

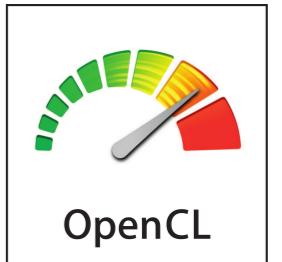
OCAL: An Abstraction for Host-Code Programming with OpenCL and CUDA

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Motivation

- OpenCL and CUDA are state-of-the-art approaches to programming modern multi- and many-core devices.
- OpenCL targets a broad range of devices; CUDA is for NVIDIA devices only (better performance than OpenCL).
- **Common problem:** *Host Code* is required for executing OpenCL/CUDA programs (a.k.a. *kernel*).



Implementing host code is cumbersome and tedious because of:

- boilerplate low-level commands, e.g., for memory allocations and data transfers;
- explicitly managing memory and synchronization (of multiple devices);
- mixing OpenCL and CUDA host code for systems with devices from different vendors;
- data transfer optimizations, e.g., using *pinned/unified memory*.

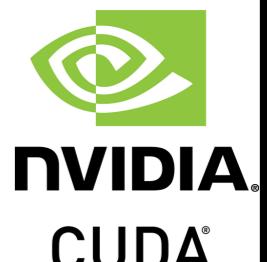
Example: CUDA Host Code For *Parallel Reduction*

Original NVIDIA CUDA kernel for parallel reduction:

```
__global__ static
void reduceKernel(float *d_Result, float *d_Input, int N)
{
    const int      tid = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
    const int threadN = gridDim.x * blockDim.x;
    float         sum = 0;

    for (int pos = tid; pos < N; pos += threadN)
        sum += d_Input[pos];

    d_Result[tid] = sum;
}
```



Example: CUDA Host Code For Parallel Reduction

Excerpt of original CUDA host code for executing the reduction kernel:

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    // initialization
    int i, j, gpuBase, GPU_N;
    cudaGetDeviceCount(&GPU_N);
    //...
    /* ... prepare input data ... */

    // Allocate device and host memory
    for (i = 0; i < GPU_N; i++) {
        cudaSetDevice(i);
        cudaStreamCreate(&plan[i].stream);
        cudaMalloc((void **)&plan[i].d_Data, plan[i].dataN *
sizeof(float));
        cudaMalloc((void **)&plan[i].d_Sum, ACCUM_N *
sizeof(float));
        cudaMallocHost((void **)&plan[i].h_Sum_from_device,
ACCUM_N * sizeof(float));
        cudaMallocHost((void **)&plan[i].h_Data, plan[i].dataN *
sizeof(float));
        for (j = 0; j < plan[i].dataN; j++)
            plan[i].h_Data[j] = (float)rand()/(float)RAND_MAX;
    }

    // Perform data transfers and start device computations
    for (i = 0; i < GPU_N; i++) {
        cudaSetDevice(i);
        cudaMemcpyAsync(plan[i].d_Data, plan[i].h_Data,
plan[i].dataN * sizeof(float), cudaMemcpyHostToDevice,
plan[i].stream);
        reduceKernel<<<BLOCK_N, THREAD_N, 0,
plan[i].stream>>>(plan[i].d_Sum, plan[i].d_Data, plan[i].dataN);
        cudaMemcpyAsync(plan[i].h_Sum_from_device,
plan[i].d_Sum, ACCUM_N * sizeof(float), cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost,
plan[i].stream);
    }
}
```



```
// combine GPUs' results
for (i = 0; i < GPU_N; i++) {
    float sum;
    cudaSetDevice(i);

    cudaStreamSynchronize(plan[i].stream);
    sum = 0;
    for (j = 0; j < ACCUM_N; j++)
        sum +=
plan[i].h_Sum_from_device[j];
    *(plan[i].h_Sum) = (float)sum;

    cudaFreeHost(plan[i].h_Sum_from_device);
    cudaFree(plan[i].d_Sum);
    cudaFree(plan[i].d_Data);
    cudaStreamDestroy(plan[i].stream);
}

