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OpenACC assignment Optimization of loops2.c for execution in the aomaster node

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Remark: the results in this paper are obtained running remotely on the **aomaster** node of the lab. In all the improvements of the code that we made the final value of checkSum is always -1820001304576.0000000.

1 Baseline

These are the execution results of the loops2.c, already with the restrict options and the data copy avoided. We see a total execution time of around 400 milliseconds, and that the most of the time is spent in the serial execution of loops 4 and 5.

| Type | Time(%) | Time | Calls | Avg | Min | Max | Name |
|-----------------|---------|----------|-------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------|
| GPU activities: | 51.49% | 201.10ms | 1 | 201.10ms | 201.10ms | 201.10ms | loop_4_41_gpu |
| | 47.89% | 187.04ms | 1 | 187.04ms | 187.04ms | 187.04ms | loop_5_48_gpu |
| | 0.33% | 1.2972ms | 4 | 324.29us | 1.4400us | 647.06us | [CUDA memcpy HtoD] |
| | 0.07% | 289.58us | 2 | 144.79us | 144.23us | 145.35us | loop_7_64_gpu |
| | 0.06% | 219.46us | 1 | 219.46us | 219.46us | 219.46us | loop_0_6_gpu |
| | 0.04% | 157.25us | 1 | 157.25us | 157.25us | 157.25us | loop_2_27_gpu |
| | 0.03% | 114.66us | 1 | 114.66us | 114.66us | 114.66us | 1oop_6_55_gpu |
| | 0.03% | 113.54us | 1 | 113.54us | 113.54us | 113.54us | loop_3_34_gpu |
| | 0.03% | 113.44us | 1 | 113.44us | 113.44us | 113.44us | loop_1_20_gpu |
| | 0.03% | 113.35us | 1 | 113.35us | 113.35us | 113.35us | loop_1_16_gpu |
| | 0.01% | 19.969us | 2 | 9.9840us | 9.6330us | 10.336us | loop_7_65_gpured |
| | 0.00% | 5.6960us | 2 | 2.8480us | 2.8160us | 2.8800us | [CUDA memcpy DtoH] |

2 Parallelization of loop 4

To obtain the parallelization of loop 4 we created an auxiliary vector to store the initial values, so that the GPU threads can access it separately and in parallel.

We see that the total execution time is around 200 milliseconds, the half as before, and that the performance bottleneck of the program remains now loop 5. Indeed the execution of loop 4 takes now 0,115 milliseconds, 1700 times less than before.

```
Type
                Time(%)
                              Time
                                       Calls
                                                    Avg
                                                              Min
                                                                        Max
                                                                             Name
GPU activities:
                                                         201.08ms
                  98.10%
                          201.08ms
                                              201.08ms
                                                                   201.08ms
                                            1
                                                                             loop_5_51_gpu
                   1.26%
                          2.5845ms
                                              516.90us
                                                         1.7920us
                                                                   860.55us
                                                                              [CUDA memcpy HtoD]
                                            5
                   0.16%
                          325.68us
                                            2
                                              162.84us
                                                         160.58us
                                                                   165.09us
                                                                              loop 7 67 gpu
                   0.11%
                          218.25us
                                               218.25us
                                                         218.25us
                                                                   218.25us
                                                                              loop 0 6 gpu
                   0.08%
                          157.99us
                                            1
                                              157.99us
                                                         157.99us
                                                                   157.99us
                                                                              100p 2 27 gpu
                   0.06%
                          122.34us
                                              122.34us
                                                         122.34us
                                                                   122.34us
                                                                              loop_6_58_gpu
                                            1
                                                         115.30us
                                                                             loop_4_42_gpu
                          115.30us
                                                                   115.30us
                   0.06%
                                              115.30us
                                            1
                   0.06%
                          113.83us
                                              113.83us
                                                         113.83us
                                                                   113.83us
                                                                              loop_1_20_gpu
                                            1
                          113.70us
                                              113.70us
                                                         113.70us
                                                                   113.70us
                                                                              loop 3 34 gpu
                   0.06%
                   0.06%
                          113.70us
                                            1
                                              113.70us
                                                         113.70us
                                                                   113.70us
                                                                              loop_1_16_gpu
                   0.01%
                          21.185us
                                            2 10.592us
                                                         10.144us
                                                                   11.041us
                                                                              loop_7_68_gpu__red
                   0.00%
                          6.3680us
                                            2 3.1840us
                                                         3.1680us
                                                                   3.2000us
                                                                              [CUDA memcpy DtoH]
```

