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PAPER

Memory Allocation and Code Optimization Methods for DSPs with Indexed Auto-Modification

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SUMMARY A memory address allocation method for digital signal processors of indirect addressing with indexed auto-modification is proposed. At first, address auto-modification amounts for a given program are analyzed. And then, address allocation of program variables are moved and shifted so that both indexed and simple auto-modifications are effectively exploited. For further reduction in overhead codes, a memory address allocation method coupled with computational reordering is proposed. The proposed methods are applied to the existing compiler, and generated codes prove their effectiveness.

key words: indirect addressing, memory addressing, memory allocation, scheduling method

1. Introduction

Digital Signal Processors (DSPs) are often used to realize real-time applications for their high performance. By using DSPs, various real-time algorithms can be realized flexibly. When a real-time signal processing is implemented on DSPs, efficient program codes or program codes short in execution time are required. In order to generate such efficient program codes, it is preferable to exploit hardware resources in DSPs as much as possible. For the reason, compilers, which can be generated efficient codes from high-level languages, are required. For example, in Refs. [6],[7] DIMPL (Digital network IMPlImentation Language) and its compiler have been proposed. In these compilers, efficient program codes are derived by effective use of registers and arithmetic resources in a DSP.

A typical DSP architecture is shown in Fig. 1. In many DSPs, program variables in memory are usually accessed indirectly through an address register (AR) in address generation unit (AGU). Moreover, simple AR auto-modifications or update operations are often provided for array access. Since these auto-modifications are executed at the AGU in parallel with other arithmetic operations, memory allocation is very important issue to reduce overhead codes by memory access.

Some of the DSPs provide AR auto-modification by an index (IX) register. By use the IX register, further reduction in overhead codes is expected. References [1],[3] etc were proposed. However, heuristic memory allocation methods for such memory addressing are hardly known. In this paper, indirect addressing DSP with the index register modification is assumed, and a new memory allocation method is presented.

Although the proposed memory allocation method is applied to memory accesses after computational ordering, more efficient memory access can be achieved for other computational orders. For further reduction in overhead codes over memory accesses, a memory access sequence is rearranged by computational ordering, while memory addresses are allocated for program variables.

2. Memory Addressing

In many DSPs, program variables stored in memory space are accessed by indirect addressing mode. In this paper, the processor of the following indirect addressing mode with indexed and simple auto-modifications is assumed.

Memory Addressing Mode

1. Memory addresses are pointed by AR.
2. AR can be post-modified for the next access by the following modifications.

\begin{itemize}
\item \textbf{Auto modification by 1} $(AR \leftarrow AR \pm 1)$
\item \textbf{Indexed auto-modification} $(AR \leftarrow AR \pm IX)$
\end{itemize}

The assumed DSPs provide AR modification by an index register. AR can be increased or decreased by one (AR) at every memory access.

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\begin{itemize}
\item \textbf{Auto modification by 1} $(AR \leftarrow AR \pm 1)$
\item \textbf{Indexed auto-modification} $(AR \leftarrow AR \pm IX)$
\end{itemize}

3. IX can be increased or decreased by one $(IX \leftarrow IX \pm 1)$ at every memory access, where IX value is a positive integer.
4. When a required AR update cannot be achieved by use of operations in 2, an “AR load” operation, which directly substitutes a memory address into the AR, is required. This AR load operation costs one instruction cycle only by itself, so that it becomes an overhead over memory accesses.

The assumed memory addressing mode is depicted in Fig. 2.

For such an indirect addressing processor, the features of AR ± IX operation can be illustrated with an example memory access subsequence: b-d-e-f-a, where “b,” “d,” “e,” “f,” and “a” are program variables and they are accessed in this order (Fig. 3(a)). Assume a memory allocation for a program variable set \( V = \{a, b, c, d, e, f\} \) as is given in Fig. 3(b). If we do not use any AR ← AR ± IX operations, we have the memory access sequence shown in Fig. 3(c). Since “address distance” at b-d and f-a are \( ad(b, d) = 2 > 1 \) and \( ad(f, a) = 5 > 1 \), respectively, we need AR load operations at b-d and f-a.

