# CSCI 2021: Program Performance Micro-Optimizations

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#### Logistics

#### Reading Bryant/O'Hallaron

► Ch 6: Memory System

Ch 5: Optimization

#### Goals

- Permanent Storage
- Optimization Overview
- Micro-optimizations

#### P4 Reminders

- ► Search Benchmark: report times that are > 1e-02
- Writeup: answers are 3-4 sentences, supported with tables of times

#### Upcoming Events

14/- 1 10 /01

Date	Event
Mon 11/22	Storage

Wed 11/24	Micro Opts		
	Lab: Preprocessor		

Fri 11/26	Holiday			
Mon 11/29	Micro Opts			

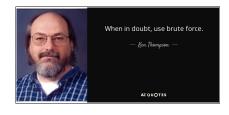
vvea 12/01	Review
	P4 Due
Fri 12/03	Exam 3
	Lab13: Review

## Caution: Should I Optimize?

- Optimizing program execution time saves CPU time, costs Human time
  - ► CPU Time: cheap
  - ► Human Time: expensive
- Determine if there is a NEED to optimize
- Benchmark your code if it is fast enough, move on
- When optimizing, use data/tools to direct Human Effort (benchmarks/profiler)
- Never sacrifice correctness for speed

First make it work, then make it right, then make it fast.

- Kent Beck



## What to Optimize First

#### In order of impact

- Algorithms and Data Structure Selection
- Elimination of unneeded work/hidden costs
- 3. Memory Utilization
- 4. Micro-optimizations

"Premature optimization is the root of all evil" - Donald Knuth



Programmers waste enormous amounts of time thinking about, or worrying about, the speed of noncritical parts of their programs, and these attempts at efficiency actually have a strong negative impact when debugging and maintenance are considered. We should forget about small efficiencies, say about 97% of the time: premature optimization is the root of all evil. Yet we should not pass up our opportunities in that critical 3%.

Donald Knuth

## Exercise: Optimize This

- Prema Turopt is tasked by her boss to optimize performance of function get\_min()
- The current version of the function code looks like the code to the right.
- Prema immediately jumps to the code for bubble\_sort() and alters the code to enable better processor pipelining.
- ► This leads to a 2.5% improvement in speed.

```
int get min(storage t *st){
 2
      int *arr =
       malloc(sizeof(int)*get_size(st));
      for(int i=0; i<get_size(st); i++){</pre>
        arr[i] = get_element(st,i);
 7
 8
 9
      bubble_sort(arr, get_size(st));
10
11
      int ans = arr[0]:
12
      free(arr):
13
      return ans:
14
15
```

Suggest several alternatives that Prema should have explored

## **Answers**: Optimize This

- 1. Don't use bubblesort:  $O(N^2)$ . Use an  $O(N \log N)$  sort like Quicksort, Heapsort, Mergesort
- Why sort at all? Determine the minimum element with the "get" loop.
- 3. What is the cost of get\_element() and get\_size()? Is there a more efficient iterator or array-extraction mechanism?
- 4. What data structure is used in storage\_t? If it is already sorted such as a binary search tree or binary heap, there may be a more efficient way to determine the minimum element.

```
int get_min(storage_t *st){
      int *arr =
       malloc(sizeof(int)*get_size(st));
5
      for(int i=0; i<get_size(st); i++){</pre>
        arr[i] = get_element(st,i);
      }
8
9
      bubble_sort(arr, get_size(st));
10
      int ans = arr[0]:
11
12
      free(arr):
13
      return ans;
14 }
```

5. If get\_min() is called frequently, cache the min by adding a field to storage\_t and modifying other code around it; frequently used strategy such as in Java's String class for hashCode() to get O(1) lookup.

## **Exercise**: Eliminating Unnecessary Work

- Bryant/O'Hallaron Figure 5.7
- ► Two versions of a lower-casing function
- ► Lowercase by subtracting off constant for uppercase characters: alters ASCII code
- Examine them to determine differences
- Project speed differences and why one will be faster

#### **Answers**: Eliminating Unnecessary Work

- **>** strlen() is O(N): searches for \0 character in for() loop
- ▶ Don't loop with it if possible

```
void lower1(char *s) {
                                            void lower2(char *s) {
                                              long len = strlen(s);
  for (long i=0; i < strlen(s); i++){
                                              for (long i=0; i < len; i++){
    if (s[i] >= 'A' && s[i] <= 'Z')
                                                if (s[i] >= 'A' \&\& s[i] <= 'Z'){}
      s[i] -= ('A' - 'a'):
                                                  s[i] -= ('A' - 'a'):
                               250
long strlen(char *s) {
                               200
  long len = 0;
                               150
  while(s[len] != '\0'){}
                               100
    len++;
  return len;
                                                    String length
```

#### Exercise: Do Memory References Matter?

- ► What is the primary difference between the two routines above?
- What effect if any will this have on runtime?

