# Machine-Level Programming: Control Flow

Chapter 3 of B&O

### Condition Codes

- Single Bit Registers
  - The carry flag and the overflc w flag is for arithm etic overflo – CF Carry Flag SF Sign Flåg
  - ZFZero FlagOFOverflow 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

tests to see if they are equivalent without having to create a new register

- 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</p>

# 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)	

# Reading Condition Codes (Cont.)

### SetX Instructions

- Set single byte based on combinations of condition codes
- One of 8 addressable byte registers
  - Embedded within first 4 integer registers
  - Does not alter remaining 3 bytes
  - Typically use movzbl to finish job

```
int gt (int x, int y)
{
  return x > y;
}
```

### %eax %ah %al %edx %dl %dh %cl %ecx %ch %ebx 용bh %bl %esi %edi %esp %ebp

### Body

```
movl 12(%ebp),%eax # eax = y
cmpl %eax,8(%ebp) # Compare x : y
setg %al # al = x > y
movzbl %al,%eax # Zero rest of %eax
```

Note inverted ordering!

# Reading Condition Codes: x86-64

### SetX Instructions:

- Set single byte based on combination of condition codes
- Does not alter remaining 3 bytes

```
int gt (long x, long y)
{
  return x > y;
}
```

```
long lgt (long x, long y)
{
  return x > y;
}
```

#### **Body (same for both)**

Is %rax zero?

Yes: 32-bit instructions set high order 32 bits to 0!

# Jumping

### • jX Instructions

Jump to different part of code depending on condition codes

jΧ	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

```
int absdiff(int x, int y)
{
    int result;
    if (x > y) {
        result = x-y;
    } else {
        result = y-x;
    }
    return result;
}
```

```
absdiff:
   pushl %ebp
                            Setup
   movl %esp, %ebp
   movl 8(%ebp), %edx
   movl
         12(%ebp), %eax
   cmpl %eax, %edx
                            Body1
   jle .L7
   subl %eax, %edx
   movl %edx, %eax
.L8:
   leave
   ret
.L7:
   subl %edx, %eax
   jmp
          .L8
```

# Conditional Branch Example (Cont.)

```
int goto_ad(int x, int y)
{
   int result;
   if (x <= y) goto Else;
   result = x-y;
Exit:
   return result;
Else:
   result = y-x;
   goto Exit;
}</pre>
```

- C allows "goto" as means of transferring control
  - Closer to machine-level programming style
- Generally considered bad coding style

```
absdiff:
          %ebp
   pushl
   movl
          %esp, %ebp
   movl
         8(%ebp), %edx
          12(%ebp), %eax
   movl
  cmpl %eax, %edx
   jle
         .L7
   subl
          %eax, %edx
   movl
          %edx, %eax
.L8:
   leave
   ret
.L7:
   subl
          %edx, %eax
          .L8
   qmţ
```

# General Conditional Expression Translation

#### C Code

```
val = Test ? Then-Expr : Else-Expr;
```

```
val = x>y ? x-y : y-x;
```

```
nt = !Test;
if (nt) goto Else;
val = Then-Expr;
Done:
    . . .
Else:
val = Else-Expr;
goto Done;
```

- Test is expression returning integer
  - = 0 interpreted as false
  - ≠0 interpreted as true
- Create separate code regions for then & else expressions
- Execute appropriate one

### Conditionals: x86-64

```
int absdiff(
   int x, int y)
{
   int result;
   if (x > y) {
      result = x-y;
   } else {
      result = y-x;
   }
   return result;
}
```

```
absdiff: # x in %edi, y in %esi
movl %edi, %eax # eax = x
movl %esi, %edx # edx = y
subl %esi, %eax # eax = x-y
subl %edi, %edx # edx = y-x
cmpl %esi, %edi # x:y
cmovle %edx, %eax # eax=edx if <=
ret</pre>
```

### Conditional move instruction

- cmovC src, dest
- Move value from src to dest if condition C holds
- More efficient than conditional branching (simple control flow)
- But overhead: both branches are evaluated

