Lecture 5: Data-Flow Analysis Examples

17-355/17-665/17-819: Program Analysis
Rohan Padhye
September 11, 2025

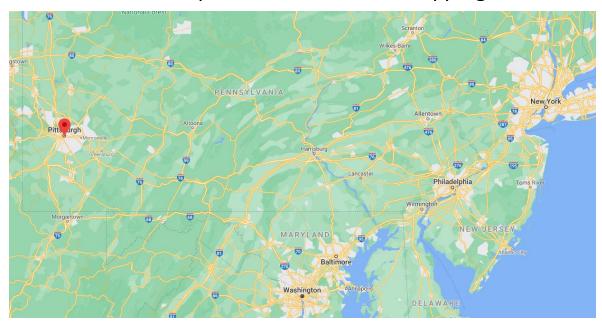
* Course materials developed with Jonathan Aldrich and Claire Le Goues





Trivia

"You are here" maps don't lie - Banach mapping theorem



What mathematical concept is common to both these facts?

Python:

exec(s:='print("exec(s:=%r)"%s)')



Review: Data-Flow Analysis

- a lattice (L, \sqsubseteq)
- an abstraction function α
- a flow function *f*
- initial dataflow analysis assumptions, σ_0

Review: Kildall's Algorithm

```
worklist = \emptyset
for Node n in cfg
    input[n] = output[n] = \bot
    add n to worklist
input[0] = initialDataflowInformation
while worklist is not empty
    take a Node n off the worklist
    output[n] = flow(n, input[n])
    for Node j in succs(n)
          newInput = input[j] ⊔ output[n]
          if newInput ≠ input[j]
                 input[j] = newInput
                 add j to worklist
```

Review: What order to process worklist nodes in?

- Random? Queue? Stack?
- Any order is valid (!!)
- Some orders are better in practice
 - Topological sorts are nice
 - Explore loops inside out
 - Reverse postorder!

Examples!! Classic Data-Flow Analyses

- Zero Analysis
- Integer Sign Analysis
- Constant Propagation
- Reaching Definitions
- Live Variables Analysis
- Available Expressions
- Very Busy Expressions

•



Integer Sign Analysis

- Extension of Zero Analysis to track integers zero, less-than-zero, greater-than-zero, or _(ツ)_/ (unknown).
- Q: Why do we care about sign?
- Exercise 1: What would the lattice for simple Sign Analysis look like?

Integer Sign Analysis

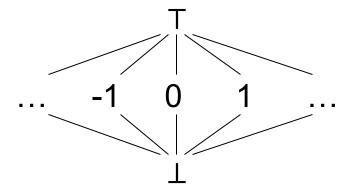
- Extension of simple Sign Analysis to track when x<0, x<=0, x=0, x>=0, x>0, x!=0, or unknown ($^{\}\)_/^{\}$).
- Q: Why do we care about all these cases?
- Exercise 2: How would the lattice for precise Sign Analysis look?

- Extension of Zero / Sign Analysis to track exact values of variables, if they are **constant** at a given program point (across all paths).
- E.g. x is 42 at line 10
- Q: Why is this useful?

$$\sigma \in Var \rightarrow L_{CP}$$

$$L_{CP}$$
 is $\mathbb{Z} \cup \{\top, \bot\}$

$$\forall l \in L_{CP} : \bot \sqsubseteq l \land l \sqsubseteq \top$$



$$\sigma \in Var \rightarrow L_{CP}$$

$$\sigma_{1} \sqsubseteq_{lift} \sigma_{2} \quad iff \quad \forall x \in Var : \sigma_{1}(x) \sqsubseteq \sigma_{2}(x)$$

$$\sigma_{1} \sqcup_{lift} \sigma_{2} = \{x \mapsto \sigma_{1}(x) \sqcup \sigma_{2}(x) \mid x \in Var\}$$

$$\top_{lift} = \{x \mapsto \top \mid x \in Var\}$$

$$\bot_{lift} = \{x \mapsto \bot \mid x \in Var\}$$

$$\alpha_{CP}(n) = n$$

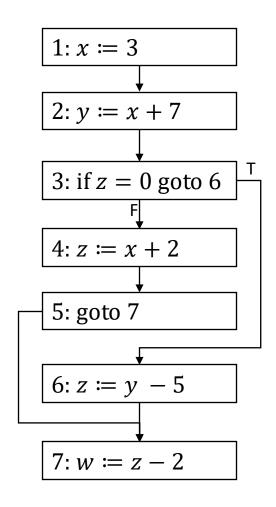
$$\alpha_{lift}(E) = \{x \mapsto \alpha_{CP}(E(x)) \mid x \in Var\}$$

