

Slides for U of A Q&A

Brad Chamberlain April 24, 2025

A Bit About Me

2001: Completed PhD at UW CSE focusing on ZPL

- Chapel's arrays and domains are heavily influenced by ZPL
- Chapel is generally far more powerful and general than ZPL



2001: Worked at a start-up designing a parallel language for reconfigurable embedded hardware

2002: Joined Cray Inc.

2003: Co-launched the Chapel project, creating initial drafts of the language and implementation

2006: Became the technical lead of the Chapel project

2020: Cray Inc. was acquired by HPE



Chapel's Motivation: Improve the State-of-the-Art for HPC Programming

STREAM TRIAD: IN MPI+OPENMP

```
MPI + OpenMP
#include <hpcc.h>
                                                       if (!a || !b || !c) {
                                                                                         #define N 2000000
                                                                                                               CUDA
#ifdef OPENMP
                                                         if (c) HPCC free(c);
#include <omp.h>
                                                         if (b) HPCC free(b);
                                                                                         int main() {
                                                                                          float *d a, *d b, *d c;
                                                         if (a) HPCC free(a);
#endif
                                                                                           float scalar;
                                                         if (doIO) {
static int VectorSize;
                                                           fprintf( outFile, "Failed to
                                                                                           cudaMalloc((void**)&d a, sizeof(float)*N);
static double *a, *b, *c;
                                                             allocate memory (%d).\n",
                                                                                           cudaMalloc((void**)&d b, sizeof(float)*N);
                                                             VectorSize );
                                                                                           cudaMalloc((void**)&d c, sizeof(float)*N);
int HPCC StarStream(HPCC Params *params) {
                                                           fclose( outFile );
 int myRank, commSize;
                                                                                           dim3 dimBlock (128);
```

HPC suffers from too many distinct notations for expressing parallelism and locality. This tends to be a result of bottom-up language design.

```
for (j=0; j<VectorSize; j++) {
    b[j] = 2.0;
    c[j] = 1.0;
}
scalar = 3.0;

#ifdef _OPENMP
#pragma omp parallel for
#endif
for (j=0; j<VectorSize; j++)
    a[j] = b[j]+scalar*c[j];

HPCC_free(c);
HPCC_free(b);
HPCC_free(a);
return 0; }</pre>
```

HPC Benchmarks Using Conventional Programming Approaches

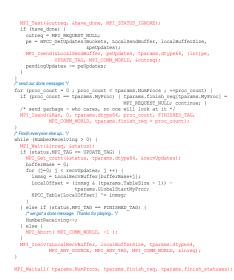
STREAM TRIAD: C + MPI + OPENMP

```
#include <hpcc.h>
                                                                          if (!a || !b || !c) {
#ifdef OPENMP
                                                                            if (c) HPCC free(c);
#include <omp.h>
                                                                            if (b) HPCC free(b);
#endif
                                                                            if (a) HPCC free(a);
                                                                            if (doIO) {
static int VectorSize;
                                                                              fprintf( outFile, "Failed to allocate memory (%d).\n", VectorSize );
static double *a, *b, *c;
                                                                              fclose ( outFile );
int HPCC StarStream(HPCC Params *params) {
                                                                            return 1;
 int myRank, commSize;
 int rv, errCount;
 MPI Comm comm = MPI COMM WORLD;
                                                                        #ifdef OPENMP
                                                                         #pragma omp parallel for
  MPI Comm size ( comm, &commSize );
                                                                        #endif
 MPI Comm rank ( comm, &myRank );
                                                                          for (j=0; j<VectorSize; j++) {</pre>
                                                                           b[j] = 2.0;
 rv = HPCC Stream( params, 0 == myRank);
                                                                            c[j] = 1.0;
 MPI Reduce ( &rv, &errCount, 1, MPI INT, MPI SUM, 0, comm );
                                                                          scalar = 3.0;
  return errCount;
                                                                        #ifdef OPENMP
                                                                        #pragma omp parallel for
int HPCC Stream(HPCC Params *params, int doIO) {
                                                                        #endif
 register int j;
                                                                          for (j=0; j<VectorSize; j++)</pre>
  double scalar;
                                                                           a[j] = b[j] + scalar*c[j];
  VectorSize = HPCC LocalVectorSize( params, 3, sizeof(double), 0 );
                                                                          HPCC free(c);
                                                                          HPCC free (b);
 a = HPCC XMALLOC( double, VectorSize );
                                                                          HPCC free (a);
 b = HPCC XMALLOC( double, VectorSize );
 c = HPCC XMALLOC( double, VectorSize );
                                                                          return 0;
```

