It's About Time: A Language-Based Approach to Constant-Time Programming

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ABSTRACT

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1. INTRODUCTION

Timing side channels are an important class of security bugs whereby an attacker is able use the timing of events in a system to discern secret data. One well-known timing attack was the "Lucky 13" attack against various SSL implementations [2], which used minute differences in the duration between a malicious request to a server and the resulting error message to recover an SSL session key.

Due to the sensitive nature of data that can be leaked from timing attacks, developers must take extra care to defend against such attacks. The current state-of-the-art used in many cryptographic libraries is constant-time programming. The idea behind constant-time programming is to structure code so that the time a program takes to run is not influenced by sensitive data. There are three main issues with constant-time programming: First, it restricts how the developer can use high level constructs like if-statements and loops, making the code difficult to read and write. This level of complexity can easily cause the developer to write buggy code if it is not tested properly. Second, since the code is written in a high level language, a developer may be using operations that are not actually constant time (e.g. floating point division). Finally, the compiler may optimize constant-time code to form a program that is not actually constant time.

We address the need to easily write verified constant-time code by making several contributions to constant-time programming: We formalize a core language, ConstCore, built using constant-time low-level primitives; we formalize code transformations from our high-level language, ConstanC, to our core language; we build a compiler for ConstanC that produces constant-time programs; and finally, we implement cryptographic functions in ConstanC and verify they run in constant time with *ct-verif* tool [3].

2. LANGUAGE DESIGN

The ConstanC system is comprised of two distinct languages: ConstanC proper, which end-users will develop programs in, and ConstCore, an internal language with specific timing guarantees. Before diving into the languages, we briefly outline our threat model.

2.1 Threat Model

For ConstanC, we assume an adversary has remote access to the machine running the code. The adversary has the ability to measure the amount of time it takes for ConstanC code to run. We also assume the caller has not been compromised and that they are invoking ConstanC functions with valid values (as opposed to null values).

2.2 ConstanC

The ConstanC language is the language we intend end-users of our system to program in. As ConstanC is intended to replace low-level code, the language is designed to feel very similar to C, to make it more accessible for developers.

There are, however, some necessary restrictions on what can be expressed in ConstanC. For example, recursion of any sort is disallowed. Loop constructs are restricted to for-loops, and loop bounds can only be constants. While these would be onerous restrictions for a general programming language, ConstanC is intended for a very specific domain where these features of a language are generally unnecessary.

The language supports 32-bit signed integers, boolean values, and arrays of bytes. Most standard operations on these values are supported.

We do not prove timing guarantees directly in ConstanC; instead, we show that the ConstCore language has the security guarantees we require, and transform all programs in ConstanC to functionally equivalent programs in ConstCore.

The full grammar of ConstanC can be found in Appendix A.3.

2.3 ConstCore

The ConstCore language is a While-like language [**?**] with highly limited control flow. Notably, there are no conditional branching instructions, and the only loop construct is a for loop with static loop bounds. The type system is also more restrictive than that of ConstanC: we support only 32-bit signed integers and byte arrays.

Comparison operators in ConstCore evaluate integer-width bitmasks of either all high bits (if the comparison is

$$\textsc{Stt-var-assign}\quad \frac{[\![e_h]\!]_t = e \qquad e' = ctx \,\&\, rnset \qquad e'' = e \,\&\, e' \qquad e''' = x \,\&\, (\sim e')}{[\![x := e_h]\!]_{ctx} = x := (e'' \mid e''')}$$

$$\textsc{Stt-if}\quad \frac{[\![e_h]\!]_t = e \qquad [\![s_{h1}]\!]_{(ctx' \,\&\, ctx)} = s_1 \qquad [\![s_{h2}]\!]_{(ctx' \,\&\, ctx)} = s_2}{[\![\textbf{if}_h\ e_h\ \textbf{then}\ s_{h1}\ \textbf{else}\ s_{h2}]\!]_{ctx} = \textbf{def}\, ctx' := e; s_1; ctx' := (\sim ctx'); s_2}$$

$$\textsc{Stt-ret}\quad \frac{[\![e_h]\!]_t = e \qquad e' = e \,\&\, (ctx \,\&\, rnset)}{[\![\textbf{return}_h\ e_h]\!]_{ctx} = rval := (e' \mid rval); rnset := (rnset \,\&\, (\sim ctx))}$$

Figure 1: Excerpt of semantic transformations from ConstantC to ConstCore. Full rule set can be found in Appendix A.4.

true) or all low bits (if false). The resulting bitmasks are then typically used to mask expressions that depend on the conditional result. For example, if a variable `x` was to be incremented by 3 only if the variable `y` was greater than 5, we could express that as the following statement:

```
x := x + ((y > 5) & 3)
```

The result of the expression `y > 5` will either be `0b1111...` if true or `0b0000...` if false. The `&` operator performs a bitwise masking operation, either leaving the value 3 as-is (if the bitmask was all 1s) or zeroing it out (if the bitmask was all 0s). Thus `x` gets incremented only if the condition holds.

