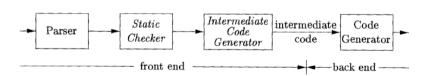
# Code generation & Optimization



## **Code generation**

### Input to the Code Generator

- (a) Intermediate representation (IR) of the source program produced by the front end,
- **(b) Symbol table** that is used to determine the **run-time** addresses of the data objects

#### The Target Program

#### Instruction-set architecture of the target machine

- Has a significant impact on the difficulty of constructing a good code generator that produces high-quality machine code.
- The most common target-machine architectures are RISC (reduced instruction set computer), CISC (complex instruction set computer)
- A RISC machine typically has many registers, three-address
  instructions, simple addressing modes, and a relatively simple
  instruction-set architecture.

#### **Instruction Selection**

The **code generator** must **map** the **IR program** into a **code sequence** that can be executed by the target machine.

The **complexity** of performing this **mapping** is determined by a factors such as

- the level of the IR
- the nature of the instruction-set architecture
- the desired quality of the generated code.
- The code generator may translate each IR statement into a sequence of machine instructions using code templates.
- Such statement by statement code generation, however, often produces poor code

**Translation scheme:** If we do not care about the efficiency of the target program, instruction selection is straightforward.

For each type of three-address statement, we can design a code.

For **each type of three-address statement**, we can design a **code skeleton** that defines the **target code** to be generated for that construct

## **Instruction Selection – Example**

example, every three-address statement of the form x=y+z, where x,y, and z are statically allocated, can be translated into the code sequence

$$a = b + c$$
  
 $d = a + e$ 

would be translated into

## **Instruction Selection – Example**

- On most machines, a given IR program can be implemented by many different code sequences,
  - Significant cost differences between the different implementations.
- A naive translation of the intermediate code may therefore lead to correct but unacceptably inefficient target code.
- For example, if the target machine has an "increment" instruction (INC)
- The three-address statement  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{1}$  may be implemented more efficiently by the **single instruction INC**  $\mathbf{a}$ ,
  - Rather than by a more obvious sequence that loads a into a register, adds one to the register, and then stores the result back into a

```
LD RO, a // RO = a
ADD RO, RO, #1 // RO = RO + 1
ST a, RO // a = RO
```

#### **Register Allocation**

- A key problem in code generation is deciding what values to hold in what registers.
- Registers are the fastest computational unit on the target machine,
  - but we usually do not have **enough** of them to hold **all values**.
  - Values not held in registers need to reside in memory.
- Instructions involving register operands are invariably shorter and faster than those involving operands in memory,
  - Efficient utilization of registers is particularly important.

The use of registers is often subdivided into two subproblems:

- Register allocation, during which we select the set of variables that will reside in registers at each point in the program.
- Register assignment, during which we pick the specific register that a variable will reside in.

## **Basic Blocks & Flow graphs**

- Introduce a graph representation of intermediate code that is helpful for discussing code generation
  - Even if the graph is not constructed explicitly by a codegeneration algorithm.
- Code generation benefits from context.
- We can do a better job of register allocation if we know how variables are defined and used.

## **Basic Blocks & Flow graphs**

The representation is constructed as follows:

- Partition the intermediate code into basic blocks, which are maximal sequences of consecutive three-address instructions with the properties that
  - (a) The flow of control can only enter the basic block through the first instruction in the block. That is, there are no jumps into the middle of the block.
  - (b) Control will leave the block without halting or branching, except possibly at the last instruction in the block.
- 2. The basic blocks become the nodes of a *flow graph*, whose edges indicate which blocks can follow which other blocks.

#### **Basic Blocks**

- We begin a new basic block with the first instruction
- Keep adding instructions
  - until we meet either a jump, a conditional jump,
  - or a label on the following instruction.
- In the absence of jumps and labels, control proceeds sequentially from one instruction to the next.
- Task: Identify leaders, that is, the first instructions in some basic block.

#### **Basic Blocks - Leaders**

- 1. The first three-address instruction in the intermediate code is a leader.
- 2. Any instruction that is the target of a conditional or unconditional jump is a leader.
- Any instruction that immediately follows a conditional or unconditional jump is a leader.

