



# COMPILER DESIGN

## Unit 5: Code Generation

---

Prakash C O

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

# COMPILER DESIGN

---

## Unit 5: Code Generation

### Introduction

Prakash C O

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

### Introduction

- The final phase in our compiler model is the code generator.
- Code generator takes as input the intermediate representation(IR) produced by the front end of the compiler, along with relevant symbol table information, and produces as output a semantically equivalent target program, as shown in Figure.



### Introduction

### Intermediate Representation



### Code Generator



### Target Machine Code

- **Linear representations - 3AC/SSA** (Quadruples / Triples / Indirect triples)
- **VM instructions** (Bytecodes / Stack machine codes)
- **Graphical representations** (Syntax trees / DAGs)

- **RISC** (many registers, 3AC, simple addressing modes, simple ISA)
- **CISC** (few registers, 2AC, variety of addressing modes, variable length instructions, Instruction may take more than a single clock cycle to get executed)
- **Stack machine** (push/pop, stack top uses registers, used in JVM, JIT compilation)

### Introduction

### Intermediate Representation



Code Generator



### Target Machine Code

$t0 = y$   
 $t0 = t0 + z$   
 $x = t0$

LD R0, y  
ADD R0, R0, z  
ST x, R0

### Introduction

➤ **The requirements imposed on a code generator are severe.**

**1. The target program must preserve the semantic meaning of the source program.**

- Meaning intended by the programmer in the original source program should carry forward in each compilation stage until code-generation.

**2. The target program must be of high quality.**

- Execution time or space or energy or ...

**3. The code generator itself must run efficiently.**

- Instruction Selection, Register Allocation and Instruction ordering.

### Introduction

➤ The challenges in code generation are,

1. Mathematically, the problem of generating an optimal target program for a given source program is *undecidable*;
2. Many of the subproblems encountered in code generation such as register allocation are *Computationally intractable(NP-Hard)*.

### Introduction

➤ A code generator has three primary tasks:

#### 1. Instruction Selection

- It involves choosing appropriate target-machine instructions to implement the IR statements.

#### 2. Register Allocation & Assignment

- It involves deciding what values to keep in which registers.

#### 3. Instruction ordering

- It involves deciding in what order to schedule the execution of instructions

IR Code:

$t_0 = y$

$t_0 = t_0 + z$

$x = t_0$

Target Code:

LD R0, y

ADD R0, R0, z

ST x, R0

# COMPILER DESIGN

---

## Unit 5: Code Generation

## Issues in the Design of a Code Generator

Prakash C O

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

### Issues in the Design of a Code Generator

- The code generator design issues details are dependent on
  1. the specifics of Intermediate Representation,
  2. the Target Language, and the Run-time system,
  3. tasks such as Instruction Selection, Register Allocation and Assignment, and Instruction Ordering.
- The most important criterion for a code generator is that it produce correct target code.

### Issues in the Design of a Code Generator

Issues in the Design of a Code Generator are:

1. Input to the Code Generator
2. The Target Program
3. Instruction Selection
4. Register Allocation
5. Evaluation Order

### 1. Input to the Code Generator

- The input to the code generator is
  - 1. The intermediate representation(IR) of the source program produced by the front end, and
  - 2. Information in the symbol table that is used to determine the run-time addresses of the data objects denoted by the names in the IR.

### 1. Input to the Code Generator

➤ The many choices for the intermediate representation(IR) include

1. **Three-address representations** such as
  - **Quadruples, Triples, and Indirect triples**
2. **Virtual machine representations** such as
  - **Bytecodes and stack-machine code**
3. **Linear representations** such as
  - **Postfix notation**
4. **Graphical representations** such as
  - **Syntax trees and DAG's.**

### 1. Input to the Code Generator

#### ➤ Assumptions:

- The front end has scanned, parsed, and translated the source program into a relatively low-level Intermediate Representation.
- All syntactic and static semantic errors have been detected properly.
  - The necessary type checking has taken place, and that type conversion operators have been inserted wherever necessary.
  - The code generator can therefore proceed on the assumption that its input is free of these kinds of errors.

### 2. The Target Program

- *The instruction-set architecture of the target machine has a significant impact on the difficulty of constructing a good code generator that produces high-quality machine code.*
- **The most common target-machine architectures are**
  - a) **RISC** (Reduced Instruction Set Computer),
  - b) **CISC** (Complex Instruction Set Computer), and
  - c) **Stack based Architecture.**

### 2. The Target Program

#### a) A RISC machine typically has

- many registers,
- three-address instructions,
- simple addressing modes, and
- a relatively simple instruction-set architecture.

Examples of RISC microprocessors are Alpha, ARC, ARM, AVR, MIPS, PA-RISC, PIC, Power Architecture, and SPARC

#### b) A CISC machine typically has

- few registers,
- two-address instructions,
- a variety of addressing modes,
- variable-length instructions.

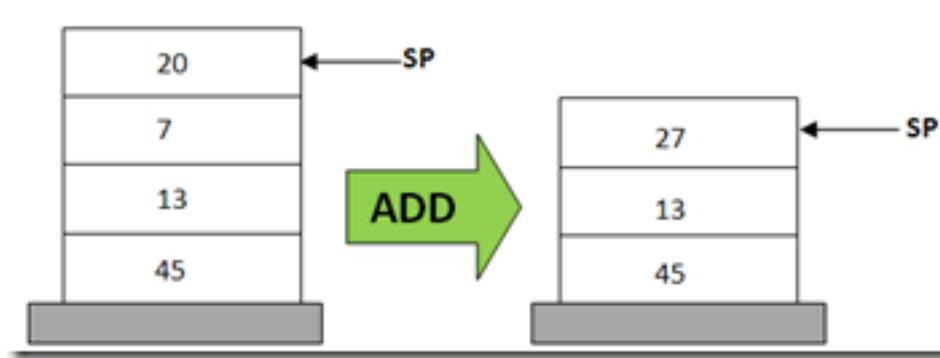
Examples of CISC processors are the System/360, VAX, PDP-11, Motorola 68000 family, AMD and Intel x86 CPUs.

### 2. The Target Program

#### c) Stack based Architecture

- Stack-based architectures were revived with the introduction of the [JVM](#).
- **Example:** In a stack based virtual machine, the operation of adding two numbers would usually be carried out in the following manner (where 20, 7, and ‘result’ are the operands):

1. POP 20
2. POP 7
3. ADD 20, 7, result
4. PUSH result



### 2. The Target Program

The target program is the output of the code generator.

The output may be absolute machine language code, relocatable machine language code or assembly language code

➤ Producing an *absolute machine-language program* as output has the advantage that it can be placed in a fixed location in memory and immediately executed.

➤ Producing a *relocatable machine-language program* (often called an object module) as output allows subprograms to be compiled separately.

A set of relocatable object modules can be linked together and loaded for execution by a linking loader.

### 2. The Target Program

**The target program is the output of the code generator.**

**The output may be absolute machine language code, relocatable machine language code or assembly language code**

➤ **Producing an assembly-language program as output makes the process of code generation somewhat easier.**

We can generate symbolic instructions and use the macro facilities of the assembler to help generate code.

**The price paid is the assembly step after code generation.**

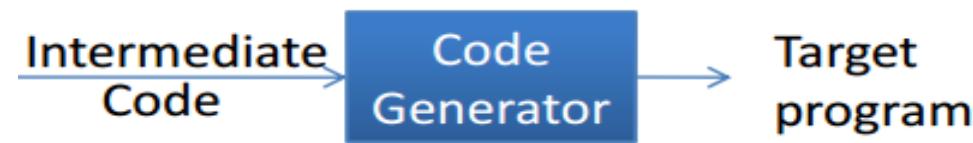
### 2. The Target Program

➤ **For readability, we use assembly code as the target language.**

As long as addresses can be calculated from offsets and other information stored in the symbol table, the code generator can produce relocatable or absolute addresses for names just as easily as symbolic addresses.

### 3. Instruction Selection

- The code generator must map the IR program into a code sequence that can be executed by the target machine.



- The complexity of Instruction Selection depends upon
  - a) Level of the IR
  - b) Nature of the Instruction-Set Architecture(ISA)
  - c) Desired quality of the generated code.

IR Code:

$t_0 = y$

$t_0 = t_0 + z$

$x = t_0$

Target Code:

LD R0, y

ADD R0, R0, z

ST x, R0

### 3. Instruction Selection

The complexity of Instruction Selection depends upon

#### a) Level of the IR

- If the IR is high level, the code generator may translate each IR statement into a sequence of machine instructions using code templates.  
Such statement-by-statement code generation, however, often produces poor code that needs further optimization.
- If the IR reflects some of the low-level details of the underlying machine, then the code generator can use this information to generate more efficient code sequences.
  - e.g., *intsize* versus 4.

### 3. Instruction Selection

The complexity of Instruction Selection depends upon

#### b) Nature of the Instruction-Set Architecture(ISA)

➤ *The nature of the instruction set of the target machine has a strong effect on the difficulty of instruction selection.*

For example, the uniformity and completeness of the instruction set are important factors.

- If the target machine does not support each data type in a uniform manner, then each exception to the general rule requires special handling. **On some machines, for example, floating-point operations are done using separate registers.**
- The set of instructions are said to be complete if the target machine includes a sufficient number of instructions in each of the category (Arithmetic, logical, shift, move, conditional-and-unconditional-jumps and i/o instructions)

### 3. Instruction Selection

The complexity of Instruction Selection depends upon

#### c) Desired quality of the generated code.

- If we do not care about the efficiency of the target program, instruction selection is straightforward.
- For each type of three-address statement, we can design a code skeleton that defines the target code to be generated for that construct.
- For example, every three-address statement of the form  $x = y + z$ , where x, y, and z are statically allocated, can be translated into the code sequence

```
LD  R0, y      // R0 = y      (load y into register R0)
ADD R0, R0, z   // R0 = R0 + z  (add z to R0)
ST  x, R0       // x = R0     (store R0 into x)
```

### 3. Instruction Selection

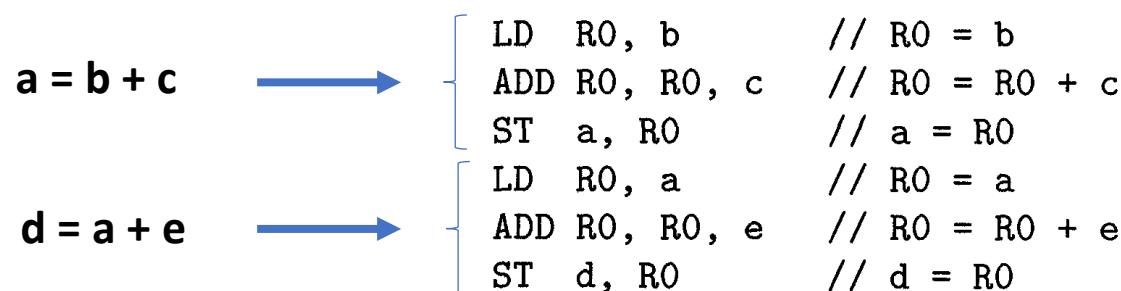
- If we do not care about the efficiency of the target program, instruction selection is straightforward.

This strategy often produces redundant loads and stores. For example, the sequence of three-address statements

$$a = b + c$$

$$d = a + e$$

would be translated into



Here, the fourth statement is redundant since it loads a value that has just been stored, and so is the third if  $a$  is not subsequently used.

### 3. Instruction Selection

➤ The quality of the generated target code is usually determined by its speed and size.

- A given IR program can be implemented by many different target code sequences, with significant cost differences between the different implementations.
- A naive translation of the intermediate code may therefore lead to correct but unacceptably inefficient target code.

For example, if the target machine has an INC instruction, then **a = a + 1** may be implemented more efficiently by the single instruction **INC a**, rather than

```
LD  R0, a      // R0 = a
ADD R0, R0, #1 // R0 = R0 + 1
ST  a, R0      // a = R0
```

### 4. Register Allocation

- Registers are the fastest computational unit on the target machine, but we usually do not have enough of them to hold all values.
- Instructions involving register operands are invariably shorter and faster than those involving operands in memory, so efficient utilization of registers is particularly important.
- A key problem in code generation is deciding what values to hold in what registers.
- Keep values in registers as long as possible to minimize the number of load / store statements executed.
- Values not held in registers need to reside in memory.

### 4. Register Allocation

➤ The use of registers is often subdivided into two subproblems:

- **Register allocation**, during which we **select the set of variables that will reside in registers** at each point in the program.
- **Register assignment**, during which we **pick the specific register that a variable will reside in**.

**Register allocation** - deciding which values to keep in registers.

**Register assignment** - choosing specific registers for values.

➤ Finding an optimal assignment of registers to variables is difficult, even with single-register machines. Mathematically, the problem is NP-complete.

### 4. Register Allocation

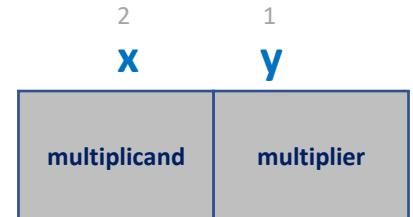
- The register allocation problem is further complicated because the hardware and/or the operating system of the target machine may require that certain register-usage conventions be observed.
- Example 8.1 : Certain machines require register-pairs (an even and next odd numbered register) for some operands and results.

For example, on some machines, integer multiplication and integer division involve register pairs.

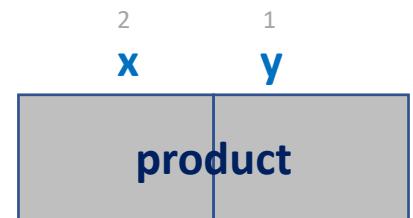
- The multiplication instruction is of the form  $M \quad x, \quad y$

where x, the multiplicand, is the even register of an even/odd register pair and y, the multiplier, is the odd register. The product occupies the entire even/odd register pair.

Before operation:



After operation:



### 4. Register Allocation

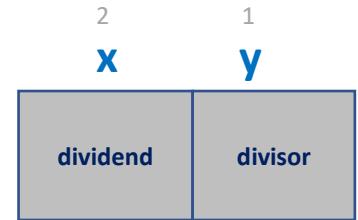
#### ➤ Example 8.1 : cont...

- The division instruction is of the form

$$D \ x, \ y$$

where the dividend occupies an even/odd register pair whose even register is x; the divisor is y. After division, the even register holds the remainder and the odd register the quotient.

Before operation:



After operation:



### 5. Evaluation Order

➤ The order in which computations are performed can affect the efficiency of the target code.

- Some computation orders require fewer registers to hold intermediate results than others.
- Picking a best computation order in the general case is a difficult NP-complete problem.

➤ Initially, we shall avoid the problem by generating code for the TAC in the order in which they have been produced by the intermediate code generator.

# COMPILER DESIGN

---

## Unit 5: Code Generation

### Target Machine Model (Hypothetical Model)

Prakash C O

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

### Target Machine Model

- Our target computer models a three-address machine with
  1. Load and Store operations,
  2. Computation operations,
  3. Jump operations, and
  4. Conditional jumps.
- The underlying computer is a byte-addressable machine with n general-purpose registers, R<sub>0</sub>, R<sub>1</sub>, . . . , R<sub>n - 1</sub>.
- To avoid hiding the concepts in a myriad of details, we shall use a very limited set of instructions and assume that all operands are integers.
- Most instructions consists of an operator, followed by a target, followed by a list of source operands. Ex: op dest, src1, src2
  - op dest, src

### Target Machine Model

➤ We assume the following kinds of instructions are available:

1. Load (from memory)

( LD dest reg, src (memloc) )

2. Store (to memory)

( ST dest (memloc), src reg )

3. Move (b/w registers)

( MOV dest reg1, src reg2 )

4. Computations

( op, dest, src1, src2 )

- a) ADD
- b) SUB
- c) MUL
- d) DIV

may be register, memory location  
Or immediate constant.

### Target Machine Model

5. Unconditional jumps ( BR L )
6. Conditional jumps ( Bcond R, L )

*cond : LTZ, GTZ, EZ, LTEZ, GTEZ*

For example, **BLTZ R, L** causes a jump to label L if the value in register R is less than zero, and allows control to pass to the next machine instruction if not.

### Target Machine Model

#### Addressing Modes

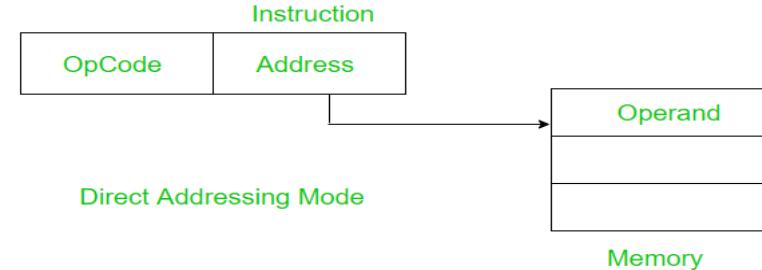
##### 1. Direct Addressing mode:

- In direct addressing mode, the address field contains the address of the operand.
- Example: Add the content of R1 and the content of 1001(memory address) and store the result back to R1

**ADD R1, (1001)** Here 1001 is the address where operand is stored.

**Example (for hypothetical model): ADD R1, a**

**Note:** In our hypothetical model, for simplicity, instead of memory address of a variable, we are using variable name in the instruction itself.



### Target Machine Model

#### Addressing Modes

**2. Index addressing mode:** Index addressing mode is used to access an array whose elements are in successive memory locations.

Example:  $x = a[i]$

```
t1 = 4 * i
t2 = a[t1]
x = t2
```

op	dest	src1	src2
LD	R1	i	
MUL	R1	R1	#4
MOV	R2	R1(a)	
ST	x	R2	

r-value

In the above MOV instruction

$R2 \leftarrow \text{contents}(\text{contents of } R1 + a)$

$R2 \leftarrow \text{contents}(\text{offset} + \text{base address})$

### Target Machine Model

#### Addressing Modes

##### 3. Indirect addressing mode:

Here two references are required. First reference to get effective address.

Second reference to access the data.

Example :  $x = *p$

```
t1 = *p
x = t1
```

op	dest	src1	src2
LD	R1	p	
MOV	R2	0(R1)	
ST	x	R2	

r-value

In the above MOV instruction:  $R2 \leftarrow \text{contents}(0 + \text{contents of R1})$ ,  
that is, loading into R2 the value in the memory location obtained by adding 0 to the  
contents of register R1.

### Target Machine Model

#### Addressing Modes

**4. Immediate addressing mode:** In this mode data is present in address field of instruction.

Example:  $a = 100$

$a = 100$

op	dest	src1	src2
LD	R1	#100	
ST	a	R1	

**Note:** Limitation in the immediate mode is that the range of constants are restricted by size of address field.

### Target Machine Model

#### Note:

1. Byte-addressable machine.
2. N general purpose registers are available:  
R0, R1, R2..... Rn-1
3. Assume all operands are integers.
4. Comments are preceded by //

### Generate Three address code and Target code for

1)  $a[i] = c$

```
t1 = 4 * i  
a[t1] = c
```

op	dest	src1	src2
LD	R1	i	
MUL	R1	R1	#4
LD	R2	c	
ST	R1(a)	R2	

I-value

Contents of  $(R1 + a) \leftarrow R2$

Generate Target code for

2) if  $x < y$  goto L

op	dest	src1	src2
LD	R1	x	
LD	R2	y	
SUB	R1	R1	R2
BLTZ	R1	M	

R1 has x

R2 has y

R1 has x-y

M is the equivalent machine instruction generated for label L

### Generate Target code for

3)     $i = 0$   
        $s = 0$   
**L1:** if  $i \geq n$  goto L2  
        $s = s + i$   
        $i = i + 1$   
       goto L1  
**L2:**

	op	dest	src1	src2
	LD	R1	#0	
	MOV	R2	R1	
	LD	R3	n	
<b>L1:</b>	SUB	R4	R3	R1
	BEZ	R4	L2	
	ADD	R2	R2	R1
	ADD	R1	R1	#1
	BR	L1		
<b>L2:</b>	ST	i	R1	
	ST	s	R2	

R1 represents i, and its initial value is 0

R2 represents s, and its initial value is 0

R3 has value n.

R4 has value n-i

R2 has value s, i.e.,  $s=s+i$

R1 has value i, i.e.,  $i=i+1$

### Generate Target code for

```
4) F = 1;
while(N > 0)
{
    F = F * N;
    N = N - 1;
}
```

#### TAC:

```
F=1
L1 : if(N <= 0) goto L2
      F = F * N
      N = N - 1
      goto L1
```

	op	dest	src1	src2
	LD	R1	#1	
	LD	R2	N	
L1:	BLTEZ	R2	L2	
	MUL	R1	R1	R2
	SUB	R2	R2	#1
	BR	L1		
L2:	ST	F	R1	
	ST	N	R2	

R1 represents F, and its initial value is 1

R2 has value N

R2 has value N, i.e., N=N-1

L2 :

**Exercise 8.2.1:** Generate code for the following three-address statements assuming all variables are stored in memory locations.

