# Data Flow Analysis

Rupesh Nasre.

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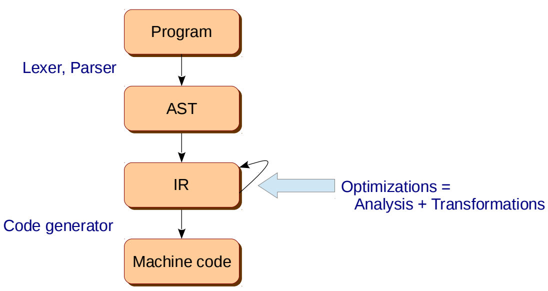
# Outline

- What is DFA?
  - Reaching definitions
  - Live variables
- DFA framework
  - Monotonicity
  - Confluence operator
  - MFP/MOP solution
- Analysis dimensions



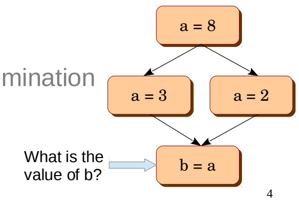
# Compiler Organization






# Data Flow Analysis

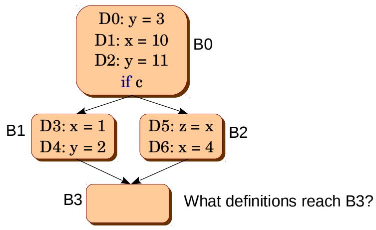
- Flow-sensitive: Considers the control-flow in a function
- Operates on a flow-graph with nodes as basic-blocks and edges as the control-flow
- Examples
  - Constant propagation
  - Common subexpression elimination
  - Dead code elimination






# Reaching Definitions

- Every assignment is a definition
- A definition d reaches a program point p if there exists a path from the point immediately following d to p such that d is not killed along the path.



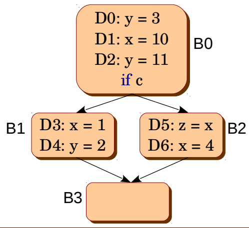



# DFA Equations

- in(B) = set of data flow facts entering block B
- out(B) = …
- gen(B) = set of data flow facts generated in B
- kill(B) = set of data flow facts from the other blocks killed in B

# DFA for Reaching Definitions

- in(B) = U out(P) where P is a predecessor of B
- out(B) = gen(B) U (in(B) – kill(B))
- Initially, out(B) = { }




gen(B0) = {D1, D2} kill(B0) = {D3, D4, D6}
gen(B1) = {D3, D4} kill(B1) = {D0, D1, D2, D6}
gen(B2) = {D5, D6} kill(B2) = {D1, D3}
gen(B3) = { } kill(B3) = { }

| | in1 | out1 | in2 | out2 | in3 | out3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B0 | {} | {D1, D2} | {} | {D1, D2} | {} | {D1, D2} |
| B1 | {} | {D3, D4} | {D1, D2} | {D3, D4} | {D1, D2} | {D3, D4} |
| B2 | {} | {D5, D6} | {D1, D2} | {D2, D5, D6} | {D1, D2} | {D2, D5, D6} |
| B3 | {} | {} | {D3, D4, D5, D6} | {D3, D4, D5, D6} | {D2, D3, D4, D5, D6} | {D2, D3, D4, D5, D6} |

# DFA for Reaching Definitions

| | |
|---|---|
| **Domain** | Sets of definitions |
| **Transfer function** | in(B) = U out(P)<br>out(B) = gen(B) U (in(B) - kill(B)) |
| **Direction** | Forward |
| **Meet / confluence operator** | U |
| **Initialization** | out(B) = { } |



# Algorithm for Reaching Definitions

**for** each basic block B
  compute gen(B) and kill(B)
  out(B) = {}

Can you do better?
Hint: Worklist

**do** {
  **for** each basic block B
    in(B) = U out(P) where P \in pred(B)
    out(B) = gen(B) U (in(B) - kill(B))
} **while** in(B) changes for any basic block B



# DFA for Live Variables

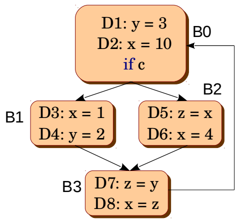
| | |
|---|---|
| **Domain** | Sets of variables |
| **Transfer function** | in(B) = use(B) U (out(B) - def(B))<br>out(B) = U in(S) where S is a successor of B |
| **Direction** | Backward |
| **Meet / confluence operator** | U |
| **Initialization** | in(B) = { } |

A variable v is live at a program point p if v is used along some path in the flow graph starting at p.
Otherwise, the variable v is dead.



