SIMD and GPUs

CS 1541 Wonsun Ahn



SIMD Architectures



ISA not optimized for data parallel workloads

This loop does multiply accumulate (MAC):

```
for (int i = 0; i < 64; i++) {
  y[i] = a * x[i] + y[i]
}</pre>
```

- A common operation in digital signal processing (DAXPY)
- Note how we apply the same MAC operation on each data item
 This is how many data parallel workloads look like
- A conventional ISA (likes MIPS) is not optimal for encoding this
 - Results in wasted work and suboptimal performance
 - Let's look at the actual MIPS translation



MIPS code for y(i) = a * x(i) + y(i)

```
1.d f0,0(sp) ; f0 = a
     addi $s2,$s0,512 ;64 elements (64*8=512 bytes)
loop: 1.d f2,0(s0) ; f2 = x(i)
     mul.d f2,f2,f0 ; f2 = a * x(i)
     1.d f4,0(s1) ; f4 = y(i)
     add.d f4,f4,f2 ; f4 = a * x(i) + y(i)
     s.d f4,0(s1) ; y(i) = f4
     addi $s0,$s0,8 ; increment index to x
     addi $s1,$s1,8
                       ;increment index to y
     subu $t0,$s2,$s0 ;evaluate i < 64 loop condition
          $t0,$zero,loop ;loop if not done
     bne
```

- Blue instructions don't do actual computation. There for indexing and loop control.
 - o Is there a way to avoid? Loop unrolling yes. But that causes code bloat!
- Red instructions do computation. But why decode them over and over again?
 - o Is there a way to fetch and decode once and apply to all data items?



SIMD (Single Instruction Multiple Data)

- SIMD (Single Instruction Multiple Data)
 - An architecture for applying one instruction on multiple data items
 - o ISA includes **vector instructions** for doing just that
 - Along with vector registers to hold multiple data items
- Using MIPS vector instruction extensions:

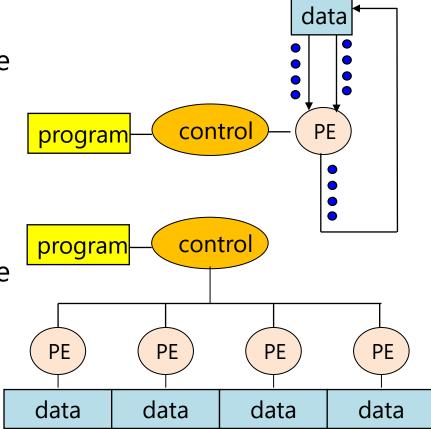
```
l.d $f0,0(\$sp)$ ; $f0 = scalar a
lv $v1,0(\$s0)$ ; $v1 = vector x (64 values)
mulvs.d $v2,\$v1,\$f0$ ; $v2 = a * vector x
lv $v3,0(\$s1)$ ; $v3 = vector y (64 values)
addv.d $v4,\$v2,\$v3$ ; $v4 = a * vector x + vector y
sv $v4,0(\$s1)$ ; vector y = \$v4
```

- Note: no indexing and loop control overhead
- Note: each instruction is fetched and decoded only once



SIMD Processor Design

- How would you design a processor for the vector instructions?
- 1. One processing element (PE)
 - Fetch and decode instruction once
 - PE applies op on each data item
 - Item may be in vector register
 - Item may be in data memory
- Multiple PEs in parallel
 - Fetch and decode instruction once
 - PEs apply op in parallel
 - In synchronous lockstep
 - → The more PEs, the faster!

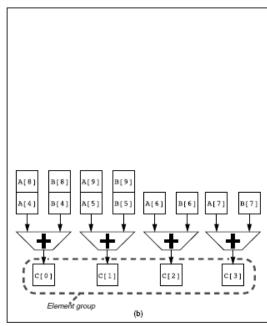


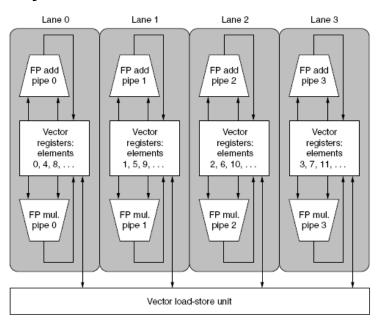


Example: Adding Two Vectors

- Instead of having a single FP adder work on each item (a)
- Have four FP adders work on items in parallel (b)
- Each pipelined FP unit is in charge of pre-designated items in vector
 - o For full parallelization, put as many FP units as there are items