- a)  $x = 1$
- b)  $x = a$
- c)  $x = a + 1$
- d)  $x = a + b$
- e) The two statements

```
x = b * c
y = a + x
```

## Unit 5: Code Generation

---

**Exercise 8.2.2:** Generate code for the following three-address statements assuming  $a$  and  $b$  are arrays whose elements are 4-byte values.

a) The four-statement sequence

```
x = a[i]
y = b[j]
a[i] = y
b[j] = x
```

b) The three-statement sequence

```
x = a[i]
y = b[i]
z = x * y
```

c) The three-statement sequence

```
x = a[i]
y = b[x]
a[i] = y
```

How do we generate Target code when procedures are involved?

```
int findFact(int n){  
    int i, fact=1;  
    for(i=1;i<=n;i++)  
        fact=fact*i;  
    return fact;  
}
```

Need mechanisms for:

Passing arguments

Local Storage

Returning results

Linking control

**How do we generate Target code when procedures are involved?**

**Many questions to answer:**

1. **What does the dynamic execution of functions look like?**
2. **Where is the executable code for functions located?**
3. **How are parameters passed in and out of functions?**
4. **Where are local variables stored?**

### Memory Layout of an executable program

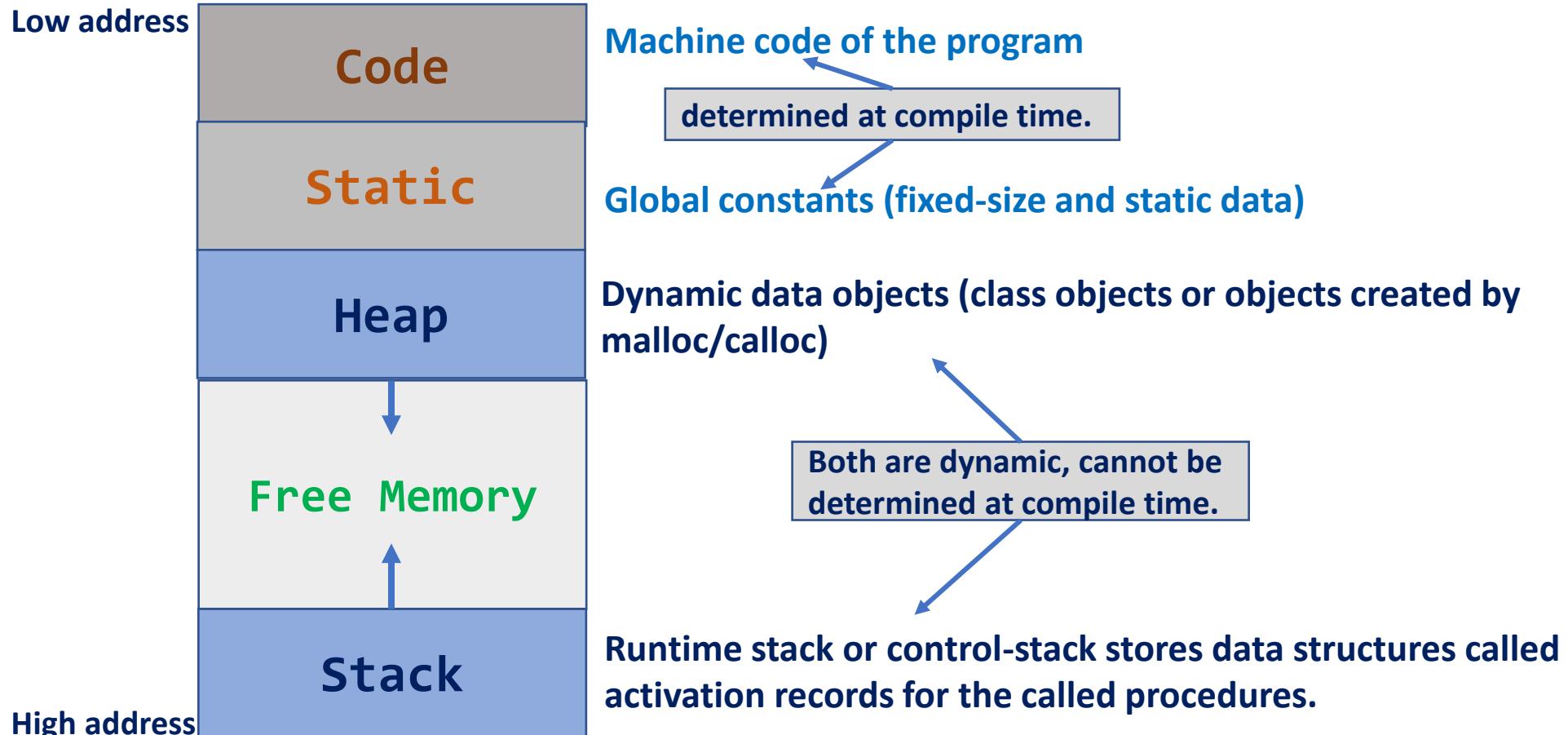


Figure: Subdivision of run-time memory into code and data areas

### Code generation for procedures (Static allocation)

Example 1:

**IC for Procedure c()**

action  
action  
call p  
action  
halt

**IC for Procedure p()**

action  
return

Assuming static allocation for procedures.

The code for procedures c() and p() are kept at the memory locations 100 and 200 respectively.

Also, the activation records for procedures c() and p() are kept at the memory locations 300 and 364 respectively.

Note: CPU Registers occupies zero bytes in target code instructions. Opcodes, immediate constants, memory addresses and memory operands(variables) needs 4-bytes in target code instructions.

**Note:** *action* denotes set of three-address statements, target code of action (i.e., ACTION) takes 20 bytes memory.

### Code generation for procedures (Static allocation)

Example 1:

**IC for Procedure c()**

action  
action  
call p  
action  
halt

**IC for Procedure p()**

action  
return



**Target code for c()**

100: ACTION  
120: ACTION  
140: ST 364, 160  
152: BR 200  
160: ACTION  
180: HALT

**Target code for p()**

200: ACTION  
220: BR \*364

**Activation record of c()**

300: ...

**Activation record of p()**

364: 160

Note: *action* denotes set of three-address statements, target code of action (i.e., ACTION) takes 20 bytes memory.

### Code generation for procedures (Static allocation)

**Exercise 1:** Generate Target code for the following TAC, assuming static allocation for procedures.

The code for procedures p() and q() are kept at the memory locations 100 and 300 respectively.

Also, the activation records for procedures p() and q() are kept at the memory locations 400 and 600 respectively. Assume the names m, n and x represent addresses.

Note: CPU Registers occupies zero bytes in target code instructions. Opcodes, immediate constants, memory addresses and memory operands(variables) needs 4-bytes in target code instructions.

#### IC for Procedure p()

```
m=5  
n=m*2  
call q  
halt
```

#### IC for Procedure q()

```
x=2*x  
Return
```

### Code generation for procedures (Static allocation)

#### Exercise 1: Solution

##### IC for Procedure p()

```
m=5  
n=m*2  
call q  
halt
```

##### IC for Procedure q()

```
x=2*x  
return
```



##### Target code for p()

```
100: LD R1, #5  
108: ST m, R1  
116: MUL R1, R1, #2  
124: ST n, R1  
132: ST 600, 152  
144: BR 300  
152: HALT
```

##### Target code for q()

```
300: LD R1, x  
308: MUL R1,R1,#2  
316: BR *600
```

##### Activation record of p()

```
400: ...
```

##### Activation record of q()

```
600: 152
```

## References

---

- **Compilers—Principles, Techniques and Tools**, Alfred V. Aho, Monica S. Lam, Ravi Sethi, Jeffery D. Ullman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition
- <https://markfaction.wordpress.com/2012/07/15/stack-based-vs-register-based-virtual-machine-architecture-and-the-dalvik-vm/>



**THANK YOU**

---

**Prakash C O**

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

**[coprakasha@pes.edu](mailto:coprakasha@pes.edu)**

**+91 98 8059 1946**

### 4. Register Allocation

- Consider the two three-address code sequences in Fig. 8.2 in which the only difference in (a) and (b) is the operator in the second statement. The shortest assembly-code sequences for (a) and (b) are given in Fig. 8.3.

$t = a + b$

$t = t * c$

$t = t / d$

(a)

$t = a + b$

$t = t + c$

$t = t / d$

(b)

L R1,a

A R1,b

M R0,c

D R0,d

ST R1,t

L R0, a

A R0, b

A R0, c

SRDA R0, 32

D R0, d

ST R1, t

Figure 8.2: Two three-address code sequences

Figure 8.3: Optimal machine-code sequences

R<sub>i</sub> stands for register i. SRDA stands for Shift-Right-Double-Arithmetic and SRDA R0,32 shifts the dividend into R1 and clears R0 so all bits equal its sign bit.



# COMPILER DESIGN

## Unit 5: Code Generator Algorithm

---

Prakash C O

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

# COMPILER DESIGN

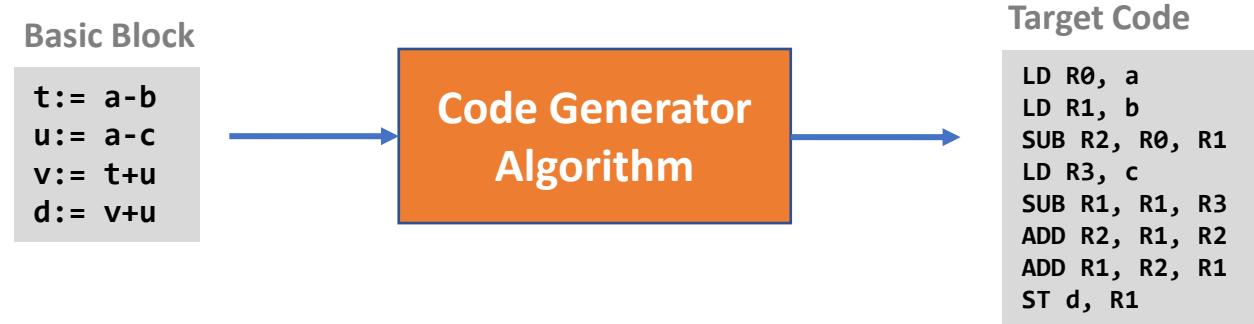
---

## Unit 5: Code Generator Algorithm

**Prakash C O**

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

- Consider an algorithm that generates target code for a single basic block.



- Code generator algorithm considers each three-address instruction and keeps track of what values are in what registers so it can avoid generating unnecessary loads and stores.
- One of the primary issues during code generation is deciding how to use registers to best advantage.

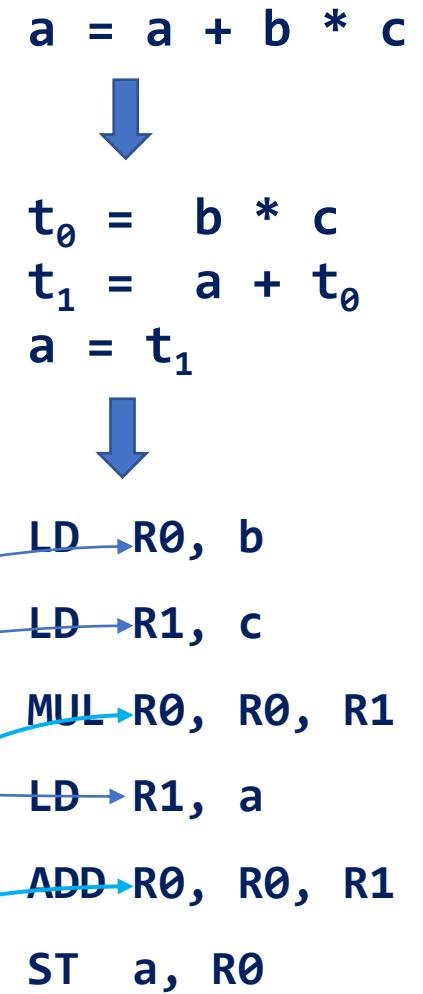
➤ There are four principal uses of registers:

1. In most machine architectures, some or all of the operands of an operation must be in registers in order to perform the operation.
2. Registers make good temporaries - places to hold the result of a subexpression while a larger expression is being evaluated, or more generally, a place to hold a variable that is used only within a single basic block.

Here registers R0 and R1 are used to hold operands a, b and c

Here register R0 represents temporary  $t_0$  and hold value of subexpression  $b*c$

Here register R0 represents temporary  $t_1$  and hold value of subexpression  $a+t_0$



➤ There are four principal uses of registers: Cont...

3. Registers are used to hold (global) values that are computed in one basic block and used in other blocks. For example, a loop index that is incremented going around the loop and is used several times within the loop.
  
4. Registers are often used to help with run-time storage management, for example, to manage the run-time stack, including the maintenance of stack pointers and possibly the top elements of the stack itself.

These are competing needs, since the number of registers available is limited.

➤ The Target machine instructions are of the form

Opcode	Target	Source1	Source2	Description
LD	reg	mem		Move the contents of memory location(i.e., from variable) to register
ST	mem	reg		Move the contents of register to memory location(i.e., to variable)
MOV	reg1	reg2		Move the contents of register2 to register1
OP	reg3	reg1	reg2	Perform operation OP on the contents of register1 and register2, and the result will be stored in register3

### Register Descriptor and Address Descriptor

➤ The code generator must track both the *registers* (for availability) and *addresses* (location of values) while generating the target code.

For both, the following descriptors are used:

1. Register Descriptor
2. Address Descriptor

### Register Descriptor and Address Descriptor

➤ The desired data structure has the following descriptors:

#### 1. Register Descriptor

- Register descriptor is used to inform the code generator about the availability of registers.
- For each available register, a register descriptor keeps track of the variable names whose current value is in that register.
- Assume initially, all register descriptors are empty. As the code generation progresses, each register will hold the value of zero or more names.

**Note:** A register descriptor keeps track of the availability of registers and what is currently in each register.

### Register Descriptor and Address Descriptor

➤ The desired data structure has the following descriptors:

#### 2. Address Descriptor

- For each program variable, an *address descriptor* keeps track of the location or locations of a variable where the current value of that variable can be found.
  
- The location might be a register, a memory address, a stack location, or some set of more than one of these. The information can be stored in the symbol-table entry for that variable name.

### getReg(I) function:

#### ➤ getReg(I)

- has access to the *register* and *address descriptors* for all the variables of the basic block and
- may also have access to certain useful data-flow information such as the variables that are live on exit from the block.

➤ Function getReg(I) selects registers for each operand(memory location) associated with the three-address instruction I.

$x = x + y$

R1 <- x, R2 <- y and result in R1

### Algorithm getReg():

**Input:** Request for a register

**Output:** A register or the memory location

1. Return a new empty register if available.
2. Else If value of y is stored in a register R and R only holds the value y, and y has no next use, then return R; Update address descriptor: value y no longer in R.
3. Else if there are no free registers and find an occupied register R having value y; Store contents by generating  $STM,R$  for every M in address descriptor of y; Return register R.
4. Else If no such free register could be identified, then the instruction operates on memory location.

### Principle of Register Allocation :

- If a variable needs to be allocated to a register, the system checks for any free register available, if it finds one, it allocates.
- If there is no free register, then it checks for a register that contains a dead variable (a variable whose value is not going to be used in future), and if it finds one then it allocates.
- Otherwise it goes for Spilling (it checks for a register whose value is needed after the longest time, saves its value into the memory, and then use that register for current allocation, later when the old value of the register is needed, the system gets it from the memory where it was saved and allocate it in any register which is available).

## Unit 5: Code Generator Algorithm

---

**Example 1: Generate target code sequence for the following basic block three address statements with register and address descriptors.**

Assuming only three registers(R1, R2 and R3) are available and only variables a and d are live on exit from the basic block. Variables t, u and v are temporaries.

1.  $t := a - b$
2.  $u := a - c$
3.  $v := t + u$
4.  $a := d$
5.  $d := v + u$

**Note:** Assuming that all arithmetic operations take their operands from registers.

## Unit 5: Code Generator Algorithm

For each available register, a register descriptor keeps track of the variable names whose current value is in that register.

For each program variable, an *address descriptor* keeps track of the location or locations where the current value of that variable can be found.

### Example 1:

TAC	Target Code	Register Descriptor			Address Descriptor						
		R1	R2	R3	a	b	c	d	t	u	v
$t = a - b$		-	-	-	a	b	c	d			
	LD R1, a	a	-	-	a, R1	b	c	d			
	LD R2, b	a	b	-	a, R1	b, R2	c	d			
$u = a - c$	SUB R2, R1, R2	a	t	-	a, R1	b	c	d	R2		
	LD R3, c	a	t	c	a, R1	b	c, R3	d	R2		
	SUB R1, R1, R3	u	t	c	a	b	c, R3	d	R2	R1	
$v = t + u$	ADD R3, R2, R1	u	t	v	a	b	c	d	R2	R1	R3
$a = d$	LD R2, d	u	d, a	v	R2	b	c	d, R2	R1	R3	
$d = v + u$	ADD R1, R3, R1	d	a	v	R2	b	c	R1			R3
exit	ST a, R2	d	a	v	a, R2	b	c	R1			R3
	ST d, R1	d	a	v	a, R2	b	c	d, R1			R3

**Example 2 : Generate target code sequence for the following basic block  
three address statements with register and address descriptors.**

Assuming only two registers (R1 and R2) are available and all the variables are live on exit from the basic block. No temporary variables are used.

1.  $x := y + z$
2.  $z := x * x$
3.  $y := z$
4.  $x := y + z$

**Note:** Assuming that all arithmetic operations take their operands from registers.

## Unit 5: Code Generator Algorithm

### Example 2 :

For each available register, a register descriptor keeps track of the variable names whose current value is in that register.

For each program variable, an *address descriptor* keeps track of the location or locations where the current value of that variable can be found.

TAC	Target Code	Register Descriptor		Address Descriptor		
		R1	R2	x	y	z
$x = y + z$		-	-	x	y	z
	LD R1, y	y	-	x	y, R1	z
	LD R2, z	y	z	x	y, R1, z, R2	
	ADD R1, R1, R2	x	z	R1	y	z, R2
$z = x * x$	MUL R2, R1, R1	x	z	R1	y	R2
$y = z$	ST y, R2	x	z, y	R1	y, R2	R2
$x = y + z$	ADD R1, R2, R2	x	z, y	R1	y, R2	R2
exit	ST x, R1	x	z, y	x, R1	y, R2	R2
	ST z, R2	x	z, y	x, R1	y, R2	z, R2

**Exercise 1: Generate target code sequence for the following basic block  
three address statements with register and address descriptors.**

Assuming only two registers are available, and  $y$ ,  $z$  and  $d$  are live on exit from the basic block. No temporary variables are used.

1.  $x := a+b$
2.  $y := c-d$
3.  $z := x+y$
4.  $d := y*z$

**Note:** Assuming that all arithmetic operations take their operands from registers.

1.  $x := a+b$
2.  $y := c-d$
3.  $z := x+y$
4.  $d := y*z$

### Exercise 1: Solution

For each available register, a register descriptor keeps track of the variable names whose current value is in that register.

For each program variable, an *address descriptor* keeps track of the location or locations where the current value of that variable can be found.

TAC	Target Code	Register Descriptor		Address Descriptor						
		R1	R2	a	b	c	d	x	y	z
$x = a + b$		-	-	a	b	c	d	x	y	z
	LD R1, a	a	-	a,R1	b	c	d	x	y	z
	LD R2, b	a	b	a,R1	b,R2	c	d	x	y	z
	ADD R2, R1, R2	a	x	a,R1	b	c	d	R2	y	z
	ST x, R2	a	x	a,R1	b	c	d	x,R2	y	z
$y = c - d$	LD R1, c	c	x	a	b	c,R1	d	x,R2	y	z
	LD R2, d	c	d	a	b	c,R1	d,R2	x	y	z
	SUB R2, R1, R2	c	y	a	b	c,R1	d	x	R2	z
$z = x + y$	LD R1, x	x	y	a	b	c	d	x,R1	R2	z
	ADD R1, R1, R2	z	y	a	b	c	d	x	R2	R1
	ST z, R1	z	y	a	b	c	d	x	R2	z,R1
$d = y * z$	MUL R1, R2, R1	d	y	a	b	c	R1	x	R2	z
exit	ST d, R1	d	y	a	b	c	d,R1	x	R2	z
	ST y, R2	d	y	a	b	c	d,R1	x	y,R2	z

### What is Spilling?

Formally speaking, spilling is a technique in which, a variable is moved out from a register space to the main memory(the RAM) to make space for other variables, which are to be used in the program currently under execution.

## Unit 5: Code Generator Algorithm

---

**Exercise 2:** The program below uses six temporary variables a, b, c, d, e, f.

```
a=15
b=25
c=35
d=a+b
e=c+d
f=c+e
b=c+e
e=b+f
d=15+e
return d+f
```

Assuming that all operations take their operands from registers, what is the minimum number of registers needed to execute this program *without spilling* and *without code optimization*?

### Exercise 2: Solution

```
a=15  
b=25  
c=35  
d=a+b  
e=c+d  
f=c+e  
b=c+e  
e=b+f  
d=15+e  
  
return d+f
```



LD R1, a	
LD R2, b	
ADD R1, R1, R2	R1 has d, i.e., a+b
LD R2, c	R2 has c
ADD R1, R2, R1	R1 has e, i.e., c+d
ADD R1, R2, R1	R1 has f, i.e., c+e
ADD R3, R2, R1	R3 has b, i.e., c+e
ADD R2, R3, R1	R2 has e, i.e., b+f
ADD R2, R2, #15	R2 has d, i.e., e+15
ADD R1, R2, R1	R1 has d+f

Hence minimum 3 registers required.

## Unit 5: Code Generator Algorithm

---

**Exercise 3:** Consider the expression  $(a-10) * (((b * c) / 6)) + d)$  and its corresponding TAC

```
t1=b*c  
t2=t1/6  
t3=t2+d  
t4=a-10  
t5=t4*t3
```

- Let X be the minimum number of registers required by an optimal target code generation (without any register spill) algorithm for a load/store architecture, in which
  - only load and store instructions can have memory operands and
  - arithmetic instructions can have only register or immediate operands
- The value of X is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Exercise 3: Solution

```
t1=b*c  
t2=t1/6  
t3=t2+d  
t4=a-10  
t5=t4*t3
```



The Target code (i.e., in assembly code) using the load/store architecture can be written as follows:

```
LD R1, b  
LD R2, c  
MUL R1, R1, R2  
DIV R1, R1, #6  
LD R2, d  
ADD R1, R1, R2  
LD R2, a  
SUB R2, R2, #10  
MUL R2, R2, R1
```

Hence minimum 2 registers required.

## References

---

- **Compilers–Principles, Techniques and Tools**, Alfred V. Aho, Monica S. Lam, Ravi Sethi, Jeffery D. Ullman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition
- <https://www.javatpoint.com/code-generation>



**THANK YOU**

---

**Prakash C O**

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

**[coprakasha@pes.edu](mailto:coprakasha@pes.edu)**

**+91 98 8059 1946**



# COMPILER DESIGN

## Unit 5: Run-Time Environments

---

Prakash C O

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

# COMPILER DESIGN

---

## Unit 5: Run-Time Environments

### Introduction

Prakash C O

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

### Introduction

- A compiler must accurately implement the abstraction embodied in the source language definition. These abstractions typically include the concepts such as
  1. Names, Scopes, Bindings,
  2. Data types,
  3. Operators,
  4. Procedures, Parameters, and
  5. Flow-of-Control constructs.
- The compiler must cooperate with the Operating System and other System Softwares to support these abstractions on the target machine.
- To do so, the compiler creates and manages a **run-time environment** in which it assumes its target programs are being executed.

### Introduction

- A runtime environment is a set of data structures maintained at runtime to implement high-level structures such as
  - Functions,
  - Objects,
  - Exceptions,
  - Data types,
  - Flow-of-Control constructs, etc., .
- Run time environment - Everything you need to execute a program.

### Introduction

➤ Run-time environment deals with a variety of issues such as

1. the allocation of storage locations for the objects named in the source program,
2. the mechanisms used by the target program to access variables,
3. the linkages between procedures,
4. the mechanisms for passing parameters, and
5. the interfaces to the OS, i/o devices, and other programs.

### Introduction

➤ Many questions to answer regarding execution of functions:

- What does the dynamic execution of functions look like?
- Where is the executable code for functions located?
- How are parameters passed in and out of functions?
- Where are local variables stored?
- ...

# COMPILER DESIGN

---

## Unit 5: Run-Time Environments

### Storage Organization

Prakash C O

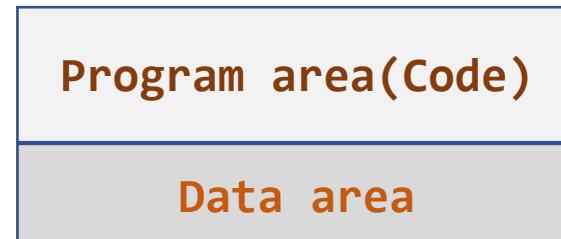
Department of Computer Science and Engineering

### Storage Organization

- The compiler deals with logical address space.
- OS maps the logical addresses to physical addresses

➤ The representation of an object program (**Target Code**) in the logical address space consists of

1. Program area and
2. Data area.



#### Note:

**Logical Address Space** is set of all logical addresses generated by CPU in reference to a program.

**Physical Address (location in a memory unit)** is set of all physical addresses mapped to the corresponding logical addresses.

