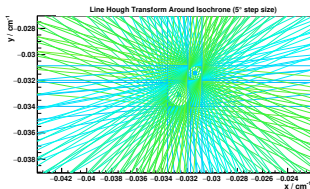


GPUs: Platform, Programming, Pitfalls

GridKa School 2016: Data Science on Modern Architectures

Andreas Herten

- Physics in
 - Aachen (Dipl. at CMS)
 - Jülich/Bochum (Dr. at PANDA)



- Since then: NVIDIA Application Lab
Optimizing scientific applications for/on
GPUs

JÜLICH
APPLICATION LAB
NVIDIA

Motivation

Platform

Hardware

Features

Programming

Libraries

Directives

Languages

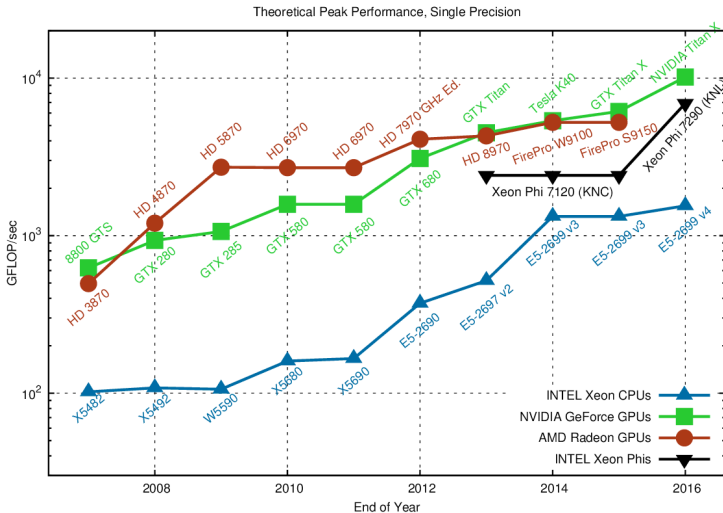
Tools

Pitfalls

- 1999: General computations with shaders of *graphics hardware*
- 2001: NVIDIA GeForce 3 with programmable shaders [1]; 2003: DirectX 9 at ATI
- 2016: Top 500: $\frac{1}{10}$ with GPUs, Green 500: 70 % of top 50 with GPUs

Status Quo

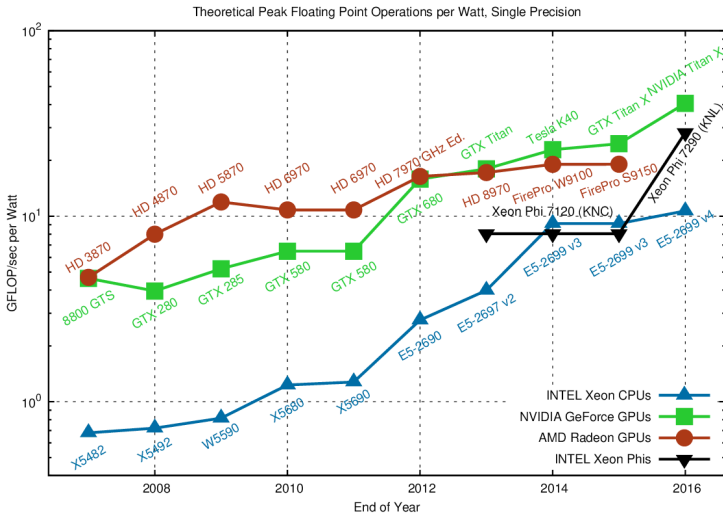
GPU all around



Graphic: Rupp [2]

Status Quo

GPU all around



Graphic: Rupp [2]



But why?!

Let's find out!

