

# Optimizing Data Distribution for Loops on Embedded Multicore with Scratch-Pad Memory

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**Abstract**—Software-controlled Scratch-Pad Memory (SPM) is a desirable candidate for on-chip memory units in embedded multi-core systems due to its advantages of small die area and low power consumption. In particular, data placement on SPMs can be explicitly controlled by software. Therefore, the technique of data distribution on SPMs for multi-core system becomes critical in exploiting the advantages of SPM. Previous research efforts on data allocation did not consider the placement of array data accessed in loops. Loops are the most time-consuming and energy-consuming part for most of the computation-intensive applications. In this paper, we propose a high-performance, low-overhead data distribution technique, the Iterational Optimal Loop Data Distribution Algorithm based on dynamic programming. It optimizes data allocation of both scalar and array data for embedded multi-core systems with SPMs. The experimental results show that the IOLDD algorithm reduces the energy consumption by 30.12% and 14.52% on average compared with random data distribution and greedy strategy, respectively. It also reduces the memory access time by 18.45% and 18.38% on average compared with the random distribution strategy and the greedy strategy, respectively.

**Index Terms**—Data distribution, multi-core, scratch-pad memory, embedded systems

## I. INTRODUCTION

MULTI-CORE design becomes the mainstream of high-performance embedded systems because of the ever-increasing demand on performance for applications such as digital signal processing, wireless communication, and mobile computing. Meanwhile, the design of multi-core systems usually has to satisfy strict requirements on low power consumption and small die area. Therefore, Scratch-Pad Memory becomes an effective design alternative to replace cache as on-chip memory in embedded multi-core systems. Software-controlled SPM guarantees a single-cycle access time with low energy

consumption and small die area compared with hardware-controlled cache. In particular, data on SPM can be precisely controlled by software during system design. Many digital signal processing systems such as Analog Devices ADSP-BF534/6/7 [1] and TI's TMS370CX7X [2], as well as multicore architectures such as NVIDIA GeForce 8800 [3], employ SPM as on-chip memory [4]. Therefore, how to efficiently distribute data items to on-chip SPMs to minimize the memory access cost becomes one of the key problem for fully exploiting the advantages of SPMs in embedded multi-core systems. Because loops are the most time and energy consuming code section in most of the computation-intensive applications, it is desirable to have efficient techniques to allocate array data, as well as scalar data, to multiple SPMs in a multi-core system.

A lot of multi-core systems employs symmetric multiprocessing (SMP) architecture. Multiple cores share a centralized main memory. Each core is equipped with a small and fast on-chip SPM to speed up data accesses. Usually, there is only one copy of each data item. Data items accessed by multiple cores can spread on SPMs for multiple cores. The cost for searching and moving data items around, however, is high for multicore systems. In this paper, we propose a technique for keeping and updating one copy of array data in main memory efficiently with a minimized backup cost. Furthermore, we propose a data duplication method to replicate local copies for read-only data to further reduce the data access cost.

Because of the capacity of SPMs is limited, only the commonly used data or data quite critical should be loaded into SPMs. Other data items are stored in off-chip main memory [5]. In this paper, a dynamic programming approach is used to produce optimal results for embedded multi-core systems with SPMs. The approach also achieves the goal of distributing both array and scalar data items in loops on multi-core systems and minimizing the time cost and energy consumption.

In this paper, we make the following contributions:

- 1) We propose a polynomial-time data distribution algorithm, the Iterational Optimal Loop data Distribution algorithm with Duplication (IOLDD), to minimize the total cost of memory access on multi-core systems equipped with SPMs for both arrays and scalar variables in loops.
- 2) We present a data duplication technique and integrate it into the data distribution algorithm. It further reduces the total cost of memory accesses by replicating multiple copies for read-only data items.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Related works are discussed in Section II. Models and some basic concepts are introduced in Section III. A motivational example is discussed in Section IV to illustrate some basic ideas of our algorithm. The problem definitions used in the paper are given in Section V. In Section VI, details of our improved dynamic approach IOLDD are presented. Section VII presents our experiments and Section VIII concludes the whole paper and mentions the future work.

## II. RELATED WORKS

There are a lot of works tackling the data distribution problem. Some of the works proposed static data distribution methods. The data distribution is determined for the whole program and will not change during the execution of the program [6] [7] [8]. The drawback of static methods is that it cannot explore the benefit of varying data locality in a running environment. The other category of previous techniques is dynamic data distribution [9] [10] [11]. For those dynamic methods, program will be divided into different regions. Data movement instructions are inserted before each region to generate data distribution for a program region. The data distribution remains the same in the execution of a particular region. Greedy strategy, for example, is used to find a data distribution for each region by Udayakumar in [12] [13]. Since dynamic data distribution takes advantage of the data locality of each program region, they have better performance than the static ones.

Array data is different from scalar data. Elements in array occupy contiguous memory locations. A single iterative statement in loop may process arbitrarily many elements of an array. Distributing array data is, therefore, quite different from the way we handle scalar data. To the best of the authors' knowledge, there is not much research work conducted on data distribution for arrays in a loop, and some methods greatly rely on the loop's characteristics. O. Ozturk *et al.* proposed algorithms to manage data for array-intensive nested loops with regular data access patterns [14] [15]. R. Thakur *et al.* proposed efficient algorithms to manage dynamic redistribution of arrays [16]. W. Huan *et al.* proposed algorithms to optimize all of the data segments, including global data, heap and stack data in general [17]. These methods do not consider the case of distributing both array and scalar data items in a loop on multi-core systems.

Research efforts have also been taken on the data distribution problem for SPMs. R. Banakar *et al.* proposed a simple SPM data management algorithm. But the algorithm cannot guarantee to achieve optimal results and is only applicable to scalar data [4]. Jun Zhang *et al.* proposed an algorithm for loops on single-core systems instead of multi-cores [18]. Y. Guo and Q. Zhuge *et al.* proposed a polynomial-time algorithm to solve the data distribution problem on multiple types of memory units [19] [20]. However, they only consider distribution for scalar data items and do not mention data distribution for loops. The data distribution problem for array data is very important for most of the applications. In this paper, we focus on developing a dynamic programming approach for both array and scalar data items on multi-core systems.

## III. MODELS AND BASIC CONCEPTS

In this section, we first introduce the hardware architecture. Then, we will present the program execution model we use in this paper.

### A. Hardware Architecture

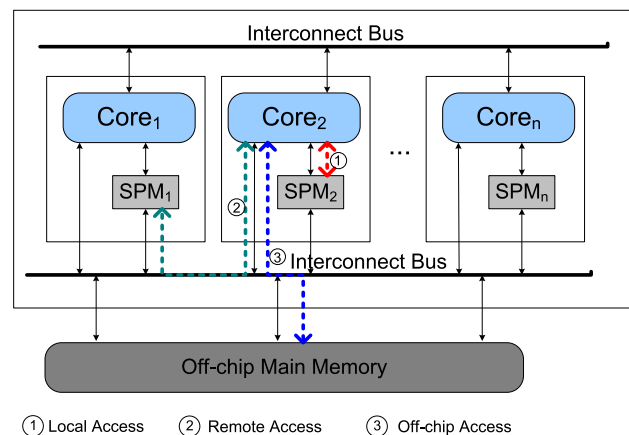


Figure 1. A multi-core hardware architecture.

