Lecture 36: IL for Arrays

One-dimensional Arrays

- How do we process retrieval from and assignment to `x[i]`, for an array `x`?
- We assume that all items of the array have fixed size—S bytes—and are arranged sequentially in memory (the usual representation).
- Easy to see that the address of `x[i]` must be

  $$\&x + S \cdot i,$$

  where `&x` is intended to denote the address of the beginning of `x`.
- Generically, we call such formulae for getting an element of a data structure *access algorithms*.
- The IL might look like this:

```
cgen(&A[E], t0):
    cgen(&A, t1)
    cgen(E, t2)
    ⇒ t3 := t2 * S
    ⇒ t0 := t1 + t3
```


Multi-dimensional Arrays

- A 2D array is a 1D array of 1D arrays.
- Java uses arrays of pointers to arrays for >1D arrays.
- But if row size constant, for faster access and compactness, may prefer to represent an MxN array as a 1D array of 1D rows (not pointers to rows): *row-major order*...
- Or, as in FORTRAN, a 1D array of 1D columns: *column-major order.*
- So apply the formula for 1D arrays repeatedly—first to compute the beginning of a row and then to compute the column within that row:

  $$\&A[i][j] = \&A + i \cdot S \cdot N + j \cdot S$$

  for an `M`-row by `N`-column array, where `S`, again, is the size of an individual element.

IL for $M \times N$ 2D array

```
cgen(&e1[e2,e3], t):
    cgen(e1, t1); cgen(e2,t2); cgen(e3,t3)
    cgen(N, t4) # (N need not be constant)
    ⇒ t5 := t4 * t2
    ⇒ t6 := t5 + t3
    ⇒ t7 := t6 * S
    ⇒ t := t7 + t1
```

Array Descriptors

- Calculation of element address `&e1[e2,e3]` has the form

  VO + S1 × e2 +S2 × e3

  , where
  - VO (`&e1[0,0]`) is the *virtual origin*.
  - `S1` and `S2` are *strides*.
  - All three of these are constant throughout the lifetime of the array (assuming arrays of constant size).
- Therefore, we can package these up into an *array descriptor*, which can be passed in lieu of the array itself, as a kind of "*fat pointer*" to the array:

&e1[0][0]	S×N	S

Array Descriptors (II)

- Assuming that `e1` now evaluates to the address of a 2D array descriptor, the IL code becomes:

```
cgen(&e1[e2,e3], t):
    cgen(e1, t1); cgen(e2,t2); cgen(e3,t3)
    ⇒ t4 := *t1;     # The VO
    ⇒ t5 := *(t1+4)  # Stride #1
    ⇒ t6 := *(t1+8)  # Stride #2
    ⇒ t7 := t5 * t2
    ⇒ t8 := t6 * t3
    ⇒ t9 := t4 + t7
    ⇒ t10:= t9 + t8
```


Array Descriptors (III)

- By judicious choice of descriptor values, can make the same formula work for different kinds of array.
- For example, if lower bounds of indices are 1 rather than 0, must compute address

  `&e[1,1] + S1 × (e2-1) + S2 × (e3-1)`
- But some algebra puts this into the form

  `VO' + S1 × e2 + S2 × e3`

  where

  `VO' = &e[1,1] - S1 - S2 = &e[0,0]` *(if it existed).*
- So with the descriptor

VO'	S×N	S

  we can use the same code as on the last slide.