

# Compiler Construction Lent Term 2020

```
int main( int argc, char *argv[] )  
{  
    printf("hello world\n");  
    return 0;  
}
```



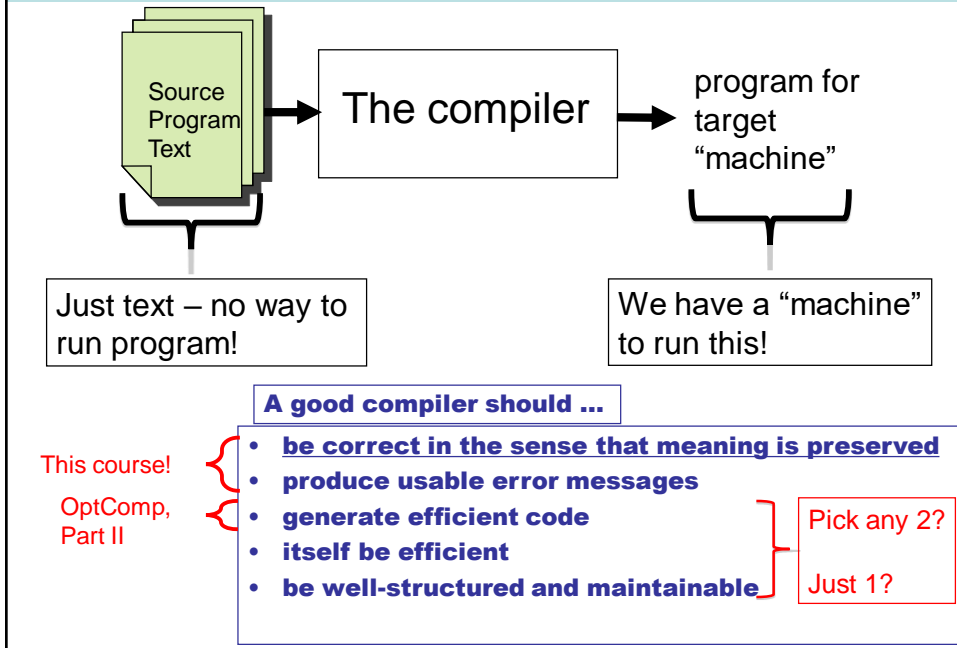
```
.LC0:  
.string "hello world"  
.text  
.globl main  
.type main, @function  
main:  
.LFB0:  
.cfi_startproc  
pushq %rbp  
.cfi_def_cfa_offset 16  
.cfi_offset 6, -16  
movq %rsp, %rbp  
.cfi_def_cfa_register 6  
subq $16, %rsp  
movl %edi, -4(%rbp)  
movq %rsi, -16(%rbp)  
movl $.LC0, %edi  
call puts  
movl $0, %eax  
leave  
.cfi_def_cfa 7, 8  
ret  
.cfi_endproc
```

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

## Why Study Compilers?

- **Although many of the basic ideas were developed over 60 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.**

## Compilation is a special kind of translation



## Mind The Gap

### High Level Language

- "Machine" independent
- Complex syntax
- Complex type system
- Variables
- Nested scope
- Procedures, functions
- Objects
- Modules
- ...

### Typical Target Language

- "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: lconst_1
    8: if_icmpne  13
    11: lconst_1
    12: lreturn
    13: iload_0
    14: lconst_1
    15: isub
    16: invokestatic #2
    19: iload_0
    20: lconst_2
    21: isub
    22: invokestatic #2
    25: ladd
    26: lreturn
}
```

```
public static void
    main(java.lang.String[]);
    Code:
    0: aload_0
    1: lconst_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

5

## 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)
```

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

ocamlc -dinstr fib.ml

OCaml VM bytecodes

6

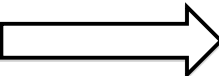
# The Gap, illustrated

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      4,0x0
_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      4,0x0
_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
## BB#1:
    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
    _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

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

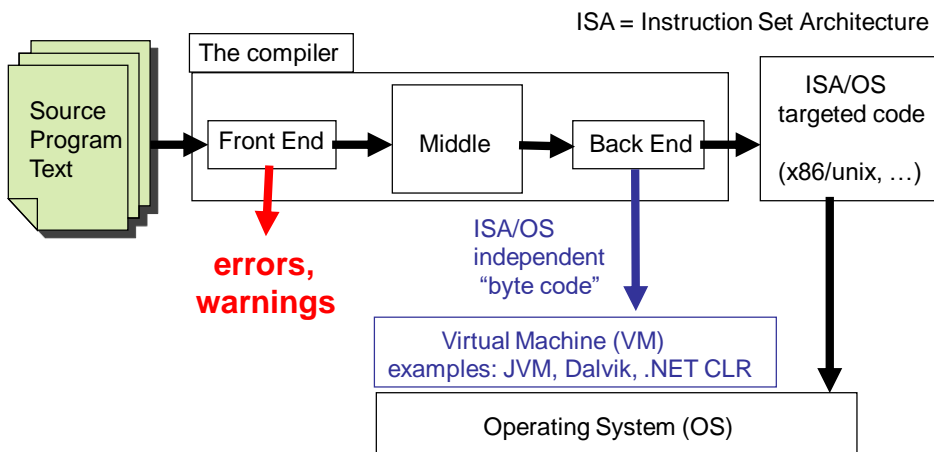
L_str1:
    .asciz  "%d\n"

.subsections_via_symbols
```

x86/Mac OS

8

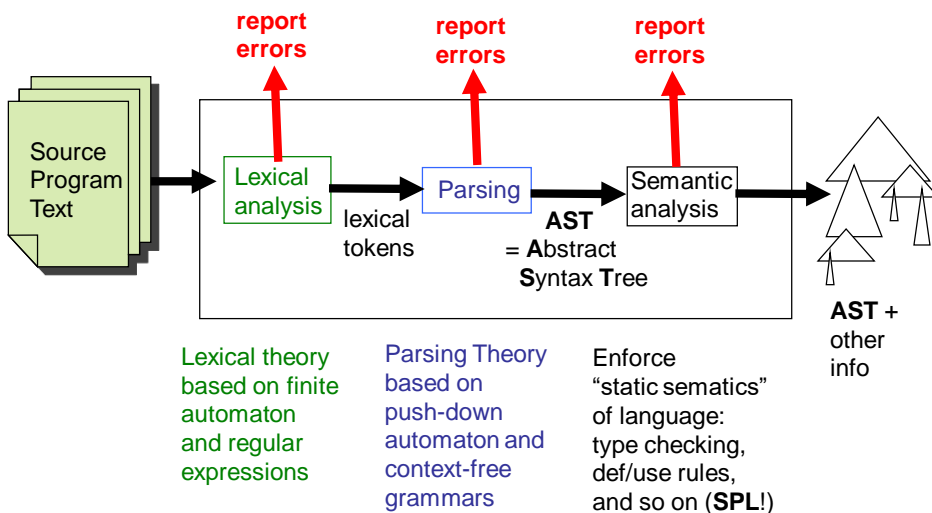
## Conceptual view of a typical compiler



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

9

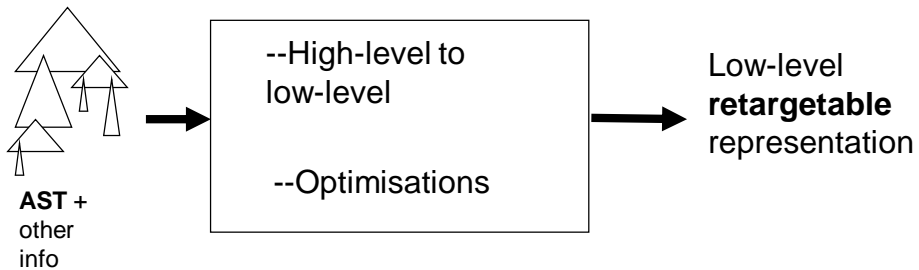
## The shape of a typical "front end"



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

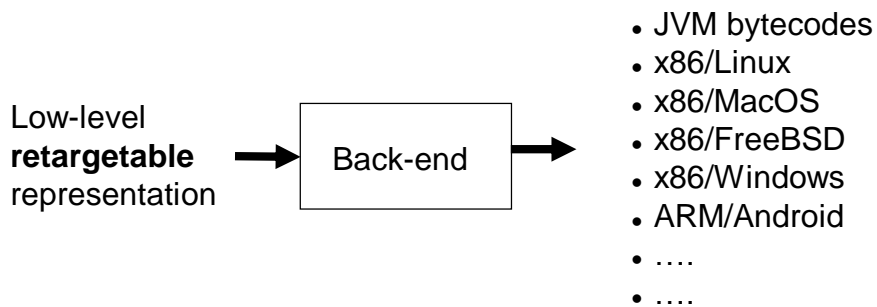
10

## The middle



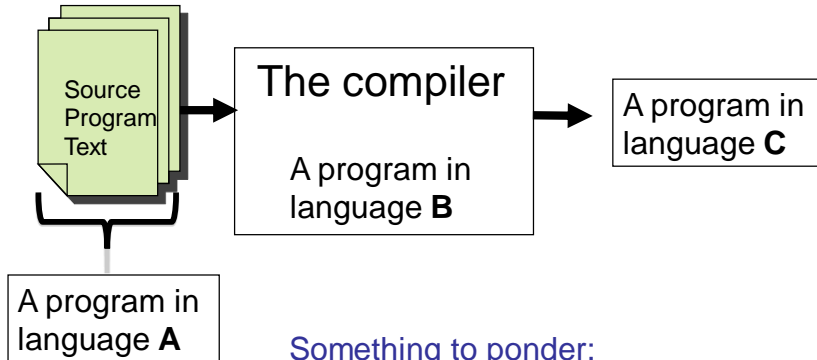
Trade-off: with more optimisations the generated code is (normally) **faster**, but the compiler is **slower**

## The back-end



- 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.

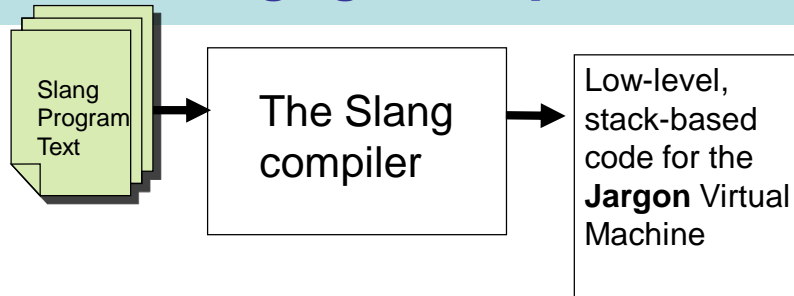
OCaml.

How was the compiler compiled?

## The Slang compiler

- The compiler is available from the course web site.
- It is written in Ocaml
- Slang = **S**imple **L**anguage. Based on L3 from Semantics of Programming Languages, Part 1B.
- The best way to learn about compilers is to modify one.
- There are several suggested improvements listed on the course web site. I hope that some of you will implement these. If they work, I'll let you commit your changes to the repository. Fame! Fortune!

