Introduction to Xeon Phi

MIC Training Event at XSEDE’13

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Xeon Phi — MIC

• Xeon Phi = first product of Intel’s Many Integrated Core (MIC) architecture
• Co-processor
  – PCI Express card
  – Stripped down Linux operating system
• Dense, simplified processor
  – Many power-hungry operations removed
  – Wider vector unit
  – Wider hardware thread count
• Lots of names
  – Many Integrated Core architecture, aka MIC
  – Knights Corner (code name)
  – Intel Xeon Phi Co-processor SE10P (product name)
Xeon Phi — MIC

• Leverage x86 architecture (CPU with many cores)
  – x86 cores that are simpler, but allow for more compute throughput
• Leverage existing x86 programming models
• Dedicate much of the silicon to floating point ops
• Cache coherent
• Increase floating-point throughput
• Strip expensive features
  – out-of-order execution
  – branch prediction
• Widen SIMD registers for more throughput
• Fast (GDDR5) memory on card
Intel Xeon Phi Chip

- 22 nm process
- Based on what Intel learned from
  - Larrabee
  - SCC
  - TeraFlops Research Chip
MIC Architecture

- Many cores on the die
- L1 and L2 cache
- Bidirectional ring network for L2
- Memory and PCIe connection
Knights Corner Core

X86 specific logic < 2% of core + L2 area

George Chrysos, Intel, Hot Chips 24 (2012):
Vector Processing Unit

George Chrysos, Intel, Hot Chips 24 (2012):
Speeds and Feeds

• Processor
  – ~1.1 GHz
  – 61 cores
  – 512-bit wide vector unit
  – 1.074 TF peak DP

• Data Cache
  – L1 32KB/core
  – L2 512KB/core, 30.5 MB/chip

• Memory
  – 8GB GDDR5 DRAM
  – 5.5 GT/s, 512-bit*

• PCIe
  – 5.0 GT/s, 16-bit
Advantages

• Intel’s MIC is based on x86 technology
  – x86 cores w/ caches and cache coherency
  – SIMD instruction set

• Programming for MIC is similar to programming for CPUs
  – Familiar languages: C/C++ and Fortran
  – Familiar parallel programming models: OpenMP & MPI
  – MPI on host and on the coprocessor
  – Any code can run on MIC, not just kernels

• Optimizing for MIC is similar to optimizing for CPUs
  – “Optimize once, run anywhere”
  – Our early MIC porting efforts for codes “in the field” are frequently doubling performance on Sandy Bridge.
Stampede Programming Models

• Traditional Cluster
  – Pure MPI and MPI+X
    • X may be OpenMP, TBB, Cilk+, OpenCL, ...

• Native Phi
  – Use one Phi and run OpenMP or MPI programs directly

• MPI tasks on Host and Phi
  – Treat the Phi (mostly) like another host
    • Pure MPI and MPI+X (limited memory: using ‘X’ is almost mandatory)

• MPI on Host, Offload to Xeon Phi
  – Targeted offload through OpenMP extensions
  – Automatically offload some library routines with MKL
Traditional Cluster

• Stampede is 2+ PF of FDR-connected Xeon E5
  – High bandwidth: 56 Gb/s (sustaining >52 Gb/s)
  – Low-latency
    • ~1 μs on leaf switch
    • ~2.5 μs across the system

• Highly scalable for existing MPI codes
• IB multicast and collective offloads for improved collective performance
Native Execution

• Build for Phi with –mmic
• Execute on host (runtime will automatically detect an executable built for Phi)
• ... or ssh to mic0 and run on the Phi
• Can safely use all 61 cores
  – But: I recommend to use 60 cores, i.e. 60, 120, 180, or 240 threads
  – Offload programs should **certainly** stay away from the 61st core since the offload daemon runs here
Symmetric MPI

• Host and Phi can operate symmetrically as MPI targets
  – High code reuse
  – MPI and hybrid MPI+X (X = OpenMP, Cilk+, TBB, pthreads)

• Careful to balance workload between big cores and little cores

• Careful to create locality between local host, local Phi, remote hosts, and remote Phis

• Take advantage of topology-aware MPI interface under development in MVAPICH2
  – NSF STCI project with OSU, TACC, and SDSC
Symmetric MPI

- Typical 1-2 GB per task on the host
- Targeting 1-10 MPI tasks per Phi on Stampede
  - With 6+ threads per MPI task
MPI with Offload to Phi

- Existing codes using accelerators have already identified regions where offload works well
- Porting these to OpenMP offload should be straightforward
- Automatic offload where MKL kernel routines can be used
  — xGEMM, etc.
What we at TACC like about Phi

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Will My Code Run on Xeon Phi?

