

# Program Inversion and Reversible Computation 2025

## Reversible Computing: Janus (2) A Reversible Programming Language

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## Today's Plan

- Programming techniques in a reversible language
- Reversible self-interpreter for Janus
  - Implementation of self-interpreter
  - Tower of self-interpreters
- An example of physical simulation in Janus
  - Discrete simulation of Schrödinger wave equation

2

## Programming Techniques

- Each programming paradigm has its own programming techniques.
  - So do reversible languages

1. Zero-cleared copying, Zero-clearing by constant
2. Temporary stack
3. Code sharing by call and uncall
4. Call-uncall (Local Bennett's Method)

3

## 1. Zero-cleared Copying, Zero-clearing by Constant

- Zero-cleared copying:

```
{ x=0, ... }
x ^= y
{ x=y, ... }
```

Ex.

```
procedure main
{ n=0, ... }
n ^= 4
{ n=4, ... }
call fib
```

- Zero-clearing by constant:

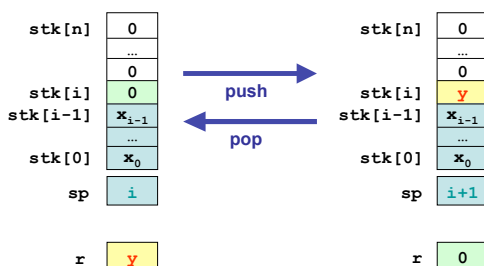
```
{ x=y, ... }
x ^= y
{ x=0, ... }
```

Ex.

```
procedure main1
uncall fib
{ n=4, ... }
n ^= 4
{ n=0, ... }
```

4

## 2. Temporary Stack



5

## 2. Temporary Stack

- Array (initially zero-cleared): `tmp_stack[]`
- Stack pointer: `tmp_sp`
- Procedure (push, pop):

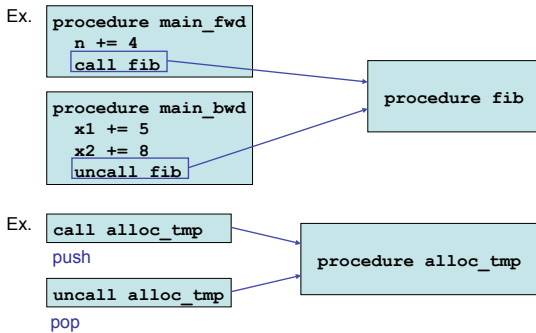
```
procedure alloc_tmp
tmp_sp += 1
tmp <=> tmp_stack[tmp_sp]
```

- Push: `call alloc_tmp` Save and clear `tmp`
- Pop: `uncall alloc_tmp` Restore cleared `tmp`

6

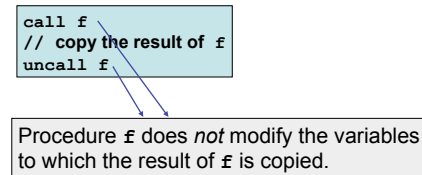
### 3. Code sharing by call and uncall

- The same procedure definition can be used with its inverse functionality by calling and uncallsing it.



### 4. Call-Uncall (Local Bennett's Method)

- We need the result of a procedure  $f$ .
  - We want to undo all other side effects the computation has had on the store.
- ⇒ Use the "call-uncall" program pattern.



### RTM-Interpreter in Janus (extended)

```

procedure main()
  ... RTM, tape and constants decl. and init. ...
  from q=QS start state
  do
    call inst(q, left, s, right, q1, s1, s2, q2, pc)
    pc += 1
    if pc=PC_MAX then
      pc ^= PC_MAX
    fi pc=0
  until q=QF final state
  main loop
end

procedure pushtape(int s, stack stk)
  if empty(stk) && (s=BLANK) then
    s ^= BLANK // zero-clear s
  else
    push(s, stk)
  fi empty(stk)
end
  
```

9

```

procedure inst(int q, stack left, int s, stack right,
  int q1, int s1, int s2, int q2, int pc)
  
