Using Pin for Compiler and Computer Architecture Research and Education

PLDI Tutorial
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Part One: Introduction and Overview

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What is Instrumentation?

A technique that inserts extra code into a program to collect runtime information

Instrumentation approaches:

• Source instrumentation:
  – Instrument source programs

• Binary instrumentation:
  – Instrument executables directly
Why use Dynamic Instrumentation?

- No need to recompile or relink
- Discover code at runtime
- Handle dynamically-generated code
- Attach to running processes

How is Instrumentation used in Compiler Research?

Program analysis
- Code coverage
- Call-graph generation
- Memory-leak detection
- Instruction profiling

Thread analysis
- Thread profiling
- Race detection
How is Instrumentation used in Computer Architecture Research?

• Trace Generation
• Branch Predictor and Cache Modeling
• Fault Tolerance Studies
• Emulating Speculation
• Emulating New Instructions

Advantages of Pin Instrumentation

**Easy-to-use Instrumentation:**
• Uses dynamic instrumentation
  - Do not need source code, recompilation, post-linking

**Programmable Instrumentation:**
• Provides rich APIs to write in C/C++ your own instrumentation tools (called Pintools)

**Multiplatform:**
• Supports x86, x86-64, Itanium, Xscale
• Supports Linux, Windows, MacOS

**Robust:**
• Instruments real-life applications: Database, web browsers, ...
• Instruments multithreaded applications
• Supports signals

**Efficient:**
• Applies compiler optimizations on instrumentation code
Other Advantages

• Robust and stable
  – Pin can run itself!
  – 12+ active developers
  – Nightly testing of 25000 binaries on 15 platforms
  – Large user base in academia and industry
  – Active mailing list (Pinheads)

• 14,000 downloads

Using Pin

Launch and instrument an application

$ pin -t pintool -- application

Instrumentation engine (provided in the kit)

Instrumentation tool (write your own, or use one provided in the kit)

Attach to and instrument an application

$ pin -t pintool -pid 1234
Pin Instrumentation APIs

Basic APIs are architecture independent:
• Provide common functionalities like determining:
  – Control-flow changes
  – Memory accesses

Architecture-specific APIs
• e.g., Info about segmentation registers on IA32

Call-based APIs:
• Instrumentation routines
• Analysis routines

Instrumentation vs. Analysis

Concepts borrowed from the ATOM tool:

Instrumentation routines define where instrumentation is inserted
• e.g., before instruction
  ✨ Occurs first time an instruction is executed

Analysis routines define what to do when instrumentation is activated
• e.g., increment counter
  ✨ Occurs every time an instruction is executed
Pintool 1: Instruction Count

```assembly
sub $0xff, %edx
    counter++;
cmp %esi, %edx
    counter++;
jle <L1>
    counter++;
mov $0x1, %edi
    counter++;
add $0x10, %eax
    counter++;
```

Pintool 1: Instruction Count Output

```bash
$ /bin/ls
Makefile imageload.out itrace proccount
imageload inscount0 atrace itrace.out

$ pin -t inscount0 -- /bin/ls
Makefile imageload.out itrace proccount
imageload inscount0 atrace itrace.out

Count 422838
```
```cpp
#include <iostream>
#include "pin.h"

UINT64 icount = 0;

void docount() { icount++; }

void Instruction(INS ins, void *v)
{
    INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR)docount, IARG_END);
}

void Fini(INT32 code, void *v)
{ std::cerr << "Count " << icount << endl; }

int main(int argc, char * argv[])
{  
    PIN_Init(argc, argv);
    INS_AddInstrumentFunction(Instruction, 0);
    PIN_AddFiniFunction(Fini, 0);
    PIN_StartProgram();
    return 0;
}
```

---

**Pintool 2: Instruction Trace**

```asm
Print(ip);
sub $0xff, %edx
Print(ip);
cmp %esi, %edx
Print(ip);
jle <L1>
Print(ip);
mov $0x1, %edi
Print(ip);
add $0x10, %eax
```

Need to pass ip argument to the analysis routine (printip())
### Pintool 2: Instruction Trace Output

$ pin -t itrace -- /bin/ls

Makefile imageload.out itrace proccount
imageload inscount0 atrace itrace.out

$ head -4 itrace.out
0x40001e90
0x40001e91
0x40001ee4
0x40001ee5

---

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "pin.H"

FILE * trace;

void printip(void *ip) {
  fprintf(trace, "%p
", ip);
}

void Instruction(INS ins, void *v) {
  INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR)printip,
                 IARG_INST_PTR, IARG_END);
}

void Fini(INT32 code, void *v) {
  fclose(trace);
}

int main(int argc, char * argv[]) {
  trace = fopen("itrace.out", "w");
  PIN_Init(argc, argv);
  INS_AddInstrumentFunction(Instruction, 0);
  PIN_AddFiniFunction(Fini, 0);
  PIN_StartProgram();
  return 0;
}
```
Examples of Arguments to Analysis Routine

IARG_INST_PTR
• Instruction pointer (program counter) value

IARG_UINT32 <value>
• An integer value

IARG_REG_VALUE <register name>
• Value of the register specified

IARG_BRANCH_TARGET_ADDR
• Target address of the branch instrumented

IARG_MEMORY_READ_EA
• Effective address of a memory read

And many more ... (refer to the Pin manual for details)

Instrumentation Points

Instrument points relative to an instruction:

• Before (IPOINT_BEFORE)
• After:
  – Fall-through edge (IPOINT_AFTER)
  – Taken edge (IPOINT_TAKEN_BRANCH)

```c
count() → cmp %esi, %edx count()
         jle <L1> count()
         mov $0x1, %edi               mov $0x8, %edi
```

< L1 >
Instrumentation Granularity

Instrumentation can be done at three different granularities:

• Instruction

• Basic block
  – A sequence of instructions terminated at a control-flow changing instruction
  – Single entry, single exit

• Trace
  – A sequence of basic blocks terminated at an unconditional control-flow changing instruction
  – Single entry, multiple exits

Recap of Pintool 1: Instruction Count

counter++; sub $0xff, %edx
counter++; cmp %esi, %edx
counter++; jle <L1>
counter++; mov $0x1, %edi
counter++; add $0x10, %eax

Straightforward, but the counting can be more efficient
Pintool 3: Faster Instruction Count

```c
sub $0xff, %edx
cmp %esi, %edx
jle <L1>
mov $0x1, %edi
add $0x10, %eax
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include "pin.H"

UINT64 icount = 0;
void docount(INT32 c) { icount += c; }
void Trace(TRACE trace, void *v) {
    for (BBL bbl = TRACE_BblHead(trace);
        BBL_Valid(bbl); bbl = BBL_Next(bbl)) {
        BBL_InsertCall(bbl, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR)docount,
                       IARG_UINT32, BBL_NumIns(bbl), IARG_END);
    }
}
void Fini(INT32 code, void *v) {
    fprintf(stderr, "Count %lld\n", icount);
}

int main(int argc, char * argv[]) {
    PIN_Init(argc, argv);
    TRACE_AddInstrumentFunction(Trace, 0);
    PIN_AddFiniFunction(Fini, 0);
    PIN_StartProgram();
    return 0;
}
```

Basic blocks (bbl)
Modifying Program Behavior

Pin allows you not only to observe but also change program behavior

Ways to change program behavior:

- Add/delete instructions
- Change register values
- Change memory values
- Change control flow

Instrumentation Library

```cpp
#include <iostream>
#include "pin.H"
#include "instlib.H"

INSTLIB::ICOUNT icount;

