

A Lisp compiler for the JVM

or How to implement dynamic programming languages on top of the JVM or Lack of JVM TCO considered annoying

ANTON KINDESTAM <ANTONKI@KTH.SE>

Bachelor's Thesis at NADA Supervisor: Mads Dam Examiner: Mårten Björkman

Sammanfattning

Att implementera dynamiska och mestadels funktionella programmeringsspråk på miljöer som JVM är allt mer i tiden. Språk såsom Clojure, Scala eller Python. För att åstadkomma duglig prestanda och Java interoperation bör ett sådant språk helst kompileras. Denna essä kommer att handla om tekniker som kan användas för att implementera dynamiska, funktionella programmeringsspråk på JVM:en med speciallt focus på Lisp och Scheme, med en implementation av en liten Lisp-kompilator för att illustrera några av dessa tekniker.

Abstract

Implementing dynamic, mostly functional, languages on top of an environment such as the JVM is getting ever more popular. Languages such as Clojure, Scala, or Python. To achieve reasonable performance and Java interoperability such a language usually needs to be compiled. This thesis will be about techniques for implementing dynamic and functional languages on the JVM with a focus on Lisp and Scheme, with an implementation of a small Lisp compiler demonstrating some of these techniques.

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Chapter 1

Background

This section will explain the choices of source language its feature set as well as some of the vocabulary used in this thesis. The benefits, as well as the drawbacks, of targeting a virtual machine such as the JVM will be explored.

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Term	Definition
Lisp	LISt Processing A family of dynamic pro-
	gramming languages commonly programmed
	using a functional programming style.
Functional Programming (FP)	A programing style focusing chiefly on func-
	tion application and side-effect free comput-
	ing.
Virtual Machine (VM)	A computer model implemented in software.
JVM	Java Virtual Machine A VM originally imple-
	mented for the Java programming language.
	Java (and more recently a whole flock of dif-
	ferent JVM-based languages such as Clojure)
	compiles to Java Byte Code which the JVM
	then executes. Since there are implementa-
	tions of the JVM for different processor ar-
	chitectures and environments the same code
	runs on portably across many architectures
	and operating systems without the need for
	recompiling.

Java Byte Code	The virtual instruction set supported by the
	JVM.
Jasmin	A program capable of converting a simple
	text representation of Java Byte Code in-
	structions to actual Java Byte Code. The
	same role an Assembler performs for a reg-
	ular (usually implemented in hardware) pro-
	cessor architecture.
Source Language	The language a compiler reads as its input.
Implementation Language	The language the compiler is implemented in.
Target Language	The language a compiler outputs to.
REPL	Read-Eval-Print-Loop: Traditional name for
	the Lisp interactive command line
Bootstrapping	The art of pulling oneself up by ones own
	bootstraps. In the context of compilers this
	usually refers to the act of writing a compiler
	capable of compiling itself.

1.2 Prior Work

Before starting this thesis the author had implemented a small interpreter and Lisp system for Java called LJSP, for silly reasons¹. This system will be used as a base, as well as implementation language, for the compiler and classes implemented for the interpreter will be able to be conveniently reused for implementing the compiler, with only minimal changes to them neccesary.

Tricky issues, like mixed-type arithmetic, is already handled by these classes giving more time to work on the core parts of the compiler.

The interpreter features an interface to Java (currently somewhat quirky and limited but still useful) using Javas reflection features. This can, among other things, be used to load generated class files into the runtime after compilation.

1.3 Preliminary Issues

1.3.1 A (very) brief introduction on Lisp and dynamic programming languages

This section will explain why lisp has been chosen as both the implementation language of the compiler as well as the source language for it.

¹Anything that has something to do with Java ought to have a "J" in the name, and the interchangeability of the letters "i" and "j" in old alphabets made this silly, and unpronouncable using modern orthographical rules, substitution obvious.

1.3. PRELIMINARY ISSUES

Why Lisp?

Despite, or perhaps because of, its age Lisp shares a lot of common ground (and thus implementation issues) with more recent and popular dynamic programming languages such as Python, Ruby or Clojure. The latter which is in fact a modern dialect of Lisp operating on top of the JVM.

Lisp is well suited for a project like this in particular due to its ease of implementation. The inherent ability of the language to do a lot given very little is going to make possible to compile interesting programs without having the compiler support the entire language (which is fairly small anyway). There is no need to spend time implementing a parser since one is already available from the LJSP interpreted environment. Writing the compiler in and for Lisp, and in this case even in LJSP itself, becomes very efficient since Lisp code is represented using Lisp data structures so the compiler can easily be built as a dispatch-on-type set of recursive functions.

1.3.2 Why JVM?

"Attracted by a generally available, machine-independent platform, implementors of other languages are turning to the Java virtual machine as a delivery vehicle for their languages." [JVMSpec] (§1.2).

Other advantages include that the JVM includes native garbage collection giving more time for actually implementing the language and not a garbage collector, which is a big investment in development time.

Disadvantages include ineffeciences and having to deal with how the JVM is closely built around Java, with no inherent support for first-class functions nor the call-stack manipulations typically used to implement Tail-call optimization.

1.3.3 Tail-call optimization

Functional languages often eschew iteration constructs in favor of plain recursion [AIM353]. Recursion has one disadvantage however, it uses up stack frames and can lead to stack overflows given indefinite recursion. Tail-calls are a special case of recursion that lends itself to optimization allowing for boundless recursion.

What is a Tail-Call?

Whenever the last action, or the expression in tail position, in a function is to call another function this is a tail-call. For meaningful results the true and false expressions, respectively, of an if expression² in tail position also need to be defined, inductively, as themselves being in tail position $[R^5RS]$ (§3.5). This makes sense since an if expression chooses what block of code will be the last one in this case.

²Lisp doesn't have statements in the usual sense. Everything is an expression and has a return value [AIM443] (p. 2) [CLtL2] [R⁵RS]. For instance the closest approximation of a Lisp if expression in C is the ternary operator.

What is tail-call optimization (TCO)?

Whenever the last action of a function is but to return the result of another function there is no longer any need to keep the stack frame of the calling function, since the variables therein will inevitably be referenced no longer. By eliminating the tail-calls, instead replacing them by a goto instruction, allows tail-calls while saving stack space.

Consider the following function:

(defun foo (a) (bar (+ a 2)))

Which might be compiled to something like (pseudo-assembly, RISC-style):

```
foo:
  pop a
                     ; receive argument a on stack
  add temp, a, 2
                     ; (+ a 2) -> temp register
  push ret-reg
                     ; save our return address on stack, so it doesn't
                     ; get clobbered by the call to bar
  push temp
                     ; argument to bar
  call bar
                      ; run (bar temp) -> result to result-reg.
                      ; ret-reg is set to program counter.
  pop ret-reg
                     ; restore our return address
  goto-reg ret-reg
                     ; return to address in ret-reg. the return instruction.
                      ; result-reg has ben set by bar,
                      ; this is what constitues the return value.
```

Replacing the call instruction with a goto one obtains:

```
foo:
```

```
pop a
add temp, a, 2
push temp ; argument to bar
goto bar ; transfer control to bar. which receives the
; argument. ret-reg remains unchanged. bar sets
; result-reg and then immediately returns to
; the caller of foo (the value of ret-reg)
```

No longer is it neccesary to use the stack to save the return address. Leaving ret-reg untouched will have bar jump directly to foos caller. The argument to bar, pushed on the stack, is popped inside bar, keeping the stack from growing at all. Any stack usage, for spilled registers or the like, inside foo would have to to

be popped before the goto. Even if bar the stack size would remain bounded, of course given that bar has also had it's tail-calls eliminated (essentially turning the act of self-tail-recursion into iteration). [AIM443]

While eliminating tail-calls can be thought of as an optional optimization in many languages ³ for many (mostly) functional programming languages *proper tail* recursion is a requirement of the language [$\mathbb{R}^5\mathbb{R}S$] (§3.5).

This is so since those languages might either have a few iteration constructs, but whose usage is considered unfavorable or non-functional in nature, or completely lack regular iteration statements, as is the case with LJSP, relying completely on recursion for iterative tasks, perhaps even implementing (as library functions/syntax not in the core language) some iterative constructs by way of recursion⁴ [AIM353] (§1.2).

One of the big issues this thesis will tackle is how to implement TCO on top of the JVM. The JVM, being a virtual machine optimized for Java specifically, has no way of jumping between subroutines like above. In fact it completely lacks regular subroutines⁵ and has only methods associated with either classes (**static** methods) or objects, since this is all that Java needs.

1.3.4 Scoping

This section will explain the different variable scoping terms used in this thesis. Useful terms when speaking about variable scoping [CLtL2] (§3):

Scope The textual portion of a program during which a variable may be referenced.

Extent The interval of time during which references may occur.

Lexical Scoping

A *lexically scoped* binding can only be referenced within the body of some construct enclosing part of the program. The scope extends to the bodies of enclosing constructs within the outer body, allowing for instance nested functions to access, and mutate, bindings introduced by the function that created them.

The bindings are said to be of *indefinite extent*, that is they can be kept so long something is using them, so that if a function closing over a value is returned that value will be kept until so long as a reference to that function *closure* is kept.

Example (pseudo-code):

function foo(x):-

³For example GCC optimizes tail-calls for the C language, which by no means requires it [gcc]. ⁴This is done in the bootstrap code for the LJSP interpreter implementing (currently a subset of the functionality of) dolist and dotimes, from Common Lisp [CLtL2] (§7.8.3), using macros and recursive higher-order functions.

