CS 2210: Optimization

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A "Bad" Name

Optimization is the process by which we turn a program into a better one, for some definition of better.

This is impossible in the general case.

For instance, a *fully optimizing compiler* for size must be able to recognize all sequences of code that are infinite loops with no output, so that it can replace it with a one-instruction infinite loop.

This means we must solve the halting problem.

So, what can we do instead?

Optimization

An optimizing compiler transforms P into a program P that always has the same input/output behavior as P, and might be smaller or faster.

Optimizations are code or data transformations which typically result in improved performance, memory usage, power consumption, etc.

Optimizations applied naively may sometimes result in code that performs worse.

We saw one potential optimization before, *loop interchange*, where we decide to change the order of loop headers in order to get better cache locality. However, this may result in worse overall performance if the resulting code must do more work and the arrays were small enough to fit in the cache regardless of the order.

Register Allocation

Register allocation is also an optimization as we previously discussed.

On register-register machines, we avoid the cost of memory accesses anytime we can keep the result of one computation available in a register to be used as an operand to a subsequent instruction.

Good register allocators also do coalescing which eliminates move instructions, making the code smaller and faster.

Reaching Definitions

Does a particular value *t* directly affect the value of *t* at another point in the program?

Given an unambiguous definition d,

or

t ← a ⊕ b

 $t \in M[a]$

we say that *d* reaches a statement u in the program if there is some path in the CFG from *d* to *u* that does not contain any unambiguous definition of *t*.

An *ambiguous* definition is a statement that might or might not assign a value to *t*, such as a call with pointer parameters or globals. Decaf will not register allocate these, and so we can ignore the issue.

Dataflow Analyses

Reaching Definitions

We label every move statement with a definition ID, and we manipulate sets of definition IDs.

We say that the statement

 $d_1\colon t \leftarrow x \oplus y$ generates the definition d_1 , because no matter what other definitions reach the beginning of this statement, we know that d_1 reaches the end of it.

This statement kills any other definition of t, because no matter what other definitions of t reach the beginning of the statement, they cannot directly affect the value of t after this statement.



Available Expressions

An expression:

 $\begin{array}{c} x \ \bigoplus \ y \\ \text{is available at a node n in the flow graph if, on every path from the entry node of the graph to node n, $x \ \bigoplus \ y$ is computed at least once and there are no definitions of x or y since the most recent occurrence of $x \ \bigoplus \ y$ on that path.}$

Any node that computes $x \oplus y$ generates $\{x \oplus y\}$, and any definition of x or y kills $\{x \oplus y\}$.

A store instruction (M[a] \leftarrow b) might modify any memory location, so it kills any fetch expression (M[x]). If we were sure that a = x, we could be less conservative, and say that M[a] \leftarrow b does not kill M[x]. This is called alias analysis.

Available Expressions			
$in[n] = \bigcap_{p \in pred[n]} out[p]$			
$out[n] = gen[n] \cup (in[n] - kill[n])$			
Compute this by iteration.			
Define the <i>in</i> set of the start node as empty, and initialize all other sets to <i>full</i> (the set of all expressions), not empty.			
Intersection makes sets <i>smaller</i> , not bigger.			

Reaching Expressions

We say that an expression:

t	← 3	кθ	У						
(in node s of the flow graph) reaches n	od	e <i>n</i> if	there i	is a p	oath f	rom s	to n t	hat d	oes
not go through any assignment to x or	<u>у</u> , (or thr	ough a	any c	ompu	utation	of x	⊕y.	

Dataflow Optimizations

Dead-code Elimination

If there is an IR instruction s : a ← b ⊕ c

or

s : a $\leftarrow M[x]$

such that a is not *live-out* of s, then the instruction can be deleted.

Some instructions have implicit side effects such as raising an exception on overflow or division by zero. The deletion of those instructions will change the behavior of the program.

The optimizer shouldn't always do this. Optimizations that eliminate even seemingly harmless runtime behavior cause unpredictable behavior of the program. A program debugged with optimizations on may fail with them disabled.



Dead Code Elim in SSA

 $W \leftarrow a$ list of all variables in the SSA program while W is not empty

- remove some variable v from W
- if v's list of uses is empty

 $W \leftarrow W \cup \{x_i\}$

- let S be v's statement of definition if S has no side effects other than the assignment to vdelete S from the program for each variable $x_i \ \mathrm{used} \ \mathrm{by} \ S$ delete S from the list of uses of x.
- t ← c where c is a constant, and another statement *n* that uses *t*: y ← t ⊕ x We know that t is constant in n if d reaches n, and no other definitions of t reach n. In this case, we can rewrite n as: v ← c ⊕ x

Constant Propagation

Suppose we have a statement d:

Constant Propagation in SSA

Any φ -function of the form $v \leftarrow \varphi(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n)$, where all the c_i are equal, can be replaced by $v \leftarrow c$.

