



A Verified, Analysis-Focused Interpreter for WebAssembly

Florian Märkl

Technical University of Munich

October 6, 2021



ARM,
RISC-V,
PowerPC,
x86, ...



JVM/Dalvik
Bytecode

Low-level

High-level



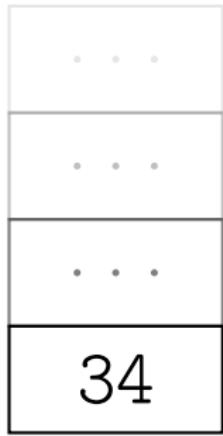
i32.const 34

i32.const 13

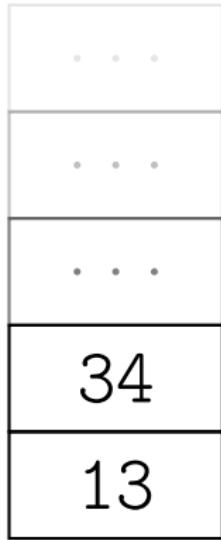
i32.sub

i32.const 2

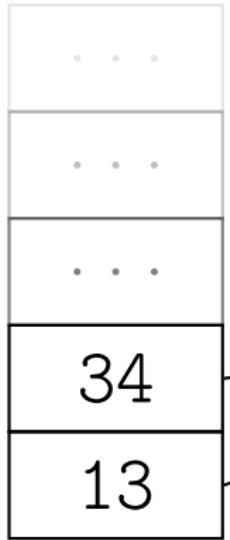
i32.mul



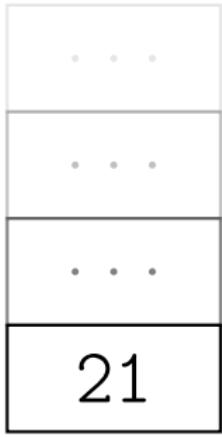
i32.const 34
i32.const 13
i32.sub
i32.const 2
i32.mul



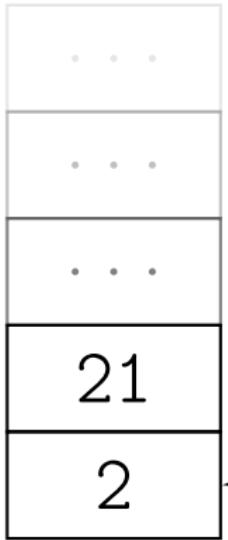
i32.const 34
i32.const 13
i32.sub
i32.const 2
i32.mul



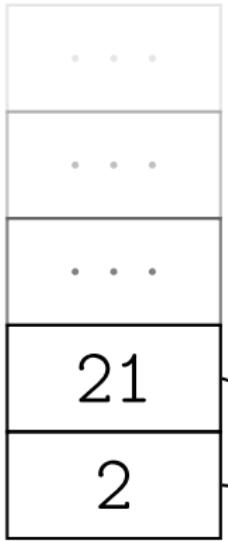
i32.const 34
i32.const 13
i32.sub
i32.const 2
i32.mul



i32.const 34
i32.const 13
i32.sub
i32.const 2
i32.mul



i32.const 34
i32.const 13
i32.sub
i32.const 2
i32.mul



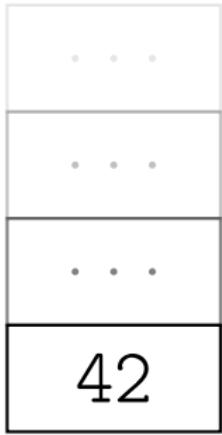
i32.const 34

i32.const 13

i32.sub

i32.const 2

i32.mul



```
i32.const 34  
i32.const 13  
i32.sub  
i32.const 2  
i32.mul
```

...

loop

...

end

...

...

loop

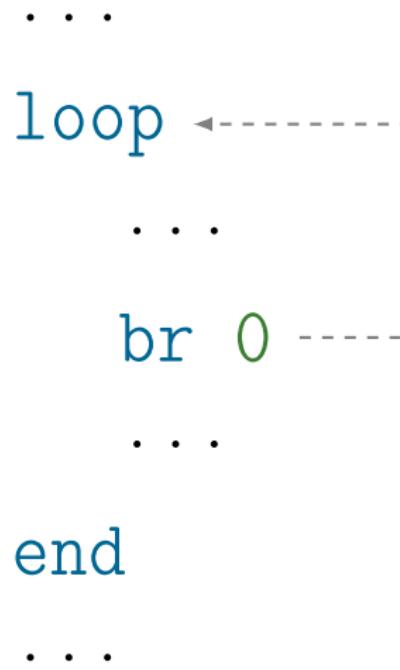
...

