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ABSTRACT

A method of translating object-oriented computer programs into native code includes a two-step translation process, first by a jcode translator (212) into a machine-independent virtual processor code (213), and then by a native translator (214) into native code (230). In a heterogeneous multiprocessor environment, the machine-independent part of the translation can be carried out at the central server, with machine-independent virtual processor code being distributed as required to the individual clients. Each client then needs to carry just a small processor-dependent native translator (214) with which it completes the conversion into native code. The invention finds particular application in embedded systems, and particularly in heterogeneous-processor systems such as mobile phone networks.