

# 15-411: LLVM

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Jan Hoffmann

Substantial portions courtesy of Deby Katz

and Gennady Pekhimenko, Olatunji Ruwase, Chris Lattner, Vikram Adve, and David Koes Carnegie

# What is LLVM?

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**A collection of modular and reusable compiler and toolchain technologies**

- Implemented in C++
- LLVM has been started by Vikram Adve and Chris Lattner at UIUC in 2000
- Originally ‘Low Level Virtual Machine’ for research on dynamic compilation
- Evolved into an umbrella project for a lot different things

# LLVM Components

---

- **LLVM Core:** optimizer for source- and target independent LLVM IR code generator for many architectures
- **Clang:** C/C++/Objective C compiler that uses LLVM Core  
Includes the Clang Static Analyzer for bug finding
- **libcc++:** implementation of C++ standard library
- **LLDB:** debugger for C, C++, and Objective C
- **dragonegg:** parser front end for compiling Fortran, Ada, ...
- ...

**Source**

**Frontends**

**LLVM IR**

**Backend**

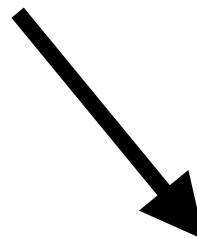
C

C++

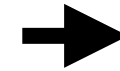
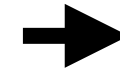
Objective-C



**Clang**



**Optimizer**



x86

ARM

Spark

D

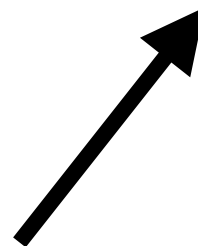
Swift

Delphi

Fortran

Ada

Haskell



LLVM Compiler Framework

# LLVM Analysis Passes

---

Basic-Block Vectorization

Profile Guided Block Placement

Break critical edges in CFG

Merge Duplicate Global

Simple constant propagation

Dead Code Elimination

Dead Argument Elimination

Dead Type Elimination

Dead Instruction Elimination

Dead Store Elimination

Deduce function attributes

Dead Global Elimination

Global Variable Optimizer

Global Value Numbering

Canonicalize Induction Variables

Function Integration/Inlining

Combine redundant instructions

Internalize Global Symbols

Interprocedural constant propa.

Jump Threading

Loop-Closed SSA Form Pass

Loop Strength Reduction

Rotate Loops

Loop Invariant Code Motion

# LLVM Analysis Passes

---

Canonicalize natural loops

Unroll loops

Unswitch loops

**-mem2reg:**

**Promote Memory to Register**

MemCpy Optimization

Merge Functions

Unify function exit nodes

Remove unused exception handling

Reassociate expressions

Demote all values to stack slots

Sparse Conditional Cons. Propaga.

Simplify the CFG

Code sinking

Strip all symbols from a module

Strip debug info for unused symbols

Strip Unused Function Prototypes

Strip all llvm.dbg.declare intrinsics

Tail Call Elimination

Delete dead loops

Extract loops into new

LLVM IR

# Example 1

---

```
int add (int x) {  
    int y = 8128;  
    return x+y; }  
}
```

**Clang**



```
; Function Attrs: nounwind ssp uwtable  
define i32 @add(i32 %x) #0 {  
    %1 = alloca i32, align 4  
    %y = alloca i32, align 4  
    store i32 %x, i32* %1, align 4  
    store i32 8128, i32* %y, align 4  
    %2 = load i32* %1, align 4  
    %3 = load i32* %y, align 4  
    %4 = add nsw i32 %2, %3  
    ret i32 %4  
}
```



# Example 1

Functions are parametrized with arguments and types.

```
int add (int x) {  
    int y = 8128;  
    return x+y; }  
}
```

**Clang**



```
; Function Attrs: nounwind ssp uwtable  
define i32 @add(i32 %x) #0 {  
    %1 = alloca i32, align 4  
    %y = alloca i32, align 4  
    store i32 %x, i32* %1, align 4  
    store i32 8128, i32* %y, align 4  
    %2 = load i32* %1, align 4  
    %3 = load i32* %y, align 4  
    %4 = add nsw i32 %2, %3  
    ret i32 %4  
}
```

# Example 1

Functions are parametrized with arguments and types.

```
int add (int x) {  
    int y = 8128;  
    return x+y; }  
}
```

**Clang**



Local vars are allocated on the stack; not in temps.

```
; Function Attrs: nounwind ssp uwtable  
define i32 @add(i32 %x) #0 {  
    %1 = alloca i32, align 4  
    %y = alloca i32, align 4  
    store i32 %x, i32* %1, align 4  
    store i32 8128, i32* %y, align 4  
    %2 = load i32* %1, align 4  
    %3 = load i32* %y, align 4  
    %4 = add nsw i32 %2, %3  
    ret i32 %4  
}
```

# Example 1

```
int add (int x) {  
    int y = 8128;  
    return x+y; }  
}
```

**Clang**



Functions are parametrized with arguments and types.

Local vars are allocated on the stack; not in temps.

```
; Function Attrs: nounwind ssp uwtable  
define i32 @add(i32 %x) #0 {  
    %1 = alloca i32, align 4  
    %y = alloca i32, align 4  
    store i32 %x, i32* %1, align 4  
    store i32 8128, i32* %y, align 4  
    %2 = load i32* %1, align 4  
    %3 = load i32* %y, align 4  
    %4 = add nsw i32 %2, %3  
    ret i32 %4  
}
```

Instructions have types: i32  
is for 32bit integers.

# Example 1

```
int add (int x) {  
    int y = 8128;  
    return x+y; }  
}
```

**Clang**



Functions are parametrized with arguments and types.

