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

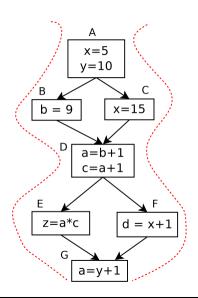
Presentation Outline

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

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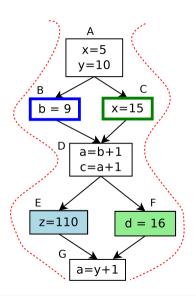
Profile-guided analysis on paths



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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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

Profile-guided analyses

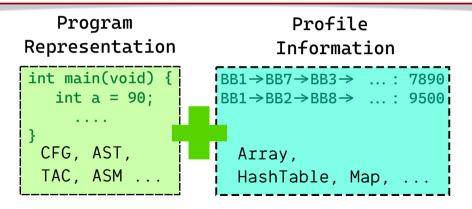
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- Program testing and verification
 - Data-driven synthesis of invariants
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 - Guided testing for low frequency paths
- Profile-guided optimizations

Why is path-profile-guided analysis hard?

disparate data-structures, one for program representation and other for profile information.



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.
 - ..

Can we weave profile information into the program representation

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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

... and PGO is easy with the Hot Path SSA (HPSSA) Form!

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

```
// Omit handling of "llum tau" intrinsic
 2 // as a regular Instruction.
   void SpecSCCPInstVisitor::solve() {
     for (auto& I : *&(*(BB))) {
       CallInst* CI = dyn_cast<CallInst>(&I);
       if (CT != NULL) {
         Function* CF = CI->getCalledFunction():
10
         if (CF != NULL &&
11
           CF->getIntrinsicID() ==
12
           Function::lookupIntrinsicID("llvm.tau")){
13
           visitTauNode(I):
14
         } else {
15
           visit(I):
16
17
       } else {
18
         visit(I):
19
20
     ... // rest of the code.
```

... and PGO 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!
```

... and PGO is easy with the Hot Path SSA (HPSSA) Form!

```
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
13
     } else {
       z = n + 3 * x;
14
      switch (z) {
15
16
        default : break:
17
     case 200 : goto end:
18
      case 300 : exit(0): }
19
20
    m = n + x;
21
22
       z = x :
     return 0:
24 }
```

SpecSCCP

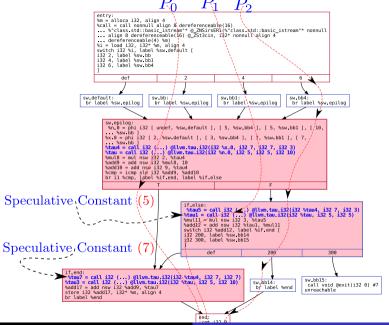
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      case 6 : x = 2 * c + 1; n = x + 2; break;
 8
       default : break:
 9
10
     if ( y <= z + x ) {
12
13
     } else {
        z = n + 3 * x ; // n : Speculative Constant 5
14
15
       switch (z) {
16
         default : break:
         case 200 : goto end:
         case 300 : exit(0); }
18
19
      \mathbf{m} = \mathbf{n} + \mathbf{x}; // \mathbf{x} : Speculative Constant 7
     end:
       z = x;
     return 0:
24 }
```

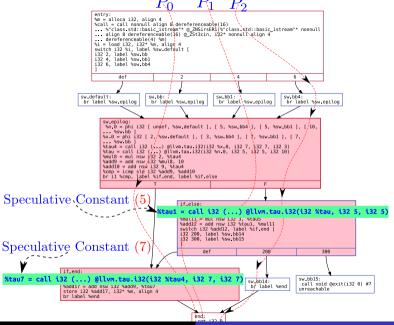
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SCCP vs SpecSCCP

