

# Compiler Construction

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Timothy G. Griffin  
tgg22@cam.ac.uk

Computer Laboratory  
University of Cambridge

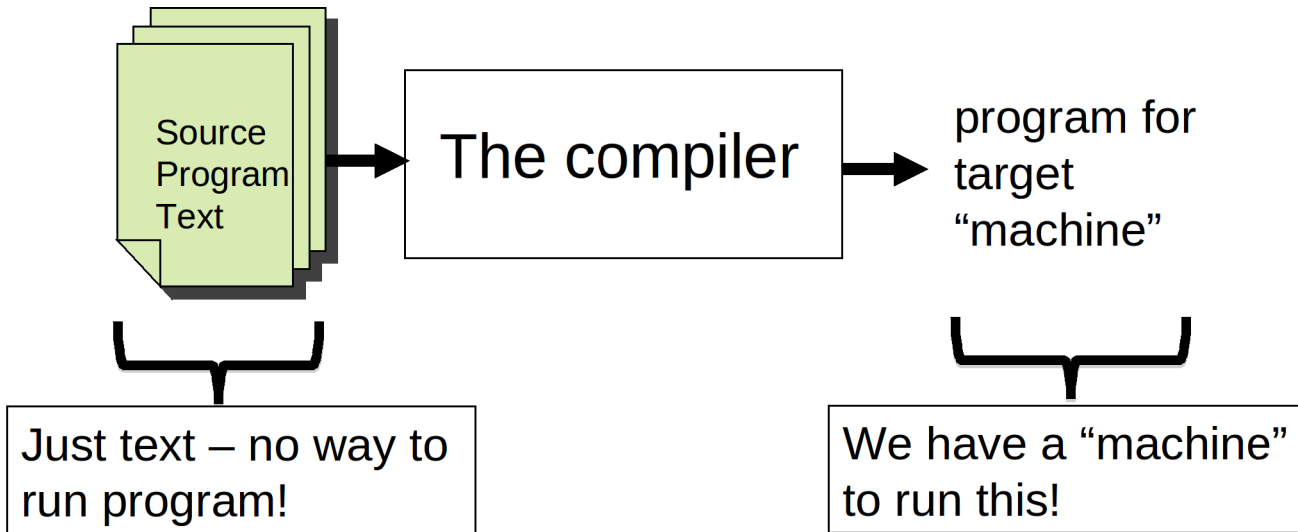
1

## Why Study Compilers?

- Although many of the basic ideas were developed over 50 years ago, compiler construction is still an evolving and active area of research and development.
- Compilers are intimately related to programming language design and evolution.
- Compilers are a Computer Science success story illustrating the hallmarks of our field --- higher-level abstractions implemented with lower-level abstractions.
- **Every Computer Scientist should have a basic understanding of how compilers work.**

2

# Compilation is a special kind of translation



A good compiler should ...

This course!

OptComp, Part II

- be correct in the sense that meaning is preserved
- produce usable error messages
- generate efficient code
- itself be efficient
- be well-structured and maintainable

Pick any 2?

Just 1?

## Mind The Gap

High Level Language

Typical Target Language

- “Machine” independent
  - Complex syntax
  - Complex type system
  - Variables
  - Nested scope
  - Procedures, functions
  - Objects
  - Modules
  - ...
- “Machine” specific
  - Simple syntax
  - Simple types
  - memory, registers, words
  - Single flat scope

Help!!! Where do we begin???

# The Gap, illustrated

```
public class Fibonacci {
    public static long fib(int m) {
        if (m == 0) return 1;
        else if (m == 1) return 1;
        else return
            fib(m - 1) + fib(m - 2);
    }
    public static void
    main(String[] args) {
        int m =
            Integer.parseInt(args[0]);
        System.out.println(
            fib(m) + "\n");
    }
}
```

```
public class Fibonacci {
    public Fibonacci();
    Code:
    0: aload_0
    1: invokespecial #1
    4: return
    public static long fib(int);
    Code:
    0: iload_0
    1: ifne        6
    4: lconst_1
    5: lreturn
    6: iload_0
    7: iconst_1
    8: if_icmpne   13
    11: lconst_1
    12: lreturn
    13: iload_0
    14: iconst_1
    15: isub
    16: invokestatic #2 }
    19: iload_0
    20: iconst_2
    21: isub
    22: invokestatic #2
    25: ladd
    26: lreturn
```

```
public static void
    main(java.lang.String[]);
    Code:
    0: aload_0
    1: iconst_0
    2: aaload
    3: invokestatic #3
    6: istore_1
    7: getstatic   #4
    10: new         #5
    13: dup
    14: invokespecial #6
    17: iload_1
    18: invokestatic #2
    21: invokevirtual #7
    24: ldc        #8
    26: invokevirtual #9
    29: invokevirtual #10
    32: invokevirtual #11
    35: return
```

javac Fibonacci.java  
javap -c Fibonacci.class

JVM bytecodes

# The Gap, illustrated

fib.ml

```
(* fib : int -> int *)
let rec fib m =
  if m = 0
  then 1
  else if m = 1
  then 1
  else fib(m - 1) + fib (m - 2)
```

```
L1:      branch L2      L3:      acc 0
         acc 0          offsetint -2
         push          push
         const 0       offsetclosure 0
         eqint         apply 1
         branchifnot L4 push
         const 1       acc 1
         return 1      offsetint -1
L4:      acc 0          push
         push          offsetclosure 0
         const 1       apply 1
         eqint         addint
         branchifnot L3 return 1
         const 1       L2:      clouserec 1, 0
         return 1      acc 0
                          makeblock 1, 0
                          pop 1
                          setglobal Fib!
```

ocamlc -dinstr fib.ml

OCaml VM bytecodes

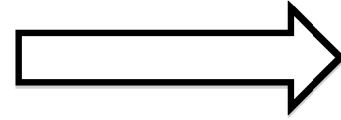
# The Gap, illustrated

fib.c

```
#include<stdio.h>

int Fibonacci(int);
int main()
{
    int n;
    scanf("%d",&n);
    printf("%d\n", Fibonacci(n));
    return 0;
}

int Fibonacci(int n)
{
    if ( n == 0 ) return 0;
    else if ( n == 1 ) return 1;
    else return ( Fibonacci(n-1) + Fibonacci(n-2) );
}
```



gcc -S fib.c

7

# The Gap, illustrated

```
.section      __TEXT,__text,regular,pure_instructions
.globl       _main
.align      4,0x90
_main:
    ## @main
    .cfi_startproc
## BB#0:
    pushq    %rbp
Ltmp2:
    .cfi_def_cfa_offset 16
Ltmp3:
    .cfi_offset %rbp, -16
    movq    %rsp, %rbp
Ltmp4:
    .cfi_def_cfa_register %rbp
    subq    $16, %rsp
    leaq    L_str(%rip), %rdi
    leaq    -8(%rbp), %rsi
    movl    $0, -4(%rbp)
    movb    $0, %al
    callq   _scanf
    movl    -8(%rbp), %edi
    movl    %eax, -12(%rbp)    ## 4-byte Spill
    callq   _Fibonacci
    leaq    L_str1(%rip), %rdi
    movl    %eax, %esi
    movb    $0, %al
    callq   _printf
    movl    $0, %esi
    movl    %eax, -16(%rbp)    ## 4-byte Spill
    movl    %esi, %eax
    addq   $16, %rsp
    popq    %rbp
    ret
    .cfi_endproc

    .globl   _Fibonacci
    .align  4,0x90
    ## @Fibonacci
    .cfi_startproc
## BB#0:
    pushq    %rbp
Ltmp7:
    .cfi_def_cfa_offset 16
Ltmp8:
    .cfi_offset %rbp, -16
    movq    %rsp, %rbp
Ltmp9:

    .cfi_def_cfa_register %rbp
    subq    $16, %rsp
    movl    %edi, -8(%rbp)
    cmpl    $0, -8(%rbp)
    jne     LBB1_2
    movl    $0, -4(%rbp)
    jmp     LBB1_5
LBB1_2:
    cmpl    $1, -8(%rbp)
    jne     LBB1_4
    ## BB#3:
    movl    $1, -4(%rbp)
    jmp     LBB1_5
LBB1_4:
    movl    -8(%rbp), %eax
    subl    $1, %eax
    movl    %eax, %edi
    callq   _Fibonacci
    movl    -8(%rbp), %edi
    subl    $2, %edi
    movl    %eax, -12(%rbp)    ## 4-byte Spill
    callq   _Fibonacci
    movl    -12(%rbp), %edi    ## 4-byte Reload
    addl    %eax, %edi
    movl    %edi, -4(%rbp)
LBB1_5:
    movl    -4(%rbp), %eax
    addq   $16, %rsp
    popq    %rbp
    ret
    .cfi_endproc

L_str:
    .section      __TEXT,__cstring,cstring_literals
    ## @.str
    .asciz      "%d"

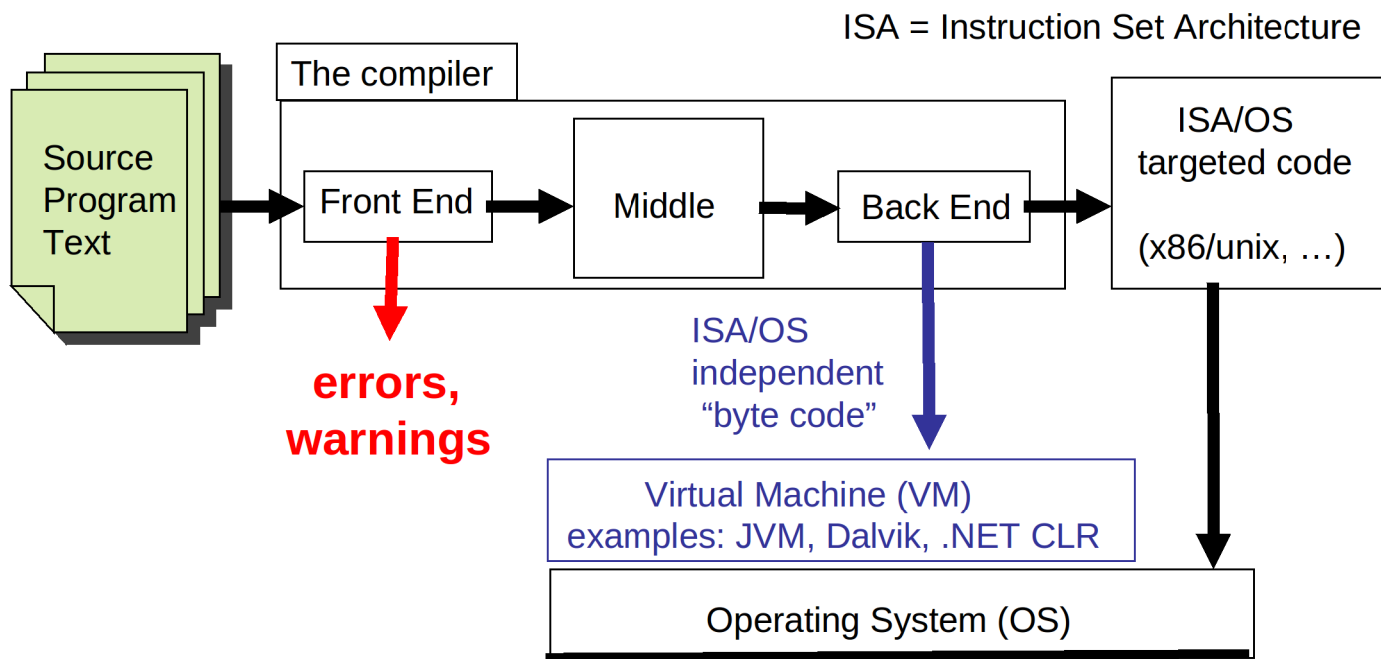
L_str1:
    ## @.str1
    .asciz      "%d\n"

.subsections_via_symbols
```

x86/Mac OS

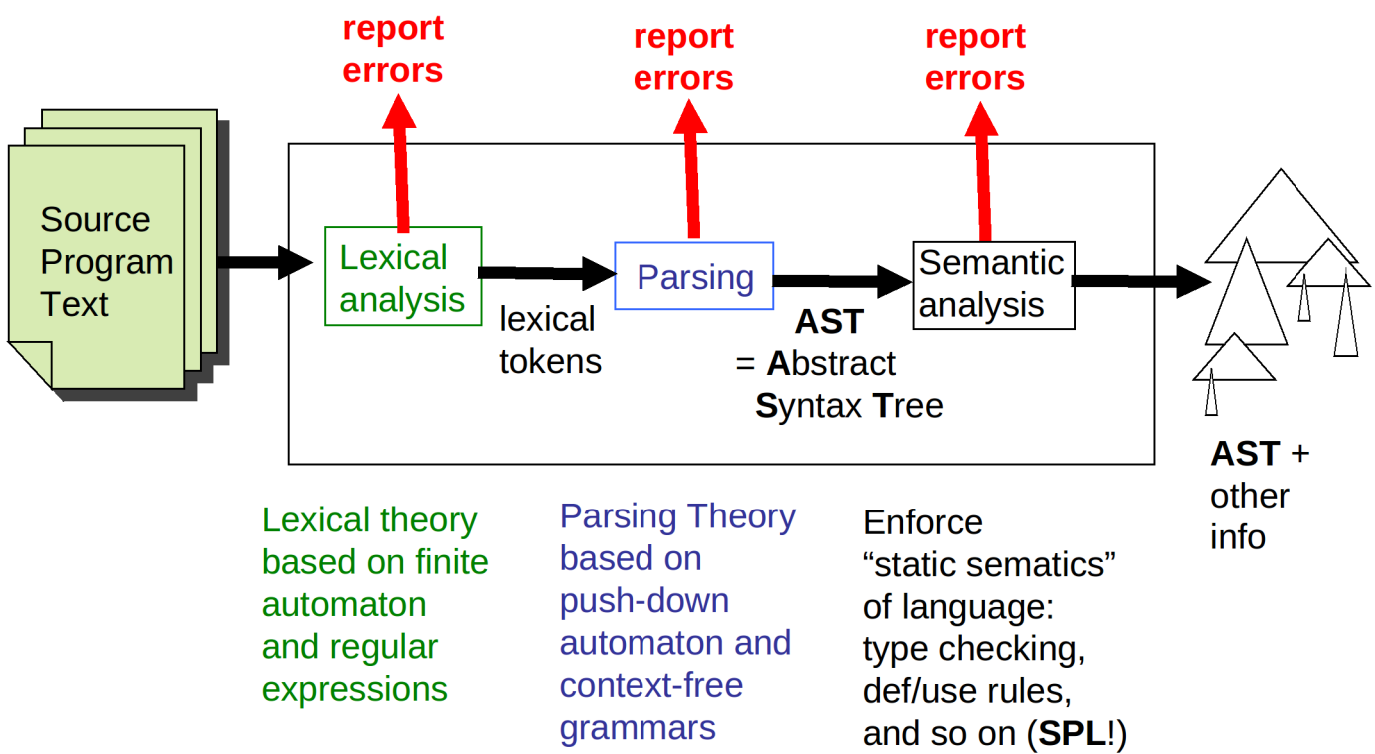
8

# Conceptual view of a typical compiler



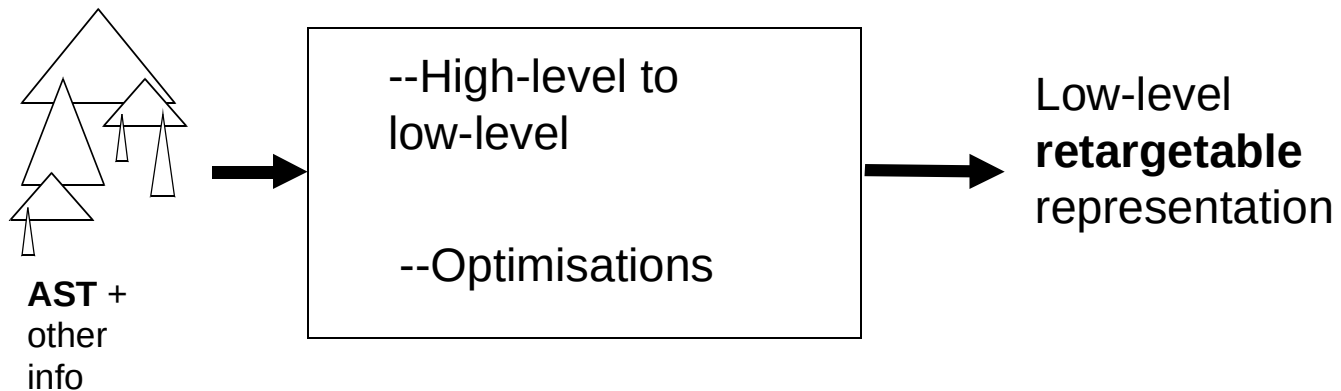
Key to bridging The Gap : divide and conquer. The Big Leap is broken into small steps. Each step broken into yet smaller steps ...

## The shape of a typical "front end"



The AST output from the front-end should represent a legal program in the source language. ("Legal" of course does not mean "bug-free"!)

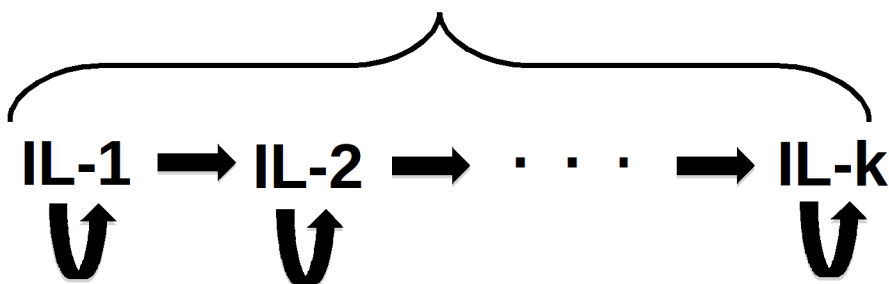
# The middle



Trade-off: with more optimisations the generated code is (normally) **faster**, but the compiler is **slower**

## Our view of the middle a sequence of small transformations

### Intermediate Languages

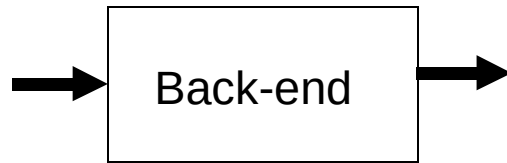


Of course industrial-strength compilers may collapse many small-steps ...

- Each **IL** has its own semantics (perhaps informal)
- Each transformation (➡) preserves semantics (**SPL!**)
- Each transformation eliminates only a few aspects of **the gap**
- Each transformation is fairly easy to understand
- Some transformations can be described as “optimizations”
- We will associate each **IL** with its own interpreter/VM. (Again, not something typically done in “industrial-strength” compilers.)

# The back-end

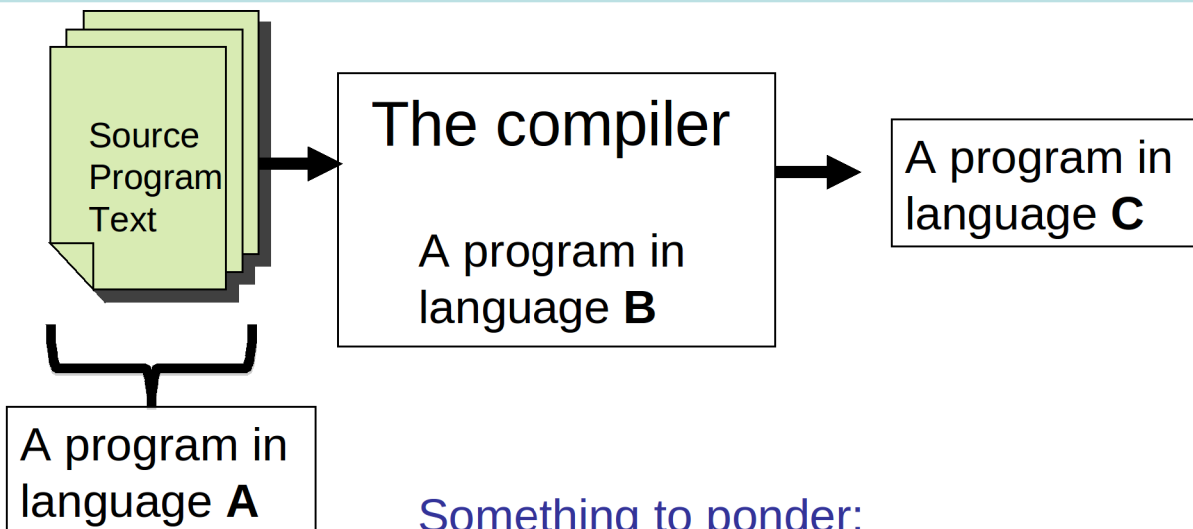
Low-level  
**retargetable**  
representation



- JVM bytecodes
- x86/Linux
- x86/MacOS
- x86/FreeBSD
- x86/Windows
- ARM/Android
- ....
- ....

- Requires intimate knowledge of instruction set and details of target machine
- When generating assembler, need to understand details of OS interface
- Target-dependent optimisations happen here!

## Compilers must be compiled



### Something to ponder:

A compiler is just a program.

But how did it get compiled?

The OCaml compiler is written in OCaml.

How was the compiler compiled?

# Approach Taken

- We will develop a compiler for a fragment of L3 introduced in Semantics of Programming Languages, Part 1B.
- We will pay special attention to the correctness.
- We will compile only to Virtual Machines (VMs) of various kinds. See Part II optimising compilers for generating lower-level code.
- Our toy compiler is available on the course web site.
- We will be using the **OCaml** dialect of ML.

- Install from <https://ocaml.org>.
- See OCaml Labs : <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/projects/ocamlabs>.
- A side-by-side comparison of SML and OCaml Syntax: <http://www.mpi-sws.org/~rossberg/sml-vs-ocaml.html>

15

## SML Syntax

vs.

## OCaml Syntax

```
datatype 'a tree =  
  Leaf of 'a  
  | Node of 'a * ('a tree) * ('a tree)  
  
fun map_tree f (Leaf a) = Leaf (f a)  
  | map_tree f (Node (a, left, right)) =  
    Node(f a, map_tree f left, map_tree f right)  
  
let val l =  
  map_tree (fn a => [a]) [Leaf 17, Leaf 21]  
in  
  List.rev l  
end
```

```
type 'a tree =  
  Leaf of 'a  
  | Node of 'a * ('a tree) * ('a tree)  
  
let rec map_tree f = function  
  | Leaf a -> Leaf (f a)  
  | Node (a, left, right) ->  
    Node(f a, map_tree f left, map_tree f right)  
  
let l =  
  map_tree (fun a -> [a]) [Leaf 17; Leaf 21]  
in  
  List.rev l
```

16



# The Shape of this Course

1. Overview
2. Slang Front-end, Slang demo. Code tour.
3. Lexical analysis : application of Theory of Regular Languages and Finite Automata
4. Generating Recursive descent parsers
5. Beyond Recursive Descent Parsing I
6. Beyond Recursive Descent Parsing II
7. High-level “definitional” interpreter ([interpreter 0](#)). Make the stack explicit and derive [interpreter 2](#)
8. Flatten code into linear array, derive [interpreter 3](#)
9. Move complex data from stack into the heap, derive the Jargon Virtual Machine ([interpreter 4](#))
10. More on Jargon VM. Environment management. Static links on stack. Closures.
11. A few program transformations. Tail Recursion Elimination (TRE), Continuation Passing Style (CPS). Defunctionalisation (DFC)
12. CPS+TRE+DFC provides a formal way of understanding how we went from [interpreter 0](#) to [interpreter 2](#). We fill the gap with [interpreter 1](#)
13. Assorted topics : compilation units, linking. From Jargon to x86
14. Assorted topics : simple optimisations, OOP object representation
15. Run-time environments, automated memory management (“garbage collection”)
16. Bootstrapping a compiler

## LECTURE 2 Slang Front End

- Slang (= Simple LANGuage)
  - A subset of L3 from Semantics ...
  - ... with very ugly concrete syntax
  - You are invited to experiment with improvements to this concrete syntax.
- Slang : concrete syntax, types
- Abstract Syntax Trees (ASTs)
- The Front End
- A short in-lecture demo of slang and a brief tour of the code ...

# Clunky Slang Syntax (informal)

uop ::= - | ~

(~ is boolean negation)

bop ::= + | - | \* | < | = | && | ||

t ::= bool | int | unit | (t) | t \* t | t + t | t -> t | t ref

e ::= () | n | true | false | x | (e) | ? |

(? requests an integer input from terminal)

e bop e | uop e |

if e then else e end |

e e | fun (x : t) -> e end |

let x : t = e in e end |

let f(x : t) : t = e in e end |

!e | ref e | e := e | while e do e end |

begin e; e; ... e end |

(e, e) | snd e | fst e |

inl t e | inr t e |

case e of inl(x : t) -> e | inr(x:t) -> e end

(notice type annotation on inl and inr constructs)

## From slang/examples

```
let fib( m : int) : int =
  if m = 0
  then 1
  else if m = 1
       then 1
       else fib (m - 1) +
            fib (m -2)
       end
  end
in
  fib(?)
end
```

```
let gcd( p : int * int) : int =
  let m : int = fst p
  in let n : int = snd p
     in if m = n
        then m
        else if m < n
              then gcd(m, n - m)
              else gcd(m - n, n)
        end
     end
  end
in gcd(?, ?) end
```

The ? requests an integer input from the terminal

# Slang Front End

Input file foo.slang



Parse (we use Ocaml versions of LEX and YACC, covered in Lectures 3 --- 6)

Parsed AST (Past.expr)



Static analysis : check types, and context-sensitive rules, resolve overloaded operators

Parsed AST (Past.expr)



Remove “syntactic sugar”, file location information, and most type information

Intermediate AST (Ast.expr)

## Parsed AST (past.ml)

```
type var = string
```

```
type loc = Lexing.position
```

```
type type_expr =  
| TEint  
| TEbool  
| TEunit  
| Teref of type_expr  
| Tefun of type_expr * type_expr  
| Tefun of type_expr * type_expr  
| TEunion of type_expr * type_expr
```

```
type oper = ADD | MUL | SUB | LT |  
AND | OR | EQ | EQB | EQI
```

```
type unary_oper = NEG | NOT
```

Locations (loc) are used in  
generating error messages.

```
type expr =  
| Unit of loc  
| What of loc  
| Var of loc * var  
| Integer of loc * int  
| Boolean of loc * bool  
| UnaryOp of loc * unary_oper * expr  
| Op of loc * expr * oper * expr  
| If of loc * expr * expr * expr  
| Pair of loc * expr * expr  
| Fst of loc * expr  
| Snd of loc * expr  
| Inl of loc * type_expr * expr  
| Inr of loc * type_expr * expr  
| Case of loc * expr * lambda * lambda  
| While of loc * expr * expr  
| Seq of loc * (expr list)  
| Ref of loc * expr  
| Deref of loc * expr  
| Assign of loc * expr * expr  
| Lambda of loc * lambda  
| App of loc * expr * expr  
| Let of loc * var * type_expr * expr * expr  
| LetFun of loc * var * lambda  
| LetRecFun of loc * var * lambda  
| LetRecFun of loc * var * lambda  
| LetRecFun of loc * var * lambda
```

# static.mli, static.ml

```
val infer : (Past.var * Past.type_expr) list  
            -> (Past.expr * Past.type_expr)
```

```
val check : Past.expr -> Past.expr (* infer on empty environment *)
```

- Check type correctness
- Rewrite expressions to resolve EQ to EQI (for integers) or EQB (for bools).
- Only LetFun is returned by parser. Rewrite to LetRecFun when function is actually recursive.

Lesson : while enforcing “context-sensitive rules” we can resolve ambiguities that cannot be specified in context-free grammars.

23

## Internal AST (ast.ml)

```
type var = string
```

```
type oper = ADD | MUL | SUB | LT |  
            AND | OR | EQB | EQI
```

```
type unary_oper = NEG | NOT | READ
```

No locations, types.

No Let, EQ.

Is getting rid of types  
a bad idea? Perhaps  
a full answer would be  
language-dependent...

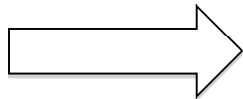
```
type expr =  
  | Unit  
  | Var of var  
  | Integer of int  
  | Boolean of bool  
  | UnaryOp of unary_oper * expr  
  | Op of expr * oper * expr  
  | If of expr * expr * expr  
  | Pair of expr * expr  
  | Fst of expr  
  | Snd of expr  
  | Inl of expr  
  | Inr of expr  
  | Case of expr * lambda * lambda  
  | While of expr * expr  
  | Seq of (expr list)  
  | Ref of expr  
  | Deref of expr  
  | Assign of expr * expr  
  | Lambda of lambda  
  | App of expr * expr  
  | LetFun of var * lambda * expr  
  | LetRecFun of var * lambda * expr
```

```
and lambda = var * expr
```

24

```
val translate_expr : Past.expr -> Ast.expr
```

```
let x : t = e1 in e2 end
```



```
(fun (x: t) -> e2 end) e1
```

This is done to simplify some of our code.  
Is it a good idea? Perhaps not.

25

## Lecture 3, 4, 5, 6 Lexical Analysis and Parsing

1. Theory of Regular Languages and Finite Automata applied to lexical analysis.
2. Context-free grammars
3. The ambiguity problem
4. Generating Recursive descent parsers
5. Beyond Recursive Descent Parsing I
6. Beyond Recursive Descent Parsing II

# What problem are we solving?

Translate a sequence of characters

if  $m = 0$  then 1 else if  $m = 1$  then 1 else  $\text{fib}(m - 1) + \text{fib}(m - 2)$

into a sequence of **tokens**

IF, IDENT "m", EQUAL, INT 0, THEN, INT 1, ELSE, IF,  
IDENT "m", EQUAL, INT 1, THEN, INT 1, ELSE, IDENT "fib",  
LPAREN, IDENT "m", SUB, INT 1, RPAREN, ADD,  
IDENT "fib", LPAREN, IDENT "m", SUB, INT 2, RPAREN

implemented with some data type

type token =

| INT of int | IDENT of string | LPAREN | RPAREN  
| ADD | SUB | EQUAL | IF | THEN | ELSE  
| ...

Recall from Discrete Mathematics (Part 1A)

## Regular expressions (concrete syntax)

over a given alphabet  $\Sigma$ .  $\{\epsilon, \emptyset, |, *, (, )\}$

Let  $\Sigma'$  be the 4-element set  $\{\epsilon, \emptyset, |, *\}$  (assumed disjoint from  $\Sigma$ )

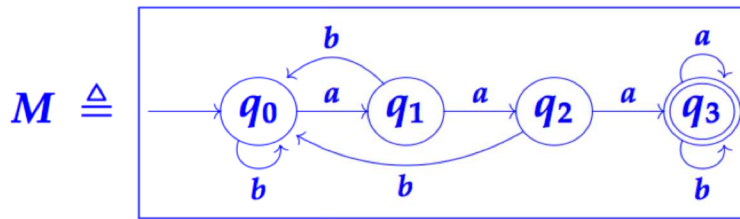
$$U = (\Sigma \cup \Sigma')^*$$

axioms:  $\frac{}{a}$        $\frac{}{\epsilon}$        $\frac{}{\emptyset}$

rules:  $\frac{r}{(r)}$        $\frac{r \quad s}{r|s}$        $\frac{r \quad s}{rs}$        $\frac{r}{r^*}$

(where  $a \in \Sigma$  and  $r, s \in U$ )

## Example of a finite automaton



- ▶ set of **states**:  $\{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3\}$
- ▶ **input** alphabet:  $\{a, b\}$
- ▶ **transitions**, labelled by input symbols: as indicated by the above directed graph
- ▶ **start** state:  $q_0$
- ▶ **accepting** state(s):  $q_3$

## Kleene's Theorem

**Definition.** A language is **regular** iff it is equal to  $L(M)$ , the set of strings accepted by some deterministic finite automaton  $M$ .

**Theorem.**

- (a) For any regular expression  $r$ , the set  $L(r)$  of strings matching  $r$  is a regular language.
- (b) Conversely, every regular language is the form  $L(r)$  for some regular expression  $r$ .

# Traditional Regular Language Problem

Given a regular expression,

$$e$$

and an input string  $w$ , determine if  $w \in L(e)$

Construct a DFA  $M$  from  $e$  and test if it accepts  $w$ .

Recall construction : regular expression  $\rightarrow$  NFA  $\rightarrow$  DFA

31

## Something closer to the “lexing problem”

Given an **ordered** list of regular expressions,

$$e_1 \quad e_2 \quad \dots \quad e_k$$

and an input string  $w$ , find a list of pairs

$$(i_1, w_1), (i_2, w_2), \dots (i_n, w_n)$$

such that

- 1)  $w = w_1 w_2 \dots w_n$
- 2)  $w_j \in L(e_{i_j})$
- 3)  $w_j \in L(e_s) \rightarrow i_j \leq s$  (priority rule)
- 4)  $\forall j: \forall u \in \text{prefix}(w_{j+1} w_{j+2} \dots w_n): u \neq \varepsilon$   
 $\rightarrow \forall s: w_j u \notin L(e_s)$  (longest match)

Why ordered? Is “if” a variable or a keyword? Need priority to resolve ambiguity.

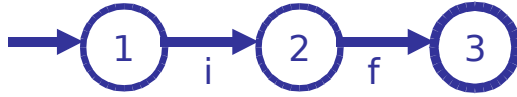
Why longest match? Is “ifif” a variable or two “if” keywords?

32

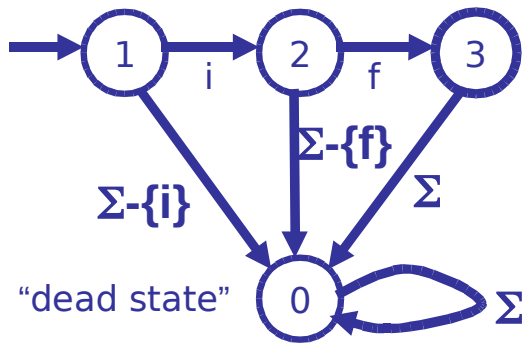


# Define Tokens with Regular Expressions (Finite Automata)

Keyword: if



This FA is really shorthand for:



33

# Define Tokens with Regular Expressions (Finite Automata)

Regular Expression	Finite Automata	Token
Keyword: if		KEY(IF)
Keyword: then		KEY(then)
Identifier: [a-zA-Z][a-zA-Z0-9]*		ID(s)

34

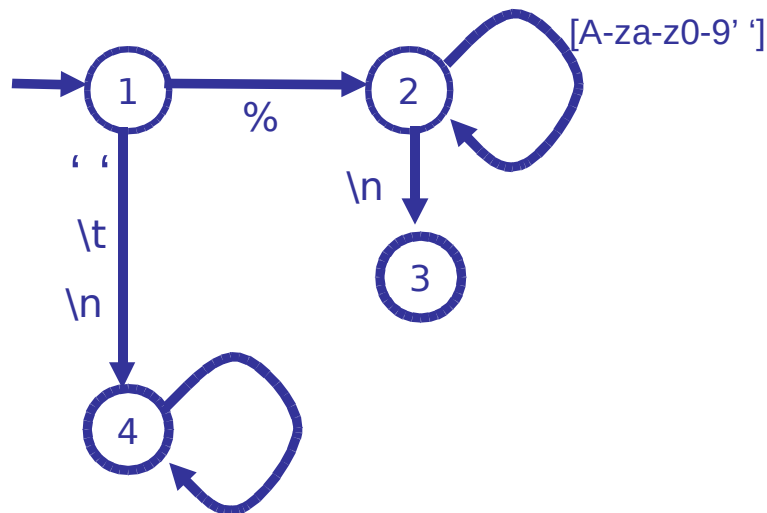
# Define Tokens with Regular Expressions (Finite Automata)

Regular Expression	Finite Automata	Token
number: [0-9][0-9]*		NUM(n)
real: ([0-9]+ '.' [0-9]*)   ([0-9]* '.' [0-9]+)		NUM(n)

35

## No Tokens for "White-Space"

White-space:  
( ' ' | '\n' | '\t' )+  
| '%' [A-Za-z0-9 ' ']+ '\n'



36

# Constructing a Lexer

INPUT:  
an **ordered**  
list of regular  
expressions

$e_1$   
 $e_2$   
:  
 $e_k$

Construct all  
corresponding  
finite automata

$NFA_1$   
 $NFA_2$   
:  
 $NFA_k$

use priority

Construct a single  
non-deterministic  
finite automata

NFA

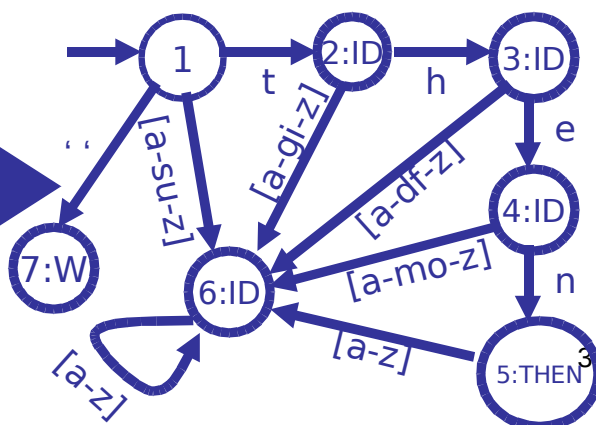
Construct a single  
deterministic  
finite automata

DFA

(1) Keyword : then

(2) Ident :  $[a-z][a-z]^*$

(2) White-space: ' '



## What about longest match?

Start in initial state,

Repeat:

(1) read input until dead state is reached. Emit token associated with last accepting state.

