

# Compilers

## Intermediate Code Generation

LEIC

FEUP-FCUP

2022

# This lecture

## Intermediate Code

## Three address code

## Compilation to intermediate code

- Expressions

- Commands

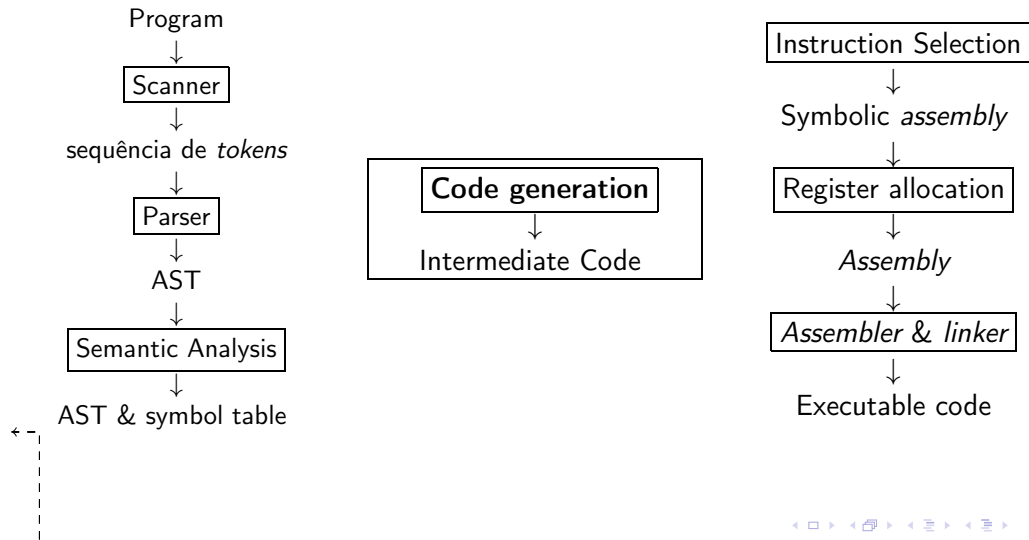
- Functions

- Boolean operators

- Arrays*

## Implementation

# Compiler



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### Implementation

# Intermediate Code

- ▶ Tradeoff between the source language and the machine code
- ▶ Advantage: **simplifies compilation and modularity**
- ▶ Options:
  - high-level** simplifies the **compilation of the source language** (the price is a harder compilation to assembly)
  - low-level** simplifies the **generation of assembly code** (the price is a harder compilation of the source code)

## Intermediate Code (cont.)

- ▶ Usually the choice of the intermediate code depends on the high-level programming language:
  - ▶ *Java Virtual Machine* (JVM) for Java
  - ▶ *Low Level Virtual Machine* (LLVM) for C/C++
- ▶ But the same intermediate code may be used for different languages:
  - ▶ Scala e Clojure compile to JVM
  - ▶ Rust, Swift e Julia compile to LLVM
- ▶ One may use more than one intermediate code  
(e.g. Haskell GHC uses 3 intermediate languages to compile Haskell)

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# Three address code

## Three address code:

- ▶ An arbitrary number of temporary registers
- ▶ Operations with 2 ou 3 operands
- ▶ Without specific processor instructions
- ▶ Initially used to compile imperative languages (e.g. C or Pascal)



# Example

Assignments:

$x = 3 * (4 + 5)$

# Example

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$x = 3*(4+5)$

Intermediate code:

$t1 = 3$

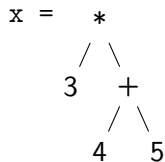
$t2 = 4$

$t3 = 5$

$t4 = t2 + t3$

$t5 = t1 * t4$

$x = t5$



# Example

Assignments:

$x = 3*(4+5)$

Intermediate code:

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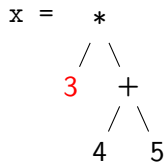
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# Example

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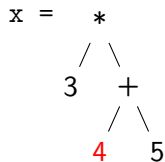
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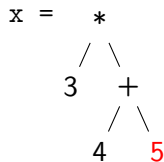
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# Example

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Intermediate code:

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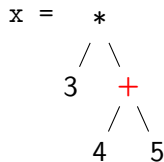
$t2 = 4$

$t3 = 5$

$t4 = t2 + t3$

$t5 = t1 * t4$

$x = t5$



# Example

Assignments:

$x = 3*(4+5)$

Intermediate code:

$t1 = 3$

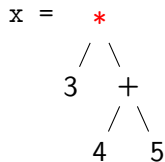
$t2 = 4$

$t3 = 5$

$t4 = t2 + t3$

$t5 = t1 * t4$

$x = t5$



# Example

Assignments:

$x = 3*(4+5)$

Intermediate code:

$t1 = 3$

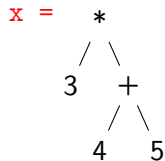
$t2 = 4$

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# Example

Assignments:

`x = 3*(4+5)`

Intermediate code:

`t1 = 3`

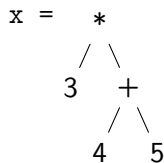
`t2 = 4`

`t3 = 5`

`t4 = t2+t3`

`t5 = t1*t4`

`x = t5`



- ▶ Each variable corresponds to a **node in the AST**
- ▶ Each operation uses a maximum of three variables (three addresses)
- ▶ Code for assignments is generated **traversing the AST**

# Intermediate code syntax

$$\begin{aligned} Instr \rightarrow & \text{temp} := Atom \\ & | \text{temp} := \text{temp binop } Atom \\ & | \text{LABEL label} \\ & | \text{JUMP label} \\ & | \text{COND temp relop } Atom \text{ label label} \\ Atom \rightarrow & \text{temp} \mid \text{num} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ variables (**temp**), assignments and constants (**num**)
- ▶ binary operations **binop**: +, \*, etc.
- ▶ comparisons **relop**: <, >, ==, etc.
- ▶ labels, simple and conditional jumps

## Example (Euclides algorithm)

```
while (b != 0) {  
    r = a%b;  
    a = b;  
    b = r;  
}
```

```
LABEL loop  
COND b != 0 next end  
LABEL next  
r := a % b  
a := b  
b := r  
JUMP loop  
LABEL end
```

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# Source language

- ▶ Variables, arithmetic and boolean expressions
- ▶ Assignments, *if/else*, *while*
- ▶ Compilation is **defined by cases**
  - ▶ one recursive compilation function for each syntactic category (expressions, commands, etc.)
  - ▶ return a **list of intermediate code instructions**

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# Compilation of arithmetic expressions

$$Exp \rightarrow \text{num} \mid \text{id} \mid Exp \text{ binop } Exp$$

- ▶ The **symbol table** associates variables in the source code with temporaries in the intermediate code
- ▶ To generate new temporary variables define functions:

$$newTemp : () \rightarrow Temp$$

$$newLabel : () \rightarrow Label$$

- ▶ These are not pure functions: they return fresh **variables or labels** each time they are called
- ▶ The compilation function

$$transExp : (Exp, Table, Temp) \rightarrow [Instr]$$

has an extra argument which is the register where is the result (*inherited attribute*)

## Compilation of arithmetic expressions (cont.)

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| $transExp(expr, table, dest)$ | = case $expr$ of  |
| <b>num</b>                    | return [ $dest := \mathbf{num}$ ]   |
| <b>id</b>                     | $temp = \text{lookup}(\mathbf{id}, table)$<br>return [ $dest := temp$ ]   |
| $e_1 \mathbf{binop} e_2$      | $t_1 = newTemp()$<br>$t_2 = newTemp()$<br>$code_1 = transExp(e_1, table, t_1)$<br>$code_2 = transExp(e_2, table, t_2)$<br>return $code_1 ++ code_2 ++ [dest := t_1 \mathbf{binop} t_2]$ |



## Example

Assume the symbol table  $[x \mapsto t_1, y \mapsto t_2]$  used to compile the expression

$x + (3*y)$

with the result stored in  $t_0$ .

# Example

Assume the symbol table  $[x \mapsto t_1, y \mapsto t_2]$  used to compile the expression

$x + (3*y)$

with the result stored in  $t_0$ .

