15-213

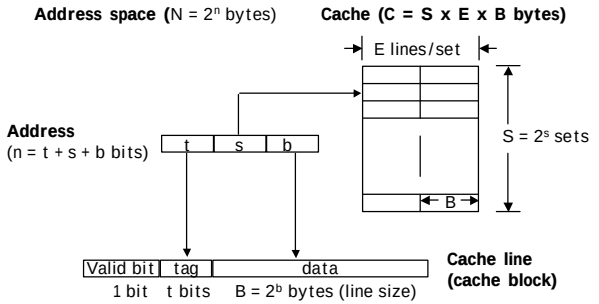
Memory System Performance

March 21, 2000

Topics

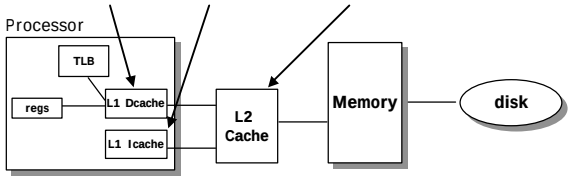
- **Impact of cache parameters**
- **Impact of memory reference patterns**
  - memory mountain range
  - matrix multiply

Basic Cache Organization



Multi-Level Caches

Options: ***separate*** data and instruction caches, or a ***unified*** cache



size:	200 B	8-64 KB	1-4MB SRAM	128 MB DRAM	9 GB
speed:	2 ns	2 ns	4 ns	60 ns	8 ms
$/Mbyte:			$100/MB	$1.50/MB	$0.05/MB
line size:	8 B	32 B	32 B	8 KB	

larger, slower, cheaper

larger line size, higher associativity, more likely to write back

Cache Performance Metrics

Miss Rate

- **fraction of memory references not found in cache (misses/references)**
- **Typical numbers:**
  3-10% for L1
  can be quite small (e.g., < 1%) for L2, depending on size, etc.

Hit Time

- **time to deliver a line in the cache to the processor (includes time to determine whether the line is in the cache)**
- **Typical numbers:**
  1 clock cycle for L1
  3-8 clock cycles for L2

Miss Penalty

- **additional time required because of a miss**
  - Typically 25-100 cycles for main memory

Impact of Cache and Line Size

Cache Size

- **impact on *miss rate*:**
  - larger is better
- **impact on *hit time*:**
  - smaller is faster

Line Size

- **impact on *miss rate*:**
  - big lines can help exploit spatial locality (if it exists)
  - however, for a given cache size, bigger lines means that there are fewer of them (which can hurt the miss rate)
- **impact on *miss penalty*:**
  - given a fixed amount of bandwidth, larger lines means longer transfer times (and hence larger miss penalties)

Impact of Associativity

- **Direct mapped, set associative, or fully associative?**

Total Cache Size (tags+data):

- **Higher associativity requires more tag bits, LRU state machine bits**
- **Additional read/write logic, multiplexers (MUXs)**

Miss Rate:

- **Higher associativity (generally) decreases miss rate**

Hit Time:

- **Higher associativity increases hit time**
  - direct mapped is the fastest

Miss Penalty:

- **Higher associativity may require additional delays to select victim**
  - in practice, this decision is often overlapped with other parts of the miss

Impact of Write Strategy

- **Write through or write back?**

Advantages of Write Through:

- **Read misses are cheaper.**
  - Why?
- **Simpler to implement.**
  - uses a write buffer to pipeline writes

Advantages of Write Back:

- **Reduced traffic to memory**
  - especially if bus used to connect multiple processors or I/O devices
- **Individual writes performed at the processor rate**

Qualitative Cache Performance Model

Compulsory (aka "Cold") Misses:

- first access to a memory line (which is not in the cache already)
  - since lines are only brought into the cache *on demand*, this is guaranteed to be a cache miss
- changing the cache size or configuration does not help

Capacity Misses:

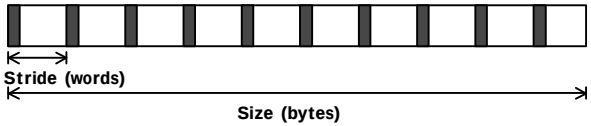
- active portion of memory exceeds the cache size
- the only thing that really helps is increasing the cache size

Conflict Misses:

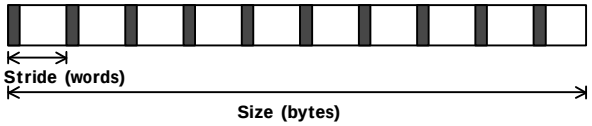
- active portion of address space fits in cache, but too many lines map to the same cache entry
- increased associativity and better replacement policies can potentially help

Measuring Memory Bandwidth

```
int data[MAXSIZE];
int test(int size, int stride)
{
  int result = 0;
  int wsize = size/sizeof(int);
  for (i = 0; i < wsize; i+= stride)
    result += data[i];
  return result;
}
```



Measuring Memory Bandwidth (cont.)



