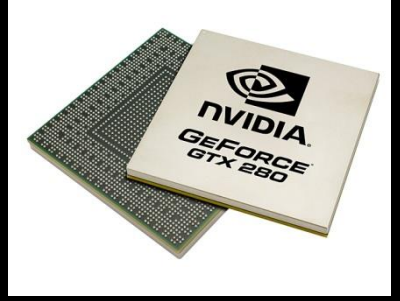
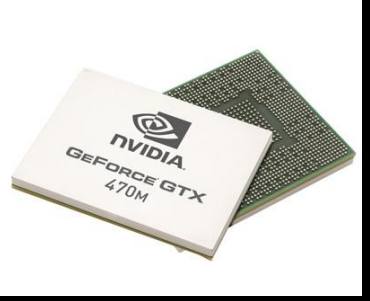
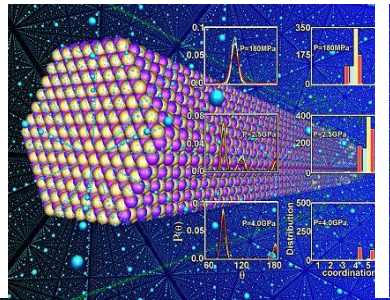


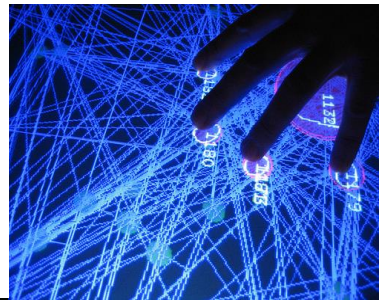


Gdev: First-Class GPU Resource Management in the Operating System

Shinpei Kato
Nagoya University

Michael McThrow Carlos Maltzahn Scott Brandt
UC Santa Cruz





GPUs embrace “many cores”.

Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)

2008

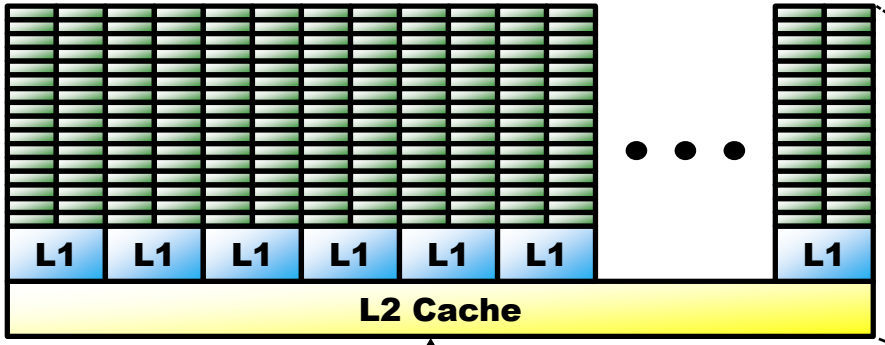
250 cores
(Tesla)

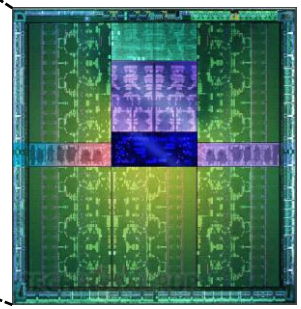
2010

500 cores
(Fermi)

2012

1500 cores
(Kepler)



