

# Babylon — Code Reflection

Paul Sandoz

**JVM Language Summit**  
**August 5–7, 2024**



Babel Tower — Shirin Abedinirad, Guglielmo Torelli

<https://www.shirinabedinirad.com/portfolio/babel-tower/>

# Overview

Status

Code models

Reflecting code of methods

Transforming code models

Reflecting code of lambdas

# Status — JVMLS 2023 → JVMLS 2024

- (JVMLS 2023 [video](#) and [slides](#))
- Created OpenJDK [Project Babylon](#) (Oct 23)
- Open [sourced](#) code reflection (Jan 24)
  - Significant progress on the implementation and design
- Published multiple articles on code reflection (Feb/Jun 24)
  - On example use cases and code reflection design (linked from project page)
- Open [sourced](#) **Heterogenous Accelerator Toolkit (HAT)** (May 24)
  - A parallel programming model for GPUs, leveraging Project Panama's FFM API and code reflection, ensuring code reflection is fit-for-purpose

# Code reflection

- Enhances Java reflection, giving access to Java code in *identified* method bodies and lambda bodies
  - Giving access at compile time and run time
- Enables the support of foreign programming models via *transformation*
  - Those that differ from the Java programming model
- The reflected Java code is represented *symbolically* as a **code model**
  - A code model consists of instances of Java classes, code elements and items, arranged in an immutable *tree structure* that is suitable for *analysis* and *transformation* by Java programs
  - Code model design is inspired by LLVM-based compilers and MLIR
- APIs to build, traverse, and transform code models

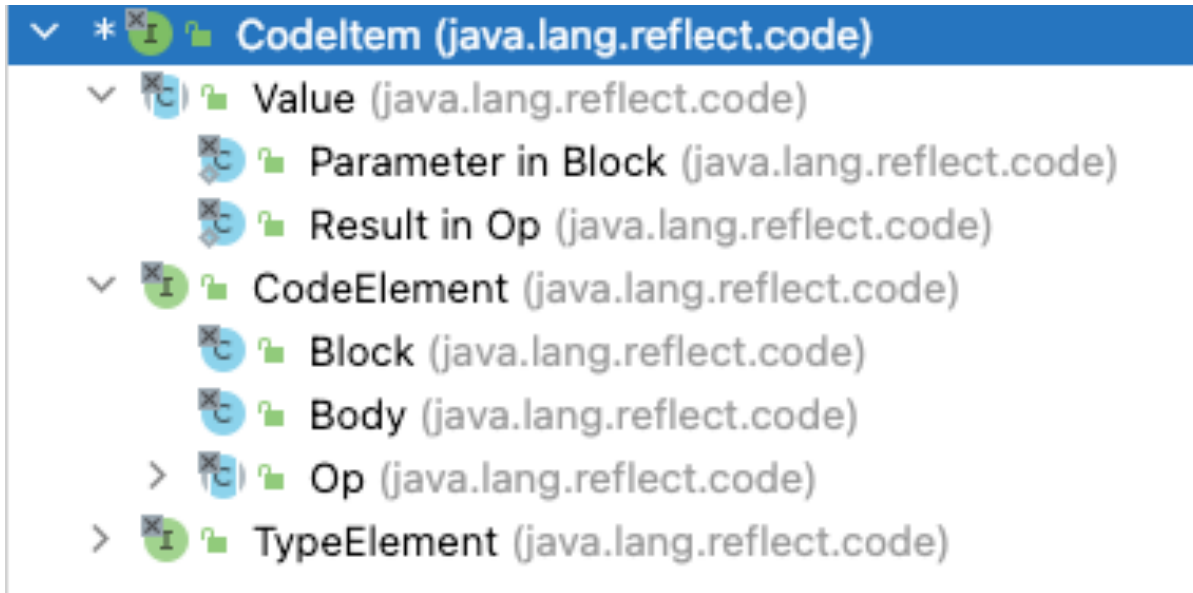
# Code model design

- A code model contains operations, bodies, and blocks, that form a tree
  - An operation contains zero or more bodies. A body contains one or more blocks. A block contains a sequence of one or more operations
- Blocks and operations can declare values
  - A block can declare zero or more block parameter values
  - An operation declares an operation result value
- Values can only be assigned exactly once on declaration
  - Code models are in Static Single Assignment (SSA) form
- An operation may use values as operands
  - Only after the values have been declared and only if they dominate
- A value has a type

# Code model design

- The blocks within a body are interconnected with each other and form a control flow graph
  - The last (terminating) operation in a block can jump to another block and pass values as block arguments
- Values are also interconnected with each other and form either *expression* graphs or *use* graphs
  - The relationship between an operation result and its operands are edges of an expression graph
  - The relationship between a value and its uses are edges of a use graph

# Code model design — API class hierarchy



- Instances of `CodeElement` are nodes in a code model tree
- `Op` (operation) and `TypeElement` (value type) are unsealed and extensible, all other types are sealed or final
- Code item types modeling specific Java program behavior extend from `Op` and `TypeElement`

# Java code models

- A Java code model is a symbolical description of a Java program
  - Contains operations and types modeling Java program behavior arranged to preserve Java program meaning
  - Java language declarations, expressions, statements, and specific behaviors, are modeled as classes extending from `Op` (operation)
  - Denotable Java types are modeled as classes extended from `TypeElement` (value type)
- The set of operations and types that model some kind of program behavior is referred to as a (code model) dialect
  - The Java dialect models Java program behavior



# Java code models

- Modeling-wise somewhere between the compiler's **Abstract Syntax Tree (AST)** and bytecode
  - Easier to analyze and transform
  - “Just the right amount”
- Preserves more information than bytecode with less surface syntax details of the AST
  - Retaining code structure and denotable types
- Standardized modeling and access
  - Compiler's AST is not standardized and completely accessible
  - Bytecode is not generally accessible at runtime