• Yes

• ... but that’s the wrong question
  – Will your code run *best* on Phi?, or
  – Will you get great Phi performance without additional work? (The answer is most likely NO)
Early Phi Programming Experiences at TACC

• Codes port easily
  – Minutes to days depending mostly on library dependencies

• Performance can require real work
  – While the software environment continues to evolve
  – Getting codes to run *at all* is almost too easy; really need to put in the effort to get what you expect

• Scalability is pretty good
  – Multiple threads per core is really important
  – Getting your code to vectorize is really important
LBM Example

- Lattice Boltzmann Method CFD code
  - Carlos Rosales, TACC
  - MPI code with OpenMP
- Finding all the right routines to parallelize is critical
PETSc/MUMPS with AO

- Hydrostatic ice sheet modeling
- MUMPS solver (called through PETSC)
- BLAS calls automatically offloaded behind the scenes
Lab I

• What you will learn
  – The lab introduces you to Stampede and to the Xeon Phi processors built into Stampede

• What you will do:
  – Compile for Xeon (host) and Xeon Phi (MIC)
  – Submit a job
  – Inspect the queue
  – Submit an interactive job
  – Execute on the host and on the Phi
Lab 1

Stampede Orientation
Part 0 – Grab the Lab Files

- Login to Stampede
  
  $ ssh <username>@stampede.tacc.utexas.edu
- Change to your $WORK directory:
  
  $ cdw
  $ pwd
  $ module list
- Untar the file lab1.tar file (in ~train00) into your directory:
  
  $ tar xvf ~train00/lab1.tar
- Move into the newly created lab1 directory:
  
  $ cd lab1 # first char is lower case "L"; last is a one
  $ pwd
  $ ls
Part 1 – Run an MPI Batch Job (sbatch)

• Compile the mpipi program:
  $ mpicc mpipi.c -o mpipi
• Open the batch script in an editor to see if you need to change it:
  $ nano lab1batch     # or vi, or emacs, or just cat lab1batch
      << you shouldn't need any changes >>
• Launch the batch job
  $ sbatch lab1batch
• Monitor the job’s status (when done, command will return nothing):
  $ squeue -u <username>
  $ showq | more    # hit space bar to advance
  $ squeue | more    # hit space bar to advance
• When job completes, take a look at results:
  $ ls                     # Note presence/names of output files
  $ more mpipi.xxxxx.out  # "xxxxx" is your job's jobid
  $ more mpipi.xxxxx.err  # "xxxxx" is your job's jobid
Part 2 – An Interactive Session (idev)

• Launch a one-node interactive session using a special reservation

  $ idev

• When session begins, compile hello.F90* from compute node:

  $ ifort -openmp hello.F90 -o hello

• Run the code:

  $ ./hello  # you're on a compute node, not a login node

• Set OpenMP threads and try again

  $ export OMP_NUM_THREADS=4
  $ ./hello

*Note: the capital "F" in the suffix instructs the compiler to interpret the macros in the source code. If the suffix were "f90" the compilation would require a "-cpp" flag.
Part 3 – Run MIC App from the Host

- While on the compute node, recompile to produce "native MIC" code (compilers are not visible from the MIC):
  $ ifort -mmic -openmp hello.F90 -o helloMIC
- Launch the MIC code from the host:
  $ ./helloMIC
  Note: the program reports 244 “processors” because each MIC core has four hardware threads. It may not be efficient to run this many threads.
- From the host, modify the MIC thread count and try again:
  $ export MIC_OMP_NUM_THREADS=60
  $ export MIC_ENV_PREFIX=MIC
  $ ./helloMIC
Part 4 – Visit the MIC

• First note the full path to your working directory:
  
  $ echo $WORK  # you'll need this info when you get to the MIC

• Go the MIC using ssh:
  
  $ ssh mic0    # the "zero" identifies the MIC card

• Move into the lab1 directory with explicit cd (alias and env variable not avail):
  
  $ cd /work/01875/djames    # replace with your own path
  $ cd lab1

• Run your MIC code:
  
  $ ./helloMIC

• Change the MIC's thread count and run code again (don't use "MIC" prefix):
  
  $ export OMP_NUM_THREADS=25
  $ ./helloMIC

• Return to host, then end srun session as desired:
  
  $ exit    # to return to host
  $ exit    # to end idev session