332 Advanced Computer Architecture

Exercise 5 (ASSESSED): instruction-level-parallelism in Jacobi2d

This is the first of two equally-weighted assessed coursework exercises. Working individually, work through the exercise and write up a short report presenting and explaining your results. Submit the pdf electronically via CATE (https://sparrow.doc.ic.ac.uk/~cate/). The CATE system will also indicate the deadline for the exercise.

Background

Carl Gustav Jacobi (1804-1851, see http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Mathematicians/Jacobi.html) gives his name to a particularly simple algorithm which is widely used in solving partial differential equations. For an example, see http://www.psc.edu/training/Drexel/Code_Development/Code_Development.html.

The idea is very simple indeed; here is a C implementation:

```
    typedef double gridtype[MAXiDIM][MAXjDIM];
    gridtype grid1;
    gridtype grid2;
    int it,i,j;
    double onequarter = 1.0/4.0;

    InitGrid(grid1, iDim, jDim);
    InitGrid(grid2, iDim, jDim);

    for (it=0; it<Niters; it+=1) {
      for (i=1; i<iDim-1; ++i)
        for (j=1; j<jDim-1; ++j)
          grid2[i][j] = onequarter *
            (grid1[i-1][j] + grid1[i+1][j] + grid1[i][j-1] + grid1[i][j+1]);
      it++;
      if (it >= Niters) break;

      for (i=1; i<iDim-1; ++i)
        for (j=1; j<jDim-1; ++j)
          grid1[i][j] = onequarter *
            (grid2[i-1][j] + grid2[i+1][j] + grid2[i][j-1] + grid2[i][j+1]);
    }
#ifdef PRINT_GRID
    /* the grid to print depends on whether Niters was odd or even */
    PrintGrid(Niters%2==1 ? grid2 : grid1, iDim, jDim);
#endif
```

As you can see, the loop simply smooths the initial grid by replacing each element `grid[i][j]` with the average of its four neighbours, north, east, west and south. This is often called a "four-point stencil". Note that:

- Each iteration i produces a new grid_i from an old grid_{i-1}.

- Instead of storing all the old grids, we generate `grid2` from `grid1`, then reuse `grid1` to store the next iterate, alternating.
- The grid region which is assigned to is smaller then the whole grid, by one cell in each direction. The boundary cells are read but never written.

Running the Jacobi benchmark

You can find the source code in

```
/homes/phjk/ToyPrograms/C/Jacobi2d-2007/Jacobi2d.c
```

Copy this file to your own directory[1]. You should compile the application for the x86 platform using the following commands:

```
x=5000
gcc -O3 -DMAXiDIM=$x -DMAXjDIM=$x -o Jacobi2d.x86 Jacobi2d.c
```

where `$x` is a shell variable set to the array size to be used. Good values lie in the range 200-1000 for the simulator, and up to about 7000 for native execution (if you use "csh" or "tcsh" instead of the "bash" shell you set `$x` with `set x=200`). Now run the application as follows:

```
./Jacobi2d.x86 $x $x 5
```

Compile the application for the Simplscalar simulator using the following command:

```
x=200
~phjk/simplescalar/bin/gcc -O3 -DMAXiDIM=$x -DMAXjDIM=$x -o Jacobi2d Jacobi2d.c
```

Now run the application as follows:

```
~phjk/simplescalar/simplesim-2.0/sim-outorder ./Jacobi2d $x $x 2
```

Here the value 2 is the number of iterations of the Jacobi sweep to be repeated. Choose this value to keep the simulation time (or execution time) under control while ensuring the simulated machine does a significant amount of work - 2 is the minimum sensible value.

What to do

Part 1: influence of array size

Your first job is to study how the performance varies with array size.

[1]This text is available in html for copy-and-paste on the course web site.

1. Choose a linux machine on the DoC network[2] and measure the performance of the Jacobi2d loop in MFLOPs for problem size 1024.

   Note that you need to recompile the application for each problem size so that the arrays are declared with the right dimensions.

   Try to make sure no other processes are active as they will interfere with your results. How many times do you need to repeat your experiments to get a reliable result?

2. Plot a graph that shows how the performance, in MFLOPs, for Jacobi2d varies with problem size, and explain the result. Start by looking at problems in the range 1020-1030.

Part 2: influence of microarchitecture

Your next job is to study the effect of various architectural features on the performance of the Jacobi2d application running under the SimpleScalar simulator:

1. Use sim-outorder's "-ruu:size" flag to vary the RUU size between 2 and 256 (only powers of two are valid). Plot a graph showing your results. Explain what you see.

2. Examine the other sim-outorder parameters which determine the CPU's instruction issue rate (leave the cache parameters unchanged). Where is the bottleneck (when running Jacobi2d) in the default simulated architecture? Justify your answer.

Write your results up in a short report (less than four pages including graphs and discussion).

Tools and tips

Running the experiments

To do this you need to write a shell script. You might find the following Bash script useful:

```
#!/bin/sh -f

SIZE=200
ROOT=/homes/phjk/ToyPrograms/C/Jacobi2d-2007

for x in 2 4 8 16 32 64 128 256
do
  echo -n $x "\t"
  ~phjk/simplescalar/simplesim-2.0/sim-outorder -ruu:size $x \
     $ROOT/simplescalar/Jacobi2d-512-O3 $SIZE $SIZE 2 \
     2>&1 | grep sim_IPC
done
```

[2] See `https://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/csg/computers/`.

The output is delivered to the file "results". You can find this script in

```
~phjk/ToyPrograms/C/Jacobi2d-2007/scripts/Jacobi2d-ss-ruu-script.sh
```

See also "Jacobi2d-ss-vary.sh".

Plotting a graph

Try using the gnuplot program. Run the script above, and save the output in a file "table". Type "gnuplot". Then, at its prompt type:

```
set logscale x 2
plot [][0:2] 'table2' using 1:3 with linespoints
```

To save the plot as a postscript file, try:

```
set term postscript eps
set output "psfile.ps"
plot [][0:2] 'table2' using 1:3 with linespoints
```

Try "help postscript", "help plot" etc for further details.

Examining the assembler code

Compile the application using the "-S" flag.

```
~phjk/simplescalar/bin/gcc -O3 -S -DMAXiDIM=$x -DMAXjDIM=$x Jacobi2d.c
```

The assembler code generated by the compiler is delivered in "Jacobi2d.s".

Experimenting with compiler options

The compiler accepts many parameters to control optimisation. Try "man gcc" to read about them. For example, "-funroll-loops" encourages the compiler to unroll loops:

```
~phjk/simplescalar/bin/gcc -O3 -funroll-loops -DMAXiDIM=$x -DMAXjDIM=$x -o Jacobi2d Jacobi2d.c
```

Does this improve the performance of the simulated machine? What happens to the IPC?

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