Lecture 15 – Vectors

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Last Time Lecture 14: Multithreading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (processor cycle)</th>
<th>Superscalar</th>
<th>Fine-Grained</th>
<th>Coarse-Grained</th>
<th>Multiprocessing</th>
<th>Simultaneous Multithreading</th>
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</table>

- Thread 1
- Thread 2
- Thread 3
- Thread 4
- Thread 5
- Idle slot
Supercomputer Applications

- Typical application areas
  - Military research (nuclear weapons, cryptography)
  - Scientific research
  - Weather forecasting
  - Oil exploration
  - Industrial design (car crash simulation)
  - Bioinformatics
  - Cryptography

- All involve huge computations on large data set

- Supercomputers: CDC6600, CDC7600, Cray-1, ...

- In 70s-80s, Supercomputer ≡ Vector Machine
Vector Supercomputers

- Epitomized by Cray-1, 1976:
  - Scalar Unit
    - Load/Store Architecture
  - Vector Extension
    - Vector Registers
    - Vector Instructions
  - Implementation
    - Hardwired Control
    - Highly Pipelined Functional Units
    - Interleaved Memory System
    - No Data Caches
    - No Virtual Memory

[©Cray Research, 1976]
Vector Programming Model

**Scalar Registers**

- x31
- x0

**Vector Registers**

- v31
- v0

**Vector Length Register**

- vl

**Vector Arithmetic Instructions**

- vadd v3, v1, v2

**Vector Load and Store Instructions**

- vls v1, (x1), x2

- Base, x1

- Stride, x2

- Memory

- Vector Register

- [0] [1] [2] [VLMAX-1]
# Vector Code Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># C code</th>
<th># Scalar Code</th>
<th># Vector Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>for (i=0; i&lt;64; i++) C[i] = A[i] + B[i];</td>
<td>li x4, 64&lt;br&gt;loop:&lt;br&gt;fld f1, 0(x1)&lt;br&gt;fld f2, 0(x2)&lt;br&gt;fadd.d f3,f1,f2&lt;br&gt;fsd f3, 0(x3)&lt;br&gt;addi x1, x1, 8&lt;br&gt;addi x2, x2, 8&lt;br&gt;addi x3, x3, 8&lt;br&gt;subi x4, x4, 1&lt;br&gt;bnez x4, loop</td>
<td>li x4, 64&lt;br&gt;vsetvl x4&lt;br&gt;vld v1, (x1)&lt;br&gt;vld v2, (x2)&lt;br&gt;vadd v3,v1,v2&lt;br&gt;vst v3, (x3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cray-1 (1976)

Single-Port Memory
- 16 banks of 64-bit words
- 8-bit SECDED
- 80MW/sec data load/store
- 320MW/sec instruction buffer refill

64 Element Vector Registers

64 Instruction Buffers

memory bank cycle 50 ns  processor cycle 12.5 ns (80MHz)
Vector Instruction Set Advantages

- **Compact**
  - one short instruction encodes N operations

- **Expressive, tells hardware that these N operations:**
  - are independent
  - use the same functional unit
  - access disjoint registers
  - access registers in same pattern as previous instructions
  - access a contiguous block of memory (unit-stride load/store)
  - access memory in a known pattern (strided load/store)

- **Scalable**
  - can run same code on more parallel pipelines (lanes)
Vector Arithmetic Execution

• Use deep pipeline (=> fast clock) to execute element operations
• Simplifies control of deep pipeline because elements in vector are independent (=> no hazards!)

\[ v_3 \leftarrow v_1 \times v_2 \]

*Six-stage multiply pipeline*
Vector Instruction Execution

vadd vc, va, vb

Execution using one pipelined functional unit


Execution using four pipelined functional units


Interleaved Vector Memory System

- Bank busy time: Time before bank ready to accept next request
- Cray-1, 16 banks, 4 cycle bank busy time, 12 cycle latency
Vector Unit Structure

Functional Unit

Vector Registers

Elements 0, 4, 8, ...

Elements 1, 5, 9, ...

Elements 2, 6, 10,

Elements 3, 7, 11,

Memory Subsystem

Lane
T0 Vector Microprocessor (UCB/ICSI, 1995)

Vector register elements striped over lanes
Vector Instruction Parallelism

- Can overlap execution of multiple vector instructions
  - example machine has 32 elements per vector register and 8 lanes

Complete 24 operations/cycle while issuing 1 short instruction/cycle
Vector Chaining

- Vector version of register bypassing
  - introduced with Cray-1

```
vld  v1
vmul v3,v1,v2
vadd v5,v3,v4
```
Vector Chaining Advantage

- Without chaining, must wait for last element of result to be written before starting dependent instruction.