$$\sigma_{0} = \top_{lift}$$

$$f_{CP}[x := n](\sigma)$$
 = $f_{CP}[x := y](\sigma)$ = $f_{CP}[x := y \text{ op } z](\sigma)$ =

$$f_{CP}[\![\operatorname{goto} n]\!](\sigma) = f_{CP}[\![\operatorname{if} x = 0 \operatorname{goto} n]\!]_T(\sigma) = f_{CP}[\![\operatorname{if} x = 0 \operatorname{goto} n]\!]_F(\sigma) = f_{CP}[\![\operatorname{if} x < 0 \operatorname{goto} n]\!](\sigma) = f_{CP}[\![\operatorname{if} x < 0 \operatorname{g$$

$$\begin{split} f_{CP} \llbracket x &:= n \rrbracket (\sigma) &= \sigma [x \mapsto \alpha_{CP}(n)] \\ f_{CP} \llbracket x &:= y \rrbracket (\sigma) &= \sigma [x \mapsto \sigma(y)] \\ f_{CP} \llbracket x &:= y \text{ op } z \rrbracket (\sigma) &= \sigma [x \mapsto \sigma(y) \text{ op}_{lift} \sigma(z)] \\ & \text{where } n \text{ op}_{lift} m = n \text{ op } m \\ & \text{and } n \text{ op}_{lift} \perp = \perp & \text{(and symmetric)} \\ f_{CP} \llbracket \text{goto } n \rrbracket (\sigma) &= \sigma \\ f_{CP} \llbracket \text{if } x = 0 \text{ goto } n \rrbracket_T (\sigma) &= \sigma [x \mapsto 0] \\ f_{CP} \llbracket \text{if } x = 0 \text{ goto } n \rrbracket_F (\sigma) &= \sigma \\ f_{CP} \llbracket \text{if } x < 0 \text{ goto } n \rrbracket (\sigma) &= \sigma \\ \end{split}$$



$$1: x := 3$$

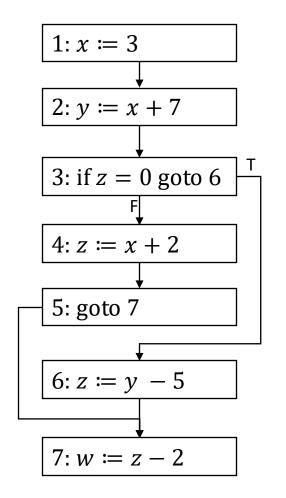
$$2: y := x + 7$$

$$3: \text{ if } z = 0 \text{ goto } 6$$

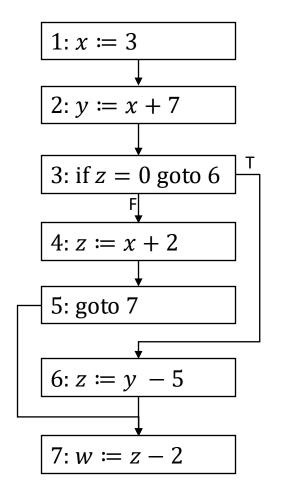
$$4: z := x + 2$$

$$6: z := y - 5$$

$$7: w := z - 2$$



stmt	worklist	X	y	Z	w



stmt	worklist	X	y	${f Z}$	W
0	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	T	T	Т	T
1	2,3,4,5,6,7	3	T	Т	T
2	3,4,5,6,7	3	10	Τ	T
3	4,5,6,7	3	10	$0_T, op_F$	T
4	5,6,7	3	10	5	T
5	6,7	3	10	5	T
6	7	3	10	5	T
7	\varnothing	3	10	5	3

