WRITING AN LLVM PASS
Passes

• LLVM applies a chain of analyses and transformations on the target program.
• Each of these analyses or transformations is called a *pass*.
• We have seen a few passes already: `mem2reg`, `early-cse` and `constprop`, for instance.
• Some passes, which are machine independent, are invoked by `opt`.
• Other passes, which are machine dependent, are invoked by `llc`.
• A pass may require information provided by other passes. Such dependencies must be explicitly stated.
  – For instance: a common pattern is a transformation pass requiring an analysis pass.
Different Types of Passes

- A pass is an instance of the LLVM class Pass.
- There are many kinds of passes.

In this lesson we will focus on Function Passes, which analyze whole functions.
Let's write a pass that counts the number of times that each opcode appears in a given function. This pass must print, for each function, a list with all the instructions that showed up in its code, followed by the number of times each of these opcodes has been used.

```cpp
int foo(int n, int m) {
    int sum = 0;
    int c0;
    for (c0 = n; c0 > 0; c0--) {
        int c1 = m;
        for (; c1 > 0; c1--) {
            sum += c0 > c1 ? 1 : 0;
        }
    }
    return sum;
}
```

Function foo
add: 4
alloca: 5
br: 8
icmp: 3
load: 11
ret: 1
select: 1
store: 9
#define DEBUG_TYPE "opCounter"
#include "llvm/Pass.h"
#include "llvm/IR/Function.h"
#include "llvm/Support/raw_ostream.h"
#include <map> using namespace llvm;
namespace {
    struct CountOp : public FunctionPass {
        std::map<std::string, int> opCounter;
        static char ID;
        CountOp() : FunctionPass(ID) {}
        virtual bool runOnFunction(Function &F) {
            errs() << "Function " << F.getName() << "\n";
            for (Function::iterator bb = F.begin(), e = F.end(); bb != e; ++bb) {
                for (BasicBlock::iterator i = bb->begin(), e = bb->end(); i != e; ++i) {
                    if (opCounter.find(i->getOpcodeName()) == opCounter.end()) {
                        opCounter[i->getOpcodeName()] = 1;
                    } else {
                        opCounter[i->getOpcodeName()] += 1;
                    }
                }
            }
            std::map <std::string, int>::iterator i = opCounter.begin();
            std::map <std::string, int>::iterator e = opCounter.end();
            while (i != e) {
                errs() << i->first << ": " << i->second << "\n";
                i++;
            }
            errs() << "\n";
            opCounter.clear();
            return false;
        }
    }
    char CountOp::ID = 0;
    static RegisterPass<CountOp> X("opCounter", "Counts opcodes per functions");
}

Counting Number of Opcodes in Programs

Our pass runs once for each function in the program; therefore, it is a FunctionPass. If we had to see the whole program, then we would implement a ModulePass.

What are anonymous namespaces?

This line defines the name of the pass, in the command line, e.g., opCounter, and the help string that opt provides to the user about the pass.
A Closer Look into our Pass

We will be recording the number of each opcode in this map, that binds opcode names to integer numbers.

This code collects the opcodes. We will look into it more closely soon.

This code prints our results. It is a standard loop on an STL data structure. We use iterators to go over the map. Each element in a map is a pair, where the first element is the key, and the second is the value.
Iterating Through Functions, Blocks and Insts

for (Function::iterator bb = F.begin(), e = F.end(); bb != e; ++bb) {
  for (BasicBlock::iterator i = bb->begin(), e = bb->end(); i != e; ++i) {
    if (opCounter.find(i->getOpcodeName()) == opCounter.end()) {
      opCounter[i->getOpcodeName()] = 1;
    } else {
      opCounter[i->getOpcodeName()] += 1;
    }
  }
}

We go over LLVM data structures through iterators.

