

Register Allocation

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- 2 Naïve Register Allocation
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Introduction

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Sometimes, as program execution progresses, some values in physical registers will have to be spilled to memory while the register is used for another purpose, and then reloaded when those values are needed again

Code must be generated for storing spilled values and then for reloading those values at appropriate places; we would like to minimize this spilling (and reloading) of values to and from memory

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We will look at a naïve (local) strategy as well as a global strategy based on graph coloring

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When there are many more virtual registers than physical registers, which is always the case, performance of the naïve strategy degrades rapidly as physical register values must be repeatedly spilled and reloaded

Naïve Register Allocation

Naïve Register Allocation

Following is the SPIM code generated by *j--* using the naïve register allocation strategy (and just three physical registers \$t0, \$t1, and \$t2) for `Factorial.computeIter()` method

```
.text
Factorial.computeIter:
    subu    $sp,$sp,48    # Stack frame is 48 bytes long
    sw     $ra,44($sp)    # Save return address
    sw     $fp,40($sp)    # Save frame pointer
    sw     $t0,36($sp)    # Save register $t0
    sw     $t1,32($sp)    # Save register $t1
    sw     $t2,28($sp)    # Save register $t2
    addiu  $fp,$sp,44    # Save frame pointer

Factorial.computeIter.0:

Factorial.computeIter.1:
    li     $t0,1
    sw     $t0,0($sp)
    move   $t1,$a0
    sw     $t1,8($sp)
    lw     $t0,0($sp)
    move   $t2,$t0
    sw     $t2,16($sp)

Factorial.computeIter.2:
    li     $t0,0
    sw     $t0,4($sp)
    lw     $t1,8($sp)
    lw     $t0,4($sp)
    ble   $t1,$t0,Factorial.computeIter.4
    j     Factorial.computeIter.3
```


Naïve Register Allocation

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```
Factorial.computeIter.3:
    li $t1,-1
    sw $t1,12($sp)
    lw $t1,8($sp)
    lw $t1,12($sp)
    add $t2,$t1,$t1
    sw $t2,20($sp)
    lw $t2,16($sp)
    lw $t1,8($sp)
    mul $t0,$t2,$t1
    sw $t0,24($sp)
    lw $t0,24($sp)
    move $t2,$t0
    sw $t2,16($sp)
    lw $t2,20($sp)
    move $t1,$t2
    sw $t1,8($sp)
    j Factorial.computeIter.2

Factorial.computeIter.4:
    lw $t2,16($sp)
    move $v0,$t2
    j Factorial.computeIter.restore

