

SSA (1 of 2)

15-411/15-611 Compiler Design

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January 28, 2025

Today

- Trivial SSA
- ϕ -functions
- Dominance
- Placement & Renaming
- Bonus SSA in practice?

SSA

- Static single assignment is an **intermediate representation (IR)** where every variable has only *one* definition
 - Single **static** definition
 - (Could be in a loop which is executed dynamically many times.)
- ϕ -functions used at CFG join points
- All definitions dominate uses
- Variable names don't matter; IR implementation is literally nodes in a graph that point to each other

Advantages of SSA

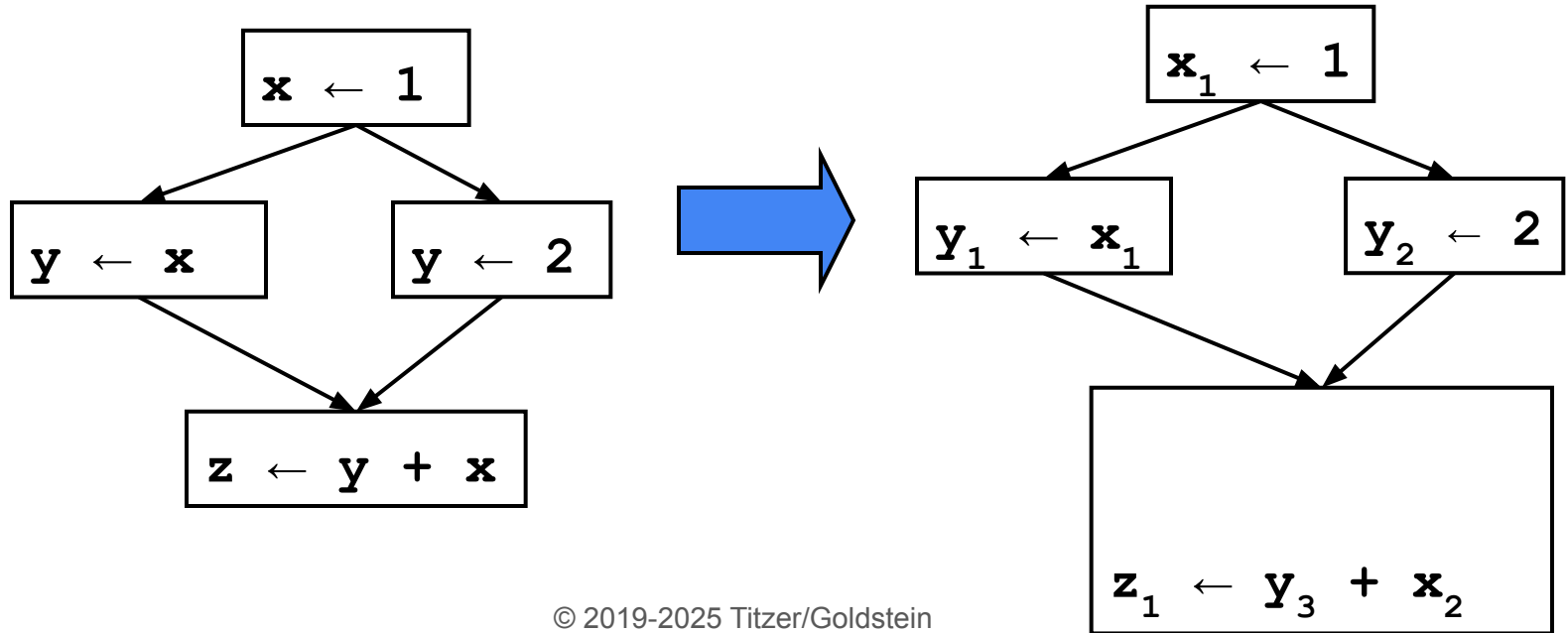
- Makes def-use-chains explicit
- Makes dataflow optimizations more *robust*
 - Easier to get right
 - Multiple optimizations can compose
 - Applies to more places
- Improves register allocation
 - Makes building interference graphs easier
 - Easier register allocation algorithm
 - Decoupling of spill, color, and coalesce
- For most programs reduces space/time requirements
 - Smaller IR, faster optimizations

Implications of single definition

- Never have to worry about a variable being overwritten
 - Before SSA, compilers had to worry about variable names and redefinitions
 - A “node” in SSA IR represents a computation, rather than a storage location
- Improves pattern-matching optimizations
 - Constant propagation ($y = 13; x + y \rightsquigarrow x + 13$)
 - Constant folding ($3 + 5 \rightsquigarrow 8$)
 - Strength reduction ($x + 0 \rightsquigarrow x$)
 - Algebraic simplification ($x + y - x \rightsquigarrow y$)
- Improves reasoning across control flow
- Think of it as a “bulk solution” to many forward dataflow problems

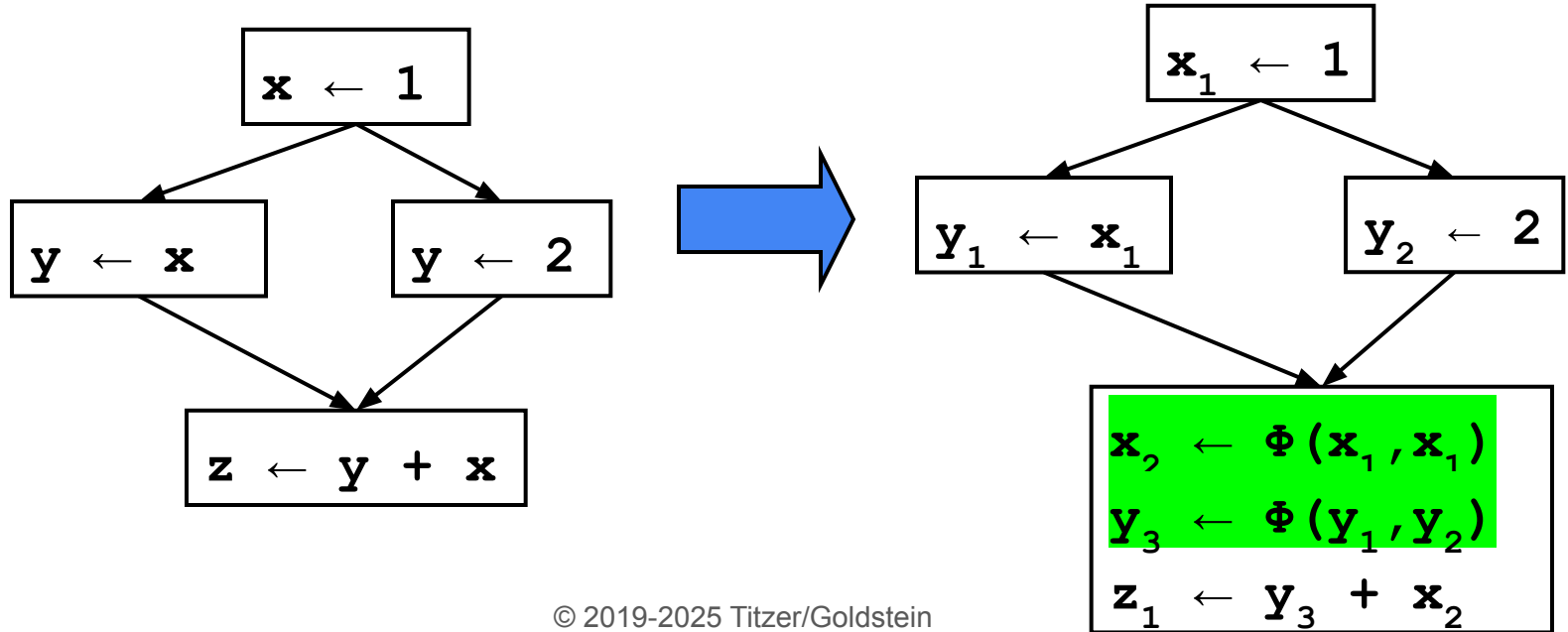
Trivial SSA

- Each assignment generates a fresh variable.
- At each join point insert Φ functions for all live variables.



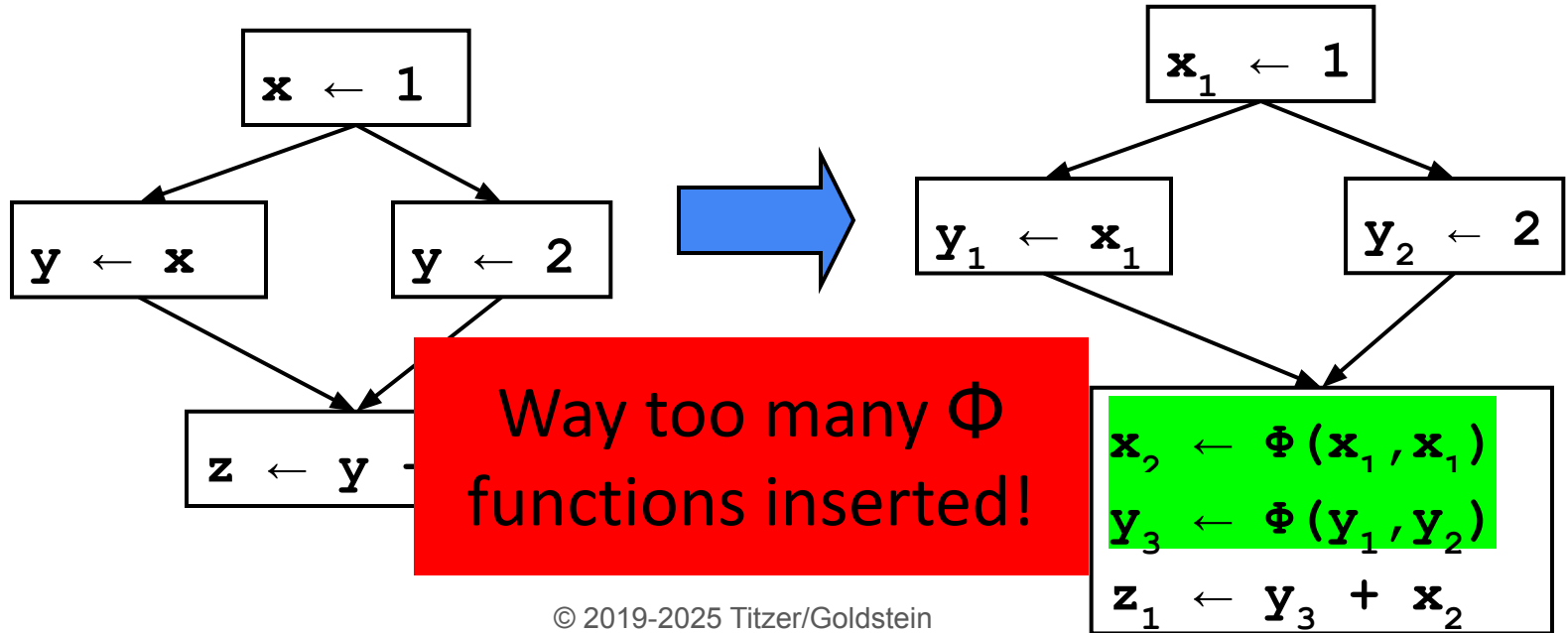
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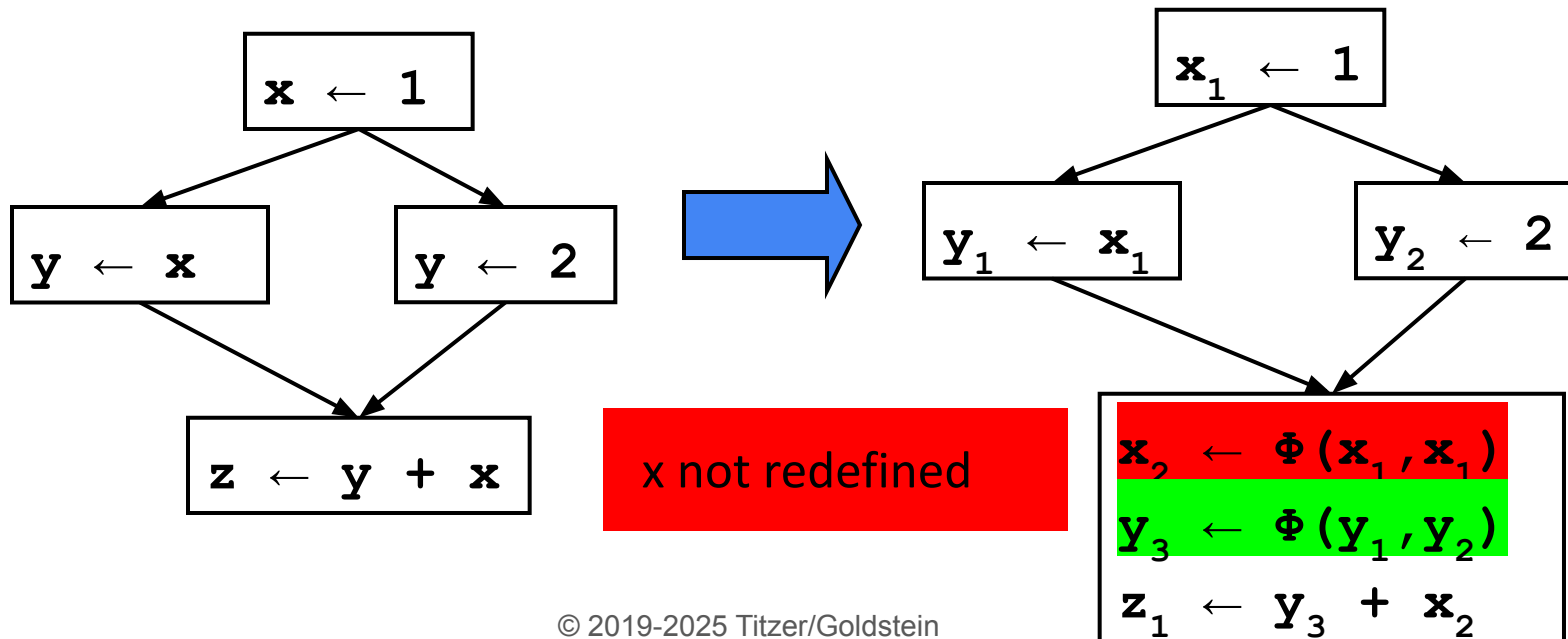
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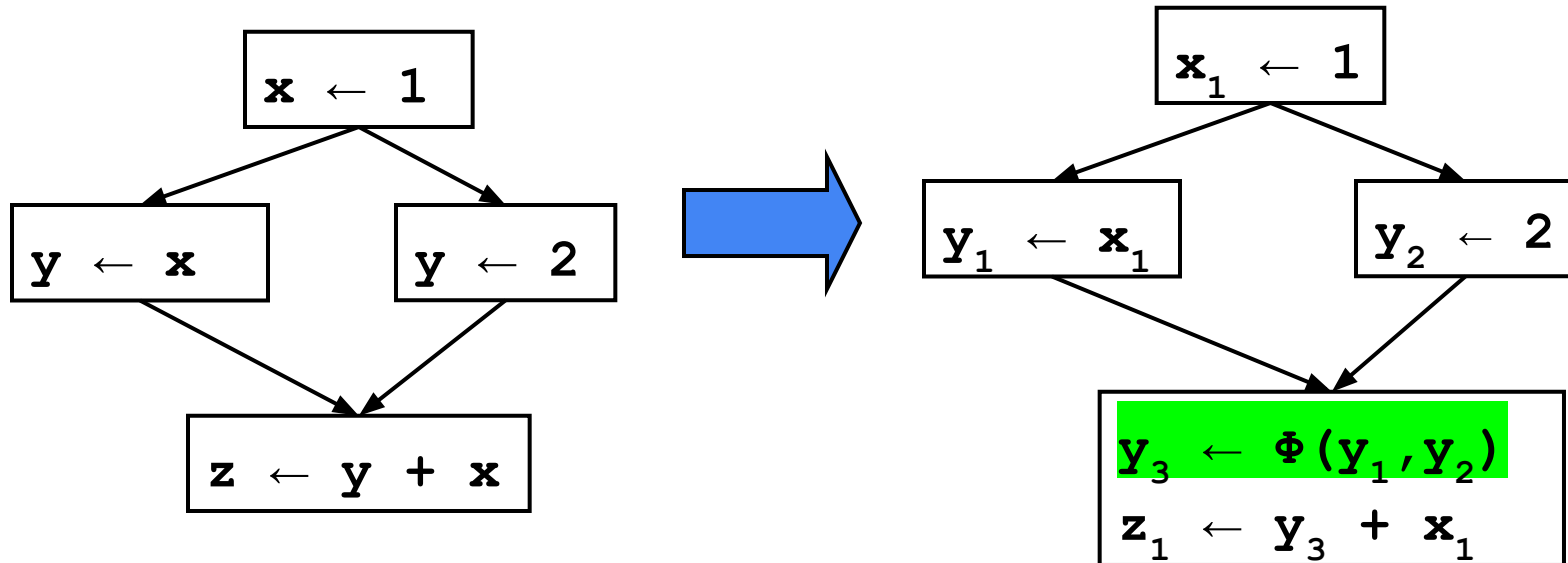
Minimal SSA

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- At each join point insert Φ functions for all variables with **multiple outstanding defs**.



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Handling cyclic control flow

- Introduce ϕ -functions to handle *joins* in CFG
- Loops have joins too!

```
x ← ...  
y ← ...  
while(x < 100) {  
    x ← x + 1  
    y ← y + 1  
}
```

```
    x ← ...  
    y ← ...  
    if (x >= 100) goto end  
loop:  
    x ← x + 1  
    y ← y + 1  
    if (x < 100) goto loop  
end:
```

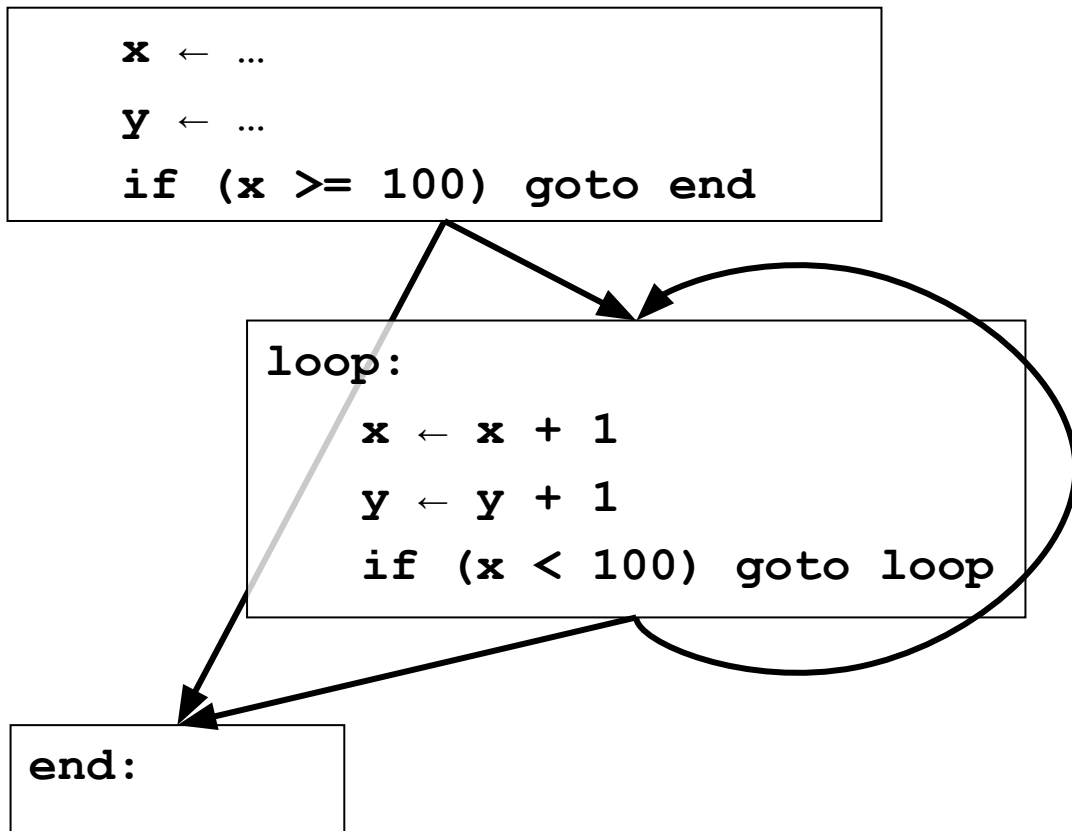
Handling cyclic control flow

- SSA requires single definition for each use
- Introduce ϕ -functions to handle joins at loop headers too

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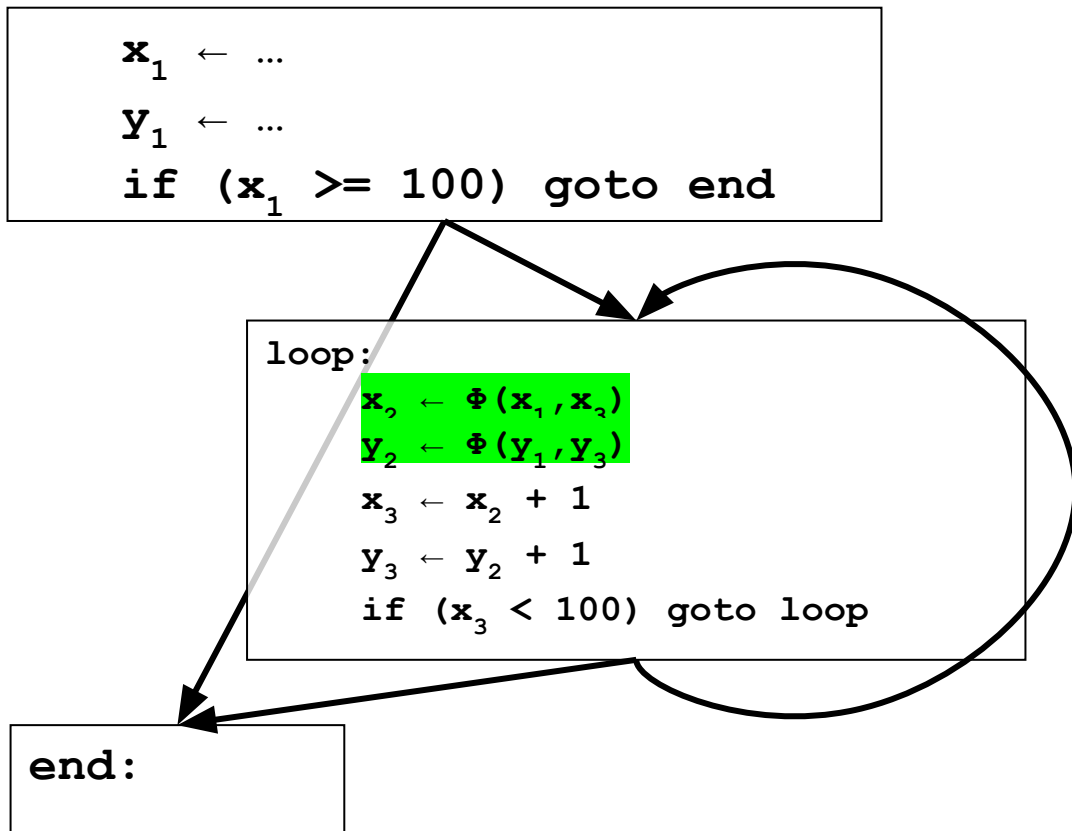
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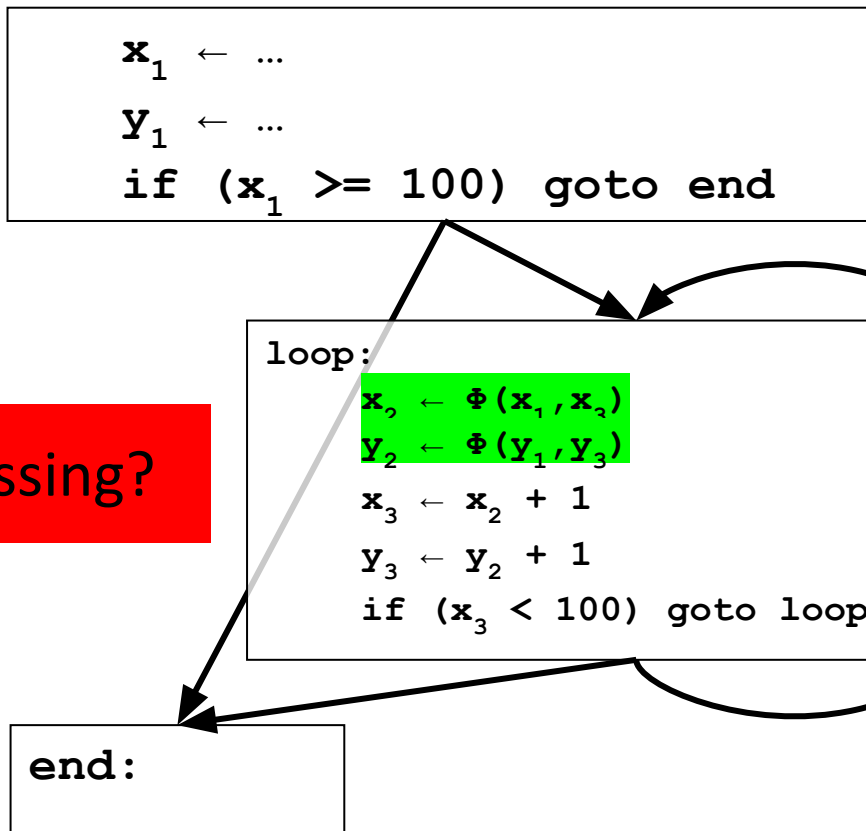
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if (x ≥ 100) goto end  
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What's missing?

