

# Single Instruction Multiple Data (SIMD)

## High Performance Computing - FMI, Fall 2015

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# Terminology

## Flynn's taxonomy

|                      | Single instruction stream | Multiple instruction stream |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Single data stream   | SISD                      | MISD                        |
| Multiple data stream | <b>SIMD</b>               | MIMD                        |

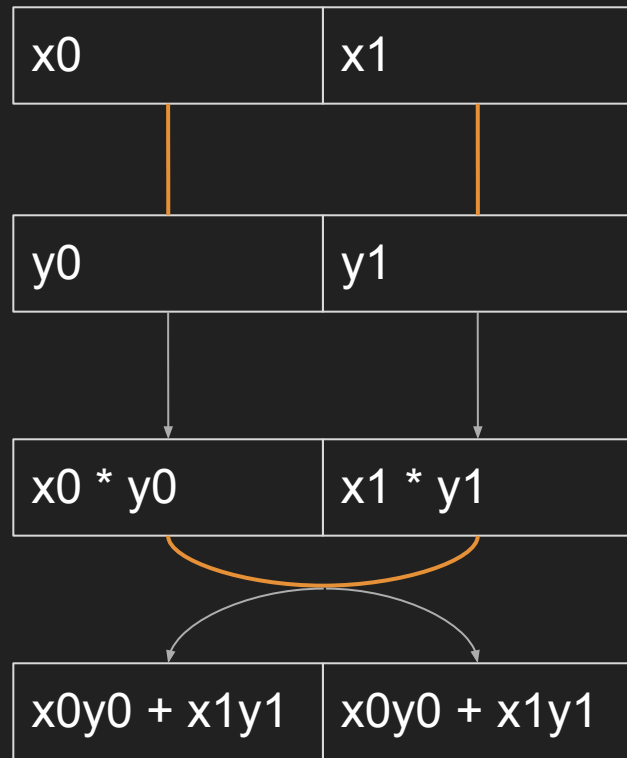
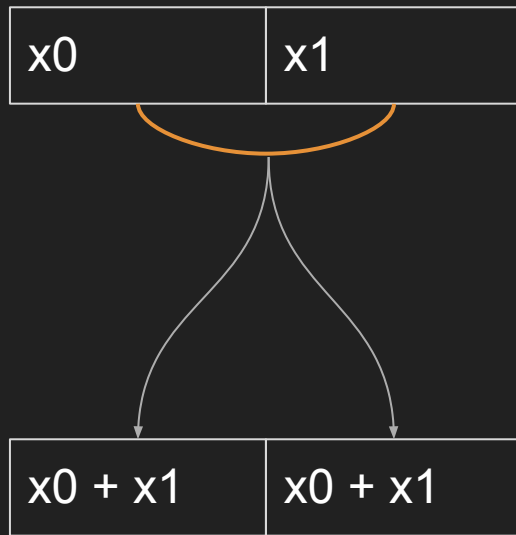
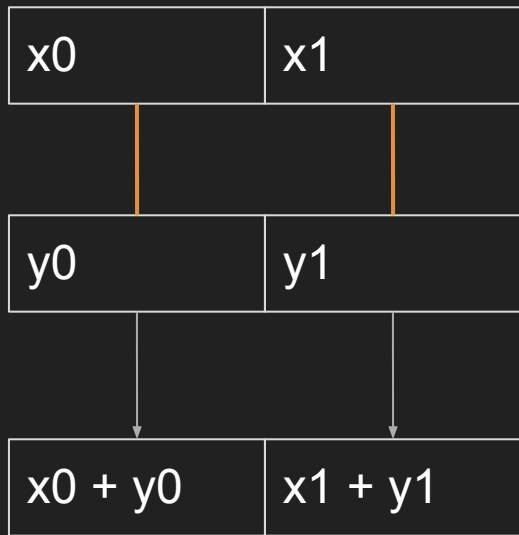
[Michael Flynn, 1966](#)

# Terminology, cont'd

## Multiplicity enables parallelism

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Bit-Level Parallelism (BLP)   | machine word width                    |
| Instruction-Level Parallelism (ILP) +<br>Memory-Level Parallelism (MLP) | superscalarity / VLIW                 |
| <b>Data Level Parallelism (DLP)</b>                                     | <u>Vector CPU</u> / SIMD / GPU / SPMD |
| Task-Level Parallelism (TLP)  | Multi-tasking / multi-threading       |

# Vertical vs horizontal ops



# Vertical vs horizontal ops, cont'd

Beware the asymptotic time complexity!

