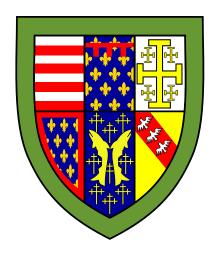
# Queens' College Cambridge

# **Optimizing Compilers**



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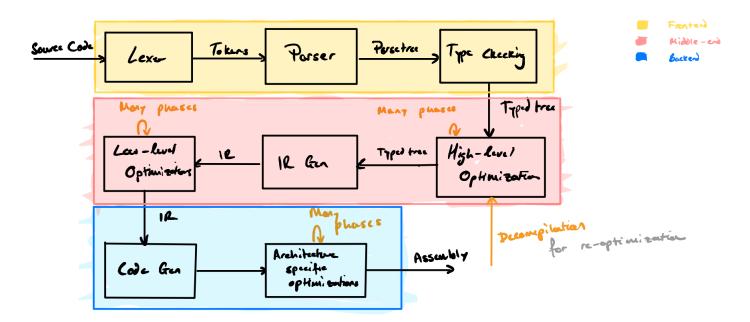
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# 1 Overview

• Compiler Pipeline:



- Optimization = Analysis + Transformation

  Analysis finds some property which justifies the safety of the transformation.
- Goal: Programmers write simple, maintainable, portable code. Compiler specializes code for machine, making it faster, etc.
- Phase Ordering: Determining order of optimization phases is difficult. Some optimizations work well with others (e.g. CSE + Copy Propagation), others don't (requiring multiple runs).

# 2 High-Level Optimizations

• High-level optimizations are performed on the *syntax tree* (often used in functional languages).

**Definition 2.0.1.** (STLC  $\lambda^{\rightarrow}$ ) The syntax of the simply-typed lambda calculus  $\lambda^{\rightarrow}$  is given by:

$$e := x \mid e \mid e \mid \lambda x.e$$
 (Classical  $\lambda$  calculus)  
 $\mid \rho \mid c$  (Primitives and constants)  
 $\mid \text{let } x = e \text{ in } e$  (Let bindings)  
 $\mid \text{if } e \text{ then } e \text{ else } e$  (Control flow)

- Many high-level optimizations are based on the analysis of the simply-typed lambda calculus.
- Peephole optimizations are simple syntactic rewriting rules e.g.

$$\begin{array}{l} e+0 \leadsto e \\ (e+m)+n \leadsto e+(m+n) \\ \text{let } x=e \text{ in if } e' \text{ then } C[x] \text{ else } e'' \\ \qquad \leadsto \text{if } e' \text{ then let } x=e \text{ in } C[x] \text{ else } e'' \quad \text{(for lazy/pure language)} \end{array}$$

Safety of these transformations is determined by contextual equivalence (See IB Semantics).

• Strength Reduction:

Idea: replace expensive operations with cheaper ones e.g.

$$x * 2 \leadsto x + x$$
$$x/2 \leadsto x \gg 1$$

This form of rewriting is very effective within *loops*.

Algorithm (for loops):

- 1. Find the induction variables i, j s.t  $i := i \oplus e$  (updated by loop), where  $i, j \notin \mathsf{fv}(e)$ . Find j s.t  $j := e_2 \oplus e_1 \otimes i$  (used within loop),  $i, j \notin \mathsf{fv}(e_1, e_2)$ .
- 2. Assuming distributivity between  $\oplus$ ,  $\otimes$ :  $x \otimes (y \oplus z) = (x \otimes y) \oplus (x \otimes z)$ . Move the assignment to the loop entry:  $j := e_2 \oplus e_1 \otimes i$  and add end-of-loop assignment  $j := j \oplus (e_2 \oplus e)$ .

Distributivity ensures *safety* of the transformation.

For example:

```
int *v = ...;
for (i = 0; i < 100; i++)
  v[i] = 0; // *(v + i * sizeof(int)) = 0</pre>
```

The induction variable i is i and j is the expression v + i \* sizeof(int). So it is rewritten to:

```
int *v = ...;
for (int *p = v; p < v + 100; p++)
 *p = 0;</pre>
```

**Problem**: Obfuscates the code (and it's intent)  $\implies$  decompilation is harder.

### 2.1 Abstract Interpretation

- **Problem**: Dynamic behavior is infeasible to determine statically (non-termination, etc).
- **Solution**: Execute a *simplified* version of the computation w/ safety property for P:

P holds in abstract domain  $\implies P$  holds in concrete domain

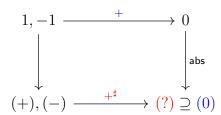
**Definition 2.1.1.** (Abstract Interpretation) Let  $D, D^{\sharp}$  be two arbitrary domains, denoting the *concrete* and *abstract* domains respectively. Let abs:  $D \to D^{\sharp}$  be the abstraction function.

For a syntax  $M \in \mathbb{T}$ , the concrete and abstract semantics are denoted  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket$ :  $\mathbb{T} \to D$  and  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^{\sharp} : \mathbb{T} \to D^{\sharp}$ . The abstract interpretation of a term  $M \in \mathbb{T}$  is given by  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^{\sharp} \in D^{\sharp}$ , with the safety property:

$$\mathsf{abs}(\llbracket M \rrbracket) \sqsubseteq \llbracket M \rrbracket^\sharp$$

- Intuitively, safety property implies abstract interpretation is an overapproximation of the concrete abstraction.
- Example: Addition on integers.  $D = \mathbb{Z}$ .  $D^{\sharp} = \{(+), (-), (0), (?)\}$ . Abstract interpretation:

Safety property requires that  $d \in D^{\sharp}.d \sqsubseteq (?)$ .



• Example: Liveness analysis. Live sets are abstract values. Control flow is overapproximated in abstract domain.

### 2.1.1 Strictness Analysis

- Idea : Have a call-by-name language, want to determine parameters that can be passed by value.
  - Call-by-value is **more efficient** (avoids constructing thunks, which are allocated on the heap).

**Definition 2.1.2.** (Strictness) A function  $f: D_{\perp}^n \to D_{\perp}$  is *strict* in  $x_i$  (*i*th parameter) iff

$$\forall (d_j)_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \in D_{\perp}.f(d_1,\ldots,d_{i-1},\perp,d_{i+1},\ldots,d_n) = \perp$$

• Language is defined by the grammar:

$$p ::= \overline{F(x_1 : \tau_1, \dots, x_n : \tau_n) : \tau = e}$$
 (Program)  

$$e ::= x_i \mid \rho(e_1, \dots, e_n) \mid F(e_1, \dots, e_n)$$
 (Expressions)  

$$\tau ::= \dots$$
 (Types)

p is a program, a sequence of mutually-recursive first-order functions. Operationally, a function F is strict in  $x_i$  iff for all  $e_1, \ldots, e_n \in \Lambda$ 

$$e_i$$
 diverges  $\Longrightarrow F(e_1,\ldots,e_n)$  diverges

#### • Abstract Interpretation:

Domain  $D \supseteq \{\bot\}$  (Domain must be flat). Abstract Domain  $D^{\sharp} = \mathbf{2} = \{0, 1\}$ . 0 = definitely diverges, 1 = may/-may not diverge (possible termination).

