

HARVARD John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

CS153: Compilers Lecture 13: Compiling functions

Stephen Chong

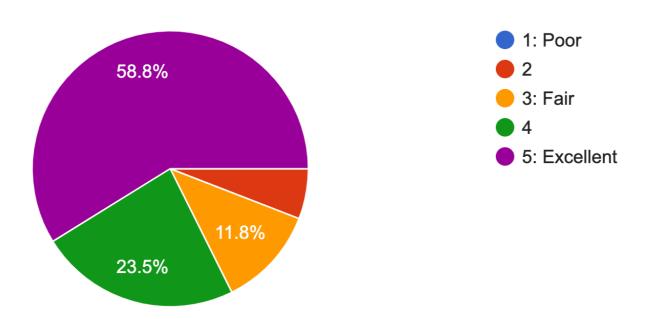
https://www.seas.harvard.edu/courses/cs153

Contains content from lecture notes by Steve Zdancewic and Greg Morrisett

Mid-course Eval

Please rate your learning experience in the class so far

17 responses



• Most effective:

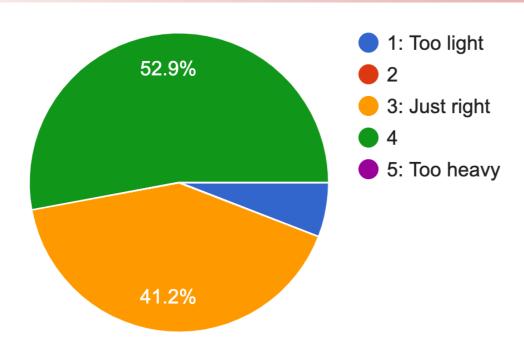
- Homeworks
- Lectures
- Piazza/OH

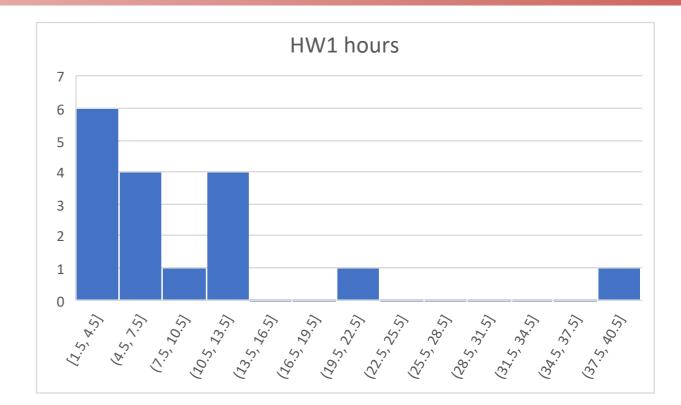
- Least effective:
 - Looking at code in class (too much, too little!)
 - Lecture material not relevant to current assignment
 - •OH for extension

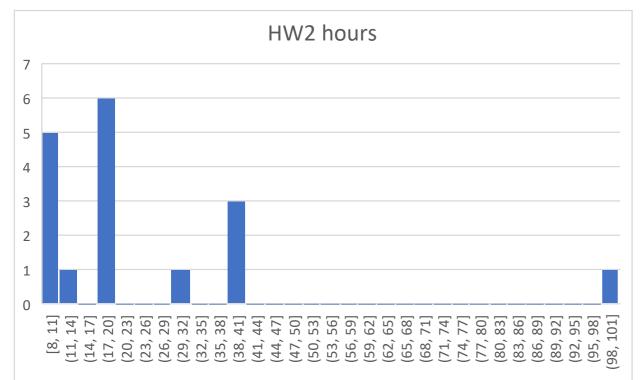
Mid-course Eval

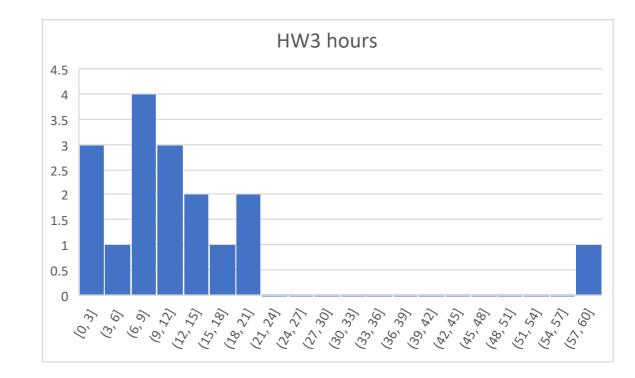
- Suggestions
 - Homework solutions
 - Idiomatic OCaml code
 - Go faster
 - "Stop using ocaml, it gets in the way of learning about compilers", "This is not supposed to be an ocaml course, it's supposed to be a compilers course"
 - More type annotations in homework stub code
 - Long time to get OCaml set up

Workload









Mid-course Eval: Actions

Concrete actions course staff:

- More type annotations in future HWs
- Will release reference solutions
- Lectures will be same pace or a bit faster (but will still have lots of time for questions)
- Concrete actions students:
 - Contact course staff re OH frequency/timing; we will try to adjust
 - Contact for additional info/feedback on graded HWs
 - Start HW early, reach out early and often for help

• Notes:

- Implementation course: coding/coding style is important
- Pedagogical decision to release HWs only after material is covered

Today

- Closure conversion
- Implementing environments and variables
 - DeBruijn indices
 - Nested environments vs flat environments

Closures

 Instead of doing substitution on nested functions when we reach the lambda, we can instead make a promise to finish the substitution if the nested function is ever applied

Instead of

Lambda(x,e') -> Lambda(x,subst env e')
we will have, in essence,

Lambda(x,e') -> Promise(env, Lambda(x, e'))

• Called a **closure**

• Need to modify rule for application to expect environment

Closure-based Semantics

```
type value = Int v of int
           Closure v of {env:env, body:var*exp}
and env = (string * value) list
let rec eval (e:exp) (env:env) : value =
 match e with
    Int i -> Int_v i
   Var x -> lookup env x
   Lambda(x,e) -> Closure_v{env=env, body=(x,e)}
   App(e1, e2) ->
      (match eval e1 env, eval e2 env with
         Closure v{env=cenv, body=(x,e')}, v ->
                 eval e' ((x,v)::cenv))
```

Inference rules

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = v}{\Gamma \vdash i \Downarrow i} \qquad \frac{\Gamma(x) = v}{\Gamma \vdash x \Downarrow v} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash e1 \Downarrow i1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e2 \Downarrow i2 \quad i = i1 + i2}{\Gamma \vdash e1 + e2 \Downarrow i}$$

 $\Gamma \vdash \text{fun } x \rightarrow e \Downarrow (\Gamma, \text{ fun } x \rightarrow e)$

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \Gamma \vdash e1 \Downarrow (\Gamma_c, \, fun \; x \; {-}{>}\; e) & \Gamma \vdash e2 \Downarrow v & \Gamma_c[x {\mapsto} v] \vdash e \Downarrow w \\ \\ & \Gamma \vdash e1 \; e2 \Downarrow w \end{array}$

So, How Do We Compile Closures?