- Vertical ops –  $O(1)$  via parallelism
- Horizontal ops == vector reduction
  - $O(\log_2(N))$  for associative ops, via parallelism
  - $O(N)$  for non-associative ops, **no parallelism**

SIMD yields top gain for vertical ops, some gain for reduction ops using assoc. ops, and no gain for reduction ops using non-assoc. ops (ergo nobody does it).

# x86 SIMD: Intel & AMD

- MMX – 1997, Pentium w/ MMX; misc. int
- SSE – 1999, Pentium 3; fp32 and int32
- SSE2 – 2001, Pentium 4; fp64, misc. int
- SSE3 – 2004, Prescott; some horizontal ops
- SSSE3 – 2006, Core ‘Merom’; integers ops
- SSE4.1 – 2007, Core ‘Penryn’; horiz. & lane
- SSE4.2 – 2008, Core ‘Nehalem’; string ops
- AVX – 2011, Core ‘Sandy Bridge’; 3-operand, 256-bit regs
- AVX2 – 2013, Core ‘Haswell’; permutes, int. ops, FMA3

## x86 SIMD: AMD-only

- 3DNow! – 1998, K6-2; fp32 & cache control
- SSE4a – 2007, ‘Barcelona’; bit-level-access
- XOP – 2011, ‘Bulldozer’; 3-operand, 256-bit regs, int. ops
- FMA4 – 2011, ‘Bulldozer’; 4-operand FMA

[Agner Fog's thoughts on the subject](#)

# Status quo of SIMD across AMD64/x86-64

SSE2 is the baseline, but..

- Older entry-level AMD parts do SSSE3 + SSE4a (Bobcat)
- Entry-level Intel parts do SSE4.2 (Silvermont)
- Older high-end Intel parts do AVX (Sandy Bridge)
- New entry-level AMDs also do AVX (Jaguar)
- New mid-level Intels do AVX2 (Haswell)
- Only high-end (Xeon) Intels will do AVX-512



# SSE2-SSE4.2 programming model

register file – 16 128-bit registers  
(8 registers in 32-bit mode)

register layout, determined by the op:

- 4x fp32, 2x fp64
- 16x int8, 8x int16, 4x int32, 2x int64

scalar form of FP ops, where only lane<sub>0</sub> gets processed  
(goodbye, venerable x87)

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 127   | 0 |
| xmm0  |   |
| ..    |   |
| xmm7  |   |
| ..    |   |
| xmm15 |   |

# AVX-AVX2 programming model

register file – 16 256-bit regs  
(8 registers in 32-bit mode)

AVX128 uses xmm, resets  
bits 255..128 of corresp. ymm

AVX256 uses full-width ymm;  
register layout same as in AVX128/SSE2, but **x2** as wide

| 255   | 127   | 0 |
|-------|-------|---|
| ymm0  | xmm0  |   |
| ..    | ..    |   |
| ymm7  | xmm7  |   |
| ..    | ..    |   |
| ymm15 | xmm15 |   |

# SIMD register width vs SIMD throughput

**Caveat emptor:** AVX256 is just a programming model – not all ALU ops currently have 256-bit throughput. It's the same as with SSEx before Merom, when select '128-bit' SSE ops had reduced (as much as halved) throughput compared to their scalar counterparts.