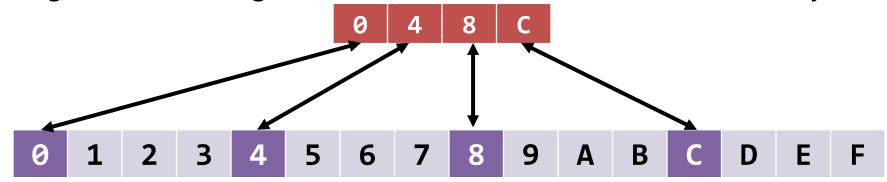




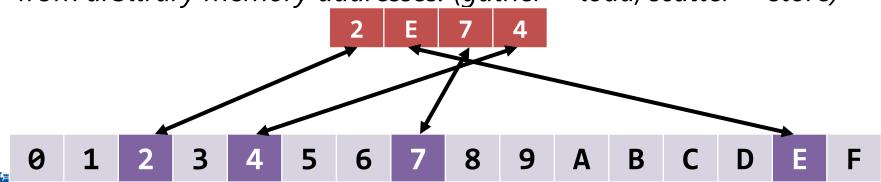


Vector Load-Store Unit

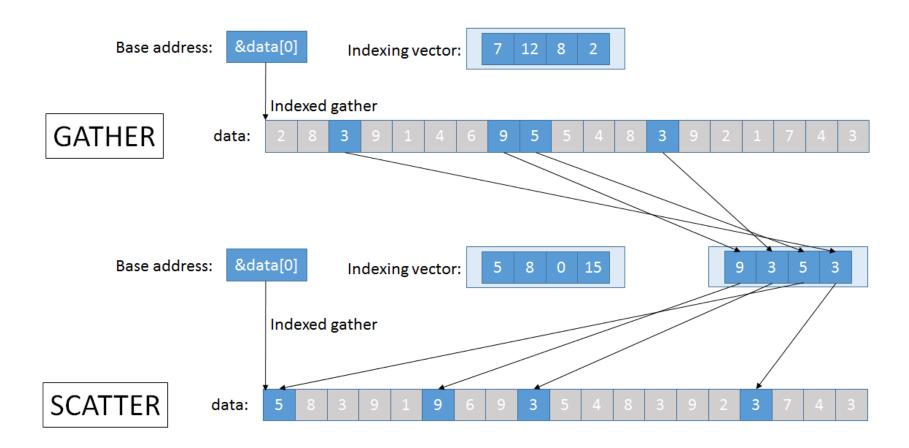
• *Striding* lets you load/store *non-contiguous* data from memory at regular offsets. (e.g. the first member of each struct in an array)



• Gather-scatter lets you put pointers in a vector, then load/store from arbitrary memory addresses. (gather = load, scatter = store)



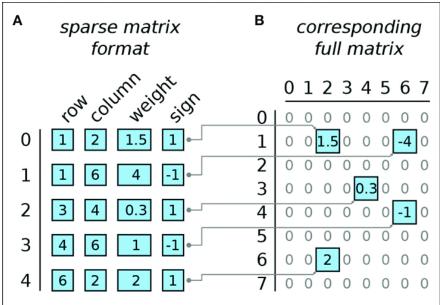
How does Gather-Scatter work?





When does Gather-Scatter make sense?

- Often data for scientific or Al applications are **sparse**.
 - o Time-sampled points where a sensor measurement changes
 - In social networking, connections in a N x N friendship matrix
 - o In neural networks, weights in a filter layer that are non-zero
- To save memory, sparse data is stored in sparse format:





How a sparse filter layer is stored in a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)



When does Gather-Scatter make sense?

• Convolution works by applying filter like a shifting window:

1 _{×1}	1,0	1 _{×1}	0	0
0,0	1,	1,0	1	0
0 _{×1}	0,0	1,	1	1
0	0	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0

4	

row	column	weight
0	0	1
0	2	1
1	1	1
2	0	1
2	2	1

1	2	3
		3
1	0	1
)	1	0
1	0	1
	1) 1	0 1

Image

Convolved Feature Filter (sparse matrix format)

- When applying filter on image, a gather needs to take place
 - Gather values in image in corresponding rows and columns
 - Create an image vector out of those gathered values
 - Do a dot (•) product between image vector and filter vector



SIMD instructions in real processors

- x86 vector extensions
 - Historically: MMX, SSE, AVX, AVX-2
 - Current: AVX-512 (512-bit vector instructions)
- ARM vector extensions
 - Historically: VFP (Vector Floating Point)
 - Current: Neon (128-bit vector instructions)
- Vector instructions have progressively become wider historically
 - Due to increase of data parallel applications
 - Due to their power efficiency
 - Compared to fetching, decoding, scheduling multiple instructions
 - Good way to increase FLOPS while staying within TDP limit
- Enter GPUs for general computing (circa 2001)

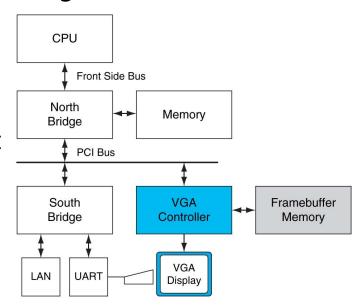


GPUs: Graphical Processing Units



History of GPUs

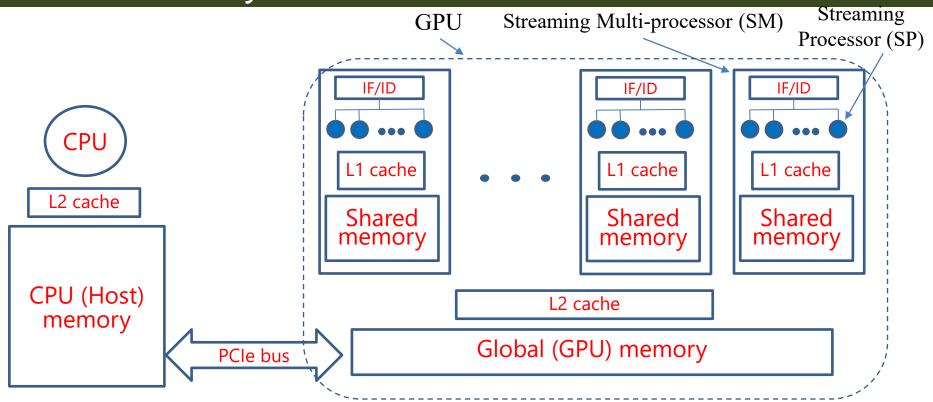
- VGA (Video graphic array) has been around since the early 90's
 - A display generator connected to some (video) RAM
- By 2000, VGA controllers were handling almost all graphics computation
 - Programmable through OpenGL, Direct 3D API
 - APIs allowed accelerated vertex/pixel processing:
 - Shading
 - Texture mapping
 - Rasterization
 - Gained moniker Graphical Processing Unit
- 2007: First general purpose use of GPUs
 - 2007: Release of CUDA language
 - 2011: Release of OpenCL language





GPU is Really a SIMD Processor

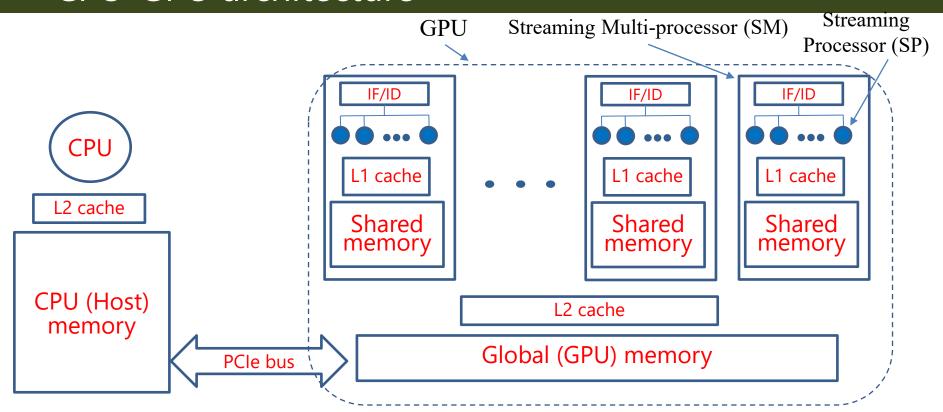
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- Logically, a GPU is composed of SMs (Streaming Multi-processors)
 An SM is a vector unit that can process multiple pixels (or data items)
- Each SM is composed of SPs which work on each pixel or data item

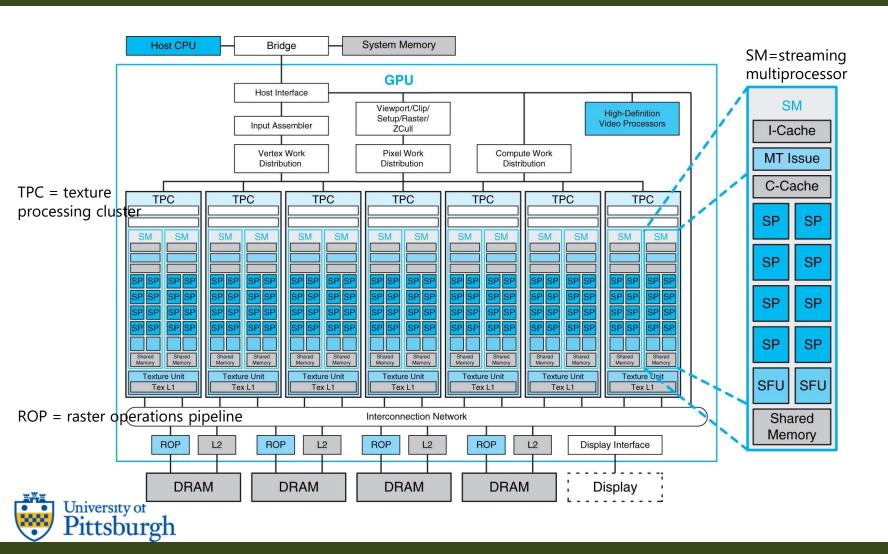
CPU-GPU architecture

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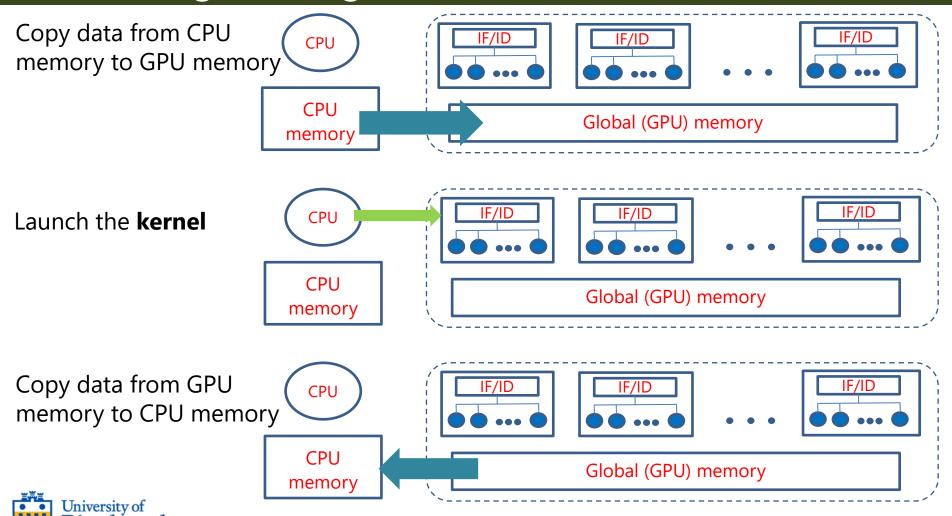
- Dedicated GPU memory separate from system memory
- Code and data must be transferred to GPU memory for it to work on it
 - Through PCI-Express bus connecting GPU to CPU

Modern GPU architecture



GPU Programming Model

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GPU Programming Model

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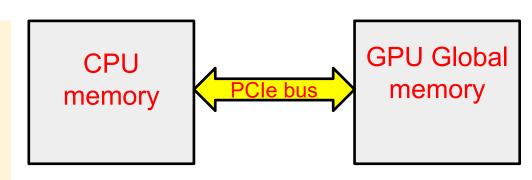
```
CPU program
(serial code)
                        Copy data from CPU
cudaMemcpy ( ... )
                        memory to GPU memory
Function <<<nb,nt >>> Launch kernel on GPU
                        Copy results from GPU
cudaMemcpy ( ... )
                        memory to CPU memory
<u>í</u>global_ Function ( ... )
                       Implementation of GPU kernel
                        kernel: Function executed on the GPU
```

GPU Programming Model: Copying Data

```
/* malloc in GPU global memory */
cudaMalloc (void **pointer, size_t nbytes);
/* free malloced GPU global memory */
cudaFree(void **pointer);
/* initialize GPU global memory with value */
cudaMemset (void *pointer, int value, size_t count);
/* copy to and from between CPU and GPU memory */
cudaMemcpy(void *dest, void *src, size_t nbytes, enum cudaMemcopyKind dir);
```

enum cudaMemcpyKind

- cudaMemcpyHostToDevice
- cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost
- cudaMemcpyDeviceToDevice





