

2019 Mooly Fest
April 6th, 2019 —
ETAPS, Prague, Czech Republic

Computational design of a static dependency analysis

Patrick Cousot

New York University, Courant Institute of Mathematics, Computer Science

pcousot@cs.nyu.edu

cs.nyu.edu/~pcousot

Dependency

Dependency is prevalent in computer science:

- Non-interference (confidentiality, integrity)
- Security, privacy
- Slicing
- Temporal dependencies in synchronous languages (Lustre, Signal, *etc.*)
- *etc.*

The [existing definitions](#)

- are postulated a priori (par exemple Cheney, Ahmed, and Acar, 2011; D. E. Denning and P. J. Denning, 1977),
- without semantics justifications (except Assaf, Naumann, Signoles, Totel, and Tronel, 2017 (“hyper-collecting semantics”), Urban and Müller, 2018 on program exit uniquely)

We are [interested in principles](#), in soundness proofs, not so much in a new more powerful dependency analysis.

Structural fixpoint trace semantics

Program syntax

- C statements limited to integers, assignments, statement lits, conditionals, iterations
- Programs are labelled to designate program points
 - $\text{at}[[S]]$: entry program point of S starts;
 - $\text{after}[[S]]$: normal exit program point of S ;
 - $\text{in}[[S]]$: reachable program points of S (excluding $\text{after}[[S]]$);
 - $\text{break-to}[[S]]$: breaking point when S contains a `break ;` to exit a loop (then $\text{escape}[[S]] = \text{tt}$);

Execution traces

- Program:

$$l_1 \text{ x = 0 ; while } l_2 \text{ (tt) } \{ l_3 \text{ x = x+1 ; } \} l_4$$

- Infinite execution trace: $l_1 \xrightarrow{x = 0 = 0} l_2 \xrightarrow{\text{tt}} l_3 \xrightarrow{x = x + 1 = 1} l_2 \xrightarrow{\text{tt}} l_3$
 $\xrightarrow{x = x + 1 = 2} l_2 \dots l_2 \xrightarrow{\text{tt}} l_3 \xrightarrow{x = x + 1 = n} l_2 \xrightarrow{\text{tt}} l_3 \xrightarrow{x = x + 1 = n + 1} l_2 \dots$
- Trace: finite or infinite sequence of program points separated by action
($x = A = \textit{value}$, B , $\neg B$, et **break** ;)

Value of a variable (and an expression)

- The value of a variable x along a trace π is the last assigned value (or 0 at initialization).

$$\begin{aligned} \varrho(\pi^\ell \xrightarrow{x = E = v} \ell')_x &\triangleq v \\ \varrho(\pi^\ell \xrightarrow{\dots} \ell')_x &\triangleq \varrho(\pi^\ell) \quad \text{otherwise} \\ \varrho(\ell)_x &\triangleq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Value of an arithmetic expression

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}[[1]]\rho &\triangleq 1 \\ \mathcal{A}[[x]]\rho &\triangleq \rho(x) \\ \mathcal{A}[[A_1 - A_2]]\rho &\triangleq \mathcal{A}[[A_1]]\rho - \mathcal{A}[[A_2]]\rho \end{aligned}$$

- Same for boolean expressions.

Structural fixpoint prefix/maximal trace semantics $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[[S]]$

- The **prefix trace semantics** $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[[S]]$ is a relation between
 - an initialization trace $\pi_0 \text{at}[[S]]$ arriving **at** $[[S]]$, and
 - the prefix execution traces $\text{at}[[S]]\pi$ continuing this initialization by zero or more execution steps
- The **maximal trace semantics** $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{+\infty}[[S]]$ collects the maximal finite traces and the infinite traces obtained as limits of their prefixes.

