

Compiler A64FX – Your ~~Path~~ You Must Decide!



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Jens Domke, Dr. rer. nat.

< jens.domke@riken.jp >

High Performance Big Data Research Team, RIKEN R-CCS, Kobe, Japan

Outline

- Motivation for this Study
- Measurement Methodology
 - Compiler Selection
 - HPC Workloads
- Discussion of Fugaku's Results
- Summary, Conclusion, Future Work

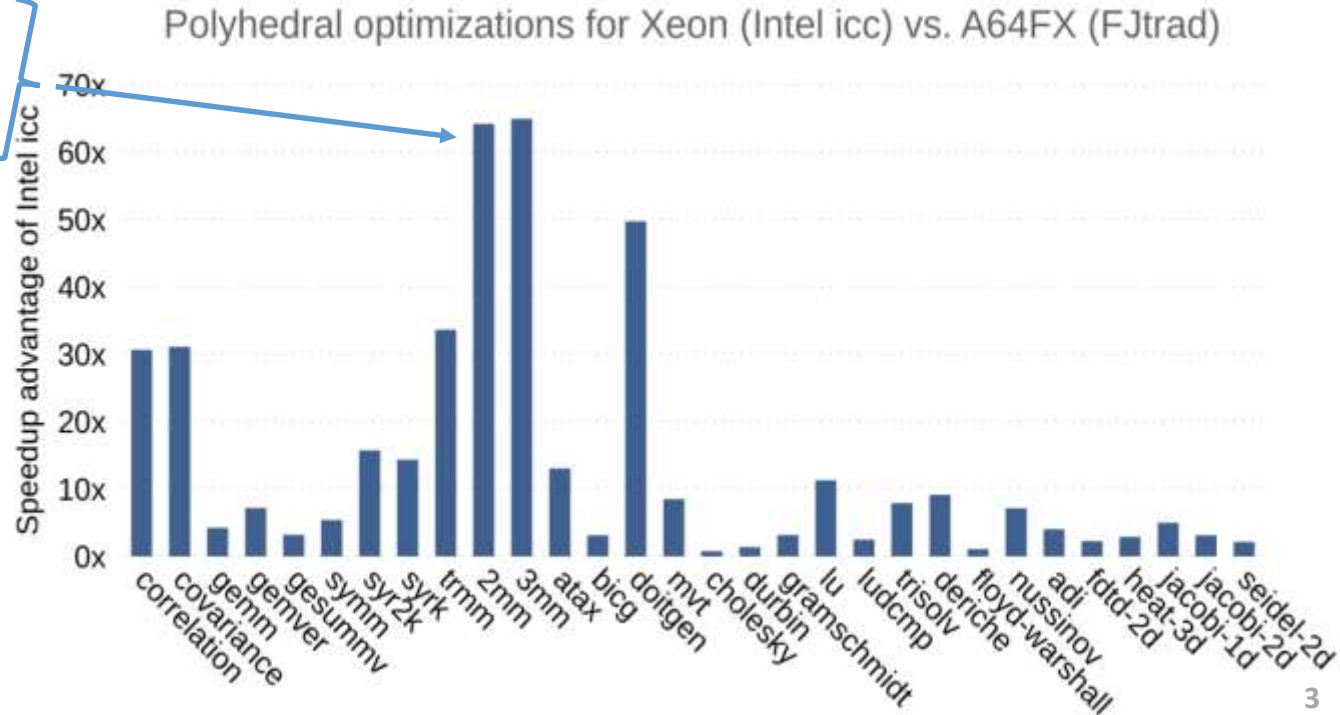
Unexpected advantage of Xeon vs. A64FX?

- Comparing PolyBench (s. later) against Intel Xeon E5-2650v4
- Xeon core w/ less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of a A64FX core's theoretical peak
- **2mm is matmul**
- **A64FX (w/ fcc) 64x slower???**



Reason:

Intel's icc
applies **Loop
Reordering** and
other polyhedral
optimizations!



