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# Process Cruise Control

## Event-Driven Clock Scaling for Dynamic Power Management

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# Outline

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- The Playground for Power Management
  - ◆ Mobile Devices
  - ◆ Workstations
  - ◆ Servers
- Power/performance trade-offs for variable speed systems
- Power/performance characterization
- Event-driven energy characterization
  - ◆ System level
  - ◆ Task level
- Event-driven frequency scaling (task level)
- Evaluation  
(Intel IQ80310 with XScale 80200 processor @333-733MHz)

# Playground #1: Mobile Devices

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- Goal of power management
  - ◆ Increasing the lifetime of batteries
    - Improvement of the energy efficiency
      - Throttling the speed of execution (Berkeley, HP Labs, Delft)
      - Avoiding unnecessary device activation (Stanford, Bologna, Duke)
      - Cooperation between applications
      - Page compression and paging in multibank systems
  - ◆ Guarantee of a pre-defined stand-by and active time
    - Scheduling with respect to an energy budget (Duke)
- Question:  
When and at which speed is a certain activity allowed to take place?

# Playground #2: Workstations

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- Goals of power management
  - ◆ Avoiding the pollution of the working environment
    - Reducing the noise
    - Thermal management (HP Labs)
  - ◆ Cutting the operating costs (power/cooling)
    - Reducing the energy consumption
      - Throttling the speed of execution
      - Halting unused devices
- Questions:
  - What is the **environmental status**?
  - When** and at **which speed** is a certain activity allowed to take place?

# Playground #3: Servers

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- Goal of power management
  - ◆ Reducing the operating costs (power, A/C, floor space)
    - Reducing the energy consumption
      - Throttling the speed of execution
      - Batching of requests (IBM ARL)
      - Balancing the load among servers (IBM Raleigh & Duke)
  - ◆ Billing of operating costs to customers
  - ◆ Operation with emergency power supply
    - Short term throttling of average power
- Question:  
**Where**, at **which speed** and at **which price**  
is an activity to be allowed to take place?

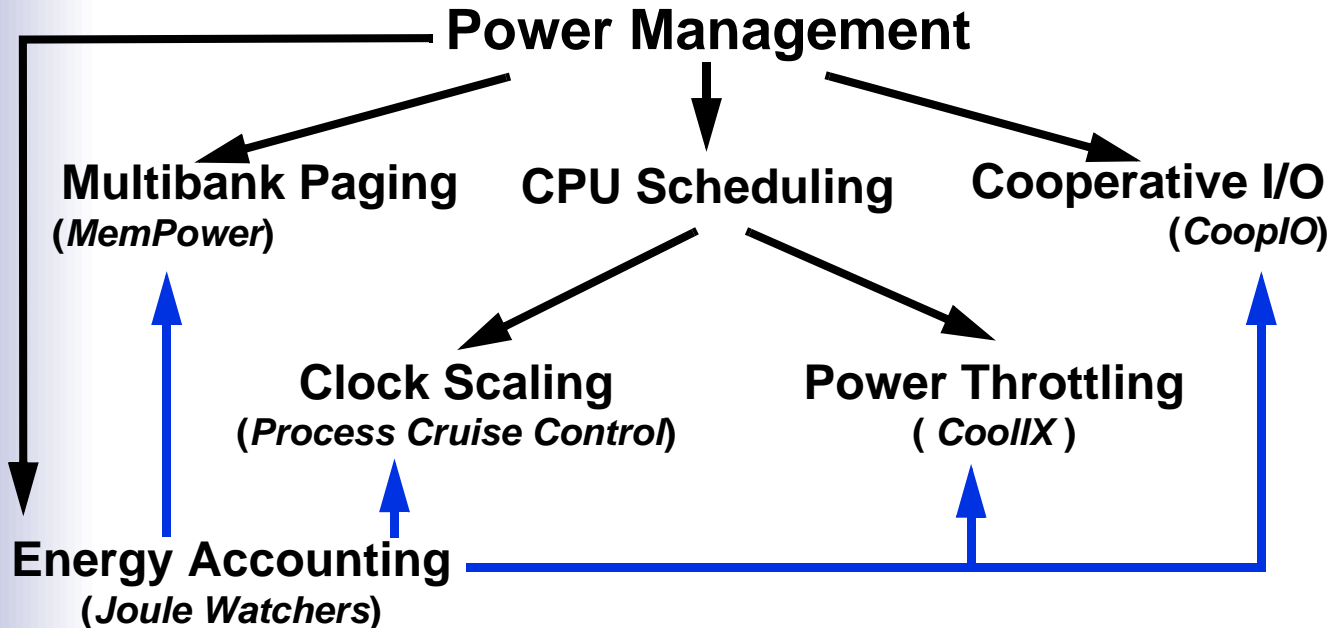
# The Need for Energy Characterization

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- Power Management has to decide
  - ◆ When
  - ◆ Where
  - ◆ How fast
  - ◆ Under which environmental conditions
  - ◆ At which price for power and coolingany activity in the system is allowed to take place.
- The energy-related behavior of the system is the basis of all power-management decisions.
- Because we cannot predict the behavior of the system off-line, we have to observe the system!

