

ASPDAC 2009

Analyzing and Optimizing Energy Efficiency of  
Algorithms on DVS Systems:  
--A First Step towards Algorithmic Energy Minimization--



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TETSUO YOKOYAMA

Nagoya University

Joint work with Gang Zeng,  
Hiroyuki Tomiyama and Hiroaki Takada

# Optimizing Energy Consumption at Algorithmic Level

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Optimizing energy consumption:

- Many HW mechanisms available (DVFS, DPM, ...)
- Important in system level design
- Used in earlier stages of SW development phase

**However, fundamental concepts have not yet been completed.**

- Differences from performance optimization?
- Metrics?
- Programming logics and structure?
- Dataflow?

**More precisely, we cannot answer:**

Which, either Quicksort or Heapsort, is more energy optimal?

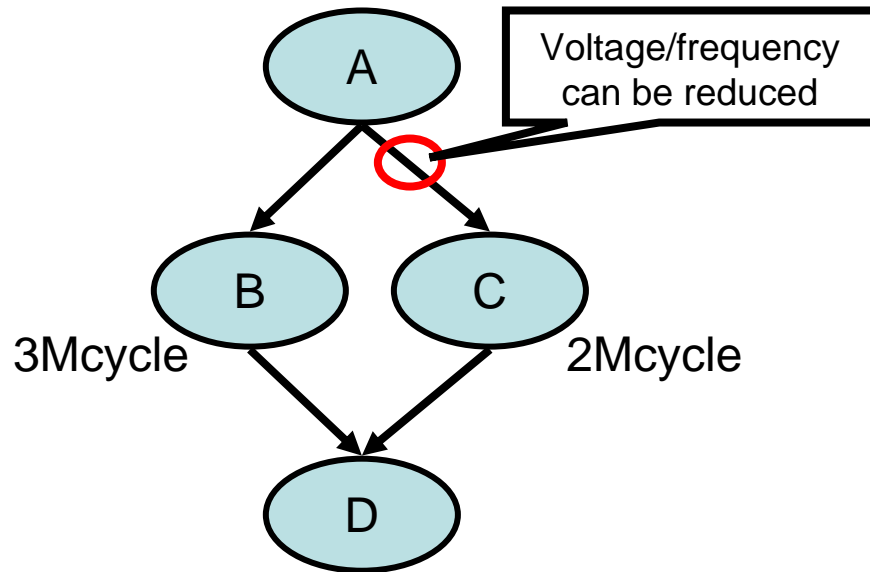
# Target and Objective

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- Target
  - DVS systems
  - Deadline constraints
  - Algorithmic level
- Objective
  - Clarify the **difference** between energy optimization and performance optimization
  - Propose a **measure** for energy consumption
  - Study a case of **algorithmic** energy optimization
  - Answer “**Quicksort vs Heapsort.** Which is more energy optimal?”

