GPU TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

DirectCompute Optimizations and Best Practices

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Contents

Introduction

- Best Practices for GPU Optimization
- Parallel Reduction Optimization Example



Why GPUs?

- GPUs are throughput oriented processors
 - GPUs a lot of parallel processing units (FLOPs)
 - Memory latencies are covered with more workload
- Problems with a lot of work can achieve good speedups
- Must provide enough work to GPUs for efficiency and performance
- DirectCompute is an API allowing Compute Shaders on the GPU hardware efficiently



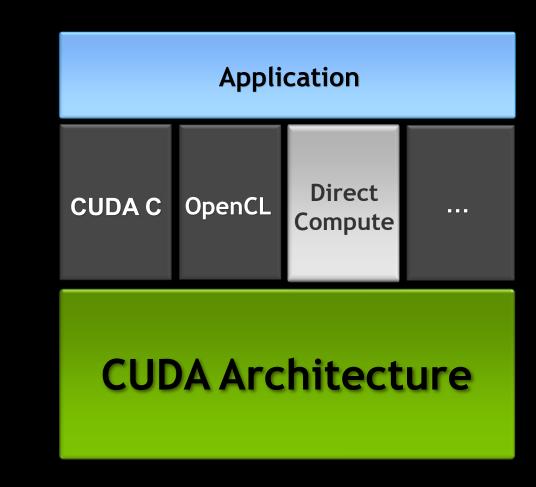
What Is DirectCompute?

Microsoft's standard GPU-Computing platform

- For Windows Vista and Windows 7
- On DX10 and DX11 hardware generations

Another realization of the CUDA architecture

- Sibling API to OpenCL and CUDA C
- Shares many concepts, idioms, algorithms and optimizations





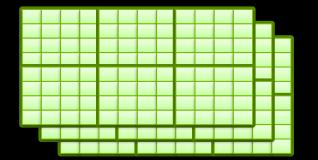
Advantages of DirectCompute

- DirectCompute allows general purpose computation on CUDA GPUs via Compute Shaders
- DirectCompute:
 - Interoperates with Direct3D resources
 - Includes all texture features (cube maps, mip-maps)
 - Similar to HLSL (DirectX Shaders)
 - Single API across all GPU vendors, on Windows
 - Some guarantees of identical results across different hardware

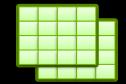


GPU Programming Model

DirectCompute programs decompose parallel work into groups of threads, and dispatch many thread groups to solve a problem.



Dispatch: 3D grid of thread groups. Hundreds of thousands of threads.



Thread Group: 3D grid of threads. Tens or hundreds of threads.

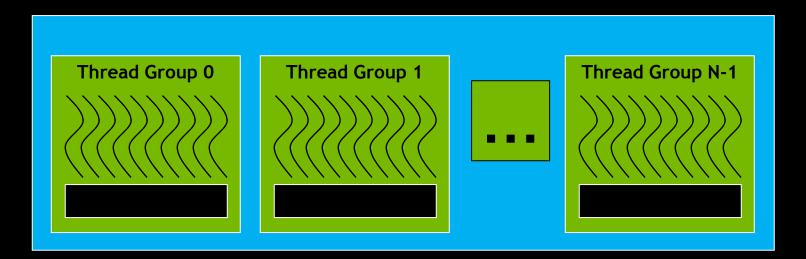
numThreads nX, nY, nZ

Thread: One invocation of a shader.

SV_DispatchThreadID, SV_GroupThreadID, SV_GroupID



Parallel Execution Model



Threads in the same group run concurrently
 Threads in different groups may run concurrently



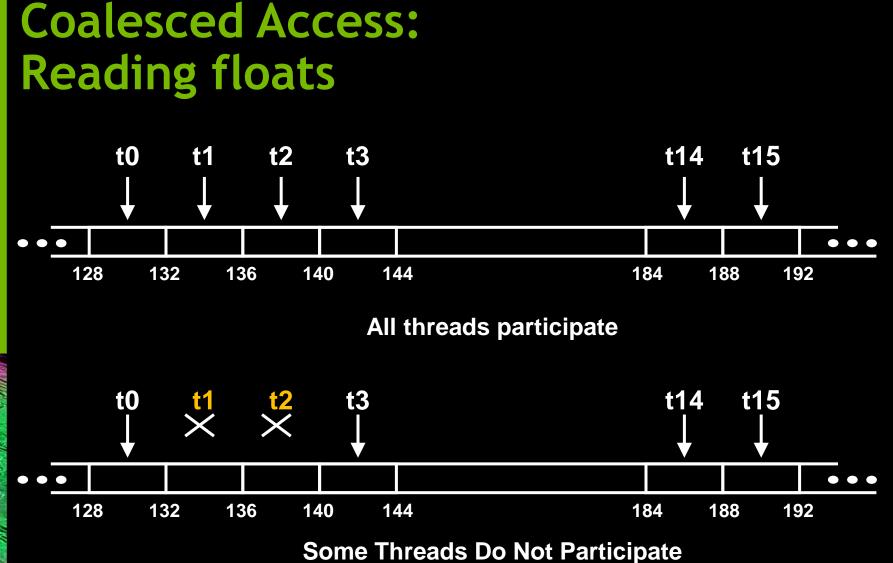
DirectCompute Best Practices for GPU Optimizations



