

An Efficient, Parametric Fixpoint Algorithm for Incremental Analysis of Java Bytecode

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Abstract

Abstract interpretation has been widely used for the analysis of object-oriented languages and, more precisely, Java source and bytecode. However, while most of the existing work deals with the problem of finding expressive abstract domains that track accurately the characteristics of a particular concrete property, the underlying fixpoint algorithms have received comparatively less attention. In fact, many existing (abstract interpretation based) fixpoint algorithms rely on relatively inefficient techniques to solve inter-procedural call graphs or are specific and tied to particular analyses. We argue that the design of an efficient fixpoint algorithm is pivotal to support the analysis of large programs. In this paper we introduce a novel algorithm for analysis of Java bytecode which includes a number of optimizations in order to reduce the number of iterations. Also, the algorithm is *parametric* in the sense that it is independent of the abstract domain used and it can be applied to different domains as “plug-ins”. It is also *incremental* in the sense that, if desired, analysis data can be saved so that only a reduced amount of reanalysis is needed after a small program change, which can be instrumental for large programs. The algorithm is also multivariant and flow-sensitive. Finally, another interesting characteristic of the algorithm is that it is based on a program transformation, prior to the analysis, that results in a highly uniform representation of all the features in the language and therefore simplifies analysis. Detailed descriptions of decompilation solutions are provided and discussed with an example.

1 Introduction

Analysis of the Java language (either in its source version or its compiled bytecode [17]) using the framework of abstract interpretation [6] has been the subject of significant research in the last decade (see, e.g., [19] and its references). Most of this research concentrates on finding new abstract domains that better approximate a particular concrete property of the program analyzed in order to optimize compilation (e.g., [3, 27]) or statically verify certain properties about the run-time behavior of the code (e.g., [11, 15]). In contrast with this concentration and progress on the development of new, refined domains there has been comparatively little work in the underlying fixpoint algorithms and frameworks. In fact, many existing abstract interpretation-based analyses use relatively inefficient fixpoint algorithms. In other cases, the fixpoint algorithms are specific and/or tied to particular analyses and cannot easily be reused for other domains.

While interesting work on fixpoint algorithms has been done for example in functional and logic programming, where a number of solutions have been proposed to speed up anal-

ysis fixpoint convergence (see, e.g., [22, 5] and its references). However, these algorithms are strongly tied to the operational semantics of those languages. As a result, their adaptation to Java is far from trivial, since fundamental aspects of object-oriented programs like virtual calls, object instantiation, static methods and variables, destructive update, etc. are not contemplated, at least directly.

We argue that the design of an efficient fixpoint algorithm is pivotal to support the analysis of large programs. In this paper we propose and describe in detail a novel algorithm for analysis of Java bytecode which includes a number of optimizations in order to reduce the number of iterations as well as other unique characteristics. In particular, dependencies are kept during analysis so that only the really affected parts of the need to be revisited after a change during the convergence process. The algorithm deals thus efficiently with mutually recursive call graphs. The proposed algorithm is *parametric* in the sense that it is independent of the abstract domain used and it can be applied to different domains. The algorithm specifies a reduced number of basic operations that each domain must implement. This allows having a single implementation to which the designer of new analyses can add new domains as “plug-ins”. The algorithm is also *multivariant*: abstract calls to the a given method that are represent different input patterns are automatically analyzed separately. This is both more precise and efficient than alternative techniques such as cloning methods for each call site, since cloning can produce either too many versions of methods (if two call sites are determined to use the same input pattern) or too few (if two different, separate input patterns arise from a single call site). The algorithm is also top-down/flow-sensitive, in order to allow modeling properties that depend on the data flow characteristics of the program. The proposed algorithm is also *incremental* in the sense that, if desired, analysis data can be saved so that only a reduced amount of reanalysis is needed after a small program change, which can be instrumental for large programs.

Finally, another interesting characteristic of the algorithm is that it is preceded by a program transformation, prior to the analysis, that results in a highly uniform representation of all the features in the language and therefore simplifies analysis. This program transformation includes a certain level of decompilation of the bytecode which, which recovers part of the original code structure lost in the bytecode representation. Although our decompilation process is based on existing tools [21, 31] we greatly simplify the burden of designing new abstract operations by normalizing the intermediate representation which is actually analyzed, representing different classes of statements in a unified way, automatically introducing relational information between initial and final states on methods calls, etc. While not the subject of this paper, the algorithm can also be applied to Java source code, applying a similar transformation that converts such source code into the intermediate language of the analyzer.

The basis of the algorithm is a data structure called the *memo table*, which stores pairs of abstract states that are interpreted as the output in the given abstract domain for a given input, in the context of a particular method. The purpose of the memo table is twofold: it acts as a data cache and it is also used to remember whether the pair represents final, stable results for the method, or intermediate approximations obtained half way during the convergence of fixpoint computations. The solution proposed is highly efficient when compared to classic solutions for the inter-procedural dataflow analysis of recursive programs.

Java programs rely heavily on libraries and analysis thus usually expands to many imported classes. Thus, modular analysis is definitely an important issue in this context. However, and in order to concentrate on the description of the fixpoint algorithm, we will

not deal with modular analysis issues in this paper. Instead, we assume that methods exported libraries are annotated in an assertion language that describes which output abstract states are provided for certain input abstract states (we use a particular assertion language that resembles the Java Modeling Language [14], however we omit also a detailed description of this assertion language from the description for brevity). A solution for modular analysis in the context of Java can be found for example in [25].