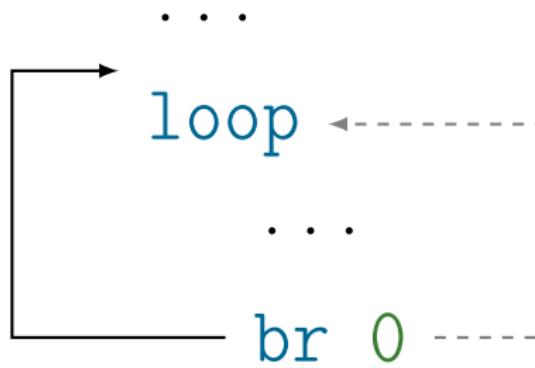
br 0

...

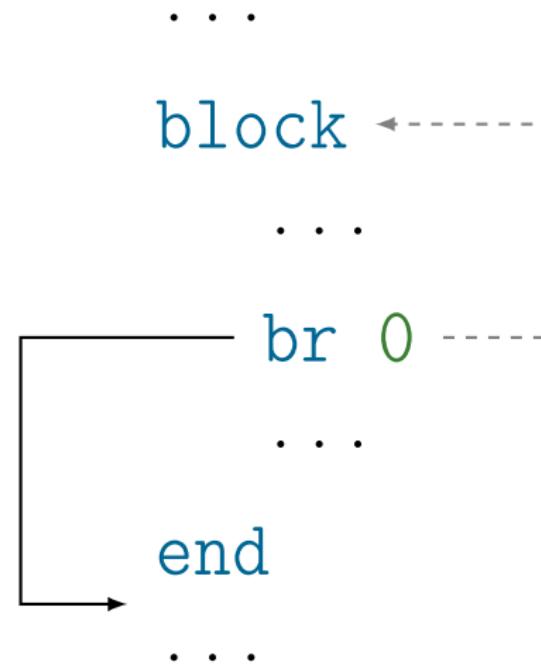
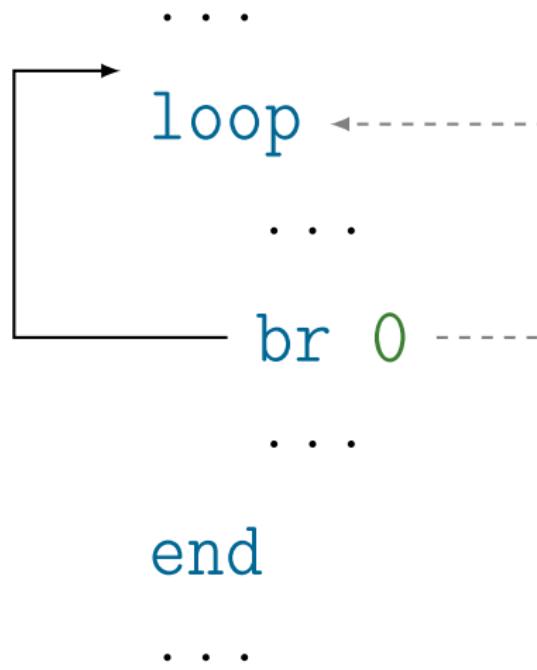
end

...





