SYSTEMS FOR ACCURACY-AWARE OPTIMIZATION
Accuracy-Aware Optimization

- **Find** an approximate program
- **Various** automatic or user-guided approaches

Optimized Computation
Testing-based Optimization

- **Transform** original computation
- **Validate** transformed computation

Optimized Computation +
**Analysis-driven Compiler**

SAS '11, POPL '12, OOPSLA '13, OOPSLA '14, OOPSLA '19, CGO '20

- **Statically analyze** computation’s **accuracy**
- **Transform** computation by solving a mathematical optimization problem

For all inputs
Background: Compiler Autotuning

Search for program with maximum performance by reordering instructions, compiler parameters, and program configurations

• There are so many ways to tile an array (e.g., fit different cache sizes)
• Which optimizations to try –O1, -O2, -O3, remove some, add some?

Empirical process: explores the complexity of the system stack:
• Try new configuration
• If better then previous, save; and
• Search for more profitable configuration

Interesting educational project: https://github.com/ctuning/ck/wiki/Compiler-autotuning
Compiler Autotuning

Try new configuration: select one combination out of the space of all possible combinations
• Often too large to try them all
• The results will depend on the inputs you used

If better: (traditionally) compare performance or energy
• Uses fitness function which orders the configurations

Search for more: various heuristic algorithms, these days mainly based on machine learning and heuristic search (e.g., genetic programming in OpenTuner)

A Survey on Compiler Autotuning using Machine Learning (CSUR 2019)
Compiler Autotuning

Accuracy opens up a new dimension for search

- Increases the number of options to try
- Includes (input-specific) accuracy metric in the fitness fun.
- Finds the configurations with best tradeoffs.
Multiobjective Optimization (Reminder)

Functions to optimize are called objectives

- Accuracy Loss – lower is better (or accuracy – higher is better)
- Speedup – higher is better (or normalized time – lower is better)
- Energy saving – higher is better (or consumption – lower is better)

They are the functions of program configuration – setting of knobs

Two candidate program configurations X and Y:

- **X Pareto dominates** Y if X is as good as Y in all objectives, and is better in at least one objective

**Pareto frontier:** the set of points that are not dominated by other points

*We will come back and formalize these notions later in the course!*
Example

![Graph showing Speedup vs Accuracy Loss with scattered data points.](Image of graph)
Example

![Scatter plot showing the relationship between Speedup and Accuracy Loss. The x-axis represents Accuracy Loss, and the y-axis represents Speedup. There are a few red and blue data points scattered across the graph.]
Example

Graph showing the Pareto front and True Pareto front (theoretical optimum).
Pareto Fronts (aka Tradeoff curves)
A BIT OF FORMALISM

Based on Knowels, Thiele, Zitzler
Optimization Problem

Optimization Problem is a Quadruple \((X, Z, f, \preceq)\):

- \(X\): decision space, and \(x \in X\) is a **decision vector**
- \(Z\): objective space, and \(z \in Z\) is a **objective vector**
- \(f: X \to Z\) is a function that assigns to each decision vector \(x\) an objective vector \(z = f(x)\)
- We can think of it \(z = (f_1, \ldots, f_n) = f(x_1, \ldots, x_m)\) while assuming \(Z = \mathbb{R}^n\)
- \(\preceq\) is a binary relation over \(Z\) that defines a **partial order** of the objective space (it also induces a preorder on the decision space)
Weak Dominance

When \( n = 1 \) (single objective function):

- Optimization problem: \((X, \mathbb{R}, f, \preceq)\)
- \(\preceq\) is our good old \(\leq\) on reals; there always exists a unique maximum

When \( n > 1 \) (multiple objective functions)

- Typically define \(\preceq\) as \(z^{(a)} \preceq z^{(b)} \equiv \forall i \in \{1 \ldots n\} z_i^{(a)} \leq z_i^{(b)}\)
- Known as **weak Pareto dominance**: \(z^{(b)}\) weakly dominates \(z^{(a)}\)
Optimization Problem

Goal:
Find solution $x^*$ that is mapped to a maximal element $z^* = f(x^*)$ in the set $f(X) = \{z \in Z \mid \exists x \in X : z = f(x) \}$

Think: $x$ is program configuration, $z$ is pair (accuracy, speedup), and $f$ computes (or records) accuracy and time of the execution.

- We can define the problem similar for searching minimal element (accuracy loss, run time)
- We can also make three dimensional tradeoff space accuracy, performance, energy, or even multidimensional
Our Optimization Problem

Select Program Configuration $X \in \text{Configs}$ to

$$\text{maximize } (\text{Speedup}(X,i), \text{Accuracy}(X,i))$$
$$\text{forall } i \in \text{InputSet}$$

But these are most often competing objectives.

Consider turning into weighted single optimization problem ($w_{1,2}$ express preference):

$$\text{maximize } w_1 \times \text{Speedup}(X,i) + w_2 \times \text{Accuracy}(X,i)$$
$$\text{forall } i \in \text{InputSet}$$

To maintain accuracy guarantees rephrase: for every accuracy loss threshold $\delta$

$$\text{maximize } \text{Speedup}(X,i)$$
$$\text{subject to } \text{AccuracyLoss}(X,i) \leq \delta$$
$$\text{forall } i \in \text{InputSet}$$
Dominance

\(z^{(a)} \preceq z^{(b)}\) for objective vectors of size \(n\) is defined as

\[\forall i \in \{1 \ldots n\} . \ z_i^{(a)} \leq \mathbb{R} z_i^{(b)}\]

It is also called weak Pareto dominance

A strong Pareto dominance \(z^{(a)} < z^{(b)}\) is defined as above, but cannot have any element being equal.