### General Form with Conditional Move

#### C Code

```
val = Test ? Then-Expr : Else-Expr;
```

#### **Conditional Move Version**

```
val1 = Then-Expr;
val2 = Else-Expr;
val1 = val2 if !Test;
```

- Both values get computed
- Overwrite then-value with else-value if condition doesn't hold
- Don't use when:
  - Then or else expression have side effects
  - Then and else expression are too expensive

# "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;
}
```

```
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;
}
```

### Registers

```
%edxx
%eaxresult
```

### **Assembly**

```
fact goto:
              # Setup
 pushl %ebp
 movl %esp,%ebp # Setup
 movl $1,%eax # eax = 1
 mov1 8(%ebp), %edx \# edx = x
L11:
  imull %edx,%eax # result *= x
 decl %edx # x--
 cmpl $1,%edx # Compare x : 1
                  # if > goto loop
  jg L11
 movl %ebp,%esp # Finish
                # Finish
 popl %ebp
                  # Finish
  ret
```

### General "Do-While" Translation

### C Code

```
do
  Body
  while (Test);
```

```
loop:
  Body
  if (Test)
    goto loop
```

- Body can be any C statement
  - Typically compound statement:

```
Statement<sub>1</sub>;
Statement<sub>2</sub>;
Statement<sub>n</sub>;
```

- Test is expression returning integer
  - = 0 interpreted as false ≠0 interpreted as true

# "While" Loop Example #1

### C Code

```
int fact_while
   (int x)
{
   int result = 1;
   while (x > 1) {
      result *= x;
      x = x-1;
   };
   return result;
}
```

### **First Goto Version**

```
int fact_while_goto
  (int x)
{
  int result = 1;
loop:
  if (!(x > 1))
    goto done;
  result *= x;
  x = x-1;
  goto loop;
done:
  return result;
}
```

- Is this code equivalent to the do-while version?
- Must jump out of loop if test fails

# Alternate "While" Loop Translation

### C Code

```
int fact_while(int x)
{
   int result = 1;
   while (x > 1) {
      result *= x;
      x = x-1;
   };
   return result;
}
```

- Historically used by gcc
- Uses same inner loop as do-while version
- Guards loop entry with extra test

### **Second Goto Version**

```
int fact while goto2
  (int x)
  int result = 1;
  if (!(x > 1))
    goto done;
loop:
  result *= x;
  x = x-1;
  if (x > 1)
   goto loop;
done:
  return result;
```

### General "While" Translation

### C Code

```
while (Test)
Body
```



### **Do-While Version**

```
if (!Test)
    goto done;
    do
        Body
        while(Test);
done:
```

```
if (!Test)
    goto done;
loop:
Body
if (Test)
    goto loop;
done:
```

# New Style "While" Loop Translation

#### C Code

```
int fact_while(int x)
{
  int result = 1;
  while (x > 1) {
    result *= x;
    x = x-1;
  };
  return result;
}
```

- Recent technique for GCC
  - -Both IA32 & x86-64
- First iteration jumps over body computation within loop

```
int fact_while_goto3(int x)
{
  int result = 1;
  goto middle;
  loop:
    result *= x;
    x = x-1;
  middle:
    if (x > 1)
       goto loop;
  return result;
}
```

# Jump-to-Middle While Translation

#### C Code

```
while (Test)
Body
```

- Avoids duplicating test code
- Unconditional goto incurs no performance penalty
- for loops compiled in similar fashion



### **Goto Version**

```
goto middle;
loop:
   Body
middle:
   if (Test)
   goto loop;
```

### **Goto (Previous) Version**

```
if (!Test)
    goto done;
loop:
    Body
    if (Test)
       goto loop;
done:
```

# Jump-to-Middle Example

```
int fact_while(int x)
{
  int result = 1;
  while (x > 1) {
    result *= x;
    x--;
  };
  return result;
}
```

# Implementing Loops

- IA32
  - All loops translated into form based on "do-while"
- x86-64
  - Also make use of "jump to middle"
- Why the difference
  - IA32 compiler developed for machine where all operations costly
  - x86-64 compiler developed for machine where unconditional branches incur (almost) no overhead

## "For" Loop Example: Square-and-Multiply

