Energy Auto-tuning using the Polyhedral Approach

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ABSTRACT

As the HPC community moves into the exascale computing era, application energy has become a big concern. Tuning for energy will be essential in the effort to overcome the limited power envelope. How is tuning for lower energy related to tuning for faster execution? Understanding that relationship can guide both performance and energy tuning for exascale. In this paper, a strong correlation is presented between the two that allows tuning for execution to be used as a proxy for energy tuning. We also show that polyhedral compilers can effectively tune a realistic application for both time and energy.

For a large number of variants of the Polybench programs and LULESH energy consumption is strongly correlated with total execution time. Optimizations can increase the power and energy required between variants, but the variant with minimum execution time also has the lowest energy usage. The polyhedral framework was also used to optimize a 2D cardiac wave propagation simulation application. Various loop optimizations including fusion, tiling, vectorization, and auto-parallelization, achieved a 20% speedup over the baseline OpenMP implementation, with an equivalent reduction in energy on an Intel Sandy Bridge system. On an Intel Xeon Phi system, improvements as high as 21% in execution time and 19% reduction in energy are obtained.

1. INTRODUCTION

As the HPC community approaches the exascale computing era, reducing application energy and power consumption is important. The cost of supplying the peak power and operational energy for exascale systems will be substantial. Controlling application energy usage of increasingly powerful compute nodes will be required. Before tuning an application for power efficiency, it is necessary to understand how energy consumption is related to the application execution time. Knowledge of the relationship between performance and energy can guide the tuning effort.

Previous work which performed coarse-grain measurement

IMPACT 2014

Fourth International Workshop on Polyhedral Compilation Techniques Jan 20, 2014, Vienna, Austria In conjunction with HiPEAC 2014.

http://impact.gforge.inria.fr/impact2014

have provided evidence for the existence of opportunities to auto-tune for energy in parallel applications [23]. Using the Resource Centric Reflection daemon tool (RCRtool) developed at RENCI [16], energy consumption can be measured at a fine granularity for any OpenMP program. Fine-grain measurements enable attribution of energy consumption to particular application regions and even to the individual lines of codes. This allows for an accurate study of the correlation between execution time and energy consumption of an application.

For most scientific applications, nested loops consume a significant portion of the total running time. When tuning the application for better performance and energy usage, some combination of loop optimizations, including loop tiling, loop unrolling, and loop fusion, are usually performed on the program along with the auto-parallelization. Determining which set of optimizations produces the best results is hard. Polyhedral auto-tuning frameworks have shown promising results at simplifying that effort [15, 13, 14] for small computation kernels like the Polybench programs [18]. In addition to the polybench kernels, we also examine two small applications with the polyhedral framework to determine the frameworks' effectiveness at reducing overall energy consumption.

This paper has 3 main contributions: 1) Fine-grained measurement of execution time and energy consumption with RCRtool and documenting the correlation between the two. 2) Additional speedups up to 20% over the already efficient OpenMP baseline implementation of a small realistic application using polyhedral optimizations on Intel Sandy Bridge and Xeon Phi processors. 3) Evaluation of how a different architecture effects the utility of the polyhedral optimizations techniques for execution time and energy.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we describe the tools used to measure energy consumptions. Section 3 describes the benchmarks used for measuring the energy consumptions and evaluating the effectiveness of polyhedral compilers in optimizing a realistic application. Experimental setup, results and analysis are presented in Section 4 and Section 5. Section 6 explains and compares with related work. Section 7 has our conclusions.

2. ENERGY MEASUREMENT-AND-TUNING TOOLS

To understand energy consumption, execution time and various optimizations, a light-weight fine-grained measurement tool is required. RCRtool provides user-level fast access to hardware counters. Finding the optimal combination of compiler optimizations requires a compilation framework, like the Polyhedral Compiler Collection, that easily produces a large number of program variants with specific optimization parameters.