end



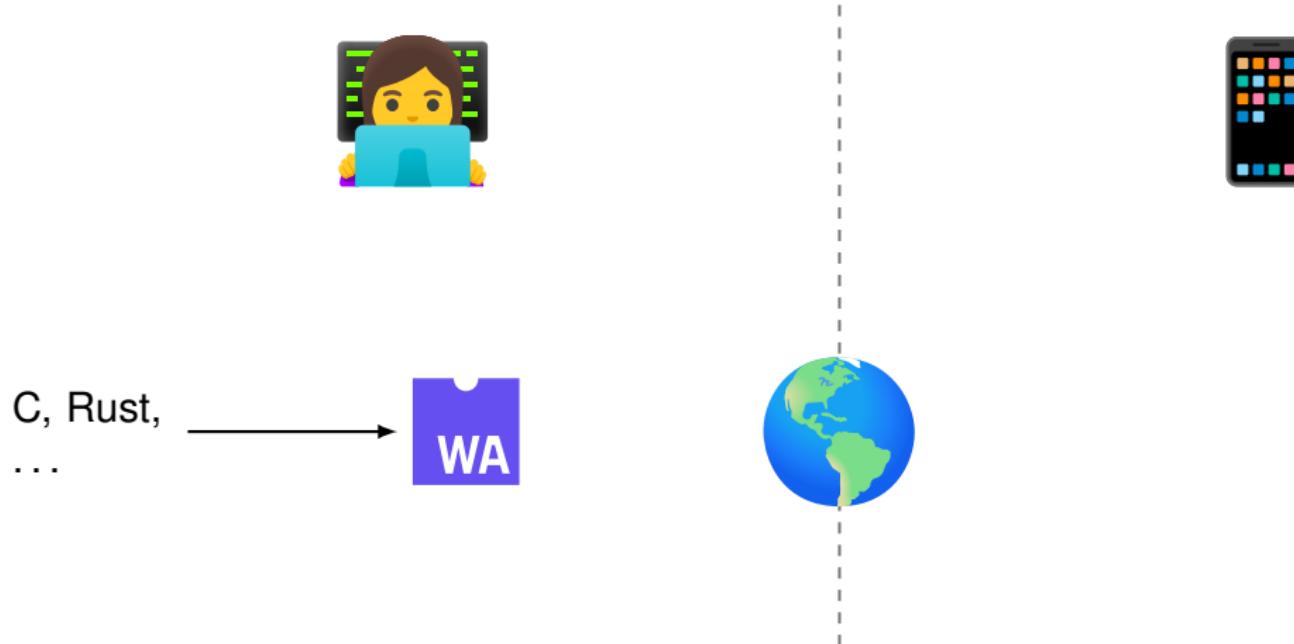
Motivation

Optimization