## **Answers**: Do Memory References Matter?

- sum\_range1() makes repeated memory references
- sum\_range2() uses a local variable with only a couple memory references

Primary difference is repeated access to Main Memory VS Register, this should indicate sum\_range2() performs better BUT...

## Memory References Matter, Compiler May Change Them

 Memory reference definitely matters

```
lila> gcc -01 sum_range.c # Opt plz!
lila> ./a.out 0 1000000000
sum_range1: 2.8972e-01 secs
sum_range2: 2.7569e-01 secs
```

- ➤ Observe code differences between -0g and -01
- Why is performance improved so much?

```
addl
          $1. %edi
                       # in loop
. I.OOPTOP:
  cmpl
          %esi, %edi
          . BODY
  jl
  ret.
### Compiled with -01: some opt
sum range1:
          %esi, %edi
  cmpl
          .END
  ige
          $0, %eax
  movl
                       # init REGISTER
.LOOP:
  addl
          %edi, %eax
                       # REGISTER add
  addl
          $1, %edi
                       # in loop
          %edi, %esi
 cmpl
 jne
          .LOOP
          %eax. (%rdx) # MEMORY write
  movl
. END:
  ret.
```

## Dash-O! Compiler Optimizes for You

- gcc can perform many micro-optimizations, almost NEVER macro optimizations
- Series of -0X options authorize use of various micro-opts
- ▶ We will use -Og at times to disable many optimizations
  - -Og: Optimize debugging: "...offering a reasonable level of optimization while maintaining fast compilation and a good debugging experience."
- Individual optimizations can be enabled and disabled

- -0 or -01: Optimize. Optimizing compilation takes somewhat more time, and a lot more memory for a large function.
   With -O, the compiler tries to reduce code size and execution time, without performing any optimizations that take a great deal of compilation time.
- ► -02: Optimize even more. GCC performs nearly all supported optimizations that do not involve a space-speed tradeoff. As compared to -0, this option increases both compilation time and the performance of the generated code.
- -03: Optimize yet more. -03 turns on all optimizations specified by -O2 and also...
- -Ofast: Disregard strict standards compliance. (!)

#### Compiler Optimizations

gcc -0 or gcc -01 turns on the following optimization flags:

```
-fauto-inc-dec -fbranch-count-reg -fcombine-stack-adjustments
--fcompare-elim fcprop-registers -fdce -fdefer-pop -fdelayed-branch
--fdse -fforward-propagate fguess-branch-probability -fif-conversion2
--fif-conversion finline-functions-called-once -fipa-pure-const
--fipa-profile -fipa-reference fmerge-constants -fmove-loop-invariants
--freorder-blocks -fshrink-wrap fshrink-wrap-separate
--fsplit-wide-types -fssa-backprop -fssa-phiopt -ftree-bit-ccp
-ftree-ccp -ftree-ch -ftree-coalesce-vars -ftree-copy-prop -ftree-dce
-ftree-dominator-opts -ftree-dse -ftree-forwprop -ftree-fre
--ftree-phiprop -ftree-sink ftree-slsr -ftree-sra -ftree-pta
--ftree-ter -funit-at-a-time
```

- ▶ Some combination of these enables sum\_range2() to fly as fast as sum\_range1()
- We will look at some "by-hand" versions of these optimizations but let the compiler optimize for you whenever possible

#### Exercise: Allocation and Hidden Costs

Consider the following **Java** code

```
public class StringUtils{
  public static
  String repString(String str, int reps)
    String result = "";
    for(int i=0; i<reps; i++){
      result = result + str;
    return result;
```

- ► Give a Big-O estimate for the runtime
- Give a Big-O estimate for the memory overhead

#### **Answers**: Allocation and Hidden Costs

- Strings are immutable in Java (Python, many others)
- ► Each iteration must
  - allocate new memory for a new string sized result.length + str.length
  - Copy result to the first part
  - ► Copy str to the second part
- ▶ Leads to  $O(N^2)$  complexity
- Much worse memory usage: as much as  ${\cal O}(N^2)$  wasted memory for garbage collector to clean up

```
public class StringUtils{
  public static
 String repString(String str, int reps)
    String result = "";
    for(int i=0; i<reps; i++){</pre>
      result = result + str:
   return result:
  // Efficient version
 public static
 String repString2(String str, int reps)
    StringBuilder result =
      new StringBuilder();
    for(int i=0; i<reps; i++){
      result.append(str);
    return result.toString();
```

