

# Accelerating Modern Workloads on a General-purpose PIM System

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# Potential Barriers to Adoption of PIM

1. **Applications & software** for PIM

2. Ease of **programming** (interfaces and compiler/HW support)

3. **System** and **security** support: coherence, synchronization, virtual memory, isolation, communication interfaces, ...

4. **Runtime** and **compilation** systems for adaptive scheduling, data mapping, access/sharing control, ...

5. **Infrastructures** to assess benefits and feasibility

**All can be solved with change of mindset**

# **Benchmarking and Workload Suitability**

# PrIM Benchmarks

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- Goal
  - A **common set of workloads** that can be used to
    - evaluate the UPMEM PIM architecture,
    - compare software improvements and compilers,
    - compare future PIM architectures and hardware
- Two key selection criteria:
  - Selected workloads from **different application domains**
  - **Memory-bound workloads** on processor-centric architectures
- 14 different workloads, 16 different benchmarks\*

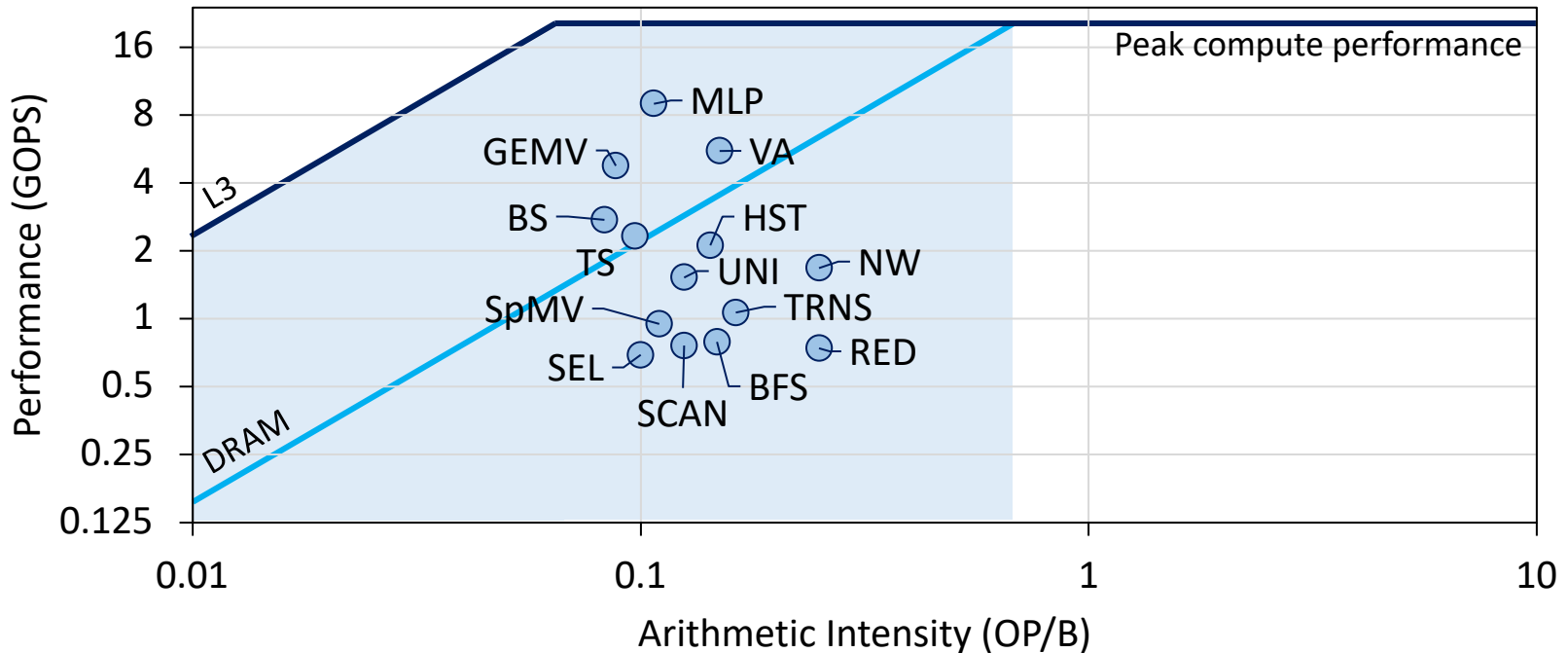


# PrIM Benchmarks: Application Domains

Domain	Benchmark	Short name
Dense linear algebra	Vector Addition	VA
	Matrix-Vector Multiply	GEMV
Sparse linear algebra	Sparse Matrix-Vector Multiply	SpMV
Databases	Select	SEL
	Unique	UNI
Data analytics	Binary Search	BS
	Time Series Analysis	TS
Graph processing	Breadth-First Search	BFS
Neural networks	Multilayer Perceptron	MLP
Bioinformatics	Needleman-Wunsch	NW
Image processing	Image histogram (short)	HST-S
	Image histogram (large)	HST-L
Parallel primitives	Reduction	RED
	Prefix sum (scan-scan-add)	SCAN-SSA
	Prefix sum (reduce-scan-scan)	SCAN-RSS
	Matrix transposition	TRNS

# Roofline Model

- Intel Advisor on an Intel Xeon E3-1225 v6 CPU



All workloads fall in the **memory-bound area of the Roofline**

# PrIM Benchmarks: Diversity

- PrIM benchmarks are diverse:
  - Memory access patterns
  - Operations and datatypes
  - Communication/synchronization

Domain	Benchmark	Short name	Memory access pattern			Computation pattern		Communication/synchronization	
			Sequential	Strided	Random	Operations	Datatype	Intra-DPU	Inter-DPU
Dense linear algebra	Vector Addition	VA	Yes			add	int32_t		
	Matrix-Vector Multiply	GEMV	Yes			add, mul	uint32_t		
Sparse linear algebra	Sparse Matrix-Vector Multiply	SpMV	Yes		Yes	add, mul	float		
Databases	Select	SEL	Yes			add, compare	int64_t	handshake, barrier	Yes
	Unique	UNI	Yes			add, compare	int64_t	handshake, barrier	Yes
Data analytics	Binary Search	BS	Yes		Yes	compare	int64_t		
	Time Series Analysis	TS	Yes			add, sub, mul, div	int32_t		
Graph processing	Breadth-First Search	BFS	Yes		Yes	bitwise logic	uint64_t	barrier, mutex	Yes
Neural networks	Multilayer Perceptron	MLP	Yes			add, mul, compare	int32_t		
Bioinformatics	Needleman-Wunsch	NW	Yes	Yes		add, sub, compare	int32_t	barrier	Yes
Image processing	Image histogram (short)	HST-S	Yes		Yes	add	uint32_t	barrier	Yes
	Image histogram (long)	HST-L	Yes		Yes	add	uint32_t	barrier, mutex	Yes
Parallel primitives	Reduction	RED	Yes	Yes		add	int64_t	barrier	Yes
	Prefix sum (scan-scan-add)	SCAN-SSA	Yes			add	int64_t	handshake, barrier	Yes
	Prefix sum (reduce-scan-scan)	SCAN-RSS	Yes			add	int64_t	handshake, barrier	Yes
	Matrix transposition	TRNS	Yes		Yes	add, sub, mul	int64_t	mutex	

# PrIM Benchmarks: Inter-DPU Communication

Domain	Benchmark	Short name	Memory access pattern			Computation pattern		Communication/synchronization	
			Sequential	Strided	Random	Operations	Datatype	Intra-DPU	Inter-DPU
Dense linear algebra	Vector Addition	VA	Yes			add	int32_t		
	Matrix-Vector Multiply	GEMV	Yes			add, mul	uint32_t		
Sparse linear algebra	Sparse Matrix-Vector Multiply	SpMV	Yes		Yes	add, mul	float		
Databases	Select	SEL	Yes			add, compare	int64_t	handshake, barrier	Yes
	Unique	UNI	Yes			add, compare	int64_t	handshake, barrier	Yes
Data analytics	Binary Search	BS	Yes		Yes	compare	int64_t		
	Time Series Analysis	TS	Yes			add, sub, mul, div	int32_t		
Graph processing	Breadth-First Search	BFS	Yes		Yes	bitwise logic	uint64_t	barrier, mutex	Yes
Neural networks	Multilayer Perceptron	MLP	Yes			add, mul, compare	int32_t		
Bioinformatics	Needleman-Wunsch	NW	Yes	Yes		add, sub, compare	int32_t	barrier	Yes
Image processing	Image histogram (short)	HST-S	Yes		Yes	add	uint32_t	barrier	Yes
	Image histogram (long)	HST-L	Yes		Yes	add	uint32_t	barrier, mutex	Yes
Parallel primitives	Reduction	RED	Yes	Yes		add	int64_t	barrier	Yes
	Prefix sum (scan-scan-add)	SCAN-SSA	Yes			add	int64_t	handshake, barrier	Yes
	Prefix sum (reduce-scan-scan)	SCAN-RSS	Yes			add	int64_t	handshake, barrier	Yes
	Matrix Transposition	TRANS	Yes		Yes	add, sub, mul	int64_t	mutex	

- Inter-DPU communication
- Result merging:
- SEL, UNI, HST-S, HST-L, RED
- Only DPU-CPU transfers
- Redistribution of intermediate results:
- BFS, MLP, NW, SCAN-SSA, SCAN-RSS

- DPU-CPU and CPU-DPU transfers

# PrIM Benchmarks

- 16 benchmarks and scripts for evaluation
- <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/prim-benchmarks>

CMU-SAFARI / prim-benchmarks

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main 1 branch 0 tags

Go to file Add file Code

Juan Gomez Luna Prim -- first commit		3de4b49 15 days ago	2 commits
BFS	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
BS	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
GEMV	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
HST-L	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
HST-S	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
MLP	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
Microbenchmarks	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
NW	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
RED	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
SCAN-RSS	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
SCAN-SSA	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
SEL	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
SpMV	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
TRNS	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
TS	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
UNI	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
VA	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
LICENSE	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
README.md	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
run_strong_full.py	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
run_strong_rank.py	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	
run_weak.py	Prim -- first commit	15 days ago	

# Outline

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- Introduction
  - Accelerator Model
  - UPMEM-based PIM System Overview
- UPMEM PIM Programming
  - Vector Addition
  - CPU-DPU Data Transfers
  - Inter-DPU Communication
  - CPU-DPU/DPU-CPU Transfer Bandwidth
- DRAM Processing Unit
  - Arithmetic Throughput
  - WRAM and MRAM Bandwidth
- PRIM Benchmarks
  - Roofline Model
  - Benchmark Diversity
- Evaluation
  - Strong and Weak Scaling
  - Comparison to CPU and GPU
- Key Takeaways

# Evaluation Methodology

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- We evaluate the **16 PRIM benchmarks on two UPMEM-based systems**:
  - 2,556-DPU system
  - 640-DPU system
- **Strong and weak scaling experiments** on the 2,556-DPU system
  - **1 DPU** with different numbers of tasklets
  - **1 rank** (strong and weak)
  - Up to **32 ranks**

*Strong scaling* refers to how the execution time of a program solving a particular problem varies with the number of processors for a fixed problem size

*Weak scaling* refers to how the execution time of a program solving a particular problem varies with the number of processors for a fixed problem size per processor

