

### **Definition**

Back end is the processing phase that maps the IR to the target representation that is ready to perform the intended computation.

Extends the meaning, regards the target architectures.

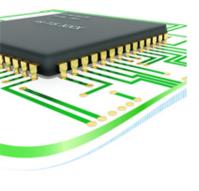


- Programmers see the computer through the window provided by the designers at the level of its functional architecture.
- This window is provided by you, the designer. (1)

The term architecture is used here to describe the attributes of a system as seen by the programmer, i.e., the conceptual structure and functional behavior, as distinct from the organization of the data flow and controls, the logical design, and the physical implementation. (2)

- 1. From Prof. Dr. Bozşahin's CENG444 course lecture.
- 2. Amdahl, Gene & Blaauw, Gerrit & Brooks, Jr, Frederick. (2000). Architecture of the IBM System/360. IBM Journal of Research and Development. 44. 21-36. 10.1147/rd.82.0087.





```
int f(int p)
{
  if (p>1)
    return p*f(p-1);

return 1;
}
```

Identical semantics mapped different Instruction Set Architectures (ISA)

Translation requires sound knowledge on the target ISA

```
dword ptr [rsp+8],ecx
                                                                                                   0x10000309c <+0>: sub
00007FF79EF52324 55
                                     push
                                                                                                                              x29, x30, [sp, #0x10]
                                                                                                  0x1000030a0 <+4>:
                                     push
                                                                                                   0x1000030a4 <+8>:
                                                                                                                              x29, sp, #0x10
0007FF79EF52326 48 81 EC E8 00
                                                 rsp,0E8h
                                                                                                   0x1000030a8 <+12>: str
                                                                                                                              w0, [sp, #0x8]
                                                 rbp,[rsp+20h]
0007FF79EF5232D 48 8D 6C 24 20
                                                                                                  0x1000030ac <+16>: ldr
                                                                                                                              w8, [sp, #0x8]
00007FF79EF52332 48 8D 0D F0 0C 01 00 lea
                                                 rcx, F791F1DE Lecture01@cpp (07FF79EF63029h)
                                                                                                                              w8, w8, #0x1
                                                 CheckForDebuggerJustMyCode (07FF79EF513E8h)
00007FF79EF52339 E8 AA F0 FF FF
                                                                                                                              w8, le
                                                                                                   0x1000030b4 <+24>: cset
  if (p>1)
                                                                                                  0x1000030b8 <+28>: tbnz
                                                                                                                              w8, #0x0, 0x1000030e4
                                                                                                                                                          ; <+72> at main.cpp
00007FF79EF5233E 83 BD E0 00 00 00 01 cmp
                                                 dword ptr [p],1
                                                                                                   0x1000030bc <+32>: b
                                                                                                                              0x1000030c0
                                                                                                                                                          ; <+36> at main.cpp:13:14
                                                 f+43h (07FF79EF52363h)
00007FF79EF52345 7E 1C
                                                                                                  0x1000030c0 <+36>: ldr
                                                                                                                              w8, [sp, #0x8
                                                                                                   0x1000030c4 <+40>: str
                                                 eax, dword ptr [p]
00007FF79EF52347 8B 85 E0 00 00 00
                                                                                                   0x1000030c8 <+44>: ldr
                                                                                                                              w8, [sp, #0x8]
                                                 ecx,eax
                                                                                                   0x1000030cc <+48>: subs
                                                                                                                              w0, w8, #0x1
                                                 f (07FF79EF512CBh)
                                                                                                                              0x10000309c
                                                                                                                                                          ; <+0> at main.cpp:11
                                                                                                   0x1000030d0 <+52>: bl
                                                 ecx, dword ptr [p]
                                                                                                   0x1000030d4 <+56>: ldr
                                                                                                                              w8, [sp, #0x4]
                                                 ecx,eax
                                                                                                   0x1000030d8 <+60>: mul
                                                                                                                              w8, w8, w0
00007FF79EF5235F 8B C1
                                                 eax,ecx
                                                                                                                              w8, [x29, #-0x4]
                                                                                                   0x1000030dc <+64>: stur
00007FF79EF52361 EB 05
                                                 f+48h (07FF79EF52368h)
                                                                                                   0x1000030e0 <+68>: b
                                                                                                                              0x1000030f0
                                                                                                                                                          ; <+84> at main.cpp:16:1
  return 1;
                                                                                                                              w8, [x29, #-0x4]
                                                                                                  0x1000030e8 <+76>: stur
00007FF79EF52363 B8 01 00 00 00
                                                 eax,1
                                                                                                  0x1000030ec <+80>: b
                                                                                                                                                          ; <+84> at main.cpp:16:1
                                                                                                   0x1000030f0 <+84>: ldur
                                                                                                                              w0, [x29, #-0x4]
                                                 rsp,[rbp+0C8h]
  007FF79EF52368 48 8D A5 C8 00 00 00 lea
                                                                                                  0x1000030f4 <+88>: ldp
                                                                                                                              x29, x30, [sp, #0x10]
00007FF79EF5236F 5F
                                                                                                  0x1000030f8 <+92>: add
                                                                                                                              sp, sp, #0x20
0007FF79EF52370 5D
                                                 rbp
                                                                                                   0x1000030fc <+96>: ret
0007FF79EF52371 C3
```