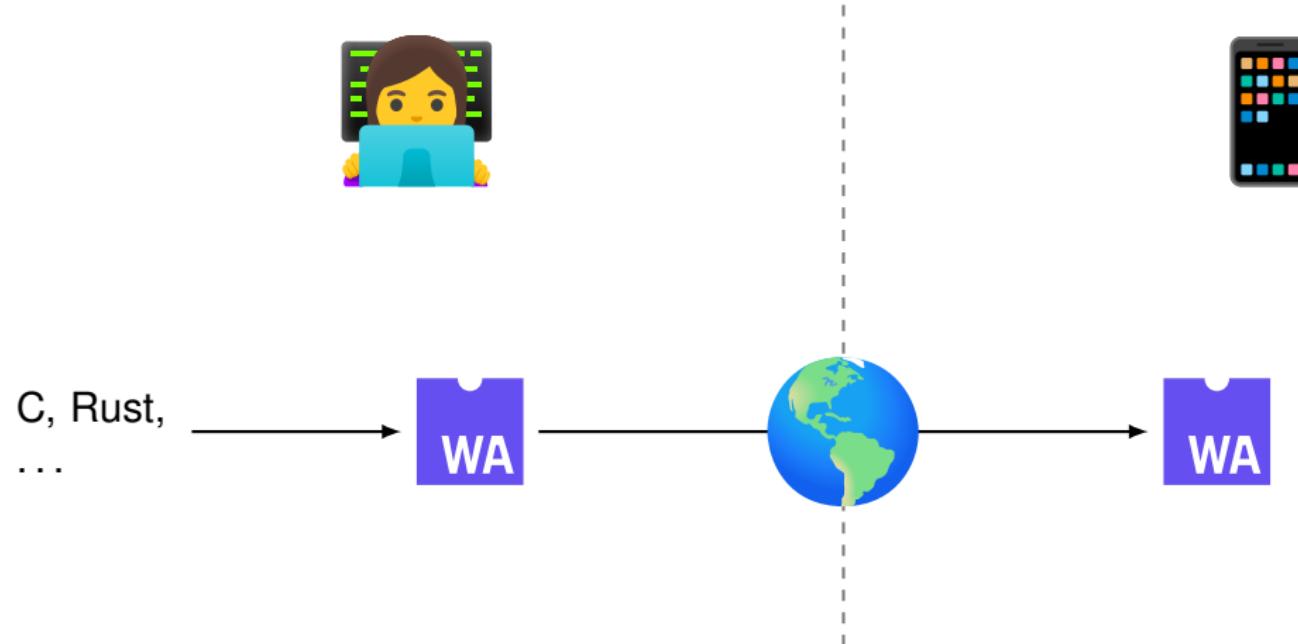


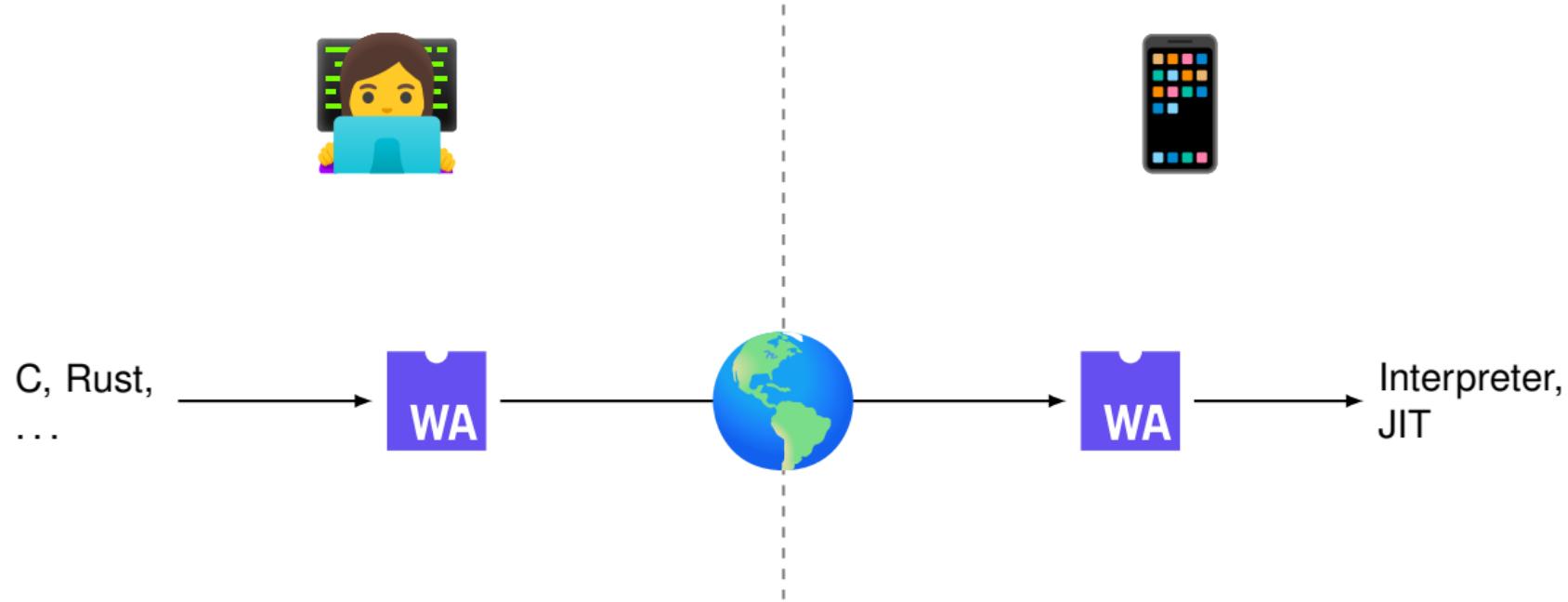
C, Rust,
...

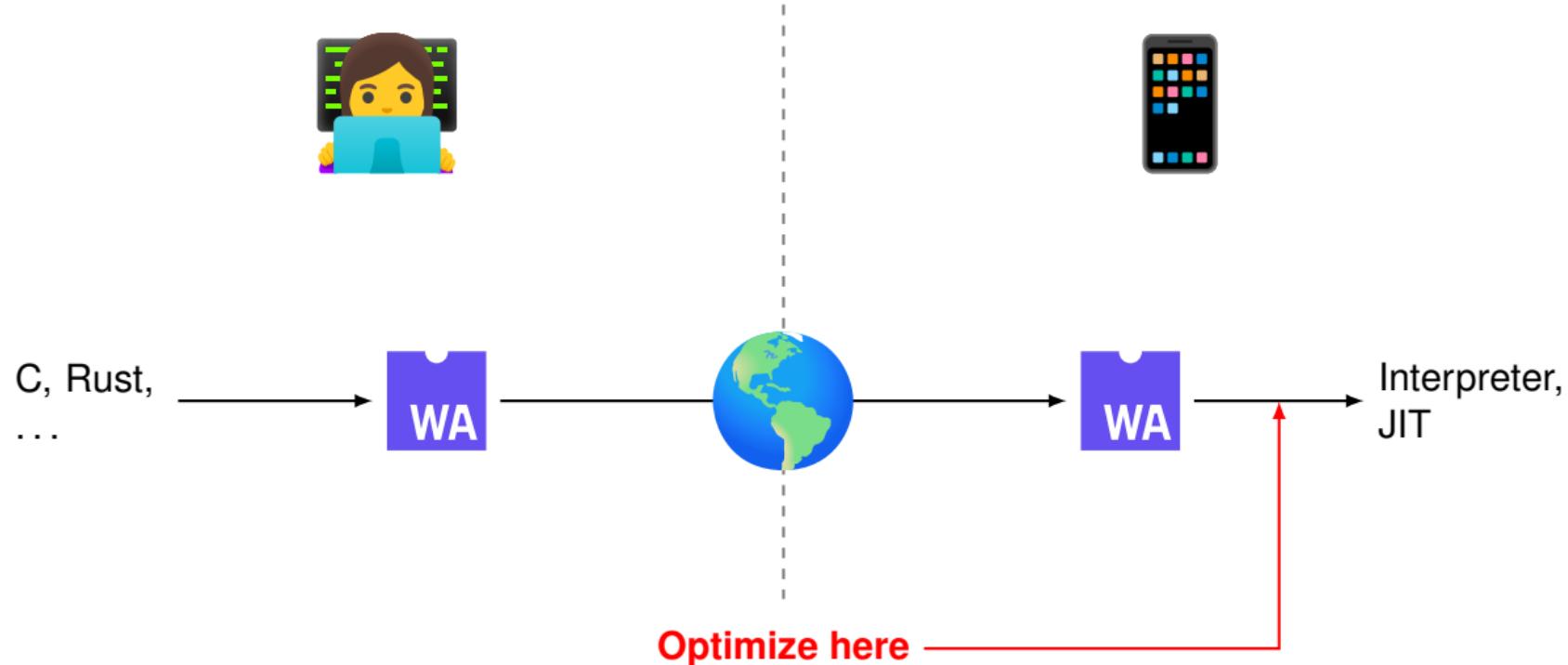


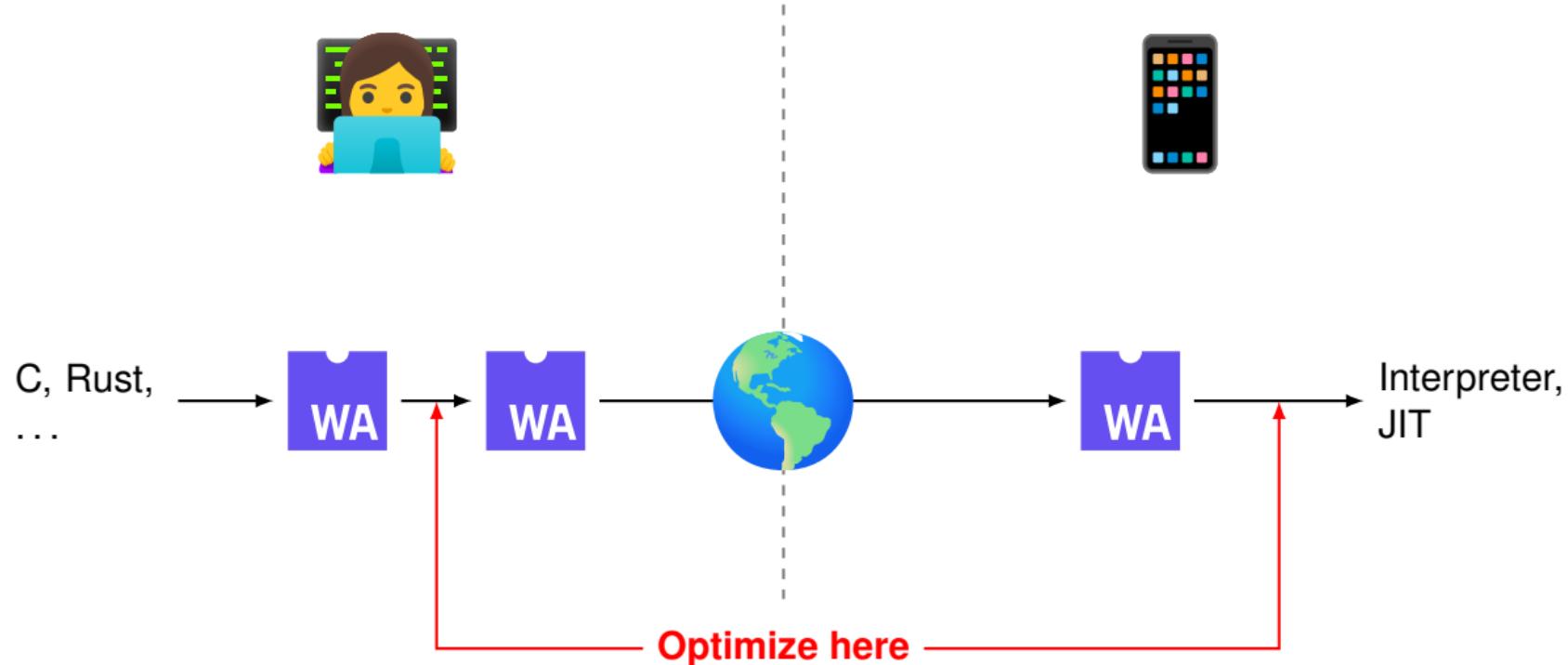
Motivation

Optimization









Example: Dead Code Elimination

Example: Dead Code Elimination

- ▶ What is dead code?