In this paper, AR ± IX operation is used to update AR by ±2 or more. Furthermore, IX is updated by ±1 in parallel with the AR update operation. For the given example, when AR ± IX operations at b-d and f-a are assumed, no AR load is required as shown in Fig. 3(d). Note that IX is updated by +3 during this access sequence. When the update amount exceeds the IX value, however, we need an AR load operation, which becomes an overhead code in the program code.

3. Conditions Requiring AR Load Operation

3.1 Address Distance and Distance Sequence

Consider a memory access subsequence \( s_k, s_{k+1} \) in a memory access sequence, i.e.

\[
acc_{seq} = \ldots -s_k - s_{k+1} - \ldots
\]  

where \( s_k, s_{k+1} \) denote program variables. When these program variables are allocated to memory addresses \( a_k, a_{k+1} \), respectively, “address distance” or AR modification amount \( ad(s_k, s_{k+1}) \) is written as

\[
ad(s_k, s_{k+1}) = |a_{k+1} - a_k|
\]  

The “distance sequence” for overall access sequence is written as

\[
dist_{seq}(acc_{seq}) = ad_1 - ad_2 - ad_3 \ldots
\]

3.2 AR Update by AR ← AR ± IX Operations

When the AR ← AR ± IX operation is used for three consecutive memory accesses, the following condition holds.

**Condition 1**

Consider a memory access subsequence \( s_1, s_2, s_3, o r a_1, a_2, a_3 \), after memory allocation, where \( a_1, a_2, a_3 \) are memory addresses for \( s_1, s_2, s_3 \), respectively. Its distance subsequence or subsequence of AR modification amounts is \( d_1, d_2 \), where \( d_k \) denotes address distance or AR modification amount and is written as \( d_k = |a_{k+1} - a_k| \).
of $s_k$). If
\[|d_1 - d_2| > 1, \] (8)
at least one AR load is required at this subsequence.

As an example, consider memory access underlined subsequence in Eq. (4).
\[\text{acc}_\text{subseq}_1 = \text{E}-\text{C}-\text{G} \] (9)

When $AR \leftarrow AR \pm IX$ is used for an AR update at E-C, IX at C-G takes the value of 1,2,3, respectively, since IX can be updated by $\pm 1$ at every instruction cycle with memory access. For $ad(C, G) = 4$, an AR load is required. Similar can be said if we use $AR \leftarrow AR \pm IX$ at C-G. Therefore, at least one AR load is required at the subsequence E-C-G.

3.3 AR Update by $AR \leftarrow AR \pm IX$ and $AR \leftarrow AR \pm 1$ Operations

From the assumed AR update model, IX can be updated by $\pm 1$ at every memory access, whether AR is updated or not. Therefore, when a subsequence between two $AR \leftarrow AR \pm IX$ operations is realized only by $AR \leftarrow AR \pm 1$, IX can be updated by number of memory access included in the subsequence. In such a case, the following condition holds.

**Condition 2**

Consider the subsequence $s_1$-$\cdots$-$s_{k+3}$, or $a_1$-$\cdots$-$a_{k+3}$ after memory allocation, where $a_1$-$\cdots$-$a_{k+3}$ are memory addresses for $s_1$-$\cdots$-$s_{k+3}$, respectively. Its distance subsequence is $d_1$-$d_2$-$\cdots$-$d_{k+1}$-$d_{k+2}$, where $d_k = |a_{k+1}(s_k+1) - a_k(s_k)|$. Assume that $d_1$, $d_{k+2} \geq 2$, and $d_2$, $\cdots$, $d_{k+1} \leq 1$. If
\[||d_1 - d_{k+2}|-k| > 1 \] (10)
at least one AR load is required at this subsequence.

