Some super-simple benchmarked GPU kernels that nobody really cares about – yet are relevant for my activity.

Norman Pellet

(and yes that's my title...)

Disclaimer

- I wanted to show you what I've been playing with recently. But sadly I'm not allowed to share any code. So I took this opportunity to write some independent code that I will be able to re-use later. So my idea was to do some benchmarking for some of the code I should have been optimizing anyway. I simplified the problems to their bare minimum to make the understandable for this presentation and wrote different implementations.
- I had little time to do that on my free time. So my apologies for the partial lack of clarity and semantics.
- All of the code is mine. The section on parallel reduction (which I might include by Sunday) is inspired by Mark Harris's work (from Nvidia).
- I hope it won't be too boring, too simple or too naive.

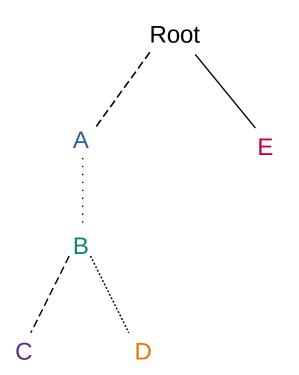
Motivation

- 4m² of surface structuring with $1\mu m$ resolution. File size: 3.6To (8-bit gray, uncompressed).
- Impossible to store in RAM, possible but not practical to swap
- Potential solution: on-the-fly calculation and streamed directly into the machine controller
- Target calculation rate: 10Mo/s bandwidth

The challenges

- 1.Design a modular structure that can generate any design / pattern according to the client's idea
- 2. Keeping up with the necessary bandwidth

Tree representation



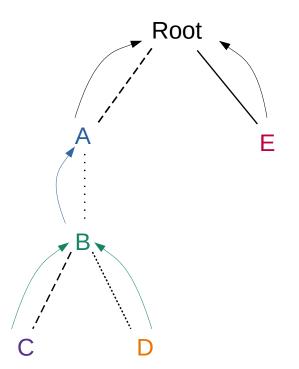
Each node have specific purpose, that use the data in their child node to compute a result.

The root node contains the output data

Each node is linked by a trait (or a flavor) which describes the function of the child node

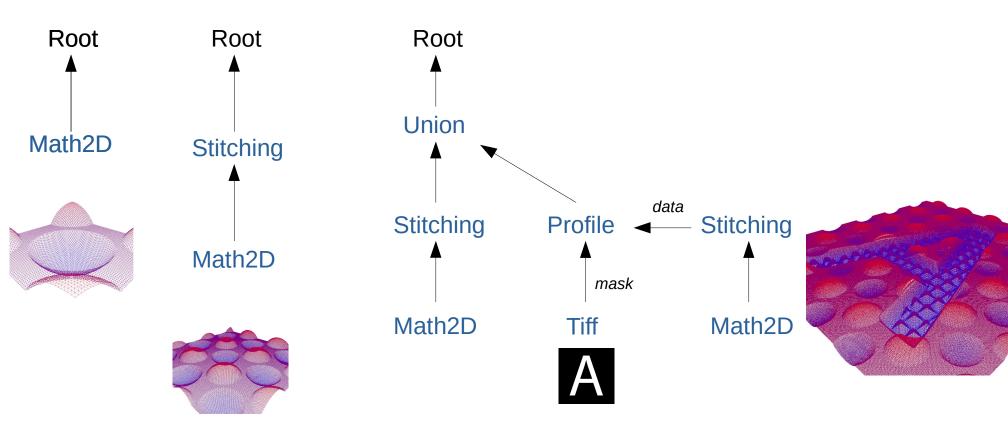
decltype (node) defines a reduction strategy for each applicable trait.

