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NGLYD CALCULATOR – IVS Project Profiling report

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Introduction

This report has been created for second project from IVS course. It contains profiling information for program calculating standard deviation from a set of numbers, specifications of hardware and software used for profiling and summary of what could be improved in the program for faster execution.

1 Specifications

1.1 Machine

OS: Ubuntu 22.04.3 LTS on Windows 10 x86_64 Kernel: 5.15.146.1-microsoft-standard-WSL2

Shell: bash 5.1.16

CPU: 11th Gen Intel i9-11900H (16) @ 2.496GHz
GPU: d0ba:00:00.0 Microsoft Corporation Device 008e

Memory: 7786MiB

1.2 Profiling software

valgrind-3.18.1
callgrind-3.18.1
kcachegrind-21.12.3

2 Program

Program used for calculating the standard deviation is implemented in C++ source file called stddev.cpp. It uses math library which is specified in math_operations.h. Program takes a sequence of numbers from standard input and prints standard deviation to standard output which is calculated with these formulas:

$$s = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} x_i^2 - N\bar{x}^2 \right)}$$
$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} x_i$$

and is executed as so:

./stddev <input.txt

3 Profiling

Profiling uses valgrind, callgrind and for visualisation of the output KCachegrind. Program is profiled with 3 different input files with sizes of 10, 10^3 and 10^6 values. These are in their respective text files (data10.txt, data1000.txt, data1mil.txt).

Execution of profiling is following (shown for only one file):

¹This will produce file callgrind.out.<id>. These files are also included in project for completion.

4 Profiling outputs

Screenshots from KCachegrind program show a table of functions sorted by relative time they take. Other screenshots depict function trees with numbers how much relative time each take and how many times they are executed.

4.1 data10.txt

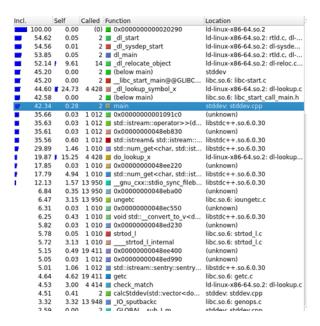


Figure 1: Sorted data for data10.txt

As we can see, with 10 values, our main function of program takes 42.32% of the whole run, which is less than a half. The other half is automatic setup of the environment.

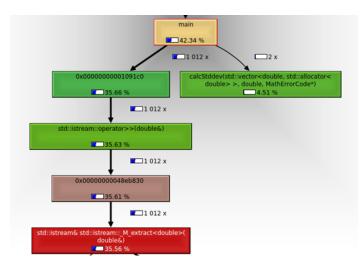


Figure 2: Function tree for main, data10.txt

In this tree it is clearly visible that parsing the data from input into memory for further manipulation (left) takes significantly more time than actual calculation of the standard deviation (right).

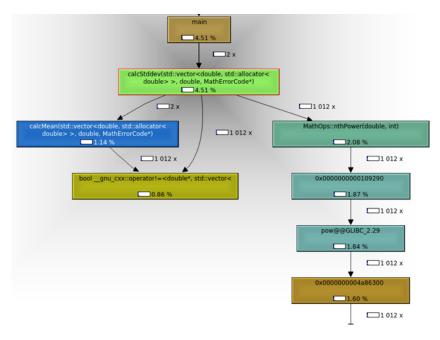


Figure 3: Function tree for calcStddev, data10.txt

Quite surprisingly, calculation of mean of the numbers (left) takes less time than calculating the power (right) of each of the numbers.

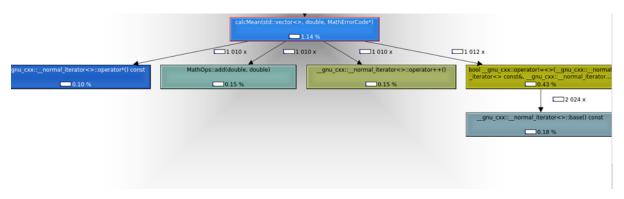


Figure 4: Function tree for calcMean, data10.txt

Fuction add is not as time consuming as function used for iterating through a vector.

In conclusion, with data file data10.txt, the biggest time consumers are functions for manipulating with the numbers and iterating through vectors. The only function from out math library that was slower than expected was nthPower.

4.2 data1000.txt

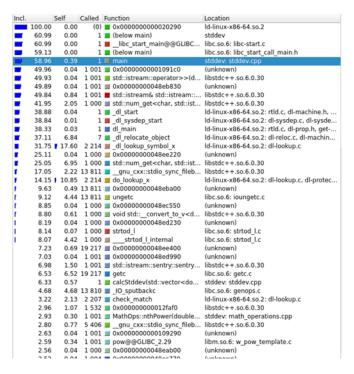


Figure 5: Sorted data for data1000.txt

With bigger amount of numbers the percentage of time needed for main function has increased and now takes more time than setup of environment. However, this change is not as significant as could be expected with dataset larger $10^2 \times$.

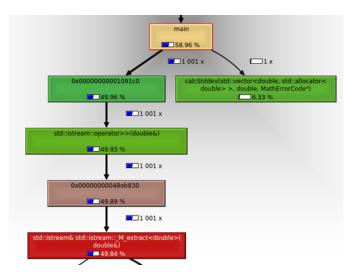


Figure 6: Function tree for main, data1000.txt

The increase in time needed for parsing the input numbers is noteworthy in comparison with time needed for calculating the standard deviation.

