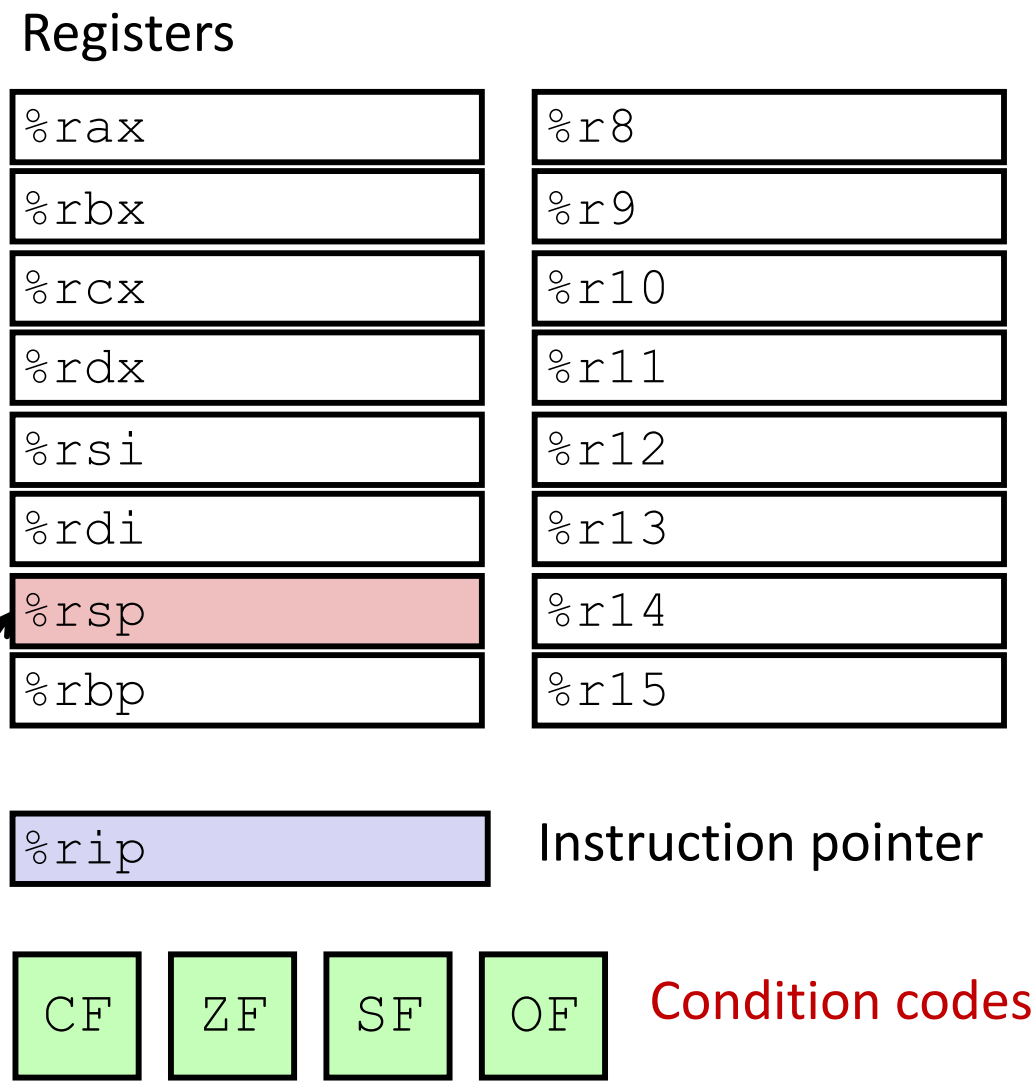
Machine-Level Programming: Control

Today

- **Control: Condition codes**
- Conditional branches
- Loops
- Switch Statements

Processor State (x86-64, Partial)

- **Information about currently executing program**
  - Temporary data (`%rax`, …)
  - Location of runtime stack (`%rsp`)
  - Location of current code control point (`%rip`, …)
  - Status of recent tests (CF, ZF, SF, OF)



Condition Codes (Implicit Setting)

- **Single bit registers**
  - CF Carry Flag (for unsigned) SF Sign Flag (for signed)
  - ZF Zero Flag OF Overflow Flag (for signed)

