

# Static Inlining

Notes on *Secrets of the Glasgow Haskell Compiler Inliner*  
(Simon Peyton Jones and Simon Marlow, 1999)

Emily Sillars

What is inlining?

Given  $x = E$ , at one place where there is an  $x$ ,  
**replace  $x$  with  $E$**

**Given  $x = E$ , at one place where there is an  $x$ , replace  $x$  with  $E$**

`let a = 5 in a + 2`

**Given  $x = E$ , at one place where there is an  $x$ , replace  $x$  with  $E$**

let a = 5 in a + 2

x = E

**Given  $x = E$ , at one place where there is an  $x$ , replace  $x$  with  $E$**

let a = 5 in a + 2

$x = E$

*a place where  
there is an 'x'*

**Given  $x = E$ , at one place where there is an  $x$ , replace  $x$  with  $E$**

let  $a = 5$  in  $a + 2$

**Given  $x = E$ , at one place where there is an  $x$ , replace  $x$  with  $E$**

let  $a = 5$  in  $(5) + 2$

## 3 kinds of inlining...

- 1) Inlining Itself
- 2) Dead Code Elimination
- 3)  $\beta$  - reduction (beta reduction)



## 3 kinds of inlining...

- 1) Inlining Itself *HARD*
- 2) Dead Code Elimination *EASY*
- 3)  $\beta$  - reduction (beta reduction) *EASY*

## 1) Inlining Itself

let - binding replace LHS with RHS

```
let { f = \x -> x*3 } in f (a + b) - c
```

*⇒ inline f*

```
let { f = \x -> x*3 } in (\x -> x*3) (a + b) - c
```



## 2) Dead Code Elimination

Delete binding if no longer used

`let { f = \x -> x*3 } in (\x -> x*3) (a + b) - c`

*⇒ dead f*

`(\x -> x*3) (a + b) - c`

*f not present  
anywhere!*

### 3) $\beta$ - reduction

Turn **lambda application** into let-binding

*(lambda)*                      *(argument)*  
`(\x -> x*3) (a + b) - c`

$\Rightarrow \beta$  *(beta)*



`(let { x = a+b } in x*3) - c`

*A quick example ...*

let { f = \x -> x\*3 } in f (a + b) - c

$\Rightarrow$  inline f

let { f = \x -> x\*3 } in (\x -> x\*3) (a + b) - c

$\Rightarrow$  dead f

(\x -> x\*3) (a + b) - c

$\Rightarrow \beta$  (beta)

let {x = (a + b) } in x\*3 - c

$\Rightarrow$  inline x

let {x = (a + b) } in (a + b)\*3 - c

$\Rightarrow$  dead x

(a + b)\*3 - c

let { f = \x -> x\*3 } in f (a + b) - c

⇒ inline f

let { f = \x -> x\*3 } in (\x -> x\*3) (a + b) - c

⇒ dead f

(\x -> x\*3) (a + b) - c

⇒ β (beta)

let {x = (a + b) } in x\*3 - c

⇒ inline x

let {x = (a + b) } in (a + b)\*3 - c

⇒ dead x

(a + b)\*3 - c

Hey, Look!

I don't have to store a  
function with its  
environment now!





To inline, or not to inline?





To inline, or not to inline?

- 1) Inlining Itself *HARD*
- 2) Dead Code Elimination *EASY*
- 3)  $\beta$  - reduction (beta reduction) *EASY*



To inline, or not to inline?

- 1) Inlining Itself *HARD*
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- 3)  $\beta$  - reduction (beta reduction) *EASY*

# Name - Capture Problem: How to inline C?

```
let c = a + b in
```

```
  let a = 7 in
```

```
    c+a
```

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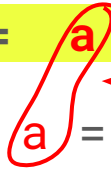
# Name - Capture Problem: How to inline C?

let **c = a + b** in  
let **a** = 7 in  
**c** + a

*Not the same a!!*

# Name - Capture Problem: How to inline C?

let **c = a + b** in  
let **a** = 7 in  
**c** + a



*Not the same a!!*

*Solution: rename bound variable*

# Name - Capture Solution: How to inline C?

```
let c = a + b in
```

```
let s796 = 7 in
```

```
c+s796
```



# Name - Capture Solution: How to inline C?

```
let c = a + b in
```

```
let s796 = 7 in
```

```
(a + b)+s796
```



# General Rule to Replace x with E in M

*Case 1)  $\text{subst } (\lambda x.M) [E/x] = \lambda x.M$*

*Case 2)  $\text{subst } (\lambda w.M) [E/x] = \lambda w.(\text{subst } M [E/x])$*

