PetaBricks: A Language and Compiler based on Autotuning

Saman Amarasinghe

Joint work with Jason Ansel, Marek Olszewski Cy Chan, Yee Lok Wong, Maciej Pacula Una-May O'Reilly and Alan Edelman

Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory Massachusetts Institute of Technology







Outline



- The Three Side Stories
 - Performance and Parallelism with Multicores
 - Future Proofing Software
 - Evolution of Programming Languages
- Three Observations
- PetaBricks
 - Language
 - Compiler
 - Results
 - Variable Precision
 - Sibling Rivalry







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 - Moore's law bring Joe performance
 - Sufficient for Joe's requirements





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 Parallel Programming is only practiced by a few experts



Moore's Law





From David Patterson

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Uniprocessor Performance (SPECint)



From David Patterson

Number of Transistors



- 10,000x performance gain in 30 years! (~46% per year)
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- Little to no emphasis on performance
- This is reflected in:
 - Languages
 - Tools
 - Research
 - Education
- Software Engineering: Only engineering discipline where performance or efficiency is not a central theme





- Abstraction and Software Engineering
 - Immutable Types
 - Dynamic Dispatch
 - Object Oriented
- High Level Languages
- Memory Management
 - Transpose for unit stride
 - Tile for cache locality
- Vectorization
- Prefetching





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1,117x





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7,514x





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12,316x





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| | Immutable | Mutable | Double Only | No Objects | In C | Transposed | Tiled | Vectorized | BLAS MxM | BLAS Parallel |
|----|------------|---------|----------------|---------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------------|------------------|
| ms | 17,094,152 | 77,826 | 32,800 | 15,306 | 7,530 | 2,275 | 1,388 | 511 | 196 | 58 |
| | ι) | | | | | | | | γ | |
| | 219.7x | | 2.2x | | 3.4x | | 2.8x | | 3.5x | |
| | | 2.4x | | 2.1x | | 1.7x | | 2.7x | | |

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296,260x



296,260x



- Typical Software Engineering Approach
 - In Java
 - Object oriented
 - Immutable
 - Abstract types
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Good Performance Engineering Approach In C/Assembly Memory optimized (blocked) BLAS libraries Parallelized (to 4 cores)





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Performance and Parallelism



- No more automatic performance gains
 →Performance has to come from somewhere else
 - Better languages
 - Disciplined programming
 - Performance engineering
 - Plus…

Performance and Parallelism



- No more automatic performance gains
 - \rightarrow Performance has to come from somewhere else
 - Better languages
 - Disciplined programming
 - Performance engineering
 - Plus…
 - Parallelism
 - Moore's low morphed from providing performance to providing parallelism
 - But...Parallelism IS performance

- Moore's law is not bringing anymore performance gains
- If Joe needs performance he has to deal with multicores
 - Joe has to deal with performance
 - Joe has to deal with parallelism






Can Joe Handle This?



Today



Programmer is oblivious to performance.

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Can Joe Handle This?



Current Trajectory



Programmer handles parallelism and performance turning

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Can Joe Handle This?



Current Trajectory



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Programmer is oblivious to performance.

Better Trajectory



Programmer handles concurrency. Compiler finds best parallel mapping and optimize for performance

Conquering the Multicore Menace



Conquering the Multicore Menace



- Parallelism Extraction
 - The world is parallel, but most computer science is based in sequential thinking
 - Parallel Languages
 - Natural way to describe the maximal concurrency in the problem
 - Parallel Thinking
 - Theory, Algorithms, Data Structures \rightarrow Education

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 - Theory, Algorithms, Data Structures \rightarrow Education
- Parallelism Management
 - Mapping algorithmic parallelism to a given architecture
 - Find the best performance possible



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In the mean time.....the experts practicing

- They needed to get the last ounce of the performance from hardware
- They had problems that are too big or too hard
- They worked on the biggest newest machines
- Porting the software to take advantage of the latest hardware features
- Spending years (lifetimes) on a specific kernel



Lifetime of Software >> Hardware



• Lifetime of a software application is 30+ years

- Lifetime of a computer system is less than 6 years
- New hardware every 3 years

- Multiple Ports
- "Software Quality deteriorates" in each port
- Huge problem for these expert programmers



