

LoopPoint and ELFies: Tools and Techniques to Accelerate Simulations of Multi-threaded Applications using Checkpointing

**Alen Sabu¹, Changxi Liu¹, Akanksha Chaudhari¹, Harish Patil²,
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¹National University of Singapore

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NUS
National University
of Singapore



Agenda

Time	Speaker	Topic
09.00 to 09.10	Alen Sabu	Overview of the tutorial
09.10 to 10.00	Harish Patil	Tools from Intel: Pin, PinPlay, SDE, ELFies
10.00 to 10.15	Break	
10.15 to 11.00	Akanksha Chaudhari	Simulation and Single-threaded Sampling
11.00 to 11.20	Break	
11.20 to 12.15	Alen Sabu	Multi-threaded Sampling and LoopPoint
12.15 to 13.00	Changxi Liu	Running Sniper and LoopPoint Tools

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Tools from Intel

- Speaker: Harish Patil
 - Principal Engineer, Intel Corporation
- Topics Covered
 - Binary instrumentation using Pin or writing Pintools
 - PinPlay kit and PinPlay-enabled tools
 - SDE build kit for microarchitecture emulation
 - Checkpointing threaded applications using PinPlay, SDE
 - Detailed discussion on ELFies including its generation and usage

Simulation and Sampling Overview

- Speaker: Akanksha Chaudhari
 - Research Assistant, National University of Singapore
- Topics Covered
 - Architectural exploration and evaluation
 - Simulation as a tool for performance estimation
 - Methods for fast estimation using simulation
 - State-of-the-art single-threaded sampled simulation techniques

LoopPoint Methodology

- Speaker: Alen Sabu
 - PhD Candidate, National University of Singapore
- Topics Covered
 - Sampled simulation of multi-threaded applications
 - Existing methodologies and their drawbacks
 - Detailed discussion on LoopPoint methodology
 - Experimental results of LoopPoint

Simulation and Demo

- Speaker: Changxi Liu
 - PhD Student, National University of Singapore
- Topics Covered
 - Overview of Sniper simulator
 - High-level structure of LoopPoint code
 - Demo on how to use LoopPoint tools
 - Integrating workloads to run with LoopPoint

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Session 1

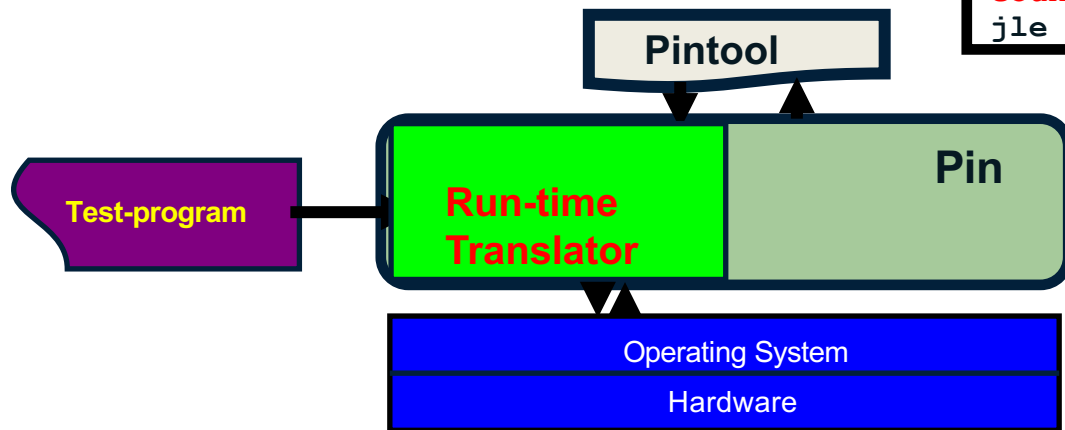
Tools and Methodologies

HARISH PATIL, PRINCIPAL ENGINEER (DEVELOPMENT TOOLS SOFTWARE)
INTEL CORPORATION

Pin: A Tool for Writing Program Analysis Tools

```
sub    $0xff, %edx
movl   0x8(%ebp), %eax
jle    <L1>
```

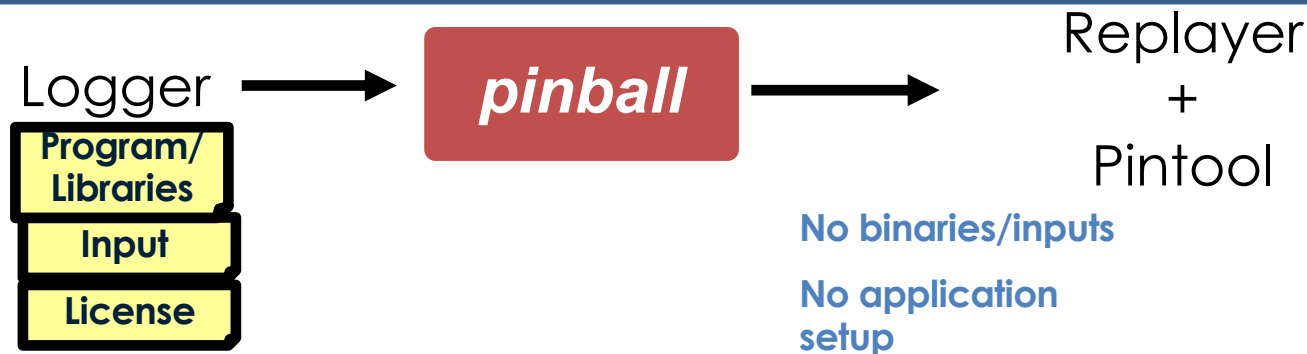
```
counter++; print(IP)
sub    $0xff, %edx
counter++; print(EA)
movl   0x8(%ebp), %eax
counter++; print(br_taken)
jle    <L1>
```



```
$ pin -t pintool -- test-program
```

Normal output +
Analysis output

PinPlay: Software-based User-level Capture and Replay

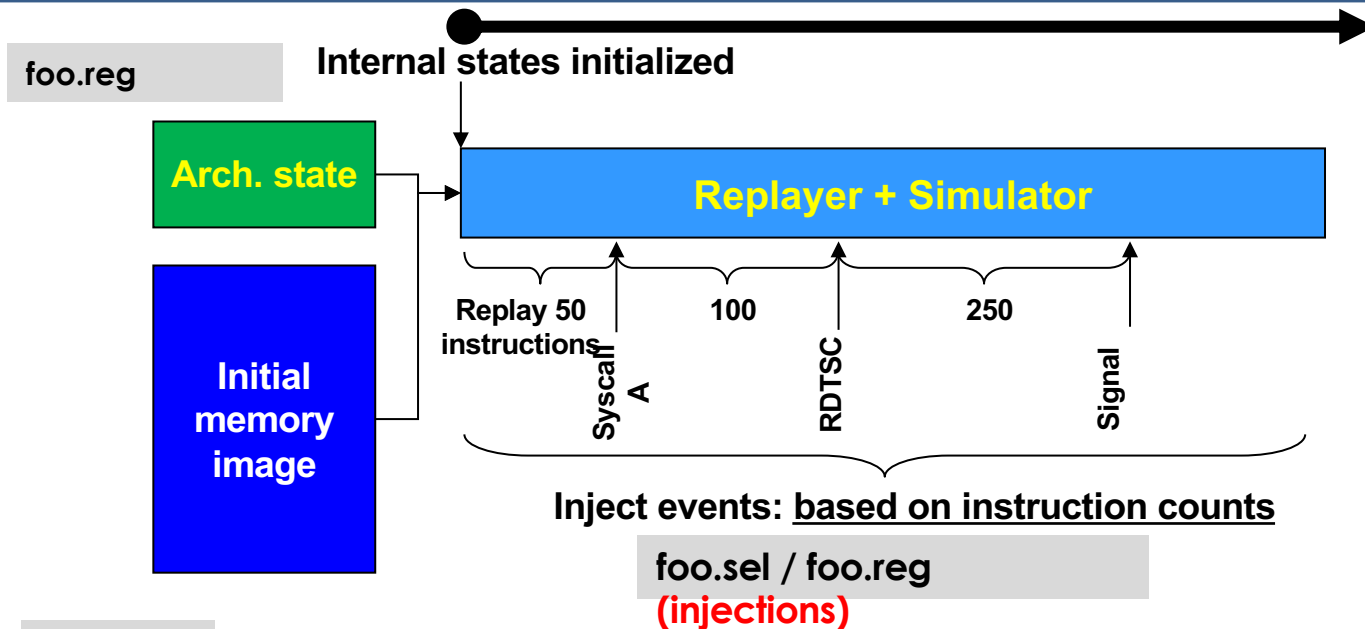


Platforms : Linux, Windows, MacOS

Upside : It works! Large OpenMP / MPI programs, Oracle

Downside : High run-time overhead: ~100-200X for capture →
Cannot be turned on all the time

Pinball (single-threaded): Initial memory/register + injections



foo.text

- **System calls** : skipped by injecting next rip/ memory changed
- **CPUID, RDTSC** : affected registers injected
- **Signals/Callbacks** : New register state injected

Pinball (multi-threaded): Pinball (single-threaded) + Thread-dependencies

foo.reg (per-thread)

Initial registers:

T0

Initial registers:

T1

Initial registers:

T(n-1)

foo.text

Application Memory (common)

foo.reg (per-thread)

foo.sel (per-thread)

Event injection works only if same behavior
(same instruction counts) is guaranteed
during replay

[T1] 2 T2 2

[T1] 3 T2 3

[T2] 5 T4 1

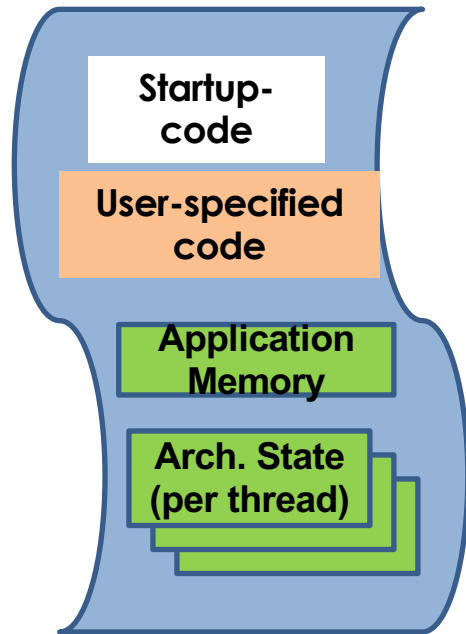
Thread T2 cannot execute instruction
5 until T4 executes instruction 1

foo.race (per-thread)

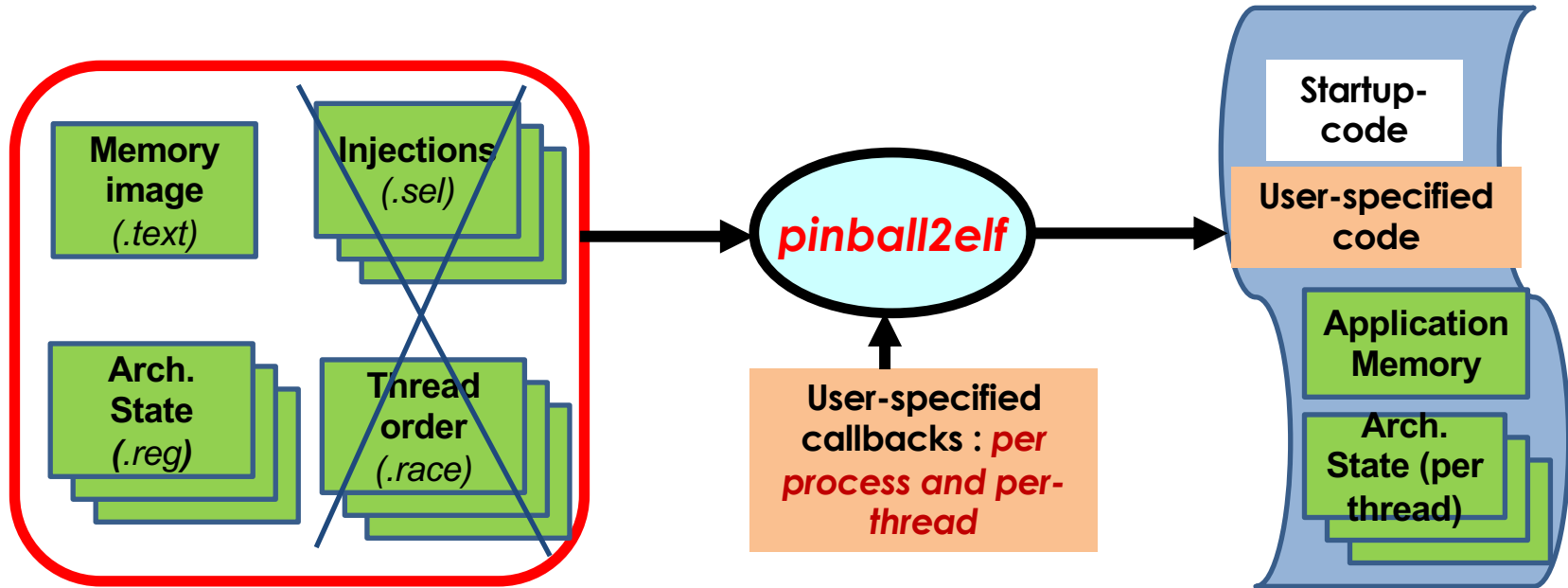
Thread T1 cannot execute instruction 2
until T2 executes instruction 2

ELFie : An Executable Application Checkpoint

- **Checkpoint:** Memory + Registers
- **Application :** Only program state captured -- no OS or simulator states
- **Executable :** In the Executable Linkage Format commonly used on Linux



pinball2elf: Pinball converter to ELF



Getting started with *pinball2elf*

Prerequisite: '*perf*' installed on your Linux box (*perf stat /bin/ls* should work)

- Clone pinball2elf repository: *git clone https://github.com/intel/pinball2elf.git*
- *cd pinball2elf/src*
- *make all*
- *cd ../examples/ST*
- *./testST.sh*

Running *../scripts//pinball2elf.basic.sh pinball.st/log_0*

..
Running *../scripts//pinball2elf.perf.sh pinball.st/log_0 st*
export ELFIE_PERFLIST=0:0,0:1,1:1

...
hw_cpu_cycles:47272 hw_instructions:4951 sw_task_clock:224943

Tested : Ubuntu 20.04.4 LTS : gcc/g++ 7.5.0 and 9.4.0
and Ubuntu 18.04.6 LTS: gcc/g++ 7.5.0

ELFie types: *basic*, *sim*, *perf*

	<i>basic</i>	<i>sim</i>	<i>perf</i>
How to create	<i>scripts/pinball2elf.basic.sh</i> <i>pinball</i>	<i>scripts/pinball2elf.sim.sh</i> <i>pinball</i>	<i>scripts/pinball2elf.perf.sh</i> <i>pinball perf.out</i>
Exits gracefully?	NO, either hangs or dumps core	NO, either hangs or dumps core Simulator handles exit	YES, when retired instruction count reaches pinball icount
Environment variables used	NONE	ELFIE_VERBOSE=0/1 ELFIE_COREBASE=X Set affinity : thread 0 → core X, thread 1 → core x+1	"ELFIE_WARMUP" to decide whether to use warmup "ELFIE_PCCONT" to decide how to end warmup/simulation regions ELFIE_PERFLIST, enables performance counting

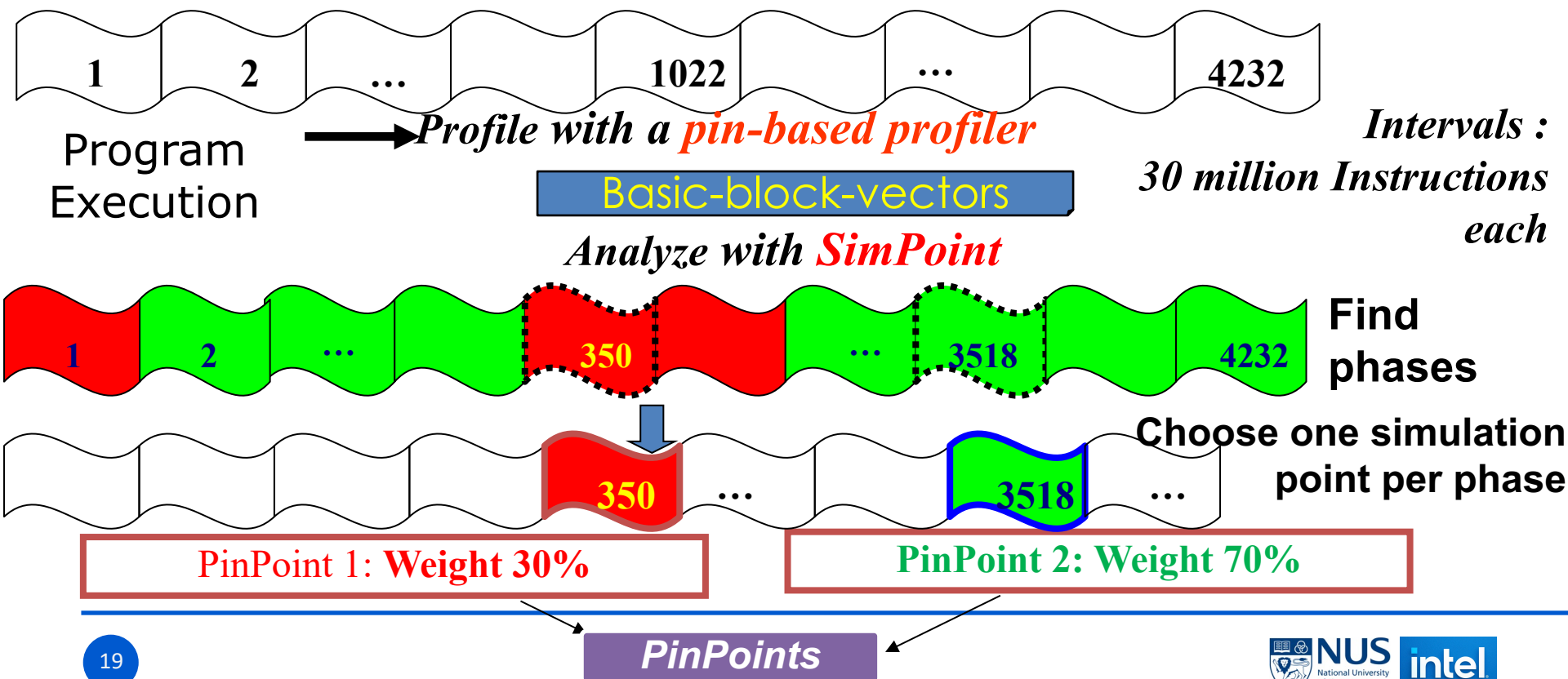
Example: *ELFIE_PERFLIST* with a *perf* *ELFie*

ELFIE_PERFLIST, enables performance counting
(based on `/usr/include/linux/perf_event.h`
perftype: 0 --> HW 1 --> SW
HW counter: 0 --> `PERF_COUNT_HW_CPU_CYCLES`
HW counter: 1 --> `PERF_COUNT_HW_CPU_INSTRUCTIONS`
SW counter: 0 --> `PERF_COUNT_SW_CPU_CLOCK`
... <see `perf_event.h`: 'enum perf_hw_ids' and 'enum
perf_sw_ids')

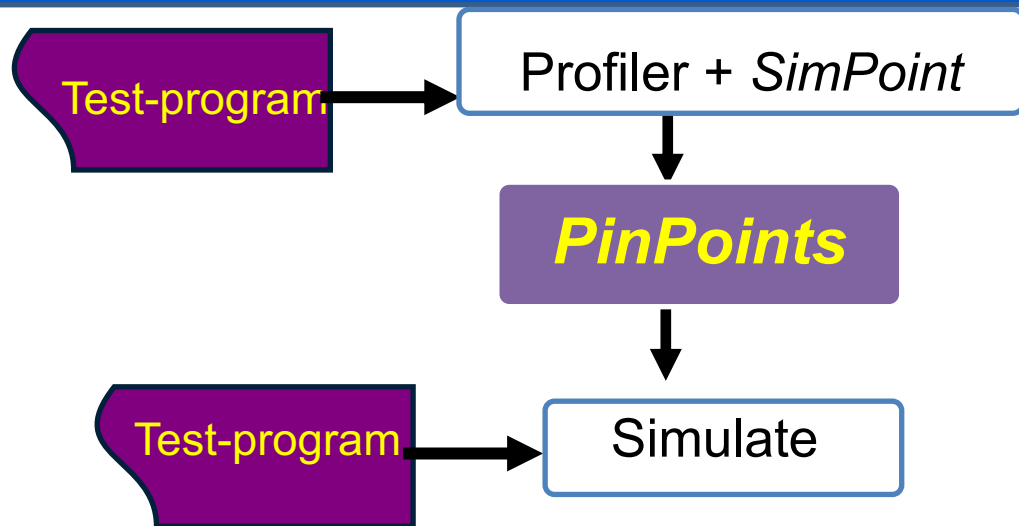
```
% cd examples/MT
% ../../scripts/pinball2elf.perf.sh pinball.mt/log_0 perf.out
% setenv ELFIE_PERFLIST "0:0,0:1,1:1"
% pinball.mt/log_0.perf.elfie
├── perf.out.0.perf.txt
├── perf.out.1.perf.txt
└── perf.out.2.perf.txt
```

```
ROI start: TSC 48051110586217756
Thread start: TSC 48051110623843452
-----
Simulation end: TSC 48051110625045322
  Sim-end-icount 3436
hw_cpu_cycles:36148 hw_instructions:3476
sw_task_clock:141901
-----
Thread end: TSC 48051110625366502
ROI end: TSC 48051110625959364
hw_cpu_cycles:40097 hw_instructions:4455
sw_task_clock:188637
```

$PinPoints == Pin + SimPoint$



PinPoints : The repeatability challenge

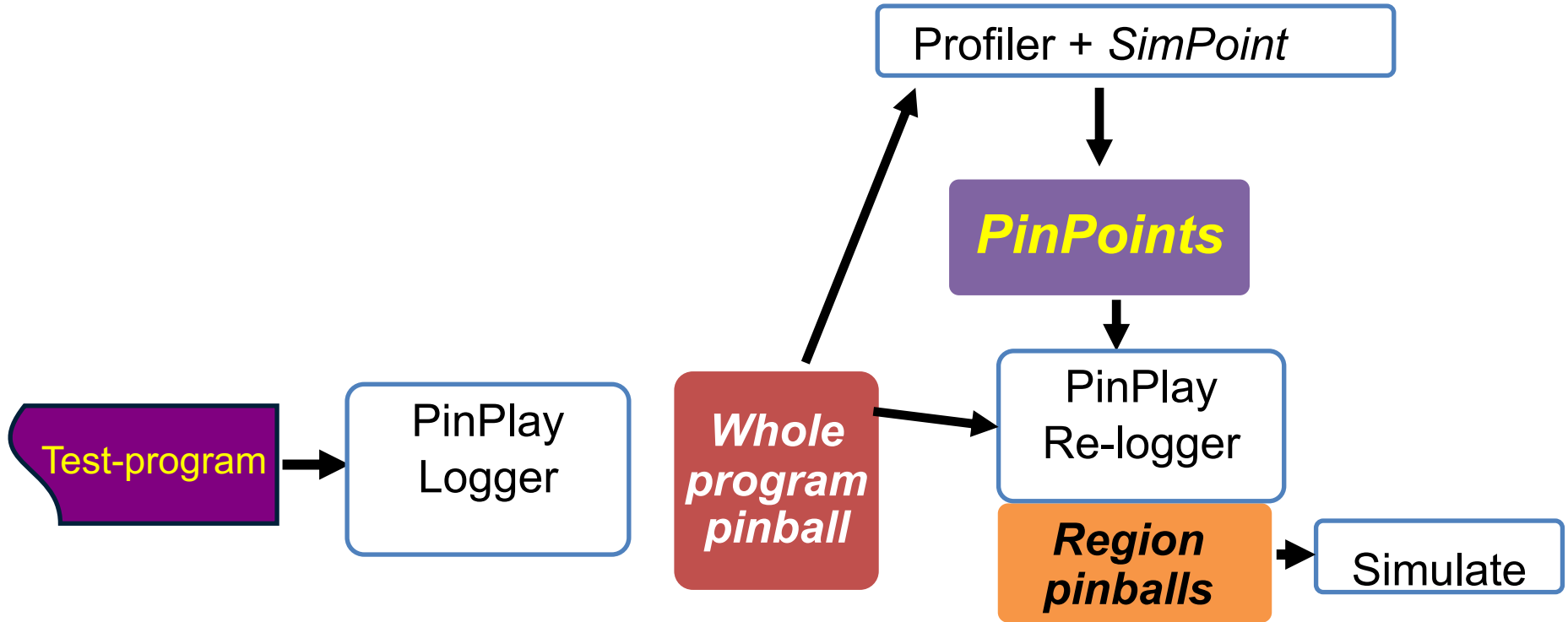


Problem: Two runs are not exactly same → PinPoints missed (PC marker based)

["*PinPoints out of order*" "*PinPoint End seen before Start*"]

Found this for 25/54 SPEC2006 runs!

