Script generated by TTT

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1.6 Pointer Analysis

Questions

→ Are two addresses possibly equal?
 → Are two addresses definitively equal?
 Must Alias

→ Alias Analysis

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- → Are two addresses definitively equal?

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The analyses so far without alias information

- (1) Available Expressions:
 - Extend the set Expr of expressions by occurring loads M[e].
- Extend the Effects of Edges:

$$\begin{split} & [\![x=e;]\!]^{\sharp} \, A & = (A \cup \{e\}) \backslash Expr_x \\ & [\![x=M[e];]\!]^{\sharp} \, A & = (A \cup \{e,M[e]\}) \backslash Expr_x \\ & [\![M[e_1]=e_2;]\!]^{\sharp} \, A & = (A \cup \{e_1,e_2\}) \backslash Loads \end{split}$$

Values of Variables: (2)

- Extend the set *Expr* of expressions by occurring loads M[e].
- Extend the Effects of Edges:

$$\llbracket x = M[e]; \rrbracket^\sharp V \, e' \qquad = \begin{array}{ll} \left\{ x \right\} & \text{if} \quad e' = M[e] \\ \emptyset & \text{if} \quad e' = e \\ V \, e' \backslash \{x\} & \text{otherwise} \end{array}$$

$$\llbracket M[e_1] = e_2; \rrbracket^\sharp V \, e' & = \begin{array}{ll} \left\{ \emptyset & \text{if} \quad e' \in \{e_1, e_2\} \\ V \, e' & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

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Constant Propagation:

- Extend the abstract state by an abstract store M
- Execute accesses to known memory locations!

The analyses so far without alias information

- (1) Available Expressions:
- Extend the set *Expr* of expressions by occurring loads M[e].
- Extend the Effects of Edges:

Problems

Addresses are from \mathbb{N} .

- There are no infinite strictly ascending chains, but ...
- Exact addresses at compile-time are rarely known.
- At the same program point, typically different addresses are accessed ...
- Storing at an unknown address destroys all information M.
- constant propagation fails
- memory accesses/pointers kill precision

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- ---- constant propagation fails
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Simplification

