



Compilers for Embedded Systems

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Chapter 4

Outline

- 1. Introduction & Motivation
- 2. Compilers for Embedded Systems Requirements & Dependencies
- 3. Internal Structure of Compilers
- 4. Pre-Pass Optimizations
- 5. HIR Optimizations and Transformations
- 6. Code Generation
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- 8. Register Allocation
- 9. WCET-Aware Compilation
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Chapter Contents

- Motivation of Pre-Pass Optimizations
- Loop Nest Splitting
 - Embedded Multimedia: MPEG 4 Motion Estimation
 - Workflow of Loop Nest Splitting
 - Condition Satisfiability
 - Condition Optimization & Genetic Algorithms
 - Search Space Generation
 - Search Space Exploration
 - Results (ACET, Energy, Code Size)

Motivation of Pre-Pass Optimizations (1)

Retrospect: Structure of an Optimizing Compiler with 2 IRs:



Question: May only the compiler optimize code?

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Motivation of Pre-Pass Optimizations (2)

Optimizations outside a compiler are called

- Post-pass if they take place after the compiler
- Pre-pass if they take place before the compiler

Advantages of Pre-Pass Optimizations



- Source code transformations more easily comprehensible.
- Allow for manually "playing" with an optimization technique before a laborious implementation.
- Independent of the actual compiler due to source code-level; principally applicable for each individual compiler of the source language.
- Due to source code-level independent of the actual target architecture; principally applicable for arbitrary architectures.

Abstraction Levels of Optimizations



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Application Domain of Loop Nest Splitting

Embedded Multimedia Applications

- Data flow dominated, i.e., get large amounts of data as inputs, compute large volumes of data as output (in contrast to control flow dominated control applications).
- Largest part of the run-time consumed by (deeply) nested loops
- Simple loop structures with statically known or analyzable lower and upper bounds
- Manipulation of large, multi-dimensional arrays
- Typical example: Streaming applications like MPEG4

Example: MPEG4 Motion Estimation



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Source Code MPEG4 Motion Estimation

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Observations

When Compiling and Executing this Source Code

- Execution of 91,445,760 if-statements in total
- Very irregular control flow due to if-statements
- Additional arithmetical overhead:
 Multiplications, additions, comparisons, logical or, ...
- Performance of this code limited by control flow, and not by the computation of motion vectors!

Loop Nest Splitting

Automated Loop & If-Statement Analysis

- x, y, x4 and y4 never carry values such that conditions 4*x+x4<0 and 4*y+y4<0 are ever true.
- *©* Conditions can be replaced by constant truth value '0'.
- For x ≥ 10 or y ≥ 14, both if-statements are always satisfied so that their then-parts are always executed.
- For more than 92% of all executions of the innermost y4-loop, both ifstatements are satisfied.

Source Code after Loop Nest Splitting

then_block_2; else else_block_2; }

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Optimized Code Structure

Splitting-If

- Whenever the condition of the splitting-if is satisfied, the conditions of all original if-statements are automatically also satisfied.
- Then-part of the splitting-if thus contains no original if-statements any more, but only their then-parts.
- If splitting-if is not satisfied, no safe statement about the conditions of the original if-statements is possible.
- Else-part of the splitting-if contains all original if-statements in order to keep the code correct.

Why Second y-Loop?

Intuitive Code:

Splitting-If:
1 execution for

each individual $\mathbf{y} \in [14, 48]$

y = 16

Optimized Code:

 $\overset{\textcircled{\ }}{=} \frac{Splitting-If:}{1 \text{ execution for}} \\ all \mathbf{y} \in [14, 48] \text{ altogether}$

$$y = 16$$

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Phases of Loop Nest Splitting

- Condition Satisfiability: Finds individual conditions in if-statements that are always or never satisfied.
- **Condition Optimization:** For each single condition C, find a "simpler" condition C' such that $C' \Rightarrow C$ holds (whenever C' is true, C is also true).
- Search Space Generation: Combine all single conditions C' to one data structure G that models all if-statements including their structure (&&, ||).
- Search Space Exploration: Using G, determine a condition for the splitting-if that minimizes the number of totally executed if-statements.

