Workshop on Essential Abstractions in GCC

Introduction to Data Flow Analysis

GCC Resource Center
(www.cse.iitb.ac.in/grc)

Department of Computer Science and Engineering,
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

1 July 2012

Outline

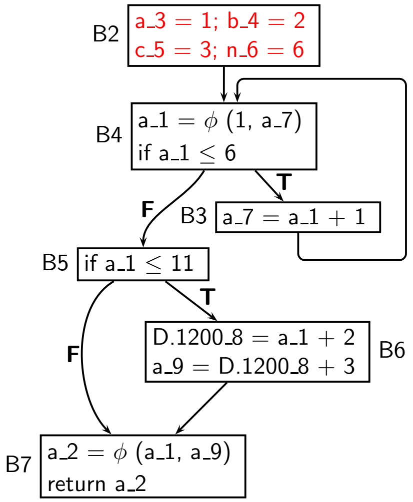
- Motivation
- Live Variables Analysis
- Available Expressions Analysis
- Pointer Analysis

Notes

Part 2

Motivation

Dead Code Elimination

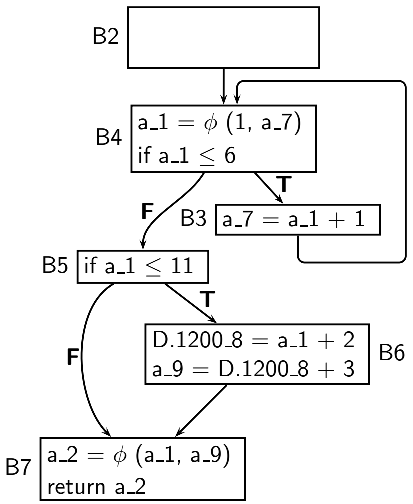


- No uses for variables a_3, b_4, c_5, and n_6
- Assignments to these variables can be deleted

Dead Code Elimination

Notes

Dead Code Elimination



- No uses for variables a_3, b_4, c_5, and n_6
- Assignments to these variables can be deleted

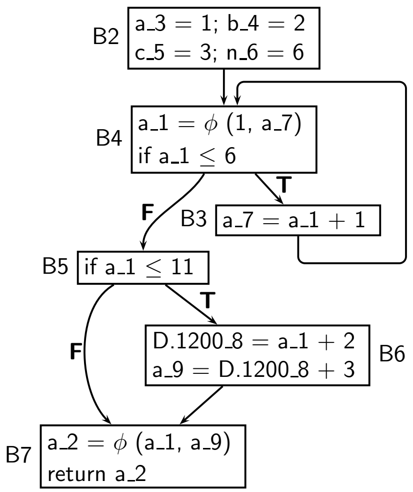
How can we conclude this systematically?

Dead Code Elimination

Notes

Liveness Analysis of Variables

Find out at each program point p, the variables that are used beyond p



Liveness Analysis of Variables

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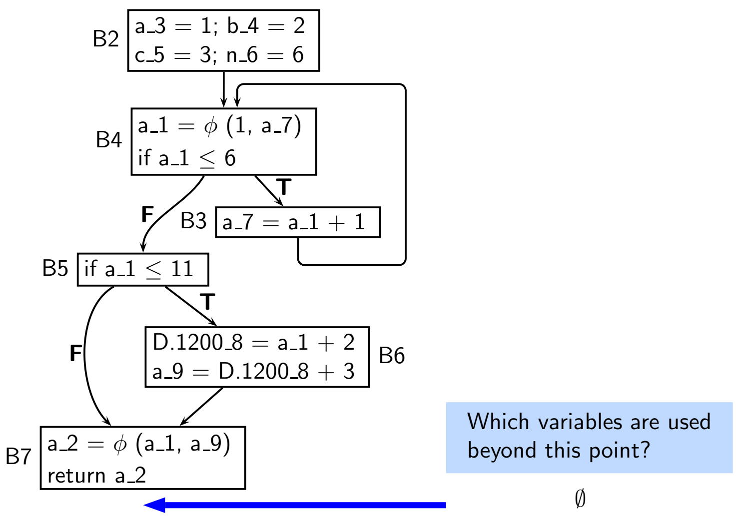

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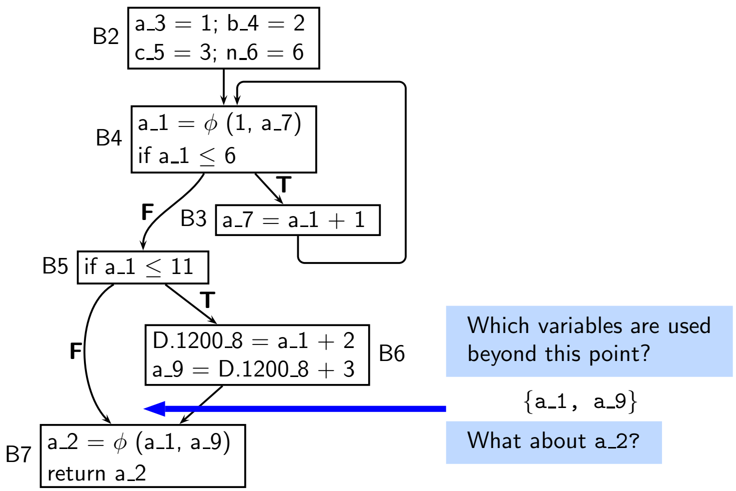

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Liveness Analysis of Variables

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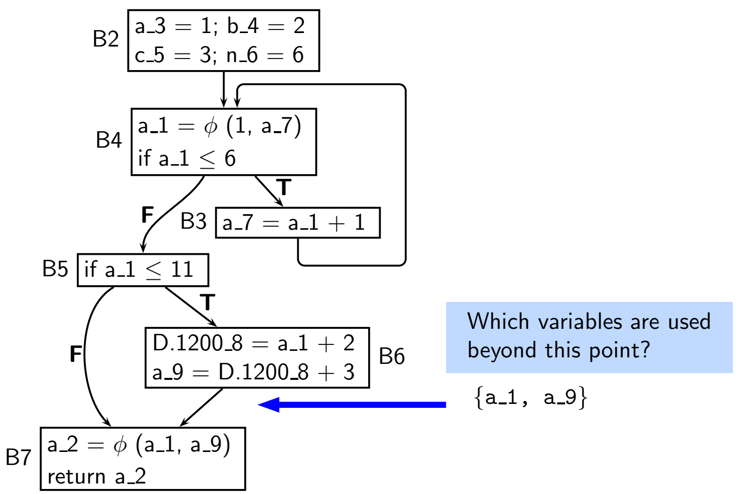

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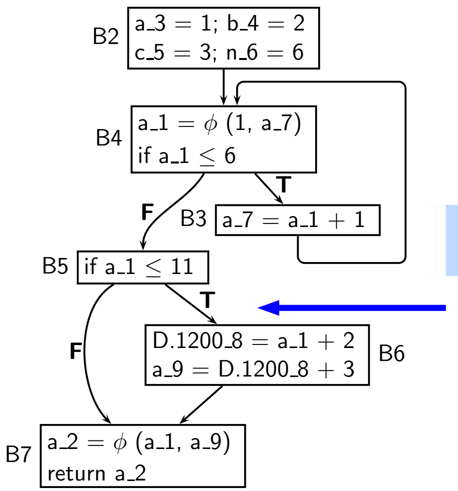

Which variables are used beyond this point?

{a_1}

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Liveness Analysis of Variables

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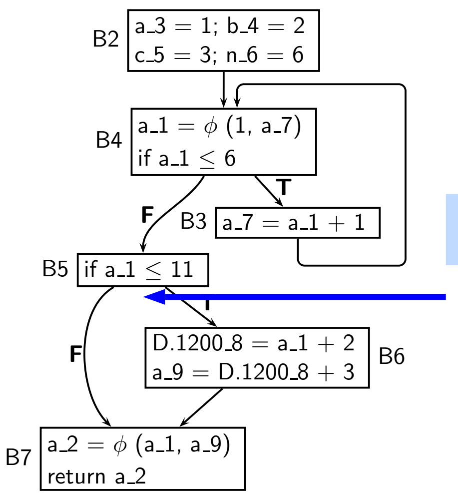

Which variables are used beyond this point?

