Enhanced Data and Task Abstractions for Extreme-scale Runtime Systems

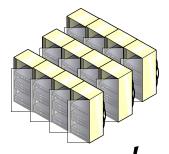
PhD Thesis by Nick Vrvilo
Department of Computer Science
Rice University



June 30, 2017

Extreme-scale Computing

- 100-way parallelism on a chip
- 1000-way parallelism on a node
- Similar energy footprint to current systems



exascale in a data center



petascale in your lab



terascale on your desk

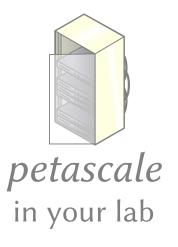


gigascale wearables

Challenges at Extreme-scale

- Need 100x more parallelism in software
- Highly constrained memory & bandwidth
- Frequent failures









Extreme-scale Runtimes

- New runtimes for extreme-scale:
 - HPX
 - Open Community Runtime (OCR)
 - Realm
- Existing runtimes adapting to extreme-scale:
 - Berkeley UPC
 - Charm++

My contributions are marked in GREEN

Runtime Feature Comparison

	Pointer Safety	Blocking	High-level languages
Charm++	Programmer's responsibility	ucontext	Not yet supported
HPX	Programmer's responsibility	ucontext or boost::context	Not yet supported
OCR	Static and dynamic checks	Many options presented	CnC
Realm	Programmer's responsibility	ucontext	Legion, Regent
UPC++	No data migration	SPMD blocking	Not yet supported

OCR: Runtime Goals

- Portability for apps across hardware
- Resilience as a fundamental design feature
- Performance through hints and introspection



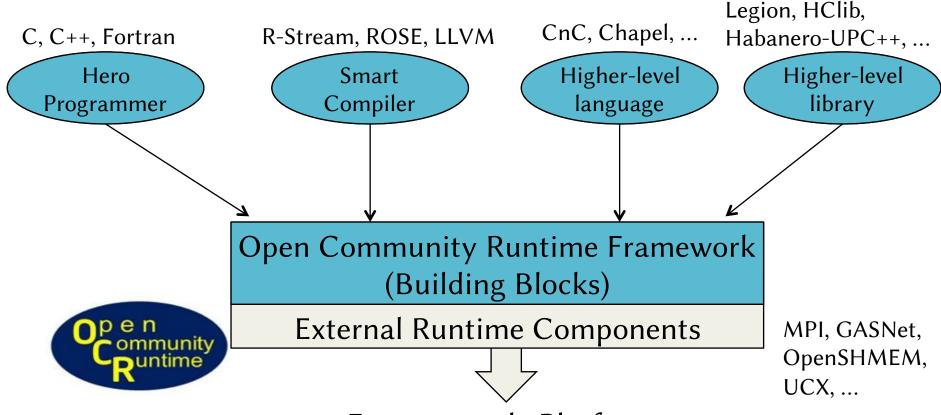
Note: programmability is not a goal of OCR.

OCR: Programming Model

- Tasks for computation
- Datablocks for all non-temporary data
- Events for dependence management



OCR: Ecosystem Vision



Extreme-scale Platforms

OCR: Intended Users

- Concurrency experts / "hero programmers"
- Library implementers
- Compiler back-end engineers



Note: mere mortals are not the target users.

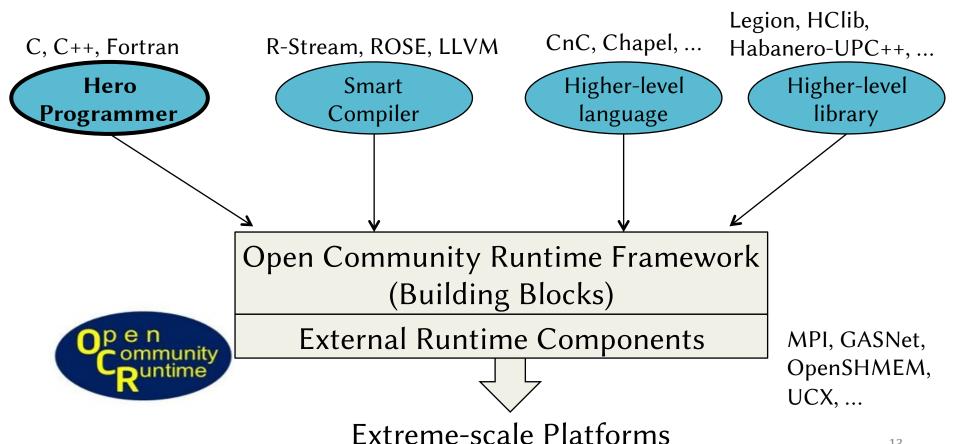
Thesis Statement

We assert that runtime challenges tied to extreme-scale computing can be solved with marginal overhead, while also limiting the burden placed on the application programmer.

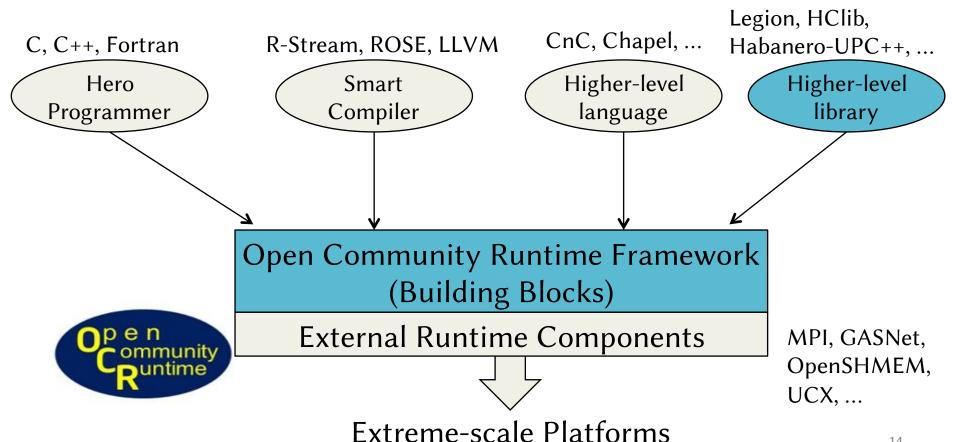
Our Proposed Solutions

- Position-independent object encoding for migratable datablocks
- 2. Practical support for blocking constructs in lightweight tasking runtimes
- 3. CnC-OCR: a productivity layer for OCR

