Visualization of Data Movements and Accesses

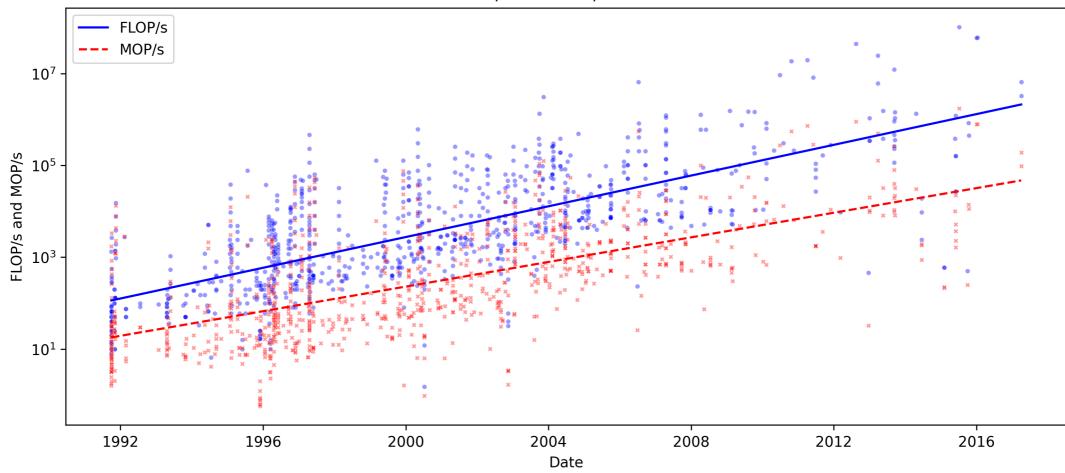
Til Mohr





Memory-Related Performance Problems I Processor-Memory Performance Gap

FLOP/s and MOP/s vs Date



Data: https://www.cs.virginia.edu/stream/





$$t_{avg} = p \cdot t_c + (1 - p) \cdot t_m \tag{1}$$

t_{avg}: average access time

p : cache hit percentage

 t_c : cache access time

 t_m : memory access time

$$t_c \ll t_m$$
 (2)





Listing 1: Matrix Summation

```
1 let matrix = Matrix::random(2, 2);
2 let mut sum = 0;
3 for column in 0..2 {
4   for row in 0..2 {
5     sum += matrix.get(row, column);
6   }
7 }
8 sum
```

Matrix:



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Matrix:

Matrix in Memory:

1 2 3 4



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Matrix: Matrix in Memory: 0 1 1 2 1 2 3 4

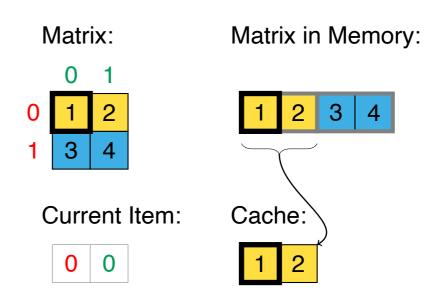
Current Item: Cache:

0 0



Listing 1: Matrix Summation

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Matrix: Matrix in Memory: 0 1 1 2 3 4

Current Item: Cache:

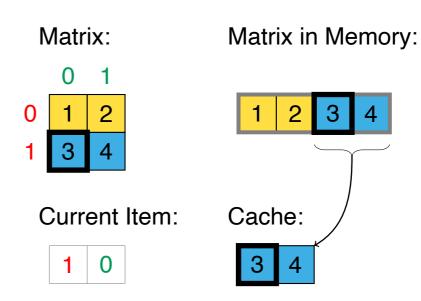
1 0 1 2





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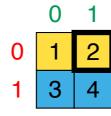




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0 1

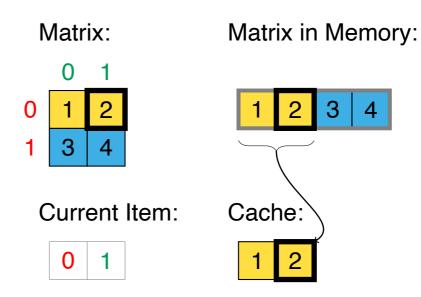
3 4





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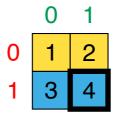