### Storage Organization

➤ Runtime storage can be subdivided to hold :

1. Target code - it is static as its size can be determined at compile time
2. Static data objects
3. Dynamic data objects – Heap Memory
4. Automatic data objects – Stack memory

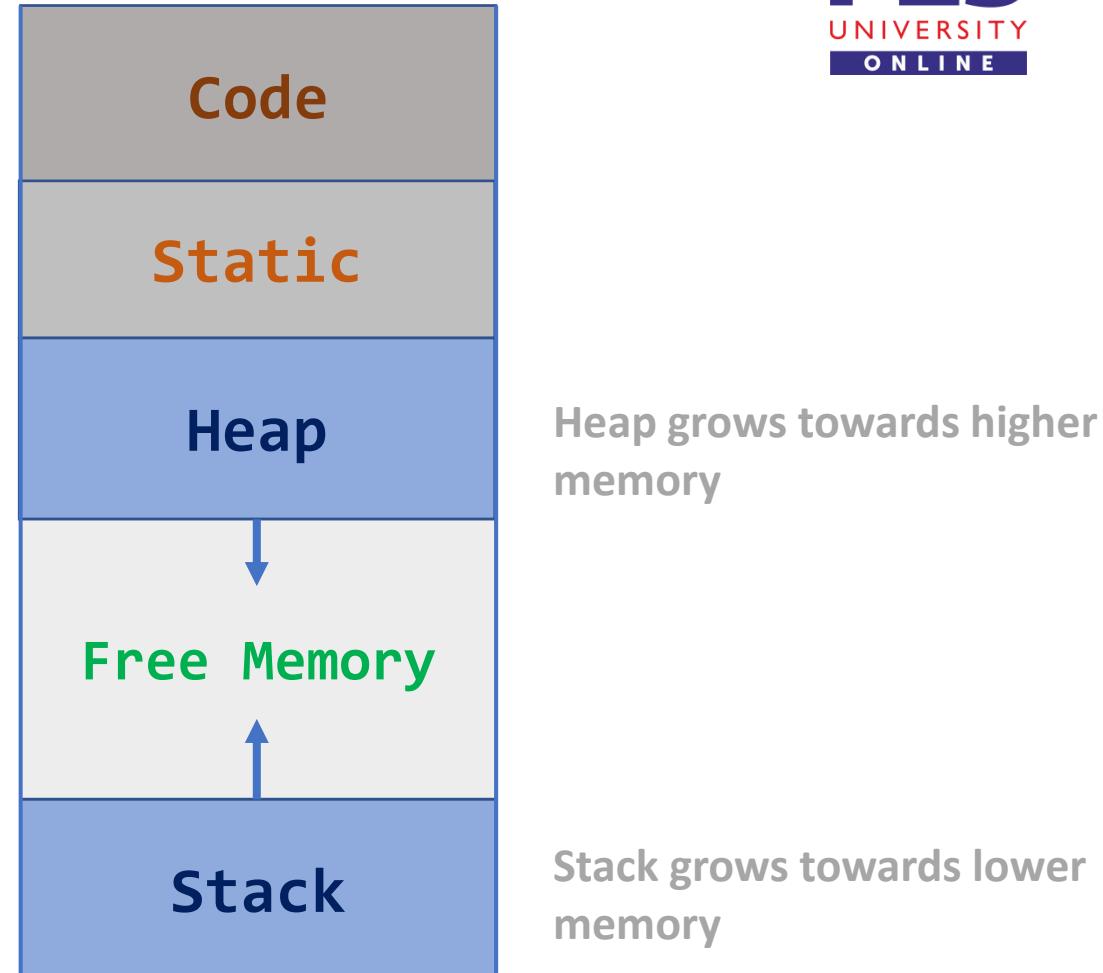


Figure 7.1: Subdivision of run-time memory into code and data areas

### Storage Organization

#### 1. Code (Target Machine Code):

➤ The size of the generated target code is fixed at compile time,  
So the compiler can place the executable target code in a statically determined area called **Code**, usually in the low end of memory.

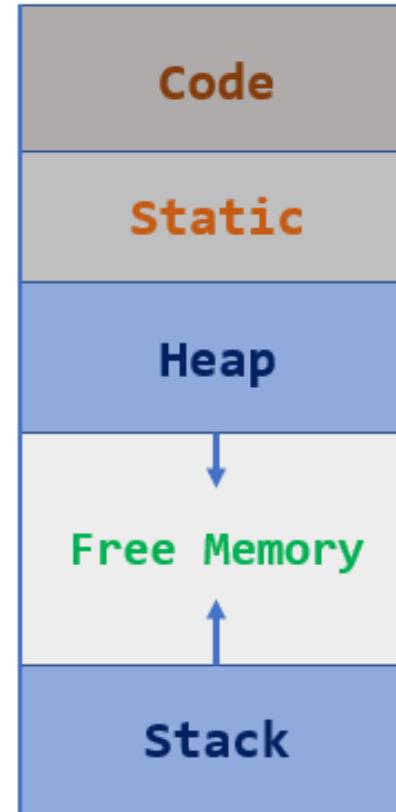


Figure 7.1: Subdivision of run-time memory into code and data areas

### Storage Organization

#### 2. Static data objects:

- The size of data objects, such as **Global Constants** are known at compile time, and can be placed in another statically determined area called **Static**.
- Static allocation is possible only when the compiler knows the size of data object at compile time.
- Reason for statically allocating as many data objects as possible is that *the addresses of these objects can be compiled into the target code.*

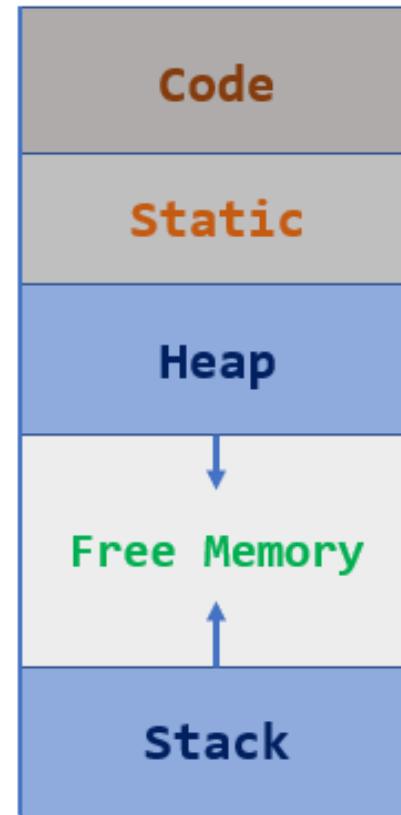


Figure 7.1: Subdivision of run-time memory into code and data areas

### Storage Organization

#### 3. Heap Memory:

- To maximize the utilization of space at run time, *Stack* and *Heap*, are at the opposite ends of the remainder of the address space.
- Stack and Heap areas are dynamic; their size can change as the program executes.
- Heap memory is used to dynamically allocate memory to the variables and claim it back when the variables are no more required.

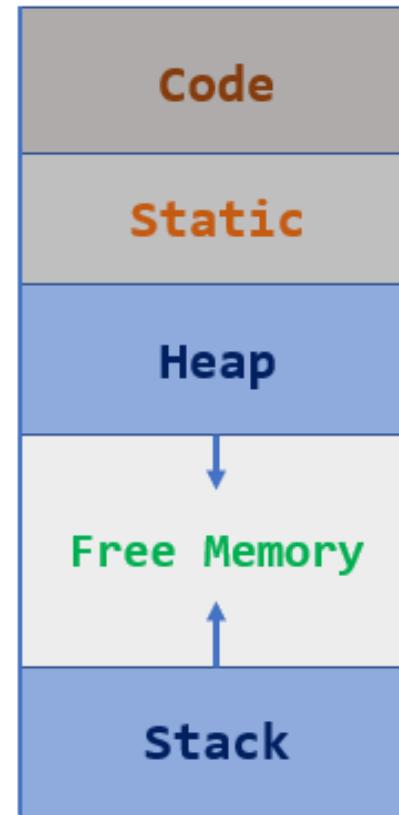


Figure 7.1: Subdivision of run-time memory into code and data areas

### Storage Organization

#### 4. Stack Memory:

- The **Stack** is used to store data structures called activation records that get generated during procedure calls.
- Stack grows with each call and shrinks with each procedure return/terminate.



Figure 7.1: Subdivision of run-time memory into code and data areas

### Static Versus Dynamic Storage Allocation

#### ➤ Static allocation:

A storage-allocation decision is static, if it can be made by the compiler looking only at the text of the program, not at what the program does when it executes.

#### Static allocation

- Names are bound to storage locations at compilation time
  - Bindings do not change, so no run time support is required
  - Names are bound to the same location on every invocation
  - Values are retained across activations of a procedure
- Limitations
  - Size of all data objects must be known at compile time
  - Data structures cannot be created dynamically
  - Recursive procedures are not allowed

### Static Versus Dynamic Storage Allocation

➤ **Dynamic allocation** –Storage allocation decisions are made when the program is running.

- Stack storage allocation
- Heap storage allocation

### Storage Organization

Many compilers use some combination of the following two strategies for dynamic storage allocation:

#### 1. Stack storage.

- When a function is called the local variables are stored in a stack, and it is automatically destroyed once returned.
- A stack is used when a variable is not used outside that function.
- Stack automatically cleans up the object.
- Not easily corrupted
- Variables cannot be resized.

### Storage Organization

Many compilers use some combination of the following two strategies for dynamic storage allocation:

#### 2. Heap storage.

- The heap allows objects or other data elements to obtain storage when they are created and to return that storage when they are invalidated.
- To support heap management, "garbage collection" enables the run-time system to detect useless data elements and reuse their storage, even if the programmer does not return their space explicitly.
- Automatic garbage collection is an essential feature of many modern languages

### Storage Organization

#### Stack Vs Heap Memory

- Stack is a linear data structure whereas Heap is a hierarchical data structure.
- Stack memory will never become fragmented whereas Heap memory can become fragmented as blocks of memory are first allocated and then freed.
- Stack accesses local variables only while Heap allows you to access variables globally.
- Stack variables can't be resized whereas Heap variables can be resized.
- Stack memory is allocated in a contiguous block whereas Heap memory is allocated in any random order.
- Stack doesn't require to de-allocate variables whereas in Heap de-allocation is needed.
- Stack allocation and deallocation are done by compiler instructions whereas Heap allocation and deallocation is done by the programmer.

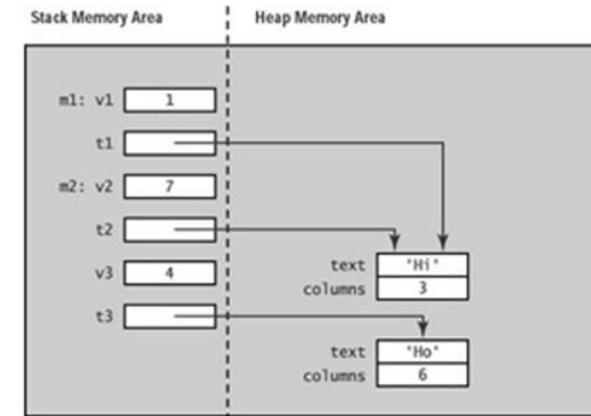


Figure 5.4: The memory model after checkpoint #4

### Storage Organization

#### Stack and Heap Storage Allocation: Example

```
void m1() {  
    int v1 = 1;  
    TextField t1;          // checkpoint #1  
    t1 = new TextField("Hi", 3); // checkpoint #2  
    m2(v1, t1);  
    v1 = 8;              // checkpoint #5  
}  
  
void m2(int v2, TextField t2) {  
    int v3 = 4;  
    TextField t3;          // checkpoint #3  
    t3 = new TextField("Ho", 6);  
    v2 = 7;              // checkpoint #4  
}
```

Stack

Heap

## Storage Organization

## Stack and Heap Storage Allocation: Example

```
void m1() {  
    int v1 = 1;  
    TextField t1;      // checkpoint #1  
    t1 = new TextField("Hi", 3); // checkpoint #2  
    m2(v1, t1);  
    v1 = 8;          // checkpoint #5  
}  
void m2(int v2, TextField t2) {  
    int v3 = 4;  
    TextField t3;      // checkpoint #3  
    t3 = new TextField("Ho", 6);  
    v2 = 7;          // checkpoint #4  
}
```

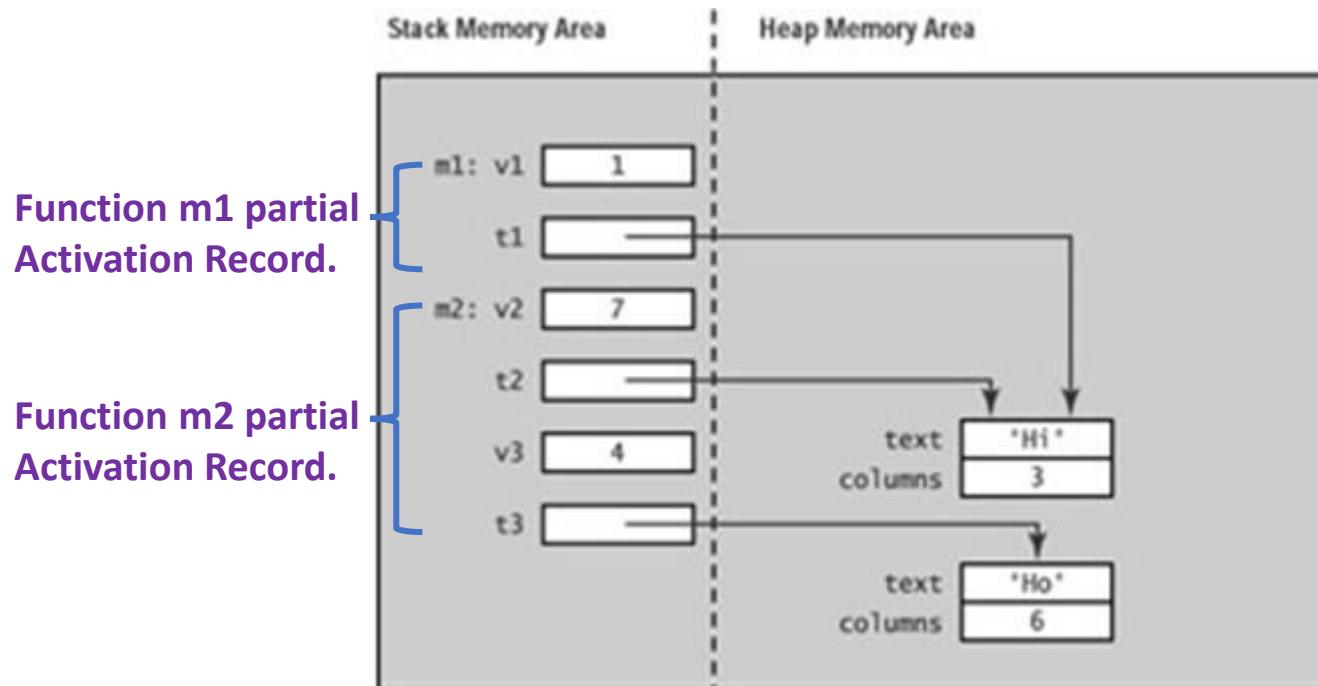


Figure 5.4: The memory model after checkpoint #4

# COMPILER DESIGN

---

## Unit 5: Run-Time Environments

**Stack Allocation of Space:**

**Activation Tree & Activation Record**

**Prakash C O**

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

### Activation Trees

#### ➤ Activation:

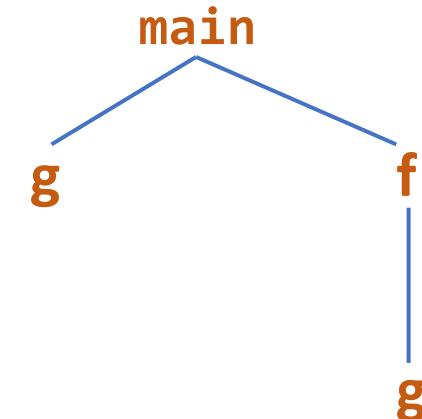
- Each execution of procedure is referred to as an *activation*.

#### ➤ Activation tree:

- A tree structure representing all of the function calls made by a program on a particular execution.
- Activation tree shows the way control enters and leaves activations.
- Activation tree root represents the activation of main.

```
void g() { return 42; }
void f() { return g(); }

main() {
    g();
    f();
}
```



### Activation Trees

#### ➤ Activation tree:

- A representation of the activations of procedures during the running of an entire program by a tree.
- Activation tree depends on the runtime behavior of a program; can't always be determined at compile-time.
- The static equivalent is the call graph.

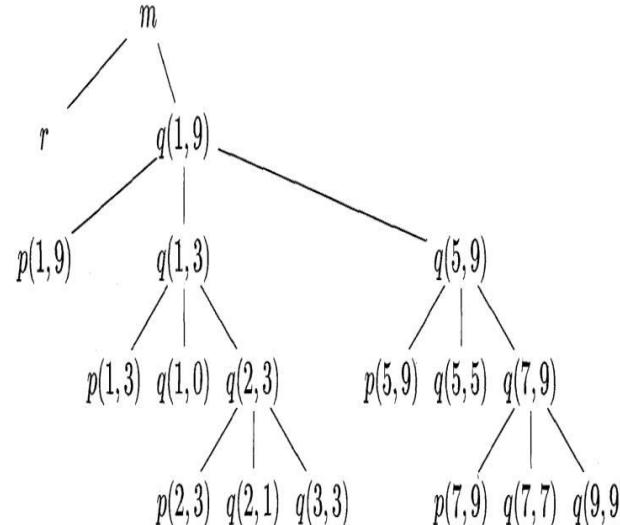


Figure 7.4: Activation tree representing calls during an execution of *quicksort*

```
int a[11];
void readArray() { /* Reads 9 integers into a[1], ..., a[9]. */
    int i;
    ...
}
int partition(int m, int n) {
    /* Picks a separator value v, and partitions a[m..n] so that
       a[m..p - 1] are less than v, a[p] = v, and a[p + 1..n] are
       equal to or greater than v. Returns p. */
    ...
}
void quicksort(int m, int n) {
    int i;
    if (n > m) {
        i = partition(m, n);
        quicksort(m, i-1);
        quicksort(i+1, n);
    }
}
main() {
    readArray();
    a[0] = -9999;
    a[10] = 9999;
    quicksort(1, 9);
}
```

Figure 7.2: Sketch of a quicksort program

### Activation Trees

#### Properties of activation trees are :-

1. Each node represents an activation of a procedure.
2. The root shows the activation of the main function.
3. Node  $a$  is the parent of  $b$  if control flows from  $a$  to  $b$
4. Node  $a$  is to the left of  $b$  if lifetime of  $a$  occurs before  $b$

#### Note:

- We show these activations in the order that they are called, from left to right.
- One child must finish before the activation to its right can begin.

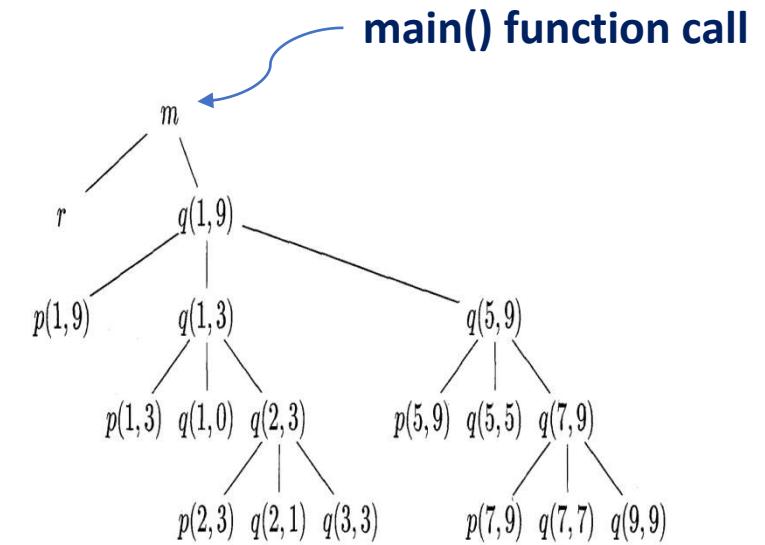


Figure 7.4: Activation tree representing calls during an execution of *quicksort*

### Activation Trees

#### Example:

Figure 7.2 contains a quicksort program that reads 9-integers into an *array a* and sorts them using the recursive quicksort algorithm.

The main function has three tasks.

1. Calls *readArray*,
2. Sets the sentinels, and then
3. Calls quicksort on the entire data array.

```
int a[11];
void readArray() { /* Reads 9 integers into a[1],...,a[9]. */
    int i;
    ...
}
int partition(int m, int n) {
    /* Picks a separator value v, and partitions a[m..n] so that
       a[m..p - 1] are less than v, a[p] = v, and a[p + 1..n] are
       equal to or greater than v. Returns p. */
    ...
}
void quicksort(int m, int n) {
    int i;
    if (n > m) {
        i = partition(m, n);
        quicksort(m, i-1);
        quicksort(i+1, n);
    }
}
main() {
    readArray();
    a[0] = -9999;
    a[10] = 9999;
    quicksort(1,9);
}
```

### Activation Trees

- Figure 7.3 suggests a sequence of calls that might result from an execution of the program.

In this execution, the call to partition(1,9) returns 4, so a[1] through a[3] hold elements less than its chosen separator value v, while the larger elements are in a[5] through a[9].

```
enter main()
enter readArray()
leave readArray()
enter quicksort(1,9)
  enter partition(1,9)
  leave partition(1,9)
  enter quicksort(1,3)
  ...
  leave quicksort(1,3)
  enter quicksort(5,9)
  ...
  leave quicksort(5,9)
  leave quicksort(1,9)
leave main()
```

```
int a[11];
void readArray() { /* Reads 9 integers into a[1],...,a[9]. */
    int i;
    ...
}

int partition(int m, int n) {
    /* Picks a separator value v, and partitions a[m..n] so that
       a[m..p - 1] are less than v, a[p] = v, and a[p + 1..n] are
       equal to or greater than v. Returns p. */
    ...
}

void quicksort(int m, int n) {
    int i;
    if (n > m) {
        i = partition(m, n);
        quicksort(m, i-1);
        quicksort(i+1, n);
    }
}

main() {
    readArray();
    a[0] = -9999;
    a[10] = 9999;
    quicksort(1,9);
}
```

Figure 7.2: Sketch of a quicksort program

Fig 7.3: Possible activations of Fig 7.2

### Activation Trees

- *Each execution of procedure* is referred to as an *activation* of the procedure.
- *Lifetime of an activation* is the sequence of steps present in the execution of the procedure.
- If 'a' and 'b' be two procedures, then their activations will be
  - non-overlapping (when one is called after other) or
  - nested (nested procedures).
- A procedure is recursive if a new activation begins before an earlier activation of the same procedure has ended.