Read:

- \(z^{(a)} \preceq z^{(b)}\) we say that \(z^{(b)}\) weakly dominates \(z^{(a)}\)
- \(z^{(a)} < z^{(b)}\) we say that \(z^{(b)}\) dominates \(z^{(a)}\)

We can similarly define this relation for the cases when we want to maximize one but minimize another objective.
Dominance

We just learned about **Pareto Dominance (and weak dominance)**

**Incomparable points:** neither $z^{(a)} \leq z^{(b)}$ nor $z^{(b)} \leq z^{(a)}$

**Indifferent:** both points have the same value in all objectives

**Strict domination:** $z^{(a)}$ is better than $z^{(b)}$ in all objectives
Pareto Set Approximations

In optimization we are interested in the entire Pareto-optimal set, not just individual solutions

- The set comprises the non-dominated objectives and decisions:
  \[ A = \{(z, x) \mid \exists x \in X \exists z \in Z \text{ s.t. } z = f(x) \text{ and } z \text{ in not dominated}\} \]
- We want to find mutually incomparable solutions
- Each such solution is a Pareto set approximation

We can extend the optimization problem: we want the best set of Pareto points (over other sets)

- Think: we want the best tradeoff curve across all that can be computed

*With a small abuse of notation, \( z_B \in B \) refers to \( (z_B, x_B) \in B \) for some \( x_B \) but the decision vector \( x_B \) is not necessary in this context; Alternatively, one could write \( (z_B, -) \in B \). We treat the case \( x_B \in B \) the same way.*
Comparing Pareto Sets Approximations

Let A and B the sets of Pareto-optimal points (e.g., produced by different search algorithms or multiple runs of a randomized algorithm)

Is this enough? Typically no, we may need to define **quality indicators** to compare ‘incomparable’ sets

- There is no standard quality indicator, but needs to be selected based on context

**Hypervolume Indicator**: intuitively, a volume (in our case area) of dominated solutions covered by the Pareto set.

- Need to select a reference point (or points). In our case, (speedup,accuracy) pairs (1.0, 100%) and (1.0, max-acceptable-accuracy) are intuitive choices
- Can order the Pareto sets \( I(A) > I(B) \) \( \Rightarrow \) \( A \triangleright B \) (i.e., A is better than B)
- For randomized search algorithms, can compute and compare expected indicators i.e., \( \mathbb{E} I(A) > \mathbb{E} I(B) \) \( \Rightarrow \) \( A \triangleright B \)
Pareto Fronts (aka Tradeoff curves)
Pareto Fronts (aka Tradeoff curves)
Pareto Fronts (aka Tradeoff curves)
Comparing Pareto Sets Approximations

Let A and B the sets of Pareto-optimal points (e.g., produced by different search algorithms or multiple runs of a randomized algorithm).

We can define the relations for the sets:

- **A dominates B** ($B < A$) iff every $z_B \in B$ is dominated by some $z_A \in A$
- **Weak domination** ($B \preceq A$) is defined similarly
- **A and B are indifferent:** A weakly dominates B and B weakly dominates A
- **A is better than B** ($B \prec A$): every $z_B \in B$ is weakly dominated by at least one $z_A \in A$ and A and B are not indifferent
- **A and B are incomparable:** neither set weakly dominates the other
- Is this enough? Typically no, we may need to define quality indicators to compare ‘incomparable’ sets.
Note on Our Optimization

Since we execute the programs, the input distributions will impact the approximation sets

Alternatively, if we combine with static analysis, some of the tradeoffs will end up being conservatively set

The search algorithms (e.g., auto-tuners) will impact what solutions we find – especially if they are randomized

The distribution between the ‘training’ and ‘test’ inputs may change, impacting accuracy and performance
LET’S START WITH PRACTICE THEN
Petabricks

Language for algorithmic choice (expresses options to tune) and an autotuner (using genetic search)

Precusor to OpenTuner (popular autotuner: http://opentuner.org)

Hand-coded algorithmic compositions are commonplace. A typical example of such a composition can be found in the C++ Standard Template Library (STL) routine `std::sort`, which uses merge sort until the list is smaller than 15 elements and then switches to insertion sort. Our tests have shown that higher cutoffs (around 60-150) perform much better on current architectures. However, because the optimal cutoff is dependent on architecture, cost of the comparison routine, element size, and parallelism, no single hard-coded value will suffice.
Petabricks

Language for algorithmic choice (expresses options to tune) and an autotuner (using genetic search)

Precusor to OpenTuner (popular autotuner)

Classes of algorithms that can benefit from approximation:
• Polyalgorihtms
• NP-Complete Algorithms
• Iterative Algorithms
• Signal Processing
The rules contained in the body of the transform define the various pathways to construct the Assignments data from the initial Points data.

```
transform kmeans
accuracy_metric kmeans_accuracy
accuracy_variable k
from Points[n,2] // Array of points (each column
    // stores x and y coordinates)
through Centroids[k,2]
to Assignments[n]
{
    ... (Rules 1 and 2 same as in Figure 1) ...

    // Rule 3:
    // The kmeans iterative algorithm
    to(Assignments a) from(Points p, Centroids c) {
        for_enough {
            int change;
            AssignClusters(a, change, p, c, a);
            if (change==0) return; // Reached fixed point
            NewClusterLocations(c, p, a);
        }
    }
}
```

```
transform kmeans_accuracy
from Assignments[n], Points[n,2]
to Accuracy
{
    Accuracy from(Assignments a, Points p){
        return sqrt(2*n/SumClusterDistanceSquared(a, p));
    }
}
```
Petabricks Autotuner

```plaintext
transform kmeans
accuracy_metric kmeansaccuracy
accuracy_variable k
from Points[n,2] // Array of points (each column
  // stores x and y coordinates)
through Centroids[k,2]
to Assignments[n]
{
...
(Rules 1 and 2 same as in Figure 1)...

  // Rule 3:
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      int change;
      AssignClusters(a, change, p, c, a);
      if (change==0) return; // Reached fixed point
      NewClusterLocations(c, p, a);
    }
  }
}

transform kmeansaccuracy
from Assignments[n], Points[n,2]
to Accuracy
{
  Accuracy from(Assignments a, Points p) {
    return sqrt(2*n/SumClusterDistanceSquared(a,p));
  }
}
```

Language and Compiler Support for Auto-Tuning Variable-Accuracy Algorithms (CGO 2011)
Next Step

What if a language **does not** expose approximation choices?