Abstract interpretation defines the interpretations for the primitives  $\rho^{\sharp}: \mathbf{2}^n \to \mathbf{2}$  satisfying the property:

$$\rho^{\sharp}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$$

$$\iff \forall (d_i)_{i>0} \in D. (\forall 1 \le i \le n. x_i = 0 \implies d_i = \bot) \implies \rho(d_1, \dots, d_n) = \bot$$

For example:

$$\mathsf{if}^{\sharp}(b, x, y) = b \land (x \lor y)$$
$$\mathsf{eq}^{\sharp}(x, y) = x \land y$$

**Negation cannot occur** in boolean expressions since it would equate to:  $\neg x$  terminates  $\iff x$  doesn't terminate (Halting problem).

• Interpretation of (user-defined) functions F is  $F^{\sharp}: \mathbf{2}^{n} \to \mathbf{2}$  satisfying:

$$F^{\sharp}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$$

$$\Longrightarrow \forall (d_i)_{i>0} \in D. (\forall 1 \le i \le n. x_i = 0 \implies d_i = \bot) \implies F(d_1, \dots, d_n) = \bot$$

Note difference between  $\rho$  ( $\iff$ ) and weaker F ( $\implies$ ).

• Solutions for abstract interpretations of a program p, written  $[\![p]\!]$  or  $F^{\sharp}$ , computing using least fixed point:

```
(* Over-approximation, everything initially diverges *) for i = 1 to n do F^{\sharp}.(i) \leftarrow \lambda_{-}.0 done; while (F^{\sharp} changes) do for i = 1 to n do (* Update strictness function, substituting F^{\sharp}.(i) for F_{i} *) F^{\sharp}.(i) \leftarrow \lambda \mathbf{x}.e_{i}^{\sharp} done done
```

• Safety property:

$$F^{\sharp}(1,1,\ldots,1,\underbrace{0}_{i\text{th parameter}},1\ldots,1)=0 \implies F \text{ is strict in } x_i$$

# 2.2 Constraint-Based Analysis

- **Problem**: Constraint-based analysis is a framework for solving complex abstract interpretation problems often problems that often require some form of oracle to formalize (e.g. control-flow analysis).
- **Idea**: Define a mapping  $[\cdot : \cdot]$ :  $e \times \alpha \mapsto C_{\tau}$ , then solve the constraint  $C_{\tau}$  to obtain the abstract value of type  $\tau$ .

Abstract interpretation is given by:  $\llbracket e \rrbracket^{\sharp} = \mathsf{solve}(\exists \alpha. \llbracket e : \alpha \rrbracket) \gg \mathsf{decode} \ \alpha).$ 

**Definition 2.2.1.** (Constraints with a Value) The syntax of constraints with a value (or  $\tau$ -constraints) is defined as:

$$C ::= \top \mid \bot \mid C \land C \mid \exists \alpha. C$$
 (First-order Logic) 
$$\mid \text{let } \overline{x = \lambda \overline{\alpha}. C} \text{ in } C \mid x \ \overline{\alpha}$$
 (Constraint Abstractions) 
$$\mid A$$
 (Atomic Constraints) 
$$\mid \text{map } C f \mid \text{decode } \alpha$$
 (Value operators)

We write  $C_{\tau}$  for a constraint of type  $\tau$ .

• An  $\tau$ -constraint C evaluates to a value of type  $\tau$  if C is satisfiable. See Dissertation for Semantics.

### 2.2.1 Oth-order Control Flow Analysis

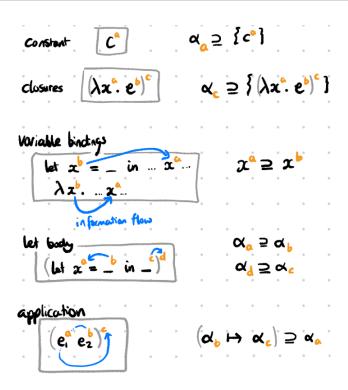
- Idea: Each expression e is associated with a (flow) variable α, the set of values (λ-functions) that e could evaluate to (or "flow" from).
   Flow sets can be used to determine set of functions that could be applied ⇒ control flow analysis for first-class functions / virtual methods (dynamic dispatch).
- Atomic constraints  $A := \alpha \subseteq \alpha \mid \alpha \subseteq \alpha \mapsto \alpha \mid \{\lambda x.e : \alpha \mapsto \alpha\} \in \alpha$ .
- Constraint bindings are of the form (w/syntactic sugar def):

$$\operatorname{def} x : \alpha_x \text{ in } C \triangleq \operatorname{let} x = \lambda \alpha . \alpha_x \subseteq \alpha \text{ in } C$$

Semantically  $x \alpha$  is equivalent to  $\alpha_x \subseteq \alpha$ .

**Definition 2.2.2.** (Constraint generation) We have the following constraint generation rules for 0th-order CFA (without value construction):

The constraint generation mapping is explained via notions of "information flow":



- Constraint solving is performed iteratively (solving the least fixed point):
  - 1. Solving  $\alpha_1 \subseteq \alpha_2$ : Add all values in  $\alpha_1$  to  $\alpha_2$ .
  - 2. Solving  $\alpha_1 \subseteq \alpha_2 \mapsto \alpha_3$ : For each value  $\lambda x.e : \alpha_4 \mapsto \alpha_5 \in \alpha_1$ , solve  $\alpha_2 \subseteq \alpha_4$  and  $\alpha_5 \subseteq \alpha_3$ . (*Think subtyping*).
- Safety property:

 $\llbracket e \rrbracket^{\sharp} = \text{solved flowset } \alpha \supseteq \text{set of values } e \text{ could evaluate to} = \llbracket e \rrbracket$ 

- **Problem**: Analysis is imprecise. Function's flow variable are shared between all sites (*monovariant*):
- Solutions:
  - 1st-order CFA is *polyvariant* 1 variable per call site.
  - polymorphic analysis 1 flow variable per type.