HPCC RA: MPI KERNEL

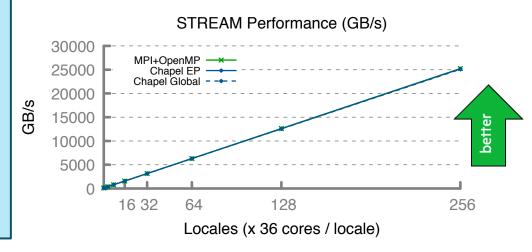
```
/* Perform undates to main table. The scalar equivalent is:
 for (i=0: i<NLIPDATE: i++) (
    Ran = (Ran << 1) ^(((s64Int) Ran < 0) ? POLY: 0);
   Table[Ran & (TABSIZE-1)] *= Ran:
MPT Trecy/AlocalRecyBuffer, localBufferSize, tharams_dtyne64.
            MPI_ANY_SOURCE, MPI_ANY_TAG, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &inreq);
 while (i < SendCnt) {
     MPI Test (&inreq, &have done, &status);
     if (have done) (
       if (status.MPI TAG == UPDATE TAG) {
         MFI Get count(&status, tparams.dtype64, &recvUpdates);
bufferBase = 0;
          for (j=0; j < recvUpdates; j ++) {
            inmsg = LocalRecvBuffer[bufferBase+i];
            LocalOffset = (inmsg & (tparams.TableSize - 1)) -
                          tparams.GlobalStartMvProc;
            HPCC_Table[LocalOffset] ^= inmsg;
       else if (status.MPI_TAG == FINISHED_TAG) {
           MPI Abort ( MPI COMM WORLD, -1 );
       MPI_Irecv(&LocalRecvBuffer, localBufferSize, tparams.dtype64,
MPI_ANY_SOURCE, MPI_ANY_TAG, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &inreq);
    while (have done && NumberReceiving > 0);
     If (pendingUpdates < maxPendingUpdates) {
Ran = (Ran << 1) ^ ((s64Int) Ran < ZERO64B ? POLY : ZERO64B);
     GlobalOffset = Ran & (tparams.TableSize-1);
     if (GlobalOffset < tparams.Top)
        WhichPe = ( GlobalOffset / (tparams.MinLocalTableSize + 1) );
       WhichPe = ( (GlobalOffset - tparams.Remainder) /
     tparams.MinLocalTableSize);
if (WhichPe == tparams.MyProc) {
        LocalOffset = (Ran & (tparams.TableSize - 1)) -
                       tparams.GlobalStartMyProc;
       HPCC_Table[LocalOffset] ^= Ran;
```

