

# Best Practices for Vectorization

Getting ready for Intel® Advanced Vector Extensions 512 (Intel® AVX-512)

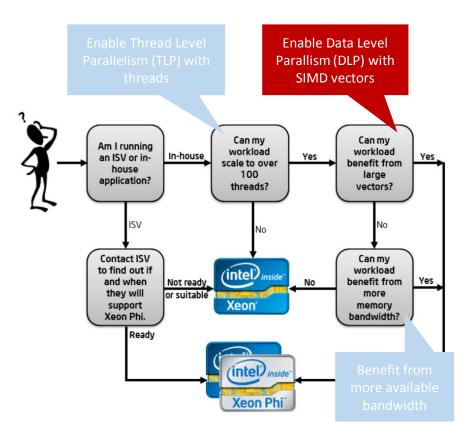
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## The need for SIMD vectorization

Is the Intel® Xeon Phi<sup>TM</sup> coprocessor right for me?



Single thread (ST) performance is limited in today's CPUs

- Clock frequency constraints
- Difficult to discover "near" Instruction level parallelism (ILP) by hardware

More transistors dedicated to exploit "distant" parallelism

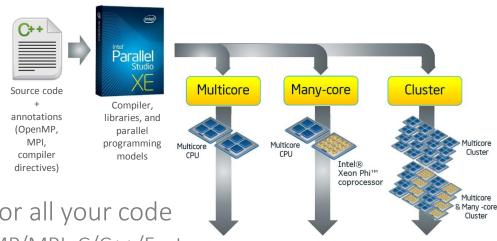
- Task level parallelism (TLP)
  - Improves Multi Thread performance (MT)
- Data level parallelism (DLP)
  - Improves Single Thread performance (ST)
  - Enabled by using SIMD vectors

<sup>&</sup>quot;Is the Intel® Xeon Phi<sup>TM</sup> coprocessor right for me?", by Eric Gardner - https://software.intel.com/en-us/articles/is-the-intel-xeon-phi-coprocessor-right-for-me



## How to enable SIMD vectorization?

Enabling parallelism with Intel® Parallel Studio XE 2015 tool suite



- Single programming model for all your code
  - Based on standards: OpenMP/MPI, C/C++/Fortran
  - Programmers/tools responsibility to expose DLP/TLP parallelism

Exposing TLP/DLP in your application will benefit today and future Intel® Xeon® processors and Intel® Xeon Phi<sup>TM</sup> coprocessors

• Including SIMD vectorization on future Intel® AVX-512 products



# Single Instruction Multiple Data (SIMD)

### Technique for exploiting DLP on a single thread

- Operate on more than one element at a time
- Might decrease instruction counts significantly

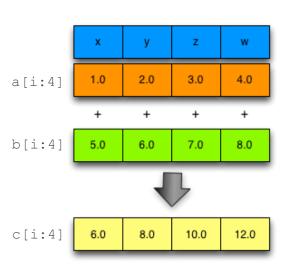
### Elements are stored on SIMD registers or vectors

#### Code needs to be vectorized

- Vectorization usually on *inner* loops
- Main and *remainder* loops are generated