Regarding other related work, as mentioned before, most published analyses based on abstract interpretation for Java or Java bytecode do not provide much detail regarding the implementation of the fixpoint algorithm. Also, most of the published research (e.g., [3, 4]) focuses on particular properties and therefore their solutions (abstract domains) are tied to them, even when they are explicitly multipurpose [16]. In [23] the authors mention a choice of several univariant and multivariant computations, but no further information is given. Also, their approach is not incremental. The more recent and quite interesting Julia framework [29] is intended to be generic and targets bytecode as in our case. Their fixpoint techniques are based on prioritizing analysis of non-recursive components over those requiring fixpoint computations and using abstract compilation [13]. However, again few implementation details are provided. Also, this is a *bottom-up*, *univariant* framework, while our objective is to develop a top-down, multivariant framework. While it is well-known that bottom-up analysis can be adapted to perform top-down analyses by subjecting the program to a “magic-sets”-style transformation [26], the resulting analyzers typically lack some of the characteristics that are the objective of our proposal, and, specially, multivariance. Finally, in [18] a generic static analyzer for the modular analysis and verification of Java classes is presented. The algorithm presented is also *bottom-up* and *univariant*, and only a naive algorithm (which is not efficient for mutually recursive call graphs) is presented.

2 Intermediate program representation

We start by describing the first phase of analysis: the translation of the Java bytecode into an intermediate representation. In order to concentrate on the fixpoint algorithm, which is the main objective of the paper, this description is summarized, concentrating on the characteristics of the transformation and illustrating it with a relatively complete example (the full description can be found in [20]). The translation process produces a structured, decompiled representation of the Java bytecode and is based on the Soot framework [31] which has been successfully used in previous analyses [7, 2]. However, instead of analyzing directly the Jimple representation –based on `gotos`– we process it further in order to build a control flow graph (CFG) in a similar way to the Dava tool [21]. The idea is also analogous to the approach of [11, 29] but the graph obtained is somewhat different since we do not distinguish between stack and local variables, and all the operands are explicit in the expressions. The actual internal representation used is described by the grammar in Fig. 1.¹ In our current implementation we deal only with the fundamental features of the language such as inheritance, virtual calls, and method visibility.

Here and in the rest of the paper, we will denote by \mathcal{V} be the set of variables in the program and \mathcal{M} the set of method names. The types \mathcal{T} of the application include classes \mathcal{K} and atomic types. The decompilation process represents methods as *OR-tuples*

¹This grammar has been simplified slightly for better understanding. An intuition of its complete form can be derived from Fig. 2.

<i>prog</i>	::=	$(\{meta_1, \dots, meta_m\}, \{or - tp_1, \dots, or - tp_n\})$
<i>meta</i>	::=	$subclass(k_1, k_2) \mid implements(k, \{par_1, \dots, par_n\})$
<i>or - tp</i>	::=	$method(name, \{par_1, \dots, par_n\}, k, attr, body(stmt))$
<i>par</i>	::=	$(name, t)$
<i>stmt</i>	::=	$assignStmt \mid invokeStmt$ $condStmt \mid returnStmt$ $nopStmt \mid \{stmt_1, \dots, stmt_n\}$
<i>assignStmt</i>	::=	$assign(var, rvalue) \mid assign(var, var, field)$
<i>invokeStmt</i>	::=	$invoke(name, \{par_1, \dots, par_n\}, k)$
<i>condStmt</i>	::=	$guard(imm_1 condop imm_2)$
<i>condop</i>	::=	$< \mid > \mid = \mid != \mid \leq \mid \geq$
<i>returnStmt</i>	::=	return
<i>nopSmt</i>	::=	nop
<i>imm</i>	::=	$var \mid constant$
<i>rvalue</i>	::=	$concreteRef \mid imm \mid expr$
<i>concreteRef</i>	::=	$field \mid var.field$
<i>expr</i>	::=	$imm_1 binop imm_2 \mid invokeExpr \mid new type$
<i>binop</i>	::=	$+ \mid - \mid = \mid \neq \mid \leq \mid \geq \mid * \dots$

Figure 1: Internal representation of the bytecode.

$(name, fp, k_{callee}, body) \in \mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{T}) \times \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{P}(Stmt)$. The domain of OR-tuples is denoted by \mathcal{O} and therefore a program P is just an element of $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{O})$. A first key idea in the transformation is to have a single representation for all types of loops, as well as for conditional structures and standard methods, which are all transformed into OR-tuples. For example, an unconditional jump in the bytecode is first decompiled as a conditional block, which is further converted into a *virtual* method. The “virtual” notation refers to the fact that those methods did not exist in the original bytecode. Given a statement **if** $cond_1$ $stmt_1$ **else if** $cond_2$ $stmt_2 \dots$ **else** $stmt_n$ in the context of a class k we would get n OR-tuples of the form $\{(name_if, \{(v_1, k_1), \dots, (v_n, k_n)\}, k, [cond_1, stmt_1]), \dots, (name_if, \{(v_1, k_1), \dots, (v_n, k_n)\}, k : [cond_1, \dots, cond_{n-1}, cond_n, stmt_n])\}$. The tag *name_if* uniquely identifies the set of OR-tuples. The formal parameters are the variables referenced inside the intermediate **if** block.

A second important aspect in the representation of the code is the *metainformation* stored about it. Although that information could be indirectly retrieved from intermediate data structures, a more convenient approach is to maintain a table containing which classes implement which methods, as well as the hierarchy, interface relations, etc. In this way, we can easily determine (for example) the set of classes in which a virtual call might take place without having to resort every time to an abstract syntax tree transversal.

A third key idea is to expose the internal structure of the more complex bytecode instructions. Java bytecodes are sometimes high-level instructions that encode relatively complex operations. This is the case for example of a field access $v.f$, which might throw a `NullPointerException` if v is a null object [12]. Instead of delegating the treatment of such complexities to the abstract domain, we make these aspects of the operational semantics explicit in the intermediate representation itself using program transformations (as in [11]). Thus, for example the field access above is translated to **if** $(v==null)$ **throw** $(new NullPointerException())$ **else** $v.f$. In the same way, a pivotal aspect in languages with destructive updates is the storage of relational information about the formal

parameters in a method invocation, so that on method exit we can distinguish whether the parameter state should be propagated back to the caller or it refers to a new, fresh instance. In [23, 28] the solution is based on the framework by altering call semantics. Instead we introduce explicit assignments to temporal variables which are undone at the end of the method’s body. We argue that the solutions that we apply result in simple domain implementations (important for our parametric approach), as well as increased portability of the domains: analysis of similar languages (e.g., C# vs. Java) can (almost) reuse existing abstractions, provided that the compilation phase decompiles in this way the language-dependent features. We also argue that the representation proposed greatly facilitates later analyses.

