CSE 401 – Compilers

Survey of Code Optimizations

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Agenda

- Survey some code “optimizations” (improvements)
  - Get a feel for what’s possible
- Some organizing concepts
  - Basic blocks
  - Control-flow and dataflow graph

Optimizations

- Use added passes to identify inefficiencies in intermediate or target code
- Replace with equivalent (“has the same externally visible behavior”) but better sequences
- Target-independent optimizations best done on IL code
- Target-dependent optimizations best done on target code
- “Optimize” overly optimistic: “usually improve” is generally more accurate
  - And “clever” programmers can outwit you!

An example

```
x = a[i] + b[2];
c[i] = x - 5;
```

```
t1 = *(fp + ioffset);  // i
t2 = t1 * 4;
t3 = fp + t2;
t4 = *(t3 + aoffset);  // a[i]
t5 = 2;
t6 = t5 * 4;
t7 = fp + t6;
t8 = *(t7 + boffset);  // b[2]
t9 = t4 + t8; *(fp + xoffset) = t9; // x = …
t10 = *(fp + xoffset); // x
t11 = 5;
t12 = t10 - t11;
t13 = *(fp + ioffset); // i
t14 = t13 * 4;
t15 = fp + t14;
*(t15 + coffset) = t12; // c[i] := …
```

Kinds of optimizations

- peephole: look at adjacent instructions
- local: look at straight-line sequence of statements
- intraprocedural: look at whole procedure
  - Commonly called “global”
- interprocedural: look across procedures
  - “whole program” analysis
  - “link time optimization” is a version of this
- Larger scope => usually better optimization but more cost and complexity
  - Analysis is often less precise because of more possibilities

Peephole Optimization

- After target code generation, look at adjacent instructions (a “peephole” on the code stream)
  - try to replace adjacent instructions with something faster

`sw $8,  12($fp)` `lw $12, 12($fp)`	`sw $8,  12($fp)` `mv $12, $8`

More Examples: 68K

`sub sp, 4, sp` `mov r1, 0(sp)`	`mov r1, -(sp)`

`mov 12(fp), r1`
`add r1, 1, r1`
`mov r1, 12(fp)`
	`inc 12(fp)`

- One way to do complex instruction selection

Peephole Optimization of Jumps

- Eliminate jumps to jumps
- Eliminate jumps after conditional branches
- "Adjacent" instructions = "adjacent in control flow"
- Source code

```
if (a < b) {
   if (c < d) { // do nothing
   } else {
      stmt1;
   }
 } else {
    stmt2;
 }
```

Algebraic Simplification

- “constant folding”, “strength reduction”
  - `z = 3 + 4;`
  - `z = x + 0;`
  - `z = x * 1;`
  - `z = x * 2;`
  - `z = x * 8;`
  - `z = x / 8;`

  - `double x, y, z;`
  - `z = (x + y) - y;`
- Can be done by peephole optimizer, or by code generator
- Why do these examples happen?

Local Optimizations

- Analysis and optimizations within a basic block
- *Basic block*: straight-line sequence of statements
  - no control flow into or out of middle of sequence
- Better than peephole
- Not too hard to implement

- Machine-independent, if done on intermediate code

Local Constant Propagation

- If variable assigned a constant, replace downstream uses of the variable with constant

`final int count = 10;`
`...`
`x = count * 5;`
`y = x ^ 3;`
	`t1 = 10;`
	`t2 = 5;`
	`t3 = t1 * t2;`
	`x = t3;`
	`t4 = x;`
	`t5 = 3;`
	`t6 = exp(t4, t5);`
	`y = t6;`

Local Dead Assignment Elimination

- If l.h.s. of assignment never referenced again before being overwritten, then can delete assignment
  - Why would this happen?
    Clean-up after previous optimizations, often

`final int count = 10;`
`...`
`x = count * 5;`
`y = x ^ 3;`
`x = 7;`
	`t1 = 10;`
	`t2 = 5;`
	`t3 = 50;`
	`x = 50;`
	`t4 = 50;`
	`t5 = 3;`
	`t6 = 125000;`
	`y = 125000;`
	`x = 7;`

Intermediate code after constant propagation

Local Common Subexpression Elimination

- Avoid repeating the same calculation
- Eliminate redundant loads
- Keep track of available expressions

