# Chapel: A Versatile Tool for Teaching Undergraduates Parallel Programming

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#### Acknowledgements

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#### **Topics**

- Introduction to Chapel
- Chapel in Programming Languages
- Hands-on time
- Chapel in Analysis of Algorithms
- Chapel in Parallel Programming
- Hands-on time
- Final Discussion

#### **Basic Facts about Chapel**

- Parallel programming language developed with programmer productivity in mind
- Originally Cray's project under DARPA's High Productivity Computing Systems program
- Suitable for shared- or distributed memory systems
- Installs easily on Linux and Mac OS; use Cygwin to install on Windows

#### Why Chapel?

- Flexible syntax; only need to teach features that you need
- Provides high-level operations
- Designed with parallelism in mind

#### Flexible Syntax

 Supports scripting-like programs: writeln("Hello World!");

Also provides objects and modules

#### Provides High-level Operations

#### Reductions

Ex: x = + reduce A //sets x to sum of elements of AAlso valid for other operators (min, max, \*, ...)

#### Scans

Like a reduction, but computes value for each prefix A = [1, 3, 2, 5];

B = + scan A; //sets B to [1, 1+3=4, 4+2=6, 6+5=11]

## Provides High-level Operations (2)

Function promotion:

```
B = f(A); //applies f elementwise for any function f
```

Includes built-in operators:

```
C = A + 1;

D = A + B;

E = A * B;
```

#### Designed with Parallelism in Mind

- Operations on previous slides parallelized automatically
- Create asynchronous task w/ single keyword
- Built-in synchronization for tasks and variables

#### Your Presenters are...

- Enthusiastic Chapel users
- Interested in high-level parallel programming
- Educators who use Chapel with students

NOT connected to Chapel development team

#### Chapel Resources

- Materials for this workshop
   http://faculty.knox.edu/dbunde/teaching/chapel/SIGCSE14/
- Our tutorials
  - http://faculty.knox.edu/dbunde/teaching/chapel/
    http://cs.colby.edu/kgburke/?resource=chapelTutorial
- Chapel website (tutorials, papers, language specification)
   <a href="http://chapel.cray.com">http://chapel.cray.com</a>
- Mailing lists (on SourceForge)

#### **Practice Systems**

- We have practice accounts set up for use during the workshop
- Get handout from one of the instructors
- Will keep accounts available for a couple of weeks

#### "Hello World" in Chapel

- Create file hello.chpl containing writeln("Hello World!");
- Compile with
   chpl –o hello hello.chpl
- Run with ./hello

#### Variables and Constants

Variable declaration format:
 [config] var/const identifier : type;

```
var x : int;
const pi : real = 3.14;
config const numSides : int = 4;
```

#### Serial Control Structures

- if statements, while loops, and do-while loops are all pretty standard
- Difference: Statement bodies must either use braces or an extra keyword:

```
if(x == 5) then y = 3; else y = 1;
while(x < 5) do x++;
```

## Example: Reading until eof

```
var x : int;
while stdin.read(x) {
    writeln("Read value ", x);
}
```

#### Procedures/Functions

```
arg_type argument omit for generic function
proc addOne(in val : int, inout val2 : int) : int {
  val2 = val + 1;
  return val + 1;
}
return type (omit if none or if can be inferred)
```

#### **Arrays**

Indices determined by a range:

```
var A: [1..5] int;  //declares A as array of 5 ints
var B: [-3..3] int;  //has indices -3 thru 3
var C: [1..10, 1..10] int; //multi-dimensional array
```

Accessing individual cells:

$$A[1] = A[2] + 23;$$

Arrays have runtime bounds checking

#### For Loops

Ranges also used in for loops:

```
for i in 1..10 do statement;
for i in 1..10 {
    loop body
}
```

Can also use array or anything iterable

## Timing code

```
//include Time library
use Time;
var timer = new Timer();
                                      //create Timer object
timer.start();
//do something...
timer.stop();
timer.elapsed() //returns (real-valued) number of seconds
timer.clear(); //get ready to use it again!
```

# Programming Languages

- High-Performance Computing as Paradigm
- Lots of design choices in Chapel to discuss:
  - Task Creation (instead of Threads) with 'begin'.
  - Task Synchronicity with 'sync' and cobegin
  - Parallel loops: forall and coforall
  - Thread safety using variable 'sync'
  - reduce overcomes bottleneck

```
var total = 0;
for i in 1..100 do total += i;
writeln(''Sum is '', total, ''.'');
```

We can add a Timer to measure running time!

var total = 0;

for i in 1..100 do total += i;

```
writeln(''Sum is '', total, ''.'');
     We can add a Timer to measure running time!
use Time;
var timer: Timer;
var total = 0;
timer.start();
for i in 1..100 do total += i;
timer.stop();
writeln(''Sum is '', total, ''.'');
writeln(''That took '', timer.elapsed(), '' seconds.'');
```

Now let's use another thread!

```
use Time;
var timer: Timer;
var total = 0;
var highTotal = 0;
var lowTotal = 0;
timer.start();
begin ref(highTotal) {
    for i in 51..100 do highTotal += i;
for i in 1..50 do lowTotal += i;
total = lowTotal + highTotal;
timer.stop();
writeln(''Sum is '', total, ''.'');
writeln(''That took '', timer.elapsed(), '' seconds.'');
      Note: ref(highTotal) at begin
```

Now let's use another thread!

```
use Time;
var timer: Timer;
var total = 0;
var highTotal = 0;
var lowTotal = 0;
timer.start();
begin ref(highTotal) {
    for i in 51..100 do highTotal += i;
for i in 1..50 do lowTotal += i;
total = lowTotal + highTotal;
timer.stop();
writeln(''Sum is '', total, ''.'');
writeln(''That took '', timer.elapsed(), '' seconds.'');
      Result: faster, but sometimes incorrect.
```

# PL: Synchronization

Incorrect: top thread may not finish.

