



PyOMP: Parallel Multithreading that is fast AND Pythonic

Tim Mattson, Senior Principal Engineer, Intel Corp.

Multithreaded parallel Python through OpenMP support in Numba, Todd Anderson and Tim Mattson, SciPy'2021 http://conference.scipy.org/proceedings/scipy2021/tim_mattson.html

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Disclaimer

 The views expressed in this talk are those of the speakers and not their employer.

- If we say something "smart" or worthwhile:
 - Credit goes to the many smart people we work with.

- If we say something stupid...
 - It's our own fault

We work in Intel's research labs. We don't build products. Instead, we get to poke into dark corners and think silly thoughts... just to make sure we don't miss any great ideas.

Hence, our views are by design far "off the roadmap".

Acknowledgments

- Michel Pelletier (Graphegon):
 - His GraphBLAS binding to python was the inspiration for the design of PyOMP
- Todd Anderson (Intel):
 - A Numba wizard who did the HARD implementation work that made PyOMP possible
- Giorgis Georgakoudis (LLNL) and Johannes Doerfert(ANL):
 - They are working with us to port PyOMP to an OpenMP enabled open-source version of LLVM

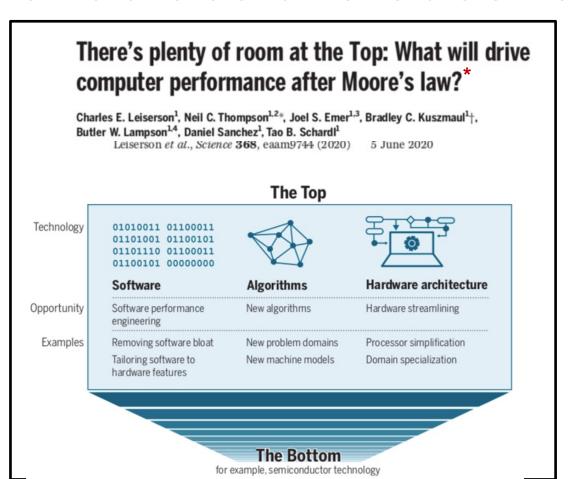
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https://github.com/Python-for-HPC/pyomp



Software vs. Hardware and the nature of Performance

Up until ~2005, performance came from semiconductor technology



Since ~2005 performance comes from "the top"

Better software Tech.

Better algorithms

Better HW architecture#

#HW architectul tters, but dramatically LE S than software and algorithms

*It's because of the end of Dennard Scaling ... Moore's law has nothing to do with it

The view of Python from an HPC perspective

(from the "Room at the top" paper).

for i in range(4096):
for j in range(4096):
for k in range (4096):
C[i][j] += A[i][k]*B[k][j]

A proxy for computing over nested loops ... yes, they know you should use optimized library code for DGEMM

Table 1. Speedups from performance engineering a program that multiplies two 4096-by-4096 matrices. Each version represents a successive refinement of the original Python code. "Running time" is the running time of the version. "GFLOPS" is the billions of 64-bit floating-point operations per second that the version executes. "Absolute speedup" is time relative to Python, and "relative speedup," which we show with an additional digit of precision, is time relative to the preceding line. "Fraction of peak" is GFLOPS relative to the computer's peak 835 GFLOPS. See Methods for more details.

Version	Implementation	Running time (s)	GFLOPS	Absolute speedup	Relative speedup	Fraction of peak (%)
1	Python	25,552.48	0.005	1	_	0.00
2	Java	2,372.68	0.058	11	10.8	0.01
3	C	542.67	0.253	47	4.4	0.03
4	Parallel loops	69.80	1.969	366	7.8	0.24
5	Parallel divide and conquer	3.80	36.180	6,727	18.4	№ 33
6	plus vectorization	1.10	124.914	23,224	3.5	955
7	plus AVX intrinsics	0.41	337.812	62,806	2.7	4 45

Amazon AWS c4.8xlarge spot instance, Intel® Xeon® E5-2666 v3 CPU, 2.9 Ghz, 18 core, 60 GB RAM

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A proxy for computing over nested loops ... yes, they know you should use optimized library code for DGEMM

This demonstrates a common attitude in the HPC community

Python is great for productivity, algorithm development, and combining functions from high-level modules in new ways to solve problems. If getting a high fraction of peak performance is a goal ... recode in C.

