The Hot Path SSA Form in LLVM Algorithms & Applications

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References

This presentation presents the details of building a robust and efficient implementation of the **Hot Path SSA (HPSSA)** form in the LLVM compiler infrastructure.

References

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The Hot Path SSA form is based on the following research papers.

- Subhajit Roy and Y.N. Srikant. The Hot Path SSA Form: Extending the Static Single Assignment Form for Speculative Optimizations. In CC '10: International Conference on Compiler Construction. 2010. CC 2010:304-323
- Smriti Jaiswal, Praveen Hegde and Subhajit Roy. Constructing HPSSA over SSA.
 In Proceedings of the 20th International Workshop on Software and Compilers for Embedded Systems. 2017. SCOPES 2017: 31-40

Presentation Outline

- HPSSA: Why another SSA Form?
 - Path Profile Guided Optimizations
 - Profile Guided SpecSCCP Analysis using HPSSA Form
- 2 What is HPSSA form?
 - Introduction to Path Profile Guided Optimizations
 - Hot Path SSA Form
 - Profile Guided SpecSCCP Pass
- How is HPSSA Implemented?
 - Constructing HPSSA Form
 - Implementing HPSSA Form in LLVM
- 4 Conclusion

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....into a single, consistent data-structure

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... that provides the convenience and elegance of an SSA-like intermediate form

...allowing the design of profile-guided versions of "traditional" optimizations with trivial algorithmic modification of the base algorithms

Why is path-profile-guided analysis hard?

$disparate\ data-structures:\ program\ +\ profile$



1-2-4-5	30
21-2-5-5-1	25
1-2-4-5	30
21-2-5-5-1	25
1-2-4-5	30
21-2-5-5-1	. 25
1-2-4-5	30
21-2-5-5-1	25

Why is path-profile-guided analysis hard?

- There has been enough interest in path-profile-guided analysis and optimizations....
- ...however, designing path-profile-guided variants of traditional optimizations remained hard
- ...hard enough to justify publications per optimization
 - Gupta, Benson, Fang. Path profile guided partial dead code elimination using predication, PACT '97.
 - Gupta, Benson, Fang. Path profile guided partial redundancy elimination using speculation. ICCL '98.

... but it is easy with the Hot Path SSA (HPSSA) Form!

```
1 // Function to process "llum.tau" function intrinsic.
   void SpecSCCPInstVisitor::visitTauNode(Instruction &Tau) {
 3
     SpecValueLatticeElement TauState = getValueState(&Tau),
       beta = getValueState(Tau.getOperand(1)),
       x0 = getValueState(Tau.getOperand(0)):
 8
      if (TauState.isOverdefined())
 9
       return (void)markOverdefined(&Tau):
10
11
      for (unsigned i = 1, e = (Tau.getNumOperands() - 1); i != e; ++i){
12
       SpecValueLatticeElement IV = getValueState(Tau.getOperand(i));
13
       beta.mergeIn(IV):
14
       NumActiveIncoming++:
15
       if (beta.isOverdefined())
16
         break:
17
18
19
     if (beta isConstant())
20
       beta.markSpeculativeConstant(beta.getConstant());
21
     if (beta.isConstantRange())
22
       beta.markSpeculativeConstantRange(beta.getConstantRange()):
23
24
     if (beta.isOverdefined() || x0.isOverdefined())
25
       TauState markOverdefined():
26
27
     beta.mergeInSpec(x0):
28
     TauState.mergeIn(beta):
29
      ... // futher processing similar to visitPHINode():
30 }
```

```
1 // Omit handling of "llum.tau" intrinsic
 2 // as a regular Instruction.
   void SpecSCCPInstVisitor::solve() {
     for (auto& I : *&(*(BB))) {
       CallInst* CI = dvn_cast<CallInst>(&I);
       if (CT != NULL) {
         Function* CF = CI->getCalledFunction():
10
         if (CF != NULL &&
           CF->getIntrinsicID() ==
           Function::lookupIntrinsicID("11vm.tau")){
           visitTauNode(I);
14
         } else {
15
           visit(I):
16
       } else {
18
         visit(I):
19
20
     ... // rest of the code.
22 }
```

