Programming Languages & Translators

GLOBAL OPTIMIZATION

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These slides are motivated from Prof. Alex Aiken and Prof. Calvin Lin



Other Global Optimization:

- Constant Propagation
- Dead-code elimination
- Liveness analysis
- Common subexpression elimination
- Loop optimization

Recall the simple basic-block optimizations

- Constant propagation
- Dead code elimination

$$X := 3$$

$$Y := Z * W$$

$$Q := X + Y$$

$$X := 3$$

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$$Y := Z * W$$

$$Q := 3 + Y$$

• These optimizations can be extended to an entire control-flow graph



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- How do we know it is OK to globally propagate constants?
- There are situations where it is incorrect:



To replace a use of x by a constant k we must know that:

On every path to the use of x, the last assignment to x is

x := k

- The correctness condition is not trivial to check
- "All paths" includes paths around loops and through branches of conditionals
- Checking the condition requires global analysis
 - An analysis of the entire control-flow graph

- Global optimization tasks share several traits:
 - The optimization depends on knowing a property X at a particular point in program execution
 - Proving X at any point requires knowledge of the entire program
 - It is OK to be conservative. If the optimization requires X to be true, then want to know either
 - X is definitely true
 - Don't know if X is true
 - It is always safe to say "don't know"

- Global dataflow analysis is a standard technique for solving problems with these characteristics
- Global constant propagation is one example of an optimization that requires global dataflow analysis

 To make the problem precise, we associate one of the following values with X at every program point

value	interpretation
⊥ ("bottom")	This statement never executes
C	X = constant c
T ("top")	X is not a constant



- Given global constant information, it is easy to perform the optimization
 - Simply inspect the x = ? associated with a statement using x
 - If x is constant at that point replace that use of x by the constant
- But how do we compute the properties x = ?

- The idea is to "push" or "transfer" information from one statement to the next
- For each statement s, we compute information about the value of x immediately before and after s

C(s,x,in) = value of x before sC(s,x,out) = value of x after s

- Define a transfer function that transfers information one statement to another
- In the following rules, let statement s have immediate predecessor statements p₁,...,p_n



if $C(p_i, x, out) = T$ for any i, then C(s, x, in) = T





if $C(p_i, x, out) = c \text{ or } \perp for all i,$ then C(s, x, in) = c



if $C(p_i, x, out) = \bot$ for all i, then $C(s, x, in) = \bot$

- Rules 1-4 relate the out of one statement to the in of the next statement
- Now we need rules relating the in of a statement to the out of the same statement





C(x := c, x, out) = c if c is a constant

C(x := f(...), x, out) = T



$$C(y := ..., x, out) = C(y := ..., x, in)$$
 if $x \iff y$

Common subexpression elimination

• Example:

a := b + c		a := b + c
c := b + c	\Rightarrow	c := a
d := b + c		d := b + c

- Example in array index calculations
 - c[i+1] := a[i+1] + b[i+1]
 - During address computation, i+1 should be reused
 - Not visible in high level code, but in intermediate code

Unreachable code elimination

- Construct the control flow graph
- Unreachable code block will not have an incoming edge
- After constant propagation/folding, unreachable branches can be eliminated

Dead code elimination

Ineffective statements

■ x := y + 1		(immediately redefined, eliminate!
• y := 5	\Rightarrow	y := 5
■ x := 2 * z		x := 2 * z

- A variable is dead if it is never used after last definition
 - Eliminate assignments to dead variables
- Need to do data flow analysis to find dead variables

Function Optimization

Function inlining

- Replace a function call with the body of the function
- Save a lot of copying of the parameters, return address, etc.

Function cloning

Create specialized code for a function for different calling parameters

Loop optimization

- Consumes 90% of the execution time
 - \Rightarrow a larger payoff to optimize the code within a loop

Techniques

- Loop invariant detection and code motion
- Induction variable elimination
- Strength reduction in loops
- Loop unrolling
- Loop peeling
- Loop fusion

Loop invariant detection

- If the result of a statement or expression does not change within a loop, and it has no external side-effect
- Computation can be moved to outside of the loop
- Example

```
for (i=0; i<n; i++) a[i] := a[i] + x/y;
```

Three address code

```
for (i=0; i<n; i++) { c := x/y; a[i] := a[i] + c; }
```

 \Rightarrow c := x/y;

for (i=0; i<n; i++) a[i] := a[i] + c;

Code Motion

- Reduce frequency with which computation performed
 - If it will always produce same result
 - Especially moving code out of loop



Strength reduction in loops

- Replace costly operation with simpler one
- Shift, add instead of multiply or divide

16*x --> x << 4

- Depends on cost of multiply or divide instruction
- Recognize sequence of products

Strength reduction in loops

- Replace costly operation with simpler one
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- Depends on cost of multiply or divide instruction
- Recognize sequence of products

S	:=	= 0;	,				
fc	or	(i=	=0;	i	_ <n;< td=""><td>i++)</td><td></td></n;<>	i++)	
{							
	V	:=	4	*	i;		
	S	:=	S	+	V;		
}							

Induction variable elimination

- If there are multiple induction variables in a loop, can eliminate the ones which are used only in the test condition
- Example

s := 0; for (i=0; i<n; i++) { s := 4 * i; ... } -- i is not referenced in loop

 \Rightarrow s := 0; e := 4*n; while (s < e) { s := s + 4; }



Code Optimization Techniques

Loop unrolling

- Execute loop body multiple times at each iteration
- Get rid of the conditional branches, if possible
- Allow optimization to cross multiple iterations of the loop
 - Especially for parallel instruction execution
- Space time tradeoff
 - Increase in code size, reduce some instructions

Loop peeling

- Similar to unrolling
- But unroll the first and/or last few iterations

- Loop fusion
 - Example for i=1 to N do A[i] = B[i] + 1endfor for i=1 to N do C[i] = A[i] / 2endfor for i=1 to N do D[i] = 1 / C[i+1]endfor

for i=1 to N do A[i] = B[i] + 1 C[i] = A[i] / 2 D[i] = 1 / C[i+1]endfor

Before Loop Fusion

Loop fusion

Example for i=1 to N do for i=1 to N do A[i] = B[i] + 1A[i] = B[i] + 1C[i] = A[i] / 2endfor D[i] = 1 / C[i+1]for i=1 to N do endfor C[i] = A[i] / 2endfor for i=1 to N do Is this correct? Actually, cannot fuse D[i] = 1 / C[i+1]the third loop endfor

Before Loop Fusion

Limitations of Compiler Optimization

Operate Under Fundamental Constraint

- Must not cause any change in program behavior under any possible condition
- Often prevents it from making optimizations when would only affect behavior under pathological conditions.
- Behavior that may be obvious to the programmer can be obfuscated by languages and coding styles
 - e.g., data ranges may be more limited than variable types suggest
- Most analysis is performed only within procedures
 - whole-program analysis is too expensive in most cases
- Most analysis is based only on static information
 - compiler has difficulty anticipating run-time inputs
- When in doubt, the compiler must be conservative