Example: Copying array a to array b using the GPU

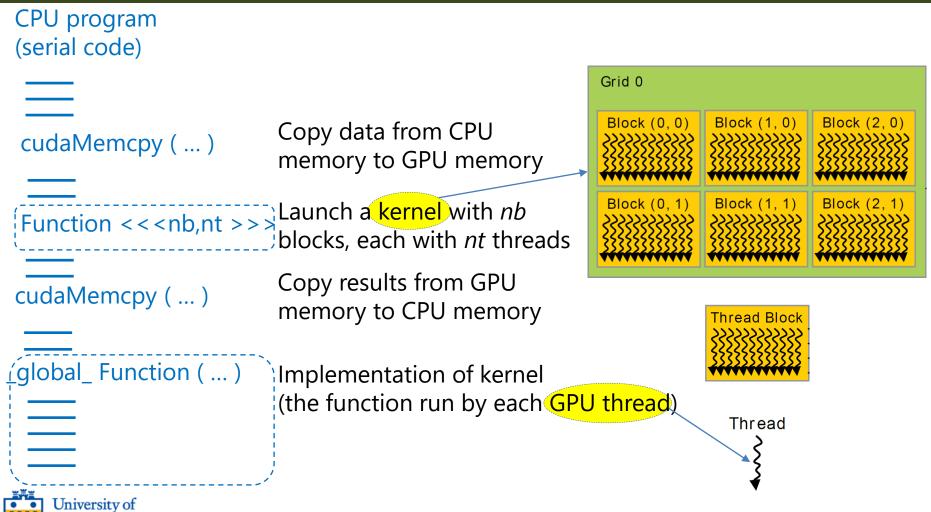
Data Movement Example

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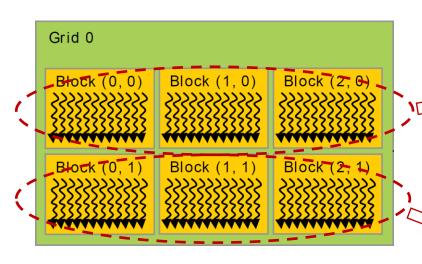
```
int main (void)
   float *a h, *b h; // host data
   float *a d, *b d; // device data
   int N = 14, nBytes, i;
   nBytes = N*sizeof(float);
                                                  a_h
                                                                            \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{d}}
   a h = (float *)malloc(nBytes);
                                                            PCle bus
   b h = (float *)malloc(nBytes);
                                                  b h
                                                                            b d
   cudaMalloc((void **) &a d, nBytes);
   cudaMalloc((void **) &b d, nBytes);
   for (i=0, i< N; i++) a h[i] = 100.f + i;
   cudaMemcpy(a d, a h, nBytes, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
   GPUcomp<<<1, 14>>>(a d, b d, N);
   cudaMemcpy(b h, b d, nBytes, cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost);
   for (i=0; i< N; i++) assert( a h[i] == b h[i] );
                                                              global void GPUcomp(*a,*b,N)
   free(a h); free(b h); cudaFree(a d); cudaFree(b d);
                                                              int i = threadIdx.x;
   return 0;
                                                              if( i < N) b(i) = a(i);
```

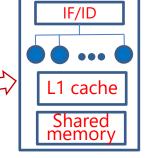
GPU Programming Model: Launching the Kernel



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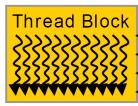
The Execution Model



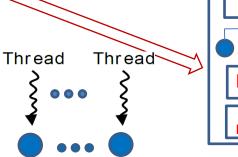


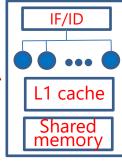
- The **thread blocks** are dispatched to **SM**s
- The number of blocks dispatched to an SM depends on the SM's resources (registers, shared memory, ...).

Blocks not dispatched initially are dispatched when an SM frees up after finishing a block

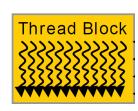


 When a block is dispatched to an SM, each of its threads executes on an SP in the SM.

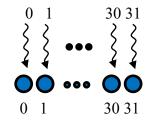




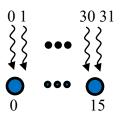
The Execution Model



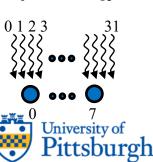
- Each block (up to 1K threads) is divided into groups of 32 threads (called warps) – empty threads are used as fillers.
- A warp executes as a SIMD **vector instruction** on the SM.
- Depending on the number of SPs per SM:



 ○ If 32 SP per SM → 1 thread of a warp executes on 1 SP (32 lanes of execution, one thread per lane)



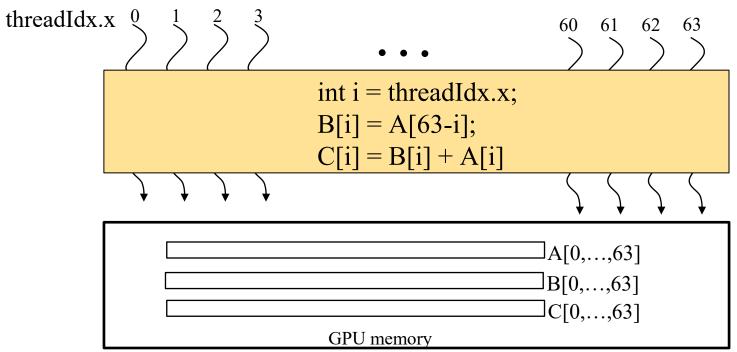
 \circ If 16 SP per SM \rightarrow 2 threads are time multiplexed on 1 SP (16 lanes of execution, 2 threads per lane)



 ○ If 8 SP per SM → 4 threads are time multiplexed on 1 SP (8 lanes of execution, 4 threads per lane)

All threads execute the same code

• Launched using **Kernel** <<<**1**, **64**>>> : 1 block with 64 threads

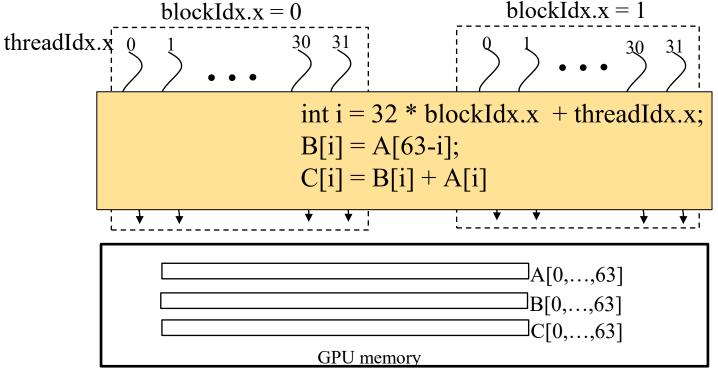


- Each thread in a thread block has a unique "thread index" → threadIdx.x
- The same sequence of instructions can apply to different data items.