# Method identification and access

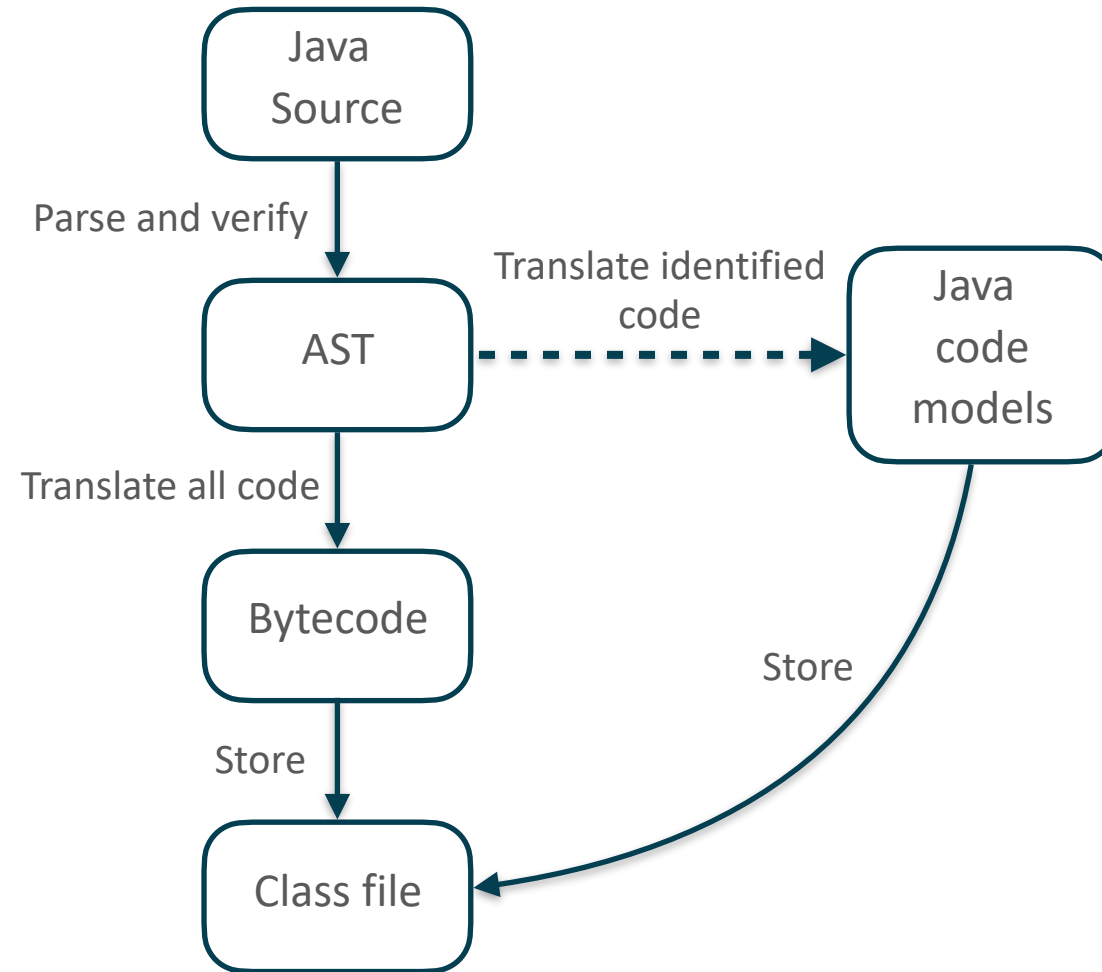
- Identify a method by annotating it

```
@CodeReflection
static double add(double a, double b) {
    return a + b;
}
```

- Access the code model using reflection

```
// Reflect on "add" method
Method addMethod = MethodExample.class.getDeclaredMethod(
    "add", double.class, double.class);
// Get "add"'s code model, not all methods are identified to reflect on their bodies
Optional<? extends Op> optionalModel = addMethod.getCodeModel();
Op addCodeModel = optionalModel.orElseThrow();
```

# Source compilation



# Text of code model stored in synthetic field

Classfile .../MethodExample.class

...

Constant pool:

...

#53 = String #54

// Code model text string

#54 = Utf8 func @\"add\" @loc=\\\"11:5:file:/.../MethodExample.java\\\" ...

#55 = Fieldref #7.#56

#56 = NameAndType #57:#58

#57 = Utf8 jvmls24\$MethodExample::add(double, double)double\$op

...

{

static final java.lang.String jvmls24\$MethodExample::add(double, double)double\$op;

descriptor: Ljava/lang/String;

flags: (0x1018) ACC\_STATIC, ACC\_FINAL, ACC\_SYNTHETIC

...

static {};

descriptor: ()V

flags: (0x0008) ACC\_STATIC

Code:

stack=1, locals=0, args\_size=0

0: ldc #53

// Store to field \"jvmls24\$MethodExample::add(double, double)double\$op\":Ljava/lang/String;

2: putstatic #55

# Detour — what does add's code model look like?

- We could extract the text string from the class file or we could directly convert the operation to a human readable text string — the two are the identical

```
@CodeReflection
static double add(double a, double b) {
    return a + b;
}
```

```
Op addCodeModel = optionalModel.orElseThrow();
System.out.println(addCodeModel.toText());
```

```
func @"add" @loc="11:5:file:/.../MethodExample.java" (%0 : double, %1 : double)double -> {
    %2 : Var<double> = var %0 @"a" @loc="11:5";
    %3 : Var<double> = var %1 @"b" @loc="11:5";
    %4 : double = var.load %2 @loc="13:16";
    %5 : double = var.load %3 @loc="13:20";
    %6 : double = add %4 %5 @loc="13:16";
    return %6 @loc="13:9";
};
```

# Summary of method identification and access

- The source compiler
  - Translates AST node of the `add` method to a code model
  - Converts the code model to text string and assigns that string to a synthetic field in the class initializer of the class file
- The runtime
  - Accesses the synthetic field to obtain the text string
  - Parses the text string to produce a code model

# Issues with method identification and access

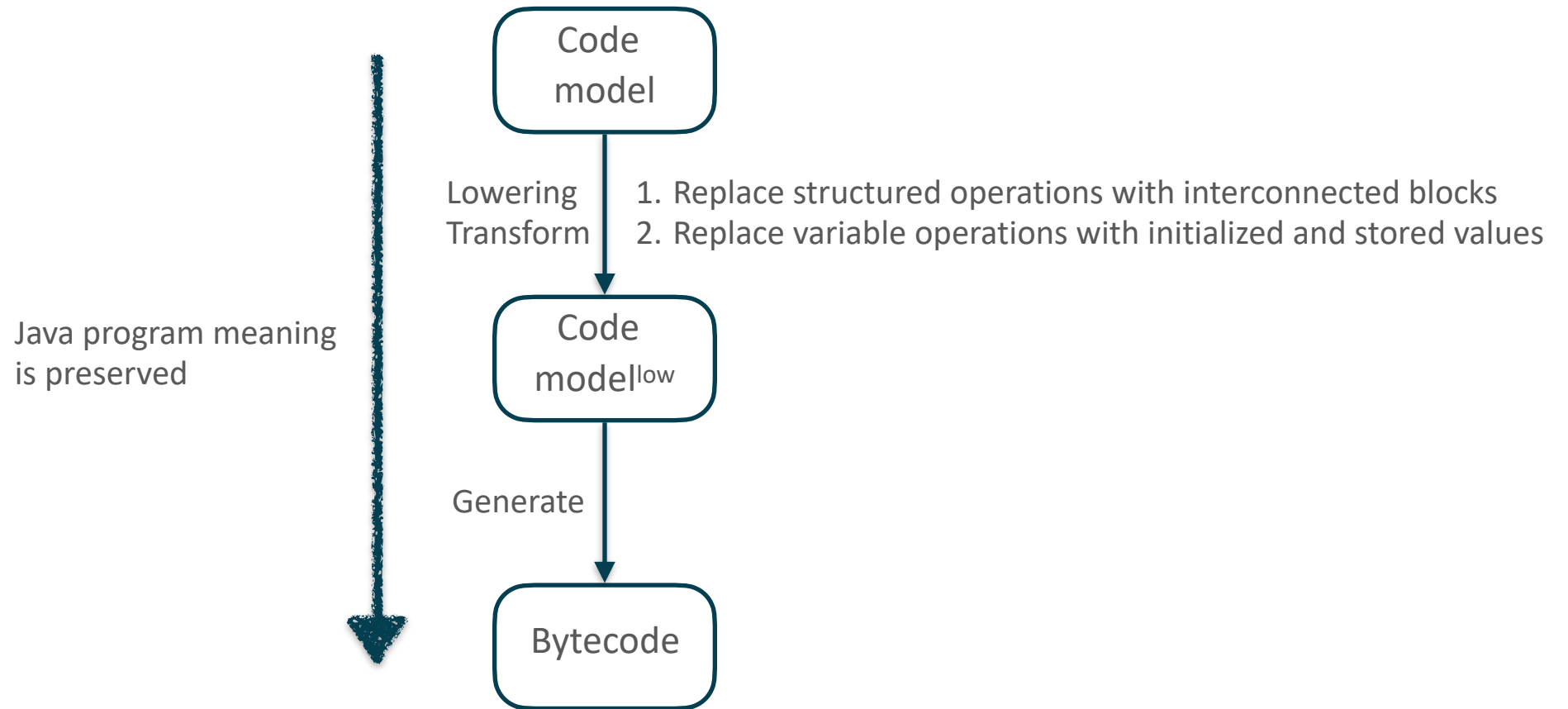
- We are likely misusing annotations, since they should not affect platform semantics
  - Compilation may fail if the modeling of some language construct is unsupported
  - Need a keyword?
- Storing the text string in a synthetic field is convenient for prototyping but not a good the final solution
  - Best to avoid standardizing the field name mangling and format of the text string so it can be parsed, it's primarily intended for debugging and testing
  - An alternative solution is to transform the code model to a code model that builds itself using the code model builder API, translate that model to bytecode, embed as a synthetic method in the class file, and reference via an attribute