Tree reduction



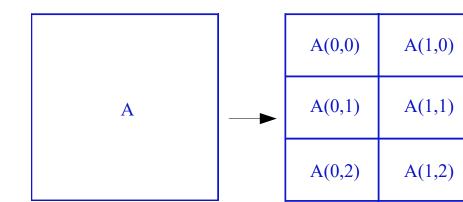
- 1. Reduce C into B according to trait ----
- 2. Reduce D into B according to trait
- 3. Reduce B into A according to trait
- 4. Reduce A into Root according to trait ----
- 5. Reduce E into Root according to trait —

Tree reduction



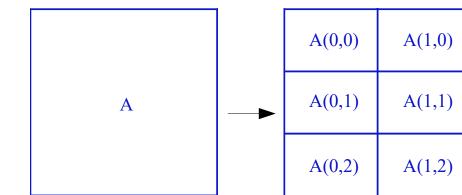
Tile system

- Memory constraints
- Each node has an independent width, height and offset
- Each node is therefore split into tiles



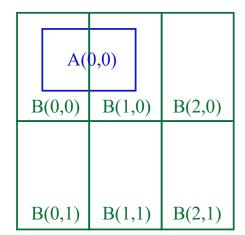
Reduction in a tile system

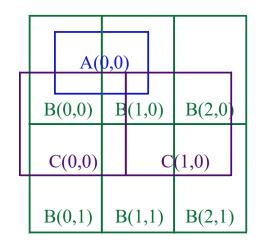
- Memory constraints
- Each node has an independent width, height and offset
- Each node is split into tiles
- Each tile can be computed separately



Reduction in a tile system

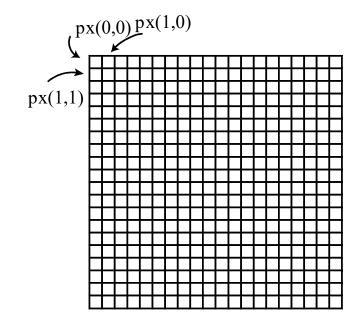
- Tile intersection calculation.
- Ex: to calculate A(0,0) we need to calculate B(0,0) and B(1,0)
- Ex: to calculate B(0, 0) we need to calculate C(0,0).
 To calculate B(1,0) we need to calculate C(0,0) and C(1,0)
- Here, C(0,0) can be re-used.
 Tiles can therefore be stored in an LRU system
- System memory usage is predictable





Calculation strategies

- The complete tree reduction must perform at 10Mo/s.
- The reductions must be considered sequentially
- But each computation is suitable for parallel computation
- Each branch can be computed concurrently
- Here comes in CUDA (OpenCL or potentially OpenGL 4+ with compute shaders could also work)
- I will show how CUDA could be useful for solving the data engraving file calculation bottlenecks and how it can speed up simple matrix calculations.



Each pixel can be calculated in parallel thanks to CUDA

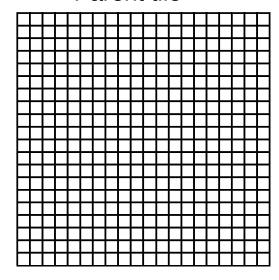
Benchmarking conditions

- CPU: Intel i9-9900k (single thread used)
- GPU: RTX 2070
- RAM: 32Gb
- Windows 10 Pro
- MSVC + CUDA 10.2

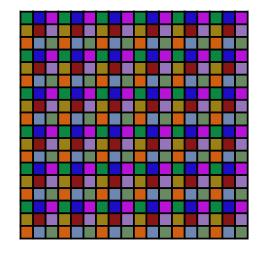
Simple stitching

Child tile (trait = pattern)

Parent tile



Reduction



(N.B.: In practice, the matrix might already be masked, suthat the stitching only occurs the necessary areas)

Let's define a target (the big empty matrix) and a repeater (the small coloured matrix) (Here, SIZE_REPEATER and SIZE_GLOBAL are compile-time constant, but in practice they are not. It's just to make it easier for the test and also (mostly) because it looks more fancy)

```
typedTile<float, GPUMatrixAllocator<float>> repeater{ SIZE_REPEATER, SIZE_REPEATER };
typedTile<float, GPUMatrixAllocator<float>> target{ SIZE_GLOBAL, SIZE_GLOBAL };
```

