On Providing Useful Information for Analyzing and Tuning Applications

John Mellor–Crummey and Robert Fowler Computer Science Dept., Rice University

David Whalley

Computer Science Dept., Florida State University

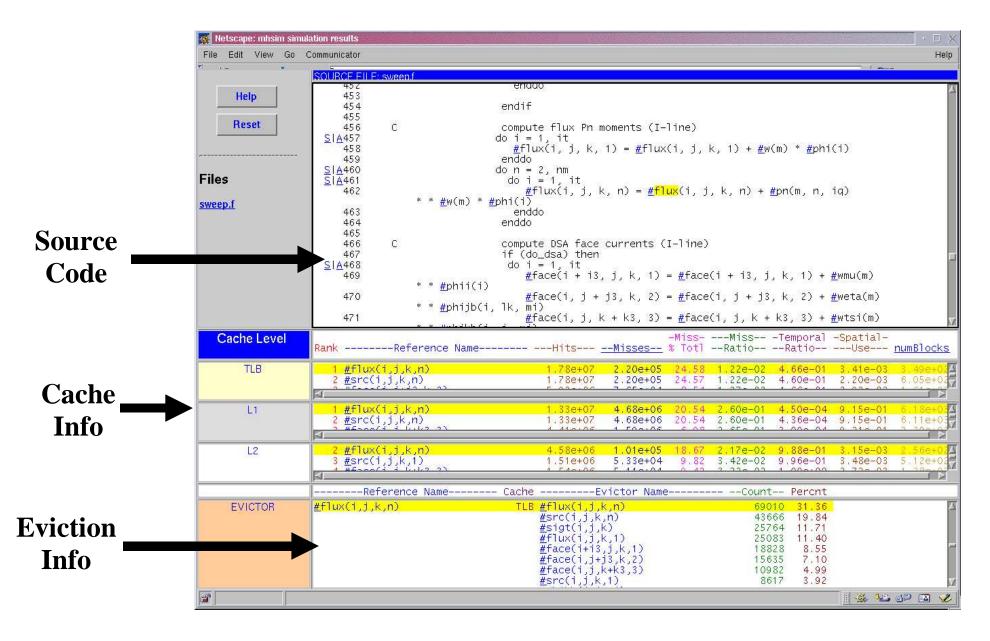
Our Approach for Understanding Application Performance

- Gather performance data from multiple sources.
 - static analysis, profilers, simulation
- Fuse data, compute derived metrics, and correlate with the source code into a hyperlinked database.
- View database using commodity hypertext browsing technology.
- Tools
 - MHSIM: simulator for multi-level memory hierarchies
 - HPCView: correlates multiple profiles

MHSIM

- Used for diagnosing memory hierarchy performance bottlenecks.
- F77 source code is instrumented with calls to a memory hierarchy simulator.
- Provides performance information for each level of the memory hierarchy for source references, loops, and arrays.
- Provides measures for locality, spatial use, and bytes accessed.
- Indicates for each reference the set of references that cause it to be evicted.