Other Reports and Research Questions

- **Performance portability** (x86→A64FX) not easy to achieve
 - Fujitsu compilers and 4 MPI + 12 OMP threads not always best?
 - A. Poenaru, “An Evaluation of the Fujitsu A64FX for HPC Applications,” Presentation in AHUG WS ISC 21; and
 - B. Michalowicz et al., “Comparing the behavior of OpenMP Implementations with various Applications on two different Fujitsu A64FX platforms,” in PEARC '21, 2021; and
 - E3SM Pathfinding on Fugaku: <https://e3sm.org/e3sm-pathfinding-on-fugaku/>; etc... → GNU better than FJ's compiler
- **Research Question:**
 - **Q1:** Is **recommended usage model**, i.e., compiler+flags and MPI/OMP config, ideal or **just a starting point**?
 - **Q2:** Is there a “**silver bullet**” **compiler** choice for A64FX?
 - **Q3:** Can **performance differences**, compared to similar x86-based hardware, be **attributed to the compiler**?

Compilers for our Measurements

Simple Idea: Throw many science codes at compilers and look for trends!

Three compilers and five variations:

- **FUJITSU** Software Technical Computing Suite (v4.5.0):
 - ***FJtrad*** (traditional mode) and ***FJclang*** (based on LLVM 7)
 - -Kfast,ocl,largepage,lto additionally to benchmark's individual flags
- **LLVM** Compiler Infrastructure (v12):
 - ***native*** (-Ofast -ffast-math -flto=thin) and ***polly***, with Fujitsu's frtr for Fortran
- **GNU** Compiler Collection (v10.2.0):
 - -O3 -march=native -flto additionally to benchmark's individual flags
- **Alternatives:** Arm and HPE/Cray unavailable on Fugaku at time of writing ☹️

Testing >100 Kernels and HPC Workloads

- RIKEN's **FS2020 TAPP-kernels** (micro kernels)
 - 22 kernels from RIKEN's Priority Issue Target Applications
 - OMP-para. kernels of FFB, GENESIS, NICAM, QCD, etc.; Target: 1 CMG
- Polyhedral Benchmark suite (in short, **PolyBench**)
 - 30 single-threaded, simple scientific kernels written in C
 - Input sizes [*Mini*→*ExtraLarge*] to target diff. memory levels (we use *Large*)
- TOP500 benchmarks: **HPL and HPCG** (default version)
 - Used by community for world-wide supercomputer ranking
- Additionally: **BabelStream** and **Dlproxy** (GEMM-based convolution)

Testing >100 Kernels and HPC Workloads

- **Exascale Computing Project (ECP) Proxy Applications**
 - Used for procurement of exascale systems by HPC centers in USA
 - Version 1.0 contains 12 workloads (we excluded CANDLE)
- **RIKEN CCS' Fiber Miniapp Suite**
 - 8 proxy apps used in procurement of Fugaku (we excluded NGSA)
 - Represent the priority areas of the Japanese government
- **SPEC Benchmarks (CPU 2017[speed] V1.1 & OMP 2012 V1.1)**
 - Widely accepted benchmark set for industry and HPC vendors (use *train*)
 - Single-threaded: CPU[speed] Integer
 - OMP-parallelized: CPU[speed] Floating Point and SPEC OMP

