Compilation (#6) : Intermediate Representations: CFG, Local optimisations

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Big picture

source code

$\downarrow$

$\boxed{\text{lexical+syntactic analysis + typing}}$

$\downarrow$

decorated AST

$\downarrow$

$\boxed{\text{code production (numerous phases)}}$

$\downarrow$

assembly language

In context 1/2

In the last course we saw the need for a better data structure to propagate and infer information. We need:

- A data structure that helps us to reason about the flow of the program.
- Which embeds our three address code.

▶ Control-Flow Graph.

In context 2/2

decorated AST

↓

$\boxed{\text{IR Construction}}$

↓

Control-Flow Graph

↓

$\boxed{\text{Clever analyses/code generation}}$

↓

assembly language

Definitions

Definition (Basic Block)

Basic block: largest (3-address RISCV*) instruction sequence without label. (except at the first instruction) and without jumps and calls.*

Definition (CFG)

It is a directed graph whose vertices are basic blocks, and edge $B_1 \to B_2$ *exists if* B_2 *can follow immediately* B_1 *in an execution.*

- two optimisation levels: local (BB) and global (CFG)

An example 1/2

Let us consider the program:

```
int x,y;
if (x<4) y=7; else y=42;
x=10;
```

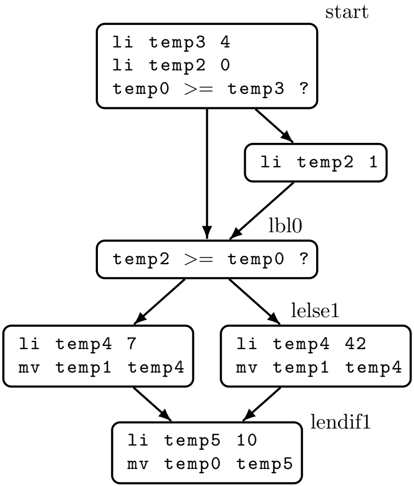
We already generated the (linear code) for a large part of it.

An example 2/2

```
 li temp3, 4
 li temp2, 0
 bge temp0, temp3, lbl0
 li temp2, 1
lbl0:  # if false, jump (skip the 'then')
 bge temp2, temp0, lelse1
 li temp4, 7
 mv temp1, temp4  # y gets 7
 jump lendif1
lelse1:
 li temp4 42
 mv temp1, temp4  # y gets 42
lendif1:
 li temp5, 10
 mv temp0, temp5  # end
```

An example 2/2

li temp3, 4
li temp2, 0
bge temp0, temp3, lbl0
li temp2, 1
lbl0: # **if** false, jump (skip the 'then')
bge temp2, temp0, lelse1
li temp4, 7
mv temp1, temp4 # y gets 7
jump lendif1
lelse1:
li temp4 42
mv temp1, temp4 # y gets 42
lendif1:
li temp5, 10
mv temp0, temp5 # **end**



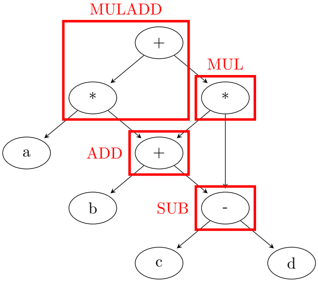
Identifying Basic Blocks (from 3 address code)

- The first instruction of a basic block is called a **leader**.
- We can identify leaders via these three properties:
  1. The first instruction in the intermediate code is a leader.
  2. Any instruction that is the target of a conditional or unconditional jump is a leader.
  3. Any instruction that immediately follows a conditional or unconditional jump is a leader.
- Once we have found the leaders, it is straighforward to find the basic blocks: for each leader, its basic block consists of the leader itself, plus all the instructions until the next leader.

Big picture (Basic Block Optimisation)

- Front-end $\rightarrow$ a CFG where nodes are basic blocks.
- Basic blocks $\rightarrow$ DAGs that explicit common computations

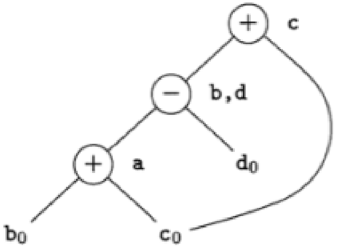
```
u1 := c - d
u2 := b + u1
u3 := a * u2
u4 := u2 * u1
u5 := u3 + u4
```



▶ choose instructions(**selection**) and order them (**scheduling**).

An Example of BB DAG construction

```
a = b + c
b = a - d
c = b + c
d = a - d
```



Useful links :
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXTKWvyQUwE and
https://www.cse.iitm.ac.in/~krishna/cs3300/pm-lecture3.pdf for
other BB optimisations.

1. Control flow Graph

2. Local optimizations
   - Basic Blocks DAG Construction
   - Instruction Selection
   - Instruction Scheduling

3. Global optimizations
   - Introduction to register allocation
   - Analysis for optimizations : Liveness

Instruction Selection, in general

The problem:

- a list of instructions/operations that compute one or more expressions.
- map these operations in “real machine instructions”.
- at minimum cost.