 \leftarrow a list of all statements in the SSA program

- while W is not empty
 remove some statement S from W
 if S is v + φ(c, c, . . . , c) for some constant c
 replace S by v + c
 - if S is $v \leftarrow c$ for some constant c
 - delete S from the program
 for each statement T that uses v
 substitute c for v in T
 - - $W \leftarrow W \cup \{T\}$

Copy Propagation This is like constant propagation, but instead of a constant *c* we have a variable *z*. Suppose we have a statement: d: t ← z and another statement *n* that uses *t*, such as: n: y ← t ⊕ x If *d* reaches *n*, and no other definition of *t* reaches *n*, and there is no definition of *z* on any path from d to n (including a path that goes through n one or more times), then we can rewrite n as:

n: v ← z ⊕ x

Copy Propagation in SSA

A single-argument φ -function $x \leftarrow \varphi(y)$ or a copy assignment $x \leftarrow y$ can be deleted, and y substituted for every use of x.

Add this to our worklist algorithm.

Constant folding

Constant folding

If we have a statement $x \leftarrow a \oplus b$ where a and b are constant, we can evaluate $c \leftarrow a \oplus b$ at compile time and replace the statement with

 $X \leftarrow C$

Constant Conditions

A conditional branch:

if a < b goto L_1 else L_2

where a and b are constant, can be replaced by either: goto ${\it L}_1$ or goto ${\it L}_2$

depending on the (compile-time) value of a < b.

The control-flow edge from L must be deleted.

The number of predecessors of L_2 (or L_1) is reduced, and the φ -functions in that block must be adjusted by removing the appropriate argument.

Unreachable code

Deleting a predecessor may cause block L_2 to become unreachable.

In this case, all the statements in L2 can be deleted.

The variables that are used in these statements are now potentially unused.

The block itself should be deleted, reducing the number of predecessors of its successor blocks.

Common Subexpression Elim

Compute reaching expressions, that is, find statements of the form

n: $v \leftarrow x \oplus y$

such that the path from *n* to *s* does not compute $x \oplus y$ or define *x* or *y*.

Choose a new temporary w, and for such n, rewrite as: n: w \leftarrow x \oplus y n': v \leftarrow w

Finally, modify statement s to be:

s: t ← w

We will rely on copy propagation to remove some or all of the extra assignment quadruples.

Peephole Optimizations

Peephole Optimizations

Peephole optimizations examine a sliding window of target instructions (called the *peephole*) and replacing instruction sequences within the peephole by a shorter or faster sequence, whenever possible.

This can be done on IR or on machine code.

Redundant Loads and Stores

If we see the instruction sequence

mov dword ptr [esp + 8], eax
mov eax, dword ptr [esp + 8]

We can remove it if it is in the same basic block.

Algebraic Simplification

We can identify algebraic identities such as:

to eliminate computations from a basic block.

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Loop Optimizations



A loop in a CFG is a set of nodes *S* including a header node *h* with the following properties:

- From any node in S there is a path of directed edges leading to h.
- There is a path of directed edges from *h* to any node in S.
- There is no edge from any node outside S to any node in S other than h.

A loop entry node is one with some predecessor outside the loop.

A loop exit node is one with a successor outside the loop.

Natural Loops

A *back edge* in a CFG is an edge whose head dominates its tail.

In the graph shown here, since there are ways to enter into block 2 without going into block 3 first and vice versa, there is no dominance relationship. Thus, there is no back edge in this graph.

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Given a back edge, $m{\rightarrow}$ n, the natural loop of $m{\rightarrow}n$ is the subgraph consisting of:

- 1. The set of nodes containing *n* and
- All of the nodes from which *m* can be reached in the CFG without passing through *n*
- The edge set connecting all of the nodes in its node set.

Node *n* is thus the loop header.







Reducible Flow Graphs

Reducibility is an important but misnamed property.

Reducible results from several kinds of transformations that can be applied to CFGs successively to reduce subgraphs into single nodes. If the resultant subgraph has a single node, it is considered reducible.

A flowgraph G=(N,E) is reducible iff E can be partitioned into disjoint sets E_r, the forward edge set, and E_B, the back edge set, such that (N,E_r) forms a DAG in which each node can be reached from the entry node, and the edges in E_B are all back edges.

Alternatively, if a CFG is reducible, all the loops in it are natural loops characterized by their back edges and vice versa: There are no jumps into the middle of loops. Each loop is entered via its loop header.



Advantages of Reducible CFGs

Many dataflow analyses can be done very efficiently on reducible flow graphs.

Instead of using fixed-point iteration, we can determine an order for computing the assignments, and calculate in advance how many assignments will be necessary There will never be a need to check to see if anything changed.

















Induction Variables

Some loops have a variable *i* that is incremented or decremented, and a variable *j* that is set (in the loop) to $i \times c + d$, where *c* and *d* are loop-invariant.