Platform

CPU vs. GPU

A matter of specialties



Transporting one

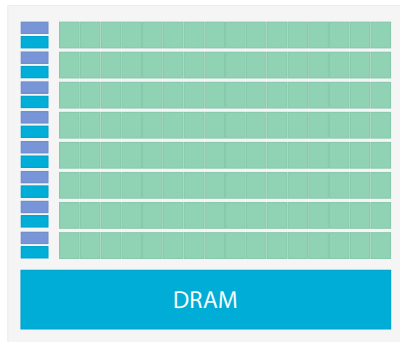
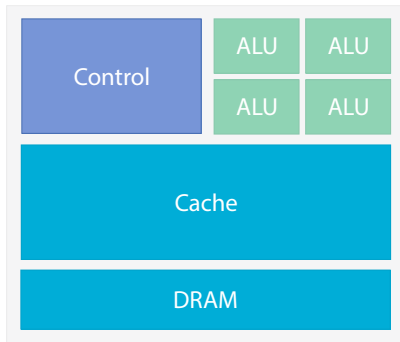


Transporting many

Graphics: Lee [3] and Shearings Holidays [4]

CPU vs. GPU

Chip



Aim: Hide Latency
Everything else follows

SIMT

Asynchronicity

Memory

Aim: Hide Latency
Everything else follows

SIMT

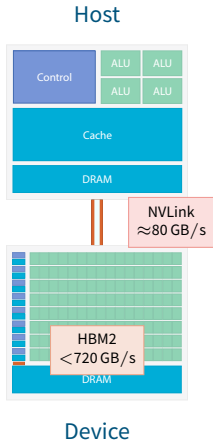
Asynchronicity

Memory

Memory

GPU memory ain't no CPU memory

- GPU: accelerator / extension card
- Separate device from CPU
- Separate memory, but UVA and UM**
- Memory transfers need special consideration!
Do as little as possible!
- Formerly: Explicitly copy data to/from GPU
Now: Done automatically (performance...?)
- Values for P100: 16 GB RAM, 720 GB/s



Aim: Hide Latency
Everything else follows

SIMT

Asynchronicity

Memory

- Problem: Memory transfer is comparably slow
Solution: Do something else in meantime (**computation**)!
- Overlap tasks
 - Copy and compute engines run separately (*streams*)
 - GPU needs to be fed: Schedule many computations
 - CPU can do other work while GPU computes; synchronization

Aim: Hide Latency
Everything else follows

SIMT

Asynchronicity

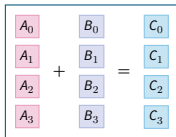
Memory

SIMT

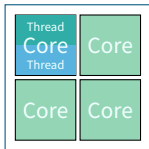
Of threads and warps

- CPU:
 - Single Instruction, Multiple Data (SIMD)
 - Simultaneous Multithreading (SMT)
- GPU: Single Instruction, Multiple Threads (SIMT)
 - CPU core $\cong$ GPU multiprocessor (SM)
 - Working unit: set of threads (32, a *warp*)
 - Fast switching of threads (large register file)
 - Branching 

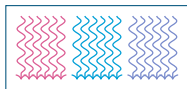
Vector



SMT

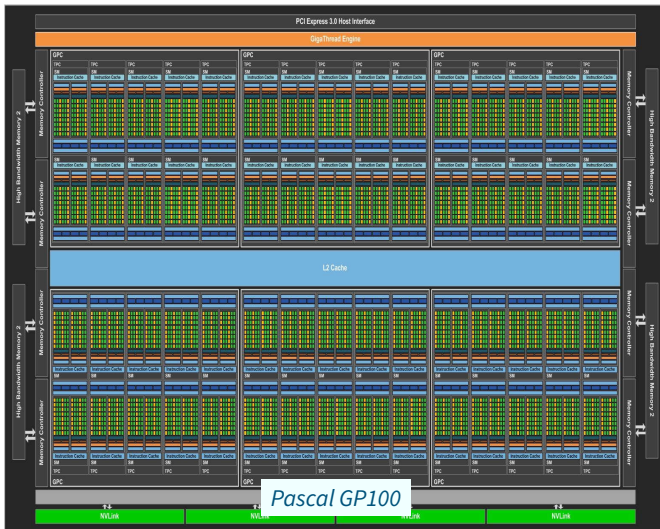


SIMT



SIMT

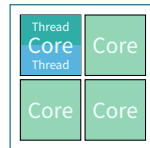
Of threads and warps



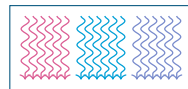
Vector

$$\begin{matrix} A_0 \\ A_1 \\ A_2 \\ A_3 \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} B_0 \\ B_1 \\ B_2 \\ B_3 \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} C_0 \\ C_1 \\ C_2 \\ C_3 \end{matrix}$$