- **Implicitly set (think of it as side effect) by arithmetic operations**

  Example: `addq` Src,Dest ↔ `t = a+b`

  carry flag — CF set if carry out from most significant bit (unsigned overflow)

  zero flag — ZF set if `t == 0`

  sign flag — SF set if `t < 0` (as signed)

  overflow flag — OF set if two's-complement (signed) overflow

  ```
  (a>0 && b>0 && t<0) || (a<0 && b<0 && t>=0)
  ```

- **Not set by `leaq` instruction**

Condition Codes (Explicit Setting: Compare)

- **Explicit Setting by Compare Instruction**
  - `cmpq` Src2, Src1
  - `cmpq b,a` like computing `a-b` without setting destination
    ↳ contents of a and b are not changed
  - CF set if carry out from most significant bit (used for unsigned comparisons)
  - ZF set if `a == b`
  - SF set if `(a-b) < 0` (as signed)
  - OF set if two's-complement (signed) overflow

```
(a>0 && b<0 && (a-b)<0) || (a<0 && b>0 && (a-b)>0)
```

Condition Codes (Explicit Setting: Test)

- **Explicit Setting by Test instruction**
  - `testq` Src2, Src1
    - `testq b,a` like computing `a&b` without setting destination

  - Sets condition codes based on value of Src1 & Src2
  - Useful to have one of the operands be a mask

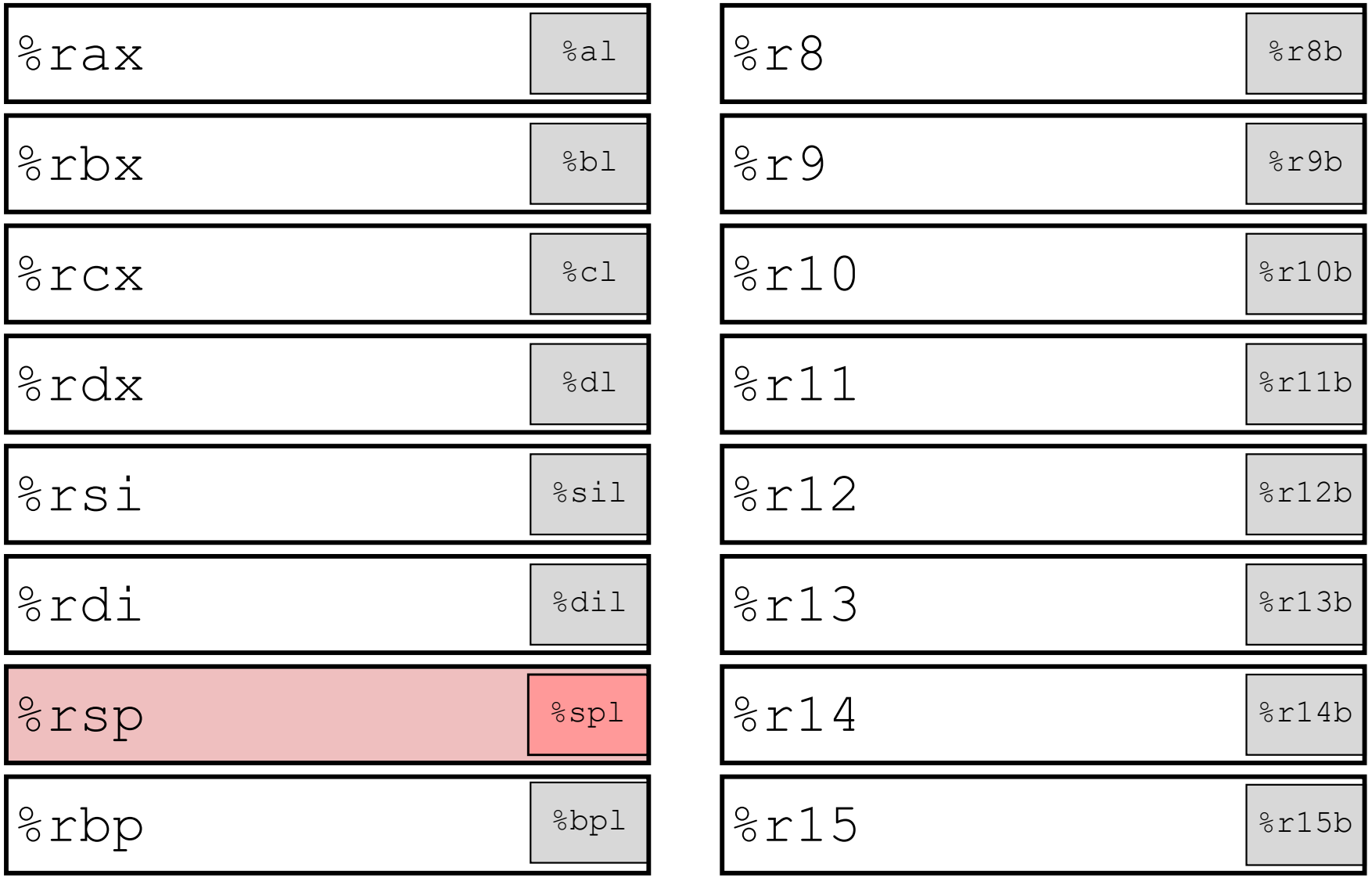
  - ZF set when `a&b == 0`
  - SF set when `a&b < 0`