(2) reset state to start state

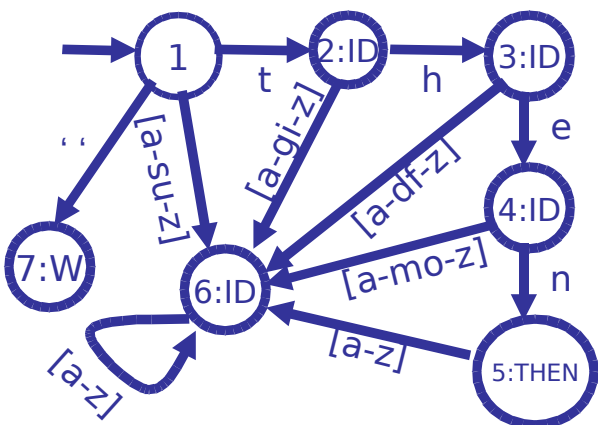
| = current position, \$ = EOF

Input

current state

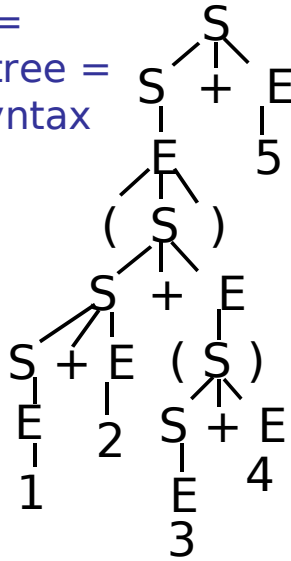
last accepting state

then thenx\$	1	0	
t hen thenx\$	2	2	
th en thenx\$	3	3	
the n thenx\$	4	4	
then  thenx\$	5	5	
then  thenx\$	0	5	EMIT KEY(THEN)
then  thenx\$	1	0	RESET
then  thenx\$	7	7	
then t henx\$	0	7	EMIT WHITE(' ')
then  thenx\$	1	0	RESET
then t henx\$	2	2	
then th enx\$	3	3	
then the nx\$	4	4	
then then x\$	5	5	
then thenx \$	6	6	
then thenx\$	0	6	EMIT ID(thenx)

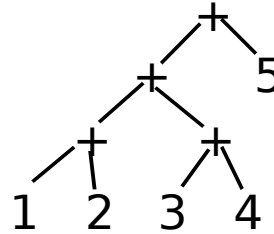
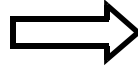


# Concrete vs. Abstract Syntax Trees

parse tree =  
derivation tree =  
concrete syntax  
tree



Abstract Syntax Tree (AST)



An AST contains only the information needed to generate an intermediate representation

Normally a compiler constructs the concrete syntax tree only implicitly (in the parsing process) and explicitly constructs an AST.

39

## On to Context Free Grammars (CFGs)

$E ::= ID$

$E ::= NUM$

$E ::= E * E$

$E ::= E / E$

$E ::= E + E$

$E ::= E - E$

$E ::= ( E )$

$E$  is a *non-terminal symbol*

$ID$  and  $NUM$  are *lexical classes*

$*$ ,  $($ ,  $)$ ,  $+$ , and  $-$  are *terminal symbols*.

$E ::= E + E$  is called a *production rule*.

Usually will write this way

$E ::= ID \mid NUM \mid E * E \mid E / E \mid E + E \mid E - E \mid ( E )$

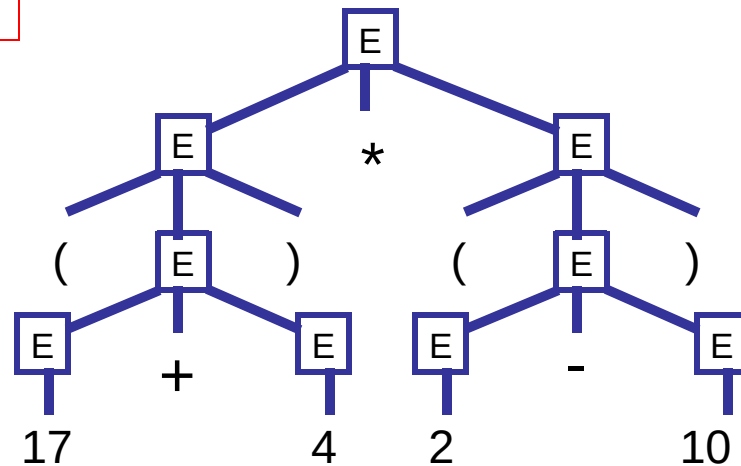
40

# CFG Derivations

(G1)  $E ::= ID \mid NUM \mid ID \mid E * E \mid E / E \mid E + E \mid E - E \mid ( E )$

$E \rightarrow E * E$   
 $\rightarrow E * (E)$   
 $\rightarrow E * (E - E)$   
 $\rightarrow E * (E - 10)$   
 $\rightarrow E * (2 - 10)$   
 $\rightarrow (E) * (2 - 10)$   
 $\rightarrow (E + E) * (2 - 10)$   
 $\rightarrow (E + 4) * (2 - E)$   
 $\rightarrow (17 + 4) * (2 - 10)$

Rightmost derivation



$E \rightarrow E * E$   
 $\rightarrow (E) * E$   
 $\rightarrow (E + E) * E$   
 $\rightarrow (17 + E) * E$   
 $\rightarrow (17 + 4) * E$   
 $\rightarrow (17 + 4) * (E)$   
 $\rightarrow (17 + 4) * (E - E)$   
 $\rightarrow (17 + 4) * (2 - E)$   
 $\rightarrow (17 + 4) * (2 - 10)$

Leftmost derivation

The Derivation Tree for  $(17 + 4) * (2 - 10)$

41

## More formally, ...

- A CFG is a quadruple  $G = (N, T, R, S)$  where
  - $N$  is the set of *non-terminal symbols*
  - $T$  is the set of *terminal symbols* ( $N$  and  $T$  disjoint)
  - $S \in N$  is the *start symbol*
  - $R \subseteq N \times (N \cup T)^*$  is a set of rules
- Example: The grammar of nested parentheses  $G = (N, T, R, S)$  where
  - $N = \{S\}$
  - $T = \{ (, ) \}$
  - $R = \{ (S, (S)), (S, SS), (S, ) \}$

We will normally write  $R$  as

$S ::= (S) \mid SS \mid$

42

# Derivations, more formally...

- Start from start symbol (S)
  - Productions are used to derive a sequence of tokens from the start symbol
  - For arbitrary strings  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  comprised of both terminal and non-terminal symbols, and a production  $A \rightarrow \beta$ , a single step of derivation is
$$\alpha A \gamma \Rightarrow \alpha \beta \gamma$$
    - *i.e.*, substitute  $\beta$  for an occurrence of  $A$
- $\forall \alpha \Rightarrow^* \beta$  means that  $\beta$  can be derived from  $\alpha$  in 0 or more single steps
- $\forall \alpha \Rightarrow^+ \beta$  means that  $\beta$  can be derived from  $\alpha$  in 1 or more single steps

43

$L(G)$  = The Language Generated by Grammar  $G$

The language generated by  $G$  is the set of all terminal strings derivable from the start symbol  $S$ :

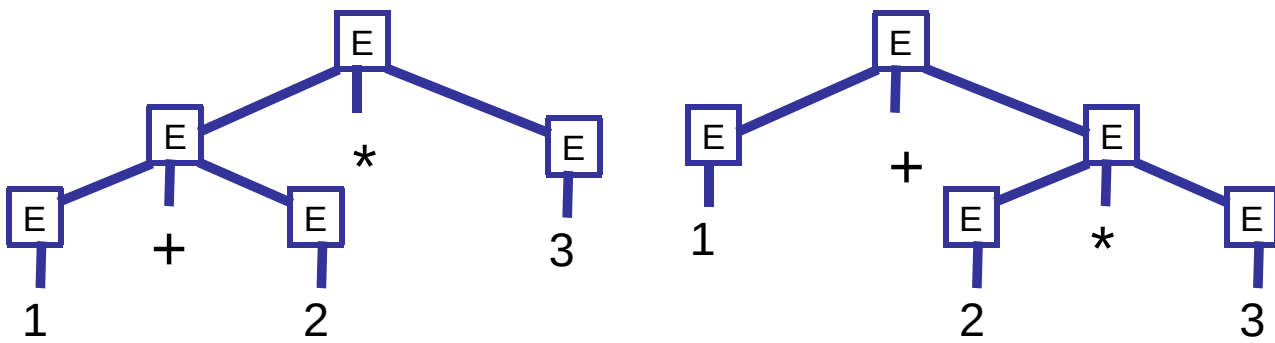
$$L(G) = \{ w \in T^* \mid S \Rightarrow^+ w \}$$

For any subset  $W$  of  $T^*$ , if there exists a CFG  $G$  such that  $L(G) = W$ , then  $W$  is called a Context-Free Language (CFL) over  $T$ .

44

# Ambiguity

(G1)  $E ::= ID \mid NUM \mid ID \mid E * E \mid E / E \mid E + E \mid E - E \mid ( E )$



Both derivation trees correspond to the string

$1 + 2 * 3$

This type of ambiguity will cause problems when we try to go from strings to derivation trees!

45

## Problem: Generation vs. Parsing

- Context-Free Grammars (CFGs) describe how to generate
- Parsing is the inverse of generation,
  - Given an input string, is it in the language generated by a CFG?
  - If so, construct a derivation tree (normally called a parse tree).
  - Ambiguity is a big problem

Note : recent work on Parsing Expression Grammars (PEGs) represents an attempt to develop a formalism that describes parsing directly. This is beyond the scope of these lectures ...

46

# We can often modify the grammar in order to eliminate ambiguity

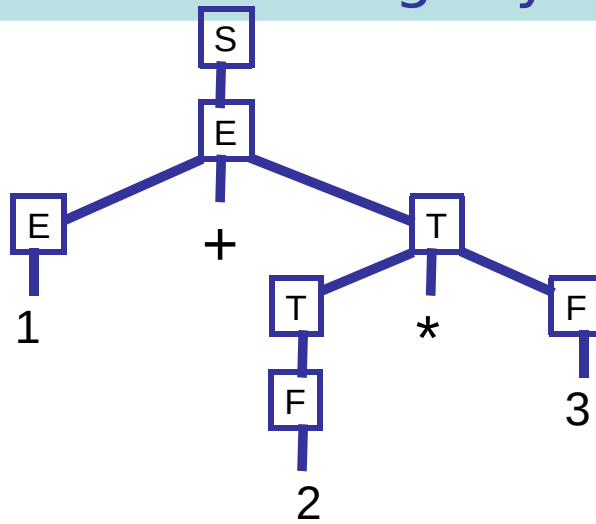
(G2)  
 $S ::= E\$$   
 $E ::= E + T$   
 $\quad | E - T$   
 $\quad | T$   
 $T ::= T * F$   
 $\quad | T / F$   
 $\quad | F$   
 $F ::= \text{NUM}$   
 $\quad | \text{ID}$   
 $\quad | ( E )$

(start, \$ = EOF)

(expressions)

(terms)

(factors)



This is the unique derivation tree for the string  
 $1 + 2 * 3\$$

Note:  $L(G1) = L(G2)$ .  
 Can you prove it?

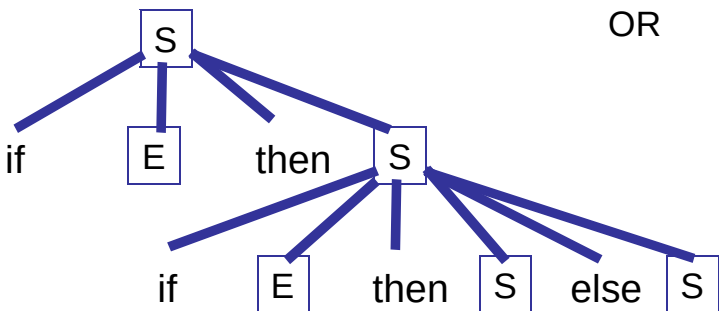
## Famously Ambiguous

(G3)  $S ::= \text{if } E \text{ then } S \text{ else } S \mid \text{if } E \text{ then } S \mid \text{blah-blah}$

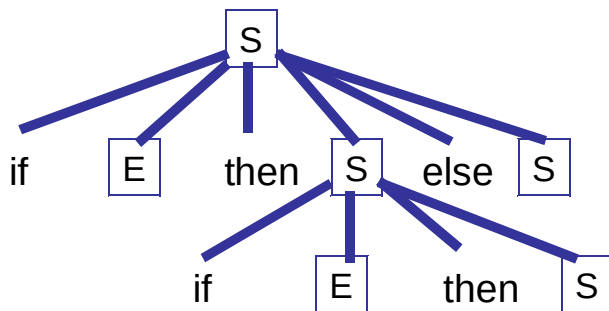
What does

if e1 then if e2 then s1 else s3

mean?



OR





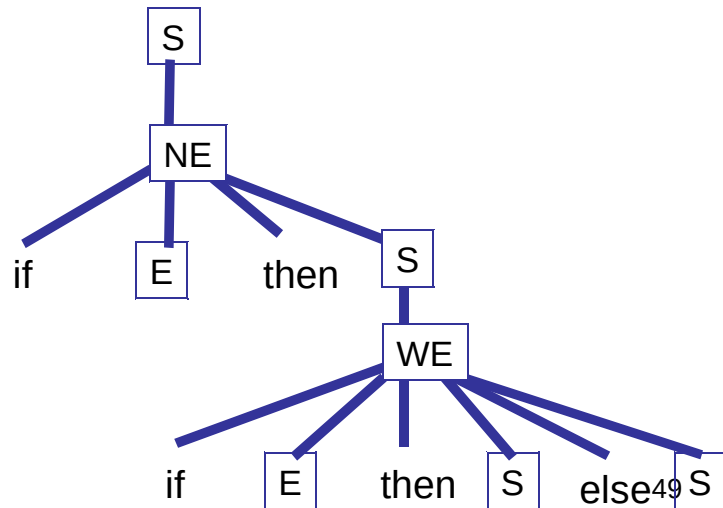
# Rewrite?

(G4)  
 $S ::= WE \mid NE$   
 $WE ::= \text{if } E \text{ then } WE \text{ else } WE \mid \text{blah-blah}$   
 $NE ::= \text{if } E \text{ then } S$   
 $\quad \mid \text{if } E \text{ then } WE \text{ else } NE$

Now,

if e1 then if e2 then s1 else s3

has a unique derivation.



Note:  $L(G3) = L(G4)$ .  
 Can you prove it?

## Fun Fun Facts

See Hopcroft and Ullman, "Introduction to Automata Theory, Languages, and Computation"

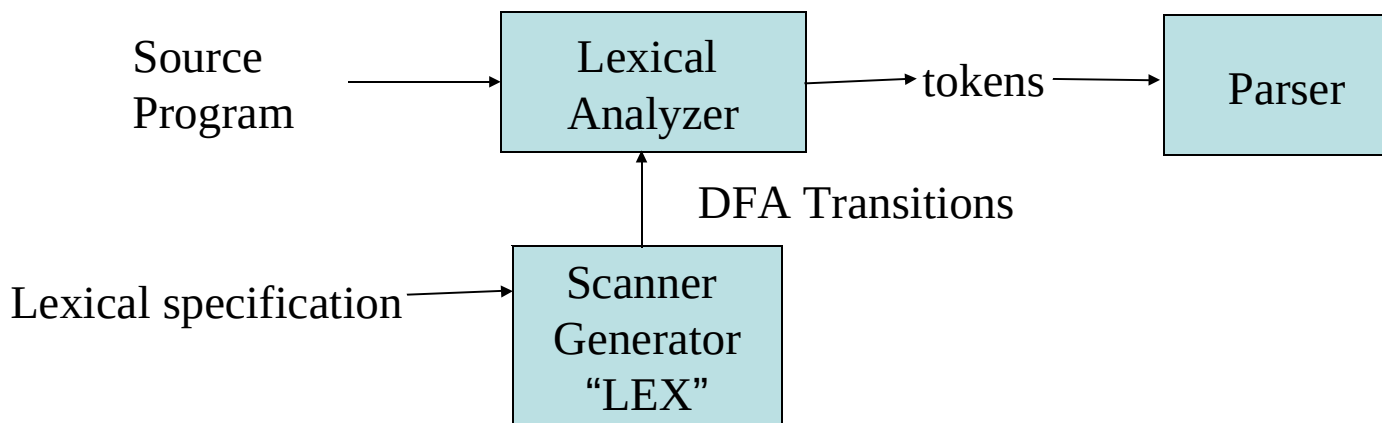
(1) Some context free languages are *inherently ambiguous* --- every context-free grammar for it will be ambiguous. For example:

$$L = \{a^n b^n c^m d^m \mid m \geq 1, n \geq 1\} \cup \{a^n b^m c^m d^n \mid m \geq 1, n \geq 1\}$$

(2) Checking for ambiguity in an arbitrary context-free grammar is not decidable! Ouch!

(3) Given two grammars G1 and G2, checking  $L(G1) = L(G2)$  is not decidable! Ouch!

# Generating Lexical Analyzers



The idea : use regular expressions as the basis of a lexical specification. The core of the lexical analyzer is then a deterministic finite automata (DFA)

51

## Predictive (Recursive Descent) Parsing Can we automate this?

(G5)

```
S ::= if E then S else S
    | begin S L
    | print E
E ::= NUM = NUM
L ::= end
    | ; S L
```

```
int tok = getToken();

void advance() {tok = getToken();}
void eat (int t) {if (tok == t) advance(); else error();}

void S() {switch(tok) {
  case IF:  eat(IF); E(); eat(THEN);
            S(); eat(ELSE); S(); break;
  case BEGIN: eat(BEGIN); S(); L(); break;
  case PRINT: eat(PRINT); E(); break;
  default: error();
}}

void L() {switch(tok) {
  case END: eat(END); break;
  case SEMI: eat(SEMI); S(); L(); break;
  default: error();
}}

void E() {eat(NUM) ; eat(EQ); eat(NUM); }
```

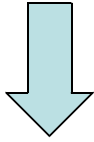
Parse corresponds to a left-most derivation constructed in a "top-down" manner

52

# Eliminate Left-Recursion

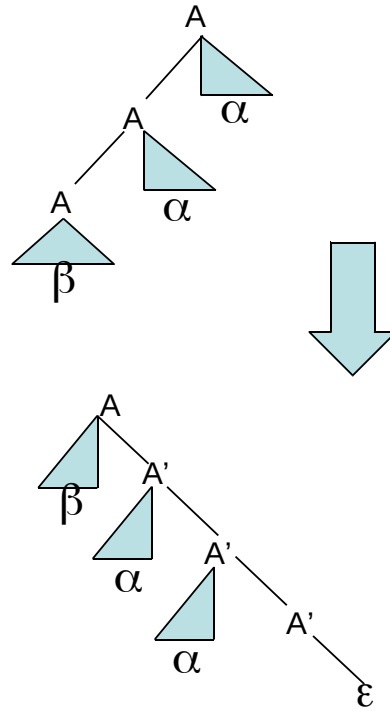
Immediate left-recursion

$$A ::= A\alpha_1 \mid A\alpha_2 \mid \dots \mid A\alpha_k \mid \beta_1 \mid \beta_2 \mid \dots \mid \beta_n$$



$$A ::= \beta_1 A' \mid \beta_2 A' \mid \dots \mid \beta_n A'$$

$$A' ::= \alpha_1 A' \mid \alpha_2 A' \mid \dots \mid \alpha_k A' \mid \varepsilon$$



For eliminating left-recursion in general, see Aho and Ullman.<sup>53</sup>

## Eliminating Left Recursion

(G2)

$$S ::= E\$$$

$$E ::= E + T \mid E - T \mid T$$

$$T ::= T * F \mid T / F \mid F$$

$$F ::= \text{NUM} \mid \text{ID} \mid (E)$$

Note that

$$E ::= T \text{ and } E ::= E + T$$

will cause problems since  $\text{FIRST}(T)$  will be included in  $\text{FIRST}(E + T)$  ---- so how can we decide which production to use based on next token?

Solution: eliminate "left recursion"!

$$E ::= T E'$$

$$E' ::= + T E' \mid$$

(G6)

$$S ::= E\$$$

$$E ::= T E'$$

$$E' ::= + T E' \mid - T E' \mid$$

$$T ::= F T'$$

$$T' ::= * F T' \mid / F T' \mid$$

$$F ::= \text{NUM} \mid \text{ID} \mid (E)$$

Eliminate left recursion

# FIRST and FOLLOW

For each non-terminal X we need to compute

FIRST[X] = the set of terminal symbols that  
can begin strings derived from X

FOLLOW[X] = the set of terminal symbols that  
can immediately follow X in some  
derivation

nullable[X] = true if X can derive the empty string,  
false otherwise

nullable[Z] = false, for Z in T

nullable[Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> ... Y<sub>k</sub>] = nullable[Y<sub>1</sub>] and ... nullable[Y<sub>k</sub>], for Y(i) in N union T.

FIRST[Z] = {Z}, for Z in T

FIRST[X Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> ... Y<sub>k</sub>] = FIRST[X] if not nullable[X]

FIRST[X Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> ... Y<sub>k</sub>] = FIRST[X] union FIRST[Y<sub>1</sub> ... Y<sub>k</sub>] otherwise

55

## Computing First, Follow, and nullable

For each terminal symbol Z

FIRST[Z] := {Z};

nullable[Z] := false;

For each non-terminal symbol X

FIRST[X] := FOLLOW[X] := {};

nullable[X] := false;

repeat

for each production  $X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_k$

if Y<sub>1</sub>, ... Y<sub>k</sub> are all nullable, or k = 0

then nullable[X] := true

for each i from 1 to k, each j from i + 1 to k

if Y<sub>1</sub> ... Y<sub>(i-1)</sub> are all nullable or i = 1

then FIRST[X] := FIRST[X] union FIRST[Y<sub>(i)</sub>]

if Y<sub>(i+1)</sub> ... Y<sub>k</sub> are all nullable or if i = k

then FOLLOW[Y<sub>(i)</sub>] := FOLLOW[Y<sub>(i)</sub>] union FOLLOW[X]

if Y<sub>(i+1)</sub> ... Y<sub>(j-1)</sub> are all nullable or i+1 = j

then FOLLOW[Y<sub>(i)</sub>] := FOLLOW[Y<sub>(i)</sub>] union FIRST[Y<sub>(j)</sub>]

until there is no change

56

# First, Follow, nullable table for G6

Nullable                      FIRST                      FOLLOW

S	False	{ (, ID, NUM }	{ }
E	False	{ (, ID, NUM }	{ ), \$ }
E'	True	{ +, - }	{ ), \$ }
T	False	{ (, ID, NUM }	{ ), +, -, \$ }
T'	True	{ *, / }	{ ), +, -, \$ }
F	False	{ (, ID, NUM }	{ ), *, /, +, -, \$ }

(G6)  
 $S ::= E\$$   
 $E ::= TE'$   
 $E' ::= +TE'$   
 $\quad \quad | -TE'$   
 $\quad \quad |$   
 $T ::= FT'$   
 $T' ::= *FT'$   
 $\quad \quad | /FT'$   
 $\quad \quad |$   
 $F ::= NUM$   
 $\quad \quad | ID$   
 $\quad \quad | (E)$

17

# Predictive Parsing Table for G6

Table[ X, T ] = Set of productions

$X ::= Y_1 \dots Y_k$  in Table[ X, T ]  
 if T in FIRST[  $Y_1 \dots Y_k$  ]  
 or if ( T in FOLLOW[X] and nullable[  $Y_1 \dots Y_k$  ])

NOTE: this could lead to more than one entry! If so, out of luck --- can't do recursive descent parsing!

	+	*	(	)	ID	NUM	\$
S			$S ::= E\$$		$S ::= E\$$	$S ::= E\$$	
E			$E ::= TE'$		$E ::= TE'$	$E ::= TE'$	
E'	$E' ::= +TE'$			$E' ::=$			$E' ::=$
T			$T ::= FT'$		$T ::= FT'$	$T ::= FT'$	
T'	$T' ::=$	$T' ::= *FT'$		$T' ::=$			$T' ::=$
F			$F ::= (E)$		$F ::= ID$	$F ::= NUM$	

(entries for /, - are similar...)

18



# But wait! What if there are conflicts in the predictive parsing table?

(G7)		Nullable	FIRST	FOLLOW
$S ::= d \mid X Y S$	S	false	{ c,d ,a }	{ }
$Y ::= c \mid$	Y	true	{ c }	{ c,d,a }
$X ::= Y \mid a$	X	true	{ c,a }	{ c, a,d }

The resulting “predictive” table is not so predictive....

	a	c	d
S	{ S ::= X Y S }	{ S ::= X Y S }	{ S ::= X Y S, S ::= d }
Y	{ Y ::= }	{ Y ::= , Y ::= c }	{ Y ::= }
X	{ X ::= a, X ::= Y }	{ X ::= Y }	{ X ::= Y }

61

## LL(1), LL(k), LR(0), LR(1), ...

- LL(k) : (L)eft-to-right parse, (L)eft-most derivation, k-symbol lookahead. Based on looking at the next k tokens, an LL(k) parser must *predict* the next production. We have been looking at LL(1).
- LR(k) : (L)eft-to-right parse, (R)ight-most derivation, k-symbol lookahead. Postpone production selection until *the entire* right-hand-side has been seen (and as many as k symbols beyond).
- LALR(1) : A special subclass of LR(1).

62

# Example

(G8)

$S ::= S ; S \mid ID = E \mid \text{print } (L)$

$E ::= ID \mid \text{NUM} \mid E + E \mid (S, E)$

$L ::= E \mid L, E$

To be consistent, I should write the following, but I won't...

(G8)

$S ::= S \text{ SEMI } S \mid ID \text{ EQUAL } E \mid \text{PRINT LPAREN } L \text{ RPAREN}$

$E ::= ID \mid \text{NUM} \mid E \text{ PLUS } E \mid \text{LPAREN } S \text{ COMMA } E \text{ RPAREN}$

$L ::= E \mid L \text{ COMMA } E$

63

## A right-most derivation ...

(G8)

$S ::= S ; S$   
|  $ID = E$   
|  $\text{print } (L)$

$E ::= ID$   
|  $\text{NUM}$   
|  $E + E$   
|  $(S, E)$

$L ::= E$   
|  $L, E$

$\begin{aligned} & \underline{S} \\ \rightarrow & \underline{S} ; \underline{S} \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = \underline{E} \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = \underline{E} + \underline{E} \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = E + (\underline{S}, \underline{E}) \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = E + (S, \underline{ID}) \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = E + (S, \underline{d}) \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = E + (ID = \underline{E}, d) \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = E + (ID = E + \underline{E}, d) \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = E + (ID = E + \underline{\text{NUM}}, d) \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = E + (ID = \underline{E} + 6, d) \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = E + (ID = \underline{\text{NUM}} + 6, d) \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = E + (\underline{ID} = 5 + 6, d) \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = \underline{E} + (d = 5 + 6, d) \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = \underline{ID} + (d = 5 + 6, d) \\ \rightarrow & S ; \underline{ID} = c + (d = 5 + 6, d) \\ \rightarrow & \underline{S} ; b = c + (d = 5 + 6, d) \\ \rightarrow & ID = \underline{E} ; b = c + (d = 5 + 6, d) \\ \rightarrow & ID = \underline{\text{NUM}} ; b = c + (d = 5 + 6, d) \\ \rightarrow & \underline{ID} = 7 ; b = c + (d = 5 + 6, d) \\ \rightarrow & a = 7 ; b = c + (d = 5 + 6, d) \end{aligned}$

64



## Now, turn it upside down ...

→ a = 7 ; b = c + ( d = 5 + 6, d )  
 → ID = 7 ; b = c + ( d = 5 + 6, d )  
 → ID = NUM ; b = c + ( d = 5 + 6, d )  
 → ID = E ; b = c + ( d = 5 + 6, d )  
 → S ; b = c + ( d = 5 + 6, d )  
 → S ; ID = c + ( d = 5 + 6, d )  
 → S ; ID = ID + ( d = 5 + 6, d )  
 → S ; ID = E + ( d = 5 + 6, d )  
 → S ; ID = E + ( ID = 5 + 6, d )  
 → S ; ID = E + ( ID = NUM + 6, d )  
 → S ; ID = E + ( ID = E + 6, d )  
 → S ; ID = E + ( ID = E + NUM, d )  
 → S ; ID = E + ( ID = E + E, d )  
 → S ; ID = E + ( ID = E, d )  
 → S ; ID = E + ( S, d )  
 → S ; ID = E + ( S, ID )  
 → S ; ID = E + ( S, E )  
 → S ; ID = E + E  
 → S ; ID = E  
 → S ; S  
 S

65

## Now, slice it down the middle...

	a = 7 ; b = c + ( d = 5 + 6, d )
<b>ID</b>	= 7 ; b = c + ( d = 5 + 6, d )
<b>ID = NUM</b>	; b = c + ( d = 5 + 6, d )
<b>ID = E</b>	; b = c + ( d = 5 + 6, d )
<b>S</b>	; b = c + ( d = 5 + 6, d )
<b>S ; ID</b>	= c + ( d = 5 + 6, d )
<b>S ; ID = ID</b>	+ ( d = 5 + 6, d )
<b>S ; ID = E</b>	+ ( d = 5 + 6, d )
<b>S ; ID = E + ( ID</b>	= 5 + 6, d )
<b>S ; ID = E + ( ID = NUM</b>	+ 6, d )
<b>S ; ID = E + ( ID = E</b>	+ 6, d )
<b>S ; ID = E + ( ID = E + NUM</b>	, d )
<b>S ; ID = E + ( ID = E + E</b>	, d )
<b>S ; ID = E + ( ID = E</b>	, d )
<b>S ; ID = E + ( S</b>	, d )
<b>S ; ID = E + ( S, ID</b>	)
<b>S ; ID = E + ( S, E )</b>	
<b>S ; ID = E + E</b>	
<b>S ; ID = E</b>	
<b>S ; S</b>	
<b>S</b>	

The rest of the input string

A stack of terminals and non-terminals

66



Q: How do we know when to shift and when to reduce? A: Build a FSA from LR(0) Items!

**(G10)**

$S ::= A \$$

$A ::= (A)$   
 $| ( )$

If

$X ::= \alpha\beta$

is a production, then

$X ::= \alpha \cdot \beta$

is an LR(0) item.

$S ::= \cdot A \$$

$S ::= A \cdot \$$

$A ::= \cdot (A)$

$A ::= ( \cdot A )$

$A ::= ( A \cdot )$

$A ::= ( A ) \cdot$

$A ::= \cdot ( )$

$A ::= ( \cdot )$

$A ::= ( ) \cdot$

LR(0) items indicate what is on the stack (to the left of the  $\cdot$ ) and what is still in the input stream (to the right of the  $\cdot$ )

69

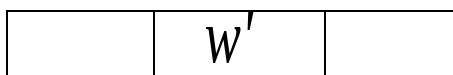
## LR(k) states (non-deterministic)

The state

$(A \rightarrow \alpha \cdot \beta, a_1 a_2 \cdots a_k)$

should represent this situation:

Input:



Stack:



(right-most symbol at top)

with

$\beta a_1 a_2 \cdots a_k \Rightarrow w'$

70

## Key idea behind LR(0) items

- If the “current state” contains the item  $A ::= \alpha \cdot c \beta$  and the current symbol in the input buffer is  $c$ 
  - the state prompts parser to perform a shift action
  - next state will contain  $A ::= \alpha c \cdot \beta$
- If the “state” contains the item  $A ::= \alpha \cdot$ 
  - the state prompts parser to perform a reduce action
- If the “state” contains the item  $S ::= \alpha \cdot \$$  and the input buffer is empty
  - the state prompts parser to accept
- But How about  $A ::= \alpha \cdot X \beta$  where  $X$  is a nonterminal?

71

## The NFA for LR(0) items

- The transition of LR(0) items can be represented by an NFA, in which
  - 1. each LR(0) item is a state,
  - 2. there is a transition from item  $A ::= \alpha \cdot c \beta$  to item  $A ::= \alpha c \cdot \beta$  with label  $c$ , where  $c$  is a terminal symbol
  - 3. there is an  $\epsilon$ -transition from item  $A ::= \alpha \cdot X \beta$  to  $X ::= \cdot \gamma$ , where  $X$  is a non-terminal
  - 4.  $S ::= \cdot A \$$  is the start state
  - 5.  $A ::= \alpha \cdot$  is a final state.

72

# Example NFA for Items

$S ::= \cdot A \$$

$S ::= A \cdot \$$

$A ::= \cdot (A)$

$A ::= (\cdot A)$

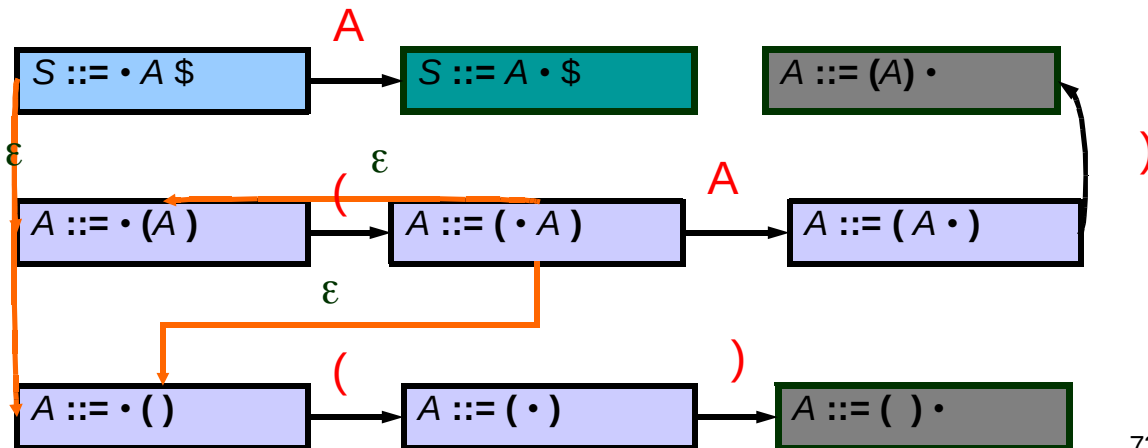
$A ::= (A \cdot)$

$A ::= (A) \cdot$

$A ::= \cdot ()$

$A ::= (\cdot)$

$A ::= () \cdot$



73

## The DFA from LR(0) items

- After the NFA for LR(0) is constructed, the resulting DFA for LR(0) parsing can be obtained by the usual NFA2DFA construction.
- we thus require
  - $\epsilon$ -closure(**I**)
  - move(**S**, a)

### Fixed Point Algorithm for Closure(**I**)

- Every item in **I** is also an item in Closure(**I**)
- If  $A ::= \alpha \cdot B \beta$  is in Closure(**I**) and  $B ::= \cdot \gamma$  is an item, then add  $B ::= \cdot \gamma$  to Closure(**I**)
- Repeat until no more new items can be added to Closure(**I**)

..