# Issues with method identification and access

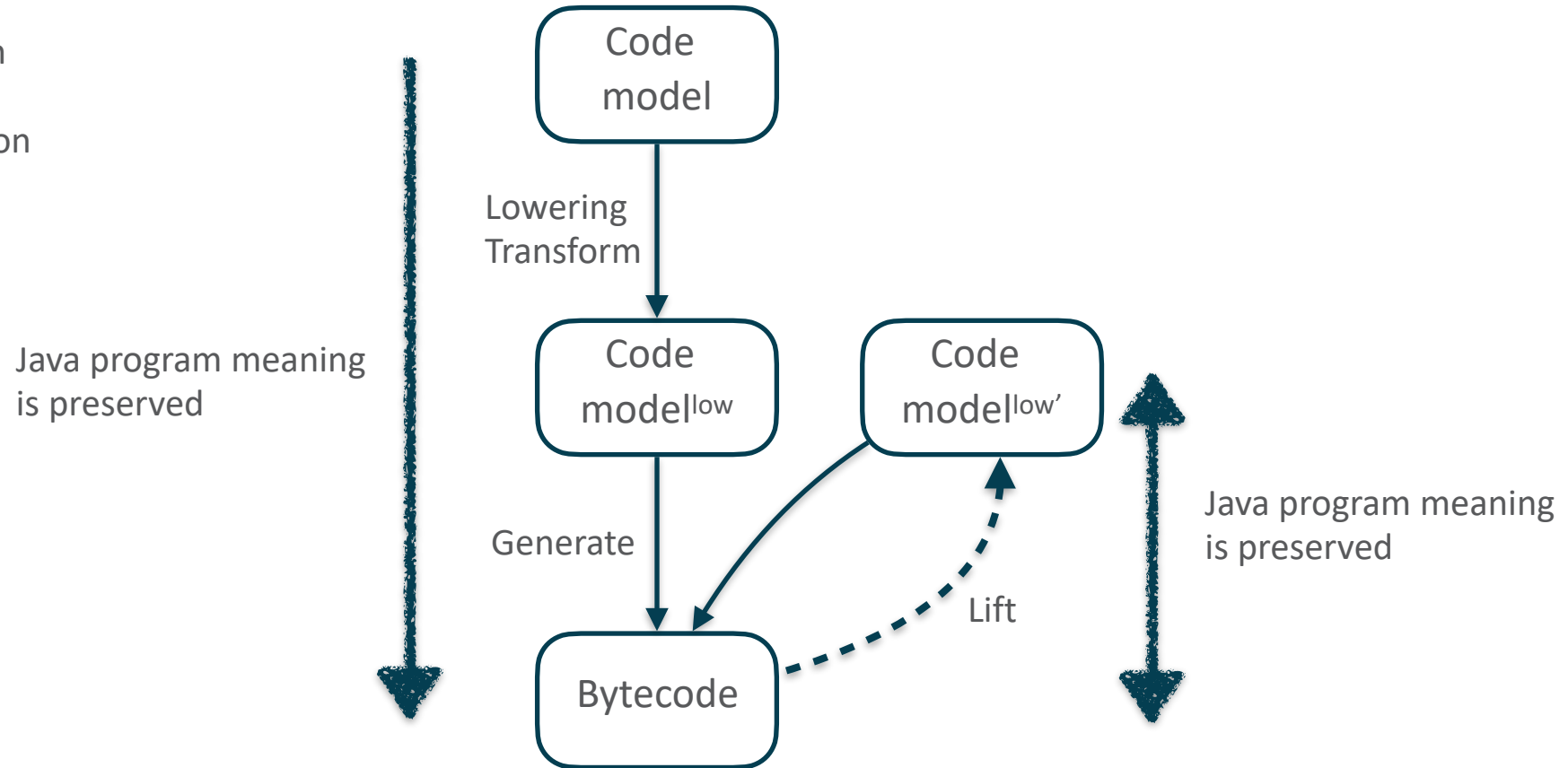
- There are two representations of the same code in the class file
  - Can we unify by storing the only the code model and dynamically transform it to bytecode on-demand? In some cases we will never process the bytecode
  - Bytecode and code models could get out of sync with class file transformations — but that can happen for other things too
- We also need to validate code models loaded from class files
  - Ensuring the model conforms to that produced from the compiler, as specified by the JLS
  - Code models have fundamental structural constraints, and then there are operational constraints for modeling Java language constructions