VOID Fini(INT32 code, VOID *v) {
    std::cout << "Count" << icount.Count() << std::endl;
}

int main(int argc, char * argv[]) {
    PIN_Init(argc, argv);
    icount.Activate();
    PIN_AddFiniFunction(Fini, 0);
    PIN_StartProgram();
    return 0;
}
```

Instruction counting Pin Tool
Useful InstLib abstractions

- **ICOUNT**
  - # of instructions executed

- **FILTER**
  - Instrument specific routines or libraries only

- **ALARM**
  - Execution count timer for address, routines, etc.

- **FOLLOW_CHILD**
  - Inject Pin into new process created by parent process

- **TIME_WARP**
  - Preserves RDTSC behavior across executions

- **CONTROL**
  - Limit instrumentation address ranges

Debugging Pintools

1. **Invoke gdb with your pintool (don’t “run”)**
   
   ```
   $ gdb inscount0
   (gdb)
   ```

2. **In another window, start your pintool with the “-pause_tool” flag**
   
   ```
   $ pin -pause_tool 5 -t inscount0 -- /bin/ls
   Pausing to attach to pid 32017
   ```

3. **Go back to gdb window:**
   
   a) Attach to the process
   
   b) “cont” to continue execution; can set breakpoints as usual

   ```
   (gdb) attach 32017
   (gdb) break main
   (gdb) cont
   ```
Pin Source Code Organization

Pin source organized into generic, architecture-dependent, OS-dependent modules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architecture</th>
<th>#source files</th>
<th>#source lines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generic</td>
<td>87 (48%)</td>
<td>53595 (47%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x86 (32-bit+ 64-bit)</td>
<td>34 (19%)</td>
<td>22794 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itanium</td>
<td>34 (19%)</td>
<td>20474 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARM</td>
<td>27 (14%)</td>
<td>17933 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>182 (100%)</td>
<td>114796 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

~50% code shared among architectures
Pin’s Software Architecture

Dynamic Instrumentation

Original code

Code cache

Pin fetches trace starting block 1 and start instrumentation
Dynamic Instrumentation

Original code

Code cache

Pin transfers control into code cache (block 1)

Dynamic Instrumentation

Original code

Code cache

Pin fetches and instrument a new trace
**Implementation Challenges**

- **Linking**
  - Straightforward for direct branches
  - Tricky for indirects, invalidations

- **Re-allocating registers**

- **Maintaining transparency**

- **Self-modifying code**

- **Supporting MT applications...**

**Pin’s Multithreading Support**

**Thread-safe accesses Pin, Pintool, and App**

- Pin: One thread in the VM at a time
- Pintool: Locks, ThreadID, event notification
- App: Thread-local spill area

**Providing pthreads functions to instrumentation tools**

- Redirect all other pthreads function calls to application’s libpthread
- Set up signal handlers
**Pin Overhead**

![SPEC Integer 2006 Graph](image)

**Adding User Instrumentation**

![Adding User Instrumentation Graph](image)
Optimizing Pintools

Reducing Instrumentation Overhead

Total Overhead = Pin Overhead + Pintool Overhead

- Pin team’s job is to minimize this
- ~5% for SPECfp and ~20% for SPECint

- Pintool writers can help minimize this!
Reducing the Pintool’s Overhead

- Pintool’s Overhead
- Instrumentation Routines Overhead + Analysis Routines Overhead

- Frequency of calling an Analysis Routine \( \times \) Work required in the Analysis Routine
- Work required for transiting to Analysis Routine + Work done inside Analysis Routine

Analysis Routines: Reduce Call Frequency

**Key:** Instrument at the largest granularity whenever possible

Trace > Basic Block > Instruction
**Slower Instruction Counting**

```assembly
counter++;
sub $0xff, %edx
counter++;
cmp %esi, %edx
counter++;
jle <L1>
counter++;
mov $0x1, %edi
counter++;
add $0x10, %eax
```

**Faster Instruction Counting**

**Counting at BBL level**

```assembly
counter += 3
sub $0xff, %edx
cmp %esi, %edx
jle <L1>
counter += 2
mov $0x1, %edi
add $0x10, %eax
```

**Counting at Trace level**

```assembly
counter += 5
sub $0xff, %edx
cmp %esi, %edx
jle <L1>
mov $0x1, %edi
add $0x10, %eax
```

```
counter-=2
```

L1
Reducing Work in Analysis Routines

Key: Shift computation from analysis routines to instrumentation routines whenever possible

Edge Counting: a Slower Version

```c
void docount2(ADDRINT src, ADDRINT dst, INT32 taken) {
    COUNTER *pedg = Lookup(src, dst);
    pedg->count += taken;
}

void Instruction(INS ins, void *v) {
    if (INS_IsBranchOrCall(ins)) {
        INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR)docount2, 
                        IARG_INST_PTR, IARG_BRANCH_TARGET_ADDR, 
                        IARG_BRANCH_TAKEN, IARG_END);
    }
}
```
Edge Counting: a Faster Version

```c
void docount(COUNTER* pedg, INT32 taken) {
    pedg->count += taken;
}

void docount2(ADDRINT src, ADDRINT dst, INT32 taken) {
    COUNTER *pedg = Lookup(src, dst);
    pedg->count += taken;
}

void Instruction(INS ins, void *v) {
    if (INS_IsDirectBranchOrCall(ins)) {
        COUNTER *pedg = Lookup(INS_Address(ins),
                                INS_DirectBranchOrCallTargetAddress(ins));
        INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR) docount,
                        IARG_ADDRINT, pedg, IARG_BRANCH_TAKEN, IARG_END);
    } else
        INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR) docount2,
                        IARG_INST_PTR, IARG_BRANCH_TARGET_ADDR,
                        IARG_BRANCH_TAKEN, IARG_END);
}
```

Reducing Work for Analysis Transitions

**Key:** Help Pin’s optimizations apply to your analysis routines:
- Inlining
- Scheduling
# Inlining

**Inlinable**

```c
int docount0(int i) {
    x[i]++
    return x[i];
}
```

**Not-inlinable**

```c
int docount1(int i) {
    if (i == 1000)
        x[i]++;
    return x[i];
}
```

**Not-inlinable**

```c
int docount2(int i) {
    x[i]++;
    printf("%d", i);
    return x[i];
}
```

**Not-inlinable**