Case 1.1 — Host code, basic

Limitations:

- Modulo is slow (actually the result is skewed by the fact that SIZE_REPEATER is a compile-time constant, which enables compiler optimization. I noticed that in practice it makes little of a difference as it's not the time limiting step)
- For each point, the loading index in target must be recalculated (index = y * width + x)

Case 1 - Results

Host (basic)	870'000 μs / iteration	

Conditions:

```
SIZE_GLOBAL = 10240
SIZE REPEATER = 100
```

Case 1.2 — Host code, indexing

```
size_t index = 0;
for (uint32_t y = 0; y < SIZE_GLOBAL; y++) {
    for (uint32_t x = 0; x < SIZE_GLOBAL; x++) {
        target.loadPoint(index, repeater.getPointXY(x % SIZE_REPEATER, y % SIZE_REPEATER));
        index++;
    }
}</pre>
```

Limitations:

- Saves a lot of multiplications and additions
- Assumes that we know how to storage is arranged.
- Modulo is STILL slow

Case 1 - Results

Host (basic)	870'000 μs / iteration	
Host (indexed)	114'000 μs / iteration	7.5x faster
Host (ptr increment)	99'600 μs / iteration	8.7x faster

Conditions:

```
SIZE_GLOBAL = 10240
SIZE REPEATER = 100
```

Case 1.3 — Host code, loop over repeater

```
size_t repeaterIndex = 0;
for (uint32_t x = 0; x < SIZE_REPEATER; x++) {
    for (uint32_t y = 0; y < SIZE_REPEATER; y++) {
        const float repeaterValue = repeater.getPoint(repeaterIndex);

    for (uint32_t xB = x; xB < SIZE_GLOBAL; xB += SIZE_REPEATER) {
        for (uint32_t yB = y; yB < SIZE_GLOBAL; yB += SIZE_REPEATER) {
            target.loadPointXY(xB, yB, repeaterValue);
        }
    }
    repeaterIndex++;
}</pre>
```

Limitations:

- We cannot cache the target index anymore
- But we gain the modulo
- No more sequential memory access over target matrix

Case 1 - Results

Host (basic)	870'000 μs / iteration	
Host (indexed)	114'000 μs / iteration	7.5x faster
Host (ptr increment)	99'600 μs / iteration	8.7x faster
Host (repeater loop)	912'000 μs / iteration	slower

Conditions:

```
SIZE_GLOBAL = 10240
SIZE REPEATER = 100
```

Case 1.4 – Host code, indexing

```
template<typename T>
global void kernelRepeaterModulo(
      T* target,
      const uint32_t width,
      const uint32 t height,
      const T* repeater,
      const uint32 t repeaterWidth,
      const uint32 t repeaterHeight ) {
             const size_t col = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
                                                                               Calculate (x,y) from the CUDA grid
             const size t row = blockIdx.y * blockDim.y + threadIdx.y;
             if (col >= width || row >= height)
                                                                               Minor but unavoidable warp divergend
                    return;
             const size t targetIndex = getMatrixIndex(col, row, width);
                                                                               Cannot cache
             const uint32 t colTarget = col % repeaterWidth;
             const uint32 t rowTarget = row % repeaterHeight;
                                                                               Cannot avoid modulo (not a compile consta
             target[targetIndex] = repeater[getMatrixIndex(colTarget, rowTarget, repeaterWidth)];
```

Is blockDim.x == 32 (= warp size) ther the coalescing of gmem makes it such that only 1 load is necessary (max 2, a the matrix is not strided in this case)