Local vars are allocated on the stack; not in temps.

```
; Function Attrs: nounwind ssp uwtable  
define i32 @add(i32 %x) #0 {  
    %1 = alloca i32, align 4  
    %y = alloca i32, align 4  
    store i32 %x, i32* %1, align 4  
    store i32 8128, i32* %y, align 4  
    %2 = load i32* %1, align 4  
    %3 = load i32* %y, align 4  
    %4 = add nsw i32 %2, %3  
    ret i32 %4  
}
```

Instructions have types: i32 is for 32bit integers.

No signed wrap: result of overflow undefined.

# Example2

```
int loop (int n) {  
    int i = n;  
    while(i<1000){i++;}  
    return i;  
}
```

**Clang**



```
; Function Attrs: nounwind ssp uwtable  
define i32 @loop(i32 %n) #0 {  
    %1 = alloca i32, align 4  
    %i = alloca i32, align 4  
    store i32 %n, i32* %1, align 4  
    %2 = load i32* %1, align 4  
    store i32 %2, i32* %i, align 4  
    br label %3  
  
; <label>:3                                ; preds = %6, %0  
    %4 = load i32* %i, align 4  
    %5 = icmp slt i32 %4, 1000  
    br i1 %5, label %6, label %9  
  
; <label>:6                                ; preds = %3  
    %7 = load i32* %i, align 4  
    %8 = add nsw i32 %7, 1  
    store i32 %8, i32* %i, align 4  
    br label %3  
  
; <label>:9                                ; preds = %3  
    %10 = load i32* %i, align 4  
    ret i32 %10  
}
```

# Example2

```
int loop (int n) {  
    int i = n;  
    while(i<1000){i++;}  
    return i;  
}
```

**Clang**



Basic blocks.



```
; Function Attrs: nounwind ssp uwtable  
define i32 @loop(i32 %n) #0 {  
    %1 = alloca i32, align 4  
    %i = alloca i32, align 4  
    store i32 %n, i32* %1, align 4  
    %2 = load i32* %1, align 4  
    store i32 %2, i32* %i, align 4  
    br label %3  
  
; <label>:3                                     ; preds = %6, %0  
    %4 = load i32* %i, align 4  
    %5 = icmp slt i32 %4, 1000  
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# Example2

```
int loop (int n) {  
    int i = n;  
    while(i<1000){i++;}  
    return i;  
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```

**Clang**



Basic blocks.

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; Function Attrs: nounwind ssp uwtable  
define i32 @loop(i32 %n) #0 {  
    %1 = alloca i32, align 4  
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    store i32 %n, i32* %1, align 4  
    %2 = load i32* %1, align 4  
    store i32 %2, i32* %i, align 4  
    br label %3
```

Predecs.  
in CFG.

```
; <label>:3                                ; preds = %6, %0  
    %4 = load i32* %i, align 4  
    %5 = icmp slt i32 %4, 1000  
    br i1 %5, label %6, label %9
```

```
; <label>:6                                ; preds = %3  
    %7 = load i32* %i, align 4  
    %8 = add nsw i32 %7, 1  
    store i32 %8, i32* %i, align 4  
    br label %3
```

```
; <label>:9                                ; preds = %3  
    %10 = load i32* %i, align 4  
    ret i32 %10  
}
```

# LLVM IR

---

- Three address pseudo assembly
- Reduced instruction set computing (RISC)
- Static single assignment (SSA) form
- Infinite register set
- Explicit type info and typed pointer arithmetic
- Basic blocks



# LLVM IR

---

- Three address pseudo assembly
- Reduced instruction set computing (RISC)
- Static single assignment (SSA) form
- Infinite register set
- Explicit type info and typed pointer arithmetic

- Basic blocks

```
for (i = 0; i < N; i++)  
    Sum(&A[i], &P);
```

```
loop:                                ; preds = %bb0, %loop  
    %i.1 = phi i32 [ 0, %bb0 ], [ %i.2, %loop ]  
    %AiAddr = getelementptr float*, %A, i32 %i.1  
    call void @Sum(float %AiAddr, %pair* %P)  
    %i.2 = add i32 %i.1, 1  
    %exitcond = icmp eq i32 %i.1, %N  
    br i1 %exitcond, label %outloop, label %loop
```

# LLVM IR

---

- Three address pseudo assembly
- Reduced instruction set computing (RISC)
- Static single assignment (SSA) form
- Infinite register set
- Explicit type info and typed pointer arithmetic
- Basic blocks

Stack allocated temps  
eliminated by mem2reg.

