Chapel Background

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SC08: Tutorial S07 – 11/16/08

DARPA HPCS CRAY THE SUPERCOMPUTER COMPANY

Chapel

Chapel: a new parallel language being developed by Cray Inc.

Themes:

- **general parallel programming**
  - data-, task-, and nested parallelism
  - express general levels of software parallelism
  - target general levels of hardware parallelism
- ***global-view* abstractions**
- ***multiresolution* design**
- **control of locality**
- **reduce gap between mainstream & parallel languages**

Brad Chamberlain, Steve Deitz,
Samuel Figueroa, David Iten; Cray Inc.

Chapel's Setting: HPCS

HPCS: High *Productivity* Computing Systems (DARPA *et al.*)
- Goal: Raise HEC user productivity by 10× for the year 2010
- Productivity = Performance
  + Programmability
  + Portability
  + Robustness

- **Phase II**: Cray, IBM, Sun (July 2003 – June 2006)
  - Evaluated the entire system architecture's impact on productivity…
    - processors, memory, network, I/O, OS, runtime, compilers, tools, …
    - …and new languages:
      Cray: Chapel IBM: X10 Sun: Fortress
- **Phase III**: Cray, IBM (July 2006 – 2010)
  - Implement the systems and technologies resulting from phase II
  - (Sun also continues work on Fortress, without HPCS funding)

Chapel and Productivity

Chapel's Productivity Goals:
- vastly improve programmability over current languages/models
  - writing parallel codes
  - reading, modifying, porting, tuning, maintaining, evolving them
- support performance at least as good as MPI
  - competitive with MPI on generic clusters
  - better than MPI on more capable architectures
- improve portability compared to current languages/models
  - as ubiquitous as MPI, but with fewer architectural assumptions
  - more portable than OpenMP, UPC, CAF, …
- improve code robustness via improved semantics and concepts
  - eliminate common error cases altogether
  - better abstractions to help avoid other errors

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Outline

- Chapel's Themes, Context, and Goals
- Programming Model Terminology
  - *global-view* vs. *fragmented* programming models
  - *multiresolution languages*
  - a first taste of Chapel

Parallel Programming Model Taxonomy

programming model: the mental model a programmer uses when coding using a language, library, or other notation

fragmented models: those in which the programmer writes code from the point-of-view of a single processor/thread

global-view models: those in which the programmer can write code that describes the computation as a whole

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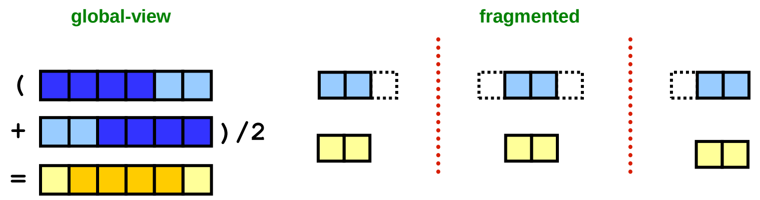
Global-view vs. Fragmented

Problem: "Apply 3-pt stencil to vector"



Global-view vs. Fragmented

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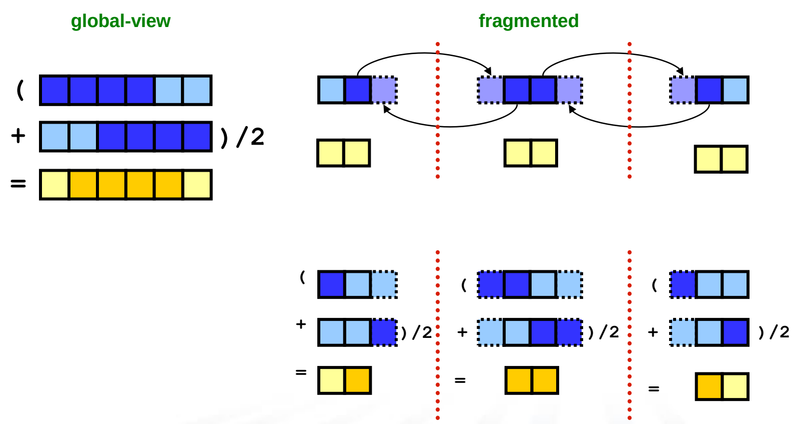