⁵This is not entirely true, the JVM has a form of subroutines that are local to a method used for compiling the finally-clause of a try-catch-finally exception-handling construct [JVMSpec] (chapter 6 operations jsr, jsr_w and ret and section 7.13).

```
function bar(y):-
    return y + x
return bar(x) + x
```

The free variable x in bar is resolved to the x introduced by foo. Running foo(k) will thus yield k+k+k.

Example with mutation:

```
function make-incrementer(x):-
     function inc(y):-
          x = x + y
          return x
     return inc
. . .
 >> a = make-incrementer(2)
 <closure inc 1>
 >> a(2)
 4
 >> a(1)
 5
 >> b = make-incrementer(123)
 <closure inc 2>
 >> b(5)
 128
 >> a(6)
 11
  Erratic example:
 function foobar(x):-
     function baz(y):-
          return y + x
     return baz(x) + y ; y not defined in this scope
```

This is an error for lexically scoped x and y. Since ys scope only extends throughout the body of baz, however the variable x is available in both foobar and baz.

Static Scoping

While often used synonumously with lexical scoping *static scoping*, as used in this thesis, will refer to the subset of lexically scoped variable bindings that are never captured by any function other than the defining one. That is the variables scope exists only in the body of the function that established the variable binding, and not in the bodies of any nested functions. This is similar to the C model, (disregarding for a while that it typically lacks nested functions).

Example:

```
function foo(x):-
  function bar(x):-
    return x*3
  return bar(x) + 2
```

is valid for a statically scoped x, since all x:s are local to their defining functions.

```
function foo(x):-
  function bar():-
    return x*3
  return x + bar()
```

Would however result in a compiler error, or similar, since the free variable \mathbf{x} is not in scope in **bars** environment, where as it would be with true lexical scoping.

This is the only scoping supported by the example LJSP compiler built for this thesis (but further extension of the compiler is planned, see section 3.2 The future? on page 27).

Dynamic Scoping

Dynamically scoped variables are said to have *indefinite scope*, that is they can be referenced anywhere in the code, and *dynamic extent*. The latter means that they are referenceable between establishment and explicit disestablishment, at runtime. Thus mirroring the actual runtime call stack.

In fact one convenient way of thinking of dynamically bound variables ar Example (all variables are dynamically bound):

```
function bar(b):-
    print(a) ; can access a here if called from foo
    print(b) ; the b here will however be 12 when
        ; called from foo, and not 18, since that
        ; b has been shadowed by the b in the arguments to bar
function foo(a, b):-
    bar(12)
...
>> foo(123, 18)
123
12
<void>
>> bar(23) ; this will fail since a is not defined
<somefail>
```

Some implementations of dynamic scoping, such as the one used by the LJSP interpreter, will default to nil when accessing a non-defined variable thus failing in a much more subtle way for the last call to bar.

This is the only kind of scoping available in the LJSP interpreter⁶.

1.3.5 Bootstrapping

A compiler that is capable of compiling itself is also capable of freeing itself from the original environment. A compiler that has been bootstrapped is sometimes referred to as self-hosting in the sense that to generate a new version of the compiler program no other "host" system but the compiler program is required.

The extent to which the compiler can free itself of the original environment is not necessarily the same for every compiler. This holds true for dynamic programming languages especially, for which the runtime environment and the environment of the compiler need not, and usually is not, be disjoint. Even more so on top of an environment such as the JVM. E.g. the case presented in this thesis still depends on some data structures originally defined in Java, and can't be consider fully self-hosting. Additional work on the compiler to define the data structures independently of Java could, however, result in a truly independent compiler.

1.4 Problem statement

Implement a compiler for a, possibly extended, subset of the Lisp language LJSP.

The compiler shall be written itself in LJSP in a manner that will make it possible to, with further work⁷ than presented in this thesis, eventually bootstrap.

The compiler shall be able to compile a naive implementation of a recursive function computing the fibonacci series, as well as a more efficient tail-recursive implementation.

1.5 Test cases

The goal is to run these test cases, first interpretively using the existing LJSP interpreter, and then run the compiled versions. To compare the results gotten from both versions:

⁶This kind of semantic dichotomy between the compiler implementation and interpreter implementation is typical of old Lisp implementations since, implementation-wise, dynamically scoped variables are easier to implement more efficiently in an interpreter, while the statically scoped variables are more easily compiled.

⁷Due to time constraints and the focus of this thesis the compiler will only be worked towards bootstrapping as a long-term goal rather than actually bootstrapping.

They both compute the *n*:th number of the fibonacci sequence. They use the naive recursive definition (time complexity: $O(2^n)$) and a tail-recursive, or iterative if you prefer, version (time complexity: O(n)).

The first one, due to it's ridiculous time complexity and amount of function calls, is a very good performance test for small integer arithmetics and non-tail-recursive function calls.

Chapter 2

Methods

This chapter will deal with the implementation techniques used, and not used, and (possibly) slated to be used for the LJSP compiler. It is also useful in the general sense to dynamic languages on the JVM since some of the issues it tackles, like first-class functions, are common with Lisp.

2.1 General

2.1.1 Overview of compilation

General description of compiler passes in a Lisp or Lisp-like compiler [Kawa] (§7).

Reading

Reads the input from a file, string, or the interactive prompt (REPL). Parses the indata to LJSP data structures.

Semantic Analysis

Macro expansion takes place. Lexical analysis of free variables is performed, and closures are annotated. Different sorts of rewrites are performed.¹

Code Generation

Run on the resulting code form the semantic analysis. Takes LJSP datastructures and dispatches recursively, based on type and structure, on it generating bytecode fit for feeding in to Jasmin.

Assembly

The output of the code generator is run through jasmin producing a Java class file.²

Loading

²Currently performed manually.

 $^{^1{\}rm The}$ LJSP compiler currently lacks this step, but it is planned and neccesary for more advanced features.

The generated Java class file is loaded into the JVM, an object is instantiated and bound to a variable so the function may be called.³

2.2 Functions and function application

Java doesn't have functions as first-class values, while that is a prominent feature of any functional language and LJSP is just like Scheme in this regard. Achieving this in Java is pretty straight-forward however: A $Procedure^4$ class can be created for representing function, or procedure⁵, objects. Then by subclassing and overriding a virtual method run^6 to contain code generated from the function body function objects in the Scheme sense becomes possible, by way of instantiating such a subclass and passing it around.

Example:

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```
abstract class Procedure extends LispObject {
    ...
    public abstract LispObject run(LispObject[] args);
}
```

Using this class the primitive function **car** might be implemented in pure Java as follows:

```
class car extends Procedure {
   public LispObject run(LispObject[] o) {
      return ((o[0]) == null) ? null : ((Cons)o[0]).car;
   }
}
```

The run method takes as it's argument an array of LispObjects and can thus support any number of arguments, including functions with variable arity, at the

³Currently performed, mostly, manually.

⁴A **Procedure** class was already available from the LJSP interpreter used for, among other things, defining the various built-in functions. An advantage of using this already-available class is ready interoperability with the interpreter. That is we can run the compiled functions directly from the interpreters REPL (Read-Eval-Print-Loop or simply put a sort of command line).

⁵Which might be better nomenclature since they are not functions in the strict mathematical sense, since they can have side-effects. For instance Scheme prefers this nomenclature. However primarily "function" will be used throughout this thesis (with a few obvious exceptions).

⁶In most other literature concerning Lisp on the JVM this method is named **apply** but due to implementation details of the LJSP interpreter this name was not available.

⁷Notably omitted: Checks to ensure that the correct amount of arguments is passed. At the time of writing this is implemented in a fashion optimized for ease of implementation of primitive functions exported from the interpreter (using constructor arguments to Procedure to tell it how to do such checking). This is however slated to change to benefit the compiled version which preferrably compiles in a hard-coded equivalent of such checks. Currently compiled code simply ignores receiving too many arguments.

expense of a slightly clumsy calling convention. This is neccesary since there is no support for variable arity methods in the JVM, the variable arity methods in Java merely being syntactic sugar for passing extra arguments in an array [JLS3] (§15.12.4.2). At the time of writing this is the approach implemented in the LJSP compiler.

Variable arity procedures

Due to how functions are first-class values in this language the caller may in many situations have no idea of what the actual parameter list of the function it calls looks like.

The sensible solution is thus to make it the responsibility of the callee to create the list structure needed for any rest-parameter needed.

An optimization for calling fixed-arity functions

Since most functions are of just a few arguments an optimization, for all fixed arity functions with less than an arbitrary number K arguments, using several methods of differing arity is possible:

```
abstract class Procedure extends LispObject {
   public abstract LispObject runN(LispObject[] args);
   public abstract LispObject run0();
   public abstract LispObject run1(LispObject arg1);
   public abstract LispObject run2(LispObject arg1, LispObject arg2);
   ...
}
```

This continues up to the method $\mathbf{run}K$.

car, taking exactly one argument, could then be constructed as follows:

```
class car extends Procedure {
   public LispObject runN(LispObject[] o) {
      if (o.length != 1)
          throw new WrongArguments();
      return this.run1(o[0]);
   }
   public LispObject run0() {
      throw new WrongArguments();
   }
   public LispObject run1(LispObject arg) {
      return (arg == null) ? null : ((Cons)arg).car;
   }
   public LispObject run2(LispObject arg1, LispObject arg2) {
      throw new WrongArguments();
   }
```