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Current Item: Cache:

1 1

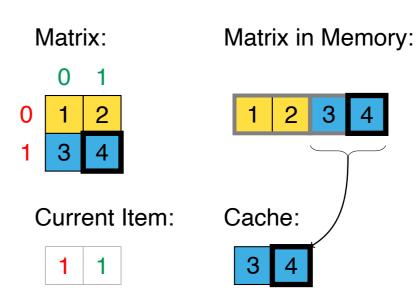
1 2





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Listing 2: Reordered Matrix Summation

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1 let matrix = Matrix::random(2, 2);
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Current Item: Cache:

0 0

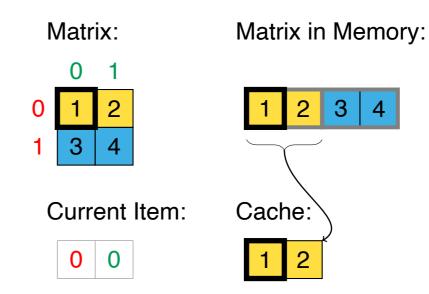






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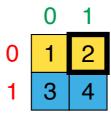




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```

Matrix: Matrix in Memory:





Current Item: Cache:

0 1

1 2

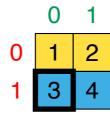




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Matrix: Matrix in Memory:





Current Item: Cache:

1 0

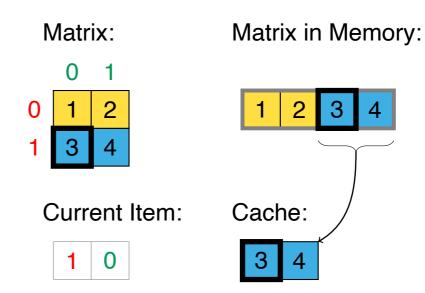
1 2





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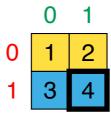




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Matrix: Matrix in Memory:





Current Item: Cache:

1 1

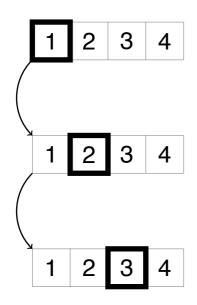
3 4





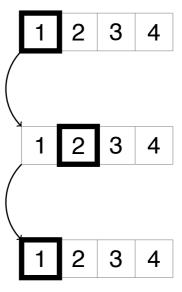
Spacial Locality

 Data that is referenced spatially close together is likely to be accessed in the near future



Temporal Locality

 Data that is referenced in the near past is likely to be accessed in the near future





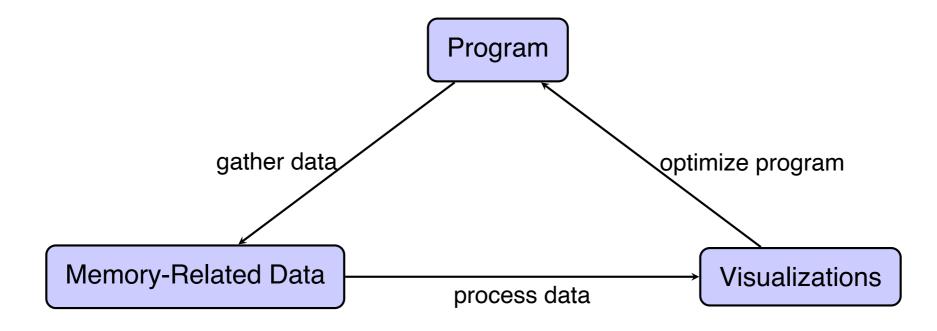
Outline

- Overview of the Optimization Workflow
- Data Gathering Approaches
- Visualization Techniques
- Specific Optimization Tool
- Conclusion



