Abstractions for **Expressive, Efficient** Parallel and Distributed Computing

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Parallel systems

Distributed systems
Parallel systems

Distributed systems

language-based approaches
Parallel systems

Lattice-based data structures (LVars) for deterministic programming
[POPL '14, PLDI '14, FHP '13, WoDet '14]

Distributed systems

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Non-invasive DSLs for productive parallelism
[ECOOP '17]
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Guiding principle:
Find the right high-level abstractions to enable efficient computation

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Book</th>
<th>Shoes</th>
<th>...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

```python
data Item = Book | Shoes | ...
```
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p :: IO (Map Item Int)

p = do cart <- newIORef empty
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     res <- async (readIORef cart)
     wait res
landin:lvar-examples lkuper$ make map-ioref-data-race
ghc -O2 map-ioref-data-race.hs -rtsopts -threaded
[1 of 1] Compiling Main
   ( map-ioref-data-race.hs, map-ioref-data-race.o )
Linking map-ioref-data-race ...
while true: do /map-ioref-data-race +RTS -N2; done
if we want determinism, we have to *share nicely*
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p = do cart <- newIORef empty
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  a2 <- async (atomicModifyIORef_ cart (insert Shoes 1))
  res <- async (readIORef cart)
  wait res
data Item = Book | Shoes | ...

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p = do cart <- newIORef empty
   a1 <- async (atomicModifyIORef_ cart (insert Book 1))
   a2 <- async (atomicModifyIORef_ cart (insert Shoes 1))
   res <- async (do waitBoth a1 a2
                   wait res readIORef cart)
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IVars: single writes, blocking (but exact) reads
[Arvind et al., 1989]
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\textit{IVars}: single writes, blocking (but exact) reads
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\textit{LVars}: multiple \textit{commutative} and \textit{inflationary} writes, blocking \textit{threshold} reads
[FHPC \textquote{`}13]
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\textbf{LVars}: multiple \textit{commutative} and \textit{inflationary} writes, blocking \textit{threshold} reads  
[FHPC '13]

\* actually a bounded join-semilattice
data \text{Item} = \text{Book} \mid \text{Shoes} \mid \ldots

p = do
\begin{align*}
cart & \leftarrow \text{newEmptyMap} \\
\text{fork} \ (\text{insert Shoes 1 cart}) \\
\text{fork} \ (\text{insert Book 2 cart}) \\
\text{getKey Book cart} & \quad \text{-- returns 2}
\end{align*}
data Item = Book | Shoes | ...

p = do
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 Writes must be commutative and inflationary

 Threshold sets must be pairwise incompatible
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library obligations

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```haskell
data Item = Book | Shoes | ...

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library obligations

client guarantee
seen nodes
seen nodes
seen nodes

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
Events are updates that change an LVar's state
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Event handlers listen for events and launch callbacks in response
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quiesce blocks until all callbacks launched by a given handler are done running
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Event handlers listen for events and launch callbacks in response
quiesce blocks until all callbacks launched by a given handler are done running

```
traverse g startNode = do
  seen <- newEmptySet
  h <- newHandler seen
  (\node -> do
    mapM (\v -> insert v seen) (neighbors g node)
    return ()
  )
  insert startNode seen
  quiesce h
  ...
```
freeze: exact non-blocking read

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              return ()
          insert startNode seen)
  quiesce h
  ...
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Attempts to write to a frozen LVar raise a write-after-f\texttt{\underline{f}}reeze\ exception

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      return ()
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  freeze seen
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Attempts to write to a frozen LVar raise a write-after-freeze exception
Two possible outcomes: either the same final value or an exception

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\textbf{Theorem 1} (Quasi-Determinism). If $\sigma \xrightarrow{*} \sigma'$ and $\sigma \xrightarrow{*} \sigma''$, do and neither $\sigma'$ nor $\sigma''$ can take a step, then either:

1. $\sigma' = \sigma''$ up to a permutation on locations $\pi$, or
2. $\sigma' = \text{error}$ or $\sigma'' = \text{error}$.

\[\text{[POPL '14]}\]

\begin{verbatim}
  (insert v seen) (neighbors g node)
  return ()
  insert startNode seen
  quiesce h
  freeze seen
\end{verbatim}
**freeze**: exact non-blocking read

Attempts to write to a frozen LVar raise a write-after-**freeze** exception.

Two possible outcomes: either the same final value or an exception.