The MHSIM User Interface

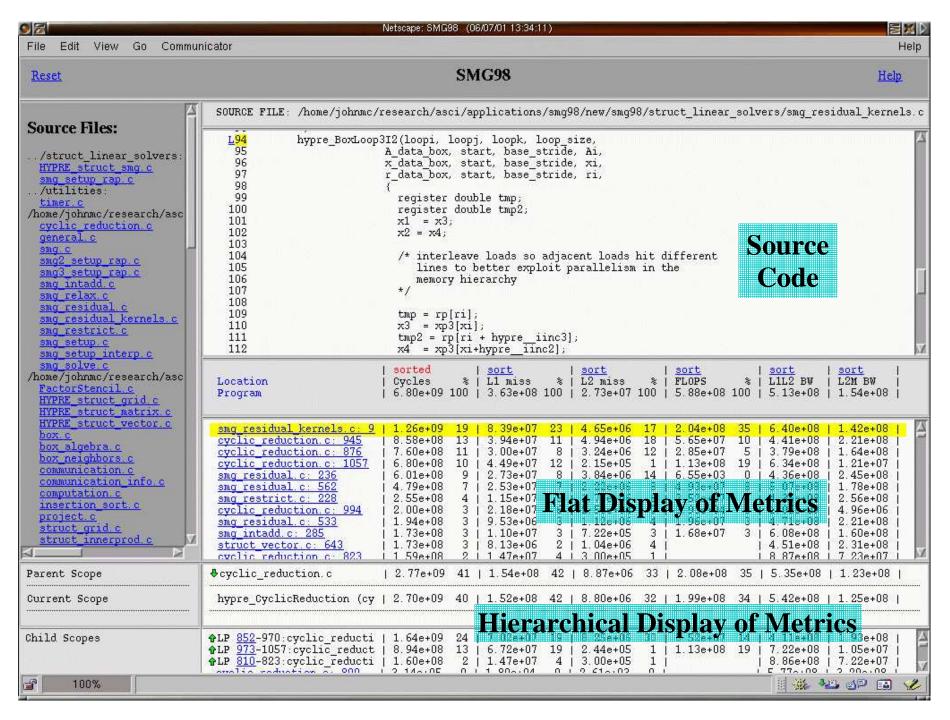


Selection in any pane navigates other panes and highlights matching information.

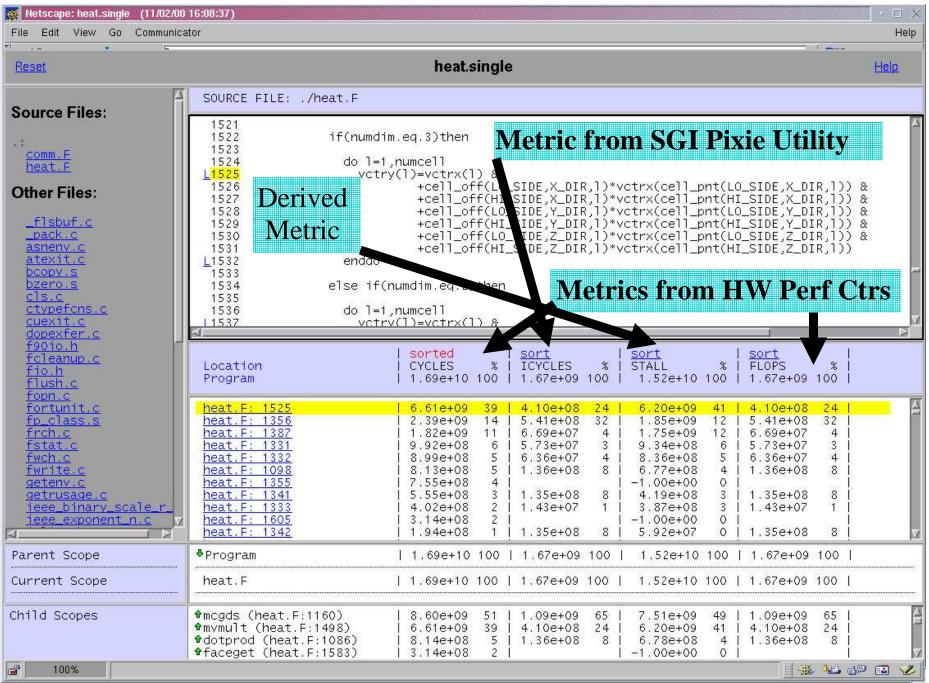
HPCView

- Reads one or more performance metric measurement files stored in machine—independent XML form (e.g. metrics gathered from hardware performance counter sampling).
- A companion binary analyzer supplies loop nesting information to enable HPCView to compute loop—level performance metrics.
- Can compute derived performance metrics as functions of input metrics.
- Correlates performance metrics with source code producing structured output at line, loop, procedure, file, and program levels.
- Completely customizable views: input metrics, program structure information, and computed metric equations all from a configuration file.

The HPCView User Interface



HPCView Displaying a Derived Metric



Summary

- MHSIM provides detailed memory hierarchy utilization information via simulation.
- HPCView displays multiple sources of performance information and computes derived metrics.
- Results are shown in scope—hierarchy views of the source code and the output is produced as HTML databases that can be displayed using commodity browsers.
- Has been used to improve the performance of large scientific applications.