



# **SIMPLE GENERATION OF STATIC SINGLE ASSIGNMENT FORM**

**JOHN AYCOCK  
NIGEL HORSPOOL**

**UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA  
CANADA**



# STATIC SINGLE ASSIGNMENT FORM

- Each use of a variable corresponds to a unique definition point for that variable.
- SSA form is obtained by renaming variables and by inserting  $\phi$ -functions at places where control flow paths merge.



# EXAMPLE OF SSA FORM

```
/* IR BEFORE */
```

```
i ← 999  
i ← i + 1  
i ← i * j
```

```
L1:
```

```
if (i < 0)  
  goto L2
```

```
if (i > 10)  
  i ← i - 5  
else  
  i ← i - 1
```

```
goto L1
```

```
L2:
```

```
/* IR AFTER */
```

```
i1 ← 999  
i2 ← i1 + 1  
i3 ← i2 * j1
```

```
L1:
```

```
i4 ←  $\phi(i_3, i_7)$   
if (i4 < 0)  
  goto L2
```

```
if (i4 > 10)  
  i5 ← i4 - 5  
else  
  i6 ← i4 - 1  
i7 ←  $\phi(i_5, i_6)$ 
```

```
goto L1
```

```
L2:
```



# INTRODUCTION

- SSA form with the minimal number of  $\phi$ -functions is highly desirable.
- Several algorithms for  $\phi$ -function placement exist; we present yet another algorithm.
- We believe ours is *much* simpler; it achieves the minimum number of  $\phi$ -functions for reducible flowgraphs.  
(It may not be minimal for irreducible flowgraphs.)



# OVERVIEW OF THE MINIMIZATION ALGORITHM

1. Initially create correct but non-minimal SSA form by inserting  $\phi$ -functions almost everywhere.
2. Iteratively remove the excess  $\phi$ -functions by performing a *minimization* phase.



```
i ← 123
j ← i * j
repeat

  write j
  if (j > 5) then

    i ← i + 1
  else

    break
  endif

until (i > 234)
```

# INITIAL VERSION OF CODE



```
i0 ← ⊥  
j0 ← ⊥  
i1 ← 123  
j1 ← i1 * j0  
repeat  
  i2 ← φ(i1, i6)  
  j2 ← φ(j1, j5)  
  write j2  
  if (j2 > 5) then  
    i3 ← φ(i2)  
    j3 ← φ(j2)  
    i4 ← i3 + 1  
  else  
    i5 ← φ(i2)  
    j4 ← φ(j2)  
    break  
  endif  
  i6 ← φ(i4)  
  j5 ← φ(j3)  
until (i6 > 234)  
i7 ← φ(i6, i5)  
j6 ← φ(j5, j4)
```

# BRUTE FORCE CONVERSION TO SSA FORM (APPEL 98)



# THE REDUCTION RULES

1. Delete all  $\phi$ -assignments of the form

$$V_i \leftarrow \phi( \dots V_i \dots V_i \dots )$$

2. If a  $\phi$ -assignment has the form

$$V_i \leftarrow \phi( \dots V_i \dots V_j \dots V_i \dots V_j \dots )$$

then delete that assignment and rename all occurrences of  $V_i$  to  $V_j$ .

[I.e. the arguments of the  $\phi$ -function consist of 0 or more occurrences of  $V_i$  and 1 or more occurrences of another variable  $V_j$ .]





```
i0 ← ⊥  
j0 ← ⊥  
i1 ← 123  
j1 ← i1 * j0  
repeat  
  i2 ← φ(i1, i6)  
  j2 ← φ(j1, j5)  
  write j2  
  if (j2 > 5) then  
    i3 ← φ(i2)  
    j3 ← φ(j2)  
    i4 ← i3 + 1  
  else  
    i5 ← φ(i2)  
    j4 ← φ(j2)  
    break  
  endif  
  i6 ← φ(i4)  
  j5 ← φ(j3)  
until (i6 > 234)  
i7 ← φ(i6, i5)  
j6 ← φ(j5, j4)
```