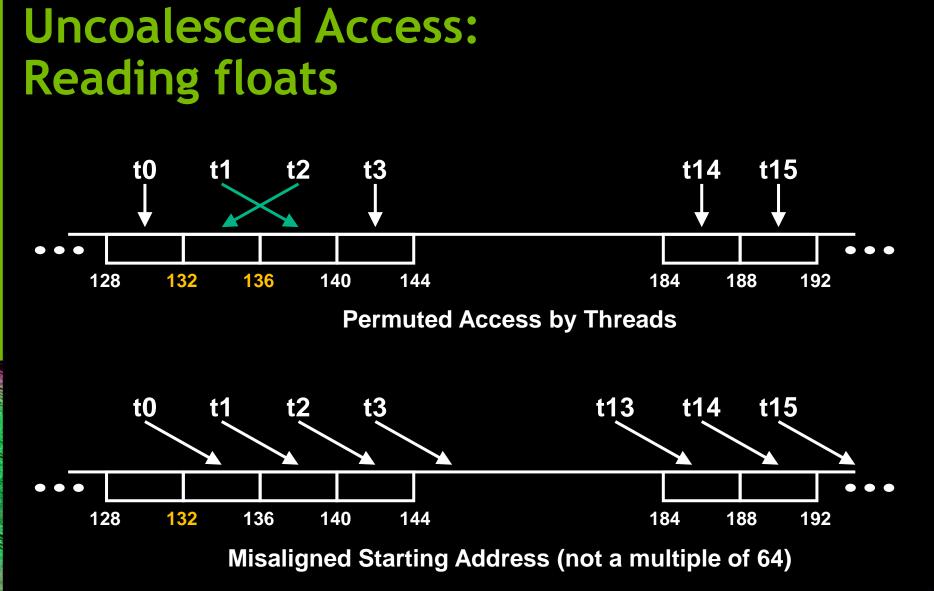
Memory Coalescing

- A coordinated read by a half-warp (16 threads)
- A contiguous region of global memory:
 - 64 bytes each thread reads a word: int, float, ...
 - 128 bytes each thread reads a double-word: int2, float2, ...
 - 256 bytes each thread reads a quad-word: int4, float4, ...
- Additional restrictions:
 - Starting address for a region must be a multiple of region size
 - The k^{th} thread in a half-warp must access the k^{th} element in a block
- Exception: not all threads must be participating
 - Predicated access, divergence within a half warp







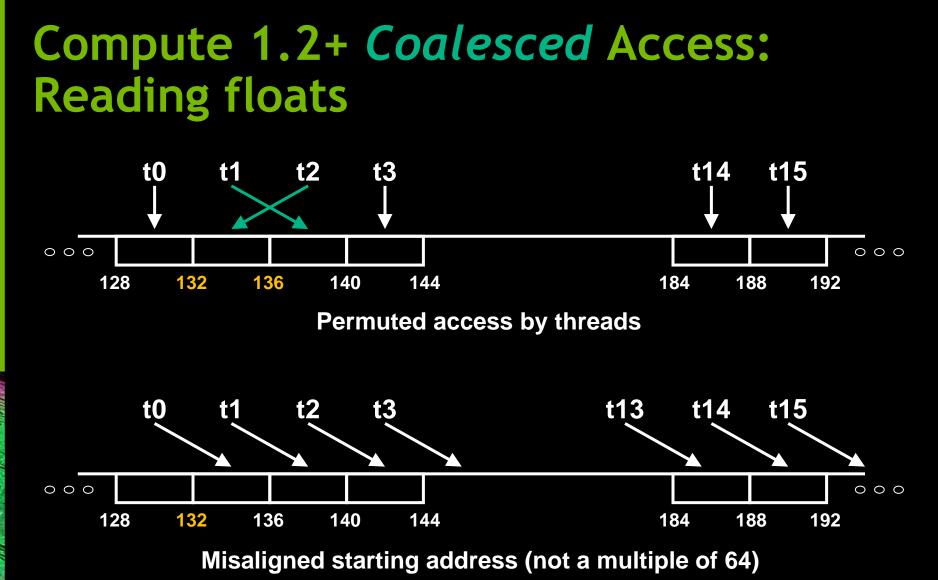




Coalescing (Compute 1.2+ GPUs)

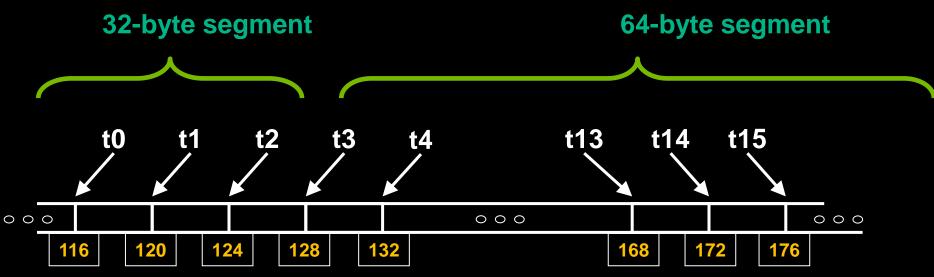
- Much improved coalescing capabilities in 10-series architecture
- Hardware combines addresses within a half-warp into one or more aligned *segments*
 - 32, 64, or 128 bytes
- All threads with addresses within a segment are serviced with a single memory transaction
 - Regardless of ordering or alignment within the segment







