Group Assignment: Prefix Sum/Scan

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Group Assignment: Prefix Sum/Scan

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to research and familiarize ourselves with one of the fundamental parallel computations, prefix sum/scan, which is used in a variety of different parallel applications. The function of prefix sum/scan is to calculate the cumulative sum of each element of an array into an output array. This output array can then be used for sorting or searching, or in image processing it can help prepare data for filtering or morphological operations. Prefix sum/scan is often used to prepare data for other parallel operations, but can also be useful after data preparation.

Section I. – Original Code

Our basic code will take the values from Array 1 (input) and add then to the previous value in array 2 (output). For our application we would like to use prefix sum/scan to identify objects from an array of data from an environment scan (LiDAR), therefore, we must reduce the input data to identify changes in value and put them into an obstacle array. Since our application is to run object detection on lidar data for an autonomous vehicle, our main measurement factor is going to be the execution time on the computation.

Our simulated data is such that the maximum readable distance is 9. This means that if the the distance read by the LiDAR is 9, there is no obstacle; if the LiDAR reads a distance smaller than 9 (in the case of our sample data, these are represented by the value 3) it will indicate that there is an obstacle at that position.

```
//Populate with distances
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
   int j = 8;
   if (i % j == 0) {
      data[i] = 3;
   }
   else {
      data[i] = 9;
   }
}</pre>
```

```
//Check if obstacle detected
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
   if (data[i] < MAX) {
     h_obstacle[i] = 1;
   }
   else {
     h_obstacle[i] = 0;
   }</pre>
```

Given this data, we can apply the prefix sum to the obstacle array to determine the number of obstacles detected by the LiDAR sensor. A preliminary version of the code (called the brute force method) has each term *i* of the prefix sum matrix equal to the sum of the first to the (i-1)th terms.

Source Code

```
__global__ void scan1(int* X, int* Y, int InputSize) {
    __shared__ int XY[N];
    int i = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
    Y[i] = 0;
    for (int j = 0; j <= i; j++) {
        Y[i] += X[j];
    }
}</pre>
```

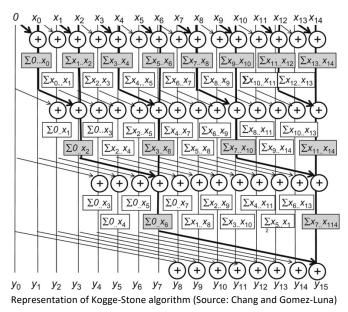
Initial Results

Already we can see potential methods to optimize the code, such as minimizing the number of global writes by using a variable to record the sum instead of writing directly to the global memory in each loop; further optimizations are described in Section II.

Section II. – Optimizations

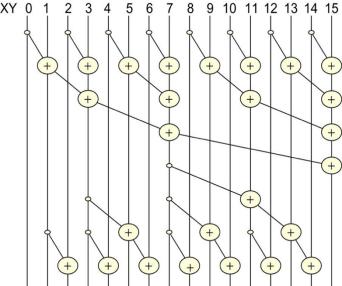
We have two optimization techniques that we will use to increase the performance of the prefix sum/scan operation. By applying various algorithms which modify the order in which calculations are executed, we can theoretically reduce the number of operations, global reads, and global writes that are executed by the kernel, resulting in a shorter execution time and smaller memory bandwidth.

Both methods use some algorithm (Kogge-Stone or Brent-Kung) to create a reduction tree reducing the number of required operations, along with using shared memory to reduce the number of global memory reads.