{a_1, a_9}

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Liveness Analysis of Variables

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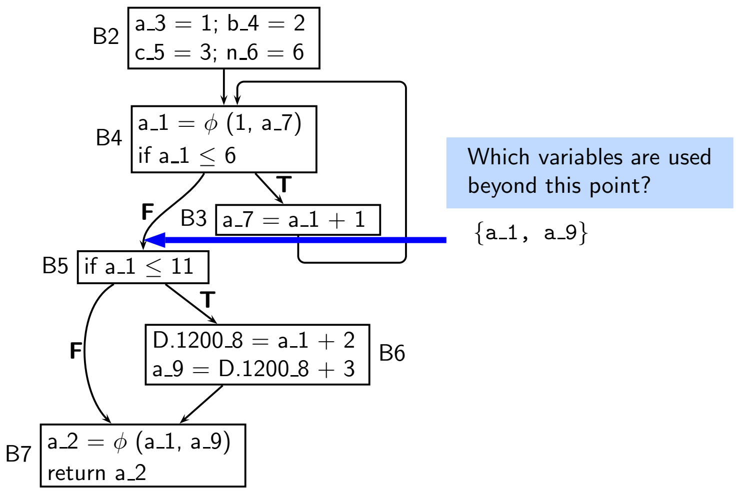

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Liveness Analysis of Variables

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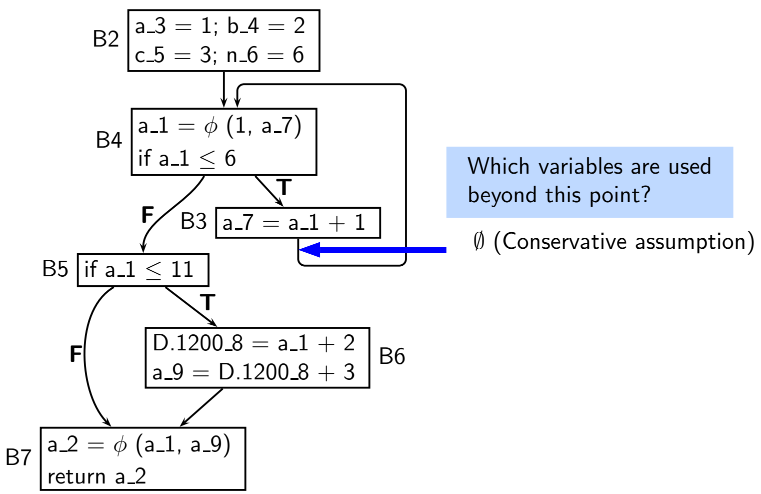

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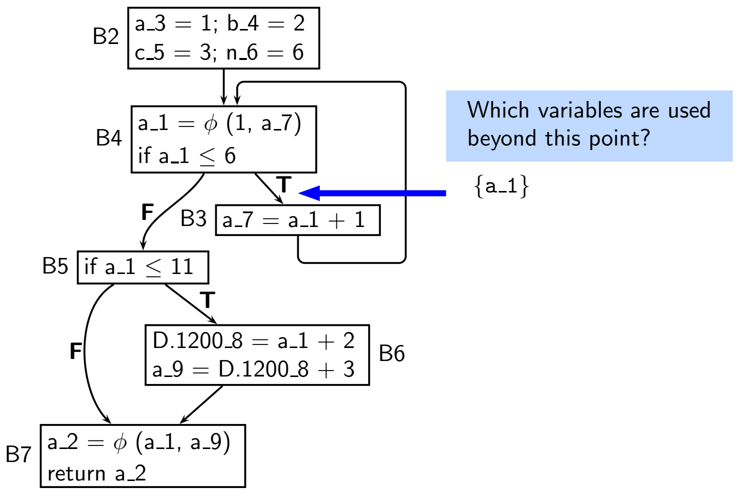

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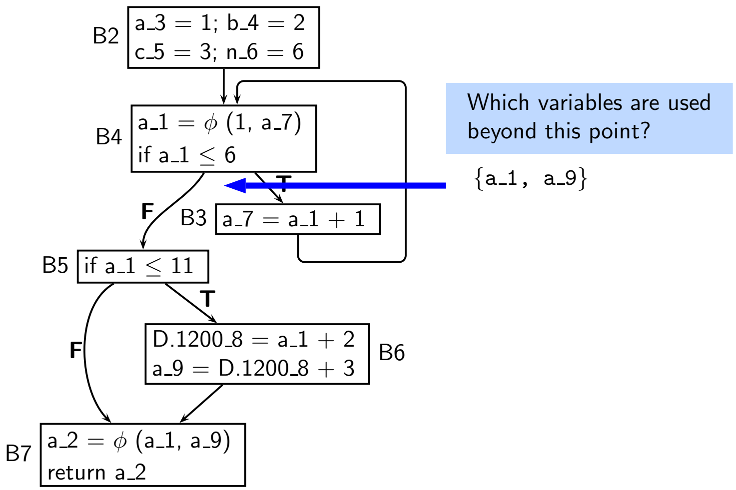

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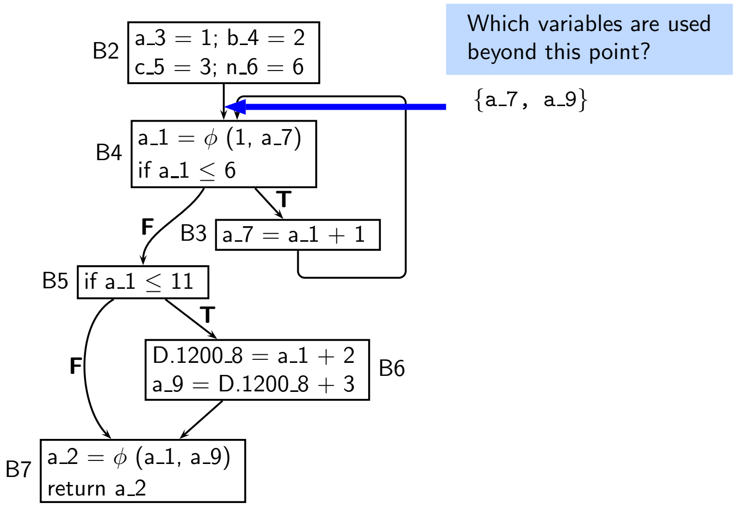

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Liveness Analysis of Variables

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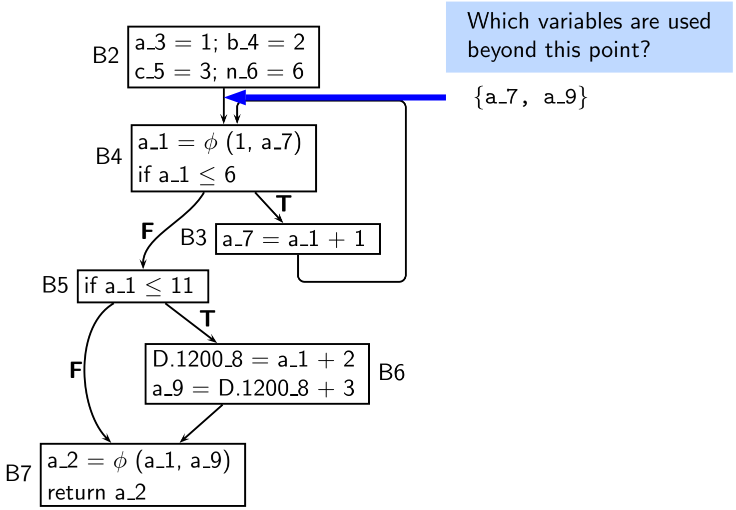

