



CUDA Introduction

PATC GPU Programming Course 2021

26 April 2021 | Andreas Herten | Forschungszentrum Jülich

Outline

Introduction

- GPU History

- Architecture Comparison

- Jülich Systems

- App Showcase

Platform

- Overview

- 3 Core Features

 - Memory

 - Asynchronicity

 - SIMT

- High Throughput

- Summary

Programming GPUs

- Libraries

- GPU programming models

- Directives

- Thrust

- CUDA C/C++

 - Kernels

 - Grid, Blocks

 - Memory Management

 - Unified Memory



History of GPUs

A short but unparalleled story

- 1999 Graphics computation pipeline implemented in dedicated *graphics hardware*
Computations using OpenGL graphics library [2]
»GPU« coined by NVIDIA [3]

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: Frontier (> 1.5 EFLOP/s, ORNL), AMD GPUs

*: Effective FLOP/s, not theoretical peak

History of GPUs

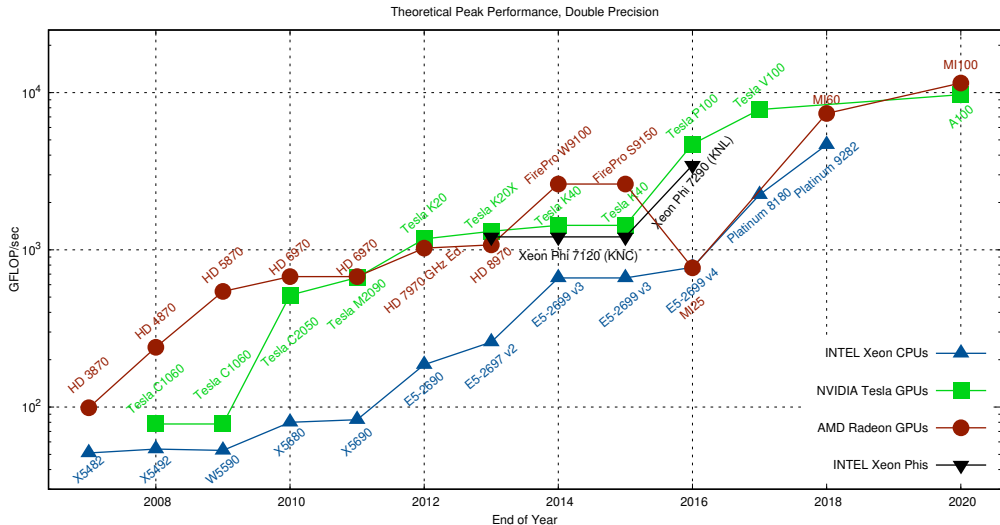
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- Future : ???
: Aurora (≈ 1 EFLOP/s, Argonne), Intel GPUs; El Capitan (≈ 2 EFLOP/s, LLNL), AMD GPUs

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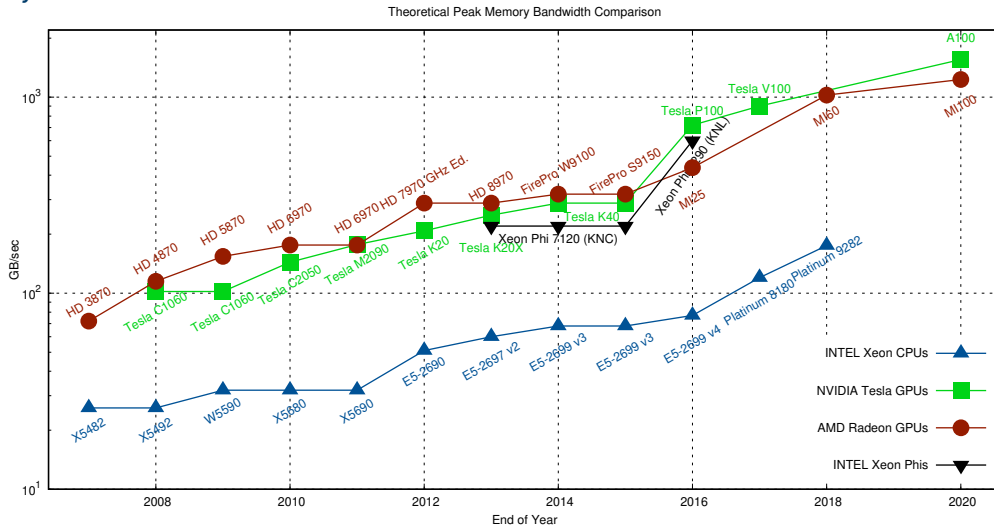
Status Quo Across Architectures

Performance



Status Quo Across Architectures

Memory Bandwidth





JUWELS Cluster – Jülich's Scalable System

- 2500 nodes with Intel Xeon CPUs (2×24 cores)
- 46 + 10 nodes with 4 NVIDIA Tesla V100 cards (16 GB memory)
- 10.4 (CPU) + 1.6 (GPU) PFLOP/s peak performance (Top500: #44)



JUWELS Booster – Scaling Higher!

- 936 nodes with AMD EPYC Rome CPUs (2×24 cores)
- Each with 4 NVIDIA A100 Ampere GPUs (each: $\text{FP64TC: } 19.5$ TFLOP/s, 40 GB memory)
 $\text{FP64: } 9.7$
- InfiniBand DragonFly+ HDR-200 network; 4×200 Gbit/s per node



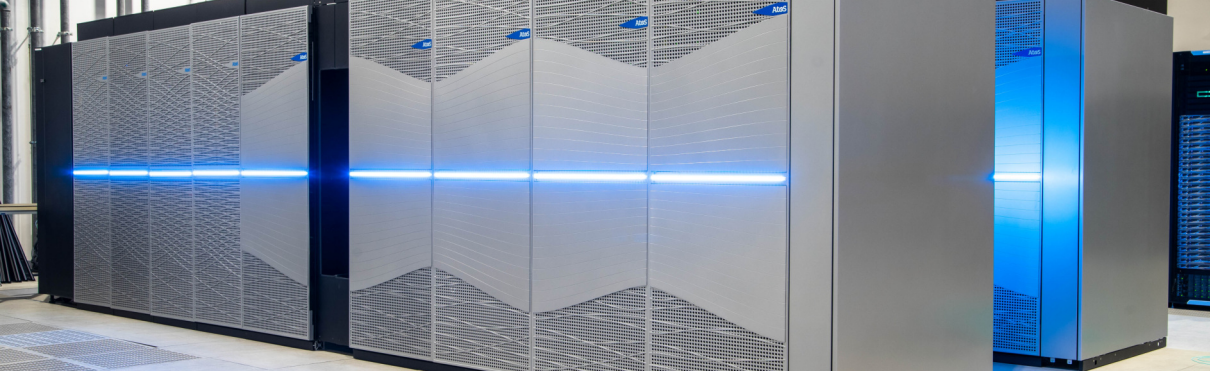
Top500 List Nov 2020:

- #1 Europe
- #7 World
- #3* Green500



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JURECA DC – Multi-Purpose

- 768 nodes with AMD EPYC Rome CPUs (2×64 cores)
- 192 nodes with 4 NVIDIA A100 Ampere GPUs
- InfiniBand DragonFly+ HDR-100 network
- Also: JURECA Booster: 1640 nodes with Intel Xeon Phi *Knights Landing*

Getting GPU-Acquainted

Some Applications

TASK

Location of Code:

`~/CUDA-Course/1-Basics/exercises/tasks/01-Getting-Started`

See `Instructions.iypnb` for hints.

Make sure to have sourced the course environment!