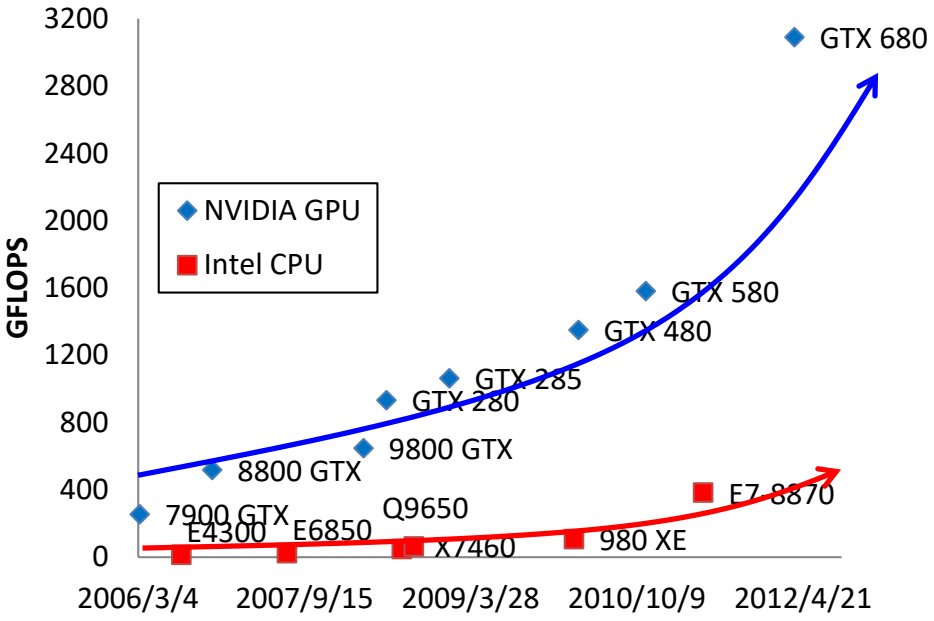


Device Memory

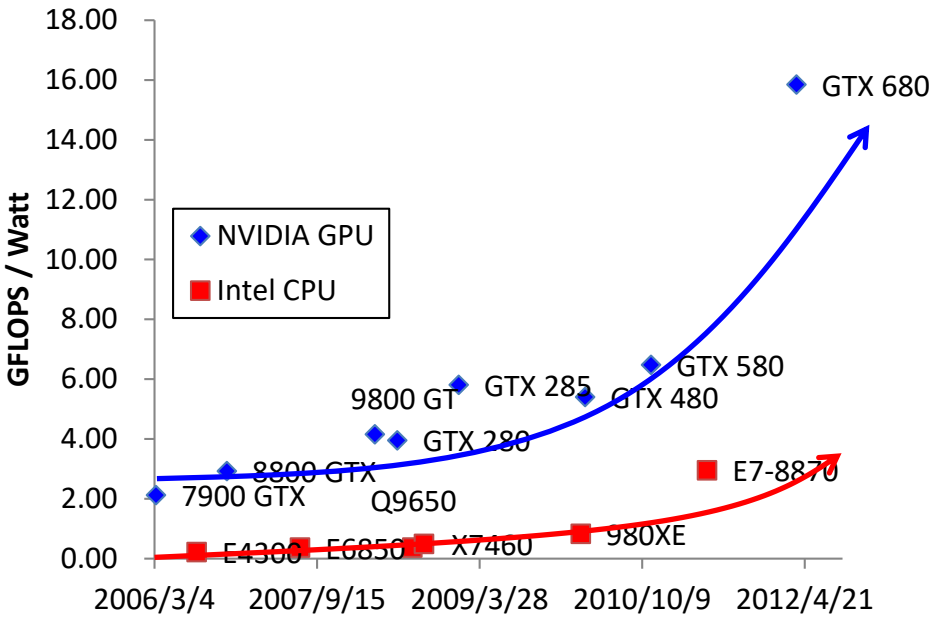
CPU

Main Memory

Performance Trend

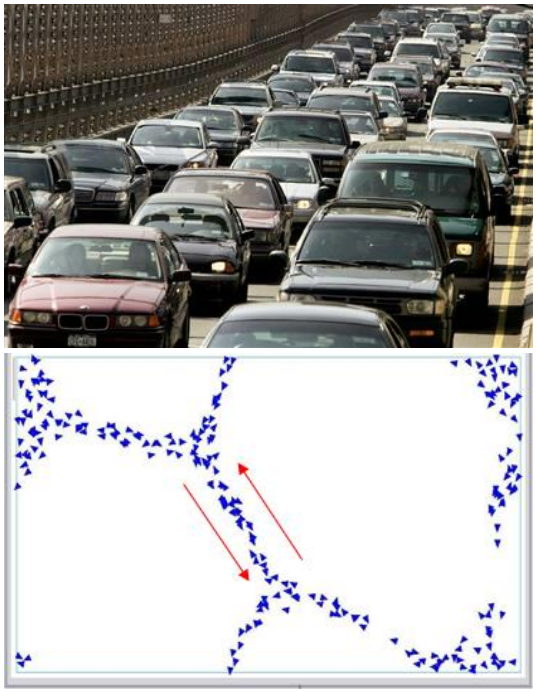


Single Precision Performance

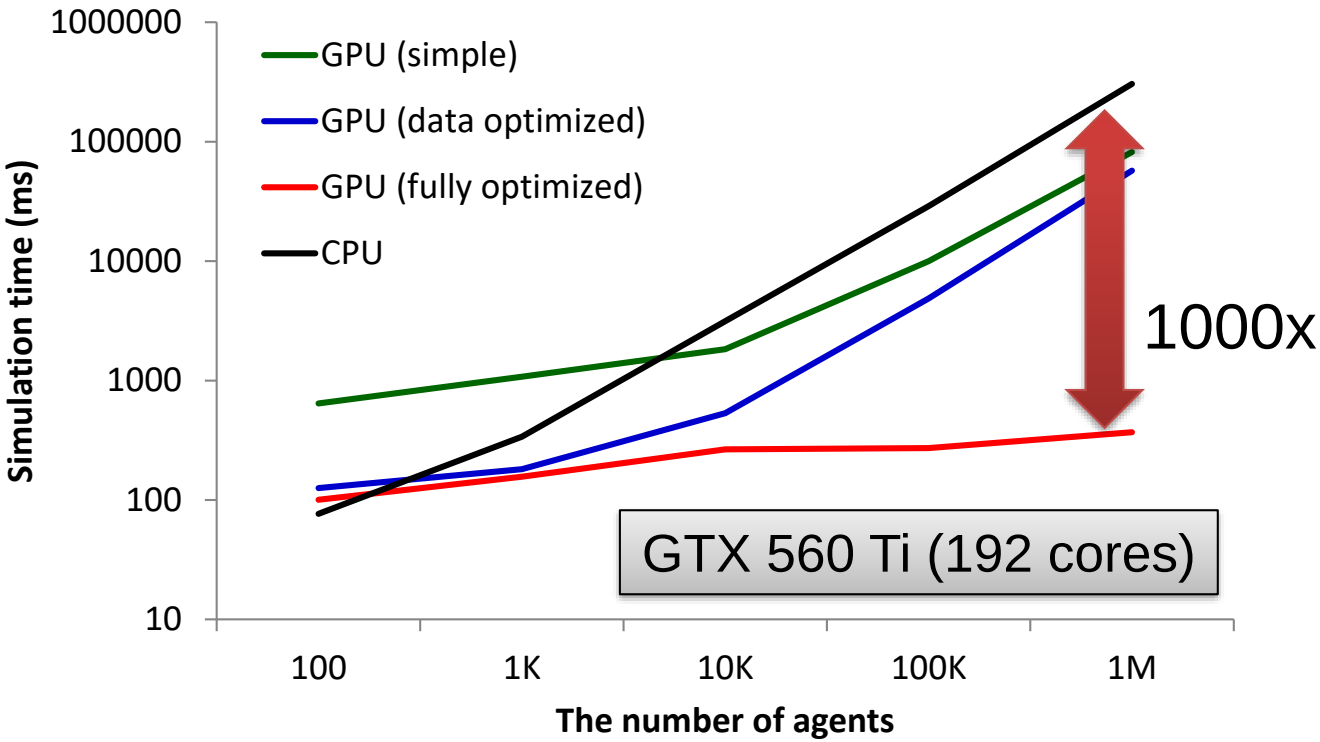


Performance per Watt

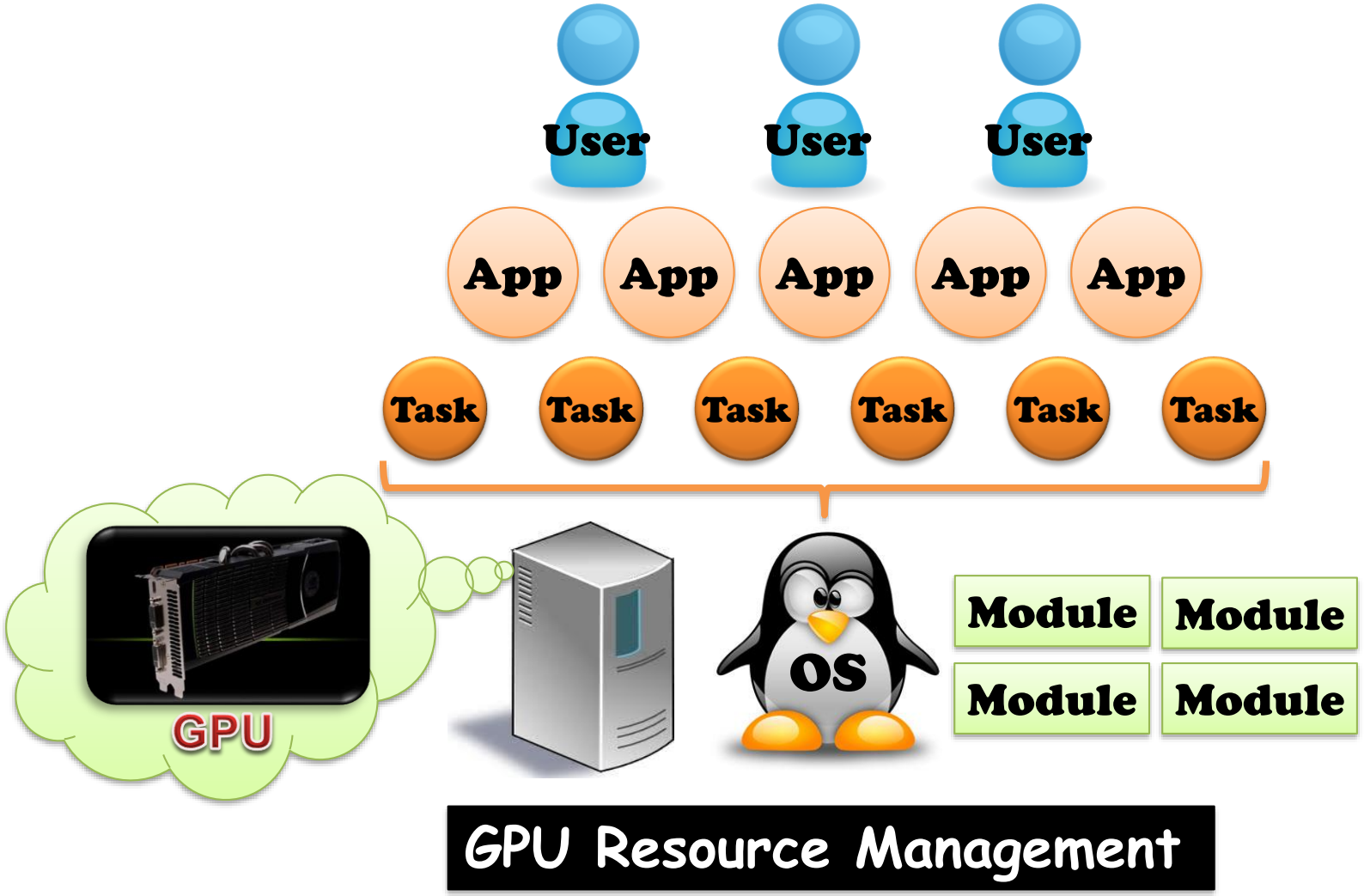
GPUs Suit Science



Traffic Simulation



Not Yet "General-Purpose"