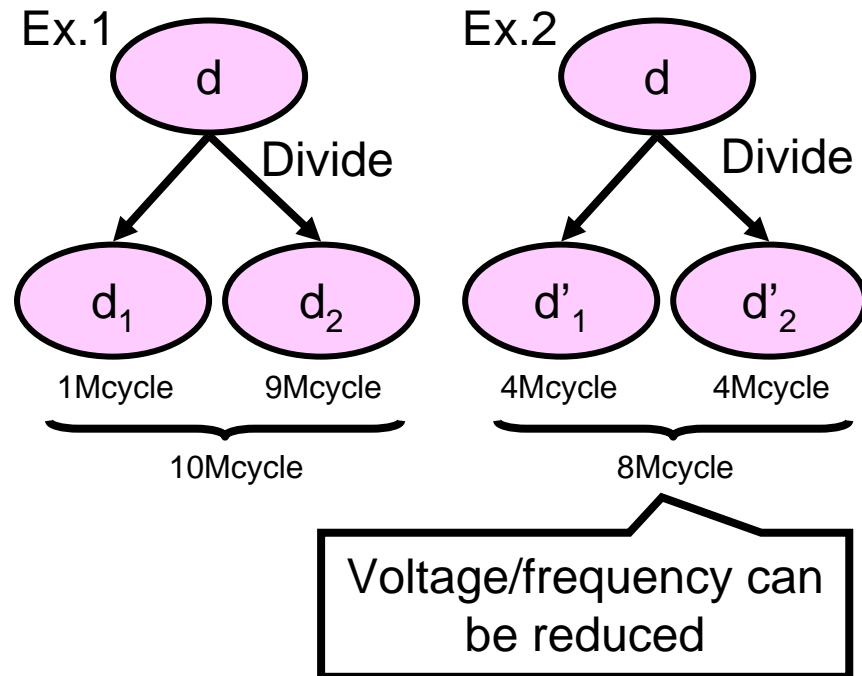
# IntraDVS: Basic Concepts

Related work: Control flow graph



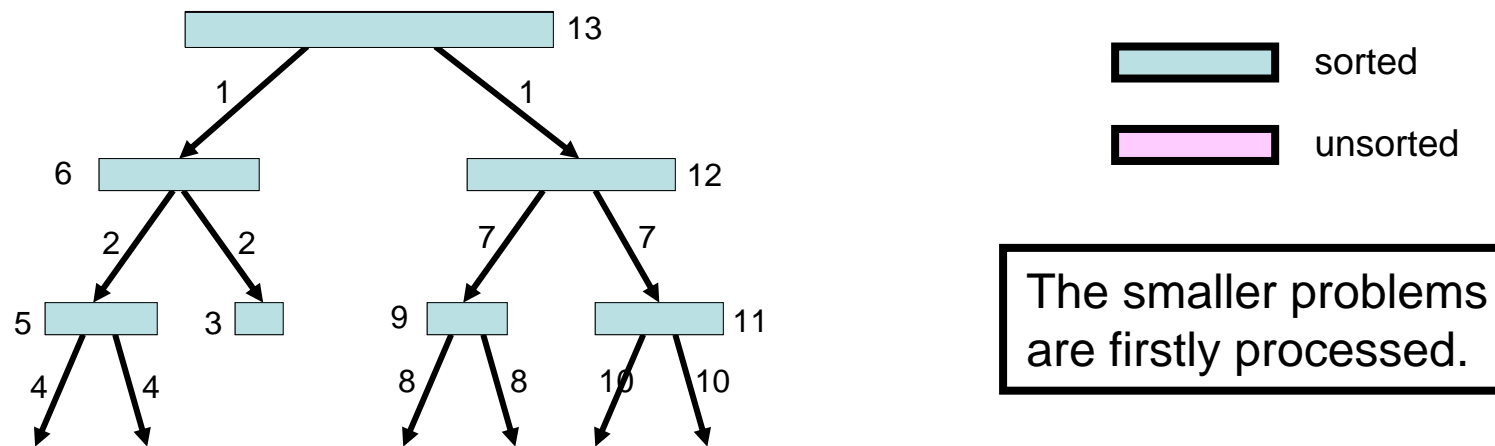
- The selected branch decides the remaining cycles
  - Ex. Either block B or block C is executed

Our approach: *Data* flow graph



- The sizes of divided subproblems decide the remaining cycles

# Review of Quicksort



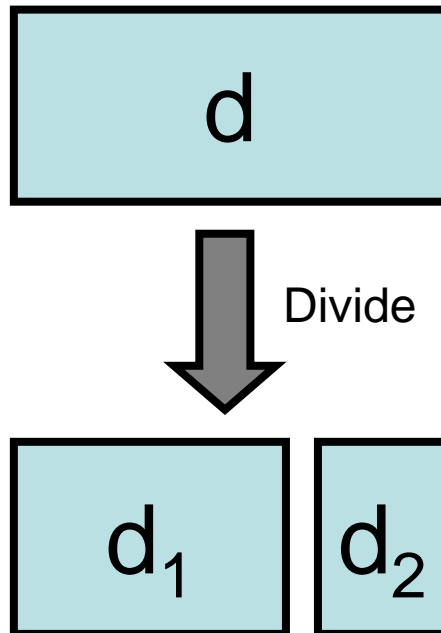
- Workload variation  $\rightarrow$  slack time
  - WCEC:  $\delta_w(n) \propto n^2$
  - ACEC:  $\delta_a(n) \propto n \log n$
- Problem: WCEC is too big!
  - $\rightarrow$  Heapsort does not have much workload variance.