Example: Dead Code Elimination

- ▶ What is dead code?
- ▶ e.g. if-branch with condition that is always false

Example: Dead Code Elimination

- ▶ What is dead code?
- ▶ e.g. if-branch with condition that is always false
- ▶ Abstract Interpretation
 - ▶ **overapproximates** a property (e.g. value sets) for all possible executions of a program

Example: Dead Code Elimination

- ▶ What is dead code?
- ▶ e.g. if-branch with condition that is always false
- ▶ Abstract Interpretation
 - ▶ **overapproximates** a property (e.g. value sets) for all possible executions of a program
 - ▶ by attaching information to each **program point**

t.binop

1. Assert: due to **validation**, two values of **value type *t*** are on the top of the stack.
2. Pop the value *t. const c₂* from the stack.
3. Pop the value *t. const c₁* from the stack.
4. If *binop_t(c₁, c₂)* is defined, then:
 - a. Let *c* be a possible result of computing *binop_t(c₁, c₂)*.
 - b. Push the value *t. const c* to the stack.
5. Else:
 - a. Trap.

$$(t.\text{const } c_1) (t.\text{const } c_2) t.\text{binop} \hookrightarrow (t.\text{const } c) \quad (\text{if } c \in \text{binop}_t(c_1, c_2))$$
$$(t.\text{const } c_1) (t.\text{const } c_2) t.\text{binop} \hookrightarrow \text{trap} \quad (\text{if } \text{binop}_t(c_1, c_2) = \{\})$$

$$\frac{c \in \text{binop}_t(c_1, c_2)}{[t.\text{const } c_1, t.\text{const } c_2, t.\text{binop}] \rightsquigarrow [t.\text{const } c]}$$

$$\frac{c \in \text{binop}_t(c_1, c_2)}{[t.\text{const } c_1, t.\text{const } c_2, t.\text{binop}] \rightsquigarrow [t.\text{const } c]}$$

```
i32.const 34
i32.const 13
i32.sub
i32.const 2
i32.mul
```

$$\frac{c \in \text{binop}_t(c_1, c_2)}{[t.\text{const } c_1, t.\text{const } c_2, t.\text{binop}] \sim [t.\text{const } c]}$$

```
i32.const 34
i32.const 13      i32.const 21
i32.sub          ~→ i32.const 2
i32.const 2      i32.mul
i32.mul
```

$$\frac{c \in \text{binop}_t(c_1, c_2)}{[t.\text{const } c_1, t.\text{const } c_2, t.\text{binop}] \rightsquigarrow [t.\text{const } c]}$$

```
i32.const 34
i32.const 13      i32.const 21
i32.sub          ↗ i32.const 2      ↗ i32.const 42
i32.const 2      i32.mul
i32.mul
```

WebAssembly Specification

Reduction



WebAssembly Specification

Reduction



```
loop
    nop
    br 0
end
```

WebAssembly Specification

Reduction



```
loop          label [loop, nop, br 0, end]
  nop          nop
  br 0        ~~~ br 0
end          end
```

WebAssembly Specification

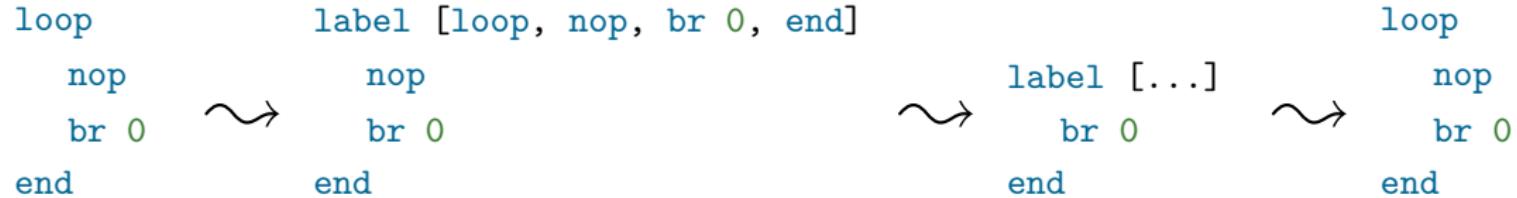
Reduction

```
loop      label [loop, nop, br 0, end]
    nop      nop
    br 0    br 0
end      end
          ~~~~           ~~~~
```