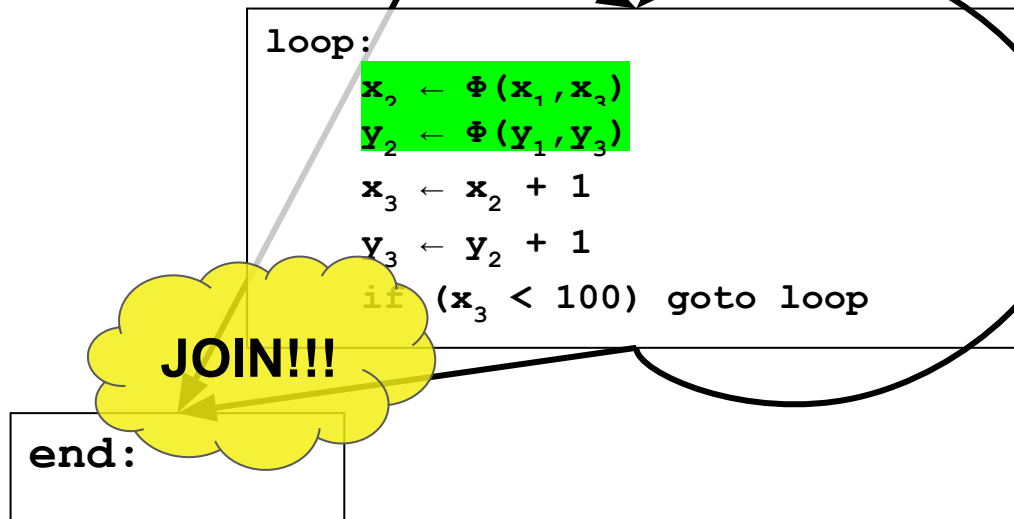
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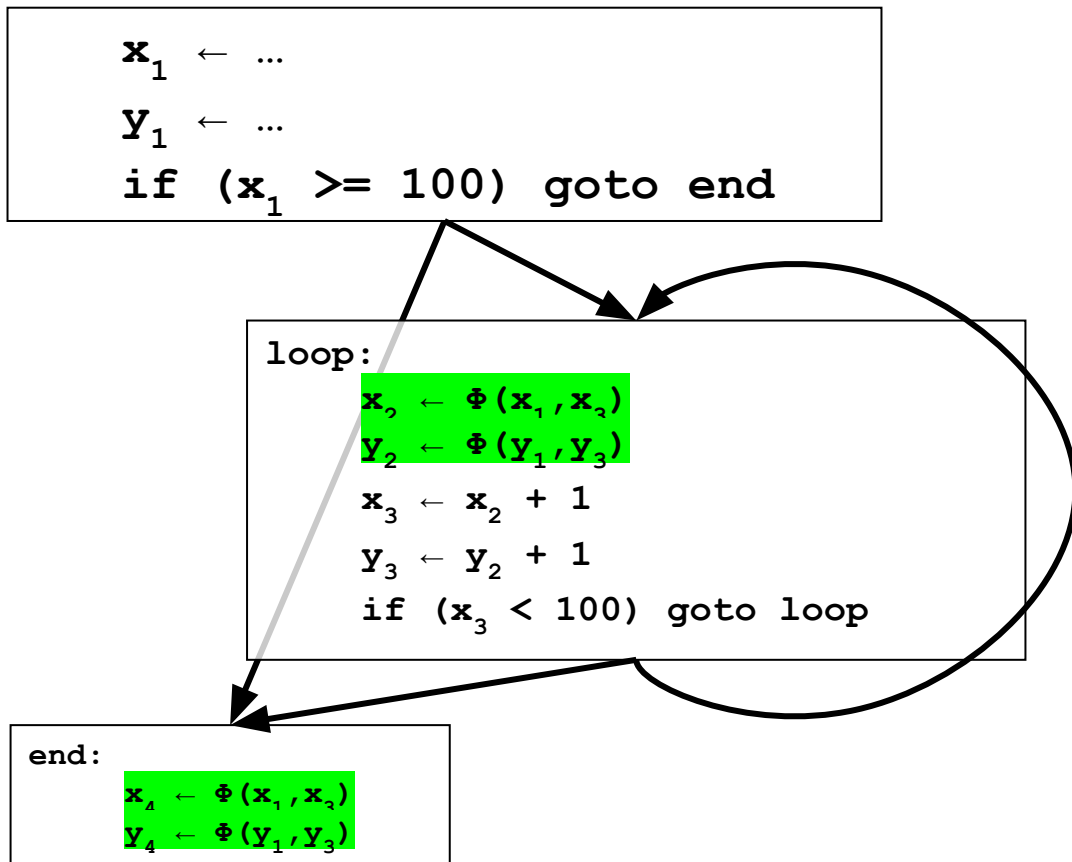
```
 $x_1 \leftarrow \dots$   
 $y_1 \leftarrow \dots$   
if ( $x_1 \geq 100$ ) goto end
```



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x ← ...  
y ← ...  
if (x ≥ 100) goto end  
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What is a Φ anyway?

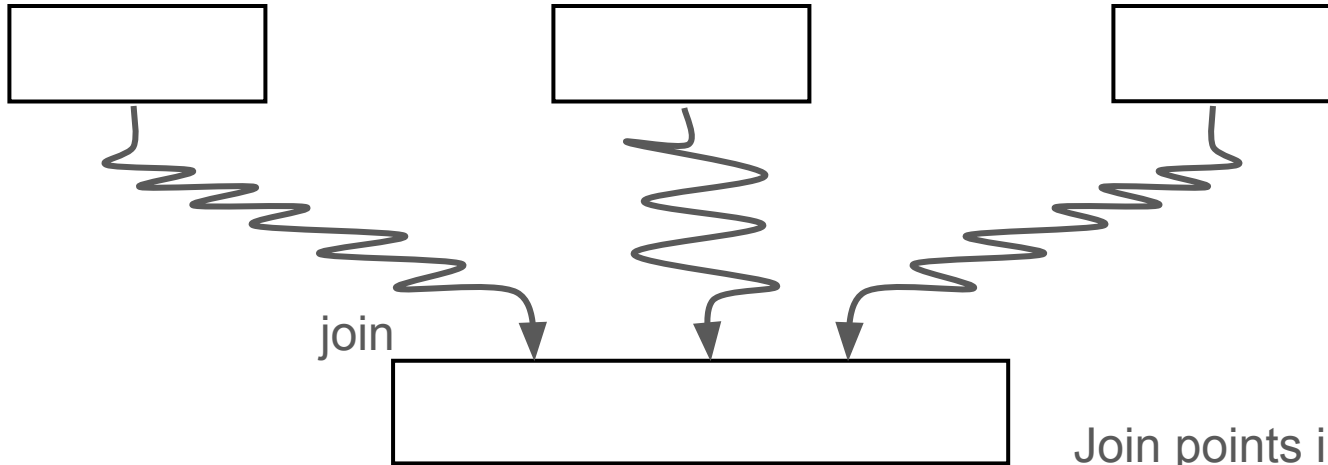
- Φ is a fictional operator; it merges multiple definitions into a single definition at a join in the control flow graph.

- At a BB with p predecessors, there are p inputs to the Φ .

$$x_{\text{new}} \leftarrow \Phi (\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, \dots, \mathbf{x}_p)$$

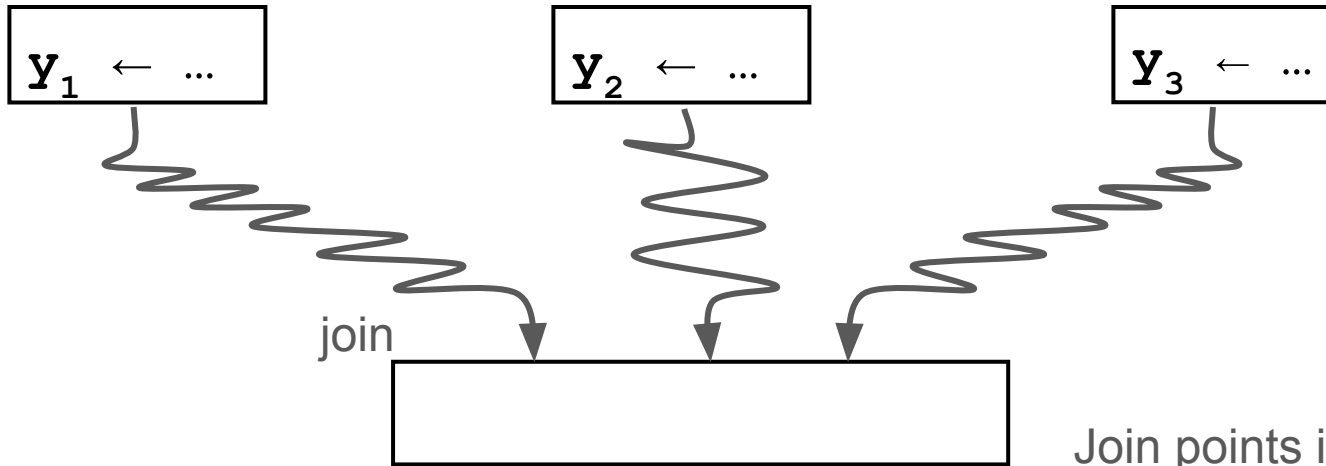
- What do the inputs to a Φ mean?
 - The inputs to ϕ -functions *positionally correspond* to the incoming control-flow edges.
 - They relate control flow merging and data flow merging.

What is a Φ anyway?



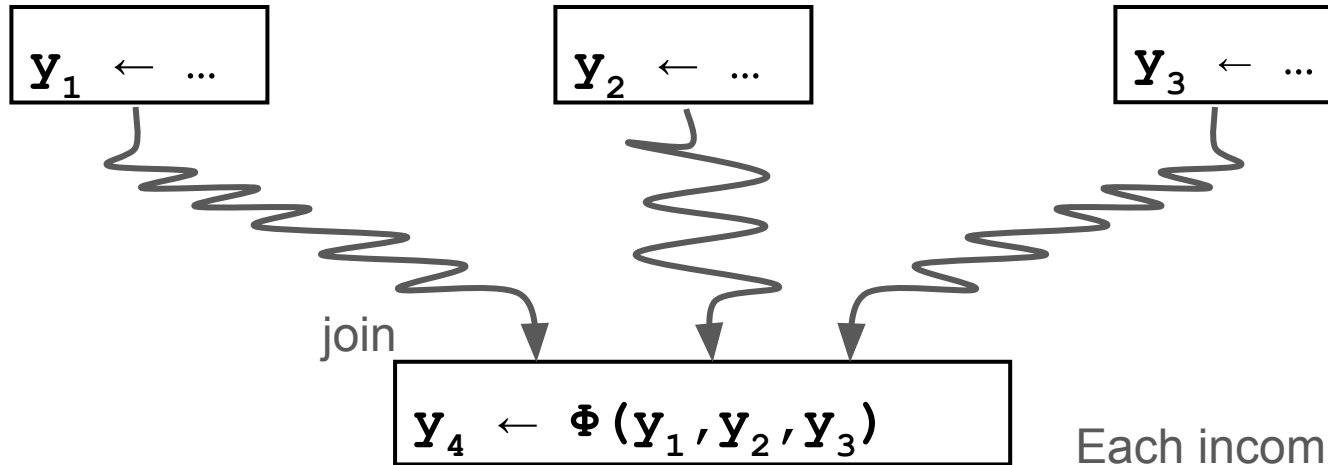
Join points in the control flow graph may require insertion of Φ functions.

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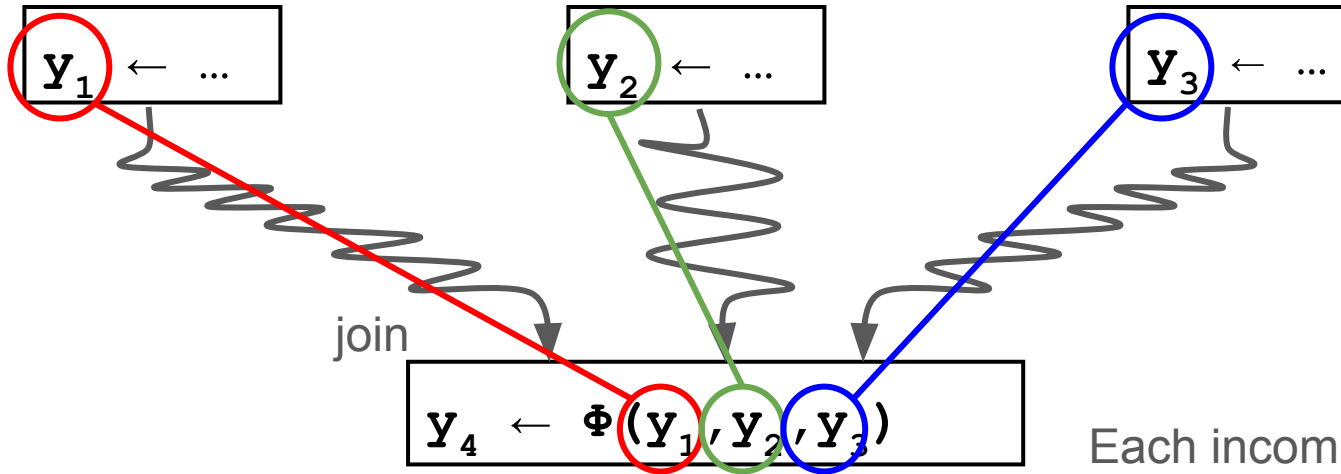
Join points in the control flow graph may require insertion of Φ functions, *if there are different versions of the variable arriving.*

What is a Φ anyway?



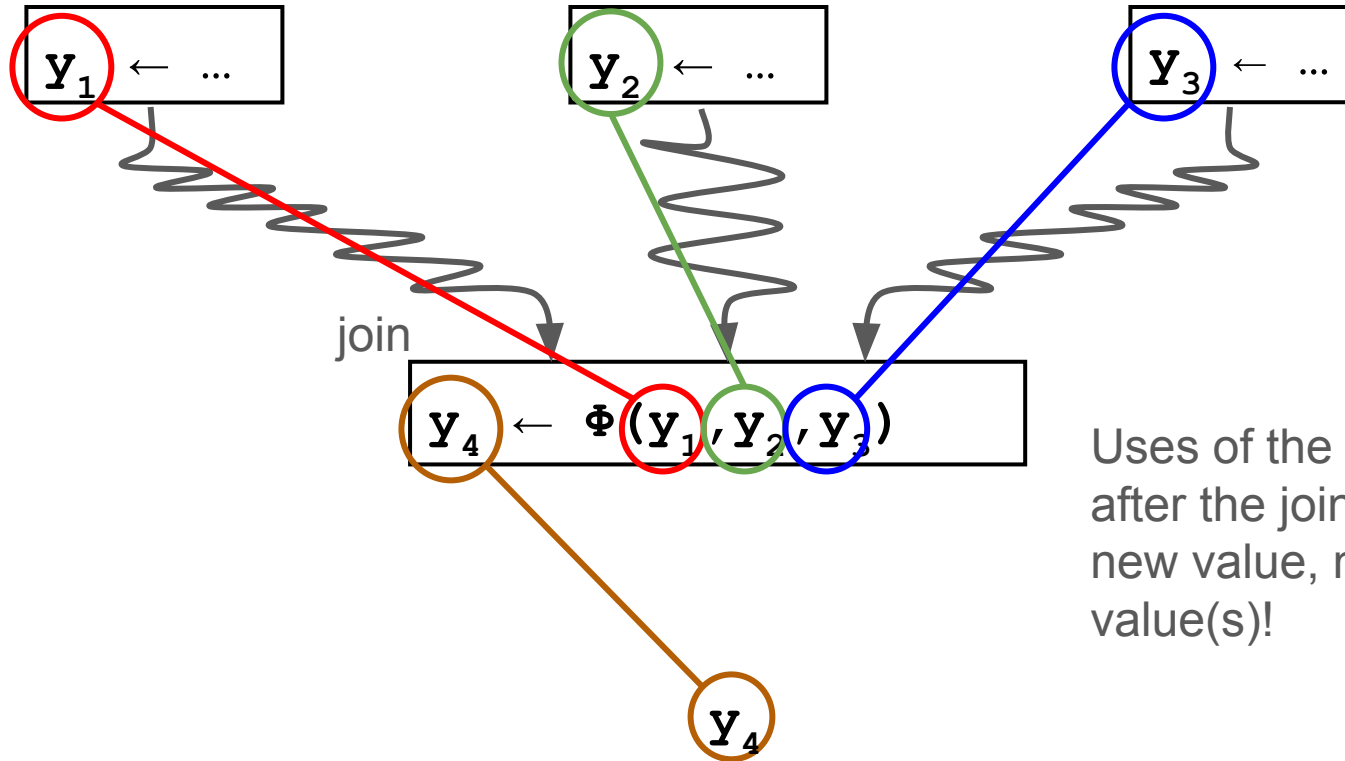
Each incoming control edge supplies a corresponding data value for the Φ from the predecessor.

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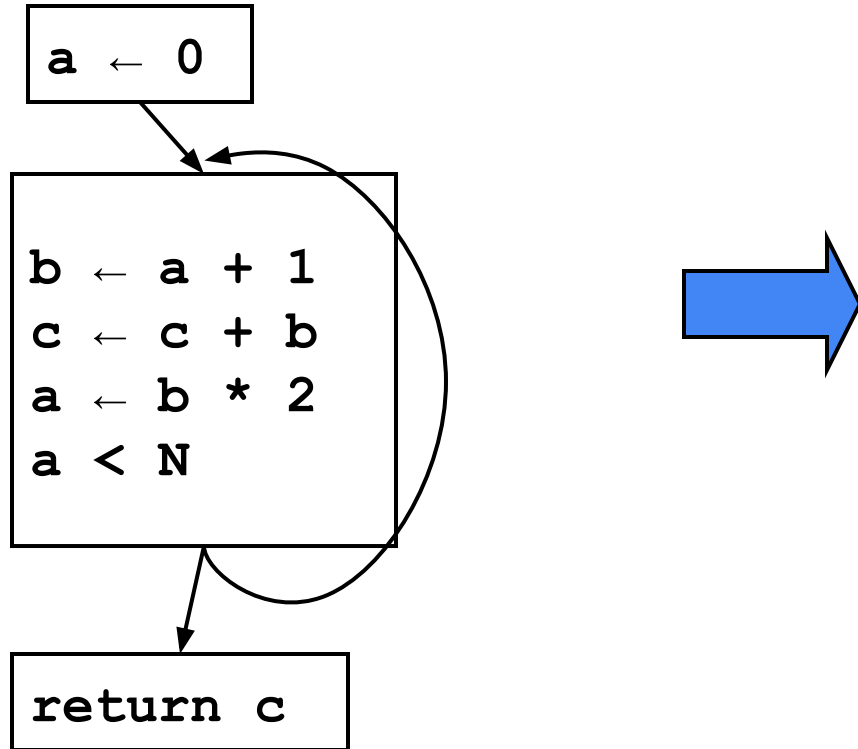
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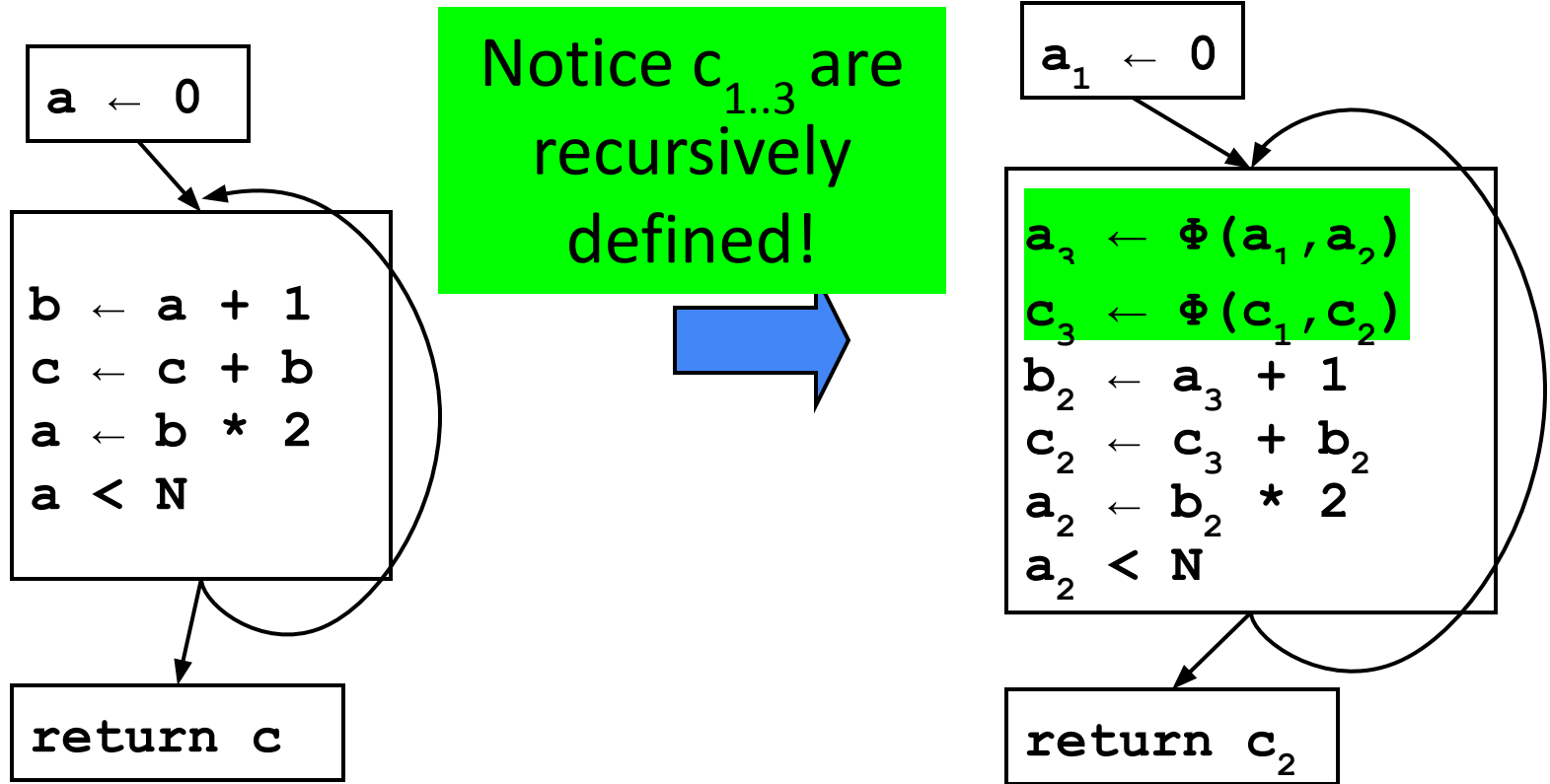


Uses of the variable after the join get the new value, not the old value(s)!

