



Introduction to LLVM IR and Passes

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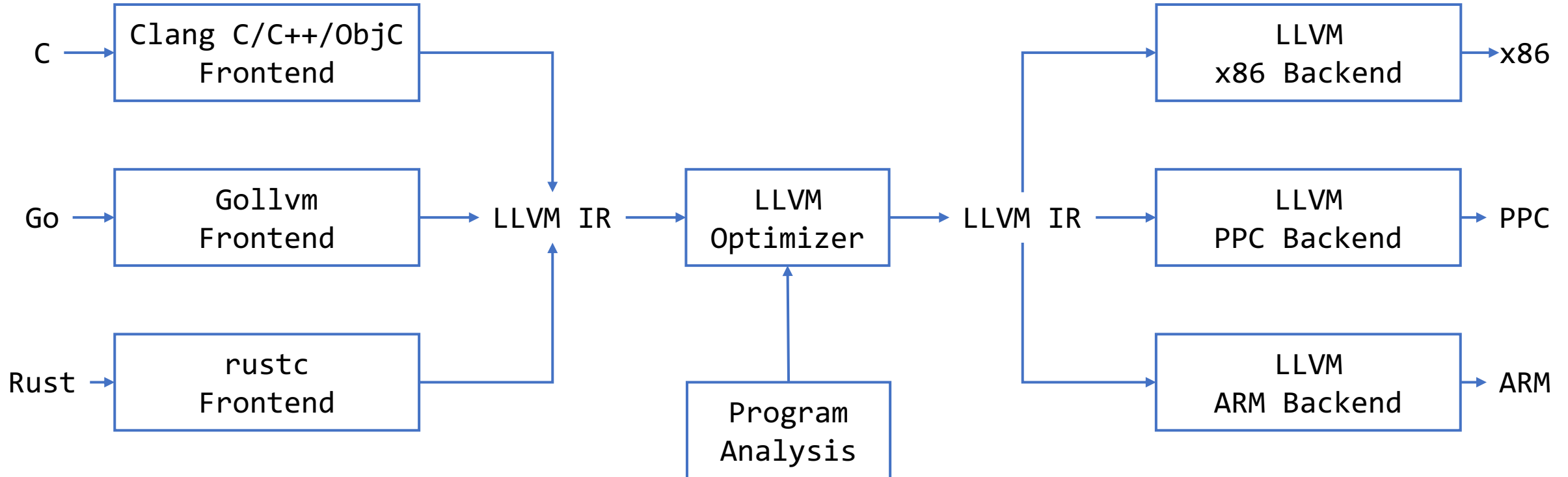
Outline

- Introduction to LLVM IR
- Writing LLVM Passes

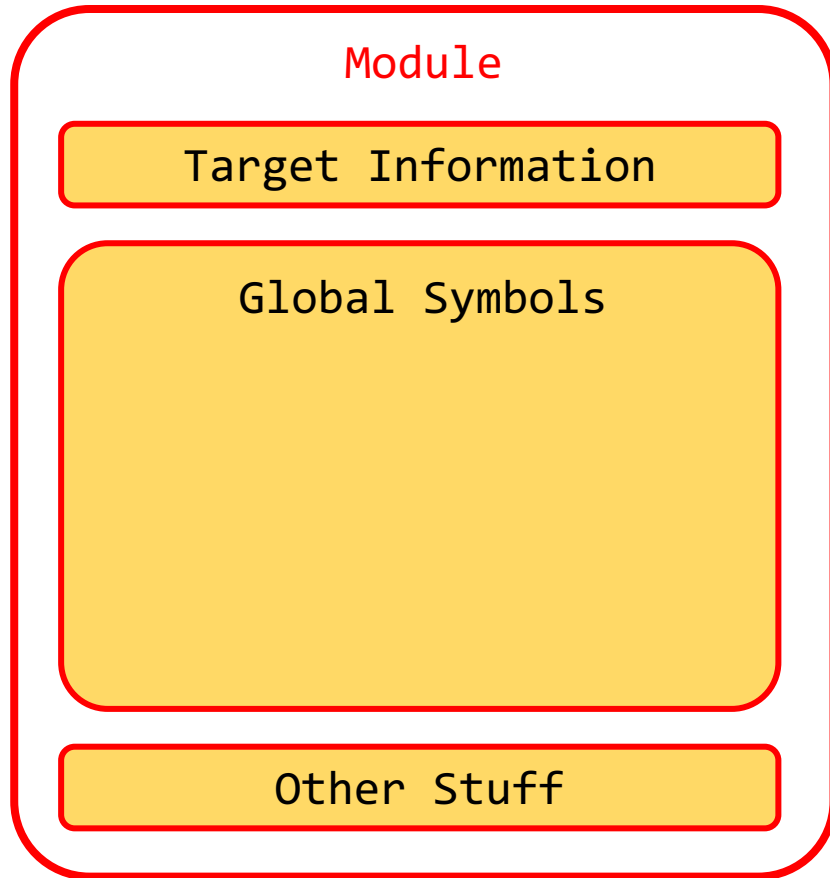
What is LLVM IR

- **The LLVM Intermediate Representation:**
 - **is a low level programming language**
 - RISC-like instruction set
 - **providing type safety, low-level operations, flexibility, and the capability of representing ‘all’ high-level languages cleanly**
 - high-level languages can map to IR cleanly
 - **is used throughout all phases of the LLVM compilation strategy**
 - enabling efficient code optimization

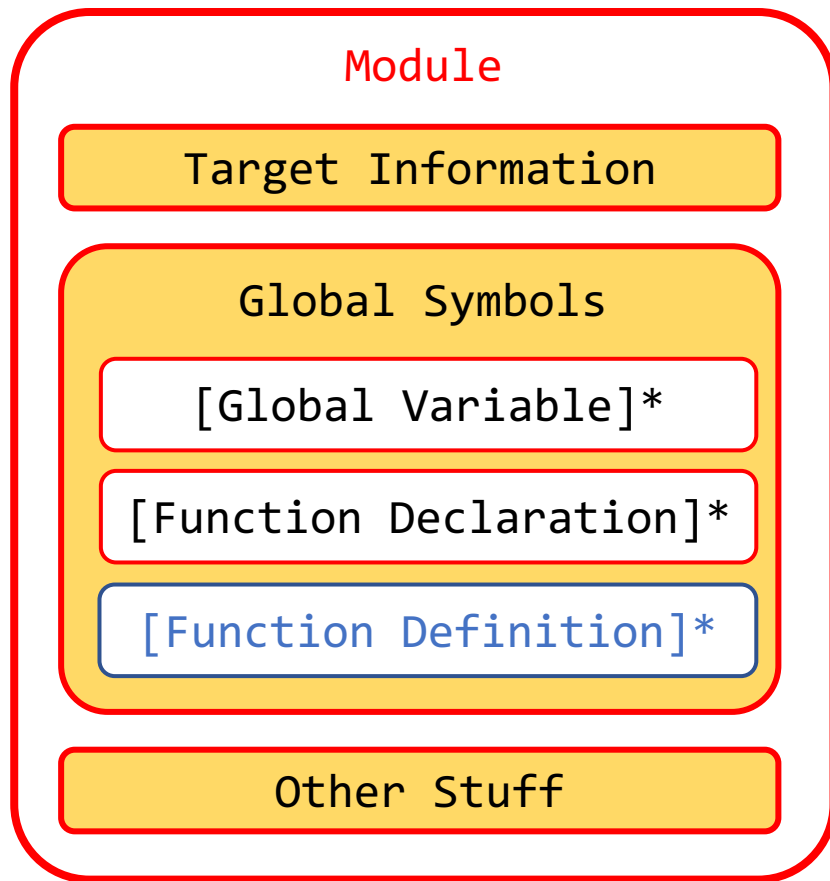
IR & the Compilation Process



Simplified IR Layout



Simplified IR Layout



Simplified IR Layout

Module

Target Information

Global Symbols

[Global Variable]*

[Function Declaration]*

[Function Definition]*

Other Stuff

Function Definition

Simplified IR Layout

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Other Stuff

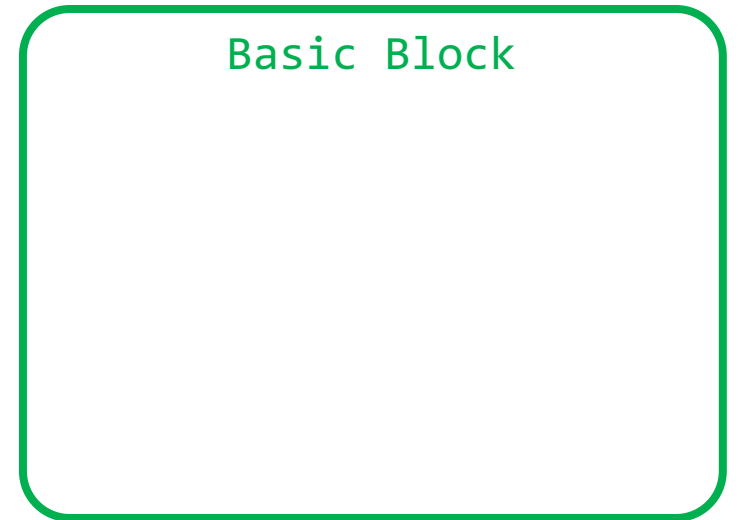
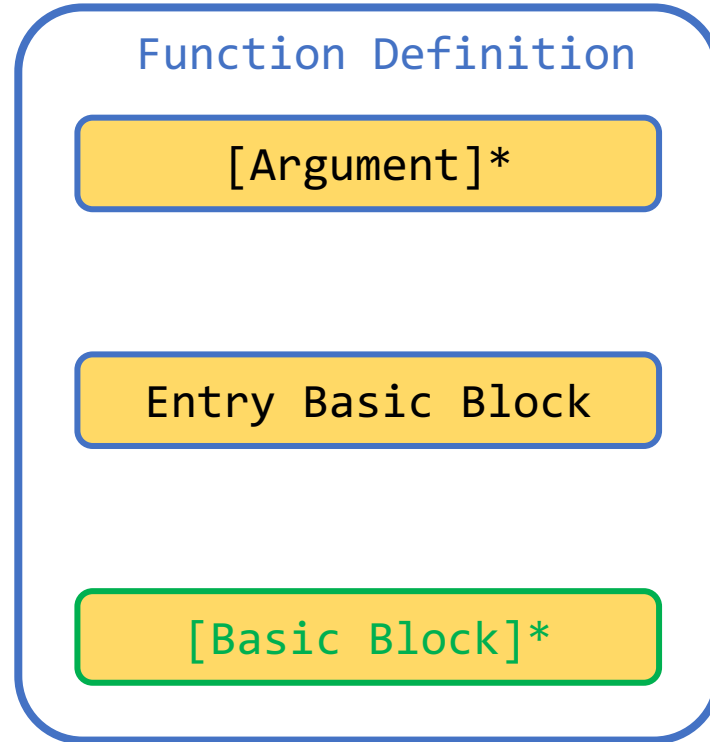
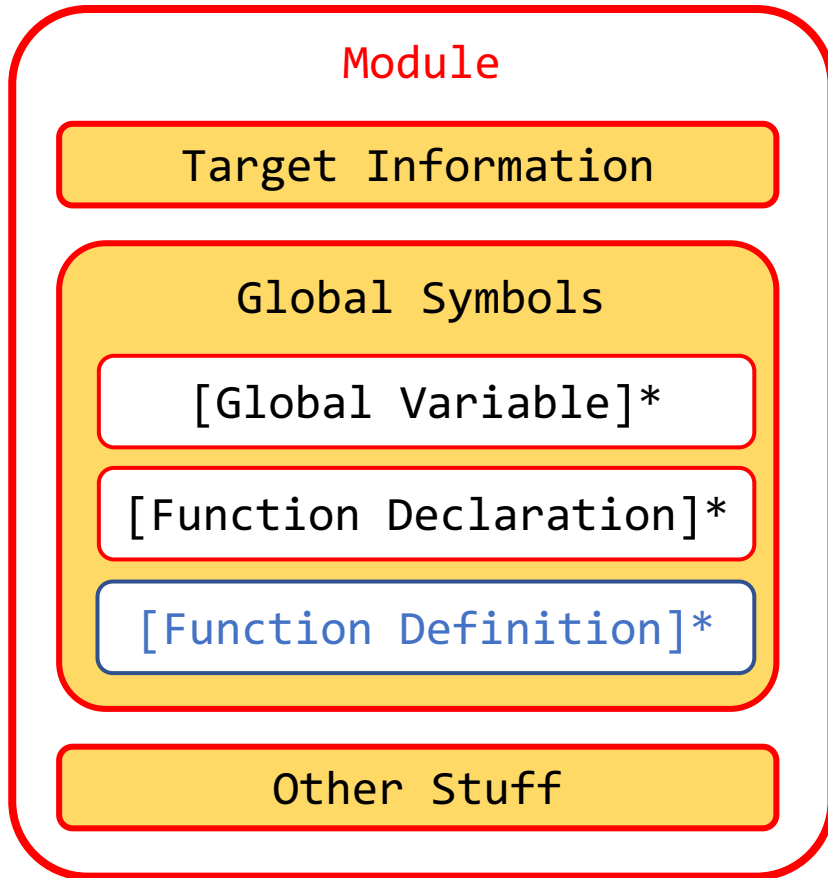
Function Definition