/* ... Compare GPU and CPU results ... */
}
```

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            plan[i].h_Data[j] = (float)rand()/(float)RAND_MAX;
    }

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    for (i = 0; i < GPU_N; i++) {
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        cudaMemcpyAsync(plan[i].d_Data, plan[i].h_Data,
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plan[i].d_Sum, ACCUM_N * sizeof(float), cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost,
plan[i].stream);
    }
}
```



```
// combine GPUs' results
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    float sum;
    cudaSetDevice(i);

    cudaStreamSynchronize(plan[i].stream);
    sum = 0;
    for (j = 0; j < ACCUM_N; j++)
        sum +=
plan[i].h_Sum_from_device[j];
    *(plan[i].h_Sum) = (float)sum;

    cudaFreeHost(plan[i].h_Sum_from_device);
    cudaFree(plan[i].d_Sum);
    cudaFree(plan[i].d_Data);
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}

/* ... Compare GPU and CPU results ... */
}
```

**Boilerplate
low-level functions
for**

Example: CUDA Host Code For Parallel Reduction

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{
    // initialization
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    cudaGetDeviceCount(&GPU_N);
    //...
    /* ... prepare input data ... */

    // Allocate device and host memory
    for (i = 0; i < GPU_N; i++) {
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            plan[i].h_Data[j] = (float)rand()/(float)RAND_MAX;
    }

    // Perform data transfers and start device computations
    for (i = 0; i < GPU_N; i++) {
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        cudaMemcpyAsync(plan[i].h_Sum_from_device,
plan[i].d_Sum, ACCUM_N * sizeof(float), cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost,
plan[i].stream);
    }
}
```



```
// combine GPUs' results
for (i = 0; i < GPU_N; i++) {
    float sum;
    cudaSetDevice(i);

    cudaStreamSynchronize(plan[i].stream);
    sum = 0;
    for (j = 0; j < ACCUM_N; j++)
        sum +=
plan[i].h_Sum_from_device[j];
    *(plan[i].h_Sum) = (float)sum;

    cudaFreeHost(plan[i].h_Sum_from_device);
    cudaFree(plan[i].d_Sum);
    cudaFree(plan[i].d_Data);
    cudaStreamDestroy(plan[i].stream);
}

/* ... Compare GPU and CPU results ... */
}
```

**Boilerplate
low-level functions
for
(de)allocating
device/host memory**

Example: CUDA Host Code For Parallel Reduction

Excerpt of original CUDA host code for executing the reduction kernel:

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    // initialization
    int i, j, gpuBase, GPU_N;
    cudaGetDeviceCount(&GPU_N);
    //...
    /* ... prepare input data ... */

    // Allocate device and host memory
    for (i = 0; i < GPU_N; i++) {
        cudaSetDevice(i);
        cudaStreamCreate(&plan[i].stream));
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sizeof(float));
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        for (j = 0; j < plan[i].dataN; j++)
            plan[i].h_Data[j] = (float)rand()/(float)RAND_MAX;
    }

    // Perform data transfers and start device computations
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plan[i].stream>>>(plan[i].d_Sum, plan[i].d_Data, plan[i].dataN);
        cudaMemcpyAsync(plan[i].h_Sum_from_device,
plan[i].d_Sum, ACCUM_N * sizeof(float), cudaMemcpyDeviceToHost,
plan[i].stream);
    }
}
```



```
// combine GPUs' results
for (i = 0; i < GPU_N; i++) {
    float sum;
    cudaSetDevice(i);

    cudaStreamSynchronize(plan[i].stream);
    sum = 0;
    for (j = 0; j < ACCUM_N; j++)
        sum +=
plan[i].h_Sum_from_device[j];
    *(plan[i].h_Sum) = (float)sum;

    cudaFreeHost(plan[i].h_Sum_from_device);
    cudaFree(plan[i].d_Sum);
    cudaFree(plan[i].d_Data);
    cudaStreamDestroy(plan[i].stream);
}

/* ... Compare GPU and CPU results ... */
}
```

**Boilerplate
low-level functions
for
H2D/D2H
data transfers**

Example: CUDA Host Code For Parallel Reduction

Excerpt of original CUDA host code for executing the reduction kernel:

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    // initialization
    int i, j, gpuBase, GPU_N;
    cudaGetDeviceCount(&GPU_N);
    //...
    /* ... prepare input data ... */