0

(THE START)



```
i0 ← ⊥  
j0 ← ⊥  
i1 ← 123  
j1 ← i1 * j0  
repeat  
  i2 ← φ(i1, i6)  
  j2 ← φ(j1, j5)  
  write j2  
  if (j2 > 5) then  
    i3 ← φ(i2)  
    j3 ← φ(j2)  
    i4 ← i2 + 1  
  else  
    i5 ← φ(i2)  
    j4 ← φ(j2)  
    break  
  endif  
  i6 ← φ(i4)  
  j5 ← φ(j2)  
until (i6 > 234)  
i7 ← φ(i6, i2)  
j6 ← φ(j5, j2)
```

1



```
i0 ← ⊥
j0 ← ⊥
i1 ← 123
j1 ← i1 * j0
repeat
  i2 ← φ(i1, i4)
  j2 ← φ(j1, j2)
  write j2
  if (j2 > 5) then
    i3 ← φ(i2)
    j3 ← φ(j2)
    i4 ← i2 + 1
  else
    i5 ← φ(i2)
    j4 ← φ(j2)
    break
  endif
i6 ← φ(i4)
j5 ← φ(j2)
until (i4 > 234)
i7 ← φ(i4, i2)
j6 ← φ(j2, j2)
```

2



```
i0 ← ⊥  
j0 ← ⊥  
i1 ← 123  
j1 ← i1 * j0  
repeat  
  i2 ← φ(i1, i4)  
  j2 ← φ(j1, j2)  
  write j1  
  if (j1 > 5) then  
    i3 ← φ(i2)  
    j3 ← φ(j2)  
    i4 ← i2 + 1  
  else  
    i5 ← φ(i2)  
    j4 ← φ(j2)  
    break  
  endif  
  i6 ← φ(i4)  
  j5 ← φ(j2)  
until (i4 > 234)  
i7 ← φ(i4, i2)  
j6 ← φ(j1, j1)
```

3



```

i0 ← ⊥
j0 ← ⊥
i1 ← 123
j1 ← i1 * j0
repeat
  i2 ← φ(i1, i4)
  j2 ← φ(j1, j2)
  write j1
  if (j1 > 5) then
    i3 ← φ(i2)
    j3 ← φ(j2)
    i4 ← i2 + 1
  else
    i5 ← φ(i2)
    j4 ← φ(j2)
    break
endif
i6 ← φ(i4)
j5 ← φ(j2)
until (i4 > 234)
i7 ← φ(i4, i2)
j6 ← φ(j1, j1)

```

4

(THE FINISH)