# Evaluation Methodology

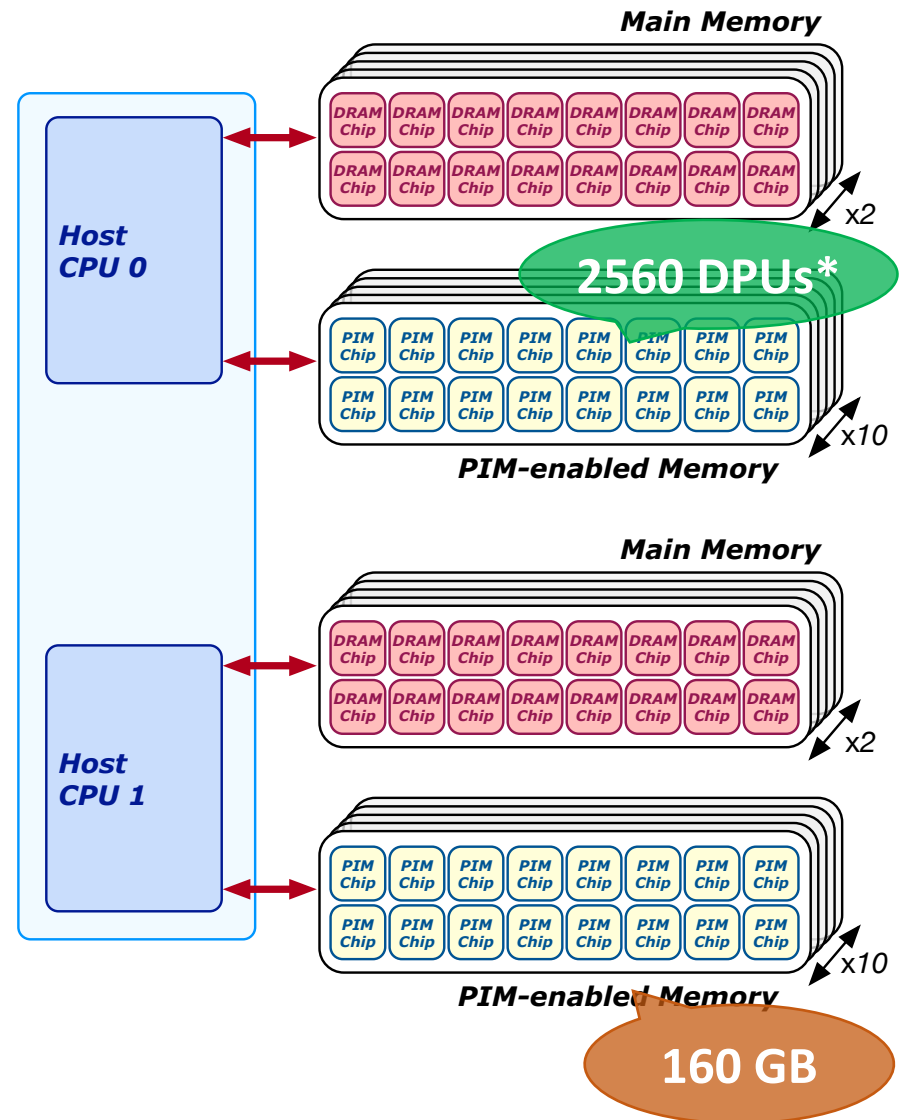
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- We evaluate the **16 PrIM benchmarks on two UPMEM-based systems**:
  - 2,556-DPU system
  - 640-DPU system
- **Strong and weak scaling experiments** on the 2,556-DPU system
  - **1 DPU** with different numbers of tasklets
  - **1 rank** (strong and weak)
  - Up to **32 ranks**
- Comparison of both UPMEM-based PIM systems to **state-of-the-art CPU and GPU**
  - Intel Xeon E3-1240 CPU
  - NVIDIA Titan V GPU



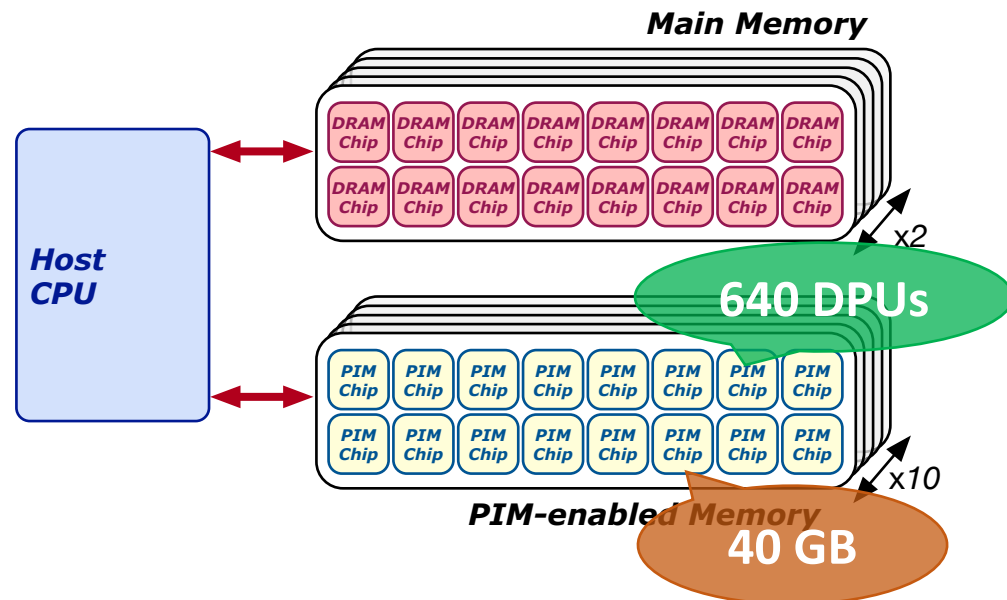
# 2,560-DPU System

- UPMEM-based PIM system with 20 UPMEM DIMMs of 16 chips each (40 ranks)
  - P21 DIMMs
  - Dual x86 socket
    - UPMEM DIMMs coexist with regular DDR4 DIMMs
    - 2 memory controllers/socket (3 channels each)
    - 2 conventional DDR4 DIMMs on one channel of one controller



# 640-DPU System

- UPMEM-based PIM system with 10 UPMEM DIMMs of 8 chips each (10 ranks)
  - E19 DIMMs
  - x86 socket
    - 2 memory controllers (3 channels each)
    - 2 conventional DDR4 DIMMs on one channel of one controller



# Datasets

- Strong and weak scaling experiments

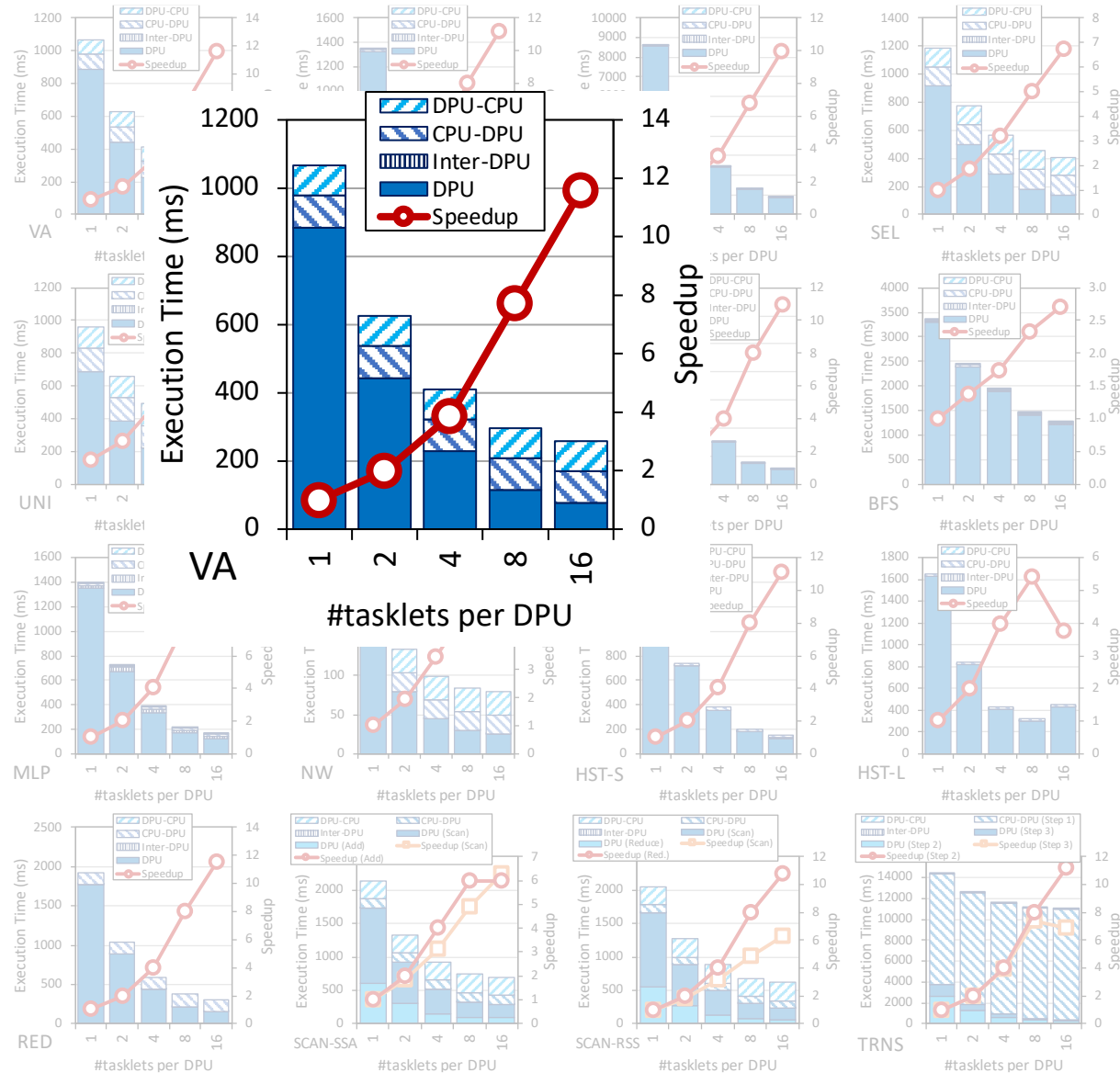
Benchmark	Strong Scaling Dataset	Weak Scaling Dataset	MRAM-WRAM Transfer Sizes
VA	1 DPU-1 rank: 2.5M elem. (10 MB)   32 ranks: 160M elem. (640 MB)	2.5M elem./DPU (10 MB)	1024 bytes
GEMV	1 DPU-1 rank: 8192 × 1024 elem. (32 MB)   32 ranks: 163840 × 4096 elem. (2.56 GB)	1024 × 2048 elem./DPU (8 MB)	1024 bytes
SpMV	<i>bcstk30</i> [253] (12 MB)	<i>bcstk30</i> [253]	64 bytes
SEL	1 DPU-1 rank: 3.8M elem. (30 MB)   32 ranks: 240M elem. (1.9 GB)	3.8M elem./DPU (30 MB)	1024 bytes
UNI	1 DPU-1 rank: 3.8M elem. (30 MB)   32 ranks: 240M elem. (1.9 GB)	3.8M elem./DPU (30 MB)	1024 bytes
BS	2M elem. (16 MB). 1 DPU-1 rank: 256K queries. (2 MB)   32 ranks: 16M queries. (128 MB)	2M elem. (16 MB). 256K queries./DPU (2 MB).	8 bytes
TS	256 elem. query. 1 DPU-1 rank: 512K elem. (2 MB)   32 ranks: 32M elem. (128 MB)	512K elem./DPU (2 MB)	256 bytes
BFS	<i>loc-gowalla</i> [254] (22 MB)	<i>rMat</i> [255] (≈100K vertices and 1.2M edges per DPU)	8 bytes
MLP	3 fully-connected layers. 1 DPU-1 rank: 2K neurons (32 MB)   32 ranks: ≈160K neur. (2.56 GB)	3 fully-connected layers. 1K neur./DPU (4 MB)	1024 bytes
NW	1 DPU-1 rank: 2560 bps (50 MB), large/small sub-block = $\frac{2560}{\#DPU_s}/2$   32 ranks: 64K bps (32 GB), l./s.=32/2	512 bps/DPU (2MB), l./s.=512/2	8, 16, 32, 40 bytes
HST-S	1 DPU-1 rank: 1536 × 1024 input image [256] (6 MB)   32 ranks: 64 × input image	1536 × 1024 input image [256]/DPU (6 MB)	1024 bytes
HST-L	1 DPU-1 rank: 1536 × 1024 input image [256] (6 MB)   32 ranks: 64 × input image	1536 × 1024 input image [256]/DPU (6 MB)	1024 bytes
RED	1 DPU-1 rank: 6.3M elem. (50 MB)   32 ranks: 400M elem. (3.1 GB)	6.3M elem./DPU (50 MB)	1024 bytes
SCAN-SSA	1 DPU-1 rank: 3.8M elem. (30 MB)   32 ranks: 240M elem. (1.9 GB)	3.8M elem./DPU (30 MB)	1024 bytes
SCAN-RSS	1 DPU-1 rank: 3.8M elem. (30 MB)   32 ranks: 240M elem. (1.9 GB)	3.8M elem./DPU (30 MB)	1024 bytes
TRNS	1 DPU-1 rank: 12288 × 16 × 64 × 8 (768 MB)   32 ranks: 12288 × 16 × 2048 × 8 (24 GB)	12288 × 16 × 1 × 8/DPU (12 MB)	128, 1024 bytes

The **PrIM benchmarks** repository includes all datasets and scripts used in our evaluation  
<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/prim-benchmarks>