    // Allocate device and host memory
    for (i = 0; i < GPU_N; i++) {
        cudaSetDevice(i);
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// combine GPUs' results
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    cudaFreeHost(plan[i].h_Sum_from_device);
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    cudaFree(plan[i].d_Data);
    cudaStreamDestroy(plan[i].stream);
}

/* ... Compare GPU and CPU results ... */
}
```

**Boilerplate
low-level functions
for
creating/using
CUDA streams**

Example: CUDA Host Code For Parallel Reduction

Excerpt of original CUDA host code for executing the reduction kernel:

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    // initialization
    int i, j, gpuBase, GPU_N;
    cudaGetDeviceCount(&GPU_N);
    ...
    /* ... prepare input data ... */

    // Allocate device and host memory
    for (i = 0; i < GPU_N; i++) {
        cudaSetDevice(i);
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        for (j = 0; j < plan[i].dataN; j++)
            plan[i].h_Data[j] = (float)rand()/(float)RAND_MAX;
    }

    // Perform data transfers and start device computations
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    }
}
```



```
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    cudaStreamDestroy(plan[i].stream);
}

/* ... Compare GPU and CPU results ... */
}
```

**Boilerplate
low-level functions
for
synchronization**

Related Work

State of the art focuses on only particular host programming challenges:

1. **Skeleton Approaches** and **OpenMP, OpenACC, OpenMPC**

- + Simplify host programming by providing pre-implemented parallel patterns/directives.
- No support for arbitrary OpenCL/CUDA kernels.

2. **ViennaCL, Maestro, Maat, Boost.Compute, HPL**

- + Simplify launching OpenCL kernels.
- No support for CUDA.

3. **pyOpenCL, pyCUDA**

- + Enable implementing OpenCL/CUDA host code in the simple-to-use Python programming language.
- Still require from the programmer to explicitly deal with low-level details.

4. **Multi-Device Controller, PACXX, SYCL, OmpSs** and **StarPU, PEPPHER, ClusterSs**

- + Allow conveniently programming OpenCL/CUDA-capable devices or simply scheduling tasks over such devices.
- Do not support data transfer optimization.

What is OCAL?

OCAL (*OpenCL/CUDA Abstraction Layer*) is a **novel C++ library** for **simplifying OpenCL and CUDA host code** programming by abstracting from low-level details.

OCAL combines major advantages over state-of-the-art approaches:

1. simplifies implementing both OpenCL and CUDA host code;
2. allows executing arbitrary OpenCL and CUDA kernels;
3. manages host and devices' memory;
4. enables interoperability between OpenCL and CUDA host code;
5. supports data-transfer optimizations.

Illustration of OCAL

In the following: We demonstrate the (high-level) OCAL host code that is equivalent to the NVIDIA's (low-level) host code for parallel reduction.

```
#include "ocal.hpp"

int main()
{
    int N = /* arbitrary chunk size */;

    // 1. choose devices
    auto devices = ocal::get_all_devices<CUDA>();

    // 2. declare kernel
    ocal::kernel reduction = cuda::source(
        /* kernel */ );

    const int GS = 32, BS = 256;

    // 3. prepare kernels' inputs
    ocal::buffer<float> in( N * devices.size() );
    ocal::buffer<float> out( GS*BS * devices.size() );

    std::generate(in.begin(), in.end(), std::rand);

    // 4. start device computations
    for( auto& dev : devices )
        dev( reduction
            ( dim3( GS ), dim3( BS ) )
            ( write(out.begin()+dev.id()* GS*BS, GS*BS ),
              read (in.begin() +dev.id()* N , N ),
              N
            ));

    auto res = std::accumulate( out.begin(), out.end(),
        std::plus<float>() );

    std::cout << res << std::endl;
}
```