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TASK

GEMM

N-Body

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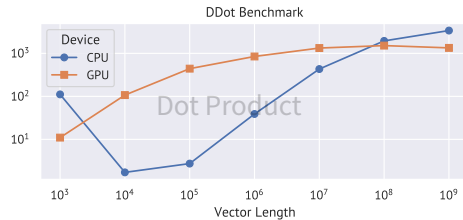
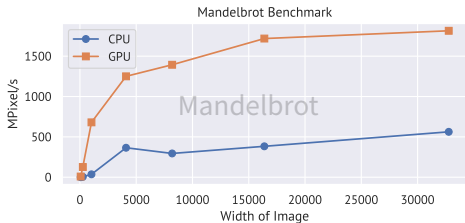
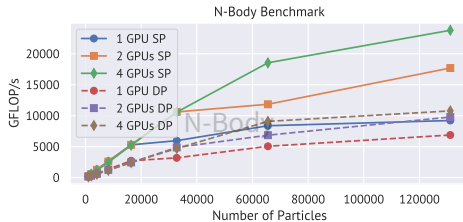
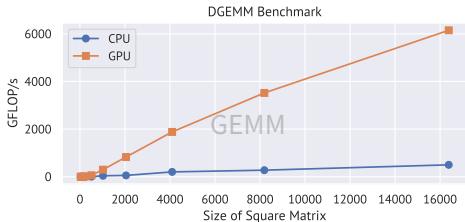
Mandelbrot

Dot Product

Getting GPU-Acquainted

Some Applications

TASK



Platform

CPU vs. GPU

A matter of specialties



CPU vs. GPU

A matter of specialties



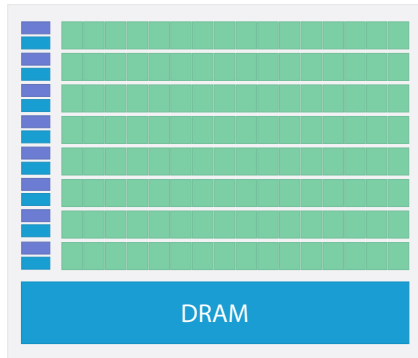
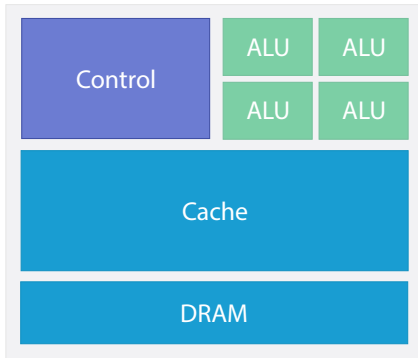
Transporting one



Transporting many

CPU vs. GPU

Chip



GPU Architecture

Overview

Aim: Hide Latency
Everything else follows

GPU Architecture

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SIMT

Asynchronicity

Memory

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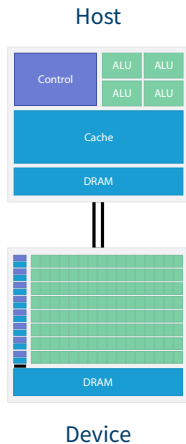
Asynchronicity

Memory

Memory

GPU memory ain't no CPU memory

- GPU: accelerator / extension card
- Separate device from CPU

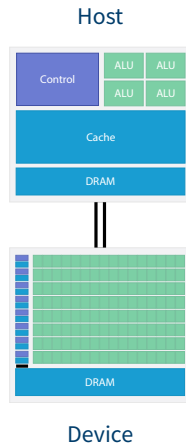


Memory

GPU memory ain't no CPU memory

Unified Virtual Addressing

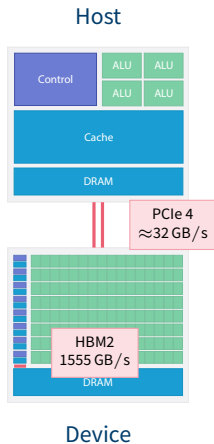
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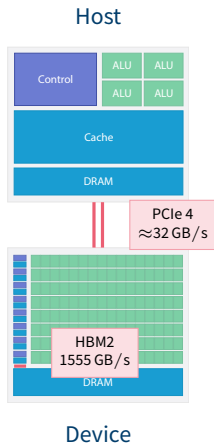
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- Memory transfers need special consideration!
Do as little as possible!



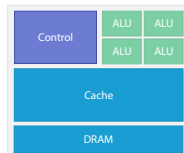
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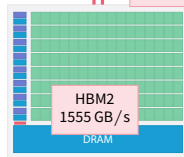
Unified Memory

- GPU: accelerator / extension card
- Separate device from CPU
- **Separate memory, but UVA and UM**
- Memory transfers need special consideration!
Do as little as possible!
- Choice: automatic transfers (convenience) or manual transfers (control)

Host



PCIe 4
≈32 GB/s

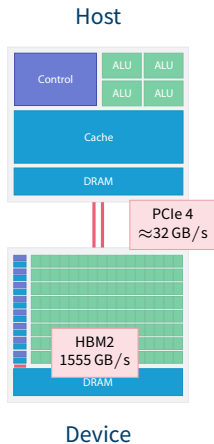


Device

Memory

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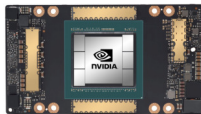
V100

32 GB RAM, 900 GB/s

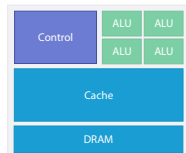


A100

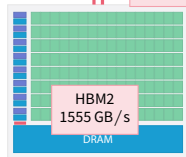
40 GB RAM, 1555 GB/s



Host



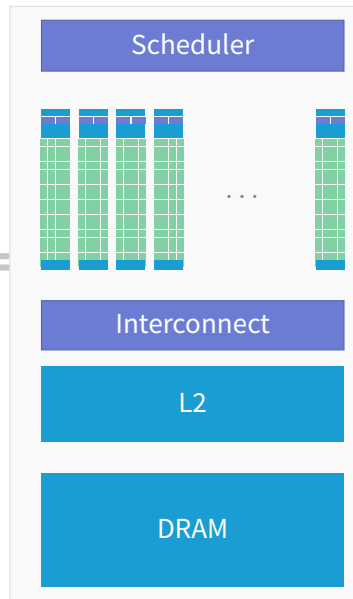
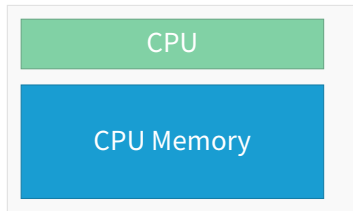
PCIe 4
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Device

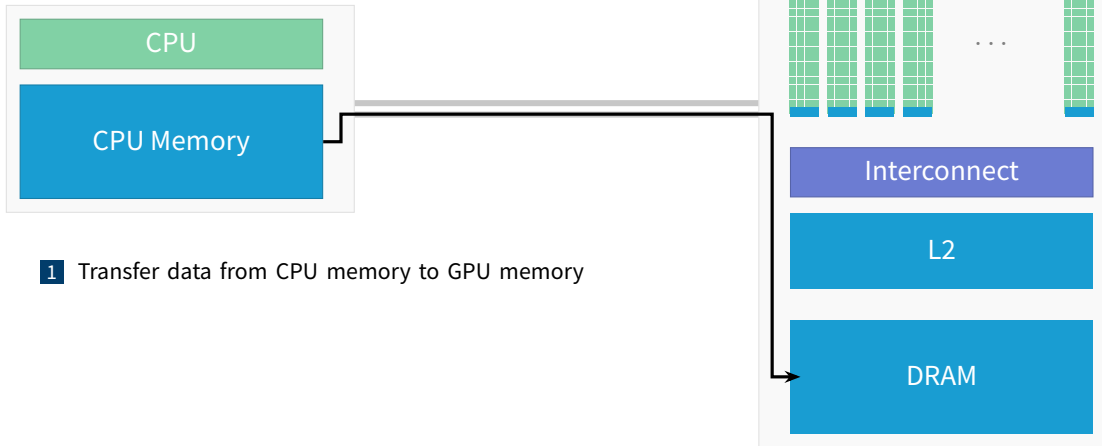
Processing Flow

CPU → GPU → CPU



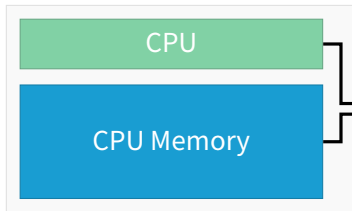
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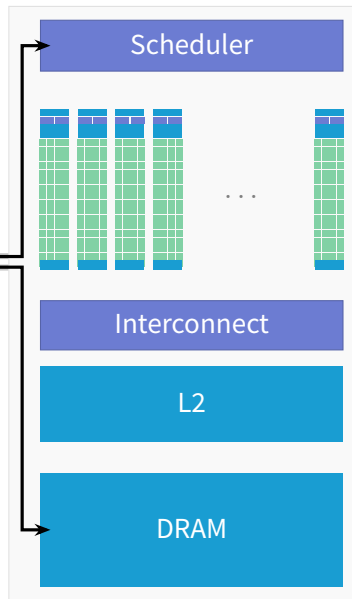


