Machine-Level Programming II: Control

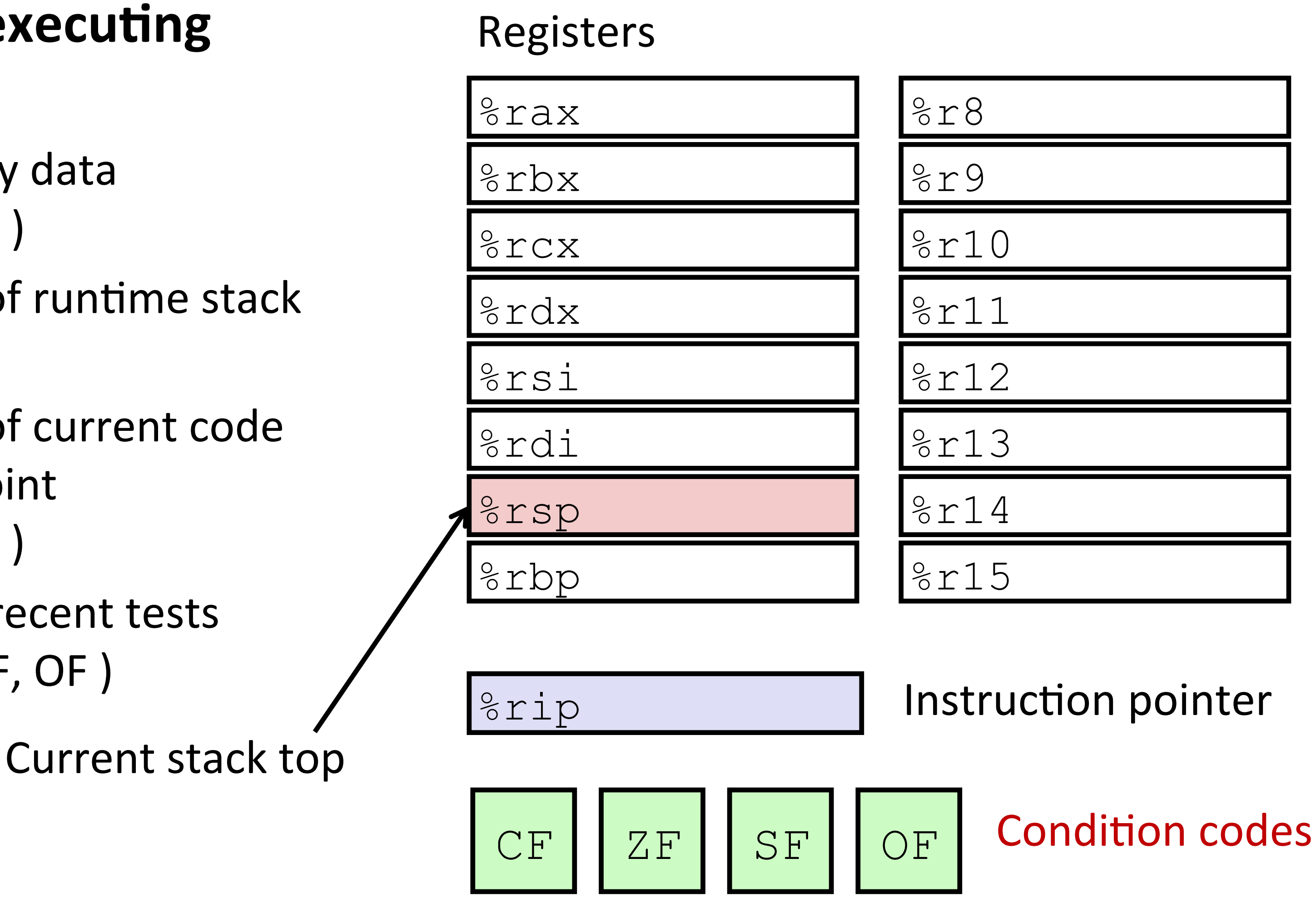
adapted for CS367@GMU

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`

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

  ZF set if `t == 0`

  SF set if `t < 0` (as signed)

  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

  - 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)

