Hewlett Packard
Enterprise

Machine Learning in The Chapel Programming Language

Iain Moncrief

Oregon State University

Computer Science BS & Mathematics Minor, 2024

Computer Science MS, 2025

Chapel Team, Summer Intern

Chapel

- Built for high performance computing
  - Includes many language constructs that support parallel computing
- Distributed array programming
  - Many computers and CPUs can operate on the same array
- Automatically utilize available resources on a machine or cluster
  - Programs will scale to maximize the allotted CPUs or nodes
- Easily write parallel programs
  - Significant speedup just by rewriting a program in Chapel

- Applying Chapel to machine learning
  - Chapel does not have an existing machine learning library
  - Utilize Chapels array programming features

Background

Lightweight tensor and linear algebra library

Extends NumPy to support ML needs
(backpropogation, CUDA implementation)

Fully featured ML tools (uses TensorFlow)

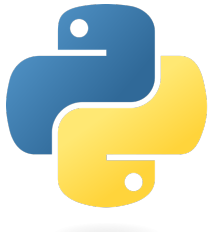
My Project

- Implement ML programs in Python, only using NumPy
  - Basic ML library in a style like PyTorch or Keras
- Translate the Python programs to Chapel programs
  - Using parallel features whenever possible
- Performance comparisons between the two versions
  - How do these novel implementations perform with respect to one another?
- See what aspects of Chapel make it easier/harder to implement ML programs
  - Compile a report that summarizes this and my experience learning Chapel

My Chapel ML Implementation

- Tensor Library (intended NumPy equivalent)
  - Attempts to replicate much of NumPy's functionality
  - Arithmetic and linear algebra operations
  - Supporting helper functions
- Machine Learning Library (translation of my Python library)
  - Implements various layer types: Dense, Conv2d, MaxPool, SoftMax, ReLU, TanH, Sigmoid, Flatten, …
  - Offers similar user interface as PyTorch or Keras

```
model = Sequential(
    Dense(4),
    Sigmoid(),
    Dense(3),
    Sigmoid(),
)
```



```
var model = new Sequential(
    new Dense(4),
    new Sigmoid(),
    new Dense(3),
    new Sigmoid()
);
```