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Not a problem for Joe



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Not a problem for Joe





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- No single machine model anymore
 - Between different processor types
 - Between different generation within the same family
- Programs need to be written-once and use anywhere, anytime
 - Java did it for portability
 - We need to do it for performance

Lan



Languages and Future Proofing

- To be an effective language that can future-proof programs
 - Restrict the choices when a property is hard to automate or constant across architectures of current and future → expose to the user
 - Features that are automatable and variable \rightarrow hide from the user





A lot now

- Expose the architectural details
- Good performance now
- In a local minima
- Will be obsolete soon
- Heroic effort needed to get out
- Ex: MPI

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- Hide the architectural details
- Good solutions not visible
- Mediocre performance
- But will work forever
- Ex: HPF



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Ancient Days...





- Computers had limited power
- Compiling was a daunting task
- Languages helped by limiting choice
- Overconstraint programming languages that express only a single choice of:
 - Algorithm
 - Iteration order
 - Data layout
 - Parallelism strategy











- Computers got faster
- More cycles available to the compiler
- Wanted to optimize the programs, to make them run better and faster





...and we ended up at





- Computers are extremely powerful
- Compilers want to do a lot
- But...the same old overconstraint languages
 - They don't provide too many choices
- Heroic analysis to rediscover some of the choices
 - Data dependence analysis
 - Data flow analysis
 - Alias analysis
 - Shape analysis
 - Interprocedural analysis
 - Loop analysis
 - Parallelization analysis
 - Information flow analysis
 - Escape analysis

• ...



Need to Rethink Languages





- Give Compiler a Choice
 - Express 'intent' not 'a method'
 - Be as verbose as you can
- Muscle outpaces brain
 - Compute cycles are abundant
 - Complex logic is too hard





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- For many problems there are multiple algorithms
 - Most cases there is no single winner
 - An algorithm will be the best performing for a given:
 - Input size
 - Amount of parallelism
 - Communication bandwidth / synchronization cost
 - Data layout
 - Data itself (sparse data, convergence criteria etc.)



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 - Exponential growth of cores (impact of Moore's law)
 - Wide variation of memory systems, type of cores etc.



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- It seems that computer scientists have a hard time thinking in parallel
 - We have unnecessarily imposed sequential ordering on the world
 - Statements executed in sequence
 - for i= 1 to n
 - Recursive decomposition (given f(n) find f(n+1))



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 - We have unnecessarily imposed sequential ordering on the world
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 - Recursive decomposition (given f(n) find f(n+1))
- This was useful at one time to limit the complexity.... But a big problem in the era of multicores



Observation 3: Autotuning



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Observation 3: Autotuning



• Good old days \rightarrow model based optimization

Observation 3: Autotuning



- Good old days → model based optimization
- Now
 - Machines are too complex to accurately model
 - Compiler passes have many subtle interactions
 - Thousands of knobs and billions of choices



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Observation 3: Autotuning

- Good old days \rightarrow model based optimization
- Now
 - Machines are too complex to accurately model
 - Compiler passes have many subtle interactions
 - Thousands of knobs and billions of choices
- But...
 - Computers are cheap
 - We can do end-to-end execution of multiple runs
 - Then use machine learning to find the best choice







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PetaBricks Language



```
transform MatrixMultiply
from A[c,h], B[w,c]
to AB[w,h]
```

```
// Base case, compute a single element
to(AB.cell(x,y) out)
from(A.row(y) a, B.column(x) b) {
    out = dot(a, b);
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Implicitly parallel description



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•
  description
```

Algorithmic choice



}

to(AB ab)





```
transform MatrixMultiply
                                                             // Recursively decompose in w
                                                             to(AB.region(0, 0, w/2, h) ab1,
from A[c,h], B[w,c]
                                                                AB.region(w/2, 0, w, h) ab2)
to AB[w,h]
                                                             from(Aa,
ł
  // Base case, compute a single element
                                                                   B.region(0, 0, w/2, c) b1,
  to(AB.cell(x,y) out)
                                                                   B.region(w/2, 0, w, c) b2)
  from(A.row(y) a, B.column(x) b) {
                                                              ab1 = MatrixMultiply(a, b1);
                                                              ab2 = MatrixMultiply(a, b2);
    out = dot(a, b);
 }
 // Recursively decompose in c
```