Factorial.computeIter.restore:
    lw $ra,44($sp)      # Restore return address
    lw $fp,40($sp)     # Restore frame pointer
    lw $t0,36($sp)    # Restore register $t0
    lw $t1,32($sp)    # Restore register $t1
    lw $t2,28($sp)    # Restore register $t2
    addiu $sp,$sp,48   # Pop stack
    jr $ra             # Return to caller
```

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

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A liveness interval for a virtual register extends from the first instruction that assigns it a value to the last instruction that uses its value

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One wants to minimize spills to memory; where spills are necessary, one wants to avoid using them within deeply nested loops

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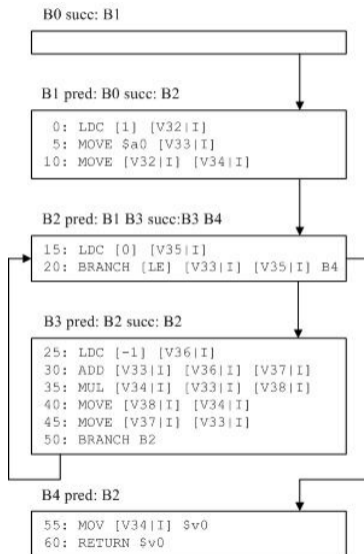
A liveness interval for a virtual register extends from the first instruction that assigns it a value to the last instruction that uses its value

A more accurate liveness interval has "holes" in the sequence, where a virtual register does not contain a useful value; for example, a hole occurs from where the previously assigned value was last used (or read) to the next assignment (or write) of a new value

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

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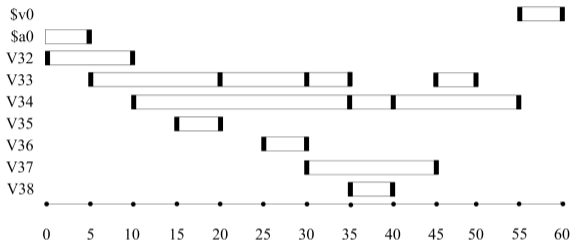
Consider the control-flow graph for `Factorial.computeIter()`



Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

The liveness intervals for the above code are illustrated in the following figure



The numbers on the horizontal axis represent instruction ids and the vertical axis is labeled with register IDs

The darker vertical segments in the intervals identify use positions: a use position is a position in the interval where either the register is defined (ie, written) or the register is being used (ie, read)

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LiveUse operands are those operands that are read (or used) before they are written (defined) in the block's instruction sequence

LiveDef operands are those operands that are written to (defined) by some instruction in the block

Algorithm Computing Local Liveness Information

Input: The control-flow graph g for a method

Output: Two sets for each basic block: liveUse, registers used before they are overwritten (defined) in the block and liveDef, registers that are defined in the block

for block b in g .blocks **do**

 Set b .liveUse $\leftarrow \{\}$

 Set b .liveDef $\leftarrow \{\}$

for instruction i in b .instructions **do**

for virtual register v in i .readOperands **do**

if $v \notin b$.liveDef **then**

b .liveUse.add(v)

end if

end for

for virtual register v in i .writeOperands **do**

b .liveDef.add(v)

end for

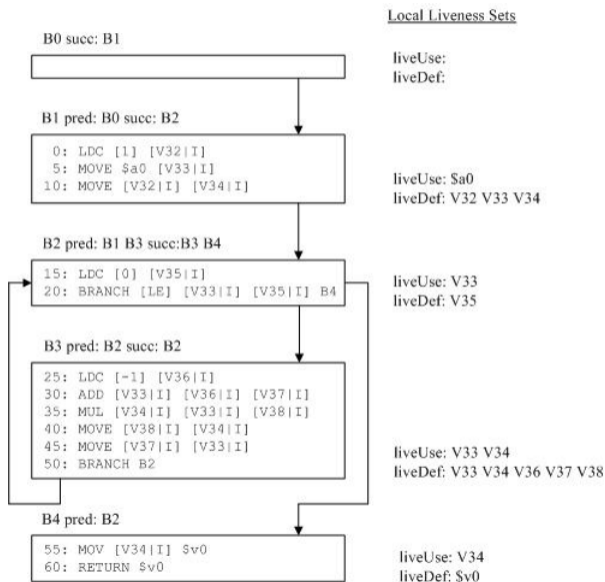
end for

end for

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

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The control-flow graph for `Factorial.computeIter()` with its local liveness sets computed is illustrated below



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Algorithm Computing Global Liveness Information

Input: The control-flow graph g for a method, and the local liveness sets `liveUse` and `liveDef` for every basic block

Output: Two sets for each basic block: `liveIn`, registers live at the beginning of the block, and `liveOut`, registers that are live at the end of the block

repeat

for block b in g .blocks in reverse order **do**

b .liveOut $\leftarrow \{\}$

for block s in b .successors **do**

b .liveOut $\leftarrow b$.liveOut $\cup s$.liveIn

end for

b .liveIn $\leftarrow (b$.liveOut $- b$.liveDef) $\cup b$.liveUse

end for

until no liveOut has changed

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

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The computation of the global liveness information for `Factorial.computeIter()` requires three iterations

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After first iteration

```
B4 liveIn:  V34
B4 liveOut:
B3 liveIn:  V33 V34
B3 liveOut:
B2 liveIn:  V33 V34
B2 liveOut: V33 V34
B1 liveIn:  $a0
B1 liveOut: V33 V34
B0 liveIn:  $a0
B0 liveOut: $a0
```

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

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B3 liveOut:
B2 liveIn:  V33 V34
B2 liveOut: V33 V34
B1 liveIn:  $a0
B1 liveOut: V33 V34
B0 liveIn:  $a0
B0 liveOut: $a0
```

After second iteration

```
B4 liveIn:  V34
B4 liveOut:
B3 liveIn:  V33 V34
B3 liveOut: V33 V34
B2 liveIn:  V33 V34
B2 liveOut: V33 V34
B1 liveIn:  $a0
B1 liveOut: V33 V34
B0 liveIn:  $a0
B0 liveOut: $a0
```