# Classwork

- in(B) = U out(P) where P is a predecessor of B
- out(B) = gen(B) U (in(B) – kill(B))
- Initially, out(B) = { }




gen(B0) = {D1, D2} kill(B0) = {D3, D4, D6, D8}
gen(B1) = {D3, D4} kill(B1) = {D1, D2, D6, D8}
gen(B2) = {D5, D6} kill(B2) = {D2, D3, D7, D8}
gen(B3) = {D7, D8} kill(B3) = {D2, D3, D5, D6}

| | in1 | out1 | in2 | out2 | in3 | out3 | in4 | out4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B0 | {} | {D1, D2} | {D7, D8} | {D1, D2, D7} | {D4, D7, D8} | {D1, D2, D7} | {D1,4,7} | {D1,2,7} |
| B1 | {} | {D3, D4} | {D1, D2} | {D3, D4} | {D1, D2, D7} | {D3, D4, D7} | {D1,2,7} | {D3,4,7} |
| B2 | {} | {D5, D6} | {D1, D2} | {D1, D5, D6} | {D1, D2, D7} | {D1, D5, D6} | {D1,2,7} | {D1,5,6} |
| B3 | {} | {D7, D8} | {D3, D4, D5, D6} | {D4, D7, D8} | {D1, D3, D4, D5, D6} | {D1, D4, D7, D8} | {D1,3,4,5,6,7} | {D1,4,7,8} |

# Classwork

- Write an algorithm for Live Variable Analysis

**for** each basic block B
  compute gen(B) and kill(B)
  out(B) = {}
**do** {
  **for** each basic block B
    in(B) = U out(P) where P \in pred(B)
    out(B) = gen(B) U (in(B) - kill(B))
} **while** in(B) changes for any basic block B

Algo for **reaching definitions**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Domain** | Sets of variables |
| **Transfer function** | in(B) = use(B) U (out(B) - def(B))<br>out(B) = U in(S) where S is a successor of B |
| **Direction** | Backward |
| **Meet / confluence operator** | U |
| **Initialization** | in(B) = { } |

Parameters for **live variable analysis**

## Direction and Confluence

| | Forward | Backward |
|---|---|---|
| ∪ | Reaching Definitions | Live Variables |
| ∩ | Common Subexpressions | Very Busy Expressions |



## Data Flow Framework

- Point: start or end of a basic block
- Information flow direction: forward / backward
- Transfer functions
- Meet / confluence operator

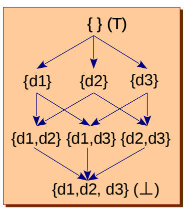
- One can define a transfer function over a path in the CFG $f_k(f_{k-1}(\ldots f_2(f_1(f_0(T))\ldots))$ // small k (block)
- $MOP(x) = \sqcap f_K(T) \quad K \in Paths(x)$ // capital K (path)

*Meet over all paths*
*Path enumeration is expensive*



## Structure in Data Flow Framework

- A semilattice $\mathcal{L}$ with a binary meet operator ⊓, such that a, b, c ∈ $\mathcal{L}$
  - Idempotency: a ⊓ a = a
  - Commutativity: a ⊓ b = b ⊓ a
  - Associativity: a ⊓ (b ⊓ c) = (a ⊓ b) ⊓ c
- ⊓ imposes an order on $\mathcal{L}$
  - a >= b ⇔ a ⊓ b = b
- $\mathcal{L}$ has a bottom element ⊥, a ⊓ ⊥ = ⊥
- $\mathcal{L}$ has a top element T, a ⊓ T = a



Reaching Definitions Lattice



## Monotone Framework

- A framework <$\mathcal{L}$, ⊓, $\mathcal{F}$> is monotone if $\mathcal{F}$ is monotonic, i.e.,

  $(\forall f \in F)(\forall x, y \in \mathcal{L}),\ x \geq y \Rightarrow f(x) \geq f(y)$
- If a data-flow framework is monotonic, the convergence (termination) is guaranteed for finite height lattices.



## Distributive Framework

- A framework <$\mathcal{L}$, ⊓, $\mathcal{F}$> is distributive if $\mathcal{F}$ is distributive, i.e.,

  $(\forall f \in F)(\forall x, y \in \mathcal{L})\ f(x \sqcap y) \leq f(x) \sqcap f(y)$

- Maximal fixed point (MFP) solution is obtained with our iterative DFA.
- MFP is unique and order independent.
- The best we can do is MOP (most feasible, but undecidable).
- In general, MFP ≤ MOP ≤ Perfect solution.
- If distributive, MFP = MOP.
- Every distributive function is also monotonic.



## Outline

- What is DFA?
  - Reaching definitions
  - Live variables
- DFA framework
  - Monotonicity
  - Confluence operator
  - MFP/MOP solution
- Analysis dimensions

**How many ancestor names do you need to almost uniquely identify a student in campus?**

## Analysis Dimensions

An analysis's precision and efficiency is guided by various design decisions.

- Flow-sensitivity
- Context-sensitivity
- Path-sensitivity
- Field-sensitivity

How many hands are required to know the time precisely?

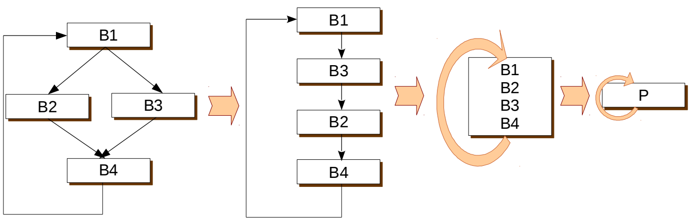


## Flow-sensitivity

```
L0:  a = 0;
L1:  a = 1;
L2:  ...
```

Flow-sensitive solution: *at L1 a is 0, at L2 a is 1*
Flow-insensitive solution: *in the program a is in {0, 1}*

Flow-insensitive analyses ignore the control-flow in the program.