Performance Comparisons

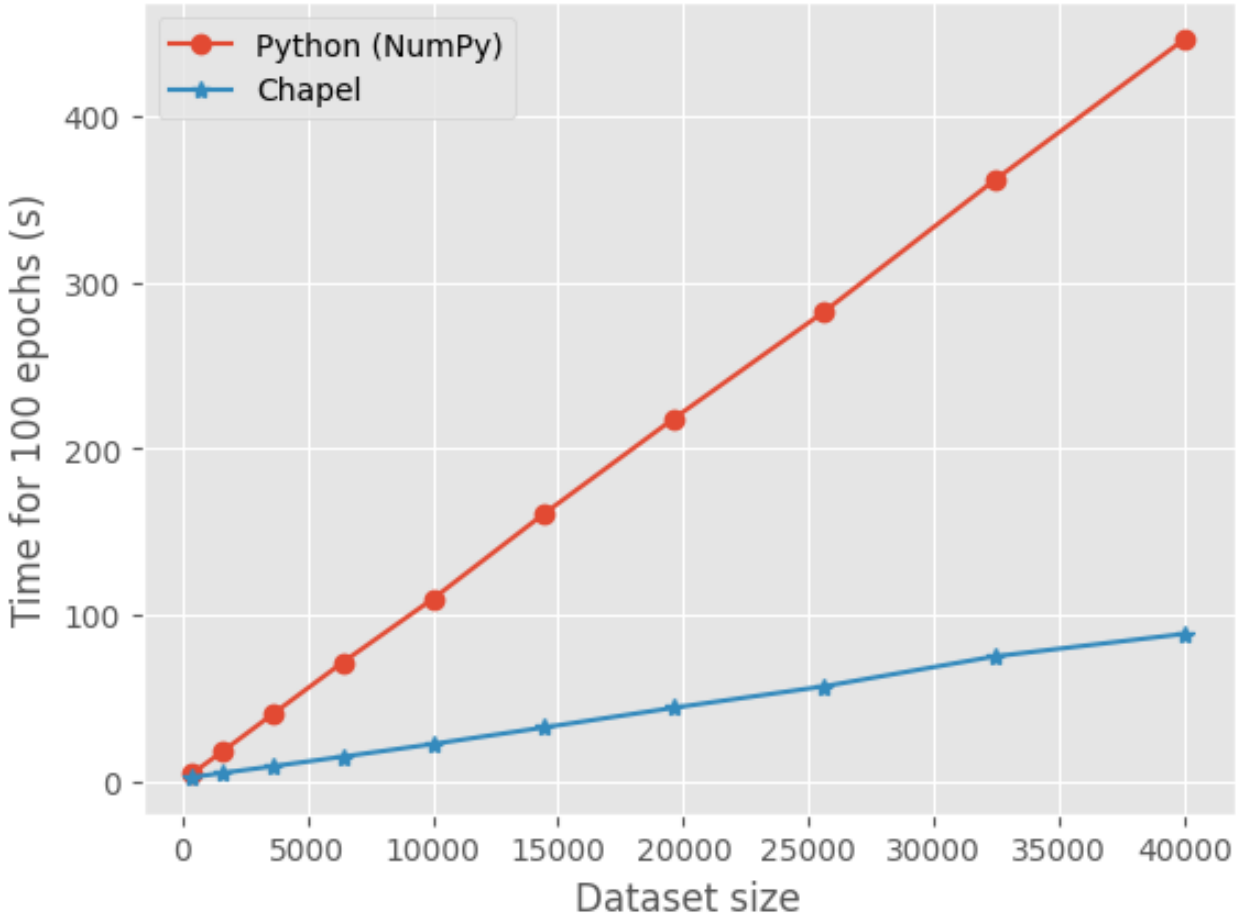
Classifier implementation via Python and NumPy (using C backend)

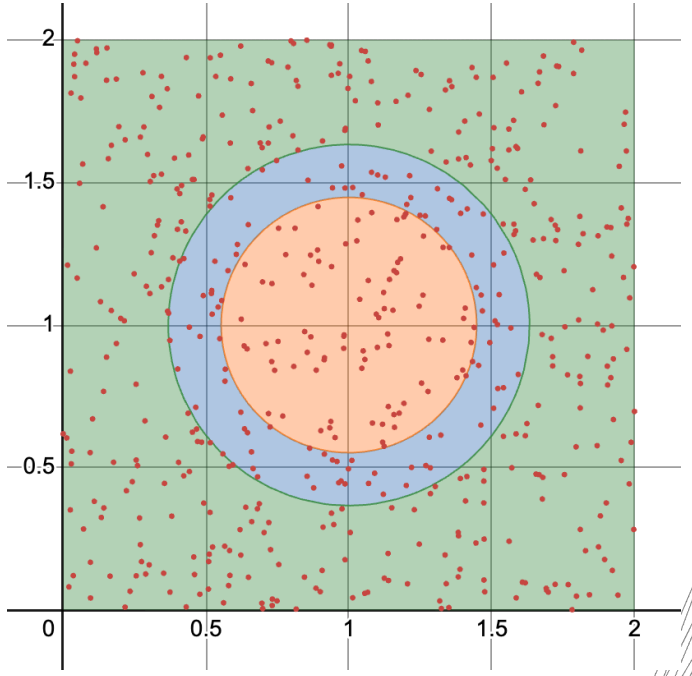
github.com/lainmon/ml-chapel-summer-23/python