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

After third (and final) iteration

```
B4 liveIn:  V34
B4 liveOut:
B3 liveIn:  V33 V34
B3 liveOut: V33 V34
B2 liveIn:  V33 V34
B2 liveOut: V33 V34
B1 liveIn:  $a0
B1 liveOut: V33 V34
B0 liveIn:  $a0
B0 liveOut: $a0
```

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

After third (and final) iteration

```
B4 liveIn:  V34
B4 liveOut:
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B2 liveOut: V33 V34
B1 liveIn:  $a0
B1 liveOut: V33 V34
B0 liveIn:  $a0
B0 liveOut: $a0
```

To build the intervals, we make a single pass over the blocks and instructions, again in reverse order

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

Algorithm Building Liveness Intervals

Input: The control-flow graph g for a method with LIR, and the `liveIn` and `liveOut` sets for each basic block

Output: A liveness interval for each register, with ranges and use positions

```
for block  $b$  in  $g$ .blocks in reverse order do
  int  $blockFrom$   $\leftarrow$   $b$ .firstInstruction.id
  Set  $blockTo$   $\leftarrow$   $b$ .lastInstruction.id
  for register  $r$  in  $b$ .liveOut do
    intervals[ $r$ ].addOrExtendRange( $blockFrom$ ,  $blockRange$ )
  end for
  for instruction  $i$  in  $b$ .instructions in reverse order do
    if  $i$ .isAMethodCall then
      for physical register  $r$  in the set of physical registers do
        intervals[ $r$ ].addRange( $i$ .id,  $i$ .id)
      end for
    end if
    for virtual register  $r$  in  $i$ .writeOperands do
      intervals[ $r$ ].firstRange.from  $\leftarrow$   $i$ .id
      intervals[ $r$ ].addUsePos( $i$ .id)
    end for
    for virtual register  $r$  in  $i$ .readOperands do
      intervals[ $r$ ].addOrExtendRange( $blockFrom$ ,  $i$ .id)
      intervals[ $r$ ].addUsePos( $i$ .id)
    end for
  end for
end for
```

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

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We first add ranges for all registers that are in liveOut, extending from the start of the block to the end

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We first add ranges for all registers that are in `liveOut`, extending from the start of the block to the end

As we iterate through the instructions of each block, in reverse order, we add or modify ranges

- When we encounter a subroutine call, we add ranges of length one at the call's position to the intervals of all physical registers, because we assume the subroutine itself will use these registers and so we want to force spills
- If the instruction has a register that is written to, then we adjust the first (most recent) range's start position to be the position of the (writing) instruction, and we record the use position
- For each register that is read (or used) in the instruction, we add a new range extending to this instruction's position; initially, the new range begins at the start of the block, and a write may cause the start position to be re-adjusted — note that `addOrExtendRange()` operation merges contiguous ranges into one

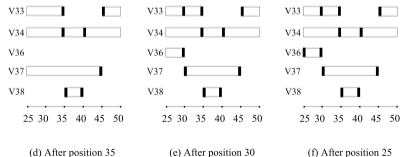
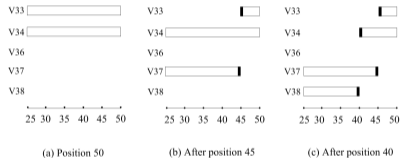
Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

Consider the basic block B_3 of the LIR for `Factorial.computeIter()`

```
B3
25: LDC [-1] [V36|I]
30: ADD [V33|I] [V36|I] [V37|I]
35: MUL [V34|I] [V33|I] [V38|I]
40: MOVE [V38|I] [V34|I]
45: MOVE [V37|I] [V33|I]
50: BRANCH B2
```

The progress of building intervals for the basic block is illustrated below



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There is an edge between two nodes if the corresponding intervals interfere, ie, if they are live at the same time

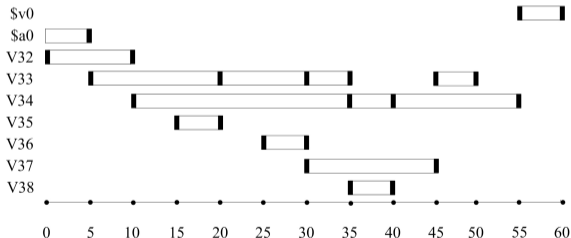
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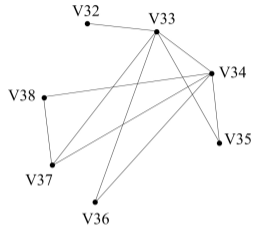
For example, reconsider the liveness intervals for the virtual registers \$V32 – \$V38 of `Factorial.computeIter()`



Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

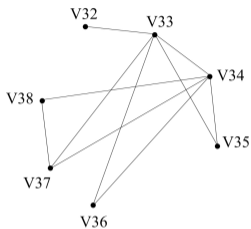
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The interference graph for `Factorial.computeIter()` is shown below



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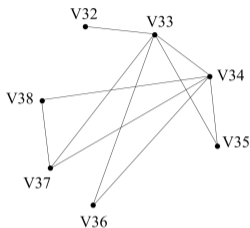
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We say that a graph has an R -coloring if it can be colored using R distinct colors, or in our case R distinct physical registers

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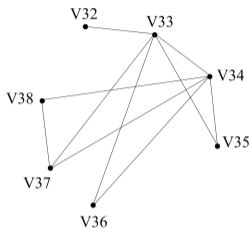


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To exhaustively find such an R -coloring for $R \geq 2$ has long been known to be NP-complete

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The interference graph for `Factorial.computeIter()` is shown below



We say that a graph has an R -coloring if it can be colored using R distinct colors, or in our case R distinct physical registers

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But there are two heuristics available to us for simplifying the graph

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

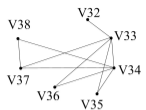
Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

- ① Degree $< R$ heuristic: a graph with a node of degree $< R$ is R -colorable if and only if the graph with that node removed is R -colorable; we may use this rule to prune the graph, removing one node of degree $< R$ at a time and pushing it onto a stack; we continue removing nodes until either all nodes have been pruned or until we reach a state where all remaining nodes have degrees $\geq R$
- ② Optimistic heuristic: we use a function `spillCost()` to find a node having the smallest cost of spilling its associated virtual register; we mark that register for possible spilling and remove the node (and its edges) and push it onto the stack in the hope that we will not really have to spill it later

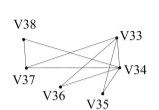
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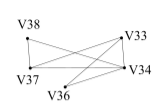
Pruning of the above interference graph with $R = 3$ is shown below



(a)



(b)



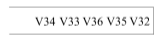
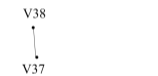
(c)



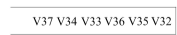
(d)



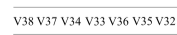
(e)



(f)



(g)



(h)

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

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We may then pop the virtual registers off of the list, one at a time, and try to assign physical register numbers ($r1$, $r2$, or $r3$) to each in such a way that adjacent virtual registers are never assigned the same physical register

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A possible assignment is

V38 r1

V37 r2

V34 r3

V33 r1

V36 r2

V35 r2

V32 r2

Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

We may then pop the virtual registers off of the list, one at a time, and try to assign physical register numbers ($r1$, $r2$, or $r3$) to each in such a way that adjacent virtual registers are never assigned the same physical register

A possible assignment is

V38 r1

V37 r2

V34 r3

V33 r1

V36 r2

V35 r2

V32 r2

Imposing this mapping onto our LIR for `Factorial.computeIter()` gives us

```
B1
0: LDC [1] r2
5: MOVE $a0 r1
10: MOVE r2 r3

B2
15: LDC [0] r2
20: BRANCH [LE] r1 r2 B4

B3
25: LDC [-1] r2
30: ADD r1 r2 r2
35: MUL r3 r1 r1
40: MOVE r1 r3
45: MOVE r2 r1
50: BRANCH B2

B4
55: MOVE r3 $v0
60: RETURN $v0
```


Register Allocation by Graph Coloring

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Algorithm Graph Coloring Register Allocation

Input: The control-flow graph g for a method with LIR that makes use of virtual registers

Output: The same g but with virtual registers replaced by physical registers

registersAssignedSuccessfully \leftarrow false

repeat

repeat

 buildIntervals()

 buildInterferenceGraph()

until not coalesceRegistersSuccessful()

 buildAdjacencyLists()

 computeSpillCosts()

 pruneGraph()

registersAssignedSuccessfully \leftarrow assignRegisters()

if not *registersAssignedSuccessfully* **then**

 generateSpillCode()

end if

until *registersAssignedSuccessfully*

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Coalescing registers reduces both the number of virtual registers and the number of moves

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An option is summing up the uses and definitions, using a factor of 10^{depth} for taking loop depth into account; it's better to re-compute the value for a register when it is cheaper than spilling and reloading that same value