

# MLIR Tutorial

Jaeho Lee

Corelab @Yonsei University

# Course Information



**Introduction to  
MLIR**



**2 Chapters  
2 Practices**



**Based on  
LLVM 15.0.0**



# Course Outline

- Basic Concept of MLIR
  - Goal: Learn the basic concept of LLVM IR
- Key components of MLIR
  - Goal: Learn the key components and essentials of MLIR



# List of Practices

- Basic Concept of MLIR
- Key components of MLIR
  - Practice 1: First Compilation
  - Practice 2: Create transform pass

# **Basic Concept of MLIR**

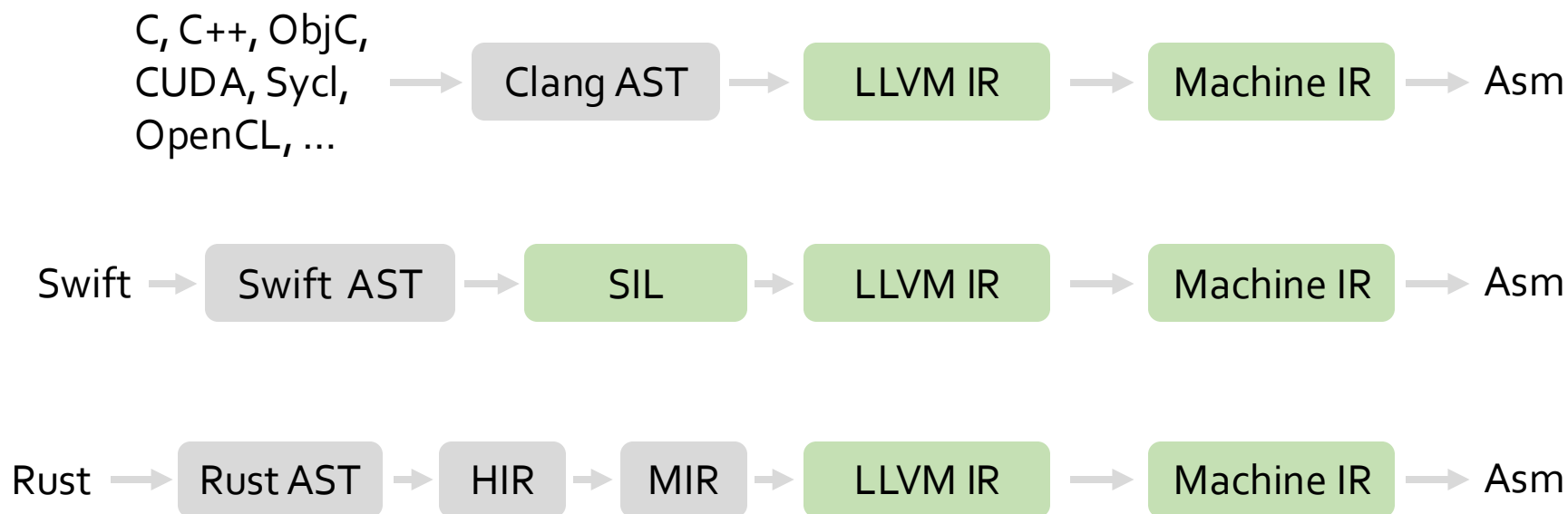
# MLIR: Concept

- **M**ulti-**L**evel Intermediate **R**epresentation
- **C**ompiler Infrastructure
  - Domain-specific intermediate representation
  - High-level optimizations and portability



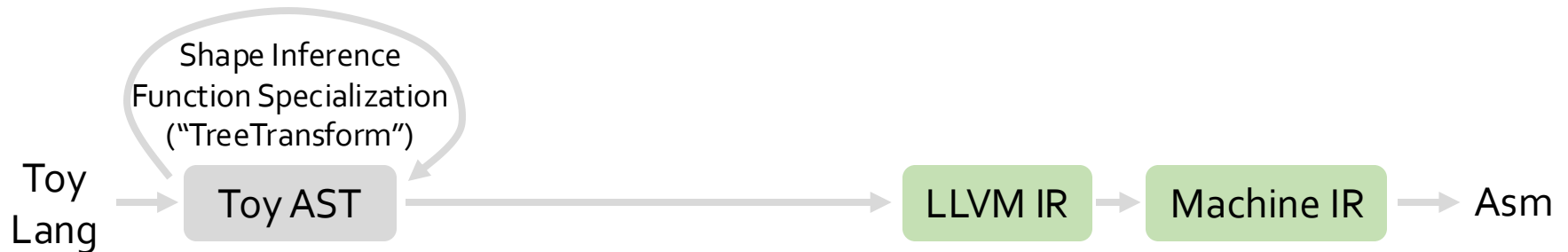
# Why we need MLIR rather LLVM

- Existing Successful Compilation Models



# Why we need MLIR rather LLVM

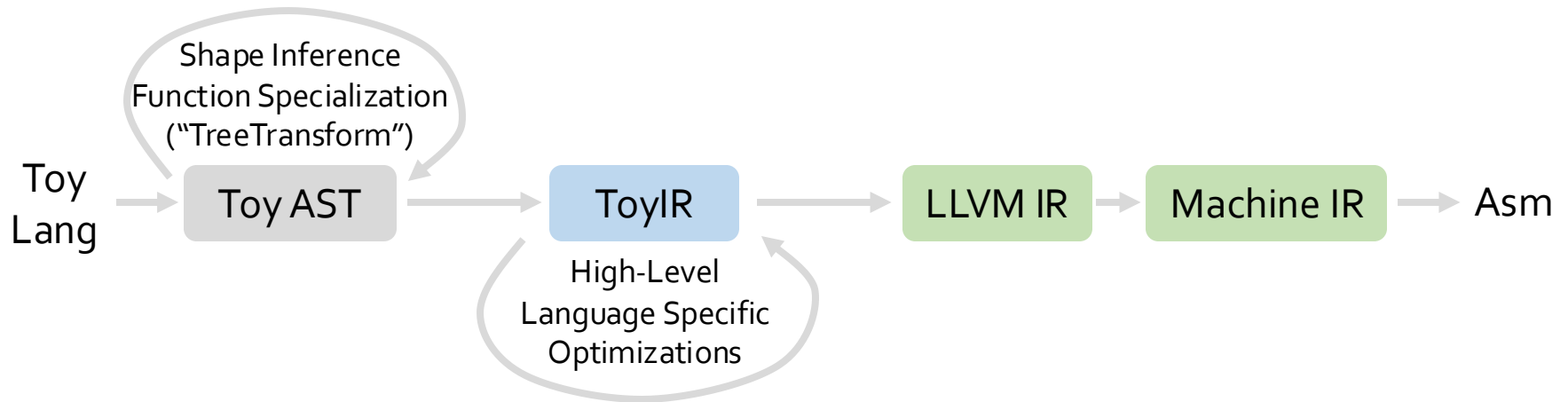
- **The Toy Compiler:** the “Simpler” Approach of Clang





