

Dead Code Elimination & Constant Propagation on SSA form

This lecture is primarily based on Konstantinos Sagonas set of slides (Advanced Compiler Techniques, (2ADS18) at Uppsala University, January-February 2004).
Used with kind permission.
(In turn based on Keith Cooper's slides)

Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Dead code elimination

- Conceptually similar to mark-sweep garbage collection:
 - Mark *useful* operations.
 - Everything not marked is useless.
- Need an efficient way to find and to mark useful operations.
 - Start with *critical* operations.
 - Work back up SSA edges to find their antecedents.
- Operations defined as *critical*:
 - I/O statements,
 - linkage code (*entry & exit blocks*),
 - return values,
 - calls to other procedures.

Algorithm will use post-dominators & reverse dominance frontiers.

Dead Code Elimination

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Mark
for each op *i*
clear *i*'s mark
if *i* is critical then
mark *i*
add *i* to WorkList
while (WorkList ≠ ∅)
remove *i* from WorkList
(*i* has form "*x←y op z*")
if def(*y*) is not marked then
mark def(*y*)
add def(*y*) to WorkList
if def(*z*) is not marked then
mark def(*z*)
add def(*z*) to WorkList
for each *b* ∈ RDF(block(*i*))
mark the block-ending
branch in *b*
add it to WorkList

Sweep
for each op *i*
if *i* is not marked then
if *i* is a branch then
rewrite with a jump to
i's nearest useful
post-dominator
if *i* is not a jump then
delete *i*

Notes:

- Eliminates some branches.
- Reconnects dead branches to the remaining live code.
- Find useful post-dominator by walking post-dominator tree.
→ Entry & exit nodes are useful

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Dead Code Elimination

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Handling Branches

- When is a branch useful?
 - When another useful operation depends on its existence

In the CFG, *j* is *control dependent* on *i* if

- ∃ a non-null path *p* from *i* to *j* such that *j* post-dominates every node on *p* after *i*
- j* does not strictly post-dominate *i*

- j* control dependent on *i* ⇒ one path from *i* leads to *j*, one doesn't
- This is the reverse dominance frontier of *j* (RDF(*j*))

Algorithm uses RDF(*n*) to mark branches as live

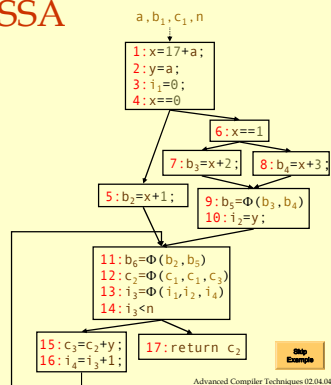
Dead Code Elimination

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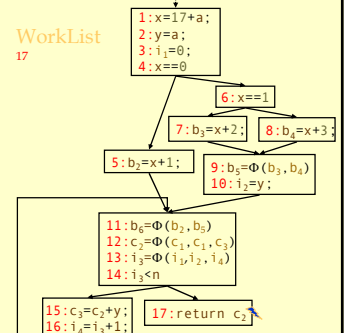
Dead Code Elimination

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Dead Code Elimination

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

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 (*i* has form "op z")

if def(*z*) is not marked then
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for each $b \in \text{RDF}(\text{block}(i))$
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WorkList
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i=17

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for each $b \in \text{RDF}(\text{block}(i))$
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i=12

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 if $\text{def}(y)$ is not marked then
 mark $\text{def}(y)$
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 2

$i=15$

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WorkList
 2,14

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WorkList
 14

$i=2$

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$i=14$

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WorkList
 3,10
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WorkList
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WorkList
 3,10,16
i=3

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WorkList
 10,16
i=10

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 mark the block-ending
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WorkList
 16
i=10

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i=10

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WorkList
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i=16

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i=4

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i=4

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Mark
 for each op *i*
 clear *i*'s mark
 if *i* is critical then
 mark *i*
 add *i* to WorkList

while (WorkList $\neq \emptyset$)
 remove *i* from WorkList
 (*i* has form "*x*-*y* op *z*")
 if def(*y*) is not marked then
 mark def(*y*)
 add def(*y*) to WorkList
 if def(*z*) is not marked then
 mark def(*z*)
 add def(*z*) to WorkList
 for each *b* \in RDF(block(*i*))
 mark the block-ending
 branch in *b*
 add it to WorkList

WorkList
 1
i=1

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Mark

- for each op i
- clear i 's mark
- if i is critical then
- mark i
- add i to WorkList

while (WorkList $\neq \emptyset$)