int f(int p)

if (p>1)

return 1;

return p\*f(p-1);

## **Architecture**

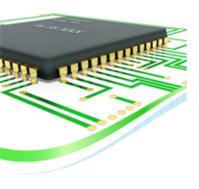
Identical semantics mapped different Instruction Set Architectures (ISA)

ISA can also be defined at software level that may be interpreted or translated further targeting another lower level ISA.

```
15 ssr 1[1 0x00000001]
                                             ; Prologue f S0n(i0ni0n)
16 ssr 29[90 0x0000005a]
                                             ; Debug expression prologue p>1)
17 pmw base pointer offset -3
18 psh int8 1 0x01
19 cvt i t -1 regs
20 gre i
22 ssr 3[1 0x00000001]
24 ssr 29[109 0x0000006d]
                                             ; Debug expression prologue p*f(p-1);
25 pmw base pointer offset -3
26 psh signature entry point 1
27 pmw base pointer offset -4
28 pmw base pointer offset -3
29 psh int8 1 0x01
30 cvt i t -1 regs
32 clf 1
33 ssr 6
35 ssr 5[1 0x00000001]
37 ssr 29[138 0x0000008a]
                                             ; Debug expression prologue 1;
38 psh int8 1 0x01
39 cvt i t -1 regs
40 ssr 5[1 0x00000001]
41 ssr 2[1 0x00000001]
                                             ; Epilogue f S0n(i0ni0n)
```

A sample stack machine





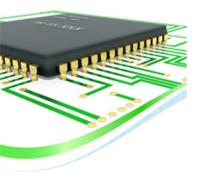
# Interoperability over ABI

The Application Binary Interface

- Use of Register File
- Shape of Activation Records
- Implementation of Specific Calling Conventions

- Memory Organization (Stack, )
- Roles specific to the Registers
- Registers to Scratch
- Registers to Preserve





```
int f(int p)
{
   if (p>1)
     return p*f(p-1);
   return 1;
}
```

```
dword ptr [rsp+8],ecx
0007FF79EF52324 55
                                                   rdi
      79EF52326 48 81 EC E8 00
                                                   rsp,0E8h
                                                   rcx, [__F791F1DE_Lecture01@cpp (07FF79EF63029h)]
                                                   CheckForDebuggerJustMyCode (07FF79EF513E8h)
                                                   dword ptr [p],1
                                                   f+43h (07FF79EF52363h)
                                                   eax, dword ptr [p]
                                                   ecx,eax
                                                   f (07FF79EF512CBh)
                                                   ecx, dword ptr [p]
                                                   f+48h (07FF79EF52368h)
00007FF79EF52363 B8 01 00 00 00
                                                   eax.1
                                                   rsp,[rbp+0C8h]
0007FF79EF52370 5D
 007FF79EF52371 C3
```

#### x64 - Windows ABI

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/cpp/build/x64-calling-convention?view=msvc-170

### **Architecture**

Identical semantics mapped different Instruction Set Architectures (ISA)

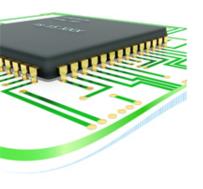
Application Binary Interface (ABI) as OS dependent architectural manifestation.

