

## NVRTC - CUDA RUNTIME COMPILATION

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## Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION

NVRTC is a runtime compilation library for CUDA C++. It accepts CUDA C++ source code in character string form and creates handles that can be used to obtain the PTX. The PTX string generated by NVRTC can be loaded by cuModuleLoadData and cuModuleLoadDataEx, and linked with other modules by cuLinkAddData of the CUDA Driver API. This facility can often provide optimizations and performance not possible in a purely offline static compilation.

In the absence of NVRTC (or any runtime compilation support in CUDA), users needed to spawn a separate process to execute nvcc at runtime if they wished to implement runtime compilation in their applications or libraries, and, unfortunately, this approach has the following drawbacks:

- ▶ The compilation overhead tends to be higher than necessary, and
- End users are required to install nvcc and related tools which make it complicated to distribute applications that use runtime compilation.

NVRTC addresses these issues by providing a library interface that eliminates overhead associated with spawning separate processes, disk I/O, etc., while keeping application deployment simple.

NVRTC is a preview feature in the current release and any or all parts of this specification are subject to change in the next CUDA release.

## Chapter 2. GETTING STARTED

## 2.1. System Requirements

NVRTC requires the following system configuration:

- ▶ Operating System: Linux x86\_64, Windows x86\_64, or Mac OS X.
- GPU: Any GPU with CUDA Compute Capability 2.0 or higher.
- CUDA Toolkit and Driver.

### 2.2. Installation

NVRTC is part of the CUDA Toolkit release and the components are organized as follows in the CUDA toolkit installation directory:

- On Windows:
  - include\nvrtc.h
  - bin\nvrtc64\_80.dll
  - bin\nvrtc-builtins64 80.dll
  - lib\x64\nvrtc.lib
  - doc\pdf\NVRTC User Guide.pdf
- On Linux:
  - include/nvrtc.h
  - ▶ lib64/libnvrtc.so
  - lib64/libnvrtc.so.8.0
  - lib64/libnvrtc.so.8.0.<build version>
  - ▶ lib64/libnvrtc-builtins.so
  - ▶ lib64/libnvrtc-builtins.so.8.0
  - ▶ lib64/libnvrtc-builtins.so.8.0.<br/>build version>
  - doc/pdf/NVRTC User Guide.pdf
- On Mac OS X:

- include/nvrtc.h
- lib/libnvrtc.dylib
- lib/libnvrtc.8.0.dylib
- lib/libnvrtc-builtins.dylib
- lib/libnvrtc-builtins.8.0.dylib
- doc/pdf/NVRTC\_User\_Guide.pdf

## Chapter 3. USER INTERFACE

This chapter presents the API of NVRTC. Basic usage of the API is explained in Basic Usage. Note that the API may change in the production release based on user feedback.

- Error Handling
- General Information Query
- Compilation
- Supported Compile Options
- Host Helper

## 3.1. Error Handling

NVRTC defines the following enumeration type and function for API call error handling.

### enum nvrtcResult

The enumerated type nvrtcResult defines API call result codes. NVRTC API functions return nvrtcResult to indicate the call result.

#### **Values**

```
NVRTC_ERROR_OUT_OF_MEMORY = 1
NVRTC_ERROR_PROGRAM_CREATION_FAILURE = 2
NVRTC_ERROR_INVALID_INPUT = 3
NVRTC_ERROR_INVALID_PROGRAM = 4
NVRTC_ERROR_INVALID_OPTION = 5
NVRTC_ERROR_COMPILATION = 6
NVRTC_ERROR_BUILTIN_OPERATION_FAILURE = 7
NVRTC_ERROR_NO_NAME_EXPRESSIONS_AFTER_COMPILATION = 8
NVRTC_ERROR_NO_LOWERED_NAMES_BEFORE_COMPILATION = 9
```

#### NVRTC\_ERROR\_NAME\_EXPRESSION\_NOT\_VALID = 10 NVRTC\_ERROR\_INTERNAL\_ERROR = 11

### const char \*nvrtcGetErrorString (nvrtcResult result)

nvrtcGetErrorString is a helper function that returns a string describing the given nvrtcResult code, e.g., NVRTC\_SUCCESS to "NVRTC\_SUCCESS". For unrecognized enumeration values, it returns "NVRTC\_ERROR\_unknown".

#### **Parameters**

#### result

CUDA Runtime Compilation API result code.

#### Returns

Message string for the given nvrtcResult code.

## 3.2. General Information Query

NVRTC defines the following function for general information query.

### nvrtcResult nvrtcVersion (int \*major, int \*minor)

nvrtcVersion sets the output parameters major and minor with the CUDA Runtime Compilation version number.

#### **Parameters**

#### major

CUDA Runtime Compilation major version number.

#### minor

CUDA Runtime Compilation minor version number.

#### **Returns**

- NVRTC SUCCESS
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INVALID\_INPUT

## 3.3. Compilation

NVRTC defines the following type and functions for actual compilation.

### typedef \_nvrtcProgram \*nvrtcProgram

nvrtcProgram is the unit of compilation, and an opaque handle for a program.

To compile a CUDA program string, an instance of nvrtcProgram must be created first with nvrtcCreateProgram, then compiled with nvrtcCompileProgram.

## nvrtcResult nvrtcAddNameExpression (nvrtcProgram prog, const char \*name\_expression)

nvrtcAddNameExpression notes the given name expression denoting a \_\_global\_\_ function or function template instantiation.

#### **Parameters**

#### prog

CUDA Runtime Compilation program.

#### name\_expression

constant expression denoting a \_\_global\_\_ function or function template instantiation.

#### Returns

- NVRTC\_SUCCESS
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_NO\_NAME\_EXPRESSIONS\_AFTER\_COMPILATION

#### Description

The identical name expression string must be provided on a subsequent call to nvrtcGetLoweredName to extract the lowered name.

#### See also:

nvrtcGetLoweredName

## nvrtcResult nvrtcCompileProgram (nvrtcProgram prog, int numOptions, const char \*\*options)

nvrtcCompileProgram compiles the given program.

#### Description

It supports compile options listed in Supported Compile Options.