Overview of our 55 traditional HPC Workloads

Set	Name	Sci. / Eng. / AI Domain	Name	Sci. / Eng. / AI Domain	Name	Sci. / Eng. / AI Domain
TOP500	HPL	Math/Computer Science	HPCG	Math/Computer Science		
ECP	AMG	Physics and Bioscience	miniAMR	Geoscience/Earthscience	SW4lite	Geoscience/Earthscience
	CoMD	Material Science/Engineering	miniFE	Physics	SWFFT	Physics
	Laghos	Physics	miniTRI	Math/Computer Science	XSbench	Physics
	MACSio	Math/Computer Science	Nckbone	Engineering (Mechanics, CFD)		
RIKEN	FFB	Engineering (Mechanics, CFD)	mVMC	Physics	NTChem	Chemistry
	FFVC	Engineering (Mechanics, CFD)	NGSA	Bioscience	QCD	Lattice QCD
	MODYLAS	Physics and Chemistry	NICAM	Geoscience/Earthscience		
SPEC CPU	blender(R)	Math/Computer Science	exchange2	Artificial Intelligence	omnetpp	Math/Computer Science
	cam4(R)	Geoscience/Earthscience	fotonik3d	Physics	perlbench	Math/Computer Science
	namd(R)	Material Science/Engineering	gcc	Math/Computer Science	pop2	Geoscience/Earthscience
	parest(R)	Bioscience	imagick	Math/Computer Science	wrf	Geoscience/Earthscience
	pvray(R)	Math/Computer Science	lbm	Engineering (Mechanics, CFD)	roms	Geoscience/Earthscience
	bwaves	Physics	leela	Artificial Intelligence	x264	Math/Computer Science
	cactuBSSN	Physics	mcf	Math/Computer Science	xalancbmk	Math/Computer Science
	deepsjeng	Artificial Intelligence	nab	Material Science/Engineering	xz	Math/Computer Science
SPEC OMP	applu331	Engineering (Mechanics, CFD)	fma3d	Physics	mgrid331	Engineering (Mechanics, CFD)
	botsalgn	Bioscience	ilbdc	Engineering (Mechanics, CFD)	nab	Chemistry
	botsspar	Math/Computer Science	imagick	Math/Computer Science	smithwa	Bioscience
	bt331	Engineering (Mechanics, CFD)	kdtree	Math/Computer Science	swim	Geoscience/Earthscience
	bwaves	Engineering (Mechanics, CFD)	md	Material Science/Engineering		

Measurement Methodology and Environment

- **2-stage approach for each BM/compiler combination**
 - Check benchmark for **strong-scaling** runs (☹ none for MiniAMR/XSBench) (→ important for fair comparison!)
 - **Identify kernel/solver** section → wrap with additional instructions for timing
 - Find “**optimal**” **#MPI + #OMP** configuration for each benchmark+compiler (try under-/over-subscr.; each 3x runs; “best” based on time, or Gflop/s, etc.)
 - Run **10x** of “best” configuration for lowest **time-to-solution metric**
- **Single-node experiments on Fugaku**
 - **Disabled power-saving** features, but **otherwise default env** variables (exc. SPEC: XOS_MMM_L_PAGING_POLICY=demand:demand:demand XOS_MMM_L_ARENA_LOCK_TYPE=0)
 - Rank & thread placement (**spread & close**, resp.) controlled by Fujitsu MPI
 - Benchmark **files cached to first-layer storage** (SSD shared by 16 nodes)