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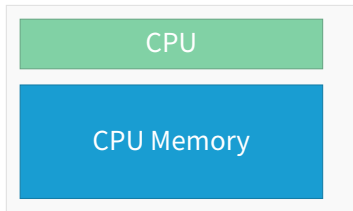


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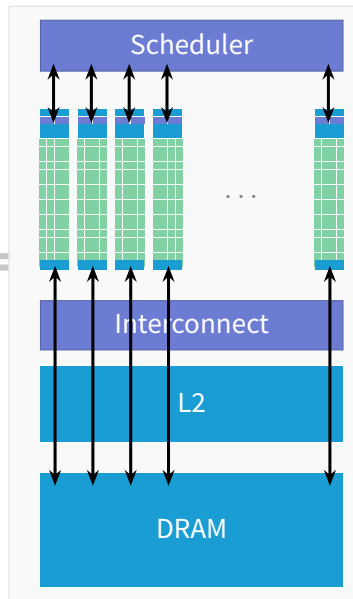


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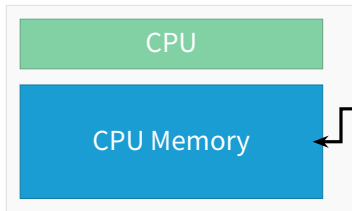


- 1 Transfer data from CPU memory to GPU memory, transfer program
- 2 Load GPU program, execute on SMs, get (cached) data from memory; write back

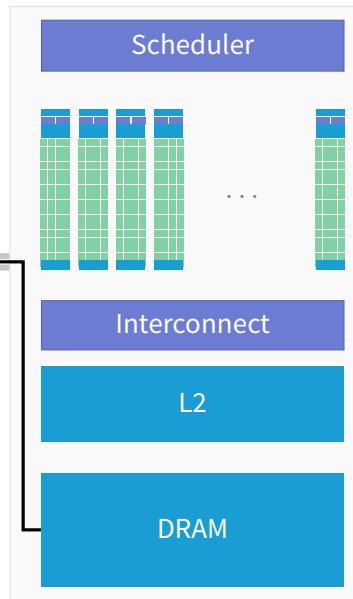


Processing Flow

CPU → GPU → CPU



- 1 Transfer data from CPU memory to GPU memory, transfer program
- 2 Load GPU program, execute on SMs, get (cached) data from memory; write back
- 3 Transfer results back to host memory



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Overview

Aim: Hide Latency
Everything else follows

SIMT

Asynchronicity

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Async

Following different streams

- 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

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SIMT

$$\text{SIMT} = \text{SIMD} \oplus \text{SMT}$$

- CPU:
 - Single Instruction, Multiple Data (SIMD)

Scalar

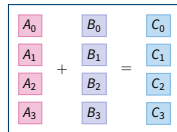
A_0	+	B_0	=	C_0
A_1	+	B_1	=	C_1
A_2	+	B_2	=	C_2
A_3	+	B_3	=	C_3

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Vector

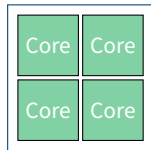
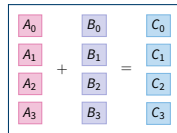


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- CPU:
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 - Simultaneous Multithreading (SMT)

Vector

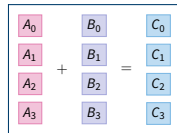


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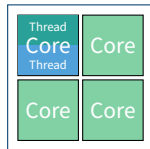
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Vector



SMT

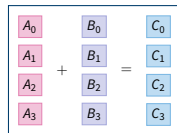


SIMT

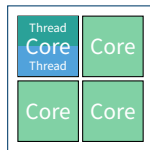
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- GPU: Single Instruction, Multiple Threads (SIMT)

Vector



SMT

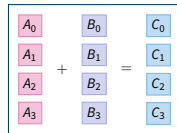


SIMT

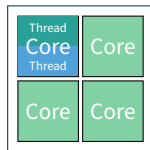
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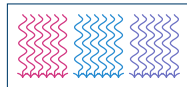
Vector



SMT



SIMT

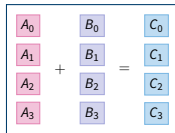


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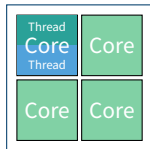
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- CPU:
 - Single Instruction, Multiple Data (SIMD)
 - Simultaneous Multithreading (SMT)
- GPU: Single Instruction, Multiple Threads (SIMT)
 - CPU core $\cong$ GPU multiprocessor (SM)
 - Working unit: set of threads (32, a *warp*)
 - Fast switching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

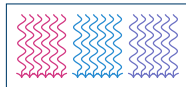
Vector



SMT

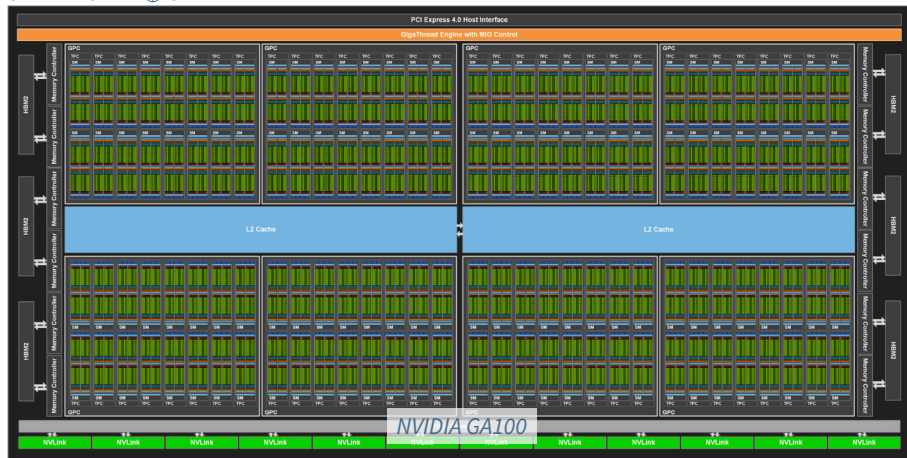


SIMT



SIMT

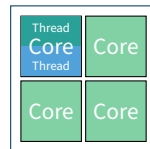
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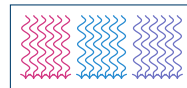
Vector

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

SMT



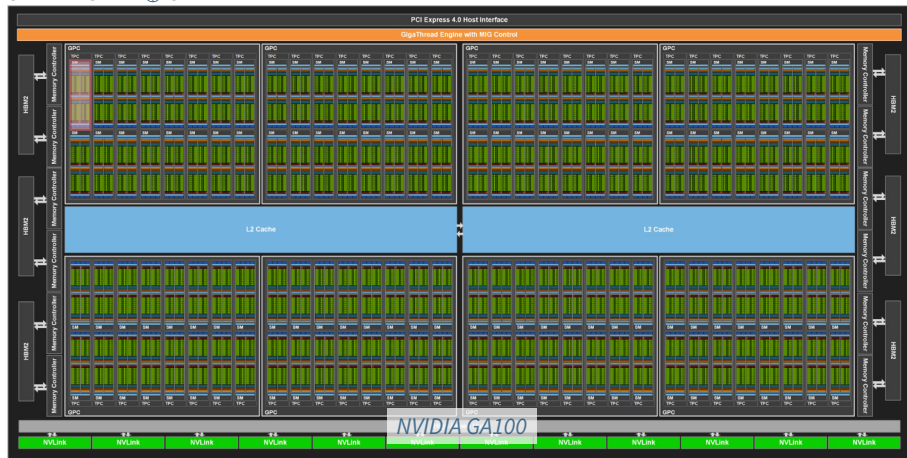
SIMT



Graphics: img:amprepictures

SIMT

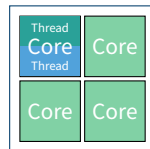
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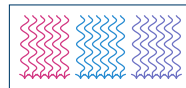
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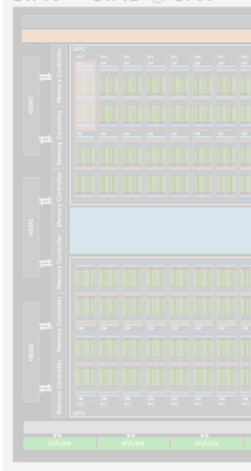
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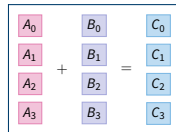
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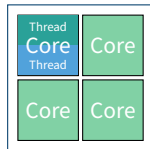
Multiprocessor