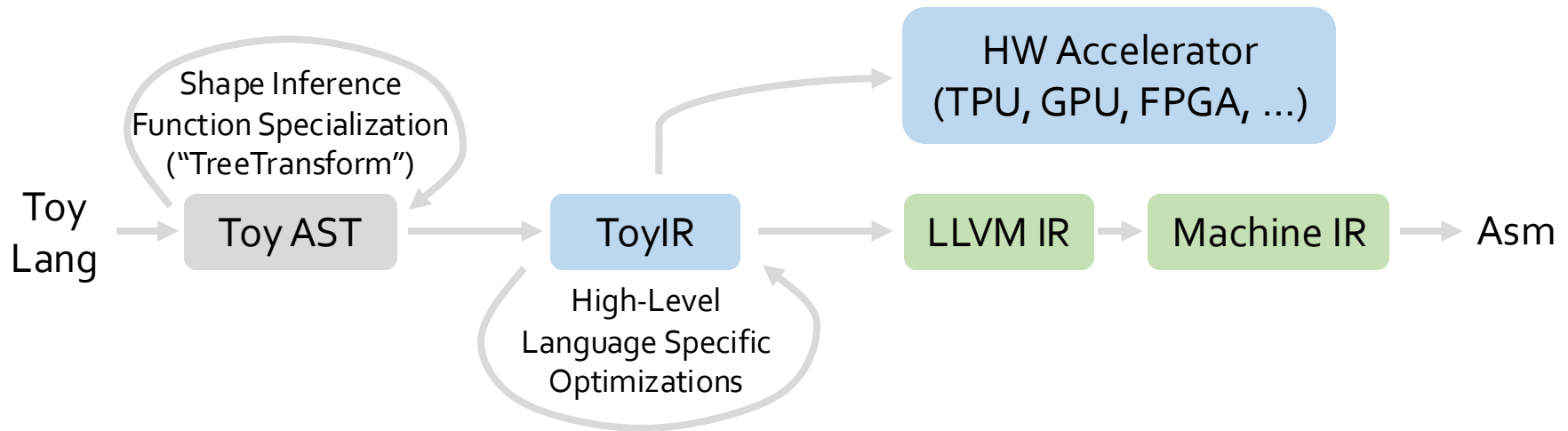
# Why we need MLIR rather LLVM

- **The Toy Compiler:** With Language Specific Optimizations



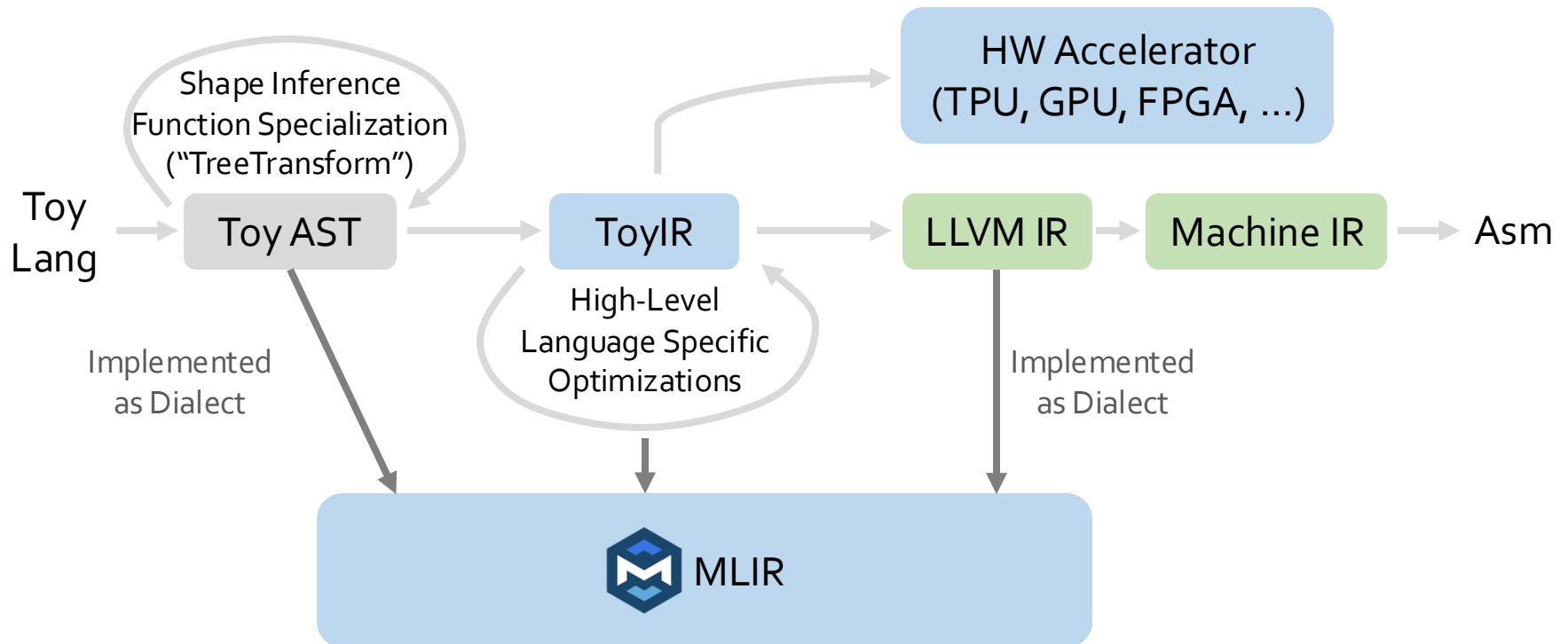
# Why we need MLIR rather LLVM

- **The Toy Compiler:** Compilers in a Heterogenous World



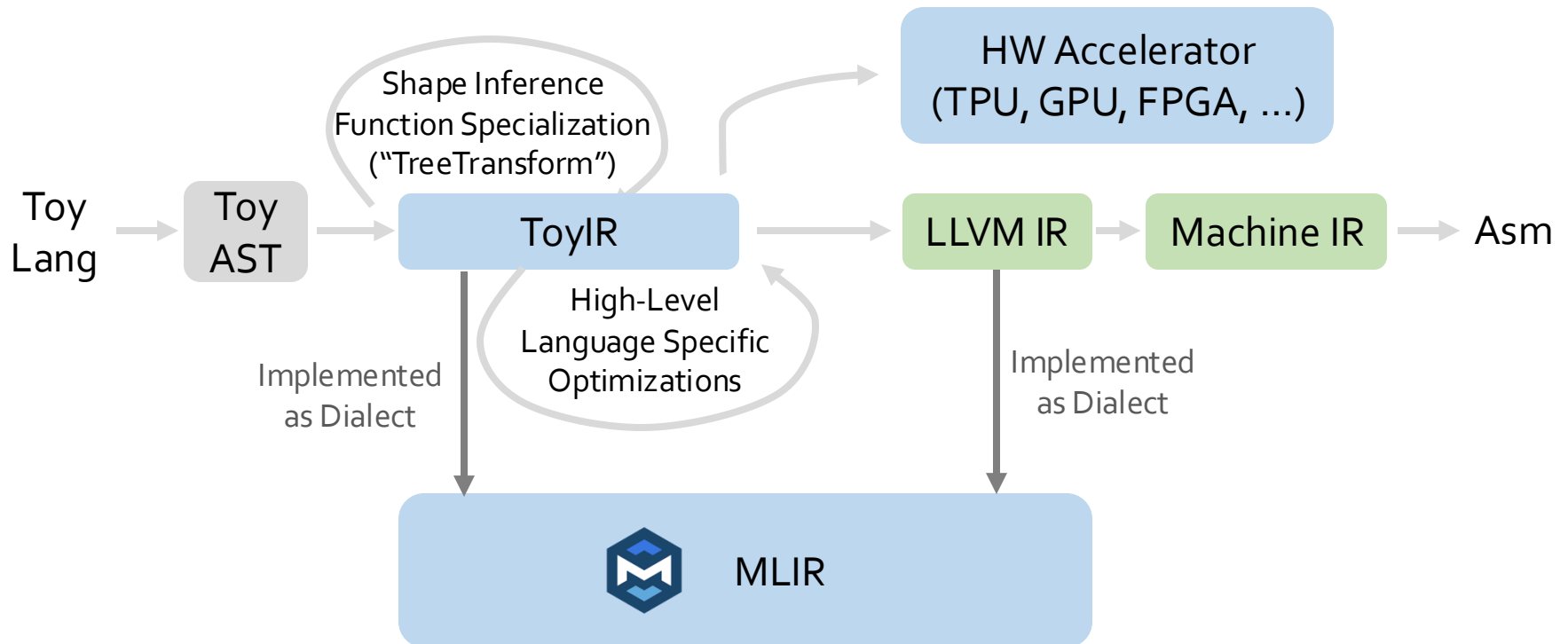
# Why we need MLIR rather LLVM

- It's all about Dialects



# Why we need MLIR rather LLVM

- **Dialect for Toy IR:** still flexible enough to perform shape inference and some high-level optimizations



