**Work Assignment Report**

**University of Minho**

**Master in Informatics Engineering**

Distributed Parallel Computing

Advanced Architectures

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Table of Contents

[Abstract 4](#_Toc437359334)

[Introduction 4](#_Toc437359335)

[Testing Environment 5](#_Toc437359336)

[Hardware Characterization 5](#_Toc437359337)

[Software Characterization 6](#_Toc437359338)

[Roofline Model 6](#_Toc437359339)

[Matrix Multiplication 7](#_Toc437359340)

[Conclusion 8](#_Toc437359341)

[References 9](#_Toc437359342)

[Annexes 10](#_Toc437359343)

[Linpack Output (DP) 10](#_Toc437359344)

[Acronyms 11](#_Toc437359345)

[HWiNFO Report 11](#_Toc437359346)

[Bandwidth Report 11](#_Toc437359347)

[j-i-k 13](#_Toc437359348)

[Original 13](#_Toc437359349)

[B and R transposed 13](#_Toc437359350)

Table of Figures

Figure 1 - Roofline Model 6

Figure 2 - Roofline model with ceilings 7

Figure 3 - Memory benchmark results from bandwidth 1.1 12

Figure 4 - Original Matrix Multiplication 13

Figure 5 - Matrix Multiplication with B and R transposed 13

# Abstract

On this work assignment we characterized in full the testing environment, and created a roofline model for the computer in which the code was developed and performance was tested.

It was created a single-threaded function in C that computes the dot product of two square matrices (in single precision and no block optimization). To this function was added performance counters using PAPI to measure the cache misses, total number of instructions, RAM accesses, number of floating point operations, GFLOP/s and operational intensity. All the tests were for four different matrix sizes: 40x40, 120x120, 600x600 and 1000x1000, so that they would fit in different levels of cache or even RAM (last case). This tests followed the k-best scheme with k=3 with 5% tolerance. All test were executed 8 times.

To this function were applied several changes to study its behavior and performance. Throughout this report this changes will be explained and its results compared.

# Introduction

# Testing Environment

The computer used in the current work assignment was an MSI GE60 2QE 1026XPT Apache Pro laptop. This computer main features are displayed on Hardware Characterization chapter, such as the description of its processor and cache, and some information about the RAM. The software used is described on Software Characterization.

## Hardware Characterization

* Manufacturer: MSI
* Model: GE60 2QE 1026XPT (Apache Pro)
* Motherboard: MSI MS-16GF
* CPU chip
  + Manufacturer: Intel
  + Model: Core i7-4720HQ
  + Reference: [1]
  + Number of Cores: 4
  + Number of Threads: 8
  + Base Frequency: 2.6 GHz
  + Maximum Turbo Frequency: 3.6 GHz
  + Instruction Set: 64-bit
  + Architecture: Haswell
  + 16 DP FLOPs/cycle
  + Theoretical Peak Performance (DP): 166 GFLOPS
  + Benchmark Peak Performance (DP): 128 GFLOPS
* Cache
  + L1 Data Cache Size: 4 x 32 KB
  + L1 Instructions Cache Size: 4 x 32 KB
  + L2 Unified Cache Size: 4 x 256 KB
  + L3 Unified Cache Size: 6144 KB
* RAM
  + Manufacturer: Kingston
  + Size: 8 GB
  + DDR3L
  + 1600 MHz
  + Latency: 11 clock cycles
  + Maximum Memory Bandwidth: 13 GB/s

Both theoretical and benchmark achieved values are for double precision. The formula used to obtain the theoretical value was: [2]. Which in this case is the same as: , as this processor can execute 16 double precision floating point operations per clock cycle. The result of this equation is the theoretical value of 166.4 GFLOPS. The theoretical value for single precision floating point operations per second is 332.8 GFLOPS. Converting the benchmark value to single precision results in 256 GFLOPS.

The majority of the values presented were gathered from the Intel page [1] about the CPU and from HWiNFO64 (version 5.10) [3] and Speccy [4] which are system information tools.

## Software Characterization

The operative system used throughout the assignment was Ubuntu 15.10. The C code compiler used was GCC version 5.2.1 (the flags used were –O2 -lpapi). PAPI 5.4.1 [5] was used for all performance measurements presented on this report. The benchmark used to calculate the peak performance was “Linpack” [6] (the output file can be found under Linpack Output (DP)). The benchmark used to calculate the Maximum Memory Bandwidth was “Bandwidth” version 1.1 [7].

