

# PCF: Scaling Secure Computation

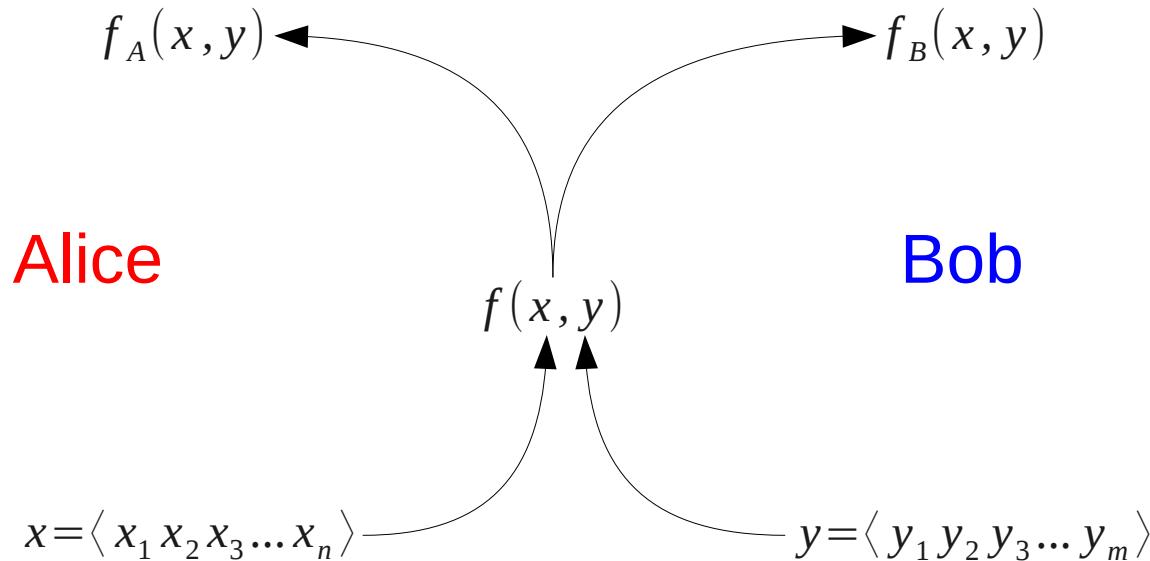
Benjamin Kreuter,  
abhi shelat,

University of Virginia

Benjamin Mood,  
Kevin Butler

University of Oregon

# Secure 2-Party Computation

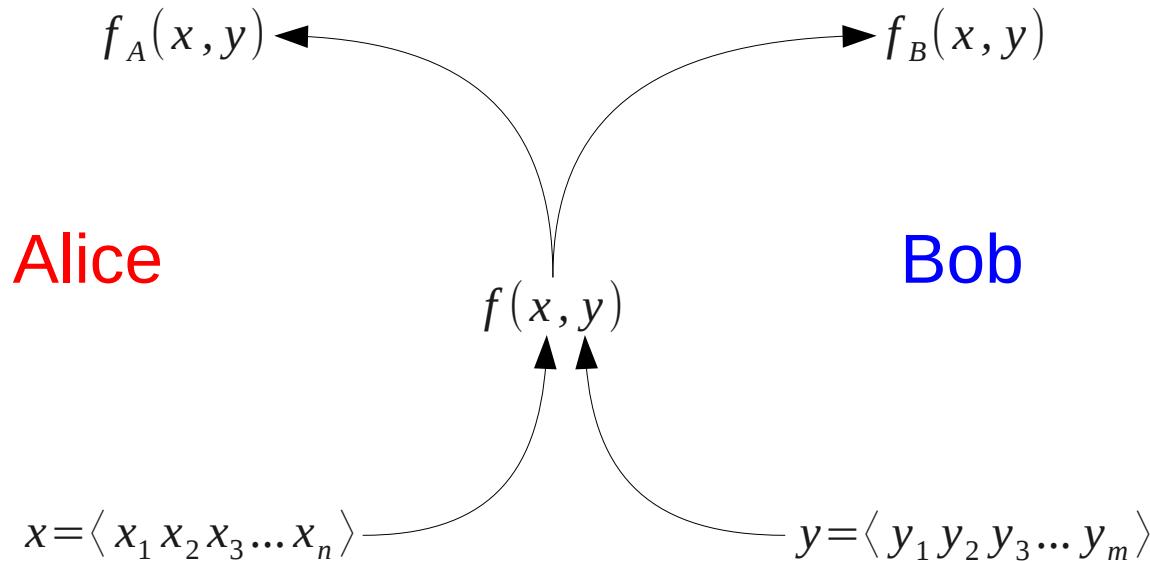


Guarantee:  $x$  and  $y$  remain private, outputs are correct

Key result [Yao82]:

Secure 2-party protocols exist for  
any computable function

# Secure 2-Party Computation



Guarantee:  $x$  and  $y$  remain private, outputs are correct

Need *oblivious* representation of  $f$

```
x = read_input();
if (x > 5) {
    y = 7;
} else {
    y = 12;
}
```

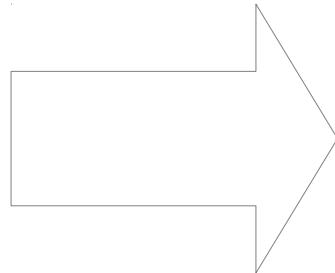
Leaks information about  $x$

# Oblivious Programs

- Control flow, memory access, etc. are independent of program inputs
- Key result: Pippenger and Fischer oblivious Turing machine construction
  - Logarithmic overhead
  - Also gives generic circuit family construction