- remove i from WorkList
- (i has form " $x \leftarrow y \text{ op } z$ ")
- if $\text{def}(y)$ is not marked then
- mark $\text{def}(y)$
- add $\text{def}(y)$ to WorkList
- if $\text{def}(z)$ is not marked then
- mark $\text{def}(z)$
- add $\text{def}(z)$ to WorkList
- for each $b \in \text{RDF}(\text{block}(i))$
- mark the block-ending branch in b
- add it to WorkList

WorkList

$i =$

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep

- for each op i
- if i is not marked then
- if i is a branch then
- rewrite with a jump to i 's nearest useful post-dominator
- if i is not a jump then
- delete i

$i = 1$

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep

- for each op i
- if i is not marked then
- if i is a branch then
- rewrite with a jump to i 's nearest useful post-dominator
- if i is not a jump then
- delete i

$i = 1$

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep

- for each op i
- if i is not marked then
- if i is a branch then
- rewrite with a jump to i 's nearest useful post-dominator
- if i is not a jump then
- delete i

$i = 2..4$

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep

- for each op i
- if i is not marked then
- if i is a branch then
- rewrite with a jump to i 's nearest useful post-dominator
- if i is not a jump then
- delete i

$i = 5$

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep

- for each op i
- if i is not marked then
- if i is a branch then
- rewrite with a jump to i 's nearest useful post-dominator
- if i is not a jump then
- delete i

$i = 5$

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep
for each op *i*
if *i* is not marked then
if *i* is a branch then
rewrite with a jump to
i's nearest useful
post-dominator
if *i* is not a jump then
delete *i*

i=5

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep
for each op *i*
if *i* is not marked then
if *i* is a branch then
rewrite with a jump to
i's nearest useful
post-dominator
if *i* is not a jump then
delete *i*

i=6

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep
for each op *i*
if *i* is not marked then
if *i* is a branch then
rewrite with a jump to
i's nearest useful
post-dominator
if *i* is not a jump then
delete *i*

i=6

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep
for each op *i*
if *i* is not marked then
if *i* is a branch then
rewrite with a jump to
i's nearest useful
post-dominator
if *i* is not a jump then
delete *i*

i=6

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep
for each op *i*
if *i* is not marked then
if *i* is a branch then
rewrite with a jump to
i's nearest useful
post-dominator
if *i* is not a jump then
delete *i*

i=7

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep
for each op *i*
if *i* is not marked then
if *i* is a branch then
rewrite with a jump to
i's nearest useful
post-dominator
if *i* is not a jump then
delete *i*

i=8

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep
for each op *i*
if *i* is not marked then
if *i* is a branch then
rewrite with a jump to
i's nearest useful
post-dominator
if *i* is not a jump then
delete *i*

i=9

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep
for each op *i*
if *i* is not marked then
if *i* is a branch then
rewrite with a jump to
i's nearest useful
post-dominator
if *i* is not a jump then
delete *i*

i=10

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep
for each op *i*
if *i* is not marked then
if *i* is a branch then
rewrite with a jump to
i's nearest useful
post-dominator
if *i* is not a jump then
delete *i*

i=11

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

Sweep
for each op *i*
if *i* is not marked then
if *i* is a branch then
rewrite with a jump to
i's nearest useful
post-dominator
if *i* is not a jump then
delete *i*

i=12..17

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Dead Code Elimination Using SSA

What's left?

- Algorithm eliminates useless definitions & some useless branches
- Algorithm leaves behind empty blocks & extraneous control-flow

Algorithm from: Cytron, Ferrante, Rosen, Wegman, & Zadeck, *Efficiently Computing Static Single Assignment Form and the Control Dependence Graph*, ACM TOPLAS 13(4), October 1991
with a correction due to Rob Shillner

Two more issues

- Simplifying control-flow
- Eliminating unreachable blocks

Both are CFG transformations (no need for SSA)

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Constant Propagation

Safety

- Proves that name *always* has known value
- Specializes code around that value
 - Moves some computations to compile time (\Rightarrow code motion)
 - Exposes some unreachable blocks (\Rightarrow dead code)

Opportunity

- Value $\neq \perp$ signifies an opportunity

Profitability

- Compile-time evaluation is cheaper than run-time evaluation
- Branch removal may lead to block coalescing
 - If not, it still avoids the test & makes branch predictable

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Sparse Constant Propagation Using SSA

\forall expression, e TOP if its value is unknown
 $\text{Value}(e) \leftarrow$ c_j if its value is known (the constant c_j)
 $\text{WorkList} \leftarrow \emptyset$ BOT if its value is known to vary