GPU Resource Management

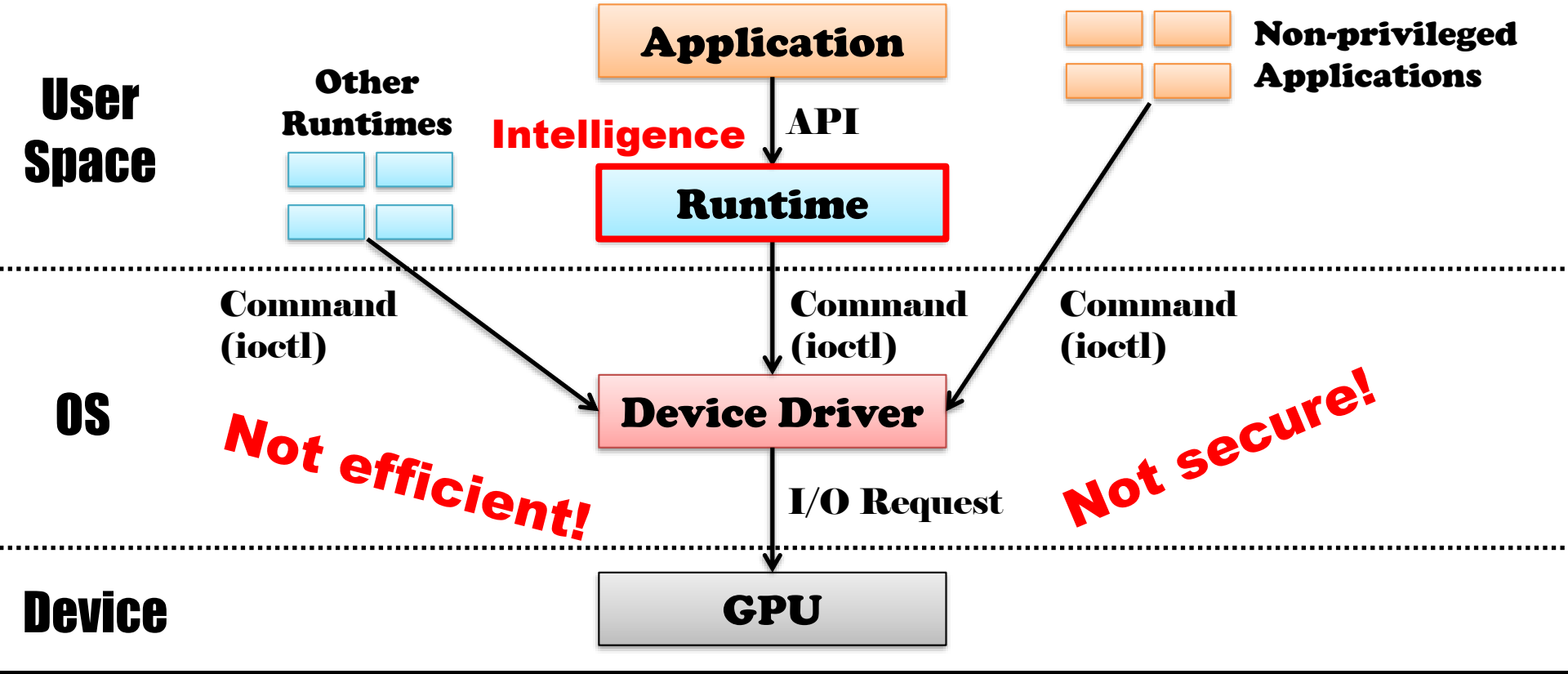
Gdev

- New approach to GPU resource management
  - Allows the OS as well as user-space applications to use GPUs.
- New functions of GPU resource management
  - Shared device memory (IPC)
  - Data swapping
  - System-level virtualization
- Open-source implementation

