

IC637 Program Analysis

Lecture 6: Context Sensitivity

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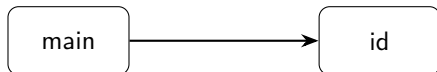
2025 Fall

Necessity of Context Sensitivity

- Without context sensitivity, it is unable to prove the castings are always safe.

```
1 class A{}
2 class B{}
3 class C{
4     static Object id(Object v) {
5         return v;
6     }
7     void main(String[] args) {
8         A a = new A(); //l1
9         B b = new B(); //l2
10        A a2 = (A)id(a); //query1
11        B b2 = (B)id(b); //query2
12    }
13 }
```

Analysis results (context insensitive):


$$\begin{aligned} a &\rightarrow \{l_1\} \quad b \rightarrow \{l_2\} \quad v \rightarrow \{l_1, l_2\} \\ a2 &\rightarrow \{l_1, l_2\} \quad b2 \rightarrow \{l_1, l_2\} \end{aligned}$$

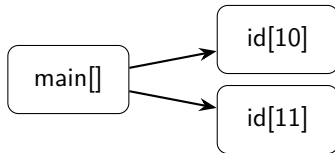
- How can we prove the castings are always safe?

Necessity of Context Sensitivity

- By analyzing the method `id` context sensitively, we can prove the queries.

```
1 class A{}
2 class B{}
3 class C{
4     static Object id(Object v) {
5         return v;
6     }
7     void main(String[] args) {
8         A a = new A(); //l1
9         B b = new B(); //l2
10        A a2 = (A)id(a); //query1
11        B b2 = (B)id(b); //query2
12    }
13 }
```

Analysis results (context sensitive):

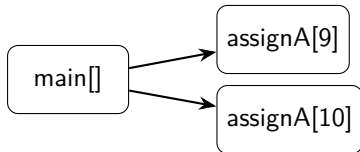

$$\begin{aligned} a[] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} & b[] &\rightarrow \{l_2\} \\ v[10] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} & v[11] &\rightarrow \{l_2\} \\ a2[] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} & b2[] &\rightarrow \{l_2\} \end{aligned}$$

Necessity of Context Sensitive Heap

- Describe analysis results for the following example.

```
1 class A {}
2
3 public class Tmp {
4     static A assignA() {
5         A v = new A(); //l1
6         return v;
7     }
8     void main(String[] args) {
9         A a1 = assignA();
10        A a2 = assignA();
11        assert (a1 != a2); //query
12    }
13 }
```

Analysis results (without heap context):



Call graph of context sensitive analysis

$$\begin{aligned} v[9] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} & v[10] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} \\ a1[] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} & a2[] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} \end{aligned}$$

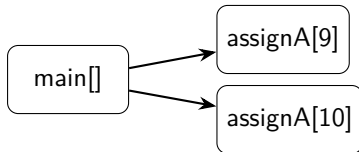
- How can we prove the assertion?

Context Sensitive Heap

- For precision, heaps should be also analyzed in a context sensitive manner.

```
1 class A {}
2
3 public class Tmp {
4     static A assignA() {
5         A v = new A(); //l1
6         return v;
7     }
8     void main(String[] args) {
9         A a1 = assignA();
10        A a2 = assignA();
11        assert (a1 != a2); //query
12    }
13 }
```

Analysis results (context sensitive):



Call graph of context sensitive analysis

$$v[9] \rightarrow \{l_1[9]\} \quad v[10] \rightarrow \{l_1[10]\}$$
$$a1[] \rightarrow \{l_1[9]\} \quad a2[] \rightarrow \{l_1[10]\}$$

Context Sensitive Analysis

- Give an example showing context sensitive analysis does not terminate.

Necessity of Context Abstraction

- Full context sensitive analysis does not terminate when it analyzes:

```
1 class A{} class B{}
2 class C{
3   Object id(int i, Object v) {
4     if (i > 0) {
5       return id(i-1,v);
6     } else {
7       return v;}
8   }
9   void main(String[] args) {
10    int i = input();
11    A a = new A();//l1
12    B b = new B();//l2
13    A a2 = (A)id(i,a);//query1
14    B b2 = (B)id(i,b);//query2
15  }
16 }
```

Analysis results (context sensitive):



Call graph of context sensitive analysis

$$\begin{aligned} a[] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} & b[] &\rightarrow \{l_2\} \\ v[13] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} & v[14] &\rightarrow \{l_2\} \\ v[13,5] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} & v[14,5] &\rightarrow \{l_2\} \\ v[13,5,5] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} & v[14,5,5] &\rightarrow \{l_2\} \\ &&& \dots \end{aligned}$$

Necessity of Context Abstraction

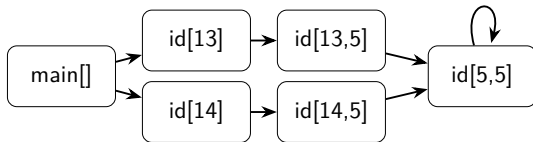
- How can we make the context sensitive analysis always terminate?