Case 1 - Results

Host (basic)	870'000 μs / iteration	
Host (indexed)	114'000 μs / iteration	7.5x faster
Host (ptr increment)	99'600 μs / iteration	8.7x faster
Host (repeater loop)	912'000 μs / iteration	slower
GPU – with D-H and H-D copy	34'000 μs / iteration	25x faster
GPU – without copy	2'030 μs / iteration	430x faster

Conditions:

```
SIZE_GLOBAL = 10240
SIZE REPEATER = 100
```

Case 1.5 — The mistake of shared mem

```
template<typename T, uint32_t SIZE_REPEATER>
__global__ void kernelRepeaterModuloShared(
    T* target,
    const uint32_t width,
    const uint32_t height,

    const uint32_t repeaterWidth,
    const uint32_t repeaterHeight
    ) {
        __shared__ T s[SIZE_REPEATER * SIZE_REPEATER];

    if (threadIdx.x == 0 && threadIdx.y == 0) {
            memcpy(s, repeater, sizeof(T) * SIZE_REPEATER * SIZE_REPEATER);
    }
    __syncthreads();

    // Use s instead of repeater
    // ...
}
```

Copy repeater in statically assigned shared memory
Templated methods are impractical widynamically allocated shared mem

Why is it plain stupid?

Shared memory is block-wide (not grid-wide), so it is used by max 1024 threads. With a repeater that is 100x100 (10'000 points), we will have 10'000 gmem loads into smem, and 1024 loads from smem. This is a major deoptimisation is SIZE_REPEATER² > 1024. (I admit I realized it after trying it out...)

Case 1 - Results

Host (basic)	870'000 μs / iteration	
Host (indexed)	114'000 μs / iteration	7.5x faster
Host (ptr increment)	99'600 μs / iteration	8.7x faster
Host (repeater loop)	912'000 μs / iteration	slower
GPU – with D-H and H-D copy	34'000 μs / iteration	25x faster
GPU – without copy	2'030 μs / iteration	430x faster
GPU – smem load	816'000 μs / iteration	

Conditions:

```
SIZE_GLOBAL = 10240
SIZE_REPEATER = 100
```

Case 1.6 — Grid over repeater

```
template<typename T>
global void kernelRepeaterRepGrid(
       T* target,
       const uint32_t width,
       const uint32 t height,
       const T* repeater,
       const uint32 t repeaterWidth,
       const uint32_t repeaterHeight
       const uint32 t col = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
       const uint32 t row = blockIdx.y * blockDim.y + threadIdx.y;
       if (col >= repeaterWidth | row >= repeaterHeight) {
              return;
       const T repeaterValue = repeater[getMatrixIndex(col, row, repeaterWidth)];
       for (int y = row; y < height; y += repeaterHeight) {</pre>
              size_t index = getMatrixIndex(col, y, width);
              for (int x = col; x < width; x += repeaterWidth) {
                     target[index] = repeaterValue;
                     index += repeaterWidth;
```

Grid is adjusted to the size of the repe

Heavier load on the thread because o the loop

No modulo but scattered gmem acce

Speed gain will be very dependent on the repeater size and somewhat unpredictable

Case 1 - Results

Host (basic)	870'000 μs / iteration	
Host (indexed)	114'000 μs / iteration	7.5x faster
Host (ptr increment)	99'600 μs / iteration	8.7x faster
Host (repeater loop)	912'000 μs / iteration	slower
GPU – with D-H and H-D copy	34'000 μs / iteration	25x faster
GPU – without copy	2'030 μs / iteration	430x faster
GPU – smem load	816'000 μs / iteration	
GPU – repeater grid	3'200 μs / iteration	270x faster

Conditions:

SIZE_GLOBAL = 10240 SIZE REPEATER = 100 SIZE_REPEATER = 128

GPU: 2.3ms GPU - rep grid: 1.4 ms

SIZE REPEATER = 64

GPU: 2.3ms GPU - rep grid: 1.8 ms

SIZE REPEATER = 32

GPU: 2.5ms GPU – rep grid: 7.3ms

SIZE_REPEATER = 16

GPU: 2.5ms GPU - rep grid: 10.1ms

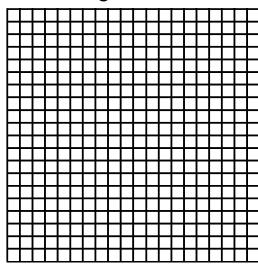
More complex stitching

Child tile

(trait = pattern)

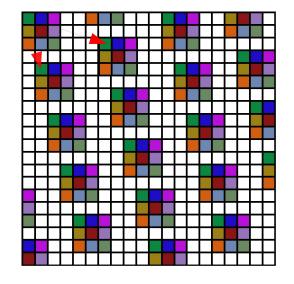


Target tile



Reduction

Repetition vector ${\boldsymbol u},\,{\boldsymbol v}$



Here we have two possibilities:

Loop over the parent tile, or loop over all the possible (u,v) combinations

Using the same definitions:

```
typedTile<float, GPUMatrixAllocator<float>> repeater{ SIZE_REPEATER, SIZE_REPEATER };
typedTile<float, GPUMatrixAllocator<float>> target{ SIZE_GLOBAL, SIZE_GLOBAL };
```

Case 2.1 — Loop over target (blending)

```
size t index = 0; // Assumes we know how the data is placed
for (uint32_t y = 0; y < SIZE_GLOBAL; y++) {</pre>
                                                                                                           Loop over the whole
       for (uint32 t x = 0; x < SIZE GLOBAL; x++) {
                                                                                                           frame
              // Dot product over the normalized repetition vector
              const int32_t uComp = (int32_t)(dot(uNorm, 1, x, y));
              const int32 t vComp = (int32 t)(dot(vNorm, 1, x, y));
                                                                                                           Find u,v for this position
              // Accumulation
              float val = 0;
              // Number of samples for blending
              int16 t num = 0;
                                                                                                           Iterate over all possible
              // There might be more than one (u,v) to check for this position
              for (int32 t uR = uMin; uR <= uMax; uR++) {</pre>
                                                                                                           overlaps
                     for (int32 t vR = vMin; vR <= vMax; vR++) {</pre>
                            const int32_t startX = (uComp + uR) * u.x + (vComp + vR) * v.x;
                            const int32_t xRep = x - startX;
                            const int32 t startY = (uComp + uR) * u.y + (vComp + vR) * v.y;
                                                                                                           Boundary check
                            const int32 t yRep = y - startY;
                            if (xRep < 0 || yRep < 0 || xRep >= SIZE_REPEATER || yRep >= SIZE_REPEATER) {
                                   continue;
                                                                                                           Calculate the repeater
                            float locval = repeater.getPointXY(xRep, yRep);
                                                                                                           coordinates
                            if (locval != 0) {
                                   val += locval;
                                   num++;
                     }
              if (num > 0) {
                     target.loadPoint(index, val / num);
                                                                                                           Set global memory
              index++:
```

Case 2.2 — Loop over (u,v), no blending

```
updateBoundaries(0, 0);
updateBoundaries(SIZE GLOBAL, 0);
                                                                                                                  Find min & max
updateBoundaries(0, SIZE GLOBAL);
                                                                                                                  boundaries
updateBoundaries(SÍZE_GLOBAL, SÍZE GLOBAL);
for (int32 t u = uMin; u \leftarrow uMax; u++) {
       for (int32_t v = vMin; v <= vMax; v++) {</pre>
               const int32_t startX = u * u.x + v * v.x;
                                                                                                                  Find starting positions
               const int32 t startY = u * u.y + v * v.y;
               size t repeaterIndex = 0;
                                                                                                                  Iterate over repeater
               for (uint32 t x = 0; x < SIZE_REPEATER; x++) {</pre>
                      for (uint32_t y = 0; y < SIZE_RÉPEATÉR; y++) {
    if (startX + x < 0 || startY + y < 0 || startX + x >= SIZE_GLOBAL || startY + y >= SIZE_GLOBAL) {
                                     repeaterIndex++:
                                     continue:
                                                                                                                  Set the value to global
                              const size_t index = target.calcIndex(startX + x, startY + y);
                              target.loadPoint(index, repeater.getPoint(repeaterIndex));
                                                                                                                  mem
                              repeaterIndex++;
```

