

Data Dependence in Arrays

15-411/15-611 Compiler Design

Seth Copen Goldstein

April 9, 2026

Common loop optimizations

- Hoisting of loop-invariant computations
 - pre-compute before entering the loop
- Elimination of induction variables
 - change $p=i*w+b$ to $p=b, p+=w$, when w, b invariant
- Loop unrolling
 - to improve scheduling of the loop body

- Software pipelining
 - To improve scheduling of the loop body
- **Loop permutation**
 - to improve cache memory performance
- **Parallelization/Vectorization**

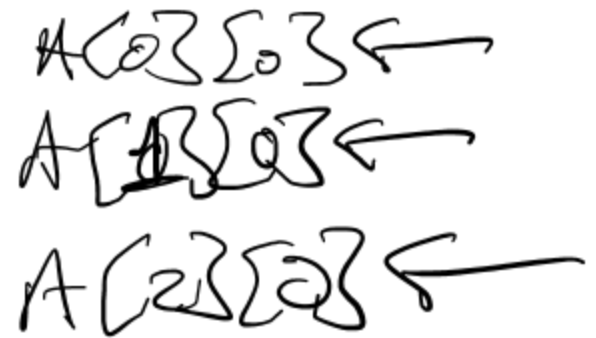
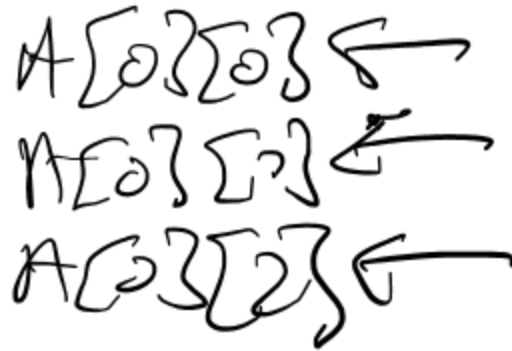
Requires
understanding
data dependencies

```

for (j=0; j<M; j++) {
    for (i=0; i<N; i++) {
        A[i][j] = A[i][j]+C;
    }
}

```

- Is there an opportunity for optimization?



Loop Interchange

```
for (j=0; j<M; j++) {  
    for (i=0; i<N; i++) {  
        A[i][j] = A[i][j]+C;  
    }  
}
```

- Can we swap inner and outer loop?
- Is there an advantage?

```
for (i=0; i<N; i++) {  
    A[i] = A[i]+C;  
}
```

- Is there an opportunity for optimization?

Loop Parallelization

```
for (i=0; i<N; i++) {  
    A[i] = A[i]+C;  
}
```

- No dependencies,
can vectorize or parallelize

Data-Dependent Loop Transformations

- Goals:

- Improving Locality
- Automatic Vectorization

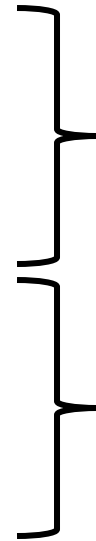
- Key Ideas:

- Locality
- Iteration Spaces
- Data Dependence
- Unimodular Transformations
- Other Transformations

Loop
Transformation
Theory

Example Loop Transformations

- Loop Interchange
- Cache Blocking
- Skewing
- Loop Reversal
- ...



Can improve locality

Can enable above

for i
for i=0 to N
for j=L to N+i

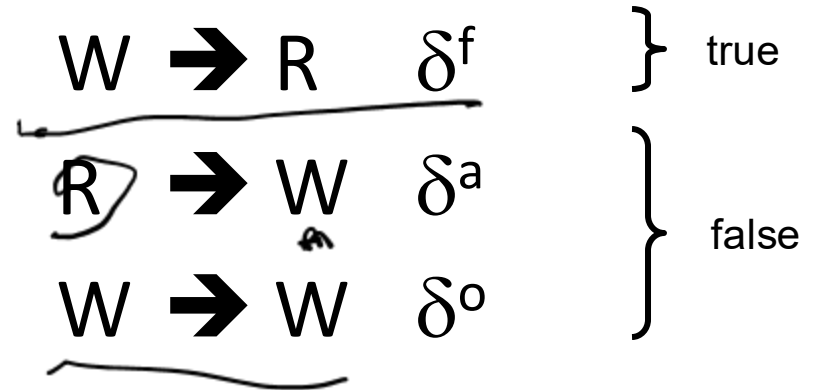
Dependencies in Loops

- **Loop independent** data dependence occurs between accesses in the **same** loop iteration.
- **Loop-carried** data dependence occurs between accesses across **different** loop iterations.
- There is data dependence between access **a** at iteration **i-k** and access **b** at iteration **i** when:
 - **a** and **b** access the same memory location
 - There is a path from **a** to **b**
 - Either **a** or **b** is a write



Defining Dependencies

- Flow Dependence
- Anti-Dependence
- Output Dependence



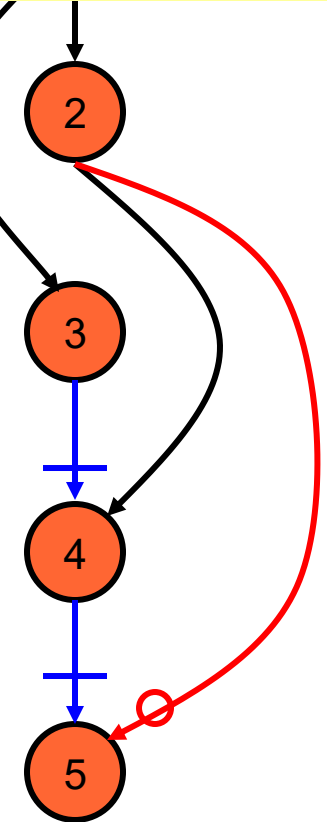
S1) a=0 ;
 S2) b=a ;
 S3) c=a+d+e ;
 S4) d=b ;
 S5) b=5+e ;

Example Dependencies

- S1) a=0 ;
 S2) b=a ;
 S3) c=a+d+e ;
 S4) d=b ;
 S5) b=5+e ;

These are scalar dependencies. The same idea holds for memory accesses.

<u>source</u>	<u>type</u>	<u>target</u>	<u>due to</u>
S1	δ^f	S2	a
S1	δ^f	S3	a
S2	δ^f	S4	b
S3	δ^a	S4	d
S4	δ^a	S5	b
S2	δ^o	S5	b

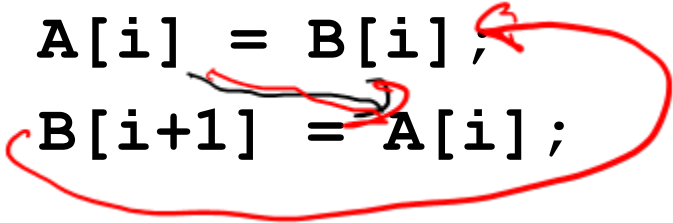


What can we do with this information?
 What are anti- and flow- called "false" dependences?