## Bridging the Gap?

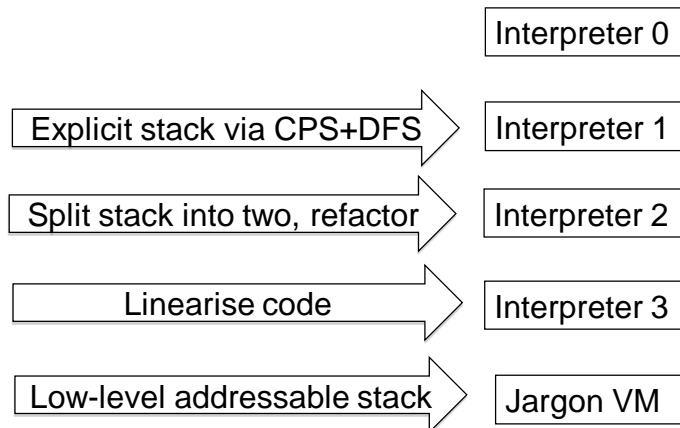


**Question** : How do we leap from the mathematical semantics of L3 to a low-level stack machine?

**Answer** : We will start with a high-level interpreter based on semantics, and then **derive** the stack machine by a sequence of semantics preserving transformations!

## Lectures 2 – 6 : the derivation

Note : this is **not** the traditional way of teaching compilers! Many textbooks will start with a stack machine and bridge the gap informally. We will develop a deeper understanding!





## The Shape of this Course

- Lectures 2 – 6 : Derivation of Jargon Stack Machine
- Lectures 7 – 12 : Assorted topics.
  - From Jargon code to x86
  - The OS interface
  - Implementing exceptions
  - Implementing OOP
  - Runtime systems and garbage collection
  - Compiling a compiler via boot strapping
- Lectures 13 – 16 : The front end.
  - Lexical analysis
  - Parsing

## LECTURE 2

### Slang front end and interpreter 0

- **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**
- **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 and heap

## 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) | ? |  
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
| Tefun 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
           * type_expr * expr
| LetRecFun of loc * var * lambda
             * type_expr * expr
```

## 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
```

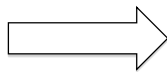
```
and lambda = var * expr
```

24

## past\_to\_ast.ml

```
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

## 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)

26

## A denotational semantics for L3?

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

**I** = set of identifiers    Expr = set of L3 expressions

**E** = set of environments =  $\mathbf{I} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}$     **S** = set of stores =  $\mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}$

**V** = set of value

$\approx \mathbf{A}$

+ **N**

+ **B**

+ { () }

+  $\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{V}$

+  $(\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{V})$

+  $(\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{S}) \rightarrow (\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{S})$

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

27

## Interpreter 0 : An OCaml approximation

**A** = set of addresses

**S** = set of stores =  $\mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}$

**V** = set of value

$\approx \mathbf{A}$

+ **N**

+ **B**

+ { () }

+  $\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{V}$

+  $(\mathbf{V} + \mathbf{V})$

+  $(\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{S}) \rightarrow (\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{S})$

**E** = set of environments =  $\mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}$

**M** = the meaning function

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

```

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)
    
```

28

## 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')
  :
  :
```

29

## 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)
```

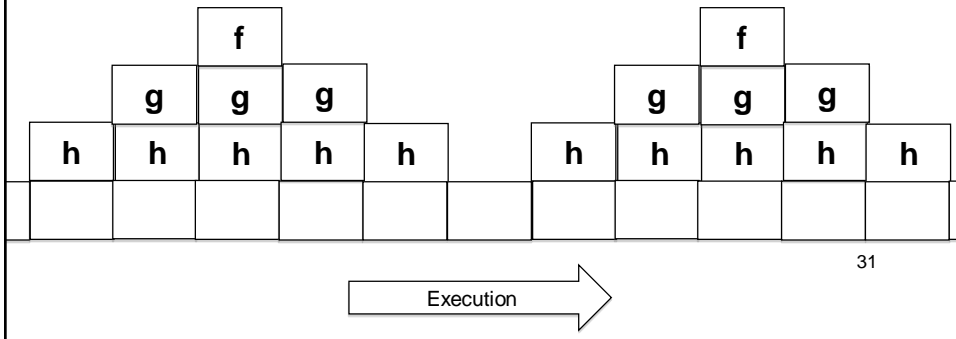
update : env \* (var \* value) -> env

30

## Interpreter 0 is using OCaml's runtime stack. How can we move toward the Jargon VM?

```
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.



## Recall tail recursion : fold\_left vs 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



## Convert tail-recursion to iteration

```
(* 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
```

## Question: can we transform any recursive function (such as interpreter 0) 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.

## LECTURES 3 & 4

### Derivation of Interpreters 1 & 2

- 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.

35

### (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)))
```

36

## 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)”

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

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-1)  
-- then add results together  
-- then return

37

## 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 ....

38

## 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]
```

39

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

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)
```

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.

40

## 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))
```

QED.

41

## 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`

42

## “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)
```

43

## 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!

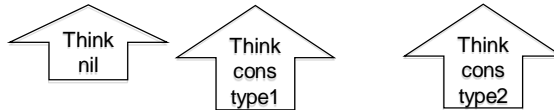
| Functional continuation c   | Representation $\langle c \rangle$           |
|---|--|
| $\text{fun } a \rightarrow \text{fib\_cps}(m - 2, \text{fun } b \rightarrow \text{cnt}(a + b))$ | $\text{CNT1}(m, \langle \text{cnt} \rangle)$ |
| $\text{fun } b \rightarrow \text{cnt}(a + b)$   | $\text{CNT2}(a,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

44

## 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
```

45

## 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, [])
```

46

## 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, [])

```

47

## 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)

(* fib_5 : int -> int *)
let fib_5 m = driver (SUB1, m, [])

```

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

48



## 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....

49

## 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!**

50

## 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)
```

51

## 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)
```

52

## 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)
```

53

## 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)
```

54

## 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)
```

55

## 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, [])
```

56

## 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 ...

57

## 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)
```

58

## 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 exp_6 : expr -> int
```

The state is now  
two stacks!

59

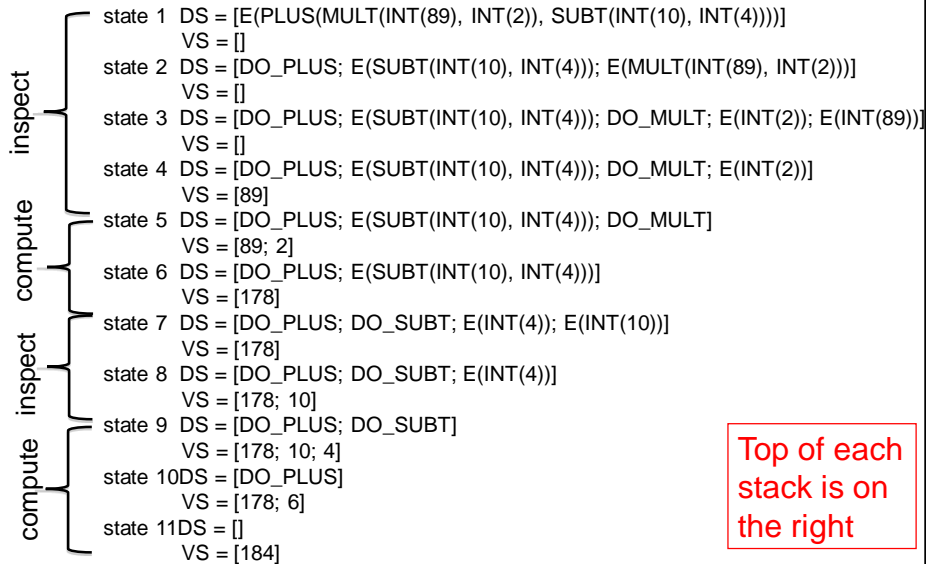
## Split into two stacks

```
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], [])
```

60

## An eval\_6 trace

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



Top of each stack is on the right

## 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))

Note : this can occur at many levels of abstraction: think of machine code being interpreted in micro-code ...

## 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]
```

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

63

## 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, []) |
```

64



## An eval\_7 trace

inspect

```
compile (PLUS(MULT(INT 89, INT 2), SUBT(INT 10, INT 4)))  
= [push 89; push 2; mult; push 10; push 4; sub; plus]
```

compute

```
state 1 IS = [add; sub; push 4; push 10; mul; push 2; push 89]  
        VS = []  
state 2 IS = [add; sub; push 4; push 10; mul; push 2]  
        VS = [89]  
state 3 IS = [add; sub; push 4; push 10; mul]  
        VS = [89; 2]  
state 4 IS = [add; sub; push 4; push 10]  
        VS = [178]  
state 5 IS = [add; sub; push 4]  
        VS = [178; 10]  
state 6 IS = [add; sub]  
        VS = [178; 10; 4]  
state 7 IS = [add]  
        VS = [178; 6]  
state 8 IS = []  
        VS = [184]
```

Top of each  
stack is on  
the right

## 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**

## 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 (analogous to eval\_6)
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. (analogous to eval\_7)

67

## Interpreter 0 → Interpreter 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**

(we will not look at the details of interpreter 1 ...)

68

## 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 v1) :: (V v2) :: evs) -> (ds, V(do_oper(op, v1, v2)) :: evs)
| (MK_PAIR :: ds, (V v1) :: (V v2) :: 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 frond-end and
Interp_0.interpret e = v
then
  driver (compile e, []) = v'
where v' (somehow) represents v.
```

In other words,  
evaluating  
compile 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>73</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)

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\_2.ml

75

## 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!!!**

76

## LECTURE 5

### 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

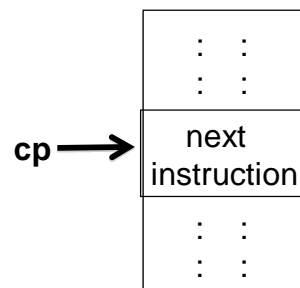
77

## 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

78

## Compile conditionals, loops

If(e1, e2, e3)

|                       |
|-----------------------|
| <b>code for e1</b>    |
| <b>TEST k</b>         |
| <b>code for e2</b>    |
| <b>GOTO m</b>         |
| <b>k: code for e3</b> |
| <b>m:</b>             |

While(e1, e2)

|                       |
|-----------------------|
| <b>m: code for e1</b> |
| <b>TEST k</b>         |
| <b>code for e2</b>    |
| <b>GOTO m</b>         |
| <b>k:</b>             |

79

## 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

80



## 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)
-> (i, (EV env) :: (RA i) :: 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).

