

Review Article

Code Generation Techniques in Compiler Design: Conceptual and Structural Review

Johnson Oluwatobi Akanbi¹, Allen Akinkitan Ajose², Kareem Afiss Emiola³

¹Department of Computer Science, Tai Solarin College of Education, Omu Ijebu, Ogun State, Nigeria.

²Department of Computer Science, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

³Department of Computer Science, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Received: 10 March 2022

Revised: 20 April 2022

Accepted: 28 April 2022

Published: 12 June 2022

Abstract - A compiler is designed as a language translator to interpret program instructions from high-level language or object layer to machine code. Compiler configuration covers essential interpretation instruments and blunders discovery and recovery. It incorporates lexical components, linguistic structures, and semantic mechanisms as the front end and code generation and streamlining as the back end. In this paper, selected code generation techniques were structurally x-rayed. The structural review revealed the peculiar strategy and individual traits that serve as a determinant factor for specific applications and circumstances for execution.

Keywords - Code generation, Compiler design, Computing construct, Syntactic parsing, Intermediate execution.

1. Introduction

The cycle by which the compiler's code generator translates some intermediate representation of source code into a structure (for example, machine code) that can be quickly performed by a machine is known as code generation in compiler design (GeeksforGeeks, 2018). The code produced by the compiler is an item code of some lower-level programming language, for instance, a low-level computing construct. The source code written in a more elevated-level language is changed into a lower-level language that outcome in a lower-level object code (Brainkart, 2019).

Programming requires effective tools and a technical understanding of program development; the computer is designed to receive users' input and execute and produce output. Hence, a typical programming language may not be suitable for all purposes or problem domains; because every programming language has its syntactic structure and compiler (Ayeni & Ojekudo, 2021). Some languages and programming paradigms that express the logic of a computation without describing its control flow were classified as 'declarative.'

Thus, the execution pattern tends to focus on the structure and elements of the computer program without side effects because the attention is more on the operation than the operands for the computational process (Ojekudo, 2019).

Complex compilers regularly perform multiple passes over different intermediate structures. This cross-

measure is utilized because many algorithms for code optimization are simpler to apply in turn or because the contribution with one streamline depends on the complete handling conducted by another enhancement (Wikipedia, 2021). The interrelated nature of compilation elements also works with forming a single compiler that may focus on various structures, as only the remaining executable stages (the back-end) necessities to switch from one objective to another.

The input to the code generator commonly comprises a tree of parse or an abstraction tree of grammar. The tree is changed over into a straight grouping of directions, for the most part, in an intermediate language such as a three-address code (Douglas & Ojekudo, 2020). Compiler configuration covers essential interpretation instruments and blunders discovery and healing. It incorporates the lexical, linguistic structure, and semantic examination as the front end and code generation and streamlining as the back end. Hence, this study focuses on a conceptual review of execution strategies associated with various code-generation techniques in compiler design.

2. Related Work

Edwards & Zeng (2006) provided Code generation in EURASIP Diary on Inserted Frameworks, named Code Generation in the Columbia Esterel Compiler. In the distribution, the coordinated linguistic Esterel gives predictable simultaneousness by receiving a syntax in which strings walk in sync using a worldwide check and then impart extremely focused. Its expressive force includes some



significant pitfalls, not with standing: it is a troublesome dialect to order into assembly linguistics for von Neumann systems. The Columbia Esterel is a free tool for testing with various code aging methods for linguistics. Giving a front-end and a genuinely conventional simultaneous middle portrayal, an assortment of back-closes have been created. Three of the most fully-grown ones were introduced, depending on program reliance diagrams, dynamic records, and a virtual machine. Test results were introduced in the wake of depicting the different calculations utilized in every one of these strategies, which look at 24 benchmarks produced by eight unique arrangement methods running on seven distinct processors.

