

CSC 6580

Spring 2020

Instructor: Stacy Prowell

Mycroft

Type-Based Decompilation

Type-Based Decompilation[★]

(or Program Reconstruction via Type Reconstruction)

Alan Mycroft

Computer Laboratory, Cambridge University
New Museums Site, Pembroke Street, Cambridge CB2 3QG, UK
<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/users/am>



Co-Founder of the
Raspberry Pi Foundation



Type “Reconstruction”

This is really the assignment of a *plausible* type.
The original types are lost in compilation.

instruction		generated constraint
mov	r4,r6	$t6 = t4$
ld.w	n[r3],r5	$t3 = ptr(mem(n : t5))$
xor	r2a,r1b,r1c	$t2a = int, t1b = int, t1c = int$
add	r2a,r1b,r1c	$t2a = ptr(\alpha), t1b = int, t1c = ptr(\alpha) \vee$ $t2a = int, t1b = ptr(\alpha'), t1c = ptr(\alpha') \vee$ $t2a = int, t1b = int, t1c = int$
ld.w	(r5)[r0],r3	$t0 = ptr(array(t3)), t5 = int \vee$ $t0 = int, t5 = ptr(array(t3))$
mov	#42,r7	$t7 = int$
mov	#0,r7	$t7 = int \vee t7 = ptr(\alpha'')$



Iterative Source Code

```

;  int f(struct A *x)
;  {  int r = 0;
;      for (; x!=0; x = x->tl) r += x->hd;
;      return r;
;  }
;
f:
    mov    #0,r1
    cmp    #0,r0
    beq    L4F2
L3F2:
    ld.w   0[r0],r2
    add    r2,r1,r1
    ld.w   4[r0],r0
    cmp    #0,r0
    bne    L3F2
L4F2:
    mov    r1,r0
    ret

```

Fig. 1. Iterative summation of a list



Iterative Source Code

```
; int f(struct A *x)
; {   int r = 0;
;     for (; x!=0; x = x->t1) r += x->hd;
;     return r;
; }
;
f:
    mov     #0,r1
    cmp     #0,r0
    beq     L4F2
L3F2:
    ld.w    0[r0],r2
    add     r2,r1,r1
    ld.w    4[r0],r0
    cmp     #0,r0
    bne     L3F2
L4F2:
    mov     r1,r0
    ret
```

Fig. 1. Iterative summation of a list



Iterative Source Code

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *tl; };  
int f(struct A *x)  
{   int r = 0;  
    for (; x!=0; x = x->tl) r += x->hd;  
    return r;  
}
```

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *tl; };
```

```
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (;
        x!=0;
        x = x->tl)
        r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```



```
struct A { int hd; struct A *t1; };
```

```
int f(struct A *x)
```

```
{   int r = 0;
```

```
    for (;
```

```
        x!=0;
```

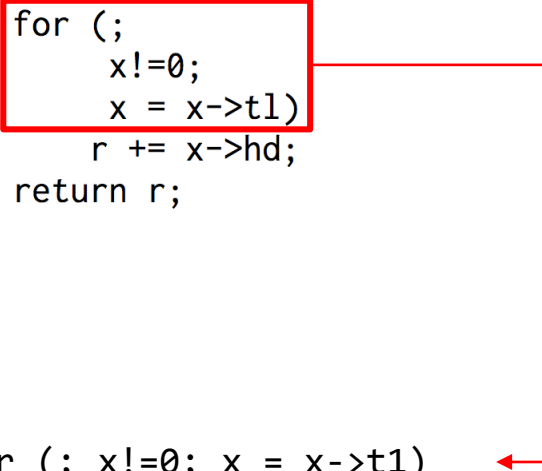
```
        x = x->t1)
```

```
        r += x->hd;
```

```
    return r;
```

```
}
```

```
for (; x!=0; x = x->t1)
```



```
struct A { int hd; struct A *t1; };
```

```
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (;
        x!=0;
        x = x->t1)
        r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

```
for (; x!=0; x = x->t1)
```



```
while (x!=0) x = x->t1;
```

Convert to while loop

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *t1; };
```

```
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (;
        x!=0;
        x = x->t1)
        r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

```
for (; x!=0; x = x->t1)
```



```
while (x!=0) x = x->t1;    Unroll once
```



```
if (x!=0)
do x = x->t1; while (x!=0);
```

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *t1; };
```

```
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (;
        x!=0;
        x = x->t1)
        r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

f:

```
mov    #0,r1
cmp     #0,r0
beq     L4F2
```

r0 <- x
r1 <- r

L3F2:

```
ld.w    0[r0],r2
add     r2,r1,r1
ld.w    4[r0],r0
cmp     #0,r0
bne     L3F2
```

L4F2:

```
mov     r1,r0
ret
```

```
for (; x!=0; x = x->t1)
```



```
while (x!=0) x = x->t1;
```



```
if (x!=0)
```

```
do x = x->t1; while (x!=0);
```

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *t1; };
```

```
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (;
        x!=0;
        x = x->t1)
        r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

f:

```
mov    #0,r1
cmp    #0,r0
beq     L4F2
```

r0 <- x
r1 <- r

L3F2:

```
ld.w    0[r0],r2
add      r2,r1,r1
ld.w    4[r0],r0
cmp      #0,r0
bne      L3F2
```

L4F2:

```
mov      r1,r0
ret
```

```
for (; x!=0; x = x->t1)
```



```
while (x!=0) x = x->t1;
```



```
if (x!=0)
```

```
do x = x->t1; while (x!=0);
```

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *t1; };
```

```
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (;
        x!=0;
        x = x->t1)
        r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

f:

```
mov    #0,r1
cmp     #0,r0
beq     L4F2
```

*r0 <- x
r1 <- r
0[r0] <- x->hd*

L3F2:

```
ld.w    0[r0],r2
add      r2,r1,r1
```

```
ld.w    4[r0],r0
cmp     #0,r0
bne     L3F2
```

L4F2:

```
mov     r1,r0
ret
```

```
for (; x!=0; x = x->t1)
```

└─> while (x!=0) x = x->t1;

└─> if (x!=0)
do x = x->t1; while (x!=0);

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *t1; };
```

```
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (;
        x!=0;
        x = x->t1)
        r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

```
f:
```

```
mov    #0,r1
cmp     #0,r0
beq     L4F2
```

```
r0 <- x
r1 <- r
0[r0] <- x->hd
4[r0] <- x->t1
```

```
L3F2:
```

```
ld.w    0[r0],r2
add     r2,r1,r1
```

```
ld.w    4[r0],r0
```

```
cmp     #0,r0
bne     L3F2
```

```
L4F2:
```

```
mov     r1,r0
ret
```

```
for (; x!=0; x = x->t1)
```



```
while (x!=0) x = x->t1;
```



```
if (x!=0)
```

```
do x = x->t1; while (x!=0);
```

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *t1; };
```

```
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (;
        x!=0;
        x = x->t1)
        r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

```
f:
```

```
mov    #0,r1
cmp     #0,r0
beq     L4F2
```

```
r0 <- x
r1 <- r
0[r0] <- x->hd
4[r0] <- x->t1
```

```
L3F2:
```

```
ld.w    0[r0],r2
add      r2,r1,r1
ld.w    4[r0],r0
cmp     #0,r0
bne     L3F2
```

```
L4F2:
```

```
mov     r1,r0
ret
```

```
for (; x!=0; x = x->t1)
```



```
while (x!=0) x = x->t1;
```



```
if (x!=0)
do x = x->t1; while (x!=0);
```



```
struct A { int hd; struct A *t1; };
```

```
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (;
        x!=0;
        x = x->t1)
        r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

f:

```
mov    #0,r1
cmp     #0,r0
beq     L4F2
```

```
r0 <- x
r1 <- r
0[r0] <- x->hd
4[r0] <- x->t1
```

L3F2:

```
ld.w    0[r0],r2
add     r2,r1,r1
ld.w    4[r0],r0
cmp     #0,r0
bne     L3F2
```

L4F2:

```
mov     r1,r0
ret
```

```
for (; x!=0; x = x->t1)
```



```
while (x!=0) x = x->t1;
```



```
if (x!=0)
do x = x->t1; while (x!=0);
```

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *t1; };
```

```
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (;
        x!=0;
        x = x->t1)
        r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

```
f:
    mov    #0,r1
    cmp    #0,r0
    beq    L4F2

L3F2:
    ld.w   0[r0],r2
    add    r2,r1,r1
    ld.w   4[r0],r0
    cmp    #0,r0
    bne    L3F2

L4F2:
    mov    r1,r0
    ret
```

```
for (; x!=0; x = x->t1)
```

└─> while (x!=0) x = x->t1;

└─> if (x!=0)
do x = x->t1; while (x!=0);



SSA

```
f:
    mov     #0,r1
    cmp     #0,r0
    beq     L4F2

L3F2:
    ld.w    0[r0],r2
    add     r2,r1,r1
    ld.w    4[r0],r0
    cmp     #0,r0
    bne     L3F2