# nvrtcResult nvrtcCreateProgram (nvrtcProgram \*prog, const char \*src, const char \*name, int numHeaders, const char \*\*headers, const char \*\*includeNames)

nvrtcCreateProgram creates an instance of nvrtcProgram with the given input parameters, and sets the output parameter prog with it.

#### **Parameters**

#### prog

CUDA Runtime Compilation program.

#### STO

CUDA program source.

#### name

CUDA program name. name can be NULL; "default\_program" is used when name is NULL.

#### numHeaders

Number of headers used. numHeaders must be greater than or equal to 0.

#### headers

Sources of the headers. headers can be NULL when numHeaders is 0.

#### includeNames

Name of each header by which they can be included in the CUDA program source. includeNames can be NULL when numHeaders is 0.

#### Returns

- NVRTC\_SUCCESS
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_OUT\_OF\_MEMORY
- ► NVRTC\_ERROR\_PROGRAM\_CREATION\_FAILURE
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INVALID\_INPUT
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INVALID\_PROGRAM

#### Description

#### See also:

nvrtcDestroyProgram

## nvrtcResult nvrtcDestroyProgram (nvrtcProgram \*prog)

nvrtcDestroyProgram destroys the given program.

#### **Parameters**

#### prog

CUDA Runtime Compilation program.

#### Returns

- NVRTC\_SUCCESS
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INVALID\_PROGRAM

#### Description

#### See also:

nvrtcCreateProgram

# nvrtcResult nvrtcGetLoweredName (nvrtcProgram prog, const char \*name\_expression, const char \*\*lowered\_name)

nvrtcGetLoweredName extracts the lowered (mangled) name for a \_\_global\_\_ function or function template instantiation, and updates \*lowered\_name to point to it. The memory containing the name is released when the NVRTC program is destroyed by nvrtcDestroyProgram. The identical name expression must have been previously provided to nvrtcAddNameExpression.

#### **Parameters**

#### prog

CUDA Runtime Compilation program.

#### name\_expression

constant expression denoting a \_\_global\_\_ function or function template instantiation.

#### lowered\_name

initialized by the function to point to a C string containing the lowered (mangled) name corresponding to the provided name expression.

#### Returns

- NVRTC SUCCESS
- NVRTC ERROR NO LOWERED NAMES BEFORE COMPILATION
- NVRTC ERROR NAME EXPRESSION NOT VALID

#### Description

#### See also:

nvrtcAddNameExpression

## nvrtcResult nvrtcGetProgramLog (nvrtcProgram prog, char \*log)

nvrtcGetProgramLog stores the log generated by the previous compilation of prog in the memory pointed by log.

#### **Parameters**

#### prog

CUDA Runtime Compilation program.

#### log

Compilation log.

#### Returns

- NVRTC\_SUCCESS
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INVALID\_INPUT
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INVALID\_PROGRAM

#### Description

#### See also:

nvrtcGetProgramLogSize

## nvrtcResult nvrtcGetProgramLogSize (nvrtcProgram prog, size\_t \*logSizeRet)

nvrtcGetProgramLogSize sets logSizeRet with the size of the log generated by the previous compilation of prog (including the trailing NULL).

#### **Parameters**

#### prog

CUDA Runtime Compilation program.

#### logSizeRet

Size of the compilation log (including the trailing NULL).

#### Returns

- NVRTC\_SUCCESS
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INVALID\_INPUT
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INVALID\_PROGRAM

#### **Description**

Note that compilation log may be generated with warnings and informative messages, even when the compilation of prog succeeds.

#### See also:

nvrtcGetProgramLog

## nvrtcResult nvrtcGetPTX (nvrtcProgram prog, char \*ptx)

<code>nvrtcGetPTX</code> stores the PTX generated by the previous compilation of prog in the memory pointed by ptx.

#### **Parameters**

prog

CUDA Runtime Compilation program.

ptx

Compiled result.

#### **Returns**

- NVRTC\_SUCCESS
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INVALID\_INPUT
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INVALID\_PROGRAM

#### **Description**

#### See also:

nvrtcGetPTXSize

## nvrtcResult nvrtcGetPTXSize (nvrtcProgram prog, size\_t \*ptxSizeRet)

nvrtcGetPTXSize sets ptxSizeRet with the size of the PTX generated by the previous compilation of prog (including the trailing NULL).

#### **Parameters**

prog

CUDA Runtime Compilation program.

ptxSizeRet

Size of the generated PTX (including the trailing NULL).

#### Returns

- NVRTC SUCCESS
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INVALID\_INPUT
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INVALID\_PROGRAM

#### Description

#### See also:

nvrtcGetPTX

## 3.4. Supported Compile Options

NVRTC supports the compile options below. Option names with two preceding dashs (--) are long option names and option names with one preceding dash (-) are short option names. Short option names can be used instead of long option names. When a compile option takes an argument, an assignment operator (=) is used to separate the compile option argument from the compile option name, e.g., "--gpu-architecture=compute\_20". Alternatively, the compile option name and the argument can be specified in separate strings without an assignment operator, e.g, "--gpu-architecturend" "compute\_20". Single-character short option names, such as -D, -U, and -I, do not require an assignment operator, and the compile option name and the argument can be present in the same string with or without spaces between them. For instance, "-D=<def>", "-D<def>", and "-D <def>" are all supported.

The valid compiler options are:

- Compilation targets
  - ► --gpu-architecture=<arch>(-arch)

Specify the name of the class of GPU architectures for which the input must be compiled.

- ▶ Valid <arch>s:
  - ▶ compute 20
  - ▶ compute 30
  - ▶ compute 35
  - ▶ compute 50
  - ▶ compute 52
  - ▶ compute 53
- ▶ Default: compute 20
- Separate compilation / whole-program compilation
  - ► --device-c (-dc)

Generate relocatable code that can be linked with other relocatable device code. It is equivalent to --relocatable-device-code=true.

► --device-w (-dw)

Generate non-relocatable code. It is equivalent to --relocatable-device-code=false.

--relocatable-device-code={true|false} (-rdc)

Enable (disable) the generation of relocatable device code.

