Workshop on Essential Abstractions in GCC

GCC Control Flow and Plugins

GCC Resource Center
(www.cse.iitb.ac.in/grc)

Department of Computer Science and Engineering,
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

1 July 2012

Outline

- Motivation
- Plugins in GCC
- GCC Control Flow
- Link time optimization in GCC
- Conclusions

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Outline

Notes

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Part 1

Motivation

Notes

Module Binding Mechanisms

- The need for adding, removing, and maintaining modules relatively independently
- The mechanism for supporting this is called by many names:
  - Plugin, hook, callback, ...
  - Sometimes it remains unnamed (eg. compilers in gcc driver)
- It may involve
  - Minor changes in the main source
    Requires static linking
    We call this a static plugin
  - No changes in the main source
    Requires dynamic linking
    We call this a dynamic plugin

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Module Binding Mechanisms

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Plugin as a Module Binding Mechanisms

- We view plugin at a more general level than the conventional view
  Adjectives "static" and "dynamic" create a good contrast
- Most often a plugin in a C based software is a data structure containing function pointers and other related information

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Plugin as a Module Binding Mechanisms

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Static Vs. Dynamic Plugins

- Static plugin requires static linking
  - Changes required in `gcc/Makefile.in`, some header and source files
  - At least `cc1` may have to be rebuild
    All files that include the changed headers will have to be recompiled
- Dynamic plugin uses dynamic linking
  - Supported on platforms that support `-ldl -rdynamic`
  - Loaded using `dlopen` and invoked at pre-determined locations in the compilation process
  - Command line option

    `-fplugin=/path/to/name.so`

    Arguments required can be supplied as name-value pairs

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Static Vs. Dynamic Plugins

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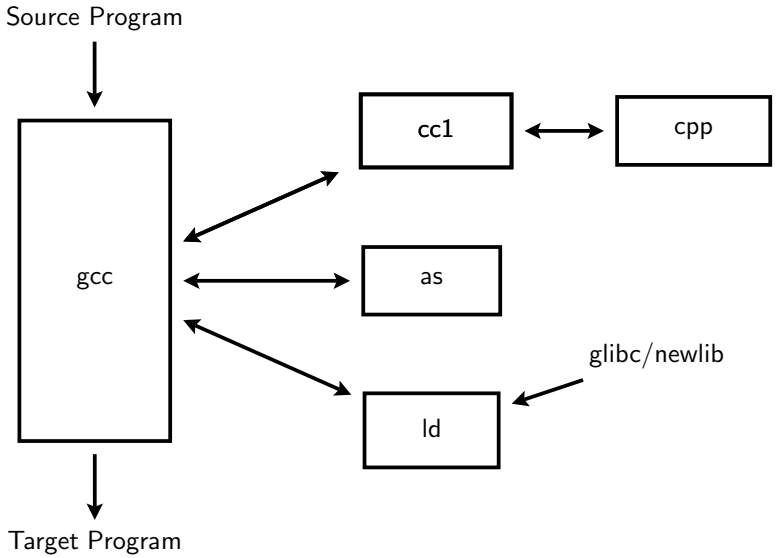
Static Plugins in the GCC Driver



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Static Plugins in the GCC Driver

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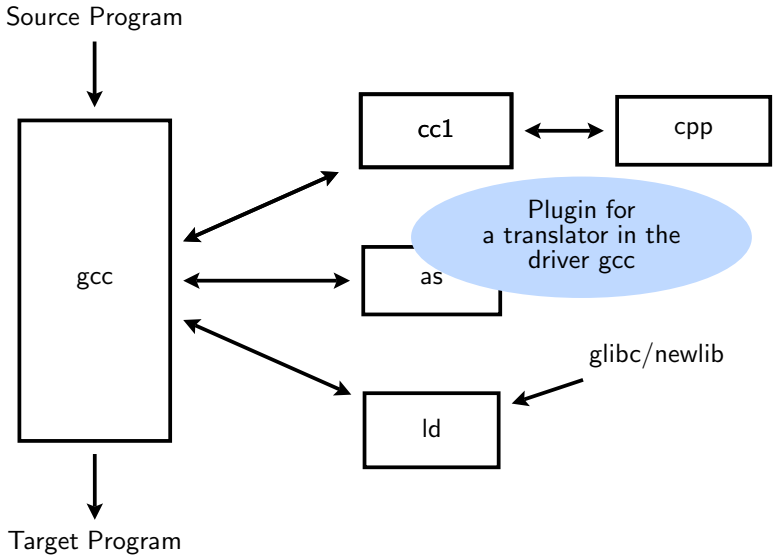
Static Plugins in the GCC Driver



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Static Plugins in the GCC Driver

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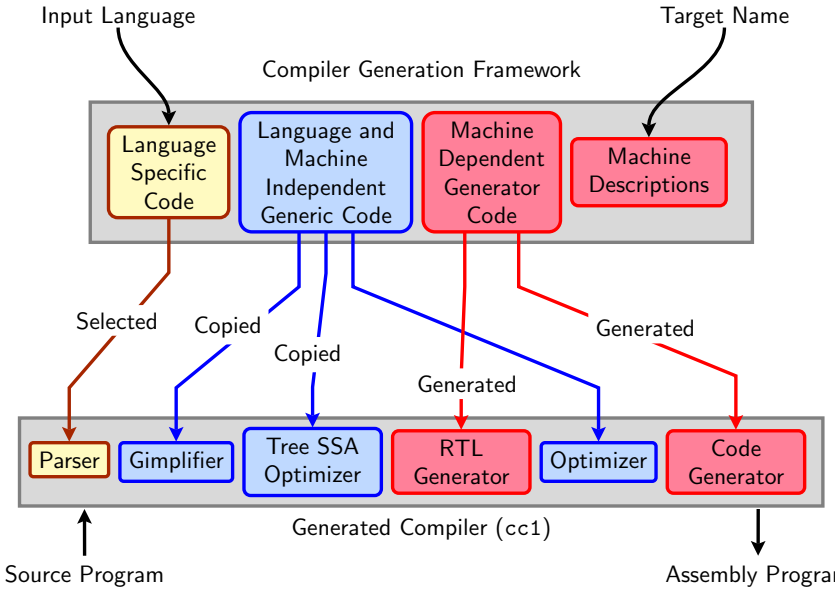
Static Plugins in the Generated Compiler



Static Plugins in the Generated Compiler

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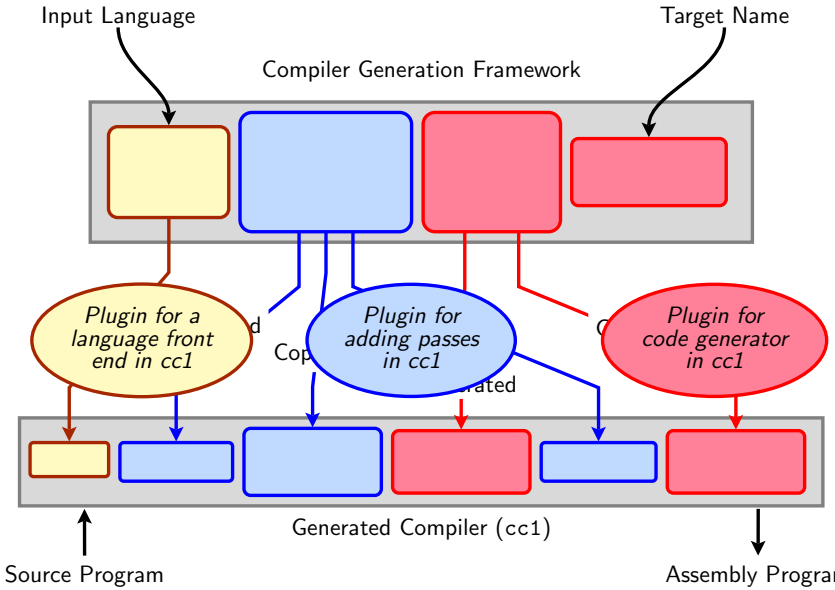
Static Plugins in the Generated Compiler



Static Plugins in the Generated Compiler

Notes

Part 2

Static Plugins in GCC

Notes

GCC's Solution

Plugin	Implementation	
	Data Structure	Initialization
Translator in `gcc`	Array of C structures	Development time
Front end in `cc1`	C structure	Build time
Passes in `cc1`	Linked list of C structures	Development time
Back end in `cc1`	Arrays of structures	Build time

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GCC's Solution

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Plugin Data Structure in the GCC Driver

```
struct compiler
{
  const char *suffix;     /* Use this compiler for input files
                             whose names end in this suffix.  */

  const char *spec;       /* To use this compiler, run this spec. */

  const char *cpp_spec;   /* If non-NULL, substitute this spec
                             for '%C', rather than the usual
                             cpp_spec.  */
  const int combinable;   /* If nonzero, compiler can deal with
                             multiple source files at once (IMA).  */
  const int needs_preprocessing;
                          /* If nonzero, source files need to
                             be run through a preprocessor.  */
};
```

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Plugin Data Structure in the GCC Driver

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Default Specs in the Plugin Data Structure in `gcc.c`