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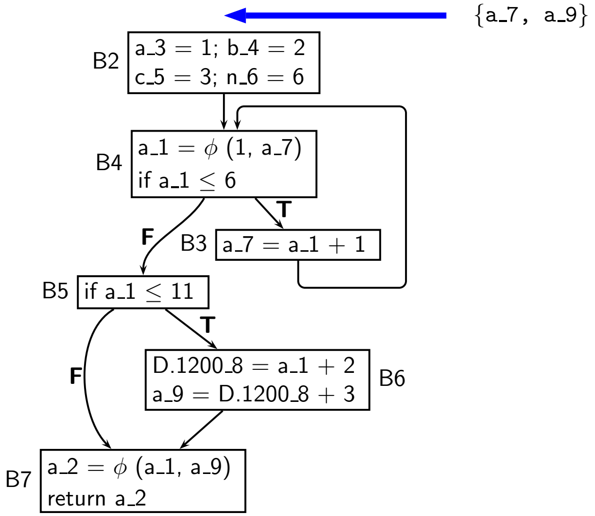

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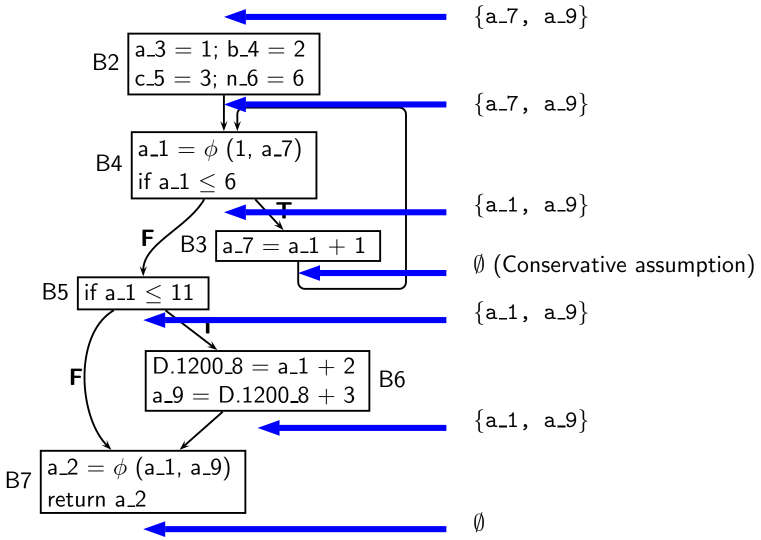
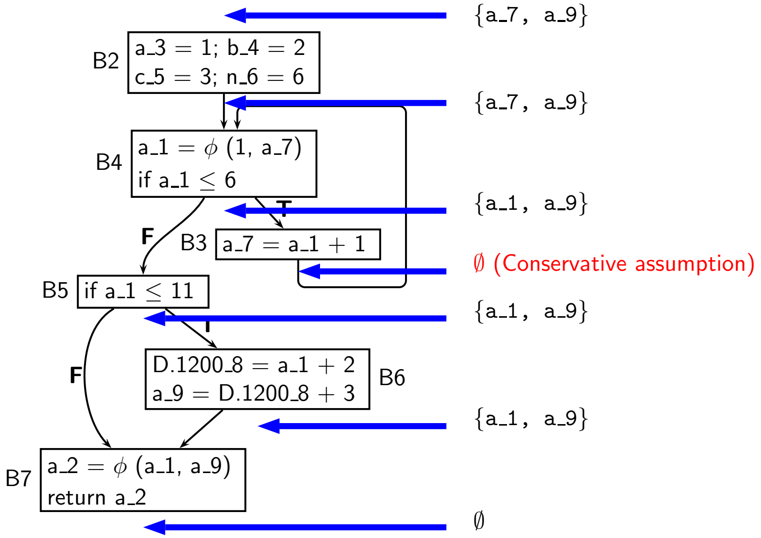


Liveness Analysis of Variables

Notes

Liveness Analysis of Variables: Iteration 2

Find out at each program point *p*, the variables that are used beyond *p*



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Liveness Analysis of Variables: Iteration 2

Notes

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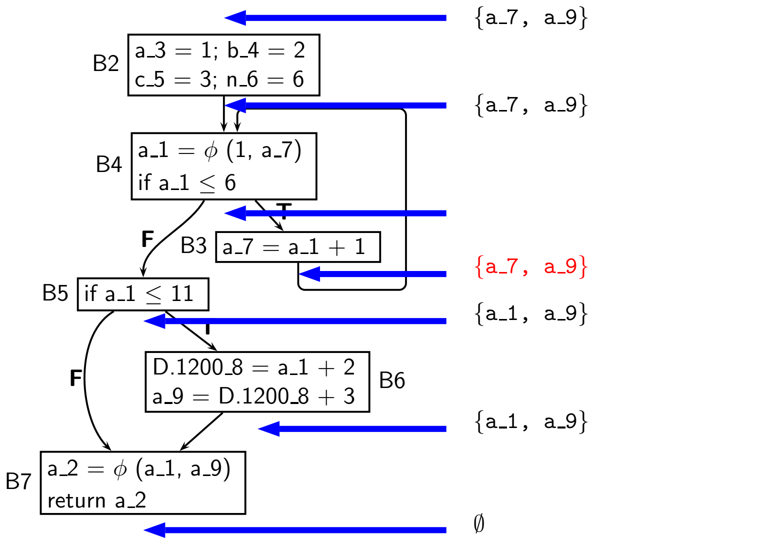
Find out at each program point *p*, the variables that are used beyond *p*



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Liveness Analysis of Variables: Iteration 2

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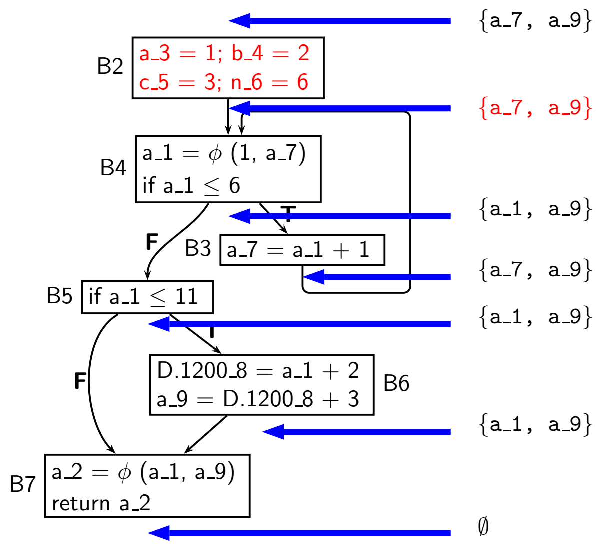
Using Liveness Analysis for Dead Code Elimination



Using Liveness Analysis for Dead Code Elimination

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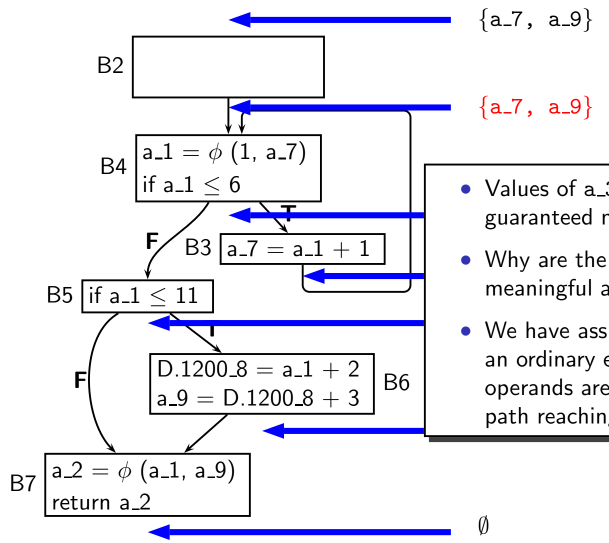