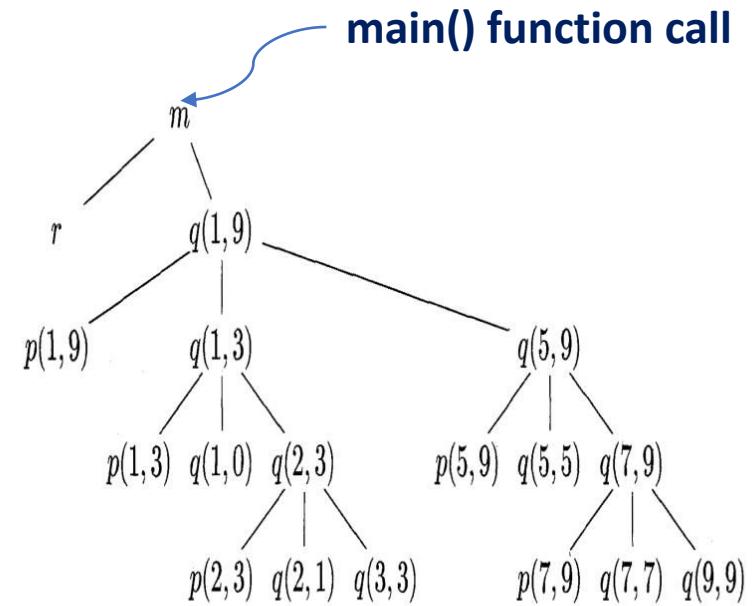
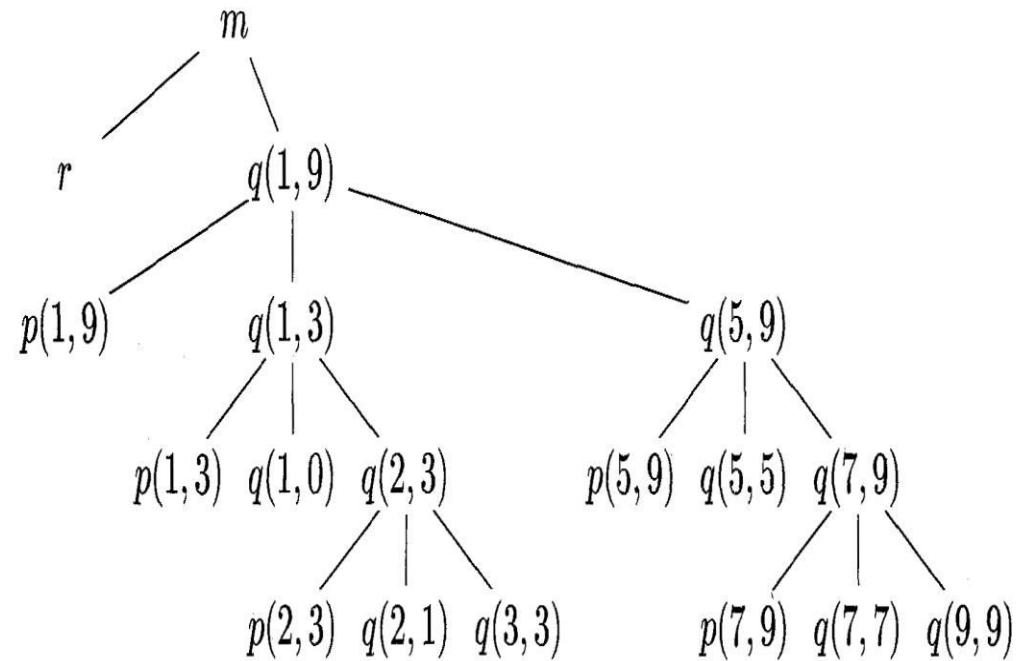


Figure 7.4: Activation tree representing calls during an execution of *quicksort*

## Activation Trees

Figure 7.4: Activation tree representing calls during an execution of *quicksort*

```
enter main()
enter readArray()
leave readArray()
enter quicksort(1,9)
enter partition(1,9)
leave partition(1,9)
enter quicksort(1,3)
...
leave quicksort(1,3)
enter quicksort(5,9)
...
leave quicksort(5,9)
leave quicksort(1,9)
leave main()
```

Figure 7.3: Possible activations for the program of Fig. 7.2

### Activation Trees

- **Example:** One possible activation tree that completes the sequence of calls and returns suggested in Fig. 7.3 is shown in Fig. 7.4.

**Functions are represented by the first letters of their names.**

Remember that this tree is only one possibility, since the arguments of subsequent calls, and also the number of calls along any branch is influenced by the values returned by **partition**.

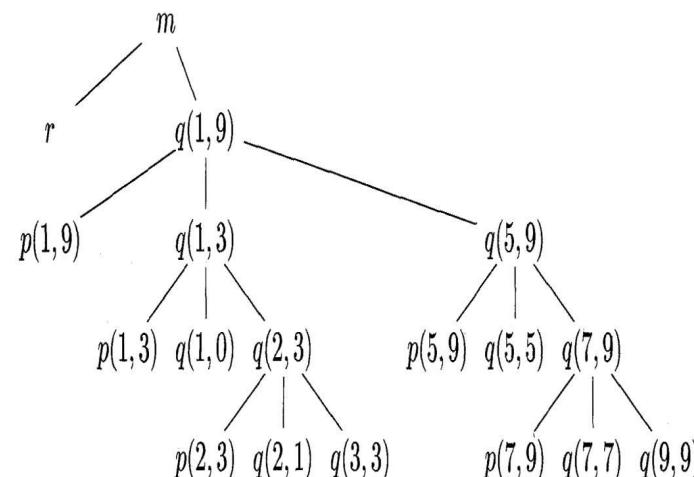


Figure 7.4: Activation tree representing calls during an execution of *quicksort*



```
enter main()
enter readArray()
leave readArray()
enter quicksort(1,9)
enter partition(1,9)
leave partition(1,9)
enter quicksort(1,3)
...
leave quicksort(1,3)
enter quicksort(5,9)
...
leave quicksort(5,9)
leave quicksort(1,9)
leave main()
```

Figure 7.3: Possible activations for the program of Fig. 7.2

### Activation Trees

- The use of a run-time stack is enabled by several useful relationships between the activation tree and the behavior of the program:
  1. The sequence of procedure calls corresponds to a \_\_\_\_\_ traversal of the activation tree.
  2. The sequence of returns corresponds to a \_\_\_\_\_ traversal of the activation tree.
  3. Flow of the control in a program corresponds to a \_\_\_\_\_ traversal of the activation tree.

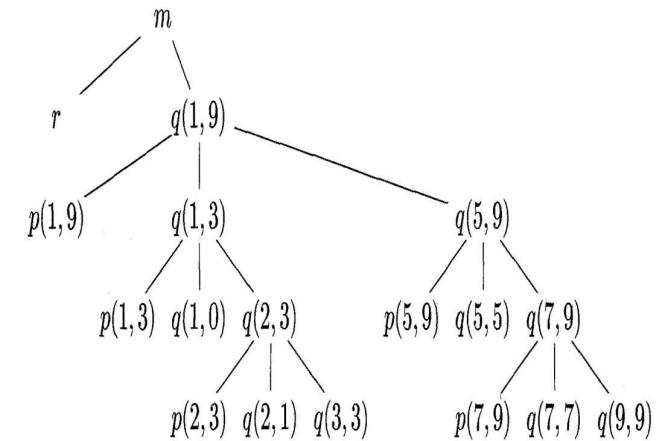


Figure 7.4: Activation tree representing calls during an execution of *quicksort*

### Activation Trees

- The use of a run-time stack is enabled by several useful relationships between the activation tree and the behavior of the program:
  1. The sequence of procedure calls corresponds to a preorder traversal of the activation tree.
  2. The sequence of returns corresponds to a postorder traversal of the activation tree.
  3. Flow of the control in a program corresponds to a depth-first traversal of the activation tree.

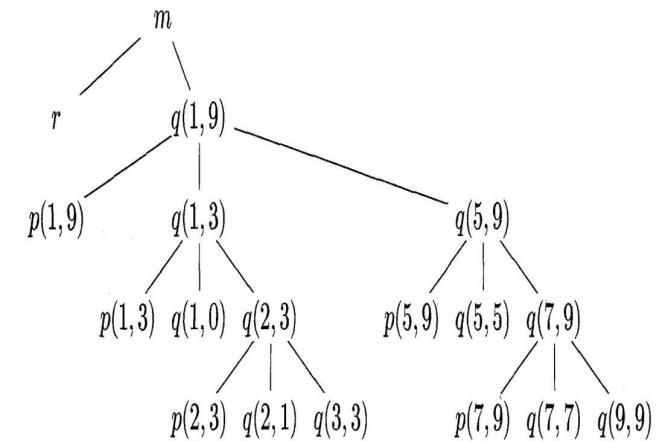


Figure 7.4: Activation tree representing calls during an execution of *quicksort*

### Activation Trees

- The use of a run-time stack is enabled by several useful relationships between the activation tree and the behavior of the program: cont..

4. If control lies within a particular activation of some procedure, corresponding to a node N of the activation tree.

Then the *activations that are currently open(live)* are those that correspond to node N and its ancestors.

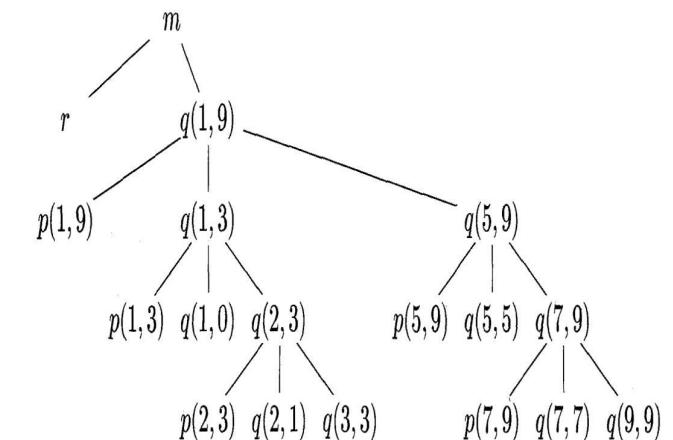


Figure 7.4: Activation tree representing calls during an execution of *quicksort*

### Activation Trees

- If an activation of procedure p calls procedure q, then that activation of q must end before the activation of p can end.



There are three common cases:

1. The activation of q terminates normally. Then in essentially any language, control resumes just after the point of p at which the call to q was made.
2. The activation of q, or some procedure q called, either directly or indirectly, aborts; i.e., it becomes impossible for execution to continue. In that case, p ends simultaneously with q.

### Activation Trees

- If an activation of procedure p calls procedure q, then that activation of q must end before the activation of p can end.



There are three common cases: cont...

3. The activation of q terminates because of an exception that q cannot handle.

Procedure p may handle the exception, in which case the activation of q has terminated while the activation of p continues, although not necessarily from the point at which the call to q was made.

If p cannot handle the exception, then this activation of p terminates at the same time as the activation of q, and presumably the exception will be handled by some other open activation of a procedure.

### Activation Trees

➤ **Exercise 1: Write Activation tree for the below code.**

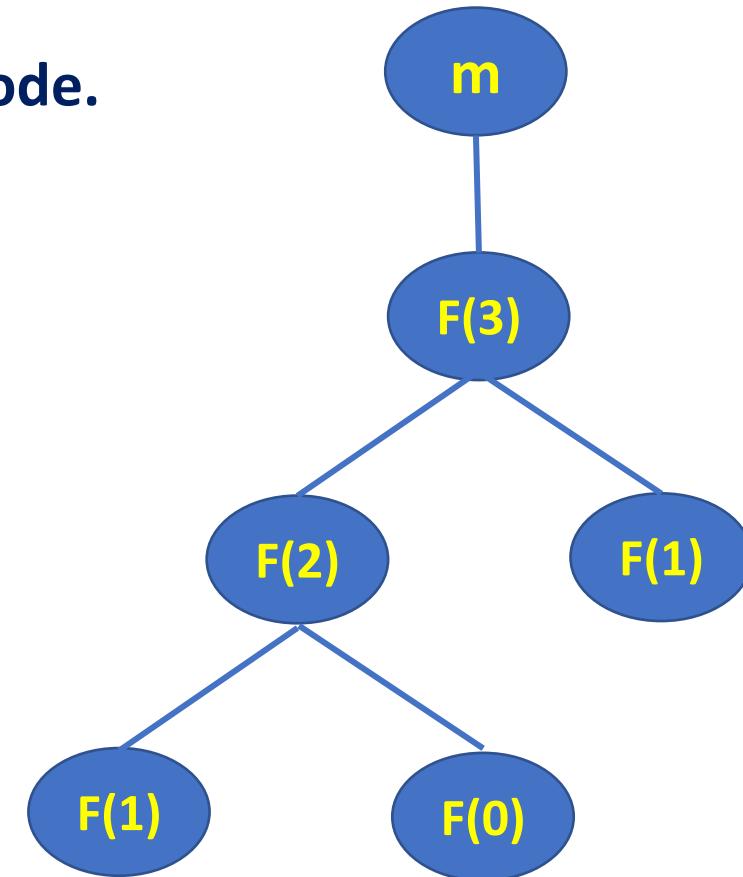
```
int main() {  
    Fib(3);  
}
```

```
int Fib(int n) {  
    if (n<=1) return n;  
    return Fib(n-1) + Fib(n-2);  
}
```

### Activation Trees

➤ Exercise 1: Write Activation tree for the below code.

```
int main() {  
    Fib(3);  
}  
  
int Fib(int n) {  
    if (n<=1) return n;  
    return Fib(n-1) + Fib(n-2);  
}
```



### Activation Trees

➤ **Exercise 2:** Write Activation tree for the below code.

```
main()
{
    printf("Enter Your Name: ");
    scanf("%s", username);
    show_data(username);
    printf("Press any key to continue...");
    . . .
}
```

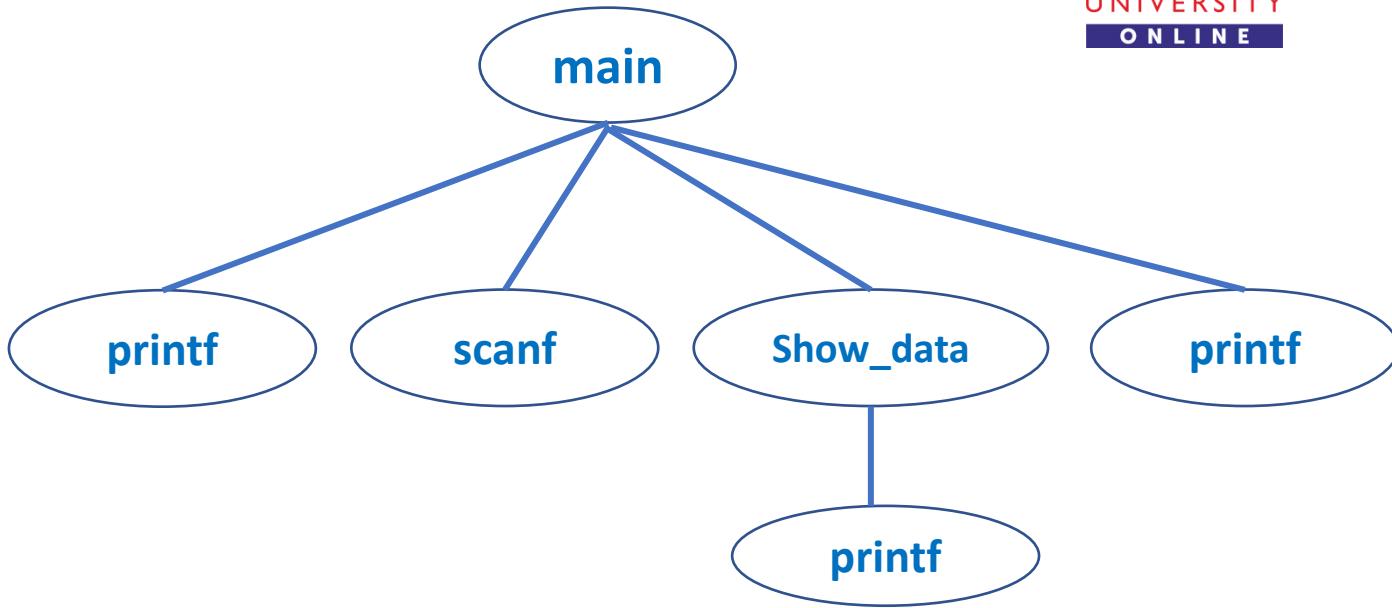
```
int show_data(char *user)
{ printf("Your name is %s", user);
    return 0;
}
```

### Activation Trees

➤ Exercise 2: Write Activation tree for the below code.

```
main()
{
printf("Enter Your Name: ");
scanf("%s", username);
show_data(username);
printf("Press any key to continue...");
. . .
}

int show_data(char *user)
{ printf("Your name is %s", user);
return 0;
}
```



When a procedure is called, its control is transferred to the called procedure. When a called procedure is executed, it returns the control back to the caller. This type of control flow makes it easier to represent a series of activations in the form of a tree, known as the **activation tree**.

### Activation Records (or Stack frames)

- An activation record is a block of storage that contains all the necessary information required by a single execution of a procedure.
- An activation record is used to store Status of the machine (the value of PC and machine registers), Actual Parameters, Return values, Access and Control links, and Local variables, when a procedure call occurs.
- Function calls are implemented using a stack of activation records.
  - Calling a function pushes a new activation record onto the stack.
  - Returning from a function pops the current activation record from the stack.

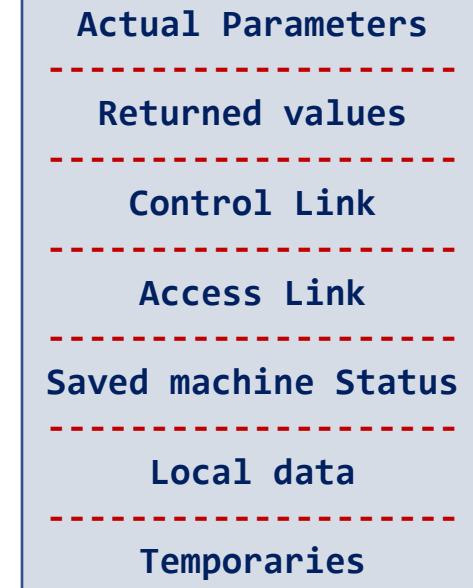


Figure 7.5: A general activation record

### Activation Records (or Stack frames)

- When control returns from the *called procedure*, the activation of the *calling procedure* can be restarted after restoring the values of relevant registers and setting the program counter to the point immediately after the call.
- “Once a function returns, its activation record cannot be referenced again.”

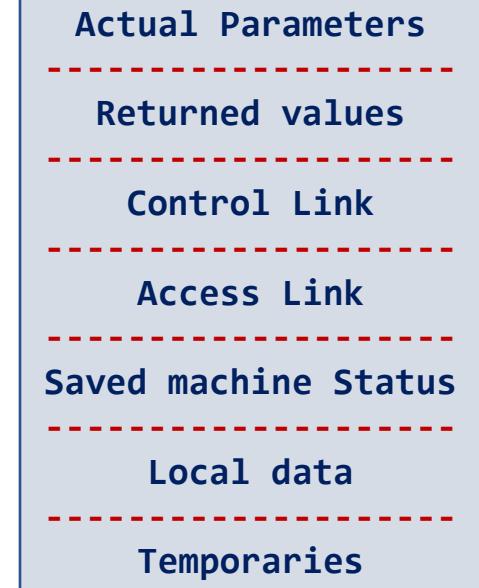
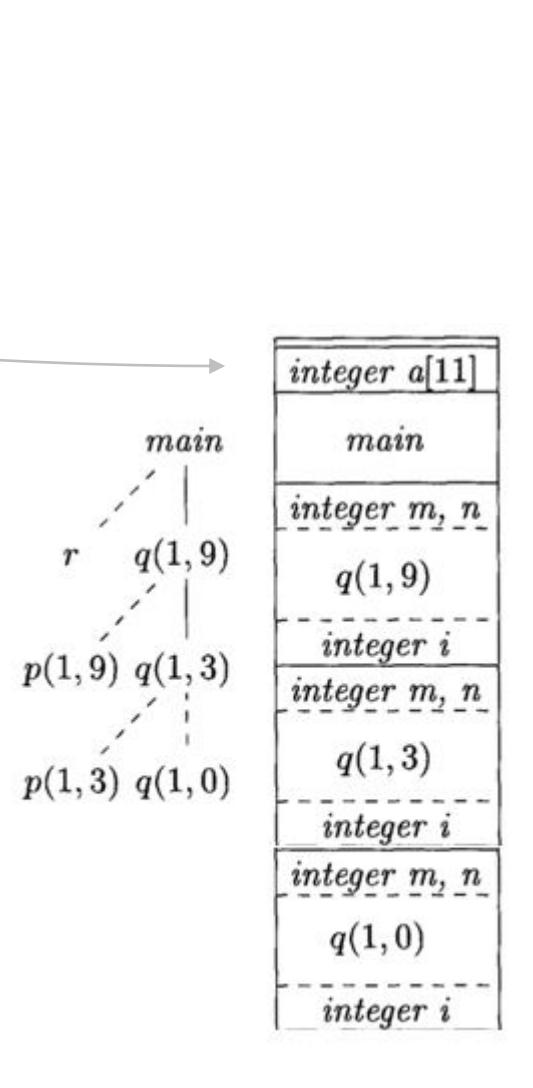


Figure 7.5: A general activation record

### Activation Records

- Procedure calls and returns are usually managed by a run-time stack called the **control stack**.
- Each live activation has an \_\_\_\_\_ on the control stack, with the root of the activation tree at the bottom.
- The entire sequence of activation records on the stack corresponds to the \_\_\_\_\_ in the activation tree to the activation where control currently resides.  
The latter activation has its record at the top of the stack.