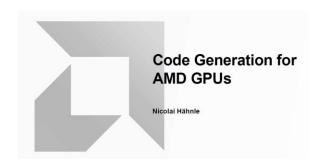
```
00005555555551cd:
                     push
                              %rbp
00005555555551ce:
                     mov
                             %rsp,%rbp
00005555555551d1:
                     sub
                             $0x10,%rsp
                             %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
00005555555551d5:
                     mov
                      if (p>1)
14
00005555555551d8:
                     cmp1
                             $0x1,-0x4(%rbp)
                             0x5555555551f1 < Z1fi+40>
                     jle
00005555555551dc:
                         return p*f(p-1);
15
00005555555551de:
                             -0x4(%rbp),%eax
00005555555551e1:
                     sub
                             $0x1,%eax
00005555555551e4:
                             %eax,%edi
                     mov
                     call.
                             0x5555555551c9 < Z1fi>
00005555555551e6:
                             -0x4(%rbp),%eax
00005555555551eb:
                     imul
                             0x5555555551f6 < Z1fi+45>
00005555555551ef:
                     jmp
                      return 1;
                             $0x1,%eax
00005555555551f1:
                     mov
00005555555551f6:
                     leave
00005555555551f7:
                     ret
```

#### x64 - Linux ABI

https://www.ired.team/miscellaneous-reversingforensics/windows-kernel-internals/linux-x64calling-convention-stack-frame







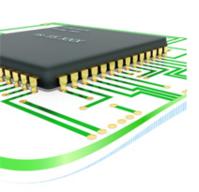
#### **RDNA ISA**

- ~106 32-bit scalar registers
- 256 vector registers
  - 32x32-bit or 64x32-bit depending on wave mode
- Register files are arrays
  - · Successive registers can be combined to 64-bit and larger values
  - · Some alignment requirements apply
  - · Indirect indexing is possible
- · Large set of scalar and vector ALU instructions
- · Scalar branch instructions
- Full set of vector memory instructions
  - · Full scatter/gather capabilities
  - · Image format conversion and texture sampling
  - Raytracing acceleration
- Scalar loads for constant data

v_cmp_nle_f32	vcc, 0, v12
v_cndmask_b32	v19, -v20, v20, s[0:1]
v_add_f32	v20,  v16 ,  v15
v_cmp_le_f32	s[0:1], 0, v15
v_cndmask_b32	v13, v13, v18, vcc
v_mul_f32	V24, V10, V10
v_cndmask_b32	v14, v14, v19, vcc
v_sub_f32	v17, 1.0, v20
v_cndmask_b32	v18, -v21, v21, s[0:1]

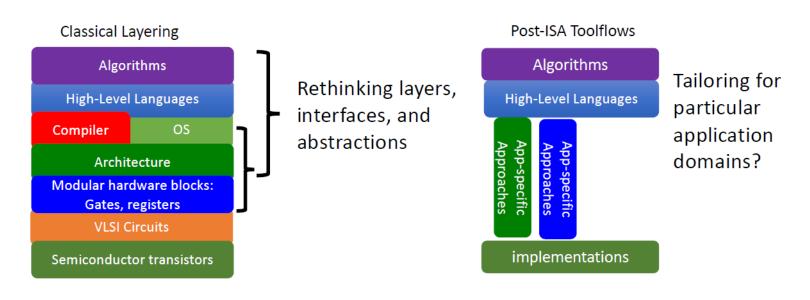
s_add_i32	s11, s11, 1
s_cmpk_lg_i32 s_cbranch_scc0 BBO_4:	s28, 0×100 .LBB0_8
s_cmp_gt_u32	s11, 11
s_cbranch_scc0	.LBB0_6