All entries of Objective C/C++ and some entries of Fortran removed.

```
static const struct compiler default_compilers[] =
{
  {".cc", "#C++", 0, 0, 0},        {".cxx", "#C++", 0, 0, 0},
  {".cpp", "#C++", 0, 0, 0},       {".cp", "#C++", 0, 0, 0},
  {".c++", "#C++", 0, 0, 0},       {".C", "#C++", 0, 0, 0},
  {".CPP", "#C++", 0, 0, 0},       {".ii", "#C++", 0, 0, 0},
  {".ads", "#Ada", 0, 0, 0},       {".adb", "#Ada", 0, 0, 0},
  {".f", "#Fortran", 0, 0, 0},     {".F", "#Fortran", 0, 0, 0},
  {".for", "#Fortran", 0, 0, 0},   {".FOR", "#Fortran", 0, 0, 0},
  {".f90", "#Fortran", 0, 0, 0},   {".F90", "#Fortran", 0, 0, 0},
  {".p", "#Pascal", 0, 0, 0},      {".pas", "#Pascal", 0, 0, 0},
  {".java", "#Java", 0, 0, 0},     {".class", "#Java", 0, 0, 0},
  {".c", "@c", 0, 1, 1},
  {".h", "@c-header", 0, 0, 0},
  {".i", "@cpp-output", 0, 1, 0},
  {".s", "@assembler", 0, 1, 0}
}
```

- `@`: Aliased entry
- `#`: Default specs not available

Notes

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Default Specs in the Plugin Data Structure in `gcc.c`

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Complete Entry for C in gcc.c

```
  {"@c",
   /* cc1 has an integrated ISO C preprocessor.  We should invoke the
      external preprocessor if -save-temps is given.  */
     "%{E|M|MM:%(trad_capable_cpp) %(cpp_options) %(cpp_debug_options)}\
      %{!E:%{!M:%{!MM:\
          %{traditional|ftraditional:\
%eGNU C no longer supports -traditional without -E}\
       %{!combine:\
  %{save-temps|traditional-cpp|no-integrated-cpp:%(trad_capable_cpp) \
%(cpp_options) -o %{save-temps:%b.i} %{!save-temps:%g.i} \n\
    cc1 -fpreprocessed %{save-temps:%b.i} %{!save-temps:%g.i} \
%(cc1_options)}\
  %{!save-temps:%{!traditional-cpp:%{!no-integrated-cpp:\
cc1 %(cpp_unique_options) %(cc1_options)}}}\
          %{!fsyntax-only:%(invoke_as)}} \
      %{combine:\
  %{save-temps|traditional-cpp|no-integrated-cpp:%(trad_capable_cpp) \
%(cpp_options) -o %{save-temps:%b.i} %{!save-temps:%g.i}}\
  %{!save-temps:%{!traditional-cpp:%{!no-integrated-cpp:\
cc1 %(cpp_unique_options) %(cc1_options)}}\
                %{!fsyntax-only:%(invoke_as)}}}}}}", 0, 1, 1},
```

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Complete Entry for C in gcc.c

Notes

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Populated Plugin Data Structure for C++: gcc/cp/lang-specs.h

```
  {".cc",  "@c++", 0, 0, 0},
  {".cp",  "@c++", 0, 0, 0},
  {".cxx", "@c++", 0, 0, 0},
  {".cpp", "@c++", 0, 0, 0},
  {".c++", "@c++", 0, 0, 0},
  {".C",   "@c++", 0, 0, 0},
  {".CPP", "@c++", 0, 0, 0},
  {".H",   "@c++-header", 0, 0, 0},
  {".hpp", "@c++-header", 0, 0, 0},
  {".hp",  "@c++-header", 0, 0, 0},
  {".hxx", "@c++-header", 0, 0, 0},
  {".h++", "@c++-header", 0, 0, 0},
  {".HPP", "@c++-header", 0, 0, 0},
  {".tcc", "@c++-header", 0, 0, 0},
  {".hh",  "@c++-header", 0, 0, 0},
```

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Populated Plugin Data Structure for C++: gcc/cp/lang-specs.h

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Populated Plugin Data Structure for C++: gcc/cp/lang-specs.h

```
  {"@c++-header",
    "%{E|M|MM:cc1plus -E %(cpp_options) %2 %(cpp_debug_options)}\
     %{!E:%{!M:%{!MM:\
       %{save-temps|no-integrated-cpp:cc1plus -E\
%(cpp_options) %2 -o %{save-temps:%b.ii} %{!save-temps:%g.ii} \n}\
      cc1plus %{save-temps|no-integrated-cpp:-fpreprocessed %{save-temps:%b.ii} %{!save
      %{!save-temps:%{!no-integrated-cpp:%(cpp_unique_options)}}\
%(cc1_options) %2\
%{!fsyntax-only:%{!fdump-ada-spec*:-o %g.s %{!o*:--output-pch=%i.gch}\
        %W{o*:--output-pch=%*}%V}}}}",
     CPLUSPLUS_CPP_SPEC, 0, 0},
```

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Populated Plugin Data Structure for C++: gcc/cp/lang-specs.h

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Populated Plugin Data Structure for C++: gcc/cp/lang-specs.h

```
  {"@c++",
    "%{E|M|MM:cc1plus -E %(cpp_options) %2 %(cpp_debug_options)}\
     %{!E:%{!M:%{!MM:\
       %{save-temps|no-integrated-cpp:cc1plus -E\
%(cpp_options) %2 -o %{save-temps:%b.ii} %{!save-temps:%g.ii} \n}\
      cc1plus %{save-temps|no-integrated-cpp:-fpreprocessed %{save-temps:%b.ii} %{!save
      %{!save-temps:%{!no-integrated-cpp:%(cpp_unique_options)}}\
%(cc1_options) %2\
       %{!fsyntax-only:%(invoke_as)}}}}",
     CPLUSPLUS_CPP_SPEC, 0, 0},
  {".ii", "@c++-cpp-output", 0, 0, 0},

  {"@c++-cpp-output",
   "%{!M:%{!MM:%{!E:\
    cc1plus -fpreprocessed %i %(cc1_options) %2\
    %{!fsyntax-only:%(invoke_as)}}}}", 0, 0, 0},
```

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Populated Plugin Data Structure for C++: gcc/cp/lang-specs.h

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Populated Plugin Data Structure for LTO: gcc/lto/lang-specs.h

```
/* LTO contributions to the "compilers" array in gcc.c.  */

  {"@lto", "lto1 %(cc1_options) %i %{!fsyntax-only:%(invoke_as)}",
   /*cpp_spec=*/NULL, /*combinable=*/1, /*needs_preprocessing=*/0},
```

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Populated Plugin Data Structure for LTO: gcc/lto/lang-specs.h

Notes

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What about the Files to be Procecced by the Linker?

- Linking is the last step
- Every file is passed on to linker unless it is suppressed
- If a translator is not found, input file is assumed to be a file for linker

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What about the Files to be Procecced by the Linker?

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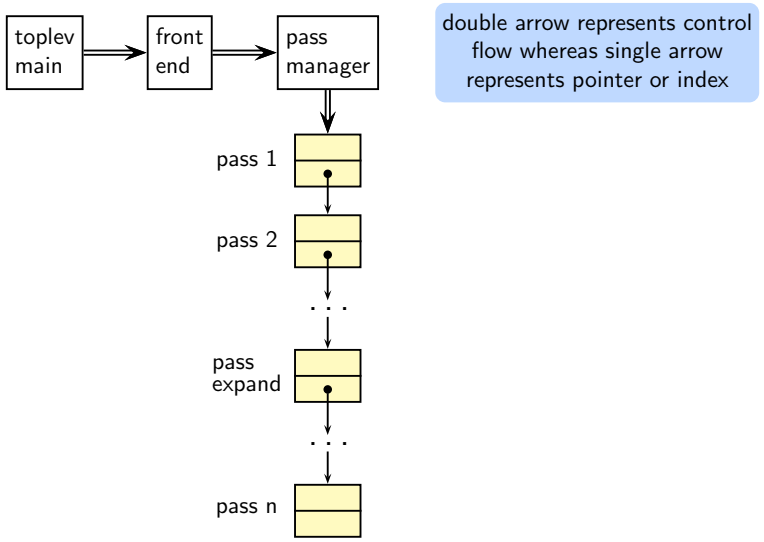
Plugin Structure in cc1



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Plugin Structure in cc1

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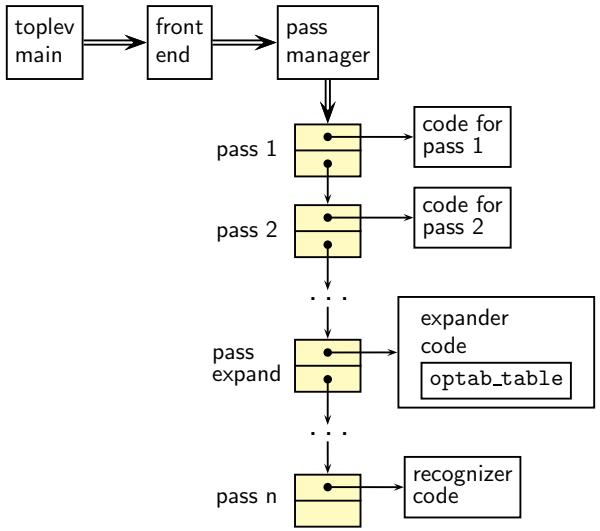
Plugin Structure in cc1