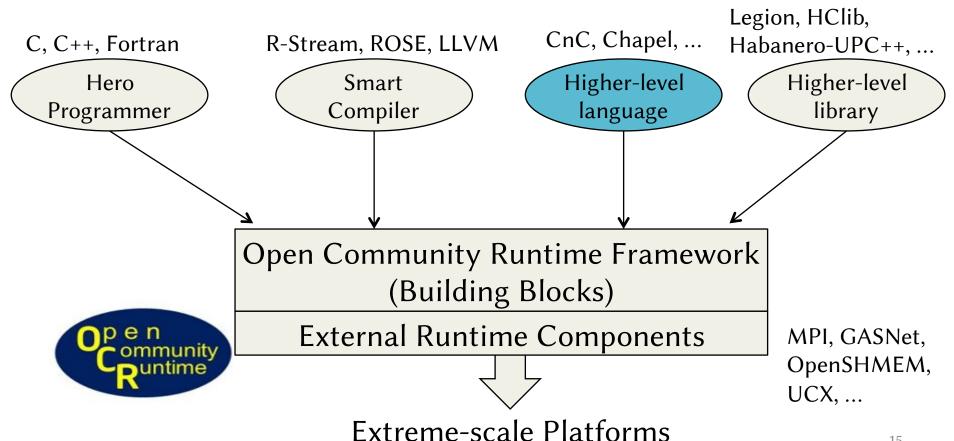
#1 Position-independent object encoding for datablocks



#2 Practical support for blocking constructs



#3 CnC-OCR: a productivity layer for OCR



15

Outline

- Position-independent object encoding for migratable datablocks
- 2. Practical support for blocking constructs in lightweight tasking runtimes
- 3. CnC-OCR: a productivity layer for OCR
- 4. Conclusions and future directions

C++ Gaining Ground in HPC

- AllScale (EU Horizon 2020)
- Kokkos (Sandia)
- Legion (Los Alamos & Stanford)
- RAJA (Lawrence Livermore)
- UPC++ (Berkeley)

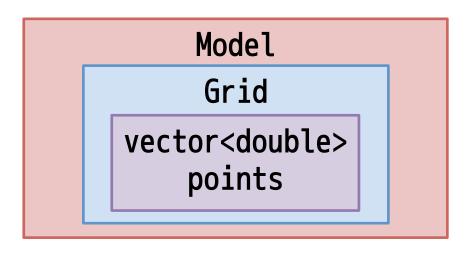
... but OCR only defines a C language API

Problem #1: Description

- Requirements of OCR data model:
 - OCR can move datablocks (whenever not in use)
 - OCR treats datablocks as opaque (memcpy contents)
 - Moving invalidates pointers into a datablock
 - All persistent data must be stored in datablocks
- Consequence on application code:
 - Native pointers cannot be persisted across tasks!

Motivating C++ App: Tempest

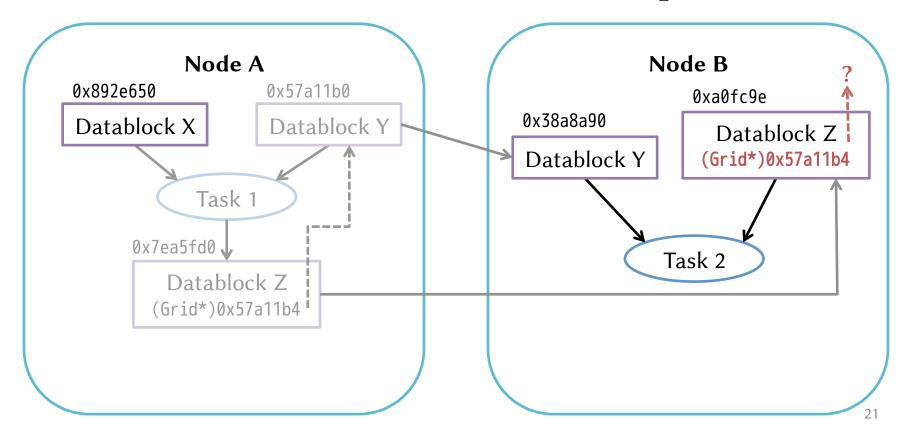
- Climate system modeling framework
- Lead developer: Paul Ullrich (UC Davis)
- Uses idiomatic C++:
 - Aggregate objects
 - STL vectors
- Port to OCR started by Gabriele Jost



OCR + Tempest: Problems

- Tempest uses C++...
 - ⇒ extern "C", static_cast from void*, etc.
- Tempest expects point-to-point messages
 - ⇒ Rewrite blocking code (manual CPS-transform)
- Tempest model uses aggregate C++ objects
 - ⇒ ??? (segfaults in distributed runs)

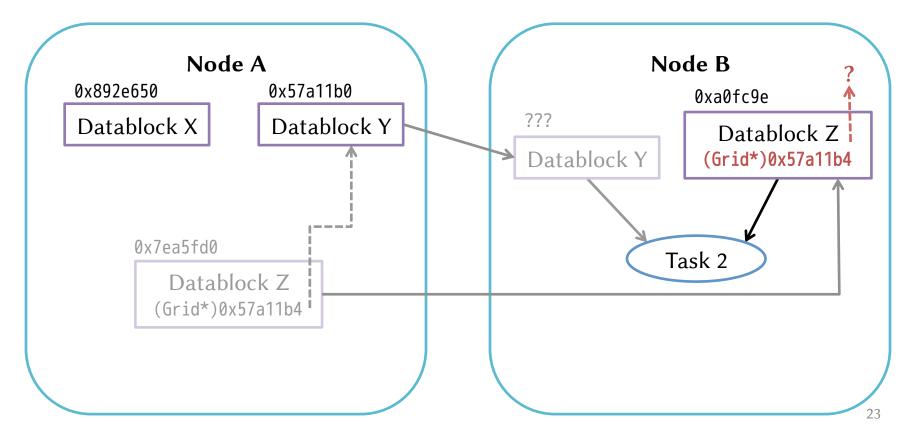
Problem #1: Example



No Serialization Support in OCR

- OCR does not support object serialization
 - No pre/post-migration hooks for datablocks
 - Pure C API also makes serialization difficult
- Assume we added pre/post migration hooks
 - Can correctly update intra-datablock pointers
 - Still can't handle inter-datablock pointers