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    for( auto& dev : devices )
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            ( write(out.begin() + dev.id() * GS*BS, GS*BS),
              read( in.begin() + dev.id() * N, N ),
              N
            ));

    auto res = std::accumulate( out.begin(), out.end(),
        std::plus<float>() );

    std::cout << res << std::endl;
}
```

1. Choose Devices:

- Function
ocal::get_all_devices<CUDA>
returns an std::vector comprising all of system's CUDA-capable devices.
- Devices are represented as objects of high-level class ocal::device.

A ocal::device can also be chosen conveniently by either:

- **OCAL automatically performs low-level interactions with CUDA API for:**
 - i) its name, e.g., Tesla K20,
 - ii) its CUDA device id,
- **acquiring/setting devices**,
- **stream management**,
support for double precision and atomic operations.
- **string operations**,
- **for getting/setting device properties**.

Illustration of OCAL

In the following: We demonstrate the (high-level) OCAL host code that is equivalent to the NVIDIA's (low-level) host code for parallel reduction.

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#include "ocal.hpp"

int main()
{
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    ocal::buffer<float> in( N * devices.size() );
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    // 4. start device computations
    for( auto& dev : devices )
        dev( reduction
            ( dim3( GS ), dim3( BS ) )
            ( write(out.begin() + dev.id() * GS*BS, GS*BS),
              read( in.begin() + dev.id() * N, N ),
              N
            )
        );

    auto res = std::accumulate( out.begin(), out.end(),
        std::plus<float>() );

    std::cout << res << std::endl;
}
```

2. Define Kernel:

- Kernels are represented as objects of class `ocal::kernel`.
- Initialization with either `cuda::source(“...”)` or `cuda::path(“...”)`.

OCAL automatically performs low-level interactions with CUDA API for:

- CUDA compilation flags can be set, e.g., `-maxrregcount`
- **JIT compilation,**
 - Kernel binaries are automatically saved to system's hard drive
- **storing/loading kernel binaries,**
 - (reduces compilation overhead).
- **file stream operations.**

Illustration of OCAL

In the following: We demonstrate the (high-level) OCAL host code that is equivalent to the NVIDIA's (low-level) host code for parallel reduction.

```
#include "ocal.hpp"

int main()
{
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    ocal::buffer<float> in( N * devices.size() );
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    std::generate(in.begin(), in.end(), std::rand);

    // 4. start device computations
    for( auto& dev : devices )
        dev( reduction
            ( dim3( GS ), dim3( BS ) )
            ( write(out.begin() + dev.id() * GS*BS, GS*BS),
              read( in.begin() + dev.id() * N, N ),
              N
            ));

    auto res = std::accumulate( out.begin(), out.end(),
        std::plus<float>() );

    std::cout << res << std::endl;
}
```

3. Prepare Kernel's Input:

- Fundamental and vector types are prepared straightforwardly.
- Input/output buffers require preparation → OCAL provides high-level buffer class `ocal::buffer`.
- Automatically mirror data in host/devices memories by performing data transfers when necessary and for: carefully performing synchronization.
OCAL automatically performs low-level interactions with CUDA API
- **host and device memory allocations/deallocations**, OCAL buffers are compatible with the C++ Standard Template Library (STL).
- **data transfers**,
- **synchronization**.

Illustration of OCAL

In the following: We demonstrate the (high-level) OCAL host code that is equivalent to the NVIDIA's (low-level) host code for parallel reduction.

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#include "ocal.hpp"

int main()
{
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    // 4. start device computations
    for( auto& dev : devices )
        dev( reduction
            ( dim3( GS ), dim3( BS ) )
            ( write(out.begin() + dev.id() * GS*BS, GS*BS),
              read( in.begin() + dev.id() * N, N ),
              N
            ));

    auto res = std::accumulate( out.begin(), out.end(),
        std::plus<float>() );

    std::cout << res << std::endl;
}
```

4. Start Device Computations:

Device computations are started by passing to an OCAL device object:

1. an ocal::kernel object;
2. the *execution configuration*: number of thread blocks (GS) and threads (BS):

OCAL automatically performs low-level interactions with CUDA API

3. Kernel arguments:

for:

- scalars,
- **setting kernel arguments**,
 - vector types (e.g., float4),
- **starting kernel**,
 - ocal::buffers
- **synchronization**.

OCAL for OpenCL Host Code

OCAL can also be used the same for OpenCL host code:

```
#include "ocal.hpp"

int main()
{
    int N = /* arbitrary chunk size */;

    // 1. choose devices
    auto devices = ocal::get_all_devices<CUDA>();

    // 2. declare kernel
    ocal::kernel reduction = cuda::source(
        /* kernel */ );

    const int GS = 32, BS = 256;

