

Translating Control Flow Graphs

Dominator Trees

Christoph Hoffmeyer

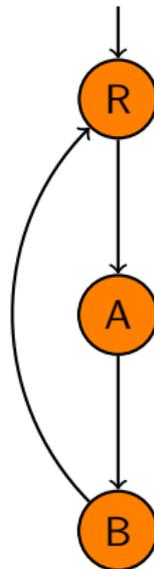
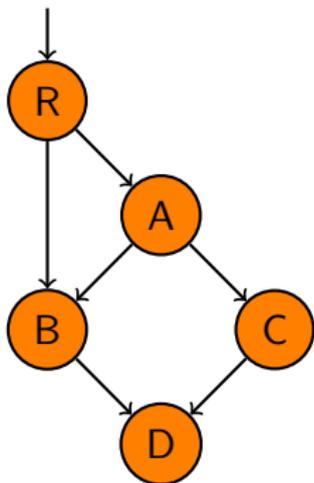
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Overview

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Examples
- 3 Dominator Tree
- 4 Computing Dominator Tree
- 5 Translating Control Flow

Control Flow Graphs

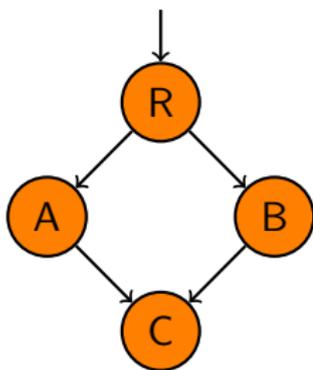


Web Assembly

- WebAssembly is a low-level intermediate code for the web like JavaScript
- Instructions are **if**, **loop**, **block** and **br** (branch)
- We don't have a **goto** and have to work around this

Examples

WebAssembly: Simple conditional



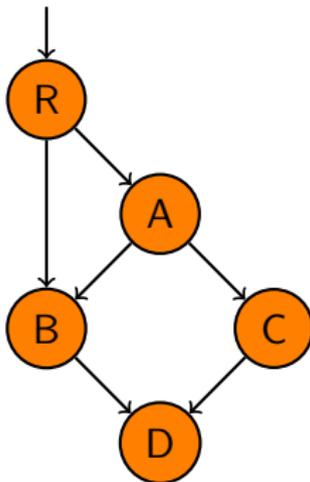
```
do R
  if R
    do A
  else
    do B
  end
do C
```

WebAssembly: Simple loop



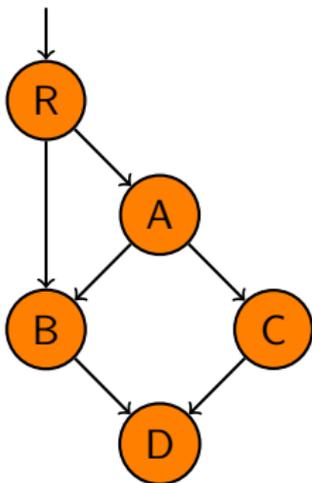
```
loop
  do R
  do A
  if A
    br R
  else
    do B
    exit
  end
end
end
```

Control Flow Graph without loops



How do we translate this into WebAssembly?

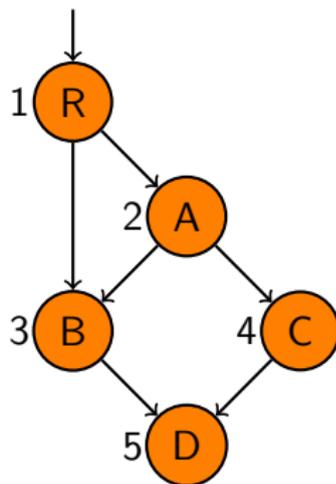
- Do we have to copy B?



```
do R
  if R
    do A
      if A
        do B?
      else
        do C
    else
      do B?
  ...
```

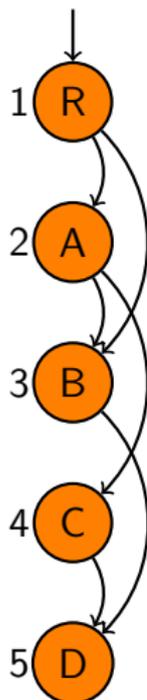
Reverse Post Order Numbering

- 1 Recursively traverse the current vertex's right subtree
- 2 Recursively traverse the current vertex's left subtree
- 3 Visit the current vertex.



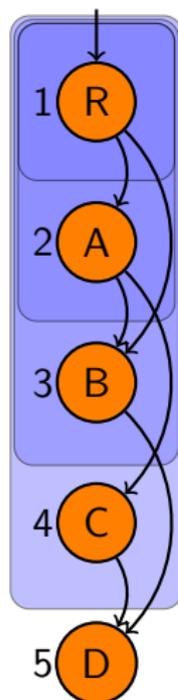
Control Flow Graph without loops

- We can rearrange the vertices
- Create blocks around each vertex
- We can always jump to the end of each block
- We can always apply this ordering if we have no loops

