

CS618: Program Analysis

2016-17 1st Semester

Liveness based Garbage Collection

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Ideal Garbage Collection

*... garbage collection (GC) is a form of automatic memory management. The garbage collector, or just collector, attempts to reclaim garbage, or memory occupied by objects that are **no longer in use** by the program. ...*

From Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garbage_collection_\(computer_science\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garbage_collection_(computer_science))



Real Garbage Collection

*... All garbage collectors use some efficient **approximation to liveness**. In tracing garbage collection, the approximation is that an object can't be live unless it is **reachable**. ...*

From Memory Management Glossary

www.memorymanagement.org/glossary/g.html#term-garbage-collection



Liveness based GC

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- ▶ Consequences:



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 - ▶ GC only has to mark data that is not in its result.
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- ▶ First order eager Scheme-like functional language.
- ▶ In Administrative Normal Form (ANF).

$$p \in Prog ::= d_1 \dots d_n e_{\text{main}}$$
$$d \in Fdef ::= (\mathbf{define} (f x_1 \dots x_n) e)$$
$$e \in Expr ::= \begin{cases} (\mathbf{if} x e_1 e_2) \\ (\mathbf{let} x \leftarrow a \mathbf{in} e) \\ (\mathbf{return} x) \end{cases}$$
$$a \in App ::= \begin{cases} k \\ (\mathbf{cons} x_1 x_2) & (\mathbf{cdr} x) \\ (\mathbf{car} x) & \\ (\mathbf{null?} x) & (+ x_1 x_2) \\ (f x_1 \dots x_n) \end{cases}$$

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An Example

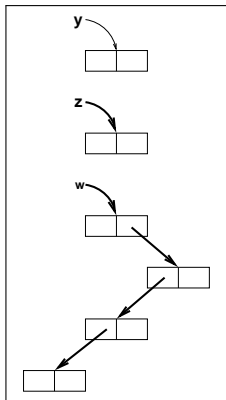
```
(define (append l1 l2)
  (if (null? l1) l2
      (cons (car l1)
            (append (cdr l1) l2))))

(let z ← (cons (cons 4 (cons 5 nil))
              (cons 6 nil)) in
  (let y ← (cons 3 nil) in
    (let w ← (append y z) in
       $\pi$ :(car (cdr w)))))
```

- ▶ *Though all cells are reachable at π , a liveness-based GC will retain only the cells pointed by thick arrows.*

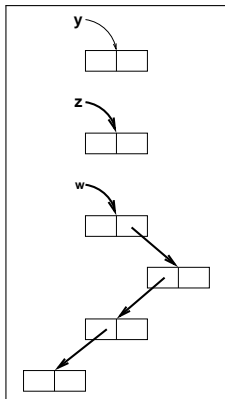
Liveness – Basic Concepts and Notations

- ▶ *Access paths*: Strings over $\{0, 1\}$.
 - 0** – access **car** field
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- ▶ Denote traversals over the heap graph
- ▶ *Liveness environment*:



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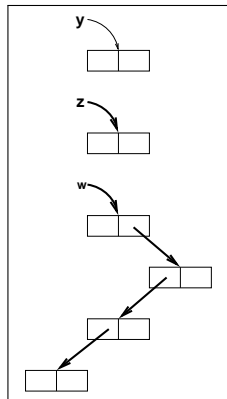


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- ▶ Denote traversals over the heap graph
- ▶ *Liveness environment*: Maps root variables to set of access paths.

$$L_i : \begin{cases} y \mapsto \emptyset \\ z \mapsto \{\epsilon\} \\ w \mapsto \{\epsilon, 1, 10, 100\} \end{cases}$$

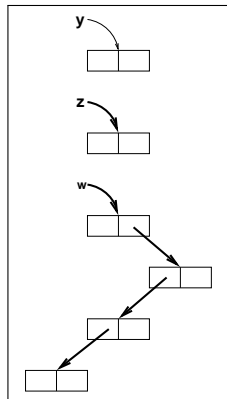


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Liveness – Basic Concepts and Notations

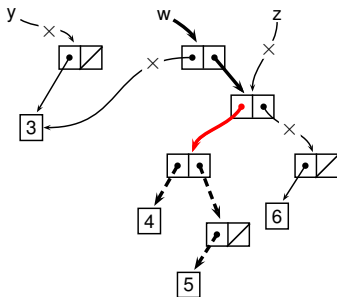
- ▶ *Access paths*: Strings over $\{0, 1\}$.
 - 0** – access **car** field
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- ▶ Denote traversals over the heap graph
- ▶ *Liveness environment*: Alternate representation.

$$L_j : \begin{cases} \emptyset \cup \\ \{z.\epsilon\} \cup \\ \{w.\epsilon, w.1, w.10, w.100\} \end{cases}$$



Notation: We write $L_j(x)$ as L_j^x

(car (cdr w))