Example 2.1 Figure 2 shows three representations of the same code, an alternative implementation of the JDK `Vector` class. We include the original source in Fig. 2a) for better understanding of the example. Figure 2b) is the output of the SOOT (de-)compiler, in Jimple format, for the `Vector` bytecode. Stack and local elements have been converted into named variables and all the expressions are typed, but the presence of *gotos* complicates later analyses. Metainformation about class hierarchies, overwritten methods, etc. is also implicit in the code.

The data structure that represents the Control Flow Graph that is the input to our fixpoint algorithm is shown in Fig. 2c). The metainformation part (first five lines) states that `ZipVector` is a direct descendant of the user-defined `Vector` class. Both implement an `add` method that receives an `Element` object and returns nothing. We now focus on the `append` method. Most of the statements in the Jimple representation are kept in a very similar format (the line numbers will help the reader identify the correspondences) except for *gotos* and *ifs* which are now OR-tuples. For example, the *if* block starting at line 2 corresponds to the two OR-tuples named `user:vector:append_if00`, which have as formal parameters all the variables of the container method because they are referenced in their bodies. The *while* loop in lines 5-6 is constructed in a similar way, although recursive calls are inserted by the compiler. Space reasons prevent us from showing how the relational information is copied at the beginning and end of every method.

3 Top-down Approach to Bytecode Analysis

The program transformations of Sect. 2 greatly simplify our bytecode analysis since we only have two possible flows in the CFG: the branching invocations of OR-tuples or serial execution of all other statements. For the first case we will not distinguish in analysis between real (existing in the source) and virtual (generated via program transformation) methods, which are semantically equivalent. In the event of an invocation $invoke(mname, ap, k_caller) \in \mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{T}) \times \mathcal{K}$ the semantics of both is computed by calculating the least upper bound of the semantics of all possible OR tuples compatible with such invocation: $\mathcal{SS}[[invoke(mname, ap, k_caller)]]\sigma = \sqcup(\mathcal{SS}[[stmt_i]]\sigma)$ if $(name, fp, k_callee, stmt_i) \in \mathcal{O}$ and $comp(i, o)$. The function $comp$ returns a boolean value indicating if a particular implementation $o = (name, fp, k_callee, stmt_i)$ is compatible with the invocation $i = (mname, ap, k_caller)$: i.e., their names are identical, and their signatures and class where they are defined are compatible according to a partial order for Java classes $\leq_{\mathcal{T}}$ like the one described in [15].

$$comp(i, o) = \begin{cases} true & \text{if } name = mname \text{ and } k_{caller} \leq_{\mathcal{T}} k_{callee} \text{ and} \\ & |ap| = |fp| \text{ and } ap_i.k \leq_{\mathcal{T}} fp_i.k \quad i = 1 \dots n \\ false & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

However, this high-level description of the semantics of an invocation does not take into account implementation issues like the particular strategy (bottom-up or top-down) followed or fixpoint calculations. We now develop a refined approach to the problem, which in fact handles the two types of flows in a uniform fashion.

The goal of the abstract interpreter is to compute in abstract form the set of states which can occur at all points in the program. Control of the interpretation process can itself proceed in several ways, a particularly useful and efficient one being to essentially follow a top-down strategy starting from the program main entry point and an abstraction of the input data (or top, if such an abstraction is not available). In a similar way to the concrete top-down execution, the abstract interpretation process can then be represented as an abstract alternation of non-deterministic choices and serial executions of statements.

The top-down strategy proposed implicitly creates a graph during analysis where nodes (statements) with several descendants correspond to branches in the concrete execution (conditionals, virtual calls, loops), all of them abstracted as invocations of OR-tuples. Nodes with one descendant indicate serial execution and are abstracted by recursively applying the process to the child node. More precisely, an invocation is an *OR-node* whose children are the bodies of all the OR-tuples whose signature matches the one of the call and each body is an *AND-node* where the semantics of each statement (possibly containing further OR-nodes) are composed.

Given a *call state* CA prior to a statement $stmt$, the *exit state* CP is computed by the function $\mathcal{SS}[[stmt]] : \mathcal{D} \mapsto \mathcal{D}$, with three subcases:

1. If the statement is a invocation $i = invoke(mname, ap, k_{caller})$, let o_1, \dots, o_n be the OR-tuples such that $comp(i, o_i) = true$. First we restrict the actual state to those variables that are in ap . This is performed by means of the *project* operation described below and results in a new state $\lambda = CA|_{ap}$. The description is further modified to rename the variables so they work in each context of the callee: $\beta_i = \lambda|_{fp}^{ap}$. Then we call recursively $\mathcal{SS}[[stmt_i]]\beta_i$ in order to obtain an exit state for the callee β'_i . Now we proceed in the reverse direction, first by renaming back all variables so that each abstraction is described in terms of the variables in the caller and then by lubbing their partial results: $\lambda' = \sqcup \beta'_i|_{ap}^{fp}$. The last step implies conjoining λ' with the initial description via the *extend* operation described below: $CP = extend(CA, \lambda')$
2. If the statement is a concatenation of statements $\{stmt_1, \dots, stmt_n\}$, the output state is calculated as the composition of the semantics of each element in the list, starting with the initial state: $CP = \mathcal{SS}[[stmt_n]](\dots \mathcal{SS}[[stmt_1]](CA))$
3. If the statement is atomic (does not include further statements) we have a base case that is resolved directly by the domain: $CP = \mathcal{SS}[[stmt]](\sigma_i)$.

The interprocedural, top-down approach requires the designer of the domain to provide two extra operations on in addition to the standard [6] lattice functions such as least upper bound or ordering. The *project* : $\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{V} \mapsto \mathcal{D}$ operator restricts the current abstraction to the set of variables specified. The intuition behind it is the removal of irrelevant information in the actual state, in the sense that it does not relate to the actual parameters of the invocation, i.e., it reflects the scoping rules of the blocks being analyzed. The second

operation is $extend : \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D} \mapsto \mathcal{D}$, which updates an abstract state CA based on another description λ' that involves only variables in CA . The purpose of $extend$ is somehow symmetric to the projection, because after returning from a method invocation we need to reconcile the result of the call (affecting only a few variables within the scope of the caller) with the previous state (affecting all the variables in such scope).