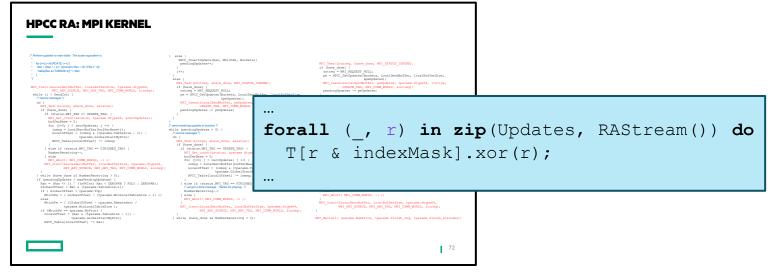
```
HPCC InsertUndate (Ran. WhichPe. Buckets):
     pendingUpdates++;
   MPI Test (&outreq, &have done, MPI STATUS IGNORE);
   if (have done) {
     outreq = MPI_REQUEST_NULL;
     pe = HPCC_GetUpdates(Buckets, LocalSendBuffer, localBufferSize,
                        &peUpdates);
    pendingUpdates -= peUpdates;
while (pendingUpdates > 0) {
   MPI_Test(&inreq, &have_done, &status);
   if (have_done) {
  if (status.MPI_TAG == UPDATE_TAG) {
        MPI_Get_count(&status, tparams.dtype64, &recvUpdates);
      bufferBase = 0;
       for (j=0; j < recvUpdates; j ++) {
         inmsg = LocalRecvBuffer[bufferBase+j];
        LocalOffset = (inmsg & (tparams.TableSize - 1)) -
                     tparams.GlobalStartMyProc;
         HPCC Table[LocalOffset] ^= inmsg;
    } else if (status.MPI TAG == FINISHED TAG) {
       /* we got a done message. Thanks for playing... */
       NumberReceiving -- ;
       MPI_Abort( MPI_COMM_WORLD, -1 );
     MPI_Irecv(&LocalRecvBuffer, localBufferSize, tparams.dtype64,
             MPI ANY SOURCE, MPI ANY TAG, MPI COMM WORLD, &inreq);
} while (have done && NumberReceiving > 0);
```

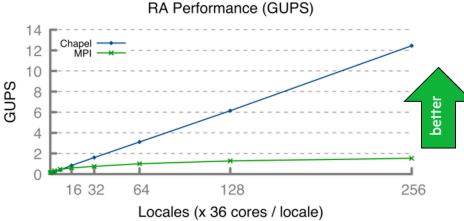


HPCC Stream Triad and RA in C + MPI + OpenMP vs. Chapel

```
STREAM TRIAD: C + MPI + OPENMP
#include <hpcc.h>
#ifdef OPENMP
static double *a, *b, *c;
int HPCC_StarStream(HPCC_Params *params) {
 int rv, errCount;
 MPI_Comm_size( comm, &commSize );
MPI_Comm_rank( comm, &myRank );
 rv = HPCC Stream( params, 0 == myRank);
 MPI Reduce ( &rv. &errCount, 1, MPI INT, MPI SUM, 0, comm );
 return errCount;
                                                                    B = 2.0;
int HPCC Stream(HPCC Params *params, int doIO) {
 register int j;
 double scalar;
                                                                     C = 1.0;
 VectorSize = HPCC_LocalVectorSize( params, 3, sizeof(double), 0 );
 a = HPCC_XMALLOC( double, VectorSize );
 b = HPCC XMALLOC( double, VectorSize );
 c = HPCC_XMALLOC( double, VectorSize );
```







Bale IG in Chapel vs. SHMEM on HPE Cray EX (Slingshot-11)

Chapel (Simple / Auto-Aggregated version)

```
forall (d, i) in zip(Dst, Inds) do
d = Src[i];
```