b2



}





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```

```
}
```

```
// Recursively decompose in w
to(AB.region(0, 0, w/2, h ) ab1,
    AB.region(w/2, 0, w, h ) ab2)
from( A a,
        B.region(0, 0, w/2, c ) b1,
        B.region(w/2, 0, w, c ) b2) {
    ab1 = MatrixMultiply(a, b1);
    ab2 = MatrixMultiply(a, b2);
}
```

```
// Recursively decompose in h
to(AB.region(0, 0, w, h/2) ab1,
    AB.region(0, h/2, w, h ) ab2)
from(A.region(0, 0, c, h/2) a1,
    A.region(0, h/2, c, h ) a2,
    B b) {
    ab1=MatrixMultiply(a1, b);
    ab2=MatrixMultiply(a2, b);
  }
}
```





```
transform Strassen
     from A11[n,n], A12[n,n], A21[n,n], A22[n,n],
        B11[n,n], B12[n,n], B21[n,n], B22[n,n]
     through M1[n,n], M2[n,n], M3[n,n], M4[n,n], M5[n,n], M6[n,n], M7[n,n]
     to C11[n,n], C12[n,n], C21[n,n], C22[n,n]
      to(M1 m1) from(A11 a11, A22 a22, B11 b11, B22 b22) using(t1[n,n], t2
     [n,n]) {
        MatrixAdd(t1, a11, a22);
        MatrixAdd(t2, b11, b22);
        MatrixMultiplySqr(m1, t1, t2);
      to(M2 m2) from(A21 a21, A22 a22, B11 b11) using(t1[n,n]) {
        MatrixAdd(t1, a21, a22);
        MatrixMultiplySqr(m2, t1, b11);
      to(M3 m3) from(A11 a11, B12 b12, B22 b22) using(t1[n,n]) {
        MatrixSub(t2, b12, b22);
        MatrixMultiplySgr(m3, a11, t2);
      to(M4 m4) from(A22 a22, B21 b21, B11 b11) using(t1[n,n]) {
        MatrixSub(t2, b21, b11);
        MatrixMultiplySqr(m4, a22, t2);
      to(M5 m5) from(A11 a11, A12 a12, B22 b22) using(t1[n,n]) {
        MatrixAdd(t1, a11, a12);
        MatrixMultiplySqr(m5, t1, b22);
```

```
to(M6 m6) from(A21 a21, A11 a11, B11 b11, B12 b12)
using(t1[n,n], t2[n,n]) {
  MatrixSub(t1, a21, a11);
  MatrixAdd(t2, b11, b12);
  MatrixMultiplySgr(m6, t1, t2);
 to(M7 m7) from(A12 a12, A22 a22, B21 b21, B22 b22)
using(t1[n,n], t2[n,n]) {
  MatrixSub(t1, a12, a22);
  MatrixAdd(t2, b21, b22);
  MatrixMultiplySqr(m7, t1, t2);
 to(C11 c11) from(M1 m1, M4 m4, M5 m5, M7 m7){
  MatrixAddAddSub(c11, m1, m4, m7, m5);
 to(C12 c12) from(M3 m3, M5 m5){
  MatrixAdd(c12, m3, m5);
 to(C21 c21) from(M2 m2, M4 m4){
  MatrixAdd(c21, m2, m4);
 to(C22 c22) from(M1 m1, M2 m2, M3 m3, M6 m6){
  MatrixAddAddSub(c22, m1, m3, m6, m2);
```



Language Support for Algorithmic Choice



- Algorithmic choice is the key aspect of PetaBricks
- Programmer can define multiple rules to compute the same data
- Compiler re-use rules to create hybrid algorithms
- Can express choices at many different granularities





Outer control flow synthesized by compiler





| 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| | I | | I | | | | I | | |
| 7 | | | | | | 7 | | | |
| Τ | | Τ | | Ζ | | Τ | | | |
| Γ | | η | | η | | | | Γ | |



- Outer control flow synthesized by compiler
- Another choice that the programmer should not make
 - By rows?
 - By columns?
 - Diagonal? Reverse order? Blocked?
 - Parallel?









