Program Optimization



Today

- Overview
- Generally Useful Optimizations
 - Code motion/precomputation
 - Strength reduction
 - Sharing of common subexpressions
 - Removing unnecessary procedure calls
- Optimization Blockers
 - Procedure calls
 - Memory aliasing
- Exploiting Instruction-Level Parallelism
- Dealing with Conditionals



Performance Realities

There's more to performance than asymptotic complexity

Constant factors matter too!

- Easily see 10:1 performance range depending on how code is written
- Must optimize at multiple levels:
 - algorithm, data representations, procedures, and loops

Must understand system to optimize performance

- How programs are compiled and executed
- How modern processors + memory systems operate
- How to measure program performance and identify bottlenecks
- How to improve performance without destroying code modularity and generality



Optimizing Compilers

Provide efficient mapping of program to machine

- register allocation
- code selection and ordering (scheduling)
- dead code elimination
- eliminating minor inefficiencies

Don't (usually) improve asymptotic efficiency

- up to programmer to select best overall algorithm
- big-O savings are (often) more important than constant factors
 - but constant factors also matter

Have difficulty overcoming "optimization blockers"

- potential memory aliasing
- potential procedure side-effects



Limitations of Optimizing Compilers

- Operate under fundamental constraint
 - Must not cause any change in program behavior
 - Except, possibly when program making use of nonstandard language features
 - Often prevents it from making optimizations that would only affect behavior under pathological conditions.
- Behavior that may be obvious to the programmer can be obfuscated by languages and coding styles
 - e.g., Data ranges may be more limited than variable types suggest
- Most analysis is performed only within procedures
 - Whole-program analysis is too expensive in most cases
 - Newer versions of CCdo interprocedural analysis within individual files
 - But, not between code in different files
- Most analysis is based only on static information
 - Compiler has difficulty anticipating run-time inputs
- When in doubt, the compiler must be conservative



Generally Useful Optimizations

 Optimizations that you or the compiler should do regardless of processor/ compiler

Code Motion

- Reduce frequency with which computation performed
 - If it will always produce same result
 - Especially moving code out of loop

```
void set_row(double *a, double *b,
    long i, long n)
{
    long j;
    for (j = 0; j < n; j++)
        a[n*i+j] = b[j];
}

int ni = n*i;
    for (j = 0; j < n; j++)
        a[ni+j] = b[j];
}</pre>
```



Compiler-Generated Code Motion (-O1)

```
void set_row(double *a, double *b,
    long i, long n)
{
    long j;
    for (j = 0; j < n; j++)
        a[n*i+j] = b[j];
}</pre>
```

```
set row:
       testq
               %rcx, %rcx
                                       # Test n
       ile .L1
                                      # If 0, goto done
       imulq %rcx, %rdx
                                      # ni = n*i
       leaq (%rdi,%rdx,8), %rdx
                                      # rowp = A + ni*8
       movl $0, %eax
                                      # i = 0
.L3:
                                      # loop:
       movsd (%rsi,%rax,8), %xmm0
                                      # t = b[j]
       movsd %xmm0, (%rdx, %rax, 8)
                                      \# M[A+ni*8 + j*8] = t
       addq $1, %rax
                                      # 1++
       cmpq %rcx, %rax
                                       # j:n
                                       # if !=, goto loop
       ine
               .L3
.L1:
                                       # done:
       rep ; ret
```



Reduction in Strength

- Replace costly operation with simpler one
- Shift, add instead of multiply or divide

```
16*x --> x << 4
```

- Utility machine dependent
- Depends on cost of multiply or divide instruction
 - On Intel Nehalem, integer multiply requires 3 CPU cycles
- Recognize sequence of products

```
int ni = 0;

for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
   int ni = n*i;
   for (j = 0; j < n; j++)
        a[ni + j] = b[j];
}

int ni = 0;

for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        for (j = 0; j < n; j++)
        a[ni + j] = b[j];
        ni += n;
}</pre>
```



Share Common Subexpressions

- Reuse portions of expressions
- GCC will do this with –O1

```
/* Sum neighbors of i,j */
up = val[(i-1)*n + j ];
down = val[(i+1)*n + j ];
left = val[i*n + j-1];
right = val[i*n + j+1];
sum = up + down + left + right;
```

3 multiplications: i*n, (i-1)*n, (i+1)*n

```
leaq 1(%rsi), %rax # i+1
leaq -1(%rsi), %r8 # i-1
imulq %rcx, %rsi # i*n
imulq %rcx, %rax # (i+1)*n
imulq %rcx, %r8 # (i-1)*n
addq %rdx, %rsi # i*n+j
addq %rdx, %rax # (i+1)*n+j
addq %rdx, %r8 # (i-1)*n+j
```

```
long inj = i*n + j;
up = val[inj - n];
down = val[inj + n];
left = val[inj - 1];
right = val[inj + 1];
sum = up + down + left + right;
```