## **Exercise:** Loop Unrolling

```
    Have seen copying loop
iterations manually may lead to
speed gains
```

- Why? Which of the following unrolled versions of sum rangeX() seems fastest?
- ➤ Why the **second loop** in sum\_rangeB() and sum\_rangeC()?

```
1 void sum_rangeA(long stop, long *ans){
2    long sum=0, i;
3    for(i=0; i<stop; i++){
4        sum += i+0;
5    }
6    *ans = sum;
7 }</pre>
```

```
void sum_rangeB(long stop, long *ans){
10
      long sum = 0, i;
11
      for(i=0; i<stop-3; i+=3){
12
        sum += (i+0);
13
        sum += (i+1);
14
        sum += (i+2);
15
16
      for(; i<stop; i++){
17
        sum += i;
18
19
      *ans = sum;
20
21
22
    void sum_rangeC(long stop, long *ans){
23
      long sum0=0, sum1=0, sum2=0, i;
24
      for(i=0; i<stop-3; i+=3){
25
        sum0 += (i+0):
        sum1 += (i+1):
26
27
        sum2 += (i+2):
28
29
      for(; i<stop; i++){
30
        sum0 += i:
31
32
      *ans = sum0 + sum1 + sum2:
33
```

## Exercise: Loop Unrolling

#### Expectations

Version	Notes	Performance
<pre>sum_rangeA()</pre>	Not unrolled	Baseline
<pre>sum_rangeB()</pre>	Unroll x3, same destinations for sum	Less good
<pre>sum_rangeC()</pre>	Unroll x3, different destinations sum add	Expected Best

#### **Actual Performance**

apollo> gcc -0g unroll.c apollo> ./a.out 1000000000 sum\_rangeA: 1.0698e+00 secs sum\_rangeB: 6.2750e-01 secs sum\_rangeC: 6.2746e-01 secs

phaedrus> ./a.out 1000000000 sum\_rangeA: 2.8913e-01 secs sum\_rangeB: 5.3285e-01 secs sum\_rangeC: 2.6774e-01 secs

#### Unrolling is Unpredictable

- Performance Gains vary from one compiler+processor to another
- ► All unrolling requires cleanup loops like those in the B/C versions: add on remaining elements

#### GCC Options to Unroll

- gcc has options to unroll loops during optimization
- ► Unrolling has unpredictable performance implications so unrolling is **not enabled** for -01, -02, -03
- Can manually enable it with compiler options like
   funroll-loops to check for performance bumps

```
apollo > gcc -Og unroll.c
                                               apollo> gcc -03 unroll.c
## limited compiler opts
                                               ## Many opts, no unrolling
apollo> ./a.out 1000000000
                                               apollo> ./a.out 1000000000
sum rangeA: 1.0698e+00 secs
                                               sum rangeA: 9.4124e-01 secs
sum rangeB: 6.2750e-01 secs
                                               sum_rangeB: 4.1833e-01 secs
sum rangeC: 6.2746e-01 secs
                                               sum rangeC: 4.1832e-01 secs
apollo> gcc -Og -funroll-loops unroll.c
## loops unrolled by compiler
apollo> ./a.out 1000000000
sum rangeA: 7.0386e-01 secs
sum rangeB: 6.2802e-01 secs
sum rangeC: 6.2797e-01 secs
apollo > gcc - Og - funroll - loops - fvariable - expansion - in - unroller unroll.c
apollo> ./a.out 1000000000
                             ## loops unrolled + multiple intermediates used
sum_rangeA: 5.2711e-01 secs
sum_rangeB: 6.2759e-01 secs
sum_rangeC: 6.2750e-01 secs
```

#### Do Conditionals Matter?

## Consider two examples of adding even numbers in a range

```
// CONDITION version
    long sum_evensA(long start, long stop){
 3
      long sum=0;
      for(int i=start; i<stop; i++){</pre>
 5
        if((i \& 0x01) == 0){
6
          sum += i;
7
8
      return sum;
10
11
    // STRAIGHT-LINE version
12
    long sum_evensB(long start, long stop){
13
      long sum=0;
14
      for(int i=start; i<stop; i++){</pre>
15
        int is odd = i \& 0x01;
16
        int even mask = is odd - 1;
17
        // 0x000000000 for odd
18
        // OxFFFFFFF for even
19
        sum += even mask & i:
20
21
      return sum;
22
```