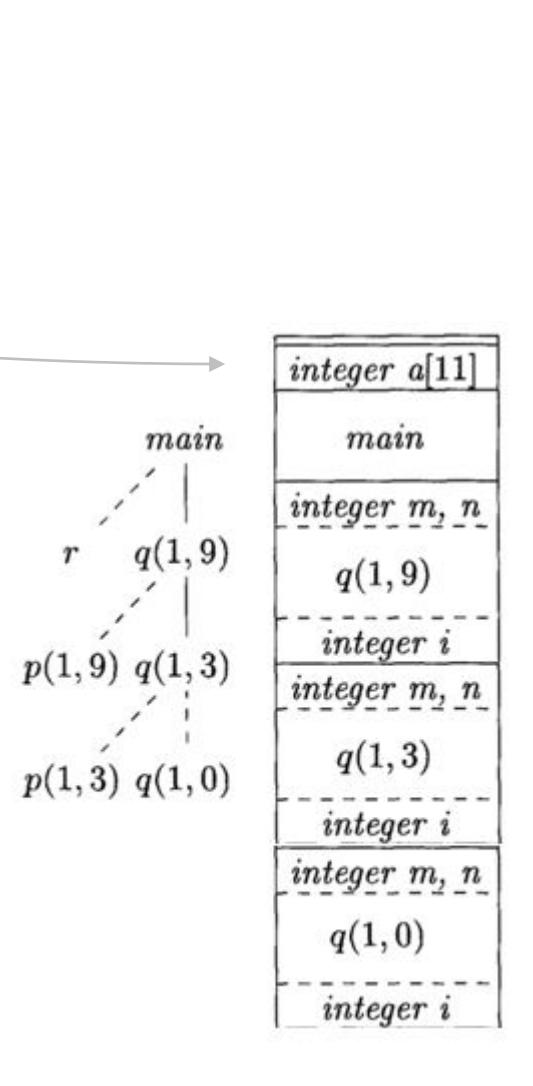


```
int a[11];
void readArray() { /* Reads 9 integers into a[1], ..., a[9]. */
    int i;
    ...
}
int partition(int m, int n) {
    /* Picks a separator value v, and partitions a[m..n] so that
     * a[m .. p - 1] are less than v, a[p] = v, and a[p + 1 .. n]
     * are equal to or greater than v. Returns p. */
    ...
}
void quicksort(int m, int n) {
    int i;
    if (n > m) {
        i = partition(m, n);
        quicksort(m, i-1);
        quicksort(i+1, n);
    }
}
main() {
    readArray();
    a[0] = -9999;
    a[10] = 9999;
    quicksort(1,9);
}
```

Figure 7.2: Sketch of a quicksort program

### Activation Records

- Procedure calls and returns are usually managed by a run-time stack called the **control stack**.
- Each live activation has an **activation record** on the control stack, with the root of the activation tree at the bottom.
- The entire sequence of activation records on the stack corresponds to the **path** in the activation tree to the activation where control currently resides.  
The latter activation has its record at the top of the stack.



```
int a[11];
void readArray() { /* Reads 9 integers into a[1], ..., a[9]. */
    int i;
    ...
}
int partition(int m, int n) {
    /* Picks a separator value v, and partitions a[m..n] so that
       a[m..p - 1] are less than v, a[p] = v, and a[p + 1..n] are
       equal to or greater than v. Returns p. */
    ...
}
void quicksort(int m, int n) {
    int i;
    if (n > m) {
        i = partition(m, n);
        quicksort(m, i-1);
        quicksort(i+1, n);
    }
}
main() {
    readArray();
    a[0] = -9999;
    a[10] = 9999;
    quicksort(1,9);
}
```

Figure 7.2: Sketch of a quicksort program

## Activation Records

- **Example:**

If control is currently in the activation  **$q(2,3)$**  of the tree of Fig. 7.4, then the activation record for  **$q(2,3)$**  is at the top of the control stack.

Just below is the activation record for  **$q(1,3)$** , the parent of  **$q(2,3)$**  in the tree.

Below that is the activation record  **$q(1,9)$** , and at the bottom is the activation record for  **$m$** , the main function and root of the activation tree.

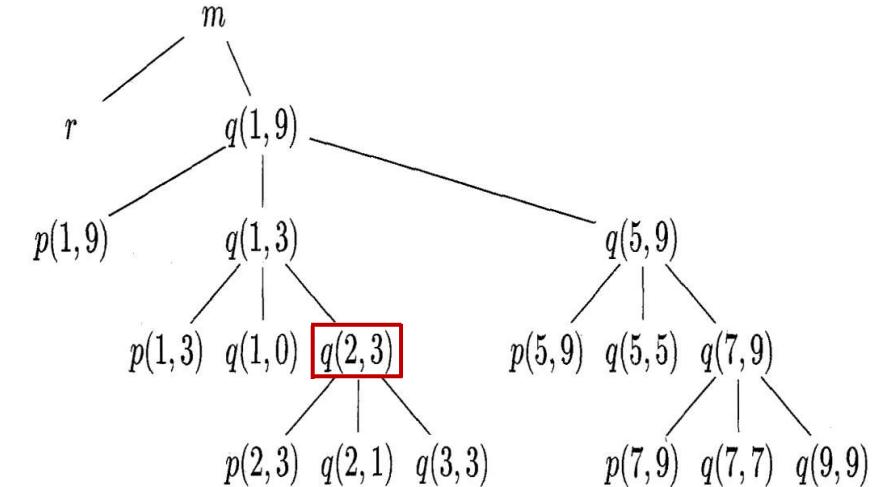


Figure 7.4: Activation tree representing calls during an execution of *quicksort*

**Stack bottom**

integer a[11]
main
integer m, n
q(1, 9)
integer i
integer m, n
q(1, 3)
integer i
integer m, n
q(2, 3)
integer i

**Stack top**

### Activation Records

- The contents of activation records vary with the language being implemented.
- A list of the kinds of data that might appear in an activation record are:
  1. **Temporary values**, such as those arising from the evaluation of expressions, in cases where those temporaries cannot be held in registers.
  2. **Local data** belonging to the procedure whose activation record this is.

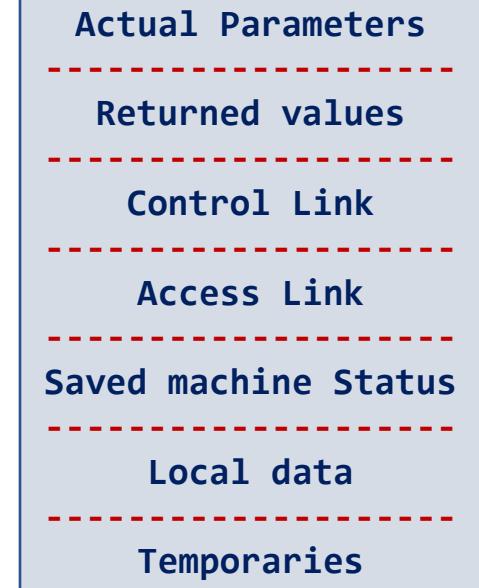


Figure 7.5: A general activation record

### Activation Records

- A list of the kinds of data that might appear in an activation record are:
  3. A *saved machine status*, with information about the state of the machine just before the call to the procedure.  
This information typically includes
    - *return address* (value of the program counter) and
    - *contents of registers* that were used by the calling procedure and that must be restored when the return occurs.
  4. An "*access link*" may be needed to locate data needed by the called procedure but found elsewhere, e.g., in another activation record.

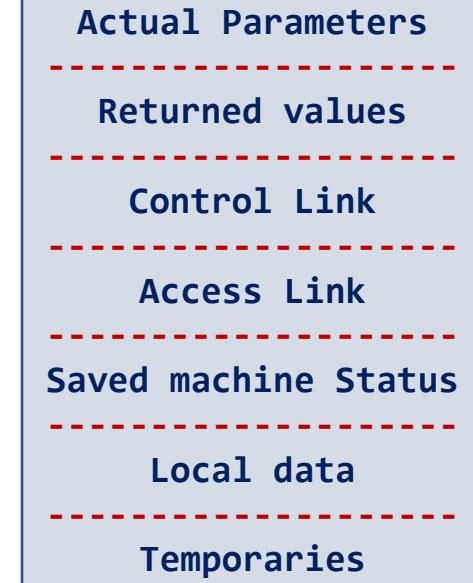


Figure 7.5: A general activation record

### Activation Records

- A list of the kinds of data that might appear in an activation record are:
  5. A *control link*, pointing to the activation record of the caller.
  6. Space for the *return value* of the called function, if any.

Again, not all called procedures return a value, and if one does, we may prefer to place that value in a register for efficiency.

- 7. The *actual parameters* used by the calling procedure.

Commonly, these values are not placed in the activation record but rather in registers, when possible, for greater efficiency. However, we show a space for them to be completely general.

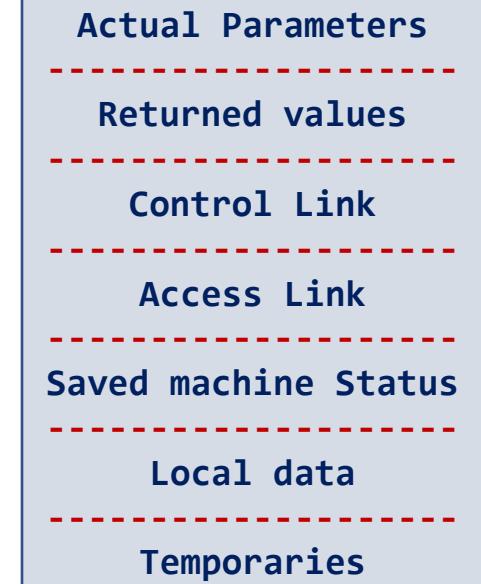
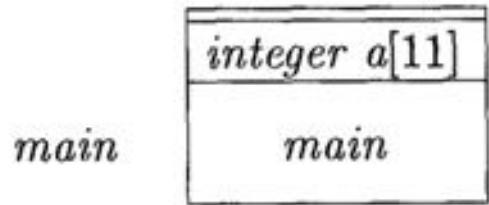


Figure 7.5: A general activation record

## Activation Records

- Example 7.4: Figure 7.6 shows snapshots of the run-time stack as control flows through the activation tree of Fig. 7.4.

Since array *a* is global, space is allocated for it before execution begins with an activation of procedure main, as shown in Fig. 7.6(a).



(a) Frame for *main*

Figure 7.6: Downward-growing stack of activation records

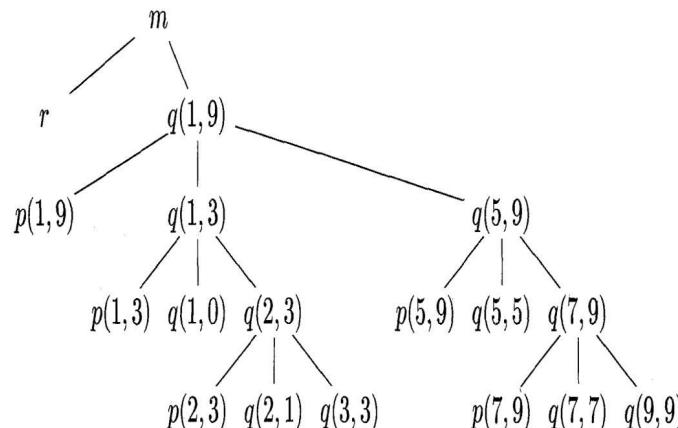


Figure 7.4: Activation tree representing calls during an execution of *quicksort*

```

int a[11];
void readArray() { /* Reads 9 integers into a[1], ..., a[9]. */
    int i;
    ...
}

int partition(int m, int n) {
    /* Picks a separator value v, and partitions a[m..n] so that
       a[m .. p - 1] are less than v, a[p] = v, and a[p + 1 .. n] are
       equal to or greater than v. Returns p. */
    ...
}

void quicksort(int m, int n) {
    int i;
    if (n > m) {
        i = partition(m, n);
        quicksort(m, i-1);
        quicksort(i+1, n);
    }
}

main() {
    readArray();
    a[0] = -9999;
    a[10] = 9999;
    quicksort(1,9);
}

```

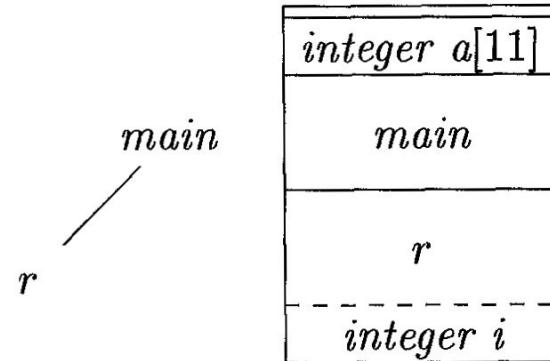
Figure 7.2: Sketch of a quicksort program

### Activation Records

- Example 7.4: cont...

When control reaches the first call in the body of main, procedure r is activated, and its activation record is pushed onto the stack (Fig. 7.6(b)).

The activation record for r contains space for local variable i. When control returns from this activation, its record is popped, leaving just the record for main on the stack.



(b) r is activated

Figure 7.6: Downward-growing stack of activation records

```
int a[11];
void readArray() { /* Reads 9 integers into a[1], ..., a[9]. */
    int i;
    ...
}

int partition(int m, int n) {
    /* Picks a separator value v, and partitions a[m..n] so that
       a[m..p - 1] are less than v, a[p] = v, and a[p + 1..n] are
       equal to or greater than v. Returns p. */
    ...
}

void quicksort(int m, int n) {
    int i;
    if (n > m) {
        i = partition(m, n);
        quicksort(m, i-1);
        quicksort(i+1, n);
    }
}

main() {
    readArray();
    a[0] = -9999;
    a[10] = 9999;
    quicksort(1,9);
}
```

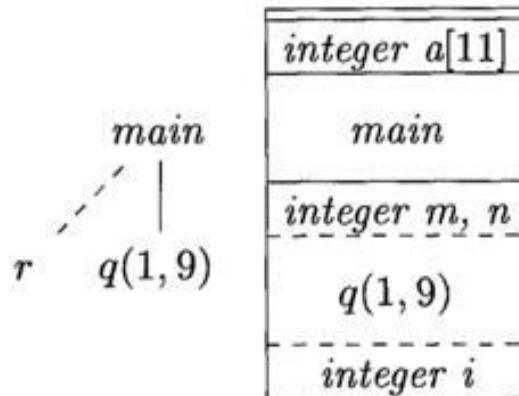
Figure 7.2: Sketch of a quicksort program

## Activation Records

- Example 7.4: cont...

**Control then reaches the call to q (quicksort) with actual parameters 1 and 9, and an activation record for this call is placed on the top of the stack, as in Fig. 7.6(c).**

**The activation record for q contains space for the parameters m and n and the local variable i, following the general layout in Fig. 7.5.**



(c) r has been popped and q(1, 9) pushed

**Figure 7.6:** Downward-growing stack of activation records

```

int a[11];
void readArray() { /* Reads 9 integers into a[1], ..., a[9]. */
    int i;
    ...
}

int partition(int m, int n) {
    /* Picks a separator value v, and partitions a[m..n] so that
       a[m..p - 1] are less than v, a[p] = v, and a[p + 1..n] are
       equal to or greater than v. Returns p. */
    ...
}

void quicksort(int m, int n) {
    int i;
    if (n > m) {
        i = partition(m, n);
        quicksort(m, i-1);
        quicksort(i+1, n);
    }
}

main() {
    readArray();
    a[0] = -9999;
    a[10] = 9999;
    quicksort(1,9);
}

```

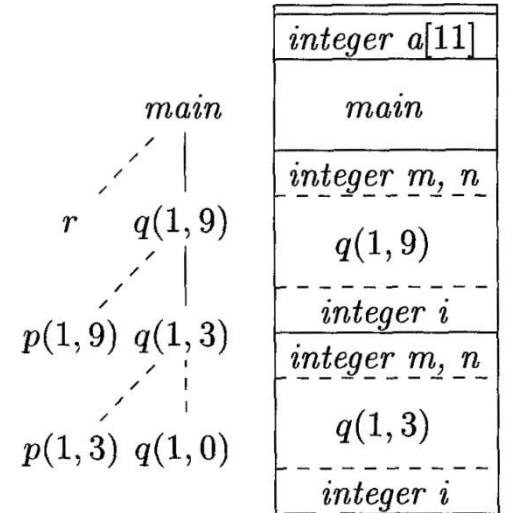
Figure 7.2: Sketch of a quicksort program

### Activation Records

- **Example 7.4:** cont...

Several activations occur between the last two snapshots in Fig. 7.6. A recursive call to  $q(1,3)$  was made. Activations  $p(1,3)$  and  $q(1,0)$  have begun and ended during the lifetime of  $q(1,3)$ , leaving the activation record for  $q(1,3)$  on top (Fig. 7.6(d)).

**Notice that when a procedure is recursive, it is normal to have several of its activation records on the stack at the same time.**



(d) Control returns to  $q(1, 3)$

**Figure 7.6:** Downward-growing stack of activation records

```

int a[11];
void readArray() { /* Reads 9 integers into a[1], ..., a[9]. */
    int i;
    ...
}

int partition(int m, int n) {
    /* Picks a separator value v, and partitions a[m..n] so that
       a[m..p - 1] are less than v, a[p] = v, and a[p + 1..n] are
       equal to or greater than v. Returns p. */
    ...
}

void quicksort(int m, int n) {
    int i;
    if (n > m) {
        i = partition(m, n);
        quicksort(m, i-1);
        quicksort(i+1, n);
    }
}

main() {
    readArray();
    a[0] = -9999;
    a[10] = 9999;
    quicksort(1,9);
}

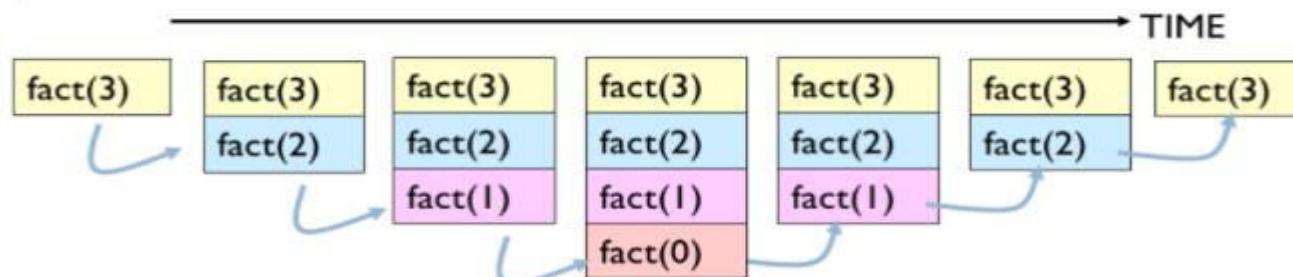
```

Figure 7.2: Sketch of a quicksort program

### Activation Records

- Notice that when a procedure is recursive, it is normal to have several of its activation records on the stack at the same time.
- Example:

```
int fact(int n) {
    if (n > 0) return n*fact(n - 1);
    else return 1;
}
```



A procedure call creates a new activation record. Caller's record is preserved because we'll need it when callee finally returns.

Return to previous activation record when procedure finishes, permanently discarding activation record created by call we are returning from.

# COMPILER DESIGN

---

## Unit 5: Run-Time Environments

### Stack Allocation of Space: Calling Sequence and Return Sequence

Prakash C O

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

### Calling Sequence and Return sequence

#### ➤ Calling Sequence (is a code sequence)

- Procedure calls are implemented by what are known as Calling Sequences.
- Calling sequence is a code sequence that allocates an activation record on the stack and enters information into its fields.

#### ➤ Return Sequence (is a code sequence)

- A return sequence is similar code to restore the state of the machine so the calling procedure can continue its execution after the call.

### Calling Sequences

- Calling sequences and the layout of activation records may differ greatly, even among implementations of the same language.
- **The code in a calling sequence is often divided between the calling procedure (the "caller") and the procedure it calls (the "callee").**
  - Responsibility is shared between the caller and the callee
- There is **no exact division of run-time tasks between caller and callee;** the source language, the target machine, and the operating system impose requirements that may favor one solution over another.

### Calling Sequences

➤ When designing calling sequences and the layout of activation records, the following principles are helpful:

1. Values communicated between caller and callee are generally placed at the beginning of the callee's activation record, so they are as close as possible to the caller's activation record.

- The motivation is that the caller can compute the values of the actual parameters of the call and place them on top of its own activation record, without having to create the entire activation record of the callee, or even to know the layout of that record.
- The callee knows where to place the return value, relative to its own activation record, while however many arguments are present will appear sequentially below that place on the stack.

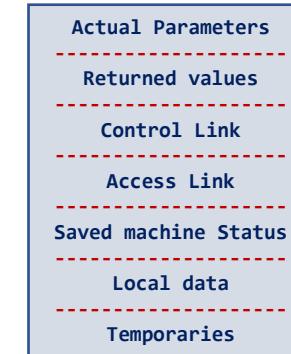


Figure 7.5: A general activation record

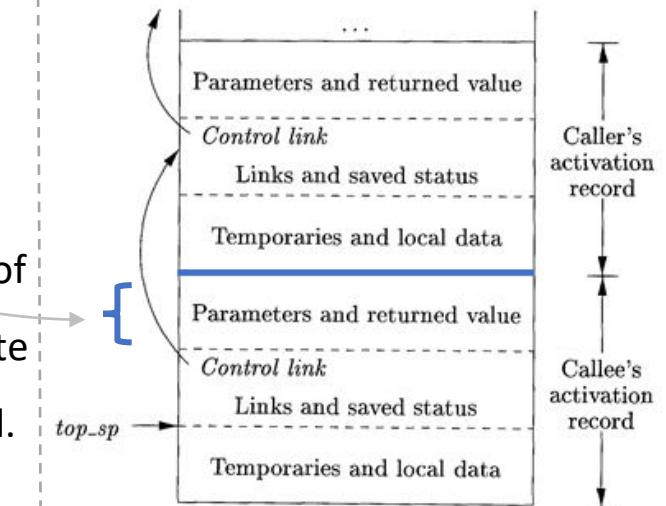


Figure 7.7: Division of tasks between caller and callee

### Calling Sequences

2. Fixed-length items are generally placed in the middle, such items typically include the **control link**, the **access link**, and the **machine status** fields.

If exactly the same components of the machine status are saved for each call, then the same code can do the saving and restoring for each.

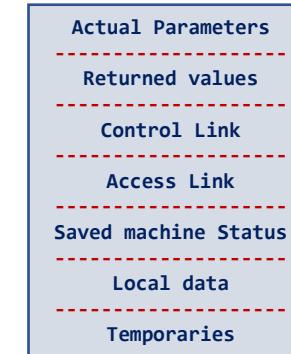


Figure 7.5: A general activation record

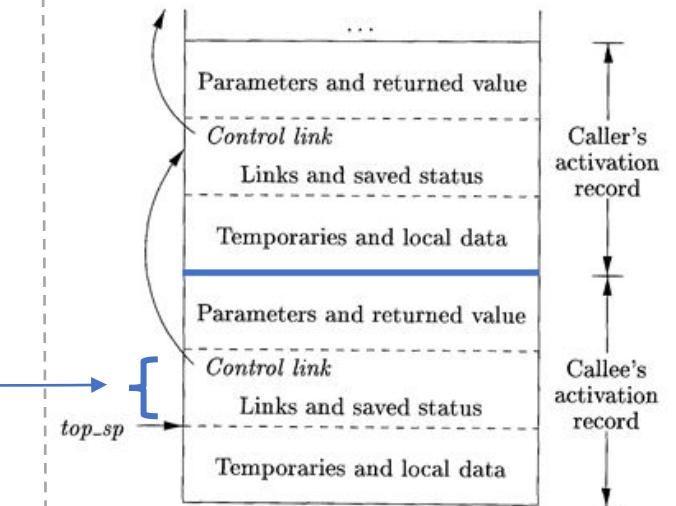


Figure 7.7: Division of tasks between caller and callee

### Calling Sequences

#### 3. Items whose size may not be known early enough are placed at the end of the activation record.

- **Most local variables have a fixed length**, which can be determined by the compiler by examining the type of the variable.
- **Some local variables have a size that cannot be determined until the program executes.**

**Example: Dynamically sized array**, where the value of one of the callee's parameters determines the length of the array.

