Reducing Memory Access Latencies using Data Compression in Sparse, Iterative Linear Solvers

All-College Thesis Defense

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April 16th, 2019

Motivation

- Solving sparse linear systems used in many computations
- Iterative solvers are used
- Spend most of the time fetching data

Mathematics of Conjugate Gradient

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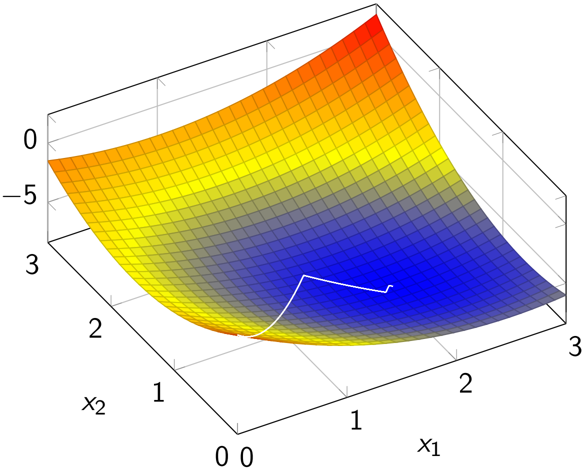
- If $\mathbf{A}$ is symmetric, then $\nabla f(\vec{x}) = \mathbf{A}\vec{x} - \vec{b}$
- $-\nabla f(\vec{x})$ is in direction of maximal decrease

Mathematics of Conjugate Gradient



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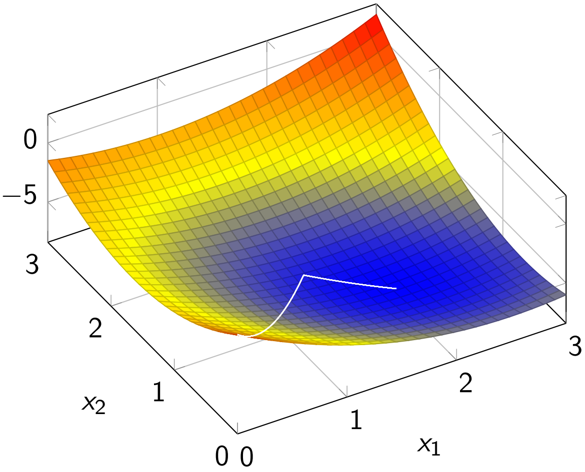

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- 3 compressible data structures
  - Vector Values
  - Matrix Indices
  - Matrix Values

Compression Methods

- Mixed Floating Point Precision
- SZ Compression
- Elias Gamma and Delta Codings
- ZFP Compression
- Huffman Coding
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Mixed Floating Point Precision

- Trade off between storage and precision
- Certain vectors can be lower precision without slowing convergence
    - Retains result accuracy

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- Available prediction functions are based on the data
- Compression rate is highly dependent on local patterns in the data

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- Positive integers
- For each value, stores the size then the data
  - Very effective for small integers
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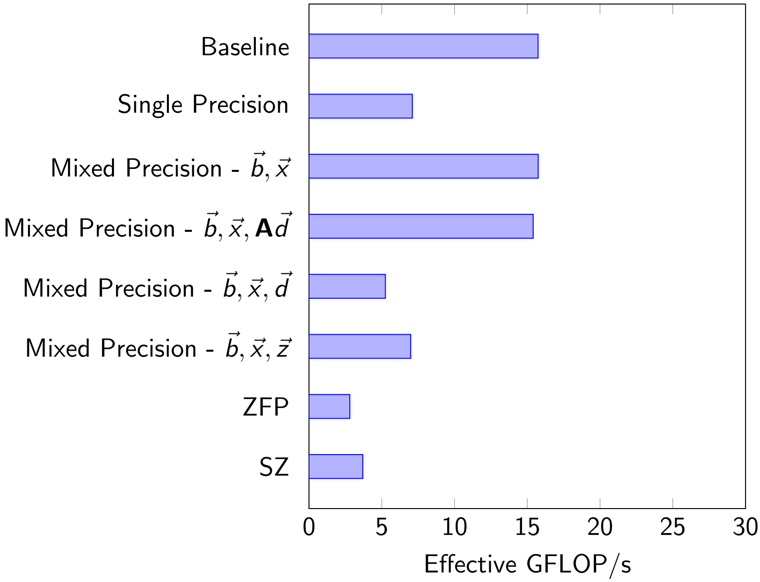
  - Storing the difference from the previous index reduces the size of values
- Elias Delta Coding is similar, but uses Gamma coding for the length
- Compression rate is only dependent on the magnitude of the values

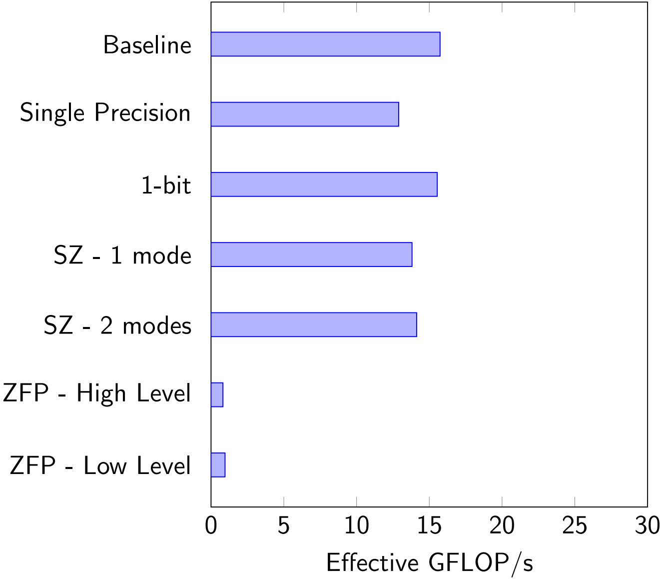
Timing Results

- 60 processes with 96^3 rows each
  - 53,084,160 total rows
- A 20-core, 2.2GHz, Intel Broadwell head node
- Plus five 8-core, 1.7GHz Intel Broadwell nodes
- MPI communication