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

Legend: 🔲 Overdefined 📕 Real Constants 📕 Speculative Constants





SCCP vs SpecSCCP

Standard SCCP VS. Speculative SCCP Pass.

```
# Running Regular SCCP Pass on Program.
      $ opt -sccp -time-passes -debug-only=sccp \
        TR/LL/test 11 -S -o \
        IR/LL/test_sccp_onbaseline.ll \
        -f 2> output/custom_sccp_onbaseline.log
      . . .
 9
10
        Constant: i32 2 =
                            %mul = mul nsw i32 2, 1
11
        Constant: i32 7 =
                            %add = add nsw i32 2, 5
12
        Constant: i32 2 =
                            mu12 = mu1 \text{ 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 =
                            mu15 = mu1 \text{ nsw } i32 2. 1
16
        Constant: i32 3 =
                            %add6 = add nsw i32 2. 1
17
        Constant: i32 5 =
                            % add7 = add nsw i32 3. 2
18
19
20
21
```

```
# 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
        Constant: i32 2 =
                          %mul = mul nsw i32 2. 1
13
        Constant: i32 7 = %add = add nsw i32 2, 5
14
                          %mul2 = mul nsw i32 2. 1
        Constant: i32 2 =
15
        Constant: i32 7 = %add3 = add nsw i32 2. 5
16
        Constant: i32 5 =
                          %sub = sub nsw i32 7, 2
17
       Constant: i32 2 = %mul5 = mul nsw i32 2. 1
18
        Constant: i32 3 =
                          %add6 = add nsw i32 2. 1
19
        Constant: i32 5 =
                           %add7 = add nsw i32 3, 2
20
      Speculative Constant: i32 5 = %tau1 = call i32 (...)
21
          011vm.tau.i32(i32 %tau. i32 5. i32 5)
22
      Speculative Constant: i32 7 = %tau7 = call i32 (...)
23
          011vm.tau.i32(i32 %tau4. i32 7. i32 7)
```

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>
 3
4 class YourPGOPass : public PassInfoMixin<YourPGOPass> {
    public: PreservedAnalyses run(Function &F.
    FunctionAnalysisManager &AM);
7 };
8
9 PreservedAnalyses YourPGOPass::run(Function &F,
    FunctionAnalysisManager &AM) {
10
11
       . . .
      HPSSAPass hpssaUtil; // Make a HPSSAPass Object.
12
      hpssaUtil.run(F, AM); // Call the HPSSAPass::run() function.
13
14
       . . .
      // Rest of the code ...
15
16
```

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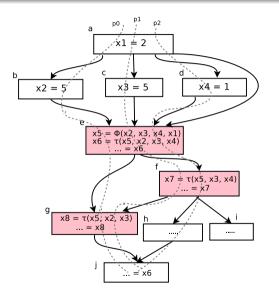
The Hot Path SSA Form (HPSSA)

Semantics of a ϕ -function

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

Semantics of a τ -function

$$\tau(x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \begin{cases} x_0 & \text{safe interp.} \\ \phi(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) & \text{speculative interp.} \end{cases}$$



No frequent path carrying:

- def $x_2 = 3$ to use at block **f**
- def $x_4 = 1$ to use at block **g**

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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]

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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.



^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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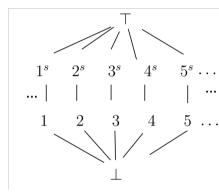
Speculative Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation (SpecSCCP)

- Introduce new speculative values $\{\ldots,1^s,2^s,\ldots\}\in\mathcal{C}^S$
- 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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Almost trivial to generate profile-guided variants of standard analyses—an afternoon to "port" SCCP to SpecSCCP!

From SpecSCCP Pass

 $Basic\ blocks\ from\ the\ transformed\ IR\ after\ the\ {\tt SpecSCCP}\ pass\ with\ {\tt assignSpecValue()}\ calls\ added.$