```
for (i = 0; i < N; i++)  
    Sum(&A[i], &P);
```

```
loop:                                ; preds = %bb0, %loop  
    %i.1 = phi i32 [ 0, %bb0 ], [ %i.2, %loop ]  
    %AiAddr = getelementptr float*, %A, i32 %i.1  
    call void @Sum(float %AiAddr, %pair* %P)  
    %i.2 = add i32 %i.1, 1  
    %exitcond = icmp eq i32 %i.1, %N  
    br i1 %exitcond, label %outloop, label %loop
```

# LLVM IR Structure

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- **Module contains Functions and GlobalVariables**
  - Module is unit of compilation, analysis, and optimization
- **Function contains BasicBlocks and Arguments**
  - Functions roughly correspond to functions in C
- **BasicBlock contains list of instructions**
  - Each block ends in a control flow instruction
- **Instruction is opcode + vector of operands**

# Type System

---

- [llvm.org](http://llvm.org):

“The LLVM type system is one of the most important features of the intermediate representation.

Being typed enables a number of optimizations to be performed on the intermediate representation directly, without having to do extra analyses on the side before the transformation.

A strong type system makes it easier to read the generated code and enables novel analyses and transformations that are not feasible to perform on normal three address code representations”

# Type System

---

Greg Morrisett and Karl Crary:  
Typed Assembly (1998)

- [llvm.org](http://llvm.org):

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Being typed enables a number of optimizations to be performed on the intermediate representation directly, without having to do extra analyses on the side before the transformation.

A strong type system makes it easier to read the generated code and enables novel analyses and transformations that are not feasible to perform on normal three address code representations”

# Single Value Types

---

## Integer Types

`iN`

# Single Value Types

---

## Integer Types

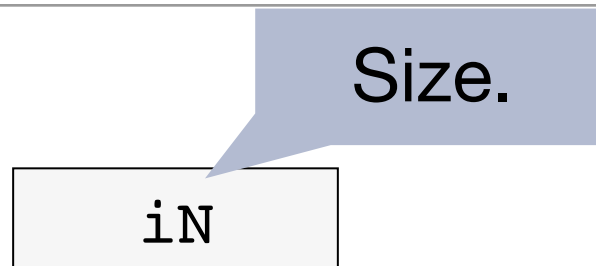
iN

Size.

# Single Value Types

---

## Integer Types



|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <code>i1</code> | a single-bit integer. |
|-----------------|-----------------------|

---

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| <code>i32</code> | a 32-bit integer. |
|------------------|-------------------|

---

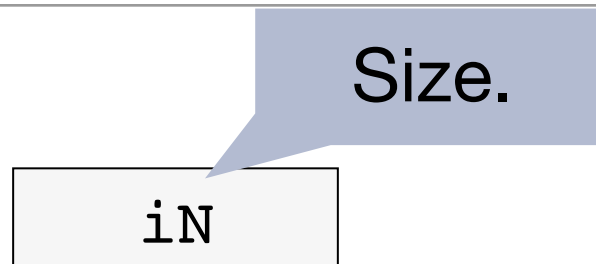
|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <code>i1942652</code> | a really big integer of over 1 million bits. |
|-----------------------|--|



# Single Value Types

---

## Integer Types



|          |  |
|----------|--|
| i1       | a single-bit integer.                        |
| i32      | a 32-bit integer.                            |
| i1942652 | a really big integer of over 1 million bits. |

## Float Types

|        |                             |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| half   | 16-bit floating point value |
| float  | 32-bit floating point value |
| double | 64-bit floating point value |

# Functions and Void

---

## Void

void

## Function Types

<returntype> (<parameter list>)

i32 (i32)

function taking an i32, returning an i32

---

float (i16, i32 \*) \*

Pointer to a function that takes an i16 and a pointer to i32, returning float.

---

i32 (i8\*, ...)

A vararg function that takes at least one pointer to i8 (char in C), which returns an integer

# Functions and Void

## Void

void

No representation  
and no size.

## Function Types

`<returntype> (<parameter list>)`

i32 (i32)

function taking an i32, returning an i32

float (i16, i32 \*) \*

Pointer to a function that takes an i16 and a pointer to i32, returning float.

i32 (i8\*, ...)

A vararg function that takes at least one pointer to i8 (char in C), which returns an integer

# Pointers and Vectors

---

## Pointer Types

`<type>*`

`[4 x i32]*`

A pointer to array of four i32 values.

---

`i32 (i32*) *`

A pointer to a function that takes an i32\*, returning an i32.

## Vectors

`< <# elements> x <elementtype> >`

`<4 x i32>`

Vector of 4 32-bit integer values.

---

`<8 x float>`

Vector of 8 32-bit floating-point values.

---

`<2 x i64>`

Vector of 2 64-bit integer values.

# Arrays and Structs

---

## Arrays Types

|   |
|---|
| <code>[&lt;# elements&gt; x &lt;elementtype&gt;]</code> |
|---|

|                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <code>[40 x i32]</code> | Array of 40 32-bit integer values. |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|

---

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <code>[12 x [10 x float]]</code> | 12x10 array of single precision floating point values. |
|----------------------------------|--|

---

|                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <code>[2 x [3 x [4 x i16]]]</code> | 2x3x4 array of 16-bit integer values. |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

## Struct Types

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <code>%T1 = type { &lt;type list&gt; }</code>         | <code>; Normal struct type</code> |
| <code>%T2 = type &lt;{ &lt;type list&gt; }&gt;</code> | <code>; Packed struct type</code> |

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <code>{ i32, i32, i32 }</code> | A triple of three i32 values |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|

---

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <code>{ float, i32 (i32) *} </code> | A pair, where the first elem. is a float and the second element is a pointer to a function that takes an i32, returning an i32. |
|-------------------------------------|---|

---

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <code>&lt;{ i8, i32 }&gt;</code> | A packed struct has no alignment or padding |
|----------------------------------|---|

# Arrays and Structs

## Arrays Types

Unclear what this is for;  
0 means unknown?

<https://lvm.org/docs/GetElementPtr.html#what-happens-if-an-array-index-is-out-of-bounds>

```
[<# elements> x <elementtype>]
```

|            |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| [40 x i32] | Array of 40 32-bit integer values. |
|------------|------------------------------------|

---

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| [12 x [10 x float]] | 12x10 array of single precision floating point values. |
|---------------------|--|

---

|                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| [2 x [3 x [4 x i16]]] | 2x3x4 array of 16-bit integer values. |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|

## Struct Types