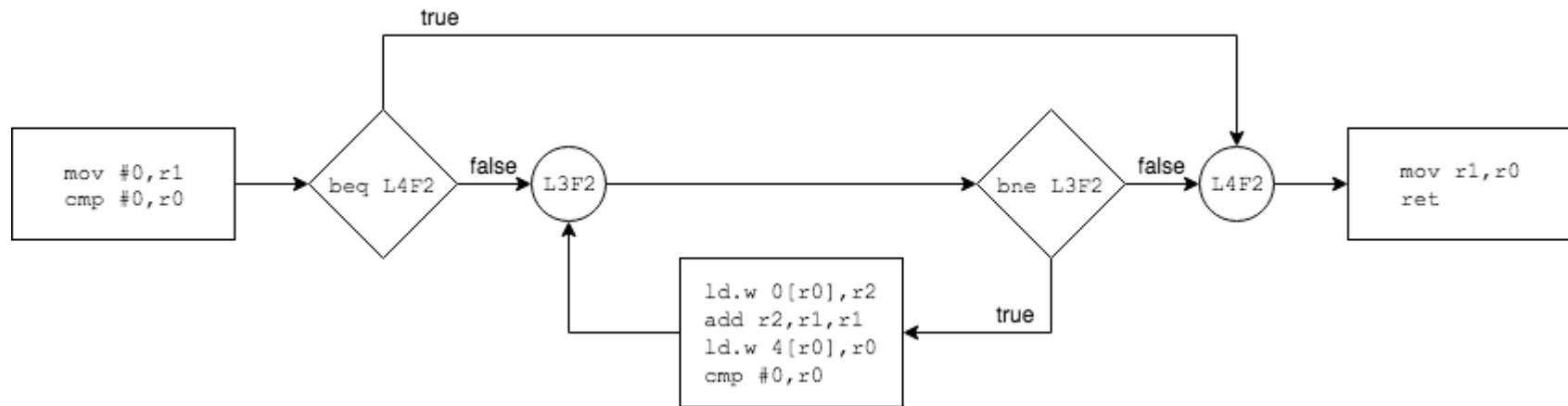
L4F2:
    mov     r1,r0
    ret
```

We want to convert to SSA form.

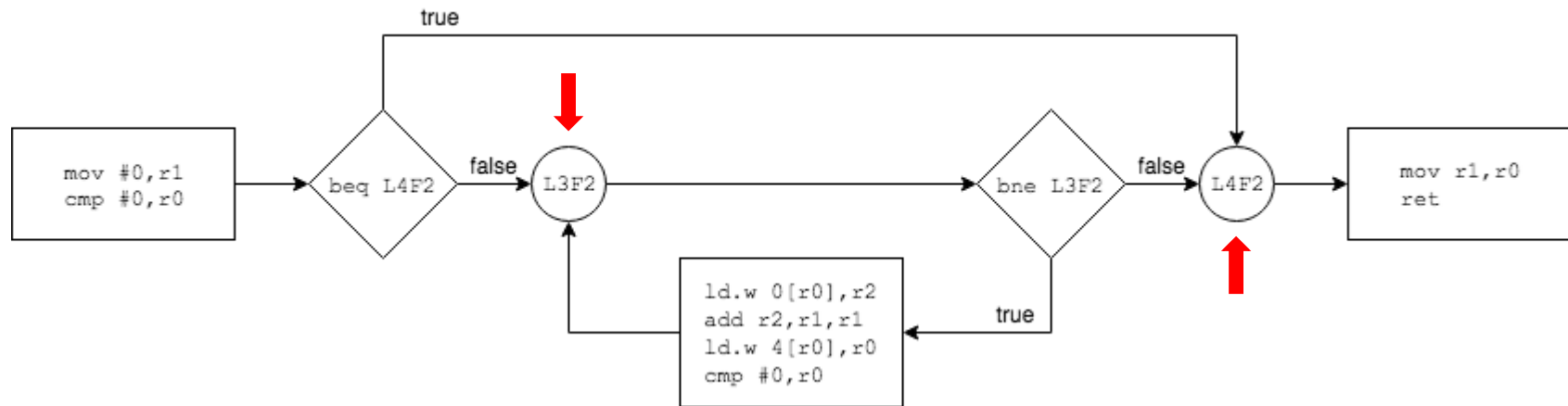
That was easy before... but now we have a loop. How do we convert to SSA when we have loops and branching?

The same register might end up with different values at a particular point based on the path it took to get there.

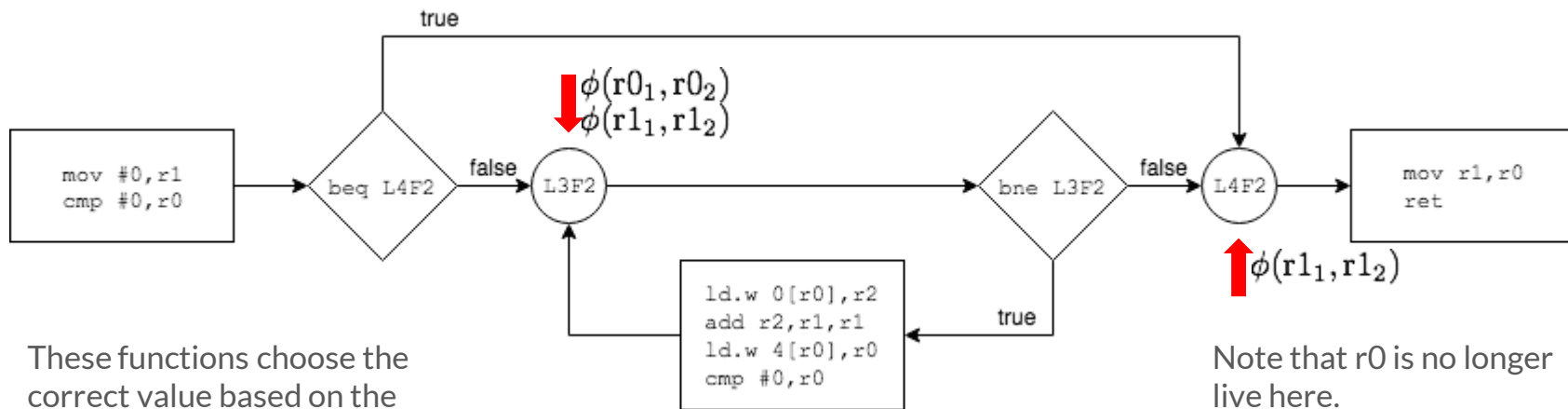
SSA: Flowgraph



SSA: Path Merge




SSA: Path Merge ϕ -Functions



These functions choose the correct value based on the arrival path.

When we arrive at, say, L3F2, we set $r0 = \phi(r0_1, r0_2)$, etc.



SSA: With ϕ -Functions

f:

```
mov    #0,r1
cmp    #0,r0
beq    L4F2
```

L3F2:

```
mov     $\phi(r0_1, r0_2)$ , r0
mov     $\phi(r1_1, r1_2)$ , r1
ld.w   0[r0], r2
add    r2, r1, r1
ld.w   4[r0], r0
cmp    #0, r0
bne    L3F2
```

L4F2:

Now that we have accounted for the branching, we can rewrite to SSA form.

SSA: Relabeling

f:

```
mov    r0, r0a  
mov     #0, r1a  
cmp     #0, r0a  
beq     L4F2
```



L3F2:

```
mov     phi(r0a, r0_2), r0  
mov     phi(r1a, r1_2), r1  
ld.w    0[r0], r2  
add     r2, r1, r1  
ld.w    4[r0], r0  
cmp     #0, r0  
bne     L3F2
```



Subsequent references to r0
get relabeled to r0a.

Same for r1a.



SSA: Relabeling

f:

```
mov    r0,r0a
mov    #0,r1a
cmp    #0,r0a
beq    L4F2
```

L3F2:

```
mov
 $\phi(r0a, r0_2), r0b$ 
mov
 $\phi(r1a, r1_2), r1b$ 
ld.w
0[ $r0b$ ], r2
add
r2,  $r1b$ , r1
ld.w
4[ $r0b$ ], r0
cmp    #0, r0
bne    L3F2
```



SSA: Relabeling

f:

```
mov    r0,r0a
mov    #0,r1a
cmp    #0,r0a
beq    L4F2
```

L3F2:

```
mov
 $\phi(r0a, r0c), r0b$ 
mov
 $\phi(r1a, r1c), r1b$ 
ld.w
0[r0b], r2a
add
r2a, r1b, r1c
ld.w
4[r0b], r0c
cmp    #0, r0c
bne    L3F2
```



SSA: Relabeling

f:

```
mov     r0,r0a
mov     #0,r1a
cmp     #0,r0a
beq     L4F2
```

L3F2:

```
mov
 $\phi(r0a,r0c),r0b$ 
mov
 $\phi(r1a,r1c),r1b$ 
ld.w
0[r0b],r2a
add
r2a,r1b,r1c
ld.w
4[r0b],r0c
cmp     #0,r0c
bne     L3F2
```



SSA: Relabeling Complete

f:

```
mov    r0,r0a
mov    #0,r1a
cmp    #0,r0a
beq    L4F2
```

Now the program is in SSA form.

L3F2:

```
mov
 $\phi(r0a,r0c),r0b$ 
mov
 $\phi(r1a,r1c),r1b$ 
ld.w
0[r0b],r2a
add
r2a,r1b,r1c
ld.w
4[r0b],r0c
cmp    #0,r0c
bne    L3F2
```

Type Constraints

f:

```
mov    r0,r0a
mov    #0,r1a
cmp    #0,r0a
beq    L4F2
```

L3F2:

```
mov    ϕ(r0a,r0c),r0b
mov    ϕ(r1a,r1c),r1b
ld.w   0[r0b],r2a
add    r2a,r1b,r1c
ld.w   4[r0b],r0c
cmp    #0,r0c
bne    L3F2
```

L4F2:

```
mov    ϕ(r1a,r1c),r1d
mov    r1d,r0d
ret
```

instruction	generated constraint
mov r4,r6	$t6 = t4$
ld.w n[r3],r5	$t3 = ptr(mem(n : t5))$
xor r2a,r1b,r1c	$t2a = int, t1b = int, t1c = int$
add r2a,r1b,r1c	$t2a = ptr(\alpha), t1b = int, t1c = ptr(\alpha) \vee$ $t2a = int, t1b = ptr(\alpha'), t1c = ptr(\alpha') \vee$ $t2a = int, t1b = int, t1c = int$
ld.w (r5)[r0],r3	$t0 = ptr(array(t3)), t5 = int \vee$ $t0 = int, t5 = ptr(array(t3))$
mov #42,r7	$t7 = int$
mov #0,r7	$t7 = int \vee t7 = ptr(\alpha'')$

Type Constraints

f:

= t_0

mov r0, r0a

mov #0, r1a

cmp #0, r0a

beq L4F2

L3F2:

mov $\phi(r0a, r0c), r0b$

mov $\phi(r1a, r1c), r1b$

ld.w 0[r0b], r2a

add r2a, r1b, r1c

ld.w 4[r0b], r0c

cmp #0, r0c

bne L3F2

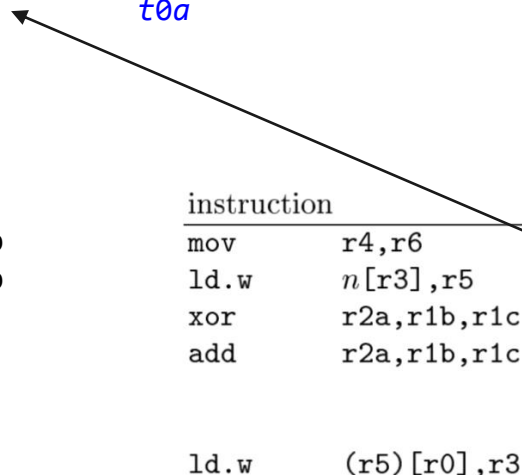
L4F2:

mov $\phi(r1a, r1c), r1d$

mov r1d, r0d

ret

$t0a$



instruction	generated constraint
mov r4, r6	$t6 = t4$
ld.w $n[r3], r5$	$t3 = ptr(mem(n : t5))$
xor r2a, r1b, r1c	$t2a = int, t1b = int, t1c = int$
add r2a, r1b, r1c	$t2a = ptr(\alpha), t1b = int, t1c = ptr(\alpha) \vee$ $t2a = int, t1b = ptr(\alpha'), t1c = ptr(\alpha') \vee$ $t2a = int, t1b = int, t1c = int$
ld.w (r5)[r0], r3	$t0 = ptr(array(t3)), t5 = int \vee$ $t0 = int, t5 = ptr(array(t3))$
mov #42, r7	$t7 = int$
mov #0, r7	$t7 = int \vee t7 = ptr(\alpha'')$

Type Constraints

f:

= t0

mov r0, r0a

t0a

mov #0, r1a

cmp #0, r0a

beq L4F2

L3F2:

mov $\phi(r0a, r0c), r0b$

mov $\phi(r1a, r1c), r1b$

ld.w 0[r0b], r2a

add r2a, r1b, r1c

ld.w 4[r0b], r0c

cmp #0, r0c

bne L3F2

L4F2:

mov $\phi(r1a, r1c), r1d$

mov r1d, r0d

ret

instruction

mov r4, r6

ld.w n[r3], r5

xor r2a, r1b, r1c

add r2a, r1b, r1c

ld.w (r5)[r0], r3

mov #42, r7

mov #0, r7

generated constraint

$t6 = t4$

$t3 = ptr(mem(n : t5))$

$t2a = int, t1b = int, t1c = int$

$t2a = ptr(\alpha), t1b = int, t1c = ptr(\alpha) \vee$

$t2a = int, t1b = ptr(\alpha'), t1c = ptr(\alpha') \vee$

$t2a = int, t1b = int, t1c = int$

$t0 = ptr(array(t3)), t5 = int \vee$

$t0 = int, t5 = ptr(array(t3))$

$t7 = int$

$t7 = int \vee t7 = ptr(\alpha'')$

Type Constraints

f:

```
mov    r0,r0a
mov    #0,r1a
cmp    #0,r0a
beq    L4F2
```

$= ptr(\alpha_1)$

L3F2:

```
mov     $\phi(r0a,r0c),r0b$ 
mov     $\phi(r1a,r1c),r1b$ 
ld.w   0[r0b],r2a
add    r2a,r1b,r1c
ld.w   4[r0b],r0c
cmp    #0,r0c
bne    L3F2
```

L4F2:

```
mov     $\phi(r1a,r1c),r1d$ 
mov    r1d,r0d
not
```

A new type variable that must be resolved later

$t0a = \vee$
 $t1a = int \vee t1a$

instruction	generated constraint
mov r4,r6	$t6 = t4$
ld.w $n[r3],r5$	$t3 = ptr(mem(n : t5))$
xor r2a,r1b,r1c	$t2a = int, t1b = int, t1c = int$
add r2a,r1b,r1c	$t2a = ptr(\alpha), t1b = int, t1c = ptr(\alpha) \vee$ $t2a = int, t1b = ptr(\alpha'), t1c = ptr(\alpha') \vee$ $t2a = int, t1b = int, t1c = int$
ld.w (r5)[r0],r3	$t0 = ptr(array(t3)), t5 = int \vee$ $t0 = int, t5 = ptr(array(t3))$
mov #42,r7	$t7 = int$
mov #0,r7	$t7 = int \vee t7 = ptr(\alpha'')$

Type Constraints

f:

```
      mov      r0,r0a
      mov      #0,r1a
= ptr( $\alpha_1$ )      cmp      #0,r0a
= ptr( $\alpha_2$ )      beq      L4F2
L3F2:      mov       $\phi(r0a,r0c),r0b$ 
t0c      mov       $\phi(r1a,r1c),r1b$ 
t1c      ld.w      0[r0b],r2a
ptr(mem(0:t2a)) add      r2a,r1b,r1c
      ld.w      4[r0b],r0c
      cmp      #0,r0c
      bne      L3F2
```

```
t0a = t0
t1a = int  $\vee$  t1a
```

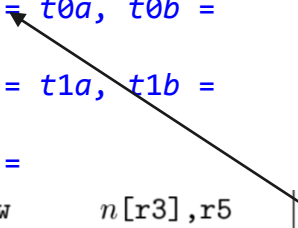
```
t0a = int  $\vee$  t0a
```

```
t0b = t0a, t0b =
```

```
t1b = t1a, t1b =
```

```
t0b =
```

```
ld.w      n[r3],r5 | t3 = ptr(mem(n : t5))
```



f:

mov	r0,r0a	$t0a = t0$
mov	#0,r1a	$t1a = \text{int} \vee t1a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_1)$
cmp	#0,r0a	$t0a = \text{int} \vee t0a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_2)$
beq	L4F2	

L3F2:

mov	$\phi(r0a,r0c),r0b$	$t0b = t0a, t0b = t0c$
mov	$\phi(r1a,r1c),r1b$	$t1b = t1a, t1b = t1c$
ld.w	0[r0b],r2a	$t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t2a))$
add	r2a,r1b,r1c	$t2a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3), t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3) \vee$ $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4), t1c =$

$\text{ptr}(\alpha_4) \vee$

		$t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{int}$
ld.w	4[r0b],r0c	$t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(4:t0b))$
cmp	#0,r0c	$t0c = \text{int} \vee t0c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4)$
bne	L3F2	

L4F2:

mov	$\phi(r1a,r1c),r1d$	$t1d = t1a, t1d = t1c$
mov	r1d,r0d	$t0d = t1d$
ret		

Still need to annotate the function itself.

Now we have a system of type constraints.

f:			$tf = t0 \rightarrow t99$
	mov	r0,r0a	$t0a = t0$
	mov	#0,r1a	$t1a = \text{int} \vee t1a = ptr(\alpha_1)$
	cmp	#0,r0a	$t0a = \text{int} \vee t0a = ptr(\alpha_2)$
	beq	L4F2	
L3F2:			
	mov	$\phi(r0a,r0c),r0b$	$t0b = t0a, t0b = t0c$
	mov	$\phi(r1a,r1c),r1b$	$t1b = t1a, t1b = t1c$
	ld.w	0[r0b],r2a	$t0b = ptr(mem(0:t2a))$
	add	r2a,r1b,r1c	$t2a = ptr(\alpha_3), t1b = \text{int}, t1c = ptr(\alpha_3) \vee$ $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = ptr(\alpha_4), t1c =$
$ptr(\alpha_4) \vee$			
			$t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{int}$
	ld.w	4[r0b],r0c	$t0b = ptr(mem(4:t0b))$
	cmp	#0,r0c	$t0c = \text{int} \vee t0c = ptr(\alpha_5)$
	bne	L3F2	
L4F2:			
	mov	$\phi(r1a,r1c),r1d$	$t1d = t1a, t1d = t1c$
	mov	r1d,r0d	$t0d = t1d$
	ret		$t99 = t0d$

$t0b = ptr(mem(4:t0b))$ with the type constraint
 $t0c = \text{int} \vee t0c = ptr(\alpha_5)$ is complete.

1. $t_f = t_0 \rightarrow t_{99}$
2. $t_{0a} = t_0$
3. $t_{1a} = \text{int} \vee t_{1a} = \text{ptr}(\alpha_1)$
4. $t_{0a} = \text{int} \vee t_{0a} = \text{ptr}(\alpha_2)$
5. $t_{0b} = t_{0a}, t_{0b} = t_{0c}$
6. $t_{1b} = t_{1a}, t_{1b} = t_{1c}$
7. $t_{0b} = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t_{2a}))$
8. $t_{2a} = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3), t_{1b} = \text{int}, t_{1c} = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3) \vee$
 $t_{2a} = \text{int}, t_{1b} = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4), t_{1c} = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4) \vee$
 $t_{2a} = \text{int}, t_{1b} = \text{int}, t_{1c} = \text{int}$
9. $t_{0b} = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(4:t_{0c}))$
10. $t_{0c} = \text{int} \vee t_{0c} = \text{ptr}(\alpha_5)$
11. $t_{1d} = t_{1a}, t_{1d} = t_{1c}$
12. $t_{0d} = t_{1d}$
13. $t_{99} = t_{0d}$

We have a system of equations.
There may be many solutions,
one solution, or no solutions.

How can we have no solutions?



Solving

1. $tf = t0 \rightarrow t99$
2. $t0a = t0$
3. $t1a = \text{int} \vee t1a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_1)$
4. $t0a = \text{int} \vee t0a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_2)$
5. $t0b = t0a, t0b = t0c$
6. $t1b = t1a, t1b = t1c$
7. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t2a))$
8. $t2a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3), t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4), t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{int}$
9. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(4:t0c))$
10. $t0c = \text{int} \vee t0c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_5)$
11. $t1d = t1a, t1d = t1c$
12. $t0d = t1d$
13. $t99 = t0d$

The author notes that line 5 gives $t0b = t0c$, and when combined with lines 7 and 9, we have the following.

$$\begin{aligned} t0c &= t0b \\ &= \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t2a)) \\ &= \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(4:t0c)) \end{aligned}$$

Solving

1. $tf = t0 \rightarrow t99$
2. $t0a = t0$
3. $t1a = \text{int} \vee t1a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_1)$
4. $t0a = \text{int} \vee t0a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_2)$
5. $t0b = t0a, t0b = t0c$
6. $t1b = t1a, t1b = t1c$
7. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t2a))$
8. $t2a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3), t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4), t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{int}$
9. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(4:t0c))$
10. $t0c = \text{int} \vee t0c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_5)$
11. $t1d = t1a, t1d = t1c$
12. $t0d = t1d$
13. $t99 = t0d$

The author notes that line 5 gives $t0b = t0c$, and when combined with lines 7 and 9, we have the following.



$$\begin{aligned} t0c &= t0b \\ &= \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t2a)) \\ &= \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(4:t0c)) \end{aligned}$$

This fails **occurs check**. This is a rule that says that unification of a variable V and some structure S fails if S contains V .

This prevents creating infinite loops during type checking or unification.

Solving

1. $tf = t0 \rightarrow t99$
2. $t0a = t0$
3. $t1a = \text{int} \vee t1a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_1)$
4. $t0a = \text{int} \vee t0a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_2)$
5. $t0b = t0a, t0b = t0c$
6. $t1b = t1a, t1b = t1c$
7. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t2a))$
8. $t2a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3), t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4), t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{int}$
9. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(4:t0c))$
10. $t0c = \text{int} \vee t0c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_5)$
11. $t1d = t1a, t1d = t1c$
12. $t0d = t1d$
13. $t99 = t0d$

$t0c = t0b$
 $= \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t2a))$  Note that these
 $= \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(4:t0c))$  have different
offsets

This is solved by creating a structure to break the cycle.