### 2.2.2 Andersen's Point-to Analysis

- **Problem**: Find a more precise set of variables that a point could alias. Assumption: "all addresses are taken" with pointer in LVA and Avail is weak.
- Other uses:
  - Safe parallelization
  - Improvement of data-flow analysis (LVA, Avail)
- Solution: Define a *points to* relation for each variable the set of location/variables that each variable aliases.
- Andersen's Analysis:
  - Simplified/imprecise
  - Intra-procedural (1 pt relation per procedure, as opposed to per statement).
  - Control-flow insensitive
  - No pointer arithmetic / function pointers
  - Conflates struct fields e.g. x.f = e and x.g = e are treated the same, equivalent to x = e.
- Pointer operations are of the form:

$$x := \mathsf{new}_\ell$$
 (Malloc)  
 $x := \mathsf{null}$  (Null)  
 $x := \& y$  (Address of)  
 $x := y$  (Alias)  
 $x := *y$  (Field access)  
 $*x := y$  (Field mutation)

• Abstract values:  $V = \{x : x \in \mathsf{vars}\} \cup \{\mathsf{new}_\ell : \ell \in \mathsf{locs}\} \cup \{\mathsf{null}\}.$  Point-to relation is a function  $pt : \mathsf{vars} \to V$ .

#### • Atomic Constraints:

$$A ::= pt(x) \subseteq pt(x) \mid \{v\} \subseteq pt(x) \mid pt(x) \subseteq pt(*x) \mid pt(*x) \subseteq pt(x).$$

Interpretation of  $pt(x) \subseteq pt(*y)$  is semantically equivalent to  $\forall z \in pt(y).pt(x) \subseteq pt(z)$  (vice versa for  $pt(*x) \subseteq pt(y)$ )

**Definition 2.2.3.** (Constraint generation) We have the following constraint generation rules for Andersen's analysis:

- $\alpha$  is omitted from constraint gen. since existentials + binders are not required for the WHILE language.
- Constraint solving is performed in the same way as 0CFA.
- Time complexity:  $O(n^3)$ .
- Other Approaches:
  - Steengaard's Algorithm Merges the abstract values of a and b is any pointer can reference both. Less precise than Andersen's, but approximately linear time complexity!
  - Shape Analysis Models an abstract heap, with nodes and may / must point to edges between notes. Very precise! But abstract heap becomes very large in practice.

# 2.3 Inference-Based Analysis

• Idea: Define inductive judgements  $\Gamma \vdash e : \phi$ , read as: e has the property  $\phi$  in the context  $\Gamma$ .

**Definition 2.3.1.** (Inference-Based Analysis) An inference-based analysis of a property  $\Phi$  consists of an inductive relation  $\Gamma \vdash e : \phi \in \Phi$ , with a safety property:

$$\Gamma \vdash e : \phi \implies \llbracket e \rrbracket \in \llbracket \phi \rrbracket$$

where e is the value of e and  $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket$  is the set of values with property  $\phi \in \Phi$ .

• For  $\lambda^{\rightarrow}$ , they often take the form:

$$\frac{x:\phi\in\Gamma}{\Gamma\vdash x:\phi}$$
 
$$\frac{\Gamma,x:\phi_1\vdash e:\phi_2}{\Gamma\vdash \lambda x.e:\phi_1\to\phi_2}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \phi_1 \to \phi_2 \qquad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \phi_1}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 \ e_2 : \phi_2}$$

- Examples: Type systems, odd-even analysis, effect systems.
- They are another form of abstract interpretation (and can easily be related to constraint-based analysis using judgements of the form  $C \vdash e : \phi$  read as: under satisfiable assumptions C, e has the property  $\phi$ ).

### 2.3.1 Effect Systems

• Idea: Tracking side-effects (e.g. mutable state, IO, etc) using inference-based analysis.

**Definition 2.3.2.**  $(\lambda_{IO}^{\rightarrow})$  The simply typed lambda calculus with IO  $\lambda_{IO}^{\rightarrow}$  extends  $\lambda^{\rightarrow}$  with following IO operations:

$$e ::= \dots \mid \text{with } x \leftarrow \xi \text{ in } e \mid e \rightarrow \xi; e$$

where:

- with  $x \leftarrow \xi$  in e reads the contents of channel  $\xi$  into x, binding it in e.

- $-e_1 \rightarrow \xi; e_2$  writes the value of  $e_1$  into channel  $\xi$ , then evaluating the expression  $e_2$ , sequentially.
- Effects for an  $\lambda_{\text{IO}}^{\rightarrow}$  expression are a set of read-write effects to various channels:

$$F \subseteq \{W_{\xi}, R_{\xi} : \xi \in \Xi\}$$

• Types for  $\lambda_{IO}^{\rightarrow}$  are as usual, with the addition of *latent effects* to the function type:

$$\tau ::= \mathsf{int} \mid \tau \xrightarrow{F} \tau$$

• Inference rules, with *effect subtyping* (required for branches, etc):

$$\frac{x:\tau\in\Gamma}{\Gamma\vdash x:\tau\&\emptyset} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma,x:\tau_1\vdash e:\tau_2\&F}{\Gamma\vdash \lambda x.e:\tau_1\xrightarrow{F}\tau_2}$$
 
$$\frac{\Gamma\vdash e_1:\tau_1\xrightarrow{F}\tau_2\&F_1}{\Gamma\vdash e_1\:e_2:\tau_2\&F_1} \qquad \Gamma\vdash e_2:\tau_1\&F_2$$
 
$$\frac{\Gamma\vdash e:\tau_1\xrightarrow{F_1}\tau_2\&F_0}{\Gamma\vdash e:\tau_1\xrightarrow{F_2}\tau_2\&F_0}$$
 
$$\frac{\Gamma\vdash e:\tau_1\xrightarrow{F_2}\tau_2\&F_0}{\Gamma\vdash e:\tau_1\xrightarrow{F_2}\tau_2\&F_0}$$

• Safety property:

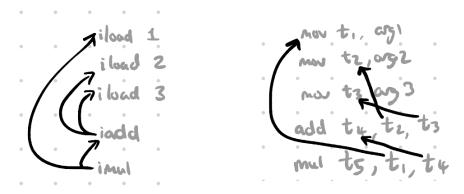
$$\vdash e : \tau \& F \implies \exists v \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket, f \subseteq F.(v, f) \in \llbracket e \rrbracket$$

- Additional structures may enrich the effect system:
  - Effects cannot be permuted (a list, instead of a set).
  - Additional combinators on effects for branching. e.g.  $F_1 \& (F_2 \mid F_3) = \text{effects of } F_1 \text{ and the effects of } F_2 \text{ or } F_3.$ See IA semantics supervision work.