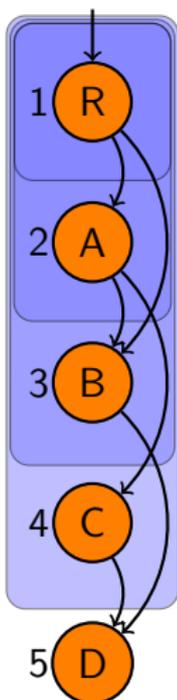


Control Flow Graph without loops

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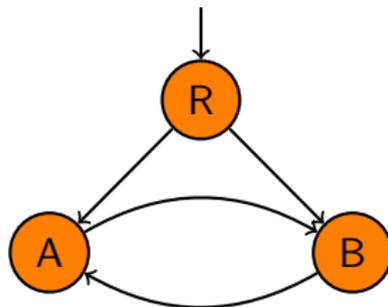
Control Flow Graph without loops



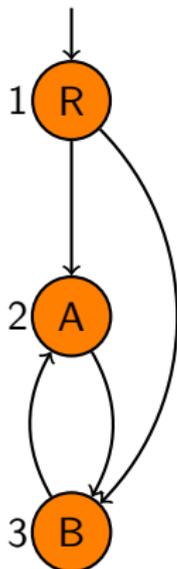
```
block D
block C
block B
block A
    do R
        if R
            br A
        else
            br B
        end
    end
end
do A
...
```

Irreducible Flow Graphs

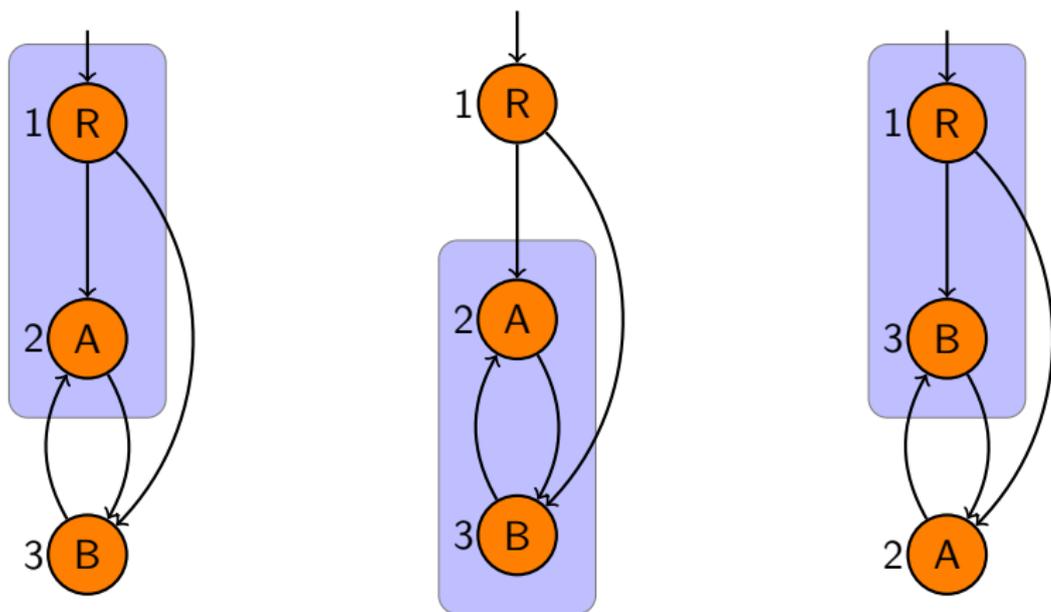
- We cannot place blocks correctly for every graph



