HIERARCHICAL SCHEDULING AND UNIFORM ACCESS PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORKS FOR HETEROGENEOUS CPU-GPU COMPUTING CLUSTERS

Kittisak Sajjapongse

Dr. Michela Becchi, Dissertation Supervisor

ABSTRACT

While the computational power of modern GPU devices has allowed their introduction in highperformance computing (HPC) clusters and the efficient processing of ever larger workloads, existing software components for HPC clusters still offer basic support for hardware heterogeneity and often cause performance limitations in the presence of GPU devices.

In this dissertation, we propose two software frameworks for addressing the performance and hardware underutilization issues found in heterogeneous CPU-GPU clusters as well as increasing their programmability. First, we propose a hierarchical scheduling framework consisting of a node-level runtime and a cluster-level scheduler that provides abstraction of heterogeneous compute resources at different granularities. This hierarchical framework targets existing applications and does not require their modification. In the node-level runtime, we identify and design mechanisms which are necessary to support efficient sharing and load balancing schemes for GPUs within a compute node. In the cluster-level scheduler, we introduce mechanisms to abstract compute nodes and perform load balancing in concert with the nodelevel runtime. Our hierarchical scheduling framework allows supporting different load balancing policies and does not require additional inputs from users. Second, we propose a programming framework based on a novel memory and execution model. Our memory model hides disjoint addressing spaces and provides a view of a single virtual memory space that can be accessed by all compute resources in a heterogeneous cluster. Our execution model provides uniform access to compute resources and allows our framework to treat all CPUs and GPUs equally and to access data in the virtual memory space.