```
...
}
```

And an example of how a variable arity procedure might be compiled:

```
class foo extends Procedure {
   public LispObject runN(LispObject[] args) {
      // Do stuff with args. If applicable check that enough
      // arguments were received.
      return some_result;
   }
   public LispObject runO() {
      return this.runN(new LispObject[]{});
   }
   ...
   public LispObject run2(LispObject arg1, LispObject arg2) {
      return this.runN(new LispObject[]{arg1, arg2});
   }
   ...
}
```

This makes it possible for compiled code to avoid costly construction and deconstruction of Java arrays to pass arguments to functions. The caller, always knowing how many arguments it sends⁸, simply picks which **run** method to call (letting the callee handle any array construction in the case of variable arity functions) and defaulting to **runN** if there are more than K arguments. [Kawa] (§6)

2.3 Literals

This section will elaborate on techniques to compile in literal constants in LJSP code.

2.3.1 Constants

Whenever the compiler stumbles across an expression like (+ a 1) an appropriate representation of the 1 (which according to semantics evaluates to itself) needs to be emitted.

Now 1 is a small enough integer to be represented with LispFixnum which is used for all integers that will fit into a Java long, that is a 64-bit signed two's complement integer [JVMSpec] (§2.4.1).

The simple (however probably not the most efficient approach) is to simply emit code (at the very spot the literal is found, similar to how the compiler references

⁸With the notable exception of calling using the function apply which takes as it's arguments a function and a list, calling the function with the elements of the list as the actual arguments. This is neatly resolved by compiling apply to always call using the runN method.

a variable) for creating a LispFixnum object with a value of 1. This can be done using the LispFixnum(long) constructor. An equivalent Java expression of how the compiler emits a literal 1 would be:

```
new LispFixnum(1)
```

or in the Jasmin representation of Java bytecode (actual compiler output with comments for clarity):

Similar code would be generated for floating point numbers, however instead creating an object of type LispFlonum, using the LispFlonum(double) constructor. The same is true of character and string constants using constructors LispChar(char) and LispString(java.lang.String) respectively. Even the arrays (LispArray) receive roughly the same treatment.

The process is similar for bignums, integers of arbitrary size, but due to their nature of possibly not fitting in the native integer types of Java instead the number is emitted as a string (in decimal) and then passed to the **static** method

public static LispBignum LispBignum.parse(java.lang.String)

, a factory method if you will, which then parses the string into a LispBignum interpretation⁹. Example compiler output (with extra comment):

```
ldc_w "1231312312312312312312312312312312313123"
invokestatic LispBignum.parse(Ljava.lang.String;)LLispBignum;
;; a LispBignum reference is now on top of the stack
```

2.3.2 Complex constants

A Lisp typically has a quote special form¹⁰, and LJSP is no exception, that suppresses evaluation of the enclosed expression and instead returns the data structure as is allowing for complex constants of lists possibly containing their own sublists and more.

Code for constructing the same structure could be recursively generated and inserted into the exact place where the **quote**-expression occurred, similar to how numbers we're handled in the previous section. Thus making:

⁹At the time of writing it simply uses the BigInteger(java.lang.String) constructor of the Java standard library's java.math.BigInteger (the internal representation currently used for LispBignum:s).

¹⁰Since usage of quote is so ubiquitous typical Lisp readers, or Lisp parsers, have special syntax such that, for instance 'foo == (quote foo) $[R^5RS]$ (§4.1.2) [CLtL2] (§1.2.7).

(lambda () (quote (1 a)))

equivalent to the code

(lambda () (cons 1 (cons (intern "a") nil)))

This is however not quite optimal, since constantly recreating constant data in this fashion upon every call to the function would make many cases with complex constants be significantly slower than their interpreted counterparts, due to excessive allocation.

This also deviates from the interpreted semantics where

```
(let ((f (lambda () (quote (1 a)))))
(eq?<sup>11</sup> (f) (f))) \Rightarrow t
```

holds. Since the same object, the very same one that constitues part of the function body, is always returned by the function.

Furthermore Scheme, with which LJSP happens to share a good deal of its semantics, requires quoted constants to always evaluate to the same object ([Incremental] (§3.11) cf. $[\mathbb{R}^5\mathbb{R}\mathbb{S}]$ (§7.2)).

A method for initializing function constants at load-time is neccesary. In Java **static final** fields may be initialized at class load time using a **static** initiliazer [JVMSpec] (§2.11) [JLS3] (§8.7).

By declaring a **static final** field, in the class for the function object, for each quoted constant in the body of the function being compiled and emitting code in the static initializer for constructing the literal. Were the quoted literal appeared in the code code to fetch the **static** field is emitted instead.

The previous example compiles to something like:

 $^{^{11}}$ eq? is equivalent to a pointer compare in C or the comparison operator in Java as used on object references. What it tests is if two references are referencing the same object.

Thus the code for recreating the quoted constant is run once at class load-time, and (eq? (f) (f)) \Rightarrow t holds.

Of course the "simple" constants of the previous subsection would likely benefit (both performance-wise as well as being semantically closer to the interpreter) from a similar treatment as the constants written **quote** with the quote form in this section, and a planned feature is to emit all constants to **private static final** fields of the generated class with extra logic to avoid duplicate constants, and duplicate fields, as long as the data structures involved are immutable (which holds for all numerical types used in LJSP as well as for characters and symbols).

2.4 Tail-call optimization implementation strategies

This section will describe a number of approaches to implement tail-call optimization on the JVM, why they seem plausible and why they work/don't work.

2.4.1 Handling self-tail-calls

Probably the most important and most common case of tail-calls are tail-calls from a function to itself, otherwise known as tail recursion. Implementing this special case of tail-call elimination is likely the simplest, of the practically implementable alternatives presented in this thesis, since no circumvention of the fact that JVM can only perform jumps within a method [JVMSpec] needs to be performed; for this case jumps need only be performed within the method.

The method to implement this is almost exactly the same as the conventional (and completely general on a machine permitting jumps between functions) gotobased approach

By inserting a label at the top of the generated run(LispObject[]) method and, whenever something is found out to be a self-tail-call by the compiler, generating code to set (carefully avoiding to not set variables until all function arguments have been computed¹²), instead of push to stack¹³, the local variables and then jump to this label the need for a regular function call has been eliminated.

Example:

Compiles to (actual compiler output, body only, with some additional comments):

.method public run([LLispObject;)LLispObject;

¹²e.g. (nlambda calc-fib (n a b) (if (= n 0) a (calc-fib (- n 1) b (+ a b)))) wouldn't work correctly if a was set before computing (+ a b)

¹³Note how this is different to the somewhat simpler (and given the right machine also completely general) method proposed in section 1.3.3 (p. 4) and [Incremental] (§3.10) (cf. [AIM443])

```
.limit stack 255
.limit locals 255
;; prologue to take apart the array with the arguments to the
;; function and store them in local variables, counting from 5
aload 1
ldc_w 0
aaload
astore 5
aload_1
ldc_w 1
aaload
astore 6
;; end prologue
Lselftail:
;; (if (= 0 n) acc (fact (- n 1) (* n acc)))
;; condition: (= 0 n)
new LispFixnum
dup
ldc2_w 0
invokenonvirtual LispFixnum.<init>(J)V
aload 5
;; convert the java boolean to a lispier boolean
ifeq L78
getstatic FACT/t LLispObject;
goto L77
L78:
aconst_null
L77:
;; end condition
ifnonnull L76 ; branches to the true-expr
;; false-expr: (fact (- n 1) (* n acc))
;; self-recursive tail-call args: ((- n 1) (* n acc))
aload 5
checkcast LispNumber
new LispFixnum
dup
ldc2_w 1
invokenonvirtual LispFixnum.<init>(J)V
checkcast LispNumber
invokevirtual LispNumber.sub(LLispNumber;)LLispNumber;
aload 5
checkcast LispNumber
aload 6
```

```
checkcast LispNumber
invokevirtual LispNumber.mul(LLispNumber;)LLispNumber;
astore 6
astore 5
goto Lselftail
goto L75 ; Don't also run the true-expr like a fool
L76:
;; true-expr: acc
aload 6
L75:
;; endif
areturn
;; endlambda
.end method
```

If compiling without eliminating the tail-call the call-site would instead look something like (the local variable 0 refers to Java's **this**, that is the object (and in this case this is the function object) which the method is running on):