*if w does not occur free in E*

*Case 3) Otherwise, need to rename w to get a case 2.*

Note:  $\text{subst } M [E/x]$  means “the result of replacing x with E in M”

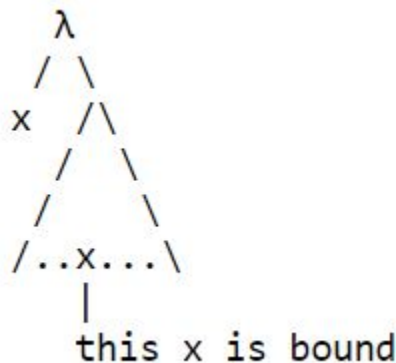
Note: In the rule above, M is a lambda abstraction

## *Back up, let's talk about $\lambda$ Calculus!!*

**Bound Variable:** a variable that is associated with some lambda.

**Free Variable:** a var that is *not* associated with any lambda.

Intuitively, in lambda-expression M, variable x is bound if, in the abstract-syntax tree, x is in the subtree of a lambda with left child x



## Goal: Inline c in M

1)  $\text{subst } (\lambda x.M) [E/x] = \lambda x.M$

2)  $\text{subst } (\lambda w.M) [E/x] = \lambda w.(\text{subst } M [E/x])$

*if w does not occur free in E*

3) *Otherwise, need to rename w to get a case 2.*

let **c = a + b** in

let a = 7 in

**c**+a

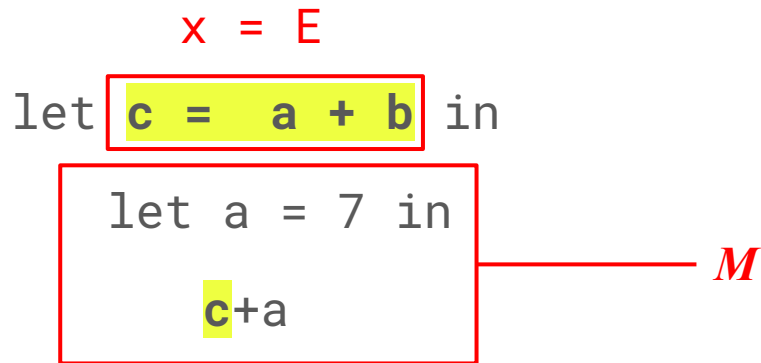
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- 2)  $\text{subst } (\lambda w.M) [E/x] = \lambda w.(\text{subst } M [E/x])$

*if  $w$  does not occur free in  $E$*

- 3) *Otherwise, need to rename  $w$  to get a case 2.*

# Goal: Inline $c$ in $M$

***$\text{subst } M [E/c]$***



**We need  $M$  in lambda form to use the substitution rule!**

Go the other way...  $\beta$  - expansion?

let **c = a + b** in

let a = 7 in

**c**+a

let **c = a + b** in

(\a -> **c**+a) (7)

Go the other way...  $\beta$  - expansion?

let **c = a + b** in

let a = 7 in

**c**+a



let **c = a + b** in

(\a -> **c**+a) (7)



- 1)  $\text{subst } (\lambda x.M) [E/x] = \lambda x.M$
- 2)  $\text{subst } (\lambda w.M) [E/x] = \lambda w.(\text{subst } M [E/x])$

*if  $w$  does not occur free in  $E$*

- 3) *Otherwise, need to rename  $w$  to get a case 2.*

# Goal: Inline $c$ in $M$

*$\text{subst } (\lambda a.M) [E/c]$*

let  $c = a + b$  in  $(\lambda a \rightarrow c + a)$  (7)

$E$                        $(\lambda a.M)$

Just like how  $w$  and  $x$  are not the same, neither are  $a$  and  $c$ , so this is case 2 or 3!



- 1)  $\text{subst } (\lambda x.M) [E/x] = \lambda x.M$
- 2)  $\text{subst } (\lambda w.M) [E/x] = \lambda w.(\text{subst } M [E/x])$

*if  $w$  does not occur free in  $E$*

- 3) *Otherwise, need to rename  $w$  to get a case 2.*

# Goal: Inline $c$ in $M$

*$\text{subst } (\lambda a.M) [E/c]$*

let  $c = a + b$  in  $(\lambda a \rightarrow c + a)$  (7)

$E$                        $(\lambda a.M)$

Q: Does  $a$  not occur free in  $E$ ?

