Announcing the Final Examination of Ping Xiang for the degree of Master of Science

Title: Instruction-based Prioritization: A Unified Cache Replacement Policy for Singe-Core and Multi-Core Processors

We present a novel replacement policy for last-level caches (LLCs). The fundamental observation is to view LLCs as a shared resource among multiple address streams with each stream being generated by a static memory access instruction. The management of LLCs in both single-core and multi-core processors can then be modeled as a competition among multiple instructions. We prioritize those instructions based on the number of LLC accesses and reuses and only allow cache lines having high instruction priorities to replace those of low priorities. Our experimental results based on a set of SPEC 2006 benchmarks show that it achieves significant performance improvement upon the least-recently used (LRU) replacement policy for benchmarks with high numbers of LLC misses. To handle LRU-friendly workloads, the set sampling technique is adopted to retain the benefits from the LRU replacement policy.

Major: Computer Engineering

Educational Career:
Bachelor's of Automatic Control, BS, 2008, Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Committee in Charge:
Dr. Huiyang Zhou, Chair, Computer Science
Dr. Mark Heinrich, Computer Science
Dr. Liqiang Ni, Statistics

Approved for distribution by Dr. Huiyang Zhou, Committee Chair, on May 17, 2010.

The public is welcome to attend.