Ghanville & Graham (2008) distributed an examination work on compiler code generation in POPL '08: Procedures of the fifth ACM SIGACT-SIGPLAN conference on Standards of programming dialects, January 2008, named another strategy for compiler code generation. In the distribution, a calculation is given to interpret a moderately low-level middle portrayal of a program into get-together code or machine code for an objective PC. The calculation is table-driven. A development calculation is utilized to deliver the table from a useful depiction of the objective machine. The technique delivers great code for some financially accessible PCs. It is feasible to retarget a compiler for another sort of PC by supplanting the table. Likewise, strategies are given to demonstrate the accuracy of the interpreter.

Ghazala & Noman (2016) presented an investigative study on code generation techniques. In this research, Algorithmic systems are necessary for NP-complete tasks like optimum execution planning and register resource utilization. We can discover ideal timetables by rapidly limiting the issue of register designation and guidance booking for postponed load structures to articulation trees. This postulation presents a quick, ideal code planning calculation for systems with a deferred heap of one guidance cycle. Calculations are run in time proportional to the area of the articulated trees, limiting runtime and register usage. Also, the calculation is straightforward; it fits on a page.

The prevailing worldview in the current worldwide register designation is that diagram shading, unlike chart shading, is the main strategy. Probabilistic Register Assignment is interesting in its capacity to measure the probability that a specific worth may be allotted a register before distribution finishes. By processing the probability that worth will be relegated to a register by a register allocator, register up-and-comers contending intensely for scant registers can be disconnected from those with less rivalry.

Probability permits the register allocator to focus its endeavors where the advantage is high and the probability of

an effective designation is likewise high. Its assignment likewise abstains from backtracking and convoluted live-range dividing heuristics that plague diagram shading calculations. Ideal calculations for guidance determination in tree-organized moderate portrayals depend on unique programming procedures. Bottom-Up Rewrite System (BURS) innovation creates incredibly quick creators of codes by doing all conceivable powerful programming before the code age. Accordingly, the powerful programming cycle can be extremely sluggish. Much exertion has gone into lessening an opportunity to create BURS creator of code to make BURS innovation more appealing. Current strategies frequently require a lot of time to deal with a perplexing system portrayal. This theory makes an enhanced presentation and quicker BURS table age calculation, which makes BURS innovation appealing in guidance choices (Poole & Whyley, 2012).

3. Code Generation Techniques In Compiler

Several techniques can be utilized in code generation in compiler design; among these are parse tree, peephole enhancement, simple code generator, and three location codes.

3.1. Peephole Enhancement Technique

Peephole enhancement is one of the methods utilized in code generation in compiler design; it is an assertion-by-explanation code-generation methodology that frequently creates target code that contains repetitive directions and imperfect builds. The nature of such objective code can be improved by applying "streamlining" changes to the objective program.

It is a straightforward and powerful strategy for further developing the objective code, a technique for attempting to work on the exhibition of the objective program by looking at a short succession of target guidelines (called the peephole) and supplanting these directions with a more limited or quicker grouping, at whatever point conceivable.

The peephole is a little moving window on the objective program. The code in the peephole need not be touching, albeit a few executions require this. A peephole is the subordinate machine improvement. The goal of peephole enhancement is to develop execution further, lessen memory impression and diminish code size. It is normal for peephole streamlining that every improvement might generate openings for extra upgrades. Such attributes incorporate; redundant instruction elimination, inaccessible codes, stream-of-control enhancements, mathematical improvements, strength decrease, getting to machine guidelines, and utilization of machine idioms.

At code in its original form level, the user can perform the below:

Table 1. Redundant Instruction Elimination

int add_five (int a) { int b; c; y = 5; z = a + b; return c; }	int add_ten(i nt a) { int b; y = 5; y = a + b; return b; }	int add_five(i nt a) { int b = 5; return a + b; }	int add_five(int a) { return a + 5; }
--	---	---	--

At the accumulation position, the compiler looks for guidelines excess in quality. Numerous stacking and putting away guidelines might convey a similar significance regardless of whether some are taken out. An instance is shown below:

- MOV a, R1
- MOV R1, R2

The principal guidance can be erased and then re-compose as shown below:

MOV a, R2

3.1.1. Inaccessible Codification

Inaccessible codification is a piece of the program code that is never gotten to in light of programming development. Developers might have accidentally composed a code that will never be reached (Debray, Saumya, et al. 2000).