Workflow of Loop Nest Splitting (1)



1 - Condition Satisfiability

Solution Note:

This example does not correspond to the MPEG4 code from the previous slides!

- Assumed loop bounds: $0 \le n \le 12$

$$0 \le \mathbf{x} \le 13$$

$$0 \leq \mathbf{x4} \leq 3$$

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Workflow of Loop Nest Splitting (2)



Workflow of Loop Nest Splitting (3)



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Workflow of Loop Nest Splitting (4)



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Prerequisites

Bounds of Loops \boldsymbol{L}

- All lower and upper bounds (l_L, u_L) are constant

If-Statements

- Sequence of loop-dependent conditions, all of which are combined using logical AND or OR
 - Format: if ($C_1 \otimes C_2 \otimes \ldots$) $\otimes \in \{\&\&, ||\}$

Loop-Dependent Conditions

- Linear expressions over index variables i_L of the loops

- Format:
$$C_x \simeq \sum_{L=1}^N (c_L * i_L) + c \ge 0$$
 $c_L, c \in \mathbb{Z}$

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Polytopes & Linear Conditions

Definition (Polyhedra / Polytopes)

- Polyhedron $P = \{x \in \mathbb{Z}^N | Ax \ge b\}$

$$A \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times N}, b \in \mathbb{Z}^m$$

- Polyhedron P is called Polytope iff $|P| < \infty$

Example: Model of Linear Conditions in Nested Loops

- $4 \times x + 3 \times x 4 > 35$ for $x \in [0, 35]$, $x 4 \in [0, 3]$ as polytope

$$-P = \{p \in \mathbb{Z}^2 | \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} p \ge \begin{pmatrix} 36 \\ 0 \\ -35 \\ 0 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$
x4

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4 - Pre-Pass Optimizations

► X

Convexity of Polytopes

Definition (Convexity)

- A set $S \subset \mathbb{Z}^N$ is called *convex* if each convex combination ax + by of $x, y \in S$ is in S and $(a + b = 1; b \ge 0)$.

Less Formally

- Each line between any two arbitrary points x and y from S must lie completely in S.
- Polytopes are convex.



Not convex

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Operations on Polytopes

Properties

- The *Intersection* of two polytopes is again a polytope.
- The Union of two polytopes is not a polytope, since the resulting set is not necessarily convex.

Definition (Finite Union of Polyhedra, FUP)

- For polyhedra $P_1, \ldots, P_n (n \in \mathbb{N}, n < \infty)$, $V := \{P_1 \cup \cdots \cup P_n\}$ is called a *Finite Union of Polyhedra (FUP)*.

Set Operations on FUPs $A = \bigcup_i A_i, B = \bigcup_j B_j$

$$- A \cap B := \left(\bigcup_{i} A_{i}\right) \cap \left(\bigcup_{j} B_{j}\right) = \bigcup_{i,j} (A_{i} \cap B_{j})$$

 $- A \cup B := \left(\bigcup_{i} A_{i}\right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{j} B_{j}\right)$

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Phase 1 – Condition Satisfiability

Goal

- To identify loop-dependent conditions C_x that constantly evaluate to 'true' or 'false', irrespectively of the values of index variables of all surrounding loops.

Approach

- Translate each condition C_x into a polytope P_x ($\ll \underline{slide 23}$)
- Test for the empty set: $P_x == \emptyset \Rightarrow C_x$ always 'false'
- Test for the universe: $P_x == U \Rightarrow C_x$ always 'true'

Source Code Modification

 Replacement of all these constantly true or false conditions in the source code by constants '0' or '1'.

Phase 2 – Condition Optimization

^:,,,,,,,,

- N loops and one condition
$$C = \sum_{L=1}^{N} (c_L * i_L) + c \ge 0$$

Assumed fictive Situation

for (loop
$$L_1$$
)
 \dots
for (loop L_N)
if (C) \dots

Assumption: The loops contain only 1 ifstatement with only 1 condition. All other ifstatements & conditions are quasi suppressed.