(Last) K-limited Context Sensitive Analysis

- Conventional k-context sensitive analysis keeps last-k context elements.

```
1 class A{} class B{}
2 class C{
3   Object id(int i, Object v) {
4     if (i > 0) {
5       return id(i-1,v);
6     } else {
7       return v;}
8   }
9   void main(String[] args) {
10    int i = input();
11    A a = new A();//l1
12    B b = new B();//l2
13    A a2 = (A)id(i,a);//query1
14    B b2 = (B)id(i,b);//query2
15  }
16 }
```

Analysis results:



Call graph of (last) 2-context sensitivity

$$\begin{aligned} a[] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} & b[] &\rightarrow \{l_2\} \\ v[13] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} & v[14] &\rightarrow \{l_2\} \\ v[13, 5] &\rightarrow \{l_1\} & v[14, 5] &\rightarrow \{l_2\} \\ v[5, 5] &\rightarrow \{l_1, l_2\} \\ a2[] &\rightarrow \{l_1, l_2\} & b2[] &\rightarrow \{l_1, l_2\} \end{aligned}$$

Input Relations

$Alloc(var : V, heap : H)$	V : the set of program variables
$Move(to : V, from : V)$	H : the set of heap locations
$Load(to : V, base : V, fld : F)$	F : the set of fields
$Store(base : V, fld : F, from : V)$	M : the set of method identifiers
$FormalParam(method : M, arg : A, var : V)$	S : the set of method signatures (names)
$FormalReturn(method : M, var : V)$	I : the set of instructions
$ActualParam(invocation : I, arg : A, var : V)$	T : the set of class types
$ActualReturn(invocation : I, var : V)$	$\mathbb{N}$: the set of natural numbers
$ThisVar(meth : M, this : V)$	C : the set of contexts
$HeapType(heap : H, type : T)$	HC : the set of heap contexts
$LookUp(type : T, sig : S, methM)$	
$VirtualCall(base : V, sig : S, invo : I, inMeth : M)$	

Output Relations

$VarPointsTo(var : V, heap : H)$
 $FldPointsTo(baseH : H, fld : F, heap : H)$
 $CallGraph(invo : I, meth : M)$

↓

$VarPointsTo(var : V, ctx : C, heap : H, heapCtx : HC)$
 $FldPointsTo(baseH : H, heapCtx : HC, fld : F, heap : H, heapCtx : HC)$
 $CallGraph(invo : I, callerCtx : C, meth : M, calleeCtx : C)$

Example of Context Sensitive Analysis

```
class A{}
class B{}
class C{
    Object id(Object v) {
        return v;
    }
    void main(String[] args) {
        A a = new A(); //l1
        B b = new B(); //l2
        A a2 = (A)id(a); //l3, query1
        B b2 = (B)id(b); //l4, query2
    }
}
```

```
VarPointsTo(a, [], l1, [])
VarPointsTo(b, [], l2, [])
CallGraph(l3, [], id, [l3])
CallGraph(l4, [], id, [l4])
VarPointsTo(v, [l3], l1, [])
VarPointsTo(v, [l4], l2, [])
VarPointsTo(a2, [], l1, [])
VarPointsTo(b2, [], l2, [])
```

Example of Context Sensitive Analysis

```
class A {}
```

```
public class Tmp {  
    static A assignA() {  
        return new A(); //l1  
    }  
    void main(String[] args) {  
        A a1 = assignA(); //l2  
        A a2 = assignA(); //l3  
        assert (a1 != a2); //query  
    }  
}
```

```
VarPointsTo(a1, [], l1, [l2])  
VarPointsTo(a2, [], l1, [l3])  
CallGraph(l2, [], assignA, [l2])  
CallGraph(l3, [], assignA, [l3])
```

Context Constructors

- Different choices of constructors yield different context sensitivity flavors

Record($heap : H, ctx : C$) = $newHCtx : HC$

Merge($heap : H, hctx : HC, invo : I, ctx : C$) = $newCtx : C$

- **Record** generates heap contexts
- **Merge** generates calling contexts

Analysis Rules

- (1) **Record**($heap, ctx$) = $hctx$,
 $VarPointsTo(var, ctx, heap, hctx) \leftarrow$
 $CallGraph(_, _, meth, ctx), Alloc(var, heap, meth)$
- (2) $VarPointsTo(var, ctx, heap, hctx) \leftarrow$
 $CallGraph(_, _, meth, ctx), Move(to, from, meth),$
 $VarPointsTo(from, ctx, heap, hctx)$

