50.051 Programming Language Concepts

W11-S2 (Bonus) Intermediate Code Generation

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Code is legal!

Definition (Legal Code):

A **legal code** is a program that adheres to all the rules of a programming language. It passed through various stages, including:

- Lexical Analysis
- Syntax Analysis
- Semantic Analysis

Property: A code is considered legal if it satisfies the requirements of lexical analysis, syntax analysis, semantic analysis.

A code that is deemed legal should be able to run correctly, after it has been transformed into machine code.

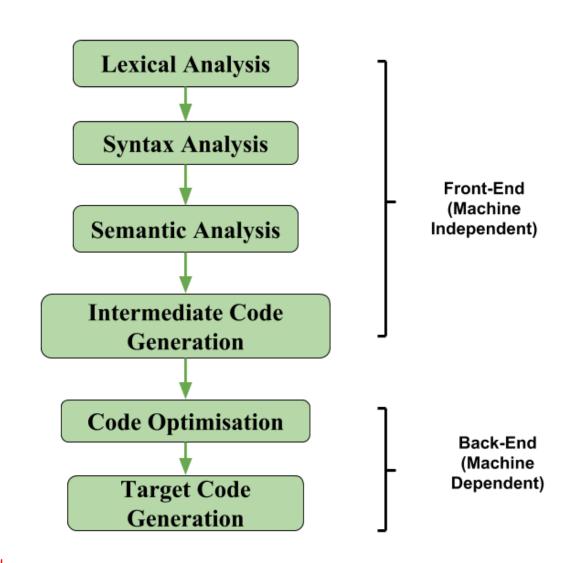
The middle-end of a compiler

Definition (The middle-end part of a compiler):

The middle-end of a compiler follows the front-end analysis and it consists of a series of operations and transformations to optimize and improve its efficiency.

It involves tasks, such as:

- Intermediate code generation
- Code optimization,
- and Data-flow analysis.

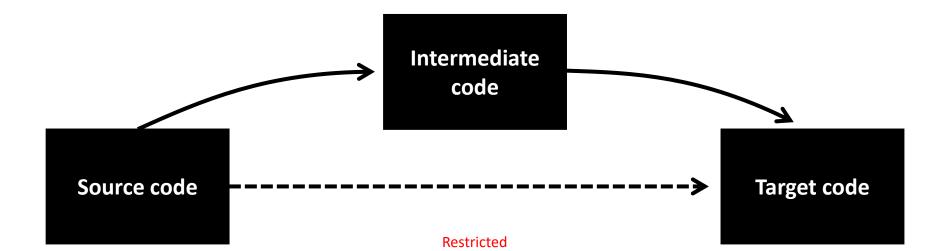


Intermediate code generation

Definition (Intermediate code generation):

Intermediate code generation is the process of transforming the source code into a code that is more abstract and closer to machine language.

Making a direct jump from source code to target code might prove difficult.



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Making a direct jump from source code to target code might prove difficult.

For this reason, an intermediate code representation is often easier to manipulate and allows for optimization.

The intermediate code is not specific to any particular hardware or operating system and can be easily transformed into the final machine code (Intermediate code is roughly a high-level assembly code?).

Three-address code representation

Definition (Three-address code representation):

Three-address code (or TAC) is a low-level intermediate code representation used by compilers to facilitate optimization and code generation.

It is called "three-address" because each instruction in the code can have at most three operands.

A typical three-address code instruction has the following format:

operand1 = operand2 operator operand3

Three-address code representation

For instance, the C code below can be transformed...

...into its equivalent three-address code representation.

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdio.h>

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#include <stdio.h>

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#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdio.h

#in
```

Overview

Our plan for today!

- Introduction to TAC.
- TAC for simple expressions.
- TAC for functions and function calls.
- TAC for objects.
- TAC for arrays.
- Generating TAC.
- A few low-level details.

A quick note before we start

An important note before we start

- When generating IR at this level, you do not need to worry about optimizing it.
- It is okay to generate IR that has lots of unnecessary assignments, redundant computations, uses many temporary variables, etc.

- In the next lecture, we will discuss how to optimize IR code.
- Optimization is tricky, but interesting!

CFG for TAC

• Technically, the three-address code has a syntax and CFG of its own.

$$P \rightarrow SP \mid \epsilon$$

$$S \rightarrow id := id op id$$

$$S \rightarrow id := op id$$

$$S \rightarrow id := id$$

$$S \rightarrow push id$$

$$S \rightarrow \text{if id goto } L$$

$$S \rightarrow L$$
:

$$S \rightarrow jump L$$

$$id \rightarrow (any identifier name)$$

op
$$\rightarrow$$
 (any basic operator e.g. +, -, *, /, ==, <,

$$L \rightarrow L0 \mid L1 \mid ... \text{ (block name)}$$

Normally, many more production rules for S...

Definition (basic block in TAC):

A basic block consists of a sequence of instructions in TAC, with:

- No labels (except at the first instruction),
- No jumps (except at the last instruction of the block).

Core idea behind basic blocks:

- Cannot jump in the middle of a basic block, only the beginning,
- Cannot jump out of a block, except at the end of it,
- Basic block is then a single-entry and single-exit code segment.

A basic block always writes as:

- Start with a block name, by convention, in the form of Ln, with n an integer.
- Has elementary operations in TAC format.
- Could have conditional structures, using if.
- Goto/jump could reference current block or another block.

For instance

L1:

Question: Which C code could have potentially generated this TAC?

For instance

L1:

$$w := x - 1$$

$$z := w > 0$$
if z goto L1

jump L2

```
Question: Which C code could
                                       For instance
have potentially generated this
TAC?
                                       L1:
                                             w := x - 1
int x = 4;
                                             z := w > 0
                    (Some code LO)
•••
                                             if z goto L1
do {
                                             jump L2
      x = x - 1
\} while (x > 0)
           (Some more code in L2)
```

Restricted

Control flow graph

Definition (control-flow graph):

A control-flow graph is a directed graph with basic blocks as nodes, and an edge from block A to block B if the execution can pass from the last instruction in A to the first instruction in B.

- E.g., the last instruction in A is jump LB
- E.g., execution can fall-through from block A to block B

