

Bioinformatics: A Case Study

NERSC GPUs for Science Day Bryce Foster 2019-07-02



DOE Joint Genome Institute















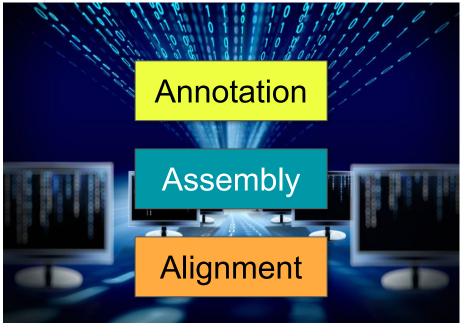




Bioinformatics Analysis Software



ATCGCTCGACTATCGACGAT GTCACGATGTGCACGATC TCGACTGATCGATGTGCAT



Typical bioinformatics algorithm

- Read large text file from disk
 - Megabytes to 100 gigabytes+
- Process data on CPUs and in memory
 - Take advantage of multi-CPUs
- Write smaller files back to disk

Thousands of 3rd party tools



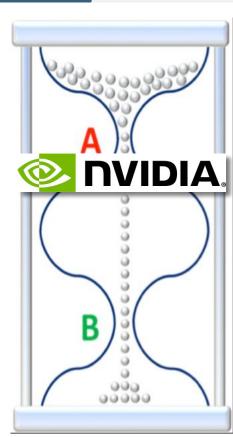




Our Strategy



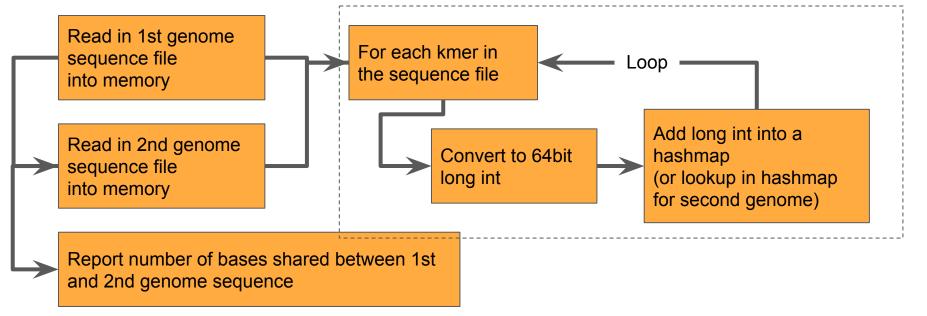
- Convert an algorithm from BBTools (Java) into C++
- Compile code with GNU C++ compiler
- Get code to compile with NVidia's compiler
- Check the answers
- Profile code
 - Where are the bottlenecks
 - Is it taking advantage of Nvidia hardware?
- Add OpenACC pragma statements (NVidia lib)
- Compare accelerated versus non-accelerated runtimes



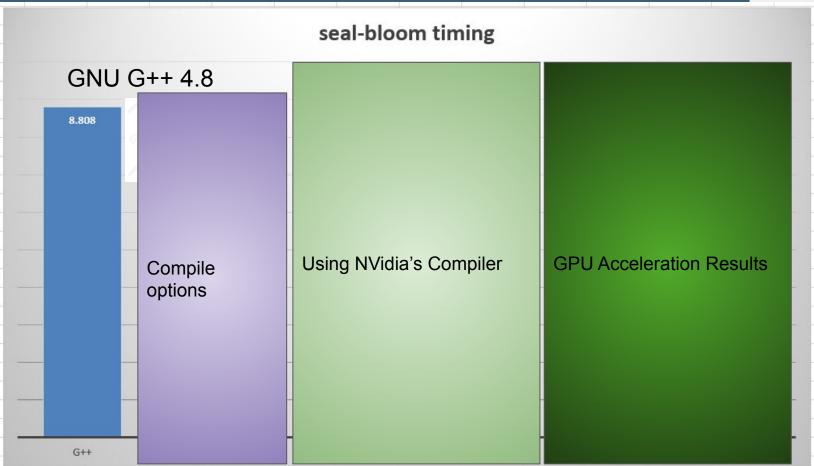
Our Code: Seal (C++)