Overview of the Optimization Workflow

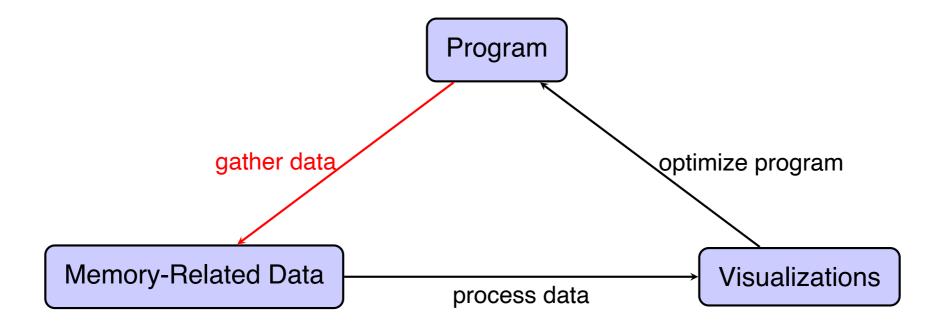
Visualization-Guided Optimization





Overview of the Optimization Workflow

Visualization-Guided Optimization





Data Gathering Approaches

Goal: Acquire Memory-Related Data for Visualization

- Data Accesses
 - Memory locations / variables
 - Frequencies
- Data access patterns
 - Nested loops
- Cache performance
 - Hit/miss rates
 - Utilization
 - Amount of data transfer in between different cache levels and main memory



Data Gathering Approaches I Dynamic Analyis

Run Program and Capture Memory-Related Information

- Hardware counters
 - Counts cache hits/misses
- Tracing / profiling
- Store source code references alongside memory-related information



Data Gathering Approaches I Dynamic Analyis

Run Program and Capture Memory-Related Information

- Hardware counters
 - Counts cache hits/misses
- Tracing / profiling
- Store source code references alongside memory-related information
- © Very accurate
 - Real program data
 - Actual physical hardware

- (3) Can be very slow
- (3) Possible large overhead for very granular data
- Cannot easily analyze just parts of the program



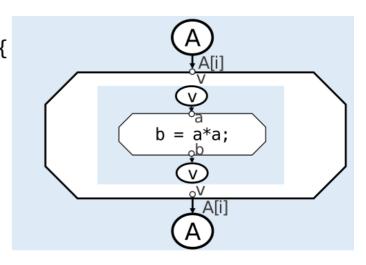
Data Gathering Approaches I Static Analyis

Analyze the Programs Source Code for Data Accesses

- Extract any data access information purely from the source code
- Compile the program into a Data-Flow Oriented IR
- Statistics gathered by analyzing the IR
 - Algorithmic intensity
 - Volume of data circulating in the program

```
void square(double &v) {
     v = v * v;
}

// ...
square(A[i]);
```







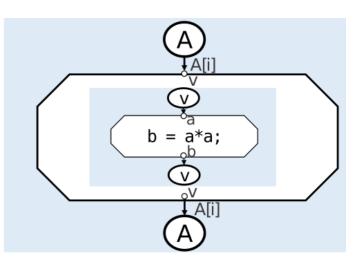
Data Gathering Approaches I Static Analyis

Analyze the Programs Source Code for Data Accesses

- Extract any data access information purely from the source code
- Compile the program into a Data-Flow Oriented IR
- Statistics gathered by analyzing the IR
 - Algorithmic intensity
 - Volume of data circulating in the program
- Very fast
- Provides holistic view of the program and its performance

```
void square(double &v) {
     v = v * v;
}

// ...
square(A[i]);
```



- Very abstract analysis
 - Memory layout of data is not considered
 - Hardware architecture unknown
 - No information about real-world cache performance





Data Gathering Approaches I Cache Simulation

Imitate the Programs Memory Accesses on a Simulated Cache Hierarchy

- Replicate actual hardware through software
 - Cache hierarchy (size, associativity, etc.)
 - Cache replacement policies
 - Cache coherence protocols
- Simulate the programs memory-wise on the simulated hardware
 - Memory (de-)allocations
 - Data accesses





Data Gathering Approaches I Cache Simulation

Imitate the Programs Memory Accesses on a Simulated Cache Hierarchy

- Replicate actual hardware through software
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- Simulate the programs memory-wise on the simulated hardware
 - Memory (de-)allocations
 - Data accesses
- Very detailed
 - Insights about the memory-layout of data
 - Enables step-by-step analysis of the caches
- Allows to analyze only parts of the program