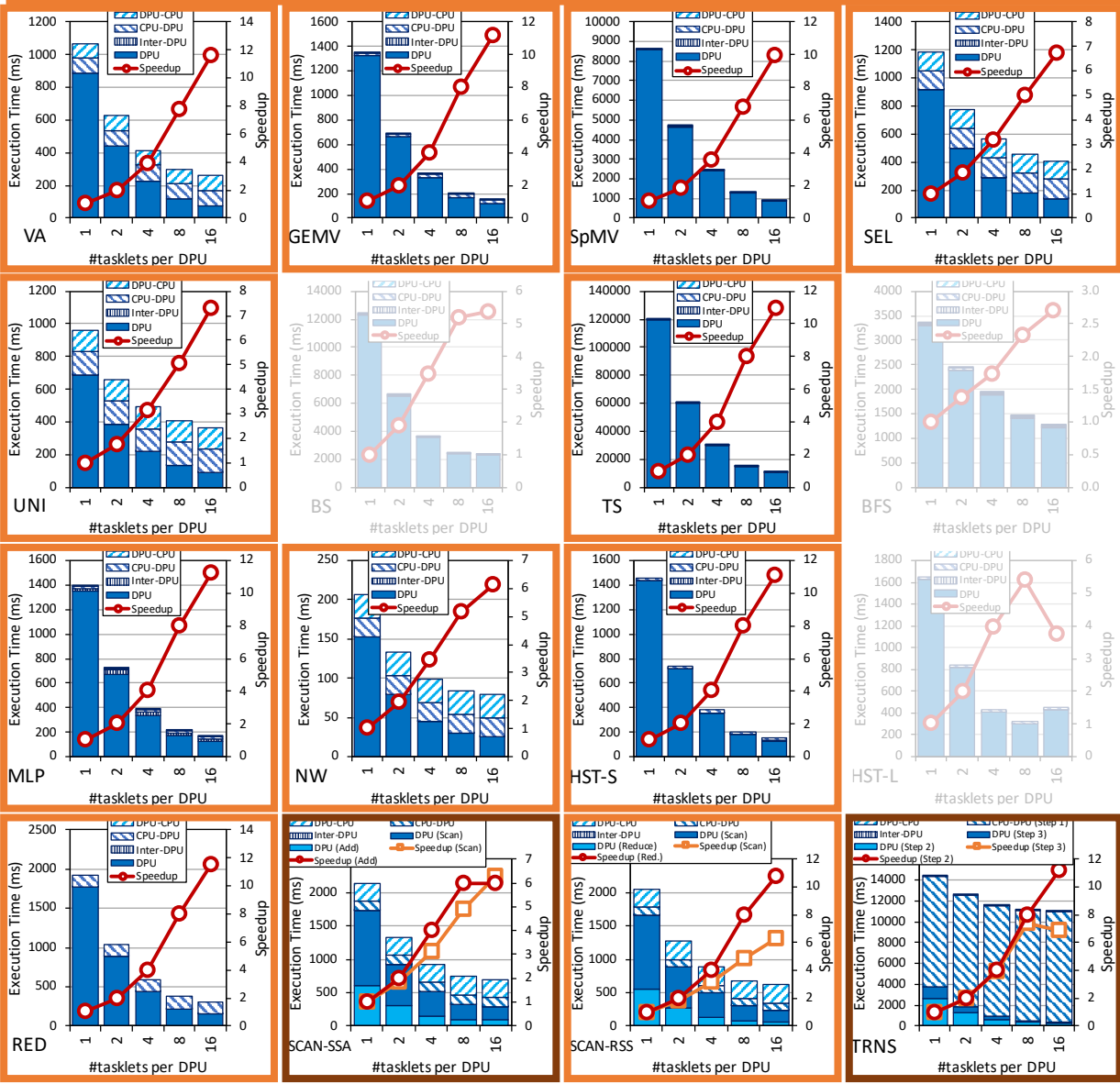
# Strong Scaling: 1 DPU (I)

- Strong scaling experiments on 1 DPU

- We set the number of tasklets to 1, 2, 4, 8, and 16
- We show the breakdown of execution time:
  - **DPU**: Execution time on the DPU
  - **Inter-DPU**: Time for inter-DPU communication via the host CPU
  - **CPU-DPU**: Time for CPU to DPU transfer of input data
  - **DPU-CPU**: Time for DPU to CPU transfer of final results
- Speedup over 1 tasklet



# Strong Scaling: 1 DPU (II)



VA, GEMV, SpMV, SEL, UNI, TS, MLP, NW, HST-S, RED, SCAN-SSA (Scan kernel), SCAN-RSS (both kernels), and TRNS (Step 2 kernel), the best performing number of tasklets is 16

Speedups 1.5-2.0x as we double the number of tasklets from 1 to 8. Speedups 1.2-1.5x from 8 to 16, since the pipeline throughput saturates at 11 tasklets

**KEY OBSERVATION 10**  
**A number of tasklets greater than 11 is a good choice for most real-world workloads we tested (16 kernels out of 19 kernels from 16 benchmarks), as it fully utilizes the DPU's pipeline.**

# Strong Scaling: 1 DPU (III)

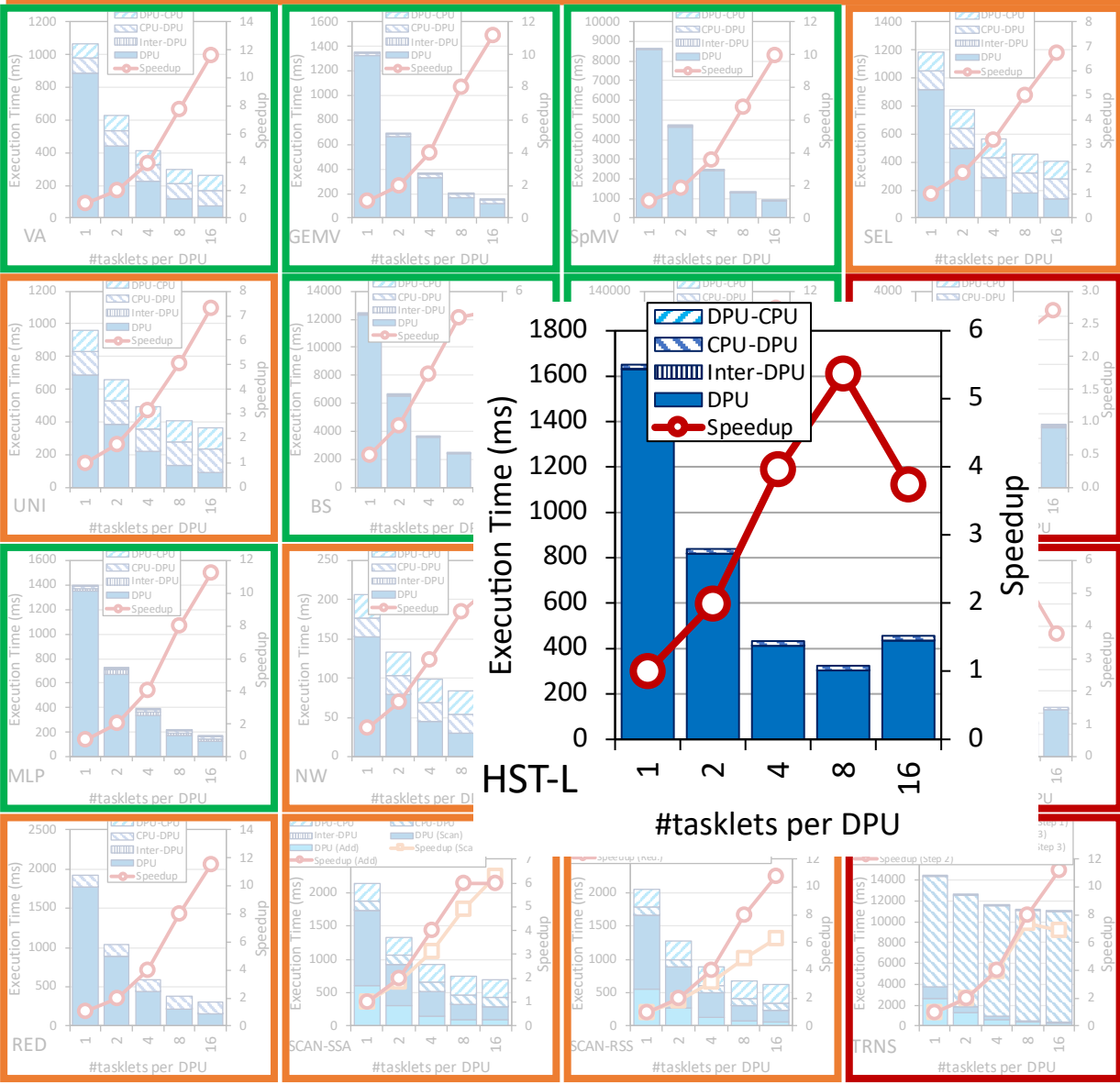


VA, GEMV, SpMV, BS, TS, MLP, HST-S do not use intra-DPU synchronization primitives

In SEL, UNI, NW, RED, SCAN-SSA (Scan kernel), SCAN-RSS (both kernels), synchronization is lightweight

BFS, HST-L, TRNS (Step 3) use mutexes, which cause contention when accessing shared data structures

# Strong Scaling: 1 DPU (IV)



VA, GEMV, SpMV, BS, TS, MLP, HST-S do not use intra-DPU synchronization primitives

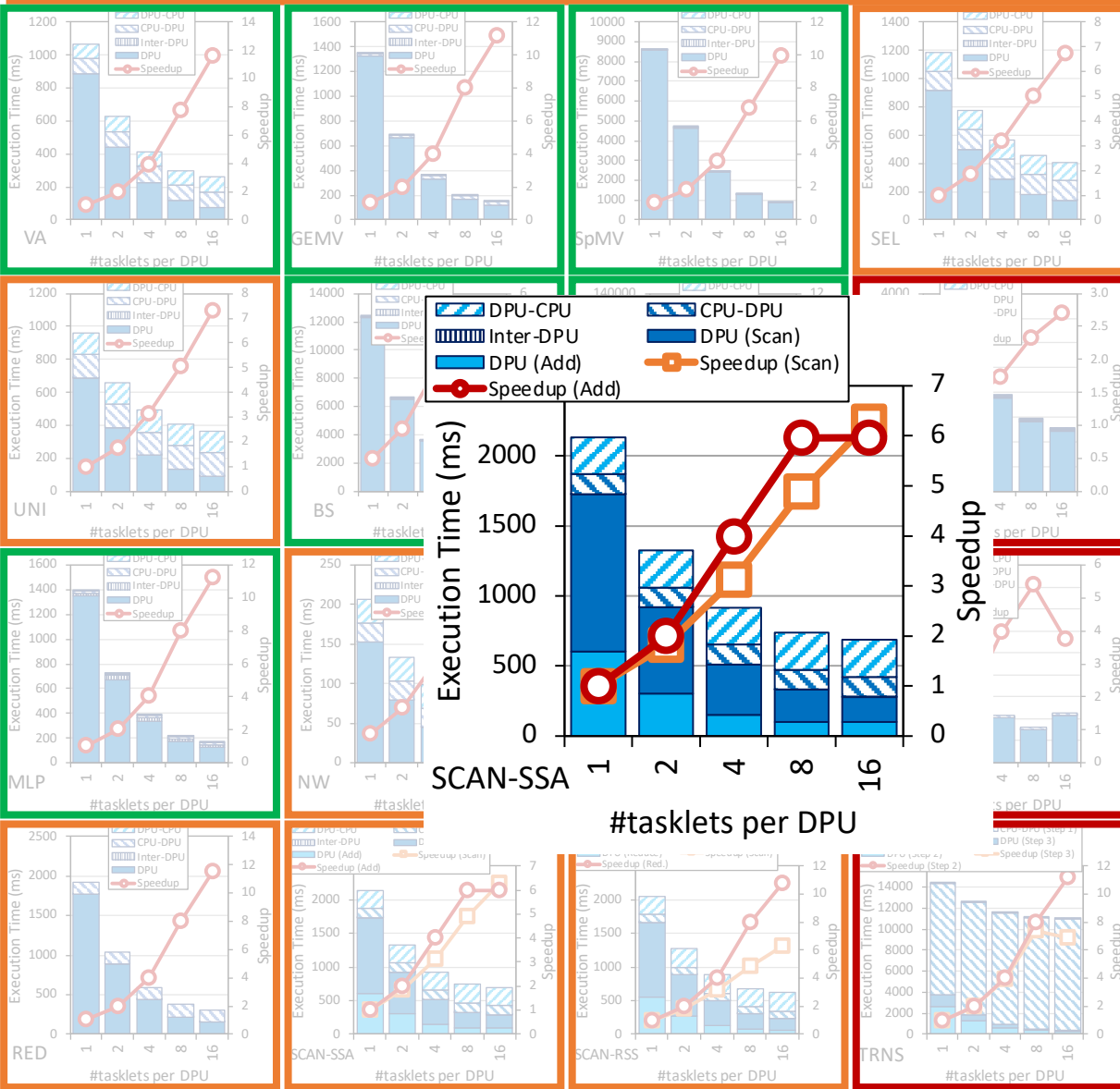
In SEL, UNI, NW, RED, SCAN-SSA (Scan kernel), SCAN-RSS (both kernels), synchronization is lightweight

BFS, HST-L, TRNS (Step 3) use mutexes, which cause contention when accessing shared data structures

**KEY OBSERVATION 11**  
 Intensive use of **intra-DPU synchronization across tasklets (e.g., mutexes, barriers, handshakes)** may limit scalability, sometimes causing the best performing number of tasklets to be lower than 11.