To show the constant-time nature of ConstCore, we adopt the *program-transcript security model* from Molnar et al. [12], keeping a log of executed instructions as part of our small-step semantics (see Appendix A). We then show that every function in ConstCore has the following property: For every function f, there exists an transcript f_κ such that for any input $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ to f and current transcript κ, the transcript κ' when f returns is exactly $\kappa + f_\kappa$. That is to say, the program path through any function in ConstCore does not depend on the inputs to the function.

However, even if a function always follows the same program transcript, it might still take varying amounts of real-world time, as physical instructions themselves may have timing variations depending on input registers [7]. Our compiler currently targets LLVM IR, but with Intel x86 assembly in mind; it is currently difficult which instructions in this architecture are truly constant time without support from Intel. However, certain instructions, such as integer division (`idiv`), are known to have timing variations based on the input values [6]. Our mitigation strategy is to restrict ourselves to instructions that, to the best of our knowledge, run in constant time with respect to arguments. These include basic arithmetic (excluding division and modulo) and comparison operators, as well as simple loads, stores, and calls. The constant-time nature of compiled ConstCore is thus reduced to the timing properties of the set of chosen instructions.

2.4 Transformations

If we can transform any program in ConstantC to an equivalent program in ConstCore, then we can compile any ConstantC program to a program with the timing guarantees shown in ConstCore.

Since the inputs and outputs of both ConstCore and ConstantC are restricted to function parameters, return values, and memory access, we simply need to show that for every function f in ConstantC, the corresponding transformed function f_{core} returns an equivalent value and sets equivalent memory values when given equivalent arguments and starting memory state.

We ensure this equivalence by keeping a "context", which is a bitmask representing the control flow the of the function at the current statement. This bitmask is either *high* (all 1s) or *low* (all 0s). Any variable assignment in ConstantC is transformed via the semantic transformation rule Stt-var-assign shown in Figure 1, where `ctx` is the context bitmask and `&`, `|`, `~` represent bitwise *and*, *or*, and *not* operations respectively. The `rnset` variable is an additional bitmask used for tracking early function return and is described below. With this transformation, variables are only updated to new values if the context at the time of execution indicates that the original program control flow would have made it to that statement.

Conditional branches are transformed by executing the statements in both branches. However, before each block is executed, the context bitmask is updated with the branch condition. Thus the statement is transformed via the rule Stt-if in Figure 1, where ⟨`s1`⟩ and ⟨`s2`⟩ are the transformations of `s1` and `s2`, and `b` is a fresh temporary variable for each instance of a branching statement. This ensures that nested conditionals still function as expected.

Return statements in ConstantC are dealt with by constructing two additional variables for every function: *rval* (initialized low) and *rnset* (initialized high). A return statement in ConstantC is translated to an assignment to *rval*, gated by the context as above. Additionally, *rnset* ("return value not set") is updated to reflect the current return status. In this way, *rnset* remains high until a "return statement" is executed under an active control flow path, at which point it is set low and remains low for the rest of the function. Since all variable assignments are gated with *rnset* in addition to the context, no further variable assignments will cause updates.

Label	Supported Operations
Types	Int/Bool/ByteArr
Statements	VarDec/Assign/ArrAssign/If/For/Return
Expressions	VarExp/ArrExp/Unop/Binop/Primitive/CallExp
Unary Op	Bitwise Not
Binary Op	Plus/Minus/GT/Bitwise And/Bitwise Or

Figure 2: **Supported Language**—We show the different types, statements, expressions, and operators our language supports.

The formal transformation can be seen in the rule STT-RET in Figure 1.

3. COMPILER

We implemented a compiler for the CONSTANC language in OCaml, targeting LLVM bytecode. As syntax design is largely unimportant, we left the lexer and parser for future work. This allowed for fast iteration on the AST with minimal code changes. There are four main parts of the CONSTANC compiler: the *driver*, *type system*, *transformer*, and *IR generator*.

