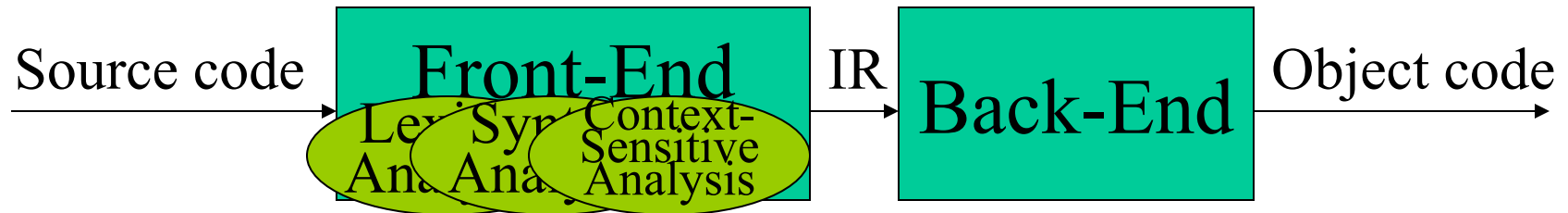


# Lecture 12: Intermediate Representations



- (from previous lectures) The Front-End analyses the source code.

Today's lecture: Intermediate Representations (IR):

- The Intermediate Representation encodes all the knowledge that the compiler has derived about the source program.

To follow: Back-End transforms the code, as represented by the IR, into target code.

**Recall:** Middle-End, may transform the code represented by the IR into equivalent code that may perform more efficiently. Typically:



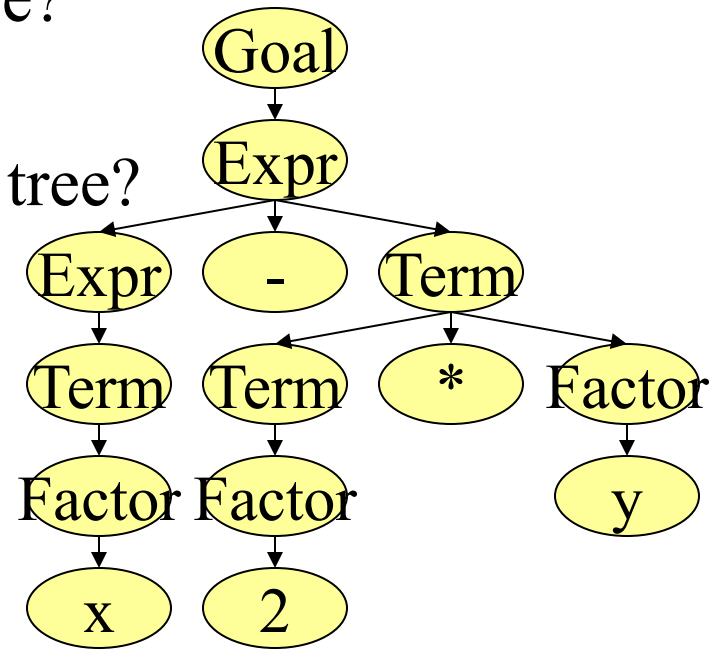
# About IRs, taxonomy, etc...

- Why use an intermediate representation?
  - To facilitate retargeting.
  - To enable machine independent-code optimisations or more aggressive code generation strategies.
- Design issues:
  - ease of generation; ease of manipulation; cost of manipulation; level of abstraction; size of typical procedure.
  - Decisions in the IR design have major effects on the speed and effectiveness of compiler.
- A useful distinction:
  - Code representation: AST, 3-address code, stack code, SSA form.
  - Analysis representation (may have several at a time): CFG, ...
- Categories of IRs by structure:
  - Graphical (structural): trees, DAGs; used in source to source translators; node and edge structures tend to be large.
  - Linear: pseudo-code for some abstract machine; large variation.
  - Hybrid: combination of the above.