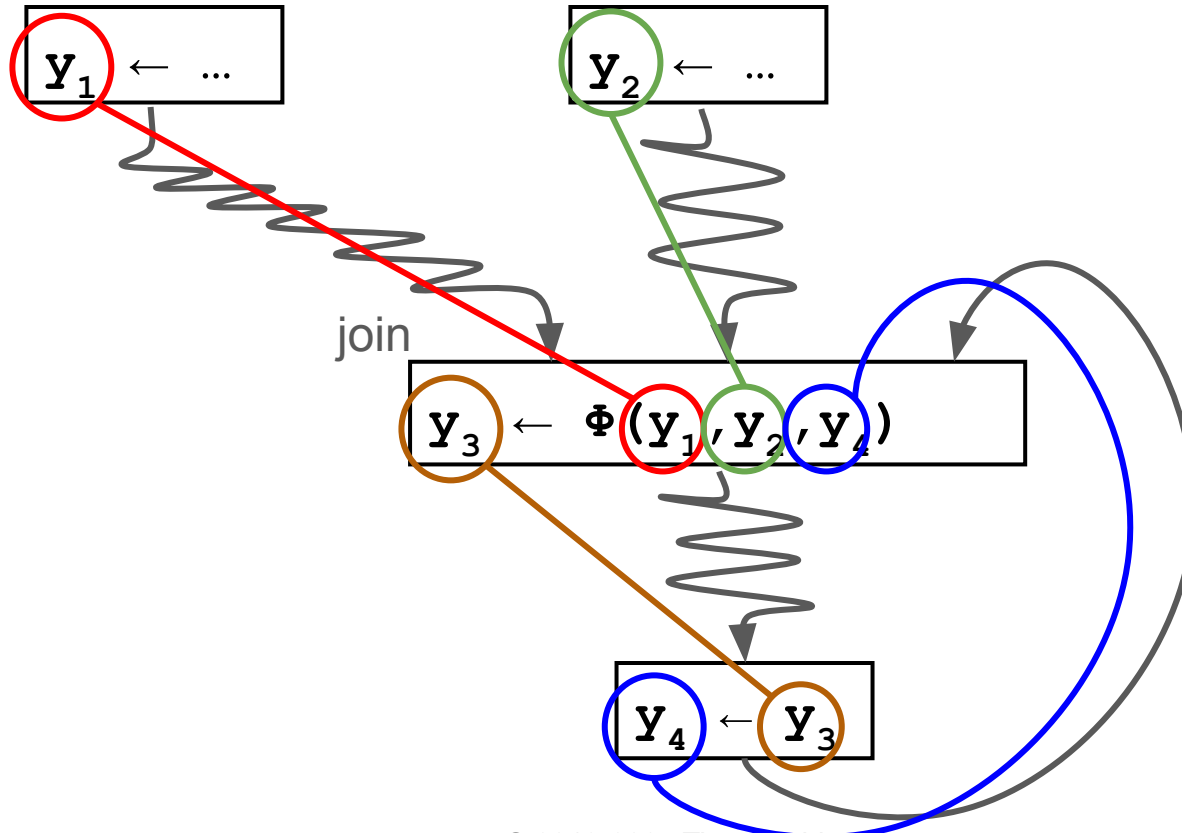
Another Loop Example



Another Loop Example



What is a Φ (for a loop) anyway?

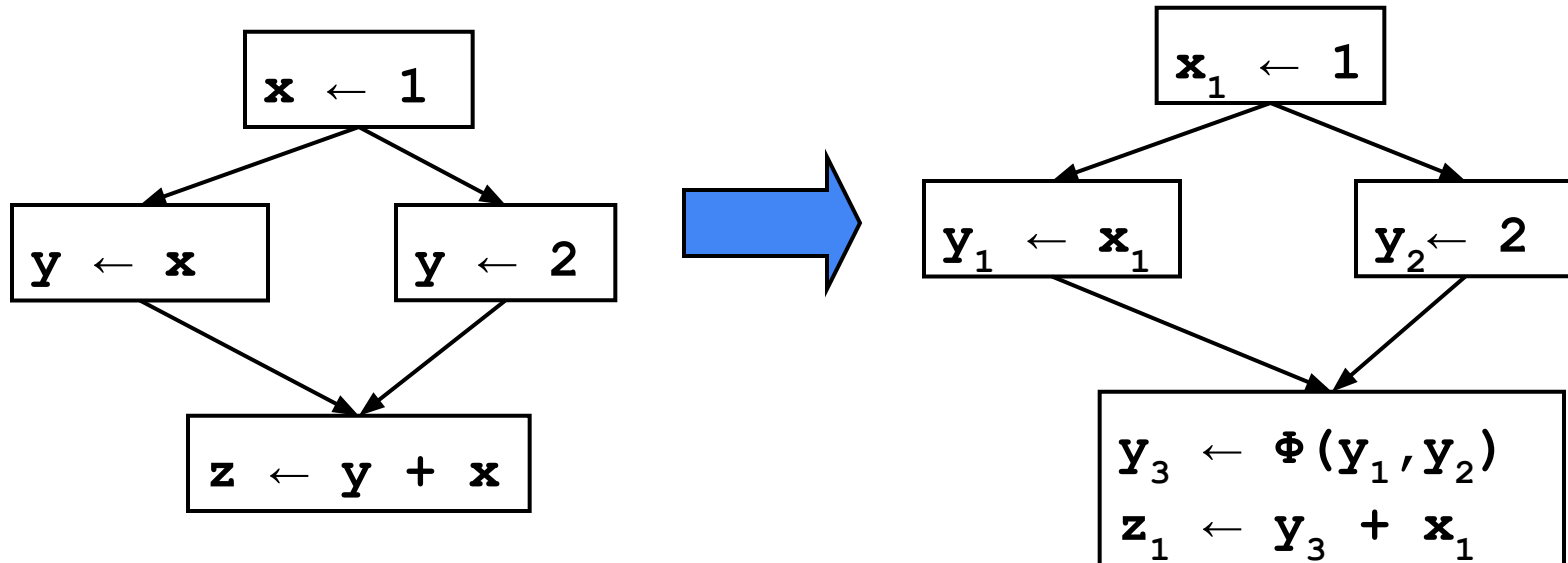


Φ s at loop headers relate the dataflow on a loop backedge with the control flow.

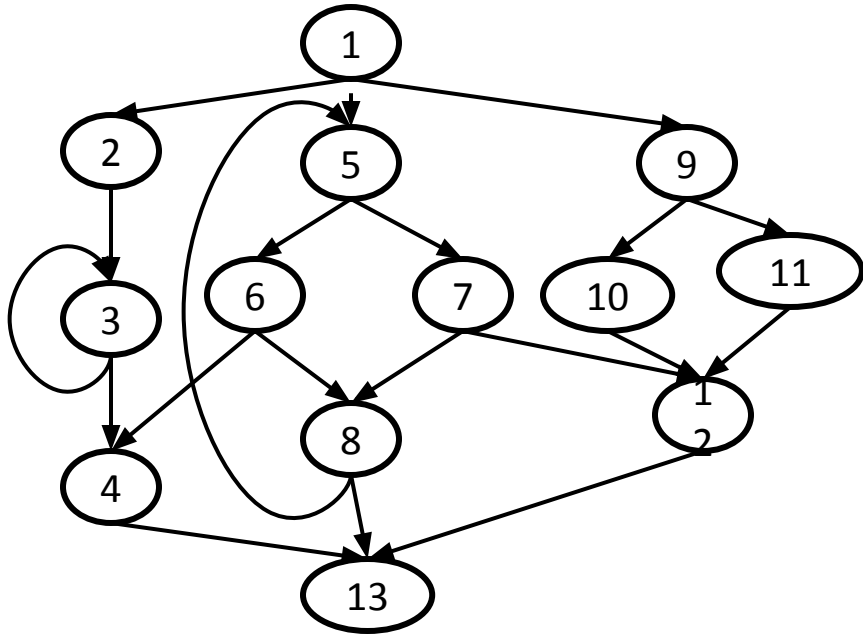
Allows finding induction variables really easily.

Minimal SSA

- Each assignment generates a fresh variable.
- At each join point insert Φ functions for all variables with **multiple outstanding defs.**



When do we insert Φ ?



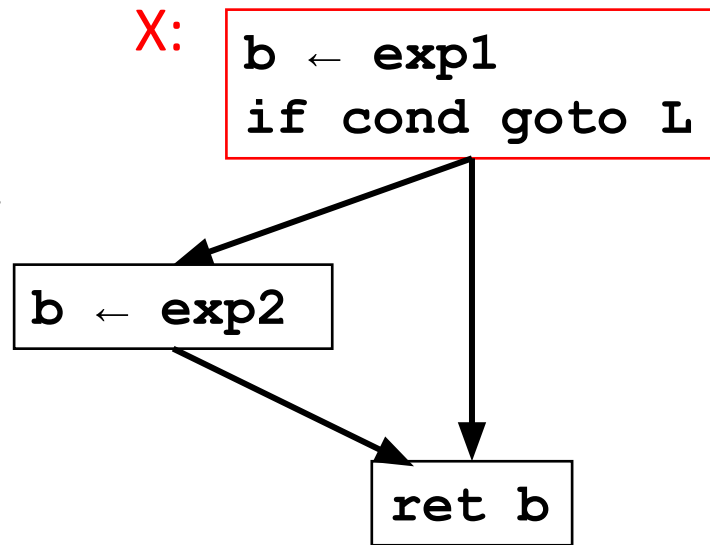
CFG

If there is a def of **a** in block 5, which nodes need a $\Phi()$?

When do we insert Φ ?

Require a Φ -function for variable \underline{b} at node \underline{z} of the flow graph:

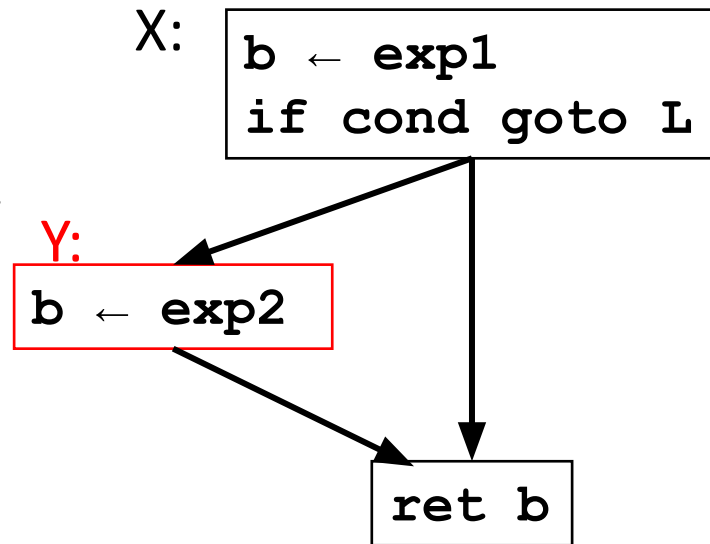
- There is a block x containing a def of b
- There is a block $y \neq x$ containing a def of b
- There is a nonempty path P_{xz} of edges from x to z
- There is a nonempty path P_{yz} of edges from y to z
- Paths P_{xz} and P_{yz} do not have any node in common other than z , and...
- The node z does not appear within both P_{xz} and P_{yz} prior to the end, though it may appear in one or the other.



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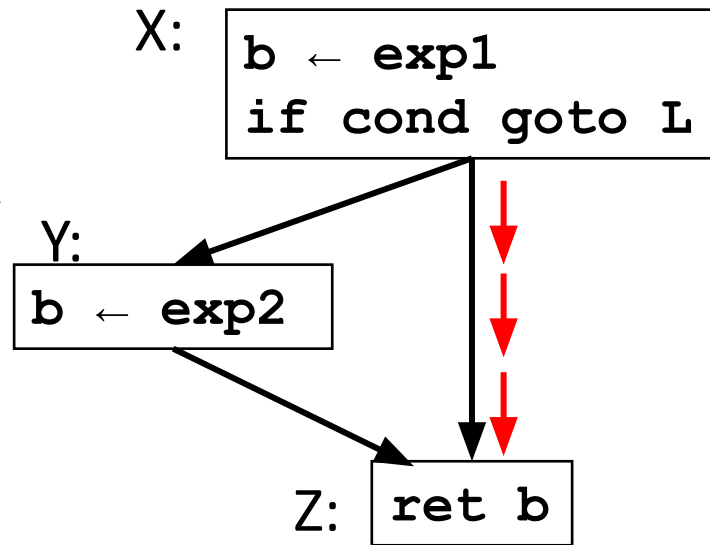
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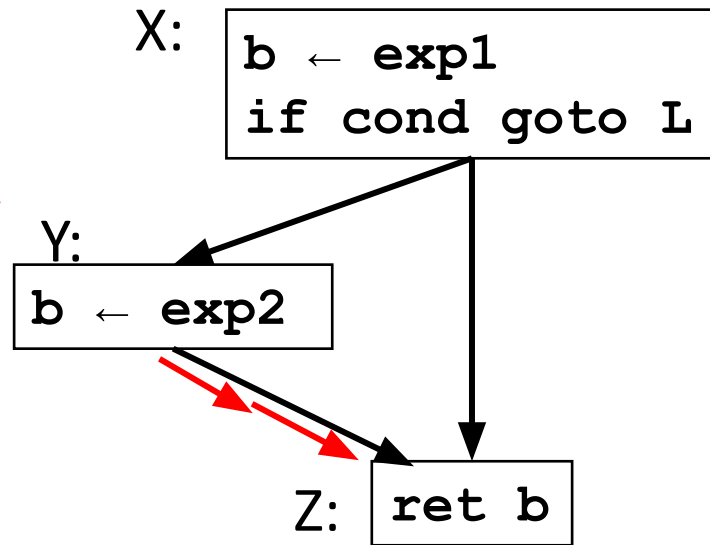
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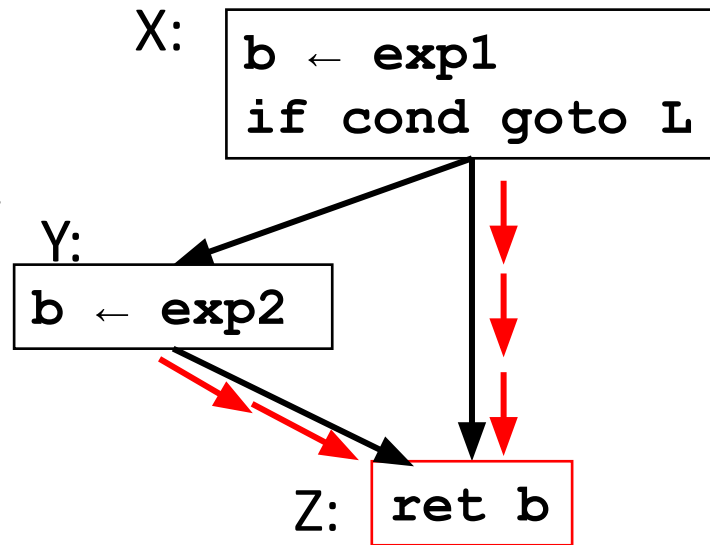
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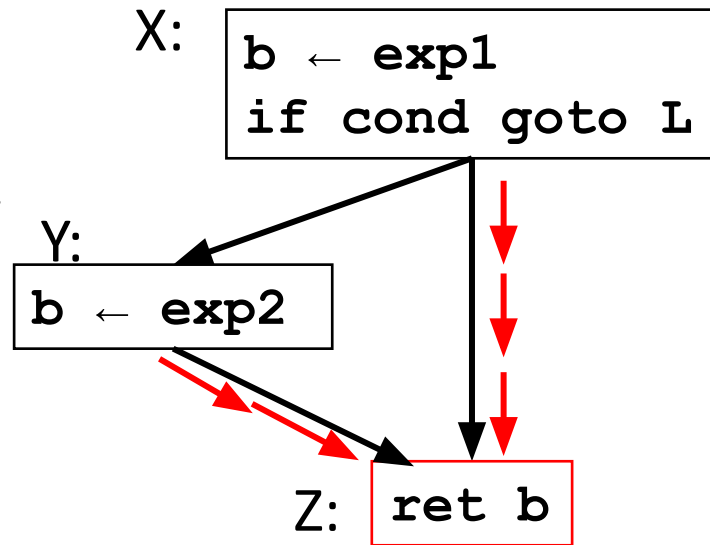
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Iterative Insertion

- Implicit def of every variable in start node
- Inserting Φ -function creates new definition
- While there $\exists x,y,z$ that
 - satisfy path-convergence criteria
 - and z does not contain Φ -function for b
- do
 - insert $b \leftarrow \Phi(b,b,b,\dots,b_n)$ at node z , z having n predecessors.

Dominance Property of SSA

- In SSA **definitions dominate uses***.
 - If x_i is used in $x \leftarrow \Phi(\dots, x_i, \dots)$, then $BB(x_i)$ dominates i^{th} predecessor of $BB(\Phi)$
 - If x is used in $y \leftarrow \dots x \dots$, then $BB(x)$ dominates $BB(y)$
- We can use this for an efficient algorithm to convert to SSA

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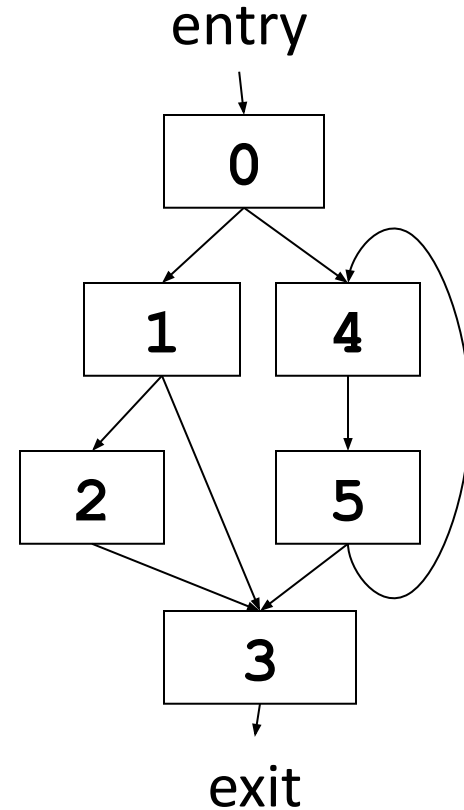
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 - ***well akshully**, this only true for strict SSA**, where all variables are defined before they are used.
 - ****well double akshully**, we can insert assignments to convert any program to strict SSA

Side trip: Dominators

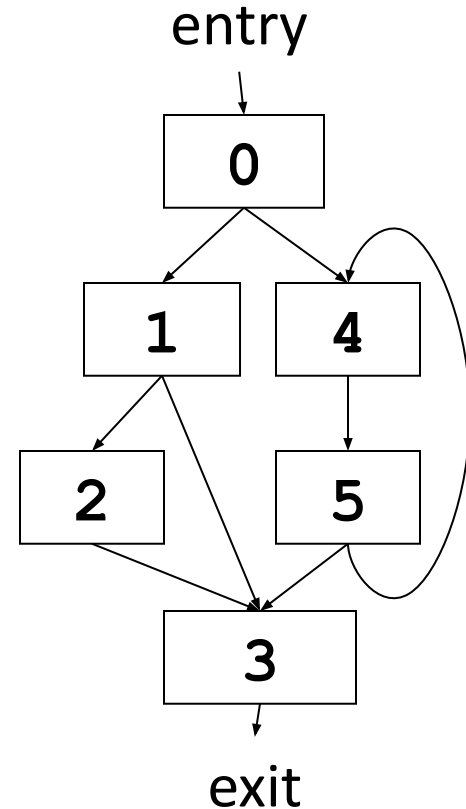
Dominators

- $a \text{ dom } b$
- block a *dominates* block b if every possible execution path from *entry* to b includes a



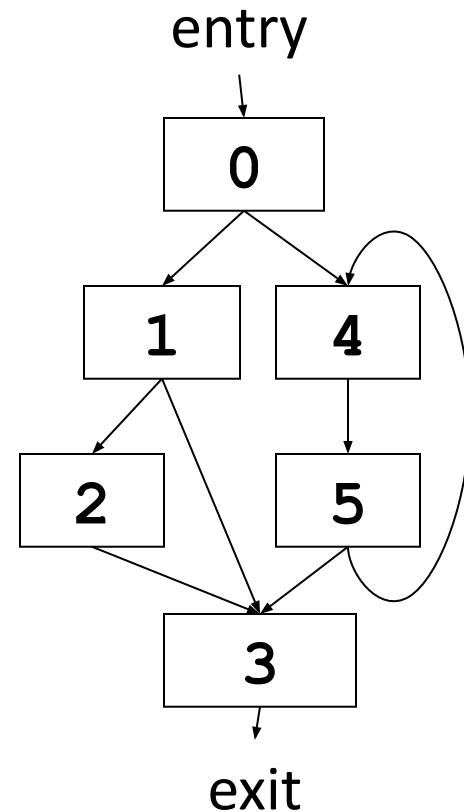
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 - **entry** dominates everything
 - **0** dominates everything but entry
 - **1** dominates **2** and **1**

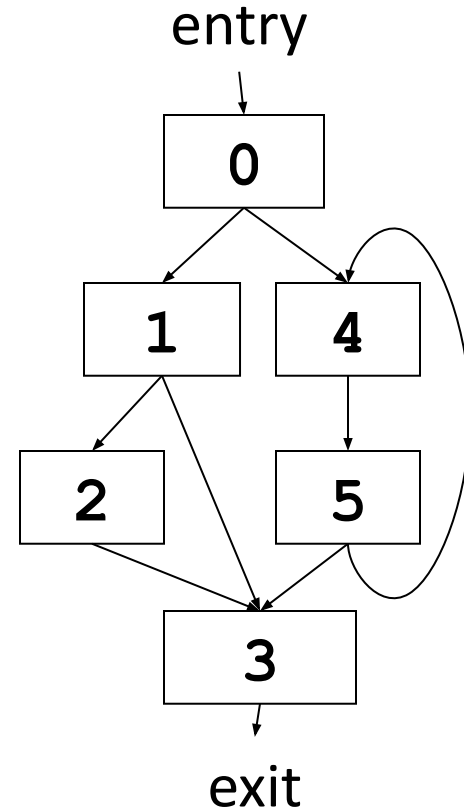


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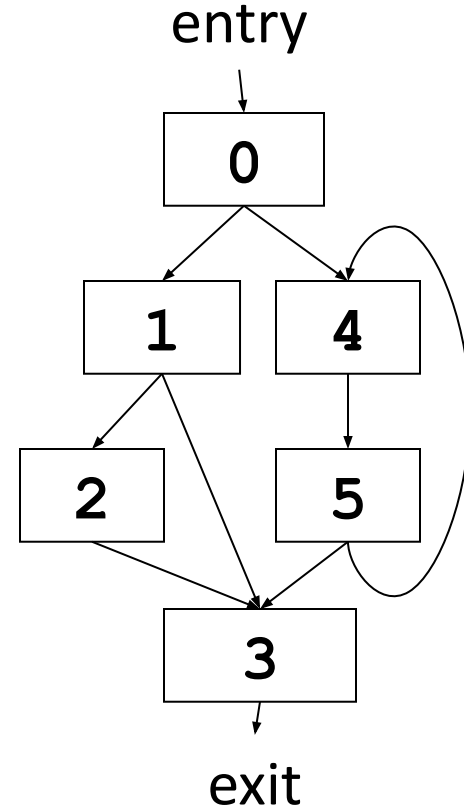
Dominators are useful in:

- *Dataflow analysis*
- *Constructing SSA*
- *Identifying “natural” loops*
- *Code motion*
- *...*



Definitions

- $a \text{ sdom } b$
 - If a and b are different blocks and $a \text{ dom } b$, we say that a *strictly dominates* b
- $a \text{ idom } b$
 - If $a \text{ sdom } b$, and there is no c such that $a \text{ sdom } c$ and $c \text{ sdom } b$, we say that a is the *immediate dominator* of b



Properties of Dom

- Dominance is a partial order on the blocks of the flow graph, i.e.,
 - 1. Reflexivity: $a \text{ dom } a$ for all a
 - 2. Anti-symmetry: $a \text{ dom } b$ and $b \text{ dom } a$ implies $a = b$
 - 3. Transitivity: $a \text{ dom } b$ and $b \text{ dom } c$ implies $a \text{ dom } c$
- NOTE: there may be blocks a and b such that neither $a \text{ dom } b$ or $b \text{ dom } a$ holds.
- The dominators of each node n are **linearly ordered** by the **dom** relation. The dominators of n appear in this linear order on any path from the initial node to n .

