Lecture 20

CIS 341: COMPILERS

Announcements

- HW5: Oat v. 2.0
 - records, function pointers, type checking, array-bounds checks, etc.
 - typechecker & safety
 - Due: Wednesday, April 13th

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COMPILING CLASSES AND OBJECTS

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Code Generation for Objects

- Classes:
 - Generate data structure types
 - For objects that are instances of the class and for the class tables
 - Generate the class tables for dynamic dispatch
- Methods:
 - Method body code is similar to functions/closures
 - Method calls require dispatch
- Fields:
 - Issues are the same as for records
 - Generating access code
- Constructors:
 - Object initialization
- Dynamic Types:
 - Checked downcasts
 - "instanceof" and similar type dispatch

Compiling Constructors

- Java and C++ classes can declare constructors that create new objects.
 - Initialization code may have parameters supplied to the constructor
 - e.g. new Color(r,g,b);
- Modula-3: object constructors take no parameters
 - e.g. new Color;
 - Initialization would typically be done in a separate method.
- Constructors are compiled just like static methods, except:
 - The "this" variable is initialized to a newly allocated block of memory big enough to hold D.V. pointer + fields according to object layout
 - Constructor code initializes the fields
 - What methods (if any) are allowed?
 - The D.V. pointer is initialized
 - When? Before/After running the initialization code?

Compiling Checked Casts

 How do we compile downcast in general? Consider this generalization of Oat's checked cast:

if?
$$(t x = exp) \{ ... \} else \{ ... \}$$

- Reason by cases:
 - t must be either null, ref or ref? (can't be just int or bool)
- If t is null:
 - The static type of exp must be ref? for some ref.
 - If exp == null then take the true branch, otherwise take the false branch
- If t is string or t[]:
 - The static type of exp must be the corresponding string? Or t[]?
 - If exp == null take the false branch, otherwise take the true branch
- If t is C:
 - The static type of exp must be D or D? (where C <: D)
 - If exp == null take the false branch, otherwise:
 - emit code to walk up the class hierarchy starting at D, looking for C
 - If found, then take true branch else take false branch
- If t is C?:
 - The static type of exp must be D? (where C <: D)
 - If exp == null take the true branch, otherwise:
 - Emit code to walk up the class hierarchy starting at D, looking for C
 - If found, then take true branch else take false branch

"Walking up the Class Hierarchy"

A non-null object pointer refers to an LLVM struct with a type like:

```
%B = type { %_class_B*, i64, i64, i64 }
```

- The first entry of the struct is a pointer to the vtable for Class B
 - This pointer is the dynamic type of the object.
 - It will have the value @vtbl_B
- The first entry of the class table for B is a pointer to its superclass:

- Therefore, to find out whether an unknown type X is a subtype of C:
 - Assume C is not Object (ruled out by "silliness" checks for downcast)
 LOOP:
 - If $X == @_vtbl_Object$ then NO, X is not a subtype of C
 - If $X == @_vtbl_C$ then YES, X is a subtype of C
 - If X = @_vtbl_D, so set X to @_vtbl_E where E is D's parent and goto LOOP

MULTIPLE INHERITANCE

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Method Dispatch (Single Inheritance)

- Idea: every method has its own small integer index.
- Index is used to look up the method in the dispatch vector.

```
Index
interface A {
                                0
 void foo();
interface B extends A {
                                          Inheritance / Subtyping:
 void bar(int x);
 void baz();
                                                C <: B <: A
class C implements B {
 void foo() {...}
 void bar(int x) {...}
 void baz() {...}
 void quux() {...}
```

Multiple Inheritance

- C++: a class may declare more than one superclass.
- Semantic problem: Ambiguity

```
class A { int m(); }
class B { int m(); }
class C extends A,B {...} // which m?
```

- Same problem can happen with fields.
- In C++, fields and methods can be duplicated when such ambiguity arises (though explicit sharing can be declared too)
- Java: a class may implement more than one interface.
 - No semantic ambiguity: if two interfaces contain the same method declaration, then the class will implement a single method

```
interface A { int m(); }
interface B { int m(); }
class C implements A,B {int m() {...}}  // only one m
```

