SSE

Motivation

- Up to now, we've seen cases where we operate on one data item at a time
 - Or maybe several data items at a time
- Ex: Recall how we manipulated image data...

Image

- Load four RGBA pixels -> XMM register
- Do some operation (brighten, greyscale, etc.)
- Store four RGBA pixels back

Mathematics

- This isn't always feasible, however
- Consider: Geometric calculations
 - ► I.e., vec3's
- One problem: vec3's don't neatly fit into XMM register
 - ▶ We can fit one vec3 in a register, but we waste 25% of computing capacity

Problem

- Second problem: Differing operations
- Suppose we want to do different operations on different RGB color channels
- Can we do this using our current approach?
 - Maybe. Maybe not!

Example

- ▶ We want to add +2 to the red channel, +4 to the green, and +1 to the blue
 - Assume it's stored in RAM as r,g,b,a,r,g,b,a,...
 - ► So if we load to ymm, we get r in slot 0, g in slot 1, etc.
- Load up a YMM: ymm[0]=2, ymm[1]=4, ymm[2]=1, ymm[3]=0, ymm[4]=2, ymm[5]=4, etc.
- ▶ Do the add. OK!

Example

- But what if we want to do something like:

 - ▶ $\frac{1}{4} \cdot r \rightarrow$ Shift red right 2 ▶ $\frac{11}{16} \cdot g \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}g + \frac{1}{8}g + \frac{1}{16}g \rightarrow$ Shift green right by 1, shift green right by 3, shift green right by 4, and add these
 - ▶ $\frac{1}{16} \cdot b \rightarrow \text{Shift blue right 4}$
- Hmm. We can't do this
 - AVX/SSE can shift by different amounts...
 - ▶ ...But only for 32 bit int's

Storage

- We've been using "Array of Structures" scheme
- ► Ex: We have an array of vec3's and we want to operate on them
 - vec3 vectors[N];
- This is storage form you're most familiar with:
- But it's not the only one we can use

Storage

- "Structure of Arrays" is another way to store data
- We'd store array like so: float vectorX[N]; float vectorY[N]; float vectorZ[N];

Example

- Suppose we have a bunch of vectors in SoA format and we need to compute their lengths
- We'll use SSE here; AVX uses same ideas

```
alignas(16) float vx[N]; //x coordinates
alignas(16) float vy[N]; //y coordinates
alignas(16) float vz[N]; //z coordinates
alignas(16) float lengths[N]; //output: lengths
```

• Recall: Length of vector = $\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$

Length

- ► To compute lengths:
- Load multiple elements simultaneously

```
//x holds x coordinates for vectors 0,1,2,3
__m128 x = _mm_load_ps(&vx[0]);
__m128 y = _mm_load_ps(&vy[0]);
__m128 z = _mm_load_ps(&vz[0]);
```

Length

Compute squared values

```
x = _mm_mul_ps(x,x);
y = _mm_mul_ps(y,y);
z = _mm_mul_ps(z,z);
```

Length

Compute sum

```
x = _mm_add_ps(x,y);
x = _mm_add_ps(x,z);
```

Store to memory:
 _mm_store_ps(lengths,x);

SoA

- How does this apply to images?
- Suppose our image data was stored as bit planes
 - All the reds, then all the greens, then all the blues
- We could load 32 reds, shift, store
- ► Then load 32 greens, shift, store
- And finally do the blues

Question

- What if our data isn't stored in planes? What if it's in chunky pixel (RGBARGBA...) order?
 - Load 32 pixels' worth of data (8 ymm registers' worth)
 - And then somehow get all the reds in one register, all the greens in another, etc.
- ► How?
 - Glad you asked!