## Tricky bits again!

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
  @ [HALT] (* stop the interpreter *)
  @ defs (* function definitions *)
```

83

## Interpreter 3 (very similar to interpreter 2)

```
let step (cp, envs) =
  match (get_instruction cp, envs) with
  | (PUSH v, _ :: envs) -> (cp + 1, (V v) :: envs)
  | (POP, _ :: envs) -> (cp + 1, envs)
  | (SWAP, s1 :: s2 :: envs) -> (cp + 1, s2 :: s1 :: envs)
  | (BIND x, (V v) :: envs) -> (cp + 1, EV([x, v]) :: envs)
  | (LOOKUP x, envs) -> (cp + 1, V(search(envs, x)) :: envs)
  | (UNARY op, (V v) :: envs) -> (cp + 1, V(do_unary(op, v)) :: envs)
  | (OPER op, (V v2) :: (V v1) :: envs) -> (cp + 1, V(do_oper(op, v1, v2)) :: envs)
  | (MK_PAIR, (V v2) :: (V v1) :: envs) -> (cp + 1, V(PAIR(v1, v2)) :: envs)
  | (FST, V(PAIR (v, _)) :: envs) -> (cp + 1, (V v) :: envs)
  | (SND, V(PAIR (_, v)) :: envs) -> (cp + 1, (V v) :: envs)
  | (MK_INL, (V v) :: envs) -> (cp + 1, V(INL v) :: envs)
  | (MK_INR, (V v) :: envs) -> (cp + 1, V(INR v) :: envs)
  | (CASE (_, Some i), V(INL v) :: envs) -> (cp + 1, (V v) :: envs)
  | (CASE (_, Some i), V(INR v) :: envs) -> (i, (V v) :: envs)
  | (TEST (_, Some i), V(BOOL true) :: envs) -> (cp + 1, envs)
  | (TEST (_, Some i), V(BOOL false) :: envs) -> (i, envs)
  | (ASSIGN, (V v) :: (V (REF a)) :: envs) -> (heap.(a) <- v; (cp + 1, V(UNIT) :: envs))
  | (DEREF, (V (REF a)) :: envs) -> (cp + 1, V(heap.(a)) :: envs)
  | (MK_REF, (V v) :: envs) -> let a = new_address () in (heap.(a) <- v;
    (cp + 1, V(REF a) :: envs))
  | (MK_CLOSURE loc, envs) -> (cp + 1, V(CLOSURE(loc, envs_to_env envs)) :: envs)
  | (APPLY, V(CLOSURE (_, Some i), env)) -> (V v) :: envs
    -> (i, (V v) :: (EV env) :: (RA (cp + 1)) :: envs)
  (* new instructions *)
  | (RETURN, (V v) :: _ :: (RA i) :: envs) -> (i, (V v) :: envs)
  | (LABEL l, envs) -> (cp + 1, envs)
  | (HALT, envs) -> (cp, envs)
  | (GOTO (_, Some i), envs) -> (i, envs)
  | _ -> complain ("step : bad state = " ^ (string_of_state (cp, envs)) ^ "\n")
```

84

## 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.

85

## 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!!!**

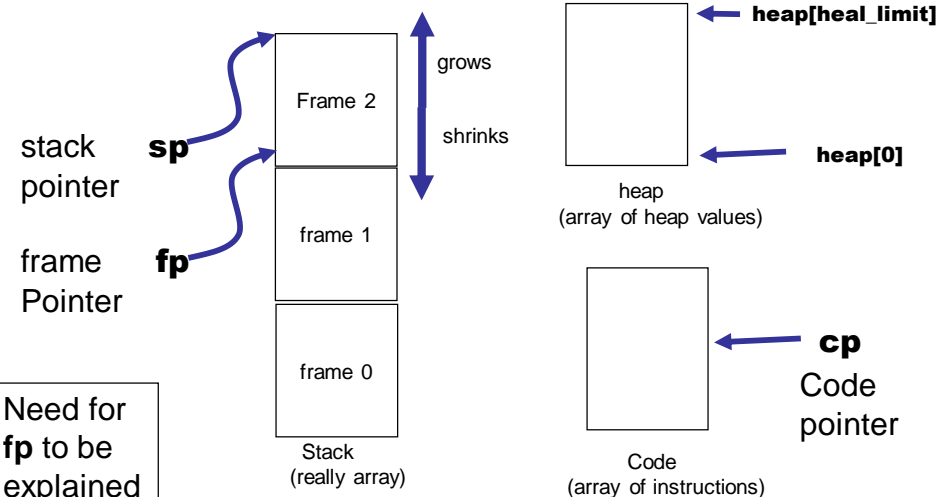
## LECTURES 6

### Deriving The Jargon VM (interpreter 4)

1. **First change:** Introduce an addressable stack.
2. Replace variable lookup by a (relative) location on the stack or heap determined at compile time.
3. 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.
6. How might things look different in a language without first-class functions? In a language with multiple arguments to function calls?

87

## Jargon Virtual Machine



88

## The stack in interpreter 3

A stack  
in interpreter 3

|              |
|--------------|
| (1, (2, 17)) |
| Inl(inr(99)) |
| : :          |
| : :          |

“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

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.

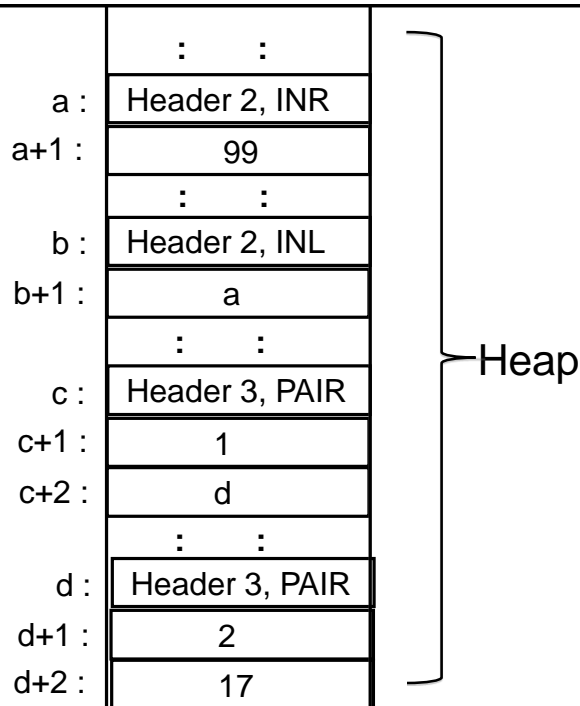
Solution : put the data in the heap. Place pointers to the heap on the stack.

## The Jargon VM stack

Stack

|     |
|-----|
| c   |
| b   |
| : : |
| : : |

Some stack elements represent pointers into the heap



| interp_3.mli   | Small change to instructions | jargon.mli   |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| <pre> 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 </pre> |                              | <pre> 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 </pre> |

91

## A word about implementation

| A word about implementation   |  | Interpreter 3  |
|---|--|--|
| <pre> 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 </pre> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Jargon VM</div>   | <pre> type heap_type =   HT_PAIR   HT_INL   HT_INR   HT_CLOSURE </pre> |
| <pre> 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 *) </pre>             | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">The headers will be essential for garbage collection!</div> |  |

92

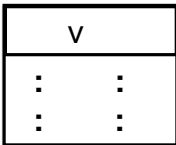
## MK\_INR (MK\_INL is similar)

In interpreter 3

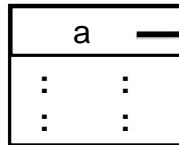
(MK\_INR, (V v) :: evs) -> (cp + 1, V(INR(v)) :: evs)

Jargon VM

The stack before



The stack after



→ a : 

|               |
|---------------|
| Header 2, INR |
|---------------|

  
→ a+1 : 

|   |
|---|
| v |
|---|

Newly allocated locations in the heap

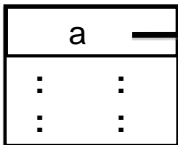
Note: The header types are not really required. We could instead add an extra field here (for example, 0 or 1). However, header types aid in understanding the code and traces of runtime execution.

## CASE (TEST is similar)

(CASE (\_, Some \_), V(INL v)::evs) -> (cp + 1, (V v) :: evs)

(CASE (\_, Some i), V(INR v)::evs) -> (i, (V v) :: evs)

**cp = t**



→ a : 

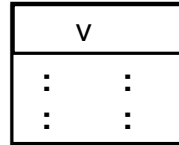
|     |
|-----|
| INR |
|-----|

  
→ a+1 : 

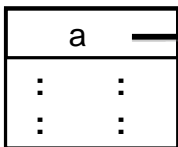
|   |
|---|
| v |
|---|



**cp = i**



**cp = t**



→ a : 

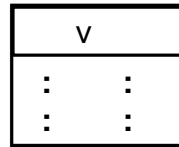
|     |
|-----|
| INL |
|-----|

  
→ a+1 : 

|   |
|---|
| v |
|---|



**cp = t + 1**

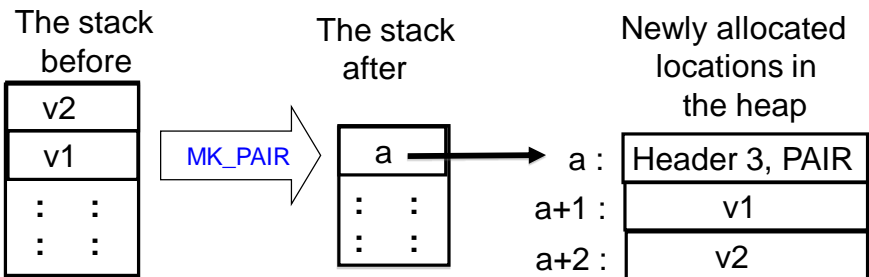


## MK\_PAIR

In interpreter 3:

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

In Jargon VM:



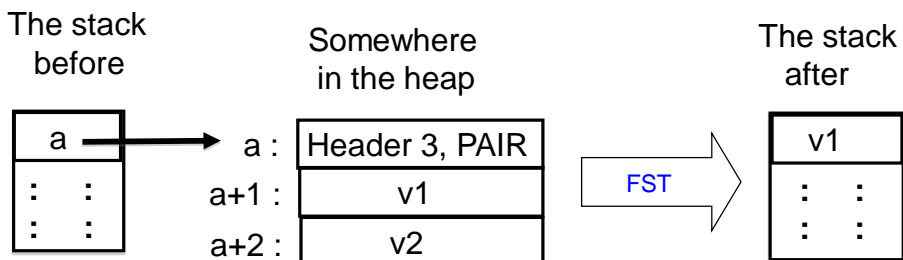
95

## FST (similar for SND)

In interpreter 3:

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

In Jargon VM:



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

96



## 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)

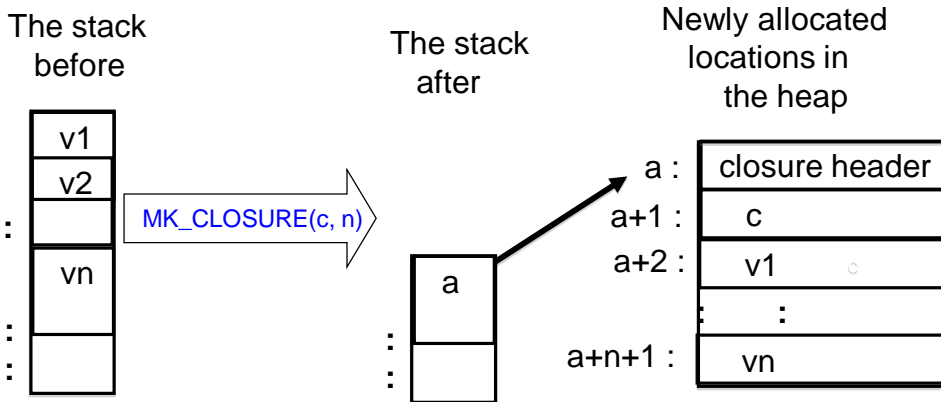
  | (APPLY, V(CLOSURE ((_, Some i), env)) :: (V v) :: evs)
    -> (i, (V v) :: (EV env) :: (RA (cp + 1)) :: evs)

  | (RETURN, (V v) :: _ :: (RA i) :: evs)
    -> (i, (V v) :: evs)
  