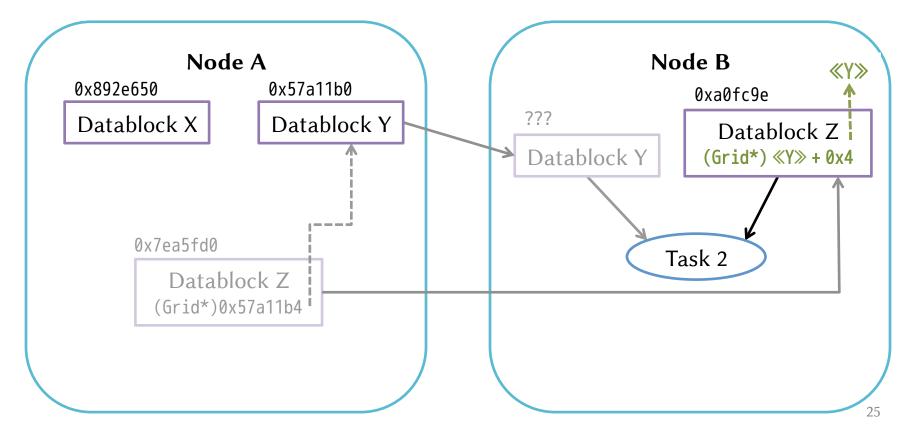
Problem #1: Example (revisited)



Proposed Solution #1

Sanitize all objects that are persisted in datablocks across multiple tasks, using position-independent C++ "pointer" objects.

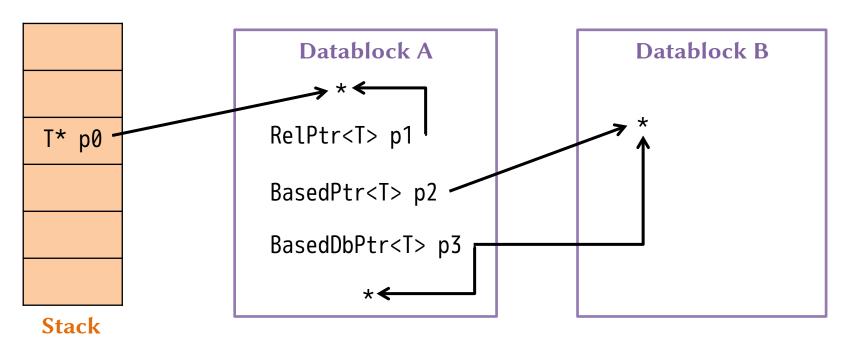
Example using Based Pointer



ocxxr: C++ Support for OCR

- Provides C++ API support for:
 - Initializing C++ objects within datablocks
 - Datablocks as allocation arenas
 - Position-independent pointer objects
- Additional benefits:
 - Improved static type checking (via templates)
 - Little-to-no overhead from inlined C++ wrappers
- Comprises 1275 Logical SLOC

Classes of Pointers in ocxxr



ocxxr: API Example

```
using namespace ocxxr;
struct Node {
  int value;
  RelPtr<Node> left;
  RelPtr<Node> right;
};
struct Tree {
  RelPtr<Node> root;
  // ... methods ...
```

```
void SubTask(int i, Arena<Tree> tree) {
  Node *tree root = tree->root;
  if (i < 10) {
    // ... do something with tree_root ...
    TaskBuilder<decltype(SubTask)> builder = /* ... */;
    builder.CreateTask(i+1, tree);
  } else { Shutdown(); }
void MainTask() {
  Arena<Tree> tree = Arena<Tree>::Create(ARENA SIZE);
  // ... set up tree ...
  TaskBuilder<decltype(SubTask)> builder = /* ... */;
  builder.CreateTask(0, tree);
```

Bonus: ocxxr Expressiveness

Fib in ocxxr: 63 LSLOC

```
void FibContinuation(
    ocxxr::Event<u32> &output,
    ocxxr::Datablock<u32> lhs,
    ocxxr::Datablock<u32> rhs) {
    // left_value + right_value -> output
    lhs.data() += rhs.data();
    rhs.handle().Destroy();
    output.Satisfy(lhs); // type-checked
```

Fib in OCR: 132 LSLOC

```
ocrGuid t fib continuation(
    u32 paramc, u32* paramv,
    u32 depc, ocrEdtDep_t depv[]) {
  // unpacking arguments
  ocrGuid_t output = *(ocrGuid_t*)paramv;
  u32 *lhs = depv[0].ptr;
  u32 *rhs = depv[1].ptr;
  // left_value + right_value -> output
  *lhs += *rhs;
  ocrDbDestroy(depv[1].guid);
  ocrEventSatisfy(output, depv[1].guid);
  return NULL_GUID; // unused return value
                                          29
```

Pointer Conversion Algorithm

- Two main phases:
 - 1. Identify all types persisted in datablocks
 - 2. Process class types to convert pointer fields
- Template instances handled individually
- Prototyped using Clang LibTooling

Pointer Conversion Example

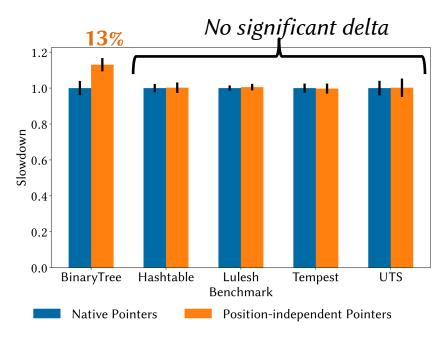
```
struct MyNode {
  double value;
  ocxxr::BasedDbPtr<MyNode> next;
};
void MyTask(ocxxr::Arena<MyNode> arena) {
  MyNode *head = arena.data_ptr();
  MyNode *next = arena.New<MyNode>();
 next->value = 1234.56;
  // the pointer and its addressee
  // are within the same datablock
 head->next = next;
```

- Identify types τ in task dependence inputs
- 2. Find all pointer members of the class type τ
- Replace pointer types with BasedDbPtr types
- Recursively fix pointers in BasedDbPtr target types

Algorithm Limitations

- Does not find types "hidden" by casts void* → SomeType*
- Does not handle C++ STL classes (allocators)
- May transform classes used in temporary data
- Currently lacks alias analysis: cannot identify safe candidates for representation as RelPtr<T>

Slowdown vs Native Pointers

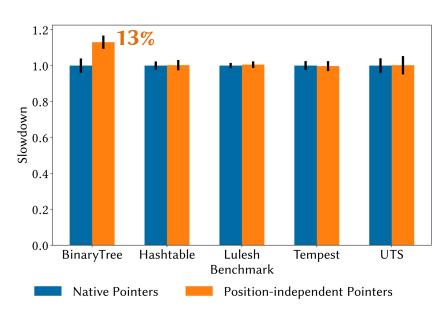


Benchmark	Position-independent	
BinaryTree	1.130 ± 0.037	
HashTable	1.002 ± 0.029	
LULESH	1.005 ± 0.018	
Tempest	0.997 ± 0.028	
UTS	1.002 ± 0.051	