```c
void docount3() {
    for(i=0;i<100;i++)
        x[i]++;
}
```

---

# Conditional Inlining

**Inline a common scenario where the analysis routine has a single “if-then”**

- The “If” part is always executed
- The “then” part is rarely executed

**Pintool writer breaks such an analysis routine into two:**

- `INS_InsertIfCall (ins, ..., (AFUNPTR)doif, ...)`
- `INS_InsertThenCall (ins, ..., (AFUNPTR)dothen, ...)`
IP-Sampling (a Slower Version)

const INT32 N = 10000; const INT32 M = 5000;
INT32 icount = N;

VOID IpSample(VOID* ip) {
    --icount;
    if (icount == 0) {
        fprintf(trace, "%p\n", ip);
        icount = N + rand()%M; //icount is between <N, N+M>
    }
}

VOID Instruction(INS ins, VOID *v) {
    INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR)IpSample,
                   IARG_INST_PTR, IARG_END);
}

VOID Instruction(INS ins, VOID *v) {
    INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR)IpSample,
                   IARG_INST_PTR, IARG_END);
}

IP-Sampling (a Faster Version)

INT32 CountDown() {
    --icount;
    return (icount==0);
}
VOID PrintIp(VOID *ip) {
    fprintf(trace, "%p\n", ip);
    icount = N + rand()%M; //icount is between <N, N+M>
}

VOID Instruction(INS ins, VOID *v) {
    // CountDown() is always called before an inst is executed
    INS_InsertIfCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR)CountDown,
                     IARG_END);

    // PrintIp() is called only if the last call to CountDown()
    // returns a non-zero value
    INS_InsertThenCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR)PrintIp,
                       IARG_INST_PTR, IARG_END);
}
Instrumentation Scheduling

If an instrumentation can be inserted anywhere in a basic block:

- Let Pin know via IPOINT_ANYWHERE
- Pin will find the best point to insert the instrumentation to minimize register spilling

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "pin.H"
UINT64 icount = 0;
void docount(INT32 c) { icount += c; }
void Trace(TRACE trace, void *v) {
  for (BBL bbl = TRACE_BblHead(trace);
       BBL_Valid(bbl); bbl = BBL_Next(bbl)) {
    BBL_InsertCall(bbl, IPOINT_ANYWHERE, (AFUNPTR)docount,
                   IARG_UINT32, BBL_NumIns(bbl), IARG_END);
  }
}
void Fini(INT32 code, void *v) {
  fprintf(stderr, "Count %lld\n", icount);
}
int main(int argc, char * argv[]) {
  PIN_Init(argc, argv);
  TRACE_AddInstrumentFunction(Trace, 0);
  PIN_AddFiniFunction(Fini, 0);
  PIN_StartProgram();
  return 0;
}
```

Conclusions

A dynamic instrumentation system for building your own program analysis tools

Runs on multiple platforms:
• IA-32, Intel64, Itanium, and XScale
• Linux, Windows, MacOS

Works on real-life applications

Efficient instrumentation (especially with your help!)

Part Two: Fundamental Concepts in Compilers and Architecture

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**Pin Applications**

**Sample tools in the Pin distribution:**
- Cache simulators, branch predictors, address tracer, syscall tracer, edge profiler, stride profiler

**Some tools developed and used inside Intel:**
- *Opcodemix* (analyze code generated by compilers)
- *PinPoints* (find representative regions in programs to simulate)
- A tool for detecting memory bugs

**Companies are writing their own Pintools**
**Universities use Pin in teaching and research**

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**Tools for Program Analysis**

**Debugtrace** – debugging/program understanding aid, can see general call traces, instruction traces, includes reads and writes of registers and memory

**Malloctrace** – traces of execution of specific functions

**Insmix** – statistics/characterization

**Statica** – static analysis of binaries
Compiler Bug Detection

Opcodemix uncovered a compiler bug for crafty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instruction Type</th>
<th>Compiler A Count</th>
<th>Compiler B Count</th>
<th>Delta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*total</td>
<td>712M</td>
<td>618M</td>
<td>-94M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XORL</td>
<td>94M</td>
<td>94M</td>
<td>0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TESTQ</td>
<td>94M</td>
<td>94M</td>
<td>0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RET</td>
<td>94M</td>
<td>94M</td>
<td>0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUSHQ</td>
<td>94M</td>
<td>0M</td>
<td>-94M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POPQ</td>
<td>94M</td>
<td>0M</td>
<td>-94M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JE</td>
<td>94M</td>
<td>0M</td>
<td>-94M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEAQ</td>
<td>37M</td>
<td>37M</td>
<td>0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNZ</td>
<td>37M</td>
<td>131M</td>
<td>94M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thread Checker Basics

Detect common parallel programming bugs:

- Data races, deadlocks, thread stalls, threading API usage violations

Instrumentation used:

- Memory operations
- Synchronization operations (via function replacement)
- Call stack

Pin-based prototype

- Runs on Linux, x86 and x86_64
- A Pintool ~2500 C++ lines
## Thread Checker Results

**Potential errors in SPECOMP01 reported by Thread Checker**

(4 threads were used)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Number of Error Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ammp</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apsi</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>art</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equake</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fma3d</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mgrid</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A documented data race in the **art** benchmark is detected.
Instrumentation Driven Simulation

Fast exploratory studies
• Instrumentation ~= native execution
• Simulation speeds at MIPS

Characterize complex applications
• E.g. Oracle, Java, parallel data-mining apps

Simple to build instrumentation tools
• Tools can feed simulation models in real time
• Tools can gather instruction traces for later use

Performance Models

Branch Predictor Models:
• PC of conditional instructions
• Direction Predictor: Taken/not-taken information
• Target Predictor: PC of target instruction if taken

Cache Models:
• Thread ID (if multi-threaded workload)
• Memory address
• Size of memory operation
• Type of memory operation (Read/Write)

Simple Timing Models:
• Latency information
Branch Predictor Model

BPSim Pin Tool
- Instruments all branches
- Uses API to set up call backs to analysis routines

Branch Predictor Model:
- Detailed branch predictor simulator

![Branch Predictor Model Diagram](image)

### BP Implementation

```c
VOID ProcessBranch(ADDRINT PC, ADDRINT targetPC, bool BrTaken) {
    BP_Info pred = myBPU.GetPrediction( PC );
    if( pred.Taken != BrTaken ) { // Direction Mispredicted
        // Direction Mispredicted
    }
    if( pred.predTarget != targetPC ) { // Target Mispredicted
        // Target Mispredicted
    }
    myBPU.Update( PC, BrTaken, targetPC);
}

VOID Instruction(INS ins, VOID *v) {
    if( INS_IsDirectBranchOrCall(ins) || INS_HasFallThrough(ins) )
        INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR) ProcessBranch,
                       ADDRINT, INS_Address(ins),
                       IARG_UINT32, INS_DirectBranchOrCallTargetAddress(ins),
                       IARG_BRANCH_TAKEN, IARG_END);
}

int main() {
    PIN_Init();
    INS_AddInstrumentationFunction(Instruction, 0);
    PIN_StartProgram();
}
```
Branch prediction accuracies range from 0-100%
Branches are hard to predict in some phases
• Can simulate these regions alone by fast forwarding to them in real time

Performance Model Inputs

Branch Predictor Models:
• PC of conditional instructions
• Direction Predictor: Taken/not-taken information
• Target Predictor: PC of target instruction if taken

Cache Models:
• Thread ID (if multi-threaded workload)
• Memory address
• Size of memory operation
• Type of memory operation (Read/Write)

Simple Timing Models:
• Latency information
Cache Simulators

**Cache Pin Tool**
- Instruments all instructions that reference memory
- Use API to set up call backs to analysis routines

**Cache Model:**
- Detailed cache simulator

```c
CACHE_t CacheHierarchy[MAX_NUM_THREADS][MAX_NUM_LEVELS];

VOID MemRef(int tid, ADDRINT addrStart, int size, int type) {
    for(addr=addrStart; addr<(addrStart+size); addr+=LINE_SIZE)
        LookupHierarchy( tid, FIRST_LEVEL_CACHE, addr, type);
}

VOID LookupHierarchy(int tid, int level, ADDRINT addr, int accessType){
    result = cacheHier[tid][cacheLevel]->Lookup(addr, accessType);
    if( result == CACHE_MISS ) {
        if( level == LAST_LEVEL_CACHE ) return;
        LookupHierarchy(tid, level+1, addr, accessType);
    }
}

VOID Instruction(INS ins, VOID *v)
{
    if( INS_IsMemoryRead(ins) )
        INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR) MemRef,
                       IARG_THREAD_ID, IARG_MEMORYREAD_EA, IARG_MEMORYREAD_SIZE,
                       IARG_UINT32, ACCESS_TYPE_LOAD, IARG_END);
    if( INS_IsMemoryWrite(ins) )
        INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR) MemRef,
                       IARG_THREAD_ID, IARG_MEMORYWRITE_EA, IARG_MEMORYWRITE_SIZE,
                       IARG_UINT32, ACCESS_TYPE_STORE, IARG_END);
}

int main() {
    PIN_Init();
    INS_AddInstrumentationFunction(Instruction, 0);
    PIN_StartProgram();
}
```
Performance Models