Dispatch Vector Layout Strategy Breaks

```
interface Shape {
                                          D.V.Index
  void setCorner(int w, Point p);
interface Color {
  float get(int rgb);
                                                0
  void set(int rgb, float value);
                                                 1
}
class Blob implements Shape, Color {
  void setCorner(int w, Point p) {...}
                                                0.3
  float get(int rgb) {...}
                                                0.3
  void set(int rgb, float value) {...}
                                                 1?
```

General Approaches

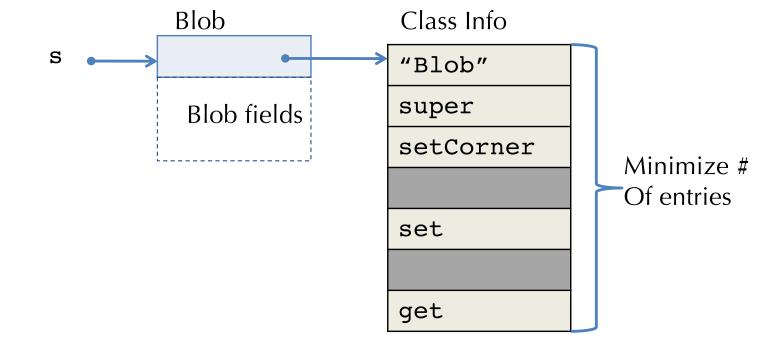
- Can't directly identify methods by position anymore.
- Option 1: Use a level of indirection:
 - Map method identifiers to code pointers (e.g. index by method name)
 - Use a hash table
 - May need to do search up the class hierarchy
- Option 2: Give up separate compilation
 - Use "sparse" dispatch vectors, or binary decision trees
 - Must know then entire class hierarchy
- Option 3: Allow multiple D.V. tables (C++)
 - Choose which D.V. to use based on static type
 - Casting from/to a class may require run-time operations
- Note: many variations on these themes
 - Different Java compilers pick different approaches to options1 and 2...

Option 2 variant 1: Sparse D.V. Tables

- Give up on separate compilation...
- Now we have access to the whole class hierarchy.
- So: ensure that no two methods in the same class are allocated the same D.V. offset.
 - Allow holes in the D.V. just like the hash table solution
 - Unlike hash table, there is never a conflict!
- Compiler needs to construct the method indices
 - Graph coloring techniques can be used to construct the D.V. layouts in a reasonably efficient way (to minimize size)
 - Finding an optimal solution is NP complete!

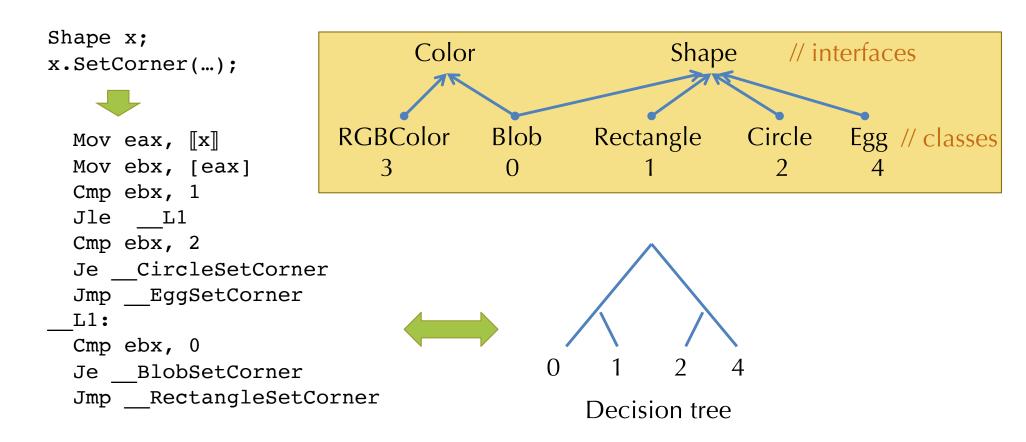
Example Object Layout

- Advantage: Identical dispatch and performance to single-inheritance case
- Disadvantage: Must know entire class hierarchy