# Oblivious Programs

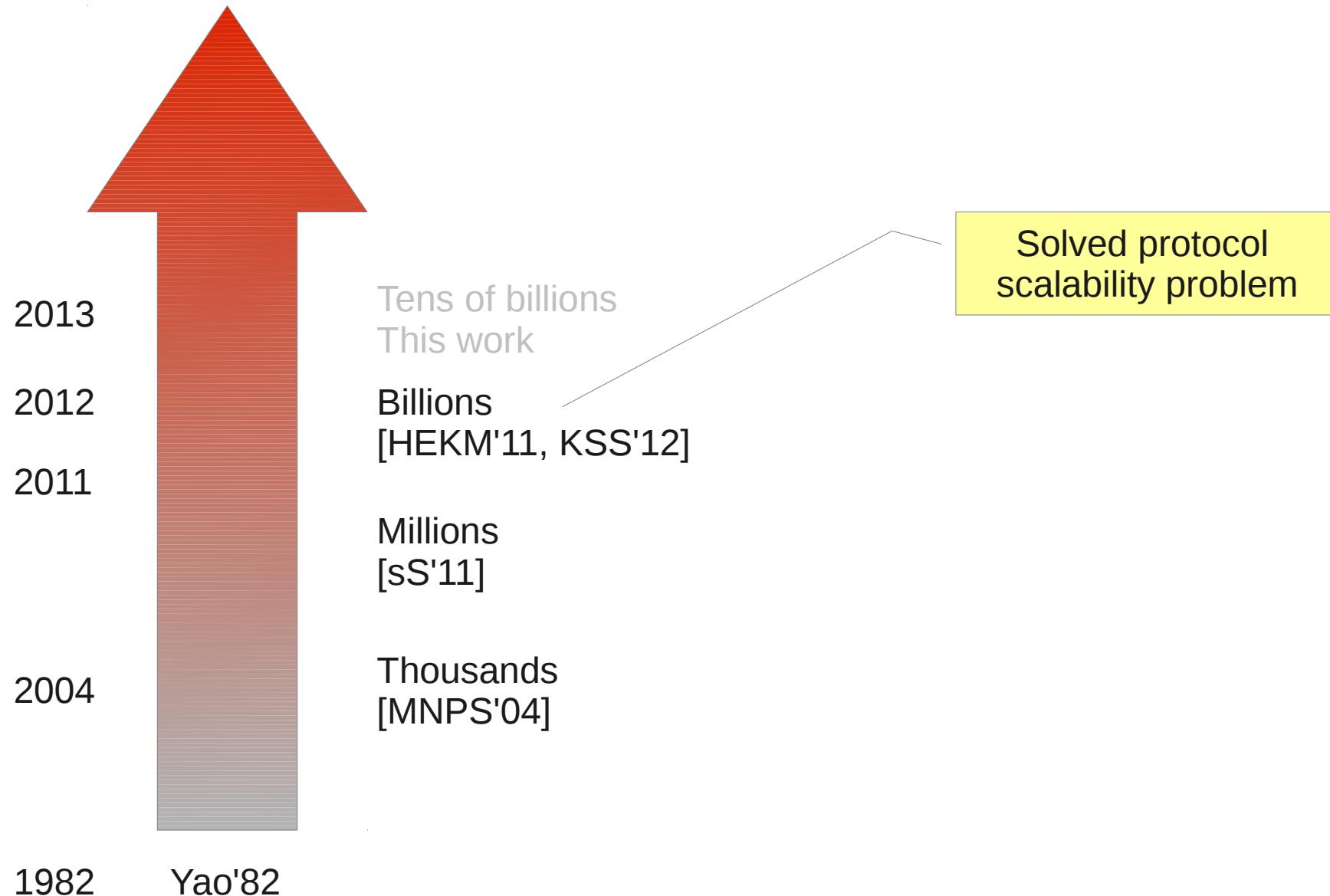
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if (x > 5) {
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} else {
    y = 12;
}
```



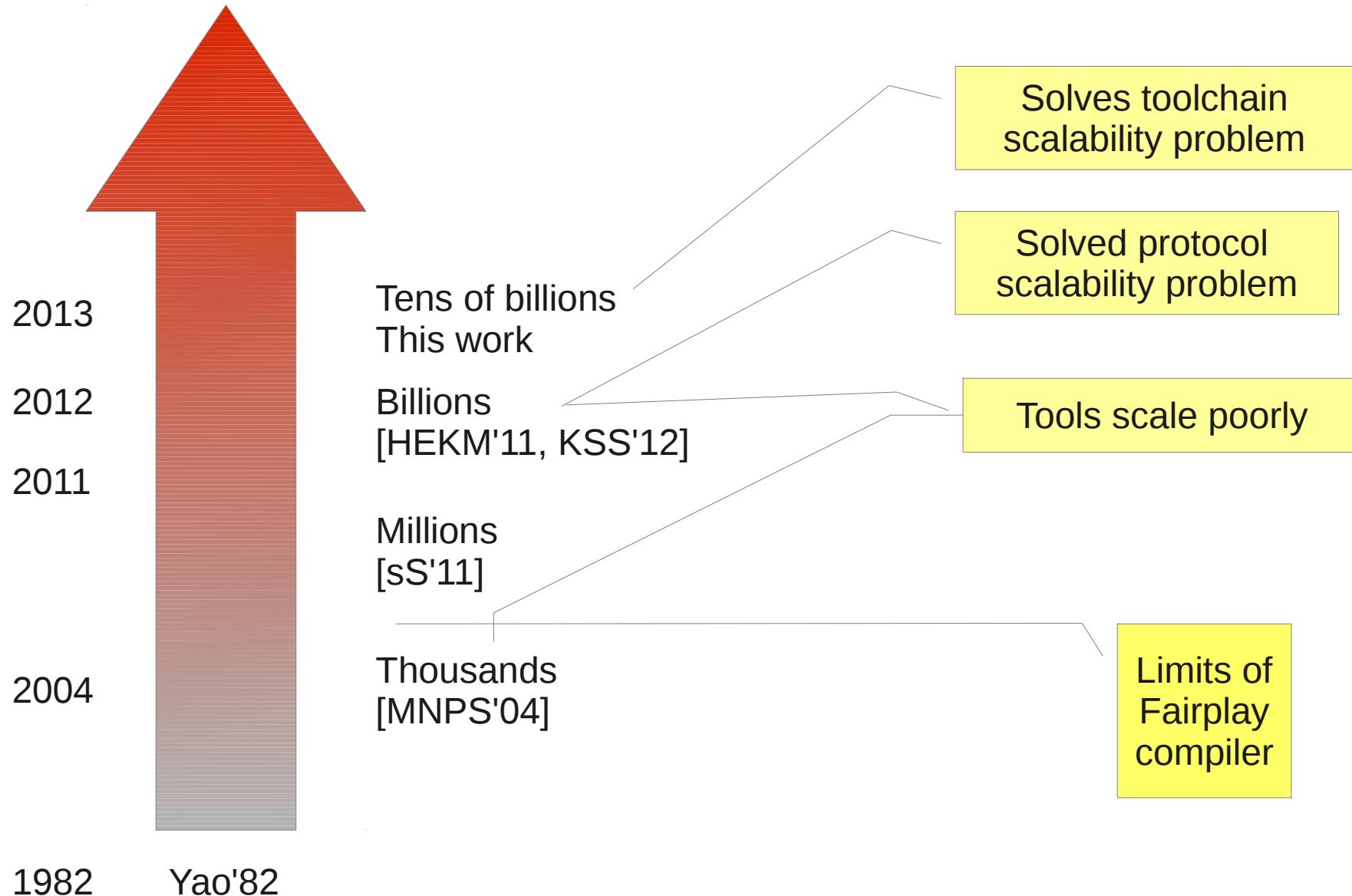
```
x = read_input();
c1 = x > 5;
y1 = 7;
c2 = !c1;
y2 = 12;
y = (y1 & c1) || (y2 & c2);
```

Multiplexer

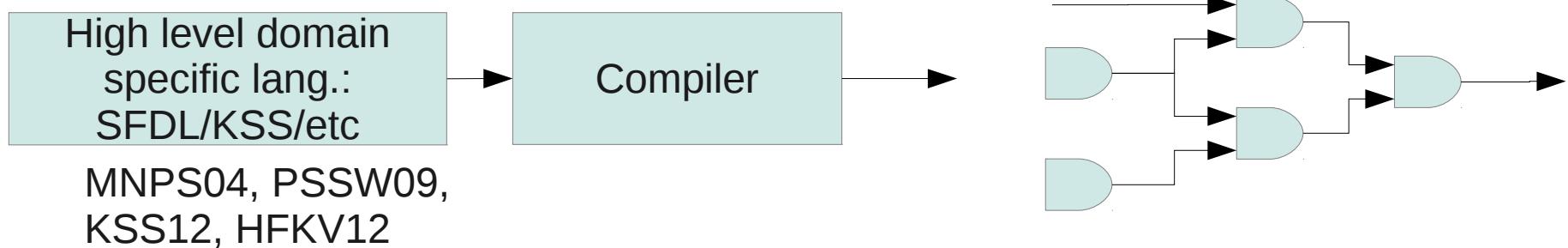
# Prior Work



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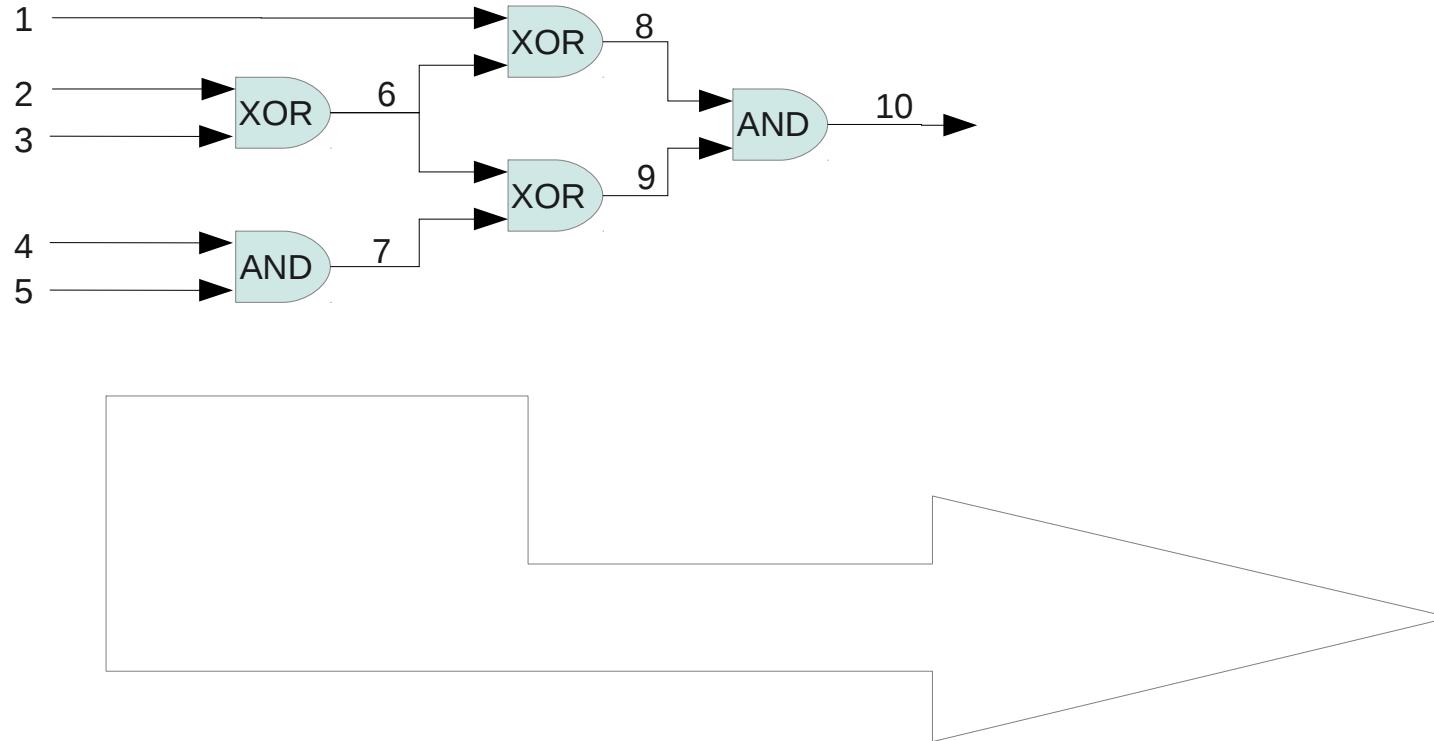


# Previous Approaches



- Circuits are described as lists of gates
  - Loops must be unrolled
  - Functions must be inlined
  - Conditionals must be flattened

# Previous Approaches



**Problem:**  
**Storage size = worst case running time**

1 = Input

2 = Input

3 = Input

4 = Input

5 = Input

6 =  $\text{XOR}(2,3)$

7 =  $\text{AND}(4,5)$

8 =  $\text{XOR}(1,6)$

9 =  $\text{XOR}(6,7)$

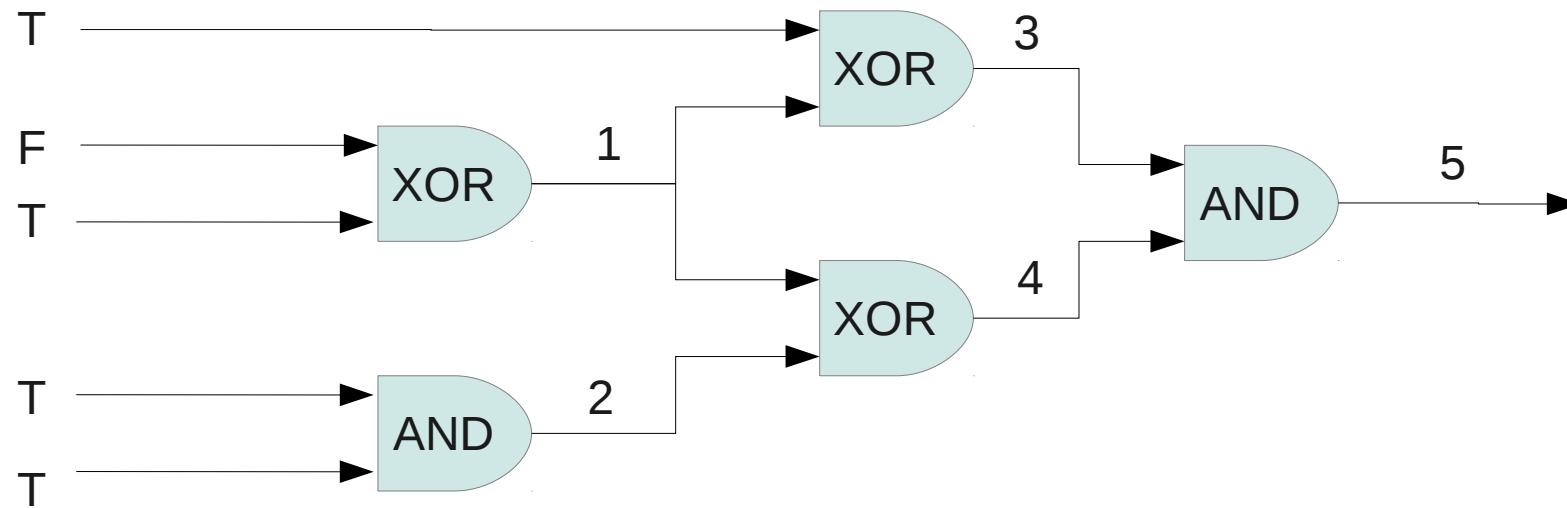
10 =  $\text{AND}(8,9)$

# Previous Approaches

- Machine resources limit the size of circuits that can be optimized or stored
- Storage requirements grow with worst case running time
  - Millions of gates = many gigabytes

Function	KSS12		HFKV12	
	Circuit Size	Compile Time	Circuit Size	Compile Time
32-bit Integer Mult.	1.8MB	0.55s	785kB	6.43s
1024-bit Integer Mult.	112MB	430s	??	??
16x16 Matrix Mult.	432MB	2,200s	206MB	2,600
256-bit RSA	15GB	24,000s	-	-
1024-bit RSA	??	??	-	-

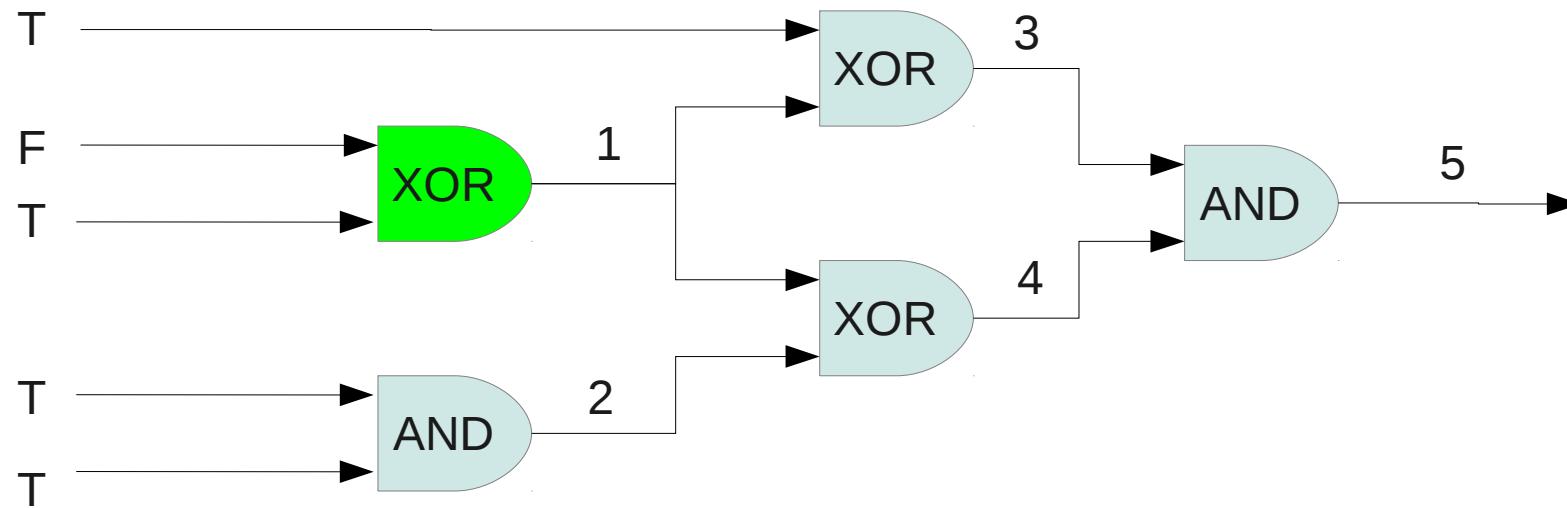
# Related problem: Evaluating Circuits



Wire values

1	2	3	4	5

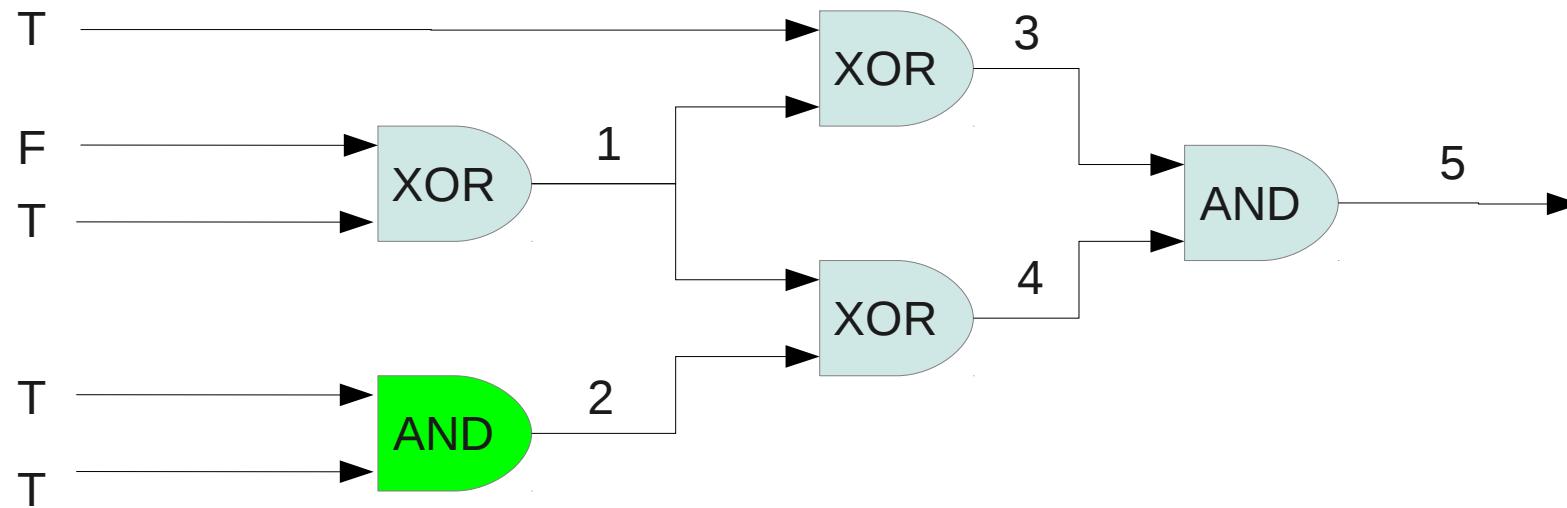
# Related problem: Evaluating Circuits



Wire values

1	2	3	4	5
T				

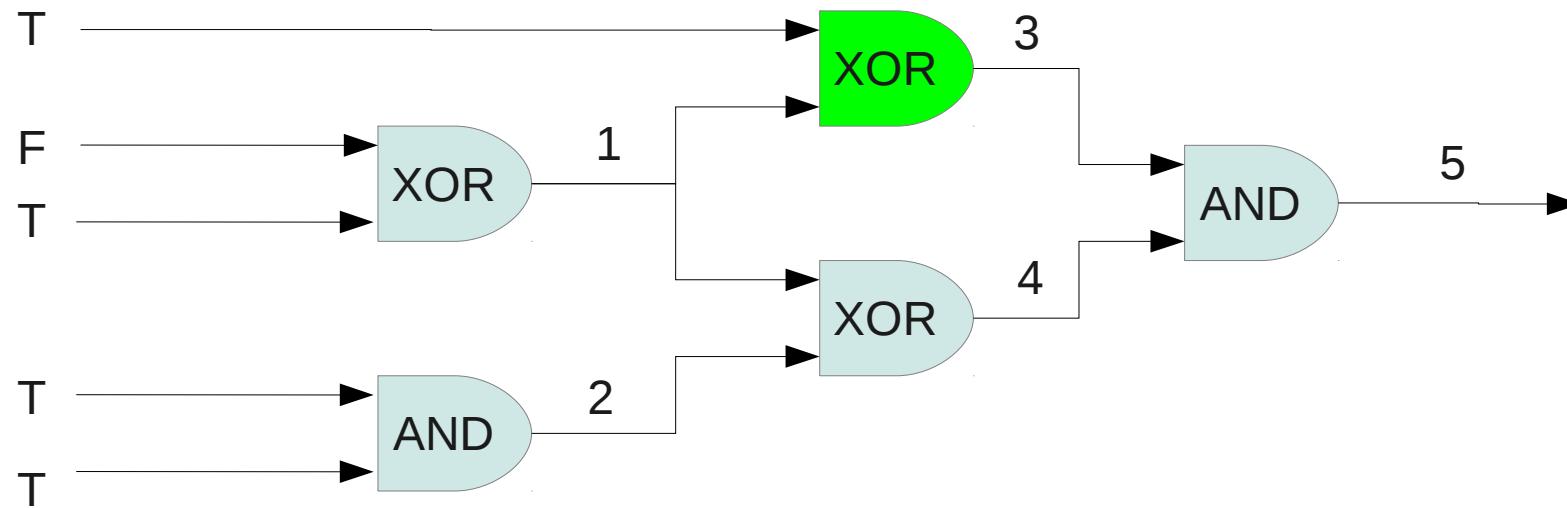
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Wire values

1	2	3	4	5
T	T			

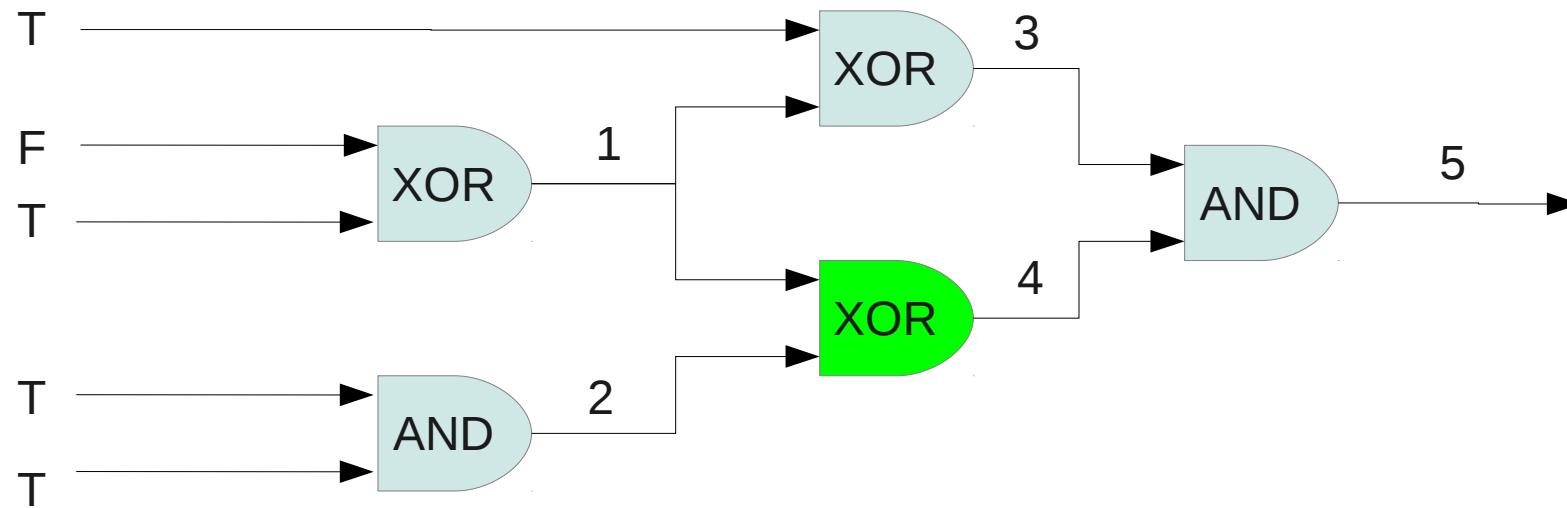
# Related problem: Evaluating Circuits



Wire values