Protip: read [5] and Agner Fog's indispensable <http://www.agner.org/optimize/microarchitecture.pdf>

# SIMD intrinsics

Native C/C++ SIMD data types:

- `__m128`, `__m256` – 128- or 256-bit vector of fp32
- `__m128d`, `__m256d` – 128- or 256-bit vector of fp64
- `__m128i`, `__m256i` – 128- or 256-bit vector of an int type

Ops: all SIMD ops have intrinsics (see the ISA manual), but some intrinsics are nops (e.g. type casts)

<https://software.intel.com/sites/landingpage/IntrinsicsGuide/>

# SIMD intrinsics, cont'd

Enablement: compiler targets and various headers:

- SSE2 – `emmintrin.h`
- SSE3 – `pmmmintrin.h`
- SSE4.1 – `smmintrin.h`
- SSE4.2 – `nmmintrin.h` / `smmintrin.h`
- AVX – `avxintrin.h`
- AVX2 – `avx2intrin.h`

Or one target-aware common header: `immintrin.h`  
(unavailable with old compilers)

# 128-bit SIMD intrinsics

SSE and AVX128 intrinsics are identical and have 3-arg semantics, even though they represent 2-arg ops in SSE. This allows the compiler to generate AVX128 or SSE code from the same intrinsics, depending on target. */clever API engineering*

Example:

```
__m128 c = _mm_add_ps(a, b); // same for SSE and AVX128
```

# 256-bit SIMD intrinsics

## Example:

```
__m256 c = _mm256_add_ps(a, b); // AVX256 (AVX, AVX2)
```

There's some good news and some bad news..

- Bad news: mixing SSE and AVX code is bad for performance.
- Good news: the compiler never does that - it generates only AVX128 and AVX256 from `_mm_*` and `_mm256_*` intrinsics for AVX-enabled targets; cross-library calls get special “guards” (**vzeroupper** AVX op).

# The perils of mixing SSE and AVX

Going AVX→SSE incurs a (major) **transition penalty**, and here's what Intel has to say about it:

AVX instructions always modify the upper bits of YMM registers and SSE instructions do not modify the upper bits. From a hardware perspective, the upper bits of the YMM register collection can be considered to be in one of three states:

- Clean: All upper bits of YMM are zero. This is the state when processor starts from RESET.
- Modified and saved to XSAVE region The content of the upper bits of YMM registers matches saved data in XSAVE region. This happens when after XSAVE/XRSTOR executes.
- Modified and Unsaved: The execution of one AVX instruction (either 256-bit or 128-bit) modifies the upper bits of the destination YMM.

The AVX/SSE transition penalty applies whenever the processor states is “Modified and Unsaved“. Using VZEROUPPER move the processor states to “Clean“ and avoid the transition penalty.

<https://software.intel.com/en-us/forums/intel-performance-bottleneck-analyzer/topic/328259?language=it>



# SIMD operations overview

## Op categories

- Loads/stores
- Arithmetic
- Relational
- Bitwise Logical
- Type Conversions
- Permutes, shuffles et al.

## SSE/AVX128 arithmetics (excerpt)

```
__m128i _mm_add_epi8 (__m128i a, __m128i b);  
__m128i _mm_add_epi16 (__m128i a, __m128i b);  
__m128i _mm_add_epi32 (__m128i a, __m128i b);  
__m128i _mm_add_epi64 (__m128i a, __m128i b);  
__m128 _mm_add_ps (__m128 a, __m128 b);  
__m128d _mm_add_pd (__m128d a, __m128d b);  
__m128 _mm_add_ss (__m128 a, __m128 b);  
__m128d _mm_add_sd (__m128d a, __m128d b);
```

## SSE/AVX128 arithmetics (excerpt), cont'd

Add-with-saturate of small integer types (signed and unsigned):

```
__m128i _mm_adds_epi8  (__m128i a, __m128i b);  
__m128i _mm_adds_epi16 (__m128i a, __m128i b);  
__m128i _mm_adds_epu8  (__m128i a, __m128i b);  
__m128i _mm_adds_epu16 (__m128i a, __m128i b);  
...
```

<https://software.intel.com/sites/landingpage/IntrinsicsGuide/>

# SSE/AVX128 relational

## Vector and scalar ops:

- Vector relational ops return a vector mask, where each lane is either `LaneType(-1)` - true, or `LaneType(0)` - false. Single-lane versions copy over the upper lanes from the first argument.
- Scalar relational ops work with `lane0` alone and return a condition code of either 1 - true, or 0 - false.