A: Well, no,  $a$  is not associated with some lambda in  $a + b$ , so  $a$  occurs free in  $E^*$ . Therefore, case 3!

\*Somewhere outside this “let  $c = a + b$ ” expression,  $a$  and  $b$  must be bound for this example to make sense at all; but just looking at the expression  $a + b$ , both  $a$  and  $b$  are free.

- 1)  $\text{subst } (\lambda x.M) [E/x] = \lambda x.M$
- 2)  $\text{subst } (\lambda w.M) [E/x] = \lambda w.(\text{subst } M [E/x])$

*if  $w$  does not occur free in  $E$*

- 3) *Otherwise, need to rename  $w$  to get a case 2.*

## Goal: Inline $c$ in $M$

*$\text{subst } (\lambda s796.M) [E/c]$*

`let c = a + b in (\s796 -> c+s796) (7)`

Case 3, so let's rename  $a$  to  $s796$ ...

- 1)  $\text{subst } (\lambda x.M) [E/x] = \lambda x.M$
- 2)  $\text{subst } (\lambda w.M) [E/x] = \lambda w.(\text{subst } M [E/x])$

*if  $w$  does not occur free in  $E$*

- 3) *Otherwise, need to rename  $w$  to get a case 2.*

# Goal: Inline $c$ in $M$

*$\text{subst } (\lambda s796.M) [E/c]$*

let **c** = **a + b** in (**\s796** -> **c**+s796) (7)

$E$                        $(\lambda s796.M)$

Q: Does **s796** not occur free in  $E$ ?

A:  $E = a + b$ , so **s796** doesn't occur in  $E$  at all. So yes, does not occur free in  $E$ .

- 1)  $\text{subst } (\lambda x.M) [E/x] = \lambda x.M$
- 2)  $\text{subst } (\lambda w.M) [E/x] = \lambda w.(\text{subst } M [E/x])$

*if  $w$  does not occur free in  $E$*

- 3) *Otherwise, need to rename  $w$  to get a case 2.*

## Goal: Inline $c$ in $M$

$\text{subst } (\lambda s796.M) [E/c]$



$\lambda s796.(\text{subst } M [E/c])$

let **c = a + b** in ( $\backslash s796 \rightarrow (\mathbf{a+b})+s796$ ) (7)

- 1)  $\text{subst } (\lambda x.M) [E/x] = \lambda x.M$
- 2)  $\text{subst } (\lambda w.M) [E/x] = \lambda w.(\text{subst } M [E/x])$

*if  $w$  does not occur free in  $E$*

- 3) *Otherwise, need to rename  $w$  to get a case 2.*

## Goal: Inline $c$ in $M$

$\text{subst } (\lambda s796.M) [E/c]$



$\lambda s796.(\text{subst } M [E/c])$

`let c = a + b in (\s796 -> a+b+s796) (7)`

$\Rightarrow$  *dead c*

`(\s796 -> a+b+s796) (7)`

$\Rightarrow$   $\beta$  (*beta*)

`let s796 = 7 in (a+b) + s796`



## Another Problem: Recursive bindings...

```
recursiveGroup :: Int
```

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

```
    f = (g 1)
```

```
    g = h . p
```

```
    h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else f
```

```
    q = g
```

```
    p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
```

## Let's inline f...

```
recursiveGroup :: Int
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```
recursiveGroup = f
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```
  where
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    f = (g 1)
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    h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else (g 1)
```

```
    q = g
```

```
    p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
```

## Remove dead f...

```
recursiveGroup :: Int
```

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

```
    g = h . p
```

```
    h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else (g 1)
```

```
    q = g
```

```
    p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
```



## Let's inline g...

```
recursiveGroup :: Int
```

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

```
    g = h . p
```

```
    h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else ((h . p) 1)
```

```
    q = (h . p)
```

```
    p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
```

## Remove dead g...

```
recursiveGroup :: Int
```

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

```
    h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else ((h . p) 1)
```

```
    q = (h . p)
```

```
    p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
```

# Let's inline h...

```
recursiveGroup :: Int
```

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

```
h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else ((h . p) 1)
```

```
q = ((\y -> if y < 15 then 5 else ((h . p) 1)) . p)
```

```
p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
```

Huh, there's still an h inside q. Better inline h...

```
recursiveGroup :: Int
```

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

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h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else ((h . p) 1)
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recursiveGroup :: Int
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recursiveGroup = f
```

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  where
```

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    h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else ((h . p) 1)
```

```
    q = ((\y -> if y < 15 then 5 else (((\y -> if y < 15  
then 5 else ((h . p) 1)) . p) 1)) . p)
```

```
    p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
```

Huh, there's still an h inside q. Better inline h...

