GPU Teaching Kit

Accelerated Computing

Module 4.1 – Memory and Data Locality

CUDA Memories

Objective

- To learn to effectively use the CUDA memory types in a parallel program
  - Importance of memory access efficiency
  - Registers, shared memory, global memory
  - Scope and lifetime

Review: Image Blur Kernel.

```
// Get the average of the surrounding 2xBLUR_SIZE x 2xBLUR_SIZE box
for(int blurRow = -BLUR_SIZE; blurRow < BLUR_SIZE+1; ++blurRow) {
   for(int blurCol = -BLUR_SIZE; blurCol < BLUR_SIZE+1; ++blurCol) {

      int curRow = Row + blurRow;
      int curCol = Col + blurCol;
      // Verify we have a valid image pixel
      if(curRow > -1 && curRow < h && curCol > -1 && curCol < w) {
         pixVal += in[curRow * w + curCol];
         pixels++; // Keep track of number of pixels in the accumulated total
      }
   }
}

// Write our new pixel value out
out[Row * w + Col] = (unsigned char)(pixVal / pixels);
```

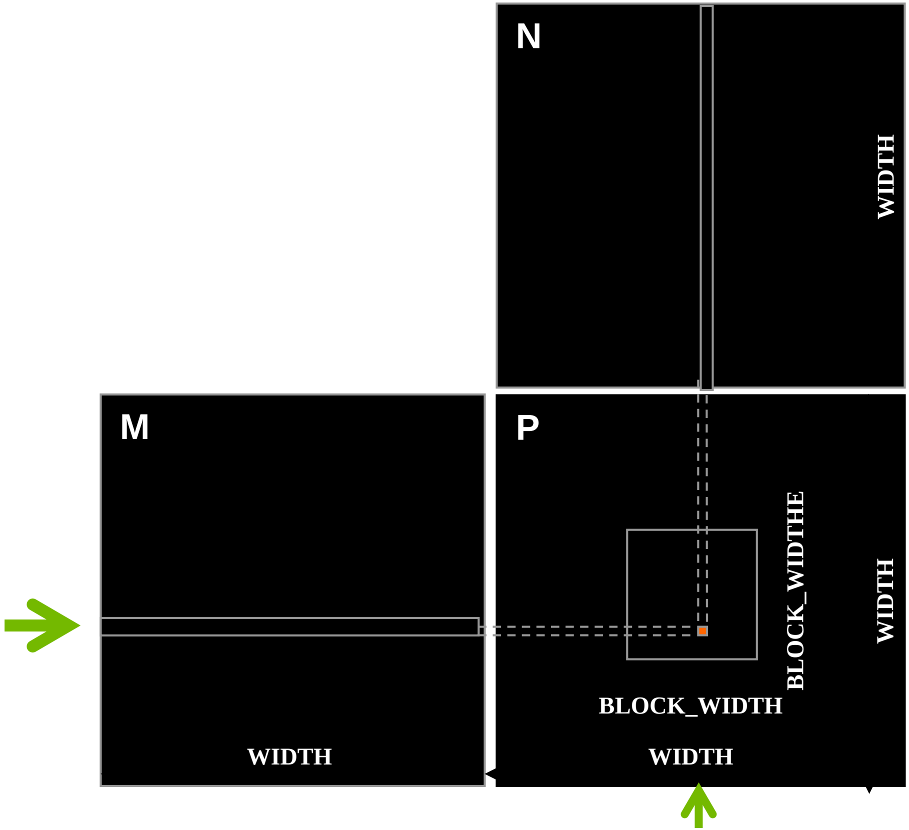
How about performance on a GPU

- All threads access global memory for their input matrix elements
  - One memory accesses (4 bytes) per floating-point addition
  - 4B/s of memory bandwidth/FLOPS
- Assume a GPU with
  - Peak floating-point rate 1,500 GFLOPS with 200 GB/s DRAM bandwidth
  - 4*1,500 = 6,000 GB/s required to achieve peak FLOPS rating
  - The 200 GB/s memory bandwidth limits the execution at 50 GFLOPS

- This limits the execution rate to 3.3% (50/1500) of the peak floating-point execution rate of the device!