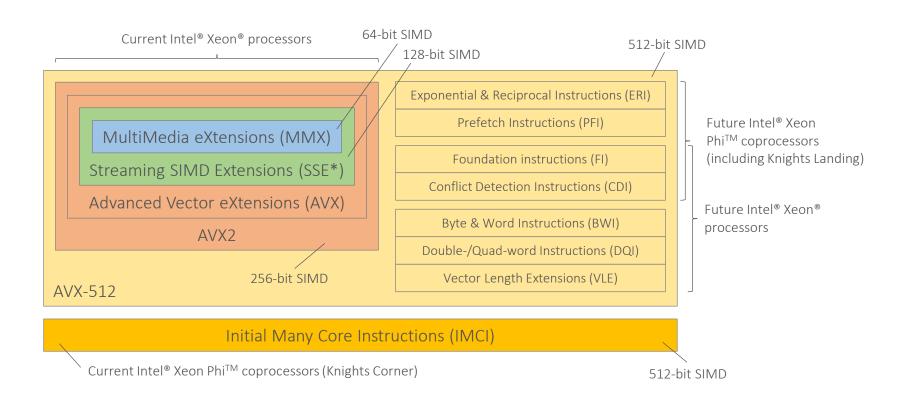
#### Scalar loop

#### SIMD loop (4 elements)





# Past, present, and future of Intel SIMD types





# Intel® AVX2/IMCI/AVX-512 differences

	Intel® Initial Many Core Instructions	Intel® Advanced Vector Extensions 2 <b>AVX2</b>	Intel® Advanced Vector Extensions 512 <b>AVX-512</b>
Introduction	2012	2013	2015
Products	Knights Corner	Haswell, Broadwell	Knights Landing, future Intel® Xeon® and Xeon® Phi™ products
Register file	SP/DP/int32/int64 data types 32 x 512-bit SIMD registers 8 x 16-bit mask registers	SP/DP/int32/int64 data types 16 x 256-bit SIMD registers No mask registers (instr. blending)	SP/DP/int32/int64 data types 32 x 512-bit SIMD registers 8 x (up to) 64-bit mask
ISA features	Not compatible with AVX*/SSE* No unaligned data support Embedded broadcast/cvt/swizzle MVEX encoding	Fully compatible with AVX/SSE* Unaligned data support (penalty)  VEX encoding	Fully compatible with AVX*/SSE* Unaligned data support (penalty) Embedded broadcast/rounding EVEX encoding
Instruction features	Fused multiply-and-add (FMA)  Partial gather/scatter  Transcendental support	Fused multiply-and-add (FMA)  Full gather	Fused multiply-and-add (FMA) Full gather/scatter Transcendental support (ERI only) Conflict detection instructions PFI/BWI/DQI/VLE (if applies)

Intel® AVX-512 is a major step in unifying the instruction set of Intel® MIC and Intel® Xeon® architecture



## Side effects of SIMD vectorization

#### Scalar loop

```
float a[1024], b[1024], c[1024];
...
for (int i = 0; i < 1024; i++)
    c[i] = a[i] + b[i];</pre>
```

#### Assumptions

- 64-byte cache lines
- 32-byte (AVX2) and 64-byte (IMCI/AVX-512) SIMD registers
- 4-byte SP elements (float)
- No hardware prefetcher, no ld+op instructions
- Arrays are not cached

- Significant instruction count reduction (up to vector-length)
  - IPC decreases, but so does execution time as well
  - Usually translated into speedup
- Compute-bound codes turn into memory-bound codes
  - If code already was memory bound, no benefits at all (other than energy reduction)

#Instructions	Scalar	<b>AVX2</b> (256-bit)	IMCI AVX-512 (512-bit)
Loads (hit) to a[], b[]	960 + 960	64 + 64	0
Loads (miss) to a[], b[]	64 + 64	64 + 64	64 + 64
SP adds	1024	128	64
Stores to c[]	1024	128	64
Total (Reduction)	4096 (x1)	512 (x8)	256 (x16)



## Vectorization on Intel® compilers

Auto Vectorization

• Compiler knobs

Guided Vectorization

- Compiler hints/pragmas
- Array notation

Low level Vectorization

- C/C++ vector classes
- Intrinsics/Assembly

Fine control

Easy of use



## Auto vectorization

### Relies on the compiler for vectorization

- No source code changes
- Enabled with -vec compiler knob (default in -02 and -03 modes)

Option	Description
-00	Disables all optimizations.
-01	Enables optimizations for speed which are know to not cause code size increase.
-02/-0 (default)	<ul> <li>Enables intra-file interprocedural optimizations for speed, including:</li> <li>Vectorization</li> <li>Loop unrolling</li> </ul>
-03	<ul> <li>Performs O2 optimizations and enables more aggressive loop transformations such as:</li> <li>Loop fusion</li> <li>Block unroll-and-jam</li> <li>Collapsing IF statements</li> <li>This option is recommended for applications that have loops that heavily use floating-point calculations and process large data sets. However, it might incur in slower code, numerical stability issues, and compilation time increase.</li> </ul>

## Compiler smart enough to apply loop transformations

It will allow to vectorize more loops



# Vectorization: target architecture options

On which architecture do we want to run our program?