- **The amount of space needed for temporaries usually depends on how successful the code-generation phase is in keeping temporaries in registers.**

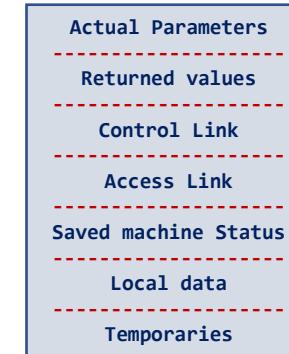


Figure 7.5: A general activation record

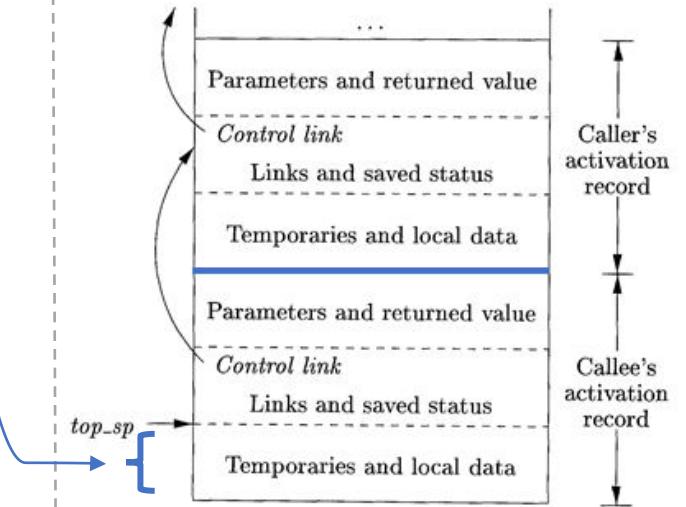
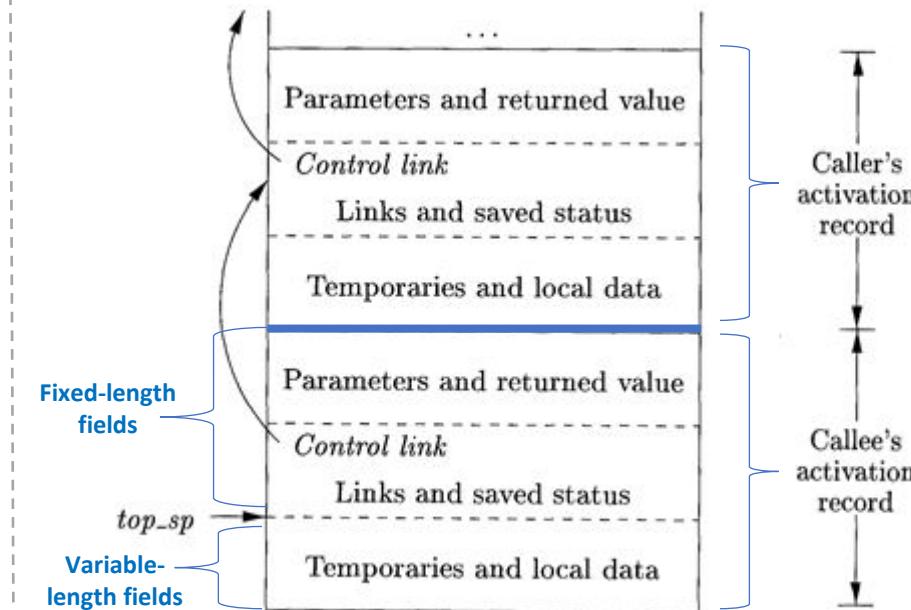


Figure 7.7: Division of tasks between caller and callee

### Calling Sequences

#### 4. Top-of-stack pointer (*i.e.*, *top\_sp*) points to the end of the fixed-length fields in the activation record.

- Fixed-length data can then be accessed by fixed offsets, known to the intermediate-code generator, relative to the top-of-stack pointer.
- Variable-length fields in the activation records are actually "above" the top-of-stack. Their offsets need to be calculated at run time, but they too can be accessed from the top-of stack pointer, by using a positive offset.



### Calling Sequences

➤ An example of how caller and callee might cooperate in managing the stack is suggested by Fig. 7.7.

- A register *top-sp* points to the end of the machine status field in the current top activation record.
- The *top-sp* pointer position within the callee's activation record is known to the caller, so the caller can be made responsible for setting *top-sp* before control is passed to the callee.

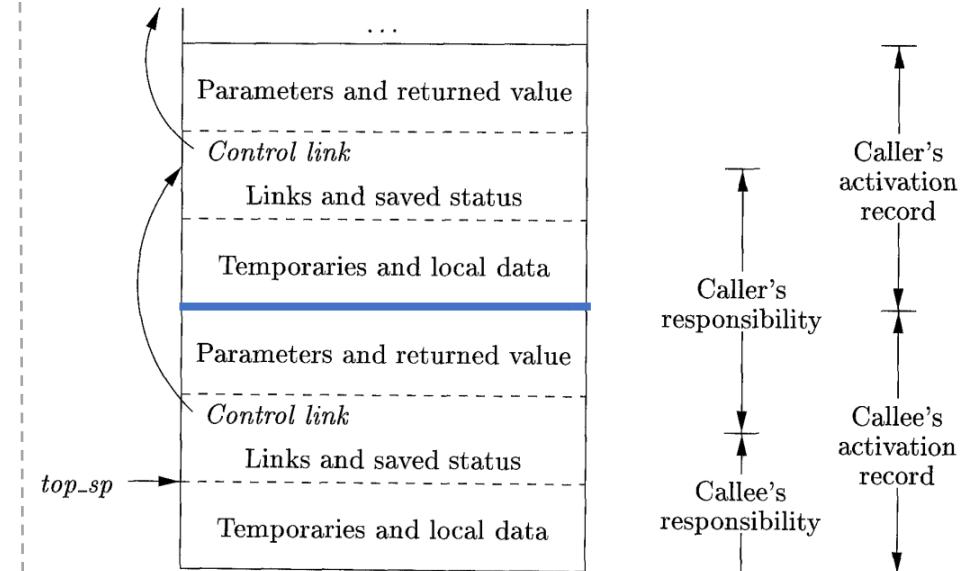


Figure 7.7: Division of tasks between caller and callee

➤ The *calling sequence* and its division between caller and callee is as follows:

1. The caller evaluates the actual parameters and stores them in the beginning of callee's activation record.
2. The caller stores a return address into the callee's activation record.
3. The caller stores the old value of top-sp into the callee's activation record (i.e., in control link field)

The caller then increments top-sp to the position shown in Fig. 7.7. That is, top-sp is moved past the caller's local data and temporaries and the callee's parameters and status fields.

4. The callee saves the register values and other status information.
5. The callee initializes its local data and begins execution.

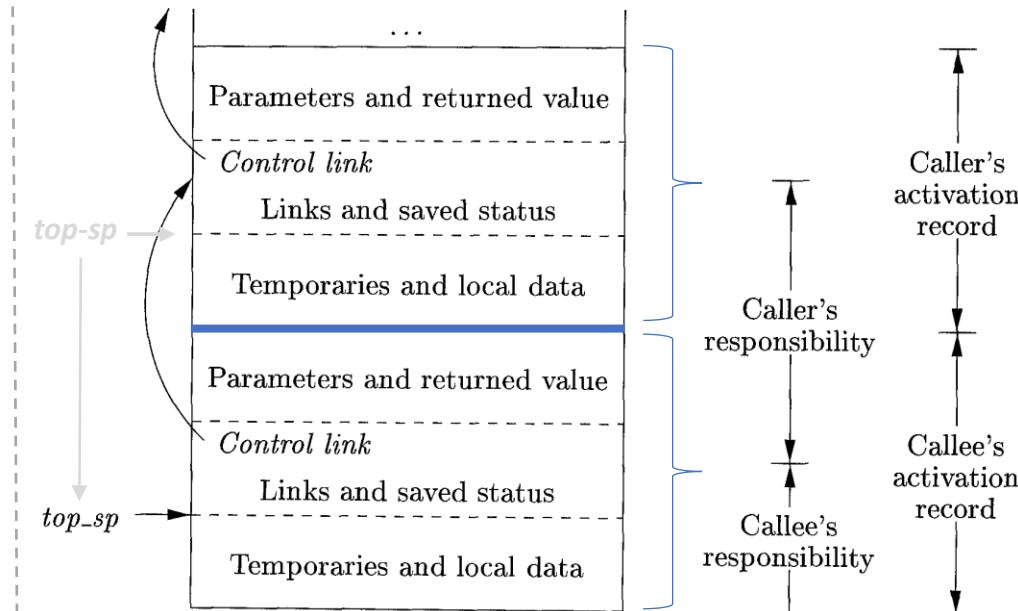


Figure 7.7: Division of tasks between caller and callee

## Unit 5: Run-Time Environments

➤ **A return sequence is:**

1. The callee places the return value next to the parameters, as in Fig. 7.5.
2. Using information in the machine-status field, the callee restores top-sp and other registers, and then branches to the return address that the caller placed in the status field.
3. Although top-sp has been decremented, the caller knows where the return value is, relative to the current value of top-sp; the caller therefore may use that value.

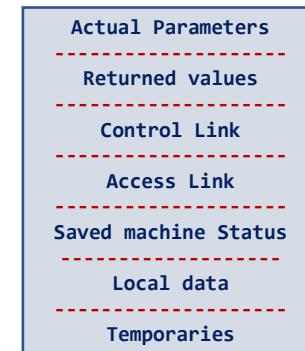


Figure 7.5: A general activation record

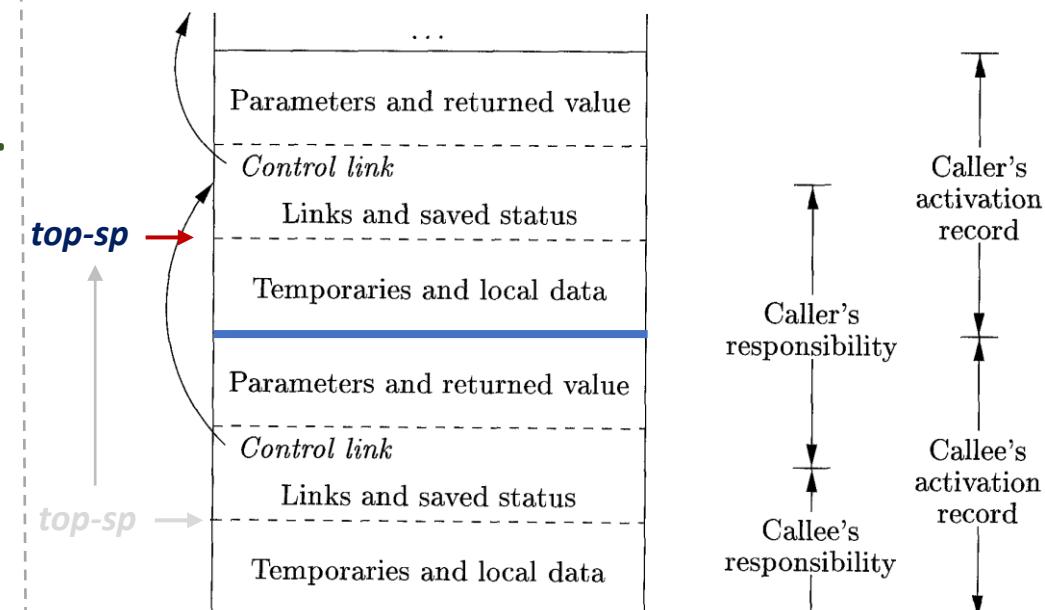


Figure 7.7: Division of tasks between caller and callee

# COMPILER DESIGN

---

## Unit 5: Run-Time Environments

### Stack Allocation of Space: Variable-Length Data on the Stack

Prakash C O

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

### Variable-Length Data on the Stack

- The run-time memory-management system must deal frequently with *the allocation of space for objects the sizes of which are not known at compile time, but which are local to a procedure and thus may be allocated on the stack.*
- For example, a local array whose size depends upon a parameter
- In modern languages, objects whose size cannot be determined at compile time are allocated space in the heap but would require garbage collection.

```
int foo(int x, int y)
{
    int m, n, *p;
    p = (int *)malloc(sizeof(int)*x);
    ...
}
}
```

## Variable-Length Data on the Stack

- A common strategy for allocating variable-length arrays is shown in Fig.

(*variable-length arrays* are arrays whose size depends on the value of one or more parameters of the called procedure)

- A register *top-sp* points to the end of the machine status field in the current top activation record.

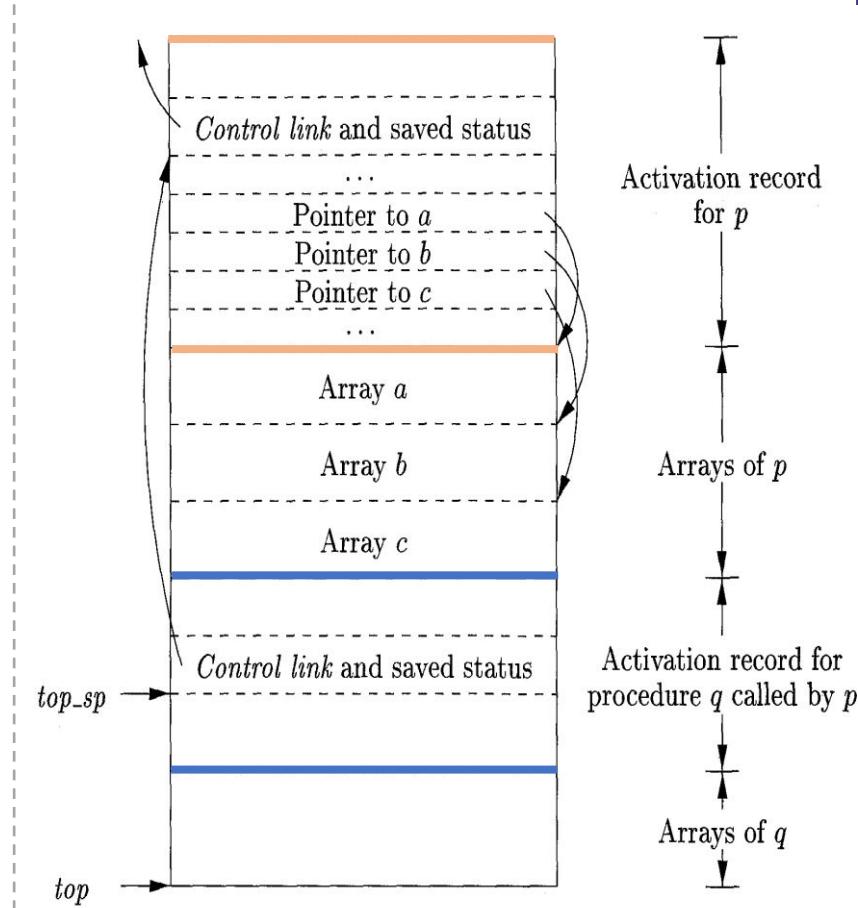


Figure 7.8: Access to dynamically allocated arrays

## Variable-Length Data on the Stack

➤ In Fig. 7.8, Procedure p has three local arrays, whose sizes we suppose cannot be determined at compile time.

- The storage for these arrays is not part of the activation record for p, although it does appear on the stack.
- Only a pointer to the beginning of each array appears in the activation record itself.
- When p is executing, these pointers are at known offsets from the top-of-stack pointer, so the target code can access array elements through these pointers.

Also shown in Fig. 7.8 is the activation record for a procedure q, called by p. The activation record for q begins after the arrays of p, and any variable-length arrays of q are located beyond that.

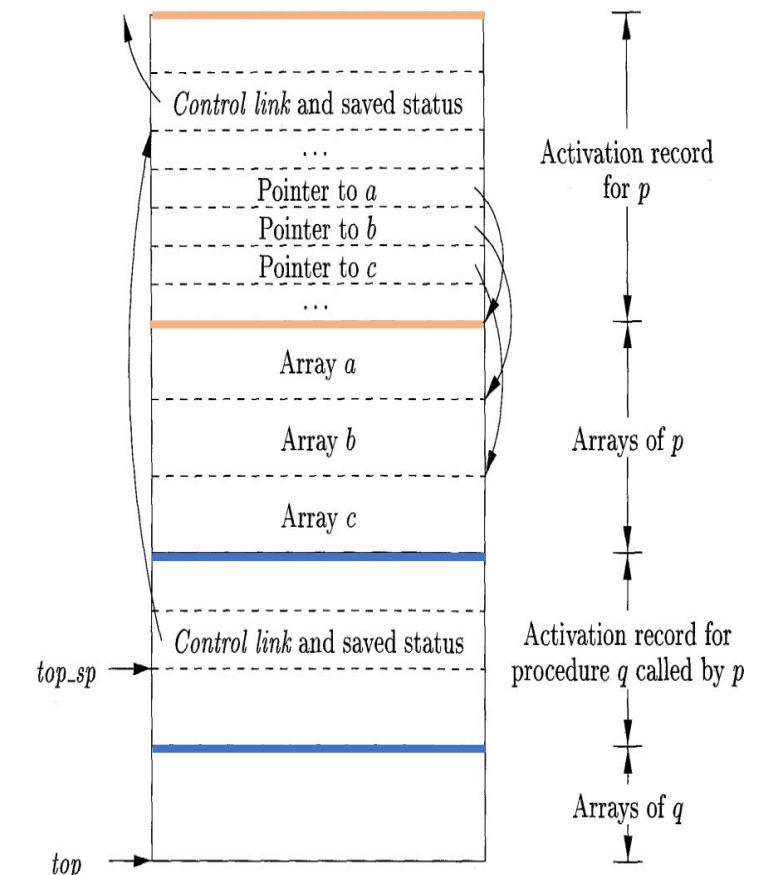


Figure 7.8: Access to dynamically allocated arrays

## Variable-Length Data on the Stack

- Access to the data on the stack is through two pointers, ***top*** and ***top-sp***.
  - ***top-sp*** is used to find local, fixed-length fields of the top activation record.
  - ***top*** marks the actual top of stack; it points to the position at which the next activation record will begin.
- In Fig. 7.8, ***top-sp*** points to the end of this field in the activation record for q. From there, we can find the control-link field for q, which leads us to the place in the activation record for p where ***top-sp*** pointed when p was on top.

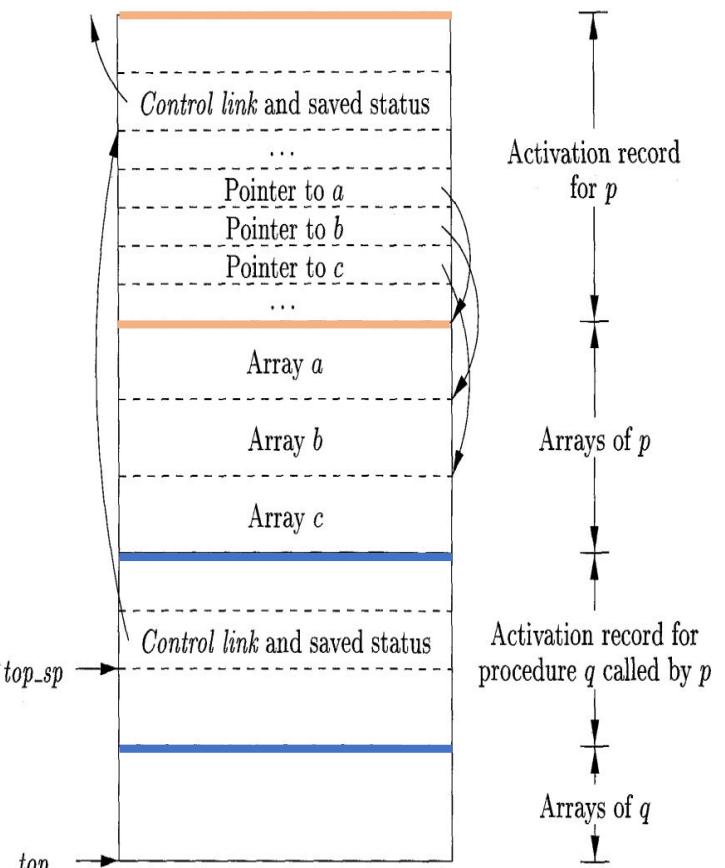


Figure 7.8: Access to dynamically allocated arrays

## Variable-Length Data on the Stack

- The code to reposition top and top-sp can be generated at compile time, in terms of sizes that will become known at run time.
  - When q returns,
    - The top-sp can be restored from the saved \_\_\_\_\_ in the activation record for q.
    - The new value of top is \_\_\_\_\_ minus the length of the \_\_\_\_\_ in q's activation record.
- This length is known at compile time to the caller, although it may depend on the caller, if the number of parameters can vary across calls to q.

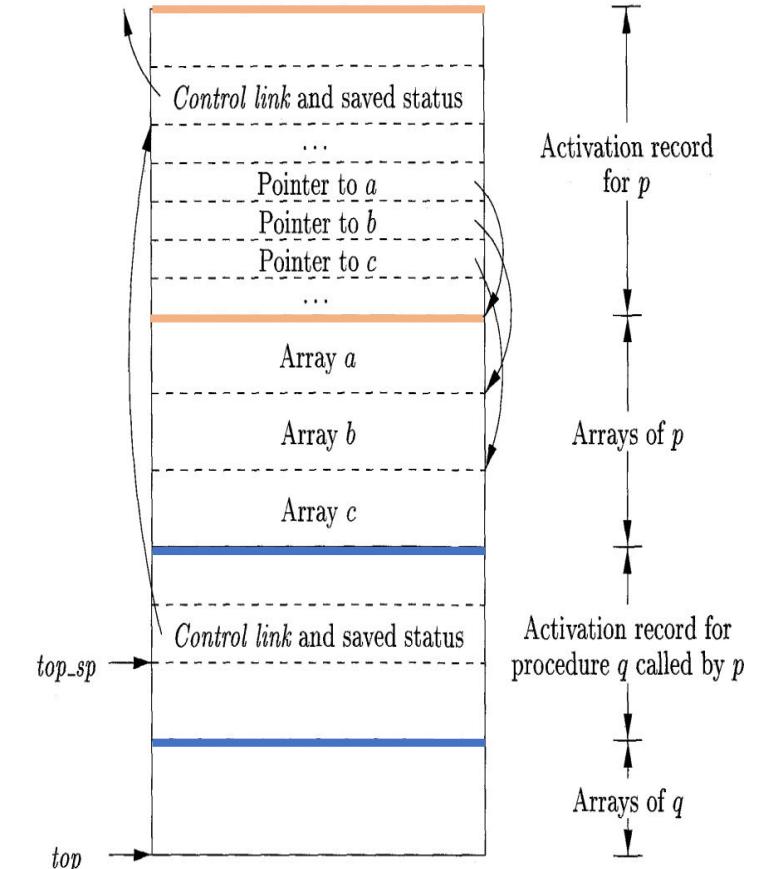


Figure 7.8: Access to dynamically allocated arrays

## Variable-Length Data on the Stack

- The code to reposition **top** and **top-sp** can be generated at **compile time**, in terms of sizes that will become known at run time.
- When **q** returns,
  - The **top-sp** can be restored from the saved **control link** in the activation record for **q**.
  - The **new value of top** is **top-sp minus the length of the machine-status, control and access link, return-value, and parameter fields (as in Fig. 7.5)** in **q's activation record**. This length is known at compile time to the caller, although it may depend on the caller, if the number of parameters can vary across calls to **q**.