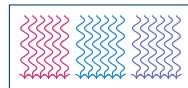
Vector



SMT



SIMT



Graphics: img:amperepictures

Low Latency vs. High Throughput

Maybe GPU's ultimate feature

CPU Minimizes latency within each thread

GPU Hides latency with computations from other thread warps

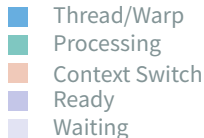
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CPU Core: Low Latency



Low Latency vs. High Throughput

Maybe GPU's ultimate feature

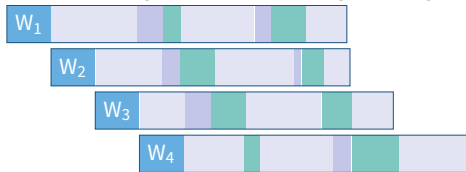
CPU Minimizes latency within each thread

GPU Hides latency with computations from other thread warps

CPU Core: Low Latency



GPU Streaming Multiprocessor: High Throughput



- Thread/Warp
- Processing
- Context Switch
- Ready
- Waiting

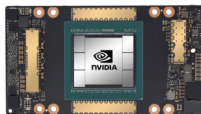
CPU vs. GPU

Let's summarize this!



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 GPUs

Preface: CPU

A simple CPU program!

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

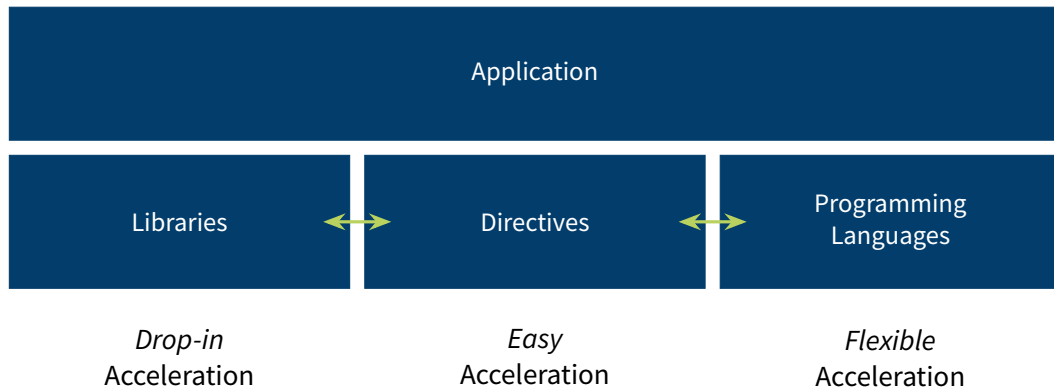
Part of LAPACK BLAS Level 1

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

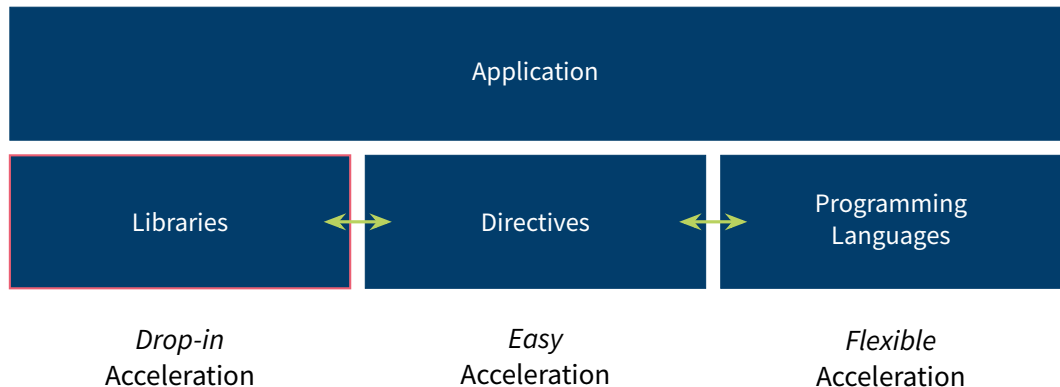
```
int a = 42;  
int n = 10;  
float x[n], y[n];  
// fill x, y
```

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

Summary of Acceleration Possibilities



Summary of Acceleration Possibilities



Libraries

Programming GPUs is easy: Just don't!

Libraries

Programming GPUs is easy: Just don't!

Use applications & libraries

Libraries

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Use applications & libraries



Libraries

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Use applications & libraries



cuBLAS



cuSPARSE



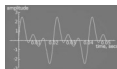
cuDNN



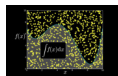
{A} ARRAYFIRE



Numba



cuFFT



cuRAND



CUDA Math

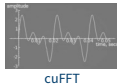


theano

Libraries

Programming GPUs is easy: Just don't!

Use applications & libraries



Numba

theano





- 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

cublasHandle_t handle;
cublasCreate(&handle);

float * d_x, * d_y;
cudaMallocManaged(&d_x, n * sizeof(x[0]));
cudaMallocManaged(&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);

cudaFree(d_x); cudaFree(d_y);
cublasDestroy(handle);
```

cuBLAS

Code example

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

```
cublasHandle_t handle;  
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Initialize

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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);
```

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cudaFree(d_x); cudaFree(d_y);  
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cuBLAS

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cublasSetVector(n, sizeof(x[0]), x, 1, d_x, 1);  
cublasSetVector(n, sizeof(y[0]), y, 1, d_y, 1);
```

Allocate GPU memory

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

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

```
cudaFree(d_x); cudaFree(d_y);  
cublasDestroy(handle);
```

cuBLAS

Code example

```
int a = 42; int n = 10;  
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```

Allocate GPU memory

Copy data to GPU

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

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

```
cudaFree(d_x); cudaFree(d_y);  
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```

Allocate GPU memory

Copy data to GPU

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

Call BLAS routine

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

```
cudaFree(d_x); cudaFree(d_y);  
cublasDestroy(handle);
```

cuBLAS

Code example

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int a = 42; int n = 10;  
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```

Allocate GPU memory

Copy data to GPU

```
cublasSaxpy(n, a, d_x, 1, d_y, 1);
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Call BLAS routine

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

Copy result to host

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cudaFree(d_x); cudaFree(d_y);  
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```

cuBLAS

Code example

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int a = 42; int n = 10;  
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cublasSetVector(n, sizeof(y[0]), y, 1, d_y, 1);
```

Allocate GPU memory

Copy data to GPU

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

Call BLAS routine

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

Copy result to host

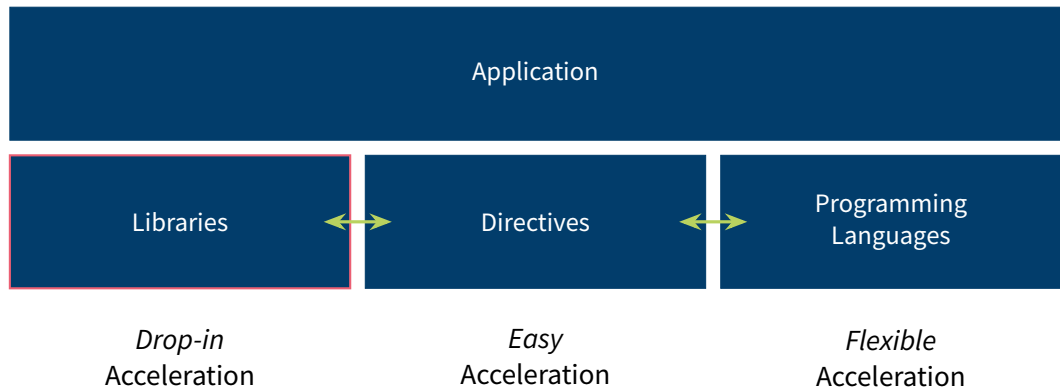
```
cudaFree(d_x); cudaFree(d_y);  
cublasDestroy(handle);
```