Computing dominators

- We want to compute $D[n]$, the set of blocks that dominate n

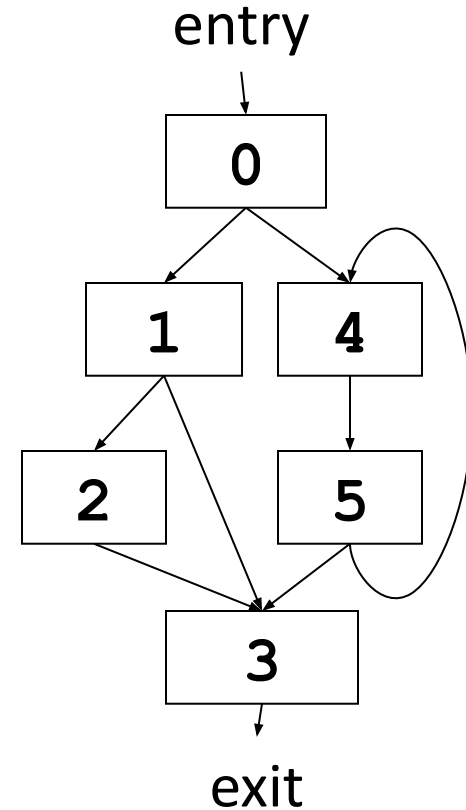
Initialize each $D[n]$ (except $D[\text{entry}]$) to be the set of all blocks, and then iterate until no $D[n]$ changes:

$$D[\text{entry}] = \{\text{entry}\}$$

$$D[n] = \{n\} \cup \left(\bigcap_{p \in \text{pred}(n)} D[p] \right), \quad \text{for } n \neq \text{entry}$$

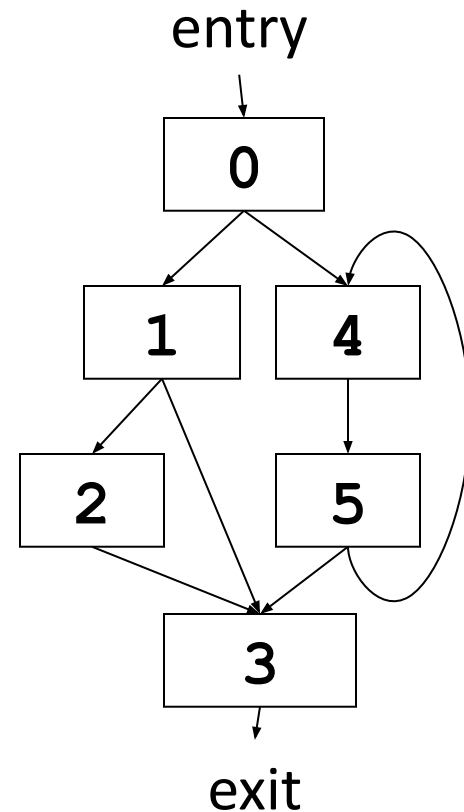
Example

block	Initialization $D[n]$
entry	{entry}
0	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}
1	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}
2	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}
3	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}
4	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}
5	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}
exit	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}



Example

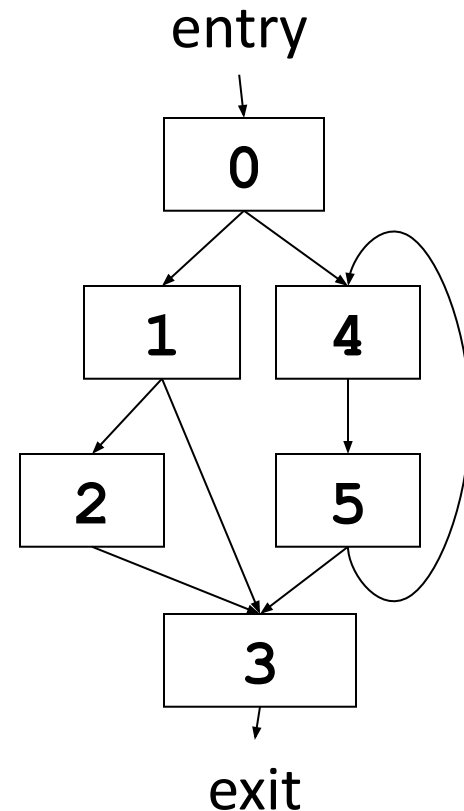
block	Initialization $D[n]$	First Pass $D[n]$
entry	{entry}	{entry}
0	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}	{0,entry}
1	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}	{1,0,entry}
2	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}	{2,1,0,entry}
3	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}	{3,1,0,entry}
4	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}	{4,0,entry}
5	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}	{5,4,0,entry}
exit	{entry,0,1,2,3,4,5,exit}	{exit,3,1,0,entry}



Update rule:
$$D[n] = \{n\} \cup \left(\bigcap_{p \in \text{pred}(n)} D[p] \right);$$

Example

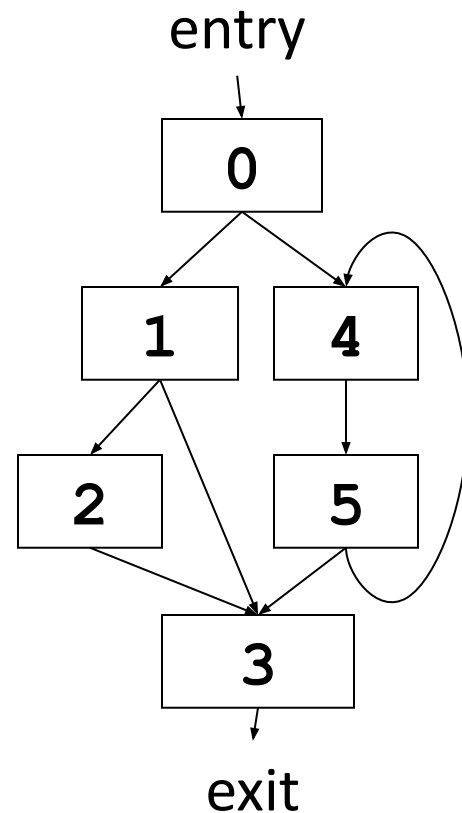
block	First Pass $D[n]$	Second Pass $D[n]$
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0	{0,entry}	{0,entry}
1	{1,0,entry}	{1,0,entry}
2	{2,1,0,entry}	{2,1,0,entry}
3	{3,1,0,entry}	{3,0,entry}
4	{4,0,entry}	{4,0,entry}
5	{5,4,0,entry}	{5,4,0,entry}
exit	{exit,3,1,0,entry}	{exit,3,0,entry}



Update rule:
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Example

block	Second Pass $D[n]$	Third Pass $D[n]$
entry	{entry}	{entry}
0	{0,entry}	{0,entry}
1	{1,0,entry}	{1,0,entry}
2	{2,1,0,entry}	{2,1,0,entry}
3	{3,0,entry}	{3,0,entry}
4	{4,0,entry}	{4,0,entry}
5	{5,4,0,entry}	{5,4,0,entry}
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Computing dominators

- Iterative algorithm is $O(n^2e)$
 - assuming bit vector set
 - choosing a good iteration order matters

- More efficient algorithm due to Lengauer and Tarjan

$\alpha(e,n)$ is *inverse Ackermann*

- $O(e \cdot \alpha(e,n))$
- much more complicated
- Books provide simple algorithms that are fast in practice (faster than Tarjan algorithm for realistic CFGs)
- For a clever algorithm see: [“A Simple, Fast Dominance Algorithm” by Cooper, Harvey, and Kennedy](#)

Immediate dominators

- Let $sD[n]$ be the set of blocks that strictly dominate n , then

$$\mathbf{sD[n] = D[n] - \{n\}}$$

- To compute $iD[n]$, the set of blocks (size ≤ 1) that immediately dominate n

- Set $\mathbf{iD[n] = sD[n]}$

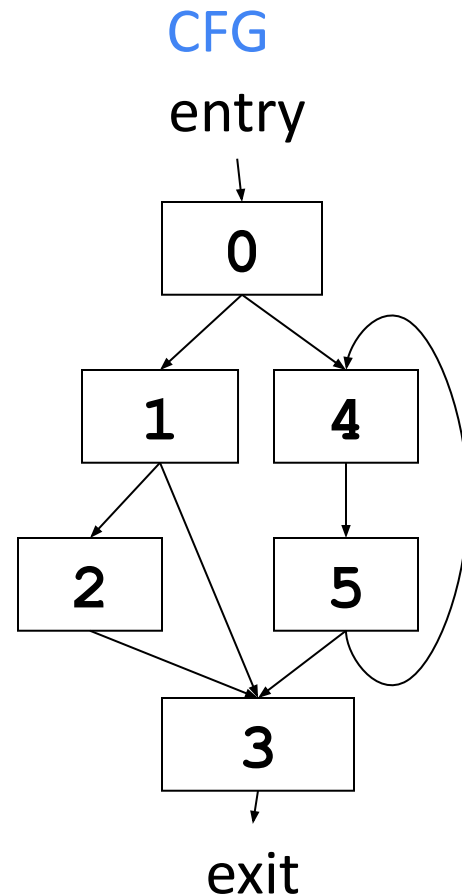
- Repeat until no $iD[n]$ changes:

$$\mathbf{iD[n] = iD[n] - \bigcup_{d \in iD[n]} sD[d]}$$

Example

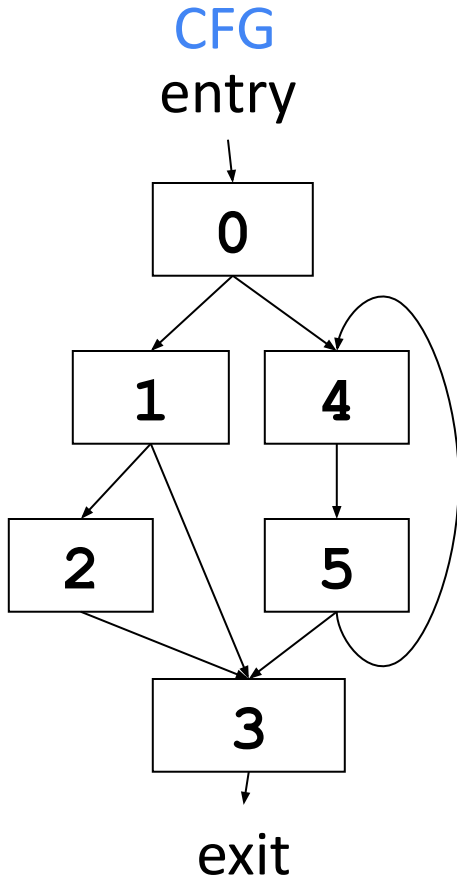
block	Initialization $iD[n]=sD[n]$	First Pass $iD[n]$
entry	{}	{}
0	{entry}	{entry}
1	{0,entry}	{0}
2	{1,0,entry}	{1}
3	{0,entry}	{0}
4	{0,entry}	{0}
5	{4,0,entry}	{4}
exit	{3,0,entry}	{3}

Update rule:
$$iD[n] = iD[n] - \bigcup_{d \in iD[n]} (sD[d])$$

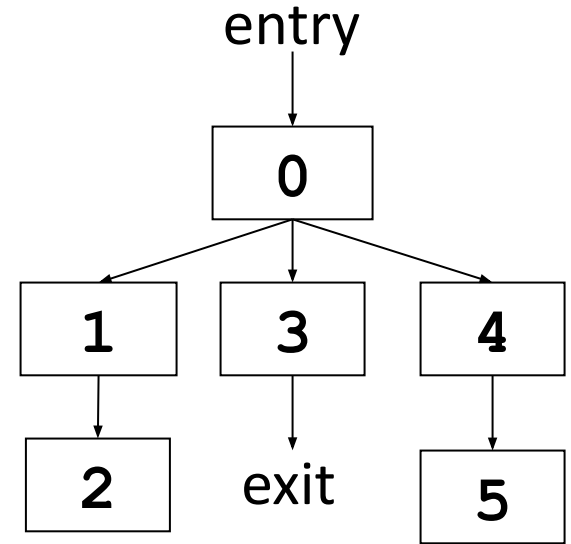


Dominator Tree

In the *dominator tree* the initial node is the entry block, and the parent of each other node is its **immediate dominator**.



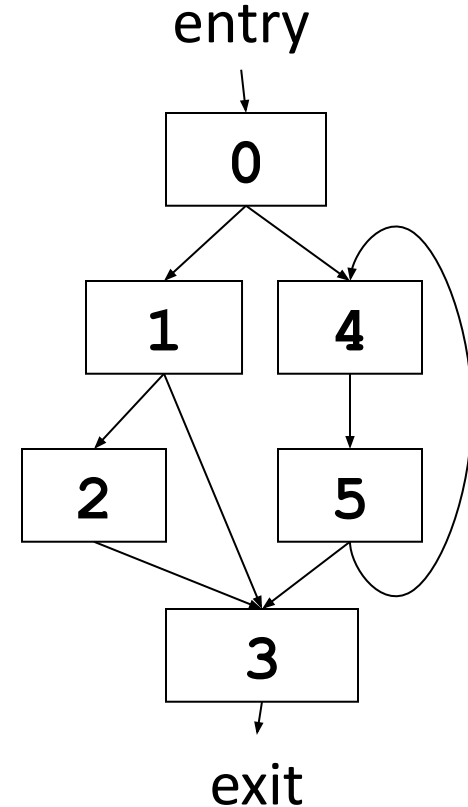
block	iD[n]
entry	{}
0	{entry}
1	{0}
2	{1}
3	{0}
4	{0}
5	{4}
exit	{3}



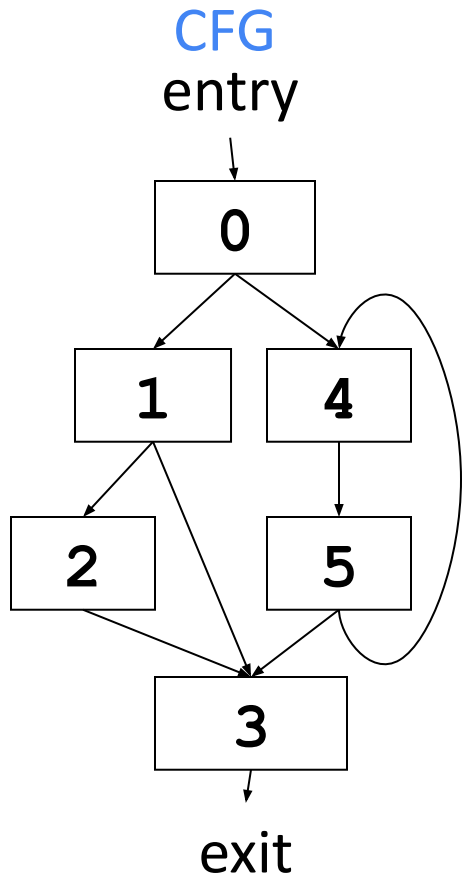
Dominator Tree

Post-Dominance

- Block a post-dominates b (a pdom b) if every path from a to the exit block includes b
- pdom on CFG is the same as dom on the reverse (all edges reversed) CFG
- 0 post-dominates ?
1 post-dominates ?
4 post-dominates ?

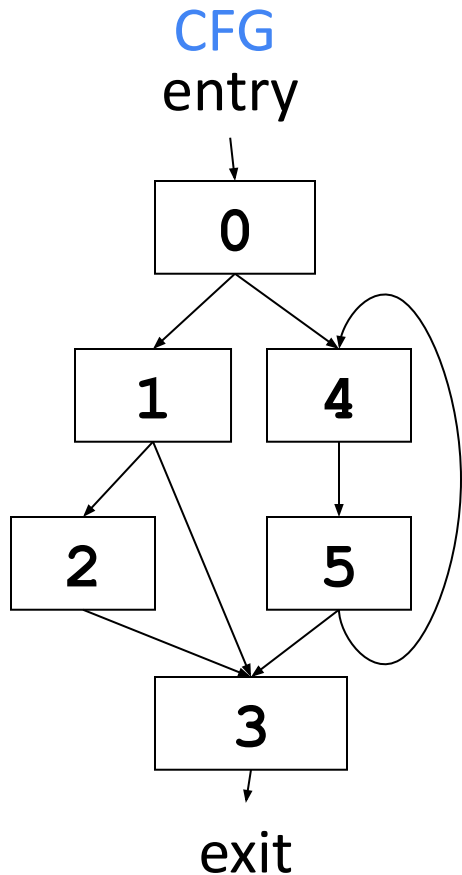


Dominance Frontier

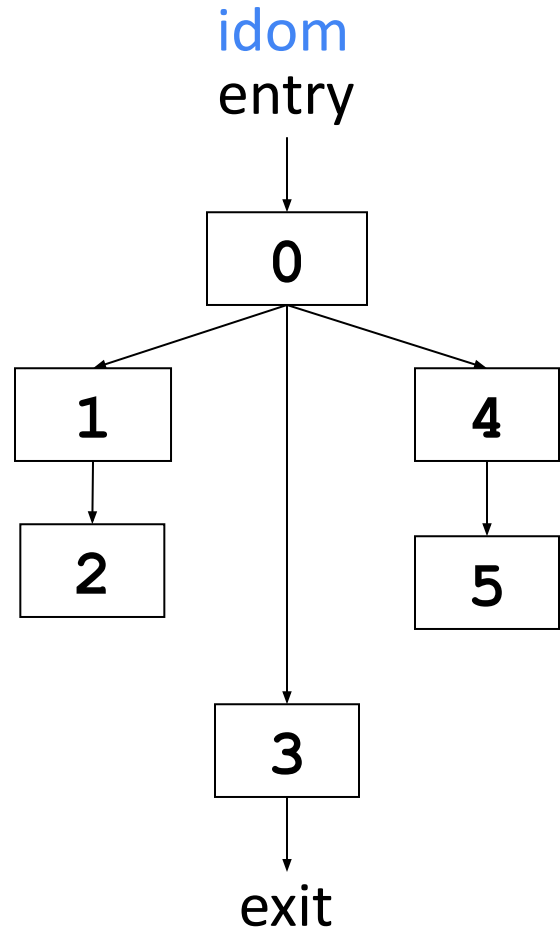
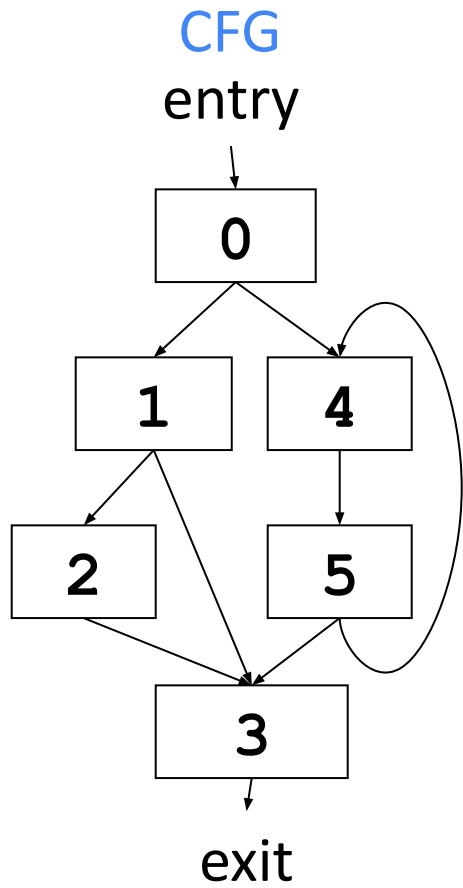


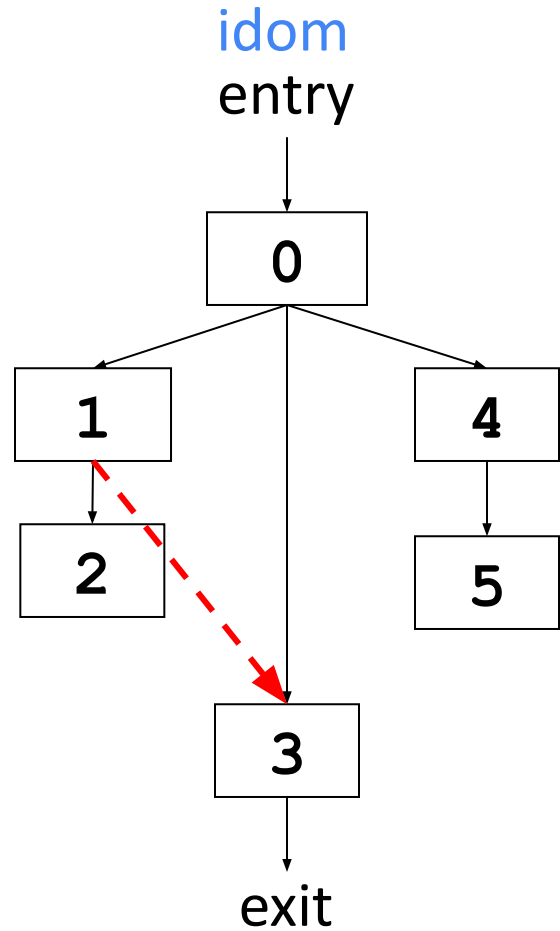
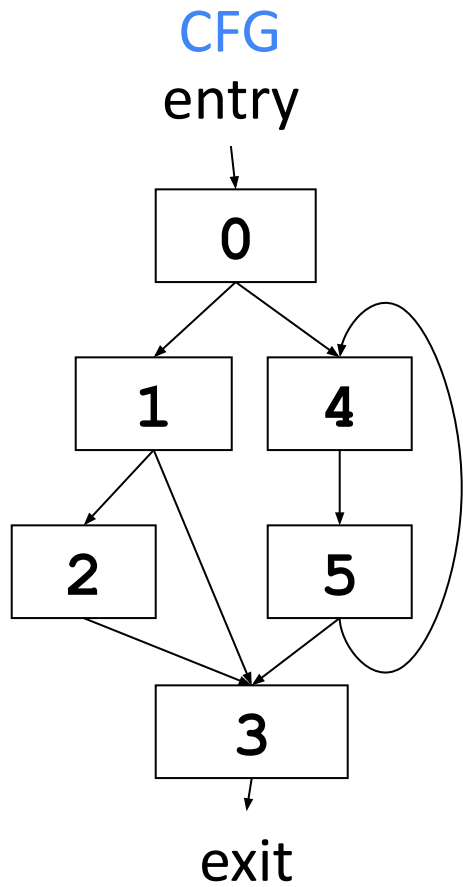
- z is in the dominance frontier of x if z is the first node we encounter on the path from x which x does not *strictly* dominate.
- For some path from node x to z ,
 $x \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow y \rightarrow z$
where $x \text{ dom } y$ but not $x \text{ sdom } z$.
- Intuitively, the dominance frontier consists of nodes “just outside the dominator tree”

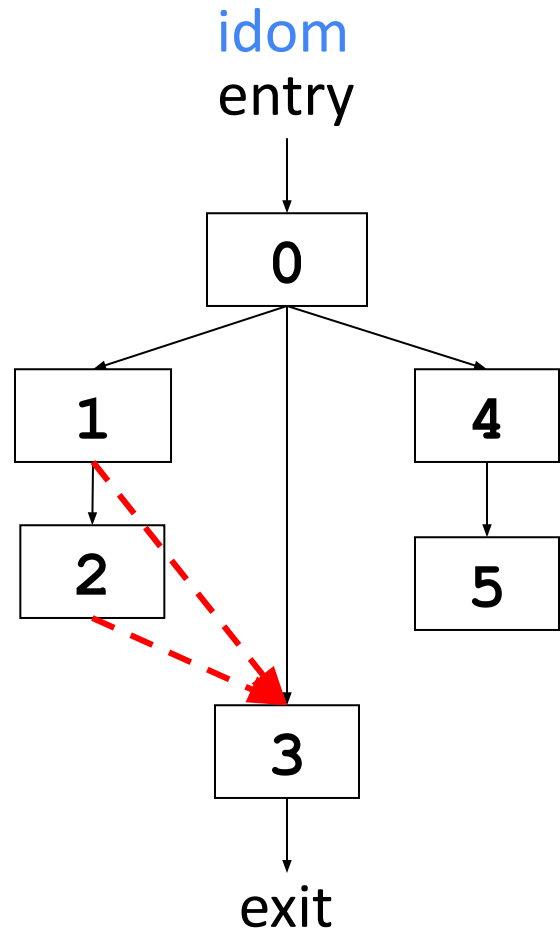
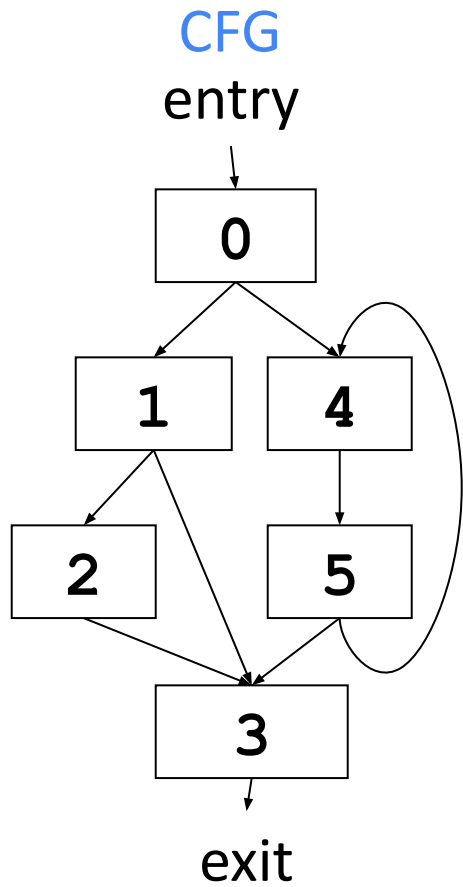
Dominance Frontier