[Argument]*

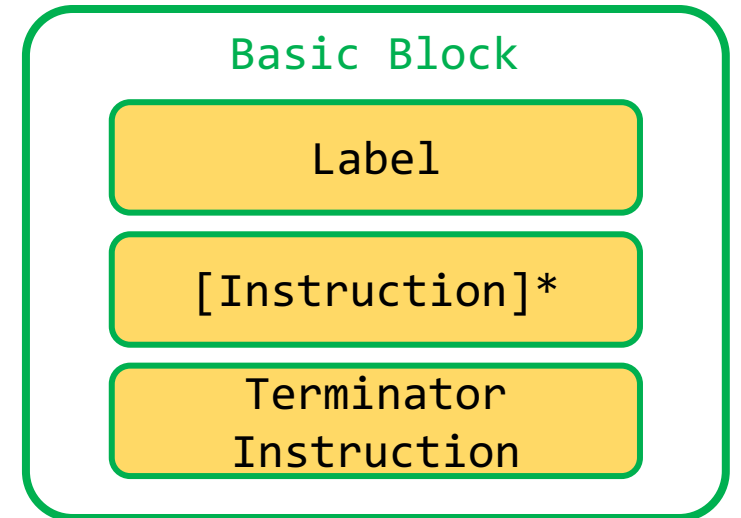
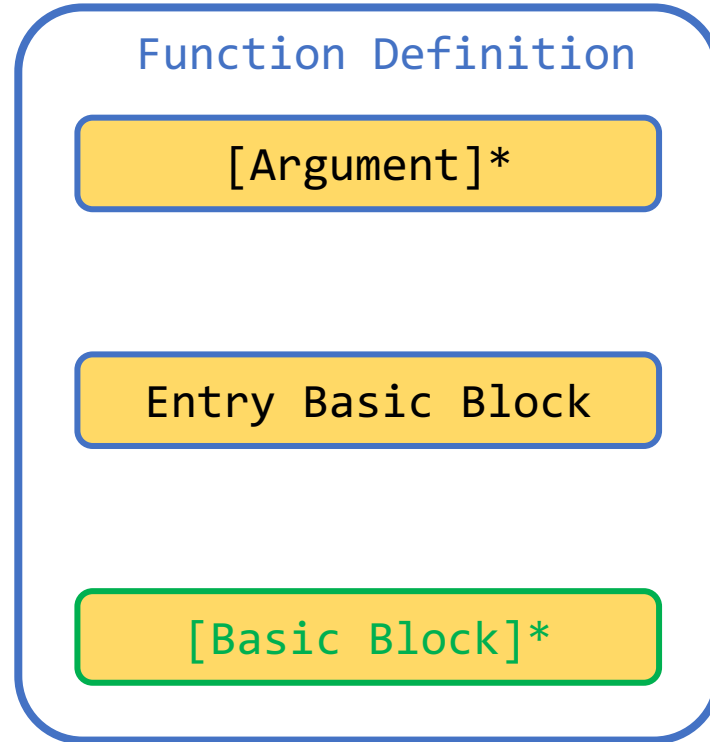
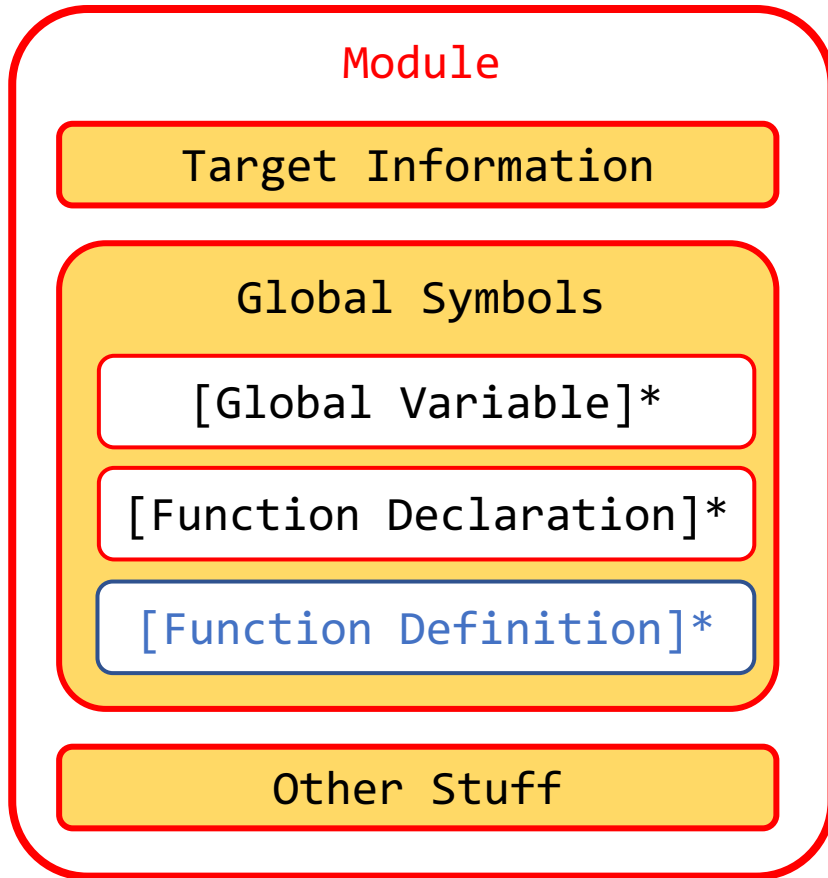
Entry Basic Block

[Basic Block]*

Simplified IR Layout

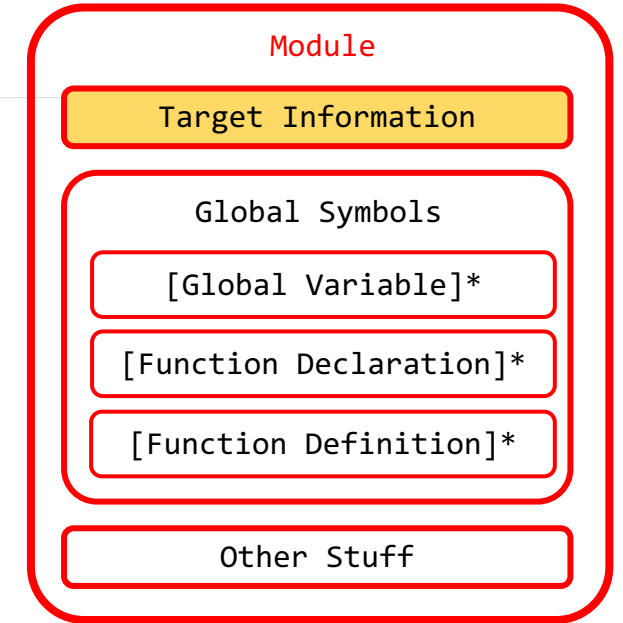


Simplified IR Layout



Target Information

A module may specify a target specific data layout string that specifies how data is to be laid out in memory:

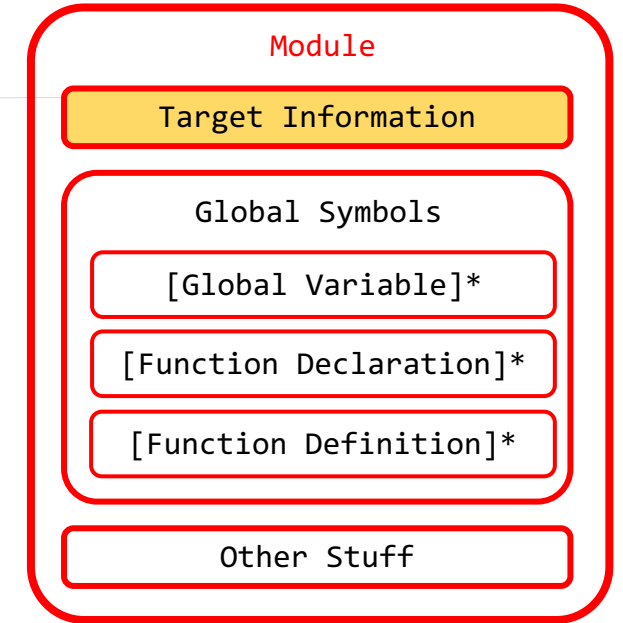


Little endian

target datalayout = "e-p:32:32-f64:32:64-f80:32-n8:16:32-S128"

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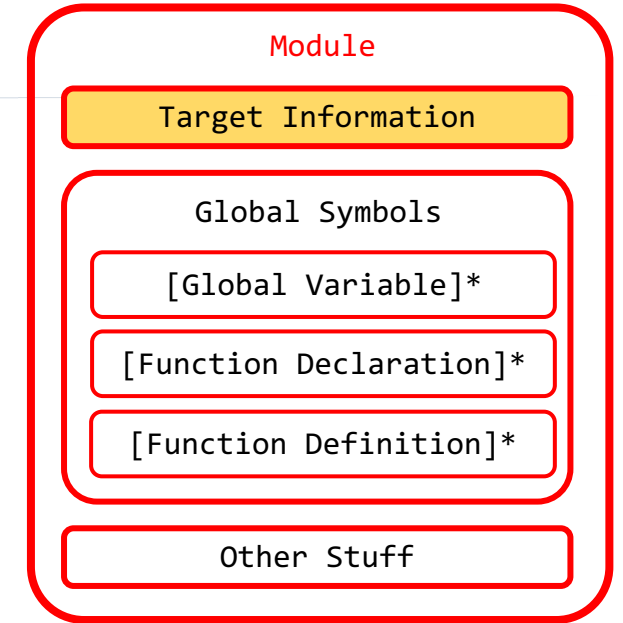
Little endian