2.1 RCRtool on Sandy Bridge Systems

The Intel Sandy Bridge architecture allows users to track energy usage through the exposed Running Average Power Limit (RAPL) interface [9]. A model-specific register (MSR) was added with the Sandy Bridge to track energy consumed by the chip – MSR_PKG_ENERGY_STATUS. The counter is frequently updated and counts the energy in 15.3 micro-Joule units. Experiments have shown [16] and the documentation [9] states that the counter can be accessed as often as every microsecond. The counter is only 32 bits and can wrap in as little as a couple of minutes. The RCRtool detects the wraps and supplies a 64 bit value with the upper 32 bits being the number of wraps since RCRtool instantiation. The RCRtool must run at supervisor level to access the counter. It writes the current value of the counter at least 1000 times a second into a shared-memory data structure. This "blackboard" structure provides a hierarchical view of the system where various current performance information is stored. The information is available to any OpenMP applications through a simple API that delineates a code region for measurement with a start and end call. Each region is identified by its file name and line number. If a region is executed multiple times the energy is summed across all executions. All energy information is available during application shutdown.

The ROSE source-to-source compiler [20] finds OpenMP parallel regions and adds RCRtool API calls around the region automatically. ROSE tracks original file name and source line number allowing simple parallel region identification. When the program finishes execution, the elapsed time, the amount of energy used (in Joules), and the average computed power (in Watts) of the parallel regions and the whole application are output. Additional information such as processor temperature is also available during application shut-down. RCRtool runs on Intel architectures with the RAPL interface, and has been tested on Sandy Bridge and Ivy Bridge implementations.

The overhead of the RCR daemon is negligible on both architectures. It enables us to measure the energy consumption of the application with a granularity of about one millisecond.

2.2 RCRtool on Xeon Phi System

The Intel MIC architecture in the Intel Xeon Phi chips is a recent addition to the Intel processor offerings. Our Phi accelerator cards contain 61 cores, each core supports 4 hardware threads. One notable feature is the 512-bit wide SIMD vectors providing fine-grain vectorization and high floating-point performance for each thread. With the wide vector registers, a single instruction can operate on 8 adjacent double-precision floating point data or 16 singleprecision floating point data. The cores, threads and vector unit combine to achieve well over a Teraflop from a single socket.

RCRtool collects power information of Intel Phi natively or on the host. Natively, users can track power usage in microWatts through a file (/sys/class/micras/power) updated every 50 millisecond. RCRtool monitors the power at user level and computes the energy consumption over time. The information is available to the applications through the same simple API as on Sandy Bridge.

RCRtool can also run on the host. On the host, it collects power information using the MICAccessSDK API provided by Intel at the same granularity as the native version. Measurements in this paper were collected with a native Phi RCRdaemon.

2.3 Polyhedral Optimizations Tools

The Polyhedral Compiler Collection (PoCC) [17] was used to generate program variants with different optimizations. The PoCC requires that programs contain static control parts (SCoP) [4, 6] so that valid transformations can be applied. Polybench is a collection of programs that contain SCoPs and can be polyhedral optimized.

PolyOpt (a Polyhedral Optimizer for the ROSE compiler) [19] was also used to automatically detect SCoPs in applications. PolyOpt is integrated into the ROSE compiler. Aside from its capability of extracting SCoP regions in an automatic way, it fully supports PoCC analysis and optimizations. PolyOpt supports loops fusion, loop tiling, threadlevel parallelization and vectorization. PolyOpt has better support for side-effect free program features [1] like math functions, allowing some function calls within a SCoP.

PoCC generates hundreds and even thousands of program variants for simple programs, like Polybench. PolyOpt, although more powerful than PoCC, still may not be able to extract any SCoPs because of structural impediments. Changes to the program may be required to "manually" expose the SCoPs for PolyOpt, allowing loop transformations, parallelization, and vectorization to occur.

3. BENCHMARKS FOR ENERGY MEASURE-MENT AND TUNING

In this work, we evaluate three kinds of programs for energy auto-tuning with the polyhedral framework: Polybench programs, the publicly-accessible LULESH program [10], and a realistic application developed and frequently used by our collaborators.

3.1 Polybench

Previous work has obtained significant speedups with the polyhedral framework for the Polybench programs [15, 13, 14]. Extending that work to examine whether the best tuned variants are also the most energy efficient is the focus of this work. Using PoCC, program variants were generated using a different set of the optimizations from the following five groups:

- Loop fusion: smartfuse, maxfuse, nofuse
- Loop unrolling factor: 1, 2, 4, 8
- Loop tiling: 1, 16, 32, 64. Note that the number of different flags depends on the level of nested loops
- Loop vectorization: on, off
- Loop parallelization: on, off

The Tiling Hyperplane method [2] is used to legally perform loop transformations. Loop fusion is performed to minimize loop overheads. Depending on reuse patterns, fusion can