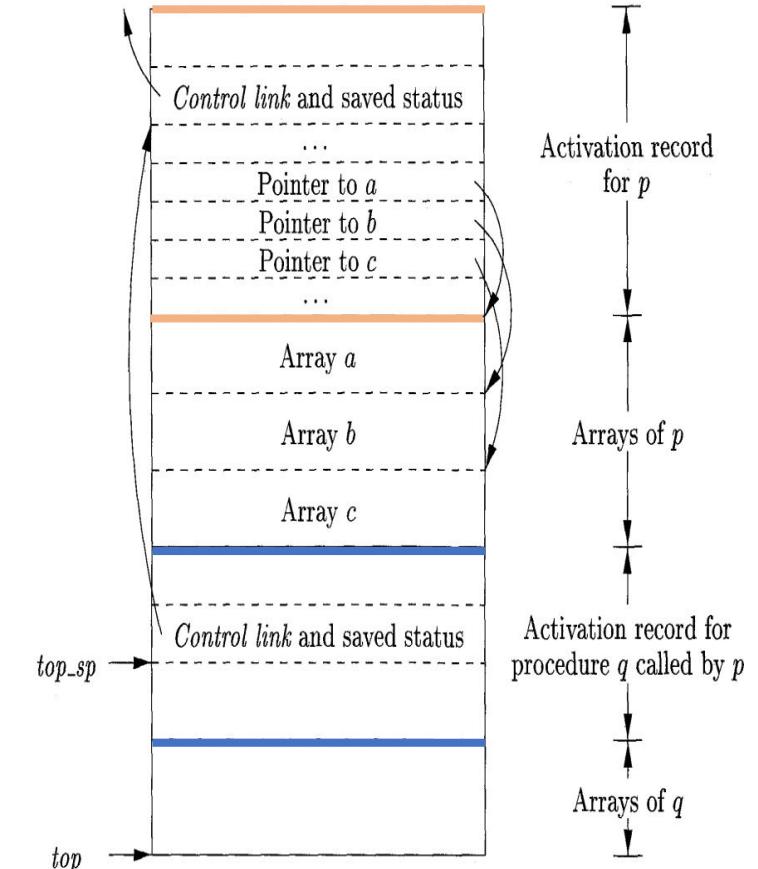


Figure 7.8: Access to dynamically allocated arrays

# COMPILER DESIGN

---

## Unit 5: Run-Time Environments

### Access to Nonlocal Data on the Stack

Prakash C O

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

### Access to Nonlocal Data on the Stack

Let's discuss how the procedures access their data.

- **Local data – For a procedure p, data that belongs to p.**
  - A variable created inside a function belongs to the *local scope* of that function, and can only be used inside that function.
- **Nonlocal data – Data used within a procedure p, but doesnot belong to p.**
  - Example: A variable used within a procedure p, but defined in procedure q.
- **Access becomes even more difficult when procedures can be declared inside other procedures. Example: ML language – supports nested functions**

### Data Access Without Nested Procedures

➤ In C and its family of languages, there is no problem of nested procedures. But the data can have nested scopes(blocks).

➤ Simple rules:

- Global constants are allocated static storage. Their locations(addresses) remain fixed and determined at compile time and hence to access these (not local to any procedure) we can use statically determined address.
- Data that is local to the procedure is at the activation record at the top of the stack, can be accessed using *top\_sp* pointer of the stack.

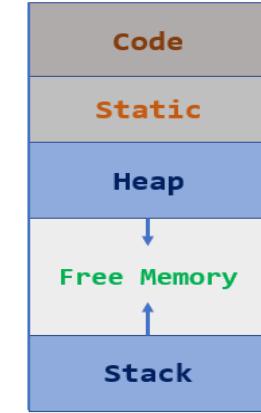


Figure 7.1: Subdivision of run-time memory into code and data areas

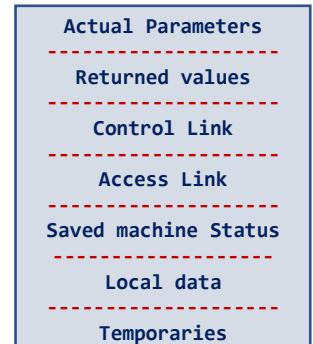


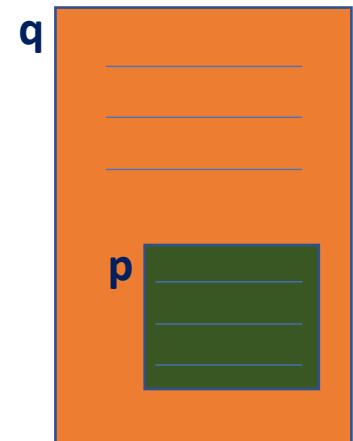
Figure 7.5: A general activation record

### Access to Nonlocal data in Nested Procedures

➤ Access becomes difficult when a language allows nested procedures, i.e a procedure can access variables whose declarations surround it's own declarations.

➤ Reason:

- If p is within q, relative positions of their activation records at compile time cannot be determined(it's a dynamic decision).
- p maybe recursive or q maybe recursive or both p and q maybe recursive. This can lead to several activation records of p and q on the stack.



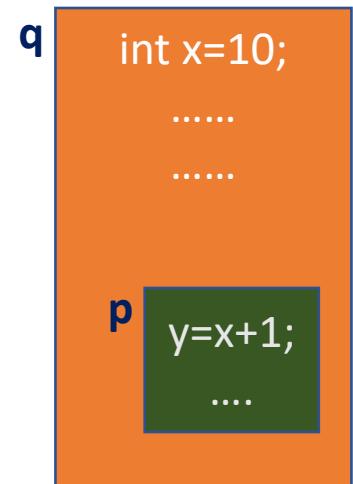
### Access to Nonlocal data in Nested Procedures

➤ Suppose x is a nonlocal name used in nested procedure p, finding its declaration is a static decision.

But if x is defined in q, finding relevant activation of q from an activation of p is a dynamic decision.

It requires additional run-time information about activations.

- Two common strategies: Access links and Displays



### ML : Language with Nested Procedure Declarations

- ML ("Meta Language") is a general-purpose functional programming language.
- ML is statically-scoped i.e., once the variables are declared and initialized it cannot change.
- Defining variables

```
val <name> = <expression>
```

A declaration introduced with keyword val, allows us to give a name of our choice to the expression.

A variable is introduced by binding it to a value as follows:

```
- val x = 4*5;  
> val x = 20 : int      ← output  
- val s = "Abc" ^ "def";  
> val s = "Abcdef" : string ← output
```

**Note:** - (hyphen) is ML prompt, Notice that the expression to be evaluated is terminated by a semicolon.

# ML : Language with Nested Procedure Declarations

- Declaring functions

- *fun* <name> ( <arguments> ) = < body >

- Examples: `fun inc x = x+1;`

```
fun double x = 2*x;
```

```
fun adda s = s ^ "a";
```

To execute a function simply give the function name followed by the actual argument. For example:

- - double 6; output: > 12 : int
  - - inc 100; output: > 101 : int
  - - adda "Indi"; output: > "India" : string

### ML : Language with Nested Procedure Declarations

- For function bodies it is of the form ;

*Let <list of definitions> in <statements> end*

The scope of definitions is upto the *in* and till the *end*.

### ML : Language with Nested Procedure Declarations

- Functions are not restricted to using parameters and local variables - they may freely refer to variables that are available when the function is defined.
- Consider the following definition:

```
fun pairwith(x,l) =  
  let  
    fun p y = (x,y)  
  in  
    map p l  
  end;
```

The local function p has a non-local reference to the identifier x.

- pairwith("Hi",l); Note: l=[1,2,3]  
> [("Hi",1),("Hi",2),("Hi",3)] : ( string \* int ) list

The local function p has a non-local reference to the identifier x, the parameter of the function *pairwith*. The same rule applies here as with other non-local references: the nearest enclosing binding is used.

### ML : Language with Nested Procedure Declarations

➤ ML supports higher-order functions

- Takes functions as arguments
- Can construct functions
- Can return other functions

➤ ML has no iteration

- Effect of iteration is achieved through recursion.

```
for(i=0;i<10;i++)
```

ML makes i a function argument and calls itself until i is reached.

### ML : Language with Nested Procedure Declarations

- ML takes lists and labelled tree structures as primitive data types.
- ML does not require declaration of its data types.
- It recognizes types at compile time.
- For example :
  - var x = 1 is taken to be an integer.
  - var y = 2.3 \* x is taken to be float.

### Nesting Depth

- Procedures not nested within other procedures have nesting depth 1
  - For example, all functions in C have depth 1
- If  $p$  is defined immediately within a procedure at depth  $i$ , then  $p$  is at depth  $i+1$

## Nesting Depth

## Quicksort in ML using Nested Procedures

```

1) fun sort(inputFile, outputFile) =
    let
        val a = array(11,0);
        fun readArray(inputFile) = ...
            ... a ... ;
        fun exchange(i,j) =
            ... a ... ;
        fun quicksort(m,n) =
            let
                val v = ... ;
                fun partition(y,z) =
                    ... a ... v ... exchange ...
            in
                ... a ... v ... partition ... quicksort ...
            end
        in
            ... a ... readArray ... quicksort ...
        end;
    
```

Procedure	Nesting depth
<b>sort</b>	
<b>readarray</b>	
<b>exchange</b>	
<b>quicksort</b>	
<b>partition</b>	

- Procedures not nested within other procedures have nesting depth 1
  - For example, all functions in C have depth 1
- If  $p$  is defined immediately within a procedure at depth  $i$ , then  $p$  is at depth  $i+1$

Figure 7.10: A version of quicksort, in ML style, using nested functions

## Nesting Depth

## Quicksort in ML using Nested Procedures

```

1) fun sort(inputFile, outputFile) =
    let
        val a = array(11,0);
        fun readArray(inputFile) = ...
            ... a ... ;
        fun exchange(i,j) =
            ... a ... ;
        fun quicksort(m,n) =
            let
                val v = ... ;
                fun partition(y,z) =
                    ... a ... v ... exchange ...
            in
                ... a ... v ... partition ... quicksort
            end
        in
            ... a ... readArray ... quicksort ...
        end;
    
```

Procedure	Nesting depth
<b>sort</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>readarray</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>exchange</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>quicksort</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>partition</b>	<b>3</b>

- Procedures not nested within other procedures have nesting depth 1
  - For example, all functions in C have depth 1
- If  $p$  is defined immediately within a procedure at depth  $i$ , then  $p$  is at depth  $i+1$

Figure 7.10: A version of quicksort, in ML style, using nested functions

# COMPILER DESIGN

---

## Unit 5: Run-Time Environments

### Access to Nonlocal Data on the Stack:

#### Access Links and Displays

Prakash C O

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

## Unit 5: Run-Time Environments

---

### Access Links (Refers to non-local data in other activation record)

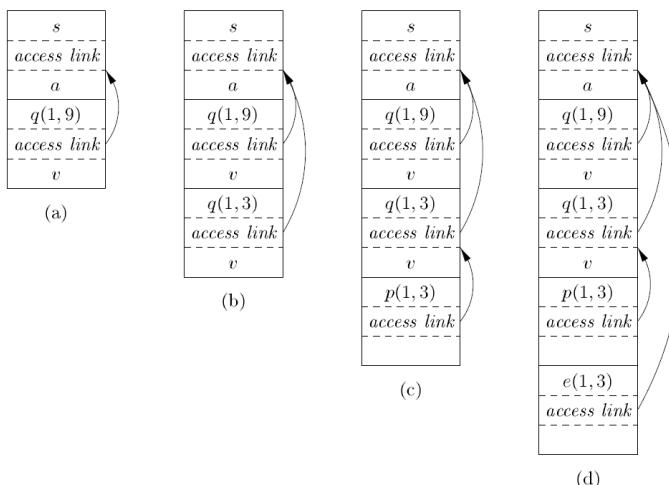
- The main purpose of the access link is to access the data which is not present in the local scope of the activation record. It is a static link.
- The chain of access links traces the static structure (or scopes) of the program.
- An access link is a pointer to each activation record that obtains a direct implementation of lexical scope for nested procedures.

# Unit 5: Run-Time Environments

## Access Links

- *The normal static scope rule for nested functions is obtained by adding a pointer called the **access link** to each activation record.*
  - *If procedure p is nested immediately within procedure q in the source code, then the access link in any activation record of p points to the most recent activation record of q.*

**Note that the nesting depth of q must be exactly one less than the nesting depth of p.**



```

1) fun sort(inputFile, outputFile) =
    let
2)     val a = array(11,0);
3)     fun readArray(inputFile) = ...
4)         ... a ... ;
5)     fun exchange(i,j) =
6)         ... a ... ;
7)     fun quicksort(m,n) =
        let
8)         val v = ... ;
9)         fun partition(y,z) =
10)             ... a ... v ... exchange ...
11)             in
12)                 ... a ... v ... partition ... quicksort
13)             end
14)         in
15)             ... a ... readArray ... quicksort ...
16)         end;

```

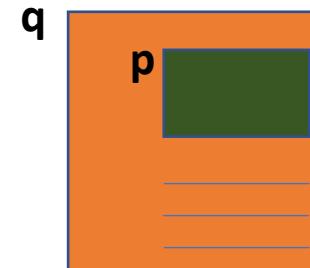
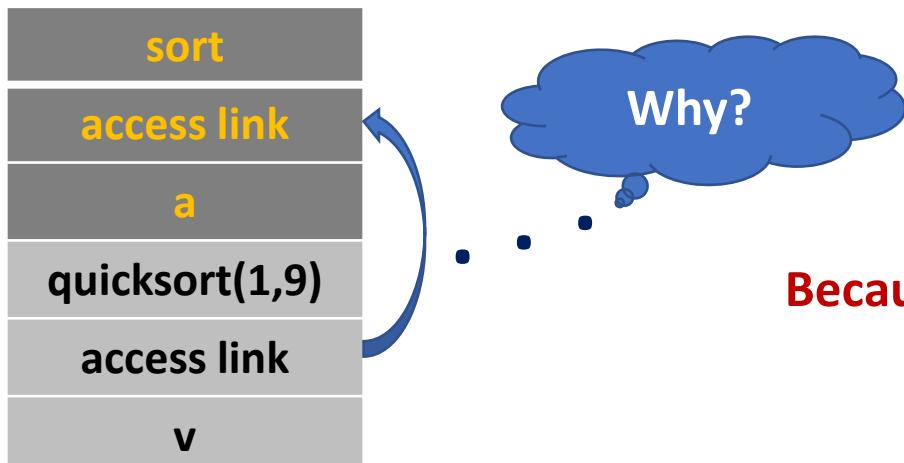


Figure 7.10: A version of quicksort, in ML style, using nested functions

### Access Links

- Access links form a chain from the activation record at the top of the stack to a sequence of activations at progressively lower nesting depths.
- Along this chain are all the activations whose data and procedures are accessible to the currently executing procedure.
- Example of Access Links



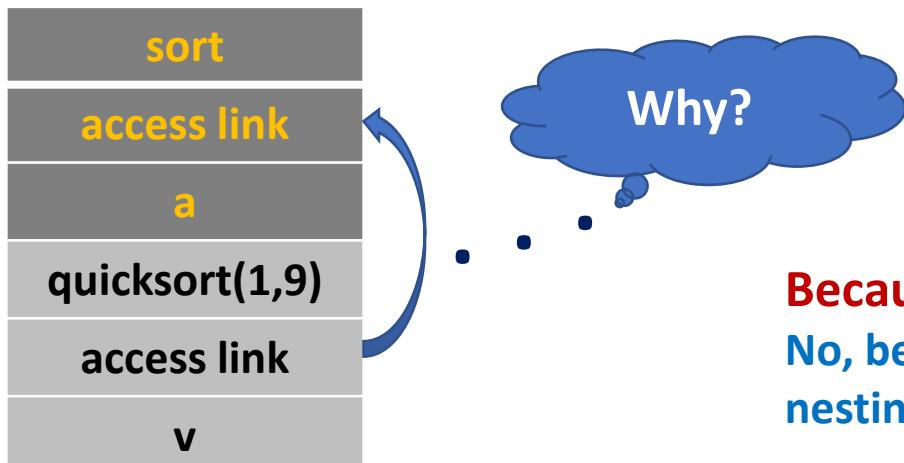
Because sort called quicksort?

```
1) fun sort(inputFile, outputFile) =  
   let  
2)     val a = array(11,0);  
3)     fun readArray(inputFile) = ...  
4)       ... a ... ;  
5)     fun exchange(i,j) =  
6)       ... a ... ;  
7)     fun quicksort(m,n) =  
      let  
8)        val v = ... ;  
9)        fun partition(y,z) =  
          ... a ... v ... exchange ...  
10)       in  
11)         ... a ... v ... partition ... quicksort  
12)       end  
     in  
       ... a ... readArray ... quicksort ...  
   end;
```

Figure 7.10: A version of quicksort, in ML style, using nested functions

### Access Links

- Access links form a chain from the activation record at the top of the stack to a sequence of activations at progressively lower nesting depths.
- Along this chain are all the activations whose data and procedures are accessible to the currently executing procedure.
- Example of Access Links



Because sort called quicksort?  
No, because sort is the most closely  
nesting function surrounding quicksort

```
1) fun sort(inputFile, outputFile) =  
   let  
2)     val a = array(11,0);  
3)     fun readArray(inputFile) = ...  
4)       ... a ... ;  
5)     fun exchange(i,j) =  
6)       ... a ... ;  
7)     fun quicksort(m,n) =  
      let  
8)        val v = ... ;  
9)        fun partition(y,z) =  
          ... a ... v ... exchange ...  
10)       in  
11)         ... a ... v ... partition ... quicksort  
12)       end  
     in  
      ... a ... readArray ... quicksort ...  
   end;
```

Figure 7.10: A version of quicksort, in ML style, using nested functions

### Access Links

#### ➤ Example of Access Links

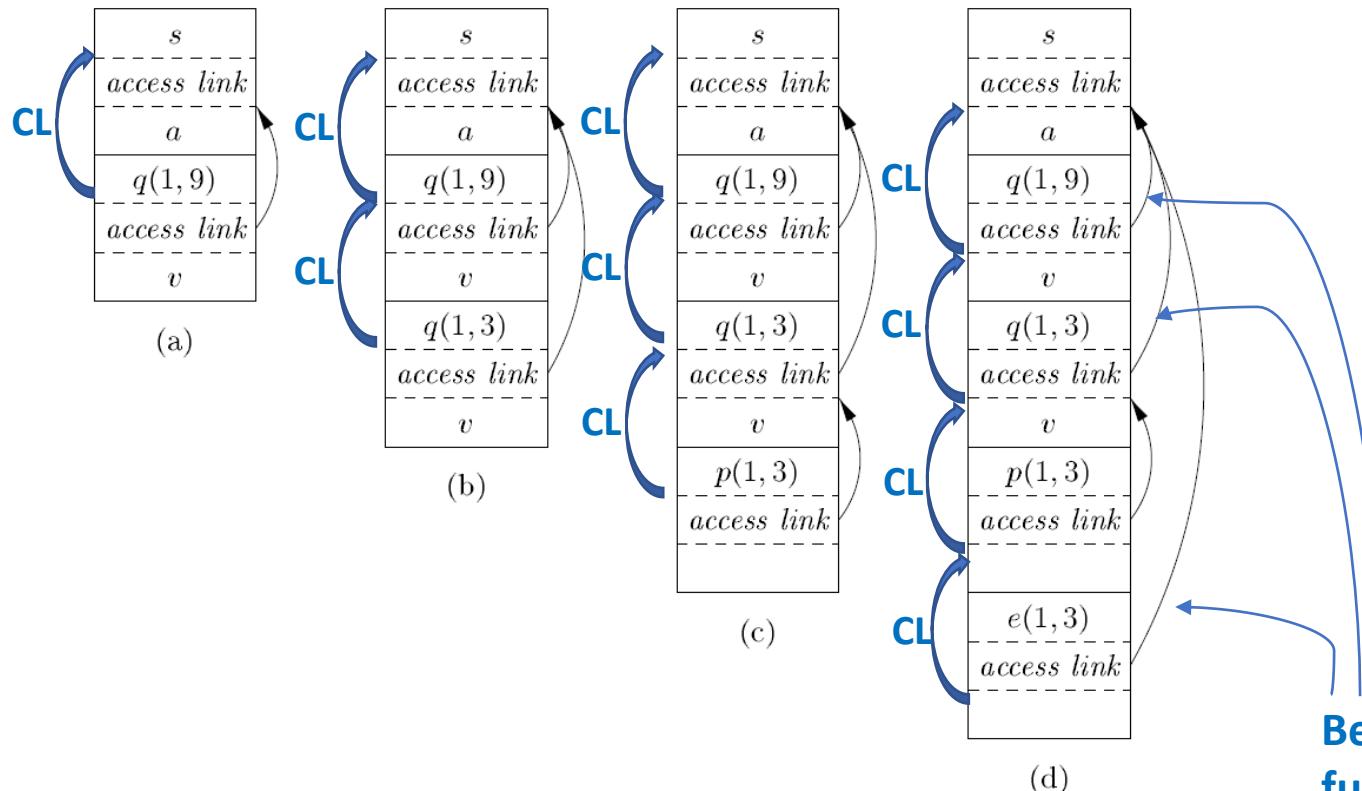


Figure 7.11: Access links for finding nonlocal data

```

1) fun sort(inputFile, outputFile) =
let
2)   val a = array(11,0);
fun readArray(inputFile) = ...
3)   ... a ...
4)   fun exchange(i,j) =
5)     ... a ...
6)   fun quicksort(m,n) =
let
7)     val v = ...
8)     fun partition(y,z) =
9)       ... a ... v ... exchange ...
in
10)    ... a ... v ... partition ... quicksort ...
end
11)  in
12)    ... a ... readArray ... quicksort ...
end;

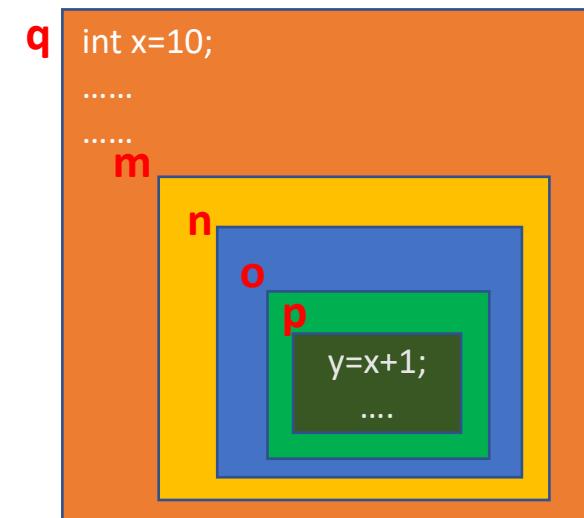
```

Figure 7.10: A version of quicksort, in ML style, using nested functions

**Because sort is the most closely nesting function surrounding quicksort and exchange**

### Access Links

- Suppose procedure p activation record is at the top of the stack and has nesting depth  $n_p$ , and p needs to access x, which is an element defined within some procedure q that surrounds p and has nesting depth  $n_q$ .
  - Usually  $n_q < n_p$
- To find non-local x, we start at the activation record for p at the top of the stack and follow the access link  $n_p - n_q$  times, from activation record to activation record.
- Finally, we wind up at an activation record for q, this activation record contains the element x that we want.