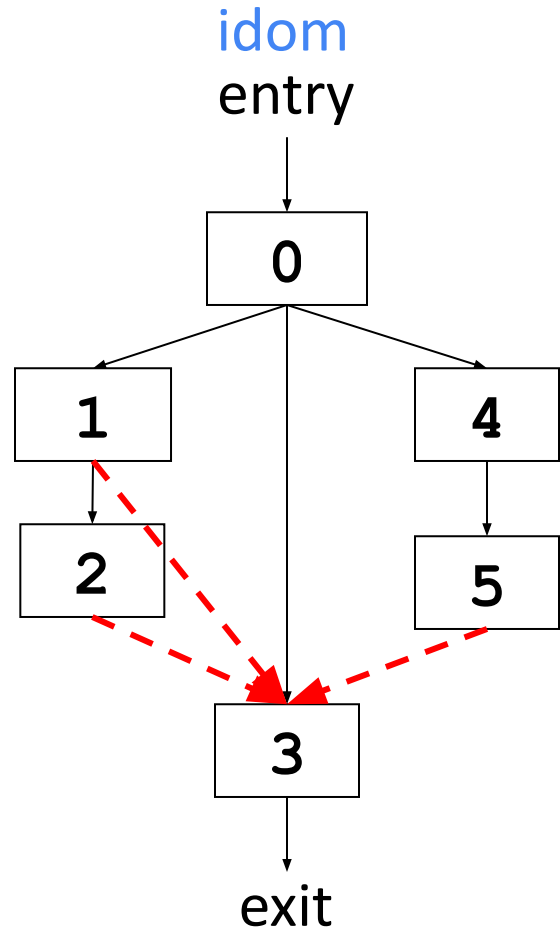
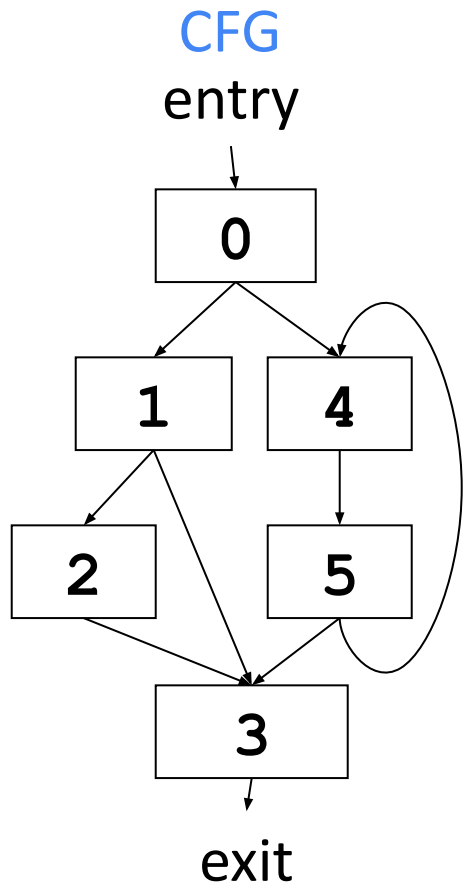


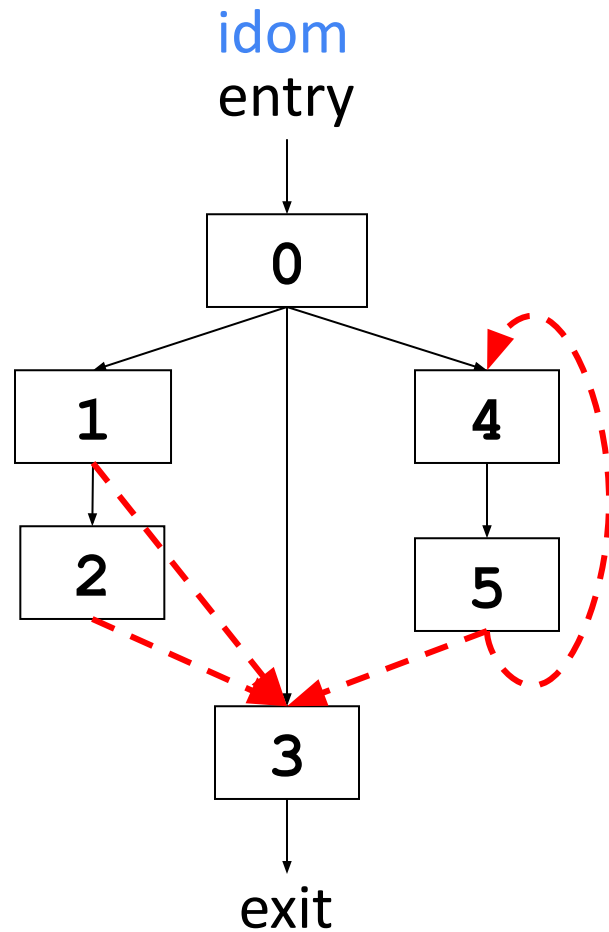
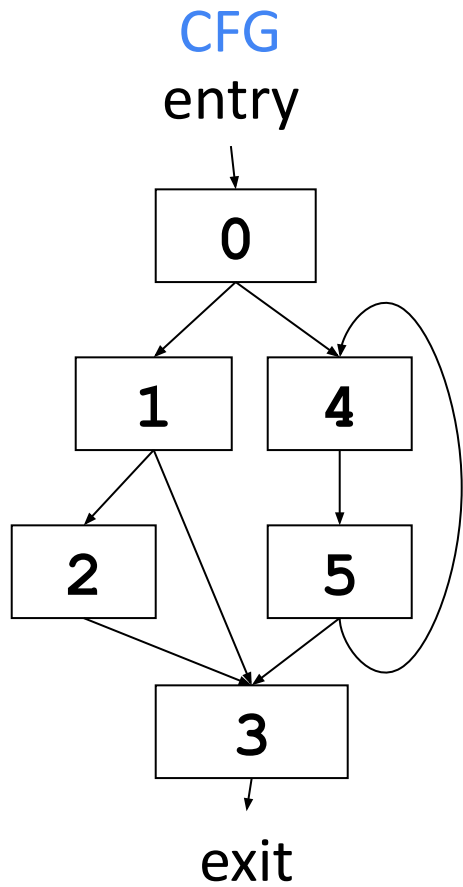
- z is in the dominance frontier of x if z is the first node we encounter on the path from x which x does not *strictly* dominate.
- For some path from node x to z ,
 $x \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow y \rightarrow z$
where $x \text{ dom } y$ but not $x \text{ sdom } z$.
- Dominance frontier of **1**? {3}
- Dominance frontier of **2**? {3}
- Dominance frontier of **4**? {3,4}











Calculating the Dominance Frontier

- Let *dominates*[n] be the set of all blocks which block n dominates
 - subtree of dominator tree with n as the root
- The dominance frontier of n, *DF*[n] is

$$DF[n] = \bigcup_{s \in \text{dominates}[n]} \text{succ}(s) - \text{dominates}[n] - \{n\}$$

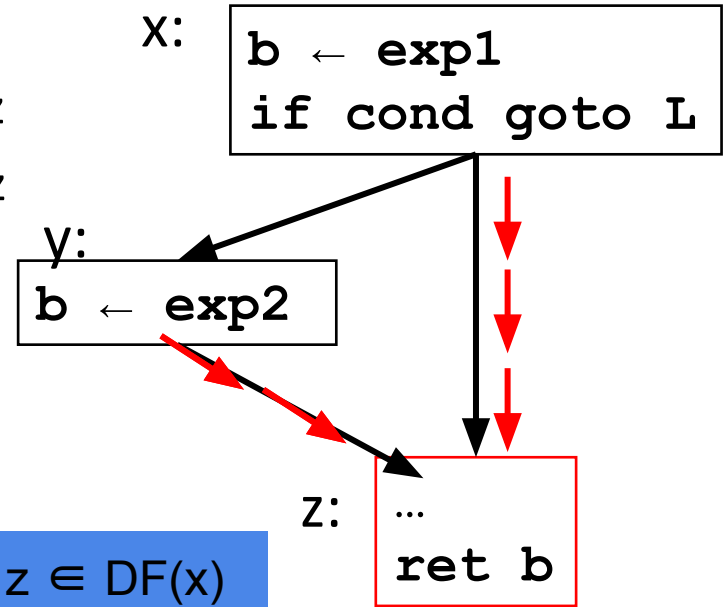
Recap

- $a \text{ dom } b$
 - every possible execution path from *entry* to b includes a
- $a \text{ sdom } b$
 - $a \text{ dom } b$ and $a \neq b$
- $a \text{ idom } b$
 - a is “closest” dominator of b
- $a \text{ pdom } b$
 - every path from a to the exit block includes b
- Dominator trees
- Dominance frontier

Back to inserting Φ s

Require a Φ -function for variable \underline{b} at node \underline{z} of the flow graph:

- There is a block x containing a def of b
- There is a block $y \neq x$ containing a def of b
- There is a nonempty path P_{xz} of edges from x to z
- There is a nonempty path P_{yz} of edges from y to z
- Paths P_{xz} and P_{yz} do not have any node in common other than z , and...
- The node z does not appear within both P_{xz} and P_{yz} prior to the end, though it may appear in one or the other.

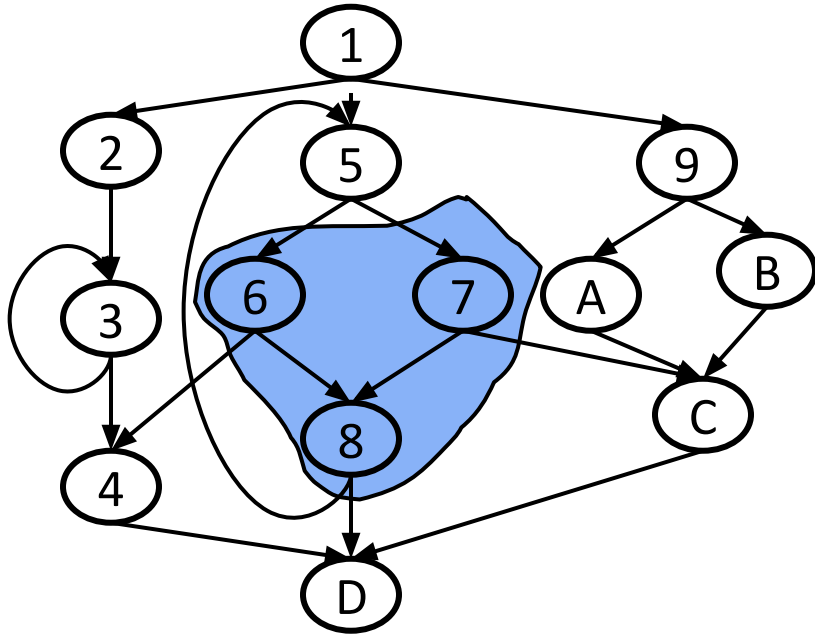


In other words, $z \in DF(x)$

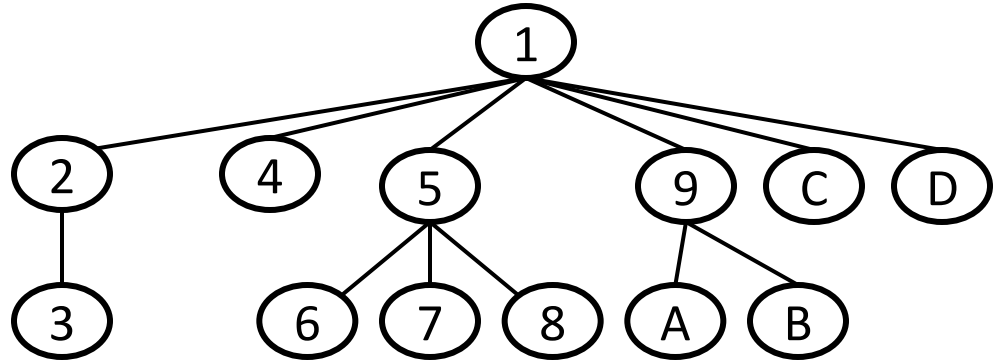
Using Dominance for SSA Construction

- **Dominance-Frontier Criterion:** Whenever node x contains a definition of some variable a , then any node $z \in DF(x)$, z needs a Φ -function for a .
- **Iterated dominance frontier:** since a Φ -function itself is a definition, we must iterate the dominance-frontier criterion until there are no nodes that need Φ -functions.

Dominance



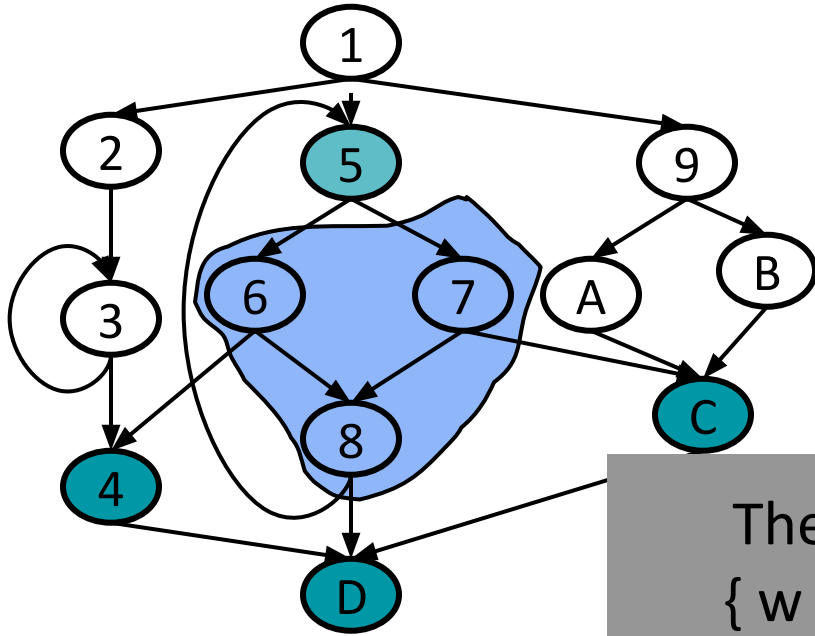
CFG



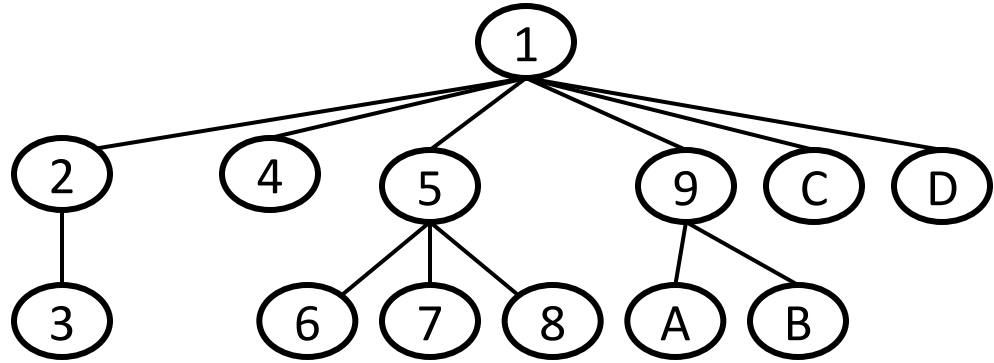
D-Tree

If there is a def of a in block 5, which nodes need a $\Phi()$?

Dominance Frontier



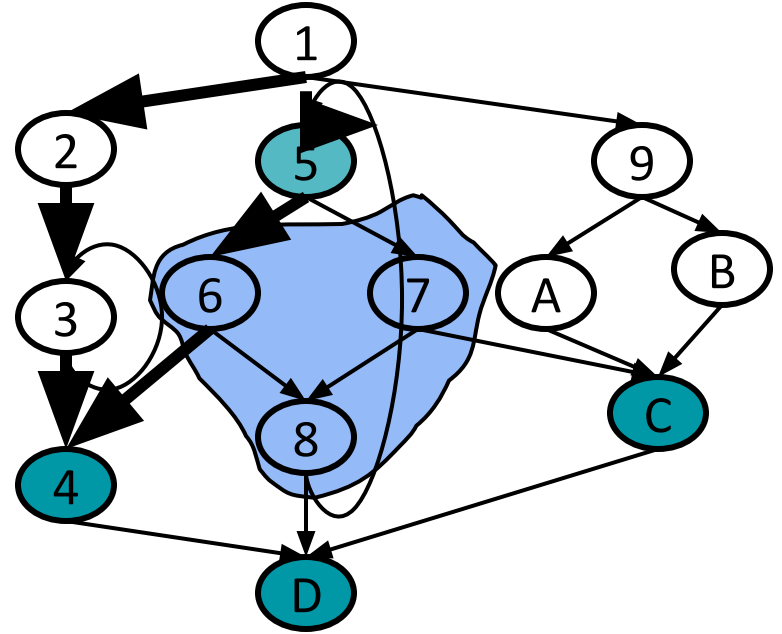
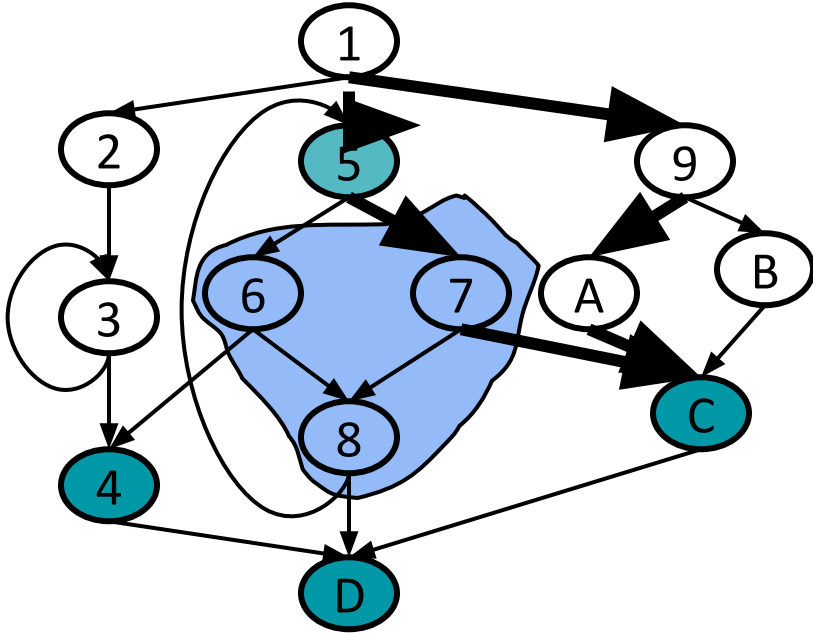
CFG



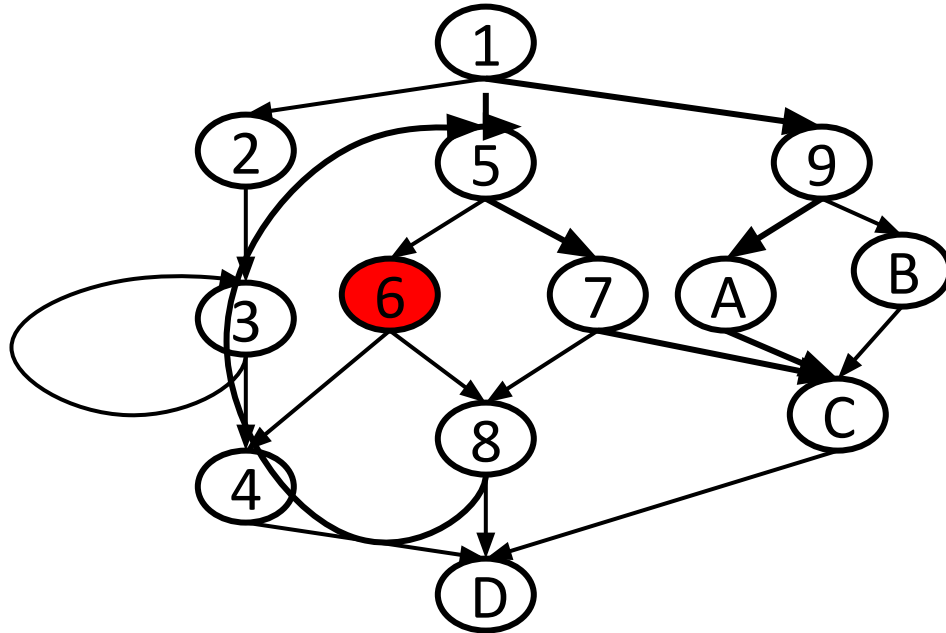
D-Tree

The dominance Frontier of a node $x = \{ w \mid x \text{ dom pred}(w) \text{ AND } !(x \text{ sdom } w) \}$