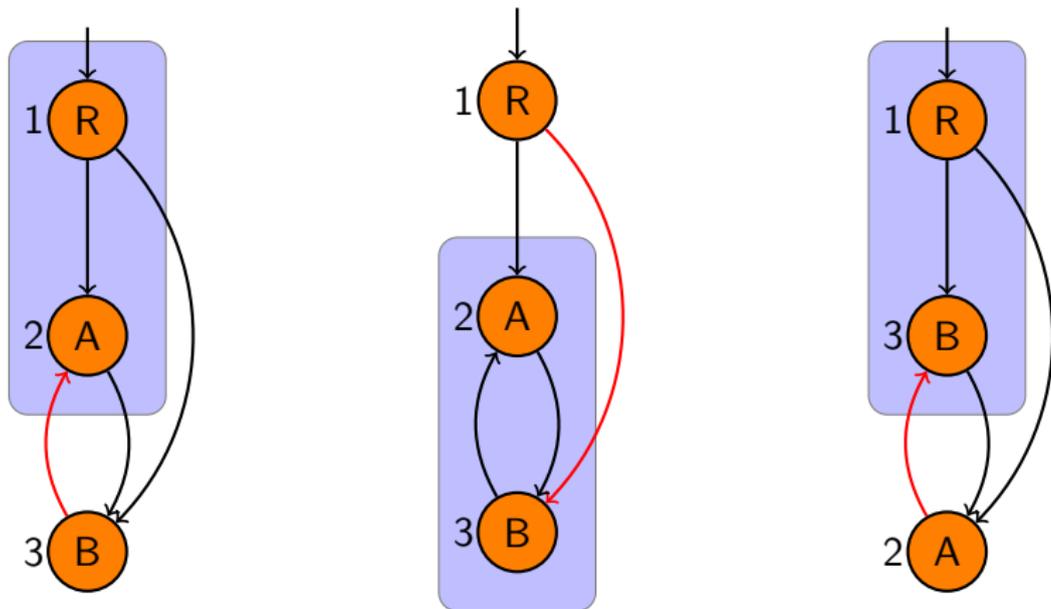
Irreducible Flow Graphs



Irreducible Flow Graphs

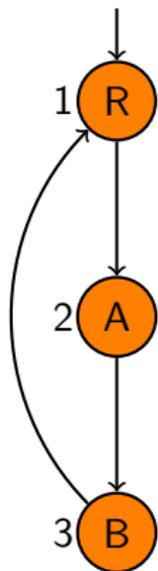


Irreducible Flow Graphs



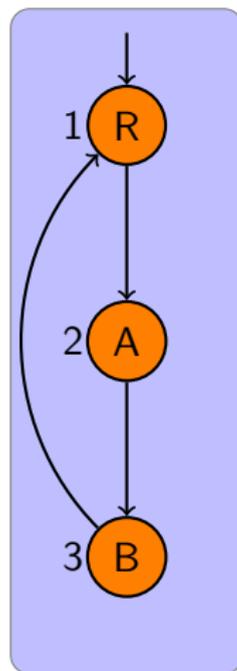
Reducibility

- We can go to the beginning of a block
- Every loop needs a unique entry point
- All vertices in a loop can only be reached by traversing the entry point
- The entry point dominates all paths to the vertices within the loop



Reducibility

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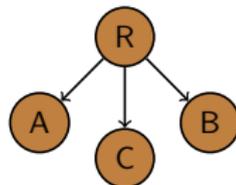
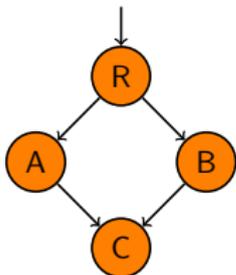
Dominator Tree

Dominator Tree

- Expresses dominance relation between vertices of a control-flow graph
- Vertex X dominates vertex Y if X appears on every path from the root R to Y



Example Trees



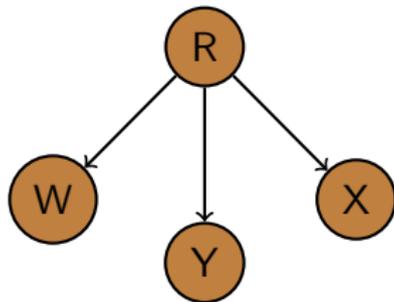
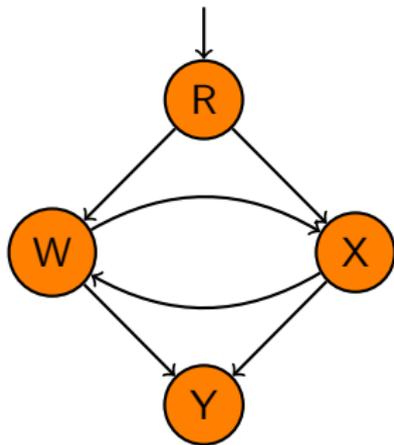
Dominator Tree

- Every vertex Y dominates itself
- A vertex may dominate more than one other vertex, and it may be dominated by more than one other vertex



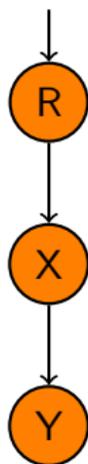
Dominator Tree

- If both W and X dominate Y , then either W dominates X or X dominates W
- Counterexample:



Immediate Dominator

- Vertex X is immediate dominator of Y if X dominates Y and every other dominator of Y dominates X
- All dominator of Y must be on all paths towards Y and they can't dominate each other
- That means there is always an immediate dominator

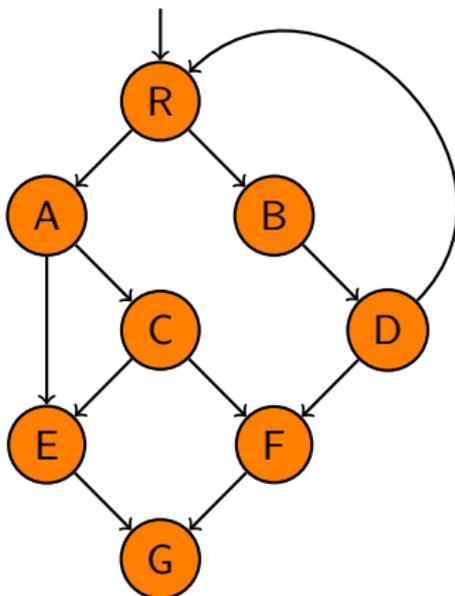


Algorithm

- Compute set $S(v)$ of vertices that can be reached without traversing v
- Compute set of vertices dominated by v :
 $dom(v) = V - \{v\} - S(v)$
- Construct dominator tree
- Runtime $\mathcal{O}(nm)$ with $|V| = n$ and $|E| = m$

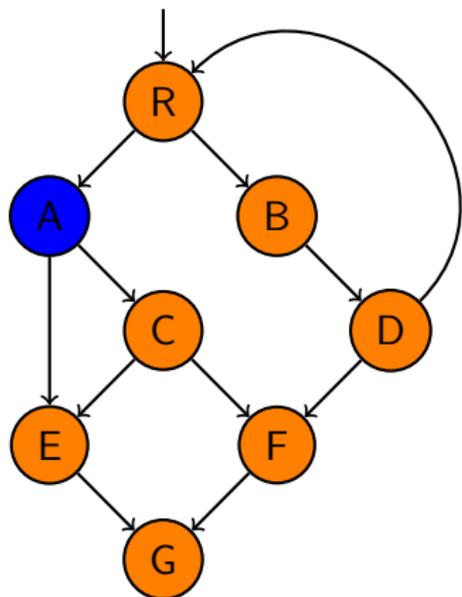
Example

- Compute set $S(v)$ of vertices that can be reached without traversing $v \neq r$



