

Lecture 09 – IR (Backpatching)

# THEORY OF COMPILATION

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www.cs.technion.ac.il/~yahave/tocs2011/compiler-lec09.pptx  
Reference: Dragon 6.2,6.3,6.4,6.6

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## Recap

- Lexical analysis
  - regular expressions identify tokens ("words")
- Syntax analysis
  - context-free grammars identify the structure of the program ("sentences")
- Contextual (semantic) analysis
  - type checking defined via typing judgments
  - can be encoded via attribute grammars
- Syntax directed translation (SDT)
  - attribute grammars
- Intermediate representation
  - many possible IRs
  - generation of intermediate representation
  - 3AC

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## Journey inside a compiler

float position;  
float initial;  
float rate;  
position = initial + rate \* 60

Token Stream

<float> <ID,position> <;> <float> <ID,initial> <;> <float>  
<ID,rate> <;> <ID,1> <=> <ID,2> <+> <ID,3> <\*> <60>

Lexical Analysis

Syntax Analysis

Sem. Analysis

Inter. Rep.

Code Gen.

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## Journey inside a compiler

<ID,1> <=> <ID,2> <+> <ID,3> <\*> <60>

id	symbol	type	data
1	position	float	...
2	initial	float	...
3	rate	float	...

AST

```

graph TD
    Root["="] --- L1["<id,1>"]
    Root --- R1["+"]
    R1 --- L2["<id,2>"]
    R1 --- R2["*"]
    R2 --- L3["<id,3>"]
    R2 --- R3["60"]
            
```

S → ID = E  
E → ID  
| E + E  
| E \* E  
| NUM

Lexical Analysis

Syntax Analysis

Sem. Analysis

Inter. Rep.

Code Gen.

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### Problem 3.8 from [Appel]

A simple left-recursive grammar:

- $E \rightarrow E + id$
- $E \rightarrow id$

A simple right-recursive grammar accepting the same language:

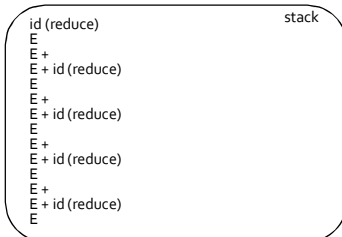
- $E \rightarrow id + E$
- $E \rightarrow id$

Which has better behavior for shift-reduce parsing?

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### Answer

Input	$E \rightarrow E + id$ $E \rightarrow id$	left recursive
-------	--	----------------

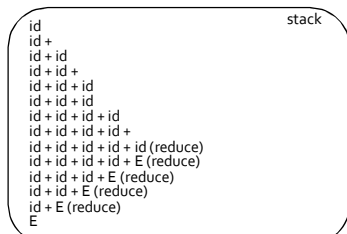


The stack never has more than three items on it. In general, with LR-parsing of left-recursive grammars, an input string of length  $O(n)$  requires only  $O(1)$  space on the stack.

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### Answer

Input	$E \rightarrow id + E$ $E \rightarrow id$	right recursive
-------	--	-----------------

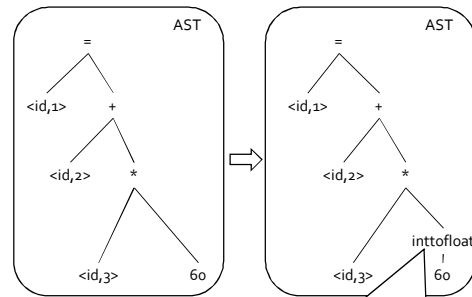


The stack grows as large as the input string. In general, with LR-parsing of right-recursive grammars, an input string of length  $O(n)$  requires  $O(n)$  space on the stack.

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### Journey inside a compiler

id	symbol	type
1	position	float
2	initial	float
3	rate	float



coercion: automatic conversion from int to float inserted by the compiler

- Lexical Analysis
- Syntax Analysis
- Sem. Analysis
- Inter. Rep.
- Code Gen.