Reading Condition Codes

- **SetX Instructions**
  - Set low-order byte of destination to 0 or 1 based on combinations of condition codes
  - Does not alter remaining 7 bytes

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)

x86-64 Integer Registers



- Can reference low-order byte

Reading Condition Codes (Cont.)

- **SetX Instructions:**
  - Set single byte based on combination of condition codes
- **One of addressable byte registers**
  - Does not alter remaining bytes
  - Typically use `movzbl` to finish job
    - 32-bit instructions also set upper 32 bits to 0

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

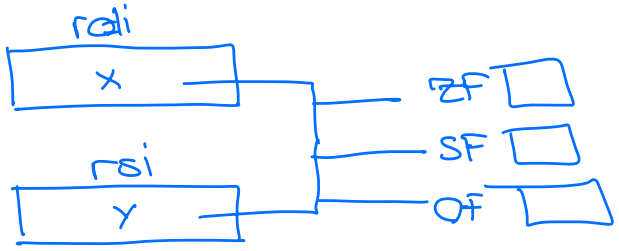
Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument x
%rsi	Argument y
%rax	Return value

```
cmpq    %rsi, %rdi      # Compare x:y
        setg    %al     # Set when >
        movzbl  %al, %eax  # Zero rest of %rax
        ret
```

setg	~(SF^OF)&~ZF	Greater (Signed)

Today

- Control: Condition codes
- **Conditional branches**
- Loops
- Switch Statements



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 (Old Style)

- Generation

```
inek> gcc -Og -S -fno-if-conversion control.c
```

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

```
absdiff:
    cmpq    %rsi, %rdi   # x:y
    jle     .L4
    movq    %rdi, %rax
    subq    %rsi, %rax
    ret
.L4:                     # x <= y
    movq    %rsi, %rax
    subq    %rdi, %rax
    ret
```

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument x
%rsi	Argument y
%rax	Return value

Expressing with Goto Code

- C allows **goto** statement
- Jump to position designated by label

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

```
long absdiff_j
  (long x, long y)
{
    long result;
    int ntest = x <= y;
    if (ntest) goto Else;
    result = x-y;
    goto Done;
 Else:
    result = y-x;
 Done:
    return result;
}
```

General Conditional Expression Translation (Using Branches)

C Code

```
val = Test ? Then_Expr : Else_Expr;
```

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

Goto Version

```
   ntest = !Test;
   if (ntest) goto Else;
   val = Then_Expr;
   goto Done;
Else:
   val = Else_Expr;
Done:
   . . .
```

- Create separate code regions for then & else expressions
- Execute appropriate one

Using Conditional Moves

- **Conditional Move Instructions**
  - Instruction supports:

    if (Test) Dest ← Src
  - Supported in post-1995 x86 processors
  - GCC tries to use them
    - But, only when known to be safe
- **Why?**
  - Branches are very disruptive to instruction flow through pipelines
  - Conditional moves do not require control transfer

C Code

```
val = Test
    ? Then_Expr
    : Else_Expr;
```

Goto Version

```
result = Then_Expr;
eval = Else_Expr;
nt = !Test;
if (nt) result = eval;
return result;
```