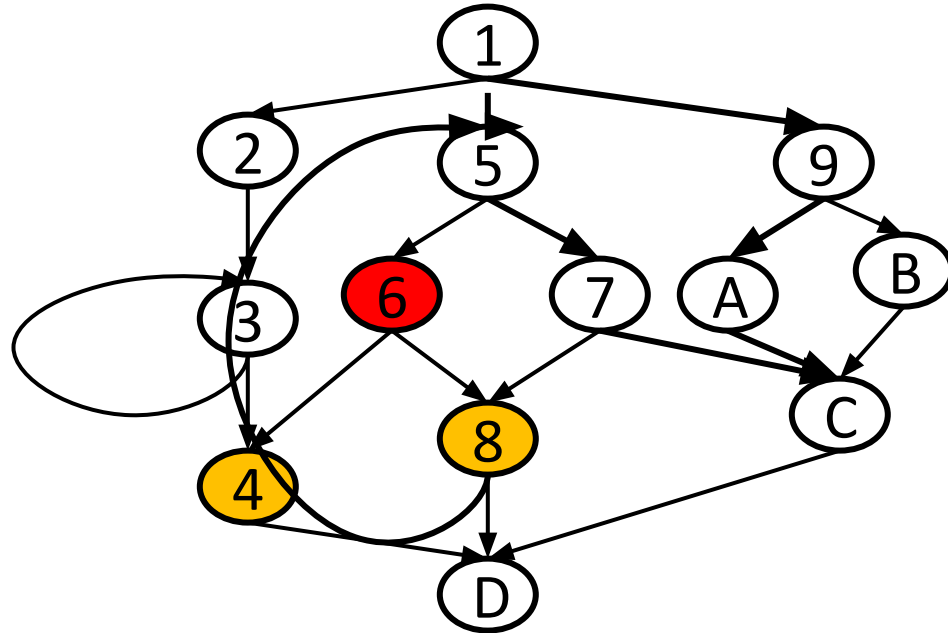
Dominance Frontier & path-convergence



Dominance Frontier Criterion

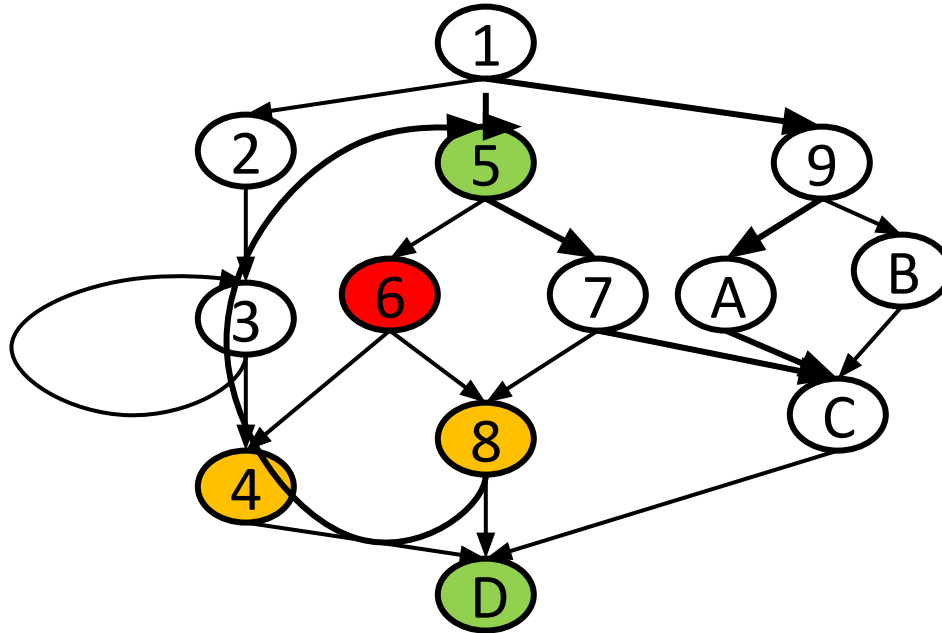


Dominance Frontier Criterion



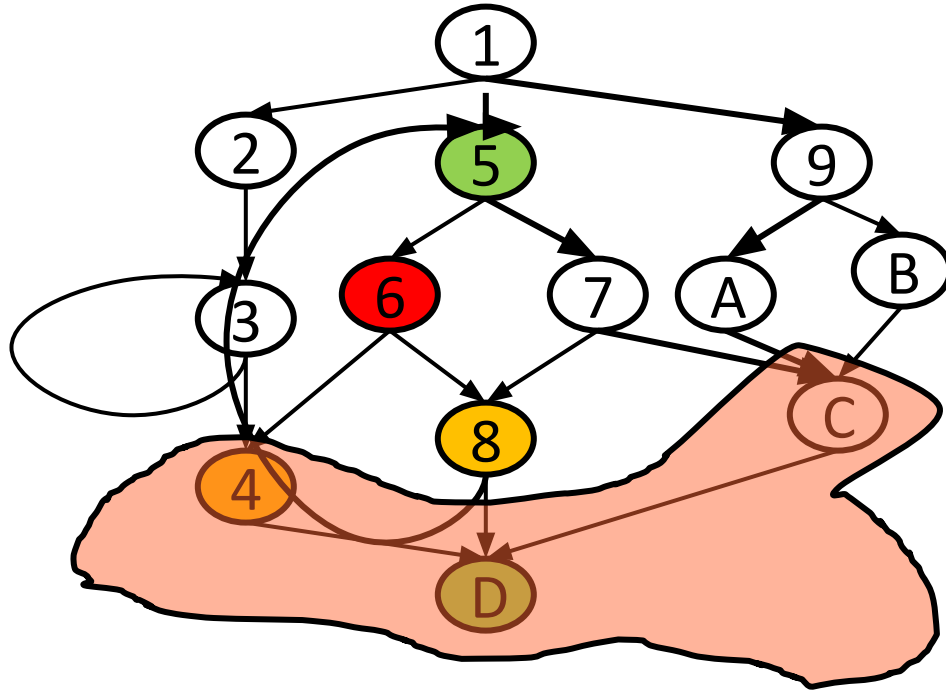
And, Iterating

Dominance Frontier Criterion



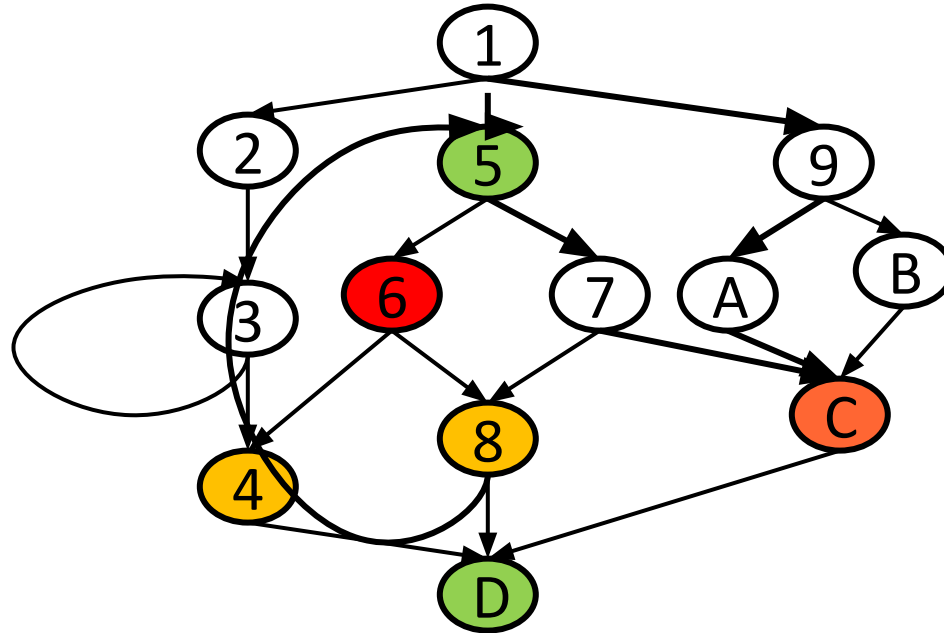
And, Iterating

Dominance Frontier Criterion



And, Iterating

Dominance Frontier Criterion



Done

Computing Dominance Frontier

- We just covered a $O(n^3)$ iterative algorithm – *embarrassing!*
- There's also a near linear time algorithm due to Tarjan and Lengauer (Chap 19.2)
 - SSA construction therefore near linear
 - SSA form makes many optimizations linear (no need for iterative data flow)

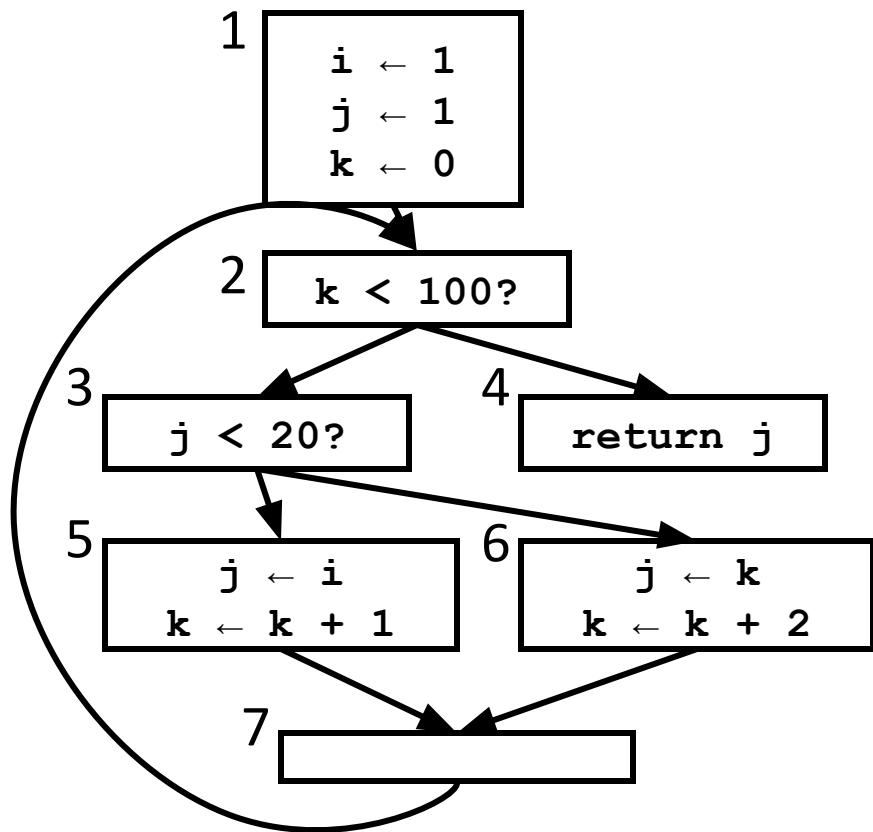
Using DF to Place $\Phi()$

- Gather all the defsites of every variable
- Then, for every variable
 - foreach defsitem
 - foreach node in DF(defsite)
 - if we haven't put $\Phi()$ in node put one in
 - If this node didn't define the variable before: add this node to the defsites
- This essentially computes the Iterated Dominance Frontier on the fly, creating minimal SSA