1	2	3	4	5
T	T	F		

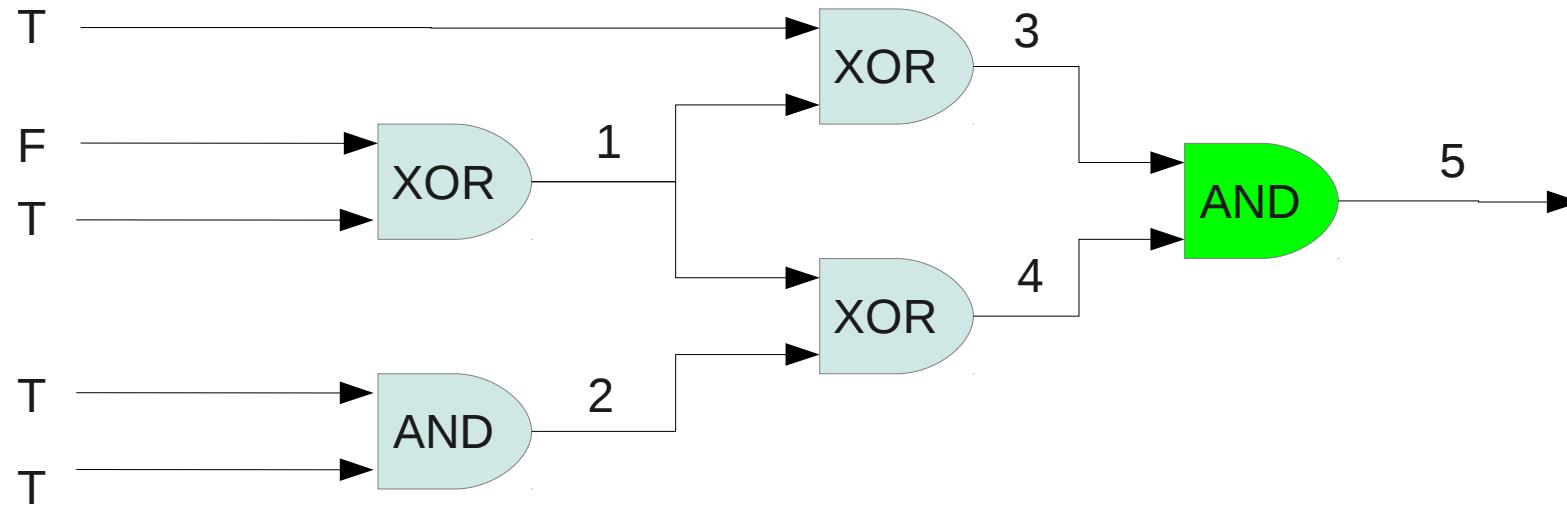
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Wire values

1	2	3	4	5
T	T	F	F	

# Related problem: Evaluating Circuits



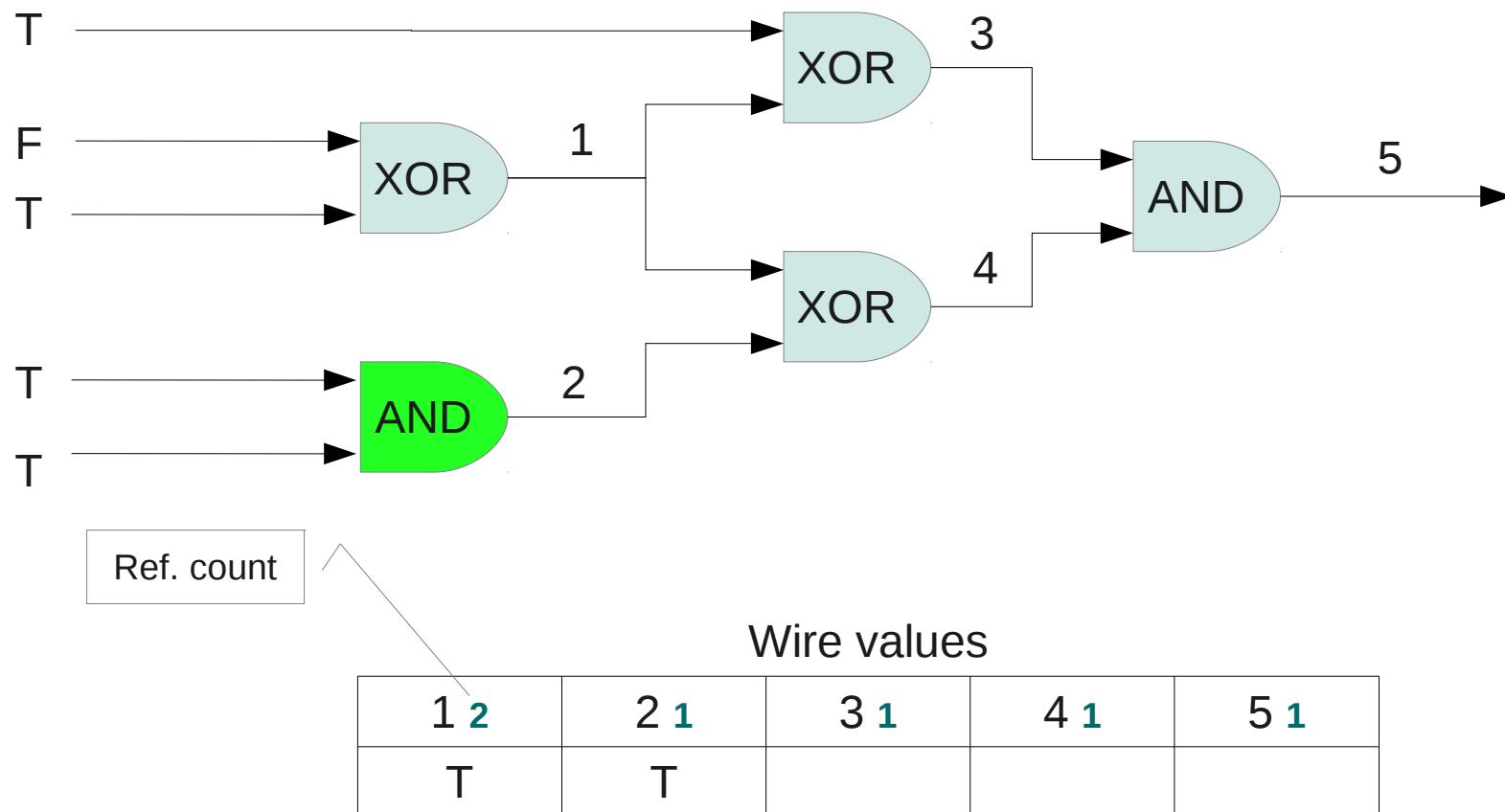
Wire values

1	2	3	4	5
T	T	F	F	F

Problem: Memory requirement grows with running time!

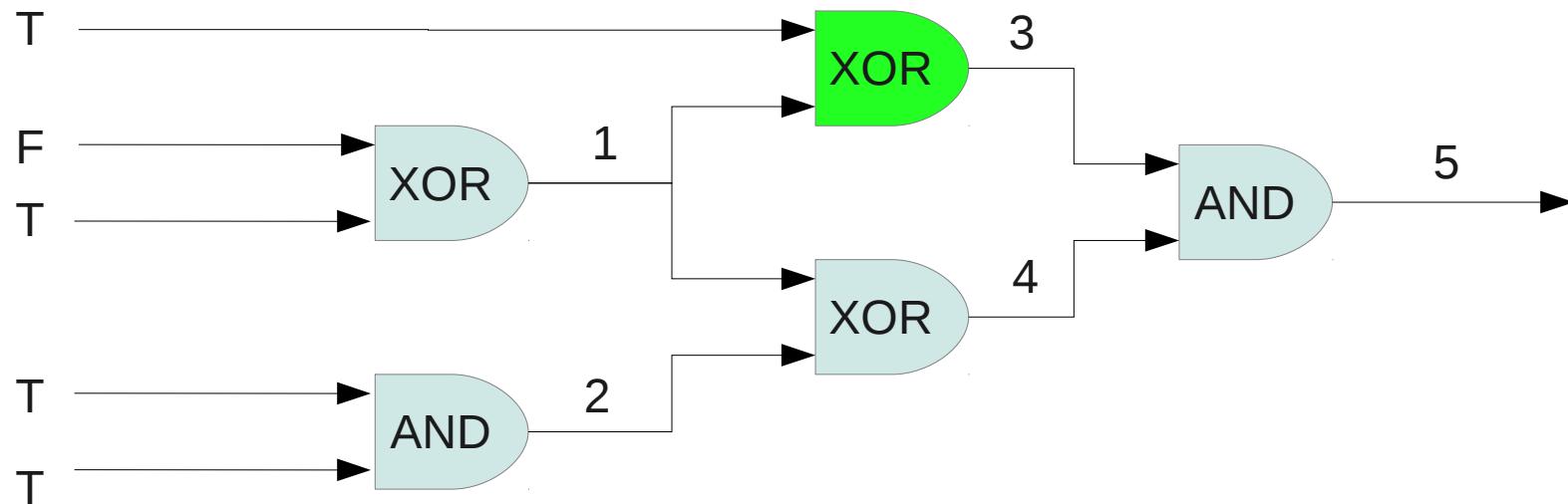
# KSS12 Approach

- Observation: Wire values are not needed after their last use as an input to a gate



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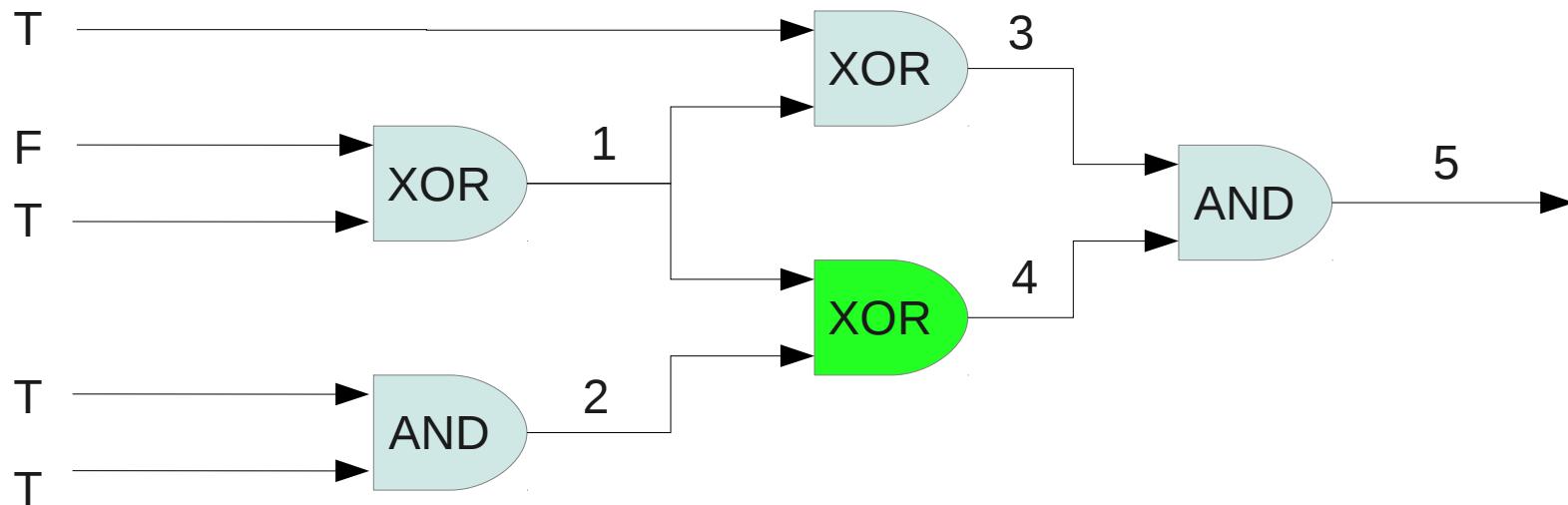


Wire values

1 1	2 1	3 1	4 1	5 1
T	T	F		

# KSS12 Approach

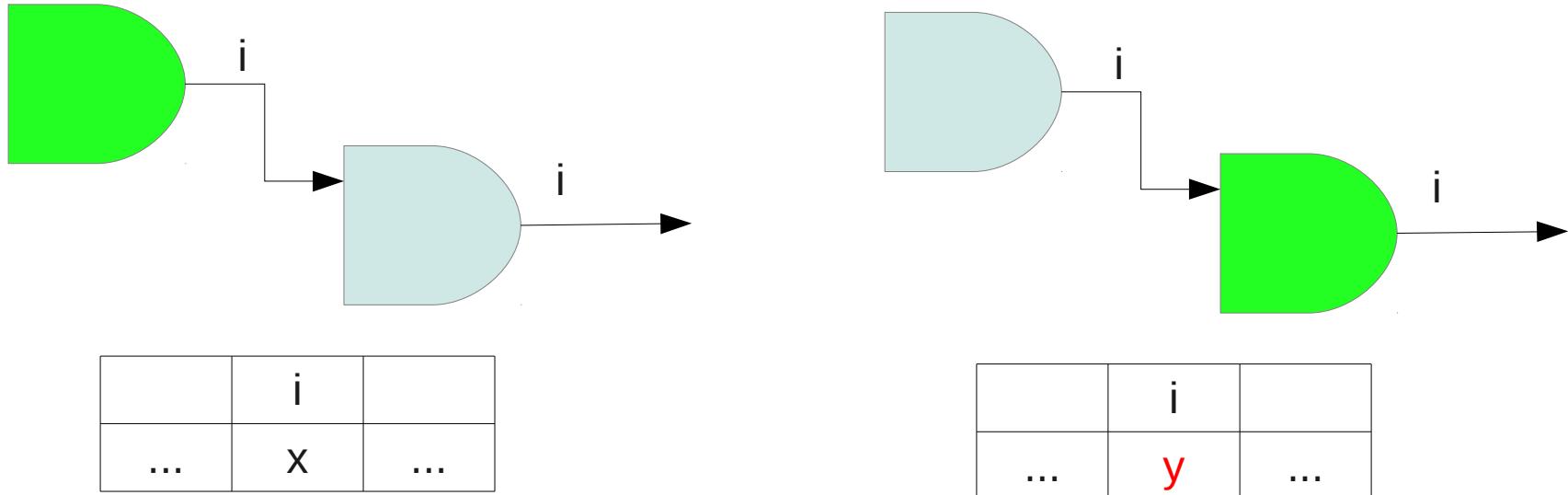
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Wire values

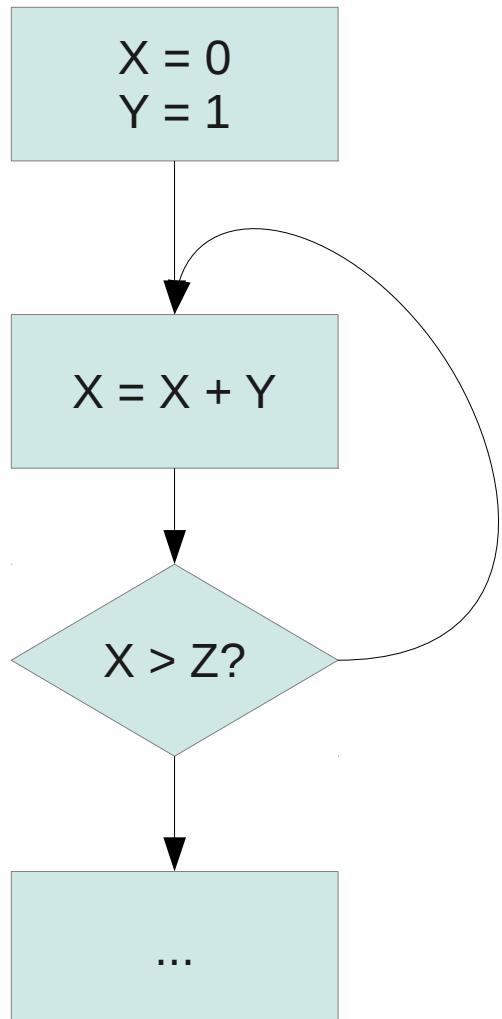
1 0	2 0	3 1	4 1	5 1
T	T	F	F	

# Key Insight (1): Overwriting



- When wire values are not needed, just overwrite them
- Simpler than reference counting
- The compiler can use high-level information (scope, assignments, etc.) to determine when a wire can be overwritten
- Removes need for unique wire IDs – just need the index in the table

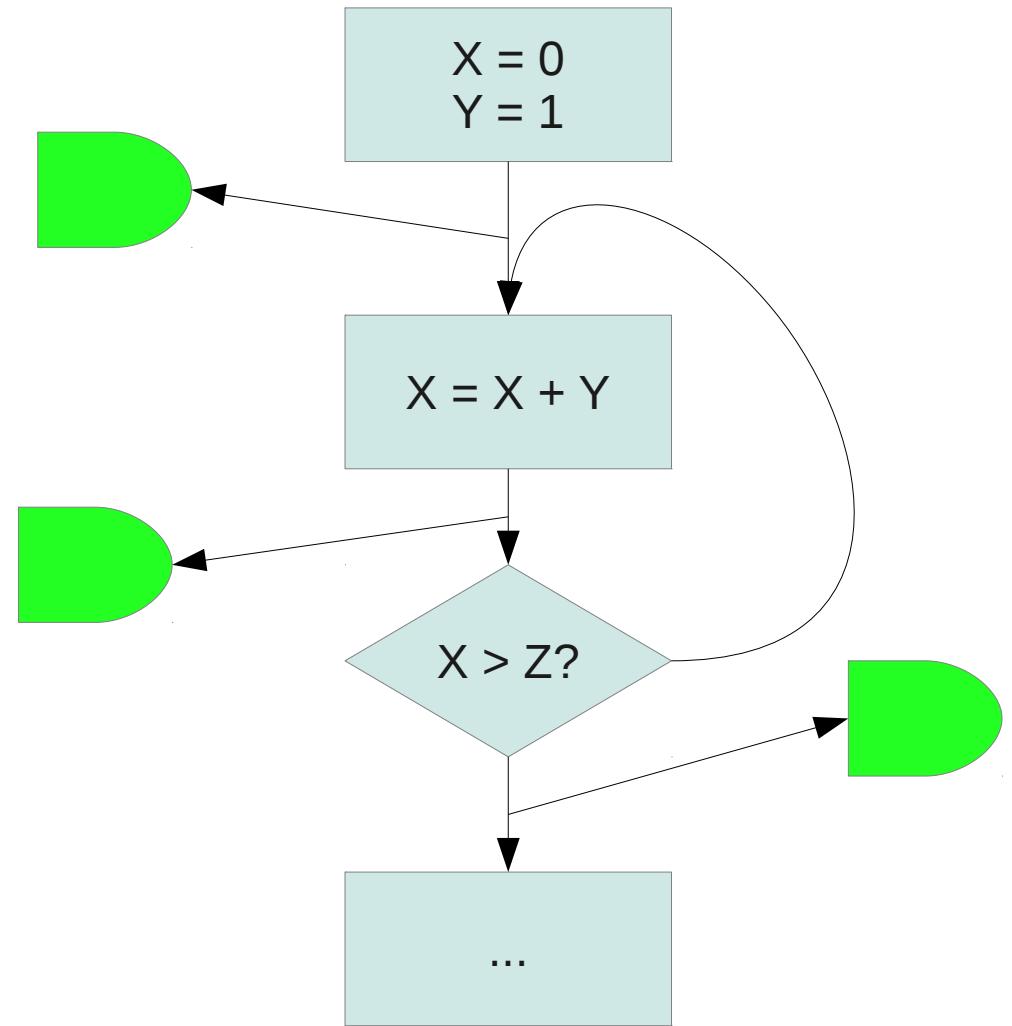
# Key Insight (2): JIT Gate Generation



- Unrolling loops carries a heavy cost: the loop body is repeated many times
- Control-flow graphs are more compact than circuits
  - CFGs are also useful for optimization

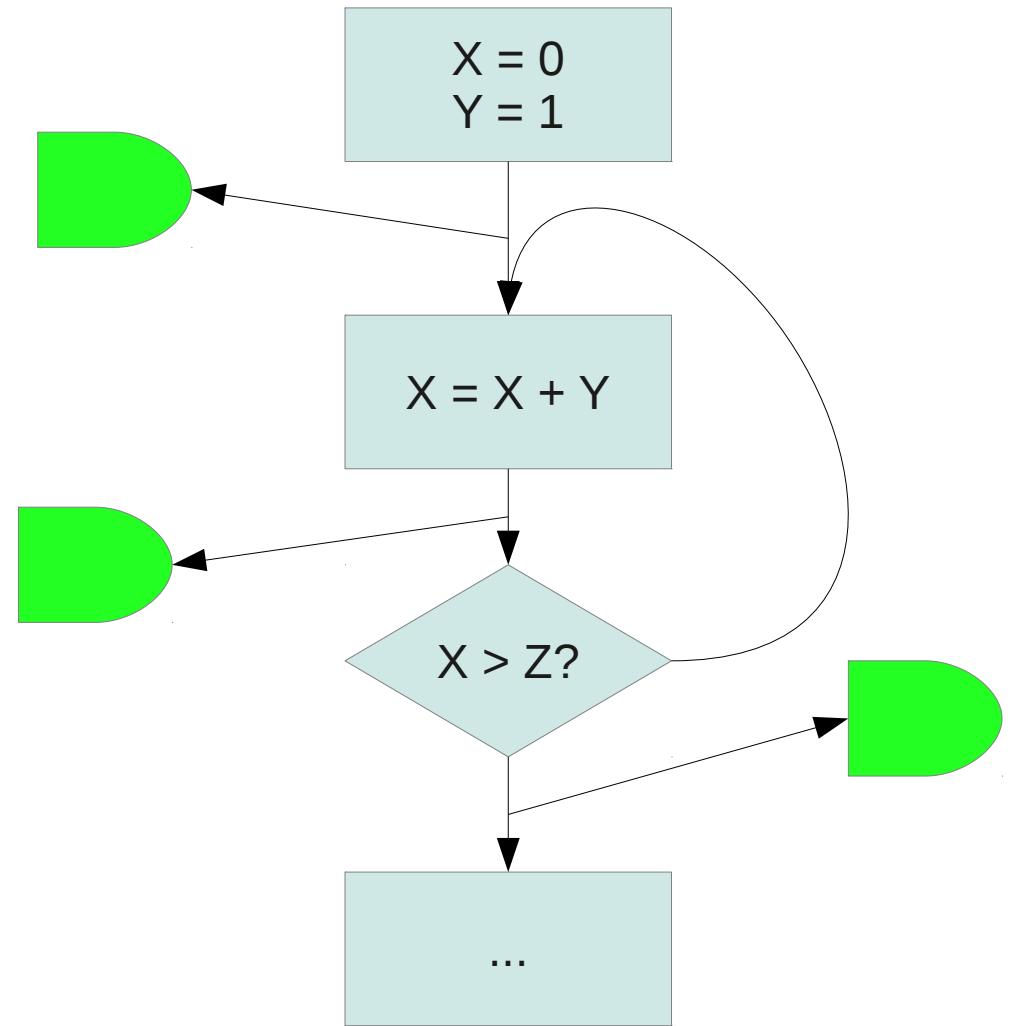
# Key Insight (2): JIT Gate Generation

- Loops do not need to be unrolled immediately
- Just-in-time gate generation



# Key Insight (2): JIT Gate Generation

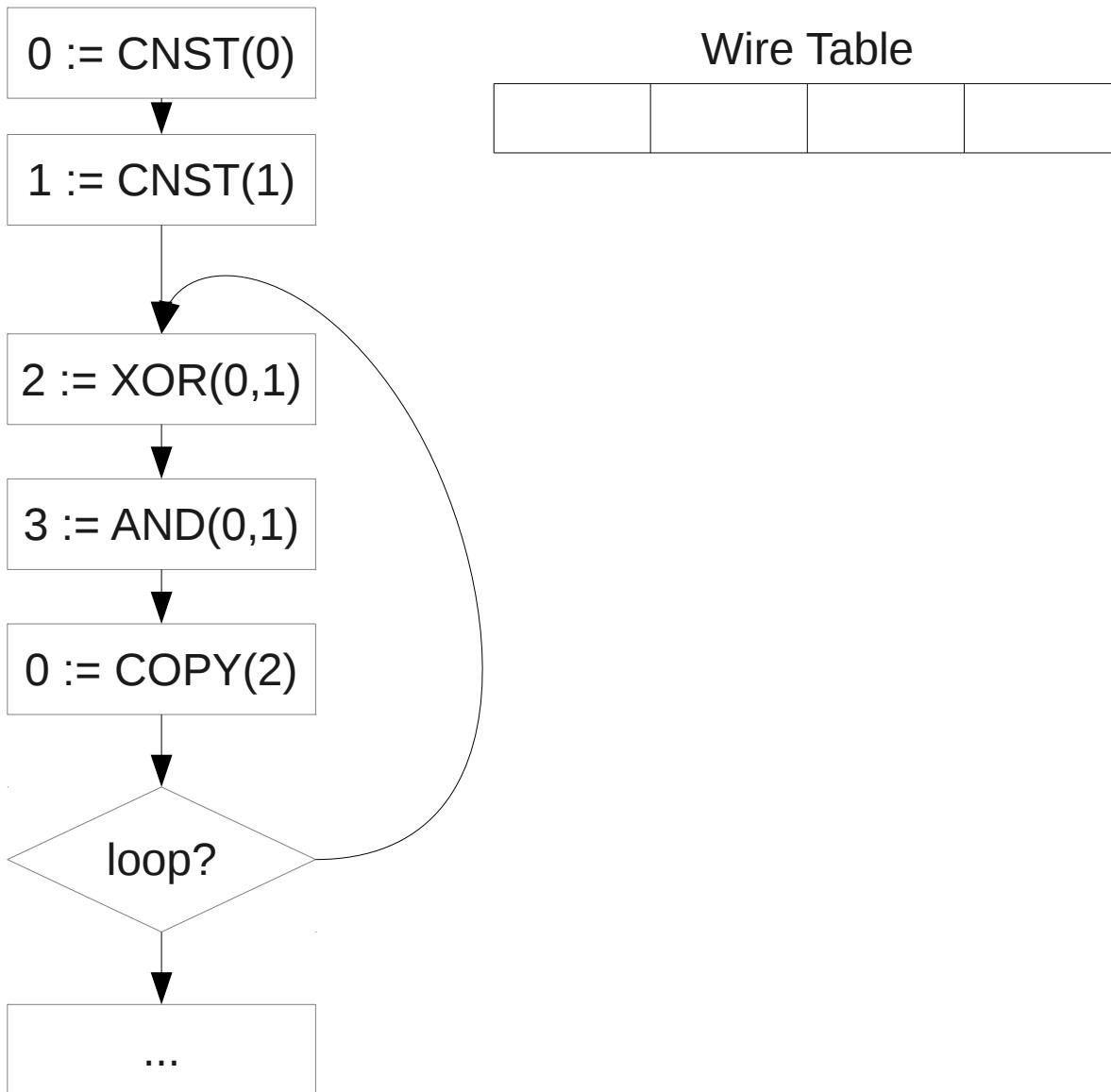
- Loops do not need to be unrolled immediately
- Gates emitted as side effects of state transitions
- Now we deal with programs, not circuits



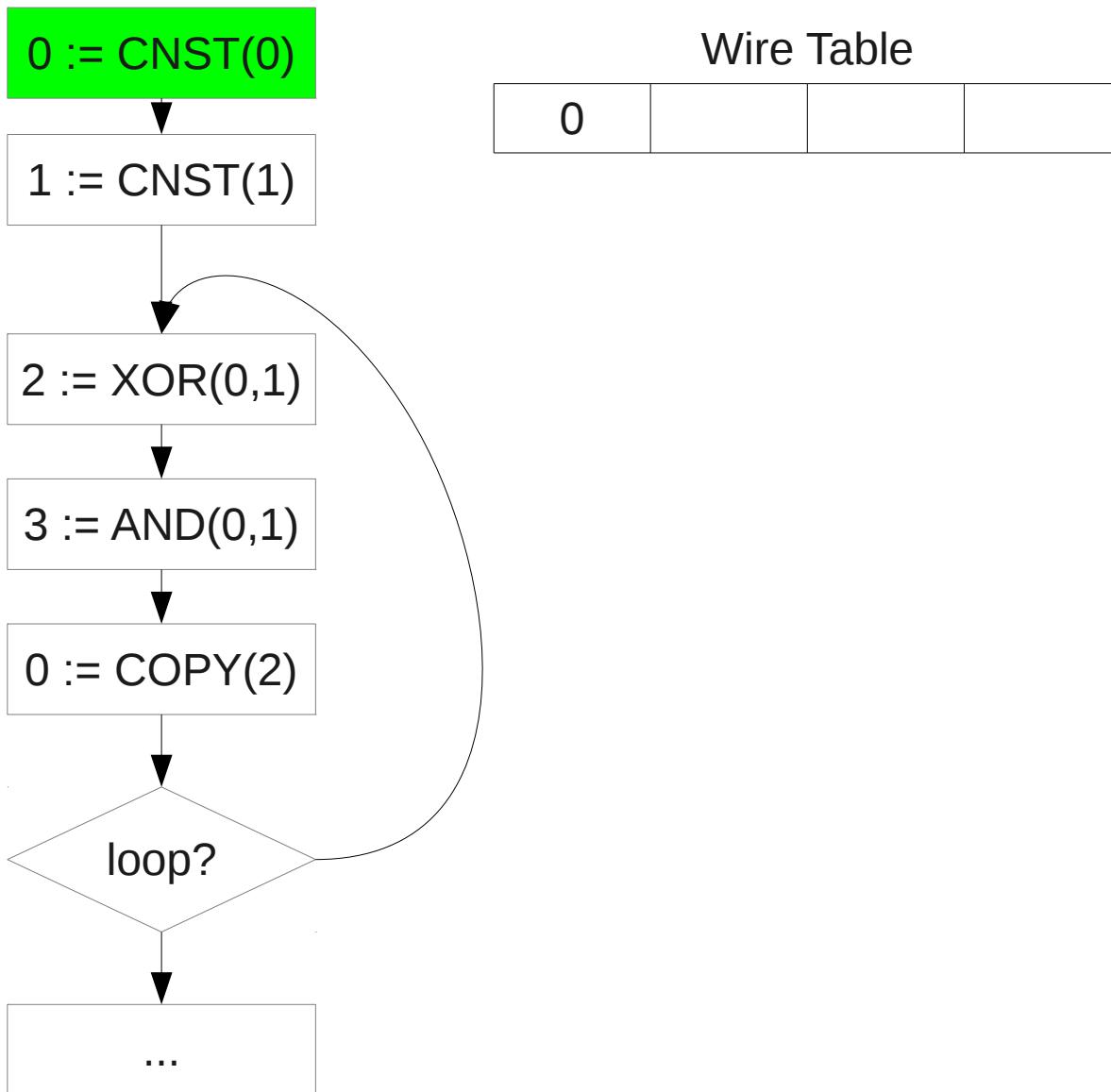
# PCF

- PCF combines these two ideas