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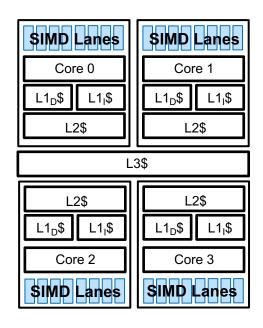
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Our goal ... to help programmers "keep it in Python"

- Modern technology should be able to map Python onto low-level code (such as C or LLVM) and avoid the "Python performance tax".
- We've* worked on ...
 - Numba (2012): JIT Python code into LLVM
 - Parallel accelerator (2017): Find and exploit parallel patterns in Python code.
 - Intel High-Performance Analytics Toolkit and Scalable Dataframe Compiler (2019): Parallel performance from data frames.
 - Intel numba-dppy (2020): Numba ParallelAccelerator regions that run on GPUs via SYCL.



How do you get high performance for a modern CPU?



Three simple principles:

- Lots of threads ... at least one per hardware thread (often two hardware threads per core)
- Exploit SIMD lanes form each thread
- Maximize cache utilization

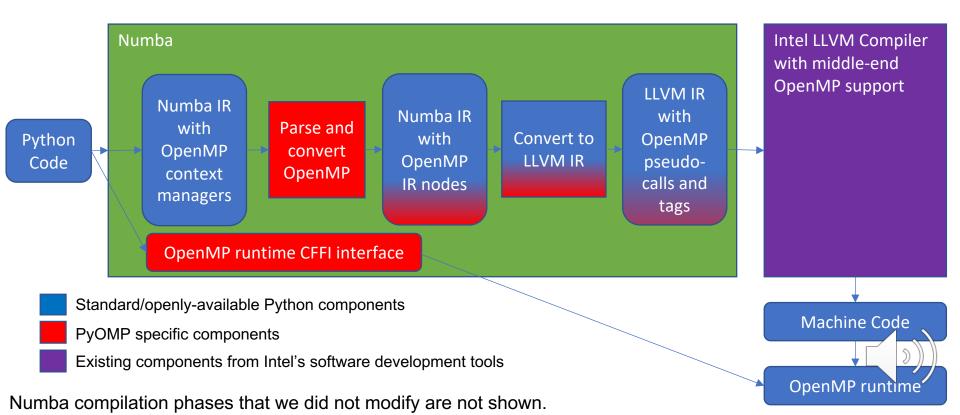
Why not embed parallelism inside Numpy? This works, but it suffers from two problems:

- 1. Overhead of creating/destroying threads at each operation ... increases parallel overhead and limits scalability (due to Amdahl's law)
- Lost opportunity for parallelism from running multiple Numpy operations in parallel

... We want threads, but the **GIL** (**G**lobal **I**nterpreter **L**ock) prevents multiple threads from making forward progress in parallel. The GIL is great for supporting thread safety and making it hard to write code that contains data races, but it prevents parallel multithreading in Python

What is the most common way in HPC to create multithreaded code? Something called OpenMP

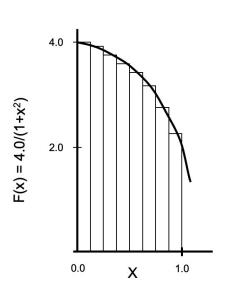
PyOMP Implementation in Numba: Overview



Understanding OpenMP

We will explain the key elements of OpenMP as we explore the three fundamental design patterns of OpenMP (Loop parallelism, SPMD, and divide and conquer) applied to the following problem

Numerical Integration (the hello world program of parallel computing)



Mathematically, we know that:

$$\int_{0}^{1} \frac{4.0}{(1+x^2)} dx = \tau$$

We can approximate the integral as a sum of rectangles:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{N} F(x_i) \Delta x \approx \tau$$

Each rectangle: width Δx , height $F(x_i)$ at i^{th} interval midpoint.

```
def piFunc(NumSteps):
    step=1.0/NumSteps
    sum = 0.0
    x = 0.5
    for i in range(NumSteps):
        x+=step
        sum += 4.0/(1.0+x*x)
    pi=step*sum
    return pi
```



Loop Parallelism code

```
from numba import njit
from numba.openmp import openmp_context as openmp
@njit
def piFunc(NumSteps):
  step = 1.0/NumSteps
  sum = 0.0
  with openmp ("parallel for private(x) reduction(+:sum)"):
    for i in range(NumSteps):
       x = (i+0.5)*step
       sum += 4.0/(1.0 + x*x)
  pi = step*sum
  return pi
pi = piFunc(100000000)
```

OpenMP constructs managed through the *with* context manager.