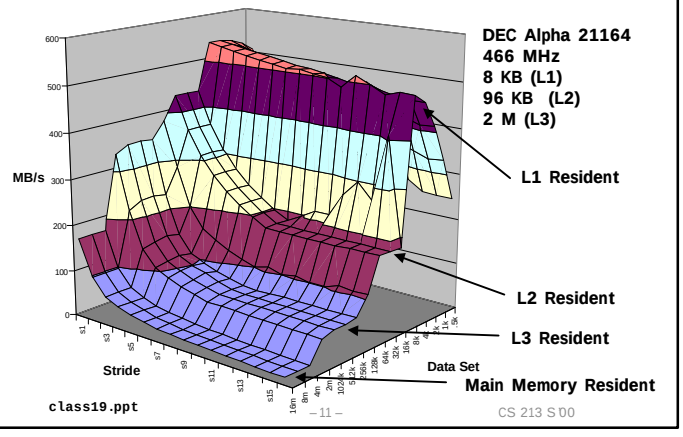
Measurement

- **Time repeated calls to `test`**
  - If size sufficiently small, then can hold array in cache

Characteristics of Computation

- **Stresses read bandwidth of system**
- **Increasing stride yields decreased spatial locality**
  - On average will get stride*4/B accesses / cache block
- **Increasing size increases size of "working set"**

Alpha Memory Mountain Range



Effects Seen in Mountain Range

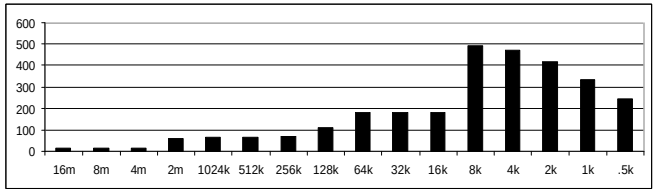
Cache Capacity

- **See sudden drops as increase working set size**

Cache Block Effects

- **Performance degrades as increase stride**
  - Less spatial locality
- **Levels off**
  - When reach single access per line

Alpha Cache Sizes

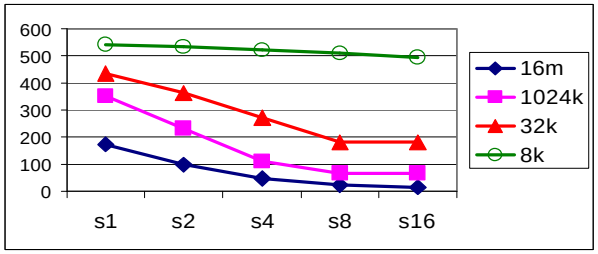


- MB/s for stride = 16

Ranges

.5k – 8k	Running in L1 (High overhead for small data set)
16k – 64k	Running in L2.
128k	Indistinct cutoff (Since cache is 96KB)
256k – 2m	Running in L3.
4m – 16m	Running in main memory

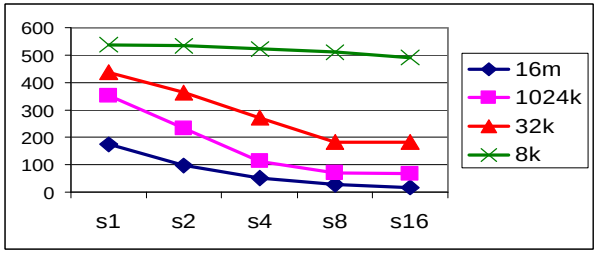
Alpha Line Size Effects



Observed Phenomenon

- As double stride, decrease accesses/block by 2
- Until reaches point where just 1 access / block
- Line size at transition from downward slope to horizontal line
  - Sometimes indistinct