- This requires no changes to secure 2-party computation protocols
  - The PCF runtime emits a stream of gates – this can be used like any other description
  - No compromises on security

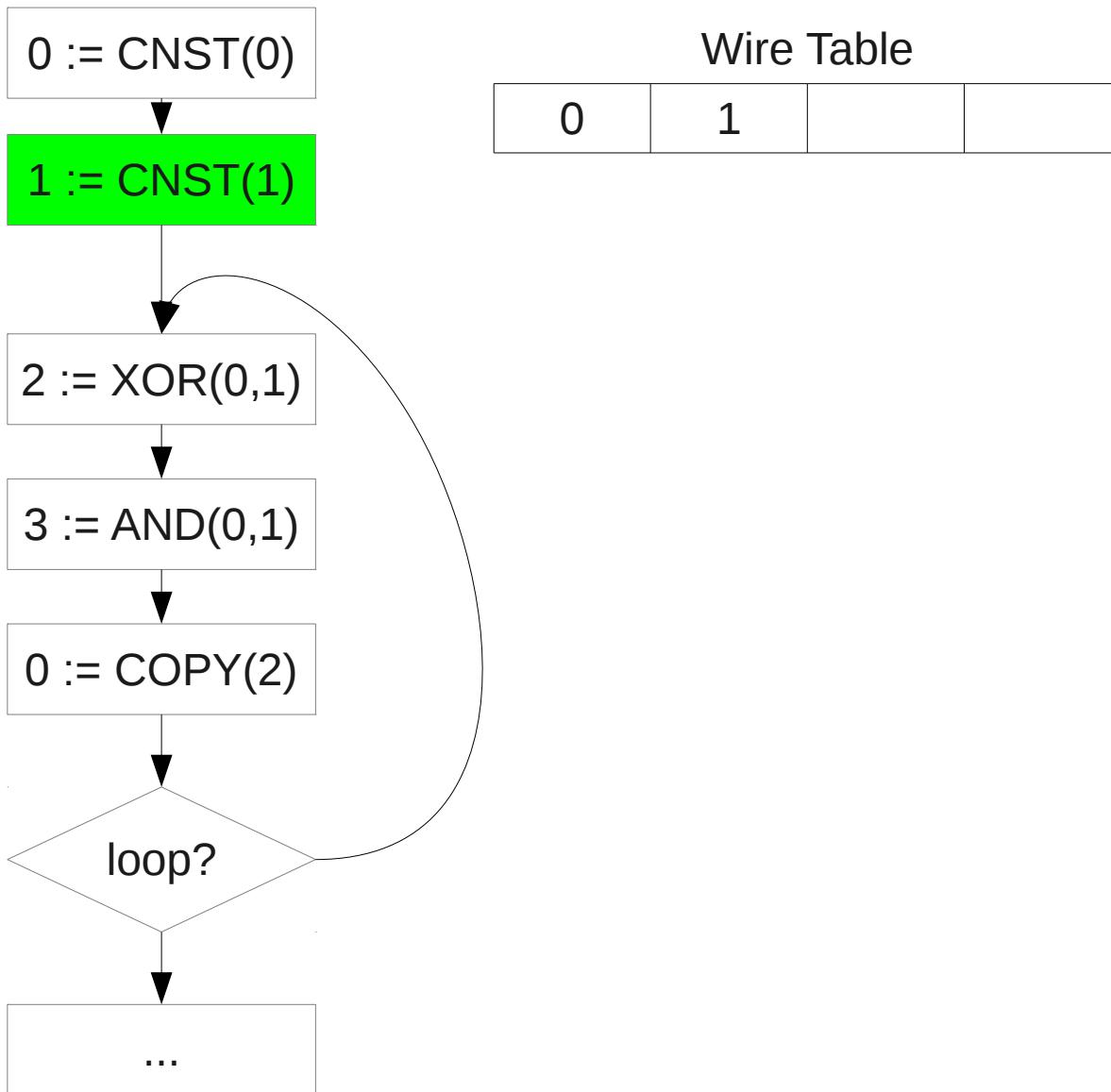
# PCF Runtime



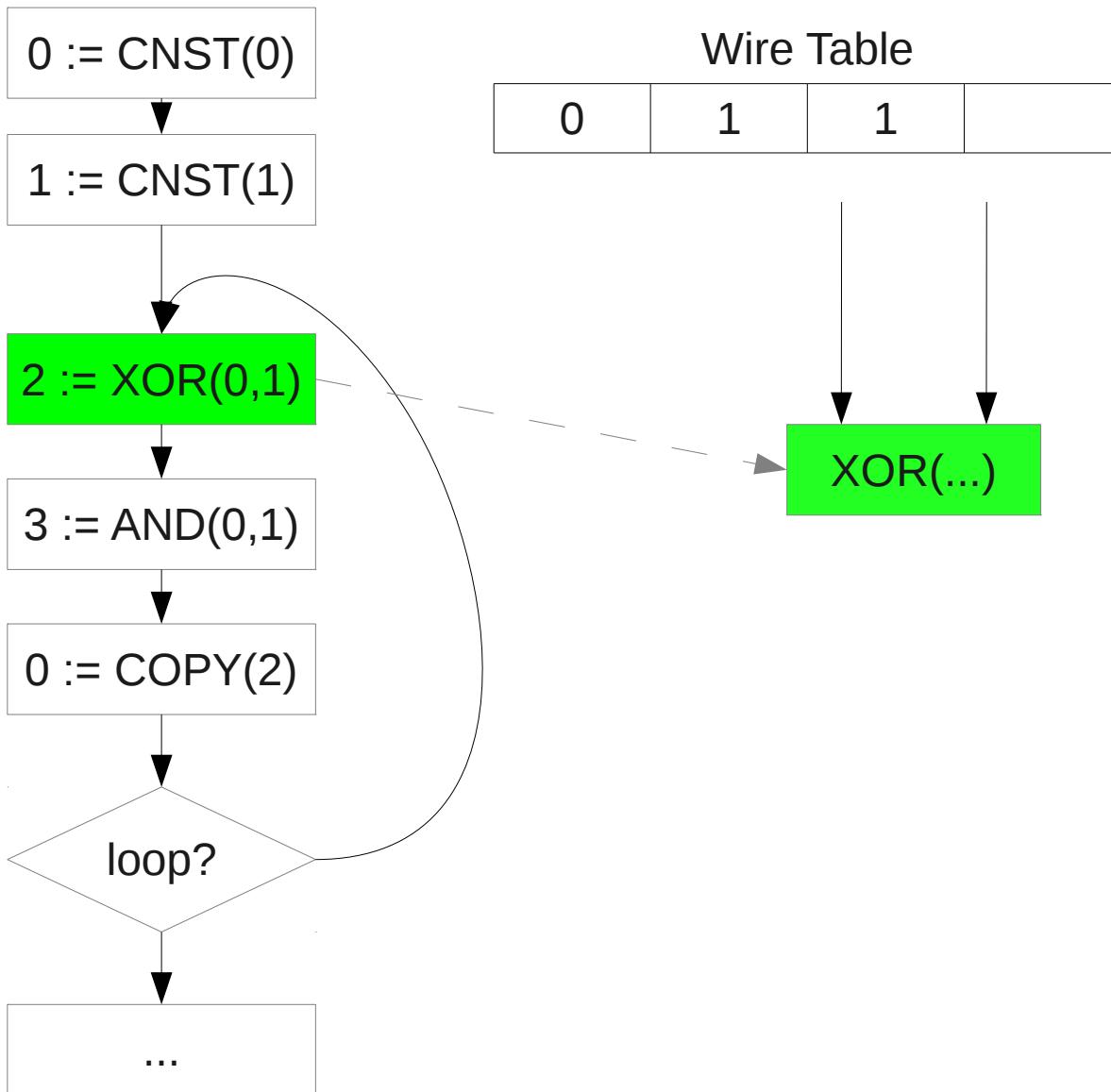
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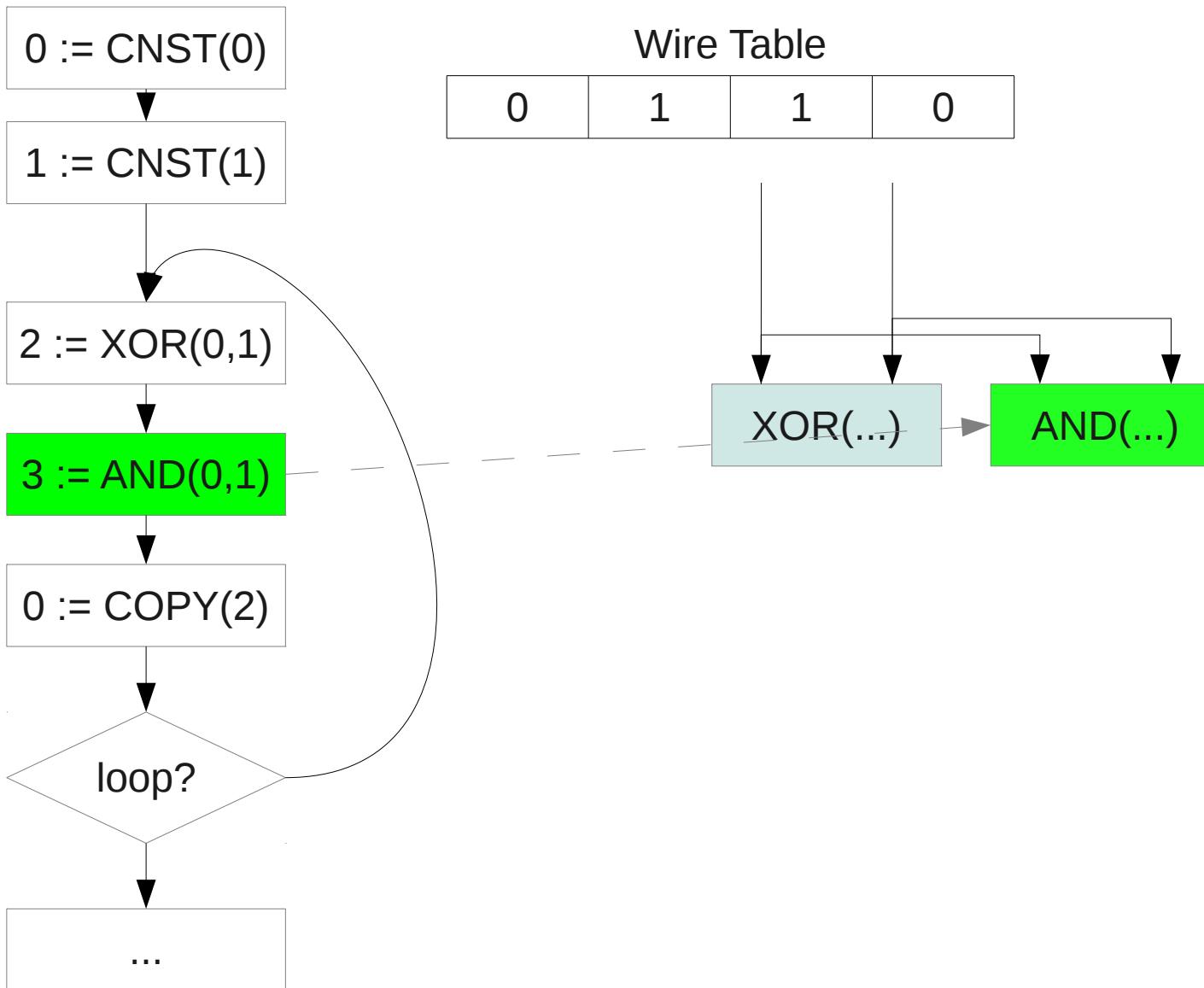
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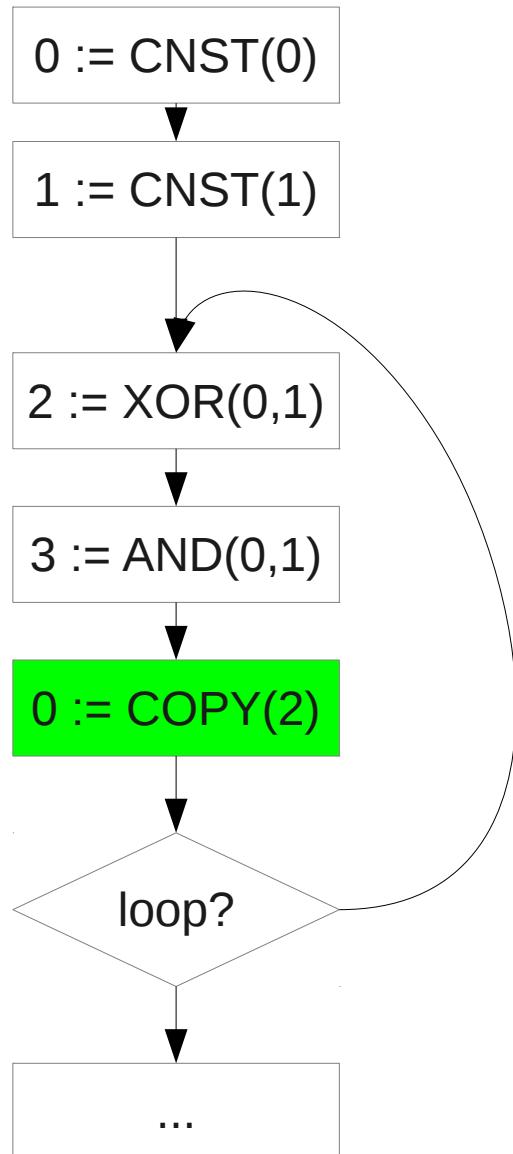
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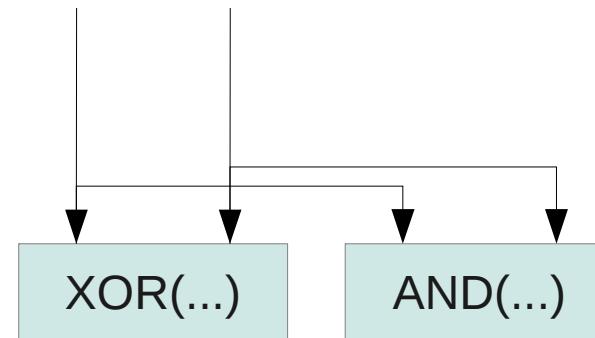
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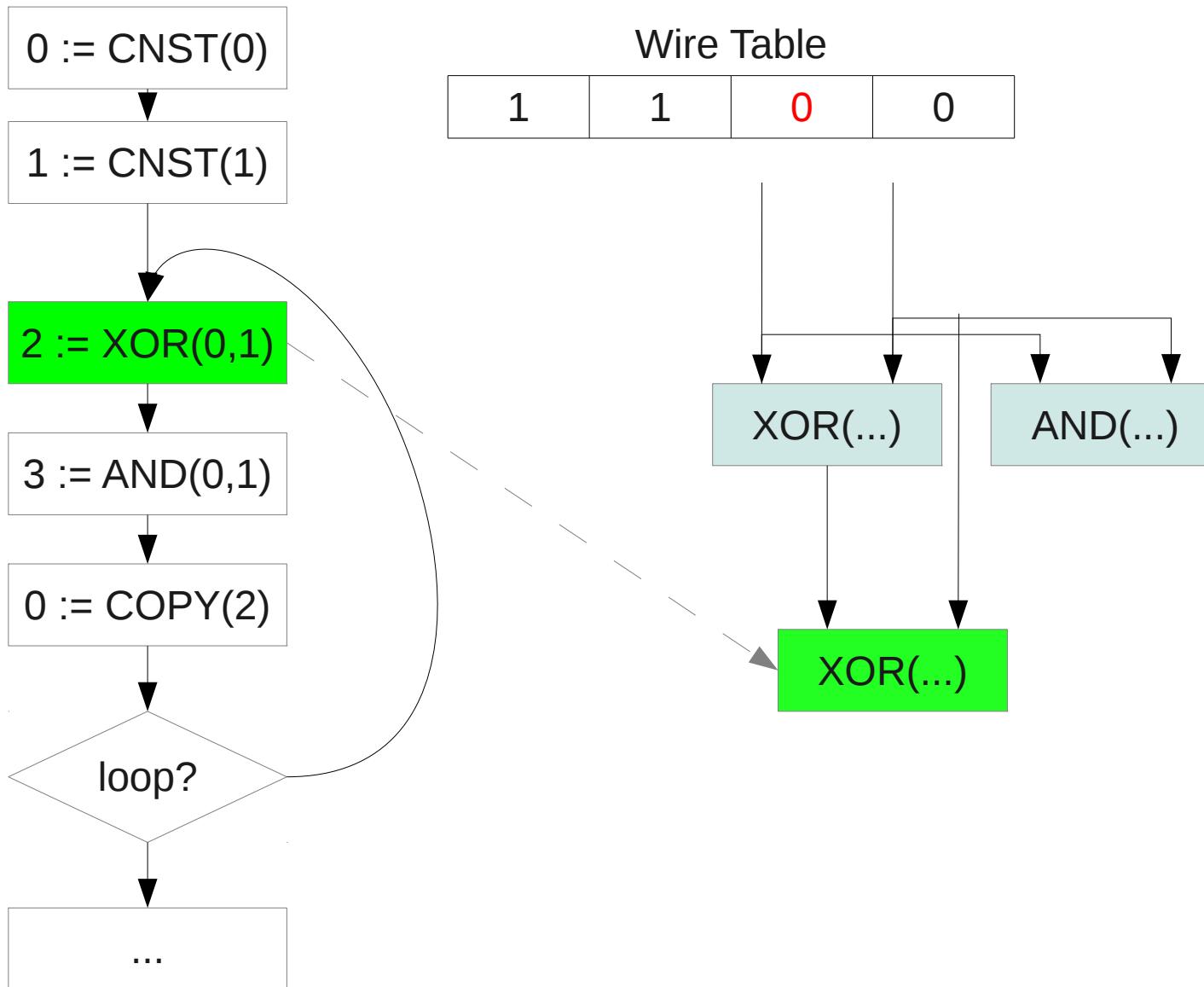
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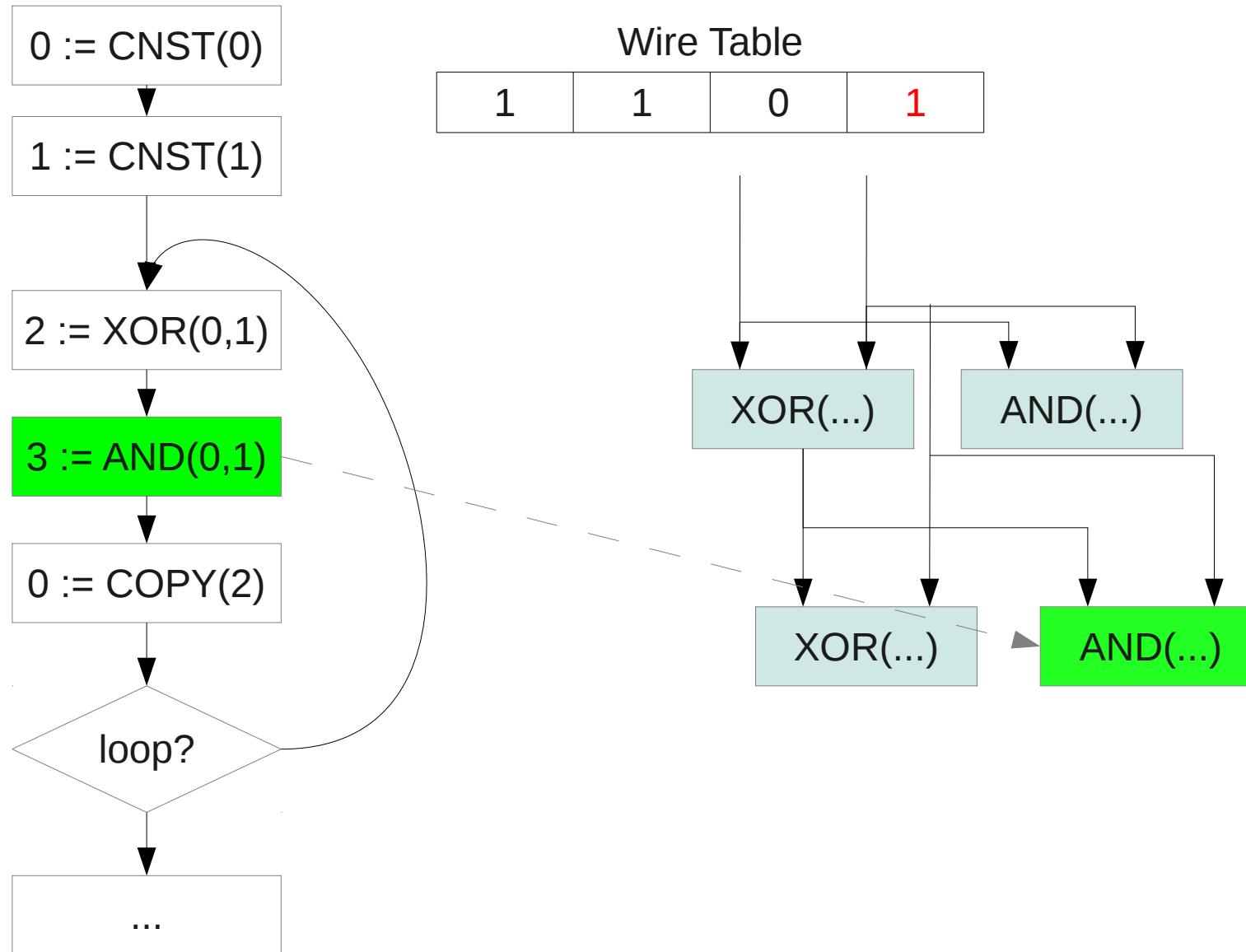
Wire Table			
1	1	1	0



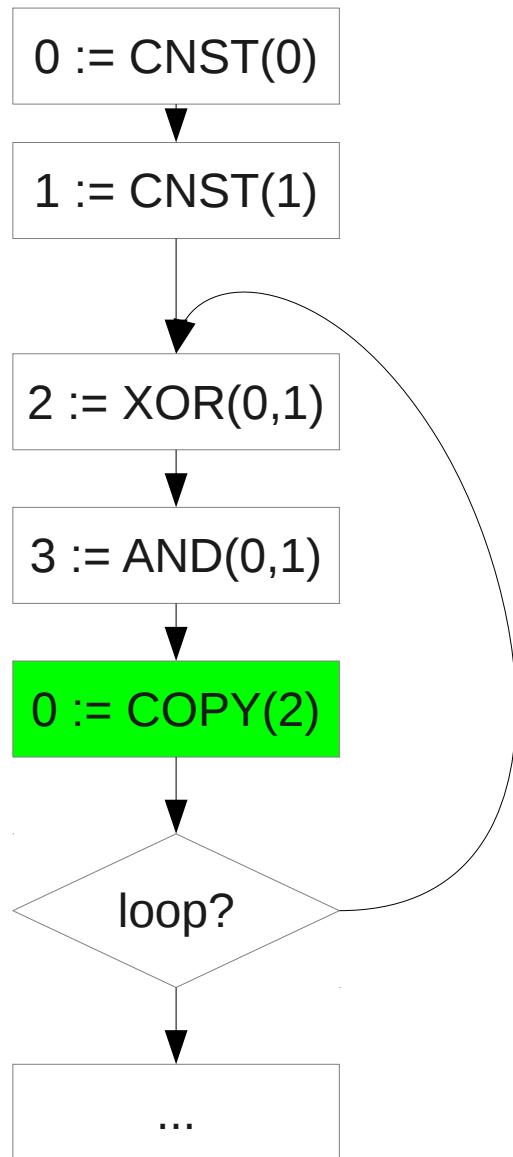
# PCF Runtime



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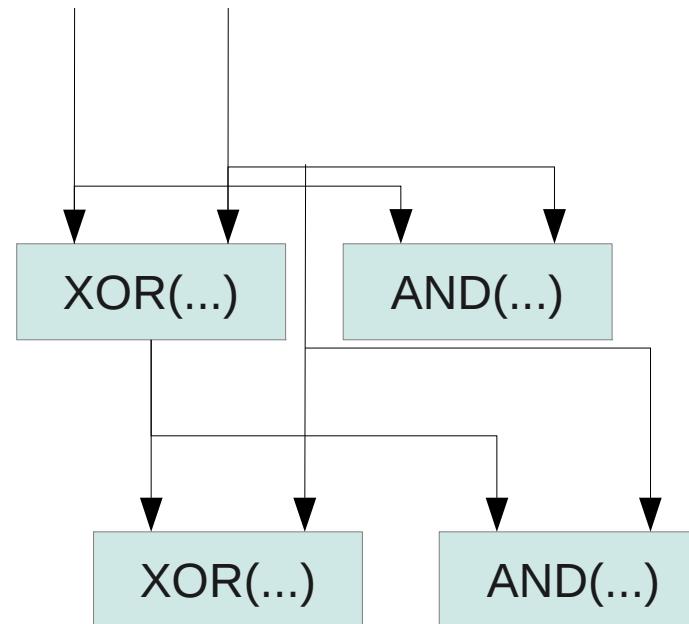


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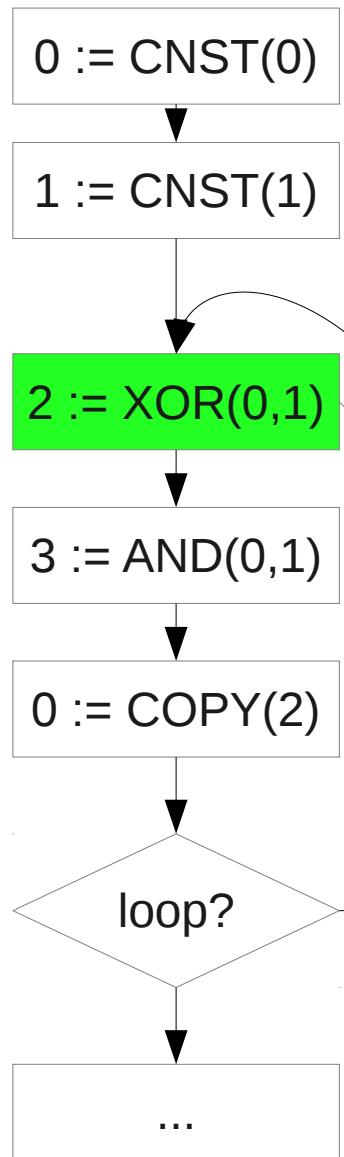


Wire Table

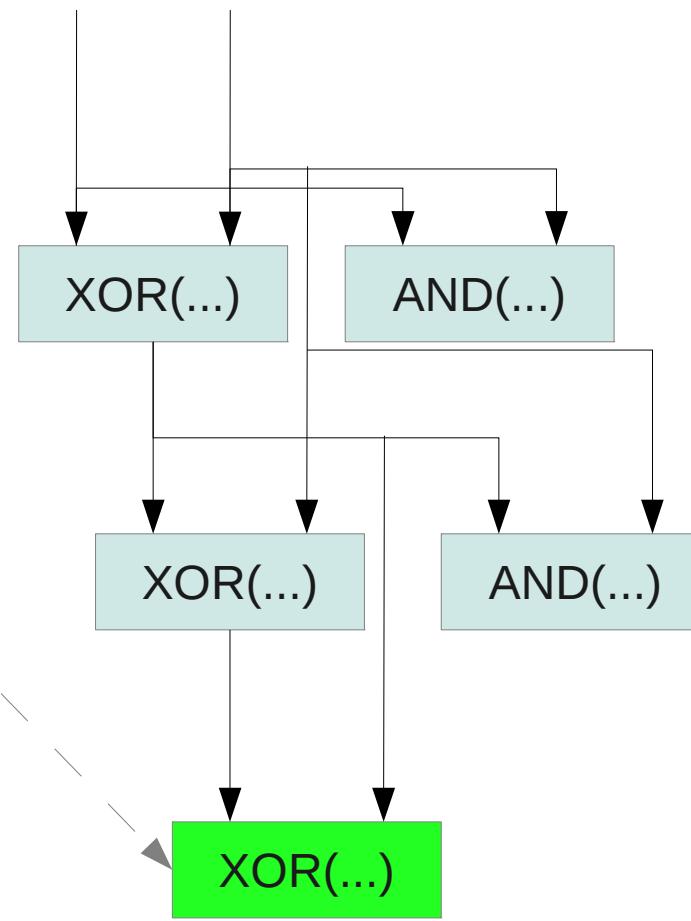
0	1	0	1
---	---	---	---



# PCF Runtime



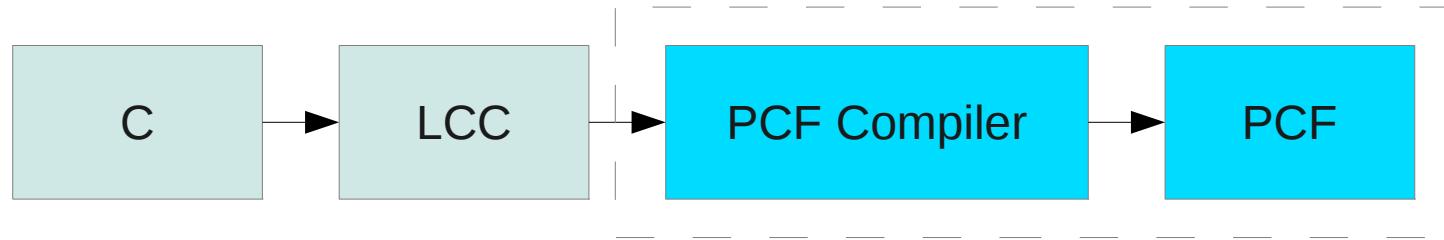
Wire Table			
0	1	1	1



# Key Insight (3): Start with Bytecode

- Previous systems support one language
  - Fairplay, KSS'12 use a domain specific language
  - HFKV'12 support C (suggest LLVM bytecode as future work)
- Our system reads a **bytecode** format as input
  - **Any language** can be compiled to bytecode; any language can be supported

# Our System



- No changes to C, just restrictions on what programs can be executed (e.g. loop termination must not depend on input values, no pointers to functions)
- Nothing special about LCC – could use JVM, LLVM, etc. to support other languages
- Can handle big functions, tens of billions of gates or more, using just a laptop computer

# k-width Millionaire's