# 3 Low-Level Optimizations

# 3.1 Intermediate Representations

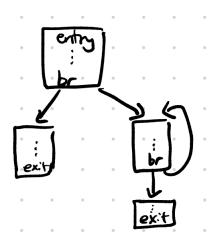
- Problem: Need a low-level IR representation of the program.
- Stack machines: Stack machine instructions are a poor representation:
  - Data flow is hard to analyze (as dependencies are implicit through the stack).
  - Rewriting is difficult to prove.
- **3-Address Code**: 3-address codes are much easier to reorder and perform analysis on them.
  - Instructions have explicit arguments, used to model data dependencies.
  - Not limited by hardware restrictions. e.g. unlimited registers.



**Definition 3.1.1.** (3-Address Code) The 3-address code consists of the following instructions  $(i \in \mathcal{I})$ :

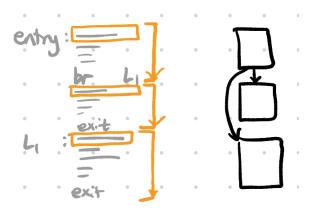
Alistair O'Brien		Optimizing Compilers
Operator	RISC-V Instruction	Effect
Load	lt rd, x(rs1)	rf[rd] = data[rf[rs1] + x]
Store	st rs1, $x(rs2)$	data[rf[rs2] + x] = rf[rs1]
Load Reserved	$ m lr. \it t$ rd, rs1	<pre>rd[rd] = data[rf[rs1]] and places a "reservation" on address rf[rs1].</pre>
Store Conditional	sc.t rd, rs1, rs2	<pre>data[rf[rs2]] = rf[rs1]. rf[rd] = 1</pre>
Shift Left	sll, slli	<<
Shift Right	srl, srli	>>
Shift Right Arithmetic	sra, srai	>> but uses sign bit (instead of 0)
Bitwise-And	and, andi	&
Bitwise-Or	or, ori	
Bitwise-Xor	xor, xori	^
Add	add, addi	+
Subtract	sub, subi	-
Equal	beq rs1, rs2, o	if (rs1 == rs2) PC += o;
Not Equal	bne rs1, rs2, o	if (rs1 != rs2) PC += o;
Less Than	blt rs1, rs2, o	if (rs1 < rs2) PC += o;
Greater Than or Equal	bge rs1, rs2, o	if (rs1 >= rs2) PC += o;
Less Than (Unsigned)	bltu rs1, rs2, o	<pre>if ((unsigned)rs1 &lt; (unsigned)rs2) PC += o;</pre>
Greater Than or Equal (Unsigned)	bgeu rs1, rs2, o	<pre>if ((unsigned)rs1 &gt;= (unsigned)rs2 PC += o;</pre>
Jump to Register	jr rs1	jalr x0, 0(rs1)
Jump to Label	call .L1	jal ra, .L1
Return	ret	jalr x0, 0(ra)
No-op	nop	add x0, x0, x0
Move	mv rd, rs1	addi rd, rs1, 0
Branch if zero	beqz rs1, .L1	beq rs1, x0, .L1
Branch greater than	bgt rs1, rs2, .L1	blt rs2, rs1, .L1
Load immediate	li rd, x	Determined by assembler.
		Based on width of x

**Definition 3.1.2.** (flowgraph) A flowgraph G is a graph G = (V, E) where vertices are instructions  $V \subseteq \mathcal{I}$  and edges  $E = \{(i_1, i_2) : i_1 \text{ may branch to } i_2\}$ .



**Definition 3.1.3.** (Basic Block) A basic block b is a maximal sequence of instructions  $i_1, \ldots, i_n$  with no internal control flow s.t:

$$\forall i \in \langle i_2, \dots, i_n \rangle . |\mathsf{pred}(i)| = 1$$
  
 $\forall i \in \langle i_1, \dots, i_{n-1} \rangle . |\mathsf{succ}(i)| = 1$ 



• Basic blocks reduce the space and time requirements for analysis algorithms by calculating and storing data-flow and control-flow information per-block, compared to per-instruction in flowgraphs.

- Algorithm for computing a basic blocks:
  - 1. Find all instructions i that are *leaders*. A leader is:
    - The first instruction of the procedure
    - The target of any branch / call
    - Any instruction immediately following a branch instruction
  - 2. For each leaders i, the basic block b is defined as the instructions from i to the next leader.

### 3.1.1 Forms of Analysis

• Types of analysis:

**Local** Local analysis within a basic block.

Intra-procedural Analysis between basic blocks (in isolation). Techniques vary, but optimizations are usually split into control flow analyses and data flow analyses.

Inter-procedural Analysis between procedures (the whole program). Examples include *inlining* or *unreachability analysis*. Very expensive in practice (many compilers do not perform WPO).

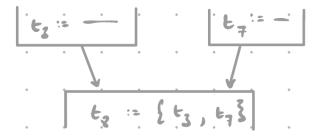
- Note: Many compilers only use a handful of optimizations:
  - Optimizations often have a low-payoff.
  - They are complex to implement (maintainability issues).
  - Their analyses too expensive during compilation (see Rust).
- Control flow analysis: Determine control flow by constructing flow-graph G.
- Data flow analysis: Determine the data flow dependencies (e.g. variable uses, expression evaluations, etc) using a flowgraph G.
- Sensitivity:
  - Flow sensitive: Considers the order or control flow of statements.
  - Path sensitive: Considers loop conditions in analysis e.g. if x > 0 then ... else ... assume x > 0 in then branch and  $x \le 0$  in else branch. (Hoare Logic)

### 3.1.2 Static Single Assignment Form

**Definition 3.1.4.** (Static Single Assignment Form) An IR is said to be in static single assignment form (SSA) if each variable/register in the IR is assigned once (statically, dynamically a variable could be assignment multiple times e.g. a loop), and every variable is defined before its usage.

#### • Conversion to SSA:

- 1. Replace each assignment to t with a new variable  $t_i$  (ith version), and replacing each reference of the variable with the version that is live at that point.
- 2. Control-flow divergence and reconciliation requires notion of a superposition of versions (or a  $\phi$ -function). The superposition  $\{t_{i_1}, \ldots, t_{i_k}\}$  denotes the resultant variable is  $t_{i_k}$  if we arrive from predecessor k.



#### • Benefits of SSA:

- Reduces registers (reduces live ranges).
- Improves data-flow optimizations (e.g. liveness).