Chapel provides a solution: sync

```
sync {
    begin {
        ...
    }
    begin {
        ...
}
...
}
```

# PL: Synchronization

Use sync:

```
timer.start();
sync {
   begin ref(highTotal) {
      for i in 51..100 do highTotal += i;
   }
   begin ref(lowTotal) {
      for i in 1..50 do lowTotal += i;
   }
}
total = lowTotal + highTotal;
...
```

# PL: Syntactic Sugar

Ask students: How common is this?

```
sync {
  begin {
     //single line of code
  begin {
     //another single line
  begin {
     //even yet another single line
```

So, what did language designers do?

# PL: Syntactic Sugar

```
cobegin {
   //single line of code
   //another single line
   . . .
   //even yet another single line
}
```

#### PL: forall

forall: data-parallel loop

```
var sum = 0;
forall i in 1..100 {
   sum += i;
}
writeln("Sum is: ", sum, ".");
```

#### PL: forall

forall: data-parallel loop

```
var sum = 0;
forall i in 1..100 {
   sum += i;
}
writeln("Sum is: ", sum, ".");
```

Ask: Why doesn't this work?

# PL: HPC Concepts

- Why doesn't it work?
  - Race conditions
  - Atomicity
  - Synchronization solutions

#### PL: forall

One solution: synchronized variables

```
var sum : sync int;
sum = 0;
forall i in 1..100 {
   sum += i;
}
writeln("Sum is: ", sum, ".");
```

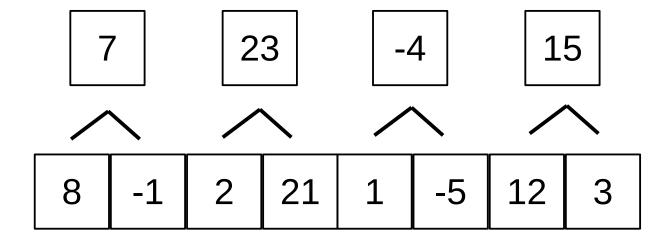
# PL: sync bottleneck and reduce

- sync causes a bottleneck:
  - Running time still technically linear.
- Reductions:
  - Divide-and-conquer solution

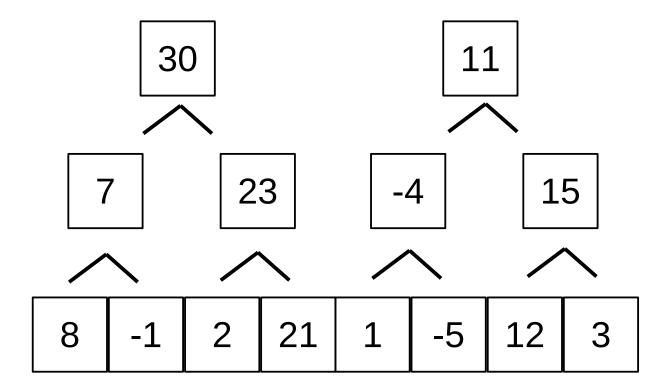
PL: Reductions

8 -1 2 21 1 -5 12 3

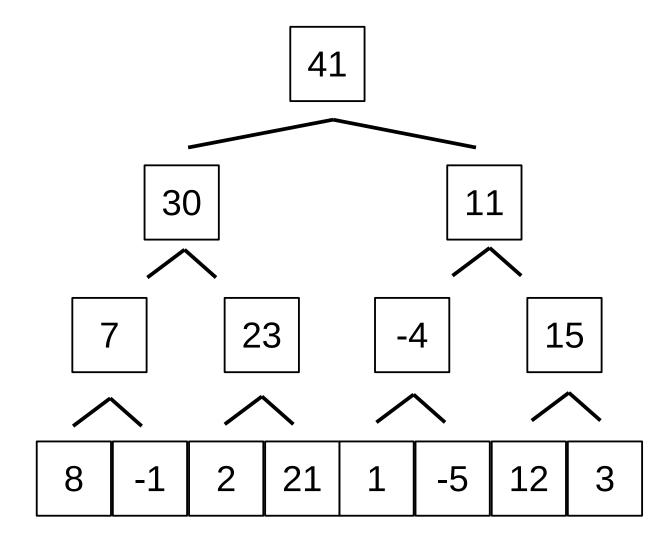
## PL: Reductions



### PL: Reductions



### PL: Reductions



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- sync causes a bottleneck:
  - Running time still technically linear.
- Reductions:
  - Divide-and-conquer solution
  - Simplify with 'reduce' keyword!

```
var integers : [1..100] int;
forall i in integers.domain {
   integers[i] = i;
}
var sum = + reduce integers;
```

```
var integers : [1..100] int;
forall i in integers.domain {
   integers[i] = i;
}
var sum = + reduce integers;
```

