Compilers

CS 346

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Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday 4.00 --- 4.55PM 3.00 --- 3.55PM 2.00 --- 2.55PM

Instructors: Dr. A. Sur and Dr. A. Sarkar

Arijit Sur

Office: H-103

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Email: arijit@iitg.ernet.in

Ph: 2361

Syllabus

- Overview of different phases of a compiler: front-end; back-end;
- Lexical analysis: specification of tokens, recognition of tokens, input buffering, automatic tools;
- Syntax analysis: context free grammars, top down and bottom up parsing techniques, construction of efficient parsers, syntax-directed translation, automatic tools;
- Semantic analysis: declaration processing, type checking, symbol tables, error recovery;
- Intermediate code generation: run-time environments, translation of language constructs;
- Code generation: flow-graphs, register allocation, code-generation algorithms;
- Introduction to code optimization techniques.

Books

- Text Book
 - Alfred V. Aho, Monica S. Lam, Ravi Sethi, Jeffrey D. Ullman, Compilers: Principles, Techniques, and Tools, 2nd Edition, Prentice Hall, 2009
- Reference Books
 - V. Raghavan, Principles of Compiler Design, McGrawHill, 2010
 - C.N. Fischer, R.J. Le Blanc, Crafting a Compiler with C, Pearson Education, 2009
 - K. D. Cooper, L. Torczon, Engineering a Compiler, Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, 2004
 - Allen Holub, Compiler Design in C, Prentice-Hall software series, 1990

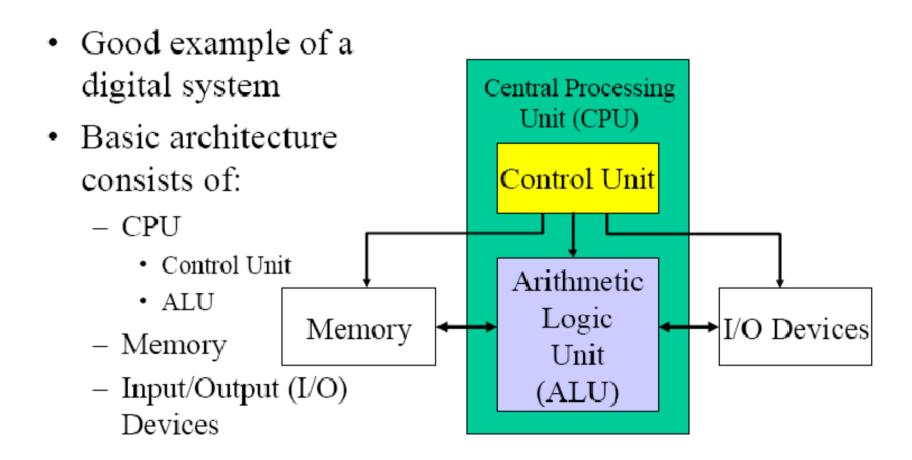
Grades

- 2 Quiz s
 - 20% of grade
- Mid-Semester
 - 30% of grade
- End-Semester
 - 50% of grade
- Attendance below 75% --- F Grade
- Random Attendance

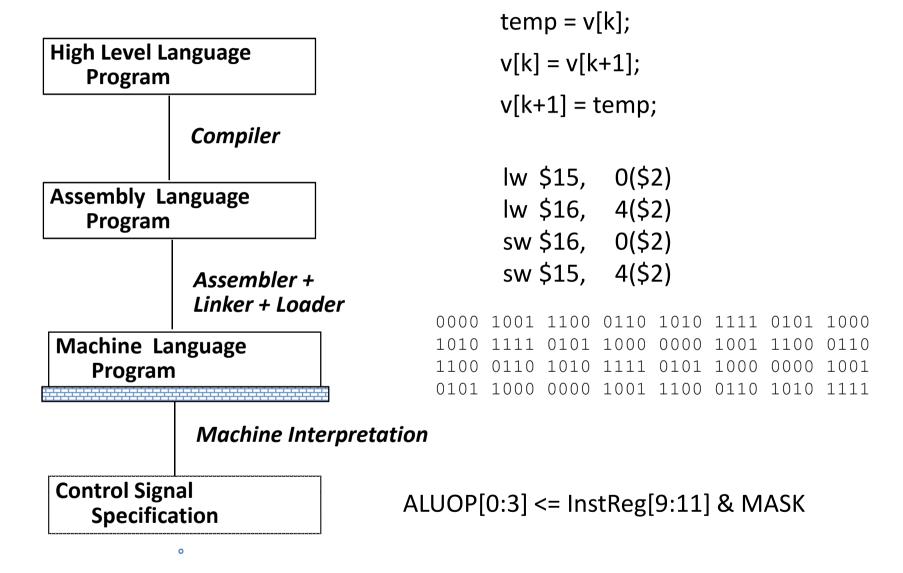
Why Compilers

How Program is Executed through a Computer?