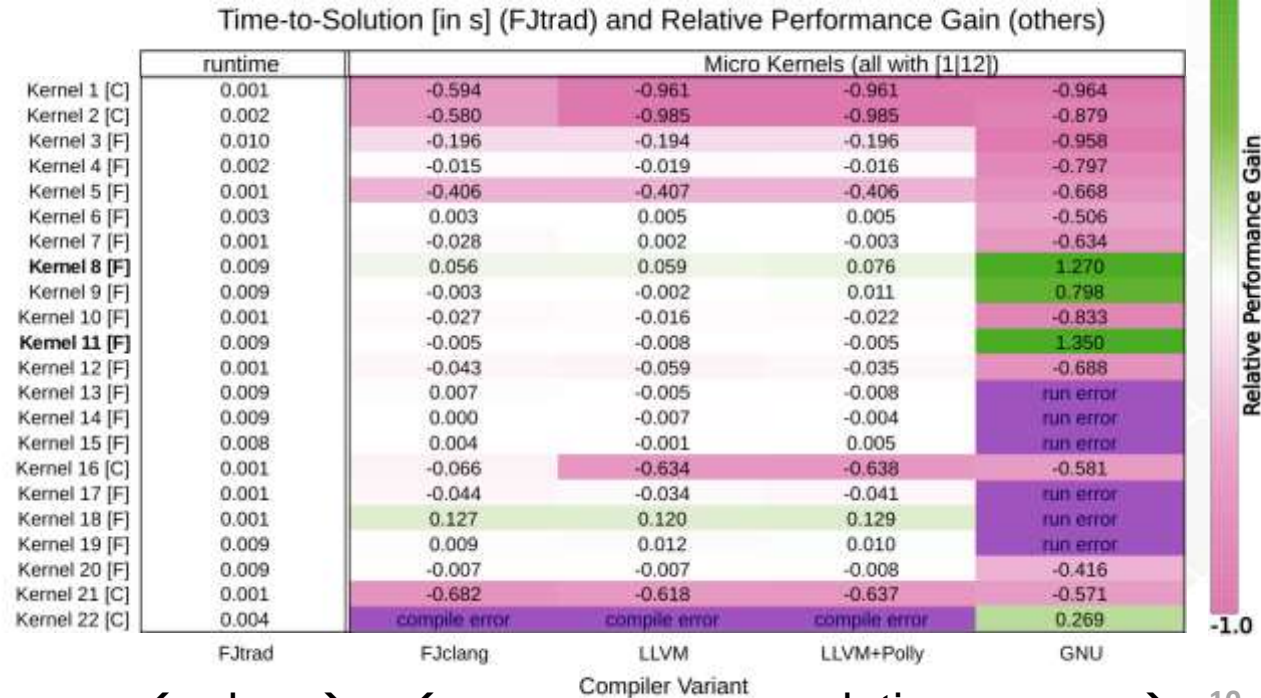
Results for FS2020 Micro Kernels

- Gain $\Delta = T_{FJtrad} / T_X - 1$ colored in range [-1, +1]; **Bold name**: $\geq 2x$ speed-up
- Prog.lang in [] after name; Run config. [#MPI | #OMP] in headline or in cells
- **Dark pink**: unsolvable compiler/runtime error

→ **Fjtrad w/ mostly better results**

→ **GNU beats Fjtrad in 4 tests** but also runtime errors (6x)

→ Using always “best” compiler → **17% avg. runtime reduction**



Results for PolyBench

- PolyBench with *Large* input ($\approx 25\text{MB}$ mem.)