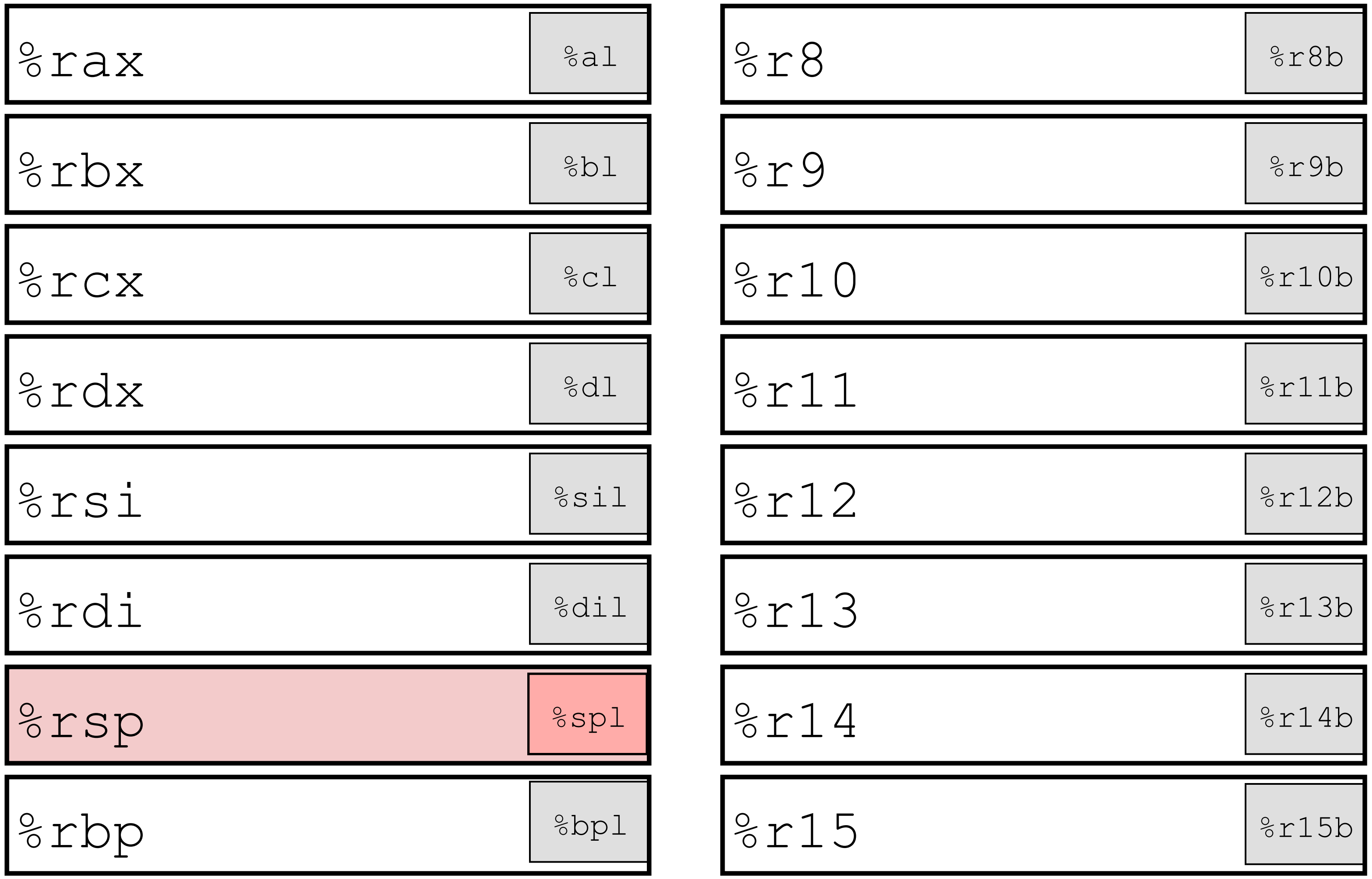
- **Explicit Setting by Test instruction**
  - `testq` Src2, Src1
    - `testq b,a` like computing `a&b` without setting destination
  - Sets condition codes based on value of Src1 & Src2
  - Useful to have one of the operands be a mask
  - ZF set when `a&b == 0`
  - SF set when `a&b < 0`

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. note ordering!
       setg    %al         # Set when >
       movzbl  %al, %eax   # Zero rest of %rax (not a typo!)
       ret
```

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