Branch Predictor Models:
• PC of conditional instructions
• Direction Predictor: Taken/not-taken information
• Target Predictor: PC of target instruction if taken

Cache Models:
• Thread ID (if multi-threaded workload)
• Memory address
• Size of memory operation
• Type of memory operation (Read/Write)

Simple Timing Models:
• Latency information

Simple Timing Model

Assume 1-stage pipeline
• $T_i$ cycles for instruction execution

Assume branch misprediction penalty
• $T_b$ cycles penalty for branch misprediction

Assume cache access & miss penalty
• $T_l$ cycles for demand reference to cache level $l$
• $T_m$ cycles for demand reference to memory

Total cycles = $\alpha T_i + \beta T_b + \sum_{l=1}^{LLC} A_l T_l + \eta T_m$

$\alpha = \text{instruction count}; \beta = \# \text{ branch mispredicts};$
$A_l = \# \text{ accesses to cache level } l; \eta = \# \text{ last level cache (LLC) misses}$
Several phases of execution
• Important to pick the correct phase of execution

Performance – GCC

Performance – AMMP

One loop (3 billion instructions) is representative
• High miss rate at beginning; exploits locality at end
Moving from 32-bit to 64-bit Applications

- Intuition would tell us that code expansion will occur
- How can compiler writers exploit the features of a 64-bit ISA?
- What type of programs will benefit from this migration?
- What data types make use of the move to 64 bits?
- How do we begin to identify the reasons for the performance results shown in this table?

Profiling with Pin!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>64-bit vs. 32-bit speedup</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>perlbench</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>3.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bzip2</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>15.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gcc</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>-18.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mcf</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>-26.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gobmk</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>4.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hmmer</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>34.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sjeng</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>14.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>libquantum</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>35.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h264ref</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>35.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>omnetpp</td>
<td>C++</td>
<td>-7.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>astar</td>
<td>C++</td>
<td>8.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xalancbmk</td>
<td>C++</td>
<td>-13.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Code Size Increases in 64-bit Mode**

Percent increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code Size Increases in 64-bit Mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perlbench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dynamic Instruction Count Decreases in 64-bit Mode**

Percent decrease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dynamic Instruction Count Decreases in 64-bit Mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perlbench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Observations

Code density increases in 64-bit mode
• More registers help
• 64-bit integer arithmetic helps a lot in the case of libquantum

Concern over the reduction of decoding efficiency in 64-bit is not substantiated
### Instruction Cache Miss Rate Comparison

**Code size increases due to:**
- Increased instruction length – 10% on average 64-bit mode
- Doubling the size of long and pointer data types

![Instruction Cache Miss Rate Comparison](image)

### Data Cache (L1) Request Rate

**Decreases in 64-bit mode**

![Data Cache (L1) Request Rate](image)
Data Cache Miss Rate Comparison

Data cache miss rate increases in 64-bit

Observations

The instruction cache miss rate is very low in both 64-bit and 32-bit modes

The data cache request rate decreases significantly in 64-bit mode
  • Extra registers help

The data cache miss rate increases in 64-bit mode
  • The increased size of long and pointer data types has an adverse impact on data cache performance
Moving from 32-bit to 64-bit Applications

• Common assumptions associated with changes in architecture word sizes need to be studied carefully
• All of these analyses were done with slightly modified versions of the Pintools in the SimpleExamples directory shipped with Pin
  • icount.cpp
  • ilenmix.cpp
  • opcodemix.cpp
  • icache.cpp
  • dcache.cpp

Conclusions

Instrumentation based simulation:
• Simple compared to detailed models
• Can easily run complex applications
• Provides insight on workload behavior over their entire runs in a reasonable amount of time

Illustrated the use of Pin for:
• Compilers
  – Bug detection, thread analysis
• Computer architecture
  – Branch predictors, cache simulators, timing models, architecture width
• Architecture changes
  – Move from 32-bit to 64-bit
Using Pin in Security Research

- How do we design architectural extensions to accelerate SPAM filtering and anti-virus scanning workloads?
- How do we track dynamic information flow to detect zero-day attack intrusions?

➤ Pin!!
The cost of SPAM – (2006 study)

- Internet users receive 12.4B SPAM email messages daily
- Greater than 40% of all email messages received daily are SPAM (22% for corporate emails)
- SPAM volume is estimated to increase by 63% in 2007
- SPAM filters are the current state-of-the-art in reducing this impact

SPAM Filters

- Server-side filtering typically uses Bayesian classification
- Probability that a document contains SPAM is computed as:

\[ \text{Prob}(\text{spam} \mid \text{words}) = \frac{\text{Prob}(\text{word} \mid \text{spam}) \times \text{Prob}(\text{spam})}{\text{Prob}(\text{word})} \]

- It is important to train the classifier prior to filtering

\[ \frac{P(C = \text{spam} \mid X = x)}{P(C = \text{ham} \mid X = x)} > \lambda \]

where \( \lambda \) represents a threshold (typical: \( \lambda = 9 \) to 999)
What’s Hot in Bayesian Classification
(250 training messages)

Bogofilter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Calls</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>word_cmp</td>
<td>63,452</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>9,835,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yylex</td>
<td>19,634</td>
<td>5,209</td>
<td>102,278,715</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spamprobe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Calls</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>strcmp</td>
<td>1,312,964</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14,442,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>readLine</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>91,048</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*String comparison dominates execution*

Bayesian Classification - Bogofilter

- 2 hot code traces dominate (2 basic blocks each) the dynamic execution stream
Bayesian Classification - Spamprobe

1 hot code trace makes up 17% of the total execution

A hot comparison block dominates execution

mov esi, dword ptr 0x14[ebp]
test esi, esi
mov esi, dword ptr 0xf0[ebp]
mov edx, edi
movzx eax, dl
add eax, esi
movzx eax, byte ptr [eax]
cmp dword ptr 0xec[ebp], eax
ja 0x420cd84f

The Cost of Anti-virus Execution

Copy/Execution of “Hello, world” Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Base</th>
<th>Cillin</th>
<th>F-Prot</th>
<th>McAfee</th>
<th>Norton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copy (total)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy (Freq. AV code)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Execute (total)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Execute (Freq. AV)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overhead Causes in Anti-Virus Security Mechanisms

Signature Matching
• Program will refer to a dictionary of "signatures" or sequences of code known to be part of a malicious file
• If a signature is found in the file in question, it is marked as a virus
• Disadvantages:
  – Requires continuous updates
  – Cannot detect "zero-day attacks"

Heuristics
• Set of rules that the AV software will apply
  – For example, if the file contains self-modifying code
• If the file in question violates any of the given rules, it is marked as a virus
• Advantages:
  – May find virus variants
• Disadvantages:
  – Generates false positives

Antivirus Software Overhead

![Graph showing percent degradation for different antivirus programs.](image-url)
What's hot in AV applications?