```
struct G { t2a m0; t0c m4; }
```

This permits us to rewrite the prior expression.

$t0c = t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t2a, 4:t0c))$
 $= \text{ptr}(\{t2a\ m0; t0c\ m4;\})$
 $= \text{ptr}(\text{struct } G)$



Solving

1. $tf = t0 \rightarrow t99$
2. $t0a = t0$
3. $t1a = \text{int} \vee t1a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_1)$
4. $t0a = \text{int} \vee t0a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_2)$
5. $t0b = t0a, t0b = t0c$
6. $t1b = t1a, t1b = t1c$
7. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t2a))$
8. $t2a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3), t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4), t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{int}$
9. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(4:t0c))$
10. $t0c = \text{int} \vee t0c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_5)$
11. $t1d = t1a, t1d = t1c$
12. $t0d = t1d$
13. $t99 = t0d$

This new expression passes occurs check.

$t0c = t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{struct } G)$

We can continue to solve.



Solving

1. $tf = t0 \rightarrow t99$
2. $t0a = t0$
3. $t1a = \text{int} \vee t1a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_1)$
4. $t0a = \text{int} \vee t0a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_2)$
5. $t0b = t0a, t0b = t0c$
6. $t1b = t1a, t1b = t1c$
7. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t2a))$
8. $t2a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3), t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4), t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{int}$
9. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(4:t0c))$
10. $t0c = \text{int} \vee t0c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_5)$
11. $t1d = t1a, t1d = t1c$
12. $t0d = t1d$
13. $t99 = t0d$

From 13, 12, and 11 we have the following.

$$t99 = t0d = t1d = t1a \text{ and } t1c$$



Solving

1. $tf = t0 \rightarrow t99$
2. $t0a = t0$
3. $t1a = \text{int} \vee t1a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_1)$
4. $t0a = \text{int} \vee t0a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_2)$
5. $t0b = t0a, t0b = t0c$
6. $t1b = t1a, t1b = t1c$
7. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t2a))$
8. $t2a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3), t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4), t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{int}$
9. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(4:t0c))$
10. $t0c = \text{int} \vee t0c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_5)$
11. $t1d = t1a, t1d = t1c$
12. $t0d = t1d$
13. $t99 = t0d$

Continuing we use line 6.

$$\begin{aligned} t99 = t0d = t1d &= t1a \text{ and } t1c \\ &= t1a \text{ and } t1b \\ &= t1a \text{ and } t1a \\ &= t1a = t1b = t1c \end{aligned}$$

From line 8 we know that, since $t1b$ and $t1c$ must be the same, only the second and third clauses can apply.

$$\begin{aligned} t1b &= \text{ptr}(\alpha_4), t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4) \vee \\ t1b &= \text{int}, t1c = \text{int} \end{aligned}$$

Solving

1. $tf = t0 \rightarrow t99$
2. $t0a = t0$
3. $t1a = \text{int} \vee t1a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_1)$
4. $t0a = \text{int} \vee t0a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_2)$
5. $t0b = t0a, t0b = t0c$
6. $t1b = t1a, t1b = t1c$
7. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(0:t2a))$
8. $t2a = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3), t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_3) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4), t1c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_4) \vee$
 $t2a = \text{int}, t1b = \text{int}, t1c = \text{int}$
9. $t0b = \text{ptr}(\text{mem}(4:t0c))$
10. $t0c = \text{int} \vee t0c = \text{ptr}(\alpha_5)$
11. $t1d = t1a, t1d = t1c$
12. $t0d = t1d$
13. $t99 = t0d$

We conclude that $t99$ must be either int or $\text{ptr}(\alpha_5)$ (which is also $\text{ptr}(\alpha_1)$ due to line 3).

What can we deduce about $t0$?

$$\begin{aligned} t0 &= t0a = t0b \\ &\quad \text{(lines 2 and 5)} \\ &= \text{ptr}(\text{struct } G) \quad \text{(prior result)} \end{aligned}$$

This gives us two possible types for the function.

$$\begin{aligned} tf &= t0 \rightarrow t99 \\ &= \text{ptr}(\text{struct } G) \rightarrow (\text{ptr}(\alpha_4) \text{ or } \text{int}) \end{aligned}$$

Rejecting the “parasitic” solution gives:

$$tf = \text{ptr}(\text{struct } G) \rightarrow \text{int}$$

Mycroft Intel X86-64 Version



Aside: Compiling

Different compilers can produce very different output. Some will "optimize away" the stack frame maintenance (if it is not needed) and some will eliminate intermediate results if they are not needed.

Let's try the program with `gcc` and `clang` and a few different optimization levels.

Compile

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *tl; };
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (; x!=0; x = x->tl) r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

```
$ gcc -c list.c
$ objdump -d -Intel list.o
```

54 bytes

```
0000000000000000 <f>:
   0:      f3 0f 1e fa                endbr64
   4:      55                        push    rbp
   5:      48 89 e5                  mov     rbp, rsp
   8:      48 89 7d e8              mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x18], rdi
   c:      c7 45 fc 00 00 00 00    mov     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], 0x0
  13:      eb 15                      jmp     2a <f+0x2a>
  15:      48 8b 45 e8              mov     rax, QWORD PTR [rbp-0x18]
  19:      8b 00                      mov     eax, DWORD PTR [rax]
  1b:      01 45 fc                  add     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], eax
  1e:      48 8b 45 e8              mov     rax, QWORD PTR [rbp-0x18]
  22:      48 8b 40 08              mov     rax, QWORD PTR [rax+0x8]
  26:      48 89 45 e8              mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x18], rax
  2a:      48 83 7d e8 00            cmp     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x18], 0x0
  2f:      75 e4                      jne     15 <f+0x15>
  31:      8b 45 fc                  mov     eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4]
  34:      5d                        pop     rbp
  35:      c3                        ret
```

This code is very direct. It's like the first version we produced in the register coloring example.

Compile

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *tl; };
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (; x!=0; x = x->tl) r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

```
$ gcc -c -O2 list.c
$ objdump -d -Intel list.o
```

33 bytes

```
0000000000000000 <f>:
   0:      f3 0f 1e fa                endbr64
   4:      31 c0                      xor    eax,eax
   6:      48 85 ff                  test   rdi,rdi
   9:      74 15                      je     20 <f+0x20>
  b:      0f 1f 44 00 00          nop    DWORD PTR [rax+rax*1+0x0]
 10:      03 07                      add    eax,DWORD PTR [rdi]
 12:      48 8b 7f 08              mov    rdi,QWORD PTR [rdi+0x8]
 16:      48 85 ff                  test   rdi,rdi
 19:      75 f5                      jne    10 <f+0x10>
 1b:      c3                        ret
 1c:      0f 1f 40 00          nop    DWORD PTR [rax+0x0]
 20:      c3                        ret
```

This code clearly has some optimizations. Note how the intermediate values are never written back, but live in the registers. Also note the use of **nop** instructions to align jump targets on 16-byte boundaries.



Compile

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *tl; };
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (; x!=0; x = x->tl) r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