1 multiplication: i*n

```
imulq %rcx, %rsi # i*n
addq %rdx, %rsi # i*n+j
movq %rsi, %rax # i*n+j
subq %rcx, %rax # i*n+j-n
leaq (%rsi,%rcx), %rcx # i*n+j+n
```



Optimization Blocker #1: Procedure Calls

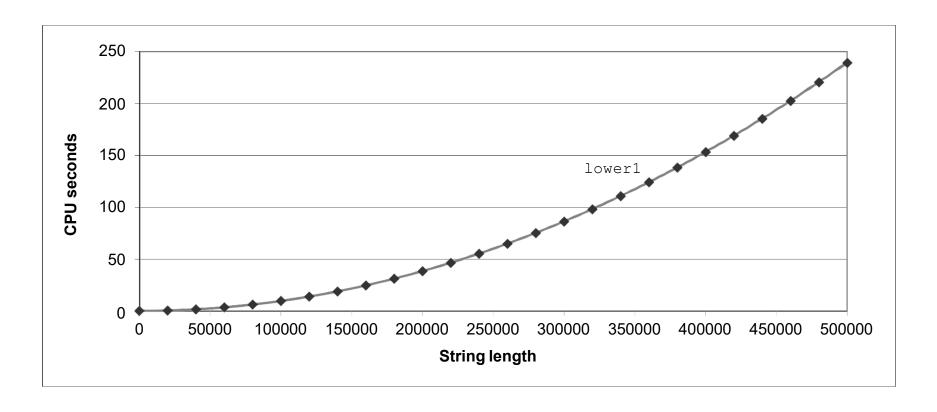
Procedure to Convert String to Lower Case

```
void lower(char *s)
{
    size_t i;
    for (i = 0; i < strlen(s); i++)
        if (s[i] >= 'A' && s[i] <= 'Z')
            s[i] -= ('A' - 'a');
}</pre>
```



Lower Case Conversion Performance

- Time quadruples when double string length
- Quadratic performance





Convert Loop To Goto Form

```
void lower(char *s)
{
    size_t i = 0;
    if (i >= strlen(s))
        goto done;
loop:
    if (s[i] >= 'A' && s[i] <= 'Z')
        s[i] -= ('A' - 'a');
    i++;
    if (i < strlen(s))
        goto loop;
    done:
}</pre>
```

strlen executed every iteration



Calling Strlen

```
/* My version of strlen */
size_t strlen(const char *s)
{
    size_t length = 0;
    while (*s != '\0') {
        s++;
        length++;
    }
    return length;
}
```

Strlen performance

 Only way to determine length of string is to scan its entire length, looking for null character.

Overall performance, string of length N

- N calls to strlen
- Require times N, N-1, N-2, ...,1
- Overall O(N²) performance



Improving Performance

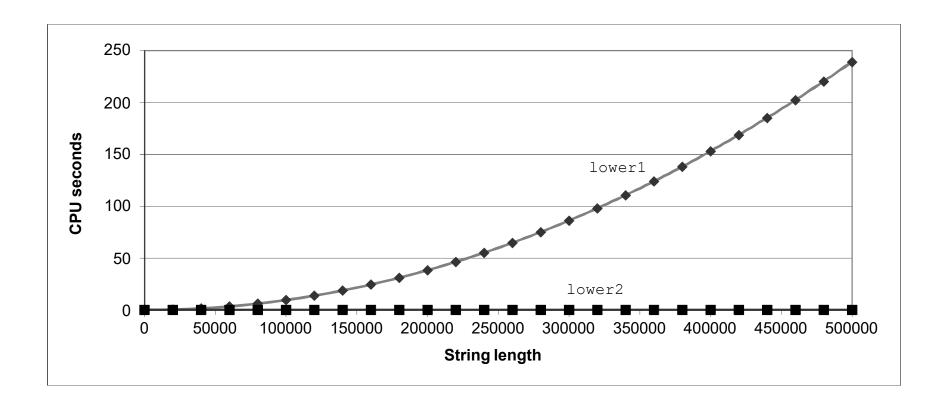
```
void lower(char *s)
{
    size_t i;
    size_t len = strlen(s);
    for (i = 0; i < len; i++)
        if (s[i] >= 'A' && s[i] <= 'Z')
        s[i] -= ('A' - 'a');
}</pre>
```

- Move call to strlen outside of loop
- Since result does not change from one iteration to another
- Form of code motion



