CS 4110

Programming Languages & Logics

Lecture 33 Typed Assembly Language

21 November 2014

Overview

- An architecture for safe mobile code
 - Download annotated binaries from an untrusted code producer
 - Verify code using a trusted typechecker
 - Link and execute without errors

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 - Define "good" and "bad" behaviors
 - Identify and rule out "bad programs"

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- Security properties hinge on understanding behavior
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 - Define "good" and "bad" behaviors
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- Typed Assembly Language (TAL) is a framework that accomplishes these goals in a setting where the programs in question are x86 executables

Schedule

Today

• Typed Assembly Language

Monday

- Polymorphism
- Stack Types

Friday

• Compilation

Acknowledgments

- These lectures developed by David Walker (Princeton)
- They describe *Typed Assembly Language*, a project at Cornell led by Greg Morrisett about 15 years ago
- Paper: G. Morrisett, D. Walker, K. Crary, and N. Glew. "From System F to Typed Assembly Language." In ACM TOPLAS. 21(3):527–568. May 1999.



What is TAL?

In Theory

- A RISC-like assembly language
- A formal operational semantics
- A family of type systems that capture key safety properties of registers, stack, and the heap
- Rigorous proofs of soundness which demonstrate that TAL enforces security guarantees

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In Practice

- A typechecker for almost all of the Intel IA32 architecture
- A collection of tools for assembling linking, etc. TAL binaries
- A compiler for a safe C-like language called Popcorn

Example

High-level code:

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Assembly code:

% r_1 holds n, r_2 holds a, r_{31} holds return address		
fact:	ble <i>r</i> ₁ , <i>L</i> 2	% if $n \leq 0$ goto L2
	mul r_2, r_2, r_1	% a := a × n
	sub <i>r</i> ₁ , <i>r</i> ₁ ,1	% n := n - 1
	jmp <i>fact</i>	% goto fact
L2 :	mov r ₁ ,r ₂ jmp r ₃₁	% result := a % return

Models a simple RISC-like assembly language.

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- Branch Operations: *bop* ::= beq | bgt | ...

TAL Abstract Machine

Model evaluation using a transition function $\Sigma\mapsto\Sigma'$ from machine states to machine states

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- The register file *R* maps registers to values. Abusing notation slightly, we extend *R* to a map on values as follows:

$$R(n) = n$$

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• The current block *B* is the block associated to the (implicit) program counter

$$(H, R, \text{mov } r_d, v; B) \mapsto (H, R[r_d := R(v)], B)$$

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$$\frac{n = R(v) + R(r_s)}{(H, R, \text{add } r_d, r_s, v; B) \mapsto (H, R[r_d := n], B)}$$

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$$\frac{R(r) \neq 0}{(H, R, \text{beq } r, v; B) \mapsto (H, R, B)}$$

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$$\frac{R(r) = 0 \qquad R(v) = L \qquad H(L) = B'}{(H, R, \text{beq } r, v; B) \mapsto (H, R, B')}$$

- The machine is stuck if there does not exist a transition from the current state to some following state
- We will use stuck states to define the "bad" behaviors that may occur at run-time
- The type system will guarantee that well-typed machines never get stuck
- Example stuck states:
 - ($H, R, add r_d, r_s, v; B$) where r_s and v aren't integers
 - (H, R, jmp v) where v isn't a label
 - (H, R, beq r, v) where r isn't an integer or v isn't a label
- To distinguish integers and labels we need a type system!

Types

Syntax

- $\tau ::= \operatorname{int} | \Gamma \to \{\}$
- $\Gamma ::= \{r_1 : \tau_1, r_2 : \tau_2, \dots\}$

lvpes

Syntax

- $\tau ::= int | \Gamma \rightarrow \{\}$
- $\Gamma ::= \{r_1 : \tau_1, r_2 : \tau_2, \dots\}$

Code Types

- Labels are like functions that take a record of arguments
- Labels have types of the form $\{r_1 : \tau_1, r_2 : \tau_2, \dots\} \rightarrow \{\}$
- To jump to code with this type, register r_1 must contain a value of type τ_1 , register r_2 must contain a value of type τ_2 , and so on
- The order that register names appear is irrelevant
- Note that functions never return—every block ends with a jmp