Conditional Move Example

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

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument x
%rsi	Argument y
%rax	Return value

```
absdiff:
    movq    %rdi, %rax  # x
    subq    %rsi, %rax  # result = x-y
    movq    %rsi, %rdx
    subq    %rdi, %rdx  # eval = y-x
    cmpq    %rsi, %rdi  # x:y
    cmovle  %rdx, %rax  # if <=, result = eval
    ret
```

Exercise

`cmpq b,a` like computing a-b without setting dest

- CF set if carry/borrow out from most significant bit (used for unsigned comparisons)
- ZF set if a == b
- SF set if (a-b) < 0 (as signed)
- OF set if two's-complement (signed) overflow

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)

Q-1

```
xorq    %rax, %rax
subq    $1, %rax
cmpq    $2, %rax
setl    %al
movzblq %al, %eax
```

%rax	SF	CF	OF	ZF
00...0	0	0	0	1
11...1	1	0	0	0
11...10	1	1	0	0
11...01	1	0	0	0
00...01	1	0	0	0

Note: `setl` and `movzblq` do not modify condition codes

Q 1 1 1

11...1
11...10
00000000...01
1

rax-1

1111
1110
1101

x-y<0

Bad Cases for Conditional Move

Expensive Computations

```
val = Test(x) ? Hard1(x) : Hard2(x);
```

- **Both values get computed**
- **Only makes sense when computations are very simple**

Risky Computations

```
val = p ? *p : 0;
```

- Both values get computed
- May have undesirable effects

Computations with side effects

```
val = x > 0 ? x*=7 : x+=3;
```

- Both values get computed
- Must be side-effect free

Today

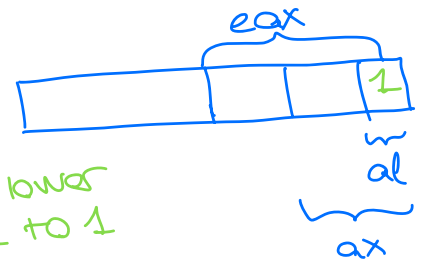
- Control: Condition codes
- Conditional branches
- **Loops**
- Switch Statements

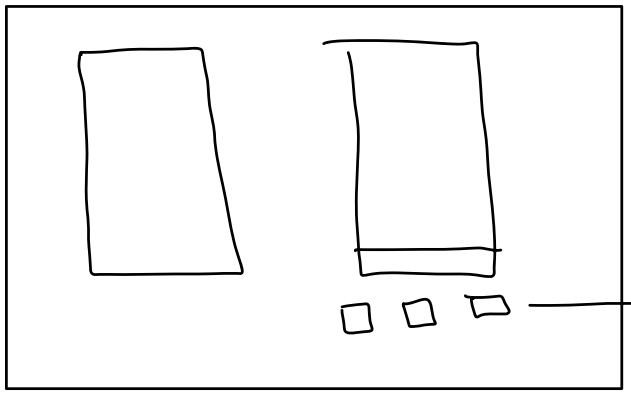
leaq 0x8(%rax), %rdx
effective address of mem
leaq stores it here
⇒ leaq does not set condition codes

cmpq %rbx, %rax ⇒ %rax − %rbx
condition code

xorq %rax, %rax
%rax does not change
ZF SF OF
1 0 0

sete %rdx
condition is zero flag ≡ 1 ⇒ set lower byte to 1





condition codes → implicitly set by ARITHMETIC Instructions

cmovle %rdx %rax
if less than or equal → move rdx to rax (some instruction already

"Do-While" Loop Example

C Code

```
long pcount_do
  (unsigned long x) {
  long result = 0;
  do {
    result += x & 0x1;
    x >>= 1;
  } while (x);
  return result;
}
```

Goto Version

```
long pcount_goto
  (unsigned long x) {
  long result = 0;
 loop:
  result += x & 0x1;
  x >>= 1;
  if(x) goto loop;
  return result;
}
```

- Count number of 1's in argument x ("popcount")
- Use conditional branch to either continue looping or to exit loop

"Do-While" Loop Compilation

Goto Version

```
long pcount_goto
   (unsigned long x) {
   long result = 0;
 loop:
   result += x & 0x1;
   x >>= 1;
   if(x) goto loop;
   return result;
}
```