Pass the OpenMP directive into the OpenMP context manager as a string

- parallel: create a team of threads
- for: map loop iterations onto threads
- private(x): each threads gets its own x
- reduction(+:x): combine x from each thread using +

Numerical Integration results in seconds ... lower is better

Threads	PyOMP		С	
Tilleaus	Loop		Loop	
1	0.447		0.444	
2	0.252		0.245	
4	0.160		0.149	
8	0.0890		0.0827	
16	0.0520		0.0451	

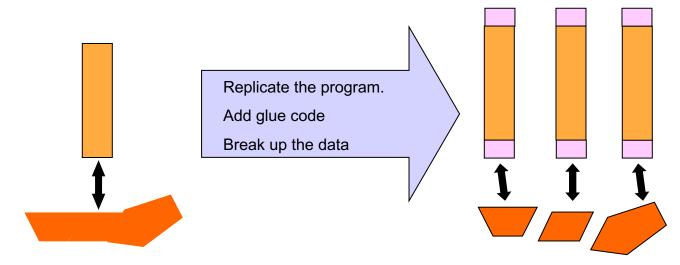
Intel® Xeon® E5-2699 v3 CPU with 18 cores running at 2.30 GHz.

For the C programs we used Intel® icc compiler version 19.1.3.304 as icc -qnextgen -O3 –fiopenmp

Ran each case 5 times and kept the minimum time. **JIT time is not included** for PyOMP (it was about 1.5 seconds)

SPMD (Single Program Multiple Data) design pattern

- Run the same program on P processing elements where P can be arbitrarily large.
- Use the rank ... an ID ranging from 0 to (P-1) ... to select between a set of tasks and to manage any shared data structures.



This pattern is very general and has been used to support most (if not all) the algorithm strategy patterns.

MPI programs almost always use this pattern ... it is probably the most commonly used pattern in the history of parallel programming.



Single Program Multiple Data (SPMD)

```
from numba import niit
import numpy as np
from numba.openmp import openmp context as openmp
from numba.openmp import omp get thread num, omp get num threads
MaxTHREADS = 32
@njit
def piFunc(NumSteps):
  step = 1.0/NumSteps
  partialSums = np.zeros(MaxTHREADS)
  with openmp("parallel shared(partialSums,numThrds) private(threadID,i,x,localSum)"):
     threadID = omp get thread num()
     with openmp("single"):
      numThrds = omp_get_num_threads()
     localSum = 0.0
     for i in range(threadID, NumSteps, numThrds):
       x = (i+0.5)*step
       localSum = localSum + 4.0/(1.0 + x*x)
     partialSums[threadID] = localSum
```

- omp get num threads(): get N=number of threads
- omp get thread num(): thread rank = 0...(N-1)
- single: One thread does the work, others wait
- private(x): each threads gets its own x
- **shared(x)**: all threads see the same x

Deal out loop iterations as if a deck of cards (a cyclic distribution) ... each threads starts with the Iteration = ID, incremented by the number of threads, until the whole "deck" is dealt out.



return step*np.sum(partialSums)

Numerical Integration results in seconds ... lower is better

Threads	PyOMP			С		
	Loop	SPMD		Loop	SPMD	
1	0.447	0.450		0.444	0.448	
2	0.252	0.255		0.245	0.242	
4	0.160	0.164		0.149	0.149	
8	0.0890	0.0890		0.0827	0.0826	
16	0.0520	0.0503		0.0451	0.0451	