Lower Case Conversion Performance

- Time doubles when double string length
- Linear performance of lower2





Optimization Blocker: Procedure Calls

- Why couldn't compiler move strlen out of inner loop?
 - Procedure may have side effects
 - Alters global state each time called
 - Function may not return same value for given arguments
 - Depends on other parts of global state
 - Procedure lower could interact with strlen

Warning:

- Compiler treats procedure call as a black box
- Weak optimizations near them

Remedies:

- Use of inline functions
 - GCC does this with –O1
 - Within singlefile
- Do your own code motion

```
size_t lencnt = 0;
size_t strlen(const char *s)
{
    size_t length = 0;
    while (*s != '\0') {
        s++; length++;
    }
    lencnt += length;
    return length;
}
```



Memory Matters

```
/* Sum rows is of n X n matrix a
    and store in vector b */
void sum_rows1(double *a, double *b, long n) {
    long i, j;
    for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        b[i] = 0;
        for (j = 0; j < n; j++)
            b[i] += a[i*n + j];
    }
}</pre>
```

```
# sum_rows1 inner loop
.L4:

    movsd (%rsi,%rax,8), %xmm0  # FP load
    addsd (%rdi), %xmm0  # FP add
    movsd %xmm0, (%rsi,%rax,8)  # FP store
    addq $8, %rdi
    cmpq %rcx, %rdi
    jne .L4
```

- Code updates b [i] on every iteration
- Why couldn't compiler optimize this away?



Memory Aliasing

```
/* Sum rows is of n X n matrix a
    and store in vector b */
void sum_rows1(double *a, double *b, long n) {
    long i, j;
    for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        b[i] = 0;
        for (j = 0; j < n; j++)
            b[i] += a[i*n + j];
    }
}</pre>
```

```
double A[9] =
  { 0,   1,   2,
    4,   8,   16},
   32,   64,  128};

double B[3] = A+3;

sum_rows1(A, B, 3);
```

Value of B:

```
init: [4, 8, 16]
i = 0: [3, 8, 16]
i = 1: [3, 22, 16]
```

```
i = 2: [3, 22, 224]
```

- Code updates b [i] on every iteration
- Must consider possibility that these updates will affect program behavior



Removing Aliasing

```
/* Sum rows is of n X n matrix a
    and store in vector b */
void sum_rows2(double *a, double *b, long n) {
    long i, j;
    for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        double val = 0;
        for (j = 0; j < n; j++)
            val += a[i*n + j];
        b[i] = val;
}</pre>
```

```
# sum_rows2 inner loop
.L10:
    addsd (%rdi), %xmm0 # FP load + add
    addq $8, %rdi
    cmpq %rax, %rdi
    jne .L10
```

No need to store intermediate results



Optimization Blocker: Memory Aliasing

Aliasing

- Two different memory references specify single location
- Easy to have happen in C
 - Since allowed to do address arithmetic
 - Direct access to storage structures
- Get in habit of introducing local variables
 - Accumulating within loops
 - Your way of telling compiler not to check for aliasing



Exploiting Instruction-Level Parallelism

- Need general understanding of modern processor design
 - Hardware can execute multiple instructions in parallel
- Performance limited by data dependencies
- Simple transformations can yield dramatic performance improvement
 - Compilers often cannot make these transformations
 - Lack of associativity and distributivity in floating-point arithmetic



Benchmark Example: Data Type for Vectors

```
/* data structure for vectors */
typedef struct{
    size_t len;
    data_t *data;
} vec;
```

```
        len
        0
        1
        len-1

        data
        .....
```

■Data Types

- Use different declarations for data t
- int
- long
- float
- double

```
/* retrieve vector element
   and store at val */
int get_vec_element
   (*vec v, size_t idx, data_t *val)
{
   if (idx >= v->len)
      return 0;
   *val = v->data[idx];
   return 1;
}
```



Benchmark Computation

```
void combine1(vec_ptr v, data_t *dest)
{
    long int i;
    *dest = IDENT;
    for (i = 0; i < vec_length(v); i++) {
        data_t val;
        get_vec_element(v, i, &val);
        *dest = *dest OP val;
    }
}</pre>
```

Compute sum or product of vector elements

■ Data Types

- Use different declarations for data t
- int.
- long
- float
- double

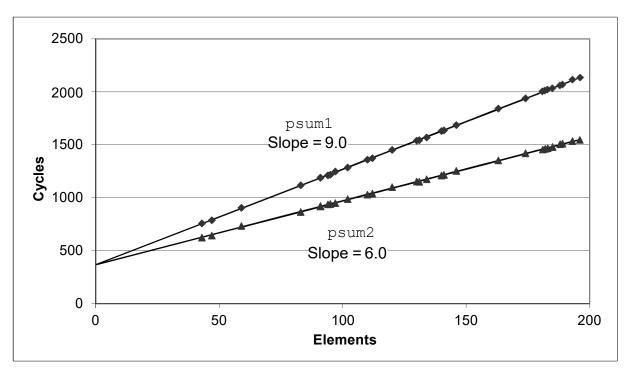
Operations

- Use different definitions of OP and IDENT
- **+** / 0
- * / 1



Cycles Per Element (CPE)