Driver. The driver controls the compilation process and is the interface between the developer and the compiler. It is a standard compiler driver, so we will omit all other details about it.

Type System. Although CONSTANC is a statically typed language, the type system is rather primitive: the only types are booleans, ints, and byte arrays. We guarantee type safety by type checking the CONSTANC AST. Types are checked again during IR generation, as LLVM IR is also typed. At the moment, we do not have support for structs or other record types; we leave this for future work.

CONSTANC supports a *for* loop, but ensures that it runs a constant number of cycles. Furthermore, CONSTANC only allows byte arrays to be indexed by constants or loop indices. The type checker ensures this property, guaranteeing that array accesses do not depend on secret values. The type checker also prevents out-of-bounds errors by checking the index against the byte array size, which can be done at compile time.

Transformer. The transformer converts the CONSTANC AST to CONSTCORE following the rules formally defined in Appendix A.4. Since CONSTCORE is built using known constant-time primitives, we can generate our LLVM IR using this language, ensuring our output runs in constant time.

IR Generator. The IR generator takes a CONSTCORE program and produces LLVM IR. The primitives used in the IR are critical to the resulting code running in constant time. To the best of our knowledge, all of the allowed operations run in constant time with 32 bit integers.

4. EVALUATION

We have implemented functions from OpenSSL in our language, to show that our system can be practical. We implemented ssl3_cbc_remove_padding.c. Our comparison shows up in Section 4.

ssl3_cbc_remove_padding We implemented the ssl3_cbc_remove_padd in our language to show that more implementations are possible. Since our language is not fully fleshed out with all the desired features, we ran into a few problems when replicating this function. The original function utilizes structs — instead, we broke up the structs into individual variables, and any mutable objects that needed to be modified were passed in and modified in a byte array. Since we do not support memory referencing or public labels, we had to hardcode the size of the arrays. Moreover, we do not support unsigned types in our language, so wherever an unsigned was used in the original function, we used an int in our code.

We were not able to evaluate our implementation due to a variety of reasons.

[3]

Moreover, we were not able to perform microbenchmarks on this fucntion because it would not have been fair. We only implemented one function that cannot stand on it's own — in order to truly test this, we would like to implement the functinos needed to encrypt and decrypt, so that we can test the function is it's full form.

5. FUTURE WORK

Our goal for this quarter was to create a few implementations in our language to show that this concept is feasible and worth further research. As such, we have a plethora of future work that we would like to explore in the months to follow. The simplest to tackle is the creation of a syntax for our language — currently we must write programs directly in the AST. Having a corresponding syntax is key to stabilizing our language.

Another useful feature will be the concept of public and private labels on data. Our language currently treats all values as private — we would like to augment it to be able to relax restrictions on data that does not need protection. Along these lines, we also would also like to expand the notion of our side channel safety to domains beyond timing, such as memory safety and prevention against caching side channels.

Finally, an important goal of this project is to determine a method of usability testing for programming languages. A huge impediment in this task is that there are currently no meaningful ways of testing programming languages at scale — it is not a task that one can easily part out, such as with Amazon Mechanical Turk [1]. One needs to be able to find a key group of users and be able to test in-depth at a large scale in order to get proper data. This is an open question that we are hoping to address in the following months.

6. RELATED WORK

The security community has been aware of side channel attacks for over 40 years [4, 8, 9, 18]. Recently, side channels

have been shown to leak information via power analysis [16]. Furthermore, timing side channels have been shown to leak information from the cache [10] or other aspects of processor architecture [17].

Due to the rise in the number of side channel attacks, there has much work in creating defenses. [11, 13] use information flow control to prevent information leaks on encrypted data. [14] uses instruction-based scheduling to address cache based timing attacks. [5, 15] address timing attacks in LIO, a concurrent information flow control system for Haskell. Most closely related to CONSTANC, [12] uses C to C code transformations to avoid timing side channels.

7. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we introduced CONSTANC, a high level language that can be used for constant-time programming. We formalized the semantics of CONSTANC and CONSTCORE and the transformation from CONSTANC to CONSTCORE. With this formalization, we built a CONSTANC compiler which we successfully used to write various cryptographic functions. Our evaluation is limited to the success of writing these functions. In the future, we plan to evaluate CONSTANC based on performance and usability. Furthermore, we plan to create a syntax for CONSTANC and implement a lexer and parser for the compiler. Finally, we plan to add public labels to the type system allowing for more flexibility for the developer and better performance.

