

**Hewlett Packard  
Enterprise**

# **CHAPEL OVERVIEW, AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR CHAPEL**

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SIAM PP22: Achieving Productivity at Scale with  
Chapel in User Applications  
February 24, 2022



# CHAPEL TEAM

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Chapel is truly a team effort—we're currently at 19 employees (+ a director), and **we are hiring**

## Chapel Development Team at HPE



see: <https://chapel-lang.org/contributors.html>



# TAKEAWAY FOR THIS TALK

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Chapel is a parallel programming language that provides  
**ease of programming,**  
**high performance,** and  
**portability.**

And is being used in applications in various ways:

**refactoring** existing codes,  
**developing** new codes,  
serving high performance to Python codes (**Chapel server with Python client**), and  
**providing distributed and shared memory parallelism** for existing codes.







# **OUTLINE**

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**Scientific Computing Challenges**

**Data Analysis Example**

**How Applications are Using Chapel**

**Future Opportunities and Challenges**





# SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING CHALLENGES

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- **Steep learning curve to effectively achieve high performance**
  - Distributed-memory parallelism across nodes (MPI)
  - Parallelism within a node (OpenMP, Pthreads, CUDA, ...)
  - Vectorization (intrinsics that are architecture specific)
- **Preferred development model is on a laptop and then run on a cluster, cloud, or supercomputer**
- **Goal is to have ...**
  - Ease of programming,
  - High performance, and
  - Portability
- **Chapel achieves all three of these goals**



Page 10 of 10

```

if (ta || !b || !c) {
    if (c) HPCPP_free(c);
    if (b) HPCPP_free(b);
    if (a) HPCPP_free(a);
    if (doIO) {
        fprintf( outFile, "Failed to allocate memory\n");
        fclose( outFile );
    }
    return 1;
}

#ifdef_OPENNMP
#pragma omp parallel for
for (j=0; j<VectorSize; j++) {
    b[j] = 2.0;
    c[j] = 1.0;
}
scalar = 3.0;
#endif_OPENNMP

#pragma omp parallel for
for (j=0; j<VectorSize; j++)
    a[j] = b[j]*scalar*c[j];

HPCPP_free(c);
HPCPP_free(b);
HPCPP_free(a);

return 0;

```

```

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;

```

Locales (x 36 cores / locale)	MPI+OpenMP	Chapel EP	Chapel Global
1	~100	~100	~100
16	~1,000	~1,000	~1,000
32	~2,000	~2,000	~2,000
64	~4,000	~4,000	~4,000
128	~8,000	~8,000	~8,000
256	~16,000	~16,000	~25,500

11/11/2019

```
forall (_, r) in zip(Updates, RASStream()) do
    T[r & indexMask].xor(r);
...

```

The graph plots GUPS (Giga Updates Per Second) on the y-axis against the number of locales on the x-axis. The x-axis is labeled 'Locales (x 36 cores / locale)' and has major ticks at 16, 32, 64, 128, and 256. The y-axis ranges from 0 to 14 GUPS. Two data series are shown: 'Chapel' (blue line with diamond markers) and 'MPI' (green line with 'x' markers). Chapel's performance increases linearly from approximately 0.5 GUPS at 16 locales to 12.5 GUPS at 256 locales. MPI's performance increases very slowly, from approximately 0.5 GUPS at 16 locales to 1.8 GUPS at 256 locales.

Locales (x 36 cores / locale)	Chapel (GUPS)	MPI (GUPS)
16	0.5	0.5
32	1.8	0.8
64	3.2	1.0
128	6.2	1.4
256	12.5	1.8

# PORTABILITY

- On a laptop, cluster, or supercomputer  
(Shared-memory parallelism)

```
prompt> chpl helloTaskPar.chpl
prompt> ./helloTaskPar
Hello from task 1 of 4 on n1032
Hello from task 4 of 4 on n1032
Hello from task 3 of 4 on n1032
Hello from task 2 of 4 on n1032
```

- On a cluster or supercomputer  
(Distributed-memory parallelism)

```
prompt> chpl helloTaskPar.chpl
prompt> ./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
Hello from task 1 of 4 on n1035
...
```



