CUDA C/C++ BASICS

NVIDIA Corporation

What is CUDA?

- CUDA Architecture
 - Expose GPU parallelism for general-purpose computing
 - Retain performance

- CUDA C/C++
 - Based on industry-standard C/C++
 - Small set of extensions to enable heterogeneous programming
 - Straightforward APIs to manage devices, memory etc.

CONCEPTS

leterogeneous Computing Blocks Threads Indexing Shared memory syncthreads() Asynchronous operation Handling errors Managing devices

CONCEPTS

leterogeneous Computing

Blocks

Threads

Indexing

Shared memory

_syncthreads()

Asynchronous operation

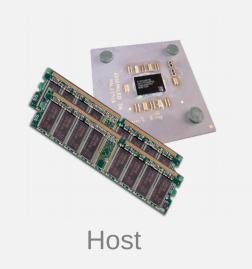
Handling errors

Managing devices

HELLO WORLD!

Heterogeneous Computing

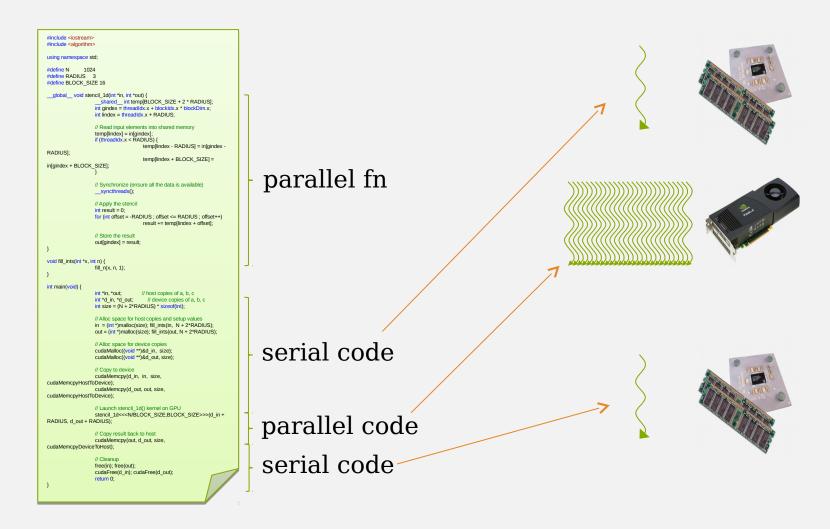
- Terminology:
 - Host The CPU and its memory (host memory)
 - Device The GPU and its memory (device memory)