Syntactic Model

```
void add_five(int a)
{
return a + 5;
printf("value of a is %d", a);
}
```

The printed articulation will not ever be executed in the code area because the program control returns before executing; subsequently, printed will be eliminated.

3.1.2. Enhancements to the Stream of-Control

Sometimes in a code, the program control bounces back and forth and does not play out a huge undertaking. These leaps can be taken out. Consider the following lump of code:

```
...
MOV R2, R3
GOTO L0
...
L0: GOTO L1
L1: INC R1
```

Label L0 can be removed from this code because it passes control to L1. Rather than leaping to L0, then to L1, the command could straightforwardly arrive at L1, as displayed beneath:

```
...
MOV R2, R3
GOTO L1
....
L2: INC R1
```

3.1.3. Mathematical Improvements

There are events where arithmetical articulations can be simplified. For instance, the articulation $x = x + 0$ can be supplanted by itself, and the articulation $x = x + 1$ can essentially be supplanted by INC x.

Strength Decrease

Some tasks devour additional reality. Their ‘strength’ can be diminished by supplanting them with different activities that burn through less existence yet produce a similar outcome.

For instance, $a * 3$ can be supplanted by $a \ll 2$, which includes just one remaining movement. However, the yield of $x * x$ and $x3$ is the same, and $x3$ is considerably productive to carry out.

Getting to Machine Guidelines

The objective machine can convey more modern directions which can have the capacity to perform explicit activities much more productively. On the off chance that the objective code can oblige those guidelines straightforwardly, that will not just work on the nature of the code yet additionally yield more effective outcomes.

Utilization of Machine Idioms

The objective machine might have equipment directions to execute certain particular activities productively. For instance, a few machines have auto-augmentation and auto-decrement tending to modes. These add or deduct one from an operand previously or in the wake of utilizing its worth. Utilizing these modes extraordinarily works on the nature of code when pushing or popping a stack, as in boundary

passing. These modes can likewise be utilized in code for explanations like $I: =i+1$.

$i:=i+1 \rightarrow i++$

$i:=i-1 \rightarrow I--$

3.2. Simple Code Generator Technique

It is another strategy utilized in code generation in compiler design. In this method, a code generator creates target code for an arrangement of three-address proclamations and viably utilizes registers to store operands of the assertions.

Thinking about the three-address proclamation, $d:= e+f$

It can have the accompanying succession of codes:

ADD Cj, Ci Cost = 1/if Ci contains e and Cj contains f

(or then again)

ADD f, Ci Cost = 2/in case f is in a memory area

(or then again)

MOV f, Cj Cost = 3/move f from memory to Cj and add

ADD Cj, Ci

3.2.1. Register and Address Description

A register description is utilized to monitor what is present in each register. The register descriptors show that every one of the registers is vacant at first.

The area where the present value of the identifier can be calculated at the specified interval is stored in a location description.

Input: Fundamental square D of three-address proclamations

Yield: At every assertion $J: a= b$ operation c , we append to J the exuberance and next-employments of a , b and c .

Strategy: We begin at D’s last assertion and work backwards.

a. Append to proclamation J the data as of now found in the image table concerning the following uses and vivacity of a , b and c .

b. Set a “not live” and “no next usage” in the image tables.

c. In the image table, set b and c to “live” and the nearest-employments of b and c to J.

A code-generation method is evaluated as follows;

As input, the calculation takes an arrangement of three-address explanations establishing an essential component.