```
LO:
     x := 1
     i := 1
L1:
      x := x^*x
      i := i+1
      if i < 10 goto L1
      jump L2
```



C code

int a; int b; a = 3 b = 1 c = 5 + 2*b d = a*a + b*c

TAC code

Observations

- The "three" in "three-address code" refers to the upmost number of operands in any instruction.
- Could technically have instructions with only two operands.
- Evaluating an expression with more than three subexpressions requires the introduction of temporary variables.

Question: who holds the key to how to deconstruct a long mathematical expression into smaller three-operands expressions with the right precedence order?

Observations

- The "three" in "three-address code" refers to the upmost number of operands in any instruction.
- Could technically have instructions with only two operands.
- Evaluating an expression with more than three subexpressions requires the introduction of temporary variables.

Question: who holds the key to how to deconstruct a long mathematical expression into smaller three-operands expressions with the right precedence order?

Answer: Your parse tree/abstract syntax tree from earlier!

C code

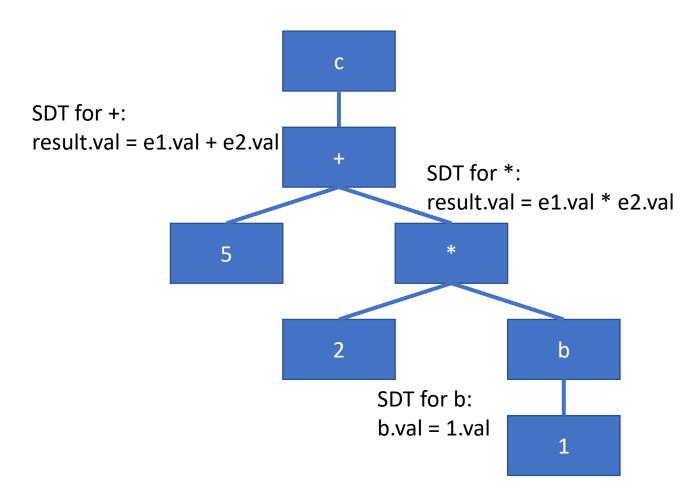
int a; int b;

a = 3

b = 1

c = 5 + 2*b

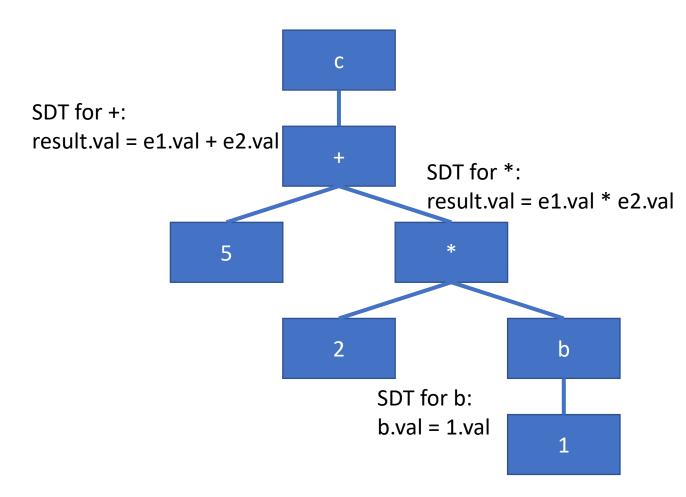
d = a*a + b*c



Your final translation is in the abstract syntax tree from earlier!

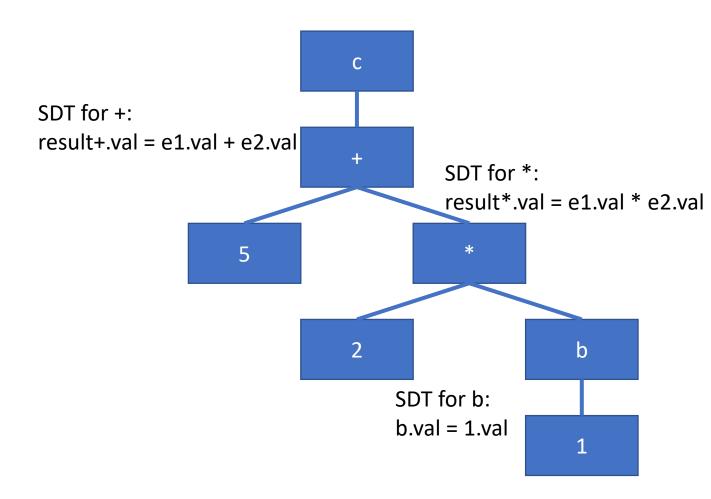
Remember, we have an AST,

- Annotated with elementary operations (syntax analysis),
- Annotated with scope information (semantic analysis),
- And annotated with type information (semantic analysis).



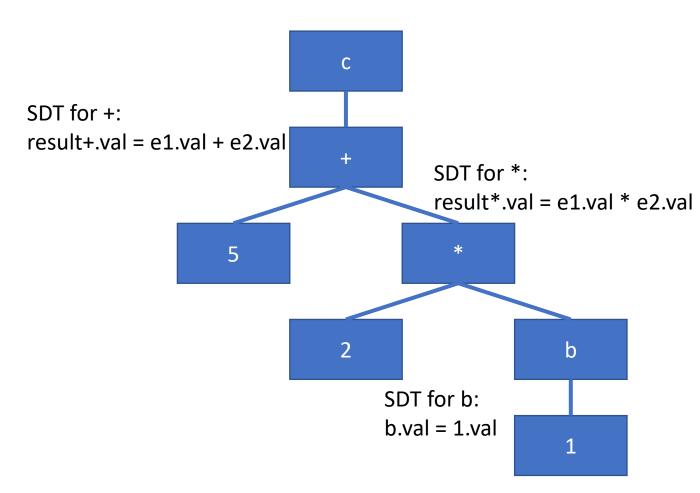
Collecting each of the SDT instructions in the AST using our recursive descent tree algorithm/DFS gives...

b.val = 1.val result.val = e1.val * e2.val result.val = e1.val + e2.val

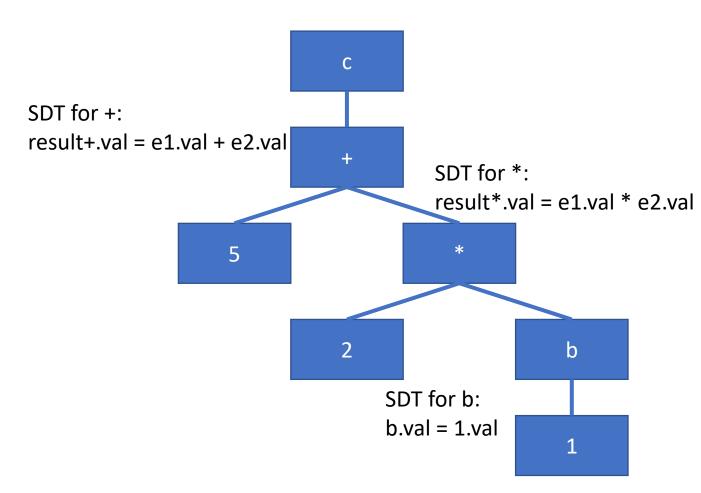


Using _tx notations in order to disambiguate and recognizing connections...

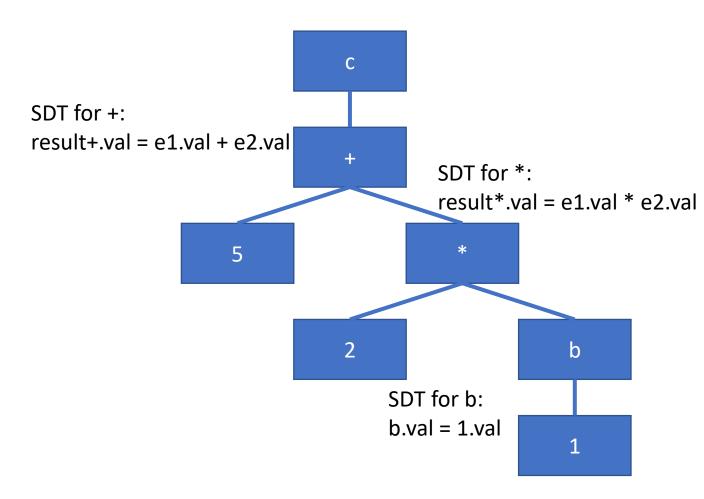
```
_t0.val = 1.val
_t1.val = 2.val * _t0.val
_t2.val = 5.val + _t1.val
```



Finally, recognizing that constant.val = constant (e.g. 5.val = 5)



Repeat for the AST computing the value of d and chain instructions together!



Our SDT expressions are quite close to the TAC expressions already. All we need is

- A mapping to translate our SDT elementary operations into their TAC equivalents (SDT: e.val = a.val + b.val → TAC: e:= a + b).
- A function that will correctly link variables using the edges of our abstract syntax tree (easily done).
- A function that will open registers *_tn* and keep a counter on n.

Could be easily implemented (but would require an implementation of an abstract syntax tree object during parsing, which we did not do!).

Core idea for implementation: define a code generation, or *cgen()* function, whose behaviour is described below in a few scenarios.

```
cgen(k) = { // here k refers to a constant literal
Choose a new temporary _tn using our counter n;
Increment n by 1;
Emit (_tn = k );
Return _tn;
}
```

Core idea for implementation: define a code generation, or *cgen()* function, whose behaviour is described below in a few scenarios.

```
cgen(id) = { // here id refers to an identifier (could be a _tn)
Choose a new temporary _tn using our counter n;
Increment n by 1;
Emit (_tn = id );
Return _tn;
}
```

Core idea for implementation: define a code generation, or *cgen()* function, whose behaviour is described below in a few scenarios.