### 3.2 Local Optimizations

- Performed by traversing a section of a basic blocks (known as a peephole / window), where the window is optimized to an equivalent set of instructions w/ better performance.
- Algebraic Simplifications / Peephole optimizations:

```
addi xn, xn, 0 // addi xn, xn, 0 has no effect (x = x + 0) ... mv xm, xn mv xm, xm mv xn, xm // moving contents of xm to xn has no effect
```

Advantages	Disadvantages
Many applicable optimizations	Limited scope due to peephole. Cannot deal w/ optimizations based on control flow / inter-procedural optimizations
Simple implementation. Pattern matching optimizations w/in peephole optimization w/ traversal algorithm across AST / linearized code.	
Combined with inter-procedural optimizations (e.g. inlining) yields extremely effective optimizer.	

### 3.2.1 Constant Folding

**Definition 3.2.1.** (Constant Folding) Constant folding is an optimization where constant expressions are evaluated at compile time.

• Optimizes running time. Compile time  $\rightarrow$  Running time tradeoff.

**Definition 3.2.2.** (Constant Propagation) Constant propagation is the process of substituting the identifier x of a constant expressions e evaluated at compile time w/ it's value v.

```
int x = 5;
int y = x * 2; \leadsto int z = a[10];
int z = a[y];
```

• Implementing using reaching definition analysis (binder dependencies).

Advantages	Disadvantages
Increases runtime performance	Decreases compiler performance (massive slowdown for large programs)
Unsafe optimizations may be applied. e.g. $0 * x \neq 0$ (by IEEE)	
Simple implementation. Pattern matching on operators w/ operands tagged Const.	

# 3.3 Control-Flow Analyses

- Goal: determine certain control-flow properties using a CFG.
- Note: Analyses are often *conservative* (for safety reasons), since controlflow may be impossible to precisely determine in a static context (Halting problem).
- Control-flow analyses are often *not* structure-preserving, whereas Dataflow analyses are.

### 3.3.1 Unreachability Analysis

**Definition 3.3.1.** (Unreachable Code) An instruction i is said to be *unreachable* if it's node in the flowgraph G is unreachable from some root set R of entry nodes in G.

**Definition 3.3.2.** (**Dead Code**) An instruction i is said to be dead if it's computational effect is unused.

- Unreachability assumptions:
  - Assume *both* branches of a conditional branch are taken.
  - All loops eventually terminate.
  - Indirect jumps (jr) can go to any address that has previously been taken.

Unreachable Code	Dead Code
Control-flow property	Data-flow property
Wastes .text (program) space	Wastes CPU cycles at runtime
return x; 2 = x +7; - Unreachable	return xj

• Analysis: A simple DFS/BFS traversal from the root set R, marking visited nodes  $n \in \mathsf{visited}(R)$ , is sufficient to determine whether a node n is unreachable, as n is unreachable  $\iff n \notin \mathsf{visited}(R)$ .

#### • Transformations:

Unreachable Code Elimination (Intra-procedural) Delete basic blocks b if b is unreachable from root set R.

Optimizations / macro systems often introduce "obvious" unreachable code. For example: if (true) ... could result from constant folding.



Unreachable Procedure Elimination (Inter-procedural) Delete functions / procedures not reachable from the main function (using a call graph).

### 3.3.2 Control-Flow Simplification

• Control-flow simplification is a form of non-structure-preserving peephole optimizations.

### • If Simplification:

```
Original
                                       Optimized
// f has no side-effects
                                       // if-statement had no
if f(x) then ();
                                       // semantic effect
C
                                       C
// else branch has no effect
if B then C else ()
                                       if B then C
// then branch has no effect
if B then () else {\cal C}
                                       if not B then C
// Constant condition
// (vice verse for false)
if true then C_1 else C_2
                                       C_1
// dual optimization for else
if \mathcal{C}_B[B]
                                       if \mathcal{C}_B[B]
  then \mathcal{C}_C [if B then C_1 else C_2]
                                         then \mathcal{C}_C[C_1]
  else C_3
                                         else C_3
```

• Loop Unrolling: With while and (especially) for loops with small number of iterations (determined by a constant), unroll the loop:

$$i := 0; \\ C; \\ i := i + 1; \\ C; \\ done \\ \\ i := i + 1; \\ C; \\ i := i + 1; \\ C; \\ i := i + 1; \\ C$$

# 3.4 Data-Flow Analyses

### 3.4.1 Live Variable Analysis

• Liveness  $\approx x$  is used in the future.

**Definition 3.4.1.** (Liveness) A variable x is said to semantically live at instruction i iff

$$\exists \mathsf{environments} \rho_1, \rho_2. \rho_1 =_{\backslash x} \rho_2 \wedge \llbracket G \downharpoonright i \rrbracket_{\rho_1} \neq \llbracket G \downharpoonright i \rrbracket_{\rho_2}$$

where  $G \mid i$  is the subgraph of G rooted at i.

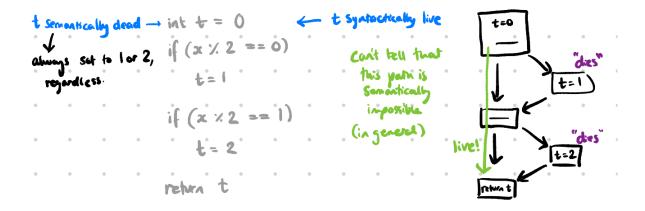
• Intuitively, x is live if the execution sequence starting at i observably depends on x.

**Definition 3.4.2.** (Syntactic Liveness) A variable x is syntactically live at instruction i iff there exists a path  $p = i = i_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow i_k = i'$  s.t

$$\forall 1 < l < k.x \notin \mathsf{def}(i_l) \land x \in \mathsf{ref}(i')$$

• Syntactic liveness is decidable and an **over-approximation** of semantic liveness:

$$\mathsf{sem\text{-}live}(i) \subseteq \mathsf{syn\text{-}live}(i)$$



#### • Analysis:

- Backwards analysis to propagate the uses/refs upwards to defs.
- Data-flow equations:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathsf{in\text{-}live}(i) = (\mathsf{out\text{-}live}(i) \setminus \mathsf{def}(i)) \cup \mathsf{ref}(i) \\ & \mathsf{out\text{-}live}(i) = \bigcup_{i' \in \mathsf{succ}(i)} \mathsf{in\text{-}live}(i') \end{aligned}$$

(Re)-defining a variable "kills" it.

Referencing the variable makes it live.