```

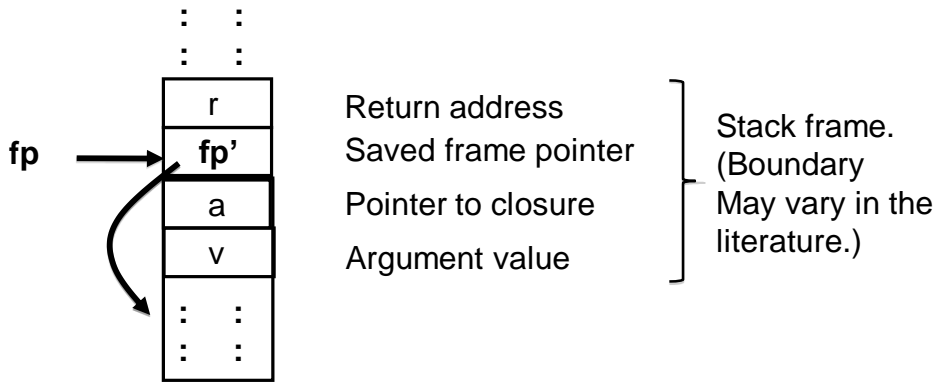
## MK\_CLOSURE(c, n)

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



## A stack frame



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

## APPLY

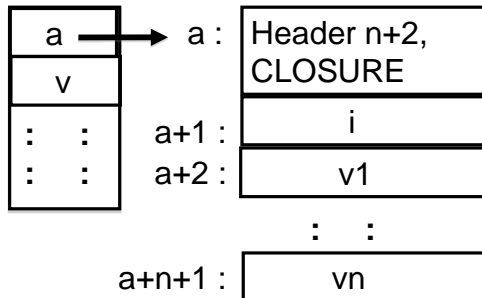
Interpreter 3:

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

Jargon VM:

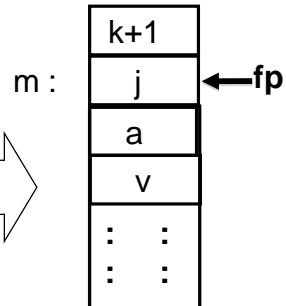
BEFORE

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



AFTER

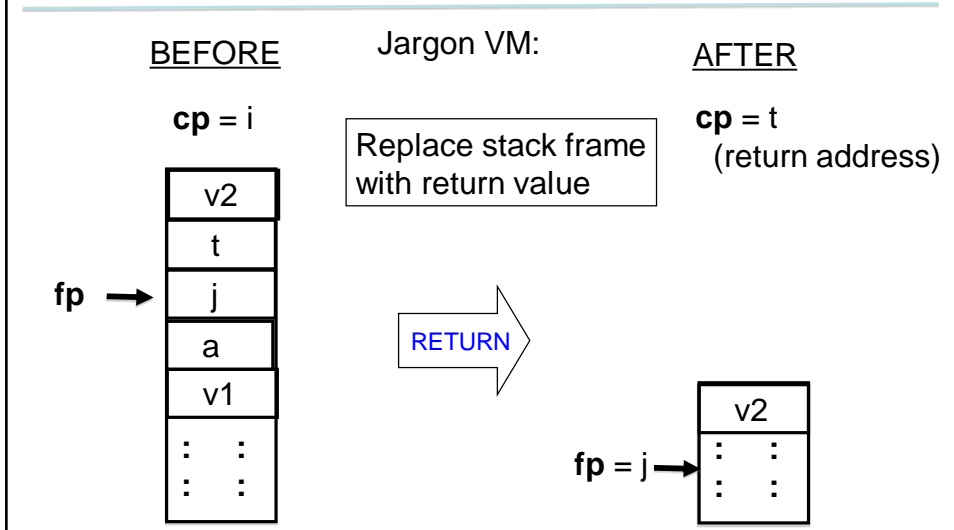
**cp = i**  
**fp = m**



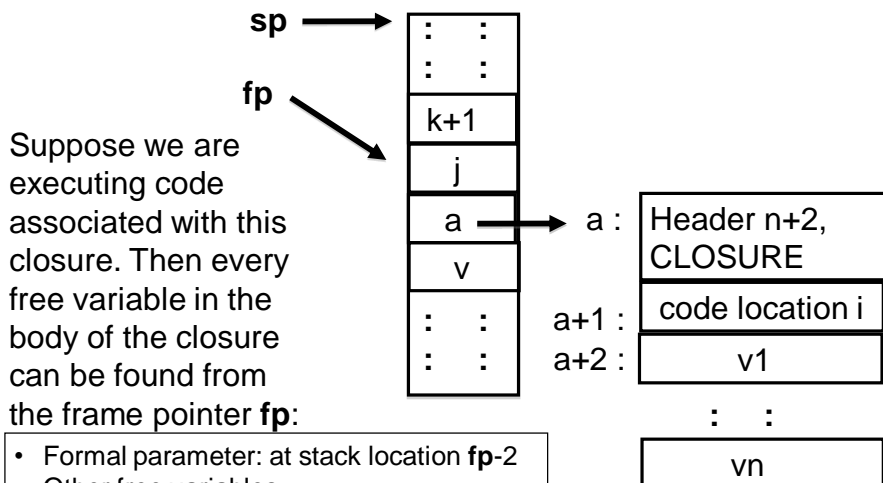
## RETURN

Interpreter 3:

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



## Finding a variable's value at runtime



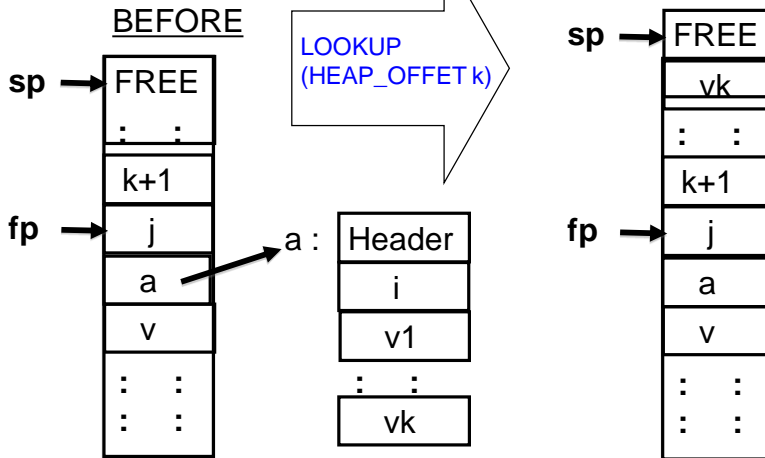
- Formal parameter: at stack location **fp-2**
- Other free variables :
  - Follow heap pointer found at **fp -1**
  - Each free variable can be associated with a fixed offset from this heap address

## LOOKUP (HEAP\_OFFSET k)

Interpreter 3:

$(\text{LOOKUP } x, \text{ evs}) \rightarrow (\text{cp} + 1, V(\text{search}(\text{evs}, x)) :: \text{evs})$

Jargon VM:

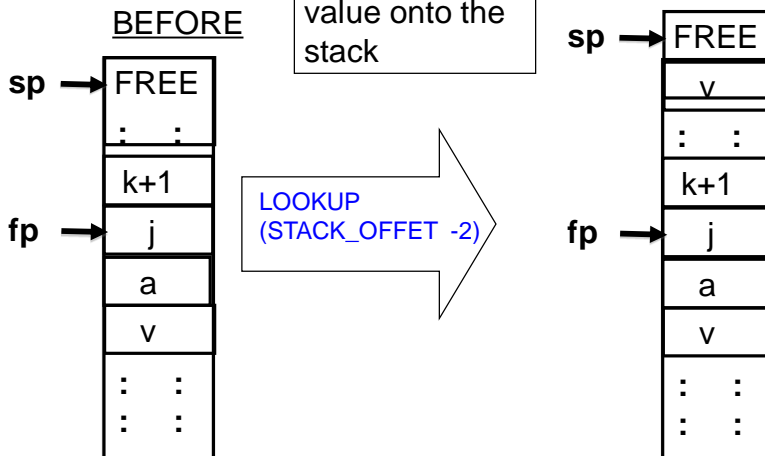


## LOOKUP (STACK\_OFFSET -2)

Interpreter 3:

$(\text{LOOKUP } x, \text{ evs}) \rightarrow (\text{cp} + 1, V(\text{search}(\text{evs}, x)) :: \text{evs})$

Jargon VM:



## 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)))
:

```

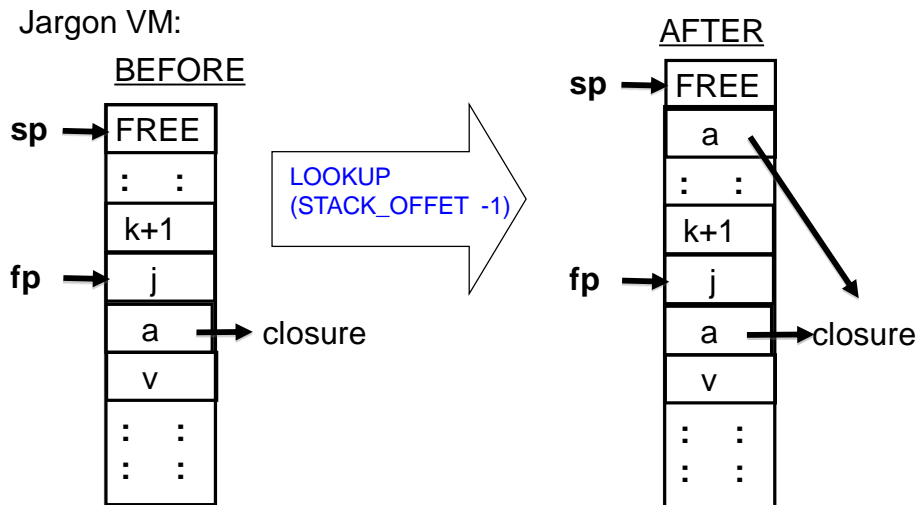
Solution in Jargon VM

Similar trick for [LetRecFun](#)

105

## 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"))))
```

107

## 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)
MK_CLOSURE(L0, 0)
APPLY
HALT
L0 :   PUSH STACK_INT 21
PUSH STACK_INT 17
MK_PAIR
LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2
APPLY
RETURN
L1 :   LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2
SND
LOOKUP STACK_LOCATION -2
FST
MK_PAIR
RETURN
```

```
-- Make closure for second lambda
-- Make closure for first lambda
-- do application
-- the end!
-- code for first lambda, push 21
-- push 17
-- make the pair on the heap
-- push closure for second lambda on stack
-- apply first lambda
-- return from first lambda
-- code for second lambda, push arg on stack
-- extract second part of pair
-- push arg on stack again
-- extract first part of pair
-- construct a new pair
-- return from second lambda
```

108

## 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)))))
```