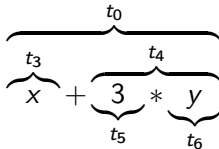
$t_3 := t_1$

$t_5 := 3$

$t_6 := t_2$

$t_4 := t_5 * t_6$

$t_0 := t_3 + t_4$



(we use temporaries  $t_3, t_4, \dots$ )

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# Commands

- ▶ Assignments
- ▶ Conditional commands (with and without *else*)
- ▶ *while* cycles
- ▶ Boolean expressions
- ▶ Blocks

$$\begin{aligned} Stm \rightarrow & \text{ id } = Exp; \\ & | \text{ if}(Cond) Stm \\ & | \text{ if}(Cond) Stm \text{ else } Stm \\ & | \text{ while}(Cond) Stm \\ & | \{ StmList \} \end{aligned}$$
$$Cond \rightarrow Exp \text{ relop } Exp$$
$$StmList \rightarrow Stm StmList \mid \epsilon$$

Commands compilation:

$$transStm : (Stm, Table) \rightarrow [Instr]$$

## Commands (cont.)

- ▶ Compilation function *transStm* is defined by cases
- ▶ Assignements and blocks

|  |  |
|--|--|
| $transStm(stm, table) = \text{case } stm \text{ of}$ |  |
| $id = expr;$   | $dest = \text{lookup}(id, table)$<br>$\text{return } transExp(expr, table, dest)$  |
| $\{ stm_1 \dots stm_n \}$                            | $code_1 = transStm(stm_1, table)$<br>$\vdots$<br>$code_n = transStm(stm_n, table)$<br>$\text{return } code_1 ++ \dots ++ code_n$ |

# Relational expressions

- ▶ Compilation of relational expressions
- ▶ Extra arguments: labels  $label_t$  and  $label_f$  to jump when the condition is *true/false* (*inherited attributes*)
- ▶ Used in the compilation of *if/else* and *while*

$transCond : (Cond, Table, Label, Label) \rightarrow [Instr]$

$transCond (cond, tabl, label_t, label_f) = \text{case } cond \text{ of}$

---

$expr_1 \text{ relop } expr_2$

$t_1 = newTemp()$

$t_2 = newTemp()$

$code_1 = transExp(expr_1, tabl, t_1)$

$code_2 = transExp(expr_2, tabl, t_2)$

return  $code_1 ++ code_2 ++ [COND \ t_1 \text{ relop } t_2 \ label_t \ label_f]$

---

## Simple *if*

$transStm(stm, table) = \text{case } stm \text{ of}$

---

$\text{if}(cond) stm_1 \quad label_1 = newLabel()$

$label_2 = newLabel()$

$code_1 = transCond(cond, label_1, label_2, table)$

$code_2 = transStm(stm_1, table)$

$\text{return } code_1 ++ [LABEL \ label_1] ++ code_2 ++ [LABEL \ label_2]$

---

*transStm (stm, tabl) = case stm of*

---

**if**(*Cond*) *stm*<sub>1</sub>      *label*<sub>1</sub> = *newLabel*()

**else** *stm*<sub>2</sub>          *label*<sub>2</sub> = *newLabel*()

*label*<sub>3</sub> = *newLabel*()

*code*<sub>1</sub> = *transCond*(*cond*, *label*<sub>1</sub>, *label*<sub>2</sub>, *table*)

*code*<sub>2</sub> = *transStm*(*stm*<sub>1</sub>, *table*)

*code*<sub>3</sub> = *transStm*(*stm*<sub>2</sub>, *table*)

                      return *code*<sub>1</sub> ++ [LABEL *label*<sub>1</sub>] ++ *code*<sub>2</sub> ++ [JUMP *label*<sub>3</sub>]

                                  ++ [LABEL *label*<sub>2</sub>] ++ *code*<sub>3</sub> ++ [LABEL *label*<sub>3</sub>]

---



# Example

Assume the following symbol table:  $[x \mapsto t_0, y \mapsto t_1, z \mapsto t_2]$

```
if (x < y)
    z = y;
else
    z = x;

t3 := t0
t4 := t1
COND t3 < t4 label1 label2
LABEL label1
t2 := t1
JUMP label3
LABEL label2
t2 := t0
LABEL label3
```

$transStm(stm, table) = \text{case } stm \text{ of}$

---

**while**(*cond*) *stm*<sub>1</sub>    *label*<sub>1</sub> = *newLabel*()  
                          *label*<sub>2</sub> = *newLabel*()  
                          *label*<sub>3</sub> = *newLabel*()  
                          *code*<sub>1</sub> = *transCond*(*cond*, *table*, *label*<sub>2</sub>, *label*<sub>3</sub>)  
                          *code*<sub>2</sub> = *transStm*(*stm*<sub>1</sub>, *table*)  
                          return [LABEL *label*<sub>1</sub>] ++ *code*<sub>1</sub>  
                                  ++ [LABEL *label*<sub>2</sub>] ++ *code*<sub>2</sub>  
                                  ++ [JUMP *label*<sub>1</sub>, LABEL *label*<sub>3</sub>]