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### Journey inside a compiler

3AC

```

t1 = inttofloat(60)
t2 = id3 * t1
t3 = id2 + t2
id1 = t3
    
```

3AC

```

t1 = inttofloat(60)
t2 = id3 * t1
t3 = id2 + t2
id1 = t3
    
```

production	semantic rule
$S \rightarrow id = E$	$S.code := E.code \parallel gen(id.var := E.var)$
$E \rightarrow E_1 op E_2$	$E.var := freshVar();$ $E.code := E_1.code \parallel E_2.code \parallel gen(E.var := E_1.var op E_2.var)$
$E \rightarrow inttofloat(num)$	$E.var := freshVar();$ $E.code := gen(E.var := inttofloat(num))$
$E \rightarrow id$	$E.var := id.var, E.code := "$

(for brevity, bubbles show only code generated by the node and not all accumulated "code" attribute)

note the structure: translate E1 handle operator

Lexical Analysis   Syntax Analysis   Sem. Analysis   Inter. Rep.   Code Gen.

### Journey inside a compiler

3AC

```

t1 = inttofloat(60)
t2 = id3 * t1
t3 = id2 + t2
id1 = t3
    
```

Optimized

```

t1 = id3 * 60.0
id1 = id2 + t1
    
```

value known at compile time can generate code with converted value

eliminated temporary t3

Lexical Analysis   Syntax Analysis   Sem. Analysis   Inter. Rep.   Code Gen.

### Journey inside a compiler

Optimized

```

t1 = id3 * 60.0
id1 = id2 + t1
    
```

Code Gen

```

LDF R2, id3
MULF R2, R2, #60.0
LDF R1, id2
ADDF R1, R1, R2
STF id1, R1
    
```

Lexical Analysis   Syntax Analysis   Sem. Analysis   Inter. Rep.   Code Gen.

### You are here

Compiler

Source text (txt) → Lexical Analysis → Syntax Analysis (Parsing) → Semantic Analysis → Inter. Rep. (IR) → Code Gen. → Executable code (exe)

### IR So Far...

- many possible intermediate representations
- 3-address code (3AC)
- Every instruction operates on at most three addresses
  - result = operand<sub>1</sub> operator operand<sub>2</sub>
- gets us closer to code generation
- enables machine-independent optimizations
- how do we generate 3AC?

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### Last Time: Creating 3AC

- Creating 3AC via syntax directed translation
- Attributes
  - code – code generated for a nonterminal
  - var – name of variable that stores result of nonterminal
- freshVar() – helper function that returns the name of a fresh variable

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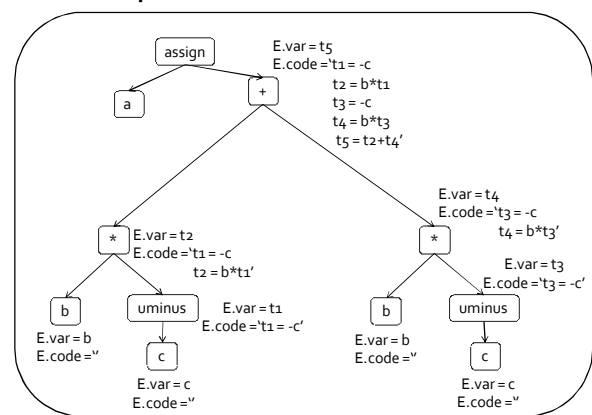
### Creating 3AC: expressions

production	semantic rule
$S \rightarrow id := E$	$S.code := E.code \parallel gen(id.var := 'E.var)$
$E \rightarrow E_1 + E_2$	$E.var := freshVar();$ $E.code = E_1.code \parallel E_2.code \parallel gen(E.var := 'E_1.var '+' E_2.var)$
$E \rightarrow E_1 * E_2$	$E.var := freshVar();$ $E.code = E_1.code \parallel E_2.code \parallel gen(E.var := 'E_1.var '*' E_2.var)$
$E \rightarrow - E_1$	$E.var := freshVar();$ $E.code = E_1.code \parallel gen(E.var := 'uminus' E_1.var)$
$E \rightarrow (E_1)$	$E.var := E_1.var$ $E.code = '(' \parallel E_1.code \parallel ')'$
$E \rightarrow id$	$E.var := id.var; E.code = ''$

(we use  $\parallel$  to denote concatenation of intermediate code fragments)

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### example



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### Creating 3AC: control statements

- 3AC only supports conditional/unconditional jumps
- Add labels
  
- Attributes
  - begin – label marks beginning of code
  - after – label marks end of code
  