Example 3.1 A pair-sharing domain approximates pairs of variables that might point to the same location in memory [28]. An abstract state like $\{\{X, Y\}, \{X, X\}, \{Y, Y\}, \{Z, Z\}\}$ is an abstraction of a particular heap configuration where variables X and Y might point to the same object, while Z definitely references another position in memory. Projection $\sigma|_V$ is defined as $\{S \mid S = S' \cap V, S' \in \sigma\}$. In the example of Fig. 2c), assume that the actual state before the call to `vector:append_if00_while00` is $CA = \{\{R_0, R_1\}, \{R_0, R_2\}, \{R_1, R_2\}, \{R_0, R_0\}, \{R_1, R_1\}, \{R_2, R_2\}\}$. Since the invocation involves only variables $V = \{R_1, R_2, R_4, R_5\}$ we get $\lambda = CA|_V = \{\{R_1, R_2\}, \{R_1, R_1\}, \{R_2, R_2\}\}$.

The $extend$ operation is less straightforward. Assume the existence of a method `foo`(R_0, R_1) called in state $CA = \{\{R_0, R_0\}, \{R_0, R_2\}, \{R_1, R_1\}, \{R_2, R_2\}\}$. After analyzing the body of `foo` the resulting state is $\lambda' = \{\{R_0, R_1\}, \{R_0, R_0\}, \{R_1, R_1\}\}$, probably because some field in R_0 has been assigned to R_1 or to any of its non null fields (or vice versa) within the method. The information discovered is propagated back to the caller and, thus, $extend(CA, \lambda') = \{\{R_0, R_1\}, \{R_0, R_2\}, \{R_0, R_0\}, \{R_1, R_2\}, \{R_1, R_1\}, \{R_2, R_2\}\}$.

Note that precision can be further improved if, for example, the abstraction is aware of the run-time class of the objects invoked. Our solution to this issue makes use in the implementation of object orientation by allowing specialization of the base framework through subclassing. For the particular example in hand, domains containing class analysis information [1, 8]) would just overwrite the implementation of the *comp* predicate in order to obtain smaller sets of candidate methods to analyze.

In addition to the points above, there is one more issue that needs to be addressed. The overall abstract interpretation framework scheme described works in a relatively straightforward way if the (transformed) program has no recursion (i.e., there are no loops or recursion in the original bytecode). Consider, on the other hand, a recursive OR-tuple. If there are two OR-nodes for the tuple in the tree such that the actual parameters *apars* and input state CA are identical, and one node is a descendant of the other, then the tree is infinite and analysis does not terminate. In order to ensure termination, some sort of fixpoint computation is needed. This is the subject of the following section.

4 Generic Top-Down Analysis Algorithm

We now describe our generic top-down analysis algorithm. The algorithm computes the least fixed point making use of *memo tables* [10, 9]. A memo table contains the results of computations already performed and it is typically used to avoid needless recomputation. However, in our context it is also used to store results obtained from an earlier round of iteration. An *entry* : $\mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{I}^+$ in the memo table has the following fields: method name, its projected call state (λ), its status, its projected exit state (λ') and a unique identifier. *find* : $\mathcal{MT} \times \mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{S} \mapsto \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{I}^+$ returns a tuple (λ', ID) corresponding to an entry from the memo table if there exists a renaming such that this entry matches with the given method name and its λ . Other memo table operations are:

$findStatus : MT \times M \times \mathcal{D} \mapsto \mathcal{D} \times I^+ \times \mathcal{S}$, $updStatus : MT \times M \times \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{S} \mapsto MT$, $updLambda : MT \times M \times \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D} \mapsto MT$, and $insert : MT \times \mathcal{E} \mapsto MT$. We also assume a procedure called $lookup : M \mapsto \mathcal{P}(M)$ which given a method description, it returns all methods that implement it.

The actual analysis algorithm is shown in pseudocode in Figs. 3 and 4. There are three major subcases. If the statement is an invocation of a non recursive method, **AnalyzeNoLoop** handles the call. It first checks whether there is an entry in the memo table for the name of the invoked method and its λ . In that case the stored value of λ' is immediately passed to the **Extend** operation to yield the exit state. Otherwise, the variables of its λ are renamed to the set of variables $\{R_0, \dots, R_n\}$ and for each method m returned by the **Lookup** procedure the following actions are carried out: a projection of λ onto the m variables and addition of the variables of the m body to yield its corresponding β . Then, each statement in the body of m is analyzed by calling the **EntrytoExit** procedure resulting in a set of exit states which are “lubbed.” These states have been previously projected onto the variables of the invoked method and renamed in terms of these variables. This “lubbed” state is inserted as an entry in the memo table and characterized as **complete**. Finally, the **Extend** operation is applied in order to produce the exit state.

In *conditional* methods the decompilation ensures that the formal parameters of the method are indeed named as in the caller. Furthermore, caller and callee have an identical scope so in an invocation $I = \langle N, Ap, - \rangle$ to a conditional method, all the compatible tuples $m = \langle N, Fp, -, Stmts \rangle$ verify $vars(Stmts) = vars(Fp)$ (i.e., they have no extra local variables) and $vars(CA) = vars(Ap) = vars(Fp) = \{R_0, \dots, R_n\}$. This property is used in **AnalyzeCond** to speed up analysis, since the **Project** and **Extend** operations can be skipped.

