



THE CUDA C++ STANDARD LIBRARY

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“[CUDA C++] lets you use the powerful [ISO] C++ programming language to develop high performance algorithms accelerated by thousands of parallel threads running on GPUs.”

— *An Even Easier Introduction to CUDA*, Parallel For All Blog, January 2017

CUDA C++ Is A Superset of ISO C++

Host processors can use alone	All processors can use isolated	All processors can use together
throw catch typeid dynamic_cast thread_local std::	virtual functions function pointers lambdas	<rest of ISO C++>

ISO C++ == Core Language + Standard Library

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C++ without a Standard Library is severely diminished.

CUDA C++ == Core Language + ???

CUDA C++ Needs a C++ Standard Library

Hardware Feature Exposure: Standard library abstractions are key to GPU hardware feature exposure; bugs & limitations can be overcome in the abstractions.

Productivity & Performance: CUDA C++ programmers waste time re-implementing standard library facilities; they often encounter performance & correctness pitfalls when doing so.

Consistency & Interoperability: Duplicated re-implementations of standard library facilities across the CUDA ecosystem lack consistency and actively inhibit interoperability.

CUDA C++ == Core Language + **libcu++**

Version 1 in CUDA 10.2!

libcu++ is the
opt-in,
heterogeneous,
incremental
CUDA C++ Standard Library.

Opt-in

Does not interfere with or replace your host standard library.

```
#include <...>  
std::
```

ISO C++, `__host__` only.
Strictly conforming to ISO C++.

```
#include <cuda/std/...>  
cuda::std::
```

CUDA C++, `__host__` `__device__`.
Strictly conforming to ISO C++.

```
#include <cuda/...>  
cuda::
```

CUDA C++, `__host__` `__device__`.
Conforming extensions to ISO C++.

Opt-in

Does not interfere with or replace your host standard library.

```
#include <atomic>
std::atomic<int> x;
```

```
#include <cuda/std/atomic>
cuda::std::atomic<int> x;
```

```
#include <cuda/atomic>
cuda::atomic<int, cuda::thread_scope_block> x;
```

Heterogeneous

Copyable/Movable objects can migrate between host & device.

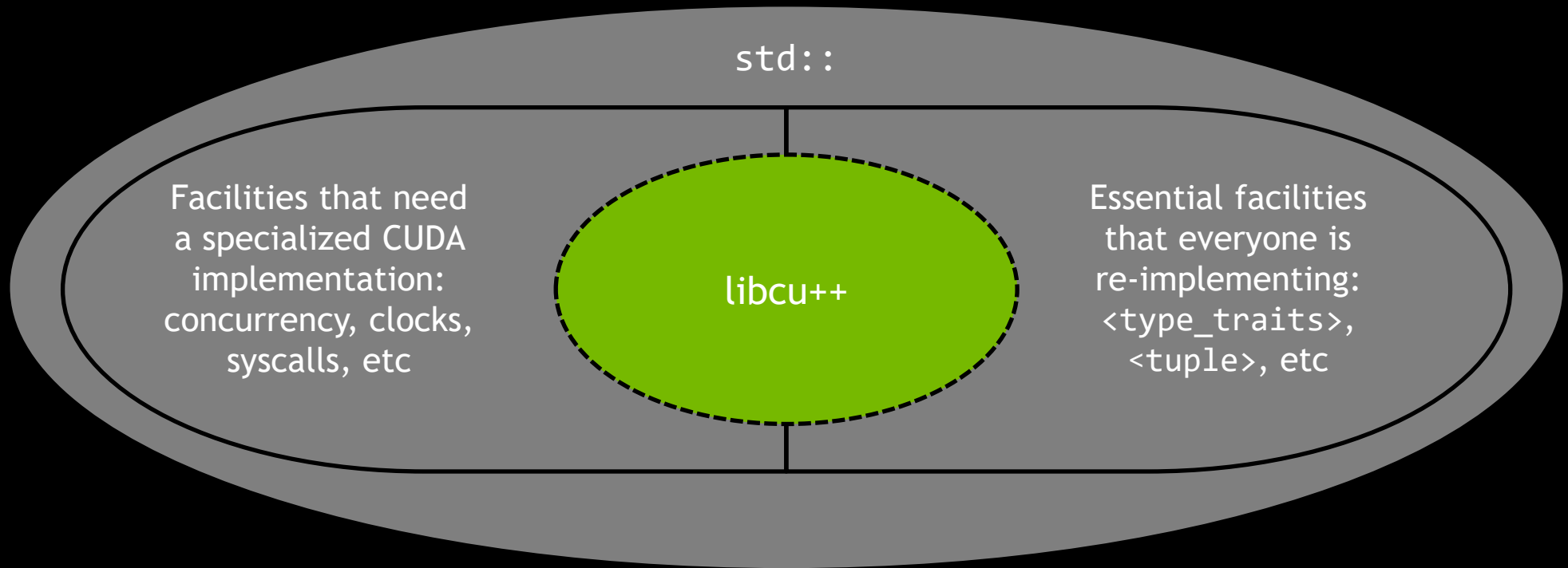
Host & device can call all (member) functions.