# MLIR design principles

## **Little built-in, everything customizable**

- fully customizable IR
- express many different abstractions with Common abstractions
  - machine learning graphs
  - mathematical abstractions
  - instruction-level intermediate representations
  - etc

## **Progressive Lowering**

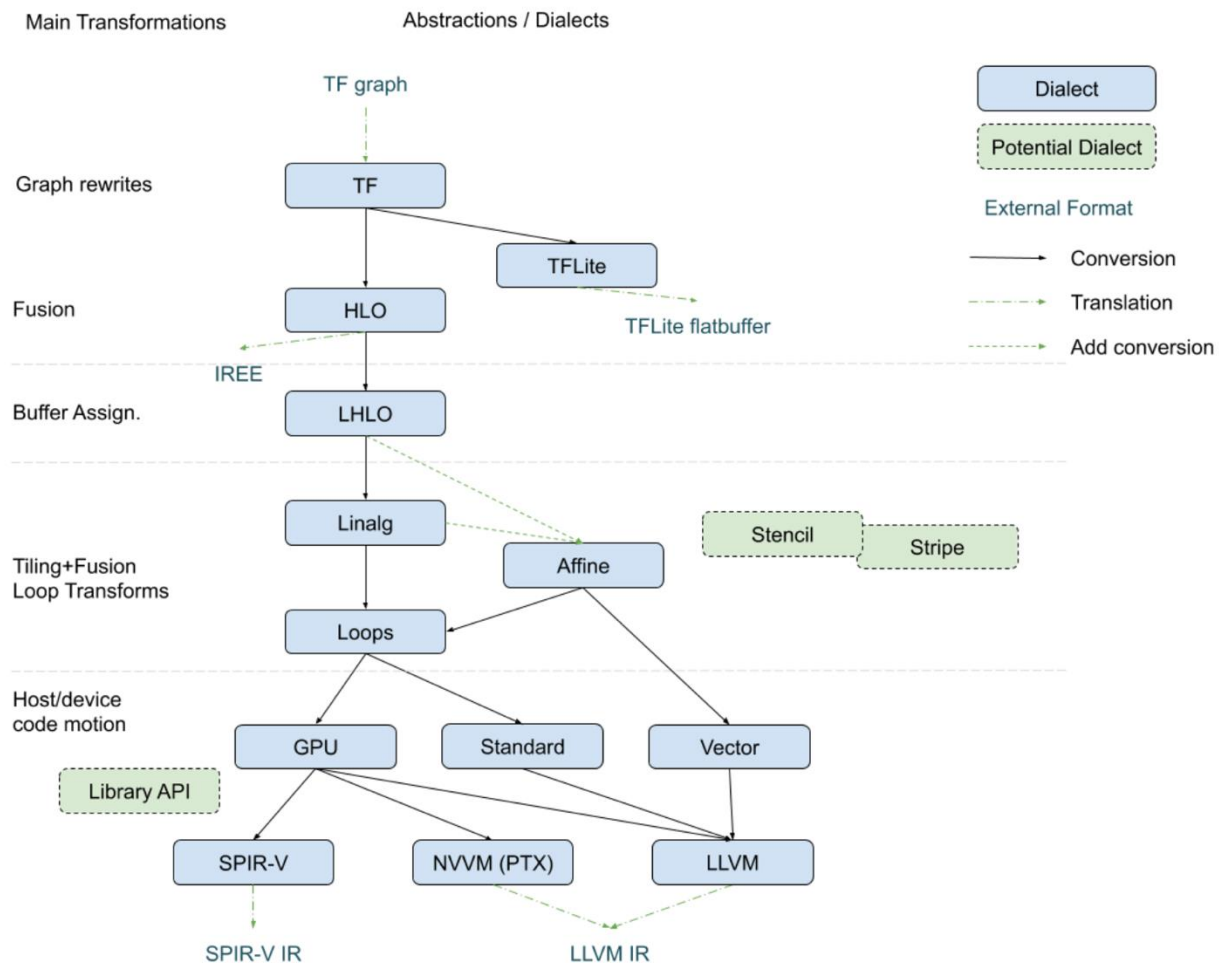
- lowering in small steps along multiple abstraction levels
- using multiple levels of abstractions
  - support variety of platforms and programming models
  - flexible design of compilation pipeline