Pointer size & alignment

```
target datalayout = "e-p:32:32-f64:32:64-f80:32-n8:16:32-S128"
```

Target Information

A module may specify a target specific data layout string that specifies how data is to be laid out in memory:



Little endian

Pointer size & alignment

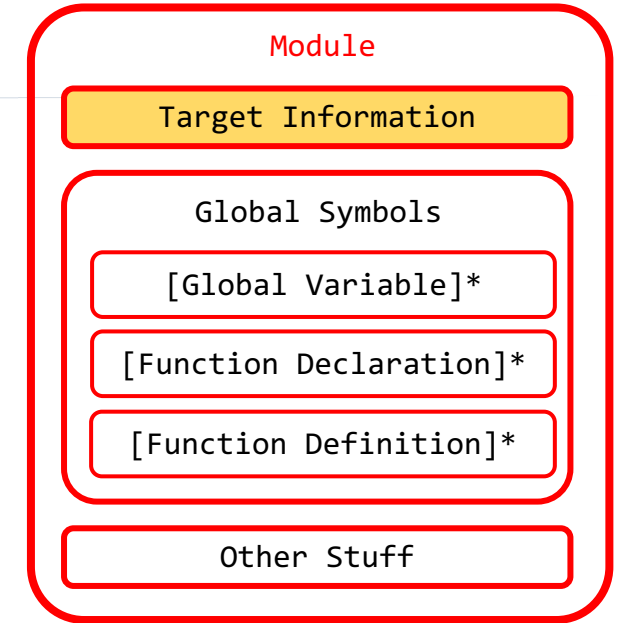
Floating-point size & alignment

target datalayout = "e-p:32:32-f64:32:64-f80:32-n8:16:32-S128"

The diagram shows the target datalayout string "e-p:32:32-f64:32:64-f80:32-n8:16:32-S128" with blue arrows pointing to specific parts. An arrow from "Little endian" points to the 'e' at the start. An arrow from "Pointer size & alignment" points to the "p:32:32" part. An arrow from "Floating-point size & alignment" points to the "f64:32:64" part. Brackets are drawn under the "p:32:32", "f64:32:64", and "n8:16:32" sections.

Target Information

A module may specify a target specific data layout string that specifies how data is to be laid out in memory:



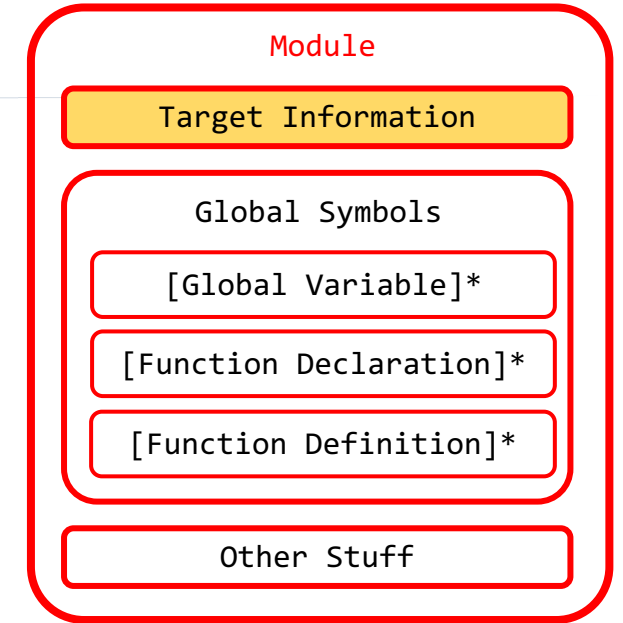
Little endian Pointer size & alignment Floating-point size & alignment Integer width

target datalayout = "e-p:32:32-f64:32:64-f80:32-n8:16:32-S128"

The diagram shows the target datalayout string "e-p:32:32-f64:32:64-f80:32-n8:16:32-S128" with blue arrows pointing to specific parts. "Little endian" points to the 'e'. "Pointer size & alignment" points to the 'p:32:32' part. "Floating-point size & alignment" points to the 'f64:32:64' and 'f80:32' parts. "Integer width" points to the 'n8:16:32' part.

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A module may specify a target specific data layout string that specifies how data is to be laid out in memory:



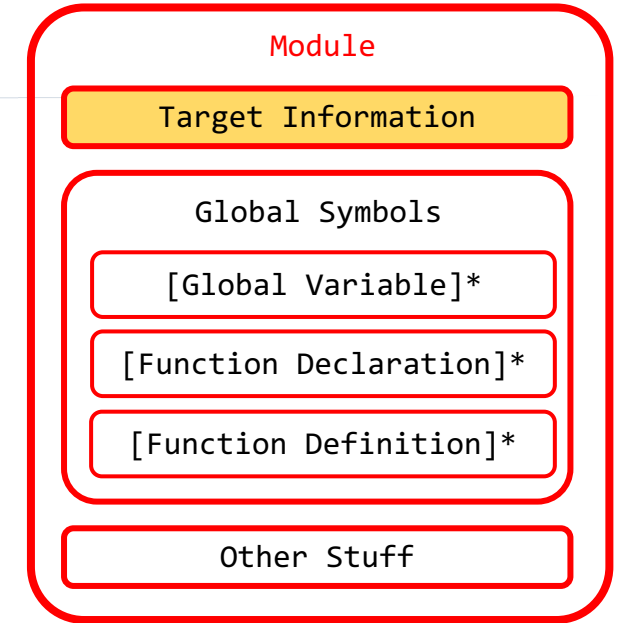
target datalayout = "e-p:32:32-f64:32:64-f80:32-n8:16:32-S128"

Annotations with arrows pointing to the string:

- Little endian (points to 'e')
- Pointer size & alignment (points to 'p:32:32')
- Floating-point size & alignment (points to 'f64:32:64')
- Integer width (points to 'n8:16:32')
- Stack nature alignment (points to 'S128')

Target Information

A module may also specify a target triple string that describes the target host:



target datalayout = "e-p:32:32-f64:32:64-f80:32-n8:16:32-S128"

target triple = "x86_64-apple-macosx10.7.0"

Annotations for target datalayout:

- Little endian (points to 'e')
- Pointer size & alignment (points to 'p:32:32')
- Floating-point size & alignment (points to 'f64:32:64')
- Integer width (points to 'n8:16:32')
- Stack nature alignment (points to 'S128')

Annotation for target triple:

- Architecture (points to 'x86_64')

Target Information

A module may also specify a target triple string that describes the target host:

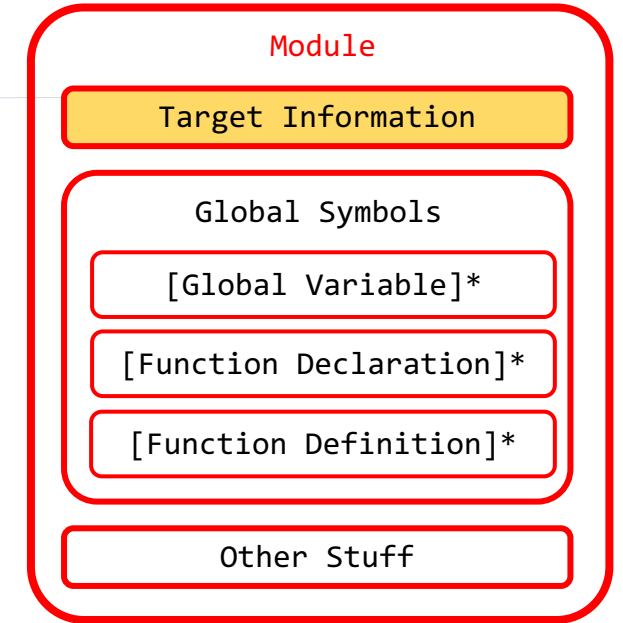


Diagram illustrating the components of a target triple string and data layout:

target datalayout = "e-p:32:32-f64:32:64-f80:32-n8:16:32-S128"

target triple = "x86_64-apple-macosx10.7.0"

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- Floating-point size & alignment (points to 'f64:32:64')
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Annotations for target triple:

- Architecture (points to 'x86_64')
- Vender (points to 'apple')

Target Information

A module may also specify a target triple string that describes the target host:

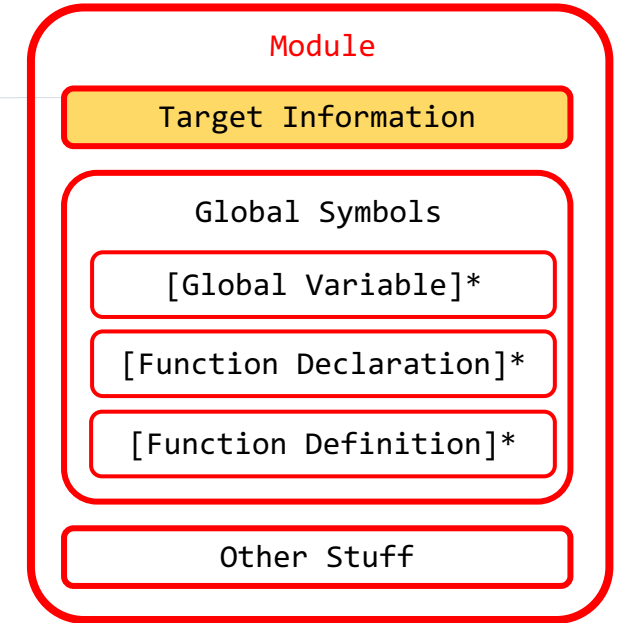


Diagram illustrating the components of a target triple string and data layout string:

target datalayout = "e-p:32:32-f64:32:64-f80:32-n8:16:32-S128"

Annotations for target datalayout:

- Little endian (points to 'e')
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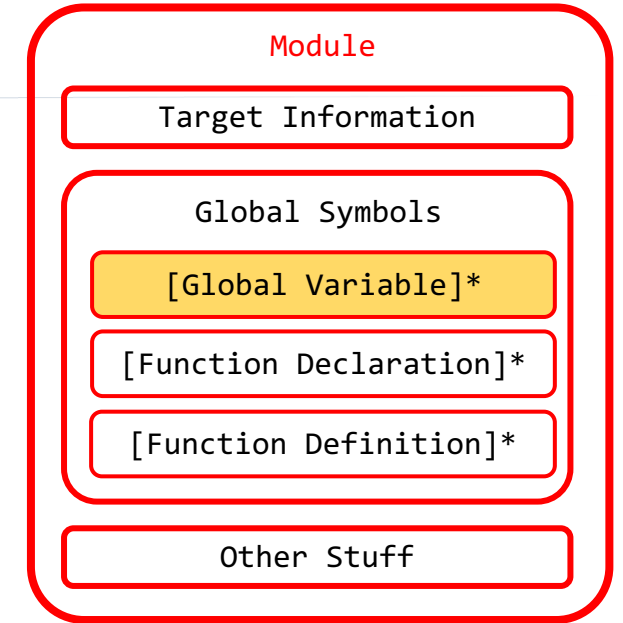
target triple = "x86_64-apple-macosx10.7.0"

Annotations for target triple:

- Architecture (points to 'x86_64')
- Vender (points to 'apple')
- OS (points to 'macosx10.7.0')

Global Variables

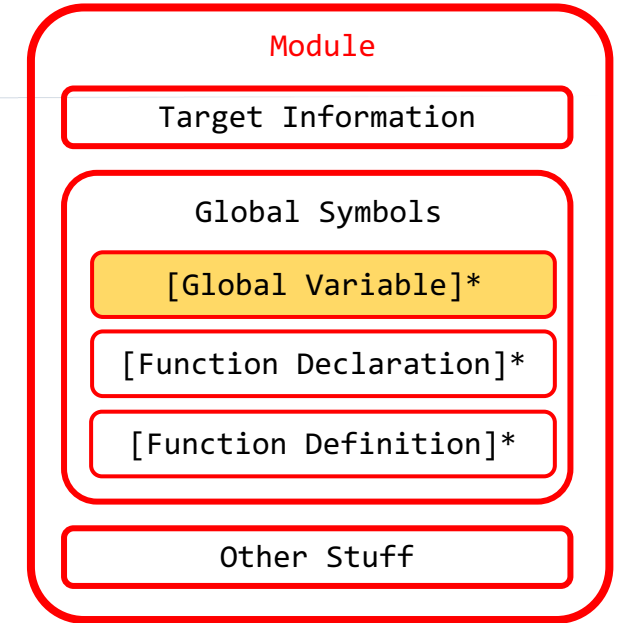
Global variables define regions of memory allocated at compilation time instead of run-time.