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**Theorem 1** (Quasi-Determinism). If $\sigma \rightarrow^* \sigma'$ and $\sigma \rightarrow^* \sigma''$, do not freeze, and neither $\sigma'$ nor $\sigma''$ can take a step, then either:

1. $\sigma' = \sigma''$ up to a permutation on locations $\pi$, or
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---

```haskell
runPar :: Par Det a
runParIO :: Par IO a

-- quiesce
quiesce h = freeze seen
```
**freeze**: exact non-blocking read

Attempts to write to a frozen LVar raise a write-after-`freeze` exception

Two possible outcomes: either the same final value or an exception

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**Theorem 1 (Quasi-Determinism).** If \( \sigma \xrightarrow{*} \sigma' \) and \( \sigma \xrightarrow{*} \sigma'' \), do not take a step, then either:

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---

```
runPar :: Par Det a
runST :: ST s a
runParIO :: Par lvl a
runParThenFreeze :: Par Det a
runParThenFreezeParDet a
```
freezing: exact non-blocking read
Attempts to write to a frozen LVar raise a write-after-freeze exception
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Theorem 1 (Quasi-Determinism). If \( \sigma \xrightarrow{}^* \sigma' \) and \( \sigma \xrightarrow{}^* \sigma'' \), do not terminate in configurations \( S \), and neither \( \sigma' \) nor \( \sigma'' \) can take a step, then either:
1. \( \sigma' = \sigma'' \) up to a permutation on locations \( \pi \), or
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\[ \text{insert } v \ 	ext{seen} \]
\[ \text{quiesce } h \]
\[ \text{freeze seen} \]
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Determinism

\[ \sigma' = \sigma'' \]
Independence

\[
\langle S; e \rangle \leftrightarrow \langle S'; e' \rangle \\
\langle S \sqcup_S S''; e \rangle \leftrightarrow \langle S' \sqcup_S S''; e' \rangle
\]

Determinism
Independence

\[
\langle S; e \rangle \leftrightarrow \langle S'; e' \rangle \\
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\]

Determinism

\[
\sigma' = \sigma''
\]

Frame rule

\[
\{ p \} \ c \ \{ q \} \\
\{ p \ast r \} \ c \ \{ q \ast r \}
\]

[POPL '14]

[O'Hearn et al., 2001]
4.3 The Frame Problem

In the last section of part 3, in proving that one person could get into conversation with another, we were obliged to add the hypothesis that if a person has a telephone he still has it after looking up a number in the telephone book.

[McCarthy and Hayes, 1969]
**Independence**

\[
\langle S; e \rangle \longrightarrow \langle S'; e' \rangle
\]

\[
\langle S \uplus S''; e \rangle \longrightarrow \langle S'; S''; e' \rangle
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\]

### Determinism

\[
\sigma = \sigma'
\]

### Frame rule

\[
\{ p \} \ c \ \{ q \}
\]

\[
\{ p * r \} \ c \ \{ q * r \}
\]

#### 4.3 The Frame Problem

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[McCarthy and Hayes, 1969]
eventual consistency
Dynamo: Amazon’s Highly Available Key-value Store
Giuseppe DeCandia, Deniz Hastorun, Madan Jampani, Gunavardhan Kakulapati, Avinash Lakshman, Alex Pilchin, Swaminathan Sivasubramanian, Peter Vosshall and Werner Vogels
Amazon.com

ABSTRACT
Reliability at massive scale is one of the biggest challenges we face at Amazon.com, one of the largest e-commerce operations in the world; even the slightest outage has significant financial consequences and impacts customer trust. The Amazon.com platform, which provides services for many web sites worldwide, is implemented on top of an infrastructure of tens of thousands of servers and network components located in many datacenters around the world. At this scale, small and large components fail continuously and the way persistent state is managed in the face of these failures drives the reliability and scalability of the software systems.

This paper presents the design and implementation of Dynamo, a highly available key-value storage system that some of Amazon’s core services use to provide an “always-on” experience. To achieve this level of availability, Dynamo sacrifices consistency under certain failure scenarios. It makes extensive use of object versioning and application-assisted conflict resolution in a manner that provides a novel interface for developers to use.