# **Key components of MLIR**

# MLIR Terminology

- Dialect
  - Intermediate representation of specific abstraction level
- Conversion
  - Compile to different dialects
- Transform
  - Optimization inside such dialect
- Translate
  - converts operations of dialect into some other language (specifically LLVM)

# Structure of MLIR



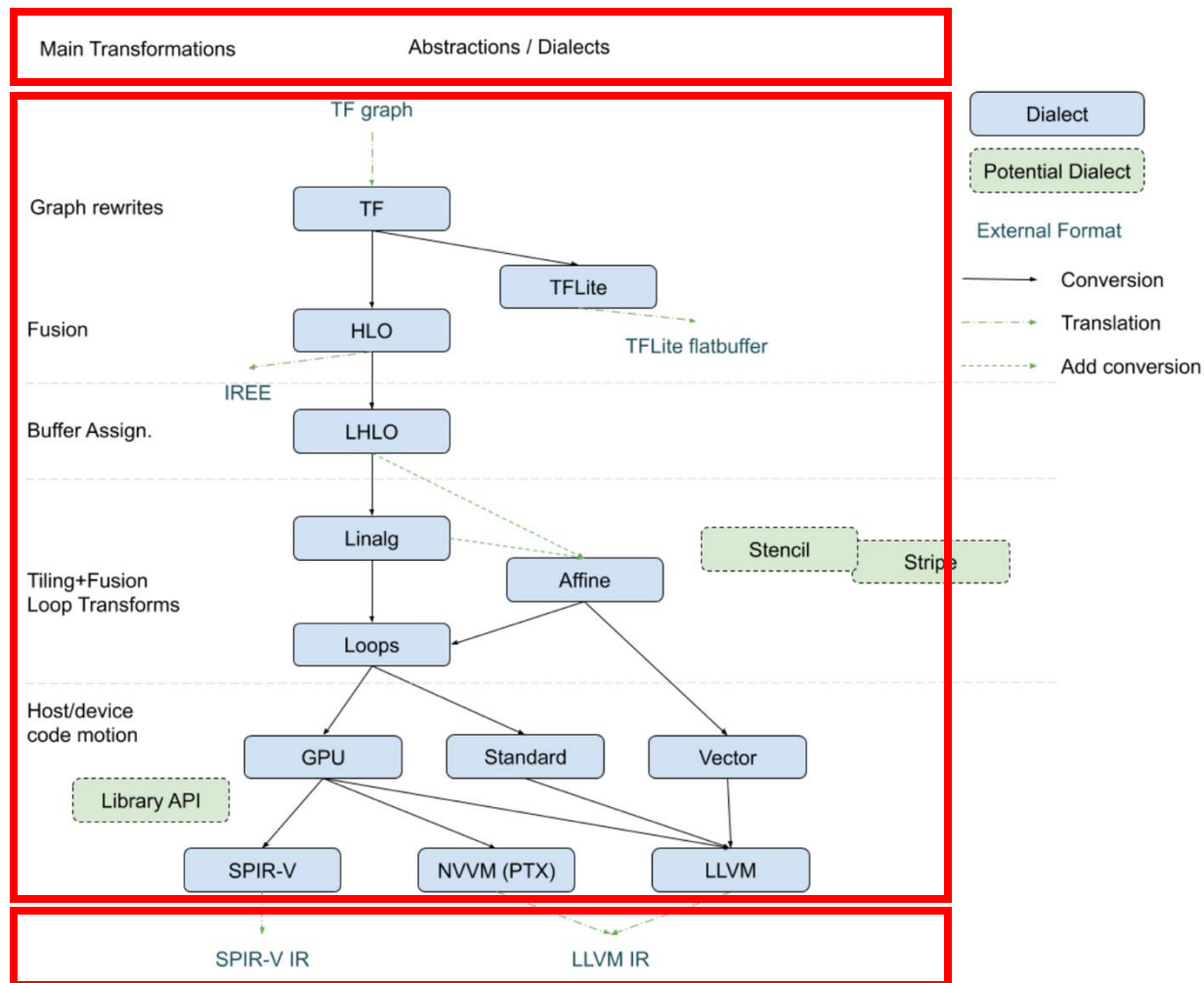


# Structure of MLIR

Frontend

Midend

Backend



# Let's set Docker environment

- run\_docker.sh

```
docker run -td --workdir /root --name 나만의이름 --gpus all corelabyonsei/mlir-tutorial:latest  
docker start 나만의이름
```

- exec\_docker.sh

```
docker exec -it 나만의이름 bash
```



# Practice 1: First Compilation

- Goal
  - Learn how to use MLIR opt
- Steps
  - 1) Write a simple high-level language program (**example.toy**)

```
1 def multiply_transpose(a, b) {  
2   return transpose(a) * transpose(b);  
3 }  
4  
5 def main() {  
6   var a<2, 3> = [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6]];  
7   var b<2, 3> = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6];  
8   var c = multiply_transpose(a, b);  
9   var d = multiply_transpose(b, a);  
10  print(d);  
11 }
```