# DATA ANALYSIS EXAMPLE

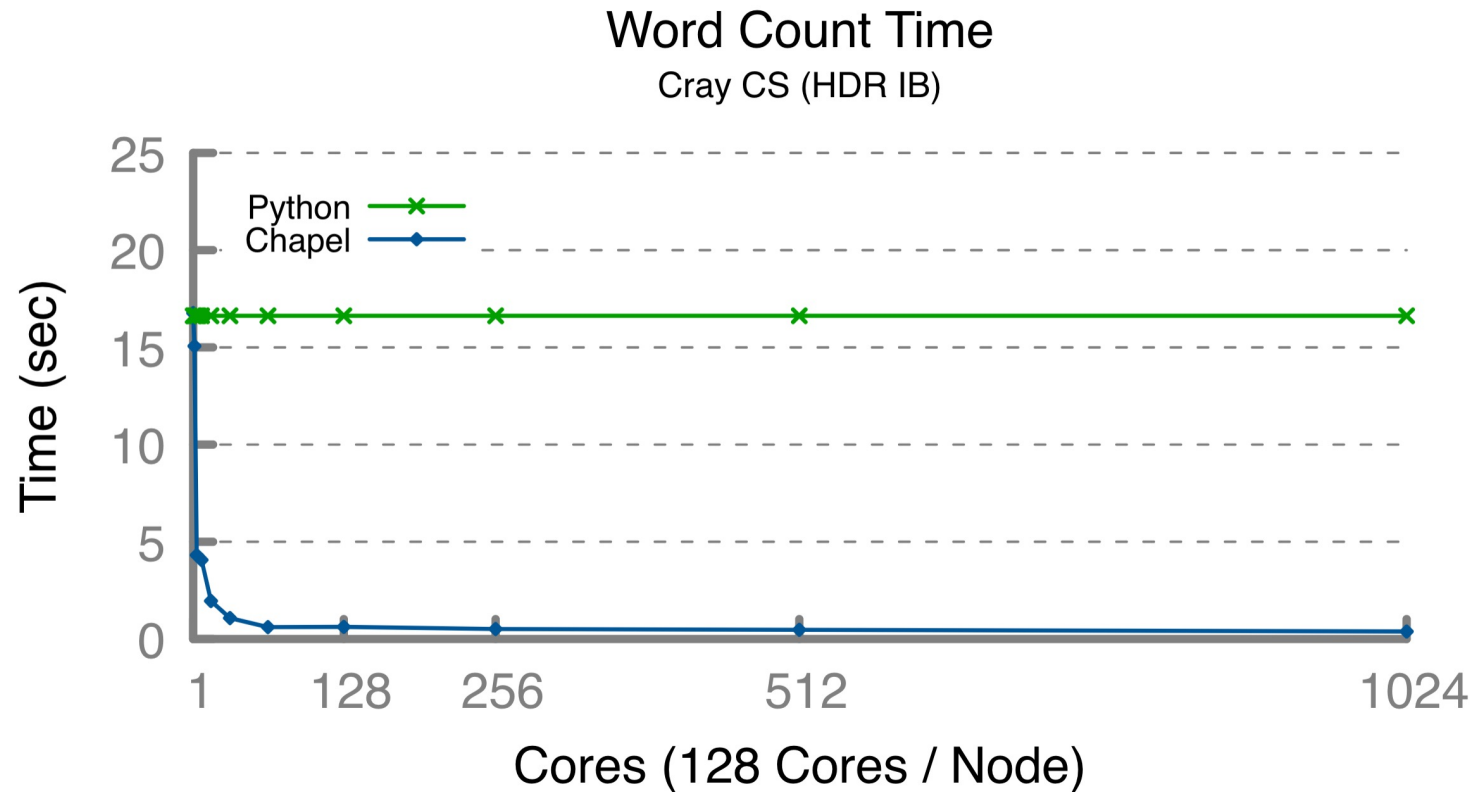
A high-angle photograph of a dense tropical rainforest. A waterfall is visible in the center-right, cascading down a rocky cliff face. The forest is composed of various shades of green, indicating different types of trees and vegetation. In the background, misty mountains are visible under a cloudy sky. The overall scene is lush and vibrant.



