There are three basic types of branch instructions. This can be seen on page 10 of the pocket-sized HC11 programming reference guide. The three types are simple, signed and unsigned. If you want to test individual condition flags, use the simple (BMI, BPL, BCC, etc.). Use the signed instructions (BGT, BLE, BGE, etc.) when you are comparing signed numbers. Use the unsigned instructions (BHI, BLS, BHS, etc.) when you are comparing unsigned numbers.

It is true that some of these instructions are over-loaded, but not as many as you might think. Most of them have subtle differences that will cause infrequent errors if used incorrectly. These types of errors are the hardest and most expensive to find and fix (I know this from experience). Of the sixteen conditional branch instructions in the HC11, only two are over-loaded: BHS/BCC, and BLO/BCS. All the rest are unique.

I have seen many students use BMI when comparing characters. This is incorrect. The BLT instruction should be used instead. The expression for BMI is (? N=1). The expression for BLT is (? N xor V=1). These expressions are equivalent if the numbers you are comparing are close to each other (V=0). But if you get that rare case when the numbers are very different, BMI breaks, but BLT still works.

It is also easier to read code that uses the correct branch instruction. If I read code that is trying to compare two unsigned numbers, I don't want to have to dig out the book and try to decipher exactly what condition codes are being tested, and is that equivalent to the test the should have been made.
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