- ▶ Default: false
- Debugging support
  - ► --device-debug (-G)

Generate debug information.

▶ --generate-line-info (-lineinfo)

Generate line-number information.

- Code generation
  - --maxrregcount=<N>(-maxrregcount)

Specify the maximum amount of registers that GPU functions can use. Until a function-specific limit, a higher value will generally increase the performance of individual GPU threads that execute this function. However, because thread registers are allocated from a global register pool on each GPU, a higher value of this option will also reduce the maximum thread block size, thereby reducing the amount of thread parallelism. Hence, a good maxregcount value is the result of a trade-off. If this option is not specified, then no maximum is assumed. Value less than the minimum registers required by ABI will be bumped up by the compiler to ABI minimum limit.

► --ftz={true|false} (-ftz)

When performing single-precision floating-point operations, flush denormal values to zero or preserve denormal values. --use\_fast\_math implies -- ftz=true.

- Default: false
- --prec-sqrt={true|false} (-prec-sqrt)

For single-precision floating-point square root, use IEEE round-to-nearest mode or use a faster approximation. --use\_fast\_math implies --prec-sqrt=false.

- ▶ Default: true
- --prec-div={true|false} (-prec-div)

For single-precision floating-point division and reciprocals, use IEEE round-to-nearest mode or use a faster approximation. --use\_fast\_math implies --prec-div=false.

- Default: true
- --fmad={true|false} (-fmad)

Enables (disables) the contraction of floating-point multiplies and adds/subtracts into floating-point multiply-add operations (FMAD, FFMA, or DFMA). --use\_fast\_math implies --fmad=true.

- ▶ Default: true
- --use fast math(-use fast math)

Make use of fast math operations. --use\_fast\_math implies --ftz=true --prec-div=false --prec-sqrt=false --fmad=true.

- Preprocessing
  - ► --define-macro=<def>(-D)

<def> can be either <name> or <name=definitions>.

<name>

Predefine <name> as a macro with definition 1.

► <name>=<definition>

The contents of <definition> are tokenized and preprocessed as if they appeared during translation phase three in a #define directive. In particular, the definition will be truncated by embedded new line characters.

► --undefine-macro=<def>(-U)

Cancel any previous definition of <def>.

▶ --include-path=<dir>(-I)

Add the directory <dir> to the list of directories to be searched for headers. These paths are searched after the list of headers given to nvrtcCreateProgram.

--pre-include=<header>(-include)

Preinclude <header> during preprocessing.

- Language Dialect
  - ► --std=c++11 (-std=c++11)

Set language dialect to C++11.

► --builtin-move-forward={true|false} (-builtin-move-forward)

Provide builtin definitions of std::move and std::forward, when C++11 language dialect is selected.

- ▶ Default: true
- --builtin-initializer-list={true|false} (-builtininitializer-list)

Provide builtin definitions of std::initializer\_list class and member functions when C++11 language dialect is selected.

- ▶ Default: true
- Misc.
  - ► --disable-warnings (-w)

Inhibit all warning messages.

--restrict (-restrict)

Programmer assertion that all kernel pointer parameters are restrict pointers.

► --device-as-default-execution-space (-default-device)

Treat entities with no execution space annotation as device entities.

## 3.5. Host Helper

NVRTC defines the following functions for easier interaction with host code.

## template < typename T > nvrtcResult nvrtcGetTypeName (std::string \*result)

nvrtcGetTypeName stores the source level name of the template type argument T in the given std::string location.

#### **Parameters**

#### result

pointer to std::string in which to store the type name.

#### Returns

- NVRTC\_SUCCESS
- NVRTC\_ERROR\_INTERNAL\_ERROR

#### Description

This function is only provided when the macro NVRTC\_GET\_TYPE\_NAME is defined with a non-zero value. It uses abi::\_\_cxa\_demangle or UnDecorateSymbolName function calls to extract the type name, when using gcc/clang or cl.exe compilers, respectively. If the name extraction fails, it will return NVRTC\_INTERNAL\_ERROR, otherwise \*result is initialized with the extracted name.

## Chapter 4. LANGUAGE

Unlike the offline nvcc compiler, NVRTC is meant for compiling only device CUDA C+ + code. It does not accept host code or host compiler extensions in the input code, unless otherwise noted.

## 4.1. Execution Space

NVRTC uses \_\_host\_\_ as the default execution space, and it generates an error if it encounters any host code in the input. That is, if the input contains entities with explicit \_\_host\_\_ annotations or no execution space annotation, NVRTC will emit an error. \_\_host\_\_ device\_\_ functions are treated as device functions.

NVRTC provides a compile option\_\_\_device\_ass\_default\_execution\_space\_that

NVRTC provides a compile option, --device-as-default-execution-space, that enables an alternative compilation mode, in which entities with no execution space annotations are treated as device entities.

## 4.2. Separate Compilation

NVRTC itself does not provide any linker. Users can, however, use cuLinkAddData in the CUDA Driver API to link the generated relocatable PTX code with other relocatable code. To generate relocatable PTX code, the compile option --relocatable-device-code=true or --device-c is required.

## 4.3. Integer Size

Different operating systems define integer type sizes differently. Linux x86\_64 and Mac OS X implement LP64, and Windows x86\_64 implements LLP64.

Table 1 Integer sizes in bits for LLP64 and LP64

	short	int	long	long long	pointers and size_t
LLP64	16	32	32	64	64
LP64	16	32	64	64	64

NVRTC implements LP64 on Linux and Mac OS X, and LLP64 on Windows.