Compute 1.2+ Coalesced Access: Reading floats



Misaligned starting address (not a multiple of 64)

Transaction size recursively reduced to minimize size



Thread Group Shared Memory (TGSM)

- Fast memory shared across threads within a group
 - Not shared across thread groups!
 - groupshared float2 MyArray[16][32];
 - Not persistent between Dispatch() calls
- Used to reduce computation
 - Use neighboring calculations by storing them in TGSM
 - E.g. Post-processing texture instructions



TGSM Performance (contd.)

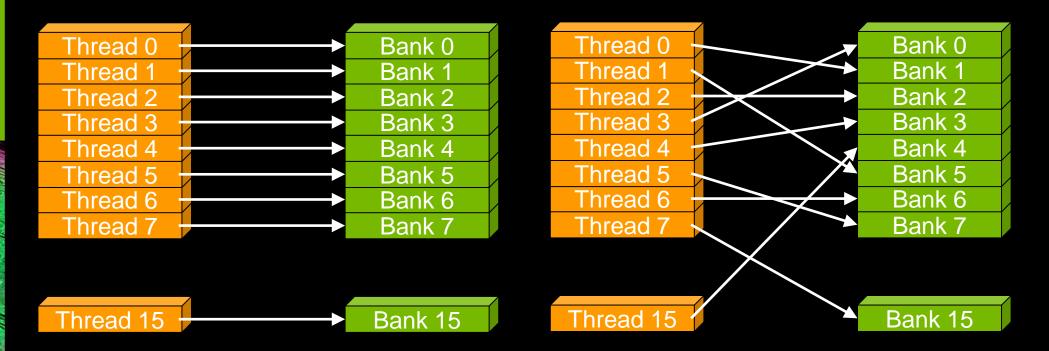
- Reduce access whenever possible
 - E.g. Pack data into uint instead of float4
 - But watch out for increased ALUs!
- Basically try to read/write once per TGSM address
 - Copy to temp array can help if it can avoid duplicate accesses!
 - Ensure that you perform a thread synchronization immediately after loading your data to shared memory
- Unroll loops accessing shared mem
 - Helps compiler hide latency



Shared Memory Bank Addressing

- No Bank Conflicts
 - Linear addressing stride == 1

- No Bank Conflicts
 - Random 1:1 Permutation





Shared Memory Bank Addressing

- 2-way Bank Conflicts
 - Linear addressing stride == 2

- 8-way Bank Conflicts
 - Linear addressing
 stride == 8



ullet



What is Occupancy?

- GPUs typically run 1000 to 10,000's of threads concurrently.
- Higher occupancy = More efficient utilization of the HW.
- Parallel code executed in HW through warps (32 threads) running concurrently at any given moment of time.
- Thread instructions are executed sequentially, by executing other warps, we can hide instruction and memory latencies in the HW.
- Maximizing "Occupancy", with occupancy of 1.0 the best scenario.

of resident warps

Occupancy

Max possible # of resident warps



Maximizing HW Occupancy

- One or more thread groups resides on a single shader unit
- Occupancy limited by resource usage:
 - Thread group size declaration
 - Thread Group Shared Memory usage
 - Number of registers used by thread group
- Example: HW shader unit:
 - 8 thread groups max
 - 48KB total shared memory
 - 1536 threads max
- Shader launched with a thread group size of 256 threads and uses 32KB of shared memory
- \rightarrow Can only run 1 thread group per HW shader unit
- We are limited by shared memory.

Ins	Instruction Cache						
Schee	Scheduler		Scheduler				
Disp	Dispatch		Dispatch				
	Register File						
Core	Core	Core	Core				
Core	Core	Core	Core				
Core	Core	Core	Core				
Core	Core	Core	Core				
Core	Core	Core	Core				
Core	Core	Core	Core				
Core	Core	Core	Core				
Core	Core	Core	Core				
	Load/Store Units x 16						
Speci	Special Func Units x 4						
Inter	Interconnect Network						
64K Configurable Cache/Shared Mem							
Uniform Cache							
PRESENT		ø.	ועם				

Maximizing HW Occupancy

- Registers used per thread affects occupancy:
 - "Register Pressure"
 - You have little control over this
 - Rely on drivers to do the right thing \odot
- Experimentation and tuning needed to find the right balance
 - Store different presets for best performance across a variety of GPUs



Dispatch/Thread Group Size Heuristics

- # of thread groups > # of multiprocessors
 - So all multiprocessors have at least one thread group to execute
- # of thread groups / # of multiprocessors > 2
 - Multiple thread groups can run concurrently in a multiprocessor
 - Thread groups that aren't waiting at a barrier keep the hardware busy
 - Subject to resource availability registers, shared memory
- # of thread groups > 100 to scale to future devices
 - Thread groups executed in pipeline fashion
 - 1000 groups per dispatch will scale across multiple generations
- # threads / threadgroup a multiple of warp size
 - All threads in a warp doing work