- With chaining, can start dependent instruction as soon as first result appears.
Vector Startup

- Two components of vector startup penalty
  - functional unit latency (time through pipeline)
  - dead time or recovery time (time before another vector instruction can start down pipeline)

Functional Unit Latency

First Vector Instruction

Dead Time

Second Vector Instruction
**Dead Time and Short Vectors**

*Cray C90, Two lanes*

- 4-cycle dead time
- Maximum efficiency 94% with 128-element vectors

*T0, Eight lanes*

- No dead time
- 100% efficiency with 8-element vectors

*Cray C90, Two lanes*

- 4-cycle dead time
- Maximum efficiency 94% with 128-element vectors
Vector Memory-Memory versus Vector Register Machines

- Vector memory-memory instructions hold all vector operands in main memory
- The first vector machines, CDC Star-100 ('73) and TI ASC ('71), were memory-memory machines
- Cray-1 ('76) was first vector register machine

Example Source Code
for (i=0; i<N; i++)
{
    C[i] = A[i] + B[i];
    D[i] = A[i] - B[i];
}

Vector Memory-Memory Code
vadd (C), (A), (B)
vsub (D), (A), (B)

Vector Register Code
vld V1, (A)
vld V2, (B)
vadd V3, V1, V2
vst V3, (C)
vsub V4, V1, V2
vst V4, (D)
Vector Memory-Memory vs. Vector Register Machines

- Vector memory-memory architectures (VMMA) require greater main memory bandwidth, why?
  - All operands must be read in and out of memory
- VMMAs make it difficult to overlap execution of multiple vector operations, why?
  - Must check dependencies on memory addresses
- VMMAs incur greater startup latency
  - Scalar code was faster on CDC Star-100 for vectors < 100 elements
  - For Cray-1, vector/scalar breakeven point was around 2-4 elements
- Apart from CDC follow-ons (Cyber-205, ETA-10) all major vector machines since Cray-1 have had vector register architectures
  (we ignore vector memory-memory from now on)
CS152 Administrivia

- PS 4 out today, due Monday April 5
- Lab 3 due Monday April 5

- No lectures or sections next week!
  - Spring Break (March 22-26)
CS252 Administrivia

- Readings on OoO architectures this Thursday
Automatic Code Vectorization

for (i=0; i < N; i++)
    C[i] = A[i] + B[i];

Vectorization is a massive compile-time reordering of operation sequencing
⇒ requires extensive loop-dependence analysis.
**Vector Stripmining**

**Problem:** Vector registers have finite length

**Solution:** Break loops into pieces that fit in registers, “Stripmining”

```assembly
for (i=0; i<N; i++)
    C[i] = A[i] + B[i];

A | B | C
---|---|---

for (i=0; i<N; i++)
    C[i] = A[i] + B[i];
```

```assembly
and $x1, xN, 63 # N mod 64$

vsetvl $x1 # Do remainder

loop:
    vld $v1, (xA)$
    slli $x2, x1, 3 # Multiply by 8$
    add $xA, xA, x2 # Bump pointer$
    vld $v2, (xB)$
    add $xB, xB, x2$
    vadd $v3, v1, v2$
    vst $v3, (xC)$
    add $xC, xC, x2$
    sub $xN, xN, x1 # Subtract elements$
    li $x1, 64$
    vsetvl $x1 # Reset full length$
    bgtz $xN, loop # Any more to do?
```
Vector Conditional Execution

Problem: Want to vectorize loops with conditional code:

```c
for (i=0; i<N; i++)
    if (A[i]>0) then
        A[i] = B[i];
```

Solution: Add vector *mask* (or *flag*) registers
- vector version of predicate registers, 1 bit per element
...and *maskable* vector instructions
- vector operation becomes bubble (“NOP”) at elements where mask bit is clear

Code example:
```c
  cvm              # Turn on all elements
  vld vA, (xA)    # Load entire A vector
  vgt vA, f0      # Set bits in mask register where A>0
  vld vA, (xB)    # Load B vector into A under mask
  vst vA, (xA)    # Store A back to memory under mask
```
Masked Vector Instructions

Simple Implementation

– execute all N operations, turn off result writeback according to mask

\[
\begin{align*}
&M[1]=1 & \quad C[1] \\
&M[0]=0 & \quad C[0]
\end{align*}
\]