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Parallel Programming Model Taxonomy

programming model: the mental model a programmer uses when coding using a language, library, or other notation

fragmented models: those in which the programmer writes code from the point-of-view of a single processor/thread

SPMD models: Single-Program, Multiple Data -- a common fragmented model in which the user writes one program & runs multiple copies of it, parameterized by a unique ID

global-view models: those in which the programmer can write code that describes the computation as a whole

Global-view vs. SPMD Code

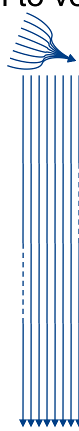
Problem: "Apply 3-pt stencil to vector"

global-view

```
def main() {
  var n: int = 1000;
  var a, b: [1..n] real;

  forall i in 2..n-1 {
    b(i) = (a(i-1) + a(i+1))/2;
  }
}
```

SPMD



```
def main() {
  var n: int = 1000;
  var locN: int = n/numProcs;
  var a, b: [0..locN+1] real;

  if (iHaveRightNeighbor) {
    send(right, a(locN));
    recv(right, a(locN+1));
  }
  if (iHaveLeftNeighbor) {
    send(left, a(1));
    recv(left, a(0));
  }
  forall i in 1..locN {
    b(i) = (a(i-1) + a(i+1))/2;
  }
}
```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Global-view vs. SPMD Code

Problem: "Apply 3-pt stencil to vector"

Assumes *numProcs* divides *n*; a more general version would require additional effort

global-view

```
def main() {
  var n: int = 1000;
  var a, b: [1..n] real;

  forall i in 2..n-1 {
    b(i) = (a(i-1) + a(i+1))/2;
  }
}
```

SPMD

```
def main() {
  var n: int = 1000;
  var locN: int = n/numProcs;
  var a, b: [0..locN+1] real;
  var innerLo: int = 1;
  var innerHi: int = locN;

  if (iHaveRightNeighbor) {
    send(right, a(locN));
    recv(right, a(locN+1));
  } else {
    innerHi = locN-1;
  }
  if (iHaveLeftNeighbor) {
    send(left, a(1));
    recv(left, a(0));
  } else {
    innerLo = 2;
  }
  forall i in innerLo..innerHi {
    b(i) = (a(i-1) + a(i+1))/2;
  }
}
```


MPI SPMD pseudo-code

Problem: "Apply 3-pt stencil to vector"

SPMD (pseudocode + MPI)

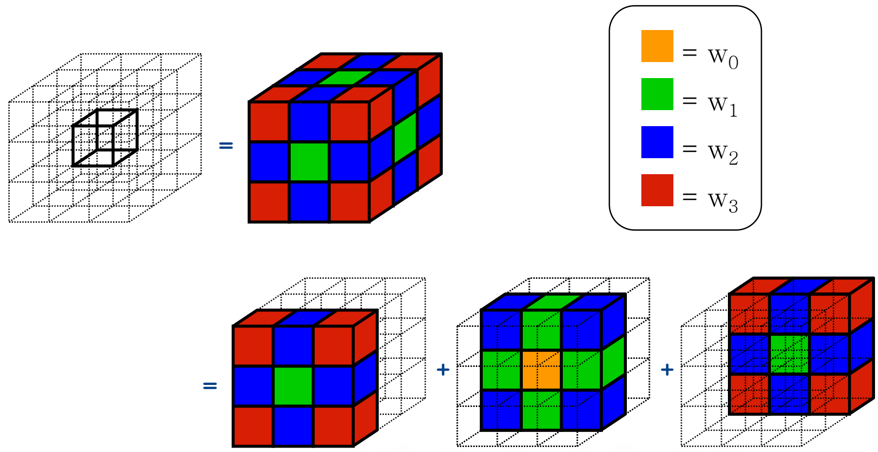
Communication becomes geometrically more complex for higher-dimensional arrays

```
var n: int = 1000, locN: int = n/numProcs;
var a, b: [0..locN+1] real;
var innerLo: int = 1, innerHi: int = locN;
var numProcs, myPE: int;
var retval: int;
var status: MPI_Status;

MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &numProcs);
MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &myPE);
if (myPE < numProcs-1) {
  retval = MPI_Send(&(a(locN)), 1, MPI_FLOAT, myPE+1, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
  if (retval != MPI_SUCCESS) { handleError(retval); }
  retval = MPI_Recv(&(a(locN+1)), 1, MPI_FLOAT, myPE+1, 1, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &status);
  if (retval != MPI_SUCCESS) { handleErrorWithStatus(retval, status); }
} else
  innerHi = locN-1;
if (myPE > 0) {
  retval = MPI_Send(&(a(1)), 1, MPI_FLOAT, myPE-1, 1, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
  if (retval != MPI_SUCCESS) { handleError(retval); }
  retval = MPI_Recv(&(a(0)), 1, MPI_FLOAT, myPE-1, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &status);
  if (retval != MPI_SUCCESS) { handleErrorWithStatus(retval, status); }
} else
  innerLo = 2;
forall i in (innerLo..innerHi) {
  b(i) = (a(i-1) + a(i+1))/2;
}
```