```
;; (fact (- n 1) (* n acc))
aload 0
checkcast Procedure
; preparing args
ldc_w 2
anewarray LispObject
dup
ldc_w 0
aload 5
checkcast LispNumber
new LispFixnum
dup
ldc2_w 1
invokenonvirtual LispFixnum.<init>(J)V
checkcast LispNumber
invokevirtual LispNumber.sub(LLispNumber;)LLispNumber;
aastore
dup
ldc_w 1
aload 5
checkcast LispNumber
aload 6
checkcast LispNumber
invokevirtual LispNumber.mul(LLispNumber;)LLispNumber;
aastore
; end preparing args
```

invokevirtual Procedure.run([LLispObject;)LLispObject;

Even if implementing another more general approach to TCO on the JVM implementing this approach to self-tail-calls is still very useful as a further optimization. It is by far the most common case of tail recursion and this approach is much faster than most alternatives to implementing general TCO [Kawa].

This is the only kind of TCO implemented in the LJSP compiler as of writing.

2.4.2 Method-local subroutine approach

The only way of performing method calls on the JVM is by using the invoke* series of instructions, and returns performed using the *return of instructions [JVMSpec]. The method invocation instructions take their arguments (including the object on which the method is invoked for instance methods, in a way it can be considered the first argument) on the stack and automatically store the arguments in the method local variables. The call convention of the JVM is thus, in a sense, fixed and there is no way to directly manipulate stack frames. It is not possible to perform a goto to another method nor is it possible to assign to a methods local variables since they are associated with the current frame, which is created every time a method is invoked [JVMSpec] (§3.6).

To escape this call convention imposed by the JVM functions could be implemented as subroutines all within one method and defining a new function call convention, using the operand stack of the current frame, for these subroutines. The JVM comes with three instructions, jsr <label>, jsr_w <label> and ret <local variable>, that in conjunction can be used to implement subroutines. Since this calling convention is done on the operand stack direct stack manipulation would be possible, and for all tail-calls gotos could be issued (like in the example of section 1.3.3 (p. 4)).

This is however not possible on a modern and standards-compliant JVM implementation since the subroutine instructions can not be used in a truly recursive manner, since the verifier forbids it¹⁴ [JVMSpec] (§4.8.2). In the specification for the new java standard, Java SE 7, it has been deprecated altogether (not without backwards compatability for code compiled using an older version) [JVMSpec SE 7] (§4.10.2.5). However this may be a useful, if non-portable technique, given that there are a handful of JVM implementations that seem to blatantly disregard this part of the specification¹⁵.

2.4.3 Trampolines

One method of achieving general tail-recursion is trampolines [Baker]. By setting up an iterative procedure like (pseudo-code):

¹⁴It does so in more than one way. Most obviously the part

¹⁵Or perhaps, the author suspects in particular due to the examples of recursive jsr usage floating across the net, conforms to an older edition of the JVM specification (of which the author has been unable to procure a copy of)

And transforming functions to return a *thunk* with what would have been the tailcall of the function one can implement tail-recursion on a machine lacking direct stack manipulation by way of constantly bouncing up and down.

An example tail-recursive implementation of factorial adapted to be run by a trampoline, like the one above:

```
(defun fact (n acc)
 (if (zero? n)
            acc
            (make-tramp-thunk (lambda () (fact (1- n) (* n acc))))))
```

The trampoline loop could be implemented in Java and the transformation could be made in the *semantic analysis* pass of the compiler.

2.5 Scoping

This section discusses on how to handle the different scoping methods in compiled code.

Note that these scoping methods are not exclusive of each other. Even if having true lexical scoping with closures the static scope implementation method serves as a useful optimization for variables that the compiler can prove as not having been captured.

2.5.1 Static Scope

Static scope, as described in section 1.3.4 (p. 6), is very straightforward to implement on the JVM since each frame can have up to 65535 local variables [JVMSpec] (§4.10) (essentially registers from an assembly language point of view). By simply mapping received values to these variables static scoping is achieved as it is natively supported by the JVM.

(nlambda < selfname > < arg-spec > . < body >)

Due to the current LJSP compiler only supporting static scoping this construct (mmnemonic: named lambda), essentially a specialization of labels was neccesary for self-recursive functions. It binds the function itself to a variable in the function body's scope. It accomplishes this by binding the local variable 0, corresponding to Javas this in all instance methods [JVMSpec] (§7.6), to the variable specified as <selfname> in the static scope of the function.

Example:

```
(nlambda foo (a b) ...)
\Rightarrow
.method public run([LLispObject;)LLispObject;
    .limit stack 255
                       ; java requires these be set, set
    .limit locals 255 ; them to some generic big-enough size
    ;; function prologue deconstructing arguments array
    aload_1 ; the first method argument is gotten in local variable 1
    ldc_w 0
    aaload
    astore 5
    aload_1
    ldc_w 1
    aaload
    astore 6
    ;; end prologue
    ... do stuff (aload) with local variables 0 = foo, 5 = a and 6 = b ...
    areturn
.end method
```

2.5.2 Lexical Scope and Closures

Simple copying

Let's first consider lexical scoping, and specifically lexical closures¹⁶, where the closed over variable bindings are never mutated, that is **set** is never used on them.

```
Example \ code \ (\texttt{nlambda} \ names \ provided \ for \ clarity, \ not \ for \ any \ self-recursion):
```

```
;; Bind function to global variable foo
(defvar foo
    (nlambda foo (a)
        (nlambda bar (x) (+ x a))))
...
;; usage could look like:
;; (hoge and pyon are already declared variables, perhaps declared special)
>> (setq hoge (foo 12))
    <closure 1 bar>
```

 $^{^{16}{\}rm Which}$ is what sets true *lexical scoping* apart from the statically scoped *local* variables in the previous section.

2.5. SCOPING

```
>> (setq pyon (foo 11))
<closure 2 bar>
>> (hoge 2)
14
>> (pyon 33)
44
>> (hoge 1)
13
```

In this case the inner lambda, bar, has a free variable in **a**. However it doesn't mutate the binding of **a** so we may simply copy it into the **Procedure** subclass, at function construction. Thus closures can take their free variables as constructor arguments and save these to fields (which can be made **final** for extra guarantees of not mutating the binding). These can be treated in the same way that statically scoped/local variables in the previous section, but instead the variable **a** in **bars** body would be mapped to a **final** instance variable in the closure object.

It could be compiled as such:

```
class foo extends Procedure {
    public foo() {}
   public LispObject run(LispObject[] o) {
        return new bar(o[0]); // return closure
    }
}
class bar extends Procedure {
    private final LispObject free1;
   public bar(LispObject free1) {
        this.free1 = free1;
    }
   public LispObject run(LispObject[] o) {
        // (+ x a) argument x, closed-over variable a
        return ((LispNumber)o[0]).add((LispNumber)free1);
    }
}
```

Mutating "functions" such as **rplaca** (replace car/head of list), **rplacd** (replace cdr/tail of list) and **aset** (set element in array) doesn't count as mutating the variable binding. They don't change the variable bindings like **set** does, instead they mutate the data structure that the closed over variable binding is referencing. Thus even though data is being mutated just copying all free variable references like before will have correct semantics.

In fact the situation is very similar to the very hairy and only conditions under which Java has lexical closures; inner classes in a non-static context can refer to local variables and instance variables declared in the enclosing class/scope given that they have been declared **final** (Go to [JLS3] (§8.1.3) and check if I was right.)

Now a fully-fledged LJSP compiler wouldn't be quite complete without set. Does this spell the end for this approach to lexical closures?

No. The compiler could check for usage of **set**, both in closures and closuree, on captured/free variables in the *semantic analysis* stage and use this method to implement lexical closures in the absence of it. At the same time the semantic analysis will assess all function bodies for free variables and annotates them for the code generator.

Even better: In the presence of set the compiler could exploit that rplaca, rplacd and aset can mutate state without having to touch the binding of the free variable (which also is impossible since the instance variable was declared final). In the case were the set is used the reference free variable is rewritten using one level of indirection, with the help of a mutable data type, in this case the array.

An example of this nifty rewrite (adapted from [Incremental] to fit LJSP):

```
(let ((f (lambda (c)
            (cons (lambda (v) (set 'c v))
                  (lambda () c))))
  (let ((p (f 0)))
    ((car p) 12)
    ((cdr p))))
\Rightarrow
(let ((f (lambda (t0)
            (let ((c (make-array (list t0))))
              (cons (lambda (v)
                       (aset c 0 v)
                       v)
                     (lambda () (aref c 0)))))))
  (let ((p (f 0)))
    ((car p) 12)
    ((cdr p))))
```

Thus the code generator only has to handle closures over immutable bindings [Incremental] (§3.9, §3.12). Naturally this could be done using conses or other mutable datastructures allowing for this sort of indirect referencing.

2.5.3 Dynamic Scope

In Common Lisp a variable can be declared **special** (locally as well as globally, however for the purposes of this paper only the global case will be considered) having that variable be dynamically bound, allowing to mix the differently scoped sorts of variables in a way fitting the problem at hand¹⁷. Using **defvar** and **defparameter**

¹⁷Useful examples include global variables that can be temporarily overridden by rebinding. For instance rebinding the global variable ***standard-output*** in Common Lisp has the effect of

2.5. SCOPING

to define global variables also has the effect of making the variable special [CLtL2] (§9.2, §5.2).

There are two main approaches, that are basically the same for interpreted and compiled code. Aside from that book keeping is neccesary to keep track of what symbols have ben declared as a **special**, this can simply be implemented as a property of the **Symbol** object.

Value slot

Each symbol gets one field/slot value that is bound to the current top-level binding of the variable. Whenever the variable is rebound the old variable is saved in either a local variable (thus implicitly utilizing the native java stack) or pushed down a stack for retrieval upon exit of the new binding and the restoring of the old one [MACLISP] (§3.2, §6.1).

This approach has the benefit of access speed to the detriment of rebinding speed. Due to the global shared state it imposes it is also fundamentally threadingincompatible.

This is the model currently implemented by the LJSP interpreter¹⁸.

The latter approach to value slot based dynamical bindings, with a separate push-down stack, has the benefit of being able to eliminate tail-calls even in an environment with only dynamic variables (The LJSP interpreter uses this to great effect) [DynaTail].

Environments

Another approach would be to supply each function invocation with an easily extendable environment object of some sort. This dynamic environment object would then be used to lookup dynamically bound variables at runtime.

This would require a slight rewrite of the, for this particular example nonoptimized, **Procedure** class proposed in section 2.2 (p. 12):

