Chapel: Background

Steve Deitz
Cray Inc.
HPCS: High Productivity Computing Systems (DARPA)

- Goal: Raise HEC user productivity by 10x by 2010
  \[ \text{Productivity} = \text{Performance} + \text{Programmability} + \text{Portability} + \text{Robustness} \]

- Phase II: Cray, IBM, Sun (July 2003 – June 2006)
  - Evaluated entire system architecture
  - Three new languages (Chapel, X10, Fortress)

- Phase III: Cray, IBM (July 2006 – 2010)
  - Implement phase II systems
  - Work continues on all three languages
Chapel Productivity Goals

- Improve programmability over current languages
  - Writing parallel codes
  - Reading, changing, porting, tuning, maintaining, ...
- Support performance at least as good as MPI
  - Competitive with MPI on generic clusters
  - Better than MPI on more capable architectures
- Improve portability over current languages
  - As ubiquitous as MPI
  - More portable than OpenMP, UPC, CAF, ...
- Improve robustness via improved semantics
  - Eliminate common error cases
  - Provide better abstractions to help avoid other errors
Chapel Design Concepts

- Support general parallel programming
  - Data, task, and nested parallelism
  - Express all levels of software parallelism
  - Target all levels of hardware parallelism
- Support global-view abstractions
- Support multiple levels of design
- Allow for control of locality
- Bring mainstream features to parallel languages
Outline

- Concepts, Settings and Goals
- Chapel’s Programming Model
  - Fragmented vs. Global-View
  - Low-Level vs. High-Level vs. Multiple Levels
Fragmented vs. Global-View: Definitions

- **Programming model**
  
  *The mental model of a programmer*

- **Fragmented models**
  
  *Programmers take point-of-view of a single processor/thread*

- **SPMD models (Single Program, Multiple Data)**
  
  *Fragmented models with multiple copies of one program*

- **Global-view models**
  
  *Programmers write code to describe computation as a whole*
3-Point Stencil Example (n=6)

Initial state

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Steady state

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Global-View vs. Fragmented Data Declarations

**Global-View**

**Fragmented**
Global-View vs. Fragmented Computation

**Global-View**

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} & = \frac{1}{2} \\
+ & \\
\frac{1}{2} & = \frac{1}{2}
\end{align*}
\]

**Fragmented**

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} & = \frac{1}{2} \\
+ & \\
\frac{1}{2} & = \frac{1}{2}
\end{align*}
\]
3-Point Stencil Example: Code

Global-View vs. Fragmented Code

**Global-View**

```chapel
def main() {
    var n = 1000;
    var A, B: [1..n] real;
   forall i in 2..n-1 do
        B(i) = (A(i-1)+A(i+1))/2;
}
```

**Fragmented**

```chapel
def main() {
    var n = 1000;
    var me = commRank(), p = commSize(),
        myN = n/p, myLo = 1, myHi = myN;
    var A, B: [0..myN+1] real;
    if me < p {
        send(me+1, A(myN));
        recv(me+1, A(myN+1));
    } else myHi = myN-1;
    if me > 1 {
        send(me-1, A(1));
        recv(me-1, A(0));
    } else myLo = 2;
    for i in myLo..myHi do
        B(i) = (A(i-1)+A(i+1))/2;
}```

Assumes \( p \) divides \( n \)
NAS MG Stencil

\[ w_0 = w_1 = w_2 = w_3 \]
use caf_intrinsics

implicit none
include 'csgfh.h'
include 'globals.h'
integer n1, n2, n3, k
double precision u(n1,n2,n3)
target axis if( ndot(2d0,n1) ) then
do i1 = 1,n1
   buff = buff + 1
endif axis if( ndot(2d0,n1) ) then
do i2 = 2,n2
   buff = buff + 1
endif axis if( ndot(2d0,n1) ) then
do i3 = 2,n3
   buff = buff + 1
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endi
def rprj3(S, R) {
const Stencil = [-1..1, -1..1, -1..1],
    W: [0..3] real = (0.5, 0.25, 0.125, 0.0625),
    W3D = [(i,j,k) in Stencil] W((i!=0)+(j!=0)+(k!=0));

forall inds in S.domain do
    S(inds) =
        + reduce [offset in Stencil] (W3D(offset) *
            R(inds + offset*R.stride));
}

Previous work shows performance is still possible:

## Summary of Current Programming Systems

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Low-Level vs. High-Level Programming

“Why is everything so difficult?”

“Why can’t I optimize this?”
Multiple Levels of Design

Language Concepts
- Data Parallelism
- Distributions
- Task Parallelism
- Base Language
- Locality Control
- Target Machine

Task Scheduling
- Work Stealing
- Suspendable Tasks
- Task Pool
- Thread per Task
- Target Machine

Memory Management
- Garbage Collection
- Region-Based
- Malloc/Free
- Target Machine

Chapel: Background
Questions?

- Concepts, Settings and Goals
- Chapel’s Programming Model
  - Fragmented vs. Global-View
  - Low-Level vs. High-Level vs. Multiple Levels