## Examples of Closure

Closure( $\{A ::= (\cdot A)\}$ ) =

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} A ::= (\cdot A) \\ A ::= \cdot (A) \\ A ::= \cdot ( ) \end{array} \right\}$$

• closure( $\{S ::= \cdot A \$\}$ )

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} S ::= \cdot A \$ \\ A ::= \cdot (A) \\ A ::= \cdot ( ) \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} S ::= \cdot A \$ \\ S ::= A \cdot \$ \\ A ::= \cdot (A) \\ A ::= (\cdot A) \\ A ::= (A \cdot) \\ A ::= (A ) \cdot \\ A ::= \cdot ( ) \\ A ::= ( \cdot ) \\ A ::= ( ) \cdot \end{array}$$

75

## Goto() of a set of items

- Goto finds the new state after consuming a grammar symbol while in the current state
- Algorithm for  $Goto(I, X)$  where  $I$  is a set of items

$$Goto(I, X) = \text{Closure}(\{ A ::= \alpha X \cdot \beta \mid A ::= \alpha \cdot X \beta \text{ in } I \})$$

- goto is the new set obtained by “moving the dot” over  $X$

76

## Examples of Goto

- Goto ( $\{A ::= \cdot(A)\}, ()$ )

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} A ::= (\cdot A) \\ A ::= \cdot(A) \\ A ::= \cdot( ) \end{array} \right\}$$

- Goto ( $\{A ::= (\cdot A)\}, A$ )

$$\left\{ A ::= (A \cdot ) \right\}$$

$S ::= \cdot A \$$
$S ::= A \cdot \$$
$A ::= \cdot (A)$
$A ::= (\cdot A)$
$A ::= (A \cdot )$
$A ::= (A ) \cdot$
$A ::= \cdot ( )$
$A ::= ( \cdot )$
$A ::= ( ) \cdot$

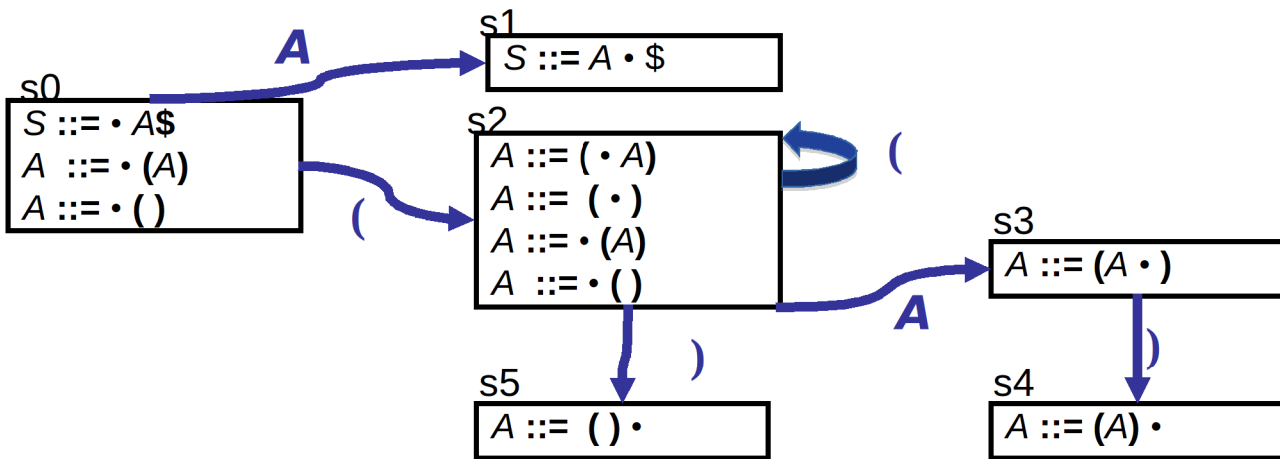
77

## Building the DFA states

- Essentially the usual NFA2DFA construction!!
- Let A be the start symbol and S a new start symbol.
- Create a new rule  $S ::= A \$$
- Create the first state to be  $\text{Closure}(\{ S ::= \cdot A \$\})$
- Pick a state I
  - for each item  $A ::= \alpha \cdot X \beta$  in I
    - find  $\text{Goto}(I, X)$
    - if  $\text{Goto}(I, X)$  is not already a state, make one
    - Add an edge X from state I to  $\text{Goto}(I, X)$  state
- Repeat until no more additions possible

78

# DFA Example

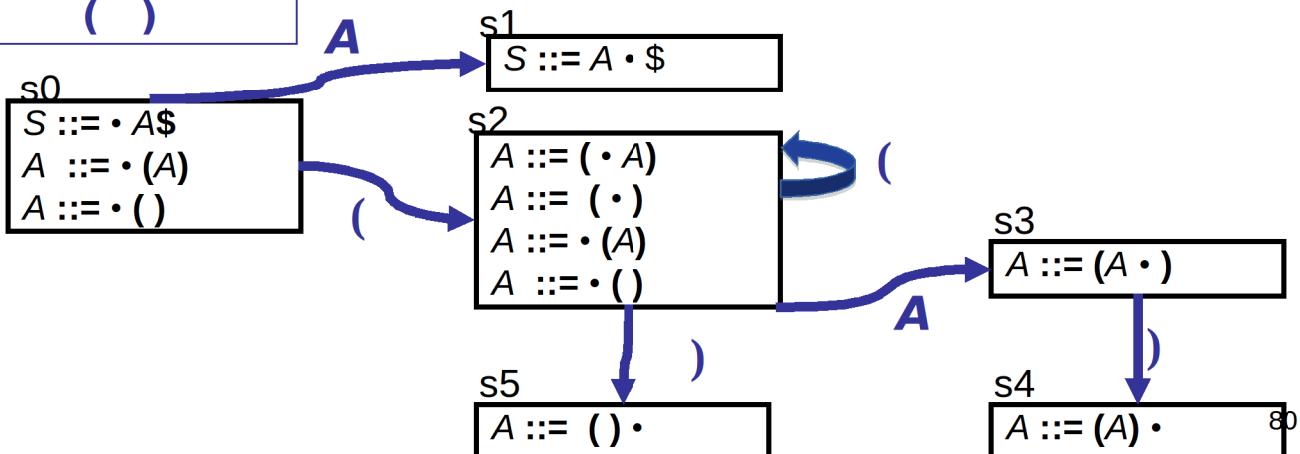


79

## Creating the Parse Table(s)

State	(	)	\$	A
s0	shift to s2			goto s1
s1			accept	
s2	shift to s2	shift to s5		goto s3
s3		shift to s4		
s4	reduce (2)	reduce (2)	reduce (2)	
s5	reduce (3)	reduce (3)	reduce (3)	

- (G10)**
- (1)  $S ::= A\$$
  - (2)  $A ::= (A)$
  - (3)  $A ::= ()$





# Parsing with an LR Table

Use table and top-of-stack and input symbol to get action:

If action is

shift  $s_n$  : advance input one token,  
push  $s_n$  on stack

reduce  $X ::= \alpha$  : pop stack  $2 * |\alpha|$  times (grammar symbols  
are paired with states). In the state  
now on top of stack,  
use goto table to get next  
state  $s_n$ ,  
push it on top of stack

accept : stop and accept

error : weep (actually, produce a good error  
message)

81

## Parsing, again...

**(G10)**

**(1)  $S ::= A\$$**

**(2)  $A ::=$   
**(A)****

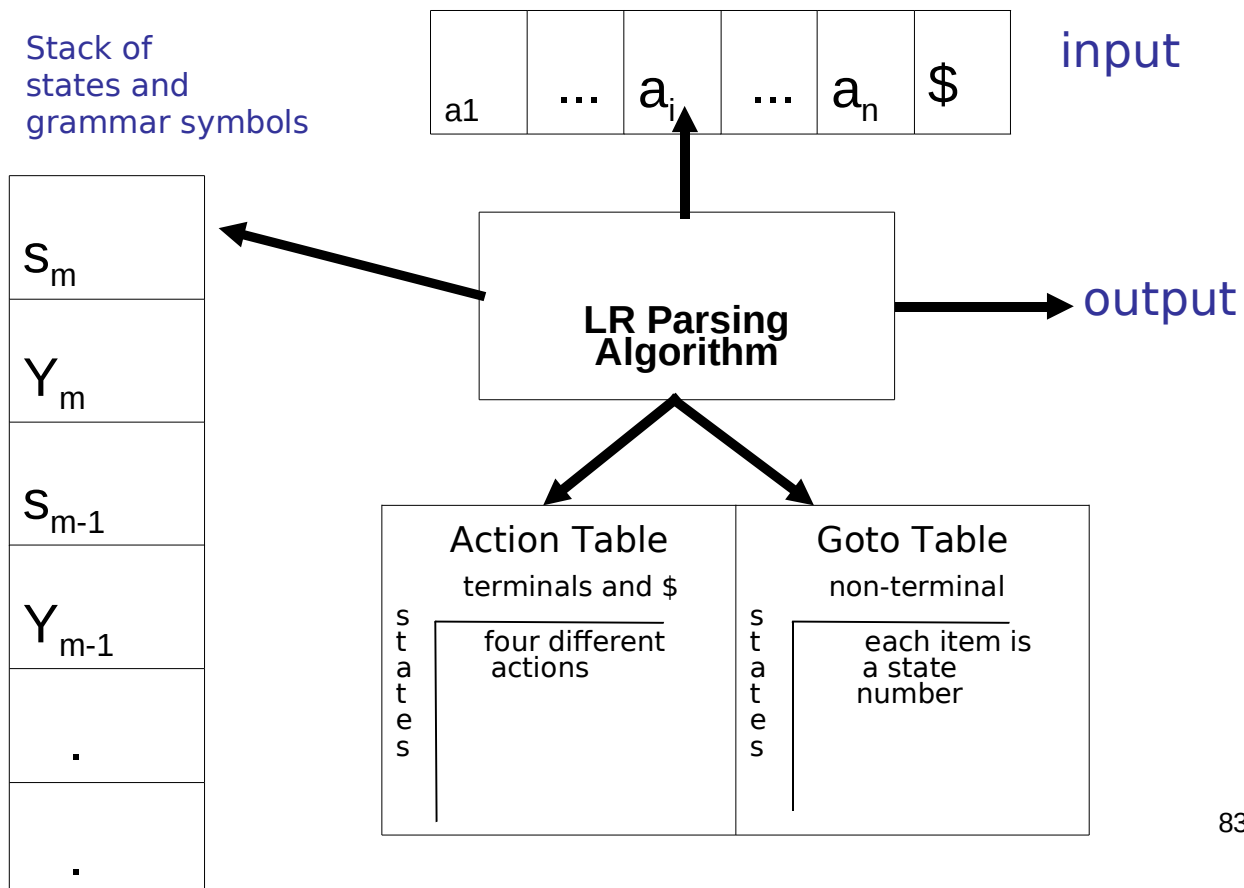
**(3)  $A ::=$   
**( )****

State	ACTION			Goto
	(	)	\$	
s0	shift to s2			goto s1
s1			accept	
s2	shift to s2	shift to s5		goto s3
s3		shift to s4		
s4	reduce (2)	reduce (2)	reduce (2)	
s5	reduce (3)	reduce (3)	reduce (3)	

s0	(())\$	shift s2
s0 ( s2	))\$	shift s2
s0 ( s2 ( s2	))\$	shift s5
s0 ( s2 ( s2 ) s5	)\$	reduce $A ::= ()$
s0 ( s2 A	)\$	goto s3
s0 ( s2 A s3	)\$	shift s4
s0 ( s2 A s3 ) s4	\$	reduce $A ::= (A)$
s0 A	\$	goto s1
s0 A s1	\$	ACCEPT!

82

# LR Parsing Algorithm



83

## Problem With LR(0) Parsing

- No lookahead
- Vulnerable to unnecessary conflicts
  - Shift/Reduce Conflicts (may reduce too soon in some cases)
  - Reduce/Reduce Conflicts
- Solutions:
  - LR(1) parsing - systematic lookahead

84

# LR(1) Items

- An LR(1) item is a pair:
$$(X ::= \alpha \cdot \beta, a)$$
  - $X ::= \alpha\beta$  is a production
  - $a$  is a terminal (the lookahead terminal)
  - LR(1) means 1 lookahead terminal
- $[X ::= \alpha \cdot \beta, a]$  describes a context of the parser
  - We are trying to find an  $X$  followed by an  $a$ , and
  - We have (at least)  $\alpha$  already on top of the stack
  - Thus we need to see next a prefix derived from  $\beta a$

85

## The Closure Operation

- Need to modify closure operation:.

Closure(Items) =

repeat

for each  $[X ::= \alpha \cdot Y\beta, a]$  in Items

for each production  $Y ::= \gamma$

for each  $b$  in  $\text{First}(\beta a)$

add  $[Y ::= \cdot \gamma, b]$  to Items

until Items is unchanged

86

## Constructing the Parsing DFA (2)

- A DFA state is a closed set of LR(1) items
- The start state contains ( $S' ::= .S\$, \text{dummy}$ )
- A state that contains  $[X ::= \alpha., b]$  is labeled with “reduce with  $X ::= \alpha$  on lookahead  $b$ ”
- And now the transitions ...

87

## The DFA Transitions

- A state  $s$  that contains  $[X ::= \alpha.Y\beta, b]$  has a transition labeled  $y$  to the state obtained from  $\text{Transition}(s, Y)$ 
  - $Y$  can be a terminal or a non-terminal

$\text{Transition}(s, Y)$

Items =  $\{\}$

for each  $[X ::= \alpha.Y\beta, b]$  in  $s$

add  $[X ! \alpha Y.\beta, b]$  to Items

return  $\text{Closure}(\text{Items})$

88

## LR(1)-the parse table

- Shift and goto as before
- Reduce
  - state  $I$  with item  $(A \rightarrow \alpha., z)$  gives a reduce  $A \rightarrow \alpha$  if  $z$  is the next character in the input.
- LR(1)-parse tables can be very large

89

## Use tools (LEX, YACC) or write by hand?

Some problems with auto-generation tools:

- Often slow
- Hard to generate good error messages for compiler users
- Often need to tweak grammar, but tool messages can be very obscure

This has led many to write lexers/parsers by hand and declare **YACC IS DEAD!**

My opinion: no “right answer” --- tools will continue to improve (see Menhir for example), but demand for increased compiler speed will also increase ...

90

# Compiler Construction

## Lent Term 2018

### Part II : Lectures 7 - 12 (of 16)

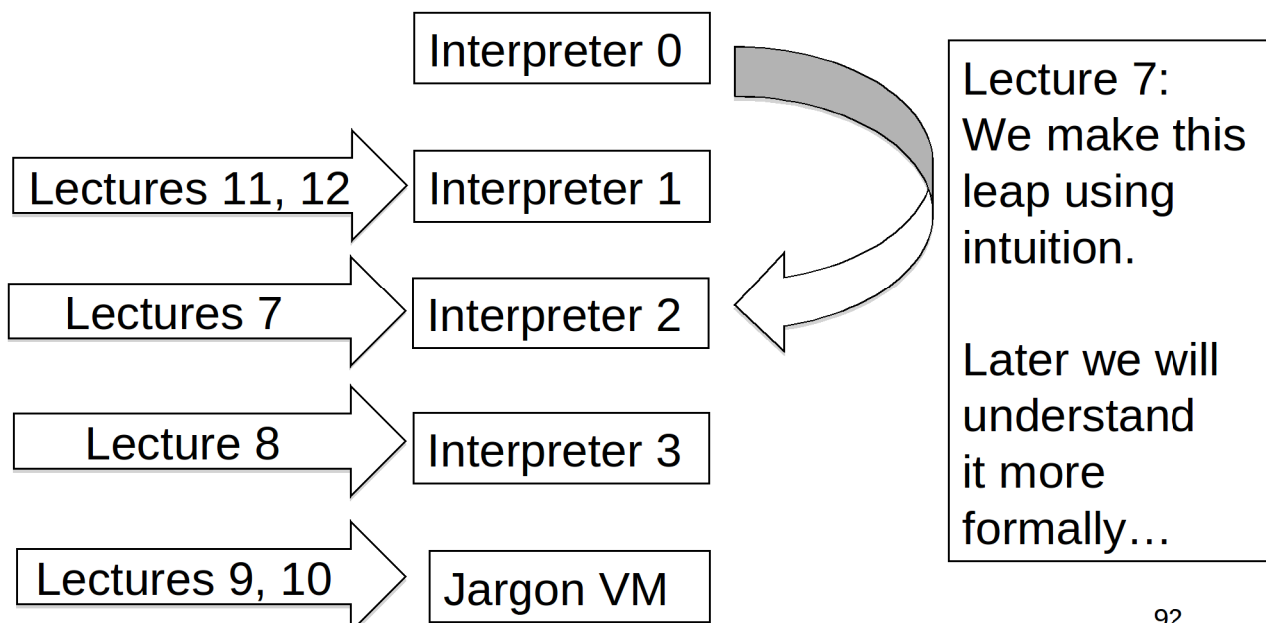
Timothy G. Griffin  
tgg22@cam.ac.uk

Computer Laboratory  
University of Cambridge

91

## Roadmap

Starting from a direct implementation of Slang/L3 semantics, we will **DERIVE** a Virtual Machine in a step-by-step manner. The correctness of each step is (more or less) easy to check.



92

# LECTURE 7

## Interpreter 0, Interpreter 2

### 1. Interpreter 0 : The high-level “definitional” interpreter

1. Slang/L3 values represented directly as OCaml values
2. Recursive interpreter implements a denotational semantics
3. The interpreter implicitly uses OCaml’s runtime stack

### 2. Interpreter 2: A high-level stack-oriented machine

1. Makes the OCaml runtime stack explicit
2. Complex values pushed onto stacks
3. One stack for values and environments
4. One stack for instructions
5. Heap used only for references
6. Instructions have tree-like structure

93

## Approaches to Mathematical Semantics

- Axiomatic: Meaning defined through logical specifications of behaviour.
  - Hoare Logic (Part II)
  - Separation Logic
- Operational: Meaning defined in terms of transition relations on states in an abstract machine.
  - Semantics (Part 1B)
- Denotational: Meaning is defined in terms of mathematical objects such as functions.
  - Denotational Semantics (Part II)

94

# A denotational semantics for L3?

$N$  = set of integers     $B$  = set of booleans     $A$  = set of addresses

$I$  = set of identifiers     $\text{Expr}$  = set of L3 expressions

$E$  = set of environments =  $I \rightarrow V$      $S$  = set of stores =  $A \rightarrow V$

$V$  = set of value

$\approx A$

+  $N$

+  $B$

+  $\{ () \}$

+  $V \times V$

+  $(V + V)$

+  $(V \times S) \rightarrow (V \times S)$

Set of values  $V$  solves this “domain equation” (here + means disjoint union).

Solving such equations is where some difficult maths is required ...

$M$  = the meaning function

$M : (\text{Expr} \times E \times S) \rightarrow (V \times S)$

95

## Our shabby OCaml approximation

$A$  = set of addresses

$S$  = set of stores =  $A \rightarrow V$

$V$  = set of value

$\approx A$

+  $N$

+  $B$

+  $\{ () \}$

+  $V \times V$

+  $(V + V)$

+  $(V \times S) \rightarrow (V \times S)$

$E$  = set of environments =  $A \rightarrow V$

$M$  = the meaning function

$M : (\text{Expr} \times E \times S) \rightarrow (V \times S)$

```
type address
type store = address -> value
and value =
  | REF of address
  | INT of int
  | BOOL of bool
  | UNIT
  | PAIR of value * value
  | INL of value
  | INR of value
  | FUN of ((value * store)
            -> (value * store))
type env = Ast.var -> value
val interpret :
  Ast.expr * env * store
  -> (value * store)
```

96



# Most of the code is obvious!

```
let rec interpret (e, env, store) =
  match e with
  | If(e1, e2, e3) ->
    let (v, store') = interpret(e1, env, store) in
      (match v with
       | BOOL true -> interpret(e2, env, store')
       | BOOL false -> interpret(e3, env, store')
       | v -> complain "runtime error. Expecting a boolean!")
  | Pair(e1, e2) ->
    let (v1, store1) = interpret(e1, env, store) in
    let (v2, store2) = interpret(e2, env, store1) in (PAIR(v1, v2), store2)
  | Fst e ->
    (match interpret(e, env, store) with
     | (PAIR (v1, _), store') -> (v1, store')
     | (v, _) -> complain "runtime error. Expecting a pair!")
  | Snd e ->
    (match interpret(e, env, store) with
     | (PAIR (_, v2), store') -> (v2, store')
     | (v, _) -> complain "runtime error. Expecting a pair!")
  | Inl e -> let (v, store') = interpret(e, env, store) in (INL v, store')
  | Inr e -> let (v, store') = interpret(e, env, store) in (INR v, store')
  :
  :
```

97

## Tricky bits : Slang functions mapped to OCaml functions!

```
let rec interpret (e, env, store) =
  match e with
  :
  :
  | Lambda(x, e) -> (FUN (fun (v, s) -> interpret(e, update(env, (x, v)), s)), store)
  | App(e1, e2) -> (* I chose to evaluate argument first! *)
    let (v2, store1) = interpret(e2, env, store) in
    let (v1, store2) = interpret(e1, env, store1) in
      (match v1 with
       | FUN f -> f (v2, store2)
       | v -> complain "runtime error. Expecting a function!")
  | LetFun(f, (x, body), e) ->
    let new_env =
      update(env, (f, FUN (fun (v, s) -> interpret(body, update(env, (x, v)), s))))
    in interpret(e, new_env, store)
  | LetRecFun(f, (x, body), e) ->
    let rec new_env g = (* a recursive environment!!! *)
      if g = f then FUN (fun (v, s) -> interpret(body, update(new_env, (x, v)), s))
      else env g
    in interpret(e, new_env, store)
```

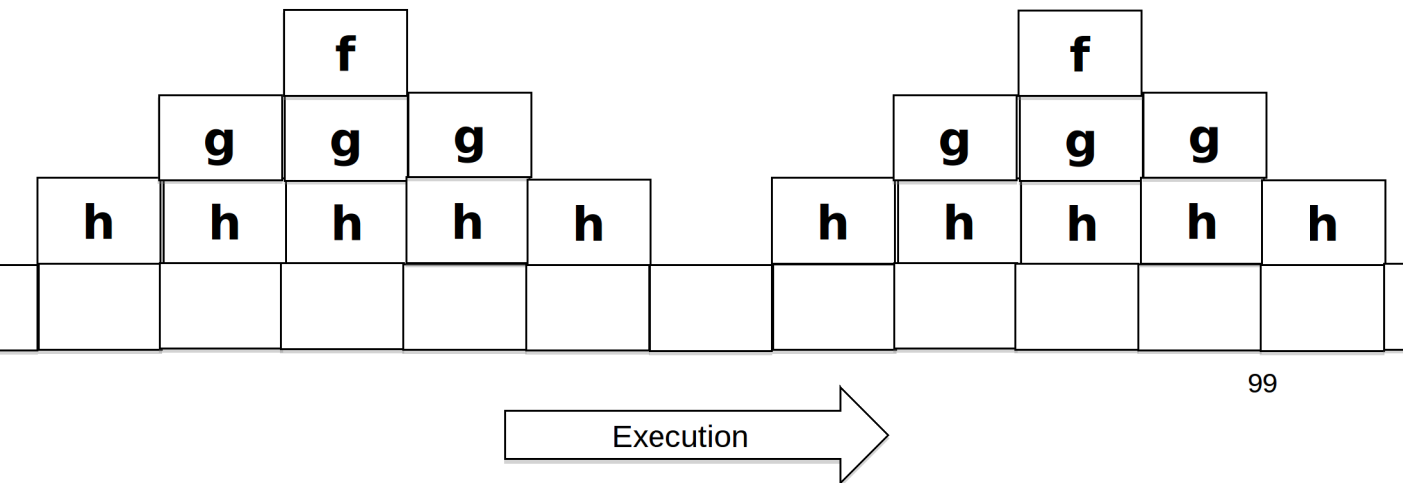
update : env \* (var \* value) -> env

98

# Typical implementation of function calls

```
let fun f (x) = x + 1
    fun g(y) = f(y+2)+2
    fun h(w) = g(w+1)+3
in
  h(h(17))
end
```

The run-time data structure is the call stack containing an activation record for each function invocation.



interpret is implicitly using Ocaml's runtime stack

```
let rec interpret (e, env, store) =
  match e with
  | Integer n      -> (INT n, store)
  | Op(e1, op, e2) ->
    let (v1, store1) = interpret(e1, env, store) in
    let (v2, store2) = interpret(e2, env, store1) in
    (do_oper(op, v1, v2), store2)
  :
  :
```

- Every invocation of interpret is building an activation record on Ocaml's runtime stack.
- **We will now define interpreter 2 which makes this stack explicit**

# Ininterp\_2 data types

```
type address
```

```
type store = address -> value
```

```
and value =
```

```
| REF of address  
| INT of int  
| BOOL of bool  
| UNIT  
| PAIR of value * value  
| INL of value  
| INR of value  
| FUN of ((value * store)  
          -> (value * store))
```

```
type env = Ast.var -> value
```

Interp\_0

```
type address = int
```

```
type value =
```

```
| REF of address  
| INT of int  
| BOOL of bool  
| UNIT  
| PAIR of value * value  
| INL of value  
| INR of value  
| CLOSURE of bool *  
              closure
```

```
and closure = code * env
```

Interp\_2

```
and instruction =
```

```
| PUSH of value  
| LOOKUP of var  
| UNARY of unary_oper  
| OPER of oper  
| ASSIGN  
| SWAP  
| POP  
| BIND of var  
| FST  
| SND  
| Deref  
| APPLY  
| MK_PAIR  
| MK_INL  
| MK_INR  
| MK_REF  
| MK_CLOSURE of code  
| MK_REC of var * code  
| TEST of code * code  
| CASE of code * code  
| WHILE of code * code
```

## Interp\_2.ml : The Abstract Machine

```
and code = instruction list
```

```
and binding = var * value
```

```
and env = binding list
```

```
type env_or_value = EV of env | V of value
```

```
type env_value_stack = env_or_value list
```

```
type state = code * env_value_stack
```

```
val step : state -> state
```

```
val driver : state -> value
```

```
val compile : expr -> code
```

```
val interpret : expr -> value
```

The state is actually  
comprised of a  
heap --- a global array  
of values --- a pair  
of the form

(code, env\_value\_stack)

# Interpreter 2: The Abstract Machine

```
type state = code * env_value_stack
```

```
val step : state -> state
```

The state transition function.

```

let step = function
(* (code stack, value/env stack) -> (code stack, value/env stack) *)
| ((PUSH v) :: ds, evs) -> (ds, (V v) :: evs)
| (POP :: ds, s :: evs) -> (ds, evs)
| (SWAP :: ds, s1 :: s2 :: evs) -> (ds, s2 :: s1 :: evs)
| ((BIND x) :: ds, (V v) :: evs) -> (ds, EV([x, v]) :: evs)
| ((LOOKUP x) :: ds, evs) -> (ds, V(search(evs, x)) :: evs)
| ((UNARY op) :: ds, (V v) :: evs) -> (ds, V(do_unary(op, v)) :: evs)
| ((OPER op) :: ds, (V v2) :: (V v1) :: evs) -> (ds, V(do_oper(op, v1, v2)) :: evs)
| (MK_PAIR :: ds, (V v2) :: (V v1) :: evs) -> (ds, V(PAIR(v1, v2)) :: evs)
| (FST :: ds, V(PAIR (v, _)) :: evs) -> (ds, (V v) :: evs)
| (SND :: ds, V(PAIR (_, v)) :: evs) -> (ds, (V v) :: evs)
| (MK_INL :: ds, (V v) :: evs) -> (ds, V(INL v) :: evs)
| (MK_INR :: ds, (V v) :: evs) -> (ds, V(INR v) :: evs)
| (CASE (c1, _) :: ds, V(INL v) :: evs) -> (c1 @ ds, (V v) :: evs)
| (CASE (_, c2) :: ds, V(INR v) :: evs) -> (c2 @ ds, (V v) :: evs)
| ((TEST(c1, c2)) :: ds, V(BOOL true) :: evs) -> (c1 @ ds, evs)
| ((TEST(c1, c2)) :: ds, V(BOOL false) :: evs) -> (c2 @ ds, evs)
| (ASSIGN :: ds, (V v) :: (V (REF a)) :: evs) -> (heap.(a) <- v; (ds, V(UNIT) :: evs))
| (DEREF :: ds, (V (REF a)) :: evs) -> (ds, V(heap.(a)) :: evs)
| (MK_REF :: ds, (V v) :: evs) -> let a = allocate () in (heap.(a) <- v;
  (ds, V(REF a) :: evs))
| ((WHILE(c1, c2)) :: ds, V(BOOL false) :: evs) -> (ds, evs)
| ((WHILE(c1, c2)) :: ds, V(BOOL true) :: evs) -> (c1 @ [WHILE(c1, c2)] @ ds, evs)
| (MK_CLOSURE c) :: ds, evs -> (ds, V(mk_fun(c, evs_to_env evs)) :: evs)
| (MK_REC(f, c) :: ds, evs) -> (ds, V(mk_rec(f, c, evs_to_env evs)) :: evs)
| (APPLY :: ds, V(CLOSURE (_, (c, env))) :: (V v) :: evs)
  -> (c @ ds, (V v) :: (EV env) :: evs)
| state -> complain ("step : bad state = " ^ (string_of_state state) ^ "\n")

```

## The driver. Correctness

```

(* val driver : state -> value *)
let rec driver state =
  match state with
  | ([], [V v]) -> v
  | _ -> driver (step state)

```

```
val compile : expr -> code
```

The idea: if  $e$  passes the front-end and  $\text{Interp\_0.interpret } e = v$  then  $\text{driver (compile } e, []) = v'$  where  $v'$  (somehow) represents  $v$ .

In other words, evaluating  $e$  should leave the value of  $e$  on top of the stack

## Implement inter\_0 in interp\_2

```
let rec interpret (e, env, store) =  
  match e with  
| Pair(e1, e2) ->  
  let (v1, store1) = interpret(e1, env, store) in  
  let (v2, store2) = interpret(e2, env, store1) in (PAIR(v1, v2), store2)  
| Fst e ->  
  (match interpret(e, env, store) with  
  | (PAIR (v1, _) , store') -> (v1, store')  
  | (v, _) -> complain "runtime error. Expecting a pair!")  
:  
:
```

interp\_0.ml

```
let step = function  
| (MK_PAIR :: ds, (V v2) :: (V v1) :: evs) -> (ds, V(PAIR(v1, v2)) :: evs)  
| (FST :: ds, V(PAIR (v, _)) :: evs) -> (ds, (V v) :: evs)  
:  
:
```

```
let rec compile = function  
| Pair(e1, e2) -> (compile e1) @ (compile e2) @ [MK_PAIR]  
| Fst e -> (compile e) @ [FST]  
:  
:
```

interp\_2.ml<sup>105</sup>

## Implement inter\_0 in interp\_2

```
let rec interpret (e, env, store) =  
  match e with  
| If(e1, e2, e3) ->  
  let (v, store') = interpret(e1, env, store) in  
  (match v with  
  | BOOL true -> interpret(e2, env, store')  
  | BOOL false -> interpret(e3, env, store')  
  | v -> complain "runtime error. Expecting a boolean!")  
:  
:
```

interp\_0.ml

```
let step = function  
| ((TEST(c1, c2)) :: ds, V(BOOL true) :: evs) -> (c1 @ ds, evs)  
| ((TEST(c1, c2)) :: ds, V(BOOL false) :: evs) -> (c2 @ ds, evs)  
:  
:
```

```
let rec compile = function  
| If(e1, e2, e3) -> (compile e1) @ [TEST(compile e2, compile e3)]  
:  
:
```

interp\_2.ml

## Tricky bits again!

```
let rec interpret (e, env, store) =  
  match e with  
  | Lambda(x, e) -> (FUN (fun (v, s) -> interpret(e, update(env, (x, v)), s)), store)  
  | App(e1, e2) -> (* I chose to evaluate argument first! *)  
    let (v2, store1) = interpret(e2, env, store) in  
    let (v1, store2) = interpret(e1, env, store1) in  
      (match v1 with  
      | FUN f -> f (v2, store2)  
      | v -> complain "runtime error. Expecting a function!")  
  :  
:
```

interp\_0.ml

```
let step = function  
| (POP :: ds,          s :: evs) -> (ds, evs)  
| (SWAP :: ds,        s1 :: s2 :: evs) -> (ds, s2 :: s1 :: evs)  
| ((BIND x) :: ds,    (V v) :: evs) -> (ds, EV([(x, v)]) :: evs)  
| ((MK_CLOSURE c) :: ds, evs) -> (ds, V(mk_fun(c, env_to_env evs)) :: evs)  
| (APPLY :: ds, V(CLOSURE (_, (c, env))) :: (V v) :: evs)  
  -> (c @ ds, (V v) :: (EV env) :: evs)  
:
```

interp\_2.ml

```
let rec compile = function  
| Lambda(x, e) -> [MK_CLOSURE((BIND x) :: (compile e) @ [SWAP; POP])]  
| App(e1, e2) -> (compile e2) @ (compile e1) @ [APPLY; SWAP; POP]  
:
```

107

## Example : Compiled code for rev\_pair.slang

```
let rev_pair (p : int * int) : int * int = (snd p, fst p)  
in  
  rev_pair (21, 17)  
end
```

```
MK_CLOSURE([BIND p; LOOKUP p; SND; LOOKUP p; FST; MK_PAIR; SWAP; POP]);  
BIND rev_pair;  
PUSH 21;  
PUSH 17;  
MK_PAIR;  
LOOKUP rev_pair;  
APPLY;  
SWAP;  
POP;  
SWAP;  
POP
```

**DEMO TIME!!!**

108

# LECTURE 8

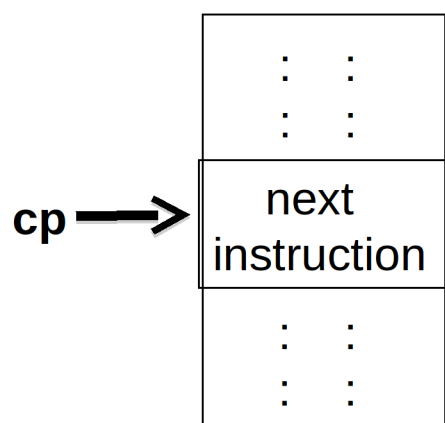
## Derive Interpreter 3

1. “Flatten” code into linear array
2. Add “code pointer” (**cp**) to machine state
3. New instructions : LABEL, GOTO, RETURN
4. “Compile away” conditionals and while loops

109

## Linearise code

Interpreter 2 copies code on the code stack.  
We want to introduce one global array of instructions indexed by a code pointer (**cp**).  
At runtime the **cp** points at the next instruction to be executed.



This will require two new instructions:

LABEL L : Associate label L with this location in the code array

GOTO L : Set the **cp** to the code address associated with L

110

# Compile conditionals, loops

If(e1, e2, e3)

code for e1
TEST k
code for e2
GOTO m
k: code for e3
m:

While(e1, e2)

m: code for e1
TEST k
code for e2
GOTO m
k:

111

## If ? = 0 Then 17 else 21 end

interp\_2

```
PUSH UNIT;  
UNARY READ;  
PUSH 0;  
OPER EQI;  
TEST(  
  [PUSH 17],  
  [PUSH 21]  
)
```

interp\_3

```
PUSH UNIT;  
UNARY READ;  
PUSH 0;  
OPER EQI;  
TEST L0;  
PUSH 17;  
GOTO L1;  
LABEL L0;  
PUSH 21;  
LABEL L1;  
HALT
```

Symbolic code  
locations

interp\_3 (loaded)

```
0: PUSH UNIT;  
1: UNARY READ;  
2: PUSH 0;  
3: OPER EQI;  
4: TEST L0 = 7;  
5: PUSH 17;  
6: GOTO L1 = 9;  
7: LABEL L0;  
8: PUSH 21;  
9: LABEL L1;  
10: HALT
```

Numeric code  
locations

112



# Implement interp\_2 in interp\_3

```
let step = function
| ((TEST(c1, c2)) :: ds, V(BOOL true) :: evs) -> (c1 @ ds, evs)
| ((TEST(c1, c2)) :: ds, V(BOOL false) :: evs) -> (c2 @ ds, evs)
:
```

interp\_2.ml

```
let step (cp, evs) =
match (get_instruction cp, evs) with
| (TEST (_, Some _), V(BOOL true) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, evs)
| (TEST (_, Some i), V(BOOL false) :: evs) -> (i, evs)
| (LABEL l, evs) -> (cp + 1, evs)
| (GOTO (_, Some i), evs) -> (i, evs)
:
```

Interp\_3.ml

Code locations are represented as

("L", None) : not yet loaded (assigned numeric address)

("L", Some i) : label "L" has been assigned numeric address i

## Tricky bits again!

```
let step = function
| (POP :: ds, s :: evs) -> (ds, evs)
| (SWAP :: ds, s1 :: s2 :: evs) -> (ds, s2 :: s1 :: evs)
| ((BIND x) :: ds, (V v) :: evs) -> (ds, EV([(x, v)]) :: evs)
| ((MK_CLOSURE c) :: ds, evs) -> (ds, V(mk_fun(c, evs_to_env evs)) :: evs)
| (APPLY :: ds, V(CLOSURE (_, (c, env))) :: (V v) :: evs)
-> (c @ ds, (V v) :: (EV env) :: evs)
```

interp\_2.ml

```
let step (cp, evs) =
match (get_instruction cp, evs) with
| (POP, s :: evs) -> (cp + 1, evs)
| (SWAP, s1 :: s2 :: evs) -> (cp + 1, s2 :: s1 :: evs)
| (BIND x, (V v) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, EV([(x, v)]) :: evs)
| (MK_CLOSURE loc, evs) -> (cp + 1,
V(CLOSURE(loc, evs_to_env evs)) :: evs)
| (RETURN, (V v) :: _ :: (RA i) :: evs) -> (i, (V v) :: evs)
| (APPLY, V(CLOSURE ((_, Some i), env)) :: (V v) :: evs)
```

interp\_3.ml

Note that in interp\_2 the body of a closure is consumed from the code stack. But in interp\_3 we need to save the return address on the stack (here i is the location of the closure's code).

interp\_2.ml

```
let rec compile = function
| Lambda(x, e) -> [MK_CLOSURE((BIND x) :: (compile e) @ [SWAP; POP])]
| App(e1, e2)  -> (compile e2) @ (compile e1) @ [APPLY; SWAP; POP]
:
```

Interp\_3.ml

```
let rec comp = function
| App(e1, e2) ->
  let (defs1, c1) = comp e1 in
  let (defs2, c2) = comp e2 in
  (defs1 @ defs2, c2 @ c1 @ [APPLY])
| Lambda(x, e) ->
  let (defs, c) = comp e in
  let f = new_label () in
  let def = [LABEL f; BIND x] @ c @ [SWAP; POP; RETURN] in
  (def @ defs, [MK_CLOSURE((f, None)]))
```

Interp\_3.ml

```
let compile e =
  let (defs, c) = comp e in
  c
  (* body of program *)
  @ [HALT]
  (* stop the interpreter *)
  @ defs
  (* function definitions *)
```

115

## Interpreter 3 (very similar to interpreter 2)

```
let step (cp, evs) =
  match (get_instruction cp, evs) with
  | (PUSH v, evs) -> (cp + 1, (V v) :: evs)
  | (POP, s :: evs) -> (cp + 1, evs)
  | (SWAP, s1 :: s2 :: evs) -> (cp + 1, s2 :: s1 :: evs)
  | (BIND x, (V v) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, EV([x, v]) :: evs)
  | (LOOKUP x, evs) -> (cp + 1, V(search(evs, x)) :: evs)
  | (UNARY op, (V v) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, V(do_unary(op, v)) :: evs)
  | (OPER op, (V v2) :: (V v1) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, V(do_oper(op, v1, v2)) :: evs)
  | (MK_PAIR, (V v2) :: (V v1) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, V(PAIR{v1, v2}) :: evs)
  | (FST, V(PAIR (v, _)) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, (V v) :: evs)
  | (SND, V(PAIR (_, v)) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, (V v) :: evs)
  | (MK_INL, (V v) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, V(INL v) :: evs)
  | (MK_INR, (V v) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, V(INR v) :: evs)
  | (CASE (_, Some _), V(INL v) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, (V v) :: evs)
  | (CASE (_, Some i), V(INR v) :: evs) -> (i, (V v) :: evs)
  | (TEST (_, Some _), V(BOOL true) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, evs)
  | (TEST (_, Some i), V(BOOL false) :: evs) -> (i, evs)
  | (ASSIGN, (V v) :: (V (REF a)) :: evs) -> (heap.(a) <- v; (cp + 1, V(UNIT) :: evs))
  | (DEREF, (V (REF a)) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, V(heap.(a)) :: evs)
  | (MK_REF, (V v) :: evs) -> let a = new_address () in (heap.(a) <- v;
    (cp + 1, V(REF a) :: evs))
  | (MK_CLOSURE loc, evs) -> (cp + 1, V(CLOSURE(loc, evs_to_env evs)) :: evs)
  | (APPLY, V(CLOSURE ((_, Some i), env)) :: (V v) :: evs) -> (i, (V v) :: (EV env) :: (RA (cp + 1)) :: evs)

(* new instructions *)
| (RETURN, (V v) :: _ :: (RA i) :: evs) -> (i, (V v) :: evs)
| (LABEL l, evs) -> (cp + 1, evs)
| (HALT, evs) -> (cp, evs)
| (GOTO (_, Some i), evs) -> (i, evs)
| _ -> complain ("step : bad state = " ^ (string_of_state (cp, evs)) ^ "\n")
```

116

# Some observations

- A very clean machine!
- But it still has a **very** inefficient treatment of environments.
- Also, pushing complex values on the stack is not what most virtual machines do. In fact, we are still using OCaml's runtime memory management to manipulate complex values.