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APPENDIX

A. SEMANTICS OF CONSTANC

A.1 CONSTCORE Grammar

$\ominus$	::=		unary operations
	|	`~`	bitwise not
$\oplus$	::=		binary operations
	|	`+`	
	|	`-`	
	|	`*`	
	|	`«`	
	|	`»`	
	|	`&`	bitwise and
	|	`|`	bitwise or
	|	$==_s$	equals (sign extended)
	|	$!=_s$	
	|	$>_s$	
	|	$<_s$	
	|	$>=_s$	
	|	$<=_s$	
e	::=		expressions
	|	TRUE	bitmask true (`0b1111...`)
	|	FALSE	bitmask false (`0b0000...`)
	|	c	numeric value
	|	a	bytearray
	|	x	variable
	|	$a[e]$	array access
	|	$\ominus e$	unary operation
	|	$e_1 \oplus e_2$	binary operation
	|	$f(e_1,..,e_n)$	function application
s	::=		statements
	|	**skip**	skip
	|	$s_1;s_2$	sequence
	|	**def** $x := e$	variable declaration
	|	**adef** $x := a$	array declaration
	|	$x := e$	variable assignment
	|	$a[e_1] := e_2$	array assignment
	|	**for** x **from** v_1 **to** $v_2 : s$	for loop
fval	::=		function spec
	|	$(x_1,..,x_n) : s$ `@` e	
fndef	::=		function definition
	|	**fdef** f *fval*	
program	::=		program
	|	$fndef_1;..;fndef_n;$ **expose** *fndef*	list of fdefs

A.2 CONSTCORE Small-Step Semantics

Λ	::=		function store
	$\mid$	$\emptyset_\Lambda$	empty function store
	$\mid$	$\Lambda[f \mapsto fval]$	define function
Γ	::=		global memory
	$\mid$	$\emptyset_\Gamma$	
	$\mid$	$\Gamma[a \mapsto [\,]]$	new array
	$\mid$	$\Gamma[a \mapsto \Gamma(a)[v_1 \mapsto v_2]]$	array update
μ	::=		local memory
	$\mid$	$\emptyset_\mu$	empty memory
	$\mid$	$\mu[x \mapsto v]$	add/update variable
	$\mid$	$\mu_1 \triangleright \mu_2$	push stack frame
$\{\sigma\}$	::=		variable substitution
	$\mid$	$\{x_1/v_1, .., x_k/v_k\}$	

$\boxed{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, e \longrightarrow \{\Lambda',\Gamma',\mu',\kappa'\}\, e'}$ *(e reduces to e')*

EXR-VAR
$$\frac{\mu = \mu'[x \mapsto v] \qquad \kappa' = \kappa \triangleright \textbf{load}}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, x \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, v}$$

EXR-ARR-GET-EXPR
$$\frac{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, e \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, e'}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, a[e] \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, a[e']}$$

EXR-ARR-GET-VAL
$$\frac{v' = \Gamma(a)[v] \qquad \kappa' = \kappa \triangleright \textbf{load}}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, a[v] \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, v'}$$

EXR-UNOP-EXPR
$$\frac{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, e \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, e'}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, \ominus e \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, \ominus e'}$$

EXR-UNOP-VAL
$$\frac{v' \equiv [\![\ominus v]\!] \qquad \kappa' = \kappa \triangleright \ominus}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, \ominus v \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, v'}$$

EXR-BINOP-L
$$\frac{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, e_1 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, e_1'}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, e_1 \oplus e_2 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, e_1' \oplus e_2}$$

EXR-BINOP-R
$$\frac{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, e_2 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, e_2'}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, v \oplus e_2 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, v \oplus e_2'}$$

EXR-BINOP-VAL
$$\frac{v_3 \equiv [\![v_1 \oplus v_2]\!] \qquad \kappa' = \kappa \triangleright \oplus}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, v_1 \oplus v_2 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, v_3}$$

EXR-SUBST-EMPTY
$$\frac{}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, \{\,\}\, e \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, e}$$

EXR-SUBST-EXPR
$$\frac{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, e \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, e'}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, \{\sigma\}\, e \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, \{\sigma\}\, e'}$$

