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# That's right, the same C++ STL asynchronous parallel code runs on CPUs & GPUs

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## Motivation

Various programming models are used to accelerate C++ HPC applications on heterogeneous supercomputers. This leads to many challenges in software performance, code portability, and programming productivity.

## Introduction

**std::execution** (or **stdexec**) -- the proposed C++26 standard feature -- provides an asynchronous parallel framework enabling running standard C++ code on CPUs & GPUs with minimal modifications. We leverage **stdexec**, **stdpar** & modern C++ to implement & evaluate multiple HPC scientific apps on the **Perlmutter** supercomputer.

## std::execution components

1) **schedulers** - obtained from execution contexts  
**scheduler c** = `cpu.schedule()`; execution contexts (CPUs, GPUs)  
**scheduler g** = `gpu.schedule()`

2) **senders** - send the **composed** work to scheduler **g**  
**sender** auto **s** = `schedule(g)`

3) **composable algorithms** - compose the algorithmic task graph (DAG) using pipe symbol (`|`)  
`| bulk(N, par_alg1()) | bulk(N, par_alg2()) | transfer(c) | then(serial_alg1());`

4) **receivers** - wait and receive the execution results for sender **s**  
`auto [r] = sync_wait(s).value();`

## App 1: AMReX 2D Stencil

```
// nvexec multi gpu stream context and scheduler
nvexec::multi_gpu_stream_context ctx;
auto gpus = ctx.get_scheduler();
// std::spans to ensure trivially copyable
std::span phi_old, phi_new;

// send initialize phi_old to gpus
sender auto s1 = transfer_just(gpus, phi_old)
| bulk(phi_old, init);
sync_wait(s1);

for (i in nsteps) {
    // send heat equation loop to gpus
    sender auto s2 = transfer_just(gpus, phi_old, phi_new)
    | bulk(phi_old, phi_new, fill_boundary(old, new))
    | bulk(phi_old, phi_new, heat_equation(old, new))
    | bulk(phi_old, phi_new, parallel_copy(old, new)); }
```

## App 2: Recursive 1D Stencil

```
// recursive stencil computation
auto stencil (nsteps) -> any_space_sender {
    // initialize & return phi on cpu
    if (nsteps == 0) {
        mspan phi = std::for_each(stdexec::seq, init);
        return just(phi); }

    return just(nsteps - 1)
    | let_value((step) { return stencil(step); })
    | then((auto phi_old) {
```