```
%T1 = type { <type list> }      ; Normal struct type  
%T2 = type <{ <type list> }>    ; Packed struct type
```

|                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| { i32, i32, i32 } | A triple of three i32 values |
|-------------------|------------------------------|

---

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| { float, i32 (i32) *} | A pair, where the first elem. is a float and the second element is a pointer to a function that takes an i32, returning an i32. |
|-----------------------|---|

---

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <{ i8, i32 }> | A packed struct has no alignment or padding |
|---------------|---|

Generating LLVM Code

# High-Level Approach

---

**It is not necessary to directly produce SSA form:**

- Allocate all variables on the stack
- Store instructions are not limited by SSA form

```
store i32 %x, i32* %p, align 4
```
- Use LLVM's **mem2reg** optimization to turn stack locations into variables
  - promotes memory references to be register references
  - changes alloca instructions which only have loads and stores as uses
  - introduces phi functions



# Options

---

- Using the LLVM C++ interface & OCaml or Haskell bindings
- Generating an LLVM assembly (.ll file)

```
define i32 @main() #0 {  
entry:  
    %retval = alloca i32, align 4  
    %a = alloca i32, align 4  
    ...
```

- Generating LLVM bitcode (.bc file)

```
42 43 C0 DE 21 0C 00 00  
06 10 32 39 92 01 84 0C  
0A 32 44 24 48 0A 90 21  
18 00 00 00 98 00 00 00  
E6 C6 21 1D E6 A1 1C DA
```

# Options

---

- Using the LLVM C++ interface & OCaml or Haskell bindings
- Generating an LLVM assembly (.ll file)

```
define i32 @main() #0 {  
  entry:  
    %retval = alloca i32, align 4  
    %a = alloca i32, align 4  
    ...
```



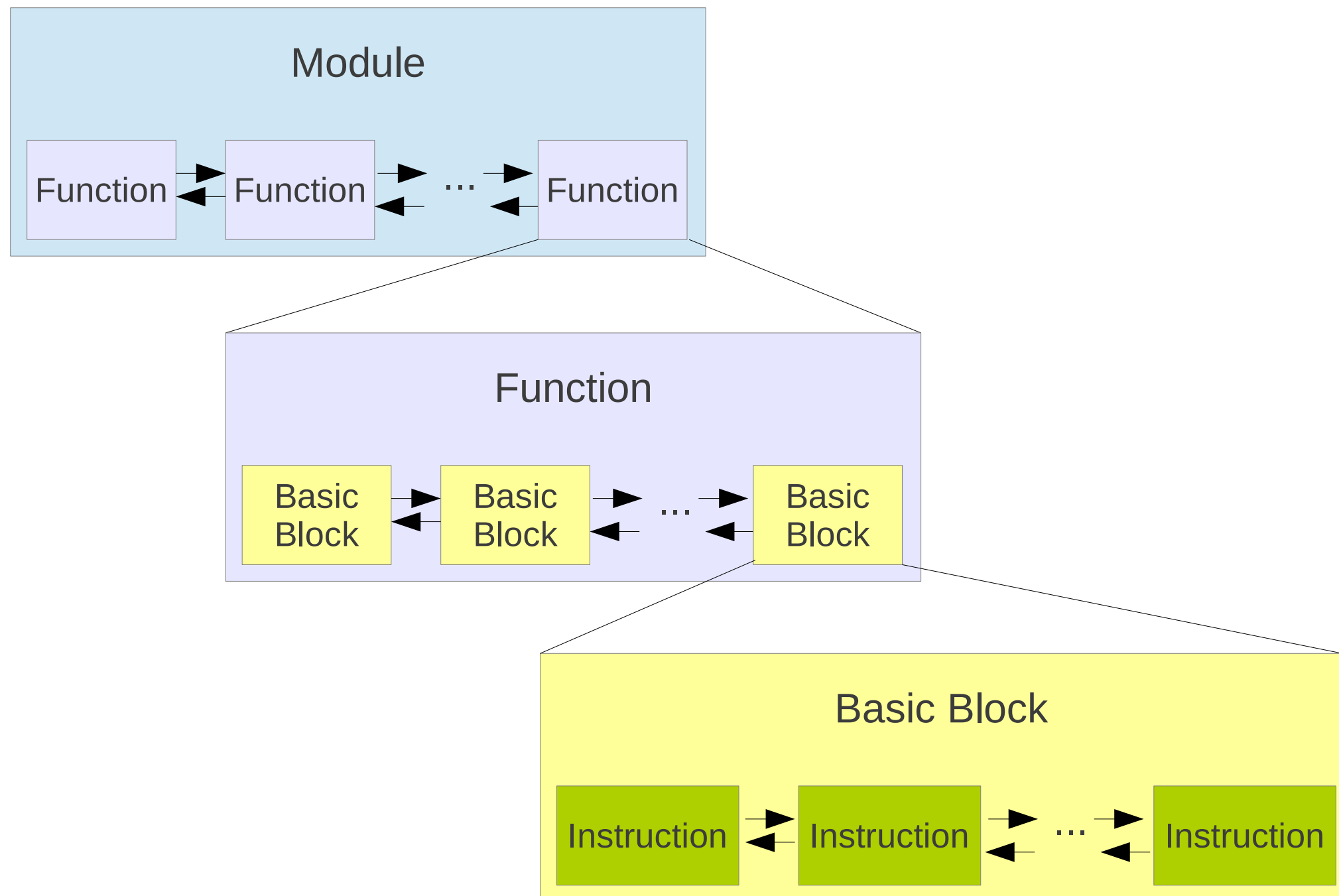
Recommended.

- Generating LLVM bitcode (.bc file)