SMT



SIMT



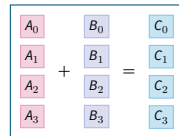
SIMT

Of threads and warps

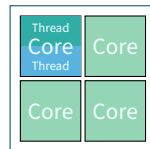
Multiprocessor



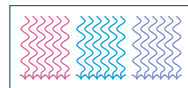
Vector



SMT



SIMT

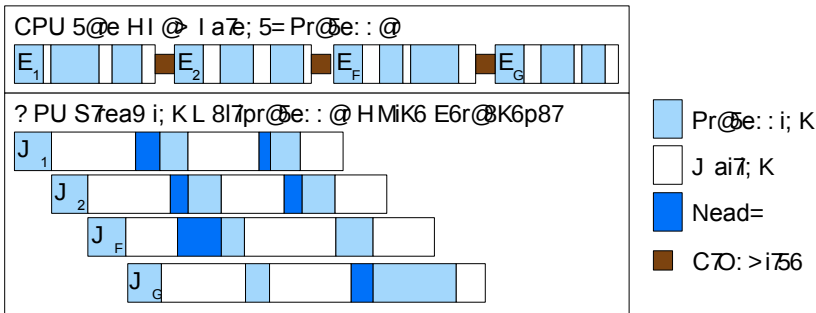


Graphics: Nvidia Corporation [5]

Latency Hiding

GPU's ultimate feature

- CPU minimizes latency within each thread
- GPU hides latency with computations from other thread groups



CPU vs. GPU

Low latency vs. high throughput



Optimized for **low latency**

- + Large main memory
- + Fast clock rate
- + Large caches
- + Branch prediction
- + Powerful ALU
- Relatively low memory bandwidth
- Cache misses costly
- Low performance per watt



Optimized for **high throughput**

- + High bandwidth main memory
- + Latency tolerant (parallelism)
- + More compute resources
- + High performance per watt
- Limited memory capacity
- Low per-thread performance
- Extension card

Programming

Preface: CPU

A simple CPU program!

SAXPY: $\vec{y} = a\vec{x} + \vec{y}$, with single precision

Part of **LAPACK BLAS** Level 1

```
void saxpy(int n, float a, float * x, float * y) {  
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)  
        y[i] = a * x[i] + y[i];  
}
```

```
int a = 42;  
int n = 10;  
float x[n], y[n];  
// fill x, y
```

```
saxpy(n, a, x, y);
```

Programming GPUs is easy: Just don't!

Use applications & libraries!

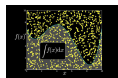


Libraries

The truth is out there!

Programming GPUs is easy: Just don't!

Use applications & libraries!



Numba

t heano

- GPU-parallel BLAS (all 152 routines)
- Single, double, complex data types
- Constant competition with Intel's MKL
- Multi-GPU support

→ <https://developer.nvidia.com/cublas>
<http://docs.nvidia.com/cuda/cublas>

cuBLAS

Code example

```
int a = 42;
int n = 10;
float x[n], y[n];
// fill x, y

cublasInit();

float * d_x, * d_y;
cudaMalloc((void **)&d_x, n * sizeof(x[0]));
cudaMalloc((void **)&d_y, n * sizeof(y[0]));
cublasSetVector(n, sizeof(x[0]), x, 1, d_x, 1);
cublasSetVector(n, sizeof(y[0]), y, 1, d_y, 1);

cublasSaxpy(n, a, d_x, 1, d_y, 1);

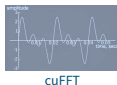
cublasGetVector(n, sizeof(y[0]), d_y, 1, y, 1);
cublasShutdown();
```

Libraries

The truth is out there!