Option	Description
-mmic	Builds an application that runs natively on Intel® MIC Architecture.
-xfeature -xHost	Tells the compiler which processor features it may target, referring to which instruction sets and optimizations it may generate (not available for Intel® Xeon Phi <sup>TM</sup> architecture). Values for <i>feature</i> are:  • COMMON-AVX512 (includes AVX512 FI and CDI instructions)  • MIC-AVX512 (includes AVX512 FI, CDI, PFI, and ERI instructions)  • CORE-AVX512 (includes AVX512 FI, CDI, BWI, DQI, and VLE instructions)  • CORE-AVX2  • CORE-AVX-I (including RDRND instruction)  • AVX  • SSE4.2, SSE4.1  • ATOM_SSE4.2, ATOM_SSSE3 (including MOVBE instruction)  • SSSE3, SSE3, SSE2  When using -xHost, the compiler will generate instructions for the highest instruction set available on the compilation host processor.
-axfeature	Tells the compiler to generate multiple, feature-specific auto-dispatch code paths for Intel® processors if there is a performance benefit. Values for <i>feature</i> are the same described for <code>-xfeature</code> option. Multiple features/paths possible, e.g.: <code>-axSSE2</code> , AVX. It also generates a baseline code path for the default case.

Vectorized code will be different depending on the chosen target architecture



## Auto vectorization: not all loops will vectorize

### Data dependencies between iterations

- Proven Read-after-Write data (i.e., loop carried) dependencies
- Assumed data dependencies
  - Aggressive optimizations (e.g., IPO) might help

RaW dependency

```
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
a[i] = a[i-1] + b[i];
```

#### Vectorization won't be efficient

- Compiler estimates how better the vectorized version will be
- Affected by data alignment, data layout, etc.

Inefficient vectorization

```
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
a[c[i]] = b[d[i]];
```

### Unsupported loop structure

- While-loop, for-loop with unknown number of iterations
- Complex loops, unsupported data types, etc.
- (Some) function calls within loop bodies
  - Not the case for SVML functions

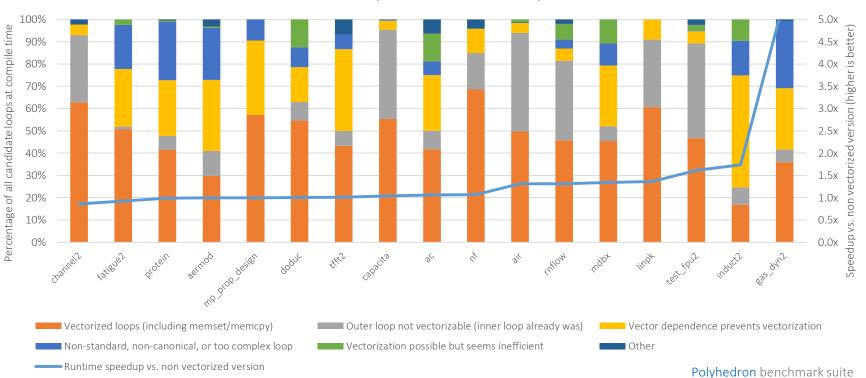
Function call within loop body

```
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
    a[i] = foo(b[i]);</pre>
```



## Auto vectorization on Intel® compilers

Vectorization breakdown for loop candidates in Polyhedron benchmark suite



Polyhedron benchmark suite Intel® Xeon Phi<sup>TM</sup> 7120A, 61 cores x 4 threads

Intel® Fortran Compiler 15.0.1.14 [-03 -fp-model fast=2 -align array64byte -ipo -mmic]



