HPC Workshops

Exercise 1

2019

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Vectorisation

Answers will be posted on DUO at the end of the week.

Have a look at the Hamilton primer on DUO before starting the exercises. It tells you how to login, how to copy the code to Hamilton/Cosma and how to load different compiler modules.

1) Blurring an image

The directory blur_image_vec contains a program which can be used to blur an image. It can be compiled by typing make. This runs the Makefile. The Makefile tells the compiler how to compile the code; it can be edited with a text editor of your choice. You will need to load the appropriate compiler module; ideally an intel compiler (on Hamilton: module load intel, on Cosma module load intel_comp). Make sure you always remove the old binaries by typing make clean before recompiling the code with a different setting. In the default setting, the code compiles explicitly without Vectorisation. You can run the program calling

./mycode input_file.ppm output_file.ppm,

where the input and output files should be replaced with the appropriate path (you find a couple of feasible input pictures in the assets subdirectory).

- 1. Compile the code and run it on an input picture of your choice. Have a look at the output picture. How long does the smoothing take (you might have to run your code ≈ 3 times to get a realistic timing)?
- 2. Now allow the compiler to vectorise your code by changing the appropriate flags in the Makefile, recompile and run it again. Does the runtime improve?
- 3. Now add the appropriate flags to create a vectorisation report. Recompile and have a look at the reports to find out why your runtime does not improve. In case the reports are empty, try a different setting for the report output.
- 4. Have a look at the file filters.c. Why is the compiler unable to vectorise the loops?

2) Performing expensive calculations

The directory add_numbers_serial contains a code which reads random numbers from a file (numbers.dat), performs some (no particularly useful but computationally expensive) calculation for each number in the file and adds all results. The actual sum suffers from floating point roundoff errors, so don't be surprised if the result differs depending how you add the numbers. You can compile the code in the same way as for problem 1). The default version of the Makefile does again not allow for vectorisation.

1. Run the code in serial. It will tell you the time it needs to perform the calculations in serial.

- 2. Now switch on vectorisation and also create vectorisation reports. Is this more successful than for the smoothing code? Are there any loops which the compiler was able to vectorise? If yes, what speedup do you get?
- 3. Now edit the main loop in add_numbers.c such that result_i is only added to the main result if it is larger than 0. Can the compiler still vectorise the loop?
- 4. Edit the main loop further and stop the calculations as soon as result exceeds 10^{20} (you can do this by adding a conditional break statement). Can this still be vectorised? Why?