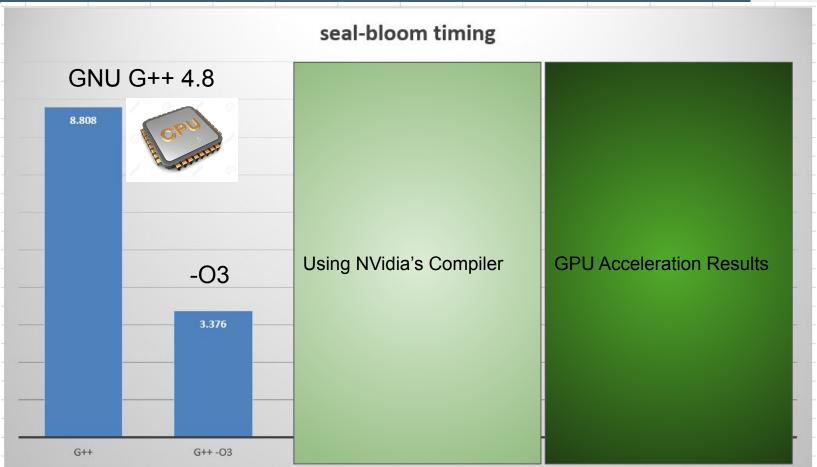
Seal is an alignment algorithm to compare the similarity between 2 genomic sequences