The diagram illustrates the reduction of a WebAssembly loop. It starts with a loop block containing a label, a nop instruction, and a br 0 instruction that loops back to the start. An 'end' instruction marks the exit from the loop. Two arrows labeled with tilde symbols (~) indicate the reduction steps. The first arrow points from the 'br 0' instruction to the 'label' instruction, effectively removing the loop's entry point. The second arrow points from the 'br 0' instruction to the 'end' instruction, effectively removing the loop's exit point. This results in a simplified code structure where the loop is collapsed into a single 'nop' instruction.

WebAssembly Specification

Reduction



We want to:

- ▶ **Overapproximate** WebAssembly semantics
- ▶ Attach information to each **program point**

We want to:

- ▶ **Overapproximate** WebAssembly semantics ✓
- ▶ Attach information to each **program point**

We want to:

- ▶ Overapproximate WebAssembly semantics ✓
- ▶ Attach information to each **program point** ✗

Interpreter

```
record c_state =
```

```
record c_state =  
    c_pc :: c_pc
```

```
record c_state =  
    c_pc :: c_pc  
    val_stack :: v list  
    ...
```

```
record c_state =  
    c_pc :: c_pc  
    val_stack :: v list  
    ...  
  
c_step :: c_state ⇒ c_state set
```

We now can:

- ▶ **Overapproximate** WebAssembly semantics
- ▶ Attach information to each **program point**

We now can:

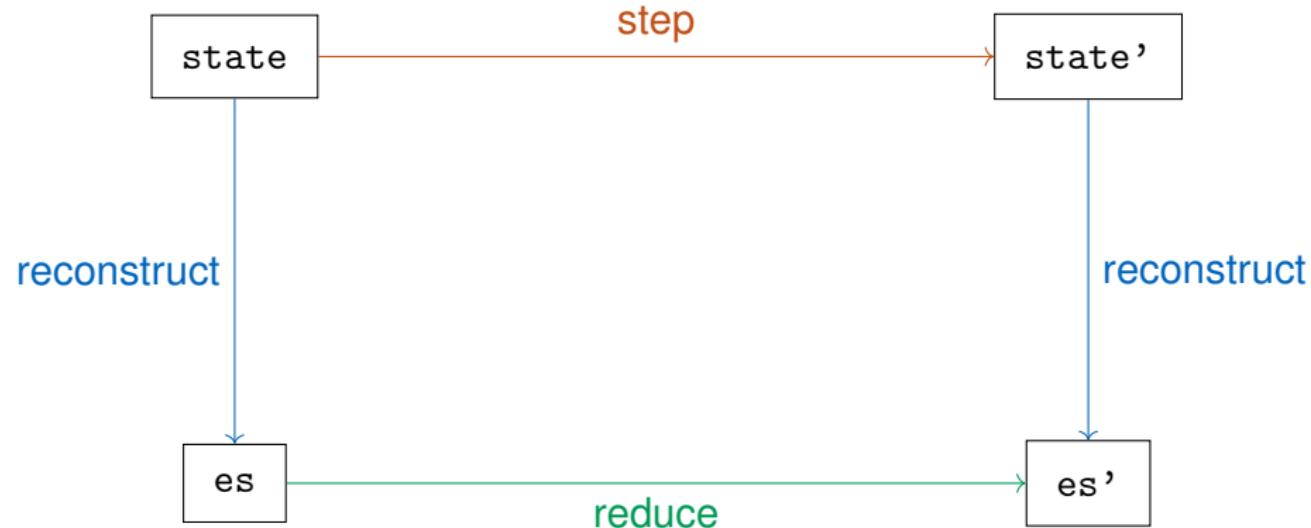
- ▶ **Overapproximate** WebAssembly semantics
- ▶ Attach information to each **program point** ✓

We now can:

- ▶ Overapproximate WebAssembly semantics ?
- ▶ Attach information to each program point ✓







Given some state and es' ,
Let $es = \text{reconstruct state.}$

Completeness

Given some state and es' ,
Let $\text{es} = \text{reconstruct state.}$

$$\text{es} \rightsquigarrow \text{es}'$$

Completeness

Given some state and es' ,
Let $es =$ reconstruct state.

$$\frac{\exists \text{state}' . \quad es \rightsquigarrow es'}{\text{Completeness}}$$

Given some state and es',
Let es = reconstruct state.