# TRANSITIONING FROM LAPTOP TO SUPERCOMPUTER

## • Data Analysis Example

- Per file word count on all the files in a directory
- Serial to threaded and distributed by using a forall over a parallel distributed array
- Good scaling even for file I/O (below is for 100 files at 3MB each)





# ANALYZING MULTIPLE FILES USING PARALLELISM

word-count.chpl

```
use FileSystem;
config const dir = "DataDir";
var fList = findfiles(dir);
var filenames
    = newBlockArr(0..#fList.size, string);
filenames = fList;

// per file word count
forall f in filenames {
    ...
    while reader.readline(line) {
        for word in line.split(" ") {
            wordCount[word] += 1;
        }
    }
    ...
}
```

```
prompt> chpl --fast word-count.chpl
prompt> ./word-count
prompt> ./word-count -nl 4
```

Shared and Distributed-Memory  
Parallelism using forall, a distributed  
array, and command line options to  
indicate number of locales



# LAPTOP TO SUPERCOMPUTERS BASED ON ARRAY DISTRIBUTION

**for loop:** each iteration is executed serially by the current task

- predictable execution order, similar to conventional languages

**forall loop:** all iterations are executed by one or more tasks in no specific order

- implemented using one or more tasks, locally or distributed, as determined by the iterand expression

```
forall elem in myLocArr do ...           // task-level parallelism over local arrays
```

```
forall elem in myDistArr do ...          // distributed arrays use tasks on each locale owning part of the array
```

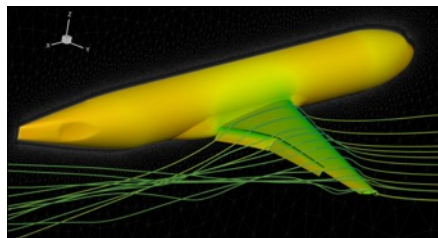
Version of Parquet reader	1 Locale Performance	16 Locale Performance
Original	0.85 GiB/s	10.75 GiB/s
Parallel+Batch	7.46 GiB/s	23.26 GiB/s

benchmark uses 400 files of size 0.25 GiB each





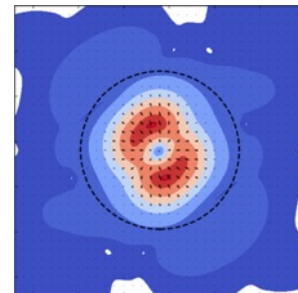
# HOW APPLICATIONS ARE USING CHAPEL



## Refactoring existing codes into Chapel (~48K lines of Chapel)

### CHAMPS: 3D Unstructured CFD

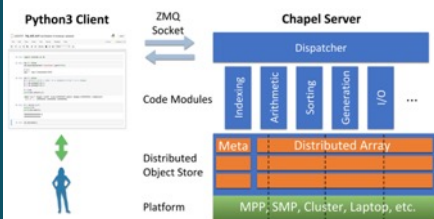
Éric Laurendeau, Simon Bourgault-Côté,  
Matthieu Parenteau, et al.  
*École Polytechnique Montréal*



## Writing code in Chapel (~10k lines of including parallel FFT)

### ChplUltra: Simulating Ultralight Dark Matter

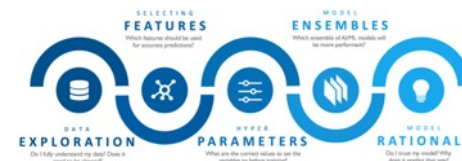
Nikhil Padmanabhan, J. Luna Zagorac, et al.  
*Yale University / University of Auckland*