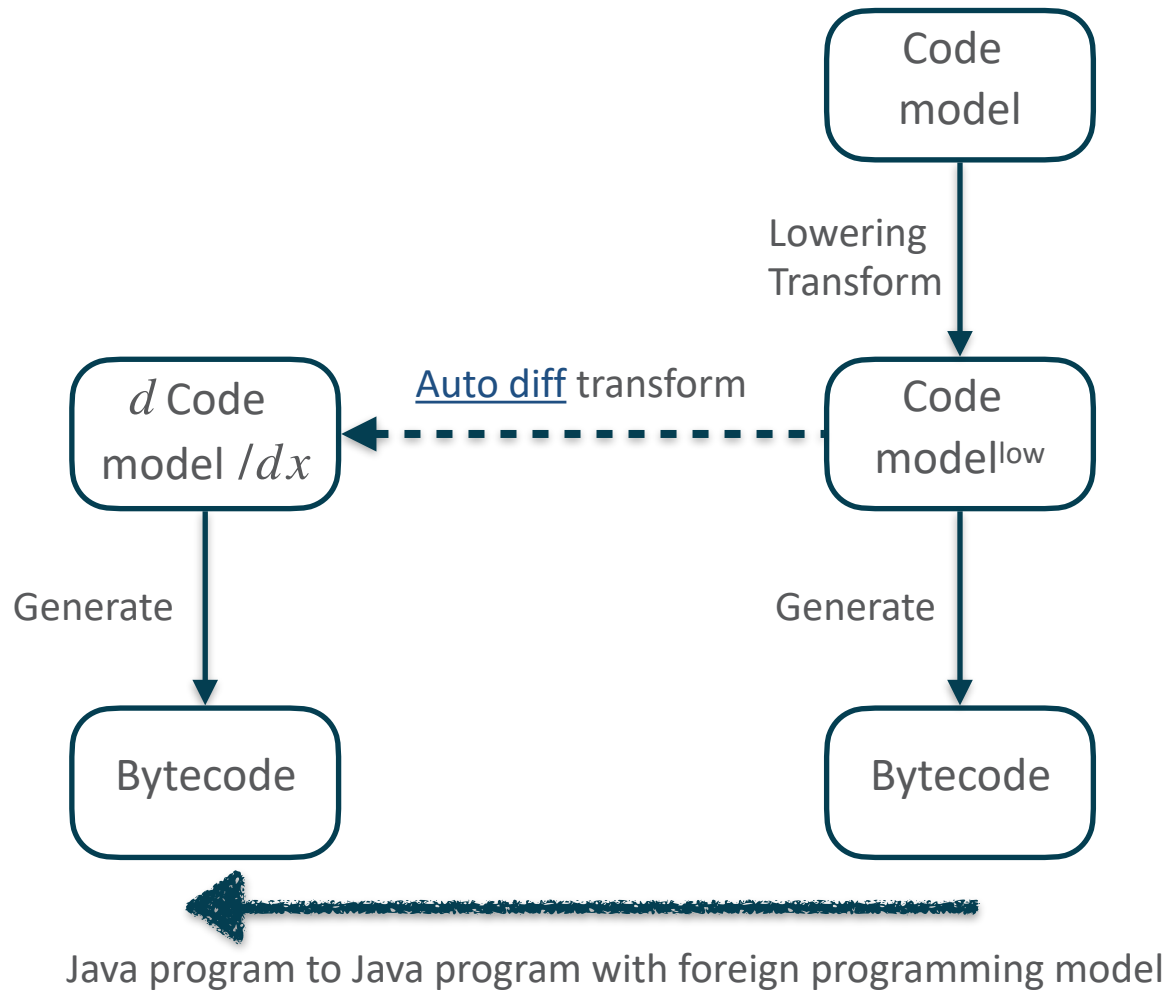
# Transform to bytecode



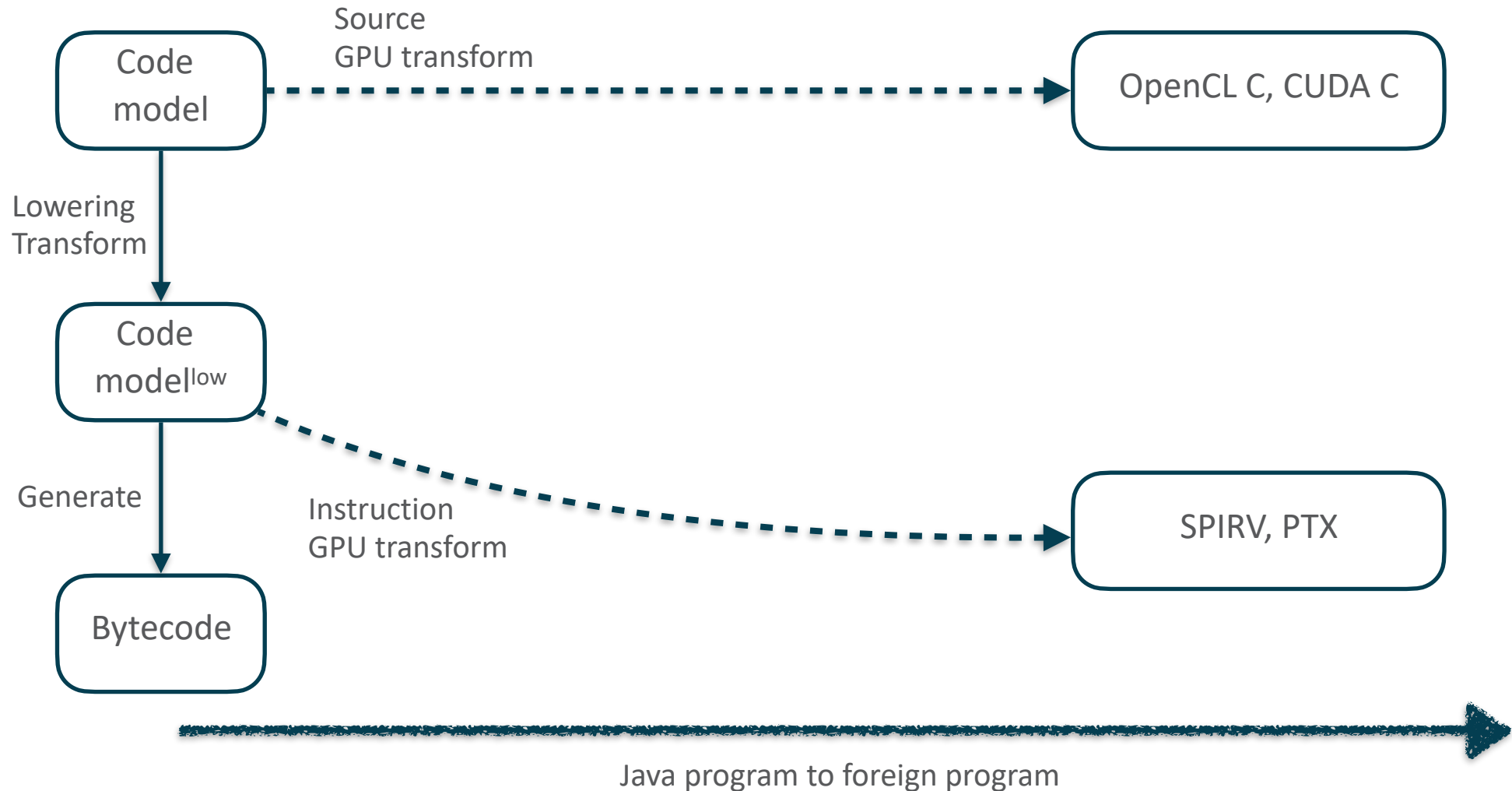
# Lift from bytecode



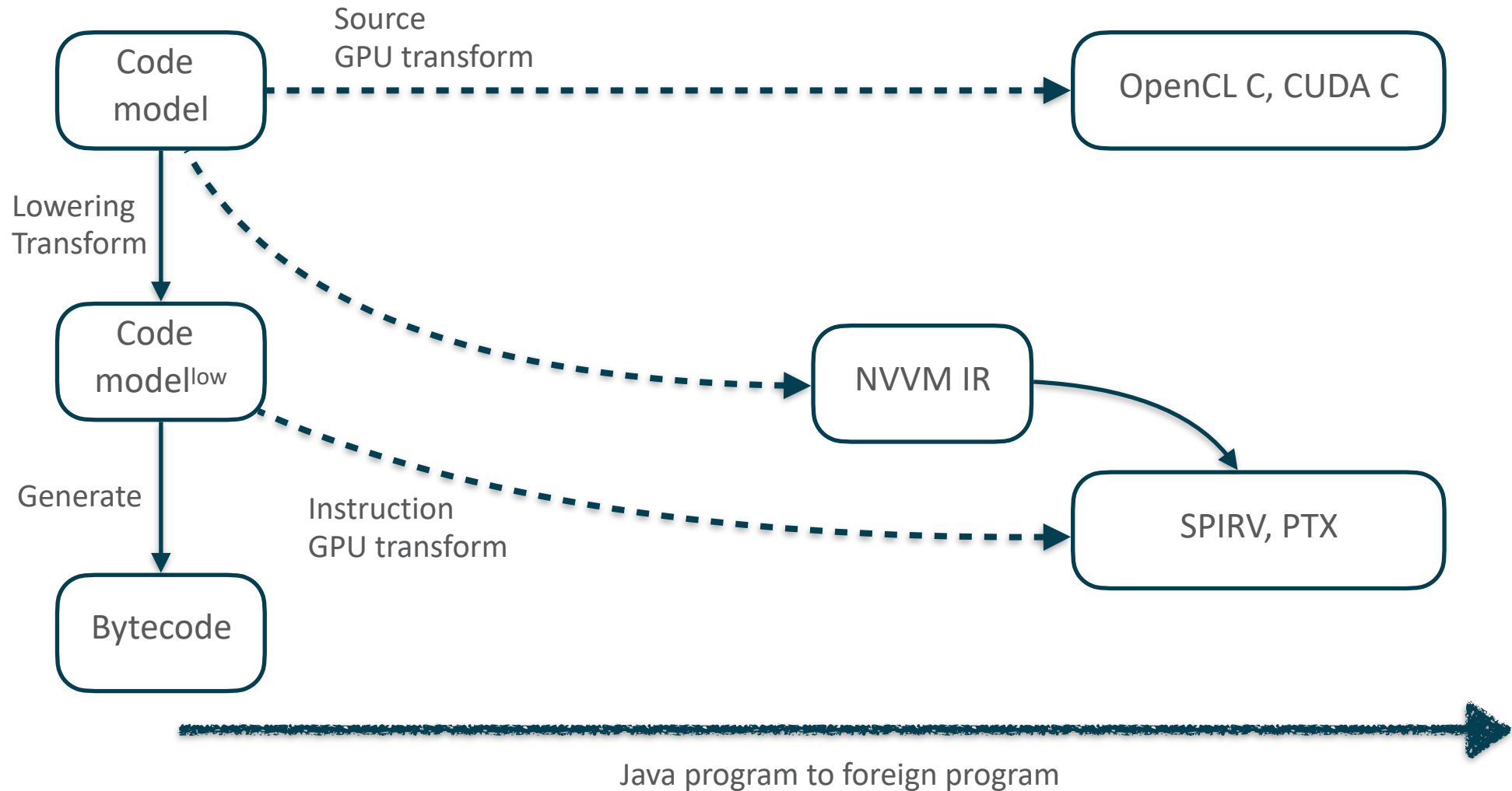
# Differentiate a Java program



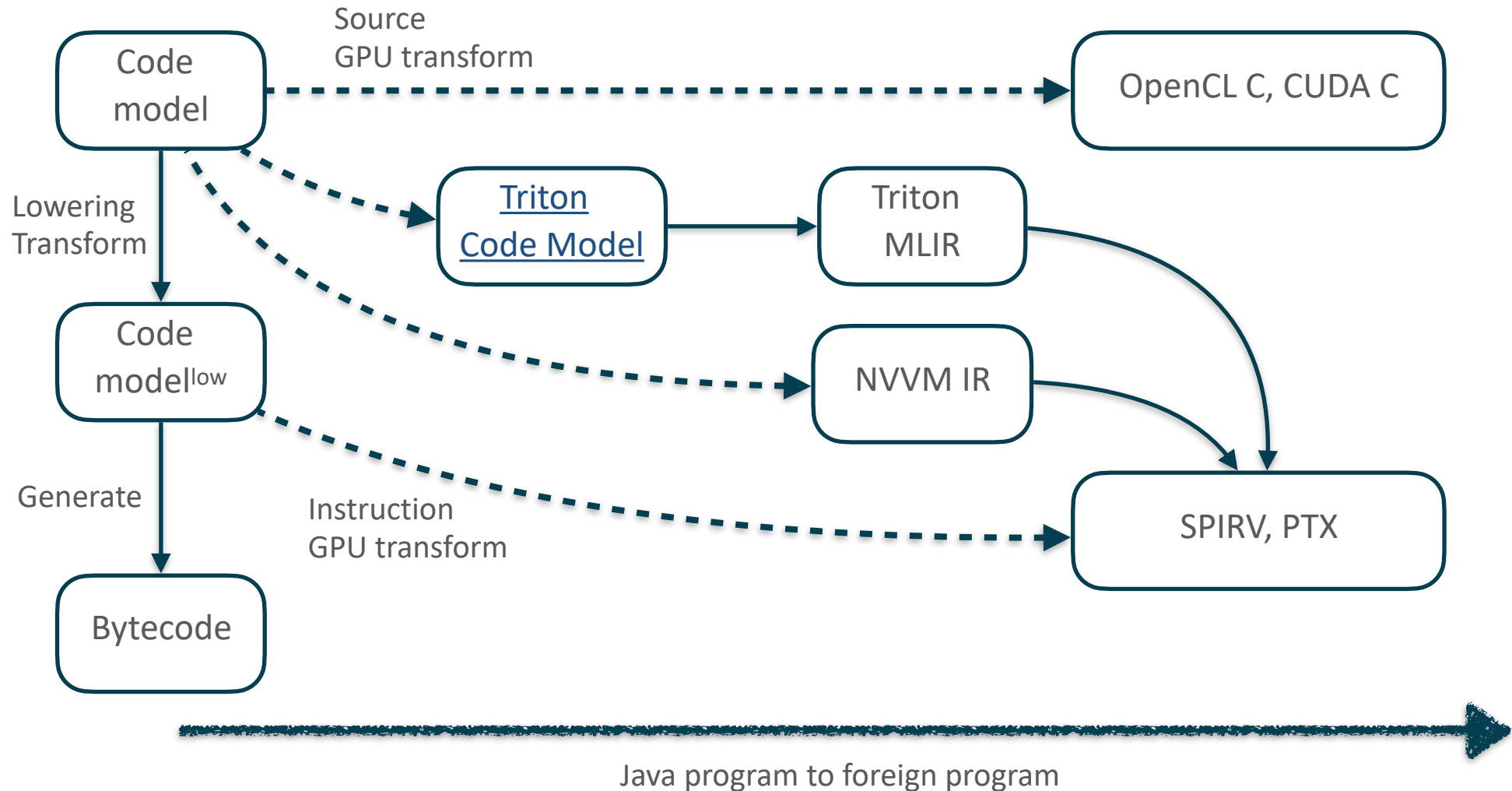