```
}
```

This environment is passed on at every function call site so if foo calls bar bar will inherit the dynamic environment of foo, possibly extending it. In the case of a

redirection the standard output stream, since output functions define to output to the stream object pointed to by ***standard-output***. In fact LJSP also has a global value ***standard-output*** used in the same way.

¹⁸And it has led to no end of problems when trying to deal with creating Swing applications in LJSP. One needs to be very very careful to run no code in parallel when there is the regular main thread and the Swing event loop.

mixed lexical/dynamic scoping environment like Common Lisp if the name of one of the arguments of **bar** coincides with the name of a variable declared **special** the environment will be augmented shadowing the old declaration of that variable until **bar** returns.

This method of handling dynamically scoped variables mimics almost exactly how environments are passed around in many Lisp interpreters, including the very first one [McCarthy60].

This method has the benefit that, for suitably built environment data structures, threads in a multi-threaded application would be able to share the same base-level binding of a dynamic variable yet capable of shadowing this binding with their own to have a thread-local top-level dynamic variable binding. Different threads will reference the same base environment, but will have their own environment extensions on top of this. Sort of like a multi-headed stack.

The drawbacks include slower lookup of dynamic variables as well as extra overhead due to always passing on the dynamic environment, even in cases were it might not be needed (a sufficiently smart compiler might be able to alleviate this somewhat however).

Chapter 3

Results

3.1 How much of the language was implemented?

3.2 The future?

- Have compiled functions handle receiving, by causing an error condition, too many arguments instead of silently ignoring it.
- Implement the optimization for function calls in section 2.2 (p. 12) at the same time as the above (this makes sense as that model makes checking for function arity much more effective than otherwise.)
- Implement compiler support for variable arity procedures.
- Implement a semantical analysis stage of compilation.
- Have the compiler support macros with a macro-expansion pass prior to semantic analysis and code generation.
- Implement lexically and dynamically bound variables, preferably while retaining the current model of statically scoped variables, as an optimization, when semantic analysis has found a variable neither captured by a closure nor declared as dynamically bound.
- Implement set and have it work for lexical scoping (to keep it fun; closures would be too trivial otherwise) and dynamic scoping alike.
- Replace or fix the old reader currently used by the LJSP interpreter.
- Have the compiler bootstrap.
- Find out how much of the reflection-based model of Java interoperability, used by the interpreter, can be salvaged and made into a newer better defined and more easily compiled approach to Java interoperability.

3.3 Benchmarks

See separate attachement.

The differences between the compiled fib-trec and interpreted ditto is smaller than the difference between fib compiled and non-compiled. Likely since fib-trec is tail-recursive (time complexity of O(n)) and the result gets big very fast before it starts getting slow. Likely most of the execution time of the fib-trec taken up by bignum arithmetics.

Chapter 4

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Part I

Appendices

Chapter 5

Appendix A

Contains the compiler code in all it's messy (it is still littered with old code in comments, how horrible!) glory.

Also available, together with the neccesary runtime environment, at:

http://www.nada.kth.se/~antonki/programmering/ljsp-kandx.tar.bz2

```
;-*- Mode: Lisp -*-
 1
 \mathbf{2}
     ;;; IDEA: (doesn't really belong here?) Start having fexprs (or
 3
     ;;; similar) so you can be meaner in how you handle macros (as ;;; statically as CL for instance).
 4
 5
 \mathbf{6}
 7
     ;;; Can you somehow coerce the JVM into thinking duck-typing is a good idea?
 8
 9
     ;; TODO: DONE-ish add argument to pretty much everything to keep track of
           tail-call or not
10
                 \ast Judicious finals everywhere (we don't subclass the generated classes
     ;;
           after all)
                 * Perhaps move classname out of the environment plist?
* More correct-amount-of-args-checking and the likes
* Make all environtment be ONE environment and convey static/lexical/
11
     ;;
12
     ;;
13
     ;;
           dynamic using the plist instead????

* instead of having the creepy %literal-vars% and %literal-init% type
14
     ;;
           variables scan code ahead of
time to generate a table of constants? (we don't win much on this move
15
     ;;
           except
16
                    having \ cleaner \ code \ with \ less \ side-effects
     ;;
17
18
19
     (require 'java)
20
21
     ;; Perhaps move this to stuff.ljsp due to it's bootstrappinessishness?
22
     (unless (running-compiled?)
23
        (defmacro defvar (a)
          (unless (symbol-value (cadr a)) ; unless already bound
(list 'setq (cadr a) (caddr a)))))
\frac{24}{25}
26
27
28
     ;; FOR NOW
     (defvar cfib '(nlambda fib (n) (if (= n \ 0) \ 0 (if (= n \ 1) \ 1 (+ (fib (- n \ 1))) (fib
29
           (-n 2))))))))
30
     (defvar cfib-trec '(lambda (n)
31
32
                                  ((nlambda calc-fib (n a b)
                                      (if (= n 0))
33
34
                                            (calc-fib (-n 1) b (+ a b))))
35
                                    n \hspace{0.1cm} 0 \hspace{0.1cm} 1 \hspace{0.1cm} ) \hspace{0.1cm} \overset{\hspace{0.1cm} \circ}{)} \hspace{0.1cm} ) \hspace{0.1cm}
36
```

```
(defvar fcollatz '(nlambda collatz (n) (print n) (if (= n 1) nil (collatz (if (= ( mod n 2) 0) (/ n 2) (+ 1 (* n 3)))))))
 38
 39
 40
      ;; differs semantically slightly from the mapcar1 in stuff.ljsp (aside from wierd
           binding-stuffs, it doesn't use end? for end of list)
var mopcorl '(nlambda mapcarl (fnx lstx) (if lstx (cons (fnx (car lstx)) (
 41
      (defvar mopcor1
           mapcarl fnx (cdr lstx))) nil))
 42
      ;; differs semantically slightly from the assq in stuff.ljsp (aside from wierd
binding-stuffs, it doesn't use end? for end of list)
;; left some crud in ((lambda nil nil)) (from macro expansion), for testing, in it
 43
 44
      45
 46
 47
      (defvar quote-test (subst-symbols
                                '(lambda (a)
 48
 49
                                 (cons a
                                            50
 51
                               52
 53
 54
 55
     (defvar cfact '(nlambda fact (n acc) (if (= 0 n) acc (fact (- n 1) (* n acc)))))
 56
 57
      ;; Blargh my parser is broken in many strange ways and crazy so let's
 58
     (defvar dblfnutt (prin1-to-string '|"))
 59
 60
 61
     (defvar nl "
 62
 63
 64
 65
     (defvar *compiled-body* '())
 66
     (defvar *dynamic-variables* '())
 67
 68
 69
      (defvar *label-counter* 0)
 70
      (defvar *funclabel-counter* 0)
 71
      (defvar *static-var-counter* 0)
 72 \\ 73
      ;; These are dynmic variables locally overrided to contain
;; initializing code, and the static variable definitions for all the
;; literals, into their static variables, for the currently compiling
 74
 75
      ;; class file. Defvarring them like this makes them be SPECIAL (or whatever) (defvar %literal-init% nil) (defvar %literal-vars% nil)
 76
 77
78
 79
      ;; local variables 5 and above are for static environment. 0 to 5 have
 80
      ;; special uses. With 0 always referring to the this variable. 3 be
;; a temp variable and the others are for the time being undefined.
                                                                                     3 being
 81
 82
 83
      (defvar +reserved-regs-split+ 5)
 84
     (defun get-label ()
  (concat "L" (inc *label-counter*)))
 85
 86
 87
     (defun get-funclabel ()
  (concat "FUN" (inc *funclabel-counter*)))
 88
 89
 90
      (defun get-static-var-name ()
  (concat "lit" (inc *static-var-counter*)))
 91
 92
 93
 94
 95
      ;;;; Functions implemented using java classes that perhaps should be ;;;; made built-in to ease boot-strapping and portability % f(x) = 0
 96
 97
 98
        For portabilitys sake consider makeing this a built in subr
 99
100
     (defun concat strs
```