Host & device can concurrently use synchronization primitives*.

*: Synchronization primitives must be in managed memory and be declared with `cuda::std::thread_scope_system`.

Incremental

Not a complete standard library today; each release will add more.



Based on LLVM's libc++

Forked from LLVM's libc++.

License: Apache 2.0 with LLVM Exception.

NVIDIA is already contributing back to the community:

Freestanding `atomic<T>`: reviews.llvm.org/D56913

C++20 synchronization library: reviews.llvm.org/D68480

libc++ Release Schedule

Version 1 (CUDA 10.2, now): <atomic> (Pascal+), <type_traits>.

Version 2 (CUDA next): atomic<T>::wait/notify, <barrier>, <latch>, <counting_semaphore> (all Volta+), <chrono>, <ratio>, <functional> minus function.

Future priorities: atomic_ref<T>, <complex>, <tuple>, <array>, <utility>, <cmath>, string processing, ...

```
namespace cuda {  
  
    enum thread_scope {  
        thread_scope_system, // All threads.  
        thread_scope_device,  
        thread_scope_block  
    };  
  
    template <typename T,  
              thread_scope S = thread_scope_system>  
    struct atomic;  
  
    namespace std {  
        template <typename T>  
        using atomic = cuda::atomic<T>;  
    } // namespace std  
  
} // namespace cuda
```



```
__host__ __device__  
void signal_flag(volatile int& flag) {  
    // ^^^ volatile was "notionally right" in legacy CUDA C++.  
  
    // vvv "Works" for a store but is UB (volatile != atomic).  
    flag = 1;  
}
```

```
__host__ __device__  
void signal_flag(volatile int& flag) {  
    // ^^^ volatile was "notionally right" for flag in legacy CUDA C++.  
    __threadfence_system(); // <- Should be fused on the operation.  
    // vvv "Works" for a store but is UB (volatile != atomic).  
    flag = 1;  
}
```

```
__host__ __device__  
void signal_flag(volatile int& flag) {  
    // ^^^ volatile was "notionally right" for flag in legacy CUDA C++.  
    __threadfence_system(); // <- Should be fused on the operation.  
    // vvv We "cast away" the `volatile` qualifier.  
    atomicExch((int*)&flag, 1); // <- Ideally want an atomic store.  
}
```

```
__host__ __device__  
void signal_flag_better(atomic<bool>& flag) {  
    flag = true;  
}
```

```
__host__ __device__  
void signal_flag_even_better(atomic<bool>& flag) {  
    flag.store(true, memory_order_release);  
}
```

```
__host__ __device__  
void signal_flag_excellent(atomic<bool>& flag) {  
    flag.store(true, memory_order_release);  
    flag.notify_all(); // <- Will make sense later (Version 2).  
}
```

```
__host__ __device__  
int poll_flag_then_read(volatile int& flag, volatile int& data) {  
    // ^^^ volatile was "notionally right" in legacy CUDA C++.  
    // vvv "Works" but is UB (volatile != atomic).  
    while (1 != flag)  
        ; // <- Spinloop without backoff is bad under contention.  
  
    return data;  
}
```

```
__host__ __device__  
int poll_flag_then_read(volatile int& flag, int& data) {  
    // ^^ volatile was "notionally right" in legacy CUDA C++.  
    // vvv "Works" but is UB (volatile != atomic).  
    while (1 != flag)  
        ; // <- Spinloop without backoff is bad under contention.  
    __threadfence_system(); // <- 9 out of 10 of you forget this one!  
    return data;  
}
```



```
__host__ __device__
int poll_flag_then_read(volatile int& flag, volatile int& data) {
    // ^^^ volatile was "notionally right" in legacy CUDA C++.
    // vvv We "cast away" the volatile qualifier.
    while (1 != atomicAdd((int*)&flag, 0)) // <- Should be atomic load.
        ; // <- Spinloop without backoff is bad under contention.
    __threadfence_system(); // <- 9 out of 10 of you forget this one!
    return data;
}
```

```
__host__ __device__  
int poll_flag_then_read_better(atomic<bool>& flag, int& data) {  
    while (!flag)  
        ; // <- Spinloop without backoff is bad under contention.  
    return data;  
}
```

```
__host__ __device__  
int poll_flag_then_read_even_better(atomic<bool>& flag, int& data) {  
    while (!flag.load(memory_order_acquire))  
        ; // <- Spinloop without backoff is bad under contention.  
    return data;  
}
```

```
__host__ __device__  
int poll_flag_then_read_excellent(atomic<bool>& flag, int& data) {  
    flag.wait(false, memory_order_acquire); // Version 2.  
    // ^^^ Backoff to mitigate heavy contention.  
    return data;  
}
```

```
// Mixing scopes can be a messy error; we prevent it at compile time.
__host__ __device__ void foo() {
    atomic<bool> s_flag;
    signal_flag(s_flag); // Ok; expects and got system atomic type.

    atomic<bool, thread_scope_device> d_flag;
    signal_flag(d_flag); // Compile error; expects system atomic type.
}
```

```
// Writing __host__ __device__ functions today is nearly impossible.
__host__ __device__ void bar(volatile int& a) {
    #ifdef __CUDA_ARCH__
        atomicAdd((int*)&a, 1);
    #else
        // What do I write here for all the CPUs & compilers I support?
    #endif
}
```

```
__host__ __device__ void bar_better(atomic<int>& a) {  
    a.fetch_add(1, memory_order_relaxed);  
}
```