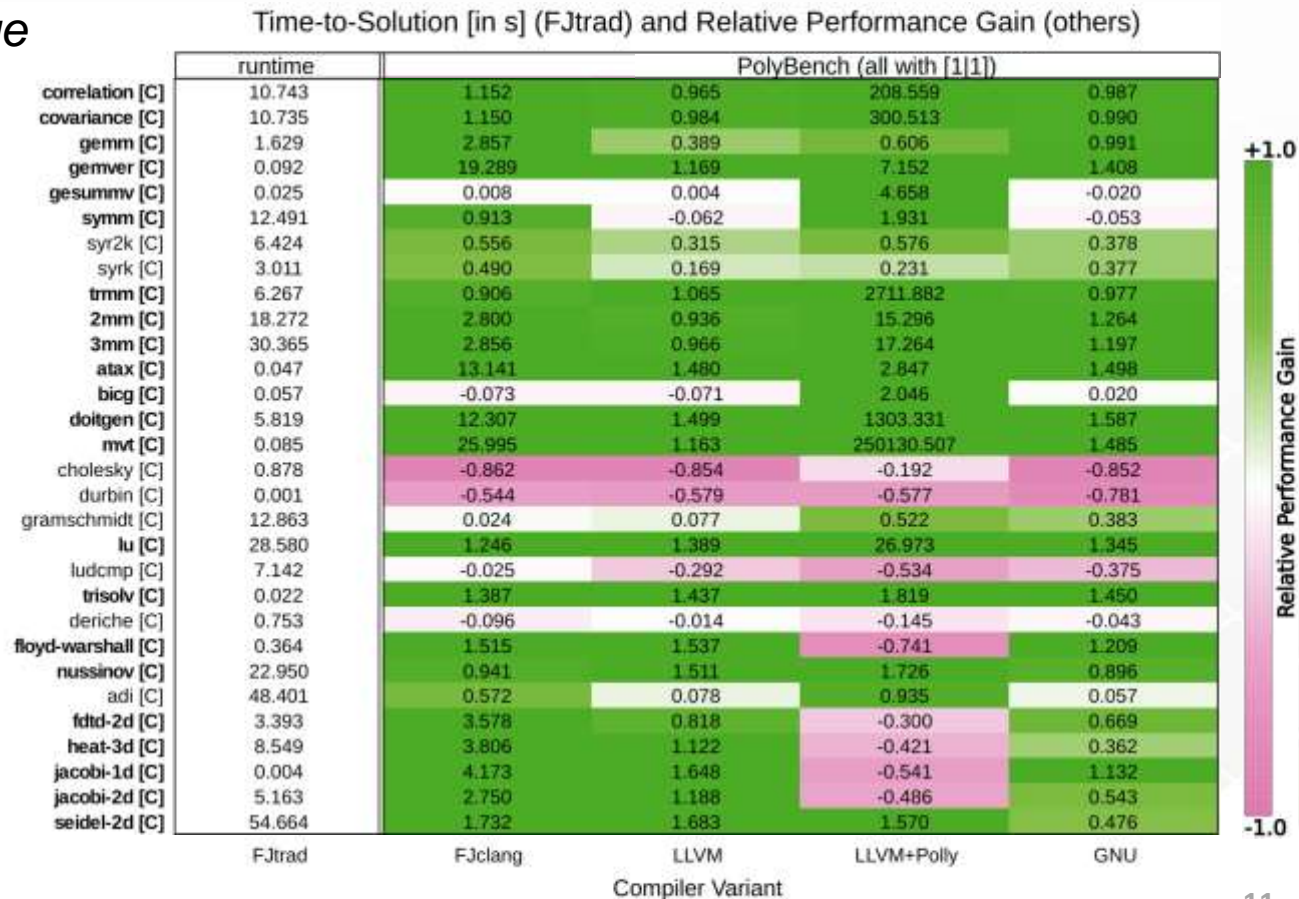
→ **LLVM+Polly: best** results (followed by FJclang)

→ **FJtrad worst** option exc. in 4 cases

→ Highlights:

→ Over **250.000x** speedup for *mvt*

→ **Median speedup of 3.8x** by using “best” compiler



Results for x500, Babel, ECP, Fiber

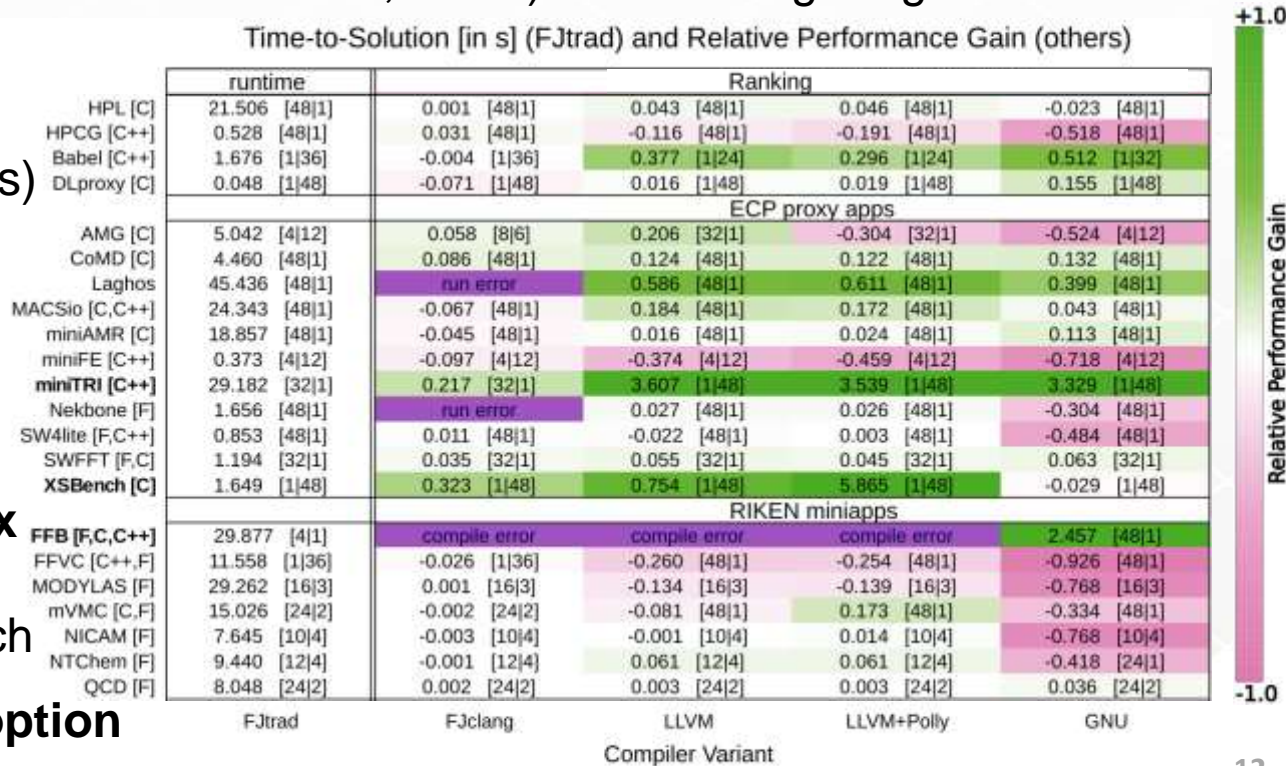
- Surprising $\approx 5\%$ gain for HPL (LLVM or FJclang) despite main time in SSL2
- Same for DLproxy (matmul convolution; SSL2) but even higher gain w/ GNU

- **GNU: 51% runtime reduction in stream**
(→ eq. to higher GB/s)