... but it is easy with the Hot Path SSA (HPSSA) Form!

```
Only these few lines were enough to create a new path profile guided analysis.
      Speculative Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation (SpecSCCP)
               from the currently existing SCCP pass in LLVM!
```

.. but it is easy with the Hot Path SSA (HPSSA) Form!

```
NumActiveIncomin It took us only an afternoon to transform SCCP to SpecSCCP
```

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SCCP vs SpecSCCP

```
SCCP
 1 int main() {
     int x = 2, m, n, y, z = 9, c = 1;
     std::cin >> m;
     switch( m ) {
      case 2 : x = 2 * c + 5; n = 10; break;
      case 4 : x = 2 * c + 5; n = x - 2; break;
      case 6 : x = 2 * c + 1; n = x + 2; break;
      default : break:
10
     if ( y <= z + x ) {
12
     } else {
14
       z = n + 3 * x;
      switch (z) {
15
        default : break:
16
17
     case 200 : goto end:
18
      case 300 : exit(0): }
19
20
     m = n + x;
21
22
       z = x :
     return 0:
24 }
```

$\mathsf{Spec}\mathsf{SCCP}$

```
int main() {
     int x = 2, m, n, y, z = 9, c = 1;
     std::cin >> m:
     switch( m ) {
    case 2 : x = 2 * c + 5; n = 10; break;
       case 4 : x = 2 * c + 5; n = x - 2; break;
       case 6: x = 2 * c + 1; n = x + 2; break;
 8
       default : break:
 9
10
12
13
     } else {
       z = n + 3 * x ; // n : Speculative Constant 5
14
15
       switch (z) {
        default : break:
        case 200 : goto end:
18
         case 300 : exit(0): }
19
      m = n + x; // x : Speculative Constant 7
     end:
       z = x;
     return 0:
24 }
```

SCCP vs SpecSCCP

```
SpecSCCP discovers n \& x as speculative constants.
```

SCCP vs SpecSCCP

Standard SCCP VS. Speculative SCCP Pass.

```
# Running Regular SCCP Pass on Program.
     $ opt -sccp -time-passes -debug-only=sccp \
       IR/LL/test.11 -S -o \
       IR/LL/test sccp onbaseline.11 \
       -f 2> output/custom_sccp_onbaseline.log
10
       Constant: i32 2 =
                           %mul = mul nsw i32 2, 1
11
       Constant: i32 7 =
                           %add = add nsw i32 2. 5
12
       Constant: i32 2 =
                           %mul2 = mul nsw i32 2. 1
13
       Constant: i32 7 =
                           %add3 = add nsw i32 2, 5
14
       Constant: i32 5 =
                           %sub = sub nsw i32 7. 2
15
       Constant: i32 2 =
                           %mul5 = mul nsw i32 2. 1
16
       Constant: i32 3 =
                           %add6 = add nsw i32 2. 1
17
       Constant: i32 5 =
                           %add7 = add nsw i32 3, 2
```

```
# Running HPSSA Transformation followed by Speculative SCCP Pass.
     $ opt -load build/SCCPSolverTau.cpp.so
        -load build/HPSSA.cpp.so \
        -load-pass-plugin=build/SpecSCCP.cpp.so \
        -passes="specscop" \
        -time-passes -debug-only=specsccp \
        IR/LL/test.11 -S -o IR/LL/test spec sccp.11 \
        -f 2> output/custom_speculative_sccp.log
10
11
     Output :
12
13
        (TauState) tau1 : speculative constantrange<5. 6>
14
        (TauState) tau7 : speculative constantrange<7, 8>
15
16
        Constant: i32 2 =
                           %mul = mul nsw i32 2. 1
17
        Constant: i32 7 =
                           %add = add nsw i32 2. 5
18
        Constant: i32 2 =
                           %mul2 = mul nsw i32 2. 1
19
        Constant: i32 7 =
                           %add3 = add nsw i32 2. 5
20
        Constant: i32 5 =
                           %sub = sub nsw i32 7. 2
21
        Constant: i32 2 =
                           %mu15 = mu1 nsw i32 2. 1
22
        Constant: i32 3 =
                            %add6 = add nsw i32 2. 1
23
        Constant: i32 5 =
                            %add7 = add nsw i32 3. 2
```