```
/* Compute x raised to nonnegative power p */
int ipwr_for(int x, unsigned p)
{
  int result;
   for (result = 1; p != 0; p = p>>1) {
    if (p & 0x1)
      result *= x;
      x = x*x;
   }
  return result;
}
```

### Algorithm

- Exploit bit representation:  $p = p_0 + 2p_1 + 2^2p_2 + \dots + 2^{n-1}p_{n-1}$ 

```
- Gives: x^p = z_0 \cdot z_1^2 \cdot (z_2^2)^2 \cdot \dots \cdot (\dots ((z_{n-1}^2)^2) \dots)^2
z_i = 1 when p_i = 0
z_i = x when p_i = 1

n-1 times
```

- Complexity  $O(\log p)$ 

### Example

$$3^{10} = 3^2 * 3^8$$
  
=  $3^2 * ((3^2)^2)^2$ 

# ipwr Computation

```
/* Compute x raised to nonnegative power p */
int ipwr_for(int x, unsigned p)
{
  int result;
   for (result = 1; p != 0; p = p>>1) {
    if (p & 0x1)
      result *= x;
      x = x*x;
   }
  return result;
}
```

before iteration	result	<b>x=</b> 3	p=10
1	1	3	10=10102
2	1	9	5= 101 <sub>2</sub>
3	9	81	2= 10 <sub>2</sub>
4	9	6561	1= 1 <sub>2</sub>
5	59049	43046721	0

# "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
```

#### Test

Init

Update

$$p = p \gg 1$$

#### **Body**

```
if (p & 0x1)
  result *= x;
x = x*x;
```

# "For" - "While" - "Do-While"

#### **For Version**

```
for (Init; Test; Update)

Body
```

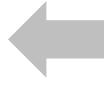


#### While Version

```
Init;
while (Test) {
    Body
    Update;
}
```



```
Init;
if (!Test)
  goto done;
loop:
  Body
  Update;
if (Test)
  goto loop;
done:
```



#### **Do-While Version**

```
Init;
if (!Test)
  goto done;
do {
  Body
  Update;
} while (Test)
done:
```

# For-Loop: Compilation #1

#### **For Version**

```
for (Init; Test; Update)

Body
```



```
Init;
  if (!Test)
    goto done;
loop:
  Body
  Update;
  if (Test)
    goto loop;
done:
```

```
for (result = 1; p != 0; p = p>>1)
{
  if (p & 0x1)
    result *= x;
  x = x*x;
}
```



```
result = 1;
if (p == 0)
    goto done;
loop:
    if (p & 0x1)
        result *= x;
    x = x*x;
    p = p >> 1;
    if (p != 0)
        goto loop;
done:
```

# "For"→ "While" (Jump-to-Middle)

#### **For Version**

```
for (Init; Test; Update)
Body
```



#### While Version

```
Init;
while (Test) {
    Body
    Update;
}
```

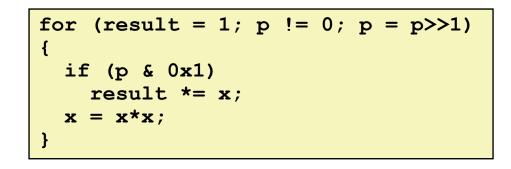
```
Init;
  goto middle;
loop:
  Body
  Update;
middle:
  if (Test)
   goto loop;
done:
```

# For-Loop: Compilation #2

#### **For Version**

```
for (Init; Test; Update)

Body
```





```
Init;
  goto middle;
loop:
  Body
  Update;
middle:
  if (Test)
   goto loop;
done:
```



```
result = 1;
goto middle;
loop:
   if (p & 0x1)
     result *= x;
   x = x*x;
   p = p >> 1;
middle:
   if (p != 0)
     goto loop;
done:
```

# Switch Statement Example

```
long switch eg
   (long x, long y, long z)
    long w = 1;
    switch(x) {
    case 1:
       w = y*z;
        break;
    case 2:
        w = y/z;
        /* Fall Through */
    case 3:
       w += z;
        break:
    case 5:
    case 6:
        w -= z;
        break;
    default:
        w = 2;
    return w;
```