# Generate GPU kernels



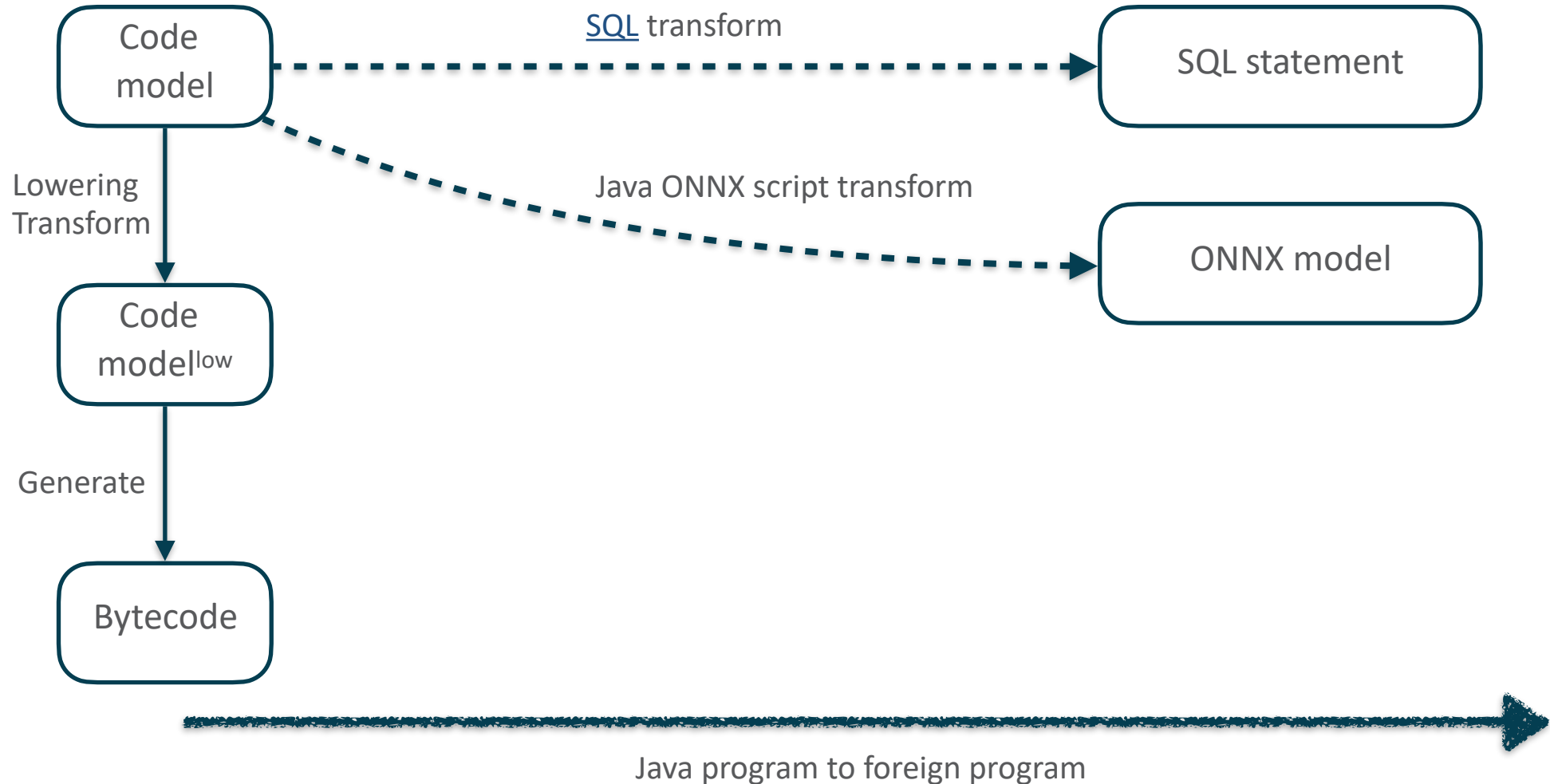
# Generate GPU kernels



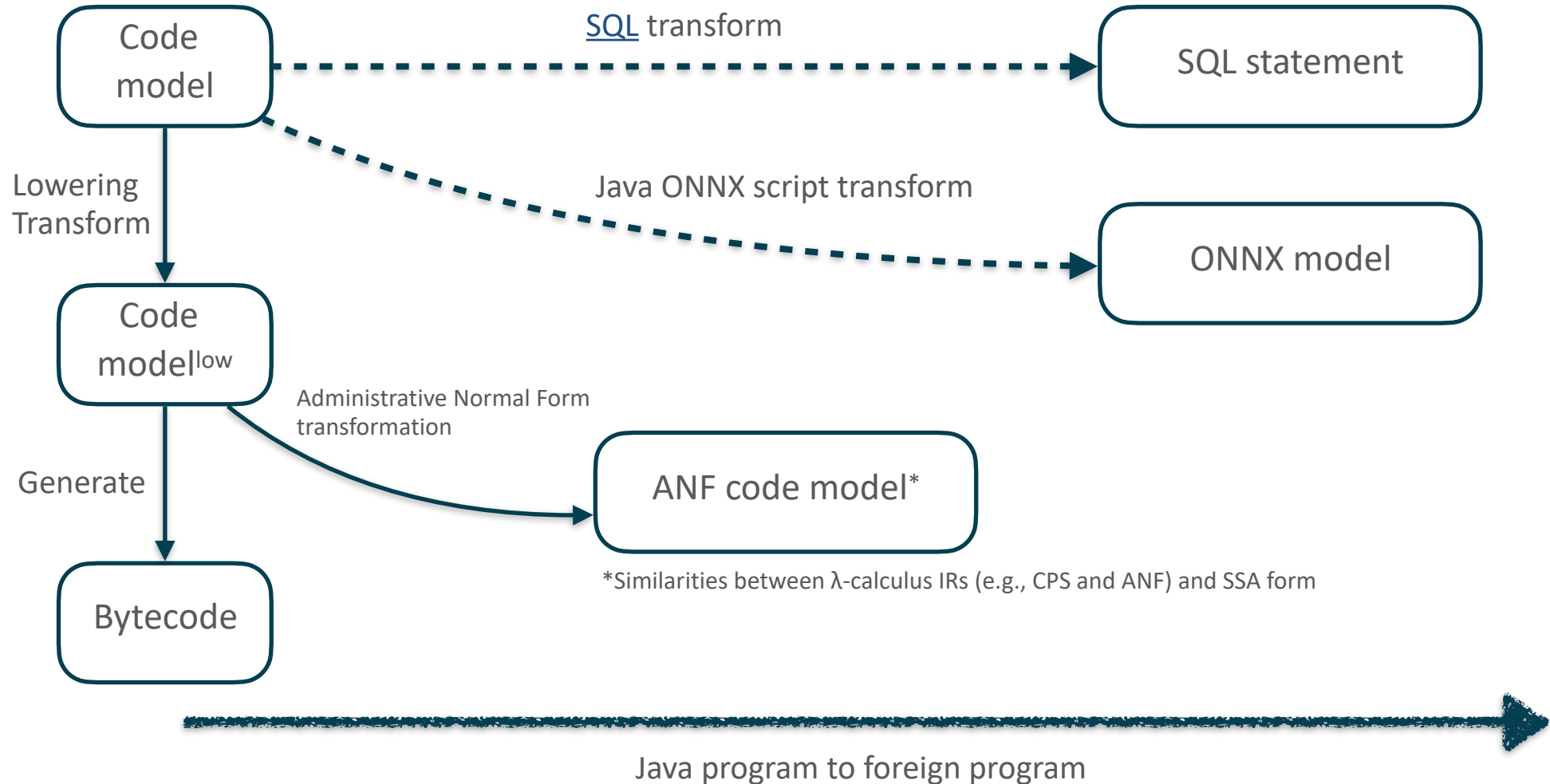
# Generate GPU kernels



# Interfacing with other programming domains



# Interfacing with other programming domains





# Transformation examples

- Lowering

```
CoreOp.FuncOp model = ...;

// Code models in, code models out
CoreOp.FuncOp loweredModel = model.transform(OpTransformer.LOWERING_TRANSFORMER);
CoreOp.FuncOp loweredSSAModel = SSA.transform(loweredModel);
```