The organization of on-chip memories of our hardware architecture is shown in Fig. 1. Every core has its own on-chip SPM, while all cores share the DRAM main memory. Each core can access its own local SPM. It can also access data items on other cores' SPMs by the interconnect bus. Scratch-pad-memory here can be organized as a Virtually Shared SPM (VS-SPM) architecture for on-chip memory that takes advantage of both shared and local SPM [21]. Distinct from the local SPM, SPMs of other cores are referred to as remote SPMs. There is no limit for the number of remote SPMs that a core can access in the architecture.

In Fig. 1, we show three types of memory access pattern as depicted by three types of dot lines. They are local access, remote access and off-chip access, corresponding to the accesses for cores to local SPM, remote SPM and off-chip memory, respectively. Due to the communication cost of the interconnected data bus, remote access incurs

longer latency than the local access. Objectively, for the low performance of DRAM and the high communication cost, latency of off-chip access is much longer than the latencies of both local and remote accesses [22]. In our architecture, each core can access all remote SPMs. Let  $Dist$  be the distance between two cores. The cost of remote access is a non-decreasing function  $f$  of  $Dist$ .

### B. Execution Model

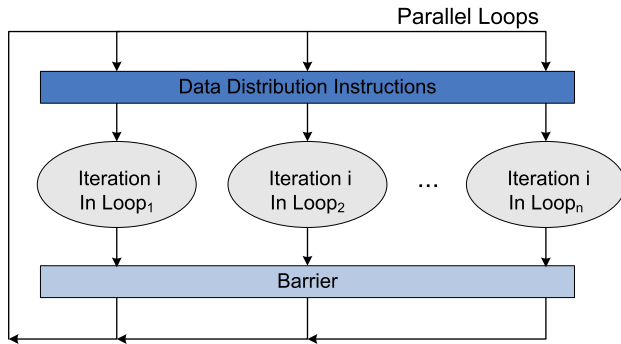


Figure 2. Demonstration of execution model for Loops .

In this paper, we consider the data distribution problem for loops can be paralleled in the program. A barrier is used to synchronize the execution of each iteration for all the loops. We also consider each basic block of a program as a program region. The execution model of loops executed in parallel on a multi-core system is shown in Fig. 2. Assume that there is no conditional branch in loop body. Each iteration is regarded as a program region by the compiler. The number of accesses on each data item in a program region can be obtained through profiling. Compiler inserts data distribution instructions at the beginning of a loop iteration. Therefore, data items are allocated to various memory units before parallel regions are executed. In case of conditional branch existing in loop body, each branch then should be considered as a program region. Data distribution instructions should be inserted at the beginning of each region. The data distribution problem considered in this paper tries to explore the opportunity of the optimal data placement on SPMs in multi-core systems. It aims to improve the performance and reduce the cost of memory accesses for our execution model.

## IV. MOTIVATIONAL EXAMPLE

In this section, a motivational example is presented to illustrate the main idea of the proposed algorithm (IOLDD). The goal of optimization is to minimize the total memory access cost of a parallel iteration in loops.

In this motivational example, we assume all data items have the same size. Thus, the size of SPM is denoted by the number of data items that can be stored in SPM. Focus on the architecture shown in Fig. 1, we assume the system has only two cores  $Core_1$  and  $Core_2$ . Each core is equipped with an on-chip SPM marked as  $SPM_1$  and  $SPM_2$ , respectively. For the purpose of simplicity and

illustration, we assume that  $SPM_1$  has a capacity of two, and  $SPM_2$  can hold three data items in the motivational example. All cores can access the shared main memory, which is large enough to store all data items.

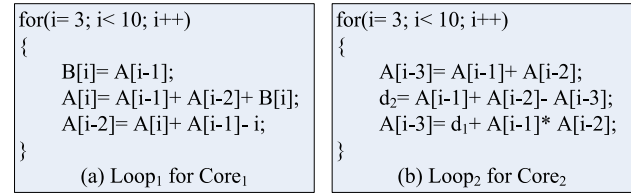


Figure 3. The loop programs for  $Core_1$  and  $Core_2$  in the example

Given two loop programs, as shown in Fig. 3,  $Loop_1$  is assigned to  $Core_1$  and  $Loop_2$  is assigned to  $Core_2$ . There are seven data items to be accessed: two scalar data items  $d_1$ ,  $d_2$  and five array data items  $A[i]$ ,  $A[i-1]$ ,  $A[i-2]$ ,  $A[i-3]$  and  $B[i]$ . Each data item can be assigned to  $SPM_1$  or  $SPM_2$ . Besides, each iteration is regarded as a program region, and in the execution model, the iteration in loop body forms a parallel region.

TABLE I.  
NUMBERS OF DATA ACCESSES FOR EACH CORE

Data	$d_1$	$d_2$	$d_3$ ( $A[i]$ )	$d_4$ ( $A[i-1]$ )	$d_5$ ( $A[i-2]$ )	$d_6$ ( $A[i-3]$ )	$d_7$ ( $B[i]$ )
$Core1_{Access}$	0	0	2	3	2	0	2
$Core2_{Access}$	1	1	0	3	3	3	0

The number of seven data accesses in one iteration is shown in Table I. Both  $Core_1$  and  $Core_2$  can access these data items and they run in parallel. The “Access” operation includes both “Read” and “Write” operations for the core. In Table I, take  $Core_1$  for example, row “ $Core1_{Access}$ ” shows the access times of  $Core_1$  for the data items. The corresponding loop program in  $Core_1$  is depicted in Fig. 3(a). For data  $d_1$ , we know  $Core1_{Access}(d_1) = 0$  and  $Core2_{Access}(d_1) = 1$ . In  $Loop_1$ ,  $Core_1$  has neither “Read” operation nor “Write” operation for data  $d_1$ . While in  $Loop_2$ , data  $d_1$  is read once. In this paper, we define a data which is “Read” by some cores and not “Written” by any core as a “Read-only” data. The problem of this example is how to find a data distribution for the seven data items in each iteration such that their total cost of memory access is minimized.