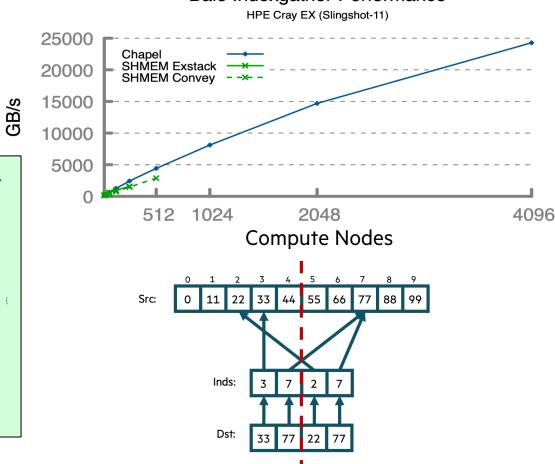
SHMEM (Exstack version)

```
while( exstack proceed(ex, (i==1 num req)) ) {
 i0 = i;
  while(i < 1 num req) {</pre>
   l indx = pckindx[i] >> 16;
   pe = pckindx[i] & 0xffff;
    if(!exstack push(ex, &l indx, pe))
     break;
  exstack exchange (ex);
  while(exstack pop(ex, &idx , &fromth)) {
   idx = ltable[idx];
   exstack push(ex, &idx, fromth);
  lgp barrier();
  exstack exchange (ex);
  for(j=i0; j<i; j++) {</pre>
    fromth = pckindx[j] & 0xffff;
    exstack pop thread(ex, &idx, (uint64 t) fromth);
    tqt[j] = idx;
  lgp barrier();
```

SHMEM (Conveyors version)

```
i = 0;
while (more = convey advance(requests, (i == 1 num req)),
      more | convey advance(replies, !more)) {
 for (; i < l num req; i++) {
   pkg.idx = i;
   pkg.val = pckindx[i] >> 16;
   pe = pckindx[i] & 0xffff;
   if (! convey push(requests, &pkq, pe))
 while (convey pull(requests, ptr, &from) == convey OK) {
   pkg.idx = ptr->idx;
   pkg.val = ltable[ptr->val];
    if (! convey push(replies, &pkg, from)) {
     convey unpull(requests);
     break:
 while (convey pull(replies, ptr, NULL) == convey OK)
    tgt[ptr->idx] = ptr->val;
```

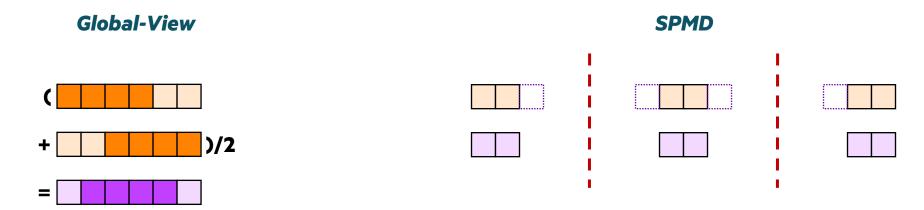
Bale Indexgather Performance



Q: What accounts for the code size disparities between Chapel and SHMEM / MPI?

A: Chapel Supports Global-view Programming

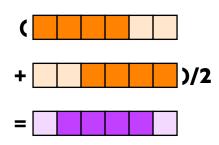
Example: "Apply a 3-point stencil to a vector"

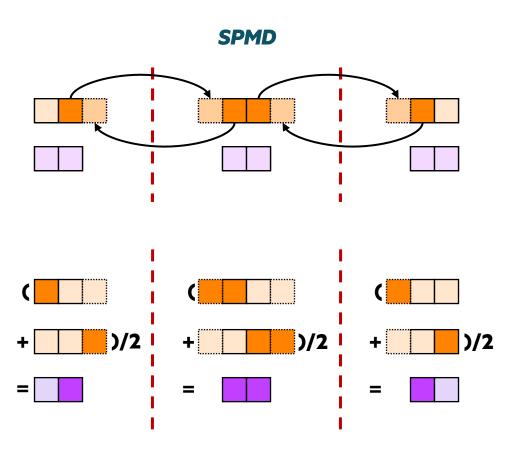


A: Chapel Supports Global-view Programming

Example: "Apply a 3-point stencil to a vector"

Global-View







A: Chapel Supports Global-view Programming

Example: "Apply a 3-point stencil to a vector"