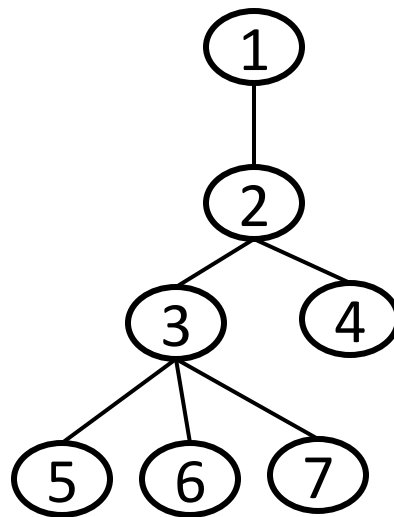
Using DF to Place $\Phi()$

```
foreach node n {
  foreach variable v defined in n {
    orig[n] U= {v}
    defsites[v] U= {n}
  }
  foreach variable v {
    W = defsites[v]
    while W not empty {
      foreach y in DF[n]
        if y  $\notin$  PHI[v] {
          insert "v  $\leftarrow \Phi(v, v, \dots)$ " at top of y
          PHI[v] = PHI[v] U {y}
          if v  $\notin$  orig[y]: W = W U {y}
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

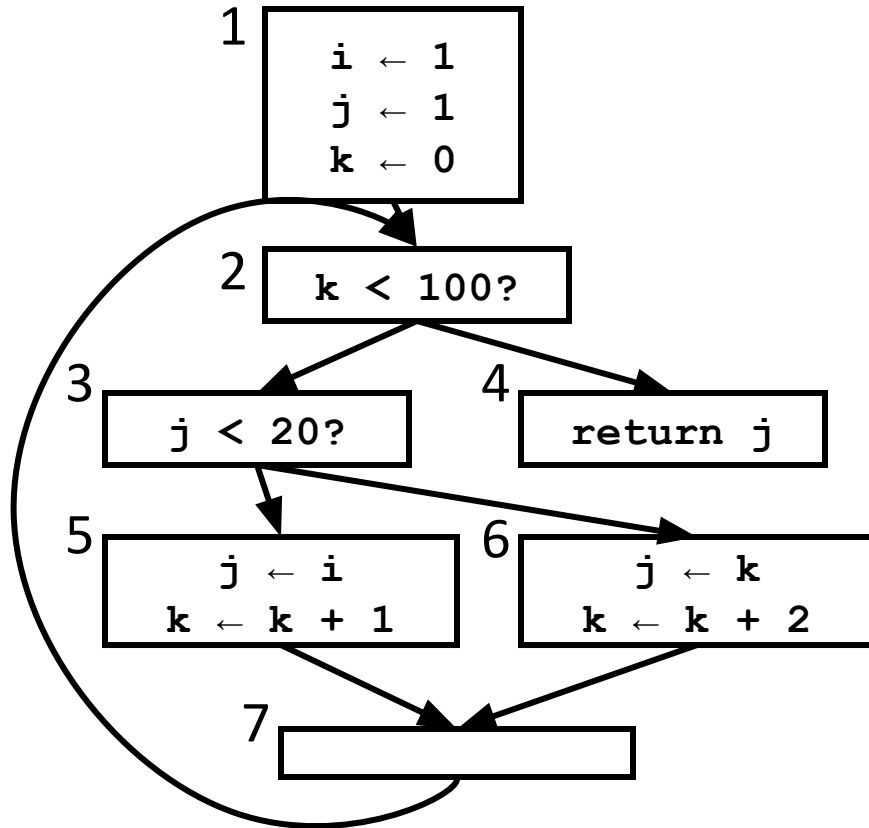
Computing SSA



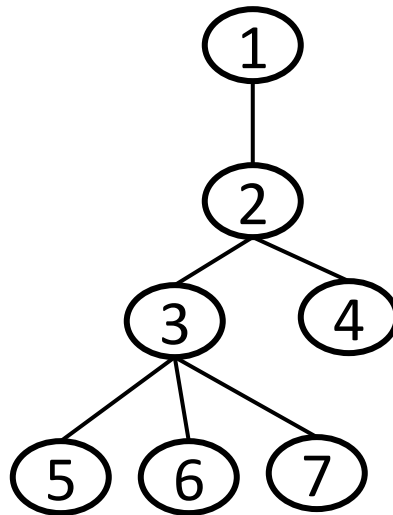
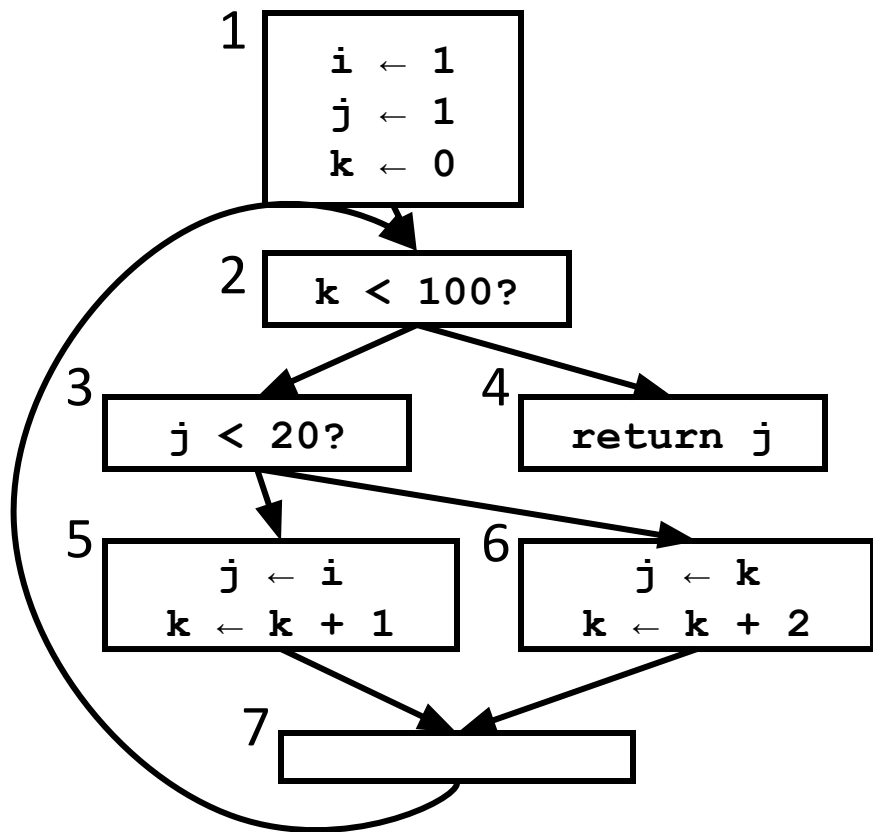
D-tree



Compute D-tree



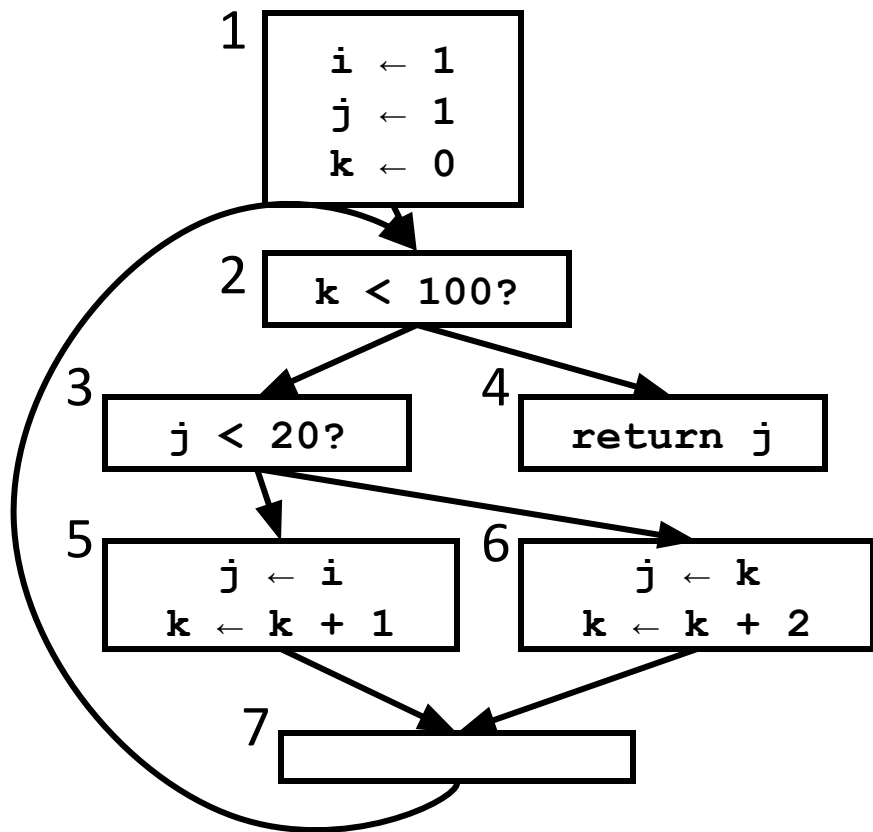
Compute Dominance Frontier (DFs)



DFs

1	{}
2	{2}
3	{2}
4	{}
5	{7}
6	{7}
7	{2}

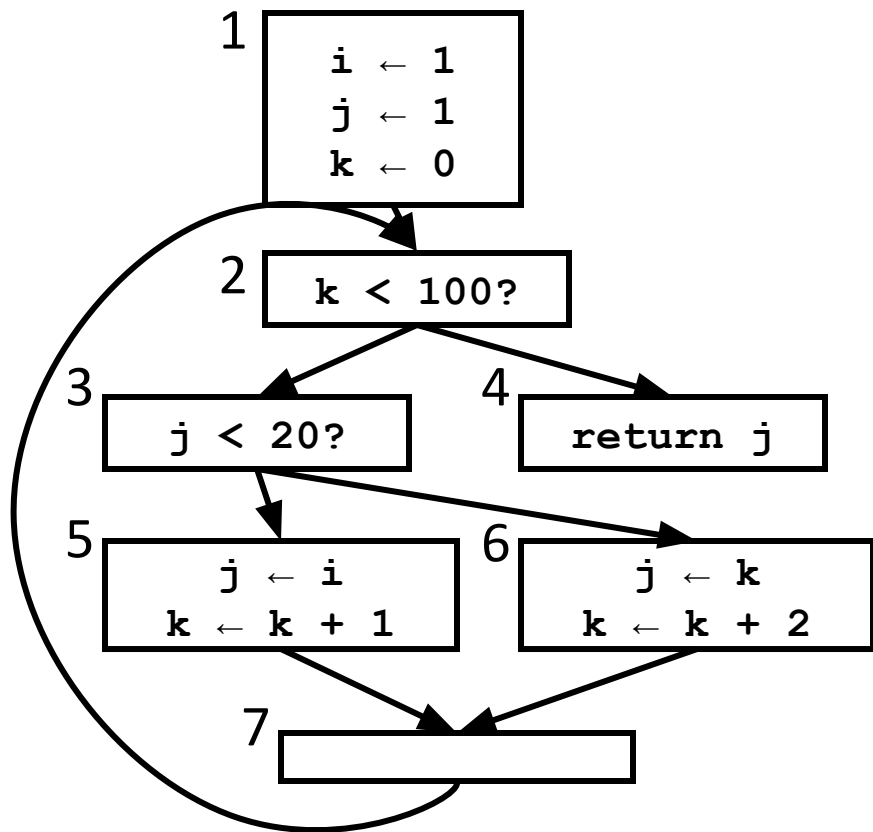
Compute defsites



DFs	orig[n]	defsites[v]
1 {}	1 { i,j,k}	i {1}
2 {2}	2 {}	j {1,5,6}
3 {2}	3 {}	k {1,5,6}
4 {}	4 {}	
5 {7}	5 {j,k}	
6 {7}	6 {j,k}	
7 {2}	7 {}	

var j: W={1,5,6}

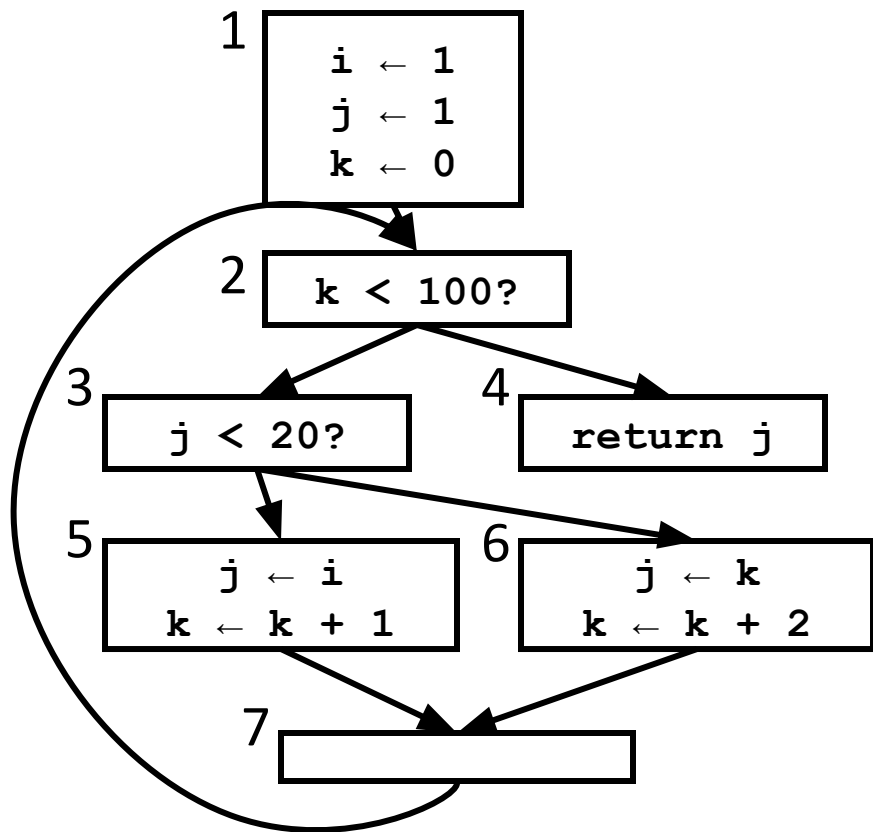
Inspect variables



DFs	orig[n]	defsites[v]
1 {}	1 { i,j,k}	i {1}
2 {2}	2 {}	j {1,5,6}
3 {2}	3 {}	k {1,5,6}
4 {}	4 {}	
5 {7}	5 {j,k}	
6 {7}	6 {j,k}	
7 {2}	7 {}	

var j: W={1,5,6}

Insert ϕ for j

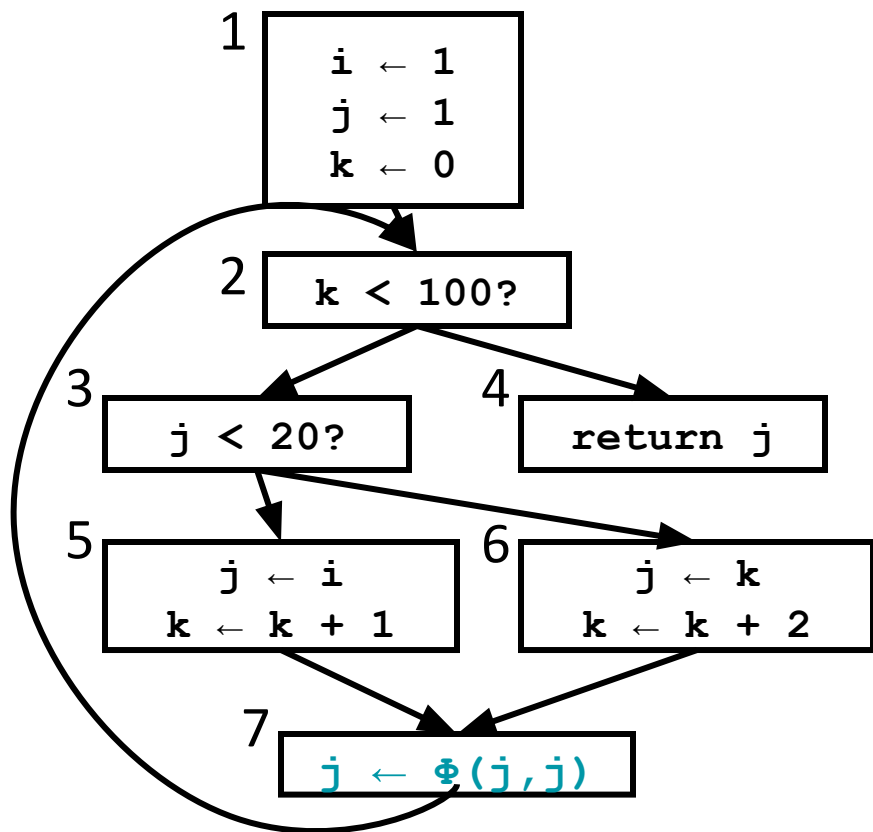


DFs	orig[n]	defsites[v]
1 {}	1 {i,j,k}	i {1}
2 {2}	2 {}	j {1,5,6}
3 {2}	3 {}	k {1,5,6}
4 {}	4 {}	
5 {7}	5 {j,k}	
6 {7}	6 {j,k}	
7 {2}	7 {}	

var j : $W=\{1,5,6\}$

$$DF[1] \cup DF[5] \cup DF[6] = \{7\}$$

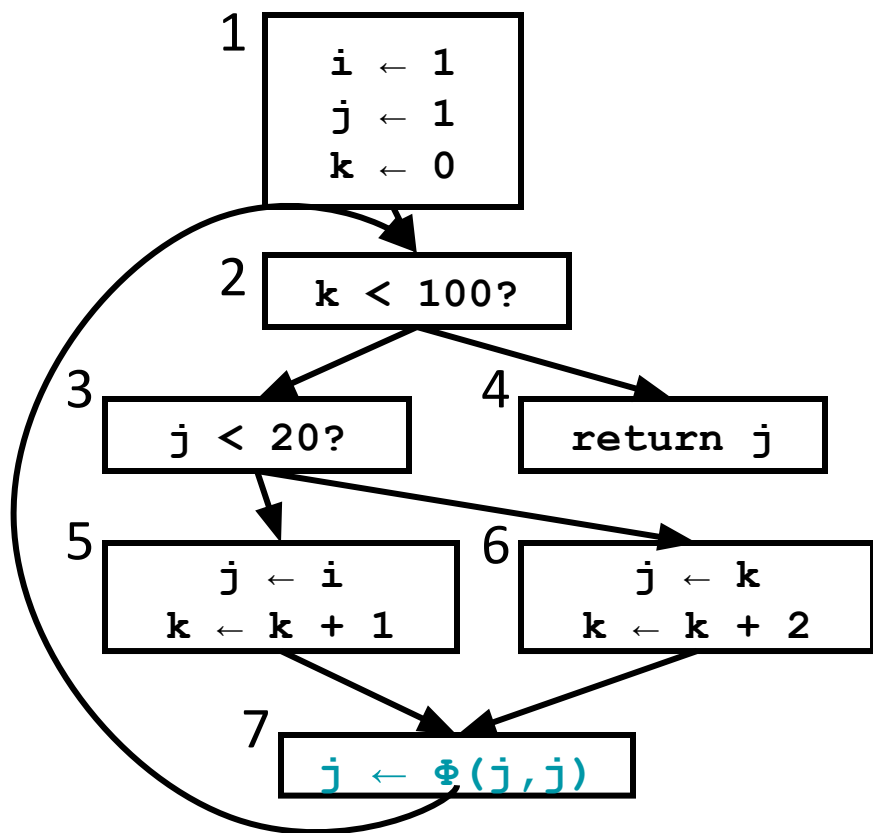
Insert ϕ for j



DFs	orig[n]	defsites[v]
1 {}	1 { i,j,k }	i {1}
2 {2}	2 {}	j {1,5,6}
3 {2}	3 {}	k {1,5,6}
4 {}	4 {}	
5 {7}	5 {j,k}	
6 {7}	6 {j,k}	
7 {2}	7 {}	

var j : $W=\{1,5,6\}$

Handle new write for j

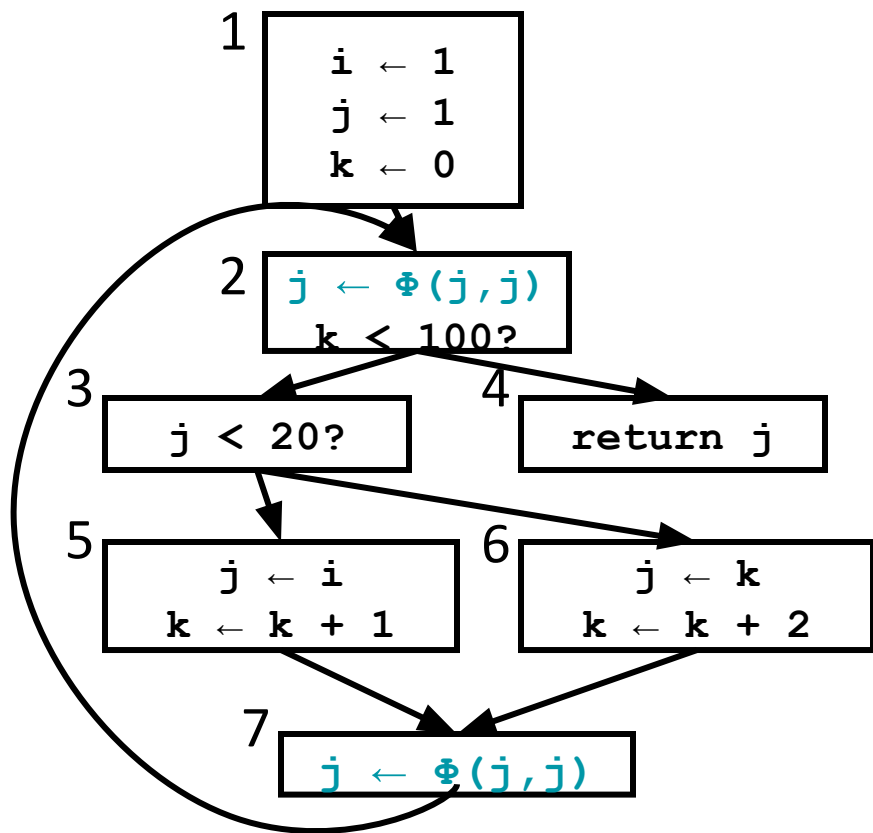


DFs	orig[n]	defsites[v]
1 {}	1 { i,j,k}	i {1}
2 {2}	2 {}	j {1,5,6}
3 {2}	3 {}	k {1,5,6}
4 {}	4 {}	
5 {7}	5 {j,k}	
6 {7}	6 {j,k}	
7 {2}	7 {}	

var j: W={1,5,6,7}

$$DF[1] \cup DF[5] \cup DF[6] \cup DF[7] = \{7,2\}$$

Insert more ϕ for j

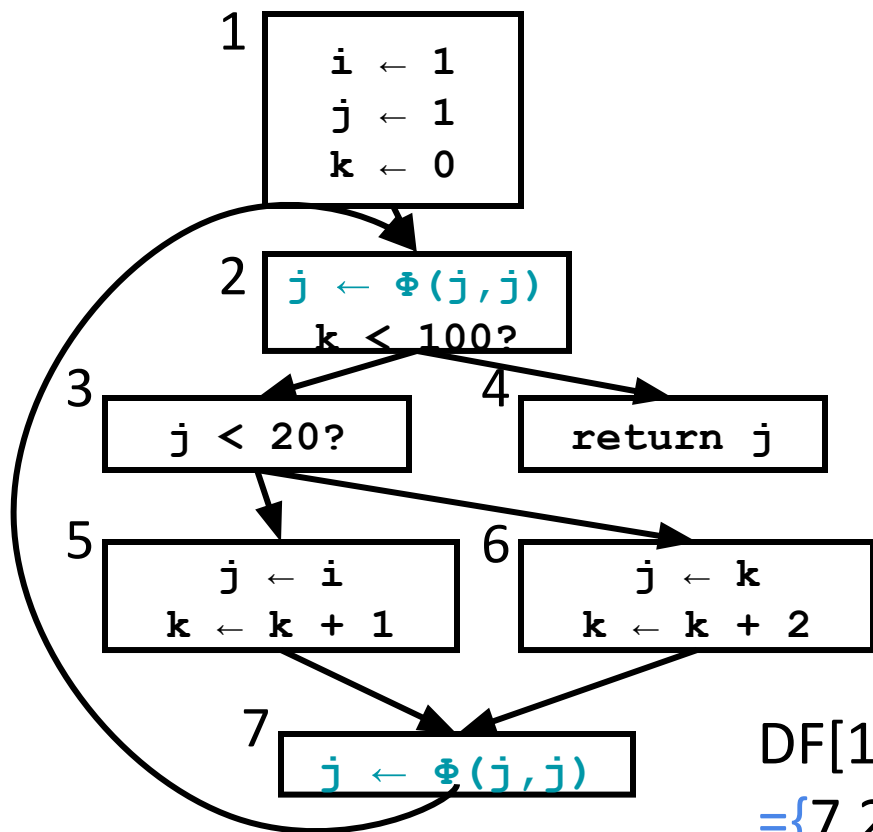


DFs	orig[n]	defsites[v]
1 {}	1 {i,j,k}	i {1}
2 {2}	2 {}	j {1,5,6}
3 {2}	3 {}	k {1,5,6}
4 {}	4 {}	
5 {7}	5 {j,k}	
6 {7}	6 {j,k}	
7 {2}	7 {}	

var j: W={1,5,6,7}

$$DF[1] \cup DF[5] \cup DF[6] \cup DF[7] = \{7,2\}$$

Update writes for j



DFs	orig[n]	defsites[v]
1 {}	1 { i,j,k}	i {1}
2 {2}	2 {}	j {1,5,6}
3 {2}	3 {}	k {1,5,6}
4 {}	4 {}	
5 {7}	5 {j,k}	
6 {7}	6 {j,k}	
7 {2}	7 {}	

var j: W={1,5,6,7,2}

$$DF[1] \cup DF[5] \cup DF[6] \cup DF[7] \cup DF[2] = \{7,2\}$$

Renaming Variables

- Placing ϕ is not enough, need to update names
- Walk down the dominator tree, renaming variables incrementally
- Replace uses with most recent renamed def
 - For straight-line code this is easy
 - If there are branches and joins?

Renaming for Straight-Line Code

- Need to extend for ϕ -functions.
- Need to maintain property that definitions dominate uses.

for each variable a :

Count[a] = 0

Stack[a] = [0]

renameBasicBlock(B):

for each instruction S in block B :

for each use of a variable x in S :