- Multiple case labels
  - -Here: 5, 6
- Fall through cases
  - -Here: 2
- Missing cases
  - -Here: 4

# Jump Table Structure

#### **Switch Form**

```
switch(x) {
  case val_0:
    Block 0
  case val_1:
    Block 1
    • • •
  case val_n-1:
    Block n-1
}
```

#### **Jump Table**

Targ0
Targ1
Targ2

Targn-1

#### **Jump Targets**

Targ0: Code Block 0

Targ1: Code Block

Targ2: Code Block 2

•

•

Targn-1:

Code Block n-1

#### **Approximate Translation**

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

# Switch Statement Example (1A32)

```
long switch eg(long x, long y, long z)
    long w = 1;
    switch(x) {
    return w;
```

#### Setup: switch eq: pushl %ebp # Setup movl %esp, %ebp # Setup pushl %ebx # Setup # w = 1movl \$1, %ebx movl 8(%ebp), %edx # edx = xmovl 16(\$ebp), \$ecx # ecx = z

#### Jump table

```
.section .rodata
      .align 4
      .L62:
       .L61 \# x = 0
.long
.long .L56 \# x = 1
.long .L57 \# x = 2
.long .L58 \# x = 3
       .L61 \# x = 4
.long
.long
       .L60 \# x = 5
.long
       .L60 \# x = 6
```

**Indirect** jump



jmp

```
cmpl $6, %edx # x:6 = 2 × 2 = 5 × 5
ja .L61
                        # if > goto default
     *.L62(,%edx,4) # goto JTab[x]
                           61 is bas ica ica ly the
```

# Assembly Setup Explanation

### Table Structure

- Each target requires 4 bytes
- Base address at .L62

### Jumping

### Direct: jmp .L61

Jump target is denoted by label .L61

### Indirect: jmp \*.L62(,%edx,4)

- Start of jump table: .L62
- Must scale by factor of 4 (labels have 32-bit = 4 Bytes on IA32)
- Fetch target from effective Address .L62 + edx\*4
  - Only for  $0 \le x \le 6$

#### Jump table

```
.section .rodata
   .align 4
.L62:
   .long   .L61 # x = 0
   .long   .L56 # x = 1
   .long   .L57 # x = 2
   .long   .L58 # x = 3
   .long   .L61 # x = 4
   .long   .L60 # x = 5
   .long   .L60 # x = 6
```

# Jump Table

#### Jump table

```
.section .rodata
  .align 4
.L62:
 .long
        .L61 \# x = 0
        .L56 \# x = 1
 .long
        .L57 \# x = 2
 .long
 .long .L58 \# x = 3
        .L61 \# x = 4
 .long
       .L60 \# x = 5
 .long
         .L60 \# x = 6
 .long
```

```
switch(x) {
case 1: // .L56
   w = y*z;
   break;
         // .L57
case 2:
  w = y/z;
   /* Fall Through */
case 3: // .L58
  w += z;
   break;
case 5:
case 6: // .L60
   w = z;
   break;
default: // .L61
   w = 2;
```

### Code Blocks (Partial)

```
.L61: // Default case
  movl $2, ebx # w = 2
  movl %ebx, %eax # Return w
  popl %ebx
 leave
 ret
.L57: // Case 2:
  movl 12(%ebp), %eax # y
  cltd
                # Div prep
  idivl %ecx # y/z
  movl eax, ebx # w = y/z
# Fall through
.L58: // Case 3:
  addl %ecx, %ebx # w+= z
  movl %ebx, %eax # Return w
  popl %ebx
  leave
  ret
```

## Code Blocks (Rest)

```
.L60: // Cases 5&6:
    subl %ecx, %ebx # w -= z
    movl %ebx, %eax # Return w
    popl %ebx
    leave
    ret
.L56: // Case 1:
    movl 12(%ebp), %ebx # w = y
    imull %ecx, %ebx # w*= z
    movl %ebx, %eax # Return w
    popl %ebx
    leave
    ret
```