Case 2.3 — GPU loop over target, no blending

```
void global kernelRepeaterNonSquare(
      T* target,
      const uint32 t width, const uint32 t height,
       const T* repeater.
      const uint32 t repeaterWidth, const uint32 t repeaterHeight,
      const int2 u, const int2 v,
      const float2 uNorm, const float2 vNorm,
       int32 t uMin, int32 t uMax, int32 t vMin, int32 t vMax
      const size t x = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
      const size_t y = blockIdx.y * blockDim.y + threadIdx.y;
      if (x \ge width || y \ge height) \{ return; \}
      const int32_t uComp = (int32_t)(dot(uNorm, 1, x, y)); // Integer clamp
      const int32 t vComp = (int32 t)(dot(vNorm, 1, x, y));
      float val = 0;
      int16 t num = 0;
      // If the repeater size if larger than the repetition vector, there is some blending
      for (int32 t uR = uMin; uR <= uMax; uR++) {</pre>
             for (int32 t vR = vMin; vR <= vMax; vR++) {</pre>
                     const int32 t startX = (uComp + uR)* u.x + (vComp + vR) * v.x;
                     const int32 t xRep = x - startX;
                     const int32_t startY = (uComp + uR) * u.y + (vComp + vR) * v.y;
                     const int32_t yRep = y - startY;
                     // Boundary check
                     if (xRep < 0 || yRep < 0 || xRep >= SIZE REPEATER || yRep >= SIZE REPEATER) {
                            continue;
                     const float locval = repeater[getMatrixIndex(xRep, yRep, SIZE REPEATER)];
                     if (locval != 0) {
                            val += locval;
                            num++;
       if (num > 0) {
              target[getMatrixIndex(x, y, width)] = val / num;
```