```

```

if (q=q1[pc]) && (s=s1[pc]) then // Symbol rule:
  q += q2[pc]-q1[pc] // set q to q2[pc]
  s += s2[pc]-s1[pc] // set s to s2[pc]
fi (q=q2[pc]) && (s=s2[pc])
if (q=q1[pc]) && (s1[pc]=SLASH) then // Move rule:
  q += q2[pc]-q1[pc] // set q to q2[pc]
  if s2[pc]=RIGHT then
    call pushtape(s, left) // push s on left
    uncall pushtape(s, right) // pop right to s
  fi s2[pc]=RIGHT
  if s2[pc]=LEFT then
    call pushtape(s, right) // push s on right
    uncall pushtape(s, left) // pop left to s
  fi s2[pc]=LEFT
fi (q=q2[pc]) && (s1[pc]=SLASH)
  
```

10

### Review: Self-Interpreter

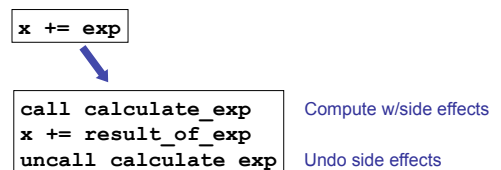
- A self-interpreter *sint* for  $L$  is an  $L$ -interpreter written in  $L$ :

$$\llbracket sint \rrbracket_L[p, x] = \llbracket p \rrbracket_L x$$

- When  $L$  is a reversible language, the self-interpreter must be reversible.

### Self-Interpreter for Janus

- Problem: evaluation of Janus expressions is **backward nondeterministic!**
  - We need to implement those evaluation rules by **reversible statements**.
- ⇒ "Local Bennett's Method"

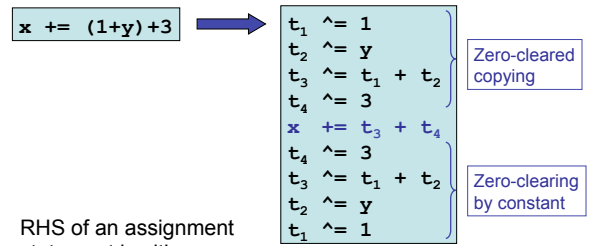


## Outline of Solution

1. Simplified expressions (e.g., preprocessor)  
At most one operator in each expression.
2. Evaluation of simplified expressions.

13

## 1. Simplification of Janus Statements



RHS of an assignment statement is either a

- constant,
- variable, or
- binary expression with two variables.

14

## Encoding of Janus Programs

- Since Janus has only numerical data, we encode Janus programs in two integer arrays:
  - **type[]** Type of syntactic construct (e.g., constant)
  - **para[]** Optional parameter (e.g., value of constant)
  - **pc** Program counter
- For example, assignment  $x += 5$  is encoded by

type	$n_{aop}^{start}$	$n_{aop}$	$n_{con}$	$n_{con}$	$n_{aop}^{end}$
para	4	$n_{aop}^{plus}$	271	5	4

Index of variable  $x$  in store

15

## State of Self-Interpreter

- Syntactic types  
 $n_{con}, n_{var}, n_{bop\_start}, \dots$
- Syntactic parameters  
 $n_{plus}, n_{minus}, n_{xor}, \dots$
- Store of interpreted program  
 $\sigma[]$
- Temporaries  
 $op, arg1, arg2, tmp, \dots$
- Temporary stack  
 $tmp\_sp, tmp\_stack[]$

16

## Skipping over Syntactic Blocks

For example, assignment  $x += 5$  is encoded by

type	$n_{aop}^{start}$	$n_{aop}$	$n_{con}$	$n_{con}$	$n_{aop}^{end}$
para	4	$n_{aop}^{plus}$	271	5	4

Each statement has paired offsets.

```

procedure next
  next_tmp ^= para[pc]
  pc += next_tmp
  next_tmp ^= para[pc]
  pc += 1
    
```

Annotations:

- Zero-cleared copying (for  $next\_tmp \hat{=} para[pc]$ )
- set  $next\_tmp$  to 0 (for  $pc += next\_tmp$ )
- Zero-clearing by constant (for  $next\_tmp \hat{=} para[pc]$ )

Remark: temporary  $next\_tmp$  needed because  $pc$  may not occur on both sides of an assignment.