```
cgen(id = k) = { // here id refers to an identifier (could be a _tn)
// and k refers to a constant literal.
Emit (id = k);
Return null;
}
```

Core idea for implementation: define a code generation, or *cgen()* function, whose behaviour is described below in a few scenarios. $cgen(e1 + e2) = {$ Choose three new temporary t using our counter n (we shall name them as tn, t(n+1), t(n+2)); *Increment n by 3;* Let tn = cgen(e1); Let t(n+1) = cgen(e2); Emit(t(n+2) = tn + t(n+1));Return _t(n+2);

For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 0.

```
cgen(e1 + e2) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as tn, t(n+1), t(n+2));
Increment n by 3;
Let tn = cgen(e1);
Let t(n+1) = cgen(e2);
Emit(t(n+2) = tn + t(n+1));
Return t(n+2);
```

For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 0.

```
cgen(5 + x) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as tn, t(n+1), t(n+2));
Increment n by 3;
Let tn = cgen(5);
Let t(n+1) = cgen(x);
Emit(t(n+2) = tn + t(n+1));
Return t(n+2);
```

For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 0.

```
cgen(5 + x) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as t0, t1, t2);
Increment n by 3;
Let t0 = cgen(5);
Let _{t1} = cgen(x);
Emit ( t^2 = t^0 + t^1);
Return t2;
```

For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 3. $cgen(5 + x) = {$ Choose three new temporary t using our counter n (we shall name them as t0, t1, t2); *Increment n by 3;* Let t0 = cgen(5); Let t1 = cgen(x); Emit ($t^2 = t^0 + t^1$); Return t2;

For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 3.

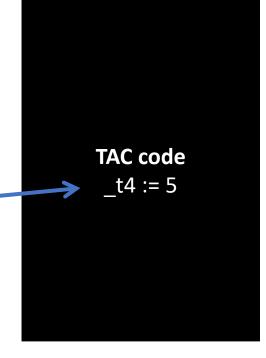
```
cgen(5 + x) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as t0, t1, t2);
Increment n by 3;
                                   cgen(5) = {
Let t0 = cgen(5);
                                   Choose a new temporary _tn using our counter n;
                                   Increment n by 1;
Let t1 = cgen(x);
                                   Emit (tn = k);
Emit ( t^2 = t^0 + t^1);
                                   Return tn;
Return _t2;
```

For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 4.

```
cgen(5 + x) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as t0, t1, t2);
Increment n by 3;
                                  cgen(5) = {
Let t0 = cgen(5);
                                   Choose _t4
                                   Increment n by 1;
Let t1 = cgen(x);
                                  Emit (tn = k);
Emit ( t^2 = t^0 + t^1);
                                   Return tn;
Return _t2;
```

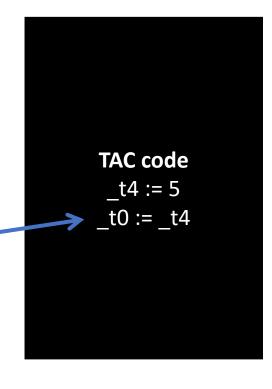
For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 4.

```
cgen(5 + x) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as t0, t1, t2);
Increment n by 3;
                                  cgen(5) = {
Let t0 = cgen(5);
                                   Choose t4
                                   Increment n by 1;
Let t1 = cgen(x);
                                  Emit (t4 = 5);
Emit ( t^2 = t^0 + t^1);
                                   Return t4;
Return _t2;
```



For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 4.

```
cgen(5 + x) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as t0, t1, t2);
Increment n by 3;
                                  cgen(5) = {
Let _{t0} = cgen(5);
                                   Choose _t4
                                   Increment n by 1;
Let t1 = cgen(x);
                                   Emit (_t4 = 5);
Emit ( t2 = t0 + t1);
                                   Return_t4;
Return t2;
```

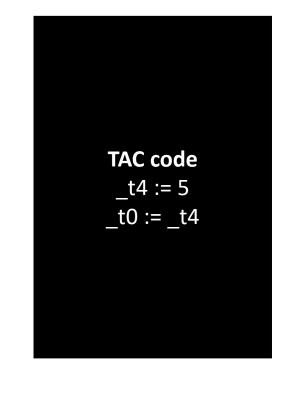


For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 3.

```
cgen(5 + x) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as t0, t1, t2);
Increment n by 3;
                                   cgen(id) = {
Let t0 = cgen(5);
                                   Choose a new temporary _tn using our counter n;
                                   Increment n by 1;
Let t1 = cgen(x);
                                   Emit ( tn = id );
Emit ( t^2 = t^0 + t^1);
                                   Return tn;
Return _t2;
```

For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 5.

```
cgen(5 + x) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as t0, t1, t2);
Increment n by 3;
                                   cgen(x) = {
Let t0 = cgen(5);
                                   Choose _t5
                                   Increment n by 1;
Let _{t1} = cgen(x);
                                   Emit ( tn = id );
Emit ( t^2 = t^0 + t^1);
                                   Return tn;
Return t2;
```



For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 4.

```
cgen(5 + x) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as t0, t1, t2);
Increment n by 3;
                                    cgen(x) = {
Let t0 = cgen(5);
                                    Choose t5
                                                                     TAC code
                                                                      t4 := 5
                                    Increment n by 1;
Let t1 = cgen(x);
                                                                      t0 := t4
                                    Emit (_t5 = x);
Emit ( t^2 = t^0 + t^1);
                                    Return tn;
Return _t2;
```

For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 4.

```
cgen(5 + x) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as t0, t1, t2);
Increment n by 3;
                                   cgen(x) = {
Let t0 = cgen(5);
                                   Choose t5
                                   Increment n by 1;
Let _{t1} < cgen(x);
                                   Emit (t5 = x);
Emit ( t^2 = t^0 + t^1);
                                   Return _t5;
Return t2;
```

TAC code
_t4 := 5
_t0 := _t4
_t5 := x
_t1 := _t5

For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 4.

```
cgen(5 + x) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as t0, t1, t2);
Increment n by 3;
Let t0 = cgen(5);
Let t1 = cgen(x);
Emit ( t^2 = t^0 + t^1); -
Return _t2;
```

TAC code
_t4 := 5
_t0 := _t4
_t5 := x
_t1 := _t5
_t2 := _t0 + _t1

For instance, let us assume we have the expression 5 + x and n = 4.