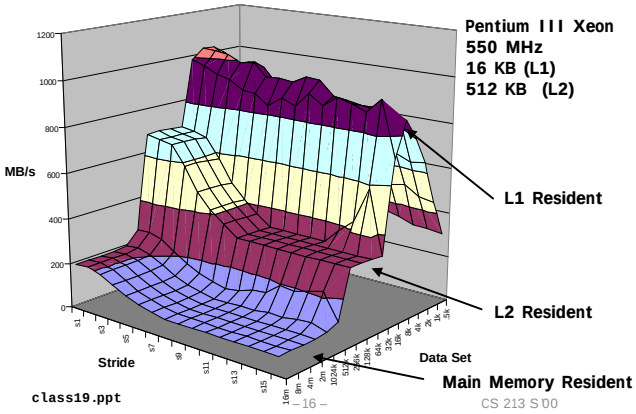
Alpha Line Sizes



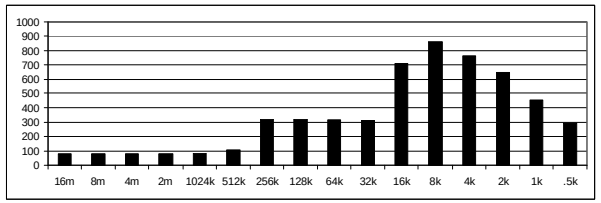
Measurements

8k	Entire array L1 resident. Effectively flat (except for overhead)
32k	Shows that L1 line size = 32B
1024k	Shows that L2 line size = 32B
16m	L3 line size = 64?

Xeon Memory Mountain Range



Xeon Cache Sizes

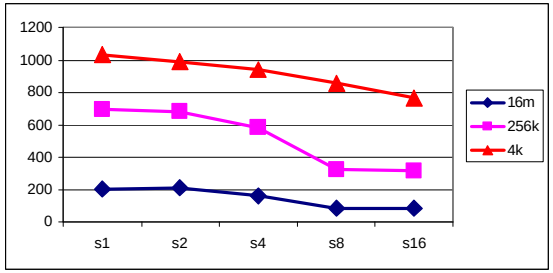


- **MB/s for stride = 16**

Ranges

.5k – 16k	**Running in L1. (Overhead at high end)**
32k – 256k	**Running in L2.**
512k	**Running in main memory (but L2 supposed to be 512K!)**
1m – 16m	**Running in main memory**

Xeon Line Sizes



Measurements

4k	**Entire array L1 resident. Effectively flat (except for overhead)**
256k	**Shows that L1 line size = 32B**
16m	**Shows that L2 line size = 32B**

Interactions Between Program & Cache

Major Cache Effects to Consider

- **Total cache size**
  - Try to keep heavily used data in cache closest to processor
- **Line size**
  - Exploit spatial locality

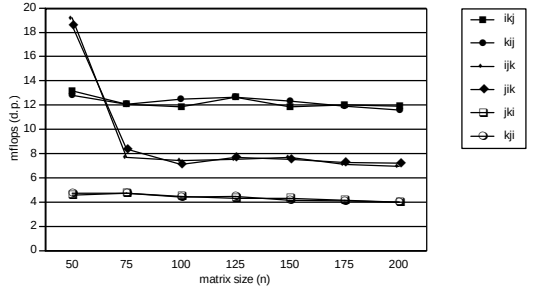
*Variable **sum** held in register*

```
/* ijk */
for (i=0; i<n; i++)  {
  for (j=0; j<n; j++) {
    sum = 0.0;
    for (k=0; k<n; k++)
      sum += a[i][k] * b[k][j];
    c[i][j] = sum;
  }
}
```

Example Application

- **Multiply N x N matrices**
- **O(N^3) total operations**
- **Accesses**
  - N reads per source element
  - N values summed per destination
    - but may be able to hold in register

Matrix Mult. Performance: Sparc20



- **As matrices grow in size, they eventually exceed cache capacity**
- **Different loop orderings give different performance**
  - cache effects
  - whether or not we can accumulate partial sums in registers

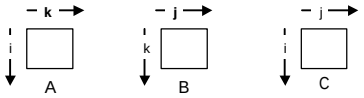
Miss Rate Analysis for Matrix Multiply

Assume:

- **Line size = 32B (big enough for 4 64-bit words)**
- **Matrix dimension (N) is very large**
  - Approximate 1/N as 0.0
- **Cache is not even big enough to hold multiple rows**