### 4.4. Predefined Macros

- ► \_\_CUDACC\_RTC\_\_: useful for distinguishing between runtime and offline nvcc compilation in user code.
- **CUDACC**: defined with same semantics as with offline **nvcc** compilation.
- **CUDACC\_RDC**: defined with same semantics as with offline **nvcc** compilation.
- **CUDA ARCH**: defined with same semantics as with offline **nvcc** compilation.
- ► \_\_CUDACC\_VER\_MAJOR\_\_: defined with the major version number as returned by nvrtcVersion.
- ► \_\_CUDACC\_VER\_MINOR\_\_: defined with the minor version number as returned by nvrtcVersion.
- **CUDACC VER BUILD**: defined with the build version number.
- ► \_\_CUDACC\_VER\_\_: Defined with the full version number of nvcc, represented as \_\_CUDACC\_VER\_MAJOR\_\_ \* 10000 + \_\_CUDACC\_VER\_MINOR\_\_ \* 100 + \_\_CUDACC\_VER\_BUILD\_\_.
- **NULL**: null pointer constant.
- cplusplus

## 4.5. Predefined Types

- clock t
- size t
- ptrdiff\_t
- Predefined types such as dim3, char4, etc., that are available in the CUDA Runtime headers when compiling offline with nvcc are also available, unless otherwise noted.

### 4.6. Builtin Functions

Builtin functions provided by the CUDA Runtime headers when compiling offline with **nvcc** are available, unless otherwise noted.

## Chapter 5. BASIC USAGE

This section of the document uses a simple example, *Single-Precision*  $\alpha$ #*X Plus Y* (SAXPY), shown in Figure 1 to explain what is involved in runtime compilation with NVRTC. For brevity and readability, error checks on the API return values are not shown. The complete code listing is available in Example: SAXPY.

Figure 1 CUDA source string for SAXPY

First, an instance of nvrtcProgram needs to be created. Figure 2 shows creation of nvrtcProgram for SAXPY. As SAXPY does not require any header, **0** is passed as **numHeaders**, and **NULL** as **headers** and **includeNames**.

Figure 2 nvrtcProgram creation for SAXPY

If SAXPY had any **#include** directives, the contents of the files that are **#include**'d can be passed as elements of headers, and their names as elements of **includeNames**. For example, **#include <foo.h>** and **#include <bar.h>** would require **2** as **numHeaders**, { "**<contents** of **foo.h>**", "**<contents** of **bar.h>**" } as **headers**, and { "**foo.h**", "**bar.h**" } as **includeNames** (**<contents** of **foo.h>** and **<contents** of **bar.h>** must be replaced by the actual contents of **foo.h** and **bar.h**). Alternatively, the compile option **-I** can be used if the header is guaranteed to exist in the file system at runtime.

Once the instance of nvrtcProgram for compilation is created, it can be compiled by nvrtcCompileProgram as shown in Figure 3. Two compile options are used in this

example, --gpu-architecture=compute\_20 and --fmad=false, to generate code for the compute\_20 architecture and to disable the contraction of floating-point multiplies and adds/subtracts into floating-point multiply-add operations. Other combinations of compile options can be used as needed and Supported Compile Options lists valid compile options.

Figure 3 Compilation of SAXPY for compute 20 with FMAD enabled

After the compilation completes, users can obtain the program compilation log and the generated PTX as Figure 4 shows. NVRTC does not generate valid PTX when the compilation fails, and it may generate program compilation log even when the compilation succeeds if needed.

A nvrtcProgram can be compiled by nvrtcCompileProgram multiple times with different compile options, and users can only retrieve the PTX and the log generated by the last compilation.

```
// Obtain compilation log from the program.
size_t logSize;
nvrtcGetProgramLogSize(prog, &logSize);
char *log = new char[logSize];
nvrtcGetProgramLog(prog, log);
// Obtain PTX from the program.
size_t ptxSize;
nvrtcGetPTXSize(prog, &ptxSize);
char *ptx = new char[ptxSize];
nvrtcGetPTX(prog, ptx);
```

Figure 4 Obtaining generated PTX and program compilation log

When the instance of nvrtcProgram is no longer needed, it can be destroyed by nvrtcDestroyProgram as shown in Figure 5.

```
nvrtcDestroyProgram(&prog);
```

Figure 5 Destruction of nvrtcProgram

The generated PTX can be further manipulated by the CUDA Driver API for execution or linking. Figure 6 shows an example code sequence for execution of the generated PTX.

```
CUdevice cuDevice;
CUcontext context;
CUmodule module;
CUfunction kernel;
cuInit(0);
cuDeviceGet(&cuDevice, 0);
cuCtxCreate(&context, 0, cuDevice);
cuModuleLoadDataEx(&module, ptx, 0, 0, 0);
cuModuleGetFunction(&kernel, module, "saxpy");
size t n = size t n = NUM THREADS * NUM BLOCKS;
size t bufferSize = n * sizeof(float);
float a = ...;
float *hX = ..., *hY = ..., *hOut = ...;
CUdeviceptr dX, dY, dOut;
cuMemAlloc(&dX, bufferSize);
cuMemAlloc(&dY, bufferSize);
cuMemAlloc(&dOut, bufferSize);
cuMemcpyHtoD(dX, hX, bufferSize);
cuMemcpyHtoD(dY, hY, bufferSize);
void *args[] = { &a, &dX, &dY, &dOut, &n };
cuLaunchKernel(kernel,
                NUM THREADS, 1, 1, // grid dim
                args,
                                      // arguments
                0);
cuCtxSynchronize();
cuMemcpyDtoH(hOut, dOut, bufferSize);
```

Figure 6 Execution of SAXPY using the PTX generated by NVRTC

## Chapter 6. ACCESSING LOWERED NAMES

### 6.1. Introduction

NVRTC will mangle \_\_global\_\_ function names as specified by the IA64 ABI. If the generated PTX is being loaded using the CUDA Driver API, the kernel function must be looked up by name, but this is hard to do when the name has been mangled. To address this problem, NVRTC provides API functions that map source level \_\_global\_\_ function/template instantiation names to the mangled names present in the generated PTX.

The two API functions nvrtcAddNameExpression and nvrtcGetLoweredName work together to provide this functionality. First, a string denoting the source level 'name expression' for the \_\_global\_\_ function/template instantiation is provided to nvrtcAddNameExpression. Then, the program is compiled with nvrtcCompileProgram. During compilation, NVRTC will parse the name expression string as a C++ constant expression at the end of the user program. The constant expression must provide the address of a \_\_global\_\_ function/template instantiation. Finally, the function nvrtcGetLoweredName is called with the original name expression and it returns a pointer to the lowered name. The lowered name can be used to refer to the kernel in the CUDA Driver API.

