MAKING PARALLEL COMPUTING AS EASY AS PY(THON), FROM LAPTOPS TO SUPERCOMPUTERS

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HPE Dev Munch & Learn
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**PARALLEL COMPUTING BASICS**

**Q: What is parallel computing?**

**A:** Running an application using multiple processors in order to...

...run it faster and/or...

...run it using larger data sets...

...than you could with just a single processor.

**Q: Where can I run parallel programs?**

**A:** These days, everywhere:

- multi-core processors in laptops
- commodity clusters
- the cloud
- enterprise servers and supercomputers
  - HPE Apollo, HPE Superdome Flex, HPE Cray EX, ...

**Q: What are the main barriers to doing parallel computing?**

**A:** Writing parallel programs is challenging by nature—and even more so for distributed memory systems.

**HPC =**

High Performance Computing
(parallel computing at the largest scales)
Imagine having a programming language for parallel computing that was as...

...**programmable** as Python

...yet also as...

...**fast** as Fortran

...**scalable** as MPI or SHMEM

...**portable** as C

...**flexible** as C++

...**type-safe** as Fortran, C, C++, ...

...**fun** as [your favorite programming language]

This is the motivation for the Chapel language
WHAT IS CHAPEL?

Chapel: A modern parallel programming language
- portable & scalable
- open-source & collaborative

Goals:
- Support general parallel programming
- Make parallel programming at scale far more productive
WHAT DO CHAPEL PROGRAMS LOOK LIKE?

**helloTaskPar.chpl**: print a message from each core in the system

```chapel
coforall loc in Locales {
  on loc {
    const numTasks = here.maxTaskPar;
    coforall tid in 1..numTasks do
      printf("Hello from task %n of %n on %s\n",
             tid, numTasks, here.name);
  }
}
```

**fillArray.chpl**: declare and initialize a distributed array

```chapel
use CyclicDist;
config const n = 1000;
const D = {1..n, 1..n}
dmapped Cyclic(startIdx = (1,1));
var A: [D] real;
forall (i,j) in D do
  A[i,j] = i + (j - 0.5)/n;
writeln(A);
```

```plaintext
> chpl helloTaskPar.chpl
> ./helloTaskPar --numLocales=4
Hello from task 1 of 4 on n1032
Hello from task 4 of 4 on n1032
Hello from task 1 of 4 on n1034
Hello from task 2 of 4 on n1032
Hello from task 1 of 4 on n1033
Hello from task 3 of 4 on n1034
...

> chpl fillArray.chpl
> ./fillArray --n=5 --numLocales=4
1.1 1.3 1.5 1.7 1.9
2.1 2.3 2.5 2.7 2.9
3.1 3.3 3.5 3.7 3.9
4.1 4.3 4.5 4.7 4.9
5.1 5.3 5.5 5.7 5.9
```
KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF CHAPEL

- **compiled**: to generate the best performance possible
- **statically typed**: to avoid simple errors after hours of execution
- **interoperable**: with C, Fortran, Python, ...
- **portable**: runs on laptops, clusters, the cloud, supercomputers
- **open-source**: to lower barriers to adoption and leverage community contributions
Q: What is provided in a Chapel release?

A: Chapel releases contain...

*the Chapel compiler* (‘chpl’): translates Chapel source code into optimized executables
*runtime libraries*: help map Chapel programs to a system’s capabilities (e.g., processors, network, memory, …)
*library modules*: provide standard algorithms, data types, capabilities, …
*documentation*: also available online at: https://chapel-lang.org/docs/
*sample programs*: primers, benchmarks, etc.

Q: How often is Chapel released? When is the next one?

A: New Chapel releases are made available every 3–6 months

- version 1.26.0 was released March 31, 2022
HOW DOES CHAPEL COMPARE TO OTHER PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES?
FOR DESKTOP BENCHMARKS, CHAPEL TENDS TO BE COMPACT AND FAST

(graph generated by scraping and summarizing data from the Computer Language Benchmarks Game on April 18, 2022)
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HOW DOES CHAPEL COMPARE TO PROGRAMMING APPROACHES USED FOR HPC?
KEY CONCERNS FOR SCALABLE PARALLEL COMPUTING

1. **parallelism**: What tasks should run simultaneously?
2. **locality**: Where should tasks run? Where should data be allocated?
STREAM TRIAD: A TRIVIAL CASE OF PARALLELISM + LOCALITY

**Given:** $m$-element vectors $A$, $B$, $C$

**Compute:** $\forall i \in 1..m, A_i = B_i + \alpha \cdot C_i$

**In pictures:**

[Diagram showing vector operations]
**Given:** \( m \)-element vectors \( A, B, C \)