Programming GPUs is easy: Just don't!

Use applications & libraries!



Numba

t heano

- $\frac{\text{Thrust}}{\text{CUDA}} = \frac{\text{STL}}{\text{C++}}$
- Template library
- Based on iterators
- Data parallel primitives (scan(), sort(), reduce(), ...)
- Fully compatible with plain CUDA C (comes with **CUDA** Toolkit)

→ <http://thrust.github.io/>
<http://docs.nvidia.com/cuda/thrust/>

Thrust

Code example

```
int a = 42;
int n = 10;
thrust::host_vector<float> x(n), y(n);
// fill x, y

thrust::device_vector d_x = x, d_y = y;

using namespace thrust::placeholders;
thrust::transform(d_x.begin(), d_x.end(), d_y.begin(),
    ↪ d_y.begin(), a * _1 + _2);

x = d_x;
```

Programming

Directives

GPU Programming with Directives

Keepin' you portable

- Annotate usual source code by directives

```
#pragma acc loop  
for (int i = 0; i < 1; i++) {};
```

- Also: Generalized functions

```
acc_copy();
```

- Compiler interprets directives, creates according instructions

Pro

- Portability
 - Other compiler? No problem!
To it, it's a serial program
 - Different target architectures
from same code
- Easy to program

Con

- Only few compilers
- Not all the raw power
available
- Harder to debug
- Easy to program wrong

OpenMP Standard for multithread programming on CPU, GPU since 4.0, better since 4.5

```
#pragma omp target map(tofrom:y), map(to:x)
#pragma omp teams num_teams(10) num_threads(10)
#pragma omp distribute
for ( ) {
    #pragma omp parallel for
    for ( ) {
        // ...
    }
}
```

OpenACC Similar to OpenMP, but more specifically for GPUs

```
void saxpy_acc(int n, float a, float * x, float * y) {  
    #pragma acc kernels  
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)  
        y[i] = a * x[i] + y[i];  
}
```

```
int a = 42;  
int n = 10;  
float x[n], y[n];  
// fill x, y
```

```
saxpy_acc(n, a, x, y);
```

```
void saxpy_acc(int n, float a, float * x, float * y) {  
    #pragma acc parallel loop copy(y) copyin(x)  
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)  
        y[i] = a * x[i] + y[i];  
}
```

```
int a = 42;  
int n = 10;  
float x[n], y[n];  
// fill x, y
```

```
saxpy_acc(n, a, x, y);
```

Programming Languages

Programming GPU Directly

Finally...

- Two solutions:

OpenCL Open Computing Language by Khronos Group (Apple, IBM, NVIDIA, ...) 2009

- Platform: Programming language (OpenCL C/C++), API, and compiler
- Targets CPUs, GPUs, FPGAs, and other many-core machines
- Fully open source
- Different compilers available

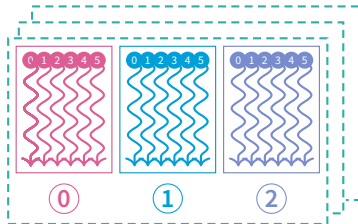
CUDA NVIDIA's GPU platform 2007

- Platform: Drivers, programming language (CUDA C/C++), API, compiler, debuggers, profilers, ...
- Only NVIDIA GPUs
- Compilation with `nvcc`
GCC/LLVM solutions on way (slowly)
- Also: CUDA Fortran

- Choose what flavor you like, what colleagues/collaboration is using
- Hardest: Come up with parallelized algorithm

- Methods to exploit parallelism:

- Threads → Block
- Blocks → Grid
- All in 3D



- Execution unit: **kernel**

- Function executing in parallel on device

```
__global__ kernel(int a, float * b) { }
```

- Access own ID by global variables `threadIdx.x`, `blockIdx.y`, ...
- Execution order non-deterministic!
- Only threads in one warp (32 threads of block) can communicate reliably/quickly