Stop Using Legacy CUDA Atomics (`atomic[A-Z]*`):
Sequential consistency & acquire/release are not first-class.
Device-only.
Memory scope is a property of operations not objects.
Atomicity is a property of operations not objects.

Stop Using `volatile` for synchronization:
`volatile != atomic`.
`volatile` is a vague pact; `atomic<T>` has clear semantics.

Volta+ NVIDIA GPUs deliver and libcu++ exposes:
C++ Parallel Forward Progress Guarantees.
The C++ Memory Model.

Why does this matter?

Why does this matter?

Volta+ NVIDIA GPUs and libc++ enable a wide range of concurrent algorithms & data structures previously unavailable on GPUs.

	No limitations on thread delays	Threads delayed infinitely often	Thread delays limited
Every thread makes progress	Wait-free	Obstruction-free	Starvation-free
Some thread makes progress	Lock-free	Clash-free	Deadlock-free
	Non-Blocking		Blocking

Source: <http://www.cs.tau.ac.il/~shanir/progress.pdf>

	No limitations on thread delays	Threads delayed infinitely often	Thread delays limited
Every thread makes progress	Weakly Parallel Forward Progress Pre Volta NVIDIA GPUs Other GPUs		Starvation-free
Some thread makes progress			Deadlock-free
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	No limitations on thread delays	Threads delayed infinitely often	Thread delays limited
Every thread makes progress	Weakly Parallel Forward Progress Pre Volta NVIDIA GPUs Other GPUs		Parallel Forward Progress Only Volta+
Some thread makes progress			
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Why does this matter?

Volta+ NVIDIA GPUs and libc++ enable a wide range of concurrent algorithms & data structures previously unavailable on GPUs.

More concurrent algorithms & data structures means more code can run on GPUs!

```

template <typename Key, typename Value,
          typename Hash  = hash<Key>,
          typename Equal = equal_to<Key>>
struct concurrent_insert_only_map {
    enum state_type { state_empty, state_reserved, state_filled };

    // ...

    __host__ __device__ Value* try_insert(Key const& key, Value const& value);

private:
    uint64_t          capacity_;
    Key*              keys_;
    Value*            values_;
    atomic<state_type>* states_;
    Hash              hash_;
    Equal             equal_;
};

```



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    Hash              hash_;
    Equal             equal_;
};

```

```
struct concurrent_insert_only_map {  
    __host__ __device__ Value* try_insert(Key const& key, Value const& value) {  
        auto index(hash_(key) % capacity_);  
        // ...  
    }  
};
```