---

# Example

Assume the following symbol table:

$[n \mapsto t_0, r \mapsto t_1]$

```
{  
  n = 5;  
  r = 1;  
  while (n>0) {  
    r = r*n;  
    n = n-1;  
  }  
}
```

```
t2 := 5  
t0 := t2  
t3 := 1  
t1 := t3  
LABEL label1  
t4 := t0  
t5 := 0  
COND t4 > t5 label2 label3  
LABEL label2  
t6 := t1  
t7 := t0  
t1 := t6 * t7  
t8 := t0  
t9 := 1  
t0 := t8 - t9  
JUMP label1  
LABEL label3
```

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# Functions

- ▶ **Function call and definitions** are primitive operations in the intermediate code
- ▶ Arguments must be **temporary variables**
- ▶ The implementation of the functional parameter passage mechanism, using registers or the stack, is going to be explained later in the *assembly* code generation stage
- ▶ To simplify presentation we use only one type (**int**)

## Source code

$Program \rightarrow Function \dots Function$   
 $Function \rightarrow \mathbf{int\ id}(ArgList) \{StmList\}$   
 $ArgList \rightarrow \mathbf{int\ id}, \dots, \mathbf{int\ id}$   
 $Stm \rightarrow \dots$   
 $\quad | \mathbf{return\ Exp};$   
 $Exp \rightarrow \dots$   
 $\quad | \mathbf{id}(ExpList)$   
 $ExpList \rightarrow Exp, \dots, Exp$

## Intermediate code

$Program \rightarrow Function \dots Function$   
 $Function \rightarrow \mathbf{id}(TempList) [ InstrList ]$   
 $TempList \rightarrow \mathbf{temp}, \dots, \mathbf{temp}$   
 $InstrList \rightarrow Instr; \dots; Instr$   
 $Instr \rightarrow \dots$   
 $\quad | \mathbf{PARAM\ temp}$   
 $\quad | \mathbf{temp := CALL\ id}(TempList)$   
 $\quad | \mathbf{RETURN\ temp}$

## Example

```
int max(int x, int y)
{
    if (x<y) return y;
    else return x;
}

int max3(int x, int y, int z)
{
    return max(x,max(y,z));
}
```

```
max(t0,t1) [
COND t0 < t1 ltrue lfalse
LABEL ltrue
RETURN t1
LABEL lfalse
RETURN t0
]
```

```
max3(t0, t1, t2) [
PARAM t1
PARAM t2
t3 := CALL max 2
PARAM t0
PARAM t3
t4 := CALL max 2
RETURN t4
]
```

# Functions

- ▶ Variables  $t_0$ ,  $t_1$ , etc. are locals to each function
- ▶ To compile **return**  $e$  use *transExp* to generate code for expression  $e$
- ▶ To compile  $f(e_1, \dots, e_n)$  we need to compile each argument  $e_i$
- ▶ We use an auxiliary function *transExps* which also returns the list of parameters



## Functions (cont.)

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| $transExp (exp, table, dest)$ | = case $exp$ of  |
| $id(exps)$                    | $(code, params) = transExps(exps, table)$<br>return $code ++ buildParams(params) ++ [dest := CALL id]$ |

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| $transExps (exps, table)$ | = case $exps$ of  |
| $e_1, \dots, e_n$         | $t_1 = newTemp()$<br>$\vdots$<br>$t_n = newTemp()$<br>$code_1 = transExp(e_1, table, t_1)$<br>$\vdots$<br>$code_n = transExp(e_n, table, t_n)$<br>return $(code_1 ++ \dots ++ code_n, [t_1, \dots, t_n])$ |

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# Boolean operators

- ▶ **Boolean operators**: conjunction (`&&`), disjunction (`||`) and negation (`!`)
- ▶ *short-circuit evaluation*:
  - ▶ do not evaluate the second argument if the first determines the output
- ▶ Note that

```
if (k!=0 && n%k==0) { ... }
```

is equivalent to

```
if (k!=0) { if (n%k==0) { ... } }
```
- ▶ We enable the use of **boolean expressions as general expressions** and the opposite, e.g.

```
c = a==0 || b==0;  
if(c) { ... }
```