- For ECP apps use LLVM or GNU and for Fiber apps use Fujitsu's compiler

- Avg. speedup: 1.65x (median 1.09x) with max. 6.7x in XSBench

- [4 | 12] rarely best option



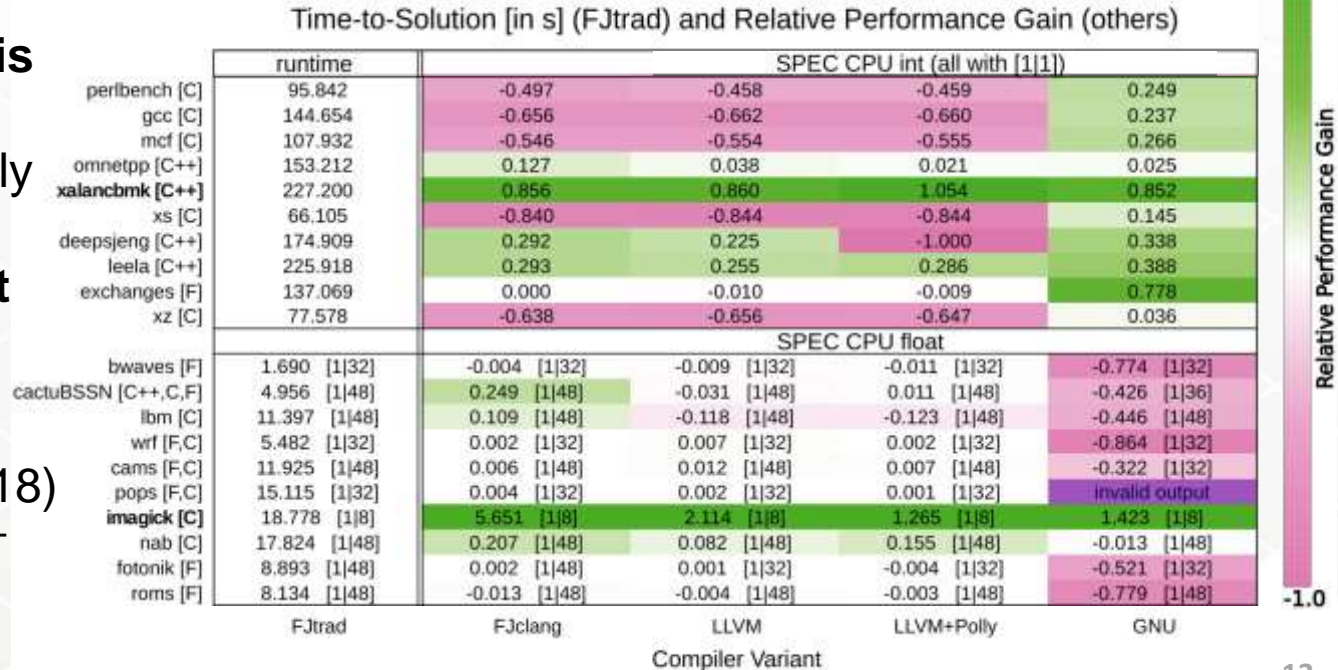
Results for SPEC CPU

→ **SPEC int: FJtrad better than clang-based, but GNU outperforms all others**

→ Likely result of GNU's prevalence in embedded space and Arm's continued investments into GNU compilers (see: <https://community.arm.com/developer/tools-software/tools/b/tools-software-ides-blog/posts/gcc-10-better-and-faster>)

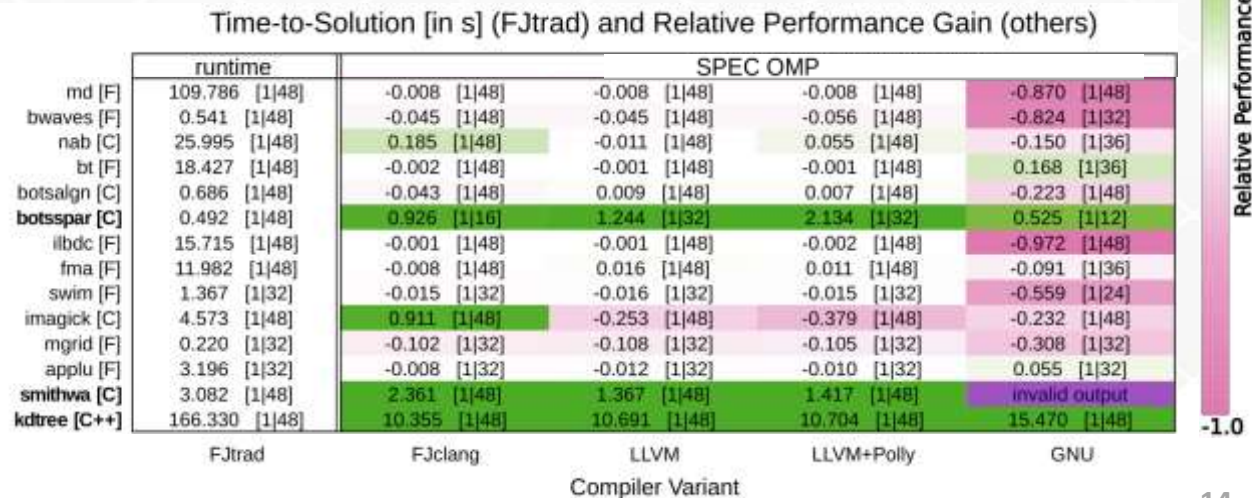
→ **SPEC float: GNU is worst option and most are dominantly written in Fortran (→ no real benefit from LLVM12 except LTO?)**