Problem

- Our usual go-to intrinsics don't seem to be much use here
 - ▶ blend can choose between two inputs, but it can't move things around left⇔right
 - ▶ shuffle can move things left ↔ right, but it can only work with one input (and only within one lane)
 - ► The permute family of functions is one of the few that can go cross-lane. But the smallest unit it works with is 32 bit integers
 - We'll only consider:
 - $c = _mm256_permutevar8x32_epi32(a, b)$
 - Gotta love the naming!
 - Treats the 32 byte registers "a," "b," and "c" as sequences of 8 4-byte integers
 - $c[i] \leftarrow a[b[i]]$ for i=0...7

Unpack

- c = _mm256_unpacklo_epi8(a , b)
 - c[0] = a[0], c[1] = b[0], c[2] = a[1], c[3] = b[1], ... c[14] = a[7], c[15] = b[7]
 - c[16] = a[16], c[17] = b[16], c[18] = a[17], c[19] = b[17], ... c[31] = b[23]
- This instruction respects the lane boundaries
- ▶ In other words, consider the two 16-byte halves of a/b/c separately. Call them a_{lo}, b_{lo}, c_{lo} and a_{hi}, b_{hi}, c_{hi}
 - * "Riffle" the low half of a_{lo} (8 bytes) and the low half of b_{lo} (8 bytes) into all of c_{lo} (16 bytes)
 - * "Riffle" the low half of a_{hi} (8 bytes) and the low half of b_{hi} (8 bytes) into all of c_{hi} (16 bytes)

Unpack

- c = _mm256_unpackhi_epi8(a , b)
 - lacktriangle "Riffle" the high half of a_{lo} (8 bytes) and the high half of b_{lo} (8 bytes) into all of c_{lo} (16 bytes)
 - * "Riffle" the high half of a_{hi} (8 bytes) and the high half of b_{hi} (8 bytes) into all of c_{hi} (16 bytes)

Unpack

- ▶ There are unpack's for 8, 16, 32, and 64 bit chunks.
- ▶ We will use a progressively larger pack size here...

▶ Load 128 bytes (16 pixels) of data:

```
a=_mm256_lddqu_si256(p);
b=_mm256_lddqu_si256(p+1);
c=_mm256_lddqu_si256(p+2);
d=_mm256_lddqu_si256(p+3);
```

Result:

```
r7 = _mm256_unpacklo_epi8(c,d)
r8 = _mm256_unpackhi_epi8(c,d)

c= ana bas ana
```

```
r9 = _mm256_unpacklo_epi16(r7,r8)
r10 = _mm256_unpackhi_epi16(r7,r8)
```

R = _mm256_unpacklo_epi64(r5,r11)
G = mm256_unpackhi epi64(r5,r11)

```
B = _mm256\_unpacklo\_epi64(r6,r12)
A = mm256 \text{ unpackhi epi64(r6,r12)}
   r5 = g_{15} \quad g_7 \quad g_{13} \quad g_5 \quad g_{14} \quad g_6 \quad g_{12} \quad g_4 \quad r_{15} \quad r_7 \quad r_{13} \quad r_5 \quad r_{14} \quad r_6
                                                                                                                 r_{12}
                                                                                                                                                                                             r_{11}
  r11 = \ g_{31} \ g_{23} \ g_{29} \ g_{21} \ g_{30} \ g_{22} \ g_{28} \ g_{20}
                                                                     r_{31}
                                                                             r_{23}
                                                                                           r_{21}
                                                                                                          b_{6}^{r_{22}}
                                                                                    r_{29}
                                                                                                  b_{14}^{r_{30}}
                                                                                                                 r_{28}
                                                                                                                        r_{20}
                                                                                                                                   g_{27}
                                                                                                                                          g_{19} g_{25} g_{17} g_{26} g_{18} g_{24} g_{16}
                                                                                                                                                                                             r_{27}
                                                                             b_7 b_{13} b_5
   r6 = a_{15} \quad a_7 \quad a_{13} \quad a_5 \quad a_{14} \quad a_6 \quad a_{12}
                                                              a_{\scriptscriptstyle A}
                                                                      b_{15}
                                                                                                                 b_{12}
                                                                                                                                                                                      a_0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   b_1
                                                                                                                        b_{\scriptscriptstyle A}
                                                                                                                                  a_{11}
                                                                                                                                                                                             b_{11}
                                                                                                                                                                                                     b_3
  r12 = a_{31} \ a_{23} \ a_{29} \ a_{21} \ a_{30} \ a_{22} \ a_{28} \ a_{20}
                                                                      b_{31} b_{23} b_{29}
                                                                                                                                 a_{27} a_{19} a_{25} a_{17} a_{26} a_{18} a_{24} a_{16}
                                                                                                                                                                                             b_{27}
                                                                                                                                                                                                     b_{19}
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  b_{17}
                                                                                                  b_{30}
                                                                                                                 b_{28}
                                                                                                                        b_{20}
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         b_{26} b_{18}
          r_{31} r_{23} r_{29} r_{21} r_{30} r_{22} r_{28} r_{20} r_{15}
                                                                             r_7
                                                                                   r_{13}
                                                                                            r_5
                                                                                                  r_{14}
                                                                                                                 r_{12}
                                                                                                                        r_{\scriptscriptstyle A}
                                                                                                                                | r<sub>27</sub>
                                                                                                                                                                               r_{24}
                                                                                                                                                                                                            r_{0}
```