- Where might a variable have last been defined?
 - Equivalent: what definitions of a variable *reach* this program point?
 - E.g. At line 7, the value of x was last obtained from assignments at lines 2 and 3.
- Lots of applications in compilers ("def-use chains")
- Let DEFS = set of all definitions
 - e.g. $\{x_1, x_2, y_3\}$

$$\sigma \in \mathcal{P}^{\mathsf{DEFS}}$$
 $\sigma_1 \sqsubseteq \sigma_2 \quad \textit{iff}$
 $\sigma_1 \sqcup \sigma_2 =$
 $\top =$
 $\bot =$
 $\sigma_0 =$

$$\sigma \in \mathcal{P}^{\mathsf{DEFS}}$$
 $\sigma_1 \sqsubseteq \sigma_2 \quad \textit{iff} \quad \sigma_1 \subseteq \sigma_2$
 $\sigma_1 \sqcup \sigma_2 = \sigma_1 \cup \sigma_2$
 $\top = \mathsf{DEFS}$
 $\perp = \varnothing$
 $\sigma_0 = \varnothing$

$$f_{RD}[I](\sigma) =$$

$$f_{RD}[I](\sigma) = \sigma - KILL_{RD}[I] \cup GEN_{RD}[I]$$

$$f_{RD}\llbracket I \rrbracket (\sigma) \qquad \qquad = \sigma - KILL_{RD}\llbracket I \rrbracket \cup GEN_{RD}\llbracket I \rrbracket$$

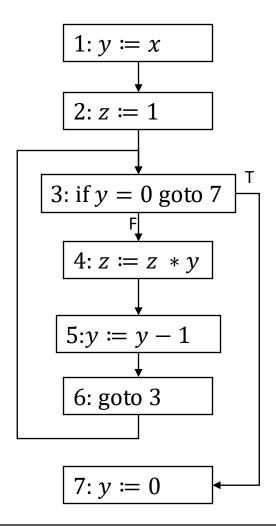
$$KILL_{RD}\llbracket n \colon x := \dots \rrbracket \qquad =$$

$$KILL_{RD}\llbracket I \rrbracket \qquad \qquad =$$

$$GEN_{RD}\llbracket n \colon x := \dots \rrbracket \qquad =$$

$$GEN_{RD}\llbracket I \rrbracket \qquad \qquad =$$

$$f_{RD}\llbracket I
rbracket (\sigma) = \sigma - KILL_{RD}\llbracket I
rbracket \cup GEN_{RD}\llbracket I
rbracket$$
 $KILL_{RD}\llbracket n: \ x := ...
rbracket = \{x_m \mid x_m \in \mathsf{DEFS}(x)\}$
 $KILL_{RD}\llbracket I
rbracket = \varnothing \quad \text{if } I \text{ is not an assignment}$
 $GEN_{RD}\llbracket n: \ x := ...
rbracket = \{x_n\}$
 $GEN_{RD}\llbracket I
rbracket = \varnothing \quad \text{if } I \text{ is not an assignment}$



$$1: y := x$$

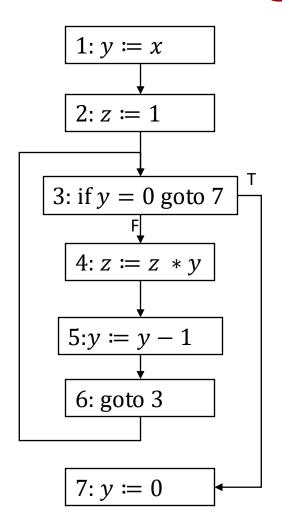
$$2: z := 1$$

$$3: \text{ if } y=0 \text{ goto } 7$$

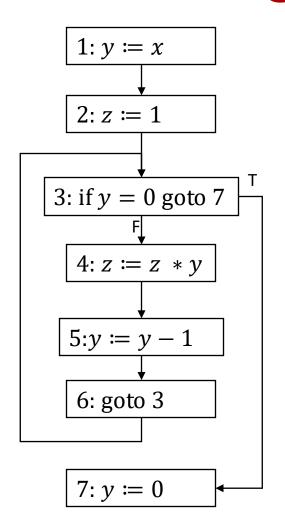
$$4: z := z * y$$

$$5: y := y - 1$$

$$7: y := 0$$



stmt	worklist	defs
_		-



stmt	worklist	defs
0	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Ø
1	2,3,4,5,6,7	$\{y_1\}$
2	3,4,5,6,7	$\{y_1,z_1\}$
3	4,5,6,7	$\{y_1,z_1\}$
4	5,6,7	$\{y_1,z_4\}$
5	6,7	$\{y_5,z_4\}$
6	3,7	$\{y_5,z_4\}$
3	4, 7	$\{y_1,y_5,z_1,z_4\}$
4	5 <i>,</i> 7	$\{y_1,y_5,z_4\}$
5	7	$\{y_5,z_4\}$
7	Ø	$\{y_7,z_1,z_4\}$

- Which variables will be used in the future (are "live")?
- E.g. x is live at line 7 because it's current value will be used at line 10.