Analysis Method:

- **Look at access pattern of inner loop**



Layout of Arrays in Memory

C arrays allocated in row-major order

- **each row in contiguous memory locations**

Stepping through columns in one row:

```
for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
  sum += a[0][i];
```

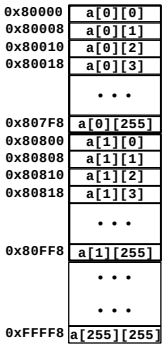
- **accesses successive elements**
- **if line size (B) > 8 bytes, exploit spatial locality**
  - compulsory miss rate = 8 bytes / B

Stepping through rows in one column:

```
for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
  sum += a[i][0];
```

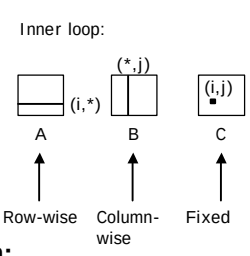
- **accesses distant elements**
- ***no spatial locality!***
  - compulsory miss rate = 1 (i.e. 100%)

Memory Layout



Matrix Multiplication (ijk)

```
/* ijk */
for (i=0; i<n; i++)  {
  for (j=0; j<n; j++) {
    sum = 0.0;
    for (k=0; k<n; k++)
      sum += a[i][k] * b[k][j];
    c[i][j] = sum;
  }
}
```

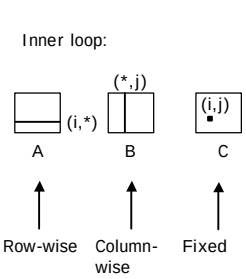


Misses per Inner Loop Iteration:

A	B	C
0.25	1.0	0.0

Matrix Multiplication (jik)

```
/* jik */
for (j=0; j<n; j++) {
  for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
    sum = 0.0;
    for (k=0; k<n; k++)
      sum += a[i][k] * b[k][j];
    c[i][j] = sum
  }
}
```

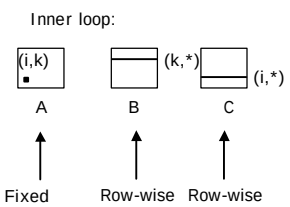


Misses per Inner Loop Iteration:

A	B	C
0.25	1.0	0.0

Matrix Multiplication (kij)

```
/* kij */
for (k=0; k<n; k++) {
  for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
    r = a[i][k];
    for (j=0; j<n; j++)
      c[i][j] += r * b[k][j];
  }
}
```

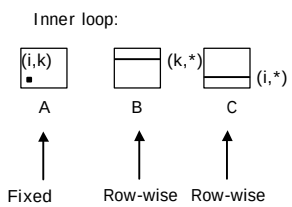


Misses per Inner Loop Iteration:

A	B	C
0.0	0.25	0.25

Matrix Multiplication (ikj)

```
/* ikj */
for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
  for (k=0; k<n; k++) {
    r = a[i][k];
    for (j=0; j<n; j++)
      c[i][j] += r * b[k][j];
  }
}
```

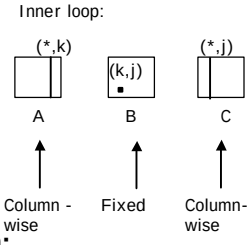


Misses per Inner Loop Iteration:

A	B	C
0.0	0.25	0.25

Matrix Multiplication (jki)

```
/* jki */
for (j=0; j<n; j++) {
  for (k=0; k<n; k++) {
    r = b[k][j];
    for (i=0; i<n; i++)
      c[i][j] += a[i][k] * r;
  }
}
```

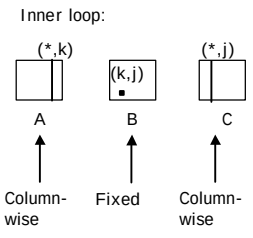


Misses per Inner Loop Iteration:

A	B	C
1.0	0.0	1.0

Matrix Multiplication (kji)

```
/* kji */
for (k=0; k<n; k++) {
  for (j=0; j<n; j++) {
    r = b[k][j];
    for (i=0; i<n; i++)
      c[i][j] += a[i][k] * r;
  }
}
```



Misses per Inner Loop Iteration:

A	B	C
1.0	0.0	1.0

Summary of Matrix Multiplication

ijk (& jik):
- 2 loads, 0 stores
- misses/iter = **1.25**

kij (& ikj):
- 2 loads, 1 store
- misses/iter = **0.5**

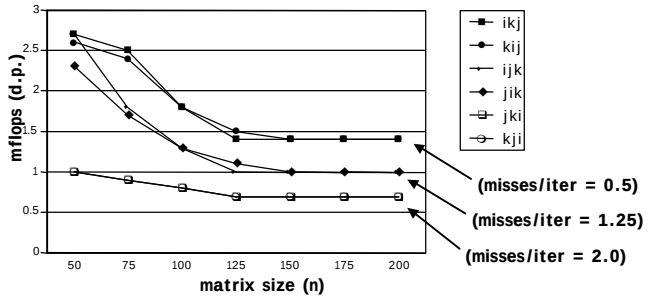
jki (& kji):
- 2 loads, 1 store
- misses/iter = **2.0**

```
for (i=0; i<n; i++)  {
  for (j=0; j<n; j++) {
    sum = 0.0;
    for (k=0; k<n; k++)
      sum += a[i][k] * b[k][j];
    c[i][j] = sum;
  }
}
```

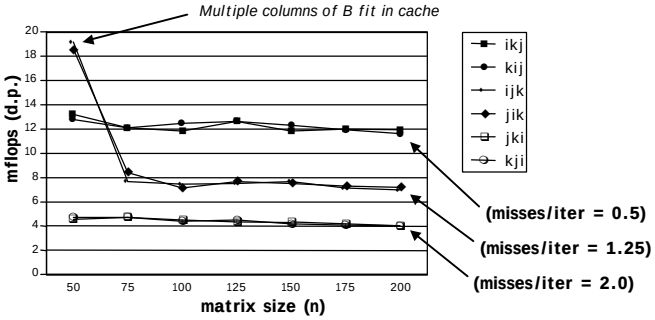
```
for (k=0; k<n; k++) {
  for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
    r = a[i][k];
    for (j=0; j<n; j++)
      c[i][j] += r * b[k][j];
  }
}
```

```
for (j=0; j<n; j++) {
  for (k=0; k<n; k++) {
    r = b[k][j];
    for (i=0; i<n; i++)
      c[i][j] += a[i][k] * r;
  }
}
```

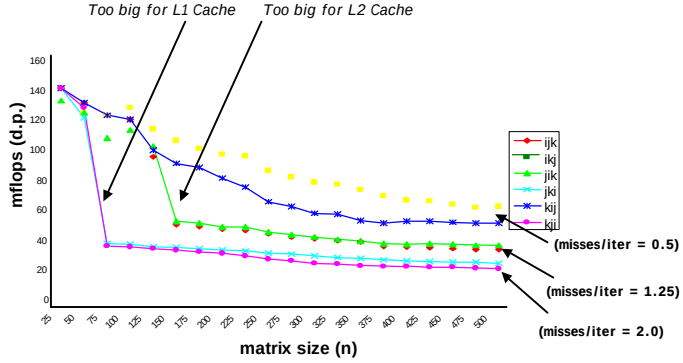

Matrix Mult. Performance: DEC5000



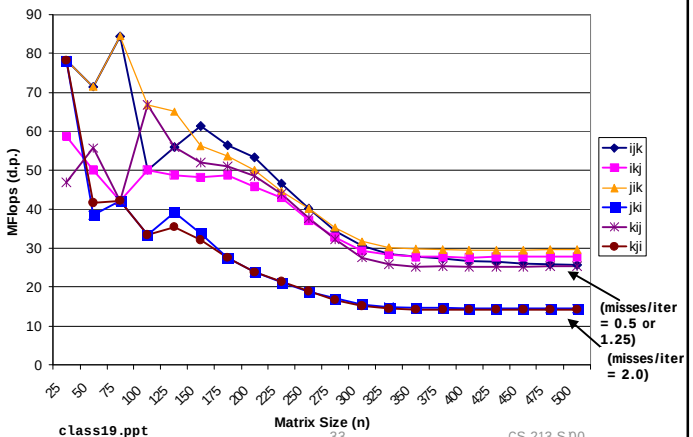
Matrix Mult. Performance: Sparc20



Matrix Mult. Performance: Alpha 21164



Matrix Mult.: Pentium III Xeon



Blocked Matrix Multiplication

- **"Block" (in this context) does not mean "cache block"**
  - instead, it means a sub-block within the matrix

Example: N = 8; *sub-block size* = 4

$$\begin{bmatrix} A11 & A12 \\ A21 & A22 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} B11 & B12 \\ B21 & B22 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C11 & C12 \\ C21 & C22 \end{bmatrix}$$

Key idea: Sub-blocks (i.e., $\mathbf{A_{xy}}$) can be treated just like scalars.