```
recursiveGroup :: Int
```

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

```
    h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else ((h . p) 1)
```

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    q = ((\y -> if y < 15 then 5 else (((\y -> if y < 15
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1)) . p) 1)) . p)
```

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    p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
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    p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
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p) 1) . p) 1)) . p) 1)) . p) 1)) . p) 1)) . p)
```

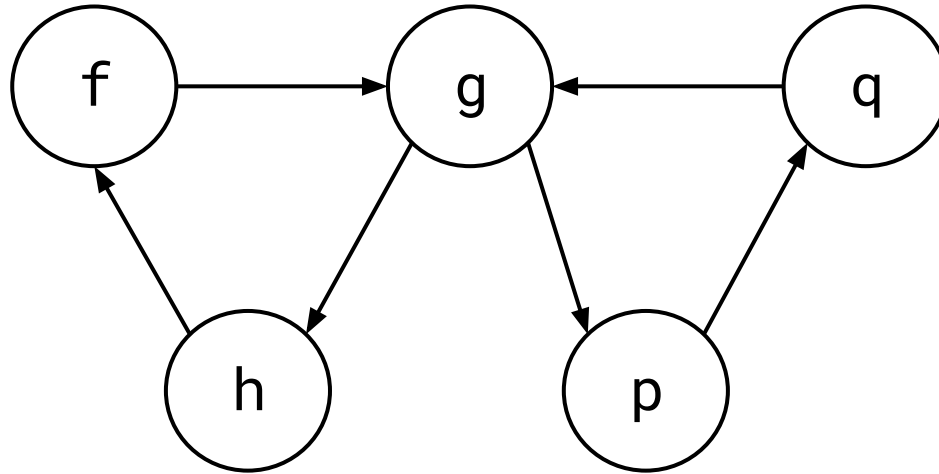
```
    p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
```

And on and on...  
Will keep inlining forever!

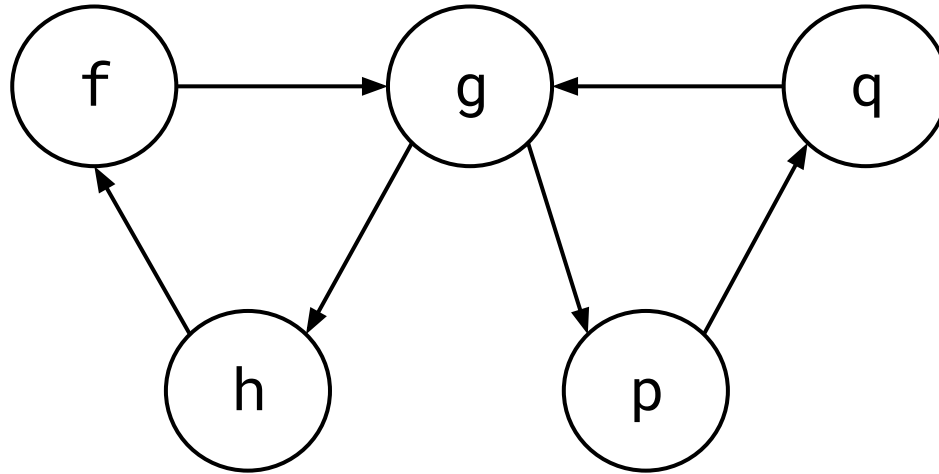
**This is bad.**



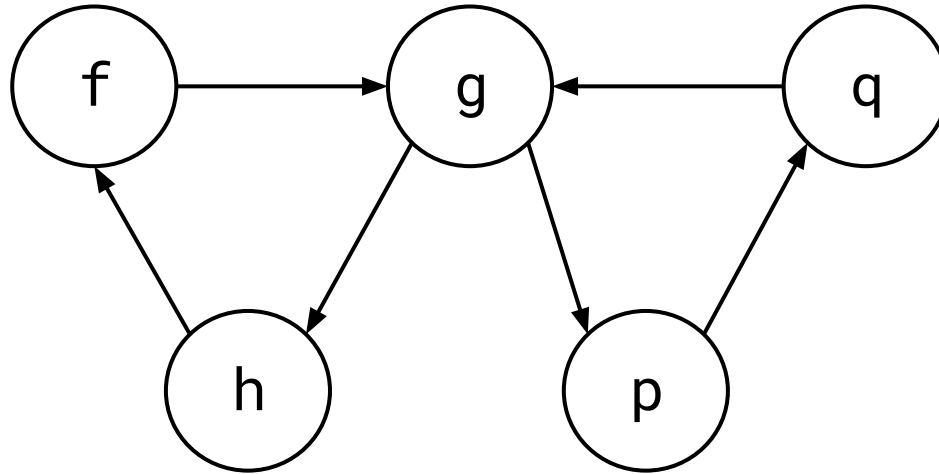
Solution: Dependency Graph,  
Strongly Connected Components + Loop Breakers!



# 1) Perform SCC on Dependency Graph



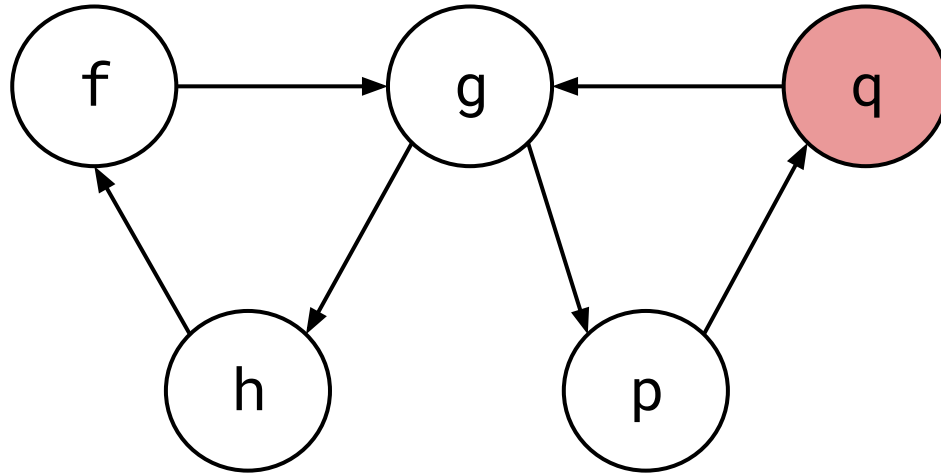