- Values of a_3, a_4, c_5, and n_6 are guaranteed not to be used
- Why are the values of a_7 and a_9 meaningful at the exit of B2?
- We have assumed a ϕ function to be an ordinary expression in which operands are computed along every path reaching the computation

Using Liveness Analysis for Dead Code Elimination

Notes

Part 3

Live Variables Analysis

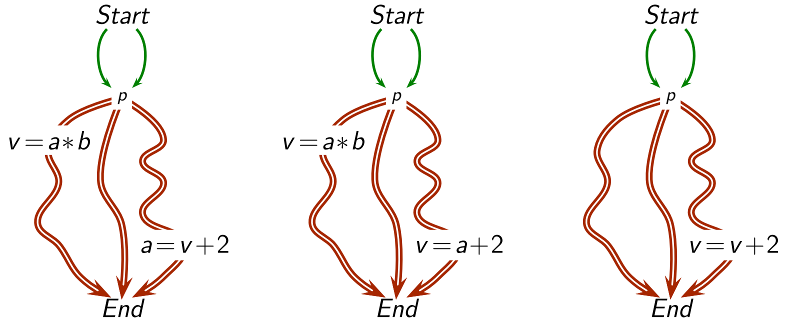
Notes

Defining Live Variables Analysis

A variable v is live at a program point p, if some path from p to program exit contains an r-value occurrence of v which is not preceded by an l-value occurrence of v.

Path based specification

v is live at p	v is not live at p	v is live at p



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Defining Live Variables Analysis

Notes

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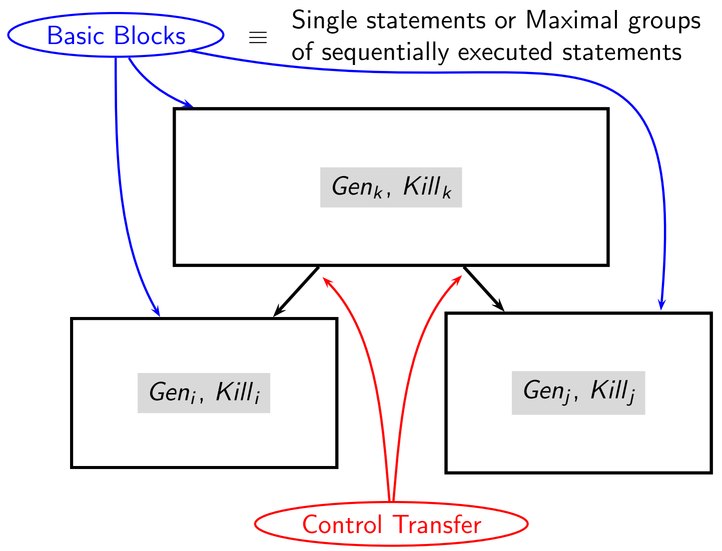
Defining Data Flow Analysis for Live Variables Analysis



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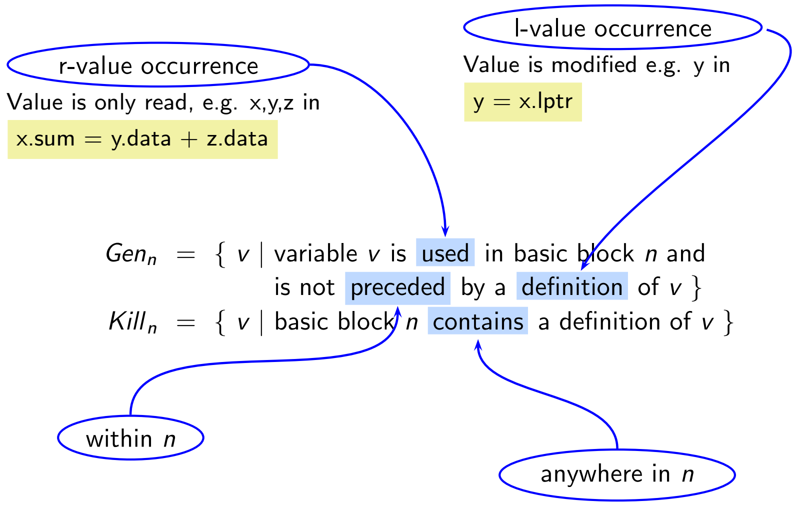
Defining Data Flow Analysis for Live Variables Analysis

Notes

Local Data Flow Properties for Live Variables Analysis



$$Gen_n = \{ v \mid \text{variable } v \text{ is used in basic block } n \text{ and is not preceded by a definition of } v \}$$

$$Kill_n = \{ v \mid \text{basic block } n \text{ contains a definition of } v \}$$

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Local Data Flow Properties for Live Variables Analysis

Notes

Local Data Flow Properties for Live Variables Analysis

- Gen_n : Use not preceded by definition

  Upwards exposed use

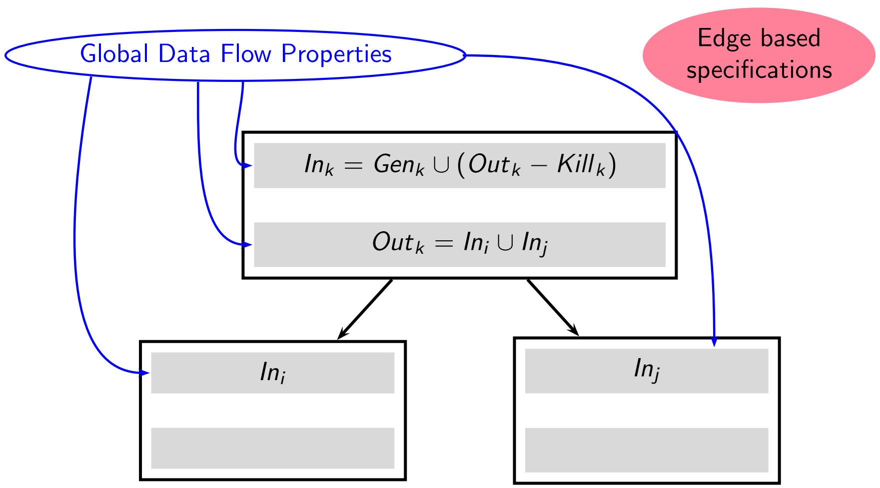
- $Kill_n$: Definition anywhere in a block

  Stop the effect from being propagated across a block

Local Data Flow Properties for Live Variables Analysis

Notes

Defining Data Flow Analysis for Live Variables Analysis



Defining Data Flow Analysis for Live Variables Analysis

Notes

Data Flow Equations For Live Variables Analysis

$$In_n = (Out_n - Kill_n) \cup Gen_n$$

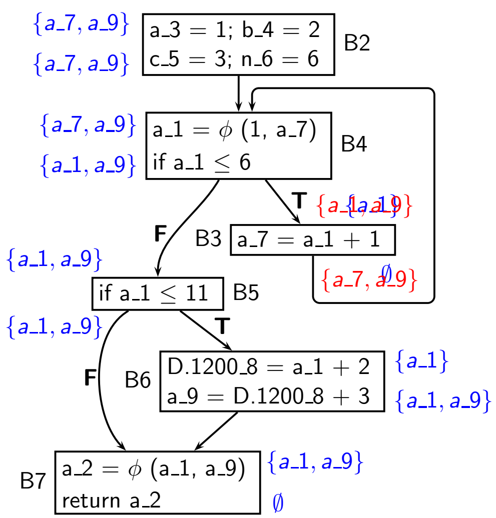
$$Out_n = \begin{cases} BI & n \text{ is } End \text{ block} \\ \bigcup_{s \in succ(n)} In_s & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

In_n and Out_n are sets of variables.