Example

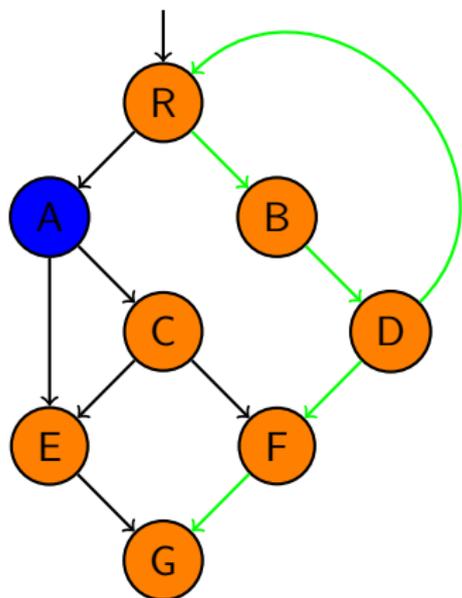
- Compute set $S(v)$ of vertices that can be reached without traversing $v \neq r$



- $S(A)$

Example

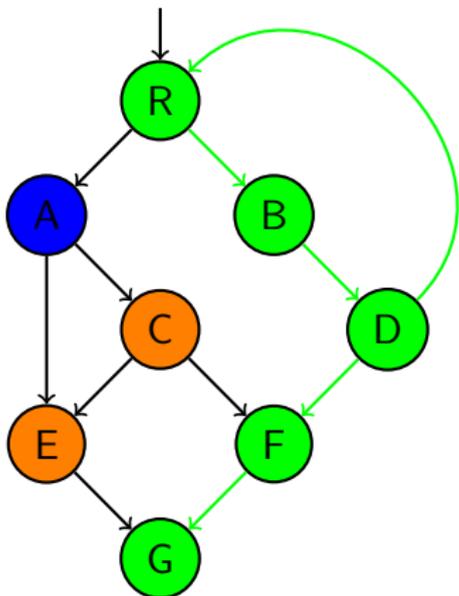
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- $S(A)$

Example

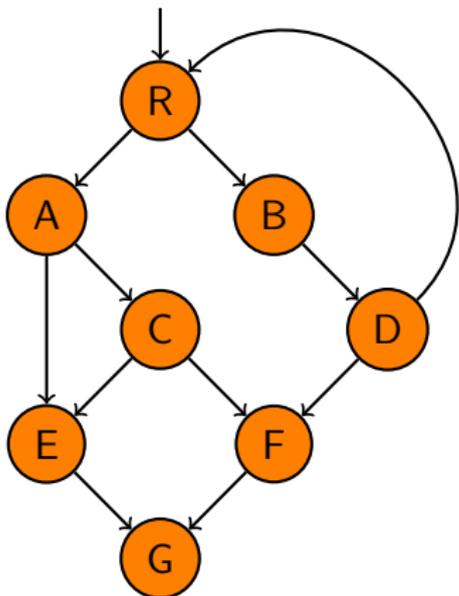
- Compute set $S(v)$ of vertices that can be reached without traversing $v \neq r$



- $S(A) = \{R, B, D, F, G\}$

Example

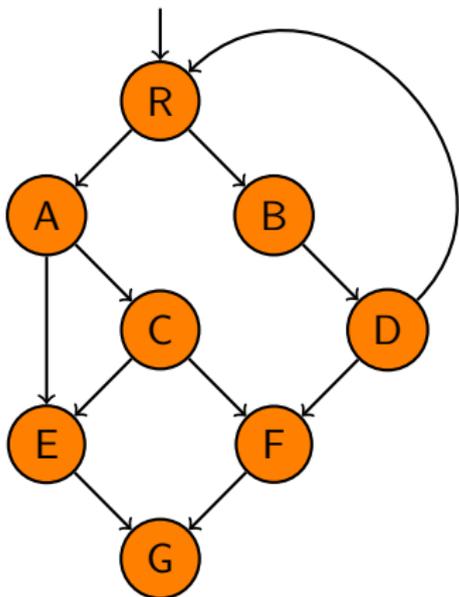
- Compute set $S(v)$ of vertices that can be reached without traversing $v \neq r$



- $S(A) = \{R, B, D, F, G\}$
- $S(B) = \{R, A, C, E, F, G\}$
- $S(C) = V \setminus \{C\}$
- $S(D) = V \setminus \{D\}$
- $S(E) = V \setminus \{E\}$
- $S(F) = V \setminus \{F\}$
- $S(G) = V \setminus \{G\}$

Example

- Compute set of vertices dominated by v :
 $dom(v) = V - \{v\} - S(v)$



- $S(A) = \{R, B, D, F, G\}$
- $S(B) = \{R, A, C, E, F, G\}$
- $S(C) = V \setminus \{C\}$
- $S(D) = V \setminus \{D\}$
- $S(E) = V \setminus \{E\}$
- $S(F) = V \setminus \{F\}$
- $S(G) = V \setminus \{G\}$

