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# Streaming Applications on Heterogeneous Platforms

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**Abstract.** Using multiple streams can improve the overall system performance by mitigating the data transfer overhead on heterogeneous systems. Currently, very few cases have been streamed to demonstrate the streaming performance impact and a systematic investigation of *streaming necessity* and *how-to* over a large number of test cases remains a gap. In this paper, we use a total of 56 benchmarks to build a statistical view of the data transfer overhead, and give an in-depth analysis of the impacting factors. Among the heterogeneous codes, we identify two types of *non-streamable* codes and three types of *streamable* codes, for which a streaming approach has been proposed. Our experimental results on the CPU-MIC platform show that, with multiple streams, we can improve the application performance by up 90%. Our work can serve as a generic flow of using multiple streams on heterogeneous platforms.

**Keywords:** Multiple Streams, Heterogeneous Platforms, Performance.

## 1 Introduction

Heterogeneous platforms are increasingly popular in many application domains [13]. The combination of using a host CPU combined with a specialized processing unit (e.g., GPGPUs or Intel Xeon Phi) has been shown in many cases to improve the performance of an application by significant amounts. Typically, the host part of a heterogeneous platform manages the execution context while the time-consuming code piece is offloaded to the coprocessor. Leveraging such platforms can not only enable the achievement of high peak performance, but increase the *performance per Watt ratio*.

Given a heterogeneous platform, how to realize its performance potentials remains a challenging issue. In particular, programmers need to explicitly move data between host and device over PCIe before and/or after running kernels. The overhead counts when data transferring takes a decent amount of time, and determines whether to perform offloading is worthwhile [2,3,5]. To hide this overhead, overlapping kernel executions with data movements is required. To this end, *multiple streams* (or *streaming mechanism*) has been introduced, e.g., CUDA Streams [12], OpenCL Command Queues [16], and Intel's hStreams [8]. These implementations of *multiple streams* spawn more than one streams/pipelines so

that the data movement stage of one pipeline overlaps the kernel execution stage of another <sup>1</sup>.

Prior works on multiple streams mainly focus on GPUs and the potential of using multiple streams on GPUs is shown to be significant [4, 7, 9, 17]. Liu et al. give a detailed study into how to achieve optimal task partition within an analytical framework for AMD GPUs and NVIDIA GPUs [9]. In [4], the authors model the performance of asynchronous data transfers of CUDA streams to determine the optimal number of streams. However, these studies have shown very limited number of cases, which leaves two questions unanswered: (1) whether each application is required and worthwhile to use multiple streams on a given heterogeneous platform?, (2) whether each potential application is *streamable* or *overlappable*? If so, how can we stream the code?

To systematically answer these questions, we (1) build a statistical view of the data transfer (H2D and D2H) fraction for a large number of test cases, and (2) present our approach to stream different applications. Specifically, we statistically show that more than 50% test cases (among 223) are not worthwhile to use multiple streams. The fraction of H2D varies over platforms, applications, code variants, and input configurations. Further, we identify two types of *non-streamable* codes (**Iterative** and **SYNC**) and three categories of *streamable* code based on task dependency (**embarrassingly independent**, **false dependent**, and **true dependent**). Different approaches are proposed to either eliminate or respect the data dependency. As case studies, we stream 13 benchmarks of different categories and show their streaming performance impact. Our experimental results show that using multiple streams gives a performance improvement ranging from 8% to 90%. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first comprehensive and systematic study of multiple streams in terms of both *streaming necessity* and *how-to*. To summarize, we make the following contributions:

- We build a statistical view of the data transfer fraction ( $R$ ) with a large number of test cases and analyze its impacting factors (Section 3).
- We categorize the heterogeneous codes based on task dependency and present our approach to stream three types of applications (Section 4).
- We show a generic flow of using multiple streams for a given application: calculating  $R$  and performing code streaming (Section 3, 4).
- We demonstrate the performance impact of using multiple streams on the CPU-MIC platform with 13 streamed benchmarks (Section 5).