Timings for these two are shown below at two levels of optimization.

```
lila> gcc -0g condloop.c
lila> a.out 0 400000000
sum_evensA: 1.1969e+00 secs
sum_evensB: 2.8953e-01 secs
# 4x speedup
lila> gcc -03 condloop.c
lila> a.out 0 400000000
sum_evensA: 2.3662e-01 secs
sum_evensB: 9.6242e-02 secs
# 2x speedup
```

Message is simple: **eliminate conditionals** whenever possible to improve performance

#### Exercise: Row Sums with Function v Macro

- ► How is a macro different from a function call?
- ▶ Which of the below codes will run faster and why?

```
#define MGET(mat,i,j) \
    int mget(matrix t mat,
                                                   ((mat).data[((i)*((mat).cols)) + (j)])
              int i, int j)
      return
        mat.data[i*mat.cols + j];
    int vset(vector t vec,
                                                #define VSET(vec,i,x) \
              int i, int x)
                                                   ((vec).data[(i)] = (x))
                                             8
9
10
      return vec.data[i] = x;
                                            10
11
                                            11
12
    void row sumsA(matrix t mat.
                                                void row sumsB(matrix t mat.
13
                    vector_t sums)
                                            13
                                                                vector_t sums)
14
                                            14
15
                                            15
      for(int i=0: i<mat.rows: i++){</pre>
                                                   for(int i=0: i<mat.rows: i++){</pre>
16
        int sum = 0:
                                            16
                                                     int sum = 0;
17
        for(int j=0; j<mat.cols; j++){</pre>
                                            17
                                                    for(int j=0; j<mat.cols; j++){</pre>
18
           sum += mget(mat,i,j);
                                            18
                                                       sum += MGET(mat,i,j);
19
                                            19
20
        vset(sums, i, sum);
                                            20
                                                    VSET(sums, i, sum);
21
                                            21
                                            22
22
                                                                                          20
```

#### **Answers**: Row Sums with Function v Macro

- row\_sumsA() uses standard function calls to retrieve elements
- row\_sumsB() uses macros to do the element retrieval
- A macro is a textural expansion done by the preprocessor: insert the literal text associated with the macro
- See macro results with gcc -E func\_v\_macro.c which stops after preprocessor step (early)

- Function calls cost some operations but not many
- Function calls prevent optimization across boundaries
- Cannot pipeline effectively when jumping around, using registers for arguments, restoring registers, etc
- Macros can alleviate this but they are a pain to write and notoriously buggy
- ▶ Better to let the compiler do this for us

#### Inlining Functions/Procedures

- Function Inlining inserts the body of a function where it would have been called
- ► Turned on fully partially at -02 and fully at -03
- Enables other optimizations blocked by function boundaries
- Can only be done if source code (C file) for function is available
- Like loop unrolling, function inlining has trade-offs
  - Enables pipelining
  - More predictable control
  - More register pressure
  - Increased code size

```
val> FILES="func_v_macro.c matvec_util.c"

val> gcc -0g $FILES
val> ./a.out 16000 8000
row_sums_FUNC:  2.8037e-01 secs
row_sums_MACRO:  9.2829e-02 secs

val> gcc -0g -finline-small-functions $FILE
val> ./a.out 16000 8000
row_sums_FUNC:  1.3620e-01 secs
row sums MACRO:  1.2969e-01 secs
```

 Inlining typically most effective for for small functions (getters/setters)

## Profilers: gprof and Friends

- Profiler: a tool that monitors code execution to enable performance optimizations
- gprof is stock on Linux systems, interfaces with gcc
- Compile with profiling options: gcc -pg
- Run code to produce data file
- ► Examine with gprof
- Note: gcc version 6 and 7 contain a bug requiring use of -no-pie option, not a problem on apollo

```
# Compile
# -pg : instrument code for profiling
# -no-pie : bug fix for new-ish gcc's
> gcc -pg -no-pie -g -Og -o unroll unroll.c
> 1s
unroll unroll.c
> ./unroll 1000000000
sum rangeA: 2.9401e-01 secs
sum rangeB: 5.3164e-01 secs
sum rangeC: 2.6574e-01 secs
# gmon.out now created with timing info
> 1s
gmon.out unroll unroll.c
> file gmon.out
gmon.out: GNU prof performance data
> gprof -b unroll
... output on next slide ...
```