		_
 Represent function values (i.e., closures) as a pair of function pointer and environment 		Closure conversion
 Make all functions take environment as an additional argument 		
 Access variables using environment 		
 Can then move all function declarations to top level (i.e., no more nested functions!) 		Lambda lifting
•E.g., fun x \rightarrow (fun y \rightarrow y+x) becomes, in C-like code:		
<pre>closure *f1(env *env, int x) { env *e1 = extend(env, "x", x); closure *c = malloc(sizeof(closure)); c->env = e1; c->fn = &f2 return c;</pre>	<pre>int f2(env *env, int y) { env *e1 = extend(env, "y", y); return lookup(e1, "y")</pre>	
ን እ		

ſ

Where Do Variables Live

- Variables used in outer function may be needed for nested function
 - •e.g., variable \mathbf{x} in example on previous slide
- So variables used by nested functions can't live on stack...
- Allocate record for all variables on heap
- This will be similar to objects (which we will see in a few lectures)
 - •Object = struct for field values, plus pointer(s) to methods
 - •Closure = environment plus pointer to code

Closure Conversion

Converting function values into closures

- Make all functions take explicit environment argument
- Represent function values as pairs of environments and lambda terms
- Access variables via environment

```
•E.g.,
fun x -> (fun y -> y+x)
becomes
fun env x ->
    let e' = extend env "x" x in
        (e', fun env y ->
              let e' = extend env "y" y in
                  (lookup e' "y")+(lookup e' "x"))
```

Lambda Lifting

- After closure conversion, nested functions do not directly use variables from enclosing scope
- Can "lift" the lambda terms to top level functions!

becomes

Lambda Lifting

```
•E.g., fun env x ->
                 let e' = extend env "x" x in
                 (e', fun env y \rightarrow
                        let e' = extend env "y" y in
                        (lookup e' "y")+(lookup e' "x"))
  becomes
        let f2 = fun env y ->
                          let e' = extend env "y" y in
                          (lookup e' "y")+(lookup e' "x")
        fun env x ->
                  let e' = extend env "x" x in
                  (e', f2)
                                          int f2(env *env, int y) {
closure *f1(env *env, int x) {
                                           env *e1 = extend(env, "y", y);
 env *e1 = extend(env, "x", x);
                                           return lookup(e1, "y")
 closure *c =
                                                   + lookup(e1, "x");
      malloc(sizeof(closure));
                                          }
 c \rightarrow env = e1; c \rightarrow fn = \& f2;
 return c;
```

How Do We Compile Closures Efficiently?

- Don't need to heap allocate all variables
 - Just the ones that "escape", i.e., might be used by nested functions
- Implementation of environment and variables

DeBruijn Indices

- In our interpreter, we represented environments as lists of pairs of variables names and values
- Expensive string comparison when looking up variable! lookup env x

Instead of using strings to represent variables, we can use natural numbers

• Number indicates lexical depth of variable

DeBruijn Indices

type exp = Int of int | Var of int | Lambda of exp | App of exp*exp

- Original program

 fun x -> fun y -> fun z -> x + y + z

 Conceptually, can rename program variables

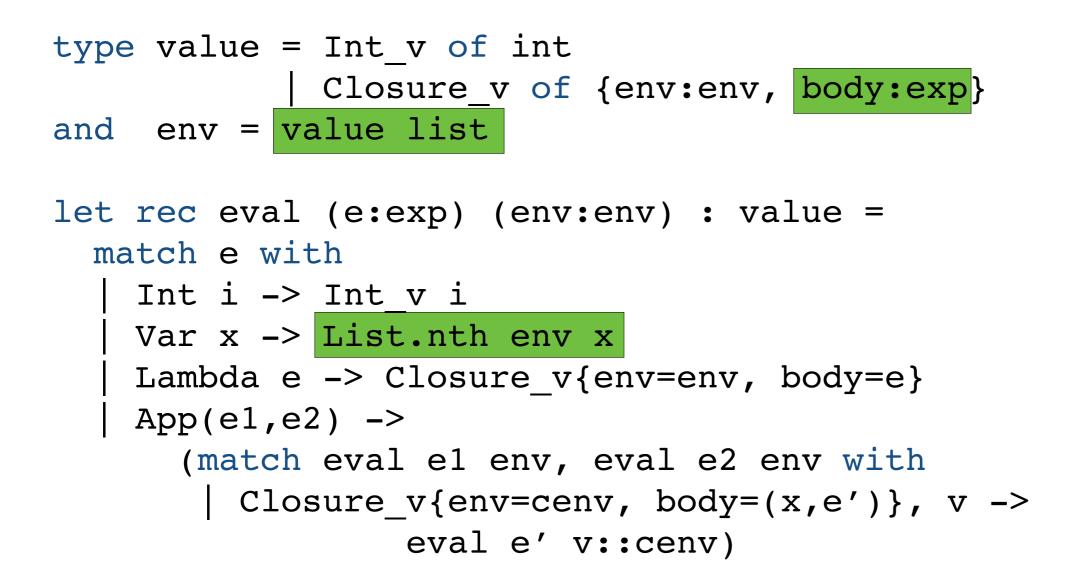
 fun x2 -> fun x1 -> fun x0 -> x2 + x1 + x0
- Don't bother with variable names at all!
 fun -> fun -> fun -> Var 2 + Var 1 + Var 0
 - •Number of variable indicates lexical depth, 0 is innermost binder