⇒ **SAXPY!**

```
__global__ void saxpy_cuda(int n, float a, float * x, float * y) {  
    int i = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;  
    if (i < n)  
        y[i] = a * x[i] + y[i];  
}
```

```
int a = 42;  
int n = 10;  
float x[n], y[n];  
// fill x, y  
cudaMallocManaged(&x, n * sizeof(float));  
cudaMallocManaged(&y, n * sizeof(float));
```

```
saxpy_cuda<<<2, 5>>>(n, a, x, y);
```

```
cudaDeviceSynchronize();
```

Programming

Tools

- NVIDIA

- `cuda-gdb` GDB-like command line utility for debugging
 - `cuda-memcheck` Like Valgrind's memcheck, for checking errors in memory accesses
 - `Nsight` IDE for GPU developing, based on Eclipse (Linux, OS X) or Visual Studio (Windows)
 - `nvprof` Command line profiler, including detailed performance counters
 - `Visual Profiler` Timeline profiling and annotated performance experiments
- OpenCL: `CodeXL` (Open Source, GPUOpen/AMD) – debugging, profiling.

nvprof

Command that line

Usage: nvprof ./app

```

Slides — ahterten@JUHYDRA: ~/cudaSamples/NVIDIA_CUDA-7.5_Samples/bin/x86_64/linux/release — ..linux/release — ssh juhydra
NOTE: The CUDA Samples are not meant for performance measurements. Results may vary when GPU Boost is enabled.
==27580== Profiling application: ./matrixMul
==27580== Profiling result:
Time(%)    Time      Calls      Avg      Min      Max      Name
99.82%    111.33ms    301    369.85us    363.97us    375.62us    void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)
0.11%    124.58us    2     62.289us    43.393us    81.185us    [CUDA memcpy HtoD]
0.07%    80.736us    1     80.736us    80.736us    80.736us    [CUDA memcpy DtoH]

==27580== API calls:
Time(%)    Time      Calls      Avg      Min      Max      Name
50.18%    348.27ms    3    116.09ms    241.59us    347.79ms    cudaMalloc
32.66%    226.68ms    1    226.68ms    226.68ms    226.68ms    cudaDeviceReset
15.47%    107.40ms    1    107.40ms    107.40ms    107.40ms    cudaEventSynchronize
0.52%    3.5853ms    301    11.911us    11.045us    34.486us    cudaLaunch
0.36%    2.4915ms    332    7.5040us    196ns     277.14us    cuDeviceGetAttribute
0.24%    1.6478ms    4    411.96us    294.19us    539.73us    cuDeviceTotalMem
0.19%    1.3333ms    3    444.43us    181.15us    813.00us    cudaMemcpy
0.12%    802.85us    3    267.62us    249.19us    299.41us    cudaFree
0.09%    604.10us    1    604.10us    604.10us    604.10us    cudaGetDeviceProperties
0.07%    451.30us    1505    299ns     266ns     6.0860us    cudaSetupArgument
0.05%    362.32us    1    362.32us    362.32us    362.32us    cudaDeviceSynchronize
0.03%    242.14us    4    60.534us    56.884us    69.764us    cuDeviceGetName
0.02%    127.99us    301    425ns     384ns     2.4580us    cudaConfigureCall
0.00%    10.920us    2    5.4600us    4.2100us    6.7100us    cudaEventRecord
0.00%    10.613us    1    10.613us    10.613us    10.613us    cudaGetDevice
0.00%    9.4980us    8    1.1870us    246ns     4.2760us    cuDeviceGet
0.00%    5.7490us    2    2.8740us    1.1700us    4.5790us    cudaEventCreate
0.00%    5.4630us    1    5.4630us    5.4630us    5.4630us    cudaEventElapsedTime
0.00%    3.2900us    2    1.6450us    1.2160us    2.0740us    cuDeviceGetCount
  