```
cgen(5 + x) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as t0, t1, t2);
Increment n by 3;
Let t0 = cgen(5);
Let t1 = cgen(x);
Emit ( t^2 = t^0 + t^1);
                      In case there are more
Return t2; ———
                              operations after this!
```

TAC code
_t4 := 5
_t0 := _t4
_t5 := x
_t1 := _t5
_t2 := _t0 + _t1

Remember what we said earlier

A quick note before we start

An important note before we start

- When generating IR at this level, you do not need to worry about optimizing it.
- It is okay to generate IR that has lots of unnecessary assignments, redundant computations, uses many temporary variables, etc.
- In the next lecture, we will discuss how to optimize IR code.
- Optimization is tricky, but interesting!

TAC code (not optimal but works!)

Practice: TAC for booleans

Question 1: Following our idea for cgen(e1 + e2), how would you define a cgen() for Boolean operations, e.g. cgen(e1 <= e2)?

Remember that the CFG of the TAC languages allows for ==, < and || operations, but not <=!

Question 2: Using our cgen() functions from earlier, how would you encode in TAC the operation "(5 + x) <= 10"? Show your steps.

Practice: TAC for booleans

Question 1: Following our idea for cgen(e1 + e2), how would you define a cgen() for Boolean operations, e.g. cgen(e1 <= e2)?

Remember that the CFG of the TAC languages allows for ==, < and || operations, but not <=!

Question 2: Using our cgen() functions from earlier, how would you encode in TAC the operation "(5 + x) <= 10"? Show your steps.

Answer: to be shown on board.

Let us now assume that we have figured our TAC cgen() functions for all Boolean operations.

Question: How would I encode an if statement in TAC code?

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What could *cgen(if S1 S2 else S3)* be, with S1, S2 and S3 being statements of some sort?

Let us now assume that we have figured our TAC cgen() functions for all Boolean operations.

Question: How would I encode an if statement in TAC code?

$$z = x$$
;

else

$$z = y$$
;

$$z = z^*z$$
;

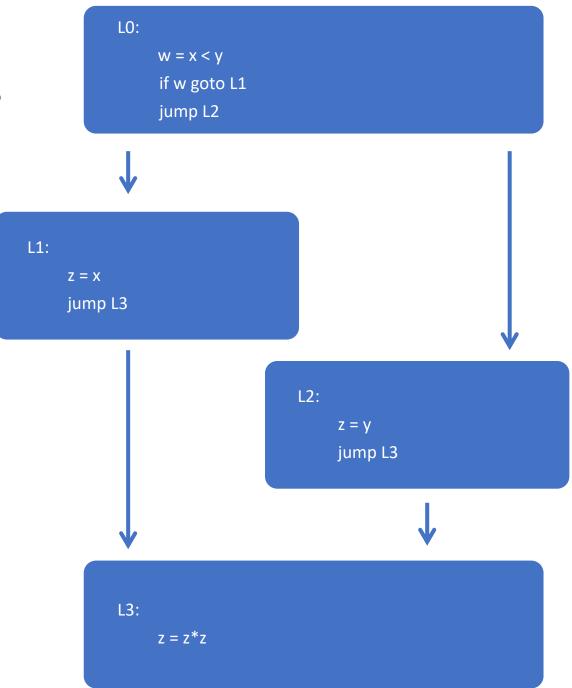
What could *cgen(if S1 S2 else S3)* be, with S1, S2 and S3 being statements of some sort?

Remember two things:

 This if statement could be represented as a control-flow graph.

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What could *cgen(if S1 S2 else S3)* be, with S1, S2 and S3 being statements of some sort?

Remember two things:

- This if statement could be represented as a control-flow graph.
- Our TAC grammar allows for

$$S \rightarrow if id goto L$$

 $S \rightarrow L:$
 $S \rightarrow jump L$

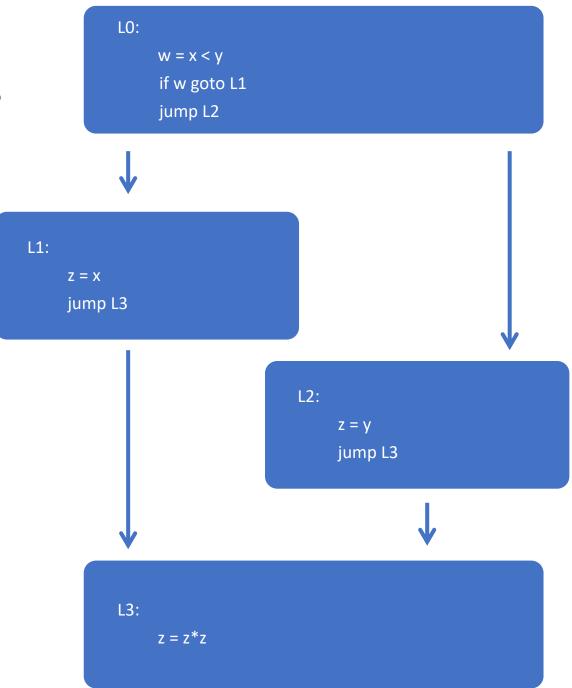
```
cgen(if S1 S2 else S3) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let _{tn} = cgen(S1);
Let _{t(n+1)} = cgen(S2); ?
Let t(n+2) = cgen(S3); ?
```

We need a second counter k, which will keep track of the block indexes for defining some Lk block labels. Add it along with n.

```
TAC system counters: n, k.
cgen(if S1 S2 else S3) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let tn = cgen(S1);
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(Lk:).
Emit(if tn goto L(k+1)).
Emit(jump\ L(k+2)).
```

Let us now assume that we have figured our TAC *cgen()* functions for all Boolean operations.

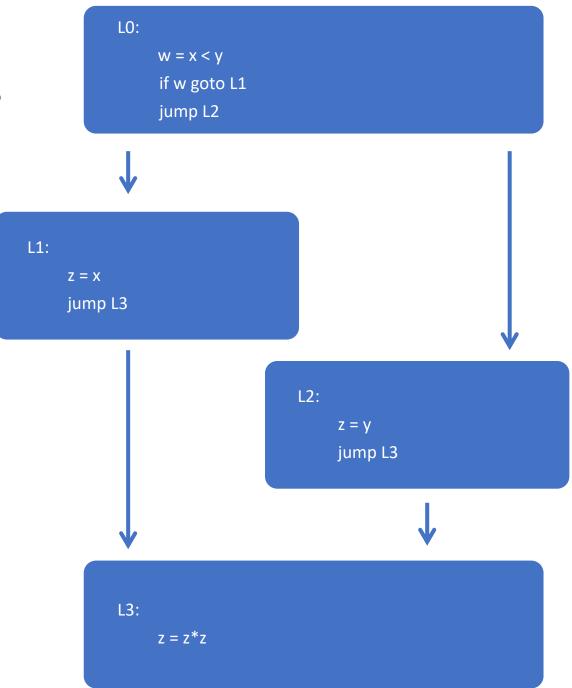
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cgen(if S1 S2 else S3) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let tn = cgen(S1);
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(Lk:). Emit(if tn goto L(k+1)). Emit(jump L(k+2)).
Emit(L(k+1):).
Let t(n+1) = cgen(S2);
Emit(jump\ L(k+3)).
```

Let us now assume that we have figured our TAC *cgen()* functions for all Boolean operations.

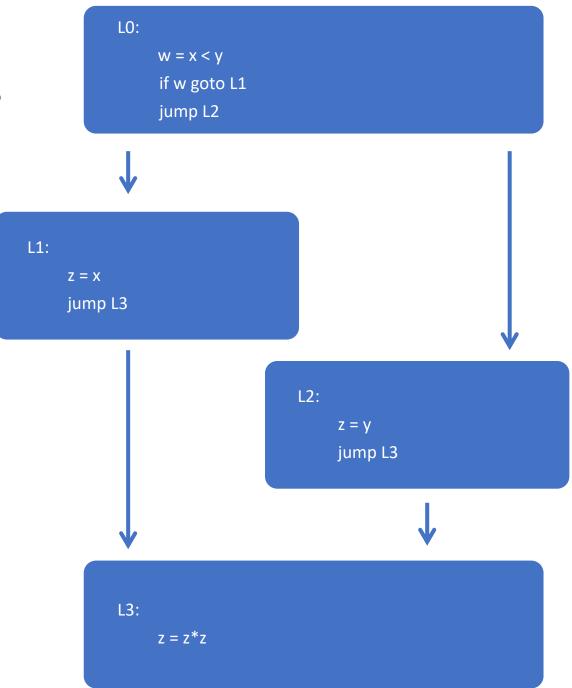
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cgen(if S1 S2 else S3) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let tn = cgen(S1);
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(Lk:). Emit(if tn goto L(k+1)). Emit(jump L(k+2)).
Emit(L(k+1):). \ Let \ t(n+1) = cgen(S2); \ Emit(jump \ L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+2):). \ Let \ t(n+2) = cgen(S3); \ Emit(jump \ L(k+3)).
```

Let us now assume that we have figured our TAC *cgen()* functions for all Boolean operations.

Question: How would I encode an if statement in TAC code?



```
TAC system counters: n, k.
cgen(if S1 S2 else S3) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let tn = cgen(S1);
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(Lk:). Emit(if tn goto L(k+1)). Emit(jump L(k+2)).
Emit(L(k+1):). \ Let \ t(n+1) = cgen(S2); \ Emit(jump \ L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+2):). \ Let \ t(n+2) = cgen(S3); \ Emit(jump \ L(k+3)).
Return?
```

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cgen(if S1 S2 else S3) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let tn = cgen(S1);
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(Lk:). Emit(if tn goto L(k+1)). Emit(jump L(k+2)).
Emit(L(k+1):). \ Let \ t(n+1) = cgen(S2); \ Emit(jump \ L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+2):). \ Let \ t(n+2) = cgen(S3); \ Emit(jump \ L(k+3)).
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cgen(if S1 S2 else S3) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let tn = cgen(S1);
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(Lk:). Emit(if tn goto L(k+1)). Emit(jump L(k+2)).
Emit(L(k+1):). \ Let \ t(n+1) = cgen(S2); \ Emit(jump \ L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+2):). \ Let \ t(n+2) = cgen(S3); \ Emit(jump \ L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+3):).
```

Consider the code below. What will be the TAC for this code?