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Plugin Structure in cc1

Notes

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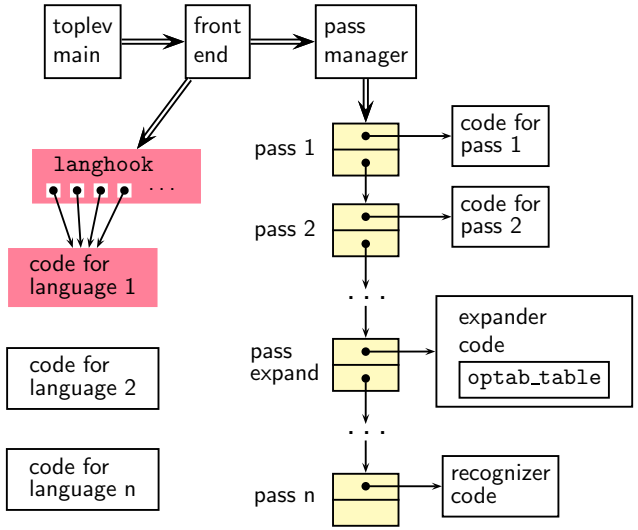
Plugin Structure in cc1



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Plugin Structure in cc1

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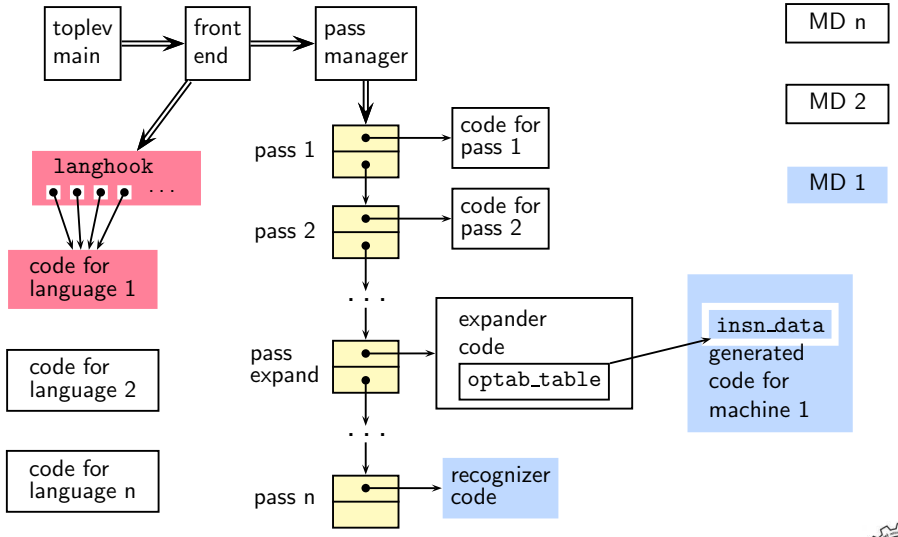
Plugin Structure in cc1



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Plugin Structure in cc1

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Front End Plugin

Important fields of `struct lang_hooks` instantiated for C

```
#define LANG_HOOKS_FINISH c_common_finish
#define LANG_HOOKS_EXPAND_EXPR c_expand_expr
#define LANG_HOOKS_PARSE_FILE c_common_parse_file
#define LANG_HOOKS_WRITE_GLOBALS c_write_global_declarations
```

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Front End Plugin

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Plugins for Intraprocedural Passes

```
struct opt_pass
{
  enum opt_pass_type type;
  const char *name;
  bool (*gate) (void);
  unsigned int (*execute) (void);
  struct opt_pass *sub;
  struct opt_pass *next;
  int static_pass_number;
  timevar_id_t tv_id;
  unsigned int properties_required;
  unsigned int properties_provided;
  unsigned int properties_destroyed;
  unsigned int todo_flags_start;
  unsigned int todo_flags_finish;
};
```

```
struct gimple_opt_pass
{
  struct opt_pass pass;
};

struct rtl_opt_pass
{
  struct opt_pass pass;
};
```

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Plugins for Intraprocedural Passes

Notes

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Plugins for Interprocedural Passes on a Translation Unit

Pass variable: `all_simple_ipa_passes`

```
struct simple_ipa_opt_pass
{
  struct opt_pass pass;
};
```

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Plugins for Interprocedural Passes on a Translation Unit

Notes

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Plugins for Interprocedural Passes across a Translation Unit

Pass variable: `all_regular_ipa_passes`

```
struct ipa_opt_pass_d
{
  struct opt_pass pass;
  void (*generate_summary) (void);
  void (*read_summary) (void);
  void (*write_summary) (struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                         struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*write_optimization_summary)(struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                                     struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*read_optimization_summary) (void);
  void (*stmt_fixup) (struct cgraph_node *, gimple *);
  unsigned int function_transform_todo_flags_start;
  unsigned int (*function_transform) (struct cgraph_node *);
  void (*variable_transform) (struct varpool_node *);
};
```

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Plugins for Interprocedural Passes across a Translation Unit

Notes

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Predefined Pass Lists

Pass Name	Purpose
`all_lowering_passes`	Lowering
`all_small_ipa_passes`	Early optimization passes. Invokes intraprocedural passes over the call graph.
`all_regular_ipa_passes`	
`all_lto_gen_passes`	
`all_passes`	Intraprocedural passes on GIMPLE and RTL

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Predefined Pass Lists

Notes

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Registering a Pass as a Static Plugin

1. Write the driver function in your file
2. Declare your pass in file `tree-pass.h`:
   `extern struct gimple_opt_pass your_pass_name;`
3. Add your pass to the appropriate pass list in `init_optimization_passes()` using the macro `NEXT_PASS`
4. Add your file details to `$SOURCE/gcc/Makefile.in`
5. Configure and build gcc
   (For simplicity, you can make `cc1` only)
6. Debug `cc1` using ddd/gdb if need arises
   (For debuging `cc1` from within `gcc`, see:
   `http://gcc.gnu.org/ml/gcc/2004-03/msg01195.html`)

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Registering a Pass as a Static Plugin

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Part 3

Dynamic Plugins in GCC

Notes

Dynamic Plugins

- Supported on platforms that support `-ldl -rdynamic`
- Loaded using `dlopen` and invoked at pre-determined locations in the compilation process
- Command line option

  `-fplugin=/path/to/name.so`

  Arguments required can be supplied as name-value pairs

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Dynamic Plugins

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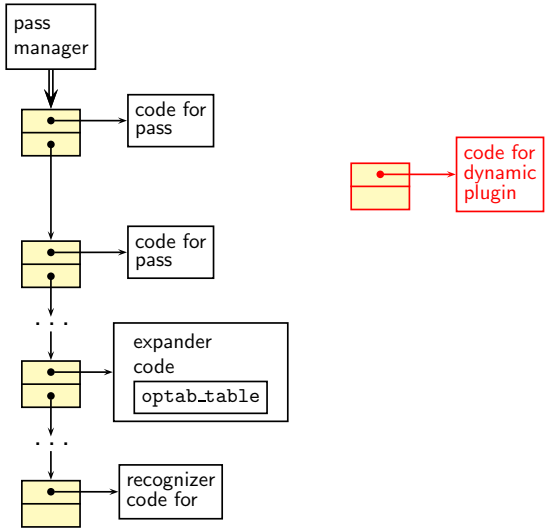
The Mechanism of Dynamic Plugin



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The Mechanism of Dynamic Plugin

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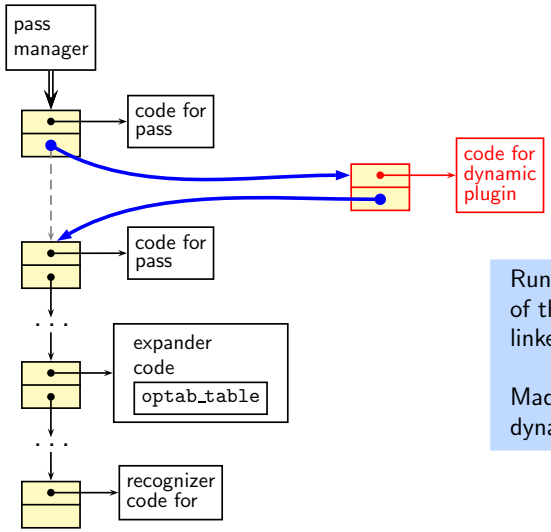
The Mechanism of Dynamic Plugin



Runtime initialization of the appropriate linked list of passes

Made possible by dynamic linking

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The Mechanism of Dynamic Plugin