## →The Case for On-Line Energy Characterization

# Power Management Projects at the U of Erlangen



# Power/Performance Trade-Offs

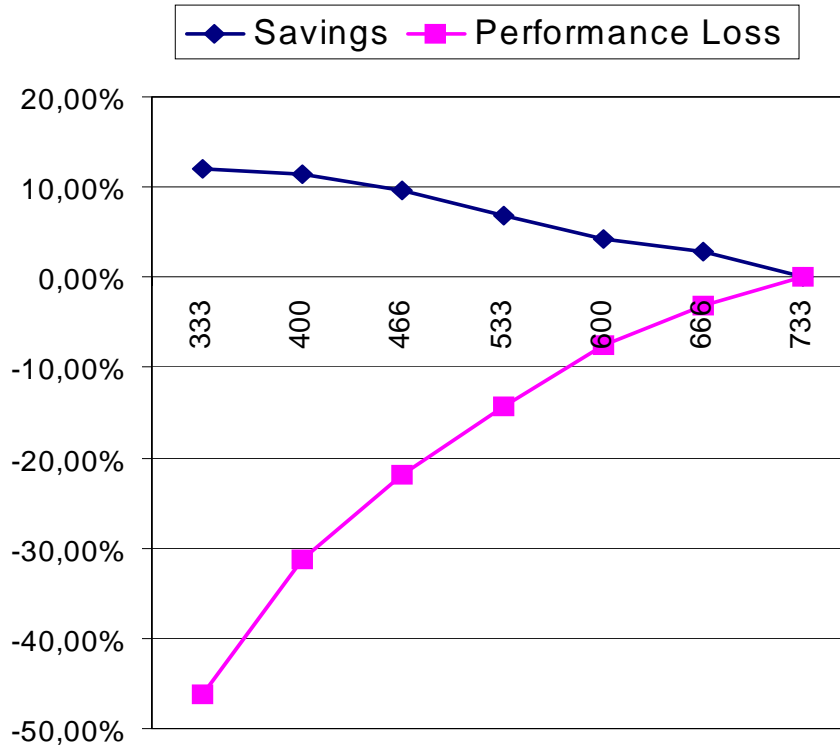
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- Minimizing the energy consumption
  - Reducing energy consumption for given performance requirements
    - ◆ Maximal 10 % loss in computational performance
    - ◆ Maximal 30 % increase in response time
  - Task-specific power/performance trade-offs
    - ◆ Background tasks (e.g., daemons, low-priority system tasks)
    - ◆ High-priority system tasks
    - ◆ User tasks with individual performance requirements
- Power/performance trade-offs require the knowledge about the power/performance characteristics of the system and the tasks!



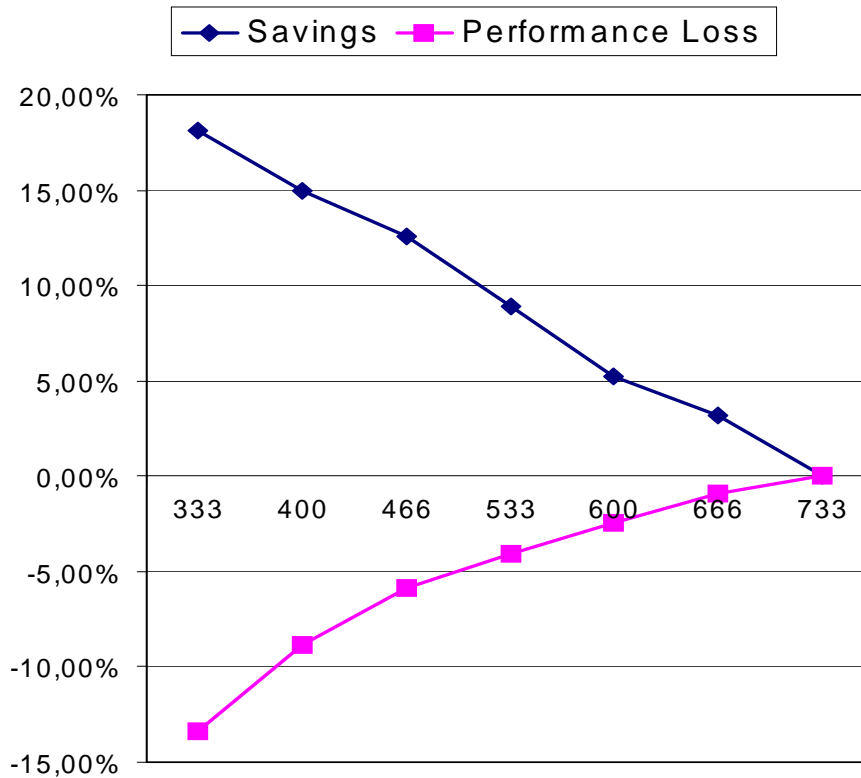
# Clock Scaling: Energy vs. Performance Profile I