- Helper function freshLabel() allocates a new fresh label

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### Expressions and assignments

production	semanticaction
$S \rightarrow id := E$	{ p:= lookup(id.name); if p ≠ null then emit(p := E.var) else error }
$E \rightarrow E_1 \text{ op } E_2$	{ E.var := freshVar(); emit(E.var := E1.var op E2.var) }
$E \rightarrow - E_1$	{ E.var := freshVar(); emit(E.var := 'uminus' E1.var) }
$E \rightarrow ( E_1 )$	{ E.var := E1.var }
$E \rightarrow id$	{ p:= lookup(id.name); if p ≠ null then E.var := p else error }

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### Boolean Expressions

production	semanticaction
$E \rightarrow E_1 \text{ op } E_2$	{ E.var := freshVar(); emit(E.var := E1.var op E2.var) }
$E \rightarrow \text{not } E_1$	{ E.var := freshVar(); emit(E.var := 'not' E1.var) }
$E \rightarrow ( E_1 )$	{ E.var := E1.var }
$E \rightarrow \text{true}$	{ E.var := freshVar(); emit(E.var := '1') }
$E \rightarrow \text{false}$	{ E.var := freshVar(); emit(E.var := '0') }

- Represent true as 1, false as 0
- Wasteful representation, creating variables for true/false

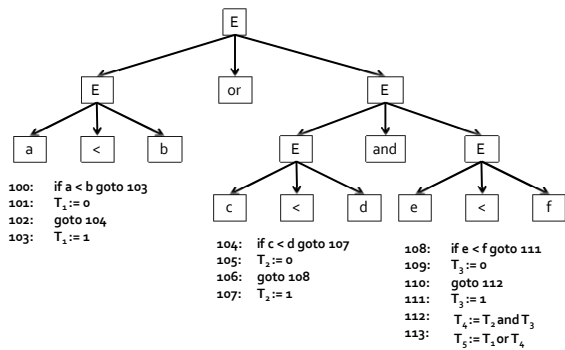
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### Boolean expressions via jumps

production	semanticaction
$E \rightarrow id_1 \text{ op } id_2$	{ E.var := freshVar(); emit('if' id1.var relop id2.var'goto' nextStmt+2); emit(E.var := '0'); emit('goto' nextStmt + 1); emit(E.var := '1') }

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### Example



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### Short circuit evaluation

- Second argument of a Boolean operator is only evaluated if the first argument does not already determine the outcome
- (x and y) is equivalent to if x then y else false;
- (x or y) is equivalent to if x then true else y

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### example

a < b or (c < d and e < f)

```

100: if a < b goto 103
101: T1 := 0
102: goto 104
103: T1 := 1
104: if c < d goto 107
105: T2 := 0
106: goto 108
107: T2 := 1
108: if e < f goto 111
109: T3 := 0
110: goto 112
111: T3 := 1
112: T4 := T2 and T3
113: T5 := T1 and T4
    
```

naive

```

100: if a < b goto 105
101: if !(c < d) goto 103
102: if e < f goto 105
103: T := 0
104: goto 106
105: T := 1
106:
    
```

Short circuit evaluation

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### Control Structures

```

S → if B then S1
   | if B then S1 else S2
   | while B do S1
    
```

- For every Boolean expression B, we attach two properties
  - falseLabel – target label for a jump when condition B evaluates to false
  - trueLabel – target label for a jump when condition B evaluates to true
- For every statement S we attach a property
  - next – the label of the next code to execute after S
- Challenge
  - Compute falseLabel and trueLabel during code generation

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### Control Structures: next

production	semantic action
$P \rightarrow S$	$S.next = freshLabel();$ $P.code = S.code \parallel label(S.next)$
$S \rightarrow S_1S_2$	$S_1.next = freshLabel();$ $S_2.next = S.next;$ $S.code = S_1.code \parallel label(S_1.next) \parallel S_2.code$

- The label  $S.next$  is symbolic, we will only determine its value after we finish deriving  $S$

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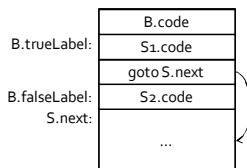
### Control Structures: conditional

production	semantic action
$S \rightarrow \text{if } B \text{ then } S_1$	$B.trueLabel = freshLabel();$ $B.falseLabel = S.next;$ $S_1.next = S.next;$ $S.code = B.code \parallel gen(B.trueLabel ':') \parallel S_1.code$

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### Control Structures: conditional

production	semantic action
$S \rightarrow \text{if } B \text{ then } S_1$ $\text{else } S_2$	$B.trueLabel = freshLabel();$ $B.falseLabel = freshLabel();$ $S_1.next = S.next;$ $S_2.next = S.next;$ $S.code =$ $B.code \parallel gen(B.trueLabel ':') \parallel S_1.code \parallel gen('goto' S.next)$ $\parallel gen(B.falseLabel ':') \parallel S_2.code$