## 2 Related Work

In this section, we list the related work on pipelining, multi-tasking, workload partitioning, multi-stream modeling, and offloading necessity.

**Pipelining** is widely used in modern computer architectures [6]. Specifically, the pipeline stages of an instruction run on different functional units, e.g.,

<sup>1</sup> In the context, the streaming mechanism is synonymous with *multiple streams*, and thus we refer the *streamed code* as *code with multiple streams*.

arithmetic units or data loading units. In this way, the stages from different instructions can occupy the same functional unit in different time steps, thus improving the overall system throughput. Likewise, the execution of a heterogeneous application is divided into stages (H2D, KEX, D2H), and can exploit the idea of software pipelining on the heterogeneous platforms.

**Multi-tasking** provides concurrent execution of multiple applications on a single device. In [1], the authors propose and make the case for a GPU multitasking technique called *spatial multitasking*. The experimental results show that the proposed spatial multitasking can obtain a higher performance over cooperative multitasking. In [19], Wende et al. investigate the concurrent kernel execution mechanism that enables multiple small kernels to run concurrently on the Kepler GPUs. Also, the authors evaluate the Xeon Phi offload models with multi-threaded and multi-process host applications with concurrent coprocessor offloading [18]. Both multitasking and multiple streams share the idea of spatial resource sharing. Different from multi-tasking, using multiple streams needs to partition the workload of a single application (rather than multiple applications) into many tasks.

**Workload Partitioning:** There is a large body of workload partitioning techniques, which intelligently partition the workload between a CPU and a coprocessor at the level of algorithm [20] [21] or during program execution [15] [14]. Partitioning workloads aims to use unique architectural strength of processing units and improve resource utilization [11]. In this work, we focus on how to efficiently utilize the coprocessing device with multiple streams. Ultimately, we need to leverage both workload partitioning and multiple streams to minimize the end-to-end execution time.

**Multiple Streams Modeling:** In [4], Gomez-Luna et al. present performance models for asynchronous data transfers on different GPU architectures. The models permit programmers to estimate the optimal number of streams in which the computation on the GPU should be broken up. In [17], Werkhoven et al. present an analytical performance model to indicate when to apply which overlapping method on GPUs. The evaluation results show that the performance model are capable of correctly classifying the relative performance of the different implementations. In [9], Liu et al. carry out a systematic investigation into task partitioning to achieve maximum performance gain for AMD and NVIDIA GPUs. Unlike these works, we aim to evaluate the necessity of using multiple streams and investigate how to use streams systematically. Using a model on Phi to determine the number of streams will be investigated as our future work.

**Offloading Necessity:** Meswani et al. have developed a framework for predicting the performance of applications executing on accelerators [10]. Using automatically extracted application signatures and a machine profile based on benchmarks, they aim to predict the application running time before the application is ported. Evaluating offloading necessity is a former step of applying multiple streams. In this work, we evaluate the necessity of using multiple streams with a statistical approach.