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Liveness analysis – The big picture

```
 $\pi_{\text{main}}$ : (let z ← ... in  
  (let y ← ... in  
     $\pi_9$ : (let w ← (append y z) in  
       $\pi_{10}$ : (let a ← (cdr w) in  
         $\pi_{11}$ : (let b ← (car a) in  
           $\pi_{12}$ : (return b))))))
```

```
(define (append l1 l2)  
   $\pi_1$ : (let test ← (null? l1) in  
     $\pi_2$ : (if test  $\pi_3$ : (return l2)  
       $\pi_4$ : (let t1 ← (cdr l1) in  
         $\pi_5$ : (let rec ← (append t1 l2) in  
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Liveness environments:

$L_1 = \dots$

$L_2 = \dots$

...

$L_9 = \dots$

$L_{10} = \dots$



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Demand summaries:

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 $\sigma_{\text{append}} = \dots$ 
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Demand summaries:

$\sigma_{\text{main}} = \sigma_{\text{all}}$
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Function summaries:



- ▶ **GOAL:** Compute Liveness Environment at various program points, statically.

$\mathcal{L}_{app}(a, \sigma)$ – Liveness environment generated by an *application* a , given a demand σ .

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$$\mathcal{L}exp(\text{return } x, \sigma) = \{x.\sigma\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}exp(\text{if } x \text{ } e_1 \text{ } e_2, \sigma) = \{x.\epsilon\} \cup \mathcal{L}exp(e_1, \sigma) \cup \mathcal{L}exp(e_2, \sigma)$$

$$\mathcal{L}exp(\text{let } x \leftarrow s \text{ in } e, \sigma) = L \setminus \{x.*\} \cup \mathcal{L}app(s, L(x))$$

where $L = \mathcal{L}exp(e, \sigma)$

Notice the similarity with:

$$live_{in}(B) = live_{out}(B) \setminus kill(B) \cup gen(B)$$

in classical dataflow analysis for imperative languages.

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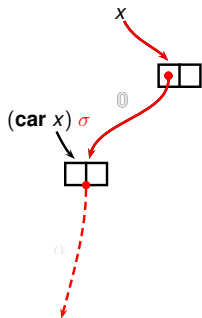
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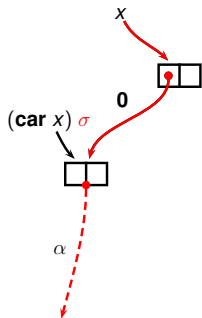


Liveness analysis of Primitive Applications

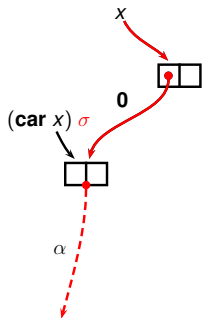




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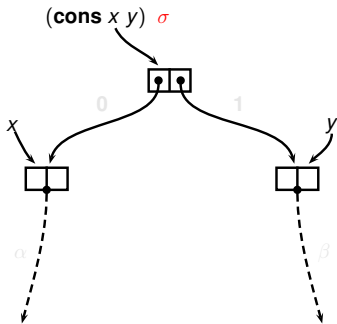
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$$\mathcal{L}_{app}((\text{car } x), \sigma) = \{x.\epsilon, x.0\sigma\}$$



Liveness analysis of Primitive Applications

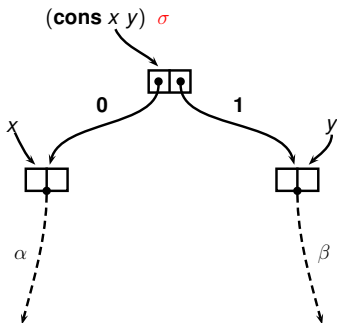


$$\mathcal{L}app((\text{cons } x \ y), \sigma) = \{x.\alpha \mid \mathbf{0}\alpha \in \sigma\} \cup \{y.\beta \mid \mathbf{1}\beta \in \sigma\}$$

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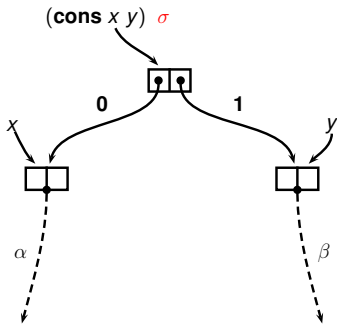


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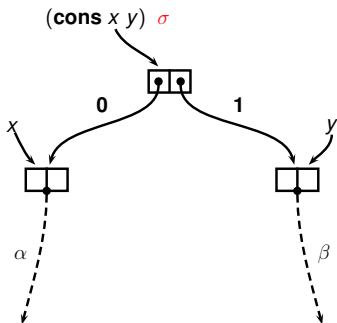


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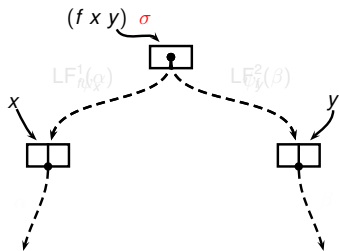


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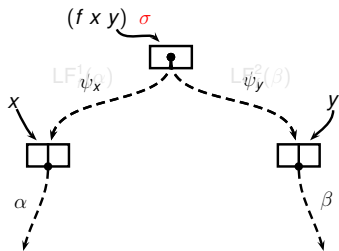
Liveness Analysis of Function Applications



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- ▶ We use LF_f : context independent summary of f .
- ▶ To find $LF_f^i(\dots)$:
 - ▶ Assume a symbolic demand σ_{sym} .
 - ▶ Let e_f be the body of f .
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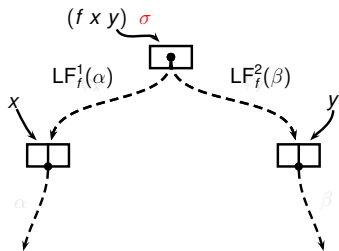
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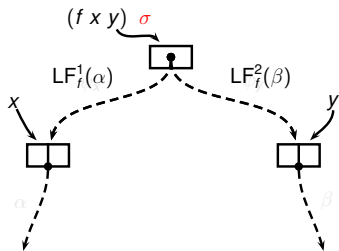
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 - ▶ Let e_f be the body of f .
 - ▶ Set $LF_f^i(\sigma_{sym})$ to $\mathcal{L}exp(e_f, \sigma_{sym})(x_i)$.
 - ▶ How to handle recursive calls?

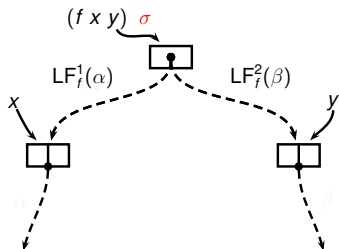
Liveness Analysis of Function Applications



$$\mathcal{L}app((f \ x \ y), \sigma) = x.LF_f^1(\sigma) \cup y.LF_f^2(\sigma)$$

- ▶ We use LF_f : context independent summary of f .
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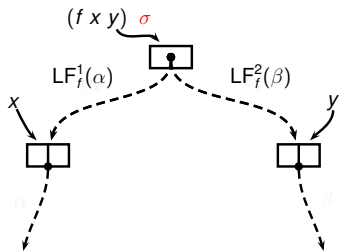
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Liveness Analysis of Function Applications



$$\mathcal{L}app((f \ x \ y), \sigma) = x.LF_f^1(\sigma) \cup y.LF_f^2(\sigma)$$

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 - ▶ How to handle recursive calls? **Use LF_f with appropriate demand !!**



Liveness analysis – The big picture