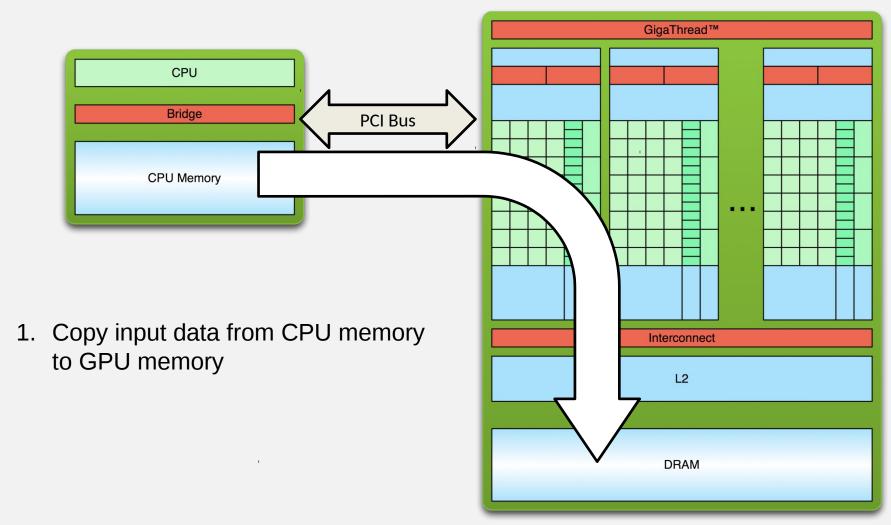


Device

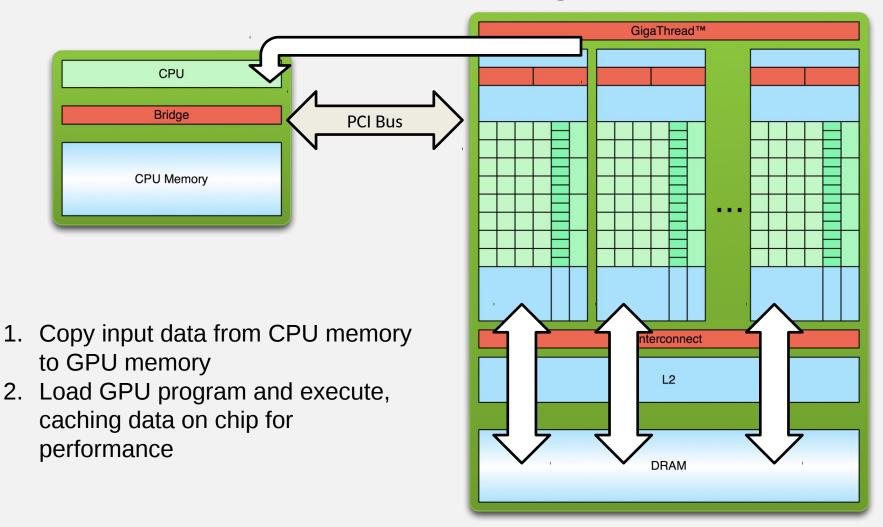
Heterogeneous Computing



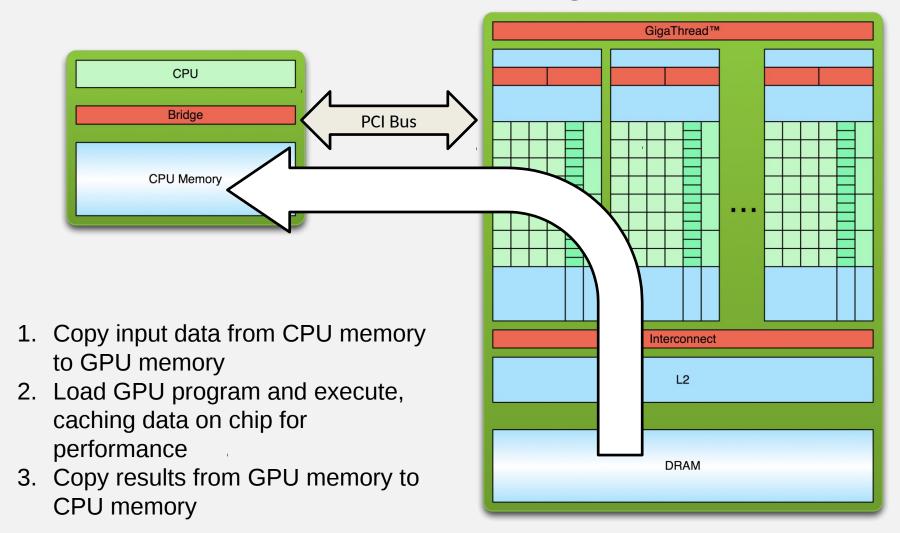
Simple Processing Flow



Simple Processing Flow



Simple Processing Flow



Hello World!

```
int main(void) {
    printf("Hello World!\n");
    return 0;
}
```

- Standard C that runs on the host
- NVIDIA compiler (nvcc) can be used to compile programs with no device code

Output:

```
$ nvcc
hello_world.
cu
$ a.out
Hello World!
$
```

Hello World! with Device Code

```
__global__ void mykernel(void) {
int main(void) {
   mykernel<<<1,1>>>();
   printf("Hello World!\n");
   return 0;
}
```

Two new syntactic elements...

Hello World! with Device Code

```
__global__ void mykernel(void) {
}
```

- CUDA C/C++ keyword <u>__global</u> indicates a function that:
 - Runs on the device
 - Is called from host code

- nvcc separates source code into host and device components
 - Device functions (e.g. mykernel()) processed by NVIDIA compiler
 - Host functions (e.g. main()) processed by standard host compiler
 - gcc, cl.exe

Hello World! with Device COde

```
mykernel<<<1,1>>>();
```

- Triple angle brackets mark a call from host code to device code
 - Also called a "kernel launch"
 - We'll return to the parameters (1,1) in a moment

 That's all that is required to execute a function on the GPU!