```
unsigned int alice(unsigned int,unsigned int);
unsigned int bob(unsigned int,unsigned int);
void output_alice(unsigned int);

void main(void)
{
    unsigned int res = 0x00000001, x=0;
    unsigned int i;
    unsigned int borrow;

    for(i = 0; i < 128;)
    {
        unsigned int a1 = alice(i,0);
        unsigned int b1 = bob(i,0);
        unsigned int b = borrow;
        borrow = 0;

        if(a1 < (b1 + b))
            borrow = 1;

        i += 32;
    }
    if(borrow == 0) x= 0x1;
    else x = 0xffffffff;

    output_alice(x);
}
```

# Regex Matching

```
unsigned int alice(unsigned int,unsigned int);
unsigned int bob(unsigned int,unsigned int);
void output_alice(unsigned int);
void output_bob(unsigned int);

#define N 4
#define M 1024

unsigned int transZ[16*N];
unsigned int transO[16*N];

void read_table(void)
{
    unsigned int i = 0, inp = 0;

    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
    {
        inp = alice(32*i, 0);
        transZ[2*i] = inp & 0xFF;

        transO[2*i] = (inp >> 8) & 0xFF;

        transZ[2*i+1] = (inp >> 16) & 0xFF;
        transO[2*i+1] = (inp >> 24) & 0xFF;
    }
}
```

