YSC4230: Programming Language Design and Implementation

Week 4: Simple IRs and LLVM

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Intermediate Representations

Why do something else?

- We have seen a simple *syntax-directed* translation •

 - It works fine for simple languages.

But...

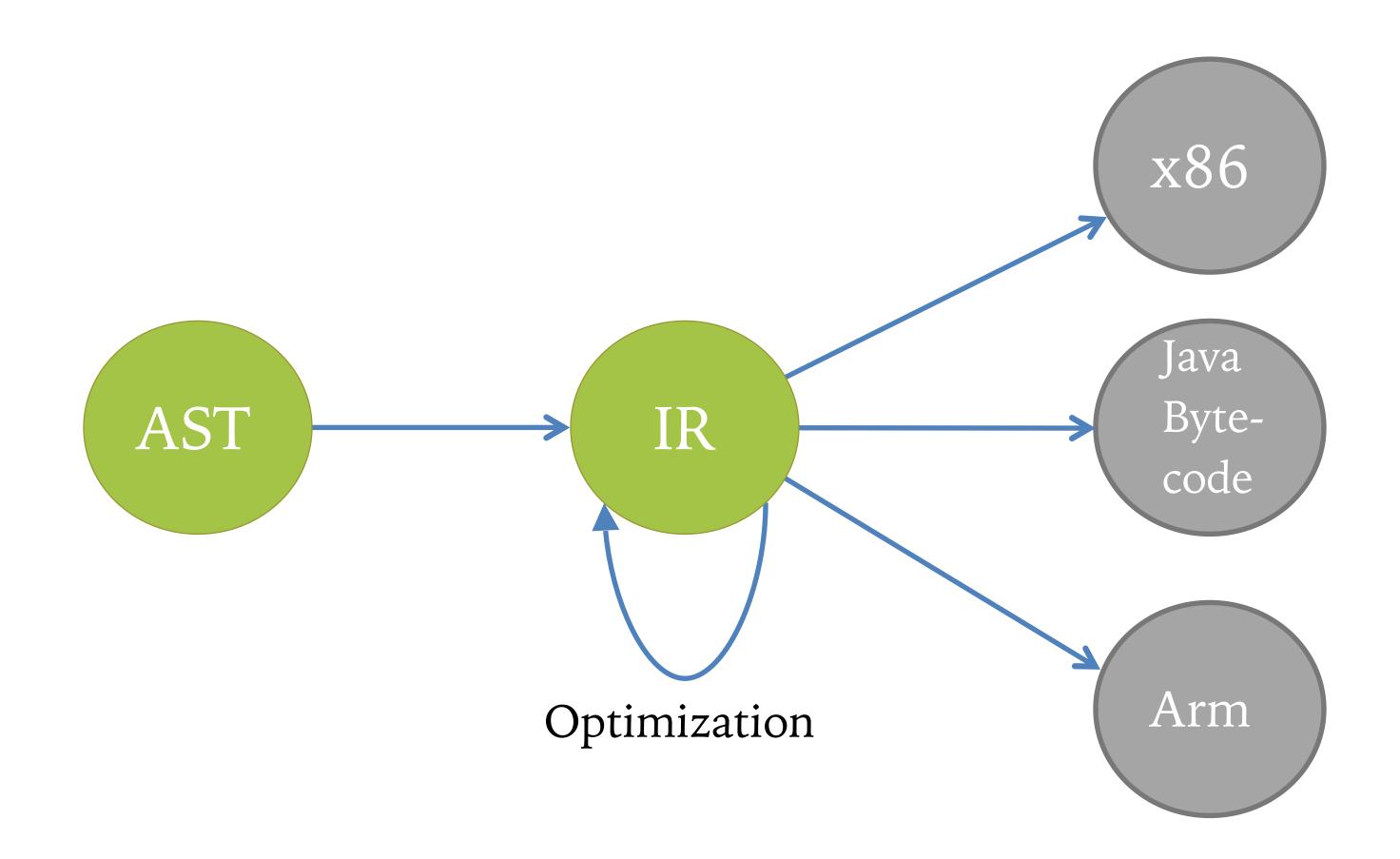
- The resulting code quality is poor.
- Richer source language features are hard to encode – Structured data types, objects, first-class functions, etc.
- It's hard to optimize the resulting assembly code.
 - ____
 - Only a fixed number of registers
 - Some instructions have restrictions on where the operands are located
- Control-flow is not structured: lacksquare
 - Arbitrary jumps from one code block to another
 - Implicit fall-through makes sequences of code non-modular (i.e. you can't rearrange sequences of code easily)
- Retargeting the compiler to a new architecture is hard.
 - Target assembly code is hard-wired into the translation

Input syntax uniquely determines the output, no complex analysis or code transformation is done.

The representation is too concrete – e.g. it has committed to using certain registers and the stack