- Energy savings vs. performance loss for "factor"



# Clock Scaling: Energy vs. Performance Profile II

## ■ Energy savings vs. performance loss for "grep"



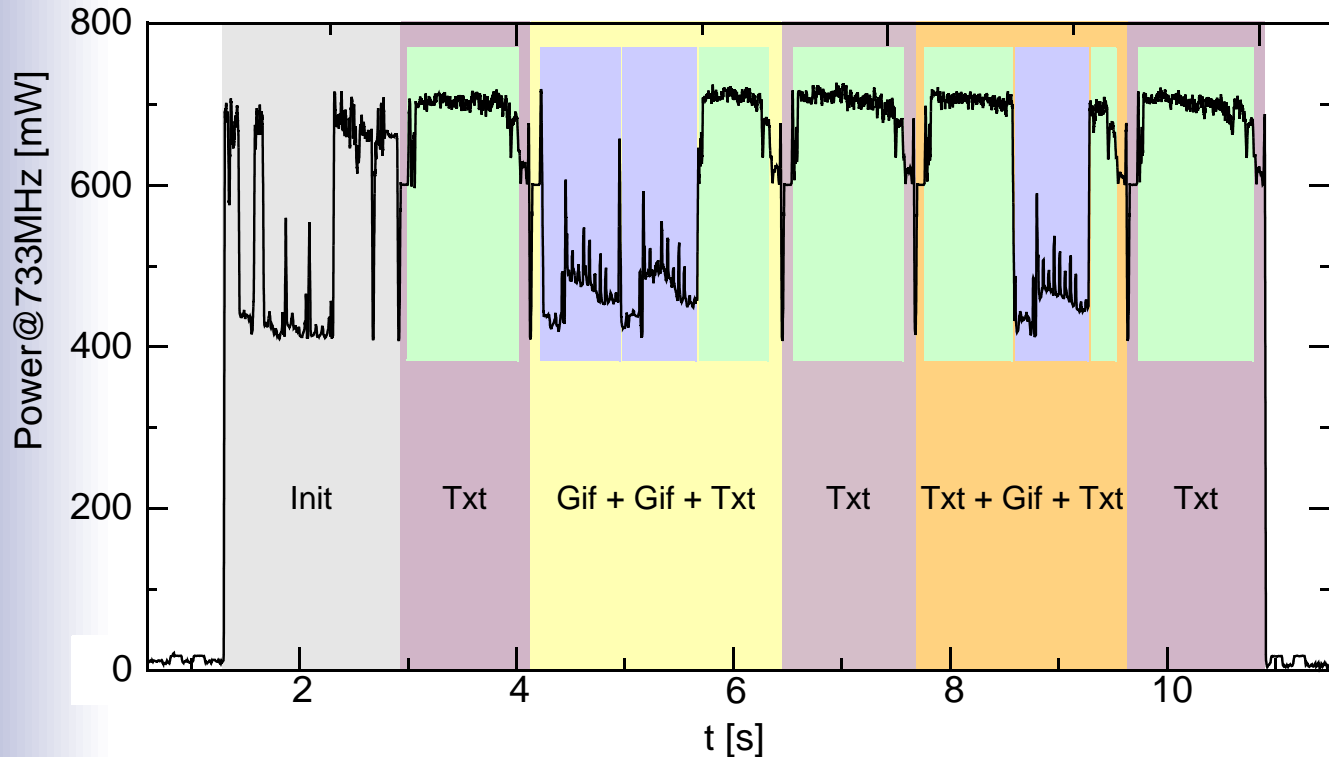
# Profiling of Complex Applications

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- Complex applications show unpredictable characteristics due to
  - ◆ Multiple blocks of computations with unknown execution order
  - ◆ Unknown input data
  - ◆ Unknown working set size
  - ◆ Examples: interpreters, decoders, virtual machines