Frequent “Hot” Code Examples

**PC-Cillin**

```
mov edx, dword ptr 0xb0[ebp]
inc ecx
add eax, 0xc
cmp ecx, edx
mov dword ptr 0xd4[ebp], ecx
jl 0xf45cc81a
```

**F-Prot**

```
mov ecx, dword ptr 0x8[ebp]
mov cl, byte ptr [ecx]
cmp cl, byte ptr 0xc[ebp]
je 0xf76a713
```

**McAfee**

```
xor edi, edi
mov ecx dword ptr 0x8[ebp]
mov al, byte ptr 0x1[ebx]
lea edx, [edi][ecx]
mov cl, byte ptr [edi][ecx]
cmp al, cl
jne 0x1203c028
```

**Norton**

```
movzx edi, ax
imul edi, dword ptr 0xcfc[edx]
add edi, ecx
cmp ebx, dword ptr [edi]
je 0xf6a13e02
```

➢ Frequent code exhibits similar structure

---

### Instruction Footprint

**Scenario: Copying a file from CDROM to the C drive**

[Chart showing instruction footprint for different antivirus applications]
**Workload Characterization**

Copy file, 128 KB

![Graph showing number of instructions executed by different file types for various anti-virus software.]

**Architectural Extensions for SPAM Filtering and AV Scanning**

- Can we exploit the characteristics of hot blocks and develop ISA extensions to accelerate these operations?

- How will we address these issues when running in a virtualized environment? – Recent project with VMware

😊 Pin can help us identify answers to these challenging questions....
Pin for Information Flow Tracking

Zero-Day Attack Trends

In 2005, 74% of the top 50 code samples exposed confidential information
  - Effects of Trojan Horses and Backdoors are more subtle

Symantec reported that 6 of the top 10 spyware were bundled with other programs
  - Malware are executed without explicit consent

Zero-day attacks are increasing and are sold on black market
  - Freshly authored malicious code can go undetected by even the most up-to-date virus scanners

We need a behavior-tracking mechanism that does not rely on known signatures
Example 1: PWSteal.Tarno.Q

Password-stealing Trojan Horse
1. Arrives in an email with a downloader in the attachment
   Subject: Payment Receipt
   Message: Dear Customer ...
   Attachment: FILE.965658.exe
2. Downloads main part of the Trojan from a fixed location
3. Creates a browser help object that runs every time Internet
   Explorer starts
4. Monitors windows and web pages with specific strings
   gold, cash, bank, log, user, pin, memorable, secret
5. Periodically sends gather information using the following url:
   [http://neverdays.com/reporter.php]

Example 2: Trojan.Lodeight.A

Trojan Horse that installs a Beagle and a backdoor
1. Contacts one of the following web sites using TCP port 80
   [http://www.tsaa.net/[REMOVED]]
   [http://www.aureaorodeley.com/[REMOVED]]
2. Downloads a remote file into the following folder and executes it. This remote file may be a mass-mailing worm
   such as W32.Beagle.CZ@mm.
   %Windir%\[Randon Name].exe
3. Opens a back door on TCP port 1084
### Characteristics of Trojan Horses

**Malicious code is executed without user intervention**

**Malicious code may be directed by a remote attacker once a connection is made**

**Resources used by the malicious code (e.g. file names, URLs) are hard-coded in the binary**

**Additional OS resources (processes, memory) are consumed by the malicious code**

**How can we track this behavior dynamically?**

> Pin!!
Information Flow Tracking

Approach

- Track data sources and monitor information flow using Pin
- Send program behavior to back end whenever suspicious program behavior is suspected
- Provide analysis and policies to decide classify program behavior

Information Flow Tracking using Pin

- Pin tracks information flow in the program and identifies exact source of data
  - USER_INPUT: data is retrieved via user interaction
  - FILE: data is read from a file
  - SOCKET: data is retrieved from socket interface
  - BINARY: data is part of the program binary image
  - HARDWARE: data originated from hardware

- Pin maintains data source information for all memory locations and registers
- Propagates flow information by taking union of data sources of all operands
Example – Register Tracking

• We track flow from source to destination operands

...%ebx - {}
%ecx - {BINARY1} /* ecx contains information from BINARY1 */
%edx - {SOCKET1} /* edx contains information from SOCKET1 */
%esi - {FILE2} /* esi contains information from FILE2 */
%edi - {}
...%edx - {SOCKET1} /* edx contains information from SOCKET1 */
%esi - {FILE2} /* esi contains information from FILE2 */
%edi - {}
...

• Assume the following XOR instruction:

\[ \text{xor} \quad \%edx,\%esi \]

which has the following semantics:

\[ \text{dst}(\%esi) := \text{dst}(\%esi) \text{ XOR} \text{ src}(\%edx) \]

• Pin will instrument this instruction and will insert an analysis routine to merge the source and destination operand information

%edx - {SOCKET1} /* edx contains information from SOCKET1 */
%esi - {SOCKET1, FILE2} /* esi contains information from FILE2 */

Information Flow Tracking using Pin

• Different levels of abstraction

• Event Monitoring
  • Architectural Events
    • Instructions executed
  • OS Events
    • System calls
  • Library Events
    • Library routines
**Information Flow Tracking Prototype**

**System Calls**
- Instrument selected system calls (12 in prototype)

**Code Frequency**
- Instrument every basic block
- Determine code “hotness”
- Application binary vs. shared object

**Program Data Flow**
- System call specific data flow
  - Tracking file loads, mapping memory to files ..
- Application data flow
  - Instrument memory access instructions
  - Instrument ALU instructions

---

**Performance – Information Flow Tracking**

![Graph showing execution time for different configurations: gzip, gcc, mcf](#)

- **Configuration**
  - Stand alone
  - Pin
  - SystemCalls
  - SystemCalls + DirectDataFlow
  - SystemCalls + Frequency + DirectDataFlow

- **Execution Time**
  - Execution time in seconds for different configurations and applications.
Performance – Information Flow Tracking

Issues
• Significant overhead when considering both control and data flow (100x-1000x)
• Why is current implement underperforming?
  − Instrument every instruction for dataflow tracking
    • Could be done on a basic block level – register liveness
  − Track every basic block during hot/cold code analysis
    • Tracking path traces could reduce this overhead (Ball97)
• Pin probably not the best choice for full implementation due to runtime overhead – DynamoRIO (Duesterwald02)
• Consider adding hardware support – RIFLE (Vachharajani04)

Pin provides an effective mechanism for building a robust backend system and for exploring different information flow tracking schemes

Using Pin in Security Research

• Pin has been very useful in characterizing SPAM and Anti-virus workloads
  😊 Resulted in joint projects with VMWare and Network Engines

• Pin has provided significant help in developing information flow tracking systems targeting zero-day attacks
  😊 Basis for a new startup company
Using Pin to Study Fault Tolerance and Program Behavior

Kim Hazelwood
David Kaeli
Dan Connors
Vijay Janapa Reddi

Pin-Based Fault Tolerance Analysis

Purpose:
• Simulate the occurrence of transient faults and analyze their impact on applications
• Construction of run-time system capable of providing software-centric fault tolerance service

Pin
• Easy to model errors and the generation of faults and their impact
• Relatively fast (5-10 minutes per fault injection)
• Provides full program analysis

Research Work
• University of Colorado: Alex Shye, Joe Blomstedt, Harshad Sane, Alpesh Vaghasia, Tipp Moseley
Division of Transient Faults Analysis

Bit Read?
- yes
- no

Bit has error protection
- yes
- no

Does bit matter?
- yes
- no

Does bit matter?
- yes
- no

Benign fault
- no error

Detection & Correction

Does bit matter?
- yes
- no

True Detected Unrecoverable Error

False Detected Unrecoverable Error

Silent Data Corruption

Particle Strike Causes Bit Flip!