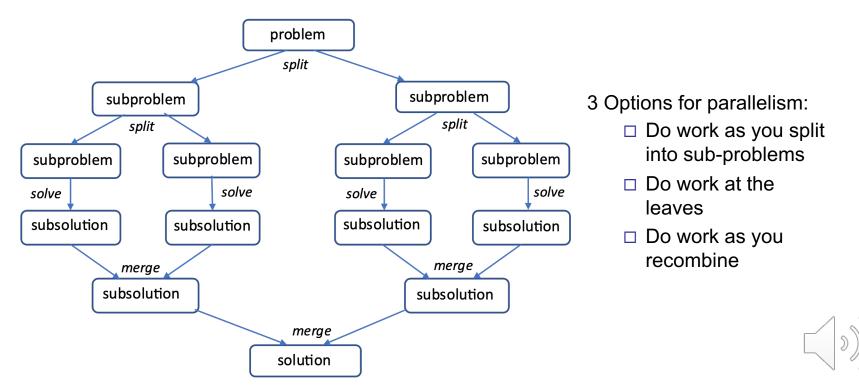
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Divide and conquer design pattern

 Split the problem into smaller sub-problems; continue until the sub-problems can be solve directly



Divide and conquer (with explicit tasks)

```
from numba import njit
from numba.openmp import openmp context as openmp
from numba.openmp import omp get num threads, omp set num threads
MIN BLK = 1024*256
@njit
def piComp(Nstart, Nfinish, step):
  iblk = Nfinish-Nstart
  if(iblk<MIN BLK):
     sum = 0.0
     for i in range(Nstart,Nfinish):
                                         Solve
       x = (i+0.5)*step
       sum += 4.0/(1.0 + x*x)
  else:
     sum1 = 0.0
     sum2 = 0.0
     with openmp ("task shared(sum1)"):
       sum1 = piComp(Nstart, Nfinish-iblk/2,step)
                                                       Split
     with openmp ("task shared(sum2)"):
       sum2 = piComp(Nfinish-iblk/2,Nfinish,step)
     with openmp ("taskwait"):
                                        Merge
       sum = sum1 + sum2
  return sum
```

```
@njit

def piFunc(NumSteps):
    step = 1.0/NumSteps
    sum = 0.0
    startTime = omp get wtime()

with openmp ("parallel"):
    with openmp ("single"):
    sum = piComp(0,NumSteps,step)

pi = step*sum
```

- **single**: One thread does the work, others wait
- task: code block enqueued for execution

return step*sum

pi = piFunc(100000000)

taskwait: wait until task in the code block finish

Numerical Integration results in seconds ... lower is better

Threads	PyOMP			С		
Tilleaus	Loop	SPMD	Task	Loop	SPMD	Task
1	0.447	0.450	0.453	0.444	0.448	0.445
2	0.252	0.255	0.245	0.245	0.242	0.222
4	0.160	0.164	0.146	0.149	0.149	0.131
8	0.0890	0.0890	0.0898	0.0827	0.0826	0.0720
16	0.0520	0.0503	0.0517	0.0451	0.0451	0.0431

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OpenMP subset supported in PyOMP

<pre>with openmp("parallel"):</pre>	Create a team of threads. Execute a parallel region			
<pre>with openmp("for"):</pre>	Use inside a parallel region. Split up a loop across the team.			
<pre>with openmp("parallel for"):</pre>	A combined construct. Same a parallel followed by a for .			
with openmp ("single"):	One thread does the work. Others wait for it to finish			
<pre>with openmp("task"):</pre>	Create an explicit task for work within the construct.			
<pre>with openmp("taskwait"):</pre>	Wait for all tasks in the current task to complete.			
<pre>with openmp("barrier"):</pre>	All threads arrive at a barrier before any proceed.			
<pre>with openmp("critical"):</pre>	Mutual exclusion. One thread at a time executes code			
<pre>schedule(static [,chunk])</pre>	Map blocks of loop iterations across the team. Use with for .			
reduction(op:list)	Combine values with op across the team. Used with for			
private(list)	Make a local copy of variables for each thread. Use with parallel , for or task .			
firstprivate(list)	private, but initialize with original value. Use with parallel, for or task			
shared(list)	Variables shared between threads. Use with parallel , for or task .			
default(none)	Force definition of variables as private or shared .			
<pre>omp_get_num_threads()</pre>	Return the number of threads in a team			
<pre>omp_get_thread_num()</pre>	Return an ID from 0 to the number of threads minus one			
<pre>omp_set_num_threads(int)</pre>	Set the number of threads to request for parallel regions			
<pre>omp_get_wtime()</pre>	Return a snapshot of the wall clock time.			
OMP_NUM_THREADS=N	Environment variable to set the default number of threads			