Analysis Rules

- (3) $FldPointsTo(baseH, baseHCtx, fld, heap, hctx) \leftarrow$
 $Store(base, fld, from, meth), VarPointsTo(from, ctx, heap, hctx),$
 $VarPointsTo(base, ctx, baseH, baseHCtx), CallGraph(_, _, meth, ctx)$
- (4) $VarPointsTo(to, ctx, heap, hctx) \leftarrow$
 $Load(to, base, fld), VarPointsTo(base, ctx, baseH, baseHCtx),$
 $FldPointsTo(baseH, baseHCtx, fld, heap, hctx), CallGraph(_, _, meth, ctx)$

Analysis Rules

(5) **Merge**($heap, hctx, invo, callerCtx$) = $calleeCtx$,
 $VarPointsTo(this, calleeCtx, heap, hctx)$,
 $CallGraph(invo, callerCtx, toMeth, calleeCtx) \leftarrow$
 $VCall(base, sig, invo, inMeth), CallGraph(_, _, inMeth, callerCtx)$,
 $VarPointsTo(base, callerCtx, heap, hctx)$,
 $HeapType(heap, heapT), LookUp(heapT, sig, toMeth)$,
 $ThisVar(toMeth, this)$

Analysis Rules

- (6) $VarPointsTo(param', calleeCtx, heap, hctx) \leftarrow$
 $CallGraph(invo, callerCtx, meth, calleeCtx),$
 $FormalParam(meth, n, param', param), ActualParam(invo, n, param),$
 $VarPointsTo(param, callerCtx, heap, hctx)$
- (7) $VarPointsTo(return, callerCtx, heap, hctx) \leftarrow$
 $CallGraph(invo, callerCtx, meth, calleeCtx),$
 $FormalReturn(meth, return), ActualReturn(invo, return),$
 $VarPointsTo(return, calleeCtx, heap, hctx)$

Record and Merge for 1-Context Sensitivity

- **Record** and **Merge** for standard 1-context sensitivity, so-called 1-call-site sensitivity (e.g., $C : \mathbb{I}, HC : \mathbb{I}$), is as follows:

$$\mathbf{Record}(heap, ctx) = ctx$$

$$\mathbf{Merge}(heap, hctx, invo, callerCtx) = invo$$

Open Question

- Define suitable **Record** and **Merge** that perform well in practice.

Exercise

- Define **Record** and **Merge** for 1-context sensitivity that prove the queries.

```
1 class A{} class B{}
2 class C{
3     Object id(Object v) {
4         return v;}
5 }
6 public class D {
7     void main(String[] args) {
8         A a = new A();//l1
9         B b = new B();//l2
10        C c = new C();//l3
11        A a2 = (A)c.id(a);//query1
12        B b2 = (B)c.id(b);//query2
13    }
14 }
```

Exercise

- Define **Record** and **Merge** for 2-context sensitivity that prove the queries.

```
1 class A{} class B{}
2 class C{
3     Object id(Object v) {
4         return v;}
5     Object id1(Object v) {
6         return id(v);}
7 }
8 public class D {
9     void main(String[] args) {
10         A a = new A();//l1
11         B b = new B();//l2
12         C c = new C();//l3
13         A a2 = (A)c.id(a);//query1
14         B b2 = (B)c.id(b);//query2
15     }
16 }
```

Quiz

- Can we prove the queries with k-context sensitive analysis?

```
1 class A{} class B{}
2 class C{
3     Object id(int i, Object v) {
4         if (i > 0) {
5             return id(i-1,v);
6         } else {
7             return v;}}
8 public class D {
9     void main(String[] args) {
10         int i = input();
11         A a = new A(); //l1
12         B b = new B(); //l2
13         C c = new C(); //l3
14         A a2 = (A)c.id(i,a); //query1
15         B b2 = (B)c.id(i,b); //query2
16     }}
```

Quiz

- Define **Record** and **Merge** for 1-context sensitivity that prove the queries.

```
1 class A{} class B{}
2 class C{
3     Object id(int i, Object v) {
4         if (i > 0) {
5             return id(i-1,v);
6         } else {
7             return v;}}
8 public class D {
9     void main(String[] args) {
10         int i = input();
11         A a = new A();//l1
12         B b = new B();//l2
13         C c = new C();//l3
14         A a2 = (A)c.id(i,a);//query1
15         B b2 = (B)c.id(i,b);//query2
16     }}
```

Wrap-up: Context Sensitivity

- **Context Insensitive Analysis:** Merges all calling contexts, leading to imprecision
 - Cannot distinguish different call sites
- **Full Context Sensitivity:** Distinguishes all calling contexts
 - May not terminate (infinite contexts in recursive calls)
- **K-limited Context Sensitivity:** Abstracts contexts to ensure termination
 - Keeps up to k context elements