Categories and Subject Descriptors
D.4.2 [Operating Systems]: Storage Management; D.4.5 [Operating Systems]: Reliability; D.4.2 [Operating Systems]: Performance;

General Terms

1. INTRODUCTION
Amazon runs a world-wide e-commerce platform that serves tens of millions customers at peak times using tens of thousands of servers located in many data centers around the world. There are strict operational requirements on Amazon’s platform in terms of performance, reliability and efficiency, and to support continuous growth the platform needs to be highly scalable. Reliability is one of the most important requirements because even the slightest outage has significant financial consequences and impacts customer trust. In addition, to support continuous growth, the platform needs to be highly scalable.

One of the lessons our organization has learned from operating Amazon’s platform is that the reliability and scalability of a system is dependent on how its application state is managed. Amazon uses a highly decentralized, loosely coupled, service oriented architecture consisting of hundreds of services. In this environment there is a particular need for storage technologies that are always available. For example, customers should be able to view and add items to their shopping cart even if disks are failing, network routes are flapping, or data centers are being destroyed by tornados. Therefore, the service responsible for managing shopping carts requires that it can always write to and read from its data store, and that its data needs to be available across multiple data centers.

Dealing with failures in an infrastructure comprised of millions of components is our standard mode of operation; there are always a small but significant number of server and network components that are failing at any given time. As such Amazon’s software systems need to be constructed in a manner that treats failure handling as the normal case without impacting availability or performance.

To meet the reliability and scaling needs, Amazon has developed a number of storage technologies of which the Amazon Simple Storage Service (also available outside of Amazon and known as Amazon S3), is probably the best known. This paper presents the design and implementation of Dynamo, another highly available and scalable distributed data store built for Amazon’s platform. Dynamo is used to manage the state of services that have very high reliability requirements and need tight control over the tradeoffs between availability, consistency, cost-effectiveness and performance. Amazon’s platform has a very diverse set of applications with different storage requirements. A select set of applications requires a storage technology that is flexible enough to let application designers configure their data store appropriately based on these tradeoffs to achieve high availability and guaranteed performance in the most cost effective manner.

There are many services on Amazon’s platform that only need primary-key access to a data store. For many services, such as those that provide best seller lists, shopping carts, customer preferences, session management, sales rank, and product catalog, the common pattern of using a relational database would lead to inefficiencies and limit scale and availability. Dynamo provides a simple primary-key only interface to meet the requirements of these applications.

Dynamo uses a synthesis of well known techniques to achieve scalability and availability: Data is partitioned and replicated using consistent hashing [10], and consistency is facilitated by object versioning [12]. The consistency among replicas during updates is maintained by a quorum-like technique and a decentralized replica synchronization protocol. Dynamo employs...
Since the application is aware of the data schema it can decide on the conflict resolution method that is best suited for its client’s experience. For instance, the application that maintains customer shopping carts can choose to “merge” the conflicting versions and return a single unified shopping cart.
Conflict-Free Replicated Data Types*

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1 INRIA, Paris, France
2 CITI, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal
3 Universidade do Minho, Portugal
4 UPC, Barcelona, Spain
5 LIP6, Paris, France

Abstract. Replicating data under Eventual Consistency (EC) allows any replica to accept updates without remote synchronisation. This ensures performance and scalability in large-scale distributed systems (e.g., clouds). However, published EC approaches are ad-hoc and error-prone. Under a formal Strong Eventual Consistency (SEC) model, we study sufficient conditions for convergence. A data type that satisfies these conditions is called a Conflict-free Replicated Data Type (CRDT). Replicas of any CRDT are guaranteed to converge in a self-stabilising manner, despite any number of failures. This paper formalises two popular approaches (state- and operation-based) and their relevant sufficient conditions. We study a number of useful CRDTs, such as sets with clean semantics, supporting both add and remove operations, and consider in depth the more complex Graph data type. CRDT types can be composed to develop large-scale distributed applications, and have interesting theoretical properties.

Keywords: Eventual Consistency, Replicated Shared Objects, Large-Scale Distributed Systems.

1 Introduction

Replication and consistency are essential features of any large distributed system, such as the WWW, peer-to-peer, or cloud computing platforms. The standard “strong consistency” approach serialises updates in a global total order [11]. This constitutes a performance and scalability bottleneck. Furthermore, strong consistency conflicts with availability and partition-tolerance [5].

When network delays are large or partitioning is an issue, as in delay-tolerant networks, disconnected operation, cloud computing, or P2P systems, eventual consistency promises better availability and performance [17,21]. An update executes at some replica, without synchronisation: later, it is sent to the other replicas.