## 1) Perform SCC on Dependency Graph



This graph  
is already a  
SCC

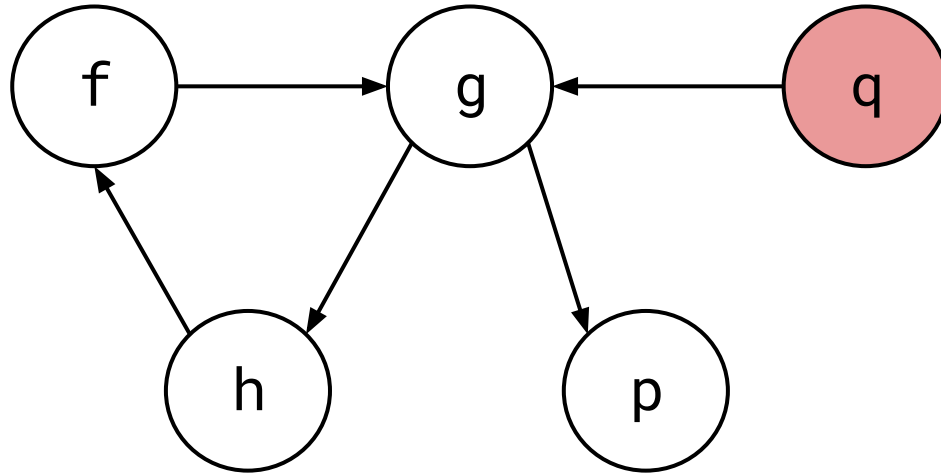
...

2) For each SCC, pick a loop breaker based on heuristics.

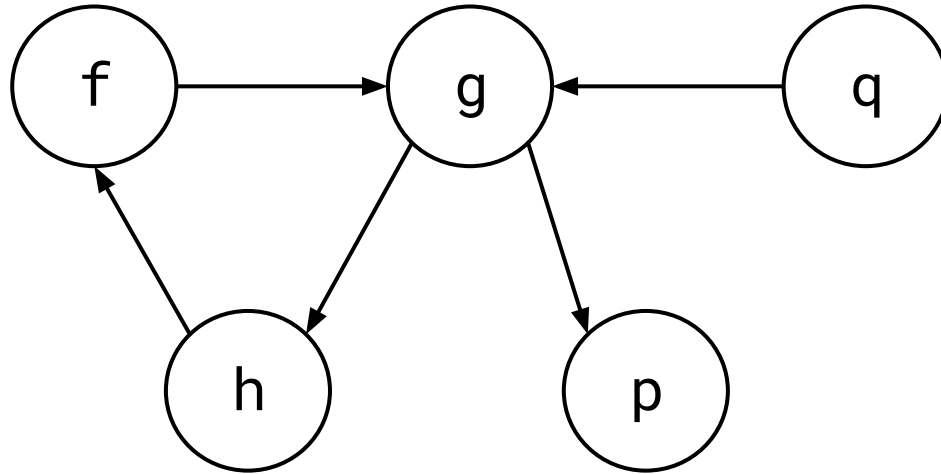


Let's  
arbitrarily  
pick q for  
now.

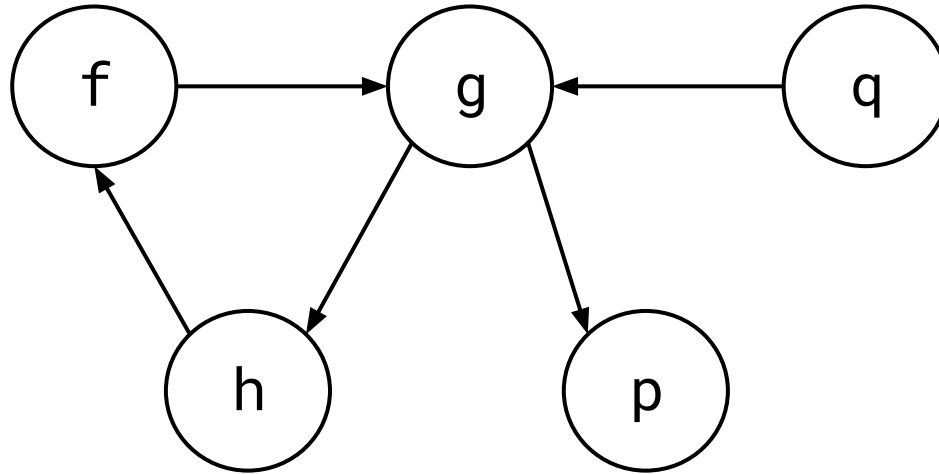
3) Delete edges pointing to loop breaker q



3) Repeat steps until no more SCC!

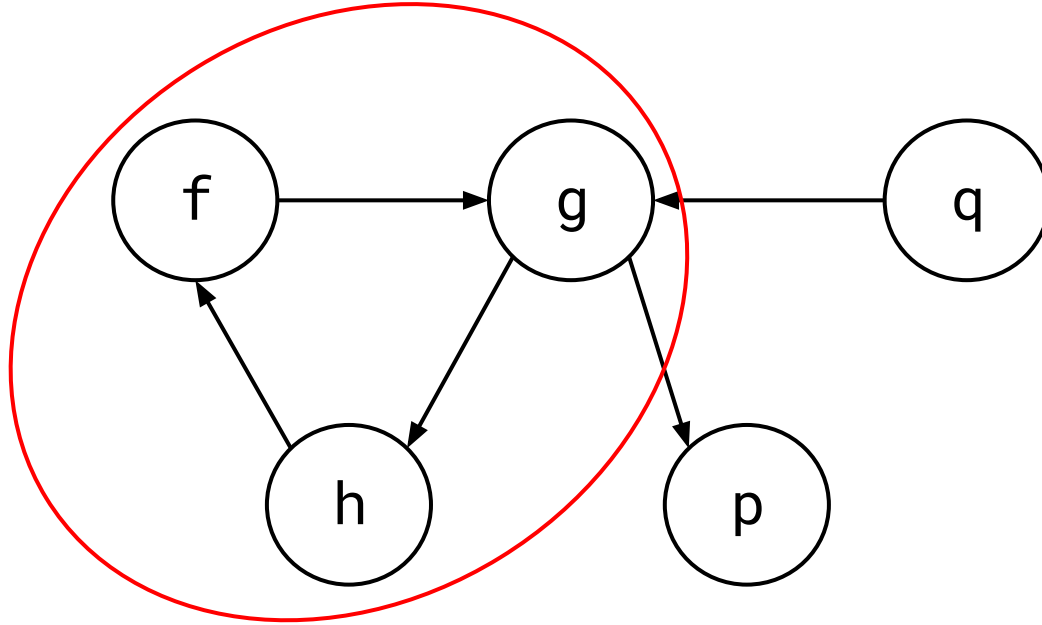


# 1) Perform SCC on Dependency Graph



# 1) Perform SCC on Dependency Graph

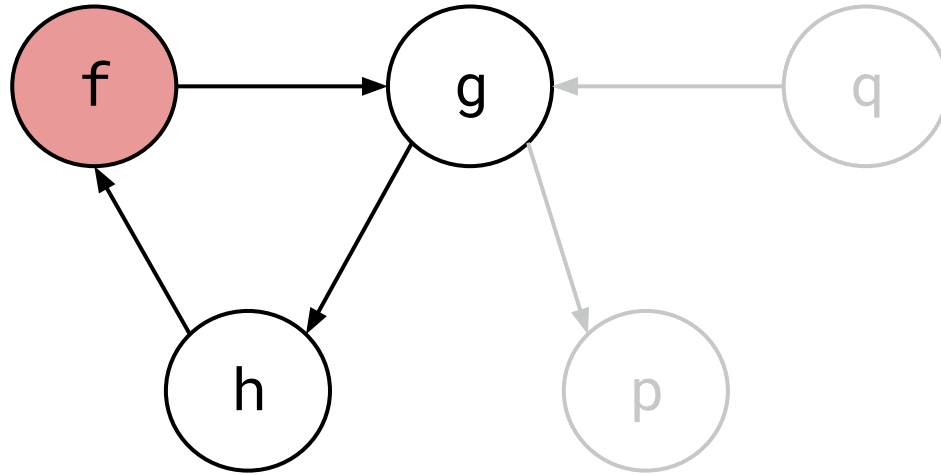