Example

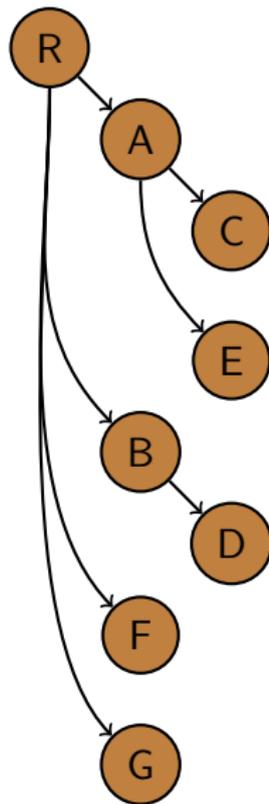
- Compute set of vertices dominated by v :

$$\text{dom}(v) = V - \{v\} - S(v)$$

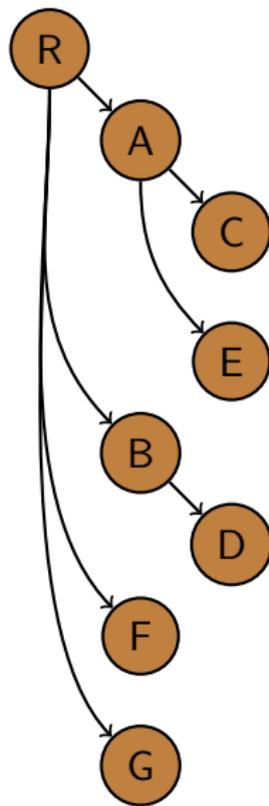
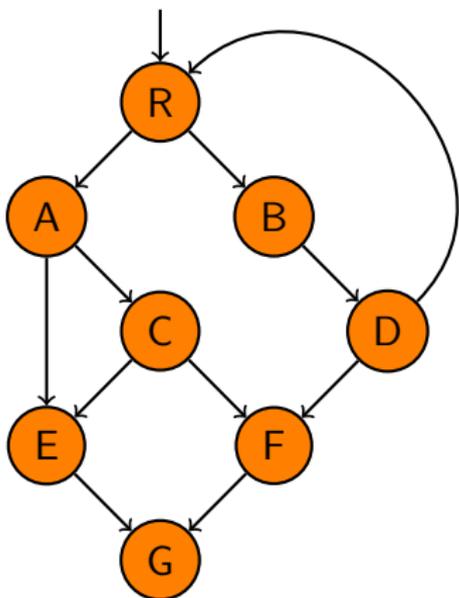
- $S(A) = \{R, B, D, F, G\}$
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- $S(D) = V \setminus \{D\}$
- $S(E) = V \setminus \{E\}$
- $S(F) = V \setminus \{F\}$
- $S(G) = V \setminus \{G\}$
- $\text{dom}(A) = \{C, E\}$
- $\text{dom}(B) = \{D\}$
- $\text{dom}(C) = \emptyset$
- $\text{dom}(D) = \emptyset$
- $\text{dom}(E) = \emptyset$
- $\text{dom}(F) = \emptyset$
- $\text{dom}(G) = \emptyset$

Construct dominator tree

- $dom(R) = V$
- $dom(A) = \{C, E\}$
- $dom(B) = \{D\}$
- $dom(C) = \emptyset$
- $dom(D) = \emptyset$
- $dom(E) = \emptyset$
- $dom(F) = \emptyset$
- $dom(G) = \emptyset$



Construct dominator tree



State of the art

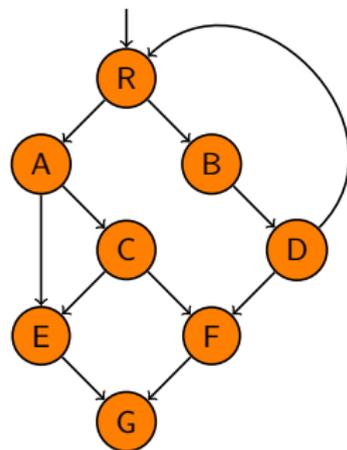
- An algorithm by T. Lengauer and R. E. Tarjan
- It computes an intermediate step called semidominator to compute immediate dominators
- Runtime is $\mathcal{O}(m \log n)$, where m is the number of edges and n is the number of vertices

Translating Control Flow

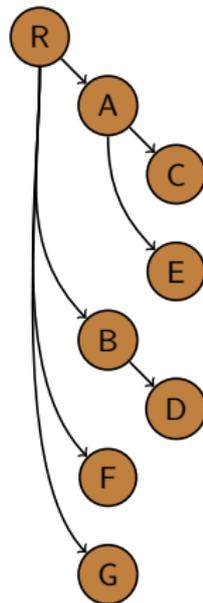
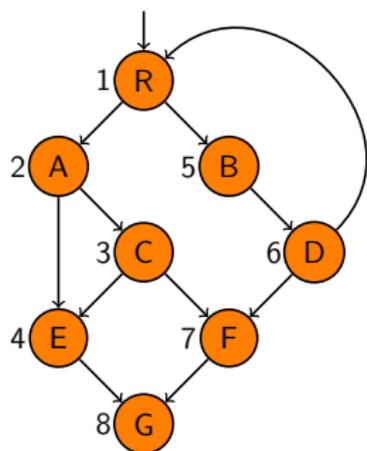
Algorithm

Compute reverse post order numbering and dominator tree
Start with the root and traverse the dominator tree