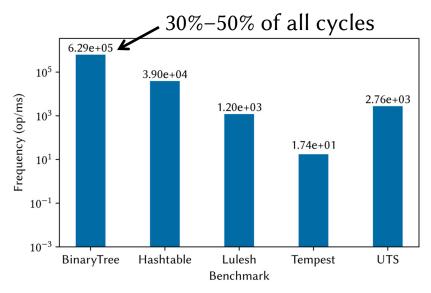
Error margins give 95% confidence interval

Slowdown ~ Pointer Operations

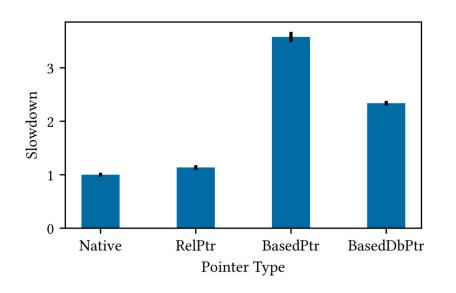
Slowdown vs Native Pointers



Pointer Operation Densities



BinaryTree Benchmark Slowdowns for Pointer Variants



Variant	Slowdown
T* (native)	1.000 ± .036
RelPtr <t></t>	1.136 ± .042
BasedPtr <t></t>	3.578 ± .095
BasedDbPtr <t></t>	2.338 ± .042

Error margins give 95% confidence interval

Summary of Resolution for #1

- ocxxr library: C++ support for OCR
 - Safe pointer-object encoding in datablocks
 - Enabled porting C++ framework to OCR
 - Marginal overhead measured in real kernels
- Conservative pointer-conversion algorithm with Clang-based transformation tool

Outline

- 1. Position-independent object encoding for migratable datablocks
- 2. Practical support for blocking constructs in lightweight tasking runtimes
- 3. CnC-OCR: a productivity layer for OCR
- 4. Conclusions and future directions

Problem #2: Description

- Default scheduling strategy in OCR and HClib does not properly support blocking
- The *runtime* introduces new deadlock scenarios through unsafe optimizations
- How do we support blocking constructs safely and efficiently?

Examples of Blocking Constructs

Habanero-C

- Finish scope
 Blocks until all async tasks
 within the finish scope complete
- Future.wait()
 Blocks until the target future task has completed

OCR

- ocrWait(event)
 Blocks until event is triggered
- Remote datablock create
- Remote task create
- Remove event satisfy
- •

Problem #2: Example

```
// This code executes on Worker-A
                                                         Worker-B
                                         Worker-A
                                                                         Worker-C
auto f0 = hclib::async_future([]() {
                                          async f0
   /*      */ });
                                                          steal f0
// future-task f0 is stolen by Worker-B
                                          async f1
                                                         running f0
                                                                          steal f1
auto f1 = hclib::async_future([]() {
                                                                         running f1
                                          async t2
   return f0.wait(); });
                                                                        block on f0
// future-task f1 is stolen by Worker-C
                                                                           "help"
t2: hclib::async([]() { f1.wait(); });
                                                                         ⊾steal t2
// above task stolen by Worker-C
                                                                        block on f
// Worker-C blocks on f0.wait()
// and starts looking for more work
// (DEADLOCK!)
```

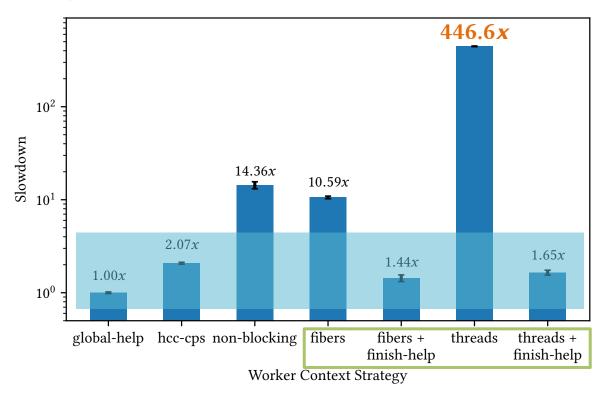
Proposed Solution #2

- Identify the minimal support needed for correct scheduling of blocking constructs in OCR, Habanero-C, or similar runtime
- Select a range of possible solutions
- Evaluate selected solutions for performance and programmability tradeoffs

Proposed Solution #2

- Identify the minimal support needed for correct scheduling of blocking constructs in OCR, Habanero-C, or similar runtime
- Select a range of possible solutions
- Evaluate selected solutions for performance and programmability tradeoffs
- See thesis text for full details

Strategy Overheads: Fibonacci



Strategy Recommendations

- Use Threads + Finish-Help for development
- Use Fibers + Finish-Help in production
- Use CPS-transform (compiled or manual) for failure-prone production environments

Summary of Resolution for #2

- Identified previously-undiscovered deadlock scenarios in OCR and Habanero-C
- Implemented and evaluated several safe strategies to handle blocked tasks
- Added novel, safe Finish-Helping optimization
- Defined guidelines for applying the strategies

Outline

- 1. Position-independent object encoding for migratable datablocks
- 2. Practical support for blocking constructs in lightweight tasking runtimes
- 3. CnC-OCR: a productivity layer for OCR
- 4. Conclusions and future directions

OCR: Intended Users

- Concurrency experts / "hero programmers"
- Library implementers
- Compiler back-end engineers



Note: mere mortals are not the target users.

Problem #3: Description

- OCR is designed as a low-level API
- Higher-level abstractions on top of OCR is intended to improve the OCR API
- Existing higher-level languages for OCR do not stay true to the OCR data model (Hierarchically Tiled Arrays, HClib)

Proposed Solution #3

CnC for the Open Community Runtime (OCR):

- increase productivity
- simplify tuning
- support explicit hierarchy

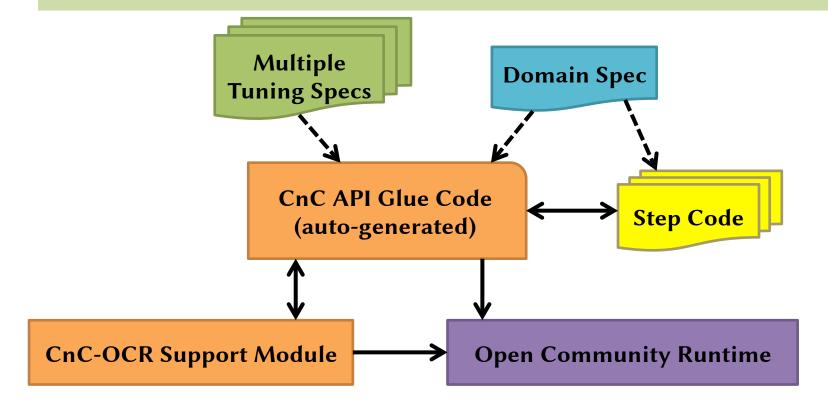
CnC Programming Model: Dependence Programming