```

With metrics: `nvprof --metrics flop_sp_efficiency ./app`

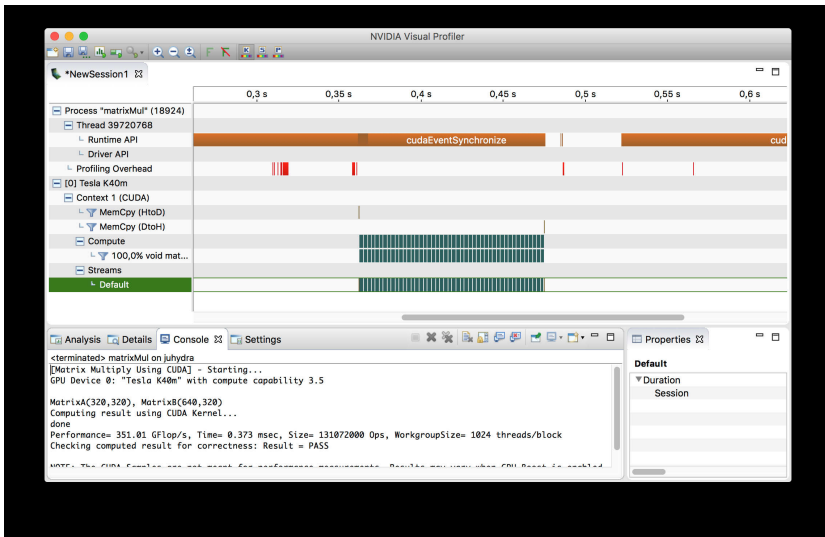
```

Slides — aherten@JUHYDRA: ~/cudaSamples/NVIDIA_CUDA-7.5_Samples/bin/x86_64/linux/release — ..linux/release — ssh juhydra
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
==27425== Replaying kernel "void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)" (done)
Performance: 3.26 GFlop/s, Time= 40.205 msec, Size= 131072000 Ops, WorkgroupSize= 1024 threads/block
Checking computed result for correctness: Result = PASS

NOTE: The CUDA Samples are not meant for performance measurements. Results may vary when GPU Boost is enabled.
==27425== Profiling application: ./matrixMul
==27425== Profiling result:
==27425== Metric result:
Invocations      Metric Name      Metric Description      Min      Max      Avg
Device "Tesla K40m (0)"
Kernel: void matrixMulCUDA<int=32>(float*, float*, float*, int, int)
301              flop_sp_efficiency      FLOP Efficiency(Peak Single)      7.88%      8.19%      8.07%

# aherten @ JUHYDRA in ~/cudaSamples/NVIDIA_CUDA-7.5_Samples/bin/x86_64/linux/release [20:58:41]
$ nvprof --metrics flop_sp_efficiency ./matrixMul

```



Pitfalls

Pitfalls; Caveats; Tips

There are mistakes to be made, opportunities to be missed

- Try to use a library if possible; let others do the hard work
- Profile! Don't trust your gut!
- Gradually improve and specialize when porting and optimizing
- Expose enough parallelism! The GPU wants to be fed
- Express data locality
- Study your data transfers, can you reduce it?
- Unified Memory is a good start, but explicit transfers might be fast
- Use specialized memory: constant memory, shared memory! Pinned host memory is sometimes a very easy performance booster
- Overlap computation and transfer
- Does your code really need double precision? Is single precision sufficient? Or, maybe, even half precision?
- The number of threads and blocks is a tunable parameter; 128 is a good start

Omitted

There's so much more!

What I did not talk about

- Atomic operations
- Shared memory
- Pinned memory
- How debugging works
- Overlapping streams
- Cross-compilation for heterogeneous systems
- ...

- GPUs can improve your performance many-fold
 - For a fitting, parallelizable application
 - Libraries are easiest
 - Direct programming (plain CUDA) is most powerful
 - OpenACC is somewhere in between (and portable)
 - There are many tools helping the programmer
- Felice will surely give you more details in today's GPU tutorial!

