

# Optimising Compilers

Points-to analysis examples

# Andersen Example

$a = \&b;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
$c = a;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(c) \supseteq pt(a)$
$a = \&d;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{d\}$
$e = a;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq pt(a)$

$pt(a) = \{\}$

$pt(c) = \{\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{\}$

# Andersen Example

<code>a = &amp;b;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
<code>c = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(c) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>a = &amp;d;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{d\}$
<code>e = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq pt(a)$

$pt(a) = \{b\}$

$pt(c) = \{\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{\}$

# Andersen Example

$a = \&b;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
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$a = \&d;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{d\}$
$e = a;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq pt(a)$

$pt(a) = \{b\}$

$pt(c) = \{b\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{\}$

# Andersen Example

<code>a = &amp;b;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
<code>c = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(c) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>a = &amp;d;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{d\}$
<code>e = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq pt(a)$

$pt(a) = \{b, d\}$

$pt(c) = \{b\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{\}$

# Andersen Example

<code>a = &amp;b;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
<code>c = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(c) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>a = &amp;d;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{d\}$
<code>e = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq pt(a)$

$pt(a) = \{b, d\}$

$pt(c) = \{b\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{b, d\}$

# Andersen Example

**End of first iteration**

$$\text{pt}(a) = \{b,d\} \qquad \text{pt}(c) = \{b\}$$

$$\text{pt}(b) = \{\} \qquad \text{pt}(d) = \{\}$$

$$\text{pt}(e) = \{b,d\}$$

# Andersen Example

<code>a = &amp;b;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
<code>c = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(c) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>a = &amp;d;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{d\}$
<code>e = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq pt(a)$

$pt(a) = \{b, d\}$

$pt(c) = \{b\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{b, d\}$

# Andersen Example

$a = \&b;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
$c = a;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(c) \supseteq pt(a)$
$a = \&d;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{d\}$
$e = a;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq pt(a)$

$pt(a) = \{b,d\}$

$pt(c) = \{b,d\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{b,d\}$

# Andersen Example

<code>a = &amp;b;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
<code>c = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(c) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>a = &amp;d;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{d\}$
<code>e = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq pt(a)$

$pt(a) = \{b,d\}$

$pt(c) = \{b,d\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

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# Andersen Example

<code>a = &amp;b;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
<code>c = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(c) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>a = &amp;d;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{d\}$
<code>e = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq pt(a)$

$pt(a) = \{b,d\}$

$pt(c) = \{b,d\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{b,d\}$

# Andersen Example

**End of second iteration  
(finished)**

$$\text{pt}(a) = \{b,d\} \qquad \text{pt}(c) = \{b,d\}$$

$$\text{pt}(b) = \{\} \qquad \text{pt}(d) = \{\}$$

$$\text{pt}(e) = \{b,d\}$$

# Andersen Example (2)

$a = \&b;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
$c = \&d;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(c) \supseteq \{d\}$
$e = \&a;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq \{a\}$
$f = a;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(f) \supseteq pt(a)$
$*e = c;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq \{z\} \implies pt(z) \supseteq pt(c)$

$pt(a) = \{\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{\}$

$pt(c) = \{\}$

$pt(f) = \{\}$

# Andersen Example (2)

<code>a = &amp;b;</code>	→	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
<code>c = &amp;d;</code>	→	$pt(c) \supseteq \{d\}$
<code>e = &amp;a;</code>	→	$pt(e) \supseteq \{a\}$
<code>f = a;</code>	→	$pt(f) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>*e = c;</code>	→	$pt(e) \supseteq \{z\} \implies pt(z) \supseteq pt(c)$

$pt(a) = \{b\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{\}$

$pt(c) = \{\}$

$pt(f) = \{\}$

# Andersen Example (2)

<code>a = &amp;b;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
<code>c = &amp;d;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(c) \supseteq \{d\}$
<code>e = &amp;a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq \{a\}$
<code>f = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(f) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>*e = c;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq \{z\} \implies pt(z) \supseteq pt(c)$

$pt(a) = \{b\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{\}$

$pt(c) = \{d\}$

$pt(f) = \{\}$

# Andersen Example (2)

<code>a = &amp;b;</code>	→	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
<code>c = &amp;d;</code>	→	$pt(c) \supseteq \{d\}$
<code>e = &amp;a;</code>	→	$pt(e) \supseteq \{a\}$
<code>f = a;</code>	→	$pt(f) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>*e = c;</code>	→	$pt(e) \supseteq \{z\} \implies pt(z) \supseteq pt(c)$

$pt(a) = \{b\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{a\}$

$pt(c) = \{d\}$

$pt(f) = \{\}$

# Andersen Example (2)

<code>a = &amp;b;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
<code>c = &amp;d;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(c) \supseteq \{d\}$
<code>e = &amp;a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq \{a\}$
<code>f = a;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(f) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>*e = c;</code>	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(e) \supseteq \{z\} \implies pt(z) \supseteq pt(c)$

$pt(a) = \{b\}$

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$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{a\}$

$pt(c) = \{d\}$

$pt(f) = \{b\}$

# Andersen Example (2)

<code>a = &amp;b;</code>	→	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
<code>c = &amp;d;</code>	→	$pt(c) \supseteq \{d\}$
<code>e = &amp;a;</code>	→	$pt(e) \supseteq \{a\}$
<code>f = a;</code>	→	$pt(f) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>*e = c;</code>	→	$pt(e) \supseteq \{z\} \implies pt(z) \supseteq pt(c)$ $pt(a) \supseteq pt(c)$

$pt(a) = \{b, d\}$

$pt(d) = \{\}$

$pt(b) = \{\}$

$pt(e) = \{a\}$

$pt(c) = \{d\}$

$pt(f) = \{b\}$

# Andersen Example (2)

**End of first iteration**

$$\text{pt}(a) = \{b, d\}$$

$$\text{pt}(d) = \{\}$$

$$\text{pt}(b) = \{\}$$

$$\text{pt}(e) = \{a\}$$

$$\text{pt}(c) = \{d\}$$

$$\text{pt}(f) = \{b\}$$

# Andersen Example (2)

<code>a = &amp;b;</code>	→	$pt(a) \supseteq \{b\}$
<code>c = &amp;d;</code>	→	$pt(c) \supseteq \{d\}$
<code>e = &amp;a;</code>	→	$pt(e) \supseteq \{a\}$
<code>f = a;</code>	→	$pt(f) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>*e = c;</code>	→	$pt(e) \supseteq \{z\} \implies pt(z) \supseteq pt(c)$ $pt(a) \supseteq pt(c)$

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<code>f = a;</code>	→	$pt(f) \supseteq pt(a)$
<code>*e = c;</code>	→	$pt(e) \supseteq \{z\} \implies pt(z) \supseteq pt(c)$ $pt(a) \supseteq pt(c)$

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$f = a;$	$\longrightarrow$	$pt(f) \supseteq pt(a)$
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# Andersen Example (2)

**End of second iteration  
(finished)**

$$pt(a) = \{b,d\}$$

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$$pt(e) = \{a\}$$

$$pt(c) = \{d\}$$

$$pt(f) = \{b,d\}$$

# Summary

Points-to analysis identifies which locations are pointed to by each variable

This helps when parallelising (or vectorising) to identify regions of code that are independent

A flow-insensitive approach is fast and but less precise than a flow-sensitive version