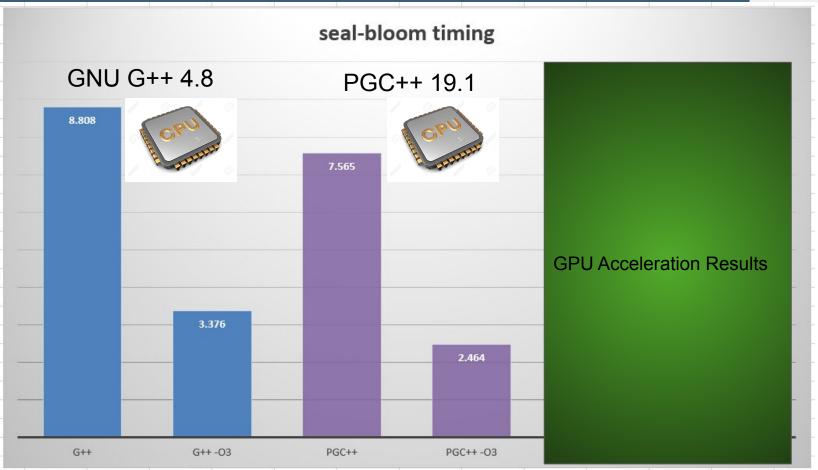




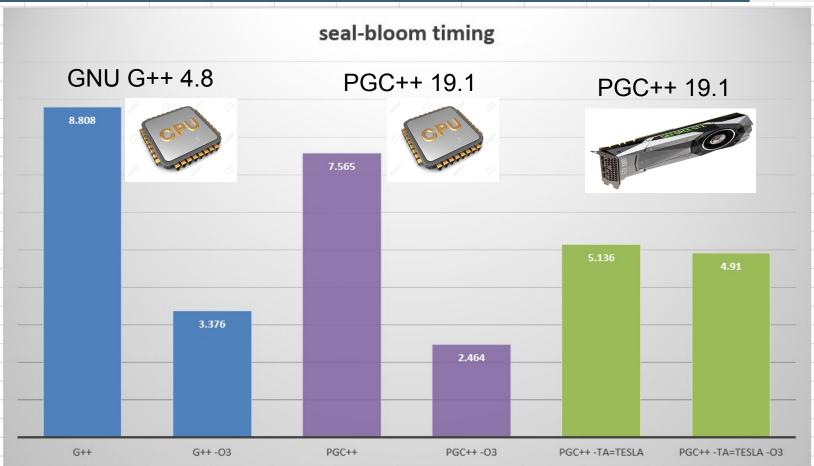


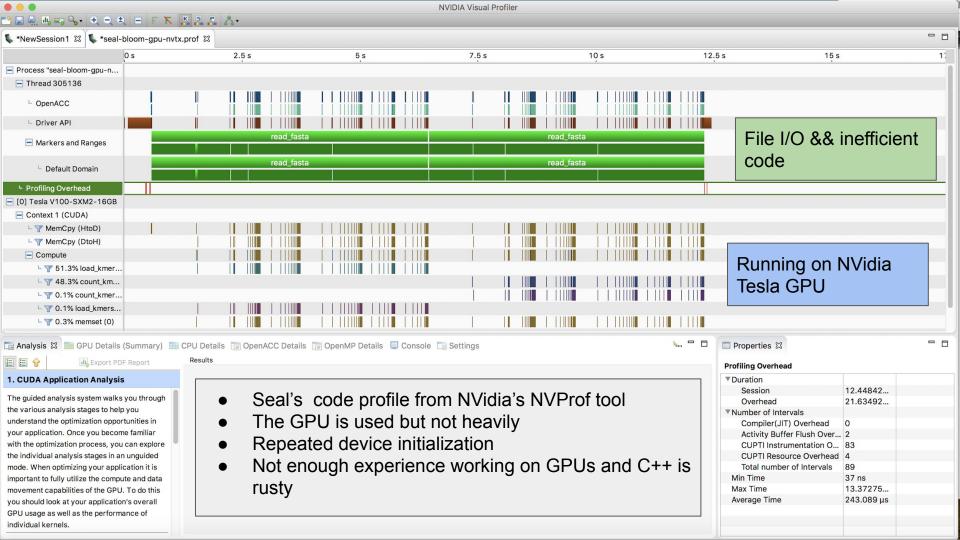








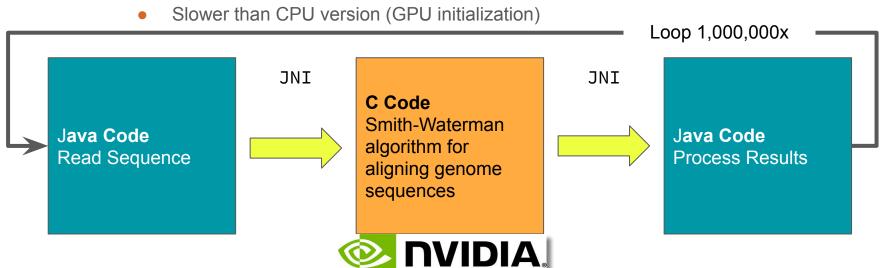




JNI Optimization



- BBTools is Java code but there is C code linked to the Java code using JNI (Java Native Interface)
- Added OpenACC pragma statements
 - Had to refactor C code to be thread-friendly
 - Did not successfully accelerate code
 - got wrong answers



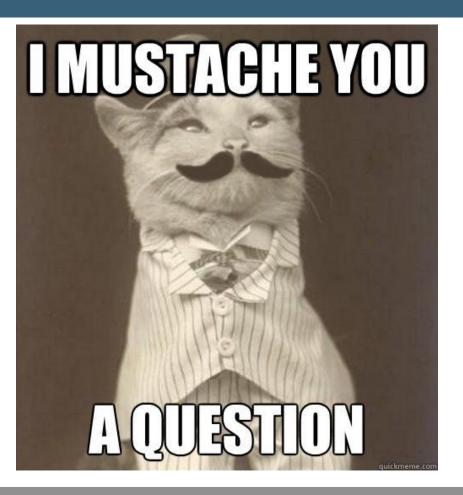
Discoveries



- Slow code
 - "String Foo = foo + bar;" vs "String foo.append(bar);"
 - "String foobar.toupper();"
- Reviewing and profiling code found some easy to fix CPU optimizations
- The GNU C++ compiler does not optimize by default (-O3)
- GPUs do not support strings
- Could not get a GPU enabled hashmap class working
- Difficult to compile 3rd party code
- Had to re-architect code to be able to take advantage of GPU acceleration

Questions?





Comments from JGI's NVidia Hackathon teams

- The NVidia hackathon was valuable
- Refreshed software engineering skills
- Got out of our comfort zone
- Learned about GPU programming and GPU technologies