## SSE/AVX128 relational vector (excerpt)

```
__m128i _mm_cmpeq_epi8 (__m128i a, __m128i b);  
__m128i _mm_cmpeq_epi16 (__m128i a, __m128i b);  
__m128i _mm_cmpeq_epi32 (__m128i a, __m128i b);  
__m128 _mm_cmpeq_ps (__m128 a, __m128 b);  
__m128d _mm_cmpeq_pd (__m128d a, __m128d b);  
__m128 _mm_cmpeq_ss (__m128 a, __m128 b);  
__m128d _mm_cmpeq_sd (__m128d a, __m128d b);
```

...

## SSE/AVX128 relational vector (excerpt), cont'd

Vector relational FP ops can check for the following conditions:

EQ / NEQ (equal / non-equal)

LT / NLT (less-than / non-less-than)

LE / NLE (less-or-equal / non-less-or-equal)

ORD / UNORD (ordered / unordered)

## SSE/AVX128 relational scalar (excerpt)

```
int _mm_comieq_ss (__m128 a, __m128 b);  
int _mm_comige_ss (__m128 a, __m128 b);  
int _mm_comigt_ss (__m128 a, __m128 b);  
int _mm_comile_ss (__m128 a, __m128 b);  
int _mm_comilt_ss (__m128 a, __m128 b);  
int _mm_comineq_ss (__m128 a, __m128 b);  
...
```

## SSE/AVX128 relational - please, note

Relational ops are numerous but, please, note:

- Every vector relational FP op has its inverse op (why?)
- Special attention to NaNs:
  - `_mm_cmpord_*` (vector), `_mm_comi_*` (scalar)
  - `_mm_cmpunord_*` (vector), `_mm_ucomi_*` (scalar)



## SSE/AVX128 relational - NaNs

- **Vector:** 'The unordered relationship is true when at least one of the two source operands being compared is a NaN; the ordered relationship is true when neither source operand is a NaN.'
- **Scalar:** 'The UCOMISS instruction differs from the COMISS instruction in that it signals a SIMD floating-point invalid operation exception [...] only when a source operand is an SNaN. The COMISS instruction signals an invalid operation exception if a source operand is either a QNaN or an SNaN.'

# SSE/AVX128 bitwise logical

## AND, AND-NOT, OR, XOR

- Bitwise ops don't care about NaNs - those are just bit patterns.
- No scalar versions - no reason for those.
- Bitwise ops exist in fp32, fp64 and int flavors; while fp64 is an artifact of the fp32 version, the int version is a different-pipeline instruction - **beware!**

## SSE/AVX128 bitwise logical, cont'd

Lane 'true/false' extraction:

```
int _mm_movemask_epi8 (__m128i a);
```

```
int _mm_movemask_pd (__m128d a);
```

```
int _mm_movemask_ps (__m128 a);
```

Extract the MSB of each lane to an integer bitmask:

$\{-1, 0, -1, 0\} \rightarrow 1010_{\text{bin}} == 0xa == 10$

## How to use SIMD (from [CG2 2015 Code-for-Art](#) panel)

So you have your caches **warm\***, and your task has inherent parallelism - it's time to use SIMD

- Autovectorization
- Intrinsics
- Generic vectors
- Libraries
  - [Agner Fog's vector classes](#)
  - [embree simd classes](#)

\* Or the prefetchers are friendly to your access patterns.

# Autovectorization

For instance, from..

```
void add(  
    const float (& a)[16],  
    const float (& b)[16],  
    float (& res)[16]) {  
  
    for (size_t i = 0; i < 16; ++i)  
        res[i] = a[i] * b[i];  
}
```

..the compiler **could** produce..