- Convenient way to express performance of program that operates on vectors or lists
- Length = n
- In our case: CPE = cycles per OP
- T=CPE*n + Overhead
 - CPE is slope of line





Benchmark Performance

```
void combine1(vec_ptr v, data_t *dest)
{
    long int i;
    *dest = IDENT;
    for (i = 0; i < vec_length(v); i++) {
        data_t val;
        get_vec_element(v, i, &val);
        *dest = *dest OP val;
    }
}</pre>
```

Compute sum or product of vector elements

Method	Integer		Double FP		
Operation	Add	Mult	Add	Mult	
Combine1 unoptimized	22.68	20.02	19.98	20.18	
Combine1 –O1	10.12	10.12	10.17	10.14	



Basic Optimizations

```
void combine4(vec_ptr v, data_t *dest)
{
  long i;
  long length = vec_length(v);
  data_t *d = get_vec_start(v);
  data_t t = IDENT;
  for (i = 0; i < length; i++)
    t = t OP d[i];
  *dest = t;
}</pre>
```

- Move vec_length out of loop
- Avoid bounds check on each cycle
- Accumulate in temporary



Effect of Basic Optimizations

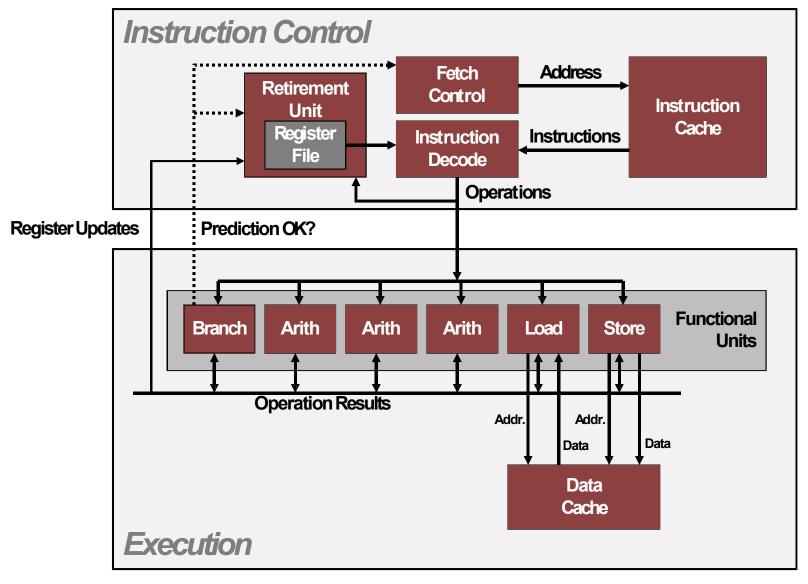
```
void combine4(vec_ptr v, data_t *dest)
{
  long i;
  long length = vec_length(v);
  data_t *d = get_vec_start(v);
  data_t t = IDENT;
  for (i = 0; i < length; i++)
    t = t OP d[i];
  *dest = t;
}</pre>
```

Method	Inte	ger	Double FP		
Operation	Add Mult		Add	Mult	
Combine1 -O1	10.12	10.12	10.17	1 .14	
Combine4	1.27	3.01	3.01	5.01	

Eliminates sources of overhead in loop



Modern CPU Design

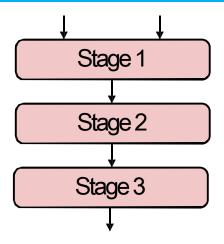


Superscalar Processor

- Definition: Asuperscalar processor can issue and execute multiple instructions in one cycle. The instructions are retrieved from a sequential instruction stream and are usually scheduled dynamically.
- Benefit: without programming effort, superscalar processor can take advantage of the instruction level parallelism that most programs have
- Most modern CPUs are superscalar.
- Intel: since Pentium (1993)

Pipelined Functional Units

```
long mult_eg(long a, long b, long c) {
    long p1 = a*b;
    long p2 = a*c;
    long p3 = p1 * p2;
    return p3;
}
```



	Time						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Stage 1	a*b	a*c			p1*p2		
Stage 2		a*b	a*c			p1*p2	
Stage 3			a*b	a*c			p1*p2

- Divide computation into stages
- Pass partial computations from stage to stage
- Stage i can start on new computation once values passed to i+1
- E.g., complete 3 multiplications in 7 cycles, even though each requires 3 cycles