Using the HPSSA Form for writing new analyses

- Include the header file HPSSA.h to use llvm::HPSSAPass class.
- Load shared object using opt tool. opt -load HPSSA.cpp.so ...

```
1 #include <HPSSA.h> // import the header.
2 #include <SCCP h>
   class SpecSCCPPass : public PassInfoMixin<SpecSCCPPass> {
     public: PreservedAnalyses run(Function &F,
     FunctionAnalysisManager &AM);
7 };
8
9
10 PreservedAnalyses SpecSCCPPass::run(Function &F.
     FunctionAnalysisManager &AM) {
11
12
       if (F.getName() != "main")
13
       return PreservedAnalyses::all();
14
15
       HPSSAPass hossaUtil: // Make a HPSSAPass Object.
16
       hpssaUtil.run(F, AM); // Call the HPSSAPass::run() function.
17
18
       std::vector<Instruction *> TauInsts
19
       = hpssaUtil.getAllTauInstrunctions(F); // Calling HPSSA utility function.
20
21
       std::cout << "\t\tTotal Tau Instructions : " << TauInsts.size() << ".\n":
22
23
```

Output: Total Tau Instructions: 7, ...rest of the logs



Presentation Outline

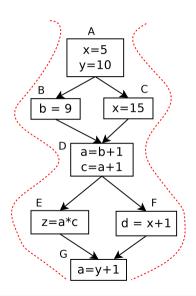
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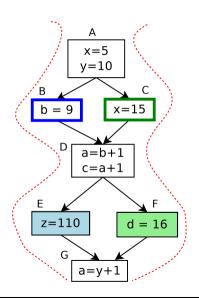
Profile-guided analysis on paths



Summary

- Profile-guided analysis across paths is stronger—can capture correlations between control-flow of basic-blocks
- Collecting path-profiles seems challenging—requires "recording" of a sequence of basic-blocks

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- Collecting path-profiles seems challenging—requires "recording" of a sequence of basic-blocks

Profiling acyclic paths

Ball-Larus Acyclic Profiling [Ball & Larus, MICRO'96]

- Core idea: assign an identifier to each path, that can be calculated efficiently at runtime
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Capturing still longer paths (k-iteration paths)

- Allows capturing correlations across loop iterations [Roy & Srikant, CGO'09]; a generalization of the Ball-Larus algorithm
- Subsequent work by other groups [D'Elia & Demetrescu, OOPSLA'13]; uses a prefix forest to record BL paths



Profile-guided analyses

- Code understanding
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 - eg. value speculation
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Error resilient modules

- modules for statistical summarization on samples, generate data for ML models
- No impact on code size

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Optimizations that don't impact correctness

- eg. register allocation
- No impact on code size



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The Hot Path SSA Form (HPSSA)

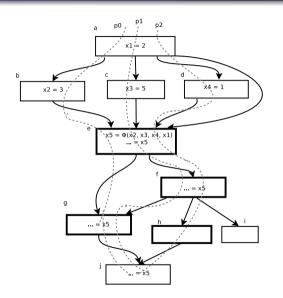
Semantics of a ϕ -function

$$y = \phi(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)$$

Semantics of a τ -function

$$au(x_0,x_1,x_2,\ldots,x_n) = \left\{ egin{array}{ll} x_0 & ext{safe interp.} \\ \phi(x_1,x_2,\ldots,x_n) & ext{speculative interp.} \end{array}
ight.$$

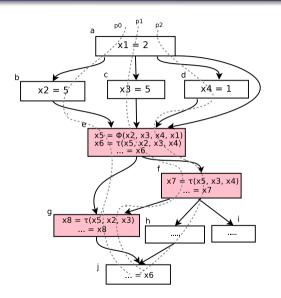
The SSA form



No frequent path carrying:

- def $x_2 = 3$ to use at block **f**
- def $x_4 = 1$ to use at block **g**
- def $x_1 = 2$ to either **f** or **g**

The Hot Path SSA Form



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Properties

If a program is in the Hot Path SSA form, then,

- each use of a variable is reachable by a single definition; [SSA-like form]
- safe interpretation: [supports traditional analysis]
 - each use of a variable is reachable by the meet-over-all-paths reaching definition chains;
- speculative interpretation: [supports profile-guided analysis]
 - each use of a variable in a basic-block is reachable by the *meet-over-frequent-paths* reaching definitions. ^a