```
struct concurrent_insert_only_map {  
    __host__ __device__ Value* try_insert(Key const& key, Value const& value) {  
        auto index(hash_(key) % capacity_);  
        for (uint64_t i = 0; i < capacity_; ++i) { // Linearly probe up to `capacity_` times.  
            // ...  
        }  
        return nullptr; // If we are here, the container is full.  
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            state_type old = states_[index].load(memory_order_acquire);
            while (old == state_empty) { // As long as the slot is empty, try to lock it.
                // ...
            }
            // ...
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            while (old == state_empty) { // As long as the slot is empty, try to lock it.
                if (states_[index].compare_exchange_weak(old, state_reserved, memory_order_acq_rel)) {
                    // We locked it by setting the state to `state_reserved`; now insert the key & value.
                    // ...
                }
            }
            // ...
        }
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            while (old == state_empty) { // As long as the slot is empty, try to lock it.
                if (states_[index].compare_exchange_weak(old, state_reserved, memory_order_acq_rel)) {
                    // We locked it by setting the state to `state_reserved`; now insert the key & value.
                    new (keys_ + index) Key(key);
                    new (values_ + index) Value(value);
                    states_[index].store(state_filled, memory_order_release); // Unlock the slot.

                    return values_ + index;
                }
            }
            // ...
        }
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                    states_[index].store(state_filled, memory_order_release); // Unlock the slot.
                    states_[index].notify_all(); // Wake up anyone who was waiting for us to fill the slot.
                    return values_ + index;
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            }
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                    states_[index].store(state_filled, memory_order_release); // Unlock the slot.
                    states_[index].notify_all(); // Wake up anyone who was waiting for us to fill the slot.
                    return values_ + index;
                }
            } // If we didn't fill the slot, wait for it to be filled and check if it matches.
            while (state_filled != states_[index].load(memory_order_acquire))
                ;
            // ...
        }
        return nullptr; // If we are here, the container is full.
    }
};

```



```

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    __host__ __device__ Value* try_insert(Key const& key, Value const& value) {
        auto index(hash_(key) % capacity_);
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                    new (keys_ + index) Key(key);
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                    states_[index].store(state_filled, memory_order_release); // Unlock the slot.
                    states_[index].notify_all(); // Wake up anyone who was waiting for us to fill the slot.
                    return values_ + index;
                }
            } // If we didn't fill the slot, wait for it to be filled and check if it matches.
            states_[index].wait(state_reserved, memory_order_acquire);
            // ...
        }
        return nullptr; // If we are here, the container is full.
    }
};

```

```

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    __host__ __device__ Value* try_insert(Key const& key, Value const& value) {
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                    return values_ + index;
                }
            } // If we didn't fill the slot, wait for it to be filled and check if it matches.
            states_[index].wait(state_reserved, memory_order_acquire);
            if (equal_(keys_[index], key)) return values_ + index; // Someone else inserted.
            // ...
        }
        return nullptr; // If we are here, the container is full.
    }
};

```

```

struct concurrent_insert_only_map {
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            while (old == state_empty) { // As long as the slot is empty, try to lock it.
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                    new (keys_ + index) Key(key);
                    new (values_ + index) Value(value);
                    states_[index].store(state_filled, memory_order_release); // Unlock the slot.
                    states_[index].notify_all(); // Wake up anyone who was waiting for us to fill the slot.
                    return values_ + index;
                }
            } // If we didn't fill the slot, wait for it to be filled and check if it matches.
            states_[index].wait(state_reserved, memory_order_acquire);
            if (equal_(keys_[index], key)) return values_ + index; // Someone else inserted.
            index = (index + 1) % capacity_; // Collision: keys didn't match. Try the next slot.
        }
        return nullptr; // If we are here, the container is full.
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```

There's a whole new world of algorithms and data structures that can be accelerated with Volta+ NVIDIA GPUs using libcu++ atomics.

libcu++

The CUDA C++ Standard Library

Opt-in, heterogeneous, incremental C++ standard library for CUDA.

Open source; port of LLVM's libc++; contributing upstream.

Version 1 (CUDA 10.2): <atomic> (Pascal+), <type_traits>.

Version 2 (CUDA next): atomic<T>::wait/notify, <barrier>, <latch>, <counting_semaphore> (all Volta+), <chrono>, <ratio>, <functional> minus function.

Future priorities: atomic_ref<T>, <complex>, <tuple>, <array>, <utility>, <cmath>, string processing, ...



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