Haswell CPU

- 8 Total Functional Units
- Multiple instructions can execute in parallel
 - 2 load, with address computation
 - 1 store, with address computation
 - 4 integer
 - 2 FPmultiply
 - 1 FPadd
 - 1 FP divide

Some instructions take > 1 cycle, but can be pipelined

Instruction	Latency	Cycles/Issue
Load / Store	4	1
Integer Multiply	3	1
Integer/Long Divide	3-30	3-30
Single/Double FP Multiply	5	1
Single/Double FPAdd	3	1
Single/Double FP Divide	3-15	3-15



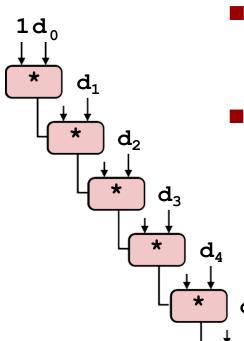
x86-64 Compilation of Combine4

Inner Loop (Case: Integer Multiply)

Method	Integer		Double FP		
Operation	Add	Mult	Add	Mult	
Combine4	1.27	3.01	3.01	5.01	
Latency Bound	1.00	3.00	3.00	5.00	

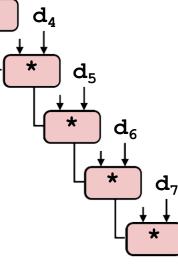


Combine4 = Serial Computation (OP = *)



Computation (length=8)

- Sequential dependence
 - Performance: determined by latency of OP



Loop Unrolling (2x1)

```
void unroll2a combine(vec ptr v, data t *dest)
    long length = vec length(v);
    long limit = length-1;
    data t *d = get vec start(v);
    data t x = IDENT;
    long i;
    /* Combine 2 elements at a time */
    for (i = 0; i < limit; i+=2) {
       x = (x OP d[i]) OP d[i+1];
    /* Finish any remaining elements */
    for (; i < length; i++) {
       x = x OP d[i];
    *dest = x;
```

Perform 2x more useful work per iteration



Effect of Loop Unrolling

Method	Integer		Double FP		
Operation	Add	Mult	Add	Mult	
Combine4	1.27	3.01	3.01	5.01	
Unroll 2x1	1.01	3.01	3.01	5.01	
Latency Bound	1.00	3.00	3.00	5.00	

Helps integer add

Achieves latency bound

$$x = (x OP d[i]) OP d[i+1];$$

- Others don't improve. Why?
 - Still sequential dependency



Loop Unrolling with Reassociation (2x1a)

```
void unroll2aa combine(vec ptr v, data t *dest)
    long length = vec length(v);
    long limit = length-1;
    data t *d = get vec start(v);
    data t x = IDENT;
    long i;
    /* Combine 2 elements at a time */
    for (i = 0; i < limit; i+=2) {
       x = x OP (d[i] OP d[i+1]);
    /* Finish any remaining elements */
    for (; i < length; i++) {
       x = x OP d[i];
                                  Compare to before
                                  x = (x OP d[i]) OP d[i+1];
    *dest = x;
```

- Can this change the result of the computation?
- Yes, for FP. Why?



Effect of Reassociation

Method	Integer		Double FP		
Operation	Add	Mult	Add	Mult	
Combine4	1.27	3.01	3.01	5.01	
Unroll 2x1	1.01	3.01	3.01	5.01	
Unroll 2x1a	1.01	1.51	1.51	2.51	
Latency Bound	1.00	3.00	3.00	5.00	
Throughput Bound	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	

■ Nearly 2x speedup for Int *, FP +, FP*

Reason: Breaks sequential dependency

$$x = x OP (d[i] OP d[i+1]);$$

Why is that? (next slide)

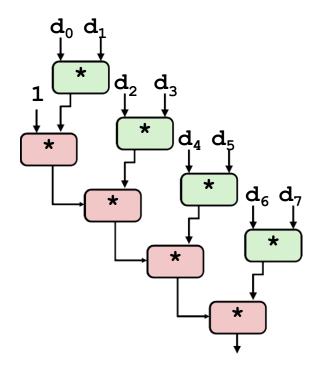
2 func. units for FP* 2 func. units for load

4 func. units for int + 2 func. units for load



Reassociated Computation

$$x = x OP (d[i] OP d[i+1]);$$



What changed:

 Ops in the next iteration can be started early (no dependency)

Overall Performance

- N elements, D cycles latency/op
- (N/2+1)*D cycles:

$$CPE = D/2$$



Loop Unrolling with Separate Accumulators

(2x2)

```
void unroll2a combine(vec ptr v, data t *dest)
    long length = vec length(v);
    long limit = length-1;
    data t *d = get vec start(v);
    data t x0 = IDENT;
    data t x1 = IDENT;
    long i;
    /* Combine 2 elements at a time */
    for (i = 0; i < limit; i+=2) {
       x0 = x0 \text{ OP d[i]};
       x1 = x1 \text{ OP } d[i+1];
    /* Finish any remaining elements */
    for (; i < length; i++) {
        x0 = x0 \text{ OP d[i]};
    *dest = x0 OP x1;
```

