

Optimized code: Compare code generated normally to optimized code. To create optimized code, you will need to use the -O2 compiler flag. Can you make any guesses as to why the optimized code looks as it does? What is being optimized? Be sure to show your original sample code as well as the optimized version. Try loops and function calls to see what "optimizing" does. Be aware that if instructions are "not necessary" to the final output of the program then they may be optimized away completely! This does not lead to very interesting comparisons. Describe at least four (non-trivial) differences you see between 'normal' code and optimized code.

I wrote a simple loop that adds the value of `i` to a local variable and then print the result on the screen. I am trying to see the differences in a loop and `cout` function. The c++ code is as follows:

```
int total=0;
for (int i=0; i<5;i++){
    total=total+i;}
cout<<total<<endl;
```

Obviously, the optimized one was shorter. The actual assembly file was 113 lines but the optimized one was 91. There are less labels defined in the optimized version. I have noticed that there are less moving the data around in the unoptimized one. For example, the whole chunk of storing into stacks is deleted in the optimized one.

```
sub    rsp, 32
mov     dword ptr [rbp - 4], 0
mov     dword ptr [rbp - 8], 0
mov     dword ptr [rbp - 12], 0
```

I assume that the optimized one is trying to use storing in the stacks and playing with the available registers to manipulate with the values. Also in the unoptimized one, I can clearly see the for loop in the assembly code but in the other version, it is kind of hard to pinpoint exactly when it starts and jumps arounds until the end of the loop. The loop in the unoptimized one is as follows:

```
.LBB1_1:
        cmp     dword ptr [rbp - 12], 5
        jge     .LBB1_4
# BB#2:
        mov     eax, dword ptr [rbp - 8]
        add     eax, dword ptr [rbp - 12]
        mov     dword ptr [rbp - 8], eax
# BB#3:
        mov     eax, dword ptr [rbp - 12]
        add     eax, 1
        mov     dword ptr [rbp - 12], eax
        jmp     .LBB1_1
```

I was trying to follow the process of `cout` in both codes and I did not see a major difference. The only thing that I noticed is that there is one or two lines that are missing in the optimized one are those when the data is being pushed back into stacked.

I changed my c++ code to a simple function call in the main to see how the optimization changes the assembly code when dealing with functions. I noticed the same patterns of reducing the number of pushing into stacks and number of labels.

```
void ftn (int x){
    cout<<x+1<<endl;}
int main(){
    int x=5;
    ftn(x);
    return 0;}
```

I think the optimized assembly code was easier to follow and keep track of. It started with defining the function as in the c++ model and went to the main function and the call of the function. However, in the unoptimized one, there are some lines of moving some data around and some pushing data into stacks before defining the function. Also, I have noticed that the optimized code is using "Lea" to get the memory address and "movsx", but I don't see the same thing in the unoptimized code. "**movsx** and **movzx** are special versions of **mov** which are designed to be used between signed (**movsx**) and unsigned (**movzx**) registers of different sizes. **movsx** means move with sign extension."

([https://wiki.skullsecurity.org/index.php?title=Simple\\_Instructions](https://wiki.skullsecurity.org/index.php?title=Simple_Instructions))