```
42 43 C0 DE 21 0C 00 00  
06 10 32 39 92 01 84 0C  
0A 32 44 24 48 0A 90 21  
18 00 00 00 98 00 00 00  
E6 C6 21 1D E6 A1 1C DA
```

# C++ Interface

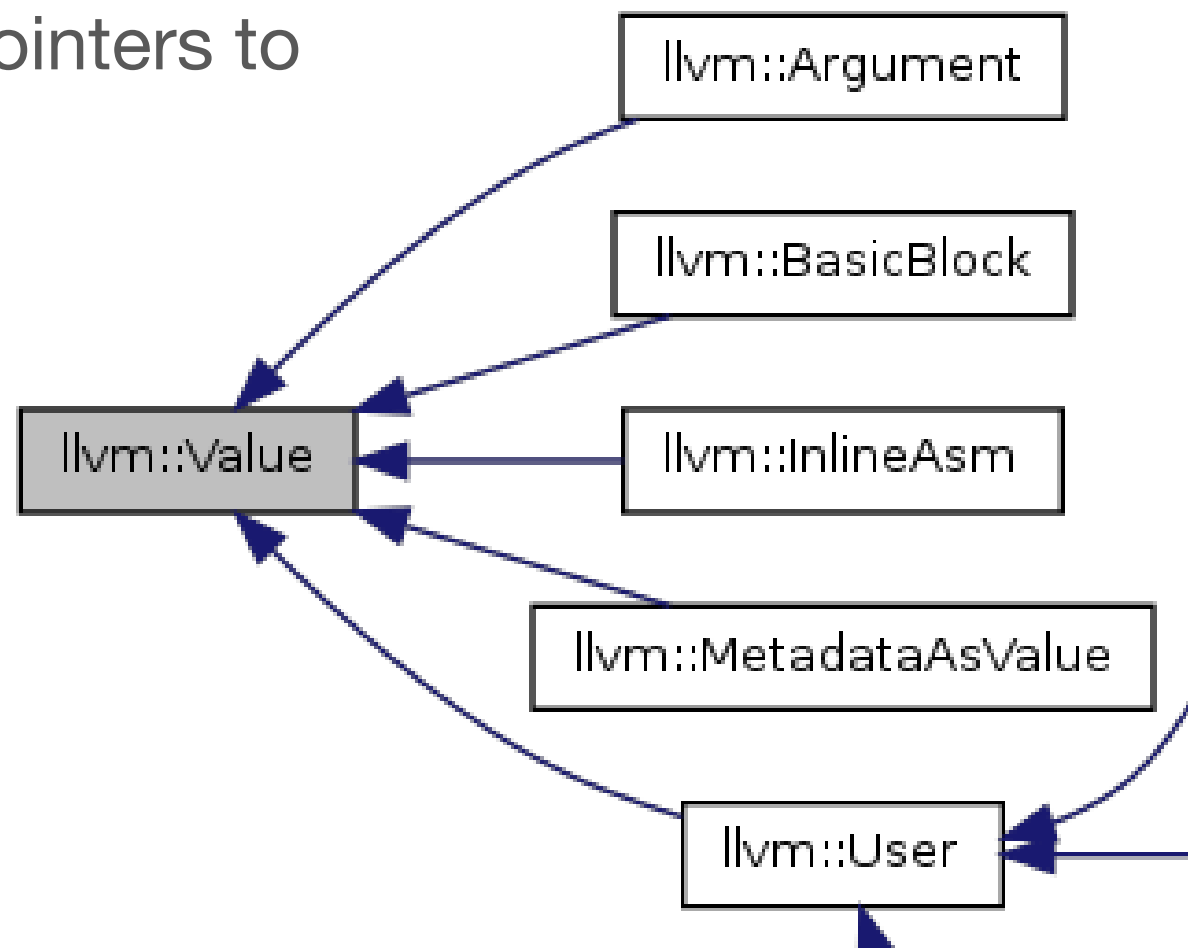
---



# C++ Interface

---

- Object oriented
- Instruction doubles as reference for written value
- Every value contains a list of pointers to instructions that use the value



# .ll Files

```
; ModuleID = 'llvm.c'
target datalayout = "e-m:o-i64:64-f80:128-n8:16:32:64-S128"
target triple = "x86_64-apple-macosx10.10.0"

; Function Attrs: nounwind ssp uwtable
define i32 @add(i32 %x) #0 {
    %1 = alloca i32, align 4
    %y = alloca i32, align 4
    store i32 %x, i32* %1, align 4
    store i32 8128, i32* %y, align 4
    %2 = load i32* %1, align 4
    %3 = load i32* %y, align 4
    %4 = add nsw i32 %2, %3
    ret i32 %4
}

; Function Attrs: nounwind ssp uwtable
define i32 @loop(i32 %n) #0 {
    %1 = alloca i32, align 4
    %i = alloca i32, align 4
    store i32 %n, i32* %1, align 4
    %2 = load i32* %1, align 4
    store i32 %2, i32* %i, align 4
    br label %3

; <label>:3                                ; preds = %6, %0
    %4 = load i32* %i, align 4
    %5 = icmp slt i32 %4, 1000
    br i1 %5, label %6, label %9

; <label>:6                                ; preds = %3
    %7 = load i32* %i, align 4
    %8 = add nsw i32 %7, 1
    store i32 %8, i32* %i, align 4
    br label %3

; <label>:9                                ; preds = %3
    %10 = load i32* %i, align 4
    ret i32 %10
}

attributes #0 = { nounwind ssp uwtable "less-precise-fpmad"="false"
"no-frame-pointer-elim"="true" "no-frame-pointer-elim-non-leaf"... }