17

## Skipping Forward and Backward

- Skipping over syntactic blocks in both directions:

type	$n_{aop}^{start}$	$n_{aop}$	$n_{con}$	$n_{con}$	$n_{aop}^{end}$
para	4	$n_{aop}^{plus}$	271	5	4

pc ↑ call next ↓ uncall next ↑

type	$n_{aop}^{start}$	$n_{aop}$	$n_{con}$	$n_{con}$	$n_{aop}^{end}$
para	4	$n_{aop}^{plus}$	271	5	4

pc ↑

18

## Review: Syntax of Janus

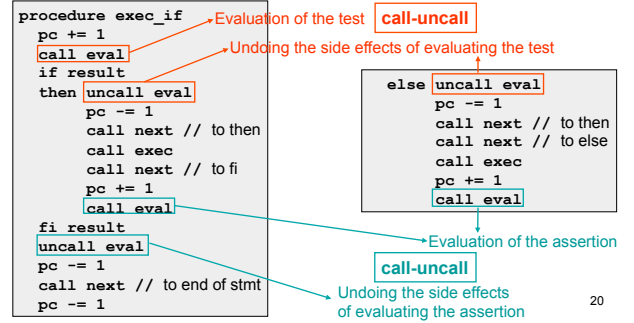
$p ::= vdec^* (\text{procedure } id \ s)^+$   
 $vdec ::= x \mid x[c]$   
 $s ::= x \oplus = e \mid x[e] \oplus = e \mid$   
 $\quad \text{if } e \text{ then } s \text{ else } s \text{ fi } e \mid$   
 $\quad \text{from } e \text{ do } s \text{ loop } s \text{ until } e \mid$   
 $\quad \text{call } id \mid \text{uncall } id \mid \text{skip} \mid s \ s$   
 $e ::= c \mid x \mid x[e] \mid \sim e \mid e \odot e$   
 $c ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid \dots \mid 4294967295$   
 $\oplus ::= + \mid - \mid ^$   
 $\odot ::= \oplus \mid * \mid / \mid \% \mid * / \mid \& \mid \mid \mid$   
 $\quad < \mid > \mid = \mid != \mid <= \mid >=$

Assignment operations  
 Reversible Conditional  
 Reversible Loop  
 Procedure call/uncall  
 32-bits integers

19

## Execution of Statements: Conditional

$$\frac{\sigma \vdash_{expr} e_1 \Rightarrow v_1 \quad \sigma \vdash_{stmt} s_1 \Rightarrow \sigma' \quad \sigma' \vdash_{expr} e_2 \Rightarrow v_2 \quad \text{is-true?}(v_2)}{\sigma \vdash_{stmt} \text{if } e_1 \text{ then } s_1 \text{ else } s_2 \text{ fi } e_2 \Rightarrow \sigma'} \text{IfTrue}$$



20

## Execution of Statements: Loop

- Similar to conditional

## Execution of Statements: Procedure Call

$$\frac{\sigma \vdash_{stmt} \Gamma(id) \Rightarrow \sigma'}{\sigma \vdash_{stmt} \text{call } id \Rightarrow \sigma'} \text{Call}$$

Execution of body of procedure  $id$   
 Save pc and set new pc to body of procedure.  
 call-uncall  
 Restore pc  
 pc := para[pc]  
 temporary stack

```

procedure exec_call
  call exec call_pc_swap
  call exec
  uncall next
  uncall exec call_pc_swap
  
```

```

procedure exec_call_pc_swap
  tmp ^= para[pc]
  pc <=> tmp
  call alloc_tmp
  
```

21

22

## Execution of Statements: Procedure Uncall

$$\frac{\sigma \vdash_{stmt} \Gamma(id) \Rightarrow \sigma'}{\sigma \vdash_{stmt} \text{call } id \Rightarrow \sigma'} \text{Call}$$

$$\frac{\sigma' \vdash_{stmt} \Gamma(id) \Rightarrow \sigma}{\sigma \vdash_{stmt} \text{uncall } id \Rightarrow \sigma'} \text{Uncall}$$

- How to implement call and uncall in the interpreter?

```

procedure exec_uncall
  ?
  