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### Boolean expressions

production	semantic action
$B \rightarrow B_1 \text{ or } B_2$	$B_1.trueLabel = B.trueLabel;$ $B_1.falseLabel = freshLabel();$ $B_2.trueLabel = B.trueLabel;$ $B_2.falseLabel = B.falseLabel;$ $B.code = B_1.code \parallel gen(B_1.falseLabel ':') \parallel B_2.code$
$B \rightarrow B_1 \text{ and } B_2$	$B_1.trueLabel = freshLabel();$ $B_1.falseLabel = B.falseLabel;$ $B_2.trueLabel = B.trueLabel;$ $B_2.falseLabel = B.falseLabel;$ $B.code = B_1.code \parallel gen(B_1.trueLabel ':') \parallel B_2.code$
$B \rightarrow \text{not } B_1$	$B_1.trueLabel = B.falseLabel;$ $B_1.falseLabel = B.trueLabel;$ $B.code = B_1.code;$
$B \rightarrow (B_1)$	$B_1.trueLabel = B.trueLabel;$ $B_1.falseLabel = B.falseLabel;$ $B.code = B_1.code;$
$B \rightarrow id_1 \text{ relop } id_2$	$B.code = gen('if' id_1.var \text{ relop } id_2.var \text{ 'goto' } B.trueLabel) \parallel gen('goto' B.falseLabel);$
$B \rightarrow \text{true}$	$B.code = gen('goto' B.trueLabel)$
$B \rightarrow \text{false}$	$B.code = gen('goto' B.falseLabel);$

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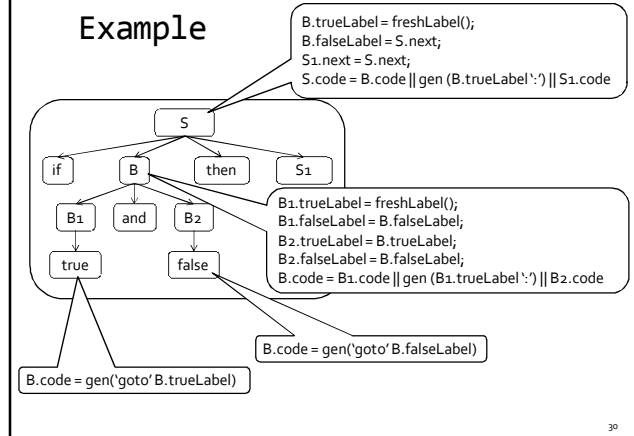
## Boolean expressions

production	semantic action
$B \rightarrow B_1 \text{ or } B_2$	$B_1.\text{trueLabel} = B.\text{trueLabel};$ $B_1.\text{falseLabel} = \text{freshLabel}();$ $B_2.\text{trueLabel} = B.\text{trueLabel};$ $B_2.\text{falseLabel} = B.\text{falseLabel};$ $B.\text{code} = B_1.\text{code} \parallel \text{gen}(B_1.\text{falseLabel}';) \parallel B_2.\text{code}$

- How can we determine the address of  $B_1.\text{falseLabel}$ ?
- Only possible after we know the code of  $B_1$  and all the code preceding  $B_1$

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## Example



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## Computing addresses for labels

- We used symbolic labels
- We need to compute their addresses
- We can compute addresses for the labels but it would require an additional pass on the AST
- Can we do it in a single pass?

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## Backpatching

- Goal: generate code in a single pass
- Generate code as we did before, but manage labels differently
- Keep labels symbolic until values are known, and then back-patch them
- New synthesized attributes for B
  - $B.\text{truelist}$  – list of jump instructions that eventually get the label where B goes when B is true.
  - $B.\text{falselist}$  – list of jump instructions that eventually get the label where B goes when B is false.