!llvm.module.flags = !{!0}
!llvm.ident = !{!1}

!0 = !{i32 1, !"PIC Level", i32 2}
!1 = !{!"Apple LLVM version 7.0.0 (clang-700.0.72)"}

```

# LLVM Coding Basics

- **Written in modern C++, uses the STL:**
  - Particularly the vector, set, and map classes
- **LLVM IR is almost all doubly-linked lists:**
  - **Module** contains lists of **Functions** & **GlobalVariables**
  - **Function** contains lists of **BasicBlocks** & **Arguments**
  - **BasicBlock** contains list of **Instructions**
- **Linked lists are traversed with iterators:**

```
Function *M = ...
```

```
for (Function::iterator I = M->begin(); I != M->end(); ++I) {
```

```
    BasicBlock &BB = *I;
```

```
    ...
```

**See also:**

[docs/ProgrammersManual.html](http://docs/ProgrammersManual.html)

# LLVM Pass Manager

- **Compiler is organized as a series of “passes”:**
  - Each pass is one analysis or transformation
- **Four types of passes:**
  - **ModulePass**: general interprocedural pass
  - **CallGraphSCCPass**: bottom-up on the call graph
  - **FunctionPass**: process a function at a time
  - **BasicBlockPass**: process a basic block at a time
- **Constraints imposed (e.g. FunctionPass):**
  - FunctionPass can only look at “current function”
  - Cannot maintain state across functions

**See also:**

[docs/WritingAnLLVMPass.html](https://llvm.org/docs/WritingAnLLVMPass.html)

# 9

## LLVM tools

- **Basic LLVM Tools**

- llvm-dis: Convert from .bc (IR binary) to .ll (human-readable IR text)
- llvm-as: Convert from .ll (human-readable IR text) to .bc (IR binary)
- opt: LLVM optimizer
- llc: LLVM static compiler
- llvm-link - LLVM bitcode linker
- llvm-ar - LLVM archiver

- **Some Additional Tools**

- bugpoint - automatic test case reduction tool
- llvm-extract - extract a function from an LLVM module
- llvm-bcanalyzer - LLVM bitcode analyzer
- FileCheck - Flexible pattern matching file verifier
- tblgen - Target Description To C++ Code Generator

**See also:**

<http://llvm.org/docs/CommandGuide/>



## opt tool: LLVM modular optimizer

- **Invoke arbitrary sequence of passes:**
  - Completely control PassManager from command line
  - Supports loading passes as plugins from .so files

**opt -load foo.so -pass1 -pass2 -pass3 x.bc -o y.bc**
- **Passes “register” themselves:**
  - **When you write a pass, you must write the registration**

```
RegisterPass<FunctionInfo> X("function-info",  
    "15745: Function Information");
```

# **Lecture 6**

## **More on the LLVM Compiler**

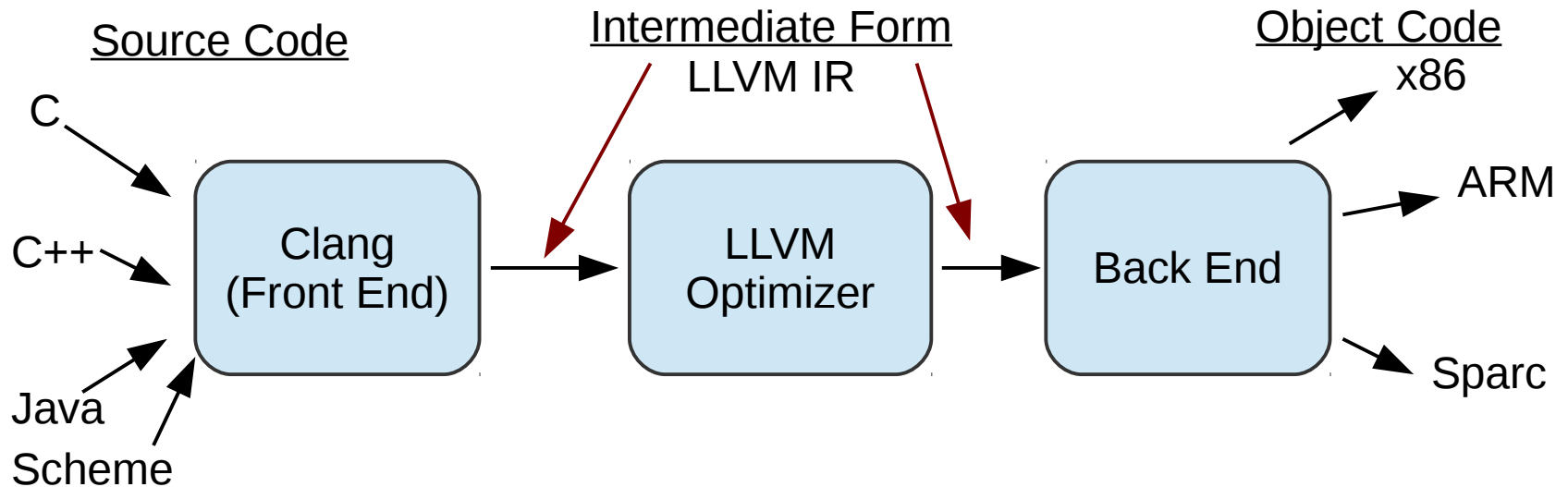
***Deby Katz***

***Thanks to Luke Zarko and Gabe Weisz for some content***

# Outline

- **Understanding and Navigating the LLVM IR**
- **Writing Passes**
  - Changing the LLVM IR
- **Using Passes**
- **Useful Documentation**

# Understanding the LLVM IR



- **Recall that LLVM uses an intermediate representation for intermediate steps**
  - Used for all steps between the front end (translating from source code) and the back end (translating to machine code)
  - Language- and mostly target-independent form
    - Target dictates alignment and pointer sizes in the IR, little else

## Understanding the LLVM IR - Processing Programs

- **Iterators for modules, functions, blocks, and uses**
  - Use these to access nearly every part of the IR data structure
- **There are functions to inspect data types and constants**
- **Many classes have dump() member functions that print information to standard error**
  - In GDB, use `p obj->dump()` to print the contents of that object

# Navigating the LLVM IR - Iterators

- **Module::iterator**

- Modules are the large units of analysis
- Iterates through the functions in the module

- **Function::iterator**

- Iterates through a function's basic blocks

- **BasicBlock::iterator**

- Iterates through the instructions in a basic block

- **Value::use\_iterator**

- Iterates through **uses** of a value
- Recall that instructions are treated as values

- **User::op\_iterator**

- Iterates over the operands of an instruction (the “user” is the instruction)
- Prefer to use convenient accessors defined by many instruction classes

## Navigating the LLVM IR - Hints on Using Iterators

- **Be very careful about modifying any part of the object iterated over during iteration**
  - Can cause unexpected behavior
- **Use ++i rather than i++ and pre-compute the end**
  - Avoid problems with iterators doing unexpected things while you are iterating
  - Especially for fancier iterators
- **There is overlap among iterators**
  - E.g., `InstIterator` walks over all instructions in a function, overlapping range of `Function::iterator` and `BasicBlock::iterator`
- **Most iterators automatically convert a pointer to the appropriate object type**
  - Not all: `InstIterator` does not

# Understanding the LLVM IR - Interpreting An Instruction

- **The Instruction class has several subclasses, for various types of operations**

- E.g., LoadInst, StoreInst, AllocalInst, CallInst, BranchInst
- Use the dyn\_cast<> operator to check to see if the instruction is of the specified type
  - If so, returns a pointer to it
  - If not, returns a null pointer
  - For example,