Source Code for Kogge-Stone Method

```
__global__ void scan2(int* X, int* Y, int InputSize) {
    __shared__ int XY[N];
    int i = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
    if (i < InputSize) {
        XY[threadIdx.x] = X[i];
    }
    for (int j = 1; j < blockDim.x; j *= 2) {
        __syncthreads();
        if (threadIdx.x >= j) {
            XY[threadIdx.x] += XY[threadIdx.x - j];
        }
        Y[i] = XY[threadIdx.x];
    }
}
```



Representation of Brent-Kung adder design (Source: Chang and Gomez-Luna)

Source Code for Brent-Kung Method

```
__global__ void scan3(int* X, int* Y, int InputSize) {
    __shared__ int XY[N];
    int i = 2 * blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
    if (i < InputSize) {
        XY[threadIdx.x] = X[i];
    }
    if (i + blockDim.x < InputSize) {
            XY[threadIdx.x + blockDim.x] = X[i + blockDim.x];
    }

    for (int j = 1; j <= blockDim.x; j *= 2) {
            __syncthreads();
        int index = (threadIdx.x + 1) * 2 * j - 1;
        if (index < N) {
            XY[index] += XY[index - j];
        }
    }

    for (int j = N / 4; j > 0; j /= 2) {
        __syncthreads();
        int index = (threadIdx.x + 1) * j * 2 - 1;
        if (index + j < N) {
            XY[index] += XY[index];
        }
    }
    syncthreads();
</pre>
```

```
if (i < InputSize) {
    Y[i] = XY[threadIdx.x];
}
if (i + blockDim.x < InputSize) {
    Y[i + blockDim.x] = XY[threadIdx.x + blockDim.x];
}
}</pre>
```

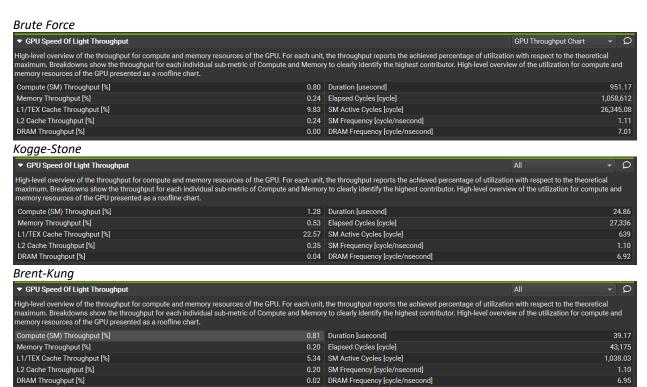
Results

```
Data Array:
Obstacle Array:
Time (Brute-Force): 1.320960 ms
Prefix Sum Array:
 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 . . . 127127127127128128128128128128128128
128 obstacles detected
Time (Brute-Force): 0.749376 ms
Prefix Sum Array:
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 . . . 127127127127128128128128128128128
128 obstacles detected
Time (Kogge-Stone): 0.068992 ms
Prefix Sum Array:
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 . . . 127127127127128128128128128128128128
128 obstacles detected
Time (Brent-Kung): 0.068096 ms
Prefix Sum Array:
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 . . . 127127127128128128128128128128128
128 obstacles detected
```

Method	Floating Point Operations	Global Reads	Global Writes
Brute Force	(N+1)N/2	(N+1)N/2	(N+1)N/2 + N
Kogge-Stone	N log ₂ (N)	N	N log ₂ (N)
Brent-Kung	$2N - 2 - \log_2(N)$	2N	2N

Results and Review

The results from our optimization were conclusive in that they confirmed that our optimizations were both faster at returning the obstacle count than the brute force method. Running the different kernels through Nsight we can see that the Brute Force method had a runtime of 0.951 ms. Additionally we can verify that our two optimization methods have reduced the number of cycles required to run the operation.



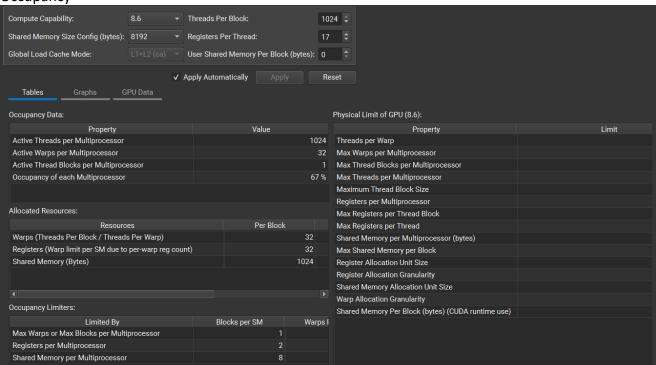
Running the code on Google Collab was also returning interesting results, at first we thought our optimizations were exponentially faster than the brute force. However, after investigation we found that the first operation run on google collab would always run slower than any