# Autovectorization, cont'd

## g++-5.1, AVX-enabled target

```
...  
4005cf:    vmovaps 0x2ae9(%rip),%ymm0           # 4030c0 <inputA>  
4005d7:    vmulps 0x2aa1(%rip),%ymm0,%ymm0     # 403080 <inputB>  
4005df:    vmovaps %ymm0,0x2b59(%rip)          # 403140 <res>  
4005e7:    vmovaps 0x2af1(%rip),%ymm0          # 4030e0 <inputA+ 0x20>  
4005ef:    vmulps 0x2aa9(%rip),%ymm0,%ymm0     # 4030a0 <inputB+ 0x20>  
4005f7:    vmovaps %ymm0,0x2b61(%rip)          # 403160 <res+ 0x20>  
...
```

8-way SIMD load, multiplication and store (sizeof(8x\_fp32) == 32 bytes)

# Autovectorization, cont'd

clang++-3.6, AVX-enabled target

```
...
400794:    vmovaps 0x1924(%rip),%xmm0          # 4020c0 <inputB>
40079c:    vmulps 0x18dc(%rip),%xmm0,%xmm0     # 402080 <inputA>
4007a4:    vmovaps %xmm0,0x1994(%rip)          # 402140 <res>
4007ac:    vmovaps 0x191c(%rip),%xmm0          # 4020d0 <inputB+ 0x10>
4007b4:    vmulps 0x18d4(%rip),%xmm0,%xmm0     # 402090 <inputA+ 0x10>
4007bc:    vmovaps %xmm0,0x198c(%rip)          # 402150 <res+ 0x10>
4007c4:    vmovaps 0x1914(%rip),%xmm0          # 4020e0 <inputB+ 0x20>
4007cc:    vmulps 0x18cc(%rip),%xmm0,%xmm0     # 4020a0 <inputA+ 0x20>
4007d4:    vmovaps %xmm0,0x1984(%rip)          # 402160 <res+ 0x20>
4007dc:    vmovaps 0x190c(%rip),%xmm0          # 4020f0 <inputB+ 0x30>
4007e4:    vmulps 0x18c4(%rip),%xmm0,%xmm0     # 4020b0 <inputA+ 0x30>
4007ec:    vmovaps %xmm0,0x197c(%rip)          # 402170 <res+ 0x30>
...
```

4-way SIMD load, multiplication and store (sizeof(4x\_fp32) == 16 bytes)

# Intrinsics

From the same function written using intrinsics..

```
void add(  
    const float (& a)[16],  
    const float (& b)[16],  
    float (& res)[16]) {  
  
    _mm256_store_ps(res + 0, _mm256_mul_ps(_mm256_load_ps(a + 0), _mm256_load_ps(b + 0)));  
    _mm256_store_ps(res + 8, _mm256_mul_ps(_mm256_load_ps(a + 8), _mm256_load_ps(b + 8)));  
}
```

..the compiler **must** produce (given an AVX target)..



# Intrinsics, cont'd

clang++-3.6, AVX-enabled target

```
...
4006c4:    vmovaps 0x19b4(%rip),%ymm0        # 402080 <inputA>
4006cc:    vmulps 0x19ec(%rip),%ymm0,%ymm0   # 4020c0 <inputB>
4006d4:    vmovaps %ymm0,0x1a64(%rip)        # 402140 <res>
4006dc:    vmovaps 0x19bc(%rip),%ymm0        # 4020a0 <inputA+ 0x20>
4006e4:    vmulps 0x19f4(%rip),%ymm0,%ymm0   # 4020e0 <inputB+ 0x20>
4006ec:    vmovaps %ymm0,0x1a6c(%rip)        # 402160 <res+ 0x20>
...
```

8-way SIMD load, multiplication and store

# Generic vectors

Plain-old-data (POD) types with some special vector sauce..

```
typedef __attribute__((vector_size(4 * sizeof(float)))) float vect4_float;  
  
vect4_float a = (vect4_float) { 1.f, 2.f, 3.f, 4.f }; // literal  
vect4_float b = (vect4_float) { 2.f, 1.f, 2.f, 1.f }; // literal  
  
vect4_float res = a * b;
```

We do the vectorisation for the compiler, so it is **free** to produce SIMD code for an **arbitrary** vector architecture, or even for a scalar one – de-vectorisation is easy!