Global Variables

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- Name prefixed with “@” @gv =



Global Variables

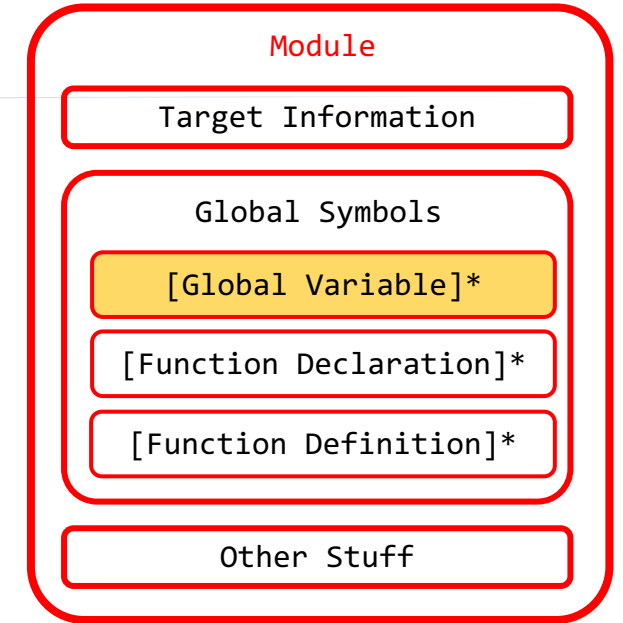
Global variables define regions of memory allocated at compilation time instead of run-time.

- Name prefixed with “@”
- Have the keyword **global**
 - xor **constant**

@gv =

@gv = **global**

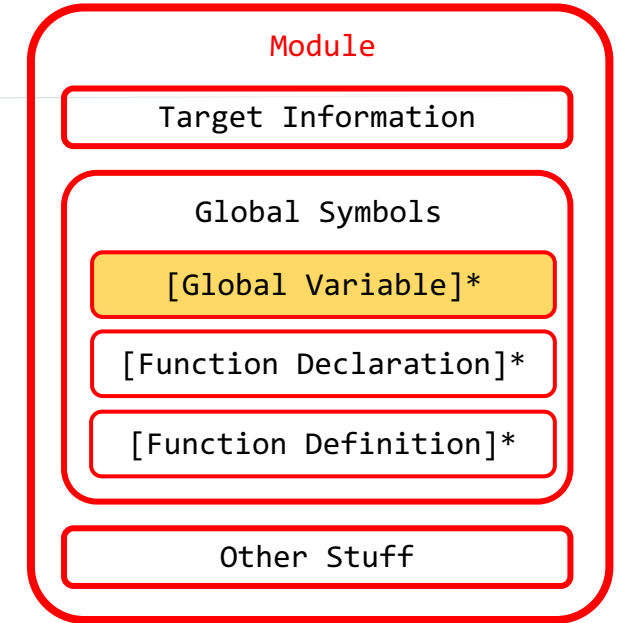
@gv = **constant**



Global Variables

Global variables define regions of memory allocated at compilation time instead of run-time.

- Name prefixed with “@”
`@gv =`
- Have the keyword `global`
`@gv = global`
- xor `constant`
`@gv = constant`
- Must have a type
`@gv = global i32`



Global Variables

Global variables define regions of memory allocated at compilation time instead of run-time.

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- Have the keyword **global**

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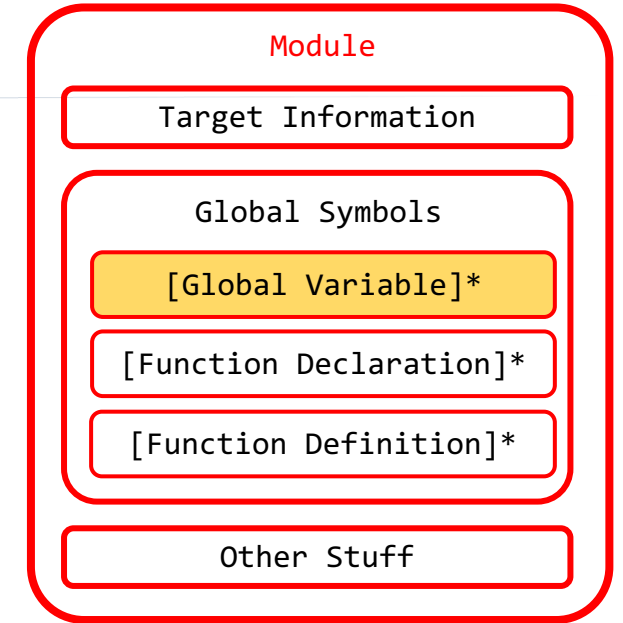
@gv = **constant**

- Must have a type

@gv = **global** i32

- Must be initialized

@gv = **global** i32 0xdeadbeef

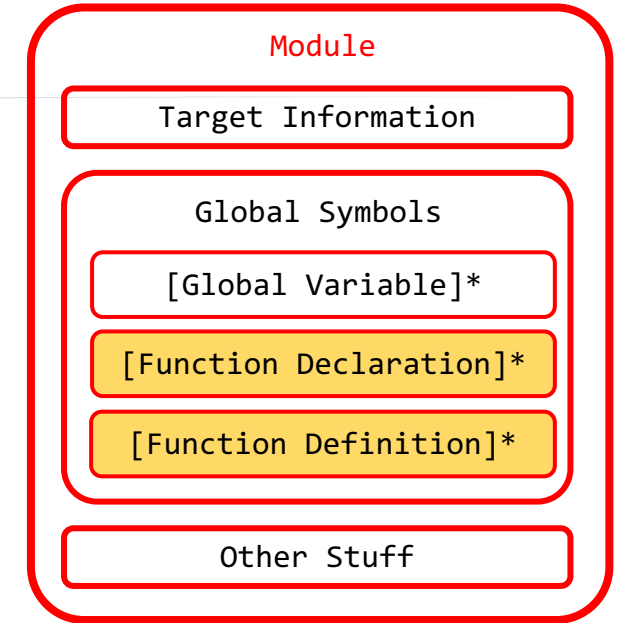


Functions

An example to compute factorial

```
int factorial(int val);

int main(){
    return factorial(5) * 6
        == factorial(6);
}
```



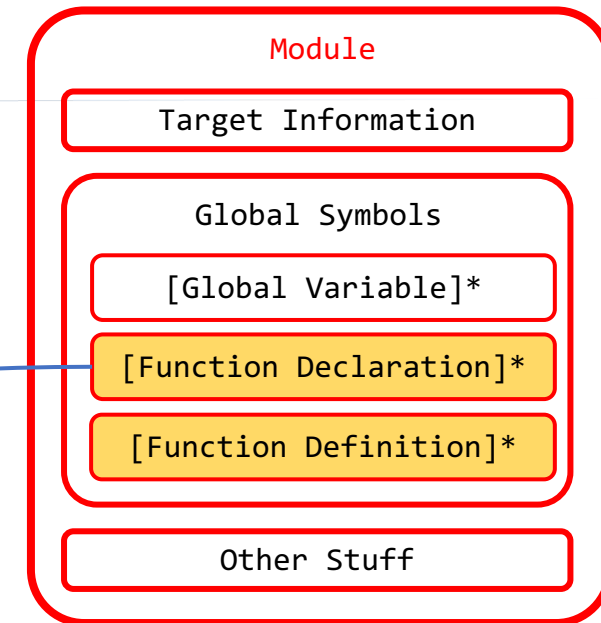
```
declare i32 @factorial(i32)
```

```
define i32 @main(){
    %0 = call i32 @factorial(i32 5)
    %1 = mul i32 %0, 6
    %2 = call i32 @factorial(i32 6)
    %3 = icmp eq i32 %1, %2
    %retval = zext i1 %3 to i32
    ret i32 %retval
}
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Functions

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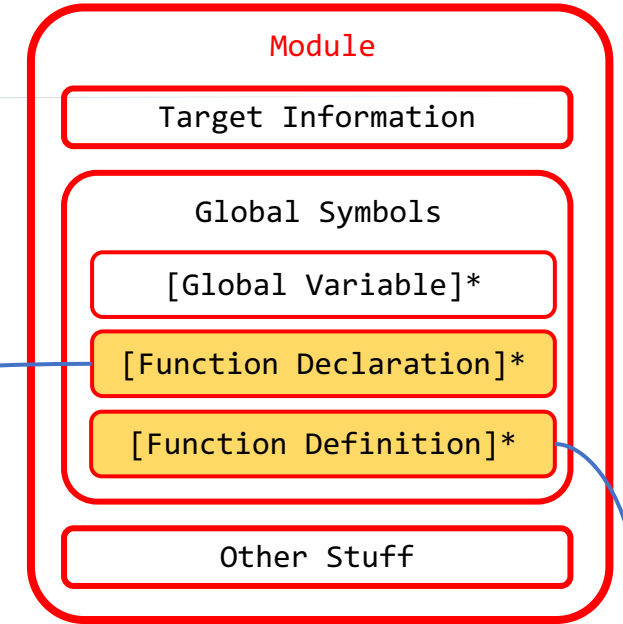
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}
```

Functions: Recursive Factorial

```
// val is non-negative
int factorial(int val){
    if (val == 0)
        return 1;
    return val * factorial(val-1);
}
```

```
define i32 @factorial(i32 %val){
entry:
    %cmp = icmp eq i32 %val, 0
    br i1 %cmp, label %return, label %if.end

if.end:
    %sub = add i32 %val, -1
    %call = call i32 @factorial(i32 %sub)
    %mul = mul i32 %call, %val
    br label %return

return:
    %retval = phi i32 [ %mul, %if.end ], [ 1, %entry ]
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}
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Function Definition

[Argument]*

Entry Basic Block

[Basic Block]*

Functions: Recursive Factorial

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Functions: Recursive Factorial

Function Definition

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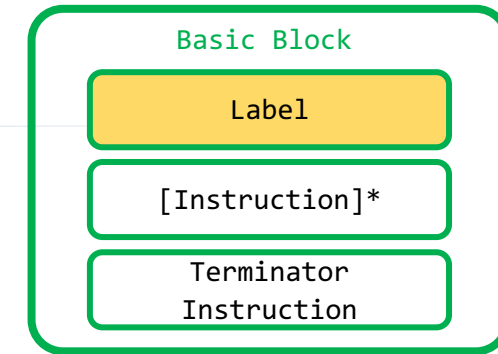
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    ret i32 %retval
}
```