- Need to drastically cut down memory accesses to get close to the1,500 GFLOPS

Example – Matrix Multiplication



A Basic Matrix Multiplication

```
__global__ void MatrixMulKernel(float* M, float* N, float* P, int Width) {
  // Calculate the row index of the P element and M
  int Row = blockIdx.y*blockDim.y+threadIdx.y;

  // Calculate the column index of P and N
  int Col = blockIdx.x*blockDim.x+threadIdx.x;

  if ((Row < Width) && (Col < Width)) {
    float Pvalue = 0;
    // each thread computes one element of the block sub-matrix
    for (int k = 0; k < Width; ++k) {
      Pvalue += M[Row*Width+k]*N[k*Width+Col];
    }
    P[Row*Width+Col] = Pvalue;
  }

}
```

Example – Matrix Multiplication

```
__global__ void MatrixMulKernel(float* M, float* N, float* P, int Width) {

  // Calculate the row index of the P element and M
  int Row = blockIdx.y*blockDim.y+threadIdx.y;

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  int Col = blockIdx.x*blockDim.x+threadIdx.x;

  if ((Row < Width) && (Col < Width)) {
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    for (int k = 0; k < Width; ++k) {
      Pvalue += M[Row*Width+k]*N[k*Width+Col];
    }
    P[Row*Width+Col] = Pvalue;
  }

}
```
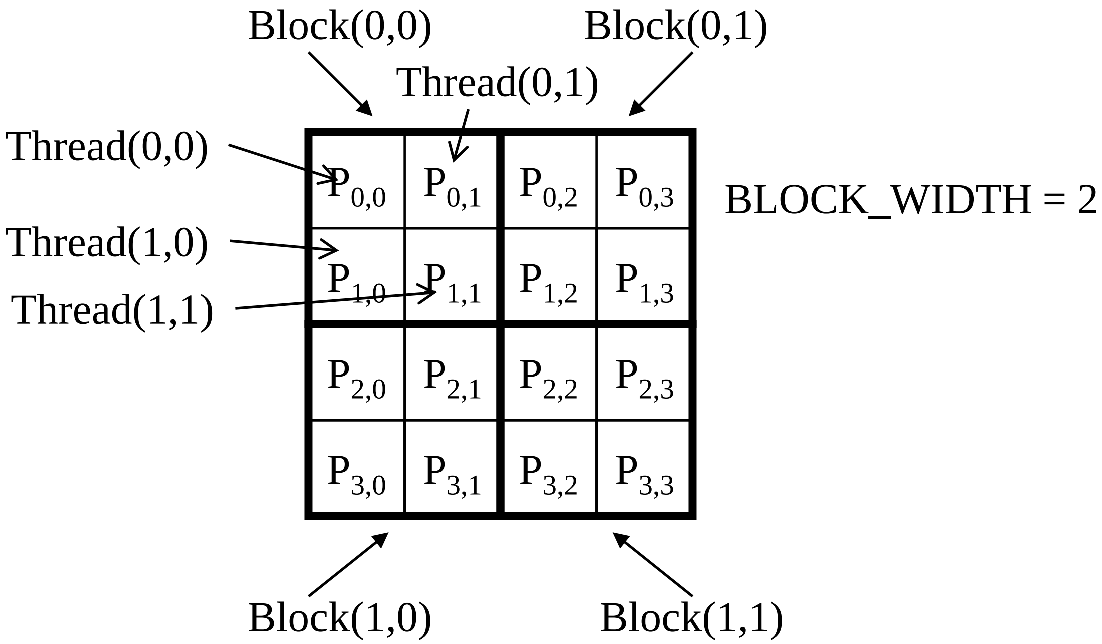
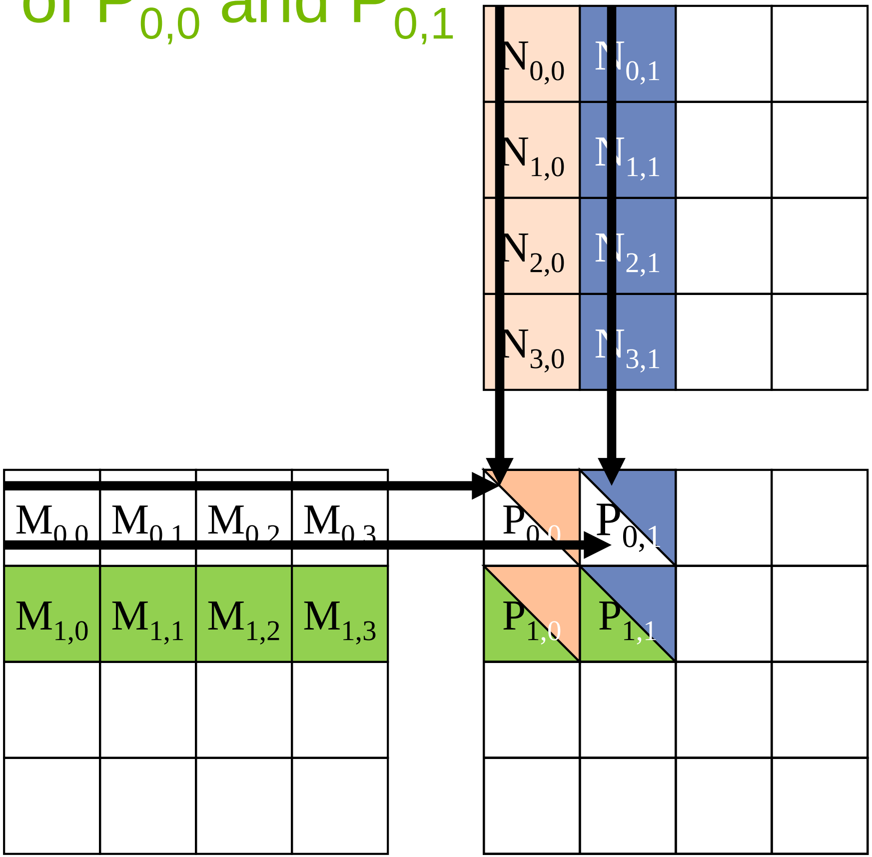
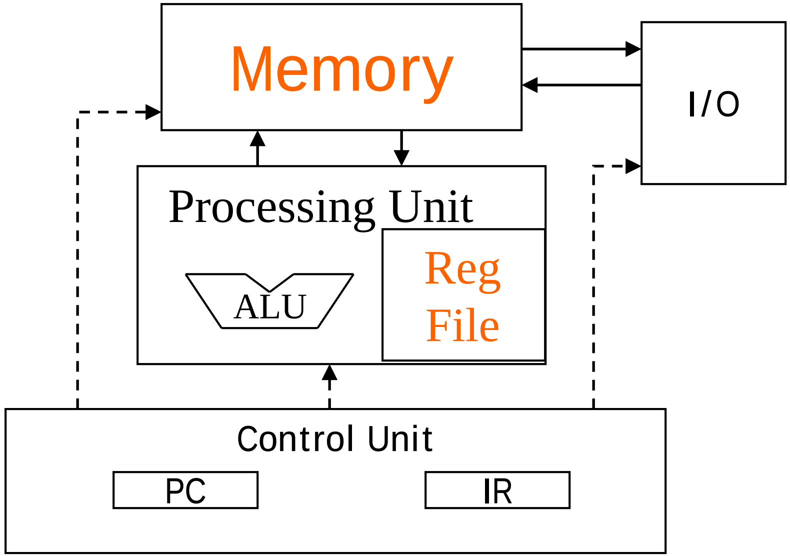