117

## Example : Compiled code for rev\_pair.slang

```
let rev_pair (p : int * int) : int * int = (snd p, fst p)
in
  rev_pair (21, 17)
end
```

```
MK_CLOSURE(
  [BIND p; LOOKUP p; SND;
   LOOKUP p; FST; MK_PAIR;
   SWAP; POP]);
BIND rev_pair;
PUSH 21;
PUSH 17;
MK_PAIR;
LOOKUP rev_pair;
APPLY;
SWAP;
POP;
SWAP;
POP
```

Interp\_2

```
MK_CLOSURE(rev_pair)
BIND rev_pair
PUSH 21
PUSH 17
MK_PAIR
LOOKUP rev_pair
APPLY
SWAP
POP
HALT
```

Interp\_3

```
LABEL rev_pair
BIND p
LOOKUP p
SND
LOOKUP p
FST
MK_PAIR
SWAP
POP
RETURN
```

**DEMO TIME!!!**

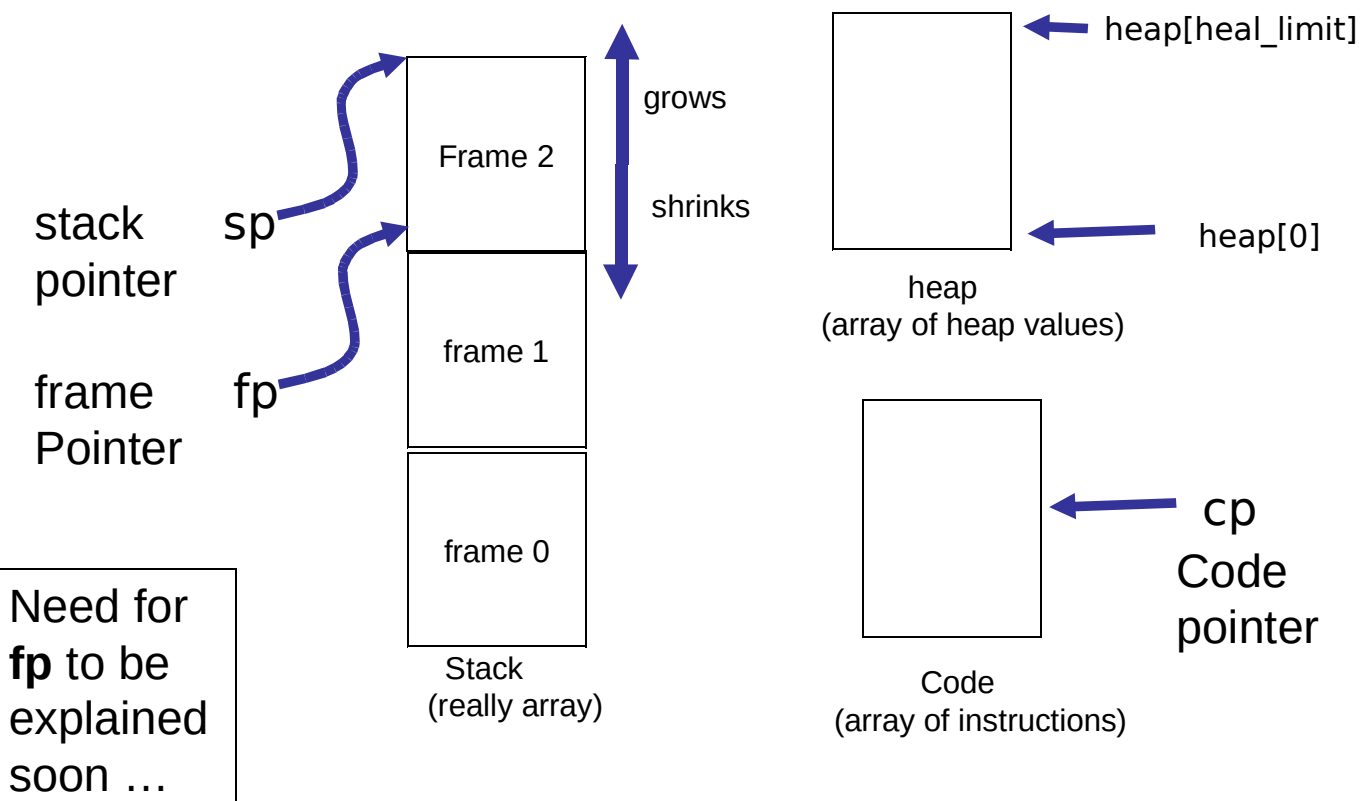
# LECTURES 9, 10

## Deriving The Jargon VM (interpreter 4)

- 1. First change:** Introduce an **addressable stack**.
- Replace variable lookup by a (relative) location on the stack or heap determined at **compile time**.
- Relative to what? A **frame pointer (fp)** pointing into the stack is needed to keep track of the current **activation record**.
- 4. Second change:** Optimise the representation of closures so that they contain **only** the values associated with the **free variables** of the closure and a pointer to code.
- 5. Third change:** Restrict values on stack to be simple (ints, bools, heap addresses, etc). Complex data is moved to the heap, leaving pointers into the heap on the stack.
- How might things look different in a language without first-class functions? In a language with multiple arguments to function calls?

119

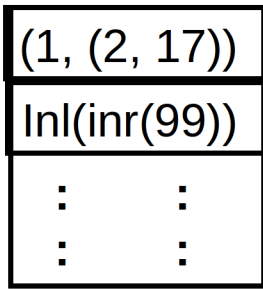
## Jargon Virtual Machine



120

# The stack in interpreter 3

A stack in interpreter 3



Stack elements in interpreter 3 are not of fixed size.

Virtual machines (JVM, etc) typically restrict stack elements to be of a fixed size

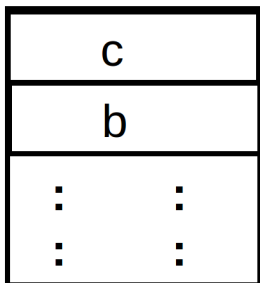
We need to shift data from the high-level stack of interpreter 3 to a lower-level stack with fixed size elements.

Solution : put the data in the heap. Place pointers to the heap on the stack.

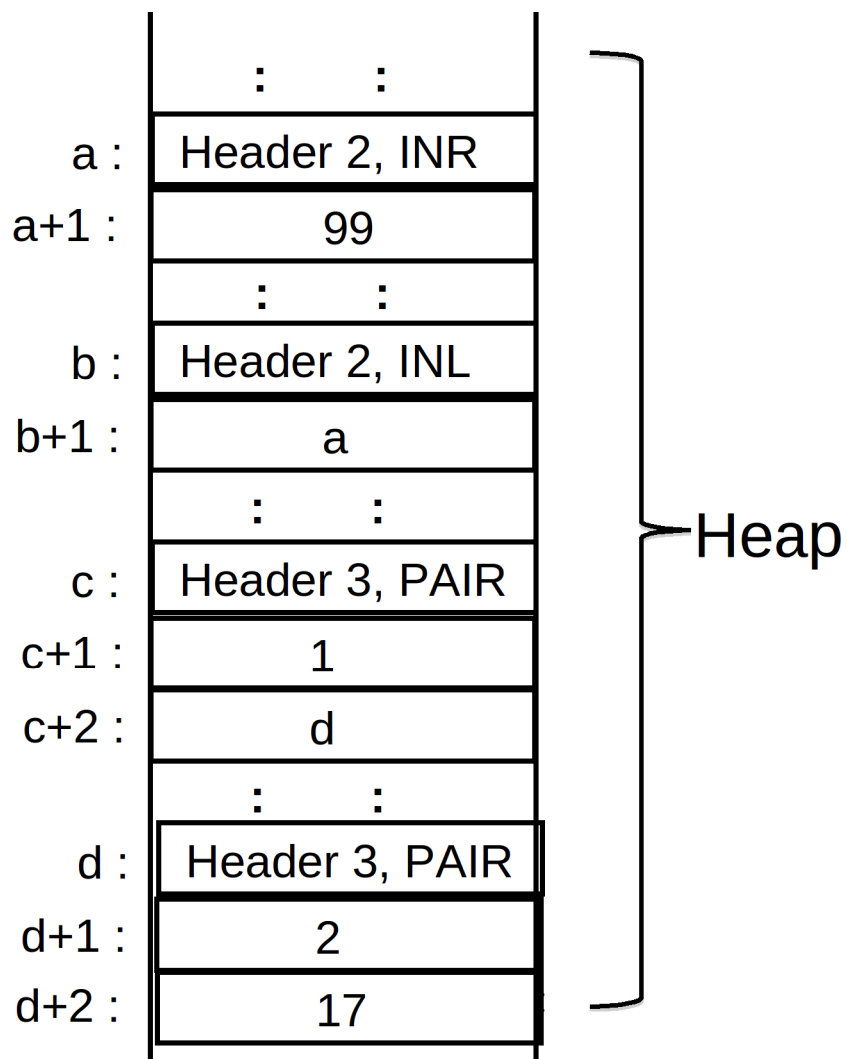
“All problems in computer science can be solved by another level of indirection, except of course for the problem of too many indirections.”  
--- David Wheeler

## The Jargon VM stack

Stack



Some stack elements represent pointers into the heap



```

type instruction =
| PUSH of value
| LOOKUP of Ast.var
| UNARY of Ast.unary_oper
| OPER of Ast.oper
| ASSIGN
| SWAP
| POP
| BIND of Ast.var
| FST
| SND
| Deref
| APPLY
| RETURN
| MK_PAIR
| MK_INL
| MK_INR
| MK_REF
| MK_CLOSURE of location
| TEST of location
| CASE of location
| GOTO of location
| LABEL of label
| HALT

```

```

type instruction =
| PUSH of stack_item (* modified *)
| LOOKUP of value_path (* modified *)
| UNARY of Ast.unary_oper
| OPER of Ast.oper
| ASSIGN
| SWAP
| POP
| (* | BIND of var not needed *)
| FST
| SND
| Deref
| APPLY
| RETURN
| MK_PAIR
| MK_INL
| MK_INR
| MK_REF
| MK_CLOSURE of location * int (* modified *)
| TEST of location
| CASE of location
| GOTO of location
| LABEL of label
| HALT

```

123

## A word about implementation

Interpreter 3

```

type value = | REF of address | INT of int | BOOL of bool | UNIT
| PAIR of value * value | INL of value | INR of value | CLOSURE of location * env
type env_or_value = | EV of env | V of value | RA of address
type env_value_stack = env_or_value list

```

Jargon VM

```

type stack_item =
| STACK_INT of int
| STACK_BOOL of bool
| STACK_UNIT
| STACK_HI of heap_index (* Heap Index *)
| STACK_RA of code_index (* Return Address *)
| STACK_FP of stack_index (* (saved) Frame Pointer *)

```

```

type heap_type =
| HT_PAIR
| HT_INL
| HT_INR
| HT_CLOSURE

```

The headers will be essential for  
garbage collection!

```

type heap_item =
| HEAP_INT of int
| HEAP_BOOL of bool
| HEAP_UNIT
| HEAP_HI of heap_index (* Heap Index *)
| HEAP_CI of code_index (* Code pointer for closures *)
| HEAP_HEADER of int * heap_type (* int is number items in heap block *)

```

124

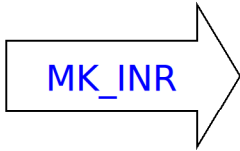
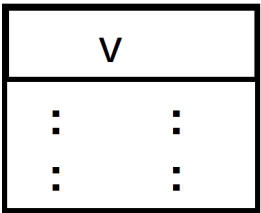
# MK\_INR (MK\_INL is similar)

In interpreter 3

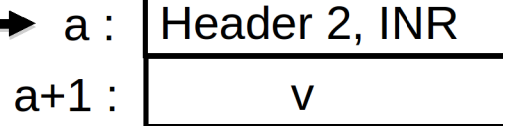
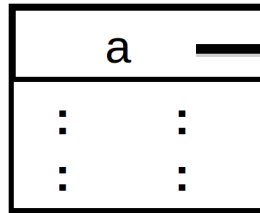
$(MK\_INR, (V\ v) :: evs) \rightarrow (cp + 1, V(INR(v)) :: evs)$

Jargon VM

The stack before



The stack after



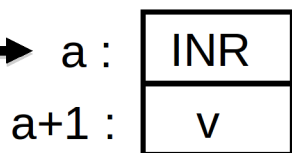
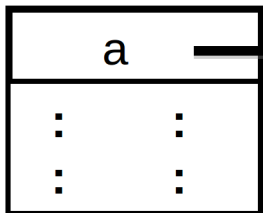
Newly allocated locations in the heap

Note: The header types are not really required. We could instead add an extra field here (for example, 0 or 1). However, header types aid in understanding the code and traces of runtime execution.

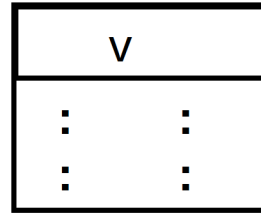
# CASE (TEST is similar)

$(CASE\ (\_,\ Some\ \_),\ V(INL\ v) :: evs) \rightarrow (cp + 1, (V\ v) :: evs)$   
 $(CASE\ (\_,\ Some\ i),\ V(INR\ v) :: evs) \rightarrow (i, (V\ v) :: evs)$

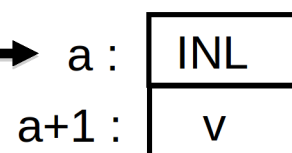
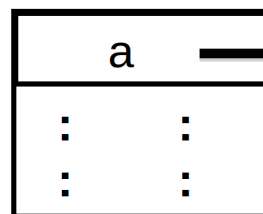
$cp = t$



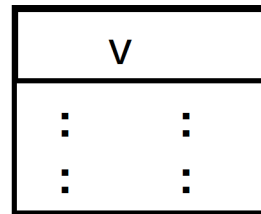
$cp = i$



$cp = t$



$cp = t + 1$

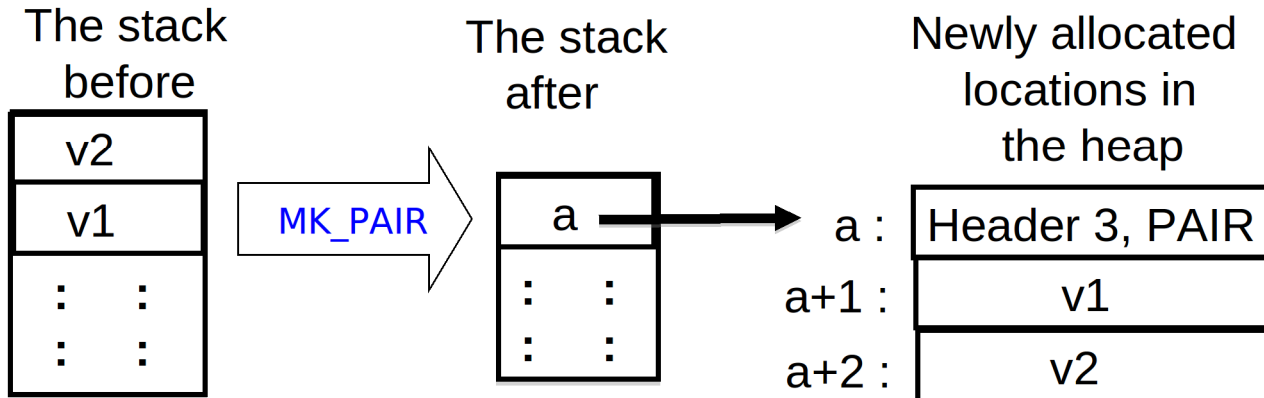


# MK\_PAIR

In interpreter 3:

$(\text{MK\_PAIR}, \quad (\text{V } v2) :: (\text{V } v1) :: \text{evs}) \quad \rightarrow \quad (\text{cp} + 1, \text{V}(\text{PAIR}(v1, v2)) :: \text{evs})$

In Jargon VM:



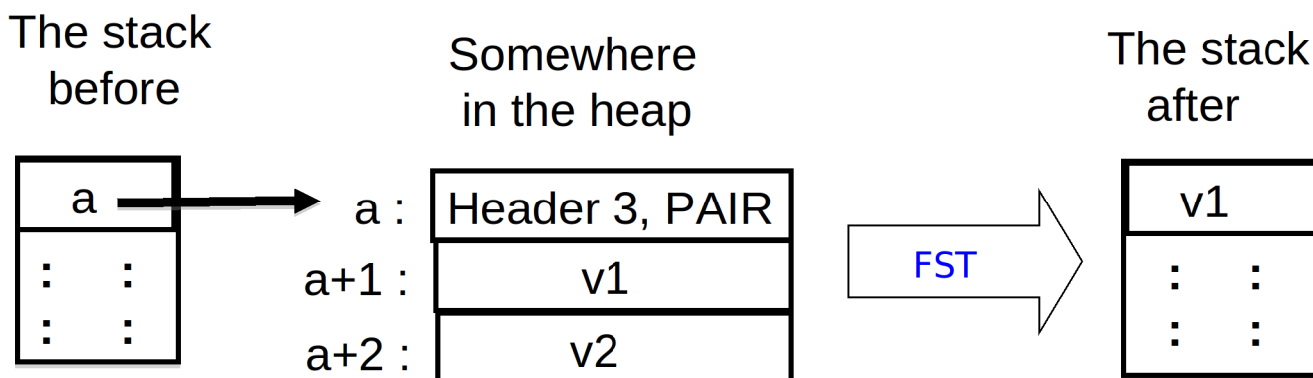
127

# FST (similar for SND)

In interpreter 3:

$(\text{FST}, \quad \text{V}(\text{PAIR}(v1, v2)) :: \text{evs}) \quad \rightarrow \quad (\text{cp} + 1, v1 :: \text{evs})$

In Jargon VM:



Note that v1 could be a simple value (int or bool), or another heap address.

128



# These require more care ...

In interpreter 3:

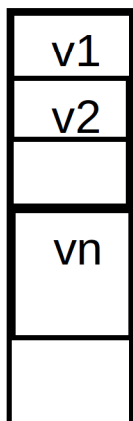
```
let step (cp, evs) =  
  match (get_instruction cp, evs) with  
  | (MK_CLOSURE loc, evs)  
    -> (cp + 1, V(CLOSURE(loc, evs_to_env evs)) :: evs)  
  | (APPLY, V(CLOSURE ((_, Some i), env)) :: (V v) :: evs)  
    -> (i, (V v) :: (EV env) :: (RA (cp + 1)) :: evs)  
  | (RETURN, (V v) :: _ :: (RA i) :: evs)  
    -> (i, (V v) :: evs)
```

## MK\_CLOSURE(c, n)

c = code location of start of instructions for closure,  
n = number of free variables in the body of closure.

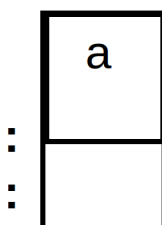
Put values associated with **free variables** on stack,  
then construct the closure on the heap

The stack  
before

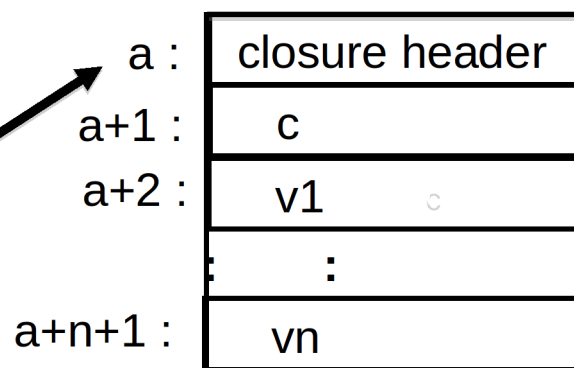


MK\_CLOSURE(c, n)

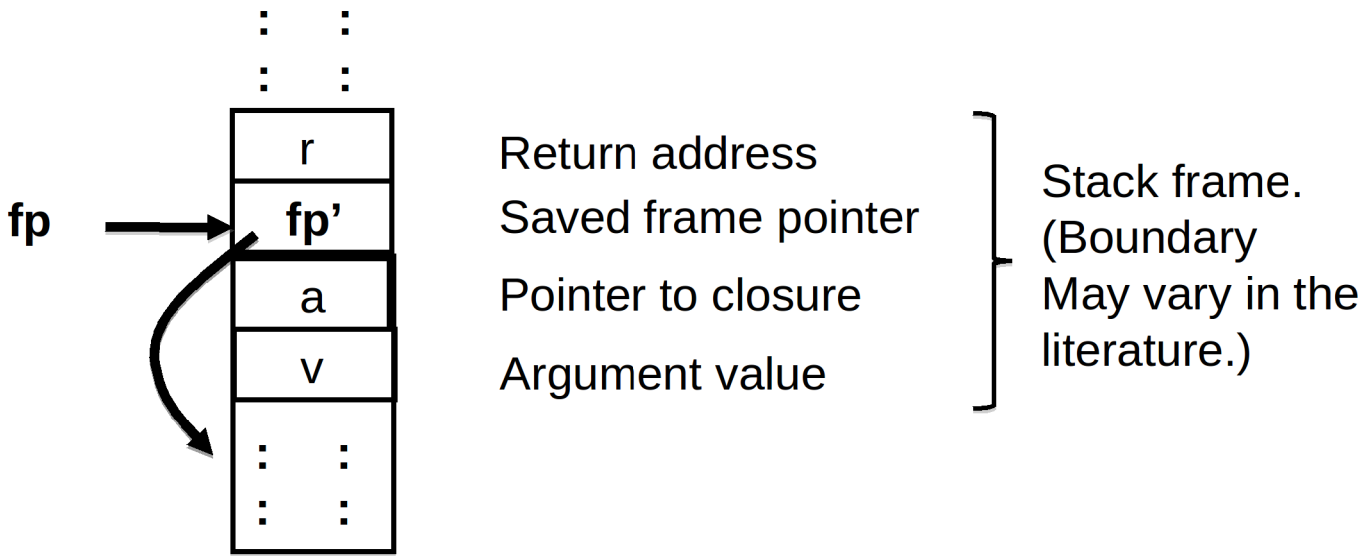
The stack  
after



Newly allocated  
locations in  
the heap



# A stack frame



Currently executing code for the closure at heap address "a" after it was applied to argument v.

131

# APPLY

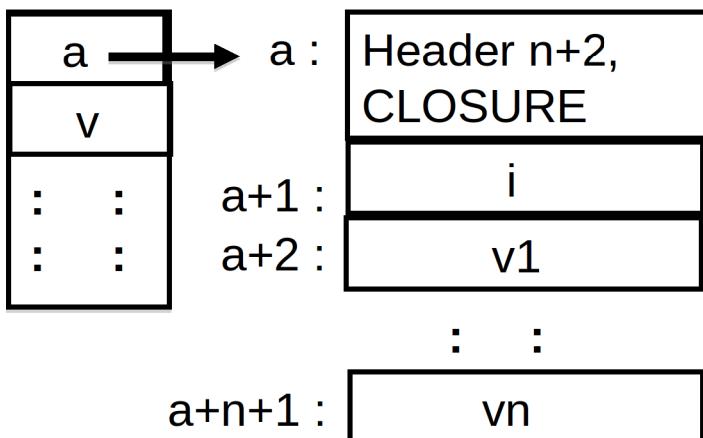
Interpreter 3:

`(APPLY, V(CLOSURE ((_, Some i), env))) :: (V v) :: envs`  
`-> (i, (V v) :: (EV env) :: (RA (cp + 1))) :: envs`

Jargon VM:

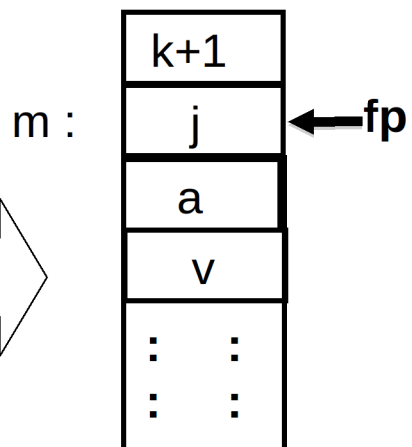
BEFORE

- **cp** = k  
**fp** = j



AFTER

-**cp** = i  
**fp** = m

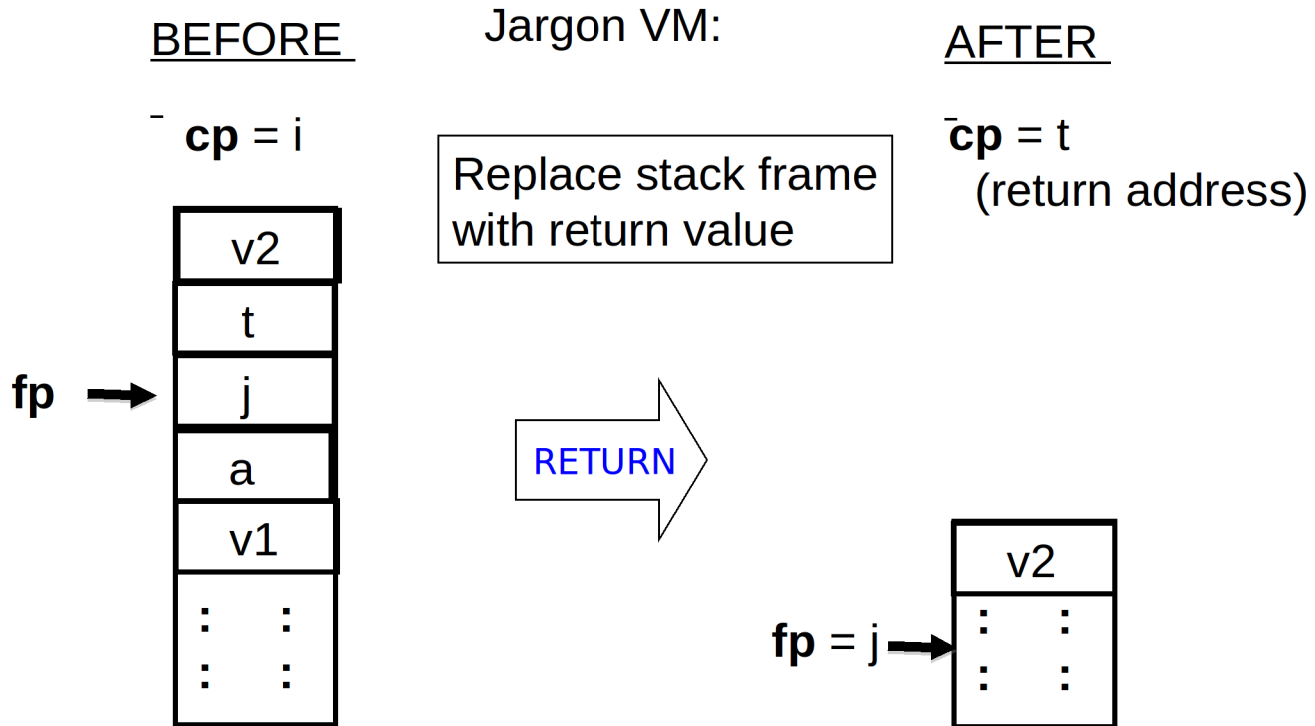


APPLY

# RETURN

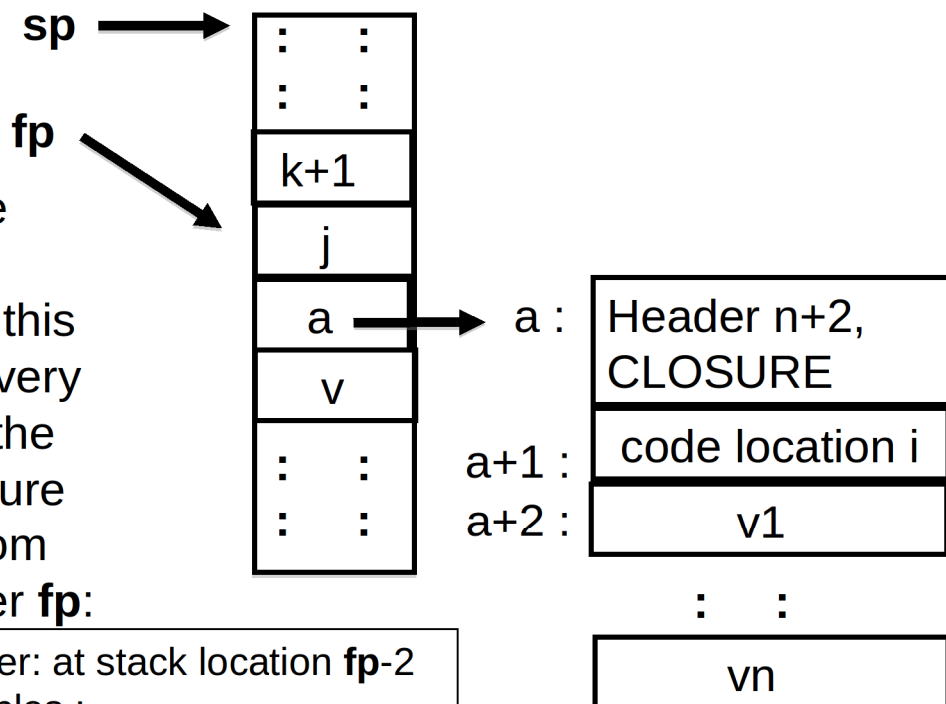
Interpreter 3:

$(\text{RETURN}, (V v) :: \_ :: (\text{RA } i) :: \text{evs}) \rightarrow (i, (V v) :: \text{evs})$



## Finding a variable's value at runtime

Suppose we are executing code associated with this closure. Then every free variable in the body of the closure can be found from the frame pointer **fp**:




- Formal parameter: at stack location **fp-2**
- Other free variables :
  - Follow heap pointer found at **fp -1**
  - Each free variable can be associated with a fixed offset from this heap address



# Oh, one problem

```
let rec comp = function
:
| LetFun(f, (x, e1), e2) ->
    let (defs1, c1) = comp e1 in
    let (defs2, c2) = comp e2 in
    let def = [LABEL f; BIND x] @ c1 @ [SWAP; POP; RETURN] in
    (def @ defs1 @ defs2,
     [MK_CLOSURE((f, None)); BIND f] @ c2 @ [SWAP; POP])
:
```

interpreter 3



Problem: Code c2 can be anything --- how are we going to find the closure for f when we need it? It has to be a fixed offset from a frame pointer --- we no longer scan the stack for bindings!

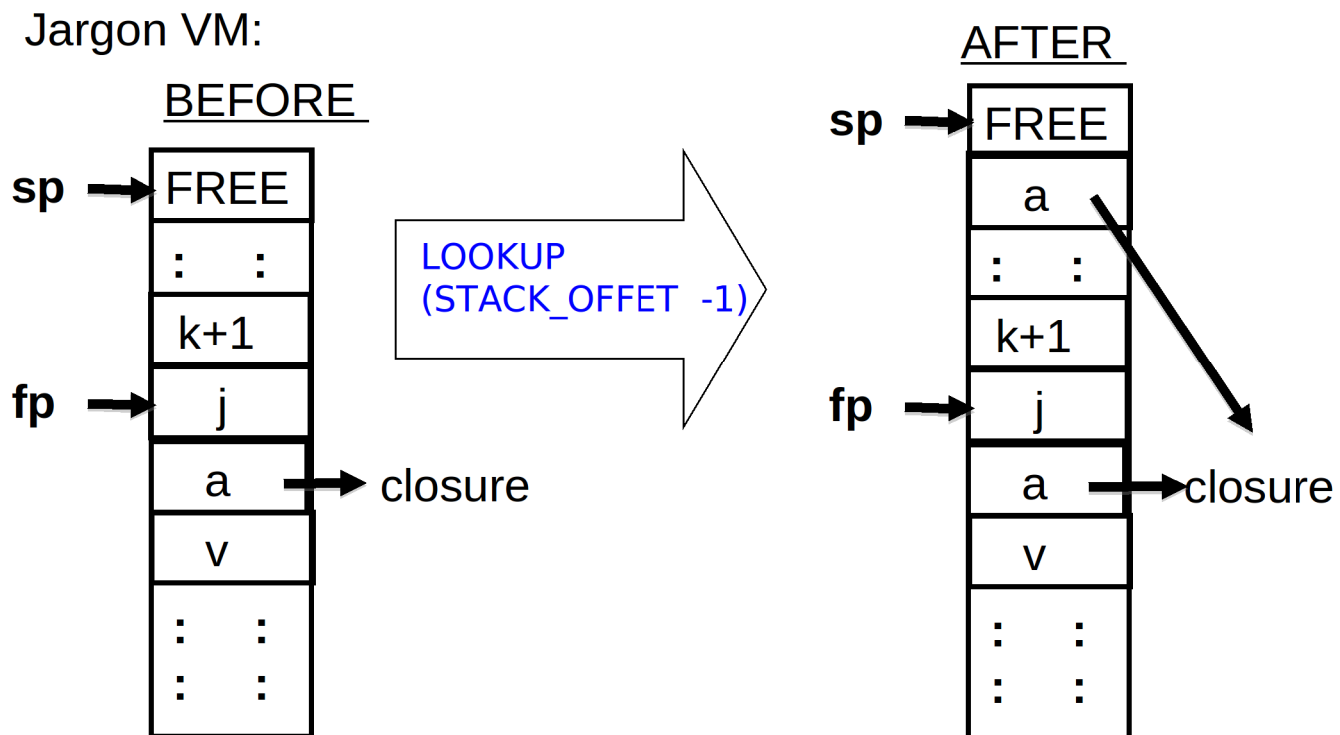
```
let rec comp vmap = function
:
| LetFun(f, (x, e1), e2) -> comp vmap (App(Lambda(f, e2), Lambda(x, e1)))
:
```

Solution in Jargon VM

Similar trick for **LetRecFun**

## LOOKUP (STACK\_OFFSET -1)

For recursive function calls,  
push current closure on to the stack.



## Example : Compiled code for rev\_pair.slang

```
let rev_pair (p : int * int) : int * int = (snd p, fst p)
in
  rev_pair (21, 17)
end
```

After the front-end, compile treats this as follows.

```
App(
  Lambda(
    "rev_pair",
    App(Var "rev_pair", Pair (Integer 21, Integer 17))),
  Lambda("p", Pair(Snd (Var "p"), Fst (Var "p"))))
```

139

## Example : Compiled code for rev\_pair.slang

```
App(
  Lambda("rev_pair",
    App(Var "rev_pair", Pair (Integer 21, Integer 17))),
  Lambda("p", Pair(Snd (Var "p"), Fst (Var "p"))))
```

“first lambda”  
“second lambda”

MK_CLOSURE(L1, 0)	-- Make closure for second lambda
MK_CLOSURE(L0, 0)	-- Make closure for first lambda
APPLY	-- do application
HALT	-- the end!
L0 : PUSH STACK_INT 21	-- code for first lambda, push 21
PUSH STACK_INT 17	-- push 17
MK_PAIR	-- make the pair on the heap
LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2	-- push closure for second lambda on stack
APPLY	-- apply first lambda
RETURN	-- return from first lambda
L1 : LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2	-- code for second lambda, push arg on stack
SND	-- extract second part of pair
LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2	-- push arg on stack again
FST	-- extract first part of pair
MK_PAIR	-- construct a new pair
RETURN	-- return from second lambda

140

## Example : trace of rev\_pair.slang execution

```
Installed Code =
0: MK_CLOSURE(L1 = 11, 0)
1: MK_CLOSURE(L0 = 4, 0)
2: APPLY
3: HALT
4: LABEL L0
5: PUSH STACK_INT 21
6: PUSH STACK_INT 17
7: MK_PAIR
8: LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION-2
9: APPLY
10: RETURN
11: LABEL L1
12: LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION-2
13: SND
14: LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION-2
15: FST
16: MK_PAIR
17: RETURN
```

```
===== state 1 =====
cp = 0 -> MK_CLOSURE(L1 = 11, 0)
fp = 0
Stack =
1: STACK_RA 0
0: STACK_FP 0
```

```
===== state 2 =====
cp = 1 -> MK_CLOSURE(L0 = 4, 0)
fp = 0
Stack =
2: STACK_HI 0
1: STACK_RA 0
0: STACK_FP 0
```

```
Heap =
0 -> HEAP_HEADER(2, HT_CLOSURE)
1 -> HEAP_CI 11
```

.....

