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

The Fun Language

```
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);
```

Factorial Funct. on the JVM

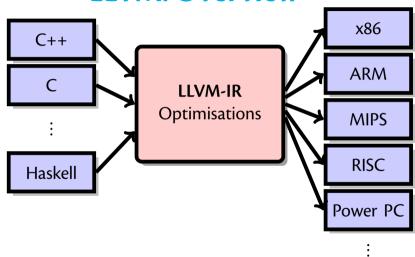
and the second

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

LLVM

Chris Lattner, Vikram Adve (started in 2000) Apple hired Lattner in 2006 modular architecture, LLVM-IR 11i and 11c

LLVM: Overview



LLVM-IR

```
define i32 @fact (i32 %n) {
   %tmp 19 = icmp eq i32 %n, 0
   br i1 %tmp 19, label %if br 23, label %else br 24
if br 23:
   ret i32 1
else br 24:
   %tmp 21 = sub i32 %n, 1
   %tmp 22 = call i32 @fact (i32 %tmp 21)
   %tmp 20 = mul i32 %n, %tmp 22
   ret i32 %tmp 20
                                    def fact(n) =
                                      if n == 0 then 1
                                      else n * fact(n - 1)
```

LLVM Types

```
boolean i1
         i8
byte
short
        i16
char
         i16
         i32
integer
long
         i64
float
        float
double
        double
*
         pointer to
**
         pointer to a pointer to
         arrays of
```

LLVM-IR Instructions

```
br i1 %var, label %if_br, label %else_br

icmp eq i32 %x, %y  ; for equal
icmp sle i32 %x, %y  ; signed less or equal
icmp slt i32 %x, %y  ; signed less than
icmp ult i32 %x, %y  ; unsigned less than
%var = call i32 @foo(...args...)
```

SSA Format

$$(1+a)+(3+(b*5))$$

```
tmp0 = add 1 a
tmp1 = mul b 5
tmp2 = add 3 tmp1
tmp3 = add tmp0 tmp2
```

Static Single Assignment

Abstract Syntax Trees

```
// Fun language (expressions)
abstract class Exp
abstract class BExp
case class Call(name: String, args: List[Exp]) extends Exp
case class If(a: BExp, e1: Exp, e2: Exp) extends Exp
case class Write(e: Exp) extends Exp
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 Sequence(e1: Exp, e2: Exp) extends Exp
case class Bop(o: String, a1: Exp, a2: Exp) extends BExp
```

K-(Intermediate)Language

```
abstract class KExp
abstract class KVal
// K-Values
case class KVar(s: String) extends KVal
case class KNum(i: Int) extends KVal
case class Kop(o: String, v1: KVal, v2: KVal) extends KVal
case class KCall(o: String, vrs: List[KVal]) extends KVal
case class KWrite(v: KVal) extends KVal
// K-Expressions
case class KIf(x1: String, e1: KExp, e2: KExp) extends KExp
case class KLet(x: String, v: KVal, e: KExp) extends KExp
case class KReturn(v: KVal) extends KExp
```

KLet

```
tmp0 = add 1 a
tmp1 = mul b 5
tmp2 = add 3 tmp1
tmp3 = add tmp0 tmp2
```

```
KLet tmp0 , add 1 a in
KLet tmp1 , mul b 5 in
KLet tmp2 , add 3 tmp1 in
KLet tmp3 , add tmp0 tmp2 in
...
```

case class KLet(x: String, e1: KVal, e2: KExp)

KLet

```
tmp0 = add 1 a
tmp1 = mul b 5
tmp2 = add 3 tmp1
tmp3 = add tmp0 tmp2
  let tmp0 = add 1 a in
   let tmp1 = mul b 5 in
    let tmp2 = add 3 tmp1 in
     let tmp3 = add tmp0 tmp2 in
      . . .
```

case class KLet(x: String, e1: KVal, e2: KExp)

```
def CPS(e: Exp)(k: KVal => KExp) : KExp =
  e match { ... }
```