```

πmain: (let z ← ... in
  (let y ← ... in
    π9: (let w ← (append y z) in
      π10: (let a ← (cdr w) in
        π11: (let b ← (car a) in
          π12: (return b))))))

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```

(define (append l1 l2)
  π1: (let test ← (null? l1) in
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Liveness environments:

$$\begin{aligned}
L_1^{11} &= \{\epsilon\} \cup 00\bar{\sigma}_{\text{append}} \cup \\
&\quad 1LF_{\text{append}}^1(\bar{1}\sigma_{\text{append}}) \\
L_1^{12} &= \sigma \cup LF_{\text{append}}^2(\bar{1}\sigma_{\text{append}}) \\
&\vdots \\
L_9^{\bar{y}} &= LF_{\text{append}}^1(\{\epsilon, \mathbf{1}\} \cup \mathbf{10}\sigma_{\text{all}})
\end{aligned}$$

Demand summaries:

Function summaries:

$$\begin{aligned}
LF_{\text{append}}^1(\sigma) &= \{\epsilon\} \cup 00\bar{\sigma} \cup \\
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Liveness analysis – The big picture

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Liveness analysis – The big picture

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```

Handwritten annotations in red: A red arrow points from the σ in $LF^2_{append}(\bar{1}\sigma)$ to the σ in $(\text{cons } hd \text{ rec})$. Another red arrow points from the σ in $LF^2_{append}(\bar{1}\sigma)$ to the σ in $(\text{return } ans)$.

Liveness environments:

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_1^{11} &= \{\epsilon\} \cup 00\bar{\sigma}_{append} \cup \\
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 L_1^{12} &= \sigma \cup LF^2_{append}(\bar{1}\sigma_{append}) \\
 \dots \\
 L_9^{\bar{y}} &= LF^1_{append}(\{\epsilon, \mathbf{1}\} \cup 10\sigma_{all})
 \end{aligned}$$

Demand summaries:

Function summaries:

$$\begin{aligned}
 LF^1_{append}(\sigma) &= \{\epsilon\} \cup 00\bar{\sigma} \cup \\
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 LF^2_{append}(\sigma) &= \sigma \cup LF^2_{append}(\bar{1}\sigma)
 \end{aligned}$$