```
$ gcc -c -Os list.c
$ objdump -d -Intel list.o
```

20 bytes

```
0000000000000000 <f>:
   0:      f3 0f 1e fa                endbr64
   4:      31 c0                      xor     eax,eax
   6:      48 85 ff                test    rdi,rdi
   9:      74 08                    je      13 <f+0x13>
  b:      03 07                    add     eax,DWORD PTR [rdi]
  d:      48 8b 7f 08             mov     rdi,QWORD PTR [rdi+0x8]
 11:      eb f3                    jmp     6 <f+0x6>
 13:      c3                        ret
```

More analysis is done and the compiler discovers three important things: alignment is not needed here, it can reuse the `test rdi, rdi / je 13` code, and only a single return is needed.

Compile

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *tl; };
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (; x!=0; x = x->tl) r += x->hd;
    return r;
}

$ clang -c -O list.c
$ objdump -d -Intel list.o

28 bytes

0000000000000000 <f>:
0:      31 c0                xor     eax,eax
2:      48 85 ff            test    rdi,rdi
5:      74 14              je      1b <f+0x1b>
7:      66 0f 1f 84 00 00 00  nop     WORD PTR [rax+rax*1+0x0]
e:      00 00
10:     03 07            add     eax,DWORD PTR [rdi]
12:     48 8b 7f 08      mov     rdi,QWORD PTR [rdi+0x8]
16:     48 85 ff            test    rdi,rdi
19:     75 f5              jne     10 <f+0x10>
1b:     c3                  ret
```

Out of the gate the **clang** compiler seems to do better with the default optimization level. Note that it still aligns the top of the loop (**0x10**), but does not align all the jump targets (**0x1b**).



Compile

```
struct A { int hd; struct A *tl; };
int f(struct A *x)
{   int r = 0;
    for (; x!=0; x = x->tl) r += x->hd;
    return r;
}
```

```
$ clang -c -Oz list.c
$ objdump -d -Intel list.o
```

16 bytes!

0000000000000000 <f>:

```
0:      31 c0
2:      48 85 ff
5:      74 08
7:      03 07
9:      48 8b 7f 08
d:      eb f3
f:      c3
```

```
xor     eax,eax
test    rdi,rdi
je      f <f+0xf>
add     eax,DWORD PTR [rdi]
mov     rdi,QWORD PTR [rdi+0x8]
jmp     2 <f+0x2>
ret
```

Here **clang** does better than the best **gcc** version. How is this possible? Well, the difference is the missing 4-byte **endbr64** instruction, but that will probably be *included* in future versions.



Mycroft on Intel

Let's go with the `gcc -O2` version and see if we can apply Mycroft's method.

```
0000000000000000 <f>:
  0:      f3 0f 1e fa
  4:      31 c0
  6:      48 85 ff
  9:      74 15
  b:      0f 1f 44 00 00
[rax+rax*1+0x0]
 10:      03 07
 12:      48 8b 7f 08
[rdi+0x8]
 16:      48 85 ff
 19:      75 f5
 1b:      c3
 1c:      0f 1f 40 00
 20:      c3
```

```
endbr64
xor     eax,eax
test    rdi,rdi
je      20 <f+0x20>
nop     DWORD PTR

add     eax,DWORD PTR [rdi]
mov     rdi,QWORD PTR

test    rdi,rdi
jne     10 <f+0x10>
ret

nop     DWORD PTR [rax+0x0]
ret
```



SSA

```
<f>:
  4: xor    eax,eax
  6: test   rdi,rdi
  9: je     20 <f+0x20>
  b: nop   DWORD PTR [rax+rax*1+0x0]
 10: add    eax,DWORD PTR [rdi]
 12: mov    rdi,QWORD PTR [rdi+0x8]
 16: test   rdi,rdi
 19: jne    10 <f+0x10>
 1b: ret
 1c: nop   DWORD PTR [rax+0x0]
 20: ret
```



SSA

```
<f>:
  4:  xor    eax,eax
  6:  test   rdi,rdi
  9:  je     20 <f+0x20>
  b:  nop    DWORD PTR [rax+rax*1+0x0]
 10:      add    eax,DWORD PTR [rdi]
 12:  mov    rdi,QWORD PTR [rdi+0x8]
 16:  test   rdi,rdi
 19:  jne    10 <f+0x10>
 1b:  ret
 1c:  nop    DWORD PTR [rax+0x0]
 20:      ret
```

Let's get rid of extraneous addresses.
Let's also get rid of the no-ops.



SSA

<f>:

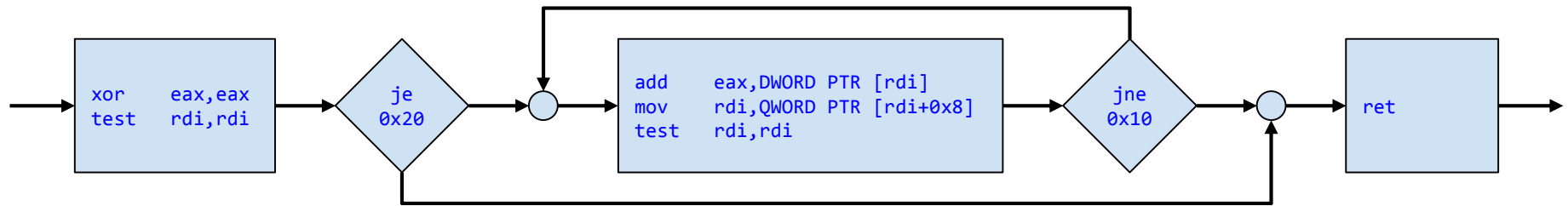
```
    xor    eax,eax
    test   rdi,rdi
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10:    add   eax,DWORD PTR [rdi]
    mov    rdi,QWORD PTR [rdi+0x8]
    test   rdi,rdi
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20:    ret
```

We don't need both returns.

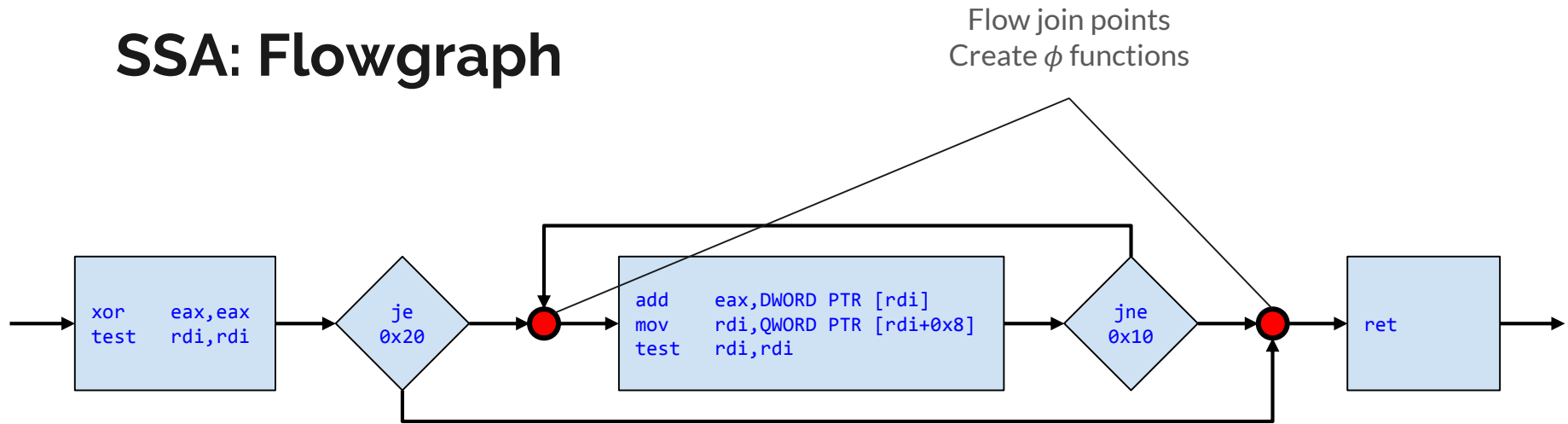
Note that none of these changes will impact the type analysis.

Now we need to consider the program flow.

SSA: Flowgraph

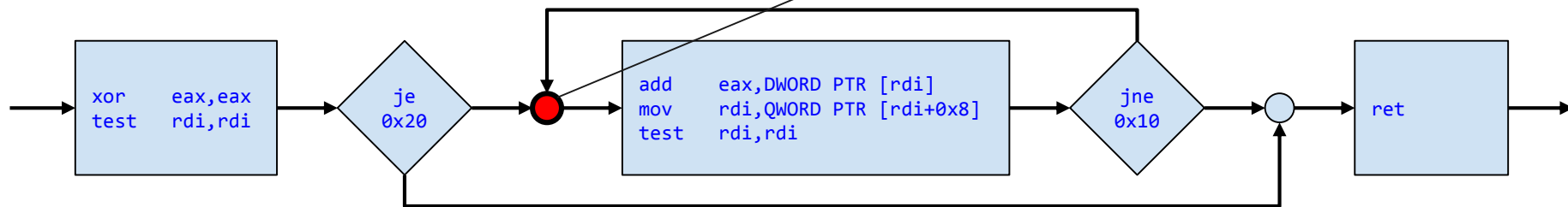


SSA: Flowgraph



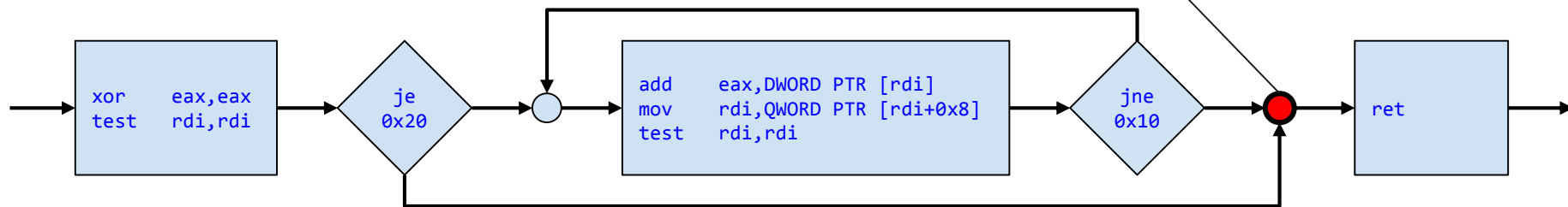
SSA: Flowgraph

Both `eax` and `rdi` are live here
 $\phi(eax_0, eax_1)$ and $\phi(rdi_0, rdi_1)$