^aor the meet-over-all-paths reaching definition chains, if the use is not reachable from any meet-over-hot-paths reaching definition chain

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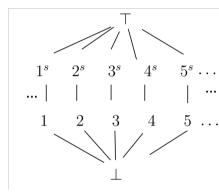
Speculative Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation (SpecSCCP)

- Introduce new speculative values $\{\ldots,1^s,2^s,\ldots\}\in C^S$
- Operation with speculative values result in speculative results (with same semantics as base operator)

$$\alpha^{s} \langle op \rangle \beta = (\alpha \langle op \rangle \beta)^{s}$$

• Transfer function for τ -functions $(\beta = x_1 \sqcup x_2 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup x_n$, i.e. join of speculative args.)

$$\tau(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n) \sqcup \begin{cases} \top & \text{if } \beta = \top \\ \beta & \text{if } \beta \neq \top \land x_0 \sqsubseteq \beta \\ \beta^s & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



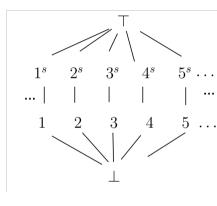
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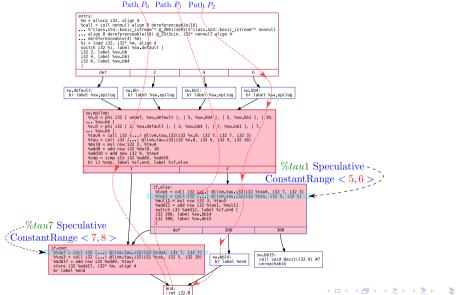
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Almost trivial to generate profile-guided variants of standard analyses—an afternoon to "port" SCCP to SpecSCCP!

Profile Guided SpecSCCP Pass in LLVM



 Modified the existing SCCP Pass to add visitTauNode() function which handles the special "llvm.tau" intrinsic instructions used for τ-functions.¹

¹Since we added the τ -functions as an "llvm.tau" intrinsic, we blocked processing it as a regular LLVM Instruction.

- Modified the existing SCCP Pass to add visitTauNode() function which handles the special "llvm.tau" intrinsic instructions used for τ -functions.¹
- Added a new lattice element type "spec_constant" and mergeInSpec() function in ValueLattice class supporting operations on speculative constants. Modified the existing mergeIn() function to handle lattice "meet" operation for the new speculative constants introduced

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- Added new functions in the SCCPInstVisitor and SCCPSolver class to handle operations on speculative constants. Eg. Operands can be marked speculative using as function markSpeculativeConstant().

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- Added a new lattice element type "spec_constant" and mergeInSpec() function in ValueLattice class supporting operations on speculative constants. Modified the existing mergeIn() function to handle lattice "meet" operation for the new speculative constants introduced.
- Added new functions in the SCCPInstVisitor and SCCPSolver class to handle operations on speculative constants. Eg. Operands can be marked speculative using as function markSpeculativeConstant().
- Modified the SCCPInstVisitor::solve() function to process "llvm.tau" intrinsic instructions using visitTauNode() instead of the standard visit() function.

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Hot/Cold Paths

Definition 1. Hot/Cold Paths

A program path $p: n_1 \rightsquigarrow n_2$ is said to be hot (cold) if the sequence of edges from node n_1 to n_2 appears (does not appear) in any profiled path that occurs frequently in the program profile.

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Definition 2. Temperature (θ) of a node (edge)

- hot: if the node (edge) is present on a hot path;
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Definition 3. Hot/Cold Reaching Definitions and Definition Chains

A definition δ at a basic-block n_1 is said to reach a respective use at a basic-block n_2 hot if there exists a hot path from n_1 to n_2 , and δ is not killed along that path. A definition δ at a basic-block n_1 is said to reach a respective use at a basic-block n_2 cold if there does not exist a hot path from n_1 to n_2 , and δ is not killed at least along one cold path from n_1 to n_2 .