## x86-64 Switch Implementation

- Same general idea, adapted to 64-bit code
- Table entries 64 bits (pointers)
- Cases use revised code

```
.L50: // Case 1:
  movq %rsi, %r8 # w = y
  imulq %rdx, %r8 # w *= z
  movq %r8, %rax # Return w
  ret
```

#### **Jump Table**

```
.section .rodata
   .align 8
.L62:
        .L55 \# x = 0
 . quad
 .quad .L50 \# x = 1
 . quad
        .L51 \# x = 2
 . quad
         .L52 \# x = 3
         .L55 \# x = 4
 . quad
         .L54 \# x = 5
 . quad
 . quad
         .L54 # x = 6
```

# 1A32 Object Code

## Setup

- Label .L61 becomes address 0x8048630
- Label . L62 becomes address 0x80488dc

### **Assembly Code**

#### **Disassembled Object Code**

# 1A32 Object Code (cont.)

#### Jump Table

- Doesn't show up in disassembled code
- Can inspect using GDB

```
gdb asm-cntl
(gdb) x/7xw 0x80488dc
```

- Examine 7 hexadecimal format "words" (4-bytes each)
- Use command "help x" to get format documentation

#### 0x80488dc:

 $0 \times 08048630$ 

 $0 \times 08048650$ 

0x0804863a

0x08048642

 $0 \times 08048630$ 

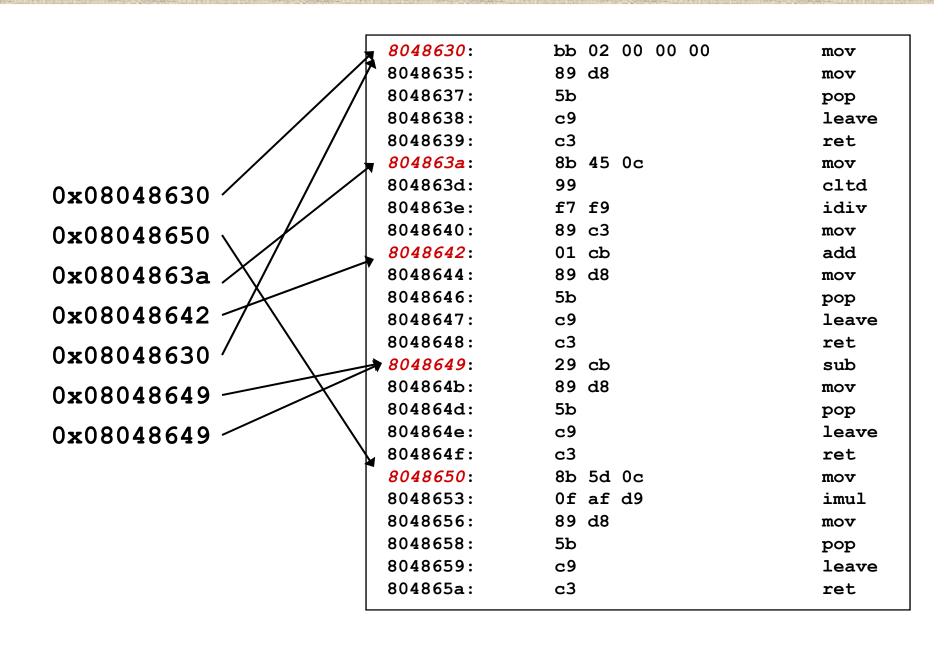
0x08048649

0x08048649

# Disassembled Targets

8048630:	bb 02 00 00 00	mov \$0x2,%ebx
8048635:	89 d8	mov %ebx,%eax
8048637:	5b	pop %ebx
8048638:	<b>c</b> 9	leave
8048639:	<b>c</b> 3	ret
804863a:	8b <b>4</b> 5 0c	<pre>mov 0xc(%ebp),%eax</pre>
804863d:	99	cltd
804863e:	f7 f9	idiv %ecx
8048640:	89 c3	mov %eax,%ebx
8048642:	01 cb	add %ecx,%ebx
8048644:	89 d8	mov %ebx,%eax
8048646:	5b	pop %ebx
8048647:	<b>c</b> 9	leave
8048648:	<b>c</b> 3	ret
8048649:	29 cb	sub %ecx,%ebx
804864b:	89 d8	mov %ebx,%eax
804864d:	5b	pop %ebx
804864e:	<b>c</b> 9	leave
804864f:	<b>c</b> 3	ret
8048650:	8b 5d 0c	mov 0xc(%ebp),%ebx
8048653:	Of af d9	imul %ecx,%ebx
8048656:	89 d8	mov %ebx,%eax
8048658:	5b	pop %ebx
8048659:	<b>c</b> 9	leave
804865a:	<b>c</b> 3	ret