```
(let ((sb (send StringBuilder 'newInstance)))
 (dolist (str strs)
      (send sb 'append str))
101
102
103
               (send sb 'toString)))
104
105
            Same: for portabilitys sake consider making this built in or similar
106
       (defun load-proc (name)
 (let ((name (if (type? 'symbol name) (prin1-to-string name) name)))
      (send (send Class 'forName name) 'newInstance)))
107
108
109
110
111
        (defun concat-nl strs
112
           (apply concat (flatten (mapcar (lambda (x) (list x nl)) strs))))
113
       (defun NaN? (a)
(send Double 'isNaN a))
114
115
116
        (defun infinite? (a)
  (send Double 'isInfinite a))
117
118
119
120
        ;;;; End functions using java
121
122
        ;;;; CODE WALKER FOR LEXICAL ANALYSIS
123
        ;;;; Used to find free variables in lambdas (and macros) mainly
;; This here thing does NOT want code with macros in it (HINT:
;; remember to expand macros way early) (just think about the
124
125
126
127
        ;; confusion let would be, for instance). Also think about: local
        ;; macros WTF?
128
129
130
        (defun analyze (a . rst)
           (let ((local-variables (car rst)))
131
132
               (uniq (sort-list (analyze-expr a local-variables) hash<) eq?)))
133
134
135
       (defun analyze-expr (a local-variables)
           (if (atom? a)
(if (and (type? 'symbol a)
136
137
                                 (not (member a local-variables))
(not (member a *dynamic-variables*)))
138
139
                 (not (member a *uynamic ....)
(list a)
'())
(case (car a)
(quote '()) ; no variables can be captured in a quote
(lambda (analyze-lambda a local-variables)) ; macro?
(if (analyze-list a local-variables)) ; Treat if specially in future
? (is there a point in closing over the VARIABLE if ?)
(otherwise (analyze-list a local-variables)))))
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
       (defun analyze-lambda (a local-variables)
(unless (eq? (car a) 'lambda) ; macro?
  (error "You ought to supply me with a lambda when you want to analyze free
      variables in a lambda."))
148
149
150
           variables in a lambda. ))
(letrec ((scan (lambda (lst acc)
(cond ((null? lst) (reverse! acc))
((atom? lst) (reverse! (cons lst acc)))
(t (scan (cdr lst) (cons (car lst) acc))))))
(analyze-list (cddr a) (append (scan (cadr a) nil) local-variables))))
151
152
153
154
155
156
       (defun analyze-list (a local-variables)
157
158
           (letrec ((roop (lambda (lst acc)
                                        (if (end? lst)
159
160
                                               acc
161
                                               (roop (cdr lst) (append acc (analyze-expr (car lst)
                                                      local-variables)))))))
162
               (roop a nil)))
163
164
       ;; Remember to check if there are too many arguments as well in things like if and
                print
165
       (defun emit-if (a e tail)
 (let ((condition (cadr a))
        (true-expr (caddr a))
        (false-expr (caddr a))
        (label (get-label))
166
167
168
169
170
```

```
(label-after (get-label)))
(concat ";; " a nl
    (emit-expr condition e nil)
    "ifnonnull " label "; brand
171
172
                          (..... expr condition e nil)
"ifnonnull " label " ; branches to the true-expr" nl
(emit-expr false-expr e tail)
"goto " label-after " ; Don't also run the true-expr like a fool" nl
label ":" nl
(emit-expr in)
173
174
175
176
177
                          (emit-expr true-expr e tail)
label-after ":" nl
";; endif" nl)))
178
179
180
181
182
       ;;;; Used by emit-funcall to generate code for how to structure arguments before
             the actual call
       ;;;; This particular version is when passing arguments in an array (defun emit-funargs (args e) (letrec ((roop (lambda (lst e cntr asm)
183
184
185
                                     (if (end? lst)
186
187
                                            asm
188
                                            (roop (cdr lst)
189
                                                      (1 + \text{cntr})
190
191
                                                      (concat asm
192
                                                                   "dup"
                                                                                                                 nl
                                                                   "ldc_w " cntr
193
                                                                                                                 n l
                                                                  (emit-expr (car lst) e nil)
194
195
                                                                    aastore
                                                                                                                 nl))))))
             (let ((len (length args)))
  (if (zero? len)
      (concat "aconst_null" nl) ; very slight optimization of the no-argument
196
197
198
                             case
                       199
200
201
202
203
      ;; Version for passing arguments on stack in regular order \#;(defun\ emit-funargs\ (args\ e)
204
205
206
          (if args
                 (apply concat (mapcar (lambda (x) (emit-expr x e nil)) args)))
207
208
209
      ;; This will need to do different things for a non-compiled function a ;; compiled function a compiled or non-compiled macro according to ;; their current bindings (we fearlessly ignore that for the ;; dynamically scoped case our function bindings might change and
210
211
212
213
      ;; such. This is less a problem in the lexically scoped case yet still
;; a problem for some cases (which cases?))
;; WHEN JSR-ing (or similar):
;; Don't forget to reverse the arglist
214
215
216
217
      218
219
220
       ;; POSSIBLE OPTIMIZATION: Inline in a nice way when just a regular ;; non-recursive lambda-thingy (like the case the let- or progn macro ;; would generate (especially the latter one is trivial))
221
222
223
224
       (defun emit-funcall (a e tail)
225
          (let ((fun (car a))
226
             (args (cdr a)))
(if (and tail
227
                            (type? 'symbol fun)
228
                            (print (get-variable-property fun 'self e)))
229
                    (emit-self-recursive-tail-call args e)
(concat ";; " a nl
230
231
                                 (emit-expr fun e nil)
                                                                                    ; puts the function itself on the
232
                                      stack
                                 "checkcast Procedure"
233
                                                                            n l
234
                                 "; preparing args"
                                                                            n \, l
                                 (emit-funargs args e)
235
                                 (emit-runargs args e)
"; end preparing args" nl
"invokevirtual Procedure.run([LLispObject;)LLispObject;" nl))))
236
237
238
      ;; WRITTEN FOR STATIC ONLY
;; TODO: rewrite when stuff changes...
239
240
```

```
241
      ;; This currently assumes a certain layout of variables laid out by % \mathcal{L}^{(n)}(\mathcal{L})
            emit-lambda-body\,.
      ;; Note how we just reuse the old state locations since a tail-call let's us
discard the old state for this frame entirely
;; However: Before we start setting the local variables we have pushed all the
242
243
      ;; If we didn't all sorts of side-effect mayhem might occur for example for
244
      ;; (nlambda foo (a b) (if (> a 100) a (foo (+ a 2) (* a b)))) a is used twice in
245
            the argument list
      (defun emit-self-recursive-tail-call (args e)
(letrec ((funargs-push (lambda (lst e asm)
246
247
248
                                           (if (end? lst)
249
                                                asm
250
                                                (funargs-push (cdr lst)
251
                                                                    (concat asm
252
253
                                                                              (emit-expr (car lst) e nil)))
                                                                                   )))
254
                     (funargs-pop (lambda (cntr offset asm)
255
                                         (if (zero? cntr)
256
                                               asm
257
                                               (funargs-pop (1- cntr)
                                                                 offset
258
259
                                                                 (concat asm
                                                                            "astore " (+ (1 - cntr) offset)
260
                                                                                nl))))))
           (concat ";; self-recursive tail-call args: " args nl
    (funargs-push args e "")
    (funargs-pop (length args) +reserved-regs-split+ "")
    "goto Lselftail" nl)))
261
262
263
264
265
      266
267
268
269
270
                          (type? 'string %literal-vars%)) ; so they should always be strings
271
           when we end up here
(error (concat "Special variables %literal-vars%: " (prin1-to-string %
272
                 literal-vars%)
                               and %literal-init%: " (prin1-to-string %literal-init%)
" not properly initialized")))
273
274
275
         (let ((static-var (get-static-var-name)))
276
                 (classname (getf e 'classname)))
           277
278
279
            (setq %literal-init% (concat %literal-init%
           280
281
282
283
284
      (defun emit-java-double (a)
         (cond ((NaN? a)
285
286
                  ;; KLUDGE: workaround using division by zero (resulting in NaN) since
                   (; jasmin seems to have trouble, or at least is lacking any documention,
;; how to load a NaN double as a constant
(concat ";; jasmin lacks all sort of documentation on how to push a NaN
double. Division by zero works as a work-around." nl
287
288
289
                  (concat
                             "dconst_0" nl
"dconst_0" nl
"ddiv" nl
290
291
                 "ddist" nl))
((and (infinite? a) (not (neg? a)))
;; KLUDGE: same thing but for positive infinity
(concat ";; hackaround for positive infinity" n
292
293
294
                  (concat ";; hackaround "
"ldc2_w 1.0d" nl
295
                                                                                nl
296
                                             nl
nl))
297
                             "dconst_0"
                             "ddiv"
298
                 ((and (infinite? a) (neg? a))
;; KLUDGE: same thing but for negative infinity
(concat ";; hackaround for negative infinity" n
"ldc2_w -1.0d" nl
299
300
301
                                                                                nl
302
```