Hello World! with Device Code

```
__global__ void mykernel(void){
}
int main(void) {
   mykernel<<<1,1>>>();
   printf("Hello World!\n");
   return 0;
}
```

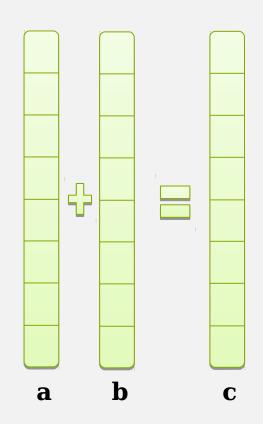
 mykernel() does nothing, somewhat anticlimactic!

Output:

```
$ nvcc
hello.cu
$ a.out
Hello World!
$
```

Parallel Programming in CUDA C/C++

- But wait... GPU computing is about massive parallelism!
- We need a more interesting example...
- We'll start by adding two integers and build up to vector addition



Addition on the Device

A simple kernel to add two integers

```
__global__ void add(int *a, int *b, int *c) {
*c = *a + *b;
}
```

- As before <u>__global</u>_ is a CUDA C/C++ keyword meaning
 - add() will execute on the device
 - add() will be called from the host

Addition on the Device

Note that we use pointers for the variables

```
__global__ void add(int *a, int *b, int *c) {
    *c = *a + *b;
}
```

- add() runs on the device, so a, b and c must point to device memory
- We need to allocate memory on the GPU

Memory Management

- Host and device memory are separate entities
 - Device pointers point to GPU memory
 May be passed to/from host code
 May not be dereferenced in host code



Host pointers point to CPU memory
 May be passed to/from device code
 May not be dereferenced in device code



- Simple CUDA API for handling device memory
 - cudaMalloc(), cudaFree(), cudaMemcpy()
 - Similar to the C equivalents malloc(), free(), memcpy()

Addition on the Device: add()

Returning to our add() kernel

```
__global__ void add(int *a, int *b, int *c) {
    *c = *a + *b;
}
```

Let's take a look at main()...

Addition on the Device: main()

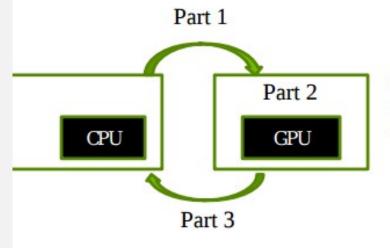
```
int main(void) {
   int a, b, c;
                      // host copies of a, b, c
   int *d_a, *d_b, *d_c; // device copies of a, b, c
   int size = sizeof(int);
   // Allocate space for device copies of a, b, c
   cudaMalloc((void **)&d_a, size);
   cudaMalloc((void **)&d_b, size);
   cudaMalloc((void **)&d_c, size);
   // Setup input values
   a = 2;
   b = 7;
```

Addition on the Device: main()

```
// Copy inputs to device
cudaMemcpy(d_a, &a, size, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
cudaMemcpy(d_b, &b, size, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
// Launch add() kernel on GPU
add<<<1,1>>>(d a, d b, d c);
// Copy result back to host
cudaMemcpy(&c, d_c, size, cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost);
// Cleanup
cudaFree(d_a); cudaFree(d_b); cudaFree(d_c);
return 0;
```

Review (1 of 4)

Heterogeneous Computing vecAdd CUDA Host Code



```
#include <cuda.h>
void vecAdd(float *h_A, float *h_B, float *h_C, int n)
{
   int size = n* sizeof(float);
   float *d_A, *d_B, *d_C;
   // Part 1
   // Allocate device memory for A, B, and C
   // copy A and B to device memory

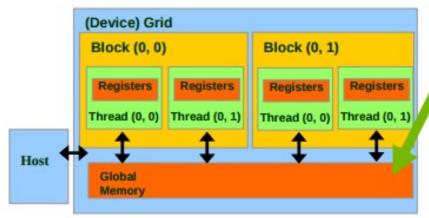
// Part 2
   // Kernel launch code = the device performs the actual vector addition

// Part 3
   // copy C from the device memory

// Free device vectors
}
```