`... a[i] + b[i] ...`	`t1 = *(fp + ioffset);`
	`t2 = t1 * 4;`
	`t3 = fp + t2;`
	`t4 = *(t3 + aoffset);`
	`t5 = *(fp + ioffset);`
	`t6 = t5 * 4;`
	`t7 = fp + t6;`
	`t8 = *(t7 + boffset);`
	`t9 = t4 + t8;`

Intraprocedural optimizations

- Enlarge scope of analysis to whole procedure
  - more opportunities for optimization
  - have to deal with branches, merges, and loops
- Can do constant propagation, common subexpression elimination, etc. at “global” level
- Can do new things, e.g. loop optimizations
- Optimizing compilers usually work at this level (-O2)

Code Motion

- Goal: move loop-invariant calculations out of loops
- Can do at source level or at intermediate code level

```
for (i = 0; i < 10; i = i+1) {
  a[i] = a[i] + b[j];
  z = z + 10000;
}
```

```
t1 = b[j];
t2 = 10000;
for (i = 0; i < 10; i = i+1) {
  a[i] = a[i] + t1;
  z = z + t2;
}
```

Code Motion at IL

```
for (i = 0; i < 10; i = i+1) {
  a[i] = b[j];
}
```

```
 *(fp + ioffset) = 0;
label top;
  t0 = *(fp + ioffset);
  iffalse (t0 < 10) goto done;
  t1 = *(fp + joffset);
  t2 = t1 * 4;
  t3 = fp + t2;
  t4 = *(t3 + boffset);
  t5 = *(fp + ioffset);
  t6 = t5 * 4;
  t7 = fp + t6; *(t7 + aoffset) = t4;
  t9 = *(fp + ioffset);
  t10 = t9 + 1;
  *(fp + ioffset) = t10;
  goto top;
label done;
```

Unoptimized intermediate code

Loop Induction Variable Elimination

- For-loop index is induction variable
  - incremented each time around loop
  - offsets & pointers calculated from it
- If used only to index arrays, can rewrite with pointers
  - compute initial offsets/pointers before loop
  - increment offsets/pointers each time around loop
  - no expensive scaling in loop
  - can then do loop-invariant code motion

```
for (i = 0; i < 10; i = i+1) {
  a[i] = a[i] + x;
}
```

  - => transformed to

```
for (p = &a[0]; p < &a[10]; p = p+4) {
  *p = *p + x;
}
```

Interprocedural Optimization

- Expand scope of analysis to procedures calling each other
- Can do local & intraprocedural optimizations at larger scope
- Can do new optimizations, e.g. inlining

Inlining: replace call with body

- Replace procedure call with body of called procedure
- Source:

```
final double pi = 3.1415927;
double circle_area(double radius) {
   return pi * (radius * radius);
}
...
double r = 5.0;
...
double a = circle_area(r);
```

- After inlining:

```
...
double r = 5.0;
...
double a = pi * r * r;
```

- (Then what?)

Intraprocedural (Global) Optimizations

- Need a convenient representation of procedure body
- Control flow graph (CFG) captures flow of control
  - nodes are IL statements, or whole basic blocks
  - edges represent (all possible) control flow
  - node with multiple successors = branch/switch
  - node with multiple predecessors = merge
  - loop in graph = loop
- Data flow graph (DFG) capture flow of data, e.g. def/use chains:
  - nodes are def(inition)s and uses
  - edge from def to use
  - a def can reach multiple uses
  - a use can have multiple reaching defs

Analysis and Transformation

- Each optimization is made up of
  - some number of analyses
  - followed by a transformation
- Analyze CFG and/or DFG by propagating info forward or backward along CFG and/or DFG edges
  - edges called program points
  - merges in graph require combining info
  - loops in graph require iterative approximation
- Perform improving transformations based on info computed
  - have to wait until any iterative approximation has converged
- Analysis must be conservative/safe/sound so that transformations preserve program behavior