    // 3. prepare kernels' inputs
    ocal::buffer<float> in( N * devices.size() );
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    std::generate(in.begin(), in.end(), std::rand);

    // 4. start device computations
    for( auto& dev : devices )
        dev( reduction
            ( dim3( GS ), dim3( BS ) )
            ( write(out.begin()+dev.id()* GS*BS, GS*BS ),
              read (in.begin() +dev.id()* N , N ),
              N
            ));

    auto res = std::accumulate( out.begin(), out.end(),
        std::plus<float>() );

    std::cout << res << std::endl;
}
```

The OCAL host code for CUDA reduction has to be only slightly modified for OpenCL:

OCAL for OpenCL Host Code

OCAL can also be used the same for OpenCL host code:

```
#include "ocal.hpp"

int main()
{
    int N = /* arbitrary chunk size */;

    // 1. choose devices
    auto devices = ocal::get_all_devices<CUDA>();

    // 2. declare kernel
    ocal::kernel reduction = cuda::source(
        /* kernel */ );

    const int GS = 32, BS = 256;

    // 3. prepare kernels' inputs
    ocal::buffer<float> in( N * devices.size() );
    ocal::buffer<float> out( GS*BS * devices.size() );

    std::generate(in.begin(), in.end(), std::rand);

    // 4. start device computations
    for( auto& dev : devices )
        dev( reduction
            ( dim3( GS ), dim3( BS ) )
            ( write(out.begin()+dev.id()* GS*BS, GS*BS ),
              read (in.begin() +dev.id()* N , N ),
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→ get_all_devices<OCL>()

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1. get_all_devices<CUDA>()
→ get_all_devices<OCL>()
2. cuda::source(“...”)
→ ocl::source(“...”)

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→ ocl::source(“...”)

OpenCL is more challenging than CUDA, because of managing also:

- *platforms of different vendors,*
- *so-called OpenCL contexts,*
- *multiple kernel binaries – one per platform.*

OpenCL-CUDA Interoperability

OCAL allows mixing OpenCL and CUDA host code in the same program:

- OCAL kernels can be instantiated with both OpenCL or CUDA kernel source code.
 - kernel code is automatically translated between OpenCL and CUDA.
- OCAL buffers can be passed to both OpenCL and CUDA device.
 - data is automatically transferred between OpenCL and CUDA data structures.
- The user can arbitrarily choose between setting the execution configuration as either:
 - i) *grid and block size* (as in CUDA)
via function `dim3(...);`
 - ii) *global and local size* (as in OpenCL)
via function `nd_range(...);`

Reduction Example:

OCAL allows easily utilizing system's multi-core CPU to combine GPUs' partial results

```
ocal::device<OpenCL_CPU> cpu;  
  
ocal::buffer cpu_res( NUM_CORES*VL );  
  
cpu( reduction  
    ( dim3( NUM_CORES ), dim3( VL ) )  
    ( write( cpu_res ), read( out ), out.size() ) );  
  
auto res = std::accumulate( cpu_res.begin(),  
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```

Declare an OCAL OpenCL device object to target system's CPU

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```

Pass CUDA reduction kernel to CPU device (→ automatically translated to OpenCL)

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auto res = std::accumulate( cpu_res.begin(),  
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```

Use the OCAL buffer `out` which holds the GPUs' partial results (→ results are automatically copied from low-level CUDA to OpenCL data structure)

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Each used CPU core produces a new partial sum in output buffer `cpu_res`

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auto res = std::accumulate( cpu_res.begin(),  
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```

The new partial results are accumulated conveniently using STL function `std::accumulate`

Data-Transfer Optimization

Data-transfer optimizations are performed in OpenCL/CUDA via specially-allocated memory:

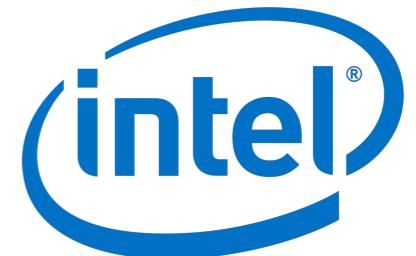
- **Pinned Main Memory:**
 - + enables fast data accesses and overlapping data transfers with device computation
 - high allocation time (→ beneficial when many data transfers are performed)
- **Unified memory:**
 - + beneficial in case of sparse data accesses
 - requires hardware support for high performance

**OpenCL and CUDA optimization guides recommend naively test which allocation type suits best, specifically for target system
→ requires significant implementation effort in standard OpenCL/CUDA.**

- OCAL provides two specially-optimized buffer types:
 - ▶ `ocal::pinned_buffer` → uses internally pinnend main memory;
 - ▶ `ocal::unified_buffer` → uses internally unified memory.
- The user can use both conveniently the same as `ocal::buffer`.

Experimental Results

- We compare OCAL to low-level OpenCL and CUDA host code in terms of:
 - i) **code complexity**, and ii) **performance**.
- Experimental setup: two Intel Xeon E5-2640 CPUs; two NVIDIA Tesla K20m GPUs.
- We compare to the hand-optimized **Intel OpenCL samples**:
 - i) scaled dot product,