Converting to DeBruijn Indices

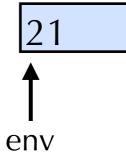
```
type exp = Int of int | Var of int
| Lambda of exp | App of exp*exp
```

```
let rec cvt (e:exp) (env:var->int): D.exp =
  match e with
    Int i -> D.Int i
  Var x -> D.Var (env x)
   App(e1, e2) ->
      D.App(cvt el env,cvt e2 env)
  Lambda(x,e) =>
      let new env(y) = (x + y) = (x + y)
             if y = x then 0 else (env y)+1
      in
         Lambda(cvt e new env)
```

New Interpreter

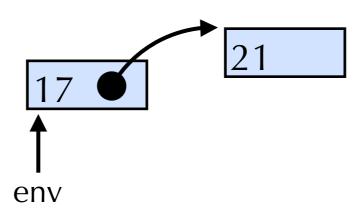


((fun -> fun -> fun -> Var 2 + Var 1 + Var 0) 21) 17) 4



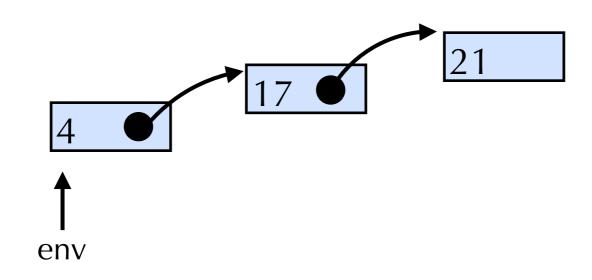
• Linked list (nested environments)

((fun -> fun -> fun -> Var 2 + Var 1 + Var 0) 21) 17) 4



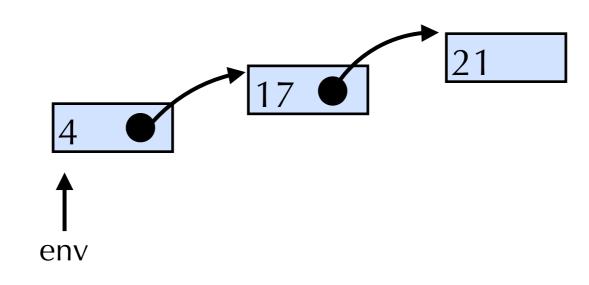
• Linked list (nested environments)

(((fun -> fun -> fun -> Var 2 + Var 1 + Var 0) 21) 17) 4

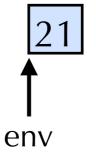


• Linked list (nested environments)

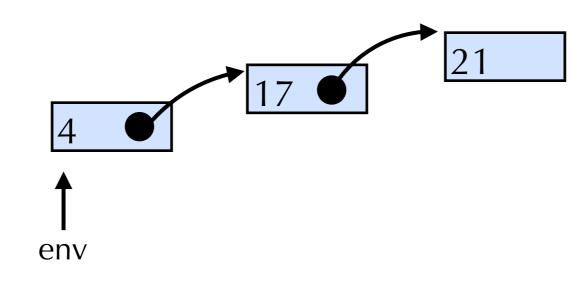
((fun -> fun -> fun -> Var 2 + Var 1 + Var 0) 21) 17) 4



Linked list (nested environments) Array (flat environment) [21]

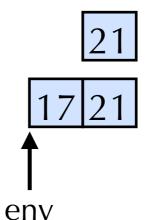


((fun -> fun -> fun -> Var 2 + Var 1 + Var 0) 21) 17) 4

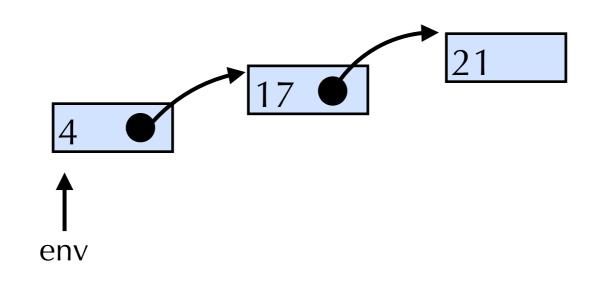


• Linked list (nested environments)

• Array (flat environment)

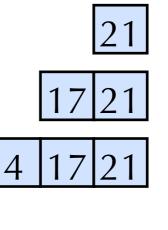


(((fun -> fun -> fun -> Var 2 + Var 1 + Var 0) 21) 17) 4



• Linked list (nested environments)

• Array (flat environment)