*There is no universally good IR. The right choice depends on the goals of the compiler!*

# From Parse Trees to Abstract Syntax Trees

- Why we don't want to use the parse tree?
  - Quite a lot of unnecessary information...
- How to convert it to an abstract syntax tree?
  - Traverse in postorder (postfix)
  - Use *mkleaf* and *mknnode* where appropriate
  - Match action with grammar rule  
(Aho1 pp.288-289; Aho2, 5.3.1)



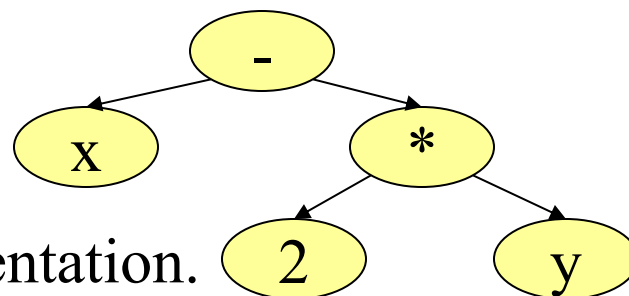
1.  $Goal \rightarrow Expr$   
2.  $Expr \rightarrow Expr + Term$   
3.     |  $Expr - Term$   
4.     |  $Term$

5.  $Term \rightarrow Term * Factor$   
6.     |  $Term / Factor$   
7.     |  $Factor$   
8.  $Factor \rightarrow number$   
9.     |  $id$

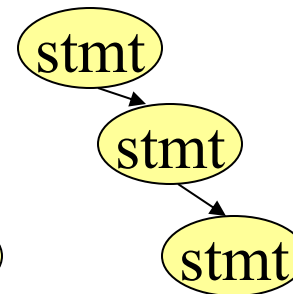
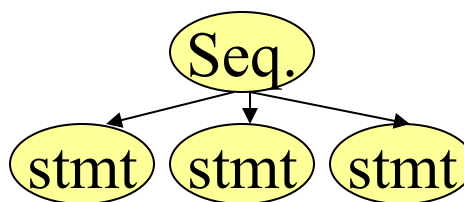
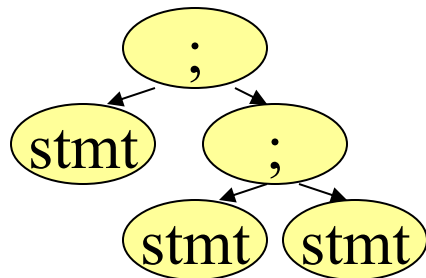
# Abstract Syntax Trees

An Abstract Syntax Tree (AST) is the procedure's parse tree with the non-terminal symbols removed.

Example:  $x - 2 * y$



- The AST is a near source-level representation.
- Source code can be easily generated: perform an *inorder* treewalk - first the left subtree, then the root, then the right subtree - printing each node as visited.
- Issues: traversals and transformations are pointer-intensive; generally memory-intensive.
- Example:  $Stmt\_sequence \rightarrow stmt; Stmt\_sequence \mid stmt$ 
  - At least 3 AST versions for  $stmt; stmt; stmt$



# AST real-world example (dHPF)

```

PROGRAM MAIN
REAL A(100), X
!HPF$ PROCESSORS P(4)
!HPF$ DISTRIBUTE A(BLOCK) ONTO P

FORALL (i=1:100) A(i) = X+1
    CALL FOO(A)
END

SUBROUTINE FOO(X)
REAL X(100)
!HPF$ INHERIT X

IF (X(1).EQ.0) THEN
    X = 1
ELSE
    X = X + 1
END IF
RETURN
END
    
```

