Server Benchmarking with CloudSuite 4.0

Ali Ansari†, Shanqing Lin‡, Rafael Pizarro Solar†, Ayan Chakraborty†, Bugra Eryilmaz‡

Babak Falsafi†‡, Michael Ferdman‡

†PARSA, EPFL  ‡EcoCloud, EPFL  ‣Stony Brook University

Cloud Server Efficiency

- Constant demand for more servers
- Increasing costs of HW, space & power

Modern Servers are Scale-Up

- Aggressive cores
- Large instruction window
  
  Exec. Units
  
  Inst. Window

  L1-D
  
  L1-I
  
  32 KB

- L2 & large L3 cache
  
  Mem. Accesses

  L2
  
  1 MB

- Vast Bandwidth
  
  L3
  
  77 MB

  262 GB/s

Cloud Applications are Scale-out

- Serve independent requests/tasks
- Operate on huge dataset split into shards
- Communicate infrequently

Why not Conventional Scale-Up Processors?

- Developed based on general purpose applications’ needs
- One size does not fit all: need for workload-specific hardware specialization
- Missing notion of repetitive request handling
- Clearing the Clouds [Ferdman, ASPLOS’12] already highlighted:
  - Too fat cores: Low power efficiency
  - Too few cores: Low parallelism
  - Too much cache: Slow, waste of silicon

Need for specialized scale-out processors

Prior Research Using CloudSuite

- [Ferdman, ASPLOS’12]: Clearing the Clouds, examining the scale-out server workloads’ execution requirement mismatches with hardware
- [Lotfi-Kamran, ISCA’12]: Scale-out processors, a cloud-native CPU microarchitecture which used in designing Cavium ThunderX CPUs
- [Karakostas, IISWC’14]: Performance Analysis of the Memory Management Unit under Scale-out Workloads
- [Bakhshalipour, HPCA’19]: Bingo Spatial Data Prefetcher
- [Gupta, HPCA’23]: A flash-based system for online services

CloudSuite enabled various architectural research in the community

Research Directions with CloudSuite

- Revisiting the workloads’ requirements from hardware
- The difference between x86, ARM, and RISC-V platforms’ characteristics for running scale-out server workloads
- Customizing the instruction set for the server workloads’ semantics
- Designing accelerators for post-Moore era datacenters
- Improving silicon efficiency for future processors’ microarchitecture

Countless and interesting research opportunities with CloudSuite!