Data Dependence in Loops

- Dependence can flow across iterations of the loop.
- Dependence information is annotated with iteration information.
- If dependence is across iterations it is **loop carried** otherwise **loop independent**.

```
for (i=0; i<n; i++) {  
    A[i] = B[i],  
    B[i+1] = A[i];  
}
```



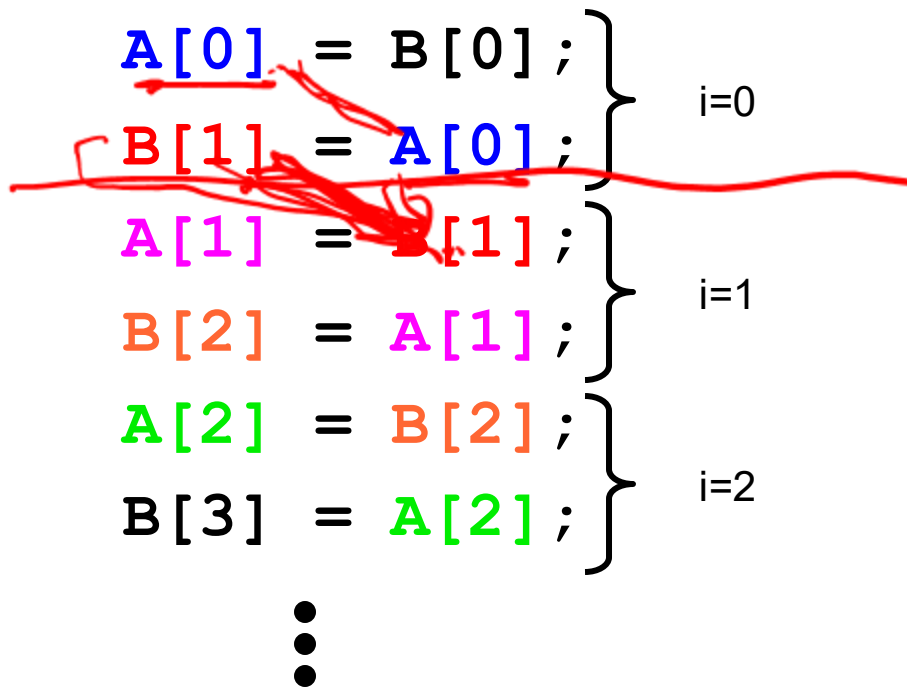
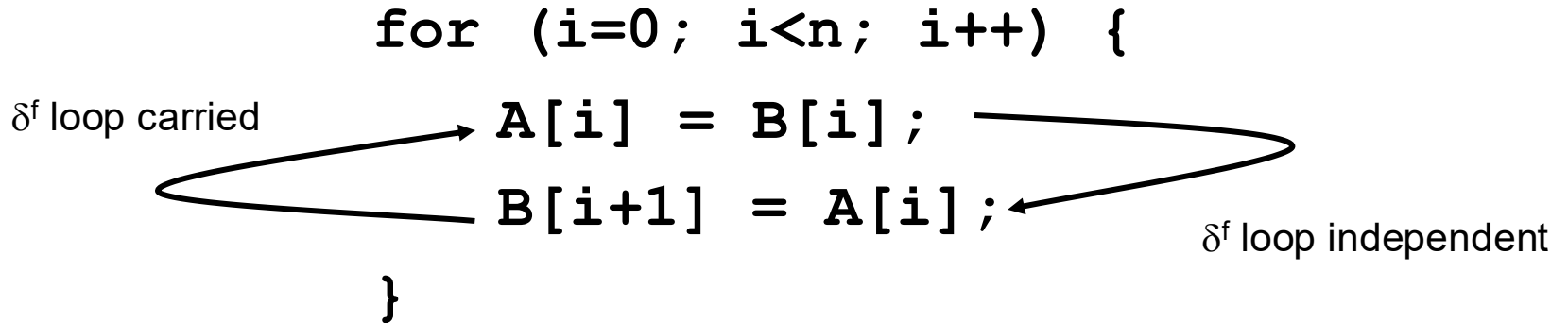
Data Dependence in Loops

- Dependence can flow across iterations of the loop.
- Dependence information is annotated with iteration information.
- If dependence is across iterations it is **loop carried** otherwise **loop independent**.

```
    for (i=0; i<n; i++) {  
        A[i] = B[i];  
        B[i+1] = A[i];  
    }
```

δ^f loop carried \rightarrow \leftarrow δ^f loop independent

Unroll Loop to Find Dependencies



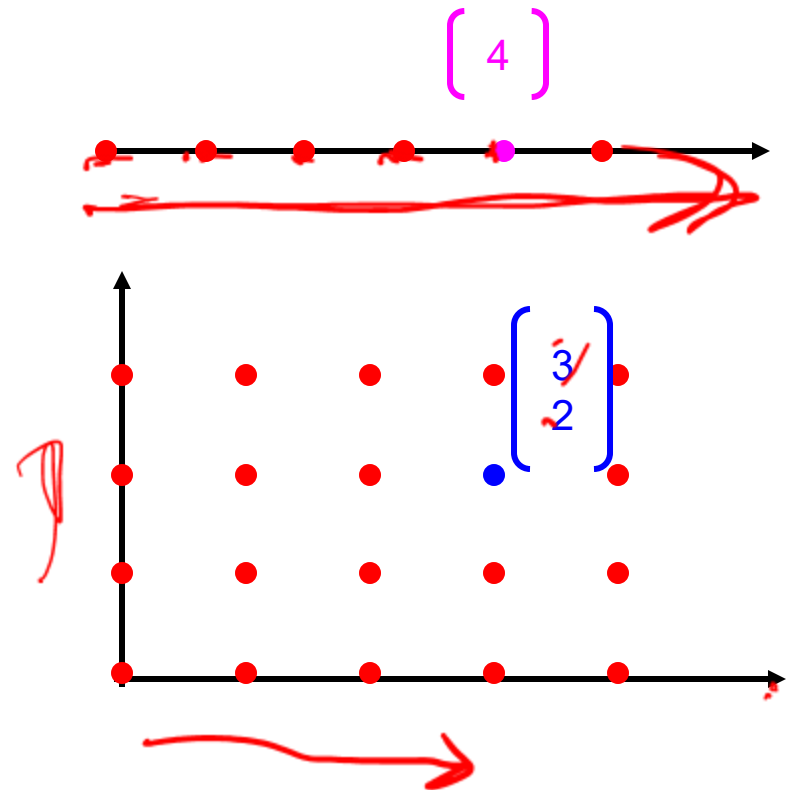
Distance/Direction of the dependence is also important.

Iteration Space

Every iteration generates a point in an n-dimensional space, where n is the depth of the loop nest.

```
for (i=0; i<n; i++) {  
    ...  $A[u, v]$   $A[u, v]$   
}
```

```
for (i=0; i<n; i++)  
    for (j=0; j<4; j++) {  
        ...  
    }
```



Distance Vector

```
for (i=0; i<n; i++) {  
    A[i] = B[i];  
    B[i+1] = A[i];  
}
```

A[0]	=	B[0];	}	i=0
B[1]	=	A[0];		
A[1]	=	B[1];	}	i=1
B[2]	=	A[1];		
A[2]	=	B[2];	}	i=2
B[3]	=	A[2];		
⋮				

Distance vector is the difference between the target and source iterations.