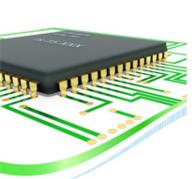




Application specific architectures have deep impact

### End-of-Moore Systems: Rethinking Full-Stack Approaches



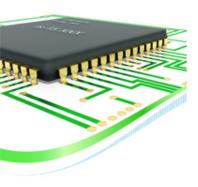


#### Mapping IC to Machine Code

#### **Constraints, conditions, problems**

- ISA (Load Store, Register Memory)
- ABI
- Code and Data Organization
  - Generated code / data
  - RTTI
  - Object / target code standards
  - Intrinsic code / objects
  - More ...
- Instruction Selection
- Instruction Scheduling
- Register Allocation





#### **Instruction Selection**

The complexity of instruction selection derives from the large number of alternative implementations that a typical ISA provides for even simple operations (\*).

6\*i + 5

. .

- -

4\*i + 5

mov rax, [rbp + 16]

mov rcx, [rbp + 16]

imul rax, 6

lea rax, [5 + 4\*rcx]

add rax, 5

. . .

• •

Techniques may rely on pattern matching on both Graphical and Linear IR.



#### **Instruction Scheduling**

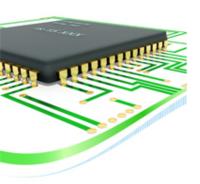
Instruction scheduling attempts to reorder the operations in a procedure to improve its running time. In essence, it tries to execute as many operations per cycle as possible. (\*)

Superscalar architectures
Instruction level parallelism
Forcing architectures (Itanium)

Dependency analysis and out of order execution

Requires detailed analysis of processor specific parallelism



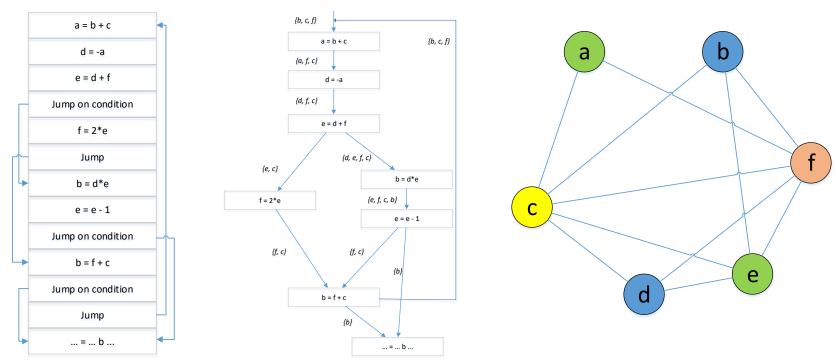


**Register Allocation** 

Local / Global Register Allocation

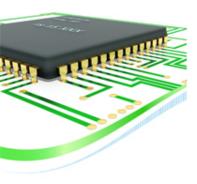
**Graph Coloring Problem** 

Register Spilling, Heuristics, Interference Graphs, Live Ranges, ...



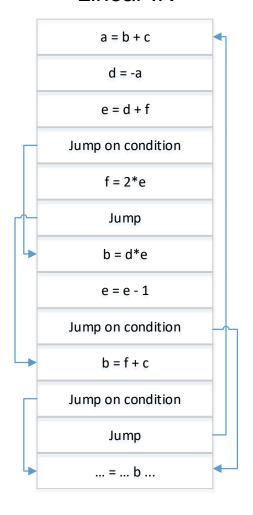
(\*) CFG example from Portland State University CS536 Spring 2001 notes, "http://web.cecs.pdx.edu/~mperkows/temp/register-allocation.pdf"

