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1 Matrix Multiplication with GCC

1.1 Abstract

Large matrix multiplications can be very handy considering the limitations of cache and the speed of the the RAM access. This report is about conducting matrix multiplication with low level optimizations. Loop tiling and LLVM optimizations are used in order to provide an acceptable result for a better scheduling and work load reduction. I used some methods for the analysis of the code efficiency in order not to run the whole thing over and over.

1.2 Basic Matrix

The first version of matrix multiplication is done with two arrays of integers(simply for testing). My computer is an Alienware 17 R5, and some of the hardware specifications are listed in Table. 1:

Params	Value
Architecture:	x86 ₆₄
CPU op-mode(s):	32-bit, 64-bit
CPU(s):	8
Thread(s) per core:	2
NUMA node(s):	1
CPU family:	6
Stepping:	3
CPU MHz:	901.875
BogoMIPS:	4788.98
L1d cache:	32K
L1i cache:	32K
L2 cache:	256K
L3 cache:	6144K

System specification:

Operating System	Ubuntu 14.04
RAM	16GB
CPU	Intel

Represented below, is my code for basic matrix multiplication:

```
for(m=0; m<i; ++m){
    for(n=0; n<k; ++n){
        for(l=0; l<j; ++l){
            result[m*k+n] += mat1[m*j+l]*mat2[l*k+n];
        }
    }
}
```

The code is not optimized in anyway, and I used array to represent a matrix simply because I already forgot how to allocate a 2 dimensional pointer. And this piece of code is a little bit funny since I messed up the normal order of using m and n. Let's just ignore that.

For this basic version of matrix multiplication, the settings of the 2 matrixes are: $a : 20000 \times 30000$, and $b : 30000 \times 40000$. Where a is mat1 and b is mat2. Later part I will use c to denote the result.

The verification is done for the multiplication result, and it's under the tests folder: **verify.c**. It's basically just multiplication of matrix then print out, nothing more.

1.2.1 Analysis Methods

In order to push to the limit and be efficient at testing the same time, I used couple methods for the analysis of the whole program:

1. In order to calculate the running time, I printed the running time every time **m** changes.
2. Calculate the average of the printed time, then multiply it with total amount of print that will happen.
3. For loop tiling version of the code(and all the later part), print the running time for every tile.

Here is an example of the printing:

```
andy@andy-Alienware-17:~/Desktop/compiler_assignments/assign4$ ./main_out
Starting everything!!!
0      30000    Time spent:   19.980863
1      30000    Time spent:   19.752222
2      30000    Time spent:   19.683325
3      30000    Time spent:   19.580844
4      30000    Time spent:   19.583208
5      30000    Time spent:   19.811905
6      30000    Time spent:   19.886458
7      30000    Time spent:   19.695766
8      30000    Time spent:   19.688554
9      30000    Time spent:   19.677722
10     30000    Time spent:   19.756543
11     30000    Time spent:   19.663979
12     30000    Time spent:   19.660369
13     30000    Time spent:   19.921765
14     30000    Time spent:   19.675085
15     30000    Time spent:   19.569629
16     30000    Time spent:   19.764880
17     30000    Time spent:   19.724258
```

Figure 1: Example about time monitoring.

1.2.2 Performance

I turned off the graphic desktop to minimize the main system disturbance.

So the basic matrix multiplication takes about 11GB of RAM. And the whole running process will take approximately 6 days.

1.3 Loop Tiling

This is pretty much the same idea as the last assignment(God I hope I can get the marks back!!!). You do the loop in a cache friendly way, then you save some time.

Okay here is the code that I used for loop tiling:

```
for(m=0;m<i;m+=block_size){
    for(l=0; l<k; l+=block_size){
        #pragma omp parallel for
        for(n=0; n<j; ++n){
            for(mm=0; mm<block_size; ++mm){
                for(nn=0; nn<block_size; ++nn){
                    result[m*k+mm*k+nn+l]+=\\
                    mat1[m*j+mm*j+n]*mat2[nn+l+n*k];
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

I did not use use pragma for vectorization. Later I will explain. With the basic loop tiling, I achieved a better running time of **1.5** days!!! Which is a great leap.

So for loop tiling my original settings for the loop tile is **100**. I tested with difference lopp sizes, and print time for a single block like this:

Starting everything!!!			
0	20000	Time spent:	25.816328
1	20000	Time spent:	25.810805
2	20000	Time spent:	25.828254
3	20000	Time spent:	25.632575
4	20000	Time spent:	26.030483
5	20000	Time spent:	25.964378
6	20000	Time spent:	25.843287
7	20000	Time spent:	25.831697
8	20000	Time spent:	25.984030
9	20000	Time spent:	26.000598
10	20000	Time spent:	25.985042

Figure 2: Printing Time.

I tested(manually) the running time for different tile sizes. The data of these tiles can be found in the **.txt** in the assignment folder. As for the

limitation of time I selected the following tile size for testing: **10, 20, 40, 50, 80, 100, 200, 500, 1000**.

Performance might vary from tile to tile:

```
set title "Performance of Different Tile Sizes"
plot sin(x)
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Change here !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
```

Funny thing is that you can see that the tile size less than 40 is pretty high. This is because if the tile size is small the performance is gonna be like the original one. Noticing here 130000 seconds is around 1.5 days. Which means that no matter what you do, if you want to multiply matrixes with 10GB amount of size, you probably will have to spend so much time with this computer.

1.4 Assembly and SSE

Here is a funny story:

Well this part actually took me a lot of time. Because I actually have not really coded in assembly. The only thing that I have coded is in FPGA. And my assembly knowledge is all about how computer works and how to optimize C. So I took a course in Coursera and play all the videos in $\times 2$ speed. Then I found out that I just learned X86 assembly.

Then I read the SSE Instruction set, and wrote some simple code for GCC to compiler, adding one line each time and see what happens with the outcome. Again only to find out that the only knowledge I needed was how to use `%xmm` registers. So basically going to the class really will help a lot.

Anyway for this problem, I simplified the target a little. Here is some assumptions that I made:

- Allocation of the memory is the same to the original problems;
- Analyzing a full matrix tiling is equal to analyzing the running time of a single tile block;
- The result of the MM does not affect the analysis of the efficiency;
- Vectorization can be done by matrix transpose.

Since I am using arrays for matrix multiplications, I only have to provide the running test for a single tiling block. Even the matrix is very big, matrix transpose actually only takes tens of seconds in memory. Here is how long a 30000×40000 matrix is transposed in my computer:

```
Starting everything!!!  
time spent: 23.305180  
Seems good!
```

Figure 3: Printing Time.