- An iterator over a Module gives us a list of Functions.
- An iterator over a Function gives us a list of basic blocks.
- An iterator over a Block gives us a list of instructions.
- And we can iterate over the operands of the instruction too.

for (Module::iterator F = M.begin(), E = M.end(); F != E; ++F);
for (User::op_iterator O = I.op_begin(), E = I.op_end(); O != E; ++O);
Compiling the Pass

• To Compile the pass, we can follow these two steps:

  1. We may save the pass into `llvm/lib/Transforms/DirectoryName`, where `DirectoryName` can be, for instance, CountOp.

  2. We build a Makefile for the project. If we invoke the LLVM standard Makefile, we save some time.


```
# Path to top level of LLVM hierarchy
LEVEL = ../../../

# Name of the library to build
LIBRARYNAME = CountOp

# Make the shared library become a # loadable module so the tools can
# dlopen/dlsym on the resulting library.
LOADABLE_MODULE = 1

# Include the makefile implementation
include $(LEVEL)/Makefile.common
```

♡: Well, given that this pass does not change the source program, we could save it in the Analyses folder. For more info on the LLVM structure, see http://llvm.org/docs/Projects.html
Running the Pass

• Our pass is now a shared library, in llvm/Debug/lib\(^1\).

• We can invoke it using the opt tool:

```bash
$> clang -c -emit-llvm file.c -o file.bc
$> opt -load CountOp.dylib -opCounter -disable-output t.bc
```

• Remember, if we are running on Linux, then our shared library has the extension "\.`so`", instead of "\.`dylib`", as in the Mac OS.

\(^1\): Actually, the true location of the new library depends on your system setup. If you have compiled LLVM with the –Debug directive, for instance, then your binaries will be in llvm/Release/lib.
Registering the Pass

The command static RegisterPass<CountOp> X("opCounter", "Counts opcodes per functions"); registers the pass in the LLVM's pass manager:

```
$> opt -load CountOp.dylib -help

OVERVIEW: llvm .bc -> .bc modular optimizer and analysis printer

USAGE: opt [options] <input bitcode file>

OPTIONS:
-01 - Optimization level 1.
-02 - Optimization level 2.
...

Optimizations available:
...
-objc-arc-contract - ObjC ARC contraction
-objc-arc-expand - ObjC ARC expansion
-opCounter - Counts opcodes per functions
-partial-inliner - Partial Inliner
...
-x86-asm-syntax - Choose style of code to emit:
=att - Emit AT&T-style assembly
=intel - Emit Intel-style assembly
```
Timing the Pass

The pass manager provides the time-passes directive, that lets us get the runtime of each pass that we run. That is useful during benchmarking.

$> \text{opt -load CountOp.dylib -opCounter -disable-output -time-passes f.bc}$

Function main
add: 6
br: 17
call: 1
icmp: 5
ret: 1

--- Pass execution timing report ---
Total Execution Time: 0.0010 seconds (0.0011 wall clock)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>User Time</th>
<th>System Time</th>
<th>User+System</th>
<th>Wall Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counts opcodes per functions</td>
<td>0.0002 (30.6%)</td>
<td>0.0002 (57.7%)</td>
<td>0.0004 (37.7%)</td>
<td>0.0004 (39.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Verifier</td>
<td>0.0003 (33.6%)</td>
<td>0.0001 (21.1%)</td>
<td>0.0003 (30.3%)</td>
<td>0.0003 (29.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominator Tree Construction</td>
<td>0.0003 (34.6%)</td>
<td>0.0001 (18.9%)</td>
<td>0.0003 (30.5%)</td>
<td>0.0003 (29.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary verification</td>
<td>0.0000 (1.2%)</td>
<td>0.0000 (2.3%)</td>
<td>0.0000 (1.5%)</td>
<td>0.0000 (2.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0.0008 (100.0%)</td>
<td>0.0003 (100.0%)</td>
<td>0.0010 (100.0%)</td>
<td>0.0011 (100.0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Can you guess what these other passes are doing?
Chaining Passes

• A pass may invoke another.
  – To transform the program, e.g., BreakCriticalEdges
  – To obtain information about the program, e.g., AliasAnalysis

• If a pass invokes another, then it must say it explicitly, through the `getAnalysisUsage` method, in the class `FunctionPass`.