# Remaining Predicted Execution Cycles

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- WCEC

$$\delta_w(d) = c(d) + \max_{d_1, d_2 \in \text{div}(d)} (\delta_w(d_1) + \delta_w(d_2))$$



$\delta_w(d)$ : WCEC of processing d

$$c(d) + \max(\delta_w(d_1) + \delta_w(d_2))$$

Dividing time + Worst of sum of WCECs

# Comparison of Remaining WCET of qsort

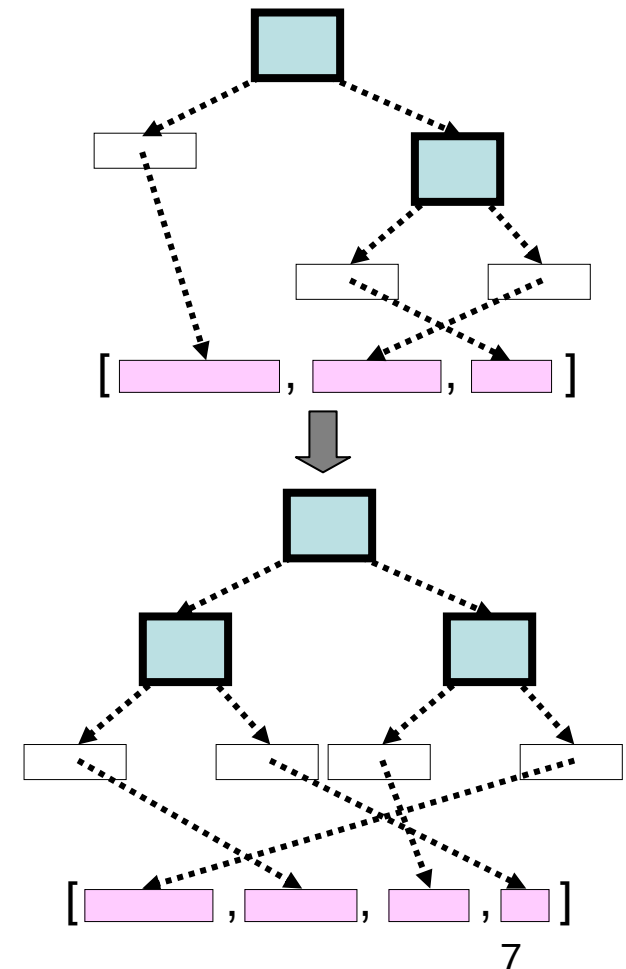
- Remaining WCET w/o concatenation:

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \delta_{wc}(\text{length}(x s_i)) \quad (\text{Approximation})$$

- In ordinary libraries, the smaller problem is firstly processed
  - **PRO:** Memory consumption is bound by  $O(\log n)$
  - **CON:** Remaining WCET does not rapidly decrease (early division technique)

|          | Decrease of RET | Memory Usage |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Smallest | Slow            | Low          |
| Largest  | Moderate        | Middle       |
| Larger   | Rapid           | High         |