# Roofline Model

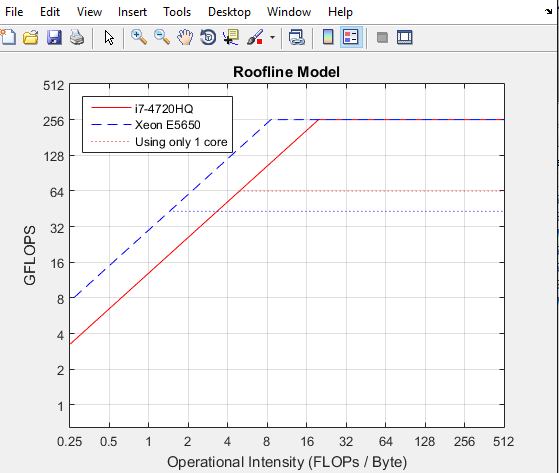


Figure 1 - Roofline Model

The roofline model for the i7-4720HQ processor is represented on Figure 1, where we can also see the roofline for Xeon E5650 (the 431 Search cluster node). This roofline was achieved using the values of the peak floating point performance and the maximum memory bandwidth.

The roofline for the same i7 processor (using only one core) with its respective ceilings is represented on Figure 2 where each dashed line is a memory or CPU ceiling and the triangles are the result to the different changes applied to the original matrix multiplication code.

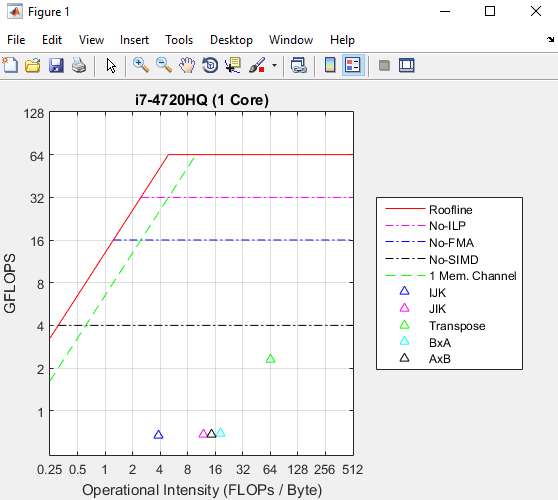


Figure 2 - Roofline model with ceilings

The first ceiling (purple) represents the peak performance when there is no instruction level parallelism, witch in this case applies because each iteration of the matrix multiplication depends on the previous one being completed.

The second ceiling (blue) represents the peak performance when there is no Fused Multiply-Add operations, which were not studied in this work assignment. The third implies a code without vectorization which also could not be achieved. The forth ceiling limits the memory bandwidth and represents its value when only using one memory channel, as only one core is being used.

# Matrix Multiplication

The matrix multiplication was originally calculated by tree nested “for” cycles shown below with the order i-j-k (Figure 2, blue triangle). Later the order was changed to j-i-k, which was given to our group for study (Figure 2, purple triangle). One of the tests conducted consisted in replacing matrix B for a matrix with only ones (Figure 2, cyan and black triangles).

for ( i …) for ( j …) for ( k …)

result[i][j] += a[i][k] \* b[k][j];

For this tests the results were very similar, all had a performance of approximately 0.6 GFLOP/s. The reason behind such low performance was the matrixes’ orientation, in our case of study, matrix B and R is column major, which is very memory inefficient as a block is fetched (a part of a matrix line) and only one value of the several values of said block is used by the processor (represented on Figure 4 ). To solve this problem we transposed matrix B and R and adjusted the function in order to use it as row major (represented on Figure 5), and there was an increase on the obtained GFLOP/s (Figure 2, green triangle). In this case not only was measured the matrix multiplication but also both of the transpose operations.

It was not possible to vectorize the matrix multiplication function for unknown reasons. The report on the failed vectorization returned:

" (…)

note: failed: evolution of base is not affline.

note: bad data reference.

(…)"

In order to solve this we created 3 different versions of the program with different means to allocate the matrixes:

* One with matrix allocated statically (float matrixA[SIZE][SIZE])
* One with mallocs to allocate an array of pointers and allocate an array of floats for each pointer;
* One with the full matrix in a single array.

None of the options produced a different result in the vectorization. We also tried to change the malloc() fuction with allignalloc( allocationSize, Size) again with no success. Other changes tried were the use of the restrict and \_\_attribute ((aligned(32))) attribute in the matrices, the #pragma GCC ivdep for the loop. All version were compiled with GCC with the flag -O3 or the flag -O2 with vectorization flag.