PinPlay provides **repeatability**



Single-threaded *PinPoints* → SPEC2006/2017 pinballs publicly available

1. University of California (San Diego), Intel Corporation, and Ghent University
<https://www.spec.org/cpu2006/research/simpoint.html>
2. University of Texas at Austin
<https://www.spec.org/cpu2017/research/simpoint.html>
3. Northwestern University
[Public Release and Validation of SPEC CPU2017 PinPoints](#)

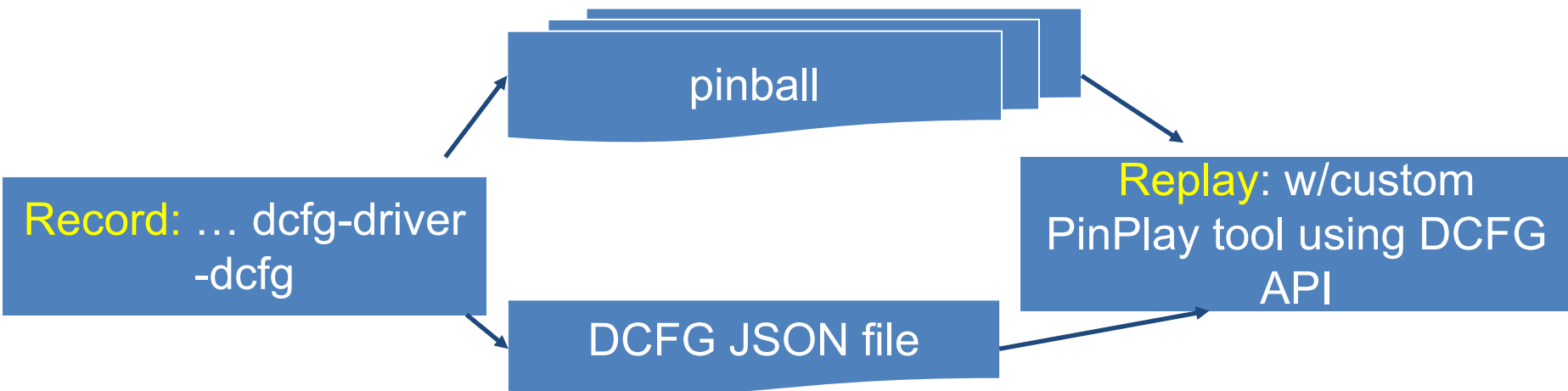
DCFG Generation with *PinPlay*

Dynamic Control-Flow Graph (DCFG)

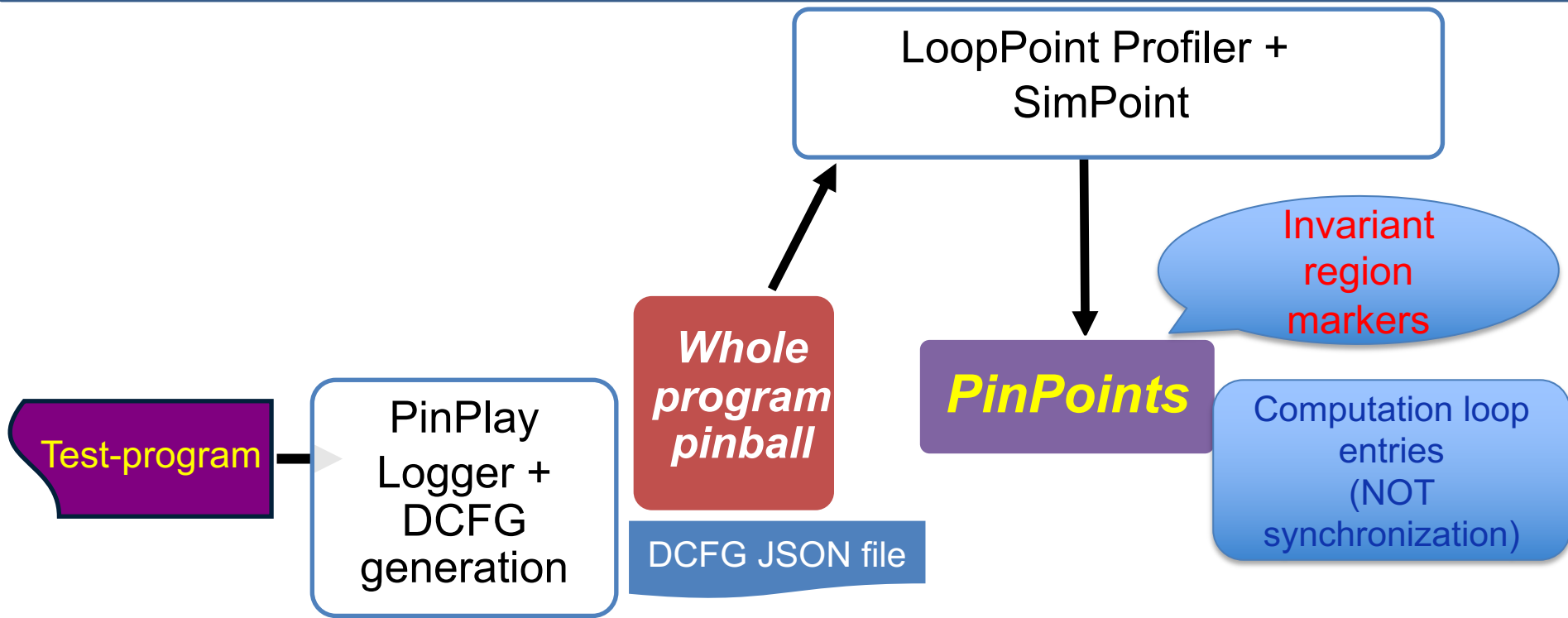
Directed graph extracted for a specific execution:

Nodes → basic blocks

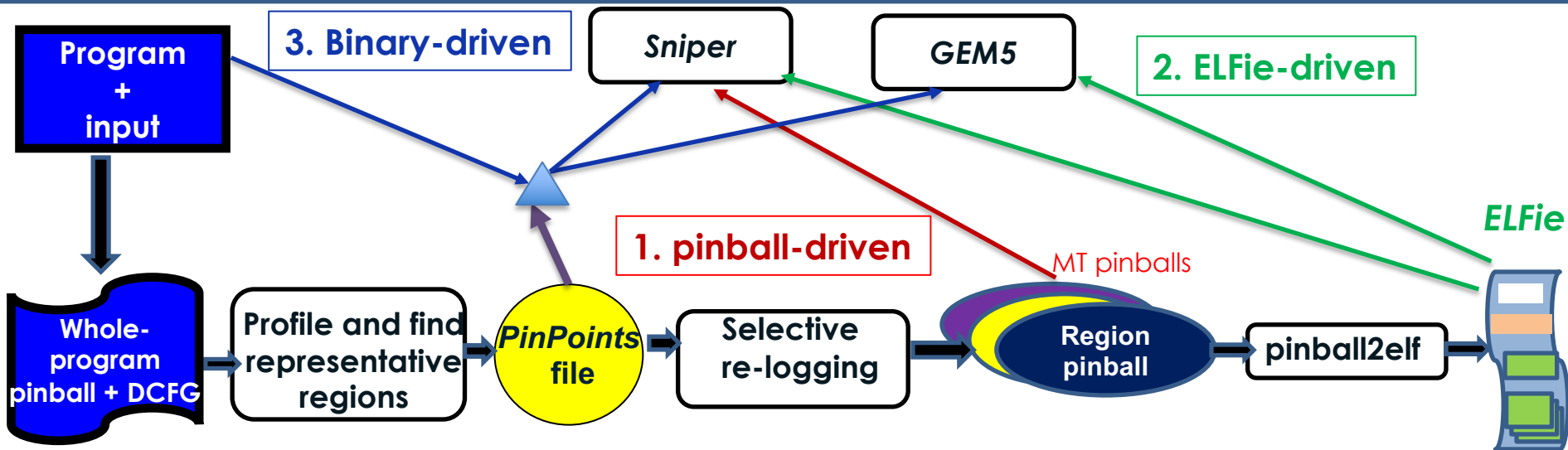
Edges → control-flow : augmented with per-thread execution counts



PinPlay + DCFG : Stronger Repeatability



LoopPoint: Simulation alternatives



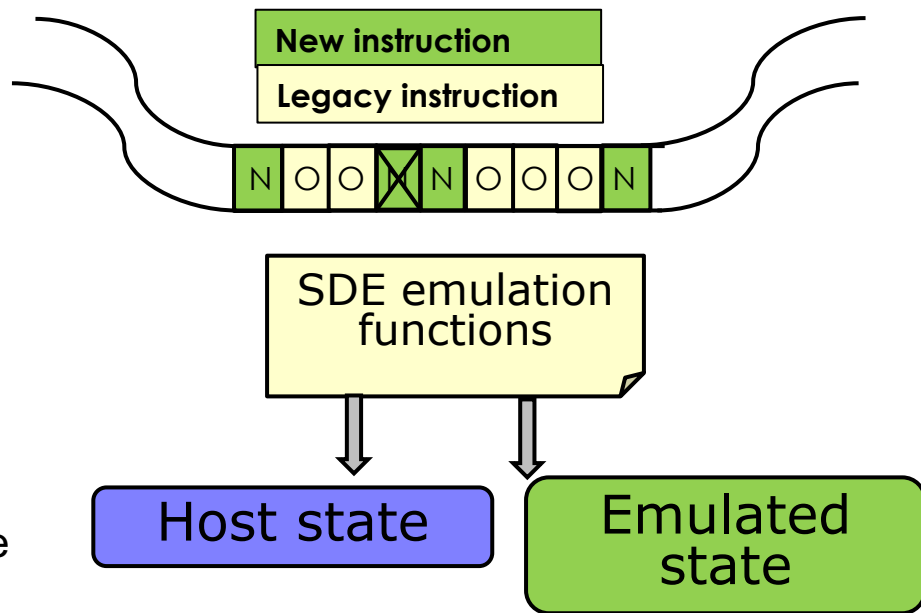
Requirement: Execution invariant region specification
(PC+count for compute loop entries)

Intel Software Development Emulator (*Intel SDE*)

- The Intel® Software Development Emulator is a **functional user-level (ring 3) emulator** for x86 (32b and 64b) new instructions built upon Pin and XED (X86 encoder/decoder)
- **Goal:** New instruction/register emulation between the time when they are designed and when the hardware is available.
- Used for compiler development, architecture and workload analysis, and tracing for architecture simulators
- No special compilation required
- Supported on Windows/Linux/Mac OS
- Runs only in user space (ring 3)

How SDE Works

- Based on Pin (<http://pintool.intel.com>) and XED decoder/encoder (<https://github.com/intelxed/xed>)
- Instrument new instructions
 - Add call to emulation routine
 - Delete original instruction
- Emulation routine:
 - Update native state with emulated state



Using *SDE* for *PinPoints* and *LoopPoint*

Prerequisites:

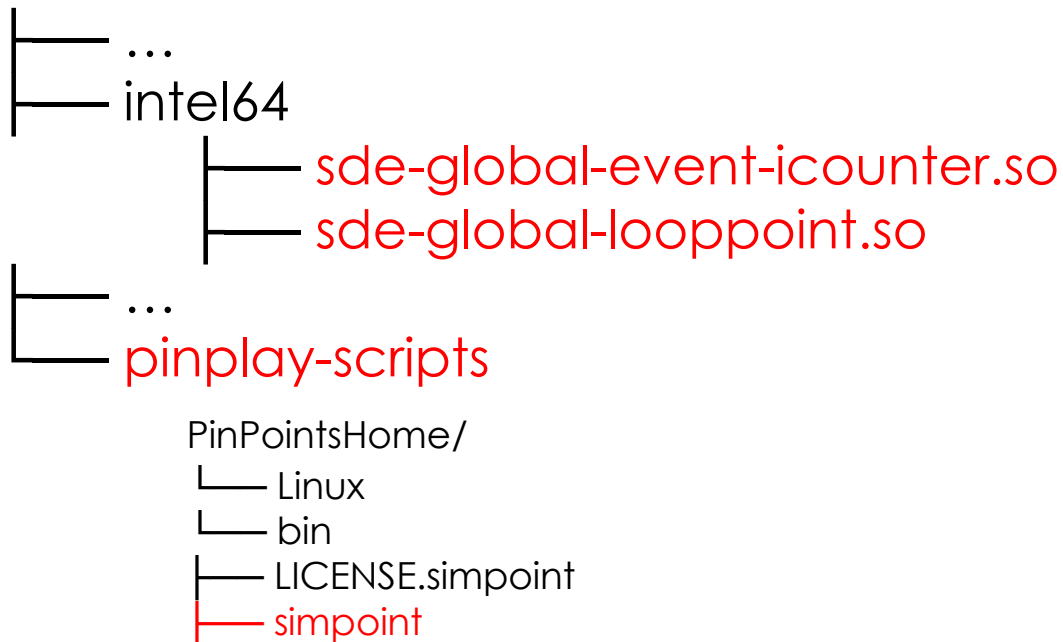
1. SDE build kit (version 9.0 or higher) from Intel
<http://www.intel.com/software/sde>
2. pinplay-tools from Intel
<https://github.com/intel/pinplay-tools>
3. SimPoint sources from UCSD
<https://cseweb.ucsd.edu/~calder/simpoint/>
4. Pinball2elf sources from Intel
<http://pinelfie.org> → <https://github.com/intel/pinball2elf>

Getting ready for *LoopPoint* ...

1. Expand SDE build-kit : *setenv SDE_BUILD_KIT<path to SDE kit>*
2. *cp -r pinplay-tools/pinplay-scripts \$ SDE_BUILD_KIT*
3. Build simpoint (see pinplay-tools/pinplay-scripts/README.simpoint)
 - *cp <path>/SimPoint.3.2/bin/simpoint \$ SDE_BUILD_KIT/pinplay-scripts/PinPointsHome/Linux/bin/*
4. Build global looppoint tools
 - *setenv PINBALL2ELF <path to pinball2lef repo>*
 - *cd pinplay-tools/GlobalLoopPoint*
 - *./sde-build-GlobalLoopPoint.sh*

SDE kit expanded for *LoopPoint*

sde-external-9.0.0-2021-11-07-lin



Running *LoopPoint* for an *OpenMP* program

- `cd pinplay-tools/dotproduct-omp` # see README there
- `make` # builds dotproduct-omp → base.exe
- `./sde-run.looppoint.global_looppoint.concat.filter.flowcontrol.sh`

~/pinplay-tools/dotproduct-omp

└─ dotproduct.1_282016.Data

└─ dotproduct.1_282016.pp

└─ whole_program.1

bbv files (*.bb), PinPoints
file (*.csv, *.CSV)

Region pinballs

Whole-program pinball + DCFG

Summary: Simulation of Multi-threaded Programs: Tools & Methodologies

Where to simulate?

SDE + *LoopPoint*
Compute-loop iterations as
'Unit of work'

How to simulate?

1. Pinball-driven
2. ELFie-driven
3. Binary-driven

Are the regions representative?

1. Simulation (Sniper) -based
 2. ELFie-based / Binary+ROIPerf (*not covered*)
- Whole-program performance vs
Region-predicted performance

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Session 2

Simulation and Sampling

AKANKSHA CHAUDHARI, RESEARCH ASSISTANT
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Architectural Trends in Processor Design

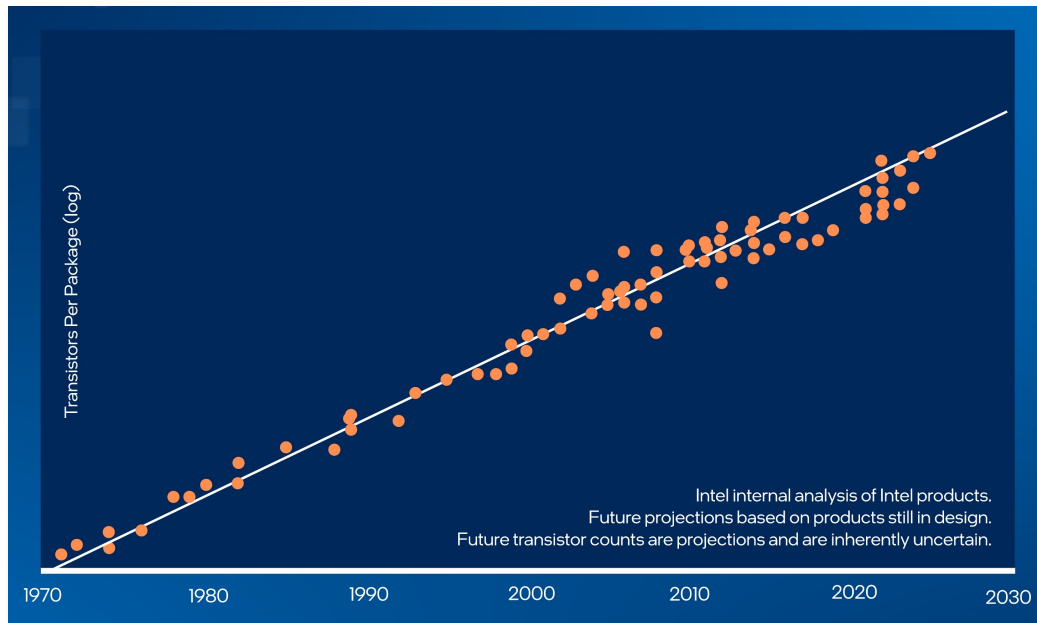
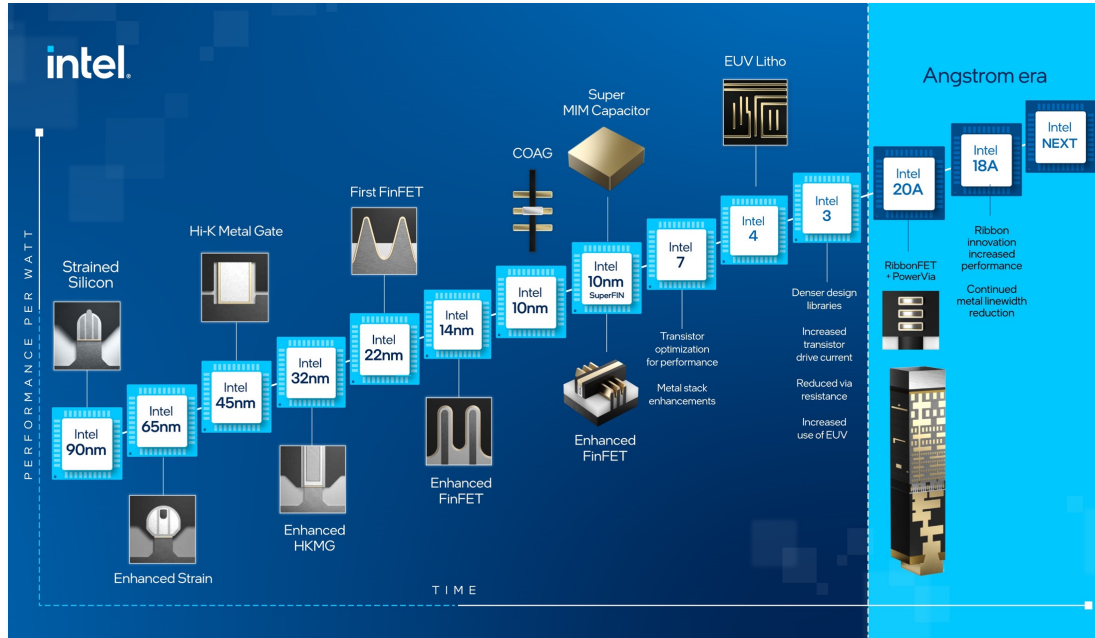


Fig. 1: Moore Law number of transistor per device: past, present, future
[Intel]

- Moore's Law predicts that the number of transistors per device will double every two years.
- First microprocessor had 2200 transistors – Intel aspiring to have 1 trillion transistors by 2030.

Architectural Trends in Processor Design



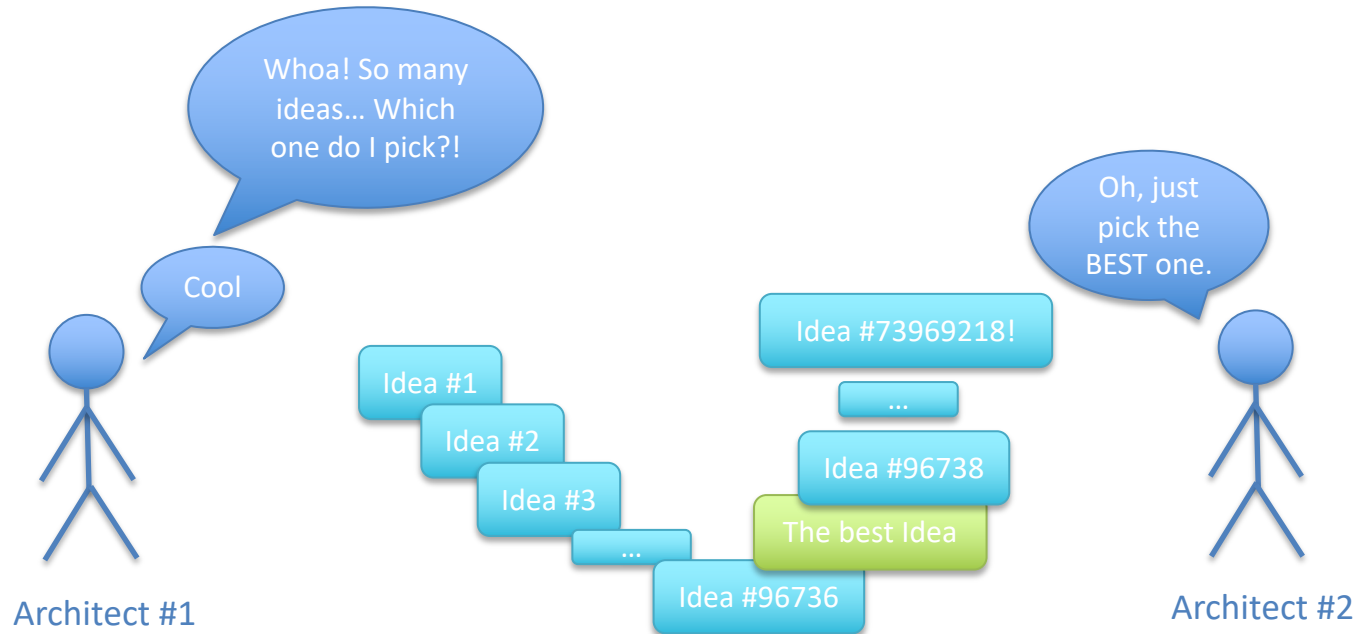
Main Goal: Meeting the ever-increasing computational demands *while* adhering to stringent non-functional requirements (ex: size, power)!

Fig. 2: Transistor innovations over time

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

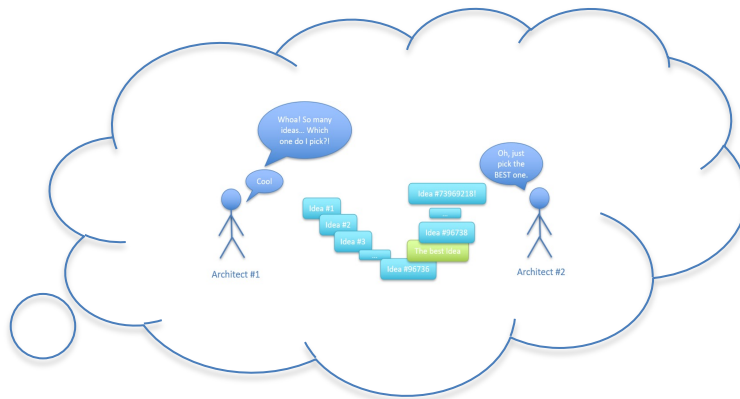
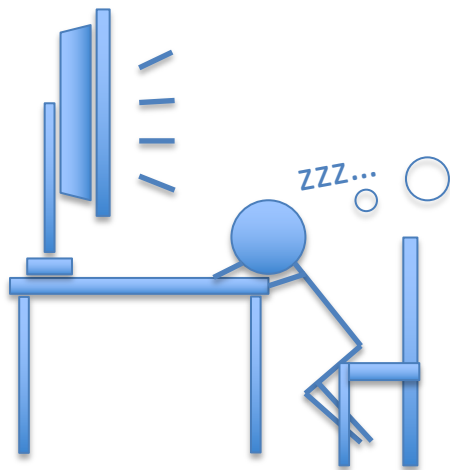
- Architecture is rapidly evolving domain with a lot of new research directions.
- A plethora of design choices are available:
 - Ranging from the choice of components, the choice of operating modes of each component, the choice of interconnects used, the choice of algorithms employed, etc.
- The process of exploration and evaluation of new ideas is often complex and time-consuming.