Finally, when a method is recursive the fixpoint computation defined by the **AnalyzeLoop** procedure in Fig 4 is required since analysis needs to be repeated until fixpoint is reached for the abstract and-or tree, i.e. until it remains the same before and after one round of iteration. In order to do this, we keep track of a flag to signal the termination of the fixpoint computation. Firstly, **AnalyzeLoop** begins analyzing those non-recursive instances of the invoked method in the same way as **AnalyzeNoLoop**. With this, we are able to yield a possible λ' different from \perp which will accelerate the further fixpoint computation, and then an entry in the memo table is inserted with this information and characterized as **fixpoint**. After this, the **CompFixpo** procedure (also defined in Fig. 4) is called. At each iteration, a similar process to that described in **AnalyzeNoLoop** is performed. However, between the end of one iteration and the beginning of the next one, the values of the *previous* λ' and the *new* λ' are compared. If they are the same, then fixpoint has been reached and the procedure finishes ensuring that the least fixed point has been computed. Otherwise, the least fixed point has not been reached yet and a new iteration will be performed.

4.1 Dealing with Mutually Recursive Methods

For the sake of simplicity, the description of the analysis so far has omitted some details which are needed in order to support mutually recursive methods. In this case, our algorithm operates as follows. Firstly, we need to use new values for the *status* field in memo table entries. **fixpoint** is used when the fixpoint has not been reached yet. **approximate** represents when the fixpoint has been reached for a method m_1 in this entry but by using a possibly incomplete value of λ' of some other method m_2 (i.e., a value that does not correspond yet to a fixpoint). Finally, **complete** is used when fixpoint has been

reached for this method. Furthermore, we also need to use the *ID* field in order to detect occurrences of mutual recursion. We also need to use a set of Id's to keep track of the recursive methods during the analysis. When a fixpoint computation is started, the analysis searches for an entry in the memo table. Given a method and its λ , if there exists an entry characterized as **complete**, then the λ' is obtained from it. If the entry is characterized as **fixpoint** means that the method is recursive and so, we add its Id in the set of Id's. If the entry is **approximate**, then the method or one of its successors in the and-or tree has an approximate value of its exit state. Thus, we need to mark it as **fixpoint** and start its fixpoint computation again. Finally, after a fixpoint computation is reached we need to verify the Ids contained in the set of Ids. If this set contains only the Id corresponding to the method which is being analyzed, then the value of its λ' is complete. Otherwise, the method depends on other Ids (i.e., methods) and so, we mark its output abstract value as **approximate**. In both cases, we eliminate the method's Id from the set of Ids.

Finally, we can improve the efficiency of the procedure defined above by keeping track of the methods which depend on each other. In the above scenario, during subsequent iterations for m_1 , the subtree for m_2 is explored every time. After each time these fixpoint iterations are completed for m_2 , its entry in the memo table is labeled as **approximate**. After the last round of iteration for m_1 is over, the entry in the memo table is labeled **complete** but the entry for m_2 is still characterized as **approximate**. Then, the subtree for m_2 is explored again. However, this is unnecessary because m_2 has used a **complete** value of the exit state of m_1 . In order to avoid this unnecessary work, after each fixpoint iteration when a method m is labeled as **complete**, we keep track of those methods which depend only on m and we mark them directly as **complete**. If m is characterized as **approximate**, then the current Ids contained in the set of Id's are made dependent of the m 's Id.

Example 4.1 We now illustrate how the fixpoint algorithm described in Sect. 4 works for the program in Fig. 2. The domain in use will be pair sharing. The objective is to analyze the semantics of the **append** method in the context of the **Vector** and **ZipVector** classes.

Space limitations obviously prevent us from showing the entire process in detail. We will instead assume that the starting program point for analysis is right before the call to **append** in the **Vector** implementation of **add**. Note that the method creates a vector V which contains a shallow copy of *Element* so that the three objects (*This*, *Element* and V) cannot point to the same location in memory and $CA_{append}^{Vector} = \{\{This, This\}, \{Element, Element\}, \{V, V\}\}$.

The invocation is classified as non recursive and handled by **AnalyzeNoLoop**. We now have to project CA_{append}^{Vector} over the two actual parameters and then rename these to the equivalent formal parameters.² Since R_0 is *This* and R_1 is V we get $\lambda_{append} = \{\{R_0, R_0\}, \{R_1, R_1\}\}$. To simplify notation we will denote **append_if00** and **append_if_while00** by **if** and **while** respectively. Analysis of the **append** body results in a call to **AnalyzeCond**, since the last statement is an invocation to **if**. At that point $CA_{if} = \{\{R_0, R_0\}, \{R_0, R_2\}, \{R_1, R_1\}, \{R_2, R_2\}\}$ because $e(R_2)$ points to a field of *this* (R_0).

Conditional invocations are simpler to handle: no *project*, *extend*, or rename operations are required. Instead, we directly examine the two methods corresponding to **if**. The first branch implies that R_2 is null and that R_0 's field R_3 points to the vector passed as argument R_1 . Thus, $\lambda'_{if,1} = \{\{R_0, R_1\}, \{R_0, R_3\}, \{R_1, R_3\}, \{R_0, R_0\}, \{R_1, R_1\}, \{R_3, R_3\}\}$. The second compatible method with the invocation implies $R_2 \neq null$ but its semantics depends on a loop call to **while**. Control of the algorithm is passed to the **AnalyzeLoop** subroutine which projects and renames $CA_{while} = \{\{R_0, R_3\}, \{R_2, R_4\}, \{R_0, R_0\}, \{R_1, R_1\}, \{R_2, R_2\}, \{R_4, R_4\}\}$

²For better understanding of the variable equivalence check Fig. 5.

again yielding $\lambda_{while} = \{\{R_2, R_4\}, \{R_1, R_1\}, \{R_2, R_2\}, \{R_4, R_4\}\}$. The non recursive part is then analyzed first. Since termination depends on R_4 being null and the final assignment (line 7 in the source) forces R_1 and R_2 to share through intermediate variable R_5 we have $\lambda'_{while,1} = \{\{R_1, R_2\}, \{R_1, R_4\}, \{R_1, R_5\}, \{R_1, R_1\}, \{R_2, R_2\}, \{R_4, R_4\}, \{R_5, R_5\}\}$. A new entry $e_1 = (\mathbf{while}, \lambda_{while}, \text{fixpoint}, \lambda'_{while,1}, id_1)$ is inserted in the memo table.