```
void main(void)
{
    unsigned int i = 0, j = 0, k=0, z = 0, inp = 0;
    unsigned int state;

    read_table();

    state = 0;
    for(z = 0; z < M; z++)
    {
        inp = bob(32*z,0);
        for(i = 0; i < 32; i++)
        {
            for(j = 0; j < 16*N; j++)
            {
                unsigned int xstate = 0;
                if((inp & 0x01) != 0)
                    xstate = transO[j] & 0xFF;

                if((inp & 0x01) == 0)
                    xstate = transZ[j] & 0xFF;

                if((j == state) && (k == 0))
                {
                    k = 1;
                    state = xstate;
                }
            }

            inp = inp >> 1;
            k = 0;
        }
    }

    output_alice(state);
}
```

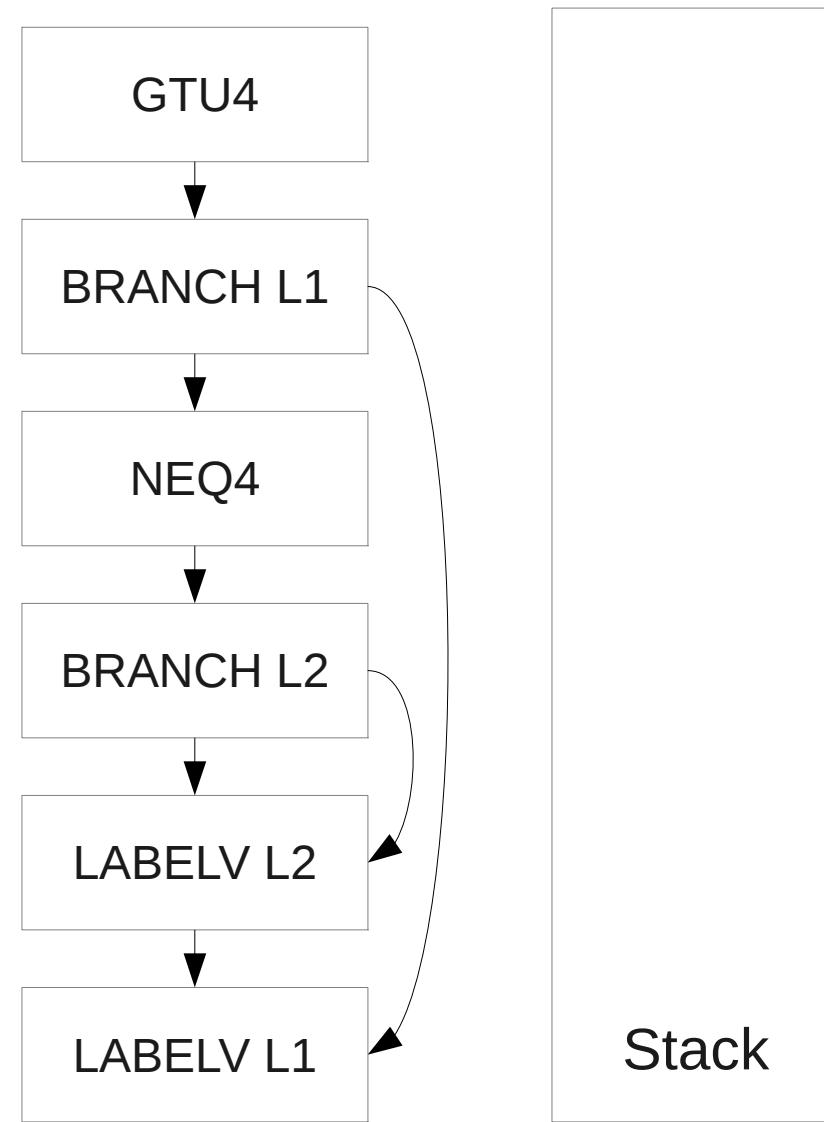
# Technical Issues

# Handling Branches

- Branch statements require special treatment
    - Must evaluate all possible control paths
    - Multiplexers must be used for assignments
  - In bytecode formats, branches are not as structured as in HLLs
- ```
if(x <= 5) {  
    n = z;  
    if(z == w) {  
        y += n;  
    }  
}
```

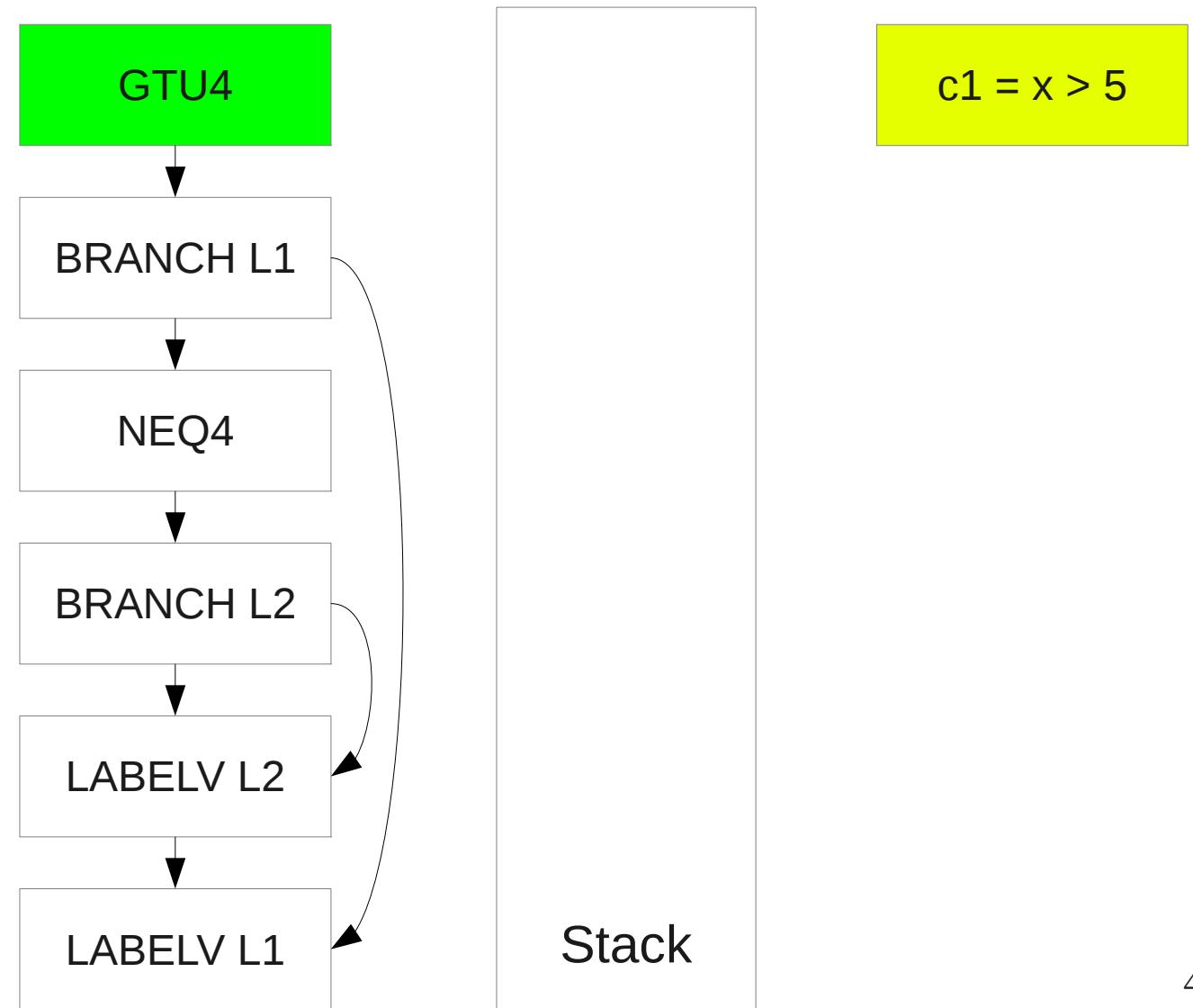
# Handling Branches (Fairplay/KSS'12)

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if(x <= 5) {  
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        y += n;  
    }  
}
```



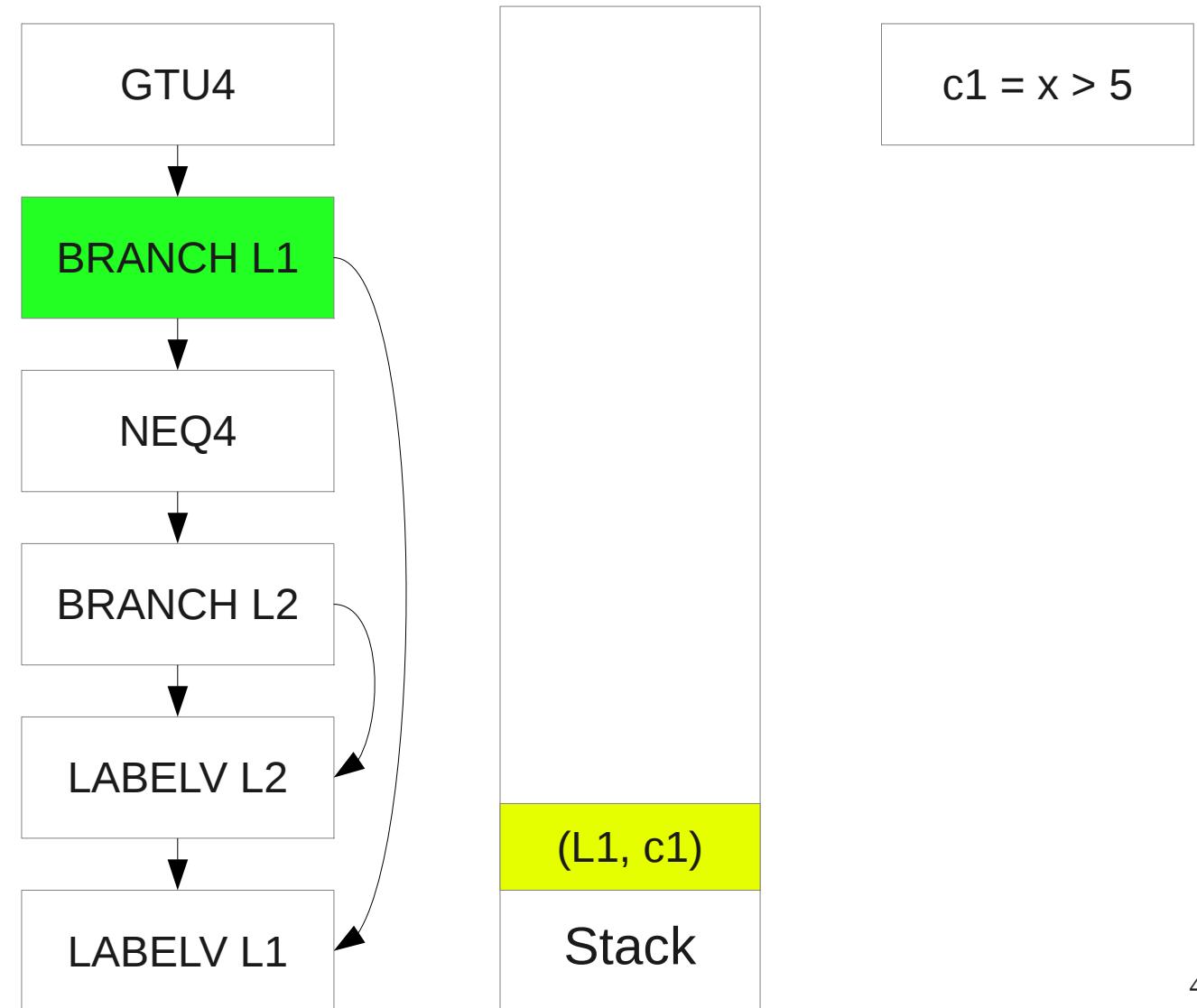
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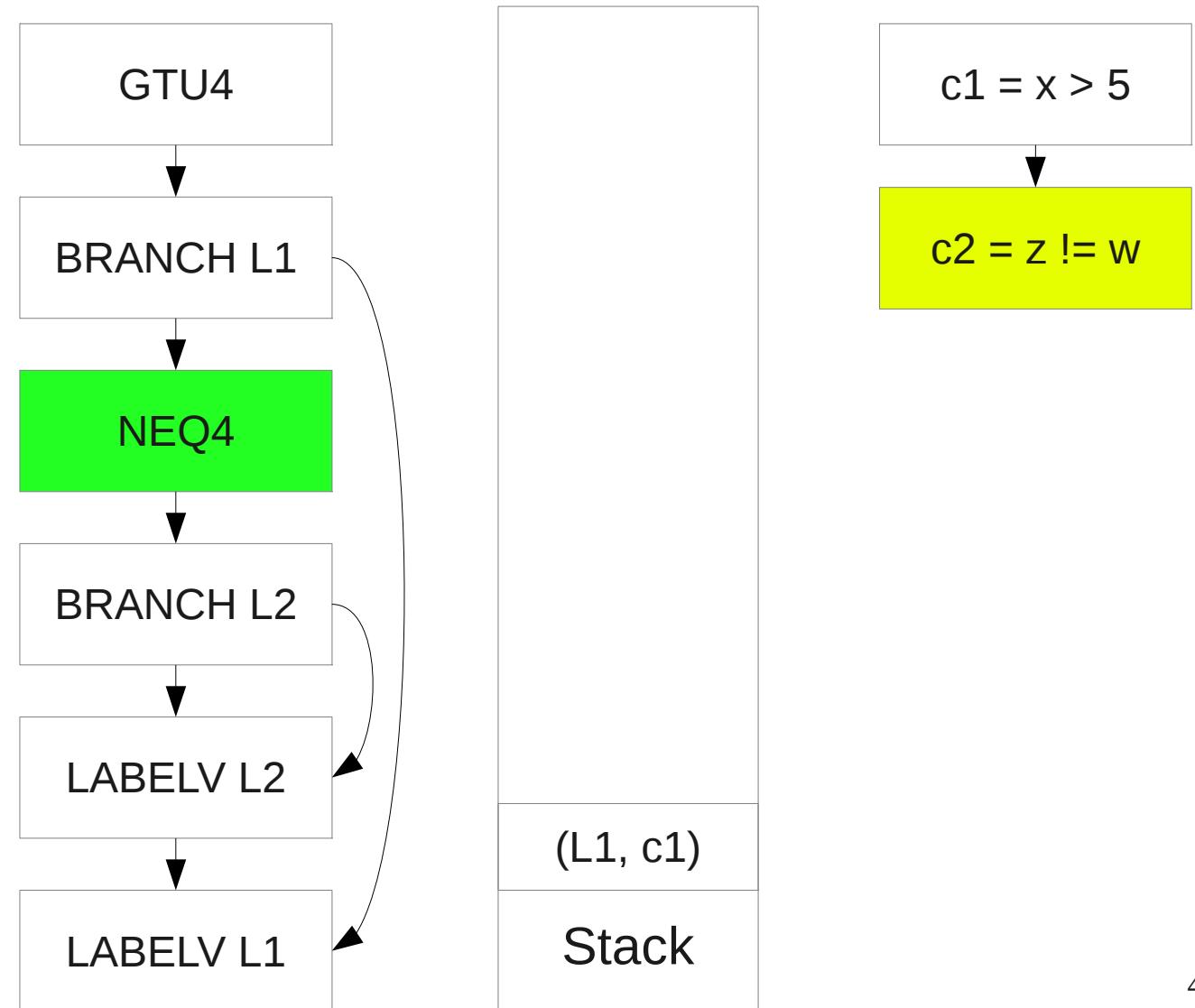
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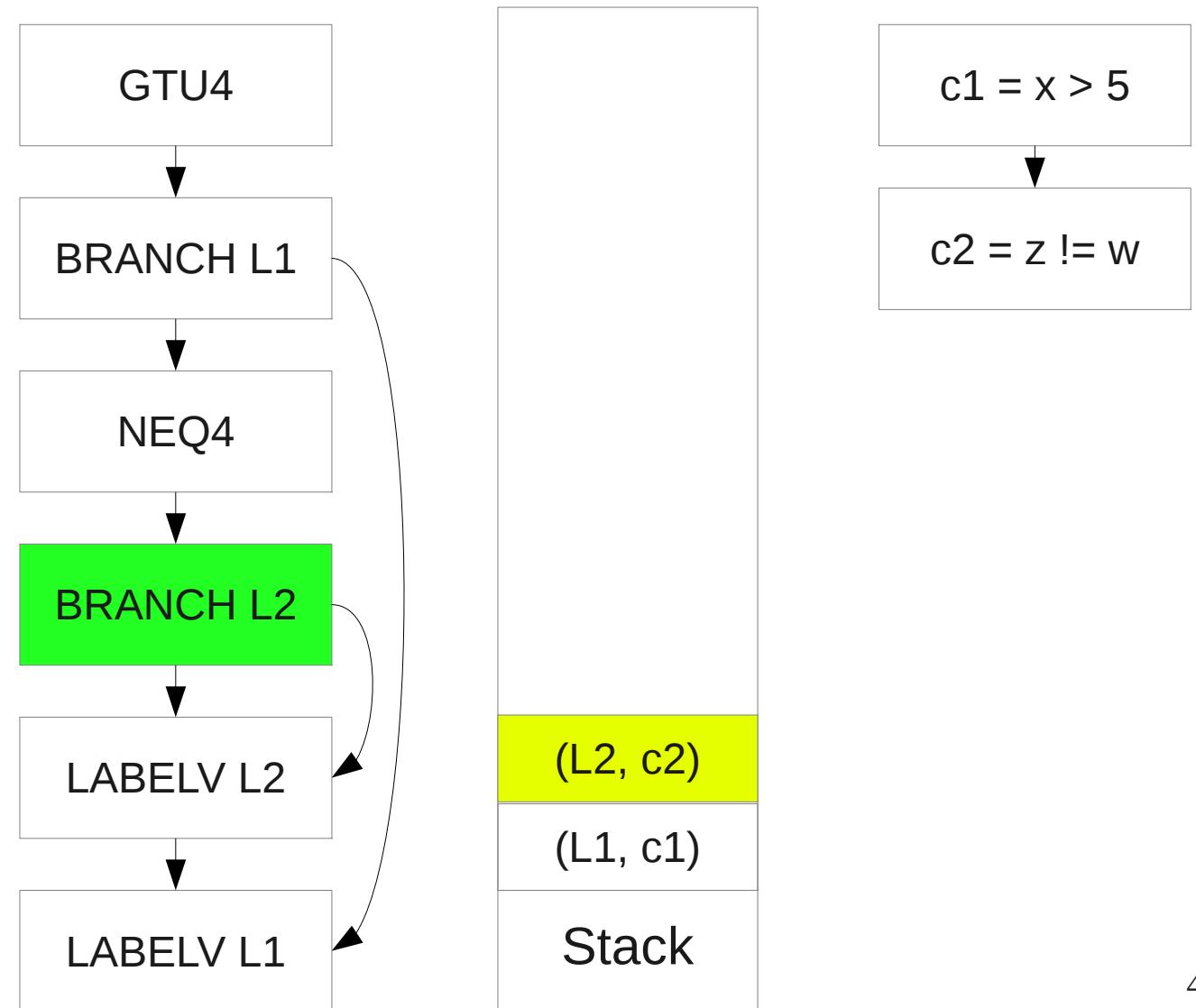
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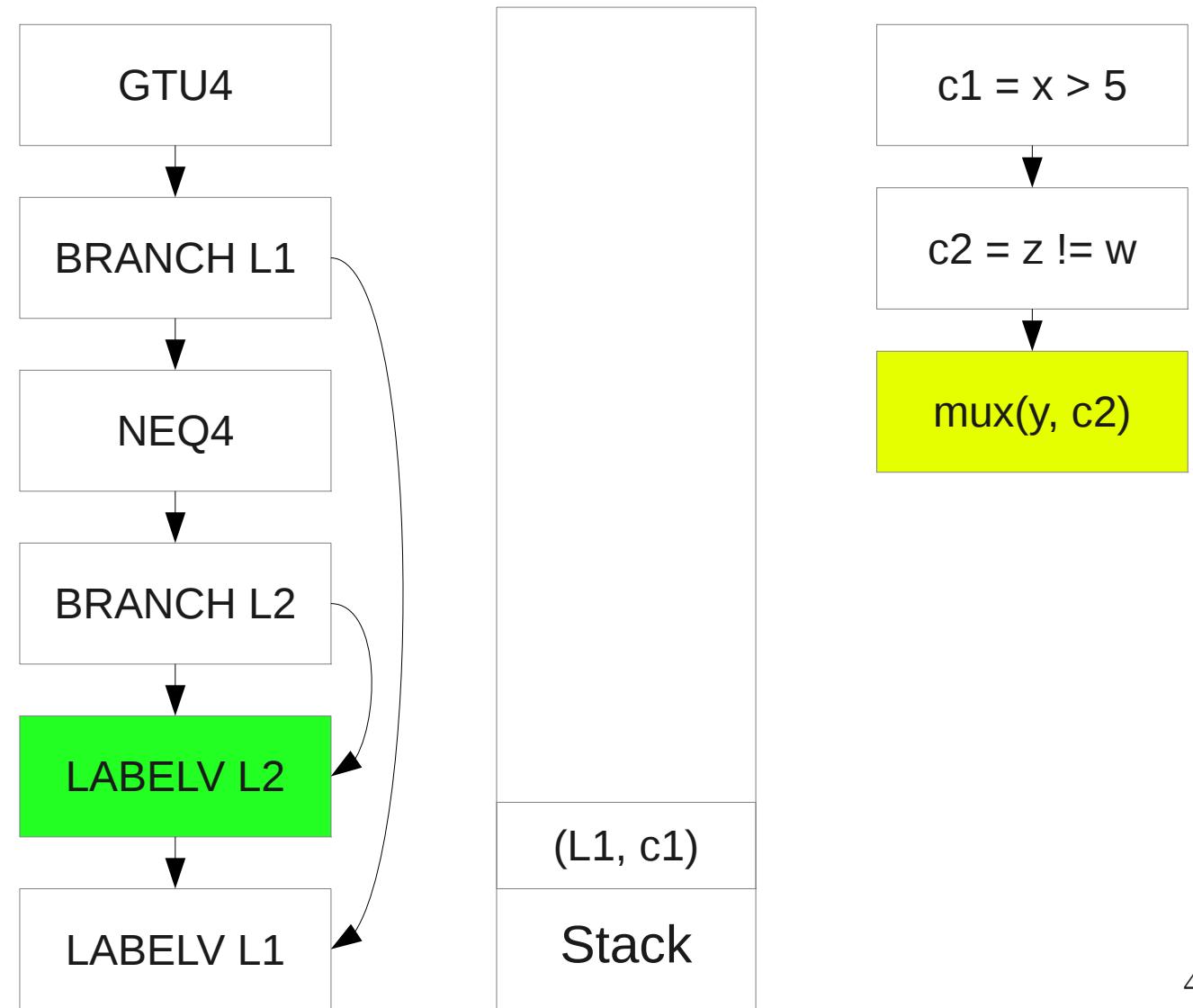
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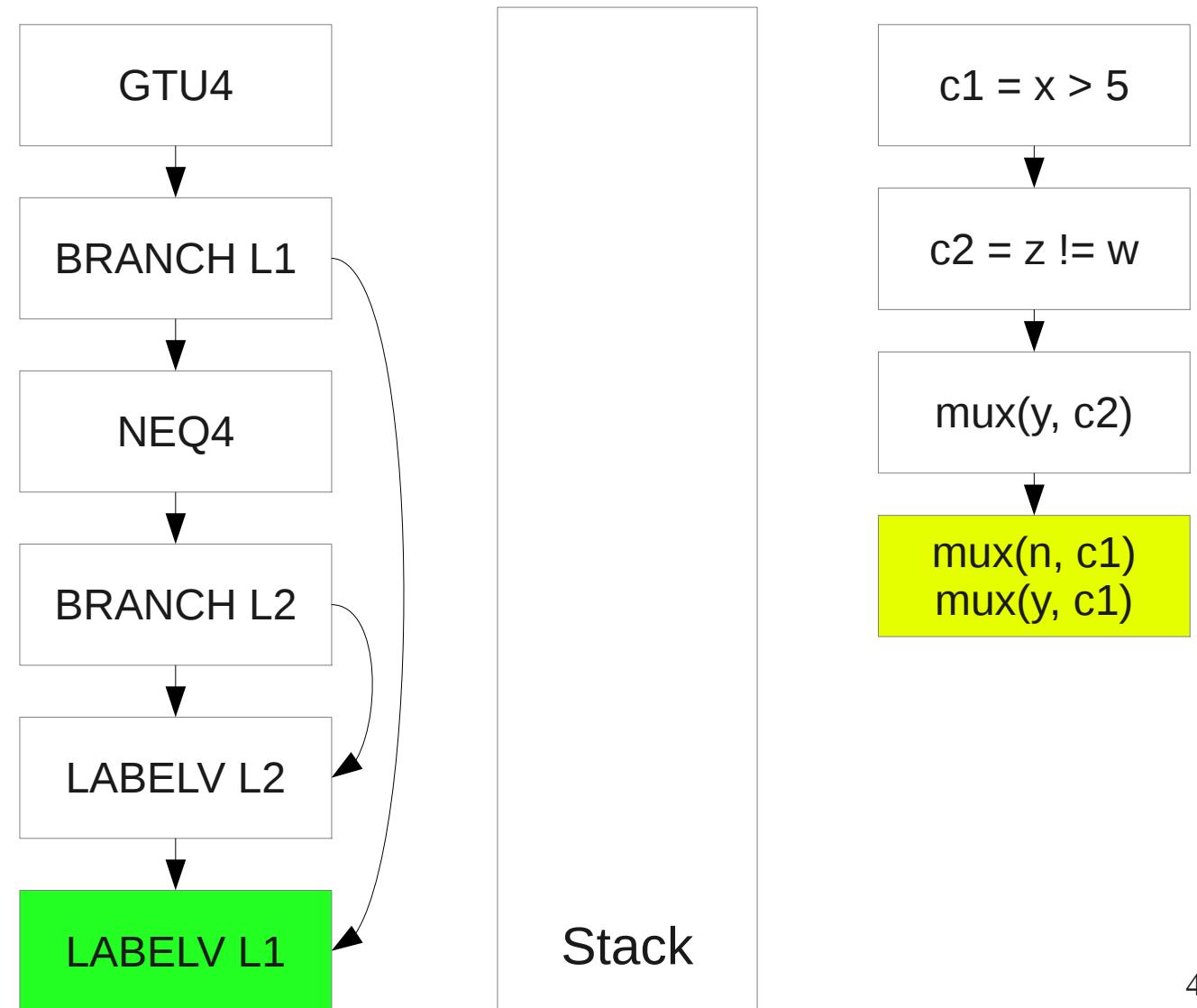
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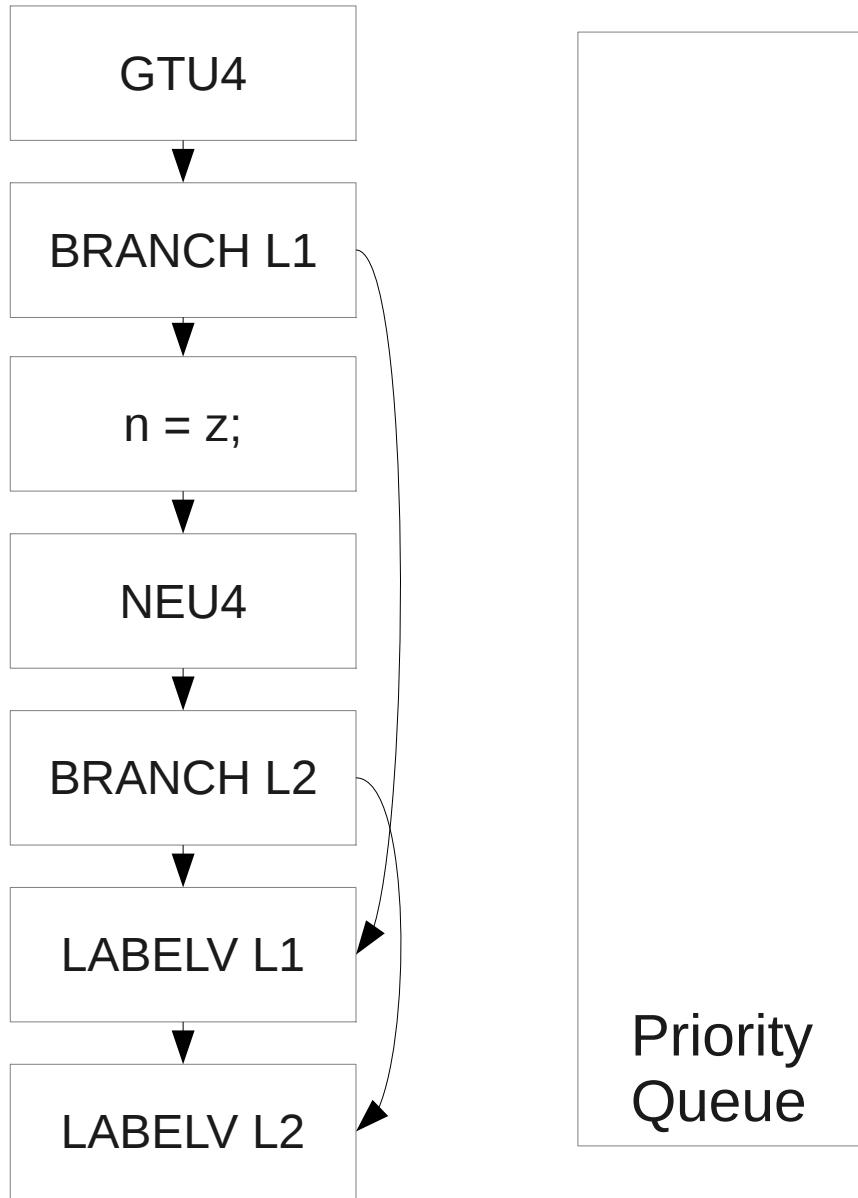