As an example, consider the following memory access subsequence from Eq. (4).
\[\text{acc}_\text{subseq}_2 = \text{I}-\text{G}-\text{H}-\text{C} \] (11)

For this subsequence, we have distance subsequence $\text{dis}_\text{seq}(\text{I}-\text{G}-\text{H}-\text{C}) = 2$-$1$-$5$.

Since $||d_1 - d_{k+2}|-k| = ||2 - 5|-1| > 1$ (k=1), at least one AR load is required at this subsequence.

When the $AR \leftarrow AR \pm IX$ operation is used for AR update at I-G, IX takes the value of 2,3,4 at H-C, since IX can be updated by $\pm 1$ at every memory access. For $ad(H, C) = 5$, an AR load is required. Similar can be said if we use $AR \leftarrow AR \pm IX$ at H-C. Therefore, at least one AR load is required at the subsequence I-G-H-C.

3.4 Cost-Intensive Variables

According to the result in Condition 1, underlined subsequences in Eq. (4) require AR load operations. In this paper, such a subsequence is called as a “cost-intensive subsequence,” and variables in a cost-intensive subsequence are called as “cost-intensive variables,” where cost means the number of AR loads.

4. Proposed Memory Allocation Method

4.1 Lower Variance in the AR Modification

In this section, a memory allocation method, which utilizes $AR \leftarrow AR \pm IX$ operations, is proposed.

4.1.1 Access Graph

A given memory access sequence is modeled with an access graph (AG), where each vertex and edge denote the variable to be accessed and the required update, respectively [4]–[6]. Program variables are allocated to the memory as their appearance. For example, the AG of the memory access sequence in Fig. 5(a) is shown in Fig. 5(b).

4.1.2 Variance of the AR Modification

Since IX can be increased or decreased by one at every memory access, large modification in IX, and hence higher variance in AR update amount, as illustrated in Fig. 6(b), is not preferable. In this subsection, the method, which variance in AR update amount becomes lower, is introduced. The purpose of this variable allocation method is to decide IX value of each update approximately.

The detail procedures are:

1. Decide an initial memory allocation for program variables.
   Program variables are allocated to the memory in the accessed turn.

2. Find the AR update(s) $u-v$ of the longest address distance (ex. a-g in Fig. 6(b)). If multiple updates of the same distance exist, choose one whose variable, which is allocated at the lowest address.

3. Choose the variable $w$ of the lower memory address (ex. “a” in Fig. 6(b)) in the AR update $u-v$. Exchange $w$ with variable next to $w$, so that the AR modification amount at the AR update $u-v$ decreases. If no additional AR modification longer than $u-v$ newly appears, take the new memory allocation and restart from step 2. Otherwise, try the same exchange for the other variable of $u-v$ (ex. “g” in Fig. 6(b)).

4. If no exchange occurs at step 3, try the same exchange for the next longest address distance (or rest updates in step 2).

5. If no exchange occurs at step 4, find $u-v$. Try the same

\[\text{a-b-c-a-c-d-c-b-d-c} \]
\[\text{addr 1 2 3 4 5} \]
\[\text{a-b-c-a-c-d-c-b-d-c} \]
\[\text{addr 1 2 3 4 5} \]
\[\text{a-b-c-a-c-d-c-b-d-c} \]
\[\text{addr 1 2 3 4 5} \]
\[\text{a-b-c-a-c-d-c-b-d-c} \]
\[\text{addr 1 2 3 4 5} \] (a) Memory Access Sequence

\[\text{a-b-c-a-c-d-c-b-d-c} \]
\[\text{addr 1 2 3 4 5} \]
\[\text{a-b-c-a-c-d-c-b-d-c} \]
\[\text{addr 1 2 3 4 5} \]
\[\text{a-b-c-a-c-d-c-b-d-c} \]
\[\text{addr 1 2 3 4 5} \] (b) An AG for the Memory Access in (a)

Fig. 5 An AG example.
exchange with the next nearest variable from \( w \).