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 - Diagonal? Reverse order? Blocked?
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- Instead programmer provides explicit producer-consumer relations
- Allows compiler to explore choice space



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 - Evolution of Programming Languages
- Three Observations
- PetaBricks
 - Language
 - Compiler
 - Results
 - Variable Precision
 - Sibling Rivalry







```
transform RollingSum
from A[n]
to B[n]
{
    // rule 0: use the previously computed value
    B.cell(i) from (A.cell(i) a, B.cell(i-1) leftSum) {
        return a + leftSum;
    }
```

```
// rule 1: sum all elements to the left
B.cell(i) from (A.region(0, i) in) {
    return sum(in);
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Compilation Process



- Applicable Regions
- Choice Grids
- Choice Dependency Graphs







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Choice Grids



- Divide data space into symbolic regions with common sets of choices
- In this simple example:
 - A: Input (no choices)
 - B: [0; 1) = rule 1
 - B: [1; n) = rule 0 or rule 1
- Applicable regions map rules \rightarrow symbolic data
- Choice grids map symbolic data \rightarrow rules





Choice Dependency Graphs





- Many compiler passes on this IR to:
 - Simplify complex dependency patterns
 - Add choices

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PetaBricks Flow





- 1. PetaBricks source code is compiled
- 2. An autotuning binary is created
- 3. Autotuning occurs creating a choice configuration file
- 4. Choices are fed back into the compiler to create a static binary



Autotuning



- Based on two building blocks:
 - A genetic tuner
 - An n-ary search algorithm
- Flat parameter space
- Compiler generates a dependency graph
 describing this parameter space
- Entire program tuned from bottom up



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Size

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Size



Algorithmic Choice in Sorting







Algorithmic Choice in Sorting





STL Algorithm

| Radixsort | Quicksort |
|-----------|-----------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

Algorithmic Choice in Sorting





Optimized For:

Xeon (1 core)

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Algorithmic Choice in Sorting





Optimized For:

Xeon (1 core)

Xeon (8 cores)

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Algorithmic Choice in Sorting





Xeon (1 core) Xeon (8 cores)

Niagra (8 cores)

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Future Proofing Sort



| System | | Cores used | Scalability | Algorithm Choices (w/ switching points) | |
|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|---|--|
| Mobile | Core 2 Duo Mobile | 2 of 2 | 1.92 | IS(150) 8MS(600) 4MS(1295) 2MS (38400) QS(∞) | |
| Xeon 1-way | Xeon E7340 (2 x 4 core) | 1 of 8 | - | IS(75) 4MS(98) RS(∞) | |
| Xeon 8-way | Xeon E7340 (2 x 4 core) | 8 of 8 | 5.69 | IS(600) QS(1420) 2MS(∞) | |
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| | | | Trained On | | | | |
|----|-----|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------|--|
| | | | Mobile | Xeon 1-way | Xeon 8-way | Niagara | |
| | Run | Mobile | - | 1.09x | 1.67x | 1.47x | |
| | On | Xeon 1-way | 1.61x | - | 2.08x | 2.50x | |
| | | Xeon 8-way | 1.59x | 2.14x | - | 2.35x | |
| 57 | | Niagara | 1.12x | 1.51x | 1.08x | - | |



Matrix Multiply



Size

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Matrix Multiply



Size

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Eigenvector Solve



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Size





Eigenvector Solve



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Variable Accuracy Algorithms



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- Lots of algorithms where the accuracy of output can be tuned:
 - Iterative algorithms (e.g. solvers, optimization)
 - Signal processing (e.g. images, sound)
 - Approximation algorithms
- Can trade accuracy for speed
- All user wants: Solve to a certain accuracy as fast as possible using whatever algorithms necessary!





• Used to iteratively solve PDEs over a gridded domain





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- **Relaxations** update points using neighboring values (stencil computations)





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 Generalize the idea of what a multigrid cycle can look like



• Goal: Auto-tune cycle shape for specific usage



- Need framework to make fair comparisons
- Perspective of a specific grid resolution
- How to get from A to B?





- Tuning cycle shape!
 - Examples of recursive options:





- Tuning cycle shape!
 - Examples of recursive options:



Take a shortcut at a coarser resolution



- Tuning cycle shape!
 - Examples of recursive options:



Iterating with shortcuts



- Tuning cycle shape!
 - Once we pick a recursive option, how many times do we iterate?



• Number of iterations depends on what **accuracy** we want at the current grid resolution!



Optimal Subproblems



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Optimal Subproblems