*Our approach:  
Processing larger problems*



# Energy-efficient Hybrid Sorting Algorithm

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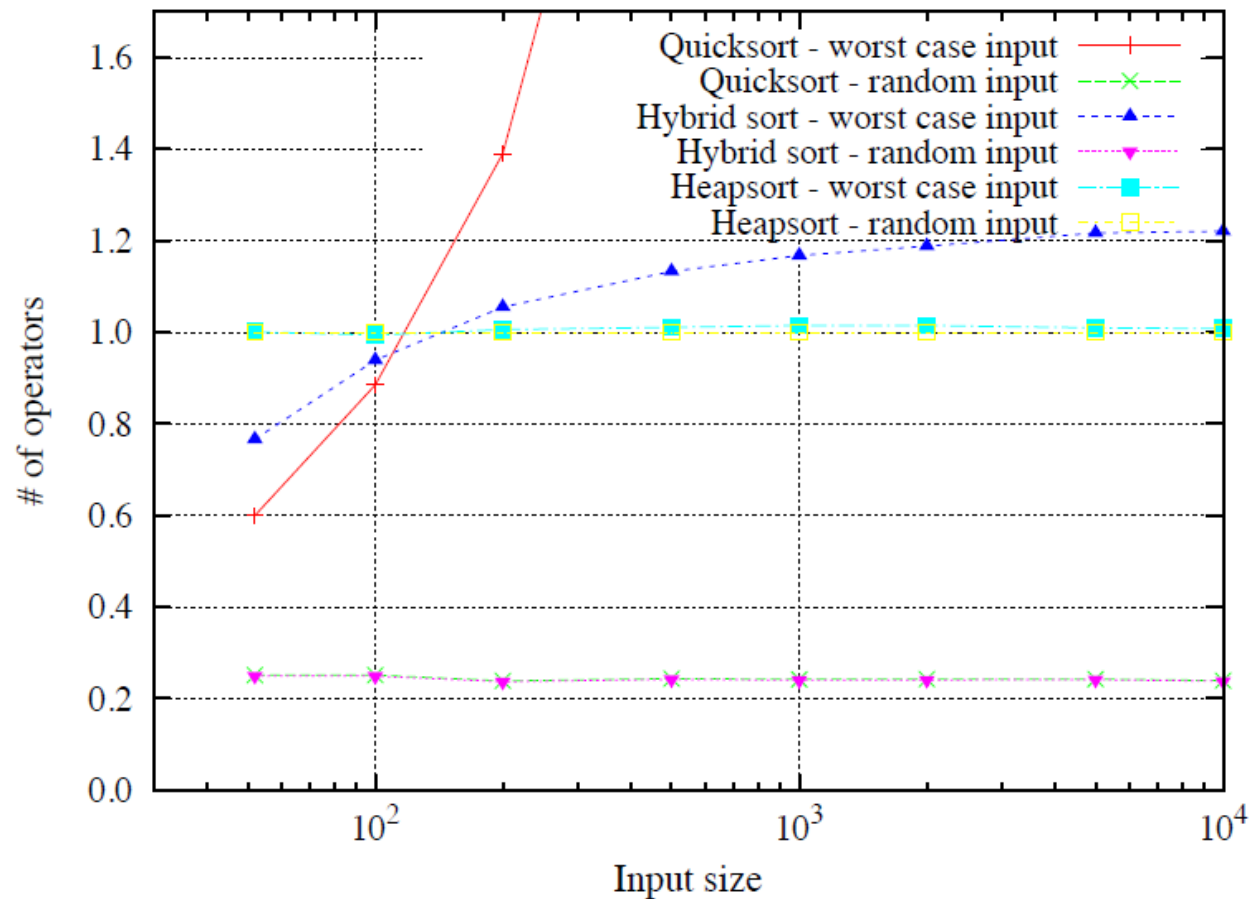
- Energy Efficiency = Original Algo. + Optimization

|           | Original Algo.     | Energy Optimization |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Quicksort | $O(n^2)$           | Very good           |
| Heapsort  | $\Theta(n \log n)$ | Bad                 |
| Hybrid    | $\Theta(n \log n)$ | Very good           |

- Our solution: Hybrid sort = Quicksort + Heapsort
  - First, Quicksort: fast on average
    - **Early division technique** is used.
    - Performance is very high for almost all of the input.
  - At worst case, changed into Heapsort; WCEC is bounded.
- ⇒ The energy efficiency of the sorting algorithm can be optimized on DVS systems.