Figure 1: Graph showing the workflow of obtaining energy consumption of polyhedral optimized (Polybench) programs.

increase or decrease locality. As in [14], 1) nofuse results in no loop fusion 2) smartfuse only fuses statements that carry data reuse and are at similar nesting levels 3) maxfuse performs all legal loop fusion. If the maximum nested loop level is 3, applying all possible combinations of the above flags generates 5135 program variants. The ROSE sourceto-source compiler was used to add energy profiling calls to each variant. GCC(4.4.6) generated the final executable. During execution, periodic queries to the RCRtool blackboard provide the energy consumption information. Figure 1 gives the workflow for measuring energy consumption of Polybench programs using the energy-aware polyhedral compiler framework.

3.2 LULESH

LULESH [10] is a shock hydrodynamic simulation application. It mimics a larger realistic application called ALE3D. We used the OpenMP implementation v1.0 for evaluation. The original LULESH uses a block structured mesh accessed via an indirect reference pattern [10]. To make LULESH go through the polyhedral compilation procedure, we modified LULESH by resolving all indirect array accesses. Although doing this oversimplified LULESH, it allows us to study the energy and time relationship of polyhedral compilation techniques with LULESH.

The LULESH OpenMP implementation contains 30 parallel regions, 6 of which take up more than 60% of the total application time [16]. We manually converted the two most significant parallel regions to two SCoPs so that they can be passed to the polyhedral framework. The resulting largest SCoP contained too many dependences and we found it was hard for the polyhedral compiler to finish transformation and parallelization. When all temporary variables were eliminated from the most computationally intensive loop to create an SCoP, greatly expanded statements required hours of compilation to finish generating even one variant. In this work, we focus on optimizing the 2nd (largest) SCoP of LULESH. 200 program variants were produced by applying loop fusion (maxfuse and smartfuse), loop tiling, vectorization, and parallelization. The execution time and energy of each was measured.

3.3 A Realistic Application

In addition to the Polybench programs, a 2D monodomain

cardiac wave propagation simulation (named brdr2d) was used as a test case. Its model involves solving a set of ODEs and PDEs and is well-known in the computational cardiac modeling field [25]. Equation (1) is the PDE that needs to be solved. The ODEs are used to represent the I_{ion} variable.

$$C_m \frac{\partial V_m}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot D \nabla V_m - I_{ion} \tag{1}$$

The sequential C implementation is more than 1K lines.

One loop nest takes up more than 90% of the total application execution time. The dominant loop nest is an ideal situation for the polyhedral compiler. The loop nest is inside a while loop and is executed many times. This code structure is not unique to cardiac wave propagation simulation. Computationally dominate loops inside either while loops looking for some termination condition or inside a simulation time-step loop are common in scientific codes. LULESH falls into this category with multiple loop nests within a time-step loop.

While PolyOpt originally cannot extract any SCoP from brdr2d, it does output information useful to the user to manually transform the application to contain at least one SCoP. To expose the SCoPs the following changes were required. The computation part of brdr2d was fully inlined removing all function calls. Then, all array indexes were changed to be affine functions of the loop iterators. This involved loop unswitching to specialize modular operations like step % 2. Finally, the number of dependencies was reduced by forward substitution of temporary variables. After these changes, PolyOpt automatically detected the code region and applied various transformations to the SCoPs.

Program variants were generated to explore data locality and parallelism using loop fusion (smartfuse/maxfuse), different tiling sizes, vectorization and auto-parallelization. OpenMP pragmas were automatically generated for each variant. The original sequential C implementation had all required OpenMP pragmas manually added to serve as a baseline. Four different input files for *brdr2d* were used to study how the performance of the program variants is impacted by different input sizes.

4. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The tests ran on a 2-socket 8-core Intel Xeon E5-2680 processor with 20MB (40MB total) L3 cache. PoCC v1.2 was used to generate program variants from Polybench v3.2. The extra large data set (specified in Polybench) was used. A few modifications were made to ROSE (version timestamped 1370387370) to insert the energy API calls. GCC v4.4.6 was the backend compiler. Every executable was compiled with the -O3 optimization flag. To protect against low startup energy/power measurements, the system was warmed up with a computational intensive script before any test was executed.

Experiments were also run on a Xeon Phi coprocessor. The Phi architecture accelerator card contained 61 cores clocked at 1.09GHz. Each core had 512KB of L2 cache. The generated program variants used the ICC v14.0.0 compiler as their backend, producing OpenMP programs that ran natively on the Phi.

5. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The polyhedral framework was first used to examine the energy usage (and the execution time) of the Polybench programs and LULESH on the Intel Sandy Bridge architecture. These programs are written to allow easy framework manipulation of the program. A more realistic application brdr2d on both the Intel Sandy Bridge and the Intel Xeon Phi architectures is then studied.

5.1 Execution Time and Energy Consumption Correlation

The first experiments verify the relationship between execution time and energy consumption.

5.1.1 Polybench

The Polybench v3.2 contains 30 programs. Because of the large number of variants created, the energy consumption of 3 (*covariance*, 2mm, and stencil seidel-2d) were chosen for closer examination. Figure 2 shows the relationship between the execution time and the energy usage for the 5135 variants of the *covariance* benchmark, sorted by execution time. The left y-axis shows the energy consumption (in joules) and the right y-axis shows the execution time (in seconds).

There is clear correlation between the time and the energy. The energy line (blue, mostly the bottom) generally follows the time line. The best optimized program variant for time (bottom right in the figure) consumed the least amount of energy. The energy line has many places where 2 runs that take the same amount of time consume significantly different energy. These appear as spikes in the graph. Examining the data, we noticed that the higher energy usage value always had the "maxfuse" flag set. The last jump is at variant 4236, above which all executions have "maxfuse" set. The executable with "maxfuse" requires significantly more power than with either "smartfuse" or "nofuse". For the executables where no performance improvement is gained, this has noticeable energy costs. However, when the polyhedral framework finds the correct tiling size, the "maxfuse" flag produces a significantly faster executable (note the change in the execution curve that occurs at variant 4236). We believe that "maxfuse" exposes more instruction-level parallelism to the hardware resulting in faster execution. For poor tile sizes this results in an increase in the number of concurrent memory accesses and an increased power demand by the application. With the proper tile size execution time and energy is minimized. The "smartfuse" and "no fuse" options produce executables that run at lower power and may be beneficial if peak power usage is a constraint, but longer execution times (up to $2\times$) result in significantly higher overall energy costs. The interaction between optimizations can have significant impact on their effectiveness for both time, energy and power.

A similar correlation between execution time and energy occurs for the 2mm benchmark (as shown in Figure 3). No single optimization has as great an effect on power as "max-fuse" did in the previous example. The spikes that do occur (especially the left side) are from poor tiling configurations. Power is approximately constant for all the runs, so energy consumption is a function of execution time.

For the stencil benchmark *seidel-2d*, Figure 4 shows when the execution time becomes lowest, the energy consumption is also minimal. The jump in the energy curve occurs for all variants with parallelization turned on. Power for non-parallel variants is less than 60 Watts. Power for the parallel variants are between 110 and 135 Watts. No other optimizations have as significant an effect on the power or



Figure 2: Graph showing the relationship between the execution time and the energy consumption of all *covariance* Polybench program variants on Sandy Bridge (sorted by execution time). The spikes are caused by the "maxfuse" loop transformation.



Figure 3: Graph showing the correlation between the execution time and the energy consumption of 2mm Polybench on Sandy Bridge (sorted by execution time). The spikes are caused by bad tiling configurations.

energy usage.

5.1.2 Modified LULESH

For 200 variants of LULESH, Figure 5 shows the energy used and execution time. The energy curve mirrors the execution time. A slight (< 2%) run-to-run variation in the energy, presents a minor opportunity for energy tuning beyond execution time. LULESH optimizations overall provide almost a $2 \times$ reduction in execution time (22.9 vs 12.1 seconds - 47% reduction) and a significant decrease in energy (3650 vs 2185 Joules - 40% reduction). No optimizations resulted in a significant increase in power, although the power required did rise slightly (from 160 Watts to 180 Watts - 12% increase).

5.1.3 Realistic Application

brdr2d contains two symmetric SCoPs (because of loop unswitching). Each SCoP contained 42 statements. The number of dependencies between these statements was 638



Figure 4: Graph showing the correlation between the execution time and the energy consumption of the Polybench stencil *seidel-2d* on Sandy Bridge (sorted by execution time). Jumps in energy usage (and decreased execution time) are results of turning parallelization on.