• To recover the data-structures created by the pass, we can use the `getAnalysis` method.
Counting the Number of Basic Blocks in Loops

In order to demonstrate how to invoke a pass from another pass, we will create a tool to count the number of basic blocks inside a loop.

1) How many loops do we have in the program on the right?

2) How to identify a loop?

3) How many basic blocks do we have in the smallest loop?
Dealing with Loops

In order to demonstrate how to invoke a pass from another pass, we will create a tool to count the number of basic blocks inside a loop.

1) How many loops do we have in the program on the right?

2) How to identify a loop?

3) How many basic blocks do we have in the smallest loop?

• We could implement some functionalities to deal with all the questions on the left.

• However, LLVM already has a pass that handles loops.

• We can use this pass to obtain the number of basic blocks per loops.
The Skeleton of our Pass

namespace {
struct BBinLoops : public FunctionPass {
    static char ID;
    BBinLoops() : FunctionPass(ID) {}

    void getAnalysisUsage(AnalysisUsage &AU) const {
        ...
    }

    virtual bool runOnFunction(Function &F) {
        ...
        return(false);
    }
};

char BBinLoops::ID = 0;
static RegisterPass<BBinLoops> X("bbloop",
    "Count the number of BBs inside each loop");

1) We will be going over functions; hence, we implement a FunctionPass.

2) A pass, in LLVM, is implemented as a class (or a struct, as they are almost the same in C++).

3) This method tells LLVM which other passes we need to execute properly.

4) Our pass is not changing the program, thus we return false. Were we applying any change on the program, then our runOnFunction method should return true.

What is the difference between structs and classes in C++?
Which Analyses do you Need?

• An LLVM pass must declare which other passes it requires to execute properly.
  – This declaration is done in the `getAnalysisUsage` method.

```cpp
void getAnalysisUsage(AnalysisUsage &AU) const {
  AU.addRequired<LoopInfo>();
  AU.setPreservesAll();
}
```

In our example, we are saying that LoopInfo – an LLVM pass – is required by our analysis. We are also saying that we do not change the program in any way that would invalidate the results computed by other passes. If another pass, later on, also requires LoopInfo, then the information stored in LoopInfo will not need to be recomputed, for instance.
The Basic Block Counter

virtual bool runOnFunction(Function &F) {
    LoopInfo &LI = getAnalysis<LoopInfo>();
    int loopCounter = 0;
    errs() << F.getName() + "\n";
    for (LoopInfo::iterator i = LI.begin(), e = LI.end(); i != e; ++i) {
        Loop *L = *i;
        int bbCounter = 0;
        loopCounter++;
        for (Loop::block_iterator bb = L->block_begin(); bb != L->block_end(); ++bb) {
            bbCounter+=1;
        }
        errs() << "Loop ";
        errs() << loopCounter;
        errs() << ": #BBs = ";
        errs() << bbCounter;
        errs() << "\n";
    }
    return(false);
}
Using LoopInfo

```c++
virtual bool runOnFunction(Function &F) {
    LoopInfo &LI = getAnalysis<LoopInfo>();
    int loopCounter = 0;
    errs() << F.getName() + "\n";
    for (LoopInfo::iterator i = LI.begin(), e = LI.end(); i != e; ++i) {
        Loop *L = *i;
        int bbCounter = 0;
        loopCounter++;
        for (Loop::block_iterator bb = L->block_begin(); bb != L->block_end(); ++bb) {
            bbCounter+=1;
        }
        errs() << "Loop ";
        errs() << loopCounter;
        errs() << ": #BBs = ";
        errs() << bbCounter;
        errs() << "\n";
    }
    return(false);
}
```