## Boolean operators (cont.)

$Exp \rightarrow \text{num}$

| **id**

|  $Exp$  **binop**  $Exp$

| **id**( $Exps$ )

| true

| false

|  $Cond$

$Cond \rightarrow Exp$  **relop**  $Exp$

| **!** $Cond$

|  $Cond$  **&&**  $Cond$

|  $Cond$  **||**  $Cond$

| true

| false

|  $Exp$

# Boolean expressions

- ▶ False and True are represented by 0 e 1
- ▶ Compile true e false to a direct assignment

## Boolean expressions (cont.)

$transExp(exp, table, dest) = \text{case } expr \text{ of}$

$\vdots$

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| true   | return $[dest := 1]$   |
| false  | return $[dest := 0]$   |
| $cond$ | $label_1 = newLabel()$<br>$label_2 = newLabel()$<br>$code_1 = transCond(cond, table, label_1, label_2)$<br>return $code_1 ++ [LABEL\ label_1, dest := 1, JUMP\ label_3]$<br>$++ [LABEL\ label_2, dest := 0, LABEL\ label_3]$ |

# Boolean expressions

The compilation function

*transCond* (*cond*, *table*, *label<sub>t</sub>*, *label<sub>f</sub>*)

generates code that jumps to *label<sub>t</sub>* and *label<sub>f</sub>* if the expression is *true* or *false*, respectively.

We now extend this compilation to the boolean operators:

## Boolean expressions (cont.)

$transCond (cond, table, label_t, label_f) =$  case  $cond$  of

$e_1 \text{ relop } e_2$

$\vdots$

*(como anteriormente)*

true

return [JUMP  $label_t$ ]

false

return [JUMP  $label_f$ ]

$\neg cond_1$

$transCond(cond_1, table, label_f, label_t)$

- Constants true e false are compiled to jumps
- Compilation of negation switches the labels



## Boolean expressions (cont.)

| $transCond (cond, table, label_t, label_f) = \text{case } cond \text{ of}$ |  |
|--|--|
| $cond_1 \ \&\& \ cond_2$   | $label_2 = newLabel()$<br>$code_1 = transCond(cond_1, table, label_t, label_f)$<br>$code_2 = transCond(cond_2, table, label_t, label_f)$<br>$\text{return } code_1 ++ [LABEL \ label_2] ++ code_2$ |
| $cond_1 \    \ cond_2$   | $label_2 = newLabel()$<br>$code_1 = transCond(cond_1, table, label_t, label_2)$<br>$code_2 = transCond(cond_2, table, label_t, label_f)$<br>$\text{return } code_1 ++ [LABEL \ label_2] ++ code_2$ |

Compilation of conjunctions and disjunctions uses a fresh label

## Boolean expressions (cont.)

$$\frac{\text{transCond}(\text{cond}, \text{table}, \text{label}_t, \text{label}_f)}{\text{exp}} = \text{case } \text{cond} \text{ of}$$

---

$$\begin{array}{l} t = \text{newTemp}() \\ \text{code}_1 = \text{transExp}(\text{exp}, \text{table}, t) \\ \text{return } \text{code}_1 ++ [\text{COND } t \neq 0 \text{ } \text{label}_t \text{ } \text{label}_f] \end{array}$$

---

Other cases: compile the expression and compare the result with zero

# Example

Suppose  $[a \mapsto t_0, b \mapsto t_1]$ .

```
if (a != 0 && b > a) {  
    b = b - a;  
}
```

```
t2 := t0  
t3 := 0  
COND t2 != t3 label2 label4  
LABEL label2  
t4 := t1  
t5 := t0  
COND t4 > t5 label3 label4  
LABEL label3  
t6 := t1  
t7 := t0  
t1 := t6 - t7  
LABEL label4
```

## Remarks

- ▶ There are not boolean operators in the intermediate code (they are implemented as conditional jumps)
- ▶ Alternative: compile boolean operators similarly to arithmetic operators (but then evaluate **both** arguments)
- ▶ *Cond* and *Exp* overlap a lot (ambiguous grammar)
- ▶ Alternative: one unique non terminal in the grammar *Exp* and two mutually recursive compilation functions

$$transExp : (Exp, Table, Temp) \rightarrow [Instr]$$
$$transCond : (Exp, Table, Label, Label) \rightarrow [Instr]$$

where we use *transExp* for expressions and *transCond* for the conditions in *if* and *while*