Fixpoint computation starts by analyzing (recursive) methods that are compatible with the invocation. The only tuple (last in Fig. 2c) found is processed in a straightforward manner until the self-invocation, which triggers a search in the memo table with return value e_1 (**AnalyzeLoop** subroutine). We use the current approximation of the **while** semantics, derived from the base case. On return to the fixpoint routine, we will calculate a $\lambda'_{while,2}$ which is identical to $\lambda'_{while,1}$, because the statements in the body of the recursive tuple do not really alter any information about variables in λ_{while} . The relation $(\lambda_{while}, \lambda'_{while})$ did not change after one single iteration and the process can be considered as *complete* for the **while** method. The memo table status of the e_1 tuple is updated accordingly.

Coming back to the semantics of the second branch of the **if** method, we observe that it has to be identical to $extend(CA_{if}, \lambda'_{while,1})$, which forces further sharings with the R_0 object to produce $\lambda'_{if,2} = \{\{R_0, R_1\}, \{R_0, R_3\}, \{R_1, R_3\}, \{R_0, R_0\}, \{R_1, R_1\}, \{R_3, R_3\}\}$. We now write a new entry in the memo table: $(\mathbf{if}, CA_{if}, \text{complete}, \lambda'_{if,1} \sqcup \lambda'_{if,2}, id_2)$. This entry, projected over the formal parameters of **append** results in yet another entry (**append**, $\{\{R_0, R_0\}, \{R_1, R_1\}\}$, **complete**, $\{\{R_0, R_1\}, \{R_0, R_0\}, \{R_1, R_1\}\}$, id_3). This semantics is congruent with the concatenation that takes place inside the method.

We are now in the position of inferring the abstract semantics of **add** in class **Vector**. Remember that $CA_{append}^{Vector} = \{\{This, This\}, \{Element, Element\}, \{V, V\}\}$ and that the call to **append** results (after renaming) in $\{\{This, V\}, \{This, This\}, \{Element, Element\}, \{V, V\}\}$. We repeat the same process of projecting over the formal parameters thus $CP_{add}^{Vector} = \{\{This, This\}, \{Element, Element\}\}$. In the *ZipVector* there is a different call state prior to **append** invocation, derived from the insertion of the **element** in v (instead of copying its fields, like in **Vector**): $CA_{append}^{ZipVector} = \{\{Element, V\}, \{This, This\}, \{Element, Element\}, \{V, V\}\}$. Nevertheless, **AnalyzeLoop** will find the λ entry already in the memo table, since $CA_{append}^{Vector}|_{This, V} = CA_{append}^{ZipVector}|_{This, V}$ thus $\lambda_{append}^{Vector} = \lambda_{append}^{ZipVector}$. We can reuse the computed semantics to get the same λ'_{append} for the call. On extension with $CA_{append}^{ZipVector}$ it results in $CP_{add}^{ZipVector} = \{\{This, Element\}, \{This, This\}, \{Element, Element\}\}$. If we repeat the process for a call state CA_{append} where $This$ and V share, CP_{append} will remain the same on exit, but the memo table now contains two entries for the same method reflecting the two different call contexts (multivariance).

5 Incremental Analysis

In this section, we propose how to make our generic fixpoint algorithm incremental in the sense that analysis results can be stored so that a reduced amount of effort is needed in order to reanalyze after a small change. The changes that we consider are a set of addition or deletions of methods.

5.1 Incremental Addition

We show an incremental addition algorithm in Fig. 6. Firstly, we need to define a new operation to handle the memo table. $FindEntry : \mathcal{MT} \times \mathcal{M} \mapsto \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D})$ retrieves a set of pairs $\langle \lambda, \lambda' \rangle$ given a method name. If new methods are added to a program, in order to be correct we must yield the exit state for each new method. The algorithm works as follows. For each new method it obtains every different entry in the memo table (i.e., each different λ). Then, each method is reanalyzed starting with its corresponding λ in order to propagate the effect of these changes.

5.2 Incremental Deletion

The next step is to define an algorithm which considers deletion of methods from a program analyzed previously in order to update the memo table. Note that, unlike incremental addition, we do not need to change the analysis to guarantee correctness. However, for large programs this solution is inadmissible. The algorithm defined in Fig. 6 has two phases: firstly, it detects the set of methods that depend on some of the methods to be deleted, and resets their entries in the memo table. In the second stage, the algorithm reanalyzes the methods involved in the previous phase. To do this, we define another memo table operation $Remove : \mathcal{MT} \times \mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{D} \mapsto \mathcal{MT}$.

6 Some Experimental Results

We implemented the pair sharing (*PS*) analysis in our framework, extending the operations described in [28] in order to handle some additional cases required by our benchmark programs such as primitive variables, visibility of methods, etc. The benchmarks used have been adapted from previous literature on either abstract interpretation for Java or points-to analysis [28, 24, 23, 30]. Our experimental results are summarized in Fig. 7.

The first column (*#tp*) shows the total number of program points (commands or expressions) for each program. Column *#rp* then provides, for each analysis, the total number of *reachable* program points, i.e., the number of program points that the analysis explores, while *#up* represents the ($\#tp - \#rp$) points that are not analyzed because the analysis determines that they are unreachable. Since our framework is multivariant and can thus keep track of different *contexts* at each program point, at the end of analysis there may be more than one abstract state associated with each program point. Thus, the number of abstract states is typically larger than the number of reachable program points. Column *# σ* provides the total number of these abstract states inferred by analysis. The level of multivariance is the ratio $\# \sigma / \# rp$. In general, such a larger number for *# σ* tends to indicate more precise results. The *t* column in Fig. 7 provides the running times for the different analyses, in milliseconds, on a Pentium III 2.0Ghz, 1Gb of RAM, running Fedora Core 4.0, and averaging several runs after eliminating the best and worst values.