Modeling Microarchitectural Faults in Pin

Accuracy of fault methodology depends on the complexity of the underlying system
- Microarchitecture, RTL, physical silicon

Build a microarchitectural model into Pin
- A low fidelity model may suffice
- Adds complexity and slows down simulation time

Emulate certain types of microarchitectural faults in Pin

Arch
Reg

uArch
State

Memory
**Example: Destination/Source Register Transmission Fault**

Fault occurs in latches when forwarding instruction output

Change architectural value of destination register at the instruction where fault occurs

**NOTE:** This is different than inserting fault into register file because the destination is selected based on the instruction where fault occurs

---

**Example: Load Data Transmission Faults**

Fault occurs when loading data from the memory system

Before load instruction, insert fault into memory

Execute load instruction

After load instruction, remove fault from memory (Cleanup)

**NOTE:** This models a fault occurring in the transmission of data from the STB or L1 Cache
Steps for Fault Analysis

Determine ‘WHEN’ the error occurs

Determine ‘WHERE’ the error occurs

Inject Error

Determine/Analyze Outcome

Step: WHEN

Sample Pin Tool: InstCount.C

• Purpose: Efficiently determines the number of dynamic instances of each static instruction

Output: For each static instruction

• Function name
• Dynamic instructions per static instruction

IP: 135000941 Count: 492714322 Func: propagate_block.104
IP: 135000939 Count: 492714322 Func: propagate_block.104
IP: 135000961 Count: 492701800 Func: propagate_block.104
IP: 135000959 Count: 492701800 Func: propagate_block.104
IP: 135000956 Count: 492701800 Func: propagate_block.104
IP: 135000950 Count: 492701800 Func: propagate_block.104
**Step: WHEN**

**InstProf.C**
- Purpose: Traces basic blocks for contents and execution count

**Output:** For a program input
- Listing of dynamic block executions
- Used to generate a profile to select error injection point (opcode, function, etc)

```
BBL NumIns: 6  Count: 13356  Func: build_tree
804cb88  BINARY  ADD  [Dest: ax]  [Src: ax edx]  MR: 1  MW: 0
804cb90  SHIFT  SHL  [Dest: eax]  [Src: eax]  MR: 0  MW: 0
804cb92  DATAFER MOV  [Dest:]  [Src: esp edx ax]  MR: 0  MW: 1
804cb97  BINARY  INC  [Dest: edx]  [Src: edx]  MR: 0  MW: 0
804cb98  BINARY CMP  [Dest:]  [Src: edx]  MR: 0  MW: 0
804cb9b  COND_BR JLE  [Dest:]  [Src:]  MR: 0  MW: 0
```

---

**Error Insertion State Diagram**

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Count By Basic Block</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reached Threshold?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Count Every Instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Found Inst?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-Error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insert Error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clear Code Cache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restart Using Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cleanup?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Count Insns After Error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reached Checkpoint?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Detach From Pin &amp; Run to Completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cleanup Error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post Error</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

---

---

---
Step: WHERE

Reality:
• Where the transient fault occurs is a function of the size of the structure on the chip
• Faults can occur in both architectural and microarchitectural state

Approximation:
• Pin only provides architectural state, not microarchitectural state (no uops, for instance)
  – Either inject faults only into architectural state
  – Build an approximation for some microarchitectural state

Error Insertion State Diagram
**Step: Injecting Error**

```c
VOID InsertFault(CONTEXT* _ctxt) {
    srand(curDynInst);
    GetFaultyBit(_ctxt, &faultReg, &faultBit);

    UINT32 old_val;    UINT32 new_val;
    old_val = PIN_GetContextReg(_ctxt, faultReg);
    faultMask = (1 << faultBit);
    new_val = old_val ^ faultMask;
    PIN_SetContextReg(_ctxt, faultReg, new_val);

    PIN_RemoveInstrumentation();
    faultDone = 1;
    PIN_ExecuteAt(_ctxt);
}
```

**Error Insertion Routine**

**Step: Determining Outcome**

**Outcomes that can be tracked:**

- Did the program complete?
- Did the program complete and have the correct IO result?
- If the program crashed, how many instructions were executed after fault injection before program crashed?
- If the program crashed, why did it crash (trapping signals)?
Register Fault Pin Tool: RegFault.C

```c
main(int argc, char * argv[]) {
    if (PIN_Init(argc, argv))
        return Usage();
    out_file.open(KnobOutputFile.Value().c_str());
    faultInst = KnobFaultInst.Value();
    TRACE_AddInstrumentFunction (Trace, 0);
    INS_AddInstrumentFunction(Instruction, 0);
    PIN_AddFiniFunction(Fini, 0);
    PIN_AddSignalInterceptFunction(SIGSEGV, SigFunc, 0);
    PIN_AddSignalInterceptFunction(SIGFPE, SigFunc, 0);
    PIN_AddSignalInterceptFunction(SIGILL, SigFunc, 0);
    PIN_AddSignalInterceptFunction(SIGSYS, SigFunc, 0);
    PIN_StartProgram();
    return 0;
}
```

Error Insertion State Diagram

- **START**
- Count By Basic Block
- Reached Threshold?
  - No
  - Yes
- Count Every Instruction
  - Found Inst?
    - Yes
    - No
- Insert Error
  - Clear Code Cache
  - Restart Using Context
  - Count Insts After Error
- Pre-Error Error Post Error
  - Cleanup?
    - Yes
    - No
  - No
  - Yes
- Detach From Pin & Run to Completion
  - Reached CheckPoint?
    - Yes
    - No
Fault Checker: Fault Insertion

1. Fork Process & Setup Communication Links
2. Parent Process? Yes → Insert Error
4. Parent Process? Yes → Cleanup Required? Yes → Cleanup Error
5. Parent Process? No → Post Error

Control Flow: Tracing Propagation of Injected Errors

Diverging Point
Data Flow: Tracing Propagation of Injected Errors

Fault Coverage Experimental Results

Watchdog timeout very rare so not shown
PLR detects all Incorrect and Failed cases
Effectively detects relevant faults and ignores benign faults
Function Analysis Experimental Results

Per-function (top 10 function executed per application)

Fault Timeline Experimental Results

Error Injection until equal time segments of applications
Run-time System for Fault Tolerance

Process technology trends
• Single transistor error rate is expected to stay close to constant
• Number of transistors is increasing exponentially with each generation

Transient faults will be a problem for microprocessors!

Hardware Approaches
• Specialized redundant hardware, redundant multi-threading

Software Approaches
• Compiler solutions: instruction duplication, control flow checking
• Low-cost, flexible alternative but higher overhead

Goal: Leverage available hardware parallelism in multi-core architectures to improve the performance of software-based transient fault tolerance

Process-level Redundancy

- System Calls
- Fault

(a) Multiple Single Errors

(b) Multiple Simultaneous Errors
Replicating Processes

Replicas provide an extra copy of the program+input

What can we do with this?
• Software transient fault tolerance
• Low-overhead program instrumentation
• More?