→ “Real” flang (not F18) (eg. <https://github.com/flang-compiler/flang>) might improve situation



Results for SPEC OMP

- Similar to SPEC CPU float: **GNU is worst** exc. for kdtree (16.5x speedup)
- **Average time-to-solution improvement of 49% in SPEC CPU and 2.5x speedup in SPEC OMP** with “best” compiler (over FJtrad)
- **Median** improvement across both SPEC suites is **14%**
- Many of SPEC benchmarks **don't scale to 48 cores** (eg. full A64FX)
(biggest “offender”
is **SPEC CPU's**
imagick with sweet-
spot at **only 8 OMP**
threads)



Summary & Conclusion

- **Across all 108 benchmarks and realistic workloads: median runtime improvement of 16%** is possible (simply by selecting right compiler)
- **Performance discrepancy for PolyBench solved** by switching from the FJtrad to LLVM 12 compiler, but **otherwise polly seems rarely useful**

Revisit initial questions:

- **A1: recomm. usage model of 4 ranks and 12 threads often suboptimal**
- **A2: no “silver bullet” compiler for A64FX (yet)**
 - Dep. on situation, but some hint: **Fujitsu for Fortran codes**, and **GNU for integer-intensive apps**, and **any clang-based compilers for C/C++**
- **A3: Twitter summary: “if Xeon is 70x faster than A64fx, suspect the compiler”**

Recommendation:

- **Install & test all avail. compilers, and explore other rank/thread mappings!**

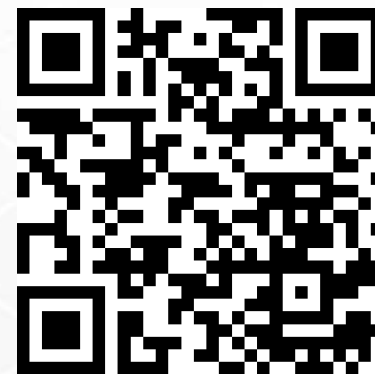
Future Work

- Anyone interested with access to an **intern/student** to continue this?
- Testing **Arm compilers**
 - Reviewer (Arm employee) offered help
- Testing **HPE/Cray compiler**
- In-depth analysis on **reasons for performance difference?**
 - SVE, loop transformations, prefetcher, cache behavior, etc.
- **Automatic compiler-flag tuning** for all Fugaku workloads
 - Eg. https://github.com/ctuning/ck/wiki/Compiler-autotuning#Autotuning_LLVM_flags

Open-Source & Acknowledgements

- Reproducing our data? Doing your own analysis?
→ Use our framework:

<https://gitlab.com/domke/a64fxCvC> or



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Job/Collaboration Opportunities

- Collaborations and job opportunities:
 - Check out our research teams and open positions:
<https://www.riken.jp/en/research/labs/r-ccs/> and
<https://bit.ly/3faax8v>
- Internship/fellowship for students (Bachelor→PhD):
 - Fellowship: <https://www.riken.jp/en/careers/programs/index.html>
 - Internship: <https://www.r-ccs.riken.jp/en/about/careers/internship/>
- Supercomputer Fugaku:
 - Apply for node-hours:
<https://www.r-ccs.riken.jp/en/fugaku/user-guide/>
 - Interactive, virtual tour:
<https://www.r-ccs.riken.jp/en/fugaku/3d-models/> and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3cx4PGDGmg>

Figure sources

- [1] <https://www.starwars.com/news/8-great-life-teachings-from-yoda>