$$d = I_t - I_s$$

Exactly the distance of the dependence, i.e.,

$$I_s + d = I_t$$

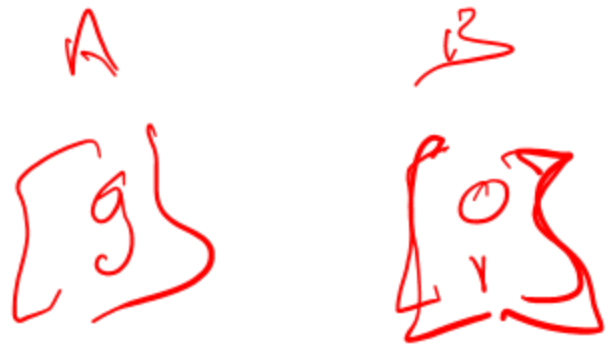


Example of Distance Vectors

```

for (i=0; i<n; i++)
  for (j=0; j<m; j++) {
    A[i,j] = ;
      = A[i,j];
    B[i,j+1] = ;
      = B[i,j];
    C[i+1,j] = ;
      = C[i,j+1] ;
  }

```



$A_{0,2} = A_{0,2}$ $B_{0,3} = B_{0,2}$ $C_{1,2} = C_{0,3}$	$A_{1,2} = A_{1,2}$ $B_{1,3} = B_{1,2}$ $C_{2,2} = C_{1,3}$	$A_{2,2} = A_{2,2}$ $B_{2,3} = B_{2,2}$ $C_{3,2} = C_{2,3}$
$A_{0,1} = A_{0,1}$ $B_{0,2} = B_{0,1}$ $C_{1,1} = C_{0,2}$	$A_{1,1} = A_{1,1}$ $B_{1,2} = B_{1,1}$ $C_{2,1} = C_{1,2}$	$A_{2,1} = A_{2,1}$ $B_{2,2} = B_{2,1}$ $C_{3,1} = C_{2,2}$
$A_{0,0} = A_{0,0}$ $B_{0,1} = B_{0,0}$ $C_{1,0} = C_{0,1}$	$A_{1,0} = A_{1,0}$ $B_{1,1} = B_{1,0}$ $C_{2,0} = C_{1,1}$	$A_{2,0} = A_{2,0}$ $B_{2,1} = B_{2,0}$ $C_{3,0} = C_{2,1}$



Example of Distance Vectors

```

for (i=0; i<n; i++)
  for (j=0; j<m; j++) {
    A[i,j] = ;
    = A[i,j];
    B[i,j+1] = ;
    = B[i,j];
    C[i+1,j] = ;
    = C[i,j+1] ;
  }

```

$A_{0,2} = A_{0,2}$ $B_{0,3} = B_{0,2}$ $C_{1,2} = C_{0,3}$	$A_{1,2} = A_{1,2}$ $B_{1,3} = B_{1,2}$ $C_{2,2} = C_{1,3}$	$A_{2,2} = A_{2,2}$ $B_{2,3} = B_{2,2}$ $C_{3,2} = C_{2,3}$
$A_{0,1} = A_{0,1}$ $B_{0,2} = B_{0,1}$ $C_{1,1} = C_{0,2}$	$A_{1,1} = A_{1,1}$ $B_{1,2} = B_{1,1}$ $C_{2,1} = C_{1,2}$	$A_{2,1} = A_{2,1}$ $B_{2,2} = B_{2,1}$ $C_{3,1} = C_{2,2}$
$A_{0,0} = A_{0,0}$ $B_{0,1} = B_{0,0}$ $C_{1,0} = C_{0,1}$	$A_{1,0} = A_{1,0}$ $B_{1,1} = B_{1,0}$ $C_{2,0} = C_{1,1}$	$A_{2,0} = A_{2,0}$ $B_{2,1} = B_{2,0}$ $C_{3,0} = C_{2,1}$

A yields: $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

B yields: $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

C yields: $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

Data Dependences

Loop carried: between two statements instances
in two different iterations of a loop.

Loop independent: between two statements
instances in the same loop iteration.

Lexically forward: the source comes before the target .

Lexically backward: otherwise.

The right-hand side of an assignment is considered
to precede the left-hand side.

Lexicographic Order

Example of vectors

Consider the vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} below :

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

We say that \mathbf{a} is lexicographically less than \mathbf{b} at level 3, $\mathbf{a} \prec_3 \mathbf{b}$, or simply that $\mathbf{a} \prec \mathbf{b}$.

Both \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} are lexicographically positive because $\mathbf{0} \prec \mathbf{a}$, and $\mathbf{0} \prec \mathbf{b}$.

Dependence Vectors

- Dependence vector in an n-nested loop is denoted as a vector: $\mathbf{d}=(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$.
- Each d_i is a possibly infinite range of ints in $\left[d_i^{\min}, d_i^{\max} \right]$, where
$$d_i^{\min} \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty\}, d_i^{\max} \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{\infty\} \text{ and } d_i^{\min} \leq d_i^{\max}$$
- So, a single dep vector represents a set of distance vectors.
- A distance vector defines a distance in the iteration space.
- A dependence vector is a distance vector if each d_i is a singleton.

Other defs

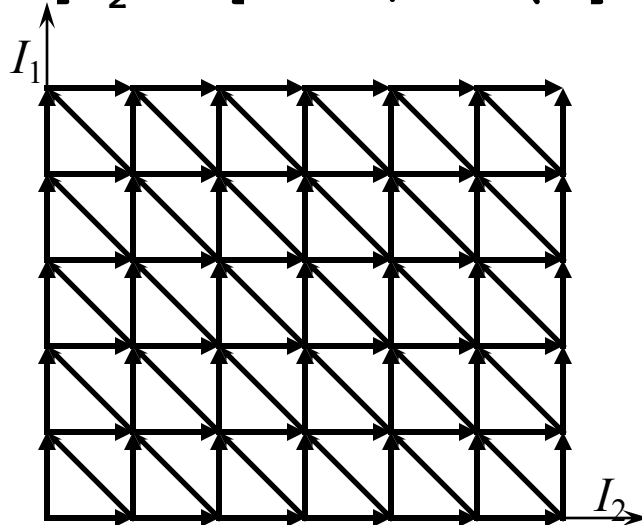
- Common ranges in dependence vectors
 - $[1, \infty]$ as + or >
 - $[-\infty, -1]$ as – or <
 - $[-\infty, \infty]$ as \pm or *
- A distance vector is the difference between the target and source iterations (for a dependent ref), e.g., $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{l}_t - \mathbf{l}_s$

Examples

```
for I1 := 1 to n
  for I2 := 1 to n
    for I3 := 1 to n
      C[I1, I3] += A[I1, I2] * B[I2, I3]
```

(0, 1, 0)

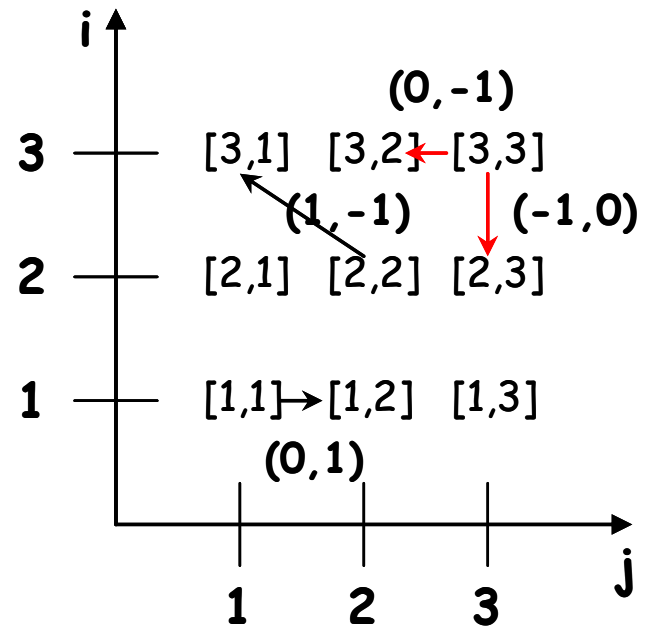
```
for I1 := 0 to 5
  for I2 := 0 to 6
    A[I2 + 1] := 1/3 * (A[I2] + A[I2 + 1] + A[I2 + 2])
```