Liveness analysis – The big picture

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πmain: (let z ← ... in
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        π6: (let hd ← (car l1) in
          π7: (let ans ← (cons hd rec) in
            π8: (return ans))))))
  
```

Red annotations in the original image: A red arrow points from the σ in $LF^2_{append}(\bar{1}\sigma)$ to the σ in π_5 . Another red arrow points from the σ in $LF^2_{append}(\bar{1}\sigma)$ to the σ in π_7 .

Liveness environments:

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_1^{11} &= \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{00}\sigma_{append} \cup \mathbf{1}LF^1_{append}(\bar{1}\sigma_{append}) \\
 L_1^{12} &= \sigma \cup LF^2_{append}(\bar{1}\sigma_{append}) \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

Demand summaries:

Function summaries:

$$\begin{aligned}
 LF^1_{append}(\sigma) &= \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{00}\sigma \cup \mathbf{1}LF^1_{append}(\bar{1}\sigma) \\
 LF^2_{append}(\sigma) &= \sigma \cup LF^2_{append}(\bar{1}\sigma)
 \end{aligned}$$



Liveness analysis – Demand Summary

$$\sigma_{\text{main}} = \sigma_{\text{all}}$$

```

 $\pi_{\text{main}}$ : (let z ← ... in
  (let y ← ... in
     $\pi_9$ : (let w ← (append y z) in
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```

```

(define (append l1 l2)
   $\pi_1$ : (let test ← (null? l1) in
     $\pi_2$ : (if test  $\pi_3$ : (return l2)
     $\pi_4$ : (let t1 ← (cdr l1) in
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           $\pi_7$ : (let ans ← (cons hd rec) in
             $\pi_8$ : (return ans))))))

```

Liveness environments:

$$L_1^{11} = \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{00}\bar{\sigma}_{\text{append}} \cup \mathbf{1}LF_{\text{append}}^1(\bar{\mathbf{1}}\sigma_{\text{append}})$$

$$L_1^{12} = \sigma \cup LF_{\text{append}}^2(\bar{\mathbf{1}}\sigma_{\text{append}})$$

$$\vdots$$

$$L_9^{\bar{y}} = LF_{\text{append}}^1(\{\epsilon, \mathbf{1}\} \cup \mathbf{10}\sigma_{\text{all}})$$

Demand summaries:

Function summaries:

$$LF_{\text{append}}^1(\sigma) = \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{00}\bar{\sigma} \cup \mathbf{1}LF_{\text{append}}^1(\bar{\mathbf{1}}\sigma)$$

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Liveness analysis – Demand Summary

$\sigma_{\text{main}} = \sigma_{\text{all}}$
 $\pi_{\text{main}}: (\text{let } z \leftarrow \dots \text{ in}$
 $\quad (\text{let } y \leftarrow \dots \text{ in}$
 $\quad \quad \pi_9: (\text{let } w \leftarrow (\text{append } y \ z) \text{ in}$
 $\quad \quad \pi_{10}: (\text{let } a \leftarrow (\text{cdr } w) \text{ in}$
 $\quad \quad \pi_{11}: (\text{let } b \leftarrow (\text{car } a) \text{ in}$
 $\quad \quad \pi_{12}: (\text{return } b))))))$

$(\text{define } (\text{append } l1 \ l2)$
 $\quad \pi_1: (\text{let } \text{test} \leftarrow (\text{null? } l1) \text{ in}$
 $\quad \quad \pi_2: (\text{if } \text{test} \ \pi_3: (\text{return } l2)$
 $\quad \quad \pi_4: (\text{let } t1 \leftarrow (\text{cdr } l1) \text{ in}$
 $\quad \quad \pi_5: (\text{let } \text{rec} \leftarrow (\text{append } t1 \ l2) \text{ in}$
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 $\quad \quad \pi_7: (\text{let } \text{ans} \leftarrow (\text{cons } \text{hd } \text{rec}) \text{ in}$
 $\quad \quad \pi_8: (\text{return } \text{ans}))))))$

Liveness environments:

$L_1^{11} = \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{00}\bar{\sigma}_{\text{append}} \cup$
 $\quad \mathbf{1}LF_{\text{append}}^1(\bar{\mathbf{1}}\sigma_{\text{append}})$
 $L_1^{12} = \sigma \cup LF_{\text{append}}^2(\bar{\mathbf{1}}\sigma_{\text{append}})$
 \vdots
 $L_9^{\bar{y}} = LF_{\text{append}}^1(\{\epsilon, \mathbf{1}\} \cup \mathbf{10}\sigma_{\text{all}})$

Demand summaries:

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$LF_{\text{append}}^1(\sigma) = \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{00}\bar{\sigma} \cup$
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Liveness analysis – Demand Summary

$\sigma_{\text{main}} = \sigma_{\text{all}}$

```

 $\pi_{\text{main}}: (\text{let } z \leftarrow \dots \text{ in}$ 
   $(\text{let } y \leftarrow \dots \text{ in}$ 
     $\pi_9: (\text{let } w \leftarrow (\text{append } y \ z) \text{ in}$ 
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           $\pi_{12}: (\text{return } b))))))$ 