# Practice 1: First Compilation

- Goal
  - Learn how to use MLIR opt
- Steps
  - 1) Write a simple high-level language program (**example.toy**)
  - 2) Generate **AST (ast)** with command **toyc-ch6**
  - 3) Generate **MLIR (mlir)** with command **toyc-ch6**
  - 4) Generate **LLVM dialect (mlir-llvm)** with command **toyc-ch6**
  - 5) Generate **LLVM IR (llvm)** with command **toyc-ch6**
- Command
  - Ex) **toyc-ch6 -emit=ast example.toy**

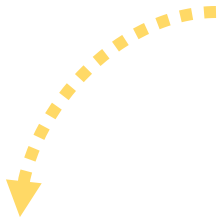
# MLIR: Example

- Example code (-emit=milr)

High-level lang

```
1 def multiply_transpose(a, b) {
2   return transpose(a) * transpose(b);
3 }
4
5 def main() {
6   var a<2, 3> = [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6]];
7   var b<2, 3> = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6];
8   var c = multiply_transpose(a, b);
9   var d = multiply_transpose(b, a);
10  print(d);
11 }
```

MLIR



```
1 module {
2   toy.func private @multiply_transpose(%arg0: tensor<*xf64>, %arg1: tensor<*xf64>) ->
3     %0 = toy.transpose(%arg0 : tensor<*xf64>) to tensor<*xf64>
4     %1 = toy.transpose(%arg1 : tensor<*xf64>) to tensor<*xf64>
5     %2 = toy.mul %0, %1 : tensor<*xf64>
6     toy.return %2 : tensor<*xf64>
7   }
8   toy.func @main() {
9     %0 = toy.constant dense<[[1.000000e+00, 2.000000e+00, 3.000000e+00], [4.000000e+00, 5.000000e+00, 6.000000e+00]]> : tensor<2x3xf64>
10    %1 = toy.reshape(%0 : tensor<2x3xf64>) to tensor<2x3xf64>
11    %2 = toy.constant dense<[1.000000e+00, 2.000000e+00, 3.000000e+00, 4.000000e+00, 5.000000e+00, 6.000000e+00]> : tensor<6xf64>
12    %3 = toy.reshape(%2 : tensor<6xf64>) to tensor<2x3xf64>
13    %4 = toy.generic_call @multiply_transpose(%1, %3) : (tensor<2x3xf64>, tensor<2x3xf64>) -> tensor<2x3xf64>
14    %5 = toy.generic_call @multiply_transpose(%3, %1) : (tensor<2x3xf64>, tensor<2x3xf64>) -> tensor<2x3xf64>
15    toy.print %5 : tensor<*xf64>
16    toy.return
17  }
18 }
```

# MLIR: Example

- Example code (-emit=milr)

High-level lang

```
1 def multiply_transpose(a, b) {  
2   return transpose(a) * transpose(b);  
3 }  
4  
5 def main() {  
6   var a<2, 3> = [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6]];  
7   var b<2, 3> = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6];  
8   var c = multiply_transpose(a, b);  
9   var d = multiply_transpose(b, a);  
10  print(d);  
11 }
```

Operation

Region

```
1 module {  
2   toy.func private @multiply_transpose(%arg0: tensor<*xf64>, %arg1: tensor<*xf64>) ->  
3     %0 = toy.transpose(%arg0 : tensor<*xf64>) to tensor<*xf64>  
4     %1 = toy.transpose(%arg1 : tensor<*xf64>) to tensor<*xf64>  
5     %2 = toy.mul %0, %1 : tensor<*xf64>  
6     toy.return %2 : tensor<*xf64>  
7 }  
8 toy.func @main() {  
9   %0 = toy.constant dense<[[1.000000e+00, 2.000000e+00, 3.000000e+00], [4.000000e+00,  
10  %1 = toy.reshape(%0 : tensor<2x3xf64>) to tensor<2x3xf64>  
11  %2 = toy.constant dense<[1.000000e+00, 2.000000e+00, 3.000000e+00, 4.000000e+00,  
12  %3 = toy.reshape(%2 : tensor<6xf64>) to tensor<2x3xf64>  
13  %4 = toy.generic_call @multiply_transpose(%1, %3) : (tensor<2x3xf64>, tensor<2x3>  
14  %5 = toy.generic_call @multiply_transpose(%3, %1) : (tensor<2x3xf64>, tensor<2x3>  
15  toy.print %5 : tensor<*xf64>  
16  toy.return  
17 }  
18 }
```