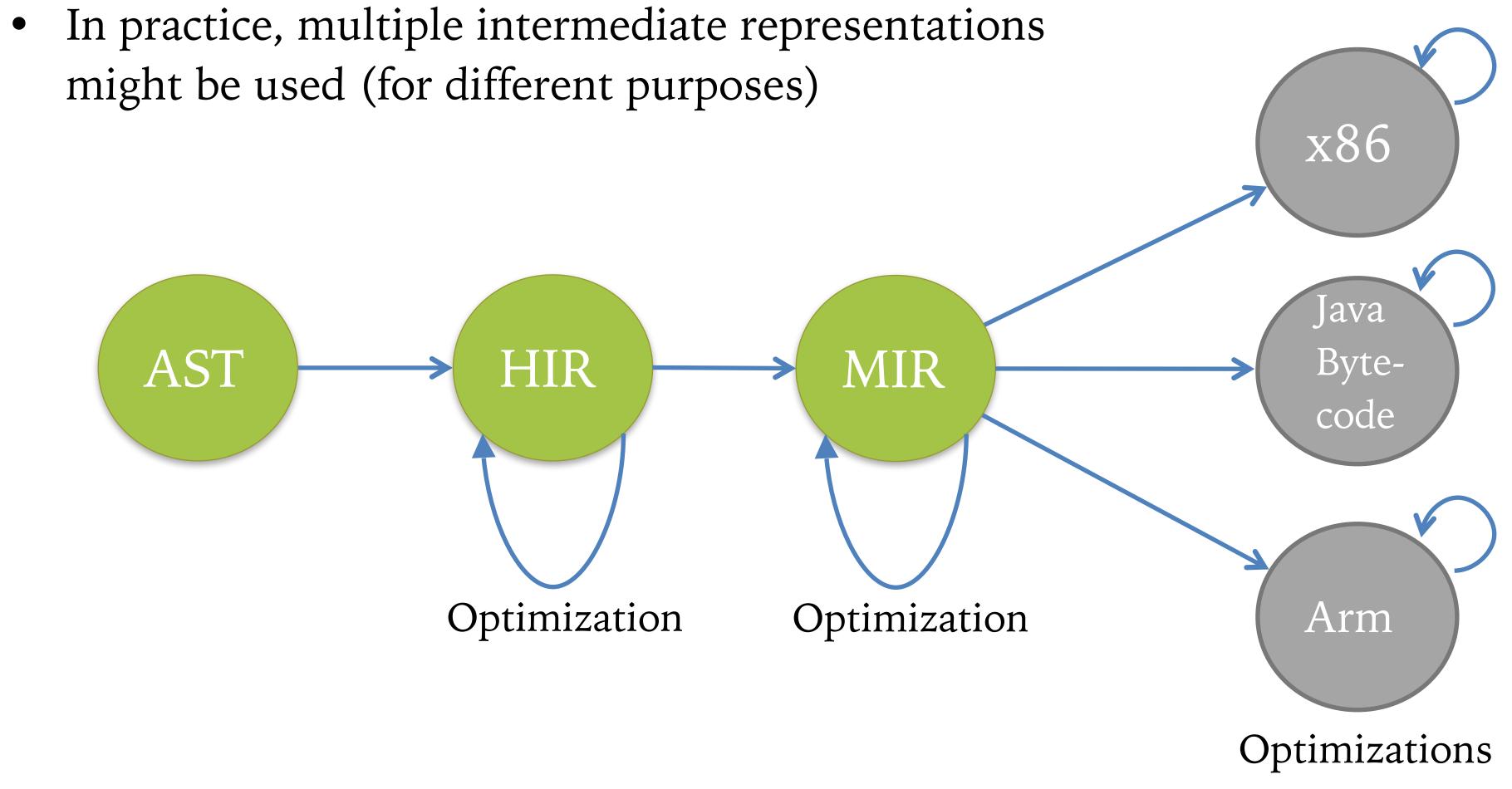
Intermediate Representations (IR's)

- Abstract machine code: hides details of the target architecture
- Allows machine independent code generation and optimization.



Multiple IR's

- Goal: get program closer to machine code without losing the information needed to do analysis and optimizations



What makes a good IR?

- Easy translation target (from the level above)
- Easy to translate (to the level below)
- Narrow interface
 - Fewer constructs means simpler phases/optimizations
- Example: Source language might have "while", "for", and "foreach" loops (and maybe more variants)
 - IR might have only "while" loops and sequencing
 - Translation eliminates "for" and "foreach"

[for(pre; cond; post) {body}]

[pre; while(cond) {body;post}]

- Here the notation [cmd] denotes the "translation" or "compilation" of the command cmd.

IR's at the extreme

- High-level IR's
 - Abstract syntax + new node types not generated by the parser
 - e.g. Type checking information or disambiguated syntax nodes
 - Typically preserves the high-level language constructs
 - Structured control flow, variable names, methods, functions, etc.
 - May do some simplification (e.g. convert for to while)
 - Allows high-level optimizations based on program structure
 - e.g. inlining "small" functions, reuse of constants, etc.
 - Useful for semantic analyses like type checking
- Low-level IR's
 - Machine dependent assembly code + extra pseudo-instructions
 - system)
 - e.g. (on x86) a imulq instruction that doesn't restrict register usage
 - Source structure of the program is lost:
 - Translation to assembly code is straightforward
 - Allows low-level optimizations based on target architecture
 - e.g. register allocation, instruction selection, memory layout, etc.
- What's in between? \bullet

• e.g. a pseudo instruction for interfacing with garbage collector or memory allocator (parts of the language runtime

Mid-level IR's: Many Varieties

- Intermediate between AST (abstract syntax) and assembly
- May have unstructured jumps, abstract registers, or memory locations
- Convenient for translation to high-quality machine code
 - Example: all intermediate values are named to facilitate optimizations that attempt to minimize stack/register usage
- Many examples:
 - Triples: OP a b
 - Useful for instruction selection on X86 via "graph tiling" (a way to better utilise registers) Quadruples: a = b OP c (RISC-like "three address form")
 - SSA: variant of quadruples where each variable is assigned exactly once
 - Easy dataflow analysis for optimization
 - e.g. LLVM: industrial-strength IR, based on SSA
 - Stack-based:
 - Easy to generate
 - e.g. Java Bytecode, UCODE



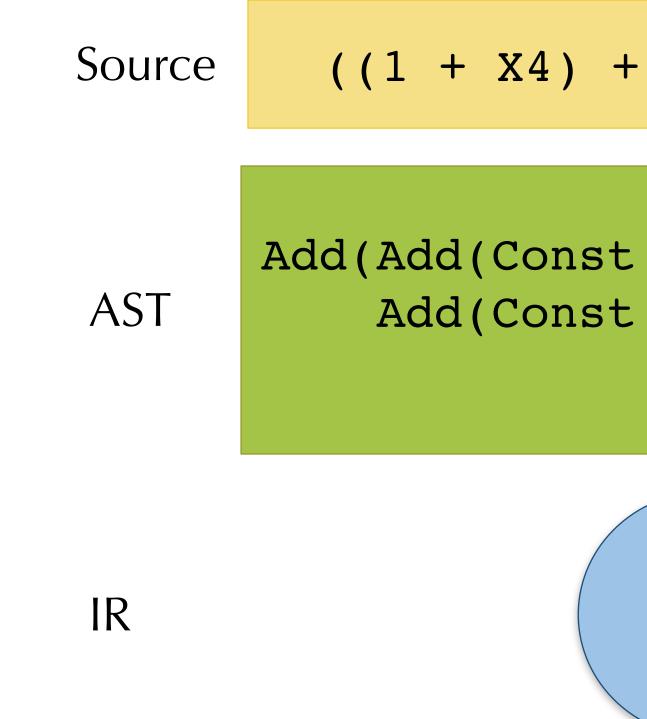
Growing an IR

- Develop an IR in detail... starting from the very basic. \bullet
- Start: a (very) simple intermediate representation for the *arithmetic language* \bullet
 - Very high level
 - No control flow
- Goal: A simple subset of the LLVM IR
 - LLVM = "Low-level Virtual Machine"
 - Used in HW3+
- Add features needed to compile rich source languages

Simple let-based IR

Eliminating Nested Expressions

- Fundamental problem: lacksquare
 - Compiling complex & nested expression forms to simple operations.