```
zeus> 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
```

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

"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
        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” conversion
- Used with **–O1**

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:
```

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 (WSIZE>0 always)

Goto Version

```
long pcount_for_goto_dw
   (unsigned long x) {
  size_t i;
  long result = 0;
  i = 0;                    Init
  ~~if (!(i < WSIZE))~~
    ~~goto done;~~          ! Test
 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;
}
```

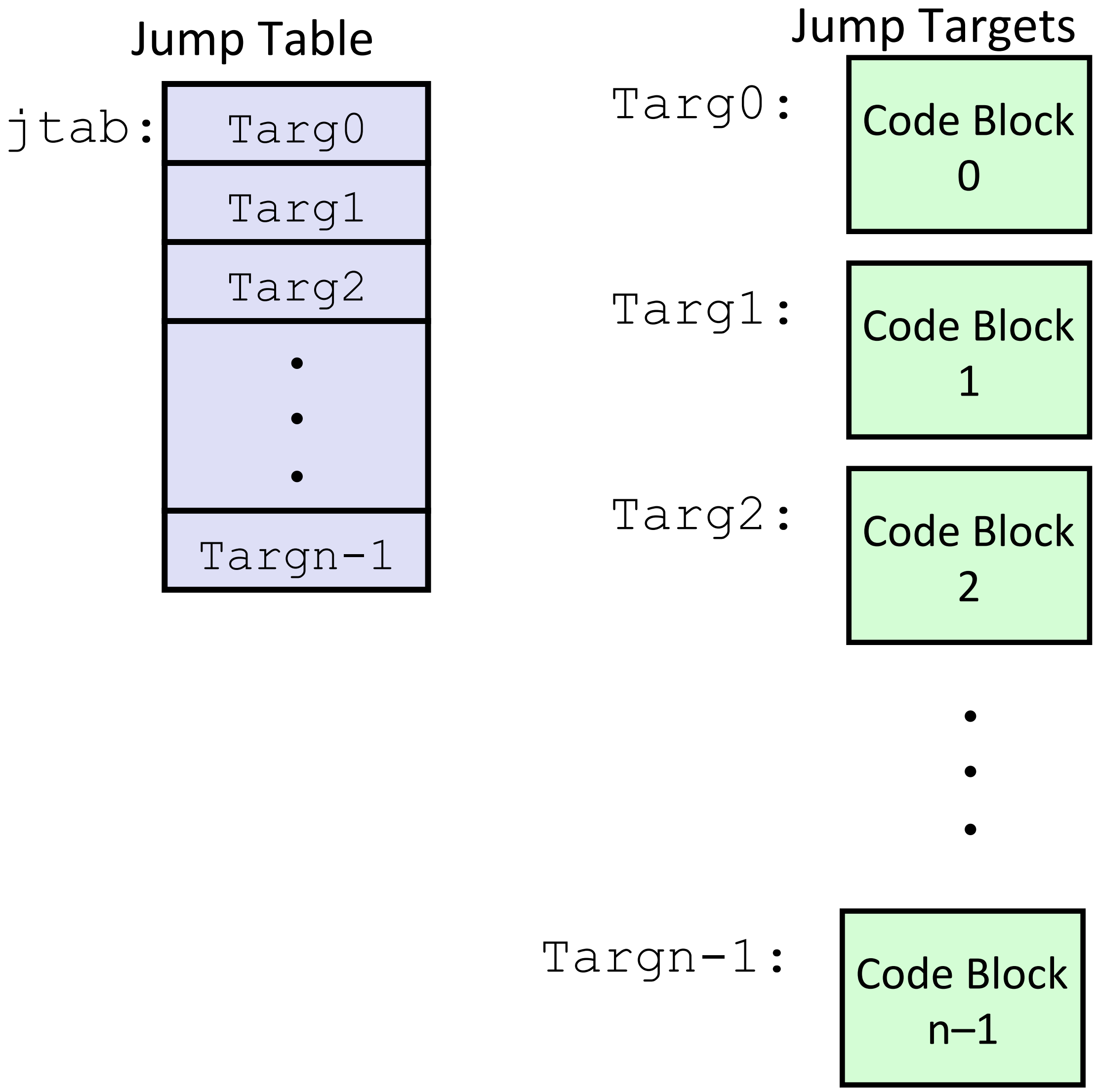
Switch Statement Example

- 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;
}
```

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`

- Jumping
  - Direct: **`jmp .L8`**
  - Jump target is denoted by label `.L8`

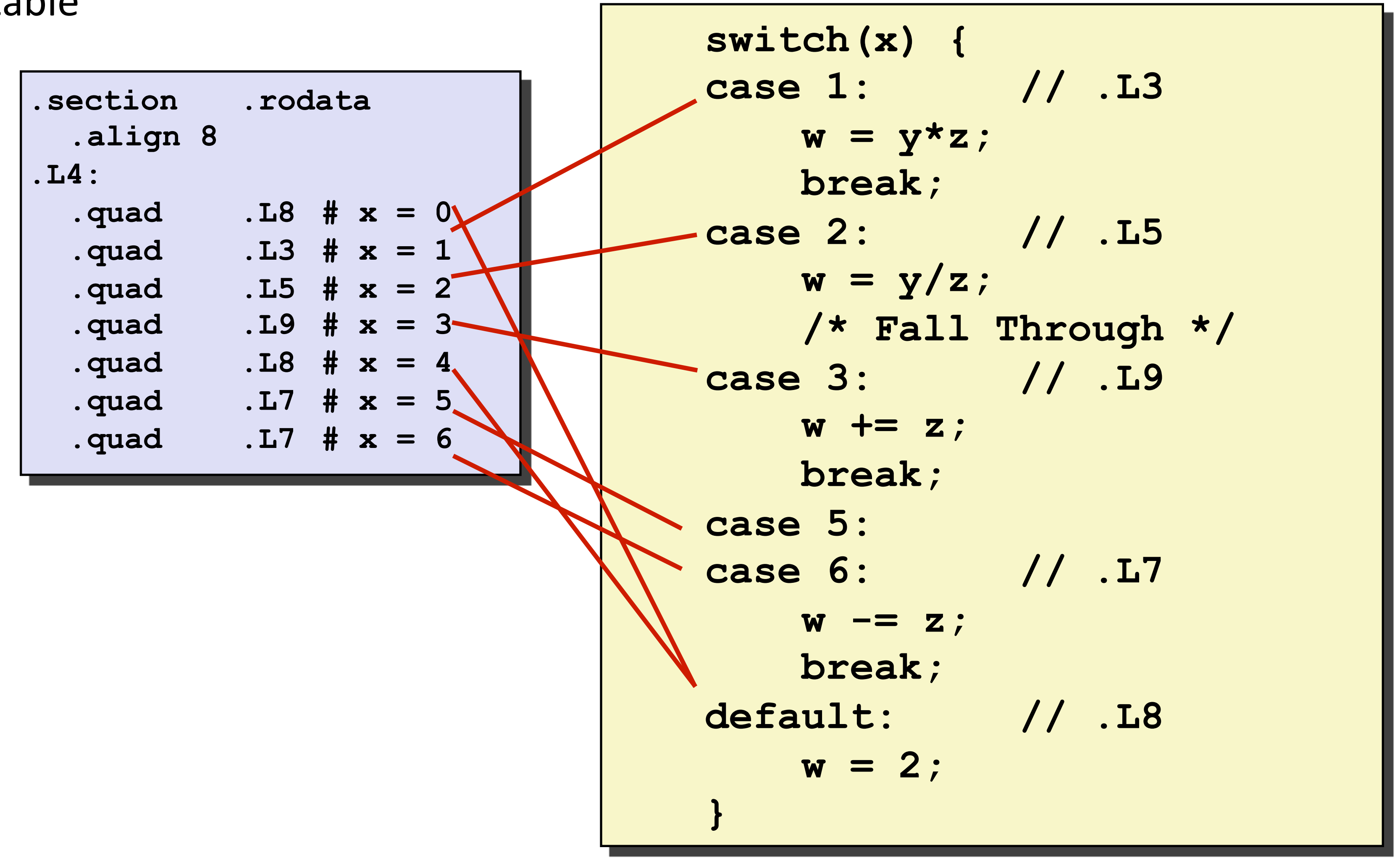
  - Indirect: **`jmp *.L4(,%rdi,8)`**
  - Start of jump table: `.L4`
  - Must scale by factor of 8 (addresses are 8 bytes)
  - Fetch target from effective Address `.L4 + x*8`
    - Only for 0 ≤ `x` ≤ 6

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
```