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas



Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

The Architect IRL



The Important Question:

So how do we then explore new ideas quickly and evaluate them accurately to find the *BEST* idea?

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

- Important questions when considering any idea:
 - Does it work?
 - How well does it work?
- Generally speaking, good idea optimizes a finite set of performance metrics, say M .

Let $M = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n\}$,

where $m_i \in M$ can be computational speed, energy efficiency, memory utilization etc.

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

A variety of different evaluation methods are available:

- Theoretical proofs

Formally proving the correctness/efficiency of the proposed design using computational theory and mathematical logic.

- Analytical modeling

Mathematically modeling the proposed design at some level of abstraction to analyze/quantify its performance.

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

A variety of different evaluation methods are available:

- Simulation (at varying degrees of abstraction and accuracy)
A model that mimics the system behavior demonstrating its key functions and operations accurately.
- Prototyping using existing systems
Implementing a draft version of the proposed design using existing systems (such as FPGAs) to evaluate the performance.
- Actual implementation

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

- Theoretical proof
- Analytical modelling
- Simulation
- Prototyping
- Actual implementation

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

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Theoretical proofs / accurate modeling of practical systems can be extremely complex

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

- Theoretical proof
- Analytical modelling
- Simulation
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- Actual implementation

Theoretical proofs / accurate modeling of practical systems can be extremely complex

Difficult to evaluate a design for all possible workload profiles

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

- Theoretical proof
- Analytical modelling
- Simulation
- Prototyping
- Actual implementation

Theoretical proofs / accurate modeling of practical systems can be extremely complex

Difficult to evaluate a design for all possible workload profiles

Worst-case estimates can be misleading

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

- Theoretical proof
- Analytical modelling
- Simulation
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- Actual implementation

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

- Theoretical proof
- Analytical modelling
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- Prototyping
- Actual implementation

Note that, using analytical modeling in conjunction with simulation can provide significant quantifiable benefits

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

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Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

- Theoretical proof
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- Actual implementation

Relatively Expensive

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

- Theoretical proof
- Analytical modelling
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- Prototyping
- Actual implementation

Relatively Expensive

Limited by the capability
of the systems used to
model

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

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Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

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Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

- Theoretical proof
- Analytical modelling
- Simulation
- Prototyping
- Actual implementation

Most expensive

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

- Theoretical proof
- Analytical modelling
- Simulation
- Prototyping
- Actual implementation

Most expensive

Not always feasible to implement
and evaluate each idea
Especially if we have too many
options to choose from

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

- Theoretical proof
- Analytical modelling
- Simulation
- Prototyping
- Actual implementation

Exploration and Evaluation of New Ideas

An “evaluation” of the evaluation methods:

- Theoretical proof
- Analytical modelling
- **Simulation** →
- Prototyping
- Actual implementation

The most feasible way to explore and evaluate large-scale, complex architectural designs in terms of time, cost and efficiency!

Simulation: An Overview

- Simulation enables the modeling of new research ideas at varying degrees of abstraction and accuracy.
- Main goals:
 - Enables fast exploration of design space (to discover the next big idea!).
 - Evaluation of new research ideas by estimating their relative performances.
 - Evaluation, debugging and understanding the behavior of existing systems.
- How does a simulator work?
 - Mimics system behavior to reflect its performance in terms of the metric of interest (ex: Instructions per cycle, Runtime, etc).

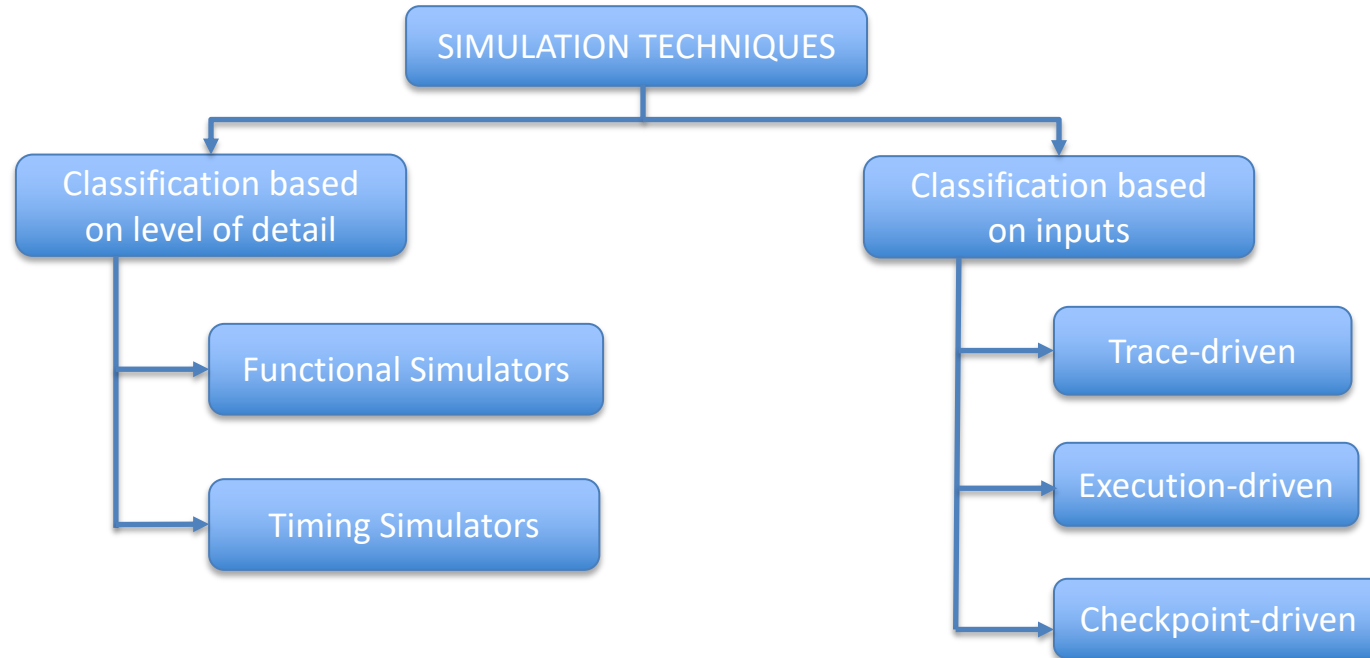
Simulation: An Overview

- Caution: Inaccurate simulation → Inaccurate evaluation/results → Wrong conclusions.
 - Ex: Inaccurate assumptions, inaccurate extrapolation of performance, etc.
- Very important to select the right simulation technique!

Simulation: An Overview

- An ideal simulation technique:
 - High speed: For faster exploration.
 - High flexibility: For wider exploration.
 - High accuracy/low simulation error: For accurate evaluation.
- Practical simulation techniques → tradeoffs:
 - Speed vs. accuracy
 - Speed vs. flexibility
 - Flexibility vs. accuracy

Different Simulation Techniques



Techniques to Simulate Faster

- Partially simulating to extrapolate performance:

- Simulating the first 1 billion instructions in detail.



Detailed simulation

- Fast-forwarding to skip the initialization phase and then simulating 1 billion instructions in detail.



Fast-forwarding using
Functional simulation

- Fast-forwarding to skip the initialization phase, microarchitectural state warming, and then simulating the 1 billion instructions in detail



Warming up the
microarchitectural state

Techniques to Simulate Faster

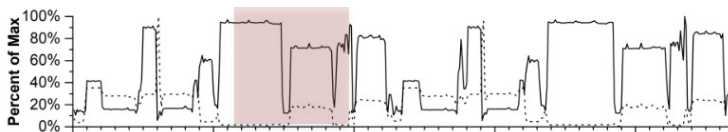
- Workload reduction
 - Simulating for reduced input sets
 - Simulating for reduced loop counts in workloads

Techniques to Simulate Faster

- Workload reduction
 - Simulating for reduced input sets
 - Simulating for reduced loop counts in workloads
- Problems with these techniques:

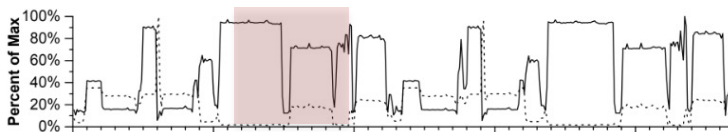
Techniques to Simulate Faster

- Workload reduction
 - Simulating for reduced input sets
 - Simulating for reduced loop counts in workloads
- Problems with these techniques:
 - [Partial simulation + extrapolation] → fail to capture global variations in program behavior and performance.



Techniques to Simulate Faster

- Workload reduction
 - Simulating for reduced input sets
 - Simulating for reduced loop counts in workloads
- Problems with these techniques:
 - [Partial simulation + extrapolation] → fail to capture global variations in program behavior and performance.




- [Workload reduction] → benchmark behavior varies significantly across test, train and reference inputs → do not reflect the actual performance.

Sampled Simulation to the Rescue!

- Sampling enables the simulation selective representative regions of an application.
 - “Representative regions” refer to the subset of regions in the application that reflect the behavior of the entire system when extrapolated.
- How to select these “representative regions”?

- Targeted sampling (like in SimPoint)



 (Full) program execution

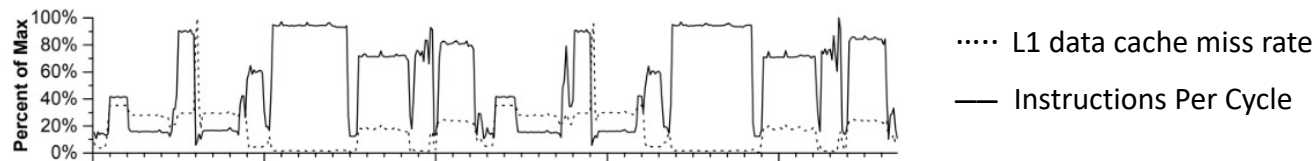
- Statistical sampling (like in SMARTS)



 Representative regions

Sampled Simulation Techniques: SimPoint

- Large-scale program behaviors vary significantly over their run times.
 - Difficult to estimate performance using previously discussed techniques.



- Main idea behind SimPoint:
 - Automatically & efficiently analyzing program behavior over different phases of execution.
- SimPoint uses Basic Block Vectors (BBV) as a hardware-independent metric for characterizing the program behavior in different phases.

Sampled Simulation Techniques: SimPoint

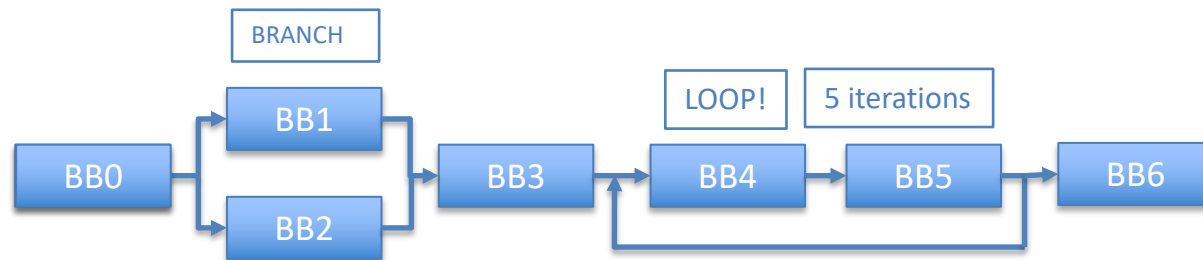
- How SimPoint works:
 - STEP 1: Basic block profiling
 - Generating the Basic Block Vectors
 - Creating a Basic Block Similarity Matrix
 - STEP 2: Clustering of Basic Block Vectors
 - Random Projection
 - K-means Clustering
 - STEP 3: Identifying representative regions

Sampled Simulation Techniques: SimPoint

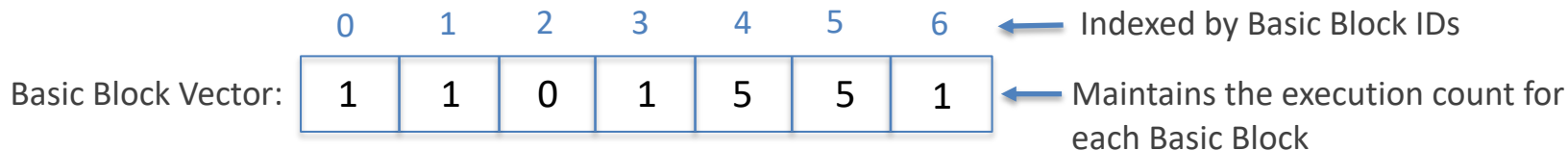
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Sampled Simulation Techniques: SimPoint

A Basic Block Vector (BBV) is a single-dimensional array that maintains a count of how many times each basic block was run in a given interval during the program execution.



Basic Block: A section of code that has a single point of entry and a single point of exit.



Sampled Simulation Techniques: SimPoint

- How SimPoint works:
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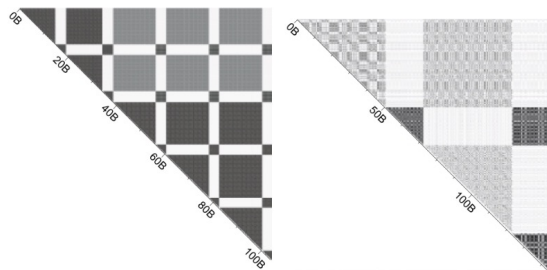
Sampled Simulation Techniques: SimPoint

- Basic Block Similarity: Measured using Euclidean or Manhattan Distances.

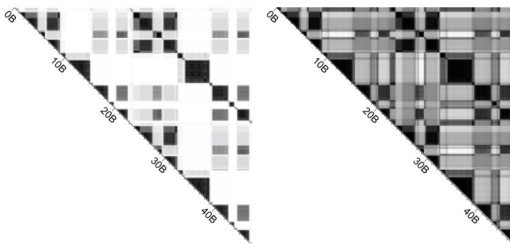
$$EuclideanDist(a, b) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^D (a_i - b_i)^2}$$

$$ManhattanDist(a, b) = \sum_{i=1}^D |a_i - b_i|$$

- Depicted by Basic Block Similarity Matrices.



Using Manhattan distances



Using Euclidean distances

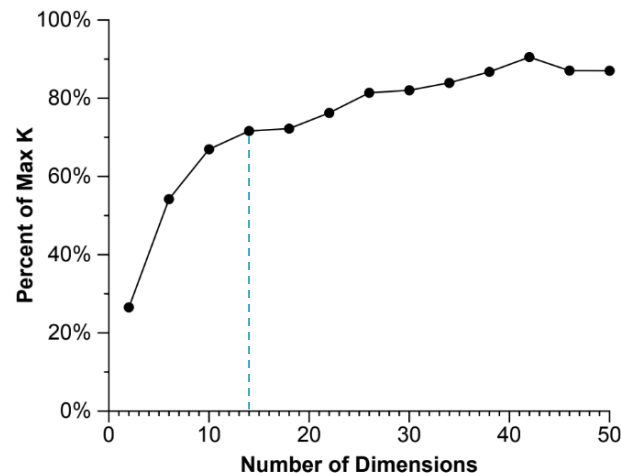
- The program execution progresses along the diagonal of the matrix.
- Point at (x, y) gives similarity index between BBV_x and BBV_y .
- ↑ darkness → ↑ similarity

Sampled Simulation Techniques: SimPoint

- How SimPoint works:
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Sampled Simulation Techniques: SimPoint

- The Basic Block Vectors obtained from the basic block profiling step have a very large number of dimensions! (in the range of 2,000 -- 100,000)
- “Curse of dimensionality”:
 - Hard to cluster data as the number of dimensions increases.
 - Clustering time increases significantly wrt as the number of dimensions increases.
- Solution: Reduce the number of dimensions to 15 using Random Linear Projections.



Sampled Simulation Techniques: SimPoint

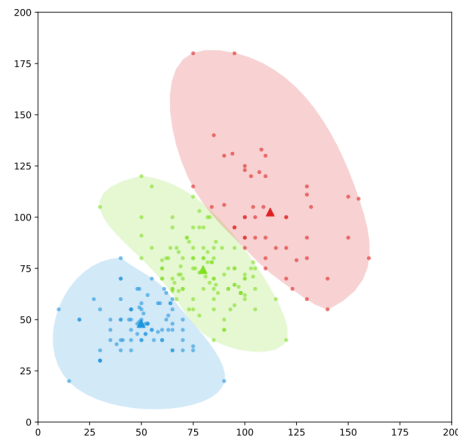
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Sampled Simulation Techniques: SimPoint

K-means clustering:

- Initialize k cluster centers by randomly choosing k points from the data.
- Repeat until convergence:
 - Do for all data points:
 - Compare the distance from all k cluster centers.
 - Assign it to the cluster with the closest center.
 - Update cluster center to the centroid of the newly assigned memberships.

Choosing k : The clustering that achieves a BIC score that is at least 90% of the spread between the largest and smallest BIC score is chosen.

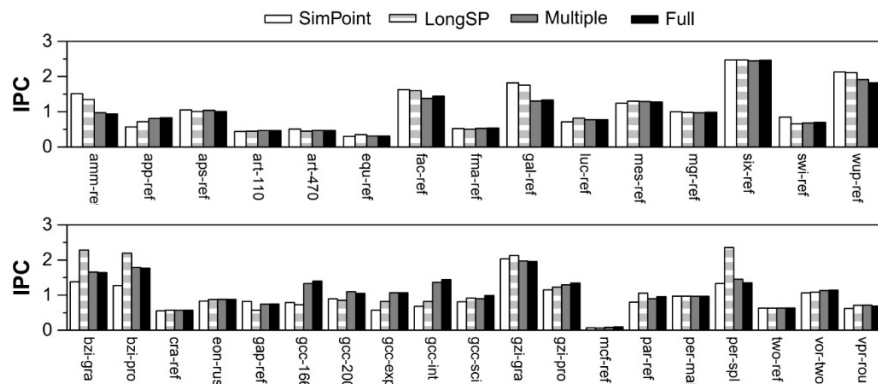


Sampled Simulation Techniques: SimPoint

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Sampled Simulation Techniques: SimPoint

- Representative region → single simulation point
 - BBV with the lowest distance from the centroid of all cluster centers.
- Representative regions → multiple simulation points
 - For each cluster, choose the BBV that is closest to the centroid of the cluster.



Sampled Simulation Techniques: SMARTS

- Main idea behind SMARTS:
 - Using systematic sampling:
 - To identify a minimal but representative sample from the population for microarchitecture simulation
 - To establish a confidence level for the error on sample estimates
 - Simulating using two modes :
 - Detailed simulation of sampled instructions → accounting for all the microarchitectural details.
 - Functional simulation of remaining instructions → accounting only for the programmer-visible architectural states (ex: registers, memory).

Sampled Simulation Techniques: SMARTS

- STEP 1: Determine n based on the required confidence (assuming the coefficient of variation V_x) using the following equation:

$$\text{confidence interval} = \mp \left[\frac{z \cdot V_x}{\sqrt{n}} \right] \cdot X$$

(where X is the mean, and $z = 100 (1 - \alpha/2)$ is the percentile of the standard normal distribution)

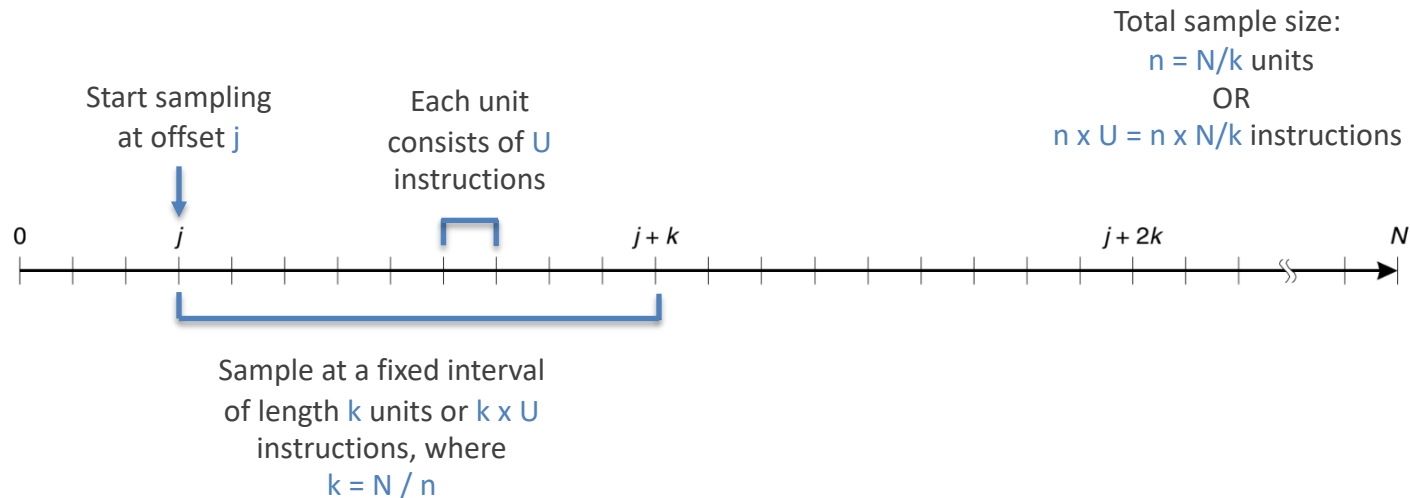
- STEP 2: If the initial sample does not achieve the desired confidence, compute n using the equation:

$$n \geq \left[\left(\frac{z \cdot V_{x'}}{\varepsilon} \right)^2 \right]$$

(where $V_{x'}$ is the coefficient of variation for the obtained sample)

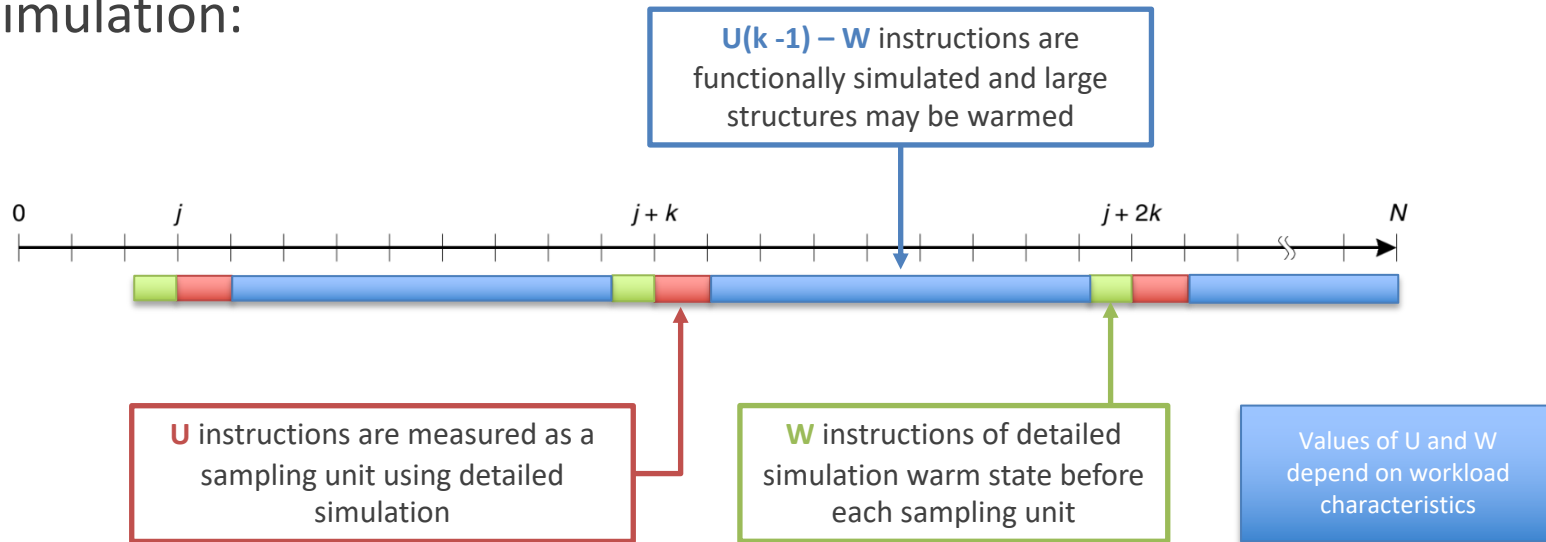
Sampled Simulation Techniques: SMARTS

- SMARTS uses Systematic Sampling:



Sampled Simulation Techniques: SMARTS

- Simulation:



Sampled Simulation Techniques: SMARTS

- Evaluation results:
 - Average error:
 - 0.64% for CPI
 - 0.59% for EPI

} By simulating fewer than 50 million instructions in detail per benchmark.
 - Speedup over full-stream simulation:
 - 35x for 8-way out-of-order processors
 - 60x for 16-way out-of-order processors