NVRTC guarantees that any **\_\_global**\_\_ function/template instantiation referenced in a call to **nvrtcAddNameExpression** will be present in the generated PTX (if the definition is available in the input source code).

## 6.2. Example

Example: Using Lowered Name lists a complete runnable example. Some relevant snippets:

1. The GPU source code ('gpu\_program') contains definitions of various \_\_global\_\_ functions and function templates:

```
const char *gpu_program = " \n\
static __global__ void f1(int *result) { *result = 10; } \n\
namespace N1 { \n\
namespace N2 { \n\
__global__ void f2(int *result) { *result = 20; } \n\
} \n\
} \n\
template<typename T> \n\
__global__ void f3(int *result) { *result = sizeof(T); } \n\
\n";
```

2. The host source code invokes **nvrtcAddNameExpression** with various name expressions referring to **global** functions and function template instantiations:

```
name_vec.push_back("&f1");
...
name_vec.push_back("N1::N2::f2");
...
name_vec.push_back("f3<int>");
...
name_vec.push_back("f3<double>");

// add name expressions to NVRTC. Note this must be done before
// the program is compiled.
for (size_t i = 0; i < name_vec.size(); ++i)
NVRTC_SAFE_CALL(nvrtcAddNameExpression(prog, name_vec[i].c_str()));</pre>
```

3. The GPU program is then compiled with nvrtcCompileProgram. The generated PTX is loaded on the GPU. The mangled names of the \_\_global\_\_ function and template instantiations are looked up:

```
// note: this call must be made after NVRTC program has been
// compiled and before it has been destroyed.
NVRTC_SAFE_CALL(nvrtcGetLoweredName(
prog,
name_vec[i].c_str(), // name expression
&name // lowered name
));
```

4. The mangled name is then used to launch the kernel using the CUDA Driver API:

```
CUfunction kernel;
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuModuleGetFunction(&kernel, module, name));
...
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(
cuLaunchKernel(kernel,
1, 1, 1, // grid dim
1, 1, 1, // block dim
0, NULL, // shared mem and stream
args, 0));
```

### 6.3. Notes

 Sequence of calls: All name expressions must be added using nvrtcAddNameExpression before the NVRTC program is compiled with nvrtcCompileProgram. This is required because the name expressions are parsed at the end of the user program, and may trigger template instantiations. The lowered names must be looked up by calling nvrtcGetLoweredName only after the NVRTC program has been compiled, and before it has been destroyed. The pointer returned by nvrtcGetLoweredName points to memory owned by NVRTC, and this memory is freed when the NVRTC program has been destroyed (nvrtcDestroyProgram). Thus the correct sequence of calls is: nvrtcAddNameExpression, nvrtcCompileProgram, nvrtcGetLoweredName, nvrtcDestroyProgram.

- 2. Identical Name Expressions: The name expression string passed to nvrtcAddNameExpression and nvrtcGetLoweredName must have identical characters. For example, "foo" and "foo" are not identical strings, even though semantically they refer to the same entity (foo), because the second string has a extra whitespace character.
- 3. Constant Expressions: The characters in the name expression string are parsed as a C++ constant expression at the end of the user program. Any errors during parsing will cause compilation failure and compiler diagnostics will be generated in the compilation log. The constant expression must refer to the address of a \_\_global\_\_ function or function template instantiation.
- 4. Address of overloaded function: If the NVRTC source code has multiple overloaded \_\_global\_\_ functions, then the name expression must use a cast operation to disambiguate. However, casts are not allowed in constant expression for C++ dialects before C++11. If using such name expressions, please compile the code in C ++11 or later dialect using the '-std' command line flag. Example: Consider that the GPU code string contains:

```
__global__ void foo(int) { }
__global__ void foo(char) { }
```

The name expression '(void(\*)(int))foo' correctly disambiguates 'foo(int)', but the program must be compiled in C++11 or later dialect (e.g. '-std=c++11') because casts are not allowed in pre-C++11 constant expressions.

## Chapter 7. <a href="INTERFACING WITH TEMPLATE">INTERFACING WITH TEMPLATE HOST CODE</a>

### 7.1. Introduction

In some scenarios, it is useful to instantiate \_\_global\_\_ function templates in device code based on template arguments in host code. The NVRTC helper function nvrtcGetTypeName can be used to extract the source level name of a type in host code, and this string can be used to instantiate a \_\_global\_\_ function template and get the mangled name of the instantiation using the nvrtcAddNameExpression and nvrtcGetLoweredName functions.

nvrtcGetTypeName is defined inline in the NVRTC header file, and is available when the macro nvrtc\_Get\_type\_name is defined with a non-zero value. It uses the abi::\_\_cxa\_demangle and UnDecorateSymbolName host code functions when using gcc/clang and cl.exe compilers, respectively. Users may need to specify additional header paths and libraries to find the host functions used (abi::\_cxa\_demangle / UnDecorateSymbolName). See the build instructions for the example below for reference (Build Instruction).

## 7.2. Example

Example: Using nvrtcGetTypeName lists a complete runnable example. Some relevant snippets:

 The GPU source code ('gpu\_program') contains definitions of a \_\_global\_\_ function template:

2. The host code function **getKernelNameForType** creates the name expression for a **\_\_global\_\_** function template instantiation based on the host template type **T**. The name of the type **T** is extracted using **nvrtcGetTypeName**:

```
template <typename T>
std::string getKernelNameForType(void)
{
// Look up the source level name string for the type "T" using
// nvrtcGetTypeName() and use it to create the kernel name
std::string type_name;
NVRTC_SAFE_CALL(nvrtcGetTypeName<T>(&type_name));
return std::string("f3<") + type_name + ">";
}
```

3. The name expressions are presented to NVRTC using the nvrtcAddNameExpression function:

```
name_vec.push_back(getKernelNameForType<int>());
...
name_vec.push_back(getKernelNameForType<double>());
...
name_vec.push_back(getKernelNameForType<N1::S1_t>());
...
for (size_t i = 0; i < name_vec.size(); ++i)
NVRTC_SAFE_CALL(nvrtcAddNameExpression(prog, name_vec[i].c_str()));</pre>
```