Data Flow Equations For Live Variables Analysis

Notes

Performing Live Variables Analysis



	Gen	*Kill*
B2	∅	{a_3, b_4, c_5, n_6}
B4	{a_7}	{a_1}
B3	{a_1}	{a_7}
B5	{a_1}	∅
B6	{a_1}	{a_9}
B7	{a_1, a_9}	{a_2}

Performing Live Variables Analysis

Notes

Strongly Live Variables Analysis

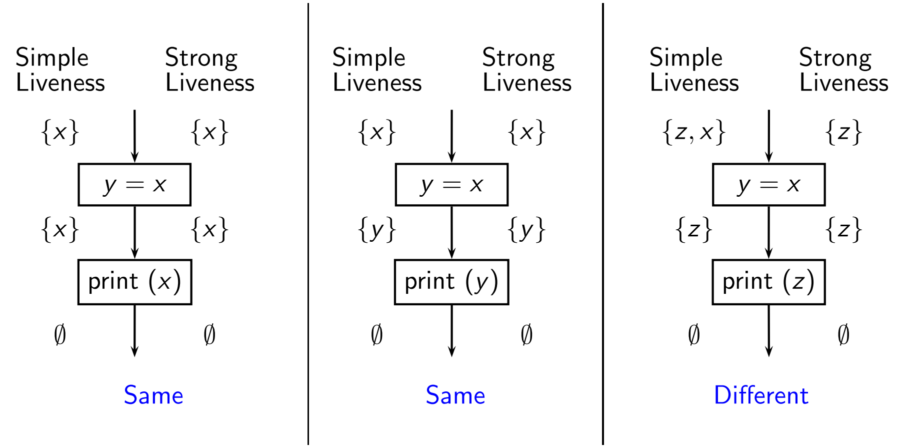
A variable v is strongly live if it is used in

- in statement other than assignment statement, or
  (this case is same as simple liveness analysis)
- in defining other strongly live variables in an assignment statement
  (this case is different from simple liveness analysis)

Strongly Live Variables Analysis

Notes

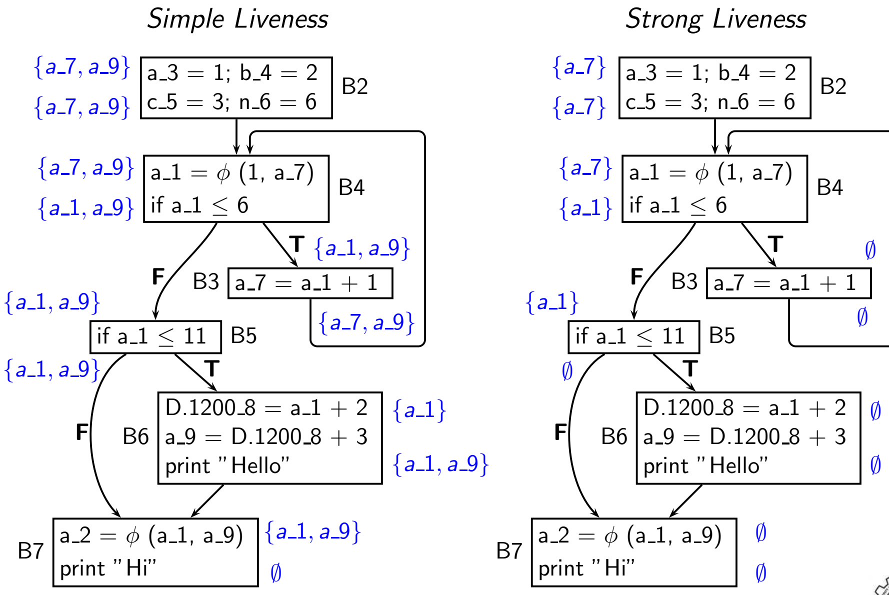
Understanding Strong Liveness



Understanding Strong Liveness

Notes

Comparision of Simple and Strong Liveness for our Example



Comparision of Simple and Strong Liveness for our Example

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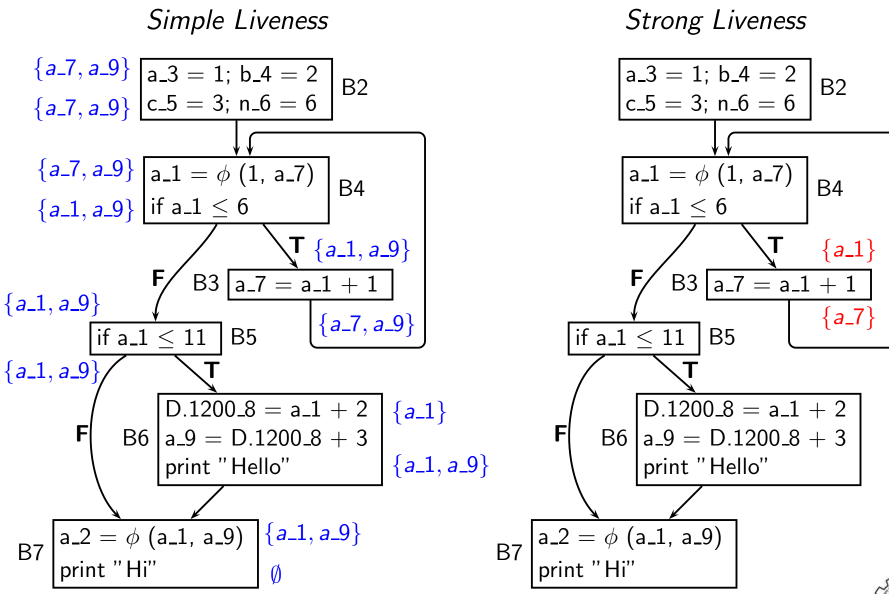

Comparision of Simple and Strong Liveness for our Example

Notes

Using Data Flow Information of Live Variables Analysis

- Used for register allocation.

  If variable x is live in a basic block b, it is a potential candidate for register allocation.

- Used for dead code elimination.

  If variable x is not live after an assignment $x = \ldots$, then the assginment is redundant and can be deleted as dead code.

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Using Data Flow Information of Live Variables Analysis

Notes

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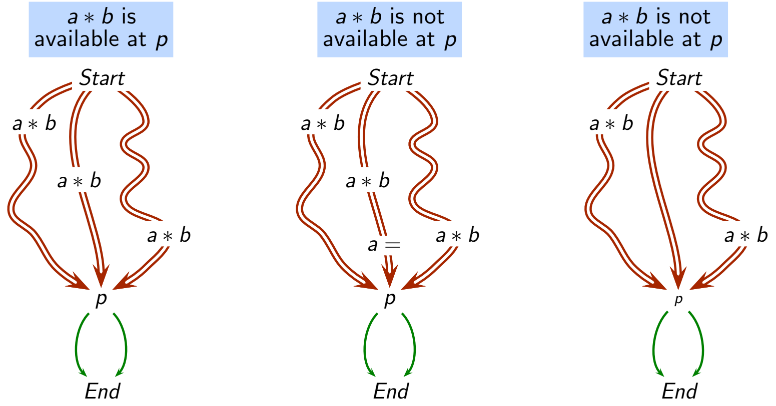
Part 4

Available Expressions Analysis

Notes

Defining Available Expressions Analysis

An expression e is available at a program point p, if every path from program entry to p contains an evaluation of e which is not followed by a definition of any operand of e.



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Defining Available Expressions Analysis

Notes

Local Data Flow Properties for Available Expressions Analysis

Gen_n = { e | expression e is evaluated in basic block n and this evaluation is not followed by a definition of any operand of e}

$Kill_n$ = { e | basic block n contains a definition of an operand of e}

	Entity	Manipulation	Exposition
Gen_n	Expression	Use	Downwards
$Kill_n$	Expression	Modification	Anywhere

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Local Data Flow Properties for Available Expressions Analysis

Notes

Data Flow Equations For Available Expressions Analysis

$$In_n = \begin{cases} BI & n \text{ is } Start \text{ block} \\ \bigcap_{p \in pred(n)} Out_p & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$Out_n = Gen_n \cup (In_n - Kill_n)$$

Alternatively,

$$Out_n = f_n(In_n), \quad \text{where}$$

$$f_n(X) = Gen_n \cup (X - Kill_n)$$

In_n and Out_n are sets of expressions.