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument x
%rax	result

```
   movl    $0, %eax    #  result = 0
.L2:                   # loop:
   movq    %rdi, %rdx
   andl    $1, %edx    #  t = x & 0x1
   addq    %rdx, %rax  #  result += t
   shrq    %rdi        #  x >>= 1
   jne     .L2         #  if (x) goto loop
   rep; ret
```

General "Do-While" Translation

C Code

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

Goto Version

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

- **Body:**

```
{
   Statement1;
   Statement2;
      …
   Statementn;
}
```

General "While" Translation #1

- "Jump-to-middle" translation
- Used with **-Og**

While version

```
while (Test)
  Body
```

Goto Version

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

While Loop Example #1

C Code

```
long pcount_while
   (unsigned long x) {
   long result = 0;
   while (x) {
      result += x & 0x1;
      x >>= 1;
   }
   return result;
}
```

Jump to Middle

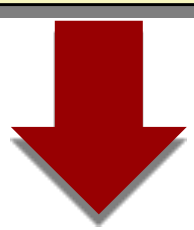
```
long pcount_goto_jtm
   (unsigned long x) {
   long result = 0;
   goto test;
 loop:
   result += x & 0x1;
   x >>= 1;
 test:
   if(x) goto loop;
   return result;
}
```

- Compare to do-while version of function
- Initial goto starts loop at test

General "While" Translation #2

While version

```
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:
```

- "Do-while" conversion
- Used with **–O1**

While Loop Example #2

C Code

```
long pcount_while
   (unsigned long x) {
   long result = 0;
   while (x) {
      result += x & 0x1;
      x >>= 1;
   }
   return result;
}
```

Do-While Version

```
long pcount_goto_dw
   (unsigned long x) {
   long result = 0;
   if (!x) goto done;
 loop:
   result += x & 0x1;
   x >>= 1;
   if(x) goto loop;
 done:
   return result;
}
```

- Compare to do-while version of function
- Initial conditional guards entrance to loop

"For" Loop Form

General Form

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

```
#define WSIZE 8*sizeof(int)
long pcount_for
  (unsigned long x)
{
  size_t i;
  long result = 0;
  for (i = 0; i < WSIZE; i++)
  {
    unsigned bit =
      (x >> i) & 0x1;
    result += bit;
  }
  return result;
}
```

Init

```
i = 0
```

Test

```
i < WSIZE
```

Update

```
i++
```

Body

```
{
  unsigned bit =
      (x >> i) & 0x1;
  result += bit;
}
```

"For" Loop → While Loop

For Version

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

While Version

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

For-While Conversion

Init

```
i = 0
```

Test

```
i < WSIZE
```

Update

```
i++
```

Body

```
{
  unsigned bit =
     (x >> i) & 0x1;
  result += bit;
}
```

```
long pcount_for_while
  (unsigned long x)
{
  size_t i;
  long result = 0;
  i = 0;
  while (i < WSIZE)
  {
    unsigned bit =
      (x >> i) & 0x1;
    result += bit;
    i++;
  }
  return result;
}
```

"For" Loop Do-While Conversion

C Code

```
long pcount_for
  (unsigned long x)
{
  size_t i;
  long result = 0;
  for (i = 0; i < WSIZE; i++)
  {
    unsigned bit =
      (x >> i) & 0x1;
    result += bit;
  }
  return result;
}
```

- Initial test can be optimized away

Goto Version

```
long pcount_for_goto_dw
  (unsigned long x) {
  size_t i;
  long result = 0;
  i = 0;                          Init
  if (!(i < WSIZE))               ! Test
    goto done;
 loop:
  {
    unsigned bit =
      (x >> i) & 0x1;             Body
    result += bit;
  }
  i++;                            Update
  if (i < WSIZE)                  Test
    goto loop;
 done:
  return result;
}
```

Today

- Control: Condition codes
- Conditional branches
- Loops
- **Switch Statements**

```
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;
}
```