Let a compiler find and expose some by modifying the program!
**SpeedPress**

- **Transforms** programs with perforation
- **Validates** new programs using testing

Quality of Service Profiling (ICSE 2010)
Managing Performance vs. Accuracy Trade-offs With Loop Perforation (FSE 2011)
**x264 Video Encoder Example**

**Accuracy Specification**
- **Quality Metric:** e.g. PSNR and bit rate
- **Quality Loss:** e.g. relative difference <10%

**Typical Inputs**
Phases of Approximate Compiler: *Find perforatable loops*

- **Identify Opportunity:** Run *performance* profiler
  Identify time consuming loops

- **Sensitivity Testing:** Perforate *one loop* at a time
  Filter out loops that do not satisfy accuracy requirement

- **Search for Optimal Knobs:** Perforate *multiple loops*
  Find combinations of loops that maximize performance
  Return a tradeoff curve of best solutions found
Validate Perforated Loops

*Filter out loops that do not satisfy requirement*

**Criticality (Sensitivity) Testing:** Ensure that the program with perforated loop **does not:**

- Crash or return error
- Runs slower than original (or not terminates)
- Causes other errors identified by dynamic analysis (e.g., latent memory errors)
- Produces unacceptable result (e.g., NaN, inf…)
- Produces inaccurate result (according to accuracy metric)
Criticality (Sensitivity) Testing:
Filter out loops that do not satisfy requirement

Input

Original Program

Output

Quality Metric

Check for crashes, slowdowns, latent memory errors

Original Program

Perforated Program

\[ \alpha(q) = \frac{\text{PSNR}}{\text{bitrate}} \]

\[ q(m) \leq q_m \]
Perforating Individual Loops in \texttt{x264}

( Quality Loss < 0.1)
Perforating Individual Loops in **x264**

( Quality Loss < 0.1)
Perforating Individual Loops in \textit{x264}

( Quality Loss < 0.1)

![Bar chart showing the number of loops for Latent Errors and Crash]

- **Latent Errors**
- **Crash**
Perforating Individual Loops in \textbf{x264} 

( Quality Loss < 0.1)
Perforating Individual Loops in x264

( Quality Loss < 0.1)

# loops

Low Accuracy
No Speedup
Latent Errors
Crash
Perforating Individual Loops in \texttt{x264}

( Quality Loss < 0.1)

6 perforatable loops

- **Perforatable**
- **Low Accuracy**
- **No Speedup**
- **Latent Errors**
- **Crash**
Status

We found approximate computations and exposed individual knobs.

Next, let us combine the knob values to utilize the approximation “budget”
Search Strategies and Algorithms

- Greedy
- Exhaustive
- Combined
- Hill-climbing
- Simulated annealing
- Genetic algorithm
- Reinforcement learning
- ...

- We had the comfort to do a bounded-exhaustive evaluation to explore the tradeoff space
Applications
From PARSEC Suite

- x264: video encoder
- bodytrack: human motion tracking
- swaptions: financial analysis
- ferret: image search
- canneal: electronic circuit placement
- streamcluster: point clustering
- blackscholes: financial analysis
Inputs

Augmented or Replaced Existing Sets

- x264 from Internet
- bodytrack augmented
- swaptions randomly generated
- ferret provided inputs
- canneal augmented (autogenerated)
- streamcluster from Internet
- blackscholes provided inputs
Metrics

*Application Specific*

- **x264**: PSNR + Size
- **bodytrack**: weighted relative difference
- **swaptions**: relative difference
- **ferret**: recall
- **canneal**: relative difference
- **streamcluster**: clustering metric
- **blackscholes**: relative difference
Loop Perforation
(Quality Loss < 10%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Speedup</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x264</td>
<td>3.2x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bodytrack</td>
<td>6.9x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swaptions</td>
<td>5.0x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ferret</td>
<td>1.1x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>canneal</td>
<td>1.2x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>streamcluster</td>
<td>1.2x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Loop Perforation
(\textit{Quality Loss < 10\%})

\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{x264} \hspace{1cm} 3.2x \hspace{1cm} motion estimation
  \item \texttt{bodytrack} \hspace{1cm} 6.9x \hspace{1cm} particle filtering
  \item \texttt{swaptions} \hspace{1cm} 5.0x \hspace{1cm} MC simulation
  \item \texttt{ferret} \hspace{1cm} 1.1x \hspace{1cm} image similarity
  \item \texttt{canneal} \hspace{1cm} 1.2x \hspace{1cm} simulated annealing
  \item \texttt{streamcluster} \hspace{1cm} 1.2x \hspace{1cm} cluster center search
\end{itemize}
Loop Perforation
(Quality Loss < 10%)

Tasks of most perforated loops:
• Distance metrics
• Search-space enumeration
• Iterative improvement
• Redundant executions
Main Observations

• **Approximate Kernel Computations**  
  (have specific structure + functionality)

• **Accuracy vs Performance Knob**  
  (tune how aggressively to approximate kernel)

• **Magnitude and Frequency of Errors**  
  (kernels rarely exhibit large output deviations)
Approximate Program Analysis = Accuracy + Safety
Accuracy and **Guarantees**

**Logic-Based** *(worst-case)*
“for all inputs…”

**Probabilistic** *(worst-case or average-case)*
“for all inputs, with probability at least p…”
“for inputs distributed as…”