Instruction Selection

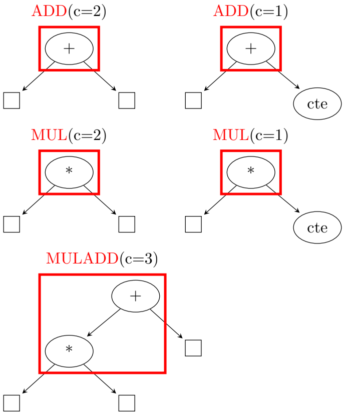
The problem of selecting instructions is a DAG-partitioning problem. But what is the objective ?

The best instructions:

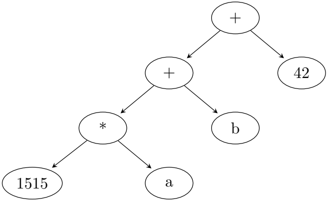
- cover bigger parts of computation.
- cause few memory accesses.

► Assign a cost to each instruction, depending on their addressing mode.

Instruction Selection: an example



What is the optimal instruction selection for:



- Finding a tiling of minimal cost: it is **NP-complete** (SAT reduction).

Tiling trees / DAGs, in practice

For tiling:

- There is an optimal algorithm for **trees** based on dynamic programming.
- For DAGs we use heuristics (decomposition into a forest of trees, ...)

▶ The literature is plethoric on the subject.

Instruction Selection, in our compiler

Mapping one to one. No real choice.

Instruction Scheduling, in general

The problem:

- change the order of instructions.
- to “optimise’.
- without “cutting dependencies”.

Instruction Scheduling, what for?

We want an evaluation order for the instructions that we choose with **Instruction Scheduling**.

A scheduling is a function θ that associates a **logical date** to each instruction. To be correct, it must respect data dependancies:

```
(S1) u1 := c - d
(S2) u2 := b + u1
```

implies $\theta(S_1) < \theta(S_2)$.

▶ How to choose among many correct schedulings? depends on the target architecture.

Architecture-dependant choices

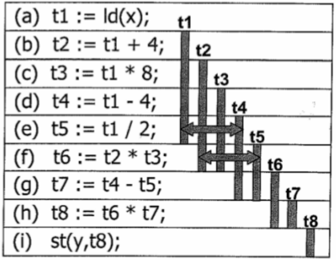
The idea is to exploit the different ressources of the machine at their best:

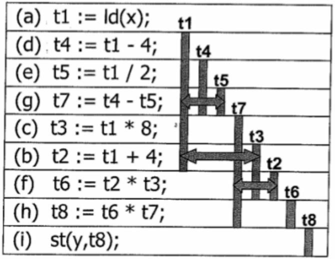
- instruction parallelism: some machine have parallel units (subinstructions of a given instruction).
- prefetch: some machines have non-blocking load/stores, we can run some instructions between a load and its use (hide latency!)
- pipeline.
- registers: see next slide.

(sometimes these criteria are incompatible)

Register use

Some schedules induce less **register pressure**:





- How to find a schedule with less register pressure?

Scheduling wrt register pressure ENSL Only

Result: this is a linear problem on trees, but NP-complete on DAGs (Sethi, 1975).

- Sethi-Ullman algorithm on trees, heuristics on DAGs

Sethi-Ullman algorithm on trees ENSL Only

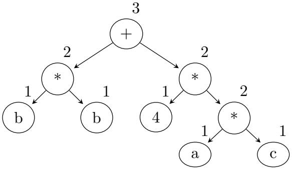
$\rho(node)$ denoting the number of (pseudo)-registers necessary to compute a node:

- $\rho(leaf) = 1$
- $\rho(nodeop(e_1, e_2)) = \begin{cases} max\{\rho(e_1), \rho(e_2)\} & \text{if } \rho(e_1) \neq \rho(e_2) \\ \rho(e_1) + 1 & \text{else} \end{cases}$

(the idea for non “balanced” subtrees is to execute the one with the biggest ρ first, then the other branch, then the op. If the tree is balanced, then we need an extra register)

▶ then the code is produced with postfix tree traversal, the biggest register consumers first.

Sethi-Ullman algorithm on trees - an example



	tmp_1	tmp_2	tmp_3	tmp_4
`mul tmp1, b, b`				
`mul tmp2, a, c`	■			
`leti tmp3, 4`	■	■		
`mul tmp4, tmp2, tmp3`	■	■	■	
`add tmp5, tmp1, temp4`	■			■

Instruction Selection, in our compiler

Same order as the 3-address code.

Conclusion (instruction selection/scheduling)

Plenty of other algorithms in the literature:

- Scheduling DAGs with heuristics, ...
- Scheduling loops (M2IF course on advanced compilation)

Practical session:

- we have (nearly) no choice for the instructions in the RISCV ISA.
- evaluating the impact of scheduling is a bit hard.

We won't implement any of the previous algorithms.

Global optimizations

So far, we have taken advantage of basic blocks to make local optimizations, where we do not need to take care of control flow.

This is not sufficient for all optimizations !

Global optimizations

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This is not sufficient for all optimizations !

