The Future of Performance Engineering in HPC

Jeffrey S. Vetter
Oak Ridge National Lab and Georgia Tech

SciDAC Performance Engineering Research Institute
INCITE Performance Evaluation and Analysis Consortium (PEAC) End Station

http://ft.ornl.gov
vetter@ornl.gov
Talk Highlights

- Significant trends emerging in HPC
  - Architectural complexity: multicore, heterogeneity, power mgt
  - Scale
  - Application complexity: multiphase, multiscale, multiresolution
- Taken together, these trends can create a widening gap between expected and realized performance
- Performance engineering is critical to address this gap
  - Measurement
  - Prediction
  - Optimization
- Some performance engineering solutions that help to close this gap
  - Engagement
    - Frequent interaction between applications teams and performance experts
  - Tools
    - Instrumentation, collection, and analysis tools for measurement
  - Automatic optimization
    - Static and dynamic optimization of applications and libraries
    - Integrate of performance engineering into application/system lifecycle
  - Feedback to architects and system software designers
Years of Prosperity

- Increasing large-scale parallelism
- Increasing number of transistors
- Increasing clock speed
- Stable programming models and languages

LLNL System Lifetimes. M. McCoy
‘New’ constraints for architectures

- Power
- Heat / thermal envelope
- Signaling
- Packaging
- Instruction level parallelism
- Memory, I/O, interconnect latency and bandwidth
- Market trends favor ‘good enough’ computing – *Economist*

- Intel’s CTO: "Pentium PC May Need the Power of a Nuclear Reactor"
  Computer Chips to be Hotter than the Sun?

  by Anton Shilov
  02/19/2004 06:27 PM

  Heat dissipation of the latest Intel processors, such as the Intel Pentium 4 and Pentium 4 E, has become a widely discussed issue. Reasons and consequences of astonishingly high thermal levels Intel’s chips achieve is probably something the industry is looking at pretty thoroughly, as the general trend for semiconductors’ evolution is increase of heat dissipation, which rises necessity of cooling the chips down that also a problem itself. Intel seems to understand the difficulty very well, as the company’s Chief Technology Officer Patrick Gelsinger talked on the matter during IDF show.
Architectural Complexity – Multicore
AMD quad-core due on Sept 10

- 4 cores
- Enhanced FPUs
- Shared resources
  - L3 cache
  - Hypertransport links
  - Memory controllers
- Independent clock frequencies
Architectural Complexity – Multicore
Core count is easy to increase. Resource contention is a challenge!

80...
160...
1024...

Diagram of crossbar network and processor cores.
Architectural Complexity – Heterogeneity, Specialization

Architectures target specific workloads: games, graphics, business, encryption, media
System Scale
Interconnect design and cost limits system scale

- Minimum
- Average
- Maximum
- Lowest
- Minimum

# processors

[Graph showing the trend of processor count from June 1993 to June 2020, with markers for minimum, average, and maximum values.]
Performance Engineering encompasses Measurement, Prediction, and Optimization.
STI Cell Demonstrates these Sensitivities

GPUs, FPGAs, and other devices are similar.
HPC Challenge Benchmarks Demonstrate these Issues

HPCC on Cray X1 – Baseline v. Optimized
Application Diversity

- Multi-phase, multi-scale applications present challenges in performance engineering
  - Multiple languages
  - Multiple phases of physics, chemistry
  - Adaptive meshing, multigrid solvers, etc

- Applications teams know this best!
Application Diversity
Dwarfs illustrate some dimensions of this diversity

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Observations

- Take together, these three trends have the potential for creating a widening gap between expected and realized performance.

- Performance engineering is critical to address this gap:
  - Measurement
  - Prediction
  - Optimization

- We must feed this information back to architects and system software designers.
Some Performance Engineering Solutions

- **Engagement**
  - Frequent interaction between applications teams and performance experts

- **Tools**
  - Instrumentation, collection, and analysis tools for measurement

- **Automatic optimization**
  - Static and dynamic optimization of applications and libraries
  - Integrate of performance engineering into application/system lifecycle

- **Feedback to architects and system software designers**
Engagement: SciDAC PERI

➢ Application Engagement
  – Work directly with DOE computational scientists
  – Ensure successful performance porting of scientific software
  – Focus PERI research on real problems

➢ Application Liaisons
  – Build long-term personal relationships with PERI researchers and scientific code teams

➢ Tiger Teams
  – Focus on DOE’s highest priorities
    • SciDAC-2
    • INCITE

See www.peri-scidac.org for more info.
Tools: Software Development Tools for Petascale Computing

- Assembled ~60 experts in software development tools to identify challenges for Petascale
- See Fred Johnson’s presentation
Many MPI tools use tracing
- Produces very detailed information about communication activity
- Illustrates dependencies among tasks
Tools: Timeline with 1024 tasks

Is this application executing efficiently?

How will this work for 64x or 128x??
Tools: Automatic Classification for Communication Performance Analysis

- Use decision tree classification (a supervised learning technique) to classify application’s messages automatically
- Compare an application’s message operations to ‘normal’ communication for a particular MPI configuration

Modeling Phase (once)
- Use benchmarks to generate decision tree
  - Both efficient and inefficient

Classification Phase (many)
- Execute application
- Analyze application trace with classifier based on decision tree
Automatic Optimization: SciDAC PERI Framework

- Long-term goals for PERI
- Automate the process of tuning software to maximize its performance
- Build upon forty years of human experience and recent success with libraries
  - PHIPAC, ATLAS, FFTW, SPIRAL, SPOOLES
- Reduce the performance portability challenge facing computational scientists
- Address the problem that performance experts are in short supply
Use performance assertions to verify the performance explicitly

```
1:  pa_start(&pa, "$nFlops", PA_AEQ, "11 * %g * %g", &ym, &xm);
2:  for (j=ys; j<ys+ym; j++) {
3:      for (i=xs; i<xs+xm; i++) {
4:         if (i == 0 || j == 0 || i == Mx-1 || j == My-1) {
5:             f[j][i] = x[j][i];
6:         } else {
7:             u = x[j][i];
8:             uxx = (two*u - x[j][i-1] - x[j][i+1])*hydhx;
9:             uyy = (two*u - x[j-1][i] - x[j+1][i])*hxdhy;
10:            f[j][i] = uxx + uyy - sc*PetscExpScalar(u);
11:        }
12:    }
13:  }
14:  pa_end(pa);
15:  PetscLogFlops(11*ym*xm);
```

Expression

- "$nFlops", PA_AEQ, "11 * %g * %g", &ym, &xm
- Empirically measure number of floating point operations with instrumentation
- Test approximate equality (±10%) to ’11 * ym * xm’?

Empirical measurements verify performance model
Many Other Performance Engineering Topics…

- Performance prediction
  - Analytical modeling
  - Simulation
  - Hybrid
  - Historical predictions
- New programming models, languages
- Reliability, correctness, fault tolerance
- IO
- Cooperation with vendors on hardware and software architecture and performance engineering support
- Etc…
Summary

» Significant trends emerging in HPC
  – Architectural complexity: multicore, heterogeneity, power mgt
  – Scale
  – Application complexity: multiphase, multiscale, multiresolution

» Taken together, these trends can create a gap between expected and realized performance

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More information


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