Goal: To determine intervals $[l_{C,1}, u_{C,1}] \dots [l_{C,N}, u_{C,N}]$ such that:

- C is satisfied for all loop iterations within these intervals
- Minimization of the number of executions of if-statements after a hypothetical loop nest splitting based on these intervals.

Optimization of a Condition C

$$C = \sum_{L=1}^{N} (c_L * i_L) + c \ge 0$$

- Determination of values $l_{C,L}$ and $u_{C,L}$ for every loop L
- Interpretation: *C* is satisfied for all $l_{C,L} \leq i_L \leq u_{C,L}$
- Optimization goal:

All values $l_{C,L}$ and $u_{C,L}$ minimize the total amount of executed ifstatements

- Simplification: The linearity of C implies either $l_{C,L} = l_L$ or $u_{C,L} = u_L$
- Consequence: Determination of only one value $v_{C,L}$ Either $[v_{C,L}, u_{C,L}]$ or $[l_{C,L}, v_{C,L}]$ satisfies condition C

Some Definitions...

Given:
$$C = \sum_{L=1}^{N} (c_L * i_L) + c \ge 0$$
 $l_L, u_L \quad v_{C,L}$

- Total Iteration Space $TIS = \prod_{L=1}^{N} (u_L - l_L + 1)$

Constrained Iteration Space

$$CIS = \prod_{L=1}^{N} r_L$$

$$r_L = \begin{cases} u_L - l_L + 1 & \text{for } c_L = 0, \\ u_L - v_{C,L} + 1 & \text{for } c_L > 0, \\ v_{C,L} - l_L + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(#Executions of the innermost loop's body, constrained to regions specified by values $v_{C,L}$)

(#Executions of the innermost loop's body)

- Splitting Loop (Index of that loop where splitting $\lambda = \max\{ i \mid L_i \in \Lambda, r_L \neq u_L - l_L + 1 \}$ (Index of that loop where splitting will take place)

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Illustration (1)

Loop 1 for (i = 0; i < 20; i++)
for (x = 0; x < 36; x++)
for (y = 0; y < 49; y++)
for (vx = 0; vx < 9; vx++)
for (vy = 0; vy < 9; vy++)
for (x4 = 0; x4 < 4; x4++)
Loop N=7 for (y4 = 0; y4 < 4; y4++) {
if
$$(4*x+vx+x4-4>35)$$

then_block_1; else else_block_1; 1

Note:

- Loops are enumerated from 1 ... N from the outermost to the innermost loop.
- Only 1 condition in if-statement instead of the many ones from slide 11!

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Illustration (2)

TIS:

- Amount of executions of the code within the curly braces.
- Here: 20 * 36 * 49 * 9 * 9 * 4 * 4 = 45,722,880

Illustration (3)

Let $v_{C,1} = 0$; $v_{C,2} = 10$; $v_{C,3} = \cdots = 0$ be given.

- Condition C is satisfied for all $\mathbf{x} \ge 10$ and $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{y}, \dots, \mathbf{y4} \ge 0$.
- C/S: 20 * (36 10) * 49 * 9 * 9 * 4 * 4 = 33,022,080

Illustration (4)

for (i = 0; i < 20; i++) CIS: Number of executions of the
for (x = 0; x < 36; x++) code in curly braces for
$$x \ge 10$$
.
if (x >= 10)
for (; x < 36; x++) ...
for (y4 = 0; y4 < 4; y4++) {...}
else
for (y = 0; y < 49; y++) ...
for (y4 = 0; y4 < 4; y4++) {
 if (4*x+vx+x4-4>35) ... }

Hypothetical Code for $v_{C,2} = 10$

- Splitting Loop $\lambda = 2$ since splitting-if needs to be placed in 2nd loop.
- Question: How often would <u>all</u> if-statements shown here be executed?