**Table 1.** Applications, Inputs and Configurations

Suite	Applications	Input	Applications	Input
Rodinia (18)	backprop b+tree dwt2d, gaussian, lud hearwall, lavaMD, leukocyte kmeans pathfinder	$10 \times \{2^{16}, 2^{17}, 2^{18}, 2^{19}, 2^{20}\}$ Kernell, Kernel2 $2^{10}, 2^{11}, 2^{12}, 2^{13}, 2^{14}$ 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 $\{1, 3, 10, 30, 100\} \times 100000$ $(\{1, 2, 4\} \times 10^5, \{100, 200, 400\})$	bfs cfd myocyte, srad hotspot nn, nw streamcluster	graph{512K, 1M, 2M, 4M, 8M} 0.97K, 193K, 0.2M 100, 200, 300, 400, 500 $2^9, 2^{10}, 2^{11}, 2^{12}, 2^{13}$ $2^{10}, 2^{11}, 2^{12}, 2^{13}, 2^{14}$ $100 \times \{2^{10}, 2^{11}, 2^{12}, 2^{13}, 2^{14}\}$
Parboil (9)	spmv mri-gridding tpacf sgemm lbm	small, medium, large small small, medium, large small, medium short, long	stencil cutcp bfs mri-q	small, default small, large 1M, NY, SF, UT small, large
NVIDIA SDK (17)	BlackScholes DCT8x8 DXTCompression Histogram MatVecMul Reduction Transpose VectorAdd	$10^6 \times \{4, 8, 12, 16, 20\}$ $2^{10} \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 8\}$ lena 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 256, 128, 64, 32, 16 $2^{10} \times 10^3 \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 8\}$ $2^{10} \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 8\}$ $2^{10} \times \{1, 2, 4, 8, 16\}$	ConvolutionSeparable DotProduct FDTD3d MatrixMul QuansiRandomGenerator Reduction-2 Tridiagonal FastWalshTransform ConvolutionFFT2D	$2^{10} \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 8\}$ $2^{10} \times 10^3 \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 8\}$ 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 $2^{10} \times 10^3 \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 8\}$ $2^{10} \times 10^3 \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 8\}$ 32, 64, 128, 256, 512 8M 62500k
AMD SDK (12)	BinomialOption BoxFilter FloydWarshall RadixSort ScanLargeArrays URNG	$2^{10} \times \{1, 2, 4, 8, 16\}$ BoxFilter_Input $2^{10} \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ $2^{12} \times \{12, 13, 14, 15, 16\}$ $2^{10} \times \{1, 2, 4, 8, 16\}$ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	BitonicSort DwtHaar1D MonteCarloAsian RecursiveGaussian StringSearch PrefixSum	$2^{20} \times \{1, 2, 4, 8, 16\}$ $2^{10} \times 10^3 \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 8\}$ $2^{10} \times \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ default 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 1024k

### 3 A Statistical View

In this section, we give a statistical view of how many applications are worthwhile to be streamed on heterogeneous platforms, and analyze the factors that impact the streaming necessity.

#### 3.1 Benchmarks and Datasets

As shown in Table 1, we use a large number of benchmarks that cover a broad range of interesting applications domains for heterogeneous computing. These benchmarks are from the Rodinia Benchmark Suite, the Parboil Benchmark Suite, the NVIDIA SDK, and the AMD APP SDK. In total, we employ 56 benchmarks and 223 configurations. The details about how applications are configured are summarized in Table 1. Note that we remove the redundant applications among the four benchmark suites when necessary.

#### 3.2 Experimental Platforms

The heterogeneous platform used in this work includes a dual-socket Intel Xeon CPU (12 cores for each socket) and an Intel Xeon 31SP Phi (57 cores for each card). The host CPUs and the cards are connected by a PCIe connection. As for the software, the host CPU runs Redhat Linux v7.0 (the kernel version is 3.10.0-123.el7.x86\_64), while the coprocessor runs a customized uOS (v2.6.38.8).

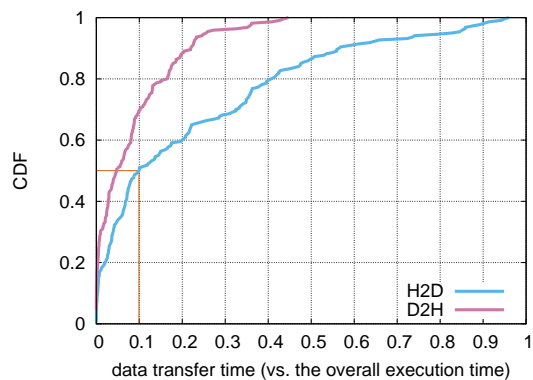
Intel’s MPSS (v3.6) is used as the driver and the communication backbone between the host and the coprocessor. Also, we use Intel’s multi-stream implementation `hStreams` (v3.5.2) and Intel’s OpenCL SDK (v14.2). Note that the applications in Table 1 are in OpenCL, while the pipelined versions are in `hStreams`.