111

## Can we make sense of this?

```
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
```

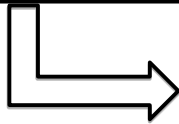
112



## 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
```



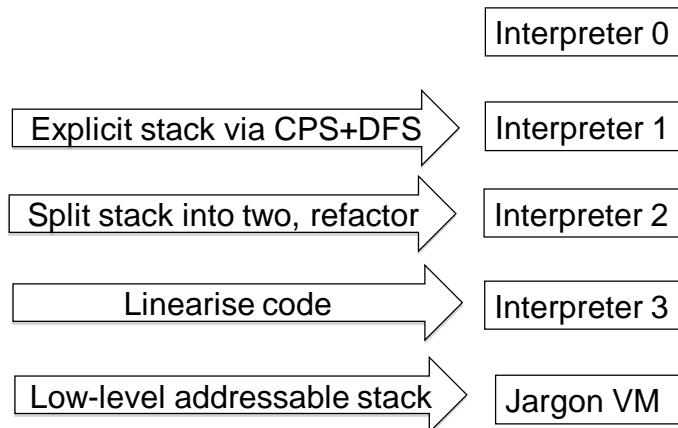
slang.byte -c -i4 fib.slang

```
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

## 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.



## 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](#).

115

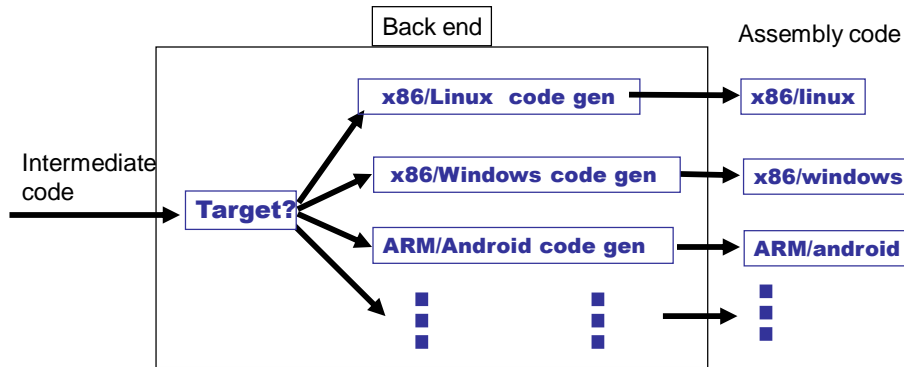
## We could implement a Jargon byte code interpreter ...

```
...
...
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 ....**

116

## Backend could target multiple platforms



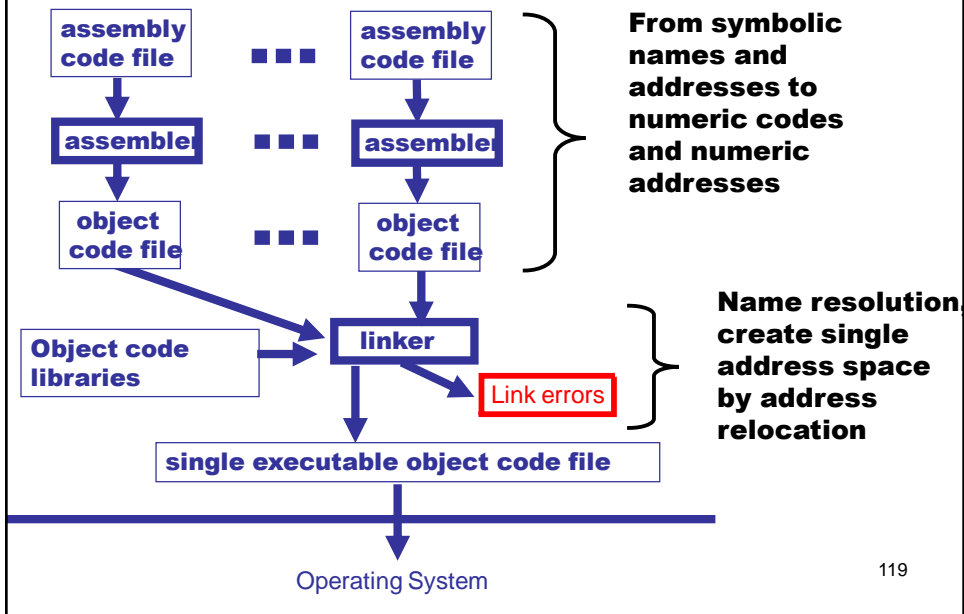
One of the great benefits of Virtual Machines is their portability. However, for more efficient code we may want to compile to assembler. Lost portability can be regained through the extra effort of implementing code generation for every desired target platform.

117

## Lectures 7 --- 12 Assorted Topics

1. Separate compilation, linking
2. Interface with OS
3. Stacks vs registers
4. Calling conventions
5. Generating assembler code
6. Simple optimisations
7. The runtime system (automatic memory management, ...)
8. Static links (for languages without nested functions/procedures)
9. Implementing OOP with inheritance
10. Implementing exceptions
11. Compiling a compiler, “boot strapping”

## Assembly and Linking



The gcc manual (810 pages)  
<https://gcc.gnu.org/onlinedocs/gcc-5.3.0/gcc.pdf>

Chapter 9: Binary Compatibility

677

## 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.

120

## 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!

121

## 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

`.text` segment (code segment): binary data

`.data` segment: binary data

`.rela.text` code segment relocation table: list of (offset,symbol) pairs giving:  
(*i*) offset within `.text` to be relocated; and  
(*iii*) by which symbol

`.rela.data` data segment relocation table: list of (offset,symbol) pairs giving:  
(*i*) offset within `.data` to be relocated; and  
(*iii*) 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).

## Dynamic vs. Static linking

### 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.
- ...

127

## Runtime system

### Targeting a VM

Generated code



Virtual Machine

Implementation  
Includes runtime system

### Targeting a platform

Generated code

Run-time system



Linker



Executable

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

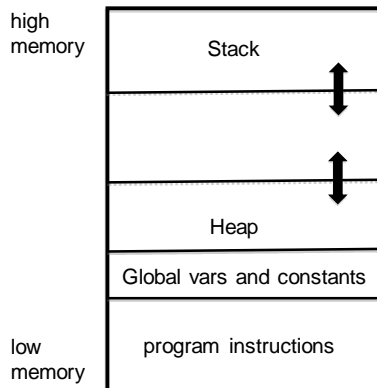
128



## 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....

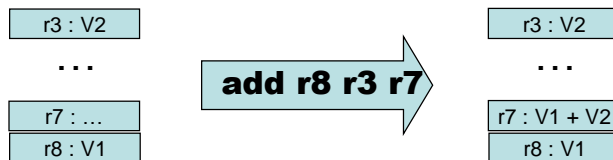
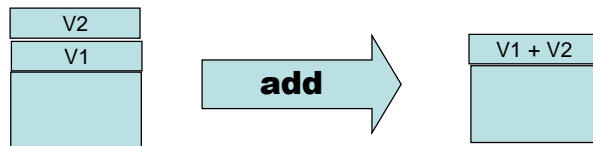


The heap is used for dynamically allocating memory. Typically either for very large objects or for those objects that are returned by functions/procedures and must outlive the associated activation record.

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

129

## 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

130

## 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

```
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;
}
```

```
    _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
```

133

## 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

134

## 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.
```

137

## 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!)
```

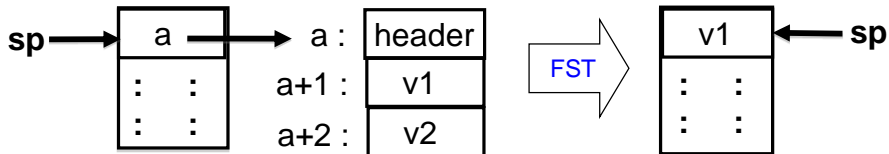
Assume that we have implemented a procedure in C called `allocate` that will manage heap memory. We will compile and link this in with code generated by the `slang` compiler. At the x86 level, `allocate` will expect a header in `edi` and return a heap pointer in `eax`.

138

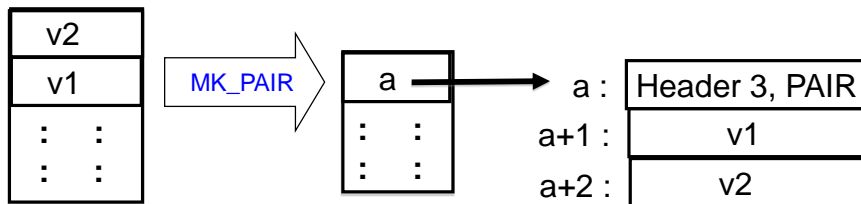
## Some Jargon VM instructions are “easy” to translate

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<br>movl \$i, (%esp)                           | // make room on top of stack<br>// where i is an integer representing v   |
| <b>FST</b>      | movl (%esp), %edx<br>movl 4(%edx), %edx<br>movl %edx, (%esp) | //store "a" into edx<br>// load v1, 4 bytes, 1 word, after header<br>// replace "a" with "v1" at top of stack   |
| <b>SND</b>      | movl (%esp), %edx<br>movl 8(%edx), %edx<br>movl %edx, (%esp) | //store "a" into edx<br>// vload v2, 8 bytes, 2 words, after header<br>// 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
    
```