Process-Level Redundancy (PLR)

Master Process
• Only process allowed to perform system I/O

Redundant Processes
• Identical address space, file descriptors, etc.
• Not allowed to perform system I/O

System Call Emulation Unit
Creates redundant processes
Barrier synchronize at all system calls
Emulates system calls to guarantee determinism among all processes
Detects and recovers from transient faults

Watchdog Alarm
• Occasionally a process will hang
• Set at beginning of barrier synchronization to ensure that all processes are alive
PLR Performance

Performance for single processor (PLR 1x1), 2 SMT processors (PLR 2x1) and 4 way SMP (PLR 4x1)
Slowdown for 4-way SMP only 1.26x

Conclusion

Fault insertion using Pin is a great way to determine the impacts faults have within an application
- Easy to use
- Enables full program analysis
- Accurately describes fault behavior once it has reached architectural state

Transient fault tolerance at 30% overhead
- Future work
  - Support non-determinism (shared memory, interrupts, multi-threading)
  - Fault coverage-performance trade-off in switching on/off
Pin-based Projects in Academia

Kim Hazelwood
David Kaeli
Dan Connors
Vijay Janapa Reddi

A Technique for Enabling & Supporting Field Failure Debugging

• Problem
  In-house software quality is challenging, which results in field failures that are difficult to replicate and resolve

• Approach
  Improve in-house debugging of field failures by
  (1) Recording & Replaying executions
  (2) Generating minimized executions for faster debugging

• Who
  J. Clause and A. Orso @ Georgia Institute of Technology
  
  ACM SIGSOFT Int'l. Conference on Software Engineering '07
Dytan: A Generic Dynamic Taint Analysis Framework

- **Problem**
  Dynamic taint analysis is defined an adhoc-manner, which limits extendibility, experimentation & adaptability

- **Approach**
  Define and develop a general framework that is customizable and performs data- and control-flow tainting

- **Who**
  J. Clause, W. Li, A. Orso @ Georgia Institute of Technology
  *Int'l. Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis '07*

Workload Characterization

- **Problem**
  Extracting important trends from programs with large data sets is challenging

- **Approach**
  Collect hardware-independent characteristics across program execution and apply them to statistical data analysis and machine learning techniques to find trends

- **Who**
  K. Hoste and L. Eeckhout @ Ghent University
Loop-Centric Profiling

• Problem
  Identifying parallelism is difficult

• Approach
  Provide a hierarchical view of how much time is spent in loops, and the loops nested within them using (1) instrumentation and (2) light-weight sampling to automatically identify opportunities of parallelism

• Who
  T. Moseley, D. Connors, D. Grunwald, R. Peri @ University of Colorado, Boulder and Intel Corporation
  Int'l. Conference on Computing Frontiers (CF) '07

Shadow Profiling

• Problem
  Attaining accurate profile information results in large overheads for runtime & feedback-directed optimizers

• Approach
  fork() shadow copies of an application onto spare cores, which can be instrumented aggressively to collect accurate information without slowing the parent process

• Who
  T. Moseley, A. Shye, V. J. Reddi, D. Grunwald, R. Peri
  University of Colorado, Boulder and Intel Corporation
  Int'l. Conference on Code Generation and Optimization (CGO) '07
Part Four: Exploratory Extensions and Hands-On Workshop

Kim Hazelwood
Dan Connors
David Kaeli
Vijay Janapa Reddi

Common use of Pin

Pin Tool

Trace-driven Framework

Instruction Information
Driving execution using Pin

Session Objectives

- Building and Running Pin Tools
- Understanding program execution using Pin
- Putting it all together: Transactional Memory
Structure of a Pin Tool

FILE * trace;

VOID RecordMemWrite(VOID * ip, VOID * va, UINT32 size) {
    fprintf(trace, "%p: W %p %d\n", ip, va, size);
}

VOID Instruction(INS ins, VOID *v) {
    if (INS_IsMemoryWrite(ins)) {
        INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, AFUNPTR(RecordMemWrite),
                        IARG_INST_PTR,
                        IARG_MEMORYWRITE_VA,
                        IARG_MEMORYWRITE_SIZE, IARG_END);
    }
}

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    PIN_Init(argc, argv);
    trace = fopen("atrace.out", "w");
    INS_AddInstrumentFunction(Instruction, 0);
    PIN_StartProgram();
    return 0;
}

Callback Registration

Architectural State Interposition

- Observe instruction operands and their values
  - IARG_BRANCH_TAKEN, IARG_REG_VALUE, IARG_CONTEXT,
  ...

- Modify register values

- Save and restore state

- Instruction emulation
Modify architectural state

- Alter register values via instrumentation
  - IARG_REG_REFERENCE <register>
  - PIN_REGISTER *

    /* ============= Instrumentation routine ============= */
    if (INS_IsRDTSC(ins))
    {
      INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_AFTER,
                     (AFUNPTR) DeterministicRDTSC,
                     IARG_REG_REFERENCE, REG_EDX,
                     IARG_REG_REFERENCE, REG_EAX,
                     IARG_END);
    }

    /* ================ Analysis routine ================ */
    VOID DeterministicRDTSC(ADDRINT *pEDX, ADDRINT *pEAX)
    {
      static UINT64 _edx_eax = 0;
      _edx_eax += 1;
      *pEDX = (_edx_eax & 0xffffffff00000000ULL) >> 32;
      *pEAX = _edx_eax & 0x00000000ffffffffULL;
    }

Save and Resume Execution

- Capture snapshots of the machine state to resume at a later point
  - IARG_CHECKPOINT
  - PIN_SaveCheckpoint(CHECKPOINT *, CHECKPOINT *)
  - PIN_Resume(CHECKPOINT *)
Save and Resume Execution (2)

- **IARG_CHECKPOINT**
  - Pin generates a snapshot (includes instrumented state)
- **PIN_SaveCheckpoint** (CHECKPOINT *src, CHECKPOINT *dst)
  - Extract and copy state from handle(src) to local buffer(dst)

```c
/* ========== Instrumentation routine ========== */
INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR) Save,
               IARG_CHECKPOINT,
               IARG_END);
/* ============== Analysis routine ============== */
CHECKPOINT ckpt;
VOID Save(CHECKPOINT* _ckpt)
{
    PIN_SaveCheckpoint(_ckpt, &ckpt);
}
```

Save and Resume Execution (3)

- **PIN_Resume(CHECKPOINT *)**
  - Restore processor state to saved checkpoint
  - Continue execution

```c
/* ========== Instrumentation routine ========== */
INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR) Back,
               IARG_END);
/* ============== Analysis routine ============== */
CHECKPOINT ckpt;
VOID Back()
{
    PIN_Resume(&ckpt);
    assert(false); /* PIN_Resume does not return */
}
```
**Instruction Emulation**

- **Emulate the semantics of (new) instructions**
  1. Locate emu instruction
  2. Marshall semantics
  3. Substitute emu function
  4. Delete emu instruction

```c
#include "pin.H"
#include "pin_isa.H"

ADDRINT DoLoad(REG reg, ADDRINT * addr) {
  return *addr;
}

VOID EmulateLoad(INS ins, VOID* v) {
  if (INS_Opcode(ins) == XEDICLASS_MOV && INS_IsMemoryRead(ins) &&
      INS_OperandIsReg(ins, 0) && INS_OperandIsMemory(ins, 1)) {
    INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR) DoLoad,
                   IARG_UINT32, REG(INS_OperandReg(ins, 0)),
                   IARG_MEMORYREAD_EA,
                   IARG_RETURN_REGS, INS_OperandReg(ins, 0),
                   IARG_END);
    INS_Delete(ins); /* Kill the instruction */
  }
}

void main(int argc, char * argv[]) {
  PIN_Init(argc, argv);
  INS_AddInstrumentFunction(EmulateLoad, 0);
  PIN_StartProgram();
}
```

**Emulating a Load Instruction**
Memory Behavior

• Memory access tracing
  – IARG_MEMORYREAD_EA, IARG_MEMORYWRITE_EA, ...