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### Backpatching

- Previous approach does not guarantee a single pass
  - The attribute grammar we had before is not S-attributed (e.g., next), and is not L-attributed.
- For every label, maintain a list of instructions that jump to this label
- When the address of the label is known, go over the list and update the address of the label

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### Backpatching

- makelist(addr) – create a list of instructions containing addr
- merge(p1,p2) – concatenate the lists pointed to by p1 and p2, returns a pointer to the new list
- backpatch(p,addr) – inserts i as the target label for each of the instructions in the list pointed to by p

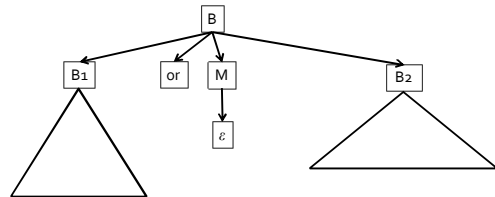
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### Backpatching Boolean expressions

production	semantic action
$B \rightarrow B_1 \text{ or } M B_2$	backpatch(B1.falseList,M.instr); B.trueList = merge(B1.trueList,B2.trueList); B.falseList = B2.falseList;
$B \rightarrow B_1 \text{ and } M B_2$	backpatch(B1.trueList,M.instr); B.trueList = B2.trueList; B.falseList = merge(B1.falseList,B2.falseList);
$B \rightarrow \text{not } B_1$	B.trueList = B1.falseList; B.falseList = B1.trueList;
$B \rightarrow (B_1)$	B.trueList = B1.trueList; B.falseList = B1.falseList;
$B \rightarrow \text{id}_1 \text{ relop id}_2$	B.trueList = makeList(nextInstr); B.falseList = makeList(nextInstr+1); emit ('if id1.var relop id2.var 'goto_')    emit('goto_');
$B \rightarrow \text{true}$	B.trueList = makeList(nextInstr); emit ('goto_');
$B \rightarrow \text{false}$	B.falseList = makeList(nextInstr); emit ('goto_');
$M \rightarrow \epsilon$	M.instr = nextInstr;