# Conclusion

# References

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [1] | "Intel® Core™ i7-4720HQ Processor," Intel, [Online]. Available: http://ark.intel.com/products/78934/Intel-Core-i7-4720HQ-Processor-6M-Cache-up-to-3\_60-GHz. |
| [2] | S. W. Williams, A. Waterman and D. A. Patterson, Roofline: An Insightful Visual Performance Model for Floating-Point Programs and Multicore Architectures, Berkeley: University of California, 2008. |
| [3] | M. Malík, "HWiNFO," [Online]. Available: http://www.hwinfo.com/. |
| [4] | "Speccy," Piriform, [Online]. Available: https://www.piriform.com/speccy. |
| [5] | Innovative Computing Laboratory, "PAPI," University of Tennessee, 29 November 2015. [Online]. Available: http://icl.cs.utk.edu/papi/. |
| [6] | J. Dongarra, "LINPACK," [Online]. Available: http://www.netlib.org/linpack/. |
| [7] | Z. T. Smith, "Bandwidth," 2015. [Online]. Available: http://zsmith.co/bandwidth.html. |

# Annexes

## Linpack Output (DP)

Current date/time: Wed Nov 25 19:30:19 2015

CPU frequency: 2.593 GHz

Number of CPUs: 1

Number of cores: 4

Number of threads: 8

Parameters are set to:

Number of tests: 1

Number of equations to solve (problem size) : 30000

Leading dimension of array : 30000

Number of trials to run : 8

Data alignment value (in Kbytes) : 4

Maximum memory requested that can be used=7200604096, at the size=30000

================== Timing linear equation system solver =================

Size LDA Align. Time(s) GFlops Residual Residual(norm) Check

30000 30000 4 146.730 122.6867 8.668107e-10 3.416977e-02 pass

30000 30000 4 144.283 124.7675 8.668107e-10 3.416977e-02 pass

30000 30000 4 140.143 128.4533 8.668107e-10 3.416977e-02 pass

30000 30000 4 139.828 128.7423 8.668107e-10 3.416977e-02 pass

30000 30000 4 140.608 128.0286 8.668107e-10 3.416977e-02 pass

30000 30000 4 144.802 124.3198 8.668107e-10 3.416977e-02 pass

30000 30000 4 163.525 110.0860 8.668107e-10 3.416977e-02 pass

30000 30000 4 150.497 119.6156 8.668107e-10 3.416977e-02 pass

Performance Summary (GFlops)

Size LDA Align. Average Maximal

30000 30000 4 123.3375 128.7423

Residual checks PASSED

End of tests

## Acronyms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Acronym | Meaning |
| API | Application Program Interface |
| CPU | Central Processing Unit |
| DDR3L | Double Data Rate Type 3 Low Voltage |
| DP | Double Precision |
| FLOPS | Floating Point Operations per Second |
| FMA | Fused Multiply-Add |
| GCC | GNU Compiler Collection |
| ILP | Instruction Level Parallelism |
| PAPI | Performance API |
| RAM | Random Access Memory |
| SIMD | Single Instruction Multiple Data |
| SP | Single Precision |