Counting of If-Statement Executions

 #If-Statements after Splitting $IF_{\text{Total}} = IF_{\text{Orig}} + IF_{\text{Split}}$

(#Original if's + #Splitting-if's)

inside of λ)

– #Original if's $IF_{\text{Orig}} = TIS - CIS$

(Total iterations without constrained *iterations*)

– #Splitting-if's

 $IF_{Split} = \# Then-blocks + \# Else-blocks = TB + EB$

- **#Then-Blocks** (CIS without iterations of loops $TB = CIS/(\prod (u_L - l_L + 1) * r_{\lambda})$ $L = \lambda + 1$
 - **#Else-Blocks**

$$EB = IF_{\text{Orig}} / \prod_{L=\lambda+1}^{N} (u_L - l_L + 1)$$

(#Original if's without loop iterations inside of λ)

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Illustration (5)

for (i = 0; i < 20; i++)
for (x = 0; x < 36; x++)
if (x >= 10)
for (; x < 36; x++) ...
for (y4 = 0; y4 < 4; y4++) {...}
else
for (y = 0; y < 49; y++) ...
for (y4 = 0; y4 < 4; y4++) {
if (4*x+vx+x4-4>35) ... }]
$$IF_{Orig}$$

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Illustration (6)

$$IF_{\text{Orig}} = 20 * 36 * 49 * 9 * 9 * 4 * 4 - 20 * (36 - 10) * 49 * 9 * 9 * 4 * 4 = 45,722,880 - 33,022,080 = 12,700,800$$

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Illustration (7)

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Illustration (8)

for (i = 0; i < 20; i++)
for (x = 0; x < 36; x++)
if (x >= 10)
for (; x < 36; x++) ...
for (y4 = 0; y4 < 4; y4++) {...}
else
for (y = 0; y < 49; y++)
for (vx = 0; vx < 9; vx++)
for (vy = 0; vy < 9; vy++)
for (x4 = 0; x4 < 4; x4++)
for (y4 = 0; y4 < 4; y4++) {
if (4*x+vx+x4-4>35) ... }
#Else-blocks =
$$IF_{Orig}/(49 * 9 * 9 * 4 * 4)$$

= 12,700,800/63,504 = 200
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4-Pre-Pass Optimizations

Illustration (9)

for (i = 0; i < 20; i++)
for (x = 0; x < 36; x++)
if (x >= 10)
for (; x < 36; x++)
for (y = 0; y < 49; y++)
for (vx = 0; vx < 9; vx++)
for (vx = 0; vy < 9; vy++)
for (x4 = 0; x4 < 4; x4++)
for (y4 = 0; y4 < 4; y4++) {
...}

$$CIS/4/4/9/9/49$$

else

. . .

 $\label{eq:cischer} \begin{array}{l} \# \, Then\mbox{-}blocks = \mbox{CIS}/(26*49*9*9*4*4) \\ = 33,022,080/1,651,104 = 20 \\ \hline \mbox{${\rm $\&$}$ ${\rm $\&$}$ ${\rm H. Falk} $| $17.03.2022} \\ \end{array}$

Illustration (10)

for (i = 0; i < 20; i++)
for (x = 0; x < 36; x++)
if (x >= 10)
for (; x < 36; x++) ...
for (y4 = 0; y4 < 4; y4++) {...}
else
for (y = 0; y < 49; y++) ...
for (y4 = 0; y4 < 4; y4++) {
 if (4*x+vx+x4-4>35) ... }]
$$IF_{Orig}$$

$$IF_{\text{Total}} = IF_{\text{Orig}} + IF_{\text{Split}} = IF_{\text{Orig}} + \# Then-Blocks + \# Else-Blocks \\= 12,700,800 + 20 + 200 \\= 12,701,020$$

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Computation of Values $v_{C,L}$

Wrap-Up

- For a condition *C* and given values $v_{C,L}$, we can compute how many ifstatements would be executed after splitting based on $v_{C,L}$.