- Bytecode generation

```
CoreOp.FuncOp model = ...;

// Bytecode generator only works with lowered models
CoreOp.FuncOp loweredModel = model.transform(OpTransformer.LOWERING_TRANSFORMER);
MethodHandle handle = BytecodeGenerator.generate(MethodHandles.lookup(), loweredModel);
```

- Lifting

```
CoreOp.FuncOp model = ...;

CoreOp.FuncOp loweredModel = model.transform(OpTransformer.LOWERING_TRANSFORMER);
byte[] classData = BytecodeGenerator.generateClassData(MethodHandles.lookup(), loweredModel);
CoreOp.FuncOp liftedLoweredModel = BytecodeLift.lift(classData, loweredModel.funcName());
```

# Transformation examples

- Forward auto differentiation

```
// f(x, y)
CoreOp.FuncOp f = ...;

f = SSA.transform(f.transform(OpTransformer.LOWERING_TRANSFORMER));

Block.Parameter x = f.parameters().get(0);
CoreOp.FuncOp df_dx = ExpressionElimination.eliminate(ForwardDifferentiation.partialDiff(f, x));
MethodHandle df_dx_h = BytecodeGenerator.generate(MethodHandles.lookup(), df_dx);

Block.Parameter y = f.parameters().get(1);
CoreOp.FuncOp df_dy = ExpressionElimination.eliminate(ForwardDifferentiation.partialDiff(f, y));
MethodHandle df_dy_h = BytecodeGenerator.generate(MethodHandles.lookup(), df_dy);
```

- See test [here](#)

# Lambda expression identification and access

- Identify by target typing using intersection types

```
DoubleBinaryOperator f = (DoubleBinaryOperator & Quotable) (a, b) -> a + b;
```

- Access the code model via the targeted type using a cast

```
Quoted qF = ((Quotable) f).quoted();  
Op op = qF.op();
```

# Lambda expression identification and access

- Identify by target typing using quotable function interface

```
@FunctionalInterface  
interface QuotedDoubleBinaryOperator extends DoubleBinaryOperator, Quotable { }  
  
QuotedDoubleBinaryOperator f = (a, b) -> a + b;
```

- Access the code model via the targeted type

```
Quoted qF = f.quoted();  
Op op = qF.op();
```

- From Quotable we can get what code is Quoted
  - Quotable behaves similarly to Serializable
- Quoted encapsulates the lambda expression's code model and any *captured* values

# Lambda expression identification and access

- Capturing lambda expression

```
public void capture(double cap) {  
    QuotedDoubleBinaryOperator f = (a, b) -> a + b + cap;  
    ...  
}
```

- Access the code model and captured arguments

```
Quoted qF = f.quoted();  
// Map of symbolic value to runtime value  
Map<Value, Object> capturedValues = qF.capturedValues();  
Op op = qF.op();
```

- The captured values can be applied to the model when processed
  - The model is static, the captured values dynamic
- No code outside the lambda expression is captured and reflected on

# Uses the more flexible the lambda metafactory

```
public void capture(double);
    descriptor: (D)V
...
    0: dload_1    // Captured argument for lambda proxy class
    1: dload_1    // Captured argument for code model
    // InvokeDynamic #2:applyAsDouble:(DD)Ljvmls24/LambdaExample$QuotedDoubleBinaryOperator;
    2: invokedynamic #57, 0
    7: astore_3
    8: load_3
    // InterfaceMethod jvmls24/LambdaExample$QuotedDoubleBinaryOperator.quoted:()Ljava/lang/reflect/code/Quoted;
    9: invokeinterface #46, 1
...
BootstrapMethods:
...
  2: #227 REF_invokeStatic java/lang/invoke/LambdaMetafactory.altMetafactory:(...;
    Method arguments:
      #208 (DD)D
      #219 REF_invokeStatic jvmls24/LambdaExample.lambda$capture$2:(DDD)D
      #208 (DD)D
      // Additional flags set for quotable lambda
      #212 12
      #213 0
      // Reference to field holding the code model text string
      #222 REF_getStatic jvmls24/LambdaExample.lambda$2$op:Ljava/lang/String;
```

# The code model referenced by the metafactory

```
func @"quotedLambda" (%0 : double)java.lang.reflect.code.Quoted -> {  
  %1 : Var<double> = var %0 @"cap";  
  %2 : java.lang.reflect.code.Quoted = quoted ()void -> {  
    %3 : jvmls24.LambdaExample$QuotedDoubleBinaryOperator = lambda (%4 : double, %5 : double)double -> {  
      %6 : Var<double> = var %4 @"a";  
      %7 : Var<double> = var %5 @"b";  
      %8 : double = var.load %6;  
      %9 : double = var.load %7;  
      %10 : double = add %8 %9;  
      %11 : double = var.load %1";  
      %12 : double = add %10 %11";  
      return %12;  
    };  
    yield %3;  
  };  
  return %2;  
};
```

- The generated lambda proxy class interprets this model to produce a `Quoted` instance, passing the captured values as (function) block arguments
  - The symbolic value `%1`, modeling the captured variable, is bound to its runtime value

# Method reference identification and access

- Method references are modeled as desugared lambda expressions

```
@CodeReflection
static double add(double a, double b) {
    return a + b;
}
```

```
QuotedDoubleBinaryOperator f1 = LambdaExample::add;
QuotedDoubleBinaryOperator f2 = (a, b) -> add(a, b);
```

```
// op1 and op2 are identical in their content
Op op1 = f1.quoted().op();
Op op2 = f2.quoted().op();
```



# Method reference identification and access

- We can “trampoline” to the the code model of method add

```
QuotedDoubleBinaryOperator f1 = LambdaExample::add;
CoreOp.LambdaOp lop = (CoreOp.LambdaOp) f1.quoted().op();

// Determine if this lambda is like a method reference
// by obtaining an optional invoke operation to the
// referenced method
Optional<CoreOp.InvokeOp> iop_ = lop.methodReference();
CoreOp.InvokeOp iop = iop_.orElseThrow();

// Resolve the method being invoked
Method addMethod = (Method) iop.invokeDescriptor().resolveToMember(
    MethodHandles.lookup());

// Get the invoked method's code model, as previously shown
Optional<? extends Op> optionalModel = addMethod.getCodeModel();
Op addCodeModel = optionalModel.orElseThrow();

// This will get easier with member patterns!
```

# Detour — Call graph trampolining

- Create a code model for the methods in the call graph

@CodeReflection

```
static void m(int i, List<Integer> l) {  
    if (i < 0) {  
        return;  
    }  
  
    n(i - 1, l);  
}
```