Review (2 of 4)

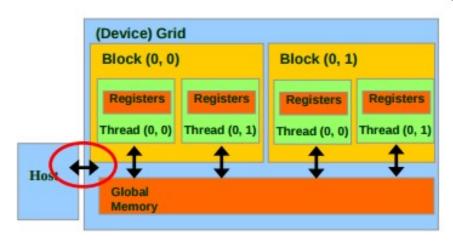
CUDA Device Memory Management API functions



- cudaMalloc()
 - Allocates an object in the device global memory
 - Two parameters
 - Address of a pointer to the allocated object
 - Size of allocated object in terms of bytes
- cudaFree()
 - Frees object from device global memory
 - One parameter
 - Pointer to freed object

Review (3 of 4)

Host-Device Data Transfer API functions



cudaMemcpy()

- memory data transfer
- Requires four parameters
 - Pointer to destination
 - Pointer to source
 - Number of bytes copied
 - Type/Direction of transfer
- Transfer to device is asynchronous

Review (4 of 4)

Vector Addition Host Code

```
void vecAdd(float *h_A, float *h_B, float *h_C, int n)
{
  int size = n * sizeof(float); float *d_A, *d_B, *d_C;
  cudaMalloc((void **) &d_A, size);
  cudaMemcpy(d_A, h_A, size, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
  cudaMalloc((void **) &d_B, size);
  cudaMemcpy(d_B, h_B, size, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
  cudaMalloc((void **) &d_C, size);

// Kernel invocation code – to be shown later

cudaMemcpy(h_C, d_C, size, cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost);
  cudaFree(d_A); cudaFree(d_B); cudaFree (d_C);
}
```

CONCEPTS

leterogeneous Computing

Blocks

Threads

Indexing

Shared memory

_syncthreads()

Asynchronous operation

Handling errors

Managing devices

RUNNING IN PARALLEL

Moving to Parallel

- GPU computing is about massive parallelism
 - So how do we run code in parallel on the device?

```
add<<< 1, 1 >>>();
add<<< N, 1 >>>();
```

 Instead of executing add() once, execute N times in parallel

Vector Addition on the Device

- With add() running in parallel we can do vector addition
- Terminology: each parallel invocation of add() is referred to as a block
 - The set of blocks is referred to as a grid
 - Each invocation can refer to its block index using blockIdx.x

```
__global__ void add(int *a, int *b, int *c) {
c[blockIdx.x] = a[blockIdx.x] + b[blockIdx.x];
}
```

 By using blockIdx.x to index into the array, each block handles a different index

Vector Addition on the Device

```
__global__ void add(int *a, int *b, int *c) {
   c[blockIdx.x] = a[blockIdx.x] + b[blockIdx.x];
}
```

On the device, each block can execute in parallel:

```
Block 0 Block 1 Block 2 Block 3 c[0] = a[0] + b[0]; c[1] = a[1] + b[1]; c[2] = a[2] + b[2]; c[3] = a[3] + b[3];
```

Vector Addition on the Device: add()

Returning to our parallelized add() kernel

```
__global__ void add(int *a, int *b, int *c) {
    c[blockIdx.x] = a[blockIdx.x] + b[blockIdx.x];
}
```

Let's take a look at main()...