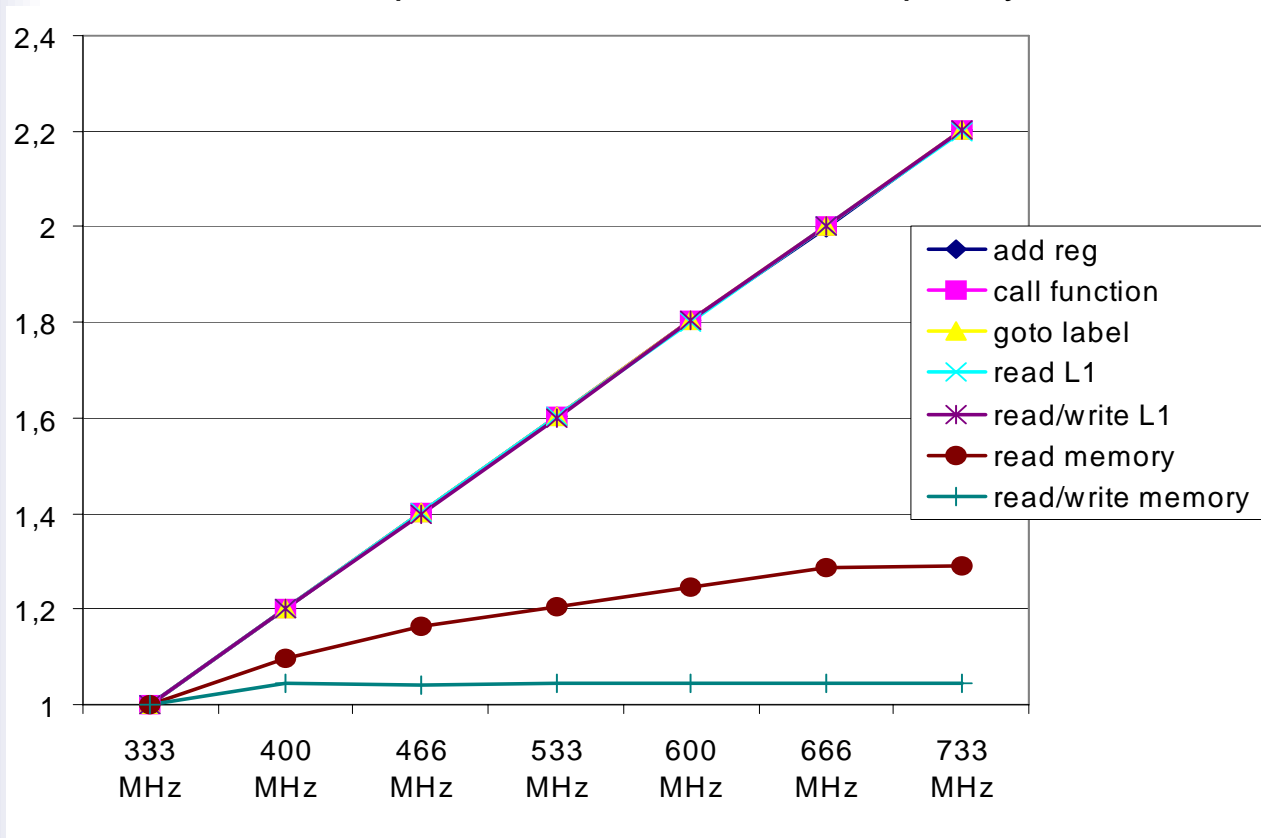
# Power Profile of an Interpreter

- Example: ghostscript interpreter `gs`



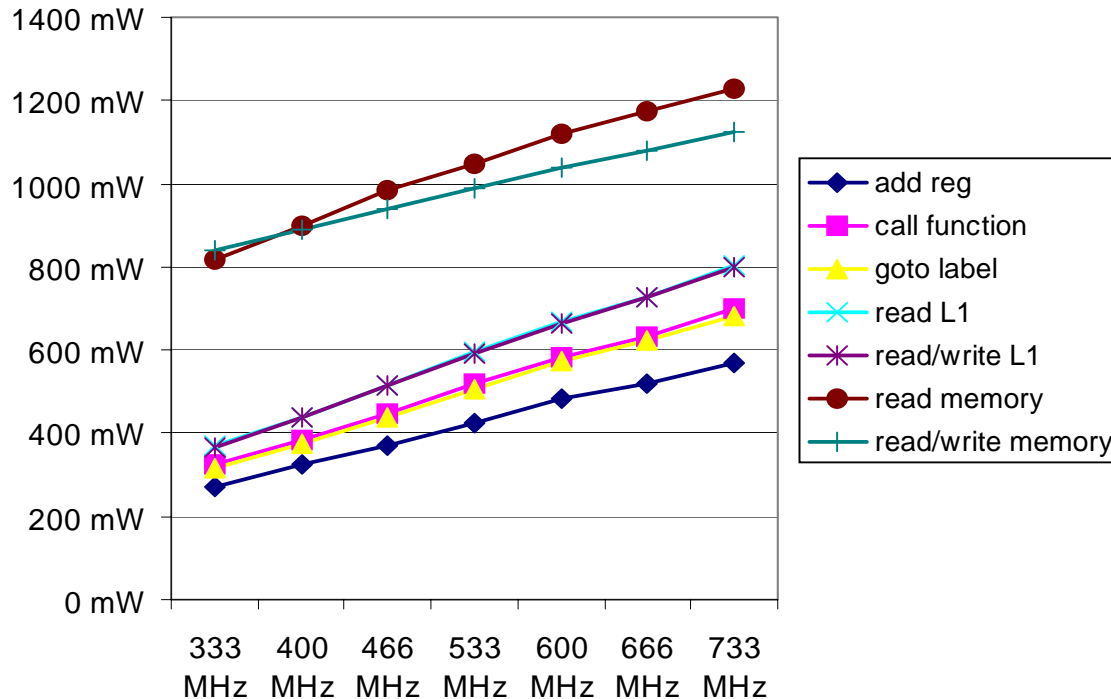
# Clock Scaling: Performance Characterization