SSA: Flowgraph

Only `eax` is live here, as the return value
 $\phi(eax_0, eax_1)$





SSA

<f>:

```
    xor    eax,eax
    test   rdi,rdi
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10:    add   eax,DWORD PTR [rdi]
    mov    rdi,QWORD PTR [rdi+0x8]
    test   rdi,rdi
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20:    ret
```

We can add the ϕ functions



SSA

<f>:

```
    xor    eax,eax
    test   rdi,rdi
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10:  mov    eax,  $\phi(eax_0, eax_1)$ 
    mov    rdi,  $\phi(rdi_0, rdi_1)$ 
        add    eax,DWORD PTR [rdi]
    mov     rdi,QWORD PTR [rdi+0x8]
    test   rdi,rdi
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20:  mov    eax,  $\phi(eax_0, eax_1)$ 
    ret
```



SSA

<f>:

```
    xor    eax,eax
    test   rdi,rdi
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10:  mov    eax,  $\phi(\text{eax}_0, \text{eax}_1)$ 
    mov    rdi,  $\phi(\text{rdi}_0, \text{rdi}_1)$ 
        add    eax,DWORD PTR [rdi]
    mov    rdi,QWORD PTR [rdi+0x8]
    test   rdi,rdi
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20:  mov    eax,  $\phi(\text{eax}_0, \text{eax}_1)$ 
    ret
```

Now let's convert this to SSA

Let's write **eax1** and **rdi1** for the initial values. Doing this helps avoid a mistake where we forget to convert something. We will only be done when *all* instances of **eax** and **rdi** have a numeric suffix.

Again, this is equivalent to building a trace table.

SSA

<f>:

```
    xor    eax, eax1
    test   rdi1, rdi1
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10:  mov    eax,  $\phi(\text{eax}_0, \text{eax}_1)$ 
    mov    rdi,  $\phi(\text{rdi1}, \text{rdi}_1)$ 
        add    eax, DWORD PTR [rdi]
    mov    rdi, QWORD PTR [rdi+0x8]
    test   rdi, rdi
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20:  mov    eax,  $\phi(\text{eax}_0, \text{eax}_1)$ 
    ret
```

Note **test** does not change the value.

We can replace **rdi₀** with **rdi1**, which arrives on the indicated path.

SSA

<f>:

```
xor    eax2,eax1
test   rdi1,rdi1
je     20 <f+0x20>
10:    mov    eax,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax1)
        mov    rdi,  $\phi$ (rdi1,rdi1)
        add    eax,DWORD PTR [rdi]
        mov    rdi,QWORD PTR [rdi+0x8]
        test   rdi,rdi
        jne    10 <f+0x10>
20:    mov    eax,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax1)
        ret
```

Continuing, the next value for `eax` is `eax2`.

We replace `eax0` with `eax2` which arrives along the indicated paths.



SSA

<f>:

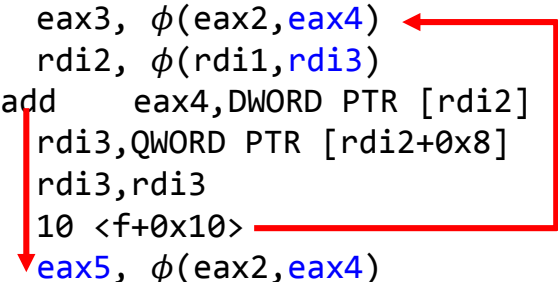
```
    xor    eax2,eax1
    test   rdi1,rdi1
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10:  mov    eax3,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax1)
    mov    rdi2,  $\phi$ (rdi1,rdi1)
        add    eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
    mov    rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
    test   rdi3,rdi3
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20:  mov    eax,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax1)
    ret
```

We continue...

SSA

<f>:

```
xor    eax2,eax1
test   rdi1,rdi1
je     20 <f+0x20>
10:    mov    eax3,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax4)
      mov    rdi2,  $\phi$ (rdi1,rdi3)
      add    eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
      mov    rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
      test   rdi3,rdi3
      jne    10 <f+0x10>
20:    mov     $\phi$ (eax2,eax4)
      ret
```



Now we need to consider the other arriving path at **0x20**. (And the backward branch to **0x10**.)

The only trick is to be sure you put the correct values in the ϕ functions. The order doesn't matter, but you need to show the correct values.



SSA

<f>:

```
    xor    eax2,eax1
    test   rdi1,rdi1
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10:  mov    eax3,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax4)
    mov    rdi2,  $\phi$ (rdi1,rdi3)
        add    eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
    mov    rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
    test   rdi3,rdi3
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20:  mov    eax5,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax4)
    ret
```

The program returns the value in `eax5`. The argument to the program is in `rdi` (or `rdi1`).

The function signature is:
`f: T(rdi1) -> T(eax5)`

(I'll use `T(x)` for the type of `x`, unlike Mycroft.)



SSA

<f>:

```
    xor    eax2,eax1
    test   rdi1,rdi1
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10:  mov    eax3,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax4)
    mov    rdi2,  $\phi$ (rdi1,rdi3)
        add    eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
    mov    rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
    test   rdi3,rdi3
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20:  mov    eax5,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax4)
    ret
```

Now let's apply the type constraints to the program.



Type Reconstruction

<f>:

int?

```
xor    eax2,eax1
test   rdi1,rdi1
je     20 <f+0x20>
10: mov    eax3, φ(eax2,eax4)
      mov    rdi2, φ(rdi1,rdi3)
      add    eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
      mov    rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
      test   rdi3,rdi3
      jne    10 <f+0x10>
20: mov    eax5, φ(eax2,eax4)
      ret
```

$T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax1}) =$

From Mycroft's constraints. Why not a pointer? Not enough bits.

Type Reconstruction

<f>:

```
    xor    eax2,eax1
int32_t | uint32_t
    test   rdi1,rdi1
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10: mov    eax3,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax4)
    mov    rdi2,  $\phi$ (rdi1,rdi3)
        add    eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
    mov    rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
    test   rdi3,rdi3
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20: mov    eax5,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax4)
    ret
```

$T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax1}) =$

Since `eax` is 32 bits, we might use an explicit 32-bit type.



Type Reconstruction

<f>:

```
        xor     eax2,eax1
int32_t | uint32_t
        test    rdi1,rdi1
        je      20 <f+0x20>
10:     mov     eax3,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax4)
        mov     rdi2,  $\phi$ (rdi1,rdi3)
        add     eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
        mov     rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
        test    rdi3,rdi3
        jne     10 <f+0x10>
20:     mov     eax5,  $\phi$ (eax2,eax4)
        ret
```

$T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax1}) =$

These types come from [stdint.h](#). You should always use these types. But signed or unsigned?

Type Reconstruction

<f>:

```
        xor    eax2,eax1
int32_t | uint32_t
        test   rdi1,rdi1
uint64_t | ptr(a)
        je     20 <f+0x20>
10:     mov     eax3, φ(eax2,eax4)
        mov     rdi2, φ(rdi1,rdi3)
        add     eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
        mov     rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
        test    rdi3,rdi3
        jne     10 <f+0x10>
20:     mov     eax5, φ(eax2,eax4)
        ret
```

$T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax1}) =$

$T(\text{rdi1}) = \text{int64_t} \mid$

It might be an integer, or it might be a pointer (because 64 bits is the right size). But a pointer to what? Call it *a* for now.

Type Reconstruction

<f>:

```
    xor    eax2,eax1
int32_t | uint32_t
    test   rdi1,rdi1
uint64_t | ptr(a)
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10: mov    eax3, φ(eax2,eax4)
    mov    rdi2, φ(rdi1,rdi3)
        add    eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
    mov    rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
    test   rdi3,rdi3
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20: mov    eax5, φ(eax2,eax4)
    ret
```

$T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax1}) =$

$T(\text{rdi1}) = \text{int64_t} \mid$

$T(\text{eax3}) = T(\text{eax2}) = \text{int32_t} \mid \text{uint32_t}$
 $T(\text{rdi2}) = T(\text{rdi1}) = \text{int64_t} \mid \text{ptr}(a)$

At this point we have an *invariant*.
The types could (potentially) differ for `eax` and `rdi` during the loop, but must converge at the top of the loop body.

Type Reconstruction

<f>:

```
        xor     eax2,eax1
int32_t | uint32_t
        test    rdi1,rdi1
uint64_t | ptr(a)
        je      20 <f+0x20>
10:     mov     eax3, φ(eax2,eax4)
        mov     rdi2, φ(rdi1,rdi3)
        add     eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
        mov     rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
        test    rdi3,rdi3
        jne     10 <f+0x10>
20:     mov     eax5, φ(eax2,eax4)
        ret
```

$T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax1}) =$

$T(\text{rdi1}) = \text{int64_t} \mid$

$T(\text{eax3}) = T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax4})$

$T(\text{rdi2}) = T(\text{rdi1}) = T(\text{rdi3})$

$T(\text{rdi2}) = \text{ptr}(T(\text{e$

$T(\text{rdi2}) = \text{ptr}(T(\text{rdi3})@8)$

Careful! All we really know is that `rdi2` “points to” something of type $T(\text{eax4})$ at offset 0, and something of type $T(\text{rdi3})$ at offset 8.