Different form of reassociation



Effect of Separate Accumulators

Method	Integer		Double FP	
Operation	Add	Mult	Add	Mult
Combine4	1.27	3.01	3.01	5.01
Unroll 2x1	1.01	3.01	3.01	5.01
Unroll 2x1a	1.01	1.51	1.51	2.51
Unroll 2x2	0.81	1.51	1.51	2.51
Latency Bound	1.00	3.00	3.00	5.00
Throughput Bound	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50

Int + makes use of two load units

$$x0 = x0 \text{ OP d[i]};$$

 $x1 = x1 \text{ OP d[i+1]};$

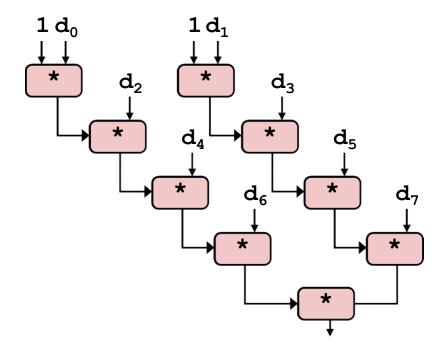
2x speedup (over unroll2) for Int *, FP +, FP*



Separate Accumulators

$$x0 = x0 \text{ OP d[i]};$$

 $x1 = x1 \text{ OP d[i+1]};$



What changed:

Two independent "streams" of operations

Overall Performance

- N elements, D cycles latency/op
- Should be (N/2+1)*D cycles:
 CPE=D/2
- CPE matches prediction!

What Now?



Unrolling & Accumulating

Idea

- Can unroll to any degree L
- Can accumulate K results in parallel
- L must be multiple of K

Limitations

- Diminishing returns
 - Cannot go beyond throughput limitations of execution units
- Large overhead for short lengths
 - Finish off iterations sequentially



Unrolling & Accumulating: Double *

- Intel Haswell
- Double FP Multiplication
- Latency bound: 5.00. Throughput bound: 0.50

	FP*	Unrolling Factor L							
	K	1	2	3	4	6	8	10	12
S	1	5.01	5.01	5.01	5.01	5.01	5.01	5.01	
to	2		2.51		2.51		2.51		
Accumulators	3			1.67					
m	4				1.25		1.26		
CU	6					0.84			0.88
Ac	8						0.63		
	10							0.51	
	12								0.52



Unrolling & Accumulating: Int +

Case

- Intel Haswell
- Integer addition
- Latency bound: 1.00. Throughput bound: 1.00

	FP*	Unrolling Factor L							
	K	1	2	3	4	6	8	10	12
	1	1.27	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	
to	2		0.81		0.69		0.54		
Accumulato	3			0.74					
m	4				0.69		1.24		
CU	6					0.56			0.56
AC	2 8						0.54		
	10							0.54	
	12								0.56



Achievable Performance

Method	Integer		Double FP		
Operation	Add	Mult	Add	Mult	
Best	0.54	1.01	1.01	0.52	
Latency Bound	1.00	3.00	3.00	5.00	
Throughput Bound	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	

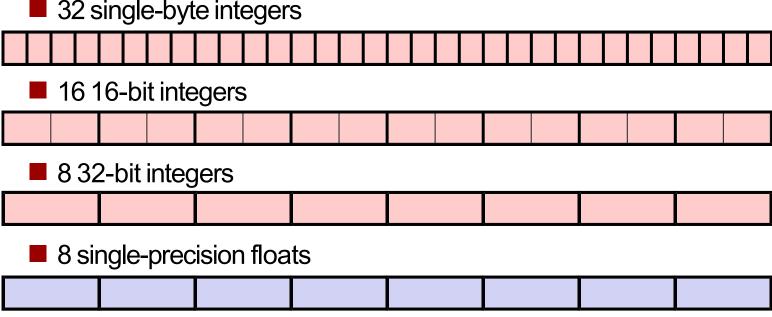
- Limited only by throughput of functional units
- Up to 42X improvement over original, unoptimized code