subsequent operations. Therefore, we needed to run the brute force twice to get a baseline of the brute force that would be comparable to the optimizations. We can see that while the optimization does decrease the computation time the effectiveness between the Kogge-Stone method and the Brent-Kung method is similar in that they are both roughly 0.02 ms faster than the brute force method.

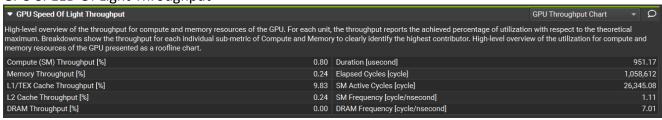
Nsight Results

Brute Force

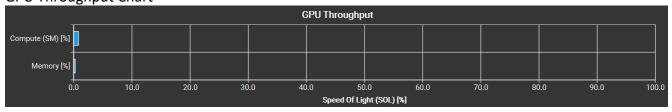
Occupancy



GPU SPEED Of Light Throughput



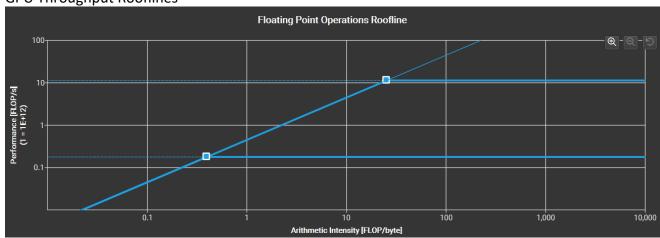
GPU Throughput Chart



GPU Throughput Breakdown

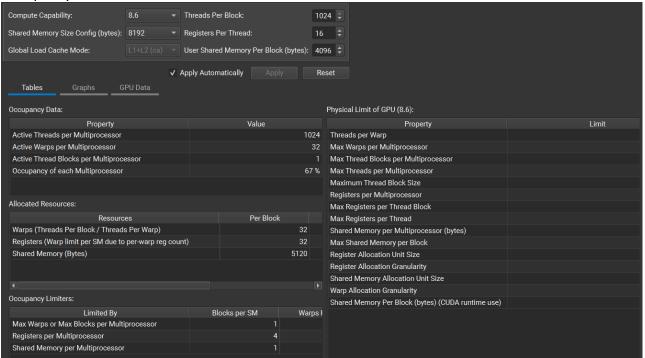
Compute Throughput Breakdown		Memory Throughput Breakdown	
SM: Pipe Alu Cycles Active [%]	0.80	L1: Lsuin Requests [%]	0.24
SM: Issue Active [%]	0.53	L2: Xbar2lts Cycles Active [%]	0.24
SM: Inst Executed [%]	0.53	L2: T Sectors [%]	0.22
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Adu [%]	0.48	L1: M L1tex2xbar Req Cycles Active [%]	0.16
SM: Mio Pq Read Cycles Active [%]	0.28	L1: Data Pipe Lsu Wavefronts [%]	0.13
SM: Mio Pq Write Cycles Active [%]	0.28	L1: Lsu Writeback Active [%]	0.08
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Lsu [%]	0.24	L2: T Tag Requests [%]	0.07
SM: Mio Inst Issued [%]	0.24	L2: D Sectors [%]	0.05
SM: Mio2rf Writeback Active [%]	0.04	L1: Data Bank Reads [%]	0.04
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Tex [%]	0.00	L1: Data Bank Writes [%]	0.02
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Cbu Pred On Any [%]	0.00	L2: Lts2xbar Cycles Active [%]	0.02
IDC: Request Cycles Active [%]	0.00	L1: Texin Sm2tex Req Cycles Active [%]	0.00
SM: Pipe Fmaheavy Cycles Active [%]	0.00	DRAM: Cycles Active [%]	0.00
SM: Pipe Fma Cycles Active [%]	0.00	DRAM: Dram Sectors [%]	0.00
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Ipa [%]	0	L2: D Sectors Fill Device [%]	0.00
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Uniform [%]		L1: M Xbar2l1tex Read Sectors [%]	0.00
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Xu [%]	0	L1: Data Pipe Tex Wavefronts [%]	0
SM: Pipe Fp64 Cycles Active [%]	0	L1: F Wavefronts [%]	0
SM: Pipe Tensor Cycles Active [%]	0	L1: Tex Writeback Active [%]	0
		L2: D Atomic Input Cycles Active [%]	0
		L2: D Sectors Fill Sysmem [%]	0