- Problem partitioned into steps and items
- Steps/items partitioned into collections
- Step/item instances have unique tags
- Dependencies specified relative to tags

CnC Programming Model: Separation of Concerns

- High-level dependence specification
- Individual compute step implementations
- Platform-specific tuning specification

CnC-OCR Software Architecture



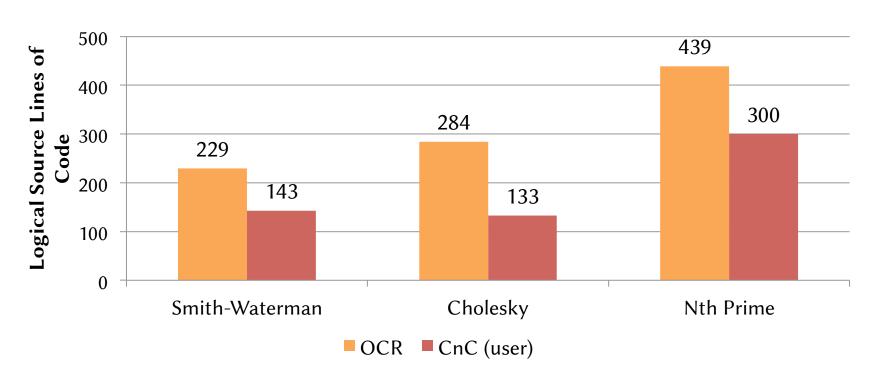
CnC Example: Smith-Waterman Scoring Matrix

		A	G	С	A
	0	-1	-2	-3	-4
A	-1	2 -	1	0	-1
С	-2	1	0	3	2
A	-3	0	-1	2	5
С	-4	-1	-2	1	4
A	-5	-2	-3	0	3

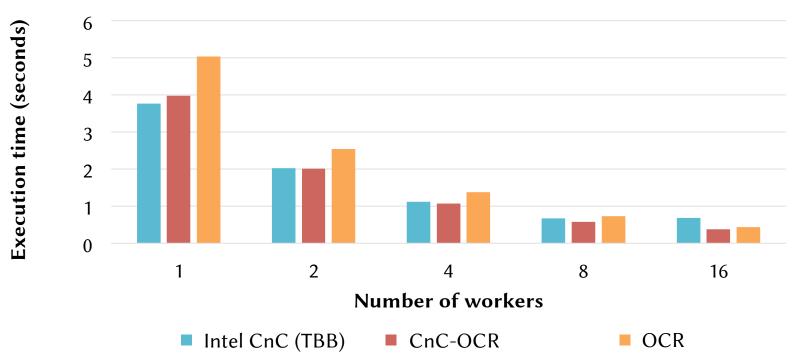
CnC Example: Smith-Waterman Domain Specification

```
[ int above[#tw] : i, j ];
[ int left[#th] : i, j ];
                         item (data) collection declarations
[ SeqData *data : () ];
( swStep: i, j ) ← step collection declaration
<- [ data: () ],
   [ left: i, j ] when(j > 0)
-> [ below @ above: i+1, j ],
   [ right @ left: i, j+1 ],
                           step-output relations (items and steps)
   ( swStep: i+1, j )
      $when(i+1 < #nth);</pre>
```

CnC Productivity Results

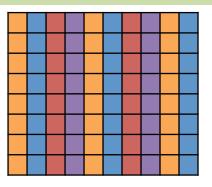


CnC Cholesky Performance Results

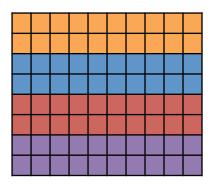


CnC Example: Smith-Waterman Tuning Specification

```
[ above ]: {
    distfn: (i / 16) % $RANKS
};
[ left ]: {
    distfn: (i / 16) % $RANKS
};
( swStep ): {
    placeWith: above
};
```

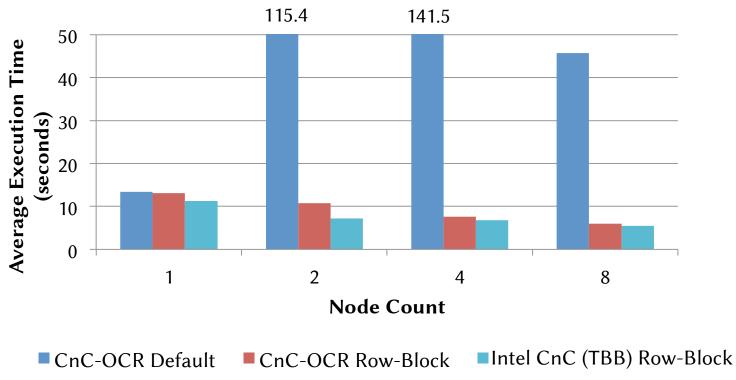


Default distribution (cyclic on last tag component: column)

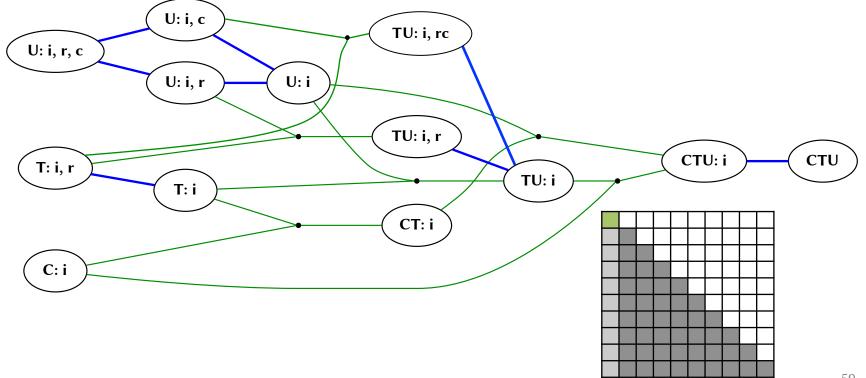


Customized row-block distribution

CnC Smith-Waterman Distributed Tuning Results



Cholesky Tuned w/CnC Hierarchy: Lattice of Step Granularities



Habanero CnC-Framework

- Over 3300 Logical SLOC
 - C/C++: 2558 Logical SLOC
 - Python: 818 Logical SLOC
- Designed for extensibility
 - Shared parser code for domain and tuning DSLs
 - Supports both Intel CnC and OCR as back-ends
 - Forked to target other runtimes (HCMPI, HPX-5)
- Tools for debugging and software hierarchy