4. The GPU program is then compiled with nvrtcCompileProgram. The generated PTX is loaded on the GPU. The mangled names of the \_\_global\_\_ function template instantiations are looked up:

```
// note: this call must be made after NVRTC program has been
// compiled and before it has been destroyed.
NVRTC_SAFE_CALL(nvrtcGetLoweredName(
prog,
name_vec[i].c_str(), // name expression
&name // lowered name
));
```

5. The mangled name is then used to launch the kernel using the CUDA Driver API:

```
CUfunction kernel;
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuModuleGetFunction(&kernel, module, name));
...
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(
cuLaunchKernel(kernel,
1, 1, 1, // grid dim
1, 1, 1, // block dim
0, NULL, // shared mem and stream
args, 0));
```

# Chapter 8. KNOWN ISSUES

The following CUDA C++ features are not yet implemented when compiling with NVRTC:

Dynamic parallelism (kernel launches from within device code).

## Appendix A. EXAMPLE: SAXPY

## A.1. Code (saxpy.cpp)

```
#include <nvrtc.h>
#include <cuda.h>
#include <iostream>
#define NUM THREADS 128
#define NUM_BLOCKS 32
#define NVRTC SAFE CALL(x)
  do {
    nvrtcResult result = x;
    if (result != NVRTC SUCCESS) {
      std::cerr << "\nerror: " #x " failed with error "
                 << nvrtcGetErrorString(result) << '\n';
      exit(1);
  } while(0)
#define CUDA SAFE CALL(x)
    CUresult result = x;
    if (result != CUDA SUCCESS) {
     const char *msg;
      cuGetErrorName(result, &msg);
std::cerr << "\nerror: " #x " failed with error "</pre>
                 << msg << '\n';
      exit(1);
  } while(0)
const char *saxpy = "
extern \"C\" __global
                                                                       n\
                                                                       n
void saxpy(float a, float *x, float *y, float *out, size t n)
                                                                       \n\
                                                                       \n\
  size t tid = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
                                                                       \n\
  if (\overline{t}id < n) {
                                                                       n\
    out[tid] = a * x[tid] + y[tid];
                                                                       \n\
                                                                       \n\
                                                                       \n";
int main()
 // Create an instance of nvrtcProgram with the SAXPY code string.
nvrtcProgram prog;
```

```
NVRTC SAFE CALL (
                      (&prog, // prog
saxpy, // buffer
"saxpy.cu", // name
  nvrtcCreateProgram(&prog,
                      O,
NULL,
NULL));
                                      // numHeaders
                                      // headers
// includeNames
// Compile the program for compute 20 with fmad disabled.
nvrtcResult compileResult = nvrtcCompileProgram(prog, // prog
                                                          // numOptions
                                                    2,
                                                    opts); // options
// Obtain compilation log from the program.
size_t logSize;
NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcGetProgramLogSize(prog, &logSize));
char *log = new char[logSize];
NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcGetProgramLog(prog, log));
std::cout << log << '\n';
delete[] log;
if (compileResult != NVRTC SUCCESS) {
  exit(1);
// Obtain PTX from the program.
size t ptxSize;
NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcGetPTXSize(prog, &ptxSize));
char *ptx = new char[ptxSize];
NVRTC_SAFE_CALL(nvrtcGetPTX(prog, ptx));
// Destroy the program.
NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcDestroyProgram(&prog));
// Load the generated PTX and get a handle to the SAXPY kernel.
CUdevice cuDevice;
CUcontext context;
CUmodule module;
CUfunction kernel;
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuInit(0));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuDeviceGet(&cuDevice, 0));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuCtxCreate(&context, 0, cuDevice));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuModuleLoadDataEx(&module, ptx, 0, 0, 0));
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuModuleGetFunction(&kernel, module, "saxpy"));
// Generate input for execution, and create output buffers.
size_t n = NUM_THREADS * NUM_BLOCKS;
size t bufferSize = n * sizeof(float);
float a = 5.1f;
float *hX = new float[n], *hY = new float[n], *hOut = new float[n];
for (size t i = 0; i < n; ++i) {</pre>
 hX[i] = static_cast<float>(i);
  hY[i] = static_cast<float>(i * 2);
CUdeviceptr dX, dY, dOut;
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuMemAlloc(&dX, bufferSize));
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuMemAlloc(&dY, bufferSize));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuMemAlloc(&dOut, bufferSize));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuMemcpyHtoD(dX, hX, bufferSize));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuMemcpyHtoD(dY, hY, bufferSize));
// Execute SAXPY.
void *args[] = { &a, &dX, &dY, &dOut, &n };
CUDA SAFE CALL (
  cuLaunchKernel (kernel,
                  NUM BLOCKS, 1, 1,
                                         // grid dim
                  NUM THREADS, 1, 1,
                                        // block dim
                  0, NULL,
                                        // shared mem and stream
                  args, 0));
                                         // arguments
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuCtxSynchronize());
// Retrieve and print output.
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuMemcpyDtoH(hOut, dOut, bufferSize));
```

Example: SAXPY

### A.2. Build Instruction

Assuming the environment variable **CUDA\_PATH** points to CUDA Toolkit installation directory, build this example as:

Windows:

```
cl.exe saxpy.cpp /Fesaxpy ^
    /I "%CUDA_PATH%"\include ^
    "%CUDA_PATH%"\lib\x64\nvrtc.lib ^
    "%CUDA_PATH%"\lib\x64\cuda.lib
```

Linux:

```
g++ saxpy.cpp -o saxpy \
-I $CUDA_PATH/include \
-L $CUDA_PATH/lib64 \
-lnvrtc -lcuda \
-Wl,-rpath,$CUDA_PATH/lib64
```

Mac OS X:

```
clang++ saxpy.cpp -o saxpy \
   -I $CUDA_PATH/include \
   -L $CUDA_PATH/lib \
   -lnvrtc -framework CUDA \
   -Wl,-rpath,$CUDA_PATH/lib
```