```
303
                           "dconst_0"
                                             n l
304
                           "ddiv'
                                             nl))
305
               (t
                 306
                 (concat "ldc2_w " a "d" nl)))
307
308
309
     (defun emit-java-long (a)
(concat "ldc2_w " a nl))
310
311
312
     ;; Emits code to regenerate an object as it is (quoted stuffs use
313
314
         this)
     ;;
315
        TODO: *
                   what about procedures and the like, while not having a
316
                   literal representation one might send crazy shit to the
     ;;
                   compiler...?
317
                  What about uninterned symbols? (Does it really make a difference?) Very
318
     ;;
     tricky shit this :/
(defun emit-obj (obj e)
319
        (cond ((eq? obj nil) (emit-nil))
((type? 'fixnum obj)
(concat "new LispFixnum" nl
"dup" nl
320
321
322
323
                           (emit-java-long a)
"invokenonvirtual LispFixnum.<init>(J)V" nl))
324
325
                ((type? 'flonum obj)
326
                           "new LispFlonum" nl
"dup" nl
327
                 (concat
                           "dup" nl
(emit-java-double obj)
"invokenonvirtual LispFlonum.<init>(D)V" nl))
328
329
330
               331
332
333
                               nl))
               ((type? 'string obj)
(concat "new LispString"
"dup"
334
335
                                                                     nl
336
                                                                     nl
                           "ldc_w " dblfnutt obj dblfnutt
337
                                                                     nl
338
                           "invokenonvirtual LispString.<init>(Ljava.lang.String;)V" nl))
               ((type? 'array obj)
(concat "new LispArray"
"dup"
339
340
                                                                     nl
341
                                                                     nl
                          (nlet roop ((cntr (length obj))
(asm (concat "ldc_w " (length obj) nl
"anewarray LispObject" nl)))
342
343
344
345
                             (if (zero? cntr)
346
                                  asm
                                  (roop (1 - cntr))
347
348
                                          (concat asm
                                                    "dup"
349
                                                                                                  n \, l
                                                    "ldc_w " (1- cntr)
350
                                                                                                  nl
                                                   (emit-obj (aref obj (1- cntr)) e)
351
352
                                                    aastore
                                                                                                  nl))))
                           "invokenonvirtual LispArray.<init>([LLispObject;)V" nl))
353
               ((type? 'symbol obj)
(concat "ldc_w " dblfnutt obj dblfnutt nl
354
355
                           "invokestatic Symbol.intern(Ljava.lang.String;)LSymbol;" nl))
356
357
               ((type? 'char obj)
                 (concat "new LispChar"
"dup"
358
                                                                  nl
359
                                                                  nl
                           "bipush " (char->integer obj)
360
                                                                  nl
361
                           "invokenonvirtual LispChar. < init >(C)V" nl))
362
               ((type? 'cons obj)
                 (concat "new Cons"
"dup"
363
                                                           nl
364
                                                           nl
               (aup
(emit-obj (car obj) e)
(emit-obj (cdr obj) e)
"invokenonvirtual Cons.<init>(LLispObject;LLispObject;)V" nl))
(t (error (concat "Couldn't match type for:" a)))))
365
366
367
368
369
370
     (defun emit-return-self (obj e)
        (cond ((type? 'symbol obj) (emit-variable-reference obj e))
((atom? obj) (emit-obj obj e))
(t (error "Arghmewhats?"))))
371
372
373
374
```

```
376
377
        ;; TODO: when/if removing multiple alists for different sorts of environments:
              REWRITE
378
            THIS IS REALLY A HUGE KLUDGE
        (defun get-variable-property (var property e)
379
          (or (get-static-variable-property var property e)
  (get-lexical-variable-property var property e)
  (get-dynamic-variable-property var property e))))
380
381
382
383
384
       (defun get-static-variable-property (var property e)
385
           (getf (cddr (assq var (getf e 'static-environment))) property))
386
387
       (defun get-lexical-variable-property (var property e)
388
           (getf (cddr (assq var (getf e 'dynamic-environment))) property))
389
       (defun get-dynamic-variable-property (var property e)
  (getf (cddr (assq var (getf e 'lexical-environment))) property))
390
391
392
393
       ;;;; Variable lists look like ((a <\!\! storage-location\!> . <\!\! extra-properties-plist\!>) (
394
        \begin{array}{c} b & \dots \\ b & \dots \end{pmatrix} & \dots \\ ;;;; & e.g & ((a \ 1) \ (fib \ 0 \ self \ t)) \\ & & & \\ \end{array}
395
       (defun get-static-variable (var e)
(let ((static-environment (getf e 'static-environment)))
396
397
398
              (cadr (assq var static-environment))))
399
       (defun get-lexical-variable (var e)
  (let ((lexical-environment (getf e 'lexical-environment)))
400
401
402
              (cadr (assq var lexical-environment))))
403
       (defun get-dynamic-variable (var e)
  (let ((dynamic-environment (getf e 'dynamic-environment)))
404
405
406
              (cadr (assq var dynamic-environment)))))
407
408
       (defun emit-variable-reference (a e)
          defun emit-variable-reference (a e)
 (let ((static-var-place (get-static-variable a e))
        (lexical-var-place (get-lexical-variable a e))
        (dynamic-var-place (get-dynamic-variable a e)))
        (cond (static-var-place (concat "aload " static-var-place nl))
            (lexical-var-place (concat "nolexicalyet" nl))
            (dynamic-var-place (concat "nodynamicyet" nl))
            (t (error (concat "Variable: " a " doesn't seem to exist anywhere."))))))
409
410
411
412
413
414
415
416
417
       (defun emit-arithmetic (a e))
          (unless (= (length a) 3)
(error (concat "You can't arithmetic with wrong amount of args: " a)))
418
419
           (concat (emit-expr (second a) e nil)
"checkcast LispNumber" nl
420
421
                        cneckcast LispNumber' nl
(emit-expr (third a) e nil)
"checkcast LispNumber" nl
"invokevirtual LispNumber."
(case (car a) (+ "add") (- "sub") (* "mul") (/ "div"))
"(LLispNumber:) LLispNumber:" nl))
122
423
424
425
                          (LLispNumber;) LLispNumber; " nl))
426
427
428
       (defun emit-integer-binop (a e)
          (unless (= (length a) 3)
(error (concat "You can't integer-binop with wrong amount of args: " a)))
429
430
           (concat (emit-expr (second a) e nil)
"checkcast LispInteger" nl
431
432
                        (emit-expr (third a) e nil)
"checkcast LispInteger" nl
433
434
                        (case (car a) (mod "mod") (ash "ash"))
435
436
                                                                         nl))
                          (LLispInteger;)LLispInteger;"
437
438
439
       ;; Used, internalish, to emit dereferencing the variable t (currently special
440
       hardcoded, put in own function for modularity (defun emit-t (e)
441
           (let ((classname (getf e 'classname)))
 (concat "getstatic " classname "/t LLispObject;" nl))) ; TODO: in the future
 try to emit a variable reference to t here instead of this hardcoded
442
443
```

```
mishmash
444
       ;; Used to emit the sequence to convert a java boolean to a more lispish boolean.
Used in mostly "internalish" ways.
445
446
       (defun emit-boolean-to-lisp (e)
         (let ((label (get-label)))
447
            (label-after (get-label)))
(concat "ifeq " label nl
118
449
                        ;; (emit-return-self 123 nil)
                                                                       ; TODO: change me to emit t later
450
                        (emit-t e)
"goto " label-after nl
label ":" nl
451
452
453
454
                        (emit-nil)
                        label-after ":"
455
                                                    nl)))
456
      (defun emit-= (a e)
457
         (unless (= (length a) 3)
(error (concat "You can't = with wrong amount of args: " a)))
458
459
460
          (concat (emit-expr (second a) e nil)
461
                      ; "checkcast LispNumber" nl
                     (emit-expr (third a) e nil)
;; "checkcast LispNumber" nl
"invokevirtual java/lang/Object.equals(Ljava/lang/Object;)Z" nl
462
463
464
                     (emit-boolean-to-lisp e)))
465
466
467
       (defun emit-neg? (a e)
         (unless (= (length a) 2)
(error (concat "You can't neg? with wrong amount of args: " a)))
(concat (emit-expr (second a) e nil)
"checkcast LispNumber" nl
468
469
470
471
                     "invokevirtual LispNumber.negP()Z" nl
472
473
                     (emit-boolean-to-lisp e)))
474
       (defun emit-eq? (a e)
475
         (unless (= (length a) 3)
 (error (concat "You can't eq? with wrong amount of args: " a)))
(let ((label-ne (get-label))
476
477
478
479
                  (label-after (get-label)))
            (concat (emit-expr (second a) e nil)
(emit-expr (third a) e nil)
"if_acmpne " label-ne nl
480
481
482
                        (emit-t e)
"goto"
483
                        goto " label-after nl
label-ne ":"
484
485
                         'aconst_null"
486
                                                            nl
                        label-after ":"
487
                                                            nl\,)\,)\,)
488
       (defun emit-eql? (a e)
489
         (error "eql? not implemented"))
490
491
492
          TODO: * two-argument version of print
       ;;
                   * implement without temp variable if possible. Having
temp-variables might grow trickier when some method
implementations do away with the need to (always)
493
       ;;
494
      ;;
495
       ;;
496
                       deconstruct an array
       (defun emit-print (a e)
(let ((label-nil (get-label)))
497
498
                  (label after (get-label)))
(cat ";; " a
    "getstatic java/lang/System/out Ljava/io/PrintStream;"
    (emit-expr (cadr a) e nil)
    "dup"
499
            (concat
500
                                                                                                                      nl
501
                                                                                                                      nl
502
503
                                                                                                                      nl
                        "astore_2 ; store in the temp variable"
504
                                                                                                                      nl
505
                        "dup"
                                                                                                                      nl
                        "ifnull " label-nil
506
                        "invokevirtual java/lang/Object.toString()Ljava/lang/String;"
"goto " label-after
                                                                                                                      n l
507
                                                                                                                      nl
508
                                  label-after
                                                                                                                      nl
509
                        label-nil ":"
                                                                                                                      n \, l
510
                         pop "
                                                                                                                      n \, l
                        "ldc_w " dblfnutt "nil" dblfnutt
label-after ":"
511
                                                                                                                      nl
512
                                                                                                                      n l
                         invokevirtual java/io/PrintStream.println(Ljava/lang/String;)V"
513
                                                                                                                     nl
                        "aload_2 ; we return what we got"
514
                                                                                                                      n1)))
515
```