72


• Plot all cycle shapes for a given grid resolution:



 Idea: Maintain a family of optimal algorithms for each grid resolution



The Discrete Solution







The Discrete Solution

Problem: Too many optimal cycle shapes to remember



 Solution: Remember the fastest algorithms for a discrete set of accuracies



The Discrete Solution

Problem: Too many optimal cycle shapes to remember



 Solution: Remember the fastest algorithms for a discrete set of accuracies





Use Dynamic Programming

- Only search cycle shapes that utilize optimized sub-cycles in recursive calls
- Build optimized algorithms from the bottom up





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- Allow shortcuts to stop recursion early





Use Dynamic Programming

- Only search cycle shapes that utilize optimized sub-cycles in recursive calls
- Build optimized algorithms from the bottom up
- Allow shortcuts to stop recursion early
- Allow multiple iterations of sub-cycles to explore time vs. accuracy space







- Algorithmic choice Shortcut base cases
 Recursively call some optimized sub-cycle
- Iterations and recursive accuracy let us explore accuracy versus performance space
- Only remember "best" versions



















Algorithmic choice Shortcut base cases Recursively call some optimized sub-cycle







- Algorithmic choice Shortcut base cases Recursively call some optimized sub-cycle
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Variable Accuracy Keywords



transform Multigrid_k **from** X[n,n], B[n,n] **to** Y[n,n]







• accuracy_variable – tunable variable

transform Multigrid_k
from X[n,n], B[n,n]
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accuracy_variable numIterations

Variable Accuracy Keywords



- accuracy_variable tunable variable
- accuracy_metric returns accuracy of output

transform Multigrid_k from X[n,n], B[n,n] to Y[n,n] accuracy_variable numIterations accuracy_metric Poisson2D_metric





- accuracy_variable tunable variable
- accuracy_metric returns accuracy of output
- accuracy_bins set of discrete accuracy bins

transform Multigrid_k from X[n,n], B[n,n] to Y[n,n] accuracy_variable numlterations accuracy_metric Poisson2D_metric accuracy_bins 1e1 1e3 1e5 1e7





- accuracy_variable tunable variable
- accuracy_metric returns accuracy of output
- **accuracy_bins** set of discrete accuracy bins
- generator creates random inputs for accuracy measurement

transform Multigrid_k from X[n,n], B[n,n] to Y[n,n] accuracy_variable numIterations accuracy_metric Poisson2D_metric accuracy_bins 1e1 1e3 1e5 1e7 generator Poisson2D_Generator





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Multigrid Multigrid Multigrid Multigrid Multigrid Multigrid Multigrid Multigrid Multigrid Multigrid











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Example: Auto-tuned 2D







Auto-tuned Cycles for



Cycle shapes for accuracy levels a) 10, b) 10³, c) 10⁵, d) 10⁷





Auto-tuned Cycles for



Cycle shapes for accuracy levels a) 10, b) 10³, c) 10⁵, d) 10⁷ Optimized substructures visible in cycle shapes

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Auto-tuned Cycles for



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Matrix Size

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Matrix Size

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Binpacking – Algorithmic Choices



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Accuracy



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Issues with Offline Tuning



- Offline-tuning workflow burdensome
 - Programs often not re-autotuned when they should be
 - e.g. apt-get install fftw does not re-autotune
 - Hardware upgrades / large deployments
 - Transparent migration in the cloud
- Can't adapt to dynamic conditions
 - System load
 - Input types

SiblingRivalry: an Online Approach



- Split available resources in half
- Process identical requests on both halves
- Race two candidate configurations (safe and experimental) and terminate slower algorithm
- Initial slowdown (from duplicating the request) can be overcome by autotuner
- Surprisingly, reduces average power consumption per request



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Experimental Setup



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SiblingRivalry: throughput





SiblingRivalry: energy usage (on AMD48)



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• Time has come for languages based on autotuning





- Time has come for languages based on autotuning
- Convergence of multiple forces
 - The Multicore Menace
 - Future proofing when machine models are changing
 - Use more muscle (compute cycles) than brain (human cycles)





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- Convergence of multiple forces
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 - Future proofing when machine models are changing
 - Use more muscle (compute cycles) than brain (human cycles)
- PetaBricks We showed that it can be done!
- Will programmers accept this model?
 - A little more work now to save a lot later
 - Complexities in testing, verification and validation