**Statistical** *(average-case)*
“for inputs distributed as… with confidence c”
“for tested inputs… with confidence c”

**Empirical** *(typical-case)*
“for typical inputs…”
Goals of Runtime Adaptation

Accuracy (Green)

Time or Energy
(Loop perforation)
Green : Framework for Controlled Approximations (PLDI’10) *

End-to-end framework for controlled application on approximations
  • Loop and function approximations

Relatively easy for programmers to use

Hooks for expert programmers and custom policies

Online mechanism to reactively adapt approximation policy to meet QoS

Adopted from slides by Radha Venkategiri
Green Framework

- Precise Program with Green extensions
- Calibration Inputs
- Programmer Supplied

Green compiler → "QoS Calibration" Program → Execute → QoS Data → Green: QoS_model → Green compiler

"Approximate" Program → Re-calibration
Recalibration

Concern: Overhead for running non-approximate

Address: Run infrequently, restructure the code

Figure 3. An end-to-end example of applying loop approximation to the Pi estimation program.
Recalibration

```c
QoS_ReCalibrate(QoS_loss, QoS_SLA) {
    // n_m: number of monitored queries
    // n_l: number of low QoS queries in monitored queries
    if (n_m>=0) {
        // Set Sample_QoS to 1 to trigger QoS_ReCalibrate
        // for the next 100 consecutive queries
        Saved_Sample_QoS=Sample_QoS;
        Sample_QoS=1;
    }
    n_m++;
    if (QoS_loss !=0)
        n_l++;
    if (n_m==100) {
        QoS_loss=n_l/n_m;
        if(QoS_loss>QoS_SLA) {
            // low QoS case
            increase_accuracy();
        } else if (QoS_loss < 0.9*QoS_SLA) {
            // high QoS case
            decrease_accuracy();
        } else {
            // no change
        }
    }
    Sample_QoS=Saved_Sample_QoS;
}
```

Figure 9. Customized QoS_ReCalibrate for Bing Search.
Runtime Adaptation for Accuracy

Key concerns:

• **Reexecuting infrequently to reduce the overhead**
  checking every result is expensive, rely on spatial and temporal locality

• **The computation needs to be amenable for re-execution:**
  think no side effects or crashes due to approximation
Runtime Approximation for Time/Energy

At regular time intervals we gradually reduce the frequency of the SoC.

When you notice a disruption, read the value from the tradeoff curve that would negate the disruption.
Runtime Approximation for Time/Energy

Runtime tuning helps maintain responsiveness in face of frequency changes.
Runtime Approximation for Time/Energy

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Runtime Approximation for Time/Energy

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Runtime tuning helps maintain responsiveness in face of frequency changes
Runtime Approximation for Time/Energy

Runtime tuning helps maintain responsiveness in face of frequency changes
Runtime tuning helps maintain responsiveness in face of frequency changes.
What if you don’t have the exact point?

Solution 1: Select more conservative, suffer some performance drop (point A)

Solution 2: Select more aggressive, lose some more accuracy and make program even faster (point B)

Solution 3: We can use randomization
- Choose point A with probability $p$ and
- Choose point B with probability $1-p$

Why would this work over a long sequence of runs?
Analysis-driven Compiler

- **Statically analyze** computation’s accuracy
- **Transform** computation by solving a mathematical optimization problem

For all inputs
Approximate Program Safety:
Information-flow Type Systems
Relational Logic Reasoning
EnerJ Type System

Idea:
Isolate code and data that **must be precise** from those that **can be approximated**

Sampson, Dietl, Fortuna, Gnanapragasam, Ceze, Grossman
EnerJ: Approximate Data Types for Safe and General Low-Power Computation (PLDI 2011)
Approximate Hardware Model from EnerJ

Recall – hardware approximations:
• Soft errors
• Timing errors
• Voltage variations
• Aging, Refresh rates, …

All can be modeled as wrong bits (permanent or transient)

```plaintext
reliability spec {
    operator (+.) = 1 - 10^-7;
    operator (-.) = 1 - 10^-7;
    operator (*) = 1 - 10^-7;
    operator (<.) = 1 - 10^-7;
    memory rel {rd = 1, wr = 1};
    memory urel {rd = 1 - 10^-7, wr = 1};
}
```
EnerJ Type System

Idea:
Isolate code and data that **must be precise** from those that **can be approximated**

```java
@Approx int a = approximate_code();
int p;
p = a;  <-------- not ok
```
EnerJ Type System

Idea:
Isolate code and data that **must be precise** from those that **can be approximated**

```java
@Approx int a = approximate_code();
int p;
if (a > 3) { p = 1; } else { p = 2; }
```

Control flow dependency (implicit flow)
EnerJ Type System

Idea:
Isolate code and data that must be precise from those that can be approximated

@Approx int a = approximate_code();
int p;
p = endorse(a);  <-------- ok

Like "cast_type a" in Java
EnerJ Type System

Consequence:
Then the approximate parts may be optimized automatically, but the developer needs to ensure the endorsed values are valid.

```java
@Approx int a = approximate_code();
int p;
p = endorse(a);  //-------- ok
if ( isValid(p) ) { ... } else { errorHandle(a) }
```
EnerJ Type System

Motivation:
Security information flow type systems – prevent the program from leaking information about private variables into public variables.