## **Basic Blocks**

```
for i from 1 to 10 do

for j from 1 to 10 do

a[i, j] = 0.0;

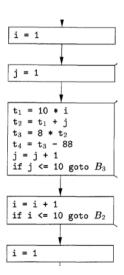
for i from 1 to 10 do

a[i, i] = 1.0;
```

## leaders are instructions 1, 2, 3, 10, 12, and 13

```
i = 1
   i = 1
3) t1 = 10 * i
    t2 = t1 + j
    t3 = 8 * t2
    t4 = t3 - 88
   a[t4] = 0.0
8)
  j = j + 1
9) if j <= 10 goto (3)
10)
    i = i + 1
11) if i <= 10 goto (2)</pre>
12)
    i = 1
13)
    t5 = i - 1
14)
    t6 = 88 * t5
15) a[t6] = 1.0
16) i = i + 1
17)
    if i <= 10 goto (13)
```

#### **Basic Blocks**



#### Flow Graphs

- We represent the flow of control by a flow graph.
- The nodes of the flow graph are the basic blocks.
- There is an edge from block B to block C if and only if
  - it is possible for the first instruction in block C to immediately follow the last instruction in block B.

There are two ways that such an edge could be justified:

- There is a conditional or unconditional jump from the end of B to the beginning of C.
- Block C immediately follows Block B in the original order of the three-address instructions
  - B does not end in an unconditional jump
  - Maybe due to labels

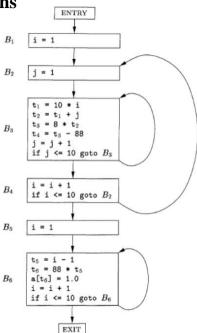
We say that B is a predecessor of C, and C is a successor of B.



#### Flow Graphs

- Often we add two nodes, called the entry and exit,
- There is an edge from the entry to the first executable node of the flow graph,
  - that is, to the basic block that comes from the first instruction of the intermediate code.
- There is an edge to the exit from any basic block that contains an instruction that could be the last executed instruction of the program.

#### **Flow Graphs**



#### **Code Generator**

- Algorithm that generates code for a single basic block
- It considers each three-address instruction in turn, and keeps track
  of what values are in what registers so it can avoid generating
  unnecessary loads and stores.
- Deciding how to use registers to best advantage
- In most machine architectures, some or all of the **operands** of an operation must be in **registers** in order to perform the operation.

 These are competing needs, since the number of registers available is limited.

#### **Code Generator**

 We further assume that for each operator, there is exactly one machine instruction that takes the necessary operands in registers and performs that operation, leaving the result in a register. The machine instructions are of the form

LD reg, mem

ST mem, reg

OP reg, reg, reg

## **Register and Address Descriptors**

- Our code-generation algorithm considers each three-address instruction in turn and decides what loads are necessary to get the needed operands into registers.
- After generating the loads, it generates the operation itself.
- Then, if there is a need to store the result into a memory location, it also generates that store.
- We require a data structure that tells us what program variables currently have their value in a register, and in which register
- We also need to know whether the memory location for a given variable currently has the proper value for that variable
  - Since a new value for the variable may have been computed in a register and not yet stored.



## **Register Descriptors**

- a register descriptor keeps track of the variable names whose current value is in that register.
- All register descriptors are empty. As the code generation progresses, each register will hold the value of zero or more names.

## **Address Descriptors**

For each program variable, an **address descriptor** keeps track of the **location or locations** where the current value of that variable can be found.

The **location** might be a **register**, a memory address etc.

The information can be stored in the **symbol-table entry** for that **variable name**.



## The Code-Generation Algorithm

- An essential part of the algorithm is a function getReg(I),
  - which selects registers for each memory location associated with the three-address instruction I.
- Function getReg has access to the register and address descriptors for all the variables of the basic block
- While we do not know the total number of registers available for local data belonging to a basic block, we assume that there are enough registers

#### Machine Instructions for Operations

For a three-address instruction such as x = y + z, do the following:

- 1. Use getReg(x = y + z) to select registers for x, y, and z. Call these  $R_x$ ,  $R_y$ , and  $R_z$ .
- 2. If y is not in  $R_y$  (according to the register descriptor for  $R_y$ ), then issue an instruction LD  $R_y, y'$ , where y' is one of the memory locations for y (according to the address descriptor for y).
- 3. Similarly, if z is not in  $R_z$ , issue and instruction LD  $R_z, z'$ , where z' is a location for z.
- 4. Issue the instruction ADD  $R_x, R_y, R_z$ .