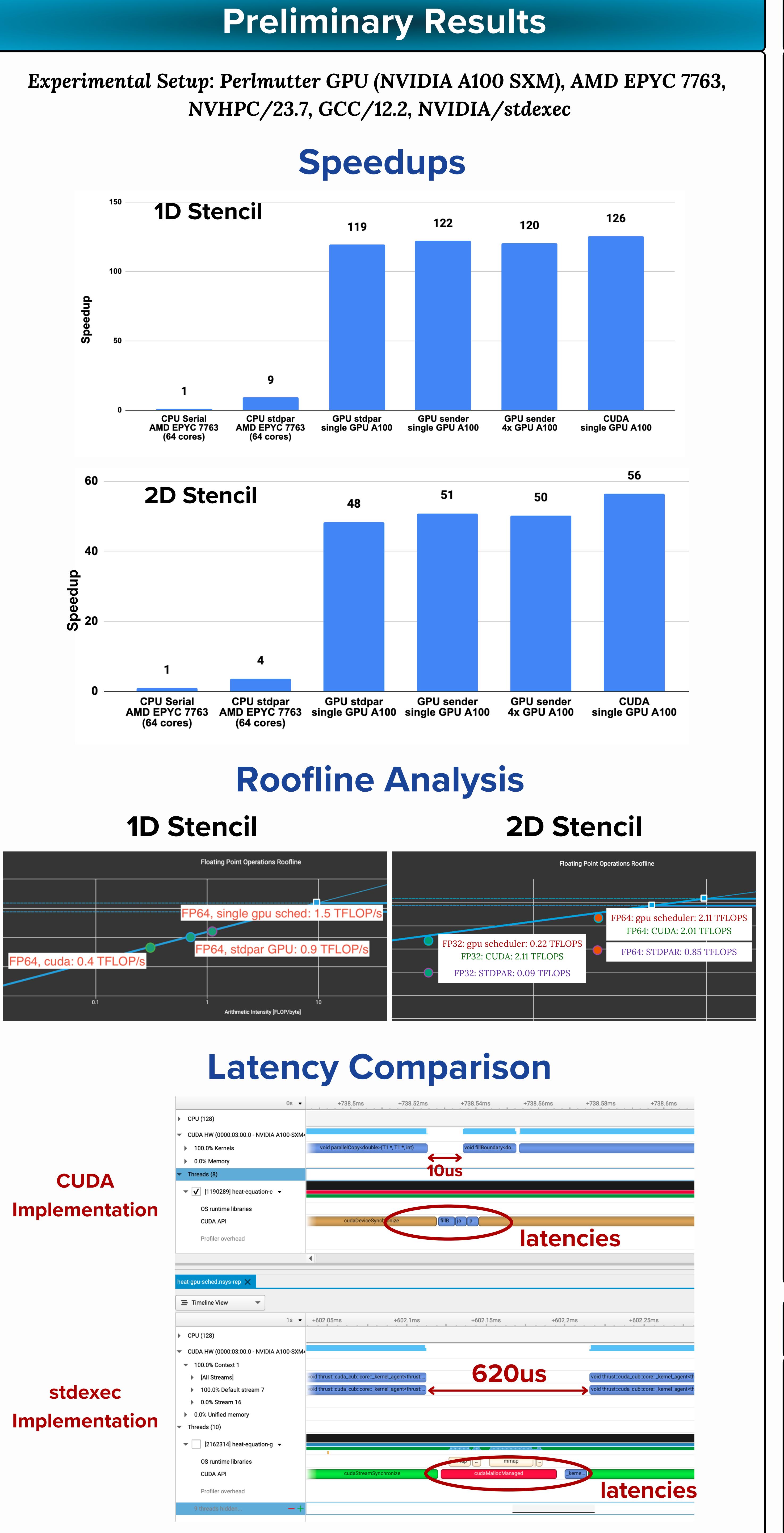
```
// stencil on GPU using stdpar
mspan phi_new;
std::for_each(stdexec::par, jacobi(phi_new, phi_old));
return phi_new; }); }
```

## App 3: ADEPT Drivers

```
// thread pool context and scheduler
static_thread_pool ctx {N};
scheduler cpus = ctx.get_scheduler();

// compose adept pipeline - one CUDA kernel per thread
sender adept = schedule(cpus) | then(init_adept())
| bulk(N, partition_launch_cuda(N));

// do other async work while adept is running
sender otherwork = schedule(cpus) | then(otherwork());
```



## Discussion

### Advantages

**Performance**: Virtually no overheads from **stdexec**, possible to consolidate launch latencies.

**Productivity**: Same code runs on multiple CPUs and GPUs - simply swap **schedulers** (**stdexec**) or **compiler flags** (**stdpar**)

**Portability**: Standard C++ code can be compiled with other compilers for various architectures.

**Generalizability**: Architecture-independent model to program asynchronous task and data parallel codes.

### Limitations

**Optimizations**: Hardware or language specific optimizations are unavailable at user-level.

**Parallelism Control**: No explicit control over parallelism - number of blocks, threads or grid size.

**Initial Setup**: Learning curve to correctly use and set up language features, compilers, libraries, and dependencies.

**Load Imbalance**: MultiGPU and/or Multinode schedulers may introduce severe load imbalance depending on their implementations.

NVIDIA-SMI 525.185.17 Driver Version: 525.185.17 CUDA Version: 12.0							
GPU Name	Persistence-M	Bus-Id	Disp.A	Volatile Uncorr. ECC	Memory-Usage	GPU-Util	Compute M.
0 NVIDIA A100-SXM...	On	00000000:03:00.0	Off	0	3289MiB / 8192MiB	100%	Default
1 NVIDIA A100-SXM...	On	00000000:41:00.0	Off	0	419MiB / 8192MiB	0%	Default
2 NVIDIA A100-SXM...	On	00000000:82:00.0	Off	0	419MiB / 8192MiB	0%	Default
3 NVIDIA A100-SXM...	On	00000000:C1:00.0	Off	0	419MiB / 8192MiB	0%	Default

### References

our code repo

stdexec proposal

nvidia stdexec

C++26 ADEPT