the continuation k can be thought of:

```
let tmp0 = add 1 a in
let tmp1 = mul □ 5 in
let tmp2 = add 3 tmp1 in
let tmp3 = add tmp0 tmp2 in
   KReturn tmp3
```

```
def CPS(e: Exp)(k: KVal => KExp) : KExp =
    e match {
        case Var(s) => k(KVar(s))
        case Num(i) => k(KNum(i))
        ...
}
```

```
let tmp0 = add 1 a in
let tmp1 = mul □ 5 in
let tmp2 = add 3 tmp1 in
let tmp3 = add tmp0 tmp2 in
   KReturn tmp3
```

```
def CPS(e: Exp)(k: KVal => KExp) : KExp = e match {
  case Aop(o, e1, e2) \Rightarrow {
    val z = Fresh("tmp")
    CPS(e1)(y1 \Rightarrow
       CPS(e2)(y2 \Rightarrow
                  KLet(z, Kop(o, y1, y2), k(KVar(z))))
  } ...
                   let z = op \square_{v_1} \square_{v_2}
                   let tmp0 = add 1 a in
                   let tmp1 = mul \( \mathbb{Z} \) 5 in
                   let tmp2 = add 3 tmp1 in
                   let tmp3 = add tmp0 tmp2 in
                      KReturn tmp3
```

```
def CPS(e: Exp)(k: KVal => KExp) : KExp =
    e match {
    case Sequence(e1, e2) =>
        CPS(e1)(_ => CPS(e2)(y2 => k(y2)))
    ...
}
```

```
def CPS(e: Exp)(k: KVal => KExp) : KExp =
  e match {
    . . .
    case If(Bop(o, b1, b2), e1, e2) => {
      val z = Fresh("tmp")
      CPS(b1)(v1 \Rightarrow
         CPS(b2)(y2 \Rightarrow
           KLet(z, Kop(o, y1, y2),
                  KIf(z, CPS(e1)(k), CPS(e2)(k))))
```

The Basic Language, 1980+

```
5 LET S = 0
10 INPUT V
20 PRINT "Input number"
30 IF N = 0 THEN GOTO 99
40 FOR I = 1 TO N
45 LET S = S + V(I)
50 NEXT I
60 PRINT S/N
70 GOTO 5
99 END
```

"Spaghetti Code"

Target Specific ASM

```
1lc -march=x86-64 fact.ll
1lc -march=arm fact.ll
```

Intel: xorl %eax, %eax

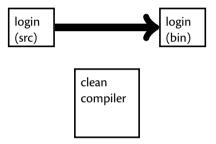
ARM: mov pc, lr

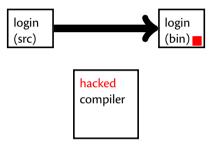
Using a compiler, how can you mount the perfect attack against a system?

What is a perfect attack?

- 1. you can potentially completely take over a target system
- 2. your attack is (nearly) undetectable
- 3. the victim has (almost) no chance to recover

clean compiler



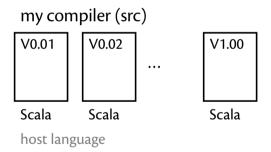


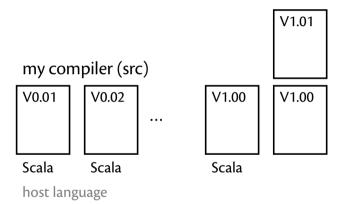
my compiler (src)

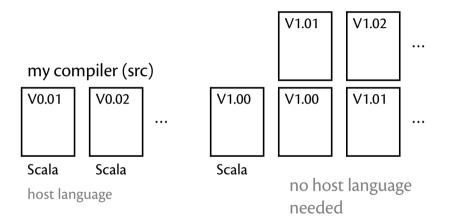
V0.01

Scala

host language







Hacking Compilers



Ken Thompson Turing Award, 1983

Ken Thompson showed how to hide a Trojan Horse in a compiler without leaving any traces in the source code.

No amount of source level verification will protect you from such Thompson-hacks.

Hacking Compilers



Ken Thompson Turing Award, 198



- 1) Assume you ship the compiler as binary and also with sources.
- 2) Make the compiler aware when it compiles itself.
- 3) Add the Trojan horse.
- 4) Compile.
- 5) Delete Trojan horse from the sources of the compiler.
- 6) Go on holiday for the rest of your life. ;o)

a Trong any

on will acks.

Hacking Compilers



Ken Thompson Turing Award, 1983

Ken Thompson showed how to hide a Trojan Horse in a compiler without leaving any traces in the source code.

No amount of source level verification will protect you from such Thompson-hacks.

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."

Next Week

Revision Lecture

How many strings are in $L(a^*)$?

Next Week

```
Revision Lecture
```

```
How many strings are in L(a^*)?
```

How many strings are in $L((a+b)^*)$? Are there more than in $L(a^*)$?