```

$\sigma_{\text{append}} = \sigma_1 \cup \dots$

```

(define (append l1 l2)
   $\pi_1: (\text{let } \text{test} \leftarrow (\text{null? } l1) \text{ in}$ 
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         $\pi_5: (\text{let } \text{rec} \leftarrow (\text{append } t1 \ l2) \text{ in}$ 
           $\pi_6: (\text{let } \text{hd} \leftarrow (\text{car } l1) \text{ in}$ 
             $\pi_7: (\text{let } \text{ans} \leftarrow (\text{cons } \text{hd } \text{rec}) \text{ in}$ 
               $\pi_8: (\text{return } \text{ans}))))))$ 

```

Liveness environments:

$$L_1^{11} = \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{00}\bar{\sigma}_{\text{append}} \cup \mathbf{1LF}_{\text{append}}^1(\bar{\mathbf{1}}\sigma_{\text{append}})$$

$$L_1^{12} = \sigma \cup \mathbf{LF}_{\text{append}}^2(\bar{\mathbf{1}}\sigma_{\text{append}})$$

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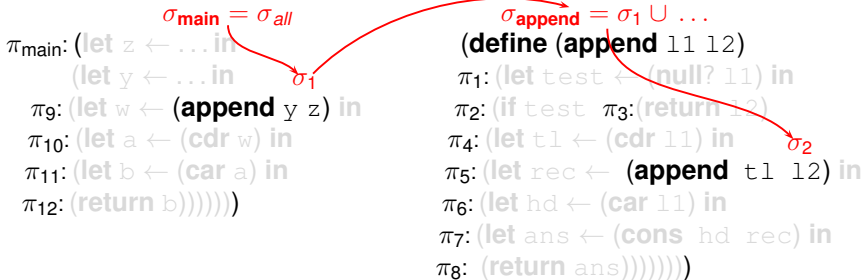
Demand summaries:

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Liveness analysis – Demand Summary



Liveness environments:

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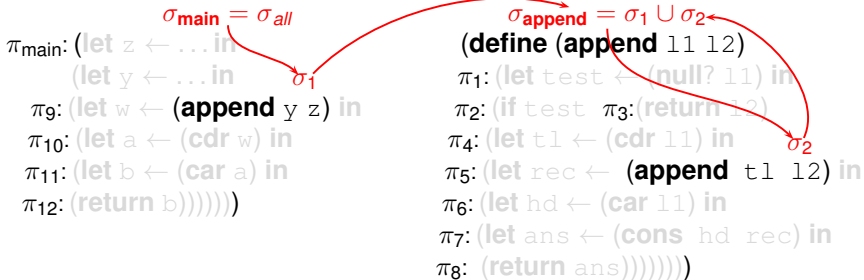
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Liveness analysis – Demand Summary



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Liveness analysis – Demand Summary

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\end{aligned}$$

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\end{aligned}$$



Obtaining a closed form solution for LF

- ▶ Function summaries will always have the form:

$$LF_f^i(\sigma) = I_f^i \cup D_f^i \sigma$$

- ▶ Consider the equation for LF_{append}^1

$$LF_{\text{append}}^1(\sigma) = \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{00}\bar{\sigma} \cup \mathbf{1}LF_{\text{append}}^1(\bar{\mathbf{1}}\sigma)$$

- ▶ Substitute the assumed form in the equation:

$$I_{\text{append}}^1 \cup D_{\text{append}}^1 \sigma = \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{00}\bar{\sigma} \cup \mathbf{1}(I_{\text{append}}^1 \cup D_{\text{append}}^1 \bar{\mathbf{1}}\sigma)$$

- ▶ Equating the terms without and with σ , we get:

$$\begin{aligned} I_{\text{append}}^1 &= \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{1}I_{\text{append}}^1 \\ D_{\text{append}}^1 &= \mathbf{00} \cup \mathbf{1}D_{\text{append}}^1 \bar{\mathbf{1}} \end{aligned}$$



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Summary of Analysis Results

Liveness at program points:

$$L_1^{11} = \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{00}\bar{\sigma} \cup \mathbf{1}(l_{\text{append}}^1 \cup D_{\text{append}}^1 \bar{\sigma}_{\text{append}})$$

$$L_1^{12} = \{\epsilon\} \cup l_{\text{append}}^2 \cup D_{\text{append}}^2 \bar{\sigma}_{\text{append}}$$

$$L_5^{11} = \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{00}\bar{\sigma}_{\text{append}}$$

$$L_5^{t1} = l_{\text{append}}^1 \cup D_{\text{append}}^1 \bar{\sigma}_{\text{append}}$$

$$L_5^{12} = l_{\text{append}}^2 \cup D_{\text{append}}^2 \bar{\sigma}_{\text{append}}$$

...