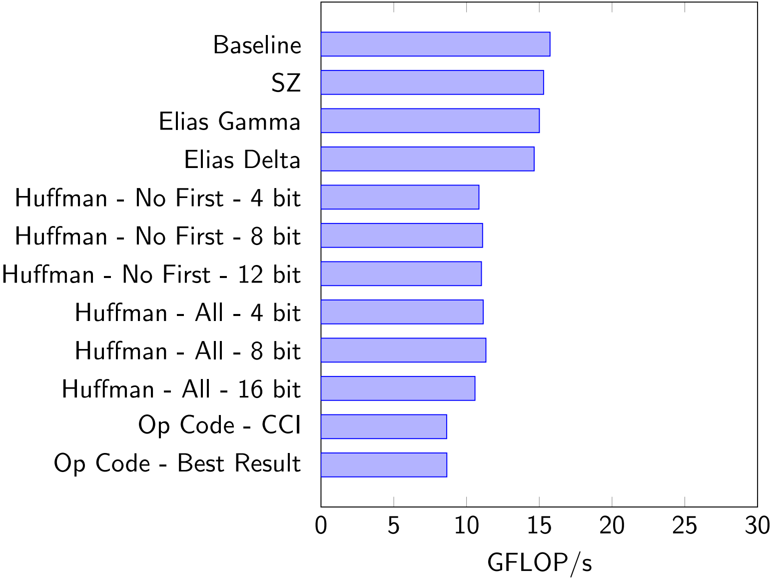
Vector Compression



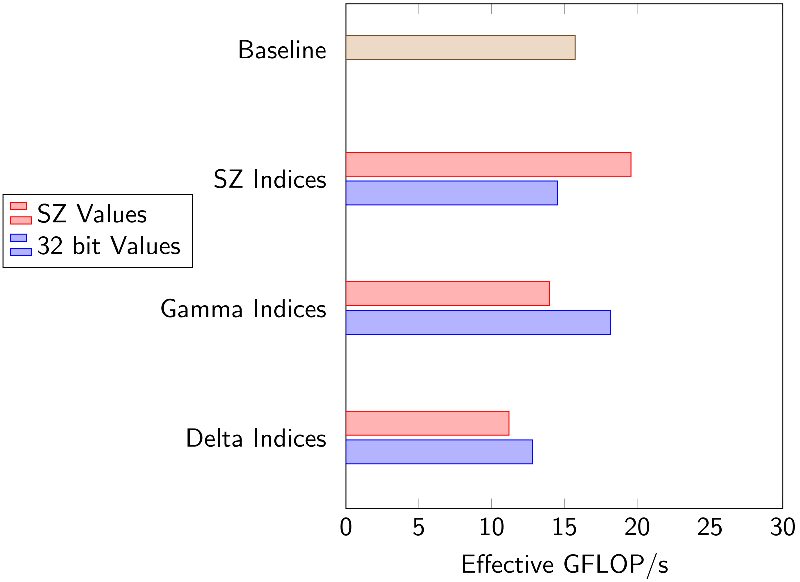
Matrix Value Compression



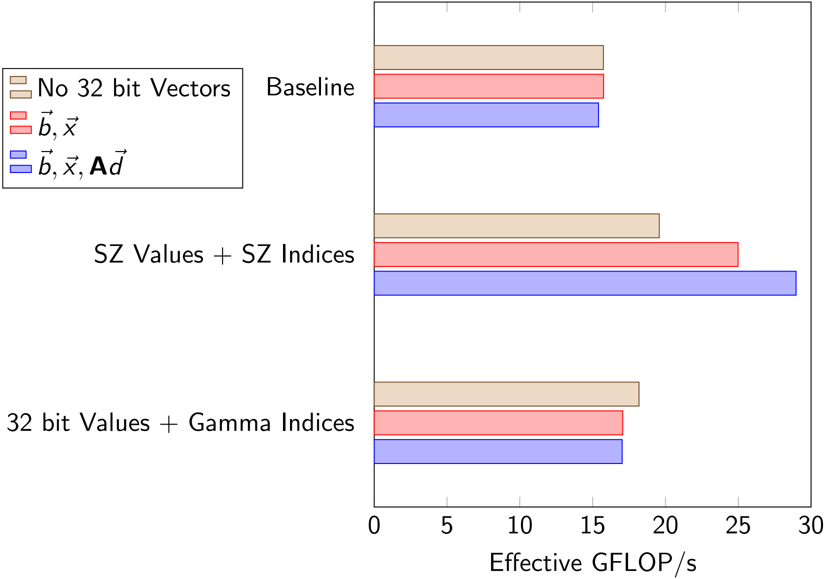
Matrix Index Compression



Matrix Value and Index Compression



Vector and Matrix Compression



Conclusion

- Iterative, sparse linear solvers are memory access bound
- Compressing key data structures provided an 84% increase in performance