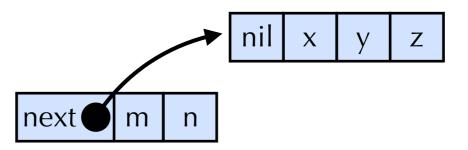
Multiple Arguments

Can extend DeBruijn indices to allow multiple arguments

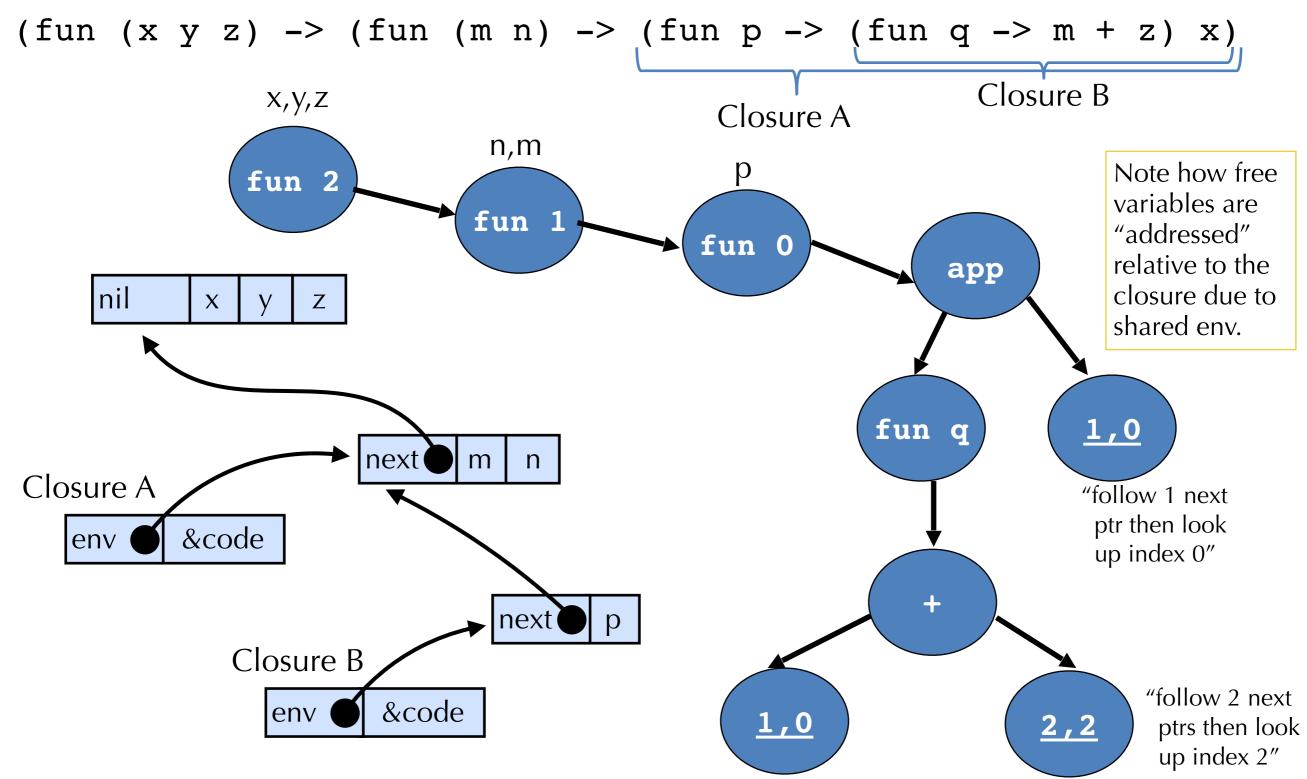
fun x y z \rightarrow fun m n \rightarrow x + z + n

fun -> fun-> Var(1,0) + Var(1,2) + Var(0,1)