## Example : trace of rev\_pair.slang execution

```
===== state 15 =====
cp = 16 -> MK_PAIR
fp = 8
Stack =
11: STACK_INT 21
10: STACK_INT 17
9: STACK_RA 10
8: STACK_FP 4
7: STACK_HI 0
6: STACK_HI 4
5: STACK_RA 3
4: STACK_FP 0
3: STACK_HI 2
2: STACK_HI 0
1: STACK_RA 0
0: STACK_FP 0
```

```
Heap =
0 -> HEAP_HEADER(2, HT_CLOSURE)
1 -> HEAP_CI 11
2 -> HEAP_HEADER(2, HT_CLOSURE)
3 -> HEAP_CI 4
4 -> HEAP_HEADER(3, HT_PAIR)
5 -> HEAP_INT 21
6 -> HEAP_INT 17
```

```
===== state 19 =====
cp = 3 -> HALT
fp = 0
Stack =
2: STACK_HI 7
1: STACK_RA 0
0: STACK_FP 0
```

```
Heap =
0 -> HEAP_HEADER(2, HT_CLOSURE)
1 -> HEAP_CI 11
2 -> HEAP_HEADER(2, HT_CLOSURE)
3 -> HEAP_CI 4
4 -> HEAP_HEADER(3, HT_PAIR)
5 -> HEAP_INT 21
6 -> HEAP_INT 17
7 -> HEAP_HEADER(3, HT_PAIR)
8 -> HEAP_INT 17
9 -> HEAP_INT 21
```

```
Jargon VM :
output> (17, 21)
```

# Example : closure\_add.slang

```
let f(y : int) : int -> int = let g(x :int) : int = y + x in g end
in let add21 : int -> int = f(21)
  in let add17 : int -> int = f(17)
    in add17(3) + add21(10)
  end
end
end
```

Note : we really do need closures on the heap here — the values 21 and 17 do not exist on the stack at this point in the execution.

After the front-end, this becomes represented as follows.

```
App(Lambda(f, App(Lambda(add21,
                  App(Lambda(add17,
                          Op(App(Var(add17), Integer(3)),
                              ADD,
                              App(Var(add21), Integer(10))))),
                          App(Var(f), Integer(17))),
                  App(Var(f), Integer(21))))),
    Lambda(y, App(Lambda(g, Var(g)), Lambda(x, Op(Var(y), ADD, Var(x))))))
```

143

## Can we make sense of this?

```
L0 :    MK_CLOSURE(L3, 0)
        MK_CLOSURE(L0, 0)
        APPLY
        HALT
L0 :    PUSH STACK_INT 21
        LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2
        APPLY
        LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2
        MK_CLOSURE(L1, 1)
        APPLY
        RETURN
L1 :    PUSH STACK_INT 17
        LOOKUP HEAP_LOCATION 1
        APPLY
        LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2
        MK_CLOSURE(L2, 1)
        APPLY
        RETURN
L2 :    PUSH STACK_INT 3
        LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2
        APPLY
        PUSH STACK_INT 10
        LOOKUP HEAP_LOCATION 1
        APPLY
        OPER ADD
        RETURN
L3 :    LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2
        MK_CLOSURE(L5, 1)
        MK_CLOSURE(L4, 0)
        APPLY
        RETURN
L4 :    LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2
        RETURN
L5 :    LOOKUP HEAP_LOCATION 1
        LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2
        OPER ADD
        RETURN
```

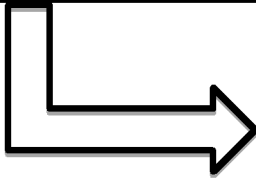
144



# The Gap, illustrated

fib.slang

```
let fib (m :int) : int =  
  if m = 0  
  then 1  
  else if m = 1  
    then 1  
    else fib(m - 1) + fib (m - 2)  
  end  
end  
in fib (?) end
```



slang.byte -c -i4 fib.slang

```
MK_CLOSURE(fib, 0)  
MK_CLOSURE(L0, 0)  
APPLY  
HALT  
L0 :  
  PUSH STACK_UNIT  
  UNARY READ  
  LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2  
  APPLY  
  RETURN  
fib :  
  LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2  
  PUSH STACK_INT 0  
  OPER EQI  
  TEST L1  
  PUSH STACK_INT 1  
  GOTO L2  
L1 :  
  LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2  
  PUSH STACK_INT 1  
  OPER EQI  
  TEST L3  
  PUSH STACK_INT 1  
  GOTO L4  
L3 :  
  LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2  
  PUSH STACK_INT 1  
  OPER SUB  
  LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -1  
  APPLY  
  LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2  
  PUSH STACK_INT 2  
  OPER SUB  
  LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -1  
  APPLY  
  OPER ADD  
L4 :  
L2 :  
  RETURN
```

Jargon VM code

## Remarks

1. The semantic GAP between a Slang/L3 program and a low-level translation (say x86/Unix) has been significantly reduced.
2. Implementing the Jargon VM at a lower-level of abstraction (in C?, JVM bytecodes? X86/Unix? ...) looks like a relatively easy programming problem.
3. However, using a lower-level implementation (say x86, exploiting fast registers) to generate very efficient code is not so easy. See Part II Optimising Compilers.

Verification of compilers is an active area of research.  
See CompCert, CakeML, and DeepSpec.

## What about languages other than Slang/L3?

- Many textbooks on compilers treat only languages with first-order functions --- that is, functions cannot be passed as an argument or returned as a result. In this case, we can avoid allocating environments on the heap since all values associated with free variables will be somewhere on the stack!
- But how do we find these values? We optimise stack search by following a chain of **static links**. Static links are added to every stack frame and they point to the stack frame of the last invocation of the defining function.
- One other thing: most languages take multiple arguments for a function/procedure call.

## Terminology: Caller and Callee

```
fun f (x, y) = e1
```

```
...
```

```
fun g(w, v) =  
  w + f(v, v)
```

**For this invocation of the function *f*, we say that *g* is the caller while *f* is the callee**

Recursive functions can play both roles at the same time ...

# Nesting depth

Pseudo-code

```
fun b(z) = e

fun g(x1) =
  fun h(x2) =
    fun f(x3) = e3(x1, x2, x3, b, g h, f)
    in
      e2(x1, x2, b, g, h, f)
    end
  in
    e1(x1, b, g, h)
  end
...
b(g(17))
...
```

149

# Nesting depth

code in big box is at nesting depth k

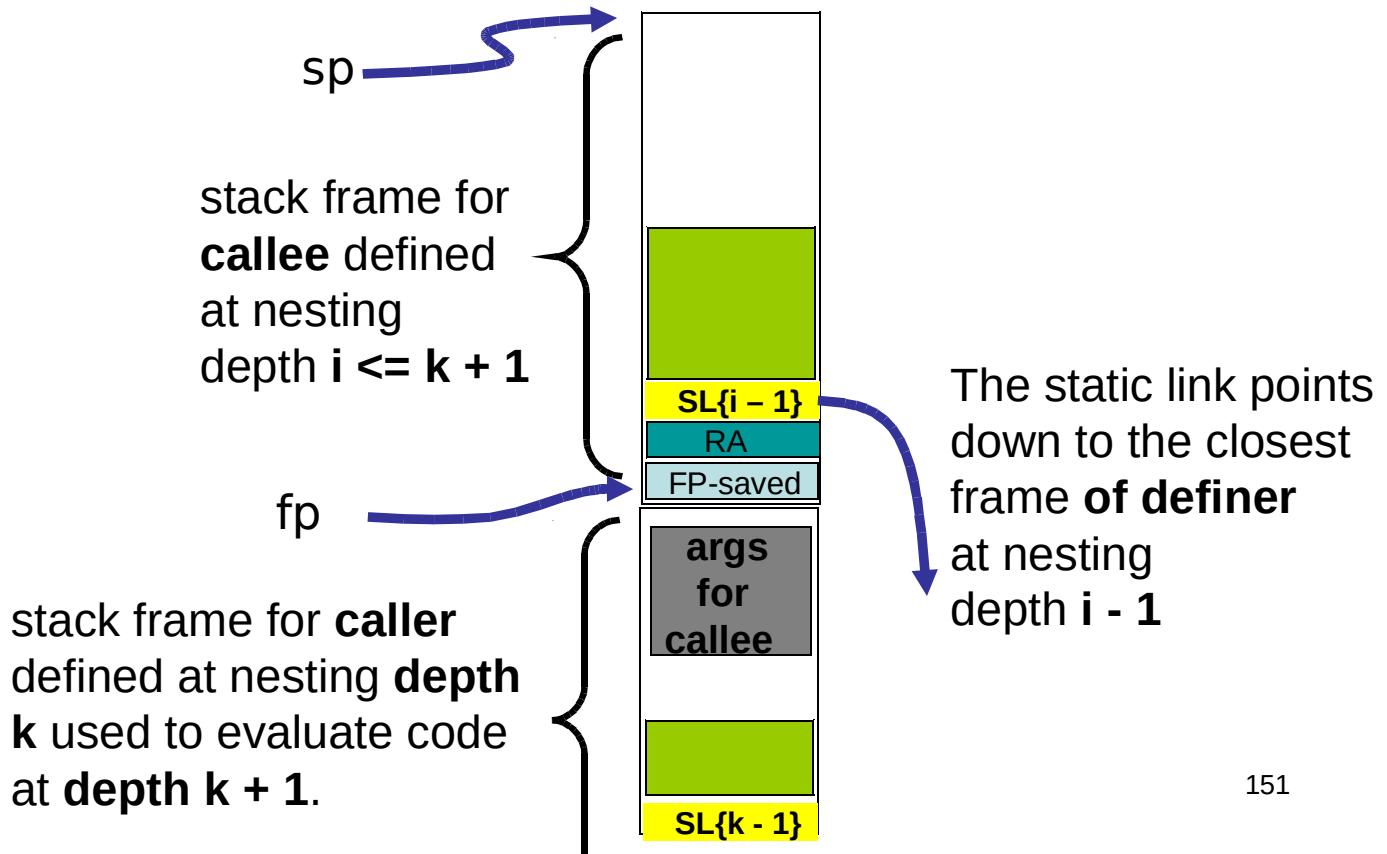
```
fun b(z) = e nesting depth k + 1

fun g(x1) =
  fun h(x2) =
    fun f(x3) = e3(x1, x2, x3, b, g h, f) nesting depth k + 3
    in
      e2(x1, x2, b, g, h, f) nesting depth k + 2
    end
  in
    e1(x1, b, g, h) nesting depth k + 1
  end
...
b(g(17))
...
```

150

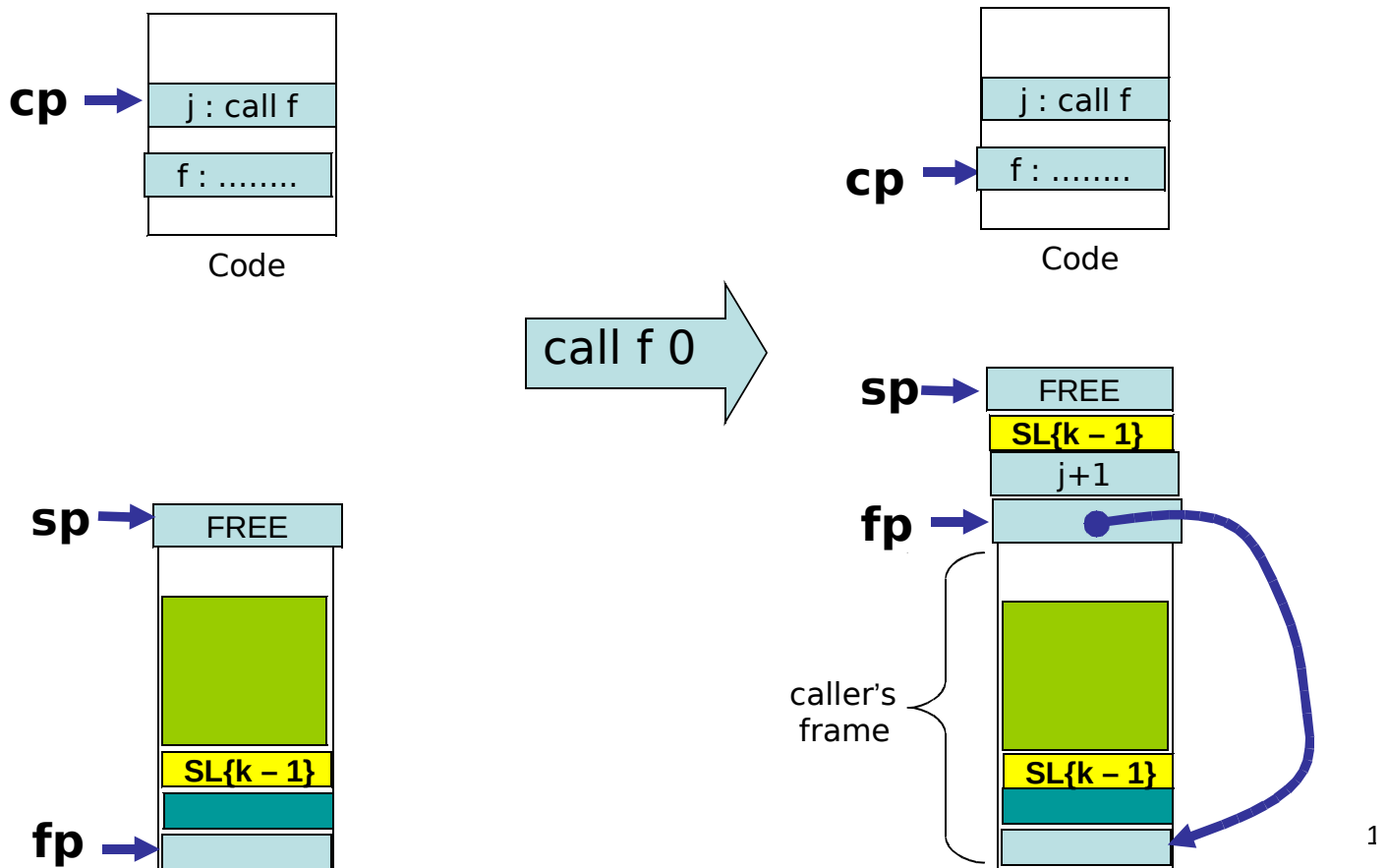
Function g is the **definer** of h. Functions g and b must share a definer defined at depth k-1

# Stack with static links and variable number of arguments

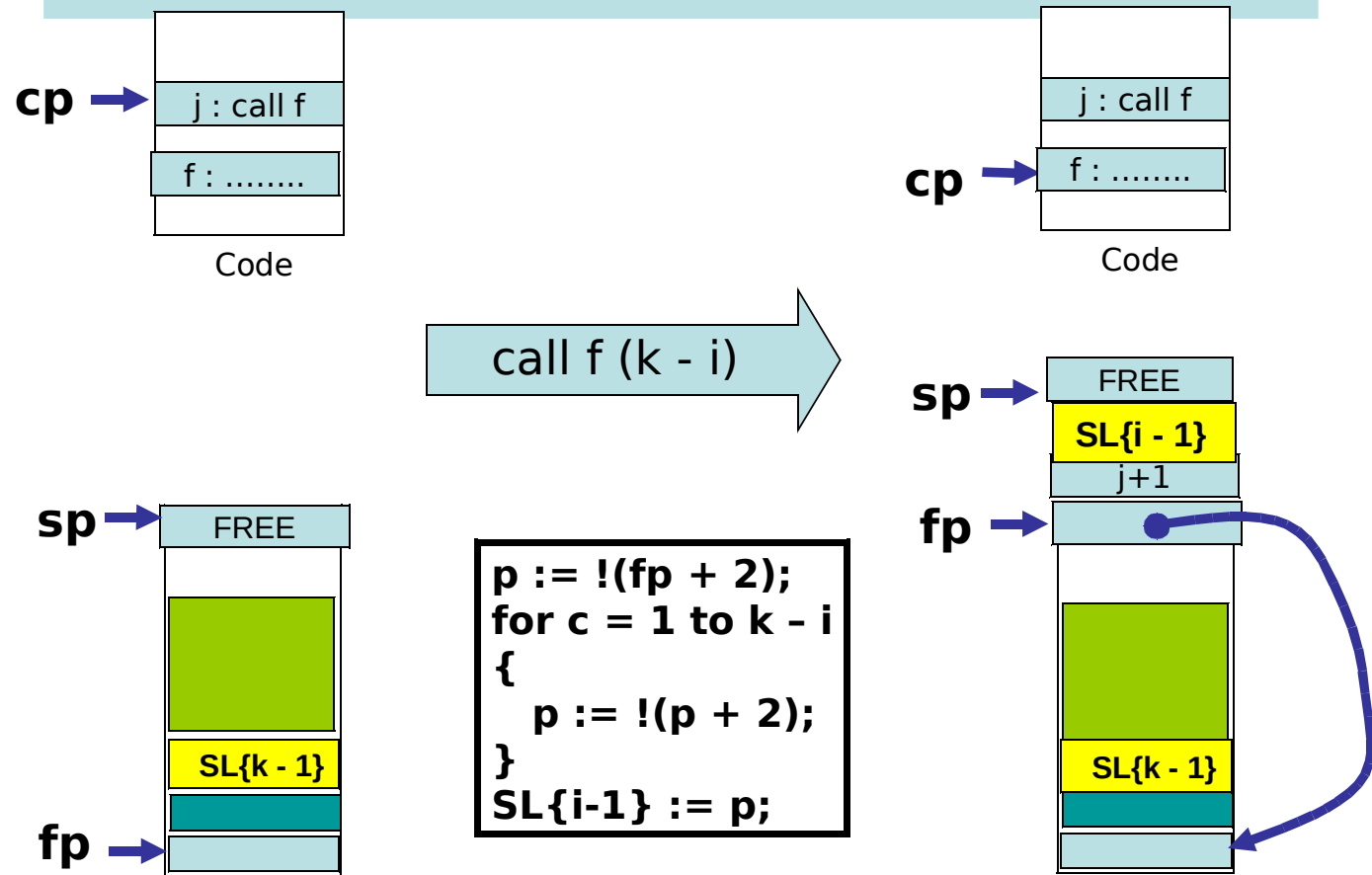


151

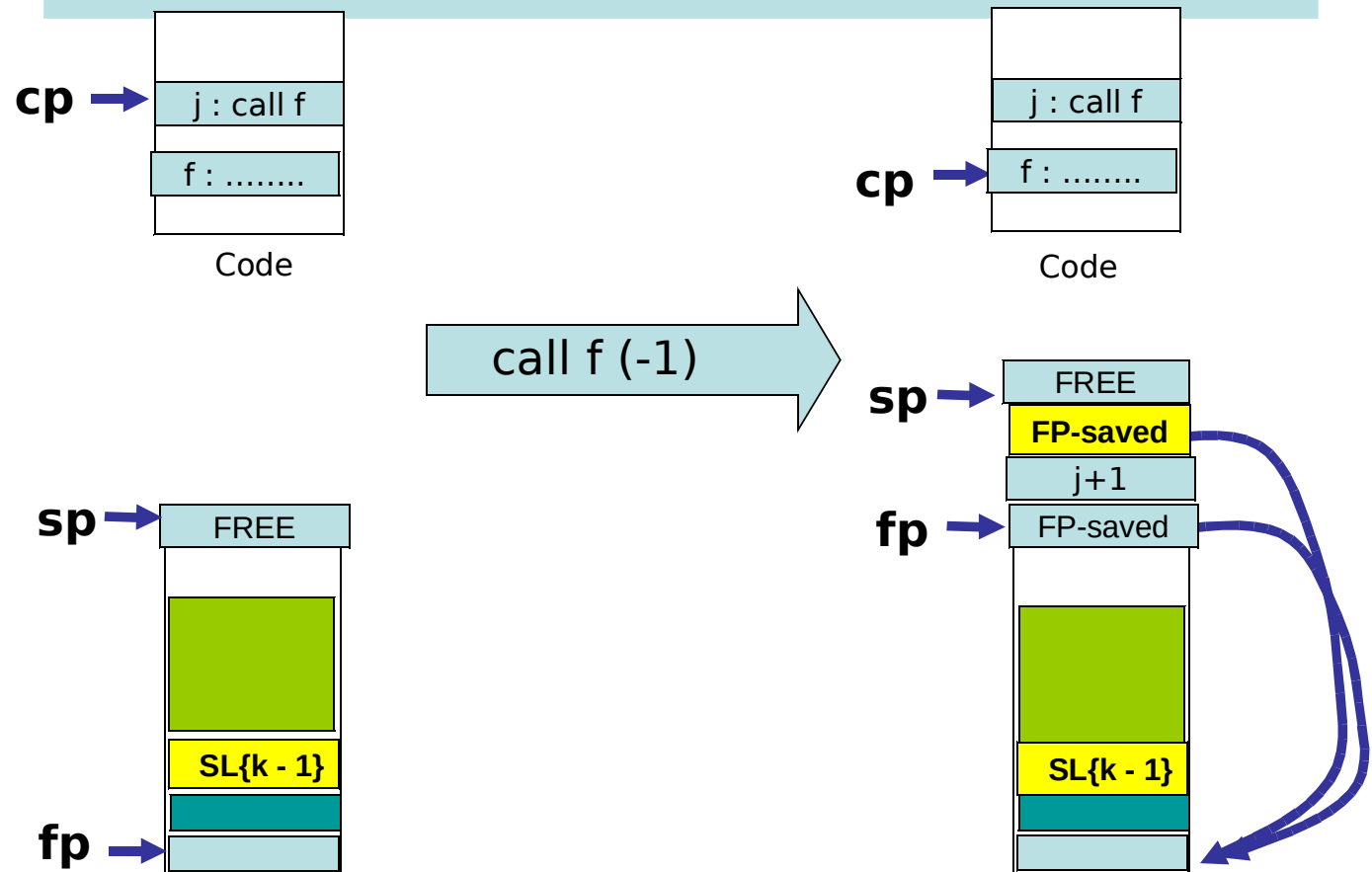
## caller and callee at same nesting depth $k$



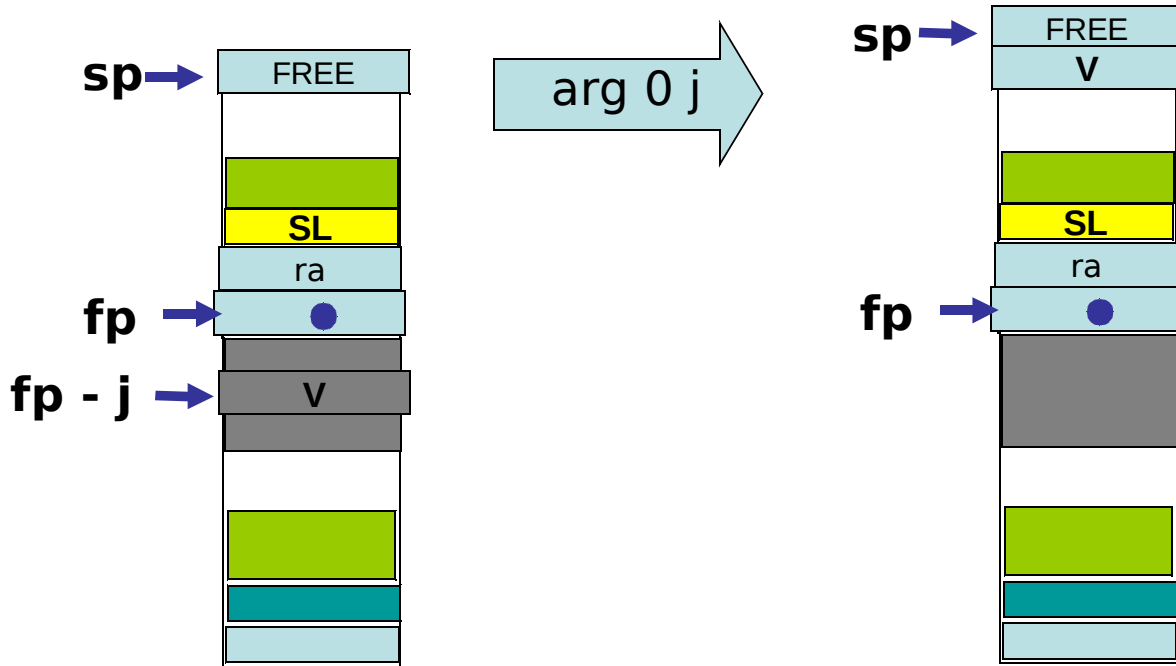
caller at depth  $k$  and callee at depth  $i < k$



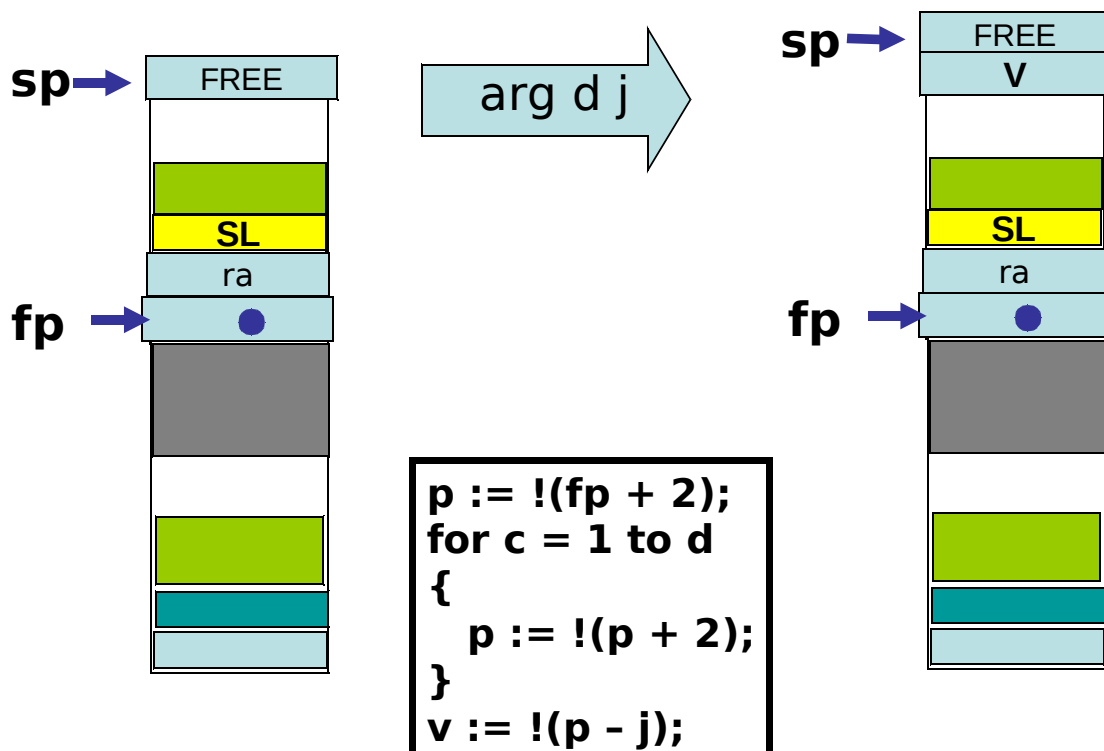
caller at depth  $k$  and callee at depth  $k + 1$



# Access to argument values at static distance 0



# Access to argument values at static distance $d$ , $0 < d$



# LECTUREs 11, 12

## What about Interpreter 1?

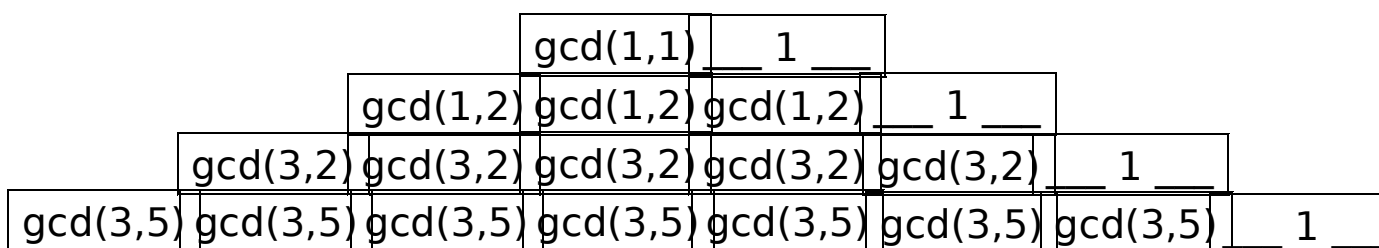
- Evaluation using a stack
- Recursion using a stack
- Tail recursion elimination: from recursion to iteration
- Continuation Passing Style (CPS) : transform any recursive function to a tail-recursive function
- “Defunctionalisation” (DFC) : replace higher-order functions with a data structure
- Putting it all together:
  - Derive the Fibonacci Machine
  - Derive the Expression Machine, and “compiler”!
- This provides a roadmap for the `interp_0` → `interp_1` → `interp_2` derivations.

157

## Example of tail-recursion : gcd

```
(* gcd : int * int -> int *)
let rec gcd(m, n) =
  if m = n
  then m
  else if m < n
       then gcd(m, n - m)
       else gcd(m - n, n)
```

Compared to fib, this function uses recursion in a different way. It is **tail-recursive**. If implemented with a stack, then the “call stack” (at least with respect to gcd) will simply grow and then shrink. No “ups and downs” in between.



Tail-recursive code can be replaced by iterative code that does not require a “call stack” (constant space)

158

# gcd\_iter : gcd without recursion!

```
(* gcd : int * int -> int *)
let rec gcd(m, n) =
  if m = n
  then m
  else if m < n
       then gcd(m, n - m)
       else gcd(m - n, n)
```

Here we have illustrated tail-recursion elimination as a source-to-source transformation. However, the OCaml compiler will do something similar to a lower-level intermediate representation. **Upshot : we will consider all tail-recursive OCaml functions as representing iterative programs.**

```
(* gcd_iter : int * int -> int *)
let gcd_iter (m, n) =
  let rm = ref m
  in let rn = ref n
  in let result = ref 0
  in let not_done = ref true
  in let _ =
     while !not_done
     do
       if !rm = !rn
       then (not_done := false;
            result := !rm)
       else if !rm < !rn
            then rn := !rn - !rm
            else rm := !rm - !rn
     done
  in !result
```

## Familiar examples : fold\_left, fold\_right

From ocaml-4.01.0/stdlib/list.ml :

```
(* fold_left : ('a -> 'b -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'b list -> 'a
*)
fold_left f a [b1; ...; bn] = f (... (f (f a b1) b2) ...) bn
*)
let rec fold_left f a l =
  match l with
  | [] -> a
  | b :: rest -> fold_left f (f a b) rest

(* fold_right : ('a -> 'b -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b -> 'b
*)
fold_right f [a1; ...; an] b = f a1 (f a2 (... (f an b) ...))
*)
let rec fold_right f l b =
  match l with
  | [] -> b
  | a :: rest -> f a (fold_right f rest b)
```

This is tail recursive

This is NOT tail recursive



# Question: can we transform any recursive function into a tail recursive function?

The answer is YES!

- We add an extra argument, called a *continuation*, that represents “the rest of the computation”
- This is called the Continuation Passing Style (CPS) transformation.
- We will then “defunctionalize” (DFC) these continuations and represent them with a stack.
- **Finally, we obtain a tail recursive function that carries its own stack as an extra argument!**

We will apply this kind of transformation to the code of interpreter 0 as the first steps towards deriving interpreter 1.

161

## (CPS) transformation of fib

```
(* fib : int -> int *)
```

```
let rec fib m =  
  if m = 0  
  then 1  
  else if m = 1  
       then 1  
       else fib(m - 1) + fib (m - 2)
```

```
(* fib_cps : int * (int -> int) -> int *)
```

```
let rec fib_cps (m, cnt) =  
  if m = 0  
  then cnt 1  
  else if m = 1  
       then cnt 1  
       else fib_cps(m - 1, fun a -> fib_cps(m - 2 , fun b -> cnt (a + b)))
```

162

# A closer look

The rest of the computation after computing “fib(m)”. That is, cnt is a function expecting the result of “fib(m)” as its argument.

```
let rec fib_cps (m, cnt) =  
  if m = 0  
  then cnt 1  
  else if m = 1  
    then cnt 1  
    else fib_cps(m - 1, fun a -> fib_cps(m - 2, fun b -> cnt (a + b)))
```

The computation waiting  
for the result of “fib(m-1)”

This makes explicit the order of evaluation that is implicit in the original “fib(m-1) + fib(m-2)” :

- first compute fib(m-1)
- then compute fib(m-2)
- then add results together
- then return

The computation waiting  
for the result of “fib(m-2)”

163

## Expressed with “let” rather than “fun”

```
(* fib_cps_v2 : (int -> int) * int -> int *)  
let rec fib_cps_v2 (m, cnt) =  
  if m = 0  
  then cnt 1  
  else if m = 1  
    then cnt 1  
    else let cnt2 a b = cnt (a + b)  
         in let cnt1 a = fib_cps_v2(m - 2, cnt2 a)  
         in fib_cps_v2(m - 1, cnt1)
```

Some prefer writing CPS forms without explicit funs ....

164

## Use the identity continuation ...

```
(* fib_cps : int * (int -> int) -> int *)  
let rec fib_cps (m, cnt) =  
  if m = 0  
  then cnt 1  
  else if m = 1  
    then cnt 1  
    else fib_cps(m - 1, fun a -> fib_cps(m - 2, fun b -> cnt (a + b)))
```

```
let id (x : int) = x
```

```
let fib_1 x = fib_cps(x, id)
```

```
List.map fib_1 [0; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10];;  
= [1; 1; 2; 3; 5; 8; 13; 21; 34; 55; 89]
```

165

## Correctness?

For all  $c : \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}$ , for all  $m$ ,  $0 \leq m$ ,  
we have,  $c(\text{fib } m) = \text{fib\_cps}(m, c)$ .

Proof: assume  $c : \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}$ . By Induction  
on  $m$ . Base case :  $m = 0$ :

$\text{fib\_cps}(0, c) = c(1) = c(\text{fib}(0))$ .

NB: This proof pretends that we can treat OCaml functions as ideal mathematical functions, which of course we cannot. OCaml functions might raise exceptions like "stack overflow" or "you burned my toast", and so on. But this is a convenient fiction as long as we remember to be careful.

Induction step: Assume for all  $n < m$ ,  $c(\text{fib } n) = \text{fib\_cps}(n, c)$ .

(That is, we need course-of-values induction!)

```
fib_cps(m + 1, c)  
= if m + 1 = 1  
  then c 1  
  else fib_cps((m+1) - 1, fun a -> fib_cps((m+1) - 2, fun b -> c (a + b)))  
= if m + 1 = 1  
  then c 1  
  else fib_cps(m, fun a -> fib_cps(m-1, fun b -> c (a + b)))  
= (by induction)  
  if m + 1 = 1  
  then c 1  
  else (fun a -> fib_cps(m - 1, fun b -> c (a + b))) (fib m)
```

166

# Correctness?

```
= if m + 1 = 1
  then c 1
  else fib_cps(m-1, fun b -> c ((fib m) + b))
= (by induction)
  if m + 1 = 1
  then c 1
  else (fun b -> c ((fib m) + b)) (fib (m-1))
= if m + 1 = 1
  then c 1
  else c ((fib m) + (fib (m-1)))
= c (if m + 1 = 1
     then 1
     else ((fib m) + (fib (m-1))))
= c(if m + 1 = 1
    then 1
    else fib((m + 1) - 1) + fib ((m + 1) - 2))
= c (fib(m + 1))
```

167

QED.

## Can we express fib\_cps without a functional argument ?

```
(* fib_cps_v2 : (int -> int) * int -> int *)
let rec fib_cps_v2 (m, cnt) =
  if m = 0
  then cnt 1
  else if m = 1
        then cnt 1
        else let cnt2 a b = cnt (a + b)
              in let cnt1 a = fib_cps_v2(m - 2, cnt2 a)
              in fib_cps_v2(m - 1, cnt1)
```

Idea of “defunctionalisation” (DFC): replace id, cnt1 and cnt2 with instances of a new data type:

```
type cnt = ID | CNT1 of int * cnt | CNT2 of int * cnt
```

Now we need an “apply” function of type cnt \* int -> int

168

# “Defunctionalised” version of fib\_cps

(\* datatype to represent continuations \*)

```
type cnt = ID | CNT1 of int * cnt | CNT2 of int * cnt
```

(\* apply\_cnt : cnt \* int -> int \*)

```
let rec apply_cnt = function  
| (ID, a) -> a  
| (CNT1 (m, cnt), a) -> fib_cps_dfc(m - 2, CNT2 (a, cnt))  
| (CNT2 (a, cnt), b) -> apply_cnt (cnt, a + b)
```

(\* fib\_cps\_dfc : (cnt \* int) -> int \*)

```
and fib_cps_dfc (m, cnt) =  
  if m = 0  
  then apply_cnt(cnt, 1)  
  else if m = 1  
    then apply_cnt(cnt, 1)  
    else fib_cps_dfc(m - 1, CNT1(m, cnt))
```

(\* fib\_2 : int -> int \*)

```
let fib_2 m = fib_cps_dfc(m, ID)
```

169

## Correctness?

Let  $\langle c \rangle$  be of type cnt representing  
a continuation  $c : \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}$  constructed by fib\_cps.