Noninterference [Goguen and Meseguer 1982]:
“one group of users, using a certain set of commands is noninterfering with another group of users if the first group does with those commands can no effect on what the second group of users can see.”
Relational Safety Verification

\[
\text{for } (i=0; i < m; i++) \{
  \text{sum} = \text{sum} + x[i]
\}
\]
\[
\text{avg} = \text{sum} / m
\]
\[
i < 2*\frac{m}{3} \\
i < \frac{m}{2}
\]
Relational Safety Verification

relax (m) st (0 < m <= old(m))

for (i=0; i < m; i++) {
    sum = sum + x[i]
}

avg = sum / m
Relational Safety Verification

\[
\text{relax (m) st } (0 < m \leq \text{old}(m))
\]

\[
\text{for } (i=0; \ i < m; \ i++) \{ \\
\quad \text{sum} = \text{sum} + x[i] \\
\}
\]

\[
\text{avg} = \frac{\text{sum}}{m}
\]

Transformed execution accesses only (a subset of) memory locations that the original execution would have accessed.
Relational Safety Verification

relax (m) st (0 < m <= old(m))

for (i=0; i < m; i++) {
    sum = sum + x[i]
}

avg = sum / m

The difference between the variable in the original and approximate runs is at most $\delta$

$|\text{sum}(o) - \text{sum}(r)| \leq \delta$
Relative Safety

If the original program satisfies all assertions, then the relaxed program satisfies all assertions.
Relative Safety vs. Just Safety

Established through any means: verification, testing, code review

If the original program satisfies all assertions, then the relaxed program satisfies all assertions.

Any inconsistent behavior must be in the original program!
Relative Safety vs. Just Safety

Established through any means: verification, testing, code review

If the original program satisfies all assertions, then the relaxed program satisfies all assertions

General Proofs: Mechanized in Coq [PLDI '12]
Pointer Safety: Automatic for loop perforation [PEPM '13]
Analysis-Based Optimizations

Accuracy Specification

Reliability  
Function computes result correctly with probability > 0.99

Absolute Error  
Absolute error of function’s result < 2.0

Reliability and Absolute Error  
Absolute error of function’s result < 2.0 with probability > 0.99

\[ \text{int}\{\Delta f \leq 2 ; 0.99 \ast R(\Delta x = 0, \Delta y = 0)\} \, f(int \ x, \ int \ y); \]
Reliability Specification

The function computes result correctly with probability at least 0.99
Reliability Specification

Int < 0.99 \times R(\Delta x = 0, \Delta y = 0, \Delta src = 0) >

interpolation(int x, int y, int src[][][]);

Probability that the parameters have correct values before function starts executing

(facilitates function composition)
Reliability Specification

Reliability degradation

Parameter Reliability

\[ \text{int} < 0.99 \times R(\Delta x = 0, \Delta y = 0, \Delta src = 0) > \]

interpolation(int x, int y, int src[][][]);

- Reliability factor: \( R(\Delta v_1 \leq d_1, \ldots, \Delta v_n \leq d_n) \)

\[ \Delta v \equiv \left| v_{\text{exact}} - v_{\text{approx}} \right| \]

Numerical bound
Function Optimization Problem

Find Function Configuration \( q \):

\[
\text{max} \quad \text{EnergySavings} (q) \\
\text{s. t.} \quad \text{Reliability} (q) \geq \text{ReliabilityBound} \\
\quad \text{AbsoluteError} (q) \leq \text{ErrorBound}
\]

Analysis of the Function Specifications

Misailovic, Carbin, Achour, Qi, and Rinard, OOPSLA 2014: Chisel: Reliability- and Accuracy-Aware Optimization of Approximate Computational Kernels
Image Scaling
Image Scaling: Interpolation Function

\[ f(\begin{array}{c}
\end{array} ) = \begin{array}{c}
\end{array} \]
```c
int interpolation(int dst_x, int dst_y, int src[][[]])
{
    int x = src_location_x(dst_x, src),
    y = src_location_y(dst_y, src);

    int up    = src[y - 1][x],
    down    = src[y + 1][x],
    left    = src[y][x - 1],
    right   = src[y][x + 1];

    int val = up + down + left + right;

    return 0.25 * val;
}
```
Approximate Hardware Model from EnerJ

Recall – hardware approximations:
- Soft errors
- Timing errors
- Voltage variations
- Aging, Refresh rates, …
All can be modeled as wrong bits (permanent or transient)

```
reliability spec {
    operator (+.) = 1 - 10^-7;
    operator (-.) = 1 - 10^-7;
    operator (*.) = 1 - 10^-7;
    operator (<.) = 1 - 10^-7;
    memory rel {rd = 1, wr = 1};
    memory urel {rd = 1 - 10^-7, wr = 1};
}
```
Run Function on Approximate Hardware

```c
int interpolation(int dst_x, int dst_y, int src[][[]]) {
    int x = src_location_x(dst_x, src),
            y = src_location_y(dst_y, src);

    int up    = src[y - .1][x],
            down  = src[y + .1][x],
            left  = src[y][x - .1],
            right = src[y][x + .1];

    int val = up + down + left + right;

    return 0.25 * val;
}
```
Run Function on Approximate Hardware

```c
int interpolation(int dst_x, int dst_y, int src[][[]]) {
    int x = src_location_x(dst_x, src),
       y = src_location_y(dst_y, src);

    int up    = src[y -. 1][x],
         down = src[y +. 1][x],
         left = src[y][x -. 1],
         right = src[y][x +. 1];

    int val = up +. down +. left +. right;

    return 0.25 *. val;
}
```
Function Configuration

Binary vector $q = (q_1, q_2, \ldots, q_n)$

Variable Declarations:
• $q_i$ - if 1, variable is stored in approximate memory
  if 0, variable is stored in exact memory