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Data Flow Equations For Available Expressions Analysis

Notes

Using Data Flow Information of Available Expressions Analysis

- Common subsexpression elimination
  - If an expression is available at the entry of a block b **and**
  - a computation of the expression exists in b **such that**
  - it is not preceded by a definition of any of its operands

  Then the expression is redundant
- Redundant expression must be upwards exposed
- Expressions in Gen_n are downwards exposed

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Using Data Flow Information of Available Expressions Analysis

Notes

Part 5

Introduction to Pointer Analysis

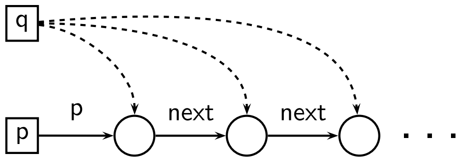
Notes

Code Optimization In Presence of Pointers

Program

```
1.  q = p;
2.  while (...) {do {
3.      q = q→next;
4.  }while (...)
5.  p→data = r1;
6.  print (q→data);
7.  p→data = r2;
```

Memory graph at statement 5



- Is p→data live at the exit of line 5? Can we delete line 5?
- No, if p and q can be possibly aliased (while loop or do-while loop with a circular list)
- Yes, if p and q are definitely not aliased (do-while loop without a circular list)

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Code Optimization In Presence of Pointers

Notes

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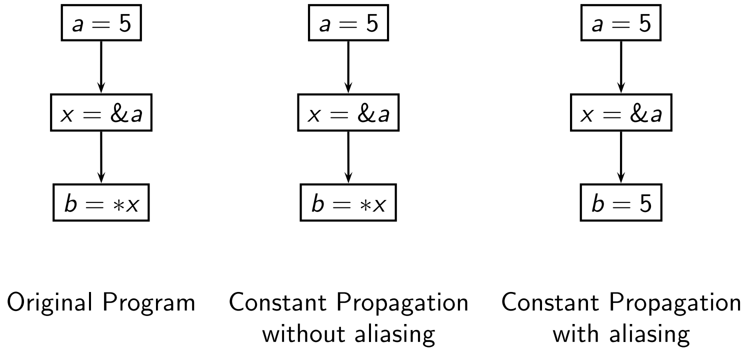
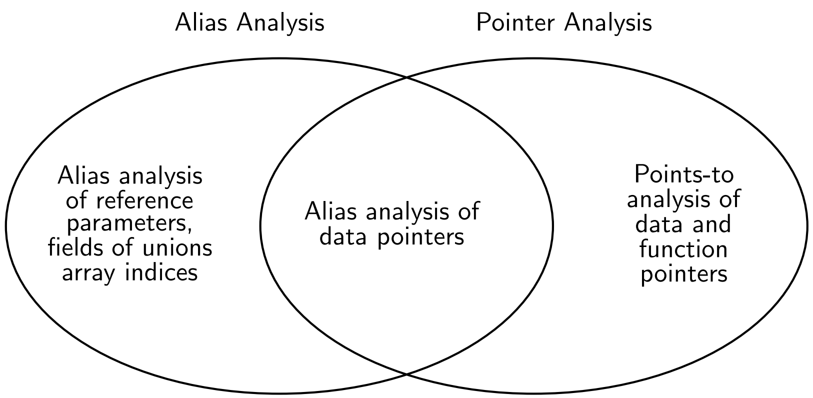
Code Optimization In Presence of Pointers



Code Optimization In Presence of Pointers

Notes

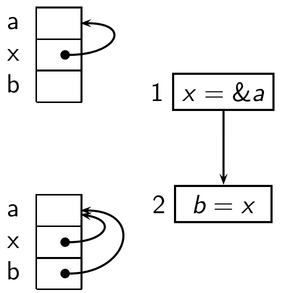
The World of Pointer Analysis



The World of Pointer Analysis

Notes

Alias Information Vs. Points-To Information



"*x Points-To a*" denoted $x \rightarrow a$

Neither Symmetric Nor Reflexive

"*x* and *b* are *Aliases*" denoted $x \stackrel{\circ}{=} b$

Symmetric and Reflexive

- What about transitivity?
  - Points-To: No.
  - Alias: Depends.

Alias Information Vs. Points-To Information

Notes

Introduction

Two important dimensions for precise pointer analysis are

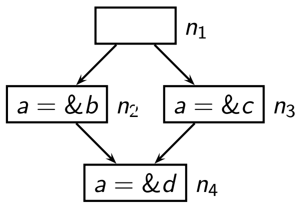
- Flow Sensitivity
- Context Sensitivity

Introduction

Notes

Flow Sensitive analysis

A flow-sensitive analysis computes the data flow information at each program point according to the control-flow of a program.



At the exit of node n_4

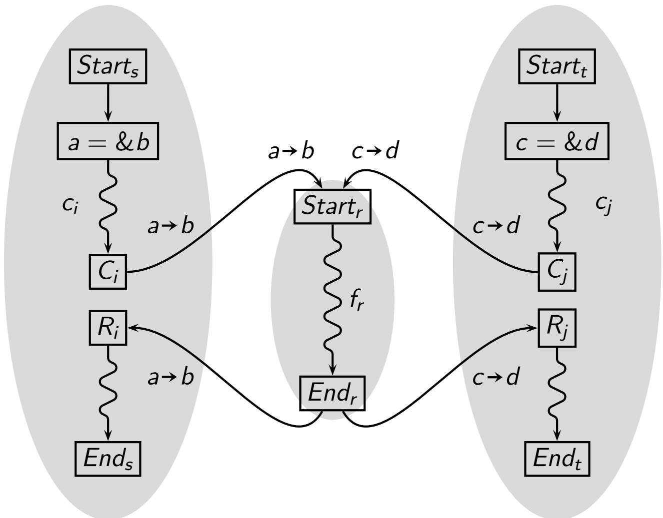
Flow insensitive information:
$\{a \rightarrow b, a \rightarrow c, a \rightarrow d\}$

Flow sensitive information:
$\{a \rightarrow d\}$

Flow Sensitive analysis

Notes

Context Sensitivity in Interprocedural Analysis



Context Sensitivity in Interprocedural Analysis

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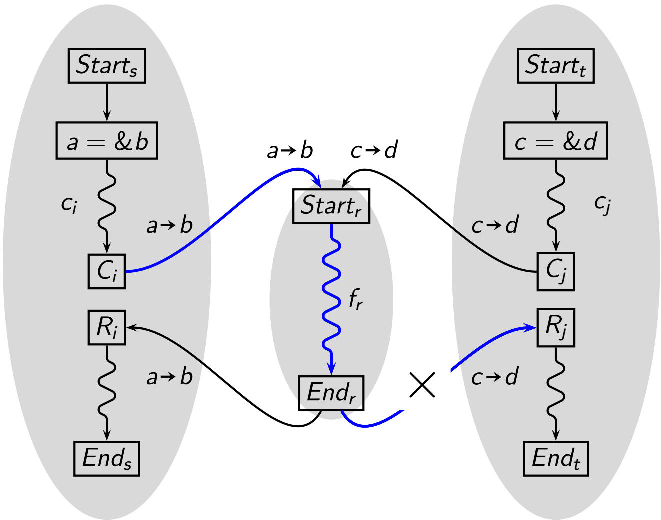