Basic Blocks



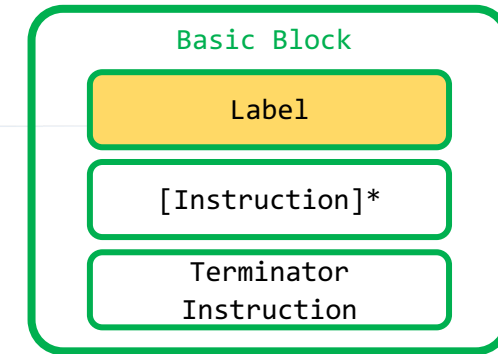
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Basic Blocks: Labels



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```

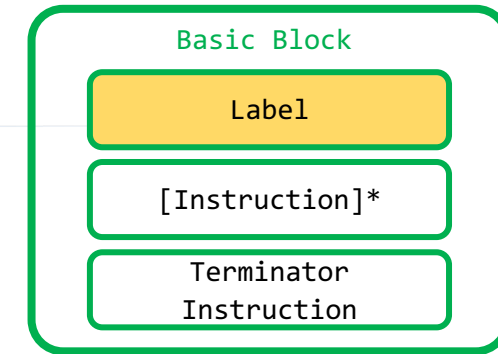
- Every Basic Block has a label

```
define i32 @factorial(i32 %val){
  entry:
    %cmp = icmp eq i32 %val, 0
    br i1 %cmp, label %return, label %if.end
```

```
  if.end:
    %sub = add i32 %val, -1
    %call = call i32 @factorial(i32 %sub)
    %mul = mul i32 %call, %val
    br label %return
```

```
  return:
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    ret i32 %retval
}
```

Basic Blocks: Labels



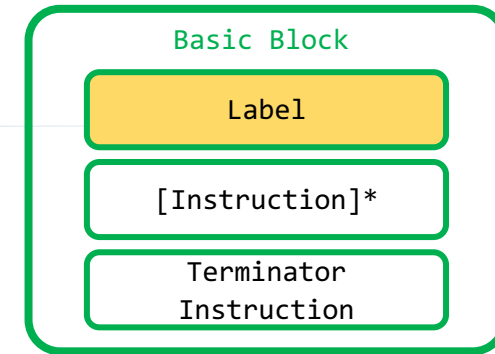
```
// val is non-negative
int factorial(int val){
    if (val == 0)
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}
```

- Every basic block has a label
- If it is not explicit

```
declare i32 @factorial(i32)
```

```
define i32 @main(){
    %0 = call i32 @factorial(i32 5)
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    %2 = call i32 @factorial(i32 6)
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    ret i32 %retval
}
```

Basic Blocks: Labels



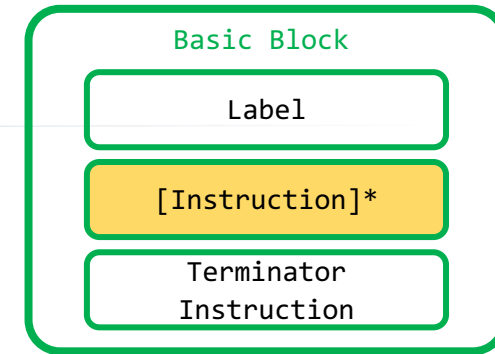
```
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int factorial(int val){
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}
```

- Every basic block has a label
- If it is not explicit
 - the compiler labels it with a number
 - starting from 0

```
declare i32 @factorial(i32)
```

```
define i32 @main(){
0: ; implicit
    %0 = call i32 @factorial(i32 5)
    %1 = mul i32 %0, 6
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```

Basic Blocks: Instructions



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// val is non-negative
int factorial(int val){
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```

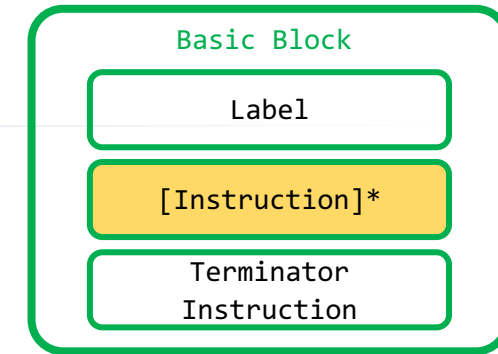
- Instructions fulfill basic operations.

```
define i32 @factorial(i32 %val){
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Basic Blocks: Instructions



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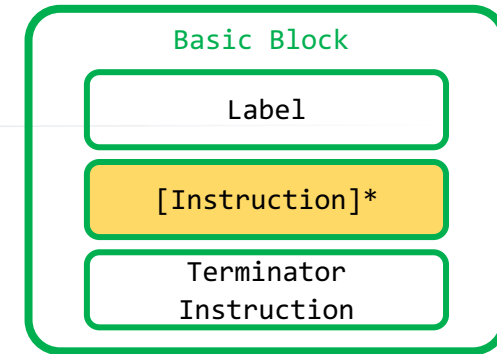
- Instructions fulfill basic operations.
 - arithmetic computation,

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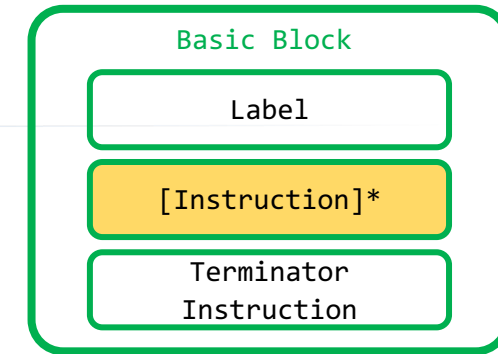
- Instructions fulfill basic operations.
 - arithmetic computation,
 - comparison, etc.

```
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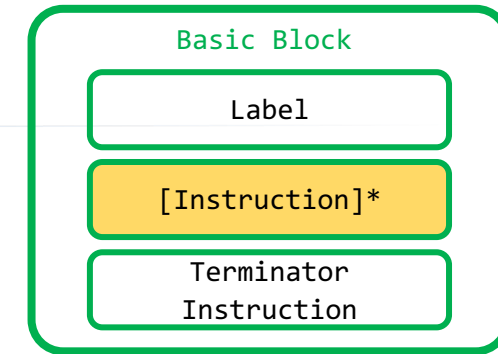
- Instructions fulfill basic operations.
 - arithmetic computation,
 - comparison, etc.
- Low-level language → “local” variables

```
define i32 @factorial(i32 %val){
entry:
    %cmp = icmp eq i32 %val, 0
    br i1 %cmp, label %return, label %if.end

if.end:
    %sub = add i32 %val, -1
    %call = call i32 @factorial(i32 %sub)
    %mul = mul i32 %call, %val
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return:
    %retval = phi i32 [ %mul, %if.end ], [ 1, %entry ]
    ret i32 %retval
}
```

Basic Blocks: Instructions



```
// val is non-negative
int factorial(int val){
    if (val == 0)
        return 1;
    return val * factorial(val-1);
}
```

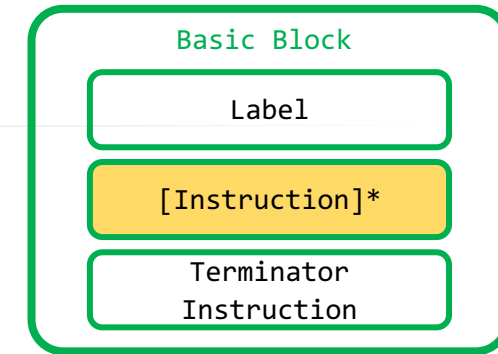
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Basic Blocks: Instructions



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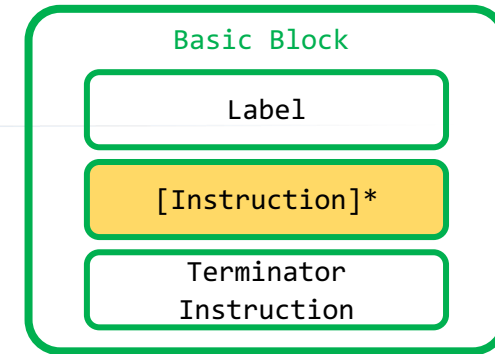
- Instructions fulfill basic operations.
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 - %<name>

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define i32 @factorial(i32 %val){
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```

Basic Blocks: Instructions



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// val is non-negative
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```

- Instructions fulfill basic operations.
 - arithmetic computation,
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 - %<name>
 - %<number>

```
declare i32 @factorial(i32)
```

```
define i32 @main(){
```

```
%0 = call i32 @factorial(i32 5)
```

```
%1 = mul i32 %0, 6
```

```
%2 = call i32 @factorial(i32 6)
```

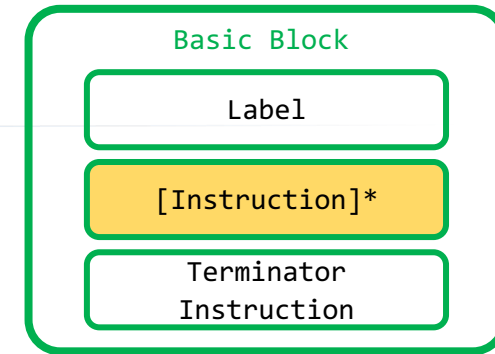
```
%3 = icmp eq i32 %1, %2
```

```
%retval = zext i1 %3 to i32
```

```
ret i32 %retval
```

```
}
```

Basic Blocks: Instructions



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int factorial(int val){
    if (val == 0)
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    return val * factorial(val-1);
}
```

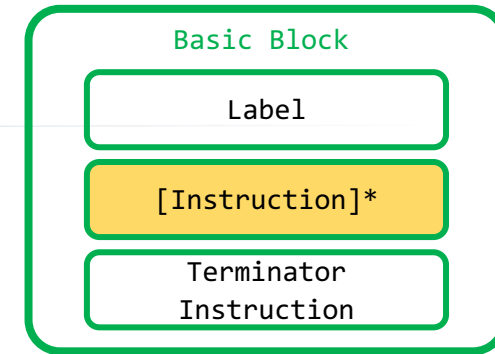
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 - Two flavors of names
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 - “LLVM IR has infinite registers”

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Basic Blocks: Instructions



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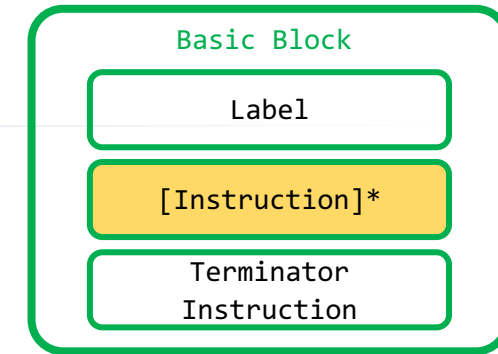
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}
```

- LLVM-IR is an SSA-based representation

Basic Blocks: Instructions



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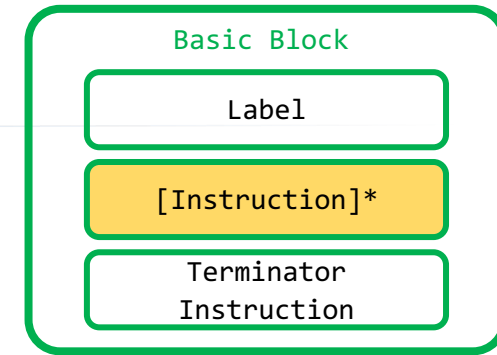
- LLVM-IR is an SSA-based representation
 - Static Single Assignment