\forall SSA edge $s = \langle u, v \rangle$
 if $\text{Value}(u) \neq \text{TOP}$ then
 add s to WorkList

while ($\text{WorkList} \neq \emptyset$)
 remove $s = \langle u, v \rangle$ from WorkList
 let o be the operation that uses v
 if $\text{Value}(o) \neq \text{BOT}$ then
 $t \leftarrow$ result of evaluating o
 if $t \neq \text{Value}(o)$ then
 \forall SSA edge $\langle o, x \rangle$
 add $\langle o, x \rangle$ to WorkList

Same result, fewer \wedge operations
Performs \wedge only at Φ nodes

i.e., o is " $a \leftarrow b \text{ op } v$ " or " $a \leftarrow v \text{ op } b$ "

Evaluating a Φ -node:
 $\Phi(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n)$ is
 $\text{Value}(x_1) \wedge \text{Value}(x_2) \wedge \text{Value}(x_3)$
 $\wedge \dots \wedge \text{Value}(x_n)$

Where
 $\text{TOP} \wedge x = x \quad \forall x$
 $c_i \wedge c_j = c_i \quad \text{if } c_i = c_j$
 $c_i \wedge c_j = \text{BOT} \quad \text{if } c_i \neq c_j$
 $\text{BOT} \wedge x = \text{BOT} \quad \forall x$

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Sparse Constant Propagation Using SSA

How long does this algorithm take to halt?

- Initialization is two passes
 - $|ops| + 2 \times |ops|$ edges
- $\text{Value}(x)$ can take on 3 values
 - TOP, c_j , BOT
 - Each use can be on WorkList twice
 - $2 \times |args| = 4 \times |ops|$ evaluations, WorkList pushes & pops

This is an optimistic algorithm:

- Initialize all values to TOP, unless they are known constants
- Every value becomes BOT or c_j unless its use is uninitialized

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Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Optimism

```

i0 ← 12
while ( ... )
  i1 ← Φ(i0, i3)
  x ← i1 * 17
  j ← i1
  i2 ← ...
  ...
  i3 ← j
        
```

Optimism

- This version of the algorithm is an *optimistic* formulation
- Initializes values to TOP
- Prior version used \perp (*implicit*)

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Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Optimism

```

i0 ← 12
while ( ... )
  i1 ← Φ(i0, i3)
  x ← i1 * 17
  j ← i1
  i2 ← ...
  ...
  i3 ← j
        
```

Optimism

- This version of the algorithm is an *optimistic* formulation
- Initializes values to TOP
- Prior version used \perp (*implicit*)

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Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Optimism

```

i0 ← 12
while ( ... )
  i1 ← Φ(i0, i3)
  x ← i1 * 17
  j ← i1
  i2 ← ...
  ...
  i3 ← j
        
```

Clear that j is always 12 at def of x

Optimism

- This version of the algorithm is an *optimistic* formulation
- Initializes values to TOP
- Prior version used \perp (*implicit*)

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Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Optimism

```

12 i0 ← 12
while ( ... )
  ⊥ i1 ← Φ(i0, i3)
  ⊥ x ← i1 * 17
  ⊥ j ← i1
  ⊥ i2 ← ...
  ...
  ⊥ i3 ← j
        
```

Pessimistic initializations

Leads to:

```

i0 = 12
x = ⊥
j = ⊥
i3 = ⊥
        
```

Optimism

- This version of the algorithm is an *optimistic* formulation
- Initializes values to TOP
- Prior version used \perp (*implicit*)

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Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Conditional Constant Propagation

Optimism

```

12  i0 ← 12
   while ( ... )
     TOP ij ← Φ(i0, ij)
     TOP x ← ij * 17
     TOP j ← ij
     TOP i2 ← ...
     ...
     TOP i3 ← j

```

Optimistic initializations

Leads to:

```

i1 = 12 ∧ TOP = 12
x = 12 * 17 = 204
j = 12
i2 = 12
i3 = 12 ∧ 12 = 12

```

- This version of the algorithm is an *optimistic* formulation
- Initializes values to **TOP**
- Prior version used **⊥** (*implicit*)

In general, optimism helps inside loops.

M.N. Wegman & F.K. Zadeck, Constant propagation with conditional branches, ACM TOPLAS, 13(2), April 1991, pages 181-210.

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Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Conditional Constant Propagation

What happens when it propagates a value into a branch?

- TOP → we gain no knowledge.
- BOT → either path can execute.
- TRUE or FALSE → only one path can execute.

} But, the algorithm does not use this ...

Working this into the algorithm.

- Use two worklists: **SSAWorkList** & **CFGWorkList**:
 - SSAWorkList determines values.
 - CFGWorkList governs reachability.
- Don't propagate into operation until its block is reachable.