## **Ending the Basic Block**

- If the variable is live on exit from the block,
  - Or if we don't know which variables are live on exit,
  - then we assume that the value of the variable is needed later.
- In that case, for each variable x whose address descriptor does not say that its value is located in the memory location for x
- We must generate the instruction ST x, R, where R is a register in which x value exists at the end of the block.

## **Managing Register and Address Descriptors**

- As the code-generation algorithm issues load, store, and other machine instructions,
- It needs to update the register and address descriptors.
- The rules are as follows:
  - 1. For the instruction LD R, x
    - (a) Change the register descriptor for register R so it holds only x.
    - (b) Change the address descriptor for x by adding register R as an additional location.
  - 2. For the instruction ST x, R, change the address descriptor for x to include its own memory location.
  - 3. For an operation such as ADD  $R_x, R_y, R_z$  implementing a three-address instruction x=y+z
    - (a) Change the register descriptor for  $R_x$  so that it holds only x.
    - (b) Change the address descriptor for x so that its only location is  $R_x$ . Note that the memory location for x is *not* now in the address descriptor for x.
    - (c) Remove  $R_x$  from the address descriptor of any variable other than x.

#### **Machine Instructions for Copy Statements**

three-address copy statement of the form x = y.

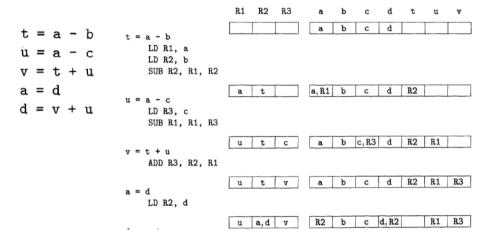
- We assume that getReg will always choose the same register for both x and y
- If y is not already in that register Ry,
  - then generate the machine instruction LD Ry, y.
  - If y was already in Ry, we do nothing.
- It is only necessary that we adjust the register description for Ry
  - So that it includes x as one of the values found there.

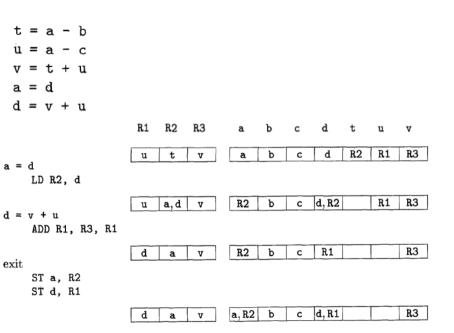
#### **Machine Instructions for Copy Statements**

When we process a copy statement x = y, after generating the load for y into register  $R_y$ , if needed, and after managing descriptors as for all load statements (per rule 1):

- (a) Add x to the register descriptor for  $R_y$ .
- (b) Change the address descriptor for x so that its only location is  $R_y$ .







## **Design of the Function** *getReg*

- There are many options,
- although there are also some absolute prohibitions against choices that lead to incorrect code due to the loss of the value of one or more live variables
- We use x = y + z as the generic example.
- First, we must pick a register for y and a register for z.
- The issues are the same, so we shall concentrate on picking register Ry for y.

- 1. If y is currently in a register, pick a register already containing y as  $R_y$ . Do not issue a machine instruction to load this register, as none is needed.
- 2. If y is not in a register, but there is a register that is currently empty, pick one such register as  $R_y$ .
- 3. The difficult case occurs when y is not in a register, and there is no register that is currently empty. We need to pick one of the allowable registers anyway, and we need to make it safe to reuse. Let R be a candidate

register, and suppose v is one of the variables that the register descriptor for R says is in R. We need to make sure that v's value either is not really needed, or that there is somewhere else we can go to get the value of R. The possibilities are:

- (a) If the address descriptor for v says that v is somewhere besides R, then we are OK.
- (b) If v is x, the value being computed by instruction I, and x is not also one of the other operands of instruction I (z in this example), then we are OK. The reason is that in this case, we know this value of x is never again going to be used, so we are free to ignore it.
- (c) Otherwise, if v is not used later (that is, after the instruction I, there are no further uses of v, and if v is live on exit from the block, then v is recomputed within the block), then we are OK.
- (d) If we are not OK by one of the first two cases, then we need to generate the store instruction ST v, R to place a copy of v in its own memory location. This operation is called a *spill*.