Combined equation:

$$\mathsf{live}(i) = \mathsf{in\text{-}live}(i) = \left(\bigcup_{i' \in \mathsf{succ}(i)} \mathsf{live}(i') \setminus \mathsf{def}(i)\right) \cup \mathsf{ref}(i)$$

- Algorithm: Iteratively computes the least fixed point.

for 
$$i$$
 = 1 to  $n$  do live. $(i) <- \emptyset$  done; while (live changes) do for  $i$  = 1 to  $n$  do live. $(i) <- \left(\bigcup_{i' \in \mathsf{succ}(i)} \mathsf{live.}(i') \setminus \mathsf{def}(i)\right) \cup \mathsf{ref}(i)$  done done

Termination is guaranteed since live sets are bounded.

**Optimizations**: Implement sets using bit vectors. live.(i) = b where b[x] = 1 iff  $x \in live(i)$ .

Compute liveness at the basic block level as opposed to instruction level:

$$\mathsf{live}(b) = \left( \cdots \left( \left( \bigcup_{s \in \mathsf{succ}(b)} \mathsf{live}(s) \setminus \mathsf{def}(b_n) \right) \cup \mathsf{ref}(b_n) \right) \cdots \setminus \mathsf{def}(b_1) \right) \cup \mathsf{ref}(b_1)$$

• Considerations for pointers (addresses):

$$\begin{array}{ll} *{\tt p} \; = \; {\tt e} & \begin{array}{l} {\tt def} = \emptyset \\ {\tt ref} = {\tt ref}(e) \cup \{p\} \end{array} \\ \\ {\tt x} \; = \; *{\tt p} & \begin{array}{l} {\tt def} = \{x\} \\ {\tt ref} = {\tt all} \;\; {\tt address} \;\; {\tt taken} \;\; {\tt variables} \cup \{p\} \end{array} \end{array}$$

### 3.4.2 Available Expression Analysis

• Available  $e \approx$  already computed e and no changes in free variables in e

**Definition 3.4.3.** (Available) An expression e is said to be *semantically available* at instruction i iff:

- (i) e has previously been computed and not subsequently invalided (by changes in free variables of e),
- (ii) on all execution sequences to i.

ullet Property (i) is decidable, but (ii) is undecidable  $\Longrightarrow$  syntactic approximation

**Definition 3.4.4.** (Syntactically Available) An expression e is said to be syntactically available at instruction i iff:

- (i) e has previously been computed and not subsequently invalided (by changes in free variables of e),
- (ii) on all paths in the flowgraph G to i.

$$\forall$$
 path  $p = i' \rightarrow^* i . \exists i_e \in p. i_e$  evaluates  $e \land \forall i'' \in i_e \rightarrow i. \mathsf{fv}(e) \cap \mathsf{def}(i'') = \emptyset$ 

• Safety: underestimate availability:

$$syn-avail(i) \subseteq sem-avail(i)$$

- Analysis:
  - Forward analysis to propagate expressions to children with universe of expressions U (computable since finite # of expressions in program).
  - Intuitive data-flow equations:

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathsf{in}\text{-}\mathsf{avail}(i) = \begin{cases} \bigcap_{i' \in \mathsf{pred}(i)} \mathsf{out}\text{-}\mathsf{avail}(i') & \text{if } \mathsf{pred}(i) \neq \emptyset \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ &\mathsf{out}\text{-}\mathsf{avail}(i) = (\mathsf{in}\text{-}\mathsf{avail}(i) \cup \mathsf{gen}(i)) \setminus \mathsf{pred}(i) \end{aligned}$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{gen}(x := e) = \{e\} \\ & \operatorname{kill}(x := e) = \{e \in U : \operatorname{fv}(x) \cap \operatorname{def}(e) \neq \emptyset\} \end{aligned}$$

- Data-flow equations:

$$\begin{split} \text{in-avail}(i) &= \begin{cases} \bigcap_{i' \in \mathsf{pred}(i)} \mathsf{out-avail}(i') & \text{if } \mathsf{pred}(i) \neq \emptyset \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ \mathsf{out-avail}(i) &= (\mathsf{in-avail}(i) \setminus \mathsf{kill}(i)) \cup \mathsf{gen}(i) \end{split}$$

where:

- \*  $e \in \text{gen}(i)$  iff i computes e and does not invalidate it.
- \*  $e \in \mathsf{kill}(i)$  iff i may invalidate e ( $\mathsf{fv}(e) \cap \mathsf{def}(i) \neq \emptyset$ ) and does not recompute it.

Differences for compatability w/LVA+re-ordering of instructions.

Combined equation:

$$\mathsf{avail}(i) = \mathsf{in-avail}(i) = \begin{cases} \bigcap_{p \in \mathsf{pred}(i)} (\mathsf{avail}(p) \setminus \mathsf{kill}(p)) \cup \mathsf{gen}(p) & \text{if } \mathsf{pred}(i) \neq \emptyset \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

#### - Algorithm:

```
avail.(1) <- \emptyset (* entry/root has no available *) for i = 2 to n do avail.(i) <- U (* available expressions removed by \bigcap *) done; while (live changes) do for i = 1 to n do avail.(i) <- \bigcap_{p \in \mathsf{pred}(i)} (\mathsf{avail.}(p) \setminus \mathsf{kill}(p)) \cup \mathsf{gen}(p) done done
```

#### **Optimizations:**

- \* Bit vector: Suppose we have n expressions. avail is an array of n-bit numbers, where the ith bit indicates the availability of the ith expression.
- \* Basic blocks:

$$\mathsf{avail}(i) = \bigcap_{p \in \mathsf{pred}(i)} (\cdots (\mathsf{avail}(p) \setminus \mathsf{kill}(p_1)) \cup \mathsf{gen}(p_1) \cdots \setminus \mathsf{kill}(p_{k_p})) \cup \mathsf{gen}(p_{k_p})$$

• Considerations for pointers (addresses):

### 3.4.3 Reachability Analysis

**Definition 3.4.5.** (Reachable) A definition of i is said to semantically reach i' in flowgraph G if all variables  $x \in \mathsf{def}(i)$  have the same value on entry to i'.

**Definition 3.4.6.** (Syntactic Reachability) A definition of i is said to syntactically reach i' in flowgraph G if there exists a path  $p = i = i_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow i_k = i'$  s.t

$$\forall x \in \mathsf{def}(i). \forall 1 < i < k. x \notin \mathsf{def}(i_k)$$

• Safety:

$$syn-reach(i) \subseteq sem-reach(i)$$

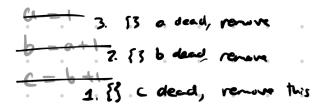
- Analysis:
  - Forward analysis
  - Data-flow equation:

$$\mathsf{reach}(i) = \bigcup_{p \in \mathsf{pred}(i)} (\mathsf{reach}(p) \setminus \mathsf{kill}(p)) \cup \mathsf{gen}(p)$$

See supervision work for more details.

