Lecture 24: CUDA - VI

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Some Advanced Topics

- Overlapping computation and data transfer
- Asynchronous execution
- Multi-GPU systems
Overlapping Computation and Data-transfer: Streams

- A sequence of operations that execute on the device in the order in which they are issued by the host code
- Operations in different streams can be interleaved and, when possible, they can even run concurrently.
- A stream can be sequence of kernel launches and host-device memory copies
- Can have several open streams to the same device at once
- Need GPUs with concurrent transfer/execution capability
- Potential performance improvement: can overlap transfer and computation
Streams

• By default all transfers and kernel launches are assigned to stream 0
  – This means they are executed in order
Example: Default Stream

cudaMemcpy(d_a, a, numBytes, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
increment<<<1,N>>>(d_a);
cudaMemcpy(a, d_a, numBytes, cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost);

- In the code above, from the perspective of the device, all three operations are issued to the same (default) stream and will execute in the order that they were issued.
- From the perspective of the host:
  - data transfers are blocking or synchronous transfers
  - kernel launch is asynchronous.

Isn't this more efficient?

cudaMemcpy(d_a, a, numBytes, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice);
increment<<<1,N>>>(d_a);
anyCPUfunction();
cudaMemcpy(a, d_a, numBytes, cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost);
Example: Non-Default Stream

Non-default streams in CUDA C/C++ are declared, created, and destroyed in host code as follows:

```c
cudaStream_t stream1;
cudaError_t result;
result = cudaStreamCreate(&stream1);
result = cudaStreamDestroy(stream1);
```

To issue data transfer to non-default stream (non-blocking):

```c
result = cudaMemcpyAsync(d_a, a, N, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice, stream1);
```

To launch a kernel to non-default stream:

```c
increment<<<1,N,0,stream1>>>(d_a);
```
Important

• All operations in non-default streams are non-blocking with respect to the host code.
• Sometimes you need to synchronize the host code with operations in a stream.
• You have several options:
  – `cudaDeviceSynchronize()` → blocks host
    • Blocks until the device has completed all preceding requested tasks.
  – `cudaStreamSynchronize(stream)` → blocks host
    • Blocks until stream has completed all operations.
  – `cudaStreamQuery(stream)` → does not block host
    • Returns `cudaSuccess` if all operations in stream have completed, or `cudaErrorNotReady` if not (both of type `cudaError_t`)


Streams

• The amount of overlap execution between two streams depends on:
  – Device supports overlap transfer and kernel execution
  – Devices supports concurrent kernel execution
  – Device supports concurrent data transfer
  – The order on which commands are issued to each stream
Using streams to overlap device execution with data transfer

- Conditions to be satisfied first:
  - The device must be capable of concurrent copy and execution.
  - The kernel execution and the data transfer to be overlapped must both occur in different, non-default streams.
  - The host memory involved in the data transfer must be pinned memory.
Pinned Pages

- Allocate page(s) from system RAM
  \texttt{(cudaMallocHost()) or cudaHostAlloc())}
  - Cannot be paged out
  - Enables highest memory copy performance
    \texttt{(cudaMemcpyAsync())}

- If too much pinned pages, overall system performance may greatly suffer.
Using streams to overlap device execution with data transfer

```c
for (int i = 0; i < nStreams; ++i) {

    int offset = i * streamSize;

    cudaMemcpyAsync(&d_a[offset], &a[offset], streamBytes, stream[i]);

    kernel<<<>>>(d_a, offset);

    cudaMemcpyAsync(&a[offset], &d_a[offset], streamBytes, stream[i]);
}
```
So..

- Streams are a good way to overlap execution and transfer, hardware permits.
- Don’t confuse kernels, threads, and streams.
Asynchronous Execution

• Asynchronous = returns to host right-away and does not wait for device

• This includes:
  – Kernel launches;
  – Memory copies between two addresses to the same device memory;
  – Memory copies from host to device of a memory block of 64 KB or less;
  – Memory copies performed by functions that are suffixed with Async;
  – ...

Asynchronous Execution

• Some CUDA API calls and all kernel launches are asynchronous with respect to the host code.
• This means error-reporting is also asynchronous.
• Asynchronous transfer (cudaMemcpyAsync()) version requires pinned host memory.
• On all CUDA-enabled devices, it is possible to overlap host computation with asynchronous data transfers and with device computations.
Asynchronous Execution

cudaMemcpyAsync(a_d, a_h, size, cudaMemcpyHostToDevice, 0);
kernel<<<grid, block>>>(a_d);
cpuFunction();
Other Sources of Concurrency

- Some devices of compute capability 2.x and higher can execute multiple kernels concurrently.
- The maximum number of kernel launches that a device can execute concurrently is 32 on devices of compute capability 3.5 and 16 on devices of lower compute capability.
- A kernel from one CUDA context cannot execute concurrently with a kernel from another CUDA context. A CUDA context is the application.
- Kernels that use many textures or a large amount of local memory are less likely to execute concurrently with other kernels.
- Some devices of compute capability 2.x and higher can perform a copy from page-locked host memory to device memory concurrently with a copy from device memory to page locked host memory.
Multi-GPU systems: Flavors

- Multiple GPUs in the same node (e.g. PC)
- Multi-node system (e.g. MPI).