Since R may hold several variables at the moment, we repeat the above steps for each such variable v. At the end, R's "score" is the number of store instructions we needed to generate. Pick one of the registers with the lowest score.

## Selection of the register Rx

Now, consider the selection of the register  $R_x$ . The issues and options are almost as for y, so we shall only mention the differences.

- 1. Since a new value of x is being computed, a register that holds only x is always an acceptable choice for  $R_x$ . This statement holds even if x is one of y and z, since our machine instructions allows two registers to be the same in one instruction.
- 2. If y is not used after instruction I, in the sense described for variable v in item (3c), and  $R_y$  holds only y after being loaded, if necessary, then  $R_y$  can also be used as  $R_x$ . A similar option holds regarding z and  $R_z$ .

The last matter to consider specially is the case when I is a copy instruction x = y. We pick the register  $R_y$  as above. Then, we always choose  $R_x = R_y$ .

## **Optimal Code Generation for Expressions**

- We can choose registers optimally when a basic block consists of a single expression
- We introduce a labelling scheme for the nodes of an expression tree

#### Two phases

- Labelling phase
- Code generation phase

## Sethi-Ullman algorithm

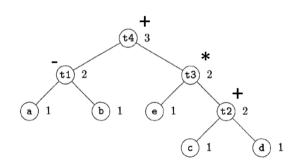
## The Labelling Algorithm: Ershov Numbers

#### Labels each node of the tree with an integer:

- No. of registers required to evaluate the tree with no intermediate stores to memory
- Consider binary trees
- 1. Label any leaf 1.
- 2. The label of an interior node with one child is the label of its child.
- 3. The label of an interior node with two children is
- (a) The larger of the labels of its children, if those labels are different.
- (b) One plus the label of its children if the labels are the same.

## The Labelling Algorithm: Ershov Numbers

tree for expression  $(a - b) + e \times (c + d)$ 



## **Generating Code From Labeled Expression Trees**

- All operands must be in registers, and registers can be used by both an operand and the result of an operation
- The **label** of a node is the **fewest registers** with which the expression can be evaluated using no stores of temporary results.

## **Generating Code From Labeled Expression Trees**

**METHOD:** The following is a recursive algorithm to generate the machine code. The steps below are applied, starting at the root of the tree. If the algorithm is applied to a node with label k, then only k registers will be used. However, there is a "base"  $b \ge 1$  for the registers used so that the actual registers used are  $R_b, R_{b+1}, \ldots R_{b+k-1}$ . The result always appears in  $R_{b+k-1}$ .

- 1. To generate machine code for an interior node with label k and two children with equal labels (which must be k-1) do the following:
  - (a) Recursively generate code for the right child, using base b+1. The result of the right child appears in register  $R_{b+k-1}$
  - (b) Recursively generate code for the left child, using base b; the result appears in  $R_{b+k-2}$ .
  - (c) Generate the instruction OP  $R_{b+k-1}R_{b+k-2}R_{b+k-1}$  where OP is the appropriate operation for the interior node in question.

```
K=4, b=1
Right child (k-1) → R2, R3, R4 (result)
Left child (k-1) → R1, R2, R3 (result)
```



**METHOD:** The following is a recursive algorithm to generate the machine code. The steps below are applied, starting at the root of the tree. If the algorithm is applied to a node with label k, then only k registers will be used. However, there is a "base"  $b \ge 1$  for the registers used so that the actual registers used are  $R_b, R_{b+1}, \ldots R_{b+k-1}$ . The result always appears in  $R_{b+k-1}$ .

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- appears in  $R_{b+k-2}$ . (c) Generate the instruction OP  $R_{b+k-1}R_{b+k-2}$   $R_{b+k-1}$  where OP is the appropriate operation for the interior node in question.

For a leaf representing operand x, if the base is b generate the instruction LD  $R_b$ , x.