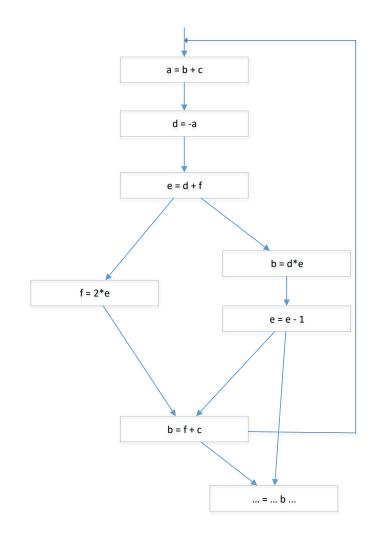




### **Control Flow Graph**

#### Linear IR

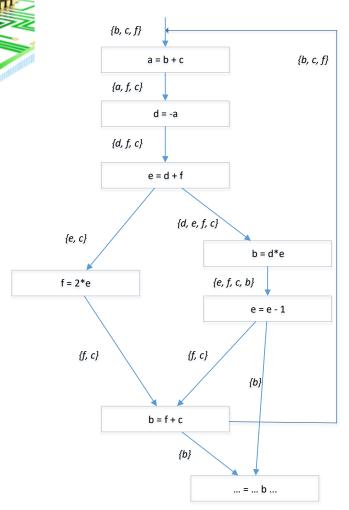


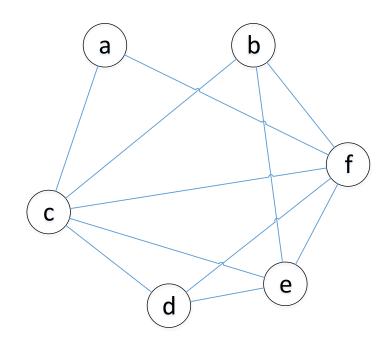






Register Interference Graph (RIG)

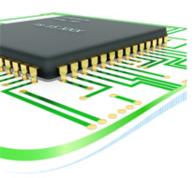




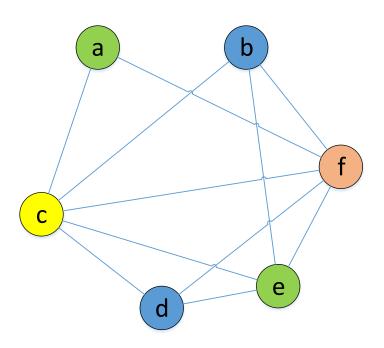
**Edge Labeling** 

**Graph Construction** 





**Register Coloring** 



#### **Register Pressure**

"Do we have four registers?"

Graph Coloring (k=4)

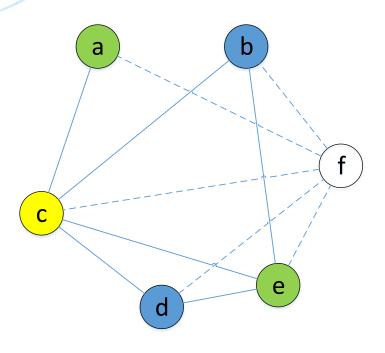




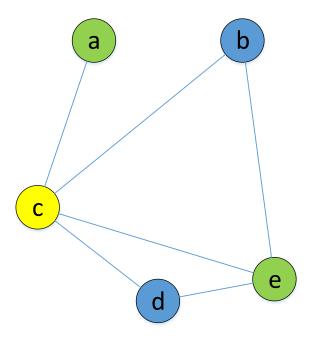
**Register Coloring** 

#### **Register Pressure**

"What if we have three registers only?"







Graph Coloring (k=3)

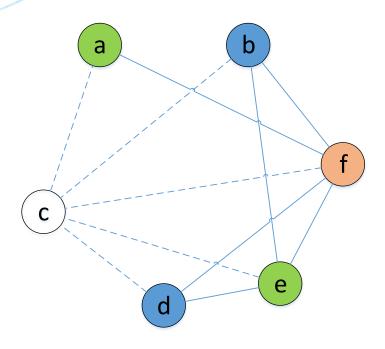




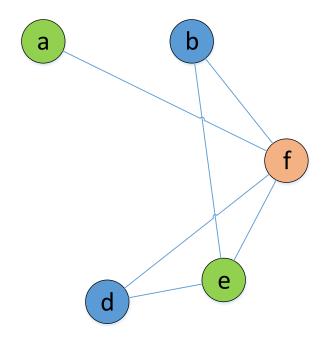
**Register Coloring** 

#### **Register Pressure**

"What if we have three registers only?"







Graph Coloring (k=3)