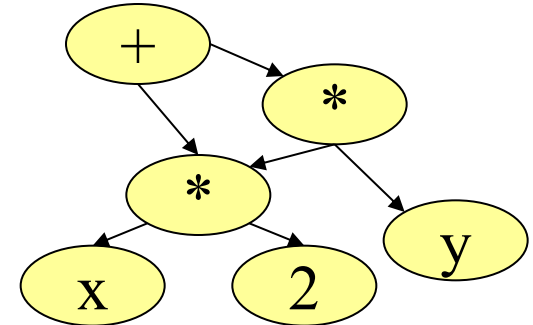
```

(1[GLOBAL]
  ((2[PROG HDR]
    (3[VAR DECL]
      4[PROCESSORS_STMT]
      5[DISTRIBUTE_DECL]
      (6[FORALL_STMT]
        (7[ASSIGN_STAT]
          8[CONTROL_END]
        )
        NULL
      )
      9[PROC_STAT]
      10[CONTROL_END]
    )
    NULL
  )
  (11[PROC HDR]
    (12[VAR DECL]
      13[INHERIT_DECL]
      (14[LOGIF_NODE]
        (15[ASSIGN_NODE]
          16[CONTROL_END]
        )
        (17[ASSIGN_NODE]
          18[CONTROL_END]
        )
      )
    )
    19[RETURN_STAT]
    20[CONTROL_END]
  )
  NULL
)
NULL
)
    
```

# Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs)

A DAG is an AST with a unique node for each value

Example: The DAG for  $x*2+x*2*y$



Powerful representation, encodes redundancy; but difficult to transform, not useful for showing control-flow.

Construction:

- Replace constructors used to build an AST with versions that remember each node constructed by using a table.
- Traverse the code in another representation.

Exercise: Construct the DAG for  $x=2*y+\sin(2*x)$ ;  $z=x/2$

# Auxiliary Graph Representations

The following can be useful for analysis:

- **Control-Flow Graph** (CFG): models the way that the code transfers control between blocks in the procedure.
  - Node: a single basic block (a maximal straight line of code)
  - Edge: transfer of control between basic blocks.
  - (Captures loops, if statements, case, goto).
- **Data Dependence Graph**: encodes the flow of data.
  - Node: program statement
  - Edge: connects two nodes if one uses the result of the other
  - Useful in examining the legality of program transformations
- **Call Graph**: shows dependences between procedures.
  - Useful for interprocedural analysis.

# Examples / Exercises

Draw the control-flow graph of the following:

```
Stmtlist1
if (x=y)
    stmtlist2
    stmtlist1
else
    stmtlist3
    stmtlist1
stmtlist4
```

```
stmtlist1
while (x<k)
    stmtlist2
stmtlist3
```

Draw the data dependence graph of:

```
1. sum=0
2. done=0
3. while !done do
4.   read j
5.   if (j>0)
6.     sum=sum+j
7.     if (sum>100)
8.       done=1
9.     else
10.      sum=sum+1
11.   endif
12.endif
13.endif
14.print sum
```

```
what about: 1. Do i=1,n
             2.   A(I)=a(3*I+10)
```

Draw the call graph of:

```
void a() { ... b() ... c() ... f() ... }
void b() { ... d() ... c() ... }
void c() { ... e() ... }
void d() { ... }
void e() { ... b() ... }
void f() { ... d() ... }
```



# Three-address code

A term used to describe many different representations: each statement is a single operator and at most three operands.

Example: `if (x>y) then z=x-2*y` becomes:

```
t1=load x
t2=load y
t3=t1>t2
if not(t3) goto L
t4=2*t2
t5=t1-t4
z=store t5
```

Array addresses have to be converted to single memory access (see lecture 13), e.g., `A[I]` will require a ‘load I’ and then ‘`t1=I*sizeof(I); load A+t1`’

`L: ...`

Advantages: compact form, makes intermediate values explicit, resembles many machines.