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j = i * c + d
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Then we can calculate *j* 's value without reference to *i* : whenever *i* is incremented by a we can increment *j* by $c \times a$.

i++; j+= c * a;

Detection Of Induction Variables

 $k \leftarrow j + a$ $x \leftarrow M[k]$ sum \leftarrow sum + x

i ← i + 1

goto Ll

L2:

We say that a variable such as *i* is a *basic* induction variable, and *j* and *k* are derived induction variables in the family of *i*.

Right after *j* is defined, we have $j = a_j + i \times b_j$, where $a_j = 0$ and $b_j = 4$.

We can completely characterize the value of j at its definition by (i, a, b), where i is a basic induction variable and a and b are loop-invariant expressions.

Another derived induction variable is $k \leftarrow j + c_k$ (where c_k is loop-invariant). Thus k is also in the family of *i*. We can characterize *k* by the triple: $(i, a_l + c_k, b_l)$, that is, $k = aj + c_k + i \times b_l$.

Detection Of Induction Variables

The variable *i* is a **basic induction variable** in a loop *L* with header node *h* if the only definitions of *i* within *L* are of the form:

 $i \leftarrow i + c \text{ or } i \leftarrow i - c$ where c is loop-invariant.

The variable k is a **derived induction variable** in loop L if: 1. There is only one definition of k within L, of the form:

 $\label{eq:k} k \leftarrow j \ \times \ c \ \text{Or} \ k \leftarrow j \ + \ d$

where j is an induction variable and c, d are loop-invariant; and

2. if *j* is a derived induction variable in the family of *i*, then:
a) the only definition of *j* that reaches *k* is the one in the loop, and
b) there is no definition of *i* on any path between the definition of *j* and the definition of *k*.

Strength Reduction

For each derived induction variable *j* whose triple is (*i*, *a*, *b*), make a new variable *j'* (although different derived induction variables with the same triple can share the same *j'* variable).

After each assignment $i \leftarrow i + c$, make an assignment $j' \leftarrow j' + c \times b$, where $c \times b$ is a loop-invariant expression that may be computed in the loop preheader. If c and b are both constant, then the multiplication may be done at compile time.

Replace the (unique) assignment to j with $j \leftarrow j'$.

Finally, it is necessary to initialize j at the end of the loop preheader, with: $j' \leftarrow a + i \times b$.



$sum \leftarrow 0$ i $\leftarrow 0$	We can perform <i>dead-code elimination</i> to remove the statement $j \leftarrow j'$.
$j' \leftarrow 0$ $k' \leftarrow a$ L1: if $i \ge n$ goto L2 $j \leftarrow j'$ $k \leftarrow k'$	We would also like to remove all the definitions of the <i>useless variable j'</i> , but technically it is not dead, since it is used in every iteration of the loop.
$x \leftarrow M[k]$ sum \leftarrow sum + x $i \leftarrow i + 1$ $j' \leftarrow j' + 4$ $k' \leftarrow k' + 4$	A variable is useless in a loop <i>L</i> if it is dead at all exits from <i>L</i> , and its only use is in a definition of itself. All definitions o a useless variable may be deleted.
goto L1 L2:	After the removal of <i>j</i> , the variable <i>j'</i> is useless. We can delete $j' \leftarrow j' + 4$. This leaves a definition of <i>i'</i> in the probability













Control Hazards Control hazard: attempt to make a decision before condition is evaluated. Branch instructions: beq \$1,\$2,L0 add \$4,\$5,\$6 LO: sub \$7,\$8,\$9 Times to do prediction: Static Which instruction do we fetch next? Make a quess that the branch is not taken. If we're right, there's no problem (no stalls). If we're wrong ...? taken · Dynamic What would have been stalls if we waited for our comparison are now "wrong" instructions. We need to cancel them out and make sure they have no effect. These are called bubbles.



A tight loop may perform better if it is unrolled: where multiple loop iterations are replaced by multiple copies of the body in a row.			
<pre>int x; for (x = 0; x < 100; x++) { printf("%d\n", x); }</pre>	<pre>int x; for (x = 0; x < 100; x+=5) { printf("%d\n", x); printf("%d\n", x+1); printf("%d\n", x+2); printf("%d\n", x+3); printf("%d\n", x+4); } </pre>		



Duff's Device

<pre>do { *to = *from++; /* Note that the 'to' pointer</pre>	<pre>send(to, from, count) register short *to, *from; register count;</pre>							
is NOT incremented */	{							
<pre>} while(count > 0);</pre>	register n = (count + 7) $/$ 8;							
	switch(count % 8) {							
	case 0: do { *to=*from++;							
	case 7: *to=*from++;							
	case 6: *to=*from++;							
	case 5: *to=*from++;							
	case 4: *to=*from++;							
	case 3: *to=*from++;							
	case 2: *to=*from++;							
	<pre>case 1: *to=*from++;</pre>							
	<pre>} while(n>0);</pre>							
	}							
	}							