The Use of Traces for Inlining in Java Programs

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Introduction

- Feedback-directed systems provide information to a compiler regarding program behaviour
- Examples:
 - Jikes RVM [AFG+00]
 - Open Runtime Platform [Mic03]





Work Overview



- Explore whether traces are useful in offline feedback directed systems
- Create trace collection system for Jikes
- Use traces to guide Jikes's built in optimizing compiler
 - Help with a single optimization, inlining
 - Improves execution time

Outline

- Background
- Implementation
- Results
- Related work
- Conclusion

Trace Definition

 A trace is a frequently executed sequence of unique basic blocks or instructions

```
public static int foo() {
  int a=0;
  for (int i=0;i<5;i++)
    a++;
  return a;
}</pre>
```





Traces and Optimization



- Traces may offer a better opportunity for optimization:
 - Enable inter-procedural analysis
 - Reduce the amount of instructions optimized
 - Simplify the control flow graph, allowing for more optimization

Multiple Methods

- Inter-procedural analysis without an additional framework
- Increase possibility of optimization
 - B1,A1,B2 can be simplified to two instructions
 - a+=(5+i)
 - i++



Fewer Instructions

- Fewer instructions to optimize
- May allow for extra optimization
 - If know that B3 is executed then know that t=5





Trace Exits



- Traces usually contain many basic blocks
- Traces may not execute completely
 - Unlike basic blocks



Trace Collection System

- Monitor program execution
- Record traces
- Start traces at frequently occurring events
 - Backward branches
 - Trace exits
 - Returns
- Stop at backward branches and trace starts
- Captures frequently executed loops and functions









Inlining and Traces

- Traces are executed frequently
- Therefore invocations on traces should be inlined
 - Reduce invocation overhead
 - Allow for more opportunities for optimization
- May lead to large code expansion



Code Expansion Control

- There are ways to control inline expansion
- Inline sequences [HG03,BB04]
- Selectively inlining:
 - What if compile method a()?
 - What if compile method b()?



Code Expansion Control

- Compile method a()
 - Inline methods b() and c()



- Compile method b()
 - No inlining





Results



- Provide inline information to Jikes based on previous executions
- Compare our approach to two others:
 - Inline information provided by the Adaptive system of Jikes
 - A greedy algorithm based on work by Arnold et al. [Arn00]
- Evaluate two approaches: Just in Time and Ahead of Time
- Measure overhead of system

JIT Inlining – Execution Time







JIT Inlining – Compilation Time



JIT Inlining – Code Expansion





AOT Inlining – Execution Time



Adaptive 29.3s Trace 21.8s

AOT Inlining – Compilation Time









Overhead



Related Work



- Arnold et al. [Arn00]
 - Feedback-directed inlining in Java
 - Collected edge counts at method invocations
 - Used a greedy algorithm to select inlines that maximize invocations relative to code expansion
- Dynamo [BDB99]
 - Trace collection system
 - PA-RISC architecture
 - Assembly Instructions
 - Compiled traces

Conclusions



- Traces are beneficial for inlining:
 - Decreased execution time compared to one approach
 - Decrease competitive with another approach
 - Increases compilation time and code size
- A potential avenue of future research

Future Work

- Different trace collection strategies
- Trace based compilation and execution
- Reduction of code size
- Application of traces to other optimizations
- Usage of an online feedback directed system

References



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