### 3.3 Measurement Methodology

A typical heterogeneous code has three parts: (1) transferring data from host to device (H2D), (2) kernel execution (KEX), and (3) moving data from device back (D2H). To measure the percentage of each stage, we run the codes in a strictly stage-by-stage manner. Moreover, we perform 11 runs and calculate the median value. Before uploading datasets, buffer allocation on the device side is required. Due to the usage of the *lazy allocation policy*, the allocation overhead is often counted into H2D. Thus, we argue that H2D might be larger than the actual host-to-device data transferring time.

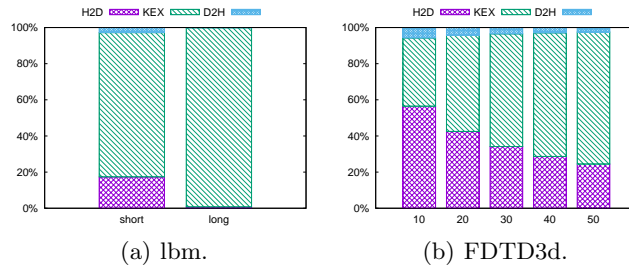
### 3.4 Results and Analysis

We define *data transfer ratio* ( $R$ ) as the fraction of the data transfer time to the total execution time, and take this metric ( $R$ ) as an indicator of whether it is necessary to use multiple streams. Figure 1 shows the CDF distribution of the H2D and D2H duration versus the overall execution time ( $R_{H2D}$  and  $R_{D2H}$ ). We observe that the CDF is over 50% when  $R_{H2D} = 0.1$ . That is, the H2D transfer time takes less than 10% for more than 50% configurations. Meanwhile, the number is even larger (around 70%) for the D2H part. In the remaining contents, we will focus on  $R_{H2D}$  and use  $R$  (instead of  $R_{H2D}$ ) for clarity.



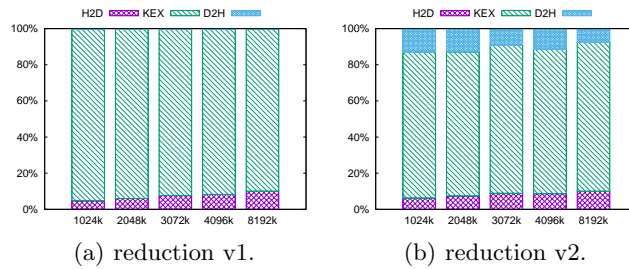
**Fig. 1.** The CDF curve for data transfers between the host and the accelerator.

**The Impact of Input Datasets** Typically, the H2D ratio will remain when changing the input datasets. This is because the computation often changes linearly over the data amount. But this is not necessarily the case. Figure 2 shows how  $R$  changes with the input datasets for `1bm` and `FDTD3d`, respectively. We note that, for `1bm`, using the `short` configuration takes a decent amount of time to move data from host to device, while the data amount takes a much smaller proportion for the `long` configuration. For `FDTD3d`, users have to specify the number of time steps according to their needs. We note that the kernel execution time increases over time steps. When streaming such applications, it is necessary to focus on the commonly used datasets.



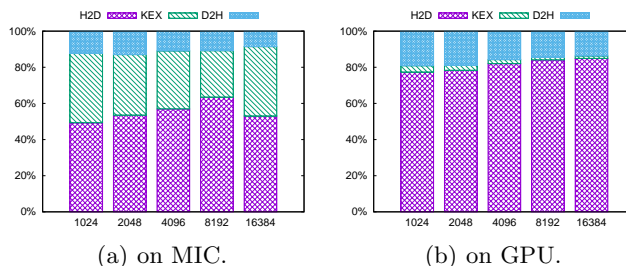
**Fig. 2.**  $R$  changes over datasets for `1bm` and `FDTD3d`.

**The Impact of Code Variants** Figure 3 shows how data transfers change with the two code variants for `Reduction`. `Reduction v1` performs the whole reduction work on the accelerator, thus significantly reducing the data-moving overheads. Meanwhile, `Reduction v2` performs the final reduction on the host side, and thus needs to transfer the intermediate results back to host. Therefore, different code variants will generate different data transferring requirements, which is to be taken into account when streaming such code variants.