ABSTRACT

Dynamo: Amazon’s Highly Available Key-value Store

Giuseppe DeCandia, Deniz Hasto, Madan Jampani, Gunavardhan Kakulapati, Avinash Lakshman, Alex Pilchin, Swaminathan Sivasubramanian, Peter Voshall and Werner Vogels

Amazon.com

Dynamo is a highly available key-value store that provides a novel interface for accessing data [1,2]. It is designed to meet the requirements of large-scale, commercial applications with high transactional performance. The design of Dynamo revolves around a number of core principles:

1. Replication: Each data item is replicated across multiple nodes in a distributed system.
2. Consistency: Dynamo supports eventual consistency, allowing updates to be processed in a distributed environment.
3. Performance: Dynamo is designed to provide high performance even under heavy load.

In conclusion, Dynamo provides a robust and scalable platform for building large-scale applications.

[Shapiro et al., SSS ’11]
[DeCandia et al., SOSP ’07]
Dynamo: Amazon’s Highly Available Key-value Store

One of the lessons our organization has learned from operating Amazon’s platform is that the reliability and scalability of a system is dependent on how its application state is managed. Amazon uses a highly decentralized, loosely coupled, service oriented architecture consisting of hundreds of services. In this environment there is a particular need for storage technologies that are always available. For example, customers should be able to view and add items to their shopping cart even if disks are failing, network routes are flapping, or data centers are being tornados. Therefore, the service responsible for managing shopping cart requires that it can always write to and read from its data store, and that its data needs to be available to multiple data centers.

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Meet the reliability and scaling needs, Amazon has developed a number of storage technologies, of which the Amazon Simple Storage Service (also available outside of Amazon and known as Amazon S3), is probably the best known. This paper presents the design and implementation of Dynamo, another highly available and scalable distributed data store built for Amazon’s platform. Dynamo is used to manage the state of services that have very high reliability requirements and need tight control over the consistency, cost-effectiveness and performance. It has a very diverse set of requirements. A select set of software that is flexible enough to allow their data store appropriately achieve high availability and cost effective manner.

Amazon’s platform that only need access to data, shopping carts, customer stores rank, and product catalog, any application would lead to availability. Dynamo provides a mechanism to meet the requirements of Amazon’s platform.

Dynamo techniques to achieve high availability and scalability are partitioned and replicated. Eventual consistency is facilitated by atomicity among replicas during a commit-like technique and a linearizable protocol. Dynamo employs

Abstract

for persistent and immutable data. The Amazon Simple Storage Service (also known as Amazon S3) is the best known system. This paper presents the design and implementation of Dynamo, another highly available and scalable distributed data store built for Amazon’s platform. Dynamo is used to manage the state of services that have very high reliability requirements and need tight control over the consistency, cost-effectiveness and performance. It has a very diverse set of requirements. A select set of software that is flexible enough to allow their data store appropriately achieve high availability and cost effective manner.

An Application is aware of the data schema it manages. A conflict resolution method that is best suited for Amazon’s platform is that the application that maintains the application that maintains the application whose data is accessed. The application that maintains the application that maintains the application whose data is accessed. The application that maintains the application that maintains the application whose data is accessed.

1 Introduction

Replication and consistency are essential features of any large distributed system, such as the WWW, peer-to-peer, or cloud computing platforms. The standard “strong consistency” approach serialises updates in a global total order (STO). This constitutes a performance and scalability bottleneck. Furthermore, strong consistency conflicts with availability and partition tolerance (AP). An update executes at some replica, without synchronisation; later, it is sent to the other replicas.

Keywords: Eventual Consistency, Replicated Shared Objects, Large-Scale Distributed Systems.

D.4.2 [Operating Systems]: Storage Management; D.4.4 [Operating Systems]: Reliability; D.4.2 [Operating Systems]: Performance;

General Terms


[Shapiro et al., SSS ’11]

[DeCandia et al., SOSP ’07]
Deterministic threshold queries of CRDTs

[WoDet '14]
Deterministic *threshold queries* of CRDTs

[WoDet '14]
Parallel systems

Distributed systems

language-based approaches

Lattice-based data structures (LVars) for deterministic programming
[POPL '14, PLDI '14, FHP '13, WoDet '14]

Non-invasive DSLs for productive parallelism
[ECOOP '17]

SMT-based verification of neural networks
[SysML '18]

Guiding principle:
Find the right high-level abstractions to enable efficient computation
Parallel systems

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Guiding principle:
Find the right high-level abstractions to enable efficient computation
Sacrifice generality for productivity and performance?