TABLE II.  
NOTATIONS USED IN EXAMPLES

Notation	Time ( $\mu s$ )	Definition
$Read_{spm_i}$	1	the cost of reading from $Core_i$ 's SPM.
$Write_{spm_i}$	1	the cost of writing to $Core_i$ 's SPM.
$Read_{spm_j \rightarrow spm_i}$	20	the cost of reading from $Core_j$ 's SPM to $Core_i$ 's SPM.
$Write_{spm_j \rightarrow spm_i}$	20	the cost of writing from $Core_j$ 's SPM to $Core_i$ 's SPM.
$Read_M$	60	the cost of reading from main memory.
$Write_M$	60	the cost of writing to main memory.
$Migration_{spm_i \rightarrow spm_j}$	21	the cost of moving data from $Core_i$ 's SPM to $Core_j$ 's SPM.
$Migration_{spm_i \rightarrow M, M \rightarrow spm_i}$	61	the cost of moving data between $Core_i$ 's SPM and main memory.

Table II shows the notation, the time cost (in  $\mu s$ ) and the definition of memory operations. All data items are supposed in the main memory in the initial data distribution. In this example, we assume the non-decreasing

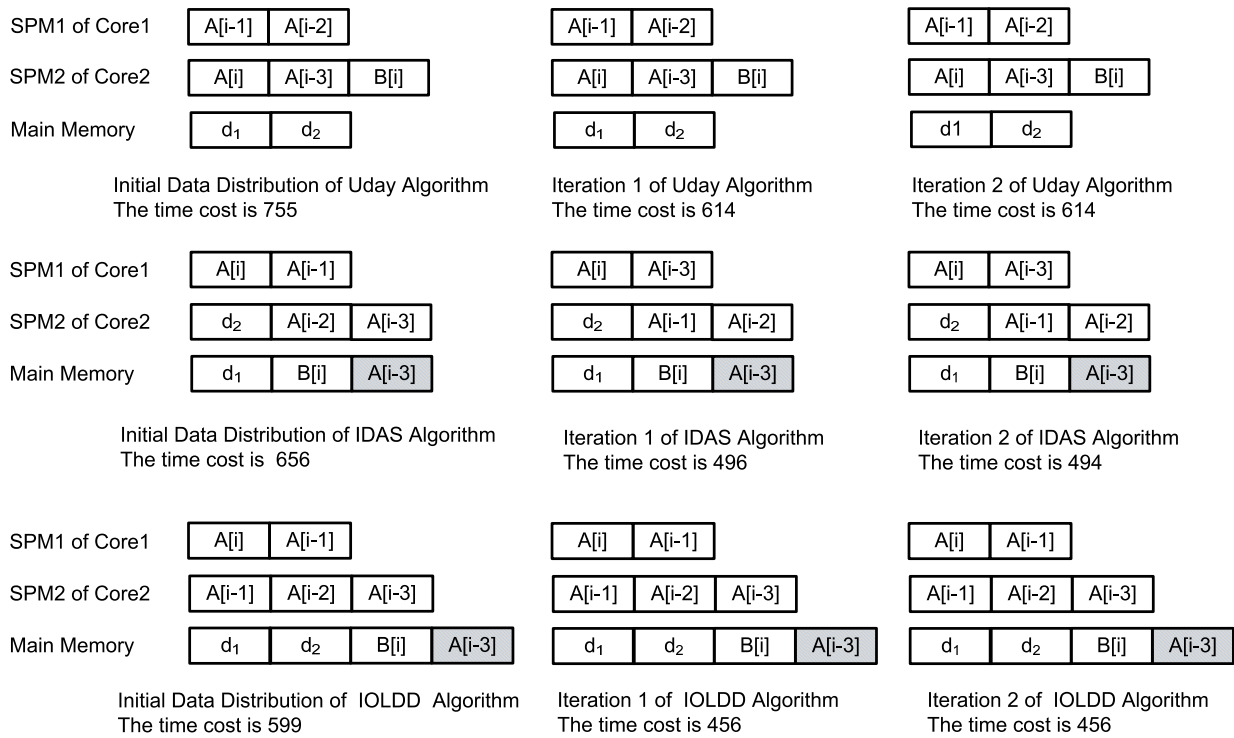


Figure 4. Costs and Distribution of each iteration with three different methods

remote SPM access cost function is a linear function  $f(d) = 20*d$ . Since there are two cores in the system, the distance  $d$  equals 1. Therefore, the remote SPM accessing costs  $Read_{spm_j \rightarrow spm_i}$  and  $Write_{spm_j \rightarrow spm_i}$  are 20.

We solve the problem with three strategies. One is the greedy strategy (Uday), which is derived from Udayakumar’s algorithm [12] [13] on single-core systems. The other is dynamic programming strategy on single-core (IDAS), which is derived from Zhang’s paper [18]. Finally, it is our iterational optimal strategy (IOLDD), which will be presented in detail in Section VI.

The greedy algorithm is derived from Udayakumar’s algorithm in [12] [13], and we call it “Uday” for short. The algorithm is a greedy algorithm, it distributes data items according to their read and write access times of all cores. However, the approach only targets single-core processors. For the purpose of comparison, we adopt the algorithm and apply it on multi-core systems.

The derived Uday algorithm works as follows: To begin with, data items are sorted according to their total number of accesses which is the sum of the number of accesses from all cores to this data. After that, data with the most total number of accesses is picked by the compiler. Then the compiler distributes the data into the available SPM of the core that accesses the data most times. When all the SPMs of the cores are full, the data should be distributed into the main memory.

As to the IDAS algorithm, it is derived from Zhang’s algorithm in [18]. Though the algorithm is a dynamic programming algorithm, it is limited in single-core systems. Besides, it can not fully utilize the benefits of the private local SPM on each core. On the other side, the

IOLDD algorithm propose a duplication mechanism to utilize the distinct costs of data to/from local SPM, remote SPM and main memory. It is a technique that achieves higher time efficiency at the cost of space. In multi-core systems, traditionally, a data item has only one copy in either one of the SPMs or main memory. Multiple cores may access the same data in one parallel region. It is sometimes beneficial to duplicate data and place multiple copies of the same data in different SPMs. However, some of the data items cannot be duplicated because of high synchronization cost. Therefore, we only allow read-only data items to be duplicated.

TABLE III. COST COMPARISON AMONG THREE DIFFERENT METHODS

Tech.	Initial Data Distribution		Iteration 1		Iteration 2	
	Cost	Imprv.	Cost	Imprv.	Cost	Imprv.
IOLDD	599	—	456	—	456	—
Uday	755	20.66%	614	25.73%	614	25.73%
IDAS	656	8.69%	496	8.06%	494	7.69%

Results of the example with three strategies can be seen in both Table III and Fig. 4. The final data distribution for Uday algorithm results in a time cost of 614  $\mu s$ . To avoid array data items in loop being distributed in different SPMs and hard to find, we use the technique of update and have the backups of arrays in main memory. As shown in Fig. 4, these updated data items are distinguished by gray boxes. For IDAS algorithm, data  $A[i - 3]$  needs to be updated to main memory. Since data  $B[i]$  has already been in main memory, it does not need to be updated. Time cost can finally be reduced to 494  $\mu s$ . For IOLDD algorithm, data  $A[i - 1]$  is located in both  $SPM_1$  and  $SPM_2$ , we say data  $A[i - 1]$  is duplicated. The final result of time cost is stable at 456  $\mu s$ , less than the costs of

other two algorithms. Thus, we can conclude that IOLDD algorithm works better than both the Uday algorithm and IDAS algorithm in the motivational example.