Classifier implementation using Chapel ML library

github.com/lainmon/ml-chapel-summer-23/chapel

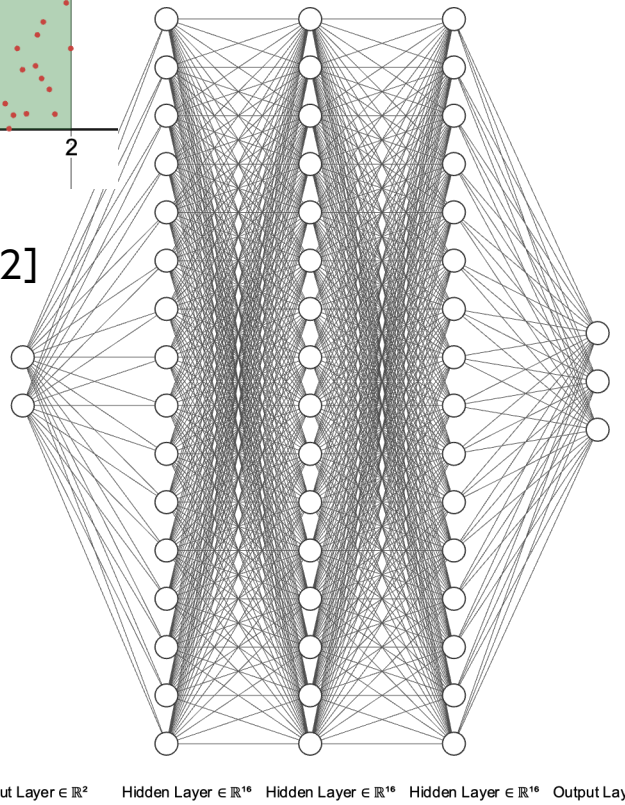
Speed Comparison (Simple Classification)