Option 2 variant 2: Binary Search Trees

- Idea: Use conditional branches not indirect jumps
- Each object has a class index (unique per class) as first word
 - Instead of D.V. pointer (no need for one!)
- Method invocation uses range tests to select among *n* possible classes in *lg n* time
 - Direct branches to code at the leaves.



Search Tree Tradeoffs

- Binary decision trees work well if the distribution of classes that may appear at a call site is skewed.
 - Branch prediction hardware eliminates the branch stall of ~10 cycles (on X86)
- Can use profiling to find the common paths for each call site individually
 - Put the common case at the top of the decision tree (so less search)
 - 90%/10% rule of thumb: 90% of the invocations at a call site go to the same class

Drawbacks:

- Like sparse D.V.'s you need the whole class hierarchy to know how many leaves you need in the search tree.
- Indirect jumps can have better performance if there are >2 classes (at most one mispredict)

Option 3: Multiple Dispatch Vectors

- Duplicate the D.V. pointers in the object representation.
- Static type of the object determines which D.V. is used.

```
D.V.
                                                      Shape
interface Shape {
                                    D.V.Index
                                                                 setCorner
  void setCorner(int w, Point p);
interface Color {
                                                                 D.V.
                                                      Color
  float get(int rgb);
                                             0
                                                                 get
  void set(int rgb, float value);
                                             1
                                                                 set
class Blob implements Shape, Color {
  void setCorner(int w, Point p) {...}
                                                                 setCorner
  float get(int rgb) {...}
  void set(int rgb, float value) {...} Blob, Shape
                                             Color •
                                                                 get
                                                                 set
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                                                                              17
```

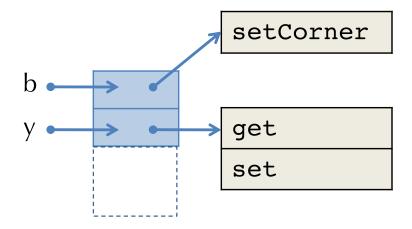
Multiple Dispatch Vectors

- A reference to an object might have multiple "entry points"
 - Each entry point corresponds to a dispatch vector
 - Which one is used depends on the statically known type of the program.

```
Blob b = new Blob();
Color y = b;  // implicit cast!
```

Compile

```
Color y = b;
As
Movq [b] + 8 , y
```



Multiple D.V. Summary

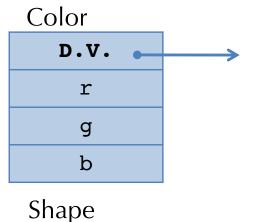
- Benefit: Efficient dispatch, same cost as for multiple inheritance
- Drawbacks:
 - Cast has a runtime cost
 - More complicated programming model... hard to understand/debug?

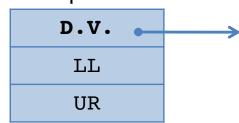
What about multiple inheritance and fields?

Multiple Inheritance: Fields

- Multiple supertypes (Java): methods conflict (as we saw)
- Multiple inheritance (C++): fields can also conflict
- Location of the object's fields can no longer be a constant offset from the start of the object.

```
class Color {
   float r, g, b; /* offsets: 4,8,12 */
}
class Shape {
   Point LL, UR; /* offsets: 4,8 */
}
class ColoredShape extends
Color, Shape {
   int z;
}
```

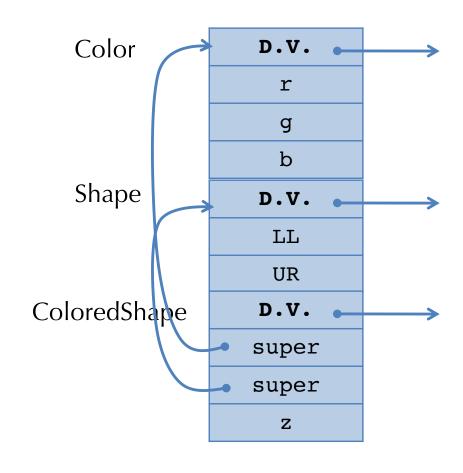




ColoredShape ??