Storage considerations (until recently compile-time space was an issue)

```
x-2*y
load  r1,y
loadi r2,2
mult  r3,r2,r1
load  r4,x
sub   r5,r4,r3
```

```
Quadruples
load  1 y -
loadi 2 2 -
mult   3 2 1
load   4 x -
sub    5 4 3
```

```
(Indirect) Triples
load  y
loadi 2
mult  (1) , (2)
load  x
sub   (4) , (3)
```

# Other linear representations

- Two address code is more compact: In general, it allows statements of the form  $x = x \text{ <op> } y$  (single operator and at most two operands).

```
load  r1,y
loadi r2,2
mult  r2,r2,r1
load  r3,x
sub   r3,r3,r2
```

- One address code (also called stack machine code) is more compact. Would be useful in environments where space is at a premium (has been used to construct bytecode interpreters for Java):

```
push  2
push  y
multiply
push  x
subtract
```

# Some Examples

- 1: Simple back-end compiler:
  - Code: CFG + 3-address code
  - Analysis info: value DAG (represents dataflow in basic block)
- 2. Sun Compilers for SPARC:
  - Code: 2 different IRs
  - Analysis info: CFG+dependence graph+??
  - High-level IRs: linked list of triples
  - Low-level IRs: SPARC assembly like operations
- 3. IBM Compilers for Power, PowerPC:
  - Code: Low-level IR
  - Analysis info: CFG + value graph + dataflow graphs.
- 4. dHPF compiler:
  - Code: AST
  - Analysis info: CFG+SSA+Value DAG+Call Graph  
(SSA stands for Static Single Assignment: same as 3-address code, but all variables have a distinct name every time they are defined; if they are defined in different control paths the statement  $x_3 = \emptyset(x_1, x_2)$  is used to combine the two definitions)

## Remark:

- Many kinds of IR are used in practice. Choice depends...
- ***But... representing code is half the story!***
  - *Symbol tables, constants table, storage map.*

# Symbol Tables: The key idea

- Introduce a central repository of facts:
  - symbol table or sets of symbol tables
- Associate with each production a snippet of code that would execute each time the parser reduces that production - action routines. Examples:
  - Code that checks if a variable is declared prior to use (on a production like  $Factor \rightarrow id$ )
  - Code that checks that each operator and its operands are type-compatible (on a production like  $Term \rightarrow Term * Factor$ )
- Allowing arbitrary code provides flexibility.
- Evaluation fits nicely with LR(1) parsing.
- Symbol tables are retained across compilation (carry on for debugging too)

# What information is stored in the symbol table?

What items to enter in the symbol table?

- Variable names; defined constants; procedure and function names; literal constants and strings; source text labels; compiler-generated temporaries.

What kind of information might the compiler need about each item:

- textual name, data type, declaring procedure, storage information.  
Depending on the type of the object, the compiler may want to know list of fields (for structures), number of parameters and types (for functions), etc...

In practice, many different tables may exist.

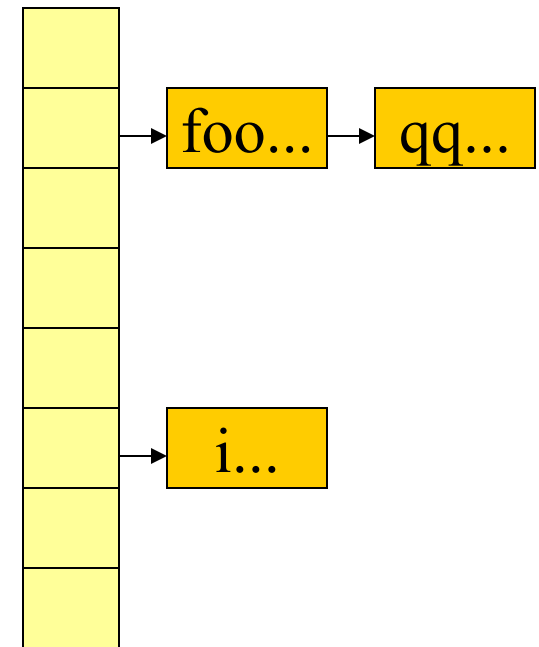
*Symbol table information is accessed frequently:  
hence, efficiency of access is critical!*

# Organising the symbol table

- Linear List:
  - Simple approach, has no fixed size; but inefficient: a lookup may need to traverse the entire list: this takes  $O(n)$ .
- Binary tree:
  - An unbalanced tree would have similar behaviour as a linear list (this could arise if symbols are entered in sorted order).
  - A balanced tree (path length is roughly equal to all its leaves) would take  $O(\log_2 n)$  probes per lookup (worst-case). Techniques exist for dynamically rebalancing trees.
- Hash table:
  - Uses a hash function,  $h$ , to map names into integers; this is taken as a table index to store information. Potentially  $O(1)$ , but needs inexpensive function, with good mapping properties, and a policy to handle cases when several names map to the same single index.