Programming with AVX2

YMM Registers

- 16 total, each 32 bytes
- 32 single-byte integers



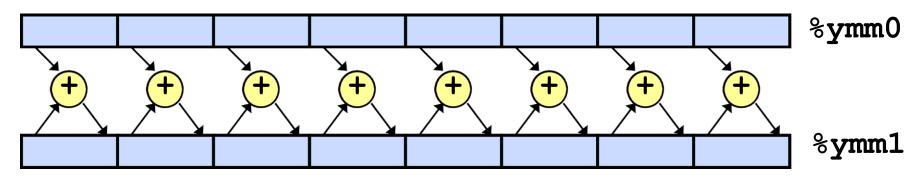
- 4 double-precision floats
- 1 single-precision float
- 1 double-precision float



SIMD Operations

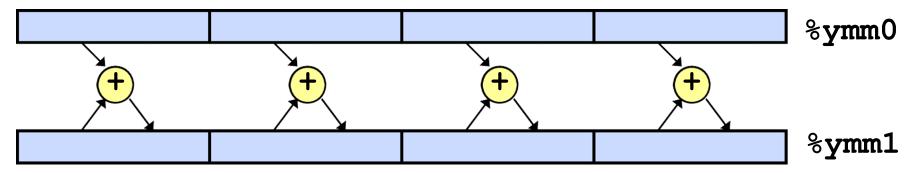
■ SIMD Operations: Single Precision

vaddsd %ymm0, %ymm1, %ymm1



■ SIMD Operations: Double Precision

vaddpd %ymm0, %ymm1, %ymm1





Using Vector Instructions

Method	Integer		Double FP	
Operation	Add	Mult	Add	Mult
Scalar Best	0.54	1.01	1.01	0.52
Vector Best	0.06	0.24	0.25	0.16
Latency Bound	0.50	3.00	3.00	5.00
Throughput Bound	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50
Vec Throughput Bound	0.06	0.12	0.25	0.12

Make use of AVX Instructions

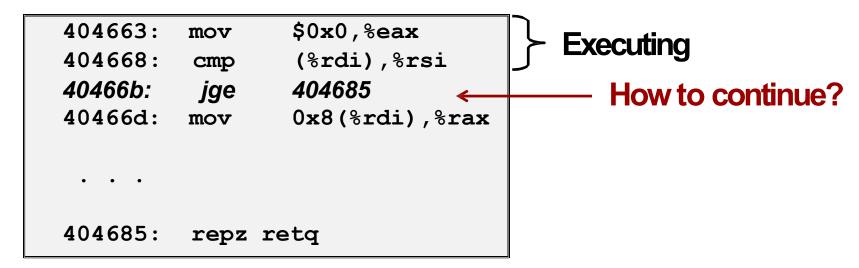
- Parallel operations on multiple data elements
- See Web Aside OPT:SIMD on CS:APP web page



What About Branches?

Challenge

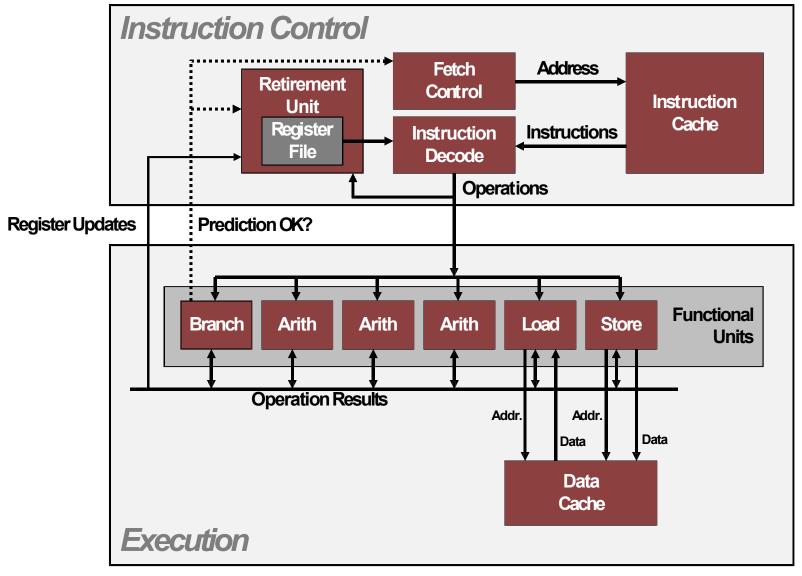
 Instruction Control Unit must work well ahead of Execution Unit to generate enough operations to keep EUbusy



 When encounters conditional branch, cannot reliably determine where to continue fetching



