

For the following problems, consider the following code once it reaches steady-state:

```

1  do {
2      for (int i = 0; i < 4; i++) {
3          // increment something
4      }
5      for (int j = 0; j < 8; j++) {
6          // increment something
7      }
8      k++;
9  } while (k < 1000000000)

```

The corresponding assembly is something close to this:

```

1      MOV $t3, 4          # t3=4
2      MOV $t4, 8          # t4=8
3      MOV $t5, 1000000000 # t5=1000000000
4      MOV $t0, 0          # k=0
5  A:  MOV $t1, 0          # i=0
6  B:  # increment something
7      ADDI $t1, $t1, 1    # i+=1
8      BLT $t1, $t3, B     # if i<4, goto B
9  C:  MOV $t1, 0          # j=0
10 D:  # increment something
11     ADDI $t1, $t1, 1    # i+=1
12     BLT $t1, $t4, D     # if j<8, goto D
13     BLT $t0, $t5, A     # if k<1000000000, goto A

```

1. Static Branch Prediction (1 point each)

- (a) What is the branch prediction accuracy for an always not-taken (PC+4 prediction) branch predictor?

2/13 = 15% because all branches predicted not-taken, but only two branches (at the end of each for loop) are not taken.

- (b) What is the branch prediction accuracy for an always taken branch predictor?

11/13 = 85% because all branches predicted taken, but two branches (at the end of each for loop) are not taken.

2. Dynamic Branch Prediction (2 points each)

- (a) What is the branch prediction accuracy for a 1-bit branch predictor?

9/13 = 69%. Both L8 and L12 are mispredicted on the first and last time. L13 is always mispredicted.

- (b) What is the branch prediction accuracy for a 2-bit branch predictor?

11/13 = 84.6%. L12 is no longer mispredicted the first time (only the last). L13 is no longer mispredicted.

3. Global vs. Local Branch Prediction (3 points each)

Assume that the PHT contains 2-bit counters.

- (a) What is the branch prediction accuracy for a global branch predictor with a 5-bit history?

	test	value	GR	results
1	i<4	i=0	11101	taken
2	i<4	i=1	11011	taken
3	i<4	i=2	10111	taken
4	i<4	i=3	01111	taken
5	i<4	i=4	11111	not taken
6	j<8	j=0	11110	taken
7	j<8	j=1	11101	taken
8	j<8	j=2	11011	taken
9	j<8	j=3	10111	taken
10	j<8	j=4	01111	taken
11	j<8	j=5	11111	taken
12	j<8	j=6	11111	taken
13	j<8	j=7	11111	taken
14	j<8	j=8	11111	not taken
15	k<1000000000	k=?	11110	taken

11/13 = 84.6%.

We only really have to look at the conflicting one: 11111. With either a 1 or two bit predictor, both 14 and 11 will be mispredicted because there have been at least two “proofs” in the opposite direction.

- (b) What is the branch prediction accuracy for a local branch predictor with a 5-bit history?

12/13 = 92.3%. 5 is no longer mispredicted because it is a separate branch. 14 is still mispredicted, but because there aren't two not-taken's in a row, the predictor will be on “weakly taken” when 11 is run, so it will predict correctly.