C++ approach:

- Add pointers to the superclass fields
 - Need to have multiple dispatch vectors anyway (to deal with methods)
- Extra indirection needed to access superclass fields
- Used even if there is a single superclass
 - Uniformity



Compiling lambda calculus to straight-line code. Representing evaluation environments at runtime.

CLOSURE CONVERSION REVISITED

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Compiling First-class Functions

- To implement first-class functions on a processor, there are two problems:
 - First: we must implement substitution of free variables
 - Second: we must separate 'code' from 'data'

Reify the substitution:

- Move substitution from the meta language to the object language by making the data structure & lookup operation explicit
- The environment-based interpreter is one step in this direction

• Closure Conversion:

 Eliminates free variables by packaging up the needed environment in the data structure.

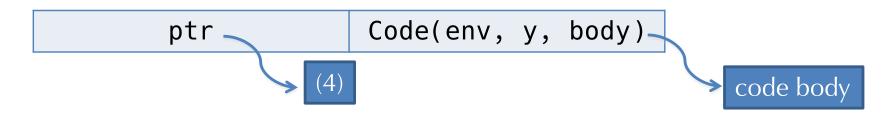
Hoisting:

Separates code from data, pulling closed code to the top level.

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Example of closure creation

- Recall the "add" function:
 let add = fun x -> fun y -> x + y
- Consider the inner function: fun y -> x + y
- When run the function application: add 4 the program builds a closure and returns it.
 - The closure is a pair of the environment and a code pointer.