Arithmetic Operations:
• $q_i$ - if 1, the operation is approximate,
  if 0, the operation is exact
Function Configuration

```c
int interpolation(int dst_x, int dst_y, int src[][[]])
{
    int x = src_location_x(dst_x, src);
    int y = src_location_y(dst_y, src);

    int up    = src[y - 1][x];
    int down  = src[y + 1][x];
    int left  = src[y][x - 1];
    int right = src[y][x + 1];

    int val = up + down + left + right;

    return 0.25 * val;
}
```
```c
int interpolation(int q_dstx, int q_dsty, int q_src[][[]]) {
    int q_x  x = src_location_x(dst_x, src);
    int q_y  y = src_location_y(dst_y, src);

    int q_up  up  = src[y - 1][x];
    int q_down down = src[y + 1][x];
    int q_left left  = src[y][x - 1];
    int q_right right = src[y][x + 1];

    int q_val val = up + down + left + right;
    return 0.25 * val;
}
```
Each assignment of vector $q$ denotes a different approximate function

```c
int interpolation(int $q_{dstx}$ dst_x, int $q_{dsty}$ dst_y, int $q_{src}$ src[][[]])
{
    int $q_x$ x = src_location_x(dst_x, src);
    int $q_y$ y = src_location_y(dst_y, src);

    int $q_{up}$ up      = src[y - $q_{7}$ 1][x];
    int $q_{down}$ down = src[y + $q_{6}$ 1][x];
    int $q_{left}$ left  = src[y][x - $q_{5}$ 1];
    int $q_{right}$ right = src[y][x + $q_{4}$ 1];

    int $q_{val}$ val = up + $q_{1}$ down + $q_{2}$ left + $q_{3}$ right;

    return 0.25 * $q_{0}$ val;
}
```
Reliability Analysis

Motivation

• Efficiently represent reliability of all approximate function versions

• Construct constraints to separate those function versions that satisfy specification
Reliability Analysis

Approximate hardware specification:

- Reliability of arithmetic operations: $r_{op} \in (0, 1]$
- Reliability of memory reads and writes: $r_{rd}, r_{wr} \in (0, 1]$

```
operator (*) = 0.9999;
memory approx {rd = 0.99998, wr = 0.99999};
```

Analysis:

- Sound **static analysis**, operates backward
- Constructs **symbolic expressions** that characterize reliability of kernel’s traces
Reliability Analysis

Statement

```cpp
return val * 0.25;
```

Exact Statement

```cpp
val and * exact
```

Approximate Statement

```cpp
val and * approximate
```

Diagram:

1. Read val
2. Multiply
3. Return result

Details in notes:
Reliability Analysis

Statement

\[ \text{return } \text{val} \times 0.25; \]

Exact Statement

\[ \text{val and * exact} \]

Approximate Statements

\[ \text{val and * approximate} \]

\[ r_{rd} \times r_{times} \]

Statement reliability

\[ 1.0 \]
Reliability Analysis

Statement

```c
return val * 0.25;
```

Encode approximation choice:

- Variable declaration: `int \texttt{q}_{\texttt{val}} val;`
- Multiplication: `val * 0.25;`
Reliability Analysis

Statement  return val * 0.25;

Reliability Expression  \[(r_{rd})^{q_{val}} \cdot (r_{times})^{q_{*}} \cdot R(\Delta val = 0)\]

Encode approximation choice:

- Variable declaration: `int q_{val} val;`
- Multiplication: `val * q_{*} 0.25;`
Reliability Analysis

Statement

```
return val * 0.25;
```

Reliability Expression

\[
(r_{rd})^{q_{val}} \cdot (r_{times})^{q_{\ast}} \cdot R(\Delta val = 0)
\]

Reliability of reading `val` from either exact or approximate memory:

\[
(r_{rd})^{0} = 1.0 \quad (r_{rd})^{1} = r_{rd}
\]
Reliability Analysis

Statement

\[
\text{return val * 0.25;}
\]

Reliability Expression

\[
(r_{rd})^{q_{val}} \cdot (r_{times})^{q^*} \cdot R(\Delta\text{val} = 0)
\]

Reliability of either exact or approximate multiplication
Reliability Analysis

**Statement**

```c
return val * 0.25;
```

**Reliability Expression**

\[
(r_{rd})^{q_{val}} \cdot (r_{times})^{q_{*}} \cdot R(\Delta val = 0)
\]

Probability that previous statements computed `val` correctly.
Interpolation Function

```c
int interpolation(int \( q_{\text{dst}x} \), int \( q_{\text{dst}y} \), int \( q_{\text{src}} \)[][]) {
    return \( \text{val} \times 0.25; \)
}
```

\[
(r_{rd})^{q_{val}} \cdot (r_{times})^{q_{\ast}} \cdot R(\Delta_{\text{val}} = 0)
\]

```
return \( \text{val} \times 0.25; \)
```
Interpolation Function

```c
int interpolation(int q_{dstx} dst_x, int q_{dsty} dst_y, int q_{src} src[][]) {

    int q_{val} val = up + q_1 down + q_2 left + q_3 right;

    return val * q_\ast 0.25;
}
```
Reliability Expression

Function’s Reliability Expression:

$$r_1^{q_1} \cdot r_2^{q_2} \cdot \ldots \cdot r_n^{q_n} \cdot R$$

Probability operations executed reliably (for all approximate versions of the function)

Probability parameters have correct values at function start

$$\Delta_{dst_x} = 0, \Delta_{dst_y} = 0, \Delta_{src} = 0$$
Reliability Constraint

Relates developer’s specification and analysis result:

\[ r_{spec} \cdot R(P_{spec}) \leq r_1^{q_1} \cdot r_2^{q_2} \cdot \ldots \cdot r_n^{q_n} \cdot R(P_{param}) \]
Reliability Constraint

\[ r_{spec} \leq r_1^{q_1} \cdot r_2^{q_2} \cdot \ldots \cdot r_n^{q_n} \]

and

\[ R(P_{spec}) \leq R(P_{param}) \]

