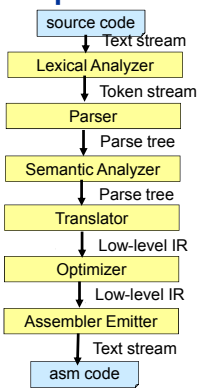
Multi-Level Intermediate Representations

Local CSE, DAGs, Lowering Call Sequences

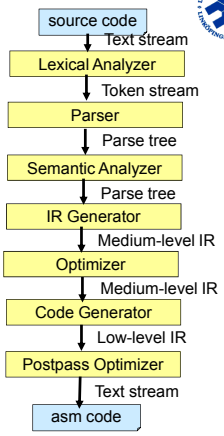
Survey of some Compiler Frameworks

Christoph Kessler, IDA,
Linköpings universitet, 2014.

Compiler Flow

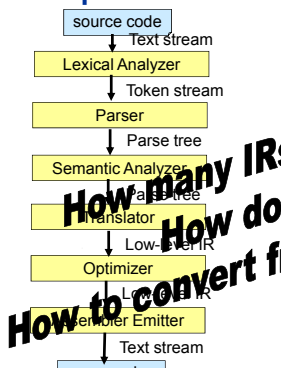


(a) Optimizations on low-level IR only

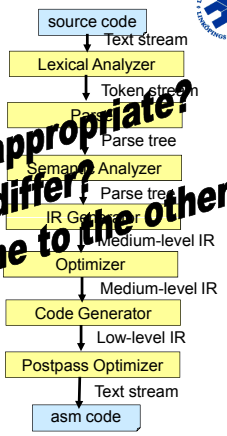


(b) Mixed model

Compiler Flow



(a) Optimizations on low-level IR only



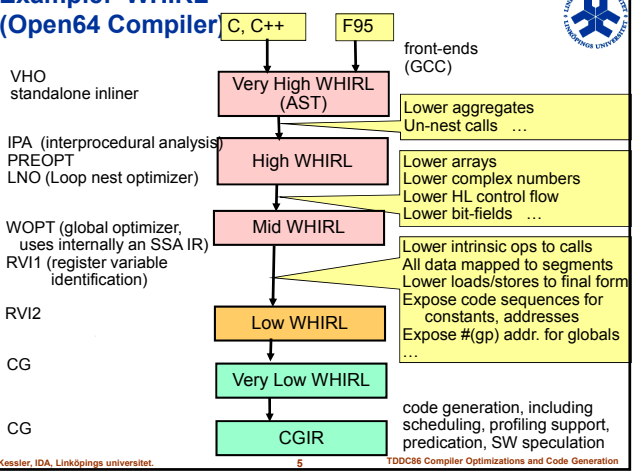
(b) Mixed model

How many IRs are appropriate?
How do they differ?
How to convert from one to the other?

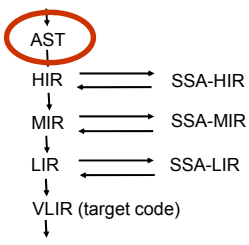
Multi-Level IR

- **Multi-level IR,** e.g.
  - AST abstract syntax tree – implicit control and data flow
  - HIR high-level IR
  - MIR medium-level IR
  - LIR low-level IR, symbolic registers
  - VLIR very low-level IR, target specific, target registers
- Standard form and possibly also SSA (static single assignment) form
- Open form (tree, graph) and/or closed (linearized, flattened) form
  - For expressions: Trees vs DAGs (directed acyclic graphs)
- Translation by **lowering**
  - ☺ Analysis / Optimization engines can work on the most appropriate level of abstraction
  - ☺ Clean separation of compiler phases, somewhat easier to extend and debug
  - ☹ Framework gets larger and slower

Example: WHIRL (Open64 Compiler)



Multi-Level IR Overview



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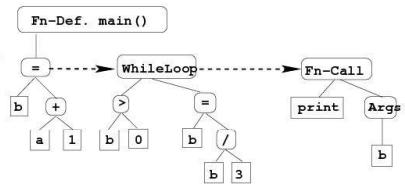
AST, Symbol table

Example program:

```
int a = 4;
extern void print( int );
main()
{ int b = a + 1;
  while ( b > 0 )
       b = b / 3;
  print( b );
}
```

Abstract Syntax Tree:



Hierarchical symbol table follows nesting of scopes

Symbol table:

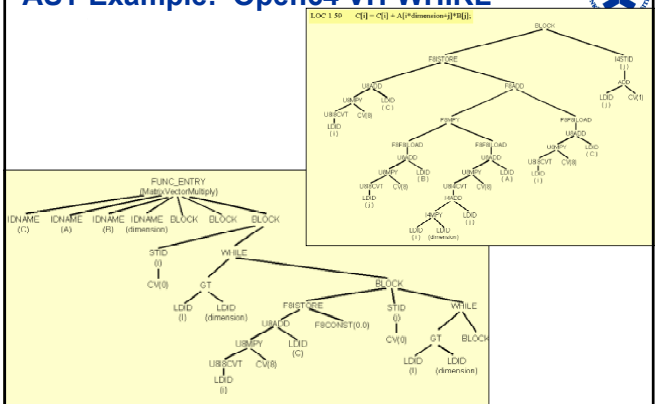
globals (Level 0)

	Name	Type	Value
1	a	int	4
2	print	void	–
3	main	int	●

locals, level 1

	Name	Type	Value
1	b	int	–

AST Example: Open64 VH-WHIRL



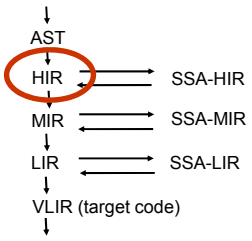
Highest WHIRL Representation.

Symbol table

- Some typical fields in a symbol table entry

Field Name	Field Type	Meaning
name	char *	the symbol's identifier
sclass	enum { STATIC, ...}	storage class
size	int	size in bytes
type	struct type *	source language data type
basetype	struct type *	source-lang. type of elements of a constructed type
machtype	enum { ... }	machine type corresponding to source type (or element type if constructed type)
basereg	char *	base register to compute address
disp	int	displacement to address on stack
reg	char *	name of register containing the symbol's value

Multi-Level IR Overview



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HIR - high-level intermediate representation

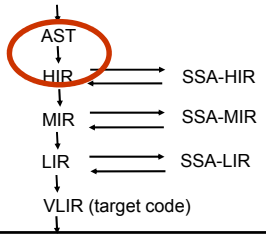
- A (linearized) control flow graph, but level of abstraction close to AST
  - loop structures and bounds explicit
  - array subscripts explicit

  → suitable for data dependence analysis and loop transformation / parallelization

```
for  v = v1 by v2 to v3 do
     a[i] = 2
endfor
```

  - artificial entry node for the procedure
  - assignments var = expr
  - unassigned expressions, e.g. conditionals
  - function calls

Flattening 0: From AST to HIR (or other CFG repr.)



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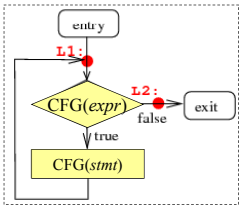
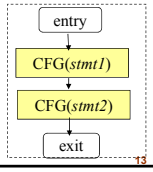
Generating a CFG from AST

- Straightforward for structured programming languages
  - Traverse AST and compose control flow graph recursively
  - As in syntax-directed translation, but separate pass
  - Stitching points: single entry, single exit point of control; symbolic labels for linearization

CFG (**while** (*expr*) *stmt*) =



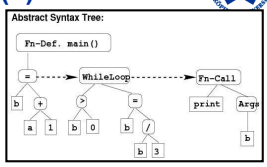
CFG (*stmt1*; *stmt2*) =

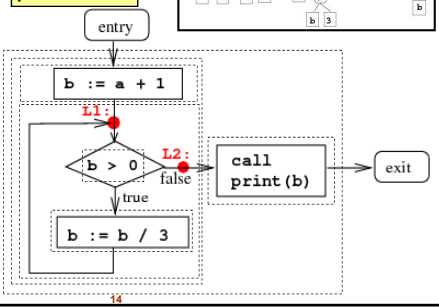


Creating a CFG from AST (2)

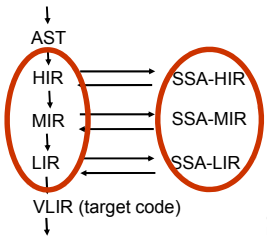
- Traverse AST recursively, compose CFG
- Example:

```
{
 b = a + 1;
 while (b>0)
   b = b / 3;
 print(b);
}
```





Multi-Level IR Overview Standard vs. SSA Form



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HIR/MIR/LIR Example (adapted from Muchnick'97)

- HIR:

```
for  v = v1 by v2 to v3 do
    a[i] = 2
endfor
```

- MIR:

```
    v = v1
    t2 = v2
    t3 = v3
L1: if v > t3 goto L2
    t4 = addr a
    t5 = 4 * i
    t6 = t4 + t5
    *t6 = 2
    v = v + t2
    goto L1
L2:
```

assuming that v2 is positive

- LIR:

```
    s2 = s1
    s4 = s3
    s6 = s5
L1: if s2 > s6 goto L2
    s7 = addr a
    s8 = 4 * s9
    s10 = s7 + s8
    [s10] = 2
    s2 = s2 + s4
    goto L1
L2:
```

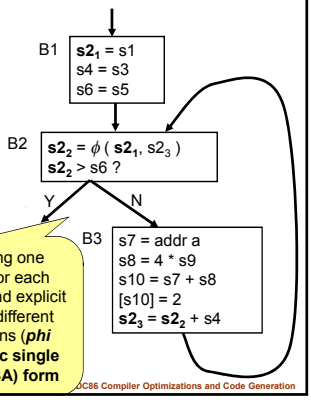
symbolic registers allocated: v in s2, v1 in s1, i in s9 ...