Switch Statement Example

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

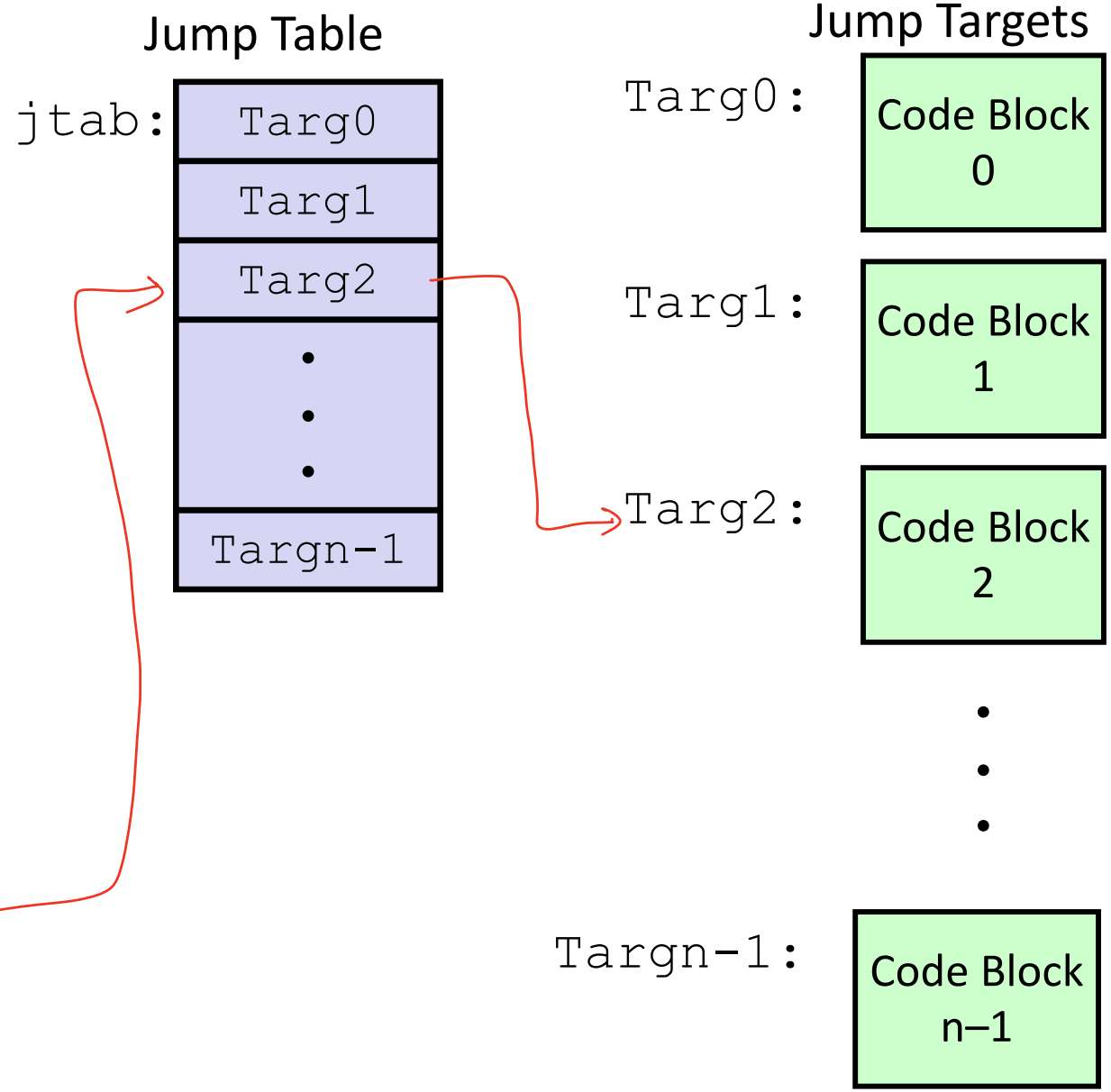
Jump Table Structure

Switch Form

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

Translation (Extended C)

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



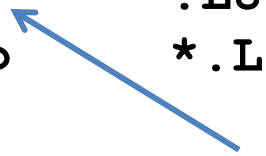
Switch Statement Example

```
long switch_eg(long x, long y, long z)
{
    long w = 1;
    switch(x) {
      . . .
    }
    return w;
}
```

.rodata → read only data

Setup:

```
switch_eg:
    movq    %rdx, %rcx
    cmpq    $6, %rdi    # x:6
    ja      .L8
    jmp     *.L4(,%rdi,8)
```



What range of values takes default?

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument x
%rsi	Argument y
%rdx	Argument z
%rax	Return value

Note that w not initialized here

Switch Statement Example

```
long switch_eg(long x, long y, long z)
{
    long w = 1;
    switch(x) {
      . . .
    }
    return w;
}
```

Jump table

```
.section    .rodata
  .align 8
.L4:
  .quad     .L8   # x = 0
  .quad     .L3   # x = 1
  .quad     .L5   # x = 2
  .quad     .L9   # x = 3
  .quad     .L8   # x = 4
  .quad     .L7   # x = 5
  .quad     .L7   # x = 6
```

Setup:

```
switch_eg:
    movq    %rdx, %rcx
    cmpq    $6, %rdi        # x:6
    ja      .L8             # Use default
    jmp     *.L4(,%rdi,8)   # goto *JTab[x]
```

Indirect jump

Assembly Setup Explanation

- Table Structure
  - Each target requires 8 bytes
  - Base address at `.L4`

Jump table

```
.section    .rodata
  .align 8
.L4:
  .quad     .L8   # x = 0
  .quad     .L3   # x = 1
  .quad     .L5   # x = 2
  .quad     .L9   # x = 3
  .quad     .L8   # x = 4
  .quad     .L7   # x = 5
  .quad     .L7   # x = 6
```

- Jumping
  - Direct: **`jmp .L8`**
  - Jump target is denoted by label `.L8`
  - Indirect: **`jmp *.L4(,%rdi,8)`**
  - Start of jump table: `.L4`
  - Must scale by factor of 8 (addresses are 8 bytes)
  - Fetch target from effective Address `.L4 + x*8`
    - Only for $0 \le x \le 6$

Jump Table

Jump table

```
.section    .rodata
  .align 8
.L4:
  .quad     .L8   # x = 0
  .quad     .L3   # x = 1
  .quad     .L5   # x = 2
  .quad     .L9   # x = 3
  .quad     .L8   # x = 4
  .quad     .L7   # x = 5
  .quad     .L7   # x = 6
```

```
switch(x) {
case 1:         // .L3
    w = y*z;
    break;
case 2:         // .L5
    w = y/z;
    /* Fall Through */
case 3:         // .L9
    w += z;
    break;
case 5:
case 6:         // .L7
    w -= z;
    break;
default:        // .L8
    w = 2;
}
```