*and subsequent uses of j<sub>6</sub>  
are renamed to j<sub>1</sub>*

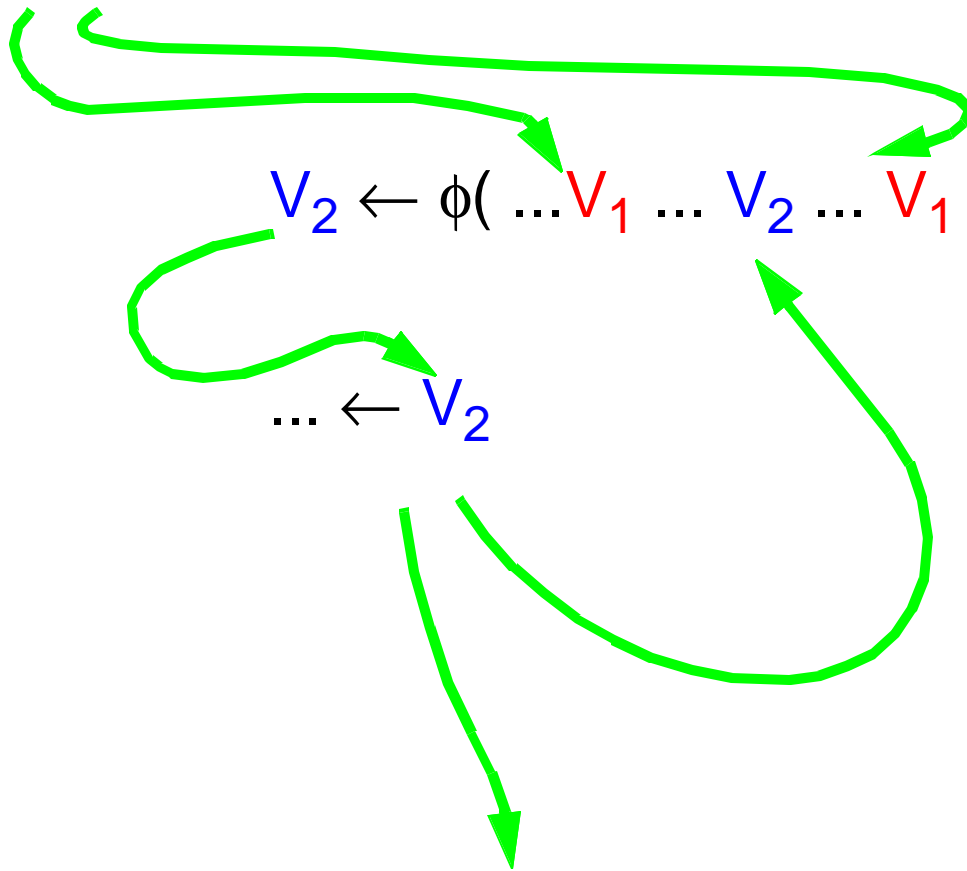


# IS THE RULE CORRECT?

$V_1 \leftarrow \dots$

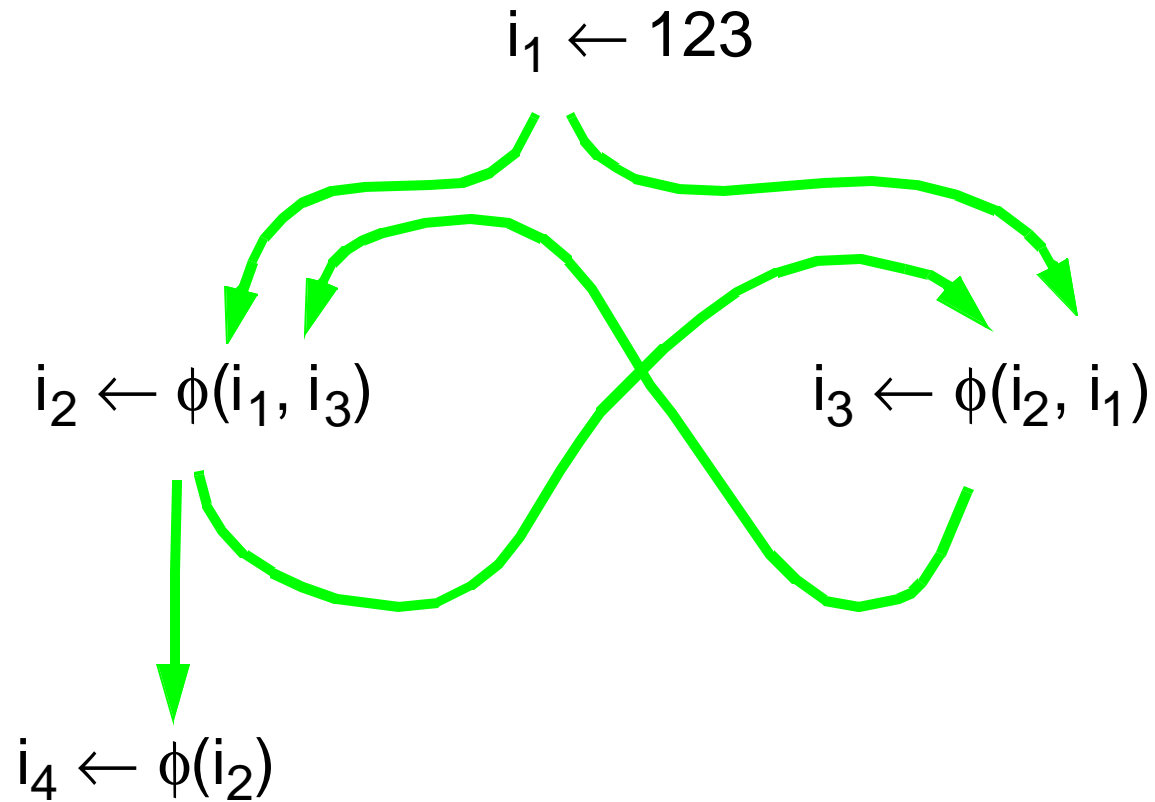
$V_2 \leftarrow \phi(\dots V_1 \dots V_2 \dots V_1 \dots)$

$\dots \leftarrow V_2$





# IRREDUCIBLE FLOWGRAPHS?



We clearly miss the simplification here.