Agenda

Time	Speaker	Topic
09.00 to 09.10	Alen Sabu	Overview of the tutorial
09.10 to 10.30	Harish Patil	Tools from Intel: Pin, PinPlay, SDE, ELFies
10.30 to 10.45	Break	
10.45 to 11.30	Akanksha Chaudhari	Simulation and Single-threaded Sampling
11.30 to 11.40	Break	
11.40 to 12.20	Alen Sabu	Multi-threaded Sampling and LoopPoint
12.20 to 13.00	Changxi Liu	Running Sniper and LoopPoint Tools

LoopPoint and ELFies: Tools and Techniques to Accelerate Simulations of Multi-threaded Applications using Checkpointing

**Alen Sabu¹, Changxi Liu¹, Akanksha Chaudhari¹, Harish Patil²,
Wim Heirman², Trevor E. Carlson¹**

¹National University of Singapore

²Intel Corporation



NUS
National University
of Singapore



Session 3

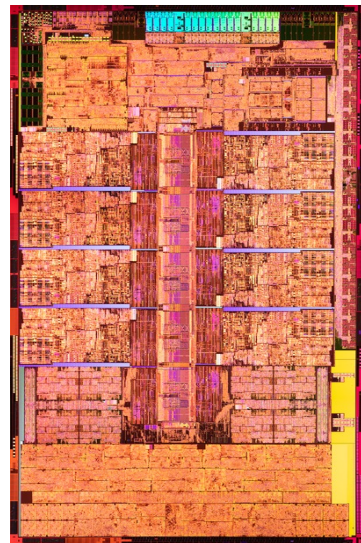
The LoopPoint Methodology

ALEN SABU, PHD CANDIDATE

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Simulation in the Post-Dennard Era

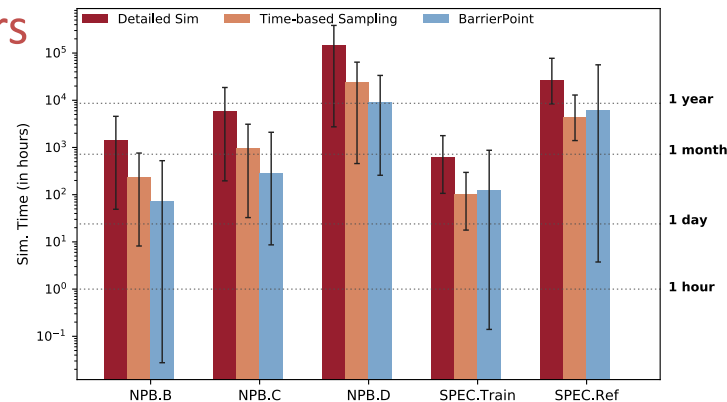
- Modern architectures require smarter simulators
- Microarchitectural simulation is slow
 - NPB (D), SPEC CPU2017 (ref) can take years
 - Solution – Simulate representative sample



Intel's Alder Lake die shot.
Image source: WikiChip

Simulation in the Post-Dennard Era

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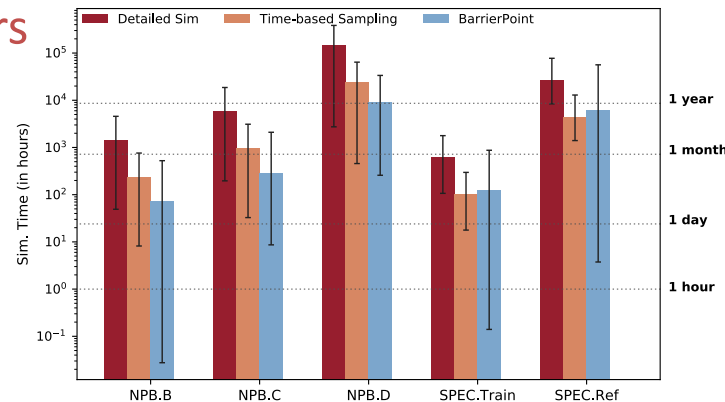


Benchmarks with 8 threads, *static* schedule,
passive wait-policy, simulated at 100 KIPS.

Simulation in the Post-Dennard Era

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? Can we further bring down simulation time

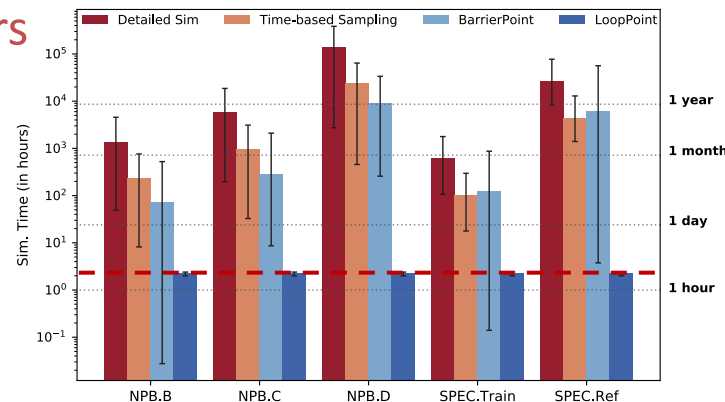


Benchmarks with 8 threads, *static* schedule, *passive* wait-policy, simulated at 100 KIPS.

Simulation in the Post-Dennard Era

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Benchmarks with 8 threads, *static* schedule, *passive* wait-policy, simulated at 100 KIPS.

Multi-threaded Sampling is Complex

Instruction count-based techniques are unsuitable¹

Threads progress differently due to load imbalance

Representing parallelism among threads

Differentiating thread waiting from real work

Multi-threaded Sampling is Complex

Instruction count-based
techniques are unsuitable¹

Threads progress differently
due to load imbalance

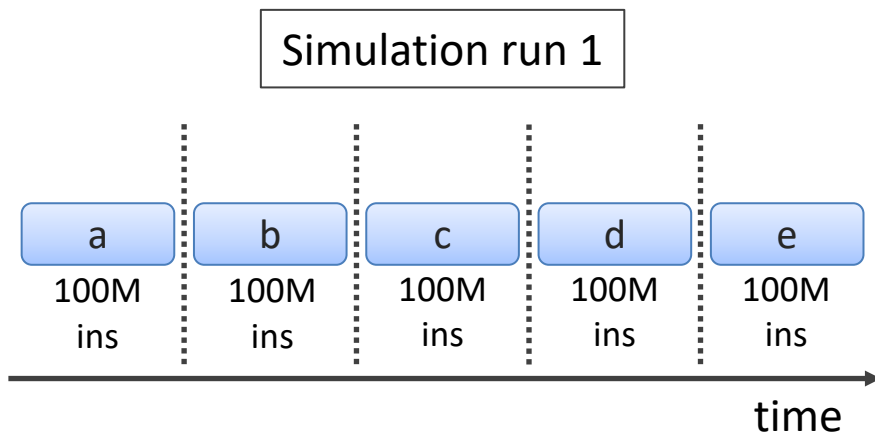
Identify a *unit of work* that is *invariant* across executions

Representing parallelism
among threads

Differentiating thread
waiting from real work

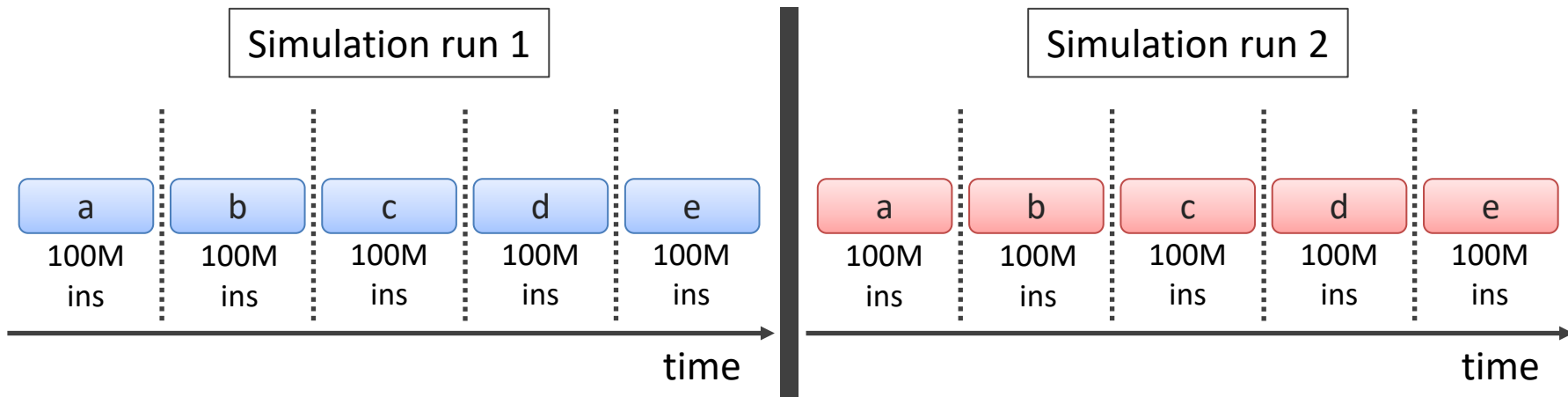
Extending Single-threaded Techniques

- **SimPoint or SMARTS** ➤ Instruction count-based techniques
 - Works well for single-threaded applications



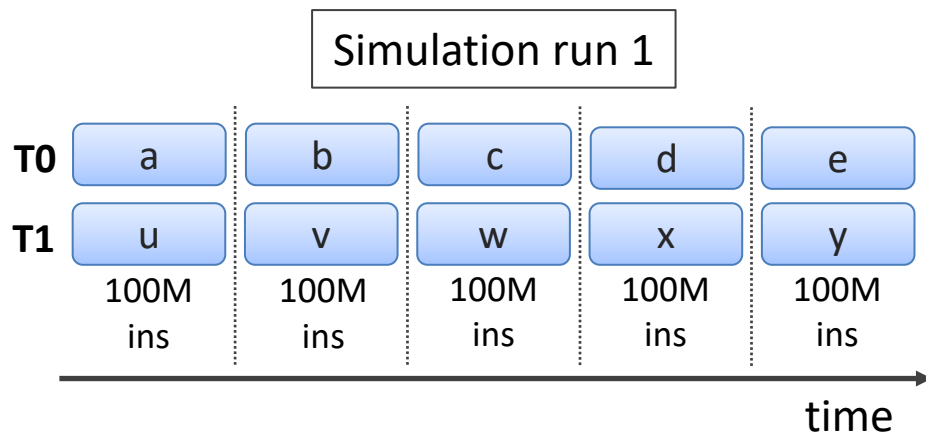
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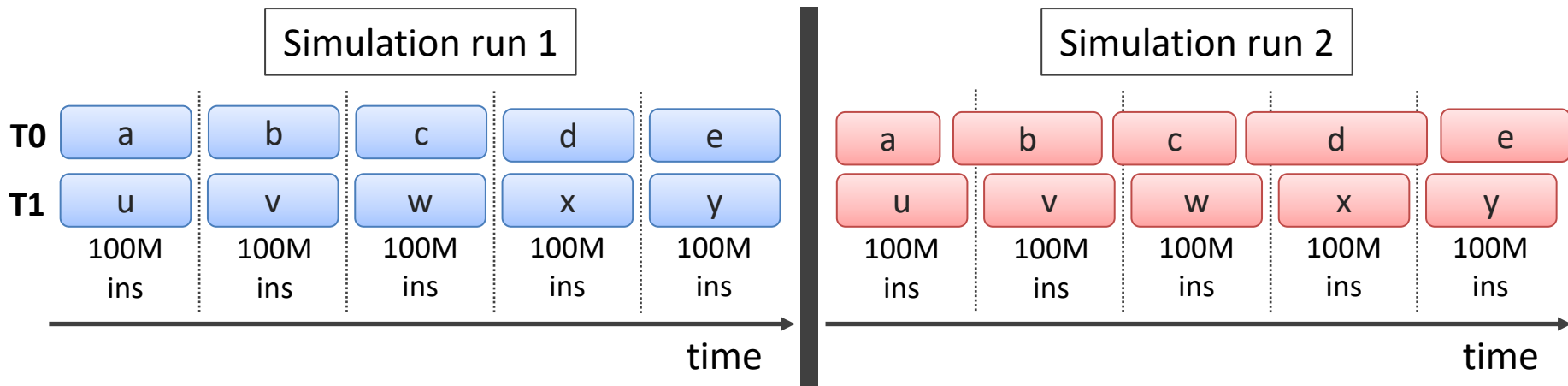
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- **SimPoint or SMARTS** ➤ Instruction count-based techniques
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Extending Single-threaded Techniques

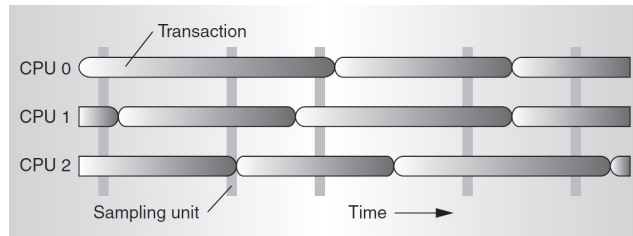
- **SimPoint or SMARTS** ➤ Instruction count-based techniques
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Multi-threaded Sampling

FlexPoints

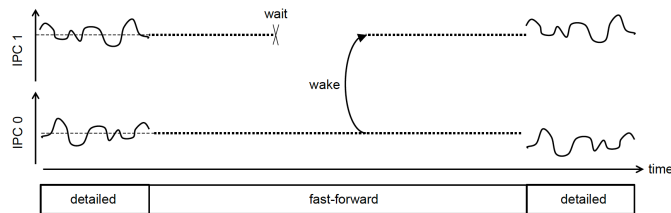
- + Designed for non-synchronizing throughput workloads
- ✓ Instruction count-based sampling
- ✗ Assumes no thread interaction
- ✗ Requires simulation of the full application



Multi-threaded Sampling

Time-based Sampling

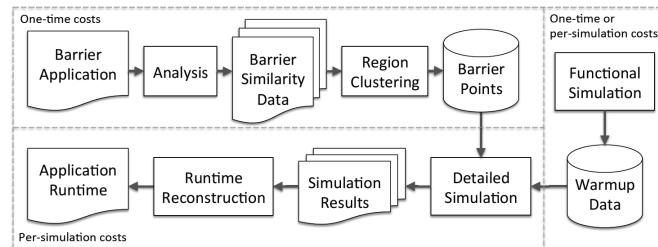
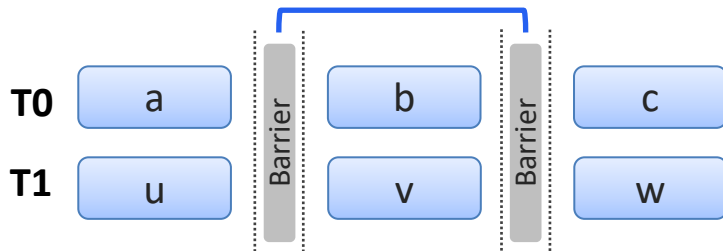
- + Designed for synchronizing generic multi-threaded workloads
- ✓ Applies to generic multi-threaded workloads
- ✗ Extremely slow
- ✗ Requires simulation of the full application



Multi-threaded Sampling

BarrierPoint

- + Designed for barrier-synchronized multi-threaded workloads
- ✓ Scales well with number of barriers
- ✗ Slow when *inter-barrier regions* are large



Multi-threaded Sampling

TaskPoint



Designed for task-based workloads

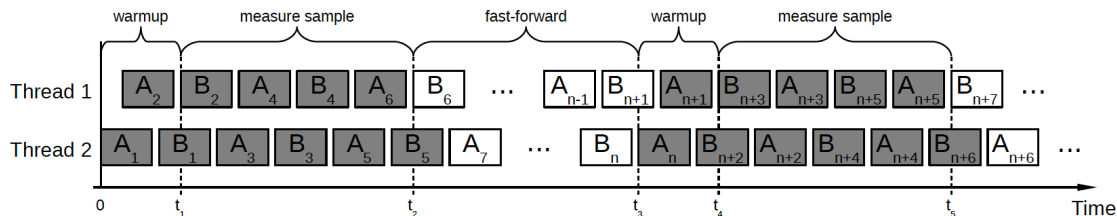


Uses analytical models to improve accuracy



Works only for the particular workload type

```
#pragma omp task  
    label(task type 1)-  
do_something();
```



The Unit of Work

Single-threaded Sampling

SimPoint¹
SMARTS² → Instruction count

Multiprocessor Sampling

Flex Points³ → Instruction count

Multi-threaded Sampling

Time-based sampling⁴ → Time

Application-specific Sampling

BarrierPoint⁵ → Inter-barrier regions
TaskPoint⁶ → Task instances

¹Sherwood et al., "Automatically Characterizing Large Scale Program Behavior", ASPLOS'02

²Wunderlich et al., "SMARTS: Accelerating Microarchitecture Simulation via Rigorous Statistical Sampling", ISCA'03

³Wenisch et al., "SimFlex: statistical sampling of computer system simulation", IEEE Micro'06

⁴Carlson et al., "Sampled Simulation of Multithreaded Applications", ISPASS'13

⁵Carlson et al., "BarrierPoint: Sampled simulation of multi-threaded applications", ISPASS'14

⁶Grass et al., "TaskPoint: Sampled simulation of task-based programs", ISPASS'16

The Unit of Work

Single-threaded Sampling

SimPoint¹
SMARTS² → Instruction count

Multiprocessor Sampling

Flex Points³ → Instruction count

We consider generic loop iterations as the unit of work

Time-based sampling⁴ → Time

BarrierPoint⁵ → Inter-barrier regions
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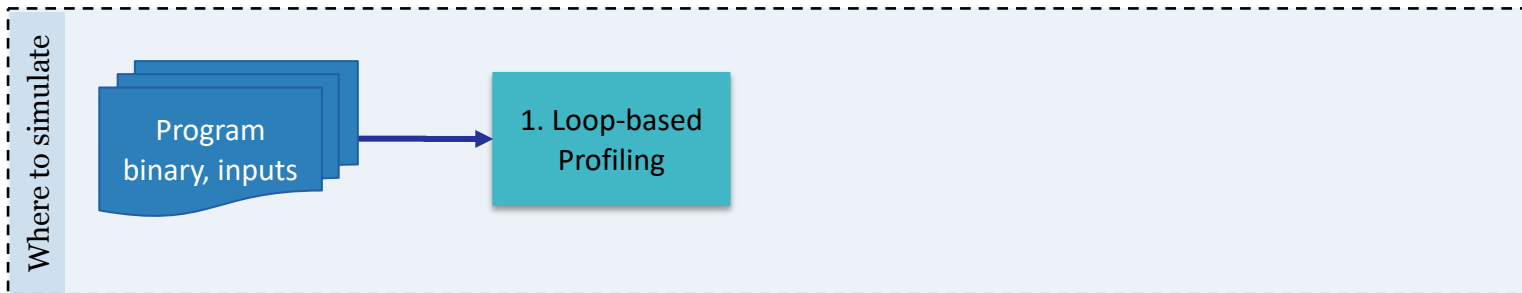
⁶Grass et al., "TaskPoint: Sampled simulation of task-based programs", ISPASS'16