# Strong Scaling: 1 DPU (V)



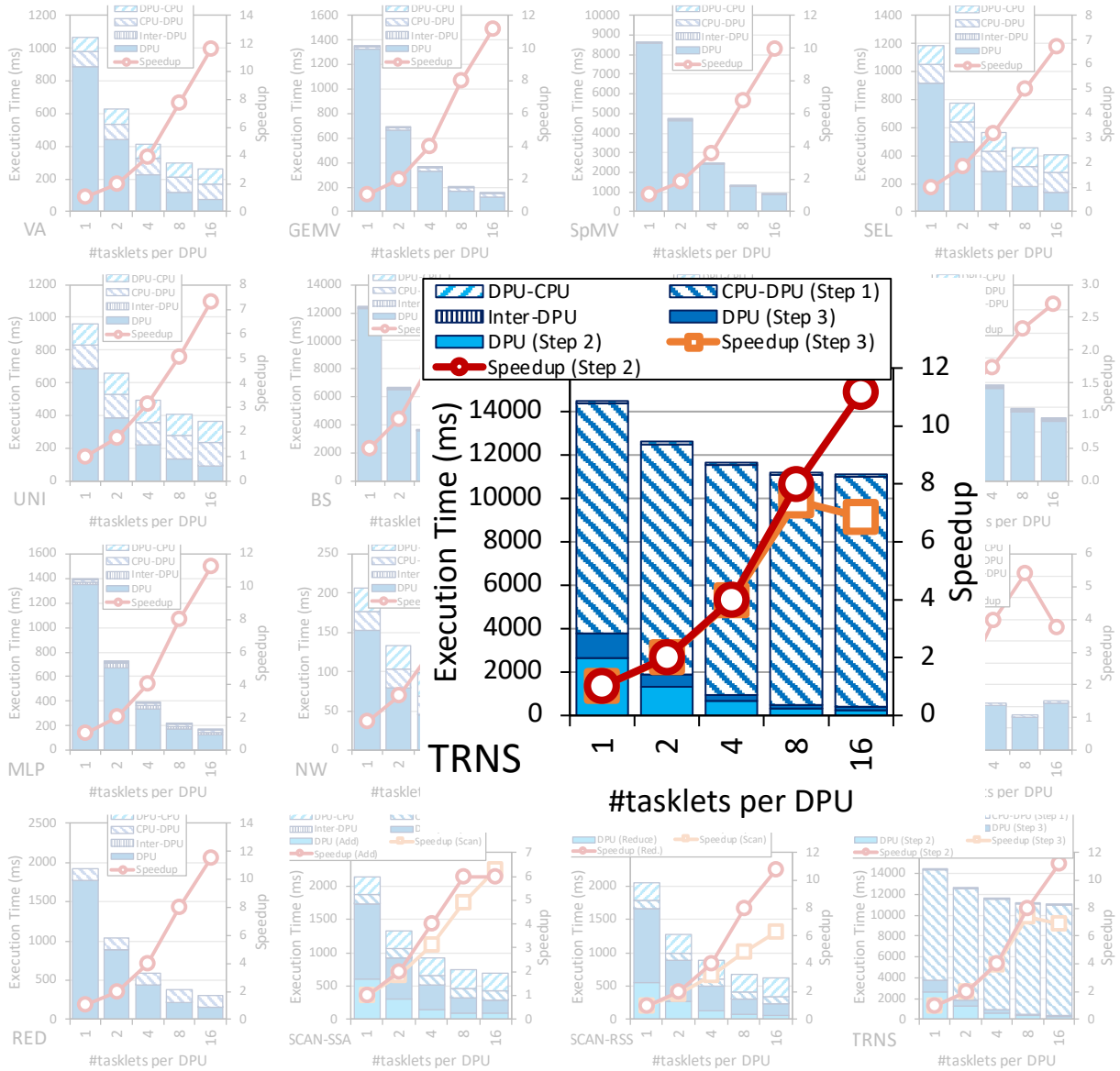
SCAN-SSA (Add kernel) is **not compute-intensive**. Thus, performance saturates with less than 11 tasklets (recall STREAM ADD). BS shows similar behavior

## KEY OBSERVATION 12

**Most real-world workloads are in the compute-bound region of the DPU (all kernels except SCAN-SSA (Add kernel) and BS), i.e., the pipeline latency dominates the MRAM access latency.**



# Strong Scaling: 1 DPU (VI)



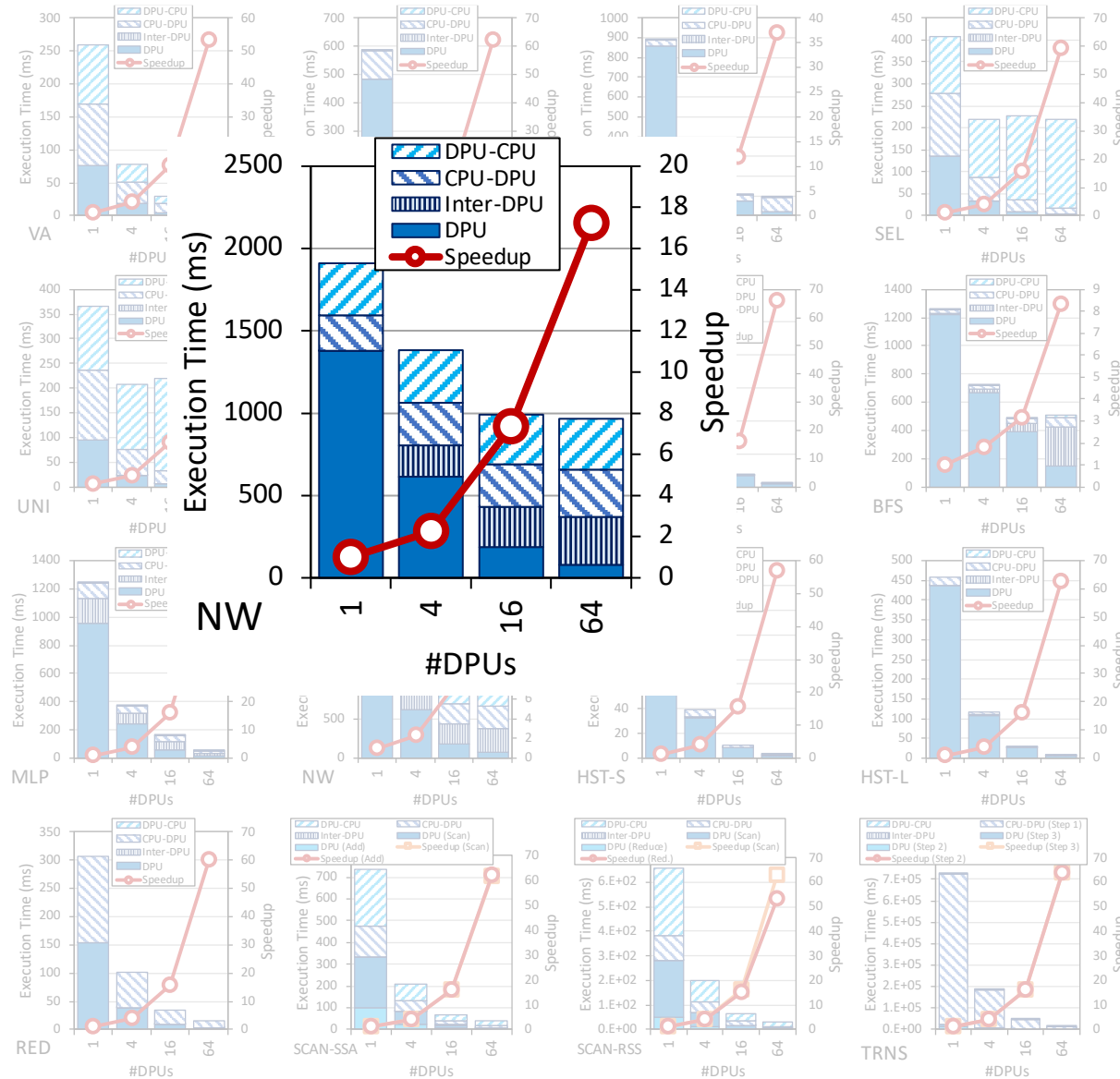
The amount of time spent on CPU-DPU and DPU-CPU transfers is low compared to the time spent on DPU execution

TRNS performs step 1 of the matrix transposition via the CPU-DPU transfer.  
Using small transfers (8 elements) does not exploit full CPU-DPU bandwidth

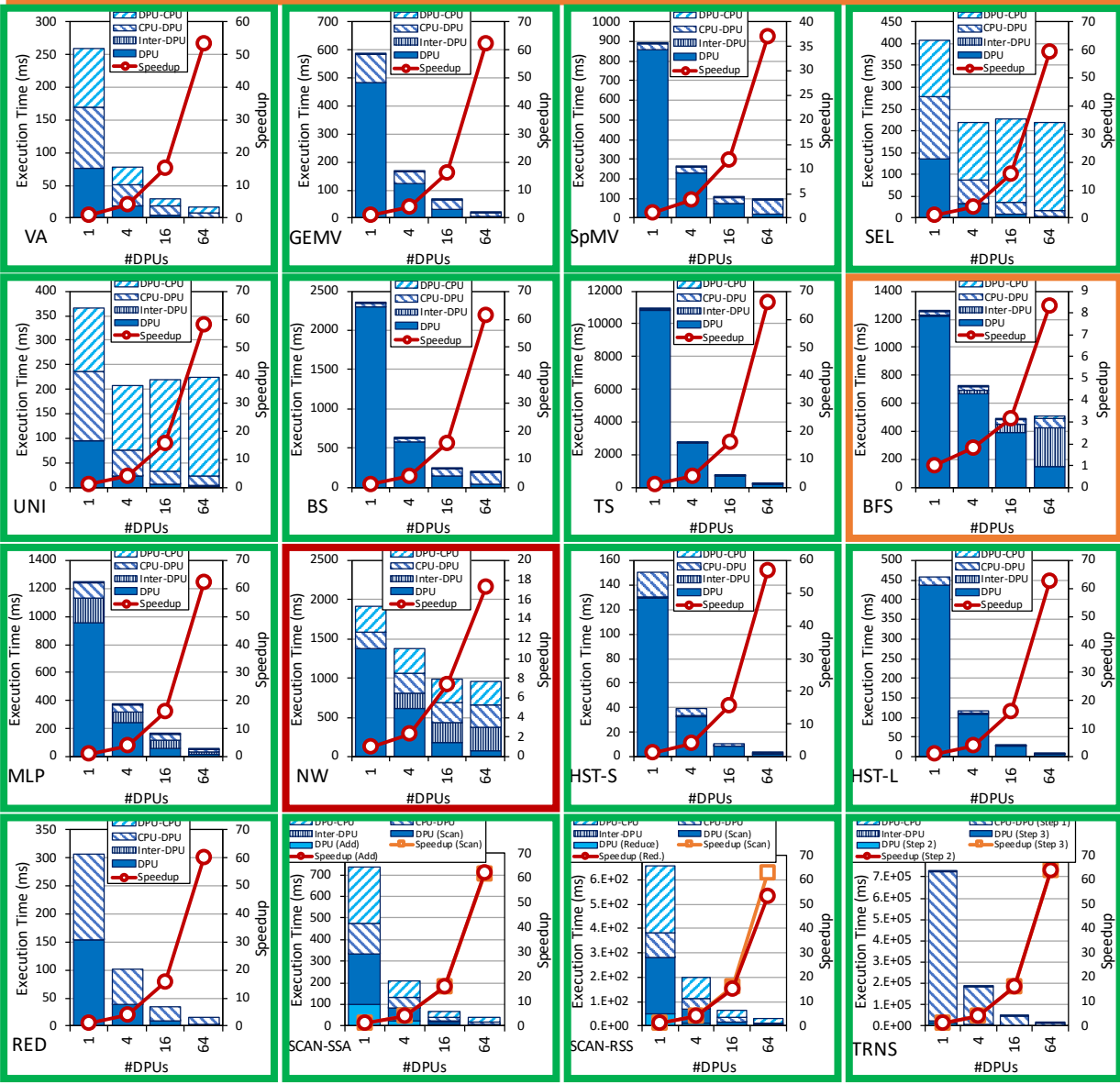
**KEY OBSERVATION 13**  
Transferring large data chunks from/to the host CPU is preferred for input data and output results due to higher sustained CPU-DPU/DPU-CPU bandwidths.