Finalize

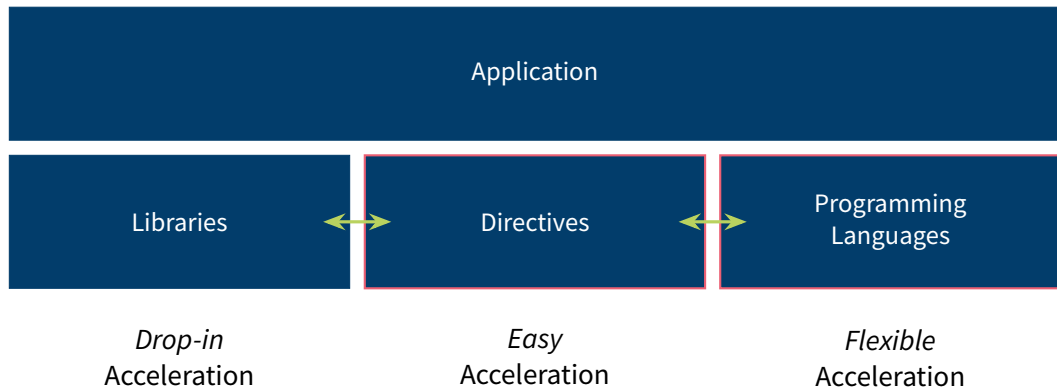
Implement a matrix-matrix multiplication

- Location of code: 1-Basics/exercises/tasks/02-cuBLAS
- Look at `Instructions.ipynb` Notebook for instructions
 - 1 Implement call to double-precision GEMM of cuBLAS
 - 2 Build with make (load modules of this task via `source setup.sh`!)
 - 3 Run with `make run`
- Check [cuBLAS documentation](#) for details on `cublasDgemm()`

Summary of Acceleration Possibilities



Summary of Acceleration Possibilities



Libraries are not enough?

You think you want to write your own GPU code?

Primer on Parallel Scaling

Amdahl's Law

Possible maximum speedup for
 N parallel processors

Total Time $t = t_{\text{serial}} + t_{\text{parallel}}$

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Primer on Parallel Scaling

Amdahl's Law

Possible maximum speedup for
 N parallel processors

Total Time $t = t_{\text{serial}} + t_{\text{parallel}}$

N Processors $t(N) = t_s + t_p/N$

Speedup $s(N) = t/t(N) = \frac{t_s + t_p}{t_s + t_p/N}$

Primer on Parallel Scaling

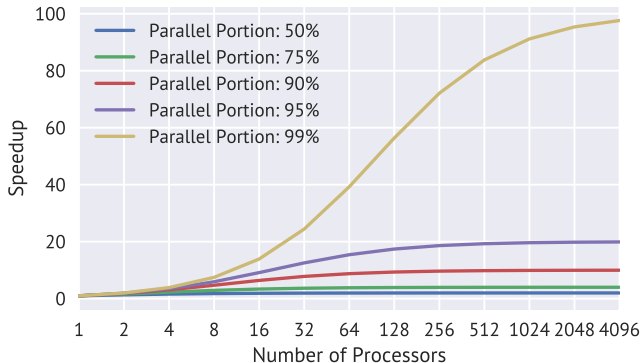
Amdahl's Law

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N Processors $t(N) = t_s + t_p/N$

Speedup $s(N) = t/t(N) = \frac{t_s + t_p}{t_s + t_p/N}$



Parallelism

Parallel programming is not easy!

Things to consider:

- Is my application **computationally intensive** *enough*?
- What are the levels of **parallelism**?
- How much **data** needs to be **transferred**?
- Is the **gain** worth the **pain**?

Alternatives

The twilight

There are alternatives to CUDA C, which **can** ease the *pain*...

- OpenACC, OpenMP
- Thrust
- Kokkos, RAJA, ALPAKA, SYCL, DPC++, pSTL
- PyCUDA, Cupy, Numba

Other alternatives

- CUDA Fortran
- HIP
- OpenCL

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- OpenCL

Programming GPUs

Directives

GPU Programming with Directives

Keepin' you portable

- Annotate serial source code by directives

```
#pragma acc loop
```

```
for (int i = 0; i < 1; i++) {};
```

GPU Programming with Directives

Keepin' you portable

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```
#pragma acc loop  
for (int i = 0; i < 1; i++) {};
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- **OpenACC**: Especially for GPUs; **OpenMP**: Has GPU support
- Compiler interprets directives, creates according instructions

GPU Programming with Directives

Keepin' you portable

- Annotate serial source code by directives

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#pragma acc loop  
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- **OpenACC**: Especially for GPUs; **OpenMP**: Has GPU support
- 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
- A little harder to debug

GPU Programming with Directives

The power of... two.

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
For C/C++ and Fortran

OpenACC

Code example

```
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);
```

OpenACC

Code example

```
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 GPUs

Thrust

Thrust

Iterators! Iterators everywhere! 

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

→ <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;
```

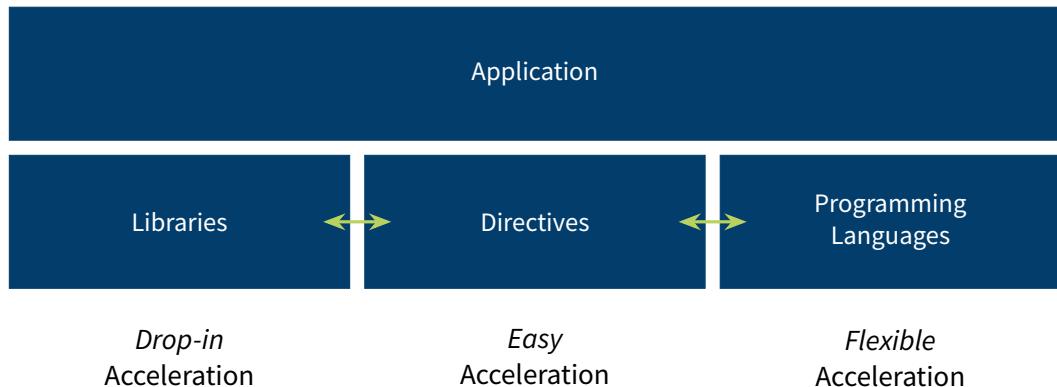
Thrust Task

TASK

Let's sort some randomness

- Location of code: 1-Basics/exercises/tasks/03-Thrust
- Look at `Instructions.ipynb` for instructions
 - 1 Sort random numbers with Thrust on CPU and GPU
 - 2 Build with make
Reset environment to original; call `source setup.sh` or re-login!
 - 3 Run with `make run`
- Check [Thrust documentation](#) for details on `thrust::sort()`

Summary of Acceleration Possibilities



Programming GPUs

CUDA C/C++

CUDA SAXPY

With runtime-managed data transfers

```
__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();
```

CUDA's Parallel Model

In software: Threads, Blocks

- Methods to exploit parallelism:

CUDA's Parallel Model

In software: Threads, Blocks

- Methods to exploit parallelism:

- Thread



CUDA's Parallel Model

In software: Threads, Blocks

- Methods to exploit parallelism:
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CUDA's Parallel Model

In software: Threads, Blocks

- Methods to exploit parallelism:

- Threads → Block



CUDA's Parallel Model

In software: Threads, Blocks

- Methods to exploit parallelism:

- Threads → Block

- Block



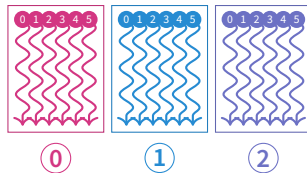
CUDA's Parallel Model

In software: Threads, Blocks

- Methods to exploit parallelism:

- Threads → Block

- Blocks



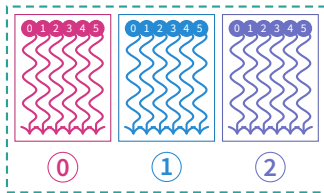
CUDA's Parallel Model

In software: Threads, Blocks

- Methods to exploit parallelism:

- Threads → Block

- Blocks → Grid



CUDA's Parallel Model

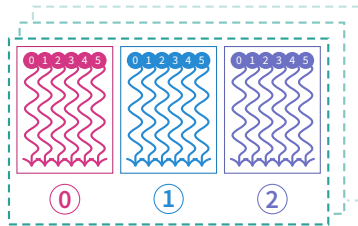
In software: Threads, Blocks

- Methods to exploit parallelism:

- Threads → Block

- Blocks → Grid

- Threads & blocks in 3D



CUDA's Parallel Model

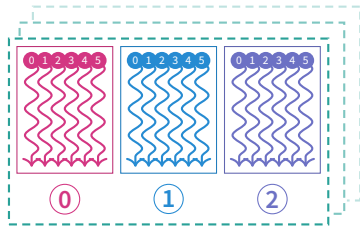
In software: Threads, Blocks

- Methods to exploit parallelism:

- Threads → Block

- Blocks → Grid

- Threads & blocks in 3D



- Parallel function: **kernel**

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

- Access own ID by global variables `threadIdx.x`, `blockIdx.y`, ...