Very nice, but...

... who produces good values for $v_{C,L}$?

A Genetic Algorithm

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Workflow of Genetic Algorithms (1)



- In the style of natural evolution,
 "survival of the fittest"
- Optimization loop i = 0, 1, ...
- Each iteration *i* maintains
 population P_i; a population
 contains several *individuals*
- An individual represents one possible solution for the modeled optimization problem



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Workflow of Genetic Algorithms (2)



An individual's data structure is called *chromosome*.



- A chromosome consists of many genes that are used to save data.
- One actual value stored in a gene is called *allele*.



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Workflow of Genetic Algorithms (3)



- A fitness function computes the fitness of each individual inside P_i.
- From P_i, a subset P_i' of highest / lowest fitness is selected (*selection*, depending on whether a minimization or maximization problem is optimized).
- *P*[']_i is completed to the next population *P*_{i+1} by randomly generating new individuals (variation)



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Workflow of Genetic Algorithms (4)



Variation makes use of two basic genetic operators:



Mutation: 0 1 0 1 0 => 0 1 0 0 0



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Workflow of Genetic Algorithms (5)



- Due to the randomness in variation, *P_i* can contain individuals that do not represent valid solutions: *Repair* mechanism.
- Termination of the GA if
 - max. N iterations reached,
 - best observed fitness unchanged for *y* iterations,
- Final result is that individual from last population with best fitness.



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Genetic Algorithm for Condition Optimization

Chromosomal Representation

- For *N* nested loops, each chromosome has *N* genes
- Each gene holds one integer number
- Gene *L* represents the value $v_{C,L}$ to be optimized
- Domain of each gene L restricted to interval $[l_L, u_L]$

Fitness

- Fitness of an individual = IF_{Total}
- Invalid individuals $(v_{C,1}, \ldots, v_{C,N})$ represent iterations within the loop nest in which condition *C* is not always satisfied
- Invalid individuals obtain a very poor fitness

Result of Condition Optimization

Inputs to Condition Optimization

- Linear condition C
- Loop bounds $[l_L, u_L]$

Output of the Genetic Algorithm

- Values $(v_{C,1}, \ldots, v_{C,N})$ of the individual with best fitness

Output of Condition Optimization Phase

– Polytope

$$P'_{C} = \left\{ (x_{1}, \dots, x_{N}) \in \mathbb{Z}^{N} \mid \forall \text{ Loops } L : \begin{array}{l} l_{L} \leq x_{L} \leq u_{L}, \\ x_{L} \geq v_{C,L} \text{ if } c_{L} > 0, \\ x_{L} \leq v_{C,L} \text{ if } c_{L} < 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

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Phase 3 – Search Space Generation

Given: If-statements, conditions & polytopes

 $\mathrm{IF}_{i} = (C_{i,1} \otimes C_{i,2} \otimes \cdots \otimes C_{i,n}), \otimes \in \{\&\&, ||\} \qquad \forall C_{i,j} \rightsquigarrow P'_{i,j}$

Construction of FUPs P_i for each full if-statement IF_i



Construction of a Global FUP (Global Search Space)

FUP *G* models iteration space in which <u>all</u> if-statements are satisfied. Constructed by intersecting all FUPs P_i of the individual if-statements: $-G = \bigcap P_i$

Phase 3 – Structure of the FUP G

Consequence of Using the \cup Operator on the Previous Slide

- G is a finite union of polytopes and can thus be seen as:
- $G = R_1 \cup R_2 \cup \cdots \cup R_M$
- Interpretation:
 - Each polytope R_r denotes

one region in the iteration space of the entire loop nest in which **all** ifstatements are satisfied.