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Create a team of threads. Execute a parallel region

The view of Python from an HPC perspective

for I in range(4096):
 for j in range(4096):
 for k in range (4096):
 C[i][j] += A[i][k]*B[k][j]

We know better ... the IKJ order is more cache friendly

And we picked a smaller problem

for I in range(1000):

for **k** in range(1000):

for **j** in range (1000):

C[i][j] += A[i][k]*B[k][j]

Table 1. Speedups from performance engineering a program that multiplies two 4096-by-4096 matrices. Each version represents a successive refinement of the original Python code. "Running time" is the running time of the version. "GFLOPS" is the billions of 64-bit floating-point operations per second that the version executes. "Absolute speedup" is time relative to Python, and "relative speedup," which we show with an additional digit of precision, is time relative to the preceding line. "Fraction of peak" is GFLOPS relative to the computer's peak 835 GFLOPS. See Methods for more details.

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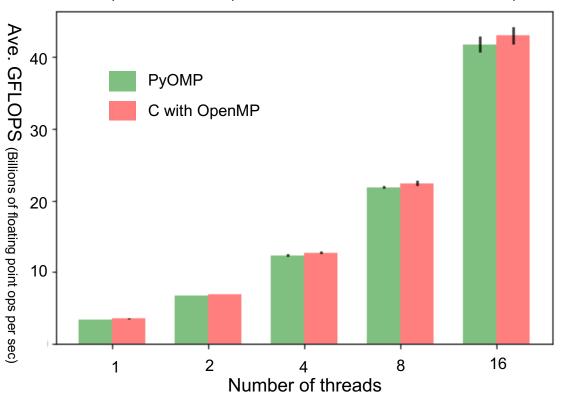
PyOMP DGEMM (Mat-Mul with double precision numbers)

```
from numba import njit
import numpy as np
from numba.openmp import openmp context as openmp
from numba.openmp import omp get wtime
@njit(fastmath=True)
def dgemm(iterations, order):
  # allocate and initialize arrays
  A = np.zeros((order,order))
  B = np.zeros((order,order))
  C = np.zeros((order,order))
  # Assign values to A and B such that
  # the product matrix has a known value.
  for i in range(order):
    A[:,i] = float(i)
    B[:,i] = float(i)
```

```
tInit = omp_get_wtime()
with openmp("parallel for private(j,k)"):
    for i in range(order):
      for k in range(order):
         for j in range(order):
           C[i][i] += A[i][k] * B[k][i]
dgemmTime = omp get wtime() - tInit
# Check result
checksum = 0.0;
for i in range(order):
  for j in range(order):
     checksum += C[i][i];
ref checksum = order*order*order
ref checksum *= 0.25*(order-1.0)*(order-1.0)
eps=1.e-8
if abs((checksum - ref_checksum)/ref_checksum) < eps:
  print('Solution validates')
  nflops = 2.0*order*order*order
  print('Rate (MF/s): ',1.e-6*nflops/dgemmTime)
```

DGEMM PyOMP vs C-OpenMP

Matrix Multiplication, double precision, order = 1000, with error bars (std dev)



250 runs for order 1000 matrices

PyOMP times

DO NOT include
the one-time JIT

cost of ~2

seconds.

Intel® Xeon® E5-2699 v3 CPU, 18 cores, 2.30 GHz, threads mapped to a single CPU, one thread/per core, first 16 physical cores. Intel® icc compiler ver 19.1.3.304 (icc –std=c11 –pthread –O3 xHOST –qopenmp)

Summary

- We've created a research prototype OpenMP interface in Python called PyOMP.
 - It is based on Numba and an OpenMP enabled LLVM
- Next steps:
 - We need to carry out detailed benchmarking (DASK, Ray, MPI4py)
 - We need to map PyOMP onto an open source, publicly available LLVM
 - · Work ongoing in partnership between Intel, ANL, and LLNL.
 - Track our progress at: https://github.com/Python-for-HPC/pyomp



My Greenlandic skin-on-frame kayak in the middle of Budd Inlet during a negative tide 25