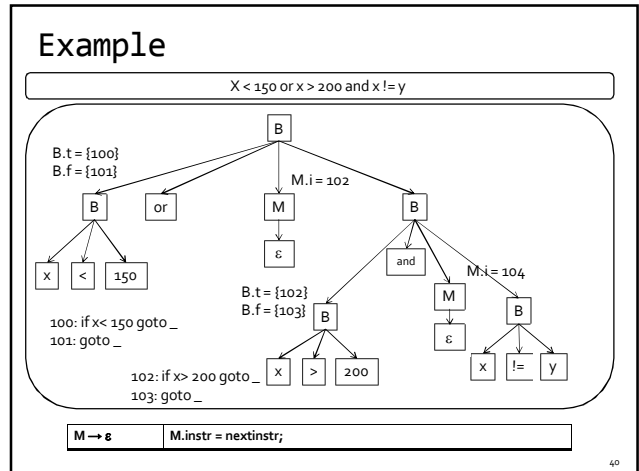
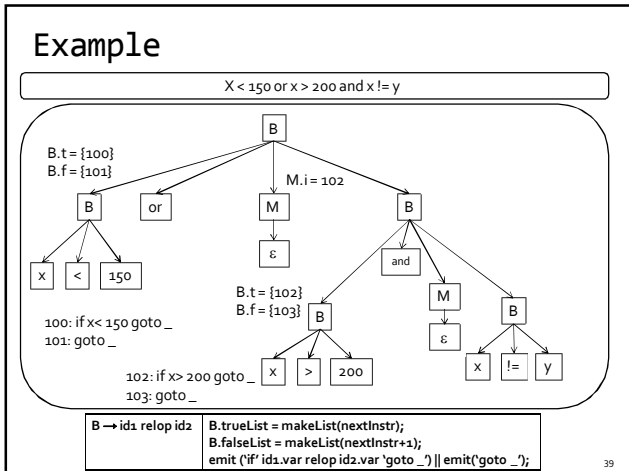
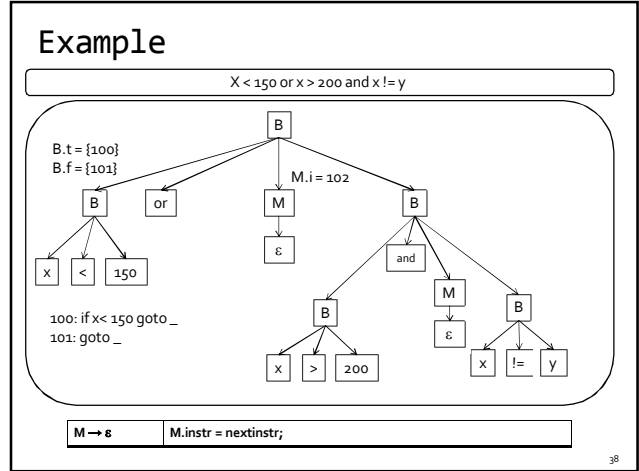
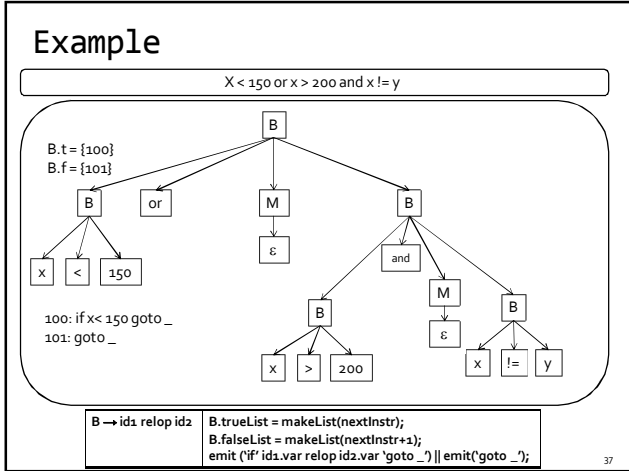
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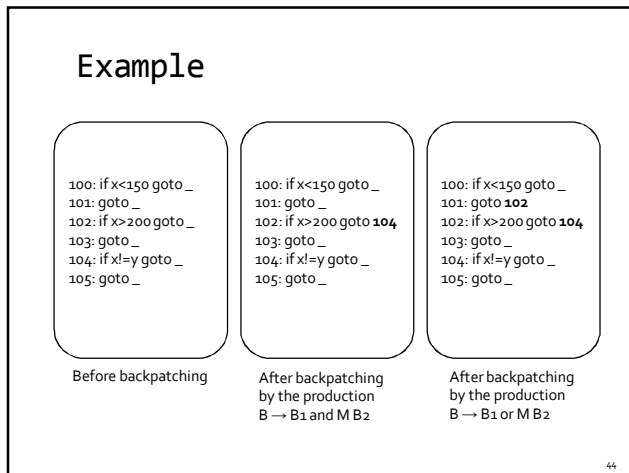
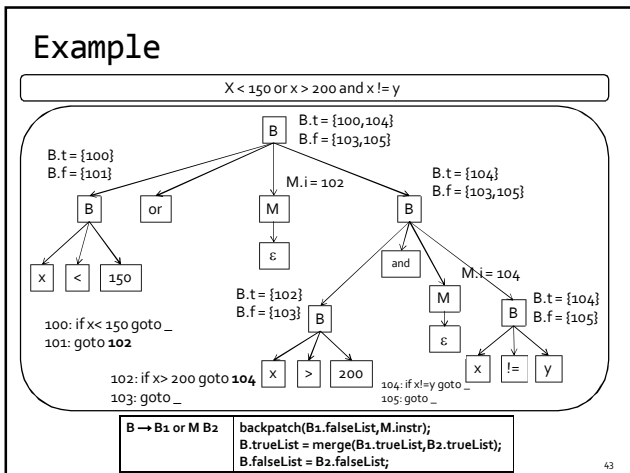
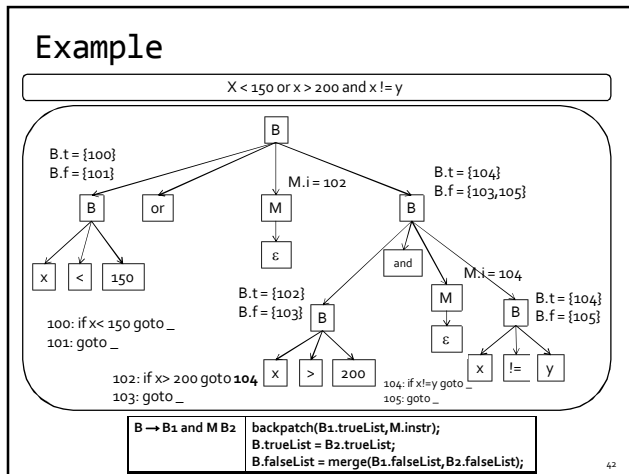
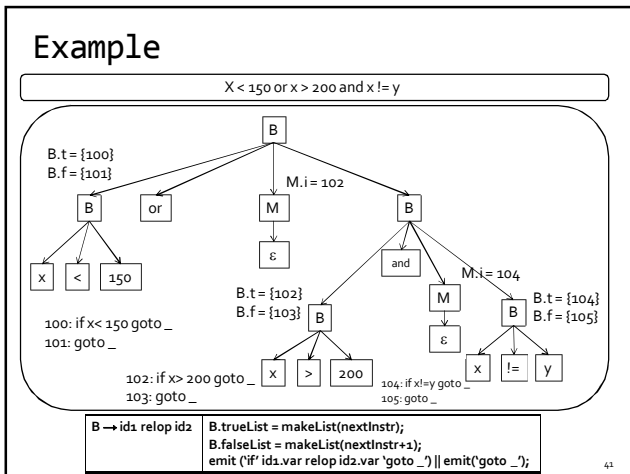
### Marker