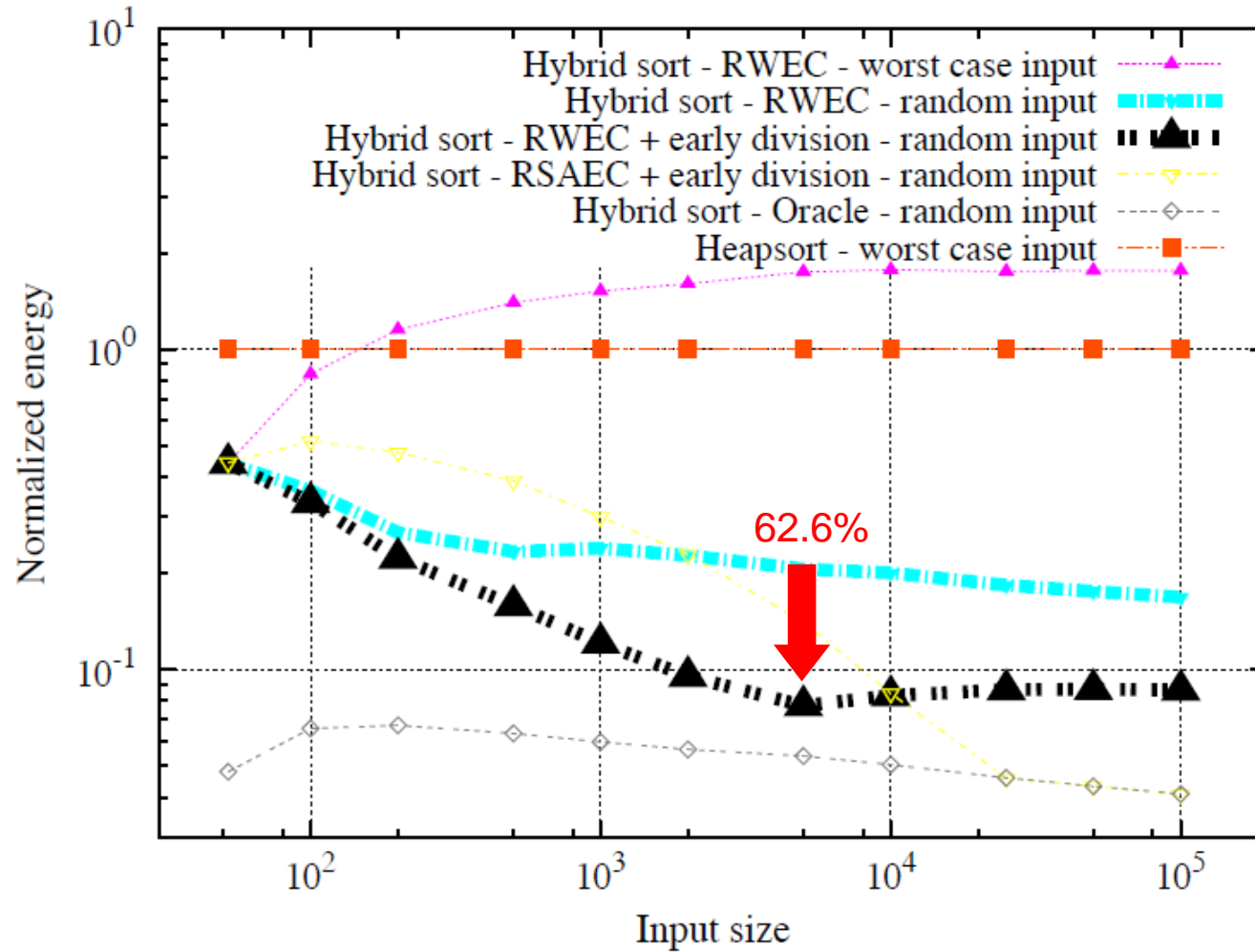


# Normalized Operator numbers of Sorting