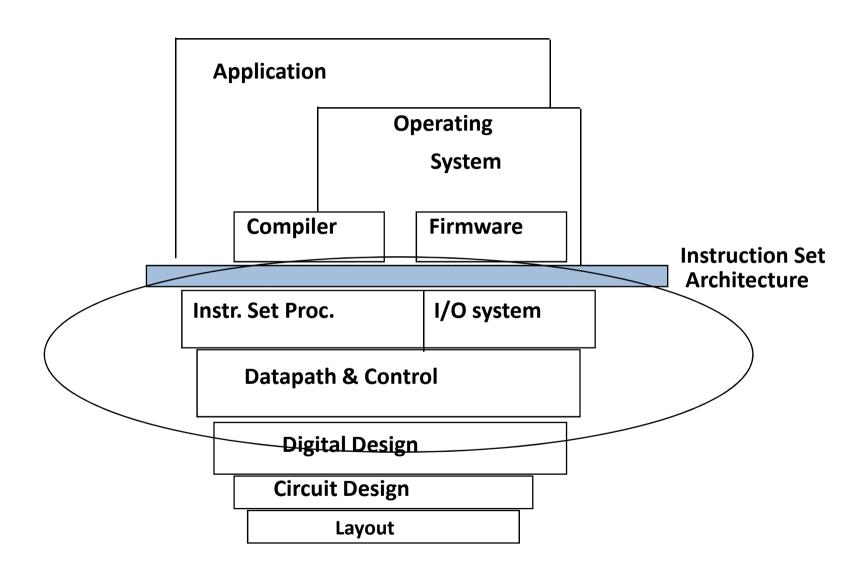
Basic Blocks of Computing System



Program Execution: Layered Architecture



Architecture of Computing System

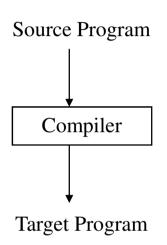


Definitions

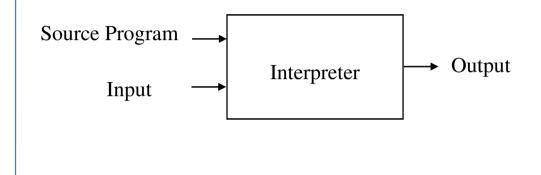
What is a compiler?

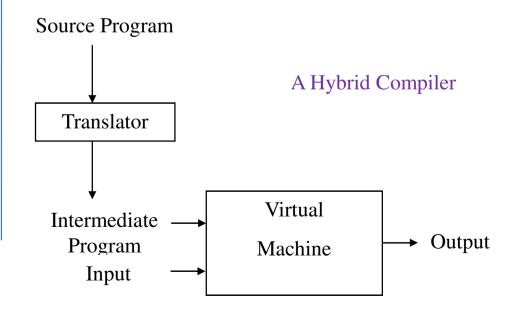
- A program that accepts as input a program text in a certain language and produces as output a program text in another language, while preserving the meaning of that text (Grune et al, 2000).
- A program that reads a program written in one language (source language) and translates it into an equivalent program in another language (target language) (Aho et al)
- Report errors of source language which are detected during the translation process
- What is an interpreter?
 - A program that reads a source program and produces the results of executing this source.
- We deal with compilers! Many of these issues arise with interpreters!

Compiler Vs. Interpreter









Examples

- C is typically compiled
- Lisp is typically interpreted
- Java is compiled to bytecodes, which are then interpreted
- source-to-source compiler, transcompiler, or transpiler :
 - C++ to C
 - High Performance Fortran (HPF) to Fortran (parallelising compiler)
- Cross Compilers (wiki)
 - A cross compiler is a compiler capable of reading executable code for a platform other than the one on which the compiler is running. For example, a compiler that runs on a Windows 7 PC but generates code that runs on Android Smartphone is a cross compiler.

Qualities of a Good Compiler

What qualities would you want in a compiler?

- generates correct code (first and bremost!)
- generates fast code
- conforms to the specifications of the input language
- copes with essentially arbitrary input size, variables, etc.
- compilation time (linearly)proportional to size of source
- good diagnostics
- consistent optimisations
- works well with the debugger

Principles of Compilation

The compiler must:

- preserve the meaning of the program being compiled.
- "improve" the source code in some way.

Other issues (depending on the setting):

- Speed (of compiled code)
- Space (size of compiled code)
- Feedback (information provided to the user)
- Debugging (transformations obscure the relationship source code vs target)
- Compilation time efficiency (fast or slow compiler?)

Applications

- Most common use: translate a high-level program to object code
 - Program Translation: binary translation, hardware synthesis, ...
- Optimizations for computer architectures:
 - Improve program performance, take into account hardware parallelism, etc...
- Interpreters: e.g., BASIC, Lisp etc.
- Software productivity tools
 - Debugging aids: e.g., purify
- Text formatters, just-in-time compilation for Java, power management, global distributed computing, ...

Key: Ability to extract properties of a source program (analysis) and transform it to construct a target program (synthesis)

Thanks