

# Introduction to LLVM

CMPT 379: Compilers

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[anoopsarkar.github.io/compilers-class](https://anoopsarkar.github.io/compilers-class)

# Setting up

```
static llvm::Module *TheModule;
```

This global variable contains all the generated code.

```
static llvm::LLVMContext TheContext;
```

The calls to Builder will sometimes use TheContext.

```
static llvm::IRBuilder<> Builder(TheContext);
```

Make sure your yacc actions incrementally generate instructions in the right order

This is the method used to construct the LLVM intermediate code (IR).

To print out the LLVM output:

```
TheModule->print(llvm::errs(), nullptr);
```

# Types in LLVM

decafType is not an LLVM data type.  
Your yacc program defines it for all  
the types in a Decaf program

```
llvm::Type *getLLVMType(decafType ty) {  
    switch (ty) {  
        case voidTy: return Builder.getVoidTy();  
        case intTy: return Builder.getInt32Ty();  
        case boolTy: return Builder.getInt1Ty();  
        case stringTy: return Builder.getInt8PtrTy();  
        default: throw runtime_error("unknown type");  
    }  
}
```

# Constants in LLVM

```
llvm::Constant *getZeroInit(decafType ty) {  
    switch (ty) {  
        case intTy: return Builder.getInt32(0);  
        case boolTy: return Builder.getInt1(0);  
        default: throw runtime_error("unknown type");  
    }  
}  
  
llvm::Value *StringConstAST::Codegen() {  
    const char *s = StringConst.c_str();  
    llvm::Value *GS = Builder.CreateGlobalString(s, "globalstring");  
    return Builder.CreateConstGEP2_32(GS, 0, 0, "cast");  
}
```

# Local Variables in LLVM

```
llvm::AllocaInst *defineVariable(  
    llvm::Type *llvmTy,  
    string ident)  
{  
    llvm::AllocaInst* Alloca =  
        Builder.CreateAlloca(llvmTy, 0, ident.c_str());  
    syms.enter_symtbl(ident, Alloca);  
    return Alloca;  
}
```

This is the symbol table you need to keep information about each identifier. We store an `AllocaInst*` for each variable.

Using the Variable:

```
llvm::Value *V = syms.access_symtbl(Name);  
return Builder.CreateLoad(V, Name.c_str());
```

# Assignment and checking types

a = b

We need to check if type of lvalue  
a is the same as type of rvalue b

assign: T\_ID T\_ASSIGN expr

Name

```
llvm::AllocaInst *Alloca  
= (llvm::AllocaInst *)  
syms.access_symbbl(Name);
```

rvalue

```
const llvm::PointerType *ptrTy =  
rvalue-&gtgetType()->getPointerTo();
```

```
if (ptrTy == Alloca->getType()) {  
    Builder.CreateStore(rvalue, Alloca);  
}
```

# Declaring a Function in LLVM

```
llvm::Type *returnTy = /* initialize return type */  
std::vector<llvm::Type *> args;  
/* args := initialize the vector of argument types */  
llvm::Function *func = llvm::Function::Create(  
    llvm::FunctionType::get(returnTy, args, false),  
    llvm::Function::ExternalLinkage,  
    Name,  
    TheModule  
);  
syms.enter_symtbl(Name, func);
```

This is the symbol table you need to keep information about each identifier

# Promoting Types in LLVM

- What if the variable is of type i1 (boolean)
- But the function only takes i32 (int)
- We must promote the type i1 to i32
- LLVM can do that for you using the ZExt instruction

```
llvm::Value *promo =  
    Builder.CreateZExt(*i, Builder.getInt32Ty(), "zexttmp");
```



# Basic Blocks in LLVM

```
// Create a new basic block which contains a sequence of LLVM instructions
llvm::BasicBlock *BB =
    llvm::BasicBlock::Create(
        TheContext,
        "entry",
        func);
// insert into symbol table
syms.enter_symtbl(string("entry"), BB);
// All subsequent calls to IRBuilder will place instructions in this location
Builder.SetInsertPoint(BB);
```

# Function parameters

When you generate code for a method declaration do the following:

1. Create a new symbol table for local variables
2. Create a `BasicBlock`, let's say `BB`
3. Set insertion point for instructions `Builder.SetInsertPoint(BB)`
4. Add the arguments to the function as allocated on the stack (next slide)