External Research with the Habanero CnC-Framework

- Communication-avoiding ray tracing for exascale computing Ellen Porter, Washington State University, Master's Thesis
- Improving programmability and performance for scientific applications
 Chenyang Liu, Purdue University, PhD Thesis
- Programming HPX-5 with Concurrent Collections
 Buddhika Chamith, Indiana University,
 PhD Student Poster at SC15

Summary of Resolution for #3

- Integration of CnC model with OCR
- Extensible toolchain and DSL design
 - Support for multiple runtime back-ends
 - Easily adaptable to new research projects
- Novel DSL for performance tuning
- First in-depth study of CnC Hierarchy concepts

Outline

- 1. Position-independent object encoding for migratable datablocks
- 2. Practical support for blocking constructs in lightweight tasking runtimes
- 3. CnC-OCR: a productivity layer for OCR
- 4. Conclusions and future directions

Summary

Addressed several runtime challenges for extremescale by improving task and data abstractions:

- 1. Improved programmability & safety of C++ Tempest applications on OCR via custom pointer objects
- 2. Improved liveness guarantees & performance for scheduling tasks with blocking constructs
- 3. Improved productivity & performance for applications on OCR via the CnC-OCR toolchain

Conclusions

- Higher-level languages and libraries are a critical component of a runtime ecosystem
- Alternative implementations help avoid forced choice between productivity and performance
- Separation of concerns can improve productivity and facilitate performance tuning

Future Work

- Compiler / tools support for OCR development:
 - Datablock alias analysis
 - Automatic data partitioning
 - Automatic CPS transformation of blocking code
- Static checks for OCR applications:
 - Data-race detection for OCR applications
 - Safety determination for global-help scheduling
- Higher-level programming models for OCR:
 - Legion / Realm on OCR
 - Chapel on OCR

Acknowledgements

- Committee: Thanks for your time and input!
- Habanero Team: It's been great working with you!
- Intel X-Stack Team: Thanks for your mentorship and support! I really enjoyed working with all of you!

This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy, Office of Science, under Award Number DE-SC0008717.

Runtime Feature Comparison

	Pointer Safety	Blocking	High-level languages
Charm++	Programmer's responsibility	ucontext	Not yet supported
HPX	Programmer's responsibility	ucontext or boost::context	Not yet supported
OCR	Static and dynamic checks	Many options presented	CnC
Realm	Programmer's responsibility	ucontext	Legion, Regent
UPC++	No data migration	SPMD blocking	Not yet supported

Backup Slides

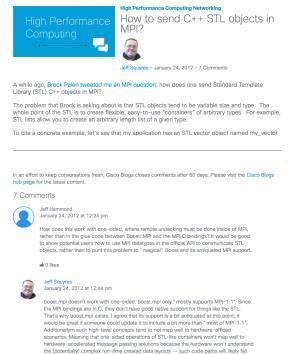
Related Publications

- A Marshalled Data Format for Pointers in Relocatable Data Blocks.
 Nick Vrvilo, Lechen Yu and Vivek Sarkar.
 The 2017 International Symposium on Memory Management (ISMM). June 2017.
- Declarative Tuning for Locality in Parallel Programs.
 Sanjay Chatterjee, Nick Vrvilo, Zoran Budimlic, Kathleen Knobe, Vivek Sarkar.
 The 45th International Conference on Parallel Processing (ICPP), August 2016.
- The CnC work has been presented at multiple CnC Workshops and at multiple Intel X-Stack Traleika Glacier Project Workshops.

Note: Counting Lines of Code

- USC Universal Code Count (UCC)
 - Contracted by Department of Defense
 - Standard, open-source tool for estimating the effort to create a software project
- Logical Source Lines of Code (LSLOC)
 - Primary metric of UCC
 - Style-agnostic measurement of lines of code

Similar Problems for One-sided Comm & C++ Objects



Q: How do you transmit C++ objects using MPI?

A: Use the great Boost.MPI and Boost.Serialize libraries!

Comment: Cool! Does this do one-sided communication too?

Reply: No, that doesn't work...

Classes of Pointers in ocxxr

Pointer Variant	Address Computation	Use Case
T* (native)	*this	Temporary (non-persisting) data.
RelPtr <t></t>	Ptr <t> *(this + offset) Pointer and target must be loca within the same datablock. (I.e., the relative offset never characters)</t>	
BasedPtr <t></t>	*(base() + offset) base() ==> █(id)	Pointer and target probably not located within the same datablock.
BasedDbPtr <t> (hybrid)</t>	<pre>if (id.IsValid()) *(base() + offset) else *(this + offset)</pre>	Pointer and target sometimes in the same datablock, sometimes not. Has extra overhead for doing pointer's datablock lookup on assignment.

Experimental Setup

Software & Benchmarking

- Ubuntu 16.04 LTS (Xenial)
- Clang v3.8
- 100 runs per configuration
- 95% confidence intervals
- Native pointers as baseline (can't run distributed)

Hardware

- Single-node system (but also works distributed)
- 3.50GHz Intel Core i7
 Ivy Bridge 4-core CPU
- Turbo boost disabled
- 8GiB DDR3

Benchmarks

Benchmark	Purpose	Description
BinaryTree	RelPtr-heavy	Builds a binary search tree data structure within a single arena datablock, performing a large number of put/get ops.
HashTable	BasedPtr- heavy	Builds a hashtable, with buckets of entries distributed across multiple datablocks. Performs a large number of put/get ops, acquiring buckets on-demand.
LULESH	Mesh access	Port of LULESH 2.0 code to ocxxr (based on CnC-OCR port).
Tempest	Motivating application	Small kernel using the Tempest climate-simulation framework, modeling a patch on the cube-sphere grid.
UTS	BasedDbPtr- heavy	Builds the tree generated by the "Unbalanced Tree Search" benchmark across many datablocks.

Habanero Programming Model

- Hierarchy of concurrency constructs
 - Increasing expressiveness with more constructs
 - Better safety guarantees with restricted subset
 - Has async/finish model (X10) at the core
 - Extended with futures, data driven tasks and promises
- Several implementations exist:
 - JVM: Habanero Java, HJ-lib, Habanero Scala
 - C/C++: Habanero-C, HClib

Thread Stack + Global Helping

Task A		Task A		Task A	Task A	Task A
blocked		blocked		ready	ready	• • •
	Help!	Task B		Task B	Task B	• • •
				• • •	• • •	
		blocked		blocked	ready	
			Help!	Task C		
				• • •		

tıme

Global-Helping and Deadlocks

The Global-Helping optimization can create new deadlock scenarios <u>if and only if</u> it is possible to create a dependence from a later blocking task to an earlier blocking task.