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Specifying an Example Pass

```
struct simple_ipa_opt_pass pass_plugin = {
  {
    SIMPLE_IPA_PASS,
    "dynamic_plug",               /*  name */
    0,                            /*  gate */
    execute_pass_plugin,          /*  execute */
    NULL,                         /*  sub */
    NULL,                         /*  next */
    0,                            /*  static pass number */
    TV_INTEGRATION,               /*  tv_id */
    0,                            /*  properties required */
    0,                            /*  properties provided */
    0,                            /*  properties destroyed */
    0,                            /*  todo_flags start */
    0                             /*  todo_flags end */
  }
};
```

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Specifying an Example Pass

Notes

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Registering Our Pass as a Dynamic Plugin

```
struct register_pass_info pass_info = {
  &(pass_plugin.pass),     /* Address of new pass, here, the
                              struct opt_pass field of
                              simple_ipa_opt_pass defined above */
  "pta",                   /* Name of the reference pass (string
                              in the structure specification) for
                              hooking up the new pass.  */
  0,                       /* Insert the pass at the specified
                              instance number of the reference
                              pass. Do it for every instance if
                              it is 0. */
  PASS_POS_INSERT_AFTER    /* how to insert the new pass:
                              before, after, or replace. Here we
                              are inserting our pass the pass
                              named pta */
};
```

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Registering Our Pass as a Dynamic Plugin

Notes

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Registering Callback for Our Pass for a Dynamic Plugins

```
int plugin_init(struct plugin_name_args *plugin_info,
    struct plugin_gcc_version *version)
{ /*  Plugins are activiated using this callback  */

  register_callback (
      plugin_info->base_name,     /* char *name: Plugin name,
                                     could be any name.
                                     plugin_info->base_name
                                     gives this filename */
      PLUGIN_PASS_MANAGER_SETUP,  /* int event: The event code.
                                     Here, setting up a new
                                     pass */
      NULL,                       /* The function that handles
                                     the event */
      &pass_info);                /* plugin specific data */

  return 0;
}
```

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Registering Callback for Our Pass for a Dynamic Plugins

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Makefile for Creating and Using a Dynamic Plugin

```
CC = $(INSTALL_D)/bin/gcc
PLUGIN_SOURCES = new-pass.c
PLUGIN_OBJECTS = $(patsubst %.c,%.o,$(PLUGIN_SOURCES ))
GCCPLUGINS_DIR = $(shell $(CC) -print-file-name=plugin)
CFLAGS+= -fPIC -O2
INCLUDE = -Iplugin/include

%.o : %.c
$(CC) $(CFLAGS) $(INCLUDE) -c $<

new-pass.so: $(PLUGIN_OBJECTS)
        $(CC) $(CFLAGS) $(INCLUDE) -shared $^ -o $@

test_plugin: test.c
        $(CC) -fplugin=./new-pass.so $^ -o $@ -fdump-tree-all
```

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Makefile for Creating and Using a Dynamic Plugin

Notes

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Part 4

Flow of Control in the Generated Compiler

Notes

Walking the Maze of a Large Code Base

- If you use conventional editors such as `vi` or `emacs`
  - Use cscope

    ```
    cd $SOURCE
    cscope -R
    ```
  - Use ctags

    ```
    cd $SOURCE
    ctags -R
    ```

    Make sure you use `exeburant-ctags`
- Or use IDE such as `eclipse`

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Walking the Maze of a Large Code Base

Notes

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gcc Driver Control Flow

```
main   /* In file gcc.c */
   validate_all_switches
   lookup_compiler
   do_spec
      do_spec_2
         do_spec_1  /* Get the name of the compiler */
      execute
         pex_init
         pex_run
            pex_run_in_environment
               obj->funcs->exec_child
```

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gcc Driver Control Flow

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gcc Driver Control Flow

```
main   /* In file gcc.c */
   validate_all_switches
   lookup_compiler
   do_spec
      do_spec_2
         do_spec_1  /*
      execute
         pex_init
         pex_run
            pex_run_in
               obj->fu
```

Observations

- All compilers are invoked by this driver
- Assembler is also invoked by this driver
- Linker is invoked in the end by default

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Notes

cc1 Top Level Control Flow

```
main
   toplev_main   /* In file toplev.c */
     decode_options
     do_compile
        compile_file
          lang_hooks.parse_file => c_common_parse_file
          lang_hooks.decls.final_write_globals =>
                                    c_write_global_declarations
          targetm.asm_out.file_end
     finalize
```

Notes

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cc1 Top Level Control Flow

Notes

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cc1 Top Level Control Flow

```
main
   toplev_main   /* In file toplev.c */
     decode_options
     do_compile
        compile_file
          lang_hooks.p
          lang_hooks.d
          targetm.asm_
     finalize
```

larations

Observations

- The entire compilation is driven by functions specified in language hooks
- Not a good design!

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Notes

cc1 Control Flow: Parsing for C

```
lang_hooks.parse_file => c_common_parse_file
   c_parse_file
         c_parser_translation_unit
            c_parser_external_declaration
               c_parser_declaration_or_fndef
                  c_parser_declspecs /* parse declarations */
                  c_parser_compound_statement
                  finish_function    /* finish parsing */
                     c_genericize
                     cgraph_finalize_function
                     /* finalize AST of a function */
```

Notes

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cc1 Control Flow: Parsing for C

Notes

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cc1 Control Flow: Parsing for C

lang_hooks.parse_file => c_common_parse_file
c_parse_file

Observations

- GCC has moved to a recursive descent parser from version 4.1.0
- Earlier parser was generated using Bison specification

Notes

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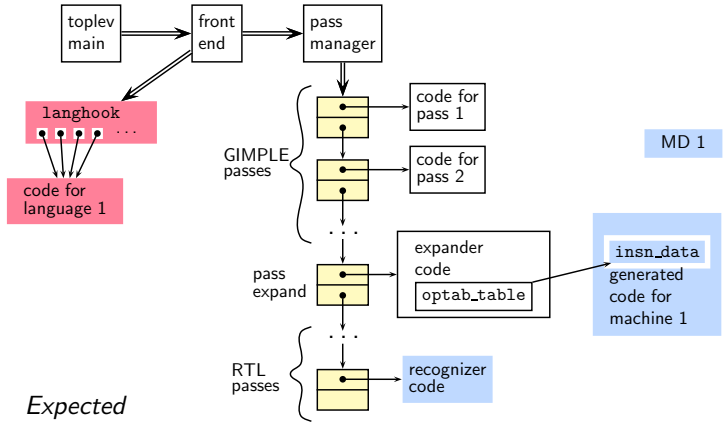
cc1 Control Flow: Parsing for C

Notes

Expected Vs. Actual Schematic



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Expected Vs. Actual Schematic

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

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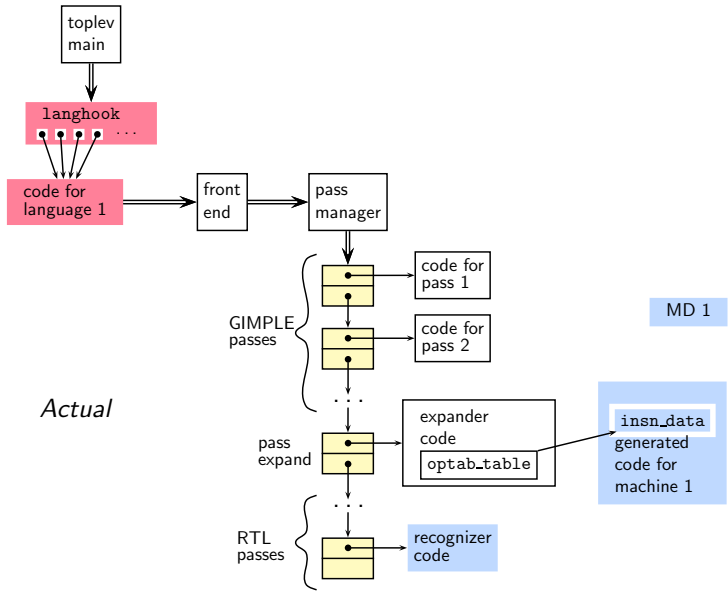
Expected Vs. Actual Schematic



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Expected Vs. Actual Schematic

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

cc1 Control Flow: Lowering Passes for C

```
lang_hooks.decls.final_write_globals =>
                                c_write_global_declarations
    cgraph_finalize_compilation_unit
        cgraph_analyze_functions     /* Create GIMPLE */
           cgraph_analyze_function
                gimplify_function_tree
                   gimplify_body
                      gimplify_stmt
                         gimplify_expr
           cgraph_lower_function    /* Intraprocedural */
              tree_lowering_passes
                 execute_pass_list (all_lowering_passes)
```

Notes

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cc1 Control Flow: Lowering Passes for C

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Notes

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cc1 Control Flow: Lowering Passes for C

Observations

- Lowering passes are language independent
- Yet they are being called from a function in language hooks
- Not a good design!