Idea: name intermediate values, make order of evaluation explicit. – No nested operations.

((1 + X4) + (3 + (X1 * 5)))

Translation to SLL

Add(Add(Const 1, Var X4),

• Translate to this desired SLL form: let tmp0 = add 1L varX4 inlet tmp1 = mul varX1 5L in let tmp2 = add 3L tmp1 inlet tmp3 = add tmp0 tmp2 in

- Translation makes the order of evaluation explicit.
- Names intermediate values

• Given this:

tmp3

• Note: introduced temporaries are never modified

```
Add(Const 3, Mul(Var X1,
                 Const 5)))
```

- IR1: Expressions
- IR2: Commands
 - global *mutable* variables
 - commands for update and sequencing
- IR3: Local control flow
 - conditional commands & while loops
 - basic blocks

Intermediate Representations

– simple arithmetic expressions, immutable global variables

Demo: IR1 and IR2

- <u>https://github.com/ysc4230/week-03-intermediate-2021</u>
- Definitions: ir1.ml, ir2.ml
- Using IRs: ir_by_hand.ml

IR3: Basic Blocks

- and always exits at the last instruction.
 - Starts with a label that names the *entry point* of the basic block.
 - Ends with a control-flow instruction (e.g. branch or return) the "link" —
 - Contains no other control-flow instructions ____
 - Contains no interior label used as a jump target —
- Basic blocks can be arranged into a *control-flow graph*
 - Nodes are basic blocks
 - of basic block A might jump to the label of basic block B.

• A sequence of instructions that is always executed starting at the first instruction

– There is a directed edge from node A to node B if the control flow instruction at the end

Demo: IR3

- https://github.com/ysc4230/week-03-intermediate-2021
- Definitions: ir3.ml



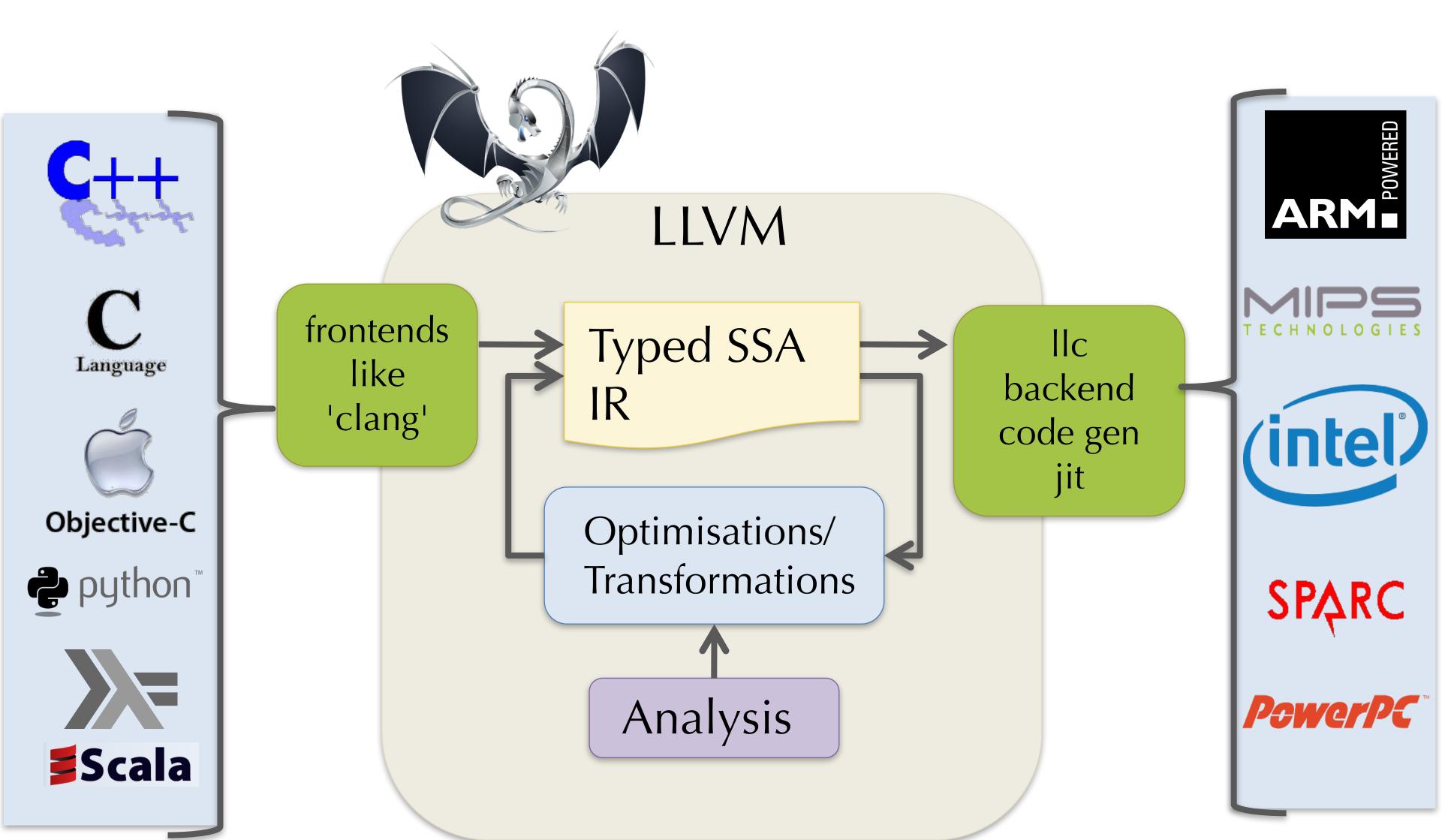
Low-Level Virtual Machine (LLVM)

- Open-Source Compiler Infrastructure
 - see llvm.org for full documentation
- Created by Chris Lattner (advised by Vikram Adve) at UIUC
 - LLVM: An infrastructure for Multi-stage Optimization, 2002
 - LLVM: A Compilation Framework for Lifelong Program Analysis and Transformation, 2004
- 2005: Adopted by Apple for XCode 3.1
- Front ends:
 - llvm-gcc (drop-in replacement for gcc)
 - Clang: C, objective C, C++ compiler supported by Apple
 - various languages: Swift, ADA, Scala, Haskell, ...
- Back ends:
 - x86 / Arm / Power / etc.

ported by Apple kell, ...