Structural fixpoint definition of the prefix trace semantics (I)

- Assignment $S ::= \ell \ x = A \ ;$ (where $\text{at}[[S]] = \ell$)

$$\mathcal{S}^*[[S]] \triangleq \{\langle \pi^\ell, \ell \rangle \mid \pi^\ell \in \mathbb{T}^+\} \cup \{\langle \pi^\ell, \ell \xrightarrow{x = A = v} \text{after}[[S]] \rangle \mid \pi^\ell \in \mathbb{T}^+ \wedge v = \mathcal{A}[[A]]\rho(\pi^\ell)\}$$

Structural fixpoint definition of the prefix trace semantics (II)

- Iteration $S ::= \text{while } \ell(B) S_b$ (where $\text{at}[S] = \ell$):

$$\mathcal{S}^*[S] = \text{lfp}^{\subseteq} \mathcal{F}^*[S]$$

$$\mathcal{F}^*[\text{while } \ell(B) S_b](X) \triangleq \{ \langle \pi_1 \ell', \ell' \rangle \mid \pi_1 \ell' \in \mathbb{T}^+ \wedge \ell' = \ell \} \quad (\text{a})$$

$$\cup \{ \langle \pi_1 \ell', \ell' \pi_2 \ell' \xrightarrow{\neg(B)} \text{after}[S] \rangle \mid \langle \pi_1 \ell', \ell' \pi_2 \ell' \rangle \in X \wedge \mathcal{B}[B] \mathcal{Q}(\pi_1 \ell' \pi_2 \ell') = \text{ff} \wedge \ell' = \ell \} \quad (\text{b})$$

$$\cup \{ \langle \pi_1 \ell', \ell' \pi_2 \ell' \xrightarrow{B} \text{at}[S_b] \cdot \pi_3 \rangle \mid \langle \pi_1 \ell', \ell' \pi_2 \ell' \rangle \in X \wedge \mathcal{B}[B] \mathcal{Q}(\pi_1 \ell' \pi_2 \ell') = \text{tt} \wedge \langle \pi_1 \ell' \pi_2 \ell' \xrightarrow{B} \text{at}[S_b], \pi_3 \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^*[S_b] \wedge \ell' = \ell \} \quad (\text{c})$$

A definition of the form $d(\vec{x}) \triangleq \{f(\vec{x}') \mid P(\vec{x}', \vec{x})\}$ has the variables \vec{x}' in $P(\vec{x}', \vec{x})$ bound to those of $f(\vec{x}')$ whereas \vec{x} is free in $P(\vec{x}', \vec{x})$ since it appears neither in $f(\vec{x}')$ nor (by assumption) under quantifiers in $P(\vec{x}', \vec{x})$. The \vec{x} of $P(\vec{x}', \vec{x})$ is therefore bound to the \vec{x} of $d(\vec{x})$.

Property

- A property is represented by a set of elements (those elements which have the property)
- Even integers: $2\mathbb{Z} \triangleq \{2k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$
- x has property P is $x \in P$
- Implication is $P_1 \subseteq P_2$

Semantic property

- The prefix trace semantics belongs to $\wp(\mathbb{T}^+ \times \mathbb{T}^{+\infty})$
- A semantics property belongs to $\wp(\wp(\mathbb{T}^+ \times \mathbb{T}^{+\infty}))$
- The abstraction

$$\langle \wp(\wp(\mathbb{T}^+ \times \mathbb{T}^{+\infty})), \subseteq \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\lambda_Q \cdot \wp(Q)} \\ \xrightarrow{\lambda_P \cdot \cup P} \end{array} \langle \wp(\mathbb{T}^+ \times \mathbb{T}^{+\infty}), \subseteq \rangle$$

provides trace properties (e.g. safety, liveness, etc.)

Dependency, informally

- At program point ℓ , the variable y depends upon the initial value x_0 of variable x iff
changing only x_0 will change the non-empty sequences of values y_0, y_1, \dots of y observed at ℓ whenever control reaches ℓ
- Example: ℓ_0 if $(x=0)$ { $y=x$; ℓ_1 } ℓ_2
 - y does not depend on x neither at ℓ_0 nor at ℓ_1
 - y depends on x at ℓ_2
- No need to distinguish between explicit and implicit dependencies
- Absence of observation is not an observation
- No timing channels