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;
}
```

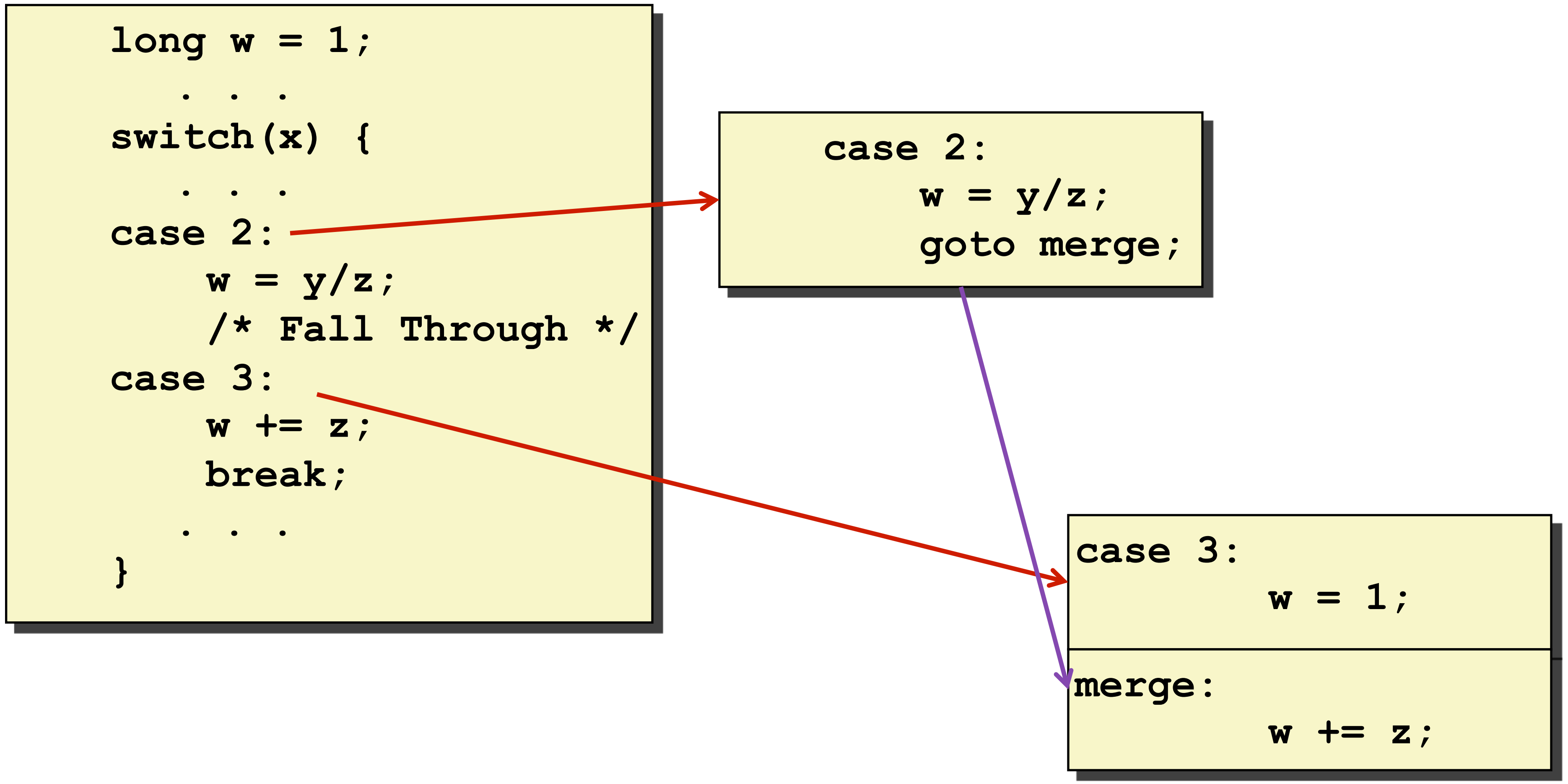
Code Blocks (x == 1)