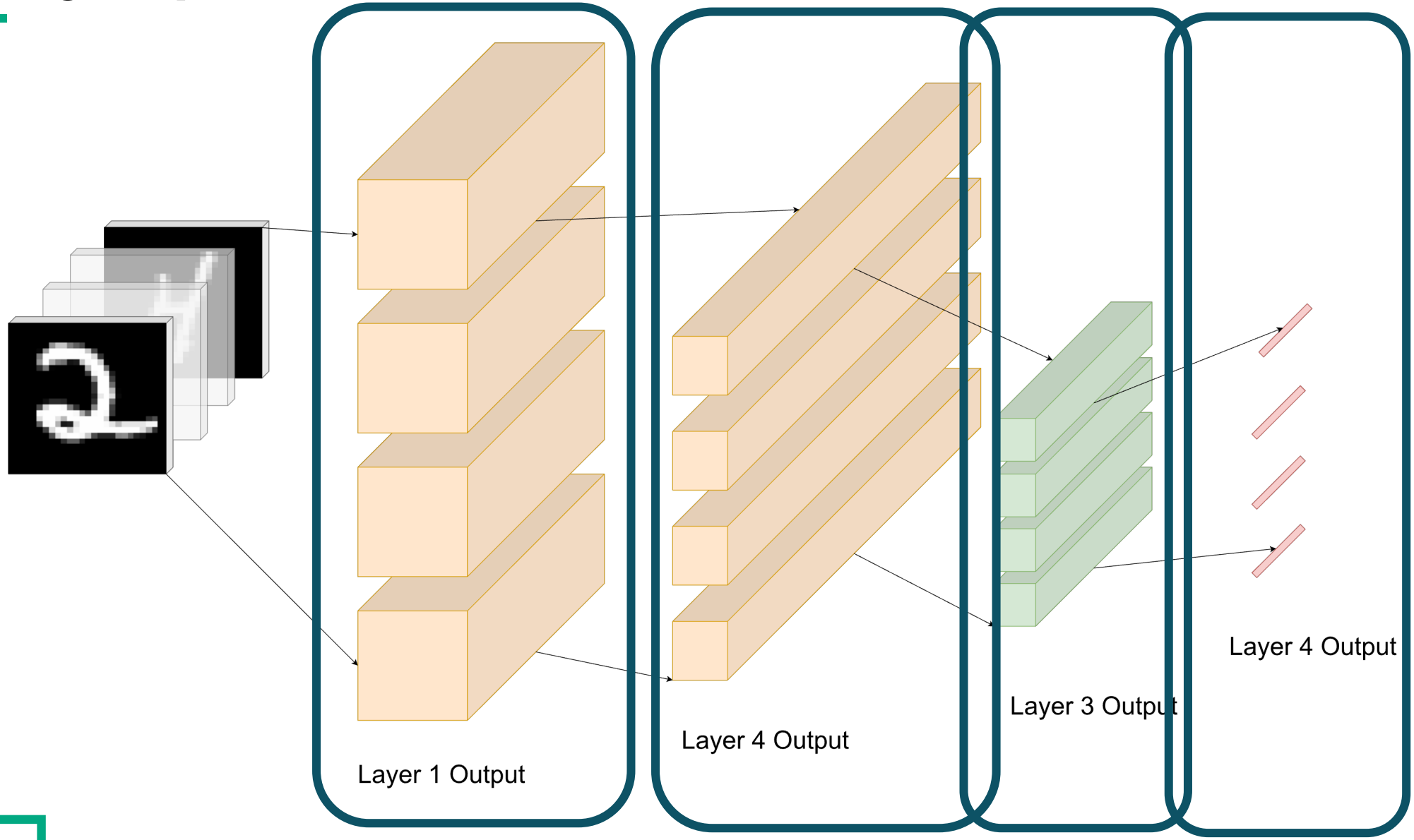


Input: N samples from [0,2] x [0,2]

Output: 3 different categories



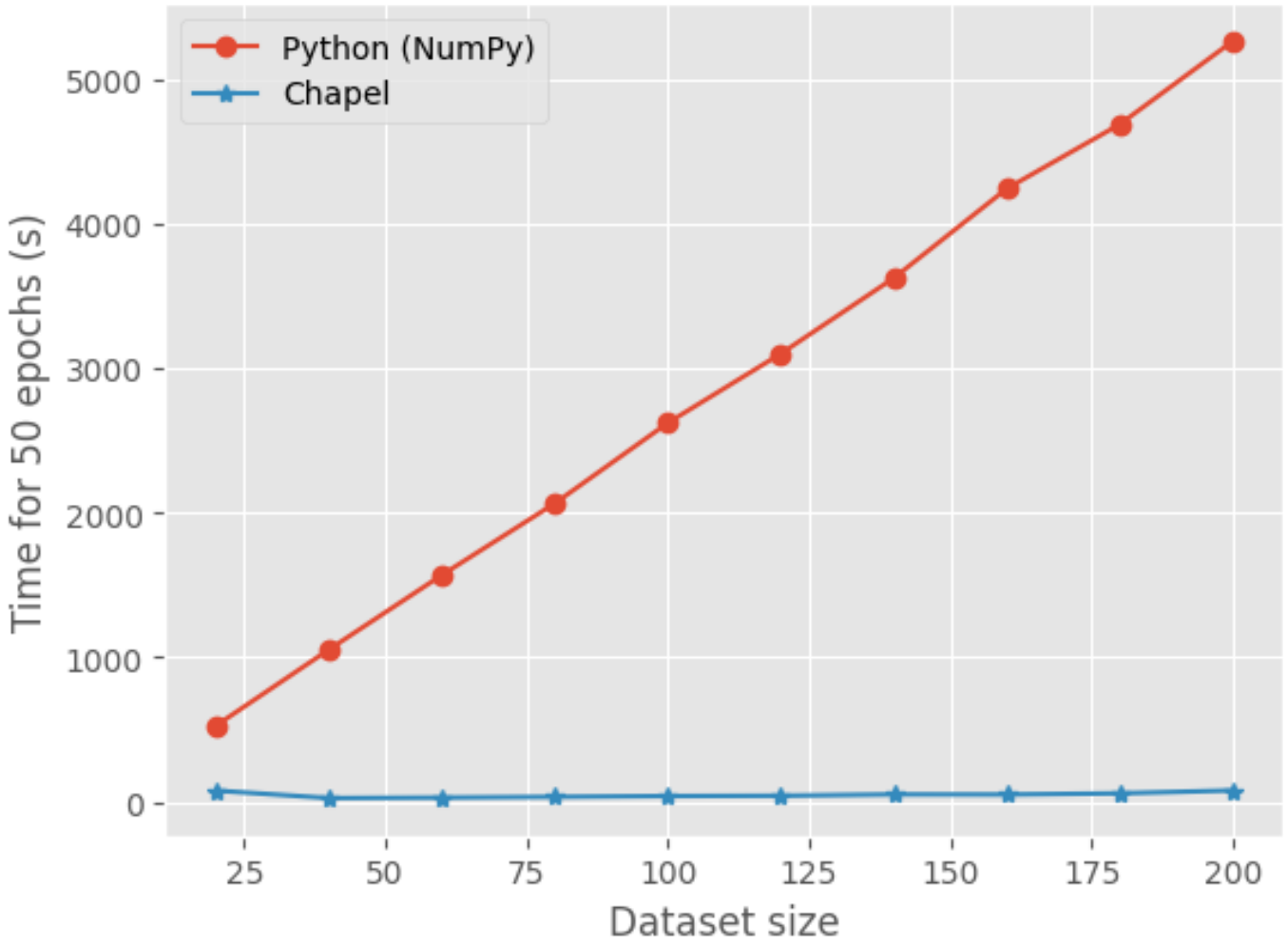
Utilizing Chapel's Parallelism Constructs