Example with SSA-LIR (adapted from Muchnick'97)

s2 is assigned (written, defined) multiple times in the program text (i.e., multiple static assignments)

- LIR:

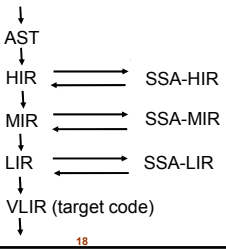
```
    s2 = s1
    s4 = s3
    s6 = s5
L1: if s2 > s6 goto L2
    s7 = addr a
    s8 = 4 * s9
    s10 = s7 + s8
    [s10] = 2
    s2 = s2 + s4
    goto L1
L2:
```



After introducing one ***version*** of s2 for each static definition and explicit merger ops for different reaching versions (***phi nodes***, ϕ): **Static single assignment (SSA) form**

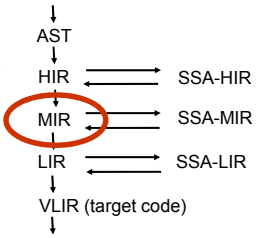
SSA-Form vs. Standard Form of IR

- SSA form makes data flow (esp., def-use chains) explicit
- Certain program analyses and transformations are easier to implement or more efficient on SSA-representation
- (Up to now) SSA is not suitable for code generation
  - Requires transformation back to standard form
- Comes later…

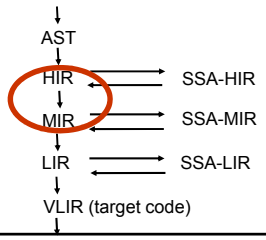


MIR – medium-level intermediate representation

- "language independent"
- control flow reduced to simple branches, call, return
- variable accesses still in terms of symbol table names
- explicit code for procedure / block entry / exit
- suitable for most optimizations
- basis for code generation



Flattening 1: From HIR to MIR



HIR→MIR (1): Flattening the expressions

By a postorder traversal of each expression tree in the CFG:

- Decompose the nodes of the expression trees (operators, ...) into simple operations (ADD, SUB, MUL, ...)
- Infer the types of operands and results (language semantics)
  - annotate each operation by its (result) type
  - insert explicit conversion operations where necessary
- Flatten each expression tree (= partial order of evaluation) to a sequence of operations (= total order of evaluation) using temporary variables t1, t2, ... to keep track of data flow
  - This is static scheduling!
    May have an impact on space / time requirements

HIR→MIR (2): Lowering Array References (1)

- HIR:
  t1 = a [i, j+2]
- the Lvalue of a [i, j+2] is
  (on a 32-bit architecture)
  (addr a) + 4 * (i * 20 + j + 2)
- MIR:
  t1 = j + 2
  t2 = i * 20
  t3 = t1 + t2
  t4 = 4 * t3
  t5 = addr a
  t6 = t5 + t4
  t7 = *t6

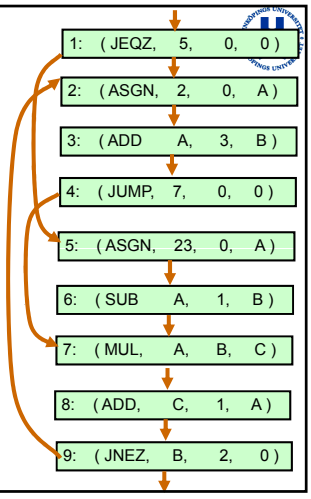
HIR→MIR (2): Flattening the control flow graph

- Depth-first search of the control flow graph
- Topological ordering of the operations, starting with *entry* node
  - at conditional branches:
    one exit fall-through, other exit branch to a label
- **Basic blocks** = maximum-length subsequences of statements containing no branch nor join of control flow
- **Basic block graph** obtained from CFG by merging statements in a basic block to a single node

Control flow graph

- Nodes: primitive operations
  (e.g., quadruples)
- Edges: control flow transitions
- Example:

```
1:  ( JEQZ,  5,   0,  0 )
2:  ( ASGN,  2,   0,  A )
3:  ( ADD    A,   3,  B )
4:  ( JUMP,  7,   0,  0 )
5:  ( ASGN,  23,  0,  A )
6:  ( SUB    A,   1,  B )
7:  ( MUL,   A,   B,  C )
8:  ( ADD,   C,   1,  A )
9:  ( JNEZ,  B,   2,  0 )
```