Programs

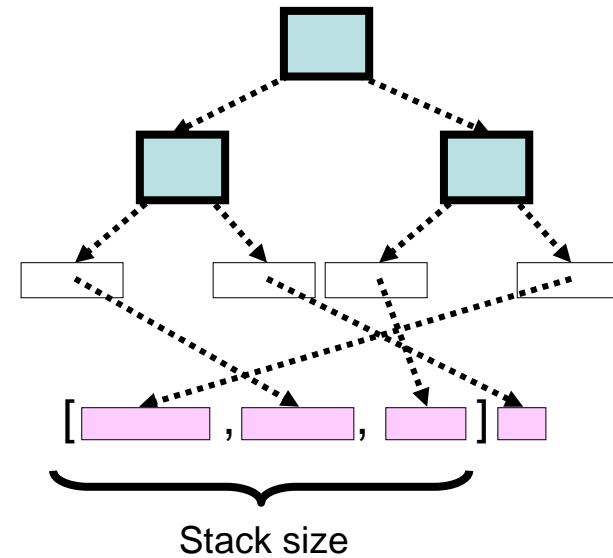
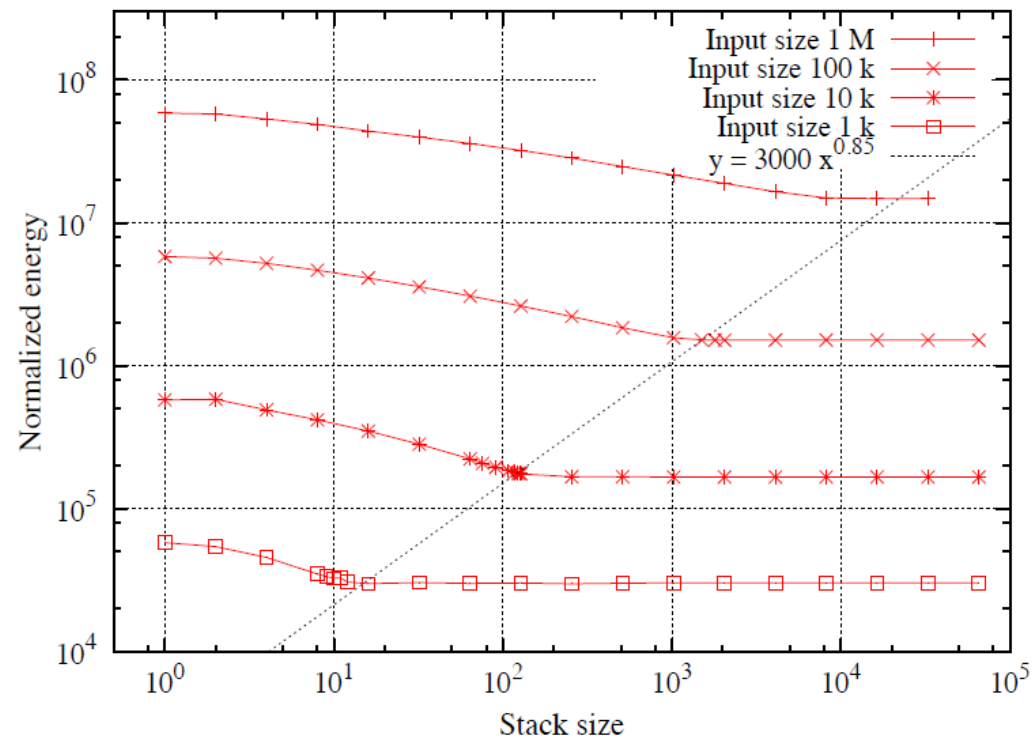