# MINIMALITY?

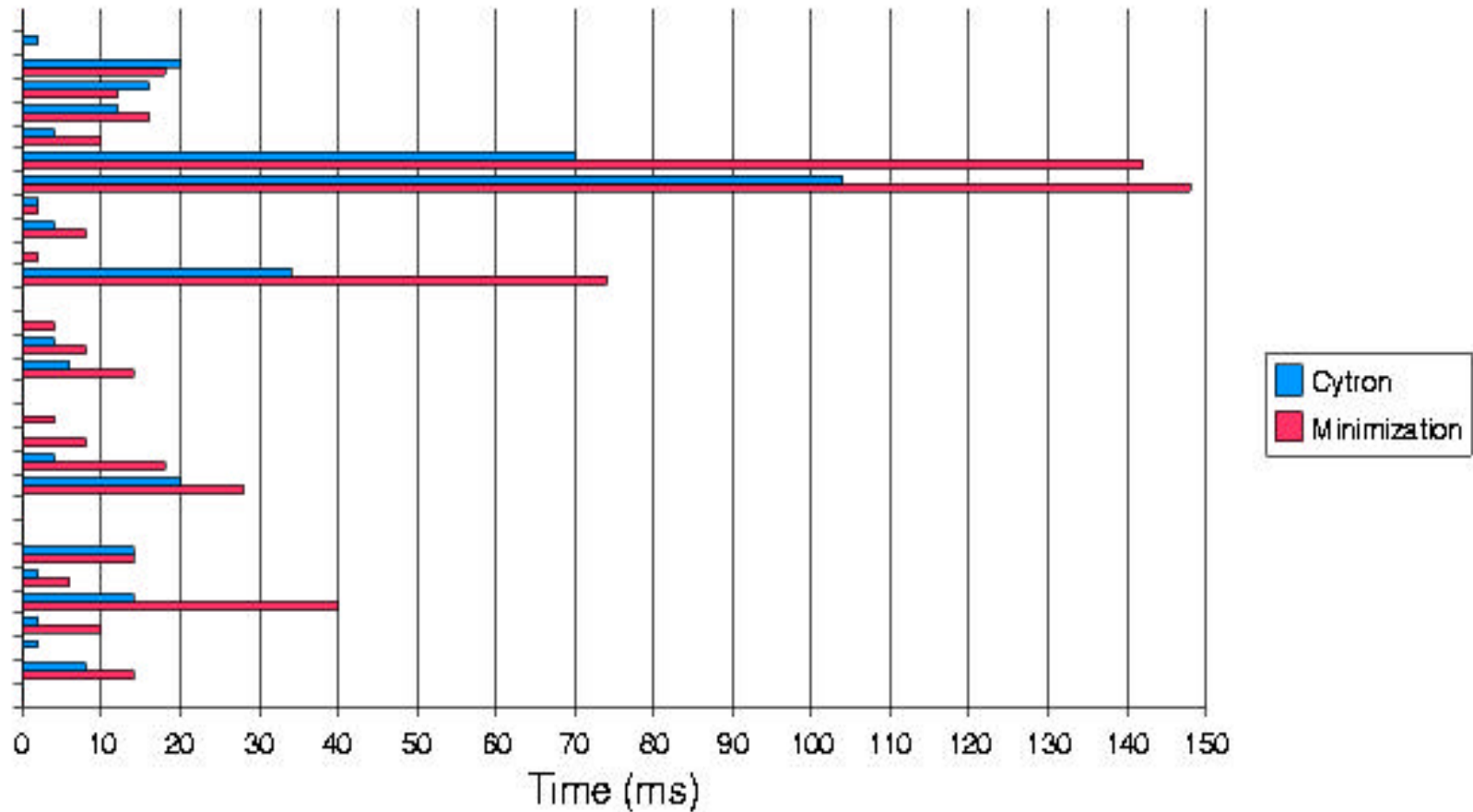
- Obviously not minimal for irreducible flowgraphs, but the placement of  $\phi$ -functions is still correct.
- A proof of minimality is shown in the paper.