Easy Parallelism

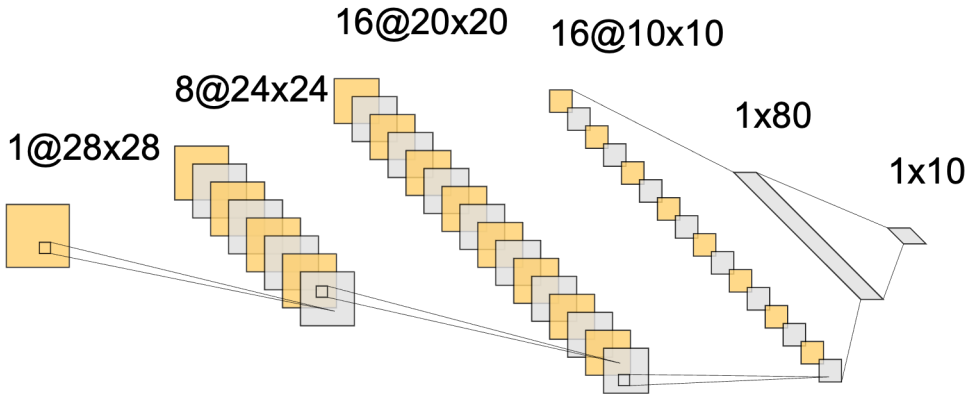
```
// Processes single input vector
proc forwardProp(input: Tensor(1)): Tensor(1) {
      return (weights * input) + bias;
}


// Processes a batch of input vectors in parallel
proc forwardPropBatch(batch: [?dom] Tensor(1)): [] Tensor(1) {
   var activations: [dom] Tensor(1);
   forall i in dom do
      activations[i] = forwardProp(batch[i]);
   return activations;
}
```

Speed Comparison (MNIST Classification)



Input:

Output: 0,1,2,3,...,9



Thank you

Thank you to my mentor, Jeremiah!

Summary

- Proof of concept for ML library in Chapel
  - Submitted library to the Chapel repository
- Identified pain points of implementing ML programs
  - Influenced language design choices via this project
  - Participated in design discussions
  - Consolidated final report (in progress)

Resources

- CNN From Scratch With NumPy (https://www.kaggle.com/code/milan400/cnn-from-scratch-numpy)
- Neural Networks from Scrath (http://neuralnetworksanddeeplearning.com/chap1.html)
- Backpropagation Simplified (https://towardsdatascience.com/back-propagation-simplified-218430e21ad0)
- Dive Into Deep Learning (https://d2l.ai/chapter_convolutional-neural-networks/padding-and-strides.html)
- A Survey on the New Generation of Deep Learning in Image Processing (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337746202_A_Survey_on_the_New_Generation_of_Deep_Learning_in_Image_Processing)