One line solution?

```
var sum = + reduce (1..100);
```

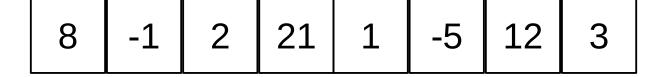
All intermediate values?

```
var sum = + scan array;
```

```
8 -1 2 21 1 -5 12 3
```

All intermediate values?

```
var sum = + scan array;
```



8 7 9 30 31 26 38 41

Fun Uses!

```
var factorials = * scan (1..10);

var threes : [1..10] int;
forall i in threes.domain do
    threes[i] = 3;

var powersOfThree = * scan threes;
```

### **Chapel Ranges**

- What is a range?
- How are ranges used?
- Range operations

### Chapel Ranges

- What is a range?
  - A range of values
  - Ex: var someNaturals : range = 0..50;
- How are they used?
  - Indexes for Arrays
  - Iteration space in loops
- Are there cool operations?

### Chapel Ranges

- What is a range?
  - A range of values
  - Ex: var someNaturals : range = 0..50;
- How are they used?
  - Indexes for Arrays
  - Iteration space in loops
- Are there cool operations?

Yes!

#### Range Operation Examples

### Other Cool Range Things

Can create "infinite" ranges:
 var naturals: range = 0..;

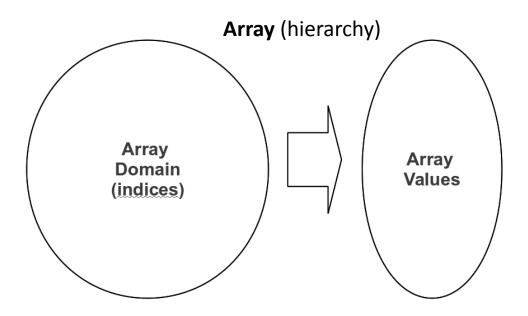
Ranges in the "wrong order" are auto-empty:
 var nothing: range = 2..-2;

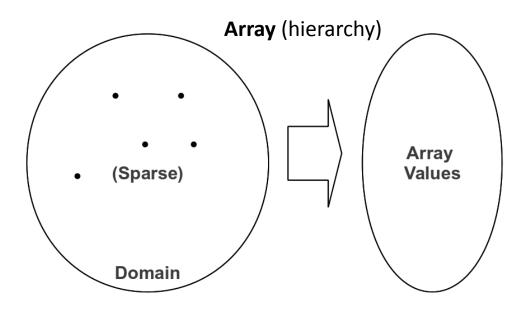
Otherwise, negatives are just fine

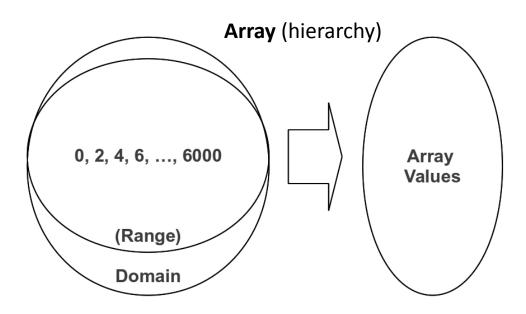
- What is a domain?
- How are domains used?
- Operations on domains
- Example: Game of Life

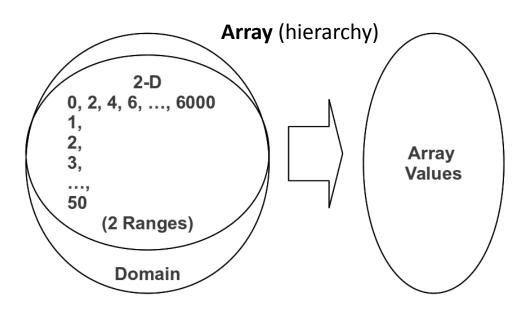
- Domain: index set
  - Used to simplify addressing
  - Every array has a domain to hold its indices
  - Can include ranges or be sparse
- Example:

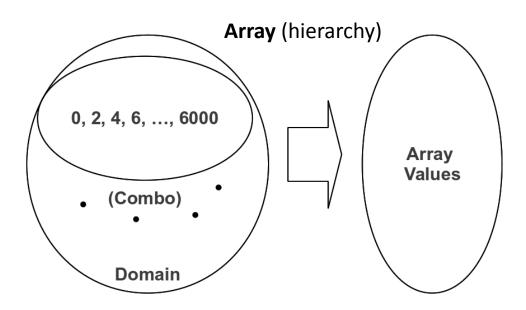
```
var A: [1..10] int; //indices are 1, 2, ..., 10
...
for i in A.domain {
    //do something with A[i]
}
```











- Domain Declaration:
  - var D: domain(2) = {0..m, 0..n};
    - D is 2-D domain with (m+1) x (n+1) entries
  - var A: [D] int;
    - A is an array of integers with D as its domain

- Domain Declaration:
  - $\text{ var D: domain(2)} = \{0..m, 0..n\};$ 
    - D is 2-D domain with (m+1) x (n+1) entries
  - var A: [D] int;
    - A is an array of integers with D as its domain

Why is this useful?

