SEJITS: Raising the Abstraction Level of Productivity Programming
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SEJITS a nutshell: Selective, Embedded Just-in-Time Specialization
- Productivity programmers write in general purpose, modern, high level PLL
- SEJITS infrastructure specializes computation patterns selectively at runtime
- Specialization uses runtime info to generate and JIT-compile ELL code targeted to hardware
- Embedded because PLL's own machinery enables (vs. extending PLL interpreter)

Layering vs. “Stovepiping”
- Layering: one or a few common intermediate languages
  - Must be flexible enough to support many DSLs
  - And map to wide variety of HW
- Stovepiping: specialize structural computation patterns (motifs, not domains) directly to HW

SEJITS Exploits Productivity Level Language (PLL) Mechanisms
1. Some functions in productivity app annotated as potentially specializable
2. SEJITS intercepts calls using dynamic language features, uses introspection to examine function's Abstract Syntax Tree
3. Specializer generates source code in an efficiency language (C, OpenMP, CUDA, ...), compiles & links
4. Specialized function binary is called, results returned to productivity language
5. (Optional) performance recorded, code cached for future calls

Selective specialization: If any step fails, fall back to PLL (no need to JIT or specialize the whole app)

Early case study: Python + CUDA
- Ruby ➔ OpenMP on multicore x86
  - ~1000-2000x faster than pure Ruby
  - Minimal per-call overhead at runtime
- Python ➔ NVidia GPU (B. Catanzaro, Y. Lee)
  - Stencils & Category-reduce (image processing)
  - Python decorators denote specializable functions
  - ~100x Faster than pure Python
  - 3x-12x slower than handcrafted CUDA (including specialization overhead)
- Overheads: Naive code generation & caching, Type propagation, CUDA compilation, data marshaling
- Productivity programmer only writes Python/Ruby, not CUDA or OpenMP

Status, Ongoing Work, Challenges
- Prototypes working for NVidia, x86 multicore, RAMP (SPARC v8)
- Generalize infrastructure for catalog, pattern matching, call site annotation, history
- Integrate with PySKI/autotuning
- Cloud computing: Integrate with Nexus
- Cloud/multicore synergy: specialize intra-node as well as generate cloud code
- Capture additional motifs as specializers

Subverting PLL Mechanisms
- Observation: mechanisms intended to promote reuse also enable SEJITS
  - Metaprogramming: generate & JIT-compile efficiency code to replace PLL code for this function
  - Make decisions at runtime based on available HW, argument values, etc., vs. static autotuning
  - Introspection: intercept & analyze function to see if can specialize
  - Extends PLL without modifying interpreter
- Higher-order programming: patterns at higher levels of abstraction
  - Capture reusable motifs as well as low-level functions

Other Opportunities
- Autotuning
  - SEJITS can intercept calls and substitute autotuned code (see PySKI)
  - Locus of control for making co-tuning decisions
- Cloud Computing
  - Generate Hadoop (Java) code expressing PLL computation as MapReduce
  - Generate code for multiple cloud frameworks

Conclusions
- Enables code-generation strategy per-function, not per-app
- Uniform approach to productive programming
  - Same app on cloud, multicore, autotuned libraries
- Research enabler
  - Incrementally develop specializers for different motifs, prototype HW
  - Don’t need full compiler & toolchain just to get started