**Fig. 3.**  $R$  changes over code variants of NVIDIA `Reduction`.

**The Impact of Platform Divergence** Figure 4 shows how  $R$  changes on MIC and a K80 GPU <sup>2</sup>. We see that the kernel execution time (of `nn`) on the MIC occupies 33% on average while the number is only around 2% on the GPU. This is due to the huge processing power from NVIDIA K80, which reduces the KEX fraction significantly. Ideally, using the streaming mechanism can improve the overall performance by 2% on the GPU. In this case, we argue that it is unnecessary to use multiple streams on GPU.



**Fig. 4.**  $R$  changes over platforms of Rodinia `nn`.

To summarize, we observe that  $R$  varies over platforms, benchmarks, code variants, and input configurations. Each benchmark has a unique balance between computation and memory accesses. Different code variants lead to the differences in transferred data amounts and kernel execution time. Also, input configurations can incur changes in transferred data amounts and/or kernel execution time. Furthermore,  $R$  depends on hardware capabilities (e.g., the PCIe interconnect and the accelerator).

We use  $R$  as an indicator of deciding whether the target application is worthwhile to be streamed. Figure 1 shows that H2D takes only 10% of the total execution time for over 50% test cases. We argue that, on the one hand, the applications are not worthwhile to be streamed when  $R$  is small. This is due to two factors: (1) code streaming introduces overheads for filling and emptying the pipeline, and (2) streaming an application requires extra programming efforts from reconstructing data structures and managing streams. Thus, streaming such applications might lead to a performance degradation compared with the non-streamed code. On the other hand, when  $R$  is too large (e.g., 90%), it is equally not worthwhile to apply streams. When the fraction of H2D is too large, using accelerators may lead to a performance drop (when comparing to the case of only using CPUs), not to mention using streams. In real-world cases, users need make the streaming decision based on the value of  $R$  and the coding effort.

<sup>2</sup> Note that the only difference lies in devices (Intel Xeon 31SP Phi versus NVIDIA K80 GPU) and all the other configurations are the same.

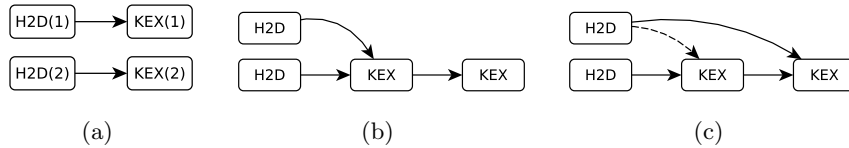


## 4 Our Streaming Approach

### 4.1 Categorization

After determining the necessity to apply the pipelining/streaming mechanism, we further investigate *how-to*. Generally, we divide applications into tasks which are mapped onto different processing cores. As we have mentioned above, each task includes the subtasks of data transfers and kernel execution. To pipeline codes, we should guarantee that *there exist independent tasks* running concurrently. Once discovering independent tasks, we are able to overlap the execution of H2D from one task and KEX from another (Figure 5(a)). For a single task, H2D is dependent on KEX.

In practice, more than one H2D may depend on a single kernel execution (Figure 5(b)). Thus, we need to analyze each H2D–KEX dependency to determine whether each pair can be overlapped. Moreover, an application often has more than one kernel. Implicitly, each kernel is synchronized at the end of its execution. Therefore, the kernel execution order is strictly respected within a single task. Figure 5(c) shows that H2D(1) is depended by KEX(1), but the data is not used til the execution of KEX(2). Thus, this data transfer can be delayed right before KEX(2) when analyzing dependency and/or streaming the code.



**Fig. 5.** The dependent relationship between H2D and KEX (The number in the parenthesis represents stages from different tasks).

Based on the dependency analysis, we categorize the codes listed in Table 1 as *streamable codes* (Section 4.2) and *non-streamable codes*. The first pattern (SYNC) of *non-streamed codes* is when the H2D data is shared by all the tasks of an application. In this case, the whole data transfer has to be finished before kernel execution. The second non-streamable pattern is characterized as *Iterative*, for which KEX will be invoked in an iterative manner once the data is located on device. Although such cases can be streamed by overlapping the data transfer and the first iteration of kernel execution, we argue that the overlapping brings no performance benefit for a large number of iterations.