- Execution entity: **threads**

- Lightweight → fast switching!

- 1000s threads execute simultaneously → order non-deterministic!

Kernel Functions

- Kernel: Parallel GPU function
 - Executed by each thread
 - In parallel
 - Called from host or device

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- All threads execute same code; but can take different paths in program flow (some penalty)

Kernel Functions

- Kernel: Parallel GPU function
 - Executed by each thread
 - In parallel
 - Called from host or device
- All threads execute same code; but can take different paths in program flow (some penalty)
- Info about thread: local, global IDs

```
int currentThreadId = threadIdx.x;  
float x = input[currentThreadId];  
output[currentThreadId] = x*x;
```

Kernel Conversion

Recipe for C Function → CUDA Kernel

Identify Loops

```
void scale(float scale, float * in, float * out, int N) {  
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)  
        out[i] = scale * in[i];  
}
```



Kernel Conversion

Recipe for C Function → CUDA Kernel

Identify Loops

```
void scale(float scale, float * in, float * out, int N) {  
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```

Kernel Conversion

Recipe for C Function → CUDA Kernel

Identify Loops

Extract Index

```
void scale(float scale, float * in, float * out, int N) {  
    int i = 0  
    for ( ;  
        i < N;  
        i++)  
    )  
        out[i] = scale * in[i];  
}
```



Kernel Conversion

Recipe for C Function → CUDA Kernel

Identify Loops

Extract Index

Extract Termination Condition

```
void scale(float scale, float * in, float * out, int N) {  
    int i = 0  
    for ( ;  
        ;  
        i++)  
    )  
        if (i < N)  
            out[i] = scale * in[i];  
}
```



Kernel Conversion

Recipe for C Function → CUDA Kernel

Identify Loops

Extract Index

Extract Termination Condition

Remove for

```
void scale(float scale, float * in, float * out, int N) {  
    int i = 0
```

```
        if (i < N)  
            out[i] = scale * in[i];  
}
```

Kernel Conversion

Recipe for C Function → CUDA Kernel

Identify Loops

Extract Index

Extract Termination Condition

Remove for

Add global

```
__global__ void scale(float scale, float * in, float * out, int N) {  
    int i = 0
```

```
        if (i < N)  
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}
```

Kernel Conversion

Recipe for C Function → CUDA Kernel

Identify Loops

Extract Index

Extract Termination Condition

Remove for

Add global

Replace i by threadIdx.x

```
__global__ void scale(float scale, float * in, float * out, int N) {  
    int i = threadIdx.x;
```

```
        if (i < N)  
            out[i] = scale * in[i];  
}
```

Kernel Conversion

Recipe for C Function → CUDA Kernel

Identify Loops

Extract Index

Extract Termination Condition

Remove for

Add global

Replace i by threadIdx.x

... including block configuration

```
__global__ void scale(float scale, float * in, float * out, int N) {  
    int i = threadIdx.x + blockIdx.x * blockDim.x;
```

```
    if (i < N)  
        out[i] = scale * in[i];  
}
```



Kernel Conversion

Summary

- C function with explicit loop

```
void scale(float scale, float * in, float * out, int N) {  
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)  
        out[i] = scale * in[i];  
}
```

- CUDA kernel with implicit loop

```
__global__ void scale(float scale, float * in, float * out, int N) {  
    int i = threadIdx.x + blockIdx.x * blockDim.x;  
    if (i < N)  
        out[i] = scale * in[i];  
}
```

Kernel Launch

```
kernel<<<int gridDim, int blockDim>>>(...)
```

- Parallel threads of kernel launched with *triple-chevron syntax*
- Total number of threads, divided into
 - Number of blocks on the grid (gridDim)
 - Number of threads per block (blockDim)

Kernel Launch

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```

- Parallel threads of kernel launched with *triple-chevron syntax*
- Total number of threads, divided into
 - Number of blocks on the grid (gridDim)
 - Number of threads per block (blockDim)
- Call returns immediately; kernel launch is **asynchronous**!

Kernel Launch

```
kernel<<<int gridDim, int blockDim>>>(...)
```

- Parallel threads of kernel launched with *triple-chevron syntax*
- Total number of threads, divided into
 - Number of blocks on the grid (gridDim)
 - Number of threads per block (blockDim)
- Call returns immediately; kernel launch is **asynchronous**!
- Example:

```
int nThreads = 32;  
scale<<<N/nThreads, nThreads>>>(23, in, out, N)
```

Kernel Launch

```
kernel<<<int gridDim, int blockDim>>>(...)
```

- Parallel threads of kernel launched with *triple-chevron syntax*
- Total number of threads, divided into
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- Call returns immediately; kernel launch is **asynchronous**!

- Example:

```
int nThreads = 32;  
scale<<<N/nThreads, nThreads>>>(23, in, out, N)
```

- Possibility for too many threads; include termination condition into kernel!

Full Kernel Launch

For Reference

```
kernel<<<dim3 gD, dim bD, size_t shared, cudaStream_t stream>>>(...)
```

- 2 additional, optional parameters

Full Kernel Launch

For Reference

```
kernel<<<dim3 gD, dim bD, size_t shared, cudaStream_t stream>>>(...)
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shared Dynamic shared memory

- Small GPU memory space; share data in block (high bandwidth)
- Shared memory: allocate statically (compile time) or dynamically (run time)
- `size_t shared`: bytes of shared memory allocated per block (in addition to static shared memory)

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`shared` Dynamic **shared memory**

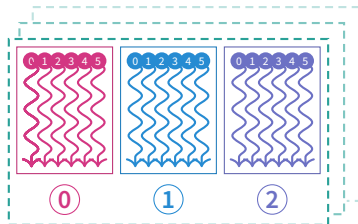
- Small GPU memory space; share data in block (high bandwidth)
- Shared memory: allocate statically (compile time) or dynamically (run time)
- `size_t shared`: bytes of shared memory allocated per block (in addition to static shared memory)

`stream` Associated **CUDA stream**

- CUDA streams enable different channels of communication with GPU
- Can overlap in some cases (communication, computation)
- `cudaStream_t stream`: ID of stream to use for this kernel launch

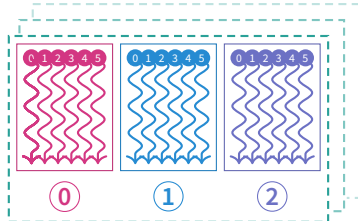
Grid Dimensions

- Threads & blocks in 3D



Grid Dimensions

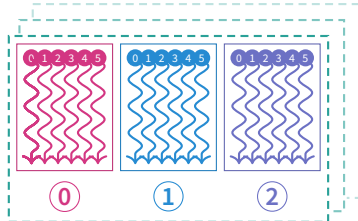
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- Create 3D configurations with `struct dim3`



```
dim3 blockOrGridDim(size_t dimX, size_t dimY, size_t dimZ)
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Grid Dimensions

- Threads & blocks in 3D
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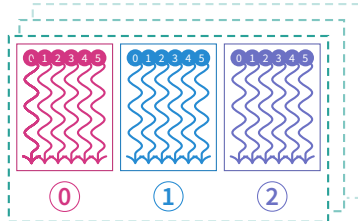
```
dim3 blockOrGridDim(size_t dimX, size_t dimY, size_t dimZ)
```

- Example:

```
dim3 blockDim(32, 32);  
dim3 gridDim = {1000, 100};
```

Grid Dimensions

- Threads & blocks in 3D
- Create 3D configurations with `struct dim3`



```
dim3 blockOrGridDim(size_t dimX, size_t dimY, size_t dimZ)
```

- Example:

```
dim3 blockDim(32, 32);  
dim3 gridDim = {1000, 100};
```

- Kernel call with `dim3`