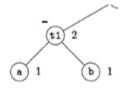


K-1 Registers for right child R(b+1), R(b+2), ..., R(b+k-1)

K-1 Registers for left child R(b), R(b+1), ..., R(b+k-2)



Result



Base b=1

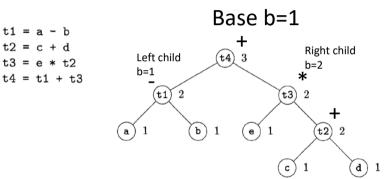
LD R2, b LD R1, a SUB R2, R1, R2

- 2. Suppose we have an interior node with label k and children with labels. Then one of the children, which we'll call the "big" child, has label k, and the other child, the "little" child, has some label m < k. Do the following to generate code for this interior node, using base b:
  - (a) Recursively generate code for the big child, using base b; the result appears in registe  $R_{b+k-1}$ .
  - (b) Recursively generate code for the small child, using base b; he result appears in register  $R_{b+m-1}$ . Note that since m < k, neither  $R_{b+k-1}$  nor any higher-numbered register is used.
  - (c) Generate the instruction OP  $R_{b+k-1}$ ,  $R_{b+m-1}$ ,  $R_{b+k-1}$  or the instruction OP  $R_{b+k-1}$ ,  $R_{b+k-1}$ ,  $R_{b+m-1}$ , depending on whether the big child is the right or left child, respectively.

```
k=4, b=1
Big child (k) \rightarrow R1, R2, R3, R4 (result)
small child (m=3) \rightarrow R1, R2, R3 (result)
```



tree for expression 
$$(a - b) + e \times (c + d)$$

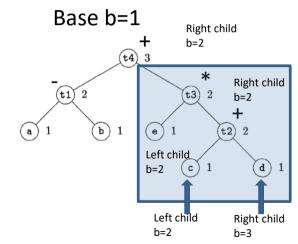


- Since the label of the root is 3, the result will appear in R3,
- The base for the root is b = 1.
- Only R1, R2, and R3 will be used.
- Since the root has children of equal labels, we generate code for the right child first, with base 2.



tree for expression 
$$(a - b) + e \times (c + d)$$

t1 = a - b t2 = c + d t3 = e \* t2t4 = t1 + t3



**METHOD:** The following is a recursive algorithm to generate the machine code. The steps below are applied, starting at the root of the tree. If the algorithm is applied to a node with label k, then only k registers will be used. However, there is a "base"  $b \ge 1$  for the registers used so that the actual registers used are  $R_b, R_{b+1}, \ldots R_{b+k-1}$ . The result always appears in  $R_{b+k-1}$ .

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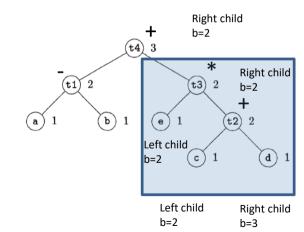
- result of the right child appears in register  $R_{b+k-1}$ (b) Recursively generate code for the left child, using base b; the result
- appears in  $R_{b+k-2}$ . (c) Generate the instruction OP  $R_{b+k-1}R_{b+k-2}$   $R_{b+k-1}$  where OP is the appropriate operation for the interior node in question.

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tree for expression 
$$(a - b) + e \times (c + d)$$

$$t1 = a - b$$
  
 $t2 = c + d$   
 $t3 = e * t2$   
 $t4 = t1 + t3$ 

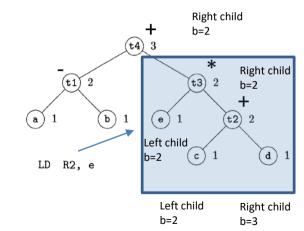
LD R3, d LD R2, c ADD R3, R2, R3



tree for expression 
$$(a - b) + e \times (c + d)$$

$$t1 = a - b$$
  
 $t2 = c + d$   
 $t3 = e * t2$   
 $t4 = t1 + t3$ 

LD R3, d LD R2, c ADD R3, R2, R3



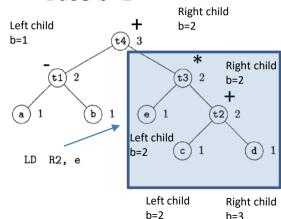
- 2. Suppose we have an interior node with label k and children with labels. Then one of the children, which we'll call the "big" child, has label k, and the other child, the "little" child, has some label m < k. Do the following to generate code for this interior node, using base b:
  - (a) Recursively generate code for the big child, using base b; the result appears in registe  $R_{b+k-1}$ .
  - (b) Recursively generate code for the small child, using base b; he result appears in register  $R_{b+m-1}$ . Note that since m < k, neither  $R_{b+k-1}$  nor any higher-numbered register is used.
  - (c) Generate the instruction OP  $R_{b+k-1}$ ,  $R_{b+m-1}$ ,  $R_{b+k-1}$  or the instruction OP  $R_{b+k-1}$ ,  $R_{b+k-1}$ ,  $R_{b+m-1}$ , depending on whether the big child is the right or left child, respectively.