## Validating vectorization success

### Generate compiler report about optimizations

```
-qopt-report[=n] Generate report (level [1..5], default 2)
-qopt-report-file=<fname> Optimization report file (stderr, stdout also valid)
-qopt-report-phase=<phase> Info about opt. phase:
```

```
LOOP BEGIN at gas_dyn2.f90(193,11) inlined into gas_dyn2.f90(4326,31)

remark #15300: LOOP WAS VECTORIZED

remark #15448: unmasked aligned unit stride loads: 1

remark #15450: unmasked unaligned unit stride loads: 1

remark #15475: --- begin vector loop cost summary ---

remark #15476: scalar loop cost: 53

remark #15477: vector loop cost: 14.870

remark #15478: estimated potential speedup: 2.520

remark #15479: lightweight vector operations: 19

remark #15481: heavy-overhead vector operations: 1

remark #15488: --- end vector loop cost summary ---

remark #25456: Number of Array Refs Scalar Replaced In Loop: 1

remark #25015: Estimate of max trip count of loop=4

LOOP END Vectorized loop
```

```
Loop nest optimizations
loop
               Auto-parallelization
par
               Vectorization
vec
              OpenMP
openmp
offload
              Offload
               Interprocedural optimizations
ipo
               Profile Guided optimizations
pgo
               Code generation optimizations
cq
               Trace analyzer (MPI) collection
tcollect
               All optimizations (default)
all
```

```
LOOP BEGIN at gas_dyn2.f90(2346,15)

remark #15344: loop was not vectorized: vector dependence prevents vectorization

remark #15346: vector dependence: assumed OUTPUT dependence between IOLD line 376 and IOLD line 354

remark #25015: Estimate of max trip count of loop=3000001

LOOP END

Non-vectorized loop
```



## Guided vectorization: disambiguation hints

### Get rid of assumed vector dependencies

Assume function arguments won't be aliased

• C/C++: Compile with -fargument-noalias

C99 "restrict" keyword for pointers

• Compile with -restrict otherwise

Ignore assumed vector dependencies (compiler directive)

```
• C/C++: #pragma ivdep
```

• Fortran: !dir\$ ivdep

```
void v_add(float *c, float *a, float *b)
{
#pragma ivdep
   for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        c[i] = a[i] + b[i];
}</pre>
```



# Some Intel® compiler directives

Directive	Description
distribute, distribute_point	Instructs the compiler to prefer loop distribution at the location indicated.
inline	Instructs the compiler to inline the calls in question.
ivdep	Instructs the compiler to ignore assumed vector dependencies.
loop_count	Indicates the loop count is likely to be an integer.
optimization_level	Enables control of optimization for a specific function.
parallel/noparallel	Facilitates auto-parallelization of an immediately following loop; using keyword always forces the compiler to auto-parallelize; noparallel pragma prevents auto-parallelization.
[no]unroll	Instructs the compiler the number of times to unroll/not to unroll a loop
[no]unroll_and_jam	Prevents or instructs the compiler to partially unroll higher loops and jam the resulting loops back together.
unused	Describes variables that are unused (warnings not generated).
[no]vector	Specifies whether the loop should be vectorised. In case of forcing vectorization that should be according to the given <u>clauses</u> .



## Guided vectorization: #pragma simd

### Force loop vectorization ignoring **all** dependencies

• Additional <u>clauses</u> for specify reductions, etc.

#### SIMD loop

```
void v_add(float *c, float *a, float *b)
{
    #pragma simd
        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            c[i] = a[i] + b[i];
}</pre>
```

#### SIMD function

```
__declspec(vector)
void v_add(float c, float a, float b)
{
    c = a + b;
}
...
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
    v_add(C[i], A[i], B[i]);</pre>
```

### Also supported in OpenMP

- Almost same functionality/syntax
  - Use #pragma omp simd [clauses] for SIMD loops
  - Use #pragma omp declare simd [clauses] for SIMD functions
- See OpenMP 4.0 specification for more information