Figure 5: Graph showing the correlation between the execution time and the energy consumption of LULESH program on Sandy Bridge (sorted by execution time).

(there were no loop carried dependencies). PolyOpt detected and applied loop fusion (maxfuse or smartfuse) and loop tiling transformations (various tile sizes) as well as vectorization and auto-parallelization to the SCoPs. The fastest 84 program variants were chosen for study on both the Sandy Bridge processor and Xeon Phi coprocessor. 49 of the 84 programs had the "maxfuse" flag turned on.

Figure 6 compares execution time and energy consumption (for 2048 input size) for the cardiac simulation application on the Sandy Bridge processor and on Xeon Phi card. Both Figure 6(a) and Figure 6(b) show that the energy tracks the time. Saving energy consumption is consistent with improving performance on both processors. The brdr2d application has a small number of loops and one dominant loop. In Figure 6(a), the effect of fusion (smartfuse and maxfuse) on power was small (less than 10 Watts difference). Some variants with "bad" tile sizes required less power/energy (indicated by the energy drops). Overall the effect of fusion was insignificant. Figure 6(b) has the time



(a) Time and energy correlation on Sandy Bridge



Figure 6: Graph showing the correlation between the execution time and the energy consumption of brdr2d on Sandy Bridge and on the MIC architecture (both sorted by execution time).

line above the energy line for the left half but below for the right half. For the Phi, the "smartfuse" option clearly used lower power than "maxfuse" (at least 20 Watts). In the meanwhile, the performance of "maxfuse" was much better than "smartfuse" and the overall execution time and energy use for "maxfuse" was lower (up to $5\times$). On Xeon Phi "maxfuse" combined with good tiling size exposed more parallelism for Xeon Phi to take advantage of. The fastest execution times occurred with "maxfuse" and good tiling sizes.

5.2 Polyhedral Optimization Results on the Realistic Application

Optimizing *brdr2d* on the Sandy Bridge Processor and on Phi coprocessor shows the advantage using the polyhedral framework to optimize for both execution time and energy.

5.2.1 Results on the Sandy Bridge Processor

To better understand the optimization variants of brdr2dthey were executed with four different input sizes. Figure 7 compares the best variant for each input size with the baseline OpenMP version. The optimal tiling was different as the input grew. For the 256 case 1×128 resulted in the fastest execution, For the larger cases, the variant with tile size 1×256 was fastest. As the problem size grew the optimized variants' relative performance and energy consumption improved (256 - 2.5% to 2048 - 21%). As the loop size increases and the loop nest becomes a more dominant portion of the



Figure 7: Graph showing the performance improvement and energy savings of the optimal program variant over the baseline OpenMP implementation for different problem sizes on the Sandy Bridge Processor.

execution, the relative performance (comparing to the baseline OpenMP implementation) from optimization improves. For the smaller sizes the data fit into various cache levels and the benefits of loop optimizations for data locality are ineffective.

5.2.2 Results on Intel Xeon Phi

To show the benefits of using polyhedral optimization techniques on the Phi accelerator card, the performance of a manual OpenMP implementation can be compared with the best Polyopt/PoCC generated OpenMP program variant (shown in Figure 8). The speedups were calculated against a sequential Sandy Bridge execution.

The best PoCC variant of *brdr2d*, is over 20% faster than the baseline Phi version for small sizes. For the largest size, 2048, the best Polyopt/PoCC variant is still slightly better than the baseline and has an absolute speed up of over $150 \times$. The optimal tiling size changes as the input grows. In each case, $1 \times size$ is preferred for maximum vectorization. As the problem size grows, non-tiled vectorization improves, reducing the effectiveness of tiling. As expected, the two main performance drivers for the Phi are parallelization, for threads, and vectorization, within threads.

The polyhedral optimizations also improve energy. Figure 9 shows the *relative* speedups and the normalized energy savings offered by the polyhedral transformations and autoparallelization. The energy savings approximately match the relative speedups, ranging from 20% down to 3% as size increases (and baseline vectorization improves).

6. RELATED WORK

6.1 Benchmarks for Polyhedral Framework

There are a few benchmarks available to evaluate polyhedral transformations as an approach to improving application performance. Our work adds two non-trivial application (LULESH and *brdr2d*) to the family of benchmarks that are polyhedral optimizable. The Polybench [18] and the SWIM [24] benchmark are two benchmark suites that are often used. The Polybench programs evaluate polyhe



Figure 8: Graph showing the comparison between speedups of a manual OpenMP implementation and the best Polyopt/PoCC generated OpenMP program variant over the sequential implementation on the MIC architecture.