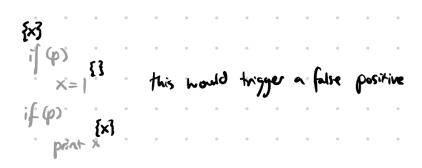
#### 3.4.4 Data-Flow Transformations and Anomalies

- Dead Code Elimination:
  - Compute liveness live.
  - **Transformation**: Remove instruction i if  $x \notin \mathsf{live}\text{-out}(n)$  and  $x \in \mathsf{def}(i)$ .
  - **Safety**: If x is dead after assignment  $\implies$  assignment was pointless (no observable side-effects).



#### • Uninitialized Variables:

- live( $i_{\text{entry}}$ ) contains the set of *undefined* variables used in the procedure w/ entry instruction  $i_{\text{entry}}$ .
- Compiler should emit a warning to the user
- **Problem**: Due to overapproximation of LVA  $\implies$  false positives.

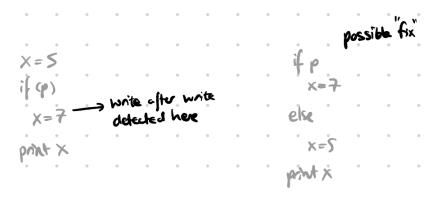


#### • Write-write Anomalies:

- Problem: Variable written too by not read before previous write
   ⇒ previous write has no effect.
- Inverse LVA solution using a forward analysis w/ data-flow equation:

$$\mathsf{wnr}(i) = \bigcup_{p \in \mathsf{pred}(i)} \left(\mathsf{wnr}(p) \setminus \mathsf{ref}(p)\right) \cap \mathsf{def}(p)$$

Compiler should emit a warning to the user



#### • Common Subexpression Elimination:

- **Transformation**: If e is available at instruction i, replace e with temporary variable t and replace original evaluation of e (in context  $x := \mathcal{C}[e]$ ) with:

$$t := e;$$

$$x := C[t]$$

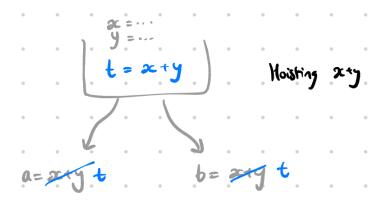
- Warning: Optimization may be detrimental to later phases:
  - \* Added temporary  $t \implies$  higher register pressure
  - \* Added copy instructions. Load from memory may be slower than a simple arithmetic expression.

### • Copy Propagation:

- Perform reachability analysis.
- Transformation: Eliminate instructions of the form: mv rd, rs1 at i, replacing rd with rs1 at i' if rs1 is reachable at i' from i.

#### • Code Motion:

- Code Hoisting (Move up flowgraph) or Sinking (Move down flowgraph).
- **Analysis**: Compute very busy expressions. A very busy expression  $e \approx e$  will definitely by evaluated later in the program (a backwards version of avail).
- **Transformation**: Replace later occurrences of e w/ temporary variable t and hoist e:



- Warning: May increase register pressure.
- **Loop invariant**: If ref(e) are reachable from *outside* the loop  $\implies e$  doesn't dependent on loop state (e.g. counters), thus can be hoisted out of the loop.

#### • Partial redundancy:

- **Analysis**: Partially available expression analysis (change  $\bigcap$  to  $\bigcup$  in availability data-flow equations).
- An expression is partially redundant if it is computed more than once on some path p in flowgraph G.
- Same **transformation** as common subexpression elimination.
- Benefit: Combines common subexpression elimination and loopinvariant code motion into one optimization!

# 3.5 Inlining

**Definition 3.5.1.** (Inlining) Inline expression is an optimization technique by inlining the function body for a given call.

- Optimizes running time by eliminating overhead of call prologue and epilogue . Space  $\rightarrow$  Time tradeoff by duplicating function bodies.
- **Heuristics** for Inline expansion:
  - 1. Expand function-calls that are executed frequently. Determines by static-analysis of loop-nest depth (or at runtime w/ JIT)
  - 2. Expand functions w/ very small bodies. Minimizing code explosion from inline expansion.
  - 3. Expand functions that are only called once (and aren't exported), then apply unreachable procedure elimination (deleting original function definition).

Advantages	Disadvantages
Eliminates the instructions required by the calling convention: the prologue and epilogue (and the call/jump required).	Inlining duplicates function body, increase in code size $\implies$ may result in a code explosion.
Reduces register spillage from arguments	Increases working set (the set of pages the program requires access to at a given time). Increases page faults $\Longrightarrow$ thrashing (in serve cases)
Removes callee, caller boundary, allowing for more intra-procedural optimizations (e.g. peephole, etc)	Increases instruction cache miss rate (due to increased code size).
Eliminating function calls improves the temporal + spatial locality of instructions.	

# 4 Code Generation

# 4.1 Register Allocation

• **Problem**: Assigning virtual registers in an IR (e.g. normal form 3-address code, SSA) to a limited number of *physical* general purpose registers.

**Definition 4.1.1.** (Clash Graph) A clash graph C = (V, E) of flowgraph G where  $V \subseteq$  virtual registers and

$$(r, s) \in E \iff \exists \text{instruction } i \in V(G).r \in \mathsf{live}(i) \land s \in \mathsf{live}(i)$$

• Clash graphs model dependencies between simultaneously live variables/registers.

**Definition 4.1.2.** (Coloring) A coloring of a graph G = (V, E) is a function  $\chi: V \to \text{color}$  satisfying:

$$\forall (v_1, v_2) \in E.\chi(v_1) \neq \chi(v_2)$$

- Algorithm:
  - 1. Compute flowgraph G and perform liveness analysis.
  - 2. Construct the clash graph C.
  - 3. Color the clash graph C, where colors correspond to physical registers.
- **Problem**: Graph coloring is an NP-complete problem.
- Solution: Heuristic algorithm:
  - 1. Select virtual register t from C with fewest clashes (smallest degree).

2. If #clashes < #physical registers:

Then Push t onto stack.

Remove t from C.

Else Select a virtual register s to spill (using a heuristic). Remove s from C.

- 3. Repeat 1-2 until C is empty.
- 4. Pop each virtual register from stack. Assign a physical register (deterministically).
- Time Complexity:  $O(V^2 + E)$ .
- **Problem**:  $O(V^2 + E)$  is slow (e.g for JIT).
- **Solution**: Use other algorithms. Example: *Linear scan* (see supervision work).