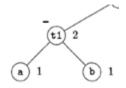
```
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Big child (k) \rightarrow R1, R2, R3, R4 (result)
small child (m=3) \rightarrow R1, R2, R3 (result)
```



tree for expression 
$$(a - b) + e \times (c + d)$$
  
Base b=1

LD R3, d LD R2, c ADD R3, R2, R3 LD R2, e MUL R3, R2, R3





Base b=1

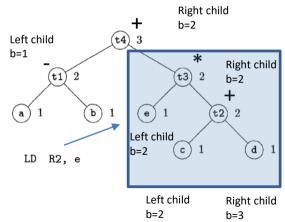
LD R2, b LD R1, a SUB R2, R1, R2

tree for expression 
$$(a - b) + e \times (c + d)$$
  
Base b=1

$$t1 = a - b$$
  
 $t2 = c + d$   
 $t3 = e * t2$   
 $t4 = t1 + t3$ 

LD R3, d LD R2, c ADD R3, R2, R3 LD R2, e MUL R3, R2, R3 LD R2, b LD R1, a SUB R2, R1, R2

ADD R3, R2, R3



**INPUT:** A labeled tree with each operand appearing once (i.e., no common subexpressions) and a number of registers  $r \geq 2$ .

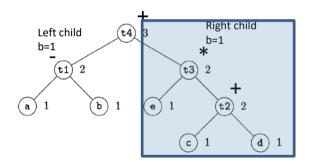
**OUTPUT:** An optimal sequence of machine instructions to evaluate the root into a register, using no more than r registers, which we assume are  $R_1, R_2, \ldots, R_r$ .

- Starting at the root of the tree, with base b = 1.
- · For a node N with label r or less, the algorithm is exactly the same
- However, for interior nodes with a label k > r, we need to work on each side
  of the tree separately and store the result
- That result is brought back into memory just before node N is evaluated,
- And the final step will take place in registers R(r-1) and R(r)

- 1. Node N has at least one child with label r or greater. Pick the larger child (or either if their labels are the same) to be the "big" child and let the other child be the "little" child.
- 2. Recursively generate code for the big child using base b = 1. The result of this evaluation will appear in register  $R_r$ .
- 3. Generate the machine instruction ST  $t_k, R_r$ , where  $t_k$  is a temporary variable used for temporary results used to help evaluate nodes with label k.
- 4. Generate code for the little child as follows. If the little child has label r or greater, pick base b=1. If the label of the little child is j < r, then pick b=r-j. Then recursively apply this algorithm to the little child; the result appears in  $R_r$ . j registers R(r-j), R(r-j+1), ..., R(r-j+j)=R(r)
- 5. Generate the instruction LD  $R_{r-1}, t_k$ .
- 6. If the big child is the right child of N, then generate the instruction  $OP R_r, R_r, R_{r-1}$ . If the big child is the left child, generate  $OP R_r, R_{r-1}, R_r$ .

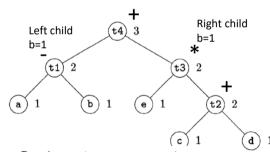
assume that r=2; that is, only registers R1 and R2 are available

LD R2, d LD R1, c ADD R2, R1, R2 LD R1, e MUL R2, R1, R2



assume that r=2; that is, only registers R1 and R2 are available

LD R2, d LD R1, c ADD R2, R1, R2 LD R1, e MUL R2, R1, R2



Generate the machine instruction ST  $t_k$ ,  $R_r$ , where  $t_k$  is a temporary variable used for temporary results used to help evaluate nodes with label k.

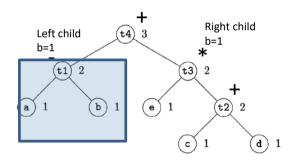
ST t3, R2





assume that r=2; that is, only registers R1 and R2 are available

LD R2, b LD R1, a SUB R2, R1, R2



assume that r=2; that is, only registers R1 and R2 are available