# Generic vectors – some history

- Introduced by gcc in the early '00
- A generalization based on the popular SIMD architectures of the day (PowerPC AltiVec, x86 SSE), all the way to the ABI level
- Only partially supported by g++ until recently (full support in gcc)  
[https://gcc.gnu.org/bugzilla/show\\_bug.cgi?id=51033](https://gcc.gnu.org/bugzilla/show_bug.cgi?id=51033)
- Fully supported by llvm/clang IR vectors - for llvm generic vectors are just another vector generalization at the frontent  
<http://clang.llvm.org/docs/LanguageExtensions.html#vectors-and-extended-vectors>
- Microsoft.. 'will implement them when they become standard' <https://connect.microsoft.com/VisualStudio/feedback/details/804680/msvc-builtin-native-generic-cpu-agnostic-vector-support>  
[update: apparently that feedback ticket has been purged from the msvc feedback db, but some traces still remain]

# Generic vectors – matmul4x4 ‘hello-world’ example

Average performance of matrix 4x4 multiplications, expressed in FLOPs/clock, measured on an Intel **Ivy Bridge** under Ubuntu 14.04:

| “Standard” method,<br>scalar version: |       | “Standard” method,<br>AVX 4-way intrinsics: |       | “Wide” method,<br>16-way generic vectors: |       | Via dot-products,<br>AVX 4-way intrinsics |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|
| g++-5.1.0:                            | 1.566 | g++-5.1.0:                                  | 6.858 | g++-5.1.0:                                | 0.164 | g++:                                      | 3.436 |
| clang++-3.6.2:                        | 6.734 | clang++-3.6.2:                              | 6.874 | clang++-3.6.2:                            | 8.638 | clang++:                                  | 3.398 |

- clang successfully autovectorises the scalar version (4-way SIMD + mul/add co-issue) - good!
- Intrinsics produce equal results across the compilers (4-way SIMD + mul/add co-issue).
- clang successfully uses AVX256 for the “wide” version (8-way SIMD + minor mul/add co-issue). Technically, so does g++, but at the cost of pathological permutations and spills of the arguments - the final performance is 1/10 of the scalar version!
- The dot-product version (with pre-transposed second argument) yields compact code, but just ½ of the performance of the reduction-free code.

[https://github.com/ChaosGroup/cg2\\_2014\\_demo/blob/master/common/testvect\\_simd.cpp](https://github.com/ChaosGroup/cg2_2014_demo/blob/master/common/testvect_simd.cpp)

[https://github.com/ChaosGroup/cg2\\_2014\\_demo/blob/master/common/build\\_testvect\\_simd.sh](https://github.com/ChaosGroup/cg2_2014_demo/blob/master/common/build_testvect_simd.sh)

# matmul4x4 example, cont'd

Average performance of matrix 4x4 multiplications, expressed in FLOPs/clock, measured on an Intel **Haswell** (successor to Intel Ivy Bridge):

“Wide” method,  
16-way generic vectors:

clang++-3.6.2: 9.161

- clang achieves >9 FLOPs/clock vs 8.638 on Ivy Bridge - interesting how. The newer CPU must have a notably better IPC, or perhaps..

# matmul4x4 example, cont'd

Ivy Bridge – AVX, **no FMA3** ISA extension:

```
...
4026c8: vmulps %ymm4,%ymm3,%ymm3
4026cc: vmulps %ymm4,%ymm2,%ymm2
4026d0: vmulps %ymm7,%ymm6,%ymm4
4026d4: vmulps %ymm7,%ymm5,%ymm5
4026d8: vaddps %ymm5,%ymm2,%ymm2
4026dc: vaddps %ymm4,%ymm3,%ymm3
4026e0: vmulps %ymm10,%ymm9,%ymm4
4026e5: vmulps %ymm10,%ymm8,%ymm5
4026ea: vaddps %ymm5,%ymm3,%ymm3
4026ee: vaddps %ymm4,%ymm2,%ymm2
4026f2: vmulps %ymm11,%ymm1,%ymm1
4026f7: vmulps %ymm11,%ymm0,%ymm0
4026fc: vaddps %ymm0,%ymm2,%ymm0
402700: vaddps %ymm1,%ymm3,%ymm1
402704: vmovaps %ymm1,0x20(%rbx,%rcx,1)
40270a: vmovaps %ymm0,(%rbx,%rcx,1)
...
```