Overall Methodology

Where to simulate

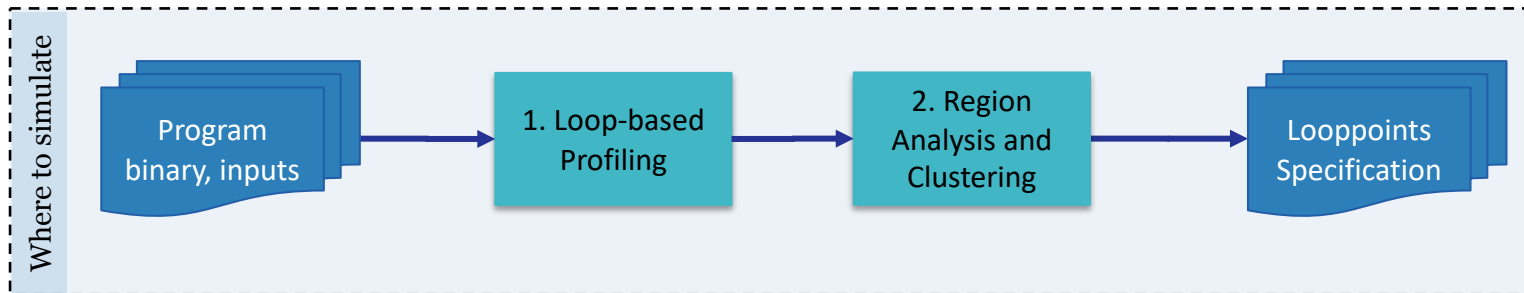
How to simulate

Overall Methodology



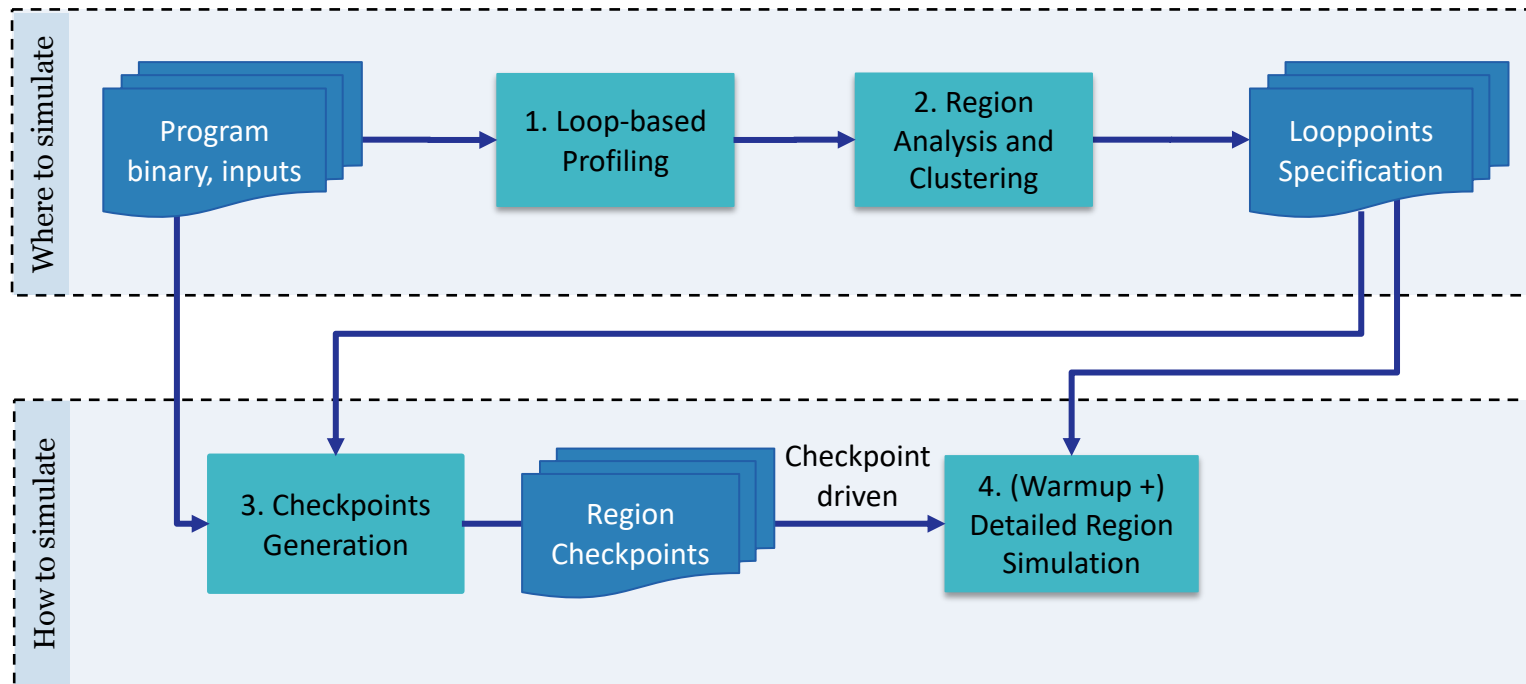
How to simulate

Overall Methodology

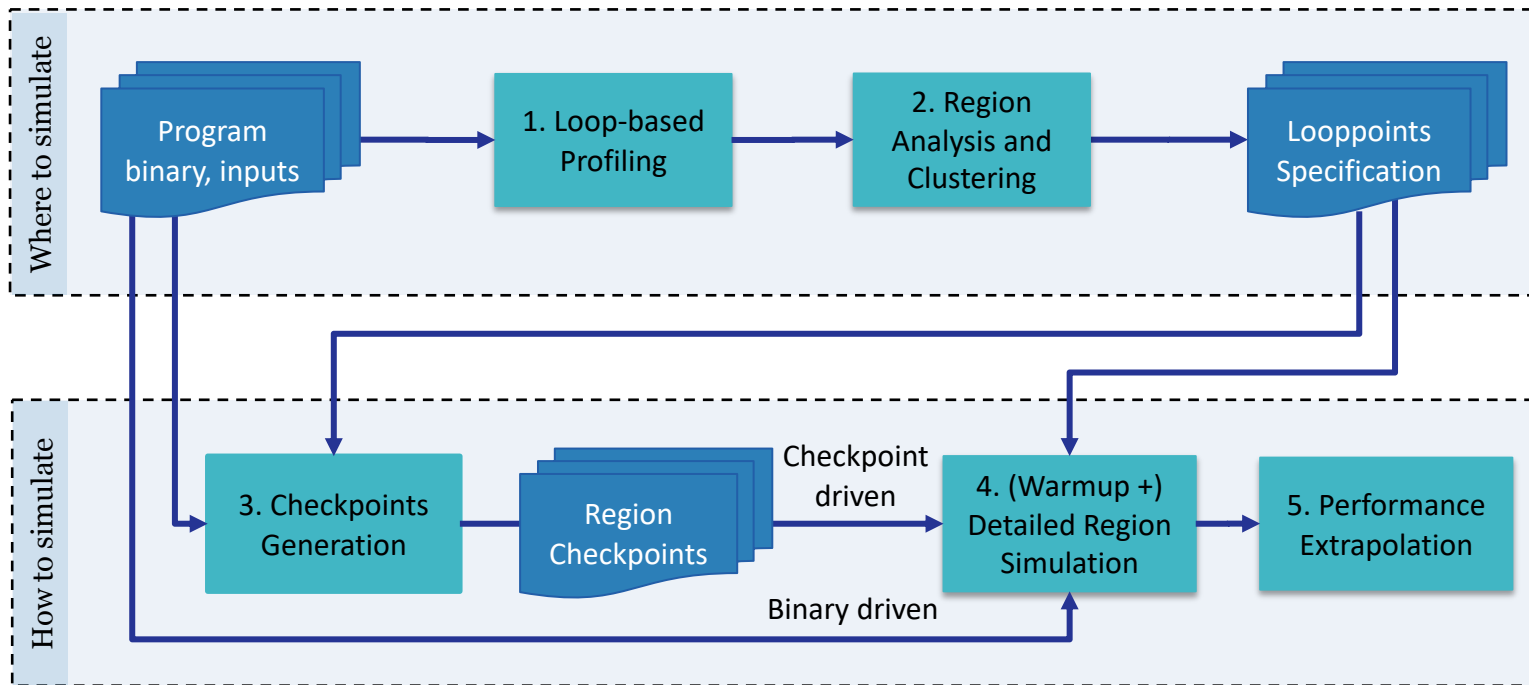


How to simulate

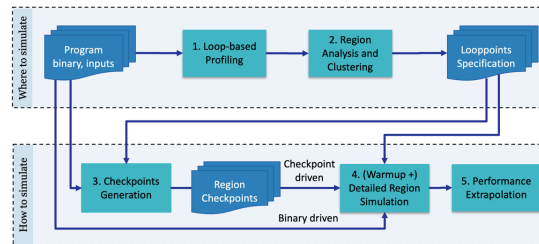
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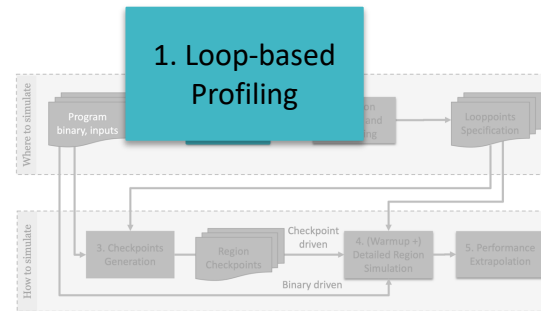
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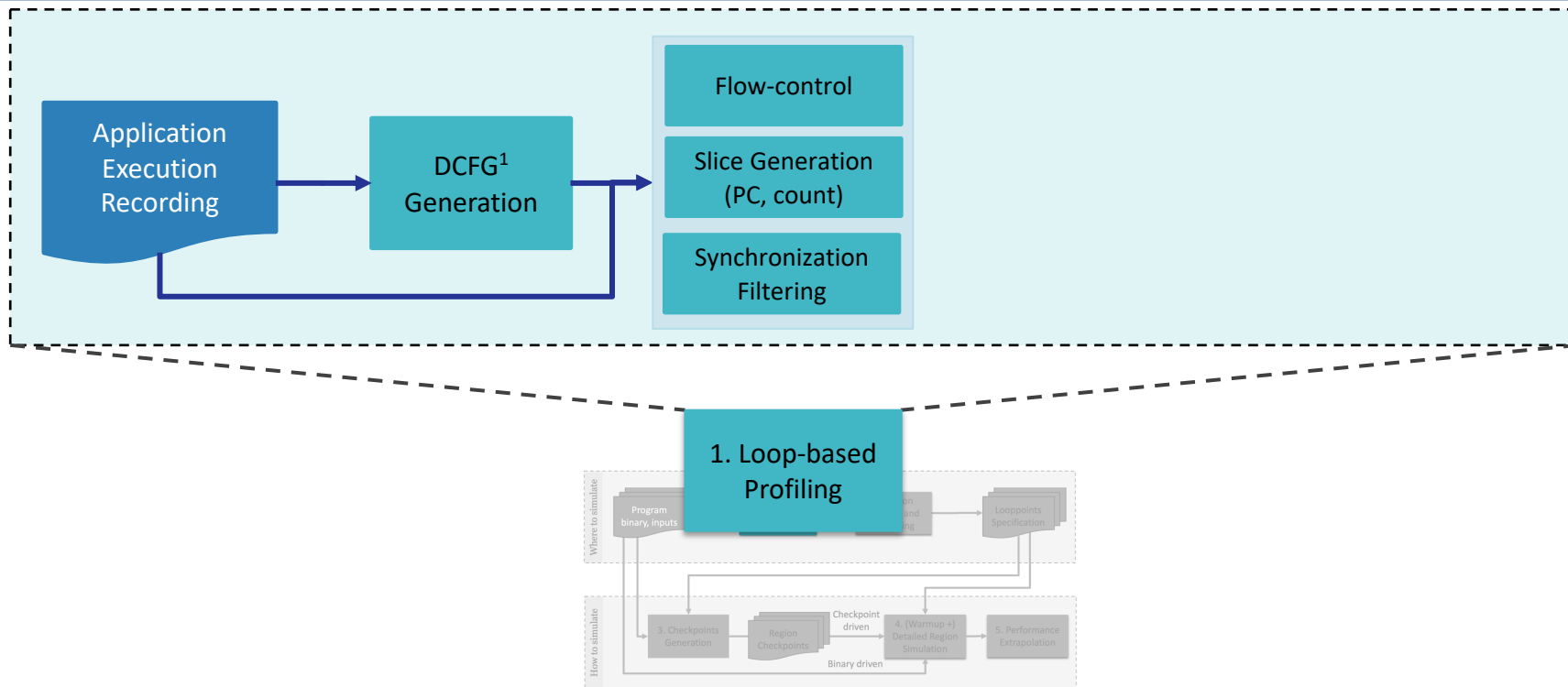
Loop-based Profiling



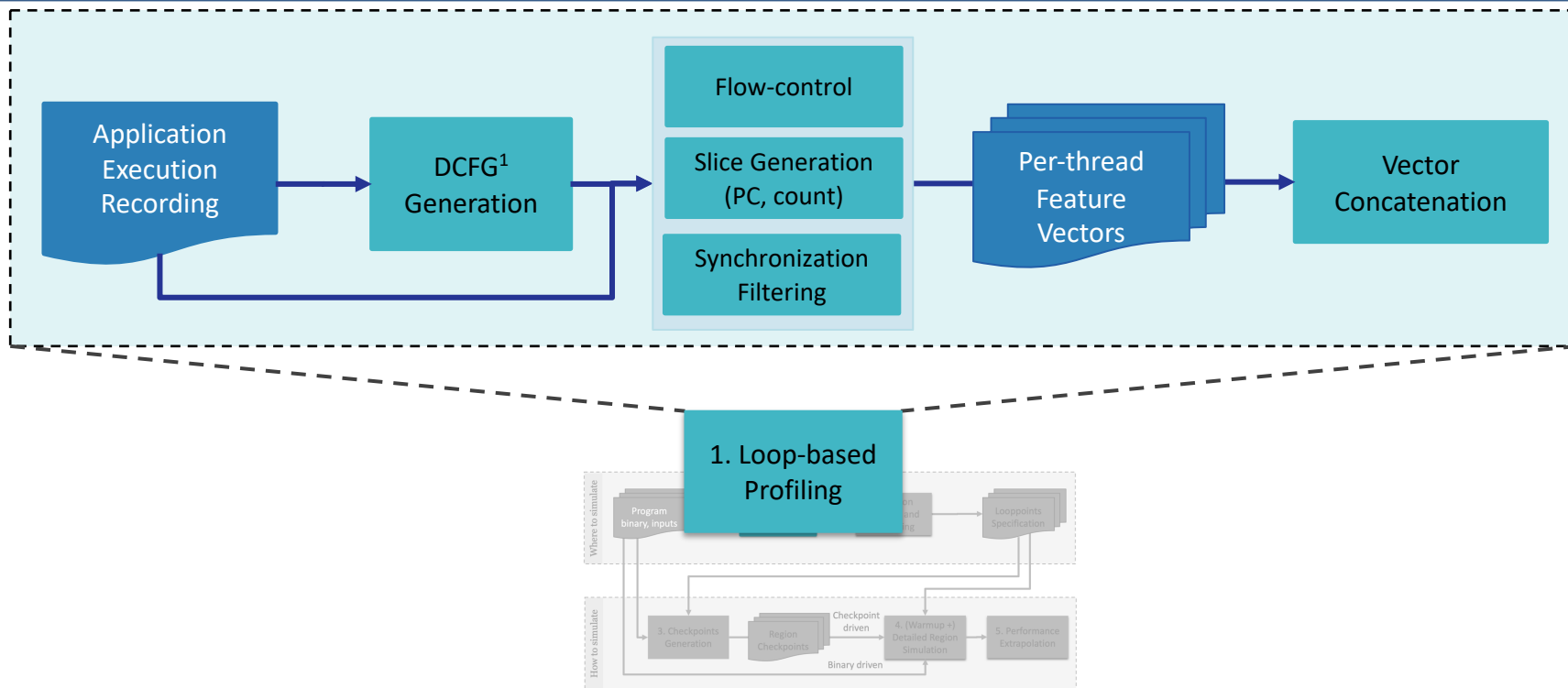
Loop-based Profiling



Loop-based Profiling



Loop-based Profiling



Loop-based Profiling

Flow-control

Slice Generation
(PC, count)

Synchronization
Filtering

Loop-based Profiling: Flow-control

- Load Imbalance can affect profiling
 - Make sure threads make equal forward progress
- Implementation: Control the forward progress of threads
 - Synchronize threads (barriers) externally at regular intervals
 - Make sure all threads execute similar number of instructions

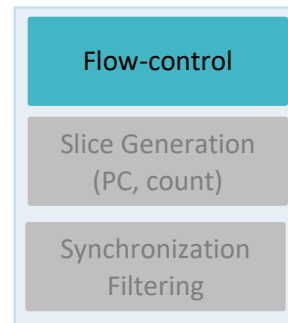
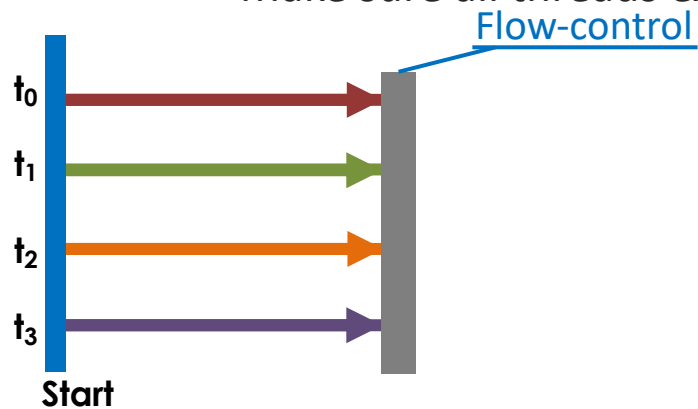
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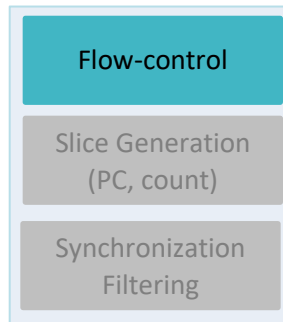
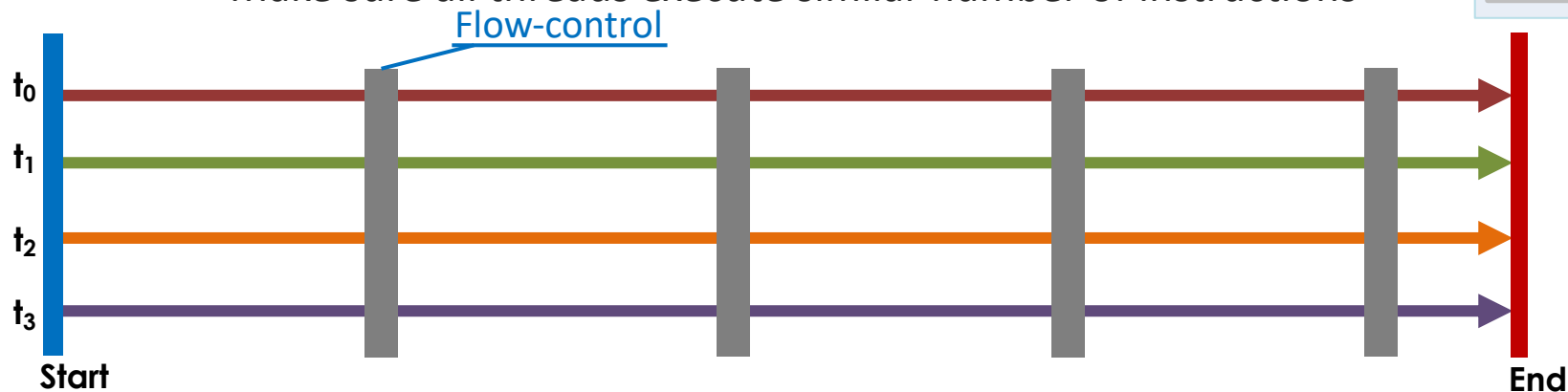
- Load Imbalance can affect profiling
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End

Loop-based Profiling: Flow-control

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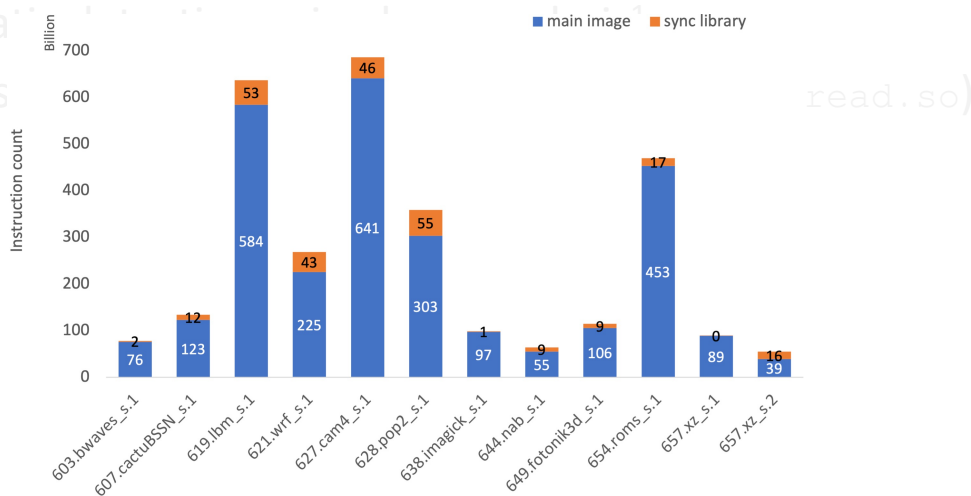


Loop-based Profiling: Sync Filtering

- Goal: Filter out synchronization during profiling
 - Profiling data should contain only *real* work

- Solutions

- Automate
- Ignore s



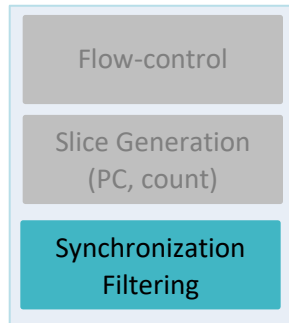
Flow-control

Slice Generation
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Synchronization
Filtering

Loop-based Profiling: Sync Filtering

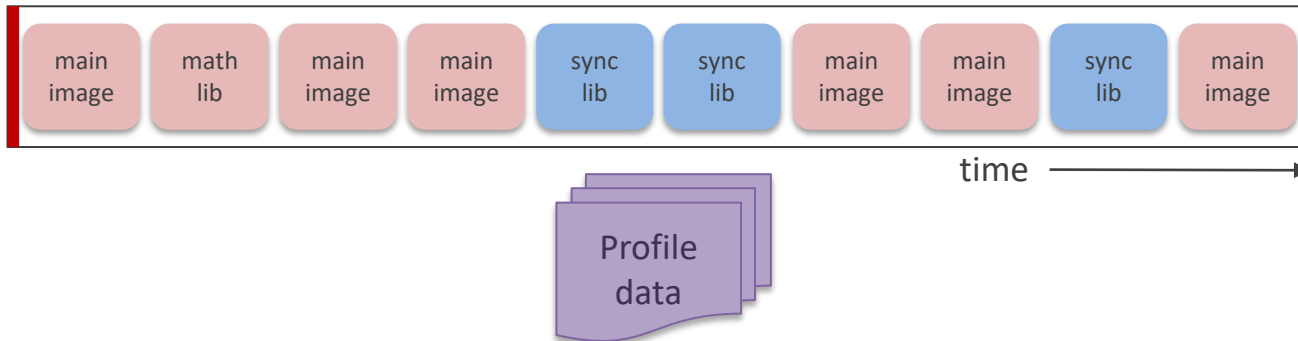
- Goal: Filter out synchronization during profiling
 - Profiling data should contain only *real* work
- Solutions
 - Automatic detection using loop analysis¹
 - Ignore sync library code (Ex. `libiomp5.so`, `libpthread.so`)



Loop-based Profiling: Sync Filtering

Ignore sync library code (Ex. `libiomp5.so`, `libpthread.so`)

Application execution



Flow-control

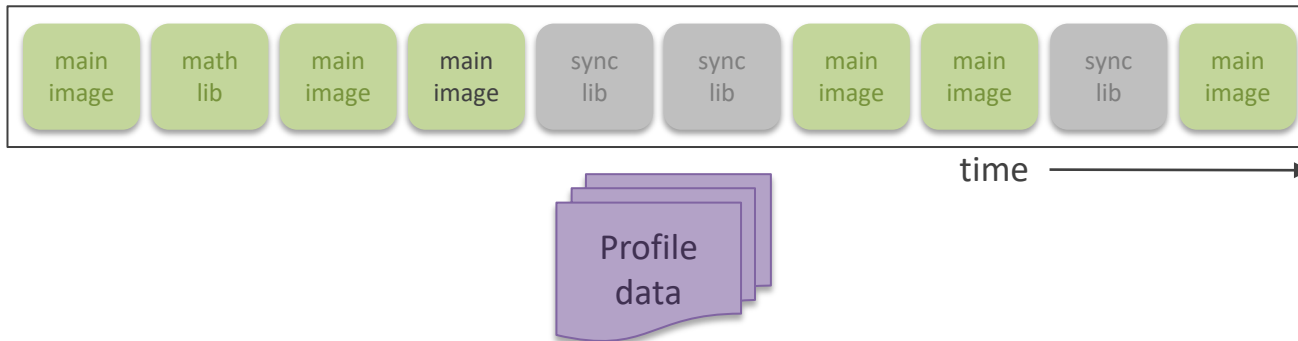
Slice Generation
(PC, count)

Synchronization
Filtering

Loop-based Profiling: Sync Filtering

Ignore sync library code (Ex. `libiomp5.so`, `libpthread.so`)

Application execution



Flow-control

Slice Generation
(PC, count)

Synchronization
Filtering

Loop-based Profiling: Slice Generation

- Region start/stop
 - Global instruction count reaches threshold ($\#threads \times 100\text{ M}$)
 - Region boundary at a loop entry/exit – use DCFG analysis
- Looppoint region markers ($PC, count_{PC}$)
 - Global count of loop entries: invariant across executions
 - Simulate the same *amount of work*

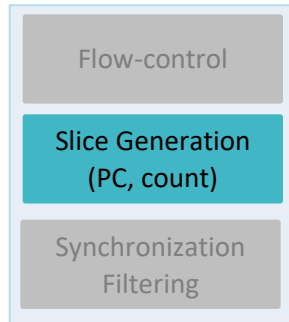
Flow-control

Slice Generation
(PC, count)

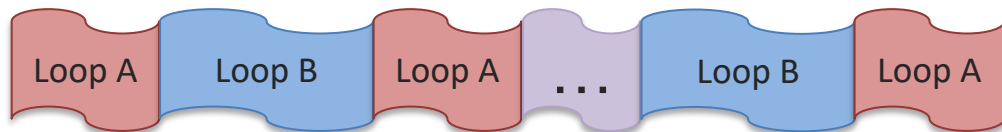
Synchronization
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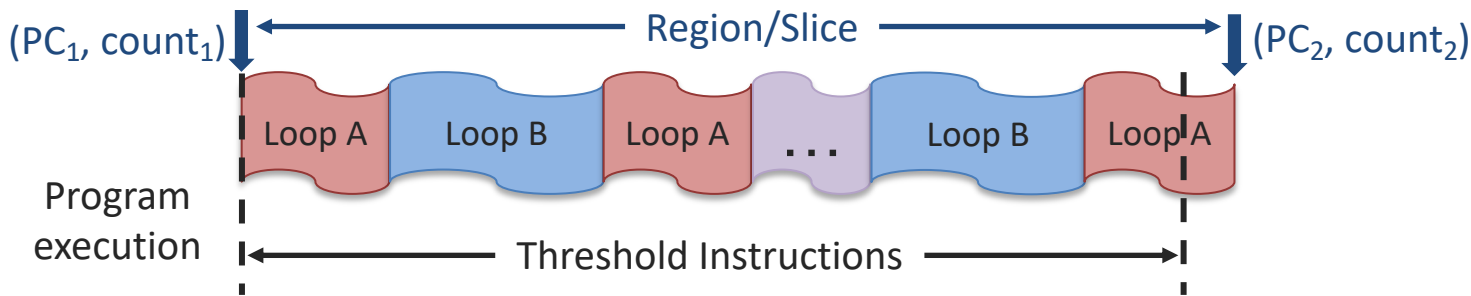
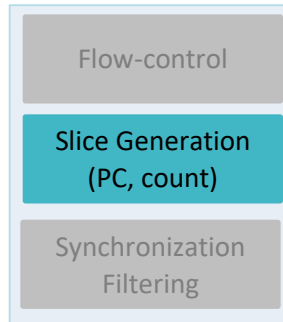


Program
execution



Loop-based Profiling: Slice Generation

- **Region start/stop**
 - Global instruction count reaches threshold ($\#threads \times 100\text{ M}$)
 - Region boundary at a loop entry/exit – use DCFG analysis
- **Looppoint region markers ($PC, count_{PC}$)**
 - Global count of loop entries: invariant across executions
 - Simulate the same ***amount of work***



Loop-based Profiling: Slice Generation

- **Basic Block (BB)**

- Section of code with single entry and exit

- Basic Block Vector (BBV)

- Execution fingerprint of an application interval
- Vector with one element for each basic block
- $Exec\ Wt = entry\ count \times number\ of\ instructions$

ID: **A** **B** **C**

BB	Example Assembly Code	
A	srl	a2, 0x8, t4
	and	a2, 0xff, t12
	addl	zero, t12, s6
	subl	t7, 0x1, t7
	cmpeq	s6, 0x25, v0
	cmpeq	s6, 0, t0
	bis	v0, t0, v0
	bne	v0, 0x120018c48
B	subl	t7, 0x1, t7
	cmple	t7, 0x3, t2
	beq	t2, 0x120018b04
C	ble	t7, 0x120018bb4
...	...	

Loop-based Profiling: Slice Generation

- Basic Block (BB)

- Section of code with single entry and exit

- Basic Block Vector (BBV)

- Execution fingerprint of an application interval
 - Vector with one element for each basic block

- $Exec\ Wt = entry\ count \times number\ of\ instructions$

ID: A B C
 BB Exec Count: < 1, 20, 0, ...>
 weigh by Block Size: < 8, 3, 1, ...>

BB	Example Assembly Code
A	srl a2, 0x8, t4 and a2, 0xff, t12 addl zero, t12, s6 subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmpeq s6, 0x25, v0 cmpeq s6, 0, t0 bis v0, t0, v0 bne v0, 0x120018c48
B	subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmple t7, 0x3, t2 beq t2, 0x120018b04
C	ble t7, 0x120018bb4
...	...