DirectCompute Optimization Example Parallel Reduction



Parallel Reduction

- Common and important data parallel primitive
 - (e.g. find the sum of an array)

Easy to implement in compute shaders

- Harder to get it right

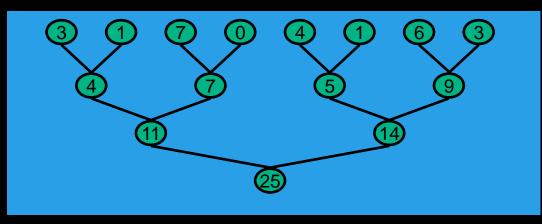
Serves as a great optimization example

- We'll walk step by step through 7 different versions
- Demonstrates several important optimization strategies



Parallel Reduction

Tree-based approach used within each thread block



- Need to be able to use multiple thread blocks
 - To process very large arrays
 - To keep all multiprocessors on the GPU busy
 - Each thread block reduces a portion of the array
- But how do we communicate partial results between thread blocks?



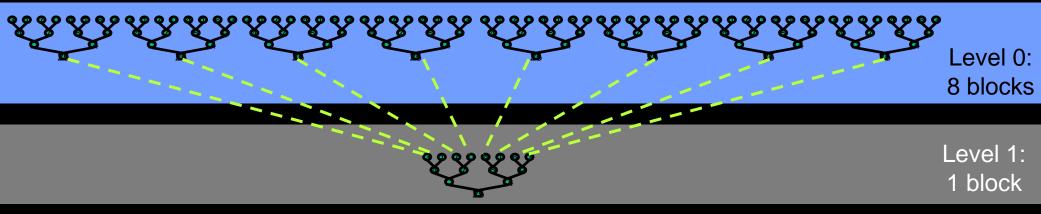
Problem: Global Synchronization

- If we could synchronize across all thread groups we can run reduce on a very large array
 - A global sync after each group produces its result
 - Once all groups reach sync, continue recursively
- But GPUs have no global synchronization. Why?
 - Expensive to build in hardware for GPUs with high processor count
 - Would force programmer to run fewer groups (no more than # multiprocessors * # resident groups / multiprocessor) to avoid deadlock, which may reduce overall efficiency
- Solution: decompose into multiple shader dispatches
 - A dispatch() call serves as a global synchronization point
 - Dispatch() has negligible HW overhead, low SW overhead



Solution: Shader Decomposition

 Avoid global sync by decomposing computation into multiple dispatches



- In the case of reductions, code for all levels is the same
 - Implement with recursive dispatches



What is Our Optimization Goal?

- We should strive to reach GPU peak performance
- Choose the right metric:
 - GFLOP/s: for compute-bound shaders
 - Bandwidth: for memory-bound shaders
- Reductions have very low arithmetic intensity
 - 1 flop per element loaded (bandwidth-optimal)
- Therefore we should strive for peak bandwidth
- We use a G80 GPU for this Optimization
 - 384-bit memory interface, 900 MHz DDR
 - 384 * 1800 / 8 = **86.4 GB/s**
 - Optimization techniques are equally applicable to newer GPUs



Reduction #1: Interleaved Addressing

RWStructuredBuffer<float> g_data; #define groupDim_x 128 groupshared float sdata[groupDim_x]; [numthreads(groupDim_x, 1, 1)] void reduce1(uint3 threadIdx : SV_GroupThreadID, uint3 groupIdx : SV_GroupID)

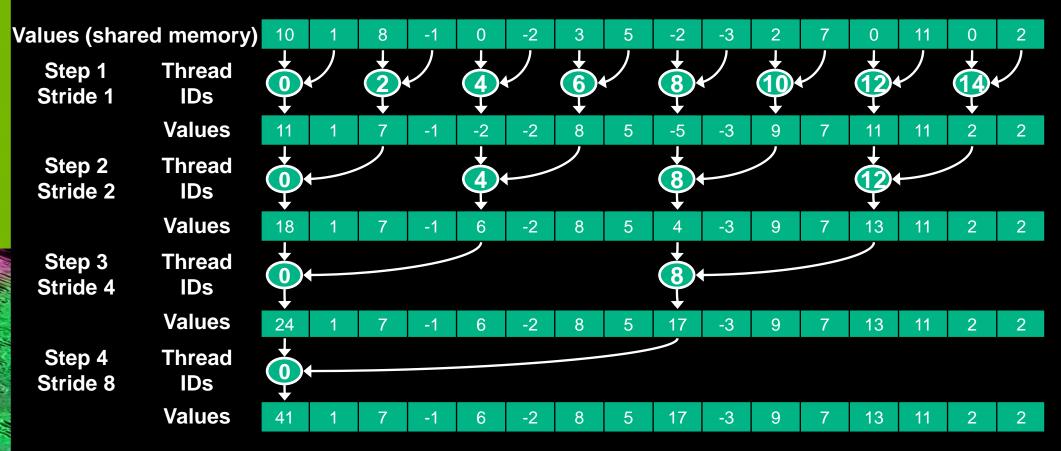
// each thread loads one element from global to shared mem unsigned int tid = threadIdx.x; unsigned int i = groupIdx.x*groupDim_x + threadIdx.x; sdata[tid] = g_data[i]; GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();

```
// do reduction in shared mem
for(unsigned int s=1; s < groupDim_x; s *= 2) {
    if (tid % (2*s) == 0) {
        sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + s];
    }
    GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();
}</pre>
```