LLVM Compiler Infrastructure



[Lattner et al.]

- LLVM offers a textual representation of its IR
 - files ending in .ll

factorial64.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdint.h>
```

```
int64 t factorial(int64 t n) {
 int64 t acc = 1;
 while (n > 0) {
  acc = acc * n;
  n = n - 1;
 }
 return acc;
```

Example LLVM Code

factorial-pretty.ll

define @factorial(%n) { %1 = alloca%acc = alloca store %n, %1 store 1, %acc br label %start

start: %3 = 10ad %1%4 = icmp sgt %3, 0br %4, label %then, label %else

then: %6 = load %acc%7 = 10ad %1%8 = mul %6, %7 store %8, %acc %9 = 10ad %1%10 = sub %9, 1 store %10, %1 br label %start

else: %12 = 10ad %accret %12

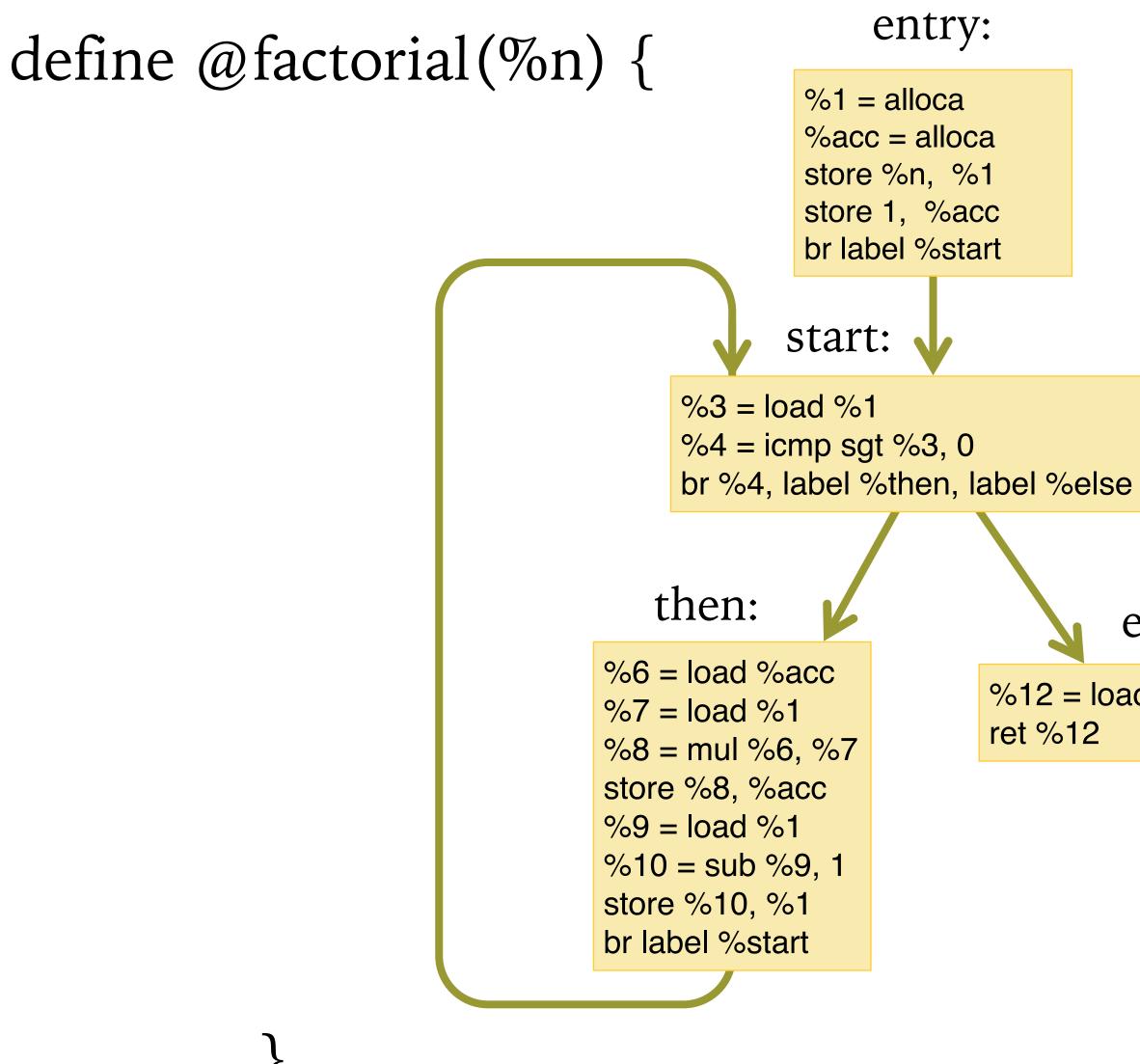
Real LLVM

- Decorates values with type information i64 i64* i1 (boolean)
- Permits numeric identifiers
- Has alignment annotations (padding for some specified number of bytes)
- Keeps track of entry edges for each block: preds = %5, %0

factorial.II

; Function Attrs: nounwind ssp define i64 @factorial(i64 %n) #0 { %1 =alloca i64, align 8 %acc = alloca i64, align 8 store i64 %n, i64* %1, align 8 store i64 1, i64* %acc, align 8 br label %2 ; <label>:2 ; preds = %5, %0 %3 = load i64* %1, align 8 %4 = icmp sgt i64 %3, 0br i1 %4, label %5, label %11 ; <label>:5 ; preds = %2 $\%6 = \text{load i64}^*$ %acc, align 8 %7 = load i64* %1, align 8 %8 = mul nsw i64 %6, %7 store i64 %8, i64* %acc, align 8 %9 = load i64* %1, align 8 %10 = sub nsw i64 %9, 1 store i64 %10, i64* %1, align 8 br label %2 ; preds = %2; <label>:11 %12 = load i64* %acc, align 8 ret i64 %12

Example Control-flow Graph



else: %12 = load %acc ret %12

define @factorial(%n) { %1 = alloca%acc = alloca store %n, %1 store 1, %acc br label %start

start: %3 = 10ad %1%4 = icmp sgt %3, 0br %4, label %then, label %else

then: %6 = load %acc%7 = 10ad %1%8 = mul %6, %7 store %8, %acc %9 = 10ad %1%10 = sub %9, 1store %10, %1 br label %start