- Changing D changes A automatically!
- D = {1..m, 0..n+1}
   decrements height; increments width!
   (adds zeroes)

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 |



| 4 | 5 | 6 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 0 |

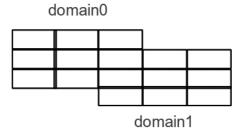
#### Domains vs. Ranges

- Despite how similar they seem so far, domains and ranges are different
  - Domains remain tied to arrays so that resizing the domain resizes the array:

Domains are more general; some are not sets of integers

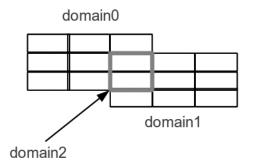
domain0: {0..2, 1..3}

domain1: {1..3, 3..5}



domain0: {0..2, 1..3}

domain1: {1..3, 3..5}

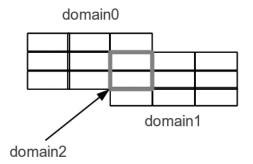


domain2: {1..2, 3..3}

//domain2 is the intersection of domain1 and domain0
var domain2 = domain1 [domain0];

domain0: {0..2, 1..3}

domain1: {1..3, 3..5}



domain2: {1..2, 3..3}

//domain2 is the intersection of domain1 and domain0
var domain2 = domain1 [domain0];

## PL: Projects

- Matrix Multiplication
  - Matrix-vector multiplication in class
  - Different algorithms:
    - Column-by-column
    - One entry at a time
- Collatz conjecture testing
  - Generate lots of tasks (coforall)
  - How to synchronize?

## PL: Takeaways

Lots of language features to discuss!

Learning HPC → Motivates Syntax

Students love it!

#### Hands-on time

http://cs.colby.edu/kgburke/?resource=sigcse

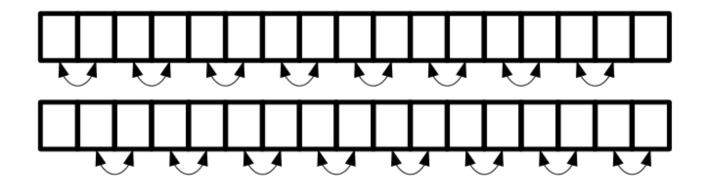
#### Analysis of Algorithms

- Chapel material
  - Assign basic tutorial
  - Teach forall & cobegin (also algorithmic notation)
- Projects
  - Partition integers
  - BubbleSort
  - MergeSort
  - Nearest Neighbors

#### Algorithms Project: List Partition

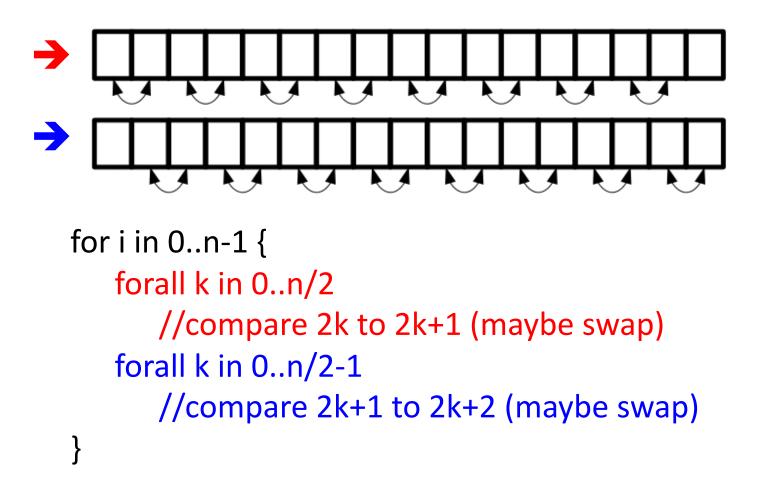
- Partition a list to two equal-summing halves.
- Brute-force algorithm (don't know P vs NP yet)
- Questions:
  - What are longest lists you can test?
  - What about in parallel?
- Trick: enumerate possibilities and use forall

#### Algorithms Project: BubbleSort

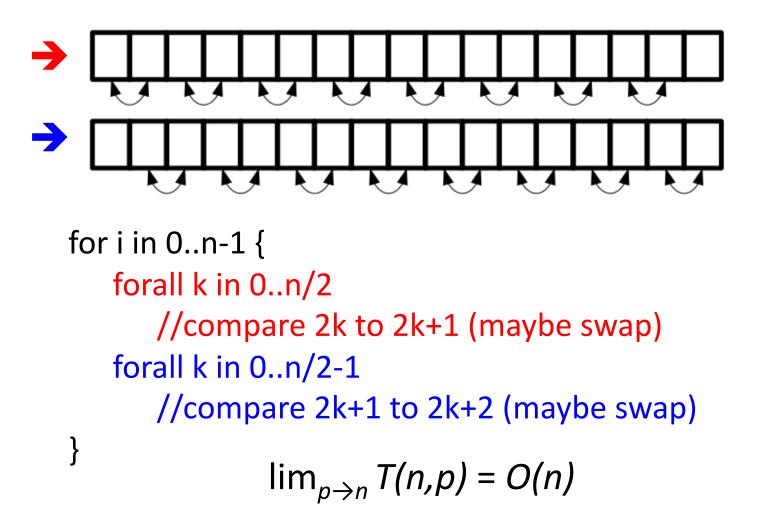


- Instead of left-to-right, test all pairs in two steps!
- Two nested forall loops (in sequence) inside a for loop