## HWiNFO Report

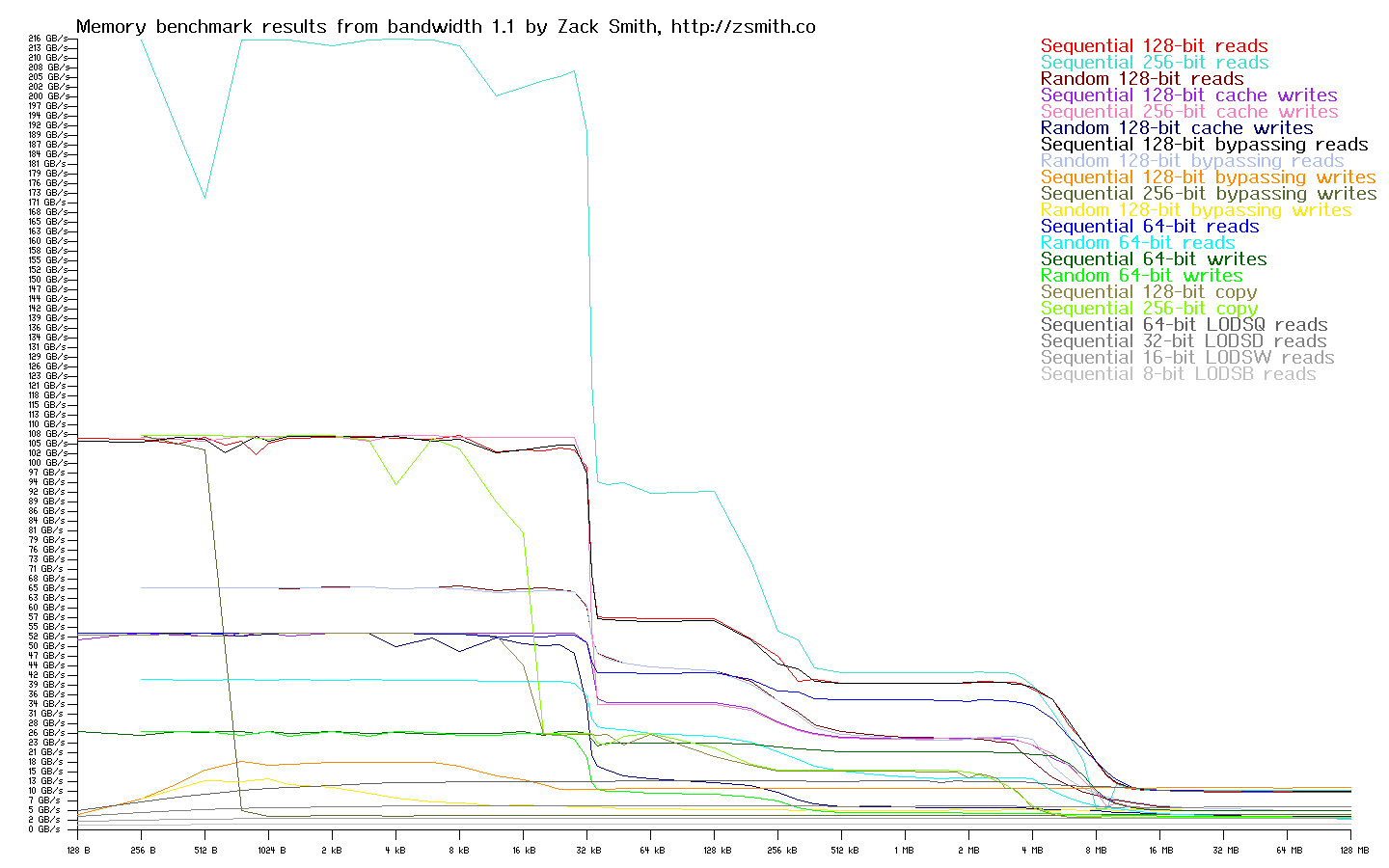
A report generated by HWiNFO about the computer hardware can be found in the “HWiNFO report.txt” file.

## Bandwidth Report

A report generated by “Bandwidth” with all the results of the benchmark can be found in the “bandwidth report.txt” file. The graph generated is represented on Figure 1 - Memory benchmark results from bandwidth 1.1.

## PAPI Reports

Figure 3 - Memory benchmark results from bandwidth 1.1



## j-i-k

### Original

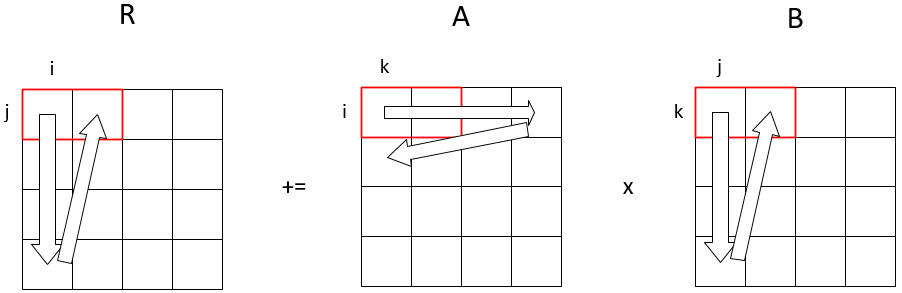


Figure 4 - Original Matrix Multiplication

### B and R transposed

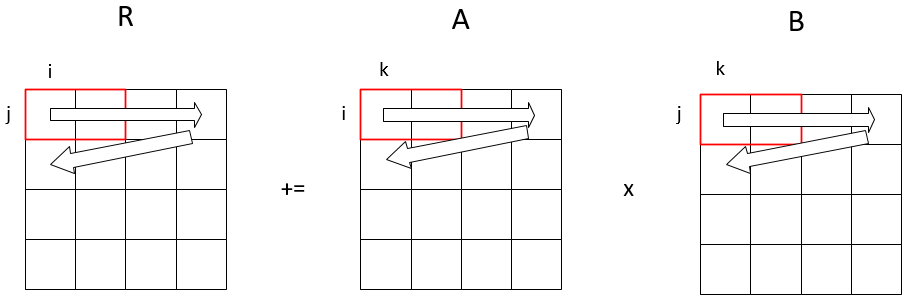


Figure 5 - Matrix Multiplication with B and R transposed