Introduction

From the course description:

"This course covers the component technologies used in implementing modern programming languages, shows their integration into a system, and discusses connections between the structure of programming languages and their implementations."

Questions we will explore

- How does a piece of program text end up getting executed on a machine?
- What is the difference between a physical machine and a virtual machine?
- How and when is a program transformed into a form amenable to machine execution?
- How are various programming language features mapped to the capabilities of the machine?
- What are the mathematical underpinnings of program translation?

Scope

Focus

- Automatic techniques for analyzing and transforming programs written in a given source language with the objective of executing them correctly on a target machine.
- Sequential, imperative, class-based source language.

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- Other language models, e.g., concurrent, functional, multi-paradigm, ...
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Analysis framework

- Cost: Generally time, space, or energy.
- Benefit: High performance, low memory use, energy efficiency, portability.
- Risk: Correctness, security.

Execution Models

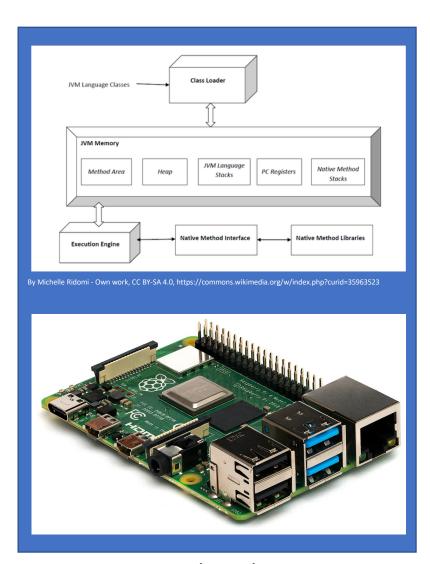