```
define i32 @factorial(i32 %val){
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    %cmp = icmp eq i32 %val, 0
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}
```

Basic Blocks: Instructions



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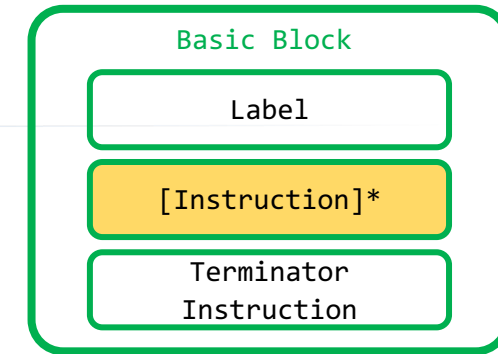
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}
```

- LLVM-IR is an SSA-based representation

- Static Single Assignment
- every variable is assigned exactly once
- ... is defined before it is used

Basic Blocks: Instructions



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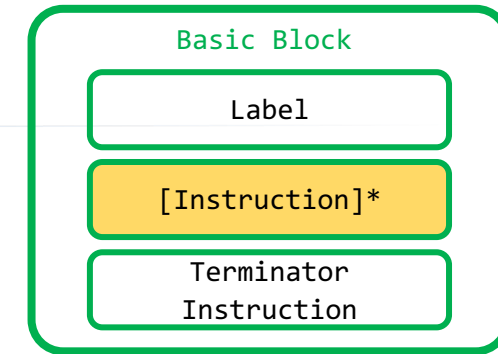
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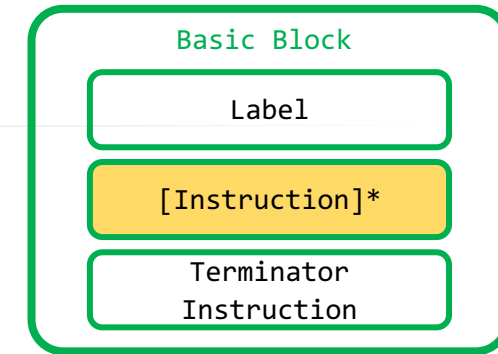
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Basic Blocks: Instructions



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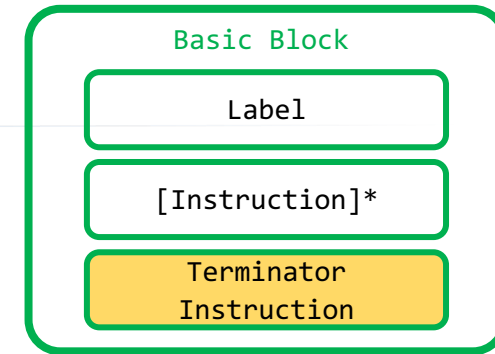
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return:
    %retval = phi i32 [ %mul, %if.end ], [ 1, %entry ]
    ret i32 %retval
}
```

Basic Blocks: Terminator Instructions



```
// val is non-negative
int factorial(int val){
    if (val == 0)
        return 1;
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}
```

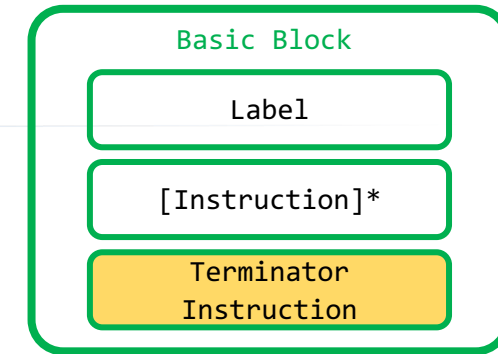
- Every basic block ends with a terminator instruction

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define i32 @factorial(i32 %val){
entry:
    %cmp = icmp eq i32 %val, 0
    br i1 %cmp, label %return, label %if.end

if.end:
    %sub = add i32 %val, -1
    %call = call i32 @factorial(i32 %sub)
    %mul = mul i32 %call, %val
    br label %return

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    %retval = phi i32 [ %mul, %if.end ], [ 1, %entry ]
    ret i32 %retval
}
```

Basic Blocks: Terminator Instructions



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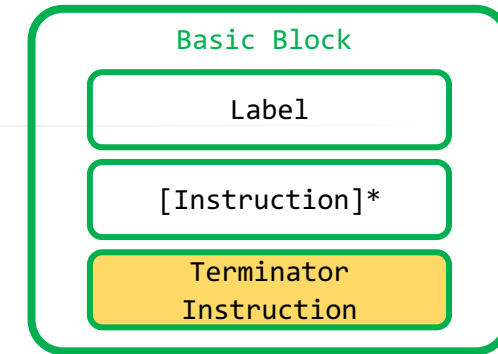
- Every basic block ends with a terminator instruction
 - `br`: branch
 - `ret`: return
 - `switch`: switch
 - exception handling instructions
 - ...

```
define i32 @factorial(i32 %val){
entry:
    %cmp = icmp eq i32 %val, 0
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if.end:
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    %call = call i32 @factorial(i32 %sub)
    %mul = mul i32 %call, %val
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Basic Blocks: Terminator Instructions



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- Every basic block ends with a terminator instruction
 - `br`: branch
 - `ret`: return
 - `switch`: switch
 - exception handling instructions
 - ...
- indicating the next bb to be executed

```
define i32 @factorial(i32 %val){
entry:
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    br i1 %cmp, label %return, label %if.end

if.end:
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    %call = call i32 @factorial(i32 %sub)
    %mul = mul i32 %call, %val
    br label %return

return:
    %retval = phi i32 [ %mul, %if.end ], [ 1, %entry ]
    ret i32 %retval
}
```

The LangRef is Helpful

- A tip of the iceberg



The LangRef is Helpful

- A tip of the iceberg
- Instructions often have **many** variants
 - **What else could a call instruction need?**



The LangRef is Helpful

'call' Instruction

Syntax: `%call = call i32 @factorial(i32 %sub)`

```
<result> = [tail | musttail | notail ] call [fast-math flags] [cconv] [ret attrs] [addrspc(<num>)]  
          <ty>|<fnty> <fnptrval>(<function args>) [fn attrs] [ operand bundles ]
```

Overview:

The 'call' instruction represents a simple function call.

The LangRef is Helpful

'call' Instruction

Syntax: %call = call i32 @factorial(i32 %sub)

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'call' Instruction

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Overview:

The 'call' instruction represents a simple function call.

The LangRef is Helpful

'call' Instruction

Syntax: `%call = call i32 @factorial(i32 %sub)`

```
<result> = [tail | musttail | notail ] call [fast-math flags] [cconv] [ret attrs] [addrspace(<num>)]  
          <ty> | <fnty> <fnptrval> (<function args>) [fn attrs] [ operand bundles ]
```

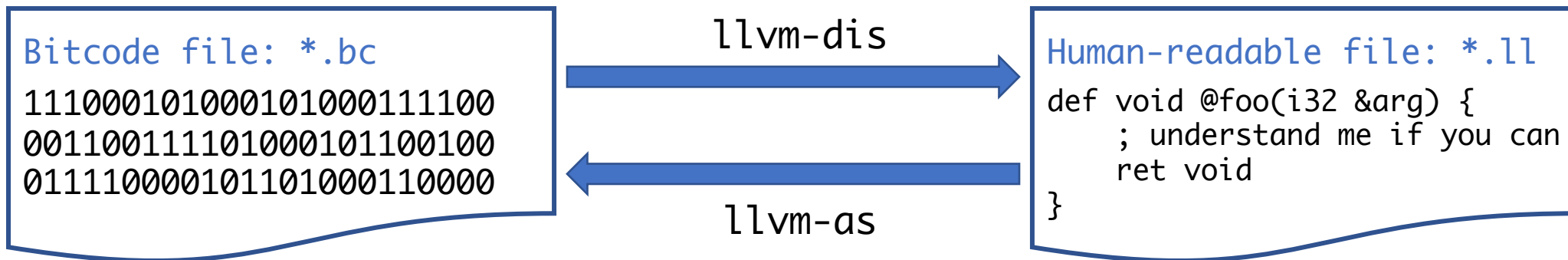
Overview:

The 'call' instruction represents a simple function call.

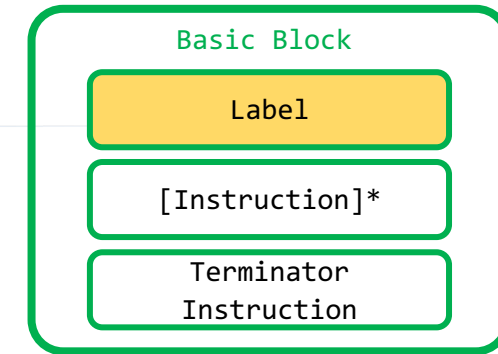
Summary

- LLVM-IR is an SSA-based representation
 - **providing the capability of representing high-level languages**
 - **enabling code optimization**
- LLVM Language Reference Manual
 - **well-documented**
 - **useful for self-teaching**
 - **just google it and enjoy the journey**

IR Representation



Basic Blocks: Labels



```
// val is non-negative
int factorial(int val){
    if (val == 0)
        return 1;
    return val * factorial(val-1);
}
```

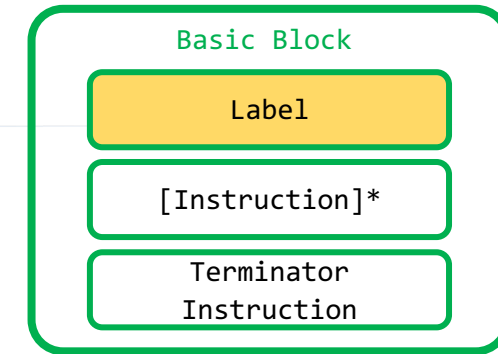
- Every basic block has a label
- If it is not explicit

```
define i32 @factorial(i32 %val){
entry:
    %cmp = icmp eq i32 %val, 0
    br i1 %cmp, label %return, label %if.end
```

```
if.end:
    %sub = add i32 %val, -1
    %call = call i32 @factorial(i32 %sub)
    %mul = mul i32 %call, %val
    br label %return
```

```
return:
    %retval = phi i32 [ %mul, %if.end ], [ 1, %entry ]
    ret i32 %retval
}
```

Basic Blocks: Labels



```
// val is non-negative
int factorial(int val){
    if (val == 0)
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}
```

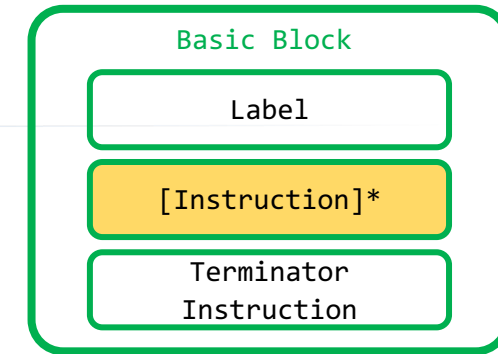
- Every basic block has a label
- If it is not explicit
 - the compiler labels it with numbers
 - starting from 0