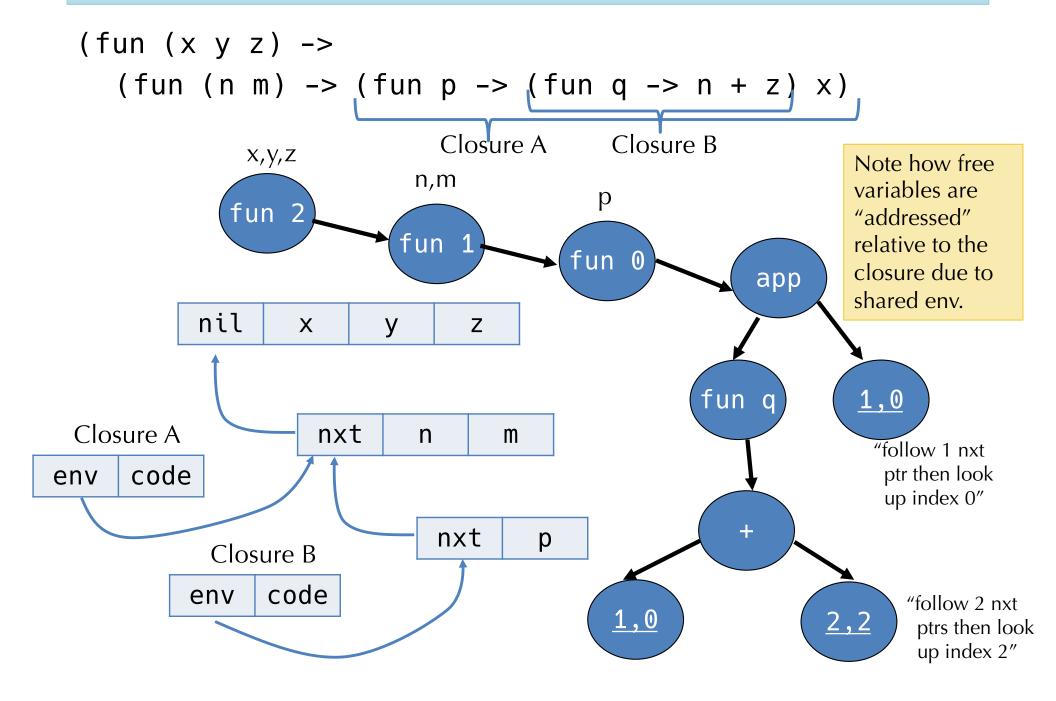


- The code pointer takes a pair of parameters: env and y
 - The function code is (essentially):
 fun (env, y) -> let x = nth env 0 in x + y

Representing Closures

- As we saw, the simple closure conversion algorithm doesn't generate very efficient code.
 - It stores all the values for variables in the environment, even if they aren't needed by the function body.
 - It copies the environment values each time a nested closure is created.
 - It uses a linked-list datastructure for tuples.
- There are many options:
 - Store only the values for free variables in the body of the closure.
 - Share subcomponents of the environment to avoid copying
 - Use vectors or arrays rather than linked structures

Array-based Closures with N-ary Functions



Compiling Closures to LLVM IR

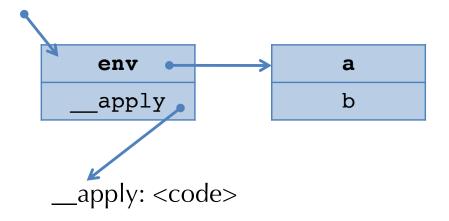
- The "types" of the environment data structures are generic tuples
 - The tuples contain a mix of int and closure values
 - We know statically what the tuple-type of the environment should be
 - LLVM IR doesn't have generic types
- Type translations:
 - [-] for "intepretation" that retains type information [int] = i64 $[(t1, ..., tn)] = {[[t1]], ..., [[tn]]}*$ $[t1 \rightarrow t2] = [[t1 \rightarrow t2]]_C$ "Closure Representation"
- Rough sketch:
 - Allocation & uses of objects us the "interpretation" translation
 - Anywhere an environment is passed or stored, use i8* and bitcast to/from the translation type.

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Observe: Closure \approx **Single-method Object**

- Free variables
- Environment pointer

fun
$$(x,y) \rightarrow x + y + a + b$$



```
\approx Fields
```

- ≈ "this" parameter
- Closure for function: \approx Instance of this class:

```
class C {
  int a, b;
  int apply(x,y) {
    x + y + a + b
        D.V.
                        apply
         a
         b
                      apply: <code>
```

Why optimize?

OPTIMIZATIONS, GENERALLY

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Optimizations

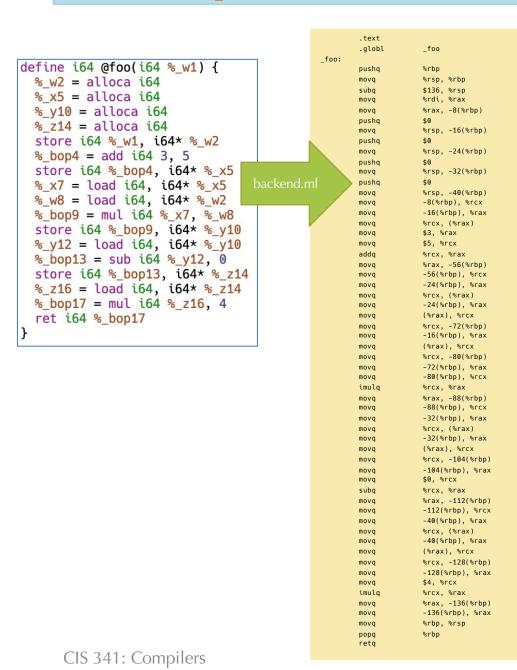
- The code generated by our OAT compiler so far is pretty inefficient.
 - Lots of redundant moves.
 - Lots of unnecessary arithmetic instructions.
- Consider this OAT program:

```
% w2 = alloca i64
int foo(int w) {
                                             x5 = alloca i64
                                             % y10 = alloca i64
   var x = 3 + 5;
                                             % z14 = alloca i64
                                             store i64 % w1, i64* % w2
                                             bop4 = add i64 3, 5
   var y = x * w;
                                             store i64 % bop4, i64* % x5
                                             % x7 = load i64, i64* % x5
   var z = y - 0;
                                             % w8 = load i64, i64* % w2
                                             %_bop9 = mul i64 %_x7, %_w8
   return z * 4;
                                             store i64 %_bop9, i64* %_y10
                                             % y12 = load i64, i64* % y10
                                             % bop13 = sub i64 % y12, 0
                                             store i64 % bop13, i64* % z14
                                             z16 = load i64, i64* z14
                                             %_bop17 = mul i64 %_z16, 4
                                             ret i64 % bop17
```