```
else:
 \%12 = \text{load} \%\text{acc}
 ret %12
```

LL Basic Blocks and Control-Flow Graphs

- LLVM enforces (some of) the basic block invariants syntactically.
- Representation in OCaml:

type block = {

- - No two blocks have the same label
 - All terminators mention only labels that are defined among the set of basic blocks
 - There is a distinguished, unlabelled, entry block:

insns : (uid * insn) list; term : (uid * terminator)

• A control flow graph is represented as a list of labeled basic blocks with these invariants:

type cfg = block * (lbl * block) list

LL Storage Model: Locals

- Several kinds of storage:
 - Local variables (or temporaries): %uid

 - Global declarations (e.g. for string constants): @gid – Abstract locations: references to (stack-allocated) storage created by the alloca instruction – Heap-allocated structures created by external calls (e.g. to malloc)
- Local variables:
 - Defined by the instructions of the form %uid = ...
 - Must satisfy the *single static assignment* invariant
 - Each %uid appears on the left-hand side of an assignment only once in the entire control flow graph. – The value of a %uid remains unchanged throughout its lifetime
 - Analogous to "let %uid = e in …" in OCaml
- Intended to be an abstract version of machine registers. \bullet
- We'll see later how to extend SSA to allow richer use of local variables – phi nodes

LL Storage Model: alloca

- The alloca instruction allocates stack space and returns a reference to it.
 - The returned reference is stored in local: %ptr = alloca typ
 - The amount of space allocated is determined by the type
- The contents of the slot are accessed via the load and store instructions:

%acc = alloca i64 store i64 4230, i64* %acc. %x = load i64, i64* %acc

Gives an abstract version of stack slots

; allocate a storage slot ; store the integer value 4230 ; load the value 4230 into %x



Structured Data

Compiling Structured Data

- Consider C-style structures like those below.
- How do we represent **Point** and **Rect** values?

struct	Point	{ iı	nt x;	int
struct	Rect	{ s1	truct	Po
struct	Rect r	nk_so	quare	(st
struc	ct Rect	t squ	are;	
squar	e.ll =	= squ	lare.	lr =
squar	ce.lr.z	x +=	len;	
squar	ce.ul.y	y +=	len;	
squar	ce.ur.z	x +=	len;	
squar	ce.ur.y	y +=	len;	
retur	:n squa	are;		
1				

t y; };

int ll, lr, ul, ur };

ruct Point 11, int len) {

= square.ul = square.ur = ll;

Representing Structs

Χ

- Store the data using two contiguous words of memory. \bullet
- Represent a Point value p as the address of the first word.

struct Rect { struct Point II, Ir, ul, ur };

• Store the data using 8 contiguous words of memory.

- Compiler needs to know the *size* of the struct at compile time to allocate the needed storage space. Compiler needs to know the *shape* of the struct at compile time to index into the structure.

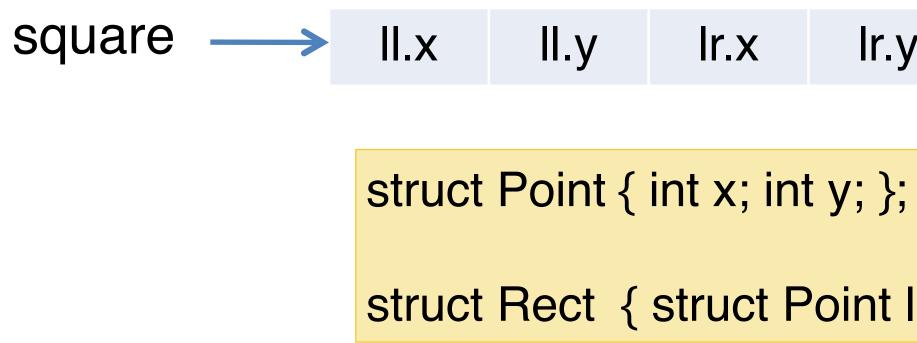
struct Point { int x; int y;};

У

.X	lr.y	ul.x	ul.y	ur.x	ur.y	
----	------	------	------	------	------	--



Assembly-level Member Access



- Consider: [square.ul.y] = (x86.operand, x86.insns)
- Assume that %rcx holds the base address of square
- Calculate the offset relative to the base pointer of the data: • ul = sizeof(struct Point) + sizeof(struct Point)

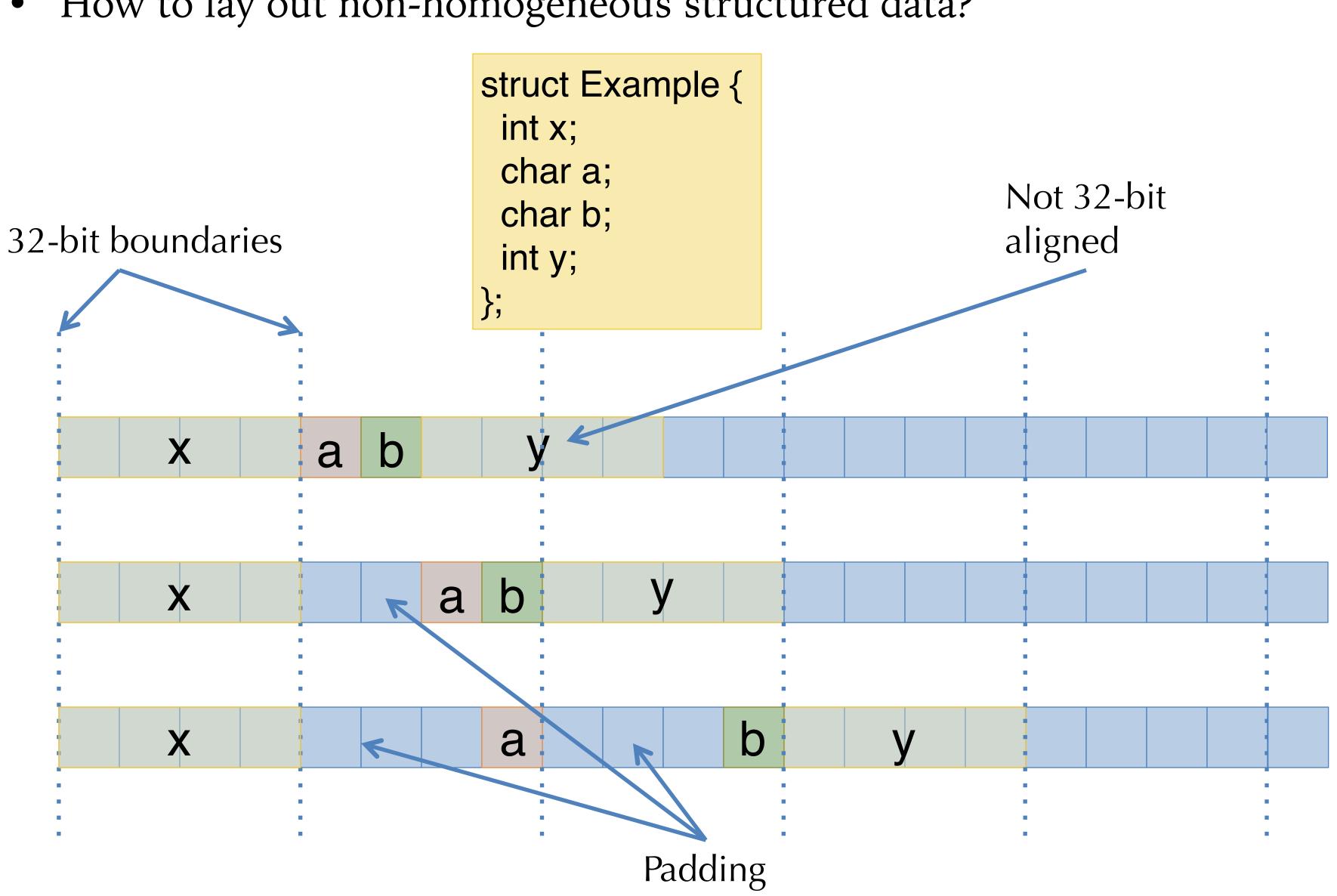
$$- y = sizeof(int)$$

• So: [square.ul.y] = (ans, Movq 20(%rcx) ans)

lr.x lr.y ul.x ul.y ur.x ur.y struct Rect { struct Point II, Ir, uI, ur };



• How to lay out non-homogeneous structured data?



Padding & Alignment

Copy-in/Copy-out

When we do an assignment in C as in:

. . .

struct Rect mk_square(struct Point II, int elen) { struct Square res; res.Ir = II;

then we copy all of the elements out of the source and put them in the target. Same as doing word-level operations:

struct Rect mk_square(struct Point II, int elen) { struct Square res; res.lr.x = II.x; res.lr.y = II.x; ...

(which is implemented using a loop in assembly).

• For really large copies, the compiler uses something like memcpy

C Procedure Calls

- Similarly, when we call a procedure, we copy arguments in, and copy results out.

 - We do the same with scalar values such as integers or doubles.
- Sometimes, this is termed "call-by-value".
 - This is bad terminology.
 - Copy-in/copy-out is more accurate.
- Benefit: locality
- Problem: expensive for large records...
- In C: can opt to pass *pointers* to structs: "call-by-reference" lacksquare

- Caller sets aside extra space in its frame to store results that are bigger than will fit in %rax.

Languages like Java and OCaml always pass non-word-sized objects by reference.

Call-by-Reference