Vector Addition on the Device: main()

```
#define N 512
int main(void) {
int *a *b *c // host copies of a, b, c
int *d_a, *d_b, *d_c; // device copies of a, b, c
int size = N * sizeof(int);
// Alloc space for device copies of a, b, c
cudaMalloc((void **)&d_a, size);
cudaMalloc((void **)&d_b, size);
cudaMalloc((void **)&d_c, size);
// Alloc space for host copies of a, b, c and setup input values
a = (int *)malloc(size); random_ints(a, N);
b = (int *)malloc(size); random_ints(b, N);
c = (int *)malloc(size);
```

Vector Addition on the Device: main()

```
// Copy inputs to device
cudaMemcpy(d_a, a, size, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
cudaMemcpy(d_b, b, size, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
// Launch add() kernel on GPU with N blocks
add <<< N, 1>>> (d_a, d_b, d_c);
// Copy result back to host
cudaMemcpy(c, d_c, size, cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost);
// Cleanup
free(a); free(b); free(c);
cudaFree(d_a); cudaFree(d_b); cudaFree(d_c);
return 0;
```

Review (1 of 2)

- Difference between host and device
 - Host CPU
 - Device GPU

- Using <u>__global</u>__ to declare a function as device code
 - Executes on the device
 - Called from the host

Passing parameters from host code to a device function

Review (2 of 2)

- Basic device memory management
 - cudaMalloc()
 - cudaMemcpy()
 - cudaFree()

- Launching parallel kernels
 - Launch N copies of add() with add<<<N,1>>>(...);
 - Use blockIdx.x to access block index

CONCEPTS

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Blocks

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Shared memory

_syncthreads()

Asynchronous operation

Handling errors

Managing devices

INTRODUCING THREADS

CUDA Threads

Terminology: a block can be split into parallel threads

 Let's change add() to use parallel threads instead of parallel blocks

```
__global__ void add(int *a, int *b, int *c) {
    c[threadIdx.x] = a[threadIdx.x] + b[threadIdx.x];
}
```

- We use threadIdx.x instead of blockIdx.x
- Need to make one change in main()...

Vector Addition Using Threads: main()

```
#define N 512
int main(void) {
   int *a, *b, *c;  // host copies of a, b, c
   int *d_a, *d_b, *d_c; // device copies of a, b, c
   int size = N * sizeof(int);
   // Alloc space for device copies of a, b, c
    cudaMalloc((void **)&d_a, size);
    cudaMalloc((void **)&d_b, size);
    cudaMalloc((void **)&d_c, size);
   // Alloc space for host copies of a, b, c and setup input values
   a = (int *)malloc(size); random_ints(a, N);
   b = (int *)malloc(size); random_ints(b, N);
   c = (int *)malloc(size);
```

Vector Addition Using Threads: main()

```
// Copy inputs to device
cudaMemcpy(d_a, a, size, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
cudaMemcpy(d_b, b, size, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
// Launch add() kernel on GPU with N threads
add <<<1, N>>> (d_a, d_b, d_c);
// Copy result back to host
cudaMemcpy(c, d_c, size, cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost);
// Cleanup
free(a); free(b); free(c);
cudaFree(d_a); cudaFree(d_b); cudaFree(d_c);
return 0;
```

CONCEPTS leterogeneous Computing Blocks Threads Indexing Shared memory _syncthreads() Asynchronous operation Handling errors Managing devices

COMBINING THREADS AND BLOCKS

Combining Blocks and Threads

- We've seen parallel vector addition using:
 - Many blocks with one thread each
 - One block with many threads
- Let's adapt vector addition to use both blocks and threads

- Why? We'll come to that...
- First let's discuss data indexing...

Indexing Arrays with Blocks and Threads

- No longer as simple as using blockIdx.x and threadIdx.x
 - Consider indexing an array with one element per thread (8 threads/block)

```
threadIdx.x threadIdx.x threadIdx.x

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 0 1 2 3 4 5 6

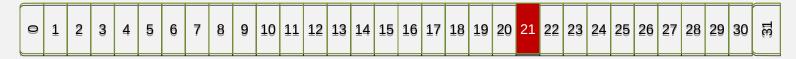
blockIdx.x = 0 blockIdx.x = 1 blockIdx.x = 2 blockIdx.x = 3
```

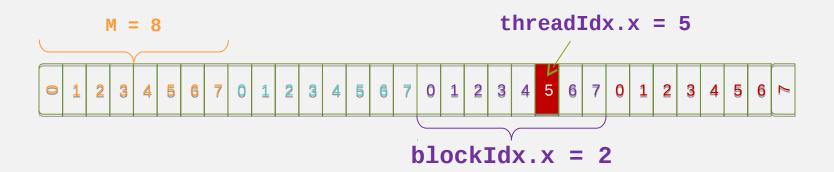
 With M threads/block a unique index for each thread is given by:

```
int index = threadIdx.x + blockIdx.x * M;
```

Indexing Arrays: Example

Which thread will operate on the red element?