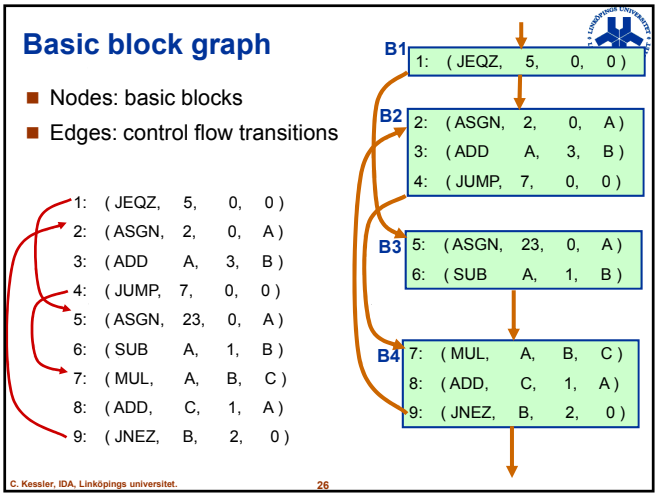
Basic block

- A **basic block** is a sequence of textually consecutive operations (e.g. MIR operations, LIR operations, quadruples) that contains no branches (except perhaps its last operation) and no branch targets (except perhaps its first operation).
  - Always executed in same order from entry to exit
  - A.k.a. *straight-line code*

```
1: ( JEQZ,   5,   0,   0 )   B1
2: ( ASGN,   2,   0,   A )   B2
3: ( ADD     A,   3,   B )
4: ( JUMP,   7,   0,   0 )
5: ( ASGN,  23,   0,   A )   B3
6: ( SUB     A,   1,   B )
7: ( MUL,    A,   B,   C )   B4
8: ( ADD,    C,   1,   A )
9: ( JNEZ,   B,   2,   0 )
```

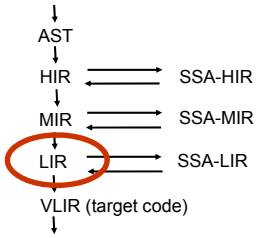

Basic block graph

- Nodes: basic blocks
- Edges: control flow transitions



LIR – low-level intermediate representation

- in GCC: Register-transfer language (RTL)
- usually architecture dependent
  - e.g. equivalents of target instructions + addressing modes for IR operations
  - variable accesses in terms of target memory addresses



MIR→LIR: Lowering Variable Accesses

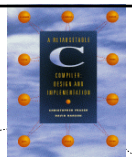
Seen earlier:

- HIR:
  t1 = a [i, j+2]
- the Lvalue of a [i, j+2] is (on a 32-bit architecture)
  (addr a) + 4 * (i * 20 + j + 2)
- MIR:
  t1 = j + 2
  t2 = i * 20
  t3 = t1 + t2
  t4 = 4 * t3
  t5 = addr a
  t6 = t5 + t4
  t7 = *t6

- Memory layout:
  - Local variables relative to procedure frame pointer fp
  - j at fp – 4
  - i at fp – 8
  - a at fp – 216
- LIR:
  r1 = [fp – 4]
  r2 = r1 + 2
  r3 = [fp – 8]
  r4 = r3 * 20
  r5 = r4 + r2
  r6 = 4 * r5
  r7 = fp – 216
  f1 = [r7 + r6]

Example: The LCC-IR

- LIR – DAGs (Fraser, Hanson '95)



```
entry
ADDRGP _a, VR1
ADDRLP (fp+4), VR2
INDIRI VR2, VR3
CNSTI 1, VR4
ADDI VR3, VR4, VR5
ASGNI VR5, VR1
LABELV L1
ADDRLP (fp+4), VR6
INDIRI VR6, VR7
CNSTI 0, VR8
LEI VR7, VR8, L2
```

```
ADDRLP (fp+4), VR9
INDIRI VR9, VR10
CNSTI 3, VR11
DIVI VR10, VR11, VR12
ASGNI VR12, VR9
JUMPV L1
LABELV L2
ADDRLP (fp+4), VR13
INDIRI VR13, VR14
ARGI VR14
CALL _print
exit
```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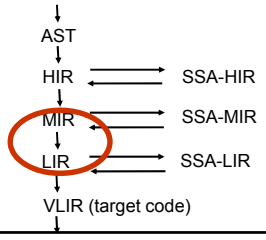
Flattening 2: From MIR to LIR