```

Code-sharing by call-uncall

23

## Review: Expression Evaluation is Irreversible

$$\text{Judgment: } \sigma \vdash_{expr} e \Rightarrow v$$

Store Exp Val

$$\frac{\sigma \vdash_{expr} c \Rightarrow \llbracket c \rrbracket}{\sigma \vdash_{expr} c \Rightarrow \llbracket c \rrbracket} \text{Con} \quad \frac{\sigma \vdash_{expr} x \Rightarrow \sigma(x)}{\sigma \vdash_{expr} x \Rightarrow \sigma(x)} \text{Var}$$

$$\frac{\sigma \vdash_{expr} e_1 \Rightarrow v_1 \quad \sigma \vdash_{expr} e_2 \Rightarrow v_2 \quad \llbracket \odot \rrbracket(v_1, v_2) = v}{\sigma \vdash_{expr} e_1 \odot e_2 \Rightarrow v} \text{BinOp}$$

where  $\odot \in \{ *, /, \&, <, >, \dots \}$   
 are non-injective operators

24

## Reversible Evaluation of Expressions

- Case: constants

$$\frac{v' = \llbracket \oplus \rrbracket(v, \llbracket c \rrbracket)}{\sigma \uplus \{x \mapsto v\} \vdash_{stmt} x \oplus = \llbracket c \rrbracket \Rightarrow \sigma \uplus \{x \mapsto v'\}}$$

Reversible update      Evaluation of RHS (irreversible)

- Case: variables

$$\frac{v' = \llbracket \oplus \rrbracket(v, \sigma(y))}{\sigma \uplus \{x \mapsto v\} \vdash_{stmt} x \oplus = y \Rightarrow \sigma \uplus \{x \mapsto v'\}}$$

- Case: binary operators

$$\frac{v' = \llbracket \oplus \rrbracket(v, \llbracket \odot \rrbracket(\sigma(y_1), \sigma(y_2)))}{\sigma \uplus \{x \mapsto v\} \vdash_{stmt} x \oplus = y_1 \odot y_2 \Rightarrow \sigma \uplus \{x \mapsto v'\}}$$

Note: simplified expressions have at most one operator

25

## Evaluation of Expressions: Dispatch

```

procedure eval
  if type[pc] = n_con
    then result ^= para[pc]
  else if type[pc] = n_var
    then result ^= sigma[para[pc]]
  else if type[pc] = n_bop_start
    then call eval_bop
    call next
    pc += 1
  else error
    fi type[pc] = n_bop_end
  fi type[pc] = n_var
fi type[pc] = n_con
pc += 1

```

Constant: value in para[]

Variable: look-up in sigma[]

Binary operator: call sub-procedure

Dispatch depends on type[pc]

Assertions on type[pc]

26

## Evaluation of Expressions: Binary Operators

```

procedure eval_bop
  call eval_bop_args
  if op = n_plus
    then tmp ^= arg1 + arg2
  else if op = n_minus
    then tmp ^= arg1 - arg2
  else if op = n_xor
    then tmp ^= arg1 ^ arg2
  // ...
  fi op = n_xor
  fi op = n_minus
  fi op = n_plus
  uncall eval_bop_args
  result <=> tmp

```

Evaluate both arguments and return results in arg1 and arg2

Side-effects are undone

call-uncall

The underlying operation is evaluated.