**Definition 4.1.3.** (**Spilling**) If all physical registers are in use, then register values are pushed (*spilled*) onto the stack, freeing the register.

- When spilling registers, must reserve registers for spilled values. If using n spilled values simultaneously  $\implies n$  reserved registers.
- **Problem**: # of reserved registers (n) prior to allocation is unknown.
- Solution: If spillage detected, restart allocation algorithm w/ reserved registers.
- Problem: Determining optimal register to spill.
- Solution: Spilling allocation heuristic:
  - Compute # of times register is accessed (as a 'liveness factor'). Spill registers w/ fewest accesses.
  - Loop nesting  $\implies$  'liveness factor' = # accesses  $\times$  loop depth.

### 4.1.1 Non-Orthogonal Instructions

**Definition 4.1.4.** (Non-Orthogonal Instruction Sets) A non-orthogonal instruction set consists of instructions where the addressing mode of instructions is dependent on the instruction type.

- For example: requiring ALU operations to use an accumulator register.
- To allocate registers for non-orthogonal instructions allocate virtual registers for the pre-allocated physical registers.
- When translating non-orthogonal instructions, add mv instructions to move register values into specific physical registers.
- Problem: Non-orthogonal instructions add many mv instructions.
- Solution: Preference graphs.

**Definition 4.1.5.** (Preference Graph) A preference graph P of flowgraph G is a graph P = (V, E) where  $V \subseteq$  virtual registers and

$$(r,s) \in E \iff \mathtt{mv} \ \mathtt{s}, \ \mathtt{r} \in V(G)$$

- When allocating colors, we use a preference graph P to attempt that  $\forall (r,s) \in V(P). \chi(r) = \chi(s).$
- If adjacent registers in P have the same color  $\implies$  the mv instruction becomes a nop.

## 4.1.2 Calling Conventions

**Definition 4.1.6.** (Calling Convention) A calling convention defines the architecture registers that are maintained by the *callee* and the *caller*.

- RISC-V: argument registers a0-a7, return address ra, result register a0.
- Registers may be maintained by allocating stack space to save registers.
- **Problem**: Some registers may be corrupted (caller saved) while executing a procedure

- Solution: Synthesize edges on clash graph between possibly corrupted registers and live registers at call instruction.
- Problem: Saving registers introduced many mv instructions.
- Solution: Preference graph.

# 4.2 Instruction Scheduling

- Motivation: Specific architectures may provide parallelism / speedup which the compiler should take advantage of.
- Architecture types:
  - Single cycle: Each instruction takes a single cycle to execute. No violations of the sequential programming model.
  - Pipelined: Instructions are pipelined (each stage taking a single cycle to execute). May introduce stalls (to deal w/ hazards).
  - Multi-instruction: MIMD, MISD, etc. (not covered in this course).
- Interlocked processors: Detect hazards and insert stalls.
- Non-interlocked processors: Compiler must insert nops to prevent data / control hazards.
- See IB computer design notes on forwarding and load hoisting. course covers compiler techniques for data hazards.
- read(i) = addresses/registers read by instruction i, write(i) = addresses/registers written to by instruction i.

#### Dependencies:

- Read-after-write (RAW):  $\mathsf{write}(i_1) \cap \mathsf{read}(i_2) \neq \emptyset$ .  $i_1$  writes before  $i_2$  reads.
- Write-after-read (WAR):  $\operatorname{read}(i_1) \cap \operatorname{write}(i_2) \neq \emptyset$ .  $i_1$  reads before  $i_2$  writes.
- Write-after-write (WAW): write $(i_1) \cap \text{write}(i_2) \neq \emptyset$ .  $i_1$  and  $i_2$  write to the same address/register.

- **Idea**: Within basic blocks, re-order instructions to minimize stalls subject to data dependencies.
- Note: If load instruction w/ unknown address e.g. lw t2, 16(t0); sw t3, 4(t1), then add dependencies between loads and stores (since they may read/write to the same address. e.g. when t1 = t0 + 12).

**Definition 4.2.1.** (Data Dependence Graph) For the basic block b, the data dependence graph G is the directed graph G = (b, E) where

 $(i_1, i_2) \in E \iff i_2 \text{ depends on } i_1 \text{ according to above dependencies}$ 

- **Note**: Any topological sort of data dependence graph is a *valid* schedule.
- **Problem**: Choosing schedule which minimizes # of stalls is NP-complete.
- Solution: Scheduling Heuristics. Choose a next instruction s.t:
  - 1. Doesn't conflict with the previous instruction
  - 2. Is most likely to conflict if first of a pair (e.g. lw is better than add, since lw is more likely to cause a hazard). This heuristic adds load hoisting.
  - 3. Is as far as possible from the last instruction in the data dependency graph. *Keeps rough order of instructions*.

#### • Algorithm:

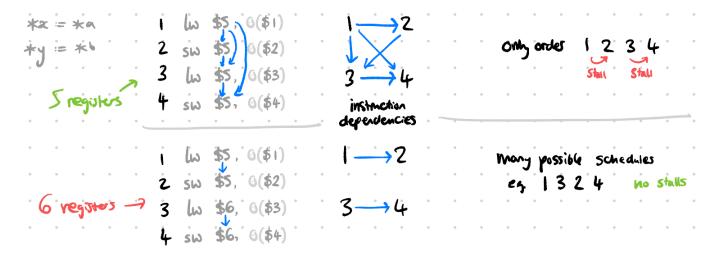
```
construct data dependence graph G of b;
candidates := sources(G); // instructions w/ no dependencies
while (not (Set.empty candidates)) do
  select i from candidates;
  if i satisfies 1-3 heuristics then
   emit i
else
   (if non-interlocked processor then
   emit nop
   else
   select i from candidates s.t 2-3 heuristics are satisfied;
```

emit i); remove emitted instruction from G; update candidates // sources(G) where G is updated done

• Time complexity:  $O(|b|^2)$ .

### 4.2.1 Antagonism with Register Allocation

- **Problem**: Maximizing register utilization creates additional dependencies, which limits instruction scheduling (resulting in more stalls).
- Example:



- Observation: Allocating too aggressively ⇒ limitations on instruction scheduling ∴ more stalls.
- This is an example of the *phase order problem*. It has no solution, as predicting interaction of register allocation and instruction scheduling is very dependent on architecture + code structure.
- Ad-hoc solution: Limitations on instruction scheduling occur due to eager reuse or registers. One solution is to allocate registers in a round robin fashion, but selecting a register distinct from all others in a basic block that satisfies coloring constraints.

# 5 Decompilation

- 5.1 Control-flow Reconstruction
- 5.2 Type Reconstruction