We analyze the heterogeneous codes listed in Table 1 and categorize them in Table 2. Each nonstreamable code is labeled with **SYNC** or **Iterative**. We note that the kernel of **hearwall** has such a large number of lines of codes and complex structures that its execution takes a major proportion of the end-to-end execution time. It is unnecessary to stream such code on any platform. Due to the

**Table 2.** Application Categorization.

	Nonstreamable		Streamable		
	SYNC	Iterative	Independent	False-dependent	True-dependent
<b>Rodinia</b>	backprop, bfs, b+tree, Kmeans, streamcluster	hotspot, pathfinder	backprop, dwt2d, nn, srاد, streamcluster	lavaMD, leukocyte	gaussian, lud nw
<b>Parboil</b>	spmv, tpacf, bfs, mri-q	mri-gridding, cutcp	sgemm	stencil, lbn	
<b>NVIDIA SDK</b>	Reduction-2,	FDTD3d, DXTCompression	BlackScholes, DCT8x8, DotProduct, Histogram, MatrixMul, MatVecMul, QuansirandomGenerator, Reduction, Transpose, Tridiagonal, VectorAdd	ConvolutionSeparable FastWalshTransform ConvolutionFFT2D	
<b>AMD SDK</b>		BitonicSort, FloydWarshall, RadixSort	BinomialOption, MonteCarloAsian, RecursiveGaussian, ScanLargeArrays, URNG, PrefixSum	BoxFilter, DwtHaar1D, StringSearch	

multiple H2D–KEX dependency pairs, an application might fall into more than one category (e.g., `streamcluster`). Also, the kernel of `myocyte` runs sequentially and thus there are no concurrent tasks for the purpose of pipelining. For the streamable codes, we group them into three categories, which are detailed in Section 4.2.

## 4.2 Code Streaming

We divide the streamable/overlappable applications into three categories based on task dependency: (1) embarrassingly independent, (2) false dependent, and (3) true dependent. Tasks are generated based on input or output data partitioning, and thus task dependency shows as a form of data dependency. We will explain them one by one.

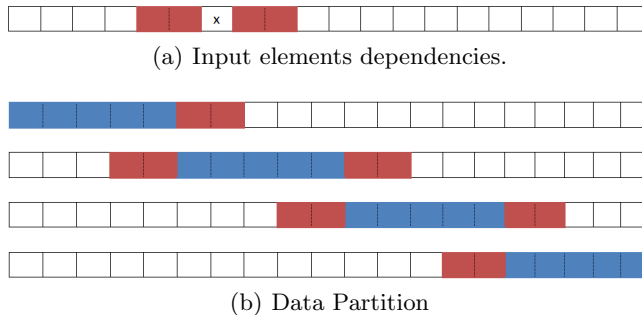
**Embarrassingly Independent** Tasks from such overlappable applications are completely independent. Thus, there is no data dependency between tasks. Taking `nn` (nearest neighbor) for example, it finds the  $k$ -nearest neighbors from an unstructured data set. The sequential `nn` algorithm reads in one record at a time, calculates the Euclidean distance from the target latitude and longitude, and evaluates the  $k$  nearest neighbors. By analyzing its code, we notice no dependency between the input data. Figure 6 shows how to partition the input data. Assuming 16 elements in the set, we divide them into 4 groups, which represent 4 tasks. Then we spawn streams to run the tasks. Due to no dependency, data transferring from one task can overlap kernel execution from another. More **Embarrassingly Independent** applications are shown in Table 2.

**False Dependent** There exist data dependencies in such overlappable applications, but the dependencies come from read-only data (i.e., *RAR* dependency).