- Another set-based analysis (like reaching definitions).
- Data-flow values propagate backwards !!!



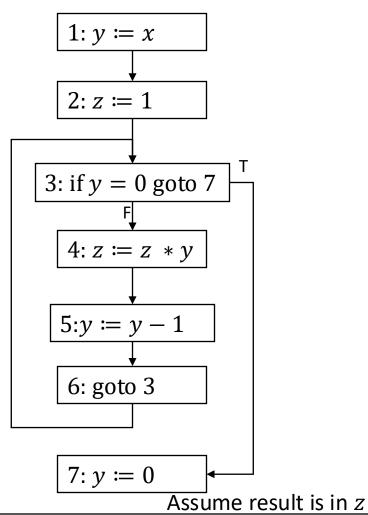
$$\sigma \in \mathcal{P}^{\mathsf{var}}$$
 $\sigma_1 \sqsubseteq \sigma_2 \quad \textit{iff}$
 $\sigma_1 \sqcup \sigma_2 =$
 $\bot =$

$$\sigma \in \mathcal{P}^{\mathsf{Var}}$$
 $\sigma_1 \sqsubseteq \sigma_2 \quad \textit{iff} \quad \sigma_1 \subseteq \sigma_2$
 $\sigma_1 \sqcup \sigma_2 = \sigma_1 \cup \sigma_2$
 $\top = \mathsf{Var}$
 $\perp = \varnothing$

Flow functions map backward! (out --> in)

$$KILL_{LV}[I] = \{x \mid I \text{ defines } x\}$$

$$GEN_{LV}[I] = \{x \mid I \text{ uses } x\}$$



$$1: \quad y := x$$

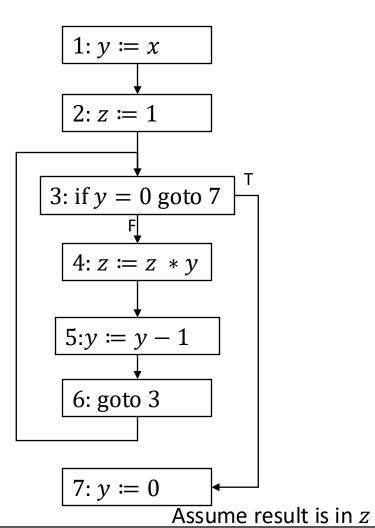
$$2: z := 1$$

$$3: \text{ if } y=0 \text{ goto } 7$$

$$4: z := z * y$$

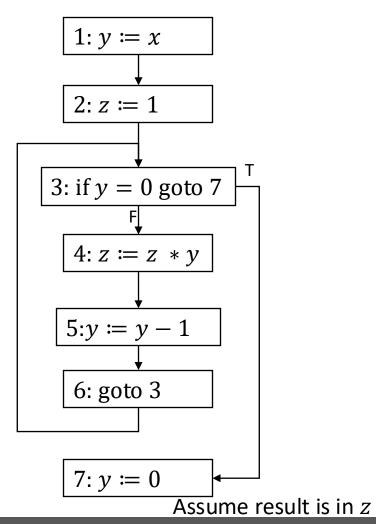
$$5: y := y - 1$$

$$7: y := 0$$



stmt	worklist	live

Systems Department



stmt	worklist	live
end	7,3,6,5,4,2,1	$\{z\}$
7	3,6,5,4,2,1	$\{z\}$
3	6,5,4,2,1	$\mid \{z,y\}$
6	5,4,2,1	$\mid \{z,y\}$
5	4,2,1	$\{z,y\}$
4	3,2,1	$\mid \{z,y\}$
3	2,1	$\{z,y\}$
2	1	$\{y\}$
1	Ø	$\{x\}$