Loop-based Profiling: Slice Generation

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- $Exec\ Wt = entry\ count \times number\ of\ instructions$

```
                ID:   A   B   C
BB Exec Count: < 1, 20, 0, ...>
weigh by Block Size: < 8, 3, 1, ...>
BB Exec Wt: < 8, 60, 0, ...>
```

BB	Example Assembly Code
A	srl a2, 0x8, t4 and a2, 0xff, t12 addl zero, t12, s6 subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmpeq s6, 0x25, v0 cmpeq s6, 0, t0 bis v0, t0, v0 bne v0, 0x120018c48
B	subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmple t7, 0x3, t2 beq t2, 0x120018b04
C	ble t7, 0x120018bb4
...	...

Loop-based Profiling: Slice Generation

- Basic Block (BB)
 - Section of code with single entry and exit
- Basic Block Vector (BBV)
 - Exec
 - Vector
 - Exec Wt = *entry count* \times *number of instructions*

[A:8, B:60, C:0, ...]

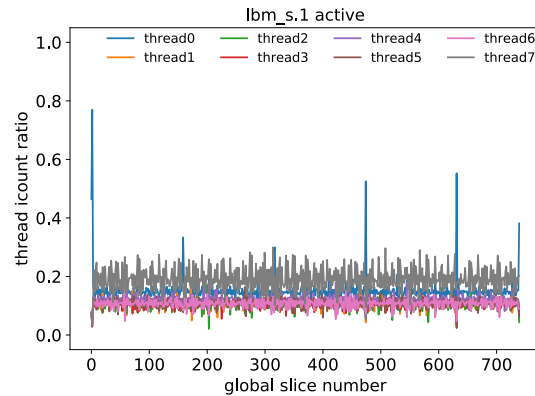
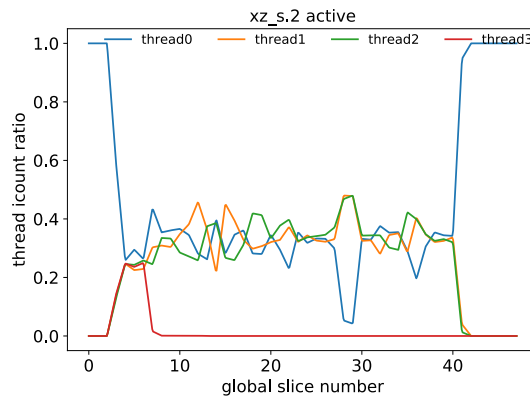
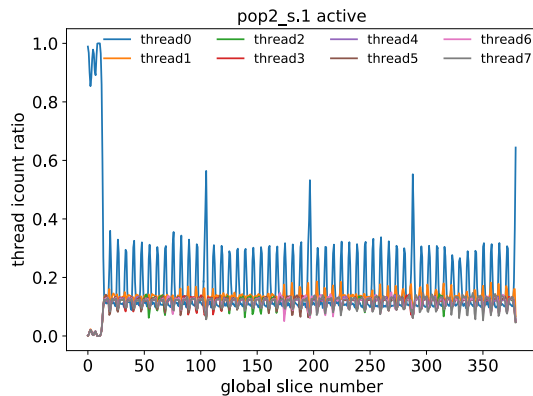
BBV

ID:	A	B	C
BB Exec Count:	< 1,	20,	0, ...>
weigh by Block Size:	< 8,	3,	1, ...>
BB Exec Wt:	< 8,	60,	0, ...>

BB	Example Assembly Code	
A	srl	a2, 0x8, t4
	and	a2, 0xff, t12
	addl	zero, t12, s6
	subl	t7, 0x1, t7
	cmpeq	s6, 0x25, v0
	cmpeq	s6, 0, t0
	bis	v0, t0, v0
	bne	v0, 0x120018c48
B	subl	t7, 0x1, t7
	cmple	t7, 0x3, t2
	beq	t2, 0x120018b04
C	ble	t7, 0x120018bb4
...	...	

Loop-based Profiling: Vector Concatenation

- Ratio of instructions per thread may differ
- Global-BBVs*: Concatenate per-thread BBVs to larger Global BBV



Loop-based Profiling: Vector Concatenation

- Ratio of instructions per thread may differ
- Global-BBVs:** Concatenate per-thread BBVs to larger Global BBV

BB	Example Assembly Code
A	srl a2, 0x8, t4 and a2, 0xff, t12 addl zero, t12, s6 subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmpeq s6, 0x25, v0 cmpeq s6, 0, t0 bis v0, t0, v0 bne v0, 0x120018c48
B	subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmple t7, 0x3, t2 beq t2, 0x120018b04
C	ble t7, 0x120018bb4
...	...
M	subl t7, 0x1, t7 gt t7, 0x120018b90

BB	Example Assembly Code
A	srl a2, 0x8, t4 and a2, 0xff, t12 addl zero, t12, s6 subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmpeq s6, 0x25, v0 cmpeq s6, 0, t0 bis v0, t0, v0 bne v0, 0x120018c48
B	subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmple t7, 0x3, t2 beq t2, 0x120018b04
C	ble t7, 0x120018bb4
...	...
M	subl t7, 0x1, t7 gt t7, 0x120018b90

Loop-based Profiling: Vector Concatenation

- Ratio of instructions per thread may differ
- Global-BBVs*: Concatenate per-thread BBVs to form Global BBV

BB	Example Assembly Code												
A	<table> <tr> <th>BB</th><th>Example Assembly Code</th></tr> <tr> <td>A</td><td> <pre>srl a2, 0x8, t4 and a2, 0xff, t12 addl zero, t12, s6 subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmpeq s6, 0x25, v0 cmpeq s6, 0, t0 bis v0, t0, v0 bne v0, 0x120018c48</pre> </td></tr> <tr> <td>B</td><td> <pre>subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmple t7, 0x3, t2 beq t2, 0x120018b04</pre> </td></tr> <tr> <td>C</td><td> <pre>ble t7, 0x120018bb4</pre> </td></tr> <tr> <td>...</td><td>...</td></tr> <tr> <td>M</td><td> <pre>subl t7, 0x1, t7 gt t7, 0x120018b90</pre> </td></tr> </table>	BB	Example Assembly Code	A	<pre>srl a2, 0x8, t4 and a2, 0xff, t12 addl zero, t12, s6 subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmpeq s6, 0x25, v0 cmpeq s6, 0, t0 bis v0, t0, v0 bne v0, 0x120018c48</pre>	B	<pre>subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmple t7, 0x3, t2 beq t2, 0x120018b04</pre>	C	<pre>ble t7, 0x120018bb4</pre>	M	<pre>subl t7, 0x1, t7 gt t7, 0x120018b90</pre>
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...	...												
M	<pre>subl t7, 0x1, t7 gt t7, 0x120018b90</pre>												
B													
C													
...													
M													

Thread 1

Thread 0

Loop-based Profiling: Vector Concatenation

- Ratio of instructions per thread may differ
- Global-BBVs*: Concatenate per-thread BBVs to form Global BBV

BB ID: **A** **B** **C** ...
 BB Exec Wt: < **8**, **60**, **0**, ... >

BB ID: **N** **O** **P** ...
 BB Exec Wt: < **5**, **90**, **3**, ... >

BB	Example Assembly Code
N	BB Example Assembly Code
	A srl a2, 0x8, t4
	and a2, 0xff, t12
	addl zero, t12, s6
	subl t7, 0x1, t7
	cmpeq s6, 0x25, v0
O	cmpeq s6, 0, t0
	bis v0, t0, v0
	bne v0, 0x120018c48
P	B subl t7, 0x1, t7
	cmple t7, 0x3, t2
	beq t2, 0x120018b04
...	C ble t7, 0x120018bb4
Z
	M subl t7, 0x1, t7
	gt t7, 0x120018b90

Thread 1

Thread 0

Loop-based Profiling: Vector Concatenation

- Ratio of instructions per thread may differ
- Global-BBVs:** Concatenate per-thread BBVs into Global BBV

```

BB ID:      A      B      C      ...
BB Exec Wt: < 8,   60,   0, ... >

```

[A:8, B:60, C:0, ..., N:5, O:90, P:3, ...]

Global-BBV

```

BB ID:      N      O      P      ...
BB Exec Wt: < 5,   90,   3, ... >

```

BB	Example Assembly Code	
N	BB	Example Assembly Code
	A	srl a2, 0x8, t4 and a2, 0xff, t12 addl zero, t12, s6 subl t7, 0x1, t7
		0x25, v0
		0, t0
		t0, v0
		0x120018c48
	B	subl t7, 0x1, t7 cmple t7, 0x3, t2 beq t2, 0x120018b04
P		
...		
	C	ble t7, 0x120018bb4
Z
	M	subl t7, 0x1, t7 gt t7, 0x120018b90

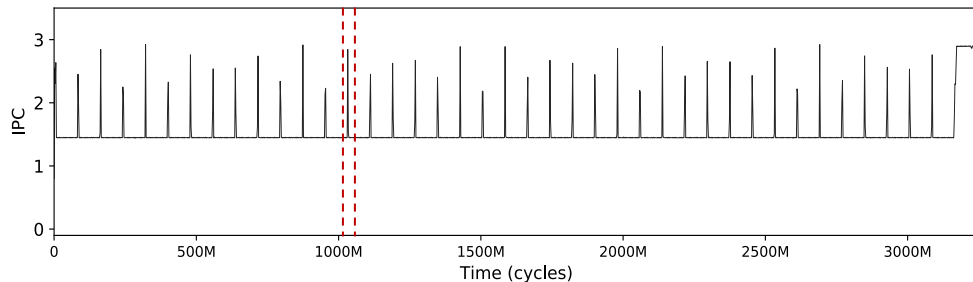
Thread 1

Thread 0

A LoopPoint Region

638.imagick_s/magick/morphology.c

```
2842 #if defined(MAGICKCORE_OPENMP_SUPPORT)
2843 #pragma omp parallel for schedule(static,4) shared(progress,status) \
2844     magick_threads(image,result_image,image->rows,1)
2845 #endif
2846 for (y=0; y < (ssize_t) image->rows; y++)
2847 {
    .....
2886     for (x=0; x < (ssize_t) image->columns; x++)
2887     {
3021         for (v=0; v < (ssize_t) kernel->height; v++) {
3022             for (u=0; u < (ssize_t) kernel->width; u++, k--) {
                .....
3034                 } /* u */
                .....
3037             } /* v */
3342         } /* x */
3357     } /* y */
    .....
```

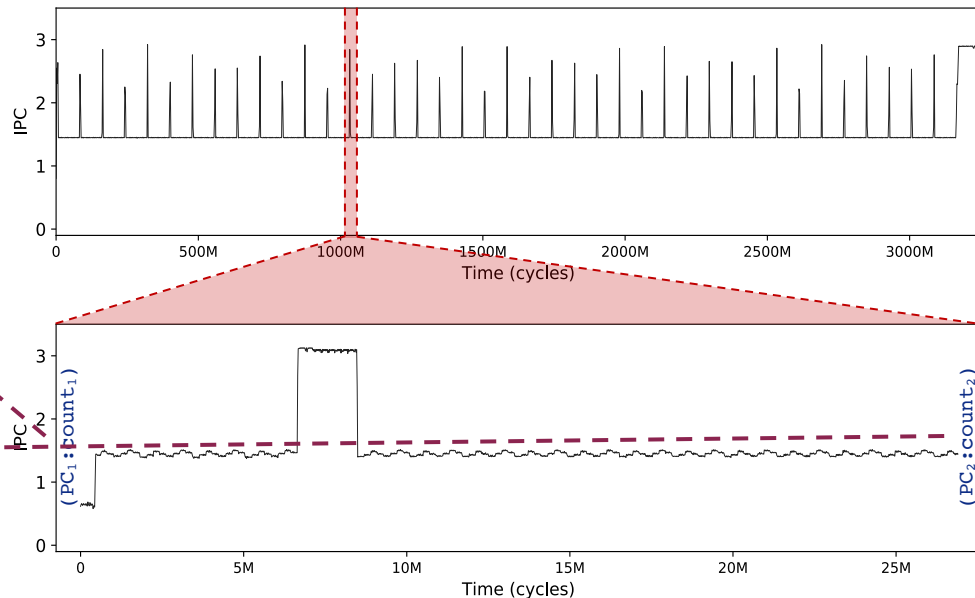


638.imagick_s, train input, 8 threads

A LoopPoint Region

638.imagick_s/magick/morphology.c

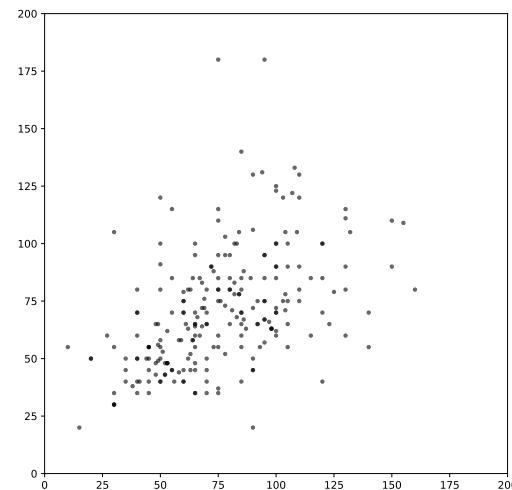
```
2842 #if defined(MAGICKCORE_OPENMP_SUPPORT)
2843 #pragma omp parallel for schedule(static,4) shared(progress,status) \
2844     magick_threads(image,result_image,image->rows,1)
2845 #endif
2846 for (y=0; y < (ssize_t) image->rows; y++)
2847 {
2848     .....
2886     for (x=0; x < (ssize_t) image->columns; x++)
2887     {
3021         for (v=0; v < (ssize_t) kernel->height; v++) {
3022             for (u=0; u < (ssize_t) kernel->width; u++, k--) {
3023                 .....
3034             } /* u */
3035             .....
3037         } /* v */
3342     } /* x */
3357 } /* y */
.....
```



638.imagick_s, train input, 8 threads

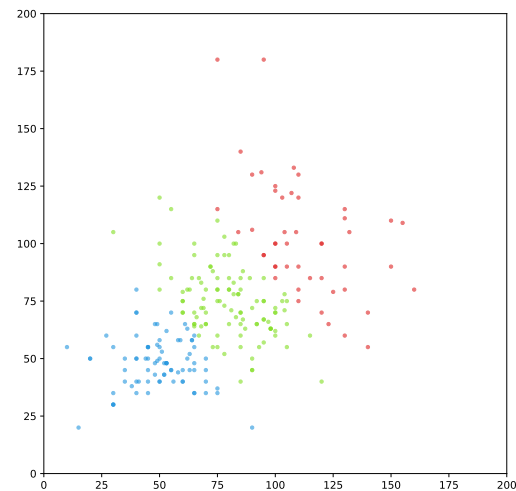
Identifying Simulation Regions

- Group similar Global-BBVs
 - K-means algorithm: Centroid-based clustering
- Vector closest to centroid is the representative
- Simulation regions (looppoints)
 - Checkpoints generated from the application
 - Use (PC, count_{PC}) information of representatives



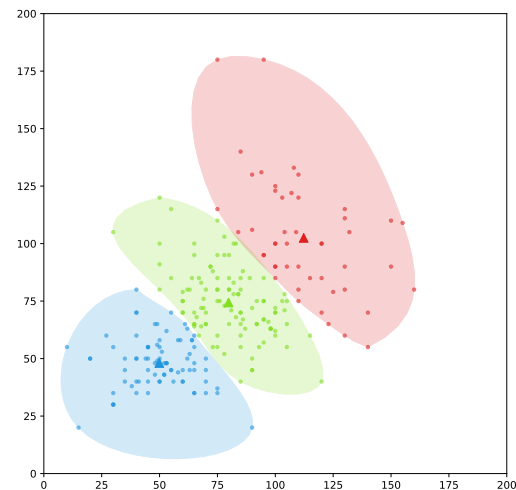
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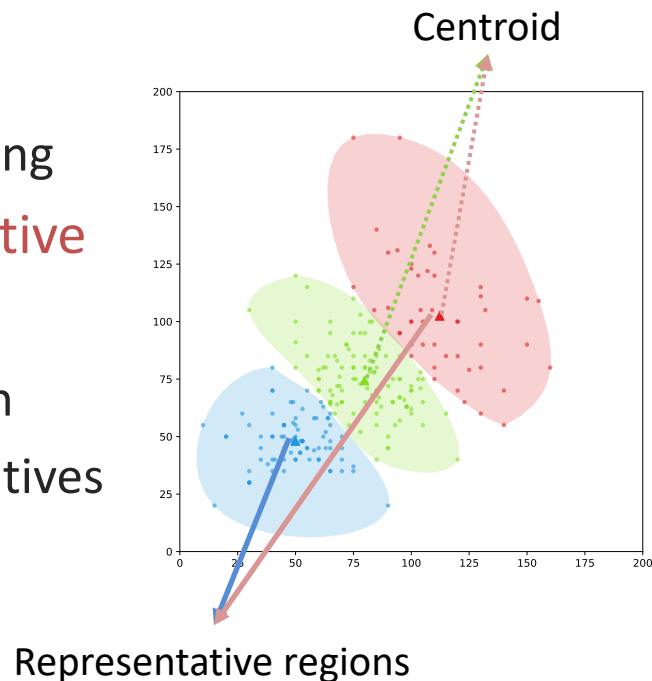
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Identifying Simulation Regions

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Application Reconstruction

- Representative regions (looppoints) are simulated in parallel
- Warmup handling
 - Simulate a large enough warmup region before simulation region
- Application performance
 - The weighted average of the performance of simulation regions



Application Reconstruction

- Representative regions (looppoints) are simulated in parallel
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$$total\ runtime = \sum_{i=rep_1}^{rep_N} runtime_i \times multiplier_i$$

Application Reconstruction

- Representative regions (looppoints) are simulated in parallel
- Warmup handling
 - Simulate a large enough warmup region before simulation region
- Application performance
 - The weighted average of the performance



$$multiplier_j = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^m inscount_i}{inscount_j}$$

m regions represented by j^{th} looppoint

$$total\ runtime = \sum_{i=rep_1}^{rep_N} runtime_i \times multiplier_i$$

Experimental Setup

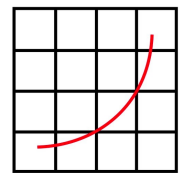
- Simulation Infrastructure

- Sniper¹ 7.4
 - Mimics Intel Gainestown 8/16 core



- Benchmarks and OpenMP settings

- SPEC CPU2017 speed benchmarks
 - Input: train; Threads: 8; Wait policy: Active, Passive
- NAS Parallel Benchmarks (NPB)
 - Input: Class C; Threads: 8, 16; Wait policy: Passive
- OpenMP scheduling policy: *static*



spec[®]



SPEC CPU2017 Analysis

Application (speed version)	Parallel	static for	dyna mic for	barrier (explic it)	master	single	reduction (nowait)	atomic (float8_a dd)	atomic (float8_ _max)	atomic (fixed4_ _add)	lock
603.bwaves	Yes	Yes					Yes	Yes	Yes		
607.cactuBSSN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes			
619.lbm	Yes	Yes									
621.wrf	Yes		Yes		Yes						
627.cam4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
628.pop2	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes						
638.imagick	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes					Yes
644.nab	Yes		Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes		Yes	
649.fotonik3d	Yes	Yes									
654.roms	Yes	Yes									

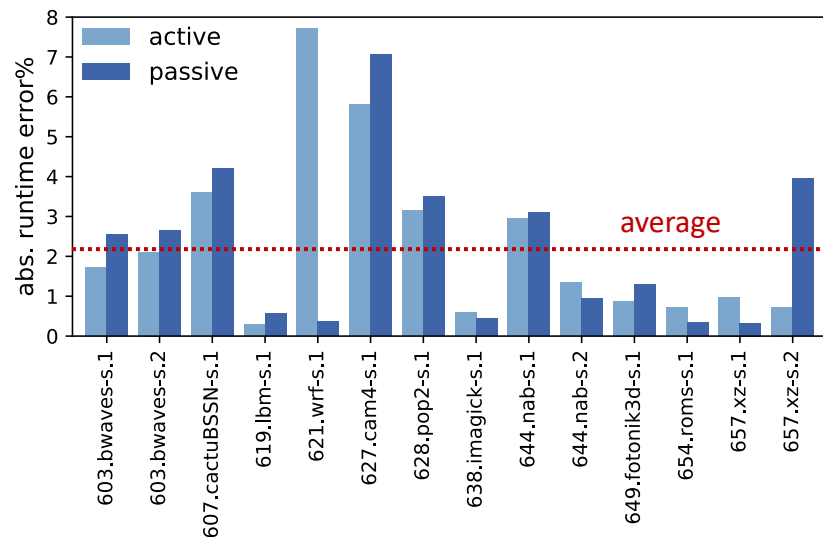
Workload Type Supported

- **Software**
 - Static OpenMP scheduling (OMP_WAIT_POLICY=STATIC)
 - Homogeneous parallel threads doing equal amount of work
- **Hardware**
 - Simulated hardware needs to be homogeneous
 - No dynamic hardware events supported

Accuracy Results

Prediction error wrt. performance of whole application

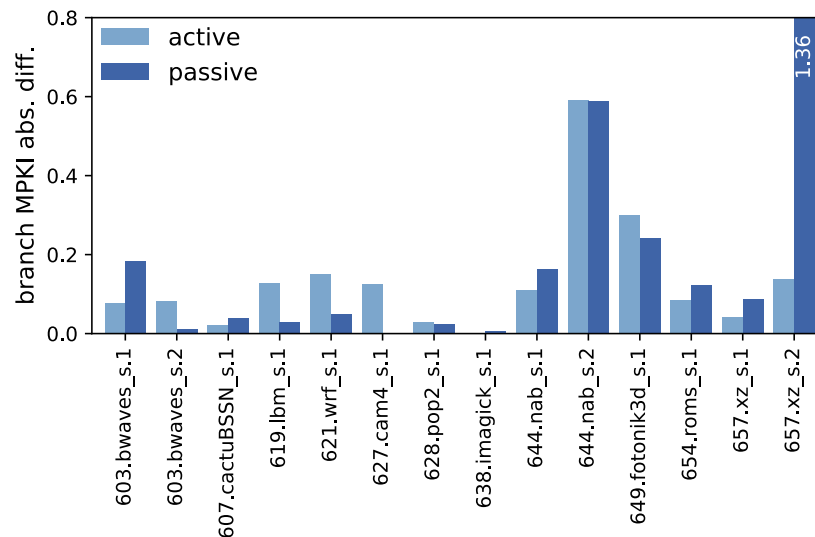
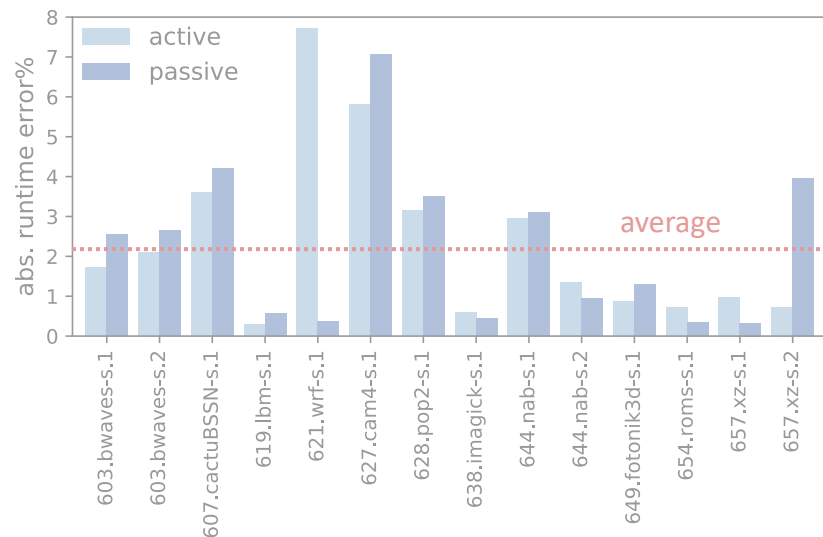
SPEC CPU2017 with train inputs, 8 threads