```
  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



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

```
case 2:
    w = y/z;
    goto merge;
```

```
case 3:
        w = 1;

merge:
        w += z;
```

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
```

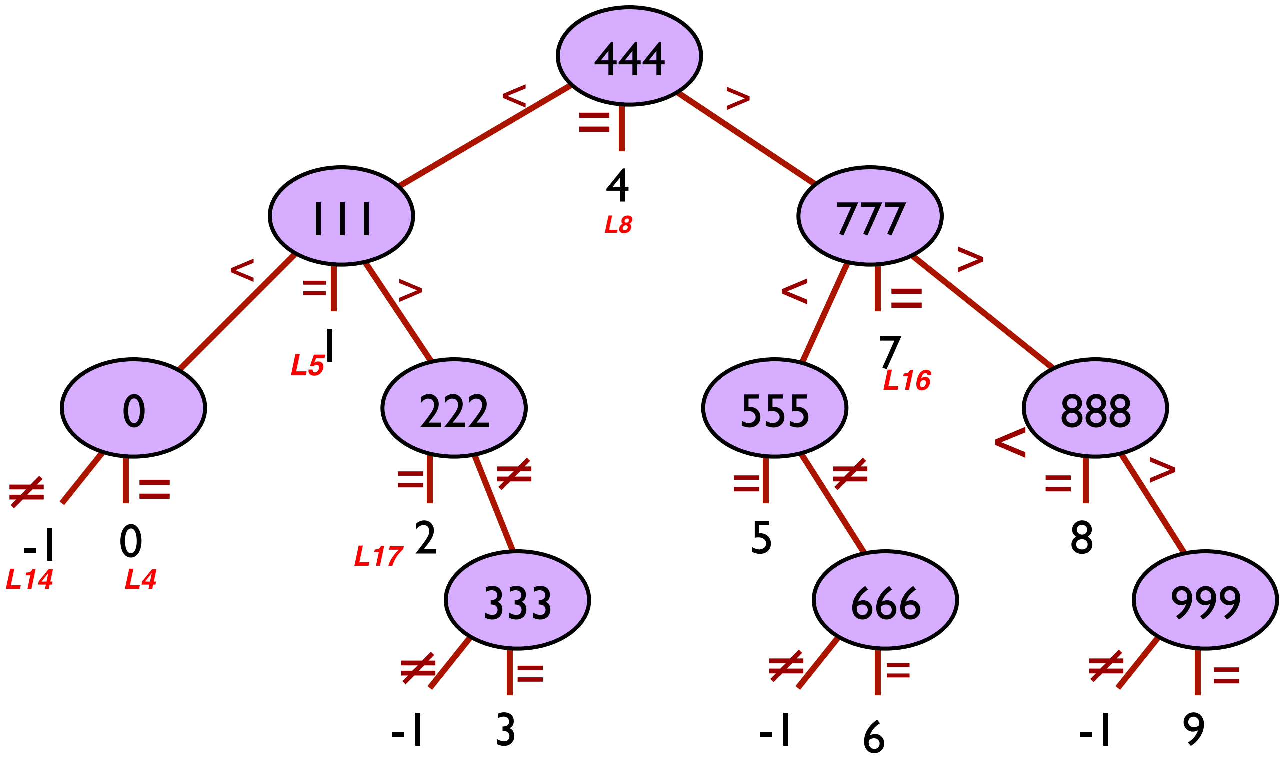
Register	Use(s)
`%rdi`	Argument **`x`**
`%rsi`	Argument **`y`**
`%rdx`	Argument **`z`**
`%rax`	Return value

Sparse Switch Example

```
/* Return x/111 if x is multiple
   && <= 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 Structure



- Organizes cases as binary tree
- Logarithmic performance

Sparse Switch Code

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

```
    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
    . . .
```

```
        . . .
L5:
       movl $1,%eax
       jmp L19
L6:
       movl $2,%eax
       jmp L19
L7:
       movl $3,%eax
       jmp L19
L8:
       movl $4,%eax
       jmp L19
        . . .
```

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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
- **Next Time**
  - Stack
  - Call / return
  - Procedure call discipline