### Manipulating Access Links

How are access links determined? what should happen when a procedure  $q$  calls procedure  $p$ , explicitly. There are two cases:

#### Case 1: $n_q < n_p$ (Procedure $p$ is at a higher nesting depth than $q$ )

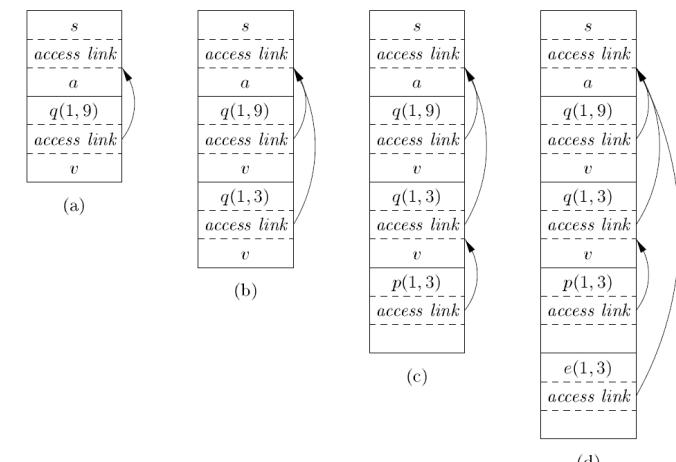
- Called procedure  $p$  is nested within  $q$
- Therefore,  $p$  must be declared in  $q$ , or the call by  $q$  will not be within the scope of  $p$
- Access link in  $p$  should point to the access link of the activation record of the caller  $q$

```

1) fun sort(inputFile, outputFile) =
2)   let
3)     val a = array(11,0);
4)     fun readArray(inputFile) = ...
5)       ... a ... ;
6)     fun exchange(i,j) =
7)       ... a ... ;
8)     fun quicksort(m,n) =
9)       let
10)         val v = ... ;
11)         fun partition(y,z) =
12)           ... a ... v ... exchange ...
13)           in
14)             ... a ... v ... partition ... quicksort
15)           end
16)         in
17)           ... a ... readArray ... quicksort ...
18)         end;

```

Figure 7.10: A version of quicksort, in ML style, using nested functions

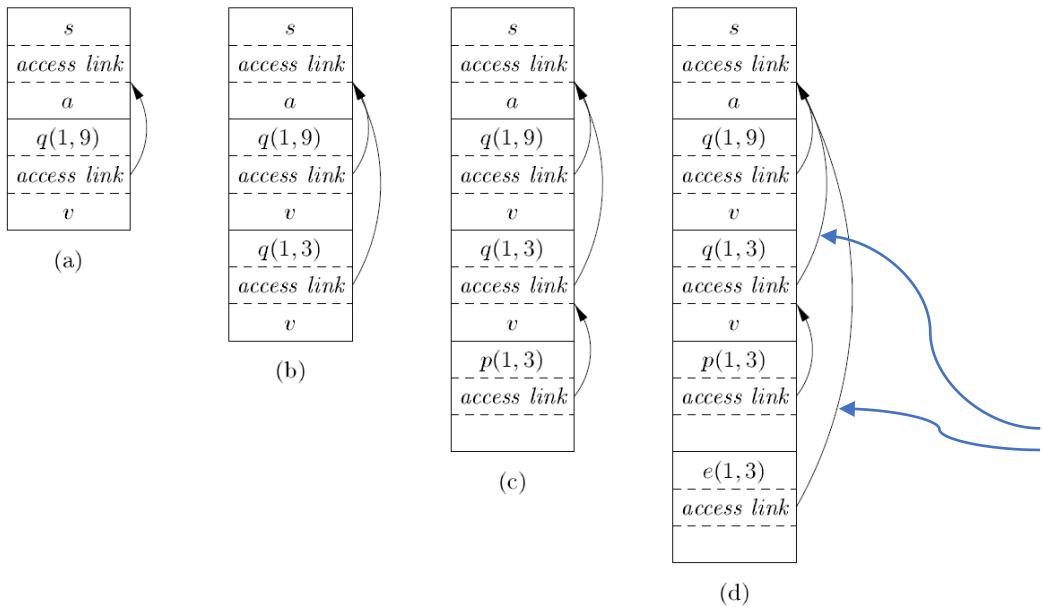


### Manipulating Access Links

#### Case 2: $n_p == n_q$

- Procedures are at the same nesting level
- Access link of called procedure  $p$  is the same as  $q$

#### Example:



```

1) fun sort(inputFile, outputFile) =
2)   let
3)     val a = array(11,0);
4)     fun readArray(inputFile) = ...
5)       ... a ...
6)     fun exchange(i,j) =
7)       ... a ...
8)     fun quicksort(m,n) =
9)       let
10)         val v = ...
11)         fun partition(y,z) =
12)           ... a ... v ... exchange ...
13)           in
14)             ... a ... v ... partition ... quicksort
15)           end
16)         in
17)           ... a ... readArray ... quicksort ...
18)         end;

```

Figure 7.10: A version of quicksort, in ML style, using nested functions

- Nesting depth of `exchange` is 2
  - Nesting depth of `quicksort` is 2
- Access link of called procedure `exchange`  
is the same as `quicksort`

### Access links for Procedure Parameters

- When a procedure p is passed to another procedure q as parameter, q may not know the context in which p appears and its impossible to set access link for p.
  - Solution: when procedures are used as parameters, the caller needs to pass proper access link as the parameter along with name of procedure parameter.
  - Caller always knows the link. i.e, in the above case p must be a name accessible to q, therefore q determines access link for p exactly as if p being called by r directly

## Access links for Procedure Parameters

```
fun a(x) =  
  let  
    fun b(f) =  
      ... f ... ;  
    fun c(y) =  
      let  
        fun d(z) = ...  
        in  
          ... b(d) ...  
        end  
      in  
        ... c(1) ...  
      end;
```

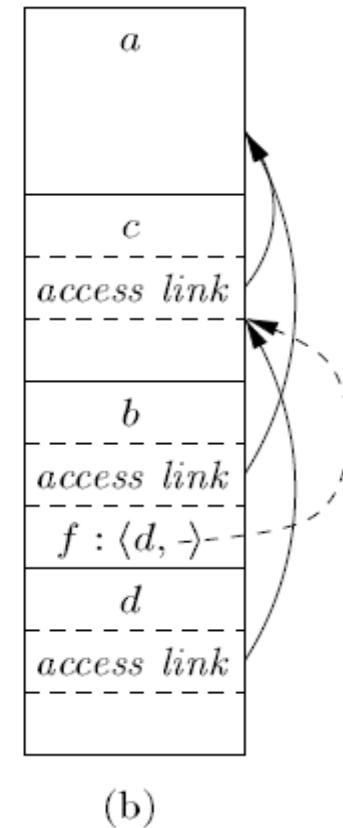
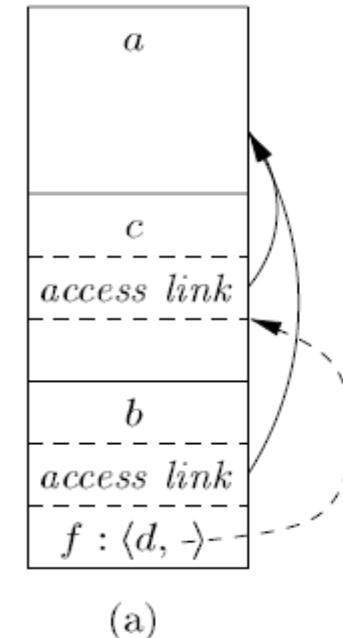


Figure 7.12: Sketch of ML program that uses function-parameters

Figure 7.13: Actual parameters carry their access link with them

## Unit 5: Run-Time Environments

### Displays

- One problem with the access-link approach to nonlocal data is that if the nesting depth gets large, we may have to follow long chains of links to reach the data we need.
- A more efficient implementation uses an auxiliary array  $d$ , called the *display*, which consists of one pointer for each nesting depth.
- At all times,  $d[i]$  is a pointer to the highest activation record on the stack for any procedure at nesting depth  $i$ .
- Previous value of  $d[i]$  must be stored in the current A.R. with depth  $i$ .
- Examples of a display are shown in Fig. 7.14.

```

1) fun sort(inputFile, outputFile) =
let
2)   val a = array(11,0);
3)   fun readArray(inputFile) = ...
4)   ... a ...
5)   fun exchange(i,j) =
6)     ... a ...
7)   fun quicksort(m,n) =
8)     let
9)       val v = ...
10)      fun partition(y,z) =
11)        ... a ... v ... exchange ...
12)      in
13)        ... a ... v ... partition ... quicksort
14)      end
15)    in
16)      ... a ... readArray ... quicksort ...
17)    end;

```

Figure 7.10: A version of quicksort, in ML style, using nested functions

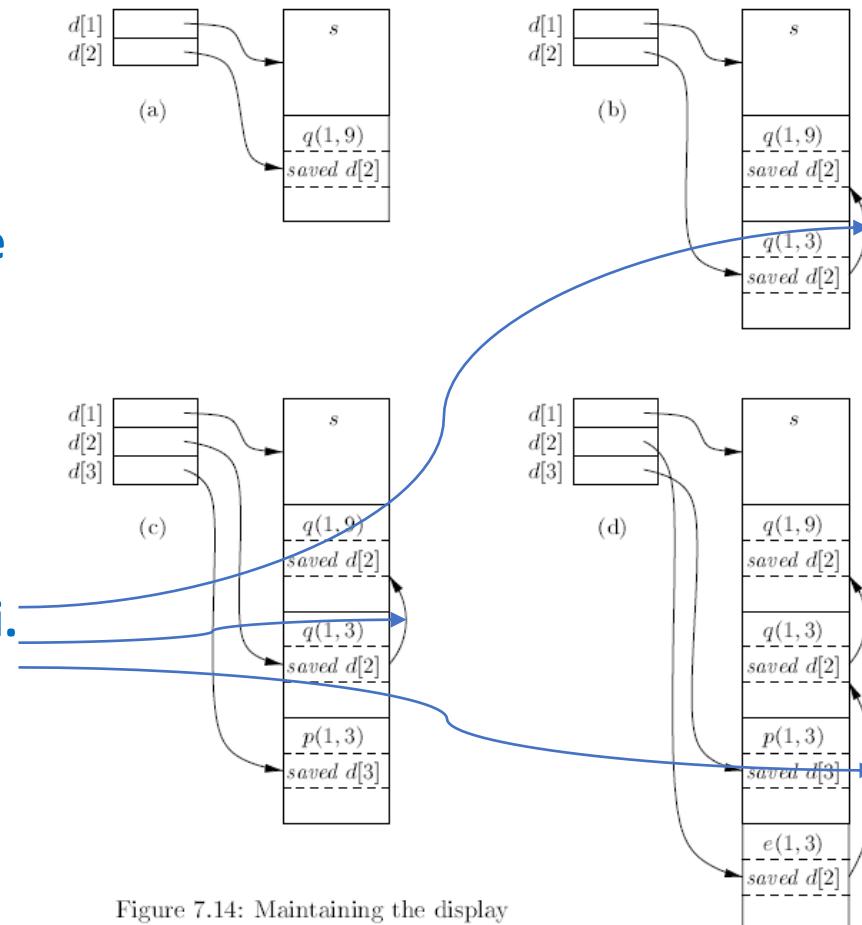


Figure 7.14: Maintaining the display

### Maintaining the Display

#### Example:

- In Fig. 7.14(d), we see the display  $d$ , with
  - $d[1]$  holding a pointer to the activation record for sort, the highest (and only) activation record for a function at nesting depth 1.
  - $d[2]$  holding a pointer to the activation record for exchange, the highest record at depth 2, and
  - $d[3]$  points to partition, the highest record at depth 3.

$d[i]$  is a pointer to the highest activation record on the stack for any procedure at nesting depth  $i$ .

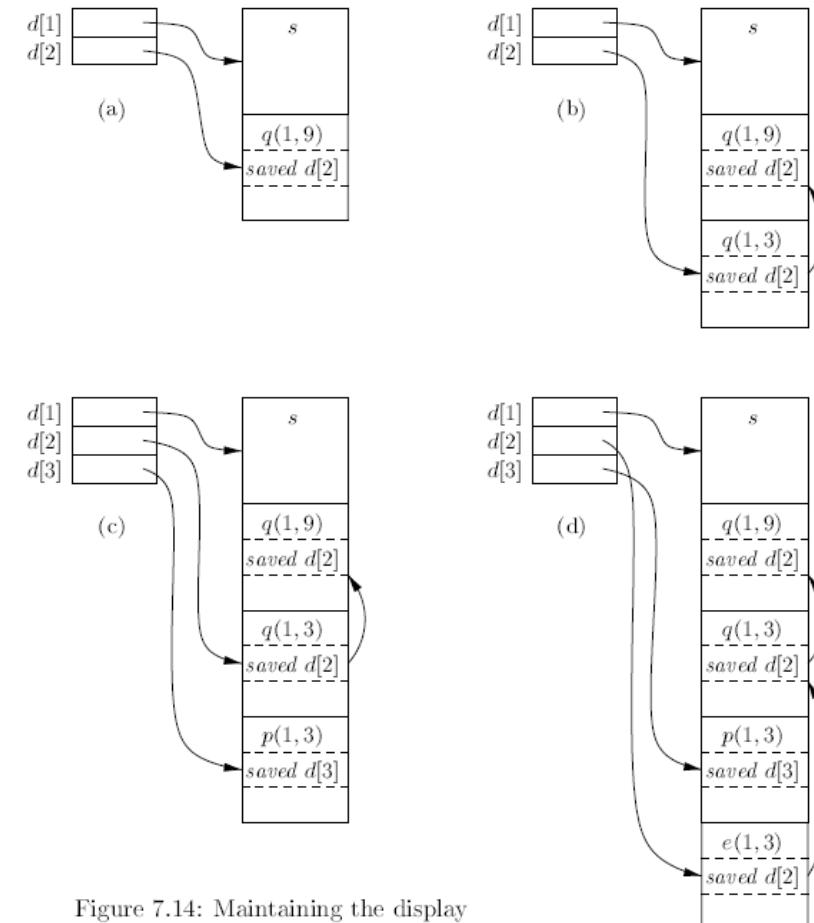


Figure 7.14: Maintaining the display

## Maintaining the Display

The advantage of using a display is that

- Suppose a procedure  $p$  is executing and needs to access element  $x$  belonging to procedure  $q$ .
  - The runtime only needs to search in activations from  $d[i]$ , where  $i$  is the nesting depth of  $q$ .
  - Follow the pointer  $d[i]$  to the activation record for  $q$ , wherein  $x$  should be defined at a known offset.

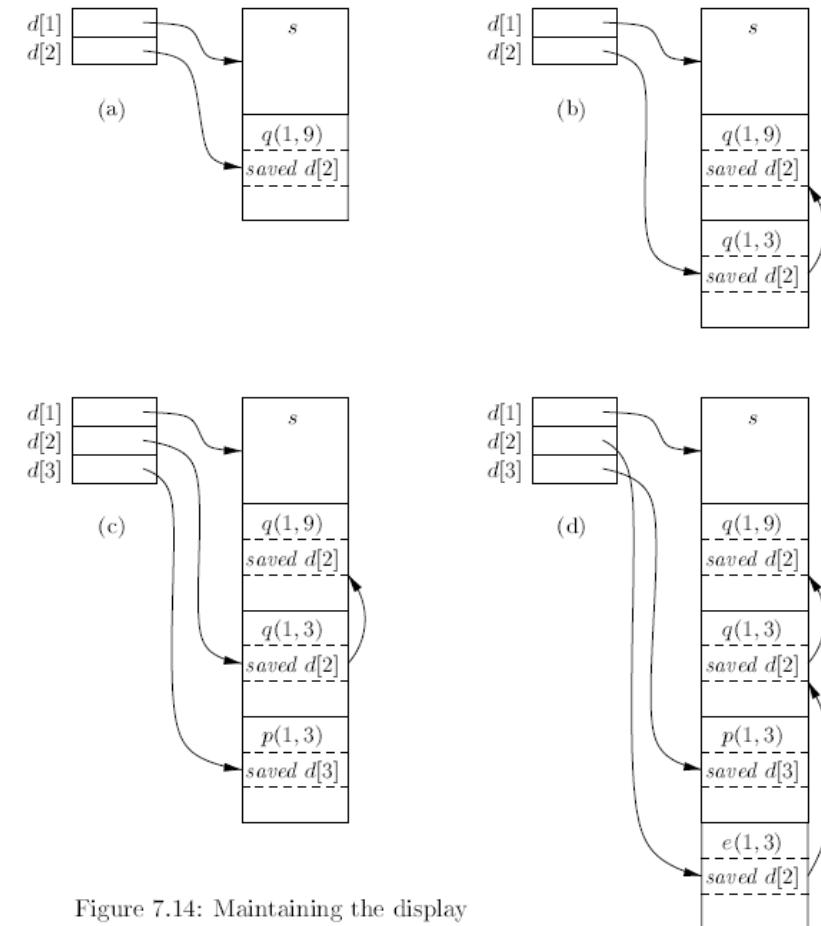


Figure 7.14: Maintaining the display

### Access Links Vs Displays

Access Links	Displays
Cost of lookup varies Common case is cheap, but long chains can be costly	Cost of lookup is constant
Cost of maintenance also is variable	Cost of maintenance is constant

## References

---

- **Compilers–Principles, Techniques and Tools,** Alfred V. Aho, Monica S. Lam, Ravi Sethi, Jeffery D. Ullman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition



**THANK YOU**

---

**Prakash C O**

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

**[coprakasha@pes.edu](mailto:coprakasha@pes.edu)**

**+91 98 8059 1946**

## Manipulating Access Links

How are access links determined? what should happen when a procedure q calls procedure p, explicitly. There are two cases:

**Case 1:  $n_q < n_p$**  (Procedure p is at a higher nesting depth than q)

- Then p must be defined immediately within q, or the call by q would not be at a position that is within the scope of the procedure name p. Thus, the nesting depth of p is exactly one greater than that of q, and the access link from p must lead to q.
- It is a simple matter for the calling sequence to include a step that places in the access link for p a pointer to the activation record of q.
- Examples include the call of quicksort by sort to set up Fig. 7.11(a), and the call of partition by quicksort to create Fig. 7.11(c).

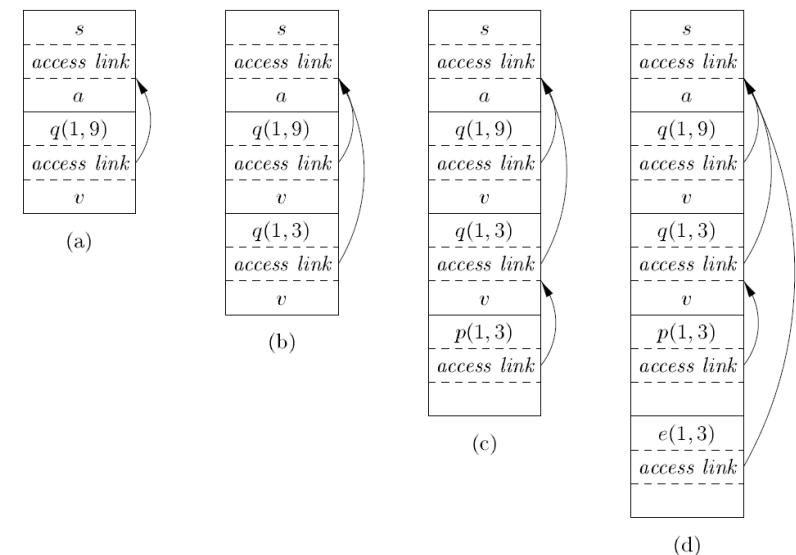


Figure 7.11: Access links for finding nonlocal data

### Manipulating Access Links

**Case 2:  $n_q > n_p$**  (The nesting depth  $n_p$  of p is less than the nesting depth  $n_q$  of q)

- In order for the call within q to be in the scope of name p, procedure q must be nested within some procedure r, while p is a procedure defined immediately within r.
- The top activation record for r can therefore be found by following the chain of access links, starting in the activation record for q, for  $n_q - n_p + 1$  hops.

Then, the access link for p must go to this activation of r.

- Nesting depth of exchange is 2
- Nesting depth of partition is 3

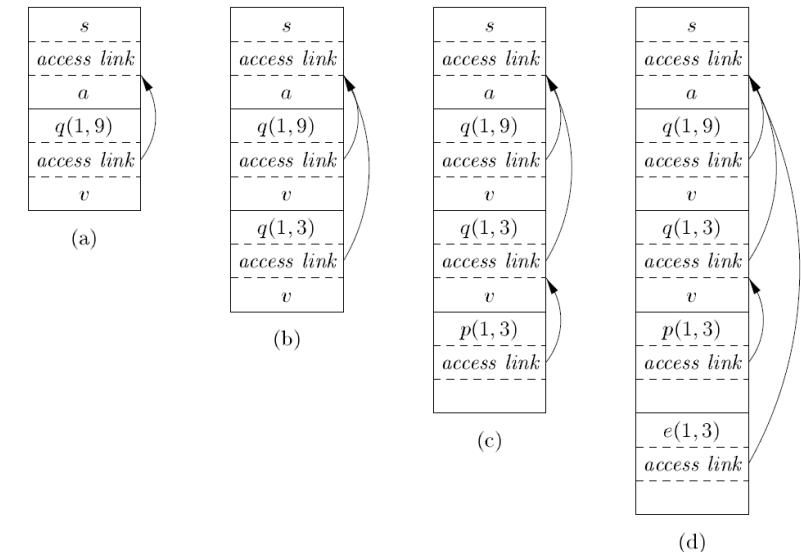


Figure 7.11: Access links for finding nonlocal data