Profiling MPI codes with Allinea's MAP

Sergey Mashchenko McMaster University, SHARCNET

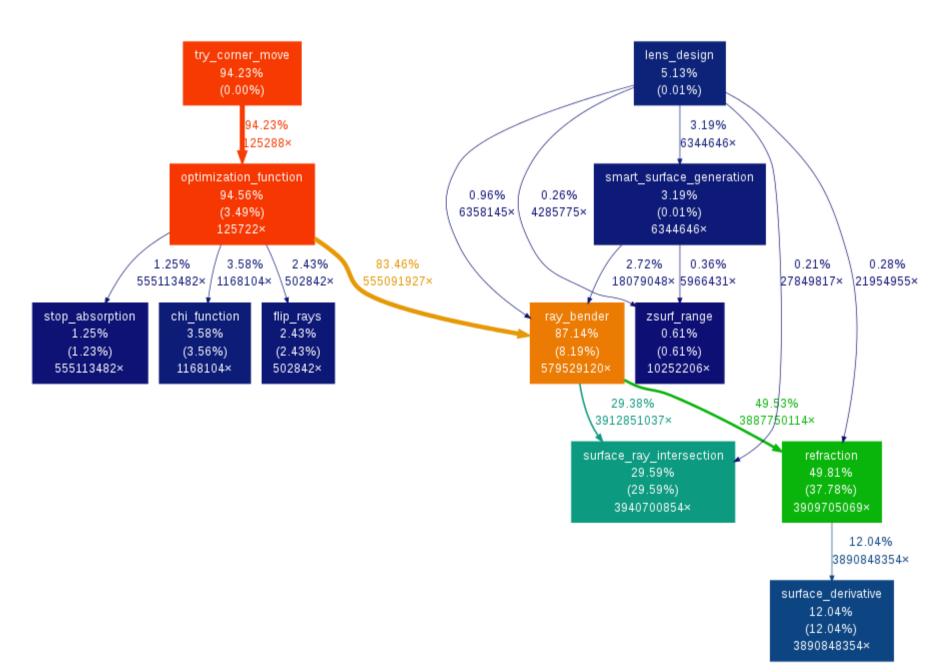
Overview

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Introduction

- Profiling is an important part of code development
 - Almost as important as debugging; can be considered as "code performance debugging"
 - If writing a new code from scratch, profiling of new code blocks should be done continuously, alongside debugging: "performance bugs" made at the early code development stages will be hard or impossible to fix when the code is finished.
 - If converting a serial code to a parallel one (threads, MPI, CUDA, ...), profiling the serial code can be crucial in guiding the parallelization efforts.

Example: serial code profiling



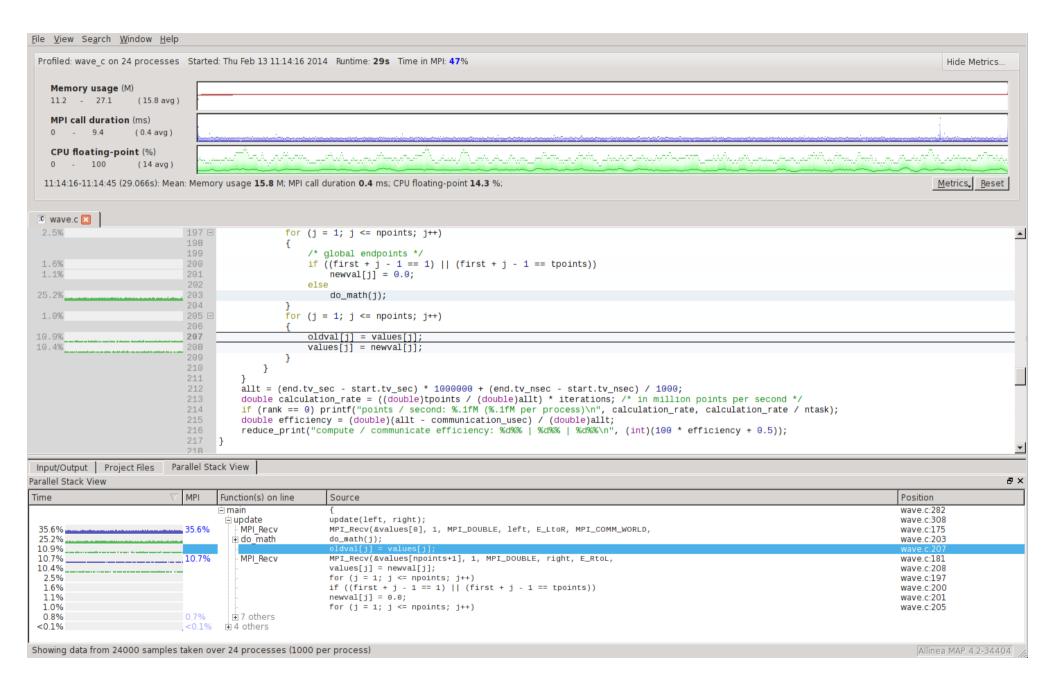
- The serial code was profiled before its conversion to CUDA
- Profiling identified the ~85% of the code readily available for parallelization, and the next 10-14% which could be converted with more efforts
- The plot was generated using these commands:
 - gcc -pg ... -o code
 - ./code
 - gprof ./code | gprof2dot.py | dot -Tpng -o output.png

MPI profiling in SHARCNET

- SHARCNET web portal lists three officially supported MPI profilers:
 - OPT: the old product from Allinea, installed only on requin, not usable for realistically large MPI jobs (say, >8 cores for >30 minutes).
 - IPM: open source profiler
 - MAP: new profiler from Allinea, installed on orca; integrated with their parallel debugger DDT

MAP overview

- Integrated with DDT debugger makes it easier to go back and forth between profiling and debugging
- Uses statistical sampling (~1000 samples per rank by default) to dramatically accelerate the profiling process
- As a result, the profiler's overhead is <5%
- Polished and convenient to use GUI
- No need to recompile the code (needs to be compiled with "-g" - same as for debugging)
- Installed on orca, license for 512 MPI ranks



Using MAP

- Interactive use instructions (works for up to 24 cores):
 - ssh orca
 - ssh orc-dev1 (or dev2, dev3, dev4)
 - top (check if the node is busy; no point profiling your code on a busy node)
 - module load ddt
 - compile your code with "-O2 -g" switches (or -O3)
 - map ./code [arguments]
- Interactive analysis, plus *.map is written which can be analyzed later.

- Non-interactive use instructions (for up to 512 cores):
 - ssh orca
 - compile your code with "-O2 -g" switches (or -O3)
 - module load ddt
 - sqsub -q mpi -o out -r 1h --nompirun -n 2 map -profile -n2 ./code [args]
- The *.map file produced during both interactive and non-interactive runs can be later analyzed via
 - map code.map

MAP requires an X window client

- The GUI part of MAP requires an X window client on your computer
 - Already present under Linux and Mac
 - Under Windows, a third party software is required
 - Mobaxterm is a good (and free) solution for Windows, as it combines three applications in one (ssh, sftp, and X window clients):

http://mobaxterm.mobatek.net

Demo