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We have to run two *cgen()* operation in sequence to get the full TAC code.

- cgen(if x<y z=x else z=y)
- cgen(z = z*z)

```
TAC system counters: n = 0, k = 0.
cgen(if S1 S2 else S3) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let tn = cgen(S1);
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(Lk:). Emit(if tn goto L(k+1)). Emit(jump L(k+2)).
Emit(L(k+1):). \ Let \ t(n+1) = cgen(S2); \ Emit(jump \ L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+2):). \ Let \ t(n+2) = cgen(S3); \ Emit(jump \ L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+3):).
```

```
TAC system counters: n = 0, k = 0.
cgen(if x < y z = x else x = y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let tn = cgen(x < y);
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(Lk:). Emit(if tn goto L(k+1)). Emit(jump L(k+2)).
Emit(L(k+1):). Let t(n+1) = cgen(z=x); Emit(jump\ L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+2):). Let t(n+2) = cgen(x=y); Emit(jump\ L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+3):).
```

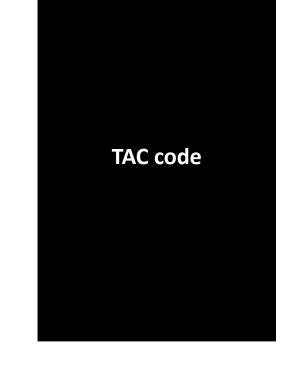
```
TAC system counters: n = 3, k = 0.
cgen(if x < y z = x else x = y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let t0 = cgen(x < y);
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(Lk:). Emit(if t0 goto L(k+1)). Emit(jump L(k+2)).
Emit(L(k+1):). Let t1 = cgen(z=x); Emit(jump\ L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+2):). Let t2 = cgen(x=y); Emit(jump L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+3):).
```

```
TAC system counters: n = 3, k = 4.
cgen(if x < y z = x else x = y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let t0 = cgen(x < y);
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(LO:). Emit(if t0 goto L1). Emit(jump L2).
Emit(L1:). Let t1 = cgen(z=x); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L2:). Let t2 = cgen(x=y); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L3:).
```

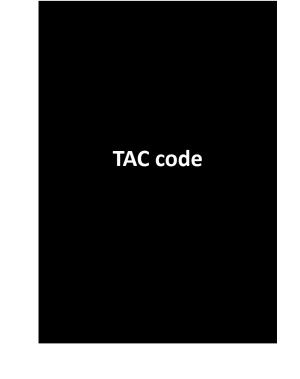
```
TAC system counters: n = 3, k = 4.
cgen(if x < y z = x else x = y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let t0 = cgen(x < y);
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(LO:). Emit(if t0 goto L1). Emit(jump L2).
Emit(L1:). Let t1 = cgen(z=x); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L2:). Let t2 = cgen(x=y); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L3:).
```



```
TAC system counters: n = 3, k = 4.
cgen(e1 < e2) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as _tn, _t(n+1), _t(n+2));
Increment n by 3;
Let tn = cgen(e1);
Let t(n+1) = cgen(e2);
Emit(t(n+2) = tn + t(n+1));
Return t(n+2);
```



```
TAC system counters: n = 6, k = 4.
cgen(x < y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as _t4, _t5, _t6);
Increment n by 3;
Let _{\mathbf{t4}} = cgen(\mathbf{x});
Let _{\bf t5} = cgen({\bf y});
Emit (_t6 = _t4 < _t5);
Return _t6;
```



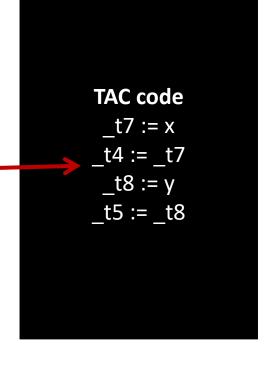
```
TAC system counters: n = 7, k = 4.
cgen(x < y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as _t4, _t5, _t6);
Increment n by 3;
Let _{\mathbf{t4}} = cgen(\mathbf{x});
Let _{\mathbf{t5}} = cgen(\mathbf{y});
Emit (_t6 = _t4 < _t5);
Return _t6;
```

TAC code

t7 := x

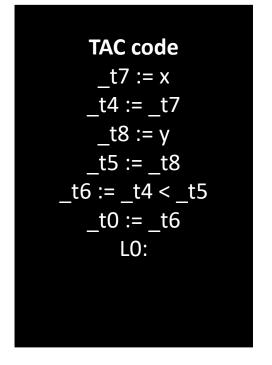
t4 := t7

```
TAC system counters: n = 8, k = 4.
cgen(x < y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them ds _t4, _t5, _t6);
Increment n by 3;
Let _t4 = cgen(x);
Let _t5 = cgen(y);
Emit (_t6 = _t4 < _t5);
Return _t6;
```



```
TAC system counters: n = 8, k = 4.
cgen(x < y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as _t4, _t5, _t6);
Increment n by 3;
Let _{\mathbf{t4}} = cgen(\mathbf{x});
Let _{\bf t5} = cgen({\bf y});
Emit ( t6 = _t4 < _t5);
Return _t6;
```

```
TAC system counters: n = 3, k = 4.
cgen(if x < y z = x else x = y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Let t0 = cgen(x < y); \leftarrow
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(LO:). Emit(if t0 goto L1). Emit(jump L2).
Emit(L1:). Let t1 = cgen(z=x); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L2:). Let t2 = cgen(x=y); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L3:).
```



```
TAC system counters: n = 3, k = 4.
cgen(if x < y z = x else x = y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(LO:). Let tO = cgen(x < y);
Emit(if t0 goto L1). Emit(jump L2).
Emit(L1:). Let t1 = cgen(z=x); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L2:). Let t2 = cgen(x=y); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L3:).
```

Revised TAC for control structures

```
TAC system counters: n, k.
cgen(if S1 S2 else S3) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(Lk:). Let _tn = cgen(S1);
Emit(if _{t} to goto _{t} _{t}
Emit(L(k+1):). \ Let \ t(n+1) = cgen(S2); \ Emit(jump \ L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+2):). \ Let \ t(n+2) = cgen(S3); \ Emit(jump \ L(k+3)).
Emit(L(k+3):).
```

```
TAC system counters: n = 8, k = 4.
cgen(if x < y z = x else x = y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Increment n by 3;
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(LO:). Let tO = cgen(x < y);
Emit(if t0 goto L1). Emit(jump L2). \leftarrow
Emit(L1:). Let t1 = cgen(z=x); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L2:). Let t2 = cgen(x=y); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L3:).
```

```
TAC system counters: n = 8, k = 4.
cgen(if x < y z = x else x = y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Incremen
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(LO:). Let tO = cgen(x < y);
Emit(if t0 goto L1). Emit(jump L2).
Emit(L1:). Let t1 = cgen(z=x); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L2:). Let t2 = cgen(x=y); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L3:).
```

```
TAC code
     LO:
   t7 := x
   t4 := t7
   _t8 := y
  t5 := t8
t6 := t4 < t5
  _t0 := _t6
if _t0 goto L1
   jump L2
     L1:
    z := x
   t1:= null
   jump L3
```

```
TAC system counters: n = 8, k = 4.
cgen(if x < y z = x else x = y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Incremen
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(LO:). Let tO = cgen(x < y);
Emit(if t0 goto L1). Emit(jump L2).
Emit(L1:). Let t1 = cgen(z=x); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L2:). Let t2 = cgen(x=y); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L3:).
```

```
TAC code
     10:
   t4 := t7
   _t8 := y
  t5 := t8
t6 := _t4 < _t5
  _t0 := _t6
if _t0 goto L1
   jump L2
      L1:
    z := x
   t1 := null
   jump L3
      L2:
    x := y
   t2 := null
   jump L3
```

```
TAC system counters: n = 8, k = 4.
cgen(if x < y z = x else x = y) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n. Incremen
Choose four new block labels Lk. Increment k by 4;
Emit(LO:). Let tO = cgen(x < y);
Emit(if t0 goto L1). Emit(jump L2).
Emit(L1:). Let t1 = cgen(z=x); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L2:). Let t2 = cgen(x=y); Emit(jump L3).
Emit(L3:). ←
```

```
TAC code
   t7 := x
   t4 := t7
   t8 := y
  t5 := _t8
t6 := t4 < t5
 _t0 := _t6
if _t0 goto L1
   jump L2
     L1:
    z := x
  t1 := null
   jump L3
     L2:
    x := y
   t2 := null
   jump L3
     L3:
```

```
TAC system counters: n = 11, k = 4.
cgen(z = z * z) = {
Choose three new temporary t using
our counter n
(we shall name them as _t8, _t9,
_t10);
Increment n by 3;
Let _{\bf t8} = cgen({\bf z});
Let \mathbf{t9} = \operatorname{cgen}(\mathbf{z});
Emit (_t10 = _t8 * _t9);
Emit (z = _t10)
Return null;
```