```
void mkSquare(struct Point *11, int elen,
              struct Rect *res) {
  res -> lr = res -> ul = res -> ur = res -> ll = * ll;
  res->lr.x += elen;
  res->ur.x += elen;
  res->ur.y += elen;
  res->ul.y += elen;
void foo() {
  struct Point origin = \{0,0\};
  struct Square unit sq;
 mkSquare(&origin, 1, &unit sq);
```

- Note that returning references to stack-allocated data can cause problems. - This space might be reclaimed when foo() is done – Need to allocate storage in the heap...

• The caller passes in the *address* of the point and the *address* of the result (1 word each).







```
void foo() {
 char buf[27];
 buf[0] = 'a';
 buf[25] = 'z';
 buf[26] = 0;
```

- Space is allocated on the stack for buf.
 - need to know size of buf at compile time...
- **buf**[i] is really just (base_of_array) + i * elt_size

Arrays

```
void foo() {
                    char buf[27];
                 *(buf) = 'a';
buf[1] = 'b'; *(buf+1) = 'b';
            *(buf+25) = 'z';
                 *(buf+26) = 0;
                  }
```

- Note, without the ability to allocated stack space dynamically (C's alloca function)

Multi-Dimensional Arrays

- In C, int M[4][3] yields an array with 4 rows and 3 columns.
- Laid out in *row-major* order:

M[0][0]	M[0][1]	M[0][2]	M[1][0]	M[1][1]	M[1][2]	M[2][0]	

• In Fortran, arrays are laid out in *column major order*.

M[0][0] M[1][0] M[2][0] M[3][0]

- In ML and Java, there are no multi-dimensional arrays:
 (int array) array is represented as an array of pointers to arrays of ints.
- Why is knowing these memory layout strategies important?

[0] M[0][1] M[1][1] M[2][1] ...

Array Bounds Checks

- ensure that they're in bounds.
 - Compiler generates code to test that the computed offset is legal
- Needs to know the size of the array... where to store it? One answer: Store the size *before* the array contents. ____

- Other possibilities: •
 - Pascal: only permit statically known array sizes (very unwieldy in practice)
 - What about multi-dimensional arrays? ____

• Safe languages (e.g. Java, C#, ML but not C, C++) check array indices to

A[2] A[3] A[4] A[5] A[6]

Array Bounds Checks (Implementation)

To read a value from the array **arr**[i]:

movq -8(%rax) %rdx	// loa
cmpq %rdx %rcx	// co
j lok	// jur
callqerr_oob	// tes
ok:	
movq (%rax, %rcx, 8) dest	// do

- Clearly more expensive: adds move, comparison & jump
 - More memory traffic
- These overheads are particularly bad in an inner loop
- Compiler optimisations can help remove the overhead
 - e.g. In a for loop, if bound on index is known, only do the test once

Example: Assume %rax holds the base pointer (arr) and %ecx holds the array index i.

ad size into rdx mpare index to bound mp if $0 \le i \le size$ st failed, call the error handler

o the load from the array access

– Hardware can improve performance: executing instructions in parallel, branch prediction

C-style Strings

- A string constant "foo" is represented as global data: _string42: 102 111 111 0
- C uses null-terminated strings
- allows all copies of the same string to be shared.
- Rookie mistake (in C): write to a string constant.

- Instead, must allocate space on the heap:

char *p = (char *)malloc(4 * sizeof(char)); strncpy(p, "foo", 4); /* include the null byte */ p[0] = 'b';

• Strings are usually placed in the *text* segment so they are *read only*.

char *p = "foo"; p[0] = 'b';

Attempting to modify the string literal is *undefined behaviour*.





C-style Enumerations / ML-style datatypes

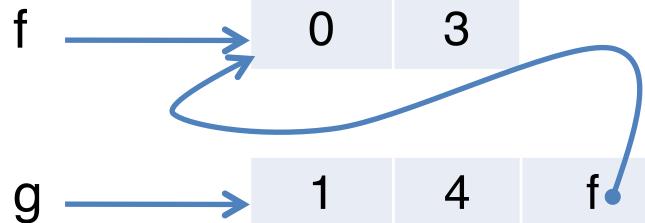
- In C:
- In OCaml: type day = Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat ullet
- C lets programmers choose the tags
- \bullet
- Representation: a foo value is a pointer to a pair: (tag, data)
- Example: tag(Bar) = 0, tag(Baz) = 1 $\llbracket \text{let f} = \text{Bar}(3) \rrbracket =$

[[let g = Baz(4, f)]] =

enum Day {sun, mon, tue, wed, thu, fri, sat} today;

Associate an integer *tag* with each case: sun = 0, mon = 1, ...

OCaml datatypes can also carry data: type foo = Bar of int | Baz of int * foo



Switch Compilation

• Consider the C statement:

switch	n (e)	{		
ca	se su	in: s	1;	bre
ca	se mo	on: s	2;	bre
•••				
ca	se sa	nt: s	3;	bre
}				

- How to compile this?
 - What happens if some of the break statements are omitted? (Control falls through to the next branch.)

ak;

ak;

ak;

Cascading ifs and Jumps

 $[switch(e) \{case tag1: s1; case tag2 s2; ...\}] =$

- Each \$tag1...\$tagN is just a constant int tag value.
- Note: [break;]
 (within the switch branches) is:

br %merge