$D = \{(0,1), (1,0), (1,-1)\}$

Plausible Dependence vectors

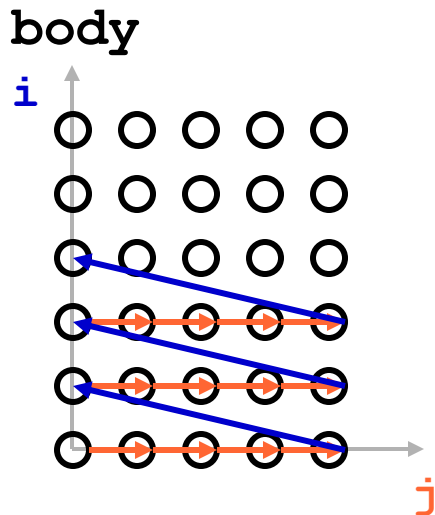
- A dependence vector is plausible iff it is lexicographically non-negative.
- All sequential programs have plausible dependence vectors. Why?
- Plausible: $(1,-1)$
- implausible $(-1,0)$



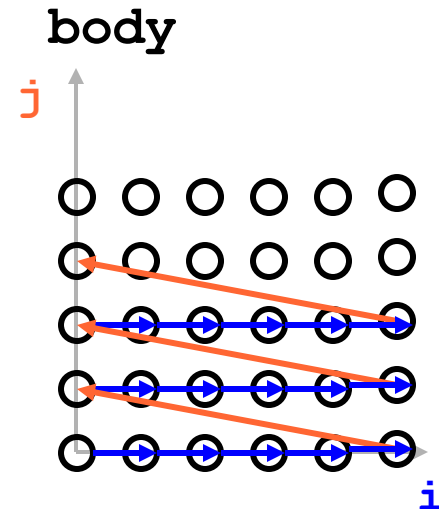
Loop Transforms

- A loop transformation changes the order in which iterations in the iteration space are visited.
- For example, Loop Interchange

```
for i := 0 to n  
  for j := 0 to m
```



```
for j := 0 to m  
  for i := 0 to n
```




Unimodular Transforms

- Interchange
 permute nesting order
- Reversal
 reverse order of iterations
- Skewing
 scale iterations by an outer loop index

Interchange

- Change order of loops
- For some permutation p of $1 \dots n$

```
for I1 := ...  
  for I2 := ...  
    ...  
      for In := ...  
        body
```



```
for Ip(1) := ...  
  for Ip(2) := ...  
    ...  
      for Ip(n) := ...  
        body
```

- When is this legal?

Transform and matrix notation

- If dependences are vectors in iter space, then transforms can be represented as matrix transforms
- E.g., for a 2-deep loop, interchange is:

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p_2 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Since, T is a linear transform, **Td** is transformed dependence:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_2 \\ d_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Reversal

- Reversal of i^{th} loop reverses its traversal, so it can be represented as:

Reversal

- Reversal of i^{th} loop reverses its traversal, so it can be represented as:
Diagonal matrix with i^{th} element = -1.
- For 2 deep loop, reversal of outermost is:

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -p_1 \\ p_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Skewing

- Skew loop I_j by a factor f w.r.t. loop I_i maps

$$(p_1, \dots, p_i, \dots, p_j, \dots) \quad (p_1, \dots, p_i, \dots, p_j + fp_i, \dots)$$

- Example for 2D

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 + p_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

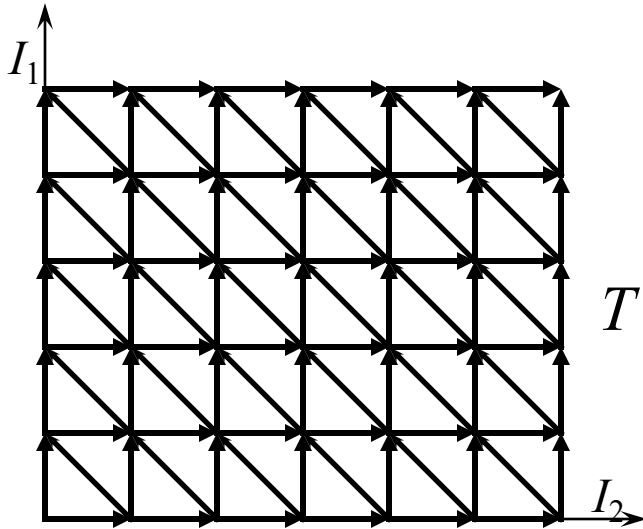
Loop Skewing Example

```
for I1 := 0 to 5
```

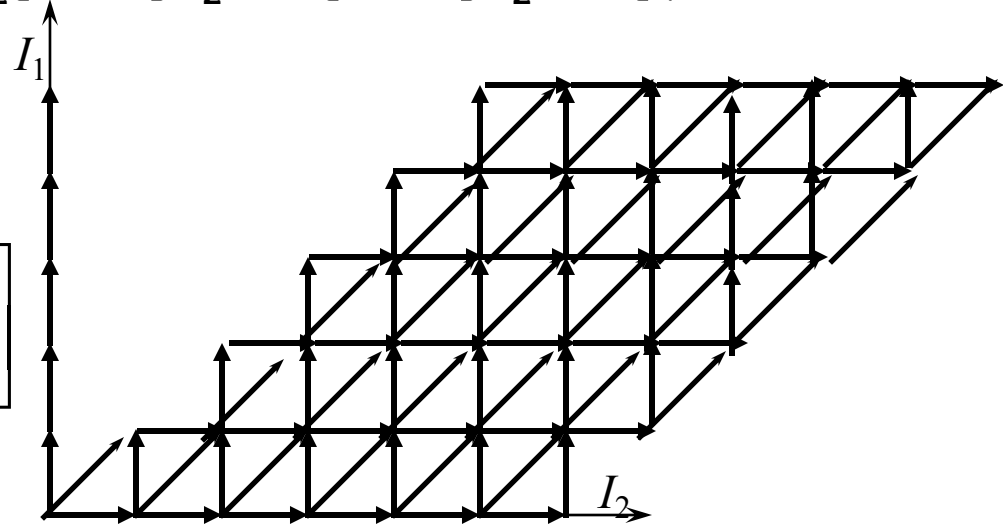
```
  for I2 := 0 to 6
```

```
    A[I2 + 1] := 1/3 * (A[I2] + A[I2 + 1] + A[I2 + 2])
```

$D = \{(0,1), (1,0), (1,-1)\}$



$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



```
for I1 := 0 to 5
```

```
  for I2 := I1 to 6+I1
```

```
    A[I2-I1+1] := 1/3 * (A[I2-I1] + A[I2-I1+ 1] + A[I2-I1+ 2])
```