High-performance DSLs built with, e.g., Delite [Brown et al., 2011]
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Sacrifice generality for productivity and performance?
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High-performance DSLs built with, e.g., Delite [Brown et al., 2011]

Source: Olukotun et al., 2012
Sacrifice \textit{generality} for \textit{productivity} and \textit{performance}? \\

Source: Olukotun et al., 2012
High-performance DSLs built with, e.g., Delite [Brown et al., 2011]

But:
learning curve, functionality cliffs

Sacrifice **generality** for **productivity** and **performance**?
ParallelAccelerator

[ECOOP '17]
ParallelAccelerator
[ECOOP ’17]

A non-invasive DSL embedded in Julia

Accelerates existing language constructs with @acc

Supports additional runStencil construct

A combination compiler-library solution

Library mode for development and debugging

Native mode for high performance at deployment
ParallelAccelerator
[ECOOP ’17]

A non-invasive DSL embedded in Julia

Accelerates existing language constructs with @acc

Supports additional runStencil construct

A combination compiler-library solution

Library mode for development and debugging

Native mode for high performance at deployment

github.com/IntelLabs/ParallelAccelerator.jl
using ParallelAccelerator

@acc function blackscholes(sptprice, strike, rate, volatility, time)
    logterm = log10(sptprice ./ strike)
    powterm = .5 .* volatility .* volatility
    den = volatility .* sqrt(time)
    d1 = (((rate .+ powterm) .* time) .+ logterm) ./ den
    d2 = d1 .- den
    NofXd1 = 0.5 .+ 0.5 .* erf(0.707106781 .* d1)
    NofXd2 = 0.5 .+ 0.5 .* erf(0.707106781 .* d2)
    futureValue = strike .* exp(- rate .* time)
    c1 = futureValue .* NofXd2
    call = sptprice .* NofXd1 .- c1
    put = call .- futureValue .+ sptprice
end

put = blackscholes(sptprice, initStrike, rate, volatility, time)
using ParallelAccelerator

@acc function blackscholes(sptprice, strike, rate, volatility, time)

    logterm = log10(sptprice ./ strike)
    powterm = .5 .* volatility .* volatility
    den = volatility .* sqrt(time)
    d1 = (((rate + powterm) .* time) + logterm) ./ den
    d2 = d1 - den
    NofXd1 = 0.5 + 0.5 .* erf(0.707106781 .* d1)
    NofXd2 = 0.5 + 0.5 .* erf(0.707106781 .* d2)
    futureValue = strike .* exp(- rate .* time)
    c1 = futureValue .* NofXd2
    call = sptprice .* NofXd1 - c1
    put = call - futureValue + sptprice

end

put = blackscholes(sptprice, initStrike, rate, volatility, time)
```plaintext
using ParallelAccelerator

@acc function blackscholes(sptprice, strike, rate, volatility, time)
    logterm = log10(sptprice ./ strike)
    powterm = .5 .* volatility .* volatility
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    d2 = d1 -. den
    NofXd1 = 0.5 + 0.5 .* erf(0.707106781 .* d1)
    NofXd2 = 0.5 + 0.5 .* erf(0.707106781 .* d2)
    futureValue = strike .* exp(- rate .* time)
    c1 = futureValue .* NofXd2
    call = sptprice .* NofXd1 -. c1
    put = call -. futureValue .+ sptprice
end

put = blackscholes(sptprice, initStrike, rate, volatility, time)
```
@acc example: Black-Scholes option pricing

```plaintext
using ParallelAccelerator

@acc function blackscholes(sptprice, strike, rate, volatility, time)
    logterm = log10(sptprice ./ strike)
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    call = sptprice .* NofXd1 .- c1
    put = call .- futureValue .+ sptprice
end

put = blackscholes(sptprice, initStrike, rate, volatility, time)
```

Translates pointwise array operations like .+, .-, .*, and ./ to data-parallel map operations
@acc example: Black-Scholes option pricing

