

# Script generated by TTT

Title: Seidl: Virtual\_Machines (27.04.2015)

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## Dereferencing of Pointers:

The application of the operator `*` to the expression  $e$  returns the **contents** of the storage cell, whose address is the R-value of  $e$ :

$$\text{code}_L(*e) \rho = \text{code}_R e \rho$$

**Example** Given the declarations

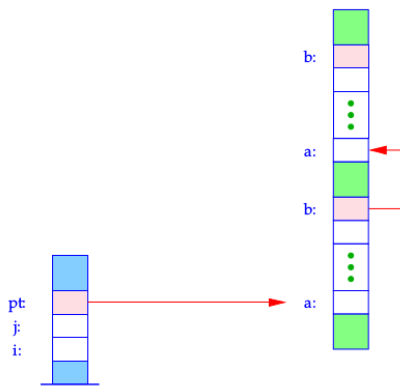
```
struct t { int a[7]; struct t *b; };  
int i, j;  
struct t *pt;
```

and the expression  $((pt \rightarrow b) \rightarrow a)[i + 1]$

Because of  $e \rightarrow a \equiv (*e).a$  holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{code}_L(e \rightarrow a) \rho &= \text{code}_R e \rho \\ &\quad \text{loadc}(\rho a) \\ &\quad \text{add} \end{aligned}$$

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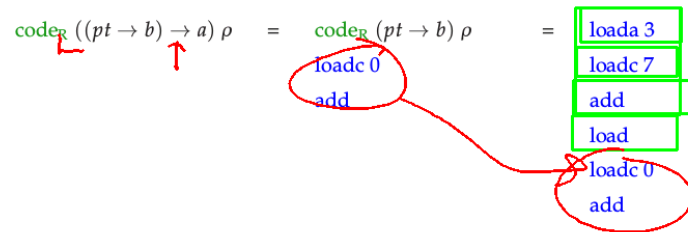
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Be  $\rho = \{i \mapsto 1, j \mapsto 2, pt \mapsto 3, a \mapsto 0, b \mapsto 7\}$ . Then:

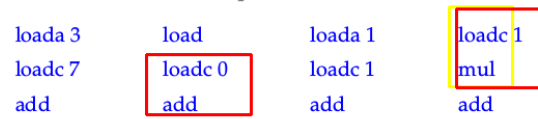
$$\begin{aligned} \text{code}_L((pt \rightarrow b) \rightarrow a)[i + 1] \rho &= \text{code}_R((pt \rightarrow b) \rightarrow a) \rho \\ &= \text{code}_R((pt \rightarrow b) \rightarrow a) \rho \\ &\quad \text{loadc } 1 \\ &\quad \text{loadc } 1 \\ &\quad \text{mul} \\ &\quad \text{add} \\ &\quad \text{loadc } 1 \\ &\quad \text{mul} \\ &\quad \text{add} \end{aligned}$$

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For arrays, their R-value equals their L-value. Therefore:



In total, we obtain the instruction sequence:



## 7 Conclusion

We tabulate the cases of the translation of expressions:

$$\text{code}_L(e_1[e_2]) \rho = \begin{array}{l} \text{code}_R e_1 \rho \\ \text{code}_R e_2 \rho \\ \text{loadc } |t| \\ \text{mul} \\ \text{add} \end{array} \quad \text{if } e_1 \text{ has type } t^* \text{ or } t[]$$

$$\text{code}_L(e.a) \rho = \begin{array}{l} \text{code}_L e \rho \\ \text{loadc } (\rho a) \\ \text{add} \end{array}$$

$$\text{code}_L(*e) \rho = \text{code}_R e \rho$$

$$\text{code}_L x \rho = \text{loadc } (\rho x)$$

$$\text{code}_R(\&e) \rho = \text{code}_L e \rho$$

$$\text{code}_R e \rho = \text{code}_L e \rho \quad \text{if } e \text{ is an array}$$

$$\text{code}_R(e_1 \square e_2) \rho = \begin{array}{l} \text{code}_R e_1 \rho \\ \text{code}_R e_2 \rho \\ \text{op} \end{array} \quad \text{op instruction for operator '}\square\text{'}$$

$$\text{code}_R q \rho = \text{loadc } q \quad q \text{ constant}$$

$$\text{code}_R(e_1 = e_2) \rho = \begin{array}{l} \text{code}_R e_2 \rho \\ \text{code}_L e_1 \rho \\ \text{store} \end{array}$$

$$\text{code}_R e \rho = \text{code}_L e \rho \quad \text{load} \quad \text{otherwise}$$

