Introduction to Machine-Independent Optimizations - 2 Data-Flow Analysis

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NPTEL Course on Principles of Compiler Design

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- What is code optimization? (in part 1)
- Illustrations of code optimizations (in part 1)
- Examples of data-flow analysis
- Fundamentals of control-flow analysis
- Algorithms for two machine-independent optimizations
- SSA form and optimizations

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- A *data-flow value* for a program point represents an abstraction of the set of all possible program states that can be observed for that point
- The set of all possible data-flow values is the *domain* for the application under consideration
 - Example: for the *reaching definitions* problem, the domain of data-flow values is the set of all subsets of of definitions in the program
 - A particular data-flow value is a set of definitions
- IN[s] and OUT[s]: data-flow values before and after each statement s
- The data-flow problem is to find a solution to a set of constraints on IN[s] and OUT[s], for all statements s

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Data-Flow Analysis Schema (2)

- Two kinds of constraints
 - Those based on the semantics of statements (*transfer functions*)
 - Those based on flow of control
- A DFA schema consists of
 - A control-flow graph
 - A direction of data-flow (forward or backward)
 - A set of data-flow values
 - A confluence operator (usually set union or intersection)
 - Transfer functions for each block
- We always compute *safe* estimates of data-flow values
- A decision or estimate is *safe* or *conservative*, if it never leads to a change in what the program computes (after the change)
- These safe values may be either subsets or supersets of actual values, based on the application

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The Reaching Definitions Problem

- We *kill* a definition of a variable *a*, if between two points along the path, there is an assignment to *a*
- A definition *d* reaches a point *p*, if there is a path from the point immediately following *d* to *p*, such that *d* is not *killed* along that path
- Unambiguous and ambiguous definitions of a variable

```
a := b+c
```

(unambiguous definition of 'a')

... *p := d

(ambiguous definition of 'a', if 'p' may point to variables other than 'a' as well; hence does not kill the above definition of 'a')

```
a := k-m
(unambiguous definition of 'a'; kills the above definition of
'a')
```

- We compute supersets of definitions as safe values
- It is safe to assume that a definition reaches a point, even if it does not.
- In the following example, we assume that both a=2 and a=4 reach the point after the complete if-then-else statement, even though the statement a=4 is not reached by control flow

if (a==b) a=2; else if (a==b) a=4;

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The Reaching Definitions Problem (3)

• The data-flow equations (constraints)

$$IN[B] = \bigcup_{P \text{ is a predecessor of } B} OUT[P]$$
$$OUT[B] = GEN[B] \bigcup (IN[B] - KILL[B])$$
$$IN[B] = \phi, \text{ for all } B (\text{initialization only})$$

- If some definitions reach B₁ (entry), then IN[B₁] is initialized to that set
- Forward flow DFA problem (since OUT[B] is expressed in terms of IN[B]), confluence operator is ∪
 - Direction of flow does not imply traversing the basic blocks in a particular order
 - The final result does not depend on the order of traversal of the basic blocks

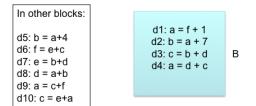
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The Reaching Definitions Problem (4)

- GEN[B] = set of all definitions inside B that are "visible" immediately after the block - downwards exposed definitions
 - If a variable x has two or more definitions in a basic block, then only the last definition of x is downwards exposed; all others are not visible outside the block
- KILL[B] = union of the definitions in all the basic blocks of the flow graph, that are killed by individual statements in B
 - If a variable x has a definition d_i in a basic block, then d_i kills all the definitions of the variable x in the program, except d_i

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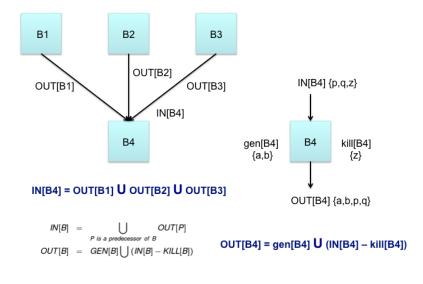
Reaching Definitions Analysis: GEN and KILL



Set of all definitions = {d1,d2,d3,d4,d5,d6,d7,d8,d9,10}

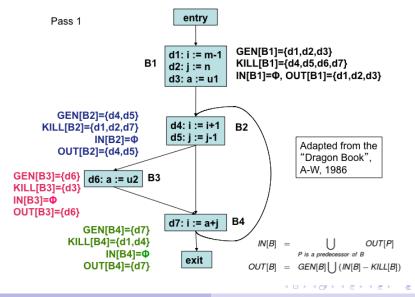
GEN[B] = {d2,d3,d4} KILL[B] = {d4,d9,d5,d10,d1}