Haswell – AVX, **FMA3** ISA extension:

```
...
4024b8: vmulps %ymm7,%ymm6,%ymm6
4024bc: vmulps %ymm7,%ymm5,%ymm5
4024c0: vfmadd213ps %ymm5,%ymm4,%ymm3
4024c5: vfmadd213ps %ymm6,%ymm4,%ymm2
4024ca: vfmadd213ps %ymm2,%ymm10,%ymm9
4024cf: vfmadd213ps %ymm3,%ymm10,%ymm8
4024d4: vfmadd213ps %ymm8,%ymm11,%ymm0
4024d9: vfmadd213ps %ymm9,%ymm11,%ymm1
4024de: vmovaps %ymm1,0x603760(%rcx)
4024e6: vmovaps %ymm0,0x603740(%rcx)
...
```

# matmul4x4 example, cont'd

matmul loop iteration,  
clang++-3.6, **AVX + FMA3** target:

```
402440: vmovaps 0x6036c0(%rcx),%ymm0
402448: vmovaps 0x6036e0(%rcx),%ymm1
402450: vpermilps $0x0,%ymm1,%ymm2
402456: vpermilps $0x0,%ymm0,%ymm3
40245c: vmovaps 0x603700(%rcx),%xmm4
402464: vinsertf128 $0x1,%xmm4,%ymm4,%ymm4
40246a: vpermilps $0x55,%ymm0,%ymm5
402470: vpermilps $0x55,%ymm1,%ymm6
402476: vmovaps 0x603710(%rcx),%xmm7
40247e: vinsertf128 $0x1,%xmm7,%ymm7,%ymm7
402484: vpermilps $0xaa,%ymm0,%ymm8
40248a: vpermilps $0xaa,%ymm1,%ymm9
402490: vmovaps 0x603720(%rcx),%xmm10
402498: vinsertf128 $0x1,%xmm10,%ymm10,%ymm10
40249e: vpermilps $0xff,%ymm1,%ymm1
4024a4: vpermilps $0xff,%ymm0,%ymm0
```

computation (8-way SIMD)

```
4024aa: vmovaps 0x603730(%rcx),%xmm11
4024b2: vinsertf128 $0x1,%xmm11,%ymm11,%ymm11
4024b8: vmulps %ymm7,%ymm6,%ymm6
4024bc: vmulps %ymm7,%ymm5,%ymm5
4024c0: vfmadd213ps %ymm5,%ymm4,%ymm3
4024c5: vfmadd213ps %ymm6,%ymm4,%ymm2
4024ca: vfmadd213ps %ymm2,%ymm10,%ymm9
4024cf: vfmadd213ps %ymm3,%ymm10,%ymm8
4024d4: vfmadd213ps %ymm8,%ymm11,%ymm0
4024d9: vfmadd213ps %ymm9,%ymm11,%ymm1
4024de: vmovaps %ymm1,0x603760(%rcx)
4024e6: vmovaps %ymm0,0x603740(%rcx)
4024ee: add    %rax,%rcx
4024f1: add    $0xffffffffffffffff,%rdx
4024f5: jne    402440 <main+0x220>
```