# Intel® compiler directives for vectorization

Directive	Clause	Description
vector	always	Force vectorization even when it might be not efficient.
	[un]aligned	Use [un]aligned data movement instructions for all array vector references.
	<pre>[non]temporal(var1[,])</pre>	Do or do not generate non-temporal (streaming) stores for the given array variables. On Intel® MIC architecture, generates a cache-line-evict instruction when the store is known to be aligned.
	[no]vecreminder	Do (not) vectorize the remainder loop when the mail loop is vectorized.
	[no]mask_readwrite	Enables/disables memory speculation causing the generation of [non-]masked loads and stores within conditions.
simd	<pre>vectorlength(n1[,]) vectorlengthfor(dtype)</pre>	Assume safe vectorization for the given vector length values or data type.
	<pre>private(var1[,]) firstprivate(var1[,]) lastprivate(var1[,])</pre>	Which variables are private to each iteration; <i>firstprivate</i> , initial value is broadcasted to all private instances; <i>lastprivate</i> , last value is copied out from the last instance.
	<pre>linear(var1:step1[,])</pre>	Letting know the compiler that <i>var1</i> is incremented by <i>step1</i> on every iteration of the original loop.
	reduction(oper:var1[,])	Which variables are reduction variables with a given operator.
	[no]assert	Warning or error when vectorization fails.
	[no]vecremainder	Do (not) vectorize the remainder loop when the mail loop is vectorized.



## Explicit vectorization with array notation

### Express high-level vector parallel array operations

- Valid notation in Fortran since Fortran 90
- Supported in C/C++ by Intel® compiler (Cilk™ Plus) and GCC 4.9
  - Enabled by default on Intel® compiler, use -fcilkplus option on GCC
- No additional modifications to source code
- Most arithmetic and logic operations already overloaded
- Also built-in reducers for array sections

### Vectorization becomes explicit

C/C++ syntax: array-expression[lower-bound:length[:stride]]

#### Samples

```
a[:] // All elements
a[2:6] // Elements 2 to 7
a[:][5] // Column 5
a[0:3:2] // Elements 0,2,4
```

#### SIMD function invoked with array notation

```
__declspec(vector)
void v_add(float c, float a, float b)
{
    c = a + b;
}
...
v_add(C[:], A[:], B[:]);
```



## Improving vectorization: data layout

#### Vectorization more efficient with unit strides

- Non-unit strides will generate gather/scatter
- Unit strides also better for data locality
- Compiler might refuse to vectorize

#### AoS vs SoA

Layout your data as Structure of Arrays (SoA)

### Traverse matrices in the right direction

- C/C++: a[i][:], Fortran: a(:,i)
- Loop interchange might help
  - Usually the compiler is smart enough to apply it
  - Check compiler optimization report

#### Array of Structures vs Structure of Arrays

```
// Array of Structures (AoS)
struct coordinate {
    float x, y, z;
} crd[N];
...
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
... = ... f(crd[i].x, crd[i],y, crd[i].z);</pre>
```

Consecutive elements in memory —

x0 y0 z0 x1 y1 z1 ... x(n-1) y(n-1) z(n-1)

```
// Structure of Arrays (SoA)
struct coordinate {
    float x[N], y[N], z[N];
} crd;
...
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
... = ... f(crd.x[i], crd.y[i], crd.z[i]);</pre>
```

Consecutive elements in memory ———

x0 x1 ... x(n-1) y0 y1 ... y(n-1) z0 z1 ... z(n-1)



# Improving vectorization: data alignment

Unaligned accesses might cause significant performance degradation

- Two instructions on current Intel® Xeon Phi<sup>TM</sup> coprocessor
- Might cause "false sharing" problems
  - Consumer/producer thread on the same cache line

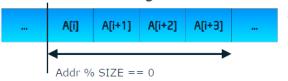
### Alignment is generally unknown at compile time

- Every vector access is potentially an unaligned access
  - Vector access size = cache line size (64-byte)
- Compiler might "peel" a few loop iterations
  - In general, only one array can be aligned, though

## When possible, we have to

- Align our data
- Tell the compiler data is aligned
  - Might not be always the case