Blocks of Threads

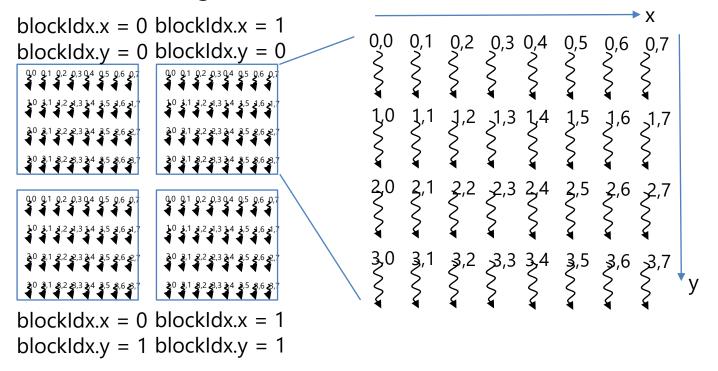
• Launched using **Kernel** <<<**2**, **32**>>> : 2 blocks of 32 threads



- Each thread block has a unique "block index" → blockIdx.x
- Each thread has a unique **threadIdx.x** within its own block
- Can compute a global index from the blockldx.x and threadldx.x

Two-dimensions grids and blocks

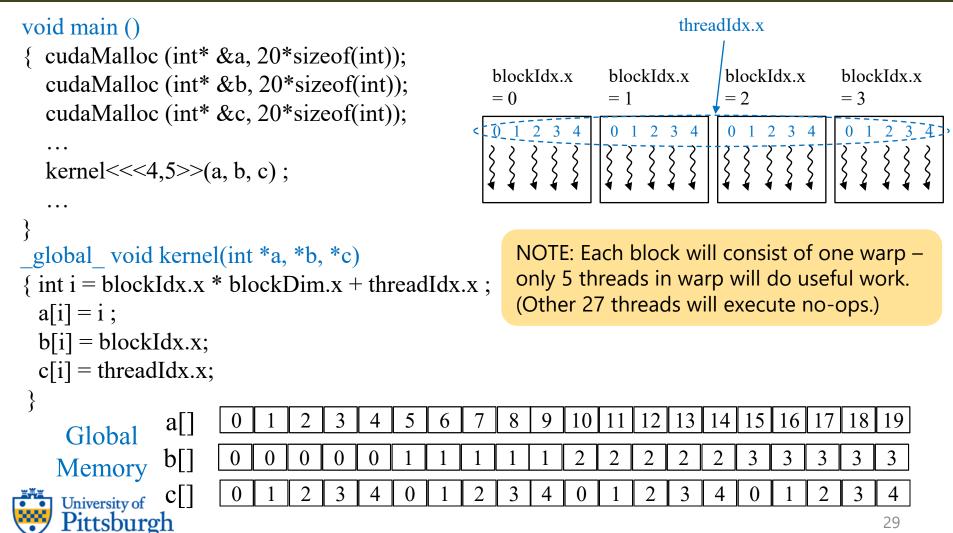
• Launched using **Kernel** <<<(2, 2), (4, 8)>>> : 2X2 blocks of 4X8 threads



- Each block has two indices (blockldx.x, blockldx.y)
- Each thread in a thread block has two indices (threadIdx.x, threadIdx.y)



Example: Computing the global index



Example: Computing y(i) = a * x(i) + y(i)

C program (on CPU)

```
void saxpy_serial(int n, float a, float
*x, float *y)
{
  for(int i = 0; i<n; i++)
     y[i] = a * x[i] + y[i];
}</pre>
```

```
void main ()
{
    ...
    saxpy_serial(n, 2.0, x, y);
    ...
}
```

CUDA program (on CPU+GPU)

```
void main ()
{ ...
  // cudaMalloc arrays X and Y
  // cudaMemcpy data to X and Y
  int NB = (n + 255) / 256;
  saxpy_gpu<<<NB, 256>>>(n, 2.0, X, Y);
  // cudaMemcpy data from Y
}
```



Example: Computing y(i) = a * x(i) + y(i)

What happens when n = 1?

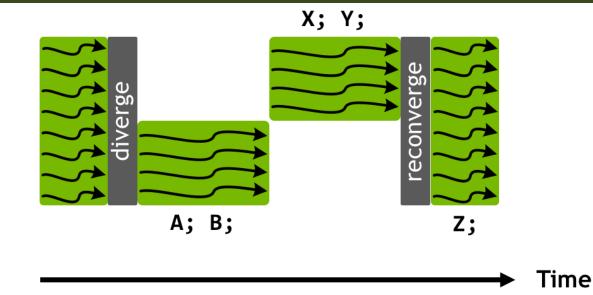
```
_global_void saxpy_gpu(int n, float a, float *X, float *Y)
{
  int i = blockIdx.x*blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
  if (i < n ) Y[i] = a * X[i] + Y[i];
}
.....
saxpy_gpu<<<1, 256>>>(1, 2.0, X, Y); /* X and Y are both sized 1! */
```

- "if (i < n)" condition prevents writing beyond bounds of array.
- But that requires some threads within a **warp** not performing the write.
 - o But a warp is a single vector instruction. How can you branch?
 - o "if (i < n)" creates a **predicate** "mask" vector to use for the write
 - Only thread 0 has predicate turned on, rest has predicate turned off



GPUs Use Predication for Branches

```
if (threadIdx.x < 4) {
        A;
        B;
} else {
        X;
        Y;
}
Z;</pre>
```



- Each thread computes own predicate for condition threadIdx.x < 4
- Taken together, 32 threads of a warp create a 32-bit predicate mask
- Mask is applied to warps for A, B, X, and Y.
- Just like for VLIW processors, this can lead to **low utilization**.