// write result for this block to global mem
if (tid == 0) g_data[groupIdx.x] = sdata[0];



Parallel Reduction: Interleaved Addressing





Performance for 4M element reduction

	lime (2 ²² ints)	Bandwidth
Shader 1: interleaved addressing with divergent branching	8.054 ms	2.083 GB/s

Note: Block Size = 128 threads for all tests



Reduction #1: Interleaved Addressing

void reduce1(

uint3 threadIdx : SV_GroupIndex, uint3 groupIdx : SV_GroupID)

// each thread loads one element from global to shared mem
unsigned int tid = threadIdx.x;
unsigned int i = groupIdx.x*groupDim_x + threadIdx.x;
sdata[tid] = g_idata[i];
GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();

// do reduction in shared mem
for(unsigned int s=1; s < groupDim_x; s *= 2) {
 if (tid % (2*s) == 0) {
 sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + s];
 }
}</pre>

GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();

Problem: highly divergent branching results in very poor performance!

// write result for this block to global mem
if (tid == 0) g_data[groupIdx.x] = sdata[0];

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What is Thread Divergence?

- Divergence is the main performance concern when branching
 - Threads within a single warp take different paths
 - Different execution paths must be serialized
- Avoid divergence when branch condition is a function of thread ID
 - Example with divergence:
 - Branch granularity < warp size
 - if (threadIdx.x > 2) { }
 - Example without divergence:
 - Branch granularity is a whole multiple of warp size
 - if (threadIdx.x / WARP_SIZE > 2) { }



Reduction #2: Interleaved Addressing

Replace divergent branch in inner loop:

for (unsigned int s=1; s < groupDim_x; s *= 2) {
 if (tid % (2*s) == 0) {
 sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + s];
 }
}</pre>

GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();

Branch taken by threads [0,2,4,...]

With strided index and non-divergent branch:

for (unsigned int s=1; s < groupDim_x; s *= 2) {
 int index = 2 * s * tid;</pre>

if (index < groupDim_x) {
 sdata[index] += sdata[index + s];</pre>

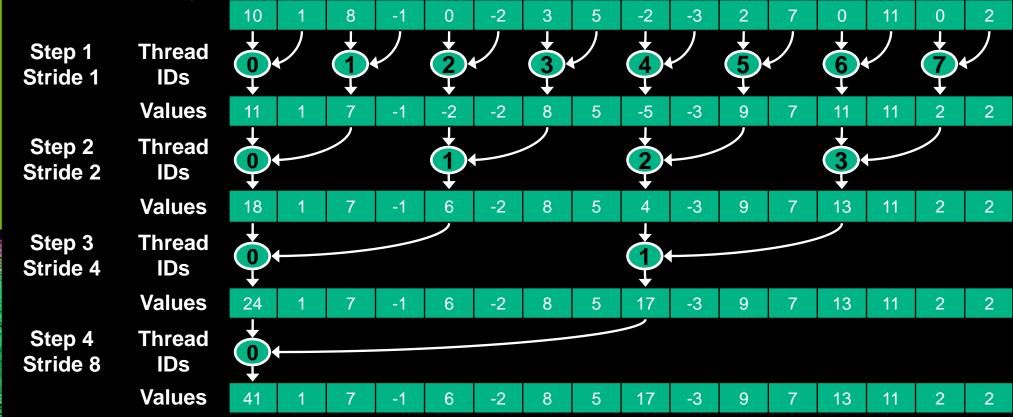
GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();

Branch taken by threads [0,1,2,...]



Parallel Reduction: Interleaved Addressing

Shared Memory



New Problem: Shared Memory Bank Conflicts



Performance for 4M element reduction

	Time (2 ²² ints)	Bandwidth	Step Speedup	Cumulative Speedup
Shader 1: interleaved addressing with divergent branching	8.054 ms	2.083 GB/s		
Shader 2: interleaved addressing with bank conflicts	3.456 ms	4.854 GB/s	2.33x	2.33x