The data was obtained on a MIPS R5000 processor with 512 KB of secondary cache and 64 MB of main memory, using version 7.2.1 of the Silicon Graphics MIPSpro C++ compiler.

# Normalized Energy of Sorting Programs Using DVS



# Effects of the Stack Size on Energy Consumption Using SVS



# Effects of the stack size on energy consumption

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- A tradeoff between energy and memory
- The greater stack size it has, the more energy is saved.
- Energy savings saturated to about 25%
- This saturation occurs at line  $y = 3000 x^{0.85}$

# Measure for Evaluating Energy Consumption of Algorithm

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- SVS: voltage scheduling before execution
- The optimal voltage of each task  
= The minimum voltage to finish the task execution exactly at the deadline

**Lemma (Optimal SVS)** For SVS without scaling bound, An algorithm of a given task is optimal on average iff

$$\delta_w^2 \delta_a$$

is minimum.

Implications:

- Deadline does not affect the comparison of two algorithms
- Firstly, WCET  $\delta_w$  should be reduced
- Secondly, ACET  $\delta_a$

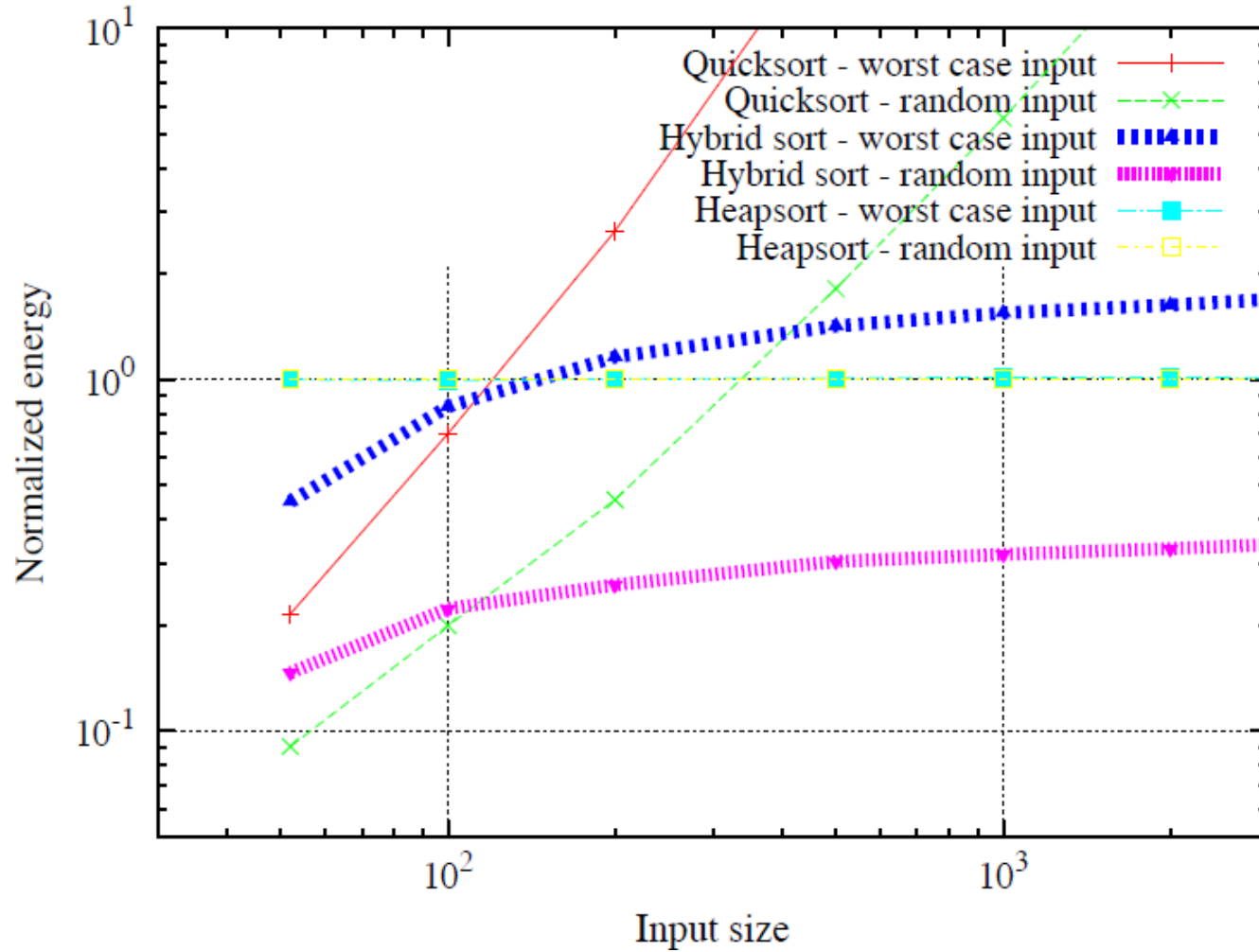
# Proof

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1. Let  $D$  be deadline.
2. The execution of frequency  $\delta_w/D$  finishes exactly on deadline.
3. The corresponding power consumption is  $P(\delta_w/D)$ , which is the smallest in the case that  $f = \delta_w/D$  because of the monotonicity of  $P$ .
4. The execution time is the number of cycles  $X$  divided by frequency, *i.e.*,  $X/(\delta_w/D)$ .
5. Thus, energy consumption becomes  $P(\delta_w/D) \cdot DX/\delta_w$
6. Now, we are comparing the different algorithms under the same deadline, and therefore  $D$  is constant.
7. The average energy consumption is proportional to the average of  $(\delta_w)^2 X$ .

CAVEAT: If frequencies range over  $[f_{\min}, f_{\max}]$ ,  
the objective function becomes  $(\delta_w)^2 \cdot \max(Df_{\min}, \min(Df_{\max}, \delta_a))$

# Normalized Energy of Sorting Programs Using SVS



# Comparison of Energy Consumption of Sorting: A Case Study

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- Question:
  - What is an energy efficient sorting on SVS systems?

- Our Answer<sup>†</sup>:

- When the input size is small,  
Energy optimization  $\doteq$  Performance optimization
- When the input size is large,

†Only consider Quicksort,  
Heapsort and Hybrid sort

|                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Average Energy     | Hybrid << Heap << Quick |
| Average Exec. Time | Quick = Hybrid << Heap  |
| Worst Energy       | Heap < Hybrid << Quick  |
| Worst Exec. Time   | Heap < Hybrid <<< Quick |

- Implications:
  - The proposed metrics enables this comparison
  - Energy optimization  $\neq$  Performance optimization
  - Fastest on average  $\neq$  Energy optimal on average



# Concluding Remarks

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- *Algorithmic* energy efficiency is *meaningful*.
- We propose
  - Energy efficient sorting algorithm
  - A *measure* for evaluating the optimal energy of algorithms
  - IntraDVS strategies using *data flow* information
  - ⇒ We can discuss which, either Quicksort or Heapsort, is more energy efficient.
- Future work
  - How to write energy efficient programs (partially published)
  - Compare energy efficiency of other algorithms (ongoing)
  - Expose a tradeoff with energy (ongoing)