Then

$\text{apply\_cnt}(\langle c \rangle, m) = c(m)$

and

$\text{fib\_cps}(n, c) = \text{fib\_cps\_dfc}(n, \langle c \rangle)$ .

Proof left  
as an  
exercise!

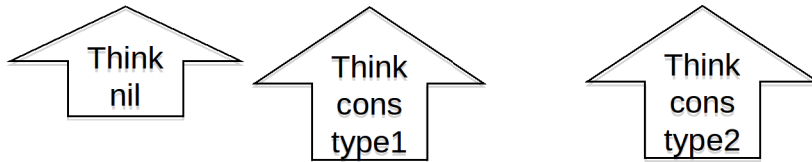
Functional continuation c	Representation $\langle c \rangle$
$\text{fun } a \rightarrow \text{fib\_cps}(m - 2, \text{fun } b \rightarrow \text{cnt}(a + b))$	CNT1(m, $\langle \text{cnt} \rangle$ )
$\text{fun } b \rightarrow \text{cnt}(a + b)$	CNT2(a, $\langle \text{cnt} \rangle$ )
$\text{fun } x \rightarrow x$	ID

170

# Eureka! Continuations are just lists (used like a stack)

```
type int_list = NIL | CONS of int * int_list
```

```
type cnt = ID | CNT1 of int * cnt | CNT2 of int * cnt
```



Replace the above continuations with lists! (I've selected more suggestive names for the constructors.)

```
type tag = SUB2 of int | PLUS of int
type tag_list_cnt = tag list
```

171

## The continuation lists are used like a stack!

```
type tag = SUB2 of int | PLUS of int
type tag_list_cnt = tag list
```

```
(* apply_tag_list_cnt : tag_list_cnt * int -> int *)
let rec apply_tag_list_cnt = function
| ([], a) -> a
| ((SUB2 m) :: cnt, a) -> fib_cps_dfc_tags(m - 2, (PLUS a):: cnt)
| ((PLUS a) :: cnt, b) -> apply_tag_list_cnt (cnt, a + b)
```

```
(* fib_cps_dfc_tags : (tag_list_cnt * int) -> int *)
and fib_cps_dfc_tags (m, cnt) =
  if m = 0
  then apply_tag_list_cnt(cnt, 1)
  else if m = 1
  then apply_tag_list_cnt(cnt, 1)
  else fib_cps_dfc_tags(m - 1, (SUB2 m) :: cnt)
```

```
(* fib_3 : int -> int *)
let fib_3 m = fib_cps_dfc_tags(m, [])
```

172

# Combine Mutually tail-recursive functions into a single function

```
type state_type =  
  | SUB1 (* for right-hand-sides starting with fib_ *)  
  | APPL (* for right-hand-sides starting with apply_ *)
```

```
type state = (state_type * int * tag_list_cnt) -> int
```

```
(* eval : state -> int           A two-state transition function*)
```

```
let rec eval = function  
  | (SUB1, 0, cnt) -> eval (APPL, 1, cnt)  
  | (SUB1, 1, cnt) -> eval (APPL, 1, cnt)  
  | (SUB1, m, cnt) -> eval (SUB1, (m-1), (SUB2 m) :: cnt)  
  | (APPL, a, (SUB2 m) :: cnt) -> eval (SUB1, (m-2), (PLUS a) :: cnt)  
  | (APPL, b, (PLUS a) :: cnt) -> eval (APPL, (a+b), cnt)  
  | (APPL, a, []) -> a
```

```
(* fib_4 : int -> int *)
```

```
let fib_4 m = eval (SUB1, m, [])
```

173

Eliminate tail recursion to obtain [The Fibonacci Machine!](#)

```
(* step : state -> state *)
```

```
let step = function
```

```
  | (SUB1, 0, cnt) -> (APPL, 1, cnt)  
  | (SUB1, 1, cnt) -> (APPL, 1, cnt)  
  | (SUB1, m, cnt) -> (SUB1, (m-1), (SUB2 m) :: cnt)  
  | (APPL, a, (SUB2 m) :: cnt) -> (SUB1, (m-2), (PLUS a) :: cnt)  
  | (APPL, b, (PLUS a) :: cnt) -> (APPL, (a+b), cnt)  
  | _ -> failwith "step : runtime error!"
```

```
(* clearly TAIL RECURSIVE! *)
```

```
let rec driver state = function
```

```
  | (APPL, a, []) -> a  
  | state -> driver (step state)
```

In this version we have simply made the tail-recursive structure very explicit.

```
(* fib_5 : int -> int *)
```

```
let fib_5 m = driver (SUB1, m, [])
```

174

## Here is a trace of fib\_5 6.

```
1 SUB1 || 6 || []
2 SUB1 || 5 || [SUB2 6]
3 SUB1 || 4 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5]
4 SUB1 || 3 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, SUB2 4]
5 SUB1 || 2 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, SUB2 4, SUB2 3]
6 SUB1 || 1 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, SUB2 4, SUB2 3, SUB2 2]
7 APPL || 1 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, SUB2 4, SUB2 3, SUB2 2]
8 SUB1 || 0 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, SUB2 4, SUB2 3, PLUS 1]
9 APPL || 1 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, SUB2 4, SUB2 3, PLUS 1]
10 APPL || 2 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, SUB2 4, SUB2 3]
11 SUB1 || 1 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, SUB2 4, PLUS 2]
12 APPL || 1 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, SUB2 4, PLUS 2]
13 APPL || 3 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, SUB2 4]
14 SUB1 || 2 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, PLUS 3]
15 SUB1 || 1 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, PLUS 3, SUB2 2]
16 APPL || 1 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, PLUS 3, SUB2 2]
17 SUB1 || 0 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, PLUS 3, PLUS 1]
18 APPL || 1 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, PLUS 3, PLUS 1]
19 APPL || 2 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5, PLUS 3]
20 APPL || 5 || [SUB2 6, SUB2 5]
21 SUB1 || 3 || [SUB2 6, PLUS 5]
22 SUB1 || 2 || [SUB2 6, PLUS 5, SUB2 3]
23 SUB1 || 1 || [SUB2 6, PLUS 5, SUB2 3, SUB2 2]
24 APPL || 1 || [SUB2 6, PLUS 5, SUB2 3, SUB2 2]
25 SUB1 || 0 || [SUB2 6, PLUS 5, SUB2 3, PLUS 1]
26 APPL || 1 || [SUB2 6, PLUS 5, SUB2 3, PLUS 1]
27 APPL || 2 || [SUB2 6, PLUS 5, SUB2 3]
28 SUB1 || 1 || [SUB2 6, PLUS 5, PLUS 2]
29 APPL || 1 || [SUB2 6, PLUS 5, PLUS 2]
30 APPL || 3 || [SUB2 6, PLUS 5]
31 APPL || 8 || [SUB2 6]
32 SUB1 || 4 || [PLUS 8]
33 SUB1 || 3 || [PLUS 8, SUB2 4]
34 SUB1 || 2 || [PLUS 8, SUB2 4, SUB2 3]
35 SUB1 || 1 || [PLUS 8, SUB2 4, SUB2 3, SUB2 2]
36 APPL || 1 || [PLUS 8, SUB2 4, SUB2 3, SUB2 2]
37 SUB1 || 0 || [PLUS 8, SUB2 4, SUB2 3, PLUS 1]
38 APPL || 1 || [PLUS 8, SUB2 4, SUB2 3, PLUS 1]
39 APPL || 2 || [PLUS 8, SUB2 4, SUB2 3]
40 SUB1 || 1 || [PLUS 8, SUB2 4, PLUS 2]
41 APPL || 1 || [PLUS 8, SUB2 4, PLUS 2]
42 APPL || 3 || [PLUS 8, SUB2 4]
43 SUB1 || 2 || [PLUS 8, PLUS 3]
44 SUB1 || 1 || [PLUS 8, PLUS 3, SUB2 2]
45 APPL || 1 || [PLUS 8, PLUS 3, SUB2 2]
46 SUB1 || 0 || [PLUS 8, PLUS 3, PLUS 1]
47 APPL || 1 || [PLUS 8, PLUS 3, PLUS 1]
48 APPL || 2 || [PLUS 8, PLUS 3]
49 APPL || 5 || [PLUS 8]
50 APPL || 13 || []
```

The OCaml file in `basic_transformations/fibonacci_machine.ml` contains some code for pretty printing such traces....

175

## Pause to reflect

- **What have we accomplished?**
- **We have taken a recursive function and turned it into an iterative function that does not require “stack space” for its evaluation (in OCaml)**
- **However, this function now carries its own evaluation stack as an extra argument!**
- **We have derived this iterative function in a step-by-step manner where each tiny step is easily proved correct.**
- **Wow!**

176



## That was fun! Let's do it again!

```
type expr =  
  | INT of int  
  | PLUS of expr * expr  
  | SUBT of expr * expr  
  | MULT of expr * expr
```

This time we will derive a stack-machine AND a “compiler” that translates expressions into a list of instructions for the machine.

```
(* eval : expr -> int  
   a simple recursive evaluator for expressions *)
```

```
let rec eval = function  
  | INT a          -> a  
  | PLUS(e1, e2)  -> (eval e1) + (eval e2)  
  | SUBT(e1, e2)  -> (eval e1) - (eval e2)  
  | MULT(e1, e2)  -> (eval e1) * (eval e2)
```

177

## Here we go again : CPS

```
type cnt_2 = int -> int
```

```
type state_2 = expr * cnt_2
```

```
(* eval_aux_2 : state_2 -> int *)
```

```
let rec eval_aux_2 (e, cnt) =  
  match e with  
  | INT a      -> cnt a  
  | PLUS(e1, e2) ->  
    eval_aux_2(e1, fun v1 -> eval_aux_2(e2, fun v2 -> cnt(v1 + v2)))  
  | SUBT(e1, e2) ->  
    eval_aux_2(e1, fun v1 -> eval_aux_2(e2, fun v2 -> cnt(v1 - v2)))  
  | MULT(e1, e2) ->  
    eval_aux_2(e1, fun v1 -> eval_aux_2(e2, fun v2 -> cnt(v1 * v2)))
```

```
(* id_cnt : cnt_2 *)
```

```
let id_cnt (x : int) = x
```

```
(* eval_2 : expr -> int *)
```

```
let eval_2 e = eval_aux_2(e, id_cnt)
```

178

# Defunctionalise!

```
type cnt_3 =  
  | ID  
  | OUTER_PLUS of expr * cnt_3  
  | OUTER_SUBT of expr * cnt_3  
  | OUTER_MULT of expr * cnt_3  
  | INNER_PLUS of int * cnt_3  
  | INNER_SUBT of int * cnt_3  
  | INNER_MULT of int * cnt_3
```

```
type state_3 = expr * cnt_3
```

```
(* apply_3 : cnt_3 * int -> int *)
```

```
let rec apply_3 = function  
  | (ID, v) -> v  
  | (OUTER_PLUS(e2, cnt), v1) -> eval_aux_3(e2, INNER_PLUS(v1, cnt))  
  | (OUTER_SUBT(e2, cnt), v1) -> eval_aux_3(e2, INNER_SUBT(v1, cnt))  
  | (OUTER_MULT(e2, cnt), v1) -> eval_aux_3(e2, INNER_MULT(v1, cnt))  
  | (INNER_PLUS(v1, cnt), v2) -> apply_3(cnt, v1 + v2)  
  | (INNER_SUBT(v1, cnt), v2) -> apply_3(cnt, v1 - v2)  
  | (INNER_MULT(v1, cnt), v2) -> apply_3(cnt, v1 * v2)
```

179

# Defunctionalise!

```
(* eval_aux_2 : state_3 -> int *)
```

```
and eval_aux_3 (e, cnt) =  
  match e with  
  | INT a -> apply_3(cnt, a)  
  | PLUS(e1, e2) -> eval_aux_3(e1, OUTER_PLUS(e2, cnt))  
  | SUBT(e1, e2) -> eval_aux_3(e1, OUTER_SUBT(e2, cnt))  
  | MULT(e1, e2) -> eval_aux_3(e1, OUTER_MULT(e2, cnt))
```

```
(* eval_3 : expr -> int *)
```

```
let eval_3 e = eval_aux_3(e, ID)
```

180

## Eureka! Again we have a stack!

```
type tag =
| O_PLUS of expr
| I_PLUS of int
| O_SUBT of expr
| I_SUBT of int
| O_MULT of expr
| I_MULT of int

type cnt_4 = tag list
type state_4 = expr * cnt_4

(* apply_4 : cnt_4 * int -> int *)
let rec apply_4 = function
| ([], v) -> v
| ((O_PLUS e2) :: cnt, v1) -> eval_aux_4(e2, (I_PLUS v1) :: cnt)
| ((O_SUBT e2) :: cnt, v1) -> eval_aux_4(e2, (I_SUBT v1) :: cnt)
| ((O_MULT e2) :: cnt, v1) -> eval_aux_4(e2, (I_MULT v1) :: cnt)
| ((I_PLUS v1) :: cnt, v2) -> apply_4(cnt, v1 + v2)
| ((I_SUBT v1) :: cnt, v2) -> apply_4(cnt, v1 - v2)
| ((I_MULT v1) :: cnt, v2) -> apply_4(cnt, v1 * v2)
```

181

## Eureka! Again we have a stack!

```
(* eval_aux_4 : state_4 -> int *)
and eval_aux_4 (e, cnt) =
  match e with
  | INT a -> apply_4(cnt, a)
  | PLUS(e1, e2) -> eval_aux_4(e1, O_PLUS(e2) :: cnt)
  | SUBT(e1, e2) -> eval_aux_4(e1, O_SUBT(e2) :: cnt)
  | MULT(e1, e2) -> eval_aux_4(e1, O_MULT(e2) :: cnt)

(* eval_4 : expr -> int *)
let eval_4 e = eval_aux_4(e, [])
```

182

# Eureka! Can combine apply\_4 and eval\_aux\_4

```
type acc =  
  | A_INT of int  
  | A_EXP of expr  
  
type cnt_5 = cnt_4  
  
type state_5 = cnt_5 * acc  
  
val : step : state_5 -> state_5  
  
val driver : state_5 -> int  
  
val eval_5 : expr -> int
```

Type of an “accumulator” that contains either an int or an expression.

The driver will be clearly tail-recursive ...

183

## Rewrite to use driver, accumulator

```
let step_5 = function  
  | (cnt, A_EXP (INT a)) -> (cnt, A_INT a)  
  | (cnt, A_EXP (PLUS(e1, e2))) -> (O_PLUS(e2) :: cnt, A_EXP e1)  
  | (cnt, A_EXP (SUBT(e1, e2))) -> (O_SUBT(e2) :: cnt, A_EXP e1)  
  | (cnt, A_EXP (MULT(e1, e2))) -> (O_MULT(e2) :: cnt, A_EXP e1)  
  | ((O_PLUS e2) :: cnt, A_INT v1) -> ((I_PLUS v1) :: cnt, A_EXP e2)  
  | ((O_SUBT e2) :: cnt, A_INT v1) -> ((I_SUBT v1) :: cnt, A_EXP e2)  
  | ((O_MULT e2) :: cnt, A_INT v1) -> ((I_MULT v1) :: cnt, A_EXP e2)  
  | ((I_PLUS v1) :: cnt, A_INT v2) -> (cnt, A_INT (v1 + v2))  
  | ((I_SUBT v1) :: cnt, A_INT v2) -> (cnt, A_INT (v1 - v2))  
  | ((I_MULT v1) :: cnt, A_INT v2) -> (cnt, A_INT (v1 * v2))  
  | ([], A_INT v) -> ([], A_INT v)
```

```
let rec driver_5 = function  
  | ([], A_INT v) -> v  
  | state -> driver_5 (step_5 state)
```

```
let eval_5 e = driver_5([], A_EXP e)
```

184

# Eureka! There are really two independent stacks here --- one for “expressions” and one for values

```
type directive =  
  | E of expr  
  | DO_PLUS  
  | DO_SUBT  
  | DO_MULT  
  
type directive_stack = directive list  
  
type value_stack = int list  
  
type state_6 = directive_stack * value_stack  
  
val step_6 : state_6 -> state_6  
  
val driver_6 : state_6 -> int  
  
val eval_6 : expr -> int
```

The state is now two stacks!

185

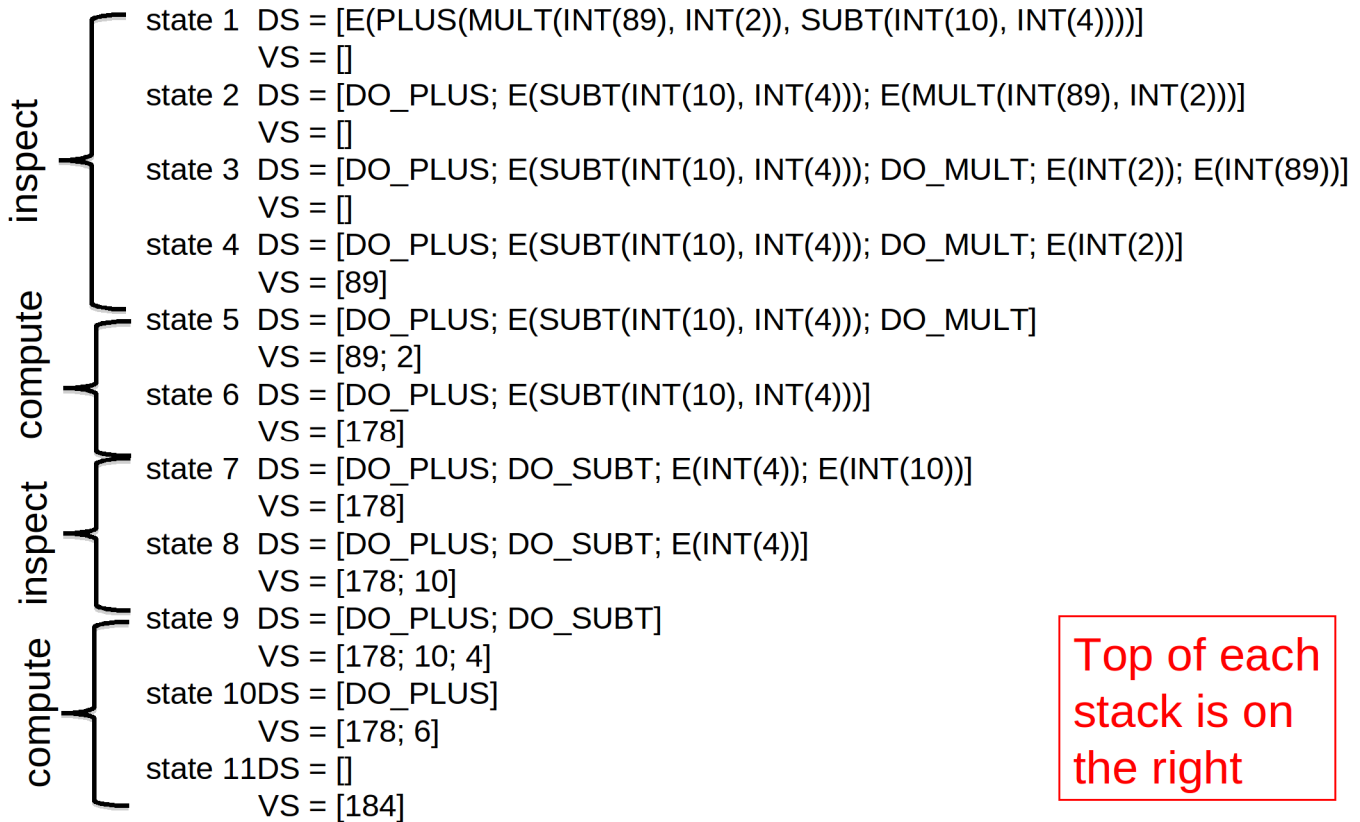
## Split into two stacks

```
let step_6 = function  
  | (E(INT v) :: ds, vs) -> (ds, v :: vs)  
  | (E(PLUS(e1, e2)) :: ds, vs) -> ((E e1) :: (E e2) :: DO_PLUS :: ds, vs)  
  | (E(SUBT(e1, e2)) :: ds, vs) -> ((E e1) :: (E e2) :: DO_SUBT :: ds, vs)  
  | (E(MULT(e1, e2)) :: ds, vs) -> ((E e1) :: (E e2) :: DO_MULT :: ds, vs)  
  
  | (DO_PLUS :: ds, v2 :: v1 :: vs) -> (ds, (v1 + v2) :: vs)  
  | (DO_SUBT :: ds, v2 :: v1 :: vs) -> (ds, (v1 - v2) :: vs)  
  | (DO_MULT :: ds, v2 :: v1 :: vs) -> (ds, (v1 * v2) :: vs)  
  | _ -> failwith "eval : runtime error!"  
  
let rec driver_6 = function  
  | ([], [v]) -> v  
  | state -> driver_6 (step_6 state)  
  
let eval_6 e = driver_6 ([E e], [])
```

186

# An eval\_6 trace

`e = PLUS(MULT(INT 89, INT 2), SUBT(INT 10, INT 4))`



## Key insight

This evaluator is interleaving two distinct computations:

- (1) decomposition of the input expression into sub-expressions
- (2) the computation of +, -, and \*.

Idea: why not do the decomposition BEFORE the computation?

Key insight: An interpreter can (usually) be refactored into a translation (compilation!) followed by a lower-level interpreter.

`Interpret_higher(e) = interpret_lower(compile(e))`

# Refactor --- compile!

(\* low-level instructions \*)

```
type instr =  
  | lpush of int  
  | lplus  
  | lsubt  
  | lmult
```

```
type code = instr list
```

```
type state_7 = code * value_stack
```

(\* compile : expr -> code \*)

```
let rec compile = function  
  | INT a          -> [lpush a]  
  | PLUS(e1, e2)  -> (compile e1) @ (compile e2) @ [lplus]  
  | SUBT(e1, e2)  -> (compile e1) @ (compile e2) @ [lsubt]  
  | MULT(e1, e2)  -> (compile e1) @ (compile e2) @ [lmult]
```

189

Never put off till run-time what  
you can do at compile-time.

-- David Gries

## Evaluate compiled code.

(\* step\_7 : state\_7 -> state\_7 \*)

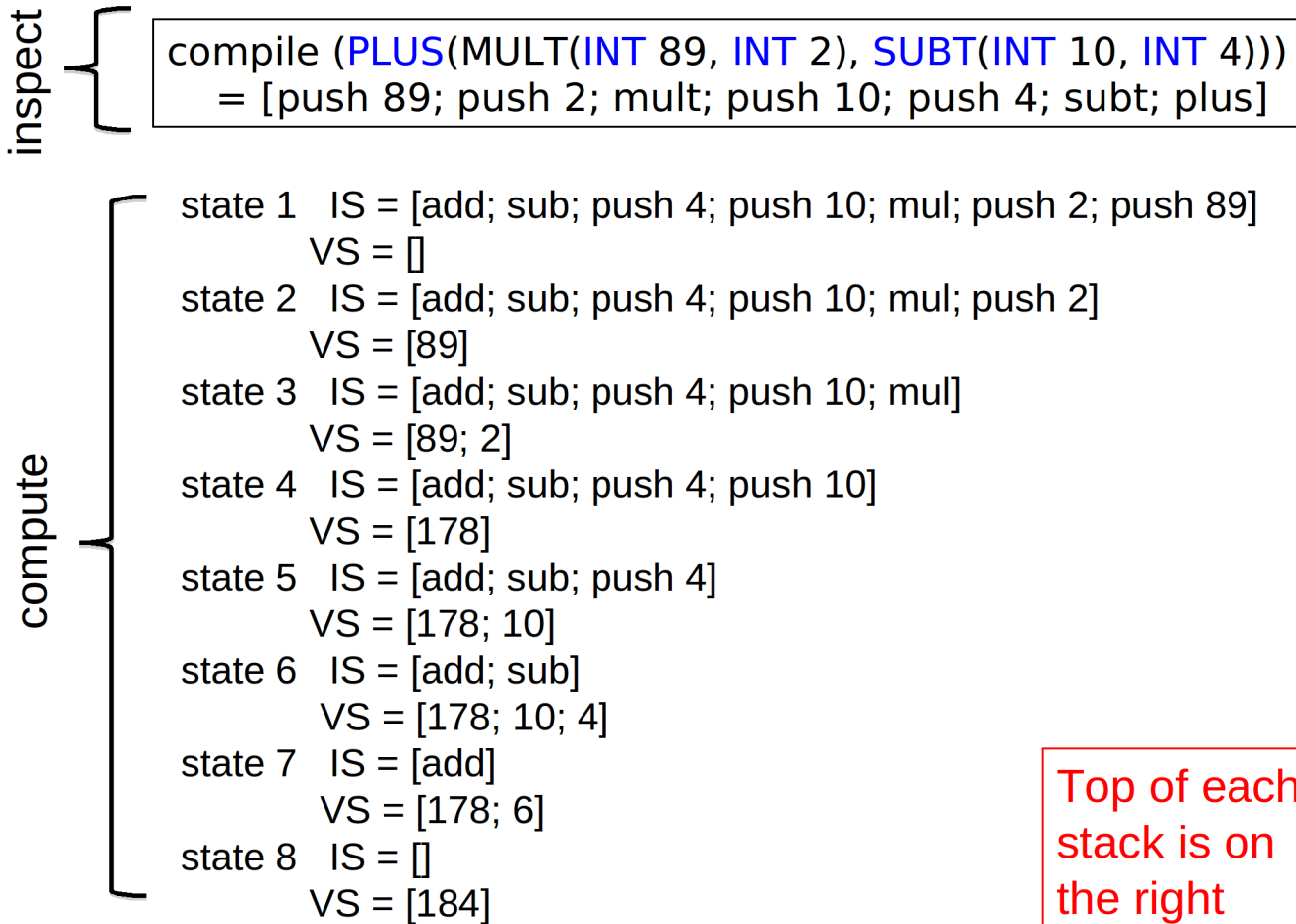
```
let step_7 = function  
  | (lpush v :: is, vs) -> (is, v :: vs)  
  | (lplus :: is, v2::v1::vs) -> (is, (v1 + v2) :: vs)  
  | (lsubt :: is, v2::v1::vs) -> (is, (v1 - v2) :: vs)  
  | (lmult :: is, v2::v1::vs) -> (is, (v1 * v2) :: vs)  
  | _ -> failwith "eval : runtime error!"
```

```
let rec driver_7 = function  
  | ([], [v]) -> v  
  | _ -> driver_7 (step_7 state)
```

```
let eval_7 e = driver_7 (compile e, []) |
```

190

# An eval\_7 trace



Interp\_0.ml → interp\_1.ml → interp\_2.ml

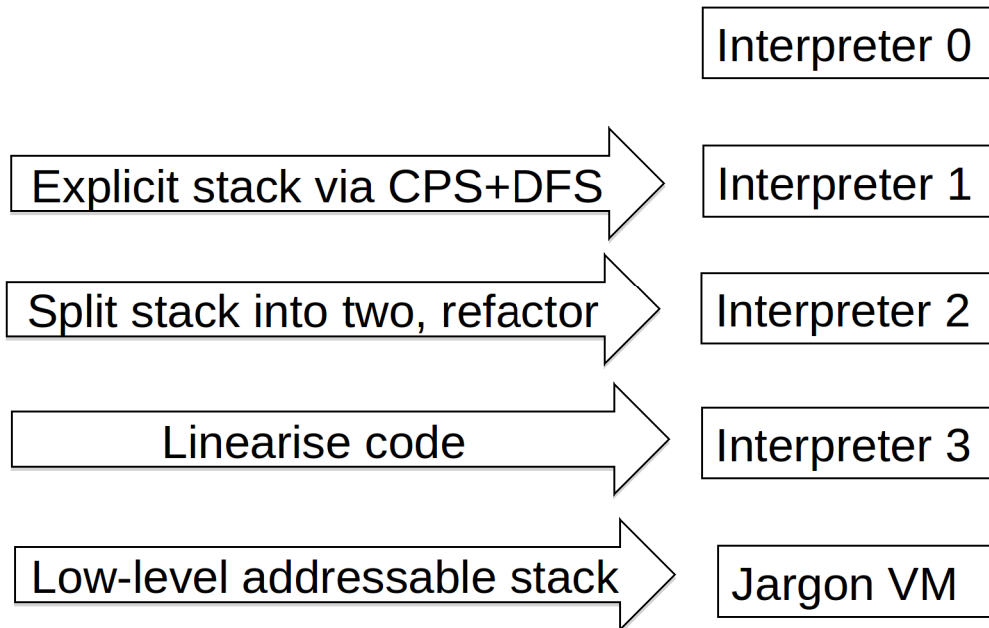
The derivation from eval to compile+eval\_7 can be used as a guide to a derivation from Interpreter 0 to interpreter 2.

1. Apply CPS to the code of Interpreter 0
2. Defunctionalise
3. Arrive at interpreter 1, which has a single continuation stack containing expressions, values and environments
4. Spit this stack into two stacks : one for instructions and the other for values and environments
5. Refactor into compiler + lower-level interpreter
6. Arrive at interpreter 2.



# Taking stock

Starting from a direct implementation of Slang/L3 semantics, we have **DERIVED** a Virtual Machine in a step-by-step manner. The correctness of each step is (more or less) easy to check.



193

## Compiler Construction Lent Term 2018

### Part III : Lectures 13 - 16

- 13 : Compilers in their OS context
- 14 : Assorted Topics
- 15 : Runtime memory management
- 16 : Bootstrapping a compiler

Timothy G. Griffin  
tgg22@cam.ac.uk  
Computer Laboratory  
University of Cambridge

194

# Lecture 13

- Code generation for multiple platforms.
- Assembly code
- Linking and loading
- The Application Binary Interface (ABI)
- Object file format (only ELF covered)
- A crash course in x86 architecture and instruction set
- Naïve generation of x86 code from Jargon VM instructions

195

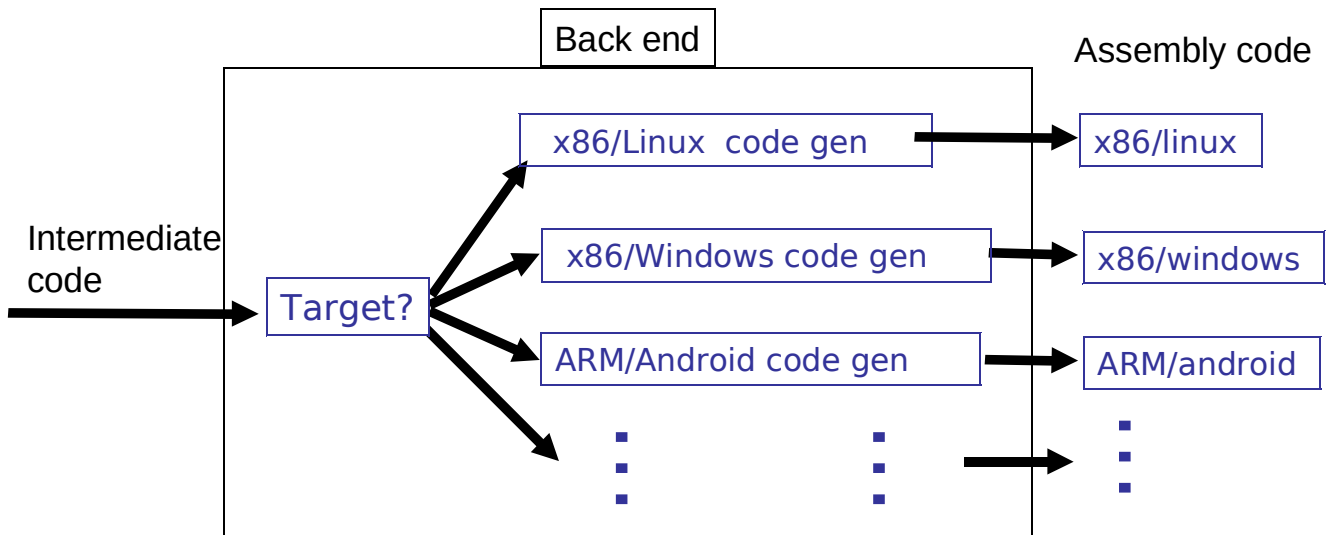
We could implement a Jargon byte code interpreter ...

```
...
...
void vsm_execute_instruction(vsm_state *state, bytecode instruction)
{
  opcode code = instruction.code;
  argument arg1 = instruction.arg1;
  switch (code) {
    case PUSH: { state->stack[state->sp++] = arg1; state->pc++; break; }
    case POP : { state->sp--; state->pc++; break; }
    case GOTO: { state->pc = arg1; break; }
    case STACK_LOOKUP: {
      state->stack[state->sp++] =
        state->stack[state->fp + arg1];
      state->pc++; break; }
    ...
    ...
  }
}
...
...
```

- Generate compact byte code for each Jargon instruction.
- Compiler writes byte codes to a file.
- Implement an interpreter in C or C++ for these byte codes.
- Execution is much faster than our jargon.ml implementation.
- **Or, we could generate assembly code from Jargon instructions ....**

196

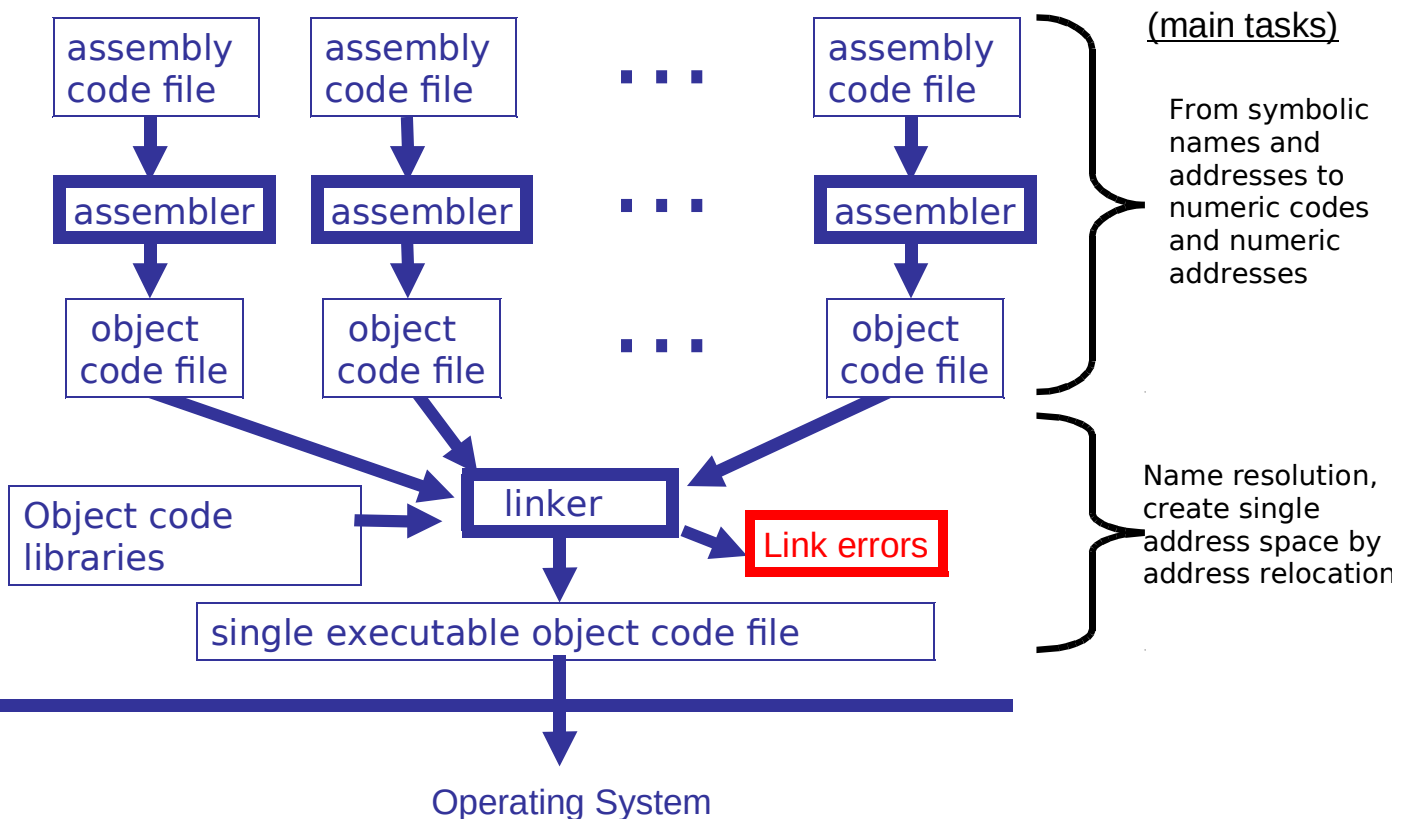
# Backend could target multiple platforms



One of the great benefits of Virtual Machines is their portability. However, for more efficient code we may want to compile to assembler. Lost portability can be regained through the extra effort of implementing code generation for every desired target platform.