Global-View Chapel code

```
use BlockDist;

proc main() {
    const n = 1000,
        D = blockDist.createDomain(1..n);

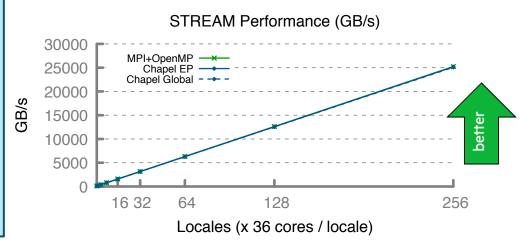
    forall i in D[2..n-1] do
        B[i] = (A[i-1] + A[i+1])/2;
}
```

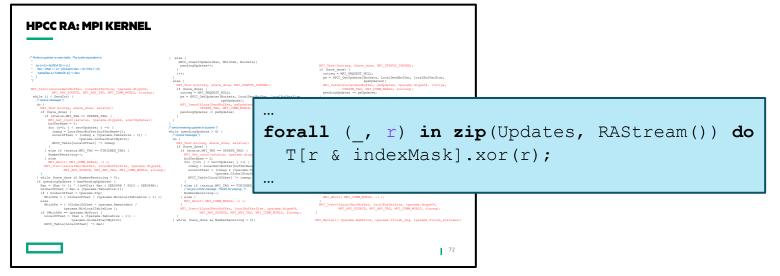
SPMD pseudocode (MPI-esque)

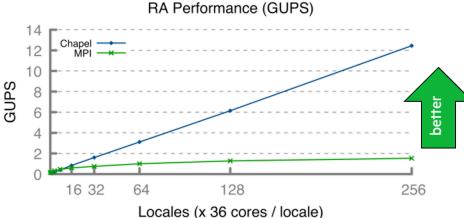
```
proc main() {
  var n = 1000;
  var p = numProcs(),
     me = myProc(),
     myN = n/p,
     myLo = 1,
     myHi = myN;
  var A, B: [0..myN+1] real;
  if (me < p-1) {
    send (me+1, A[myN]);
    recv (me+1, A[myN+1]);
   else
    myHi = myN-1;
  if (me > 0) {
    send (me-1, A[1]);
    recv (me-1, A[0]);
   else
    myLo = 2;
  forall i in myLo..myHi do
    B[i] = (A[i-1] + A[i+1])/2;
```

SPMD is the major part of why these reference versions are so large (C is another element)

```
STREAM TRIAD: C + MPI + OPENMP
                                               use BlockDist:
#include <hpcc.h>
#ifdef OPENMP
                                               config const n = 1 000 000,
static double *a, *b, *c;
                                                                              alpha = 0.01;
int HPCC_StarStream(HPCC_Params *params) {
 int rv, errCount;
                                               const Dom = blockDist.createDomain({1..n});
MPI_Comm_size( comm, &commSize );
MPI_Comm_rank( comm, &myRank );
                                               var A, B, C: [Dom] real;
 rv = HPCC Stream( params, 0 == myRank);
 MPI Reduce ( &rv. &errCount, 1, MPI INT, MPI SUM, 0, comm );
 return errCount;
                                               B = 2.0;
int HPCC Stream(HPCC Params *params, int doIO) {
 register int j;
 double scalar;
                                               C = 1.0;
 VectorSize = HPCC_LocalVectorSize( params, 3, sizeof(double), 0 );
 a = HPCC_XMALLOC( double, VectorSize );
 b = HPCC XMALLOC( double, VectorSize );
 c = HPCC_XMALLOC( double, VectorSize );
                                               A = B + alpha * C;
```







SPMD Programming in Chapel

That said, as a general-purpose language, Chapel supports writing SPMD patterns as well:

```
coforall loc in Locales do
  on loc do
    myMain();

proc myMain() {
    //... write your SPMD computation here...
}
```

Q&A Time

I'm happy to take questions about...

- ...Chapel's design
- ...Chapel's implementation
- ...Chapel history or culture
- ...anything else Chapel-related
- ...PL topics other than Chapel
- ...whatever else is on your mind

(subject to Prof. Strout's approval, of course)