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MIR→LIR: Storage Binding

- mapping variables (symbol table items) to addresses
- (virtual) register allocation
- procedure frame layout implies addressing of formal parameters and local variables relative to frame pointer fp, and parameter passing (call sequences)
- for accesses, generate Load and Store operations
- further lowering of the program representation

MIR→LIR translation example

MIR:

a = a * 2

b = a + c [1]

LIR, bound to storage locations:

r1 = [gp+8] // Load
r2 = r1 * 2
[gp+8] = r2 // store
r3 = [gp+8]
r4 = [fp – 56]
r5 = r3 + r4
[fp – 20] = r5

LIR, bound to symbolic registers:

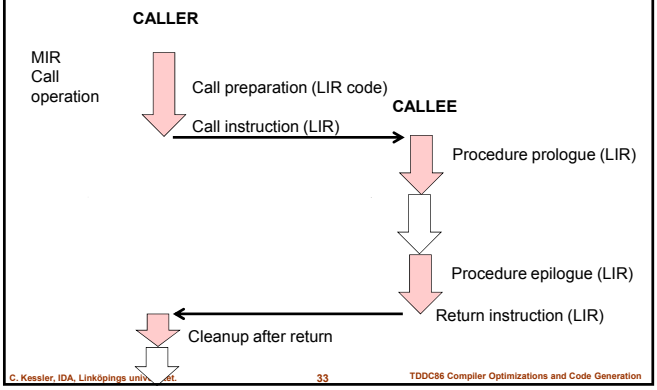
s1 = s1 * 2

s2 = [fp – 56]
s3 = s1 + s2

Storage layout:
Global variable a addressed relative to global pointer gp
local variables b, c relative to fp

MIR→LIR: Procedure call sequence (0)

[Muchnick 5.6]



MIR→LIR: Procedure call sequence (1)

[Muchnick 5.6]

MIR call instruction assembles arguments and transfers control to callee:

- evaluate each argument (reference vs. value param.) and
  - push it on the stack, or write it to a parameter register
- determine code address of the callee (mostly, compile-time or link-time constant)
- store caller-save registers (usually, push on the stack)
- save return address (usually in a register) and branch to code *entry* of callee.

MIR→LIR: Procedure call sequence (2)

Procedure prologue

executed on entry to the procedure

- save old frame pointer fp
- old stack pointer sp becomes new frame pointer fp
- determine new sp (creating space for local variables)
- save callee-save registers

MIR→LIR: Procedure call sequence (3)

Procedure epilogue

executed at return from procedure

- restore callee-save registers
- put return value (if existing) in appropriate place (reg/stack)
- restore old values for sp and fp
- branch to return address

Caller cleans up upon return:

- restore caller-save registers
- use the return value (if applicable)

From Trees to DAGs:

Common Subexpression Elimination (CSE)

E.g., at MIR→LIR Lowering

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From Trees to DAGs: Local CSE

start with an empty DAG.

for each (MIR) operation $v = (\ t,\ op,\ u_1,\ u_2\ )$ $\qquad t \leftarrow u_1\ op\ u_2$

  for each operand u_i of v

    if u_i not yet represented by a DAG node d_i

      create DAG leaf node $d_i \leftarrow$ **new dagnode**$(\ u_i,\ LEAF,\ NULL,\ NULL\ )$

      // LEAF denotes a value live on entry to basic block

  if there is no parent node p of all d_i with operator op in the DAG

    create $p \leftarrow$ **new dagnode**$(\ v,\ op,\ d_1,\ d_2\ )$

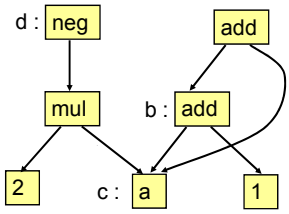
  label p with t *// result (temp.) variable*

  remove t as label of any other node in the DAG

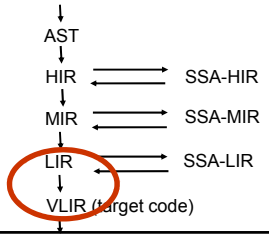
for all non-removed labels create assignments.

Local CSE on MIR produces a MIR DAG

1. c = a
2. b = a + 1
3. c = 2 * a
4. d = – c
5. c = a + 1
6. c = b + a
7. d = 2 * a
8. b = c



Flattening 3: From LIR to VLIR



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LIR→VLIR: Instruction selection

- LIR has often a lower level of abstraction than most target machine instructions (esp., CISC, or DSP-MAC).
- One-to-one translation LIR-operation to equivalent target instruction(s) (“macro expansion”) cannot make use of more sophisticated instructions
- Pattern matching necessary!