GPU Performance



Lesson 1: Parallelism is Important



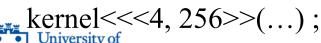
Thread Level Parallelism

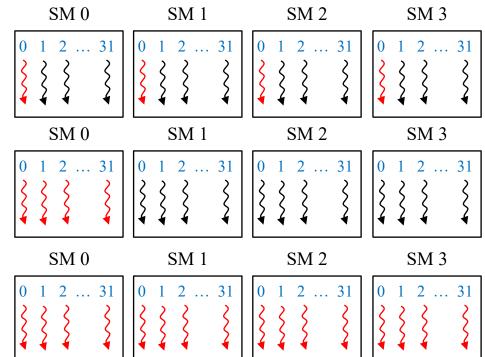
- Superscalars and VLIWs are useful only if...
 - o Program exhibits ILP (Instruction Level Parallelism) in the code
- GPUs are useful only if...
 - Program has TLP (Thread Level Parallelism) in the code
 - TLP can be expressed as the number of threads in the code
- How that TLP is laid out in the kernel is also important
 - How many threads are in a thread block
 - If less than threads in warp, some SPs may get unused
 - How many thread blocks are in the grid
 - If less than number of SMs, some **SM**s may get unused
 - → If not careful, your GPU may get underutilized



Example: Kernels with Bad Layout

- Suppose there are 4 SMs in GPU with 32 SPs in each SM.
 - o Case 1, 2 below have enough TLP (1024 threads) but bad layout.
 - Utilized threads are marked in red. Rest are unused.
- Case 1: Not enough threads kernel <<< 1024, 1>>(...);
- Case 2: Not enough blocks kernel<<<1, 1024>>(...);
- Balanced threads and blocks kernel<<<32, 32>>(...); kernel<<<16, 64>>(...);





Lesson 2: Bandwidth is Important



Example: Computing y(i) = A(i, j) * x(j)

C program (on CPU)

void mv_cpu(float* y, float* A, float* x, int n) { for (int i=0; i<n; i++) for (int j=0; j<n; j++) y[i] += A[i*n+j] * x[j]; }</pre>

```
CUDA program (on CPU+GPU)
```

```
void mv_gpu(float* y, float* A, float* x, int n) {
  int i = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
  if (i < n) {
    for (int j = 0; j < n; j++)
       y[i] += A[i*n + j] * x[j];
  }
}</pre>
```

```
void main ()
{
    ...
    mv_cpu(y, A, x, n);
    ...
}
```

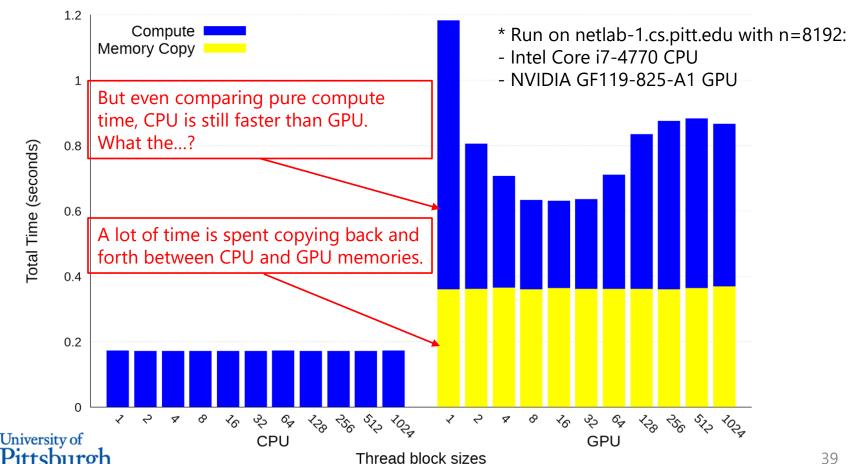
```
void main ()
{
    ...
    int nblocks = (n + block_size - 1) / block_size;
    mv_gpu <<<nblocks, block_size>>> (y, A, x, n);
    ...
}
```



Performance Results for y(i) = A(i, j) * x(j)

• Guess what? CPU is faster than GPU!

Execution time of mat-vec multiply on CPU and GPU



Performance Results for y(i) = A(i, j) * x(j)

- Was it because the GPU was wimpy and can't do enough **FLOPS**?
- NVIDIA GF119-825-A1 is a Fermi GPU Capability 2.1
 - Clock rate: 1046 MHz (X 2 for warp execution)
 - Number of SMs: 1
 - Number of SPs per SM: 48
 - Max FLOPS = 1046 MHz * 2 * 1 * 48 = 100.4 GFLOPS
- What was the FLOPS achieved?
 - y[i] += A[i*n+j] * x[j] = 2 FP ops each iteration for n * n iterations
 - o n = 8192, so FP ops = 8192 * 8192 * 2 = 134 M
 - Time = 0.27 seconds (shortest at 32 thread block size)
 - o FLOPS = 134 M / 0.27 = 496 MFLOPS
 - One of the limit!