197

## Assembly and Linking



198

## 9 Binary Compatibility

Binary compatibility encompasses several related concepts:

### *application binary interface (ABI)*

The set of runtime conventions followed by all of the tools that deal with binary representations of a program, including compilers, assemblers, linkers, and language runtime support. Some ABIs are formal with a written specification, possibly designed by multiple interested parties. Others are simply the way things are actually done by a particular set of tools.

## Applications Binary Interface (ABI)

We will use x86/Unix as our running example.  
Specifies many things, including the following.

- C calling conventions used for systems calls or calls to compiled C code.
  - Register usage and stack frame layout
  - How parameters are passed, results returned
  - Caller/callee responsibilities for placement and cleanup
- Byte-level layout and semantics of object files.
  - Executable and Linkable Format (ELF). Formerly known as Extensible Linking Format.
- Linking, loading, and name mangling

Note: the conventions are required for portable interaction with compiled C. Your compiled language does not have to follow the same conventions!

## Object files

Must contain at least

- Program instructions
  - Symbols being exported
  - Symbols being imported
  - Constants used in the program (such as strings)
- 

Executable and Linkable Format (ELF) is a common format for both linker input and output.

## ELF details (1)

Header information; positions and sizes of sections
<code>.text</code> segment (code segment): binary data
<code>.data</code> segment: binary data
<code>.rela.text</code> code segment relocation table: list of (offset,symbol) pairs giving: ( <i>i</i> ) offset within <code>.text</code> to be relocated; and ( <i>iii</i> ) by which symbol
<code>.rela.data</code> data segment relocation table: list of (offset,symbol) pairs giving: ( <i>i</i> ) offset within <code>.data</code> to be relocated; and ( <i>iii</i> ) by which symbol
...

## ELF details (2)

...

**.symtab** symbol table:

List of external symbols (as triples) used by the module.

Each is (attribute, offset, symname) with attribute:

1. undef: externally defined, offset is ignored;
2. defined in code segment (with offset of definition);
3. defined in data segment (with offset of definition).

Symbol names are given as offsets within **.strtab** to keep table entries of the same size.

**.strtab** string table:

the string form of all external names used in the module

## The (Static) Linker

What does a linker do?

- takes some object files as input, notes all undefined symbols.
- recursively searches libraries adding ELF files which define such symbols until all names defined (“library search”).
- whinges if any symbol is undefined or multiply defined.

Then what?

- concatenates all code segments (forming the output code segment).
- concatenates all data segments.
- performs relocations (updates code/data segments at specified offsets).

### Static linking (compile time)

Problem: a simple “hello world” program may give a 10MB executable if it refers to a big graphics or other library.

### Dynamic linking (run time)

For shared libraries, the object files contain stubs, not code, and the operating system loads and links the code on demand.

---

Pros and Cons of dynamic linking:

- (+) Executables are smaller
- (+) Bug fixes to libraries don't require re-linking.
- (-) Non-compatible changes to a library can wreck previously working programs (“dependency hell”).

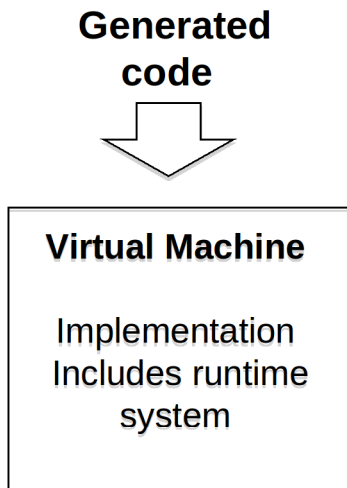
## A “runtime system”

A library implementing functionality needed to run compiled code on a given operating system. Normally tailored to the language being compiled.

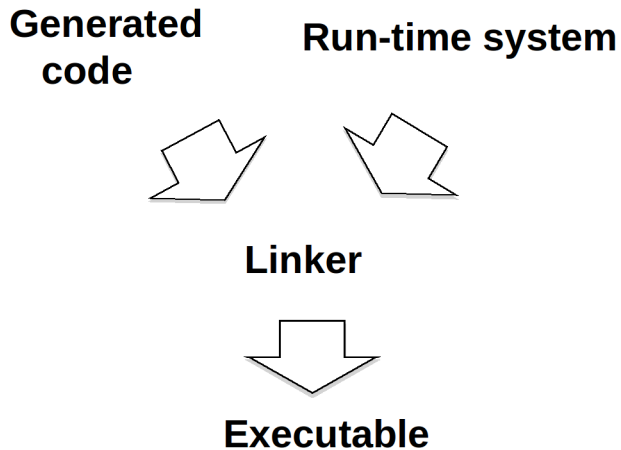
- Implements interface between OS and language.
- May implement memory management.
- May implement “foreign function” interface (say we want to call compiled C code from Slang code, or vice versa).
- May include efficient implementations of primitive operations defined in the compiled language.
- For some languages, the runtime system may perform runtime type checking, method lookup, security checks, and so on.
- ...

# Runtime system

## Targeting a VM



## Targeting a platform



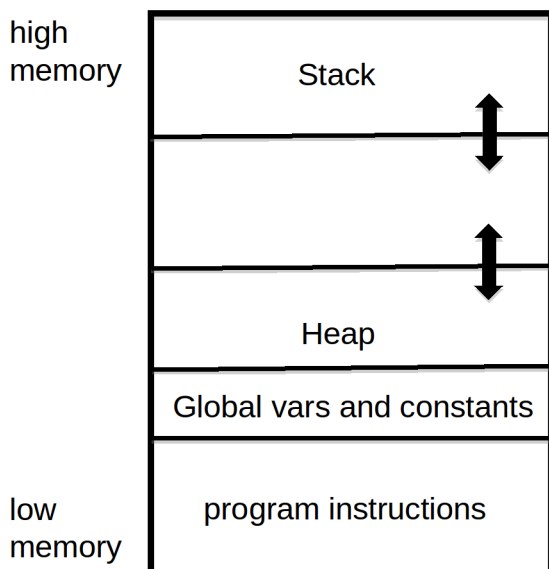
In either case, implementers of the compiler and the runtime system must agree on many low-level details of memory layout and data representation.

207

## Typical (Low-Level) Memory Layout (UNIX)

Rough schematic of traditional layout in (virtual) memory.

Dealing with Virtual Machines allows us to ignore some of the low-level details....



The heap is used for dynamically allocating memory. Typically either for very large objects or for those objects that are returned by functions/procedures and must outlive the associated activation record.

In languages like Java and ML, the heap is managed automatically ("garbage collection")

208



# A Crash Course in x86 assembler

- A CISC architecture
- There are 16, 32 and 64 bit versions
- 32 bit version :
  - General purpose registers : EAX EBX ECX EDX
  - Special purpose registers : ESI EDI EBP EIP ESP
    - EBP : normally used as the frame pointer
    - ESP : normally used as the stack pointer
    - EDI : often used to pass (first) argument
    - EIP : the code pointer
  - Segment and flag registers that we will ignore ...
- 64 bit version:
  - Rename 32-bit registers with “R” (RAX, RBX, RCX, ...)
  - More general registers: R8 R9 R10 R11 R12 R13 R14 R15

Register names can indicate “width” of a value.

**rax** : 64 bit version

**eax** : 32 bit version (or lower 32 bits of **rax**)

**ax** : 16 bit version (or lower 16 bits of **eax**)

**al** : lower 8 bits of **ax**

**ah** : upper 8 bits of **ax**

See [https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/X86\\_Assembly](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/X86_Assembly)

The syntax of x86 assembler comes in several flavours. Here are two examples of “put integer 4 into register **eax**”:

```
movl $4, %eax      // GAS (aka AT&T) notation
mov  eax, 4        // Intel notation
```

I will (mostly) use the GAS syntax, where a suffix is used to indicate width of arguments:

- b (byte) = 8 bits
- w (word) = 16 bits
- l (long) = 32 bits
- q (quad) = 64 bits

For example, we have `movb`, `movw`, `movl`, and `movq`.

## Examples (in GAS notation)

```
movl $4, %eax      # put 32 bit integer 4 in register eax
movw $4, %eax      # put 16 bit integer 4 in lower 16 bits of eax
movb $4, %eax      # put 4 bit integer 4 in lowest 4 bits of eax
movl %esp, %ebp    # put the contents of esp into ebp
movl (%esp), %ebp  # interpret contents of esp as a memory
                   # address. Copy the value at that address
                   # into register ebp
movl %esp, (%ebp)  # interpret contents of ebp as a memory
                   # address. Copy the value in esp to
                   # that address.
movl %esp, 4(%ebp) # interpret contents of ebp as a memory
                   # address. Add 4 to that address. Copy
                   # the value in esp to this new address.
```

211

## A few more examples

```
call label # push return address on stack and jump to label
ret        # pop return address off stack and jump there
           # NOTE: managing other bits of the stack frame
           # such as stack and frame pointer must be done
           # explicitly
subl $4, %esp # subtract 4 from esp. That is, adjust the
              # stack pointer to make room for one 32-bit
              # (4 byte) value. (stack grows downward!)
```

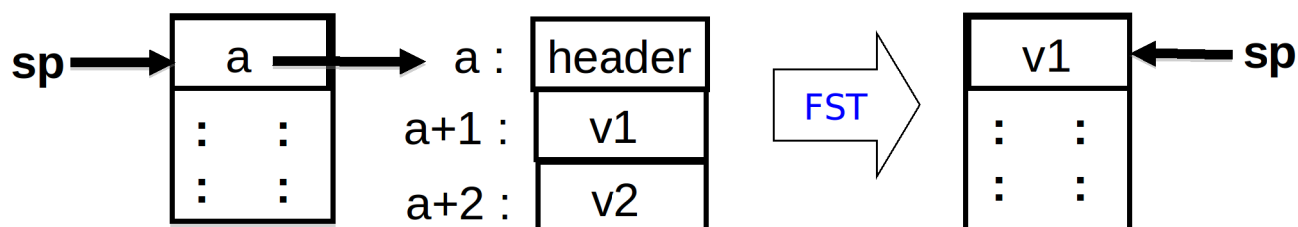
Assume that we have implemented a procedure in C called `allocate` that will manage heap memory. We will compile and link this in with code generated by the `slang` compiler. At the x86 level, `allocate` will expect a header in `edi` and return a heap pointer in `eax`.

212

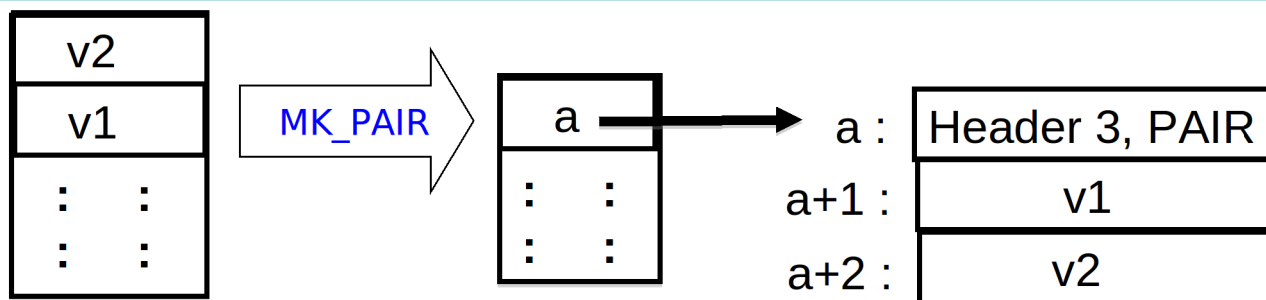
## Some Jargon VM instructions are “easy” to translate

Remember: X86 is CISC, so RISC architectures may require more instructions ...

<b>GOTO</b> loc	jmp loc	
<b>POP</b>	addl \$4, %esp	// move stack pointer 1 word = 4 bytes
<b>PUSH</b> v	subl \$4, %esp movl \$i, (%esp)	// make room on top of stack // where i is an integer representing v
<b>FST</b>	movl (%esp), %edx movl 4(%edx), %edx movl %edx, (%esp)	//store "a" into edx // load v1, 4 bytes, 1 word, after header // replace "a" with "v1" at top of stack
<b>SND</b>	movl (%esp), %edx movl 8(%edx), %edx movl %edx, (%esp)	//store "a" into edx // vload v2, 8 bytes, 2 words, after header // replace "a" with "v2" at top of stack



## ... while others require more work



One possible x86 (32 bit) implementation of **MK\_PAIR**:

```

movl $3, %edi          // construct header in edi
shr $16, %edi          // ... put size in upper 16 bits (shift right)
movw $PAIR, %di        // ... put type in lower 16 bits of edi
call allocate          // input: header in ebi, output: "a" in eax
movl (%esp), %edx      // move "v2" to the heap,
movl %edx, 8(%eax)     // ... using temporary register edx
addl $4, %esp          // adjust stack pointer (pop "v2")
movl (%esp), %edx      // move "v1" to the heap
movl %edx, 4(%eax)     // ... using temporary register edx
movl %eax, (%esp)      // copy value "a" to top of stack
    
```

## Left as exercises for you :

### LOOKUP APPLY RETURN CASE TEST ASSIGN REF

**Here's a hint.** For things you don't understand, just experiment! OK, you need to pull an address out of a closure and call it. Hmm, how does something similar get compiled from C?

```
int func ( int (*f)(int) ) { return (*f)(17); } /* pass a function pointer and apply it /*
```

X86,  
64 bit  
without  
-O2

```
_func:
pushq   %rbp           # save frame pointer
movq    %rsp, %rbp     # set frame pointer to stack pointer
subq    $16, %rsp      # make some room on stack
movl    $17, %eax      # put 17 in argument register eax
movq    %rdi, -8(%rbp) # rdi contains the argument f
movl    %eax, %edi     # put 17 in register edi, so f will get it
callq   *-8(%rbp)     # WOW, a computed address for call!
addq    $16, %rsp      # restore stack pointer
popq    %rbp          # restore old frame pointer
ret     # restore stack
```

215

## What about arithmetic?

Houston, we have a problem....

- It may not be obvious now, but if we want to have automated memory management we need to be able to distinguish between values (say integers) and pointers at runtime.
- Have you ever noticed that integers in SML or Ocaml are either 31 (or 63) bits rather than the native 32 (or 64) bits?
  - That is because these compilers use a the least significant bit to distinguish integers (bit = 1) from pointers (bit = 0).
  - OK, this works. But it may complicate every arithmetic operation!
  - This is another exercise left for you to ponder

...

# Lecture 14

## Assorted Topics

### 1. Stacks are slow, registers are fast

1. Stack frames still needed ...
2. ... but try to shift work into registers
3. Caller/callee save/restore policies
4. Register spilling

### 2. Simple optimisations

1. Peep hole (sliding window)
2. Constant propagation
3. Inlining

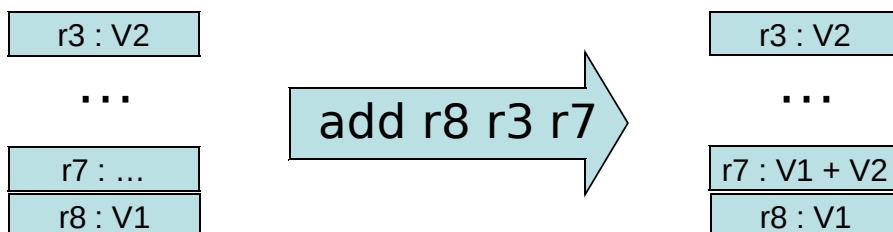
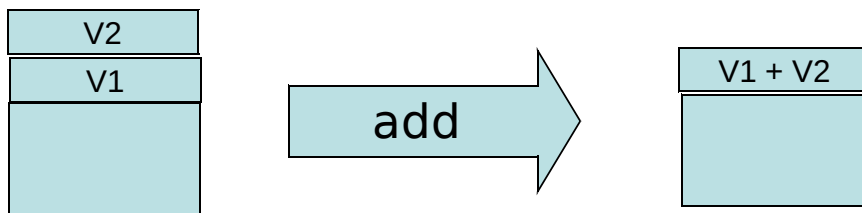
### 3. Representing objects (as in OOP)

1. At first glance objects look like a closure containing multiple function (methods) ...
2. ... but complications arise with method dispatch

### 4. Implementing exception handling on the stack

217

## Stack vs registers



Stack-oriented:  
(+) argument locations is implicit, so instructions are smaller.  
(---) Execution is slower

Register-oriented:  
(+++)  
(-) Execution MUCH faster  
(-) argument location is explicit, so instructions are larger

218

Main dilemma : registers are fast, but are fixed in number. And that number is rather small.

- Manipulating the stack involves RAM access, which can be orders of magnitude slower than register access (the “von Neumann Bottleneck”)
- Fast registers are (today) a scarce resource, shared by many code fragments
- How can registers be used most effectively?
  - Requires a careful examination of a program’s structure
  - Analysis phase: building data structures (typically directed graphs) that capture definition/use relationships
  - Transformation phase : using this information to rewrite code, attempting to most efficiently utilise registers
  - Problem is NP-complete
  - One of the central topics of Part II Optimising Compilers.
- Here we focus only on general issues : calling conventions and register spilling

## Caller/callee conventions

- Caller and callee code may use overlapping sets of registers
- An agreement is needed concerning use of registers
  - Are some arguments passed in specific registers?
  - Is the result returned in a specific register?
  - If the caller and callee are both using a set of registers for “scratch space” then caller or callee must save and restore these registers so that the caller’s registers are not obliterated by the callee.
- Standard calling conventions identify specific subsets of registers as “caller saved” or “callee saved”
  - **Caller saved**: if caller cares about the value in a register, then must save it before making any call
  - **Callee saved**: The caller can be assured that the callee will leave the register intact (perhaps by saving and restoring it)

## Another C example. X86, 64 bit, with gcc

<pre>int callee(int, int,int,         int,int,int,int);  int caller(void) {     int ret;     ret = callee(1,2,3,4,5,6,7);     ret += 5;     return ret; }</pre>	<pre>_caller: pushq %rbp          # save frame pointer movq  %rsp, %rbp   # set new frame pointer subq  \$16, %rsp    # make room on stack movl  \$7, (%rsp)   # put 7th arg on stack movl  \$1, %edi     # put 1st arg on in edi movl  \$2, %esi     # put 2nd arg on in esi movl  \$3, %edx     # put 3rd arg on in edx movl  \$4, %ecx     # put 4th arg on in ecx movl  \$5, %r8d    # put 5th arg on in r8d movl  \$6, %r9d    # put 6th arg on in r9d callq _callee     #will put resut in eax addl  \$5, %eax    # add 5 addq  \$16, %rsp   # adjust stack popq  %rbp        # restore frame pointer ret          # pop return address, go there</pre>
---	---

221

## Register spilling

- What happens when all registers are in use?
- Could use the stack for scratch space ...
- ... or (1) move some register values to the stack, (2) use the registers for computation, (3) restore the registers to their original value
- This is called register spilling

222

# Simple optimisations.

## Inline expansion

```
fun f(x) = x + 1
fun g(x) = x - 1
...
...
fun h(x) = f(x) + g(x)
```



inline f and g

```
fun f(x) = x + 1
fun g(x) = x - 1
...
...
fun h(x) = (x+1) + (x-1)
```

(+) Avoid building activation records at runtime

(+) May allow further optimisations

(-) May lead to “code bloat”  
(apply only to functions with “small” bodies?)

Question: if we inline all occurrences of a function, can we delete its definition from the code?

What if it is needed at link time?

223

## Be careful with variable scope

Inline g in h

```
let val x = 1
    fun g(y) = x + y
    fun h(x) = g(x) + 1
in
  h(17)
end
```



```
let val x = 1
    fun g(y) = x + y
    fun h(x) = x + y + 1
in
  h(17)
end
```



```
let val x = 1
    fun g(y) = x + y
    fun h(z) = x + z + 1
in
  h(17)
end
```

What kind of care might be needed will depend on the representation level of the Intermediate code involved.



## (b) Constant propagation, constant folding

```
let x = 2
let y = x - 1
let z = y * 17
```

```
let x = 2
let y = 2 - 1
let z = y * 17
```

```
let x = 2
let y = 1
let z = y * 17
```

```
let x = 2
let y = 1
let z = 1 * 17
```

```
let x = 2
let y = 1
let z = 17
```



Propagate constants and evaluate simple expressions at compile-time

Note : opportunities are often exposed by inline expansion!

David Gries :  
"Never put off till run-time what you can do at compile-time."

But be careful

How about this?

Replace

$x * 0$

with

0

OOPS, not if x has type float!

$NAN * 0 = NAN$ ,

225

## (c) peephole optimisation

### Peephole Optimization

W. M. McKEEMAN  
Stanford University, Stanford, California

Communications of the ACM,  
July 1965

*Example 1.* Source code:

```
X := Y;
Z := X + Z
```

Compiled code:

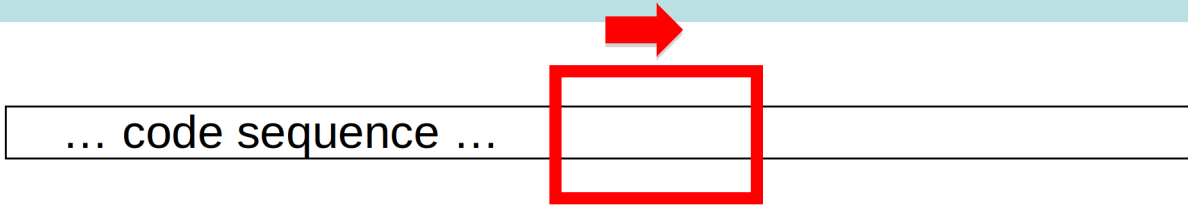
```
LDA Y  load the accumulator from Y
STA X  store the accumulator in X
LDA X  load the accumulator from X
ADD Z  add the contents of Z
STA Z  store the accumulator in Z
```

Eliminate!

Results for syntax-directed code generation.

226

# peephole optimisation



Sweep a window over the code sequence looking for instances of simple code patterns that can be rewritten to better code ... (might be combined with constant folding, etc, and employ multiple passes)

## Examples

- eliminate useless combinations (push 0; pop)
- introduce machine-specific instructions
- improve control flow. For example: rewrite  
"GOTO L1 ... L1: GOTO L2"  
to  
"GOTO L2 ... L1 : GOTO L2")

227

## gcc example.

-O<m> turns on optimisation to level m

g.c

```
int h(int n) { return (0 < n) ? n : 101 ; }
```

```
int g(int n) { return 12 * h(n + 17); }
```

g.s (fragment)

gcc -O2 -S -c g.c

**Wait. What happened to the call to h???**

```
_g:  
.cfi_startproc  
pushq %rbp  
movq %rsp, %rbp  
addl $17, %edi  
imull $12, %edi, %ecx  
testl %edi, %edi  
movl $1212, %eax  
cmovgl %ecx, %eax  
popq %rbp  
ret  
.cfi_endproc
```

GNU AS (GAS) Syntax  
x86, 64 bit

## gcc example (-O<m> turns on optimisation)

g.c

```
int h(int n) { return (0 < n) ? n : 101 ; }  
  
int g(int n) { return 12 * h(n + 17); }
```

The compiler must have done something similar to this:

```
int g(int n) { return 12 * h(n + 17); }  
→  
int g(int n) { int t := n + 17; return 12 * h(t); }  
→  
int g(int n) { int t := n + 17; return 12 * ((0 < t) ? t : 101 ); }  
→  
int g(int n) { int t := n + 17; return (0 < t) ? 12 * t : 1212 ; }  
→ ...
```

## New Topic: OOP Objects (single inheritance)

let start := 10

```
class Vehicle extends Object {  
  var position := start  
  method move(int x) = { position := position + x }  
}
```

```
class Car extends Vehicle {  
  var passengers := 0  
  method await(v : Vehicle) =  
    if (v.position < position)  
    then v.move(position - v.position)  
    else self.move(10)  
}
```

```
class Truck extends Vehicle {  
  method move(int x) =  
    if x <= 55 then position := position + x  
}
```

method override

```
var t := new Truck  
var c := new Car  
var v : Vehicle := c
```

```
in  
  c.passengers := 2;  
  c.move(60);  
  v.move(70);  
  c.await(t)
```

subtyping allows a  
Truck or Car to be viewed and  
used as a Vehicle

end

# Object Implementation?

- how do we access object fields?
  - both inherited fields and fields for the current object?
- how do we access method code?
  - if the current class does not define a particular method, where do we go to get the inherited method code?
  - how do we handle method override?
- How do we implement subtyping (“object polymorphism”)?
  - If B is derived from A, then need to be able to treat a pointer to a B-object as if it were an A-object.

231

## Another OO Feature

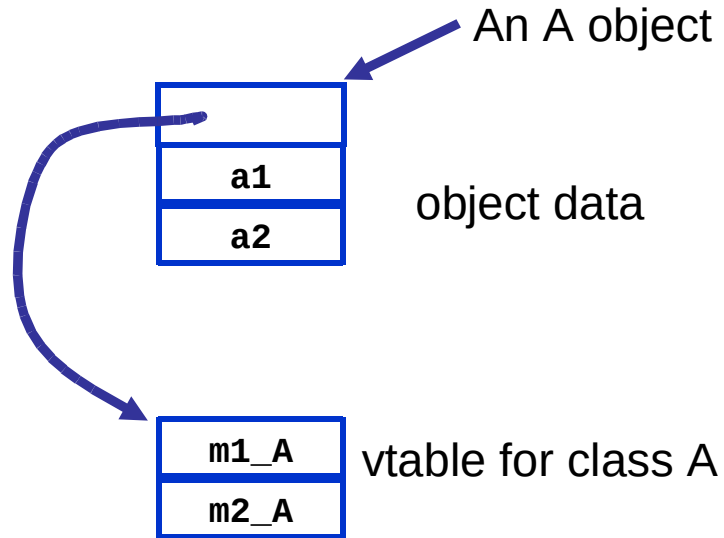
- Protection mechanisms
  - to encapsulate local state within an object, Java has “private” “protected” and “public” qualifiers
    - private methods/fields can’t be called/used outside of the class in which they are defined
  - **This is really a scope/visibility issue!** Front-end during semantic analysis (type checking and so on), the compiler maintains this information in the symbol table for each class and enforces visibility rules.

232

# Object representation

```
class A {  
public:  
    int a1, a2;  
    virtual void m1(int i) {  
        a1 = i;  
    }  
    virtual void m2(int i) {  
        a2 = a1 + i;  
    }  
}
```

C++

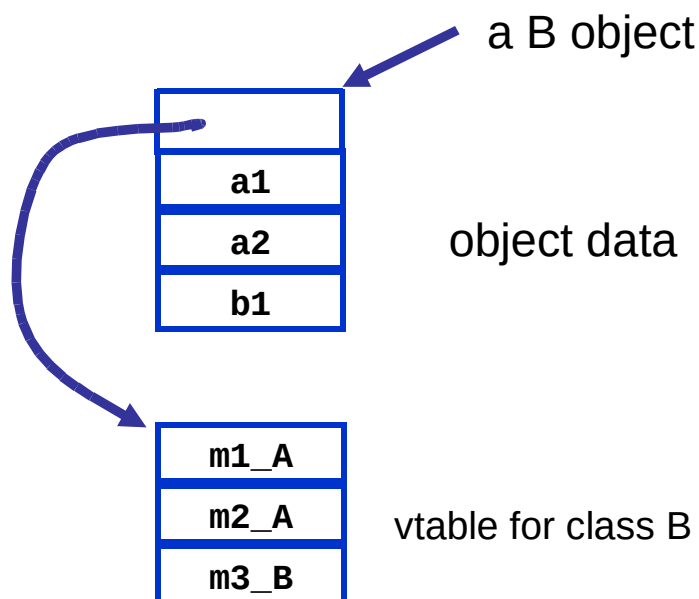


NB: a compiler typically generates methods with an extra argument representing the object (self) and used to access object data.

233

## Inheritance (“pointer polymorphism”)

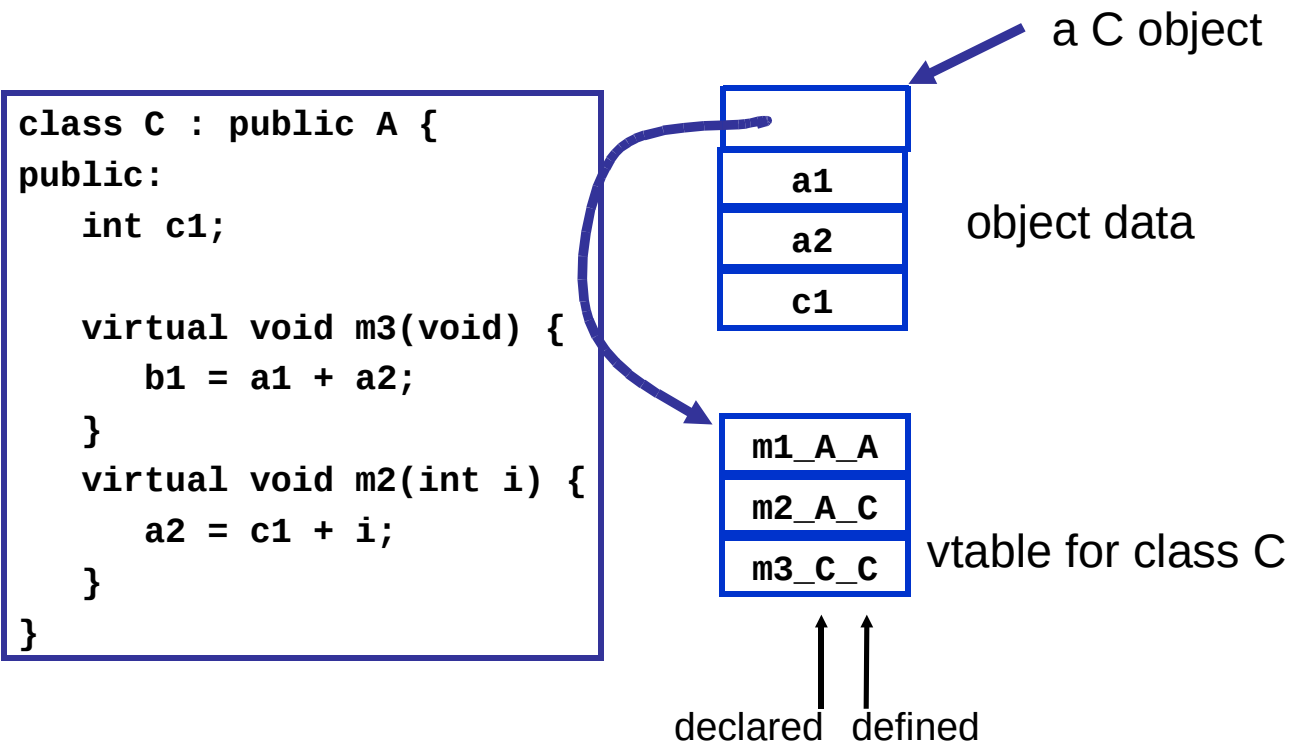
```
class B : public A {  
public:  
    int b1;  
    virtual void m3(void) {  
        b1 = a1 + a2;  
    }  
}
```



**Note that a pointer to a B object can be treated as if it were a pointer to an A object!**

234

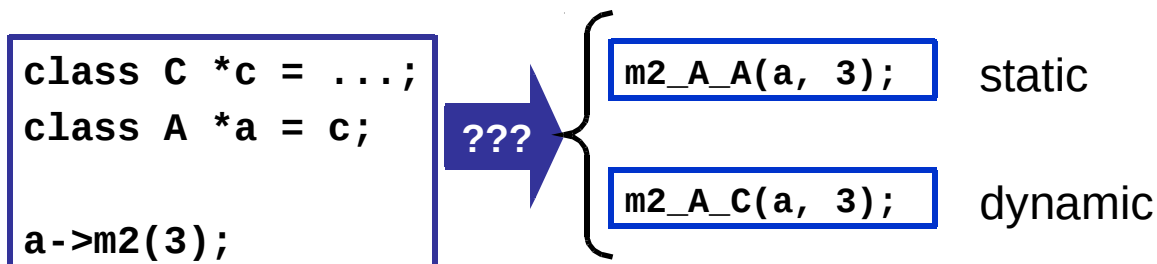
# Method overriding



235

# Static vs. Dynamic

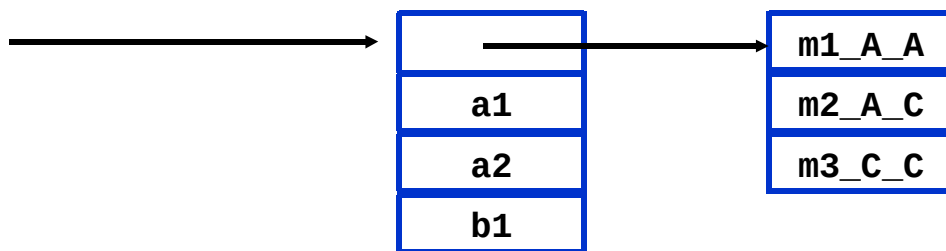
- which method to invoke on overloaded polymorphic types?



236

# Dynamic dispatch implemented with vtables

A pointer to a class C object can be treated as a pointer to a class A object



```
class C *c = ...;  
class A *a = c;  
  
a->m2(3);
```

```
*(a->vtable[1])(a, 3);
```

237

## Topic 1 : Exceptions (informal description)

e handle f

If expression e evaluates “normally” to value v, then v is the result of the entire expression.

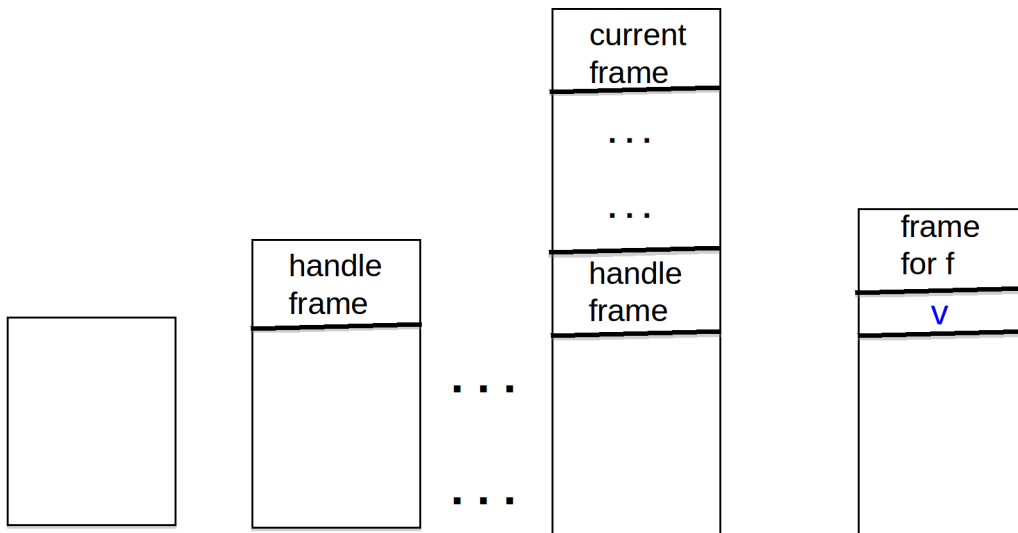
Otherwise, an exceptional value v' is “raised” in the evaluation of e, then result is (f v')

raise e

Evaluate expression e to value v, and then raise v as an exceptional value, which can only be “handled”.

Implementation of exceptions may require a lot of language-specific consideration and care. Exceptions can interact in powerful and unexpected ways with other language features. Think of C++ and class destructors, for example.

## Viewed from the call stack



Call stack just before evaluating code for

`e handle f`

Push a special frame for the handle

“raise `v`” is encountered while evaluating a function body associated with top-most frame

“Unwind” call stack. Depending on language, this may involve some “clean up” to free resources.