Running on arrays of 100 million elements

2 Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2699 v3 @ 2.3GHz processors, 18 cores each (36 cores total) | 128 GB RAM
Julia version 0.5.0; Matlab version R2015a
runStencil example: Gaussian blur

using ParallelAccelerator

@acc function blur(img, iterations)
    buf = Array(Float32, size(img)...)  
    runStencil(buf, img, iterations, :oob_skip) do b, a
        b[0,0] =
            (a[-2,-2] * 0.003 + a[-1,-2] * 0.0133 + a[0,-2] * ...  
             a[-2,-1] * 0.0133 + a[-1,-1] * 0.0596 + a[0,-1] * ...  
             a[-2, 0] * 0.0219 + a[-1, 0] * 0.0983 + a[0, 0] * ...  
             a[-2, 1] * 0.0133 + a[-1, 1] * 0.0596 + a[0, 1] * ...  
             a[-2, 2] * 0.003  + a[-1, 2] * 0.0133 + a[0, 2] * ...  
            return a, b
    end
    return img
end

img = blur(img, iterations)
using ParallelAccelerator

@acc function blur(img, iterations)
    buf = Array(Float32, size(img)...) 
    runStencil(buf, img, iterations, :oob_skip) do b, a 
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        return a, b
    end
    return img
end

img = blur(img, iterations)
using ParallelAccelerator

@acc function blur(img, iterations)
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             a[-2, 2] * 0.003  + a[-1, 2] * 0.0133 + a[0, 2] * ... 
            )
        return a, b
    end
    return img
end

img = blur(img, iterations)
runStencil example: Gaussian blur

Running on a 7095x5322 source image for 100 iterations

2 Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2699 v3 @ 2.3GHz processors, 18 cores each (36 cores total) | 28 GB RAM
Julia version 0.5.0; Matlab version R2015a
Impact of ParallelAccelerator...
Impact of Parallel Accelerator...

Latte: A Language, Compiler, and Runtime for Elegant and Efficient Deep Neural Networks

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HPAT: High Performance Analytics with Scripting Ease-of-Use

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ABSTRACT

Big data analytics requires high programmer productivity and high performance simultaneously on large-scale clusters. However, current big data analytics frameworks (e.g., Apache Spark) have prohibitive runtime overheads since they are library-based. We introduce a novel auto-parallelizing compiler approach that exploits the characteristics of the data analytics domain such as the map/reduce parallel pattern and is robust, unlike previous auto-parallelization methods. Using this approach, we build High Performance Analytics Toolkit (HPAT), which parallelizes high-level scripting (Julia) programs automatically, generates efficient MPI/C++ code, and provides resiliency. Furthermore, it provides automatic optimizations for scripting programs, such as fusion of array operations. Thus, HPAT is 369x to 2033x faster than Spark on the Cori supercomputer as MATLAB, R, Python, and Julia since they express mathematical operations naturally and are the most productive languages in practice [14, 30]. High performance requires efficient execution on large-scale distributed-memory clusters due to extreme dataset sizes.

Currently, there is a significant productivity and performance gap in the big data analytics domain. A typical High Performance Computing (HPC) approach of writing low-level codes (e.g., MPI/C++) is beyond the expertise of most data scientists and is not practical in their interactive workflows. Existing big data analytics frameworks such as Apache Hadoop [37] and Apache Spark [40] provide better productivity for big data analytics on clusters using the MapReduce programming paradigm [15]. However, this productivity comes at the cost of performance as these frameworks are orders of mag-
Impact of ParallelAccelerator...

Parallel Python with Numba and ParallelAccelerator

Tuesday, December 12th 2017 in Data Science Blog

With CPU core counts on the rise, Python developers and data scientists often struggle to take advantage of all of the computing power available to them. CPUs with 20 or more cores are now available, and at the extreme end, the Intel® Xeon Phi™ has 68 cores with 4-way Hyper-Threading. (That's 272 active threads!)

To use multiple cores in a Python program, there are three options. You can use multiple processes, multiple threads, or both. Multiple processes are a common way to split work across multiple CPU cores in Python. Each process runs independently of the others, but there is the...
Parallel systems

Distributed systems

Lattice-based data structures (LVars) for deterministic programming
[POPL '14, PLDI '14, FHP '13, WoDet '14]

Non-invasive DSLs for productive parallelism
[ECOOP '17]

Guiding principle:
Find the right high-level abstractions to enable efficient computation
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Guiding principle:
Find the right high-level abstractions to enable efficient computation
Policy Compression for Aircraft Collision Avoidance Systems

Kyle D. Julian*, Jessica Lopez1, Jeffrey S. Bush1, Michael P. Owen1 and Mykel J. Kochenderfer*

1Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 94305
2Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University, Laurel, MD, 20723
3Lincoln Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lexington, MA, 02420

Abstract—One approach to designing the decision making logic for an aircraft collision avoidance system is to frame the problem as Markov decision process and optimize the system using dynamic programming. The resulting strategy can be represented as a numeric table. This methodology has been used in the development of the ACAS X family of collision avoidance systems for manned and unmanned aircraft. However, due to the high dimensionality of the state space, discretizing the state variables can lead to very large tables. To improve storage efficiency, we propose two approaches for compressing the lookup table. The first approach exploits redundancy in the table. The table is decomposed into a set of lower-dimensional tables, some of which can be represented by single tables in areas where the lower-dimensional tables are identical or nearly identical with respect to a similarity metric. The second approach uses a deep neural network to learn a complex non-linear function approximation of the table. With the use of an asymmetrical loss function and a is extremely large, requiring hundreds of gigabytes of floating point storage. A simple technique to reduce the size of the score table is to downsample the table after dynamic programming. To minimize the deterioration in decision quality, states are removed in areas where the variation between values in the table are smooth. This allows the table to be downsampled with only minor impact on overall decision performance. The downsampling reduces the size of the table by a factor of 180 from that produced by dynamic programming. For the rest of this paper, we refer to the downsampled ACAS Xa horizontal table as our baseline, original table.

Even after downsampling, the current table requires over 2GB of floating point storage. Discretized score tables like this have been compressed with Gaussian processes [6] and...
Policy Compression for Aircraft Collision Avoidance Systems

to a similarity metric. The second approach uses a deep neural network to learn a complex non-linear function approximation of the table. With the use of an asymmetric loss function and a preserving the relative preferences of the possible advisories for each state. As a result, the table can be approximately represented by only the parameters of the network, which reduces the required storage space by a factor of 1000. Simulation studies show that system performance is very similar using either concrete representation. Although there are significant certification concerns with neural network representations, which may be addressed in the future, these results indicate a promising way
Input: sensor data once per second

Output: one of five resolution advisories (COC, weak left, weak right, strong left, strong right)

Source: www.ll.mit.edu/publications/technotes/TechNote_ACASX.pdf
~120M 7-dimensional states

- $\rho$: distance from ownship to intruder
- $\theta$: angle to intruder
- $\psi$: heading angle of intruder
- $v_{\text{own}}$: speed of ownship
- $v_{\text{int}}$: speed of intruder
- $\tau$: time until loss of vertical separation
- $a_{\text{prev}}$: previous advisory

Source: www.ll.mit.edu/publications/technotes/TechNote_ACASX.pdf
\[ \sim 120M \text{ 7-dimensional states} \]

\( \rho \): distance from ownship to intruder

\( \theta \): angle to intruder

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\( v_{\text{own}} \): speed of ownship

\( v_{\text{int}} \): speed of intruder

\( \tau \): time until loss of vertical separation

\( a_{\text{prev}} \): previous advisory

Needs 100s of GBs of storage—too big to fit in memory on verified hardware!

Source: [Julian et al., 2016](www.ll.mit.edu/publications/technotes/TechNote_ACASX.pdf)
9 fully-connected layers with ReLU activations ($f(x) = \max(0, x)$)
9 fully-connected layers with ReLU activations ($f(x) = \max(0, x)$)
Verification strategy

**SAT**: determine if a Boolean formula (containing only Boolean variables, parens, $\land$, $\lor$, $\neg$) is satisfiable

**SMT**: determine satisfiability of a formula with respect to some theory (e.g., theory of linear real arithmetic)

---

*SMT Solver*

Input:
- **SMT formula**
- **Property to be shown**
  - “if intruder is near and approaching from left, network will advise ‘strong right’”

Output:
- **satisfiable**
- **unsatisfiable**
The virtues of laziness

**Eager approach:** convert whole SMT formula to SAT formula immediately, then solve with SAT solver

**Lazy approach:** use *theory solvers*, each specific to a particular theory

Source: fm.csl.sri.com/SSFT16/slides.pdf
The virtues of laziness

**Eager approach:** convert whole SMT formula to SAT formula immediately, then solve with SAT solver

**Lazy approach:** use theory solvers, each specific to a particular theory
The virtues of laziness

**Eager approach**: convert whole SMT formula to SAT formula immediately, then solve with SAT solver

**Lazy approach**: use *theory solvers*, each specific to a particular theory

To exploit domain knowledge and unlock efficiency, we need *theory solvers* specifically for handling neural networks

[SysML '18]
Lazily handling ReLU activations [Katz et al., 2017]

Description of network

Property to be shown

“if intruder is near and approaching from left, network will advise ‘strong right’”

SMT formula

... (n == 5 + m) ∨ (p ∧ ¬q) ...

