

MODULE FOUR: GPU PROGRAMMING

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MODULE OVERVIEW

OpenACC Directives

- Multicore CPU vs GPU
- Introduction to GPU Data Management
- CUDA Managed Memory
- GPU Profiling with Nsight Systems

CPU VS GPU

CPU VS GPU

Number of cores and parallelism

- Both are extremely popular parallel processors, but with different degrees of parallelism
- CPUs generally have a small number of very fast physical cores
- GPUs have thousands of simple cores able to achieve high performance in aggregate
- Both require parallelism to be fully utilized, but GPUs require much more

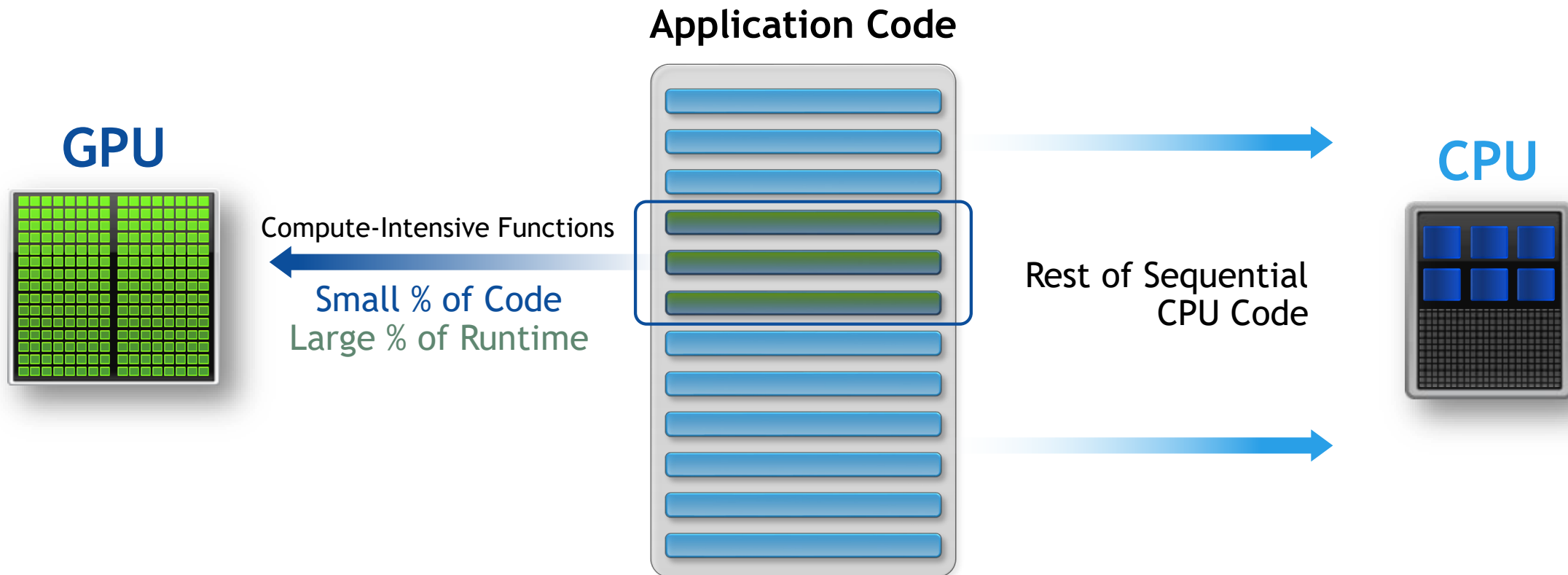


CPU
MULTIPLE CORES



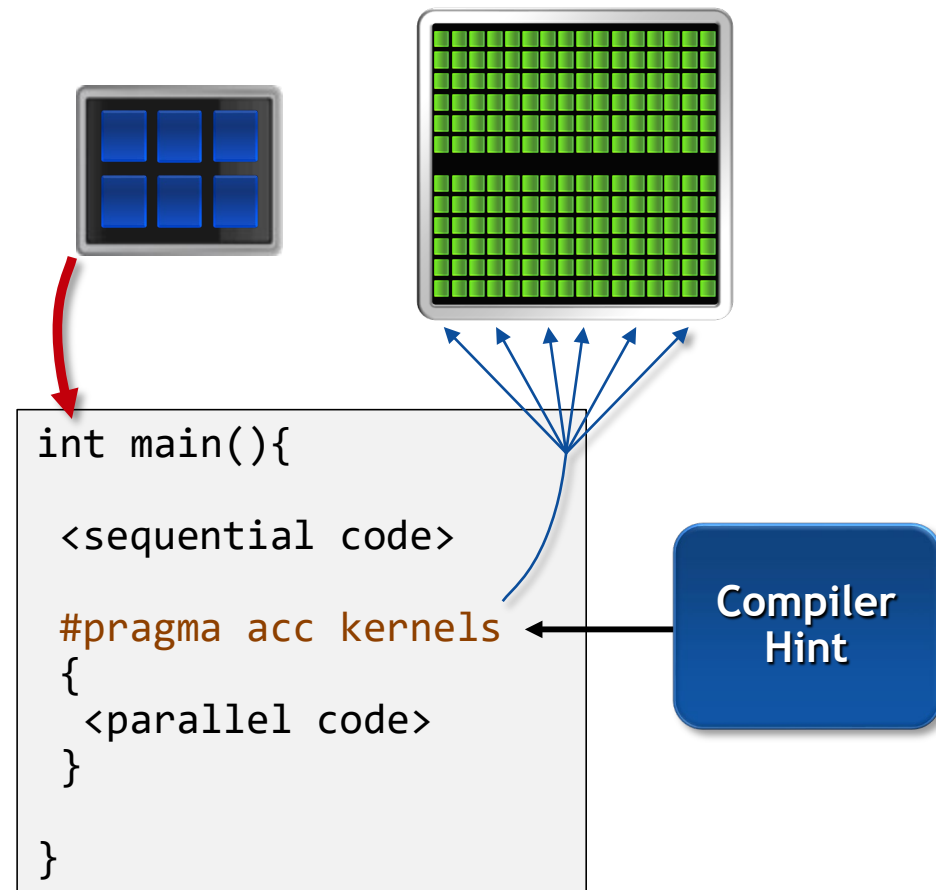
GPU
THOUSANDS OF CORES

CPU + GPU WORKFLOW



GPU PROGRAMMING IN OPENACC

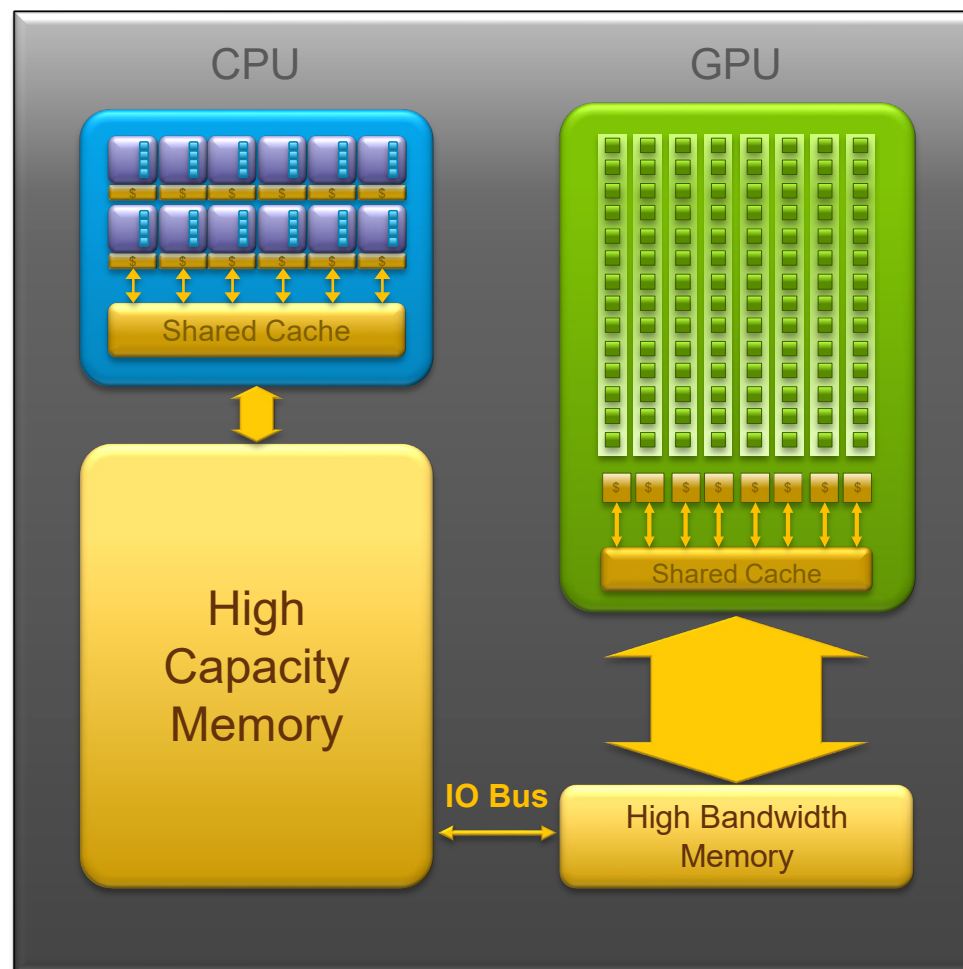
- Execution always begins and ends on the *host* CPU
- Compute-intensive loops are offloaded to the GPU using directives
- Offloading may or may not require data movement between the *host* and *device*.