# Handling Branches (Fairplay/KSS'12)

```
if(x <= 5) {  
    n = z;  
    if(z == w) {  
        y += n;  
    }  
}
```



# Handling (Complex) Branches



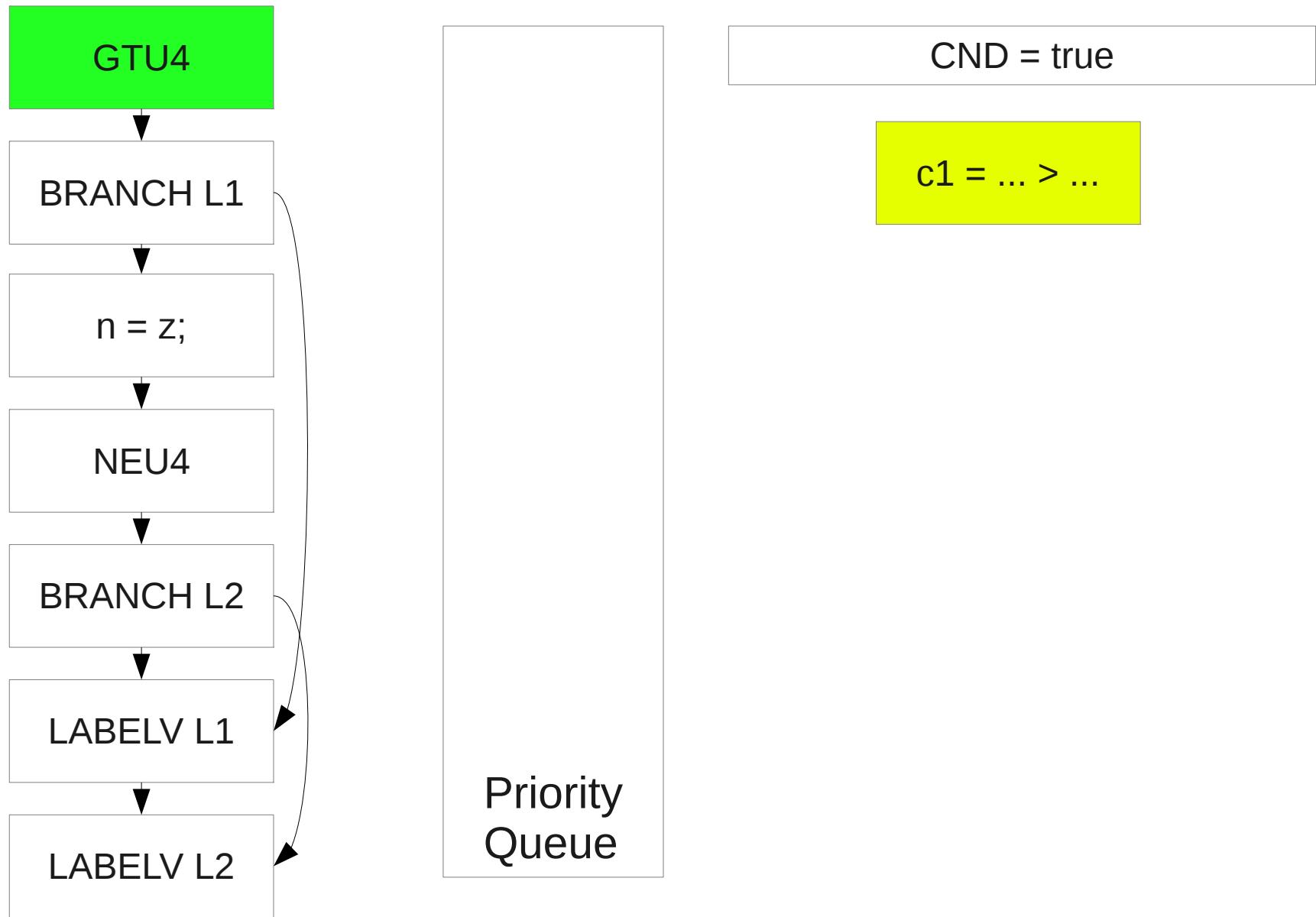
CND = true

Strategy:

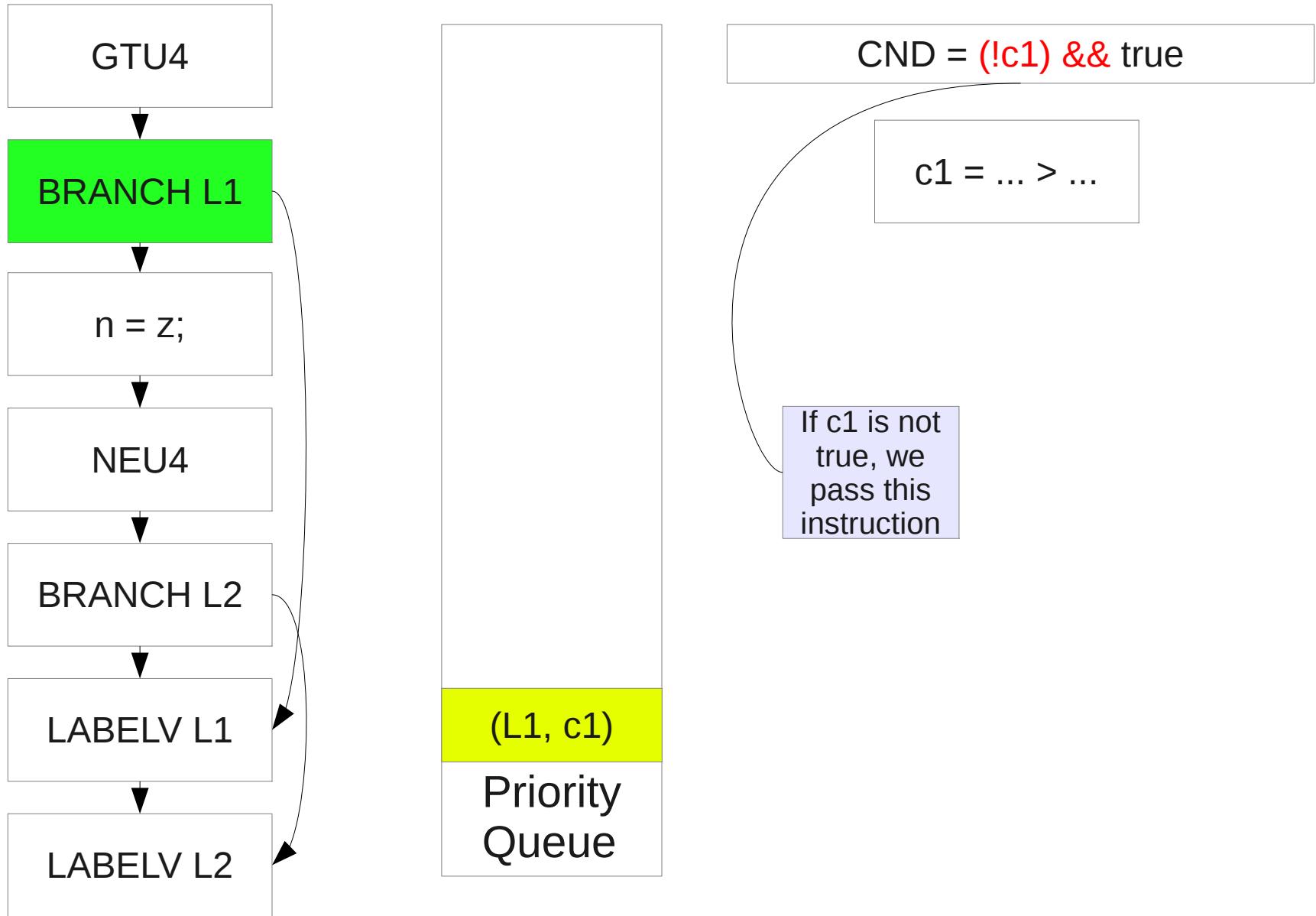
- Maintain global condition wire
- Emit muxes for each assignment
- Use priority queue to keep track of next branch target