- We consider pointers to the beginning of blocks A which allow indexed accesses A[i].
- We ignore well-typedness of the blocks.
- New statements:

```
x={\sf new}(); // allocation of a new block x=y[e]; // indexed read access to a block y[e_1]=e_2; // indexed write access to a block
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- Blocks are possibly infinite.
- For simplicity, all pointers point to the beginning of a block.

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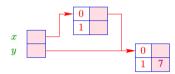
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The Semantics

 $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$

The Semantics



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Concrete Semantics

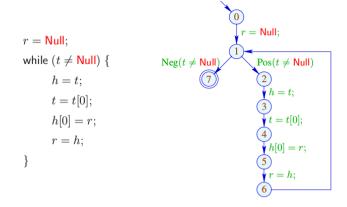
A store consists of a finite collection of blocks.

After h new-operations we obtain:

$$egin{array}{lll} \emph{Addr}_h &=& \{ \operatorname{ref} a \mid 0 \leq a < h \} & // & \operatorname{addresses} \ \emph{Val}_h &=& Addr_h \cup \mathbb{Z} & // & \operatorname{values} \ \emph{Store}_h &=& (Addr_h \times \mathbb{N}_0) \rightarrow Val_h & // & \operatorname{store} \ \emph{State}_h &=& (Vars \rightarrow Val_h) \times Store_h & // & \operatorname{states} \ \end{array}$$

For simplicity, we set: 0 = Null

More Complex Example



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Let $(\rho, \mu) \in State_h$. Then we obtain for the new edges:

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Alias Analysis

1. Idea

- · Distinguish finitely many classes of blocks.
- Collect all addresses of a block into one set!
- Use sets of addresses as abstract values!

⇒ Points-to-Analysis

$$Addr^{\sharp} = Edges$$
 // creation edges
 $Val^{\sharp} = 2^{Addr^{\sharp}}$ // abstract values
 $Store^{\sharp} = Addr^{\sharp} \rightarrow Val^{\sharp}$ // abstract store
 $State^{\sharp} = (Vars \rightarrow Val^{\sharp}) \times Store^{\sharp}$ // abstract states
// complete lattice !!!

Caveat

This semantics is too detailled in that it computes with absolute Addresses. Accordingly, the two programs:

$$x = \text{new}();$$
 $y = \text{new}();$ $y = \text{new}();$ $x = \text{new}();$

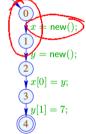
are not considered as equivalent !!?

Possible Solution

Define equivalence only up to permutation of addresses!

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... in the Simple Example



	x	y	(0, 1)
0	Ø	Ø	Ø
1	$\{(0,1)\}$	Ø	Ø
2	$\{(0,1)\}$	$\{(1, \frac{2}{2})\}$	Ø
3	$\{(0,1)\}$	$\{(1, \frac{2}{2})\}$	$\{(1, 2)\}$
4	$\{(0,1)\}$	$\{(1, \frac{2}{2})\}$	$\{(1, 2)\}$

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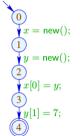
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The Effects of Edges

... in the Simple Example



	x	y	(<mark>0</mark> , 1)
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Caveat

- The value Null has been ignored. Dereferencing of Null or negative indices are not detected.
- Destructive updates are only possible for variables, not for blocks in storage!
 - no information, if not all block entries are initialized before use.
- The effects now depend on the edge itself.
 - The analysis cannot be proven correct w.r.t. the reference semantics.

In order to prove correctness, we first instrument the concrete semantics with extra information which records where a block has been created.

The Effects of Edges

$$\begin{split} & \llbracket (_,;,_) \rrbracket^\sharp \, (D,M) & = \ (D,M) \\ & \llbracket (_,\operatorname{Pos}(e),_) \rrbracket^\sharp \, (D,M) & = \ (D,M) \\ & \llbracket (_,x=y;,_) \rrbracket^\sharp \, (D,M) & = \ (D \oplus \{x \mapsto D\,y\},M) \\ & \llbracket (_,x=e;,_) \rrbracket^\sharp \, (D,M) & = \ (D \oplus \{x \mapsto \emptyset\},M) & , \quad e \not\in \mathit{Vars} \\ & \llbracket (u,x=\operatorname{new}();,v) \rrbracket^\sharp \, (D,M) & = \ (D \oplus \{x \mapsto \{(u,v)\}\},M) \\ & \llbracket (_,x=y[e];,_) \rrbracket^\sharp \, (D,M) & = \ (D \oplus \{x \mapsto \bigcup\{M(f) \mid f \in D\,y\}\},M) \\ & \llbracket (_,y[e_1]=x;,_) \rrbracket^\sharp \, (D,M) & = \ (D,M \oplus \{f \mapsto (M\,f \cup D\,x) \mid f \in D\,y\}) \end{split}$$

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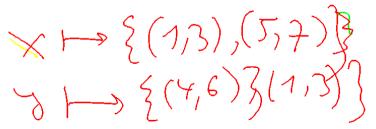
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- We compute possible points-to information.
- From that, we can extract may-alias information.
- The analysis can be rather expensive without finding very much.
- Separate information for each program point can perhaps be abandoned ??



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Each edge (u, lab, v) gives rise to constraints:

lab		Constraint
x = y;	$\mathcal{P}[x] \supseteq$	$\mathcal{P}[y]$
x = new();	$\mathcal{P}[x] \supseteq$	$\{({\color{red} u},{\color{blue} v})\}$
x = y[e];	$\mathcal{P}[x] \supseteq$	$\bigcup \{\mathcal{P}[f] \mid f \in \mathcal{P}[y]\}$
$y[e_1] = x;$	$\mathcal{P}[f] \supseteq$	$(f \in \mathcal{P}[y]) ? \mathcal{P}[x] : \emptyset$
		for all $f \in Addr^{\sharp}$

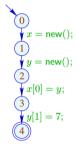
Other edges have no effect.

Alias Analysis

2. Idea

Compute for each variable and address a value which safely approximates the values at every program point simultaneously!

... in the Simple Example



\boldsymbol{x}	$\{(0,1)\}$
y	$\{(1,2)\}$
(0, 1)	$\{(1,2)\}$
(1, 2)	Ø

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Discussion

- The resulting constraint system has size $\mathcal{O}(k \cdot n)$ for k abstract addresses and n edges.
- The number of necessary iterations is O(k(k + #Vars))...
- The computed information is perhaps still too zu precise !!?
- In order to prove correctness of a solution $s^{\sharp} \in States^{\sharp}$ we show:

