Course on: "Advanced Computer Architectures"

Performance Evaluation



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Basic concepts and performance metrics

Performance

- Purchasing perspective
 - given a collection of machines, which has the
 - best performance?
 - least cost?
 - best performance / cost?
- Design perspective
 - faced with design options, which has the
 - best performance improvement?
 - least cost?
 - best performance / cost?
- Both require
 - basis for comparison
 - metrics for evaluation
- Our goal is to understand cost & performance implications of architectural choices

Two notions of "performance"

Plane	DC to Paris	Speed	Passengers	Throughput (p×mph)
Boeing 747	6.5 hours	610 mph	470	286,700
BAD/Sud Concorde	3 hours	1350 mph	132	178,200

Which has higher performance?

- Time to do the task (Execution Time)
 - Execution time, response time, latency
- Number of jobs done per day, hour, sec, ns (Performance)
 - Throughput, bandwidth
- Response time and throughput often are in opposition

Example

- Time of Concorde vs. Boeing 747?
 - Concord is 1350 mph / 610 mph = 2.2 times faster
 = 6.5 hours / 3 hours
- Throughput of Concorde vs. Boeing 747?
 - Concord is 178,200 pmph / 286,700 pmph = 0.62 "times faster"
 - Boeing is 286,700 pmph / 178,200 pmph = 1.60 "times faster"
- Boeing is 1.6 times ("60%") faster in terms of throughput
- Concord is 2.2 times ("120%") faster in terms of flying time

We will focus primarily on execution time for a single job Lots of instructions in a program => Instruction throughput important!

Definitions

- "X is n% faster than Y" \Rightarrow execution time (y) = 1 + ____ execution time (x) 100

 performance(x) = ____ 1

 execution_time(x)
- "X is n% faster than Y" \Rightarrow performance(x) = 1 + __n__ performance(y) 100

Performance Improvement

- Performance improvement means increment:
 - Higher is better
- Execution time (or response time) improvement means decrement:
 - Lower is better

Example

If machine A executes a program in 10 sec and machine B executes same program in 15 sec:

A is 50% faster than B or A is 33% faster than B?

Solution:

- The statement A is n% faster than B can be expressed as:
- "A is n% faster than B" \Rightarrow execution time (B) = 1 + n execution time (A) 100
- \Rightarrow n = <u>execution time (B)- execution time (A)</u>*100 execution time (A)

 $(15 - 10)/10 * 100 = 50 \Rightarrow$ A is 50% faster than B.

Clock cycles

- **T**_{CLK} = Period or clock cycle time [seconds]
- **f**_{CLK} = Clock frequency = Clock cycles per second

$$f_{CLK} = 1 / T_{CLK}$$

Where: 1 Hz = 1 / sec

- Examples:
 - $f_{CLK} = 500 \text{ MHz}$ corresponds to $T_{CLK} = 1 / (500 * 10^6) = 2 * 10^{-9} = 2 \text{ nsec}$
 - $f_{CLK} = 1$ GHz corresponds to $T_{CLK} = 1 / (10^9) = 1 * 10^{-9} = 1$ nsec

Execution time or CPU Time

- To optimize performance means to reduce the execution time (or CPU time):
 - To reduce the number of clock cycles per program
 - To reduce the clock period T_{clk}
 - To increase the clock frequency f_{CLK}

CPU Time

Where Clock Per Instruction is given by:

CPI = Clock Cycles / Instruction Count

The Instruction Per Clock is given by: IPC = 1 / CPI

CPU Time

Where: Clock Cycles =
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} (CPI_i \times I_i)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{CPU time} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\text{CPI}_{i} \times \text{I}_{i}) \times \text{T}_{\text{CLK thus being CPU time} = IC \times \text{CPI} \times \text{T}_{\text{CLK}}}$$

$$\mathbf{CPI} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (CPI_i \times F_i)$$
 Where $F_i = \frac{I_i}{IC}$

"instruction frequency"

$$\Rightarrow$$
 CPU time = IC x CPI x T_{CLK} = IC x \sum (CPI_i * F_i) x T_{CLK}

Example

	Frequency	Clock Cycles
ALU	43%	1
Load	21%	4
Store	12%	4
Branch	12%	2
Jump	12%	2

 Evaluate the CPI and the CPU time to execute a program composed of 100 instructions mixed as in the table by using 500 MHz clock frequency:

CPI =
$$0.43 * 1 + 0.21 * 4 + 0.12 * 4 + 0.12 * 2 + 0.12 * 2 = 2.23$$

CPU time = IC * CPI *
$$T_{clk}$$
 = 100 * 2.23 * 2 ns = 446 ns

MIPS Millions of instructions per second

Where: Execution time =
$$\frac{|C \times CP|}{f_{CLK}}$$

$$MIPS = f_{CLK}$$

$$CPI \times 10^{6}$$

Amdahl's Law

How to evaluate the speedup

Speedup due to enhancement E:

Assume that an enhancement E accelerates a fraction F of the execution time of the task by a factor S and the remainder of the task is unaffected then,

ExTime(w/ E) =
$$((1-F) + F/S) \times ExTime(w/o E)$$

Speedup(w/ E) = $\frac{1}{(1-F) + F/S}$

Amdahl's Law

- Basic idea: Make the most common case fast
- Amdahl's Law: The performance improvement obtainable from using some faster execution modes is limited by the fraction of the time that the faster mode is used. Let us assume:
 - Fraction_E the fraction of the computation time in the original machine that can be converted to take advantage of the enhancement
 - Speedup_E the improvement gained by the enhanced execution mode
- The overall speed up is given by:

Example

- Let us consider an enhancement for a CPU resulting 10 time faster on computation than the original one but the original CPU is busy with computation only 40% of the time.
 - What is the overall speedup gained by introducing the enhancement?
- Solution: Application of Amdahl's Law where:
 - Fraction_E = 0.4
 - Speedup_F = 10
- The overall speed up is given by:

Basis of Evaluation

Pros Cons

• very specific

representative

Actual Target Workload

- non-portabledifficult to run, or measure
- hard to identify cause

- portable
- widely used
- improvements useful in practice

Full Application Benchmarks

•less representative

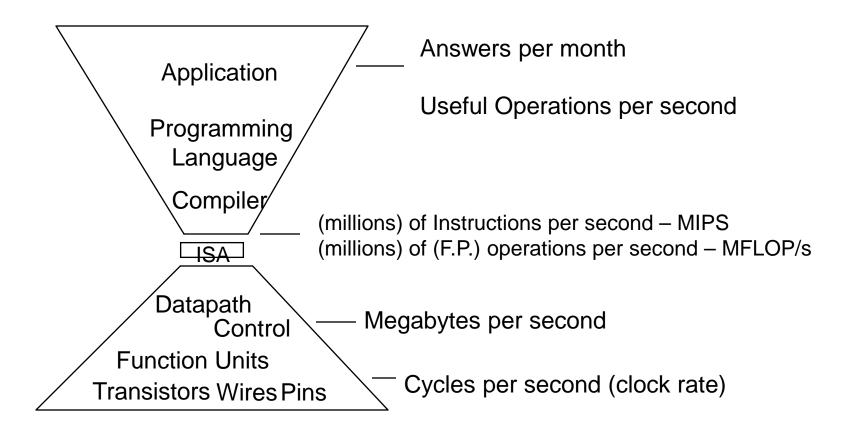
 easy to run, early in design cycle Small "Kernel" Benchmarks easy to "fool"

 identify peak capability and potential bottlenecks

Microbenchmarks

 "peak" may be a long way from application performance

Metrics of performance



Each metric has a place and a purpose, and each can be misused

Aspects of CPU Performance

CPU time= IC x CPI x T_{CLK}

	instr count	CPI	clock rate
Program	X		
Compiler	X	X	
Instr. Set	X	X	X
Organization			
(e.g., datapath or pipeline)		X	X
Technology			X

Performance evaluation in pipelined processors

Pipelining increases the CPU instruction **throughput** (number of instructions completed per unit of time), but it does not reduce the execution time (latency) of a single instruction

- Pipelining usually slightly increases the latency of each instruction due to the imbalance among the pipeline stages and the overhead in the control of the pipeline.
 - Imbalance among pipeline stages reduces performance since the clock period cannot be shorter than the time needed for the slowest pipe stage.
 - Pipeline overhead arises from pipeline register delay and clock skew.
 - All instructions should go through the same number of pipeline stages

Performance Metrics

IC = Instruction Count

CPI = Clocks Per Instruction

IPC = Instructions Per Clock = 1 / CPI

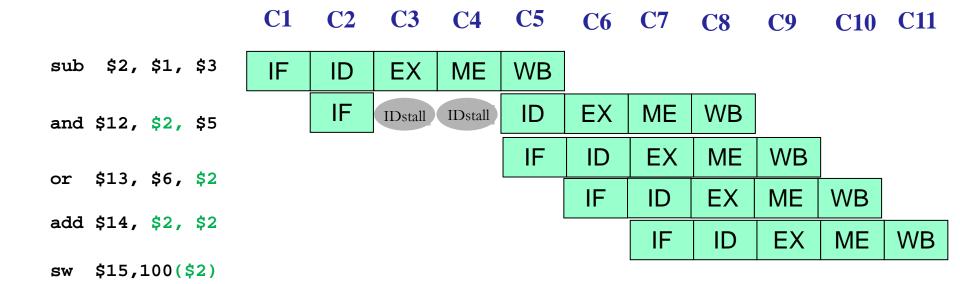
Clock Cycles = IC + # Stall Cycles + 4 for a 5-stage pipeline as MIPS or RISC-V

CPI = # Clock Cycles / IC = (IC + # Stall Cycles + 4) / IC

MIPS =
$$f_{clock} / (CPI * 10^{-6})$$

Example

```
IC = Instruction Count = 5 
# Clock Cycles = IC + # Stall Cycles + 4 = 5 + 2 + 4 = 11 
CPI = Clock Per Instruction = # Clock Cycles / IC = 11 / 5 = 2.2 
MIPS = f_{clock} / (CPI * 10 6) = 500 MHz / (2.2 * 106) = 227
```



Performance Metrics (2)

 Let us consider n iterations of a loop composed of m instructions per iteration requiring k stalls per iteration

$$IC_{per_iter} = m$$

CPI per_iter = (IC per iter + # Stall Cycles per_iter +4) /IC per_iter
=
$$(m + k + 4) / m$$

MIPS per_iter = $f_{clock} / (CPI_{per_iter} * 10^6)$

Asymptotic Performance Metrics

 Let us consider n iterations of a loop composed of m instructions per iteration requiring k stalls per iteration:

$$\begin{split} \textbf{IC}_{\textbf{AS}} &= \text{Instruction Count}_{AS} = m * n \\ \textbf{\# Clock Cycles} &= \text{IC}_{AS} + \# \text{Stall Cycles}_{AS} + 4 \\ \textbf{CPI}_{\textbf{AS}} &= \lim_{n \to \infty} (\text{IC}_{AS} + \# \text{Stall Cycles}_{AS} + 4) / \text{IC}_{AS} \\ &= \lim_{n \to \infty} (m * n + k * n + 4) / m * n \\ &= (m + k) / m \\ \textbf{MIPS}_{\textbf{AS}} &= f_{\text{clock}} / (\text{CPI}_{AS} * 10 ^ 6) \\ \end{split}$$

• The *ideal CPI* on a pipelined processor would be 1, but stalls cause the pipeline performance to degrade form the ideal performance, so we have:

Stall Cycles per Instruction are due to:

Structural Hazards + Data Hazards + Control Hazards + Memory Stalls

Pipeline Speedup = <u>Avg. Exec. Time Unpipelined</u> = Avg. Exec. Time Pipelined

$$= \frac{\text{Avg. CPI}_{\text{Unp}} \times \text{T}_{\text{clk,unp}}}{\text{Avg. CPI}_{\text{Pipe}} \times \text{T}_{\text{clk,pipe}}}$$

 If we ignore the cycle time overhead of pipelining and we assume the stages are perfectly balanced, the clock cycle time of unpipelined/pipelined processors can be equal, so: (Speedup = CPI_{Unp}/ CPI_{Pipe}, CPI_{Pipe} = 1 + Stall cycles per instr.)

 If we assume that each instruction takes the same number of cycles, which must be equal to the # of pipeline stages (called pipeline depth):

If there were <u>no pipeline stalls (ideal case)</u>, this leads to the intuitive result that pipelining improves performance by the depth of the pipeline:

Pipeline Speedup = Pipeline Depth

Performance of Branch Schemes

What is the performance impact of conditional branches?

Pipeline Speedup =	Pipeline Depth		
	1 + Pipe Stall Cycles per Instruction due to Branches		
=	Pipeline Depth		
	1 + Branch Frequency x Branch Penalty		

Performance evaluation of the memory hierarchy

Memory Hierarchy: Definitions

In a stack of memories, the one on the lowest level is the slowest one (likely it is also the biggest, e.g., hard disk), while the one on the highest level (the topmost) is the fastest one (and also the smallest, e.g., a L1 cache, or a CPU register)

- Hit: data found in a block of the upper level
- **Hit Rate:** Number of memory accesses finding data in the upper level memory with respect to the total number of memory accesses:

 Hit Time: time to access the data in the upper level of the hierarchy, including the time needed to decide if the attempt of access will result in a hit or miss

Memory Hierarchy: Definitions

- Miss: the data must be taken from the lower level
- Miss Rate: number of memory accesses not finding data in the upper level with respect to the total number of memory accesses:

- By definition: Hit Rate + Miss Rate = 1
- Miss Time = Hit Time + Miss Penalty
 Miss Penalty is the time needed to access the lower level and to replace the block in the upper level

Typically, we have that: **Hit Time << Miss Penalty**

Average Memory Access Time (AMAT)

AMAT = Hit Rate * Hit Time + Miss Rate * Miss Time

Being: Miss Time = Hit Time + Miss Penalty

=> AMAT = Hit Rate * Hit Time + Miss Rate * (Hit Time + Miss Penalty)

⇒ AMAT = (Hit Rate + Miss Rate) * Hit Time + Miss Rate * Miss Penalty

By definition: Hit Rate + Miss Rate = 1

⇒ AMAT= Hit Time + Miss Rate * Miss Penalty

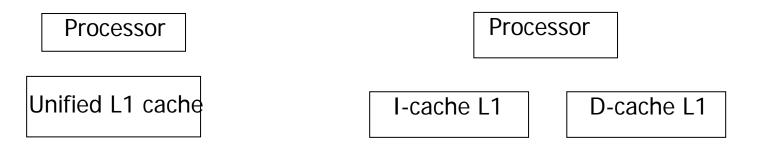
Cache Performance

Average Memory Access Time:

AMAT= Hit Time + Miss Rate * Miss Penalty

- How to improve cache performance?
 - Reduce the hit time
 - 2. Reduce the miss rate
 - 3. Reduce the miss penalty

Unified Cache vs Separate I\$ & D\$ (Harvard architecture)



To better exploit the locality principle

For separate I\$ & D\$ (Harvard architecture):

```
AMAT<sub>Harvard</sub> = % Instr. (Hit Time + Miss Rate I$ * Miss Penalty) + % Data (Hit Time + Miss Rate D$ * Miss Penalty)
```

Usually: Miss Rate I\$ << Miss Rate D\$

Unified Cache vs Separate I\$ & D\$: Example of comparison

Assumptions:

Harvard: 16KB I\$ 16KB D\$:

- 32KB Unified: Aggregate Miss Rate=1.99%
- 33% loads/stores (data ops)
 - \Rightarrow 75% accesses from instructions (1.0/1.33)
 - \Rightarrow 25% accesses from data (0.33/1.33)
- Hit time=1, Miss Penalty = 50
- Note: data hit has 1 more stall for unified cache (only one port)

Which cache is better?

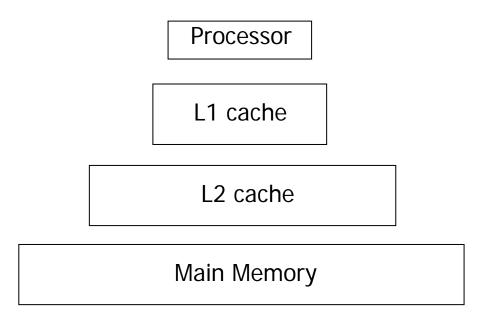
$$AMAT_{Harvard} = 75\% \times (1 + 0.64\% \times 50) + 25\% \times (1 + 6.47\% \times 50) = 2.05$$

$$AMAT_{Unified} = 75\% \times (1 + 1.99\% \times 50) + 25\% \times (1 + 1 + 1.99\% \times 50) = 2.24$$

Miss Penalty Reduction: Second Level Cache

Basic Idea:

- L1 cache small enough to match the fast CPU cycle time
- L2 cache large enough to capture many accesses that would go to main memory reducing the effective miss penalty



AMAT for L1 and L2 Caches

```
\mathbf{AMAT} = \mathbf{Hit} \ \mathbf{Time}_{L1} + \mathbf{Miss} \ \mathbf{Rate}_{L1} \ \mathbf{x} \ \mathbf{Miss} \ \mathbf{Penalty}_{L1}
\mathbf{where:} \ \mathbf{Miss} \ \mathbf{Penalty}_{L1} = \mathbf{Hit} \ \mathbf{Time}_{L2} + \mathbf{Miss} \ \mathbf{Rate}_{L2} \ \mathbf{x} \ \mathbf{Miss} \ \mathbf{Penalty}_{L2}
```

- \Rightarrow **AMAT** = Hit Time_{L1} + Miss Rate_{L1} x (Hit Time_{L2} + Miss Rate_{L2} x Miss Penalty_{L2})
- \Rightarrow **AMAT** = Hit Time_{1.1} + Miss Rate_{1.1} x Hit Time_{1.2} + **Miss Rate_{1.1 L2}** x Miss Penalty_{1.2}

Local and global miss rates

Definitions:

- Local miss rate: misses in this cache divided by the total number of memory accesses to this cache: the Miss rate_{L1} for L1 and the Miss rate_{L2} for L2
- Global miss rate: misses in this cache divided by the total number of memory accesses generated by the CPU:
 - for L1, the global miss rate is still just Miss Rate_{L1}
 - for L2, it is (Miss Rate_{L1} x Miss Rate_{L2})
- Global miss rate is what really matters: it indicates what fraction of memory accesses from CPU go all the way to main memory

Example

- Let us consider a computer with a L1 cache and L2 cache memory hierarchy. Suppose that in 1000 memory references there are 40 misses in L1 and 20 misses in L2.
- What are the various miss rates?

```
Miss Rate _{L1} = 40 / 1000 = 4\% (either local or global)
Miss Rate _{L2} = 20 / 40 = 50\%
```

Global Miss Rate for Last Level Cache (L2):

Miss Rate $_{L1 L2}$ = Miss Rate $_{L1}$ x Miss Rate $_{L2}$ = 2%

Impact of memory hierarchy on CPU_{time}

```
 \begin{array}{lll} \textbf{CPU}_{time} = & (\text{CPUexec cycles} + \text{Memory stall cycles}) \ x \ T_{\text{CLK}} \\ \text{where:} & T_{\text{CLK}} = \text{T clock cycle time period} \\ & \text{CPUexec cycles} = \text{IC x CPI}_{\text{exec}} \ \text{where: IC} = \text{Instruction Count} \\ & (\text{CPI}_{\text{exec}} \ \text{includes both ALU and LD/STORE instructions}) \\ & \text{Memory stall cycles} = \text{IC x Misses per Instr x Miss Penalty} \\ \end{array}
```

 \Rightarrow CPU_{time} = IC x (CPI_{exec} + Misses per Instr x Miss Penalty) x T_{CLK}

By definition, the Misses per Instruction are given by:

= Memory Accesses Per Instruction x Miss Rate

 \Rightarrow CPU_{time} = IC x (CPI_{exec} + MAPI x Miss rate x Miss Penalty) x T_{CLK}

Impact of memory hierarchy on CPU_{time}

 $CPU_{time} = IC x (CPI_{exec} + MAPI x Miss rate x Miss penalty) x T_{CLK}$

Let us consider an ideal cache (100% hits):

$$CPU_{time} = IC \times CPI_{exec} \times T_{CLK}$$

Let us consider a system without cache (100% misses):

$$CPU_{time} = IC x (CPI_{exec} + MAPI x Miss penalty) x TCLK$$

Impact of memory hierarchy and pipeline stalls on CPU_{time}

 $CPU_{time} = IC x (CPI_{exec} + MAPI x Miss rate x Miss penalty) x T_{CLK}$

Putting all together...

Let's also consider the stalls due to pipeline hazards:

 $CPU_{time} = IC \times (CPI_{exec} + Stalls per instr + MAPI \times Miss rate \times Miss penalty) \times T_{CLK}$

Memory stalls per instructions for L1 and L2 caches

Average memory stalls per instructions:

Memory stall cycles per instr = Misses per instr x Miss Penalty

Average memory stalls per instructions for L1 and L2 caches:

Memory stall cycles per instr =

Misses_{L1} per instr X Hit Time_{L2} + Misses_{L2} per instr X Miss Penalty_{L2}

Impact of L1 and L2 on CPU_{time}

 $CPU_{time} = IC x (CPI_{exec} + Memory stall cycles per instr) x T_{CLK}$

where:

Memory stall cycles per instr = $Misses_{L1}$ per instr X Hit $Time_{L2}$ + $Misses_{L2}$ per instr X Miss $Penalty_{L2}$

 $Misses_{L1}$ per instr = Memory Accesses Per Instr x Miss Rate_{L1} $Misses_{L2}$ per instr = Memory Accesses Per Instr x Miss Rate_{L1 L2}

 $CPU_{time} = IC x (CPI_{exec} + MAPI x MR_{L1} x HT_{L2} + MAPI x MR_{L1 L2} x MP_{L2}) x T_{CLK}$

References

- Chapter 1 of the textbook:
 - J. Hennessey, D. Patterson,

"Computer Architecture: a quantitative approach" 4th Edition, Morgan-Kaufmann Publishers.