#### Algorithms Project: BubbleSort



#### Algorithms Project: BubbleSort



# Algorithms Project: MergeSort

Parallel divide-and-conquer: use cobegin



 12
 8
 5
 15
 7
 4

4 0 16 7 1 9

# Algorithms Project: MergeSort

Parallel divide-and-conquer: use cobegin



4 5 7 8 12 15

0 1 4 7 9 16

# Algorithms Project: MergeSort

Parallel divide-and-conquer: use cobegin



4 5 7 8 12 15

0 1 4 7 9 16

0 1 4 4 5 7 7 8 9 12 15 16

#### Algorithms Project: Nearest Neighbors

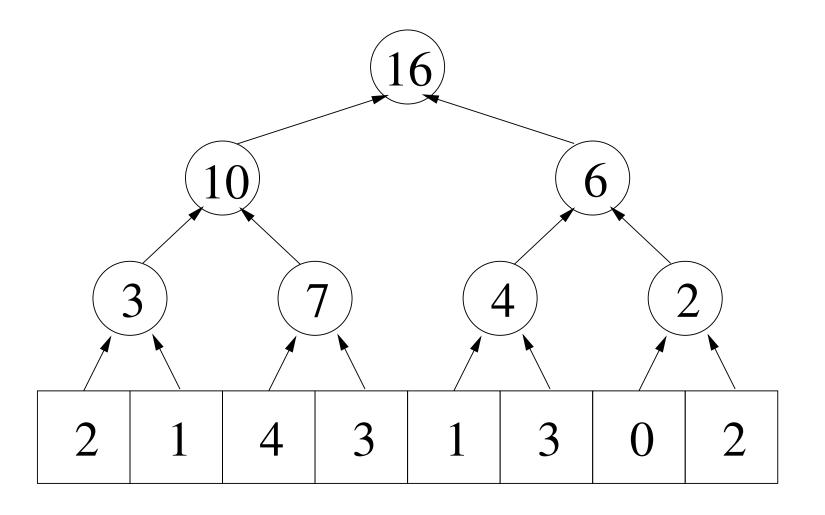
- Find closest pair of (2-D) points.
- Two algorithms:
  - Brute Force
    - (use a forall like bubbleSort)
  - Divide-and-Conquer
    - (use cobegin)
    - A bit tricky
- Value of parallelism: much easier to program the brute-force method

