Technical university „Gheorghe Asachi” Iasi

Faculty of Automatic Control and Computer Engineering

Distributed systems and web technologies

Histogram equalization

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Problem statement

Our assignment is to equalize the histogram of an input grayscale image, which has the effect of improving the contrast of the image. So the black regions of the original image become even more black and the white regions become even whiter.

CPU implementation

The basic algorithm is already implemented in an efficient way by the OpenCV library, and the basic flow of the algorithm is:

1. Compute histogram of the input image.
2. Compute the cumulative distribution function from the input image.
3. For each pixel of the original image assign a new intensity value based on its value in the original image and the cumulative distribution function.

GPU implementation

The same steps apply as above but we have to account for the parallel nature of computing on GPUs.

1. Compute histogram of the input image by counting the number of pixels of a specific intensity. This is done with the help of the atomic add operation provided by CUDA. Probably the biggest factor in execution time.
2. Compute the cumulative distribution function (prefix sums/inclusive scan) based on the Hillis-Steele algorithm. Basically there are log2(n) stages in which the values are propagated to cells that are at an offset distance where offset is a power of 2. The implementation is not necessarily efficient but since there are only 256 possible gray levels, the potential for performance improvements here is not that great.
3. Based on the pixel’s value in the original image and the cumulative distribution, compute the new value in the improved image. This operation is inherently parallel.

Used images:

Image 1 Image 2

512x384 910x682

Image 3 Image 4

1000x667 1920x1080

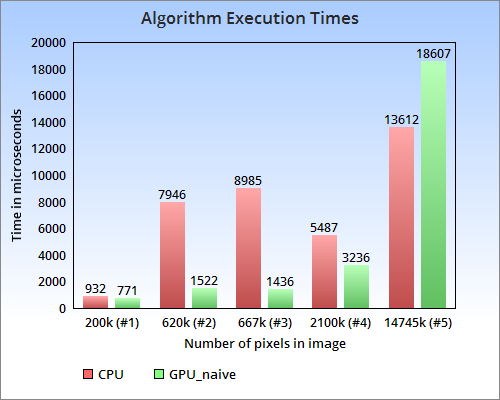
Image 5



5120x2880

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Image number | CPU total time (μs) | Time to transfer image from CPU to GPU (μs) | The time to equalize the histogram on the GPU for the input image (μs) | The time to transfer the equalized image back to CPU (μs) | GPU total time (μs) |
| 1 | 932 | 112 | 563 | 96 | 771 |
| 2 | 7946 | 223 | 996 | 303 | 1522 |
| 3 | 8985 | 216 | 1011 | 208 | 1436 |
| 4 | 5487 | 563 | 2196 | 476 | 3236 |
| 5 | 13612 | 3299 | 11958 | 3349 | 18607 |

\*Time is measured in microseconds



Device specifications for measurements:

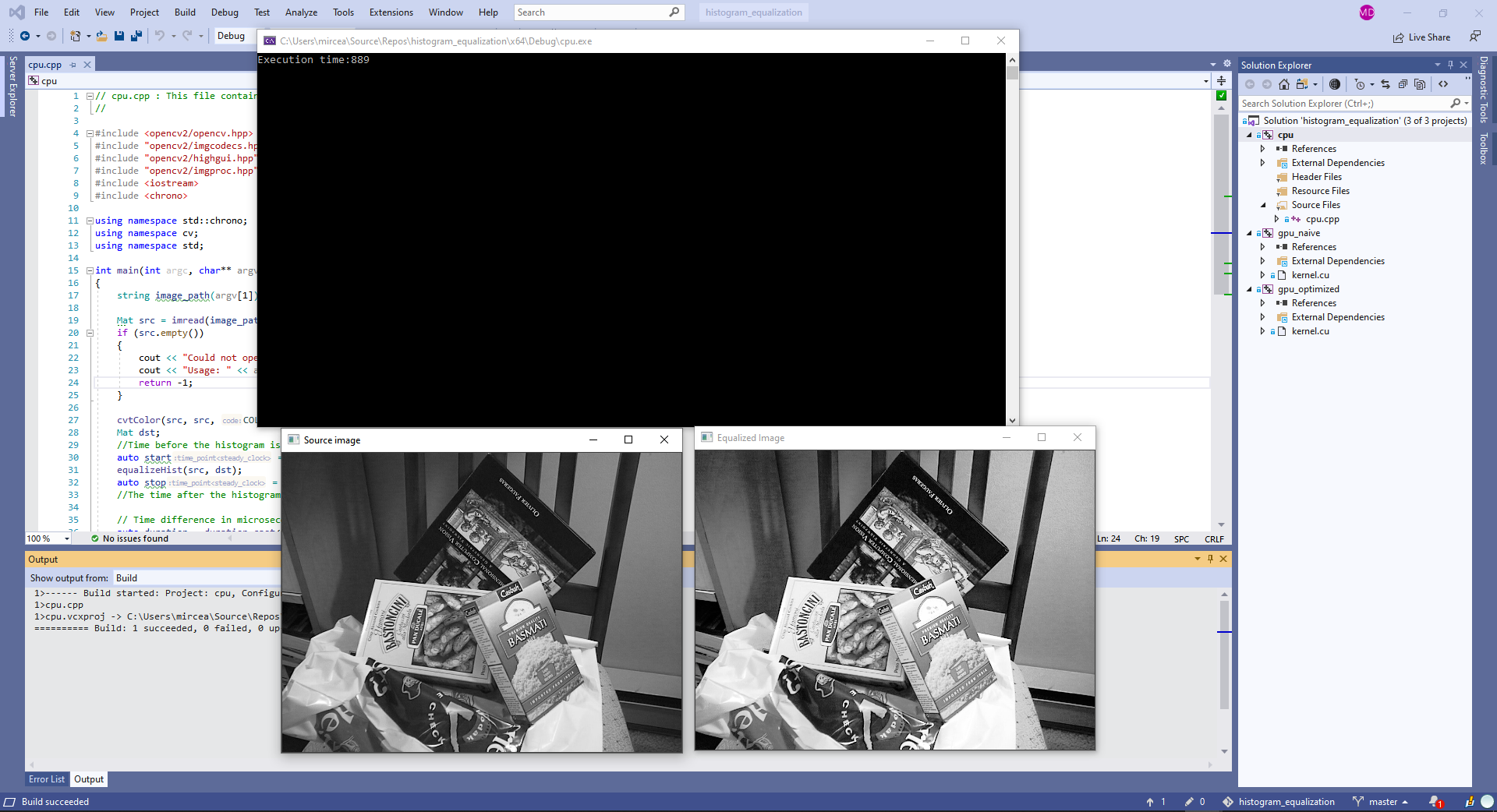
CPU: i7-9750H CPU @ 2.60GHz

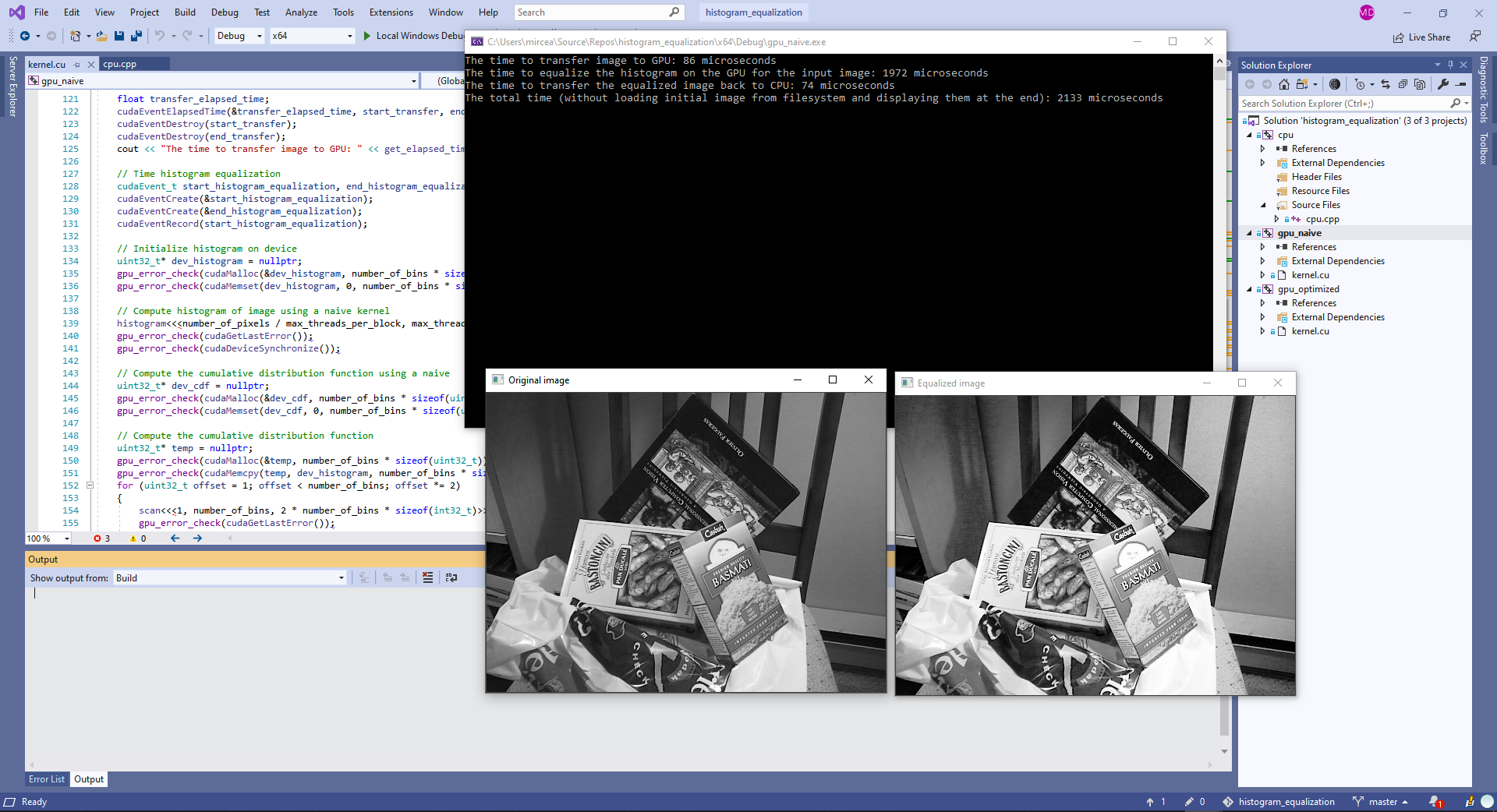
16Gb RAM

GPU: Nvidia GTX 1650 (CUDA capability version 6.1, CUDA driver version 11.1)

Visual Studio 2019

Example runs

Example CPU run

Example GPU run

Note: These runs are only for showing the program working over images. These screenshots were not done on the machine used for measuring.