```
define i32 @factorial(i32 %val){
entry: 0:
    %cmp = icmp eq i32 %val, 0
    br i1 %cmp, label %return, label %if.end

if.end:
    %sub = add i32 %val, -1
    %call = call i32 @factorial(i32 %sub)
    %mul = mul i32 %call, %val
    br label %return

return:
    %retval = phi i32 [ %mul, %if.end ], [ 1, %entry %0 ]
    ret i32 %retval
}
```

Basic Blocks: Instructions



```
// val is non-negative
int factorial(int val){
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        return 1;
    return val * factorial(val-1);
}
```

- Instructions fulfill basic operations.
 - arithmetic computation,
 - comparison, etc.
- Low-level language → “local” variables
 - Virtual registers
 - Two flavors of names
 - %<name>
 - %<number>

```
define i32 @factorial(i32 %val){
entry:
    %0 = icmp eq i32 %val, 0
    br i1 %0, label %return, label %if.end

if.end:
    %1 = add i32 %val, -1
    %2 = call i32 @factorial(i32 %1)
    %3 = mul i32 %1, %val
    br label %return

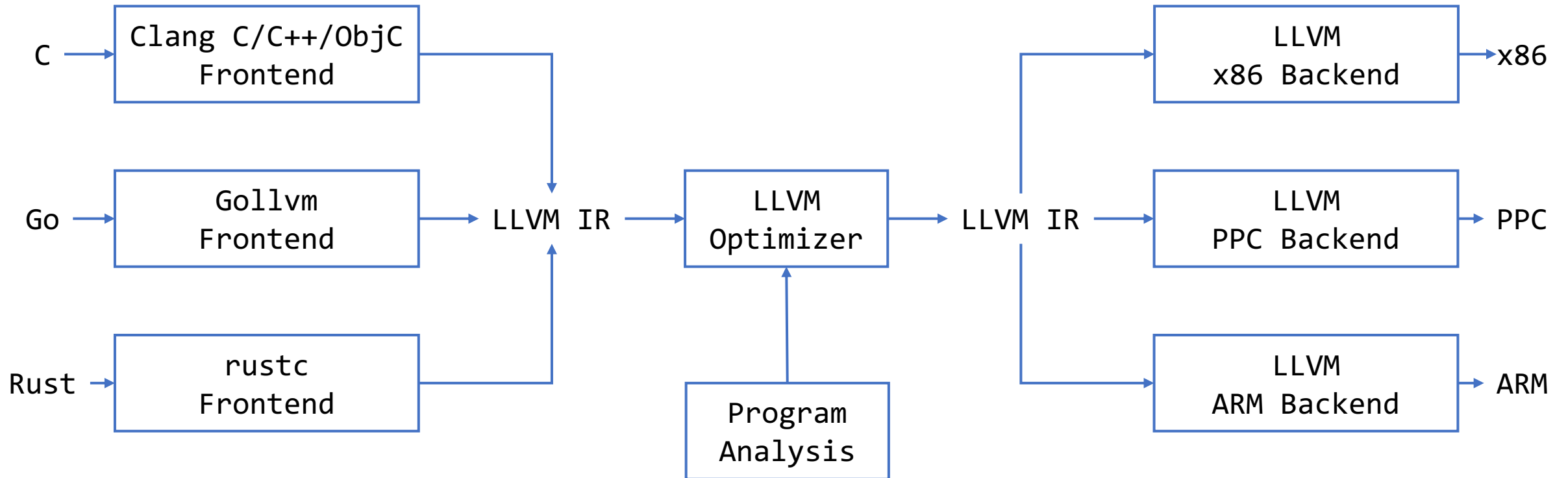
return:
    %4 = phi i32 [ %3, %if.end ], [ 1, %entry ]
    ret i32 4
}
```



Outline

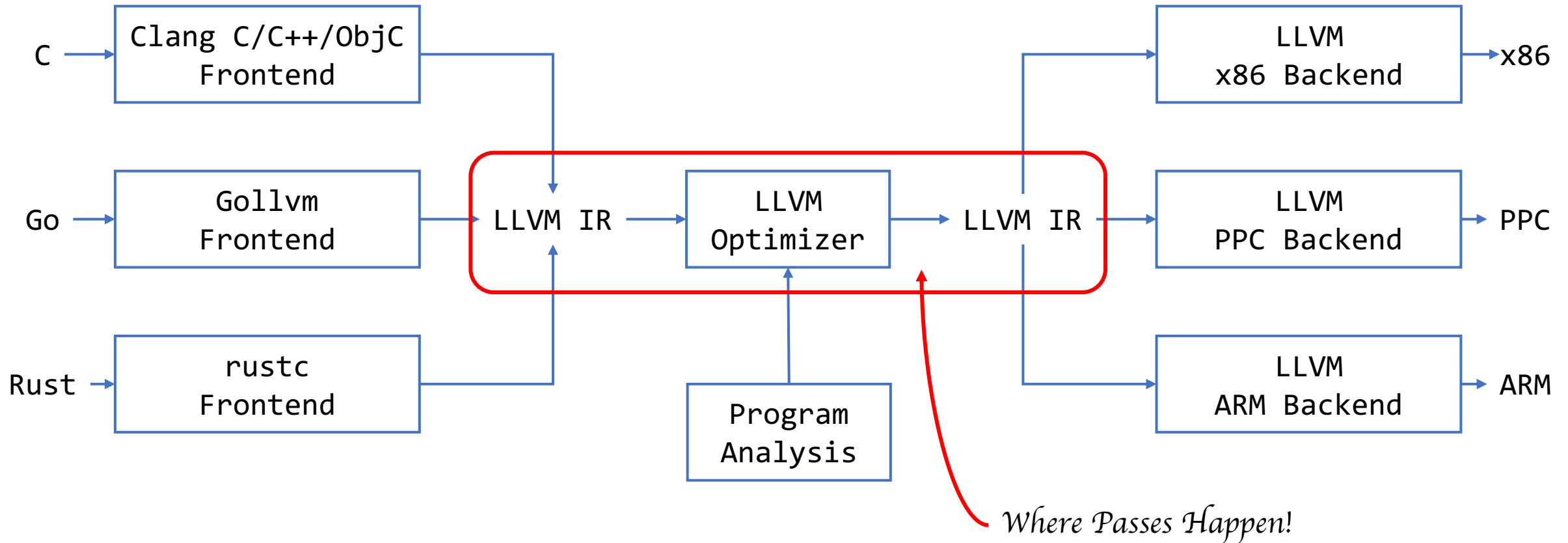
- Introduction to LLVM IR
- **Writing LLVM Passes**

What is a Pass?



What is a Pass?

- Passes perform the transformations and optimizations on LLVM-IR.

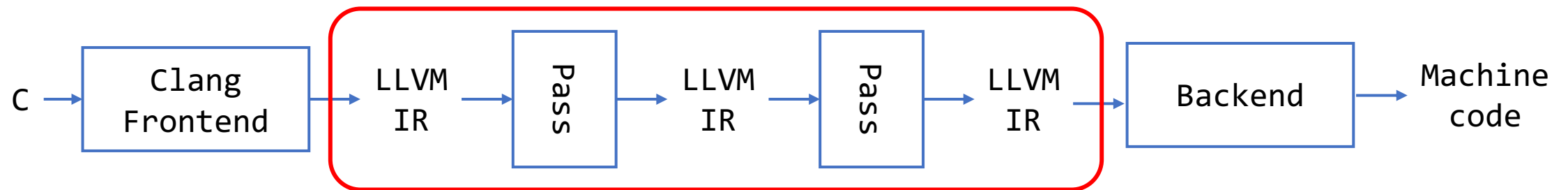


What is a Pass?

- Depending on how a pass works, it inherits from the classes of:
 - **ModulePass: using the entire program as a unit**
 - **CallGraphSCCPass: traversing the program bottom-up the call graph**
 - callees before callers
 - **FunctionPass: executing on each function independent of all others in a program**
 - **LoopPass: executing on each loop independent of all others in a function**
 - in loop nested order: outer most loop is processed last
 - **RegionPass: executing on each single entry single exit region in the function**
 - in nested order

What is a Pass?

- Passes perform the transformations and optimizations on LLVM-IR.



How to Implement a Pass?

- Assuming LLVM has been configured and built:
 1. **Write pass code (in C++)**
 2. **Set up a build script**
 3. **Run the pass**

How to Implement a Pass?

- Assuming LLVM has been configured and built:
 1. **Write pass code (in C++)**
 2. **Set up a build script**
 3. **Run the pass**

Start from Hello_world

```
#include "Llvm/Pass.h"
#include "Llvm/IR/Function.h"
#include "Llvm/Support/raw_ostream.h"
using namespace llvm;

...

namespace {
    struct Hello : public FunctionPass {
        static char ID; // Pass identification, replacement for typeid
        Hello() : FunctionPass(ID) {}

        bool runOnFunction(Function &F) override {
            errs() << "Hello: ";
            errs().write_escaped(F.getName()) << '\n';
            return false;
        }
    };
}

char Hello::ID = 0;
static RegisterPass<Hello> X("hello", "Hello World Pass");

...
```

Write Pass Code (in C++)

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#include "Llvm/Pass.h"
#include "Llvm/IR/Function.h"
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char Hello::ID = 0;
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...
```

`$(LLVM_HOME)/lib/Transforms/Hello`

Write Pass Code (in C++)

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} Analysis Code

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} Analysis Code

} Registration Code

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char Hello::ID = 0;
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#include "Llvm/Pass.h" // We're writing a Pass

#include "Llvm/IR/Function.h" // It operates on Functions

#include "Llvm/Support/raw_ostream.h" // We'll do some printing

using namespace llvm;
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Write Pass Code (in C++)

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// the llvm namespace
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// Hello is only visible to the current file
// Hello inherits from FunctionPass

// Declare the pass ID used by LLVM to identify
```


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```
bool runOnFunction(Function &F) override { // override the virtual method of FunctionPass

    errs() << "Hello: ";
    errs().write_escaped(F.getName()) << '\n'; // output the function name

    return false;
}
```