Note

- ▶ If we need to put the data in order, we can do so with a shuffle (to get 32 bit chunks adjacent) + permute (to put each chunk in the correct spot)
- Do same thing for G, B, A

Result

- For our work here, we don't care if RGBA are in order or out of order
- We need to do these:
 - Approximate red as (red >> 2)
 - Approximate green as (green >> 1) + (green >> 3) + (green >> 4)
 - ► Approximate blue as (blue >> 4)

Compute

- This is pretty straightforward
 - We saw a right-shift routine last time

 - Red & blue are just a shiftGreen involves doing shifts and adds
 - AVX has _mm256 add_epi8

Final Operation

- Now we need to reverse the unpacking
- Unfortunately, AVX (and SSE) do not have a pack() intrinsic
- But we can still accomplish what we need to do with a bit of ingenuity

Input

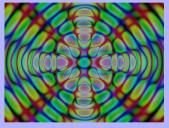
Our input:

```
x7 = _mm256_unpackhi_epi8(R,G);
x8 = _mm256_unpackhi_epi8(B,A);
R= r<sub>31</sub> r<sub>23</sub> r<sub>29</sub> r<sub>21</sub> r<sub>30</sub> r<sub>22</sub> r<sub>28</sub> r<sub>20</sub> r<sub>15</sub> r<sub>7</sub> r<sub>13</sub> r<sub>5</sub> r<sub>14</sub> r<sub>6</sub> r<sub>12</sub> r<sub>4</sub> | r<sub>27</sub> r<sub>19</sub> r<sub>25</sub> r<sub>17</sub> r<sub>26</sub> r<sub>18</sub> r<sub>24</sub> r<sub>16</sub> r<sub>11</sub> r<sub>3</sub> r<sub>9</sub> r<sub>1</sub> r<sub>10</sub> r<sub>2</sub> r<sub>8</sub> r<sub>0</sub>
G= g<sub>31</sub> g<sub>32</sub> g<sub>29</sub> g<sub>21</sub> g<sub>30</sub> g<sub>22</sub> g<sub>28</sub> g<sub>30</sub> g<sub>15</sub> g<sub>7</sub> g<sub>13</sub> g<sub>5</sub> g<sub>14</sub> g<sub>6</sub> g<sub>12</sub> g<sub>4</sub> | g<sub>27</sub> g<sub>19</sub> g<sub>25</sub> g<sub>17</sub> g<sub>36</sub> g<sub>18</sub> g<sub>24</sub> g<sub>16</sub> g<sub>11</sub> g<sub>3</sub> g<sub>9</sub> g<sub>1</sub> g<sub>10</sub> g<sub>9</sub> g<sub>8</sub> g<sub>9</sub>
B= b<sub>31</sub> s<sub>33</sub> b<sub>32</sub> b<sub>29</sub> b<sub>21</sub> b<sub>30</sub> b<sub>22</sub> b<sub>28</sub> b<sub>30</sub> b<sub>15</sub> b<sub>7</sub> b<sub>7</sub> b<sub>13</sub> b<sub>5</sub> b<sub>14</sub> b<sub>6</sub> b<sub>12</sub> b<sub>4</sub> b<sub>2</sub> b<sub>7</sub> b<sub>12</sub> b<sub>4</sub> b<sub>5</sub> b<sub>7</sub> b<sub>13</sub> b<sub>84</sub> b<sub>6</sub> b<sub>17</sub> b<sub>18</sub> b<sub>8</sub> b<sub>9</sub>