$D = \{(0,1), (1,1), (1,0)\}$

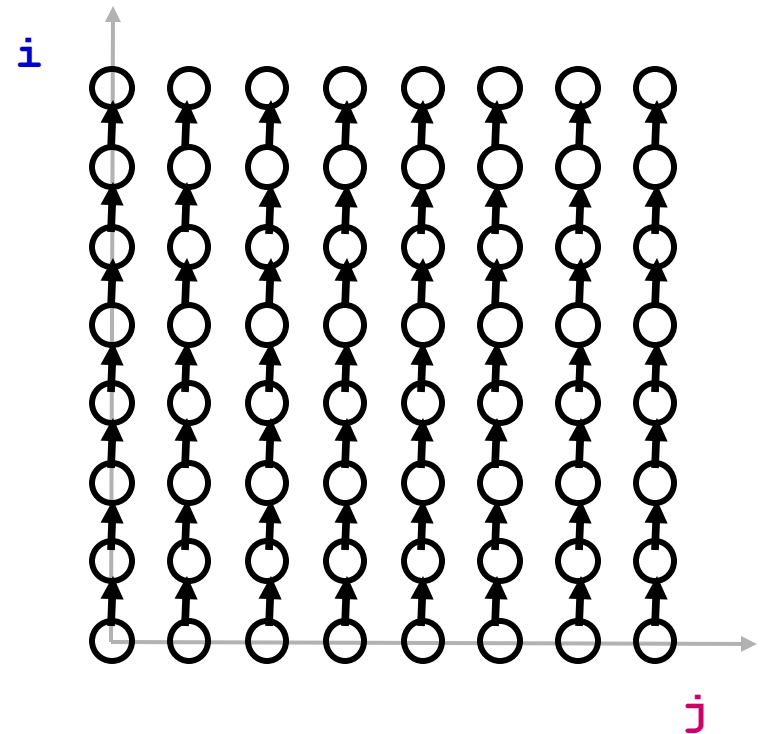
But...is the transform legal?

- Distance/direction vectors give a partial order among points in the iteration space
- A loop transform changes the order in which 'points' are visited
- The new visit order must respect the dependence partial order!

But...is the transform legal?

- Loop reversal ok?
- Loop interchange ok?

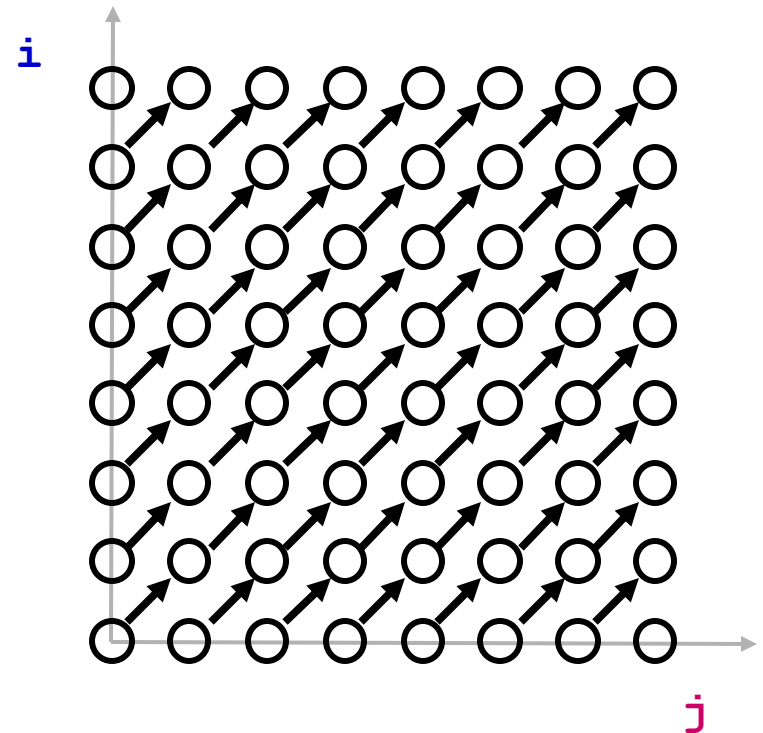
```
for i = 0 to N-1  
  for j = 0 to N-1  
    A[i+1][j] += A[i][j];
```



But...is the transform legal?

- Loop reversal ok?
- Loop interchange ok?

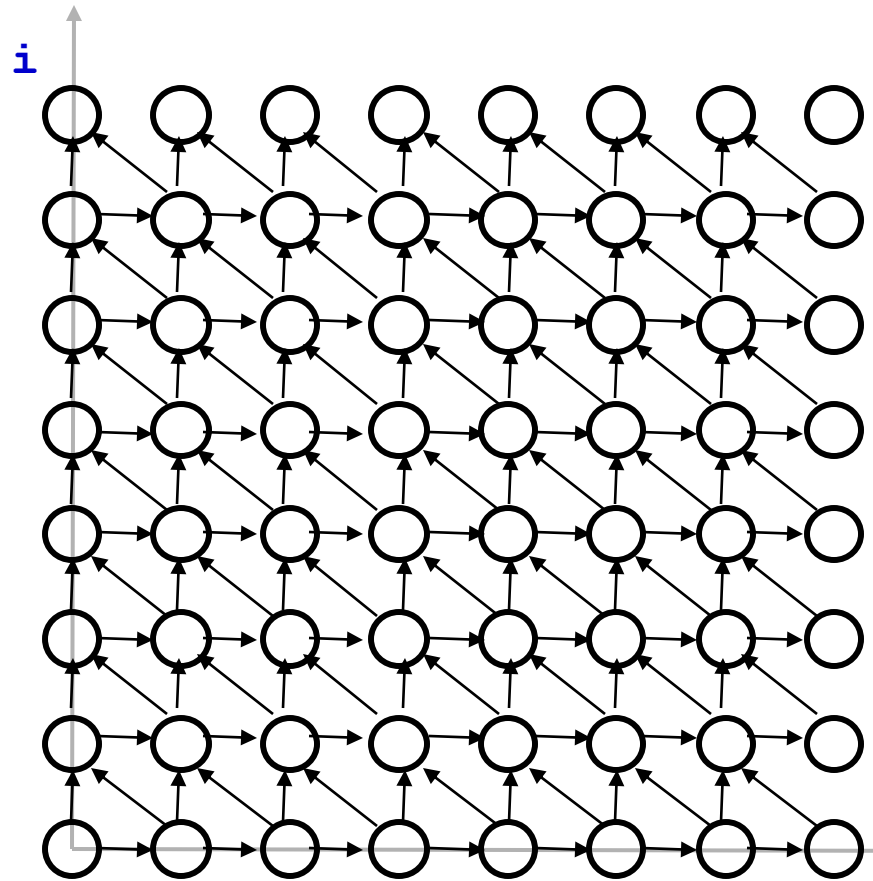
```
for i = 0 to N-1  
  for j = 0 to N-1  
    A[i+1][j+1] += A[i][j];
```



But..is the transform legal?

- What other visit order is legal here?