EXR-SUBST-VAR
$$\frac{\kappa' = \kappa \triangleright \textbf{load}}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, \{x_1/v_1, \ldots, x_k/v_k\}\, x_i \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, v_i}$$

EXR-SUBST-NO-VAR
$$\frac{}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, \{\sigma\}\, x \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, x}$$

EXR-SUBST-VAL
$$\frac{}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, \{\sigma\}\, v \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, v}$$

EXR-FN-EXPR
$$\frac{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\, e_1 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\, e_1'}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\} f(v_1, .., v_k, e_1, e_2, .., e_n) \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\} f(v_1, .., v_k, e_1', e_2, .., e_n)}$$

EXR-FN-SUBST
$$\frac{\kappa' = \kappa \triangleright \textbf{store}}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\} f(x_1'/v_1', .., x_k'/v_k', v_1, v_2, .., v_n) \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\} f(x_1'/v_1', .., x_k'/v_k', x_1/v_1, v_2, .., v_n)}$$

EXR-FN-CALL
$$\frac{\begin{array}{c}\Lambda = \Lambda'[f \mapsto (x_1, .., x_k) : s \;@ e] \\ \mu' = \mu \triangleright \emptyset_\mu \qquad \kappa' = \kappa \triangleright f\end{array}}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\} f(x_1/v_1, .., x_k/v_k) \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu',\kappa'\}\, \{x_1/v_1, .., x_k/v_k\}\, s \;@ e}$$

EXR-SKIP-EXPR

$$\frac{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}e \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}e'}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{skip}\ @e \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{skip}\ @e'}$$

EXR-SKIP-VAL

$$\frac{\mu = \mu_1 \triangleright \mu_2 \qquad \kappa' = \kappa \triangleright \textbf{ret}}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{skip}\ @v \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu_1,\kappa'\}v}$$

EXR-SEQ

$$\frac{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}s_1\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu',\kappa'\}\{\sigma'\}s_1'\ @e_0}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}s_1;s_2\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu',\kappa'\}\{\sigma'\}s_1';s_2\ @e_0}$$

EXR-SEQ-SKIP

$$\frac{}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{skip};s\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}s\ @e_0}$$

EXR-DEF-EXPR

$$\frac{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}e \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}e'}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{def}\,x := e\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{def}\,x := e'\ @e_0}$$

EXR-DEF-VAL

$$\frac{\mu' = \mu[x \mapsto v] \qquad \kappa' = \kappa \triangleright \textbf{store}}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{def}\,x := v\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu',\kappa'\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{skip}\ @e_0}$$

EXR-DEF-ARR

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c}\Gamma' = \Gamma[a \mapsto [\,]] \\ \mu' = \mu[x \mapsto a] \qquad \kappa' = \kappa \triangleright \textbf{store}\end{array}}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{adef}\,x := a\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma',\mu',\kappa'\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{skip}\ @e_0}$$

EXR-ASSIGN-EXPR

$$\frac{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}e \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}e'}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}x := e\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\{\sigma\}x := e'\ @e_0}$$

EXR-ASSIGN-VAL

$$\frac{\mu' = \mu[x \mapsto v] \qquad \kappa' = \kappa \triangleright \textbf{store}}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}x := v\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu',\kappa'\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{skip}\ @e_0}$$

EXR-ARR-ASSIGN-EXPR-L

$$\frac{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}e_1 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}e_1'}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}a[e_1] := e_2\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\{\sigma\}a[e_1'] := e_2\ @e_0}$$

EXR-ARR-ASSIGN-EXPR-R

$$\frac{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}e_2 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}e_2'}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}a[v_1] := e_2\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\{\sigma\}a[v_1] := e_2'\ @e_0}$$

EXR-ARR-ASSIGN-VAL

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c}\Gamma' = \Gamma[a \mapsto \Gamma(a)[v_1 \mapsto v_2]] \\ \kappa' = \kappa \triangleright \textbf{store}\end{array}}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}a[v_1] := v_2\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma',\mu,\kappa'\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{skip}\ @e_0}$$

EXR-FOR

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c}v_1 < v_2 \\ v_1' = v_1 + 1 \qquad \kappa' = \kappa \triangleright \textbf{store}\end{array}}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{for}\,x\,\textbf{from}\,v_1\,\textbf{to}\,v_2 : s\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\{\sigma\}(\{x/v_1\}s);\textbf{for}\,x\,\textbf{from}\,v_1'\,\textbf{to}\,v_2 : s\ @e_0}$$