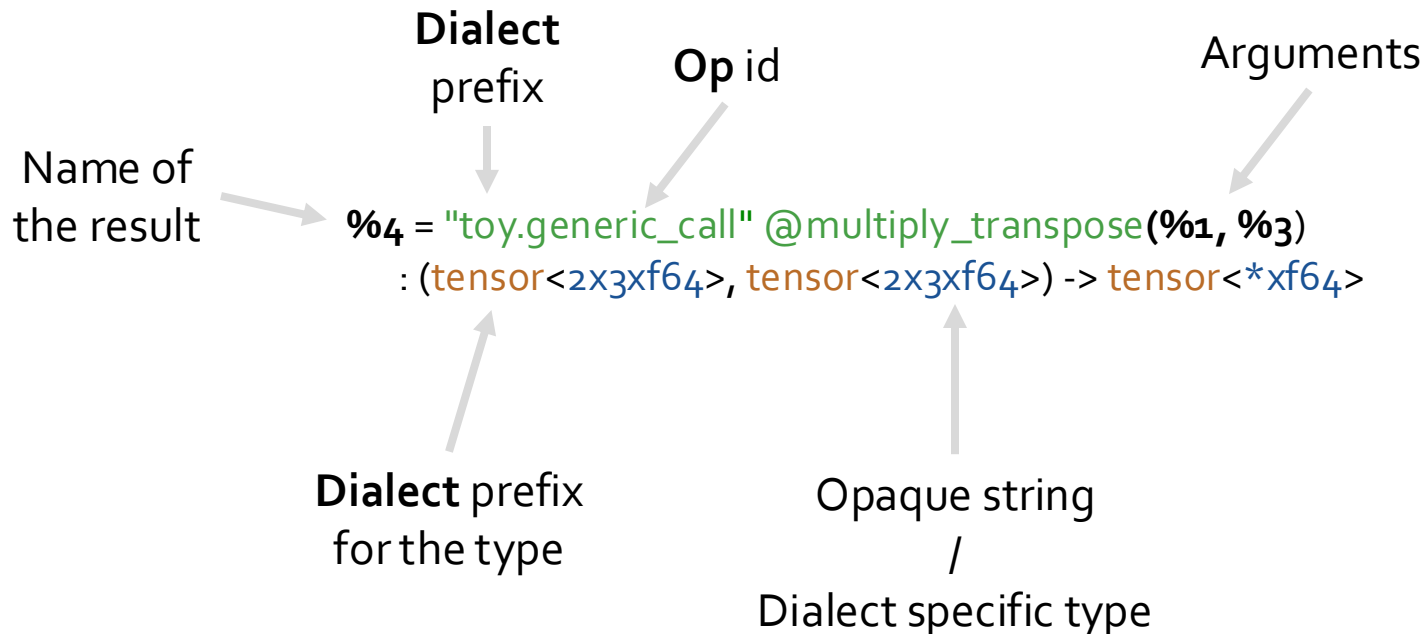
# MLIR: Components

- Operation, Region, Block

```
%results:2 = "d.operation"(%arg0, %arg1) ({  
  // Regions belong to Ops and can have multiple blocks. Region  
  ^block(%argument: !d.type): Block  
    // Ops have function types (expressing mapping).  
    %value = "nested.operation"() ({  
      // Ops can contain nested regions. Region  
      "d.op"() : () -> ()  
    }) : () -> (!d.other_type)  
    "consume.value"(%value) : (!d.other_type) -> ()  
  ^other_block: Block  
    "d.terminator"() [^block(%argument : !d.type)] : () -> ()  
})  
// Ops can have a list of attributes.  
{attribute="value" : !d.type} : () -> (!d.type, !d.other_type)
```

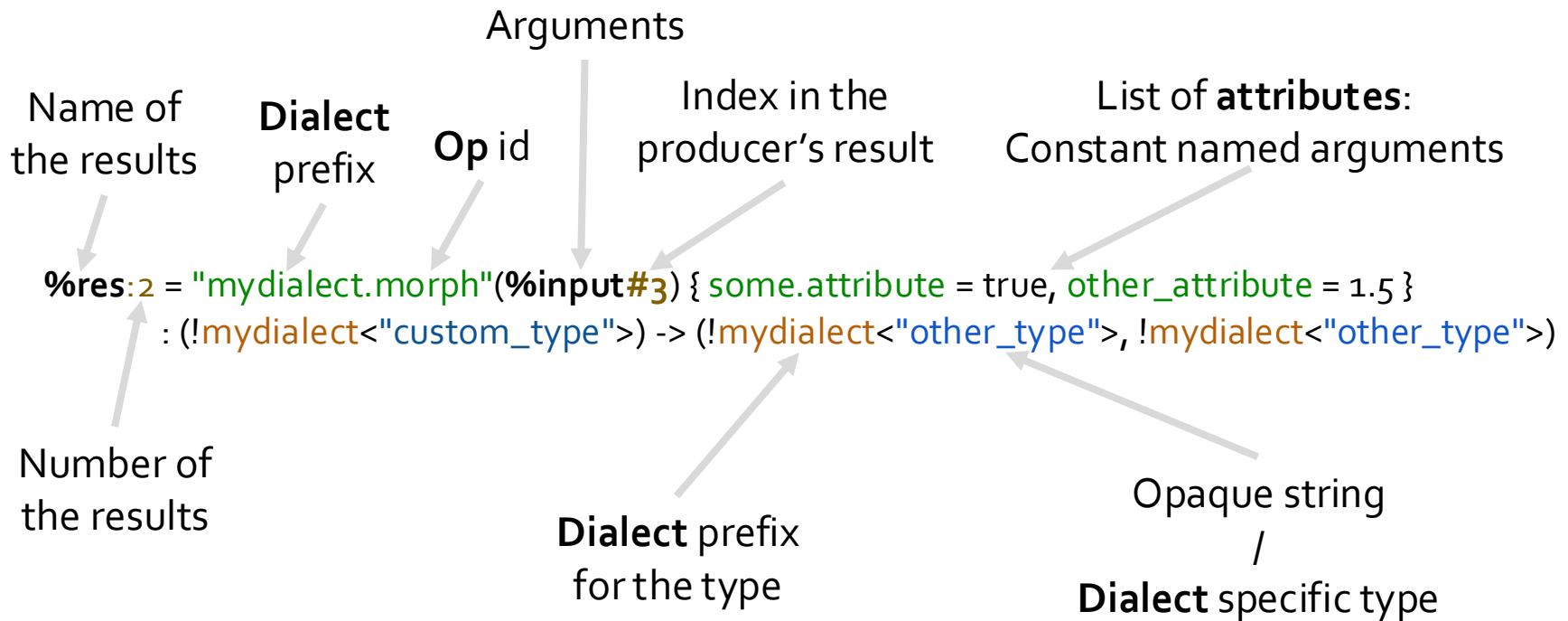
# Operations

- **Operation!** Not instruction (-emit=mlir)
  - No predefined set of instructions
  - Operations are like “opaque functions” to MLIR





# Operations



# Regions

- Container that holds one or more blocks

```
1 module {  
2   func @main() {  
3     ...  
4  
5     ^bb1(%105: i64): // 2 preds: ^bb0  
6       %106 = llvm.icmp "slt" %105, %105 : i64  
7       llvm.cond_br %106, ^bb2, ^bb6  
8     ^bb2: // pred: ^bb1  
9       %107 = llvm.mlir.constant(0 : index) : i64  
10      %108 = llvm.mlir.constant(2 : index) : i64  
11      %109 = llvm.mlir.constant(1 : index) : i64  
12      llvm.br ^bb3(%107 : i64)  
13  
14      ...  
15      llvm.return  
16    }  
17  }
```

Region

Block 1

Block 2

# Regions: SSACFG regions

- SSACFG (Static Single Assignment Control Flow Graph)
  - Describes control flow between blocks

```
1 func @example(%arg: i32) {  
2   ^bb0:  
3   |   cond_br %condition, ^bb1, ^bb2  
4   |  
5   ^bb1:  
6   |   // do something  
7   |   br ^bb3  
8   |  
9   ^bb2:  
10  |   // do something else  
11  |   br ^bb3  
12  |  
13  ^bb3:  
14  |   // merge point  
15 }
```

# Regions: Graph Regions

- Do not necessarily require control flow between blocks
- Used in representations like Data Flow Graphs or Computational Graphs

```
1 // A custom operation that encapsulates a Graph Region
2 graph_op {
3     // Entry Block (No explicit control flow from here)
4     ^bb0:
5         // Operations without control-flow dependencies
6         %result1 = some_op1
7         %result2 = some_op2
8         graph_terminator
9 }
```

