# The Hot Path SSA Form in LLVM Algorithms & Applications

Mohd. Muzzammil<sup>1</sup>, Abhay Kumar<sup>1</sup>, Sumit Lahiri<sup>1</sup> Awanish Pandey<sup>2</sup>, and Subhajit Roy<sup>1</sup>

 $^1\mathrm{Dept.}$  Of Computer Science & Engineering, IIT Kanpur  $^2\mathrm{Qualcomm}$ 

## References

This work is based on the following research papers.

- Subhajit Roy and Y. 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 SSCCP 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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# 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.

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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

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

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

```
1 // Omit handling of "llum.tau" intrinsic
 2 // as a regular Instruction.
 3 for (autok I : *k(*(BB))) {
     CallInst* CI = dyn_cast<CallInst>(&I);
     if (CT != NULL.) {
       Function* CF = CI->getCalledFunction();
       if (CF != NIII.I. &&
       CF->getIntrinsicID() ==
         Function::lookupIntrinsicID("llvm.tau")){
         visitTauNode(I):
       } else {
11
         visit(I):
14
      } else {
15
       visit(I):
16
17 }
```

# ... 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!

#### It took us only an afternoon to transform SCCP to SpecSCCP!

## 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 ...

```
#include <HPSSA.h> // import the header.
     #include <SCCP.h>
     class SpecSCCPPass : public PassInfoMixin<SpecSCCPPass> {
5
       public: PreservedAnalyses run(Function &F.
       FunctionAnalysisManager &AM):
     }:
9
10
     PreservedAnalyses SpecSCCPPass::run(Function &F.
11
     FunctionAnalysisManager &AM) {
12
       if (F.getName() != "main")
13
         return PreservedAnalyses::all():
14
15
       HPSSAPass hpssaUtil: // 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
24
25
     /// [output] Total Tau Instructions : 7
```

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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 {
       z = n + 3 * x;
14
      switch (z) {
16
        default : break:
17
    case 200 : goto end:
18
      case 300 : exit(0): }
19
     m = y + x;
     end:
       z = x;
22
     return 0:
24 }
```

#### SpecSCCP

```
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:
 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 = y + x; // x : Speculative Constant 7
21
     end:
       z = x :
     return 0;
24 1
```

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```
SCCP

1 int main() {
2   int x = 2, m, n, y, z = 9, c = 1;
3   std::cin >> m;
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8       default: break;
9   }
```

## SpecSCCP

```
1 int main() {
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7    case 6 : x = 2 * c + 1; n = x + 2; break
8    default : break;
9  }
```