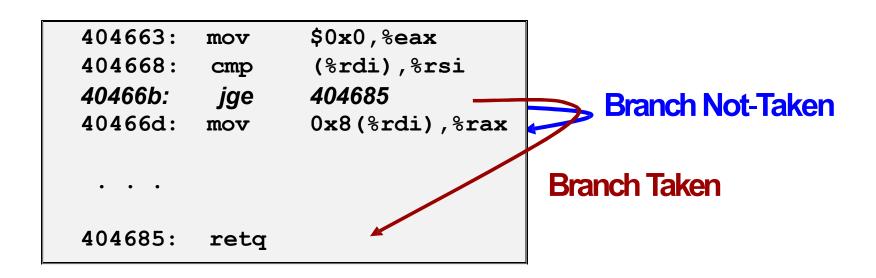
Modern CPU Design





Branch Outcomes

- When encounter conditional branch, cannot determine where to continue fetching
 - Branch Taken: Transfer control to branch target
 - Branch Not-Taken: Continue with next instruction in sequence
- Cannot resolve until outcome determined by branch/integer unit

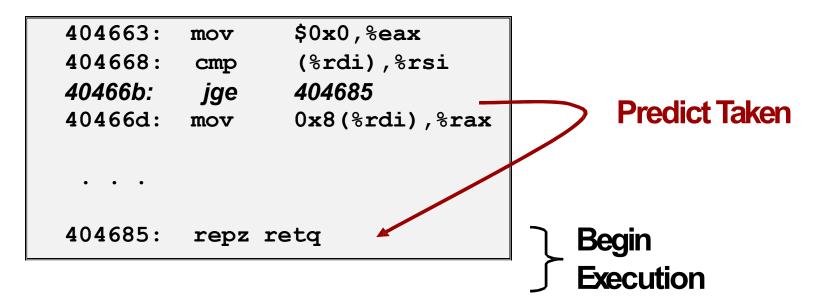




Branch Prediction

Idea

- Guess which way branch will go
- Begin executing instructions at predicted position
 - But don't actually modify register or memory data





Branch Prediction Through Loop

```
Assume
401029:
         vmulsd
                 (%rdx),%xmm0,%xmm0
40102d:
                                           vector length = 100
         add
                 $0x8,%rdx
401031:
                 %rax,%rdx
         cmp
                              i = 98
401034:
                 401029
         jne
                                           Predict Taken (OK)
         vmulsd (%rdx),%xmm0,%xmm0
401029:
40102d:
                 $0x8,%rdx
         add
401031:
                 %rax,%rdx
         cmp
                              i = 99
401034:
         jne
                 401029
                                           Predict Taken
                                           (Oops)
401029:
         vmulsd (%rdx),%xmm0,%xmm0
40102d:
         add
                 $0x8,%rdx
                                                          Executed
                                           Read
401031:
                 %rax,%rdx
         cmp
                                          invalid
                              i = 100
401034:
                 401029
         ine
                                           location
401029:
         vmulsd (%rdx),%xmm0,%xmm0
                                                           Fetched
40102d:
         add
                 $0x8,%rdx
401031:
                 %rax,%rdx
         cmp
                              i = 101
401034:
                 401029
         ine
```



Branch Misprediction Invalidation

```
Assume
401029:
          vmulsd
                 (%rdx),%xmm0,%xmm0
                 $0x8,%rdx
                                           vector length = 100
40102d:
         add
401031:
                 %rax,%rdx
          cmp
                              i = 98
401034:
          jne
                 401029
                                           Predict Taken (OK)
         vmulsd (%rdx),%xmm0,%xmm0
401029:
40102d:
                 $0x8,%rdx
         add
401031:
                 %rax,%rdx
          cmp
                              i = 99
401034:
          jne
                 401029
                                           Predict Taken
                                           (Oops)
401029:
         vmulsd (%rdx),%xmm0,%xmm0
40102d:
          add
                 $0x8,%rdx
401031:
                 %rax,%rdx
         cmp
401034:
                              i = 100
          ine
                 401029
                                               Invalidate
         vmulsd (%rdx),%xmm0,%xmm0
401029:
40102d:
          add
                 $0x8,%rdx
401031:
                 %rax,%rdx
          cmp
                              i = 101
401034:
                 401029
          ine
```



Branch Misprediction Recovery

```
401029:
         vmulsd (%rdx),%xmm0,%xmm0
40102d:
         add
                $0x8,%rdx
                                 i = 99
                                           Definitely not taken
401031:
                %rax,%rdx
         cmp
401034:
        jne
                401029
401036:
                401040
         jmp
                                              Reload
                                              Pipeline
401040:
        vmovsd %xmm0, (%r12)
```

Performance Cost

- Multiple clock cycles on modern processor
- Can be a major performance limiter



Getting High Performance

- Good compiler and flags
- Don't do anything stupid
 - Watch out for hidden algorithmic inefficiencies
 - Write compiler-friendly code
 - Watch out for optimization blockers: procedure calls & memory references
 - Look carefully at innermost loops (where most work isdone)

Tune code for machine

- Exploit instruction-level parallelism
- Avoid unpredictable branches
- Make code cache friendly (Covered later in course)