For every three different-address articulations of the structure $a: = b$ operation c , play out the accompanying activities:

1. Conjure a capacity getreg to decide the area P where the aftereffect of the calculation b operation c ought to be put away.
2. Counsel the location description for b to decide b' , the current area of y . Favor the register for b' if the worth of b is present both in storage and a register. If the worth of b is not as of now in P, produce the guidance MOV b' , P to put a duplicate of b in P.
3. Create the guidance Operation c' , P where c' is a present area of c . Lean toward a register to a storage area in case c is in both. Keep updating the location description to demonstrate that ‘ a ’ is in area P. If ‘ a ’ is in P, update its description and eliminate ‘ a ’ from any remaining descriptions.
4. If the present b or c upsides have no further uses, are not live on exit from the square and are in registers, change the register description to show that those registers will no longer contain b or c after executing the $a: = b$ operation c .

3.2.2 Producing Code for Task Explanations

The task $f: = (x-y) + (x-z) + (x-z)$ may be converted into the accompanying three-address code arrangement:

$g: = x - y$

$h: = x - z$

$i: = g + h$

$f: = i + h$

with f live toward the conclusion.

Table 2. Model for code arrangement

Statements	Code Generated	Register Descriptor	Address Descriptor
		Register Empty	
$g: = x - y$	MOV x, R1 SUB y, R1	R1 contains g	g in R1
$h: = x - z$	MOV x, R2 SUB z, R2	R1 contains g R2 contains h	g in R1 h in R2
$i: = g + h$	ADD R2, R1	R1 contains i R2 contains h	h in R1 i in R2
$f: = i + h$	ADD R2, R1 MOV R1, f	R1 contains f	f in R1 f in R1 and memory

3.3 Tree of Parse Technique

It is a graphical representation determination and another technique for generating codes in compiler design. It is useful to understand how strings are generated from the start image. The foundation of the tree of parse is the first image of deduction. All the leaf hubs in a parse tree are terminals; inside hubs are non-terminal, and crossing them all results in a unique input string (Aho, Sethi & Ullman 2006). A parse tree represents the associativity and precedence of administrators. The most profound sub-tree is crossed first; as a result, the administrator in that sub-tree takes precedence over the parent hubs administrator.

Punctuation analyzers adhere to creation rules characterized by setting free sentence structure. How the creation rules are carried out (determination) divides parsing into hierarchical and base-up parsing.

Hierarchical parsing is the point at which the parser begins building the parse tree from the beginning image and afterward attempts to change the beginning image to the information while starting with the information images; base-up parsing attempts to create the tree of parse up to the first image.

3.4. Three Location Code Techniques

The supplied articulation is divided into a few separate directions in a three-address code. These instructions can unquestionably be translated into low-level computing constructs. Every three location code suggestion contains three operands. It is a combination of a task manager and a

parallel administrator. The compiler creates them for carrying out enhancement (Glanville & Graham,2008). This strategy uses a limit of three locations to address any assertion. They are executed as a record with the location fields. An articulation is given as; $e := (- g * f) + (- g * h)$

The Three-address code is as per the following:

$x1 := - c$

$x2 := b*t1$

$x3 := - c$

$x4 := d * t3$

$x5 := t2 + t4$

$e := x5$

X is utilized as a register in the objective program. Quintuples and threefold are two (2) structures that can be used to address the three location codes.

4. Conclusion

Several techniques can be utilized in code generation in compiler design; among these are peephole enhancement, parse tree, simple code generator, and three location codes. Their structural review revealed the peculiar strategy and individual traits that serve as a determinant factor for specific applications and circumstances for execution.