# Blocks

- A Block is a list of operations
- Instructions inside the block are executed in order

```
1 module {
2   func @main() {
3     Block 1
4     ^bb1(%105: i64): // 2 preds: ^bb0, ^bb5
5       %106 = llvm.icmp "slt" %105, %103 : i64
6       llvm.cond_br %106, ^bb2, ^bb6
7     ^bb2: // pred: ^bb1
8       %107 = llvm.mlir.constant(0 : index) : i64
9       %108 = llvm.mlir.constant(2 : index) : i64
10      %109 = llvm.mlir.constant(1 : index) : i64
11      llvm.br ^bb3(%107 : i64)
12
13      ...
14      llvm.return
15    }
16  }
17 }
```

Block 1

Block 2

# Blocks: Single Static Assignment (SSA)

- Every value must be defined **only once**
  - In other words, every value has a **single** definition

```
%x = 1 + 2  
%x = %x + 3
```



```
%x = 1 + 2  
%y = %x + 3
```

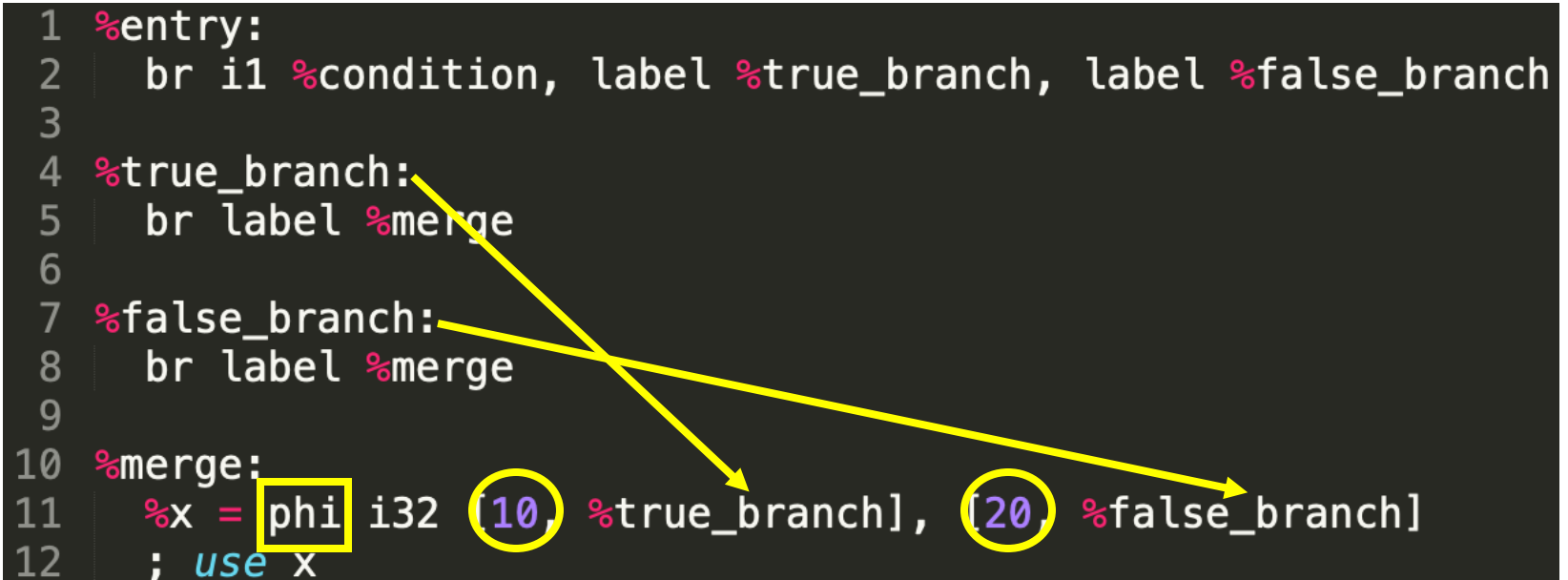


- Facilitate program analyses
  - Liveness Analysis: From **DEF** to last **USE**
  - Constant Propagation: If **DEF** is constant, then **USE** is also constant

# Blocks: Block argument

- In LLVM, there is phi-node

```
1 int x;  
2 if (condition) {  
3     x = 10;  
4 } else {  
5     x = 20;  
6 }  
7 // use x  
8
```



```
1 %entry:  
2   br i1 %condition, label %true_branch, label %false_branch  
3  
4 %true_branch:  
5   br label %merge  
6  
7 %false_branch:  
8   br label %merge  
9  
10 %merge:  
11   %x = phi i32 [10, %true_branch], [20, %false_branch]  
12   ; use x
```


# Blocks: Block argument

- In LLVM, there is phi-node

```
1 int x;  
2 if (condition) {  
3     x = 10;  
4 } else {  
5     x = 20;  
6 }  
7 // use x  
8
```



```
1 %entry:  
2   br i1 %condition, label %true_branch, label %false_branch  
3  
4 %true_branch:  
5   br label %merge  
6  
7 %false_branch:  
8   br label %merge  
9  
10 %merge:  
11   %x = phi i32 [10, %true_branch], [20, %false_branch]  
12   ; use x
```


Too low-level 



# Blocks: Block argument

- But in MLIR, Block Argument !

```
1 int x;  
2 if (condition) {  
3     x = 10;  
4 } else {  
5     x = 20;  
6 }  
7 // use x  
8
```



```
1 func @example(%condition: i1) {  
2     cond_br %condition, ^bb1, ^bb2  
3  
4     ^bb1:  
5     br ^bb3(10 : i32)  
6  
7     ^bb2:  
8     br ^bb3(20 : i32)  
9  
10    ^bb3(%x: i32):  
11    // use x  
12 }
```

# Blocks: Block argument

- But in MLIR, Block Argument !