Physical Machine

Execution Models

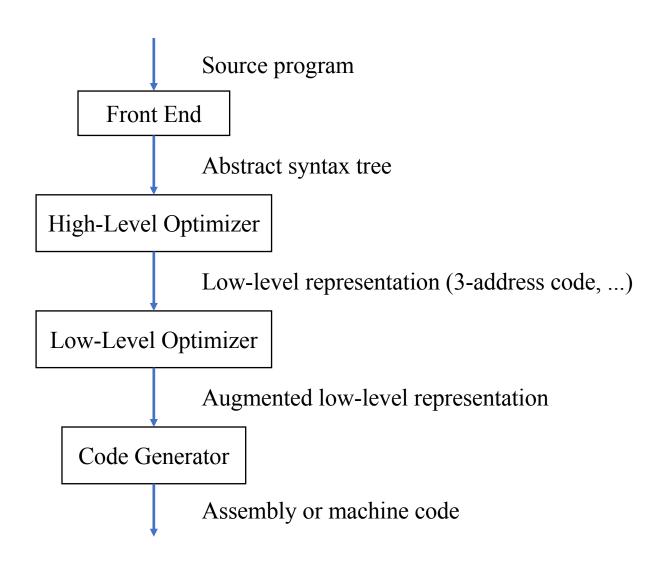


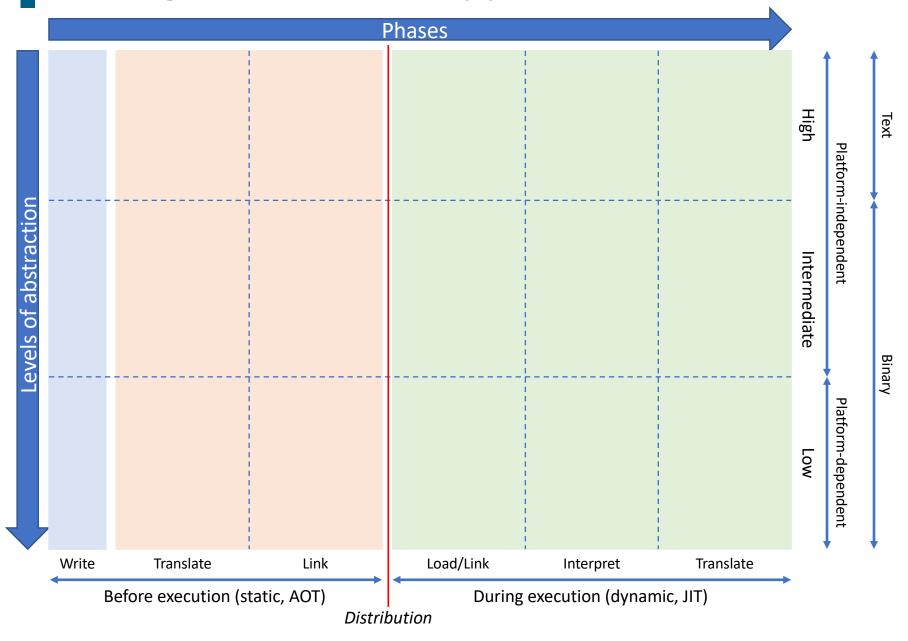
Physical Machine

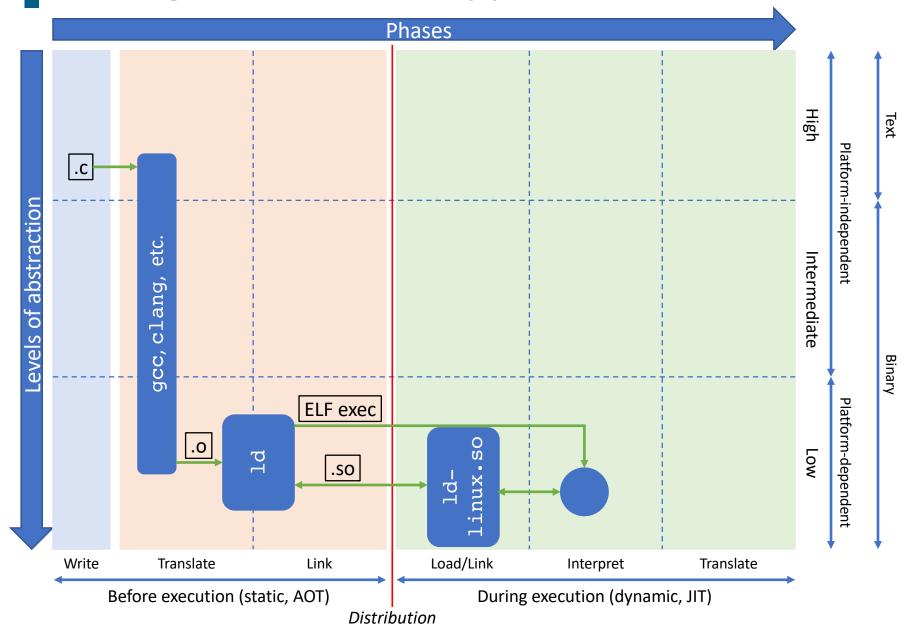


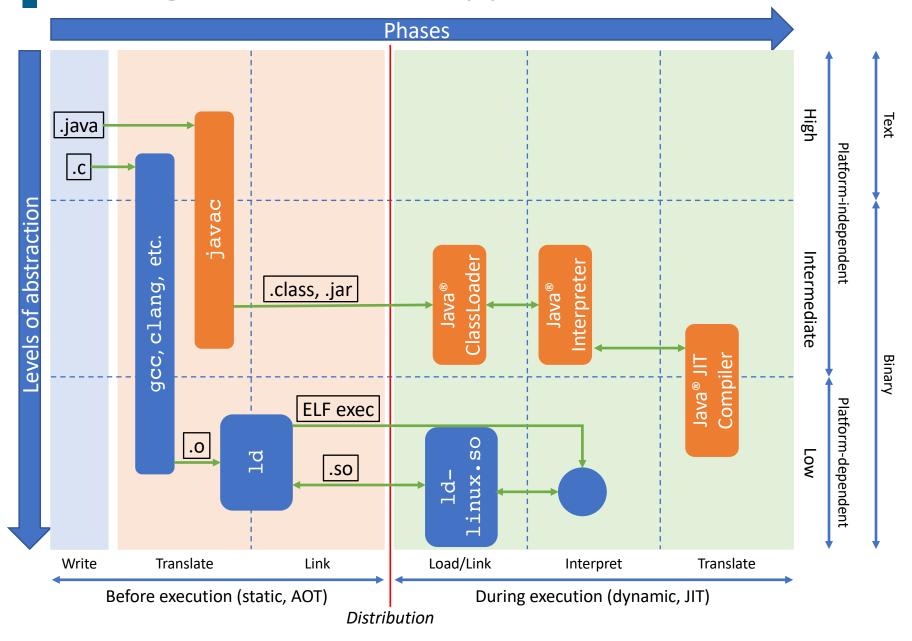
Virtual Machine

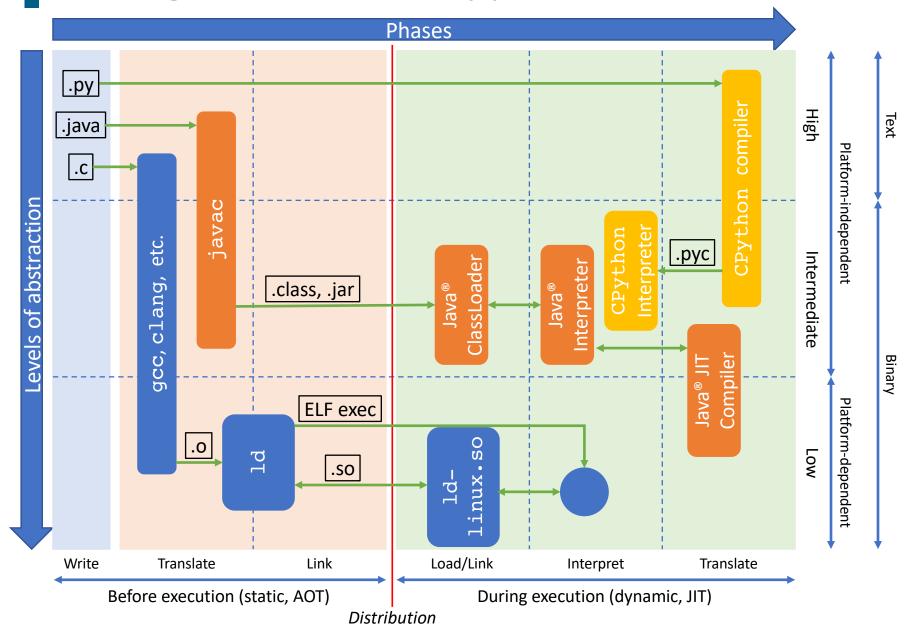
Transformation Techniques and Workflow











Languages, Grammars, Recognizers

Language

- (Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary) language, n. Any system of formalized symbols, signs, gestures, or the like, used or conceived as a means of communicating thought, emotion, etc.
- Mathematically: A language \mathcal{L} is a set of strings over some alphabet Σ . Languages of interest are infinite, and therefore cannot be enumerated.

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Grammar

- A grammar $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{L})$ is a formal system that provides a finite generative description of \mathcal{L} .
- \mathcal{G} is a finite set of rules whose systematic repeated application will generate those, and only those, strings that belong to \mathcal{L} .

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Recognizer

• A recognizer $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{L}, w)$ is an automaton (i.e., machine) that can decide whether $w \in \mathcal{L}$.