## ■ Correlation between performance and clock frequency



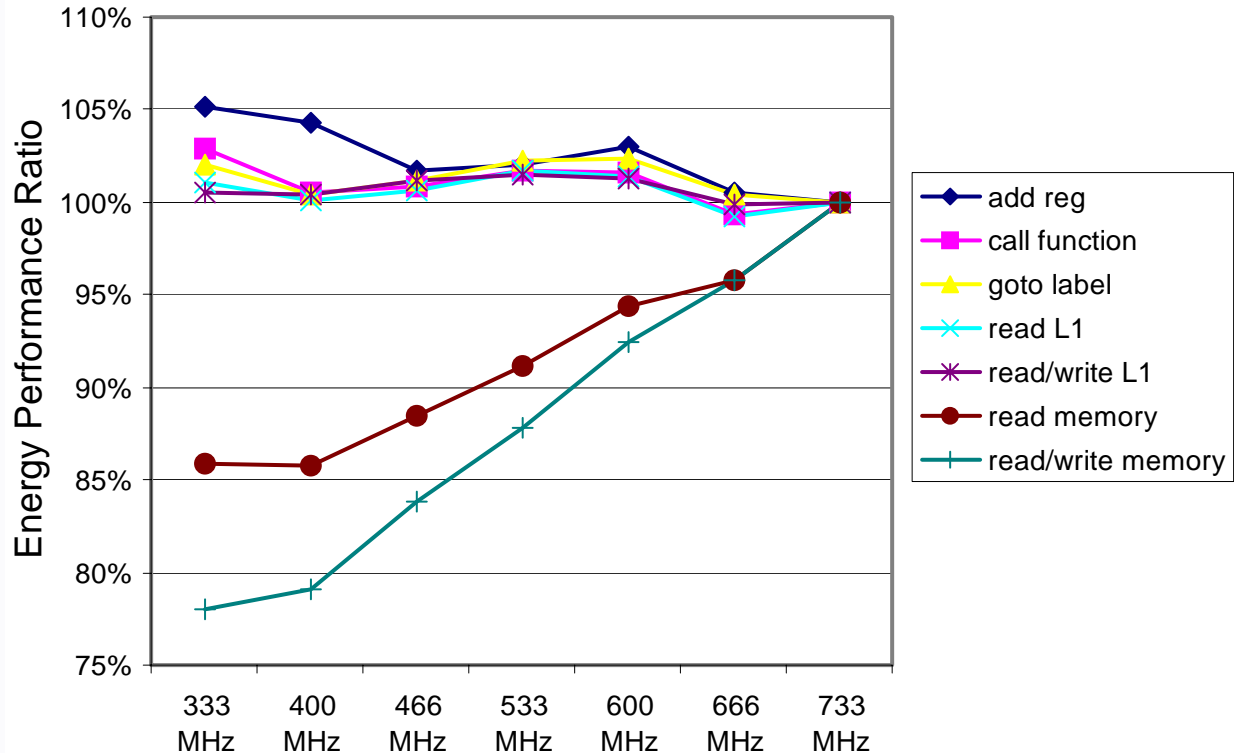
# Clock Scaling: Power Characterization

- Correlation between power consumption and clock frequency:

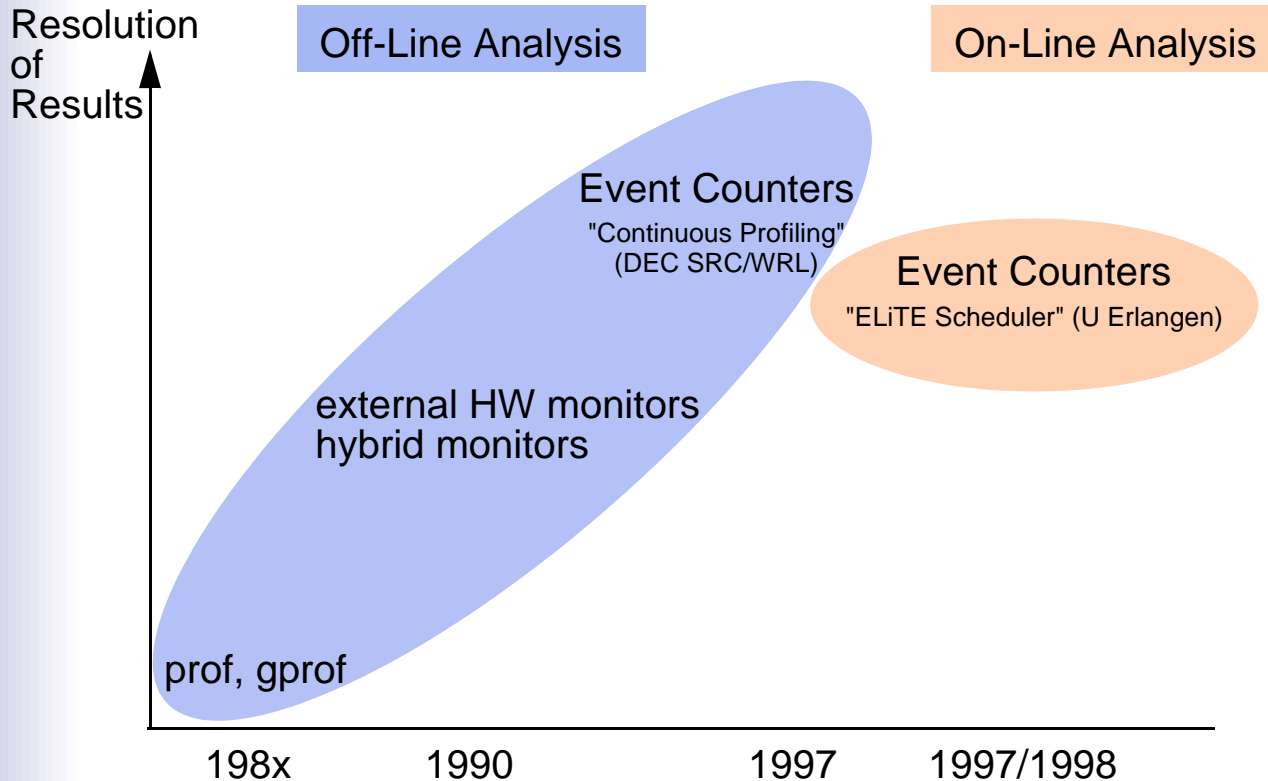


# Energy Efficiency is Unpredictable

## ■ Correlation between energy efficiency and clock frequency

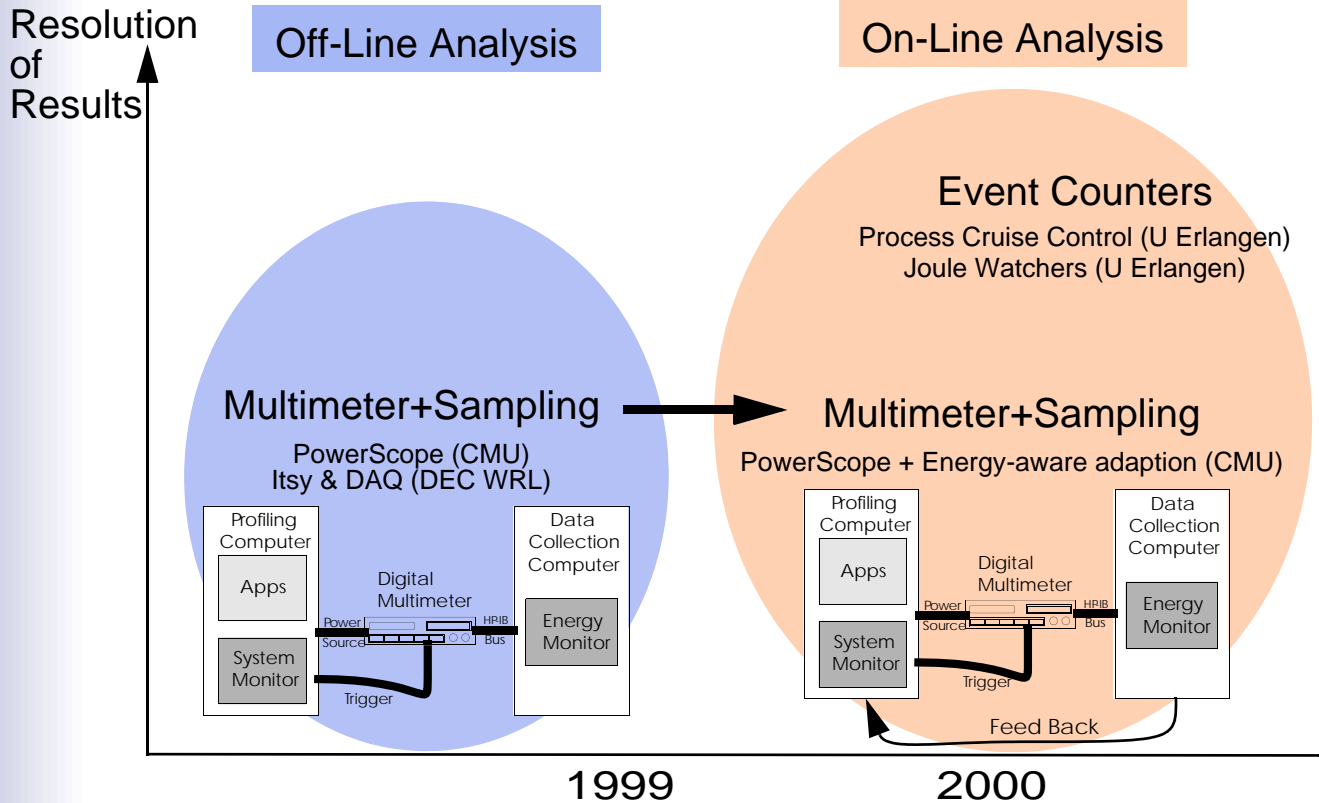


# Evolution of Performance-Profiling



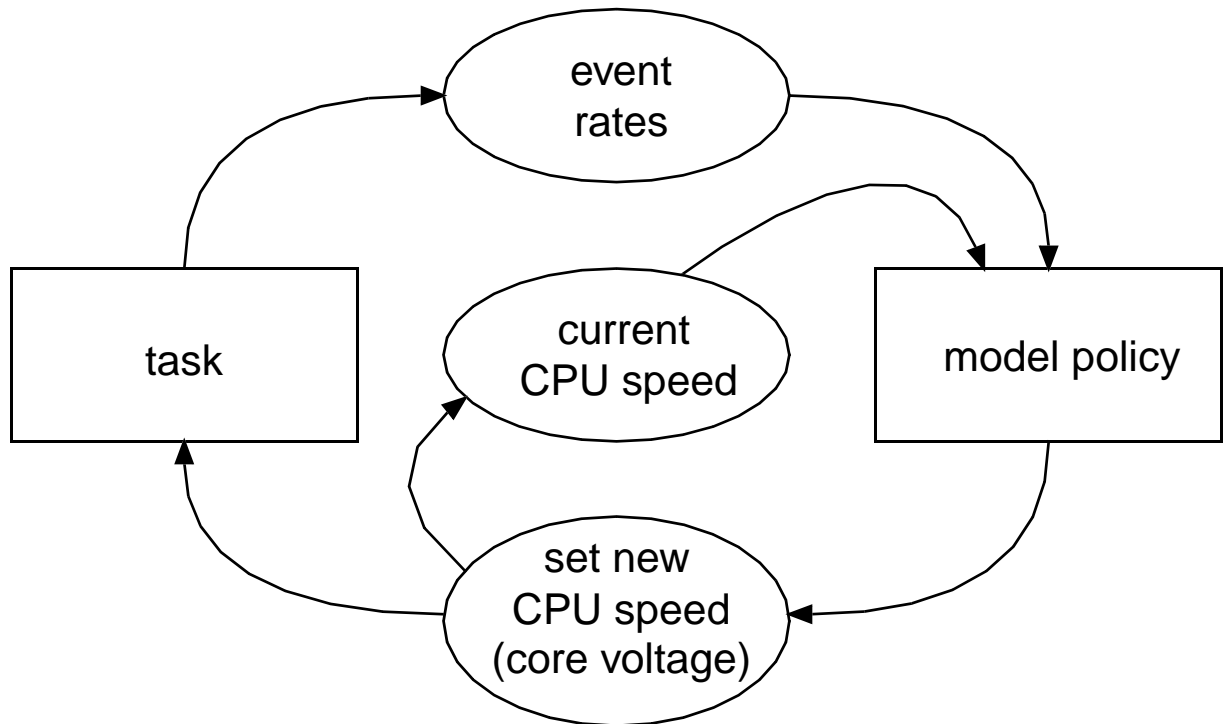


# Evolution of Energy-Profiling



# Process Cruise Control: Principles of Operation

- The rates at which some events happen correspond to a specific performance/energy-efficiency profile.