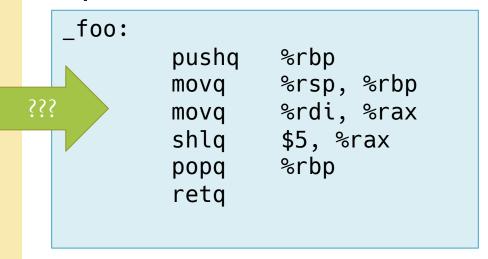
define i64 @foo(i64 %_w1) {

opt-example.c, opt-example.oat

Unoptimized vs. Optimized Output



Optimized code:



- Code above generated by clang -03
- Function foo may be inlined by the compiler, so it can be implemented by just one instruction!

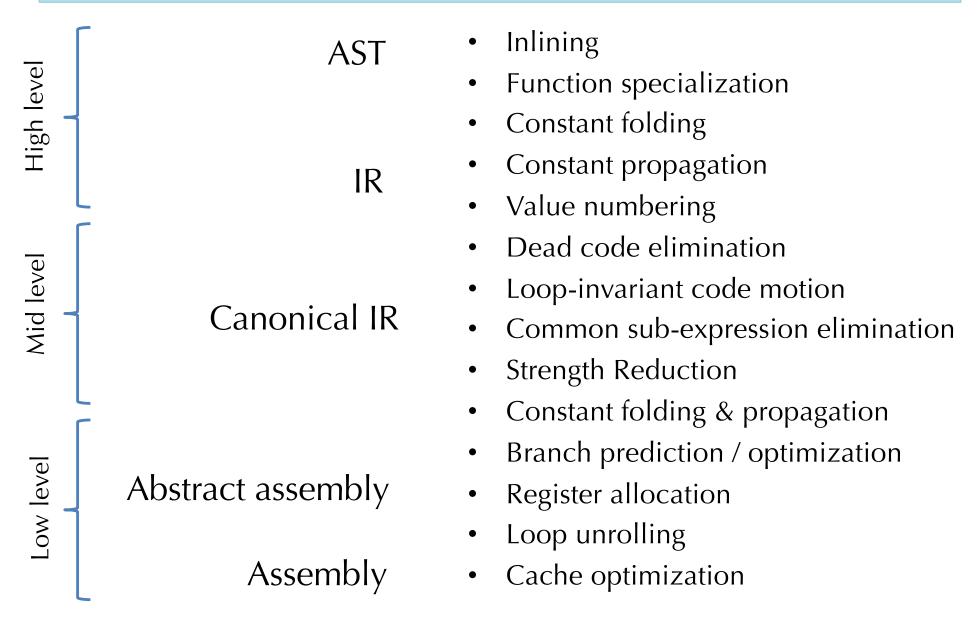
Why do we need optimizations?