#### Aligned Unit-stride



#### Misaligned Unit-stride





## Improving vectorization: data alignment (cont'd)

How to	Language	Syntax	Semantics	
align data	C/C++	<pre>void* _mm_malloc(int size, int n)</pre>	Allocate memory on heap aligned to <i>n</i>	
	C/C++	<pre>int posix_memalign    (void **p, size_t n, size_t size)</pre>	byte boundary.	
	C/C++	declspec(align(n)) array		
	Fortran (not in common section)	!dir\$ attributes align:n::array	Alignment for variable declarations.	
	Fortran (compiler option)	-align <i>n</i> byte		
tell the compiler about it	C/C++	#pragma vector aligned	Vectorize assuming all array data	
	Fortran	!dir\$ vector aligned	accessed are aligned (may cause fault otherwise).	
	C/C++	assume_aligned(array, n)	Compiler may assume array is aligned to	
	Fortran	!dir\$ assume_aligned array:n	n byte boundary.	

n=64 for Intel® Xeon Phi<sup>™</sup> coprocessors, n=32 for AVX, n=16 for SSE

Padding might be necessary to guarantee aligned access to matrices



## Vectorization with multi-version loops

## Peel loop

Alignment purposes Might be vectorized

### Main loop

Vectorized
Unrolled by x2 or x4

### Remainder loop

Remainder iterations Might be vectorized

```
LOOP BEGIN at gas dyn2.f90(2330,26)
<Peeled>
   remark #15389: vectorization support: reference AMAC1U has unaligned access
   remark #15381: vectorization support: unaligned access used inside loop body
   remark #15301: PEEL LOOP WAS VECTORIZED
LOOP BEGIN at gas dyn2.f90(2330,26)
   remark #25084: Preprocess Loopnests: Moving Out Store
   remark #15388: vectorization support: reference AMAC1U has aligned access
   remark #15399: vectorization support: unroll factor set to 2
   remark #15300: LOOP WAS VECTORIZED
   remark #15475: --- begin vector loop cost summary ---
   remark #15476: scalar loop cost: 8
   remark #15477: vector loop cost: 0.620
   remark #15478: estimated potential speedup: 15.890
   remark #15479: lightweight vector operations: 5
   remark #15488: --- end vector loop cost summary ---
   remark #25018: Total number of lines prefetched=4
   remark #25019: Number of spatial prefetches=4, dist=8
   remark #25021: Number of initial-value prefetches=6
LOOP BEGIN at gas dyn2.f90(2330,26)
<Remainder>
   remark #15388: vectorization support: reference AMAC1U has aligned access
   remark #15388: vectorization support: reference AMAC1U has aligned access
   remark #15301: REMAINDER LOOP WAS VECTORIZED
```



## Improving vectorization: trip count hints

### Peel loop

Alignment purposes Might be vectorized

### Main loop

Vectorized
Unrolled by x2 or x4

Remainder loop
Remainder iterations
Might be vectorized

### Vectorization can be seen as aggressive unrolling

- Main loop usually unrolled by x2 or x4
- Peel and remainder loop are vectorized with masks
- If trip count is low, vectorization might not be efficient
  - Remainder loop becomes the hotspot

### Take a look at remainder loops

- Specify loop trip counts for efficient vectorization
  - #pragma loop count (n1,[ n2...])
  - #pragma loop\_count min(n1), max(n2), avg(n3)
- Consider padding (Intel<sup>®</sup> Xeon Phi<sup>TM</sup> only)
  - Otherwise, remainder loops using gather/scatter loops
  - -qopt-assume-safe-padding to avoid it



## Other considerations

## Loop tiling/blocking to improve data locality

Square tiles so elements can be reused

### Use streaming loads/stores to save bandwidth

```
• #pragma vector [non]temporal(list)
```

```
• -qopt-streaming-stores=[always|never|auto]
```

```
• -qopt-streaming-cache-evict[=n] (Intel® MIC only)
```

### Tune software prefetcher

```
-qopt-prefetch[=n]
```

```
• -qprefetch-distance=n1[,n2] (Intel® MIC only)
```

• #pragma [no]prefetch [clauses] (Intel® MIC only)