We have to run two cgen() operation in sequence to get the full TAC code.

- cgen(if x<y z=x else x=y)
- cgen(z = z*z)

Note: this second operation needs not to be decomposed but could simply combine several concepts from previous *cgen()* functions together.

```
TAC system counters: n = 11, k = 4.
cgen(z = z * z) = {
Choose three new temporary t using our counter n
(we shall name them as _t8, _t9, _t10);
Increment n by 3;
Let _{\bf z} = cgen({\bf z});
Let _t9 = cgen(z);
Emit (_t10 = _t8 * _t9);
Emit (z = _t10)
Return null;
```

```
TAC code
      L0:
   _t7 := x
  _t4 := _t7
   _t8 := y
  _t5 := _t8
_t6 := _t4 < _t5
  _t0 := _t6
if _t0 goto L1
   jump L2
     L1:
    z := x
  t1 := null
   jump L3
     L2:
    x := y
  t2 := null
   jump L3
     L3:
   t8 := z
   _t9 := z
  t10 = z*z
  z := t10
```

Consider the code below. What will be the TAC for this code?

```
if(x < y)
    z = x;
else
    z = y;
z = z*z;</pre>
```

```
TAC code
      LO:
   _t7 := x
  _t4 := _t7
   _t8 := y
  _t5 := _t8
_t6 := _t4 < _t5
  _t0 := _t6
if _t0 goto L1
   jump L2
      L1:
    z := x
  _t1 := null
   jump L3
      L2:
    x := y
  _t2 := null
   jump L3
      L3:
   _t8 := z
   _t9 := z
  _{t10} = z*z
   z := _t10
```

Not exactly optimal, but again, we do not care!

A different part of the compiler will be in charge of optimizing this TAC code later on!

```
TAC code
      L0:
   _t7 := x
  _t4 := _t7
   _t8 := y
  _t5 := _t8
_t6 := _t4 < _t5
  _t0 := _t6
if _t0 goto L1
   jump L2
      L1:
    z := x
  t1 := null
   jump L3
      L2:
    x := y
  _t2 := null
   jump L3
      L3:
   _t8 := z
   _t9 := z
  _{t10} = z*z
   z := _t10
```

TAC for function calls

- Writing TAC becomes a bit tricky when accounting for function calls.
- For instance, consider the code below.

```
void f(int z) {
   int x;
   X = Z^*Z
   return x;
void main(){
  f(11);
   int y = f(8);
```

TAC for function calls

The code could be transformed into a TAC using our cgen(), as shown on the right.

```
void f(int z) {
   int x;
   X = Z^*Z
   return x;
void main(){
  f(11);
   int y = f(8);
```

```
TAC code
               LO:
             t0 := z
          _t1 := _t0*_t0
 Return _t1? (not allowed in TAC)
               L1:
            t2 := 11
      Goto L0 with _t2 as z?
Nothing to catch the return of that
            function?
             t3 := 8
      Goto L0 with _t3 as z?
Something to catch the return of
         that function?
```

What is missing here?

- Need to find a way to transfer parameters (x1, ..., xn) from current scope (e.g. the main() one) to a function scope (e.g. function f called in main()).
- We need to know where the TAC code for f() is.
- In case of a return in f(), need a way to retrieve parameters from the function scope and bring them back into the enclosing scope.
- Should be done in a way to prevent clashes
- Should cover for null returns
- Should cover for returns not being caught, etc.

Idea: Use a stack to represent the scope of a given function.

Scope will decompose in two parts

- The parameters passed to this function (could be none).
- The temporary parameters (_tn) used by this function during the computation.
- In this second case, we need to know the number of _tn used by the function f!

Stack frame for function f(a, ..., n)

Param N
Param N - 1
...
Param 1
Storage for Locals and

Temporaries

Idea: Use a stack to represent the scope of a given function.

Whenever a function g() is called withing the scope of function f(), we will:

- Push some parameters from the scope of f() into the parameters stack of g().
- Allocate space for the temporary variables used by g().

Stack frame for function f(a, ..., n)

Stack frame for function g(a, ..., m)

Param N

Param N - 1

...

Param 1

Storage for Locals and Temporaries

Param M

• •

Param 1

Storage for Locals and Temporaries

Idea: Use a stack to represent the scope of a given function.

Upon completing g(), we will

- Pop some values from the temporary variables and add them to the temporaries of f().
- Or not (if no return specified).

Stack frame for function f(a, ..., n)

Param N

Param N - 1

• • •

Param 1

Storage for Locals and Temporaries

TAC can be used to handle function calls in a similar way to how it handles other code constructs.

- When a function call is encountered in the code, the TAC generator will typically create a new label for the function and generate code to push any arguments onto the stack.
- We denote this operation "push_tn" in TAC.

TAC can be used to handle function calls in a similar way to how it handles other code constructs.

- When a function call is encountered in the code, the TAC generator will typically create a new label for the function and generate code to push any arguments onto the stack.
- In addition, the TAC needs to allocate space into the stack for all the temporary variables that function f() will require.
- It does so, with a command called "BeginFunc N", which allocates N bytes in the stack to store data.
- In general memory entries are 32 bytes, so N is expected to be a multiple of 4 (e.g. N = 16 → 4 temporary variables).

TAC can be used to handle function calls in a similar way to how it handles other code constructs.

 When the function returns, the TAC generator will generate code to pop any return values off the stack and store them in the appropriate variables.

It is done in two steps.

• The first step, reclaims the parameters space we opened with "push" operations, and this is done with a TAC command called "EndFunc".

TAC can be used to handle function calls in a similar way to how it handles other code constructs.

 When the function returns, the TAC generator will generate code to pop any return values off the stack and store them in the appropriate variables.

It is done in two steps.

- The second step, retrieves values that must be returned (and clears the rest of the temporary parameters in the process).
- This is done with a "pop N" operations, which allows the callee f() to retrieve parameters N bytes of data from the temporary variables in the scope of g().
- Basically implementing a return.

A blast from the past!

In a sense, what we are doing here is very similar to the way we handled **Stacks and Procedures** in **50.002 Computation Structures**!

Need a refresher?

https://natalieagus.github.io/500 02/notes/stackandprocedures

50.002 Computation Structures

Information Systems Technology and Design Singapore University of Technology and Design

Stack and Procedures

You can find the lecture video here. You can also **click** on each header to bring you to the section of the video covering the subtopic.

Overview

In the previous chapter, we learned the basics of how to naively compile C-language into β assembly language. β UASM provides a layer of abstraction such that we don't need to bother ourselves with the details on how to load each and every bytes of instruction onto the memory unit, or keeping up with accounting matters such as physical memory addresses (we can replace these with *labels* instead).

In this chapter, we will learn about **function call procedures**, and why we need to understand another concept called the *stacks*. Both will allow us to have **reusable** code fragments which we normally know as **functions** that we can **call** as needed.