**Fig. 6.** Nearest Neighbor Data Partition (16 elements and 4 groups).

In this case, two tasks will share common data elements. A straightforward solution to this issue is that each task moves the shared data elements separately. For example, FWT (fast walsh transform) is a class of generalized Fourier transformations. By analyzing the code, we find that there are dependencies between the input data elements: As shown in Figure 7(a), calculating element  $x$  is related to the 4 neighbors which are marked in red. The input elements are read-only, so we can eliminate the relationship by redundantly transferring boundary elements (Figure 7(b)). We first divide the total elements into four blocks, corresponding to four tasks (in blue). Then, we additionally transfer the related boundary elements (in red) when dealing with each data block. More **False Dependent** applications are shown in Table 2.



**Fig. 7.** Task dependency and data partition for FWT

**True Dependent** The third category of overlappable applications is similar to the second one in that there exist data dependencies between tasks. The difference is that the dependency is true (i.e., *RAW*). This is complicated for programmers not only because there is a dependence between the input data elements, but because they need to update input data in the process of calculation. Thus, the output elements depend on the updated input data, and we must control the order of calculation. The key for this pattern is to discover concurrency while respecting the dependency.

NW, Needleman-Wunsch is a nonlinear global optimization method for DNA sequence alignments. The potential pairs of sequences are organized in a 2D matrix. In the first step, the algorithm fills the matrix from top left to bottom right, step-by-step. The optimum alignment is the pathway through the array with maximum score, where the score is the value of the maximum weighted path

ending at that cell. Thus, the value of each data element depends on the values of its northwest-, north- and west-adjacent elements. In the second step, the maximum path is traced backward to deduce the optimal alignment. As shown in Figure 8(a), calculating element  $x$  is related with three elements: ‘n’ (north-element), ‘w’ (west-element), and ‘nw’ (northwest-element). We must calculate output elements diagonal by diagonal (in the same color), and the elements on the same diagonal can be executed concurrently. Figure 8(b) shows how we divide the data: we number all blocks from the top-left diagonal to the bottom-right one (the first row and first column are the two DNA sequences, marked in number 0), and then change the storage location to let elements from the same block stored contiguously. Figure 8(c) shows the storage pattern, and the numbers represent the relative location. By controlling the execution in the order of diagonal from top-left to bottom-right, we can respect the dependencies between tasks. Further, the tasks on the same diagonal can run concurrently with multiple streams. Note that the number of streams changes on different diagonals. More **True Dependent** applications can be found in Table 2.

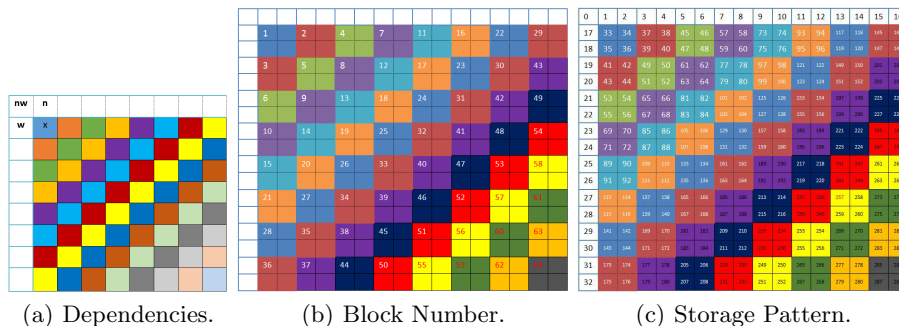
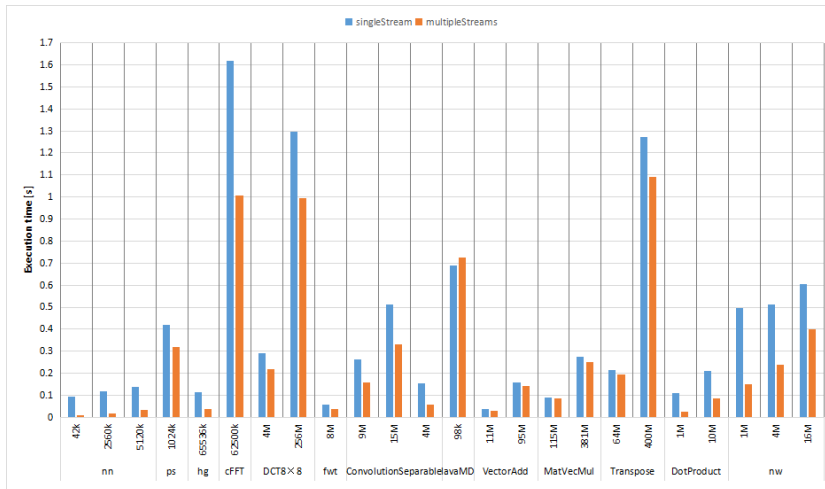


Fig. 8. NW input elements dependencies and how to partition.