Reaching Definitions Analysis: DF Equations



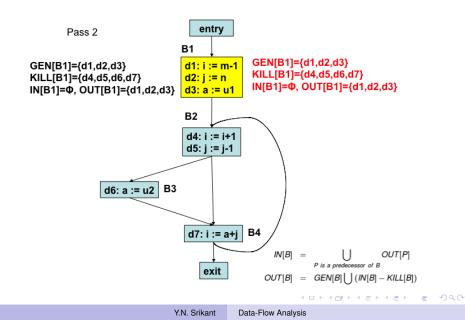
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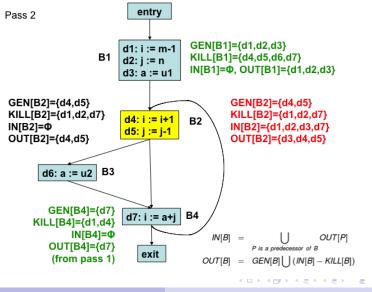
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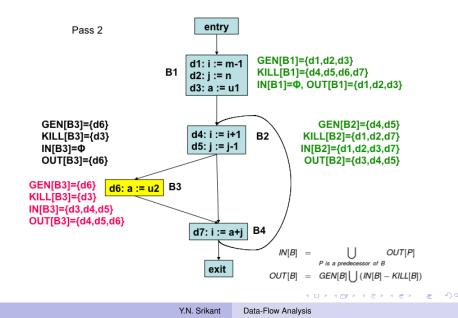
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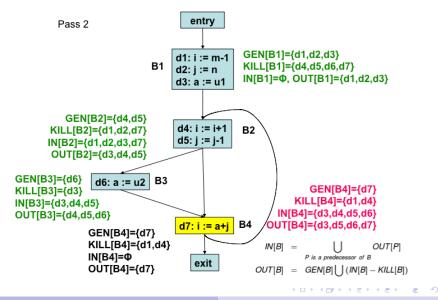
Data-Flow Analysis



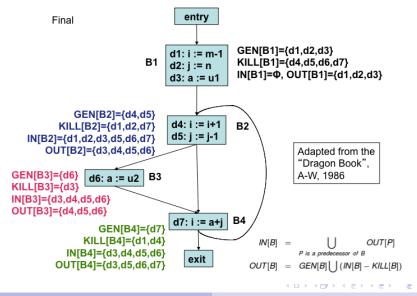


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Reaching Definitions Analysis: An Example - Final



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An Iterative Algorithm for Computing Reaching Def.

for each block *B* do { $IN[B] = \phi$; OUT[B] = GEN[B]; } change = true; while change do { change = false; for each block *B* do {

$$IN[B] = \bigcup_{P \text{ a predecessor of } B} OUT[P];$$

$$oldout = OUT[B];$$

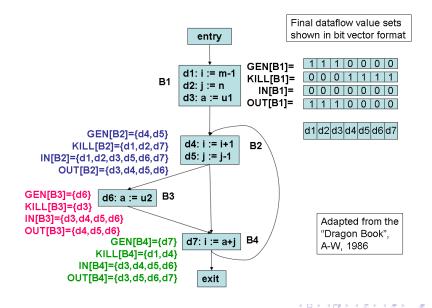
$$OUT[B] = GEN[B] \bigcup (IN[B] - KILL[B]);$$

if $(OUT[B] \neq oldout)$ change = true; }

 GEN, KILL, IN, and OUT are all represented as bit vectors with one bit for each definition in the flow graph

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Reaching Definitions: Bit Vector Representation

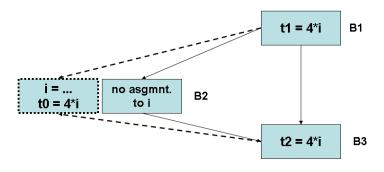


- Sets of expressions constitute the domain of data-flow values
- Forward flow problem
- Confluence operator is ∩
- An expression x + y is available at a point p, if every path (not necessarily cycle-free) from the initial node to p evaluates x + y, and after the last such evaluation, prior to reaching p, there are no subsequent assignments to x or y
- A block kills x + y, if it assigns (or may assign) to x or y and does not subsequently recompute x + y.
- A block generates x + y, if it definitely evaluates x + y, and does not subsequently redefine x or y

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Available Expression Computation(2)

- Useful for global common sub-expression elimination
- 4 * i is a CSE in B3, if it is available at the entry point of B3 i.e., if i is not assigned a new value in B2 or 4 * i is recomputed after i is assigned a new value in B2 (as shown in the dotted box)



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Computing e gen and e kill

- For statements of the form x = a, step 1 below does not apply
- The set of all expressions appearing as the RHS of assignments in the flow graph is assumed to be available and is represented using a hash table and a bit vector

e_gen[q] = A q • x = y + z p •	Computing e_ger 1. A = A U {y+z} 2. A = A - {all expression involving 3. e_gen[p] = A
e_kill[q] = A q • x = y + z p •	Computing e_kill 1. A = A - {y+z} 2. A = A U {all expre involvin 3. e_kill[p] = A

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