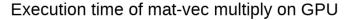


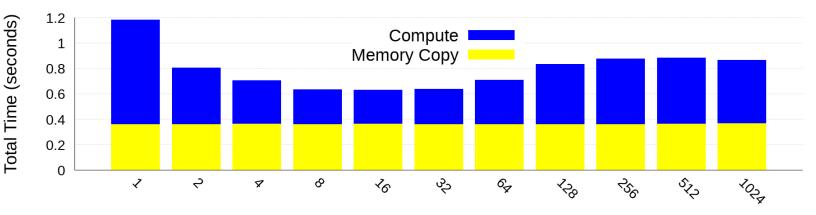
Performance Results for y(i) = A(i,j) * x(j)

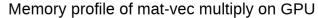
- Could it be that the GPU didn't have enough memory bandwidth?
- NVIDIA GF119-825-A1 is a Fermi GPU Capability 2.1
 - Memory Type: DDR3
 - Memory Bandwidth: 14.00 GB/s
- GPUs also have Performance Monitoring Units (PMUs)
 - NVIDIA Profiler (nvprof) provides an easy way to read them: https://docs.nvidia.com/cuda/profiler-users-guide/index.html
 - o Let's use the PMU to profile the following:
 - DRAM Transfer Rate (GB/s)
 - L1 Hit Rate (%)
 - L2 Hit Rate (%)

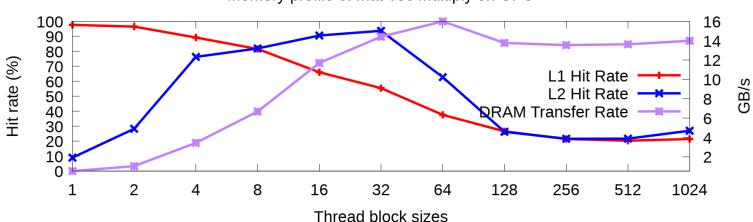


Memory Wall Hits Again



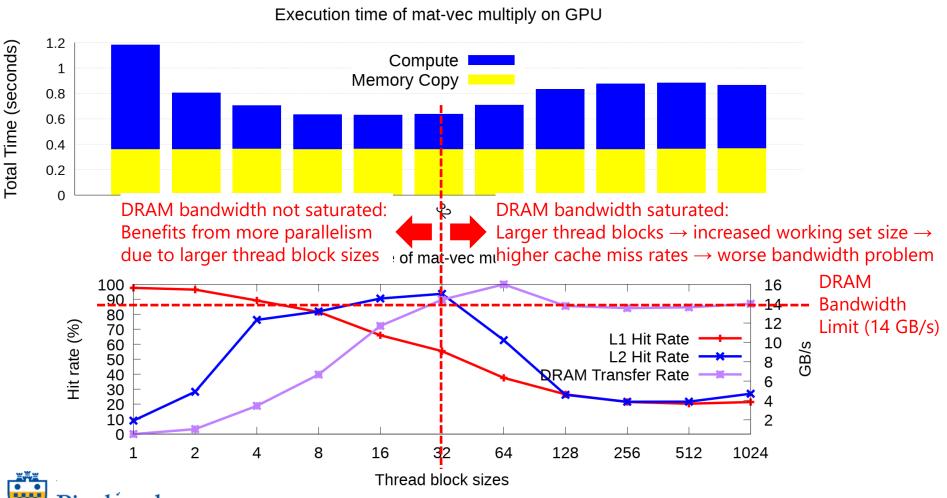








Memory Wall Hits Again



Is there a way we can reach max FLOPS?

- Let's take a look at the GPU design metrics again:
 - O Max FLOPS = 100.4 GFLOPS
 - Memory Bandwidth: 14.00 GB/s
- To sustain max FLOPS, you need to do a lot of work per byte
 - 100.4 GFLOPS / 14.00 GB/s = 7.17 FP ops / byte
 - o Or, about 28 FP ops / float (4 bytes) fetched from memory
 - Otherwise, the memory bandwidth cannot sustain the FLOPS
- All GPUs have this problem with memory bandwidth:
 - o It's easy to put in more SMs using transistors for Moore's Law
 - Your memory bandwidth is limited due to your DDR interface

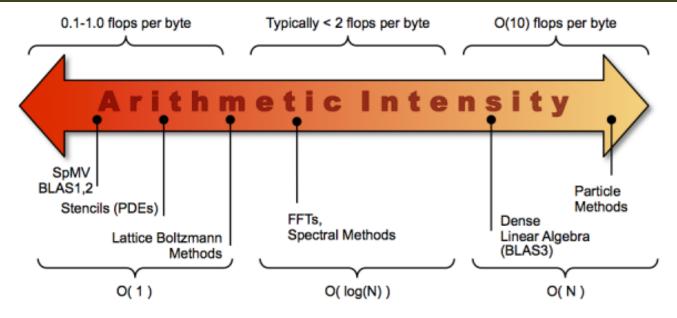


Arithmetic Intensity: A property of the program

- How many FP ops / float for our mat-vec multiplication?
 - o y[i] += A[i*n + j] * x[j] each iteration with n * n iterations
 - o FP ops = 2 * n * n (one multiply and one add)
 - Float accesses = n * n + 2n (1 matrix and 2 vector accesses)
 - That's counting only cold misses but could be even more
 - So approx. 2 FP ops / float (a far cry from 28 FP ops / float)
 - This metric is called arithmetic intensity
- Arithmetic intensity is a property of the program needed by GPUs
 - Just like TLP (thread-level-parallelism) is needed by GPUs
 - Matrix-vector multiplication has low intensity
 - → Fundamentally not suited for fast GPU computation



Arithmetic Intensity: A property of the program



- * Courtesy of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory: https://crd.lbl.gov/departments/computer-science/par/research/roofline/introduction/
- **BLAS**: Basic Linear Algebra Subprograms
 - BLAS 1: Vector operations only (e.g. saxpy) → Bad intensity
 - BLAS 2: General Matrix-Vector Multiplication (GeMV) → Bad intensity
 - BLAS 3: General Matrix Multiplication (GeMM) → Good intensity



Matrix-Matrix Multiply: Good Arithmetic Intensity

Matrix-multiplication:

```
for (int i=0; i<n; i++)
for (int j=0; j<n; j++)
for (int k=0; k<n; k++)
C[i*n+j] += A[i*n+k] * B[k*n+j];
```

- What's the arithmetic intensity for this program?
 - o FP ops = 2 * n * n * n (one multiply and one add)
 - Float accesses = 3 * n * n (3 matrix accesses)
 - If we only have cold misses and no capacity misses
 - \circ Arithmetic intensity = 2 * n / 3 = **0.66 * n** = **O(n)**
 - o Implication: The larger the matrix size, the better suited for GPUs!
 - Important result for deep learning and other apps