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Notes

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cc1 Control Flow: Lowering Passes for C

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Organization of Passes

Order	Task	IR	Level	Pass data structure
1	Lowering	GIMPLE	Intra	`gimple_opt_pass`
2	Optimizations	GIMPLE	Inter	`ipa_opt_pass`
3	Optimizations	GIMPLE	Intra	`gimple_opt_pass`
4	RTL Generation	GIMPLE	Intra	`rtl_opt_pass`
5	Optimization	RTL	Intra	`rtl_opt_pass`

Organization of Passes

Notes

`cc1` Control Flow: Optimization and Code Generation Passes

```
cgraph_analyze_function       /* Create GIMPLE */
...                           /* previous slide */
cgraph_optimize
   ipa_passes
      execute_ipa_pass_list(all_small_ipa_passes)  /*!in_lto_p*/
      execute_ipa_summary_passes(all_regular_ipa_passes)
      execute_ipa_summary_passes(all_lto_gen_passes)
      ipa_write_summaries
   cgraph_expand_all_functions
       cgraph_expand_function
       /* Intraprocedural passes on GIMPLE,  */
       /* expansion pass, and passes on RTL. */
            tree_rest_of_compilation
               execute_pass_list (all_passes)
```

`cc1` Control Flow: Optimization and Code Generation Passes

Notes

cc1 Control Flow: Optimization and Code Generation Passes

```
cgraph_analyze_function        /* Create GIMPLE */
...                            /* previous slide */
cgraph_optimize
   ipa_passes
      execute_ipa_pas                    /*!in_lto_p*/
      execute_ipa_sum                    es)
      execute_ipa_sum
      ipa_write_summa
   cgraph_expand_all_
       cgraph_expand_
       /* Intraproced
       /* expansion p
            tree_rest
               execut
```

Observations

- Optimization and code generation passes are language independent
- Yet they are being called from a function in language hooks
- Not a good design!

Notes

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cc1 Control Flow: Optimization and Code Generation Passes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Execution Order in Intraprocedural Passes

	Function 1	Function 2	Function 3	Function 4	Function 5
Pass 1	○	○	○	○	○
Pass 2	○	○	○	○	○
Pass 3	○	○	○	○	○
Pass 4	○	○	○	○	○
Pass 5	○	○	○	○	○

Notes

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Execution Order in Intraprocedural Passes

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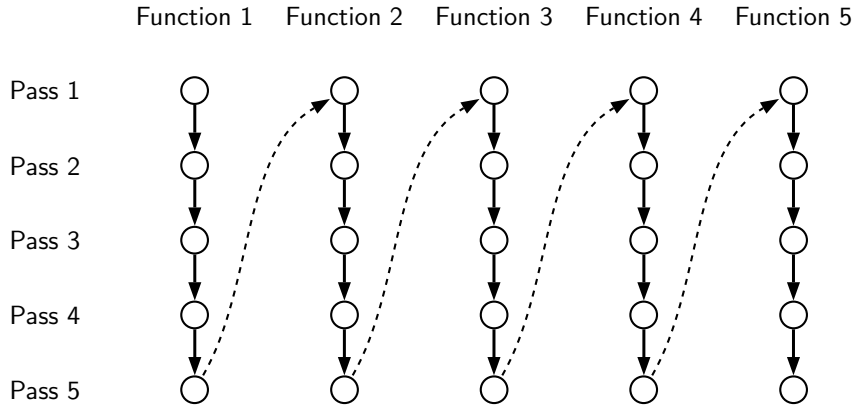
Execution Order in Intraprocedural Passes



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Execution Order in Intraprocedural Passes

Notes

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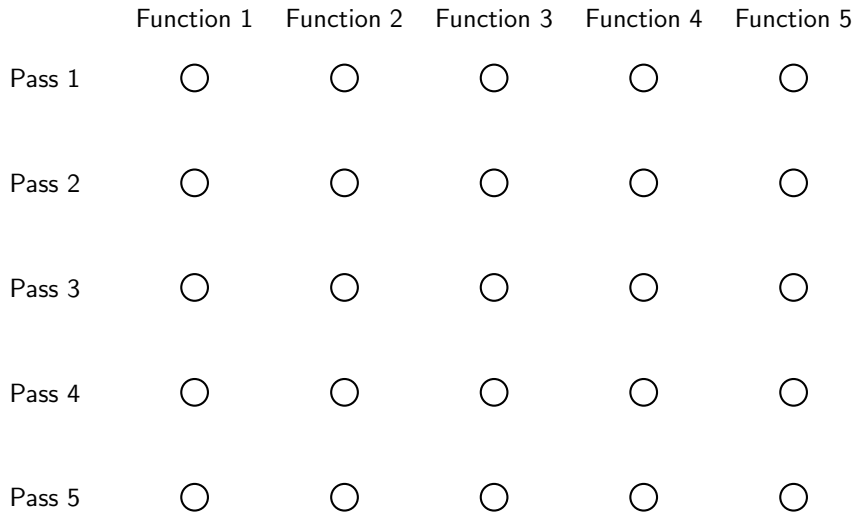
Execution Order in Interprocedural Passes



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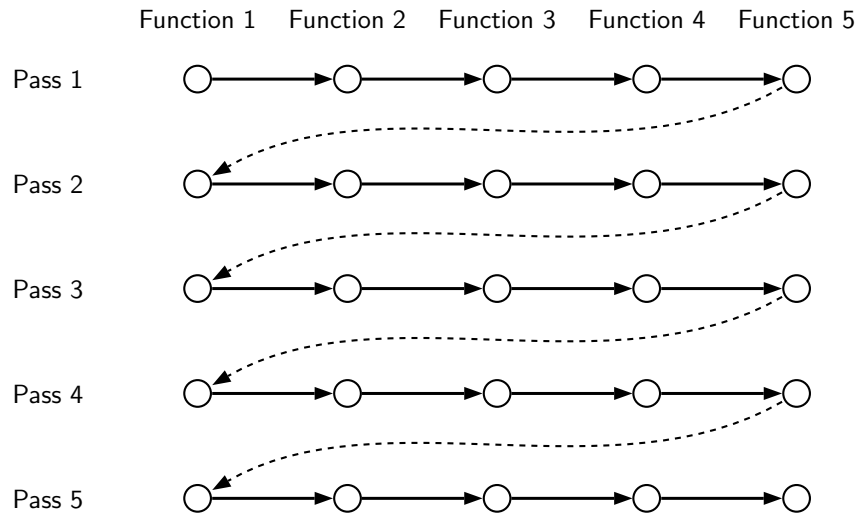
Execution Order in Interprocedural Passes

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Execution Order in Interprocedural Passes



Execution Order in Interprocedural Passes

Notes

cc1 Control Flow: GIMPLE to RTL Expansion (pass_expand)

```
gimple_expand_cfg
  expand_gimple_basic_block(bb)
     expand_gimple_cond(stmt)
     expand_gimple_stmt(stmt)
         expand_gimple_stmt_1 (stmt)
             expand_expr_real_2
                expand_expr   /* Operands */
                    expand_expr_real
                optab_for_tree_code
                expand_binop /* Now we have rtx for operands */
                   expand_binop_directly
                     /* The plugin for a machine */
                     code=optab_handler(binoptab,mode);
                     GEN_FCN
                     emit_insn
```


cc1 Control Flow: GIMPLE to RTL Expansion (pass_expand)

Notes

Part 5

Link Time Optimization

Notes

Motivation for Link Time Optimization

- Default `cgraph` creation is restricted to a translation unit (i.e. a single file)
  $\Rightarrow$ Interprocedural analysis and optimization is restricted to a single file
- All files (or their equivalents) are available only at link time
  (assuming static linking)
- LTO enables interprocedural optimizations across different files

Notes

Notes

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Motivation for Link Time Optimization

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Link Time Optimization

- LTO framework supported in GCC-4.6.0
- Use `-flto` option during compilation
- Generates conventional `.o` files with GIMPLE level information inserted
  Complete translation is performed in this phase
- During linking all object modules are put together and `lto1` is invoked
- `lto1` re-executes optimization passes from the function `cgraph_optimize`

Basic Idea: Provide a larger call graph to regular ipa passes

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Link Time Optimization

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Understanding LTO Framework

```
main ()
{
     printf ("hello, world\n");
}
```

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Understanding LTO Framework

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Assembly Output without LTO Information (1)

```
        .file "t0.c"
        .section .rodata
.LC0:
        .string "hello, world"
        .text
        .globl main
        .type main, @function
main:
.LFB0:
        .cfi_startproc
        pushl %ebp
        .cfi_def_cfa_offset 8
        .cfi_offset 5, -8
        movl %esp, %ebp
        .cfi_def_cfa_register 5
        andl $-16, %esp
        subl $16, %esp
        movl $.LC0, (%esp)
        call puts
        leave
        .cfi_restore 5
        .cfi_def_cfa 4, 4
        ret
        .cfi_endproc
.LFE0:
        .size main, .-main
        .ident "GCC: (GNU) 4.6.0"
        .section .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```


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Assembly Output without LTO Information (1)

Notes

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Assembly Output with LTO Information (2)