• Modify program memory
  – Pin Tool resides in the process’ address space

Controlling Program Execution

Pin (JIT)

Only translated code cached in the Code Cache is executed
Pros: Complete coverage
Cons: Slow

Pin (Probes)

Original code, and translated code are executed intermixed with one another
Pros: Fast
Cons: Limited coverage
Executing @ Arbitrary Locations

- **JIT-mode** (execute only translated code)
  - IARG_CONTEXT
  - PIN_ExecuteAt (CONTEXT *)

Program

Executing @ Arbitrary Locations (2)

- **IARG_CONTEXT**
  - Pin generates program’s perception of machine state
- **Pin_ExecuteAt** (CONTEXT *)
  - Continue executing at context state

```c
/* ========== Instrumentation routine ========== */
if (INS_Address(ins) == 0x40000000 /* Foo: */)
    INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, (AFUNPTR) Jmp2Bar,
                   IARG_CONTEXT,
                   IARG_END);

/* ============= Analysis routine ============= */
VOID Jmp2Bar(CONTEXT *ctxt)
{
    /* *************** Analysis routine *************** */
    VOID Jmp2Bar(CONTEXT *ctxt)
    {
        PIN_ExecuteAt(ctxt);
        PIN_ExecuteAt(ctxt);
        /* PIN_ExecuteAt does not return! */
    }
```
Changing Program Code (Probe-mode)

- **PIN_ReplaceProbed**(RTN, AFUNPTR)
  - Redirect control flow to new functions in the Pin Tool

- **PIN_ReplaceSignatureProbed**(RTN, AFUNPTR, ...)
  - (1) Redirect control flow
  - (2) Rewrite function prototypes
  - (3) Use Pin arguments (IARG’s)

Original Stream

foo

foo’

(Original) (Replacement)

Replacing `malloc()` in Application

typedef VOID * (*FUNCPTR_MALLOC)(size_t);

VOID * MyMalloc(FUNCPTR_MALLOC orgMalloc, UINT32 size, ADDRINT returnIp) {
  FUNCPTR_MALLOC poolMalloc = LookupMallocPool(returnIp, size);
  return (poolMalloc) ? poolMalloc(size) : orgMalloc(size);
}

VOID ImageLoad(IMG img, VOID *v) {
  RTN mallocRTN = RTN_FindByName(img, "malloc");
  if (RTN_Valid(rtn)) {
    PROTO prototype = PROTO_Allocate(PIN_PARG(void *), CALLINGSTD_CDECL,
                                      "malloc", PIN_PARG(int), PIN_PARG_END());
    RTN_ReplaceSignatureProbed(mallocRTN, (AFUNPTR) MyMalloc,
                                IARG_PROTOTYPE, prototype, /* Function prototype */
                                IARG_ORIGIN_FUNCPTR, /* Handle to application’s malloc */
                                IARG_FUNCARG_ENTRYPOINT_VALUE, 0, /* First argument to malloc */
                                IARG_RETURN_IP, /* IP of caller */
                                IARG_END);
    PROTO_Free( proto_malloc );
  }
}
Source-level Probing

- Instrument only specific regions of the source

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include "pinapp.h"

int a[10];
int main()
{
    void * th = PIN_NewThread();
    printf("Thread handle %p\n", th);
    PIN_ExecuteInstrumented(th);
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
    {
        a[i] = i;
    }
    PIN_ExecuteUninstrumented();
    return 0;
}
```

Putting it all together: TMM

**Transactional Memory Model**

- Checkpoint architectural and memory state
- Log memory values modified by transaction
- Verify conflicts across parallel transactions
- Commit or Abort active transaction
Transactional Memory Model (1)

/* === Instrumentation routine === */
if (RTN_Address(rtn) == XBEGIN)
{
    RTN_InsertCall(rtn, IPOINT_BEFORE,
                   AFUNPTR(BeginTransaction),
                   IARG_THREAD_ID,
                   IARG_CHEKCPOINT,
                   IARG_END);
}

/* ====== Analysis routine ====== */
CHECKPOINT chkpt[NTHREADS];
void BeginTransaction(int tid,
                       CHECKPOINT *chkpt)
{
    PIN_SaveCheckpoint(_chkpt,
                       chkpt[tid]);
}

Transactional Memory Model (2)

/* ===== Instrumentation routine ===== */
void Instruction(INS ins, void *v)
{
    if (INS_IsMemoryWrite(ins))
        INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE,
                       (AFUNPTR) LogAndCheck,
                       IARG_BOOL, true,
                       IARG_THREAD_ID,
                       IARG_MEMORYWRITE_EA,
                       IARG_MEMORYWRITE_SIZE,
                       IARG_END);
    if (INS_IsMemoryRead(ins))
        INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE,
                       (AFUNPTR) LogAndCheck,
                       IARG_BOOL, false,
                       IARG_THREAD_ID,
                       IARG_MEMORYREAD_EA,
                       IARG_MEMORYREAD_SIZE,
                       IARG_END);
}
**Transactional Memory Model (3)**

```c
/* ========== Analysis routine ========== */
void LogAndCheck(BOOL iswrite, ADDRINT tid, ADDRINT addr, ADDRINT len)
{
if (/* in transaction */) {
    if (/* is conflict */) {
        /* restore mem with log[tid] */
        PIN_Resume(&chkpt[th]);
    } else {
        /* record access in log[tid] */
    }
}
}
```

**Transactional Memory Model (4)**

```c
/* === Instrumentation routine === */
if (RTN_Address(rtn) == XEND)
{
    RTN_InsertCall(rtn, IPOINT_BEFORE, AFUNPTR(CommitTransaction),
                   IARG_THREAD_ID, IARG_END);
}
/* ====== Analysis routine ====== */
void CommitTransaction(ADDRINT th)
{
    /* free thread’s checkpoint */
    /* and memory access log */
}
```
Demo of Transactional Memory

Multi-threaded Application

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{XBEGIN();} \\
\text{for (uint32_t i = 0; i < MAX; i++)} \\
\text{myarray[i] = 1;} \\
\text{XEND();} \\
\text{XBEGIN();} \\
\text{for (int32_t i = MAX-1; i >= 0; i++)} \\
\text{myarray[i] = 2;} \\
\text{XEND();}
\end{align*}
\]

Transactional Memory Pin Tool

1. Begin Transaction
2. Access Memory
3. Conflict?
   - Yes → Abort
   - No → Log
4. Finish Transaction

Pin (user-level) → PinOS (system-level)

Trace Physical and Virtual Addresses

FILE * trace;

VOID RecordMemWrite(VOID * ip, VOID * va, VOID * pa, UINT32 size) {
    Host_fprintf(trace,"%p: W %p %p %d\n", ip, va, pa, size);
}

VOID Instruction(INS ins, VOID *v) {
    if (INS_IsMemoryWrite(ins)) {
        INS_InsertCall(ins, IPOINT_BEFORE, AFUNPTR(RecordMemWrite),
                        IARG_INST_PTR,
                        IARG_MEMORYWRITE_VA,
                        IARG_MEMORYWRITE_PA,
                        IARG_MEMORYWRITE_SIZE, IARG_END);
    }
}

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    PIN_Init(argc, argv);
    trace = Host_fopen("atrace.out", "w");
    INS_AddInstrumentFunction(Instruction, 0);
    PIN_StartProgram();
    return 0;
}

PinOS requires minimal API changes

Concluding Remarks

• Dynamic instrumentation framework (Free!)
  – Transparent across platforms and environments
  • Platforms: IA32, EM64T, Itanium, and Xscale
  • Operating Systems: Linux, Windows, MacOS

• Sample tools (use as templates)
  – Cache simulators, Branch predictors, Memory checkers, Instruction and Memory tracing, Profiling, Sampling ...

• Write your own tools!

• Visit us @ http://rogue.colorado.edu/wikipin
NOTES
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