## Function parameters

```
func foo(x int) int {  
    x = 1;  
}
```

For `Function*` `func` iterate through the function arguments using `arg_iterator` and allocate them into the stack.

```
for (auto &Arg : func->args()) {  
    llvm::AllocaInst *Alloca =  
        CreateEntryBlockAlloca(func, Arg.getName());  
    // Store the initial value into the alloca.  
    Builder.CreateStore(&Arg, Alloca);  
    // Add to symbol table  
    syms.enter_symtbl(Arg.getName(), Alloca);  
}
```

# Useful Tricks in LLVM

- Finding the current function you are in: `llvm::Function *func = Builder.GetInsertBlock()->getParent();`

- External function

```
llvm::Function::Create(  
    llvm::FunctionType::get(returnTy, args, false),  
    llvm::Function::ExternalLinkage,  
    Name,  
    TheModule);
```

# Modulus in LLVM

- Use `CreateSRem()` for signed operators in Decaf
- LLVM uses the C/C++ style modulus
- So  $-4\%3 == -1$

# Control Flow in LLVM

# “Backpatching” in LLVM

- Inside IfStmt->Codegen:
  - Set up a new symbol table for code locations
  - Create a new BasicBlock called iftrue (see slide 9)
  - Create a new BasicBlock called iffalse
  - Create a new BasicBlock called end
  - Subsequent code generation anywhere else can insert code into these code locations
  - Can be used for break, continue, short-circuits, etc.

# “Backpatching” in LLVM

Setting up the branching between Basic Blocks:

```
/* val contains the Expr value for the conditional */  
Builder.CreateCondBr(val, IfTrueBB, EndBB);  
Builder.SetInsertPoint(IfTrueBB);  
IfTrueBlock->Codegen();
```

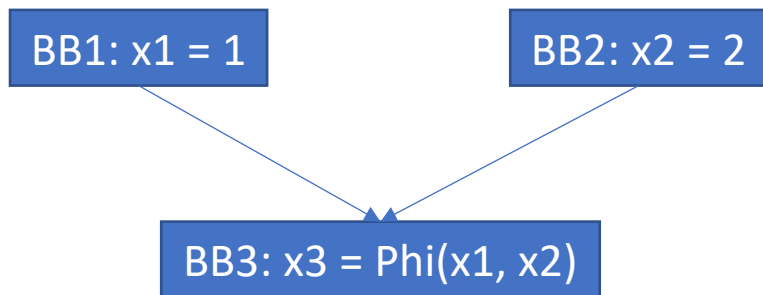
After the IfStmt we continue with the end Basic Block:

```
Builder.CreateBr(EndBB);  
/* pop the symbol table after IfStmt Codegen is done */  
Builder.SetInsertPoint(EndBB);
```



# Static Single Assignment in LLVM

- For normal control flow using CreateBr and CreateCondBr no need for Phi functions
- LLVM produces the Phi functions automatically using algorithms we will study in class



# Short-circuit of boolean expressions

- For short circuit of boolean expressions you have to write the PHI function yourself

```
llvm::PHINode *val =  
    Builder.CreatePHI(type, 2, "phival");  
/* type is an LLVM::Type */  
val->addIncoming(L, CurBB);  
val->addIncoming(opval, OpValBB);  
/* CurBB and OpValBB are the two basic blocks that are  
incoming blocks for the PHI function */
```

# Short-circuit of boolean expressions

```
package sckt {  
    func main() int {  
        var a, b, c bool;  
        a = true; b = false;  
        c = a || b;  
    }  
}
```

# Short-circuit of boolean expressions

```
; ModuleID = 'sckt'  
source_filename = "DecafComp"  
define i32 @main() {  
func:  
  ; removed all variable init code  
  store i1 true, i1* %a  
  store i1 false, i1* %b  
  %a1 = load i1, i1* %a  
  br i1 %a1, label %skctend, label %noskct
```

$c = a \parallel b;$

if a is True then  
do not evaluate b

```
noskct: ; preds = %func  
  %b2 = load i1, i1* %b  
  %ortmp = or i1 %a1, %b2  
  br label %skctend
```

```
skctend: ; preds = %noskct, %func  
  %phival =  
    phi i1 [ %a1, %func ], [ %ortmp, %noskct ]  
  store i1 %phival, i1* %c  
  ret i32 0  
}
```

# Backward Function Declarations

# Backwards Declarations

```
extern func print_int(int) void;
package Test {
  func main() int {
    test(10, 13);
  }
  func test(a int, b int) void {
    print_int(a);
    print_int(b);
  }
}
```

Iterate through the list of function signatures and insert them into the symbol table.