References

- [1] Gabriel A. Ayeni, and A. Nathaniel Ojekudo, "Theory and Computer Programming for Optimization of Combinatorial Problems," *International Journal of Engineering in Industrial Research (IJRES)*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2021. [[CrossRef](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [2] H.J. Brainkart, Relevance of Peephole Optimization to Compiler Design, 2021, [Online]. Available: <https://www.javatpoint.com/three-address-code>
- [3] T.M. Douglas, and A.N. Ojekudo, "Juxtaposing Python with BASIC in the Context of Introductory Programming," *Journal of Environmental Science, Computer Science and Engineering Technology (JECET)*, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 15-20, 2020. [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [4] A.S. Edwards, and J. Zeng, "Code Generation in Columbia Esterel Compiler," *EURASIP International Journal on Embedded Systems*, 2006. [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [5] Ghanzala Shafi Sheikh, and Noman Islam, "A Qualitative Study of Major Programming Languages to Computer Science Students," *Journal of Information and Communication Technology*, vol. 10, no. 1, pp. 24-34, 2016. [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [6] Geeks for Geeks, Peephole Optimization in Compiler Design, 2018, [Online]. Available: <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/peephole-optimization-in-compiler-design/>
- [7] R. Steven Glanville, and Susan L. Graham, "A New Method for Compiler Code Generation," *Proceedings of the 5th ACM SIGACT-SIGPLAN Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages*, pp. 231-254, 1978. [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [8] A.N. Ojekudo, "Computer Programming Bridge," Port Harcourt: *Emmanest Ventures and Data Communication*, 2019.
- [9] M. Poole, and C. Whyley, *Lexical and Semantic Design of Compilers*, 2012. [Online]. Available: [www.compsci.swan.ac.uk /cschriscs/compiler](http://www.compsci.swan.ac.uk/cschriscs/compiler)
- [10] Wikipedia, The Technical Analysis of Code Generation for Multi Parse Compiler, 2021. [Online]. Available: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code_generation_%28compiler%29#cite_note-MuchnickAssociates-1
- [11] Alfred Aho et al., *Compilers Principles, Techniques & Tools*, Addison Wesley, 2006.

- [12] Saumya K. Debray et al., “Compiler Techniques for Code Compaction,” *ACM Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems*, vol. 22, no. 2, pp. 378-415, 2000. [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [13] Alfred V. Aho, Mahadevan Ganapathi, and Steven W.K. Tjiang, “Code Generation Using Tree Matching and Dynamic Programming,” *ACM Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems*, vol. 11, no. 4, pp. 491-516, 1989. [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [14] A.V. Aho, and S.C. Johnson, “Optimal Code Generation for Expression Trees,” *Journal of the ACM*, vol. 23, no. 3, pp. 488-501, 1976. [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [15] A. Balachandran, D.M. Dhamdhere, and S. Biswas, “Efficient Retargetable Code Generation Using Bottom-Up Tree Pattern Matching,” *Journal of Computer Languages*, vol. 15, no. 3, pp. 127-140, 1990. [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [16] H. Emmelmann, F.W. Schroer, and R. Landwehr, “BEG — A Generator for Efficient Back Ends,” *ACM SIGPLAN Notices*, vol. 24, no. 7, pp. 227-237, 1989. [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [17] Christopher W. Fraser, “A Language for Writing Code Generators,” *ACM SIGPLAN Notices*, vol. 24, no. 7, pp. 238-245, 1989. [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [18] Christopher W. Fraser, Robert R. Henry, and Todd A. Proebsting, “BURG—Fast Optimal Instruction Selection and Tree Parsing,” *ACM SIGPLAN Notices*, vol. 27, no. 4, pp. 68-76, 1992. [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [19] Deepak Singh, and Mohan Rao Mamdakar, “Identify a Person from Iris Pattern using GLCM features and Machine Learning Techniques,” *SSRG International Journal of Computer Science and Engineering*, vol. 7, no. 9, pp. 25-29, 2020. [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [20] Christoph M. Hoffman, and Michael J. O’Donnell, “Pattern Matching in Trees,” *Journal of the Association for Computing Machinery*, vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 68-95, 1982. [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]
- [21] David R. Chase, “An Improvement to Bottom-up Tree Pattern Matching,” *Conference Record of the ACM Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages*, pp. 168-177, 1987. [[Google Scholar](#)] [[Publisher Link](#)]