Thread Group Shared Memory Bank Conflicts

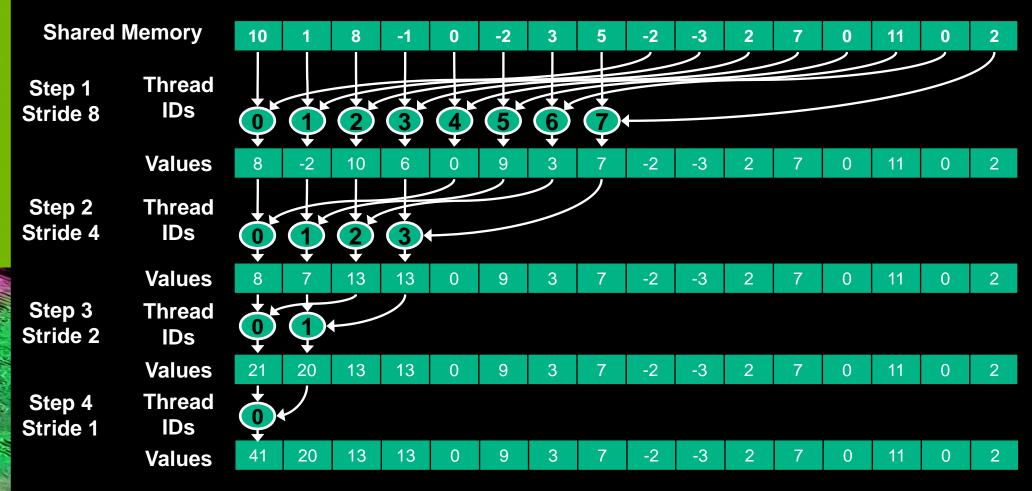
- 32 banks example (each address is 32-bits)
- Banks are arranged linearly with addresses:

Address:	0	1	2	3	4		31	32	33	34	35	
Bank:	0	1	2	3	4	•••	31	0	1	2	3	•••

- TGSM addresses that are 32 DWORD apart use the same bank
- Accessing those addresses from multiple threads will create a bank conflict
- Declare TGSM 2D arrays as MyArray[Y][X], and increment X first, then Y
 - Essential if X is a multiple of 32!
- Padding arrays/structures to avoid bank conflicts can help
 - E.g. MyArray[16][33] instead of [16][32]



Parallel Reduction: Sequential Addressing



Sequential addressing is conflict free



Reduction #3: Sequential Addressing

Replace strided indexing in inner loop:

for (unsigned int s=1; s < groupDim_x; s *= 2) {
 int index = 2 * s * tid;</pre>

if (index < groupDim_x) {
 sdata[index] += sdata[index + s];</pre>

GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();

With reversed loop and threadID-based indexing:

for (unsigned int s=groupDim_x/2; s>0; s>>=1) {
 if (tid < s) {
 sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + s];
 .</pre>

GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();



Performance for 4M element reduction

	Time (2 ²² ints)	Bandwidth	Step Speedup	Cumulative Speedup
Shader 1: interleaved addressing with divergent branching	8.054 ms	2.083 GB/s		
Shader 2: interleaved addressing with bank conflicts	3.456 ms	4.854 GB/s	2.33x	2.33x
Shader 3: sequential addressing	1.722 ms	9.741 GB/s	2.01x	4.68x



Idle Threads

Problem:

```
for (unsigned int s=groupDim_x/2; s>0; s>>=1) {
    if (tid < s) {
        sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + s];
    }
</pre>
```

GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();

Half of the threads are idle on first loop iteration!

This is wasteful...



Reduction #4: First Add During Load

Halve the number of groups, and replace single load:

// each thread loads one element from global to shared mem unsigned int tid = threadIdx.x; unsigned int i = groupIdx.x*groupDim_x + threadIdx.x; sdata[tid] = g_idata[i]; GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();

With two loads and first add of the reduction:

// perform first level of reduction, // reading from global memory, writing to shared memory unsigned int tid = threadIdx.x; unsigned int i = groupIdx.x*(groupDim_x*2) + threadIdx.x; sdata[tid] = g_idata[i] + g_idata[i+groupDim_x]; GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();



Performance for 4M element reduction

	Time (2 ²² ints)	Bandwidth	Step Speedu	Cumulative p Speedup
Shader 1: interleaved addressing with divergent branching	8.054 ms	2.083 GB/s		
Shader 2: interleaved addressing with bank conflicts	3.456 ms	4.854 GB/s	2.33x	2.33x
Shader 3: sequential addressing	1.722 ms	9.741 GB/s	2.01x	4.68x
Shader 4: first add during global load	0.965 ms	17.377 GB/s	1.78x	8.34x



Instruction Bottleneck

- At 17 GB/s, we're far from bandwidth bound
 - And we know reduction has low arithmetic intensity

Therefore a likely bottleneck is instruction overhead

- Ancillary instructions that are not loads, stores, or arithmetic for the core computation
- In other words: address arithmetic and loop overhead





Unrolling the Last Warp

- As reduction proceeds, # "active" threads decreases
 - When s \leq 32, we have only one warp left
- Instructions are SIMD synchronous within a warp
- That means when s <= 32:</p>
 - We don't need a barrier() call
 - We don't need "if (tid < s)" because it doesn't save any work</p>

Let's unroll the last 6 iterations of the inner loop



Reduction #5: Unroll the Last Warp

for (unsigned int s=groupDim_x/2; s>32; s>>=1)

if (tid < s)
 sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + s];
GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();</pre>

if (tid < 32)

```
sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 32];
sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 16];
sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 8];
sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 4];
sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 2];
sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 1];
```

Note: This saves useless work in *all* warps, not just the last one!