**Compute:** \( \ \forall i \in 1..m, A_i = B_i + \alpha \cdot C_i \)

**In pictures, in parallel** (shared memory / multicore):

---
**Given:** $m$-element vectors $A$, $B$, $C$

**Compute:** $\forall i \in 1..m, A_i = B_i + \alpha \cdot C_i$

**In pictures, in parallel** (distributed memory):

![Diagram showing the computation of $A_i = B_i + \alpha \cdot C_i$]
STREAM TRIAD: A TRIVIAL CASE OF PARALLELISM + LOCALITY

**Given:** $m$-element vectors $A, B, C$

**Compute:** $\forall i \in 1..m, A_i = B_i + \alpha \cdot C_i$

**In pictures, in parallel** (distributed memory multicore):

![Diagram showing parallel computation of the stream triad](image)
STREAM TRIAD IN CONVENTIONAL HPC PROGRAMMING MODELS

Many Disparate Notations for Expressing Parallelism + Locality
Many Disparate Notations for Expressing Parallelism + Locality

**STREAM TRIAD IN CONVENTIONAL HPC PROGRAMMING MODELS**

**Note:** This is a trivial parallel computation—imagine the additional complexity for something more realistic...

**Challenge:** Can we do better?
FOR HPC BENCHMARKS, CHAPEL TENDS TO BE CONCISE, CLEAR, AND SCALABLE

use BlockDist;

config const m = 1000,
   alpha = 3.0;

const Dom = {1..m} dmapped ...;

var A, B, C: [Dom] real;

B = 2.0;

C = 1.0;

A = B + alpha * C;

forall (_, r) in zip(Updates, RAStream()) do
   T[r & indexMask].xor(r);
HOW IS CHAPEL BEING USED IN THE FIELD?
CURRENT FLAGSHIP CHAPEL APPLICATIONS

**CHAMPS: 3D Unstructured CFD**
Éric Laurendeau, Simon Bourgault-Côté, Matthieu Parenteau, et al.
École Polytechnique Montréal

**Arkouda: NumPy at Massive Scale**
Mike Merrill, Bill Reus, et al.
US DoD

**CrayAI: Distributed Machine Learning**
Hewlett Packard Enterprise

**ChpUltra: Simulating Ultralight Dark Matter**
Nikhil Padmanabhan, J. Luna Zagorac, et al.
Yale University / University of Auckland

**ChOp: Chapel-based Optimization**
Tiago Carneiro, Nouredine Melab, et al.
INRIA Lille, France

(images provided by their respective teams and used with permission)
PARALLEL COMPUTING IN PYTHON?

Motivation: Say you’ve got...
...HPC-scale data science problems to solve
...a bunch of Python programmers
...access to HPC systems

How will you leverage your Python programmers to get your work done?
ARKOUDA’S HIGH-LEVEL APPROACH

Arkouda Client
(written in Python)

Arkouda Server
(written in Chapel)

User writes Python code in Jupyter, making NumPy/Pandas calls
ARKOUDA SUMMARY

What is it?
- A Python library supporting a key subset of NumPy and Pandas for Data Science
  - Uses a Python-client/Chapel-server model to get scalability and performance
  - Computes massive-scale results (multi-TB-scale arrays) within the human thought loop (seconds to a few minutes)
- ~20k lines of Chapel, largely written in 2019, continually improved since then

Who wrote it?
- Mike Merrill, Bill Reus, et al., US DoD
- Open-source: https://github.com/Bears-R-Us/arkouda

Why Chapel?
- high-level language with performance and scalability
- close to Pytonic
  - enabled writing Arkouda rapidly
  - doesn’t repel Python users who look under the hood
- ports from laptop to supercomputer
# Arkouda Performance Compared to NumPy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>benchmark</th>
<th>NumPy 0.75 GB</th>
<th>Arkouda (serial) 0.75 GB 1 core, 1 node</th>
<th>Arkouda (parallel) 0.75 GB 36 cores x 1 node</th>
<th>Arkouda (distributed) 384 GB 36 cores x 512 nodes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>argsort</td>
<td>0.03 GiB/s</td>
<td>0.05 GiB/s 1.66x</td>
<td>0.50 GiB/s 16.7x</td>
<td>55.12 GiB/s 1837.3x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coargsort</td>
<td>0.03 GiB/s</td>
<td>0.07 GiB/s 2.3x</td>
<td>0.50 GiB/s 16.7x</td>
<td>29.54 GiB/s 984.7x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gather</td>
<td>1.15 GiB/s</td>
<td>0.45 GiB/s 0.4x</td>
<td>13.45 GiB/s 11.7x</td>
<td>539.52 GiB/s 469.1x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reduce</td>
<td>9.90 GiB/s</td>
<td>11.66 GiB/s 1.2x</td>
<td>118.57 GiB/s 12.0x</td>
<td>43683.00 GiB/s 4412.4x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scan</td>
<td>2.78 GiB/s</td>
<td>2.12 GiB/s 3.2x</td>
<td>8.90 GiB/s 266.6x</td>
<td>741.14 GiB/s 266.6x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scatter</td>
<td>1.17 GiB/s</td>
<td>1.12 GiB/s 1.0x</td>
<td>13.77 GiB/s 11.8x</td>
<td>914.67 GiB/s 781.8x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stream</td>
<td>3.94 GiB/s</td>
<td>2.92 GiB/s 0.7x</td>
<td>24.58 GiB/s 6.2x</td>
<td>6266.22 GiB/s 1590.4x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ARKOUDA ARGSORT AT MASSIVE SCALES