# Strong Scaling: 1 Rank (I)

- Strong scaling experiments on 1 rank
  - We set the number of tasklets to the best performing one
  - The number of DPUs is 1, 4, 16, 64
  - We show the breakdown of execution time:
    - DPU: Execution time on the DPU
    - Inter-DPU: Time for inter-DPU communication via the host CPU
    - CPU-DPU: Time for CPU to DPU transfer of input data
    - DPU-CPU: Time for DPU to CPU transfer of final results
  - Speedup over 1 DPU



# Strong Scaling: 1 Rank (II)



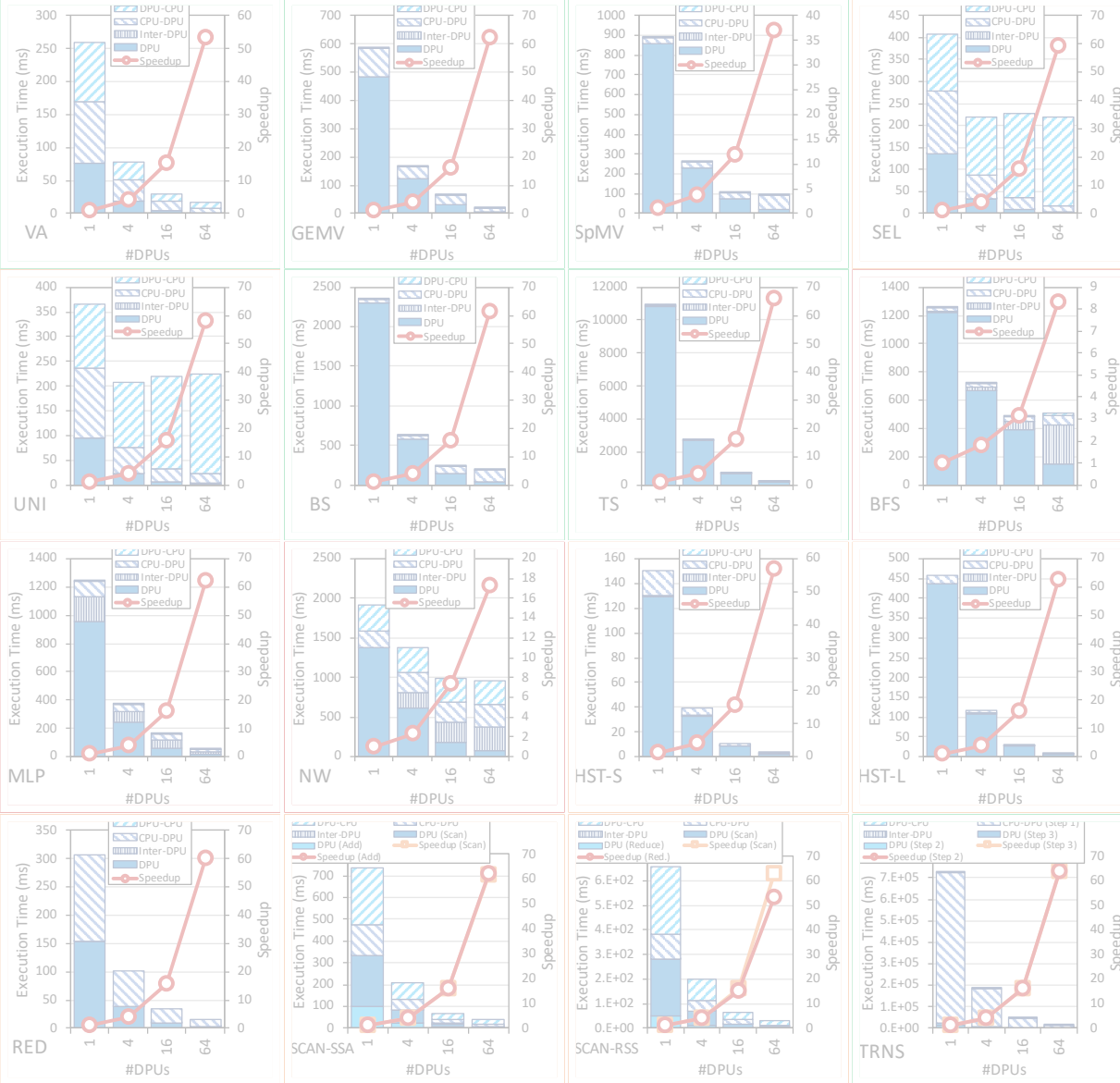
VA, GEMV, SpMV, SEL, UNI, BS, TS, MLP, HST-S, HSTS-L, RED, SCAN-SSA (both kernel), SCAN-RSS (both kernels), and TRNS (both kernels) scale linearly with the number of DPUs

Scaling is sublinear for BFS and NW

BFS suffers load imbalance due to irregular graph topology

NW computes a diagonal of a 2D matrix in each iteration. More DPUs does not mean more parallelization in shorter diagonals.

# Strong Scaling: 1 Rank (III)

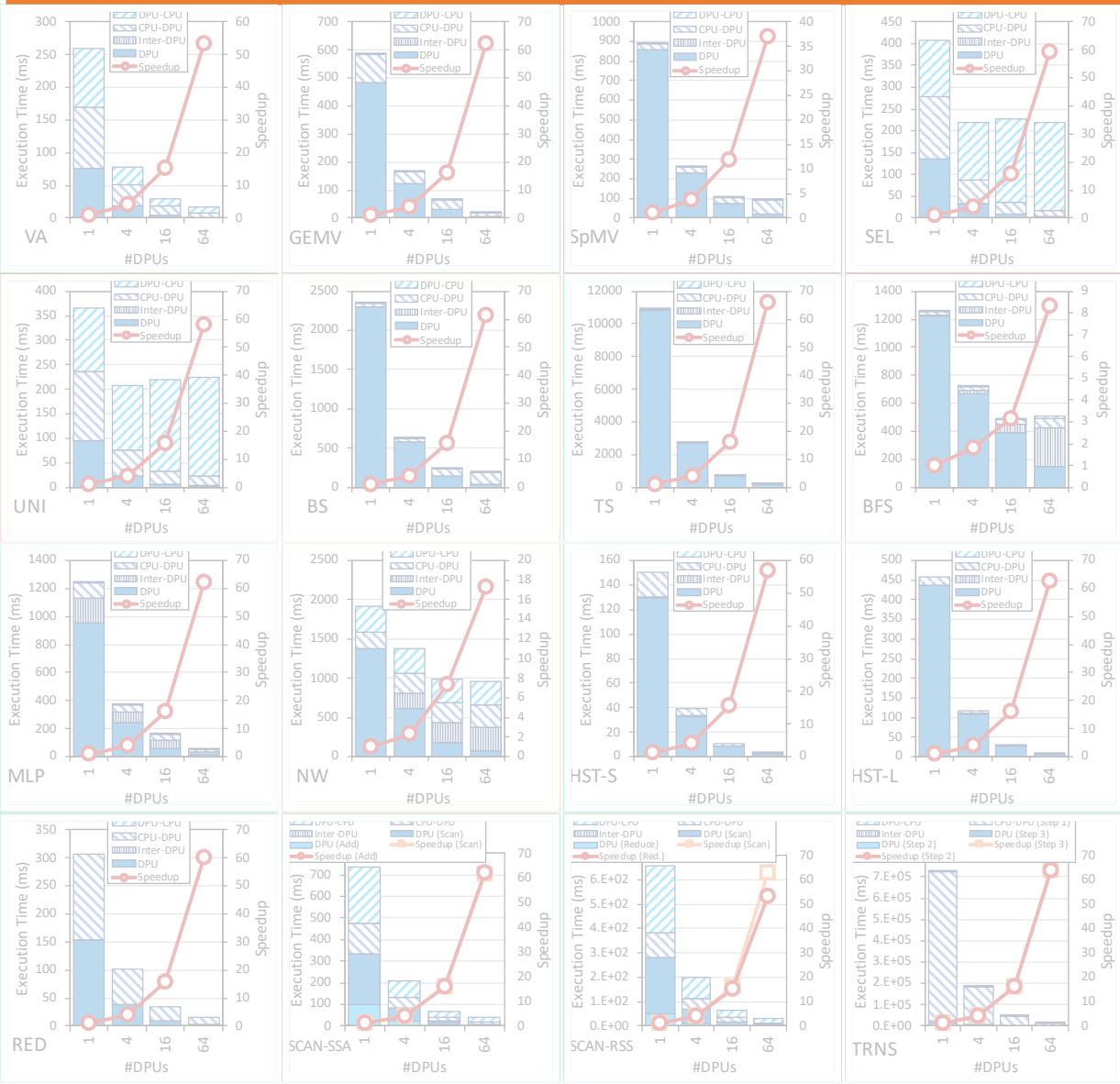


VA, GEMV, SpMV, BS, TS, TRNS **do not need inter-DPU synchronization**

SEL, UNI, HST-S, HST-L, RED, SCAN-SSA, SCAN-RSS **need inter-DPU synchronization but 64 DPUs still obtain the best performance**

BFS, MLP, NW require **heavy inter-DPU synchronization**, involving DPU-CPU and CPU-DPU transfers

# Strong Scaling: 1 Rank (IV)



VA, GEMV, TS, MLP, HST-S, HST-L, RED, SCAN-SSA, SCAN-RSS, TRNS **use parallel transfers.** CPU-DPU and DPU-CPU transfer times decrease as we increase the number of DPUs

BS, NW **use parallel transfers but do not reduce transfer times:**

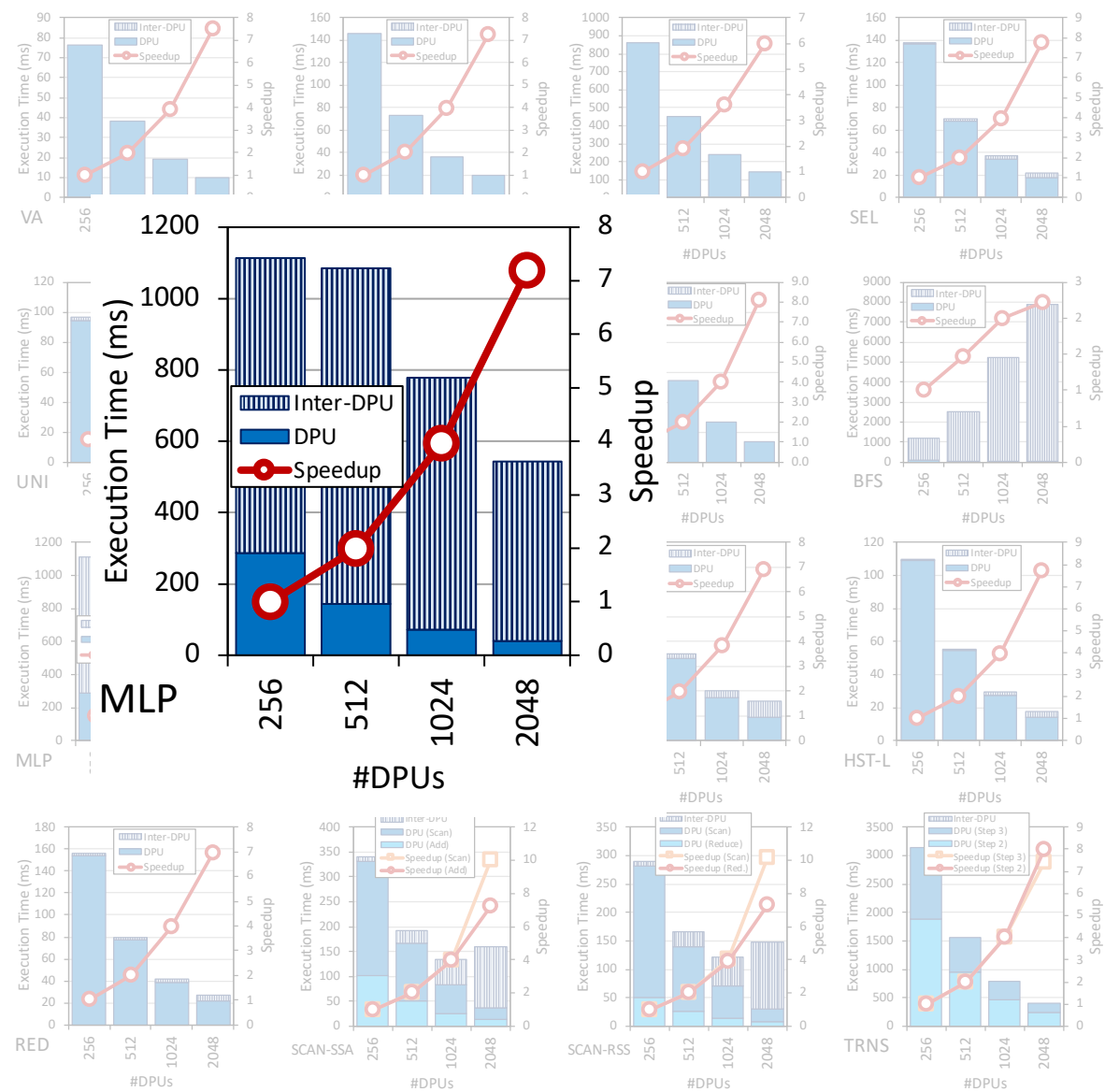
- BS transfers a complete array to all DPUs.
- NW does not use all DPUs in all iterations