Dependency, formally

Observation of the sequence of values of a variable at a program point

- non-empty initialization trace $\pi_0 \in \mathbb{T}^+$
- non-empty continuation trace $\pi \in \mathbb{T}^{+\infty}$
- $\text{seqval}[[y]]^\ell(\pi_0, \pi)$ is the sequence of values of the variable y at program point ℓ along the trace π continuing π_0

$$\text{seqval}[[y]]^\ell(\pi_0, \ell) \triangleq \mathbf{q}(\pi_0)y$$

$$\text{seqval}[[y]]^\ell(\pi_0, \ell') \triangleq \mathbf{\emptyset}$$

$$\text{seqval}[[y]]^\ell(\pi_0, \ell \xrightarrow{a} \ell''\pi) \triangleq \mathbf{q}(\pi_0)y \cdot \text{seqval}[[y]]^\ell(\pi_0 \frown \ell \xrightarrow{a} \ell'', \ell''\pi)$$

$$\text{seqval}[[y]]^\ell(\pi_0, \ell' \xrightarrow{a} \ell''\pi) \triangleq \text{seqval}[[y]]^\ell(\pi_0 \frown \ell' \xrightarrow{a} \ell'', \ell''\pi)$$

- $\text{seqval}[[y]]^\ell(\pi_0, \pi)$ is the empty sequence $\mathbf{\emptyset}$ if ℓ never appears in π

(co-inductive definition for infinite traces).

Difference between sequences of values ω and ω'

- Sequences that differ may have a common prefix but must eventually have a different value at some position in the sequences.

$$\text{diff}(\omega, \omega') \triangleq \exists \omega_0, \omega_1, \omega'_1, \nu, \nu' . \omega = \omega_0 \cdot \nu \cdot \omega_1 \wedge \omega' = \omega_0 \cdot \nu' \cdot \omega'_1 \wedge \nu \neq \nu'$$

Dependency, formally

- Dependency property:

$$\mathcal{D}_{\text{diff}}^{\ell}\langle x, y \rangle \triangleq \{ \Pi \in \wp(\mathbb{T}^+ \times \mathbb{T}^{+\infty}) \mid \exists \langle \pi_0, \pi_1 \rangle, \langle \pi'_0, \pi'_1 \rangle \in \Pi . \\ (\forall z \in \mathbb{V} \setminus \{x\} . \varrho(\pi_0)z = \varrho(\pi'_0)z) \wedge \\ \text{diff}(\text{seqval}[[y]]^{\ell}(\pi_0, \pi_1), \text{seqval}[[y]]^{\ell}(\pi'_0, \pi'_1)) \}$$

- y depends on the initial value of x at program point ℓ in program P is:

$$\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{+\infty}[[P]] \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{diff}}^{\ell}\langle x, y \rangle$$

- Lemma

$$\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{+\infty}[[P]] \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{diff}}^{\ell}\langle x, y \rangle \Leftrightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[[P]] \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{diff}}^{\ell}\langle x, y \rangle$$

Value dependency abstraction

Abstraction en dépendance de données

- The abstraction of a semantic property $\mathcal{S} \in \wp(\wp(\mathbb{T}^+ \times \mathbb{T}^{+\infty}))$ into a value dependency property $\alpha^d(\mathcal{S}) \in \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \wp(\mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{V})$ is:

$$\alpha^d(\mathcal{S})^\ell \triangleq \{ \langle x, y \rangle \mid \mathcal{S} \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{diff}}^\ell \langle x, y \rangle \}$$

- This is a Galois connection:

Lemma 1 $\langle \wp(\wp(\mathbb{T}^+ \times \mathbb{T}^{+\infty})), \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha^d]{\gamma^d} \langle \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \wp(\mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{V}), \supseteq^d \rangle$ where the concretization of a dependency property $\mathbf{D} \in \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \wp(\mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{V})$ is:

$$\gamma^d(\mathbf{D}) \triangleq \bigcap_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}} \bigcap_{\langle x, y \rangle \in \mathbf{D}(\ell)} \mathcal{D}_{\text{diff}}^\ell \langle x, y \rangle$$

(the more semantics, the less common dependencies)

Static dependency analysis

Potential dependency

- $\alpha^d(\{\mathcal{S}^* \llbracket s \rrbracket\})$ is not computable (Rice theorem)
- We design an over-approximation:

Abstract potential dependency semantics $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}}$:

$$\alpha^d(\{\mathcal{S}^{+\infty} \llbracket s \rrbracket\}) \subseteq \widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}} \llbracket s \rrbracket$$

- The abstraction in D. E. Denning and P. J. Denning, 1977 is purely syntactic;
- We do a little better by taking the semantics in a simple way.