A Toy Example: Thread to P Data Mapping



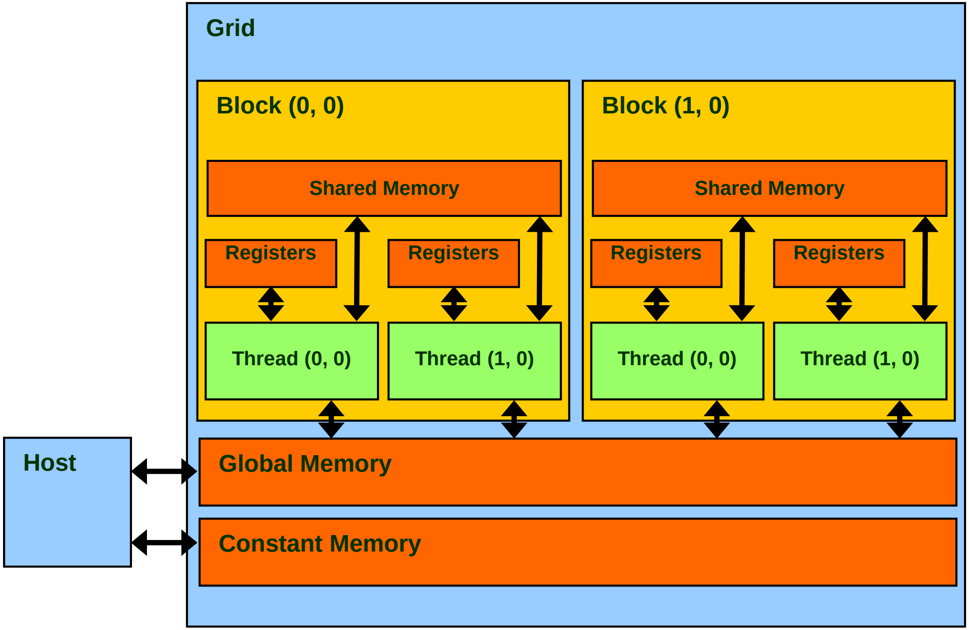
Calculation of $P_{0,0}$ and $P_{0,1}$



Memory and Registers in the Von-Neumann Model



Programmer View of CUDA Memories



Declaring CUDA Variables

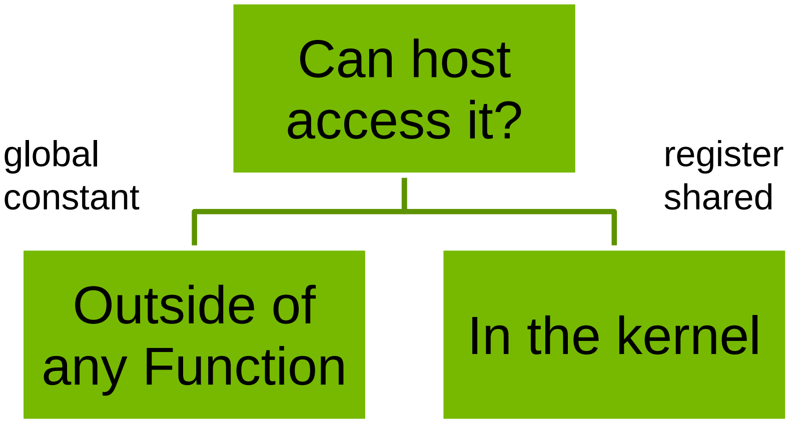
Variable declaration	Memory	Scope	Lifetime
int LocalVar;	register	thread	thread
__device__ __shared__ int SharedVar;	shared	block	block
__device__ int GlobalVar;	global	grid	application
__device__ __constant__ int ConstantVar;	constant	grid	application

- **`__device__`** is optional when used with **`__shared__`**, or **`__constant__`**
- Automatic variables reside in a register
  - Except per-thread arrays that reside in global memory

Example:
Shared Memory Variable Declaration

```
void blurKernel(unsigned char * in, unsigned char * out, int w, int h)
{
   __shared__ float ds_in[TILE_WIDTH][TILE_WIDTH];

  …
}
```

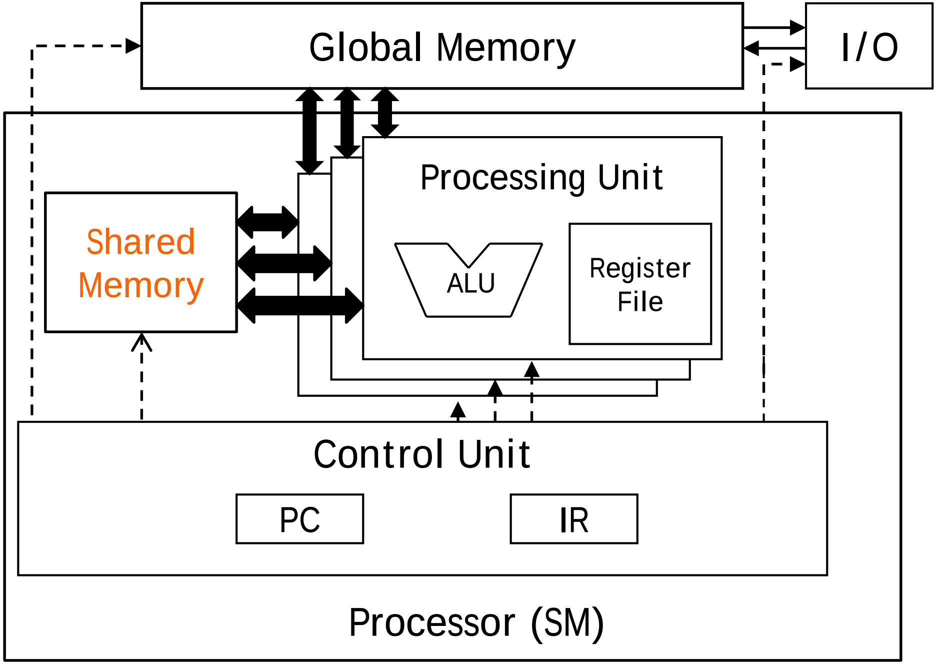
Where to Declare Variables?



Shared Memory in CUDA

- A special type of memory whose contents are explicitly defined and used in the kernel source code
  - One in each SM
  - Accessed at much higher speed (in both latency and throughput) than global memory
  - Scope of access and sharing - thread blocks
  - Lifetime – thread block, contents will disappear after the corresponding thread finishes terminates execution
  - Accessed by memory load/store instructions
  - A form of scratchpad memory in computer architecture

Hardware View of CUDA Memories



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