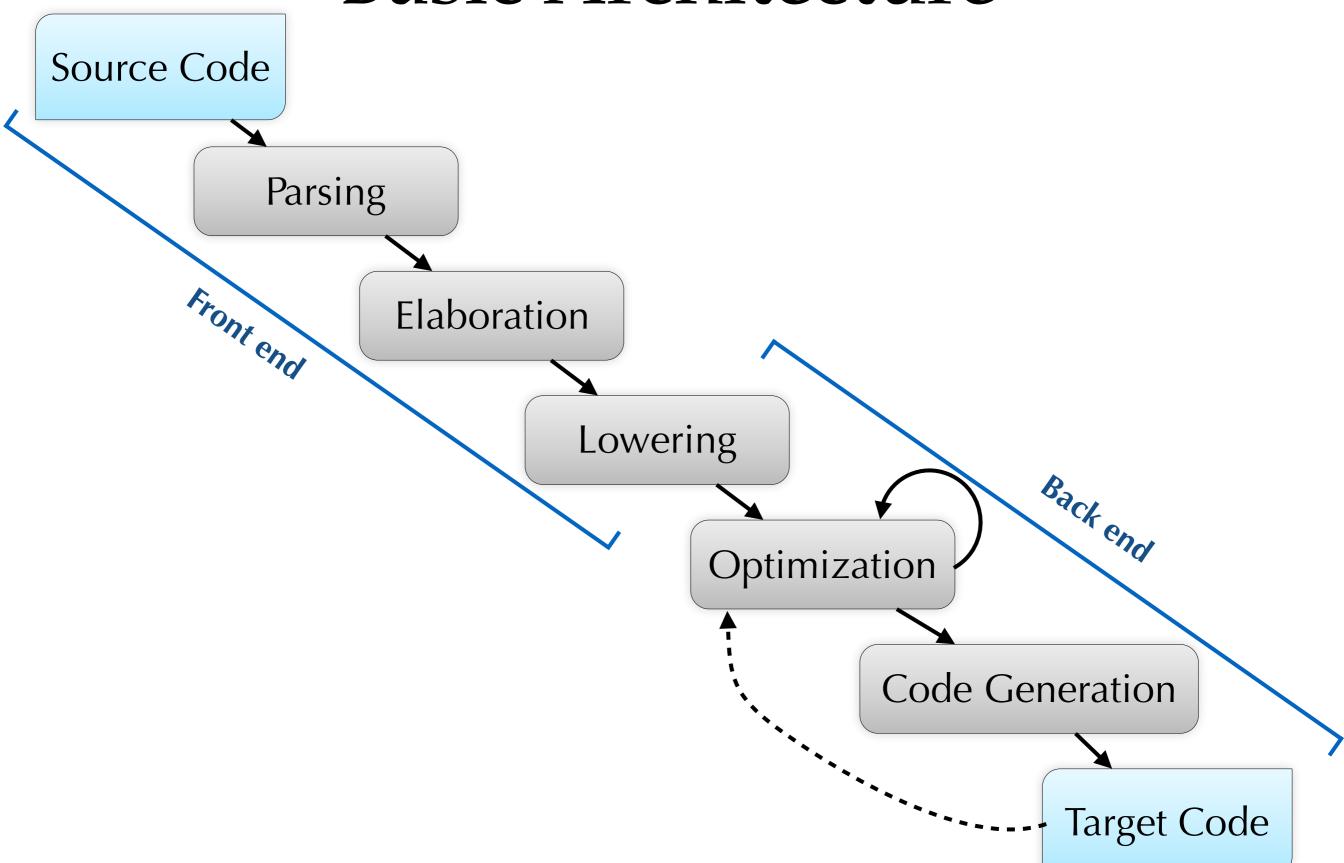
Nested environments might then be

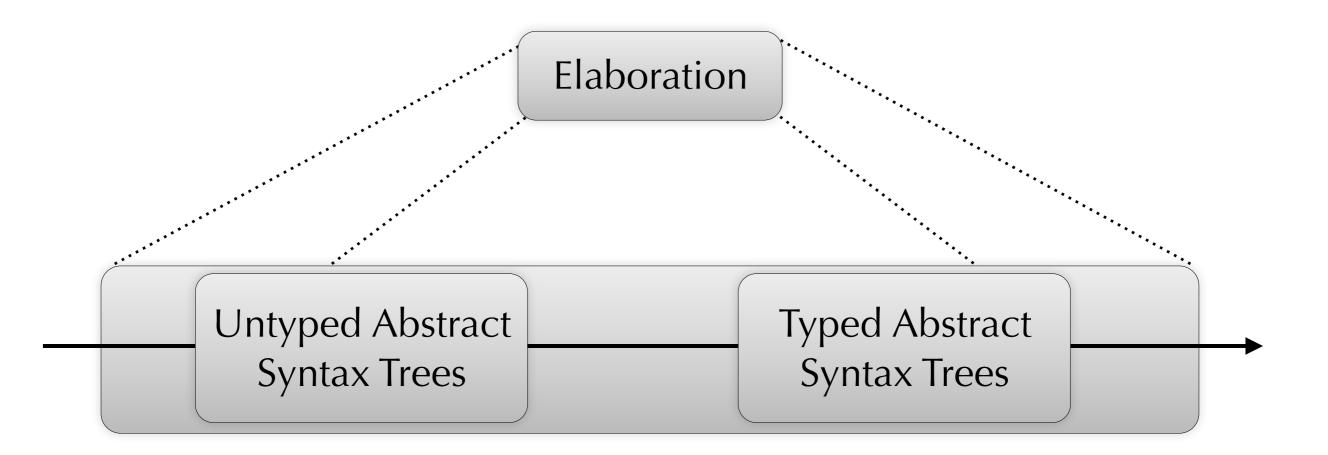


Array-based Closures with N-ary Functions



Basic Architecture





Undefined Programs

- After parsing, we have AST
- •We can interpret AST, or compile it and execute
- But: not all programs are well defined
 - •E.g., 3/0, "hello" 7, 42(19), using a variable that isn't in scope, ...
- Types allow us to rule out many of these undefined behaviors
 - Types can be thought of as an approximation of a computation
 - •E.g., if expression e has type int, then it means that e will evaluate to some integer value
 - E.g., we can ensure we never treat an integer value as if it were a function

Type Soundness

- Key idea: a well-typed program when executed does not attempt any undefined operation
- Make a model of the source language
 - i.e., an interpreter, or other semantics
 - This tells us which operations are partial
 - Partiality is different for different languages
 - E.g., "Hi" + " world" and "na" * 16 may be meaningful in some languages
- •Construct a function to check types: tc : AST -> bool
 - •AST includes types (or type annotations)
 - If to e returns true, then interpreting e will not result in an undefined operation
- Prove that tc is correct

Simple Language

```
type tipe =
   Int_t
   Arrow_t of tipe*tipe
   Pair_t of tipe*tipe
```

```
type exp =
  Var of var | Int of int
  Plus_i of exp*exp
  Lambda of var * tipe * exp
  App of exp*exp
  Pair of exp * exp
  Fst of exp | Snd of exp
Note: function
arguments have
type annotation
```

Interpreter

```
let rec interp (env:var->value)(e:exp) =
 match e with
   Var x -> env x
  | Int i -> Int v i
   Plus i(e1,e2) ->
     (match interp env el, interp env e2 of
       | Int v i, Int v j \rightarrow Int v(i+j)
       , -> failwith "Bad operands!")
   Lambda(x,t,e) -> Closure v{env=env,code=(x,e)}
   App(e1, e2) ->
    (match (interp env e1, interp env e2) with
       Closure v{env=cenv,code=(x,e)},v ->
             interp (extend cenv x v) e
       , -> failwith "Bad operands!")
```

Type Checker

```
let rec tc (env:var->tipe) (e:exp) =
  match e with
   Var x -> env x
  Int _ -> Int t
   Plus i(e1,e2) ->
     (match tc env e1, tc env e with
       | Int t, Int t -> Int t
       , \rightarrow failwith "...")
   Lambda(x,t,e) \rightarrow Arrow t(t,tc (extend env x t) e)
   App(e1, e2) ->
    (match (tc env e1, tc env e2) with
       Arrow t(t1,t2), t ->
           if (t1 != t) then failwith "..." else t2
       , \rightarrow failwith "...")
```

Notes

- Type checker is almost like an **approximation** of the interpreter!
 - •But interpreter evaluates function body only when function applied
 - Type checker always checks body of function
- •We needed to assume the input of a function had some type t_1 , and reflect this in type of function (t_1 -> t_2)
- At call site (e₁ e₂), we don't know what closure e₁ will evaluate to, but can calculate type of e₁ and check that
 e₂ has type of argument

Growing the Language

- Adding booleans...
- type tipe = ... | Bool_t

type exp = ... | True | False | If of exp*exp*exp

Type Checking

```
let rec tc (env:var->tipe) (e:exp) =
 match e with
   True -> Bool t
  | False -> Bool t
  If(e1,e2,e3) ->
   (let (t1,t2,t3) = (tc env e1,tc env e2,tc env e3)
   in
      match t1 with
       | Bool t ->
           if (t2 != t3) then error() else t2
       -> failwith "...")
```

Type Safety

- "Well typed programs do not go wrong." – Robin Milner, 1978
- Note: this is a **very** strong property.
 - •Well-typed programs cannot "go wrong" by trying to execute undefined code (such as 3 + (fun x -> 2))
 - Simply-typed lambda calculus is guaranteed to terminate! (i.e. it isn't Turing complete)
- Depending on language, will not rule out all possible undefined behavior
 - •E.g., 3/0, *NULL, ...
 - More sophisticated type systems can rule out more kinds of possible runtime errors

Judgements and Inference Rules

- •We saw type checking algorithm in code
- Can express type-checking rules compactly and clearly using a type judgment and inference rules

Type Judgments

- In the judgment: $E \vdash e : t$
 - E is a typing environment or a type context
 - E maps variables to types. It is just a set of bindings of the form: x1 : t1, x2 : t2, ..., xn : tn
- If $E \vdash e : t$ then expression e has type t under typing environment E
 - $E \vdash e : t \text{ can be thought of as a set or relation}$
- For example:

 $x : int, b : bool \vdash if (b) 3 else x : int$

- •What do we need to know to decide whether "if (b) 3 else x" has type int in the environment x : int, b : bool?
 - b must be a bool i.e. $x : int, b : bool \vdash b : bool$
 - 3 must be an int i.e. $x : int, b : bool \vdash 3 : int$
 - x must be an int i.e. $x : int, b : bool \vdash x : int$

Stephen Chong, Harvard University

Why Inference Rules?