```
if (AllocationInst *AI = dyn_cast<AllocationInst>(Val)) {  
    // ... If we get here, *AI is an alloca instruction  
}
```

- **Several classifications of instructions:**

- Terminator instructions, binary instructions, bitwise binary instructions, memory instructions, and other instructions



## Understanding the LLVM IR - Terminator Instructions

- **Every BasicBlock must end with a terminator instruction**
  - Terminator instructions can only go at the end of a BB
- **ret, br, switch, indirectbr, invoke, resume, and unreachable**
  - ret - return control flow to calling function
  - br, switch, indirectbr - transfer control flow to another BB in the same function
  - invoke - transfers control flow to another function

## Understanding the LLVM IR - Binary Instructions

- **Binary operations do most of the computation in a program**
  - Handle nearly all of the arithmetic
- **Two operands of the same type; result value has same type**
- **E.g., 'add', 'fadd', 'sub', 'fsub', 'mul', 'fmul', 'udiv', 'sdiv', 'fdiv'**
  - 'f' indicates floating point, 's' indicates signed, 'u' indicates unsigned
- **Bitwise binary operations**
  - Frequently used for optimizations
  - Two operands of the same type; one result value of the same type

# Understanding the LLVM IR - Memory Instructions

- **LLVM IR does not represent memory locations (SSA)**
  - Instead, uses named locations
- **alloca**
  - Allocates memory on the stack frame of the current function, reclaimed at return
- **load** - Reads from memory, often in a location named by a previous alloca
- **store**- Writes to memory, often in a location named by a previous alloca
- **For example:**

```
%ptr = alloca i32           ; yields {i32*}:ptr
store i32 3, i32* %ptr      ; stores 3 in the location named by %ptr
%val = load i32* %ptr       ; yields {i32}:val = i32 3
```

- **getelementptr**
  - gets the address of a sub-element of an aggregate data structure (derived type)

# Understanding the LLVM IR - SSA

- **LLVM uses Static Single Assignment (SSA) to represent memory**
  - More on SSA later in the class
- **May produce “phi” instructions**
  - First instruction(s) in a BB
  - Give the different potential values for a variable, depending on which block preceded this one
- **Arbitrary/unlimited number of abstract “registers”**
  - Actual register use is determined at a lower level - target dependent
  - Can use as many as you want
  - Really, they are stack locations or SSA values

## Understanding the LLVM IR - Instructions as Values

- **SSA representation means that an Instruction is treated as the same as the Value it produces**
- **Values start with % or @**
  - % indicates a local variable
  - @ indicates a global variable
  - Instructions that produce values can be named
- **%foo = inst in the LLVM IR just gives a name to the instruction in the syntax**

# Understanding the LLVM IR - Types in the LLVM IR

- **Strong type system enables some optimizations without additional analysis**
- **Primitive Types**
  - Integers (iN of N bits, N from 1 to  $2^{23}-1$ ), Floating point (half, float, double, etc.)
  - Others (x86mmx, void, etc.)
- **Derived Types**
  - Arrays ([# elements (  $\geq 0$ ) x element type])
  - Functions (returntype (paramlist))
  - Pointers (type\*, type addrspace(N)\*)
  - Vectors (<# elements (  $> 0$ ) x element type])
  - Structures({ typelist })
- **All derived types of a particular “shape” are considered the same**
  - Does not matter if same-shaped types have different names
  - LLVM may rename them

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## Writing Passes - Changing the LLVM IR

- **eraseFromParent()**
  - Remove the instruction from basic block, drop all references, delete
- **removeFromParent()**
  - Remove remove the instruction from basic block
  - Use if you will re-attach the instruction
  - Does not drop references (or clear the use list), so if you don't re-attach it Bad Things will happen
- **moveBefore/insertBefore/insertAfter are also available**
- **ReplaceInstWithValue and ReplaceInstWithInst are also useful to have**



# Writing Passes - Analysis Passes vs. Optimization Passes

- **Two Major kinds of passes:**
  - Analysis: provide information (Like FunctionInfo)
  - Transform: modify the program (Like LocalOpts)
- **getAnalysisUsage method**
  - Defines how this pass interacts with other passes
  - For example,