Global Search Space for MPEG Code

- IF₁ = 4*x+x4<0 || 4*x+x4>35 || 4*y+y4<0 || 4*y+y4>48

$$P_{1,1} = \emptyset, P_{1,2} = \{x \ge 9\}, P_{1,3} = \emptyset, P_{1,4} = \{y \ge 13\}$$

 $P_1 = \{x \ge 9\} \cup \{y \ge 13\}$

 $- IF_{2} = 4*x+vx+x4<4 || 4*x+vx+x4>39 || 4*y+vy+y4<4 || 4*y+vy+y4>52$ $P_{2,1} = {x = 0 \land vx = 0}, P_{2,2} = {x \ge 10},$ $P_{2,3} = {y = 0 \land vy = 0}, P_{2,4} = {y \ge 14}$ $P_{2} = {x = 0 \land vx = 0} \cup {x \ge 10} \cup {y = 0 \land vy = 0} \cup {y \ge 14}$

$$\begin{array}{ll} - & G = P_1 \cap P_2 = \\ & \{ \mathbf{x} = 0 \ \land \ \mathbf{vx} = 0 \ \land \ \mathbf{y} \ge 13 \} \ \cup \ \{ \mathbf{x} \ge 10 \} \ \cup \\ & \{ \mathbf{y} = 0 \ \land \ \mathbf{vy} = 0 \ \land \ \mathbf{x} \ge 9 \} \ \cup \ \{ \mathbf{y} \ge 14 \} \end{array}$$

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Global Search Space & Splitting-If (1)

Direct Translation of G into Splitting-If if ($(x == 0 \&\& vx == 0 \&\& y \ge 13) || (x \ge 10) ||$ $(y == 0 \&\& vy == 0 \&\& x \ge 9) || (y \ge 14))$

Not a Good Idea

This splitting-if must be placed in vy-loop (3rd-innermost!)

Leads to 10,103,760 executions of if-statements in total

Global Search Space & Splitting-If (2)

 $\begin{array}{rll} - & G = \mathrm{IF}_1 \cap \mathrm{IF}_2 = \\ & \{ \mathbf{x} = 0 \ \land \ \mathbf{vx} = 0 \ \land \ \mathbf{y} \ge 13 \} \ \cup \ \{ \mathbf{x} \ge 10 \} \ \cup \\ & \{ \mathbf{y} = 0 \ \land \ \mathbf{vy} = 0 \ \land \ \mathbf{x} \ge 9 \} \ \cup \ \{ \mathbf{y} \ge 14 \} \end{array}$

Alternative: Use only sub-polytopes R_r of G for splitting-if. Legal, since each sub-polytope R_r by itself already satisfies all ifstatements.

if (x >= 10)

- This sub-polytope is also not a good solution

☞ Leads to 25,401,820 if-statement executions

if (($x \ge 10$) || ($y \ge 14$))

This combination of sub-polytopes is a good solution

Leads to 7,261,120 if-statement executions

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Phase 4 – Search Space Exploration

GA: Selects regions from $G = R_1 \cup R_2 \cup \cdots \cup R_M$

Individual: Bit-vector that marks the selected regions

Individual $I = (I_1, \ldots, I_M), I_r = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if region } R_r \text{ selected}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

- Fitness function computes again
 #{If-statement executions} after loop nest splitting
- Fitness function minimized by GA

Resulting Splitting-If

- Placed in the outermost possible loop of the loop nest
- Contains all conditions and operators as specified by the selected regions R_r

Relative Run-Times after Loop Nest Splitting



100% = Run-times of the benchmarks without Loop Nest Splitting

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Relative Energy Consumption (ARM7) after LNS



100% = Values of the Benchmarks without Loop Nest Splitting

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Relative Code Size after Loop Nest Splitting



100% = Size of the benchmarks without Loop Nest Splitting

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References

Loop Nest Splitting

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Summary

Non-Compiler Optimizations

- Post-pass after compiler, e.g., at linker-level
- Pre-pass before compiler, at source code level

Loop Nest Splitting

- Control flow optimization in data flow-dominated multimedia applications
- Polytopes used to model linear conditions and loops
- Genetic algorithms used to optimize polytope models
- Significant reductions in terms of ACET and energy (and WCET), but partially heavy code size increases