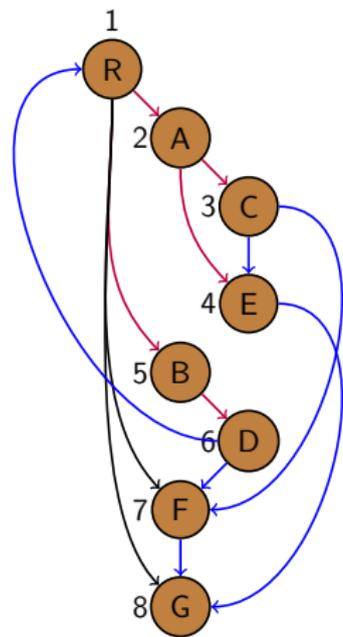
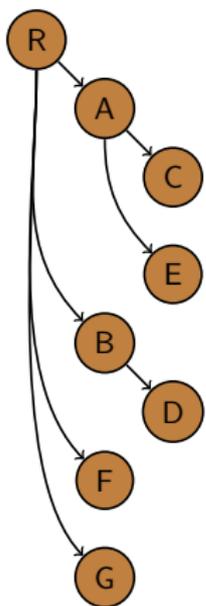
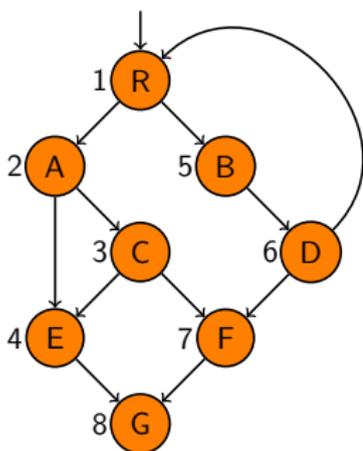
- 1 Check for loop
 - Create loop structure
- 2 Check for merge vertices
 - Create block structure
 - Repeat for merge vertices
- 3 Translate vertex
- 4 Check out-going edges
 - Create if-then-else structure
- 5 Place children, branch or exit. Repeat for direct children



Algorithm

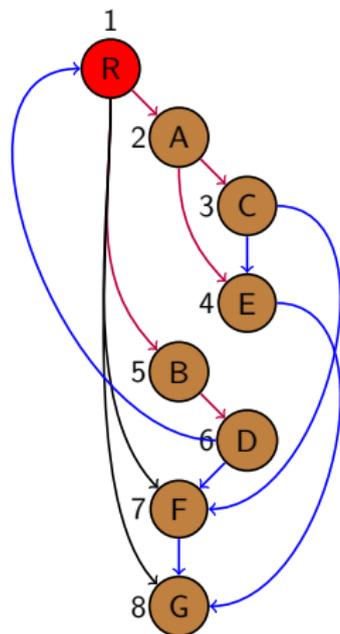


Algorithm



Algorithm

- Check for loop

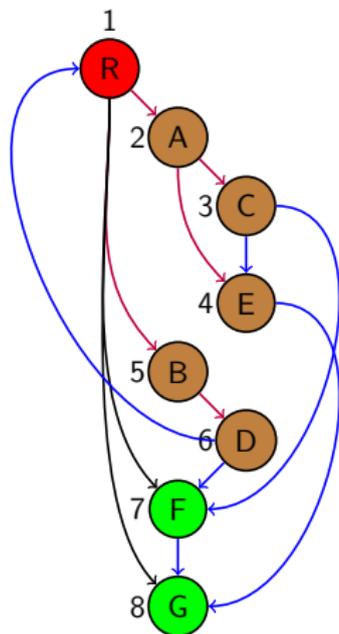


loop

end

Algorithm

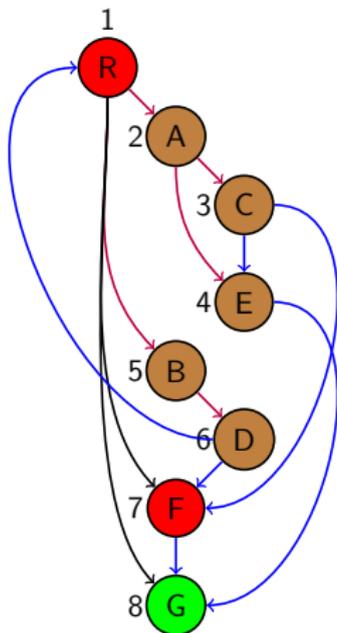
- Check for merge vertices



```
loop
  block G
  block F
  Translation of R
end
  Translation of F
end
  Translation of G
end
```

Algorithm

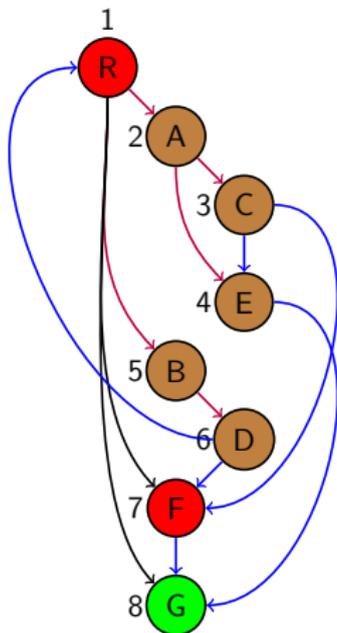
- Recursively translate F



```
loop
  block G
  block F
  Translation of R
end
  Translation of F
end
  Translation of G
end
```