- Compact, precise way of specifying language properties.
 - E.g. ~20 pages for full Java vs. 100's of pages of prose Java Language Spec.
- Inference rules correspond closely to the recursive AST traversal that implements them
- Type checking (and type inference) is nothing more than attempting to prove a different judgment ($E \vdash e : t$) by searching backwards through the rules.
- Compiling in a context is nothing more than a collection of inference rules specifying yet a different judgment ($G \vdash src \Rightarrow target$)
 - Moreover, the compilation rules are very similar in structure to the typechecking rules
- Strong mathematical foundations
 - •The "Curry-Howard correspondence": Programming Language ~ Logic, Program ~ Proof, Type ~ Proposition
 - See CS152 if you're interested in type systems!

Inference Rules

- For Oat, we will split environment E into global variables G and local variables L
- Judgment $G; L \vdash e:t$ "expression e is well typed and has type t"
- Judgment $G; L \vdash s$ "statement s is well formed"

Premises -	G;ı⊢e:bool	G;L ⊢ S ₁	G;L ⊢ S ₂
Conclusion -	G;L ⊣ if (e) S ₁ else S ₂		

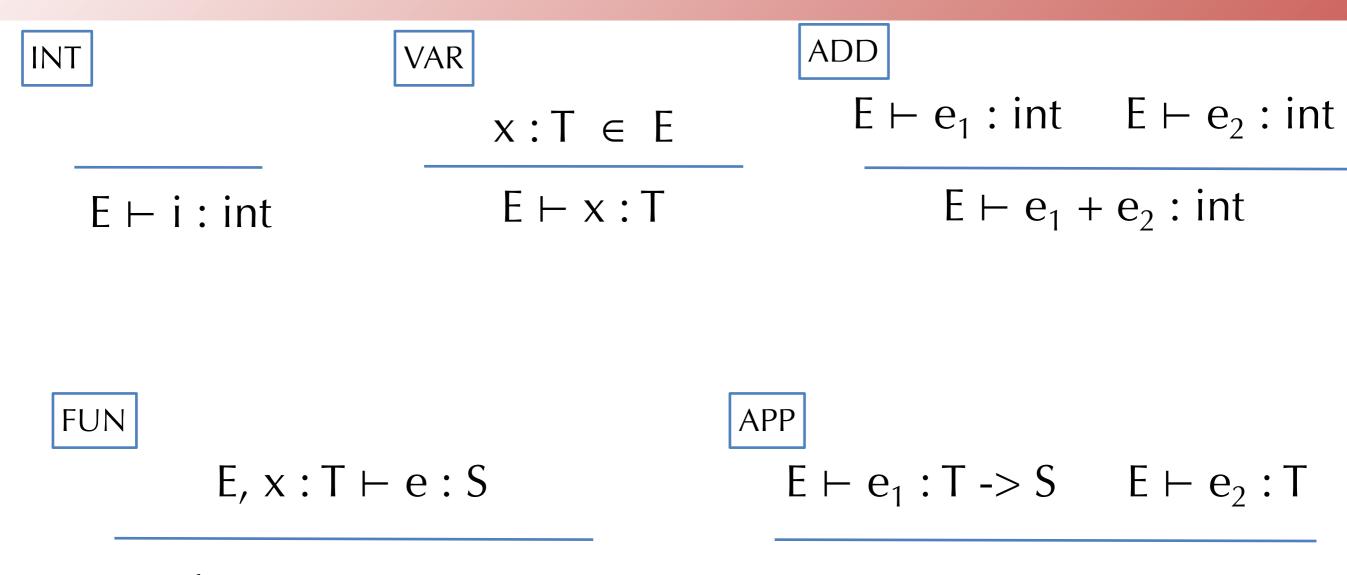
• Equivalently: For any environment G; L, expression e, and statements s_1 , s_2 .

$$G; L \vdash if (e) s_1 else s_2$$

holds if $G; L \vdash e: bool$ and $G; L \vdash s_1$ and $G; L \vdash s_2$ all hold.

- This rule can be used for any substitution of the syntactic metavariables G, L e, s_1 and s_2

Simply-typed Lambda Calculus



 $E \vdash fun(x:T) -> e : T -> S$

 $E \vdash e_1 e_2 : S$

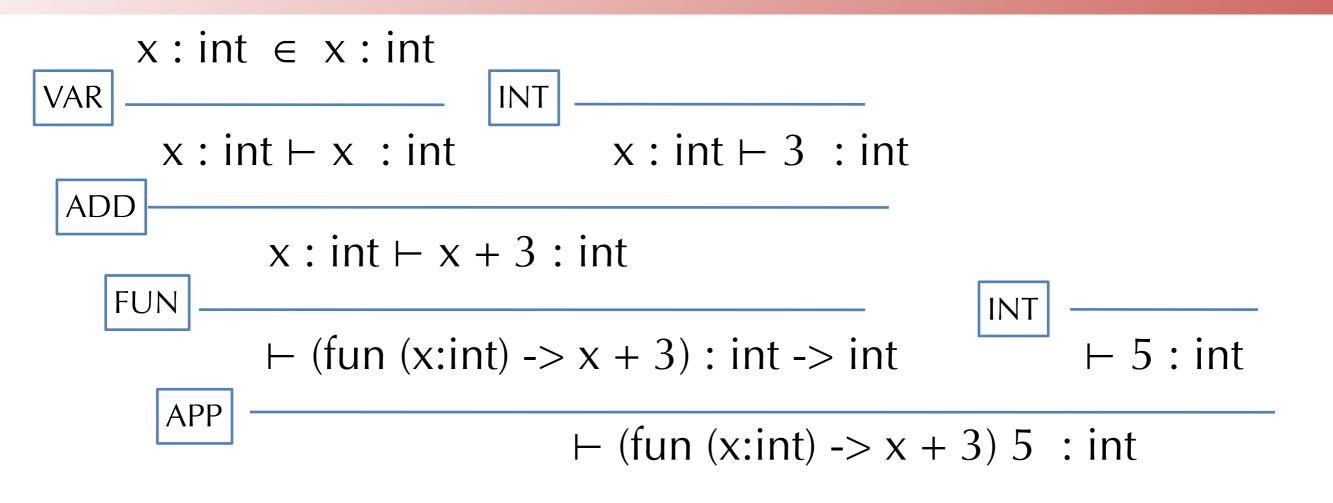
• Note how these rules correspond to the code.