3 Parallelization of loop 5

To parallelize the execution of loop 5 we can observe that, given the input vector $[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]$, the result is the output vector $[x_0, x_0 \cdot a, x_0 \cdot a^2, \dots, x_0 \cdot a^n] = x_0 \cdot [a^0, a^1, a^2, \dots, a^n]$. In particular we need a way to calculate the powers of a in a parallel way.

To do this we first taught to divide the vector in 3 parts of equal length (the last one can differ from the previouses in length, depending on the size of the vector) and to calculate the powers of a of the first part of the vector assigning to each thread in the GPU a position in the vector. After this we can assume that we have

calculated the values $a, a^2, a^3, \dots a^{n_1}$.

Then we can store these values and use them to calculate the second part of the vector in a parallelized way: indeed the following third of the vector can be taught as $a^{n_1} \cdot [a, a^2, \dots, a^{n_1}]$, and this can be easily parallelized in the GPU after we have calculated and store the previous part. The result of the calculation is then stored again, and after that we can think we have calculated the values $a, a^2, a^3, \dots a^{n_2}$.

Finally, to calculate the last part of the vector, we can think it as $a^{n_2} \cdot [a, a^2, \dots, a^{n_1}]$ (for simplicity of the explanation we assume that N is multiple of 3), and this is easy to parallelize in the GPU.

In this idea the calculations of the second and third parts of the vector should be very fast, since each thread in the GPU must execute only one operation, and needs only two data values in input. But to calculate the first part this is not a good strategy, since the threads which calculate the high powers of a need a lot more time than the threads that calculate the small powers of a.

To improve this idea we taught that we could make each thread in the GPU to execute only one operation each time is used in the following way: first we calculate and store $[a,a^2]$. Then we calculate $[a^3,a^4]$ as $a^2 \cdot [a,a^2]$ and store it. Now in the memory we have $[a,a^2,a^3,a^4]$, and hence we can calculate $[a^5,a^6,a^7,a^8]$ as $a^4 \cdot [a,a^2,a^3,a^4]$ and store it. And we can proceed in this way until all the powers of a we need are calculated. In this way the GPU is called k times, where $2^k \le n < 2^{k+1}$, and each time it is called the number of used threads increases by a factor 2, and each thread must execute only one operation and receive two data values as an input.

Using this strategy the calculations should be very fast when the number of used threads in the GPU is big, and slow when this number is small: but since the number of threads increase exponentially the disadvantage of the first calculations should be reassorbed in the last ones.

| Type | Time(%) | Time | Calls | Avg | Min | Max | Name |
|-----------------|---------|----------|-------|----------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| GPU activities: | 98.51% | 200.36ms | 1 | 200.36ms | 200.36ms | 200.36ms | loop_4_41_gpu |
| | 0.85% | 1.7232ms | 4 | 430.81us | 1.7920us | 859.81us | [CUDA memcpy HtoD] |
| | 0.16% | 320.88us | 2 | 160.44us | 159.69us | 161.19us | loop_7_76_gpu |
| | 0.11% | 218.57us | 1 | 218.57us | 218.57us | 218.57us | loop_0_6_gpu |
| | 0.08% | 158.41us | 1 | 158.41us | 158.41us | 158.41us | 1oop_2_27_gpu |
| | 0.06% | 119.33us | 1 | 119.33us | 119.33us | 119.33us | loop_6_67_gpu |
| | 0.06% | 117.96us | 19 | 6.2080us | 1.0240us 50 | 50.658us | 1oop_5_57_gpu |
| | 0.06% | 113.96us | 1 | 113.96us | 113.96us | us 113.96us | loop_1_20_gpu |
| | 0.06% | 113.57us | 1 | 113.57us | 113.57us | 113.57us | loop_1_16_gpu |
| | 0.06% | 113.41us | 1 | 113.41us | 113.41us | 113.41us | loop_3_34_gpu |
| | 0.01% | 21.025us | 2 | 10.512us | 10.496us | 10.529us | loop_7_77_gpured |
| | 0.00% | 6.3360us | 2 | 3.1680us | 3.1680us | 3.1680us | [CUDA memcpy DtoH] |

We can see that the total execution time for the loop 5 is now 0.117 milliseconds, instead of the 187 milliseconds of the baseline version, 1600 times better.