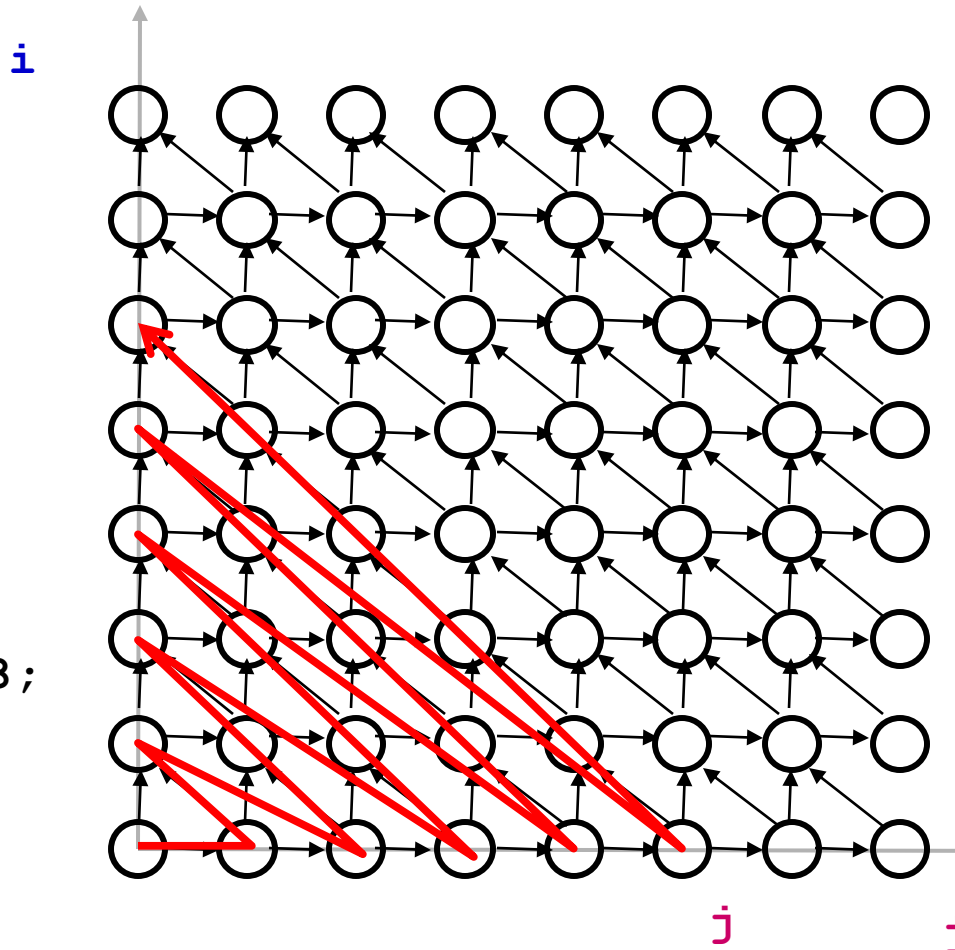
```
for i = 0 to TS
  for j = 0 to N-2
    A[j+1] =
      (A[j] + A[j+1] + A[j+2])/3;
```



But...is the transform legal?

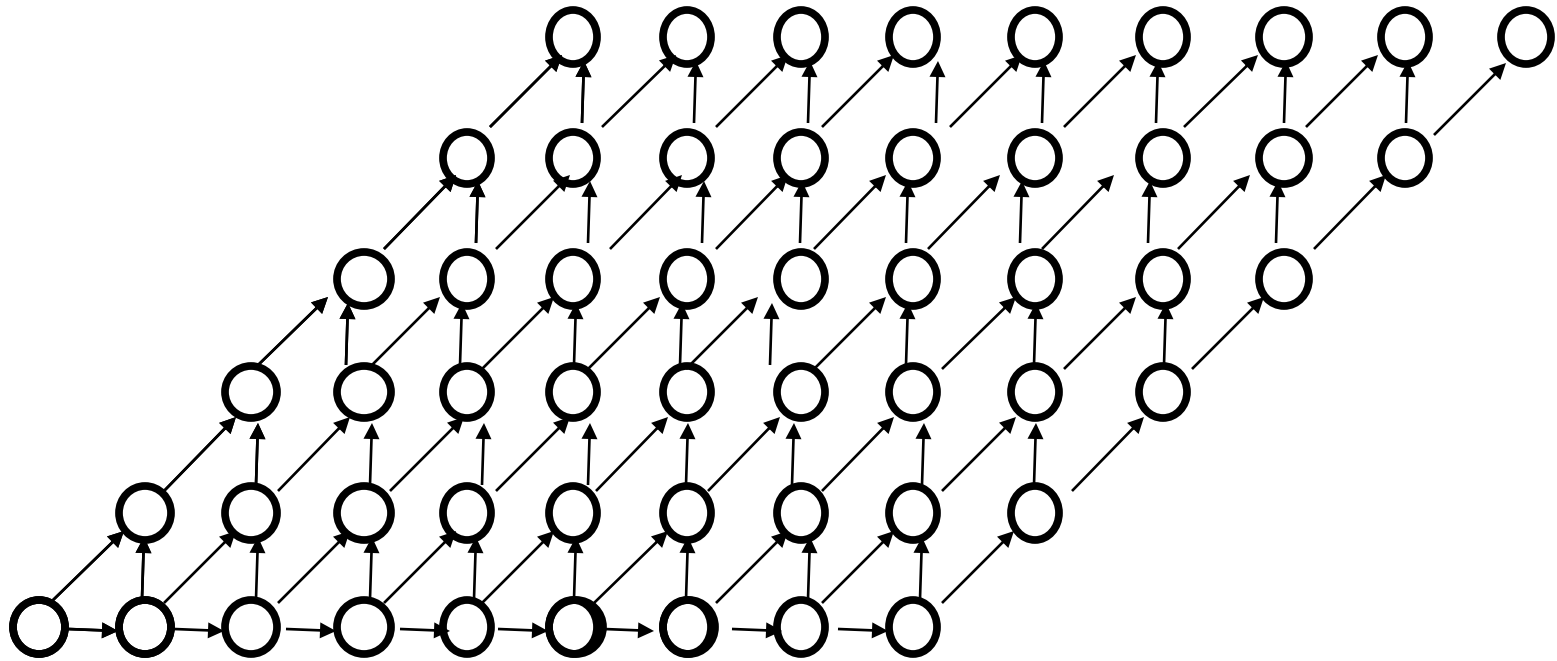
- What other visit order is legal here?

```
for i = 0 to TS
  for j = 0 to N-2
    A[j+1] =
      (A[j] + A[j+1] + A[j+2])/3;
```