## V. PROBLEM DEFINITION

In this section, definitions for the problem of loop data distribution on multi-core systems are presented. Firstly, the following notations and definitions are used:

Notation	Definition
$D$	a set of distinct data items for loops $\{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_N\}$ , where data can be either a scalar data or an array data item.
$SPM$	a set of SPMs on each core $\{spm_1, spm_2, \dots, spm_T\}$ , where $T$ is a constant. Besides, $m_0$ is the main memory.
$Core$	a set of cores in hardware architecture $\{Core_1, Core_2, \dots, Core_T\}$ . Each core $Core_i$ has its own on-chip local SPM $spm_i$ .
$CAcc_i(d_j)$	the number of access times for data $d_j$ by $Core_i$ .
$dist^P(d_j)$	a loop data distribution function for data $d_j$ defined from $D$ to $SPM$ in one iteration $P$ .
$Cost_{spm_i}(d_j)$	a cost of memory access for data $d_j$ in $spm_i$ without duplication.
$Cost_{spm_i+k+\dots}(d_j)$	a duplication cost of memory access for data $d_j$ where $d_j$ is in $(spm_i, spm_k, \dots)$ .

For function  $dist^P: D \rightarrow SPM$ , if  $dist^P(d_j) = spm_i$ , it indicates data  $d_j$  is distributed to  $spm_i$  on  $Core_i$  in iteration  $P$ . Therefore,  $dist^{P-1}(d_j)$  represents the location of data  $d_j$  before the execution of iteration  $P$  in loop body.

**Loop Data Distribution Problem.** Given a set of data items  $D$  in iteration  $P$ , a set of SPMs  $SPM$ .  $Size_{spm_i}$  represents the capacity of  $spm_i \in SPM$ ,  $Size_{d_j}$  means the size of data  $d_j$ . The loop data distribution problem is to find a mapping between data  $d_j \in D$  and SPM  $spm_i \in SPM$ . The total cost of memory access  $Cost_{dist^P(d_j)}(d_j)$  is minimized, and inequality  $\sum_{\forall d_j \in D, dist^P(d_j)=spm_i} Size_{d_j} \leq Size_{spm_i}$  is satisfied.

**Definition 1: Migration Cost.** The data migration cost is the cost of retrieving one data item from its original location and writing it to another memory unit. Hence, the migration cost is defined as the sum of one read operation from the original location and one write operation to the destination memory unit, as shown in Equation 1.

$$Migrate(d_j) = \begin{cases} Read_{spm_i} + Write_M & \\ Read_{spm_i} + Write_{spm_j} & i, j = 1, 2, \dots, T \\ Read_M + Write_{spm_i} & \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

**Related Array.** An array is related when the array data item accessed in the previous iteration is still accessed in the current iteration. Take array  $A$  for example, if  $A[i]$ , ...,  $A[i-j]$ , ..., and  $A[i-k]$  ( $k \geq j \geq 1$ ) are accessed in loop at the same iteration  $i$ , We say that array  $A$  is related. The relation of data items in array  $A$  is defined as:  $relation_{A[i]}$

$= 0, \dots, relation_{A[i-j]} = 0, \dots, relation_{A[i-k+1]} = 0$ , and  $relation_{A[i-k]} = k$ . The relation of array  $A$  is defined as  $relation_A = k$ .

**Unrelated Array.** An array is unrelated when the array data item accessed in the previous iteration is not accessed in the current iteration. The relation of an unrelated array  $B$  is also defined as  $relation_B$ . It equals to  $-1$ . All data items in unrelated array are also unrelated. We define:  $relation_{B[i]} = -1$ , here  $B[i]$  is one data item from array  $B$  in iteration  $i$ .

**Definition 2: Updating Cost.** The updating cost is computed only for array items to ensure that there is a copy of that array with newest data value in main memory. It refers to the cost of reading array data item from its distributed location (except main memory), and writing it back to main memory. With the array updated into main memory, we do not need to seek scattered data items on different SPMs. It is convenient to access array data items because they are stored continuously in the main memory.

Data items in array may come from related arrays or unrelated arrays. To eliminate extra cost, only array data  $A[i - relation_A]$  is updated to main memory. When array data is already in main memory, it does not need to be updated.

**Theorem 1:** In loop data distribution problem, array data  $d_j$  will be distributed to the main memory, if and only if  $relation_{d_j} \neq 0$  and  $dist^{P-1}(d_j) \neq m_0$ .

$$Update(d_j) = \begin{cases} Read_{spm_i} + Write_M & \text{if } dist^{P-1}(d_j) \neq m_0 \\ & \text{and } relation_{d_j} \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

In Equation 2,  $spm_i$  is the location of array data  $d_j$ . Suppose in iteration  $i$ , array data  $A[i]$ ,  $A[i-1]$  and  $A[i-2]$  are used:  $relation_{A[i]} = 0$ ,  $relation_{A[i-1]} = 0$  and  $relation_{A[i-2]} = 2$ . After each iteration, we need to update  $A[i-2]$ , if it is not in the main memory, both  $A[i]$  and  $A[i-1]$  do not need to be updated. The updating cost is a sum of one read operation from local SPM  $spm_i$  and one write operation to main memory  $m_0$ , as shown in Equation 2.

**Definition 3: Cost of Memory Access for One Data Item without Duplication.** Let  $spm_i$  be the location of data item  $d_j$ , which is decided by the data distribution function  $dist^P(d_j)$ . Without duplication mechanism, the total cost of memory access for  $d_j$  is represented by a cost function  $Cost_{spm_i}(d_j)$ . It is the sum of data item's accessing cost for program execution, the migration cost of data  $d_j$  to a memory unit before the execution and the updating cost. The cost is computed by Equation 3.

**Definition 4: Moving Cost.** The moving cost is computed when data is going to be duplicated. It equals to the sum of migrating the data item from its original distributed location to the destination SPMs. We can compute the cost by Equation 4.