- To help programmers...
 - They write modular, clean, high-level programs
 - Compiler generates efficient, high-performance assembly
- Programmers don't write optimal code
- High-level languages make avoiding redundant computation inconvenient or impossible
 - e.g. A[i][j] = A[i][j] + 1
- Architectural independence
 - Optimal code depends on features not expressed to the programmer
 - Modern architectures assume optimization
- Different kinds of optimizations:
 - Time: improve execution speed
 - Space: reduce amount of memory needed
 - Power: lower power consumption (e.g. to extend battery life)

Some caveats

- Optimization are code transformations:
 - They can be applied at any stage of the compiler
 - They must be safe they shouldn't change the meaning of the program.
- In general, optimizations require some program analysis:
 - To determine if the transformation really is safe
 - To determine whether the transformation is cost effective
- This course: most common and valuable performance optimizations
 - See Muchnick (optional text) for ~10 chapters about optimization

When to apply optimization



Where to Optimize?

- Usual goal: improve time performance
- Problem: many optimizations trade space for time
- Example: Loop unrolling

```
- Idea: rewrite a loop like:
    for(int i=0; i<100; i=i+1) {
        s = s + a[i];
    }
- Into a loop like:
    for(int i=0; i<99; i=i+2){
        s = s + a[i];
        s = s + a[i+1];
    }</pre>
```

- Tradeoffs:
 - Increasing code space slows down whole program a tiny bit (extra instructions to manage) but speeds up the loop a lot
 - For frequently executed code with long loops: generally a win
 - Interacts with instruction cache and branch prediction hardware
- Complex optimizations may never pay off!

Writing Fast Programs In Practice

- Pick the right algorithms and data structures.
 - These have a much bigger impact on performance that compiler optimizations.
 - Reduce # of operations
 - Reduce memory accesses
 - Minimize indirection it breaks working-set coherence
- Then turn on compiler optimizations
- Profile to determine program hot spots
- Evaluate whether the algorithm/data structure design works
- ...if so: "tweak" the source code until the optimizer does "the right thing" to the machine code

Safety

- Whether an optimization is safe depends on the programming language semantics.
 - Languages that provide weaker guarantees to the programmer permit more optimizations but have more ambiguity in their behavior.
 - e.g. In Java tail-call optimization (that turns recursive function calls into loops) is not valid.
 - e.g. In C, loading from initialized memory is undefined, so the compiler can do anything.
- Example: *loop-invariant code motion*
 - Idea: hoist invariant code out of a loop

```
while (b) { z = y/x; z = y/x; while (b) { ... // y, x not updated } ... // y, x not updated }
```

- Is this more efficient?
- Is this safe?

A high-level tour of a variety of optimizations.

BASIC OPTIMIZATIONS

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Constant Folding

 Idea: If operands are known at compile type, perform the operation statically.

```
int x = (2 + 3) * y \rightarrow int x = 5 * y
b & false \rightarrow false
```

- Performed at every stage of optimization...
- Why?
 - Constant expressions can be created by translation or earlier optimizations
- Example: A[2] might be compiled to:
 MEM[MEM[A] + 2 * 4] → MEM[MEM[A] + 8]

Constant Folding Conditionals

Algebraic Simplification

- More general form of constant folding
 - Take advantage of mathematically sound simplification rules
- Identities:

```
- a * 1 \rightarrow a a * 0 \rightarrow 0

- a + 0 \rightarrow a a - 0 \rightarrow a

- b \mid false \rightarrow b b \& true \rightarrow b
```

• Reassociation & commutativity:

```
- (a + 1) + 2 \rightarrow a + (1 + 2) \rightarrow a + 3
- (2 + a) + 4 \rightarrow (a + 2) + 4 \rightarrow a + (2 + 4) \rightarrow a + 6
```

• Strength reduction: (replace expensive op with cheaper op)

```
- a * 4 \rightarrow a << 2
- a * 7 \rightarrow (a << 3) - a
- a / 32767 \rightarrow (a >> 15) + (a >> 30)
```

- Note 1: must be careful with floating point (due to rounding) and integer arithmetic (due to overflow/underflow)
- Note 2: iteration of these optimizations is useful... how much?