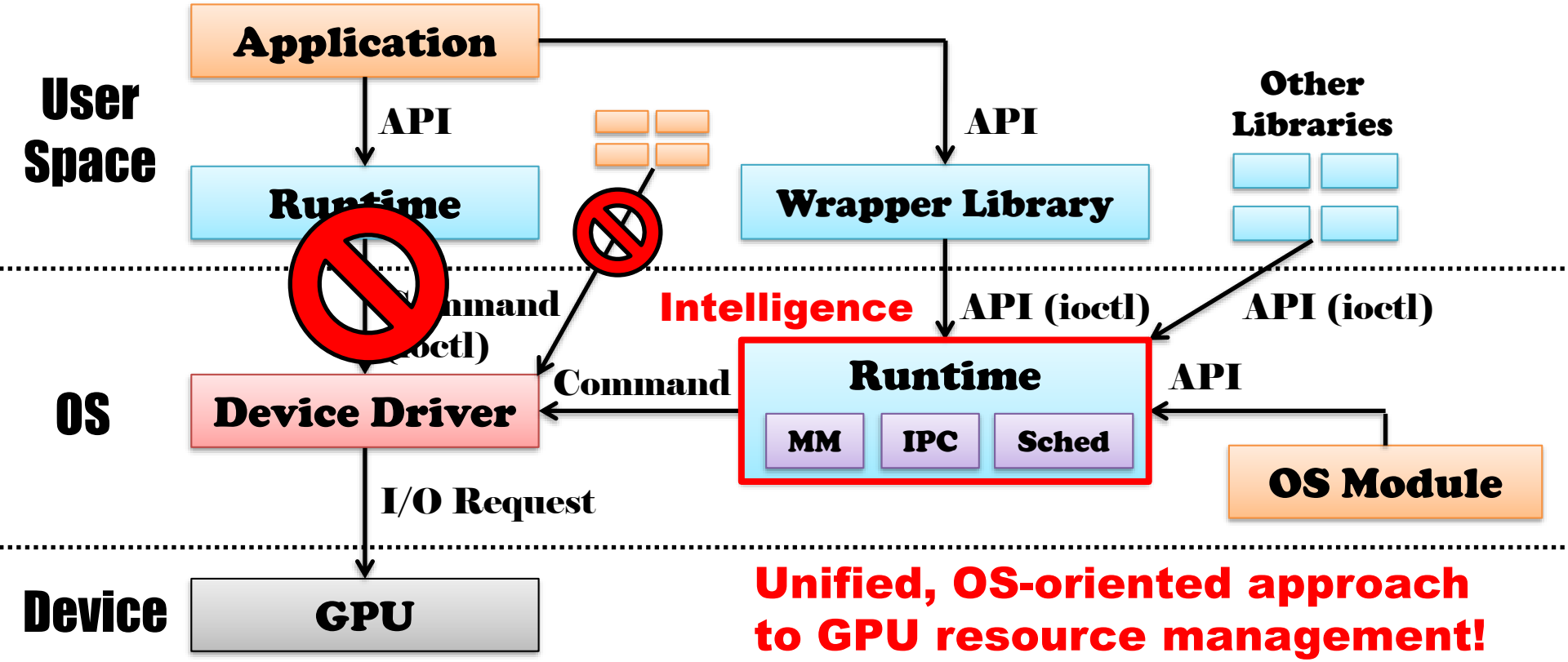
Outline

- Motivation
- Approach
- GPU Resource Management
- Evaluation
- Conclusion

Traditional Naïve Approach



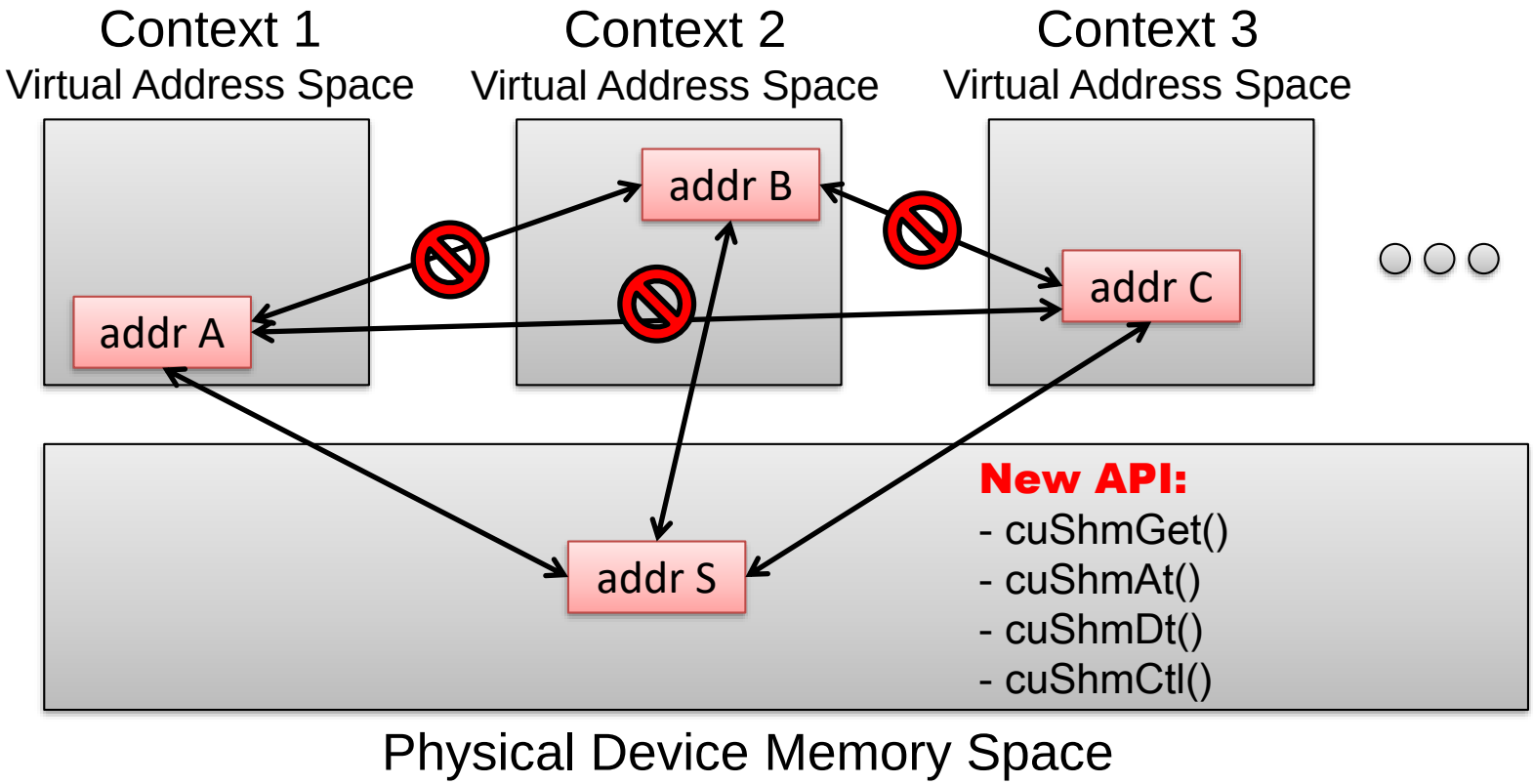
Gdev Approach



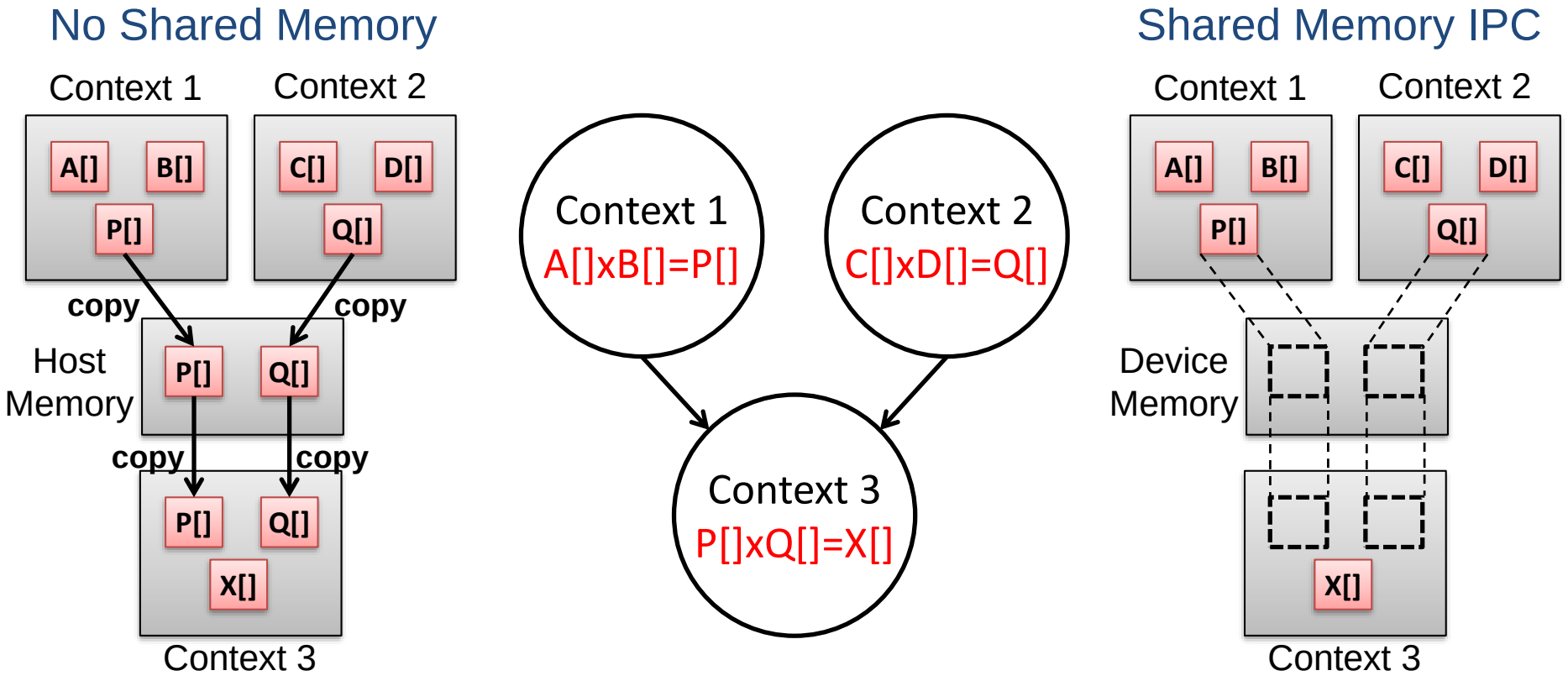
Outline

- Motivation
- Approach
- **GPU Resource Management**
- **Evaluation**
- **Conclusion**