```
// A pass that modifies the program, but does not modify the CFG
// The pass requires the LoopInfo pass
void LICM::getAnalysisUsage(AnalysisUsage &AU) const {
    AU.setPreservesCFG();
    AU.addRequired<LoopInfo>();
}
```

- setPreservesAll - used in analysis pass that does not modify the program

## Writing Passes - Correctness

- **When you modify code, be careful not to change the meaning!**
  - For our assignments, and in most situations, you want the effect of the code to be the same as before you altered it
- **Think about multi-threaded correctness**
- **You can change the meaning of code while you are modifying the code within your pass, but you should restore the meaning before the pass finishes**
- **You need to check for correctness on your own, because LLVM has very limited built-in correctness checking**

## Writing Passes - Module Invariants

- **LLVM has module invariants that should stay the same before and after your pass**
  - Some module invariant examples:
    - Types of binary operator parameters are the same
    - Terminator instructions only at the end of BasicBlocks
    - Functions are called with correct argument types
    - Instructions belong to Basic blocks
    - Entry node has no predecessor
- **You can break module invariants while in your pass, but you should repair them before you finish**
- **opt automatically runs a pass (-verify) to check module invariants**
  - **But it doesn't check correctness in general!**

## Writing Passes - Parameters

- **The CommandLine library allows you to add command line parameters very quickly**
  - Conflicts in parameter names won't show up until runtime, since passes are loaded dynamically

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## Using Passes

- **For homework assignments, do not use passes provided by LLVM unless instructed to**
  - We want you to implement the passes yourself to understand how they really work
- **For projects, you can use whatever you want**
  - Your own passes or LLVM's passes
- **Some useful LLVM passes follow**

## Some Useful Passes - mem2reg transform pass

- **If you have alloca instructions that only have loads and stores as uses**
  - Changes them to register references
  - May add SSA features like “phi” instructions
- **Sometimes useful for simplifying IR**
  - Confuses easily

## Some Useful Passes - Loop information (-loops)

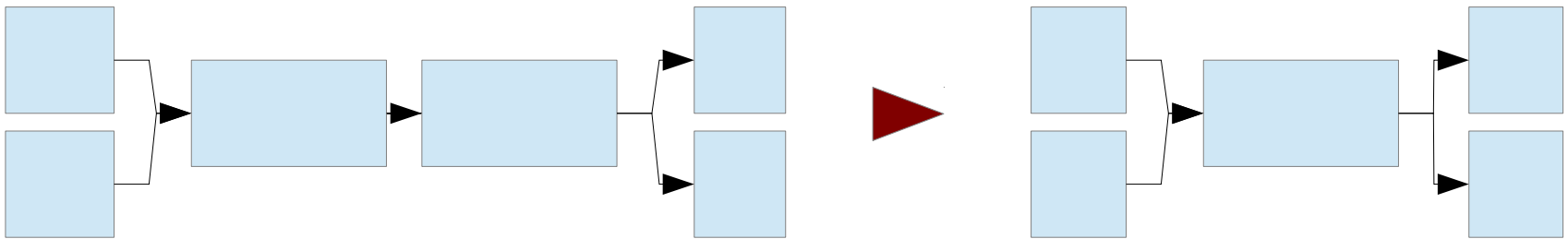
- **llvm/Analysis/LoopInfo.h**
- **Reveals:**
  - The basic blocks in a loop
  - Headers and pre-headers
  - Exit and exiting blocks
  - Back edges
  - “Canonical induction variable”
  - Loop Count



## Some Useful Passes - Simplify CFG (-simplifycfg)

- **Performs basic cleanup**

- Removes unnecessary basic blocks by merging unconditional branches if the second block has only one predecessor



- Removes basic blocks with no predecessors
- Eliminates phi nodes for basic blocks with a single predecessor
- Removes unreachable blocks

## Some Useful Passes

- **Scalar Evolution (-scalar-evolution)**
  - Tracks changes to variables through nested loops
- **Target Data (-targetdata)**
  - Gives information about data layout on the target machine
  - Useful for generalizing target-specific optimizations
- **Alias Analyses**
  - Several different passes give information about aliases
  - E.g., does \*A point to the same location as \*B?
  - If you know that different names refer to different locations, you have more freedom to reorder code, etc.

## Other Useful Passes

- **Liveness-based dead code elimination**
  - Assumes code is dead unless proven otherwise
- **Sparse conditional constant propagation**
  - Aggressively search for constants
- **Correlated propagation**
  - Replace select instructions that select on a constant
- **Loop invariant code motion**
  - Move code out of loops where possible
- **Dead global elimination**
- **Canonicalize induction variables**
  - All loops start from 0
- **Canonicalize loops**
  - Put loop structures in standard form

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## Some Useful LLVM Documentation

- **LLVM Programmer's Manual**
  - <http://llvm.org/docs/ProgrammersManual.html>
- **LLVM Language Reference Manual**
  - <http://llvm.org/docs/LangRef.html>
- **Writing an LLVM Pass**
  - <http://llvm.org/docs/WritingAnLLVMPass.html>
- **LLVM's Analysis and Transform Passes**
  - <http://llvm.org/docs/Passes.html>
- **LLVM Internal Documentation**
  - <http://llvm.org/docs/doxygen/html/>
  - May be easier to search the internal documentation from the <http://llvm.org> front page

## Further Reading

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<http://llvm.org/docs/LangRef.html>

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs/academic/class/15745-s13/public/lectures/L6-LLVM-Detail-1up.pdf>