SMT Solver

satisfiable

unsatisfiable
Lazily handling ReLU activations [Katz et al., 2017]

"if intruder is near and approaching from left, network will advise ‘strong right’"

\[ ... (n = 5 + m) \lor (p \land \neg q) ... \]

LP solver  Solver core  SAT solver

satisfiable  unsatisfiable
Lazily handling ReLU activations [Katz et al., 2017]

```
... (n == 5 + m) v (p ∧ ¬q) ...
```

ReLU constraints like \( x = \max(0, y) \) can only be encoded as disjunctions!
Lazily handling ReLU activations [Katz et al., 2017]

Description of network

```
if intruder is near and
approaching from left,
network will advise
‘strong right’
```

Property to be shown

```
... (n == 5 + m) v (p \land \neg q) ...
```

SMT formula

LP + ReLU solver
Solver core
SAT solver

satisfiable
unsatisfiable

ReLU constraints like \( x = \max(0, y) \) can only be encoded as disjunctions!
Lazily handling ReLU activations [Katz et al., 2017]

Description of network

Property to be shown

“if intruder is near and approaching from left, network will advise ‘strong right’”

SMT formula

\[ \ldots (n = 5 + m) \lor (p \land \neg q) \ldots \]

SMT solver

LP + ReLU solver

Solver core

SAT solver

satisfiable

unsatisfiable

ReLU constraints like \( x = \max(0, y) \) can only be encoded as disjunctions!
Lazily handling ReLU activations [Katz et al., 2017]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property description</th>
<th>Does it hold?</th>
<th>Solver time</th>
<th>Max. ReLU split depth (out of 300)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“if intruder is directly ahead and is moving towards ownship, network will not advise COC”</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>7.8h</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“if intruder is near and approaching from left, network advises ‘strong right’”</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>5.4h</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“if intruder is sufficiently far away, network advises COC”</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>50h</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“for large vertical separation and previous ‘weak left’ advisory, network will either advise COC or continue advising ‘weak left’”</td>
<td>✗️</td>
<td>11h</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...and more

ReLU constraints like $x = \max(0, y)$ can only be encoded as disjunctions!
Lazily handling ReLU activations [Katz et al., 2017]

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</tbody>
</table>

Extension: Handle non-ReLU activations using piecewise-linear approximations [SysML '18]

ReLU constraints like $x = \max(0, y)$ can only be encoded as disjunctions!
A future research agenda
A future research agenda

Develop new **domain-specific theory solvers** for parallel and distributed computing problems.
A future research agenda

Develop new domain-specific theory solvers for parallel and distributed computing problems

Parallelize and distribute SMT solving with strong determinism guarantees
A future research agenda

Develop new **domain-specific theory solvers** for parallel and distributed computing problems

Parallelize and distribute SMT solving with strong determinism guarantees

Long term: **Democratize solver hacking!**
Create tools to make it *really easy* to build high-performance domain-specific solvers

Source: Olukotun et al., 2012
Languages and Abstractions for Distributed Programming

Welcome to CMPS290S, fall 2018 edition!

For more information, read the first-day-of-class course overview, then check out the reading list.

Blog posts

- Mixing Consistency in a Programmable Storage System
- Conflict resolution in collaborative text editing with operational transformation (Part 1 of 2)
- Manufacturing Consensus: An Overview of Distributed Consensus Implementations
- Time is Partial, or: why do distributed consistency models and weak memory models look so similar, anyway?
- Implementing a Garbage-Collected Graph CRDT (Part 1 of 2)
- Welcome to the "Languages and Abstractions for Distributed Programming" blog
Thank you!

Email: lkuper@ucsc.edu
Papers, etc.: users.soe.ucsc.edu/~lkuper/
Research blog: composition.al

Lattice-based data structures (LVars) for deterministic programming
[POPL '14, PLDI '14, FHP '13, WoDet '14]

Non-invasive DSLs for productive parallelism
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SMT-based verification of safety-critical neural networks
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Guiding principle:
Find the right high-level abstractions to enable efficient computation

Special thanks to Jason Reed for drawings!