```
        .ascii "\007"
        .text
        .section  .gnu.lto_.refs.6a5c5521,"",@progbits
        .string "x\234cb```\006b&\006\030"
        .string ""
        .string ""
        .string "t"
        .ascii "\b"
        .text
        .section  .gnu.lto_.statics.6a5c5521,"",@progbits
        .string "x\234cb``b\300\016@\342\214\020&"
        .string ""
        .string "\330"
        .ascii "\b"
        .text
        .section  .gnu.lto_.decls.6a5c5521,"",@progbits
        .string "x\234\225R=O\002A\020}\273w\352\236\247(Q/!\026\\!F-\214\215\326&\232X`
        .ascii "\021A\360\003\254\355\314jG\207\263w\007\334E\2058\311\333\235"
        .ascii "\331\371|s\307\341I\206\320&\251s`\226t\272\260\210\236({\233"
        .ascii "\260\213\237\242\336\207\b{\204}B\222p@\320}\277F8\3      \037"
```


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Assembly Output with LTO Information (2)

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Assembly Output with LTO Information (3)

```
        .ascii "/\342\312)\254G\204\323j\307\035\207[w\230qN\204\032gB2\335p"
        .ascii "\025\304$\033\365U\241\f\341\033\314\255a\225\376\237#Y\t\326"
        .ascii "&|}\215\273\276\245{\342\255\374n\f\035b\332\213\236/#\221_\260"
        .ascii "\321\253.Y\021q/ \320\310\0166\322\303\305\275^\357L\373\342"
        .ascii "\017‘f\005\227D\267\3400\333\365Z\325_8h\217j\367f-\034j\324"
        .ascii "!r\237y[\f\344\231x\302\034\335\222\301{\343\317@\204\371\364"
        .ascii "\\\211u}p\324\351\252\201\307\213^\262\027\3757S\311j0\257\325"
        .ascii "\277\302$[\325\006\r\247\275\0207\376\nLu\246\221\254\n+\307"
        .ascii "\007\367\251\3001\251\244h\003\223\216\350\354\254\016\343\206"
        .ascii "\033M\210\356\242\272\211\375\352\005\314\2201F\215\2320\312"
        .ascii "zx\236t0f\334\237\273\201\350\255\356}\334\017\376F\344\206\267"
        .ascii "v\222\366\006\206\316V\226S\320S\351\243\323\221\354q6{\236\311"
        .ascii "|\003\262q\030\362"
        .text
        .section  .gnu.lto_.symtab.6a5c5521,"",@progbits
        .string "main"
        .string ""
        .string ""
        .string ""
        .string ""
```

Assembly Output with LTO Information (3)

Notes

Assembly Output with LTO Information (4)

```
        .string ""
        .string ""
        .string ""
        .string ""
        .string ""
        .string ""
        .string ""
        .string "K"
        .string ""
        .string ""
        .text
        .section  .gnu.lto_.opts,"",@progbits
        .string "x\234cb‘‘\340\002bs\006\b‘\002\021\r\f\f\273\230\031\030\030A\022\005\:
        .ascii "\002\370\tL"
        .text
        .section .rodata
.LC0:
        .string "hello, world"
```

Assembly Output with LTO Information (4)

Notes

3"

Assembly Output with LTO Information (5)

```
        .text
        .globl main
        .type main, @function
main:
.LFB0:
        .cfi_startproc
        pushl %ebp
        .cfi_def_cfa_offset 8
        .cfi_offset 5, -8
        movl %esp, %ebp
        .cfi_def_cfa_register 5
        andl $-16, %esp
        subl $16, %esp
        movl $.LC0, (%esp)
        call puts
```

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Assembly Output with LTO Information (5)

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Assembly Output with LTO Information (6)

```
        leave
        .cfi_restore 5
        .cfi_def_cfa 4, 4
        ret
        .cfi_endproc
.LFE0:
        .size main, .-main
        .comm __gnu_lto_v1,1,1
        .ident "GCC: (GNU) 4.6.0"
        .section .note.GNU-stack,"",@progbits
```

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Assembly Output with LTO Information (6)

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Single Process and Multi Process LTO

Whole program optimization needs to see the entire program

- Does it need the entire program *together* in the memory?
- Load only the call graph without function bodies
  - Independent computation of summary information of functions
  - "Adjusting" summary information through whole program analysis over the call graph
  - Perform transformation independently on functions

  Multi process LTO
- Process the entire program together

  Single process LTO

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Single Process and Multi Process LTO

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Why Avoid Loading Function Bodies?

- Practical programs could be rather large and compilation could become very inefficient
- Many optimizations decisions can be taken by looking at the call graph alone
  - Procedure Inlining: just looking at the call graph is sufficient
    Perhaps some summary size information can be used
  - Procedure Cloning: some additional summary information about actual parameters of a call is sufficient

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Why Avoid Loading Function Bodies?

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Multi Process LTO (aka WHOPR Mode of LTO)

- Three steps
  - LGEN: Local generation of summary information and translation unit information Potentially Parallel
  - WPA: Whole Program Analysis Sequential
    - Reads the call graph and not function bodies
    - Summary information for each function
  - LTRANS: Local Transformations Potentially Parallel
- Why do we call this LTO *Multi Process* LTO?
  - gcc executes LGEN
  - Subsequent process of `lto1` executes WPA
  - Subsequent independent processes of `lto1` execute LTRANS

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Multi Process LTO (aka WHOPR Mode of LTO)

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

Single Process LTO

- Three steps
  - LGEN: Local Generation of translation unit information (no summary) Potentially Parallel
  - IPA: Inter-Procedural Analysis Sequential
    - Reads the call graph and function bodies
  - LTRANS: Local Transformations Sequential
- Why do we call this LTO *Single Process* LTO?
  - gcc executes LGEN
  - Subsequent process of `lto1` executes both IPA and LTRANS
- When `-flto-partition=none`, IPA = WPA

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Single Process LTO

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

LTO Pass Hooks

```
struct ipa_opt_pass_d
{
  struct opt_pass pass;
  void (*generate_summary) (void);
  void (*read_summary) (void);
  void (*write_summary) (struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                         struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*write_optimization_summary)(struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                                     struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*read_optimization_summary) (void);
  void (*stmt_fixup) (struct cgraph_node *, gimple *);
  unsigned int function_transform_todo_flags_start;
  unsigned int (*function_transform) (struct cgraph_node *);
  void (*variable_transform) (struct varpool_node *);
};
```

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LTO Pass Hooks

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

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LTO Pass Hooks

```
struct ipa_opt_pass_d
{
  struct opt_pass pass;
  void (*generate_summary) (void);
  void (*read_summary) (void);
  void (*write_summary) (struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                         struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*write_optimization_summary)(struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                                     struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*read_optimization_summary) (void);
  void (*stmt_fixup) (struct cgraph_node *, gimple *);
  unsigned int function_transform_todo_flags_start;
  unsigned int (*function_transform) (struct cgraph_node *);
  void (*variable_transform) (struct varpool_node *);
};
```

LGEN for Multi Process LTO

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LTO Pass Hooks

Notes

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LTO Pass Hooks

```
struct ipa_opt_pass_d
{
  struct opt_pass pass;
  void (*generate_summary) (void);
  void (*read_summary) (void);
  void (*write_summary) (struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                         struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*write_optimization_summary)(struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                                     struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*read_optimization_summary) (void);
  void (*stmt_fixup) (struct cgraph_node *, gimple *);
  unsigned int function_transform_todo_flags_start;
  unsigned int (*function_transform) (struct cgraph_node *);
  void (*variable_transform) (struct varpool_node *);
};
```

LGEN for Single Process LTO

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LTO Pass Hooks

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

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LTO Pass Hooks

```
struct ipa_opt_pass_d
{
  struct opt_pass pass; (member  void (*execute) (void);)
  void (*generate_summary) (void);
  void (*read_summary) (void);
  void (*write_summary) (struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                         struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*write_optimization_summary)(struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                                     struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*read_optimization_summary) (void);
  void (*stmt_fixup) (struct cgraph_node *, gimple *);
  unsigned int function_transform_todo_flags_start;
  unsigned int (*function_transform) (struct cgraph_node *);
  void (*variable_transform) (struct varpool_node *);
};
```

WPA for Multi Process LTO

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LTO Pass Hooks

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

LTO Pass Hooks

```
struct ipa_opt_pass_d
{
  struct opt_pass pass; (member  void (*execute) (void);)
  void (*generate_summary) (void);
  void (*read_summary) (void);
  void (*write_summary) (struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                         struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*write_optimization_summary)(struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                                     struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*read_optimization_summary) (void);
  void (*stmt_fixup) (struct cgraph_node *, gimple *);
  unsigned int function_transform_todo_flags_start;
  unsigned int (*function_transform) (struct cgraph_node *);
  void (*variable_transform) (struct varpool_node *);
};
```

IPA for Single Process LTO

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LTO Pass Hooks

Notes

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LTO Pass Hooks

```
struct ipa_opt_pass_d
{
  struct opt_pass pass;
  void (*generate_summary) (void);
  void (*read_summary) (void);
  void (*write_summary) (struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                         struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*write_optimization_summary)(struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                                     struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*read_optimization_summary) (void);
  void (*stmt_fixup) (struct cgraph_node *, gimple *);
  unsigned int function_transform_todo_flags_start;
  unsigned int (*function_transform) (struct cgraph_node *);
  void (*variable_transform) (struct varpool_node *);
};
```

LTRANS for Multi Process LTO

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LTO Pass Hooks

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

LTO Pass Hooks