Find min & max boundaries

Find starting positions

Iterate over repeater

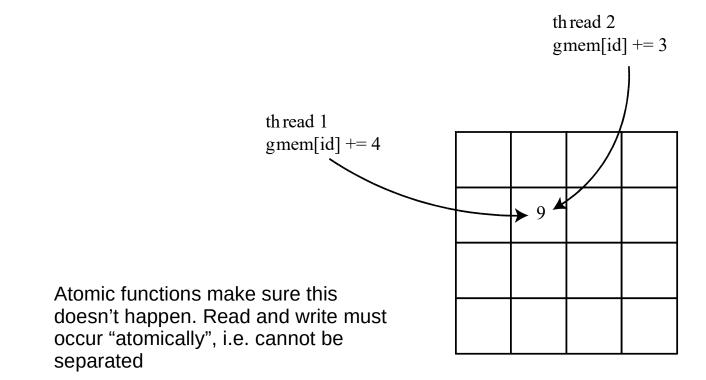
Set the value to global mem

Case 2.4 — GPU loop over UV, no blending

```
void global kernelRepeaterUVLoop(
      T* target,
      const uint32 t width, const uint32 t height,
      const T* repeater,
      const uint32 t repeaterWidth, const uint32 t repeaterHeight,
      const int2 u, const int2 v,
      const int32 t minU, const int32 t minV
      ) {
                                                                                                           Grid is now over (u,v)
      const int32 t gridU = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x + minU;
      const int32_t gridV = blockIdx.y * blockDim.y + threadIdx.y + minV;
      const int32 t startX = gridU * u.x + gridU * v.x;
                                                                                                           (Look for the starting
      const int32 t startY = gridV * u.y + gridV * v.y;
                                                                                                           point)
      size t indexRepeater = 0;
      for (uint32_t y = 0; y < SIZE_REPEATER; y++) {</pre>
             for (uint32 t x = 0; x < SIZE REPEATER; x++) {
                    float repValue = repeater[indexRepeater];
                                                                                                           Loop over repeater
                     indexRepeater++;
                     if (startX + x < 0 | startY + y < 0 | startX + x >= SIZE GLOBAL | startY + y >= SIZE GLOBAL) {
                           continue;
                                                                                                           Set the repeater value
                     const size t index = getMatrixIndex(startX + x, startY + y, SIZE GLOBAL);
                                                                                                           the proper position
                     if (repValue != 0) {
                           target[index] = repValue;
```

Atomic operations - reminder

- 1st possible output
 - Thread 1 read (9)
 - Thread 1 write (13)
 - Thread 2 read (13)
 - Thread 2 write (16)
- 2nd possible output
 - Thread 2 read (9)
 - Thread 2 write (12)
 - Thread 1 read (12)
 - Thread 1 write (16)
- 3rd possible output
 - Thread 1 read (9)
 - Thread 2 read (9)
 - Thread 2 write (12)
 - Thread 1 write (13)
- 4th possible output
 - ... you see the point



Case 2.4 – modified

You might have noticed this caveat:

```
target[index] = repValue;
```

- 1) Multiple threads potentially write at the same global memory location.
- 2) Introduces unpredictability.
- 3) In the general case includes blending and we should account for that

Replace

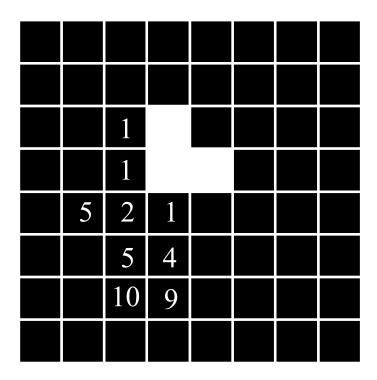
And what a surprise, execution time goes from 9.8ms down to 6.3ms. (note how long the kernel spends writing memory, at least 1/3 of the total time)

How come is an atomic function (which should have thread fences) faster than a global store ? PTX doesn't indicate mu

Atomic function: 40 register used, corresponds to 32 warp / SM Direct save: 40 register used, corresponds to 32 warp / SM Occupancy is the same, so it cannot explain the difference in timing The official explanation from Nvidia is that "atomics are performed directly in the memory controller" Not sure I'm convinced. To be continued...

Case 3: distance calculation

- Given a binary matrix, we want to fill target calculate a profile z = f(d) where d is the minimum distance to a white pixel.
- f(z) can be complex, non-monotonic, and may not be evaluated at compile-time.
- Intermediate mapping using $a := dx^2 + dy^2$, and then use z = f(a).
- Two strategies
 - Look for white pixel, then apply a kernel. Requires atomics (multiple kernels write in the same gmem location)
 - Look for black pixel, then look for the closest white pixel. No need for a kernel.



Case 3.1 - Find white pixels

```
global void kernelDistance(
      const T* source,
       const uint32 t width,
      const uint32_t height,
       U* distance,
       const int32 t distanceMax
       ) {
       const int32 t col = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
      const int32 t row = blockIdx.y * blockDim.y + threadIdx.y;
      if (col >= width | row >= height) {
              return;
      const size_t index = getMatrixIndex<size_t>(col, row, width);
                                                                                                              Look exclusively for not(0x0
      if (source[index] == 0) {
              return;
      for (int32_t y = -distanceMax; y < distanceMax; y++) {</pre>
              for (int32 t x = -distanceMax; x < distanceMax; x++) {</pre>
                                                                                                              Iterate over the square
                     const int32_t colDist = col + x;
                     const int32 t rowDist = row + y;
                     if (colDist < 0 || rowDist < 0 || colDist >= width || rowDist >= height) {
                            continue;
                     const size_t indexDistance = getMatrixIndex<size_t>(colDist, rowDist, width);
                                                                                                              Update the new distance for
                     atomicMin((U*)(distance + indexDistance), (U)(x * x + y * y));
                                                                                                              that element in the square
```