CRAY

rprj3 stencil from NAS MG



CRAY

NAS MG *rprj3* stencil in Fortran + MPI

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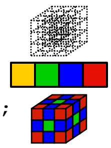
NAS MG *rprj3* stencil in Chapel



```
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 ijk in S.domain do
    S(ijk) = + reduce [offset in Stencil]
                       (w3d(offset) * R(ijk + offset*R.stride));
}
```

Our previous work in ZPL showed that compact, global-view codes like these can result in performance that matches or beats hand-coded Fortran+MPI

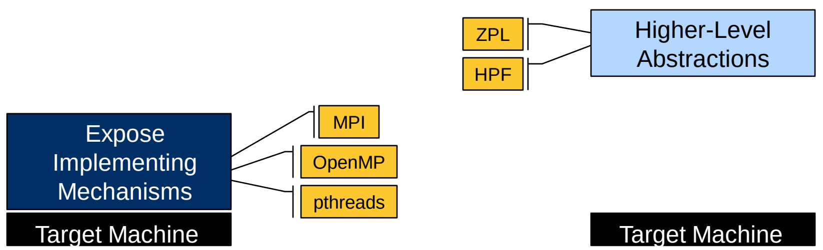
Summarizing Fragmented/SPMD Models

- Advantages:
  - fairly straightforward model of execution
  - relatively easy to implement
  - reasonable performance on commodity architectures
  - portable/ubiquitous
  - lots of important scientific work has been accomplished with them
- Disadvantages:
  - blunt means of expressing parallelism: cooperating executables
  - fails to abstract away architecture / implementing mechanisms
  - obfuscates algorithms with many low-level details
    - error-prone
    - brittle code: difficult to read, maintain, modify, *experiment*
    - “MPI: the assembly language of parallel computing”

Current HPC Programming Notations

	data / control
communication libraries:	
• MPI, MPI-2	fragmented / fragmented/SPMD
• SHMEM, ARMCI, GASNet	fragmented / SPMD
shared memory models:	
• OpenMP, pthreads	global-view / global-view (trivially)
PGAS languages:	
• Co-Array Fortran	fragmented / SPMD
• UPC	global-view / SPMD
• Titanium	fragmented / SPMD
HPCS languages:	
• Chapel	global-view / global-view
• X10 (IBM)	global-view / global-view
• Fortress (Sun)	global-view / global-view

Parallel Programming Models: Two Camps



"Why is everything so painful?"

"Why do my hands feel tied?"

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Multiresolution Language Design

Our Approach: Permit the language to be utilized at multiple levels, as required by the problem/programmer

- provide high-level features and automation for convenience
- provide the ability to drop down to lower, more manual levels
- use appropriate separation of concerns to keep these layers clean

language concepts

Data Parallelism
Distributions
Task Parallelism
Base Language
Locality Control

Target Machine

task scheduling

Stealable Tasks
Suspendable Tasks
Run to Completion
Thread per Task

Target Machine

memory management

Garbage Collection
Region-based
Malloc/Free

Target Machine

Questions?