Algorithm

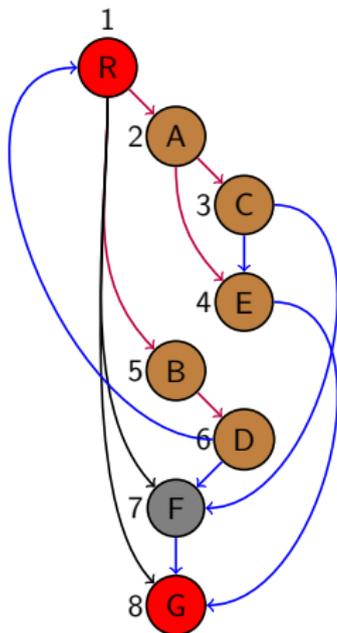
- Translate F and place br



```
loop
  block G
    block F
      Translation of R
    end
  do F
    br G
  end
  Translation of G
end
```

Algorithm

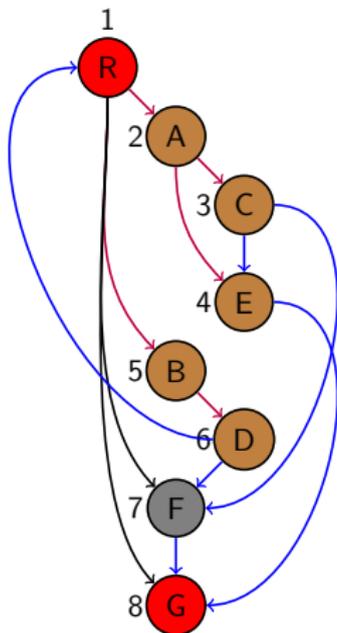
- Recursively translate G



```
loop
  block G
    block F
      Translation of R
    end
  do F
    br G
  end
  Translation of G
end
```

Algorithm

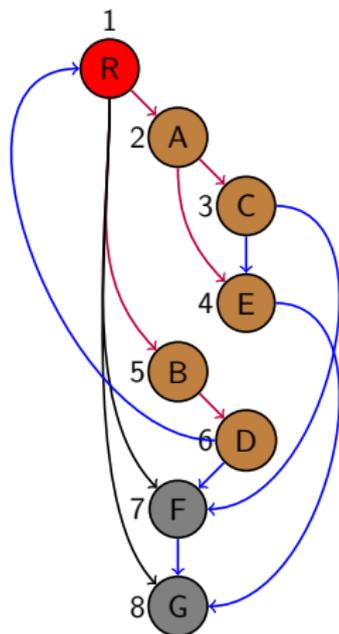
- Translate G and place exit



```
loop
  block G
    block F
      Translation of R
    end
  do F
    br G
  end
do G
  exit
end
```

Algorithm

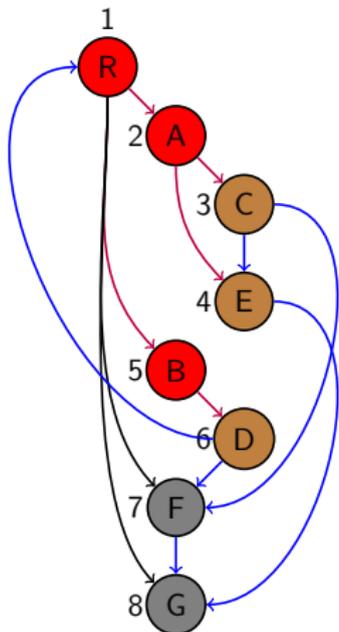
- Going back to translating R



```
loop
  block G
  block F
  do R
  ...
end
...
```

Algorithm

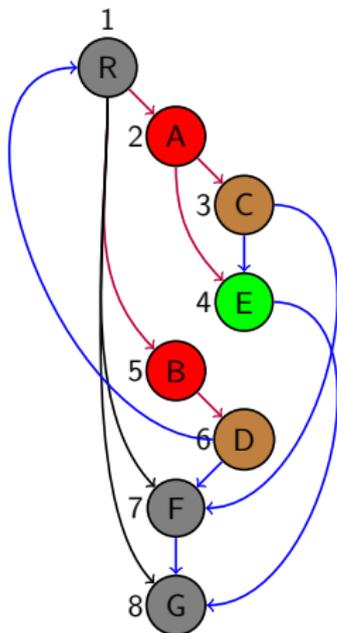
- Check out-going edges (A and B)



```
loop
  block G
    block F
      do R
        if R
          Translation of A
        else
          Translation of B
        end
      end
    end
  end
  ...
```

Algorithm

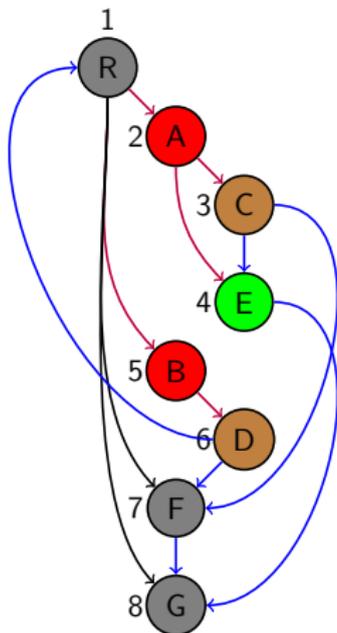
- Translating A, checking for merge vertices



```
...  
if R  
  Translation of A  
else  
  Translation of B  
end  
...
```