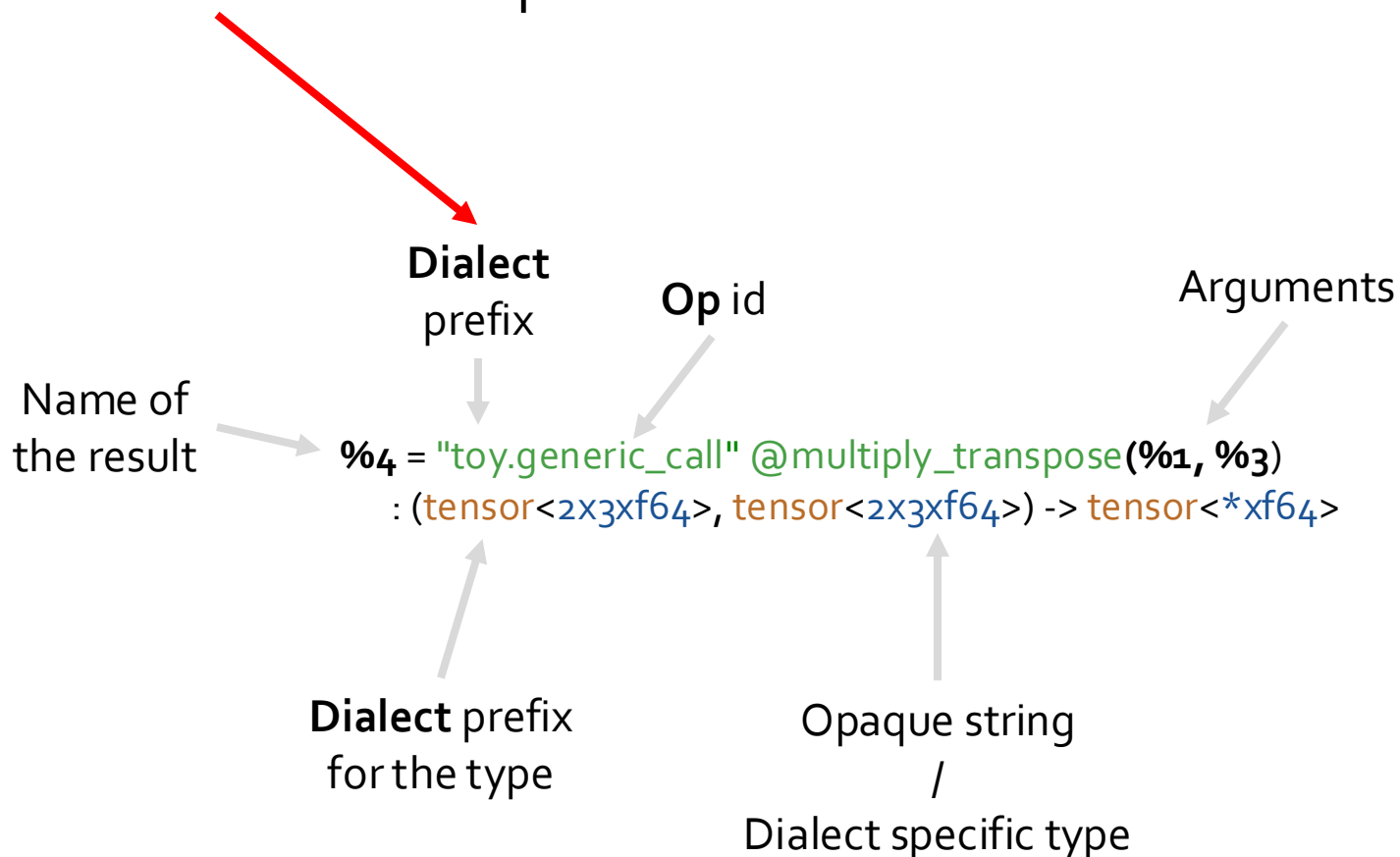
```
1 int x;  
2 if (condition) {  
3     x = 10;  
4 } else {  
5     x = 20;  
6 }  
7 // use x  
8
```

```
1 func @example(%condition: i1) {  
2     cond_br %condition, ^bb1, ^bb2  
3  
4 ^bb1:  
5     br ^bb3(10 : i32)  
6  
7 ^bb2:  
8     br ^bb3(20 : i32)  
9  
10 ^bb3(%x: i32):  
11     // use x  
12 }
```

similar to using parameters in  
real programming languages

# Now go back to Operations

- Dialects are the primitive unit of MLIR



# Create Toy Dialect: Directory setup

- `{PROJECT_ROOT}/include/Dialect/Toy`
  - for public include files | \*.td, \*.h, \*.hpp
- `{PROJECT_ROOT}/lib/Dialect/Toy`
  - for sources
- `{PROJECT_ROOT}/lib/Dialect /Toy/IR`
  - for operations | \*.cpp
- `{PROJECT_ROOT}/lib/Dialect/Toy/Transforms`
  - for transforms
- `{PROJECT_ROOT}/test/Dialect/Toy`
  - for tests

# Create Toy Dialect: Cmake configuration

- TableGen Targets

- {PROJECT\_ROOT}/include/Dialect/{Dialect Name}/IR/CMakeLists.txt

```
add_mlir_dialect({Dialect_Name}Ops {tablegen_target_name})
add_mlir_doc({Dialect_Name}Ops {Dialect_Name}Dialect Dialects/ -gen-dialect-doc)
```

- Library Targets

```
add_mlir_dialect_library({dialect-library-target}
    DEPENDS
    <tablegen-targets>

    LINK_COMPONENTS
    Core

    LINK_LIBS PUBLIC
    <some-other-library>
)
```

# Create Toy Dialect: Dialect Implementation

- Dialect definition in ODS format

```
def Toy_Dialect : Dialect {  
  let name = "toy";  
  
  let summary = "...";  
  
  let description = [{ ...}];  
  
  let cppNamespace = "mlir::toy";  
}  
  
class Toy_Op<string mnemonic, list<OpTrait> traits = []> :  
  Op<Toy_Dialect, mnemonic, traits>;
```

# Create Toy Dialect: Details

- Let's go to Docker





## Practice 2: Create transform pass

- Let's go to Docker

```
1 module {  
2   func @main(%arg0: tensor<2x3xf64>, %arg1: tensor<2x3xf64>) {  
3     %0 = "toy.add"(%arg0, %arg1) : (tensor<2x3xf64>, tensor<2x3xf64>) -> tensor<2x3xf64>  
4     %1 = "toy.add"(%arg0, %arg1) : (tensor<2x3xf64>, tensor<2x3xf64>) -> tensor<2x3xf64>  
5     toy.return %1 : tensor<2x3xf64>  
6   }  
7 }
```

- %0 is redundant again!
- Let's remove the "No Use" operations in Module