Here's our  
SCC!



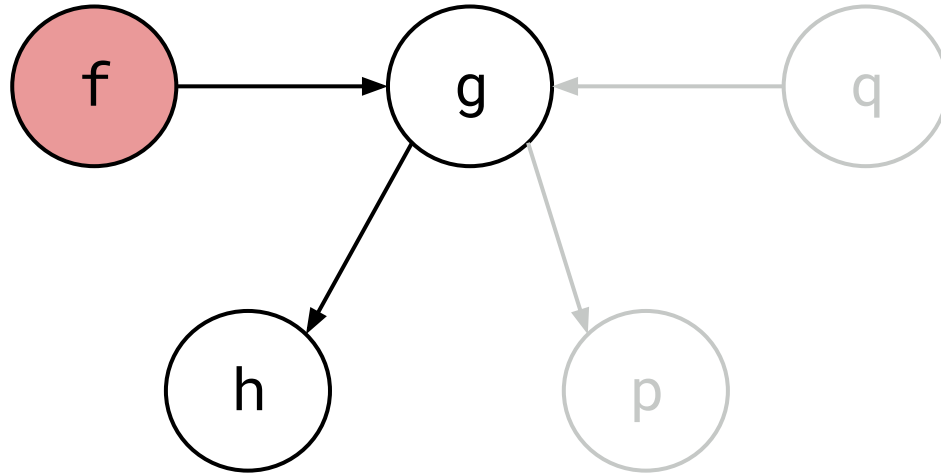


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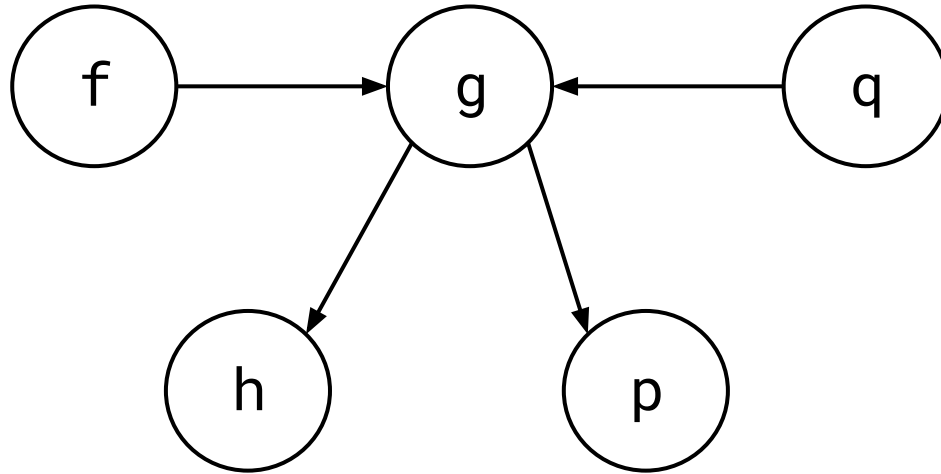
Let's  
arbitrarily  
pick f for  
now.



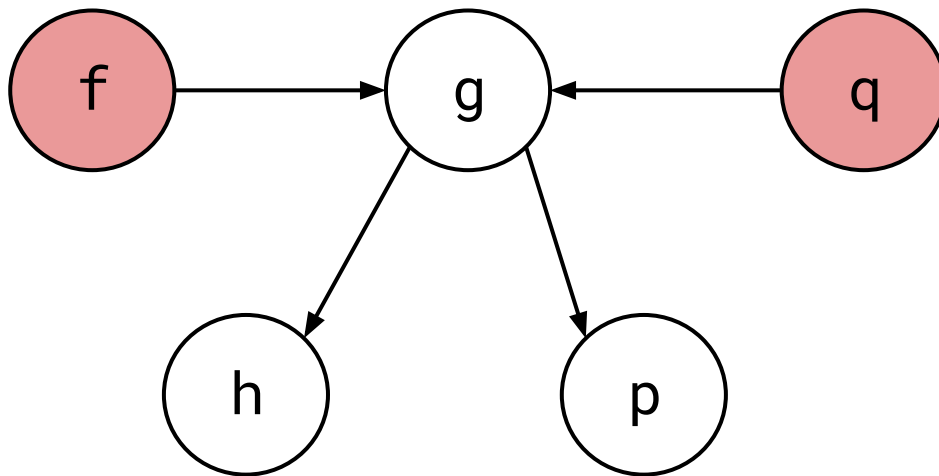
3) Delete edges pointing to loop breaker f



4) No more strongly connected components! YAY!



What does this mean? Recall our loop breakers q and f ...



These are the identifiers we choose NEVER to inline.

## Returning to our example...

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