#### 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
```

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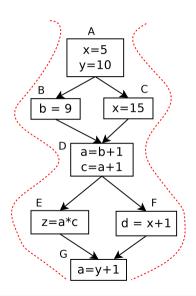


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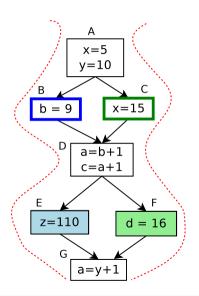
# Profile-guided analysis on paths



#### 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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# 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
- Record frequencies against these identifiers (instead of a sequence of node identifiers)

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- Record frequencies against these identifiers (instead of a sequence of node identifiers)

#### 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
  - Can expose refactoring opportunities

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- **Speculation**: check and retry
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  - Can impact code size (significant impact w/o speculation support in hardware)

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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)

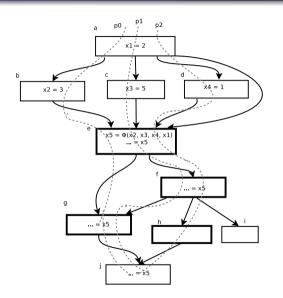
#### Semantics of a $\phi$ -function

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

#### Semantics of a $\tau$ -function

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

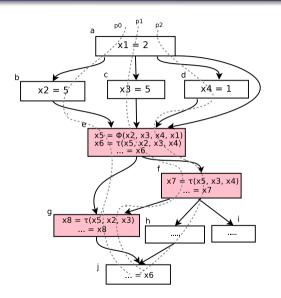
## The SSA form



#### 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**

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  - each use of a variable is reachable by the *meet-over-all-paths* reaching definition chains;

## The Hot Path SSA Form

### **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. <sup>a</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>or 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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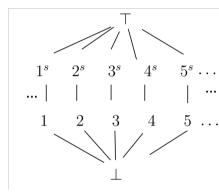
# Speculative Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation (SpecSCCP)

- 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  $\tau$ -functions  $(\beta = x_1 \sqcup x_2 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup x_n$ , i.e. join of speculative args.)

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



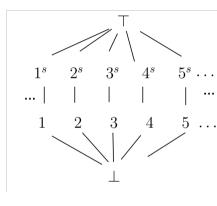
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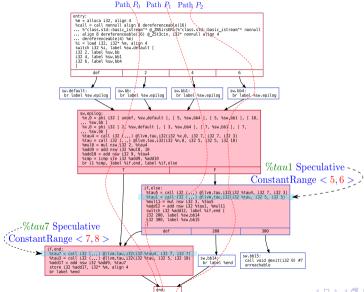
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Almost trivial to generate profile-guided variants of standard analyses—an afternoon to "port" SCCP to SpecSCCP!

# Profile Guided SpecSCCP Pass in LLVM



# LLVM Implementation: Profile Guided SpecSCCP Pass

- Modified the existing SCCP Pass to add visitTauNode() function which handles the special "11 vm, tau" intrinsic instructions used for  $\tau$ -functions <sup>1</sup>
- Added a new lattice element type "spec\_constant" in ValueLattice class supporting operations on speculative constants. Modified the SCCPInstVisitor::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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Since we added the  $\tau$ -functions as an "llvm.tau" intrinsic, we blocked processing it as a regular LLVM Instruction. 4 D > 4 B > 4 B > 4 B > 9 Q P

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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 $(\theta)$ 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  $\delta$  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  $\delta$  is not killed along that path. A definition  $\delta$  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  $\delta$  is not killed at least along one cold path from  $n_1$  to  $n_2$ .

# Inserting $\tau$ -functions

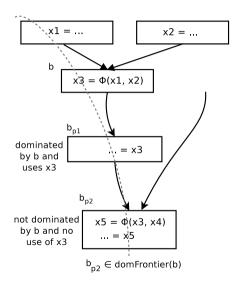
### Necessary condition for $\tau$ -functions

Lemma 1. A node n requires a  $\tau$ -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  $\tau$ -function is unnecessary as n can then be reachable by only hot or only cold definitions of x. If condition II fails, a  $\tau$ -function is again unnecessary as the node is then dominated by a definition of x.

# Inserting $\tau$ -functions



## Inserting $\tau$ – 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.

# Inserting $\tau$ – functions

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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.

#### $\mathsf{Theorem}$

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



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

- Insert  $\phi$ -functions:
  - insert  $\phi$ -functions at the *iterated dominance frontiers*
- Insert  $\tau$ -functions
  - $\bullet$  insert au-functions at the *iterated thermal frontiers*
- Allocate arguments to  $\phi$ -functions
  - use a variable stack to allocate the  $\phi$ -function arguments
- Allocate arguments to  $\tau$ -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  $\tau$ -function is encountered, the current set of reaching definitions on the stack is used to allocate the speculative arguments for the  $\tau$ -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!

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

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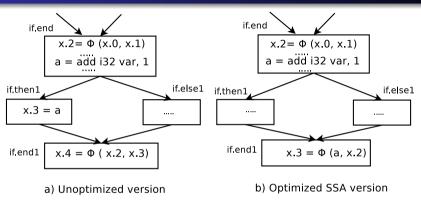
#### HPSSA over SSA

- 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.]

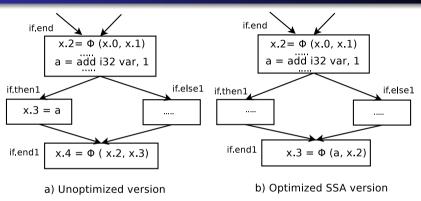
- attempt to "recover" the renamed versions of each base variable that is merged by the  $\phi$ -functions;
- then, allocate a single path-sensitive stack for all versions of the same base variable.

# Optimized SSA forms



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

# Optimized SSA forms



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



# $\phi$ – 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  $\tau$ -functions
  - Insert at Thermal Frontiers
- Allocate arguments to  $\tau$ -functions
  - $\bullet$  path-sensitive traversal through the program to identify definitions that reach  $\tau\text{-functions}$  through hot paths
  - ullet constrains its inspection to only the  $\phi$ -functions and the au-functions

# Allocating $\tau$ -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  $\phi$  and  $\tau$ -functions along with their hot path sets on **phiStack**
- Assign the definition from the topmost frame of **phiStack** to any  $\tau$ -function encountered

## Presentation Outline

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



## What we modified in LLVM Source?

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

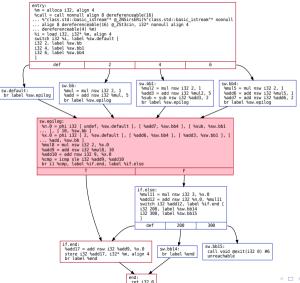
```
+ //===-//
+ def int_tau : DefaultAttrsIntrinsic<[llvm_any_ty],
+ [llvm_vararg_ty],
+ []>;
```

10 11  Modified Verifier::verifyDominatesUse() function since we don't want our intrinsic to interfere with dominators computation.

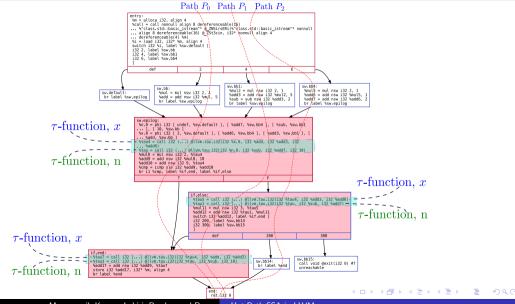
### HPSSAPass: Overview

- 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
     LLVM IR and handles argument allocation for "llvm.tau" intrinsic calls as described in the
     previous slides.
- Key HPSSA Data Structures :
  - Hot Path Set using llvm::BitVector for maintaining hot paths in the program.
  - Definition Accumulator, defAccumulator(op, currBB) function. The argument "op" is a phi argument that reaches basic-block "currBB" via hot path.
  - 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.

## SSA Form



### Hot Path SSA Form



## HPSSAPass: Main Pass

- HPSSAPass::run(Function &F, FunctionAnalysisManager &AM)
  - Invoke HPSSAPass::getProfileInfo() function to get a compact representation of all the profiled hot paths in the program and then call 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.
  - 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.
  - 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

- Out of HPSSA Form.
  - A seperate pass using the new LLVM Pass Manager.
     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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 The Hot Path SSA form opens up an exciting opportunity for compiler writers to "port" exisiting standard analyses to their profile guided variants.

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- The Hot Path SSA form opens up an exciting opportunity for compiler writers to "port" exisiting standard analyses to their profile guided variants.
- We plan to push this work to LLVM main branch soon.