```
%tag = [[e]];
br label %l1
```

```
I1: %cmp1 = icmp eq %tag, $tag1
    br %cmp1 label %b1, label %l2
b1: [s1]
```

```
br label %l2
```

```
l2: %cmp2 = icmp eq %tag, $tag2
    br %cmp2 label %b2, label %l3
b2: [s2]
```

```
br label %l3
```

```
IN: %cmpN = icmp eq %tag, $tagN
    br %cmpN label %bN, label %merge
bN: [sN]
    br label %merge
```

merge:



Alternatives for Switch Compilation

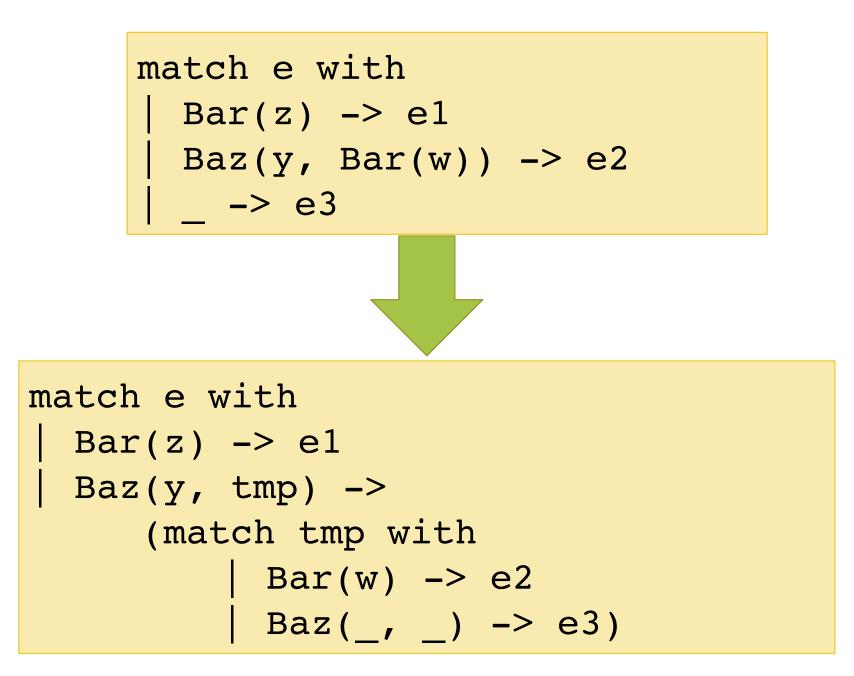
- Nested if-then-else works OK in practice if # of branches is small - (e.g. < 16 or so).
- For more branches, use better data structures to organise the jumps:
 - Create a table of pairs (v1, branch_label) and loop through
 - Or, do binary search rather than linear search
 - Or, use a hash table rather than binary search
- One common case: the tags are dense in some range [min...max]
 - Let N = max min

 - Create a branch table Branches[N] where Branches[i] = branch_label for tag i. Compute tag = [e] and then do an *indirect jump*: J Branches[tag]
- Common to use heuristics to combine these techniques. \bullet

ML-style Pattern Matching

- ML-style match statements are like C's switch statements except: \bullet
 - Patterns can bind variables
 - Patterns can nest

- Compilation strategy:
 - "Flatten" nested patterns into matches against one constructor at a time.
 - Compile the match against the tags of the datatype as for C-style switches.
 - ____
- - Many of these transformations can be done at the AST level



Code for each branch additionally must copy data from [e] to the variables bound in the patterns.

There are many opportunities for optimisations, many papers about "pattern-match compilation"





Datatypes in LLVM IR

Structured Data in LLVM

• LLVM's IR is uses types to describe the structure of data.

- <#elts> is an integer constant >= 0
- Structure types can be named at the top level:

$$T1 = type$$

• Such structure types can be recursive

N-bit integers arrays function types structures pointers named (identified) type

ction Types *return, argument types*

e { t_1 , t_2 , ..., t_n }

Example LL Types

- A static array of 4230 integers:
- A two-dimensional array of integers: [3 x [4 x i64]]
- Structure for representing dynamically-allocated arrays with their length: { i64 , [0 x i64] }
- C-style linked lists (declared at the top level): %Node = type { i64, %Node*}
- Structs from the C program shown earlier: %Rect = { %Point, %Point, %Point, %Point } %Point = { i64, i64 }

[4230 x i64]

– There is no array-bounds check; the static type information is only used for calculating pointer offsets.

getelementptr

- LLVM provides the getelementptr instruction to compute pointer values
 - Given a pointer and a "path" through the structured data pointed to by that pointer, getelementptr computes an address

