

An Evaluation of an Energy Efficient Many-Core SoC with Parallelized Face Detection

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Executive Summary

- Future architecture will have many cores
- A key challenge : How to efficiently use them?
- We evaluated techniques to accelerate one type of important application (face detection)
- Performance scales up to 64 cores
- Energy efficiency is 20x better than desktop CPU

Outline

- Introduction
- Face Detection using Joint Haar-Like Features
- Architecture of Energy Efficient Many-Core SoC
- Issues in Implementing Parallelized Face Detection
- Implementation and Evaluation of Parallelized Face Detection
 - On the Single Cluster
 - On the Dual Cluster
- Conclusion

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- Trend 1 : New applications (e.g. image recognition) need more computing power while keeping low power
- Trend 2 : New architecture can enable much more parallelism than before

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Now : 500GOPS

Heterogeneous Multi-Core





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 Future : More than 1TOPS Heterogeneous Many-Core

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Heterogeneous Multi-Core

Future : More than 1TOPS Heterogeneous Many-Core

















The Number of Cores







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Can we achieve good performance scaling-up on face detection?

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ROI : Region of Interest



Joint Haar-Like Features [ICCV '05]

 Extension to widely-used Viola and John's Method [CVPR '01] (using Haar-like features)
Haar-like feature : Difference of image intensities between blue and red rectangles.



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Classifier using Joint Haar-Like Features



Characteristics of Face Detection



- Face detection for each ROI can be executed in parallel
- There are a lot of ROIs in an image
 - 3M ROIs when image size is 4000x3200
- A lot of coarse grain thread parallelism based on ROIs
 - Overhead of thread scheduling can be minimized

Many-core is good for face detection !

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Chip Micrograph and Features



Chip Micrograph and Features



Structure of Many-Core Cluster





Core : Media Processing Block (MPB)



- 3-Way VLIW Processor
- L1 Instruction Cache: 32KB
- L1 Data Cache: 16KB
- 333 MHz

Exploits multi-grain parallelism

- Thread level by many cores
- Instruction level by VLIW architecture
- Data level by SIMD instructions

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Issues in implementing parallelized face detection

High coarse-grain parallelism: Good for Parallelization

- There are enough ROIs to exploit by many cores
- Imbalanced workload: Bad for Processor Utilization
 - The workload of an ROI where a face exists is higher than that of an ROI without a face

Implementation of parallelized face-detection

- Minimize the number of threads in order to reduce synchronization cost
 - Allocate one thread to one core
- Find a good thread partitioning with balancing workload of threads
- Reduce data bandwidth (L1\$-L2\$ and L2\$-DDR3)

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Implementation on the Single Cluster

- We implemented the face detection with two methods to allocate image to cores
 - Allocating Cyclically
 - Splitting Equally

(1) Allocating Cyclically

This way allocates lines to each core cyclically Effective in balancing workload



(2) Splitting Equally

This way divides the image evenly

Effective to reduce data size read by each core Image



Images for Evaluation

• High Resolution Images (5.76-12.7Mp) including many faces

No.	Resolution	Number of Faces
0	4000x1440	30
1	3000x4082	37
2	4083x3062	78
3	4094x3107	148
4	3568x2568	9
5	3568x2568	10



Evaluation Board



Relative Performance on Single Cluster



Average Relative Performance on Single Cluster



Execution Time of the Fastest and Slowest Cores



Processor Utilization

- Allocating Cyclically : 90 ~ 95%
- Splitting Equally : 55 ~ 75%



Low processor utilization deteriorates the performance of Splitting Equally

Bandwidth of L2 Cache and DDR3



- L1-L2 bandwidth is nearly the same
 - L1 cache is not enough to store ROI line
- About L2-DDR3, Allocating Cyclically is better
 - All cores access the small area at the same

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Implementation on Dual Cluster

Each cluster has its own L2 cache and shares DDR3

 Because bandwidth is narrower than L1 and L2 cache, reducing bandwidth between L2 cache and DDR3 is important

We implemented the two ways

- Allocating Cyclically
- Bisection



(1) Allocating Cyclically

This way is the same as that of a single cluster Effective in balancing workload



(2) Bisection

This way divides the image into two blocks



(2) Bisection

This way divides the image into two blocks

Effective to reduce data size read by each cluster



Performance of Dual Cluster (64 Cores)



Performance of Dual Cluster (64 Cores)



Execution Time of the Fastest and Slowest Cores



Processor Utilization

- Allocating Cyclically : 87 ~ 95%
- Bisection : 66 ~ 91%



Low processor utilization deteriorates the performance of Bisection

DDR3 Bandwidth



Bandwidth in Allocating Cyclically

Utilized bandwidth is 750MB/s (only 7% of maximum (10.7GB/s)) Memory bandwidth is not bottleneck even when two clusters operate.

Power Consumption





Typical Process, Room Temperature, using Allocating Cyclically

Comparison with Desk-Top CPU

 Compared with Desk-Top CPU (Core[™]-i7-3820: 3.6GHz, 4 Cores, 8 Threads)



Conclusion

Future architecture will have many cores

– A key challenge : How to efficiently use them?

- We evaluated the many-core SoC with parallelized face detection
 - Many-core is suited for the face detection because it exploits ROI based coarse-grained parallelism efficiently
 - Scale up by 30x (32 cores) to 60x (64 cores)
 - Balancing workload is important
- Power consumption is only 2.21W under actual workload : enables fan-less cooling
 - Our many-core SoC is remarkably energy efficient in image recognition applications
 - 20x better than the desk-top CPU

Thank you!