6. Repeat 5, until no further exchanges occur.

For an example, consider a part of memory access sequence

\[
\text{acc}_\text{seq} = \ldots -h-e-f-b-d-e-d-b-g-a-b-c-a-g-f-\ldots \tag{12}
\]

An initial memory allocation for program variables \( V = \{a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h\} \) is determined as their appearance in the sequence, i.e.,

\[
\text{addr}_\text{alloc}(V) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\} \tag{13}
\]

The access sequence can be rewritten as

\[
\text{acc}_\text{seq} = -6-8-5-6-2-4-5-4-2-7-1-2-3-1-7-6-\ldots . \tag{14}
\]

A part of the distance sequence becomes

\[
\text{dis}_\text{seq}(\text{acc}_\text{seq}) = \ldots -2-3-1-4-2-1-1-2-5-6-1-1-2-6-1-\ldots \tag{15}
\]

Figure 6(a) shows the \( \text{dis}_\text{seq} \) along with the order of AR updates except the case of address distance \( ad = 1 \).

For AG in Fig. 6(b), a-g is one of the updates of the largest address distance in Fig. 6(b), and program variables a and g are exchanged with their neighbor variables b, f, and h. The similar procedures are repeated, and, as the result, address allocation

\[
\text{addr}_\text{alloc}(V) = \{2, 4, 1, 3, 6, 7, 5, 8\} \tag{16}
\]

is derived. The distance sequence becomes

\[
\text{dis}_\text{seq}(\text{acc}_\text{seq}) = 1-2-1-3-1-3-1-3-2-3-1-3-2. \tag{17}
\]

Figures 6(c) and (d) show the AG and \( \text{dis}_\text{seq} \) after the address exchange. Since variance in AR modification in Fig. 6(d) is lower than that in Fig. 6(a), the address allocation in Fig. 6(c) gives a memory allocation to decide IX value of each update approximately.

4.2 Move-and-Shift Operations

In order to reduce AR loads, it is also very important to prevent the conditions in Condition 1 and Condition 2. In this paper, cost-intensive variables are moved to obtain memory allocations with less AR loads.

As an example, consider the underlined subsequence in Eq. (4). According to Condition 1 in Sect. 3.2, \( \text{acc}_\text{subseq}_1 = E-C-G \) (Eq. (9)) is a cost-intensive subsequence, and variables E, C and G are cost-intensive variables. These cost-intensive variables are changed their addresses by using a variable movement.

This variable movement scheme is called “move-and-shift operations.” Cost-intensive variables are moved by applying move-and-shift operations so that cost-intensive subsequences are reduced. There are some move-and-shift operations for reduction in a certain cost-intensive subsequence, as shown in Fig. 7(a). For example, the memory allocation shown in Fig. 7(b) is obtained as a result of one of a move-and-shift.

Figure 8 shows the AR updates after move-and-shift operation (memory allocation is shown in Fig. 7(b)). The AR load operation required in Fig. 4 is reduced as a result of a move-and-shift operation.

4.3 Move-and-Shift Operation within Depth \( n \)

Although AR loads can be reduced by the move-and-shift operations the following two steps are needed to reduce AR loads.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{addr} & \quad 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\
\text{(a) Some Candidates} & \\
\text{Before Move-and-shift} & \\
\text{addr} & \quad 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\
\text{(b) Move-and-shift Operation} & \\
\text{After Move-and-shift} &
\end{align*}
\]
operations in Sect. 4.2, total number of AR loads for a given access sequence may not be reduced. The memory allocation method for reduction in AR loads is shown in subsection.

The procedures are:
1. An initial memory allocation for program variables \( V \) is decided by the method in Sect. 4.1. Best allocation (\( best\_alloc \)) is an initial allocation at this step, where best allocation means the allocation with lowest AR loads.
2. Choose a cost-intensive subsequence in an access sequence, and move-and-shift operations are applied. Some variable allocations are generated in this step.
3. Choose the memory allocation with the lowest AR loads as the \( selected\_alloc \).