Multi-GPU configuration is here to stay!
Hardware Example: Tesla S870 Server
Hardware Example:
Tesla S870 Server

Connected to a single-host
Hardware Example: Tesla S870 Server

Connected to a two host systems
Why Multi-GPU Solutions

• Scaling-up performance
• Another level of parallelism
• Power
• Reliability
// Run independent kernel on each CUDA device
int numDevs = 0;
cudaGetDeviceCount(&numDevs);
...
for (int d = 0; d < numDevs; d++) {
    cudaSetDevice(d);
    kernel<<<blocks, threads>>>(args);
}
CUDA Support

- `cudaGetDeviceCount( int * count )`
  - Returns in *count the number of devices

- `cudaGetDevice( int * device )`
  - Returns in *device the device on which the active host thread executes the device code.
CUDA Support

- `cudaSetDevice(devID)`
  
  Device selection within the code by specifying the identifier and making CUDA kernels run on the selected GPU.

```c
size_t size = 1024 * sizeof(float);
cudaSetDevice(0); // Set device 0 as current
float* p0;
cudaMalloc(&p0, size); // Allocate memory on device 0
MyKernel<<<1000, 128>>>(p0); // Launch kernel on device 0
cudaSetDevice(1); // Set device 1 as current
float* p1;
cudaMalloc(&p1, size); // Allocate memory on device 1
MyKernel<<<1000, 128>>>(p1); // Launch kernel on device 1
```
Some Useful Tools for CUDA Programming
Some nvcc features: --ptxas-options=-v
  - Print the smem, register and other resource usages

Generates CUDA binary file: nvcc -cubin
  - cubin file is the cuda executable
  - The default for nvcc is to embed it the host executable
# Dealing with binary files

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>cuobjdump</th>
<th>nvdisasm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extract ptx and extract and disassemble cubin from the following input files:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ Host binaries</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ Executables</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ Object files</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ Static libraries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ External fatbinary files</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control flow analysis and output</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced display options</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
nvprof

- CUDA profiler

```
$ nvprof [nvprof_args] <app> [app_args]
```

- To profile a region of the application:
  1. `#include <cuda_profiler_api.h>`
  2. in the host function surround the region with:
     • `cudaProfilerStart()`
     • `cudaProfilerStop()`
  3. `nvcc myprog.cu`
  4. `nvprof --profile-from-start-off ./a.out`
nvprof summary mode (default)

```
$ nvprof dct8x8

====== Profiling result:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time(%)</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Calls</th>
<th>Avg</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49.52</td>
<td>9.36ms</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>92.68us</td>
<td>92.31us</td>
<td>94.31us</td>
<td>CUDAkernel2DCT(float*, float*, int)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.47</td>
<td>7.08ms</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>707.99us</td>
<td>708.50us</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>708.42us</td>
<td>708.42us</td>
<td>708.42us</td>
<td>CUDAkernel1IDCT(float*,int,int,int)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>347.99us</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>173.99us</td>
<td>173.59us</td>
<td>174.40us</td>
<td>CUDAkernelQuantizationFloat()</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.75</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>165.69us</td>
<td>165.67us</td>
<td>165.70us</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.41</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>189.64us</td>
<td>189.64us</td>
<td>189.64us</td>
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<td>176.87us</td>
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<td>174.16us</td>
<td>174.16us</td>
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<td>143.31us</td>
<td>143.31us</td>
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<td>97.75us</td>
<td>97.75us</td>
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<tr>
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<td>22.59us</td>
<td>22.59us</td>
<td>22.59us</td>
<td>[CUDA memcpyDtoA]</td>
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</table>

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```
nvprof trace mode

$ nvprof --print-gpu-trace dct8x8

========== Profiling result:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Grid Size</th>
<th>Block Size</th>
<th>Regs</th>
<th>SSMem</th>
<th>DSMem</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Throughput</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>167.82ms</td>
<td>176.84us</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.05MB</td>
<td>5.93GB/s [CUDA memcpy HtoA]</td>
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<tr>
<td>168.00ms</td>
<td>708.51us</td>
<td>(64 64 1)</td>
<td>(8 8 1)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>512B</td>
<td>0B</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>CUDAkernel1DCT(float*, ...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>168.95ms</td>
<td>708.51us</td>
<td>(64 64 1)</td>
<td>(8 8 1)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>512B</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>CUDAkernel1DCT(float*, ...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170.53ms</td>
<td>707.89us</td>
<td>(64 64 1)</td>
<td>(8 8 1)</td>
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<td>512B</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>176.05ms</td>
<td>173.87us</td>
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<td>(8 8 1)</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>1.05MB</td>
<td>45.96GB/s [CUDA memcpy DtoA]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Print individual kernel invocations
and sort them in chronological order

Print CUDA runtime/driver
API trace

$ nvprof --print-gpu-trace --print-api-trace dct8x8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Grid Size</th>
<th>Block Size</th>
<th>Regs</th>
<th>SSMem</th>
<th>DSMem</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Throughput</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>167.82ms</td>
<td>176.84us</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.05MB</td>
<td>5.93GB/s</td>
<td>[CUDA memcpy HtoA]</td>
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<td>(8 8 1)</td>
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<td>512B</td>
<td>0B</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>168.95ms</td>
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<td>(8 8 1)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>512B</td>
<td>0B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CUDAkernel1DCT(float*, ...)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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nvcc --devices 0 --query-events ./a.out

- Gives very useful information, such as:
  - number of global memory loads, stores, ...
  - number of global memory coalesced
  - branch divergences
  - ...

- You must specify the event:

$ nvprof --devices 0 --events branch,divergent_branch dct8x8
Conclusions

• There are many performance enhancement techniques in our arsenal:
  – Streams
  – Texture memory
  – Asynchronous execution
  – ...

• There are tools to help you!

• Multi-GPU system:
  – is an efficient way to reach higher performance
  – Performance gain is application-dependent and programmer-dependent!