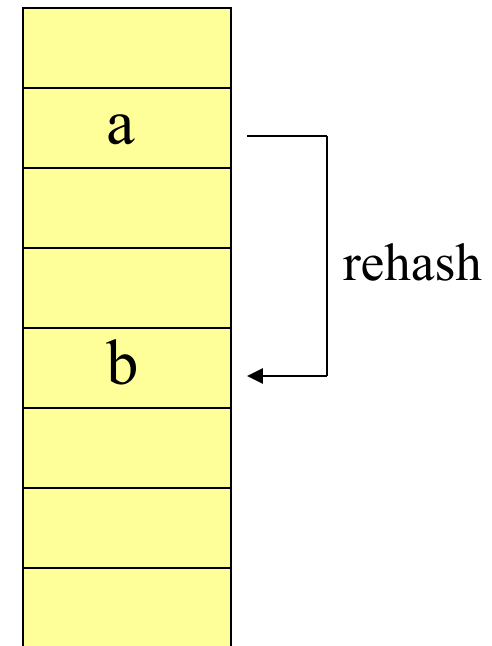
# Bucket hashing (open hashing)

- A hash table consisting of a fixed array of  $m$  pointers to table entries.
- Table entries are organised as separate linked lists called buckets.
- Use the hash function to obtain an integer from  $0$  to  $m-1$ .
- As long as  $h$  distributes names fairly uniformly (and the number of names is within a small constant factor of the number of buckets), bucket hashing behaves reasonably well.



# Linear Reshashing (open addressing)

- Use a single large table to hold records. When a collision is encountered, use a simple technique (i.e., add a constant) to compute subsequent indices into the table until an empty slot is found or the table is full. If the constant is relatively prime to the table size, this, eventually, will check every slot in the table.
- Disadvantages: too many collisions may degrade performance. Expanding the table may not be straightforward.



If  $h(a)=h(b)$  rehash  
(say, add 3).



# Other issues

- Choosing a good hash function is of paramount importance:
  - take the hash key in four-byte chunks, XOR the chunks together and take this number modulo 2048 (this is the symbol table size). What is the problem with this?
  - See the universal hashing function (Cormen, Leiserson, Rivest), Knuth's multiplicative function... This is one of those cases we should pay attention to theory!
- Lexical scoping:
  - Many languages introduce independent name scopes:
    - C, for example, may have global, static (file), local and block scopes.
    - Pascal: nested procedure declarations
    - C++, Java: class inheritance, nested classes
    - C++, Java, Modula: packages, namespaces, modules, etc...
    - Namespaces allow two different entities to have the same name within the same scope: E.g.: In Java, a class and a method can have the same name (Java has six namespaces: packages, types, fields, methods, local variables, labels)
  - The problems:
    - at point x, which declaration of variable y is current?
    - as parser goes in and out of scopes, how does it track y? allocate and initialise a symbol table for each level!

# Conclusion

- Many intermediate representations – there is no universally good one! A combination might be used!
- Representing code is half the story - Hash tables are used to store program names.
- Choice of an appropriate hash function is key to an efficient implementation.
- In a large system it may be worth the effort to create a flexible symbol table.
- Fully qualified names (i.e., file.procedure.scope.x) to deal with scopes is not a good idea (the extra work needed to build qualified names is not worth the effort).
- Reading: Reading: Aho2, pp. 85-100, 357-370; Aho1 pp.287-293; 429-440; pp.463-472. Cooper, Chapter 5 (excellent discussion).