Power/Performance Analysis and Optimization for Deep Learning on CPU-GPU Platforms

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Abstract

Due to the intrinsic data parallelism characteristic of deep learning, GPU is much a better platform for deep learning applications compared to CPU. This works aim at understanding what is left to be done for CPU given that GPU has to run deep learning applications on embedded platform. In modern mobile SoC, e.g. Nvidia Tegra X1, GPU and CPU shares same power budget and memory budget, and hence affects each other cohesively. By characterizing different deep learning workloads and CPU workloads under different kind of CPU-GPU frequencies, we wish to understand what is left to be done for CPU and how those workloads affect the tasks on GPU.

1. Introduction

With the recent success of machine learning workloads, there are growing interests in understanding the speed/power consumption trade-offs of CPU, GPU, FPGA, and ASIC while running those intelligent workloads[2, 3]. However, there is no prior arts that analyze the workloads for CPU given that GPU is running a deep learning workload in the meantime. We find this question interesting and easily neglected since people focus on deep learning on GPU. Our argument is that even though deep learning task is considered the top priority task in the whole system, there is still a lot of CPU resources to utilize. For example, suppose the mobile device that equips with both CPU and GPU has to run deep learning model in the background all the time to analyze the context of user, we expect users to run applications in the meantime. However, it is not clear, given that both CPU and GPU share the same power and memory budget, what kind of tasks are allowed to utilize the CPU with affecting the performance of the deep learning task.

In this work, we try to understand and analyze what type of tasks, under what kind of frequencies can the CPU run under various GPU constraint. We will consider the deep neural network that run on GPU the top priority task of the overall system. Hence, the performance of it acts as the constraints in our analysis. We specifically focus on the embedded platform and we use Nvidia's Tegra X1 thourghout our study. In embedded MPSoC where CPU-GPU are integrated on the same chip, it is shown that global power management that controls the frequency of both CPU and GPU is essential due to shared power budget [4] or even shares the same main memory. Hence, if want neither under-utilize the quad-core CPU nor performance degradation for the deep neural network, analysis is required to undestand the sweet spot.

We study the 3 types of CPU benchmarks, 3 types of deep neural network, and different CPU-GPU frequency. For CPU, we mainly investigate the workloads in SPLASH benchmark and try to come up with memory intensive, compute intensive, and mid-level workload in both compute and memory. For GPU, we target specifically on image classification task and includes three types of deep neural network from small to large. We also consider 3 different frequencies for CPU and 3 different frequencies for GPU.

2. Related Work

In terms of performance and power analysis for deep learning, prior arts focus on characterizing the different of different platform running deep learning workloads in terms of power/performance characteristics. Nurvitadhi et al [3] compares the power/performance characteristics of binarized neural network on CPU, GPU, FPGA, and ASIC, which shows FPGA implementation have much better performance per watts compared to both CPU and GPU. Malik et al [2] shows that GPU and FPGA can compete in energy delay product and depends on the input size, or the level of data parallelism.

This work obviously diverges from their prior works since we focus on what are the tasks can be done on CPU while GPU is running deep learning workloads. In other words, since it is shown that GPU is almost always better than CPU in deep learning workloads, we want to understand the role for CPU in the big deep learning era.

3. Methodology

In this project, Nvidia Jetson TX1 embedded platform will be used for power and performance analysis. We will run various deep neural network architectures for image classification task on GPU. We will use small, medium, and large deep neural networks to make a thorough power and performance analysis with different network characteristics. Caffe framework [1] will be used to implement deep neural networks on GPU. Similarly, we will use SPLASH2 benchmark suite [5] for CPU. Various SPLASH2 benchmarks will be used to cover different workload characteristics such as memory-intensive and compute-intensive workloads. Furthermore, we will run these CPU-GPU benchmarks with using three different frequency values for both CPU and GPU. First, we will run them individually to obtain power, performance, and temperature results for the baseline. Secondly, we will run them jointly to do analysis and optimization for deep learning on embedded CPU-GPU platforms.

Power values will be calculated by using current sensors in Nvidia Jetson TX1 platform. Temperature results also will be collected by using thermal sensors in TX1. We may also take off the heat sink to simulate embedded platforms which do not have heat sink. It will significantly increase temperature values. However, CPU and GPU will throttle themselves to not exceed thermal design power (TDP) constraint. Performance results for CPU will be calculated by using performance counters as an instruction per cycle (IPC) metric. Moreover, we will obtain CPU utilization results using system calls. Execution time of deep neural network will be calculated using Caffe framework as a performance metric.

4. Objectives and Deliverables

In this project, we try to understand how various CPU workloads and frequency affect GPU performance and system power under thermal design power (TDP) constraint. We fix GPU to do inference for a image classification task. Meanwhile, we try to run meaningful tasks on CPU to use remaining resources of the embedded platform. We try to better understand what we can run on CPU Moreover, we try to analyze how CPU-GPU workloads affect temperature values where CPU and GPU share the same power budget. Furthermore, we try to better understand what type of CPU workloads has more instruction per cycle (IPC).

5. Timeline

Timeline of the project tasks are listed below. Group members will work closely on each task to come up with a thorough analysis of power and performance results for deep learning on a CPU-GPU platform.

M1 - Choosing three SPLASH benchmarks (memory-intensive, compute-intensive) for CPU

- Choosing three image classification deep neural networks with different scales for GPU

- Running CPU-GPU benchmarks individually to obtain the baseline for comparison purposes

M2 - Running CPU-GPU benchmarks jointly by changing frequency values for both CPU and GPU

- Analyzing power, performance, and temperature results

6. Conclusion

The authors will analyze power and performance results of a deep learning application on a CPU-GPU platform which is Nvidia Jetson TX1 SoC in this case. Power and performance analysis will identify what is left to be done on CPU while GPU is running an inference task.

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