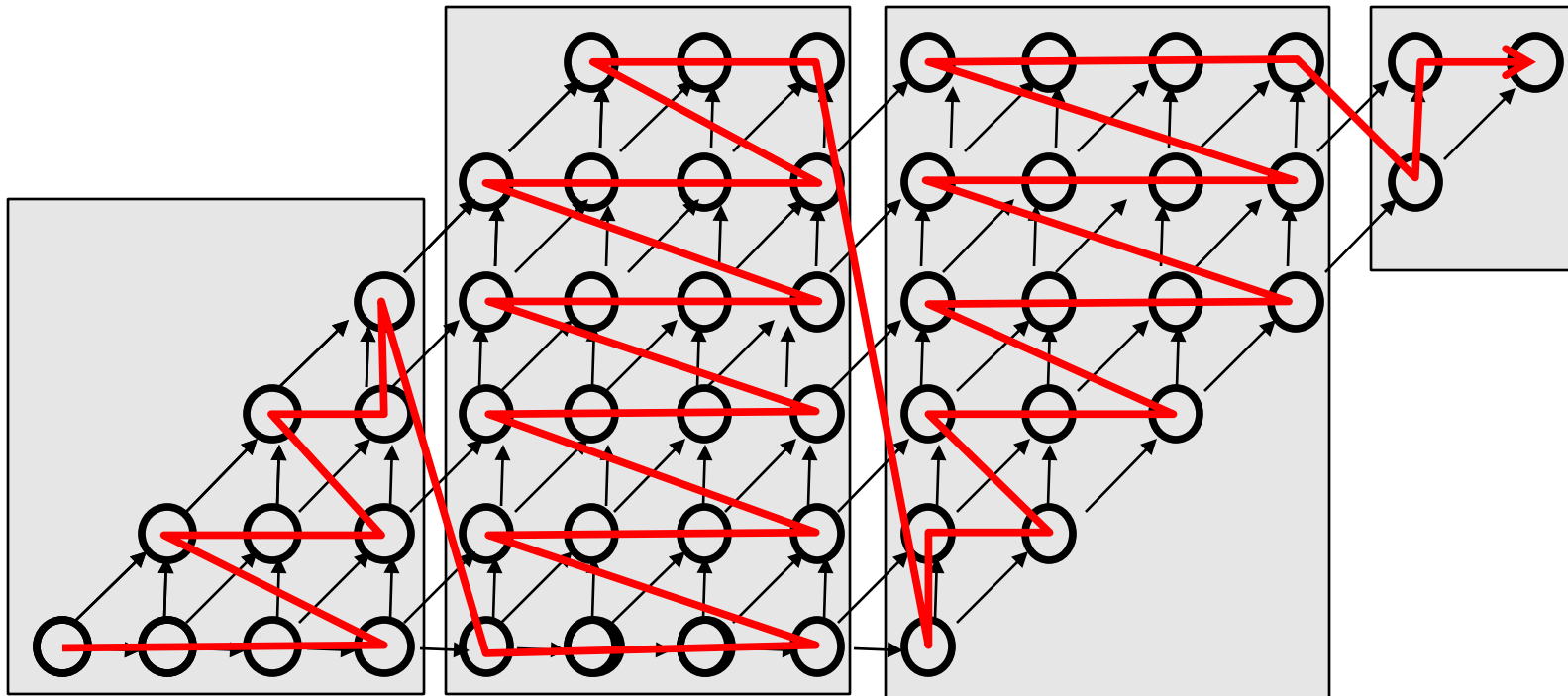
But...is the transform legal?

- Skewing...



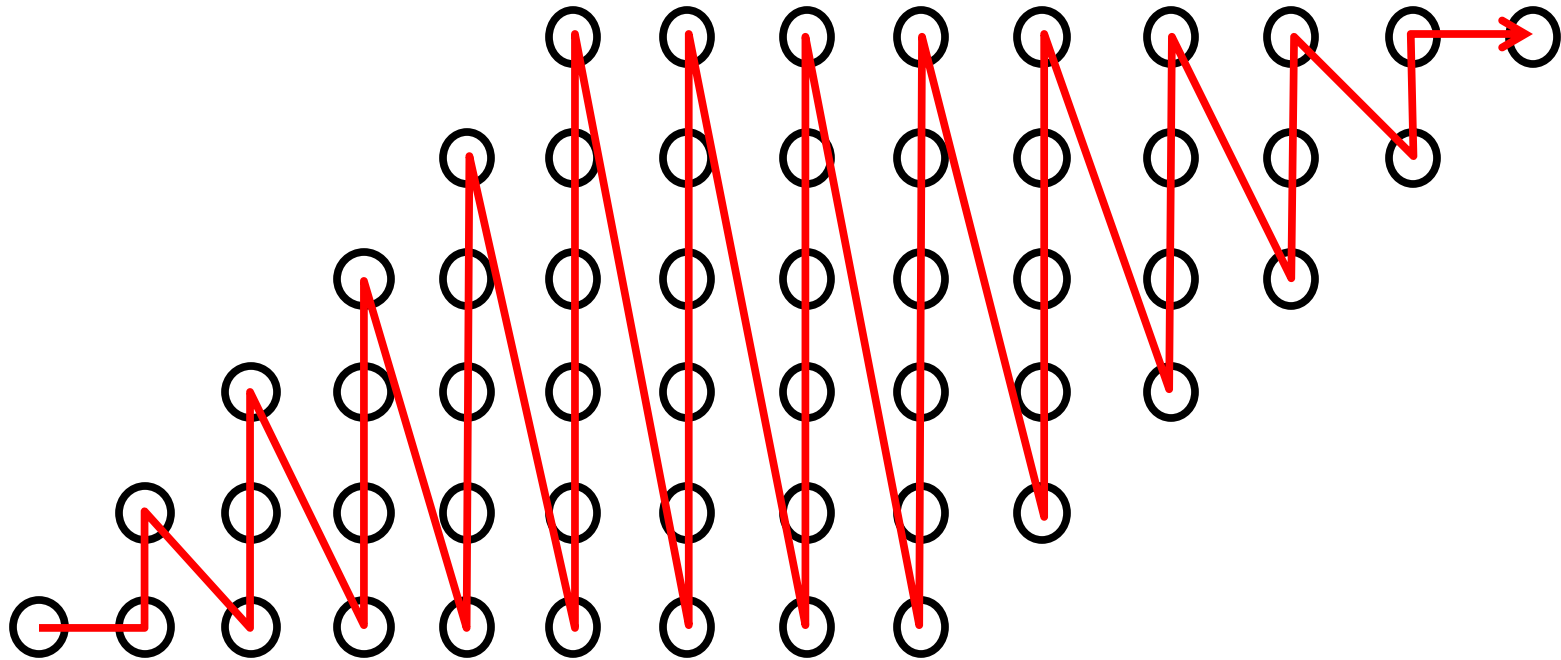
But...is the transform legal?

- Skewing...now we can block



But...is the transform legal?

- Skewing...now we can loop interchange



Unimodular transformations

- Express loop transformation as a matrix multiplication
- Check if any dependence is violated by multiplying the distance vector by the matrix – if the resulting vector is still lexicographically positive, then the involved iterations are visited in an order that respects the dependence.

Reversal

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Interchange

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Skew

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

"A Data Locality Optimizing Algorithm", M.E.Wolf and M.Lam

Finding Data Dependences

The General Problem

```
DO i1 = L1, U1
  DO i2 = L2, U2
    ...
    DO in = Ln, Un
      S1      A(f1(i1, ..., in), ..., fm(i1, ..., in)) = ...
      S2      ... = A(g1(i1, ..., in), ..., gm(i1, ..., in))
    ENDDO
  ...
ENDDO
ENDDO
```

A dependence exists from S1 to S2 if:

– There exist α and β such that

- $\alpha < \beta$ (control flow requirement)
- $f_i(\alpha) = g_i(\beta)$ for all i , $1 \leq i \leq m$ (common access requirement)
- [at least one is a write]

Example

```
for (i=0; i<N; i++) {  
    A[i] = A[i-1]+C;  
}
```

Example

```
for (i=0; i<N; i++) {  
    A[i] = A[i-1]+C;  
}
```

- At iteration $i+1$ we read what was written at iteration i
- Distance vector: (1)
- Dependence vector: $(<)$

General Solver?