Reductions II: The Revenge

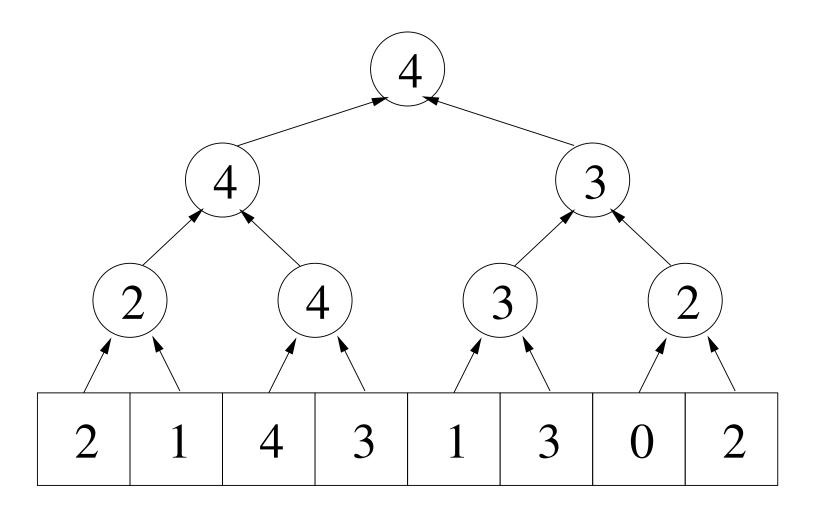
# Summing values in an array

2 1 4 3 1 3 0 2

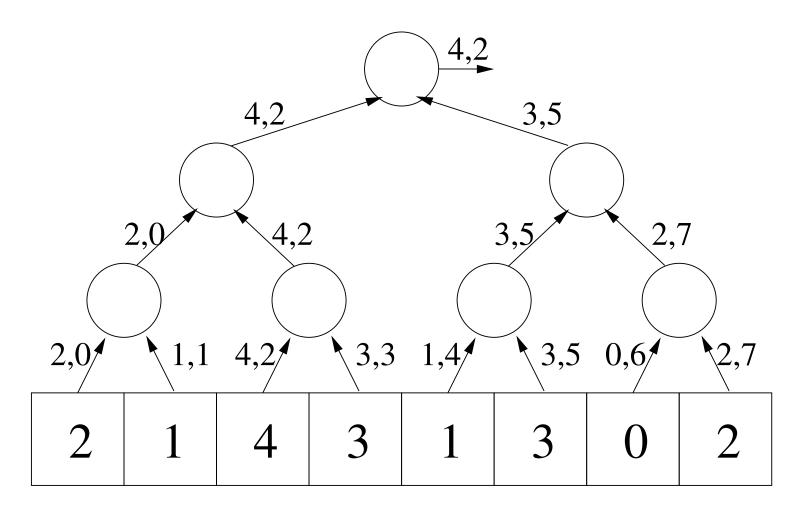
# Summing values in an array



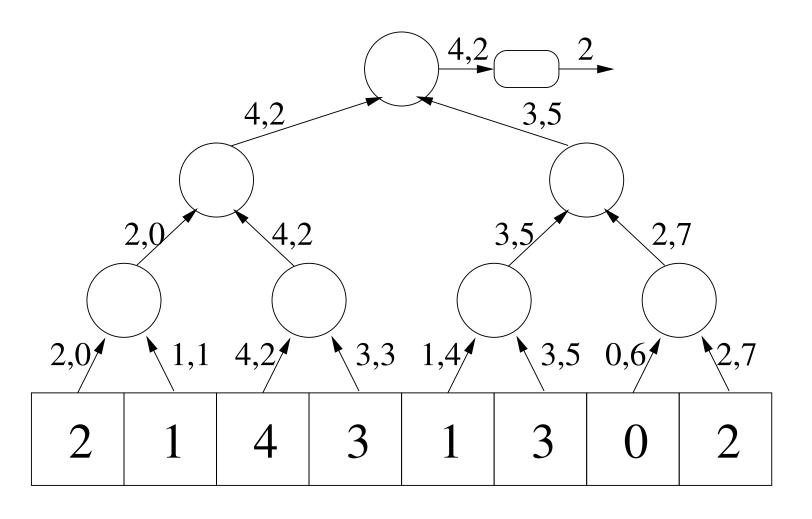
## Finding max of an array



## Finding the maximum index



## Finding the maximum index



#### Parts of a reduction

- Tally: Intermediate state of computation
- Combine: Combine 2 tallies
- Reduce-gen: Generate result from tally

#### Parts of a reduction

- Tally: Intermediate state of computation (value, index)
- Combine: Combine 2 tallies
   take whichever pair has larger value
- Reduce-gen: Generate result from tally return the index

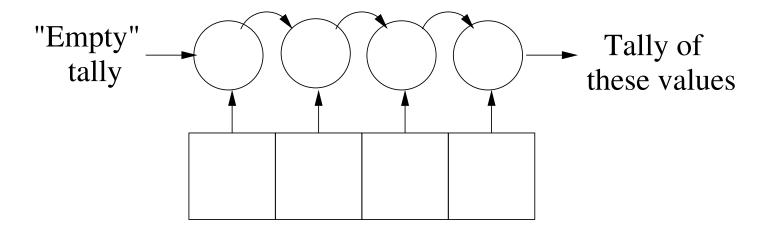
#### Two issues

- Need to convert initial values into tallies
- May want separate operation for values local to a single processor



#### Two issues

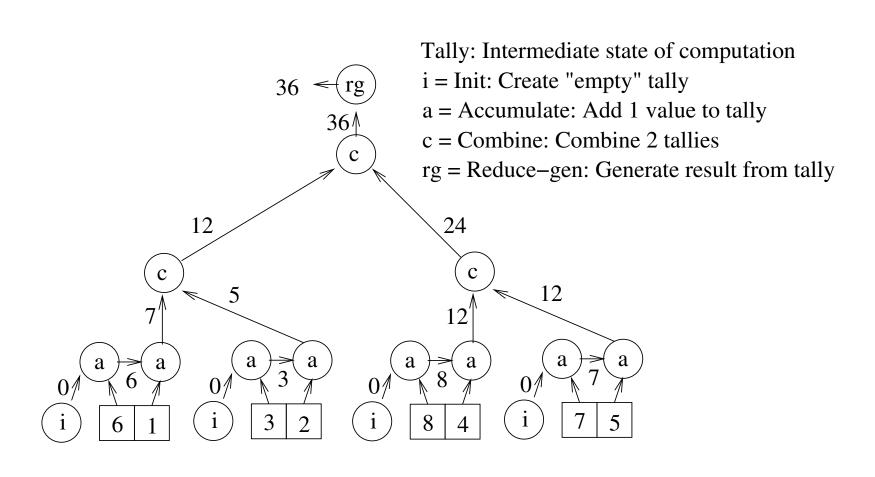
- Need to convert initial values into tallies
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#### Parts of a reduction

- Tally: Intermediate state of computation
- Combine: Combine 2 tallies
- Reduce-gen: Generate result from tally
- Init: Create "empty" tally
- Accumulate: Add single value to tally

#### Parallel reduction framework



- Tally: Intermediate state of computation
- Combine: Combine 2 tallies
- Reduce-gen: Generate result from tally
- Init: Create "empty" tally
- Accumulate: Add single value to tally

Sample problems: +

- Tally: Intermediate state of computation
- Combine: Combine 2 tallies
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Sample problems: +, histogram

- Tally: Intermediate state of computation
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Sample problems: +, histogram, max

- Tally: Intermediate state of computation
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Sample problems: +, histogram, max, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest

- Tally: Intermediate state of computation
- Combine: Combine 2 tallies
- Reduce-gen: Generate result from tally
- Init: Create "empty" tally
- Accumulate: Add single value to tally

Sample problems: +, histogram, max, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest, length of longest run

### Can go beyond these...

indexOf (find index of first occurrence)

sequence alignment

[Srinivas Aluru]

n-body problem

[Srinivas Aluru]

#### Relationship to dynamic programming

- Challenges in dynamic programming:
  - What are the table entries?
  - How to compute a table entry from previous entries?
- Challenges in reduction framework:
  - What is the tally?
  - How to compute a new tallies from previous ones?