Demand summaries:

$$\sigma_{\text{append}} = \{\epsilon, \mathbf{1}\} \cup \bar{\mathbf{1}}\sigma_{\text{append}} \cup \mathbf{10}\sigma_{\text{all}}$$

Function summaries:

$$l_{\text{append}}^1 = \{\epsilon\} \cup \mathbf{1}l_{\text{append}}^1$$

$$D_{\text{append}}^1 = \mathbf{00} \cup \mathbf{1}D_{\text{append}}^1 \bar{\mathbf{1}}$$

$$l_{\text{append}}^2 = l_{\text{append}}^2$$

$$D_{\text{append}}^2 = \{\epsilon\} \cup D_{\text{append}}^2 \bar{\mathbf{0}}$$

View the equations as grammar rules:

$$\begin{aligned}L_1^{11} &\rightarrow \epsilon \mid \mathbf{00}\bar{\sigma} \mid \mathbf{1}(I_{\text{append}}^1 \mid D_{\text{append}}^1 \bar{\mathbf{1}}\sigma_{\text{append}}) \\ I_{\text{append}}^1 &\rightarrow \epsilon \mid \mathbf{1}I_{\text{append}}^1 \\ D_{\text{append}}^1 &\rightarrow \mathbf{00} \mid \mathbf{1}D_{\text{append}}^1 \bar{\mathbf{1}}\end{aligned}$$

The solution of L_1^{11} is the language $\mathcal{L}(L_1^{11})$ generated by it.



Working of Liveness-based GC (Mark phase)

- ▶ GC invoked at a program point π
- ▶ GC traverses a path α starting from a root variable x .
- ▶ GC consults L_{π}^x :
 - ▶ Does $\alpha \in \mathcal{L}(L_{\pi}^x)$?
 - ▶ If yes, then mark the current cell
- ▶ Note that α is a *forward-only* access path
 - ▶ consisting only of edges **0** and **1**, but not $\bar{0}$ or $\bar{1}$
 - ▶ But $\mathcal{L}(L_{\pi}^x)$ has access paths marked with $\bar{0}/\bar{1}$ for **0/1** removal arising from the **cons** rule.



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- ▶ **0** removal from a set of access paths:

$$\alpha_1 \bar{0}0\alpha_2 \hookrightarrow \alpha_1\alpha_2$$

$$\alpha_1 \bar{0}1\alpha_2 \hookrightarrow \text{drop } \alpha_1 \bar{0}1\alpha_2 \text{ from the set}$$

- ▶ **1** removal from a set of access paths:

$$\alpha_1 \bar{1}1\alpha_2 \hookrightarrow \alpha_1\alpha_2$$

$$\alpha_1 \bar{1}0\alpha_2 \hookrightarrow \text{drop } \alpha_1 \bar{1}0\alpha_2 \text{ from the set}$$



- ▶ Deciding the membership in a CFG augmented with a fixed set of unrestricted productions.

$$\overline{00} \rightarrow \epsilon$$

$$\overline{11} \rightarrow \epsilon$$

- ▶ The problem shown to be undecidable¹.
 - ▶ Reduction from Halting problem.

¹Prasanna, Sanyal, and Karkare. *Liveness-Based Garbage Collection for Lazy Languages*, ISMM 2016.



Practical $\overline{0/1}$ simplification

- ▶ The simplification is possible to do on a finite state automaton.
- ▶ Over-approximate the CFG by an automaton (Mohri-Nederhoff transformation).
- ▶ Perform **0/1** removal on the automaton.



Example

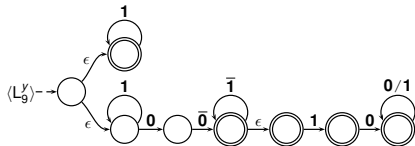
Grammar for L_9^y

$$\begin{aligned}L_9^y &\rightarrow l_{\text{append}}^1 \mid D_{\text{append}}^1(\epsilon \mid \mathbf{1} \mid \mathbf{10}\sigma_{\text{all}}) \\l_{\text{append}}^1 &\rightarrow \epsilon \mid \mathbf{1}l_{\text{append}}^1 \\D_{\text{append}}^1 &\rightarrow \mathbf{00} \mid \mathbf{1}D_{\text{append}}^1\bar{\mathbf{1}} \\\sigma_{\text{all}} &\rightarrow \epsilon \mid \mathbf{0}\sigma_{\text{all}} \mid \mathbf{1}\sigma_{\text{all}}\end{aligned}$$

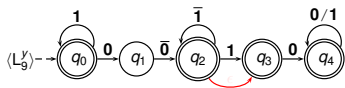
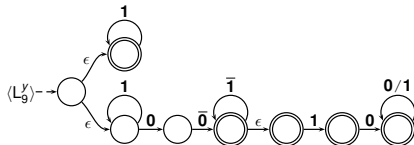
After Mohri-Nederhoff transformation

$$\begin{aligned}L_9^y &\rightarrow l_{\text{append}}^1 \mid D_{\text{append}}^1(\epsilon \mid \mathbf{1} \mid \mathbf{10}\sigma_{\text{all}}) \\l_{\text{append}}^1 &\rightarrow \epsilon \mid \mathbf{1}l_{\text{append}}^1 \\D_{\text{append}}^1 &\rightarrow \mathbf{00}\widehat{D}_{\text{append}}^1 \mid \mathbf{1}D_{\text{append}}^1 \\\widehat{D}_{\text{append}}^1 &\rightarrow \bar{\mathbf{1}}\widehat{D}_{\text{append}}^1 \mid \epsilon \\\sigma_{\text{all}} &\rightarrow \epsilon \mid \mathbf{0}\sigma_{\text{all}} \mid \mathbf{1}\sigma_{\text{all}}\end{aligned}$$