Calculation design

- $\widehat{\mathcal{D}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}}[\mathbb{S}]$ is designed by calculus (in principle can be checked in Coq as Jourdan, Laporte, Blazy, Leroy, and Pichardie, 2015);
- By structural induction on the program syntax;
- By fixpoint approximation for iteration:

Theorem (fixpoint over-approximation) If $\langle \mathcal{C}, \sqsubseteq, \perp, \top, \sqcup, \sqcap \rangle$ and $\langle \mathcal{A}, \preceq, 0, 1, \vee, \wedge \rangle$ are complete lattices, $\langle \mathcal{C}, \sqsubseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle \mathcal{A}, \preceq \rangle$ is a Galois connection, $f \in \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ and $\bar{f} \in \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ are monotonally increasing and $\alpha \circ f \preceq \bar{f} \circ \alpha$ (*semi-commutation*) then $\text{lfp}^{\sqsubseteq} f \sqsubseteq \gamma(\text{lfp}^{\preceq} \bar{f})$.

- Finite domain, no need for widening

Abstract potential dependency semantics of assignment $S ::= x = A ;$

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}}[S] \ell &= (\ell = \text{at}[S] ? \{\langle y, y \rangle \mid y \in \mathcal{V}\} \\ &\quad \mid \ell = \text{after}[S] ? \{\langle y, x \rangle \mid y \in \widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}}[A]\} \cup \{\langle y, y \rangle \mid y \neq x\} \\ &\quad : \emptyset) \\ \widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}}[A] &\triangleq \{y \mid \exists \rho \in \text{Ev} . \exists v \in \mathcal{V} . \mathcal{E}[A]\rho \neq \mathcal{E}[A]\rho[y \leftarrow v]\}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}}[1] &\triangleq \emptyset & \widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}}[x] &\triangleq \{x\} & \widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}}[A_1 - A_2] &\triangleq \{y \in \text{vars}[A_1] \cup \text{vars}[A_2] \mid A_1 \neq A_2\} \\ \widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}}[A] &\subseteq \text{vars}[A]\end{aligned}$$

Examples:

- after $x = y - y ;$, x does not depend on y .
- after $x = y ; x = y - x ;$, x depends on the initial value of x and y (to be more precise information of values of variables must be kept such as $y - x = 0$ by symbolic constant analysis)

Proof II

$$\subseteq \{ \langle x', y \rangle \mid \exists (\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!], \text{at}[\![S]\!] \xrightarrow{x=\mathcal{E}[A]\varrho(\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])} \text{after}[\![S]\!]}, \langle \pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!], \text{at}[\![S]\!] \xrightarrow{x=\mathcal{E}[A]\varrho(\pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])} \text{after}[\![S]\!] \rangle . (\forall z \in \mathcal{V} \setminus \{x'\} . \varrho(\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])z = \varrho(\pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])z \wedge ((\varrho(\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])y \neq \varrho(\pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])y) \vee (\varrho(\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])y = \varrho(\pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])y) \wedge \varrho(\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!] \xrightarrow{x=\mathcal{E}[A]\varrho(\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])} \text{after}[\![S]\!]})y \neq \varrho(\pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!] \xrightarrow{x=\mathcal{E}[A]\varrho(\pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])} \text{after}[\![S]\!]})y)) \} \quad \text{(44.17) so that } \text{diff}(a \cdot b, c \cdot d) \text{ if and only if (1) } a \neq c \text{ or (2) } a = c \wedge b \neq d. \}$$

$$\subseteq \{ \langle x', y \rangle \mid \exists (\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!], \text{at}[\![S]\!] \xrightarrow{x=\mathcal{E}[A]\varrho(\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])} \text{after}[\![S]\!]}, \langle \pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!], \text{at}[\![S]\!] \xrightarrow{x=\mathcal{E}[A]\varrho(\pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])} \text{after}[\![S]\!] \rangle . (\forall z \in \mathcal{V} \setminus \{x'\} . \varrho(\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])z = \varrho(\pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])z \wedge ((y = x') \vee (y = x \wedge \mathcal{E}[A]\varrho(\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!]) \neq \mathcal{E}[A]\varrho(\pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!]))) \} \quad \text{(def. (6.3) of } \varrho \}$$

$$\subseteq \{ \langle x', y \rangle \mid ((y = x') \vee (y = x \wedge \exists \rho, v . \mathcal{E}[A]\rho \neq \mathcal{E}[A]\rho[x' \leftarrow v])) \}$$