Context Sensitivity in Interprocedural Analysis

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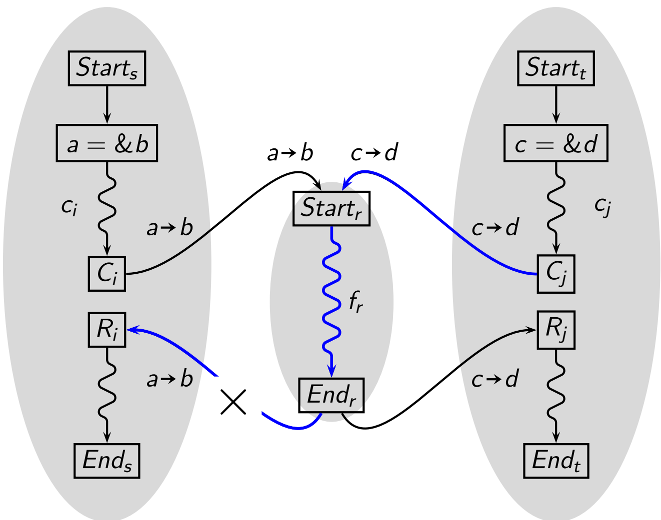
Context Sensitivity in Interprocedural Analysis



Context Sensitivity in Interprocedural Analysis

Notes

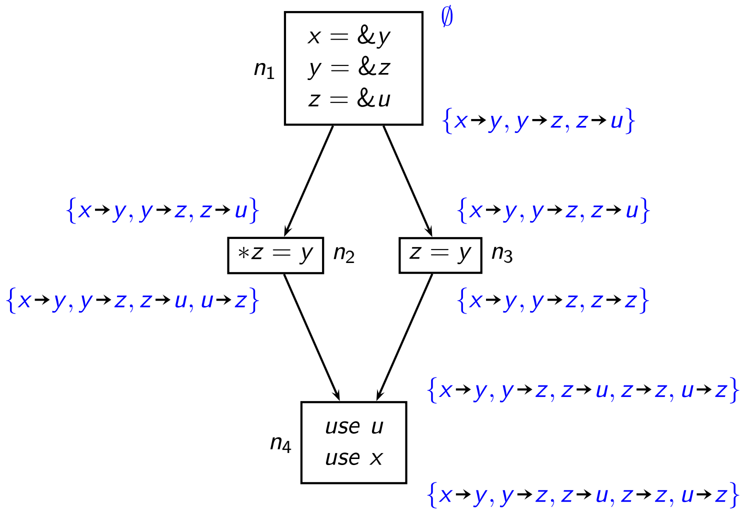
Issues with Pointer Analysis

- For precise pointer information, we require flow and context sensitive pointer analysis
- Flow and context sensitive pointer analysis computes a large size of information

Issues with Pointer Analysis

Notes

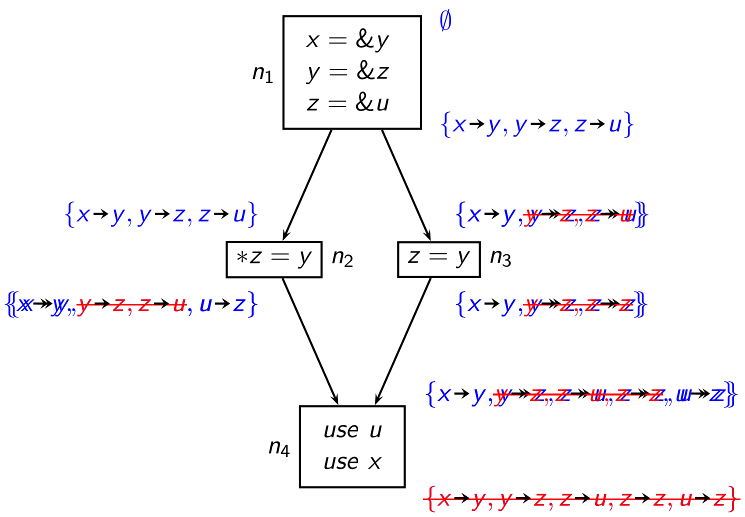
Example of Points-to Analysis



Example of Points-to Analysis

Notes

Is All This Information Useful?



Is All This Information Useful?

Notes

Improving pointer analysis

For a fast flow and context sensitive pointer analysis, we can reduce the number of computations done at a program point. This can be done in following ways :

- Computing pointer information for only those variables that are being used at some later program point.
- Propagating only the new data flow values obtained in current iteration to the next iteration.

Improving pointer analysis

Notes

Liveness Based Pointer analysis(L-FCPA)

- A flow and context sensitive pointer analysis
- Pointer information is not computed unless a variable becomes live.
- Strong liveness is used for computing liveness information.
  If basic block contains statement like x = y, then y is said to be live, if x is live at the exit of basic block.
- Pointer information is propagated only in live range of the pointer

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Liveness Based Pointer analysis(L-FCPA)

Notes

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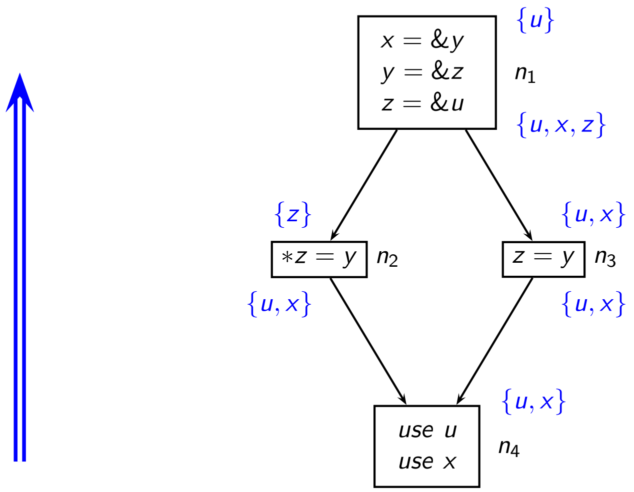
First Round of Liveness Analysis and Points-to Analysis



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First Round of Liveness Analysis and Points-to Analysis

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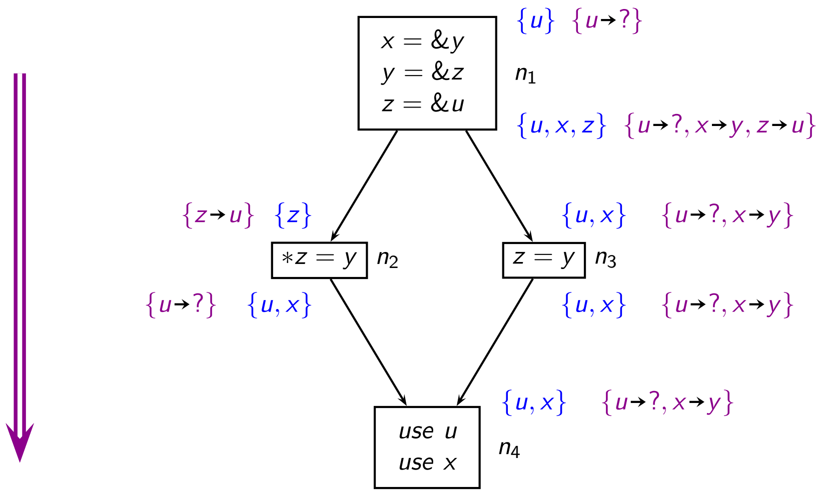
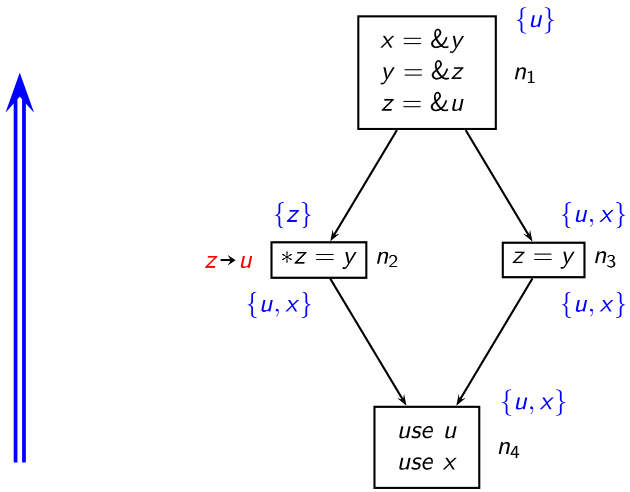
First Round of Liveness Analysis and Points-to Analysis