27

## Evaluation of Expressions: Arguments

```

procedure eval_bop_args
  pc += 1
  op ^= para[pc]
  pc += 1
  call eval
  arg1 <=> result
  call eval
  arg2 <=> result

```

Determine the binary operator

Evaluate 1st argument

Evaluate 2nd argument

28

## Execution of Statements: Reversible Update

$$\frac{v' = f(\sigma, \oplus, v, e)}{\sigma \uplus \{x \mapsto v\} \vdash_{stmt} x \oplus = e \Rightarrow \sigma \uplus \{x \mapsto v'\}}$$

```

procedure exec_aop
  call exec_aop_args
  call exec_aop_upd
  uncall exec_aop_args
  call next // to end of stmt
  pc -= 1

```

Evaluation of RHS

Reversible Update

call-uncall

29

## Execution of Statements: Dispatch

```

procedure execl
  if type[pc] = n_aop_start
    then call exec_aop
  else if type[pc] = n_if_start
    then call exec_if
  else if type[pc] = n_from_start
    then call exec_from
  else if type[pc] = n_call
    then call exec_call
  else if type[pc] = n_uncall
    then call exec_uncall
  else if type[pc] = n_skip
    else error
    fi type[pc] = n_skip
  fi type[pc] = n_uncall
  fi type[pc] = n_call
  fi type[pc] = n_until_end
  fi type[pc] = n_while_end
  fi type[pc] = n_aop_end

```

Dispatched depending on type[pc]

30

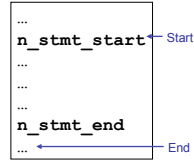
## Execution of Statements: Top Level

- Start from `n_stmt_start` and end with `n_stmt_end`
- In each iteration, a statement is executed by `exec1`

```

procedure exec
  from type[pc] = n_stmt_start
  do   pc += 1
  loop call exec1
  until type[pc] = n_stmt_end
  pc += 1

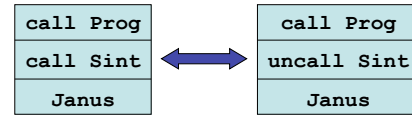
```



31

## Short Summary: Self-Interpreter

- Implementation completed
- History-free
  - Uses only local Bennett's method
- Constant space
- Reversible self-interpreter



32

## Experiments with Janus

- Many physical models describe reversible processes.
- Schrödinger Wave Equation
  - The fundamental equation of physics for describing quantum mechanical behavior.
  - $\mathcal{H}\mathcal{X}_{i,n+1} = \mathcal{X}_{i,n} + \alpha_i \mathcal{Y}_{i,n} - \epsilon(\mathcal{Y}_{i+1,n} + \mathcal{Y}_{i-1,n})$
  - $\mathcal{Y}_{i,n+1} = \mathcal{Y}_{i,n} - \alpha_i \mathcal{X}_{i,n+1} + \epsilon(\mathcal{X}_{i+1,n+1} + \mathcal{X}_{i-1,n+1})$
  - $\mathcal{C}\mathcal{X}_{i,n} = \mathcal{X}_{i+128,n}, \mathcal{Y}_{i,n} = \mathcal{Y}_{i+128,n}$

† E. Fredkin, Feynman, Barton and the reversible Schrödinger difference equation. Feynman and computation: exploring the limits of computers, pages 337-348, 1999.

M. P. Frank. Reversibility for Efficient Computing. PhD thesis, EECS Dept., MIT, 1999. 33

## Simulation Program: Sch

$$\mathcal{X}_{i,n+1} = \mathcal{X}_{i,n} + \alpha_i \mathcal{Y}_{i,n} - \epsilon(\mathcal{Y}_{i+1,n} + \mathcal{Y}_{i-1,n})$$

```

procedure main
  ... // initialize arrays
  from n=0
  loop call step
    n += 1
  until n=maxn

procedure step
  call stepX
  call stepY

procedure updateX
  X[i] += alpha[i] * Y[i]
  X[i] -= epsilon * (Y[(i+1)%128] + Y[(i-1)%128])

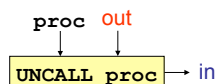
procedure stepX
  from i=0
  loop call updateX
    i += 1
  until i=128
  i -= 128

```

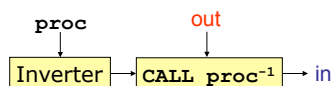
34

## Review: Two Approaches to Inversion

- Inverse interpretation of a procedure (one stage):