An iterator on LoopInfo gives us a collection of loops. An iterator on a Loop gives us a collection of basic blocks that constitute that loop.
Iterating on Loops

for (LoopInfo::iterator i = LI.begin(), e = LI.end(); i != e; ++i) {
    ...
}

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    int i, j, t = 0;
    for(i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
        for(j = 0; j < 10; j++) {
            if((i + j) % 7 == 0)
                break;
            else
                t++;
        }
        printf("%d\n", t);
    }
    return 0;
}
Iterating on Blocks inside Loops

for (LoopInfo::iterator i = LI.begin(), e = LI.end(); i != e; ++i) {
    Loop *L = *i;
    for(Loop::block_iterator bb = L->block_begin(); bb != L->block_end(); ++bb) {}  
}

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    int i, j, t = 0;
    for(i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
        for(j = 0; j < 10; j++) {
            if((i + j) % 7 == 0)
                break;
            else
                t++;
        }
    }
    printf("%d\n", t);
    return 0;
}
Running the Counter

• Again, once we compile this pass, we can invoke it using the opt tool, like we did before:

```
$> clang -c -emit-llvm file.c -o file.bc
$> opt -load dcc888.dylib -bbloop -disable-output file.bc
```

The results of our pass will be printed in the standard error output, as we are using the `errs()` channel to output results.

Function main
Loop 1: #BBs = 10

Ouf, now wait: we have two loops. What happened to the second one?
virtual bool runOnFunction(Function &F) {

    LoopInfo &LI = getAnalysis<LoopInfo>();
    int loopCounter = 0;
    errs() << F.getName() + "\n";
    for (LoopInfo::iterator i = LI.begin(), e = LI.end(); i != e; ++i) {
        Loop *L = *i;
        int bbCounter = 0;
        loopCounter++;
        for(Loop::block_iterator bb = L->block_begin(); bb != L->block_end(); ++bb) {
            bbCounter+=1;
        }
        errs() << "Loop ";
        errs() << loopCounter;
        errs() << ": #BBs = ";
        errs() << bbCounter;
        errs() << "\n";
    }
    return(false);
}
Recursively Navigating Through Loops

void countBlocksInLoop(Loop *L, unsigned nesting) {
    unsigned numBlocks = 0;
    Loop::block_iterator bb;
    for(bb = L->block_begin(); bb != L->block_end(); ++bb)
        numBlocks++;
    errs() << "Loop level " << nesting << " has " << numBlocks << " blocks\n";
    vector<Loop*> subLoops = L->getSubLoops();
    Loop::iterator j, f;
    for (j = subLoops.begin(), f = subLoops.end(); j != f; ++j)
        countBlocksInLoop(*j, nesting + 1);
}

virtual bool runOnFunction(Function &F) {
    LoopInfo &LI = getAnalysis<LoopInfo>();
    errs() << "Function " << F.getName() + "\n";
    for (LoopInfo::iterator i = LI.begin(), e = LI.end(); i != e; ++i)
        countBlocksInLoop(*i, 0);
    return(false);
}
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    int i, j, k, t = 0;
    for(i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
        for(j = 0; j < 10; j++) {
            for(k = 0; k < 10; k++) {
                t++;
            }
        }
        for(j = 0; j < 10; j++) {
            t++;
        }
    }
    for(i = 0; i < 20; i++) {
        for(j = 0; j < 20; j++) {
            t++;
        }
        for(j = 0; j < 20; j++) {
            t++;
        }
    }
    return t;
}
Which Passes do I Invoke?

- The LLVM's pass manager provides a debug-pass option that gives us the chance to see which passes interact with our analyses and optimizations:

```
$> opt -load dcc888.dylib -bbloop -disable-output --debug-pass=Structure file.bc
```

There are other options that we can use with debug-pass:
- Arguments
- Details
- Disabled
- Executions
- Structure
Final Remarks

• LLVM provides users with a string of analyses and optimizations which are called passes.
• Users can chain new passes into this pipeline.
• The pass manager orders the passes in such a way to satisfy the dependencies.
• Passes are organized according to their granularity, e.g., module, function, loop, basic block, etc.