## Appendix B. EXAMPLE: USING LOWERED NAME

## B.1. Code (lowered-name.cpp)

```
#include <nvrtc.h>
#include <cuda.h>
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <string>
#define NVRTC SAFE CALL(x)
 do {
   nvrtcResult result = x;
   if (result != NVRTC SUCCESS) {
     std::cerr << "\nerror: " #x " failed with error "
               << nvrtcGetErrorString(result) << '\n';
     exit(1);
 } while(0)
#define CUDA SAFE CALL(x)
   CUresult result = x;
   if (result != CUDA SUCCESS) {
     const char *msg;
     cuGetErrorName(result, &msg);
     std::cerr << "\nerror: " #x " failed with error "
                << msg << '\n';
     exit(1);
 } while(0)
const char *gpu_program = "
                                                                 n\
static global void f1(int *result) { *result = 10; }
                                                                 \n\
namespace N1 {
                                                                 \n\
 namespace N2 {
     _global__ void f2(int *result) { *result = 20; }
                                                                 \n\
                                                                 \n\
                                                                 \n\
template<typename T>
                                                                 \n\
__global__ void f3(int *result) { *result = sizeof(T); }
                                                                 \n\
                                                                 \n";
int main()
 // Create an instance of nvrtcProgram
nvrtcProgram prog;
```

```
NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcCreateProgram(&prog,
                                  gpu_prog.cu", // name
// numHeaders
// boaders
                                  NULL));
                                               // headers
// includeNames
// add all name expressions for kernels
std::vector<std::string> name_vec;
std::vector<int> expected_result;
// note the name expressions are parsed as constant expressions
name vec.push back("&f1");
expected result.push back(10);
name vec.push back("N1::N2::f2");
expected_result.push_back(20);
name vec.push back("f3<int>");
expected result.push back(sizeof(int));
name_vec.push_back("f3<double>");
expected result.push back(sizeof(double));
// add name expressions to NVRTC. Note this must be done before
// the program is compiled.
for (size t i = 0; i < name vec.size(); ++i)</pre>
  NVRTC_SAFE_CALL(nvrtcAddNameExpression(prog, name_vec[i].c_str()));
// Obtain compilation log from the program.
size t logSize;
NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcGetProgramLogSize(prog, &logSize));
char *log = new char[logSize];
NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcGetProgramLog(prog, log));
std::cout << log << '\n';
delete[] log;
if (compileResult != NVRTC SUCCESS) {
  exit(1);
// Obtain PTX from the program.
size t ptxSize;
NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcGetPTXSize(prog, &ptxSize));
char *ptx = new char[ptxSize];
NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcGetPTX(prog, ptx));
// Load the generated PTX
CUdevice cuDevice;
CUcontext context;
CUmodule module;
CUDA SAFE_CALL(cuInit(0));
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuDeviceGet(&cuDevice, 0));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuCtxCreate(&context, 0, cuDevice));
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuModuleLoadDataEx(&module, ptx, 0, 0, 0));
CUdeviceptr dResult;
int hResult = 0;
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuMemAlloc(&dResult, sizeof(hResult)));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuMemcpyHtoD(dResult, &hResult, sizeof(hResult)));
```

```
// for each of the name expressions previously provided to NVRTC,
// extract the lowered name for corresponding __global__ function,
// and launch it.
for (size t i = 0; i < name vec.size(); ++i) {</pre>
 const char *name;
  // note: this call must be made after NVRTC program has been
  // compiled and before it has been destroyed.
 NVRTC_SAFE_CALL(nvrtcGetLoweredName(
  prog,
name_vec[i].c_str(), // name expression
&name // lowered name
                                      ));
  // get pointer to kernel from loaded PTX
 CUfunction kernel;
 CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuModuleGetFunction(&kernel, module, name));
  // launch the kernel
  std::cout << "\nlaunching " << name << " ("</pre>
     << name_vec[i] << ")" << std::endl;
 void *args[] = { &dResult };
 CUDA SAFE CALL (
   cuLaunchKernel (kernel,
                          // grid dim
    1, 1, 1,
    1, 1, 1,
                          // block dim
    0, NULL,
    CUDA SAFE CALL(cuCtxSynchronize());
  // Retrieve the result
 CUDA SAFE CALL(cuMemcpyDtoH(&hResult, dResult, sizeof(hResult)));
  // check against expected value
  if (expected result[i] != hResult) {
   std::cout << "\n Error: expected result = " << expected result[i]</pre>
<< " , actual result = " << hResult << std::endl;</pre>
   exit(1);
  }
} // for
// Release resources.
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuMemFree(dResult));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuModuleUnload(module));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuCtxDestroy(context));
// Destroy the program.
NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcDestroyProgram(&prog));
return 0;
```

### **B.2.** Build Instruction

Assuming the environment variable **CUDA\_PATH** points to CUDA Toolkit installation directory, build this example as:

Windows:

Example: Using Lowered Name

```
cl.exe lowered-name.cpp /Felowered-name ^
    /I "%CUDA_PATH%"\include ^
    "%CUDA_PATH%"\lib\x64\nvrtc.lib ^
    "%CUDA_PATH%"\lib\x64\cuda.lib
```

#### Linux:

```
g++ lowered-name.cpp -o lowered-name \
    -I $CUDA_PATH/include \
    -L $CUDA_PATH/lib64 \
    -lnvrtc -lcuda \
    -Wl,-rpath,$CUDA_PATH/lib64
```

#### ▶ Mac OS X:

```
clang++ lowered-name.cpp -o lowered-name \
   -I $CUDA_PATH/include \
   -L $CUDA_PATH/lib \
   -lnvrtc -framework CUDA \
   -Wl,-rpath,$CUDA_PATH/lib
```