```
kernel<<<dim3 gridDim, dim3 blockDim>>>(...)
```

Grid Sizes

- Block and grid sizes are hardware-dependent

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- For JSC GPUs: Tesla V100, A100

Block

- $\vec{N}_{\text{Thread}} \leq (1024_x, 1024_y, 64_z)$
- $|\vec{N}_{\text{Thread}}| = N_{\text{Thread}} \leq 1024$

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Block ■ $\vec{N}_{\text{Thread}} \leq (1024_x, 1024_y, 64_z)$

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Grid ■ $\vec{N}_{\text{Blocks}} \leq (2147483647_x, 65535_y, 65535_z) = (2^{31}, 2^{16}, 2^{16}) - \vec{1}$

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- Find out yourself: `deviceQuery` example from CUDA Samples

Grid Sizes

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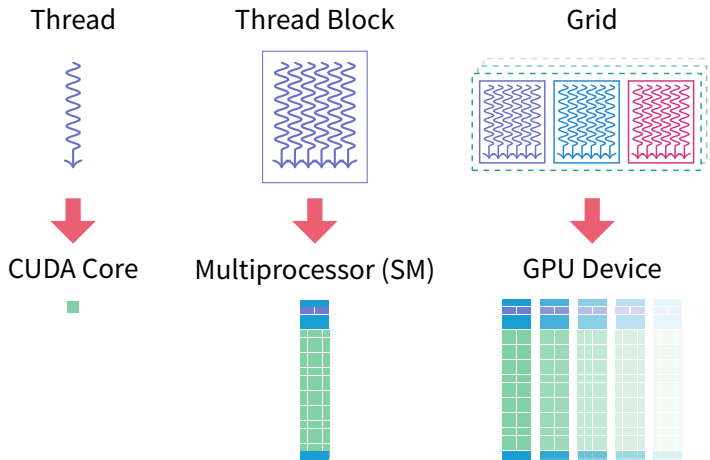
Grid ■ $\vec{N}_{\text{Blocks}} \leq (2147483647_x, 65535_y, 65535_z) = (2^{31}, 2^{16}, 2^{16}) - \vec{1}$

- Find out yourself: deviceQuery example from CUDA Samples
- Workflow: Chose 128 or 256 as block dim; calculate grid dim from problem size

```
int Nx = 1000, Ny = 1000;
dim3 blockDim(16, 16);
int gx = (Nx % blockDim.x == 0) ? Nx / blockDim.x : Nx / blockDim.x + 1;
int gy = (Ny % blockDim.y == 0) ? Ny / blockDim.y : Ny / blockDim.y + 1;
dim3 gridDim(gx, gy);
kernel<<<gridDim, blockDim>>>();
```

Hardware Threads

Mapping Software Threads to Hardware



Memory Management

With Automated Transfers

- Allocate memory to be used on GPU or CPU

```
cudaMallocManaged(T** ptr, size_t nBytes)
```

- Data is copied to GPU or to CPU automatically (*managed*)

Memory Management

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- Example:

```
float * a;  
int N = 2048;  
cudaMallocManaged(&a, N * sizeof(float));
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Memory Management

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- Allocate memory to be used on GPU or CPU

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cudaMallocManaged(T** ptr, size_t nBytes)
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- Example:

```
float * a;  
int N = 2048;  
cudaMallocManaged(&a, N * sizeof(float));
```

- Free device memory

```
cudaFree(void* ptr)
```

Memory Management

With Manual Transfers

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```

Memory Management

With Manual Transfers

- Allocate memory to be used on GPU

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cudaMalloc(T** ptr, size_t nBytes)
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- Copy data between host ↔ device

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cudaMemcpy(void* dst, void* src, size_t nByte, enum cudaMemcpyKind dir)
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Memory Management

With Manual Transfers

- Allocate memory to be used on GPU

```
cudaMalloc(T** ptr, size_t nBytes)
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- Copy data between host ↔ device

```
cudaMemcpy(void* dst, void* src, size_t nByte, enum cudaMemcpyKind dir)
```

- Example:

```
float * a, * a_d;  
int N = 2048;  
// fill a  
cudaMalloc(&a_d, N * sizeof(float));  
cudaMemcpy(a_d, a, N * sizeof(float), cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);  
kernel<<<1,1>>>(a_d, N);  
cudaMemcpy(a, a_d, N * sizeof(float), cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost);
```

Task: Scale Vector

TASK

Work on an Array of Data

- Location of code: 1-Basics/exercises/tasks/04-Scale-Vector
- Look at `Instructions.ipynb` for instructions
 - 1 Implement the whole CUDA flow (allocation, kernel configuration, kernel launch)
 - 2 Build with `make`
 - 3 Run with `make run`
- Additional task: Look at the version with explicit transfers (`_et`)

Task: Jacobi

TASK

Implement Manual Memory Handling

- Location of code: 1-Basics/exercises/tasks/05-Jacobi-Explicit-Transfers
- Look at `Instructions.ipynb` for instructions
 - 1 Port the application from Unified Memory to manual memory handling
 - 2 Build with `make`
 - 3 Run with `make run`

Unified Memory

Overview

- Everything started with manual data management
- First Unified Memory since CUDA 6.0
- Better Unified Memory better since CUDA 8.0

Manual Memory vs. Unified Memory

```
void sortfile(FILE *fp, int N) {  
    char *data;  
    char *data_d;  
  
    data = (char *)malloc(N);  
    cudaMalloc(&data_d, N);  
  
    fread(data, 1, N, fp);  
  
    cudaMemcpy(data_d, data, N, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);  
    kernel<<<...>>>(data, N);  
  
    cudaMemcpy(data, data_d, N, cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost);  
    host_func(data)  
    cudaFree(data_d); free(data);  
}
```

```
void sortfile(FILE *fp, int N) {  
    char *data;  
  
    cudaMallocManaged(&data, N);  
  
    fread(data, 1, N, fp);  
  
    kernel<<<...>>>(data, N);  
    cudaDeviceSynchronize();  
  
    host_func(data);  
    cudaFree(data);  
}
```

Implementation Details

Under the hood