CPU + GPU

Physical Diagram

- CPU memory is larger, GPU memory has more bandwidth
- CPU and GPU memory are usually separate, connected by an I/O bus (traditionally PCI-e)
- Any data transferred between the CPU and GPU will be handled by the I/O Bus
- The I/O Bus is relatively slow compared to memory bandwidth
- The GPU cannot perform computation until the data is within its memory

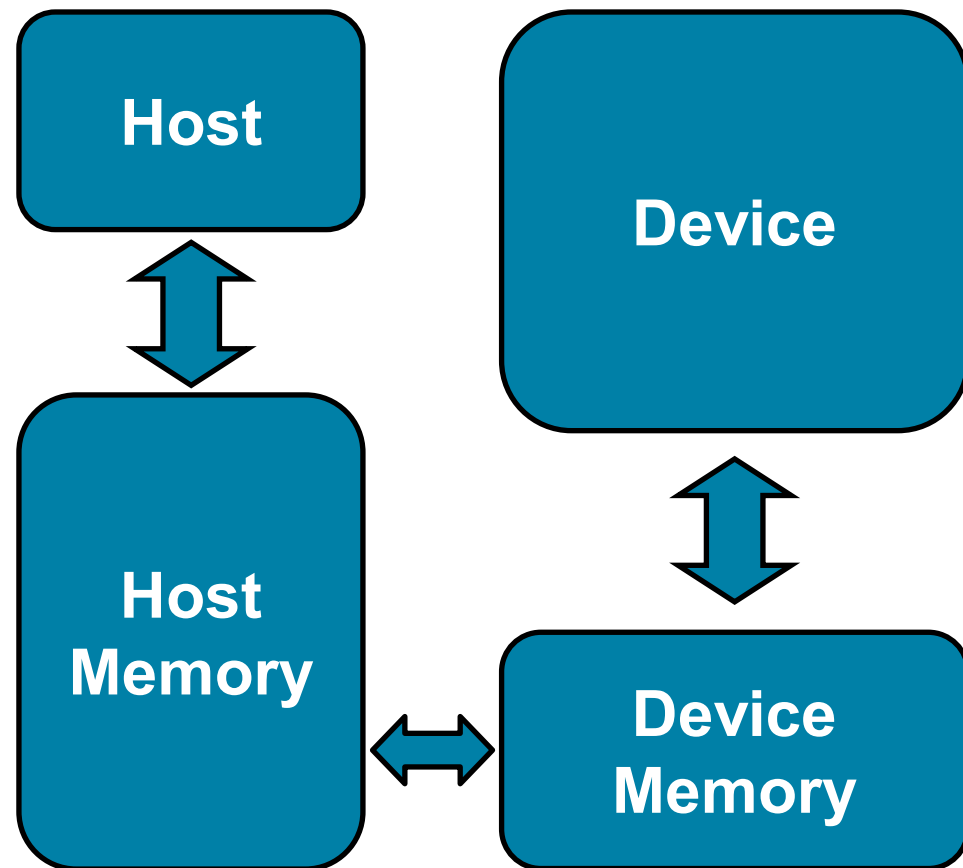


BASIC DATA MANAGEMENT

BASIC DATA MANAGEMENT

Between the host and device

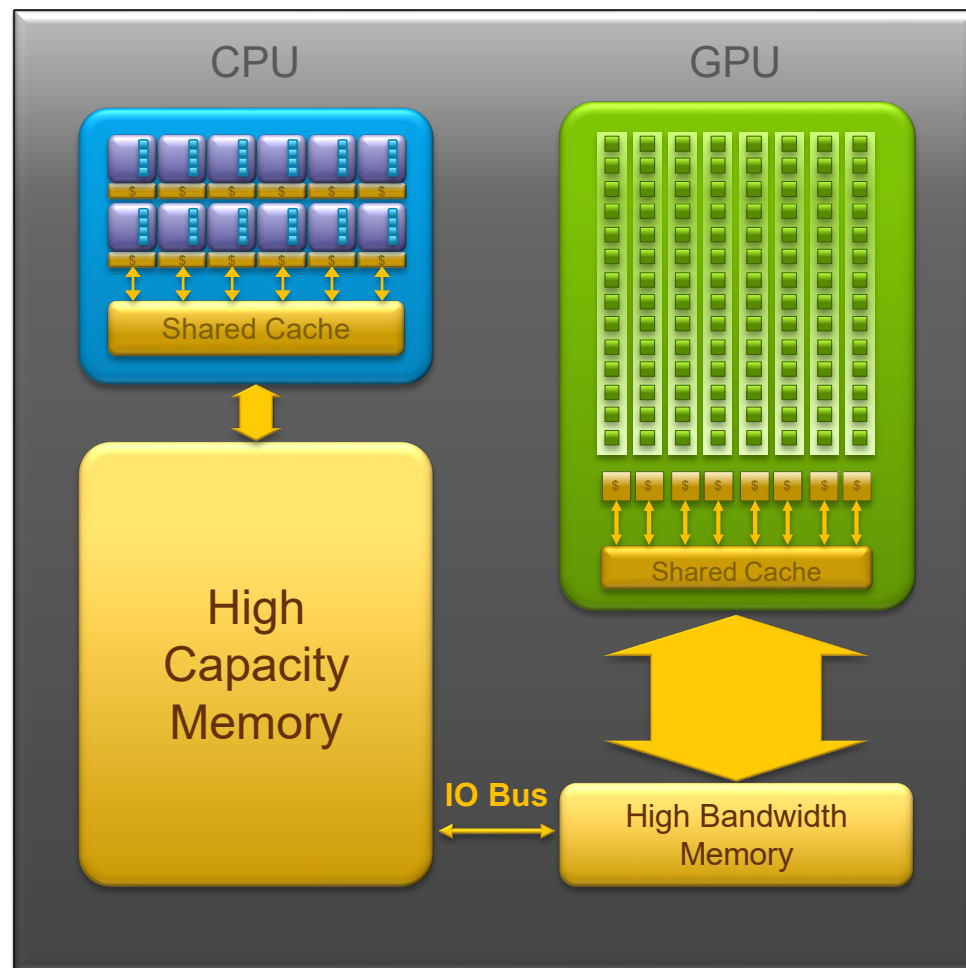
- The **host** is traditionally a CPU
- The **device** is some parallel accelerator
- When our target hardware is multicore, the host and device are the same, meaning that their memory is also the same
- There is no need to explicitly manage data when using a shared memory accelerator, such as the multicore target