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Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Conditional Constant Propagation

SSAWorkList ← ∅
CFGWorkList ← n₀

∀ block b
clear b's mark
∀ expression e in b
Value(e) ← TOP

Initialization Step

To evaluate a branch
if arg is BOT then
 put both targets on CFGWorkList
else if arg is TRUE then
 put TRUE target on CFGWorkList
else if arg is FALSE then
 put FALSE target on CFGWorkList

To evaluate a jump
place its target on CFGWorkList

while ((CFGWorkList ∪ SSAWorkList) ≠ ∅)
 while(CFGWorkList ≠ ∅)
 remove b from CFGWorkList
 mark b
 evaluate each Φ-function in b
 evaluate each op in b, in order

 while(SSAWorkList ≠ ∅)
 remove s = <u,v> from SSAWorkList
 let o be the operation that contains v
 t ← result of evaluating o
 if t ≠ Value(o) then
 Value(o) ← t
 ∀ SSA edge <o,x>
 if x is marked, then
 add <o,x> to SSAWorkList

Propagation Step

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Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Conditional Constant Propagation

There are some subtle points:

- Branch conditions should not be TOP when evaluated.
 - Indicates an upwards-exposed use. (no initial value - undefined)
 - Hard to envision compiler producing such code.
- Initialize all operations to TOP.
 - Block processing will fill in the non-top initial values.
 - Unreachable paths contribute TOP to Φ-functions.
- Code shows CFG edges first, then SSA edges.
 - Can intermix them in arbitrary order. (correctness)
 - Taking CFG edges first may help with speed. (minor effect)

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Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Conditional Constant Propagation

More subtle points:

- TOP * BOT → TOP
 - If TOP becomes 0, then 0 * BOT → 0.
 - This prevents non-monotonic behavior for the result value.
 - Uses of the result value might go irretrievably to 0.
 - Similar effects with any operation that has a "zero".
- Some values reveal simplifications, rather than constants
 - BOT * c_i → BOT, but might turn into shifts & adds (c_i = 2, BOT ≥ 0)
 - Removes commutativity. (reassociation)
 - BOT**2 → BOT * BOT. (vs. series or call to library)
- cbr TRUE → L₁, L₂ becomes br → L₁
 - Method discovers this; it must rewrite the code, too!

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Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Unreachable Code

Conditional Constant Propagation

```

i ← 17
if (i > 0) then
  j1 ← 10
else
  j2 ← 20
j3 ← Φ(j1, j2)
k ← j3 * 17

```

Optimism

- Initialization to TOP is still important.
- Unreachable code keeps TOP.
- ∧ with TOP has desired result.

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Conditional Constant Propagation

Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Unreachable Code

```

17 i ← 17
   if (i > 0) then
10   j1 ← 10
   else
20   j2 ← 20
   ⊥ j3 ← Φ(j1, j2)
   ⊥ k ← j3 * 17

```

All paths execute

Optimism

- Initialization to TOP is still important.
- Unreachable code keeps TOP.
- ∧ with TOP has desired result.

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Conditional Constant Propagation

Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Unreachable Code

```

17 i ← 17
   if (i > 0) then
TOP  j1 ← 10
   else
TOP  j2 ← 20
TOP  j3 ← Φ(j1, j2)
170 k ← j3 * 17

```

With SCC marking blocks

Optimism

- Initialization to TOP is still important.
- Unreachable code keeps TOP.
- ∧ with TOP has desired result.

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Conditional Constant Propagation

Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Unreachable Code

```

17 i ← 17
   if (i > 0) then
10   j1 ← 10
   else
TOP  j2 ← 20
10   j3 ← Φ(j1, j2)
170 k ← j3 * 17

```

With SCC marking blocks

Optimism

- Initialization to TOP is still important.
- Unreachable code keeps TOP.
- ∧ with TOP has desired result.

Cannot get this any other way:

- DEAD code cannot test (i > 0).
- DEAD marks j₂ as useful.

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Conditional Constant Propagation

Sparse Conditional Constant Propagation

Unreachable Code

```

17 i ← 17
   if (i > 0) then
10   j1 ← 10
   else
TOP  j2 ← 20
10   j3 ← Φ(j1, j2)
170 k ← j3 * 17

```

With SCC marking blocks

Optimism

- Initialization to TOP is still important.
- Unreachable code keeps TOP.
- ∧ with TOP has desired result.

In general, combining two optimizations can lead to answers that cannot be produced by any combination of running them separately. This algorithm is one example of that general principle. Combining register allocation & instruction scheduling is another ...

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Summary: Using SSA for Optimization

Using SSA Form for Optimizations

In general, using SSA conversion leads to:

- Cleaner formulations.
- Better results.
- Faster algorithms.

We've seen two SSA-based algorithms.

- Dead-code elimination.
- Sparse conditional constant propagation.

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