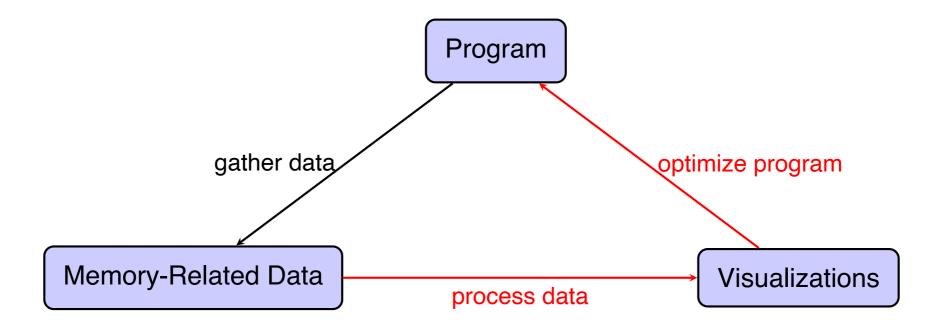
Requires precise parameterization





Overview of the Optimization Workflow

Visualization-Guided Optimization







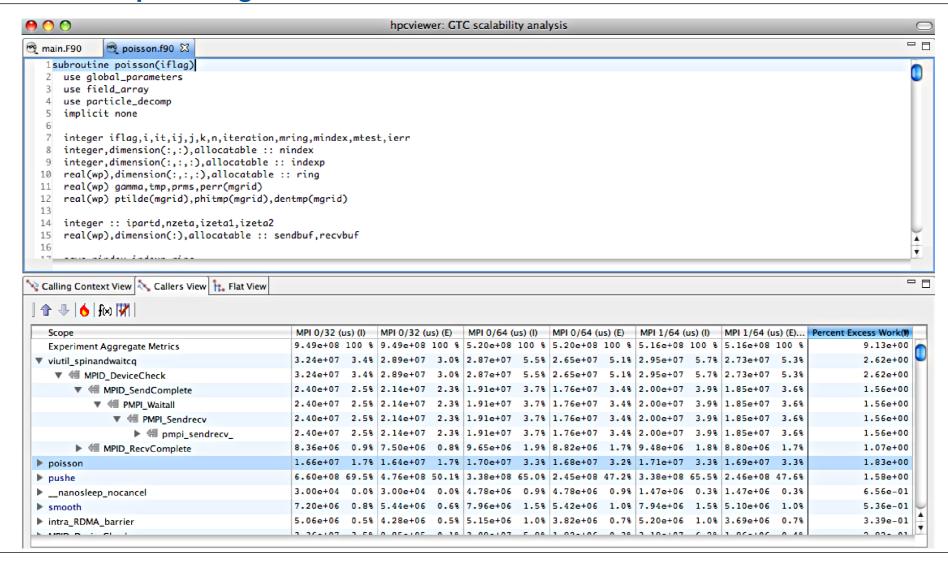
Visualization Techniques

Goal: Display & Explain Bottlenecks

- Balance between intuitiveness and informational value
- Three broad categories:
 - High-level visualizations
 - Intermediate-level visualizations
 - Low-level visualizations