 $\% r_1$ holds n, r_2 holds a, r_{31} holds return address *fact*: $\{r_1 : int, r_2 : int, r_{31} : \{r_1 : int\} \rightarrow \{\}\} \rightarrow \{\}$ ble $r_1,L2$ % if n < 0 goto L2mul r_2, r_2, r_1 % a := a × n sub $r_1, r_1, 1$ % n := n - 1 jmp *fact* % goto fact $L2: \{r_1: int, r_2: int, r_{31}: \{r_1: int\} \to \{\}\} \to \{\}$ mov r_1, r_2 % result := a % return $\operatorname{imp} r_{31}$

% r_1 holds n, r_2 holds a, r_{31} holds return address *fact*: $\{r_1 : int, r_{31} : \{r_1 : int\} \rightarrow \{\}\} \rightarrow \{\}$ ble $r_1,L2$ mul r_2, r_2, r_1 % Error! r_2 doesn't have a type sub $r_{1}, r_{1}, 1$ jmpL1% Error! No such label $L2: \{r_2: int, r_{31}: \{r_1: int\} \rightarrow \{\}\} \rightarrow \{\}$ $mov r_{31}, r_2$ % Error! r_{31} not a label $\operatorname{imp} r_{31}$

Typechecking Overview

- Intuitively, the type system needs to keep track of:
 - The types of the registers at each point in the code
 - The types of the labels on the code
- Heap types: Ψ maps labels to code types
- Register types: Γ maps registers to types
- A family of typing (and subtyping) relations:
 - Ψ ; $\Gamma \vdash v : \tau$
 - $\Psi \vdash i : \Gamma \to \Gamma'$
 - $\tau \leq \tau'$
 - ► *H* : **V**
 - ► ⊢ R : **Г**
 - $\blacktriangleright \vdash (H, R, B)$

Typechecking Values

$$\Psi$$
; $\Gamma \vdash v : \tau$

Typechecking Values



 Ψ ; $\Gamma \vdash n$: int

Typechecking Values



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Typechecking Values



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 $\frac{\Psi(L) = \tau}{\Psi; \Gamma \vdash L : \tau}$

- A program won't crash if the register file has more values that are needed to satisfy the typing conditions
- Formally, a register file with more components is a subtype of a register file with fewer components:

 $\{r_1:\tau_1,\ldots,r_i:\tau_i;r_{i+1}:\tau_i+1\} \le \{r_1:\tau_1,\ldots,r_i:\tau_i\}$

Note that this is the ordinary rule for records!

• Code subtyping goes in the opposite direction: a label requiring r_1 and r_2 may be used as a label requiring r_1 , r_2 , and r_3 .

$$\frac{\Gamma' \leq \Gamma}{\Gamma \to \{\} \leq \Gamma' \to \{\}}$$

Note that this is the ordinary *contravariant* rule for functions!

Subtyping

• Subtyping is also reflexive and transitive.

$$\frac{\tau \leq \tau}{\tau_1 \leq \tau_2 \quad \tau_2 \leq \tau_3}$$

$$\frac{\tau_1 \leq \tau_2 \quad \tau_2 \leq \tau_3}{\tau_1 \leq \tau_3}$$

• A subsumption rule allows values to be used at supertypes:

$$\frac{\boldsymbol{\Psi}; \boldsymbol{\Gamma} \vdash \boldsymbol{v} : \tau_1 \quad \tau_1 \leq \tau_2}{\boldsymbol{\Psi}; \boldsymbol{\Gamma} \vdash \boldsymbol{v} : \tau_2}$$

Typing Instructions

$\Psi \vdash i : \Gamma_1 \to \Gamma_2$

- Γ₁ describes the registers before the execution of the instruction—a *precondition*
- Γ₂ describes the registers after the execution of the instruction—a *postcondition*
- Ψ is invariant. That is, the types of objects on the heap will not change (at least for now...)