{letting $\rho = \varrho(\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])$ and $v = \varrho(\pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])(x')$ so that $\forall z \in \mathcal{V} \setminus \{x'\} . \varrho(\pi_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])z = \varrho(\pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!])z$ implies that $\varrho(\pi'_0 \text{at}[\![S]\!]) = \rho[x' \leftarrow v]$ }

$$\subseteq \{ \langle x', x' \rangle \mid x' \neq x \} \cup \{ \langle x', x \rangle \mid \exists \rho, v . \mathcal{E}[A]\rho \neq \mathcal{E}[A]\rho[x' \leftarrow v] \} \quad \text{(case analysis)}$$

$$= \{ \langle x', x' \rangle \mid x' \neq x \} \cup \{ \langle x', x \rangle \mid x' \in \widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}}[A] \}$$

{by defining the functional dependency of an expression A as $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}}[A] \triangleq \{x' \mid \exists \rho, v . \mathcal{E}[A]\rho \neq \mathcal{E}[A]\rho[x' \leftarrow v]\}$ }

□
□

Abstract potential dependency semantics of the iteration

$S ::= \text{while}^{\ell} (B) S_b$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}} \llbracket S \rrbracket \ell' = (\text{lfp}^{\subseteq} \mathcal{F}^{\text{d}} \llbracket \text{while}^{\ell} (B) S_b \rrbracket) \ell'$$

$$\mathcal{F}^{\text{d}} \llbracket \text{while}^{\ell} (B) S_b \rrbracket X \ell' =$$

$$(\ell' = \ell \text{ ? } 1_{\vee} \cup X(\ell) \cup (X(\ell) \text{ ; } \widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}} \llbracket S_b \rrbracket \ell)$$

$$\text{ | } \ell' \in \text{in} \llbracket S \rrbracket \cup (\text{escape} \llbracket S \rrbracket \text{ ? } \{\text{break-to} \llbracket S \rrbracket\} \text{ ; } \emptyset) \text{ ? } X(\ell') \cup (X(\ell) \text{ ; } \widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\exists}^{\text{diff}} \llbracket S_b \rrbracket \ell')$$

$$\text{ | } \ell' = \text{after} \llbracket S \rrbracket \text{ ? } X(\ell) \cup \{\langle x', y \rangle \mid x' \in \text{vars} \llbracket B \rrbracket \wedge y \in \text{mod} \llbracket S_b \rrbracket\}$$

$$\text{ ; } \emptyset)$$

- Can be refined by taking test determinacy into account (e.g. after test $x == 1$, x can only have value 1 so nothing can depend on x afterwards).

No structural compositionality

In the following statement, x and y at ℓ_1 depend on x at ℓ_0 .

	$/* x = x_0, y = y_0 */$
ℓ_0	$y = x ;$
ℓ_1	$/* x = x_0, y = x_0 */$

In the following statement, x and y at ℓ_2 depend on x at ℓ_1 .

	$/* x = x_0, y = y_0 */$
ℓ_1	$y = y - x ;$
ℓ_2	$/* x = x_0, y = y_0 - x_0 */$

In the sequential composition of the two statements

	$/* x = x_0, y = y_0 */$
ℓ_0	$y = x ;$
ℓ_1	$y = y - x ;$
ℓ_2	$/* x = x_0, y = 0 */$

y at ℓ_2 depends on x at ℓ_1 which depends on x at ℓ_0 so, by composition, y at ℓ_2 depends on x at ℓ_0 .

However, $y = 0$ at ℓ_2 so y at ℓ_2 does not depend on x at ℓ_0 .

Improving precision

- To improve precision one must take values of variables into account;
- Reduced product with a reachability analysis (e.g. Cortesi, Ferrara, Halder, and Zanioli, 2018; Zanioli and Cortesi, 2011)

Dependency analysis is an abstract interpretation

- No need for a generalized theory (as proposed by Assaf, Naumann, Signoles, Total, and Tronel, 2017; Urban and Müller, 2018)
- This includes further abstractions, dye analysis, taint analysis, *etc.*
- Many possible variants (e.g. by changing diff to = we get timing channel dependency).
- Data dependency analysis to detect parallelism in sequential codes Padua and Wolfe, 1986 is also an abstract interpretation Tzolovski, 1997, Tzolovski, 2002, Ch. 5.

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