It is interesting to see that the kernel $loop_5_57_$ gpu is called 19 times, with a maximum time of 50 microseconds and a minimum time of 1 microsecond. Accordingly to our hyphotesis the slow calls should correspond to the ones needed to calculate the small powers of a while the fast ones should calculate the high powers. The mean value of 6.2 microseconds confirm the reassorbement hyphotesis.

4 Loop fusion

We fuse together some loops, the ones from 0 to 3 and then the sixth and the seventh. The execution results are the following:

```
Time(%)
                               Time
                                        Calls
                                                    Avg
                                                               Min
                                                                         Max
                                                                              Name
GPU activities:
                  51.28%
                                                                              loop_4_16_gpu
                          201.08ms
                                               201.08ms
                                                         201.08ms
                                                                    201.08ms
                                            1
                  48.17%
                          188.86ms
                                               188.86ms
                                                         188.86ms
                                                                    188.86ms
                                                                              loop_5_23_gpu
                   0.44%
                                                                    860.58us
                           1.7221ms
                                               574.03us
                                                         2.0160us
                                                                              [CUDA memcpy HtoD]
                   0.06%
                          218.79us
                                               218.79us
                                                         218.79us
                                                                    218.79us
                                                                              loop_fusion_6_gpu
                                                                    208.52us
                                                                              fuse_loop_67_31_gpu
                   0.05%
                          208.52us
                                            1
                                               208.52us
                                                         208.52us
                                               11.072us
                                                         11.072us
                                                                              fuse_loop_67_35_gpu__red
                   0.00%
                          11.072us
                                            1
                                                                    11.072us
                   0.00% 3.1360us
                                            1
                                               3.1360us
                                                         3.1360us 3.1360us
                                                                              [CUDA memcpy DtoH]
```

The total execution time does not change significantly, since the loops we fuse together occupied less than 0.5% of the total execution time in the baseline version.

But, if we sum the time spent in computing these loops in the baseline version we obtain around 1.2

milliseconds, while the time used to compute these cycles after the fusion is around 0.44 milliseconds, which is more than two times faster.

5 Loop fusion and parallelization of loops 4 and 5

Here we make the loop fusion and the parallelization of loops 4 and 5 to run together.

| Type | Time(%) | Time | Calls | Avg | Min | Max | Name |
|-----------------|---------|----------|-------|----------|----------|----------|------------------------|
| GPU activities: | 78.85% | 2.5818ms | 4 | 645.45us | 2.0800us | 860.64us | [CUDA memcpy HtoD] |
| | 6.82% | 223.27us | 1 | 223.27us | 223.27us | 223.27us | fuse_loop_67_46_gpu |
| | 6.72% | 220.01us | 1 | 220.01us | 220.01us | 220.01us | loop_fusion_6_gpu |
| | 3.63% | 118.85us | 19 | 6.2550us | 1.0240us | 51.426us | loop_5_35_gpu |
| | 3.51% | 115.05us | 1 | 115.05us | 115.05us | 115.05us | loop_4_17_gpu |
| | | 12.001us | | | | | fuse_loop_67_50_gpured |
| | 0.10% | 3.2000us | 1 | 3.2000us | 3.2000us | 3.2000us | [CUDA memcpy DtoH] |

Their improvements sum up, as we can see by the performance results, so we can conclude that they act independently. Now the bottleneck becomes the copy of the data from the Host to the Device, which occupies now the 79% of the execution time.

The total execution time is now around 3 milliseconds, and is reduced of 133 times from the baseline version.