Without unrolling, all warps execute every iteration of the for loop and if statement

Performance for 4M element reduction

	Time (2 ²² ints)	Bandwidth	Step Speedup	Cumulative Speedup
Shader 1: interleaved addressing with divergent branching	8.054 ms	2.083 GB/s		
Shader 2: interleaved addressing with bank conflicts	3.456 ms	4.854 GB/s	2.33x	2.33x
Shader 3: sequential addressing	1.722 ms	9.741 GB/s	2.01x	4.68x
Shader 4: first add during global load	0.965 ms	17.377 GB/s	1.78x	8.34x
Shader 5: unroll last warp	0.536 ms	31.289 GB/s	1.8x	15.01x

Complete Unrolling

- Assuming we know the number of iterations at compile time, we could completely unroll the reduction
 - Luckily, the block size is limited by the GPU to 512 threads
 - Also, we are sticking to power-of-2 block sizes
- So we can easily unroll for a fixed block size



Reduction #6: Completely Unrolled

#define groupDim_x ... if (groupDim_x >= 512) {

if (tid < 256) { sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 256]; } GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();</pre>

if (groupDim_x >= 256) {

if (tid < 128) { sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 128]; } GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();

```
if (groupDim_x >= 128) {
```

if (tid < 64) { sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 64]; } GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();</pre>

```
if (tid < 32) {
    if (groupDim_x >= 64) sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 32];
    if (groupDim_x >= 32) sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 16];
    if (groupDim_x >= 16) sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 8];
    if (groupDim_x >= 8) sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 4];
    if (groupDim_x >= 4) sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 2];
    if (groupDim_x >= 2) sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 1];
```



Performance for 4M element reduction

	Time (2 ²² ints)	Bandwidth	Step Speedup	Cumulative Speedup
Shader 1: interleaved addressing with divergent branching	8.054 ms	2.083 GB/s		
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Shader 5: unroll last warp	0.536 ms	31.289 GB/s	1.8x	15.01x
Shader 6: completely unrolled	0.381 ms	43.996 GB/s	1.41x	21.16x



Reduction #7: Multiple Adds / Thread

Replace load and add of two elements:

unsigned int tid = threadIdx.x; unsigned int i = groupIdx.x*(groupDim_x*2) + threadIdx.x; sdata[tid] = g_idata[i] + g_idata[i+groupDim_x]; GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();

With a while loop to add as many as necessary:

```
unsigned int tid = threadIdx.x;
unsigned int i = groupIdx.x*(groupDim*2) + threadIdx.x;
unsigned int dispatchSize = groupDim *2*gridDim.x;
sdata[tid] = 0;
```

```
while (i < n) {
    sdata[tid] += g_idata[i] + g_idata[i+groupDim_x];
    i += dispatchSize;</pre>
```

GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();



Reduction #7: Multiple Adds / Thread

Replace load and add of two elements:

unsigned int tid = threadldx.x; unsigned int i = groupldx.x*(groupDim_x*2) + threadldx.x; sdata[tid] = g_idata[i] + g_idata[i+groupDim_x]; GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();

With a while loop to add as many as necessary:

```
unsigned int tid = threadldx.x;
unsigned int i = groupldx.x*(groupDim_x*2) + threadldx.x;
unsigned int dispatchSize = groupDim_x*2*gridDim.x;
sdata[tid] = 0;
```

Note: dispatchSize loop stride to maintain coalescing!

```
while (i < n) {
    sdata[tid] += g_idata[i]
    i += dispatchSize;
    i += dispatchSize;
</pre>
```

GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();



Performance for 4M element reduction

	Time (2 ²² ints) Bandwidth	Step Speedup	Cumulative Speedup
Shader 1: interleaved addressing with divergent branching	8.054 ms	2.083 GB/s		
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Shader 6: completely unrolled	0.381 ms	43.996 GB/s	1.41x	21.16x
Shader 7: multiple elements per thread	0.268 ms	62.671 GB/s	1.42x	30.04x

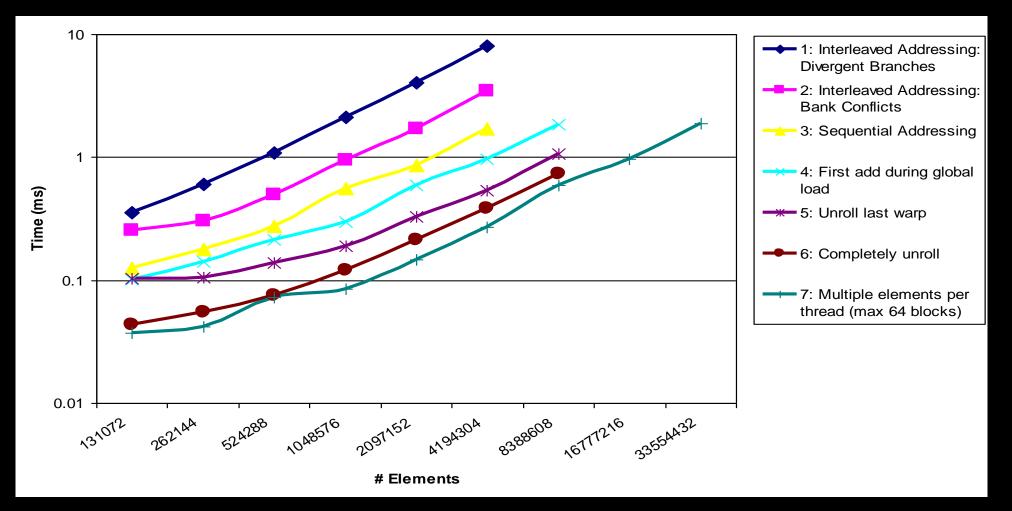
Shader 7 on 32M elements: 73 GB/s!