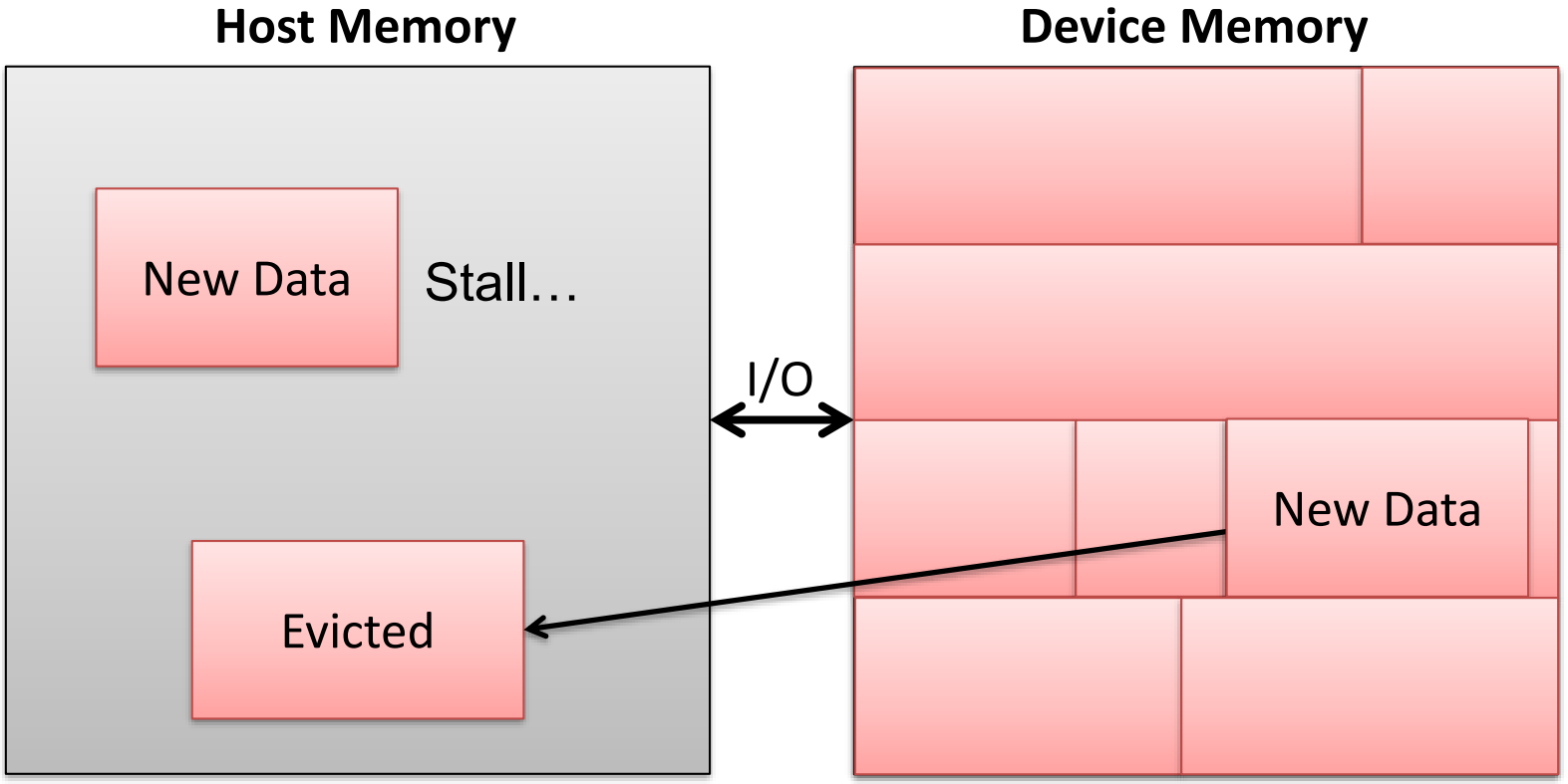
Shared Device Memory



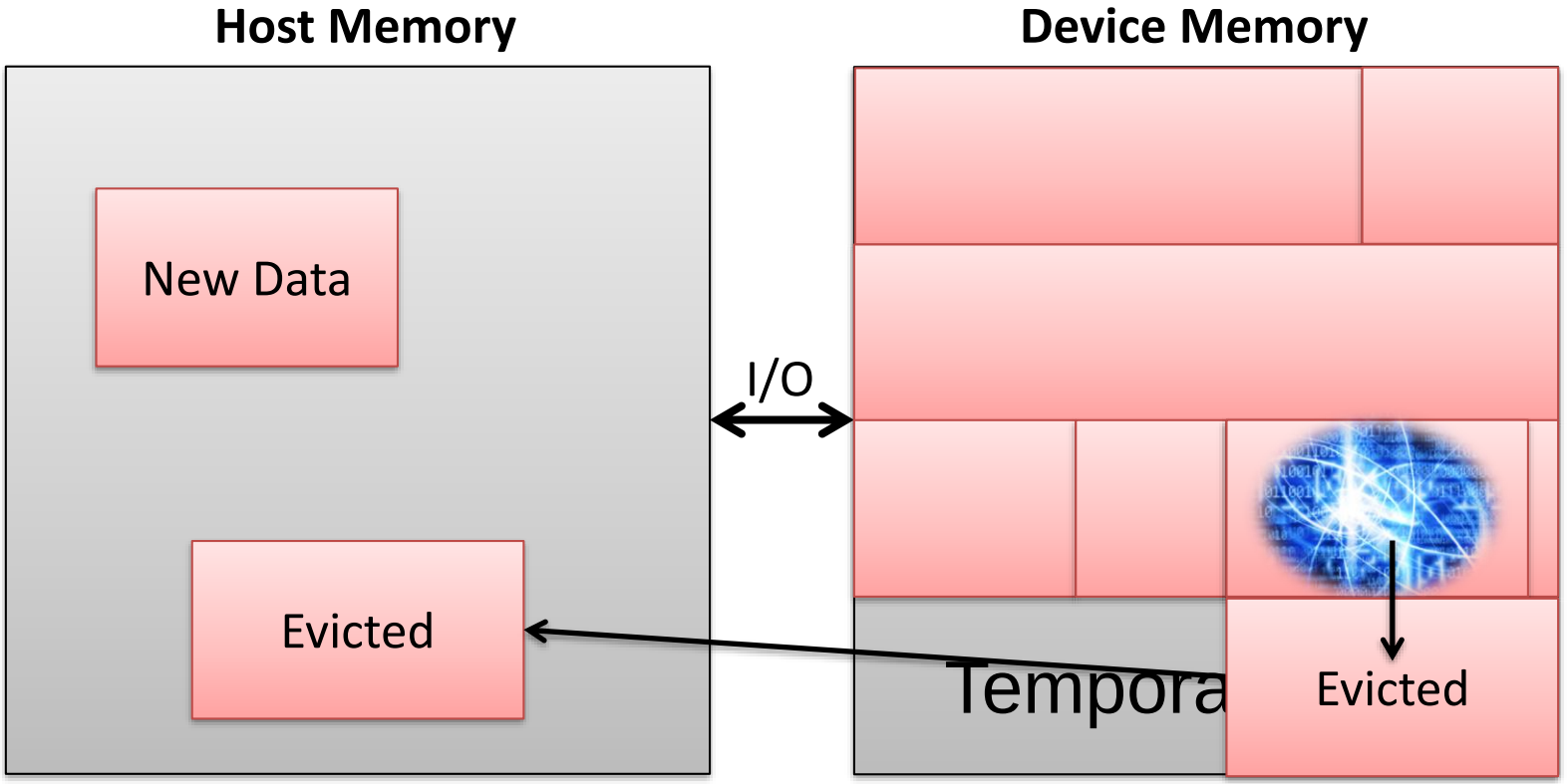
E.g., Dataflow (2x2 Tree)



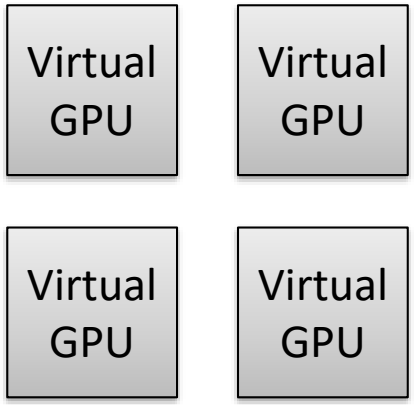
Data Swapping

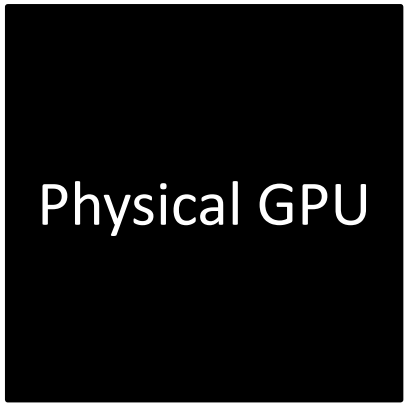


Data Swapping (Enhanced)



GPU Virtualization



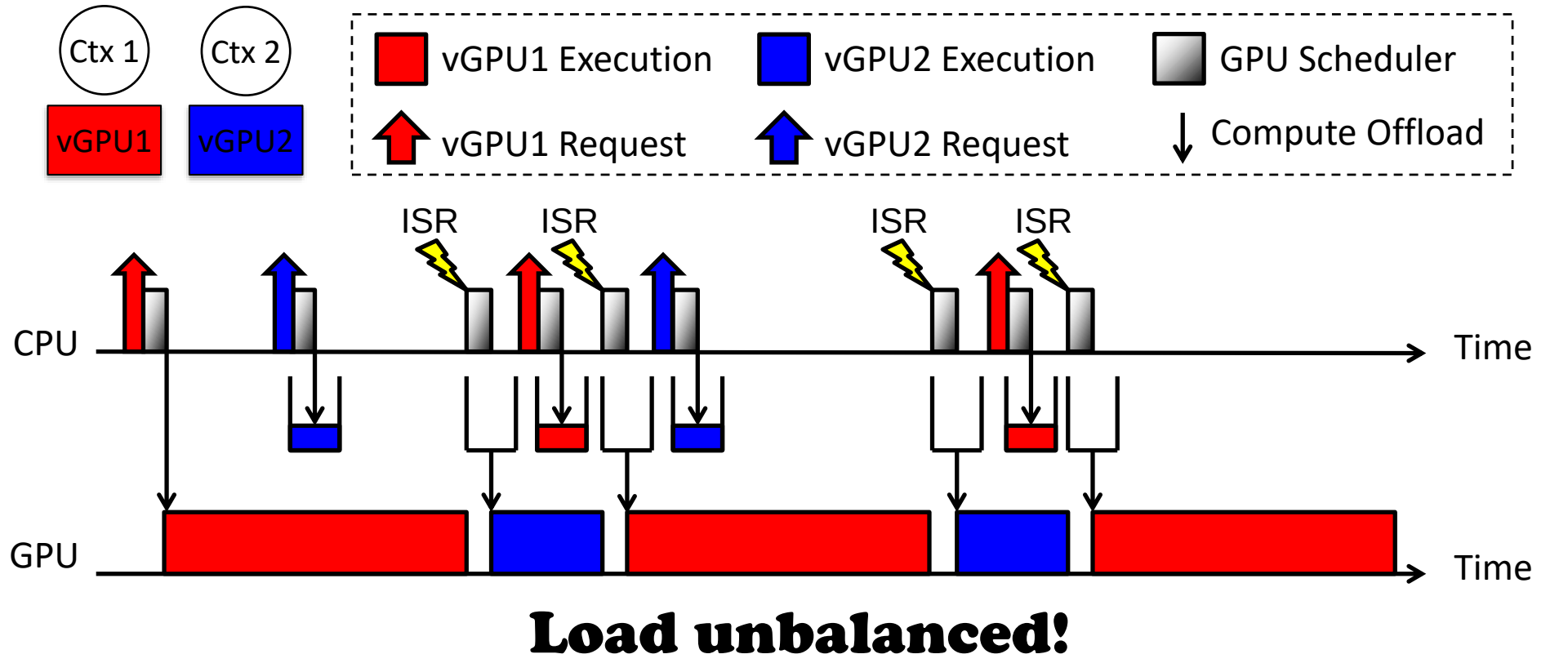



```
/dev/gdev0
/dev/gdev1
/dev/gdev2
/dev/gdev3
...
```

```
/dev/dri/card0
```
(real device file)

