Type-base flow analysis: from polymorphic subtyping to CFL-reachability

Authors: Jakob Rehof , Manuel Fähndrich

Year: 2001

Paper Meta Data

Conference: POPL (Principles of Programming Languages)

Year: 2001

Number of pages: 13

Citations: 112

Paper Layout

1. Introduction
    1.1 Object Language
    1.2 Annotated types
2. Flow Analysis with polymorphic subtyping
    2.1 Problem 1: Constraint copying
    2.2 Problem 2: Demand-driven flow computation
    2.3 New method based on instantiation constraints
    2.4 CFL reachability
3. Polymorphism subtyping with instantiation constraints

4. Flow Relation
    4.1 Flow logic
    4.2 CFL formulation
    4.3 Examples
    4.4 Soundness
5. Algorithm
    ...
6. Polymorphic and recursive type structure
7. Related work
8. Conclusion

What is the study about

Problem:

- The program analysis problems: data flow, type inference
- Interprocedural context sensitive analysis is used
- Current algorithms works slow [*O(n^8)*] and requires a lot of memory

Contribution of this paper:

- Using another well-known problem: Context-Free Language Reachability
- Improves algorithm [*O(n^3)*]
- Novel approach for polymorphic subtyping (*instantiation constraint*)
- This approach allows you to solve on-demand problems

Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages:

- Clear contribution
- Formal wording and proofs
- Some necessary examples

Disadvantages:

- High entry threshold (Regular Grammar, Context Free Languages, ML language)
- Little explanation and a lot of links to other articles