Typing Instructions

$$\Psi \vdash i : \Gamma_1 \rightarrow \Gamma_2$$

Arithmetic operations

$$\frac{\Psi; \Gamma \vdash r_{s} : \text{int} \quad \Psi; \Gamma \vdash v : \text{int}}{\Psi \vdash aop r_{d}, r_{s}, v : \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma[r_{d} := \text{int}]}$$

Conditional branches

$$\frac{\Psi; \Gamma \vdash r : \text{int} \quad \Psi; \Gamma \vdash v : \Gamma \to \{\}}{\Psi \vdash bop \, r, v : \Gamma \to \Gamma}$$

Data movement

$$\Psi; \Gamma \vdash v : \tau$$

$$\Psi \vdash \text{mov } r_d, v : \Gamma \to \Gamma[r_d := \tau]$$

Typing Instructions

$$\Psi \vdash i: \Gamma_1 \to \Gamma_2$$

Jumps

$$\frac{\Psi; \Gamma \vdash v : \Gamma \to \{\}}{\Psi \vdash \mathsf{jmp} \, v : \Gamma \to \{\}}$$

Basic blocks

$$\frac{\Psi; \Gamma \vdash i: \Gamma_1 \to \Gamma_2 \qquad \Psi; \Gamma \vdash B: \Gamma_2 \to \{\}}{\Psi \vdash i; B: \Gamma_1 \to \{\}}$$

Heap, Register File, and Machine Typing

Heaps

$$\frac{dom(H) = dom(\Psi) \qquad \forall L \in dom(H). \ \Psi \vdash H(L) : \Psi(L)}{\vdash H : \Psi}$$

Register Files

$$\frac{\forall r \in dom(\Gamma). \Psi; \{\} \vdash R(r) : \Gamma(r)}{\Psi \vdash R : \Gamma}$$

Machines

$$\frac{\vdash H: \Psi \qquad \Psi \vdash R: \Gamma \qquad \Psi \vdash B: \Gamma \rightarrow \{\}}{\vdash (H, R, B)}$$

Type Safety

The type system satisfies the following theorem:

Theorem (Type Safety)

If $\vdash \Sigma$ and $\Sigma \mapsto^* \Sigma'$, then Σ' is not stuck.

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Proof:

- Progress: if a state is well-typed, then it is not stuck
- Preservation: evaluation preserves types

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Corollary

- Every jump in a well-typed program is to a valid label
- Every arithmetic operation in a well-typed program is done with integers—not labels!

Canonical Forms

Lemma

If $\vdash H : \Psi$ and $\Psi \vdash R : \Gamma$ and $\Psi; \Gamma \vdash v : \tau$ then

•
$$\tau = int implies R(v) = n$$

•
$$\tau = \{r_1 : \tau_1, \dots, r_k : \tau_k\} \rightarrow \{\}$$
 implies $R(v) = L$.
Moreover $H(L) = B$ and $\Psi \vdash B : \{r_1 : \tau_1, \dots, r_k : \tau_k\} \rightarrow \{\}$

Proof: by induction on typing derivations...

Lemma

If $\vdash \Sigma_1$ then there exists a Σ_2 such that $\Sigma_1 \mapsto \Sigma_2$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \vdash H: \Psi & \Psi \vdash R: \Gamma & \Psi \vdash \mathsf{jmp} \, v: \Gamma \to \{\} \\ \hline & \vdash (H, R, \mathsf{jmp} \, v) \end{array}$$

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$$\frac{\vdash H: \Psi \quad \Psi \vdash R: \Gamma \quad \Psi \vdash \mathsf{jmp} \, v: \Gamma \to \{\}}{\vdash (H, R, \mathsf{jmp} \, v)}$$

The third premise must be a derivation that ends in the rule:

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By Canonical Forms, we have R(v) = L and H(L) = B'. Therefore:

$$\frac{R(v) = L}{(H, R, jmp v) \mapsto (H, R, B')}$$

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If $\vdash \Sigma_1$ and $\Sigma_1 \mapsto \Sigma_2$ then $\vdash \Sigma_2$

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Moreover, the operational rule must be

$$\frac{R(v) = L}{(H, R, jmp v) \mapsto (H, R, B')}$$

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Therefore:

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