```
struct ipa_opt_pass_d
{
  struct opt_pass pass;
  void (*generate_summary) (void);
  void (*read_summary) (void);
  void (*write_summary) (struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                         struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*write_optimization_summary)(struct cgraph_node_set_def *,
                                     struct varpool_node_set_def *);
  void (*read_optimization_summary) (void);
  void (*stmt_fixup) (struct cgraph_node *, gimple *);
  unsigned int function_transform_todo_flags_start;
  unsigned int (*function_transform) (struct cgraph_node *);
  void (*variable_transform) (struct varpool_node *);
};
```

LTRANS for Single Process LTO

Notes

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LTO Pass Hooks

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LTO Support in GCC

		Transformation		
		In the same process as that of analysis	In an independent process (possibly multiple processes)	
		Single partition of the program	Single partition of the program	Multiple partitions of the program
Whole Program Analysis	Call graph without function bodies	Not suppported	Suppported in GCC-4.6.0 ⇒	Will be suppported in future
	Call graph with function bodies	Suppported in GCC-4.6.0	Not suppported	Not supported

`-flto` `-flto -flto-partition=none` WHOPR mode

Notes

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LTO Support in GCC

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

lto1 Control Flow

```
lto_main
  lto_process_name
  lto_init_reader
  read_cgraph_and_symbols
      if (flag_wpa)
         /* WPA for multi process LTO */
         do_whole_program_analysis
              materialize_cgraph
              execute_ipa_pass_list (all_regular_ipa_passes)
                    lto_wpa_write_files
      else
         /* WPA and LTRANS for single process LTO */
         /* Only LTRANS for multi process LTO */
         materialize_cgraph
         cgraph_optimize
```

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lto1 Control Flow

Notes

Essential Abstractions in GCC GCC Resource Center, IIT Bombay

cc1 Control Flow: A Recap

```
toplev_main   /* In file toplev.c */
  compile_file
    lang_hooks.parse_file=>c_common_parse_file
    lang_hooks.decls.final_write_globals=>c_write_global_declarations
      cgraph_finalize_compilation_unit
        cgraph_analyze_functions     /* Create GIMPLE */
          cgraph_analyze_function       /* Create GIMPLE */
               ...
          cgraph_optimize
            ipa_passes
              execute_ipa_pass_list(all_small_ipa_passes) /*!in lto*/
              execute_ipa_summary_passes(all_regular_ipa_passes)
              execute_ipa_summary_passes(all_lto_gen_passes)
              ipa_write_summaries
            cgraph_expand_all_functions
              cgraph_expand_function
              /* Intraprocedural passes on GIMPLE,  */
              /* expansion pass, and passes on RTL. */
```

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cc1 Control Flow: A Recap

Notes

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cc1 and Single Process lto1

```
toplev_main
...
  compile_file
  ...
    cgraph_analyze_function
```

```
cgraph_optimize
...
  ipa_passes
  ...
    cgraph_expand_all_functions
    ...
      tree_rest_of_compilation
```

cc1

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cc1 and Single Process lto1

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cc1 and Single Process lto1