## call function computed at runtime?

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 */
```

```
_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
```

X86,  
64 bit

without  
-O2

141

## 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

...

## New topic: 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.

143

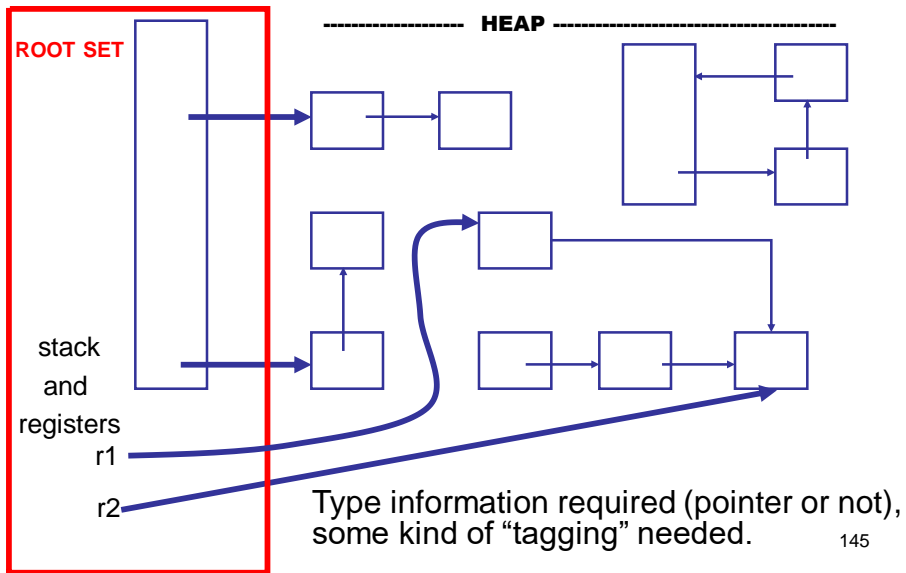
## Explicit (manual) memory management

- 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 ;-)

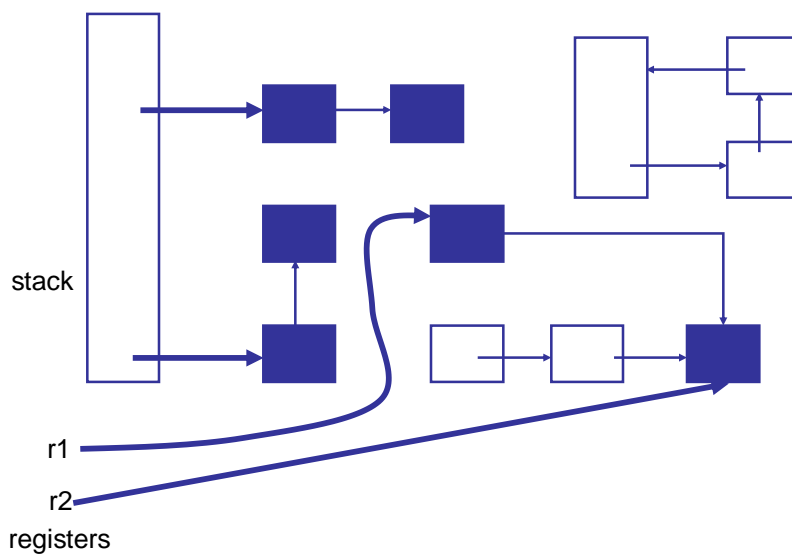
144



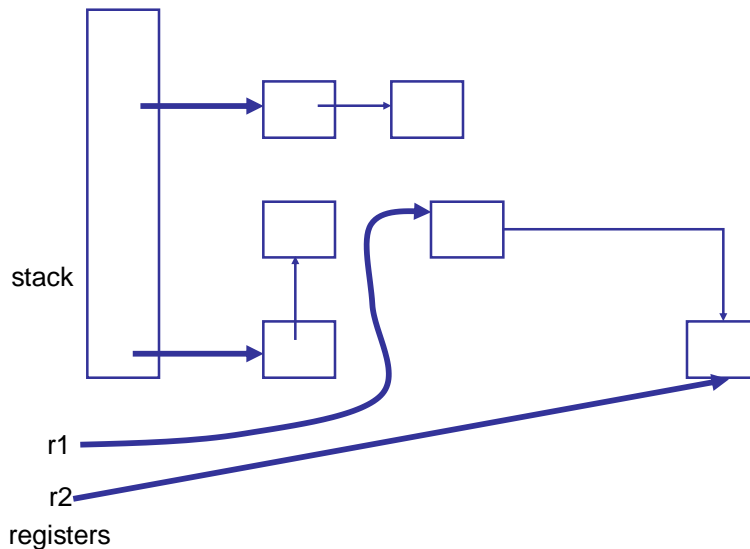
Automation is based on an approximation : if data can be reached from a root set, then it is not "garbage"



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



## ... reclaim unreachable cells



147

## 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.

148



## Mark and Sweep

- A two-phase algorithm
  - **Mark phase:** Depth first traversal of object graph from the roots to mark live data
  - **Sweep phase:** iterate over entire heap, adding the unmarked data back onto the free list

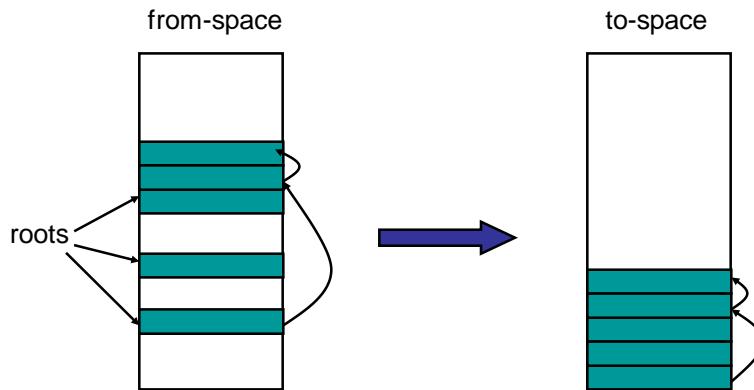
151

## 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

152

## Copying Collection



153

## 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

154

## 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.

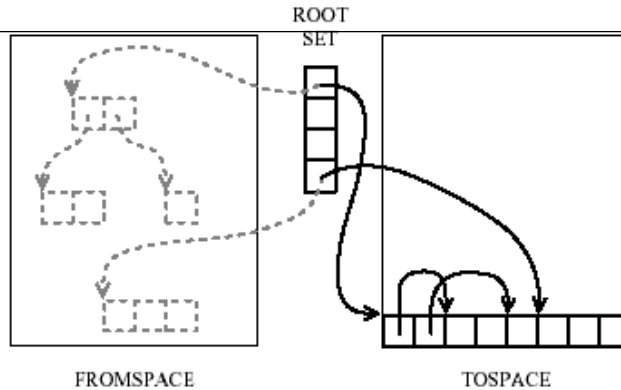


Diagram from Andrew Appel's **Modern Compiler Implementation**

155

## IDEA: Generational garbage collection

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

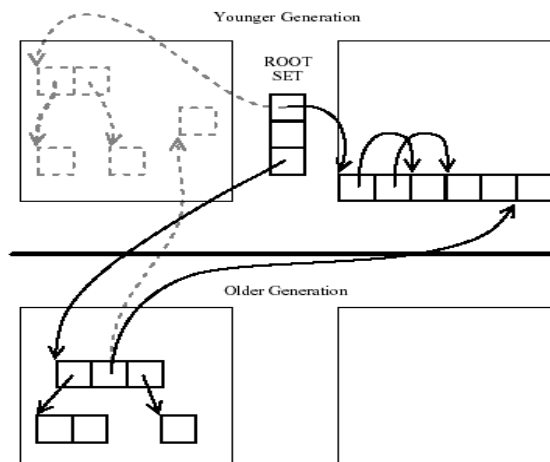


Diagram from Andrew Appel's **Modern Compiler Implementation**

156

## 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

157

## New topic : 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?

158

## 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
```

NO

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

YES

```
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!

$NAN * 0 = NAN$ ,



## (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:

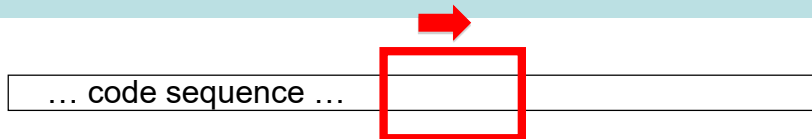
```
LDA Y  load the accumulator from Y  
STA X  store the accumulator in X  
LDA X  load the accumulator from X  
ADD Z  add the contents of Z  
STA Z  store the accumulator in Z
```

Eliminate!

Results for syntax-directed code generation.

161

## 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")

162

## 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???**

GNU AS (GAS) Syntax  
x86, 64 bit

```
_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
```

## 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 : static links on the call stack.

- 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))
...
```

167

## Nesting depth

code in big box is at nesting depth k

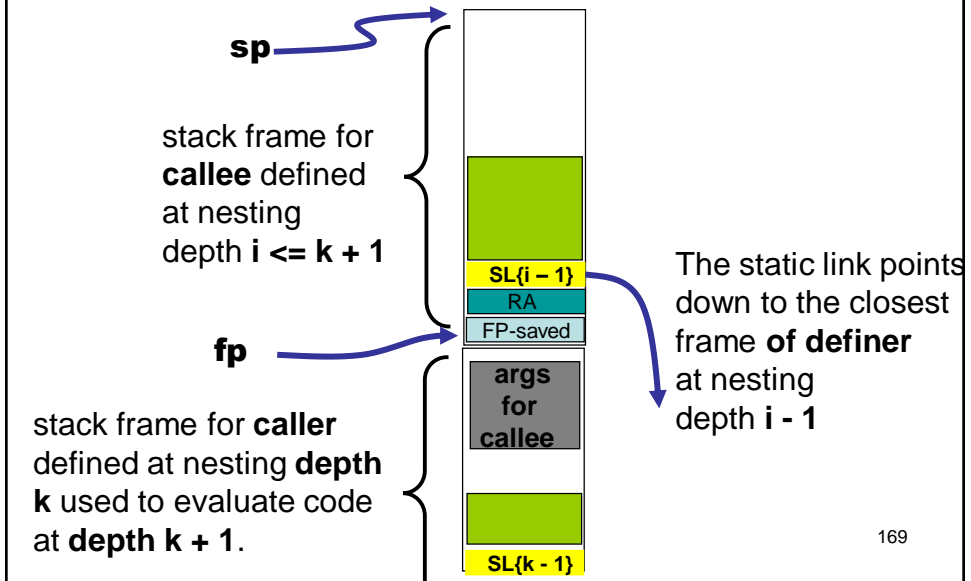
```
fun b(z) = e nesting depth k + 1

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))
...
```