7 Conclusions

We have presented a novel algorithm for analysis of Java bytecode which includes a number of optimizations in order to reduce the number of iterations. The algorithm is *parametric* in the sense that it is independent of the abstract domain used and it is also *incremental* in the sense that, if desired, only a reduced amount of reanalysis is needed after a small

program change. The algorithm is also multivariant and top-down/flow-sensitive. Also, the algorithm uses a program transformation, prior to the analysis, that results in a highly uniform representation of all the features in the language and which simplifies analysis. We have implemented the algorithm and tested it on a previously published domain with encouraging results.

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```

class Element{
    int value;
    Element next;}

class Vector{
    Element first;

    public void append(Vector v){
1      Element e = first;
2      if (e == null)
3          first = v.first;
4      else{
5          while (e.next != null)
6              e = e.next;
7          e.next = v.first;}
    }

    public void add(Element element){
        Element e = new Element();
        e.value = element.value;
        Vector v = getNewVector();
        v.first = e;
        append(v);
    }
}

class ZipVector extends Vector{

    public void add(Element element){
        Vector v = getNewVector();
        element.next = null;
        v.first = element;
        append(v);
    }
}

class Element extends java.lang.Object{
    int value;
    Element next;
    [...]
}

class Vector extends java.lang.Object{
    Element first;

    public void append(Vector){
        Vector r0, r1;
        Element r2, $r3, $r4, $r5;

        r0 := @this: Vector;
        r1 := @parameter0: Vector;
1      r2 = r0.<Vector: Element first>;5
2      if r2 != null goto label0;      6
3      $r3 = r1.<Vector: Element first>;6
3      r0.<Vector: Element first> = $r3$
        goto label2;                    6
    label0:
5      $r4 = r2.<Element: Element next>;
5      if $r4 == null goto label1;
6      r2 = r2.<Element: Element next>;method('user:vector:append_if00_while00', 'user:vector:append', 'user:vector', 'void',
        goto label0;                    formal(['r1', 'user:vector'), (r2, 'user:element'), (r4, 'user:element'),
    label1:                                (r5, 'user:element'))],
7      $r5 = r1.<Vector: Element first>; body([
7      r2.<Element: Element next> = $r5$   guard(not([r4==null])),
    label2:                                7      staticinvoke('check_not_null', [(r1, 'user:vector')], java.lang.object),
        return;                            7      assign(r2, r2, next, 'user:element'),
    [...]                                  7      staticinvoke('check_not_null', [(r2, 'user:element')], java.lang.object),
        }                                  7      assign(r4, r2, next, 'user:element'),
        [...]                                  loopinvoke('user:vector:append_if00_while00', [(r1, 'user:vector'),
        public class ZipVector extends Vector (r2, 'user:element'), (r4, 'user:element'), (r5, 'user:element')])
        [...]
    }
}

```

(b)

(c)

15
Figure 2: Vector example

```

Analyze( $P, Stmt, CA, MT, Set$ )
  case  $Stmt$  of
    conditional:
      return AnalyzeCond( $P, Stmt, CA, MT, Set$ )
    recursive:
      return AnalyzeLoop( $P, Stmt, CA, MT, Set$ )
    no.recursive:
      return AnalyzeNoLoop( $P, Stmt, CA, MT, Set$ )
    special:
      return AnalyzeSpecial( $P, Stmt, CA, MT, Set$ )
    builtin:
      return AnalyzeBuiltin( $Stmt, CA$ )
  end

AnalyzeCond( $P, I, CA, MT, Set$ )
   $\lambda := CA$ 
   $I = (N, -, -)$ 
   $entry := Find(MT, \langle N, \lambda \rangle, complete)$ 
  if  $entry \neq \emptyset$  then
     $entry = \langle \lambda', - \rangle$ 
     $CP := \lambda'$ 
  else
     $\lambda' := \perp$ 
     $M := Lookup(I)$ 
    foreach  $m \in M$ 
       $m = (N, -, -, Stmts)$ 
       $\langle \lambda'_m, MT, Set \rangle := EntrytoExit(P, \lambda, Stmts, MT, Set)$ 
       $\lambda' := \lambda' \sqcup \lambda'_m$ 
    end
    Let  $ID$  be a unique identifier
     $MT := Insert(MT, \langle N, \lambda, \lambda', complete, ID \rangle)$ 
     $CP := \lambda'$ 
  end
  return  $\langle CP, MT, Set \rangle$ 

AnalyzeNoLoop( $P, I, CA, MT, Set$ )
   $I = (N, Ap, -)$ 
   $apars = vars(Ap)$ 
   $\lambda := Project(CA, apars)$ 
   $entry := Find(MT, \langle N, \lambda \rangle, \langle complete \rangle)$ 
  if  $entry \neq \emptyset$  then
     $entry = \langle \lambda', - \rangle$ 
  else
     $\lambda' := \perp$ 
     $\lambda := \lambda|_{\{R_0, \dots, R_n\}^{apars}}$ 
     $M := Lookup(I)$ 
    foreach  $m \in M$ 
       $m = (N, Fp, -, Stmts)$ 
       $fpars := vars(Fp)$ 
       $V := vars(Stmts)$ 
       $\beta := Project(\lambda, fpars)$ 
       $\beta := Augment(\beta, V)$ 
       $\langle \beta', MT, Set \rangle := EntrytoExit(P, \beta, Stmts, MT, Set)$ 
       $\lambda'_m := Project(\beta', apars)$ 
       $\lambda'_m := \lambda'_m|_{\{R_0, \dots, R_n\}^{apars}}$ 
       $\lambda' := \lambda' \sqcup \lambda'_m$ 
    end
    Let  $ID$  be a unique identifier
     $MT := Insert(MT, \langle N, \lambda, \lambda', complete, ID \rangle)$ 
  end
   $CP := Extend(CA, \lambda')$ 
  return  $\langle CP, MT, Set \rangle$ 

```

Figure 3: The Fixpoint algorithm (A)