## Chapel server for a Python client (~16K lines of Chapel)

### Arkouda: NumPy at Massive Scale

Mike Merrill, Bill Reus, et al.  
*US DoD*



## Chapel providing distributed parallelism for ML training (~8k lines of Chapel)

### CrayAI: Distributed Machine Learning

*Hewlett Packard Enterprise*



# FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR CHAPEL

- **Generate code for GPUs (see Engin talk in MS79)**
  - How will the compiler need to evolve? Will the language need to?
- **Rearchitect the compiler**
  - Shed cruft from research prototype days to harden the compiler
  - Reduce compile times
    - potentially via separate compilation / incremental recompilation?
  - Support interpreted / interactive Chapel programming
- **Continue to optimize performance**
- **Release Chapel 2.0**
  - guarantee backwards-compatibility for core language and library
- **Foster a growing Chapel community**

```
// HPCC Stream
// Variables stored on GPU
// forall's are executed on GPU
on here.getChild(1) {
    var A, B, C: [1..n] real;
    const alpha = 2.0;

    forall b in B do b = 1.0;
    forall c in C do c = 2.0;

    forall a, b, c in zip(A, B, C) do
        a = b + alpha * c;
}
```

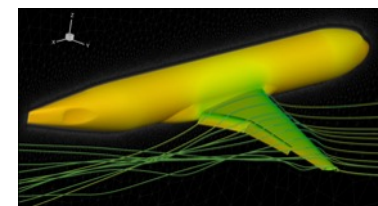
# SUMMARY

## Chapel cleanly supports...

**ease of programming,  
high performance, and  
portability**

## Chapel is being used for productive parallel applications at scale

- recent users have reaped its benefits in 10k–48k-line applications



## Chapel provides clean ways to transition from laptop development to a cluster/supercomputer

## The Chapel Development Team is

- ... at 19 people and is hiring!
- ... working on a number of exciting initiatives!
- ... looking forward to hearing from you!





**CHIUW 2022 SUBMISSIONS DUE APRIL 15TH**



## The Chapel Parallel Programming Language

**CHIUW 2022**

### The 9th Annual Chapel Implementers and Users Workshop

**June 10, 2022**

**free and online in a virtual format**

**Call For Papers and Talks**

**Home**

**What is Chapel?  
What's New?**

**Upcoming Events  
Job Opportunities**

**How Can I Learn Chapel?**

**Contributing to Chapel  
Community**

**Download Chapel  
Try Chapel Online**



# CHAPEL RESOURCES

**Chapel homepage:** <https://chapel-lang.org>


- (points to all other resources)

## Social Media:

- Twitter: [@ChapelLanguage](https://twitter.com/ChapelLanguage)
- Facebook: [@ChapelLanguage](https://facebook.com/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>



### The Chapel Parallel Programming Language

**What is Chapel?**

Chapel is a programming language designed for productive parallel computing at scale.

**Why Chapel?** Because it simplifies parallel programming through elegant support for:

- **distributed arrays** that can leverage thousands of nodes' memories and cores
- **a global namespace** supporting direct access to local or remote variables
- **data parallelism** to trivially use the cores of a laptop, cluster, or supercomputer
- **task parallelism** to create concurrency within a node or across the system

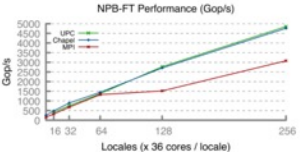
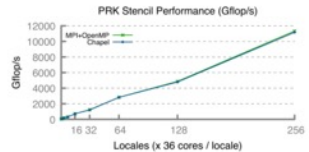
**Chapel Characteristics**

- **productive:** code tends to be similarly readable/writable as Python
- **scalable:** runs on laptops, clusters, the cloud, and HPC systems
- **fast:** performance competes with or beats C/C++ & MPI & OpenMP
- **portable:** compiles and runs in virtually any \*nix environment
- **open-source:** hosted on GitHub, permissively licensed

**New to Chapel?**

As an introduction to Chapel, you may want to...

- watch an [overview talk](#) or browse its [slides](#)
- read a [blog-length](#) or [chapter-length](#) introduction to Chapel
- learn about [projects powered by Chapel](#)
- check out [performance highlights](#) like these:



- browse [sample programs](#) or learn how to write distributed programs like this one:

```
use CyclicDist;           // use the Cyclic distribution library
config const n = 100;      // use --n=<val> when executing to override this default

forall i in {1..n} dmapped Cyclic(startIdx=1) do
  writeln("Hello from iteration ", i, " of ", n, " running on node ", here.id);
```





# THANK YOU

<https://chapel-lang.org>  
@ChapelLanguage