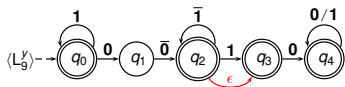
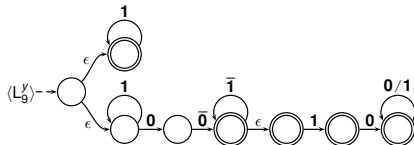
Automaton for L_9^y



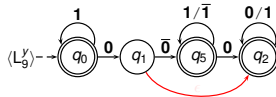
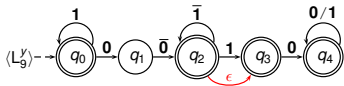
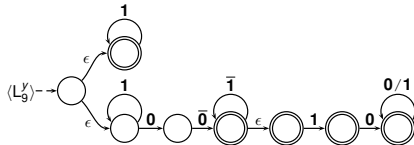
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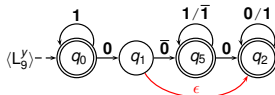
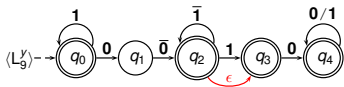
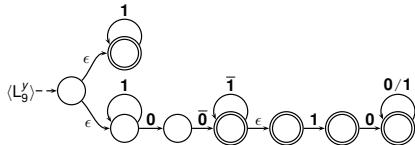
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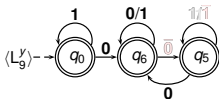
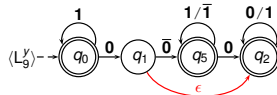
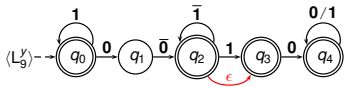
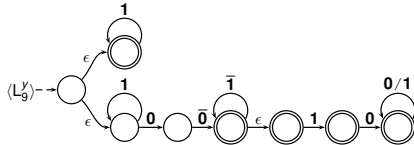
Automaton for L_9^y



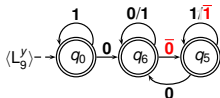
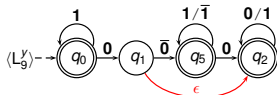
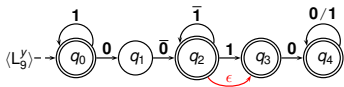
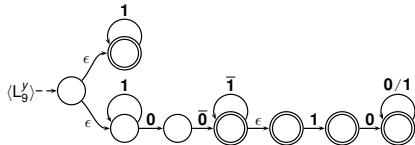
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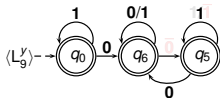
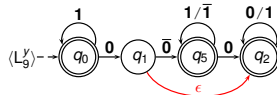
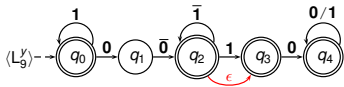
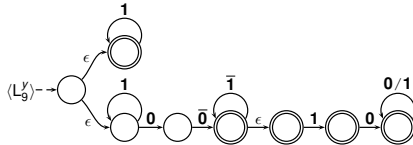
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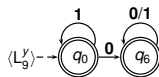
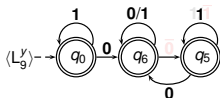
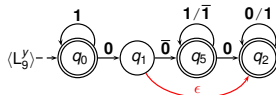
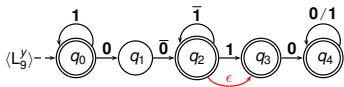
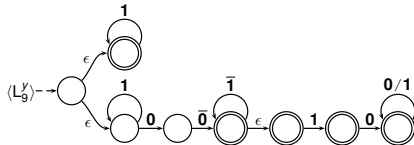
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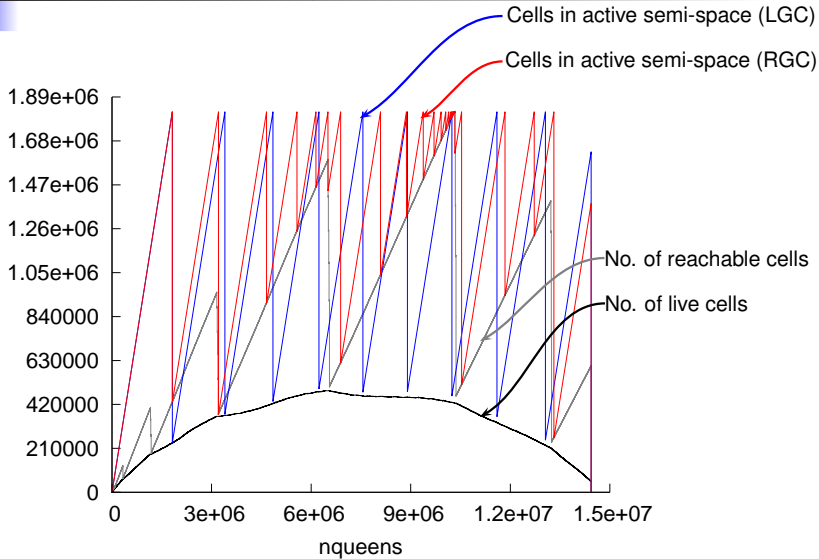




Experimental Setup

- ▶ Built a prototype consisting of:
 - ▶ An ANF-scheme interpreter
 - ▶ Liveness analyzer
 - ▶ A single-generation copying collector.
- ▶ The collector optionally uses liveness
 - ▶ Marks a link during GC only if it is live.
- ▶ Benchmark programs are mostly from the no-fib suite.