According to Equation 4, we can see that the moving cost is related to  $dist^{P-1}(d_j)$ . If data  $d_j$  was in one SPM before the execution of iteration  $P$  in loop, which is  $dist^{P-1}(d_j) \neq m_0$ . The moving cost is the sum of each

$$Cost_{spm_i}(d_j) = \sum_i CAcc_i(d_j) \times (Read_{spm_i} + Write_{spm_i}) + Migrate(dist^{P-1}(d_j), dist^P(d_j)) + Update(d_j) \quad (3)$$

$$Move(d_j) = \begin{cases} \sum_i Migrate(dist^{P-1}(d_j), spm_i) & \text{if } dist^{P-1}(d_j) \neq m_0 \\ Migrate(m_0, spm_i) + \sum_{i-1} (Migrate(spm_i, spm_k)) & \text{if } dist^{P-1}(d_j) = m_0 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

$$Cost_{spm_{i+k+\dots}}(d_j) = \begin{cases} \sum_i CAcc_i(d_j) \times (Read_{spm_i} + Write_{spm_i}) + Move(d_j) + Update(d_j) \\ \infty \end{cases} \quad CWrt_i(d_j) \neq 0 \quad (5)$$

cost of migrating data from the original SPM  $dist^{P-1}(d_j)$  to the destination SPMs. On the other hand, if data  $d_j$  was in main memory before the execution of iteration  $P$ , say  $dist^{P-1}(d_j) = m_0$ . The moving cost is the cost of migrating data from main memory to one destination SPM  $spm_i$ , plus a sum of other cost of migrating  $d_j$  from this  $spm_i$ , which has one copy already, to other destination SPMs  $spm_k$  ( $spm_i, spm_k \in SPM$  and  $k \neq i$ ).

**Definition 5: Duplication Cost.** The duplication cost is a cost of copying one data item to other SPMs on multi-core systems. It can be computed as the sum of accessing cost for “Read” or “Write” operations in local SPM, the moving cost to the destination SPMs and the updating cost for array data items.

Without the duplication mechanism, if a data item is intensively accessed by multiple cores, a lot of remote accesses will be incurred. Wherever the data is distributed, only one core is benefited from the local SPM. Data duplication technique will solve the problem by distributing a copy of the data item to each SPM that may be benefited. As a result, the time and energy cost incurred by remote accesses is reduced.

For exclusive copy mode, there is no worry about the data consistency. However, for data duplication mode, the data consistency problem becomes a key issue. Since it is common for multiple cores to access the same data in one parallel region, inconsistency of this data will occur if multiple cores have “Write” activities. Though in write heavy applications, duplicating to-be-written data may be beneficial with a well-designed data consistency protocol, the overhead caused by maintaining data consistency may offset the benefits of duplicating written data. Therefore, only read data is allowed to be duplicated. We define  $CWrt_i(d_j)$  to be the number of “Write” times for data  $d_j$  by  $Core_i$ . If a data item  $d_j$  is updated by a core, it should not be replicated on other cores because of synchronization issues. Hence, the duplication cost of a data item when  $CWrt_i(d_j) \neq 0$  is  $\infty$ .

No matter whether an array data can be duplicated or not, it should be updated into the main memory. The updating cost can be computed in Equation 2. The total duplication cost is computed as Equation 5.

## VI. A DYNAMIC ALGORITHM FOR LOOP DATA DISTRIBUTION WITH DUPLICATION ON MULTI-CORE

In this section, we present details of the IOLDD algorithm on multi-core systems. The algorithm is a

dynamic programming method and uses the technique of duplication.

**Definition 6: Total Cost.** Let  $Tcost[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T]$  be the current total cost of all data items when data  $d_j$ , ( $j=1, 2, \dots, N$ ), is considered to be distributed in a certain SPM when there are still  $i_k$  available space in SPM  $spm_k$ ,  $spm_k \in SPM$  and  $k=1, 2, \dots, T$ .

The recursive function of dynamic programming is shown in Equation 6. Suppose the distribution of the first  $j - 1$  data items (from  $d_1$  to  $d_{j-1}$ ) have been optimally determined. The value of  $Tcost[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T]$  is computed as the minimal total cost of memory access for the iteration when data  $d_j$  is distributed to a certain SPM  $spm_i$  or duplicated. Assume that the number of cores allowed to share a SPM is  $t$ , we compare duplication costs on 1 to  $t$  cores, i.e.  $Cost_{m_0}(d_j)$ ,  $Cost_{spm_i}(d_j)$ ,  $Cost_{spm_{i+k}}(d_j), \dots$ , and  $Cost_{spm_{i+k+\dots+t}}(d_j)$ , and choose the minimum cost for accessing data item  $d_j$ . If  $Tcost[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T]$  is minimum when  $d_j$  is just in  $spm_k$ , we say  $d_j$  is distributed to  $spm_k$ . The available space size of  $spm_k$  reduces 1. Or if  $Tcost[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T]$  is computed as the minimal total cost when data  $d_j$  is in both  $spm_k$  and  $spm_m$ , we consider  $d_j$  is duplicated and the available space size of both  $spm_k$  and  $spm_m$  minus 1. The remaining data items ( $d_{j+1}, d_{j+2}, \dots, d_N$ ) reside in their previous locations.

In our IOLDD algorithm, each iteration includes four steps. First, it computes the cost of each memory access. Second, it uses dynamic programming with duplication to decide optimal loop data distribution. Third, it redistributes data items, and the fourth, it stops the algorithm. The algorithm is shown in Algorithm 1.

**Step 1.** Lines 1-4 build a cost table of memory access  $Cost_{spm_i}(d_j)$  and duplication cost  $Cost_{spm_{i+k+\dots}}(d_j)$  for  $\forall d_j \in D$  on main memory and each SPM of each core. At the beginning,  $Tcost[j, Size_{spm_1}, Size_{spm_2}, \dots, Size_{spm_T}]$  is the sum of  $Cost_{m_0}(d_j)$ , means all data items are stored in main memory.

The cost of memory access  $Cost_{spm_i}(d_j)$  is computed for every item  $d_j$  on all SPM  $spm_i$  and main memory  $m_0$  by Definition 3. Data  $d_j$  is in the set of data items  $D = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_N)$ , and  $spm_i$  is in the list of SPMs  $SPM = (spm_1, spm_2, \dots, spm_T)$ . For array items, we add an updating cost (Definition 2) to ensure that in main memory the copy of newest data in array can

$$Tcost[j, i_1, \dots, i_T] = \begin{cases} \sum_j Cost_{m_0}(d_j), & \text{if } j = 0, \\ \infty & \forall k = 1, 2, \dots, T, i_k = Size_{spm_k}, \\ \min(Tcost[j-1, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T] + Cost_{m_0}(d_j), & \text{if } \sum_{k=1}^T i_k + t < \sum_{k=1}^T Size_{spm_k} - j, \\ Tcost[j-1, i_1, \dots, i_p+1, \dots, i_T] + Cost_{spm_p}(d_j), & \text{or } \exists k \in \{1, 2, 3, \dots, T\} i_k > Size_{spm_k}, \\ \dots, & \\ Tcost[j-1, i_1, \dots, i_p+1, \dots, i_q+1, \dots, i_T] + Cost_{spm_{p+q}}(d_j), & \\ \dots, & \\ Tcost[j-1, i_1, \dots, i_p+1, \dots, i_q+1, \dots, i_r+1, \dots, i_T] + Cost_{spm_{p+q+r}}(d_j), & \text{if } \sum_{k=1}^T i_k + t \geq \sum_{k=1}^T Size_{spm_k} - j. \\ \dots, & \\ ) - Cost_{m_0}(d_j) & \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

### Algorithm 1 Iterational Optimal Loop Data Distribution Algorithm with duplication (IOLDD)

**Require:** A set of loop data items  $D = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_N)$ , a set of SPM units  $SPM = (spm_1, spm_2, \dots, spm_T)$ ,  $m_0$  is main memory,  $Size_{spm_i} \forall spm_i \in SPM$ , and the initial distributions for all  $d_j$  in  $D$ .