Vector Addition with Blocks and Threads

- Use the built-in variable blockDim.x for threads per block
 int index = threadIdx.x + blockIdx.x * blockDim.x;
- Combined version of add() to use parallel threads and parallel blocks

```
__global__ void add(int *a, int *b, int *c) {
   int index = threadIdx.x + blockIdx.x * blockDim.x;
   c[index] = a[index] + b[index];
}
```

What changes need to be made in main()?

Addition with Blocks and Threads:

main()

```
#define N (2048*2048)
#define THREADS PER BLOCK 512
int main(void) {
   int *a, *b, *c;  // host copies of a, b, c
    int *d_a, *d_b, *d_c; // device copies of a, b, c
   int size = N * sizeof(int);
   // Alloc space for device copies of a, b, c
    cudaMalloc((void **)&d_a, size);
    cudaMalloc((void **)&d_b, size);
    cudaMalloc((void **)&d_c, size);
   // Alloc space for host copies of a, b, c and setup input values
   a = (int *)malloc(size); random_ints(a, N);
   b = (int *)malloc(size); random_ints(b, N);
   c = (int *)malloc(size);
```

Addition with Blocks and Threads:

main()

```
// Copy inputs to device
cudaMemcpy(d_a, a, size, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
cudaMemcpy(d_b, b, size, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
// Launch add() kernel on GPU
add<<<N/THREADS_PER_BLOCK_THREADS_PER_BLOCK>>>(d_a, d_b, d_c);
// Copy result back to host
cudaMemcpy(c, d_c, size, cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost);
// Cleanup
free(a); free(b); free(c);
cudaFree(d_a); cudaFree(d_b); cudaFree(d_c);
return 0;
```

Handling Arbitrary Vector Sizes

- Typical problems are not friendly multiples of blockDim.x
- Avoid accessing beyond the end of the arrays:

```
__global__ void add(int *a, int *b, int *c, int n) {
   int index = threadIdx.x + blockIdx.x * blockDim.x;
   if (index < n)
        c[index] = a[index] + b[index];
}</pre>
```

Update the kernel launch:

```
add << (N + M-1) / M, M>>> (d_a, d_b, d_c, N);
```

Why Bother with Threads?

- Threads seem unnecessary
 - They add a level of complexity
 - What do we gain?

- Unlike parallel blocks, threads have mechanisms to:
 - Communicate
 - Synchronize

To look closer, we need a new example...

CONCEPTS

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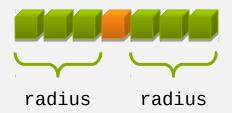
Managing devices

COOPERATING THREADS

1D Stencil

- Consider applying a 1D stencil to a 1D array of elements
 - Each output element is the sum of input elements within a radius

 If radius is 3, then each output element is the sum of 7 input elements:



Implementing Within a Block

- Each thread processes one output element
 - blockDim.x elements per block
- Input elements are read several times
 - With radius 3, each input element is read seven times



Sharing Data Between Threads

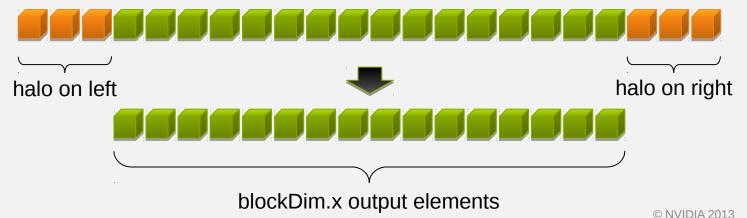
 Terminology: within a block, threads share data via shared memory

- Extremely fast on-chip memory, user-managed
- Declare using <u>__shared__</u>, allocated per block
- Data is not visible to threads in other blocks

