# **Compilers and Formal Languages**

Email: christian.urban at kcl.ac.uk

Slides & Progs: KEATS (also homework is there)

1 Introduction, Languages	6 While-Language
2 Regular Expressions, Derivatives	7 Compilation, JVM
3 Automata, Regular Languages	8 Compiling Functional Languages
4 Lexing, Tokenising	9 Optimisations
5 Grammars, Parsing	10 LLVM

# **Functional Programming**

```
def fib(n) = if n == 0 then 0
             else if n == 1 then 1
             else fib(n - 1) + fib(n - 2);
def fact(n) = if n == 0 then 1 else n * fact(n - 1);
def ack(m, n) = if m == 0 then n + 1
                else if n == 0 then ack(m - 1, 1)
                else ack(m - 1, ack(m, n - 1));
def gcd(a, b) = if b == 0 then a else gcd(b, a % b);
```

#### **Fun-Grammar**

```
Exp ::= Var \mid Num
         \mid Exp + Exp \mid ... \mid (Exp)
         if BExp then Exp else Exp
         write Exp
         Exp: Exp | FunName (Exp. ... , Exp)
BExp ::= ...
Def ::= def FunName (x_1, ..., x_n) = Exp
Prog ::= Def; Prog \mid Exp; Prog \mid Exp
```

# **Abstract Syntax Trees**

```
abstract class Exp
abstract class BExp
abstract class Decl
case class Var(s: String) extends Exp
case class Num(i: Int) extends Exp
case class Aop(o: String, a1: Exp, a2: Exp) extends Exp
case class If(a: BExp, e1: Exp, e2: Exp) extends Exp
case class Write(e: Exp) extends Exp
case class Sequ(e1: Exp, e2: Exp) extends Exp
case class Call(name: String, args: List[Exp]) extends Exp
case class Bop(o: String, a1: Exp, a2: Exp) extends BExp
case class Def(name: String,
               args: List[String],
               body: Exp) extends Decl
case class Main(e: Exp) extends Decl
```

## **Ideas**

Use separate JVM methods for each Fun-function.

Compile exps such that the result of the expression is on top of the stack.

- write(1 + 2)
- 1 + 2; 3 + 4

# **Sequences**

```
Compiling exp1 ; exp2:

   compile(exp1)
   pop
   compile(exp2)
```

## Write

#### Compiling call to write (1+2):

```
compile(1+2)
dup
invokestatic XXX/XXX/write(I)V
```

#### needs the helper method

```
.method public static write(I)V
   .limit locals 1
   .limit stack 2
  getstatic java/lang/System/out Ljava/io/PrintStream;
  iload 0
  invokevirtual java/io/PrintStream/println(I)V
  return
```

.end method

### **Function Definitions**

```
.method public static write(I)V
   .limit locals 1
   .limit stack 2
   getstatic java/lang/System/out Ljava/io/PrintStream;
   iload 0
   invokevirtual java/io/PrintStream/println(I)V
   return
.end method
```

#### We will need methods for definitions like

```
def fname (x1, ..., xn) = ...
.method public static fname (I...I)I
   .limit locals ??
   .limit stack ??
   ??
.end method
```

### **Stack Estimation**

```
estimate(n)
estimate(x)
                                                  \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} estimate(a_1) + estimate(a_2)
estimate(a_1 aop a_2)
                                                 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} estimate(b)+
estimate(if b then e_1 else e_2)
                                                           max(estimate(e_1), estimate(e_2))
                                                 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} estimate(e) + 1
estimate(write(e))
                                                  \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} max(estimate(e_1), estimate(e_2))
estimate(e_1; e_2)
                                                  \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \operatorname{estimate}(e_i)
estimate(f(e_1,...,e_n))
                                                  \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} estimate(a<sub>1</sub>) + estimate(a<sub>2</sub>)
estimate(a_1 bop a_2)
```

### **Successor Function**

```
.method public static suc(I)I
.limit locals 1
.limit stack 2
  iload 0
  ldc 1
  iadd
  ireturn
.end method
def suc(x) = x + 1;
```

#### **Addition Function**

```
.method public static add(II)I
.limit locals 2
.limit stack 5
  iload 0
 1dc 0
  if icmpne If else
 iload 1
                        def add(x, y) =
 goto If end
If else:
                             if x == 0 then y
  iload 0
                             else suc(add(x - 1, y));
 1dc 1
 isub
 iload 1
  invokestatic XXX/XXX/add(II)I
  invokestatic XXX/XXX/suc(I)I
If end:
  ireturn
.end method
```

```
.method public static facT(II)I Factorial
.limit locals 2
.limit stack 6
 iload 0
 1dc 0
 if_icmpne If else 2
 iload 1
 goto If end 3
If else 2:
                            def facT(n, acc) =
 iload 0
                               if n == 0 then acc
 ldc 1
                               else facT(n - 1, n * acc);
 isub
 iload 0
 iload 1
 imul
 invokestatic fact/fact/facT(II)I
If end 3:
 ireturn
.end method
```

```
.method public static facT(II)I
.limit locals 2
.limit stack 6
facT Start:
  iload 0
 1dc 0
  if_icmpne If_else_2
  iload 1
  goto If end 3
If else 2:
                        def facT(n, acc) =
  iload 0
                           if n == 0 then acc
 ldc 1
  isub
                           else facT(n - 1, n * acc);
  iload 0
  iload 1
  imul
  istore 1
  istore 0
  goto facT_Start
```

Tf and 3.

## **Tail Recursion**

A call to f(args) is usually compiled as

```
args onto stack
invokestatic .../f
```

#### **Tail Recursion**

A call to f(args) is usually compiled as

```
args onto stack
invokestatic .../f
```

A call is in tail position provided:

- if Bexp then Exp else Exp
- Exp ; Exp
- Exp op Exp then a call f(args) can be compiled as

```
prepare environment jump to start of function
```

#### **Tail Recursive Call**

```
def compile expT(a: Exp, env: Mem, name: String): Instrs =
  case Call(n, args) => if (name == n)
    val stores =
      args.zipWithIndex.map { case (x, y) => i"istore $y" }
    args.map(a => compile expT(a, env, "")).mkString ++
    stores.reverse.mkString ++
    i"goto ${n} Start"
  } else {
    val is = "I" * args.length
    args.map(a => compile_expT(a, env, "")).mkString ++
    i"invokestatic XXX/XXX/${n}(${is})I"
```

# **Dijkstra on Testing**

"Program testing can be a very effective way to show the presence of bugs, but it is hopelessly inadequate for showing their absence."

What is good about compilers: the either seem to work, or go horribly wrong (most of the time).

### **Proving Programs to be Correct**

**Theorem:** There are infinitely many prime numbers.

Proof ...

#### similarly

**Theorem:** The program is doing what it is supposed to be doing.

Long, long proof ...

This can be a gigantic proof. The only hope is to have help from the computer. 'Program' is here to be understood to be quite general (compiler, OS, ...).

#### Can This Be Done?

- in 2008, verification of a small C-compiler
  - "if my input program has a certain behaviour, then the compiled machine code has the same behaviour"
  - is as good as gcc -01, but much, much less buggy



# **Fuzzy Testing C-Compilers**

- tested GCC, LLVM and others by randomly generating C-programs
- found more than 300 bugs in GCC and also many in LLVM (some of them highest-level critical)
- about CompCert:

"The striking thing about our CompCert results is that the middle-end bugs we found in all other compilers are absent. As of early 2011, the under-development version of CompCert is the only compiler we have tested for which Csmith cannot find wrong-code errors. This is not for lack of trying: we have devoted about six CPU-years to the task."