Accuracy Results

Prediction error wrt. performance of whole application

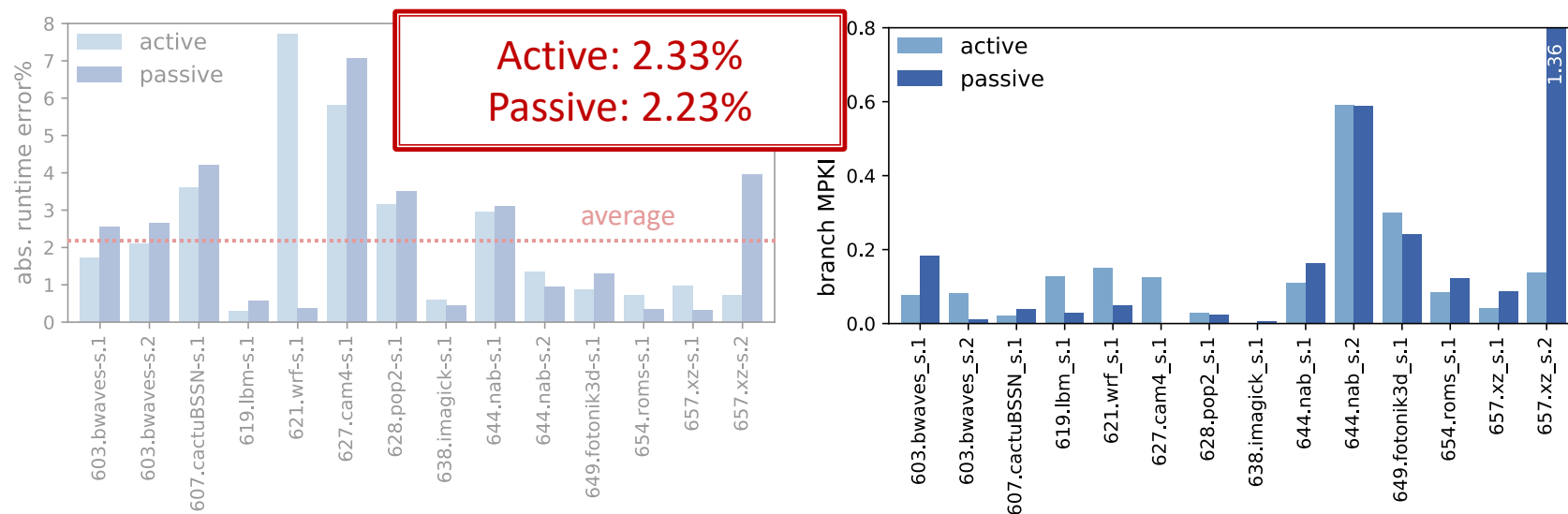
SPEC CPU2017 with train inputs, 8 threads



Accuracy Results

Prediction error wrt. performance of whole application

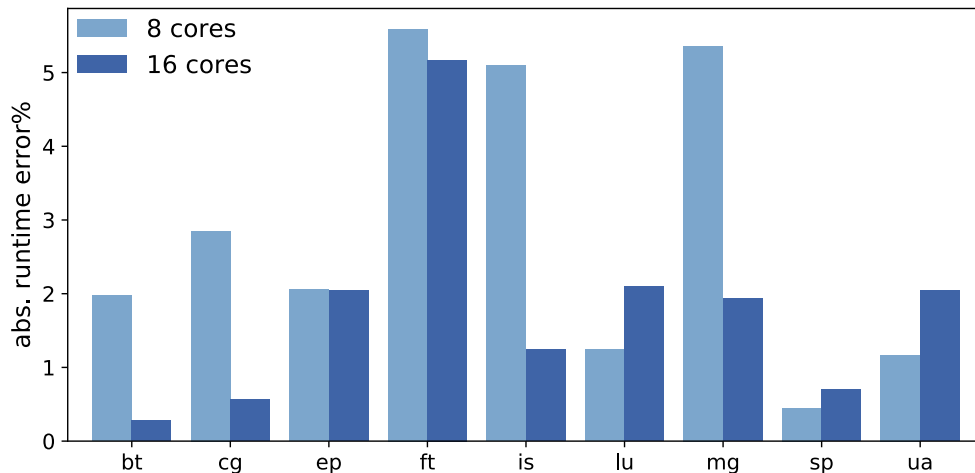
SPEC CPU2017 with train inputs, 8 threads



Changing Thread Count

Runtime prediction error wrt. whole application runtime

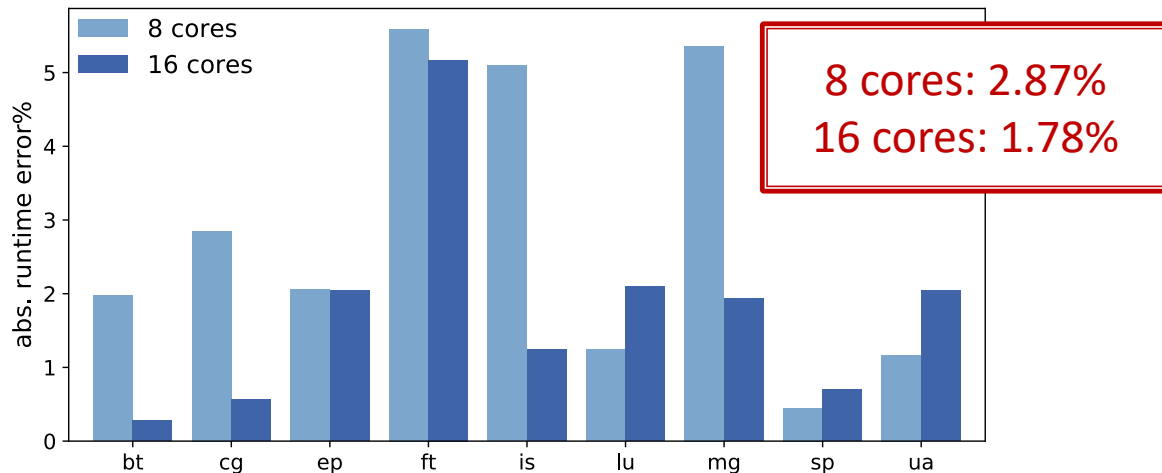
NPB 3.3 with *Class C* inputs, 8 and 16 threads, *passive* wait-policy



Changing Thread Count

Runtime prediction error wrt. whole application runtime

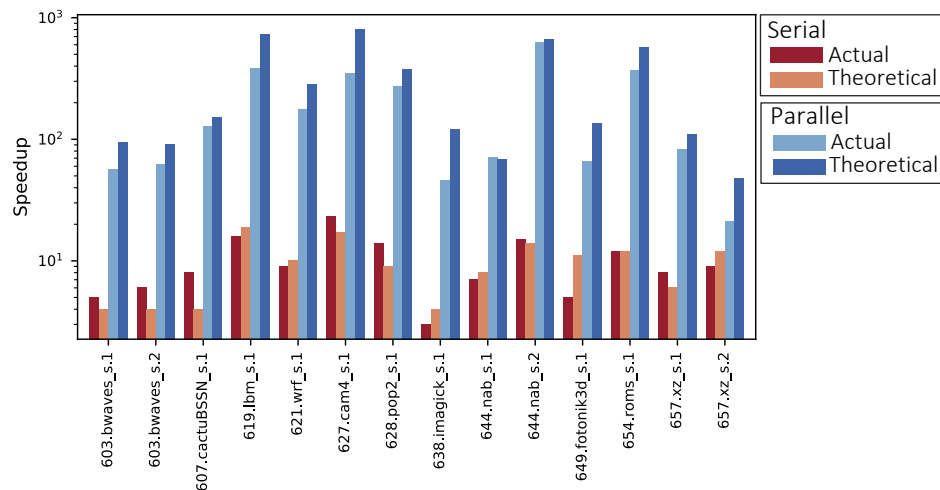
NPB 3.3 with *Class C* inputs, 8 and 16 threads, *passive* wait-policy



Speedup

Parallel and serial speedup achieved for LoopPoint

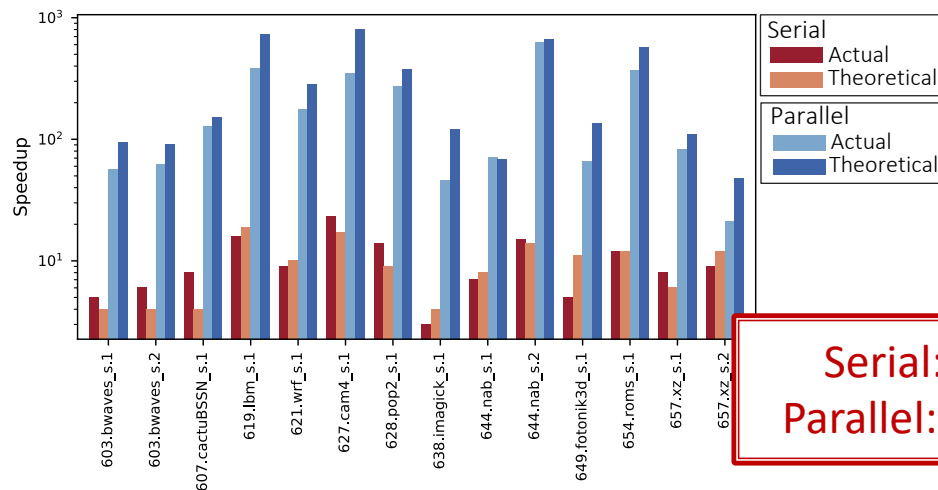
SPEC CPU2017 with *train* inputs, 8 threads, *active* wait-policy



Speedup

Parallel and serial speedup achieved for LoopPoint

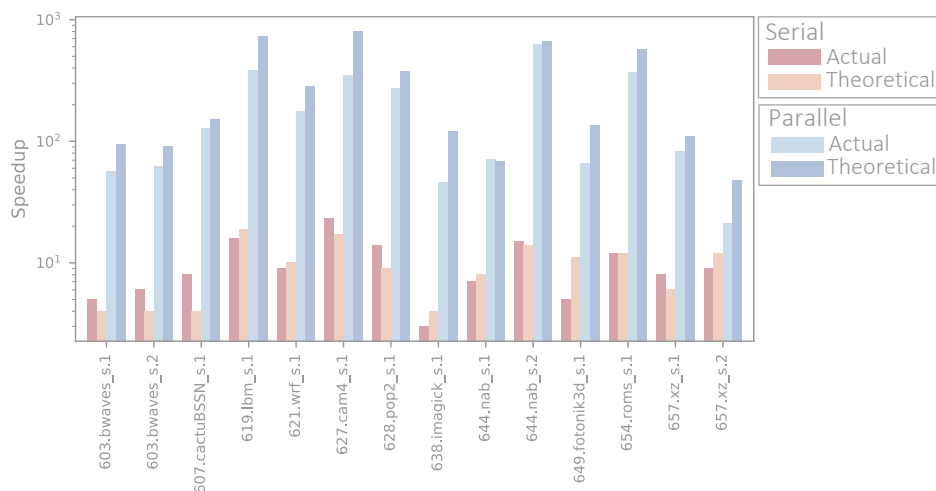
SPEC CPU2017 with *train* inputs, 8 threads, *active* wait-policy



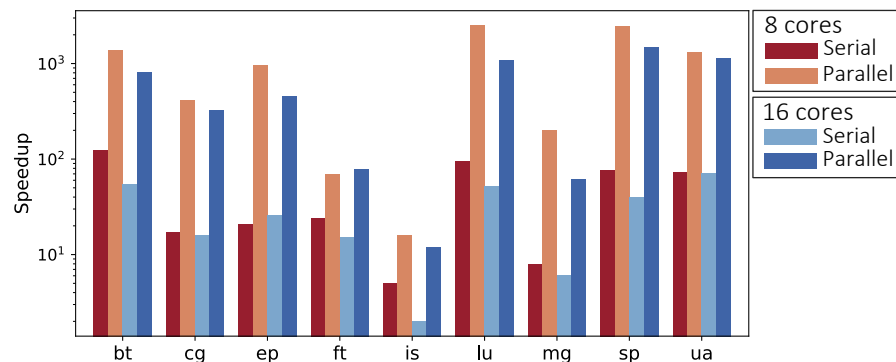
Speedup

Parallel and serial speedup achieved for LoopPoint

SPEC CPU2017 with *train* inputs, 8 threads, *active* wait-policy



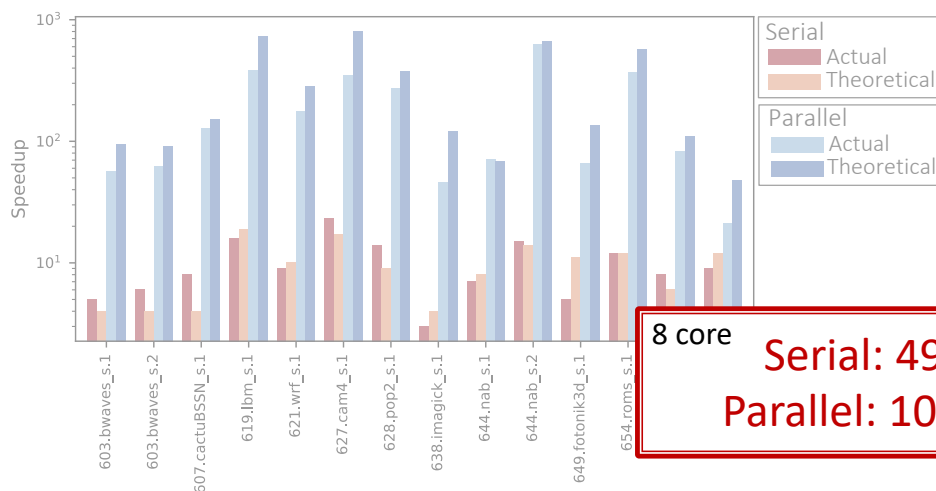
NPB with *Class C* inputs, 8 and 16 threads, *passive* wait-policy



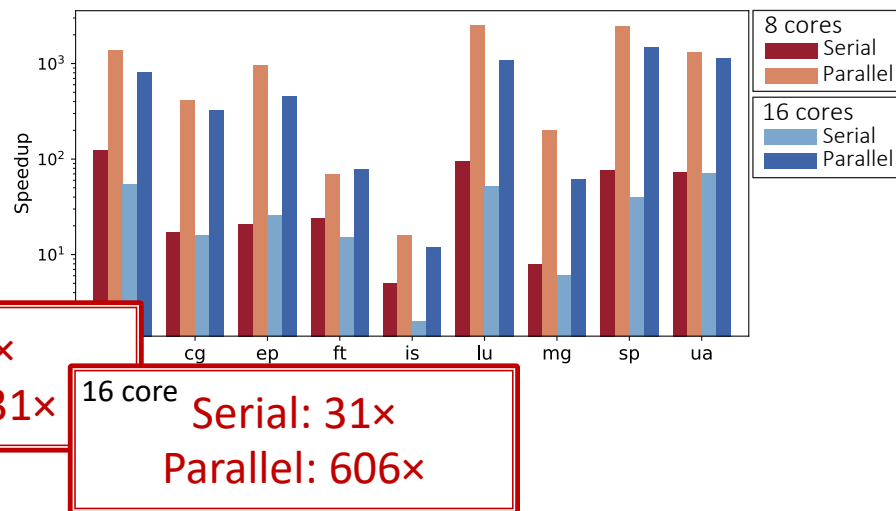
Speedup

Parallel and serial speedup achieved for LoopPoint

SPEC CPU2017 with *train* inputs, 8 threads, *active* wait-policy



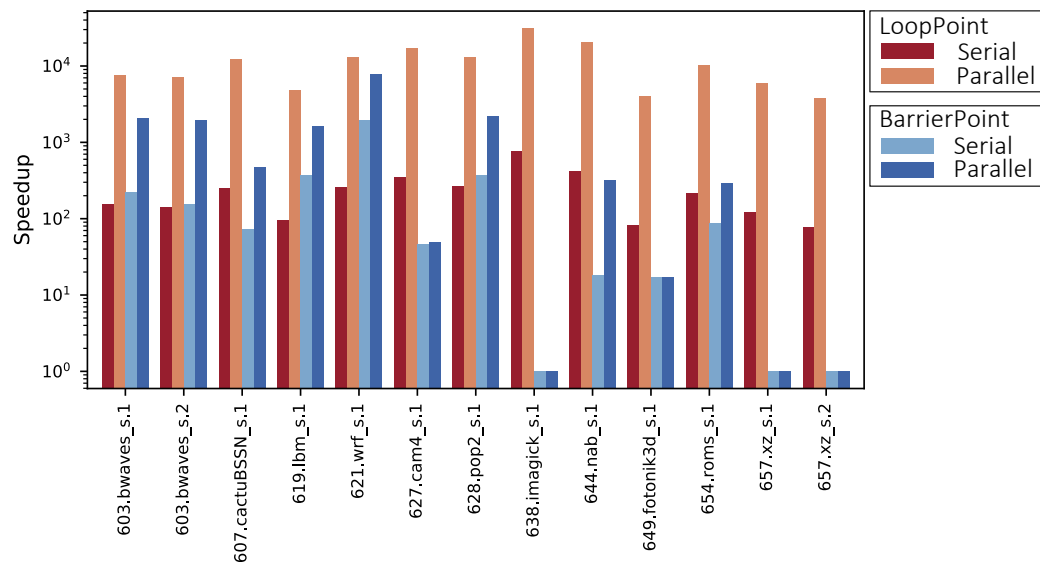
NPB with *Class C* inputs, 8 and 16 threads, *passive* wait-policy



Speedup

Theoretical Speedup comparison with BarrierPoint

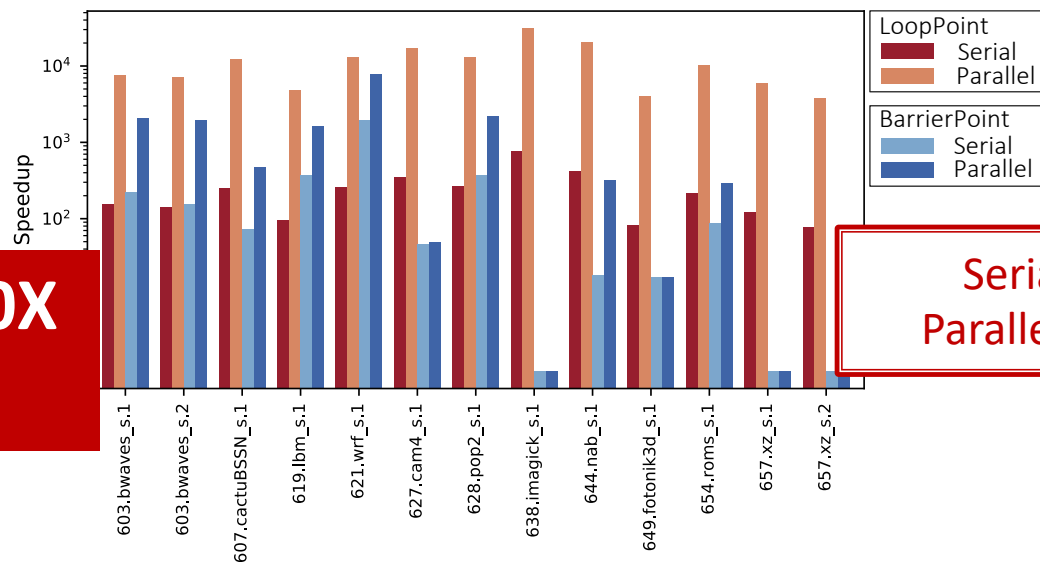
SPEC CPU2017 with *ref* inputs, 8 threads, *passive* wait-policy



Speedup

Theoretical Speedup comparison with BarrierPoint

SPEC CPU2017 with *ref* inputs, 8 threads, *passive* wait-policy



Up to 31000X
speedup!

Serial: 244x
Parallel: 11587x

Summary

- **Contributions**
 - Methodology to sample generic multi-threaded workloads
 - Uses application loops (barring spinloops) as the unit of work
 - Flexible to be used for checkpoint-based simulation
- **Accurate results in minimal time**
 - Average absolute error of 2.3% across applications
 - Parallel speedup going up to 31,000 ×
 - Reduces simulation time from a few years to a few hours

More Information

- Links

- Artifact: <https://github.com/nus-comparch/looppoint>
- Page: <https://looppoint.github.io>
- Short talk: <https://youtu.be/Tr609MkT42g>
- Questions: alens@comp.nus.edu.sg, tcarlson@comp.nus.edu.sg

- Upcoming tutorial session ➤ *LoopPoint and ELFies*

- ISCA 2022, New York City



Agenda

Time	Speaker	Topic
09.00 to 09.10	Alen Sabu	Overview of the tutorial
09.10 to 10.30	Harish Patil	Tools from Intel: Pin, PinPlay, SDE, ELFies
10.30 to 10.45	Break	
10.45 to 11.30	Akanksha Chaudhari	Simulation and Single-threaded Sampling
11.30 to 11.40	Break	
11.40 to 12.20	Alen Sabu	Multi-threaded Sampling and LoopPoint
12.20 to 13.00	Changxi Liu	Running Sniper and LoopPoint Tools

LoopPoint and ELFies: Tools and Techniques to Accelerate Simulations of Multi-threaded Applications using Checkpointing

**Alen Sabu¹, Changxi Liu¹, Akanksha Chaudhari¹, Harish Patil²,
Wim Heirman², Trevor E. Carlson¹**

¹National University of Singapore

²Intel Corporation



NUS
National University
of Singapore

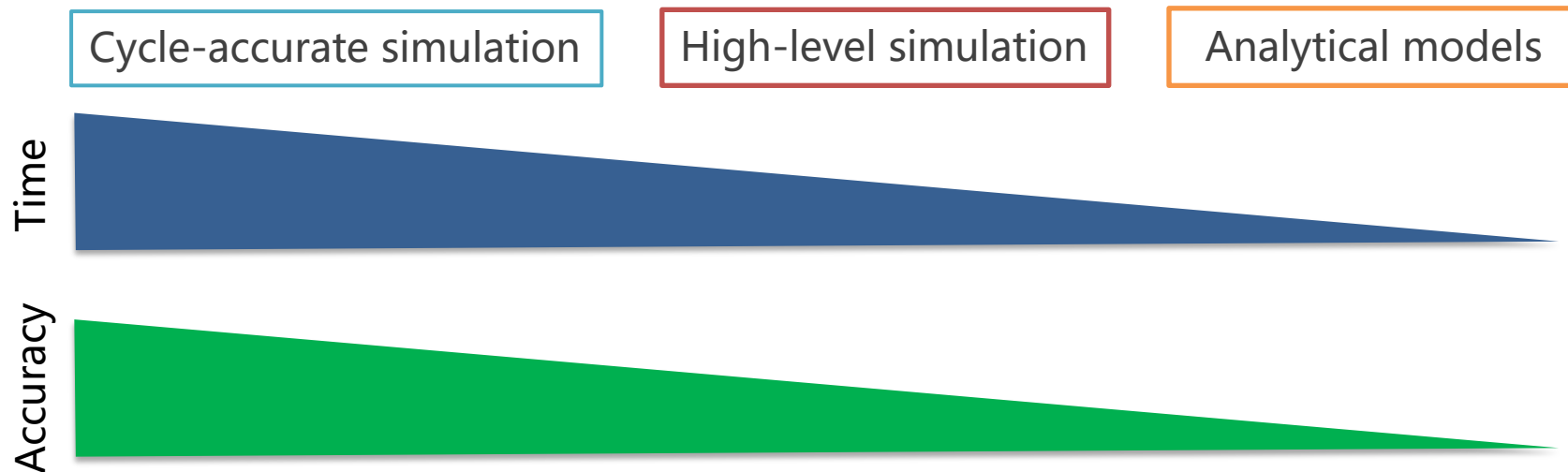


Session 4

Sniper and LoopPoint Demo

CHANGXI LIU, PHD STUDENT
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Simulator Design Waterfall

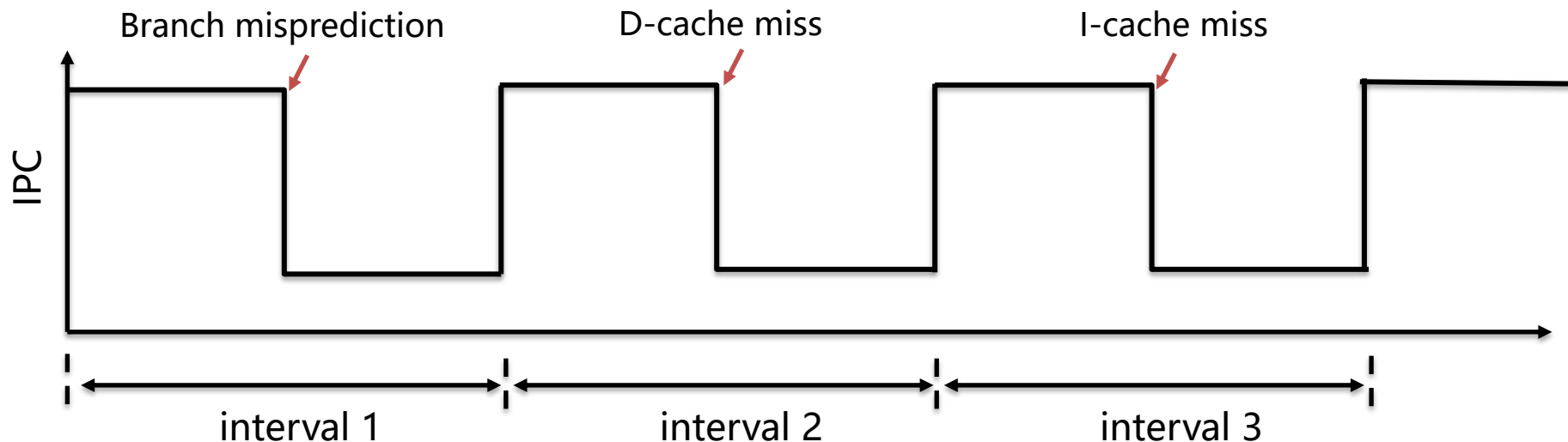


- Cycle-accurate simulation is too slow
- High-level simulation consider both accuracy and execution time