• Run on a large Apollo system, summer 2022
  • 73,728 cores of AMD Rome
  • 72 TiB of 8-byte values
  • 480 GiB/s (2.5 minutes elapsed time)
  • ~100 lines of Chapel code

Close to world-record performance—quite likely a record for performance/SLOC
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Your application here?

(images provided by their respective teams and used with permission)
What is it?

• 3D unstructured CFD framework for airplane simulation
• ~100k lines of Chapel written from scratch in ~3 years

Who wrote it?

• Professor Éric Laurendeau’s students + postdocs at Polytechnique Montreal

Why Chapel?

• performance and scalability competitive with MPI + C++
• students found it far more productive to use

(images provided by the CHAMPS team and used with permission)
HPC Lessons From 30 Years of Practice in CFD Towards Aircraft Design and Analysis (June 4, 2021)

“To show you what Chapel did in our lab... [our previous framework] ended up 120k lines. And my students said, ‘We can't handle it anymore. It's too complex, we lost track of everything.’ And today, they went from 120k lines to 48k lines, so 3x less.

But the code is not 2D, it’s 3D. And it’s not structured, it’s unstructured, which is way more complex. And it’s multi-physics... So, I've got industrial-type code in 48k lines.”

“[Chapel] promotes the programming efficiency ... We ask students at the master's degree to do stuff that would take 2 years and they do it in 3 months. So, if you want to take a summer internship and you say, ‘program a new turbulence model,’ well they manage. And before, it was impossible to do.”

“So, for me, this is like the proof of the benefit of Chapel, plus the smiles I have on my students everyday in the lab because they love Chapel as well. So that’s the key, that’s the takeaway.”

• Talk available online:  https://youtu.be/wD-a_KyB8al?t=1904 (hyperlink jumps to the section quoted here)
CHAMPS HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021

- Presented at CASI/IASC Aero 21 Conference
- Presented to CFD Society of Canada (CFDSC)
- Participated in 4th AIAA High-lift Prediction Workshops, 1st AIAA Ice Prediction Workshop
- Reproduced results from 5th AIAA Drag Prediction Workshop

- Generating results comparable to high-profile sites: Boeing, Lockheed Martin, NASA, JAXA, Georgia Tech, ...

**Looking ahead:**
- giving 6–7 presentations at AIAA Aviation Forum and Exposition, June 2022
- participating in 7th AIAA Drag Prediction Workshop

(slide images taken from Éric Laurendeau's SIAM PP22 talk, A Case Study on the Impact of Chapel within an Academic Computational Aerodynamic Laboratory, with permission)
WRAPPING UP
Chapel is unique among programming languages
• built-in features for scalable parallel computing make it HPC-ready
• supports clean, concise code relative to conventional approaches
• ports and scales from laptops to supercomputers

Chapel is being used for productive parallel programming at scale
• users are reaping its benefits in practical, cutting-edge applications
• Arkouda lets Python programmers drive supercomputers from Jupyter

If you’re interested in taking Chapel for a spin, let us know!
• we’re happy to work with users and user groups to ease the learning curve
Chapel is a team effort—currently made up of 14 full-time employees, 2 part-time, and our director

- we also have 3 more full-time engineers joining in the next few months, and 2 open positions

see: https://chapel-lang.org/contributors.html
and https://chapel-lang.org/jobs.html
CHAPEL RESOURCES

Chapel homepage: https://chapel-lang.org
- (points to all other resources)

Social Media:
- Twitter: @ChapelLanguage
- Facebook: @ChapelLanguage
- YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/c/ChapelParallelProgrammingLanguage

Community Discussion / Support:
- Discourse: https://chapel.discourse.group/
- Gitter: https://gitter.im/chapel-lang/chapel
- Stack Overflow: https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/chapel
- GitHub Issues: https://github.com/chapel-lang/chapel/issues
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THANK YOU

https://chapel-lang.org
@ChapelLanguage