Blocking-support Options

semi-coroutines

coroutines

fibers (cooperative) threads (preemptive)

undelimited (one-shot) continuations

delimited (one-shot) continuations

Selected Solutions

Compensation with <u>Threads</u>:

Create a new OS thread each time a worker blocks.

• Compensation with Fibers:

Create a new fiber to each time a worker blocks.

- Transform blocking tasks into <u>Semi-coroutines</u>:
 - Save task's continuation when blocking (compiler supported).

• Rewrite with **Non-blocking** constructs:

Application is written in a fully non-blocking style, using chained futures to handle all synchronization (manual CPS transform).

This makes heavy use of *futures* with async_await.

Additional Optimized Variants

• <u>Threads</u> + Finish-Helping:

- Based on *Threads*, but adds a provably-safe "helping" optimization to reduce compensation threads
- The Finish-Helping optimization restricts "helping" targets to only tasks in the current finish scope

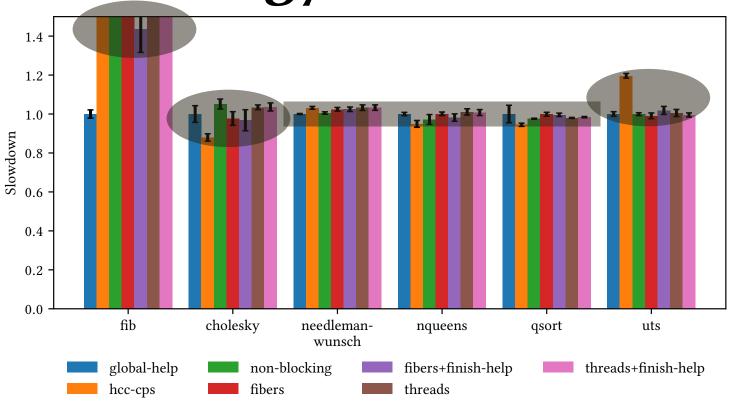
• <u>Fibers</u> + Finish-Helping:

Similar to *Threads + Finish-Helping*, but using *fibers* rather than OS threads

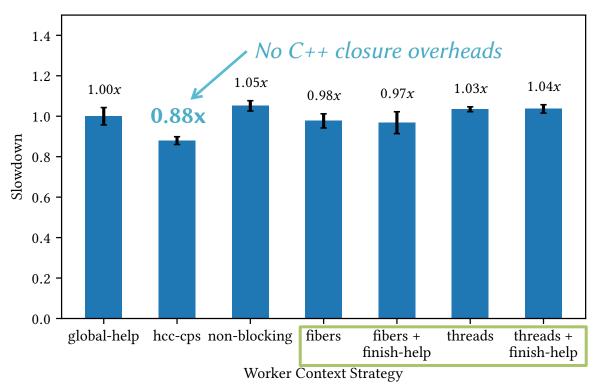
Proofs for Worker Strategies

- Global-Helping is safe for async/finish
- Precise conditions where Global-Helpinginduced deadlocks can occur
- Finish-Helping is safe for all constructs
- Deadlock-freedom for async/finish + futures requires semi-coroutines (or equivalent)

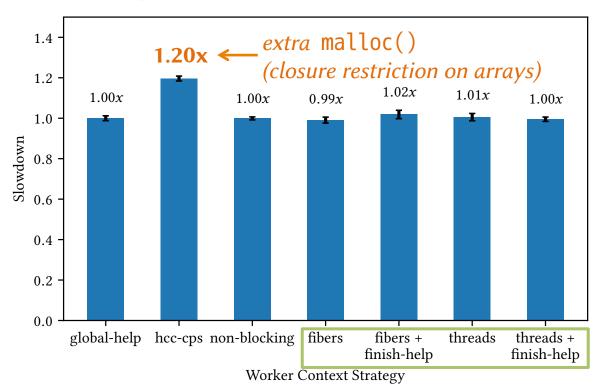
Strategy Overheads



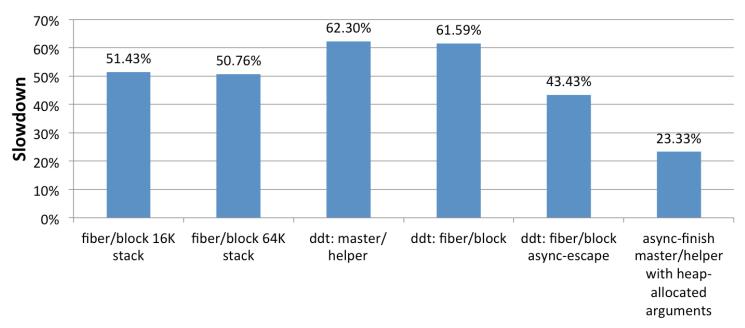
Strategy Overheads: Cholesky



Strategy Overheads: UTS



Initial Performance Results



Task Blocking Strategy

Other Considerations

- Programmability
 - Thread-local data breaks with Fibers and HCC
 - No C++, restricted C support for <u>HCC</u>
 - Manual transformation to <u>Non-blocking</u> is hard, and often performs poorly
- Debugging support
 - Valgrind breaks with <u>Fibers</u>
 - GDB can inspect blocked tasks with <u>Threads</u>

Other Considerations (cont.)