# PERFORMANCE

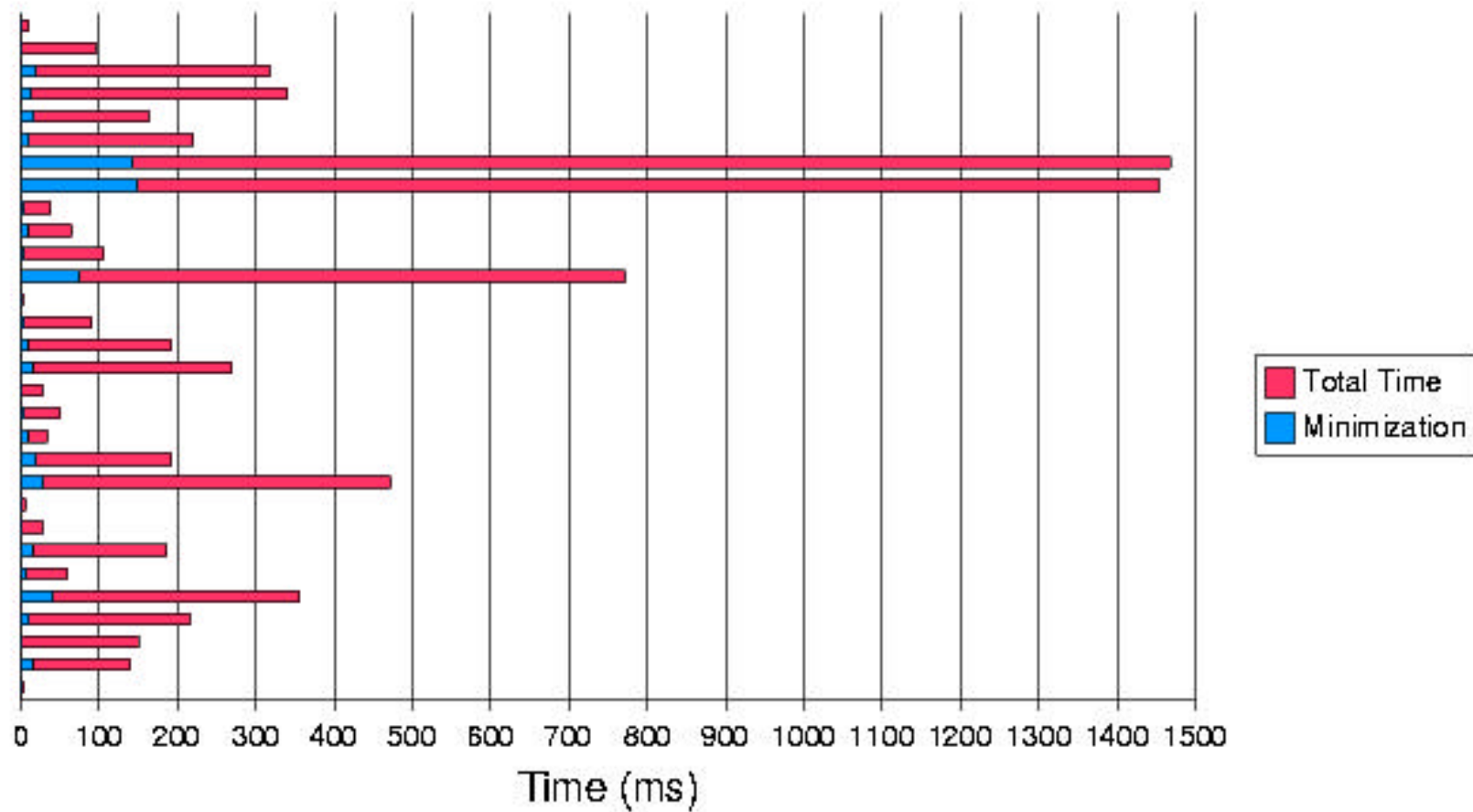
Time Comparison with Cytron's Approach





# DOES SPEED MATTER?

SSA generation time compared to whole compilation





# SUMMARY

- The minimization approach to SSA generation is competitive in speed.
- Even when the simple approach is slower, the effect on the overall compilation time is insignificant.