```

AnalyzeLoop( $P, I, CA, MT, Set$ )
   $I = \langle N, Ap, - \rangle$ 
   $apars = vars(Ap)$ 
   $\lambda := Project(CA, apars)$ 
   $entry := FindStatus(MT, \langle N, \lambda \rangle)$ 
   $\lambda := \lambda|_{\{R_0, \dots, R_n\}}$ 
   $\lambda := \lambda|_{apars}$ 
  if  $entry \neq \emptyset$  then
     $entry = \langle \lambda'_1, ID, status \rangle$ 
    case status of
      complete:
         $\lambda'_2 := \lambda'_1$ 
      fixpoint:
         $\lambda'_2 := \lambda'_1$ 
         $Set := Set \cup \{ID\}$ 
      approximate:
         $MT := UpdStatus(MT, \langle N, \lambda \rangle, fixpoint)$ 
         $\langle \lambda'_2, MT, Set \rangle :=$ 
          CompFixpo( $P, I, \lambda, MT, Set$ )
    end
  else
     $\lambda' := \perp$ 
     $M := Lookup(I)$ 
    foreach non-recursive  $m \in M$ 
       $m = \langle N, Fp, -, Stms \rangle$ 
       $fpars := vars(Fp)$ 
       $\beta := Project(\lambda, fpars)$ 
       $\langle \beta', MT, Set \rangle := EntrytoExit(P, \beta, Stms, MT, Set)$ 
       $\lambda' := \lambda' \sqcup \beta'$ 
    end
     $MT := Insert(MT, \langle S, \lambda, \lambda', fixpoint, ID \rangle)$ 
     $\langle \lambda'_2, MT, Set \rangle := CompFixpo(P, I, \lambda, MT, Set)$ 
  end
   $CP := Extend(CA, \lambda'_2)$ 
  return  $\langle CP, MT, Set \rangle$ 

EntrytoExit( $P, \beta, Stmts, MT, Set$ )
   $CA := \beta$ 
  foreach  $Stmt \in Stmts$  until  $Stmt = return$ 
     $\langle CP, MT, Set \rangle := Analyze(P, Stmt, CA, MT, Set)$ 
     $CA := CP$ 
  end
   $\beta' := CP$ 
  return  $\langle \beta', MT, Set \rangle$ 

CompFixpo( $P, I, \lambda, \lambda', MT, Set$ )
   $I = \langle N, -, - \rangle$ 
   $entry := Find(MT, \langle N, \lambda \rangle)$ 
   $set_I := \emptyset$ 
   $changed := false$ 
  repeat
     $fixpoint := true$ 
     $entry = \langle -, \lambda', ID \rangle$ 
     $M := Lookup(I)$ 
    foreach  $m \in M$ 
       $m = \langle N, Fp, -, Stmts \rangle$ 
      if  $N$  is recursive or changed
         $fpars := vars(Fp)$ 
         $\beta := Project(\lambda, fpars)$ 
         $\langle \beta', MT, set_{stmts} \rangle :=$ 
          EntrytoExit( $P, \beta, Stmts, MT, \emptyset$ )
         $\lambda'_{old} := \lambda'$ 
         $\lambda := \lambda'_{old} \sqcup \beta'$ 
        if  $\lambda'_{old} \neq \lambda'$  then
           $fixpoint := false$ 
           $changed := true$ 
           $MT := UpdLambdaPrime(MT, \langle N, \lambda \rangle, \lambda')$ 
        end
      end
       $set_I := set_I \cup set_{stmts}$ 
    end
  end
  until ( $fixpoint = true$ )
  if  $set_I \setminus \{ID\} = \emptyset$  then
    status := complete
    foreach  $ID'$  such that  $ID'$  depends on  $ID$ 
      remove dependence between  $ID'$  and  $ID$ 
      if  $ID'$  is independent then
        let  $\langle N_{ID'}, \lambda'_{ID'} \rangle$  be associated with  $ID'$ 
         $MT := UpdStatus(MT, \langle N_{ID'}, \lambda'_{ID'} \rangle, complet$ 
      end
    end
  end
  else
    status := approximate
    make  $set_{ID} \setminus \{ID\}$  dependent from  $ID$ 
  end
   $MT := UpdStatus(MT, \langle N, \lambda' \rangle, status)$ 
   $Set := Set \cup set_I \setminus \{ID\}$ 
  return  $\langle \lambda', MT, Set \rangle$ 

```

Figure 4: The Fixpoint algorithm (B)

var	byt	var src	line
R_0		<i>this</i>	–
R_1		<i>v</i>	–
R_2		<i>e</i>	1
R_3		<i>this.first</i>	3
R_4		<i>e.next</i>	5
R_5		<i>v.first</i>	7

Figure 5: Equivalence of variables between source code and internal representation

<pre> IncrementalAddition(P, Ms, MT) $Set := \emptyset$ foreach $m \in Ms$ $m = \langle N, \rightarrow, - \rangle$ $E := \text{FindEntry}(MT, N)$ foreach $entry \in E$ $entry = \langle \lambda, - \rangle$ $CA := \lambda$ $\langle CP, MT, Set \rangle :=$ $Analyze(P \cup Ms, N, CA, MT, Set)$ end end return $\langle CP, MT, Set \rangle$ </pre>	<pre> IncrementalDeletion(P, Ms, MT) Let D be the set of methods dependent from Ms foreach $m \in D$ $m = \langle N, \rightarrow, - \rangle$ $E := \text{FindEntry}(MT, N)$ foreach $entry \in E$ $entry = \langle \lambda, - \rangle$ $MT := \text{Remove}(MT, \langle N, \lambda \rangle)$ end end $Set := \emptyset$ foreach $m \in Ms \cap D$ $m = \langle N, \rightarrow, - \rangle$ $\langle CP, MT, Set \rangle :=$ $Analyze(P \setminus Ms, N, \perp, CP, MT, Set)$ end return $\langle CP, MT, Set \rangle$ </pre>
--	---

Figure 6: Incremental Addition Algorithm

	# tp	PS			
		# rp	# up	# σ	t
dyndisp	71	68	3	114	30
clone	41	38	3	42	52
dfs	102	98	4	103	68
passau	167	164	3	296	97
qsort	185	142	43	182	125
intgrqsort	191	148	43	159	110
pollet01	154	126	28	276	196
zipvector	272	269	3	513	388
cleanness	314	277	37	360	233

Figure 7: Analysis times, number of program points, and number of abstract states.