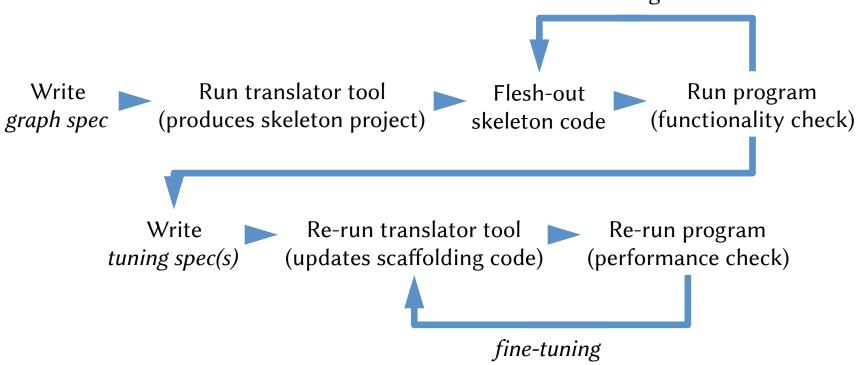
Portability:

- Fibers relies on platform-specific assembly
- HCC toolchain not easily installed

• Resilience:

- Fibers and Threads result in long-lived blocked tasks
- Performance impact if task life exceeds MTBF

CnC-OCR Developer Workflow



CnC / OCR Concept Map

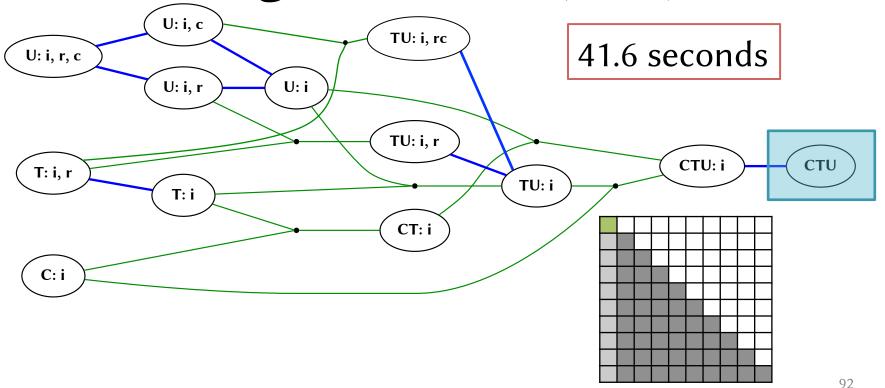
Concept	CnC construct	OCR construct		
Task classes (code)	Step collection	EDT template		
Task instance	Step instance	EDT		
Data classes (types)	Item collection	<u>—</u>		
Data instance	Item instance	Datablock		
Unique instance identifier	Tag	GUID		
Dependence registration	Item get	Event add dependence		
Dependence satisfaction	Item put	Event satisfy		

Extensions to the CnC Graph Specification Language

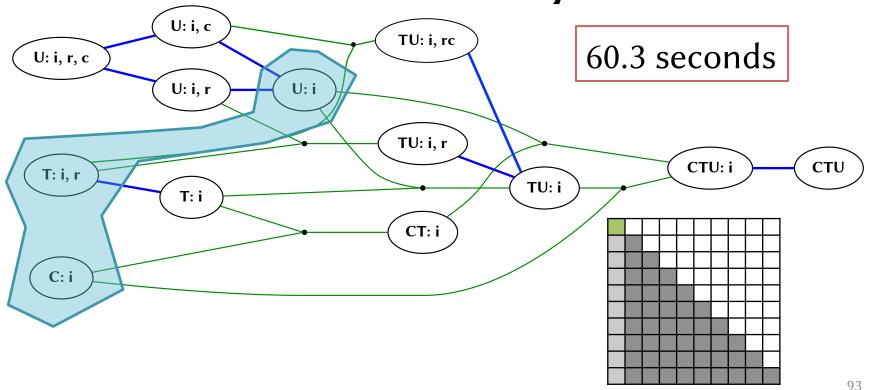
```
[ int above[#tw] : i, j
[ int left[#th]
[ SeqData *data : () ];
( swStep: i, j )
<- [ data: () ],
    [ above: i, j ] when(i > 0),
    [ left: i, j ] \$when(j > 0)
-> [ below @ above: i+1, j ],
    [ right @ left: i, j+1 ],
    ( swStep: i+1, j )
        $when(i+1 < #nt</pre>
```

- ltem tags (checked)
- Sized item arrays
- Singleton collections
- Conditional I/O
- Instance aliases
- Global context values
- ► Virtual collection views

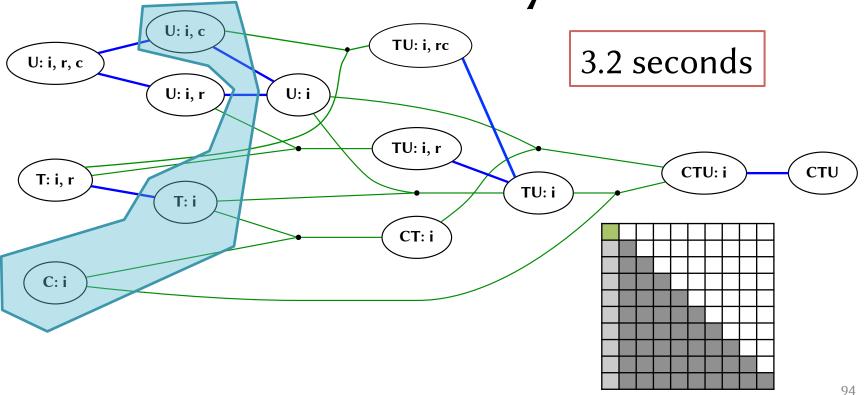
Cholesky Tuned w/CnC Hierarchy: Singleton Slice (Bad)



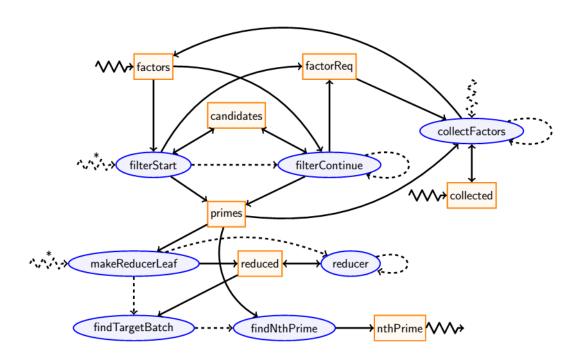
Cholesky Tuned w/CnC Hierarchy: Worst Hierarchy Slice



Cholesky Tuned w/CnC Hierarchy: Best Hierarchy Slice



Sample CnC Graph: Nth Prime Number



CnC Example: Smith-Waterman Scoring Matrix

		A	G	С	Α
	0	-1	-2	-3	-4
A	-1	2 -	1	0	-1
С	-2	1	0	3	2
Α	-3	0	-1	2	5
С	-4	-1	-2	1	4
A	-5	-2	-3	0	3

Selection of Hierarchy-based Distribution Results for Cholesky

Hierarchy Slice	Run-time*		
(CT: i) + (U: i, c)	3.2 seconds		
(C: i) + (T: i, r) + (U: i, c)	5.6 seconds		
(CT: i) + (U: i, r)	9.0 seconds		
(CTU:)	41.6 seconds		
(C: i) + (T: i, r) + (U: i)	60.3 seconds		

*Mean of 5 runs