 - It is a "type indexed" operation, since the size computations depend on the type

insn ::= ... getelementptr t* %val, t1 idx1, t2 idx2 ,...

Example: access the x component of the first point of a rectangle:

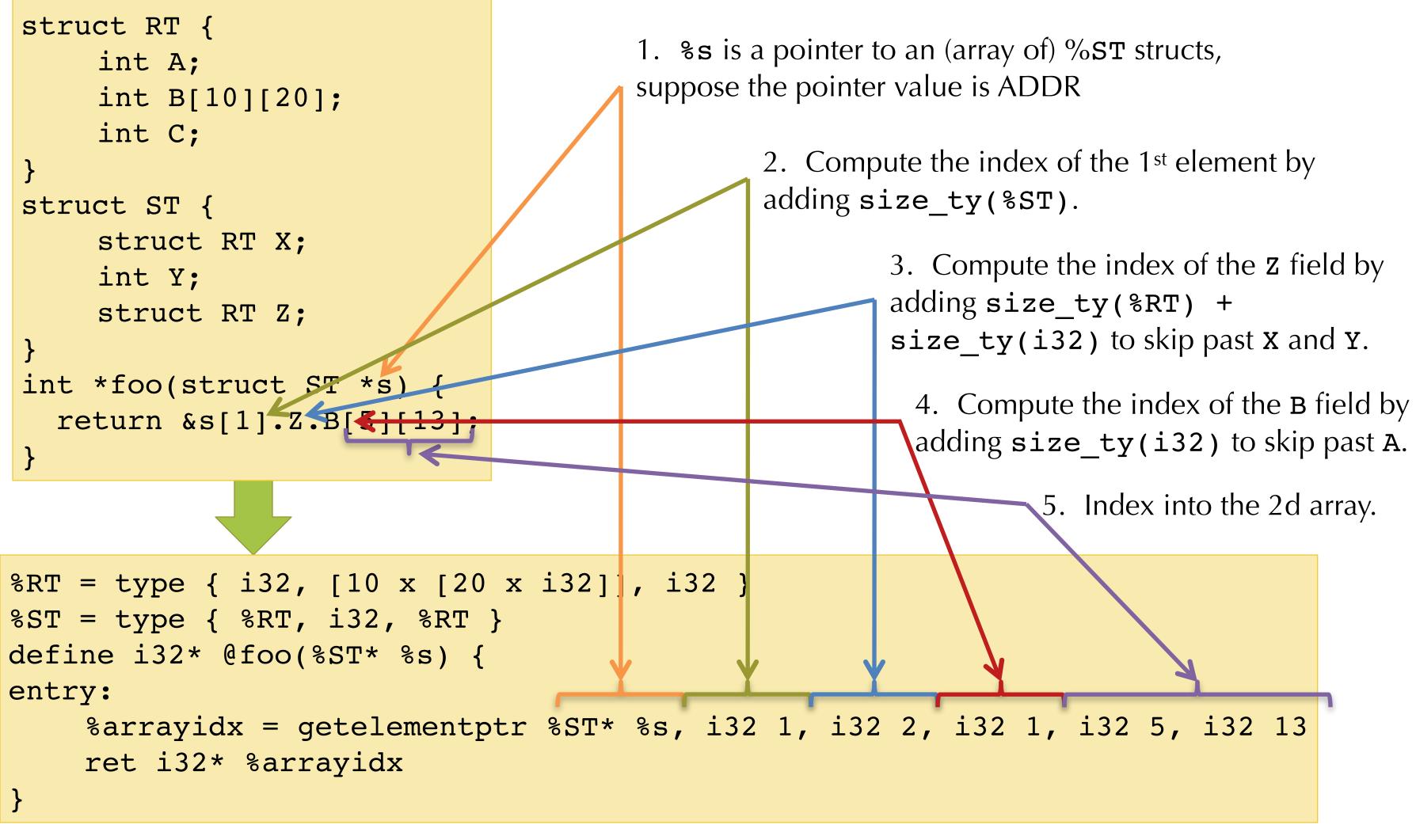
%tmp1 = getelementptr %Rect* %square, i32 0, i32 0 %tmp2 = getelementptr %Point* %tmp1, i32 0, i32 0

• The first is i32 0 a "step through" the pointer to, e.g., %square, with offset 0.

See "Why is the extra 0 index required?": https://llvm.org/docs/GetElementPtr.html#why-is-the-extra-0-index-required

– This is the abstract analog of the X86 LEA (load effective address). It **does not** access memory.

GEP Example*



Final answer: ADDR + size ty(%ST) + size_ty(%RT) + size_ty(i32) + size ty(i32) + 5*20*size ty(i32) + 13*size ty(i32)

*adapted from the LLVM documentation: see <u>http://llvm.org/docs/LangRef.html#getelementptr-instruction</u>

getelementptr

- GEP *never* dereferences the address it's calculating:
 - GEP only produces pointers by doing arithmetic
 - It doesn't actually traverse the links of a data structure
- To index into a deeply nested structure, one has to "follow the pointer" by loading from the computed pointer

Compiling Data Structures via LLVM

- For some languages (e.g. C) this process is straight forward ____
- elaboration.
 - structs.

 $[int array] = \{ i32, [0 x i32] \}*$

- 2. Translate accesses of the data into getelementptr operations:
 - e.g. for OCaml array size access: ____ [length a] =

1. Translate high level language types into an LLVM representation type. The translation simply uses platform-specific alignment and padding For other languages, (e.g. OO languages) there might be a fairly complex

e.g. for OCaml, arrays types might be translated to pointers to length-indexed

 $\$1 = getelementptr \{i32, [0 x i32]\} * \$a, i32 0, i32 0$

- What if the LLVM IR's type system isn't expressive enough?

 - e.g. if the source language has polymorphic/generic types
- LLVM IR provides a bitcast instruction
 - (segmentation faults, or silent memory corruption)

%rect2 = type { i64, i64 } %rect3 = type { i64, i64, i define @foo() { %1 = alloca %rect3 ; %2 = bitcast %rect3* %1 t %3 = getelementptr %rect2

Type Casting

– e.g. if the source language has subtyping, perhaps due to inheritance

– This is a form of (potentially) unsafe cast. Misuse can cause serious bugs

i64	}	•			record d record	
al	locate	e a t	hree-	-fiel	d record	
to	%rect2	2*	; sa	afe c	ast	
2*	%2, i3	32 0,	i32	1 ;	allowed	

Demo: Compiling to LLVM

- Clone <u>https://github.com/ysc3208/week-04-llvm-demo</u>
- Check struct.c and its LLVM representations



- LLVMLite Specification
- Overview of HW3
- Lexical Analysis

Next Week