$C_{11} = A_{11}B_{11} + A_{12}B_{21}$ $\quad C_{12} = A_{11}B_{12} + A_{12}B_{22}$

$C_{21} = A_{21}B_{11} + A_{22}B_{21}$ $\quad C_{22} = A_{21}B_{12} + A_{22}B_{22}$

Blocked Matrix Multiply (bijk)

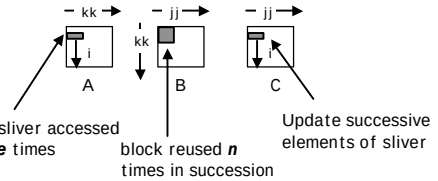
```
for (jj=0; jj<n; jj+=bsize) {
  for (i=0; i<n; i++)
    for (j=jj; j < min(jj+bsize,n); j++)
      c[i][j] = 0.0;
  for (kk=0; kk<n; kk+=bsize) {
    for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
      for (j=jj; j < min(jj+bsize,n); j++) {
        sum = 0.0
        for (k=kk; k < min(kk+bsize,n); k++) {
          sum += a[i][k] * b[k][j];
        }
        c[i][j] += sum;
      }
    }
  }
}
```


Blocked Matrix Multiply Analysis

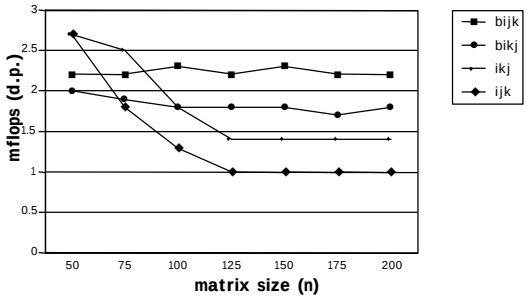
- **Innermost loop pair multiplies a 1 X *bsize* sliver of A by a *bsize* X *bsize* block of B and accumulates into 1 X *bsize* sliver of C**
- **Loop over i steps through n row slivers of A & C, using same B**

```
for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
    for (j=jj; j < min(jj+bsize,n); j++) {
      sum = 0.0
      for (k=kk; k < min(kk+bsize,n); k++) {
        sum += a[i][k] * b[k][j];
      }
      c[i][j] += sum;
    }
```

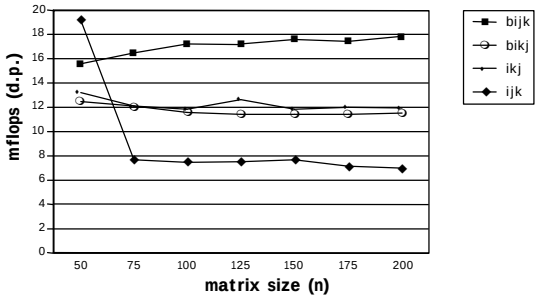
Innermost Loop Pair



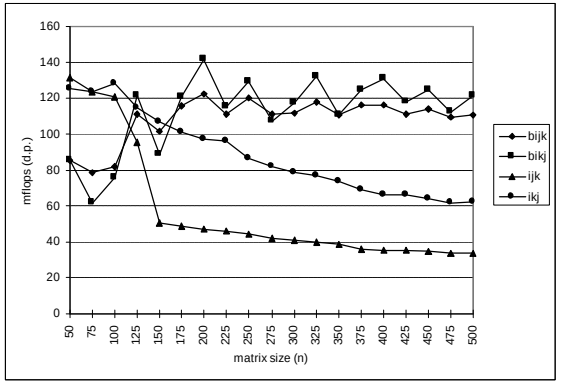
Blocked Matrix Mult. Perf: DEC5000



Blocked Matrix Mult. Perf: Sparc20



Blocked Matrix Mult. Perf: Alpha 21164



Blocked Matrix Mult. : Xeon