TAC for function calls

Using previous concepts, we have the TAC code for the function below.

```
void f(int z) {
   int x;
   X = Z^*Z
   return x;
void main(){
  f(11);
   int y = f(8);
```

```
TAC code
     L0:
BeginFunc 8
   t0 := z
_t1 := _t0*_t0
  EndFunc
     L1:
BeginFunc 12
  _t2 := 11
  Push _t2
   LCall LO
   Pop 4
  _t3 := 8
  Push_t3
   LCall LO
 y := Pop 4
  EndFunc
```

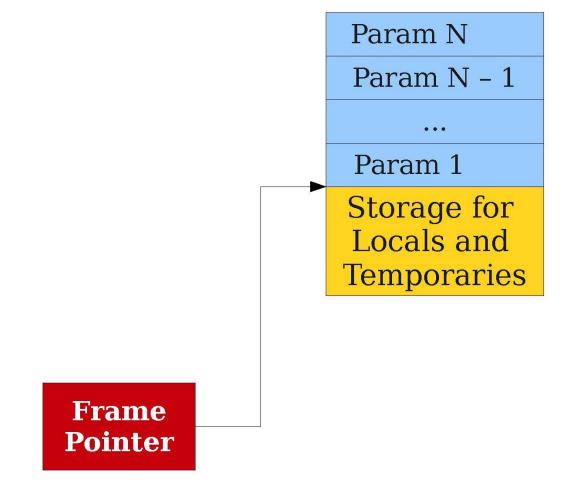
Program counter, Frame pointers, Global variables, etc.

In general, TAC does not specify where variables and temporaries are stored in the stack. It might require to bring in concepts from Stacks and Procedures, such as:

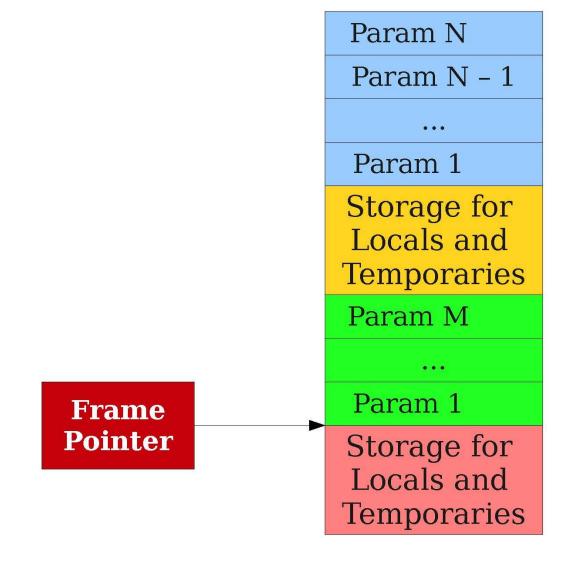
• Frame Pointer/Base pointer: A pointer points to the base of the current function activation record on the stack.

The activation record typically includes the function's local variables, any temporary values or registers, and other metadata that is needed to execute the function.

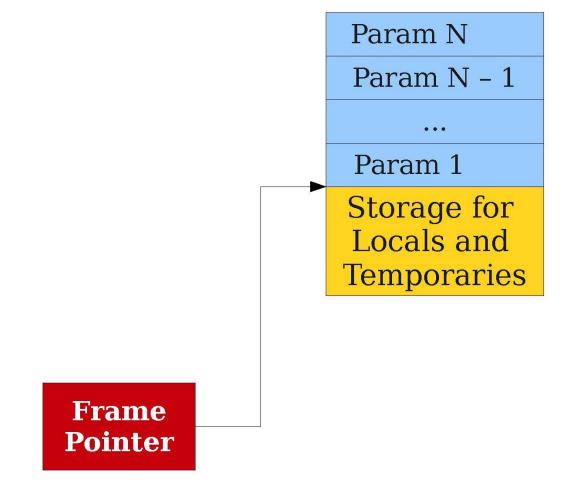
Using a frame pointer



Using a frame pointer



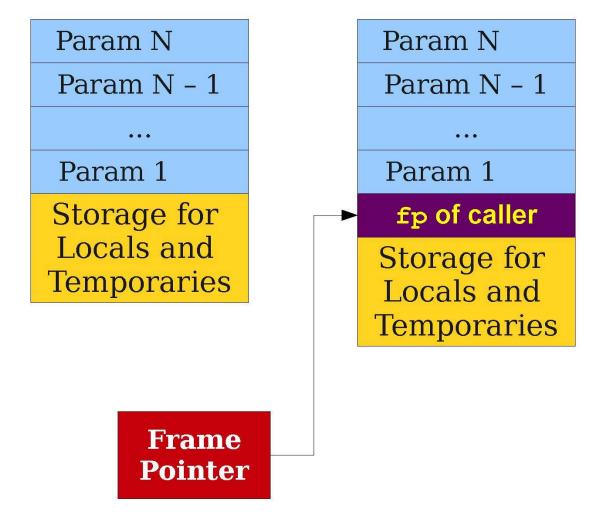
Using a frame pointer

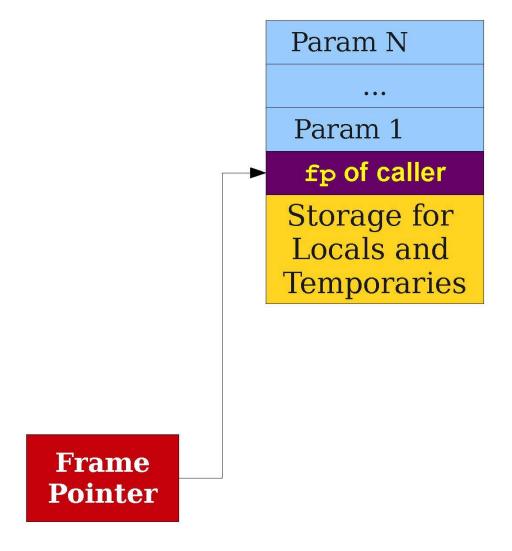


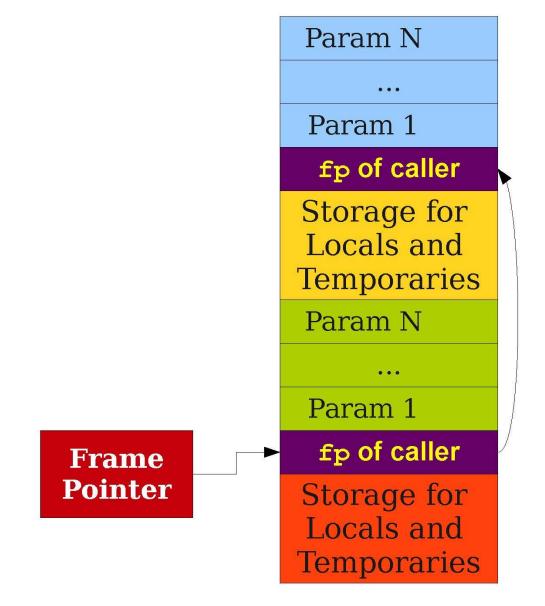
Program counter, Frame pointers, Global variables, etc.

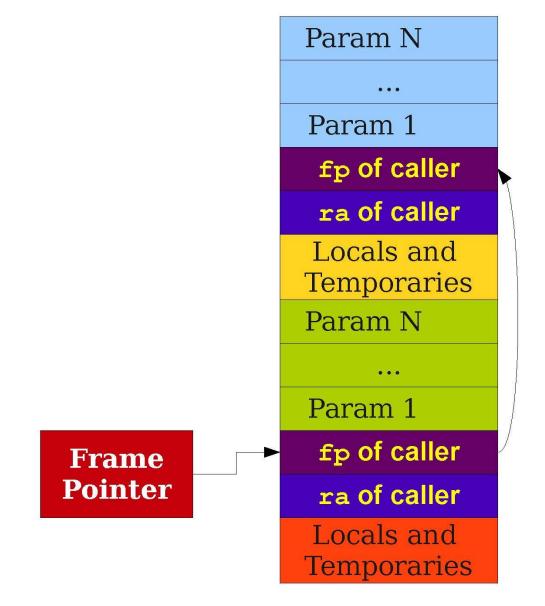
In general, TAC does not specify where variables and temporaries are stored in the stack. It might require to bring in concepts from Stacks and Procedures, such as:

- Program Counter/Pointer: Internally, the processor has a special register called the program counter/pointer (PC) that stores the address of the next instruction to execute.
- Whenever a function returns it shall restore the PC to the correct value, so that the calling function resumes its execution where it left off.
- We often store this address in our stack, along with function parameters and temporaries, in a location called the **Return Address**.