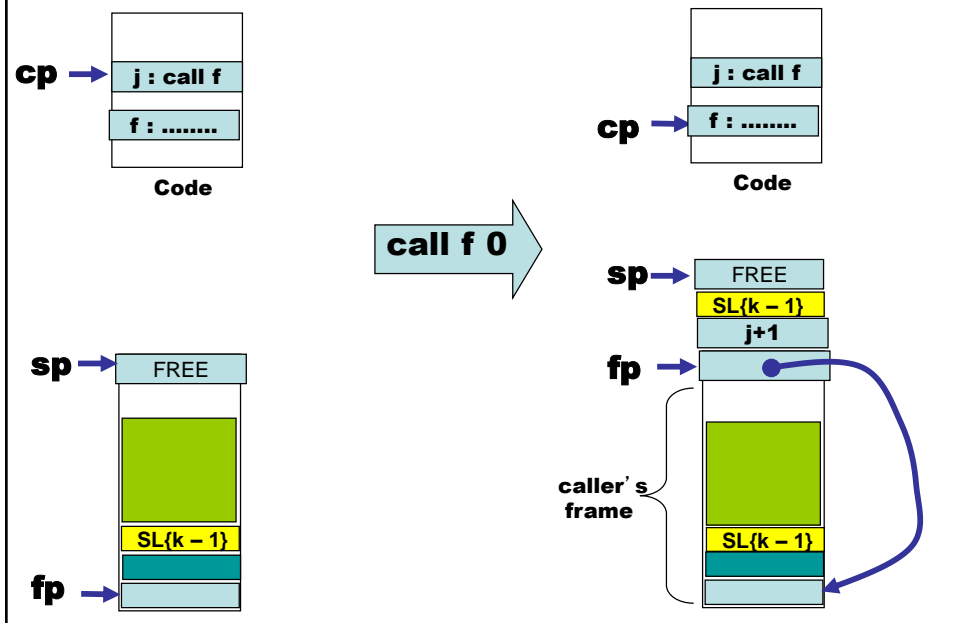
168

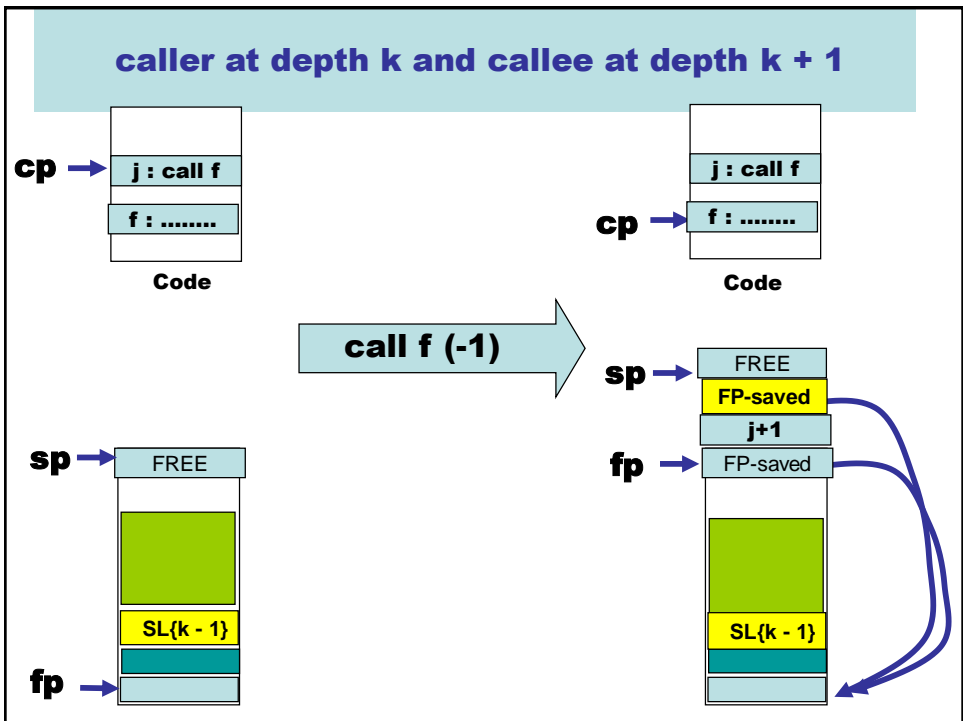
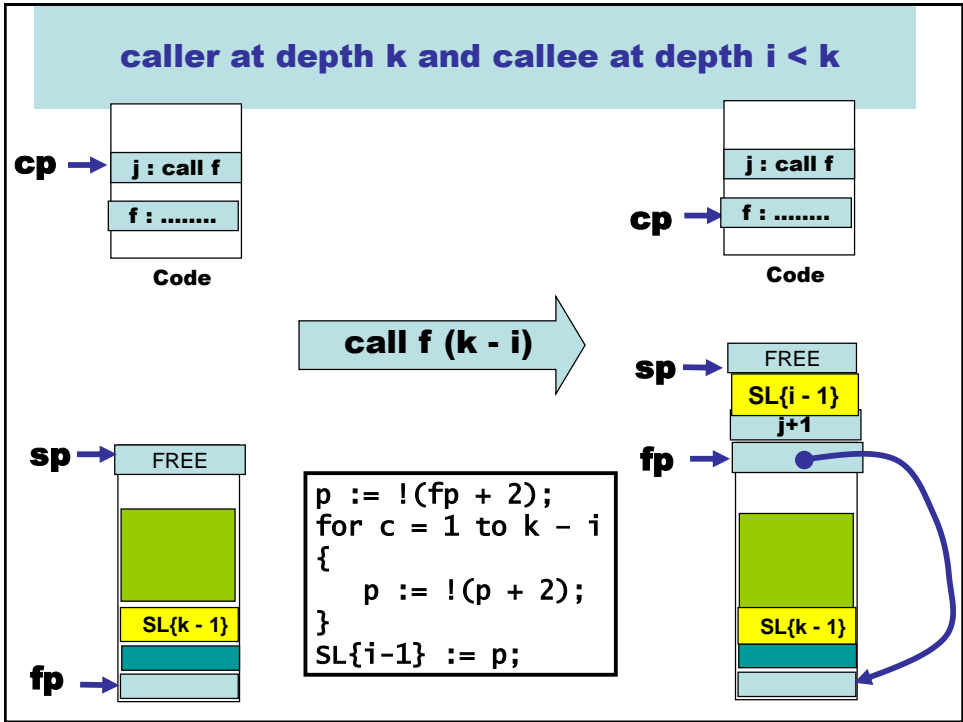
Function g is the **definer** of h. Functions g and b must share a definer defined at depth k-1

## Stack with static links and variable number of arguments

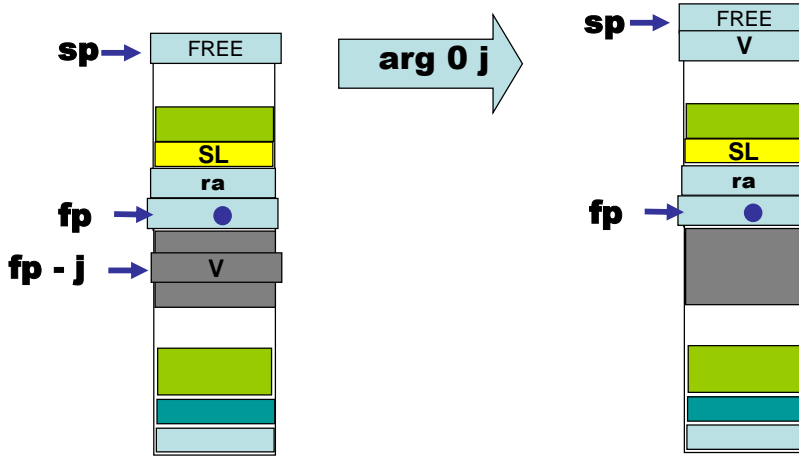


## caller and callee at same nesting depth $k$

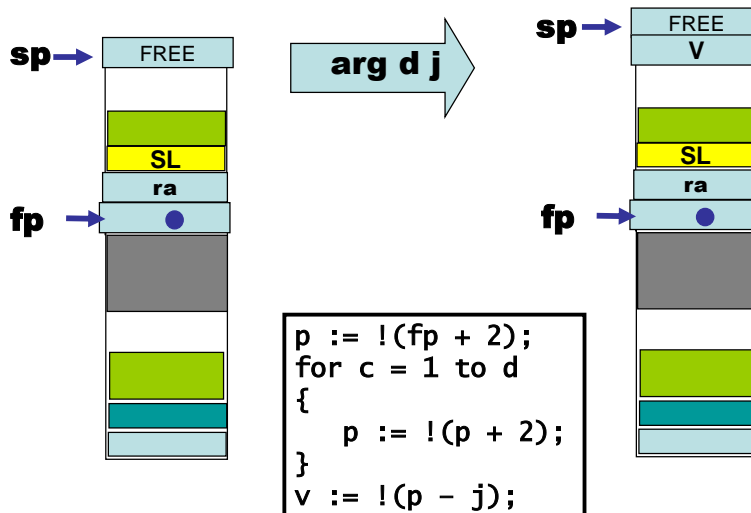




## Access to argument values at static distance 0



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



## 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 :=
```

```
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
```

175

## 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.

176



## Another OO Feature

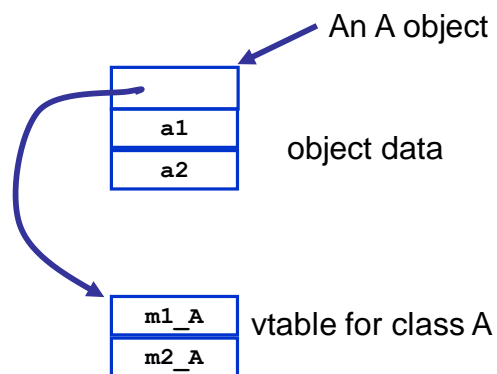
- Protection mechanisms
  - to encapsulate local state within an object, Java has “private” “protected” and “public” qualifiers
    - private methods/fields can't be called/used outside of the class in which they are defined
  - **This is really a scope/visibility issue!** Front-end during semantic analysis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

177

## Object representation

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

C++

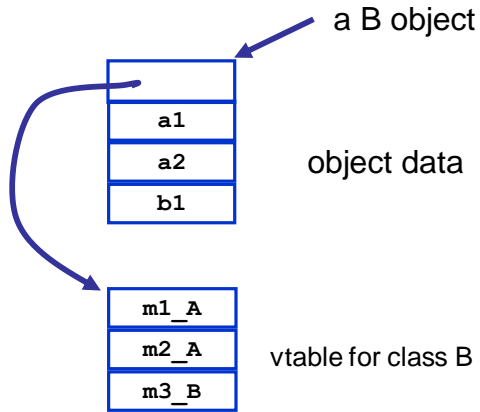


NB: a compiler typically generates methods with an extra argument representing the object (self) and used to access object data.

178

## Inheritance (“pointer polymorphism”)

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

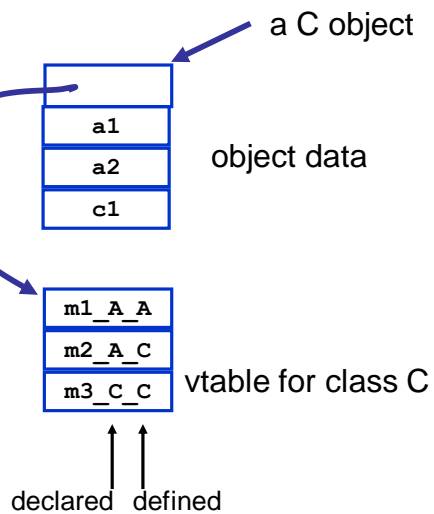


**Note that a pointer to a B object can be treated as if it were a pointer to an A object!**

179

## Method overriding

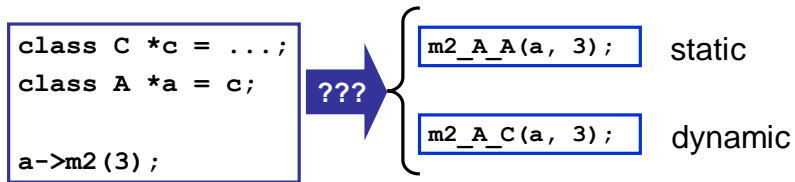
```
class C : public A {  
public:  
    int c1;  
  