Case 1.
If \( ARload\( ( selected\_alloc ) < ARload\( ( best\_alloc ) \), \( selected\_alloc \) newly becomes \( best\_alloc \), and go back to step 2, where \( ARload\( ( ) \) means the number of AR loads required for each memory allocation.

Case 2.
If \( ARload\( ( selected\_alloc ) = ARload\( ( best\_alloc ) \), a cost-intensive subsequence is reduced. However, an AR load is newly required at another AR update (Fig. 9(c)). In such a case, we may reduce an AR load, after the move-and-shift is iteratively applied (Fig. 9(e)). In this paper, when an AR load is reduced after \( n \) repetitions of moving program variables, it is referred as a “move of depth \( n \)” (depth 2 in this example).

An allocation with less AR loads is obtained by repeating move-and-shift operations. However, since a long compiling time will be required when depth \( n \) becomes large, compiler users can specify “the maximum value of \( n \)” in this method. Move-and-shifts are applied within Depth \( n \).

4.4 Variance in AR Update and Maximum Depth

In this section, the effectiveness of the method to suppress variance in AR modification amount is shown. Also, the appropriate value of maximum depth \( n \) is evaluated. As an example, 11th order wave digital filter is used. For its memory access sequence, the different memory allocation methods in the maximum depth are applied. As a preprocessing of the memory allocation, variance in AR modification amount is suppressed by using the method mentioned in Sect. 4.1.

The numbers of resultant AR loads are plotted as the solid line in Fig. 11. For the comparison, the memory allocation results without the above preprocess are also plotted as the dashed line in the same figure. In this paper, a method to suppress variance in AR modification amount is applied as a preprocess before the memory allocation.

Also, the maximum depth is chosen as 5 in this paper. This value may not be enough. However, the maximum depth is taken fewer so that the memory allocation method can be applied to a large program.
4.5 Memory Allocation Results

The proposed methods are applied to the DIMPL compiler for the assuming DSP model, and codes for several examples are generated. Table 1 shows a comparison of the proposed methods to the existing methods \[1\], \[3\] in terms of the number of AR loads in the generated codes. The existing method \[3\] decides such a memory allocation that \( AR \leftarrow AR \pm 1 \) ops. are used as much as possible, and then \( AR \leftarrow AR \pm IX \) ops. are taken into account. In \[1\], the “move-and-shift operation” is not repeated to obtain a memory allocation. Thus, compiler time is expected to be reduced, but extra AR load operations are sometimes required.

Note that the maximum depth in the proposed method is set to 5. Memory allocation results of the proposed method need less AR loads than those of the existing allocation methods \[1\], \[3\].

5. Memory Allocation Methods Coupled with Computational Ordering

5.1 Computational Ordering and Memory Access Sequence

The proposed method in the last chapter allocates memory addresses of the program variables for the memory access sequence given for the code, which is generated for a source program. The order of load instructions and store instructions depend on computational order. Therefore, if other computational order are obtained, different memory allocation results for the alternative memory access sequence is given, and hence further reduction in overhead codes is expected. In this chapter, computational rearrangement in memory access sequence is taken into account, an improved memory allocation method is shown.

5.1.1 Precedence Relation

A computational ordering must satisfy precedence relations. For the program in Fig. 12(a), its “precedence relations” are shown in Fig. 12(b). These relations, for example, indicates that \( F \) must be calculated before \( J \) is calculated.

5.2 Program Variables in Memory Space

5.2.1 Load Instructions

In Fig. 12(a), \( F=A+B \) and \( F=B+A \) give the same calcu-
Moreover, there exist no precedence relations in $F=A+B$ and $G=D+E$. Thus, lines 1-7 in Fig. 12(a) can be rewritten as shown in Fig. 14(a). Therefore, there are no restrictions in access orders of program variables “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” (Fig. 14(b)).