Constant Propagation

- If the value is known to be a constant, replace the use of the variable by the constant
- Value of the variable must be propagated forward from the point of assignment
 - This is a substitution operation
- Example:

```
int x = 5;
int y = x * 2; \rightarrow int y = 5 * 2; \rightarrow int y = 10; \rightarrow
int z = a[y]; int z = a[y]; int z = a[10];
```

 To be most effective, constant propagation should be interleaved with constant folding

Copy Propagation

- If one variable is assigned to another, replace uses of the assigned variable with the copied variable.
- Need to know where copies of the variable propagate.
- Interacts with the scoping rules of the language.
- Example:

```
x = y;

if (x > 1) {

x = x * f(x - 1);

x = y * f(y - 1);

}
```

Can make the first assignment to x dead code (that can be eliminated).

Dead Code Elimination

• If a side-effect free statement can never be observed, it is safe to eliminate the statement.

```
x = y * y // x \text{ is dead!}
...
// x \text{ never used} \rightarrow \qquad ...
x = z * z \qquad \qquad x = z * z
```

- A variable is <u>dead</u> if it is never used after it is defined.
 - Computing such *definition* and *use* information is an important component of compiler
- Dead variables can be created by other optimizations...

Unreachable/Dead Code

- Basic blocks not reachable by any trace leading from the starting basic block are *unreachable* and can be deleted.
 - Performed at the IR or assembly level
 - Improves cache, TLB performance
- Dead code: similar to unreachable blocks.
 - A value might be computed but never subsequently used.
- Code for computing the value can be dropped
- But only if it's *pure*, i.e. it has *no externally visible side effects*
 - Externally visible effects: raising an exception, modifying a global variable, going into an infinite loop, printing to standard output, sending a network packet, launching a rocket
 - Note: Pure functional languages (e.g. Haskell) make reasoning about the safety of optimizations (and code transformations in general) easier!

Inlining

- Replace a call to a function with the body of the function itself with arguments rewritten to be local variables:
- Example in OAT code:

```
int g(int x) { return x + pow(x); }
int pow(int a) { int b = 1; int n = 0;
  while (n < a) {b = 2 * b}; return b; }</pre>
```



```
int g(int x) { int a = x; int b = 1; int n = 0;
    while (n < a) {b = 2 * b}; tmp = b; return x + tmp;
}</pre>
```

- May need to rename variable names to avoid name capture
 - Example of what can go wrong?
- Best done at the AST or relatively high-level IR.
- When is it profitable?
 - Eliminates the stack manipulation, jump, etc.
 - Can increase code size.
 - Enables further optimizations

Code Specialization

- Idea: create specialized versions of a function that is called from different places with different arguments.
- Example: specialize function **f** in:

```
class A implements I { int m() {...} }
class B implements I { int m() {...} }
int f(I x) { x.m(); } // don't know which m
A a = new A(); f(a); // know it's A.m
B b = new B(); f(b); // know it's B.m
```

- f_A would have code specialized to dispatch to A.m
- f_B would have code specialized to dispatch to B.m
- You can also inline methods when the run-time type is known statically
 - Often just one class implements a method.

Common Subexpression Elimination

- In some sense it's the opposite of inlining: fold redundant computations together
- Example:

```
a[i] = a[i] + 1 compiles to:

[a + i*4] = [a + i*4] + 1
```

Common subexpression elimination removes the redundant add and multiply:

$$t = a + i*4; [t] = [t] + 1$$

 For safety, you must be sure that the shared expression always has the same value in both places!

Unsafe Common Subexpression Elimination

• Example: consider this OAT function:

```
unit f(int[] a, int[] b, int[] c) {
  int j = ...; int i = ...; int k = ...;
  b[j] = a[i] + 1;
  c[k] = a[i];
  return;
}
```

The optimization that shares the expression a[i] is unsafe... why?

```
unit f(int[] a, int[] b, int[] c) {
  int j = ...; int i = ...; int k = ...;
  t = a[i];
  b[j] = t + 1;
  c[k] = t;
  return;
}
```