```
(defun emit-set (a e)
(error "set not implemented"))
516
517
518
      (defun emit-nil ()
(concat "aconst_null" nl))
519
520
521
522
       (defun emit-car-cdr (a e)
          (unless (= (length a) 2)
(error "You can't " (car a) " with wrong amount of args: " a))
(let ((label-nil (get-label)))
523
524
525
             (concat (emit-expr (cadr a) e nil)
"dup"
526
527
                                                                                       nl
                        "dup"
"ifnull " label-nil
"checkcast Cons"
"getfield Cons/" (car a) " LLispObject;"
label-nil ":"
528
                                                                                       n\,l
529
                                                                                       n \, l
530
                                                                                       nl
                                                                                       nl)))
531
532
533
      (defun emit-cons (a e)
         (unless (= (length a) 3)
(error "You can't cons with wrong amount of args: " a))
(concat "new Cons"
"dup"
534
535
536
                                                                                                             nl
537
                                                                                                              nl
                      (emit-expr (second a) e nil)
(emit-expr (third a) e nil)
"invokenonvirtual Cons.<init>(LLispObject;LLispObject;)V" nl))
538
539
540
541
       (defun emit-expr (a e tail)
(if (list? a)
(case (car a)
542
543
544
                  ;; To be able to pass these, where appropriate (e.g: not if), as arguments
545
                   the bootstrap code needs to define functions that use these builtins.
e.g: (defun + (a b) (+ a b))
;; (running-compiled? (emit-return-self 1337 nil)); TODO: change me to
546
                         emit t later
547
                   (running-compiled? (emit-t e))
                                  (emit-set a e))
(emit-eq? a e))
548
                   (set
549
                   (eq?
                                  (emit-eql? a e))
550
                   (eql?
                   ((or + - *
551
                                   /) (emit-arithmetic a e))
                   ((or + - * /) (emit arrangere a c))
(neg? (emit-neg? a e))
((or mod ash) (emit-integer-binop a e))
((or car cdr) (emit-car-cdr a e))
552
553
554
555
                                        (emit-cons a e))
556
                   (cons
                   (if (emit-if a e tail))
557
                   (print (emit-print a e))
((or lambda nlambda) (emit-lambda a e))
558
559
                   ((of famous final ())
(quote (emit-quote a e))
(otherwise (if (car a)); need to be careful about nil....? (
560
561
                         should this truly be here?... well it is due to the list? check (nil
                         is a list))
                                          (emit-funcall a e tail)
562
                                          (emit-nil))))
563
                (emit-return-self a e)))
564
565
566
567
       (defun emit-lambda (a e))
568
          (let ((function-class-name (compile-lambda a
                                                                           (list 'static-environment nil
569
                                                                                    'lexical-environment (getf e '
570
                                                                                         lexical-environment)
                                                                                    'dynamic-environment (getf e '
571
             dynamic-environment)))));;; TODO: save this in a private static final field in the class? (if
572
            ;; possible of course since when I introduce closures there will be cases
;; where it may no longer be possible to do it that way)
(concat "new " function-class-name nl
"dup" nl
573
574
575
576
577
                         "invokenonvirtual " function-class-name ".<init>()V" nl)))
578
579
      ;; OLD CRAP COMMENT?
580
       ;; TODO?: something else than compile-lambda should output whatever amounts to ;; dereferencing a function after actually having compiled the function and
581
582
```

```
;; stored it in an appropriate global var (otherwise we would get some strange
;; form of inline call wherever a lambda is)
583
584
585
     (defun emit-classfile-prologue (classname))
586
587
        (concat ".class " classname
      .super Procedure
588
589
      .field private static final t LLispObject;
" %literal-vars% "
590
591
592
      .method static < clinit >()V
593
594
           .limit locals 255
595
           .limit stack 255
596
           ldc_w " dblfnutt "t" dblfnutt "
invokestatic Symbol.intern(Ljava/lang/String;)LSymbol;
putstatic " classname "/t LLispObject;
597
598
           putstatic
599
             %literal-init%
600
601
           return
602
      .\,{\rm end} method
603
      .method public <init >()V
604
           .limit stack 2
.limit locals 1
605
606
607
           aload_0
ldc " dblfnutt classname dblfnutt "
608
609
           invokenonvirtual Procedure.<init>(Ljava/lang/String;)V
610
611
           return
612
      .end method
     .method public run([LLispObject;)LLispObject;
.limit stack 255
.limit locals 255
"))
613
614
615
616
617
618
      (defun emit-classfile-epilogue (classname)
  (concat ".end method" nl))
619
620
621
      ;; Compile a lambda/nlambda in environment e. Store jasmin source in classname.j (
622
      if supplied, optional argument)
(defun compile-lambda (a e . rst)
(unless (and (type? 'list a)
623
624
        625
626
627
628
629
                  (%literal-vars% "")
(%literal-init% "")
630
631
632
                  (body (case (car a)
                                                                                  ; since we evaluate the
                        body also for the side effects to %literal-vars%
(lambda (emit-lambda-body a env)) ; and %literal-init% we
have to evaluate this before emit-classfile-prologue
633
           (nlambda (emit-nlambda-body a env)))))
(with-open-file (stream (concat classname ".j") out)
634
635
636
              (write-string (concat (emit-classfile-prologue classname)
637
                                           body
                                            (emit-classfile-epilogue classname))
638
639
                                stream))
           ;; HERE: compile the file just emitted too
640
641
           classname))
642
                                                            ; NOT TAIL RECURSIVE
643
      (defun emit-progn (a e tail)
         (cond ((cdr a) (concat (emit-expr (car a) e nil)
644
                                         pop" nl
645
                                       (emit-progn (cdr a) e tail)))
646
                (a (emit-expr (car a) e tail))
(t "")))
647
648
649
      ;; (nlambda <name> (a b c) . <body>)
(defun emit-nlambda-body (a e)
(emit-lambda-body (cons 'lambda (cddr a))
650
651
652
653
                                 е
```

654;; we know ourselves by being register 0 which is "this" in Java. this variable has the self property set to the parameter-list of the 655 function. emit-funcall will thus know it can do self-tail-call-elimination and 656 also how the parameters are to be interpreted (when to construct a list 657 $out \ of \ some \ of$;; them etc. etc.) (acons (cadr a) (list 0 'self (third a)) nil))) 658 659 660 661 (defun emit-lambda-body (a e . rst) (letrec ((static-environment-augmentation (first rst)); Optional argument that 662 augments the generated static environment if present (args (cadr a)) (body (cddr a)) 663 664(args-roop (lambda (lst alist asm cntr offset); TODO: variable arity 665 rest-parameter stuff 666 (if lst 667 (args-roop (cdr lst)(acons (car lst) (list (+ cntr offset) ' 668 static t) alist) 669 (concat asm "aload_1" "ldc_w " cntr "aaload" 670nl 671 nl 672 nl "astore " (+ cntr offset) nl) 673 (1 + cntr)674 offset) 675 (cons asm alist))))
(args-result (args-roop args '() "" 0 +reserved-regs-split+)) ; +
reserved-regs-split+ is the first register that is general-purposey 676 677 enough678 (asm (car args-result)) 679 680 681 682 asm "Lselftail:" nl ; label used for self-tail-recursive 683 purposes(emit-progn body new-e t) 684 ; in a lambda the progn body is always a taily-waily "areturn" r "areturn" nl ";; endlambda" nl))) 685 686 687 688 689 ;; An emit lambda for when all arguments are passed to the method plain. Might be good if you want to kawa-style optimize when 690 ;; 691 there's a smaller than N number of args to a function ;; (defun emit-lambda (a e . rst) (letrec ((static-environment-augmentation (car rst)); Optional argument that augments the generated static environment if present (args (cadr a)) (body (cddr a)) 692 ;; 693 ;; 694 ;; 695 : : (args-roop (lambda (lst alist cntr) 696 ;; 697 (if lst);; (args-roop (cdr lst) (acons (car lst) cntr alist) (1+ cntr)) 698 ;; 699 ;; 700 ;; 701alist)));; (new-e (list 'classname (getf e 'classname) 'static-environment (append (args-roop args '() 1); 0 is the very special "this" argument, we don't want to include it here 702;; 703 ;; 704 static-environment-augmentation)))));; (concat ";; " a nl 705 ;; 706 $(emit-progn \ body \ new-e \ t)$; in a lambda the progn body is always ;; a taily – waily "areturn" nl ";; endlambda" nl))) 707;; 708;; 709 ;; TODO: lexical i guess 710 Old emit lambda when i was preparing for JSR-based stuff (might come in handy again when you try your hand at TCO) 711 ;;

```
717
         ;;
                                                            (if lst
                                                                   (args-roop (cdr lst)
(concat "astore " cntr nl asm)
(acons (car lst) cntr alist)
(1+ cntr))
718
719
720
         ;;
                chir nl asm)

(ucons (car lst) cntr alist)

(1+ cntr))

(cons asm alist))))

(args-result (args-roop args "" '() +reserved-regs-split+)) ; +

reserved-regs-split+ is the first register that isn't reserved

(asm (car args-result))

(new-e (list 'classname (getf e 'classname) 'static-environment (

append (cdr args-result) static-environment-augmentation))))

(concat ";; " a nl

"astore 255 ; store return address

asm
         ;;
         ;;
;;
721
722
         ;;
723
         ;;
724
         ;;
725
         ;;
726
         ;;
727
         ;;
728
        ;;
                                                                                        ; the argsy stuff
; in a lambda the progn body is always
                                     (emit-progn body new-e t)
729
         ;;
                   a taily-waily
"ret 255" nl
";; endlambda" nl)))
730
         ;;
;;
731
732
733
734
735 (provide 'compile)
```