Stephen Chong, Harvard University

Type Checking Derivations

- A **derivation** or **proof tree** is a tree where nodes are instantiations of inference rules and edges connect a premise to a conclusion
- Leaves of the tree are **axioms** (i.e. rules with no premises)
 - E.g., the INT rule is an axiom
- Goal of the typechecker: verify that such a tree exists.
- Example: Find a tree for the following program using the inference rules on the previous slide:
 ⊢ (fun (x:int) -> x + 3) 5 : int

Example Derivation Tree



- Note: the OCaml function typecheck verifies the existence of this tree. The structure of the recursive calls when running tc is same shape as this tree!
- Note that $x : int \in E$ is implemented by the function **env**

Type Safety Revisited

Theorem: (simply typed lambda calculus with integers)

If $\vdash e:t$ then there exists a value v such that $e \Downarrow v$.

Arrays

- Array constructs are not hard
- First: add a new type constructor: T[]

NEW $E \vdash e_1 : int \quad E \vdash e_2 : T$ $E \vdash new T[e_1](e_2) : T[]$ INDEX $E \vdash e_1 : T[] \quad E \vdash e_2 : int$ $E \vdash e_1[e_2] : T$ e_1 is the size of the newly allocated array. e_2 initializes the elements of the array.

Note: These rules don't ensure that the array index is in bounds – that should be checked *dynamically*.

UPDATE

$$E \vdash e_1 : T[] \quad E \vdash e_2 : int \quad E \vdash e_3 : T$$

 $E \vdash e_1[e_2] = e_3 ok$

Stephen Chong, Harvard University

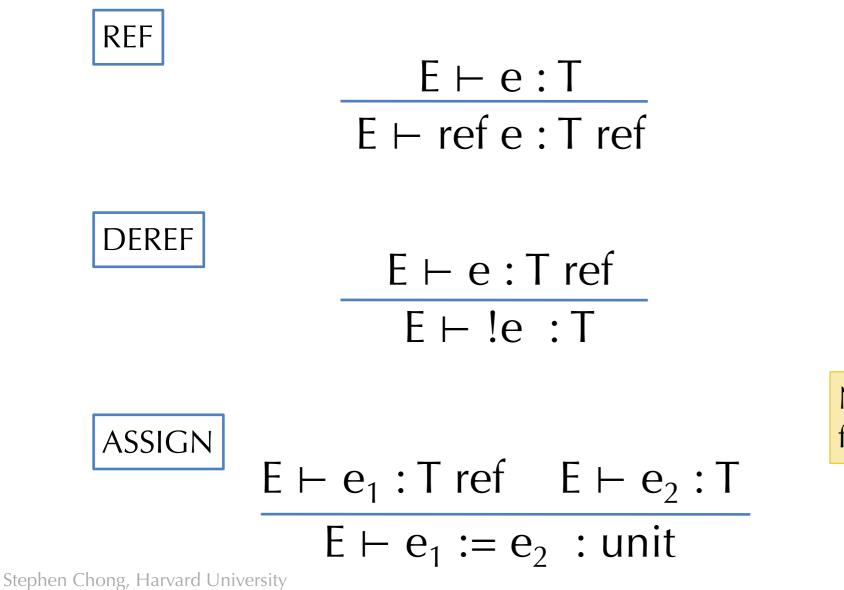
Tuples

- ML-style tuples with statically known number of products:
- First: add a new type constructor: $T_1 * ... * T_n$

TUPLE
$$E \vdash e_1 : T_1 \quad \dots \quad E \vdash e_n : T_n$$
 $E \vdash (e_1, \dots, e_n) : T_1 * \dots * T_n$ PROJ $E \vdash e : T_1 * \dots * T_n \quad 1 \le i \le n$ $E \vdash \# i \ e : T_i$

References

ML-style references (note that ML uses only expressions)
First, add a new type constructor: T ref



Note the similarity with the rules for arrays...

Oat Type Checking

• For HW5 we will add typechecking to Oat

- And some other features
- XXX typing rules for Oat
- Example derivation

var x1 = 0; var x2 = x1 + x1; x1 = x1 - x2; return(x1);

Example Derivation

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}_1 \quad \mathcal{D}_2 \quad \mathcal{D}_3 \quad \mathcal{D}_4}{G_0; \cdot; \text{int} \vdash \text{var } x_1 = 0; \text{var } x_2 = x_1 + x_1; x_1 = x_1 - x_2; \text{return } x_1; \Rightarrow \cdot, x_1: \text{int}, x_2: \text{int}} \begin{bmatrix} \text{STMTS} \end{bmatrix} \\ \vdash \text{var } x_1 = 0; \text{var } x_2 = x_1 + x_1; x_1 = x_1 - x_2; \text{return } x_1; \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{STMTS} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{PROG} \end{bmatrix}$$

Stephen Chong, Harvard University

Example Derivation

 \mathcal{D}_2

Example Derivation

$$\begin{array}{rcl} & x_1: \texttt{int} \in \cdot, x_1: \texttt{int}, x_2: \texttt{int} \\ \hline G_0; \cdot, x_1: \texttt{int}, x_2: \texttt{int} \vdash x_1: \texttt{int} \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} \texttt{VAR} \end{bmatrix} \\ \hline \mathcal{D}_4 & = & \hline G_0; \cdot, x_1: \texttt{int}, x_2: \texttt{int}; \texttt{int} \vdash \texttt{return} x_1; \Rightarrow \cdot, x_1: \texttt{int}, x_2: \texttt{int} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \texttt{ReT} \end{bmatrix}$$

Stephen Chong, Harvard University

Type Safety For General Languages

Theorem: (Type Safety)

If ⊢ P : t is a well-typed program, then either:
 (a) the program terminates in a well-defined way, or
 (b) the program continues computing forever

• Well-defined termination could include:

- halting with a return value
- raising an exception
- Type safety rules out undefined behaviors:
 - abusing "unsafe" casts: converting pointers to integers, etc.
 - treating non-code values as code (and vice-versa)
 - breaking the type abstractions of the language
- •What is "defined" depends on the language semantics...