Algorithm

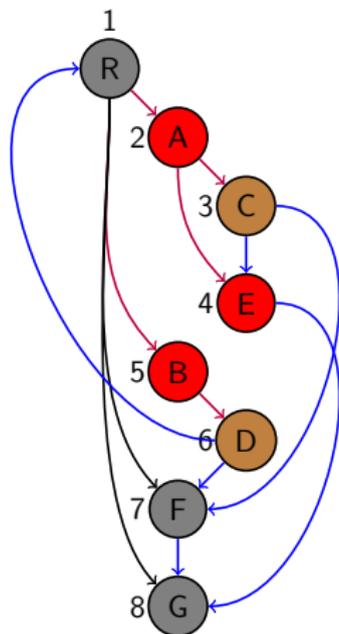
- Translating A, checking for merge vertices



```
...  
if R  
  Block E  
  Translation of A  
end  
  Translation of E  
else  
  Translation of B  
end  
...
```

Algorithm

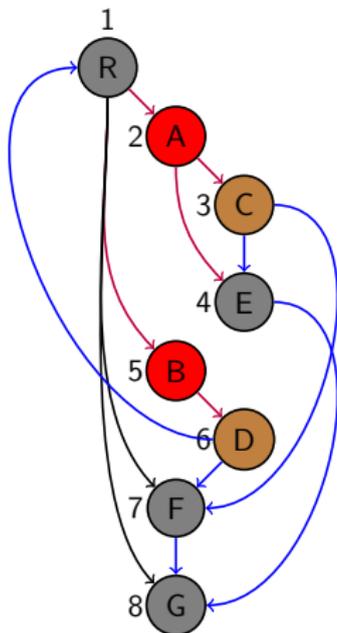
- Recursively translating E, place br G



```
...  
if R  
  Block E  
  Translation of A  
end  
do E  
br G  
else  
  Translation of B  
end  
...
```

Algorithm

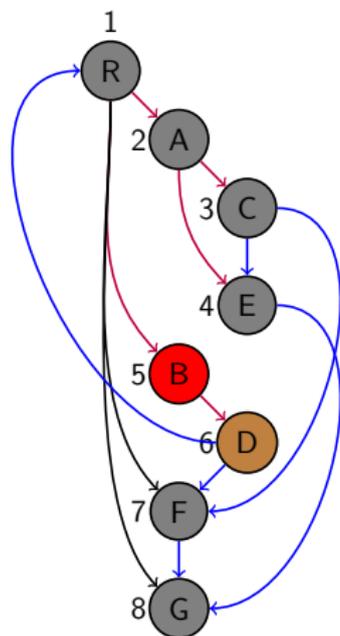
- Finish A, create if-else and place C



```
...  
Block E  
do A  
  if A  
    Translation of C  
  else  
    br E  
  end  
end  
...
```

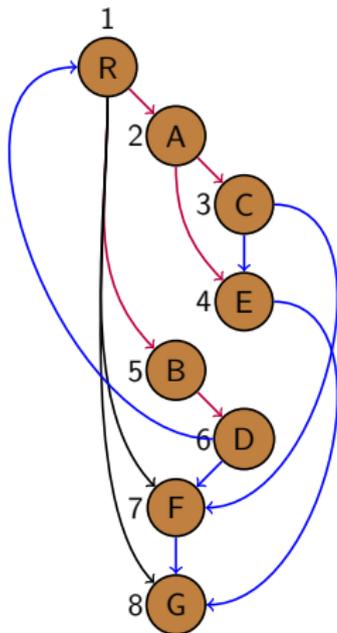
Algorithm

- Finish B and D



```
...  
do B  
do D  
if D  
  br R  
else  
  br F  
end
```

Algorithm



```

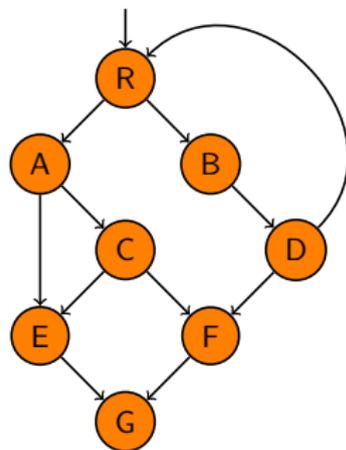
loop R
  Block G
    Block F
      Translation of R
      if
        Block E
          Translation of A
          if
            Translation of C
          else
          end
        end
      Translation of E
    else
      Translation of B
      Translation of D
    end
  end
  Translation of F
end
  Translation of G
end

```

Algorithm

Compute reverse post order numbering and dominator tree
Start with the root and traverse the dominator tree

- 1 Check for loop
 - Create loop structure
- 2 Check for merge vertices
 - Create block structure
 - Repeat for merge vertices
- 3 Translate vertex
- 4 Check out-going edges
 - Create if-then-else structure
- 5 Place children, branch or exit. Repeat for direct children



Sources



Thomas Lengauer and Robert Endre Tarjan.

A fast algorithm for finding dominators in a flowgraph.

ACM Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems (TOPLAS), 1(1):121–141, 1979.



Norman Ramsey.

Beyond reloop: recursive translation of unstructured control flow to structured control flow (functional pearl).

Proceedings of the ACM on Programming Languages, 6(ICFP):1–22, 2022.