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# Arrays

- ▶ *arrays* (expressions)

$$Exp \rightarrow \dots \mid \mathbf{id}[Exp]$$

- ▶ Assignment to an *array*

$$Stm \rightarrow \dots \mid \mathbf{id}[Exp] := Exp$$

- ▶ New instructions in the intermediate code to **read and write in memory**

$$Instr \rightarrow \dots$$
$$\mid \mathbf{temp} := M[Atom]$$
$$\mid M[Atom] := \mathbf{temp}$$

(*Atom* is a variable or a constant)

## Arrays (cont.)

- ▶ The symbol table associates the name *array* to its **base address**
- ▶ Auxiliary function to calculate the index address (elements of 4 *bytes*)
- ▶ Output: **code** and a **temporary variable holding the address**

---

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| $transIndex (exp, table) =$ | case <i>exp</i> of  |
| $\quad id[exp_1]$           | $base = lookup(id, table)$<br>$addr = newTemp()$<br>$code_1 = transExp(exp_1, table, addr)$<br>$return (code_1 ++ [addr := addr * 4, addr := addr + base], addr)$ |

---

## Arrays (cont.)

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| $transExp (exp, table, dest)$ | = case $exp$ of   |
| $id[e_1]$                     | $(code_1, addr) = transIndex(id[e_1], table)$<br>return $code_1 ++ [dest := M[addr]]$ |

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| $transStm (stm, table)$ | = case $stm$ of   |
| $id[e_1] := e_2$        | $(code_1, addr) = transIndex(id[e_1], table)$<br>$t = newTemp()$<br>$code_2 = transExp(e_2, table, t)$<br>return $code_1 ++ code_2 ++ [M[addr] := t]$ |



# Arrays declarations

- ▶ We need to allocate memory for the array
- ▶ Memory allocation may be **static** (global) or **dynamic** (in the *stack* or in the *heap*)
- ▶ Stack allocation: we will study this later...
- ▶ Static allocation: declare space in a *data* segment

```
// C
```

```
int my_array[10];
```

```
# Assembly MIPS
```

```
.data
```

```
my_array:      .space 40 # 4 bytes * 10 elements
```

# This Lecture

Intermediate Code

Three address code

Compilation to intermediate code

- Expressions

- Commands

- Functions

- Boolean operators

- Arrays*

Implementation

## Representing intermediate code (in C)

```
#include <stdint.h>
typedef struct { Opcode opcode;
                Addr arg1, arg2, arg3, ...; // arguments
                } Instr;
typedef enum { MOVE, MOVEI, ... } Opcode; // instructions
typedef intptr_t Addr; // address (integer or pointer)
```

- ▶ A structure:
- ▶ Different code for each kind of instruction (MOVE, MOVEI, etc.)
- ▶ Most instructions uses 2 or 3 arguments (exception: COND)
- ▶ Fill with 0 or NULL the unused fields

# Variables and labels

- ▶ One may represent variables and labels by **integers**
- ▶ Use a global variable (counter) to generate new variables and labels:

```
int temp_count = 0, label_count = 0;
```

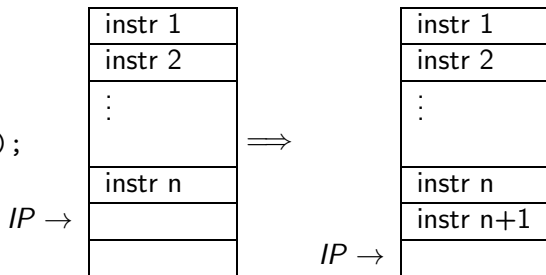
```
int newTemp() {  
    return temp_count ++;  
}
```

```
int newLabel () {  
    return label_count ++;  
}
```

# Code generation

- ▶ Instead of lists we may generate a global **array of instructions**
- ▶ Auxiliary functions to add a new instruction to the position identified by the *instruction pointer (IP)*
- ▶ *emit* code in the middle of recursive calls to avoid list concatenations

```
void emit2(opc,arg1,arg2);  
void emit3(opc,arg1,arg2,arg3);  
...
```



## Code generation (cont.)

```
void transExp(Exp exp, dest) {  
    switch(...) {  
    case BINOP:  
        t1 = newTemp();  
        t2 = newTemp();  
        transExp(exp->binop.left, t1);    // left expression  
        transExp(exp->binop.right, t2);   // right expression  
        emit3(opcode(exp->binop.op), dest, t1, t2); // final instruction  
        break;  
    }  
}
```