## Appendix C. EXAMPLE: USING NVRTCGETTYPENAME

## C.1. Code (host-type-name.cpp)

```
#include <nvrtc.h>
#include <cuda.h>
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <string>
#define NVRTC SAFE CALL(x)
   nvrtcResult result = x;
   if (result != NVRTC SUCCESS) {
     std::cerr << "\nerror: " #x " failed with error "
                << nvrtcGetErrorString(result) << '\n';</pre>
     exit(1);
  } while(0)
#define CUDA SAFE CALL(x)
   CUresult result = x;
   if (result != CUDA_SUCCESS) {
     const char *msg;
     cuGetErrorName(result, &msg);
     std::cerr << "\nerror: " #x " failed with error "</pre>
                << msg << '\n';
     exit(1);
  } while(0)
const char *gpu_program = "
                                                                  \n\
namespace N1 { struct S1 t { int i; double d; }; }
                                                                  \n\
                                                                  \n\
template<typename T>
__global__ void f3(int *result) { *result = sizeof(T); }
                                                                  n
                                                                  n";
// note: this structure is also defined in GPU code string. Should ideally
// be in a header file included by both GPU code string and by CPU code.
namespace N1 { struct S1_t { int i; double d; }; };
```

```
template <typename T>
std::string getKernelNameForType(void)
   // Look up the source level name string for the type "T" using
  // nvrtcGetTypeName() and use it to create the kernel name
  std::string type name;
  NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcGetTypeName<T>(&type name));
  return std::string("f3<") + type name + ">";
int main()
 // Create an instance of nvrtcProgram
 nvrtcProgram prog;
 NVRTC SAFE CALL (
                       (&prog, // prog
gpu_program, // buffer
  nvrtcCreateProgram(&prog,
                       "gpu_program.cu", // name
0, // numHeaders
NULL, // headers
                                      // headers
                       NULL,
                                     // includeNames
                       NULL));
 // add all name expressions for kernels
 std::vector<std::string> name vec;
 std::vector<int> expected result;
 // note the name expressions are parsed as constant expressions
 name vec.push back(getKernelNameForType<int>());
 expected_result.push_back(sizeof(int));
 name vec.push back(getKernelNameForType<double>());
 expected result.push back(sizeof(double));
 name vec.push back(getKernelNameForType<N1::S1 t>());
 expected result.push back(sizeof(N1::S1 t));
 // add name expressions to NVRTC. Note this must be done before
 // the program is compiled.
 for (size t i = 0; i < name vec.size(); ++i)</pre>
   NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcAddNameExpression(prog, name vec[i].c str()));
 NULL); // options
 // Obtain compilation log from the program.
 size t logSize;
 NVRTC_SAFE_CALL(nvrtcGetProgramLogSize(prog, &logSize));
 char *log = new char[logSize];
 NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcGetProgramLog(prog, log));
 std::cout << log << '\n';
 delete[] log;
 if (compileResult != NVRTC SUCCESS) {
   exit(1);
 // Obtain PTX from the program.
 size t ptxSize;
 NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcGetPTXSize(prog, &ptxSize));
 char *ptx = new char[ptxSize];
NVRTC_SAFE_CALL(nvrtcGetPTX(prog, ptx));
```

```
// Load the generated PTX
CUdevice cuDevice;
CUcontext context;
CUmodule module;
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuInit(0));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuDeviceGet(&cuDevice, 0));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuCtxCreate(&context, 0, cuDevice));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuModuleLoadDataEx(&module, ptx, 0, 0, 0));
CUdeviceptr dResult;
int hResult = 0;
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuMemAlloc(&dResult, sizeof(hResult)));
CUDA SAFE CALL(cuMemcpyHtoD(dResult, &hResult, sizeof(hResult)));
// for each of the name expressions previously provided to NVRTC,
// extract the lowered name for corresponding global function,
// and launch it.
for (size_t i = 0; i < name_vec.size(); ++i) {</pre>
 const char *name;
  // note: this call must be made after NVRTC program has been
  // compiled and before it has been destroyed.
 NVRTC SAFE CALL(nvrtcGetLoweredName(
                       prog,
  ));
  // get pointer to kernel from loaded PTX
 CUfunction kernel;
 CUDA SAFE CALL(cuModuleGetFunction(&kernel, module, name));
  // launch the kernel
  std::cout << "\nlaunching " << name << " ("</pre>
     << name vec[i] << ")" << std::endl;
 void *args[] = { &dResult };
 CUDA_SAFE_CALL(
    cuLaunchKernel (kernel,
                          // grid dim
    1, 1, 1,
                          // block dim
    1, 1, 1,
    0, NULL,
                          // shared mem and stream
                          // arguments
    args, 0));
 CUDA SAFE CALL(cuCtxSynchronize());
  // Retrieve the result
 CUDA SAFE CALL(cuMemcpyDtoH(&hResult, dResult, sizeof(hResult)));
  // check against expected value
  if (expected result[i] != hResult) {
   std::cout << "\n Error: expected result = " << expected result[i]</pre>
<< " , actual result = " << hResult << std::endl;</pre>
   exit(1);
 }
} // for
// Release resources.
CUDA SAFE CALL (cuMemFree (dResult));
CUDA_SAFE_CALL(cuModuleUnload(module));
CUDA SAFE CALL (cuCtxDestroy(context));
// Destroy the program.
NVRTC_SAFE_CALL(nvrtcDestroyProgram(&prog));
return 0;
```

### C.2. Build Instruction

Assuming the environment variable **CUDA\_PATH** points to CUDA Toolkit installation directory, build this example as:

Windows:

```
cl.exe -DNVRTC_GET_TYPE_NAME=1 host-type-name.cpp /Fehost-type-name ^
    /I "%CUDA_PATH%"\include ^
    "%CUDA_PATH%"\lib\x64\nvrtc.lib ^
    "%CUDA_PATH%"\lib\x64\cuda.lib DbgHelp.lib
```

Linux:

```
g++ -DNVRTC_GET_TYPE_NAME=1 host-type-name.cpp -o host-type-name \
-I $CUDA_PATH/include \
-L $CUDA_PATH/lib64 \
-lnvrtc_-lcuda \
-W1,-rpath,$CUDA_PATH/lib64
```

Mac OS X:

```
clang++ -DNVRTC_GET_TYPE_NAME=1 host-type-name.cpp -o host-type-name \
    -I $CUDA_PATH/include \
    -L $CUDA_PATH/lib \
    -lnvrtc -framework CUDA \
    -Wl,-rpath,$CUDA_PATH/lib
```

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