$$\frac{\text{es} \rightsquigarrow \text{es}'}{\exists \text{state}' . \text{ state}' \in \text{c_step state} \wedge} \text{Completeness}$$

Given some state and es',
Let es = reconstruct state.

$$\frac{\text{es} \rightsquigarrow \text{es}'}{\exists \text{state}' . \quad \text{state}' \in \text{c_step state} \wedge \text{reconstruct state}' = \text{es}'} \text{Completeness}$$

We now can:

- ▶ **Overapproximate** WebAssembly semantics ✓
- ▶ Attach information to each **program point** ✓

Demo

Goals reached

Goals reached

- ▶ Interpreter
 - ▶ Value and call stack
 - ▶ Explicit program counter
 - ▶ Complete wrt. specification

Goals reached

- ▶ Interpreter
 - ▶ Value and call stack
 - ▶ Explicit program counter
 - ▶ Complete wrt. specification
- ▶ Integer Types and Operations
 - ▶ Official specification translated to Isabelle/HOL
 - ▶ Executable implementation using Word Library

Goals reached

- ▶ Interpreter
 - ▶ Value and call stack
 - ▶ Explicit program counter
 - ▶ Complete wrt. specification
- ▶ Integer Types and Operations
 - ▶ Official specification translated to Isabelle/HOL
 - ▶ Executable implementation using Word Library

Challenges

- ▶ Interpreter by default does more steps than reduction (constants)

Goals reached

- ▶ Interpreter
 - ▶ Value and call stack
 - ▶ Explicit program counter
 - ▶ Complete wrt. specification
- ▶ Integer Types and Operations
 - ▶ Official specification translated to Isabelle/HOL
 - ▶ Executable implementation using Word Library

Challenges

- ▶ Interpreter by default does more steps than reduction (constants)
- ▶ Distribution of value stack over labels in reconstruction

Goals reached

- ▶ Interpreter
 - ▶ Value and call stack
 - ▶ Explicit program counter
 - ▶ Complete wrt. specification
- ▶ Integer Types and Operations
 - ▶ Official specification translated to Isabelle/HOL
 - ▶ Executable implementation using Word Library

Challenges

- ▶ Interpreter by default does more steps than reduction (constants)
- ▶ Distribution of value stack over labels in reconstruction
- ▶ Rule inversion of reduction relation in assumption

Goals reached

- ▶ Interpreter
 - ▶ Value and call stack
 - ▶ Explicit program counter
 - ▶ Complete wrt. specification
- ▶ Integer Types and Operations
 - ▶ Official specification translated to Isabelle/HOL
 - ▶ Executable implementation using Word Library

Challenges

- ▶ Interpreter by default does more steps than reduction (constants)
- ▶ Distribution of value stack over labels in reconstruction
- ▶ Rule inversion of reduction relation in assumption

Future work

- ▶ Static analysis and optimization

Goals reached

- ▶ Interpreter
 - ▶ Value and call stack
 - ▶ Explicit program counter
 - ▶ Complete wrt. specification
- ▶ Integer Types and Operations
 - ▶ Official specification translated to Isabelle/HOL
 - ▶ Executable implementation using Word Library

Challenges

- ▶ Interpreter by default does more steps than reduction (constants)
- ▶ Distribution of value stack over labels in reconstruction
- ▶ Rule inversion of reduction relation in assumption

Future work

- ▶ Static analysis and optimization
- ▶ Soundness proof

Goals reached

- ▶ Interpreter
 - ▶ Value and call stack
 - ▶ Explicit program counter
 - ▶ Complete wrt. specification
- ▶ Integer Types and Operations
 - ▶ Official specification translated to Isabelle/HOL
 - ▶ Executable implementation using Word Library

Challenges

- ▶ Interpreter by default does more steps than reduction (constants)
- ▶ Distribution of value stack over labels in reconstruction
- ▶ Rule inversion of reduction relation in assumption

Future work

- ▶ Static analysis and optimization
- ▶ Soundness proof
- ▶ Executable, deterministic and sound interpreter

Goals reached

- ▶ Interpreter
 - ▶ Value and call stack
 - ▶ Explicit program counter
 - ▶ Complete wrt. specification
- ▶ Integer Types and Operations
 - ▶ Official specification translated to Isabelle/HOL
 - ▶ Executable implementation using Word Library

Challenges

- ▶ Interpreter by default does more steps than reduction (constants)
- ▶ Distribution of value stack over labels in reconstruction
- ▶ Rule inversion of reduction relation in assumption

Future work

- ▶ Static analysis and optimization
- ▶ Soundness proof
- ▶ Executable, deterministic and sound interpreter
- ▶ Float