BASIC DATA MANAGEMENT

Between the host and device

- When the target hardware is a GPU data will usually need to migrate between CPU and GPU memory
- The next lecture will discuss OpenACC data management, for now we'll assume a unified Host/Accelerator memory



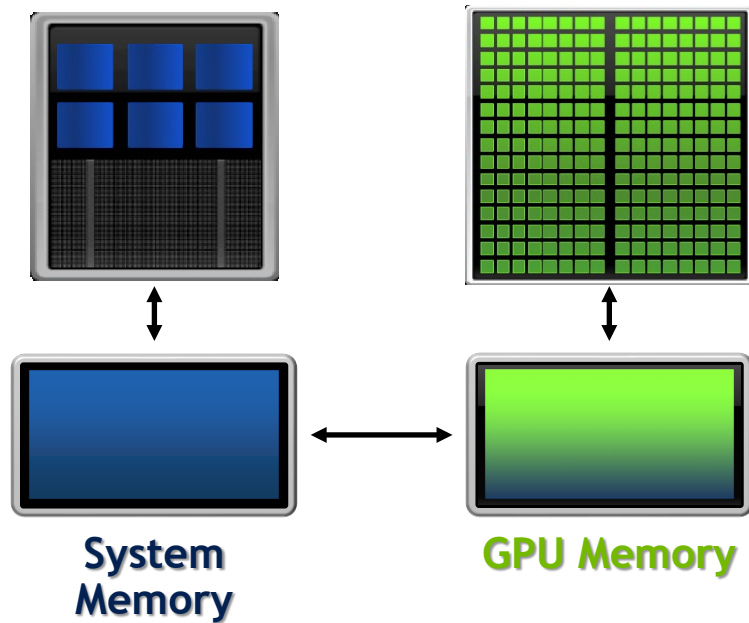
CUDA MANAGED MEMORY

CUDA MANAGED MEMORY

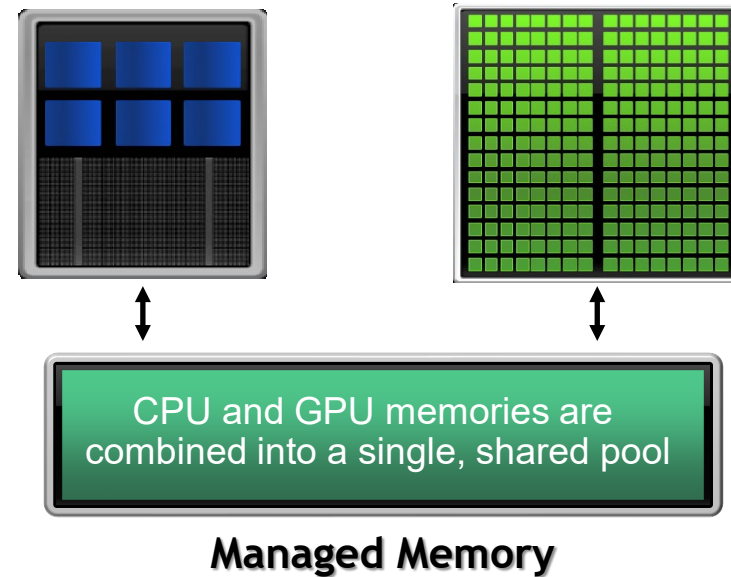
Simplified Developer Effort

Commonly referred to as “unified memory.”