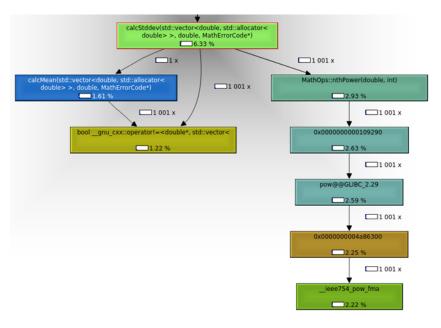


Figure 7: Function tree for calcStddev, data1000.txt

Difference in time for calcMean and nthPower is not much larger than in previous scenario with smaller dataset. In this function, there are no significant changes.

In conclusion, with data file data1000.txt, the main function was slower than the setup of the environment. This was mainly due the need of loading more numbers and storing them in vectors. There were no other surprising changes.

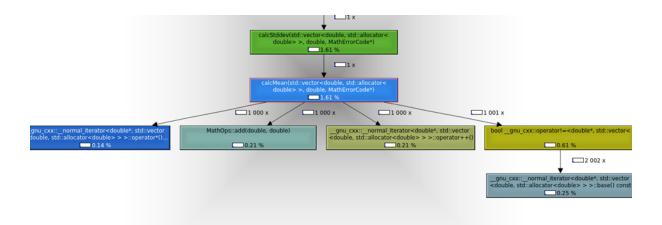


Figure 8: Function tree for calcMean, data1000.txt

4.3 data1mil.txt

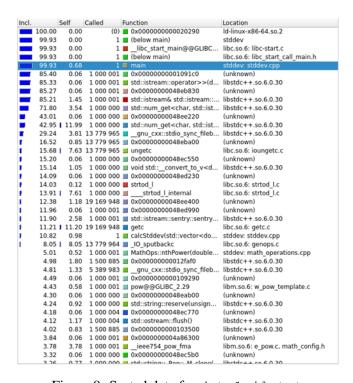


Figure 9: Sorted data for data1mil.txt

Our main function now takes 99.93% of the total time needed for program to run. This is substantial rise from previous scenario, although can be expected, as the dataset is $10^3 \times$ larger.

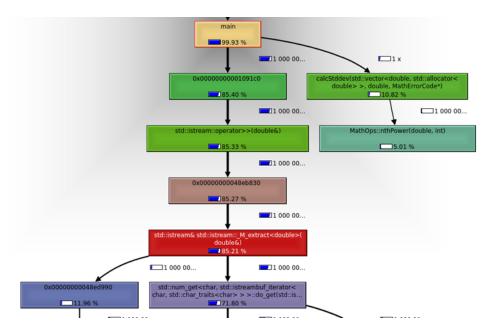


Figure 10: Function tree for main, 1mil.txt

Parsing individual numbers still takes more time than actual calculation of the deviation.

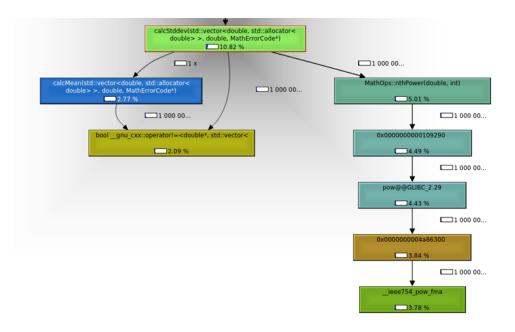


Figure 11: Function tree for calcStddev, data1mil.txt

Function nthPower continues to take more time than meanCalc. No significant changes.

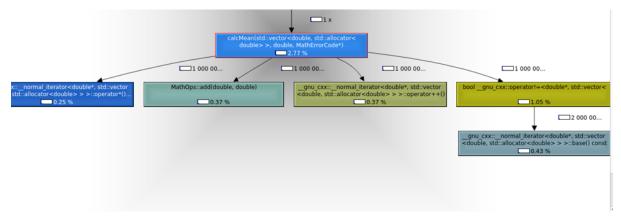


Figure 12: Function tree for calcMean, data1mil.txt

No significant changes.

In conclusion, with data file data1mil.txt, the time for main function had risen because of the increase in input data. Layout of other functions was not effected, time for parsing the numbers still takes the most time.

4.4 data10.txt, data1000.txt, data1mil.txt in comparison

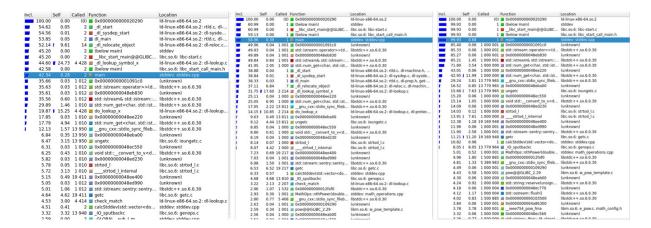


Figure 13: Comparison between all scenarios

Conclusion

To conclude everything that has been stated, it is evident that the most time consuming functions are the ones used for processing inputs. This is why it should be the main focus when the time for optimalisation of stddev.cpp would come. Another function that might be optimalised would be nthPower, although it does not affect the time that much as previously stated functions.