GPU Throughput Rooflines

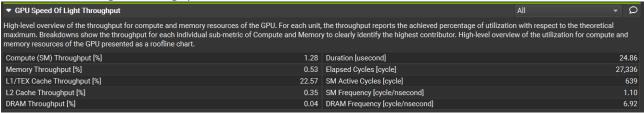


Kogge Stone

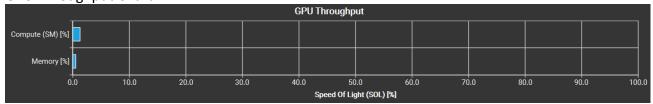
Occupancy



GPU SPEED Of Light Throughput



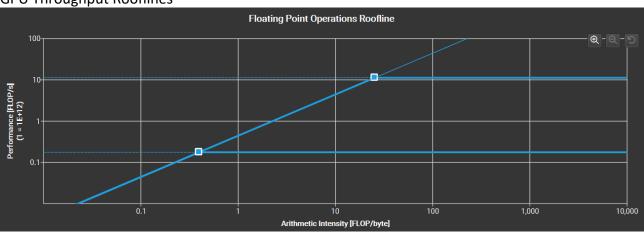
GPU Throughput Chart



GPU Throughput Breakdown

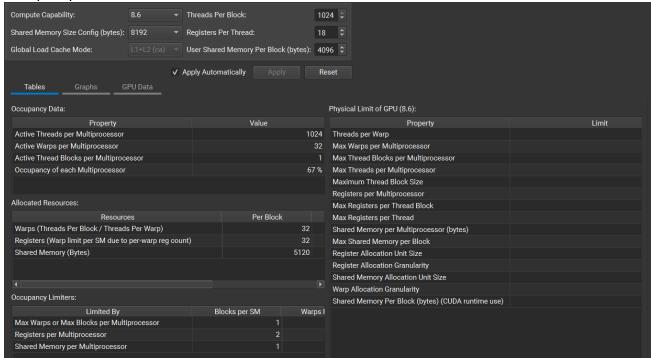
Compute Throughput Breakdown		Memory Throughput Breakdown	
SM: Pipe Alu Cycles Active [%]	1.28	L1: Lsuin Requests [%]	0.53
SM: Issue Active [%]	0.88	L2: T Sectors [%]	0.35
SM: Inst Executed [%]	0.87	L1: Data Pipe Lsu Wavefronts [%]	0.28
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Adu [%]	0.66	L1: Lsu Writeback Active [%]	0.20
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Lsu [%]	0.53	L2: Xbar2lts Cycles Active [%]	0.19
SM: Mio Inst Issued [%]	0.40	L1: M L1tex2xbar Req Cycles Active [%]	0.13
SM: Mio Pq Read Cycles Active [%]	0.36	L2: T Tag Requests [%]	0.07
SM: Mio Pq Write Cycles Active [%]	0.36	L1: Data Bank Reads [%]	0.06
SM: Mio2rf Writeback Active [%]	0.11	L2: D Sectors [%]	0.05
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Cbu Pred On Any [%]	0.10	L2: Lts2xbar Cycles Active [%]	0.04
IDC: Request Cycles Active [%]	0.02	DRAM: Cycles Active [%]	0.04
SM: Pipe Fmaheavy Cycles Active [%]	0.02	L1: Texin Sm2tex Req Cycles Active [%]	0.04
SM: Pipe Fma Cycles Active [%]	0.01	DRAM: Dram Sectors [%]	0.03
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Tex [%]	0.01	L1: Data Bank Writes [%]	0.03
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Ipa [%]	0	L2: D Sectors Fill Device [%]	0.02
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Uniform [%]		L1: M Xbar2l1tex Read Sectors [%]	0.01
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Xu [%]	0	L1: Data Pipe Tex Wavefronts [%]	0
SM: Pipe Fp64 Cycles Active [%]		L1: F Wavefronts [%]	0
SM: Pipe Tensor Cycles Active [%]	0	L1: Tex Writeback Active [%]	0
		L2: D Atomic Input Cycles Active [%]	0
		L2: D Sectors Fill Sysmem [%]	0