Compilation As Translating Judgments

• Consider the source typing judgment for source expressions:

 $C \vdash e:t$

• How do we interpret this information in the target language? $[C \vdash e : t] = ?$

- [[C]] translates contexts
- [[t]] is a target type
- [e] translates to a (potentially empty) stream of instructions, that, when run, computes the result into some operand

•INVARIANT: if $[[C \vdash e : t]] = ty$, operand , stream then the type (at the target level) of the operand is ty=[[t]]

Example

• $C \vdash 37 + 5$: int what is $[C \vdash 37 + 5$: int] ?

$[\![\vdash 37: int]\!] = (i64, \text{ const } 37, []) \qquad [\![\vdash 5: int]\!] = (i64, \text{ const } 5, [])$ $[\![C \vdash 37: int]\!] = (i64, \text{ const } 37, []) \qquad [\![C \vdash 5: int]\!] = (i64, \text{ const } 5, [])$ $[\![C \vdash 37 + 5: int]\!] = (i64, \text{ %tmp}, [\text{\%tmp} = add i64 (\text{const } 37) (\text{const } 5)])$

What about the Context?

•What is [[C]]?

• Source level C has bindings like: x:int, y:bool

•We think of it as a finite map from identifiers to types

• What is the interpretation of C at the target level?

• [[C]] maps source identifiers, "x" to source types and [[x]]

• What is the interpretation $f:a:t \in L$ $G:L \vdash exp:t$ • What is the interpretation f:a:variable[[x]] at the target f:a:variable[[x]] at the target f:a:variable:[x] at targe

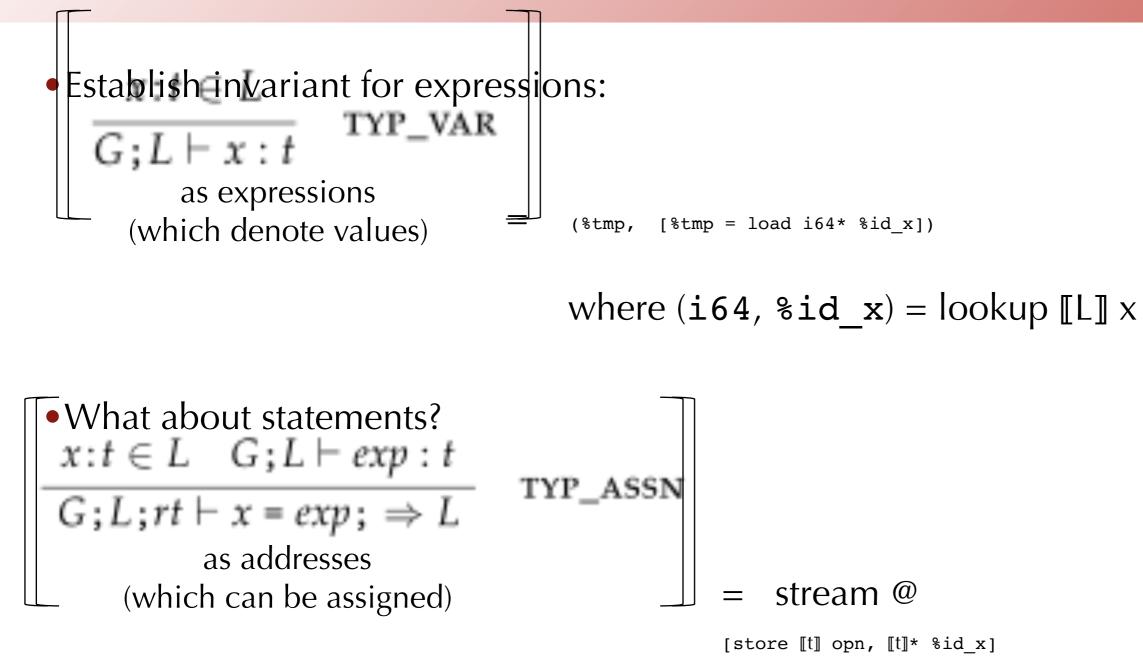
Interpretation of Contexts

• [[C]] = a map from source identifiers to types and target identifiers

• INVARIANT: $x:t \in C$ means that

(1) lookup [[C]] x = (t, %id_x) (2) the (target) type of %id_x is [[t]]* (a pointer to [[t]])

Interpretation of Variables



where (t, id_x) = lookup [[L]] x and [[G;L \vdash exp : t]] = ([[t]], opn, stream)

Other Judgments?

• Statement: $[C; rt \vdash stmt \Rightarrow C'] = [C']$, stream

• Declaration: $[G;L \vdash t x = exp \Rightarrow G;L,x:t] = [G;L,x:t]$, stream

```
INVARIANT: stream is of the form:
    stream' @
    [ %id_x = alloca [[t]];
    store [[t]] opn, [[t]]* %id_x ]
```

and $\llbracket G; L \vdash exp : t \rrbracket = (\llbracket t \rrbracket, opn, stream')$

• Rest follow similarly

Compiling Control

Translating while

```
• Consider translating "while(e) s":
```

• Test the conditional, if true jump to the body, else jump to the label after the body.

```
[C; rt \vdash while(e) s \Rightarrow C'] = [C'],
```

```
lpre:
    opn = [C ⊢ e : bool]
    %test = icmp eq i1 opn, 0
    br %test, label %lpost, label %lbody
lbody:
    [C;rt ⊢ s ⇒ C']
    br %lpre
lpost:
```

•Note: writing opn = [C ⊢ e : bool] is pun

•translating $[C \vdash e : bool]$ generates *code* that puts the result into opn

•In this notation there is implicit collection of the code

Translating if-then-else

```
    Similar to while except that code is slightly more

 complicated because if-then-else must reach a
              opn = [C \vdash e : bool]
 merge
             %test = icmp eq i1 opn, 0
              br %test, label %else, label %then
          then:
              [[C;rt \vdash s_1 \Rightarrow C']]
 [C;rt
              br %merge
          else:
 [[C']]
              [[C; rt s_2 \Rightarrow C']]
              br %merge
          merge:
```

Connecting this to Code

Instruction streams:

• Must include labels, terminators, and "hoisted" global constants

Must post-process the stream into a control-flowgraph

• See frontend.ml from HW4