## CS738: Advanced Compiler Optimizations

## Static Single Assignment (SSA)

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## Agenda

- SSA Form
- Constructing SSA form
- Properties and Applications


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- in 1980s while at IBM.
- Static Single Assignment - A variable is assigned only once in program text
- May be assigned multiple times if program is executed


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- Definitions sites are directly associated with use sites
- Advantage
- Directly access points where relevant data flow information is available


## SSA IR

- In SSA Form


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- Each variable has exactly one definition
$\Rightarrow$ A use of a variable is reached by exactly one definition
- Control flow like traditional programs
- Some magic is needed at join nodes


## Example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \hline i=0 ; \\
& \cdots \\
& i=i+1 ; \\
& \cdots=i \\
& j=i \\
& \ldots .
\end{aligned}
$$

## Example

| i $=0$; |  | i1 $=0$; |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $i=1+1 ;$ | $\xrightarrow{\text { SSA }}$ | i2 = i1 + 1; |
|  |  |  |
| j = i * 5; |  | j1 = i2 * 5; |

## SSA Example



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## SSA Example

| i $=$ |  | i1 $=$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| = . . ; |  | j1 = ...; |
| if (i<20) |  | if (il < 20) |
| i $=1+j ;$ | $\stackrel{\text { SSA }}{ }$ | i2 = i1 + j1; |
| else | $\Rightarrow$ | else |
| j = j + 2; |  | j2 = j1 + 2; |
|  |  | i3 $=\phi(i 2, ~ i 1) ; ~$ |
|  |  | j3 = $\phi(j 1, ~ j 2) ;$ |
| print i, j; |  | print i3, j3; |

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- One out of multiple values at join nodes
- Not every join node needs a $\phi$
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- Examples?


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- No direct translation to machine code
- typically mimicked using "copy" in predecessors
- Inefficient
- Practically, the inefficiency is compensated by dead code elimination and register allocation passes


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- Ordering of $\phi$ arguments according to the edge ordering is important


## SSA Example (revisit)



Construction of SSA Form

## Assumptions

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\begin{aligned}
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\operatorname{DOM}(n) & =N, \forall n \in N-\left\{n_{\text {Entry }}\right\}
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where $N$ is the set of all nodes, $n_{\text {Entry }}$ is the node corresponding to the Entry block.

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- Note that efficient methods exist for computing dominators


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- Dominator Tree
- A tree showing all immediate dominator relationships


## Dominator Tree Example



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- Why do you think $\operatorname{DF}(x)$ is important for any $x$ ?
- Think about the information originated in $x$.


## Computing DF

- PARENT $(x)$ denotes parent of node $x$ in the dominator tree.
- CHILDERN $(x)$ denotes children of node $x$ in the dominator tree.
- PRED and SUCC from CFG.

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\operatorname{DF}(x)=\operatorname{DF}_{\text {local }}(x) \cup\left(\bigcup_{z \in \operatorname{CHILDERN}(x)} \operatorname{DF}_{\text {up }}(z)\right)
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\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{DF}(S) & =\bigcup_{x \in S} \operatorname{DF}(x) \\
\operatorname{DF}^{1}(S) & =\operatorname{DF}(S) \\
\operatorname{DF}^{i+1}(S) & =\operatorname{DF}\left(S \cup \operatorname{DF}^{i}(S)\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

- $\mathrm{DF}^{+}(S)$ is the fixed point of $\mathrm{DF}^{i}$ computation.


## Minimal SSA Form Construction

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- Rename variables
- Why DF ${ }^{+}$? Why not only DF?

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## Inserting $\phi$-functions

```
foreach variable v {
    S=Entry \cup{Bn}|v\mathrm{ defined in }\mp@subsup{B}{n}{}
    Compute DF }\mp@subsup{}{}{+
    foreach n in DF+}(S) 
        insert }\phi\mathrm{ -function for v at the start of }\mp@subsup{B}{n}{
    }
}
```


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- For each assignment $(x=\ldots)$ in $n$
- Pop $x \mapsto \ldots$ from the rename stack