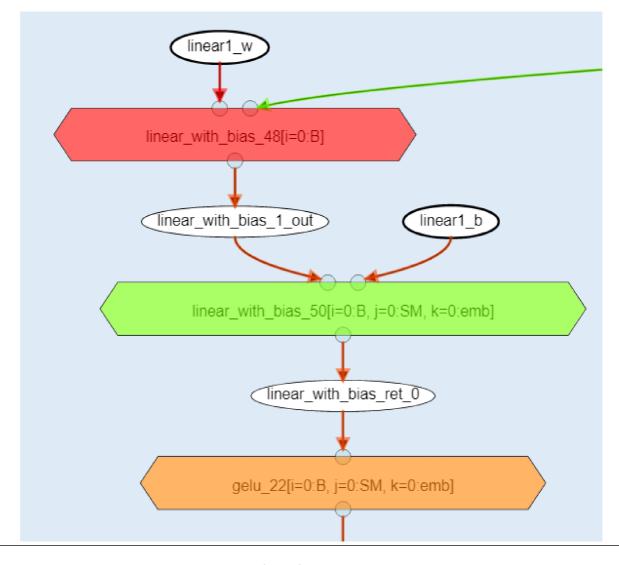


Visualization Techniques I High-Level



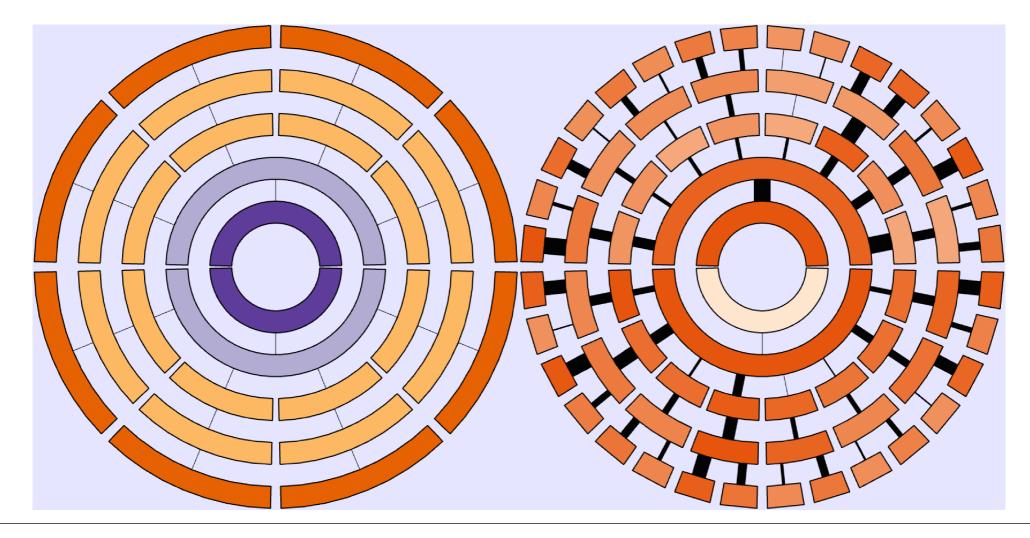


Visualization Techniques I High-Level





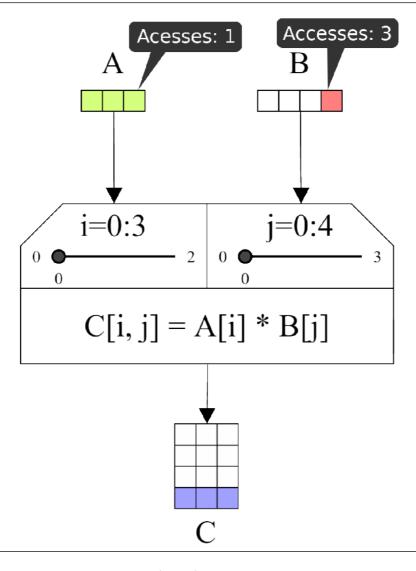
Visualization Techniques I Intermediate-Level