GC behavior as a graph



Analysis Performance:

Program	sudoku	lc55	gc_bench	knightstour	treejoin	nqueens	lambda
Time (msec)	120.95	2.19	0.32	3.05	2.61	0.71	20.51
DFA size	4251	726	258	922	737	241	732
Precision(%)	87.5	98.8	99.9	94.3	99.6	98.8	83.8



Garbage collection performance

Program	# Collected cells per GC		#GCs		MinHeap (#cells)		GC time (sec)	
	RGC	LGC	RGC	LGC	RGC	LGC	RGC	LGC
sudoku	490	1306	22	9	1704	589	.028	.122
lc55	46522	51101	8	7	52301	1701	.045	.144
gc_bench	129179	131067	9	9	131071	6	.086	.075
nperm	47586	174478	14	4	202597	37507	1.406	.9
fibheap	249502	251525	1	1	254520	13558	.006	.014
knightstour	2593	314564	1161	10	508225	307092	464.902	14.124
treejoin	288666	519943	2	1	525488	7150	.356	.217
nqueens	283822	1423226	46	9	1819579	501093	70.314	24.811
lambda	205	556	23	8	966	721	.093	2.49

▶ LGC collects more garbage than RGC.



Garbage collection performance

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▶ # collections of LGC no higher than RGC. Often, smaller.



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► Programs require smaller heaps to execute with LGC.



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▶ GC time is smaller for LGC in some cases...



Garbage collection performance

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► ... and larger in some.



Lazy evaluation

- ▶ An evaluation strategy in which evaluation of an expression is postponed until its value is needed
 - ▶ Binding of a variable to an expression **does not force evaluation** of the expression
 - ▶ Every expression is evaluated at most once



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Laziness: Example

```
(define (length l)
  (if (null? l)
      return 0
      return (+ 1 (length (cdr l))))))
```

```
(define (main)
  (let a ← ( a BIG closure ) in
    (let b ← (+ a 1) in
      (let c ← (cons b nil) in
        (let w ← (length c) in
          (return w)))))))
```




Handling lazy semantics: Challenges

- ▶ **Laziness complicates liveness analysis itself.**
 - ▶ Data is made live by evaluation of closures
 - ▶ In lazy languages, the place in the program where this evaluation takes place cannot be statically determined
- ▶ Liveness-based garbage collector significantly more complicated than that for an eager language.



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- ▶ Liveness no longer remains independent of demand σ
 - ▶ If $(\mathbf{car} \ x)$ is not evaluated at all, it does not generate any liveness for x
 - ▶ Require a new terminal $\mathbf{2}$ with following semantics

$$\mathbf{2}\sigma \hookrightarrow \begin{cases} \emptyset & \text{if } \sigma = \emptyset \\ \{\epsilon\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{L}app((\mathbf{car} \ x), \sigma) = x.\{\mathbf{2}, \mathbf{0}\}\sigma$$

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Scope for future work

- ▶ Reducing GC-time.
 - ▶ Reducing re-visits to heap nodes.
 - ▶ Basing the implementation on full Scheme, not ANF-Scheme
- ▶ Increasing the scope of the method.
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 - ▶ Higher order functions.
 - ▶ Specialize all higher order functions (Firstification)
 - ▶ Analysis on the firstified program
 - ▶ For partial applications, carry information about the *base* function
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 - ▶ Specialize all higher order functions (Firstification)
 - ▶ Analysis on the firstified program
 - ▶ For partial applications, carry information about the *base* function

- ▶ Using the notion of *demand* for other analysis.



Scope for future work

- ▶ Reducing GC-time.
 - ▶ Reducing re-visits to heap nodes.
 - ▶ Basing the implementation on full Scheme, not ANF-Scheme

- ▶ Increasing the scope of the method.
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Conclusions

- ▶ Proposed a liveness-based GC scheme.
- ▶ Not covered in this talk:
 - ▶ The soundness of liveness analysis.
 - ▶ Details of undecidability proof.
 - ▶ Details of handling lazy languages.
- ▶ A prototype implementation to demonstrate:
 - ▶ the precision of the analysis.
 - ▶ reduced heap requirement.
 - ▶ reduced GC time for a majority of programs.
- ▶ Unfinished agenda:
 - ▶ Improving GC time for a larger fraction of programs.
 - ▶ Extending scope of the method.