```
toplev_main
...
  compile_file
  ...
    cgraph_analyze_function
```

```
lto_main
...
  read_cgraph_and_symbols
  ...
    materialize_cgraph
```

```
cgraph_optimize
...
  ipa_passes
  ...
    cgraph_expand_all_functions
    ...
      tree_rest_of_compilation
```

lto1

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cc1 and Single Process lto1

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Our Pictorial Convention

Source code	cc1′ lto1′ common
cc1 executable	cc1′ lto1′ common
lto1 executable	cc1′ lto1′ common

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Our Pictorial Convention

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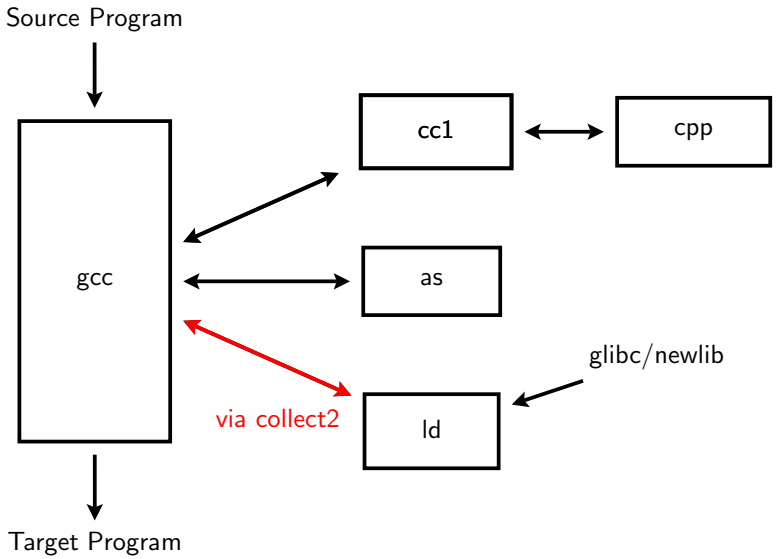
The GNU Tool Chain: Our First Picture



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The GNU Tool Chain: Our First Picture

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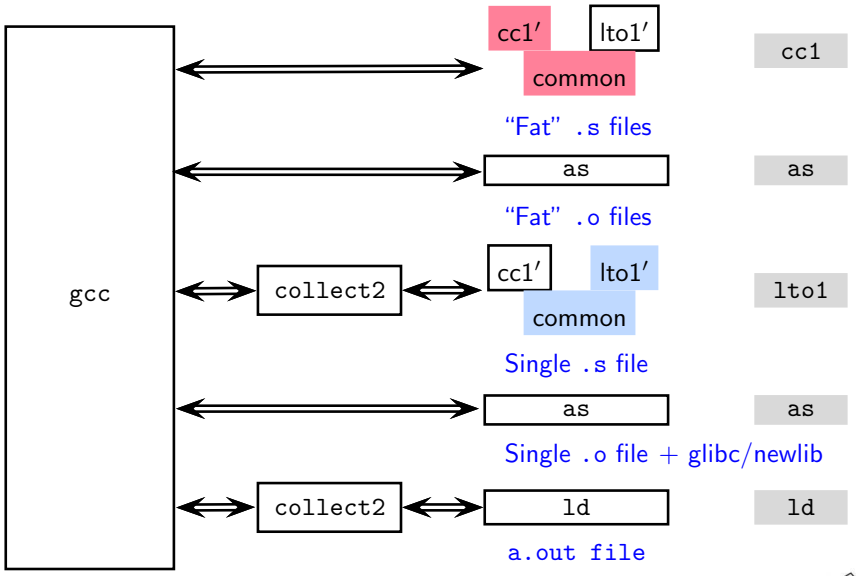
The GNU Tool Chain for Single Process LTO Support



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The GNU Tool Chain for Single Process LTO Support

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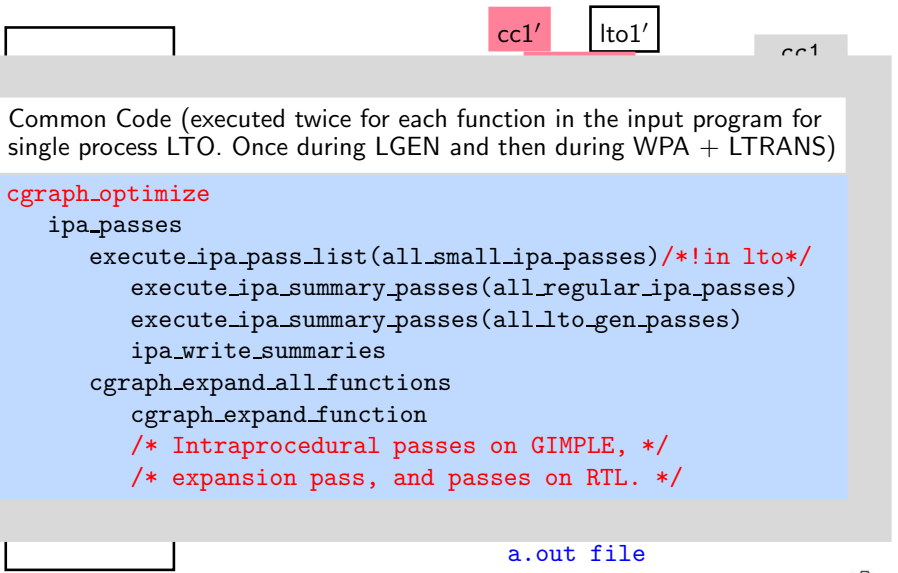
The GNU Tool Chain for Single Process LTO Support



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The GNU Tool Chain for Single Process LTO Support

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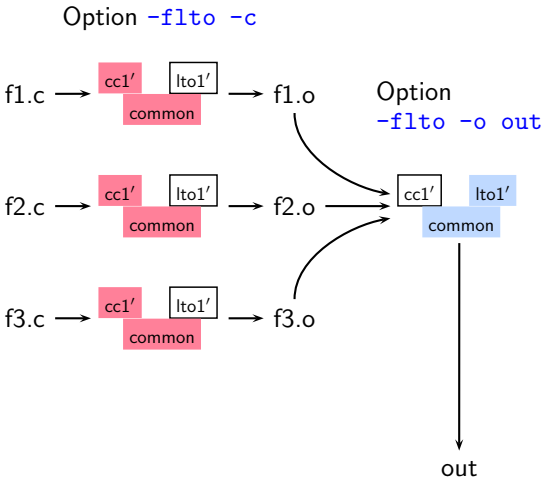
Multi Process LTO (aka WHOPR LTO)



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Multi Process LTO (aka WHOPR LTO)

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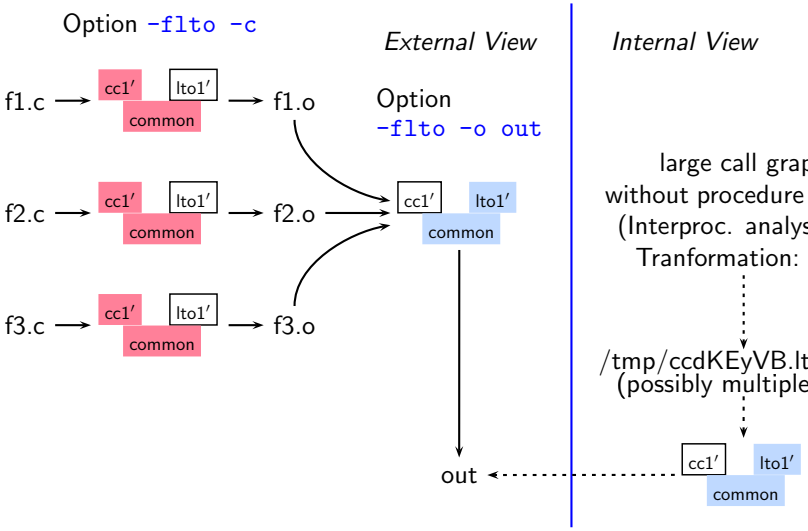
Multi Process LTO (aka WHOPR LTO)



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Multi Process LTO (aka WHOPR LTO)

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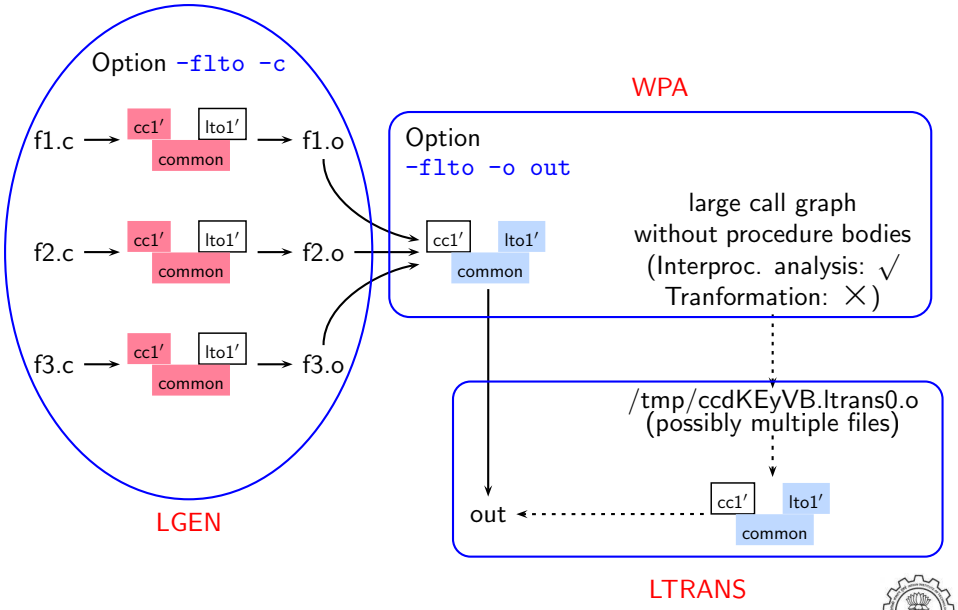
Multi Process LTO (aka WHOPR LTO)



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Multi Process LTO (aka WHOPR LTO)

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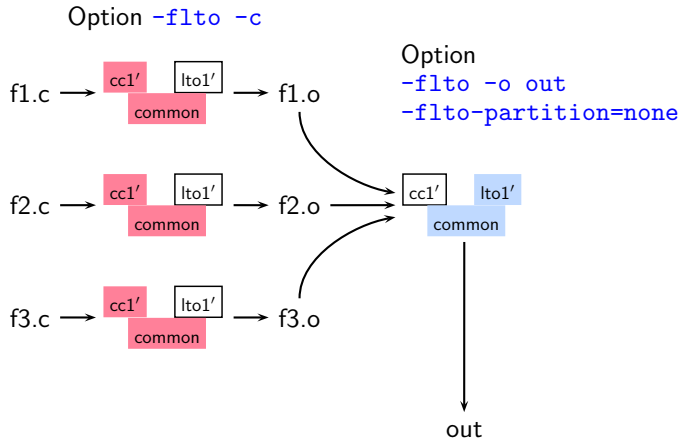
Single Process LTO



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Single Process LTO

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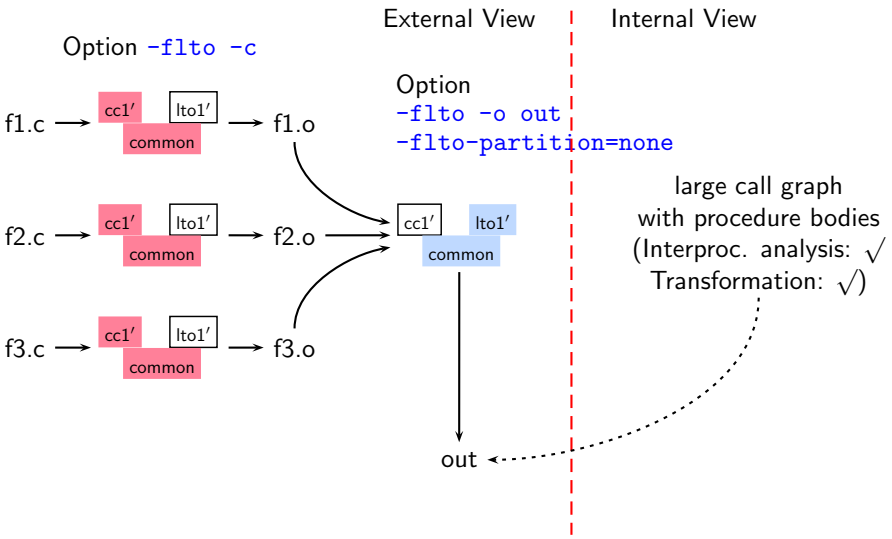
Single Process LTO



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Single Process LTO

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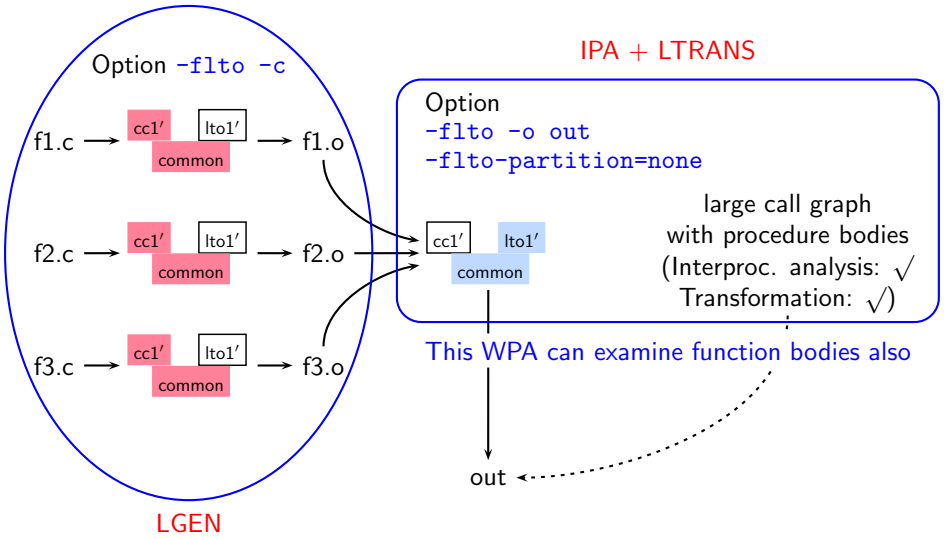
Single Process LTO



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Single Process LTO

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Part 6

Conclusions

Notes

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Conclusions

- Excellent mechanism of plugging in different
  - translators in the main driver
  - front ends, passes, and back ends in the main compiler
- However, the plugins have been used in an adhoc manner
- LTO is a good support for interprocedural analysis and optimization

  It would be useful to support
  - a single process LTO mode that
  - creates a large call graph of the entire program with
  - on-demand loading of procedure bodies for
  - enabling examining procedure bodies for interprocedural analysis

Notes

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