Can Immediately Solve
Reliability Constraint

\[ r_{spec} \leq r_1^{q_1} \cdot r_2^{q_2} \cdot \ldots \cdot r_n^{q_n} \]

and

\[ \Delta_{dst} \_x = 0, \quad \Delta_{dst} \_y = 0, \quad \Delta_{src} = 0 \]

\[ P_{spec} \Rightarrow P_{param} \]

\[ \Delta_{dst} \_x = 0, \quad \Delta_{dst} \_y = 0, \quad \Delta_{src} = 0 \]
Reliability Constraint

\[ r_{spec} \leq r_1^{q_1} \cdot r_2^{q_2} \cdot \ldots \cdot r_n^{q_n} \]

Denotes approximate function versions that satisfy the developer’s specification
Reliability Constraint

for the optimization problem

\[
\log(r_{\text{spec}}) \leq q_1 \cdot \log(r_1) + q_2 \cdot \log(r_2) + \cdots + q_n \cdot \log(r_n)
\]

Denotes approximate function versions that satisfy the developer’s specification
Reliability and Control Flow

**Conditionals**  
Constraints for each program path
Analysis removes redundant constraints  
(most constraints can be removed - OOPSLA ’13)

**Bounded Loops**  
Statically known loop bound
Analysis unrolls loop

**Optimization Granularity**  
Optimize blocks of code instead of individual instructions
Function Optimization Problem

Find Function Configuration $q$:

$\max \text{ EnergySavings } (q)$

$\text{Reliability } (q) \geq \text{ReliabilityBound}$

$\text{AbsoluteError } (q) \leq \text{ErrorBound}$
Absolute Error Analysis

**Reduced-precision floating-point instructions:**

- **Almost always** incorrect, but error is bounded
- Hardware specification: number of significant mantissa bits

**Analysis:**

- Bounds worst-case numerical deviation
- Embeds accuracy predicate in reliability factor:

$$r_1^{q_1} \cdot \ldots \cdot r_n^{q_n} \cdot R(\Delta x = 0, \Delta y = 0)$$
Absolute Error Analysis

Reduced-precision floating-point instructions:
- Almost always incorrect, but error is bounded
- Hardware specification: number of significant mantissa bits

Analysis:
- Bounds worst-case numerical deviation
- Embeds accuracy predicate in reliability factor:

\[ r_1^{q_1} \cdot \ldots \cdot r_n^{q_n} \cdot R(\Delta x + 2 \cdot \Delta y + q_1 \cdot \xi_{x,y} < d) \]

Linear function of \( q_1, \ldots, q_n \)
Recall Error Propagation

\[
|f_1(X + \varepsilon_0) + \varepsilon_1 - f_1(X)| \leq K_{f1} \cdot \varepsilon_0 + \varepsilon_1
\]

\[
|f_2(f_1(X + \varepsilon_0) + \varepsilon_1) + \varepsilon_2 - f_2(f_1(X))| \leq K_{f2} \cdot K_{f1} \cdot \varepsilon_0 + K_{f2} \cdot \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2
\]

\[K_f = \max_{x \in \text{Inputs}} \left| \frac{df}{dx} \right|\]
Error Propagation for Some Common Functions

\[ K_f = \max_{x \in \text{Inputs}} \left| \frac{df}{dx} \right| \]
\[ K_{fi} = \max_{x \in \text{Inputs}} \left| \frac{\partial f(x_1, \ldots, x_n)}{\partial x_i} \right| \]

\[ f(x_1, x_2) \quad \text{Err} \]
\[ x \cdot \text{const} \quad \Delta x \cdot \text{const} \]
\[ x + y \quad \Delta x + \Delta y \]
\[ x \cdot y \quad \Delta x \cdot \max(|y + \Delta y|) + \Delta y \cdot \max(|x + \Delta x|) \]
**Interpolation Function**

```c
int interpolation(int q_{dstx} dst_x, int q_{dsty} dst_y, int q_{src} src[][])
{

```

\[
\begin{align*}
(r_{rd})^{q_{val}} \cdot (r_{times})^{q_*} \cdot R(0.25 \cdot \Delta val + q_* \cdot e_* \leq E)
\end{align*}
\]

```

```c
return val * q_* 0.25;
}
```
Interpolation Function

```c
int interpolation(int q_dstr dst_x, int q_dsty dst_y, int q_src src[][[]])
{
    int q_val
    val = up + q1 down + q2 left + q3 right;