# matmul4x4 example, cont'd

matmul loop iteration,  
clang++-3.5, AArch64 target:

```
402418:  add    x11, x22, x8
40241c:  ldp    q0, q1, [x11]
402420:  ldp    q2, q3, [x11, #32]
402424:  ldp    q4, q5, [x11, #64]
402428:  ldp    q6, q7, [x11, #96]
40242c:  add    x11, x23, x8
402430:  sub    x10, x10, #0x1
```

```
402434:  fmul   v16.4s, v5.4s, v3.s[1]
402438:  fmul   v17.4s, v5.4s, v2.s[1]
40243c:  fmul   v18.4s, v5.4s, v1.s[1]
402440:  fmul   v5.4s, v5.4s, v0.s[1]
402444:  fmla   v5.4s, v4.4s, v0.s[0]
402448:  fmla   v18.4s, v4.4s, v1.s[0]
40244c:  fmla   v17.4s, v4.4s, v2.s[0]
402450:  fmla   v16.4s, v4.4s, v3.s[0]
```

```
402454:  fmla   v16.4s, v6.4s, v3.s[2]
402458:  fmla   v17.4s, v6.4s, v2.s[2]
40245c:  fmla   v18.4s, v6.4s, v1.s[2]
402460:  fmla   v5.4s, v6.4s, v0.s[2]
402464:  fmla   v5.4s, v7.4s, v0.s[3]
402468:  fmla   v18.4s, v7.4s, v1.s[3]
40246c:  fmla   v17.4s, v7.4s, v2.s[3]
402470:  fmla   v16.4s, v7.4s, v3.s[3]
402474:  stp    q17, q16, [x11, #32]
402478:  stp    q5, q18, [x11]
40247c:  add    x8, x8, x9
402480:  cbnz   x10, 402418 <main+0x2b4>
```

computation (4-way SIMD)

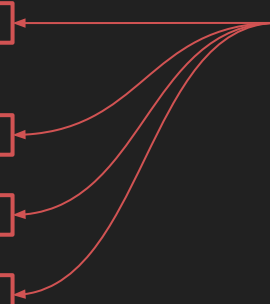


# matmul4x4 example, cont'd

matmul loop iteration, Knights Corner (KNC) intrinsics  
icpc 14.0.4, MIC target:

```
4030d0: vmovaps 0x604cc0(%rax),%zmm4
4030da: vpermf32x4 $0x0,0x604d00(%rdx),%zmm0
4030e5: vpermf32x4 $0x55,0x604d00(%rdx),%zmm1
4030f0: vmulps %zmm4{aaaa},%zmm0,%zmm5
4030f6: inc    %ecx
4030f8: vpermf32x4 $0xaa,0x604d00(%rdx),%zmm2
403103: vfmad231ps %zmm4{bbbb},%zmm1,%zmm5
403109: vpermf32x4 $0xff,0x604d00(%rdx),%zmm3
403114: vfmad231ps %zmm4{cccc},%zmm2,%zmm5
40311a: add    %rsi,%rdx
40311d: vfmad231ps %zmm4{dddd},%zmm3,%zmm5
403123: vmovnrngoaps %zmm5,0x604d40(%rax,%r14,1)
40312e: add    %rsi,%rax
403131: cmp    $0x3938700,%ecx
403137: jb     4030d0 <compute(void*)+0xe0>
```

computation (16-way SIMD)



# matmul4x4 example, multi-arch

Average performance of matrix 4x4 multiplications, expressed in FLOPs/clock, measured across:

| Ivy Bridge (AVX256),<br>16-way generic vectors: | Haswell (AVX256 + FMA3),<br>16-way generic vectors: | Knights Corner (KNC),<br>16-way intrinsics: | Apple A8 (NEON),<br>4-way intrinsics |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| clang++-3.5.2: 8.638                            | clang++-3.6.2: 9.161                                | icpc 14.0.4: 6.616                          | clang++7: 12.190                     |

- The efficiency of SIMD greatly depends on the volume of permutes we do per unit of ALU work.
- The wider the SIMD, the more often we need to permute, on the average.
- Wide SIMD architectures require intelligent design of the ops - OoO won't help when you get **data dependencies**.
- ALU ops with built-in permute capabilities can give better results than sequences of permutes and ALU. **Why?**
- The ability to exclude (**mask off**) lanes in wide vectors is paramount for efficiency. AVX-512 (tentative name) inherits that trait from KNC.
- Despite its smart SIMD ISA, KNC fails due its hard-to-work-with uarch. Loop unrolling might help.
- Apple A8 NEON: good uarch + intelligent SIMD ISA = good performance.

# References

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