**Ensure:** A data distribution under which the total cost of the execution for each iteration in parallel loops is regionally minimized.

```

1: Compute cost function  $Cost_{spm_i}(d_j), \forall d_j \in D$  and  $\forall spm_i \in SPM$ 
2: for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to  $|D|$  do
3:    $Tcost[j, Size_{spm_1}, Size_{spm_2}, \dots, Size_{spm_T}] \leftarrow \sum Cost_{m_0}(d_j)$ 
4: end for
5: for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to  $|D|$  do
6:   for  $i_1 \leftarrow Size_{spm_1}$  to 0 do
7:     ...
8:     for  $i_T \leftarrow Size_{spm_T}$  to 0 do
9:       Compute  $Tcost[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T]$  according to the recursive Equation 6 to get the minimum  $Tcost[]$ ;
10:    end for
11:    ...
12:  end for
13: end for
14: for  $j \leftarrow |D|$  to 1 do
15:   if  $Tcost[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T] = Tcost[j-1, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T]$  then
16:      $location_{d_j} \leftarrow 0$ 
17:      $BackPath[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T] = (j-1, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T)$ 
18:     Continue
19:   end if
20:   for  $k \leftarrow 1$  to  $|T|$  do
21:     if  $Tcost[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T] = Tcost[j-1, i_1, \dots, i_k+1, \dots, i_T] - Cost_{m_0}(d_j) + Cost_{spm_k}(d_j)$  then
22:        $location_{d_j} \leftarrow k$ 
23:        $BackPath[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T] = (j-1, i_1, \dots, i_k, \dots, i_T)$ 
24:        $i_k \leftarrow i_k + 1$ 
25:       Continue
26:     end if
27:   end for
28:   for  $k \leftarrow 1$  to  $|T-1|$  do
29:     for  $m \leftarrow k+1$  to  $|T|$  do
30:       if  $Tcost[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T] = Tcost[j-1, i_1, \dots, i_k+1, \dots, i_m+1, \dots, i_T] - Cost_{m_0}(d_j) + Cost_{spm_{k+m}}(d_j)$  then
31:          $location_{d_j} \leftarrow j$ 
32:          $location_{d_j} \leftarrow m$ 
33:          $BackPath[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T] = (j-1, i_1, \dots, i_k+1, \dots, i_m+1, \dots, i_T)$ 
34:          $i_k \leftarrow i_k + 1$ 
35:          $i_m \leftarrow i_m + 1$ 
36:         Continue
37:       end if
38:     end for
39:   end for
40: end for
41: Redistribute the data items' locations for the next iteration.
42: if Current iteration distribution = Previous iteration distribution then
43:   Stop IOLDD algorithm forever.
44: end if

```

be accessed continually. Besides, the duplication cost  $Cost_{spm_{i+k+\dots}}(d_j)$  is computed by Definition 4 and 5. The cost table in initial data distribution iteration for the motivational example is shown in Table IV.

TABLE IV.  
COST TABLE OF IOLD ALGORITHM IN INITIAL DATA DISTRIBUTION

Data	$Cost_{m_0}(d_j)$	$Cost_{spm_1}(d_j)$	$Cost_{spm_2}(d_j)$	$Cost_{spm_{1+2}}(d_j)$
$d_1$	60	81	62	62
$d_2$	60	81	62	$\infty$
$A[i]$	120	63	101	$\infty$
$A[i-1]$	360	124	124	67
$A[i-2]$	300	123	104	$\infty$
$A[i-3]$	180	182	125	$\infty$
$B[i]$	120	124	162	$\infty$

Since we have only two cores, the duplication cost can be written as  $Cost_{spm_{1+2}}(d_j)$ . The result of optimal data distribution is shown in "Iteration 2" of Fig. 4. Based on the number of accesses in Table I, if all data items have their initial locations in the main memory, costs of memory access are computed in Table IV. Besides, according to the loop programs assigned to  $Core_1$  and  $Core_2$  in Fig. 3, we can see that data  $d_1$  and  $A[i-1]$  are read-only data items. Data  $d_1$  and  $A[i-1]$  then can be duplicated on multi-core systems, the others have their duplication costs to be  $\infty$ . For example, data  $d_1$  is one scalar data item, then the updating cost of  $d_1$  is 0. According to Equation 3,

$$\begin{aligned}
Cost_{m_0}(d_1) &= 1 \times 60 + 0 + 0 = 60, \\
Cost_{spm_1}(d_1) &= 0 \times 1 + 1 \times 20 + 61 + 0 = 81, \\
Cost_{spm_2}(d_1) &= 0 \times 20 + 1 \times 1 + 61 + 0 = 62, \\
Cost_{spm_{1+2}}(d_1) &= 0 \times 1 + 1 \times 1 + 61 + 0 = 62.
\end{aligned}$$

Data  $d_6$  ( $A[i-3]$ ) is one array data item with its  $relation_{A[i-3]} = 3$ , then it needs to be updated to main memory, then in the "Initial Data Distribution" iteration, costs of  $d_6$  can be computed as:

$$\begin{aligned}
Cost_{m_0}(d_6) &= 0 \times 60 + 3 \times 60 + 0 + 0 = 180, \\
Cost_{spm_1}(d_6) &= 0 \times 1 + 3 \times 20 + 0 + 61 + 61 = 182, \\
Cost_{spm_2}(d_6) &= 0 \times 20 + 3 \times 1 + 61 + 61 = 125, \\
Cost_{spm_{1+2}}(d_6) &= \infty.
\end{aligned}$$

**Step 2.** Lines 5-40 determine the optimal loop data distribution with dynamic programming and duplication technique. The cost of memory access during the execution for one iteration is minimum.

Since a cost table is built in step 1, the optimal data distribution can be determined by using a multi-dimensional dynamic programming table. The structure of the table is as following: the first dimension of the table is represented by data  $d_j$ , each one of the other dimensions is represented by the available space of  $spm_i \in SPM$  except  $m_0$ . We assume  $m_0$  is main memory and large enough to hold all data items in the program.

The IOLDD algorithm is presented in Algorithm 1. During the computation,  $location_{d_j}$  is used to keep the intermediate data, and the array  $BackPath[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T]$  is introduced to trace back an optimal solution. The array  $BackPath[j, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_T]$  keeps a list of the state of data distribution in one iteration before data  $d_j$  is distributed.