Implementing With Shared Memory

- Cache data in shared memory
 - Read (blockDim.x + 2 * radius) input elements from global memory to shared memory
 - Compute blockDim.x output elements
 - Write blockDim.x output elements to global memory

Each block needs a halo of radius elements at each boundary



Stencil Kernel

```
_global__ void stencil_1d(int *in, int *out) {
    __shared__ int temp[BLOCK_SIZE + 2 * RADIUS];
    int gindex = threadIdx.x + blockIdx.x * blockDim.x;
    int lindex = threadIdx.x + RADIUS;

// Read input elements into shared memory
temp[lindex] = in[gindex];
if (threadIdx.x < RADIUS) {
    temp[lindex - RADIUS] = in[gindex - RADIUS];
    temp[lindex + BLOCK_SIZE] =
        in[gindex + BLOCK_SIZE];
}</pre>
```

Stencil Kernel

```
// Apply the stencil
int result = 0;
for (int offset = -RADIUS ; offset <= RADIUS ; offset++)
  result += temp[lindex + offset];

// Store the result
out[gindex] = result;</pre>
```

Data Race!

- The stencil example will not work...
- Suppose thread 15 reads the halo before thread 0 has fetched it...

__syncthreads()

void ___syncthreads();

- Synchronizes all threads within a block
 - Used to prevent RAW / WAR / WAW hazards

- All threads must reach the barrier
 - In conditional code, the condition must be uniform across the block

Stencil Kernel

```
global__ void stencil_1d(int *in, int *out) {
  __shared__ int temp[BLOCK_SIZE + 2 * RADIUS];
  int gindex = threadIdx.x + blockIdx.x * blockDim.x;
  int lindex = threadIdx.x + radius;
  // Read input elements into shared memory
  temp[lindex] = in[gindex];
  if (threadIdx.x < RADIUS) {</pre>
      temp[lindex - RADIUS] = in[gindex - RADIUS];
      temp[lindex + BLOCK_SIZE] = in[gindex + BLOCK_SIZE];
  }
  // Synchronize (ensure all the data is available)
  __syncthreads();
```

Stencil Kernel

```
// Apply the stencil
int result = 0;
for (int offset = -RADIUS ; offset <= RADIUS ; offset++)
    result += temp[lindex + offset];

// Store the result
out[gindex] = result;</pre>
```

Review (1 of 2)

- Launching parallel threads
 - Launch N blocks with M threads per block with kernel<<<N, M>>>(...);
 - Use blockIdx.x to access block index within grid
 - Use threadIdx.x to access thread index within block

Allocate elements to threads:

```
int index = threadIdx.x + blockIdx.x * blockDim.x
```

Review (2 of 2)

- Use <u>__shared__</u> to declare a variable/array in shared memory
 - Data is shared between threads in a block
 - Not visible to threads in other blocks

- Use <u>__syncthreads()</u> as a barrier
 - Use to prevent data hazards

CONCEPTS

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MANAGING THE DEVICE

Coordinating Host & Device

- Kernel launches are asynchronous
 - Control returns to the CPU immediately

CPU needs to synchronize before consuming the results

cudaMemcpy() Blocks the CPU until the copy is complete

Copy begins when all preceding CUDA calls have

completed

cudaMemcpyAsync() Asynchronous, does not block the CPU

cudaDeviceSynchro Blocks the CPU until all preceding CUDA calls have
nize()

Reporting Errors

- All CUDA API calls return an error code (cudaError_t)
 - Error in the API call itselfOR
 - Error in an earlier asynchronous operation (e.g. kernel)
- Get the error code for the last error: cudaError_t cudaGetLastError(void)
- Get a string to describe the error:
 char *cudaGetErrorString(cudaError_t)

```
printf("%s\n", cudaGetErrorString(cudaGetLastError()));
```

Device Management

Application can query and select GPUs

```
cudaGetDeviceCount(int *count)
cudaSetDevice(int device)
cudaGetDevice(int *device)
cudaGetDeviceProperties(cudaDeviceProp *prop, int device)
```

Multiple threads can share a device

A single thread can manage multiple devices

```
cudaSetDevice(i) to select current device
cudaMemcpy(...) for peer-to-peer copies+
```