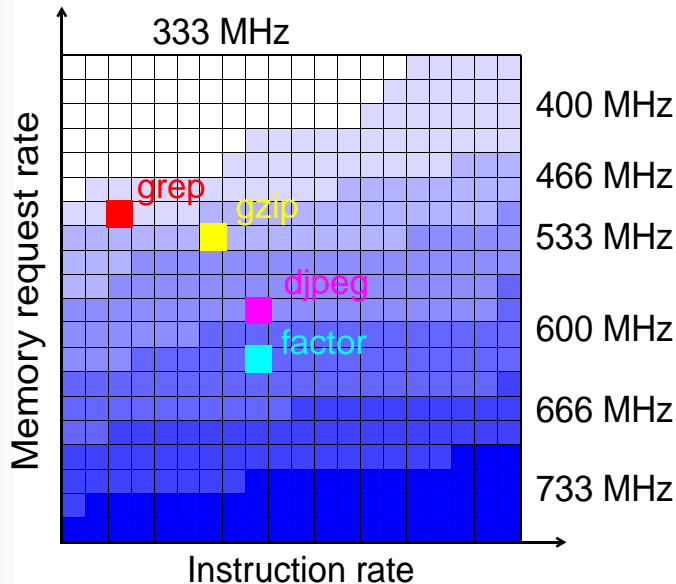
# Event-Based Characterization

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- Challenge:
  - ◆ Selection of the appropriate events
    - Clock cycles, retired instructions, L1 cache & memory/bus access...
  - ◆ Finding the correlation between event rates and clock speed for predefined power/performance demands.
  