- { M.instr = nextinstr;}
- Use M to obtain the address just before B2 code starts being generated

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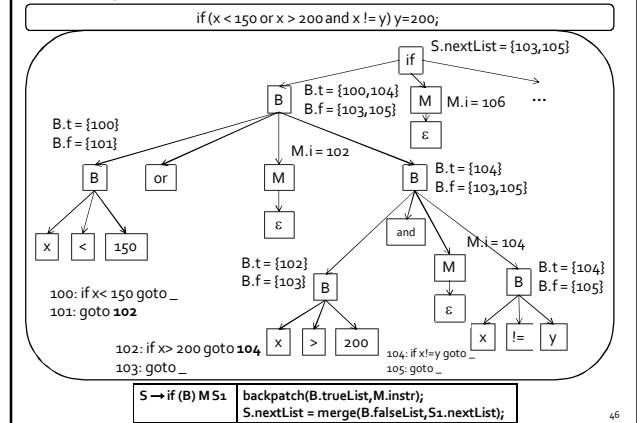




### Backpatching for statements

production	semantic action
$S \rightarrow \text{if } (B) M S_1$	backpatch(B.trueList,M.instr); S.nextList = merge(B.falseList,S1.nextList);
$S \rightarrow \text{if } (B) M_1 S_1$ $N \text{ else } M_2 S_2$	backpatch(B.trueList,M1.instr); backpatch(B.falseList,M2.instr); temp = merge(S1.nextList,N.nextList); S.nextList = merge(temp,S2.nextList);
$S \rightarrow \text{while } M_1 (B)$ $M_2 S_1$	backpatch(S1.nextList,M1.instr); backpatch(B.trueList,M2.instr); S.nextList = B.falseList; emit('goto' M1.instr);
$S \rightarrow \{ L \}$	S.nextList = L.nextList;
$S \rightarrow A$	S.nextList = null;
$M \rightarrow \epsilon$	M.instr = nextinstr;
$N \rightarrow \epsilon$	N.nextList = makeList(nextInstr); emit('goto _');
$L \rightarrow L_1 M S$	backpatch(L1.nextList,M.instr); L.nextList = S.nextList;
$L \rightarrow S$	L.nextList = S.nextList

### Example



### Example

```
100: if x<150 goto _
101: goto 102
102: if x>200 goto 104
103: goto _
104: if x!=y goto _
105: goto _
106: y = 200
```

After backpatching  
by the production  
 $B \rightarrow B_1 \text{ or } M B_2$

```
100: if x<150 goto 106
101: goto 102
102: if x>200 goto 104
103: goto _
104: if x!=y goto 106
105: goto _
106: y = 200
```

After backpatching  
by the production  
 $S \rightarrow \text{if } (B) M S_1$

### Procedures

```
n = f(a[i]);
```

```
t1 = i * 4
t2 = a[t1] // could have expanded this as well
param t2
t3 = call f, 1
n = t3
```

- we will see handling of procedure calls in much more detail later

## Procedures

```

D → define T id (F) { S }
F → ε | T id, F
S → return E; | ...
E → id (A) | ...
A → ε | E, A

```

statements

expressions

- type checking
  - function type: return type, type of formal parameters
  - within an expression function treated like any other operator
- symbol table
  - parameter names

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## Summary

- pick an intermediate representation
- translate expressions
- use a symbol table to implement declarations
- generate jumping code for boolean expressions
  - value of the expression is implicit in the control location
- backpatching
  - a technique for generating code for boolean expressions and statements in one pass
  - idea: maintain lists of incomplete jumps, where all jumps in a list have the same target. When the target becomes known, all instructions on its list are "filled in".

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## Coming up next...

- Activation Records

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## The End

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