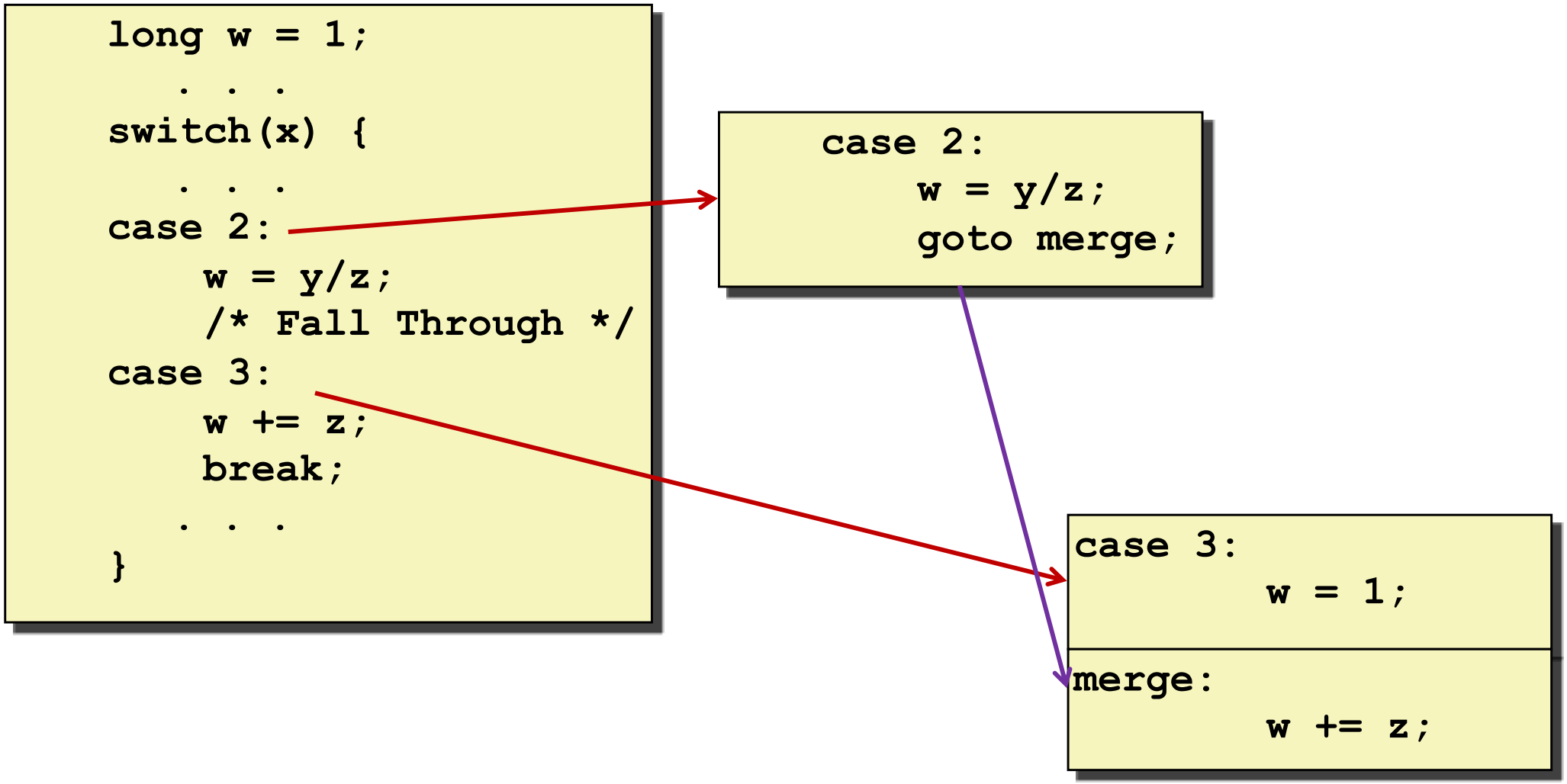
Code Blocks (x == 1)

```
  switch(x) {
  case 1:         // .L3
        w = y*z;
        break;
    . . .
}
```

```
.L3:
   movq     %rsi, %rax   # y
   imulq    %rdx, %rax   # y*z
   ret
```

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument x
%rsi	Argument y
%rdx	Argument z
%rax	Return value

Handling Fall-Through



Code Blocks (x == 2, x == 3)

```
    long w = 1;
       . . .
    switch(x) {
       . . .
    case 2:
        w = y/z;
        /* Fall Through */
    case 3:
        w += z;
        break;
       . . .
    }
```

```
.L5:                        # Case 2
   movq     %rsi, %rax
   cqto
   idivq    %rcx            #  y/z
   jmp      .L6             #  goto merge
.L9:                        # Case 3
   movl     $1, %eax        #  w = 1
.L6:                        # merge:
   addq     %rcx, %rax      #  w += z
   ret
```

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument **x**
%rsi	Argument **y**
%rdx	Argument **z**
%rax	Return value

Code Blocks (x == 5, x == 6, default)

```
  switch(x) {
    . . .
    case 5:  // .L7
    case 6:  // .L7
        w -= z;
        break;
    default: // .L8
        w = 2;
}
```

```
.L7:                    # Case 5,6
  movl  $1, %eax        #  w = 1
  subq  %rdx, %rax      #  w -= z
  ret
.L8:                    # Default:
  movl  $2, %eax        #  2
  ret
```

Register	Use(s)
%rdi	Argument **x**
%rsi	Argument **y**
%rdx	Argument **z**
%rax	Return value

Summarizing

- C Control
  - if-then-else
  - do-while
  - while, for
  - switch
- Assembler Control
  - Conditional jump
  - Conditional move
  - Indirect jump (via jump tables)
  - Compiler generates code sequence to implement more complex control
- Standard Techniques
  - Loops converted to do-while or jump-to-middle form
  - Large switch statements use jump tables
  - Sparse switch statements may use decision trees (if-elseif-elseif-else)

Summary

- **Today**
  - Control: Condition codes
  - Conditional branches & conditional moves
  - Loops
  - Switch statements