A= a<sub>31</sub> a<sub>23</sub> a<sub>29</sub> a<sub>21</sub> a<sub>30</sub> a<sub>22</sub> a<sub>28</sub> a<sub>20</sub> a<sub>15</sub> a<sub>7</sub> a<sub>13</sub> a<sub>5</sub> a<sub>14</sub> a<sub>6</sub> a<sub>12</sub> a<sub>4</sub> a<sub>6</sub> a<sub>12</sub> a<sub>4</sub> a<sub>27</sub> a<sub>19</sub> a<sub>25</sub> a<sub>17</sub> a<sub>26</sub> a<sub>18</sub> a<sub>24</sub> a<sub>16</sub> a<sub>11</sub> a<sub>3</sub> a<sub>9</sub> a<sub>1</sub> a<sub>10</sub> a<sub>2</sub> a<sub>8</sub> a<sub>90</sub>
x<sub>7</sub> = g<sub>31</sub> r<sub>31</sub> g<sub>32</sub> r<sub>32</sub> g<sub>29</sub> r<sub>29</sub> g<sub>21</sub> r<sub>21</sub> g<sub>30</sub> r<sub>30</sub> g<sub>32</sub> r<sub>22</sub> g<sub>22</sub> g<sub>28</sub> r<sub>28</sub> g<sub>20</sub> r<sub>20</sub> a<sub>20</sub> b<sub>31</sub> a<sub>30</sub> b<sub>30</sub> a<sub>30</sub> a
```

- Consider the way special effects are often done
- Blue-screening
- We have two images
 - Live-action, with bluescreen
 - ► CGI

▶ Live image, CGI image, and composite:







► How can we accomplish this?

- Suppose input images hold RGBA values (32 bits)
 - ▶ Too inconvenient to work with 24 bit (RGB) values
- The string functions won't work here
 - ▶ They look at 8 or 16 bit chunks, but we need to look at 24 or 32 bit chunks

- ▶ It's unlikely that a live-action shot will have *exactly* 0,0,255 for the bluescreen areas
- Example: Here, we have a source image with "noise" in the blue areas
- ▶ Notice: The replacement doesn't look so replacey





- ▶ What if we want to match all places where:
 - ▶ Red < 50
 - ▶ Green < 55
 - ▶ Blue > 200
- How to do this?
 - Discuss in class!

Assignment

- ▶ Write a program which takes two command line arguments: The name of a live-action PNG file and the name of a CGI file. Do bluescreen replacement (r<50, g<55, b>200) using either SSE or AVX. Write the output to "out.png"
- Example image files are on the class webpage; a non-SIMD example program is here and the Python testbench I used for developing routines is here
- lacktriangle You can assume all the inputs' lpha values are 255
- \blacktriangleright Benchmark: AVX=1064 μ s, SSE=1168 μ s, non-SIMD=1586 μ s
 - \blacktriangleright For reference, memory access time and loop overhead accounted for 840 $\mu \mathrm{s}$

Sources

- https://stackoverflow.com/questions/6996764/fastest-way-to-do-horizontal-float-vector-sum-on-x86
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