    return val * q * 0.25;
}
```
Function Optimization Problem

Find Function Configuration $q$:

$$\max \text{ EnergySavings} (q)$$

Reliability $(q) \geq \text{ReliabilityBound}$

AbsoluteError $(q) \leq \text{ErrorBound}$
Energy Savings Analysis

Profile information:
• Collects traces from running representative inputs

Analysis:
• Estimates savings for instructions and variables from traces

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{instruction:} & \quad q_\ell \cdot \text{Count}_\ell \cdot \text{Saving}_{\text{ALU}} \\
\text{variable:} & \quad q_m \cdot \text{Size}_m \cdot \text{Saving}_{\text{MEM}}
\end{align*}
\]
Energy Savings Analysis

Profile information:
• Collects traces from running representative inputs

Analysis:
• Estimates savings for instructions and variables from traces

Approximate hardware specification:
• Relative savings for operations and memories
• Percentage of system energy that ALU and memory consume

\[
\begin{align*}
C_{\text{ALU}} \sum_{\ell \in \text{Instr}} q_{\ell} \cdot \text{Count}_{\ell} \cdot \text{Saving}_{\text{ALU}} + C_{\text{MEM}} \sum_{m \in \text{Var}} q_{m} \cdot \text{Size}_{m} \cdot \text{Saving}_{\text{MEM}}
\end{align*}
\]
Function Optimization Problem

Find Function Configuration $q$: ✓

$max \ EnergySavings (q) \ ✓$

Reliability $(q) \geq \text{ReliabilityBound} \ ✓$

AbsoluteError $(q) \leq \text{ErrorBound} \ ✓$
Find Function Configuration $q$: ✔

\[ \text{max } \text{EnergySavings} \ (q) \ ✔ \]

Reliability $\ (q) \geq \text{ReliabilityBound} \ ✔$

AbsoluteError $\ (q) \leq \text{ErrorBound} \ ✔$

Solve using off-the-shelf solvers (we use Gurobi)
Evaluation

Benchmarks With Approximated Functions:

- **Scale**: image scaling
- **DCT**: discrete cosine transform
- **IDCT**: inverse discrete cosine transform
- **Blackscholes**: financial option price calculation
- **SOR**: successive over-relaxation kernel

Approximate Hardware Specifications:

- 5 specifications of ALU, caches, and memories from the literature [Ener] – PLDI ‘11
## Complexity of Optimization Problem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Function LOC</th>
<th>Search Space Size</th>
<th>Reliability Constraints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scale</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>$2^{74}$</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCT</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>$2^{35}$</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDCT</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>$2^{53}$</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackscholes</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>$2^{80}$</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOR</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>$2^{10}$</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Solver finds optimal solutions in less than a second
### Energy/Accuracy Tradeoffs

Optimizer computes estimated system savings

Maximum estimated savings for hardware specifications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Reliability Degradation</th>
<th>System-Level Energy Savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scale</td>
<td>0.995</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCT</td>
<td>0.99992</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDCT</td>
<td>0.992</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackscholes</td>
<td>0.999</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOR</td>
<td>0.995</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pros:
• Can explore the space induced by much finer grained transformations (e.g., numerical precision)
• The results are valid for all inputs within range
• New analyses were developed in the meantime

Cons:
• Static analysis is much more conservative than testing
• The set of supported programs is limited
Analysis: Middle Road

What if we know the distribution of the inputs?
CASE 1: Sum Computation

• Original sum computation
  
  \[ s = 0; \]
  \[ \text{for } (i = 0; i < n; i++) \quad s = s + f(i); \]

• Perforated, extrapolated sum computation
  
  \[ s = 0; \]
  \[ \text{for } (i = 0; i < n; i += 2) \quad s = s + f(i); \]
  \[ s = s \ast 2; \]
Step 1: Represent Result Difference

• Original sum computation
  \[ s = 0; \]
  \[ \text{for } (i = 0; i < n; i++) \quad s = s + f(i); \]

• Perforated, extrapolated sum computation
  \[ s = 0; \]
  \[ \text{for } (i = 0; i < n; i += 2) \quad s = s + f(i); \]
  \[ s = s \times 2; \]

• Perforation noise: \[ D = s_{\text{original}} - s_{\text{perforated}} \]
Step 2: Probabilistic Modeling

• Original sum computation
  
  \[
  s = 0; \\
  \text{for } (i = 0; i < n; i++) \quad s = s + f(i); \\
  \]

• Perforated, extrapolated sum computation
  
  \[
  s = 0; \\
  \text{for } (i = 0; i < n; i += 2) \quad s = s + f(i); \\
  s = s \times 2; \\
  \]

• Perforation noise: \( D = s_{\text{original}} - s_{\text{perforated}} \)
Step 2: Probabilistic Modeling

• Original sum computation
  \[ s = 0; \]
  \[ \text{for } (i = 0; i < n; i++) \quad s = s + X_i; \]

• Perforated, extrapolated sum computation
  \[ s = 0; \]
  \[ \text{for } (i = 0; i < n; i += 2) \quad s = s + X_i; \]
  \[ s = s \times 2; \]

• Perforation noise: \[ D = s_{\text{original}} - s_{\text{perforated}} \]
Analysis: Input/Output Relation

Perforation noise:

\[ D = s_{\text{original}} - s_{\text{perforated}} \]
Analysis: Input/Output Relation

Perforation noise:

\[ D = s_{\text{original}} - s_{\text{perforated}} \]

\[ = X_0 + X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5 + X_6 + X_7 + \ldots \]

\[ - 2 \cdot (X_0 + X_2 + X_4 + X_6 + \ldots) \]
Analysis: Input/Output Relation

Perforation noise*:

\[ D = s_{\text{original}} - s_{\text{perforated}} \]

\[ = x_0 + x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 + x_6 + x_7 + ... \]

\[ - x_0 - x_0 - x_2 - x_2 - x_4 - x_4 - x_6 - x_6 - ... \]

*Assuming for simplicity that the number of elements is even
Analysis: Input/Output Relation

Perforation noise*: 

\[ D = s_{\text{original}} - s_{\text{perforated}} \]

\[ = X_0 + X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5 + X_6 + X_7 + \ldots \]

\[ - X_0 - X_0 - X_2 - X_2 - X_4 - X_4 - X_6 - X_6 - \ldots \]

\[ = \sum_{0 \leq i < \frac{n}{2}} (X_{2i+1} - X_{2i}) \]

*Assuming for simplicity that the number of elements is even
Analysis Results

Perforation noise:

\[ D = \varphi(X_0, X_2, \ldots, X_{n-1}) \]
Analysis Results

Perforation noise: $D = \varphi(X_0, X_2, ..., X_{n-1})$

Location: Mean

$E(D) = \mu$
Perforation noise:

\[ D = \phi(X_0, X_2, \ldots, X_{n-1}) \]

Location: Mean

\[ E(D) = \mu \]

Spread: Variance

\[ \text{Var}(D) = \sigma^2 \]
Analysis Results

Perforation noise:
\[ D = \varphi(X_0, X_2, \ldots, X_{n-1}) \]

Location: Mean
\[ E(D) = \mu \]

Spread: Variance
\[ \text{Var}(D) = \sigma^2 \]

Bound: Distribution tail
\[ \Pr[|D| > \delta] < \varepsilon \]
Next Time

Probabilistic programming: Democratizing probabilistic inference