Density-Time Implementation

– scan mask vector and only execute elements with non-zero masks

\[
\begin{align*}
&M[7]=1 \\
&M[6]=0 \\
&M[5]=1 \\
&M[4]=1 \\
&M[3]=0 \\
&M[2]=0 \\
&M[1]=1 \\
&M[0]=0
\end{align*}
\]

\[\text{C[1]} \quad \text{Write data port}\]
Compress/Expand Operations

- Compress packs non-masked elements from one vector register contiguously at start of destination vector register
  - population count of mask vector gives packed vector length
- Expand performs inverse operation

Used for density-time conditionals and also for general selection operations
Vector Reductions

**Problem:** Loop-carried dependence on reduction variables

```plaintext
sum = 0;
for (i=0; i<N; i++)
    sum += A[i];  # Loop-carried dependence on sum
```

**Solution:** Re-associate operations if possible, use binary tree to perform reduction

```plaintext
# Rearrange as:
sum[0:VL-1] = 0         # Vector of VL partial sums
for (i=0; i<N; i+=VL)    # Stripmine VL-sized chunks
    sum[0:VL-1] += A[i:i+VL-1]; # Vector sum
# Now have VL partial sums in one vector register
do {
    VL = VL/2;           # Halve vector length
    sum[0:VL-1] += sum[VL:2*VL-1] # Halve no. partials
} while (VL>1)
```
Vector Scatter/Gather

Want to vectorize loops with indirect accesses:

\[
\text{for } (i=0; i<N; i++)
\]
\[
A[i] = B[i] + C[D[i]]
\]

Indexed load instruction (\textit{Gather})

\begin{align*}
\text{vld } vD, (xD) & \quad \# \text{ Load indices in D vector} \\
\text{vlx } vC, (xC), vD & \quad \# \text{ Load indexed from } xC \text{ base} \\
\text{vld } vB, (xB) & \quad \# \text{ Load } B \text{ vector} \\
\text{vadd } vA, vB, vC & \quad \# \text{ Do add} \\
\text{vst } vA, (xA) & \quad \# \text{ Store result}
\end{align*}
Histogram with Scatter/Gather

Histogram example:

```c
for (i=0; i<N; i++)
    A[B[i]]++;
```

Is following a correct translation?

```c
vld vB, (xB)    # Load indices in B vector
vlx vA, (xA), vB # Gather initial A values
vadd vA, vA, 1   # Increment
vsx vA, (xA), vB # Scatter incremented values
```
Vector Memory Models

- Some vector machines have a very relaxed memory model, e.g.
  
  \begin{verbatim}
  vst v1, (x1)  # Store vector to x1  
vld v2, (x1)   # Load vector from x1
  
  – No guarantee that elements of v2 will have value of elements of v1 even when 
    store and load execute by same processor!
  \end{verbatim}

- So require explicit memory barrier or fence
  
  \begin{verbatim}
  vst v1, (x1)  # Store vector to x1  
fence        # Enforce ordering s->l  
vld v2, (x1)   # Load vector from x1
  \end{verbatim}

Vector machines support highly parallel memory systems (multiple 
lanes and multiple load and store units) with long latency (100+ clock 
cycles)

- hardware coherence checks would be prohibitively expensive
- vectorizing compiler can eliminate most dependencies
**Packed SIMD Extensions**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>64b</th>
<th>32b</th>
<th>32b</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16b</td>
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<tr>
<td>8b</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Very short vectors added to existing ISAs for microprocessors
- Use existing 64-bit registers split into 2x32b or 4x16b or 8x8b
  - Lincoln Labs TX-2 from 1957 had 36b datapath split into 2x18b or 4x9b
  - Newer designs have wider registers
    - 128b for PowerPC Altivec, Intel SSE2/3/4
    - 256b/512b for Intel AVX
- Single instruction operates on all elements within register

4x16b adds

```
16b + 16b + 16b + 16b
```

```
16b + 16b + 16b + 16b
```
Packed SIMD versus Vectors

- **Limited instruction set:**
  - no vector length control
  - no strided load/store or scatter/gather
  - unit-stride loads must be aligned to 64/128-bit boundary

- **Limited vector register length:**
  - requires superscalar dispatch to keep multiply/add/load units busy
  - loop unrolling to hide latencies increases register pressure

- **Trend towards fuller vector support in microprocessors**
  - Better support for misaligned memory accesses
  - Support of double-precision (64-bit floating-point)
  - New Intel AVX spec (announced April 2008), 256b vector registers (expandable up to 1024b), gather added, scatter to follow
  - ARM Scalable Vector Extensions (SVE)
Acknowledgements

- This course is partly inspired by previous MIT 6.823 and Berkeley CS252 computer architecture courses created by my collaborators and colleagues:
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