LIR / VLIR: Register Allocation

- Example for a SPARC-specific VLIR

```
int a, b, c, d;
c = a + b;
d = c + 1;
```

```
ldw  a, r1
ldw  b, r2
add  r1, r2, r3
stw  r3, addr c
ldw  addr c, r3
add  r3, 1, r4
stw  r4, addr d
```

```
add  r1, r2, r3
add  r3, 1, r4
```

There is a lot to be gained by good register allocation!

On LIR/VLIR: Global register allocation

- **Register allocation**
  - determine what values to keep in a register
  - "symbolic registers", "virtual registers"
- **Register assignment**
  - assign virtual to physical registers
  - Two values cannot be mapped to the same register if they are *alive* simultaneously, i.e. their *live ranges* overlap (depends on schedule).

On LIR/VLIR: Instruction scheduling

- reorders the instructions (LIR/VLIR) (subject to precedence constraints given by dependences) to minimize
  - space requirements (# registers)
  - time requirements (# CPU cycles)
  - power consumption
  - ...

Remarks on IR design (1) [Cooper'02]

AST? DAGs? Call graph? Control flow graph? Program dep. graph? SSA? ...

- Level of abstraction is critical for implementation cost and opportunities:
  - representation chosen affects the entire compiler

Example 1: Addressing for arrays and aggregates (structs)
- source level AST: hides entire address computation A[i+1][j]
- pointer formulation: may hide critical knowledge (bounds)
- low-level code: may make it hard to see the reference

→ "best" representation depends on how it is used
- for dependence-based transformations: source-level IR (AST, HIR)
- for fast execution: pointer formulation (MIR, LIR)
- for optimizing address computation: low-level repr. (LIR, VLIR, target)

Remarks on IR Design (2)

Example 2: Representation for comparison&branch

- fundamentally, 3 different operations:
  - Compare → convert result to boolean → branch

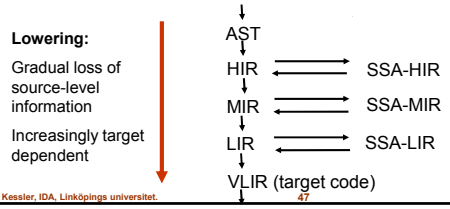
  combined in different ways by processor architects
- "best" representation may depend on target machine

r7 = (x < y) br r7, L12	cmp x y (sets CC) brLT L12	r7 = (x < y) [r7] br L12

- → design problem for a retargetable compiler

Summary

- Multi-level IR
  - Translation by lowering
  - ☺ Program analyses and transformations can work on the most appropriate level of abstraction
  - ☺ Clean separation of compiler phases
  - ☹ Compiler framework gets larger and slower



DF00100 Advanced Compiler Construction
TDDC86 Compiler Optimizations and Code Generation

APPENDIX – For Self-Study

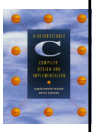
Compiler Frameworks

A (non-exhaustive) survey

with a focus on open-source frameworks

Christoph Kessler, IDA,
Linköpings universitet, 2014.

LCC (Little C Compiler)



- Dragon-book style C compiler implementation in C
- Very small (20K Loc), well documented, well tested, widely used
- Open source: http://www.cs.princeton.edu/software/lcc
- Textbook *A retargetable C compiler* [Fraser, Hanson 1995] contains complete source code
- One-pass compiler, fast
- C frontend (hand-crafted scanner and recursive descent parser) with own C preprocessor
- Low-level IR
  - Basic-block graph containing DAGs of quadruples
  - No AST
- Interface to IBURG code generator generator
  - Example code generators for MIPS, SPARC, Alpha, x86 processors
  - Tree pattern matching + dynamic programming
- Few optimizations only
  - local common subexpr. elimination, constant folding
- Good choice for source-to-target compiling if a prototype is needed soon