```
; preds = %sw.epilog
      if.else:
1
        %tau = call i32 (...) @llvm.tau.i32(i32 %tau8, i32 7, i32 3)
2
        %tau10 = call i32 (...) @llvm.tau.i32(i32 %tau9, i32 5, i32 5)
3
        %tau10_spec = call i32 @assignSpecValue(i32 5)
        %mul11 = mul nsw i32 3, undef
5
        %add12 = add nsw i32 %tau10_spec , %mul11
6
        switch i32 %add12, label %sw.default13
          i32 200, label %sw.bb14
          i32 300, label %sw.bb15
Q
10
      if end:
                                                         ; preds = %sw.epilog, %if.else
1
        %tau11 = call i32 (...) @llvm.tau.i32(i32 %tau8, i32 7, i32 7)
2
        %tau11_spec = call i32 @assignSpecValue(i32 7)
3
        %tau12 = call i32 (...) @llvm.tau.i32(i32 %tau9, i32 5, i32 10)
4
        %add17 = add nsw i32 undef, %tau11_spec
5
        store i32 %add17, i32* %m, align 4
        br label %end
```

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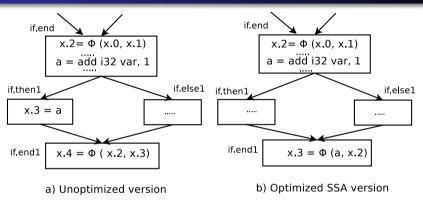
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Brief Algorithm

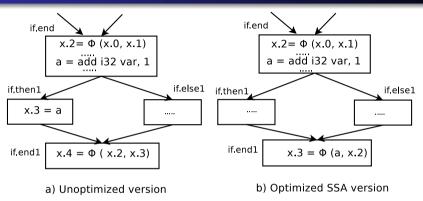
- Insert τ -functions
 - Insert at Thermal Frontiers
- Allocate arguments to τ -functions
 - \bullet path-sensitive traversal through the program to identify definitions that reach $\tau\text{-functions}$ through hot paths
 - \bullet constrains its inspection to only the ϕ -functions and the τ -functions

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!

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

• New 11vm::intrinsic signature, "11vm.tau" to support addition and removal of τ -functions to the LLVM SSA IR representation.

```
+ //===---- intrinsic for tau ------/
+ def int_tau : DefaultAttrsIntrinsic<[llvm_anv_tv],
                 [llvm_vararg_ty],
                 []>:
```

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

```
+ //===----- Changes for tau.intrinsic -----=====//
       void Verifier::verifyDominatesUse(Instruction &I. unsigned i) {
           Instruction *Op = cast<Instruction>(I.getOperand(i));
                if (CallInst *CI = dvn_cast<CallInst>(&I)) {
                Function *CallFunction = CI->getCalledFunction();
                if (CallFunction != NULL && CallFunction->getIntrinsicID()==
                    Function::lookupIntrinsicID("llvm.tau")) {
                        return;
9
                                                                                      og.50
10
```

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 argument at strategic positions in the LLVM IR and handles argument allocation for "llvm.tau" intrinsic calls.

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 - std::map<llvm::BasicBlock*, llvm::BitVector> HotPathSet used to track hot paths that pass through a given basic block.

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HPSSAPass: Destruction Pass

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```
x_3 = \tau(x_0, x_1, x_2), \tau-function
```

 $x_3 = x_0$, Replace all use of x_3 with x_0 .

Presentation Outline

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

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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 open source our work soon and push it to the LLVM "main" branch.
- Link: https://github.com/HPSSA-LLVM/HPSSA-LLVM

Thanks!



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 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.

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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().
- Modified the SCCPInstVisitor::solve() function to process "llvm.tau" intrinsic instructions using visitTauNode() instead of the standard visit() function.

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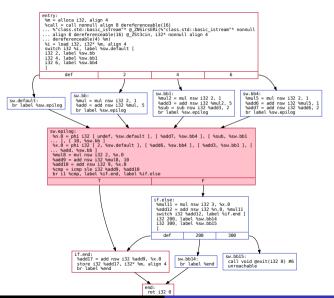
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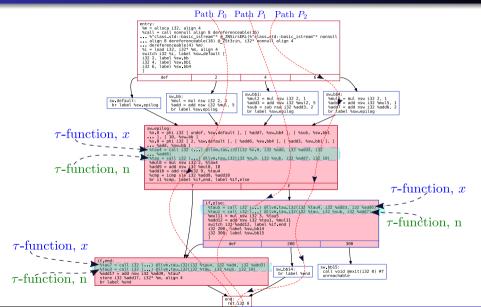
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 - Uses the renaming stack and HPSSAPass::Search() function to search and replace all use of PHI result operand with that returned by the "llvm.tau" intrinsic call.

Program in SSA Form



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Program in Hot Path SSA Form



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