Loop Optimizations

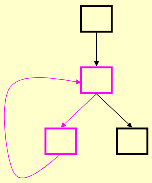
This lecture is primarily based on Konstantinos Sagonas set of slides (**Advanced Compiler Techniques**, (2AD518) at Uppsala University, January-February 2004).
Used with kind permission.

Loop Optimizations

- Important because lots of execution time occurs in loops
- First, we will identify loops
- We will study three optimizations
  - Loop-invariant code motion
  - Strength reduction
  - Induction variable elimination

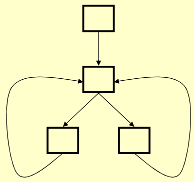
What is a Loop?

- Set of nodes
- Loop header
  - Single node
  - All iterations of loop go through header
- Back edge

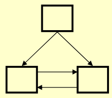


Anomalous Situations

- Two back edges, two loops, one header
- Compiler merges loops



- No loop header, no loop



Defining Loops With Dominators

Recall the concept of *dominators:*

- Node n <u>dominates</u> a node m if all paths from the start node to m go through n.
- The *immediate dominator* of m is the last dominator of m on any path from start node.
- A *dominator tree* is a tree rooted at the start node:
  - Nodes are nodes of control flow graph.
  - Edge from d to n if d is the immediate dominator of n.

Identifying Loops

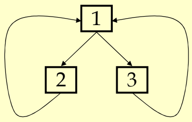
- A loop has a unique entry point – the header.
- At least one path back to header.
- Find edges whose heads (>) dominate tails (-), these edges are back edges of loops.
- Given a back edge n→d:
  - The node d is the loop header.
  - The loop consists of n plus all nodes that can reach n without going through d (all nodes "between" d and n)

Loop Construction Algorithm

loop(d,n)
  loop = ∅; stack = ∅; *insert*(n);
  while stack not empty do
    m = pop stack;
    for all p ∈ *pred*(m) do *insert*(p);
insert(m)
  if m ∉ loop then
    loop = loop ∪ {m};
    push m onto stack;

Nested Loops

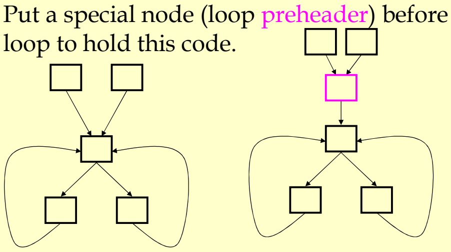
- If two loops do not have same header then
  - Either one loop (inner loop) is contained in the other (outer loop)
  - Or the two loops are disjoint
- If two loops have same header, typically they are unioned and treated as one loop



Two loops:
  {1,2} and {1, 3}
Unioned: {1,2,3}

Loop Preheader

- Many optimizations stick code before loop.
- Put a special node (loop preheader) before loop to hold this code.



Loop Optimizations

- Now that we have the loop, we can optimize it!
- Loop invariant code motion:
  - Move loop invariant code to the header.

Loop Invariant Code Motion

If a computation produces the same value in every loop iteration, move it out of the loop.

```
for i = 1 to N
  x = x + 1
  for j = 1 to N
    a[i,j] = 100*N + 10*i + j + x
```

```
t1 = 100*N
for i = 1 to N
  x = x + 1
  t2 = t1 + 10*i + x
  for j = 1 to N
    a[i,j] = t2 + j
```


Detecting Loop Invariant Code

- A statement is *loop-invariant* if operands are
  - Constant,
  - Have all reaching definitions outside loop, or
  - Have exactly one reaching definition, and that definition comes from an invariant statement
- Concept of exit node of loop
  - node with successors outside loop

Loop Invariant Code Detection Algorithm

for all statements in loop

if operands are constant or have all reaching definitions outside loop, mark statement as invariant

do

for all statements in loop not already marked invariant

if operands are constant, have all reaching definitions outside loop, or have exactly one reaching definition from invariant statement

then mark statement as invariant

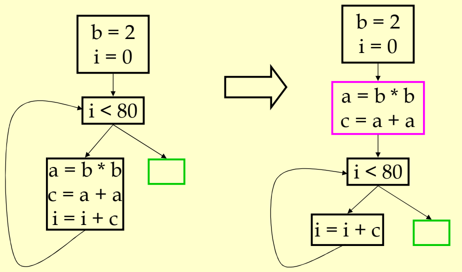
until there are no more invariant statements

Loop Invariant Code Motion

- Conditions for moving a statement s: x = y+z into loop header:
  - s dominates all exit nodes of loop
    - If it does not, some use after loop might get wrong value
    - Alternate condition: definition of x from s reaches no use outside loop (but moving s may increase run time)
  - No other statement in loop assigns to x
    - If one does, assignments might get reordered
  - No use of x in loop is reached by definition other than s
    - If one is, movement may change value read by use

Order of Statements in Preheader

Preserve data dependences from original program (can use order in which discovered by algorithm)



Induction Variables

Example:

```
for j = 1 to 100
    *(&A + 4*j) = 202 - 2*j
```

Basic Induction variable:

J = 1, 2, 3, 4, …..