SpMV, SEL, UNI, BFS **cannot use parallel transfers,** as the transfer size per DPU is not fixed

**PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATION 5**  
**Parallel CPU-DPU/DPU-CPU transfers inside a rank of DPUs are recommended for real-world workloads when all transferred buffers are of the same size.**

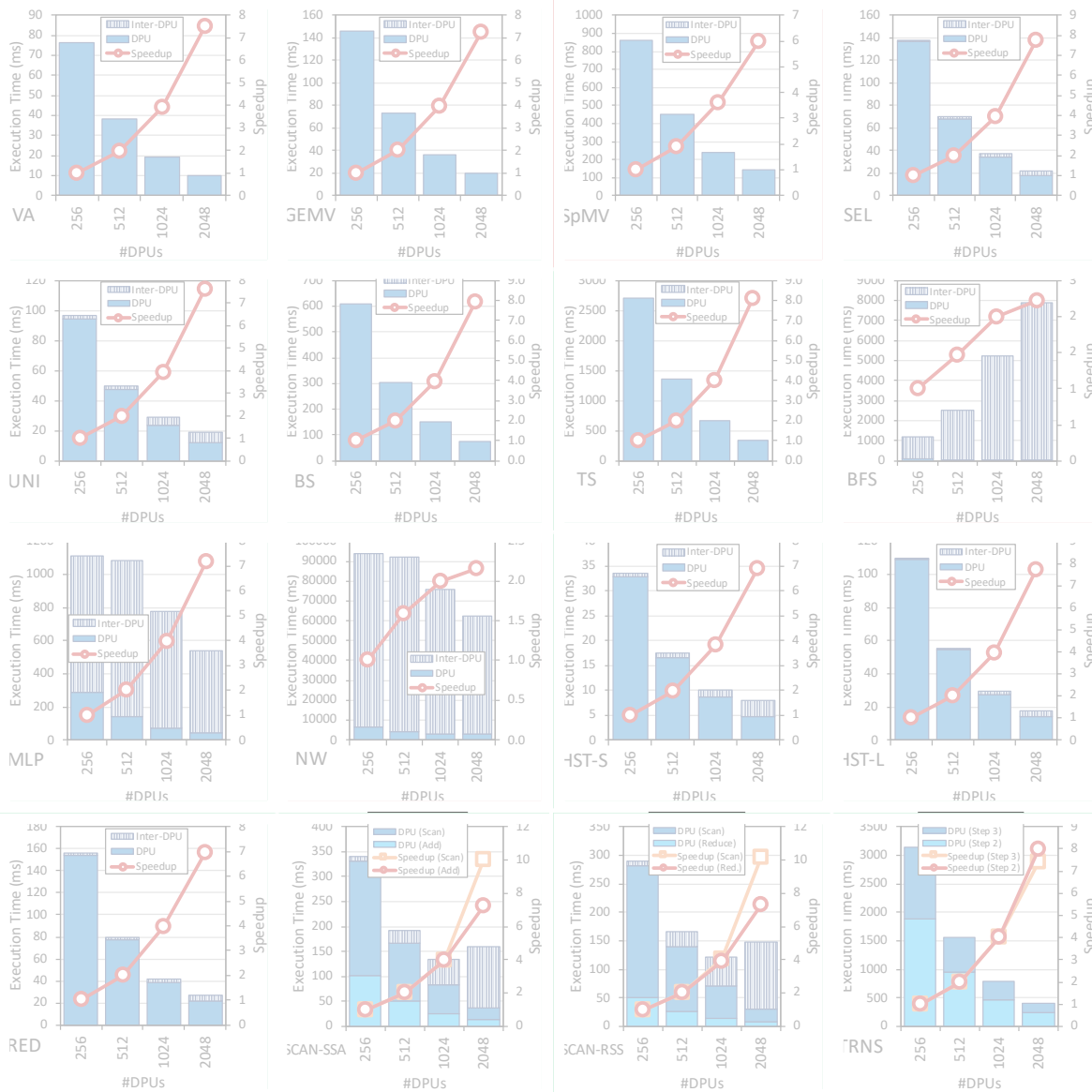
# Strong Scaling: 32 Ranks (I)

- Strong scaling experiments on 32 rank
  - We set the number of tasklets to the best performing one
  - The number of DPUs is 256, 512, 1024, 2048
  - We show the breakdown of execution time:
    - DPU: Execution time on the DPU
    - Inter-DPU: Time for inter-DPU communication via the host CPU
    - We do not show CPU-DPU/DPU-CPU transfer times
  - Speedup over 256 DPUs





# Strong Scaling: 32 Ranks (II)

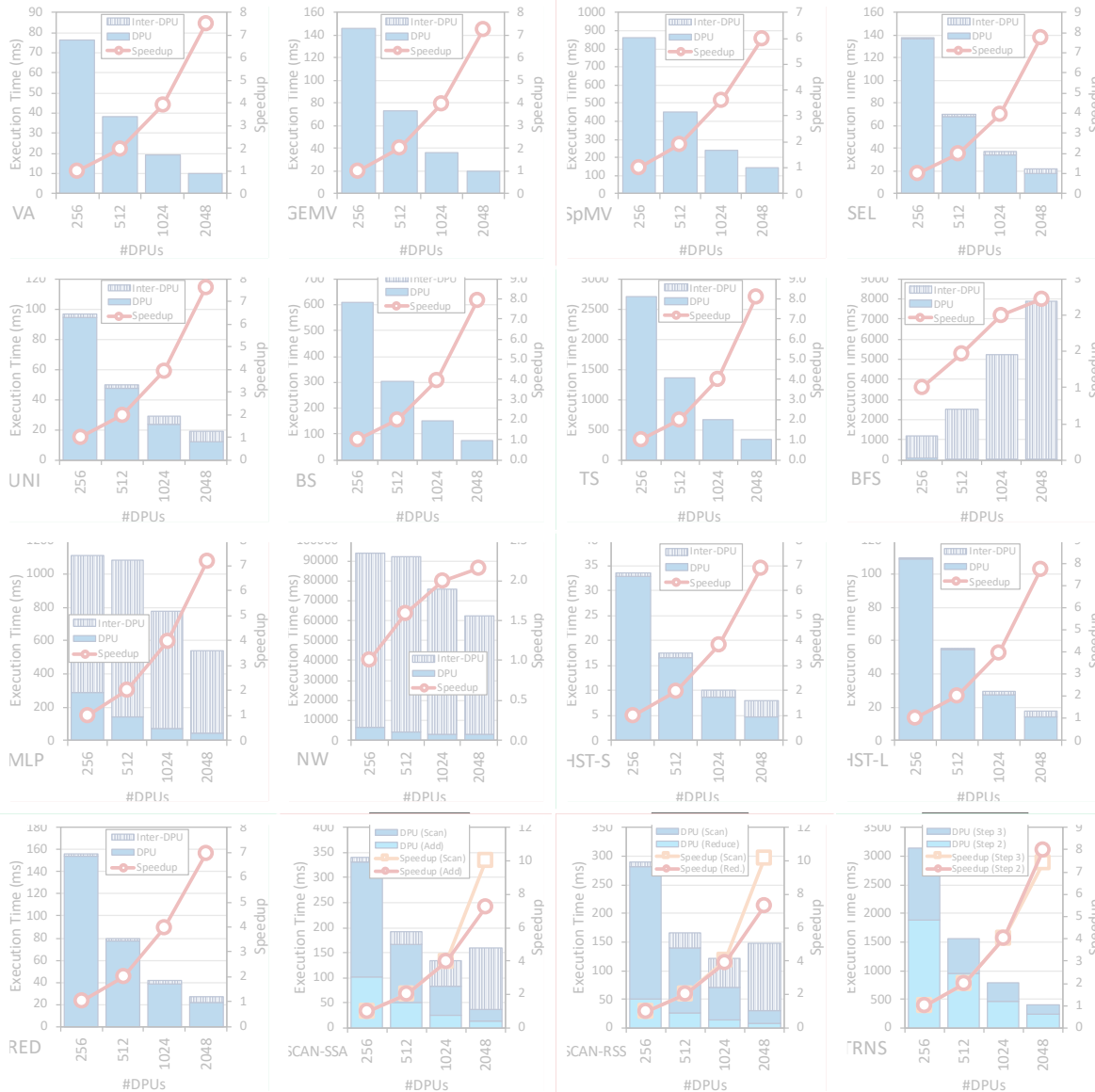


VA, GEMV, SEL, UNI, BS, TS, MLP, HST-S, HSTS-L, RED, SCAN-SSA (both kernel), SCAN-RSS (both kernels), and TRNS (both kernels) **scale linearly with the number of DPUs**

SpMV, BFS, NW **do not scale linearly due to load imbalance**

**KEY OBSERVATION 14**  
**Load balancing across DPUs ensures linear reduction of the execution time spent on the DPUs for a given problem size, when all available DPUs are used (as observed in strong scaling experiments).**

# Strong Scaling: 32 Ranks (III)



SEL, UNI, HST-S, HST-L, RED only need to merge final results

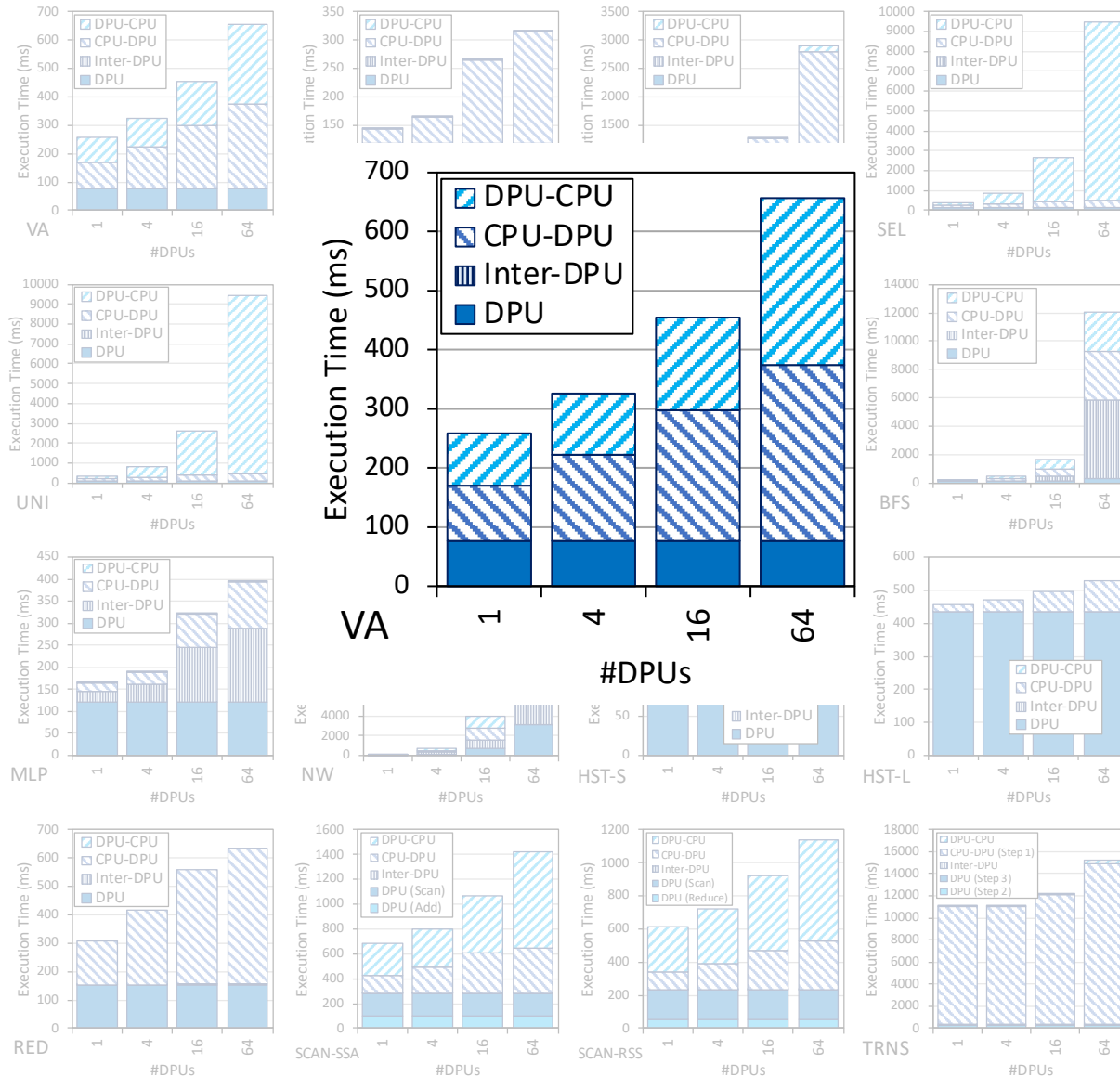
**KEY OBSERVATION 15**  
**The overhead of merging partial results from DPUs in the host CPU is tolerable across all PRIM benchmarks that need it.**

BFS, MLP, NW, SCAN-SSA, SCAN-RSS have more complex communication

**KEY OBSERVATION 16**  
**Complex synchronization across DPUs (i.e., inter-DPU synchronization involving two-way communication with the host CPU) imposes significant overhead, which limits scalability to more DPUs.**



# Weak Scaling: 1 Rank



## KEY OBSERVATION 17

Equally-sized problems assigned to different DPUs and little/no inter-DPU synchronization lead to linear weak scaling of the execution time spent on the DPUs (i.e., constant execution time when we increase the number of DPUs and the dataset size accordingly).