5.2.2 Store Instructions

In general, a program variable is written into memory space immediately after its value is computed. For example, program variable $J$ in Fig. 12(b) needs to be stored into memory space. According to the computational order in Fig. 13(a), the variable $J$ is stored into memory space just after the computation $F+A$ (line 5 in Fig. 13(a)). However, we can keep such a program variable on an arithmetic register and postpone the execution of store instruction. For the above example, we can compute $G=D+E$ before the store of $J$, so that lines 1-7 in Fig. 13(a) is rewritten as shown in Fig. 15(a). The choices in store timing of program variable $J$ are illustrated in Fig. 15(b).

5.3 Computational Re-ordering Method

For a given program, there exist alternative computational orders, that satisfy precedence relations, and hence the alternative memory access sequences. In this section, the computational ordering method coupled with computational re-ordering is proposed. An overall diagram of the proposed method is shown in Fig. 16.

5.3.1 Initial Computational Order

At the procedure 1 in Fig. 16, an initial computational order is determined by use of the conventional computational ordering method. Although this method exploits computational resources or arithmetic units (e.g., arithmetic registers and ALU) as much as possible, overhead codes over memory accesses are not taken into account.

5.3.2 Computational Re-ordering

Memory access sequence is changed by the computational re-ordering at procedure 4 in Fig. 16. The detailed procedure of the re-ordering is shown in Fig. 17.

Suppose a memory access sequence
is given, where there required an AR load between p-th and (p+1)-th memory accesses (Fig. 16 left-handside). In the re-ordering procedure, computational orders commutative with $s_p$ and/or $s_{p+1}$ is considered, so that the memory access order around $s_p-s_{p+1}$ changes. By use of flexibility in computational orders mentioned in Sect. 5.2, m computational order candidates $order_k$ ($1 \leq k \leq m$) are listed as shown in Fig. 17. For each candidate $order_k$, the number of instruction cycles is counted as cycle ($order_k$).

5.3.3 Memory Allocation

According to computational orders $order_k$ ($1 \leq k \leq m$), memory access sequences $acc_seq_k$ ($1 \leq k \leq m$) are derived, and memory allocations are determined. For each memory allocation $alloc (acc_seq_k)$, the number of required AR loads, AR load ($alloc (acc_seq_k)$) is counted.

Computational orders are evaluated by the cost function

$$cost (order_k) = cycle (order_k) + AR load (alloc (acc_seq_k)) (1 \leq k \leq m)$$

The $order_k$ with the lowest cost ($order_k$) is chosen for the re-ordering in the next iteration.

5.3.4 Outline of the Re-ordering Method

An outline of the re-ordering method applied in this paper is shown below.

1. An initial computational order is given by the conventional method. Although it gives efficient program codes in terms of arithmetic instruction cycles, overhead in memory accesses are not considered.
2. Memory allocations are determined for m different memory access sequences (given at procedure 1 or procedure 4). The number of required AR loads is counted for each memory access sequence or computational order.
3. Chose the computational order with the lowest cost k.
4. Re-ordering procedure determines m kinds of computational order. Repeat 2-4 no further re-ordering occurs.

5.4 Results

The proposed memory address allocation method coupled with computational reordering is applied to the DIMPL compiler for the above-mentioned DSP model, where the maximum depth is set to 5. Codes for several examples are generated and the numbers of their AR loads are shown in Table 2. The numbers at the “initial computation” column is the same results shown in Table 1. The number of AR loads is reduced by the proposed re-ordering method.

In the table, “(+ number)” denotes the number of additional arithmetic instructions associated by the computational re-ordering method. From the table, no additional instruction cycle is required for these examples. The numbers in the “iteration” column are the loop count in Fig. 16. The “memory allocation” column denotes the number of times the proposed memory allocation methods was applied.

6. Conclusions

In this paper, a new memory allocation method for indirect addressing processor with an indexed auto-modification is proposed. A memory allocation method in cooperated with computational re-scheduling method is also proposed. These methods are applied to the existing compiler and their effectiveness is shown by the generated codes for several examples. A further reduction in AR loads, efficient memory addressing for multiple ARs, and memory allocation methods with less computational complexity must be studied.

References

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