## Low level (explicit) vectorization

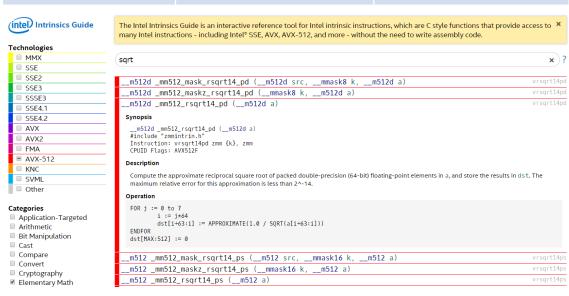
## A.k.a "ninja programming"

Vectorization relies on the programmer with some help from the compiler

Might be convenient for low level performance tuning of critical hotspots

Not portable among different SIMD architectures

SIMD C++ class	Intrinsics	Assembly
<pre>#include <fvec.h></fvec.h></pre>	<pre>#include <xmmintrin.h></xmmintrin.h></pre>	m128 a,b,c; _asm {
F32vec4 a,b,c; a = b +c;	m128 a,b,c; a = _mm_add_ps(b,c);	movaps xmm0,b movaps xmm1,c addps xmm0,xmm1 movaps a, xmm0 }





# How to get ready for Intel® AVX-512?

BKM: Start optimizing your application today for current generation of Intel® Xeon® processors and Intel® Xeon<sup>TM</sup> Phi coprocessors

Tune your AVX-512 kernels on non-existing silicon

- Compile with latest compiler toolchains
  - Intel® compiler (v15.0): -xCOMMON-AVX512, -xMIC-AVX512, -xCORE-AVX512
  - GNU compiler (v4.9): -mavx512f, -mavx512cd, -mavx512er, -mavx512pf
- Run Intel<sup>®</sup> Software Development emulator (<u>SDE</u>)
  - Emulate (future) Intel® Architecture Instruction Set Extensions (e.g. Intel® MPX, ...)
  - Tools available for detailed analysis
    - Instruction type histogram
    - Pointer/misalignment checker
  - Also possible to debug the application while emulated



## Summary

Programmers are mostly responsible of exposing DLP (SIMD) parallelism Intel® compilers provide sophisticated/flexible support for vectorization

- Auto, guided (assisted), and low-level (explicit) vectorization
- Based on OpenMP standards and specific directives
- Easily portable across different Intel® SIMD architectures

Fine-tuning of generated code is key to achieve the best performance

- Check whether code is actually vectorized
- Data layout, alignment, remainder loops, etc.

Get ready for Intel® AVX-512 by optimizing your application today on current generation of Intel® Xeon® processors and Intel® Xeon<sup>TM</sup> Phi coprocessors



## Online resources

#### Intel® Xeon Phi<sup>TM</sup>

• <u>Developer portal</u> Programming guides, tools, trainings, case studies, etc.

• <u>Solutions catalog</u> Existing Intel® Xeon Phi<sup>TM</sup> solutions for known codes

Intel® software development tools, performance tuning, etc.

• Documentation library All available documentation about Intel software

Learning lab
 Learning material with Intel® Parallel Studio XE

• <u>Performance</u> Resources about performance tuning on Intel hardware

• Forums Public discussions about Intel SIMD, threading, ISAs, etc.

Other resources (white papers, benchmarks, case studies, etc.)

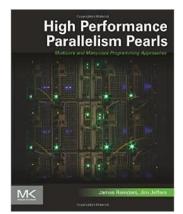
• <u>Go parallel</u> BKMs for Intel multi- and many-core architectures

• <u>Colfax research</u> Publications and material on parallel programming

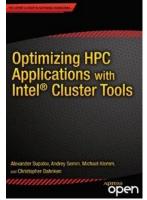
<u>Bayncore labs</u>
 Research and development activities (WIP)



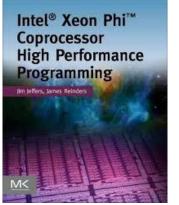
## Recommended books



High performance parallelism pearls: multi-core and many-core approaches, by James Reinders and Jim Jeffers, Morgan Kaufmann, 2014



Intel® Xeon Phi<sup>TM</sup> coprocessor high-performance programming, by Jim Jeffers and James Reinders, Morgan Kaufmann, 2013



Optimizing HPC applications with Intel® cluster tools, by Alexander Supalov et al, Apress, 2014