### The unoptimized code:

```
# BB#0:
    push    rbp
.Ltmp0:
    .cfi_def_cfa_offset 16
.Ltmp1:
    .cfi_offset rbp, -16
    mov     rbp, rsp
.Ltmp2:
    .cfi_def_cfa_register rbp
    sub     rsp, 16
    movabs rdi, _ZStL8__ioinit
    call    _ZNSt8ios_base4InitC1Ev
    movabs rdi, _ZNSt8ios_base4InitD1Ev
    movabs rsi, _ZStL8__ioinit
    movabs rdx, __dso_handle
    call    __cxa_atexit
    mov     dword ptr [rbp - 4], eax # 4-byte Spill
    add     rsp, 16
    pop     rbp
    ret
.Lfunc_end0:
    .size    __cxx_global_var_init, .Lfunc_end0-__cxx_global_var_init
    .cfi_endproc

    .text
    .globl  main
    .align  16, 0x90
    .type   main,@function
main:
    # @main
```

```

        .cfi_startproc
# BB#0:
        push    rbp
.Ltmp3:
        .cfi_def_cfa_offset 16
.Ltmp4:
        .cfi_offset rbp, -16
        mov     rbp, rsp
.Ltmp5:
        .cfi_def_cfa_register rbp
        sub     rsp, 32
        mov     dword ptr [rbp - 4], 0
        mov     dword ptr [rbp - 8], 0
        mov     dword ptr [rbp - 12], 0
.LBB1_1:
        # =>This Inner Loop Header: Depth=1
        cmp     dword ptr [rbp - 12], 5
        jge     .LBB1_4
# BB#2:
        # in Loop: Header=BB1_1 Depth=1
        mov     eax, dword ptr [rbp - 8]
        add     eax, dword ptr [rbp - 12]
        mov     dword ptr [rbp - 8], eax
# BB#3:
        # in Loop: Header=BB1_1 Depth=1
        mov     eax, dword ptr [rbp - 12]
        add     eax, 1
        mov     dword ptr [rbp - 12], eax
        jmp     .LBB1_1
.LBB1_4:
        movabs rdi, _ZSt4cout
        mov     esi, dword ptr [rbp - 8]
        call    _ZNSolsEi
        movabs rsi, _ZSt4endlcSt11char_traitslcEERSt13basic_ostreamIT_T0_ES6_
        mov     rdi, rax
        call    _ZNSolsEPFRSoS_E
        xor     ecx, ecx
        mov     qword ptr [rbp - 24], rax # 8-byte Spill
        mov     eax, ecx
        add     rsp, 32
        pop     rbp
        ret
.Lfunc_end1:
        .size    main, .Lfunc_end1-main
        .cfi_endproc

        .section .text.startup,"ax",@progbits
        .align   16, 0x90
        .type    _GLOBAL__sub_I_t.cpp,@function
_GLOBAL__sub_I_t.cpp:      # @_GLOBAL__sub_I_t.cpp
        .cfi_startproc

```

```

# BB#0:
    push    rbp
.Ltmp6:
    .cfi_def_cfa_offset 16
.Ltmp7:
    .cfi_offset rbp, -16
    mov     rbp, rsp
.Ltmp8:
    .cfi_def_cfa_register rbp
    call    __cxx_global_var_init
    pop     rbp
    ret

```

### And the optimized code:

```

# BB#0:
    push    r14
.Ltmp0:
    .cfi_def_cfa_offset 16
    push    rbx
.Ltmp1:
    .cfi_def_cfa_offset 24
    push    rax
.Ltmp2:
    .cfi_def_cfa_offset 32
.Ltmp3:
    .cfi_offset rbx, -24
.Ltmp4:
    .cfi_offset r14, -16
    mov     edi, _ZSt4cout
    mov     esi, 10
    call    _ZNSolsEi
    mov     r14, rax
    mov     rax, qword ptr [r14]
    mov     rax, qword ptr [rax - 24]
    mov     rbx, qword ptr [r14 + rax + 240]
    test    rbx, rbx
    je      .LBB0_5
# BB#1:                                # %_ZSt13__check_facetISt5ctypeIcEERKT_PS3_.exit
    cmp     byte ptr [rbx + 56], 0
    je      .LBB0_3
# BB#2:
    mov     al, byte ptr [rbx + 67]
    jmp     .LBB0_4
.LBB0_3:
    mov     rdi, rbx
    call    _ZNKSt5ctypeIcE13_M_widen_initEv
    mov     rax, qword ptr [rbx]
    mov     esi, 10

```

```

        mov     rdi, rbx
        call    qword ptr [rax + 48]
.LBB0_4:                                # %_ZNKSt5ctypeIcE5widenEc.exit
        movsx   esi, al
        mov     rdi, r14
        call    _ZNSo3putEc
        mov     rdi, rax
        call    _ZNSo5flushEv
        xor     eax, eax
        add     rsp, 8
        pop     rbx
        pop     r14
        ret

.LBB0_5:
        call    _ZSt16__throw_bad_castv
.Lfunc_end0:
        .size   main, .Lfunc_end0-main
        .cfi_endproc

        .section .text.startup,"ax",@progbits
        .align  16,0x90
        .type   _GLOBAL__sub_I_t.cpp,@function
_GLOBAL__sub_I_t.cpp:                  # @_GLOBAL__sub_I_t.cpp
        .cfi_startproc
# BB#0:
        push    rax
.Ltmp5:
        .cfi_def_cfa_offset 16
        mov     edi, _ZStL8__ioinit
        call    _ZNSt8ios_base4InitC1Ev
        mov     edi, _ZNSt8ios_base4InitD1Ev
        mov     esi, _ZStL8__ioinit
        mov     edx, __dso_handle
        pop     rax
        jmp     __cxa_atexit          # TAILCALL

```