Without Managed Memory



With Managed Memory



CUDA MANAGED MEMORY

Usefulness

- Handling explicit data transfers between the host and device (CPU and GPU) can be difficult
- The PGI compiler can utilize CUDA Managed Memory to defer data management
- This allows the developer to concentrate on parallelism and think about data movement as an optimization

```
$ nvc -fast -acc=gpu -gpu=managed -Minfo=accel main.c
```

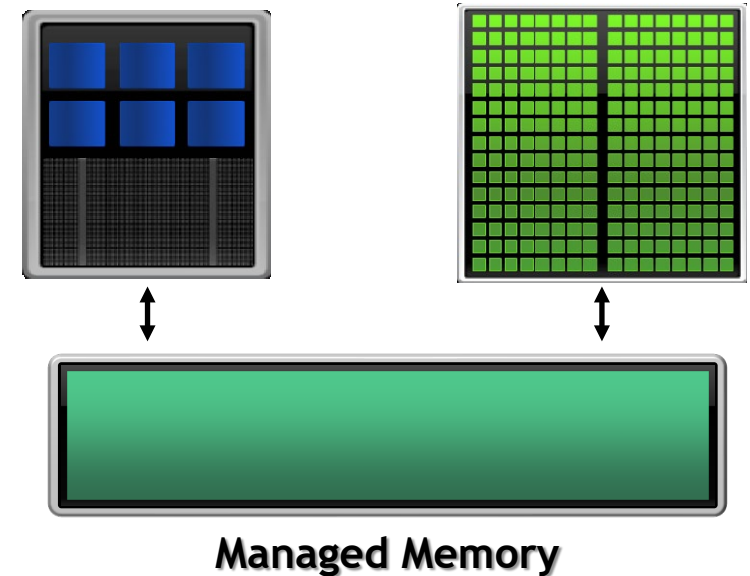
```
$ nvfortran -fast -acc=gpu -gpu=managed -Minfo=accel main.f90
```

MANAGED MEMORY

Limitations

- The programmer will almost always be able to get better performance by manually handling data transfers
- Memory allocation/deallocation takes longer with managed memory
- Cannot transfer data asynchronously
- Currently only available from PGI on NVIDIA GPUs.

With Managed Memory



OPENACC WITH MANAGED MEMORY

An Example from the Lab Code

```
while ( error > tol && iter < iter_max )
{
    error = 0.0;
    #pragma acc kernels
    {
        for( int j = 1; j < n-1; j++)
        {
            for( int i = 1; i < m-1; i++ )
            {
                Anew[j][i] = 0.25 * ( A[j][i+1] + A[j][i-1]
                                     + A[j-1][i] + A[j+1][i]);
                error = fmax( error, fabs(Anew[j][i] - A[j][i]));
            }
        }

        for( int j = 1; j < n-1; j++)
        {
            for( int i = 1; i < m-1; i++ )
            {
                A[j][i] = Anew[j][i];
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Without Managed Memory the compiler must determine the size of A and Anew and copy their data to and from the GPU each iteration to ensure correctness

With Managed Memory the underlying runtime will move the data only when needed

INTRODUCTION TO DATA CLAUSES

BASIC DATA MANAGEMENT

Moving data between the Host and Device using copy

- Data clauses allow the programmer to tell the compiler which data to move and when
- Data clauses may be added to **kernels** or **parallel** regions, but also **data**, **enter data**, and **exit data**, which will be discussed shortly

C/C++

```
#pragma acc kernels
for(int i = 0; i < N; i++){
    a[i] = 0;
}
```

BASIC DATA MANAGEMENT

Moving data between the Host and Device using copy

- Data clauses allow the programmer to tell the compiler which data to move and when
- Data clauses may be added to **kernels** or **parallel** regions, but also **data**, **enter data**, and **exit data**, which will be discussed shortly

C/C++

```
#pragma acc parallel loop copyout(a[0:n])  
for(int i = 0; i < N; i++){  
    a[i] = 0;  
}
```

I don't need the initial value of a, so I'll only copy it out of the region at the end.

BASIC DATA MANAGEMENT

Moving data between the Host and Device using copy



```
#pragma acc parallel loop copy(a[0:N])  
for(int i = 0; i < N; i++){  
    a[i] = 2 * a[i];  
}
```

BASIC DATA MANAGEMENT

Moving data between the Host and Device using copy



CPU MEMORY



GPU MEMORY



DATA CLAUSES

`copy(list)`

Allocates memory on GPU and copies data from host to GPU when entering region and copies data to the host when exiting region.

Principal use: For many important data structures in your code, this is a logical default to input, modify and return the data.

`copyin(list)`

Allocates memory on GPU and copies data from host to GPU when entering region.

Principal use: Think of this like an array that you would use as just an input to a subroutine.

`copyout(list)`

Allocates memory on GPU and copies data to the host when exiting region.

Principal use: A result that isn't overwriting the input data structure.

`create(list)`

Allocates memory on GPU but does not copy.

Principal use: Temporary arrays.

ARRAY SHAPING

- Sometimes the compiler needs help understanding the *shape* of an array
- The first number is the start index of the array
- In C/C++, the second number is how much data is to be transferred
- In Fortran, the second number is the ending index