```
    f = (g 1)
```

```
    g = h . p
```

```
    h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else f
```

```
    q = g
```

```
    p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
```

# Rearrange bindings in topological order

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

```
    p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
```

```
    h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else f
```

```
    g = h . p
```

```
    f = (g 1) // loop breaker so never inlined
```

```
    q = g      // loop breaker so never inlined
```

## Inline p ...

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

```
    p = \x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1)
```

```
    h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else f
```

```
    g = h . (\x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1))
```

```
    f = (g 1) // loop breaker so never inlined
```

```
    q = g      // loop breaker so never inlined
```

remove dead p...

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

where

```
h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else f
```

```
g = h . (\x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1))
```

```
f = (g 1) // loop breaker so never inlined
```

```
q = g      // loop breaker so never inlined
```



## Inline h ...

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

```
h = \y -> if y < 15 then 5 else f
```

```
g = (\y -> if y < 15 then 5 else f) .
```

```
  (\x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1))
```

```
f = (g 1) // loop breaker so never inlined
```

```
q = g      // loop breaker so never inlined
```

## Remove dead h ...

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

```
    g = (\y -> if y < 15 then 5 else f) .
```

```
        (\x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1))
```

```
    f = (g 1) // loop breaker so never inlined
```

```
    q = g      // loop breaker so never inlined
```

That's as far as we'll go.

```
recursiveGroup :: Int
```

```
recursiveGroup = f
```

```
  where
```

```
    g = (\y -> if y < 15 then 5 else f) .
```

```
        (\x -> if x < 10 then 10 else q (x - 1))
```

```
    f = (g 1)
```

```
    q = g
```

Probably would have been better to make g a loop breaker...  
Heuristics would have helped us pick g.



To be continued!