Type Reconstruction

<f>:

```
    xor    eax2,eax1
int32_t | uint32_t
    test   rdi1,rdi1
uint64_t | ptr(a)
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10: mov    eax3, φ(eax2,eax4)
    mov    rdi2, φ(rdi1,rdi3)
        add    eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
    mov    rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
    test   rdi3,rdi3
uint64_t | ptr(b)
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20: mov    eax5, φ(eax2,eax4)
    ret
```

$T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax1}) =$

$T(\text{rdi1}) = \text{int64_t} \mid$

$T(\text{eax3}) = T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax4})$

$T(\text{rdi2}) = T(\text{rdi1}) = T(\text{rdi3})$

$T(\text{rdi2}) = \text{ptr}(T(\text{eax4})@0)$

$T(\text{rdi2}) = \text{ptr}(T(\text{rdi3})@8)$

This could be a different type (not *a*), since *rdi* is changed. Better safe than sorry.

Type Reconstruction

<f>:

xor	eax2, eax1	T(eax2) = T(eax1) =
int32_t uint32_t		
test	rdi1, rdi1	T(rdi1) = int64_t
uint64_t ptr(a)		
je	20 <f+0x20>	
10:	mov eax3, ϕ (eax2, eax4)	T(eax3) = T(eax2) = T(eax4)
	mov rdi2, ϕ (rdi1, rdi3)	T(rdi2) = T(rdi1) = T(rdi3)
	add eax4, DWORD PTR [rdi2]	T(rdi2) = ptr(T(eax4)@0)
	mov rdi3, QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]	T(rdi2) = ptr(T(rdi3)@8)
	test rdi3, rdi3	T(rdi3) = int64_t
uint64_t ptr(b)		
jne	10 <f+0x10>	
20:	mov eax5, ϕ (eax2, eax4)	T(eax5) = T(eax2) = T(eax4)
	ret	



Type Reconstruction

We still can't tell if `eax` should be signed or unsigned;
let's just call it *signed*.

<f>:

<code>xor eax2,eax1</code>	<code>T(eax2) = T(eax1) =</code>
<code>int32_t</code>	
<code>test rdi1,rdi1</code>	<code>T(rdi1) = int64_t </code>
<code>uint64_t ptr(a)</code>	
<code>je 20 <f+0x20></code>	
<code>10: mov eax3, φ(eax2,eax4)</code>	<code>T(eax3) = T(eax2) = T(eax4)</code>
<code>mov rdi2, φ(rdi1,rdi3)</code>	<code>T(rdi2) = T(rdi1) = T(rdi3)</code>
<code>add eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]</code>	<code>T(rdi2) = ptr(T(eax4)@0)</code>
<code>mov rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]</code>	<code>T(rdi2) = ptr(T(rdi3)@8)</code>
<code>test rdi3,rdi3</code>	<code>T(rdi3) = int64_t </code>
<code>uint64_t ptr(b)</code>	
<code>jne 10 <f+0x10></code>	
<code>20: mov eax5, φ(eax2,eax4)</code>	<code>T(eax5) = T(eax2) = T(eax4)</code>
<code>ret</code>	

Type Reconstruction

Clearly `rdi2` is a pointer, and $T(\text{rdi1}) = T(\text{rdi2}) = T(\text{rdi3})$, so we can resolve that.

<f>:

<code>xor</code>	<code>eax2, eax1</code>	$T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax1}) =$
<code>int32_t</code>		
<code>test</code>	<code>rdi1, rdi1</code>	$T(\text{rdi1}) = \text{ptr}(a)$
<code>je</code>	<code>20 <f+0x20></code>	
<code>10: mov</code>	<code>eax3, $\phi(\text{eax2}, \text{eax4})$</code>	$T(\text{eax3}) = T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax4})$
<code>mov</code>	<code>rdi2, $\phi(\text{rdi1}, \text{rdi3})$</code>	$T(\text{rdi2}) = T(\text{rdi1}) = T(\text{rdi3})$
<code>add</code>	<code>eax4, DWORD PTR [rdi2]</code>	$T(\text{rdi2}) = \text{ptr}(T(\text{eax4})@0)$
<code>mov</code>	<code>rdi3, QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]</code>	$T(\text{rdi2}) = \text{ptr}(T(\text{rdi3})@8)$
<code>test</code>	<code>rdi3, rdi3</code>	$T(\text{rdi3}) = \text{ptr}(b)$
<code>jne</code>	<code>10 <f+0x10></code>	
<code>20: mov</code>	<code>eax5, $\phi(\text{eax2}, \text{eax4})$</code>	$T(\text{eax5}) = T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax4})$
<code>ret</code>		

Let's flow these updates through.

Type Reconstruction

<f>:

<code>xor</code>	<code>eax2, eax1</code>	$T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax1}) =$
<code>int32_t</code>		
<code>test</code>	<code>rdi1, rdi1</code>	$T(\text{rdi1}) = \text{ptr}(a)$
<code>je</code>	<code>20 <f+0x20></code>	
<code>10: mov</code>	<code>eax3, $\phi(\text{eax2}, \text{eax4})$</code>	$T(\text{eax3}) = T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax4}) =$
<code>int32_t</code>		
<code>mov</code>	<code>rdi2, $\phi(\text{rdi1}, \text{rdi3})$</code>	$T(\text{rdi2}) = T(\text{rdi1}) = T(\text{rdi3}) =$
<code>ptr(a)</code>		
<code>add</code>	<code>eax4, DWORD PTR [rdi2]</code>	$T(\text{rdi2}) = \text{ptr}(T(\text{eax4})@0)$
<code>mov</code>	<code>rdi3, QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]</code>	$T(\text{rdi2}) = \text{ptr}(T(\text{rdi3})@8)$
<code>test</code>	<code>rdi3, rdi3</code>	$T(\text{rdi3}) = \text{ptr}(b)$
<code>jne</code>	<code>10 <f+0x10></code>	
<code>20: mov</code>	<code>eax5, $\phi(\text{eax2}, \text{eax4})$</code>	$T(\text{eax5}) = T(\text{eax2}) = T(\text{eax4}) =$
<code>int32_t</code>		



Type Reconstruction

Let's flow these updates through. We note that we end up with $a = b$.

<f>:

<code>xor</code>	<code>eax2, eax1</code>	$T(eax2) = T(eax1) =$
<code>int32_t</code>		
<code>test</code>	<code>rdi1, rdi1</code>	$T(rdi1) = ptr(a)$
<code>je</code>	<code>20 <f+0x20></code>	
<code>10:</code>	<code>mov</code> <code>eax3, $\phi(eax2, eax4)$</code>	$T(eax3) = T(eax2) = T(eax4) =$
<code>int32_t</code>		
<code>mov</code>	<code>rdi2, $\phi(rdi1, rdi3)$</code>	$T(rdi2) = T(rdi1) = T(rdi3) =$
<code>ptr(a)</code>		
<code>add</code>	<code>eax4, DWORD PTR [rdi2]</code>	$T(rdi2) = ptr(T(eax4)@0)$
<code>mov</code>	<code>rdi3, QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]</code>	$T(rdi2) = ptr(T(rdi3)@8)$
<code>test</code>	<code>rdi3, rdi3</code>	$T(rdi3) = ptr(a)$
<code>jne</code>	<code>10 <f+0x10></code>	
<code>20:</code>	<code>mov</code> <code>eax5, $\phi(eax2, eax4)$</code>	$T(eax5) = T(eax2) = T(eax4) =$
<code>int32_t</code>		

Type Reconstruction

<f>:

```
    xor    eax2,eax1
int32_t
    test   rdi1,rdi1
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10: mov    eax3, φ(eax2,eax4)
int32_t
    mov    rdi2, φ(rdi1,rdi3)
ptr(a)
    add    eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
    mov    rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
    test   rdi3,rdi3
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20: mov    eax5, φ(eax2,eax4)
int32_t
```

We know $T(rdi3) = T(rdi2) = \text{ptr}(T(rdi3)@8)$, so we are going to *fail occurs check*. The solution is:

```
T(rdi2) = ptr({T(eax4)@0;T(rdi3)@8})
         = ptr({uint_32,ptr(a)})
         = ptr(struct X)
```

```
struct X { uint_32; struct X *; }
```

$T(eax2) = T(eax1) =$

$T(rdi1) = \text{ptr}(a)$

$T(eax3) = T(eax2) = T(eax4) =$

$T(rdi2) = T(rdi1) = T(rdi3) =$

$T(rdi2) = \text{ptr}(\text{uint_32 } @0)$

$T(rdi2) = \text{ptr}(\text{ptr}(a) @8)$

$T(rdi3) = \text{ptr}(a)$

$T(eax5) = T(eax2) = T(eax4) =$

Let's make it more C-like, now that we have a structure.