## KEY OBSERVATION 18

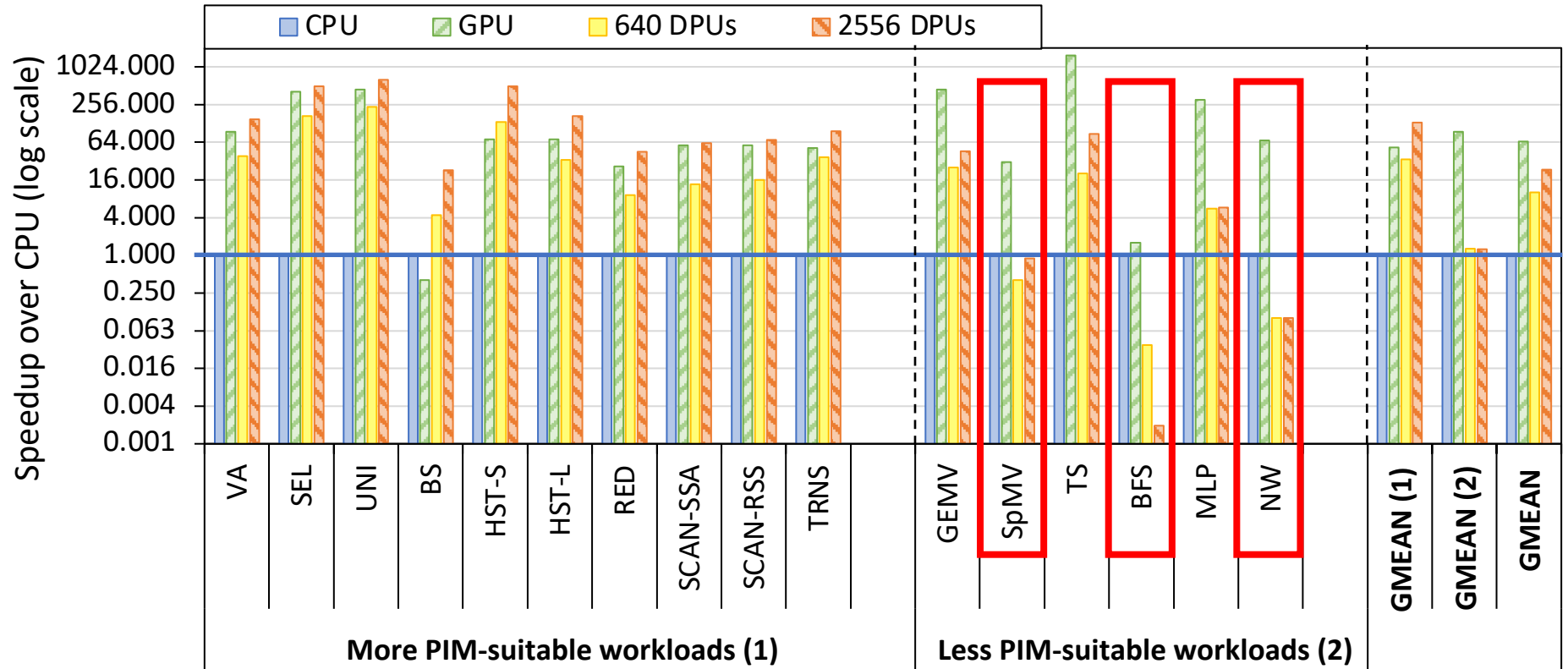
Sustained bandwidth of parallel CPU-DPU/DPU-CPU transfers inside a rank of DPUs increases sublinearly with the number of DPUs.

# CPU/GPU: Evaluation Methodology

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- Comparison of both UPMEM-based PIM systems to **state-of-the-art CPU and GPU**
  - Intel Xeon E3-1240 CPU
  - NVIDIA Titan V GPU
- We use **state-of-the-art CPU and GPU counterparts** of PrIM benchmarks
  - <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/prim-benchmarks>
- We use the **largest dataset that we can fit in the GPU memory**
- We show overall execution time, including DPU kernel time and inter DPU communication

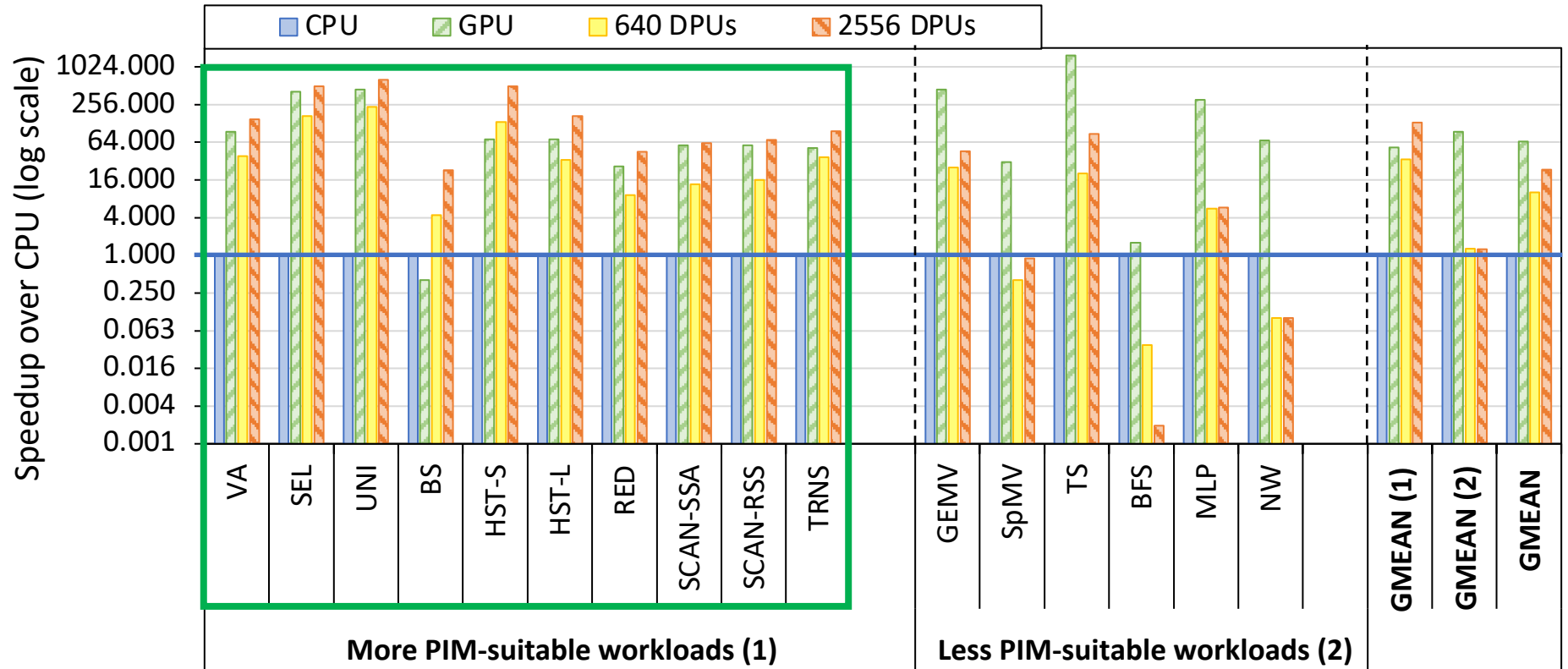
# CPU/GPU: Performance Comparison (I)



The 2,556-DPU and the 640-DPU systems outperform the CPU for all benchmarks except SpMV, BFS, and NW

The 2,556-DPU and the 640-DPU are, respectively, 93.0x and 27.9x faster than the CPU for 13 of the PRIM benchmarks

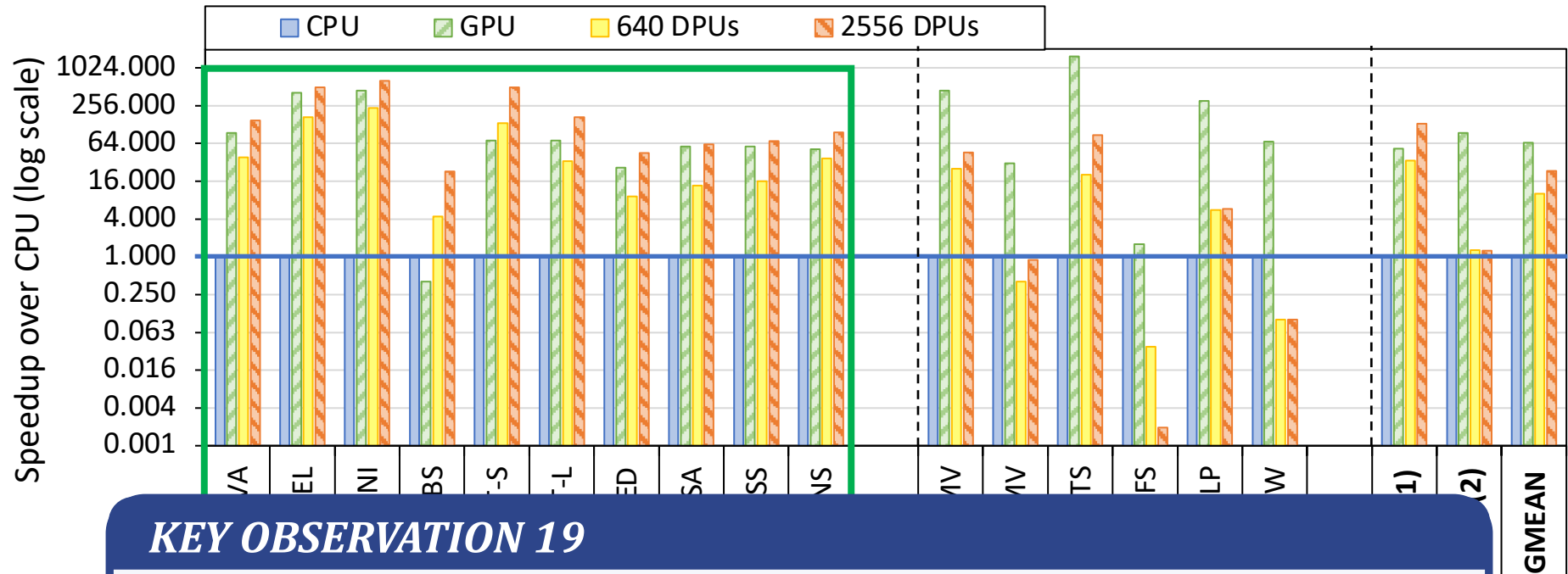
# CPU/GPU: Performance Comparison (II)



The 2,556-DPU outperforms the GPU for 10 PrIM benchmarks with an average of 2.54x

The performance of the 640-DPU is within 65% the performance of the GPU for the same 10 PrIM benchmarks