## gprof output for unroll

Flat p	of -b unro profile: sample co		0.01 se	conds.				
% cumulative self self								
						ms/call		_
						544.06		
						282.11		
24.26	3 1.0	09 (	0.26	1	261.95	261.95	sum_ra	ange(
	100.0	0.00 0.54 0.28 0.26	1.09 0.00 0.00	n c	1/1 1/1	name main [1] sum_ sum_	rangeB rangeA	[3]
[2]	50.0	0.54	0.00			main sum_rang		
[3]		0.28 0.28	0.00		1/1	main sum_rang		
[4]	24.1	0.26	0.00			main sum_rang		

## gprof Example: Dictionary Application

- > ./dictionary < craft-67.txt
- ... Total time = 0.829561 seconds
- > gprof -b dictionary
  % cumulative se

O1		,				
%	cumulative	self		self	total	
time	seconds	seconds	calls	ms/call	ms/call	name
50.0	7 0.18	0.18	1	180.25	180.25	sort_words
19.4	7 0.25	0.07	463016	0.00	0.00	find_ele_rec
13.9	1 0.30	0.05	2862749	0.00	0.00	Strlen
8.3	4 0.33	0.03	463016	0.00	0.00	lower1
2.78	8 0.34	0.01	463017	0.00	0.00	get_token
2.78	8 0.35	0.01	463016	0.00	0.00	h_mod
2.78	8 0.36	0.01	20451	0.00	0.00	save_string
0.0	0 0.36	0.00	463017	0.00	0.00	get_word
0.0	0.36	0.00	463016	0.00	0.00	insert_string
0.0	0 0.36	0.00	20451	0.00	0.00	new_ele
0.0	0.36	0.00	7	0.00	0.00	add_int_option
0.0	0 0.36	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	add_string_option
0.0	0 0.36	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	init_token
0.0	0 0.36	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	new_table
0.0	0 0.36	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	parse_options
0.0	0 0.36	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	show_options
0.0	0 0.36	0.00	1	0.00	360.50	word_freq

## gprof Example Cont'd: Dictionary Application

- > ./dictionary < craft-67.txt ## After upgrading sort\_words() to qsort()
  ... Total time = 0.624172 seconds</pre>
- > gprof -b dictionary

> gproi	-b dictio	nary				
% c	umulative	self		self	total	
time	seconds	seconds	calls	ms/call	ms/call	name
60.08	0.12	0.12	463016	0.00	0.00	find_ele_rec
15.02	0.15	0.03	2862749	0.00	0.00	Strlen
10.01	0.17	0.02	463016	0.00	0.00	lower1
5.01	0.18	0.01	463017	0.00	0.00	get_token
5.01	0.19	0.01	463016	0.00	0.00	h_mod
5.01	0.20	0.01	20451	0.00	0.00	save_string
0.00	0.20	0.00	463017	0.00	0.00	get_word
0.00	0.20	0.00	463016	0.00	0.00	insert_string
0.00	0.20	0.00	20451	0.00	0.00	new_ele
0.00	0.20	0.00	8	0.00	0.00	match_length
0.00	0.20	0.00	7	0.00	0.00	add_int_option
0.00	0.20	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	add_string_option
0.00	0.20	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	find_option
0.00	0.20	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	init_token
0.00	0.20	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	new_table
0.00	0.20	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	parse_options
0.00	0.20	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	show_options
0.00	0.20	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	sort_words ** was 0.18 **
0.00	0.20	0.00	1	0.00	200.28	word_freq

#### **Exercise:** Quick Review

- 1. What's the first thing to consider when optimization seems necessary?
- 2. What kinds of optimizations would have the biggest impact on performance?
- 3. What is the smartest way to "implement" micro-optimizations, to get their benefit with minimal effort?

#### **Answers**: Quick review

1. What's the first thing to consider when optimization seems necessary?

A: Is optimization **really** necessary? Or is there something else that would be more worth the effort (e.g. fixing bugs, adding features, improving documentation, etc.)

2. What kinds of optimizations would have the biggest impact on performance?

A: From most to least important

- Algorithms and Data Structure Selection
- ► Elimination of unneeded work/hidden costs
- Memory Utilization
- Micro-optimizations (today's lecture)
- 3. What is the smartest way to "implement" micro-optimizations, to get their benefit with minimal effort? A: Use the compiler to mechanically perform code transforms to achieve micro-optimizations. Using -O2 will produce faster-running code because the compiler is transforming generated assembly instructions from C sources.