**Example**    `int a[10], (*b)[10];`    with  $\rho = \{a \mapsto 7, b \mapsto 17\}$ .

For the statement:    `*a = 5;`    we obtain:

```

code_L(*a) ρ = code_R a ρ = code_L a ρ = loadc 7
code (*a = 5;) ρ = loadc 5
                  loadc 7
                  store
                  pop
    
```

As an exercise translate:

$s_1 \equiv b = (&a) + 2;$     and     $s_2 \equiv *(b + 3)[0] = 5;$

```

code (s1s2) ρ = loadc 7
                loadc 2
                loadc 10 // size of int[10]
                mul      // scaling
                add
                loadc 17
                store
                pop      // end of s1
                loadc 5
                loadc 17
                load
                loadc 3
                loadc 10 // size of int[10]
                mul      // scaling
                add
                store
                pop      // end of s2
    
```

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                  mul // scaling      loadc 3
                  add                loadc 10 // size of int[10]
                  loadc 17           mul // scaling
                  store              add
                  pop // end of s1   store
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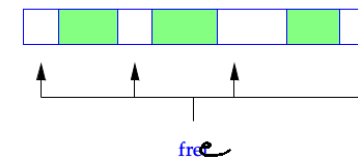
```

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## 8 Freeing Occupied Storage

**Problems:**

- The freed storage area is still referenced by other pointers (**dangling references**).
- After several deallocations, the storage could look like this (**fragmentation**):



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### Potential Solutions:

- Trust the programmer. Manage freed storage in a particular data structure (free list)  $\implies$  `malloc` or `free` may become expensive.
- Do nothing, i.e.:

`code free(e);`  $\rho$  = `codeR e`  $\rho$   
pop

$\implies$  simple and (in general) efficient.

- Use an **automatic**, potentially "conservative" **Garbage-Collection**, which occasionally collects **certainly** inaccessible heap space.

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## 9 Functions

The definition of a function consists of:

- a **name** by which it can be called;
- a specification of the **formal parameters**;
- a possible **result type**;
- a **block of statements**.

In **C**, we have:

`codeR f`  $\rho$  = `loadc_f` = start address of the code for *f*

$\implies$  Function names must be maintained within the address environment!

### Example

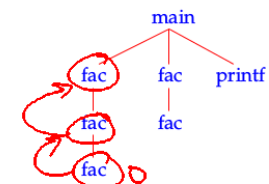
```