## Possible pseudo-code implementation

`e handle f`

```
let fun _h27 () =  
  build special “handle frame”  
  save address of f in frame;  
  ... code for e ...  
  return value of e  
in _h27 () end
```

`raise e`

```
... code for e ...  
save v, the value of e;  
unwind stack until first  
fp found pointing at a handle frame;  
Replace handle frame with frame  
for call to (extracted) f using  
v as argument.
```



## Lecture 15

# Automating run-time memory management

- **Managing the heap**
- **Garbage collection**
  - Reference counting
  - Mark and sweep
  - Copy collection
  - Generational collection

Read Chapter 12 of  
**Basics of Compiler Design**  
(T. Mogensen)

241

## Explicit (manual) memory management

- User library manages memory; programmer decides when and where to allocate and de-allocate
  - `void* malloc(long n)`
  - `void free(void *addr)`
  - Library calls OS for more pages when necessary
  - **Advantage**: Gives programmer a lot of control.
  - **Disadvantage**: people too clever and make mistakes. Getting it right can be costly. And don't we want to automate-away tedium?
  - **Advantage**: With these procedures we can implement memory management for "higher level" languages ;-)

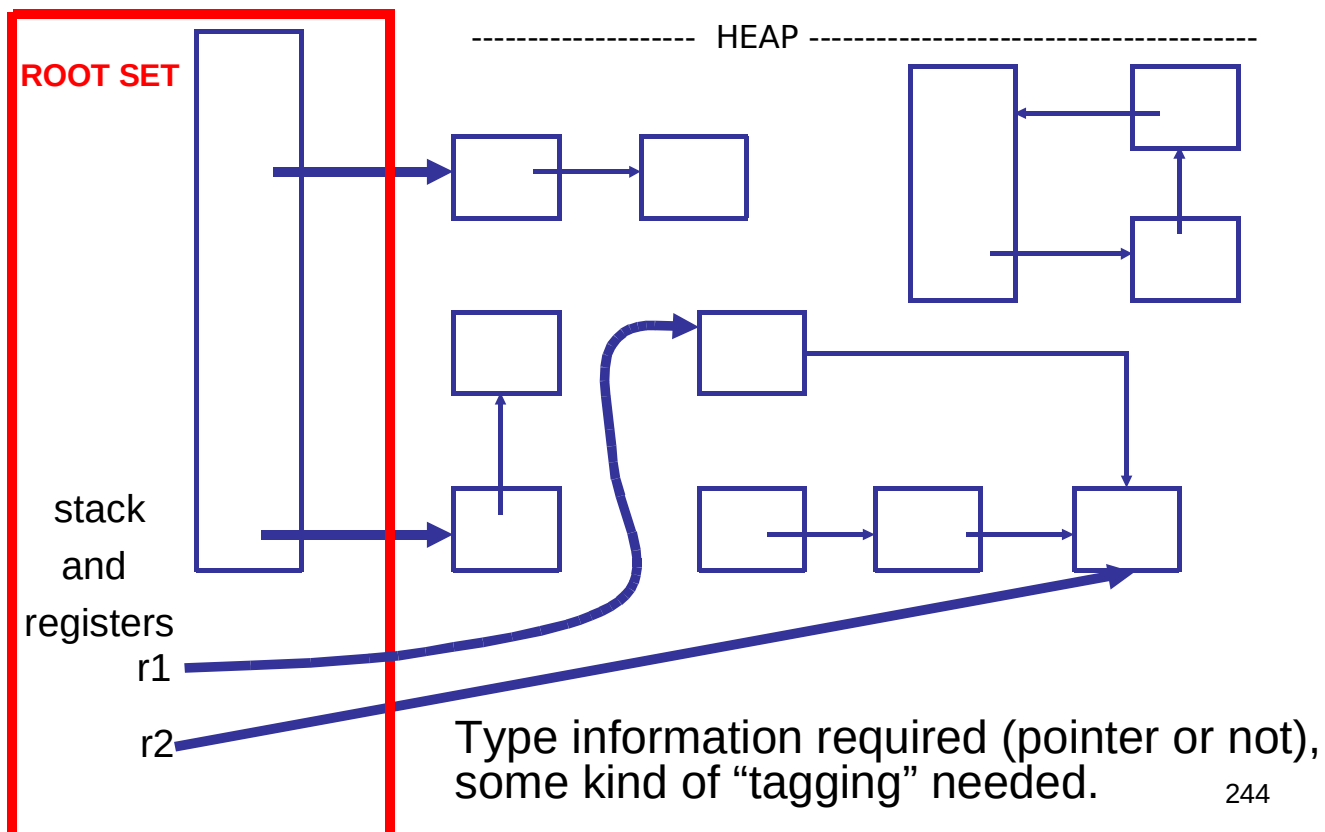
242

# Memory Management

- Many programming languages allow programmers to (implicitly) allocate new storage dynamically, with no need to worry about reclaiming space no longer used.
  - New records, arrays, tuples, objects, closures, etc.
  - Java, SML, OCaml, Python, JavaScript, Python, Ruby, Go, Swift, SmallTalk, ...
- Memory could easily be exhausted without some method of reclaiming and recycling the storage that will no longer be used.
  - Often called “garbage collection”
  - Is really “automated memory management” since it deals with allocation, de-allocation, compaction, and memory-related interactions with the OS.

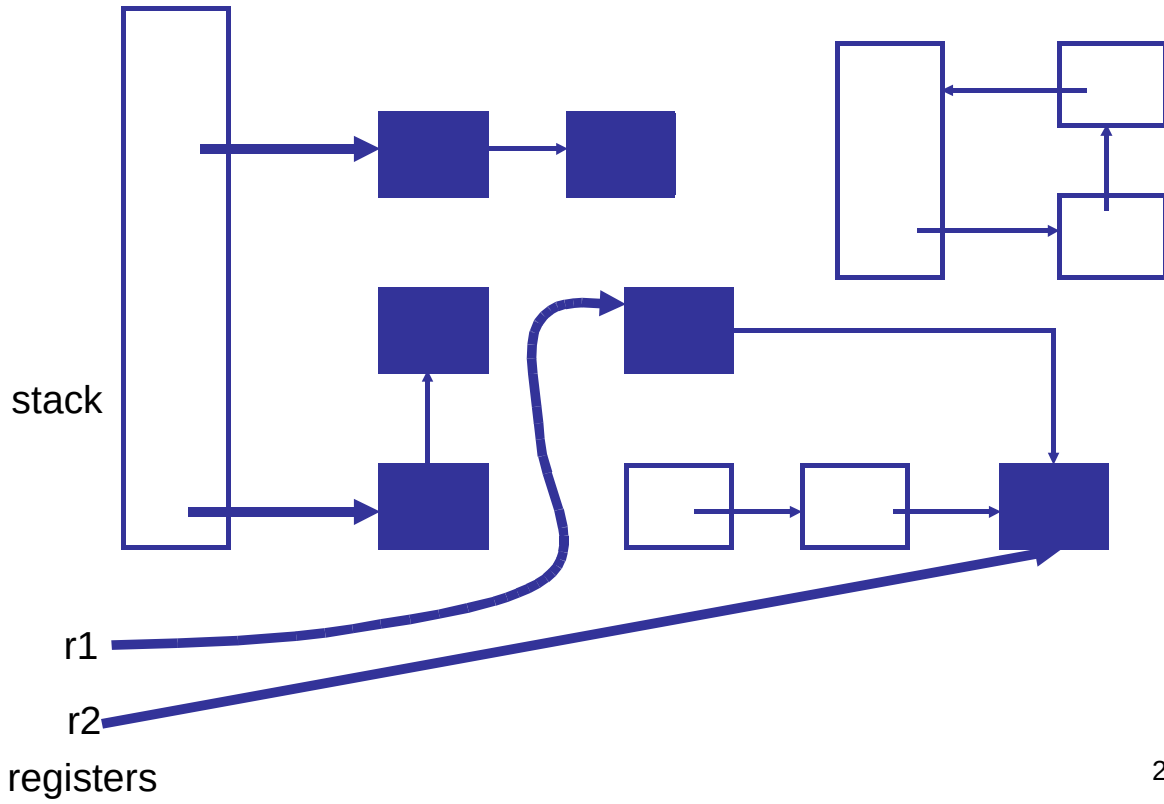
243

Automation is based on an approximation : if data can be reached from a root set, then it is not “garbage”



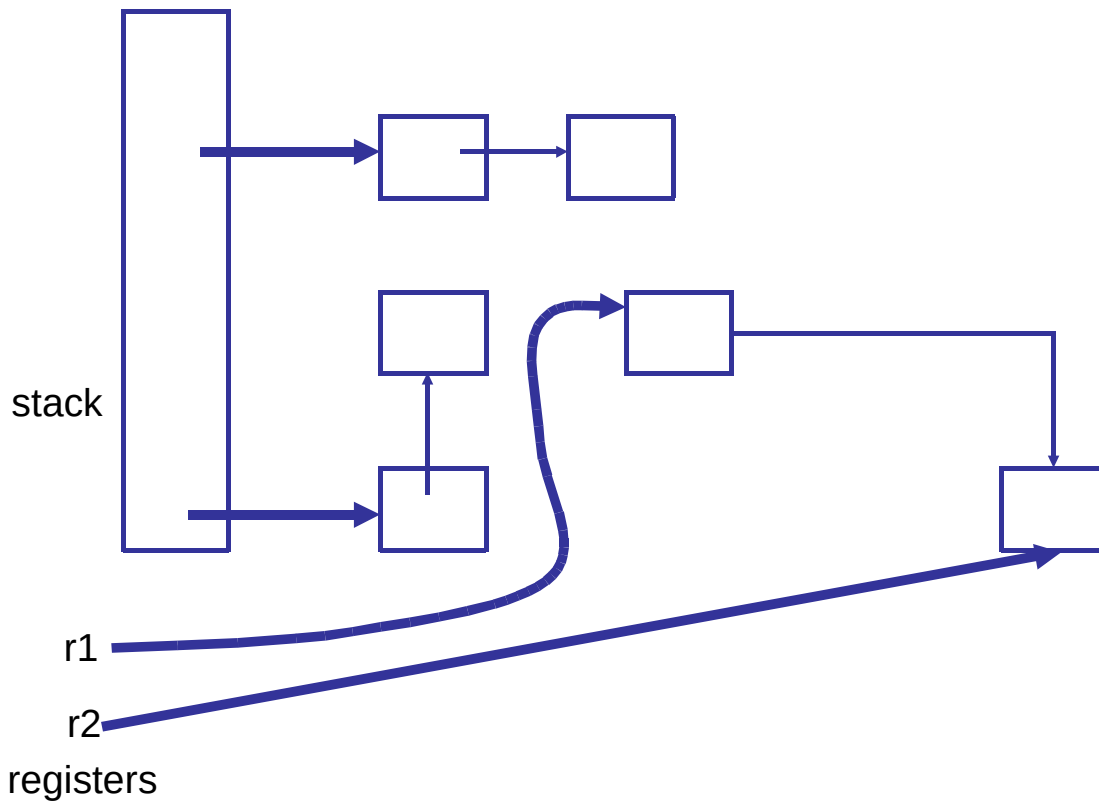
244

## ... Identify Cells Reachable From Root Set...



245

## ... reclaim unreachable cells



246

## But How? Two basic techniques, and many variations

- **Reference counting** : Keep a reference count with each object that represents the number of pointers to it. Is garbage when count is 0.
- **Tracing** : find all objects reachable from root set. Basically transitive close of pointer graph.

For a very interesting (non-examinable) treatment of this subject see

**A Unified Theory of Garbage Collection.**

David F. Bacon, Perry Cheng, V.T. Rajan.  
OOPSLA 2004.

In that paper reference counting and tracing are presented as “dual” approaches, and other techniques are hybrids of the two.

247

## Reference Counting, basic idea:

- Keep track of the number of pointers to each object (**the reference count**).
- When Object is created, set count to 1.
- Every time a new pointer to the object is created, increment the count.
- Every time an existing pointer to an object is destroyed, decrement the count
- When the reference count goes to 0, the object is unreachable garbage

248

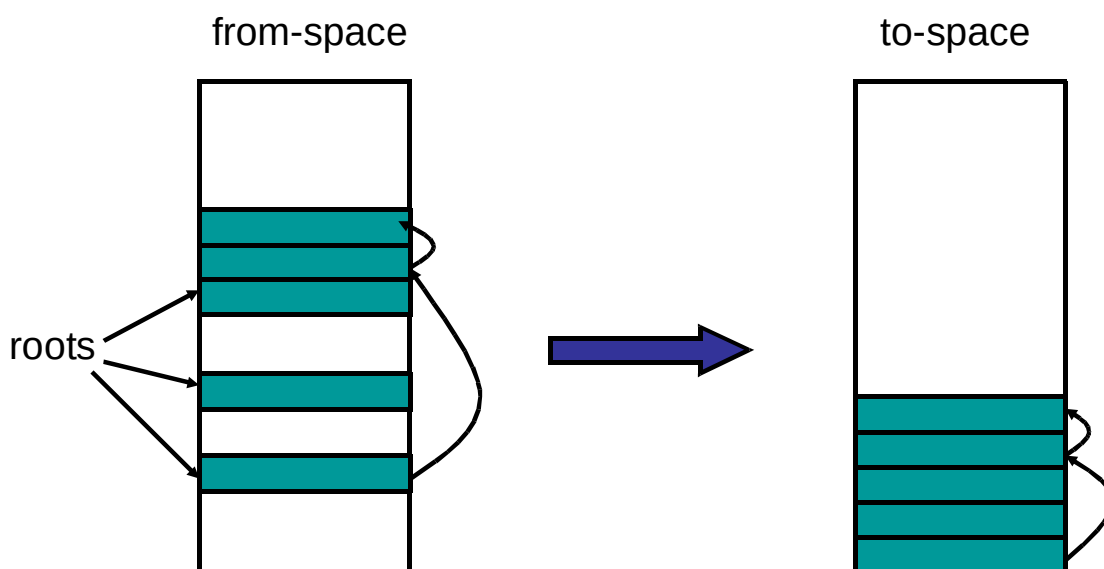


# Copying Collection

- Basic idea: use 2 heaps
  - One used by program
  - The other unused until GC time
- GC:
  - Start at the roots & traverse the reachable data
  - Copy reachable data from the active heap (from-space) to the other heap (to-space)
  - Dead objects are left behind in from space
  - Heaps switch roles

251

# Copying Collection



252

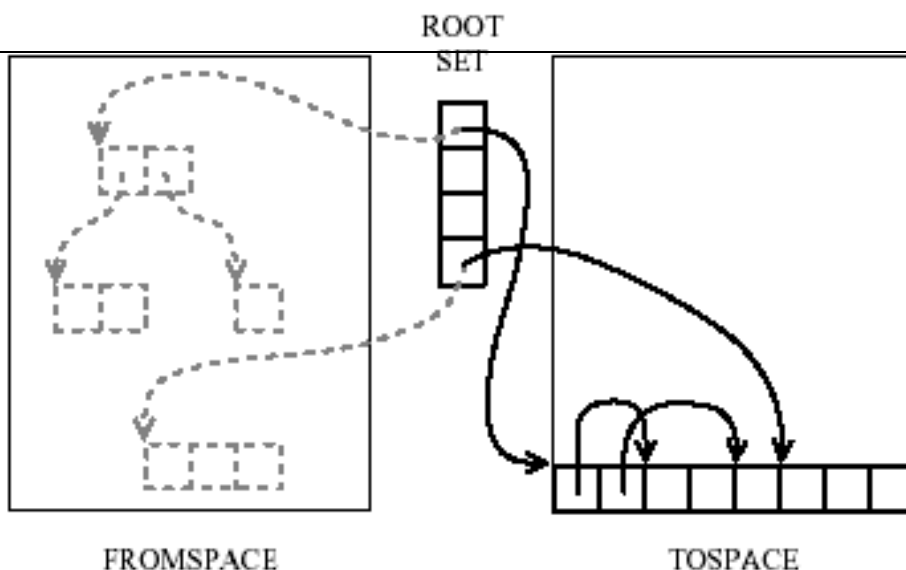
# Copying GC

- Pros
  - Simple & collects cycles
  - Run-time proportional to # live objects
  - Automatic compaction eliminates fragmentation
- Cons
  - Twice as much memory used as program requires
    - Usually, we anticipate live data will only be a small fragment of store
    - Allocate until 70% full
    - From-space = 70% heap; to-space = 30%
  - Long GC pauses = bad for interactive, real-time apps

253

## OBSERVATION: for a copying garbage collector

- 80% to 98% new objects die very quickly.
- An object that has survived several collections has a bigger chance to become a long-lived one.
- It's inefficient that long-lived objects be copied over and over.



## IDEA: Generational garbage collection

Segregate objects into multiple areas by age, and collect areas containing older objects less often than the younger ones.

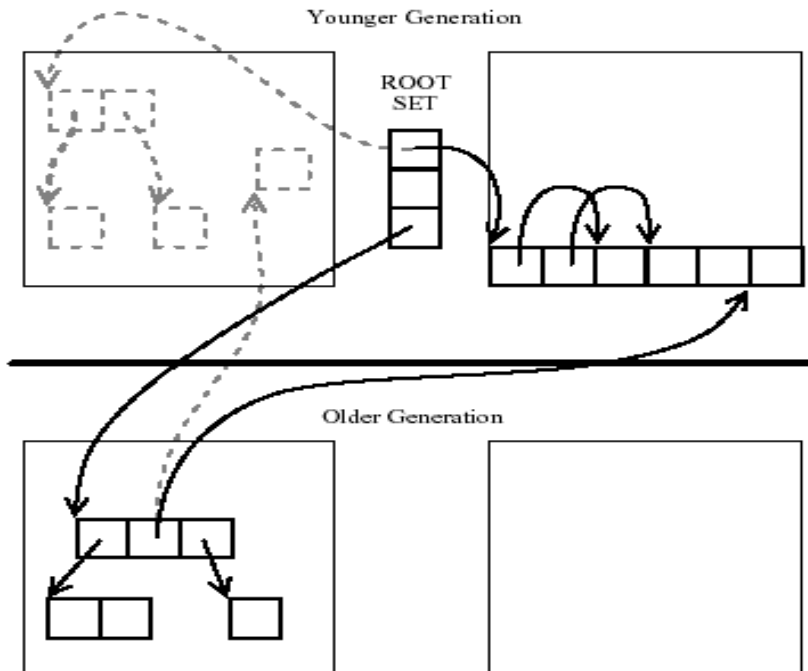


Diagram from Andrew Appel's **Modern Compiler Implementation**

255

## Other issues...

- When do we **promote** objects from young generation to old generation
  - Usually after an object survives a collection, it will be promoted
- Need to keep track of older objects pointing to newer ones!
- How big should the generations be?
  - When do we collect the old generation?
  - After several **minor collections**, we do a **major collection**
- Sometimes different GC algorithms are used for the new and older generations.
  - Why? Because they have different characteristics
  - Copying collection for the new
    - Less than 10% of the new data is usually live
    - Copying collection cost is proportional to the live data
  - Mark-sweep for the old

256

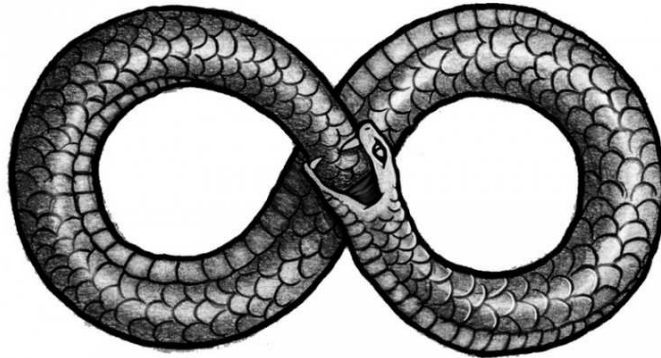


# LECTURE 16

## Bootstrapping a compiler

- Compilers compiling themselves!
- Read Chapter 13 Of
  - Basics of Compiler Design
  - by Torben Mogensen

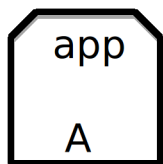
<http://www.diku.dk/hjemmesider/ansatte/torbenm/Basics/>



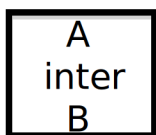
<http://mythologist.net/ouroboros-symbol-of-infinity/>

257

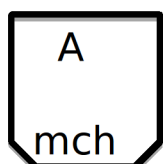
### Bootstrapping. We need some notation . . .



An application called **app** written in language **A**

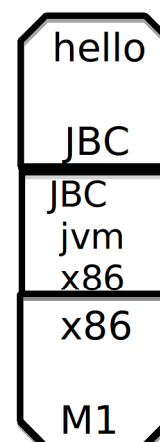
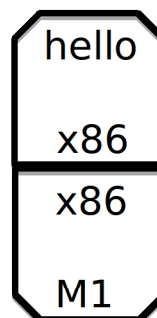


An interpreter or VM for language **A** Written in language **B**

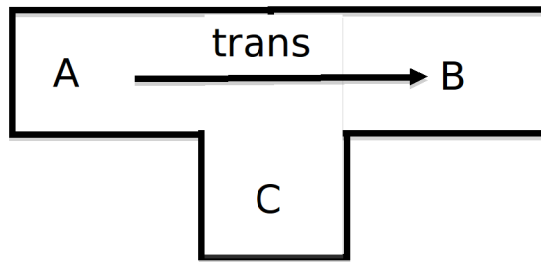


A machine called **mch** running language **A** natively.

### Simple Examples

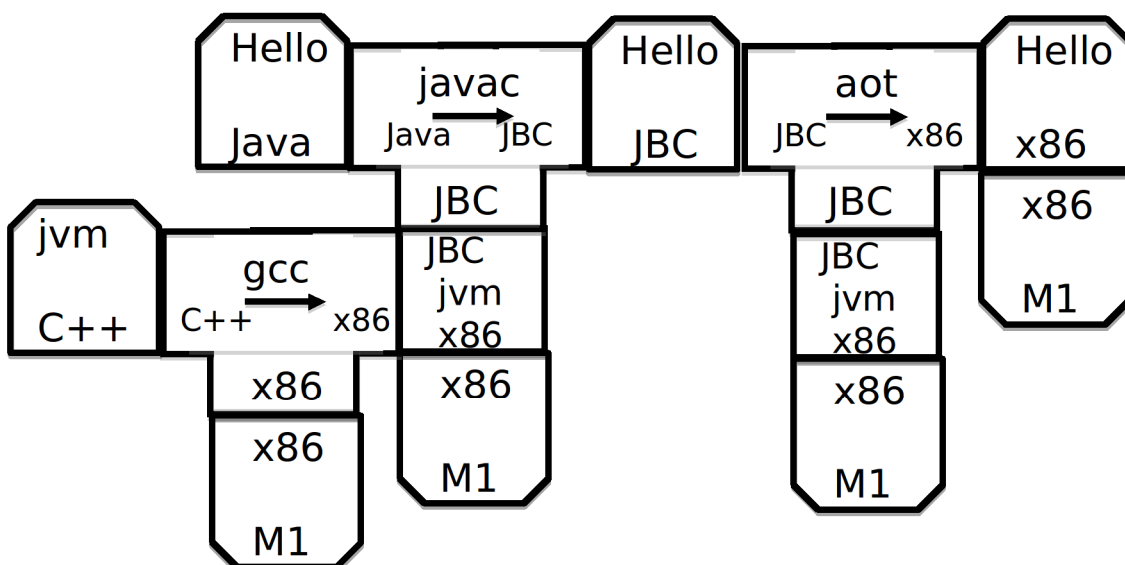


# Tombstones



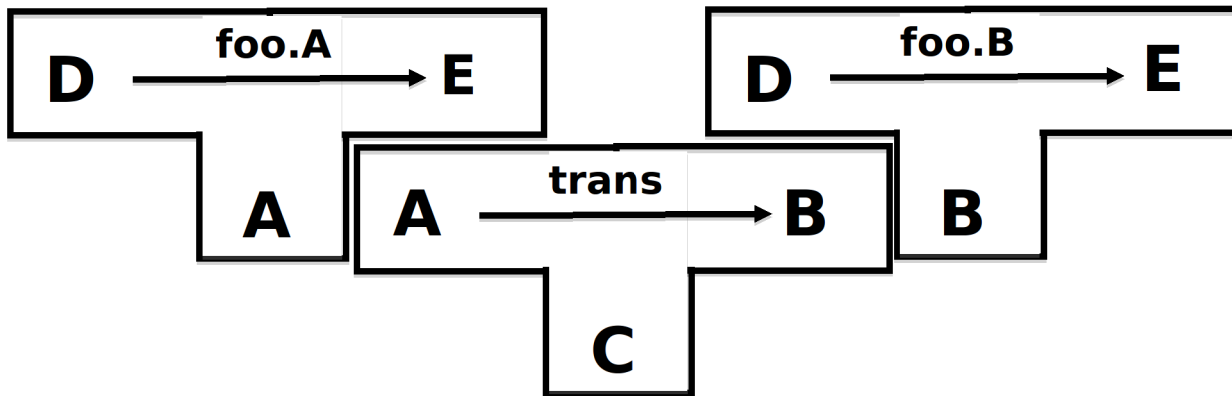
This is an application called **trans** that translates programs in language **A** into programs in language **B**, and it is written in language **C**.

# Ahead-of-time compilation



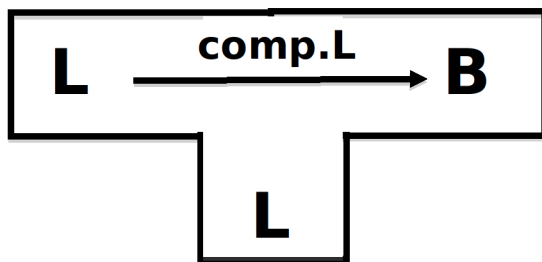
Thanks to David Greaves for the example.

## Of course translators can be translated

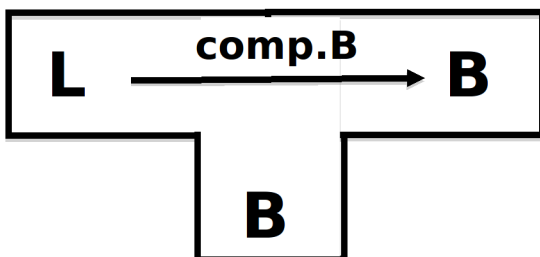


Translator **foo.B** is produced as output from **trans** when given **foo.A** as input.

## Our seemingly impossible task



We have just invented a really great new language **L** (in fact we claim that “**L** is far superior to C++”). To prove how great **L** is we write a compiler for **L** in **L** (of course!). This compiler produces machine code **B** for a widely used instruction set (say **B** = x86).



Furthermore, we want to compile our compiler so that it can run on a machine running **B**.

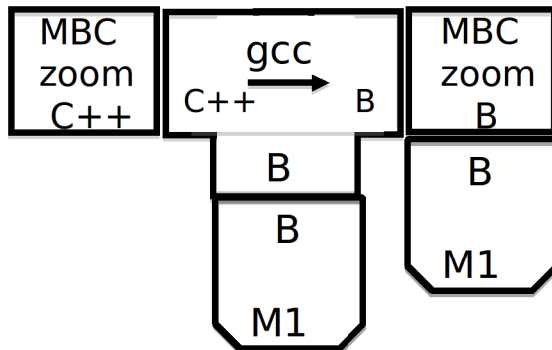
**Our compiler is written in L!**  
**How can we compile our compiler?**

There are many many ways we could go about this task. The following slides simply sketch out one plausible route to fame and fortune.

## Step 1

Write a small interpreter (VM) for a small language of byte codes

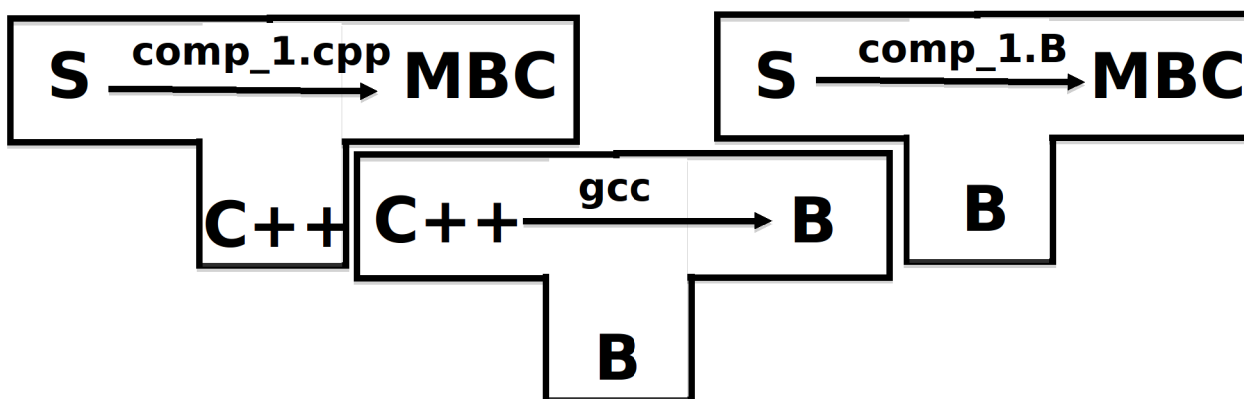
**MBC** = My Byte Codes



The **zoom** machine!

## Step 2

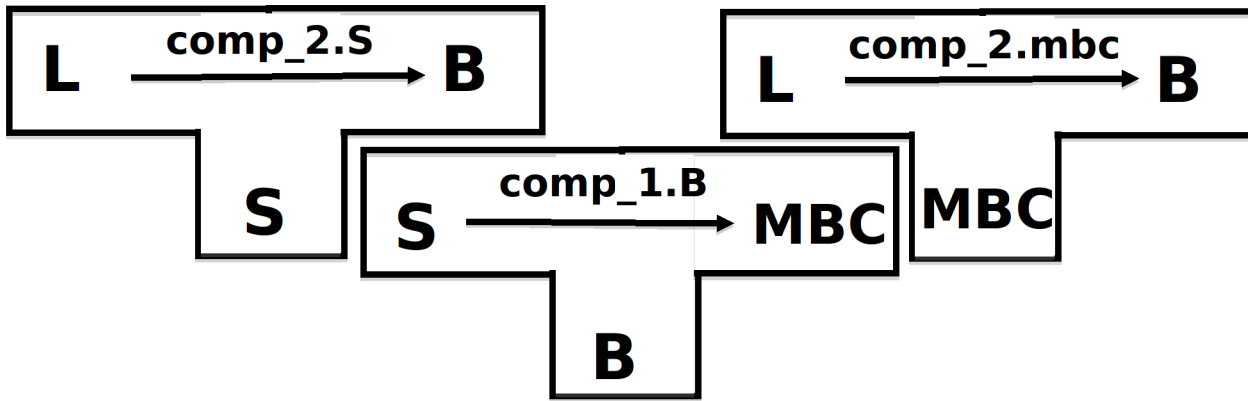
Pick a small subset *S* of *L* and write a translator from *S* to *MBC*



Write **comp\_1.cpp** by hand. (It sure would be nice if we could hide the fact that this is written in C++.)

Compiler **comp\_1.B** is produced as output from **gcc** when **comp\_1.cpp** is given as input.

### Step 3 Write a compiler for L in S

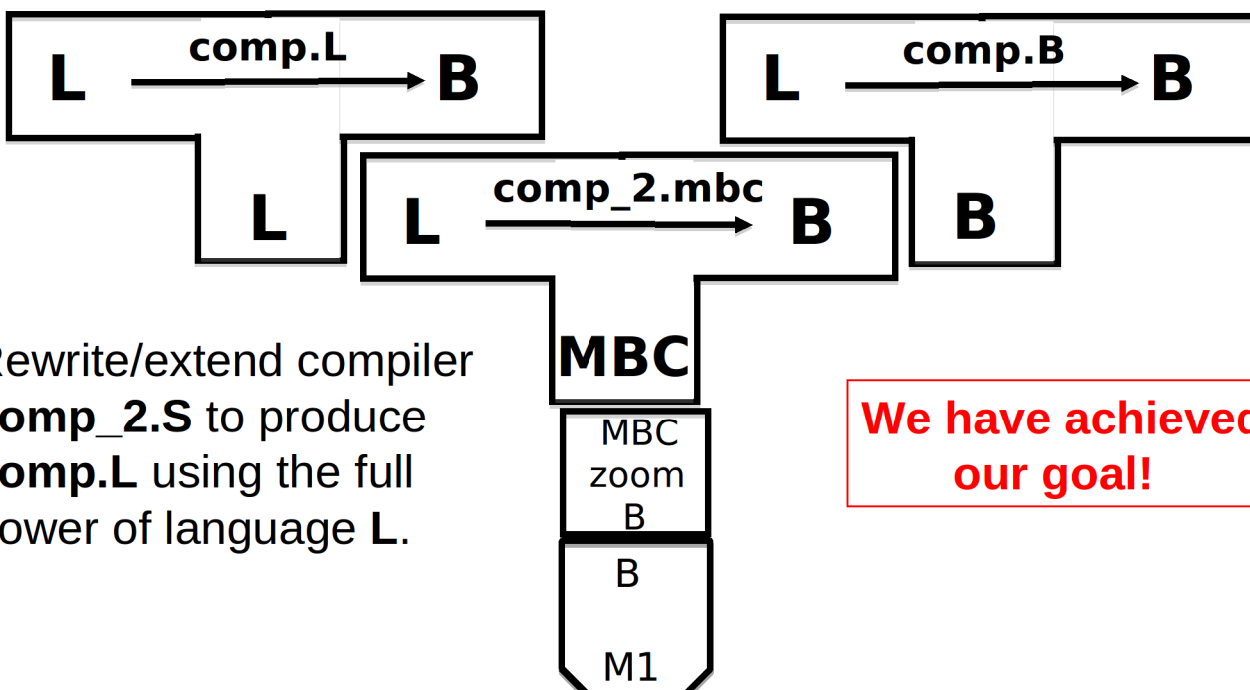


Write a compiler **comp\_2.S** for the full language L, but written only in the sub-language S.

Compile **comp\_2.S** using **comp\_1.B** to produce **comp\_2.mbc**

### Step 4

### Write a compiler for L in L, and then compile it!

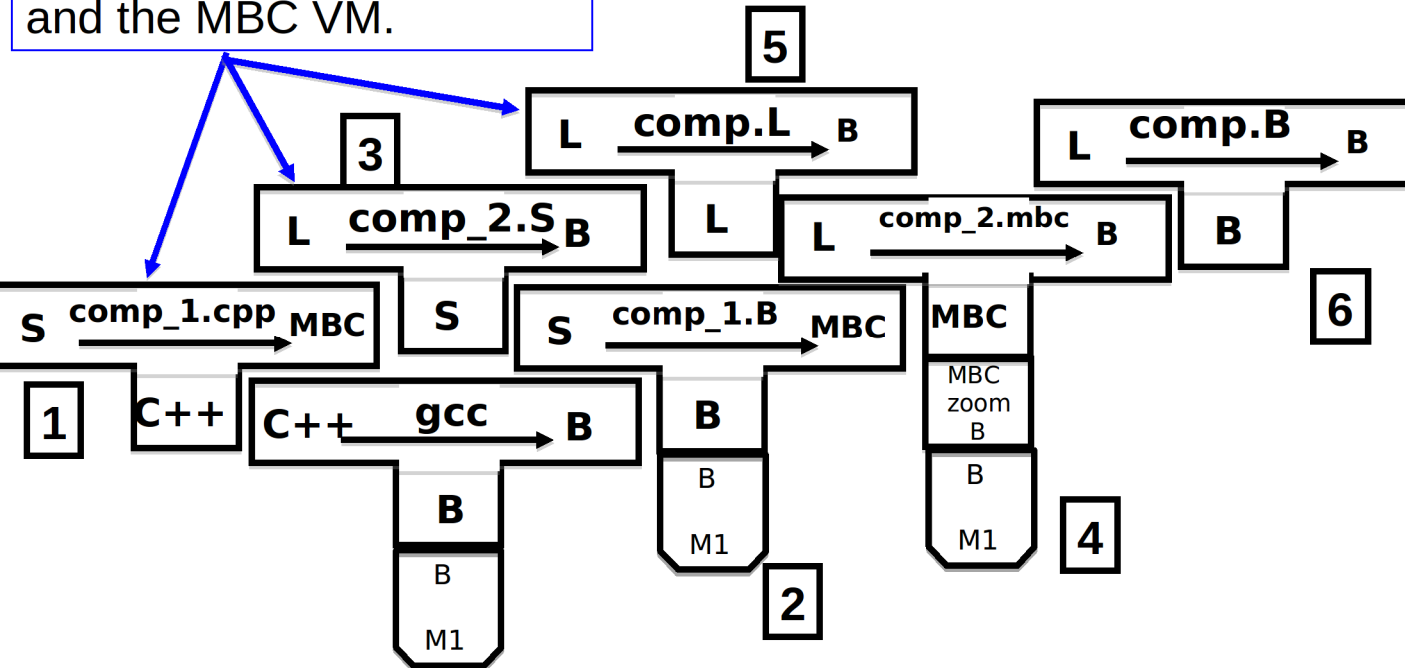


Rewrite/extend compiler **comp\_2.S** to produce **comp.L** using the full power of language L.

**We have achieved our goal!**

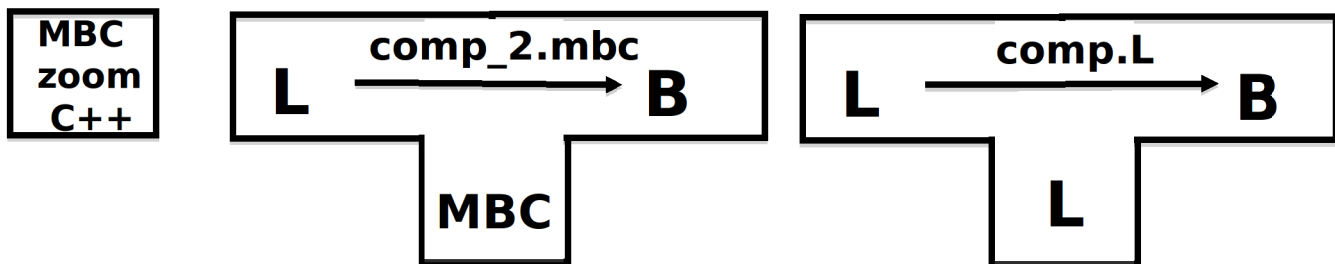
# Putting it all together

We wrote these compilers and the MBC VM.



Step 5 : Cover our tracks and leave the world mystified and amazed!

Our **L** compiler download site contains only three components:



**comp\_2.mbc** is a just file of **bytes**. We give it the mysterious name such as **mr-e**

Shhhh! Don't tell anyone that we wrote the first compiler in C++

Our instructions:

1. Use **gcc** to compile the **zoom** interpreter
2. Use **zoom** to run **mr-e** with input **comp.L** to output the compiler **comp.B**. **MAGIC!**

## Another example (Mogensen, Page 285)

Solving a different problem.

### You have:

- (1) An ML compiler on ARM. Who knows where it came from.
- (2) An ML compiler written in ML, generating x86 code.

### You want:

An ML compiler generating x86 and running on an x86 platform.