TABLE V.  
THE DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING TABLE THAT COMPUTES THE COST ARRAY  $C[j, i_1, i_2]$  FOR THE EXAMPLE IN INITIAL DATA DISTRIBUTION OF SECTION IV

$i_2 = 3$							
$i_1 \backslash j$	$d_1$	$d_2$	A[i]	A[i-1]	A[i-2]	A[i-3]	B[i]
2	<u>1200</u>	<u>1200</u>	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200
1	1221	1221	<u>1143</u>	964	964	964	964
0	$\infty$	1242	1164	907	787	787	787

$i_2 = 2$							
$i_1 \backslash j$	$d_1$	$d_2$	A[i]	A[i-1]	A[i-2]	A[i-3]	B[i]
2	1202	1202	1181	964	964	964	964
1	$\infty$	1202	1143	907	768	768	768
0	$\infty$	$\infty$	1145	<u>850</u>	711	711	711

$i_2 = 1$							
$i_1 \backslash j$	$d_1$	$d_2$	A[i]	A[i-1]	A[i-2]	A[i-3]	B[i]
2	$\infty$	1204	1183	945	768	768	768
1	$\infty$	$\infty$	1145	888	711	711	711
0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	850	<u>654</u>	654	654

$i_2 = 0$							
$i_1 \backslash j$	$d_1$	$d_2$	A[i]	A[i-1]	A[i-2]	A[i-3]	B[i]
2	$\infty$	$\infty$	1185	947	749	713	713
1	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	890	692	656	656
0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	654	<u>599</u>	<u>599</u>

To illustrate our IOLDD algorithm, we construct a dynamic programming table for the example’s final data distribution result in initial data distribution in Section IV with duplication. Since there are two SPMs assumed in the example, the dynamic programming table is constructed as a 3-D table of  $Tcost[j, i_1, i_2]$ . The 3-D table consists of four 2-dimensional tables as shown in Table V. The value of  $i_1$  and  $i_2$  indicates the available space on  $spm_1$  and  $spm_2$ . The 2-D table of “ $i_2 = 3$ ” computes the costs for all data items when available space on  $spm_2$  equals 3. For example, we compute the cost cell  $Tcost[1, 1, 3]$  for data  $d_1$  when there is one available space in  $spm_1$  of  $Core_1$  and three available space in  $spm_2$  of  $Core_2$ . The cost is 1221, as shown in row “ $i_1 = 1$ ” and column “ $d_1$ ” in the first 2-D table. Then, we compute the cost cell  $Tcost[1, 0, 3]$ . According to equation 6:  $\sum_{k=1}^T i_k < \sum_{k=1}^T Size_{spm_k} - j$ , we know  $i_1 + i_2 < Size_{spm_1} + Size_{spm_2} - j$ , then  $Tcost[1, 0, 3] = \infty$ . We compute costs for data item  $d_1$  in columns “ $d_1$ ” in all 2-D tables in a similar way. The final total cost of memory access with the optimal data distribution in

the initial data distribution is 599. The backtracking path indicated by underlined cell in Table V shows one of the optimal distributions as follows: data  $A[i]$  and  $A[i - 1]$  are assigned in  $spm_1$  of  $Core_1$ , data  $A[i - 1]$ ,  $A[i - 2]$  and  $A[i - 3]$  are assigned in  $spm_2$  of  $Core_2$ , data  $d_1$ ,  $d_2$  and  $B[i]$  are assigned in main memory, data  $A[i - 3]$  is updated to the main memory.

**Step 3.** Line 41 redistributes data items for the current iteration to make sure that at the beginning of the next iteration in loop, locations of data items still remain accurate.

Redistributing array items can guarantee these array items’ locations still being right in the next iteration. Take array  $A[i]$  for example, in iteration  $i$ , data  $A[i]$  and data  $A[i - 1]$  are accessed; In iteration  $t$ , data  $A[t]$  and data  $A[t - 1]$  will be accessed. Obviously, if  $t = i + 1$ , then  $A[i]$  becomes  $A[t - 1]$ ,  $A[i - 1]$  will never be accessed, and  $A[t]$  is a new data item to be accessed. Certainly, memory location of  $A[t - 1]$  should be the location of  $A[i]$  instead of  $A[i - 1]$ . Therefore, we have to distribute data items to the right location before the next iteration.

**Step 4.** Lines 42-44 compare the results with previous iteration to decide when to stop the algorithm.

At the end of our IOLDD algorithm in each iteration, we compare the distribution results with the results in previous iteration. If they are the same, stop doing the algorithm in loops. The data distribution is optimal and we could use that distribution for later iterations.

With the four steps mentioned above, we can conclude that the IOLDD algorithm has five features. Firstly, it computes to obtain the cost table of each memory access and duplication cost. Besides, array items in loops can be handled by the algorithm. Furthermore, the relations of array items are used to reduce the updating costs. Fourthly, it redistributes array items. Finally, duplication is proposed on multi-core systems.

The IOLDD algorithm’s time complexity is  $O(N \times Size_{spm_1} \times Size_{spm_2} \times \dots \times Size_{spm_T})$ .  $N$  is the number of data items in  $D$ , and  $T$  is the constant number of SPMs.

## VII. EXPERIMENT

In this section, we compare our dynamic IOLDD algorithm with greedy algorithm and random algorithm, respectively. Benchmarks are chosen with both scalar and array data items in loop programs. The following benchmarks are used in our experiments: 2IIR, 4-lattice, ellENC, ellfilter, 8-lattice, allpole, C-sehwa, diff2, diff-ct1 and voltera. Three algorithms are evaluated by time cost and energy consumption for memory access with their generated distributions.

### A. Experimental Setup

The architecture in the experiment has two types of memory units: four on-chip SPMs made with SRAM of four cores and a block of main memory made with SRAM. In this paper, we assume these four SPMs have



TABLE VI.  
SYSTEM SPECIFICATION FOR SPM, L2 MEMORY AND MAIN MEMORY

Component		Description
CPU	Core	Number of cores: 4, frequency: 1.0 GHz
SRAM	Main memory	Size: 2.56 MB, access latency: 1.3882 ns, access energy: 0.7189 nJ
SRAM	SPMs	Size: 8 KB, Local SPM access latency: 0.2109 ns, Local SPM access energy: 0.0252 nJ
		Remote SPM access latency: 0.5275 ns, Remote SPM access energy: 0.0441 nJ

the same size, with the capacity of 8 KB. We also assume the capacity of the off-chip main memory is 2.56 MB, which is large enough to store all data items. A set of parameters collected from CACTI tools provided by HP for these two memory types is shown in Table VI.

A custom simulator based on SimpleScalar is developed to simulate the process of data distribution and obtain costs of memory accesses for the program. With the CACTI tools [23] provided by HP, we can obtain the latency and energy consumptions for memory accesses, then we use them as parameters on our benchmark programs. In the experiment, we run random, greedy and the dynamic programming algorithm IOLDD. Compute the time cost and energy consumption for all data accesses. Our program is easy to compatibly integrate into any compiler.