int fac(int x) {
    if (x <= 0) return 1;
    else return x * fac(x - 1);
}

main() {
    int n;
    n = fac(2) + fac(1);
    printf("%d", n);
}
    
```

At every point of execution, several **instances** (calls) of the same function may be active, i.e., have been started, but not yet completed.

The recursion tree of the example:



We conclude:

The **formal parameters** and **local variables** of the different calls of the same function (the **instances**) must be kept separate.

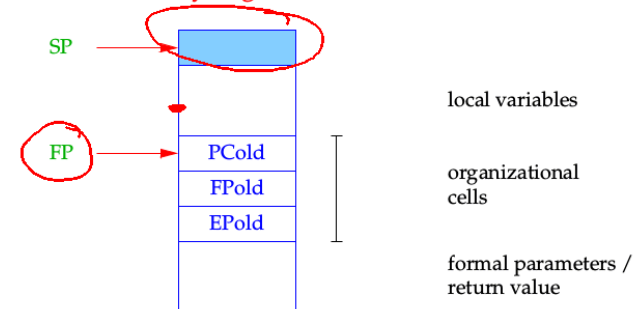
Idea

Allocate a dedicated memory block for each call of a function.

In sequential programming languages, these memory blocks may be maintained on a stack. Therefore, they are also called **stack frames**.

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### 9.1 Memory Organization for Functions



$FP \hat{=}$  **Frame Pointer**; points to the last **organizational cell** and is used for addressing the formal parameters and local variables.

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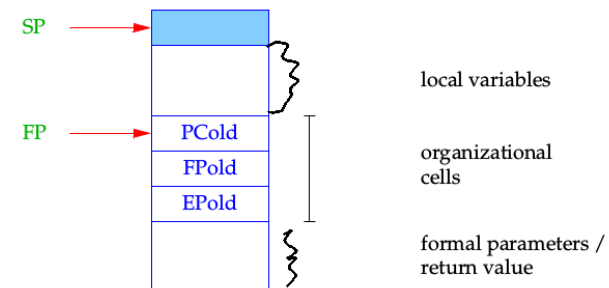
Caveat

- The local variables receive relative addresses  $+1, +2, \dots$
- The formal parameters are placed **below** the organizational cells and therefore have **negative** addresses relative to **FP** :-)
- This organization is particularly well suited for function calls with **variable** number of arguments as, e.g., for **printf**.
- The memory block of parameters is recycled for storing the return value of the function :-))

**Simplification**      The return value fits into a single memory cell.

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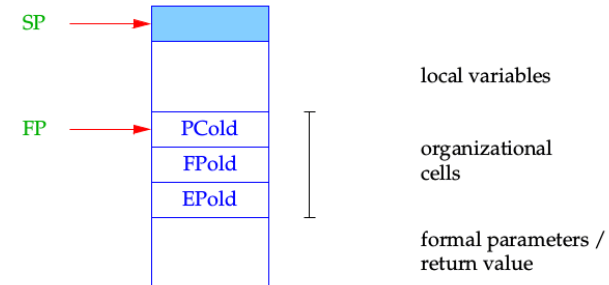
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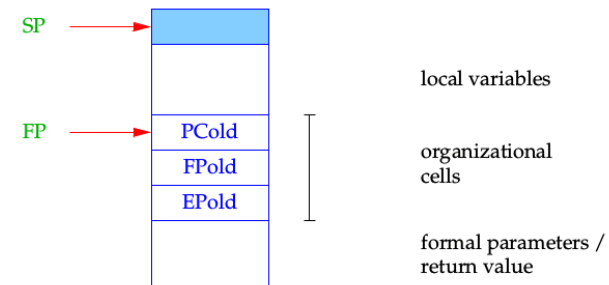
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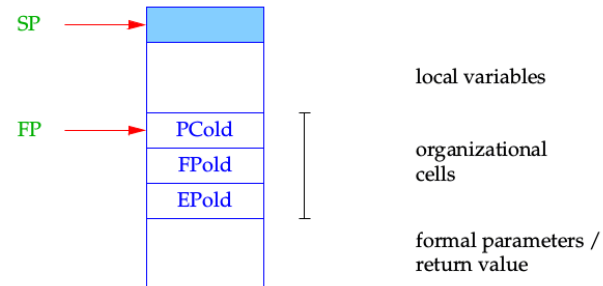
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## Tasks of a Translator for Functions:

- Generate code for the body of the function!
- Generate code for calls!

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## 9.2 Determining Address Environments

We distinguish two kinds of variables:

1. **global**/extern that are defined outside of functions;
2. **local**/intern/automatic (including formal parameters) which are defined inside functions.



The address environment  $\rho$  maps names onto pairs  $(tag, a) \in \{G, L\} \times \mathbb{Z}$ .

### Caveat

- In general, there are further refined grades of visibility of variables.
- Different parts of a program may be translated relative to different address environments!

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## Example

```

0  int i;
   struct list {
     int info;
     struct list * next;
   } * l;

1  int ith (struct list * x, int i) {
   if (i ≤ 1) return x → info;
   else return ith (x → next, i - 1);
}

2  main () {
   int k;
   scanf ("%d", &i);
   scanlist (&l);
   printf ("\n\t%d\n", ith (l,i));
}

```

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Address Environments Occurring in the Program:

0 Before the Function Definitions:

$\rho_0 :$      $i \mapsto (G,1)$   
           $l \mapsto (G,2)$   
          ...

1 Inside of *ith*:

$\rho_1 :$      $i \mapsto (L,-4)$   
           $x \mapsto (L,-3)$   
           $l \mapsto (G,2)$   
           $ith \mapsto (G,ith)$   
          ...