**Thank you
for your attention!**
a.herten@fz-juelich.de

Appendix

Further Reading & Links

Pascal Performances

Glossary

References

Further Reading & Links

More!

- A discussion of SIMD, SIMT, SMT by Y. Kreinin.
- NVIDIA's documentation: docs.nvidia.com
- NVIDIA's [Parallel For All](#) blog

Tesla Products	Tesla . / 0	Tesla 1 / 0	Tesla P200
3P4	GL 110 J eplerK	GL M00 J axCellK	GP100 J PascalK
51 s	1N	MD	NP
TP6s	1N	MD	M8
7P89 64: ; Gores <51	19M	1M8	PO
7P89 64: ; Gores <3P4	M880	Q0RM	Q80
7P= / 64: ; Gores <51	PO	O	QM
7P= / 64: ; Gores <3P4	9P0	9P	1P8M
>ase 6loc?	R0NL ST	908 L ST	1QM L ST
3P4 >oost 6loc?	810L RNL ST	111OL ST	1080 L ST
Pea? 7P89 37@APs ²	N00	P800	10P00
Pea? 7P= / 37@APs ²	1P80	M0	NQ0
TeBure 400s	M00	19M	MMD
1 eE orF 0terfice	Q0Et 00DVN	Q0Et 00DVN	009P-Et SWL M
1 eE orF 5De	Xp to 1MGW	Xp to 10GW	1PGW
@ 6acJe 5De	1NQPI W	Q0RM W	009PI W
KeL0ter 7De 5De <51	MPI W	MPI W	MPI W
KeL0ter 7De 5De <3P4	Q00 I W	P100 I W	1000PI W
T: P	M0Watts	M0 Watts	000 Watts
TraCs0tors	R1 Billion	8 Billion	1NQEBillion
3P4 : 0 5De	NNL mmY	P01 mmY	P10 mmY
1 aCulrictur0L Process	M8-nm	M8-nm	1P-nm ZnZET

Figure: Tesla P100 performance characteristics in comparison [5]

API A programmatic interface to software by well-defined functions. Short for application programming interface. [37](#), [52](#)

ATI Canada-based [GPUs](#) manufacturing company; bought by AMD in 2006. [3](#), [52](#)

CUDA Computing platform for [GPUs](#) from NVIDIA. Provides, among others, CUDA C/C++. [29](#), [37–39](#), [48](#), [52](#), [53](#)

GCC The GNU Compiler Collection, the collection of open source compilers, among other for C and Fortran. [37](#), [52](#)

- LLVM** An open Source compiler infrastructure, providing, among others, Clang for C. [37](#), [52](#)
- NVIDIA** US technology company creating [GPUs](#). [2](#), [3](#), [37](#), [41](#), [50](#), [52](#)
- OpenACC** Directive-based programming, primarily for many-core machines. [33–35](#), [48](#), [52](#)
- OpenCL** The *Open Computing Language*. Framework for writing code for heterogeneous architectures ([CPU](#), [GPU](#), DSP, FPGA). The alternative to [CUDA](#). [37](#), [41](#), [52](#)
- OpenMP** Directive-based programming, primarily for multi-threaded machines. [33](#), [52](#)

- SAXPY** Single-precision $A \times X + Y$. A simple code example of scaling a vector and adding an offset. [23](#), [38](#), [39](#), [52](#)
- CPU** Central Processing Unit. [9](#), [10](#), [13](#), [33](#), [37](#), [52](#), [53](#)
- GPU** Graphics Processing Unit. [2](#), [9–14](#), [16](#), [24–26](#), [28](#), [32](#), [33](#), [37](#), [41](#), [46](#), [48](#), [52](#), [53](#)
- SIMD** Single Instruction, Multiple Data. [17–19](#), [52](#)
- SIMT** Single Instruction, Multiple Threads. [11](#), [12](#), [14](#), [16–19](#), [52](#)
- SM** Streaming Multiprocessor. [17–19](#), [52](#)
- SMT** Simultaneous Multithreading. [17–19](#), [52](#)

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