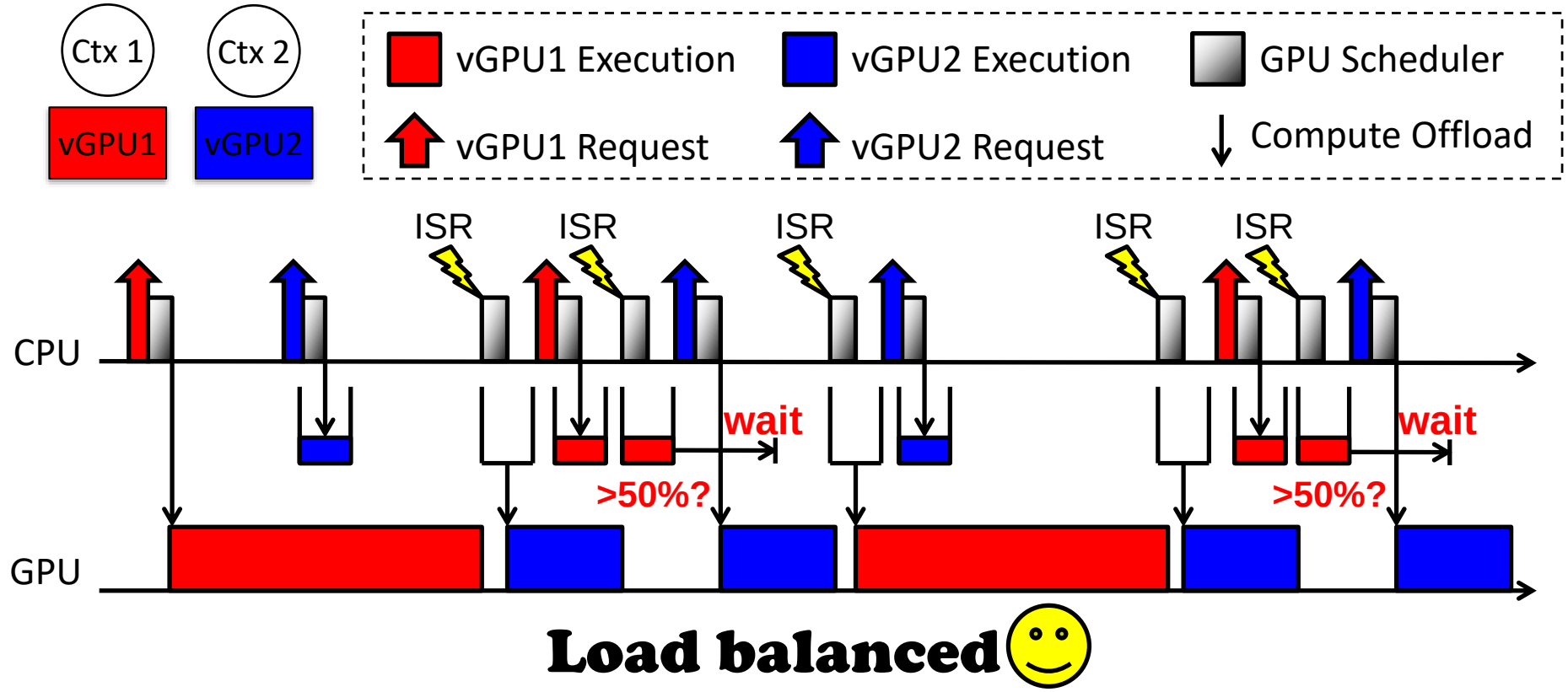
Existing GPU Schedulers

Queue and dispatch [Kato ATC11] [Kato RTSS11]



Load unbalanced!

Bandwidth-aware non-preemptive device (BAND) Scheduler



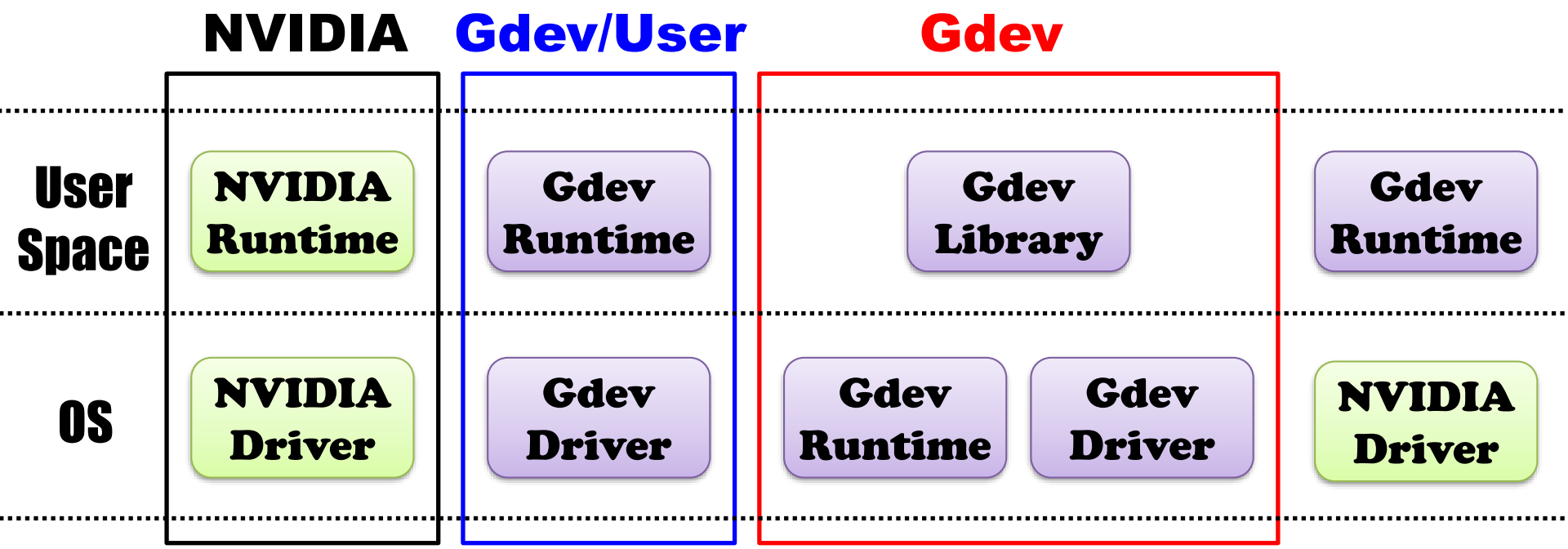
Outline

- Motivation
- Approach
- GPU Resource Management
- **Evaluation**
- **Conclusion**

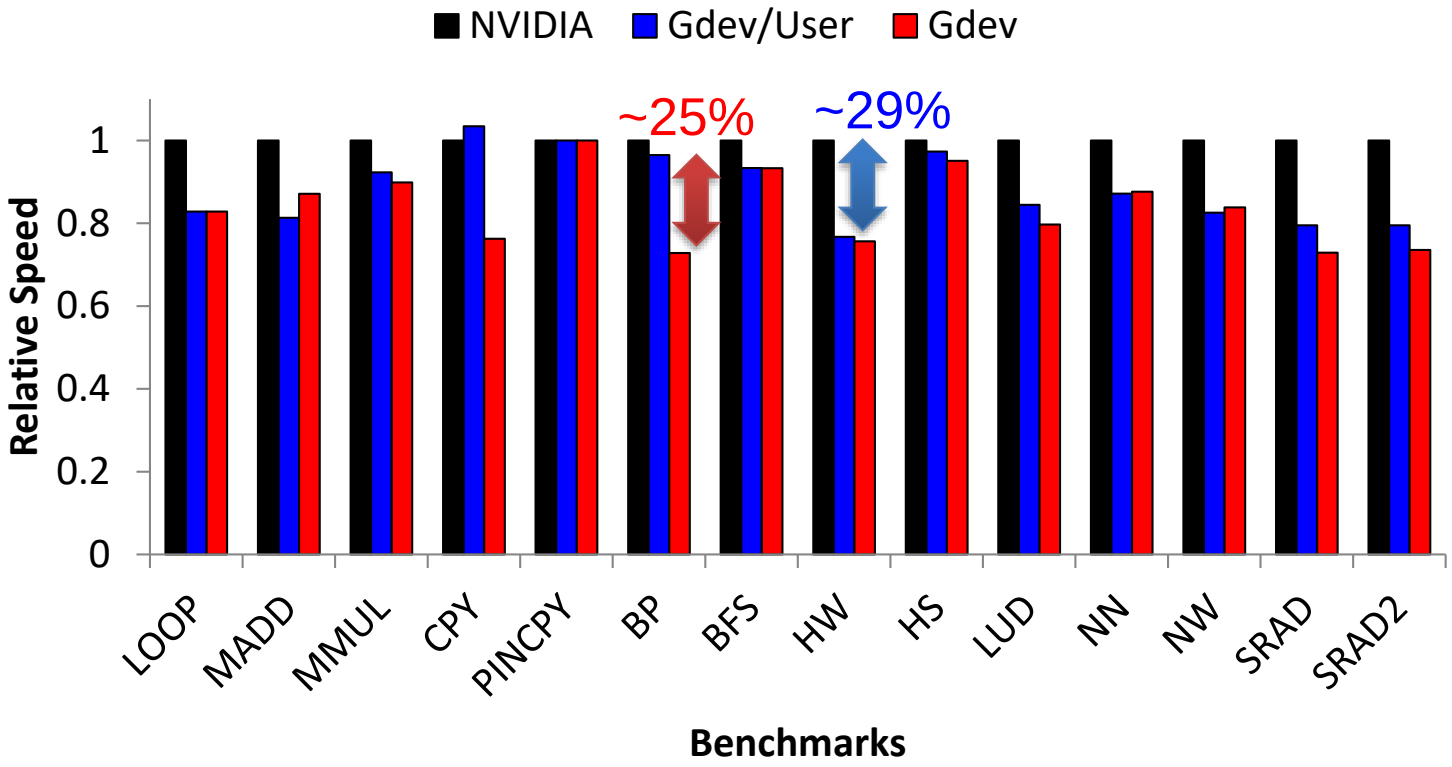
Experimental Setup

- Linux kernel 2.6.39
- NVIDIA GeForce GTX 480
- Intel Core 2 Extreme QX9650
- NVIDIA CUDA Compiler 4.0 and GCC 4.4.6
- Benchmarks & Applications:
  - Rodinia benchmark [Che *et al*, IISWC'09]
  - eCryptfs encrypted filesystem
  - FAST database search [Kim *et al*, SIGMOD'10]
  - PTask dataflow benchmarks [Rossbach *et al*, SOSP'11]