Figure 9: Graph showing the performance improvement and energy savings of the optimal Polyopt/PoCC generated program variant over the baseline OpenMP implementation for different problem sizes on the MIC architecture.

dral transformations and are used to construct predictive models by Park *et al.* [15, 13, 14]. They are also used to evaluate auto-parallelization techniques targeting different architectures, using different tools. Grauer-Gray *et al.* [7] utilized high level languages to target GPU architectures by annotating Polybench programs. Konstantinidis *et al.* [12] studied GPU code generation given the Polybench programs that contain affine loops. SCoPs in LULESH and *brdr2d* are much more complex than polybench programs. In particular, some LULESH SCoPs contain thousands of dependencies. The two benchmarks can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of newly-developed polyhedral techniques.

6.2 Energy Measurement and Tuning

The accuracy of our energy-aware polyhedral framework relies on the exactness of RAPL. While presenting the HAE-CER framework for short-term energy measurements using RAPL, Hähnel *et al.* reported identical curve characteristics comparing RAPL with external measurement [8]. The HAE-CER framework was not used here because of the need to measure long code paths—the executions finish in the order of seconds by testing with large datasets.

Our work is not the first to show that "hurry up to quit" can be most energy efficient. Yuki et al. developed a highlevel energy model of power consumption under Dynamic Voltage and Frequency Scaling (DVFS) and found it best to run as fast as possible to completion [26]. They pointed out that the constant power of current machines were significant enough to render DVFS useless in saving energies. Before them, Cho and Melhem [3] identified that DVFS might not help if the fraction of total power unaffected by DVFS is large. We evaluated the energy effects of polyhedral optimizations, rather than DVFS, by measuring the energy consumptions of hundreds to thousands of program variants. In most cases, programs trying to "hurry up to finish" consumed the minimum amount of energy and we conclude that optimizing for execution can be used as a proxy to optimizing for energy.

Rahman et al. [21] studied the impact of application level optimizations from both the performance and power efficiency perspective of various applications. They found that optimizing for performance did not guarantee better power consumption. We observed similar results in Figure 2 and Figure 3 for non-optimal program variants but the graphs showed that for the optimal case, tuning for performance and power were effectively equivalent. To improve performance and energy efficiency for a Many-Core architecture, Garcia et al. [5] studied the energy consumptions of applications and proposed models characterizing application energy consumption footprints. We did not develop energy models but took advantage of the exposed hardware interfaces to obtain accurate energy consumption information from modern commodity processor architectures like Intel Sandy Bridge and Xeon Phi.

To improve performance, people have developed techniques from distinctive ways. Tavarageri *et al.* [22] adopted a compiler analysis approach to configure the cache size to reduce energy consumption without performance loss. New programming languages [11] and models like Chapel, Liszt and others were introduced to facilitate program optimizations on parallel architectures.

7. CONCLUSION

As expected, using an auto-tuning framework on a variety of small benchmarks and small applications has shown the high degree of correlation between execution time and energy consumption. Individual optimization can however have significant impact on the power required by an application. In the Polybench program *covariance*, using the "maxfuse" option resulted in a 20+% percent power increase. With the correct tile size "maxfuse" also resulted in a 50+% time decrease. "maxfuse" increases power consumption but reduces total energy required to complete the computation due to the decrease in execution time. Understanding how power and energy are used at the small scale can contribute to the understanding of power/energy requirements of Exascale applications.

Polyhedral optimization techniques can provide significant increases in performance but currently require significant user modifications to any real application to generate SCoPs with reasonable compilation times. On small real applications, like LULESH and *brdr2d*, polyhedral transformations allow the discovery of effective tiling sizes for SCoPs within the applications.

8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work is supported by the DOE XPress (DE-SC0008704) and the DoD ATPAR (PNNL-214990). The authors would like to thank EunJung Park and Matthew Kay for sharing the polyhedral optimized Polybench programs and the cardiac wave propagation simulation application. The authors would also like to thank Louis-Noël Pouchet, Albert Cohen, and Riyadh Baghdadi for their help with the polyhedral compilation of benchmarks. Last but not least, the authors would like to thank all the anonymous reviewers for their valuable feedback to help improve this work.

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