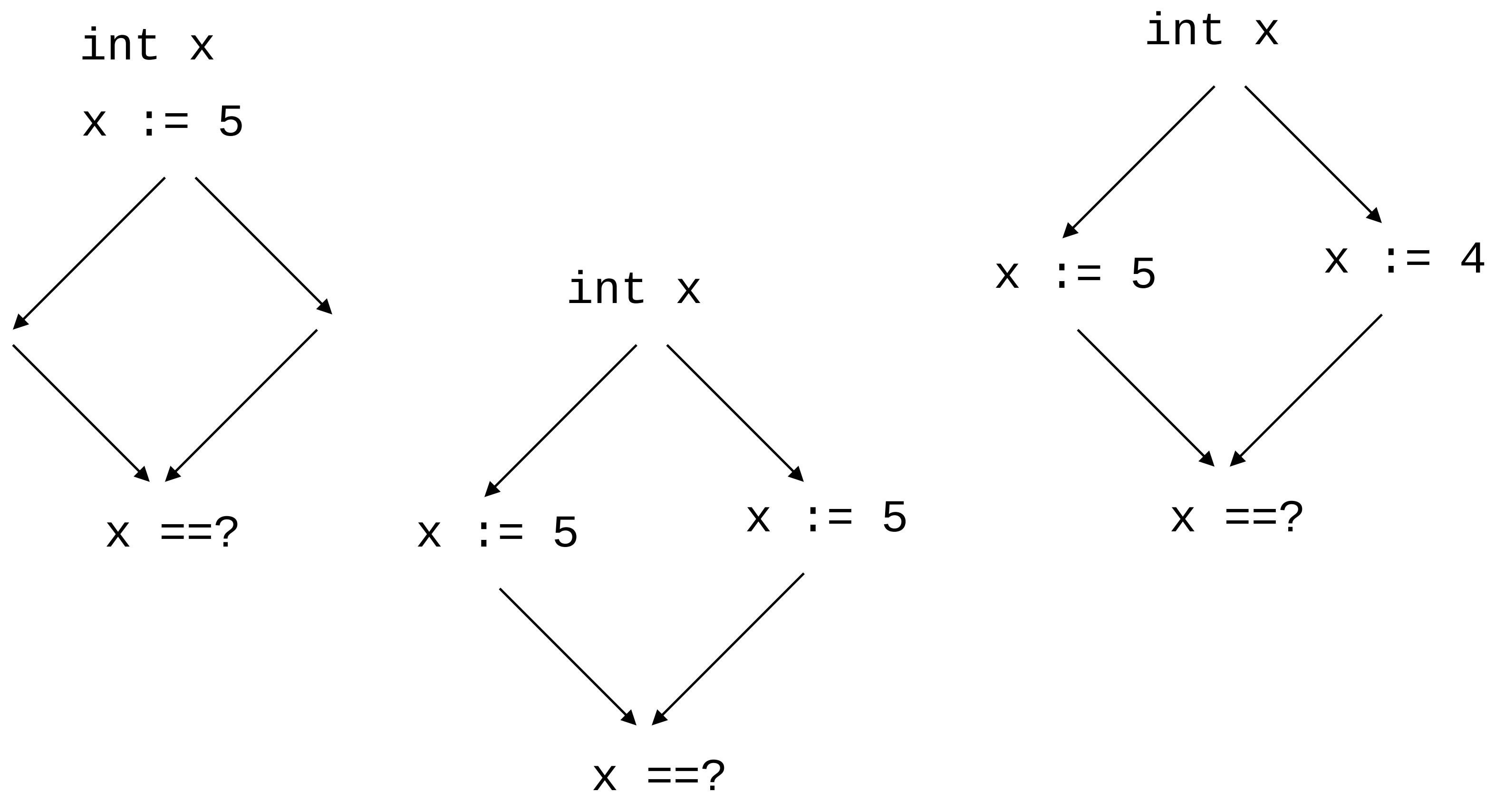
Example: Constant Propagation, Folding

- Can use either the CFG or the DFG
- CFG analysis info: table mapping each variable in scope to one of:
  - a particular constant
  - NonConstant
  - Undefined
- Transformation at each instruction:
  - if reference a variable that the table maps to a constant, then replace with that constant (constant propagation)
  - if r.h.s. expression involves only constants, and has no side-effects, then perform operation at compile-time and replace r.h.s. with constant result (constant folding)
- For best analysis, do constant folding as part of analysis, to learn all constants in one pass