```
copy(array[starting_index:length])
```

C/C++

```
copy(array(starting_index:ending_index))
```

Fortran

BASIC DATA MANAGEMENT

Multi-dimensional Array shaping

```
copy(array[0:N][0:M])
```

C/C++

```
copy(array(1:N, 1:M))
```

Fortran

PROFILING GPU CODE

PROFILING GPU CODE (PGI)

Obtaining information about your GPU

- Using the **pgaccelinfo** command will display information about available accelerators

Terminal Window

```
$ pgaccelinfo
Device Number: 0
Device Name: Tesla P100-PCIE-16GB
...
Managed Memory: Yes
PGI Compiler Option: -ta=tesla:cc60
```

PROFILING GPU CODE

Obtaining information about your GPU

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PROFILING GPU CODE

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Obtaining information about your GPU

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- Can Managed Memory be used?

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PROFILING GPU CODE

Obtaining information about your GPU

- Using the **pgaccelinfo** command will display information about available accelerators
- Each device is numbered starting with 0
- The Device Name identifies the type of accelerator
- Can Managed Memory be used?
- What compiler options should be used to target this device?

Terminal Window

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Device Number: 0
Device Name: Tesla P100-PCIE-16GB
...
Managed Memory: Yes
PGI Compiler Option: -ta=tesla:cc60
```

Without Manage Memory

```
$ nvc -acc=gpu main.c
```

With Manage Memory

```
$ nvc -acc=gpu -gpu=managed main.c
```

COMPILING GPU CODE

Terminal Window

```
$ nvc -fast -acc=gpu -Minfo=accel jacobi.c laplace2d.c
calcNext:
  37, Generating copy(Anew[:m*n],A[:m*n]) ←
  Accelerator kernel generated
  Generating Tesla code
  37, Generating reduction(max:error)
  38, #pragma acc loop gang /* blockIdx.x */
  41, #pragma acc loop vector(128) /* threadIdx.x */
41, Loop is parallelizable
swap:
  56, Generating copy(Anew[:m*n],A[:m*n]) ←
  Accelerator kernel generated
  Generating Tesla code
  57, #pragma acc loop gang /* blockIdx.x */
  60, #pragma acc loop vector(128) /* threadIdx.x */
60, Loop is parallelizable
```

We can see that our data copies are being applied by the compiler

COMPILING GPU CODE

Terminal Window

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  37, Generating copy(Anew[:m*n],A[:m*n])
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60, Loop is parallelizable
```

We also see that the compiler is generating code for our GPU

COMPILING GPU CODE

Terminal Window

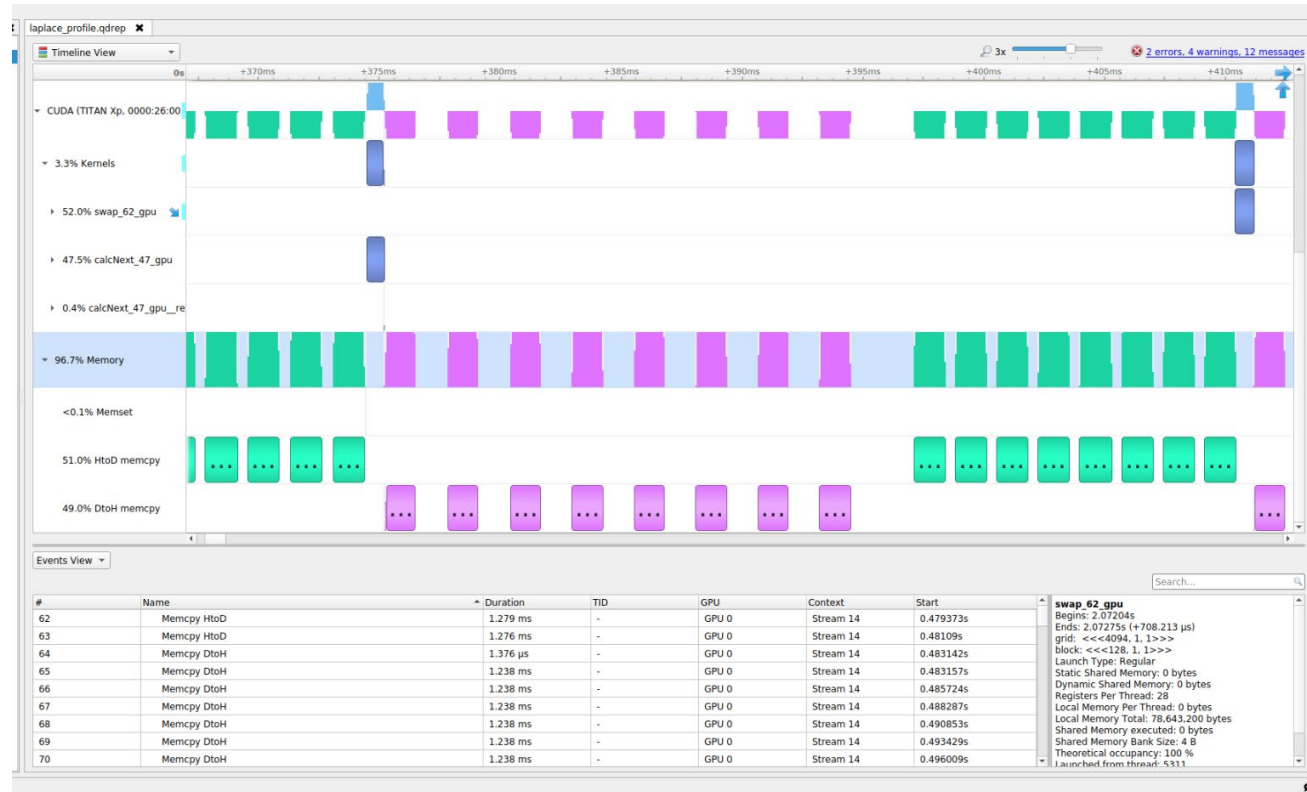
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  60, Loop is parallelizable
```

