Introduction to GPU Computing

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Performance Development in Top500



https://www.top500.org/statistics/perfdevel

- Yardstick for measuring performance in HPC
 - Solve Ax = b
 - Measure floating-point operations per second (Flop/s)
- U.S. targeting Exaflop system as early as 2022
 - Building on recent trend of using GPUs



Hardware Trends

- Scaling number of cores/chip instead of clock speed
- Power is the root cause
 - Power density limits clock speed
- Goal has shifted to performance through parallelism
- Performance is now a software concern



Figure from Kathy Yelick, "Ten Ways to Waste a Parallel Computer." Data from Kunle Olukotun, Lance Hammond, Herb Sutter, Burton Smith, Chris Batten, and Krste Asanoviç.



GPUs for Computation

Excellent at graphics rendering

- Fast computation (e.g., TV refresh rate)
- High degree of parallelism (millions of independent pixels)
- Needs high memory bandwidth
 - Often sacrifices latency, but this can be ameliorated
- This computation pattern common in many scientific applications

GPUs for Computation

- CPU Strengths
 - Large memory
 - Fast clock speeds
 - Large cache for latency optimization
 - Small number of threads that can run very quickly
- CPU Weaknesses
 - Low mem. bandwidth
 - Costly cache misses
 - Low perf./watt

CPU Optimized for Serial Tasks



Slide from Jeff Larkin, "Fundamentals of GPU Computing"

GPU Accelerator

Optimized for Parallel Tasks



- GPU Strengths
 - High mem. BW
 - Latency tolerant via parallelism
 - More compute resources (cores)
 - High perf./watt
- GPU Weaknesses
 - Low mem. Capacity
 - Low per-thread perf.



GPU Programming Approach

- Heterogeneous Programming
 - Small, non-parallelizable tasks on CPU
 - Large, parallel tasks on GPU
- Challenges
 - Increase in parallelism
 - New algorithms?
 - Increase in communication cost
 - PCIe bandwidth between devices much slower than that on GPU or CPU alone



GPU Programming Models

3 ways to program GPUs

Libraries (cuBLAS, cuFFT, MAGMA, ...)

High performance for limited code change

Limited by availability of libraries

Compiler Directives (OpenACC, OpenMP, ...)

High-level extensions to existing languages

Less fine-grain control over performance

Programming Languages (CUDA, OpenCL, HIP, ...)

Expose low-level details to maximize performance

More difficult and time consuming to implement

Error prone



GPU Accelerated Libraries

(not an exhaustive list)

Linear Algebra (dense)	cuBLAS, cuSPARSE, MAGMA, SLATE
FFT	cuFFT, FFT-X, heFFTe
Random Number Generation	cuRAND
Linear Solvers	cuSOLVER, PETSc, SuperLU
ODE	SUNDIALS
Algebraic Multigrid	AmgX, hypre
Tensor Algebra	cuTENSOR, TAL-SH
Data Structures (e.g., sort, scan,)	Thrust, rocPRIM
ML & AI	cuDNN, CUTLASS, Rapids

* Most NVIDIA libraries (e.g., cuBLAS) have AMD counter-parts (rocBLAS)



GPU Libraries Example

```
real(8) :: x(n), y(n), a
integer :: n, i
! Initialize data
allocate(x(n),y(n))
call initData(x,y)
do i=1,n
   y(i) = a*x(i)+y(i)
enddo
```





Compiler Directives

OpenMP device offload

- Extension of OpenMP for multi-core threading to accelerators
- Part of standard since 4.5
- Supports Fortran, C, C++
- Features lag OpenACC by 1+ year
- Limited compiler support, but this is changing
 - Available on Summit with IBM XL compilers

OpenACC

- Designed specifically for accelerators
- More advanced features than OpenMP
- Only available with GNU and PGI compilers

OpenACC Parallel Directive

C/C++ : #pragma acc parallel Fortran: !\$acc parallel

Generates parallelism

#pragma acc parallel

The *parallel* directive will generate 1 or more parallel *gangs* which execute redundantly



OpenACC Loop Directive

```
C/C++ : #pragma acc loop
Fortran: !$acc loop
```

Identifies loops to run in parallel

#pragma acc parallel

```
#pragma acc loop
for (i=0; i<n; ++i)
{</pre>
```





OpenACC Parallel Loop Directive

C/C++ : #pragma acc parallel loop Fortran: !\$acc parallel loop

Generates parallelism AND identifies loop in one directive

#pragma acc parallel loop for (i=0; i<n; ++i)





Directives Example

```
real(8) :: x(n), y(n), a
integer :: n, i
! Initialize data
allocate(x(n),y(n))
call initData(x,y)
do i=1,n
   y(i) = a*x(i)+y(i)
enddo
```





GPU Programming Languages

• CUDA C

- NVIDIA extension to C programming language
 - "At its core are three key abstractions a hierarchy of thread groups, shared memories, and barrier synchronization – that are simply exposed to the programmer as a minimal set of language extensions (to C programming language)" -- CUDA Programming Guide
- Compiled with nvcc compiler
- Other GPU languages are around, but won't discuss these today – HIP, SYCL, OpenCL, DPC++

CUDA C

__global___ void daxpy(int n,double a,double *x,double *y)

- _____global____kevword
 - Number of the Which block the Local thread ID within each thread belongs to within thread block
- int i = blockIdx.x*blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
- Thread indexing
 - This defines a unique thread ID among all threads in a grid

if (i < n) y[i] = a*x[i] + y[i];</pre>

Check that thread ID is not larger than number of elements

 A₀
 A₁
 A₂
 A₃
 A₄
 A₅
 A₆
 A₇
 A₈
 A₉
 A₁₀
 A₁₁
 A₁₂
 A₁₃
 A₁₄





CUDA C Example



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GPU Programming Models





Scientific Application Example



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