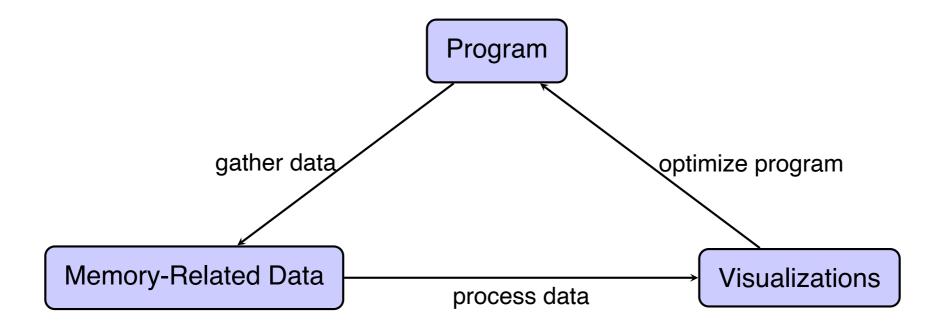
Visualization Techniques | Low-Level





Overview of the Optimization Workflow

Visualization-Guided Optimization





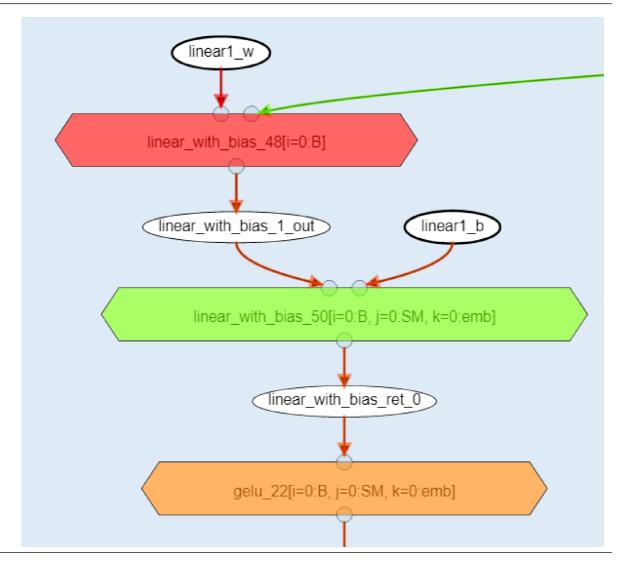


Boosting Performance Optimization with Interactive Data Movement Visualization

Two-Tier Program Analysis

Global Level

- Static analysis of the program
- High-level visualizations
- → Identify regions of interest



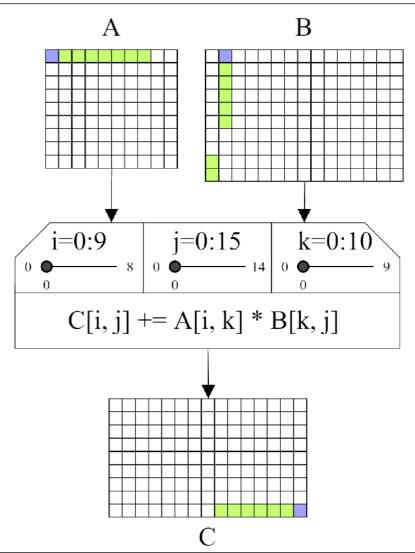


Boosting Performance Optimization with Interactive Data Movement Visualization

Two-Tier Program Analysis

Local Level

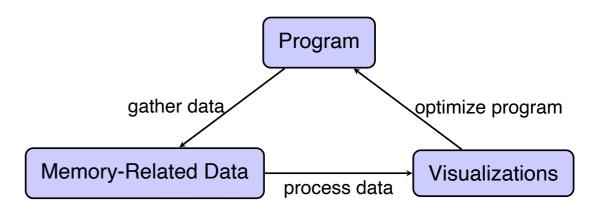
- Cache simulation
- Low-level visualizations
- → Understand the data movements and access patterns





Conclusion

- Importance of data locality due to processor-memory gap
- Data Gathering Methods:
 - Dynamic Analysis
 - Static Analysis
 - Cache Simulation
- Visualization: High-level to fine-grained insights
- Future goals: Automatic optimization in compilers







References I

- [1] Alexandru Calotoiu et al. "Lifting C semantics for dataflow optimization". In: *Proceedings of the 36th ACM International Conference on Supercomputing*. 2022, pp. 1-13.
- [2] Laksono Adhianto et al. "HPCToolkit: Tools for performance analysis of optimized parallel programs". In: *Concurrency and Computation: Practice and Experience* 22.6 (2010), pp. 685-701.
- [3] Philipp Schaad. "Boosting Performance Engi- neering with Visual Interactive Optimization and Analysis". MA thesis. ETH Zurich, 2021.
- [4] Alfredo Giménez et al. "Memaxes: Visualiza- tion and analytics for characterizing complex memory performance behaviors". In: *IEEE transactions on visualization and computer graphics* 24.7 (2017), pp. 2180-2193.
- [5] Philipp Schaad, Tal Ben-Nun, and Torsten Hoefler. "Boosting performance optimization with interactive data movement visualization". In: *SC22: International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage and Analysis* (2022), pp. 1-16.