EXR-ADD-SUBST

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c}\{\sigma_1\} \cap \{\sigma_2\} = \{\,\} \\ \{\sigma_3\} = \{\sigma_1\} \cup \{\sigma_2\}\end{array}}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma_1\}(\{\sigma_2\}s)\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa'\}\{\sigma_3\}s\ @e_0}$$

EXR-FOR-BASE

$$\frac{v_1 = v_2}{\{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu,\kappa\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{for}\,x\,\textbf{from}\,v_2\,\textbf{to}\,v_2 : s\ @e_0 \longrightarrow \{\Lambda,\Gamma,\mu',\kappa\}\{\sigma\}\textbf{skip}\ @e_0}$$

A.3 CONSTANC Grammar

$\ominus_h$	::=		unary operations
	|	`!`	logical not
	|	`~`	bitwise not
$\oplus_h$	::=		binary operations
	|	`+`	
	|	`-`	
	|	`*`	
	|	`«`	
	|	`»`	
	|	`&`	
	|	`|`	
	|	`&&`	
	|	`||`	
	|	`==`	
	|	`!=`	
	|	`>`	
	|	`<`	
	|	`>=`	
	|	`<=`	
e_h	::=		expressions
	|	b_h	boolean value
	|	c_h	numeric value
	|	a	bytearray
	|	x	variable
	|	$a[e_h]$	array access
	|	$\ominus_h e_h$	unary operation
	|	$e_{h1} \oplus e_{h2}$	binary operation
	|	$f_h(e_{h1}, .., e_{hn})$	function application
s_h	::=		statements
	|	$\textbf{skip}_h$	skip
	|	$s_{h1}; s_{h2}$	sequence
	|	$\textbf{def}_h\ x := e_h$	variable declaration
	|	$\textbf{adef}_h\ x := a$	array declaration
	|	$x := e_h$	variable assignment
	|	$a[e_{h1}] := e_{h2}$	array assignment
	|	$\textbf{for}_h\ x\ \textbf{from}\ v_{h1}\ \textbf{to}\ v_{h2}$	for loop
	|	$\textbf{if}_h\ e_h\ \textbf{then}\ s_{h1}\ \textbf{else}\ s_{h2}$	conditional branch
	|	$\textbf{return}_h\ e_h$	return
hfval	::=		function spec
	|	$(x_1, .., x_n) : s_h$	
hfndef	::=		function definition
	|	$\textbf{fdef}_h\ f_h\ hfval$	
hprogram	::=		program
	|	$hfndef_1; ..; hfndef_n; \textbf{expose}\, hfndef$	list of fdefs

A.4 Transformations from CONSTANC to CONSTCORE

$\boxed{[\![\ominus_h]\!]_t = \ominus}$ *($\ominus_h$ is transformed to $\ominus$)*