Final Optimized Compute Shader

```
Cbuffer consts {
     uint n;
     uint dispatchDim x;
};
groupshared float sdata[groupDim x];
[numthreads( groupDim x, 1, 1)]
void reduce6(uint tid : SV GroupIndex,
     uint3 groupIdx : groupID )
    unsigned int i = groupIdx.x*(groupDim x*2) + tid;
    unsigned int dispatchSize = groupDim x*2*dispatchDim x;
    sdata[tid] = 0;
    do { sdata[tid] += g idata[i] + g idata[i+groupDim x]; i += dispatchSize; } while (i < n);</pre>
    GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync();
    if (groupDim x >= 512) { if (tid < 256) { sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 256]; } GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync(); }
    if (groupDim x >= 256) { if (tid < 128) { sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 128]; } GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync(); }
    if (groupDim x >= 128) { if (tid < 64) { sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 64]; } GroupMemoryBarrierWithGroupSync(); }</pre>
    if (tid < 32) {</pre>
        if (groupDim x >= 64) sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 32];
        if (groupDim x >= 32) sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 16];
        if (groupDim x >= 16) sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 8];
        if (groupDim x >=
                            8) sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 4];
       if (groupDim_x >=
                            4) sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 2];
        if (groupDim x >=
                             2) sdata[tid] += sdata[tid + 1];
    if (tid == 0) g odata[groupIdx.x] = sdata[0];
                                                                                                                        NVIDIA
                                                                                                         PRESENTED BY
```

Performance Comparison





Questions?

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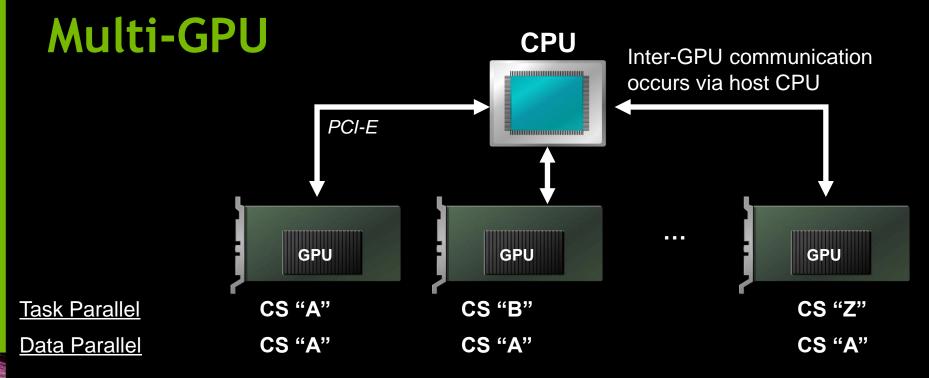
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Extra Slides

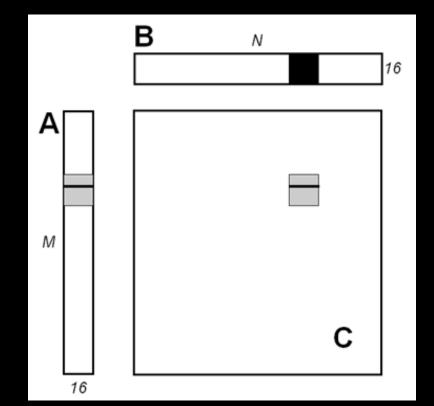




- Multiple GPUs can be used in a single system for task or data parallel GPU processing
- Host explicitly manages I/O and workload for each GPU
- Choose the best split to minimize inter-GPU communication (must occur via host memory)

NVIDIA

Memory Coalescing (Matrix Multiply)



Each iteration, threads access the same element in A. Un-coalesced in CC <= 1.1.



Matrix Multiplication (cont.)

Optimization	GeForce GTX 280	GeForce GTX 8800
No optimization	8.8 GBps	0.7 GBps
Coalesced using local memory to store a tile of A	14.3 GBps	8.2 GBps
Using thread group shared memory to eliminate redundant reads of a tile of B	29.7 GBps	15.7 GBps



Matrix Multiplication (cont.)

Optimization	GeForce GTX 280	GeForce GTX 8800
No optimization	8.8 GBps	0.7 GBps
Coalesced using local memory to store a tile of A	14.3 GBps	8.2 GBps
Using thread group shared memory to eliminate redundant reads of a tile of B	29.7 GBps	15.7 GBps

