CSC2/455 Software Analysis and Improvement
Dominator and SSA Form

Sreepathi Pai
February 2, 2022
URCS
Outline

Review

Dominator Analysis (DOM)

SSA Form

Postscript
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Dominator Analysis (DOM)

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Postscript
Data flow analysis framework

- Live variable analysis
  - “Is there a read of this variable along any path?”
- Reaching Definitions
  - “Which definitions reach this use?”
- Available expressions
  - “Is this expression calculated previously and the result still usable?”
- Very Busy Expressions
  - “Are there expressions that can be precalculated?”
- Iterative data flow analysis
  - GEN, KILL, Transfer functions, Initialization
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A node $n$ in the CFG dominates a node $m$ iff:

- $n$ is on all paths from entry to $m$
- by definition, a node $n$ always dominates itself

Dominators are a property of graphs

- i.e. has nothing to do with code in basic blocks
Example 1: Node with single predecessor
Example 1: Node with single predecessor (Answer)

ENTRY \{ENTRY\}

\arrow\[down\]

B1 \{ENTRY, B1\}

\arrow\[down\]

B2 \{ENTRY, B1, B2\}

\arrow\[down\]

EXIT \{ENTRY, B1, B2, EXIT\}
Example 2: Node with multiple predecessors
Example 2: Node with multiple predecessors (Answer)

ENTRY {ENTRY}

B1 {ENTRY, B1}

B2 {ENTRY, B1, B2} B3 {ENTRY, B1, B3}

B4 {ENTRY, B1, B4}

EXIT {ENTRY, B1, B4, EXIT}
Example 3: Slightly more involved example
Example 3: Slightly more involved example (Answer)
Can we use data flow analysis to identify the dominators of a node?
Data flow analysis setup

- Domain of facts?
- GEN and KILL?
- Direction of analysis?
- Merge operator?
- Initialization?
Data flow analysis Equation

\[ \text{DOM}(n) = \{n\} \cup (\cap_{m \in \text{pred}(n)} \text{DOM}(m)) \]

- **Initialization**
  - (for \( n \neq \text{ENTRY} \)): \( \text{DOM}(n) = N \) (where \( N \) is the set of all nodes)
  - (for \( n = \text{ENTRY} \)): \( \text{DOM}(n) = \text{ENTRY} \)
Related concept: Post-dominators

A node $m$ is post-dominated by a node $n$ iif:

- $n$ appears on every path from $m$ to EXIT.
- $n$ post-dominates itself, by definition
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Static Single Assignment (SSA) Form

- Intermediate Representation
  - Similar to 3 address code
- Each variable only written once
  - Static [in source] Single [once] assignment
- SSA form can be generated from 3 address code
  - Introduce $\phi$ functions
  - Rename variables
Example 1: Straight-line code

\begin{verbatim}
y = x + 1;
x = 2;
y = x + y + 2;
\end{verbatim}

gets transformed to:

\begin{verbatim}
y_0 = x_0 + 1
x_1 = 2;
y_1 = x_1 + y_0 + 2;
\end{verbatim}

From this example, when should we rename variables?
Example 2: Branches

```
y = x + 1;
x = 2;

if(y > 3)
    y = 3;
else
    x = x * 2;

y = x + y + 2;
```

gets transformed to:

```
y_0 = x_0 + 1
x_1 = 2;

if(y_0 > 3)
    y_1 = 3;
else
    x_2 = x_1 * 2;

y_2 = x_2 + y_1 + 2;
```

Is this renaming correct?
Example 2: The CFG

ENTRY

\[ y_0 = x_0 + 1 \]
\[ x_1 = 2 \]

y_0 > 3

y_1 = 3
x_2 = x_1 * 2

y_2 = x_2 + y_1 + 2

EXIT
Example 2: Fix using $\phi$ functions

ENTRY

$y_0 = x_0 + 1$
$x_1 = 2$

EXIT

$y_0 > 3$

$y_1 = 3$
$x_2 = x_1 \times 2$

$y_2 = \phi(y_0, y_1)$
$x_3 = \phi(x_1, x_2)$

$y_3 = x_3 + y_2 + 2$

EXIT
Simple Algorithm for constructing SSA form:

1. Insert $\phi$ functions
   - In which nodes of CFG?
   - For which variables?

2. Rename variables
   - To what?
   - Helps to think of LHS (definition) renames and RHS (use) renames
Simple Algorithm for constructing SSA form: 2

- Insert $\phi$ functions
  - In join nodes, before all other code
  - For all variables defined or used in procedure
  - Each $\phi$ function has one argument per incoming edge
  - Use $y = \phi(y, y)$ form for variable $y$

- Rename variables
  - To what?
  - Helps to think of LHS (definition) renames and RHS (use) renames
Simple Algorithm for constructing SSA form: 3

ENTRY

\[ y = x + 1 \]
\[ x = 2 \]

y > 3

\[ y = 3 \]
\[ x = x \times 2 \]

\[ y = \phi(y, y) \]
\[ x = \phi(x, x) \]

\[ y = x + y + 2 \]

EXIT
Simple Algorithm for constructing SSA form: Rename LHS

ENTRY

\[ y_0 = x + 1 \]
\[ x_1 = 2 \]

y > 3

y_1 = 3
x_2 = x \times 2
y_2 = \phi(y, y)
x_3 = \phi(x, x)
y_3 = x + y + 2

EXIT
Simple Algorithm for constructing SSA form: Rename RHS

- Note that in SSA form, only one definition reaches a use (except the uses in $\phi$)
- The arguments to $\phi$ are the definitions that reach it
Simple Algorithm for constructing SSA form: Rename RHS

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ENTRY} \\
y_0 &= x_0 + 1 \\
x_1 &= 2 \\
\text{EXIT} \\
y_0 &> 3 \\
y_1 &= 3 \\
x_2 &= x_1 \times 2 \\
y_2 &= \varphi(y_0, y_1) \\
x_3 &= \varphi(x_1, x_2) \\
y_3 &= x_3 \times y_2 + 2 \\
\end{align*}
\]
In actual compilers, renaming LHS and RHS can be done by simply calculating reaching definitions.

- Remember we had to track each definition there too (recall $y\#0$)

This construction is called the *maximal SSA form*

- Simple to construct
- Wasteful, can introduce too many $\phi$ functions (not in our example)
Here, our method constructs a redundant $\phi$ function for $x_2$. 
Example: Redundant $\phi$ functions (now with loops)

Here, $x_3$ is redundant, and its removal makes $x_2$ redundant.
Example: Non-redundant $\phi$ functions

This gets rid of the redundant $\phi$ functions.
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• Chapter 9 of Cooper and Turczon
  • Section 9.2.1
  • Section 9.3