Example: Computing C(i,j) = A(i,k) * B(k,j)

C program (on CPU)

CUDA program (on CPU+GPU)

void mm_cpu(float* C, float* A, float* B,
int n) {
 for (int i=0; i<n; i++)
 for (int j=0; j<n; j++)
 for (int k=0; k<n; k++)
 C[i*n+j] += A[i*n+k] * B[k*n+j];
}</pre>

```
void mm_gpu(float* C, float* A, float* B, int n) {
  float Cvalue = 0;
  int i = blockIdx.y * blockDim.y + threadIdx.y;
  int j = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
  for (int k = 0; k < n; ++k)
    Cvalue += A[i * n + k] * B[k * n + j];
  C[i * n + j] = Cvalue;
}</pre>
```

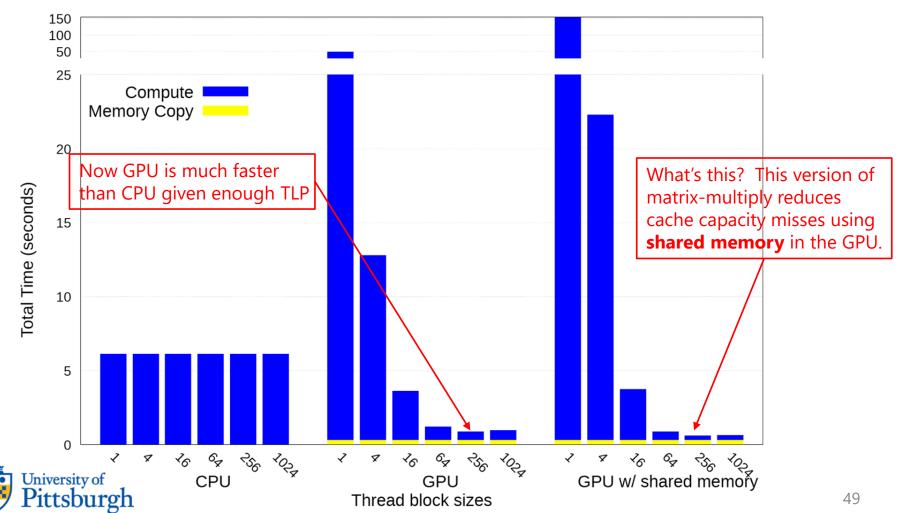
```
void main ()
{
    mm_cpu(C, A, B, n);
}
```

void main ()
{
 dim3 dimBlock(block_size, block_size);
 dim3 dimGrid(n / dimBlock.x, n / dimBlock.y);
 mm_gpu <<<dimGrid, dimBlock>>> (C, A, B, n);



Performance Results for C(i,j) = A(i,k) * B(k,j)

Execution time of mat-mat multiply on CPU and GPU



Capacity Misses can Reduce Arithmetic Intensity

```
for (int i=0; i<n; i++)

for (int j=0; j<n; j++)

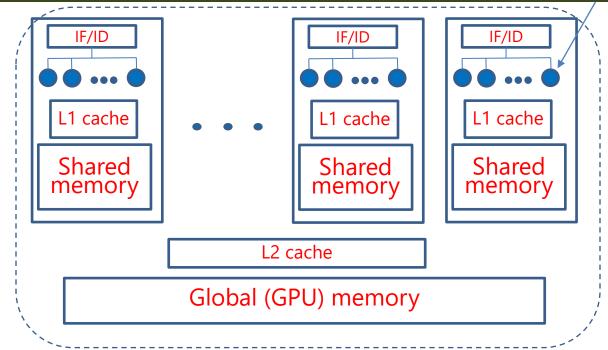
for (int k=0; k<n; k++)

C[i*n+j] += A[i*n+k] * B[k*n+j];
```

- The ideal arithmetic intensity for this program was:
 - FP ops = 2 * n * n * n (one multiply and one add)
 - o Float accesses = 3 * n * n (3 matrix accesses)
 - \circ Arithmetic intensity = 2 * n / 3 = **0.66 * n** = **O(n)**
- Only if we have **no capacity misses**. What if we did have them?
 - \circ For B[k*n + j], reuse distance is the entire matrix of B
 - o If B[k*n + j] always misses, memory accesses is in the order of n^3 !



So what is Shared Memory?



- **Shared Memory**: memory shared among threads in a thread block
 - Variables declared with <u>__shared__</u> modifier live in shared memory
 - o Is same as L1 cache in terms of latency and bandwidth!
 - o Storing frequently used data in shared memory can save on bandwidth



Loop Tiling with Shared Memory

- Store a "tile" within matrix in shared memory while operating on it
 Can reduce accesses to DRAM memory
- - sum += aTile[threadIdx.y][i]* bTile[i][threadIdx.x];
 c[row*N+col] = sum;

for (int i = 0; i < TILE DIM; i++)

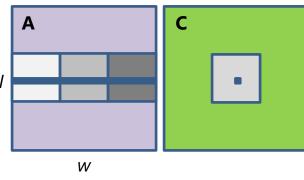
• Assumption: TILE DIM = w. What if w > TILE_DIM?



Loop Tiling with Shared Memory

- TILE_DIM is limited by amount of shared memory. What if w > TILE_DIM? Now must load A and B tiles w / TILE_DIM times per thread block
- Now code will look like:

```
shared float aTile[TILE DIM][TILE DIM],
                bTile[TILE DIM][TILE DIM];
float sum = 0.0f;
for (int t = 0; t < w / TILE DIM; t++) {
 aTile[threadIdx.y][threadIdx.x] = ...;
 bTile[threadIdx.y][threadIdx.x] = ...;
    syncthreads();
                                                     Ν
 for (int i = 0; i < TILE DIM; i++)
   sum += aTile[threadIdx.y][i]* bTile[i][threadIdx.x];
```



Ν