## Matching Disassembled Targets



# x86-64 Object Code

### Setup

- Label .L61 becomes address 0x0000000000400716
- Label . L62 becomes address 0x0000000000400990

### **Assembly Code**

### **Disassembled Object Code**

# x86-64 Object Code (cont.)

### Jump Table

```
- Can inspect using GDB
  gdb asm-cntl
  (gdb) x/7xg 0x400990
```

- Examine 7 hexadecimal format "qiant words" (8-bytes each)
- Use command "help x" to get format documentation

#### 0x400990:

 $0 \times 0000000000400716$ 

 $0 \times 0000000000400739$ 

 $0 \times 0000000000400720$ 

0x00000000040072b

 $0 \times 0000000000400716$ 

 $0 \times 0000000000400732$ 

 $0 \times 0000000000400732$ 

# Sparse Switch Example

```
/* Return x/111 if x is multiple
   && \leq 999. -1 otherwise */
int div111(int x)
  switch(x) {
  case 0: return 0;
  case 111: return 1;
 case 222: return 2;
  case 333: return 3:
  case 444: return 4;
 case 555: return 5;
  case 666: return 6;
  case 777: return 7;
  case 888: return 8;
  case 999: return 9:
  default: return -1;
```

- Not practical to use jump table
  - Would require 1000 entries
- Obvious translation into if-then-else would have max. of 9 tests

## Sparse Switch Code (1A32)

```
movl 8(%ebp),%eax # get x
cmpl $444,%eax # x:444
je L8
jg L16
cmpl $111,%eax # x:111
je L5
jg L17
testl %eax,%eax # x:0
je L4
jmp L14
```

- Compares x to possible case values
- Jumps different places depending on outcomes

```
L5:

movl $1,%eax
jmp L19

L6:

movl $2,%eax
jmp L19

L7:

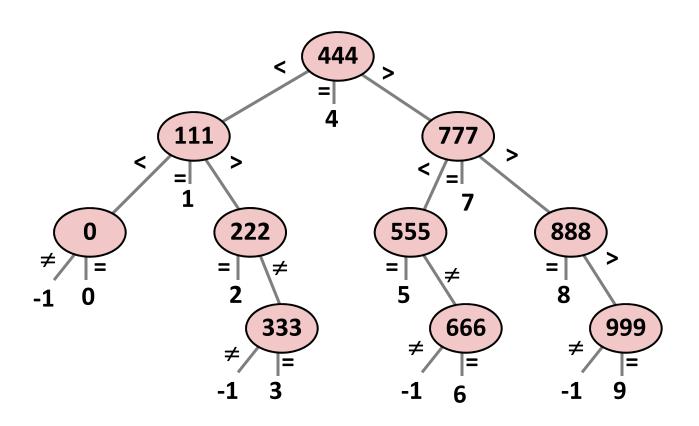
movl $3,%eax
jmp L19

L8:

movl $4,%eax
jmp L19

. . . .
```

## Sparse Switch Code Structure



- Organizes cases as binary tree
- Logarithmic performance

## Summarizing

#### C Control

- if-then-else
- do-while
- while, for
- switch

#### Assembler Control

- Conditional jump
- Conditional move
- Indirect jump

#### Compiler

 Must generate assembly code to implement more complex control

#### Standard Techniques

- IA32 loops converted to do-while form
- x86-64 loops use jump-to-middle
- Large switch statements use jump tables
- Sparse switch statements may use decision trees (not shown)

#### Conditions in CISC

CISC machines generally have condition code registers