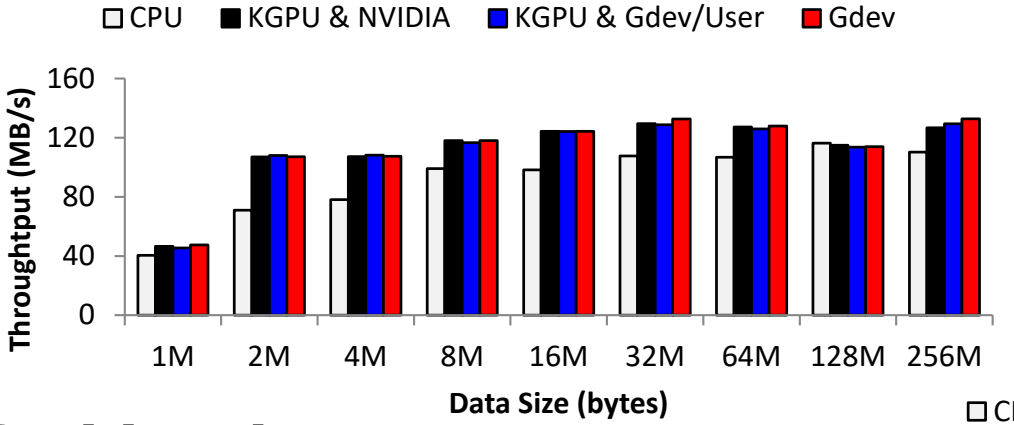
Runtime and Driver Choice

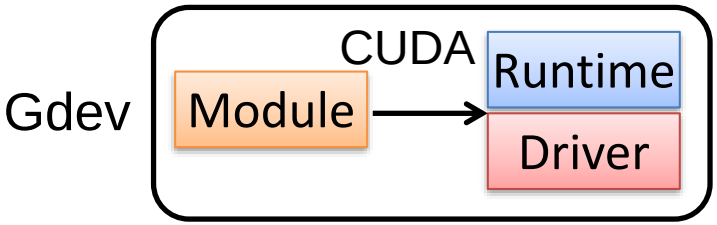


Basic Performance



eCryptfs Read&Write Throughput

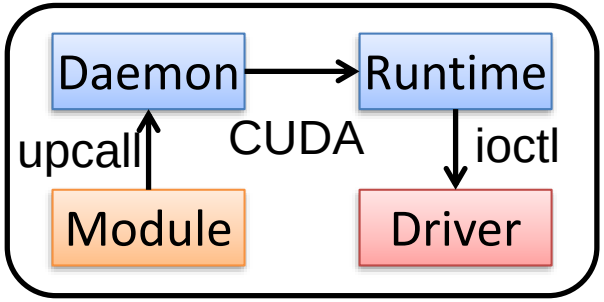


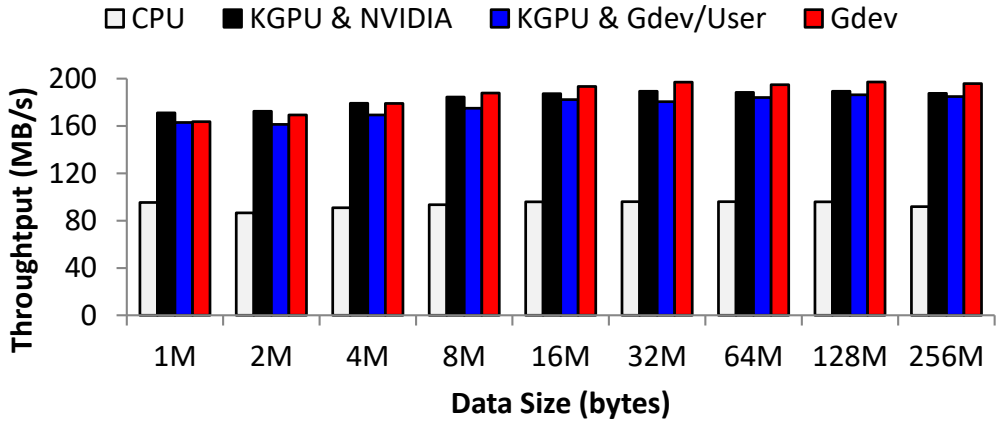


Write throughput

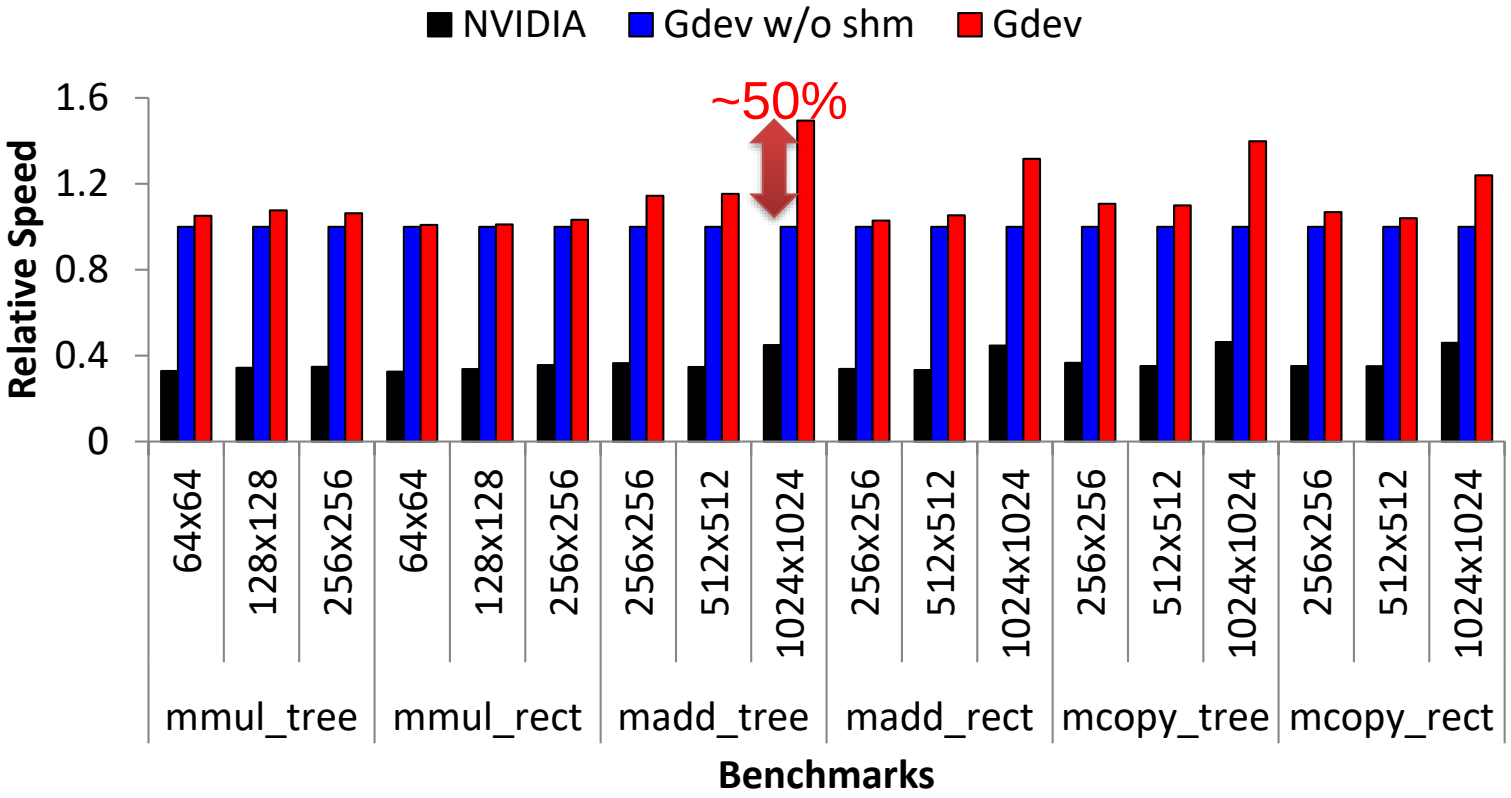
Read throughput

KGPU
Sun *et. al.*
2012

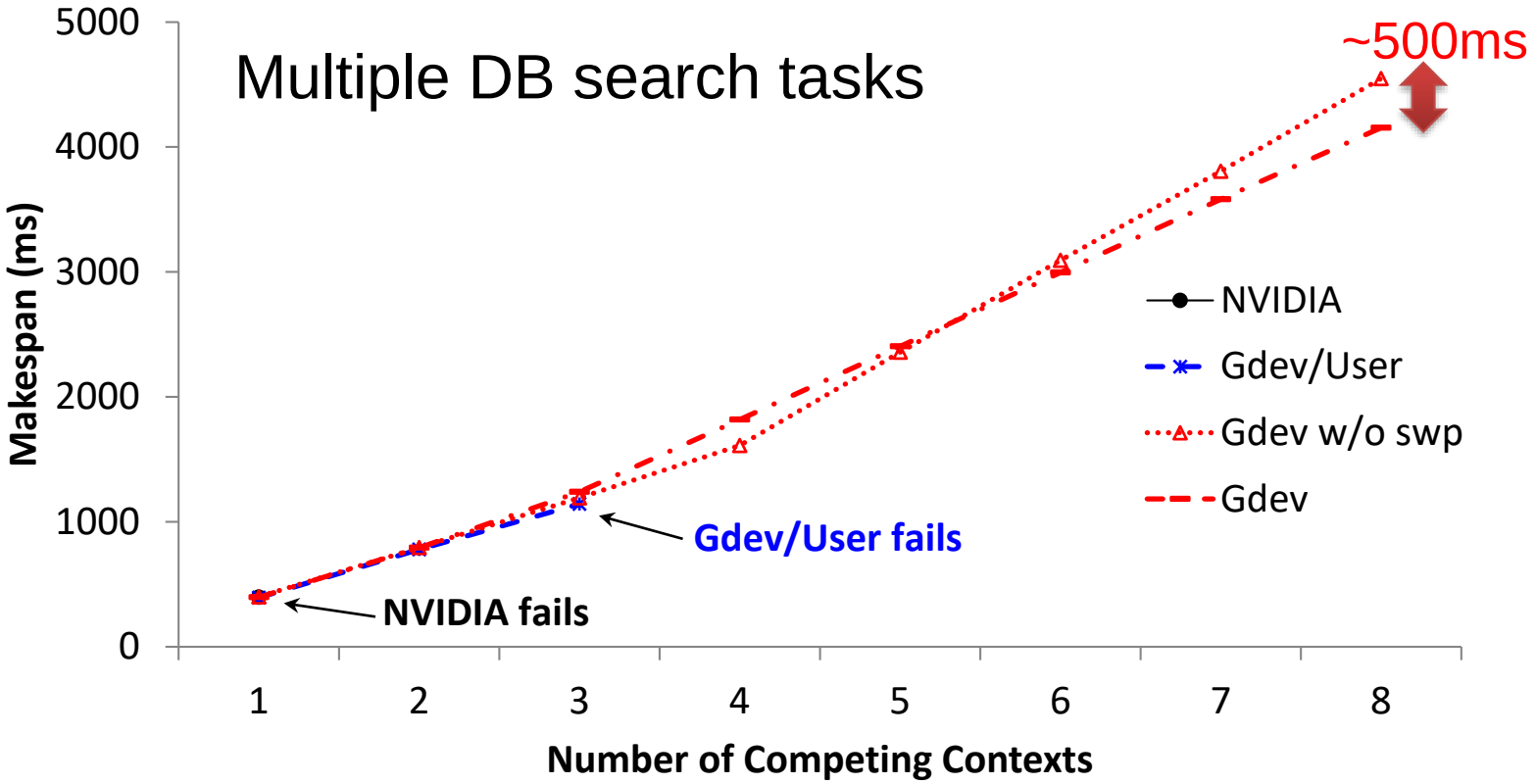




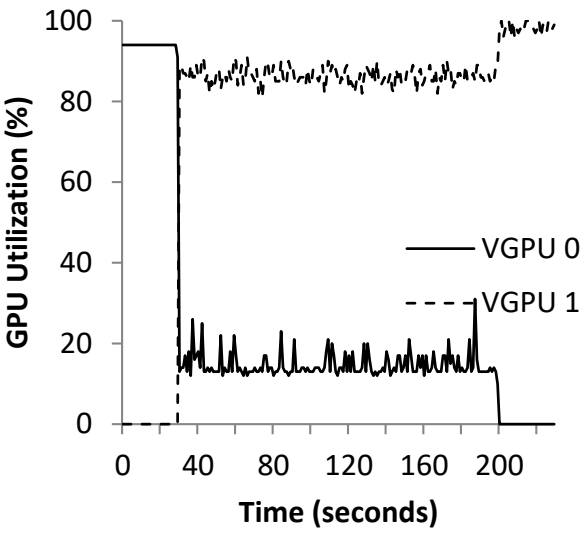
Impact of Shared Device Memory



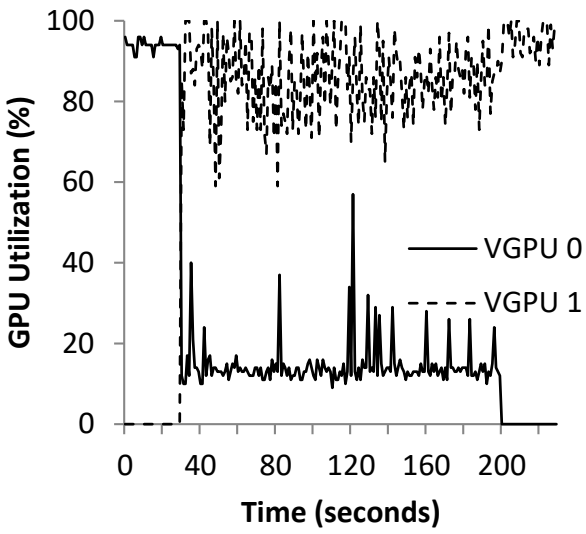
Impact of Data Swapping



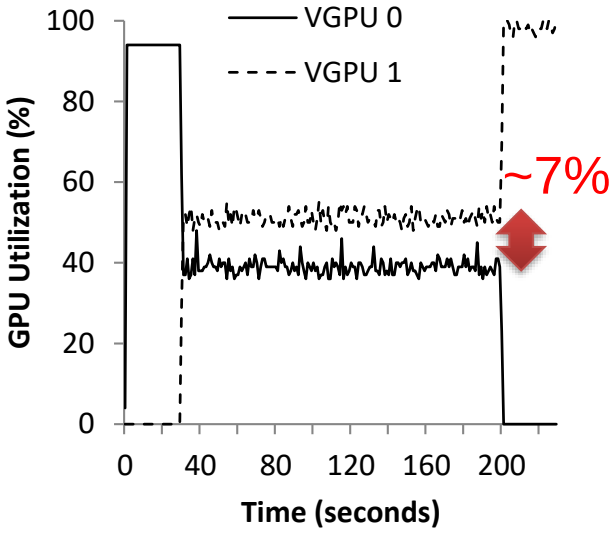
Virtual GPU Isolation



No scheduling
(FIFO)



Xen VM Policy
(Credit)



Gdev Policy
(BAND)

Outline

- Motivation
