basic types:
  - immediate – a constant
  - register – a CPU register
  - memory – a reference to a location in memory

Immediate Operands

- An immediate operand is a constant expression such as a number, a character, or an arithmetic expression.

  ```
  mov al, 10 ; al = 10
  mov bl, 'A' ; bl = 'A'
  mov cx, 'AB' ; cx = 'AB'
  mov dx, 123h ; dx = 123h
  ```

- The assembler calculates the value of the immediate operand and inserts it directly into the machine instruction.

Register Operands

- As we’ve seen, register operands are eight or sixteen bit registers (or 32 if using the extended registers).

  ```
  mov ax, bx
  mov al, bl
  ```

- Register addressing is very efficient because no memory access is required.
Memory Operands

- For memory operands, there are a number of different ways that they can be accessed using assembly language.
- These different ways are addressing modes.

Assembly Language Addressing Modes

- Memory is accessed by calculating its effective address, using the distance (or offset) of the data from the beginning of a segment (usually the data segment).
- Memory Addressing modes:
  - Direct
  - Register Indirect
  - Based or Indexed
  - Base-indexed
  - Base-indexed with displacement (displacement is a number or offset from a variable)

Direct Operands

- A direct operand refers to the contents of memory at a location identified by a label in the data segment.
- We’ve seen many examples of this already. Here are a few more:
  - Irvine, p. 78

OFFSET Operator

The offset operator is used to move the offset of a label into a register or variable.

```
  anum          db 12
  mov bx, offset anum

-- assembles as:
  mov bx, 0200h
```

Why is this useful?
In homework 2 we saw how storing an address in BX could be used to step through a list of numbers.
Another way to get the address

- LEA  BX, anum
- LEA stands for load effective address
- There is a difference between LEA and MOV … OFFSET:
  - LEA calculates the label’s offset at runtime
  - MOV … OFFSET moves an immediate value that is known at assembly time
- Use LEA if the effective address of an operand must be calculated at runtime.

Direct-Offset Operands

- You can use the addition and subtraction operators to access a list of values.
  - The + operator adds to the offset of a variable.
  - The minus operator subtracts from the labels offset.

Addition Example

- Irvine, p. 79

Subtraction Example

- p. 76 in Irvine

Where have we seen this type of addressing before?
Lecture 7 Example of Direct Offset Addressing

- Example:
  ```
  arrayB  db 10h, 20h
  arrayW  dw 100h, 200h
  ...
  mov al, arrayB ; AL = 10h
  mov al, arrayB+1 ; AL = 20h
  mov ax, arrayW ; AX = 100h
  mov ax, arrayW+2 ; AX = 200h
  mov ax, arrayW+1 ; AX = ?
  ```

Indirect Addressing

- An indirect operand is a register that contains the offset of data in memory.
- When the offset of the variable is placed in a register, the register becomes a pointer to the label.
- You can use SI, DI, BX, and BP to hold indirect operands.
  - BX: base register
  - SI, DI: index registers
  - BP: base pointer (contains an offset from the SS register)

- Increment each word in an array list

  ```
  .data
  LIST   DW 5FFh, 0Ah, 12h, 17h, 4h
  .code
  .startup
  :step through each element and increment
  MOV   AX, LIST
  INC AX
  MOV   AX, LIST+2
  INC AX
  MOV   LIST+2, AX
  etc… for list+4, list+6, list+8
  ```

- This could get pretty long! You need a way to modify the address at execution time so you can put the above code in a loop.

So why do we have to use indirect addressing? We could just put a label at location 0042:0100 and do a
```
MOV AX, label
```
• If you put the address of the base of the list in BX, you can use indirect addressing and a loop!

```assembly
.increment each word in an array list
.data
LISTDW5FFh, 0Ah, 12h, 17h, 4h
.code
.startup
MOV BX, offset LIST
MOV CX, 5 ; 5 elements
LUP: MOV AX, [BX] ; get item pointed to by BX
INC AX ; add one to it
MOV [BX], AX ; put back into same place
ADD BX, 2 ; increment address by 2
LOOP LUP ; loop back to top
```

• Quite an improvement!

An even shorter way!

```assembly
.increment each word in an array list
.data
LISTDW5FFh, 0Ah, 12h, 17h, 4h
.code
.startup
LEA BX, LIST
MOV CX, 5
LUP: INC WORD PTR [BX] ;*
ADD BX, 2
LOOP LUP
```

• You can’t just say INC [BX] because there is nothing in the instruction to indicate if BX has the address of a word (like in this example) or a byte.

• You can specify which one it is using WORD PTR or BYTE PTR

More on WORD and BYTE PTR

```assembly
.increment each word in an array list
.data
LIST DW 5FFh, 0Ah, 12h, 17h, 4h
.code
.startup
LEA BX, LIST
MOV CX, 5
LUP: INC WORD PTR [BX] ; List’s 1st entry
     ; after INC would be 6000h
     vs.
LUP: INC BYTE PTR [BX] ; Lists 1st entry
     ; after INC would be 5F00h
```

only the low byte (FF) was incremented. It wrapped around from FF back to 0; the upper byte was unaffected.

• So, the pointer is the same (always addresses a byte) but if declared as a word pointer, the operation is done on a 16-bit value; if a byte pointer, on an 8-bit value.

• You wouldn’t need to make a distinction for:

MOV AX, [DI]

• Why?
  – The use of AX indicates that DI should be treated as a word pointer.
We’ve seen indirect addressing before!

- Remember homework 2 with our array of numbers:
  - \(-14 = 0FFF2h\)
  - \(0 = 0000h\)
  - \(-6 = 0FFFAh\)
  - \(-42 = 0FFD6h\)
  - \(17 = 0011h\)
  - \(2 = 0002h\)

- We used BX as a pointer to each element in the array in order to step through and add them up (in part 1).
- We used DX as a pointer to the last element in the array and compared it to BX in order to tell if we were done.
- DS pointed to the start of the data segment.

Not just to access words.

- example from p. 106, Irvine
Segment Defaults

- The offset created by an indirect operand is assumed to be from DS unless BP (or EBP) is part of the indirect operand.
- If BP is involved, then the offset is from the stack segment (SS register).
- You can override the default segment if necessary:
  ```
  mov al, cs:[si] ; offset from CS
  ```

Another Example

- Example 3, part 1 from Irvine p. 107

Example, continued

- You can avoid the separate instructions that increment BX:
- Example 3 from Irvine, part 2, p. 108

- This takes advantage of sum being stored after the data. This is NOT a good approach!