Type Reconstruction

<f>:

xor eax2,eax1

T(eax2) = T(eax1) =

int32_t

test rdi1,rdi1

T(rdi1) = struct X *

je 20 <f+0x20>

10: mov eax3, ϕ (eax2,eax4)

T(eax3) = T(eax2) = T(eax4) =

int32_t

mov rdi2, ϕ (rdi1,rdi3)

T(rdi2) = T(rdi1) = T(rdi3) =

struct X *

add eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]

T(rdi2) = ptr(uint_32 @0)

mov rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]

T(rdi2) = ptr(struct X * @8)

test rdi3,rdi3

T(rdi3) = struct X *

jne 10 <f+0x10>

20: mov eax5, ϕ (eax2,eax4)

T(eax5) = T(eax2) = T(eax4) =

int32_t

Type Reconstruction

<f>:

```
    xor    eax2,eax1
int32_t
    test   rdi1,rdi1
    je     20 <f+0x20>
10: mov    eax3, φ(eax2,eax4)
int32_t
    mov    rdi2, φ(rdi1,rdi3)
struct X *
    add    eax4,DWORD PTR [rdi2]
    mov    rdi3,QWORD PTR [rdi2+0x8]
    test   rdi3,rdi3
    jne    10 <f+0x10>
20: mov    eax5, φ(eax2,eax4)
int32_t
```

Finally, let's figure out the function signature. The only argument is `rdi`, and we have `T(rdi1) = struct X *`. The return value is `rax`, and we have `T(rax) = int32_t`.

`f: T(rdi1) -> T(eax5)` is now:
`int32_t f(struct X *x)`

`T(eax2) = T(eax1) =`

`T(rdi1) = struct X *`

`T(eax3) = T(eax2) = T(eax4) =`

`T(rdi2) = T(rdi1) = T(rdi3) =`

`T(rdi2) = ptr(uint_32 @0)`

`T(rdi2) = ptr(struct X * @8)`

`T(rdi3) = struct X *`

`T(eax5) = T(eax2) = T(eax4) =`

Single Static Assignment (SSA)



Undoing Register Coloring

Register coloring is part of the process of mapping the resources needed for an algorithm to the resources available on an actual physical processor.

This is an essential process for compilation, but it can complicate analysis of a binary program.

Given an unknown program, we *don't know* what the original variables were, and so we don't know how to map registers back to variables. A very useful approximation is to just *assume every new value could be a new variable*. This is especially important when you don't have type information, so a register might hold an integer in one place, and a pointer to an integer in another.



Example

At right is a (part of) a function to compute the address of an object in a packed data structure. This function is part of a larger graphics rendering package. It might be called millions of times to perform a rendering.

Recall that the arguments are `rdi`, `rsi`, `rdx`, and the return value is `rax`.

```
0000000000000000 <compute_offset>:
    0:    0f b7 c6      movzx  eax,si
    3:    f7 ea      imul   edx
    5:    48 8d 04 07  lea     rax,[rdi+rax*1]
    9:    c3          ret
```



Example

Let's try to analyze this without SSA. What is `rax`?

We end up with something like the following.

`T(rax) = ptr(a)`

But the first line shows that `T(rax)` is unlikely to be a pointer (only 16 bits).

It could be an offset and `rdi` could be an address, or the other way around. Which is right?

```
<compute_offset>:
movzx  eax,si                0:si ->
eax
imul    edx                  eax *
edx -> eax
lea     rax,[rdi+rax*1]      rdi+rax -> rax
ret
```



Example

Let's put it in SSA form.

To simplify life the registers are normalized and the width indicated with a slash.

Multiplication is expanded to show the registers involved: destination, source, source.

Let's analyze it now.

```
<compute_offset>:  
movzx  rax1/d, rsi1/w  
imul   rax2/d, rax1/d, rdx1/d  
lea    rax3,[rdi1+rax2*1]  
ret
```



Example

```
<compute_offset>:
```

```
movzx  rax1/d, rsi1/w
```

```
imul   rax2/d, rax1/d, rdx1/d
```

```
lea    rax3,[rdi1+rax2*1]
```

```
ptr(a)
```

```
ret
```

```
T(rax1) = uint16_t
```

```
T(rax2) = int32_t | uint32_t
```

```
T(rax3) = int64_t | uint64_t |
```

On the first line `rax` is a 16-bit integer. On the second line the multiplication expands it to a 32-bit integer. On the third line it is potentially a pointer, depending on the type of `rdi`.



Example

```
<compute_offset>:
```

```
movzx  rax1/d, rsi1/w
```

```
imul   rax2/d, rax1/d, rdx1/d
```

```
lea     rax3,[rdi1+rax2*1]
```

```
ptr(a)
```

```
ret
```

```
T(rax1) = uint16_t
```

```
T(rax2) = int32_t | uint32_t
```

```
T(rax3) = int64_t | uint64_t |
```

SSA exposes these different values and let's us talk about the fact that the type of `rax` on line 3 is likely different from the type of `rax` on line 1.

In fact, `rdi` holds a base pointer, `rsi` holds a 16-bit object width (up to 64KiB), and `rdx` holds the object number. This code computes the address of (a pointer to) the correct object in a packed array and returns it (via `rax`).

**Last Homework:
Due April 30, 2020**



Finalize your structuring code

Make sure you have done as much reduction as you can.



Output

Write out the address of a structure, followed by the structure.

```
0x15fef:
if
    0x00000000000015fef: sub edi, 1
    0x00000000000015ff2: jne 0x15fe0
then
    if
        0x00000000000015fe0: mov rax, rdx
        0x00000000000015fe3: mul rsi
        0x00000000000015fe6: jo 0x1620c
    then
        0x0000000000001620c: mov r8d, 1
        0x00000000000016212: or rdx, 0xffffffffffffffff
        0x00000000000016216: jmp 0x15fef
        L := 0x15fef
    else
        0x00000000000015fec: mov rdx, rax
        L := 0x15fef
    fi
else
    0x00000000000015ff4: or r12d, r8d
    0x00000000000015ff7: jmp 0x160b0
    L := 0x160b0
fi
```



Output

Write out the address of a structure, followed by the structure.

If all branches end with the same label setting, factor it out.

This creates a new sequence.

```
0x15fef:
if
    0x00000000000015fef: sub edi, 1
    0x00000000000015ff2: jne 0x15fe0
then
    if
        0x00000000000015fe0: mov rax, rdx
        0x00000000000015fe3: mul rsi
        0x00000000000015fe6: jo 0x1620c
    then
        0x0000000000001620c: mov r8d, 1
        0x00000000000016212: or rdx, 0xffffffffffffffff
        0x00000000000016216: jmp 0x15fef
    else
        0x00000000000015fec: mov rdx, rax
    fi
    L := 0x15fef
else
    0x00000000000015ff4: or r12d, r8d
    0x00000000000015ff7: jmp 0x160b0
    L := 0x160b0
fi
```



Output

This is a simple self-loop.

If you find one of these it is easy to convert to a loop.

0x15fef:

if

0x00000000000015fef: sub edi, 1

0x00000000000015ff2: jne 0x15fe0

then

if

0x00000000000015fe0: mov rax, rdx

0x00000000000015fe3: mul rsi

0x00000000000015fe6: jo 0x1620c

then

0x0000000000001620c: mov r8d, 1

0x00000000000016212: or rdx, 0xffffffffffffffff

0x00000000000016216: jmp 0x15fef

else

0x00000000000015fec: mov rdx, rax

fi

L := 0x15fef

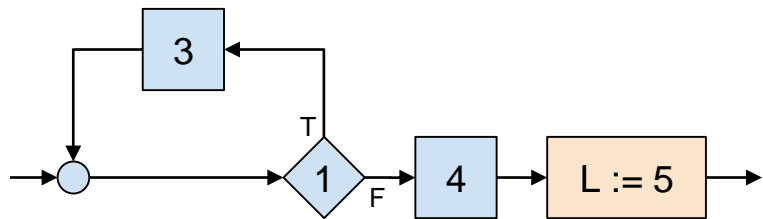
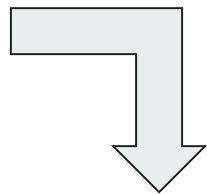
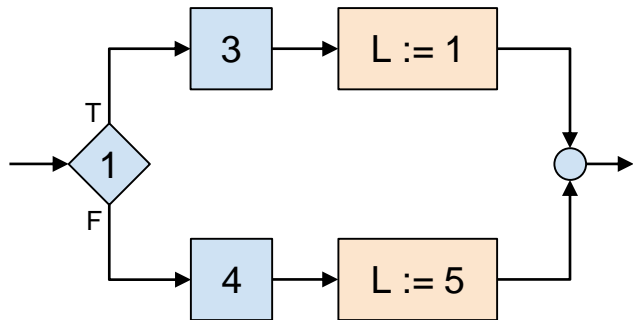
else

0x00000000000015ff4: or r12d, r8d

0x00000000000015ff7: jmp 0x160b0

L := 0x160b0

fi





Output

This is a simple self-loop.

If you find one of these it is easy to convert to a loop.

(Don't need to do this.)

```
0x15fef:
while
    0x00000000000015fef: sub edi, 1
    0x00000000000015ff2: jne 0x15fe0
do
    if
        0x00000000000015fe0: mov rax, rdx
        0x00000000000015fe3: mul rsi
        0x00000000000015fe6: jo 0x1620c
    then
        0x0000000000001620c: mov r8d, 1
        0x00000000000016212: or rdx, 0xffffffffffffffff
        0x00000000000016216: jmp 0x15fef
    else
        0x00000000000015fec: mov rdx, rax
    fi
end
0x00000000000015ff4: or r12d, r8d
0x00000000000015ff7: jmp 0x160b0
L := 0x160b0
```




Output

What you *do* need to do is, once you have done as much reduction as you can, write out the result as a graph.

Use GML (<https://www.graphviz.org/>) to create a digraph.

Nodes are the addresses of your structures, and the edges are the remaining references.

```
digraph "/usr/bin/ls" {  
    "0x15fef" -> "0x15fef"  
    "0x15fef" -> "0x160b0"  
    ...  
}
```

**Next time:
Satisfiability Modulo Theories
(SMT)**