This is the parallelization of
the **outer loop**

PROFILING GPU CODE (NSIGHT SYSTEMS)

Using *nsys* to profile GPU code

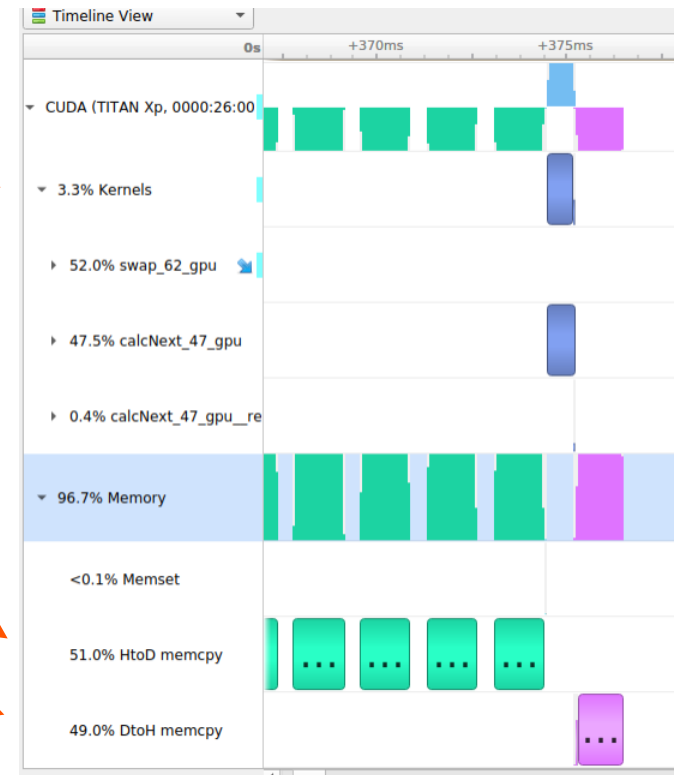
- Nsight Systems presents far more information when running on a GPU
- It is capable of capturing information about CUDA execution in the profiled process.
- In the Timeline view, you can see all the information about kernels and memory movements (expand the CUDA row)



PROFILING GPU CODE (NSIGHT SYSTEMS)

Using *nsys* to profile GPU code

- **Kernels:** These are our computational functions. We can see our `calcNext` and `swap` function
- **MemCpy(HtoD):** This includes data transfers from the Host to the Device (CPU to GPU)
- **MemCpy(DtoH):** These are data transfers from the Device to the Host (GPU to CPU)



PROFILING GPU CODE

Receiving unexpected code results

- Here we can see the runtime of our application: 151 seconds
- The program is now performing over 3 times **worse** than the sequential version
- A profiler can help us understand why this performance is worse