Induction variable &A+4*j:

&A+4*j = &A+4, &A+8, &A+12, &A+16, ….

What are induction variables?

- x is an *induction variable* of a loop L if
  - variable changes its value every iteration of the loop
  - the value is a function of number of iterations of the loop
- In programs, this function is normally a linear function

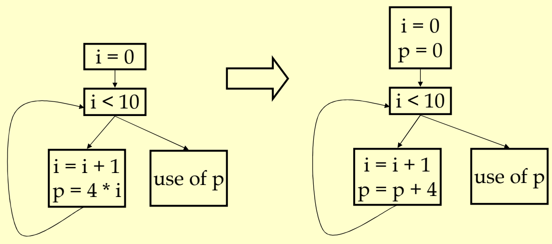
  Example: for loop index variable j, function d + c*j

Types of Induction Variables

- Base induction variable:
  - Only assignments in loop are of form i = i ± c
- Derived induction variables:
  - Value is a linear function of a base induction variable.
  - Within loop, j = c*i + d, where i is a base induction variable.
  - Very common in array index expressions – an access to a[i] produces code like p = a + 4*i.

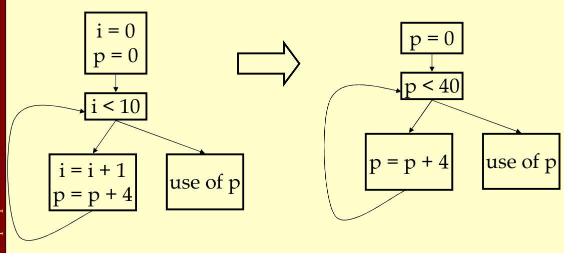
Loop Optimizations: Induction Variables – Strength Reduction

Strength Reduction for Derived Induction Variables



Loop Optimizations: Induction Variables – Elimination

Elimination of Superfluous Induction Variables



Loop Optimizations: Induction Variables

Three Algorithms

- Detection of induction variables:
  - Find base induction variables.
  - Each base induction variable has a family of derived induction variables, each of which is a linear function of base induction variable.
- Strength reduction for derived induction variables.
- Elimination of superfluous induction variables.

Loop Optimizations: Induction Variables

Output of Induction Variable Detection Algorithm

- Set of induction variables:
  - base induction variables.
  - derived induction variables.
- For each induction variable j, a triple <i,c,d>:
  - i is a base induction variable.
  - the value of j is i*c+d.
  - j belongs to family of i.

Loop Optimizations: Induction Variables

Induction Variable Detection Algorithm

Scan loop to find all base induction variables

do

  Scan loop to find all variables k with one assignment of form k = j*b where j is an induction variable with triple <i,c,d>

  make k an induction variable with triple <i,c*b,d*b>

  Scan loop to find all variables k with one assignment of form k = j±b where j is an induction variable with triple <i,c,d>

  make k an induction variable with triple <i,c,b±d>

until no more induction variables are found

Loop Optimizations: Induction Variables – Strength Reduction

Strength Reduction

```
t = 202
for j = 1 to 100
  t = t - 2
  *(abase + 4*j) = t
```

Basic Induction variable:

J = 1, 2, 3, 4, …..

1 1 1

Induction variable 202 - 2*j

t = 202, 200, 198, 196, …..

-2 -2 -2

Induction variable abase+4*j:

abase+4*j = abase+4, abase+8, abase+12, abase+16, ….

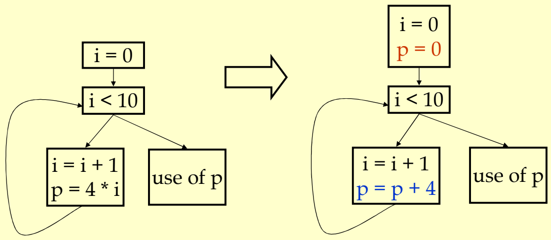
4 4 4

Strength Reduction Algorithm

for all derived induction variables j with triple <i,c,d>

- Create a new variable s
- Replace assignment j = i*c+d with j = s
- Immediately after each assignment i = i + e, insert statement s = s + c*e (c*e is constant)
- place s in family of i with triple <i,c,d>
- Insert s = c*i+d into preheader

Strength Reduction for Derived Induction Variables



Example

```
double A[256], B[256][256]
j = 1


while(j<100)
  A[j] = B[j][j]
  j = j + 2
```

```
double A[256], B[256][256]
j = 1
a = &A + 8
b = &B + 2056    // 2048+8
while(j<100)
  *a = *b
  j = j + 2
  a = a + 16
  b = b + 4112   // 4096+16
```


Induction Variable Elimination

Choose a base induction variable i such that

- only uses of i are in
  - termination condition of the form i < n
  - assignment of the form i = i + m

Choose a derived induction variable k with <i,c,d>

- Replace termination condition with k < c*n+d

Summary Loop Optimization

- Important because lots of time is spent in loops.
- Detecting loops.
- Loop invariant code motion.
- Induction variable analyses and optimizations:
  - Strength reduction.
  - Induction variable elimination.