- Looking for an interger solution to:

$$f_i(\alpha) = g_i(\beta) \text{ for all } i, 1 \leq i \leq m$$

- N-deep loop nest
- M subscripts per array reference
- General case, too hard
- Restrict to linear functions of loop-indices
- System of linear equations
(2n variables and m equations)

Basics: Conservative Testing

- Consider only linear subscript expressions
- Finding integer solutions to system of linear Diophantine Equations is NP-Complete
- Most common approximation is **Conservative Testing**, i.e., See if you can assert
“No dependence exists between two subscripted references of the same array”
- Never incorrect, may be less than optimal

Basics: Indices and Subscripts

Index: Index variable for some loop surrounding a pair of references

Subscript: A PAIR of subscript positions in a pair of array references

For Example:

$$A[I][j] = A[I][k] + C$$

$\langle I, I \rangle$ is the first subscript

$\langle j, k \rangle$ is the second subscript

Basics: Complexity

A subscript is said to be

- ZIV if it contains no index
zero index variable
- SIV if it contains only one index
single index variable
- MIV if it contains more than one index
multiple index variable

For Example:

$$\mathbf{A}[5][\mathbf{I}+1][j] = \mathbf{A}[1][\mathbf{I}][\mathbf{k}] + \mathbf{C}$$

First subscript is ZIV

Second subscript is SIV

Third subscript is MIV

Basics: Separability

- A subscript is separable if its indices do not occur in other subscripts
- If two different subscripts contain the same index they are coupled

For Example:

$$\mathbf{A}[\mathbf{I}+1][j] = \mathbf{A}[\mathbf{k}][j] + \mathbf{C}$$

Both subscripts are separable

$$\mathbf{A}[\mathbf{I}][j][j] = \mathbf{A}[\mathbf{I}][j][\mathbf{k}] + \mathbf{C}$$

Second and third subscripts are coupled

Basics: Coupled Subscript Groups

- Why are they important?

Coupling can cause imprecision in dependence testing

```
    for (i=0; i<= 100; i++) {  
S1      A[i+1][i] = B[i] + C  
S2      D[i] = A[i][i] * E  
    ENDDO
```

Dependence Testing: Overview

- Partition subscripts of a pair of array references into separable and coupled groups
- Classify each subscript as ZIV, SIV or MIV
 - Reason for classification is to reduce complexity of the tests.
- For each separable subscript apply single subscript test. Continue until prove independence.
- Deal with coupled groups
- If independent, done
- Otherwise, merge all direction vectors computed in the previous steps into a single set of direction vectors

Classify as ZIV/SIV/MIV

- Easy step
- Just count the number of different indices in a subscript

Applying Single Subscript Tests

- ZIV Test
- SIV Test
 - Strong SIV Test
 - Weak SIV Test
 - Weak-zero SIV
 - Weak Crossing SIV
- SIV Tests in Complex Iteration Spaces

ZIV Test

```
for (i=0; i<N; i++) {  
S    A[e1] = A[e2] + B[j]  
}
```

e_1, e_2 are constants or loop invariant symbols

If $(e_1 - e_2) \neq 0$ No Dependence exists

Strong SIV Test

- Strong SIV subscripts are of the form

$$\langle ai + c_1, ai + c_2 \rangle$$

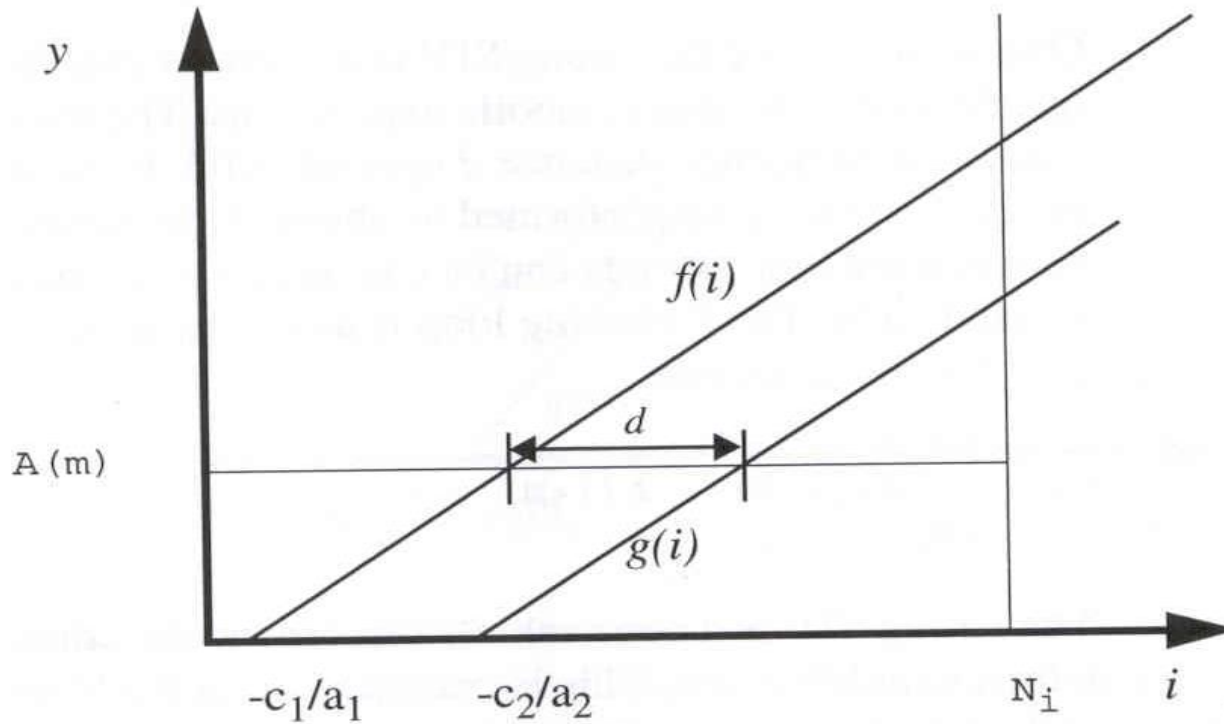
- For example the following are strong SIV subscripts

$$\langle i + 1, i \rangle$$

$$\langle 4i + 2, 4i + 4 \rangle$$

Strong SIV Test $\langle ai + c_1, ai + c_2 \rangle$

Geometric View of Strong SIV Tests



$$d = i' - i = \frac{c_1 - c_2}{a}$$

Dependence exists if: $|d| \leq U - L$

Strong SIV Test Example

```
for (k=0; k<100, k++) {  
    for (j=0; j<100; j++) {  
        A[j+1][k] = ...  
                ... = A[j][k] + 32  
    }  
}
```

General test

- The GCD test can give conservative answer to “dependent” or “independent”
- For each pair of subscripts:
 - Write to $A[a_i+c_1]$
 - Read from $A[b_i+c_2]$
- Want to see if there is a solution to
$$a\alpha + c_1 = b\beta + c_2$$
- Looking for $a\alpha - b\beta = c_2 - c_1$, i.e.,
- Does $\text{GCD}(\alpha, \beta)$ divide (c_2-c_1) ?

Using GCD test

```
for (k=0; k<100, k++) {  
    A[2*k+10] = ...  
                ... = A[2*k+1]  
    }  
}
```

Hierarchy of Tests

- GCD – existence without bound checking
- Strong SIV for subscript pairs of form:
 $i+c_1, i+c_2$
- Banerjee Test: uses bounds to check for existence
- Delta Test: for coupled subscript pairs
- Omega Test: uses ILP to find exact distance if it exists

Loops & Array Dependence

- Test for independence
- If independent, then can:
 - Parallelize
 - Rearrange for locality
 - Many others
- If dependent and distance vectors can possibly rearrange loop to do above
- See Wolff & Lam