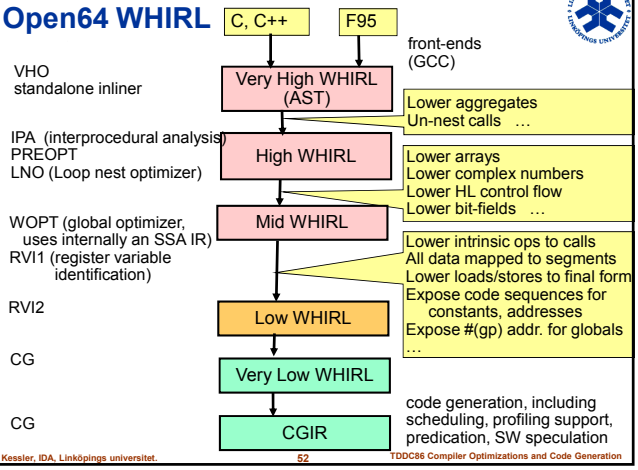
GCC 4.x

- Gnu Compiler Collection (earlier: Gnu C Compiler)
- Compilers for C, C++, Fortran, Java, Objective-C, Ada …
  - sometimes with own extensions, e.g. Gnu-C
- Open-source, developed since 1985
- Very large
- 3 IR formats (all language independent)
  - GENERIC: tree representation for whole function (also statements)
  - GIMPLE (simple version of GENERIC for optimizations) based on trees but expressions in quadruple form. High-level, low-level and SSA-low-level form.
  - RTL (Register Transfer Language, low-level, Lisp-like) (the traditional GCC-IR) only word-sized data types; stack explicit; statement scope
- Many optimizations
- Many target architectures
- Version 4.x (since ~2004) has strong support for retargetable code generation
  - Machine description in .md file
  - Reservation tables for instruction scheduler generation
- Good choice if one has the time to get into the framework

Open64 / ORC Open Research Compiler

- Based on SGI Pro-64 Compiler for MIPS processor, written in C++, went open source in 2000
- Several tracks of development (Open64, ORC, …)
- For Intel Itanium (IA-64) and x86 (IA-32) processors. Also retargeted to x86-64, Ceva DSP, Tensilica, XScale, ARM … "simple to retarget" (?)
- Languages: C, C++, Fortran95 (uses GCC as frontend), OpenMP and UPC (for parallel programming)
- Industrial strength, with contributions from Intel, Pathscale, …
- Open source: www.open64.net, ipf-orc.sourceforge.net
- 6-layer IR:
  - WHIRL (VH, H, M, L, VL) – 5 levels of abstraction
    - All levels semantically equivalent
    - Each level a lower level subset of the higher form
  - and target-specific very low-level CGIR
- Many optimizations, many third-party contributed components

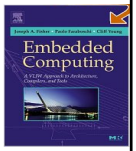
Open64 WHIRL



LLVM (llvm.org)

- **LLVM** (Univ. of Illinois at Urbana Champaign)
  - "Low-level virtual machine"
  - Front-ends (Clang, GCC) for C, C++, Objective-C, Fortran, …
  - One IR level: a LIR + SSA-LIR,
    - linearized form, printable, shippable, but target-dependent,
    - "LLVM instruction set"
  - compiles to many target platforms
    - x86, Itanium, ARM, Alpha, SPARC, PowerPC, Cell SPE, …
    - And to low-level C
  - Link-time interprocedural analysis and optimization framework for whole-program analysis
  - JIT support available for x86, PowerPC
  - Open source

VEX Compiler



- VEX: "**V**LIW **EX**ample"
  - Generic clustered VLIW Architecture and Instruction Set
- From the book by Fisher, Faraboschi, Young: *Embedded Computing*, Morgan Kaufmann 2005
  - www.vliw.org/book
- Developed at HP Research
  - Based on the compiler for HP/ST Lx (ST200 DSP)
- Compiler, Libraries, Simulator and Tools available in binary form from HP for non-commercial use
  - IR not accessible, but CFGs and DAGs can be dumped or visualized
- Transformations controllable by options and/or #pragmas
  - Scalar optimizations, loop unrolling, prefetching, function inlining, …
  - Global scheduling (esp., trace scheduling), but no software pipelining

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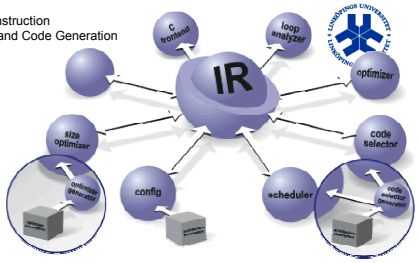
CoSy



A commercial compiler framework

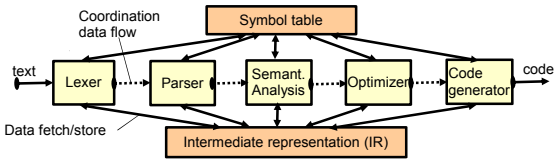
www.ace.nl

Christoph Kessler, IDA,
Linköpings universitet, 2014.

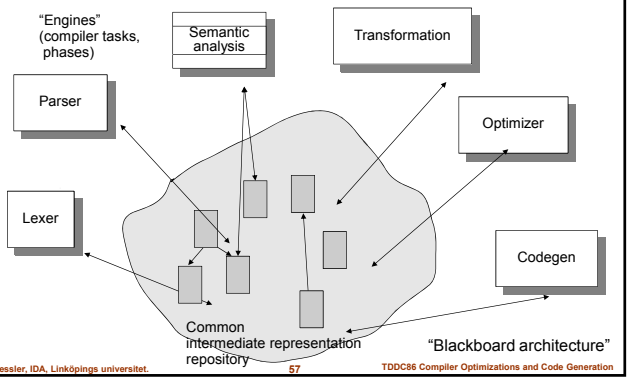
Traditional Compiler Structure

- Traditional compiler model: sequential process

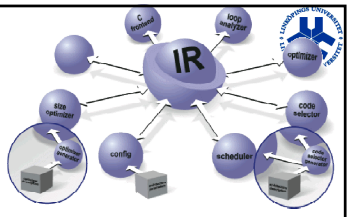
- Improvement: Pipelining
  (by files/modules, classes, functions)
- More modern compiler model with shared symbol table and IR:



A CoSy Compiler with Repository-Architecture



Engine



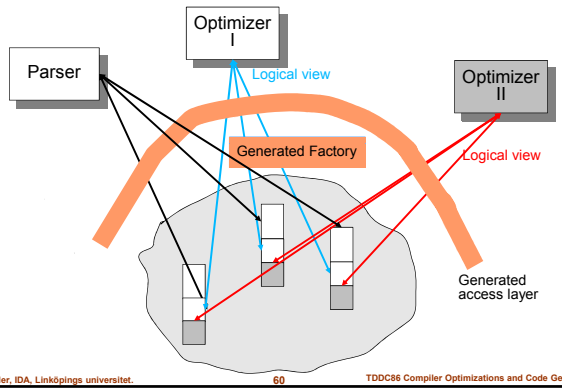
- Modular compiler building block
- Performs a well-defined task
- Focus on algorithms, not compiler configuration
- Parameters are handles on the underlying common IR repository
- Execution may be in a separate process or as subroutine call -
  the engine writer does not know!
- View of an engine class:
  the part of the common IR repository that it can access
  (scope set by access rights: read, write, create)
- Examples: Analyzers, Lowerers, Optimizers, Translators, Support

Composite Engines in CoSy

- Built from simple engines or from other composite engines
  by combining engines in interaction schemes
  (Loop, Pipeline, Fork, Parallel, Speculative, ...)
- Described in EDL (Engine Description Language)
- View defined by the joint effect of constituent engines
- A compiler is nothing more than a large composite engine

```
ENGINE CLASS compiler (IN u: mirUNIT) {
   PIPELINE
      frontend (u)
      optimizer (u)
      backend (u)
}
```


A CoSy Compiler



Example for CoSy EDL (Engine Description Language)

- Component classes (engine class)
- Component instances (engines)
- Basic components are implemented in C
- Interaction schemes (cf. skeletons) form complex connectors
  - SEQUENTIAL
  - PIPELINE
  - DATAPARALLEL
  - SPECULATIVE
- EDL can embed automatically
  - Single-call-components into pipes
  - p<> means a stream of p-items
  - EDL can map their protocols to each other (p vs p<>)

```
ENGINE CLASS optimizer ( procedure p )
{
    ControlFlowAnalyser cfa;
    CommonSubExprEliminator cse;
    LoopVariableSimplifier lvs;
    PIPELINE cfa(p); cse(p); lvs(p);
}

ENGINE CLASS compiler ( file f )
{  ....
   Token token;
   Module m;
   PIPELINE  // lexer takes file, delivers token stream:
             lexer( IN f, OUT token<> );
             // Parser delivers a module
             parser( IN token<>, OUT m );
             sema( m );
             decompose( m, p<> );
             // here comes a stream of procedures
             // from the module
             optimizer( p<> );
             backend( p<> );
}
```


Evaluation of CoSy

- The outer call layers of the compiler are generated from view description specifications
  - Adapter, coordination, communication, encapsulation
  - Sequential and parallel implementation can be exchanged
  - There is also a non-commercial prototype [Martin Alt: *On Parallel Compilation*. PhD thesis, 1997, Univ. Saarbrücken]
- Access layer to the repository must be efficient (solved by generation of macros)
- Because of views, a CoSy-compiler is very simply extensible
  - That's why it is expensive
  - Reconfiguration of a compiler within an hour

Source-to-Source compiler frameworks

- **Cetus**
  - C / OpenMP source-to-source compiler written in Java.
  - Open source
- **ROSE**
  - C++ source-to-source compiler
  - Open source
- **Tools and generators**
  - TXL source-to-source transformation system
  - ANTLR frontend generator

  ...

More frameworks (mostly historical) …

- **Some influential frameworks of the 1990s**
  ...some of them still active today
  - **SUIF** Stanford university intermediate format, suif.stanford.edu
  - **Trimaran** (for instruction-level parallel processors) www.trimaran.org
  - **Polaris** (Fortran) UIUC
  - **Jikes** RVM (Java) IBM
  - **Soot** (Java)
  - GMD Toolbox / Cocolab **Cocktail**™ compiler generation tool suite
  - and many others …
- And many more for the embedded domain …