 - ii) range tone mapping.
- We compare to the hand-optimized **NVIDIA CUDA samples**:
 - i) parallel reduction,
 - ii) Monte Carlo simulation,
 - iii) N-Body simulation.



Experimental Results

Code complexity of the OpenCL and CUDA samples as compared to their OCAL counterparts using four classical metrics:

| Sample | Code | LOC | DE | CC | HDE |
|--------------------|---------------|-----|------|----|---------|
| Scaled-Dot-Product | OpenCL | 293 | 0,68 | 21 | 57.523 |
| | dOCAL | 54 | 0,12 | 8 | 10.729 |
| HDR-Tone-Mapping | OpenCL | 523 | 1,25 | 88 | 290.102 |
| | dOCAL | 246 | 0,57 | 32 | 114.451 |
| Reduction | CUDA | 110 | 0,26 | 14 | 19.980 |
| | dOCAL | 56 | 0,12 | 13 | 11.974 |
| Monte-Carlo | CUDA | 336 | 0,82 | 32 | 131.259 |
| | dOCAL | 190 | 0,45 | 24 | 76.337 |
| N-body | CUDA | 812 | 1,96 | 80 | 412.182 |
| | dOCAL | 434 | 1,03 | 37 | 226.962 |

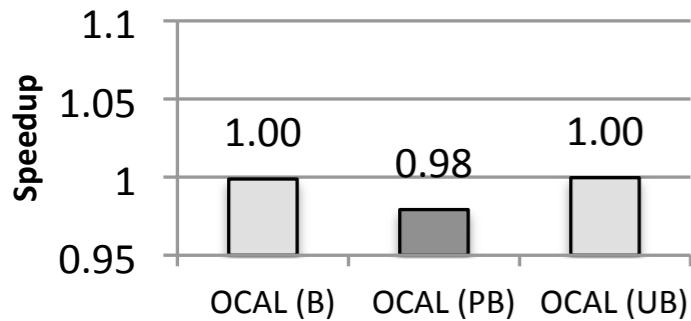
Average improvements when OCAL is used for OpenCL/CUDA:

- 2.72x/1.82x fewer *Lines Of Code (LOC)*;
- 2.80x/1.90x fewer *COCOMO Development Effort (DE)*;
- 2.73x/1.70x fewer *Cyclomatic Complexity (CC)*;
- 2.78x/1.79x fewer Halstead Development Effort (HDE).

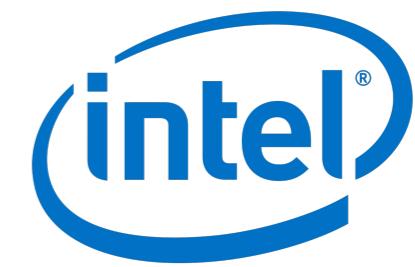
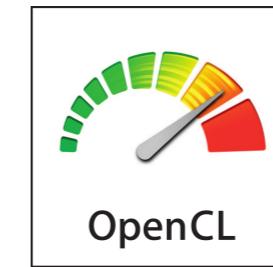
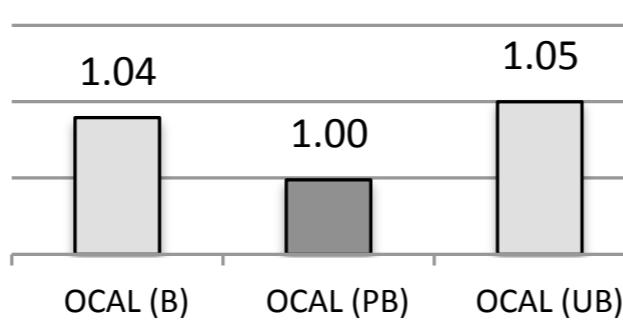
Experimental Results

We observe that OCAL code is competitive to low-level OpenCL/CUDA host code:

Scaled-Dot-Product

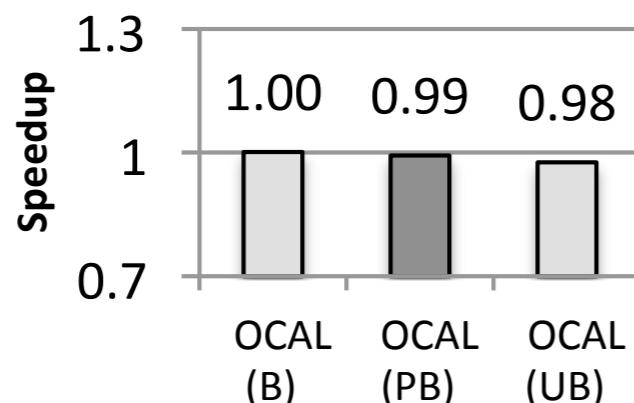


HDR-Tone-Mapping

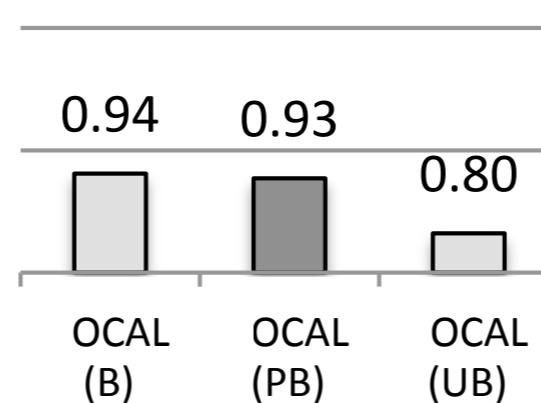


Speedup/slowdown of OCAL (higher is better) over Intel's OpenCL samples on two Intel Xeon E5 CPUs for each of OCAL's three buffer types: Buffer (B), Pinned Buffer (PB), and Unified Buffer (UB).

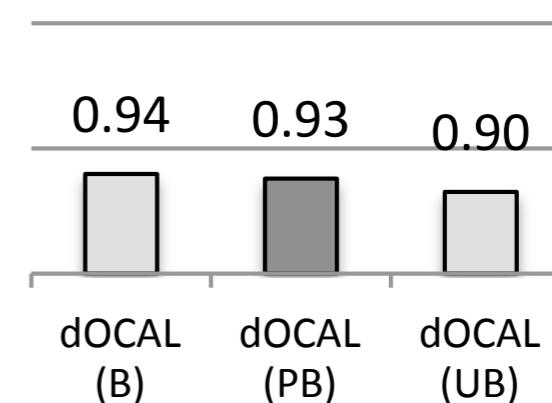
Reduction



Monte-Carlo



N-body



Speedup/slowdown of OCAL (higher is better) over NVIDIA's CUDA samples on two NVIDIA Tesla K20 GPUs for each of OCAL's three buffer types: Buffer (B), Pinned Buffer (PB), and Unified Buffer (UB).

Conclusion

We have seen:

- OCAL simplifies programming OpenCL and CUDA host code.
- OCAL supports mixing OpenCL and CUDA host code (interoperability).
- OCAL supports data-transfer optimizations.
- OCAL causes a quiet low runtime overhead.

Moreover:

- OCAL is compatible with OpenCL/CUDA libraries (e.g., cuDNN).
- OCAL allows conveniently profiling OpenCL/CUDA programs.

Future work:

- OCAL extended for distributed systems (*dOCAL*).
- OCAL supporting interconnecting with *auto-tuning systems*.

Questions?