Case 3 - results

White (unoptimized)	251'000 μs / iteration	
White (block spread)	246'000 μs / iteration	About the same

Conditions:

DISTANCE_MAX 15

Case 3.1 bis — Add pre-atomic distance check

Replace

No need to perform the atomic minimum if the value that is read is already lower. One additional global memory read to potentially save an atomic operation.

Gain / loss will depend on how many atomics are saved, and thus on the input mask.

Case 3 - results

White (unoptimized)	251'000 μs / iteration	
White (block spread)	246'000 μs / iteration	About the same
White (distance check)	125'000 μs / iteration	2x faster

Conditions:

DISTANCE_MAX 15

Case 3.1 tris — Add neighbour check

If one white pixel is already surrounded by 4 white pixels, its net effect is nil. Save the double-loop

Computation time from 240ms down to 65ms (factor 4!)

Case 3 - results

White (unoptimized)	251'000 μs / iteration	
White (block spread)	246'000 μs / iteration	About the same
White (distance check)	125'000 μs / iteration	2x faster
White (neighbour check)	49'000 μs / iteration	5x faster

Conditions:

DISTANCE_MAX 15

Case 3.3 tert — improved neighbor check

If for a pixel at (x,y) is white, and pixel at (x,y-1) is also white, there's no need to check any pixel whose coordi is < y.

Therefore we can use:

Which restricts the boundaries of the loop when neighboring pixels are found.

Case 3 - results

White (unoptimized)	251'000 μs / iteration	
White (block spread)	246'000 μs / iteration	About the same
White (distance check)	125'000 μs / iteration	2x faster
White (neighbour check)	49'000 μs / iteration	5x faster
White (improved neighbour check)	9'800 μs / iteration	26x faster

Conditions:

DISTANCE_MAX 15

Case 3.1 — Find black pixrls

```
template<typename T, typename U>
__global__void kernelDistanceBlack(
      const T* source,
      const uint32 t width,
      const uint32_t height,
       U* distance,
       const int32 t distanceMax
      const int32 t col = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
      const int32 t row = blockIdx.y * blockDim.y + threadIdx.y;
      if (col >= width || row >= height) return;
      const size t index = getMatrixIndex<size t>(col, row, width);
      if (source[index] != 0) {
             distance[index] = 0;
              return;
      U minDistance = distanceMax * distanceMax;
      for (int32 t y = -distanceMax; y < distanceMax; y++) {</pre>
              for (int32_t x = -distanceMax; x < distanceMax; x++) {</pre>
                     const U dist = (U)(x * x + y * y);
                     if (dist > minDistance) continue;
                     const int32 t col2 = col + x;
                     const int32 t row2 = row + y;
                     if (col2 < 0 || row2 < 0 || col2 >= width || row2 >= height) continue;
                     if (source[getMatrixIndex<size t>(col2, row2, width)] != 0)
                            minDistance = min(minDistance, dist);
      distance[index] = minDistance;
```

Usually boundary checks

Look exclusively for 0x00

Prepare min distance

Iterate over the square

Bypass if distance is already smaller

Frame check

Calculate the new distance i

Case 3 - results

White (unoptimized)	251'000 μs / iteration	
White (block spread)	246'000 μs / iteration	About the same
White (distance check)	125'000 μs / iteration	2x faster
White (neighbour check)	49'000 μs / iteration	5x faster
White (improved neighbour check)	9'800 μs / iteration	26x faster
Black	90'000 μs / iteration	

Conditions:

DISTANCE_MAX 15