GPU Throughput Rooflines

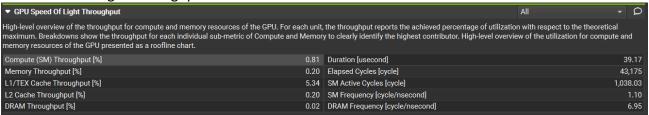


Brent Kung

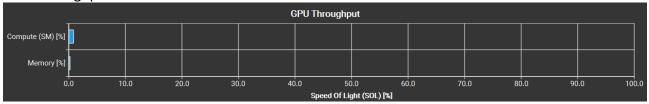
Occupancy



GPU SPEED Of Light Throughput



GPU Throughput Chart



GPU Throughput Breakdown

Compute Throughput Breakdown		Memory Throughput Breakdown	
SM: Pipe Alu Cycles Active [%]	0.81	L2: T Sectors [%]	0.20
SM: Issue Active [%]	0.59	L1: Lsuin Requests [%]	0.13
SM: Inst Executed [%]	0.59	L1: Data Pipe Lsu Wavefronts [%]	0.13
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Adu [%]	0.17	L1: Lsu Writeback Active [%]	0.05
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Lsu [%]	0.13	L2: Xbar2lts Cycles Active [%]	0.04
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Cbu Pred On Any [%]	0.13	L2: Lts2xbar Cycles Active [%]	0.03
SM: Mio Inst Issued [%]	0.10	L2: T Tag Requests [%]	0.03
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Xu [%]	0.10	DRAM: Cycles Active [%]	0.02
SM: Pipe Fmaheavy Cycles Active [%]	0.10	L1: Texin Sm2tex Req Cycles Active [%]	0.02
SM: Mio Pq Read Cycles Active [%]	0.05	DRAM: Dram Sectors [%]	0.02
SM: Mio Pq Write Cycles Active [%]	0.05	L1: M L1tex2xbar Req Cycles Active [%]	0.01
SM: Pipe Fma Cycles Active [%]	0.05	L2: D Sectors Fill Device [%]	0.01
SM: Mio2rf Writeback Active [%]	0.03	L2: D Sectors [%]	0.01
IDC: Request Cycles Active [%]	0.01	L1: M Xbar2l1tex Read Sectors [%]	0.01
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Tex [%]	0.00	L1: Data Bank Reads [%]	0.01
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Ipa [%]		L1: Data Bank Writes [%]	0.00
SM: Inst Executed Pipe Uniform [%]	0	L1: Data Pipe Tex Wavefronts [%]	0
SM: Pipe Fp64 Cycles Active [%]		L1: F Wavefronts [%]	
SM: Pipe Tensor Cycles Active [%]	0	L1: Tex Writeback Active [%]	
		L2: D Atomic Input Cycles Active [%]	
		L2: D Sectors Fill Sysmem [%]	0

GPU Throughput Rooflines