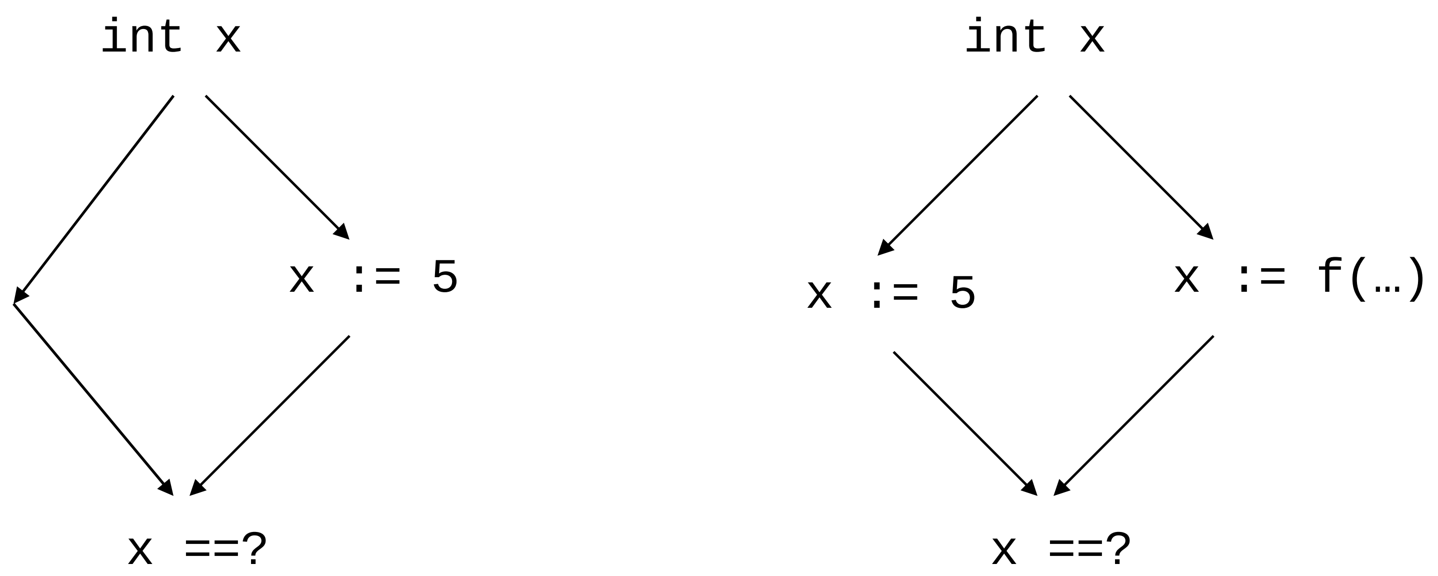
Merging data flow analysis info

- Constraint: merge results must be sound
  - if something is believed true after the merge, then it must be true no matter which path we took into the merge
  - only things true along all predecessors are true after the merge
- To merge two maps of constant information, build map by merging corresponding variable information
- To merge information about two variable
  - if one is Undefined, keep the other
  - if both same constant, keep that constant
  - otherwise, degenerate to NonConstant