Inserting τ -functions

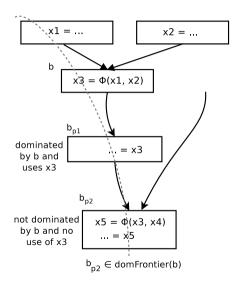
Necessary condition for τ -functions

Lemma 1. A node n requires a τ -function for variable x due to a definition d^x (of a variable x) if

- n is the junction of a hot and a cold path, i.e., paths at different temperatures meet at this node;
- 2 n is reachable by at least two different definitions of the variable x.

Proof. If condition I fails, a τ -function is unnecessary as n can then be reachable by only hot or only cold definitions of x. If condition II fails, a τ -function is again unnecessary as the node is then dominated by a definition of x.

Inserting τ -functions



Inserting τ – functions

Definition 4. Thermal Frontier (TF)

For definition d defined at a node u reaching v, v is in the Thermal Frontier of (u,d), $v \in TF(u, d)$, iff

- \bullet the node v is also exposed to a reaching definition d' defined at a node $u \notin Dom(w)$ (w not dominated by u)
- $\theta(u \leadsto v) \neq \theta(w \leadsto v)$
- \odot v is the first node on the paths $u \rightsquigarrow v$ and $w \rightsquigarrow v$ that satisfies the above properties.

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- the node v is also exposed to a reaching definition d' defined at a node $u \notin Dom(w)$ (w not dominated by u)
- $\theta(u \leadsto v) \neq \theta(w \leadsto v)$
- **③** v is the first node on the paths $u \rightsquigarrow v$ and $w \rightsquigarrow v$ that satisfies the above properties.

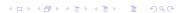
Theorem

For a set of visible definitions of a variable x at a set of nodes κ , τ -statements are only required at the Iterated Thermal Frontier ITF^x for variable x.



HPSSA construction [Roy et al., CC'10]

- Insert ϕ -functions:
 - insert ϕ -functions at the *iterated dominance frontiers*
- Insert τ -functions
 - insert τ -functions at the *iterated thermal frontiers*
- Allocate arguments to ϕ -functions
 - ullet use a variable stack to allocate the ϕ -function arguments
- Allocate arguments to τ -functions
 - maintain path-sensitive reaching definitions for each program variable corresponding to each hot path on a path-sensitive stack;
 - for each instruction in the program, the algorithm update the respective stack to record the change in the path-sensitive reaching definitions due to the instruction;
 - when a τ -function is encountered, the current set of reaching definitions on the stack is used to allocate the speculative arguments for the τ -function.



HPSSA construction over SSA [Jaiswal et. al., SCOPES'17]

Difficulties

- Needs the SSA construction identified, broken into and retrofitted with the HPSSA construction phases.
- The algorithm is quite complex!

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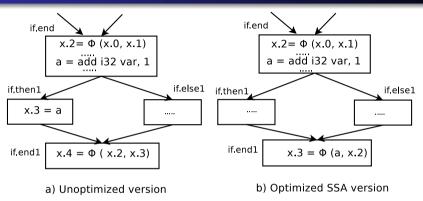
HPSSA over SSA

- Easily incorporated within existing compilers: Construction over the SSA form
- Efficient: Lesser instructions have to be traversed
- Simpler: many constructs are eliminated

A naïve attempt: Mimic [Roy et al.]

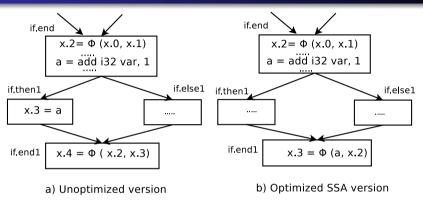
- attempt to "recover" the renamed versions of each base variable that is merged by the ϕ -functions;
- then, allocate a single path-sensitive stack for all versions of the same base variable.

Optimized SSA forms



a and x.2 are live simultaneously — hence, cannot be different versions of the same variable

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in the above example, copy propagation breaks the phi congruence property...



ϕ – congruence property

Shreedhar et al. [SAS'99]

"The occurrences of all resources which belong to the same phi congruence class in a program can be replaced by a representative resource. After the replacement, the phi instruction can be eliminated without violating the semantics of the original program."

