

# Compiler Optimisation

## 4-from-ssa – Conversion from SSA (addendum)

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# Introduction

Things to watch out for when converting from SSA.

- Effect of optimisation
- Critical edges
- Lost copy problem
- Swap problem

# Effect of Optimisation

Optimisations can prevent conversion by just merging variables

## Example

```
a = x + y
```

```
b = x + y
```

```
a = 17
```

```
c = x + y
```

Just a basic block

## Effect of Optimisation

Optimisations can prevent conversion by just merging variables

### Example

$$a_0 = x_0 + y_0$$

$$b_0 = x_0 + y_0$$

$$a_1 = 17$$

$$c_0 = x_0 + y_0$$

Convert to SSA.  
Note that  $b_0$  and  $c_0$  are copies of  $a_0$

# Effect of Optimisation

Optimisations can prevent conversion by just merging variables

## Example

$$a_0 = x_0 + y_0$$

$$b_0 = a_0$$

$$a_1 = 17$$

$$c_0 = a_0$$

Optimise the redundant expressions.  
What will happen if we merge variables  
now?

# Effect of Optimisation

Optimisations can prevent conversion by just merging variables

## Example

`a = x + y`

`b = a`

`a = 17`

**`c = a`** (x+y)

If we merge  $a_0$  and  $a_1$  back into  $a$ , then  $c$  gets the wrong value

So, keep variables, use copies in predecessors of  $\phi$  nodes<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>As in lecture-3.

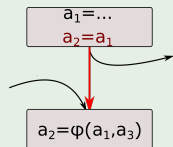
# Critical Edges

Copies on predecessors difficult with *critical edges*.

## Critical Edge

A CFG edge whose destination has multiple predecessors and whose source has multiple successors.

## Example



*Source has multiple successors:* a copy in the source means all of its successors get the copy. If the copy is live into them then potential semantics change.

*Destination has multiple predecessors:* If there was only one, we could put the copy in the destination and probably wouldn't need the phi node anyway

## Lost copy problem

- Most SSA algorithms *split* critical edges
- Next example shows necessary splitting to prevent lost copy



# Lost copy problem

## Example

```
i = 1
```

```
y = i
```

```
i = i+1
```

```
z = y + ..
```

A simple loop

*Convert to SSA*

# Lost copy problem

## Example

$i_0 = 1$

$i_1 = \phi(i_0, i_2)$

$y_0 = i_1$

$i_2 = i_1 + 1$

$z_0 = y_0 + \dots$

Converted to SSA

$y_0$  now redundant

**Optimisation:** *Replace uses with  $i_1$  and remove definition*

# Lost copy problem

## Example

$i_0 = 1$

$i_1 = \phi(i_0, i_2)$

$i_2 = i_1 + 1$

$z_0 = i_1 + ..$

$y_0$  removed

*Try to convert from  
SSA*

*Place copies without  
splitting*

# Lost copy problem

## Example

$$i_0 = 1$$

$$i_1 = i_0$$

$$i_1 = \phi(i_0, i_2)$$

$$i_2 = i_1 + 1$$

$$i_1 = i_2$$

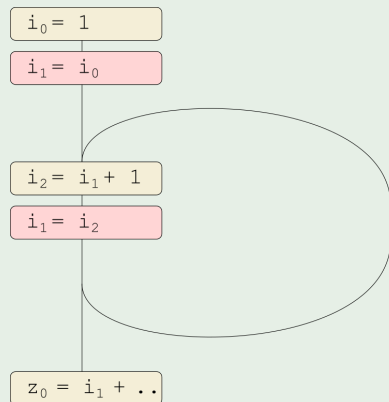
$$z_0 = i_1 + \dots$$

Copies placed

*Now remove  $\phi$*

# Lost copy problem

## Example



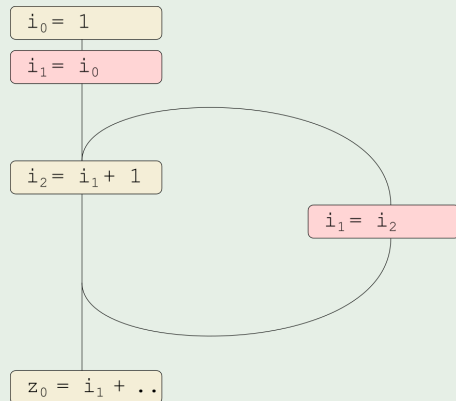
Note: Back edge is **critical** and  $i_1$  is live in to loop exit

Does  $z_0$  use the same version of  $i_1$  as before the copy?

*Instead, split loop's back edge*

# Lost copy problem

## Example



Edge split keeps semantics

Extra jump can be expensive inside hot loops

*Instead, use temporaries to remember correct values*

# Lost copy problem

## Example

$i_0 = 1$

$i_1 = i_0$

$i_2 = i_1 + 1$

$t = i_1$

$i_1 = i_2$

$z_0 = t + \dots$

Extra temporary  
in place

# Swap problem

- $\phi$  nodes execute simultaneously in parallel
  - i.e. All read their operands at once, before any assignments
- Copies do not
  - Naive conversion with copies can cause incorrect behaviour

## Example

Simultaneous phi,  
swap values

$$x_1 = \phi(x_0, y_1)$$

$$y_1 = \phi(y_0, x_1)$$

Naive copy,  
swap lost<sup>2</sup>

$$x_1 = y_1$$


$$y_1 = x_1$$

Temporary inserted

$$t = x_1$$

$$x_1 = y_1$$

$$y_1 = t$$

<sup>2</sup>Assume  $x_1 = x_0, y_1 = y_0$  placed in another block. 



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