### B. Experimental Results

In Fig. 5, algorithms are compared via ten benchmarks include: 2IIR, 4-lattice, ellENC, ellfilter, 8-lattice, allpole, C-sehwa, diff2, diff-ct1 and voltera. Time costs and energy consumptions of data distributions on multi-core systems are also presented. In Tab. VII, the column “Random” represents the algorithm that data items are randomly picked and distributed to four on-chip SPMs of the cores. Due to the randomness of the technique, the experiment is precessed 10 times to get an average number. The column “Uday” is a greedy algorithm proposed by the Udayakumaran’s algorithm [12]. The column “IOLDD” denotes our IOLDD algorithm. It is a dynamic programming algorithm applied into both array and scalar data items in loop on multi-core systems. The percentage of improvement for IOLDD algorithm over the “Random” technique is shown in column “Imprv (IOLDD/Random)”. The average improvement of time costs of the IOLDD algorithm is 18.45%. Moreover, “Imprv (IOLDD/Uday)” displays the improvement for “IOLDD” algorithm over “Uday” algorithm, and the average improvement is 18.38%. As shown in the experimental results, our IOLDD algorithm achieves the best improvement of time costs on average among all other techniques. In the best case, e.g. C-sehwa, the percentage of improvement in time cost is 52.12% over “Random” algorithm and 54.26% over “Uday” algorithm.

Not only data accesses time is reduced because of the effective solution of data distribution, but also the energy consumption lessens. Both Fig. 5 and Tab. VIII show the comparison of energy consumption among various data distribution solutions that are generated by various techniques. Accordingly, the average improvement of

IOLDD algorithm over random technique is 30.12%, and the average improvement of IOLDD algorithm over Uday algorithm is 14.52%, our IOLDD algorithm also achieves the best improvement of energy consumption. In the best case, e.g. C-sehwa, the percentage of improvement in energy consumption is 64.63% over “Random” algorithm and 57.99% over Uday algorithm.

Experiments indicate that IOLDD algorithm obtains better improvements in most of the time and energy costs compared with the Uday algorithm which employs a greedy strategy. The major advantages in techniques compared with the Uday algorithm can be seen in three parts. First, the IOLDD algorithm considers the initial data distribution of the loops and the effect of migrating data items. Therefore, it can generate the optimal solution for iterational data distribution. Second, the IOLDD algorithm takes the cost of updating array items into account and uses the relations of these array items to minimize the cost, while Uday algorithm does not. Third, the IOLDD algorithm uses the technique of duplication to reduce the cost.

### VIII. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In this paper, we achieve the minimum cost of loop data distribution on multi-core systems by developing an Iterational Optimal Loop data Distribution algorithm with Duplication (IOLDD). The algorithm is used on multi-core systems, while the algorithm Zhang *et al.* proposed is limited to single-core systems and cannot fully utilize the benefits of the private SPM on each core [18]. The IOLDD algorithm improves the performance on multi-core systems by taking the relations of an array, the updating cost and the duplication technique into consideration.

To explore more, in the future, we will further consider the problem of distributing loop data and avoiding contention when there are multiple “Write” activities on the same data for multiple cores. As to the mechanism of duplication, we will explore whether data still can be duplicated on condition that data is not read-only, and how to duplicate it. Besides, we will consider the problem when the main memory is a mixed structure of DRAM and non-volatile main memory (NVM). We will also deal with the problem of reducing the “Write” activities to the NVM in a heterogeneous system.

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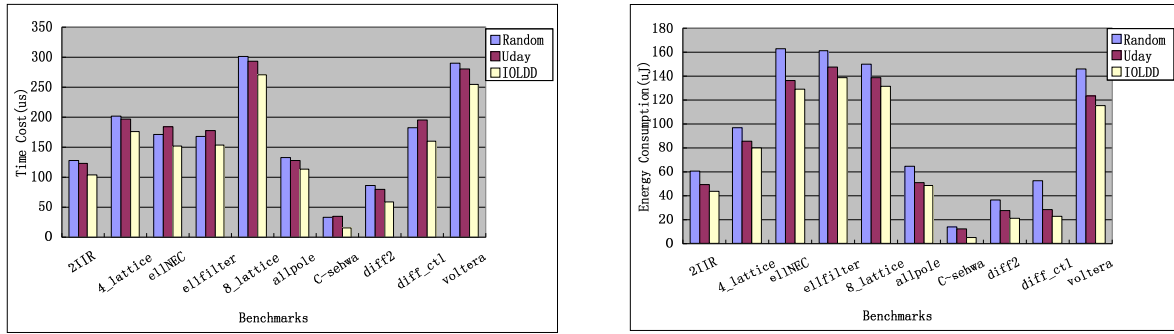


Figure 5. The corresponding time and energy results in the experiment.

TABLE VII.  
COMPARISON OF TIME COSTS FOR VARIOUS DATA DISTRIBUTION ON MULTI-CORE SYSTEMS

Bench.	Uday( $\mu$ s)	IOLDD( $\mu$ s)	Random( $\mu$ s)	imprv(IOLDD/Random)	imprv(IOLDD/Uday)
2IIR	127.529	123.253	103.512	18.83%	16.02%
4-lattice	201.754	196.25	175.542	12.99%	10.55%
ellNEC	170.923	184.623	151.371	11.44%	18.01%
ellfilter	167.907	177.599	153.177	8.45%	13.45%
8-lattice	301.091	293.28	270.973	10.00%	7.61%
allpole	133.276	127.262	113.757	14.65%	10.61%
C-sehwa	33.708	35.276	16.135	52.12%	54.26%
diff2	86.786	80.113	59.106	31.89%	26.22%
diff-ct1	182.001	194.498	160.334	11.90%	17.57%
voltera	289.184	280.551	253.902	12.20%	9.50%
average				18.45%	18.38%

TABLE VIII.  
COMPARISON OF ENERGY COSTS FOR VARIOUS DATA ALLOCATION ON MULTI-CORE SYSTEMS

Bench.	Uday( $\mu$ J)	IOLDD( $\mu$ J)	Random( $\mu$ J)	imprv(IOLDD/Random)	imprv(IOLDD/Uday)
2IIR	60.907	49.595	43.800	28.09%	11.68%
4-lattice	96.981	85.855	79.562	17.96%	7.33%
ellNEC	162.593	136.499	129.285	20.49%	5.29%
ellfilter	160.928	147.844	138.316	14.05%	6.44%
8-lattice	150.268	138.562	131.525	12.47%	5.08%
allpole	64.624	50.679	131.525	12.47%	5.08%
C-sehwa	14.295	12.037	5.057	64.63%	57.99%
diff2	36.404	27.315	21.060	41.15%	22.90%
diff-ct1	52.201	28.084	23.122	55.71%	17.67%
voltera	145.837	123.716	115.588	20.74%	6.57%
average				30.12%	14.52%

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