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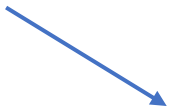
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Register the pass



```
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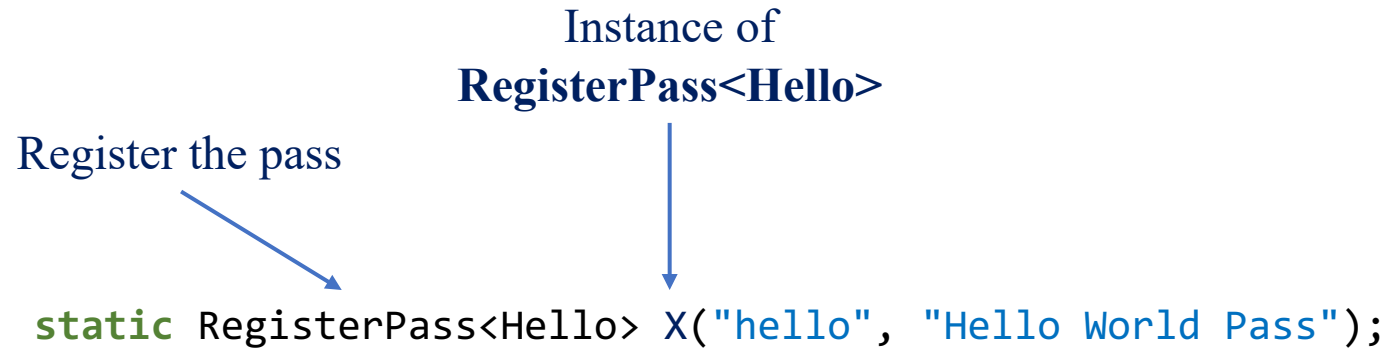
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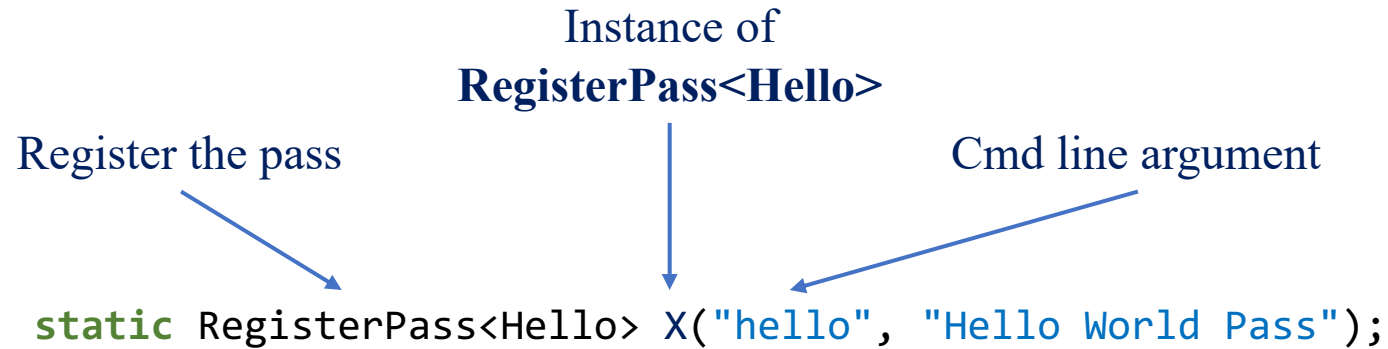


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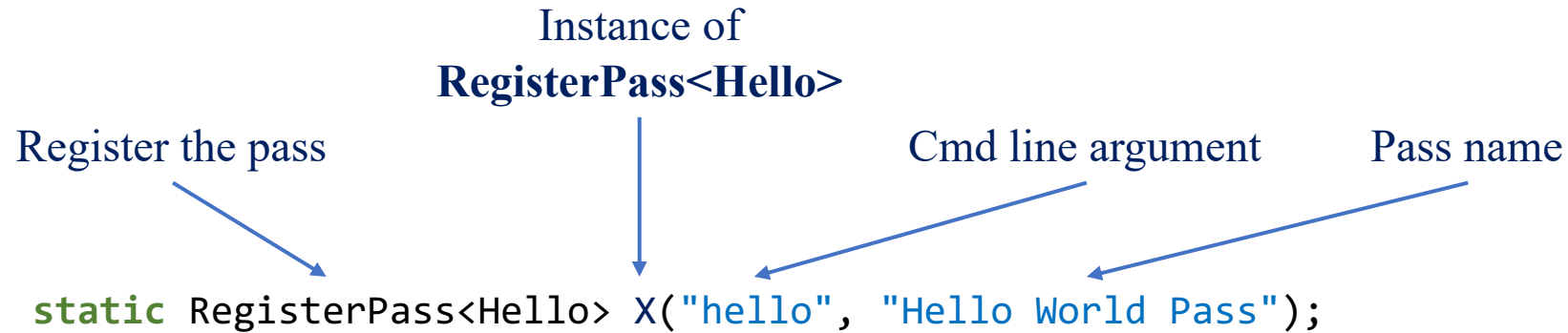


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How to Write a Pass?

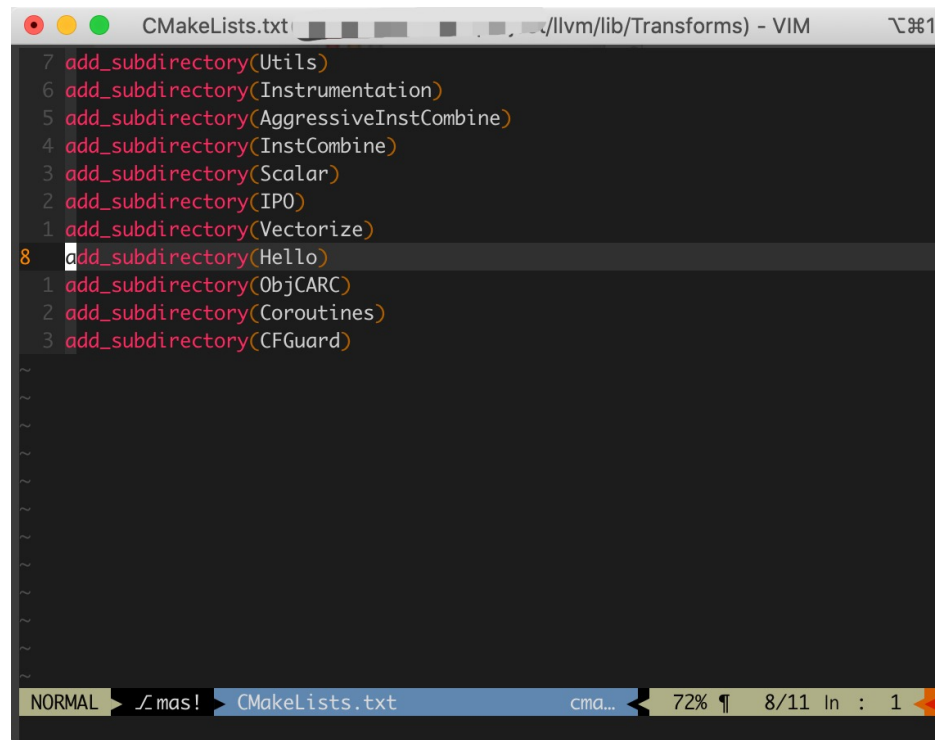
- Assuming LLVM has been configured and built:
 1. **Write pass code (in C++)**
 2. **Set up a build script**
 3. **Run the pass**

Set up a Build Script

- `$(LLVM_HOME)/lib/Transforms/CMakeLists.txt`
 - `add_subdirectory(Hello)`

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A screenshot of a VIM editor window titled 'CMakeLists.txt' with the path '/llvm/lib/Transforms) - VIM'. The editor shows a list of `add_subdirectory` calls. The current line is `add_subdirectory(Hello)`, which is highlighted in blue. The other lines are: `add_subdirectory(Utils)`, `add_subdirectory(Instrumentation)`, `add_subdirectory(AggressiveInstCombine)`, `add_subdirectory(InstCombine)`, `add_subdirectory(Scalar)`, `add_subdirectory(IPO)`, `add_subdirectory(Vectorize)`, `add_subdirectory(ObjCARC)`, `add_subdirectory(Coroutines)`, and `add_subdirectory(CFGuard)`. The status bar at the bottom shows 'NORMAL', a search bar with 'mas!', the filename 'CMakeLists.txt', a cursor icon, '72%' zoom, and '8/11 ln : 1'.

Set up a Build Script

- `$(LLVM_HOME)/lib/Transforms/CMakeLists.txt`
 - `add_subdirectory(Hello)`
- `$(LLVM_HOME)/lib/Transforms/Hello/CMakeLists.txt`

```
add_llvm_library( LLVMHello MODULE BUILDTREE_ONLY
  Hello.c

  DEPENDS
    intrinsics_gen
  PLUGIN_TOOL
    opt
)
```

Set up a Build Script

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```

build as a library →

source files →

as the plugin of opt {

library name →

How to Write a Pass?

- Assuming LLVM has been configured and built:
 1. **Write pass code (in C++)**
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Run a Pass with Opt

- `$ opt -load lib/LLVMHello.so -hello < factorial.ll > /dev/null`

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load pass as a shared library

Run a Pass with Opt

- `$ opt -load lib/LLVMHello.so -hello < factorial.ll > /dev/null`



Pass file path

Run a Pass with Opt

- `$ opt -load lib/LLVMHello.so -hello < factorial.ll > /dev/null`



Command line argument

Run a Pass with Opt

- `$ opt -load lib/LLVMHello.so -hello < factorial.ll > /dev/null`



Target IR file

Run a Pass with Opt

- `$ opt -load lib/LLVMHello.so -hello < factorial.ll > /dev/null`

```
int factorial(int val);

int main(){
    return factorial(5) * 6
        == factorial(6);
}
```

```
declare i32 @factorial(i32)

define i32 @main(){
    %0 = call i32 @factorial(i32 5)
    %1 = mul i32 %0, 6
    %2 = call i32 @factorial(i32 6)
    %3 = icmp eq i32 %1, %2
    %retval = zext i1 %3 to i32
    ret i32 %retval
}
```

Run a Pass with Opt

- `$ opt -load lib/LLVMHello.so -hello < factorial.ll > /dev/null`

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int factorial(int val);

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    return factorial(5) * 6
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}
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Hello: factorial
Hello: main

```
declare i32 @factorial(i32)

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    ret i32 %retval
}
```

Legacy vs. New



Chandler Carruth @chandlerc1024 · 2017年10月18日

Just in time for the 2017 #LLVM dev meeting, I've sent out an RFC for switching the default to the new pass manager!

lists.llvm.org/pipermail/llvm...



2



7



40



Legacy vs. New

```
#include "LLvm/Pass.h"
#include "LLvm/IR/Function.h"
#include "LLvm/Support/raw_ostream.h"
using namespace llvm;

...

namespace {
    struct Hello : public FunctionPass {
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        bool runOnFunction(Function &F) override {
            errs() << "Hello: ";
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            return false;
        }
    };
}

char Hello::ID = 0;
static RegisterPass<Hello> X("hello", "Hello World
Pass");

...
```

```
#include "LLvm/IR/PassManager.h"
#include "LLvm/Passes/PassBuilder.h"
#include "LLvm/Passes/PassPlugin.h"
#include "LLvm/Support/raw_ostream.h"
using namespace llvm;

namespace {
    struct Hello : public PassInfoMixin<Hello> {
        PreservedAnalyses run(Function &F, FunctionAnalysisManager &FAM) {
            errs() << "Hello: ";
            errs().write_escaped(F.getName()) << '\n';
            return PreservedAnalyses::all();
        }
    };
}

extern "C" ::llvm::PassPluginLibraryInfo LLVM_ATTRIBUTE_WEAK
llvmGetPassPluginInfo() {
    return {
        LLVM_PLUGIN_API_VERSION, "Hello", "v0.1",
        [] (PassBuilder &PB) {
            PB.registerPipelineParsingCallback(
                [] (StringRef PassName, FunctionPassManager &FPM,
                    ArrayRef<PassBuilder::PipelineElement>) {
                    if (PassName == "Hello"){
                        FPM.addPass(Hello());
                        return true;
                    }
                    return false;
                });
        });
    };
};
```

Legacy vs. New

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Legacy vs. New

- Legacy: new passes should be the subclasses of the defined ones

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Summary

- With LLVM passes, we could implement analysis to transform or optimize the IR code
- There are two styles of pass managers