$i = \text{top}(\text{Stack}[x])$

replace the use of x with x_i

for each variable a that S defines

count[a] = Count[a] + 1

$i = \text{Count}[a]$

push i onto Stack[a]

replace definition of a with a_i

Renaming in CFG

rename(n):

renameBasicBlock(n)

for each successor Y of n, **where** n is the j^{th} predecessor of Y:

for each phi-function f in Y, **where** the operand of f is 'a'

$i = \text{top}(\text{Stack}[a])$

replace j^{th} operand with a_i

for each child of n in D-tree, X:

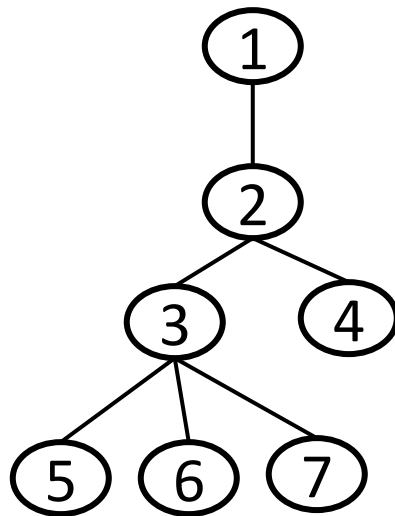
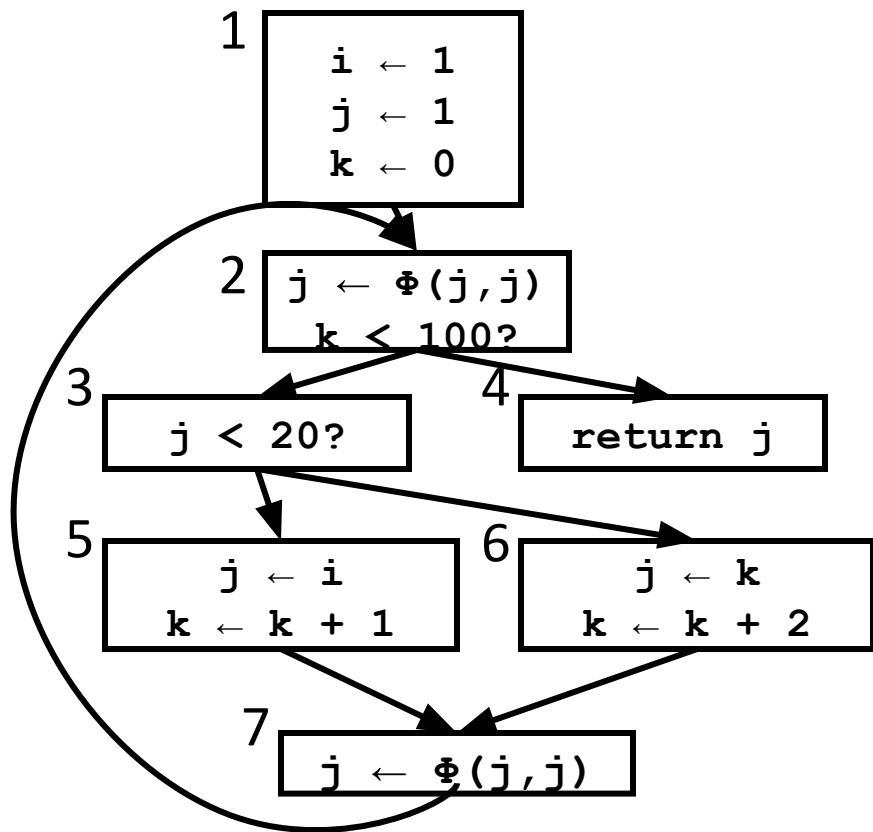
rename(X)

for each instruction $S \in n$:

for each variable v that S defines:

pop Stack[v]

Rename j variables



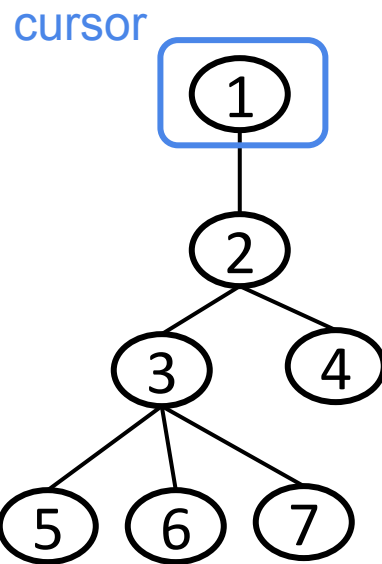
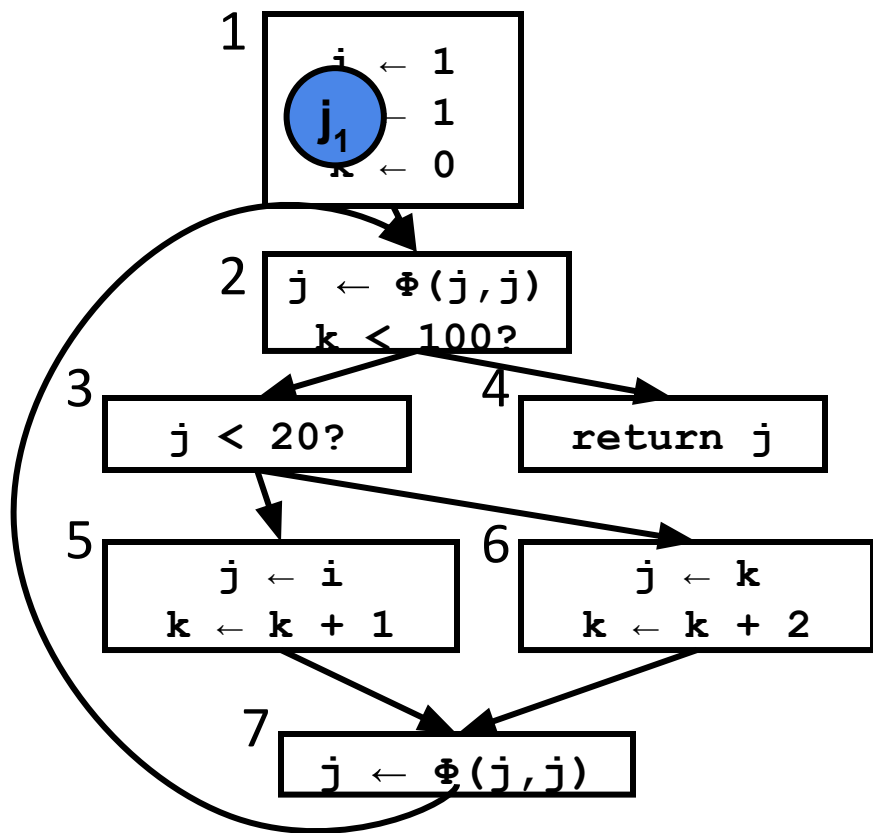
defsites[v]

i {1}

j {1,5,6,7,2}

k {1,5,6}

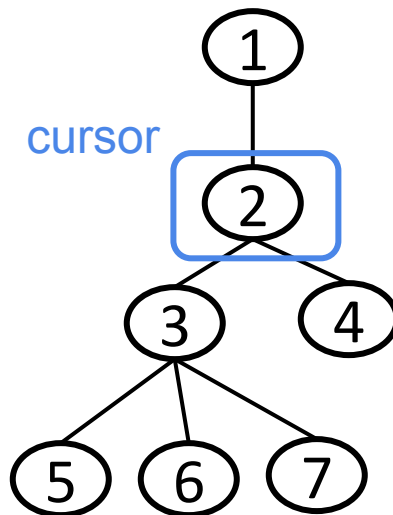
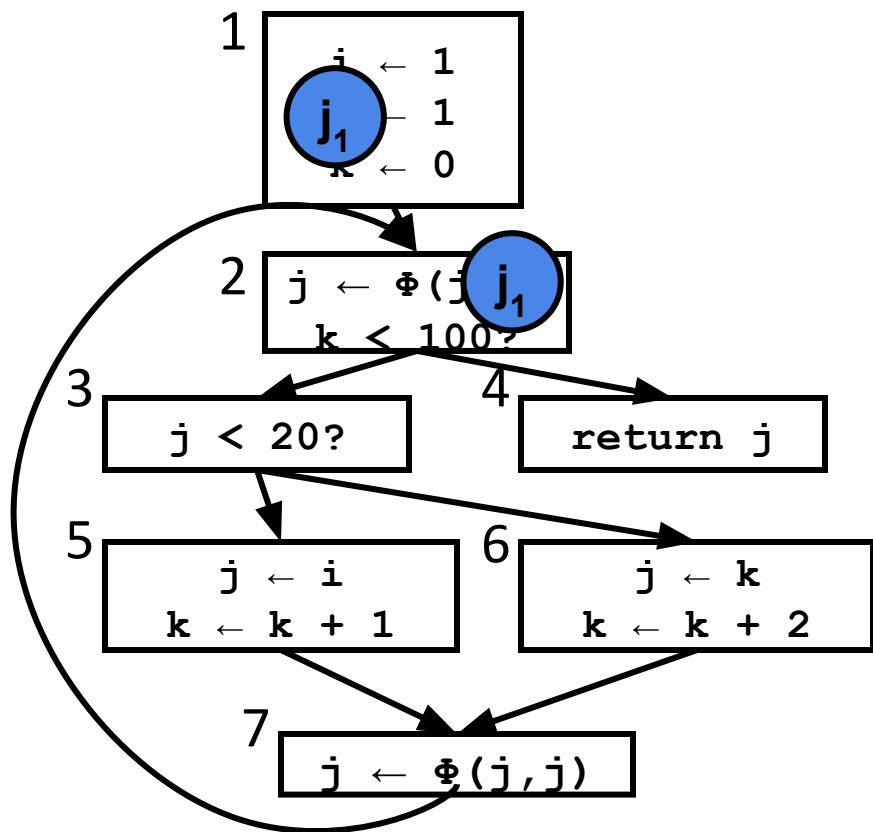
Rename j variables



defsites[v]

i {1}
j {1,5,6,7,2}
k {1,5,6}

Rename j variables



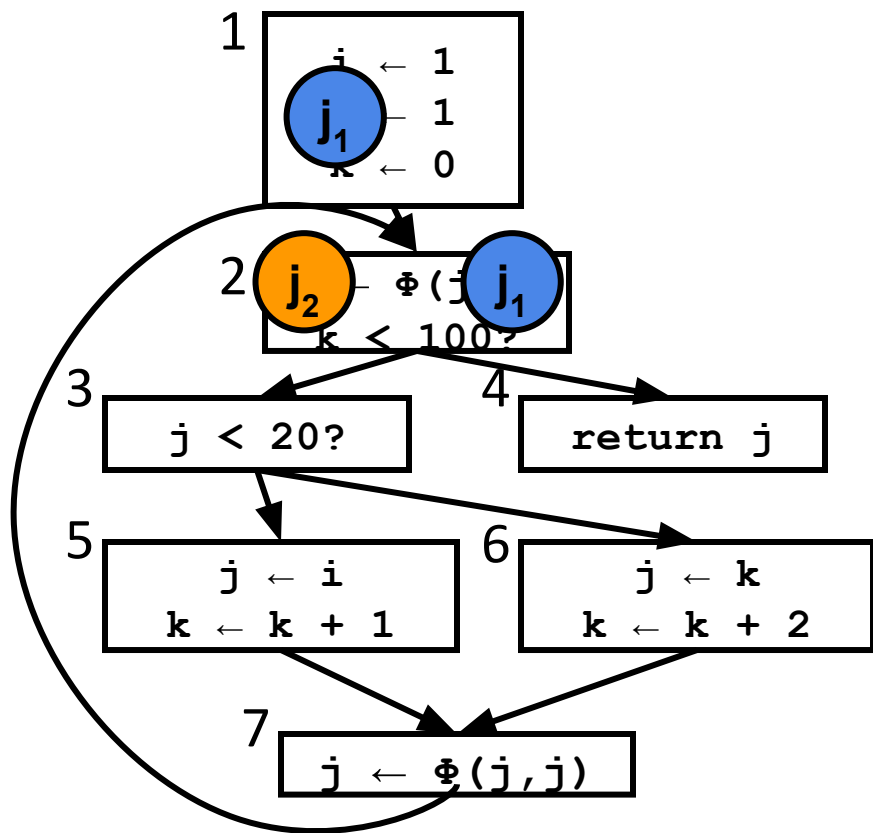
defsites[v]

i {1}

j {1,5,6,7,2}

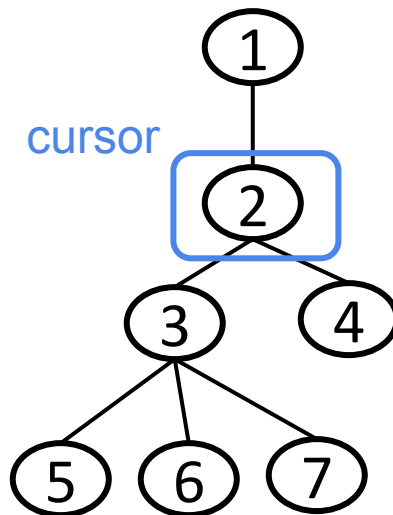
k {1,5,6}

Rename j variables

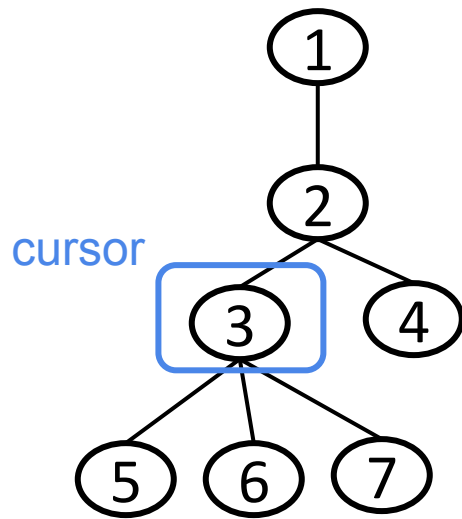
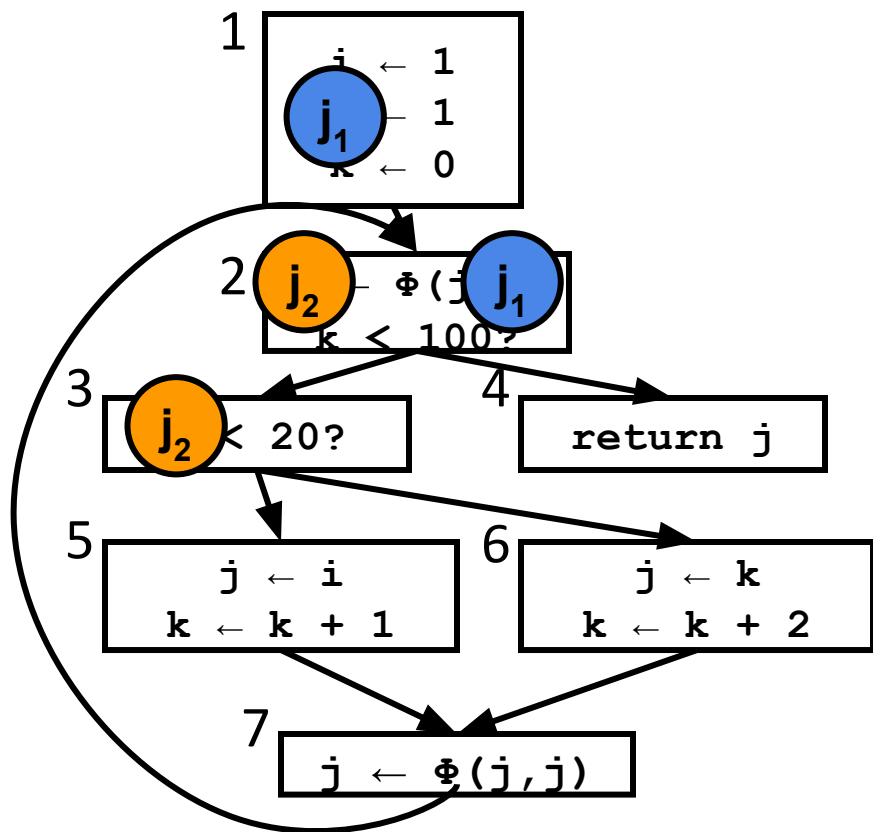


defsites[v]

i {1}
j {1,5,6,7,2}
k {1,5,6}



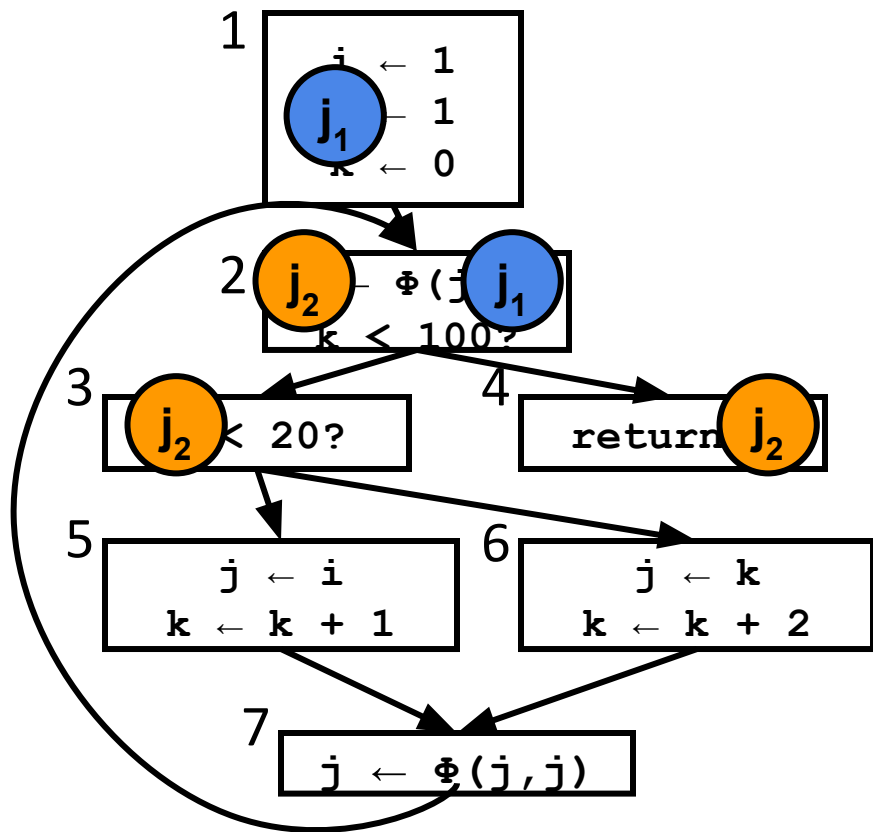
Rename j variables



defsites[v]

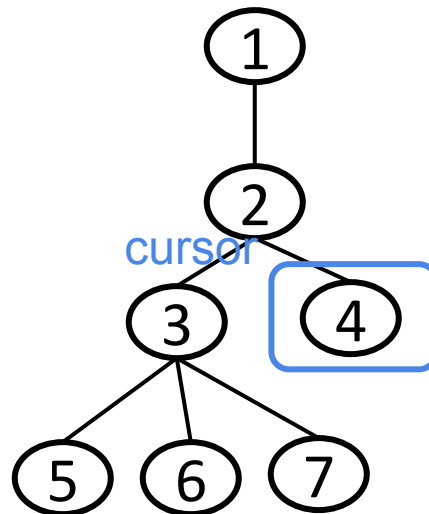
- i {1}
- j {1,5,6,7,2}
- k {1,5,6}

Rename j variables

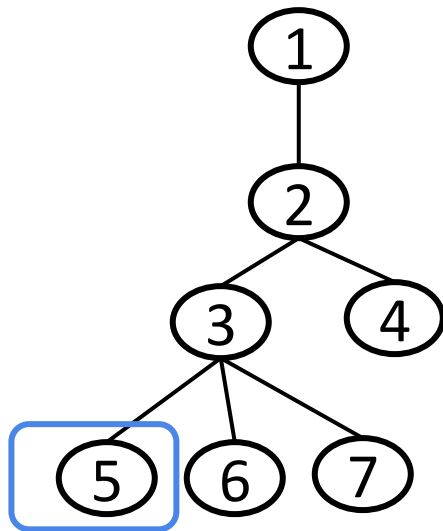
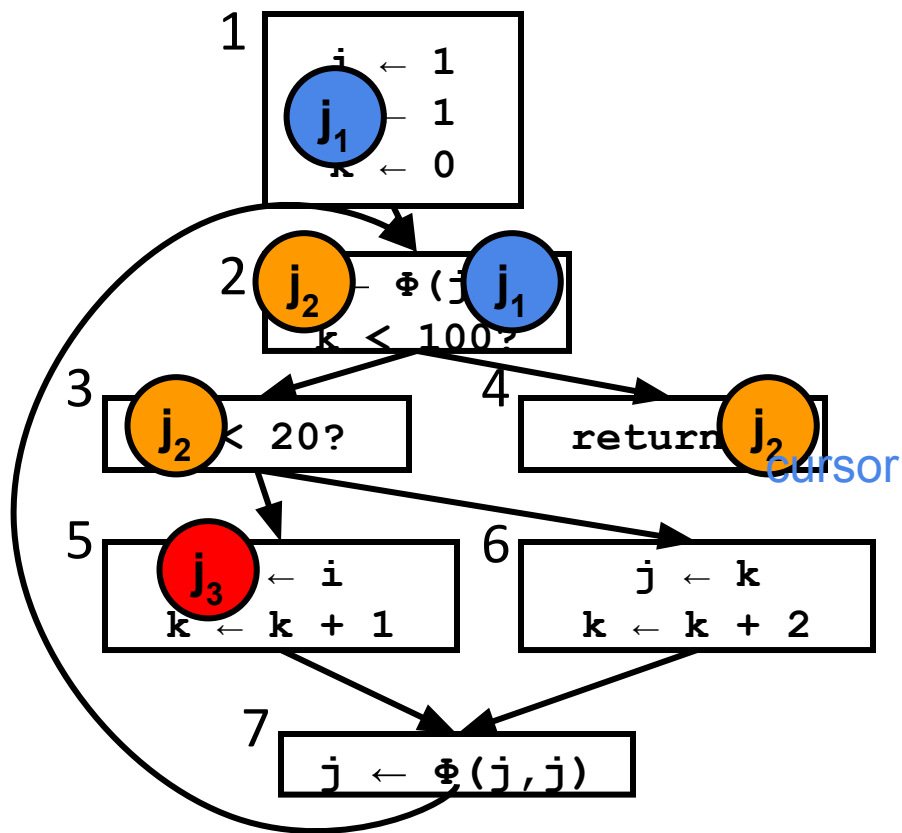


defsites[v]

i {1}
j {1,5,6,7,2}
k {1,5,6}



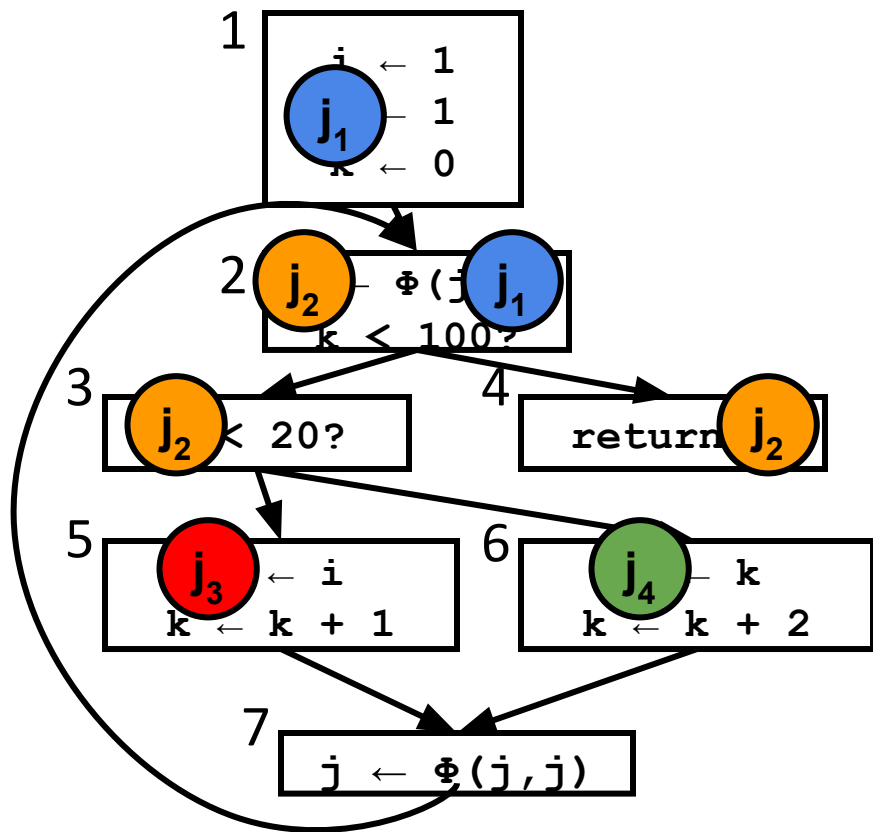
Rename j variables



defsites[v]

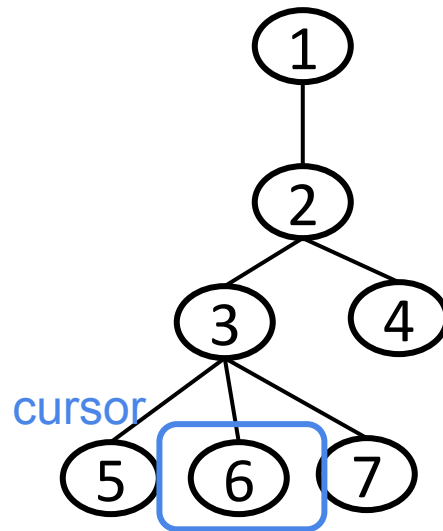
i {1}
j {1,5,6,7,2}
k {1,5,6}

Rename j variables

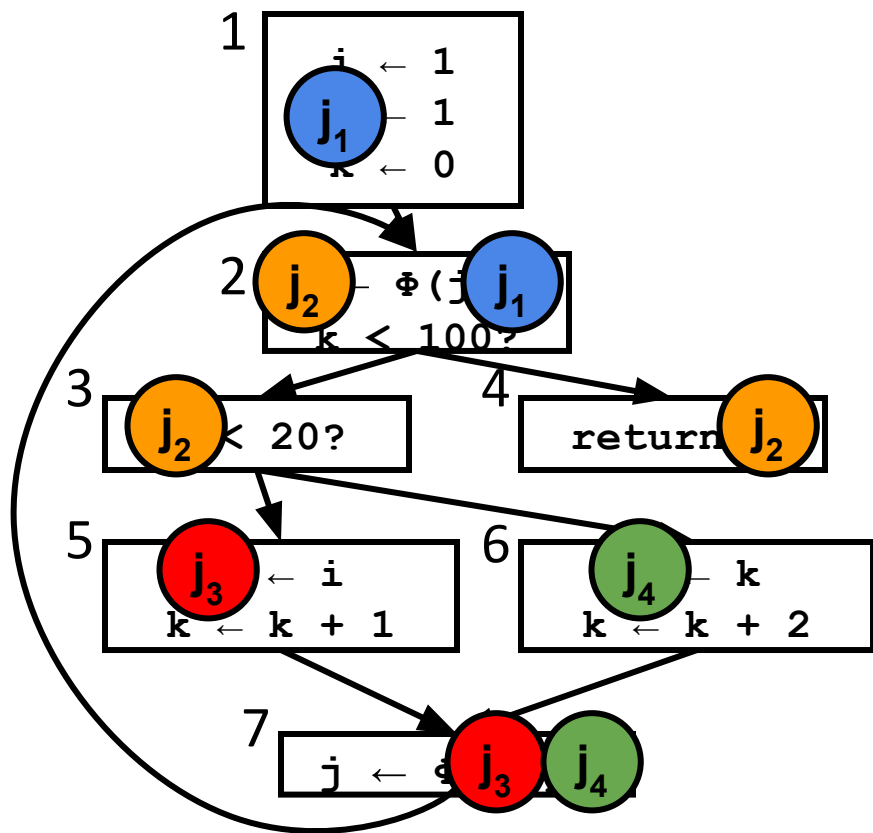


defsites[v]

i {1}
j {1,5,6,7,2}
k {1,5,6}

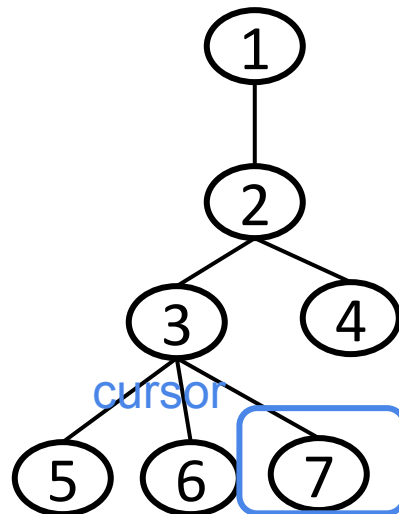


Rename j variables

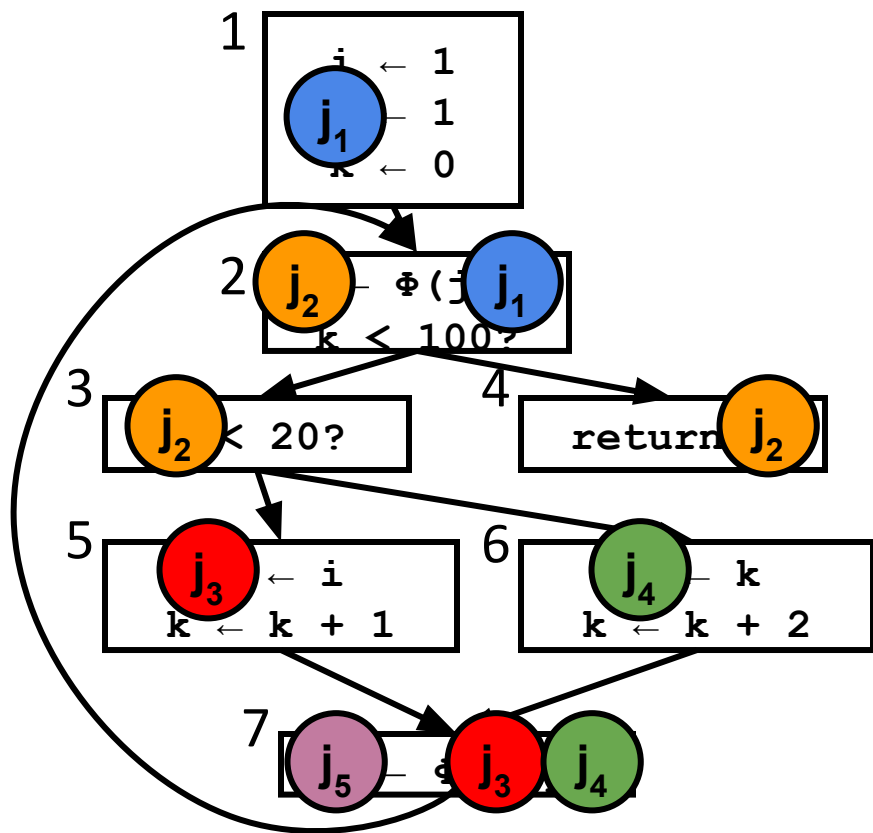


defsites[v]

- i {1}
- j {1,5,6,7,2}
- k {1,5,6}

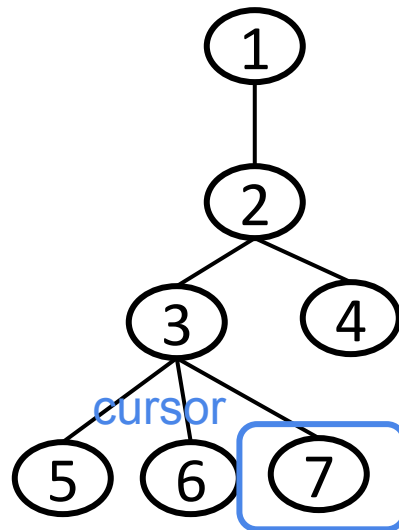


Rename j variables

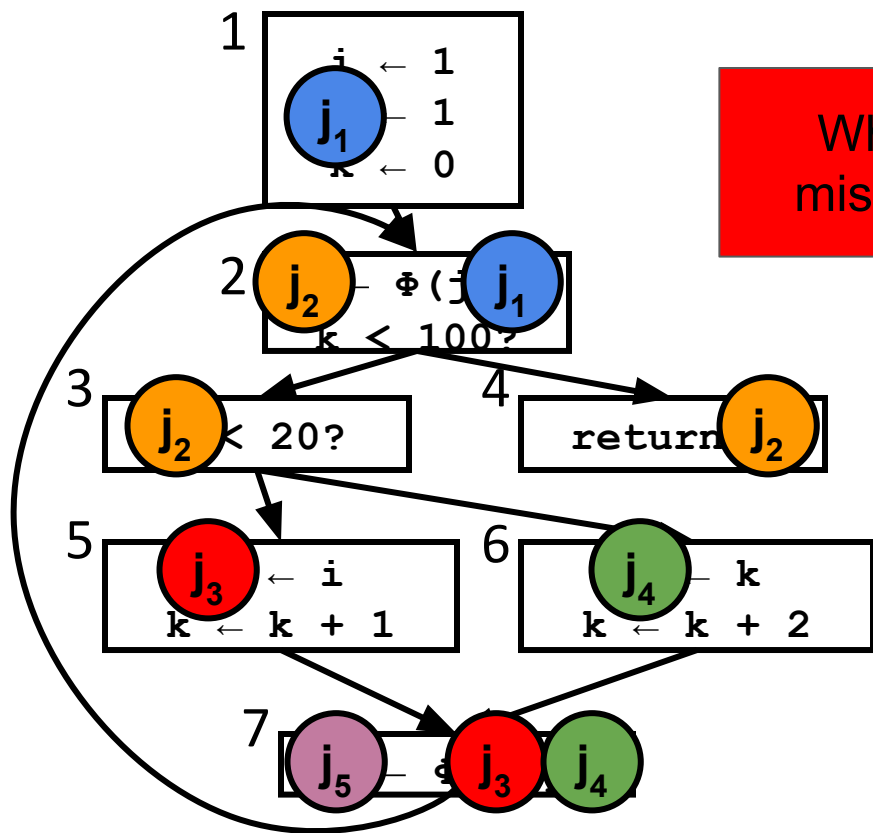


defsites[v]

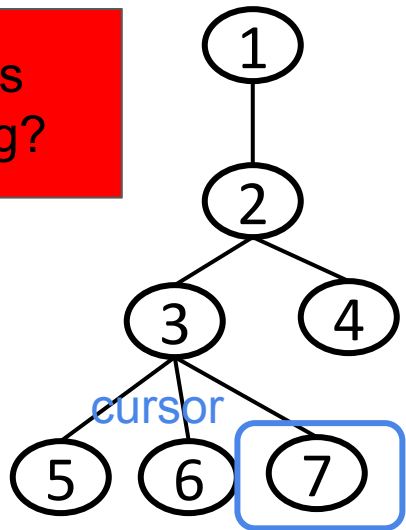
i {1}
j {1,5,6,7,2}
k {1,5,6}



Rename j variables



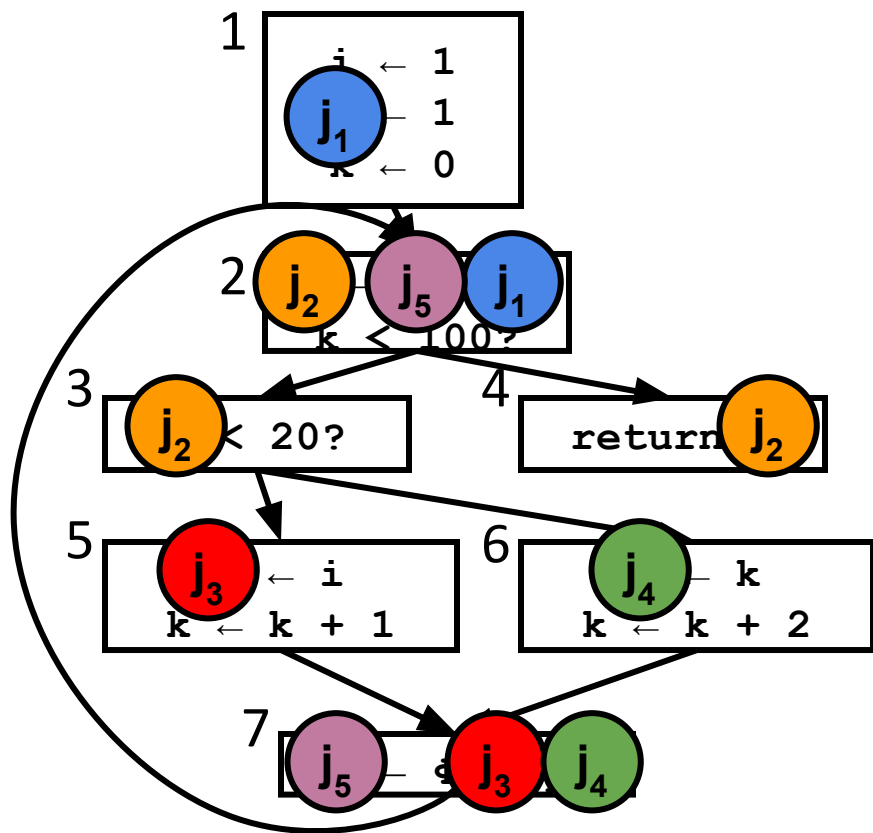
What's missing?



defsites[v]

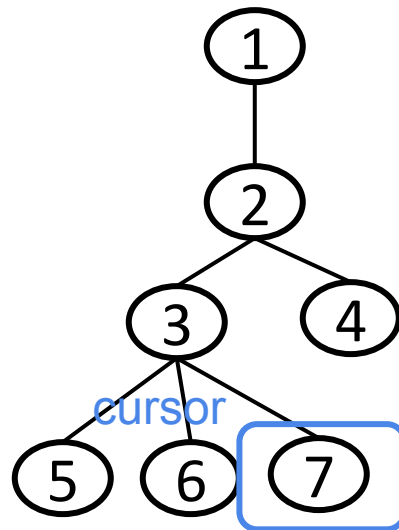
- i {1}
- j {1,5,6,7,2}
- k {1,5,6}

Rename j variables



defsites[v]

i {1}
j {1,5,6,7,2}
k {1,5,6}



Flavors of SSA

- Minimal SSA

- at each join point with >1 outstanding definition insert a ϕ -function
- Some may be dead

- Pruned SSA

- only add live ϕ -functions
- must compute LIVEOUT

- Semi-pruned SSA

- Same as minimal SSA, but only on names live across more than 1 basic block

Summary

- SSA is a useful and efficient IR.
- Definitions dominate uses
- Constructing SSA can be efficient
(No need to do Lengaur-Tarjan Algorithm, instead see [A Simple, Fast Dominance Algorithm by Cooper, Harvey, and Kennedy](#).)
- Don't do any optimizations yet!

Next time

- More practice building SSA
- Constant propagation with SSA
- Deconstructing SSA
- SSA in practice