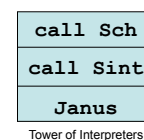
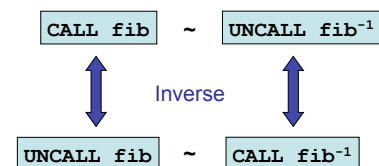


- Program inversion of a procedure (two stages):



35

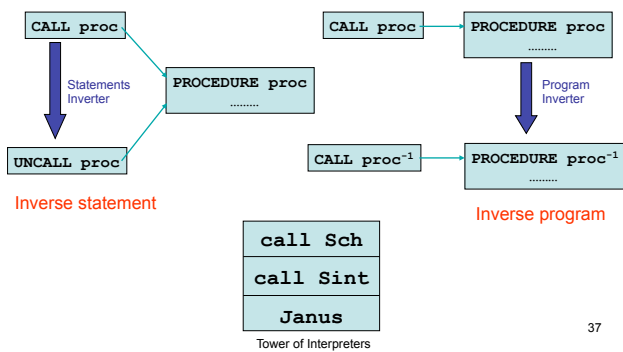
## Review: Two ways of Invoking Procedures



Tower of Interpreters

36

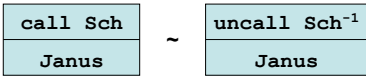
# Review: Two Ways of Inversion



37

# Inverse Call and Program Inversion

- Forward ( $2^2 / 2 = 2$  possibilities)



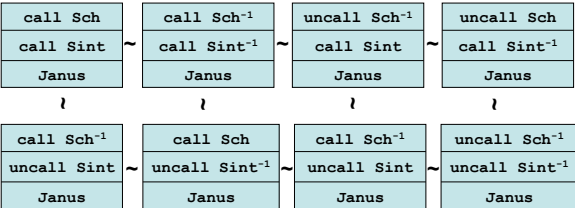
- Backward ( $2^2 / 2 = 2$  possibilities)



38

# Inverse Call and Program Inversion

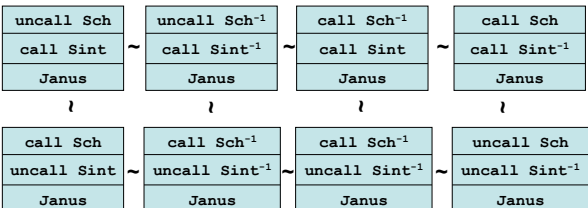
- Forward ( $2^4 / 2 = 8$  possibilities)



39

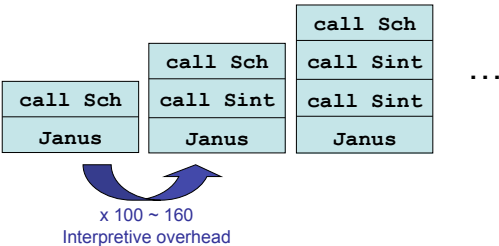
# Inverse Call and Program Inversion

- Backward ( $2^4 / 2 = 8$  possibilities)

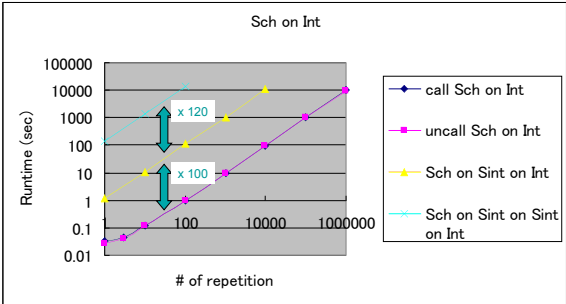


40

# Tower of Interpreters



41



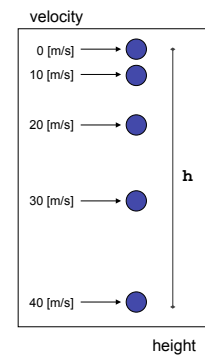
42

## Summary

- To implement the Janus self-interpreter, the operational semantics rules for expressions need to be implemented reversibly.
- Reversible programming paradigm has its own programming techniques.
- Janus self-interpreter realizes non-standard interpreter hierarchy.

43

## Exercises: Free-Falling Object



44