## 5 Experimental Results

In this section, we discuss the performance impact of using multiple streams. We use the CPU-MIC heterogeneous platform detailed in Section 3.2. Due to the limitation in time and space, we port 13 applications from Table 1 with **hStreams**. As shown in Table 2, these 13 benchmarks are characterized as different categories and thus we use the corresponding approach to stream them.

Figure 9 shows the overall performance comparison. We see that using multiple streams outperforms using a single stream, with a performance improvement of 8%–90%. In particular, for **nm**, **FastWalshTransform**, **ConvolutionFFT2D**, and **nw**, the improvement is around 85%, 39%, 38%, and 52%, respectively. However, for applications such as **lavaMD**, we cannot obtain the expected performance improvement with multiple streams, which will be discussed in the following.



**Fig. 9.** A performance comparison between single stream and multiple streams. For each application, we employ different configuration, corresponding to different data size. Note that `ps`, `hg`, `cFFT` and `fwt` represents `PrefixSum`, `Histogram`, `ConvolutionFFT2D` and `FastWalshTransform`, respectively.

Also, we notice that the performance increase of using multiple streams varies over benchmarks and datasets. This is due to the differences in data transfer ratio ( $R$ ): a larger  $R$  leads to a greater performance improvement. For example, for `ConvolutionSeparable` and `Transpose`, the average performance improvement is 45% and 11%, with  $R$  being 19% and 14%, respectively. Further, when selecting two datasets (400M and 64M) for `Transpose`, we can achieve a performance increase of 14% and 8%, with  $R$  being 20% and 10%, respectively.

For the **False Dependent** applications, if the extra overhead of transferring boundary elements is nonnegligible, code streaming is not beneficial. For `FWT`, one element is related to 254 elements which is far less than the subtask data size of 1048576. Therefore, although having to transfer extra boundary values, the overall streaming performance impact is positive. However, when the boundary elements are almost equal to the subtask size, the overhead introduced by boundary transmission can not be ignored. `LavaMD` calculates particle potential and relocation due to mutual forces between particles within a large 3D space. In the experiment, one element for `lavaMD` depends on 222 elements, in which 111 elements are lying before the target element and the other half behind. The task data size is 250, which is close to the boundary element number. Thus, we cannot get the expected performance improvement, and the experimental results confirm our conclusion. Specifically, when the task is of 250 and remains unchanged, for single stream, the `H2D` and `KEX` time is 0.3476s and 0.3380s, respectively. When using multiple streams, the overall execution time is 0.7242s. Therefore, it is not beneficial to stream the overlappable applications like `lavaMD`.

## 6 Conclusion

In this paper, we summarize a systematic approach to facilitate programmers to determine whether the application is required and worthwhile to use streaming mechanism, and how to stream the code. (1) obtaining the ratio  $R$ : run the codes in stage-by-stage manner, record the H2D and KEX time, and calculate  $R$ ; (2) judging whether the application is overlappable; (3) streaming the codes by either eliminating or respecting data dependency. Our experimental results on 13 streamed benchmarks show a performance improvement of upto 90%.

The process of analyzing whether a code is streamable and transforming the code is manually performed. Thus, we plan to develop a compiler analysis and tuning framework to automate this effort. Based on the streamed code, we will further investigate how to get optimal performance by setting a proper task and/or resource granularity. Ultimately, we plan to autotune these parameters leveraging machine learning techniques. Also, we want to investigate the streaming mechanism on more heterogeneous platforms, other than the CPU-MIC one.

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