First Round of Liveness Analysis and Points-to Analysis

Notes

Second Round of Liveness Analysis and Points-to Analysis



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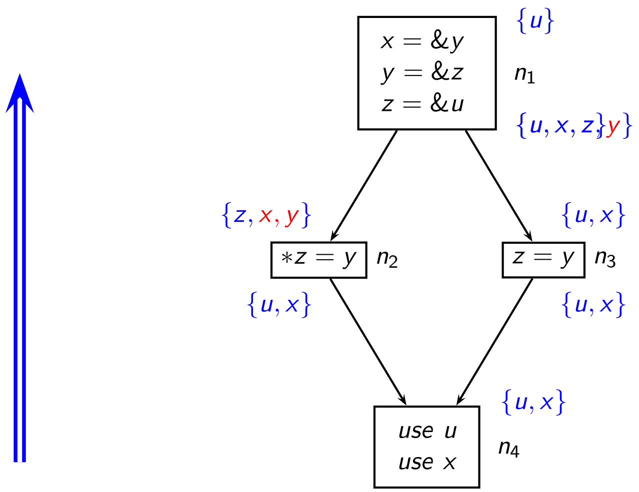

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Second Round of Liveness Analysis and Points-to Analysis

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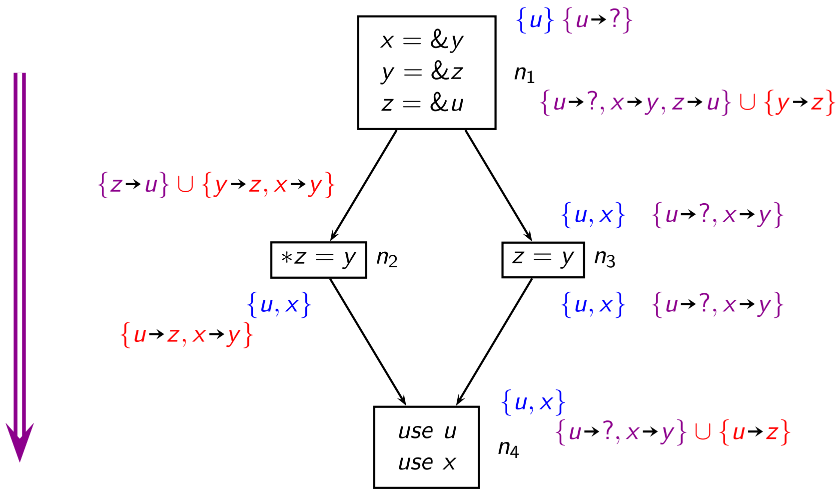

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Observation

- L-FCPA has 2 fixed point computations :
  - Strong Liveness analysis
  - Points-to analysis
- Liveness and Points-to passes are interdependent.
- Both the computations are done alternatively until final value converges.

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Observation

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Conclusions: New Insights in Pointer Analysis

- Usable pointer information is very small and sparse
- Earlier approaches reported inefficiency and non-scalability because they computed far more information than the actual usable information
- Triumph of *The Genius of AND over the Tyranny of OR*
- Future work
  - Redesign data structures by hiding them behind APIs
    Current version uses linked lists and linear search
  - Incremental version
  - Using precise pointer information in other passes in GCC

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Conclusions: New Insights in Pointer Analysis

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Precise Context Information is Small and Sparse

Our contributions: Value based termination, liveness

Program	Total no. of functions	0 call strings L-FCPA	0 call strings FCPA	1-4 call strings L-FCPA	1-4 call strings FCPA	5-8 call strings L-FCPA	5-8 call strings FCPA	9+ call strings L-FCPA	9+ call strings FCPA
lbm	22	16 (72.7%)	3 (13.6%)	6 (27.3%)	19 (86.4%)	0	0	0	0
mcf	25	16 (64.0%)	3 (12.0%)	9 (36.0%)	22 (88.0%)	0	0	0	0
bzip2	100	88 (88.0%)	38 (38.0%)	12 (12.0%)	62 (62.0%)	0	0	0	0
libquantum	118	100 (84.7%)	56 (47.5%)	17 (14.4%)	62 (52.5%)	1 (0.8%)	0	0	0
sjeng	151	96 (63.6%)	37 (24.5%)	43 (28.5%)	45 (29.8%)	12 (7.9%)	15 (9.9%)	0	54 (35.8%)
hmmer	584	548 (93.8%)	330 (56.5%)	32 (5.5%)	175 (30.0%)	4 (0.7%)	26 (4.5%)	0	53 (9.1%)
parser	372	246 (66.1%)	76 (20.4%)	118 (31.7%)	135 (36.3%)	4 (1.1%)	63 (16.9%)	4 (1.1%)	98 (26.3%)
	9+ call strings in L-FCPA: Tot 4, Min 10, Max 52, Mean 32.5, Median 29, Mode 10								
h264ref	624	351 (56.2%)	?	240 (38.5%)	?	14 (2.2%)	?	19 (3.0%)	?
	9+ call strings in L-FCPA: Tot 14, Min 9, Max 56, Mean 27.9, Median 24, Mode 9								

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Precise Context Information is Small and Sparse

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Precise Usable Pointer Information is Small and Sparse

Our contribution: liveness

Program	Total no. of BBs	0 pt pairs L-FCPA	0 pt pairs FCPA	1-4 pt pairs L-FCPA	1-4 pt pairs FCPA	5-8 pt pairs L-FCPA	5-8 pt pairs FCPA	9+ pt pairs L-FCPA	9+ pt pairs FCPA
lbm	252	229 (90.9%)	61 (24.2%)	23 (9.1%)	82 (32.5%)	0	66 (26.2%)	0	43 (17.1%)
mcf	472	356 (75.4%)	160 (33.9%)	116 (24.6%)	2 (0.4%)	0	1 (0.2%)	0	309 (65.5%)
libquantum	1642	1520 (92.6%)	793 (48.3%)	119 (7.2%)	796 (48.5%)	3 (0.2%)	46 (2.8%)	0	7 (0.4%)
bzip2	2746	2624 (95.6%)	1085 (39.5%)	118 (4.3%)	12 (0.4%)	3 (0.1%)	12 (0.4%)	1 (0.0%)	1637 (59.6%)
	9+ pt pairs in L-FCPA: Tot 1, Min 12, Max 12, Mean 12.0, Median 12, Mode 12								
sjeng	6000	4571 (76.2%)	3239 (54.0%)	1208 (20.1%)	12 (0.2%)	221 (3.7%)	41 (0.7%)	0	2708 (45.1%)
hmmer	14418	13483 (93.5%)	8357 (58.0%)	896 (6.2%)	21 (0.1%)	24 (0.2%)	91 (0.6%)	15 (0.1%)	5949 (41.3%)
	9+ pt pairs in L-FCPA: Tot 6, Min 10, Max 16, Mean 13.3, Median 13, Mode 10								
parser	6875	4823 (70.2%)	1821 (26.5%)	1591 (23.1%)	25 (0.4%)	252 (3.7%)	154 (2.2%)	209 (3.0%)	4875 (70.9%)
	9+ pt pairs in L-FCPA: Tot 13, Min 9, Max 53, Mean 27.9, Median 18, Mode 9								
h264ref	21315	13729 (64.4%)	?	4760 (22.3%)	?	2035 (9.5%)	?	791 (3.7%)	?
	9+ pt pairs in L-FCPA: Tot 44, Min 9, Max 98, Mean 36.3, Median 31, Mode 9								

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Precise Usable Pointer Information is Small and Sparse

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