- Approach
- GPU Resource Management
- Evaluation
- Conclusion

Concluding Remarks

Gdev is an OS approach to **first-class** GPU resource management.

- GPUs can be used by the OS.
- GPUs can be protected by the OS.
- GPUs can be multi-tasked by the OS.
- Compromising basic performance to some extent.

Concluding Remarks

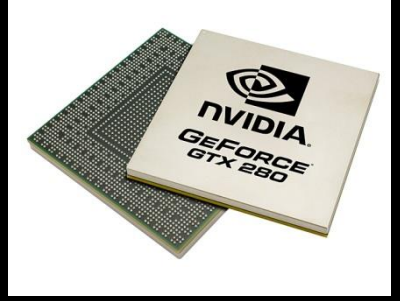
Gdev is **open-source**.

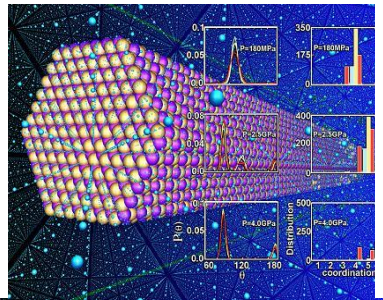
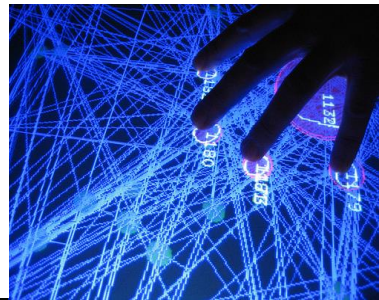
Facilitate systems research.

Visit http://sys.ertl.jp/gdev/.

What's up-to-date:

- RAID6 erasure coding acceleration.
- Dynamic power management.
- Zero-copy between I/O devices and GPUs.



Thank You!

Questions?