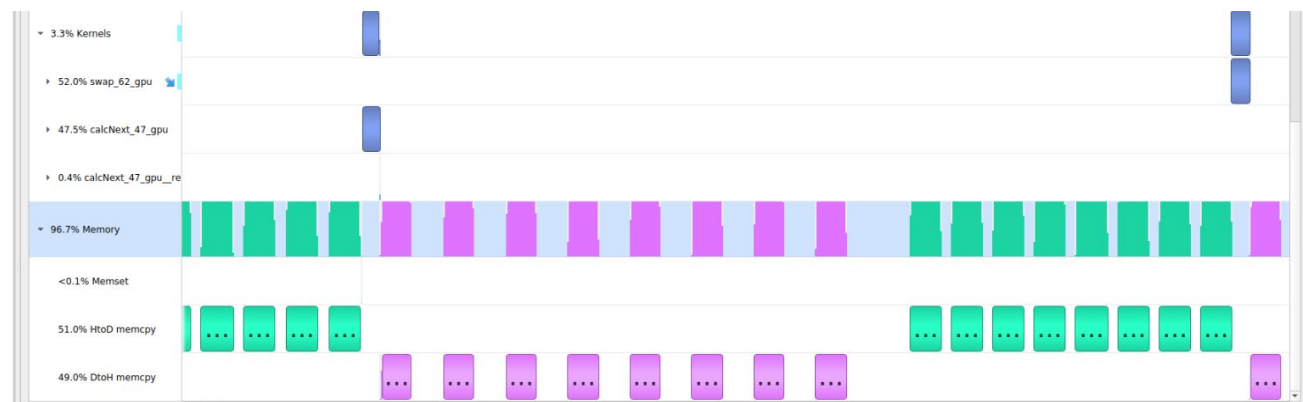
Terminal Window

```
$ nvc -acc=gpu jacobi.c laplace2d.c
$ ./a.out
  0, 0.250000
100, 0.002397
200, 0.001204
300, 0.000804
400, 0.000603
500, 0.000483
600, 0.000403
700, 0.000345
800, 0.000302
900, 0.000269
total: 151.772627 s
```

PROFILING GPU CODE

Inspecting the Nsight Systems timeline

- Let's focus on the data movement (Memory row)
- At a first glance, it looks like our program is spending a significant amount of time transferring data between the host and device
- We also see that the compute regions are very small and spread out
- What if we try Managed Memory?



PROFILING GPU CODE

Using managed memory

- Using managed memory drastically improves performance
- This managed memory version is performing over 20x better than the sequential code
- What does the profiler tell us about this?

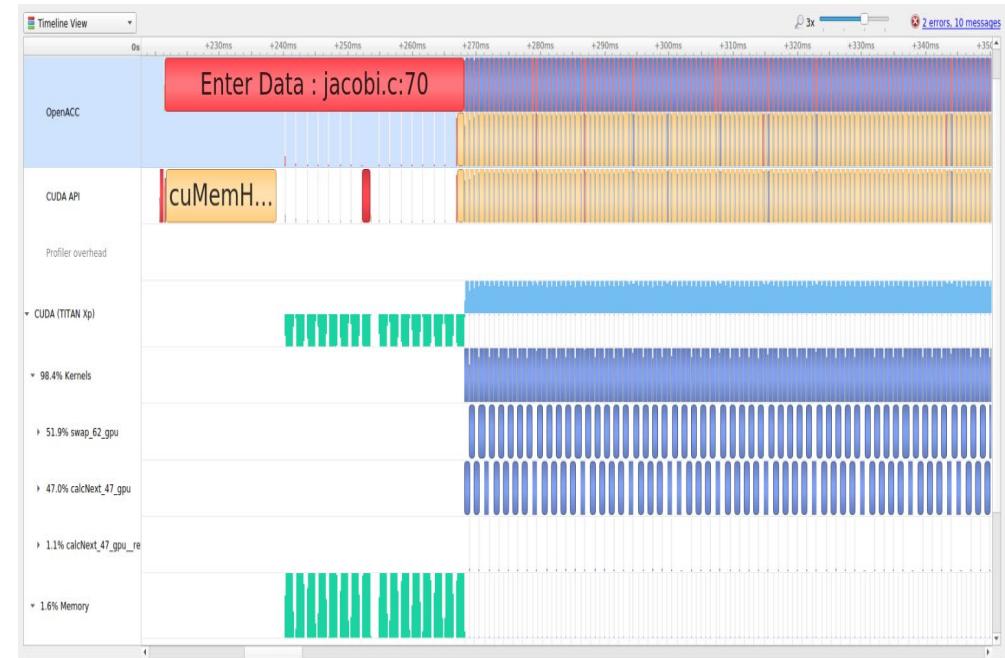
Terminal Window

```
$ nvc -acc=gpu -gpu=managed jacobi.c  
laplace2d.c  
$ ./a.out  
  0, 0.250000  
100, 0.002397  
200, 0.001204  
300, 0.000804  
400, 0.000603  
500, 0.000483  
600, 0.000403  
700, 0.000345  
800, 0.000302  
900, 0.000269  
total: 1.474951 s
```

PROFILING GPU CODE

Using managed memory

- The data no longer needs to transfer between each kernel
- The data is only moved when it's first accessed on the GPU or CPU
- During the timestepping data remains on the device
- Now a higher percentage of time is spent computing



KEY CONCEPTS

In this module we discussed...

- The fundamental differences between CPUs and GPUs
- Assisting the compiler by providing information about array sizes for data management
- Managed memory

THANK YOU