- Methodology of event-based power/performance characterization:
  - ◆ Countable events are triggered by synthetic training applications.
  - ◆ Energy at various clock speeds is measured by a DAQ system.
  - ◆ The rate of various events is determined.
  - ◆ The performance of the training application is evaluated.
  - ◆ For each training application the optimal clock speed is determined for a predefined performance penalty.

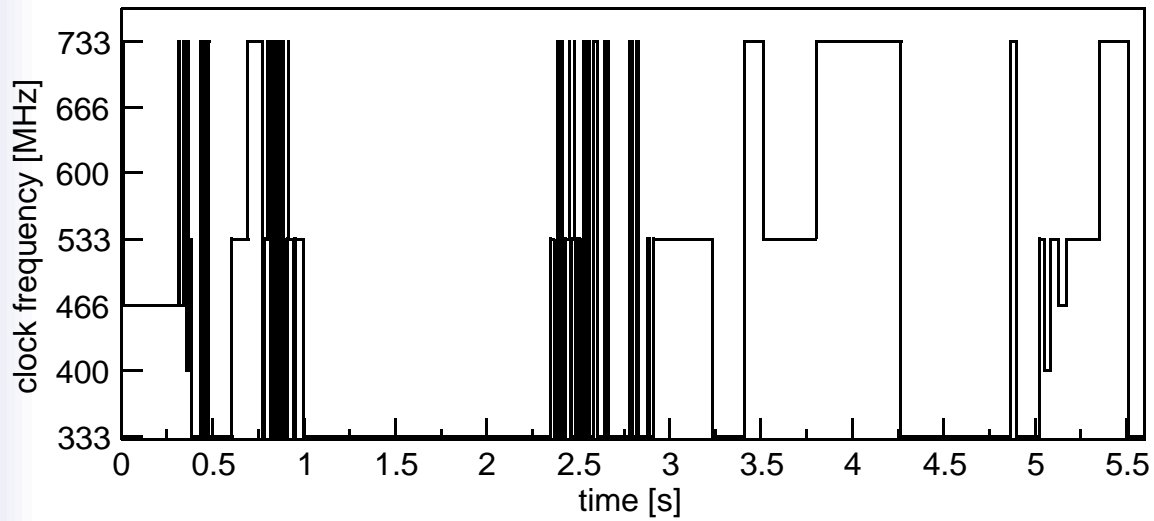
# Frequency Domains for IQ80310

- Selection of events:
  - ◆ Instruction rate is an indicator for performance loss.
  - ◆ Memory request rate is an indicator for energy efficiency gains.
- Example: Partitioning of the event space into frequency domains for a 10 % loss in computational performance



# Measurements

| Application | optimal speed | Process Cruise Control:<br>clock scaling | Process Cruise Control<br>Energy Savings |
|-------------|---------------|--|--|
| grep        | 400 MHz       | 400 MHz                                  | 15%                                      |
| gzip        | 466 MHz       | 466 MHz                                  | 10%                                      |
| djpeg       | 600 MHz       | 533 MHz                                  | 8%                                       |
| factor      | 600 MHz       | 600 MHz                                  | 4%                                       |
| ghostscript |               | dynamic                                  | < 5%                                     |



# Advantages

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- Power/Performance characteristics become a first class element of the process context.
- Low memory overhead:  
Just one entry in the task structure per event
- Low algorithmic overhead:  
Counters are evaluated
  - ◆ in the timer interrupt handler
  - ◆ in the scheduler
- High temporal resolution:  
Characteristics can be measured for arbitrarily short periods.
- Fast response:  
Changes in the energy-related characteristics of a process can be registered promptly.

# Limitations

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- The characterization of Cruise Control is
  - ◆ sufficient for best-effort improvement of the energy efficiency.
  - ◆ inadequate for quantitative guarantees.
- Just 2 counters are available in most architectures.
  - Let's embed more counters!
- HW events were selected with focus on performance not on energy profiling.
  - Let's find events that refer to a specific energy consumption!
  - **E**nergy **M**onitoring **C**ounters (EMCs)

# Conclusion

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- Energy aware OS strategies require information that is
  - ◆ precise
  - ◆ immediately available
  
- Performance penalties are the result of HW latencies.
  - Let's count performance critical HW activations!
  
- Energy consumption is the result of HW activity.
  - Let's count energy intensive HW activations!
  
- Event-driven power/performance characterization is the basis of energy-aware systems.