@CodeReflection

```
static void n(int i, List<Integer> l) {  
    l.add(i);  
    m(i - 1, l);  
}
```

- See test [here](#)

```
module ()void -> {  
    func @"transinvoke.TransitiveInvokeModuleTest::m(int, java.util.List)void"  
    (%0 : int, %1 : java.util.List<java.lang.Integer>)void -> {  
        %2 : int = constant @"0"  
        %3 : boolean = lt %0 %2  
        cbranch %3 ^block_0_1 ^block_0_2;  
  
        ^block_0_1:  
        return  
  
        ^block_0_2:  
        branch ^block_0_3;  
  
        ^block_0_3:  
        %4 : int = constant @"1"  
        %5 : int = sub %0 %4  
        func.call %5 %1 @"transinvoke.TransitiveInvokeModuleTest::n(int, java.util.List)void";  
        return  
    };  
    func @"transinvoke.TransitiveInvokeModuleTest::n(int, java.util.List)void"  
    (%6 : int, %7 : java.util.List<java.lang.Integer>)void -> {  
        %8 : java.lang.Integer = invoke %6 @"java.lang.Integer::valueOf(int)java.lang.Integer"  
        %9 : boolean = invoke %7 %8 @"java.util.List::add(java.lang.Object)boolean"  
        %10 : int = constant @"1"  
        %11 : int = sub %6 %10  
        func.call %11 %7 @"transinvoke.TransitiveInvokeModuleTest::m(int, java.util.List)void";  
        return  
    };  
    unreachable;  
};
```

# Structural target typing

- Target lambda expression directly to Quoted

```
public void structuralTarget(double cap) {  
    Quoted qF = (double a, double b) -> a + b + cap;  
  
    Map<Value, Object> capturedValues = qF.capturedValues();  
    Op op = qF.op();  
}
```

- Only the code model of of lambda expression generated
  - Bytecode is not generated
- Useful for quoting snippets of code that are then transformed and embedded (or inlined) when building other models
  - Let the compiler build the model snippets rather than doing so explicitly

# Issues with lambda expression identification and access

- Same issues regarding code model storage
- Captured arguments list is duplicated
- Accessing `Quoted` via `Quotable::quoted`
  - Should `Quotable` be a marker interface, and we appeal to the reflection API to obtain the corresponding `Quoted` instance?
- Consider different names
  - e.g., `Reflectable` and `ReflectedLambda`?
  - Note that quoting is a more general concept in code models — any part of a model can be quoted using the `quoted` operation

# Serializable and Quotable lambdas are similar

- Both trigger introspection of lambda expressions
- Both kinds of lambda proxy class expose the captured arguments
- `SerializedLambda` is to `Serializable` as `Quoted` is to `Quoted`
  - `SerializedLambda` encapsulates all the details to (re) invoke the LMF alternative bootstrap method — but only by the capturing class
  - `Quoted` encapsulates the code model — anyone with access to the quoted instance can obtain the model
  - Some developers use the former to “crack open” lambda expressions — what they really need is the latter, code reflection!
- Is there a common abstraction?

# Reflective two-layered dispatch

```
interface QuotableConsumer<T> extends Consumer<T> { }
```

```
static class LayerOne {  
    static void dispatch(QuotableConsumer<LayerOne> c) { ... }  
    void dispatch(QuotableConsumer<LayerTwo> c) { ... }  
}  
static class LayerTwo { ... }
```

```
public void testDispatch() {  
    LayerOne.dispatch(l1 -> {  
        // Layer one programming model with call graph  
  
        l1.dispatch(l2 -> {  
            // Layer two programming model with call graph  
        });  
  
        l1.dispatch(l2 -> {  
            // Layer two programming model with call graph  
        });  
    });  
}
```

# Reflective two-layered dispatch

```
interface QuotableConsumer<T> extends Consumer<T>, Quotable { }

static class LayerOne {
    static void dispatch(QuotableConsumer<LayerOne> c) { ... }
    void dispatch(QuotableConsumer<LayerTwo> c) { ... }
}
static class LayerTwo { ... }

public void testDispatch() {
    LayerOne.dispatch(l1 -> {
        // Layer one programming model with call graph

        l1.dispatch(l2 -> {
            // Layer two programming model with call graph
        });

        l1.dispatch(l2 -> {
            // Layer two programming model with call graph
        });
    });
}
```

- Can also include method trampolining
- Abstractly this is how the HAT programming model is arranged
- The host-compute program (l1) dispatches to one or more kernel programs (l2)

# So much more left unsaid...

- Modeling of Java language constructs
  - JLS will specify what the compiler must do for identifying source, generating code models, accessing them, and storing them
  - JVMMS will specify what the runtime must do to access and validate code models
- Core library APIs for code models
  - Code model structure
  - Operations and types modeling Java language constructs
  - Building, traversing, and transforming code models
  - Useful analyses and transformations
  - API design will be influenced by user-declared patterns ([member patterns](#))



```

func @"catchThrow" @loc="14:5:file:/.../TestTry.java"
  (%0 : java.util.function.IntConsumer)void -> {
    %1 : java.lang.reflect.code.op.CoreOp$ExceptionRegion =
      exception.region.enter ^block_1 ^block_11 ^block_13;

^block_1:
  %2 : boolean = constant @"true" @loc="17:17";
  cbranch %2 ^block_2 ^block_5;

^block_2:
  exception.region.exit %1 ^block_3;

^block_3:
  %3 : int = constant @"2" @loc="28:22";
  invoke %0 %3
@"java.util.function.IntConsumer::accept(int)void"
@loc="28:13";
  branch ^block_4;

^block_4:
  branch ^block_9;

^block_5:
  branch ^block_6;

^block_6:
  %4 : java.lang.Runnable = lambda @loc="20:26" ()void -> {
    return @loc="21:17";
  };
  %5 : int = constant @"0" @loc="23:22";
  invoke %0 %5
@"java.util.function.IntConsumer::accept(int)void"
@loc="23:13";
  branch ^block_7;

^block_7:
  exception.region.exit %1 ^block_8;

```



```

^block_8:
  %6 : int = constant @"2" @loc="28:22";
  invoke %0 %6
@"java.util.function.IntConsumer::accept(int)void"
@loc="28:13";
  branch ^block_9;

^block_9:
  branch ^block_10;

^block_10:
  %7 : int = constant @"3" @loc="30:18";
  invoke %0 %7
@"java.util.function.IntConsumer::accept(int)void" @loc="30:9";
  return @loc="14:5";

^block_11(%8 : java.lang.IllegalStateException):
  %9 : java.lang.reflect.code.op.CoreOp$ExceptionRegion =
    exception.region.enter ^block_12 ^block_13;

^block_12:
  %10 : int = constant @"1" @loc="25:22";
  invoke %0 %10
@"java.util.function.IntConsumer::accept(int)void"
@loc="25:13";
  %11 : java.lang.RuntimeException = new
@"func<java.lang.RuntimeException>" @loc="26:19";
  throw %11 @loc="26:13";

^block_13(%12 : java.lang.Throwable):
  %13 : int = constant @"2" @loc="28:22";
  invoke %0 %13
@"java.util.function.IntConsumer::accept(int)void"
@loc="28:13";
  throw %12;
};

```