Introduction to CUDA C/C++

- What have we learned?
 - Write and launch CUDA C/C++ kernels

```
global__, blockIdx.x, threadIdx.x, <<<>>>
```

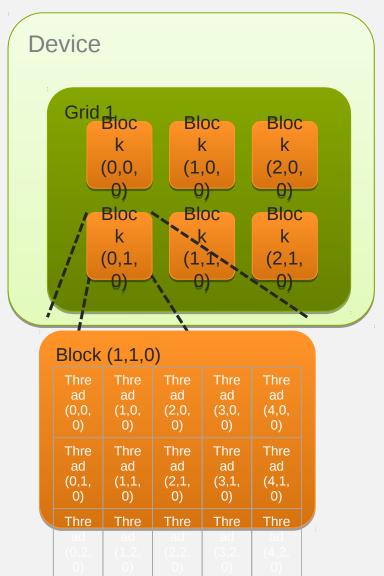
- Manage GPU memory
 - cudaMalloc(), cudaMemcpy(), cudaFree()
- Manage communication and synchronization
 - __shared___, __syncthreads()
 - cudaMemcpy() VS cudaMemcpyAsync(), cudaDeviceSynchronize()

IDs and Dimensions

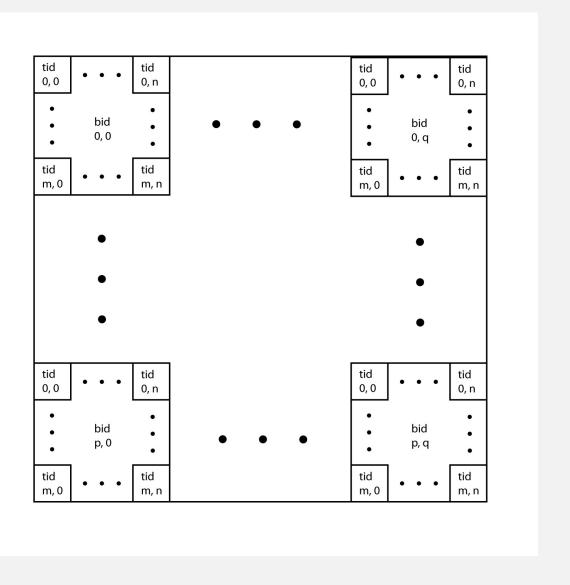
- A kernel is launched as a grid of blocks of threads
 - blockIdx and threadIdx are 3D
 - We showed only one dimension (x)

Built-in variables:

- threadIdx
- blockIdx
- blockDim
- gridDim



2D block map



Addition on the Device: main()

```
#define rows 1024
#define cols 1024
#define TILE WIDTH 16
int main(void) {
 int *a, i;
                   // host copies of a, b, c
 int *d_a; // device copies of a, b, c
 int size = sizeof(int) * rows * cols;
 a = malloc(sizeof(int) * size);
 // Allocate space for device copies of a, b, c
 cudaMalloc((void **)&d_a, size);
 // Setup input values
 for(i = 0; i < rows*cols; i++) a[i] = i;
```

Addition on the Device: main()

```
// Copy inputs to device
     cudaMemcpy(d_a, &a, size, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
      // Launch add() kernel on GPU
    dim3 dimGrid(ceil((float)cols / TILE_WIDTH), ceil((float)rows / TILE_WIDTH),
1);
    dim3 dimBlock(TILE_WIDTH, TILE_WIDTH, 1);
    add2D<<<dimGrid, dimBlock>>>(d a, rows, cols);
     // Copy result back to host
     cudaMemcpy(a, d_a, size, cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost);
    // Cleanup
    cudaFree(d_a); free(a);
    return 0;
```

Addition on the Device: add2D()

Kernel add2D

```
__global__ void add2D(int *a, int N /*linha*/,
int M/*coluna*/) {
   int col = TILE_WIDTH * blockIdx.x + threadIdx.x;
   int row = TILE_WIDTH * blockIdx.y + threadIdx.y;

   If(row < N && col < M)
        a[row * N + col] += 1;
}</pre>
```