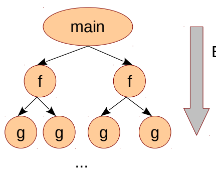



## Context-sensitivity

```
main() {                 fun(int x) {
    L0:  fun(0);             y = x;
    L1:  fun(1);         }
}
```

Context-sensitive solution:
*y is 0 along L0, y is 1 along L1*

Context-insensitive solution:
*y is in {0, 1} in the program*




Exponential Number of contexts

Along main-f1-g1, …
Along main-f1-g2, …
Along main-f2-g1, …
Along main-f2-g2, ...

Exponential time requirement

Exponential storage requirement



## Context-sensitivity

```
main() {                 fun(int x) {
    L0:  fun(0);             y = x;
    L1:  fun(1);         }
}
```

Context-sensitive solution:
*y is 0 along L0, y is 1 along L1*

Context-insensitive solution:
Inter-procedural → *y is in {0, 1} in the program*
intra-procedural → *y is in {-∞, +∞} in the program*



## Path-sensitivity

```
if (a == 0)
    b = 1;
else
    b = 2;
```

Path-sensitive solution:
*b is 1 when a is 0, b is 2 when a is not 0*

Path-insensitive solution:
*b is in {1, 2} in the program*

```
if (c1)
  while (c2) {
    if (c3)
      ...
    else
      for (; c4; )
        ...
  }
else
  ...
```

c1 and c2 and c3, …
c1 and c2 and !c3 and c4, …
c1 and c2 and !c3 and !c4, …
c1 and !c2, …
!c1 ...
...



## Field-sensitivity

```
struct T s;

s.a = 0;
s.b = 1;
```

Field-sensitive solution:
*s.a is 0, s.b is 1*

Field-insensitive solution:
*s is in {0, 1}*

Aggregates are collapsed into a single variable.
e.g., arrays, structures, unions.

This reduces the number of variables tracked during the analysis and reduces precision.

# A Note on Abstraction

Maintain one bit for x == 0
Initialized to F (false)

```
F
x = 0;
T
++x;
F
--x;
?
```



# A Note on Choosing Abstraction

Maintain one bit for x == 0
Initialized to F (false)

```
F
x = 0;
T
++x;
F
--x;
?
```

Maintain two bits for value of x
Initialized to 00

```
00
x = 0;
00
++x;
01
--x;
00
```

Maintain one bit for x == 0
Another bit for x < 2
Initialized to 00

```
00
x = 0;
11
++x;
01
--x;
11
```

If type information available, then {01} --x {11} possible.
Otherwise, {01} --x {00}



# Abstraction Storage

- Saturating counters
- Number of values stored faithfully with log(n) bits – (n-2)
- Additional information may help increase the range, e.g., type information as unsigned.

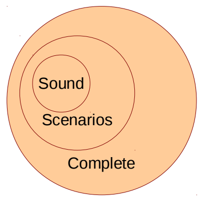


# Conservative Analysis

- Being safe versus being precise
  - Relation with lattice
  - Initializations and confluence
  - Constructive versus destructive operators
- Safety versus liveness property
  - Absence of bugs versus presence of a bug



# Soundness and Precision




- Analyses enable optimizations.
- An optimization is sound if it maintains the functionality of the original code.
- A program may be optimized in certain scenarios.
- An analysis is sound if it leads to sound optimization.
  - The analysis does not enable optimization outside the above set of scenarios.
- An analysis is complete if it does not disable optimization for any possible scenario.



# On Soundness

- Usually, multiple optimizations expect same information-theoretic behavior from analyses.
  - If more information means analysis A1 is less precise according to optimization O1, often optimization O2 also sees A1 that way.
  - This allows us to argue about analysis soundness without talking about optimizations.
- But this is not always true.
  - Soundness depends upon optimization enabling.
  - And two opposite optimizations may see the information from the same analysis in opposing ways.

## Optimization-specific Soundness

- Consider O1 that changes *p to x if p points to only x.
- Consider O2 that makes p volatile if p points to multiple variables at different program points.
- Analysis A computes points-to information p → {x, y}
  - If A computes more information p → {x, y, z}, O1 is suppressed but O2 is enabled.
  - If A computes less information p → {x}, O1 is enabled and O2 is suppressed.
  - Thus, conservative for one is precise for another.
  - And sound for one is unsound for another.



## Optimization-specific Soundness

- Consider O1 that converts multiplication by 2 to a left-bit-shift operation (x * 2 to x << 1).
- Consider O2 that uses a special circuit (fast operation) when there is a sum of reciprocals of powers of 2 (1 + ½ + ¼ + …)
- Analysis A is used to compute values of arithmetic expressions.
  - Converting 1.98 to 2 enables O1, disables O2.
  - Converting 1.98 to 1.96875 enables O2, disables O1.
  - Precise for one is imprecise for another.
  - Sound for one is unsound for another.




## Acknowledgements

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