## Reductions in Chapel

Express reduction operation in single line:
 var s = + reduce A; //A is array, s gets sum

• Supports +, \*, ^ (xor), &&, ||, max, min, ...

 minloc and maxloc return a tuple with value and its index:

var (val, loc) = minloc reduce A;

#### Reduction example

- Can also use reduce on function plus a range
- Ex: Approximate  $\pi/2$  using  $\int_{-1}^{1} \sqrt{1-x^2} dx$ :

### Defining a custom reduction

Create object to represent intermediate state

- Must support
  - accumulate: adds a single element to the state
  - combine: adds another intermediate state
  - generate: converts state object into final output

### Classes in Chapel

```
class Circle {
    var radius : real;
    proc area() : real {
        return 3.14 * radius * radius;
                        //creates 2 Circle references
var c1, c2 : Circle;
                        /* uses system-supplied constructor
c1 = new Circle(10);
                                     to create a Circle object
                                      and makes c1 refer to it */
                         //makes c2 refer to the same object
c2 = c1;
delete c1;
                         //memory must be manually freed
```

#### Inheritance

```
class Circle: Shape { //Circle inherits from Shape
var s : Shape;
s = new Circle(10.0); //automatic cast to base class
var area = s.area(); /* call recipient determined
                        by object's dynamic type */
```

### Example "custom" reduction

```
class MyMin: ReduceScanOp { //finds min element (equiv. to built-in "min")
                                          //type of elements
   type eltType;
   var soFar : eltType = max(eltType); //minimum so far
   proc accumulate(val : eltType) {
         if(val < soFar) { soFar = val; }</pre>
   proc combine(other : MyMin) {
         if(other.soFar < soFar) { soFar = other.soFar; }</pre>
   proc generate() { return soFar; }
```

### Example "custom" reduction

```
class MyMin: ReduceScanOp { //finds min element (equiv. to built-in "min")
                                         //type of elements
   type eltType;
   var soFar : eltType = max(eltType); //minimum so far
   proc accumulate(val : eltType) {
         if(val < soFar) { soFar = val; }</pre>
   proc combine(other : MyMin) {
         if(other.soFar < soFar) { soFar = other.soFar; }</pre>
   proc generate() { return soFar; }
var theMin = MyMin reduce A;
```

#### What about scans?

 Instead of just getting overall value, also compute value for every prefix

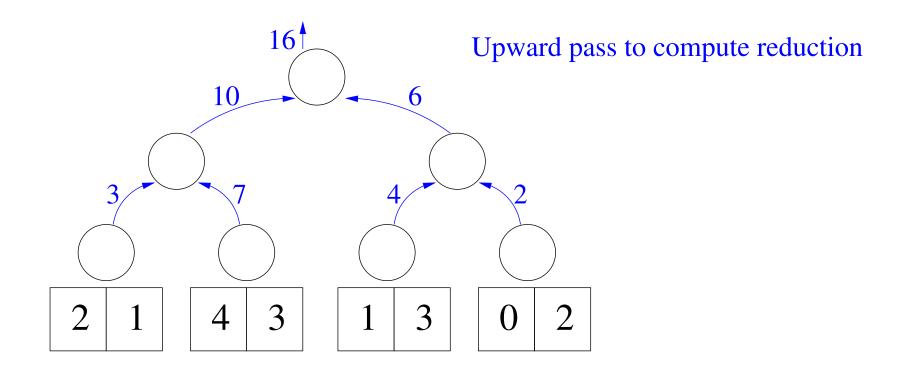
| A   | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3  | 1  | 3  | 0  | 2  |
|-----|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| sum | 2 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 14 | 16 |

#### What about scans?

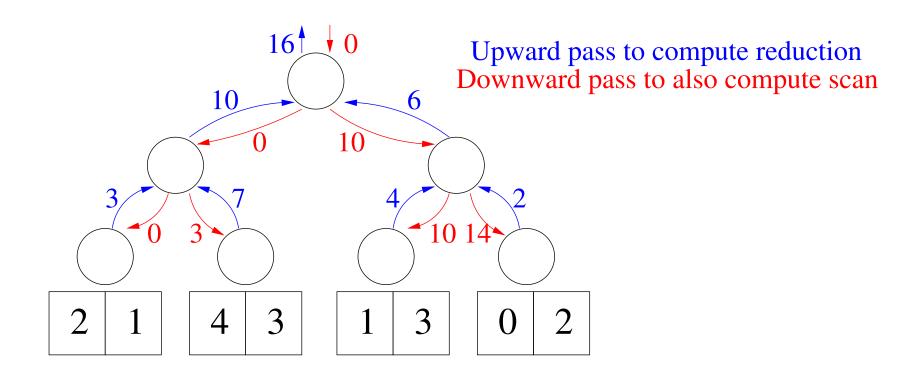
 Instead of just getting overall value, also compute value for every prefix

var minsArray = MyMin scan A;