UNOPT-LNOT
$$\overline{[\![\texttt{!}\,]\!]_t = \texttt{~}}$$

UNOPT-UNOP
$$\overline{[\![\ominus_h]\!]_t = \ominus}$$

$\boxed{[\![\oplus_h]\!]_t = \oplus}$ *($\oplus_h$ is transformed to $\oplus$)*

BINOPT-LAND
$$\overline{[\![\texttt{\&\&}\,]\!]_t = \texttt{\&}}$$

BINOPT-LOR
$$\overline{[\![\texttt{||}\,]\!]_t = \texttt{|}}$$

BINOPT-EQ
$$\overline{[\![\texttt{==}]\!]_t = \texttt{==}_\texttt{s}}$$

BINOPT-NEQ
$$\overline{[\![\texttt{!=}]\!]_t = \texttt{!=}_\texttt{s}}$$

BINOPT-GT
$$\overline{[\![\texttt{>}]\!]_t = \texttt{>}_\texttt{s}}$$

BINOPT-LT
$$\overline{[\![\texttt{<}]\!]_t = \texttt{<}_\texttt{s}}$$

BINOPT-GTE
$$\overline{[\![\texttt{>=}]\!]_t = \texttt{>=}_\texttt{s}}$$

BINOPT-LTE
$$\overline{[\![\texttt{<=}]\!]_t = \texttt{<=}_\texttt{s}}$$

BINOPT-BINOP
$$\overline{[\![\oplus_h]\!]_t = \oplus}$$

$\boxed{[\![e_h]\!]_t = e}$ *(e_h is transformed to e)*

EXT-VAL
$$\frac{v \equiv [\![v_h]\!]_{int}}{[\![v_h]\!]_t = v}$$

EXT-VAR
$$\overline{[\![x]\!]_t = x}$$

EXT-ARR
$$\overline{[\![a]\!]_t = a}$$

EXT-ARR-GET
$$\frac{[\![e_h]\!]_t = e}{[\![a[e_h]]\!]_t = a[e]}$$

EXT-FN-CALL
$$\frac{[\![\mathbf{fdef}_h\ f_h\ hfval]\!]_t = \mathbf{fdef} f\,fval \quad [\![e_{h1}]\!]_t = e_1 \quad .. \quad [\![e_{hk}]\!]_t = e_k}{[\![f_h(e_{h1}, .., e_{hk})]\!]_t = f(e_1, .., e_k)}$$

$\boxed{[\![s_h]\!]_{ctx} = s}$ *(s_h is transformed to s)*

STT-SKIP
$$\overline{[\![\mathbf{skip}_h]\!]_{ctx} = \mathbf{skip}}$$

STT-SEQ
$$\frac{[\![s_{h1}]\!]_{ctx} = s_1 \qquad [\![s_{h2}]\!]_{ctx} = s_2}{[\![s_{h1}; s_{h2}]\!]_{ctx} = s_1; s_2}$$

STT-VAR-DEC
$$\frac{[\![e_h]\!]_t = e}{[\![\mathbf{def}_h\ x := e_h]\!]_{ctx} = \mathbf{def}\, x := e}$$

STT-ARR-DEC
$$\overline{[\![\mathbf{adef}_h\ x := a]\!]_{ctx} = \mathbf{adef}\, x := a}$$

STT-VAR-ASSIGN
$$\frac{[\![e_h]\!]_t = e \qquad e' = ctx\,\&\,rnset \quad e'' = e\,\&\,e' \qquad e''' = x\,\&\,(\texttt{~}e')}{[\![x := e_h]\!]_{ctx} = x := (e'' \mid e''')}$$

STT-ARR-ASSIGN
$$\frac{[\![e_{h1}]\!]_t = e_1 \quad [\![e_{h2}]\!]_t = e_2 \qquad e' = ctx\,\&\,rnset \quad e'' = e_2\,\&\,e' \qquad e''' = a[e_1]\,\&\,(\texttt{~}e')}{[\![a[e_{h1}] := e_{h2}]\!]_{ctx} = a[e_1] := (e'' \mid e''')}$$

STT-FOR
$$\frac{[\![v_{h1}]\!]_t = v_1 \quad [\![v_{h2}]\!]_t = v_2 \qquad [\![s_h]\!]_{ctx} = s}{[\![\mathbf{for}_h\ x\ \mathbf{from}\ v_{h1}\ \mathbf{to}\ v_{h2}]\!]_{ctx} = \mathbf{for}\, x\, \mathbf{from}\, v_1\, \mathbf{to}\, v_2 : s}$$

STT-IF
$$\frac{[\![e_h]\!]_t = e \qquad [\![s_{h1}]\!]_{(ctx'\,\&\,ctx)} = s_1 \quad [\![s_{h2}]\!]_{(ctx'\,\&\,ctx)} = s_2}{[\![\mathbf{if}_h\ e_h\ \mathbf{then}\ s_{h1}\ \mathbf{else}\ s_{h2}]\!]_{ctx} = \mathbf{def}\, ctx' := e; s_1; ctx' := (\texttt{~}ctx'); s_2}$$

STT-RET
$$\frac{[\![e_h]\!]_t = e \qquad e' = e\,\&\,(ctx\,\&\,rnset)}{[\![\mathbf{return}_h\ e_h]\!]_{ctx} = rval := (e' \mid rval); rnset := (rnset\,\&\,(\texttt{~}ctx))}$$

$\boxed{[\![hfndef]\!]_t = fndef}$ *(hfndef is transformed to fndef)*

FDEFT-FDEF
$$\frac{[\![s_h]\!]_{\text{TRUE}} = s}{[\![\mathbf{fdef}_h\ f_h\ (x_1, .., x_k) : s_h]\!]_t = \mathbf{fdef} f\,(x_1, .., x_k) : \mathbf{def}\, rval := \text{FALSE}; \mathbf{def}\, rnset := \text{TRUE}; s\ @rval}$$