Sniper: A Fast and Accurate Simulator

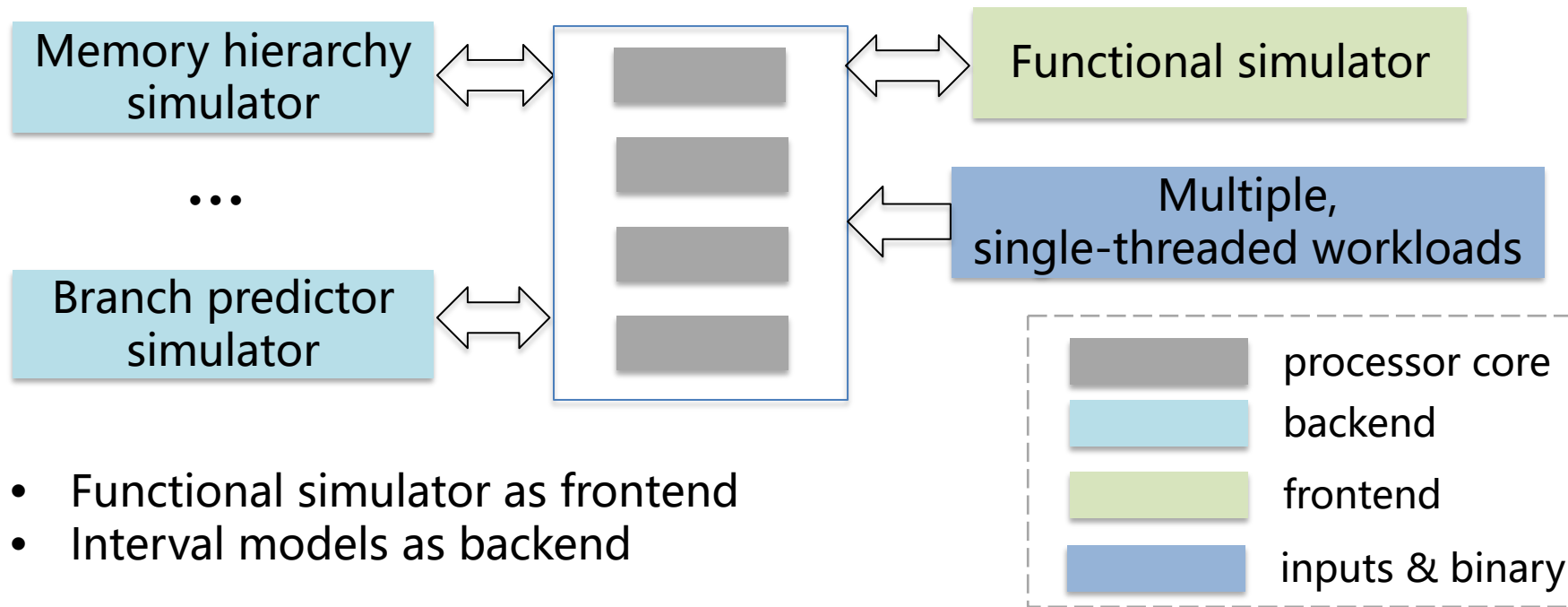
- Hybrid simulation approach
 - Analytical interval core model : Interval Model
 - Micro-architecture structure simulation
 - Branch predictors, caches, etc.
- Support multi/many-cores simulation with parallel scales of core number
- Pin-based frontend, can also support dynamoRIO
- Open source <https://snipersim.org>

Interval Model



- Split whole application into consecutive intervals

Simulation in Sniper



Directly Running Sniper

- Download
 - <https://snipersim.org/w/Download>
 - Register to receive the link via email.

- External Email -

Dear Sniper downloader,

Here are your download instructions for the Sniper Multi-core Simulator.

For use with GIT, clone our repository from the following directory:

```
$ git clone http://snipersim.org/download/\[REDACTED\]/git/sniper.git
```

To download Sniper, use the following link or command:

```
http://snipersim.org/download/\[REDACTED\]/packages/sniper-latest.tgz
```

```
$ wget http://snipersim.org/download/\[REDACTED\]/packages/sniper-latest.tgz
```

If you have any questions, feel free to post them on our mailing list

<http://groups.google.com/group/snipersim>

or visit our Frequently Asked Questions page

http://snipersim.org/w/Frequently_Asked_Questions

The Sniper Simulator Team

Directly Running Sniper

- Download
 - <https://snipersim.org/w/Download>
 - Register to receive the link via email.
- Simulating an application
 - `./run-sniper <options> -- /bin/ls`

- External Email -

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\$ git clone [http://snipersim.org/download/\[REDACTED\]/git/sniper.git](http://snipersim.org/download/[REDACTED]/git/sniper.git)

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[http://snipersim.org/download/\[REDACTED\]/packages/sniper-latest.tgz](http://snipersim.org/download/[REDACTED]/packages/sniper-latest.tgz)

\$ wget [http://snipersim.org/download/\[REDACTED\]/packages/sniper-latest.tgz](http://snipersim.org/download/[REDACTED]/packages/sniper-latest.tgz)

If you have any questions, feel free to post them on our mailing list

<http://groups.google.com/group/snipersim>

or visit our Frequently Asked Questions page

http://snipersim.org/w/Frequently_Asked_Questions

The Sniper Simulator Team

Build LoopPoint

- Prerequisites
 - X86-based Linux machine
 - C++ with c++11 support
 - Python
 - Docker
 - Sniper link

Build LoopPoint

- Opensource code
 - <https://github.com/nus-comparch/looppoint.git>

Build LoopPoint

- make build
 - Build docker image

or Python 2.7 in January 2021. More details about Python 2 support in pip can be found at <https://pip.pypa.io/en/latest/development/release-process/#python-2-support> pip 21.0 will remove support for this functionality.

```
Collecting tabulate
  Downloading tabulate-0.8.9.tar.gz (53 kB)
Building wheels for collected packages: tabulate
  Building wheel for tabulate (setup.py): started
  Building wheel for tabulate (setup.py): finished with status 'done'
  Created wheel for tabulate: filename=tabulate-0.8.9-py2-none-any.whl size=33171 sha256=cc5713bdcee7e07c602619a643e2c3132e8e25d18308dc1d0fe06a9ef8b03e12
  Stored in directory: /tmp/pip-ephem-wheel-cache-N3SSxV/wheels/0a/4b/e1/d0e504a346ed0882b93f971fe1122b9de64fabebd9b1d81b9f
Successfully built tabulate
Installing collected packages: tabulate
Successfully installed tabulate-0.8.9
Removing intermediate container 04d7aece39fa
--> 98fe9327b5dc
Step 9/9 : RUN pip3 install --no-cache-dir --upgrade pip && pip3 install --no-cache-dir numpy
--> Running in 3b699c6d695a
Collecting pip
  Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/a4/6d/6463d49a933f547439d6b5b98b46af8742cc03ae83543e4d7688c2420f8b/pip-21.3.1-py3-none-any.whl (1.7MB)
Installing collected packages: pip
  Found existing installation: pip 9.0.1
  Not uninstalling pip at /usr/lib/python3/dist-packages, outside environment /usr
Successfully installed pip-21.3.1
WARNING: pip is being invoked by an old script wrapper. This will fail in a future version of pip.
Please see https://github.com/pypa/pip/issues/5599 for advice on fixing the underlying issue.
To avoid this problem you can invoke Python with '-m pip' instead of running pip directly.
Collecting numpy
  Downloading numpy-1.19.5-cp36-cp36m-manylinux2010_x86_64.whl (14.8 MB)
Installing collected packages: numpy
Successfully installed numpy-1.19.5
WARNING: Running pip as the 'root' user can result in broken permissions and conflicting behaviour with the system package manager. It is recommended to use a virtual environment instead: https://pip.pypa.io/warnings/venv
Removing intermediate container 3b699c6d695a
--> 57f0a752e1e6
[Warning] One or more build-args [TZ_ARG] were not consumed
Successfully built 57f0a752e1e6
Successfully tagged ubuntu:18.04-loopoint
```


Build LoopPoint

- `make build`
- `make`
 - Run the docker image

```
I have no name!@ef5546e12134 [REDACTED] spass/looppoint$ ls
Dockerfile-ubuntu-18.04  README.md  lplib.py   run-looppoint.py  tools
Makefile                  apps       preprocess suites.py
I have no name!@ef5546e12134 [REDACTED] spass/looppoint$ █
```

Build LoopPoint

- `make build`
- `make`
- `make apps`
 - Build the provided application
 - `matrix-mul demo`
 - You can find the source code of the demo in
 - `apps/demo/matrix-omp/`
 - **Coming soon:** Support for open-source benchmarks (like NPB) with LoopPoint

```
I have no name!@ef5546e12134:~/ispass/looppoint$ make apps
make -C apps/demo/matrix-omp
make[1]: Entering directory ~/ispass/looppoint/apps/demo/matrix-omp
g++ -g -O3 -fopenmp -o matrix-omp matrix-omp-init.cpp matrix-omp.cpp -static
/usr/lib/gcc/x86_64-linux-gnu/7/libgomp.a(target.o): In function `gomp_target
(.text+0x8b): warning: Using 'dlopen' in statically linked applications requ
ln -s matrix-omp base.exe
make[1]: Leaving directory ~/ispass/looppoint/apps/demo/matrix-omp
I have no name!@ef5546e12134:~/ispass/looppoint$ ls
Dockerfile-ubuntu-18.04 Makefile README.md apps lplib.py preprocess ru
I have no name!@ef5546e12134:~/ispass/looppoint$ find -name base.exe
./apps/demo/matrix-omp/base.exe
I have no name!@ef5546e12134:~/ispass/looppoint$
```

Build LoopPoint

- make build
- make
- make apps
- make tools SNIPER_GIT_REPO=[1]
 - Build Sniper and LoopPoint tools

```
I have no name!@ef5546e12134:~/spass/looppoint$ make tools SNIPER_GIT_REPO=http://snipersim.org/download/[REDACTED]/git/sniper.git
Downloading Pin
--2022-05-17 07:34:17-- https://software.intel.com/sites/landingpage/pintool/downloads/pin-3.13-98189-g60a6ef199-gcc-linux.tar.gz
Resolving software.intel.com (software.intel.com)... 23.15.96.37, 2600:1417:3f:791:b, 2600:1417:3f:78d:b
Connecting to software.intel.com (software.intel.com)|23.15.96.37|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 35897895 (34M) [application/octet-stream]
Saving to: 'STDOUT'

-
100%[=====] 34.23M 11.4MB/s in 3.0s

2022-05-17 07:34:20 (11.4 MB/s) - written to stdout [35897895/35897895]

patching file pin-3.13-98189-g60a6ef199-gcc-linux/source/tools/InstLib/alarms.H
patching file pin-3.13-98189-g60a6ef199-gcc-linux/source/tools/InstLib/alarms.cpp
Setting SNIPER_GIT_REPO as http://snipersim.org/download/[REDACTED]/git/sniper.git to download Sniper
Cloning into 'tools/sniper'...
```

```
[CXX] sift/recorder/obj-intel64/threads.o
[CXX] sift/recorder/obj-intel64/papi.o
[CXX] sift/recorder/obj-intel64/bbv_count.o
[CXX] sift/recorder/obj-intel64/trace_rtn.o
[CXX] sift/recorder/obj-intel64/recorder_base.o
[CXX] sift/recorder/obj-intel64/pinboost_debug.o
[CXX] sift/recorder/obj-intel64/syscall_modeling.o
make[4]: Entering directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder/sift'
[CXX] sift/recorder/sift/sift_reader.o
[CXX] sift/recorder/sift/zfstream.o
[CXX] sift/recorder/sift/sift_utils.o
[CXX] sift/recorder/sift/sift_writer.o
[LD] sift/recorder/sift/libsift.a
make[4]: Leaving directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder/sift'
[LD] sift/recorder/obj-intel64/sift_recorder
make[4]: Entering directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder'
make[4]: Leaving directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder'
make[4]: Entering directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder'
make[4]: Leaving directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder'
make[4]: Entering directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder'
make[4]: Leaving directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder'
make[4]: Entering directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder'
make[4]: Leaving directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder'
make[4]: Entering directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder'
make[4]: Leaving directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder'
make[3]: Leaving directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift/recorder'
make[2]: Entering directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift'
make[2]: Leaving directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/sift'
[DEP] standalone/standalone.o
[DEP] standalone/exceptions.d
[CXX] standalone/exceptions.o
[CXX] standalone/standalone.o
[LD] lib/sniper
make[2]: Leaving directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper/standalone'
make[1]: Leaving directory [REDACTED]ss/looppoint/tools/sniper'
I have no name!@ef5546e12134:~/spass/looppoint$
```

Build LoopPoint

- Opensource code
- We provide the script to help you build the environment
 - `make build`
 - Build docker image
 - `make`
 - Run docker image
 - `make apps`
 - Build the provided applications
 - `make tools SNIPER_GIT_REPO=[1]`
 - Build Sniper and LoopPoint tools

Running LoopPoint

- Then run LoopPoint!
 - `./run-looppoint.py -h`
 - Provides the information on how to run the tool
- Example run command
 - `./run-looppoint.py -p demo-matrix-1 -n 8 --force`

Running LoopPoint

- The driver script of LoopPoint
 - Profiling the application

Running LoopPoint

- The driver script of LoopPoint
 - Profiling the application
 - `make_mt_pinball` : Generate whole-program pinball
 - `gen_dcfg` : Generate DCFG file to identify loop information
 - `gen_bbv` : Generate feature vector of each region
 - `gen_cluster` : Cluster regions

PinPlay

- Makes Pin-based analyses repeatable.
- Command:
 - `$SDE_KIT/pinplay-scripts/sde_pinpoints.py --mode mt --cfg=$CFGFILE --log_options="-start_address main -log:fat -log:basename $WPP_BASE" --replay_options="-replay:strace" -l`
- Generates a whole-program pinball for further profiling steps

DCFG

- A control-flow graph (CFG) is a fundamental structure
- A dynamic control-flow graph (DCFG) is a specialized CFG that adds data from a specific execution of a program
- C++ DCFG APIs is conveniently to used for accessing the data.
 - `DCFG_LOOP_CONTAINER::get_loop_ids`
 - Get the set of loop IDs
 - `DCFG_LOOP`
 - `get_routine_id` : get the function that the loop belongs to
 - `get_parent_loop_id` : get the parent loop

DCFG

- A control-flow graph (CFG) is a fundamental structure
- A dynamic control-flow graph (DCFG) is a specialized CFG that adds data from a specific execution of a program
- C++ DCFG APIs is conveniently to used for accessing the data.
- More APIs can be found in
 - `tools/sde-external-9.0.0-2021-11-07-lin/pinkit/sde-example/include`
 - `dcfg_api.H`
 - `dcfg_pin_api.H`
 - `dcfg_trace_api.H`

DCFG

- Collect Loop Information
- Command:
 - `$SDE_BUILD_KIT/pinplay-scripts/replay.py --pintool=sde-global-looppoint.so --pintool_options "-dcfg -replay:deadlock_timeout 0 -replay:strace -dcfg:out_base_name $DCFG_BASE $WPP_BASE"`
 - `-dcfg` : enable DCFG generation
 - `DCFG_BASE` : the DCFG file name that is generated

- Profiling the feature vector of each region
- Command:
 - `$SDE_BUILD_KIT/pinplay-scripts/sde_pinpoints.py --pintool="sde-global-looppoint.so" --global_regions --pccount_regions --cfg $CFG --whole_pgm_dir $WPP_DIR --mode mt -S $SLICESIZE -b --replay_options "-replay:deadlock_timeout 0 -global_profile -emit_vectors 0 -filter_exclude_lib libgomp.so.1 -filter_exclude_lib libiomp5.so -looppoint:global_profile -looppoint:dcfg-file $DCFG -looppoint:main_image_only 1 -looppoint:loop_info $PROGRAM.$INPUT.loop_info.txt -flowcontrol:verbose 1 -flowcontrol:quantum 1000000 -flowcontrol:maxthreads $NCORES"`
 - `-pccount_regions` : (PC, count)-based region information
 - `-looppoint:loop_info` : Utilize loop information as the marker of each region
 - `-flowcontrol:quantum` : synchronize each thread every 1000000 instructions

Clustering

- Cluster all regions into several groups.
 - SimPoint [1]
 - Utilize feature vectors of all threads
 - kmeans algorithm

Clustering

- Cluster all regions into several groups.
- Command
 - `$SDE_BUILD_KIT/pinplay-scripts/sde_pinpoints.py --pintool="sde-global-looppoint.so" --cfg $CFG --whole_pgm_dir $WPP_DIR -S $SLICESIZE --warmup_factor=2 --maxk=$MAXK --append_status -s --simpoint_options="-dim $DIM -coveragePct 1.0 -maxK $MAXK"`
 - DIM : The reduced dimension of the vector that BBVs are projected to
 - MAXK : Maximum number of clusters for kmeans

Running LoopPoint

- The driver script of LoopPoint
 - Profiling Final Results:
 - matrix.1_16448.global.pinpoints.csv
 - (start-pc, start-pc-count), (end-pc, end-pc-count)

```
3 # comment,thread-id,region-id,start-pc, start-image-name, start-image-offset, start-pc-count,end-pc, end-image-name, end-image-offset, end-pc-count, region-length, region-weight, region-multiplier, region-type
4
5 # RegionId = 1 Slice = 0 Icount = 0 Length = 800000067 Weight = 0.12500 Multiplier = 1.000 ClusterSlicecount = 1 ClusterIcount = 800000066
6 #Start: pc : 0x400880 image: matrix-omp offset: 0x880 absolute_count: 1 source-info: matrix-omp.cpp:17
7 #End: pc : 0x4040c0 image: matrix-omp offset: 0x40c0 absolute_count: 77977888 relative_count: 9837476.0 source-info: matrix-omp.cpp:75
8 cluster 0 from slice 0,global,1,0x400880,matrix-omp,0x880,1,0x4040c0,matrix-omp,0x40c0,77977888,9837476,800000067,0.12500,1.000,simulation
```

Running LoopPoint

- The driver script of LoopPoint
 - Profiling Final Results:
 - `matrix.1_16448.global.pinpoints.csv`
 - `(start-pc, start-pc-count), (end-pc, end-pc-count)`
 - Cluster group id

```
3 # comment,thread-id,region-id,start-pc, start-image-name, start-image-offset, start-pc-count,end-pc, end-image-name, end-image-offset, end-pc-count, region-length, region-weight, region-multiplier, region-type
4
5 # RegionId = 1 Slice = 0 Icount = 0 Length = 800000067 Weight = 0.12500 Multiplier = 1.000 ClusterSlicecount = 1 ClusterIcount = 800000066
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7 #End: pc : 0x4040c0 image: matrix-omp offset: 0x40c0 absolute_count: 77977888 relative_count: 9837476.0 source-info: matrix-omp.cpp:75
8 cluster 0 from slice 0,global,1,0x400880,matrix-omp,0x880,1,0x4040c0,matrix-omp,0x40c0,77977888,9837476,800000067,0.12500,1.000,simulation
9
```


Running LoopPoint

- The driver script of LoopPoint
 - Profiling Final Results:
 - `matrix.1_16448.global.pinpoints.csv`
 - `(start-pc, start-pc-count), (end-pc, end-pc-count)`
 - Cluster group id
 - Cluster multiplier

```
3 # comment,thread-id,region-id,start-pc, start-image-name, start-image-offset, start-pc-count,end-pc, end-image-name, end-image-offset, end-pc-count, region-length, region-weight, region-multiplier, region-type
4
5 # RegionId = 1 Slice = 0 Icount = 0 Length = 800000067 Weight = 0.12500 Multiplier = 1.000 ClusterSlicecount = 1 ClusterIcount = 800000066
6 #Start: pc : 0x400880 image: matrix-omp offset: 0x880 absolute_count: 1 source-info: matrix-omp.cpp:17
7 #End: pc : 0x4040c0 image: matrix-omp offset: 0x40c0 absolute_count: 77977888 relative_count: 9837476.0 source-info: matrix-omp.cpp:75
8 cluster 0 from slice 0,global,1,0x400880,matrix-omp,0x880,1,0x4040c0,matrix-omp,0x40c0,77977888,9837476,800000067,0.12500,1.000,simulation
9
```

Running LoopPoint

- The driver script of LoopPoint
 - Profiling the application
 - `matrix.1_16448.global.pinpoints.csv`
 - Sampled Simulation: (start-pc, start-pc-count), (end-pc, end-pc-count), cluster group id
 - Extrapolation: cluster group id, cluster-multiplier

Running LoopPoint

- The driver script of LoopPoint
 - Profiling the application
 - Sampled simulation of selected regions

Sniper

- The LoopPoint support in Sniper
 - Handle the beginning and ending of representative regions

```
VOID Handler(CONTROLLER::EVENT_TYPE ev, VOID * v, CONTEXT * ctxt,
VOID * ip, THREADID tid, BOOL bcast)
{
    switch(ev)
    {
        case CONTROLLER::EVENT_START:
            handleMagic(tid, ctxt, SIM_CMD_USER, 0x0be0000f, 0);
            break;

        case CONTROLLER::EVENT_STOP:
            handleMagic(tid, ctxt, SIM_CMD_USER, 0x0be0000f, 1);
            break;

        default:
            break;
    }
}
```

Sniper

- The LoopPoint support in Sniper
 - Handle the beginning and ending of representative regions
 - Register this function in pin

```
control_manager.RegisterHandler(Handler, 0, FALSE);  
control_manager.Activate();
```

```
VOID Handler(CONTROLLER::EVENT_TYPE ev, VOID * v, CONTEXT * ctxt,  
             VOID * ip, THREADID tid, BOOL bcast)  
{  
    switch(ev)  
    {  
        case CONTROLLER::EVENT_START:  
            handleMagic(tid, ctxt, SIM_CMD_USER, 0x0be0000f, 0);  
            break;  
  
        case CONTROLLER::EVENT_STOP:  
            handleMagic(tid, ctxt, SIM_CMD_USER, 0x0be0000f, 1);  
            break;  
  
        default:  
            break;  
    }  
}
```

Sniper

- The LoopPoint support in Sniper
 - Handle the beginning and ending of representative regions
 - Register this function in pin
 - `./run-sniper -n 8 -gscheduler/type=static -cgainestown -ssimuserroi --roi-script --trace-args=-control start:address:0x4069d0:count235036646:global --trace-args=-control stop:address:0x4069d0:count313177121:global -- <app cmd>`
 - `-control start:address:<PC>:<Count>`
 - `-control end:address:<PC>:<Count>`
 - PC , Count : LoopPoint region boundaries

Running LoopPoint

- The driver script of LoopPoint
 - Profiling the application
 - Sampled simulation of selected regions
 - Extrapolation of performance results

Extrapolation of Performance Result

- Runtime of corresponding representative region : **regionid**
- Multiply the ratio : **multiplier**

```
for regionid, multiplier in region_mult.iteritems():
    region_runtime = 0
    try:
        region_runtime = read_simstats(region_stats[regionid], region_config[regionid], 'runtime')
    except:
        print('[LOOPPOINT] Warning: Skipping r%s as the simulation results are not available' % regionid)
        continue
    cov_mult += multiplier
    extrapolated_runtime += region_runtime * multiplier
    if region_runtime > max_rep_runtime:
        max_rep_runtime = region_runtime
    sum_rep_runtime += region_runtime
```


Running LoopPoint

- The driver script of LoopPoint
 - Profiling the application
 - Sampled simulation of selected regions
 - Extrapolation of performance results
 - Predicted runtime using sampled simulation

application	runtime actual (ns)	runtime predicted (ns)	error (%)	speedup (parallel)	speedup (serial)	coverage (%)
matrix-omp.1	214544900.0	199674000.0	6.93	8.34	4.24	100.0

Running LoopPoint

- The driver script of LoopPoint
 - Profiling the application
 - Sampled simulation of selected regions
 - Extrapolation of performance results
 - Predicted runtime using sampled simulation
 - The error rate of obtained using sampled simulation

application	runtime actual (ns)	runtime predicted (ns)	error (%)	speedup (parallel)	speedup (serial)	coverage (%)
matrix-omp.1	214544900.0	199674000.0	6.93	8.34	4.24	100.0

Thank you!

LoopPoint and ELFies: Tools and Techniques to Accelerate Simulations of Multi-threaded Applications using Checkpointing

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