Priority  
Queue

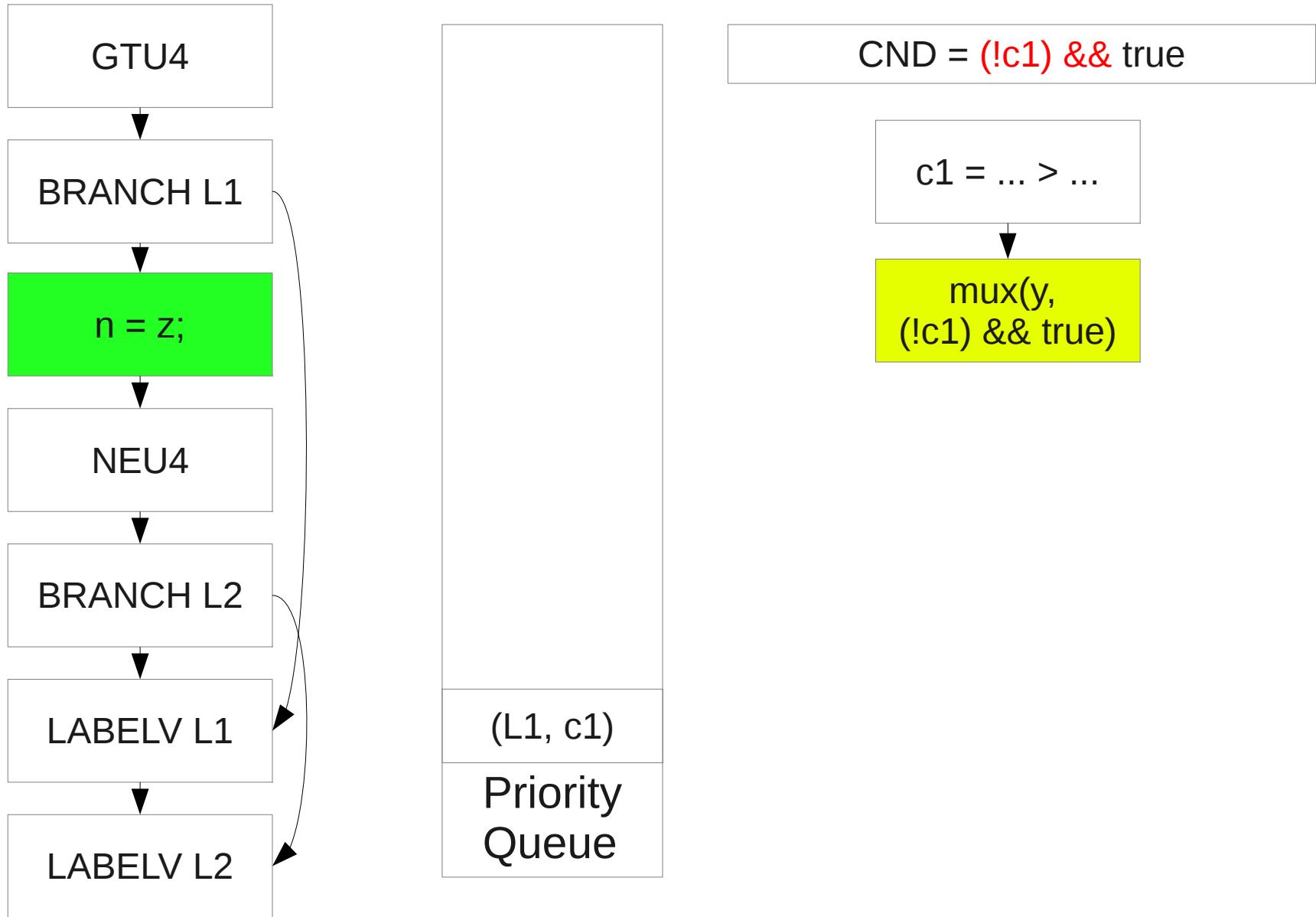
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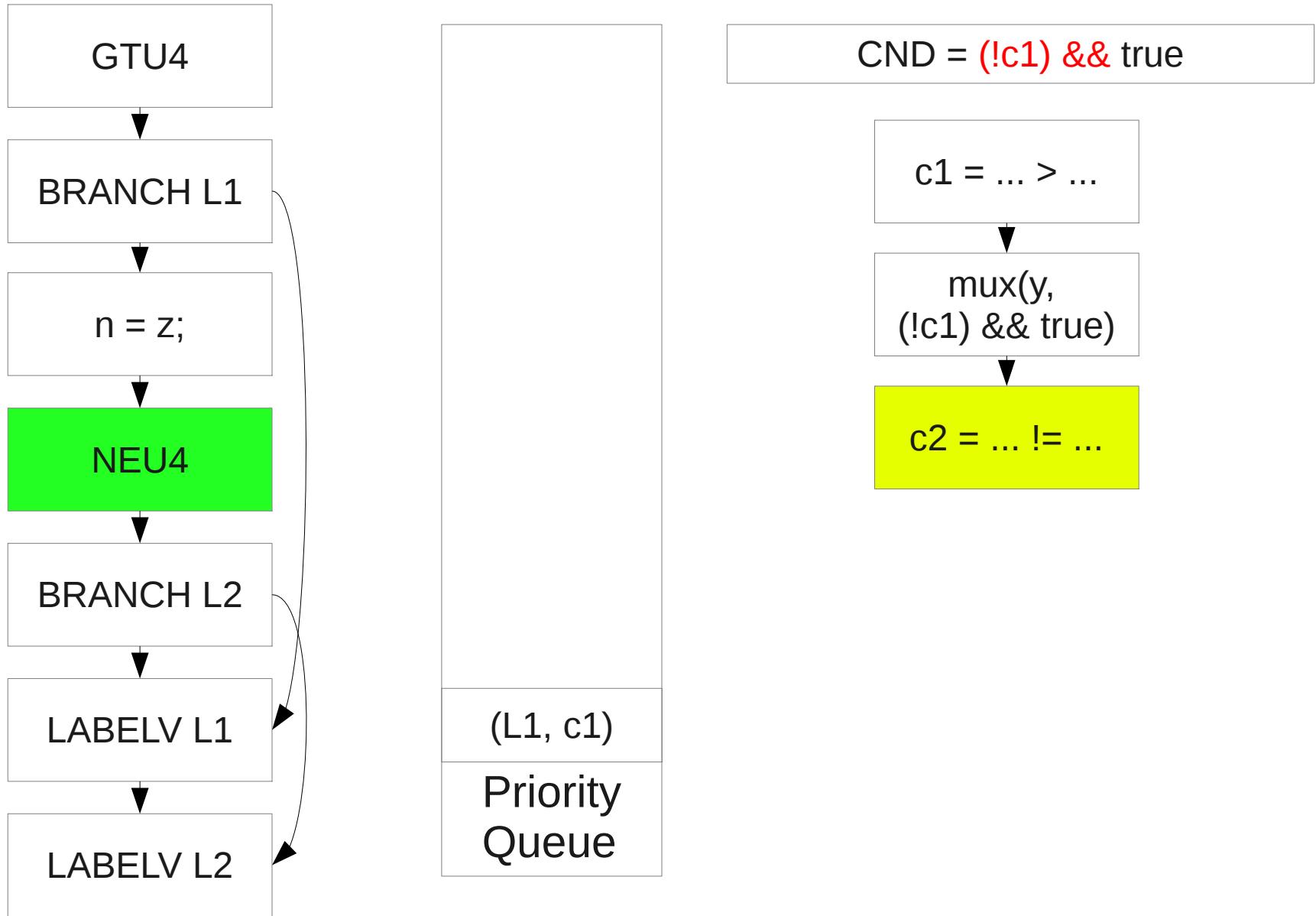
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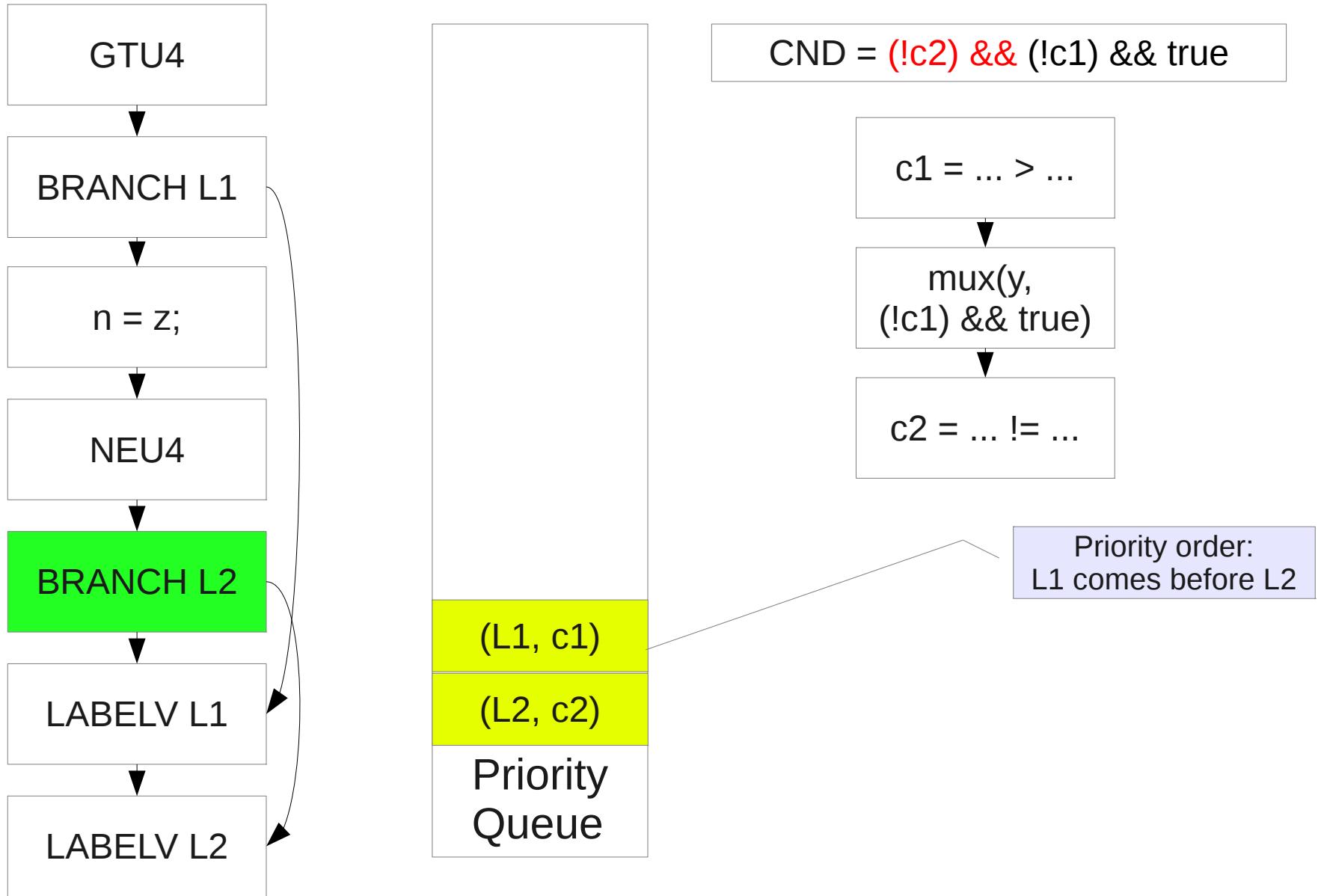
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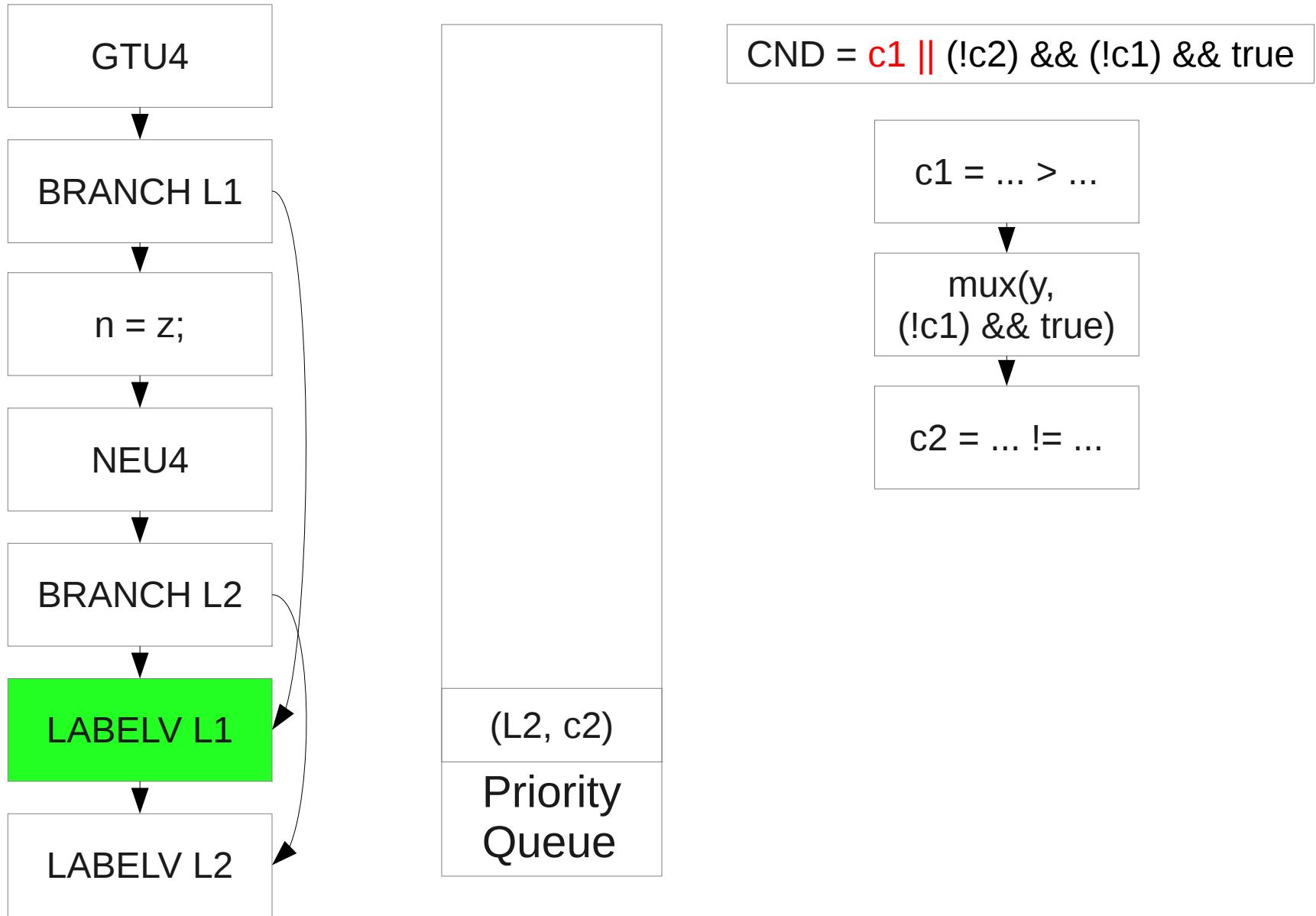
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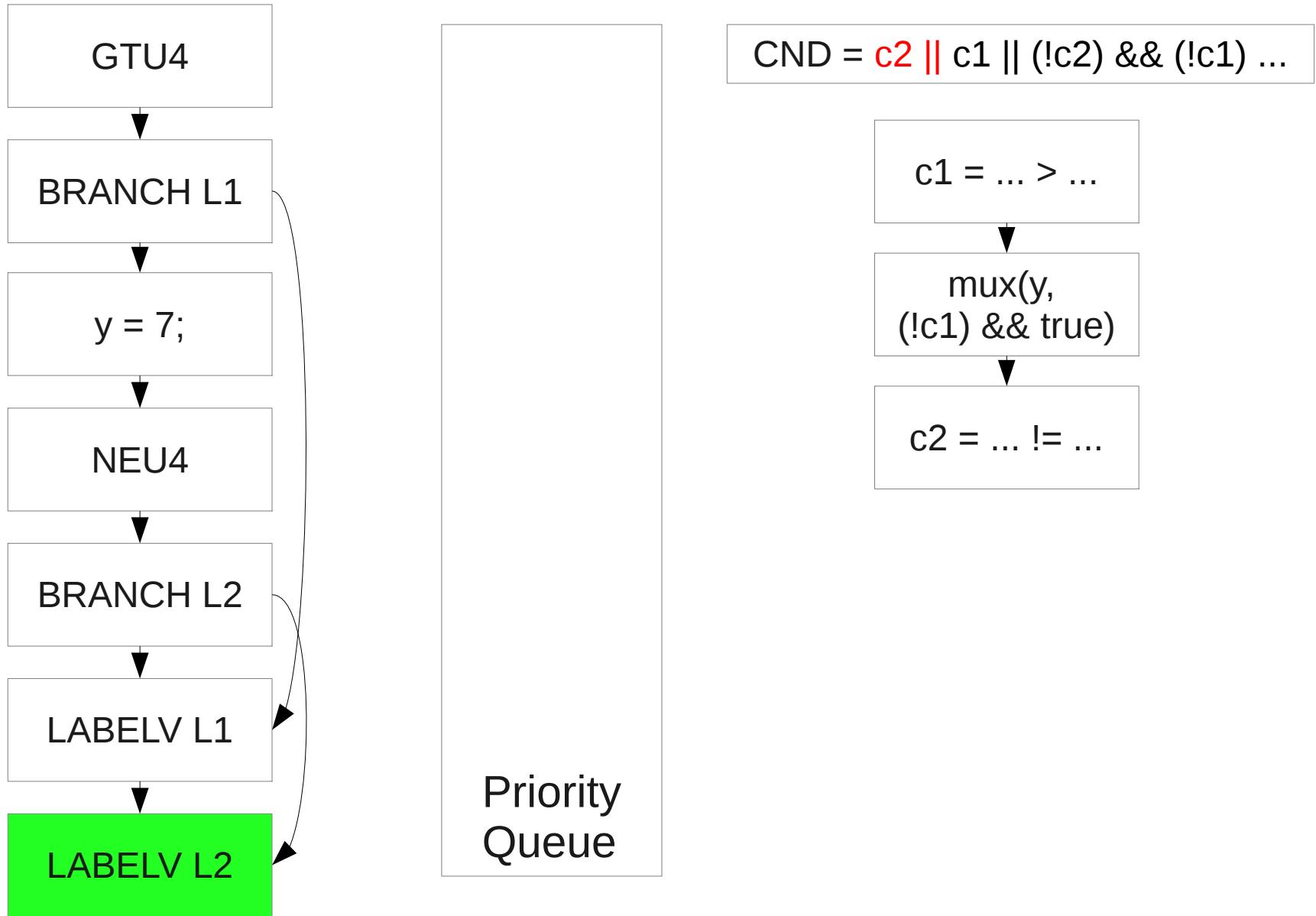
# Handling (Complex) Branches



# Handling (Complex) Branches



# Handling (Complex) Branches



# Handling Loops

- Common assumption: backwards branches are used to build loops
- Only one rule: such branches must not be dependent on input values (enforced by runtime system)
- Preventing infinite loops is the user's responsibility

# Circuit Optimization Strategy

- Two stages – compile time and run time
- At compile time, use techniques based on dataflow analysis.
  - Circuit sizes are reduced indirectly by reducing program run time
- At run time, check gates for constant outputs

# Circuit Optimization Strategy

| Function                    | KSS12      |            | HFKV12     |           | This Work  |           |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|                             | Total      | Non-XOR    | Total      | Non-XOR   | Total      | Non-XOR   |
| 16,384-bit Millionaire's    | 98,303     | 49,154     | 330,784    | 131,103   | 97,733     | 32,229    |
| 32-bit Multiplication       | 15,935     | 5,983      | 65,121     | 26,624    | 21,742     | 6,517     |
| 64-bit Multiplication       | 64,639     | 24,384     | 321,665    | 126,529   | 105,880    | 24,766    |
| 8x8 Matrix Multiplication   | 8,067,458  | 3,058,754  | 3,267,585  | 907,776   | 1,782,656  | 522,304   |
| 16x16 Matrix Multiplication | 64,570,969 | 24,502,530 | 24,140,673 | 7,262,208 | 14,308,864 | 4,186,368 |

# File Sizes and Compile Times

| Function                    | KSS12        |                  | HFKV12       |                  | PCF          |                  |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
|                             | Circuit Size | Compile Time (s) | Circuit Size | Compile Time (s) | Circuit Size | Compile Time (s) |
| 16384-bit Millionaire's     | 1.9MB        | 4.66             | 3.0MB        | 105.             | 98kB         | 3.40             |
| 16000-bit Hamming Distance  | 1.9MB        | 9.75             | 9.0MB        | 309.             | 130kB        | 10.8             |
| 1024-bit Multiplication     | 112MB        | 430.             | ??           | ??               | 494kB        | 74.0             |
| 16x16 Matrix Multiplication | 432MB        | 2,200            | 206MB        | 2,600            | 528kB        | 109.             |
| 256-bit RSA                 | 15GB         | 24,000           | -            | -                | 1.2MB        | 109.             |
| 1024-bit RSA                | ??           | ??               | -            | -                | 1.3MB        | 564.             |

~1000x improvement

# Comparison with “circuit libraries”

|                          | <b>Circuit Libraries</b><br>[HEKM'11, MAL'11] | <b>PCF</b>                                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scalability</b>       | Good – Circuit not stored anywhere            | Good – Circuit is compressed                           |
| <b>Building Circuits</b> | Ad-hoc – separate gadgets composed by user    | Automatic – gadgets composed automatically by compiler |
| <b>Optimization</b>      | Per-gadget, user can be clever                | Automatic, can cross gadget boundaries                 |

# Comparison with “circuit libraries”

- Our approach *subsumes* circuit libraries
- New gadgets can be added for new bytecode instructions

# Using PCF

- A library for interpreting PCF files
- Simple interface – two functions
- Compiler and library are available upon request, and posted to github shortly

We are happy to help  
integrate PCF into your  
secure computation project

# Conclusion

We have scalable protocols for secure 2-party computation

*and...*

We have scalable tools for secure 2-party computation

# Future Work

- Other settings
  - Verifiable computation – arithmetic circuits / QAPs
  - FHE – arithmetic circuits + SIMD
  - Multiparty computation (more than 2 parties)
- Other computation models
- New optimization techniques

# Questions?