```
cudaMallocManaged(&ptr, ...);
```

```
*ptr = 1;
```

```
kernel<<<...>>>(ptr);
```

Implementation Details

Under the hood

`cudaMallocManaged(&ptr, ...);` ← Empty! No pages anywhere yet (like `malloc()`)

`*ptr = 1;`

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`cudaMallocManaged(&ptr, ...);` ← ● Empty! No pages anywhere yet (like `malloc()`)

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`cudaMallocManaged(&ptr, ...);` ← ● Empty! No pages anywhere yet (like `malloc()`)

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Under the hood

`cudaMallocManaged(&ptr, ...);` ← ● Empty! No pages anywhere yet (like `malloc()`)

`*ptr = 1;` ← ● CPU page fault: data allocates on CPU

`kernel<<<...>>>(ptr);` ← ● GPU page fault: data migrates to GPU

- Pages populate on **first touch**
- Pages migrate on-demand
- GPU memory over-subscription possible
- Concurrent access from CPU and GPU to memory (page-level)

Performance Analysis

Comparing `scale_vector_um` (Unified Memory) and `scale_vector` (manual copy) for 20 480 float elements.

UM

Time(%)	Total Time (ns)	Name
-----	-----	-----
100.0	463,286	scale(float, float*, float*, int)

Manual

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$100\times$ *slower?!*

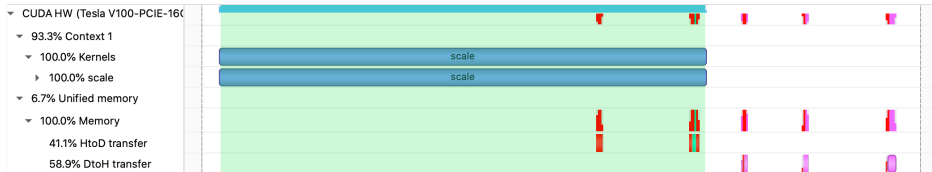
What's going wrong here?

Manual

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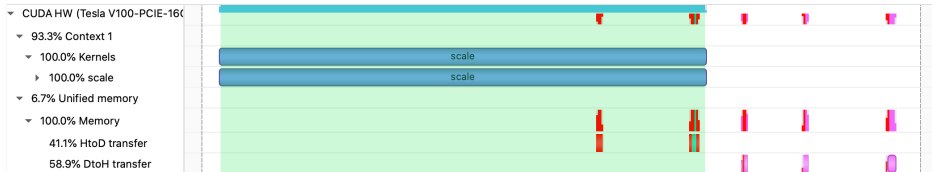
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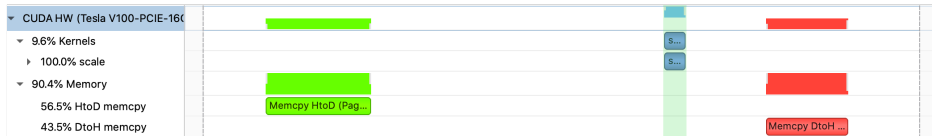
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UM



Manual



Comparing UM and Explicit Transfers

UM Kernel is launched, data is needed by kernel, data migrates host→device

⇒ Run time of kernel **incorporates** time for data transfers

Explicit Data will be needed by kernel – data migrates host→device **before** kernel launch

⇒ Run time of **kernel** without any transfers

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- UM more convenient
- Total run time of whole program does not principally change
Except: Fault handling costs $\mathcal{O}(10\ \mu\text{s})$, stalls execution
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- UM more convenient
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Except: Fault handling costs $\mathcal{O}(10\ \mu\text{s})$, stalls execution
- But data transfers sometimes sorted to kernel launch

⇒ Improve UM behavior with performance hints!

Performance Hints for UM

New API routines

API calls to augment data location knowledge of runtime

- `cudaMemPrefetchAsync(data, length, device, stream)`
Prefetches data to device (on stream) asynchronously

Performance Hints for UM

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- `cudaMemPrefetchAsync`(data, length, device, stream)
Prefetches data to device (on stream) asynchronously
- `cudaMemAdvise`(data, length, advice, device)
Advise about usage of given data, advice:

Performance Hints for UM

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API calls to augment data location knowledge of runtime

- `cudaMemPrefetchAsync`(data, length, device, stream)
Prefetches data to device (on stream) asynchronously
- `cudaMemAdvise`(data, length, advice, device)
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 - `cudaMemAdviseSetReadMostly`: Read-only copy is kept

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 - `cudaMemAdviseSetPreferredLocation`: Set preferred location to avoid migrations; first access will establish mapping

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API calls to augment data location knowledge of runtime

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 - `cudaMemAdviseSetAccessedBy`: Data is accessed by *this* device; will pre-map data to avoid page fault

Performance Hints for UM

New API routines

API calls to augment data location knowledge of runtime

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Advise about usage of given data, advice:
 - `cudaMemAdviseSetReadMostly`: Read-only copy is kept
 - `cudaMemAdviseSetPreferredLocation`: Set preferred location to avoid migrations; first access will establish mapping
 - `cudaMemAdviseSetAccessedBy`: Data is accessed by *this* device; will pre-map data to avoid page fault
- Use `cudaCpuDeviceId` for device CPU, or use `cudaGetDevice()` as usual to retrieve current GPU device id (default: 0)

Hints in Code

```
void sortfile(FILE *fp, int N) {  
    char *data;  
    // ...  
    cudaMallocManaged(&data, N);  
  
    fread(data, 1, N, fp);  
  
    cudaMemcpyPrefetchAsync(data, N, device);  
    kernel<<<...>>>(data, N);  
    cudaDeviceSynchronize();  
  
    host_func(data);  
    cudaFree(data); }
```

Hints in Code

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void sortfile(FILE *fp, int N) {  
    char *data;  
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    cudaFree(data); }
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Prefetch data to avoid expensive GPU page faults

Hints in Code

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void sortfile(FILE *fp, int N) {  
    char *data;  
    // ...  
    cudaMallocManaged(&data, N);  
  
    fread(data, 1, N, fp);  
  
    cudaMemAdvise(data, N, cudaMemAdviseSetReadMostly, device);  
    cudaMemPrefetchAsync(data, N, device);  
    kernel<<<...>>>(data, N);  
    cudaDeviceSynchronize();  
  
    host_func(data);  
    cudaFree(data); }
```

Read-only copy of data
is created on GPU during
prefetch
→ CPU and GPU reads will
not fault

Prefetch data to avoid ex-
pensive GPU page faults

Tuning scale_vector_um

Express data movement

TASK

- Location of code: 1-Basics/exercises/tasks/06-Scale-Vector-Hints/
- Look at `Instructions.ipynb` for instructions
 - 1 Task: Advise CUDA runtime that data should be migrated to GPU before kernel call
 - 2 Build with `make`
 - 3 Run with `make run`
 - 4 Glimpse at profile with `make profile`
- See also [CUDA C programming guide \(L.3.\)](#) for details on data performance tuning

Conclusions

- GPUs achieve performance by specialized hardware
- Acceleration can be done by different means
- Libraries are the easiest
- Thrust, OpenACC can give first entry point
- Full power with CUDA
- Threads, Blocks to expose parallelism for a kernel
- Several API routines exist
- Unified Memory productive, possibly with hints

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- Several API routines exist
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**Thank you
for your attention!**
a.herten@fz-juelich.de



Appendix

Appendix
Glossary
References

Glossary I

AMD Manufacturer of CPUs and GPUs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Ampere GPU architecture from NVIDIA (announced 2019). 13, 14, 15

API A programmatic interface to software by well-defined functions. Short for application programming interface. 176

ATI Canada-based GPUs manufacturing company; bought by AMD in 2006. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

CUDA Computing platform for GPUs from NVIDIA. Provides, among others, CUDA C/C++. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 83, 84, 93, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 125, 126, 127, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 144, 169, 170, 171, 175

JSC Jülich Supercomputing Centre, the supercomputing institute of Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany. 175

Glossary II

JURECA A multi-purpose supercomputer at JSC. 15

JUWELS Jülich's new supercomputer, the successor of JUQUEEN. 12, 13, 14

NVIDIA US technology company creating GPUs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 50, 51, 52, 174, 175, 176, 177

NVLink NVIDIA's communication protocol connecting CPU ↔ GPU and GPU ↔ GPU with high bandwidth. 177

OpenACC Directive-based programming, primarily for many-core machines. 83, 84, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 170, 171

OpenCL The *Open Computing Language*. Framework for writing code for heterogeneous architectures (CPU, GPU, DSP, FPGA). The alternative to CUDA. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 83, 84

Glossary III

- OpenGL** The *Open Graphics Library*, an [API](#) for rendering graphics across different hardware architectures. [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#)
- OpenMP** Directive-based programming, primarily for multi-threaded machines. [83](#), [84](#), [86](#), [87](#), [88](#), [89](#)
- SAXPY** Single-precision $A \times X + Y$. A simple code example of scaling a vector and adding an offset. [58](#), [98](#)
- Tesla** The [GPU](#) product line for general purpose computing computing of [NVIDIA](#). [12](#), [132](#), [133](#), [134](#), [135](#), [136](#)
- Thrust** A parallel algorithms library for (among others) GPUs. See <https://thrust.github.io/>. [83](#), [84](#), [93](#), [95](#), [170](#), [171](#)

Glossary IV

V100 A large GPU with the Volta architecture from NVIDIA. It employs NVLink 2 as its interconnect and has fast HBM2 memory. Additionally, it features Tensorcores for Deep Learning and Independent Thread Scheduling. 132, 133, 134, 135, 136

Volta GPU architecture from NVIDIA (announced 2017). 177

CPU Central Processing Unit. 12, 15, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 58, 89, 95, 138, 139, 140, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 168, 174, 175

Glossary V

GPU Graphics Processing Unit. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 77, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 92, 95, 97, 108, 109, 110, 125, 126, 127, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 174, 175, 176, 177

SIMD Single Instruction, Multiple Data. 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52

SIMT Single Instruction, Multiple Threads. 23, 24, 25, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52

SM Streaming Multiprocessor. 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52

SMT Simultaneous Multithreading. 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52

References I

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- [3] Chris McClanahan. “History and Evolution of GPU Architecture.” In: *A Survey Paper* (2010). URL: <http://mcclanahoochie.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/gpu-hist-paper.pdf> (pages 3–9).
- [4] Jack Dongarra et al. *TOP500*. Nov. 2016. URL: <https://www.top500.org/lists/2016/11/> (pages 3–9).
- [5] Jack Dongarra et al. *Green500*. Nov. 2016. URL: <https://www.top500.org/green500/lists/2016/11/> (pages 3–9).

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- [9] Wes Breazell. *Picture: Wizard*. URL: <https://thenounproject.com/wes13/collection/its-a-wizards-world/> (pages 61–65).

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