## Computing the scan in parallel



## Computing the scan in parallel



## Presenting reductions

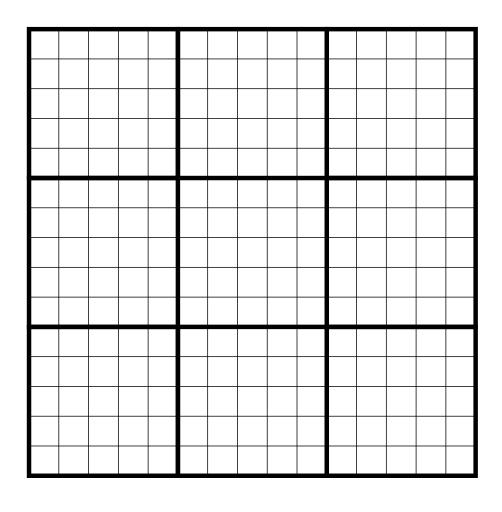
- Using reductions with standard functions
  - Optionally including scans
- Defining your own reductions

# Parallel programming course

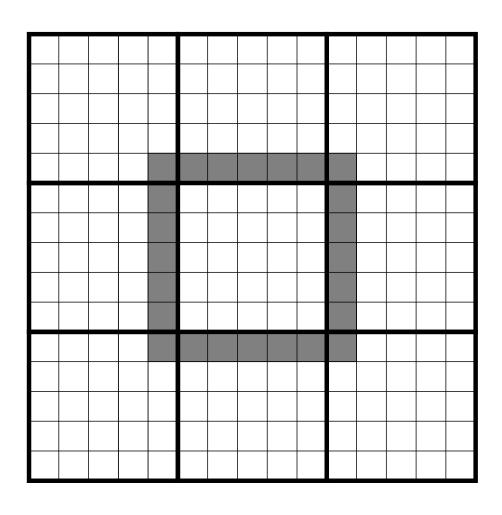
## My experience

- Course to explore HPC overall
   (apps, machines, system software, programming)
- Talked about Chapel (and ZPL) in contrast to MPI

## Game of Life in MPI



## Game of Life in MPI



#### Global-view

 Specify entire computation rather than one node's (local) view of it

```
var adjacentDomain : domain(2) = {x-1..x+1, y-1..y+1};
var neighborDomain = adjacentDomain[currentBoard.domain];
var neighborSum = + reduce currentBoard[neighborDomain];
```

neighborSum = neighborSum - currentBoard[x, y];

## Representing locality

```
    Give control over where code is executed:
        on Locales[0] do
        something();
    and where data is placed:
        on Locales[1] {
            var x : int;
        }
```

## Representing locality

```
    Give control over where code is executed:
        on Locales[0] do
        something();
    and where data is placed:
        on Locales[1] {
            var x : int;
        }
    Can move computation to data:
```

on x do something();

## Separate from parallelism

Serial but multi-locale:

```
on Locales[0] do function1(); on Locales[1] do function2();
```

• Parallel and multi-locale:

```
cobegin {
    on Locales[0] do function1();
    on Locales[1] do function2();
}
```

## Managing data distribution

Domain maps say how arrays are mapped

var A : [D] int dmapped Block(boundingBox=D)



var A : [D] int dmapped Cyclic(startIdx=1)

#### Useful references

- B.L. Chamberlain, S.-E. Choi, E.C. Lewis, C. Lin, L.
   Snyder and W.D. Weathersby. "The case for high level parallel programming in ZPL". IEEE Computational
   Science and Engineering 5(3): 76-86, 1998. <a href="link">link</a>
- Lots of stuff on Chapel website
  - H. Burkhart, M. Sathe, M. Christen, O. Schenk, and M. Rietmann. "Run, Stencil, Run! HPC Productivity Studies in the Classroom". Proc. 6th Conf. Partitioned Global Address Space Programming Models (PGAS), 2012. <a href="link"><u>link</u></a>

#### Take home: Parallel course

- Can demonstrate standard concepts
- Particularly suited to demonstrate global-view and locality management
- Lots of possible reading material to expose research element

## Hands-on time

http://cs.colby.edu/kgburke/?resource=sigcse

# Summary / discussion

## How else might you use Chapel?

- Operating Systems
  - Easy thread generation for scheduling projects
- Software Design
  - Some parallel design patterns have lightweight
     Chapel implementations
- Artificial Intelligence
   (or other courses w/ computationally-intense projects)
- Independent Projects

#### **Caveats**

- Still in development
  - Error messages thin
  - New versions every 6 months
  - Not many libraries
  - (Students thought this was awesome!)
- No development environment
  - Command-line compilation in Linux

#### Conclusions

- Chapel is easy to pick up
- Chapel can be used in many courses
- Loads of features, but...
- Flexible depth of material
- Students will dig in!

#### Your Feedback

- What are your impressions of Chapel?
- How likely are you to adopt Chapel?
  - What course(s) will you use it in?
- What resources would help you adopt it?
  - Kyle has a bunch and is happy to share!!!

# Thanks!

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