- Global Dead Code Elimination
- Constant Folding
- Loop optimizations
- …
- **Register allocation**

Global optimization in practice

Let's optimize this function:

```
int f(int a, int b) {
  x:=a+b;
  y:=a*b;
  while(y*y>a+b) do
    a:=a+a;
    x:=a+b;
  done;
  return x;
}
```

For drawing

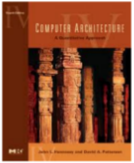
For drawing

What for?

- Finding storage locations to the values manipulated by the program ▶ registers or memory.
- registers are fast but in small quantity.
- memory is plenty, but slower access time.

▶ A good register allocator should strive to keep in registers the variables used more often.

"Because of the central role that register allocation plays, both in speeding up the code and in making other optimizations useful, it is one of the most important - if not the most important - of the optimizations."



Hennessy and Patterson (2006) - [Appendix B; p. 26]

What for?

Expected behavior of **register allocation**:

- Input: a CFG with basic blocks with 3-address code (and pseudo-registers, aka temporaries)
- Output: same CFG but without pseudo-registers:
  - replace with physical registers as much as possible.
  - if not **splill**, ie allocate a place in memory.
  - all copies assigned to the same physical registers (“moves”) can be removed: **coalescing** (**optional**).

The key notion: liveness

Observation

Two variables that are simultaneously **alive** must be assigned different registers.

(formal definition of alive follows)

Register assignment is NP-complete

Theorem

Given P and K general purpose registers, is there an assignment of the variables P in registers, such that (i) every variable gets at least one register along its entire live range, and (ii) simultaneously live variables are given different registers ?

Gregory Chaitin has shown, in the early 80's, that the register assignment problem is NP-Complete (register allocation via coloring, 1981)

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Liveness analysis

Previously we called **variable** a pseudo-register or a physical register.

Definition (Alive Variable)

In a given program point, a variable is said to be alive if the value she contains may be used in the rest of the execution.

May: non decidable property ▶ overapproximation.

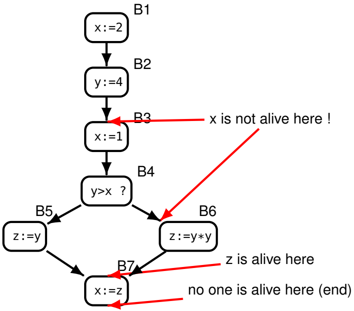
Important remark: here a block = a statement/program point.
We have the same kind of analyses with block=basic block.

An example for live ranges

Definition

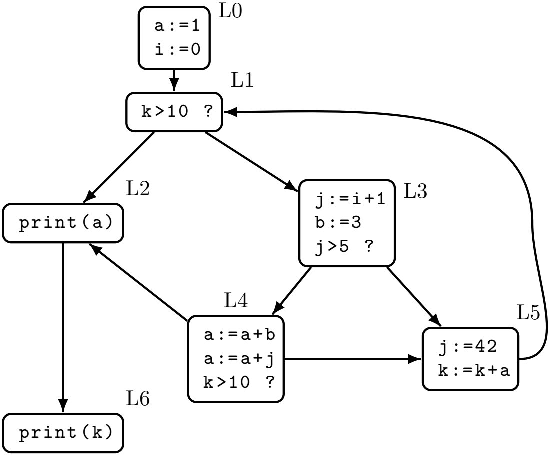
A variable is **live** at the exit of a block if there exists a path from the block to a use of the variable that does not redefine the variable.

```
x:=2;
y:=4;
x:=1;
if (y>x)
   then z:=y
   else z:=y*y ;
x:=z;
```



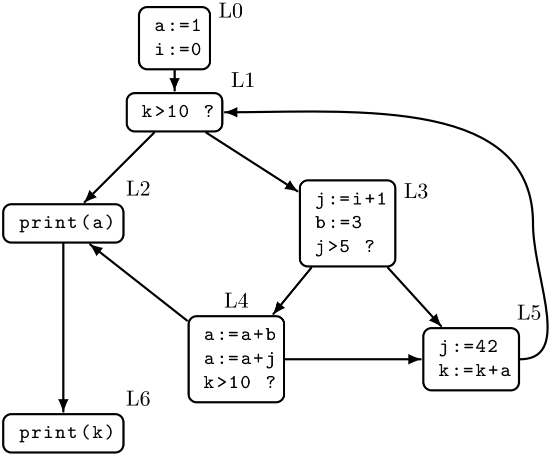
- The information flow is **backward**: from uses to definitions.

Liveness by hand!



bloc	live variables at bloc exit
L0	
L1	
L2	
L3	
L4	
L5	
L6	$\emptyset$

Liveness by hand!



bloc	live variables at bloc exit
L0	a, i, k
L1	a, i, k
L2	k
L3	i, j, a, k, b
L4	a, i, k
L5	a, i, k
L6	∅

How to compute liveness

Dataflow analysis is a technique to compute many properties.

- Very versatile
- Expensive in general (fix point on the CFG)

▶ Next year in the Static Analysis course!

Computing liveness: an alternative approach

Instead, we will use an alternative CFG representation that makes it easy to compute liveness and do program transformations!

- Next lesson: The **Single Static Assignment** representation

Summary