    virtual void m3(void) {  
        b1 = a1 + a2;  
    }  
    virtual void m2(int i) {  
        a2 = c1 + i;  
    }  
}
```



180

## Static vs. Dynamic

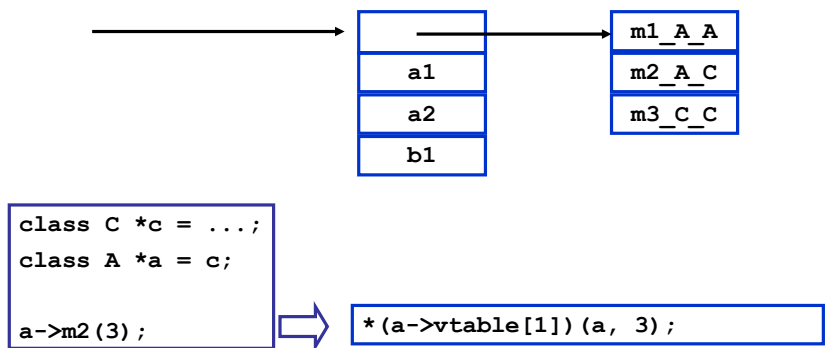
- which method to invoke on overloaded polymorphic types?



181

## Dynamic dispatch implemented with vtables

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



## New Topic : Exceptions (informal description)

`e handle f`

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

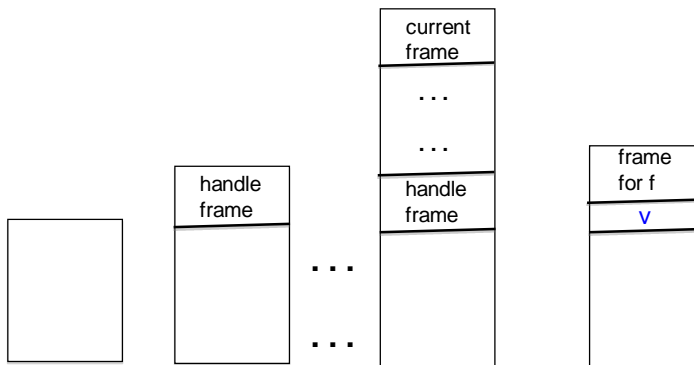
Otherwise, an exceptional value `v` is “raised” in the evaluation of `e`, then result is `(f v)`

`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

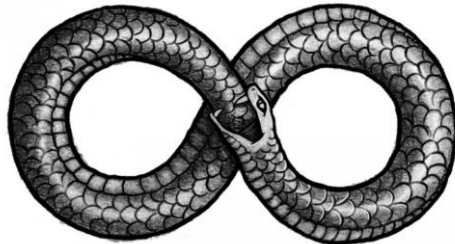
```
let fun _h27 () =  
  build special "handle frame"  
  save address of f in frame;  
  ... code for e ...  
  return value of e  
in _h27 () end
```

raise e

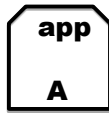
```
... code for e ...  
save v, the value of e;  
unwind stack until first  
fp found pointing at a handle frame;  
Replace handle frame with frame  
for call to (extracted) f using  
v as argument.
```

## New topic : Bootstrapping a compiler

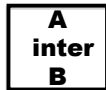
- Compilers compiling themselves!
  - Read Chapter 13 Of
    - Basics of Compiler Design
    - by Torben Mogensen
- <http://www.diku.dk/hjemmesider/ansatte/torbenm/Basics/>



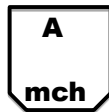
## Bootstrapping. We need some notation . . .



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

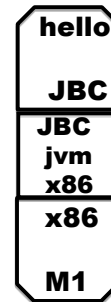
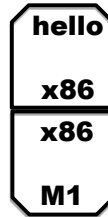


An interpreter or VM for language **A**  
Written in language **B**

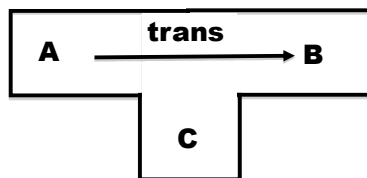


A machine called **mch** running language **A** natively.

### Simple Examples

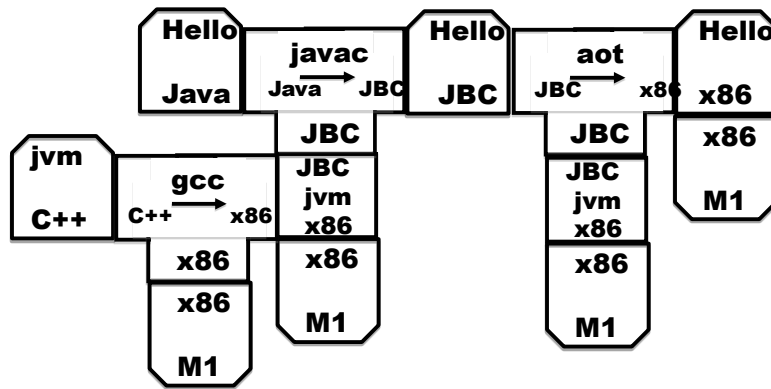


## Tombstones



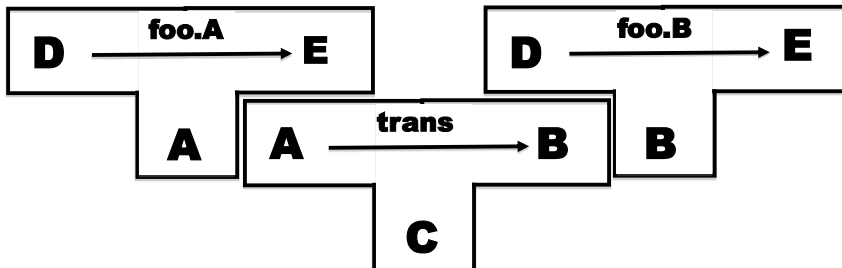
This is an application called **trans** that translates programs in language **A** into programs in language **B**, and it is written in language **C**.

## Ahead-of-time compilation



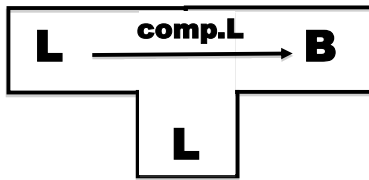
Thanks to David Greaves  
for the example.

## Of course translators can be translated

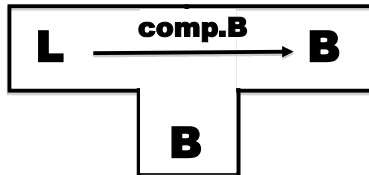


Translator **foo.B** is produced  
as output from **trans** when  
given **foo.A** as input.

## 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**.

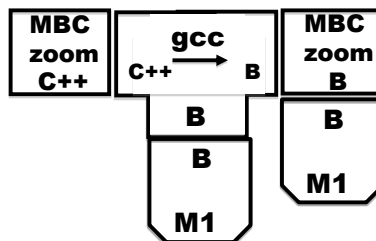
**Our compiler is written in L!**  
**How can we compile our compiler?**

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

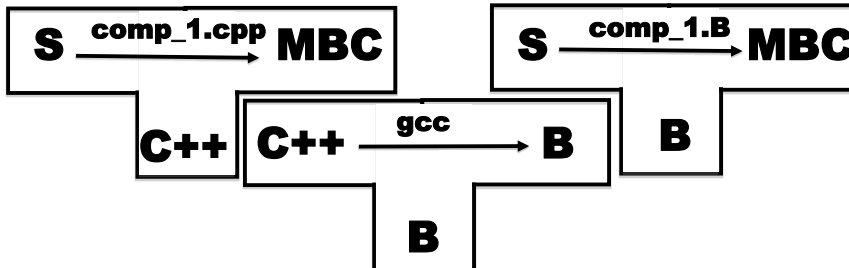
MBC = My Byte Codes



The **zoom** machine!



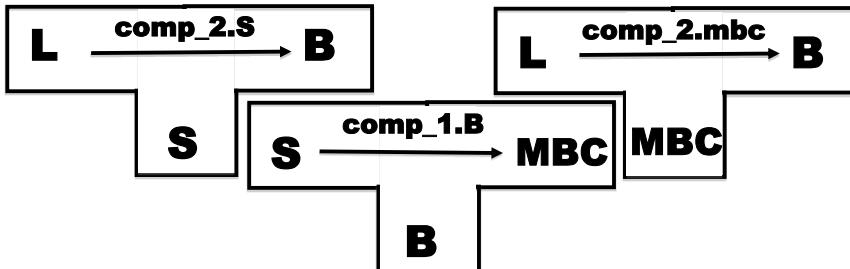
**Step 2**  
**Pick a small subset S of L and**  
**write a translator from S to MBC**



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.

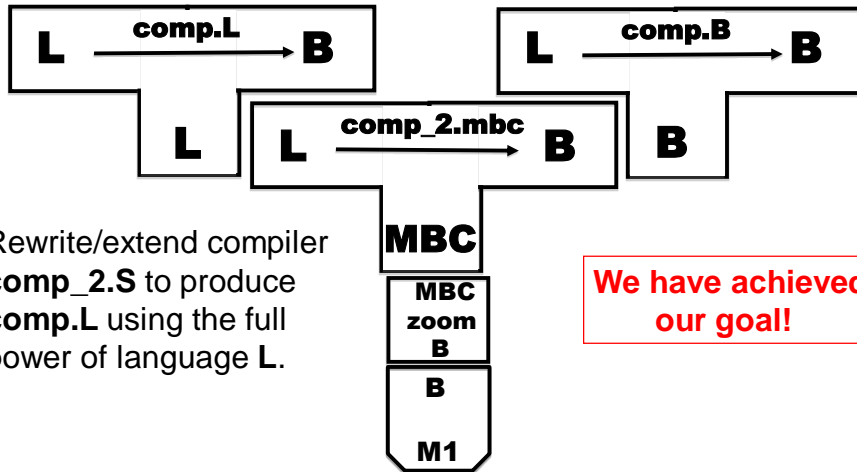
**Step 3**  
**Write a compiler for L in S**



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**

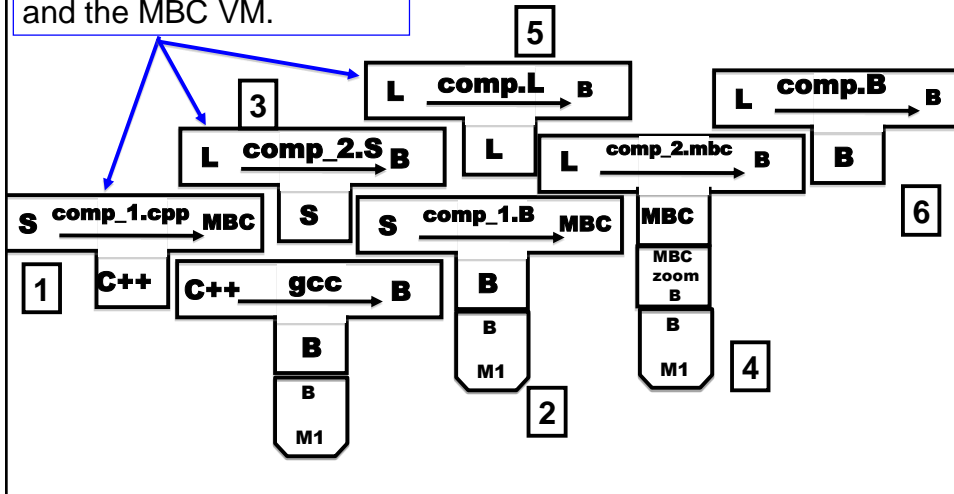
## Step 4 Write a compiler for L in L, and then compile it!



Rewrite/extend compiler `comp_2.S` to produce `comp.L` using the full power of language L.

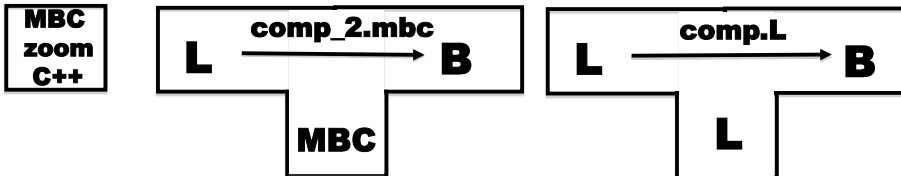
## Putting it all together

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.