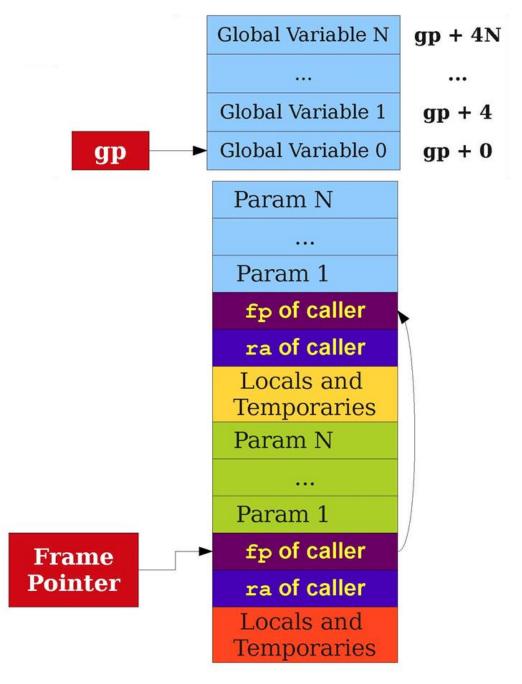




Program counter, Frame pointers, Global variables, etc.

In general, TAC does not specify where variables and temporaries are stored in the stack. It might require to bring in concepts from Stacks and Procedures, such as:

- **Global Pointer:** Some compilers will typically allow for LEGB scope searching, which means there should be a register for global variables that the TAC can use for computation.
- A bit more advanced (and definitely out of scope), but often stored on top of the previous stack.
- Adding entries to global scope makes the stack go up.
- Opening function scopes makes the stack go down.



Restricted

Program counter, Frame pointers, Global variables, etc.

In general, TAC does not specify where variables and temporaries are stored in the stack. It might require to bring in concepts from Stacks and Procedures, such as:

- Frame Pointer/Base Pointer,
- Program Counter/Pointer, and Return Addresses
- Global Pointer,
- Etc.

Out of scope for 50.051, but not 50.002!

Again, something already discussed in **Stacks and Procedures**, **50.002 Computation Structures**!

https://natalieagus.github.io/50002/notes/stackandprocedures

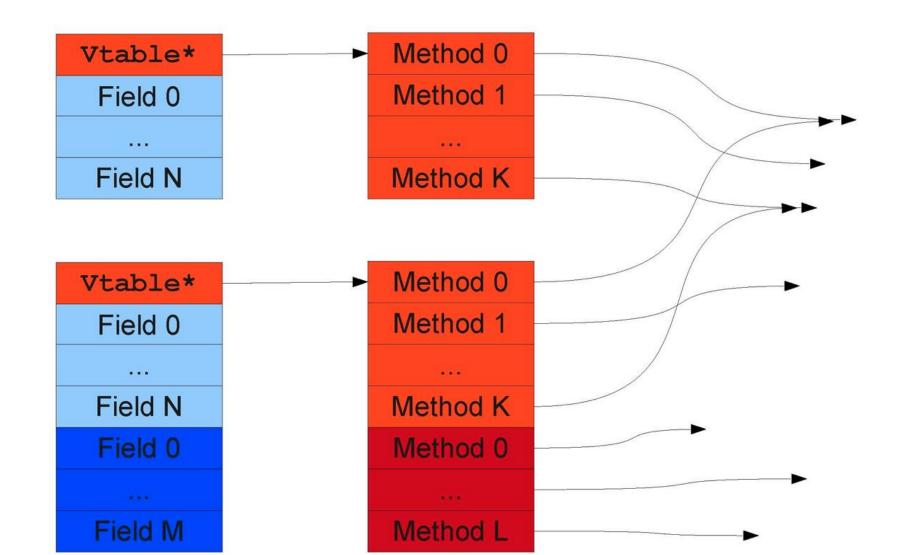
A quick word on TAC for objects

Encoding custom objects in TAC can prove to be very challenging.

- Need to allocate the right amount of space for attributes,
- Correctly link all methods and encode them correctly,
- Account for possible inheritance and overloading,
- Etc.
- Intuitively, we understand that it can be done with a vtable of some sort

Definitely out-of-scope!

A quick word on TAC for objects



Conclusion

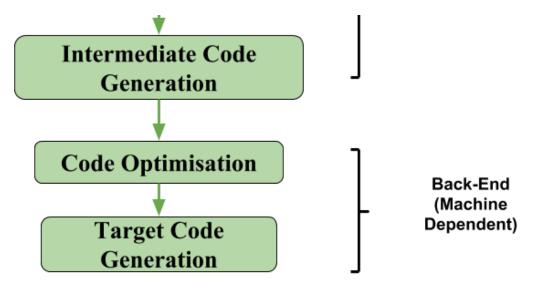
We understand how TAC is done and what intricacies might be required...

- Introduction to TAC.
- TAC for simple expressions.
- TAC for functions and function calls.
- TAC for objects.
- TAC for arrays.
- Generating TAC.
- A few low-level details.

The middle-end of a compiler

Our next step after Intermediate code generation is then Code optimization!

(Because, yes, our TAC codes at the moment are functional but not exactly looking great...)



TAC code L0: _t7 := x _t4 := _t7 _t8 := y _t5 := _t8 _t6 := _t4 < _t5 _t0 := _t6 if _t0 goto L1 jump L2 L1: z := xt1 := null jump L3 L2: x := yt2 := null jump L3 L3: t8 := z_t9 := z t10 = z*zz := t10

Which of the following best describes the structure of a three-address code?

- A. Three operands and one operator
- B. Two operands and two operators
- C. One operand and three operators
- D. Three operands and no operator

Which of the following best describes the structure of a three-address code?

- A. Three operands and one operator
- B. Two operands and two operators
- C. One operand and three operators
- D. Three operands and no operator

In the context of three-address code, what is the purpose of the "basic block" concept?

- A. To define a sequence of code with a single entry and exit point
- B. To divide code into smaller, manageable units for optimization
- C. To handle loops and conditional statements correctly
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

In the context of three-address code, what is the purpose of the "basic block" concept?

- A. To define a sequence of code with a single entry and exit point
- B. To divide code into smaller, manageable units for optimization
- C. To handle loops and conditional statements correctly
- D. All of the above (more on B in the next lecture!)
- E. None of the above

Which of the following is NOT a common operation in three-address code?

- A. Arithmetic operations
- B. Conditional jumps
- C. Function calls
- D. Dynamic memory allocation

Which of the following is NOT a common operation in three-address code?

- A. Arithmetic operations
- B. Conditional jumps
- C. Function calls
- D. Dynamic memory allocation (that is something the backend will have to resolve later on during register allocation!)

Practice 2: a while statement TAC

Consider the code below.

$$x = 1$$

 $y = 3$
 $while(x < y):$
 $x = x + 2;$
 $z = x;$
 $z = z*z;$

Question #1: How would you write the *cgen()* for the while statement?

You may look for inspiration by looking at the if() statement one.

Question #2: What would the TAC code be then?

Practice 3: a while statement TAC

Question #1: How would you write the *cgen()* function for the for loop statement in C?

You may look for inspiration by looking at the if() statement one and the while() statement in the previous activity.

Question #2 (somewhat difficult): How would you then agreement it to account for a possible break keyword?

Practice 4: a switch statement TAC

Question (somewhat tedious): How would you write the *cgen()* function for the switch statement in C?