- Sreedhar et al. circumvent the problem by translating the optimized SSA form to the conventional SSA form (that satisfies the phi congruence property) before translating out of SSA.
- We directly build the HPSSA form over the optimized SSA form!

Brief Algorithm

- Insert τ -functions
 - Insert at Thermal Frontiers
- Allocate arguments to τ -functions
 - ullet path-sensitive traversal through the program to identify definitions that reach au-functions through hot paths
 - ullet constrains its inspection to only the ϕ -functions and the au-functions

Allocating τ -function arguments

Uses a path-sensitive stack: **phiStack**

- phiStack is a stack of frames
- ullet each frame $\langle d_i, \xi_i \rangle$ where $\xi_i = \{p_1, p_2, \dots\}$
- support operations:
 - push(frame f, block b)
 - pop(block b)

High-level algorithm

- Load arguments from ϕ and τ -functions along with their hot path sets on **phiStack**
- Assign the definition from the topmost frame of **phiStack** to any τ -function encountered

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 - Path Profile Guided Optimizations
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What we modified in LLVM Source?

• New llvm::intrinsic signature, "llvm.tau" to support addition and removal of τ -functions to the LLVM SSA IR representation.

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 Modified Verifier::verifyDominatesUse() function since we don't want our intrinsic to interfere with dominators computation.

11

- class HPSSAPass : public PassInfoMixin<HPSSAPass>
 - Implemented llvm::HPSSAPass pass using the new LLVM Pass Manager.
 - Function HPSSAPass::run(Function &F, ...) runs over a llvm::Function and inserts
 "llvm.tau" intrinsic calls with speculative and safe arguments at strategic positions in the
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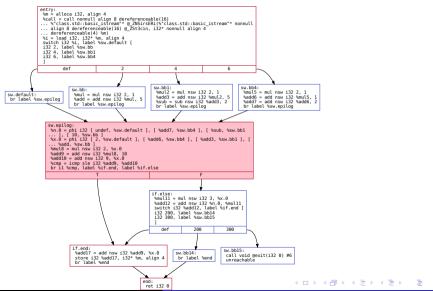
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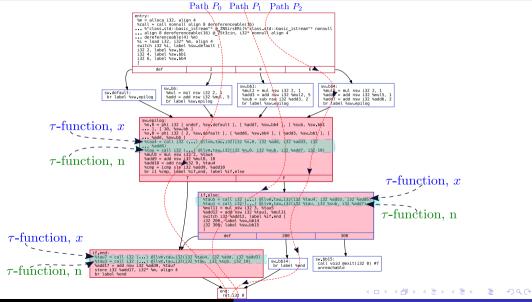
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 - A stack of map values std::map<Value*, Value*> to store the most "recent" tau definition
 encountered so far corresponding for a tau variable used later in variable renaming.

Program in SSA Form



Program in Hot Path SSA Form



HPSSAPass: Main Pass

- HPSSAPass::run(Function &F, FunctionAnalysisManager &AM)
 - Invokes HPSSAPass::getProfileInfo() function to get a compact representation of all the profiled hot paths in the program and then calls HPSSAPass::getCaloricConnector() to get all the caloric connectors from the hot path information. This is a precursor to finding strategic positions to place "llvm.tau" intrinsic calls in the LLVM IR.

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 - Runs over each basic block in the function "F" in topological order using iterator returned from llvm::Function::RPOT() call.
 - Uses the llvm::dominates() function from llvm::DominatorTreeAnalysis to check for dominance frontier while processing the child nodes of the current basic block. This step is a part of correctly placing "llvm.tau" intrinsic calls in the LLVM IR.

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 - Uses the renaming stack and HPSSAPass::Search() function to search and replace all use
 of PHI result operand with that returned by the "llvm.tau" intrinsic call.

HPSSAPass: Destruction Pass

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 class TDSTRPass : public PassInfoMixin<TDSTRPass>
 - Using TDSTRPass::run(Function &F, ...), we replace all use of existing tau operands with first argument of "llvm.tau" intrinsic (corresponds to the safe argument) and remove the "llvm.tau" intrinsic call from the LLVM IR.
 - The LLVM IR becomes identical to what it was before running the HPSSA Pass.

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- We plan to push this work to LLVM main branch soon.