Example Merges



Example Merges

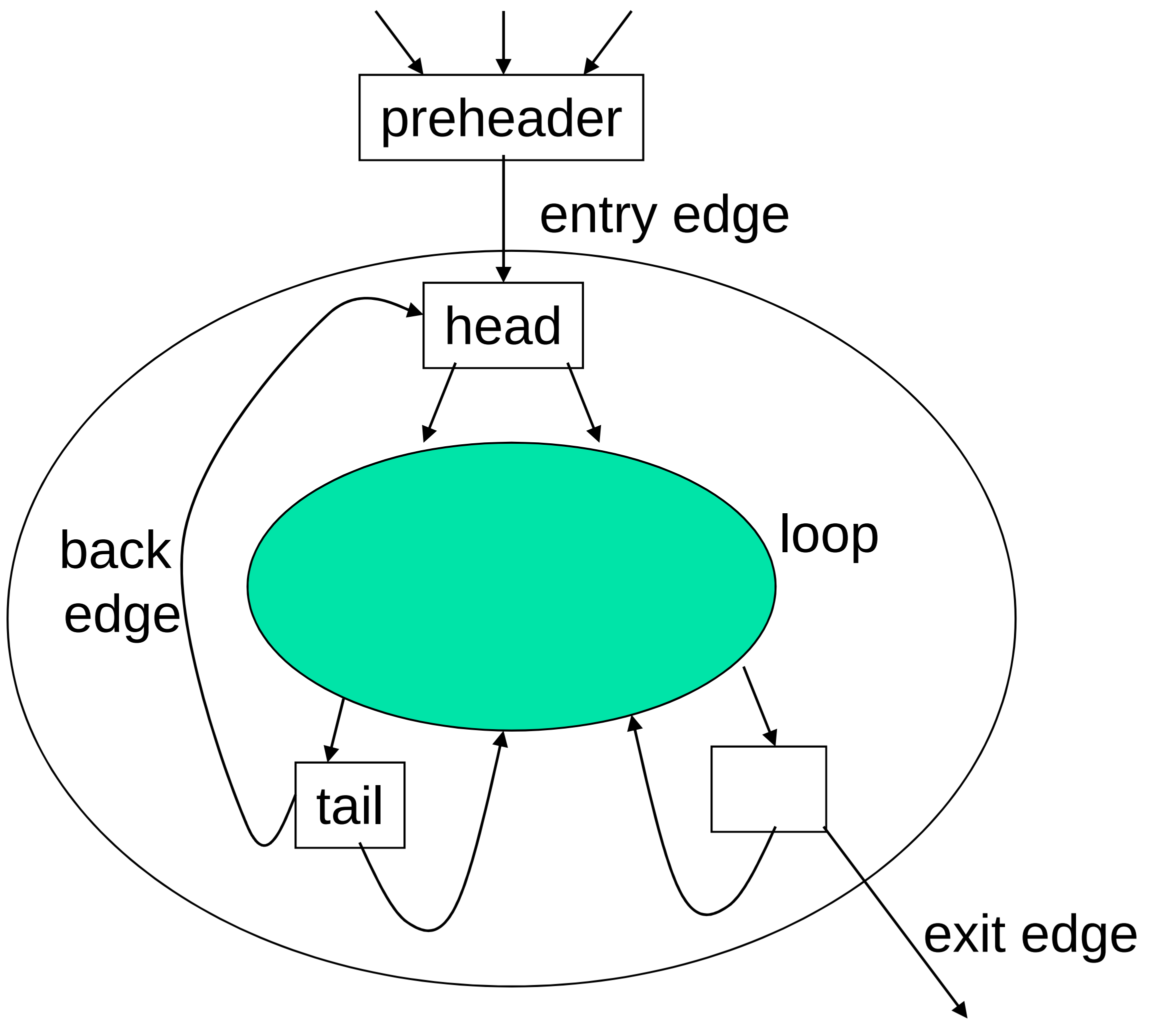


How to analyze loops

```
i = 0;
x = 10;
y = 20;
while (...) {
  // what’s true here?
  ...
  i = i + 1;
  y = 30;
}
// what’s true here?
... x ... i ... y ...
```

- Safe but imprecise: forget everything when we enter or exit a loop
- Precise but unsafe: keep everything when we enter or exit a loop
- Can we do better?

Loop Terminology



Optimistic Iterative Analysis

- Assuming information at loop head is same as information at loop entry
- Then analyze loop body, computing information at back edge
- Merge information at loop back edge and loop entry
- Test if merged information is same as original assumption
  - If so, then we're done
  - If not, then replace previous assumption with merged information,
  - and go back to analysis of loop body

Example

```
i = 0;
x = 10;
y = 20;
while (...) {
   // what’s true here?
   ...
   i = i + 1;
   y = 30; }
// what’s true here?
... x ... i ... y ...
```

Why does this work?

- Why are the results always conservative?
- Because if the algorithm stops, then
  - the loop head info is at least as conservative as both the loop entry info and the loop back edge info
  - the analysis within the loop body is conservative, given the assumption that the loop head info is conservative
- Why does the algorithm terminate?
- It might not!
- But it does if:
  - there are only a finite number of times we could merge values together without reaching the worst case info (e.g. NotConstant)

More interprocedural analyses

- Needed to support interprocedural optimizations
- Alias analysis
  - Different references referring to the same memory locations
  - may-alias vs. must-alias, context- and flow-sensitivity
- Escape analysis (pointers that are live on exit from procedures), shape analysis (static analysis of the properties of dynamic data structures), ...

Supporting representations include

- Call graph
- Program dependence graph
- ...

Summary

- Enlarging scope of analysis yields better results
  - today, most optimizing compilers work at the intraprocedural (a\k\a global) level
    - Changing though, e.g., gcc LTO (link-time optimization)
- Optimizations organized as collections of passes, each rewriting IL in place into better version
- Presence of optimizations makes other parts of compiler (e.g. intermediate and target code generation) easier to write