# CPU/GPU: Performance Comparison (III)



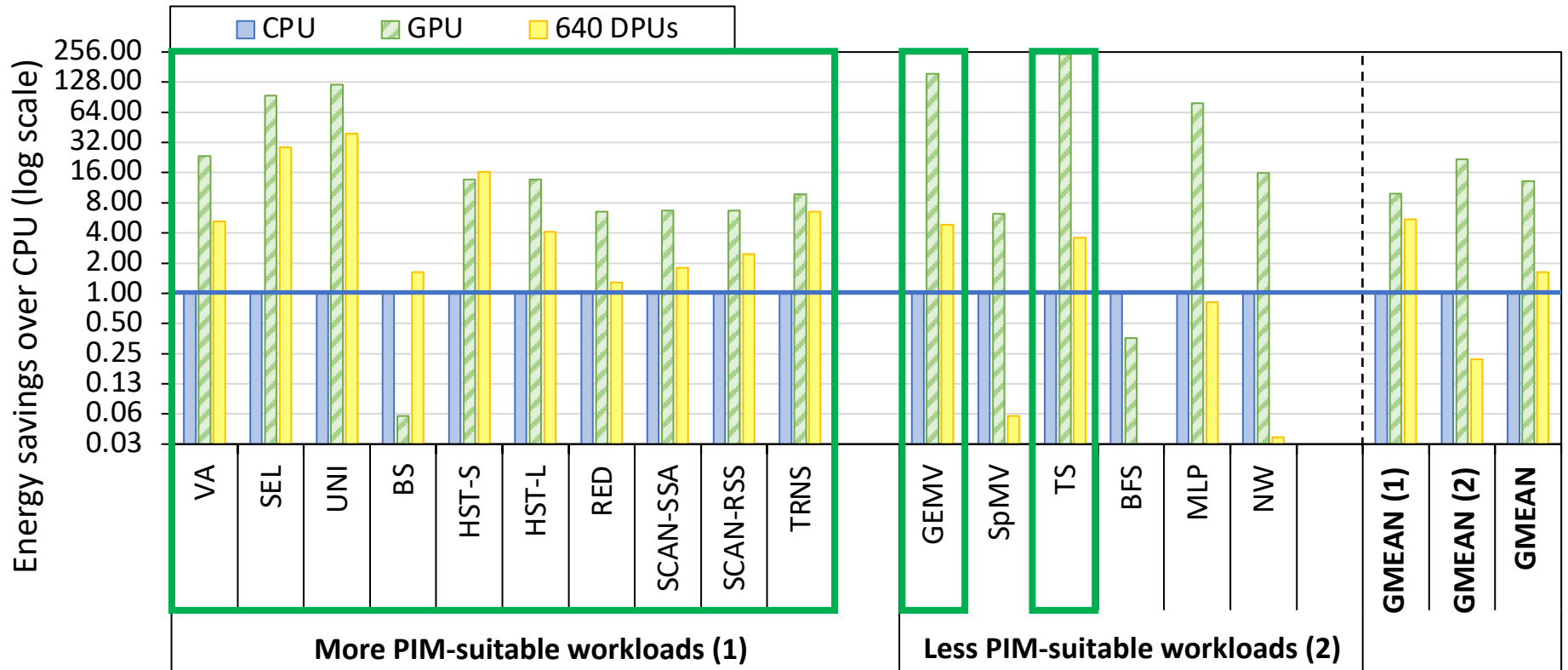
## KEY OBSERVATION 19

The UPMEM-based PIM system can outperform a state-of-the-art GPU on workloads **with three key characteristics**:

1. Streaming memory accesses
2. No or little inter-DPU synchronization
3. No or little use of integer multiplication, integer division, or floating point operations

These three key characteristics make a **workload potentially suitable to the UPMEM PIM architecture**.

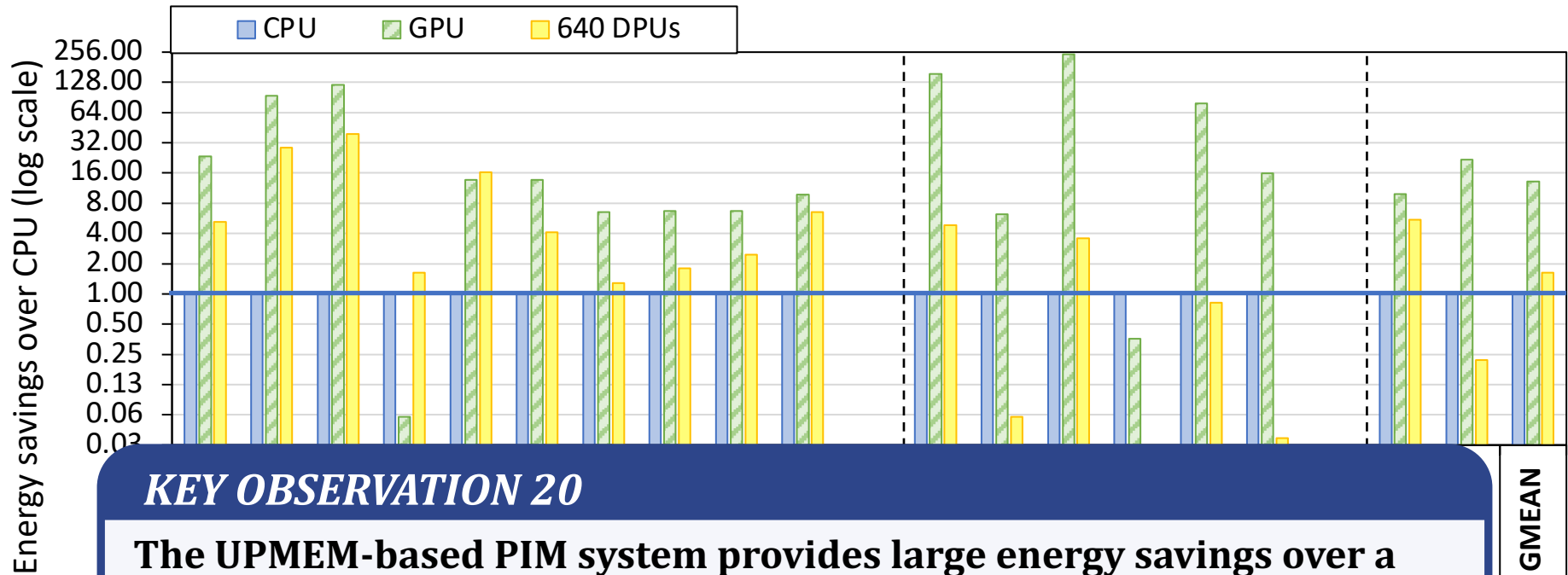
# CPU/GPU: Energy Comparison (I)



The 640-DPU system consumes on average 1.64x less energy than the CPU for all 16 PrIM benchmarks

For 12 benchmarks, the 640-DPU system provides energy savings of 5.23x over the CPU

# CPU/GPU: Energy Comparison (II)



## KEY OBSERVATION 20

**The UPMEM-based PIM system provides large energy savings over a state-of-the-art CPU** due to higher performance (thus, lower static energy) and less data movement between memory and processors.

**The UPMEM-based PIM system provides energy savings over a state-of-the-art CPU/GPU on workloads where it outperforms the CPU/GPU.**

This is because the source of both performance improvement and energy savings is the same: **the significant reduction in data movement between the memory and the processor cores**, which the UPMEM-based PIM system can provide for PIM-suitable workloads.

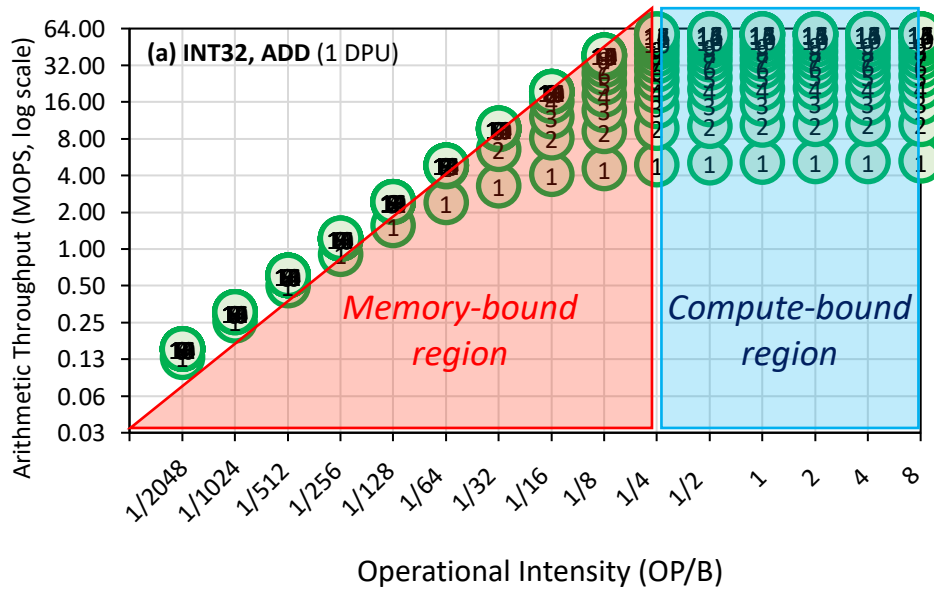
# Outline

---

- Introduction
  - Accelerator Model
  - UPMEM-based PIM System Overview
- UPMEM PIM Programming
  - Vector Addition
  - CPU-DPU Data Transfers
  - Inter-DPU Communication
  - CPU-DPU/DPU-CPU Transfer Bandwidth
- DRAM Processing Unit
  - Arithmetic Throughput
  - WRAM and MRAM Bandwidth
- PRIM Benchmarks
  - Roofline Model
  - Benchmark Diversity
- Evaluation
  - Strong and Weak Scaling
  - Comparison to CPU and GPU
- Key Takeaways



# Key Takeaway 1

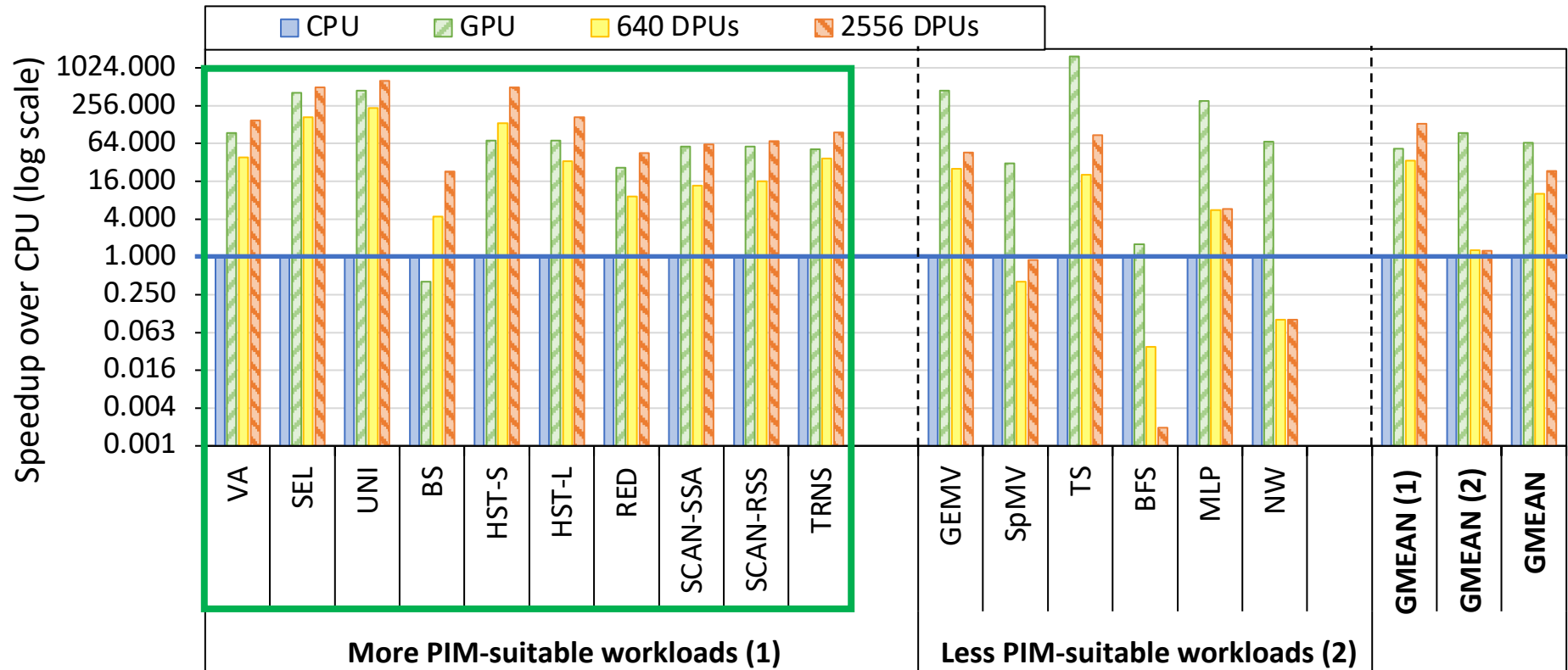


The throughput saturation point is as low as  $\frac{1}{4}$  OP/B, i.e., 1 integer addition per every 32-bit element fetched

## KEY TAKEAWAY 1

The UPMEM PIM architecture is fundamentally compute bound. As a result, the most suitable workloads are memory-bound.

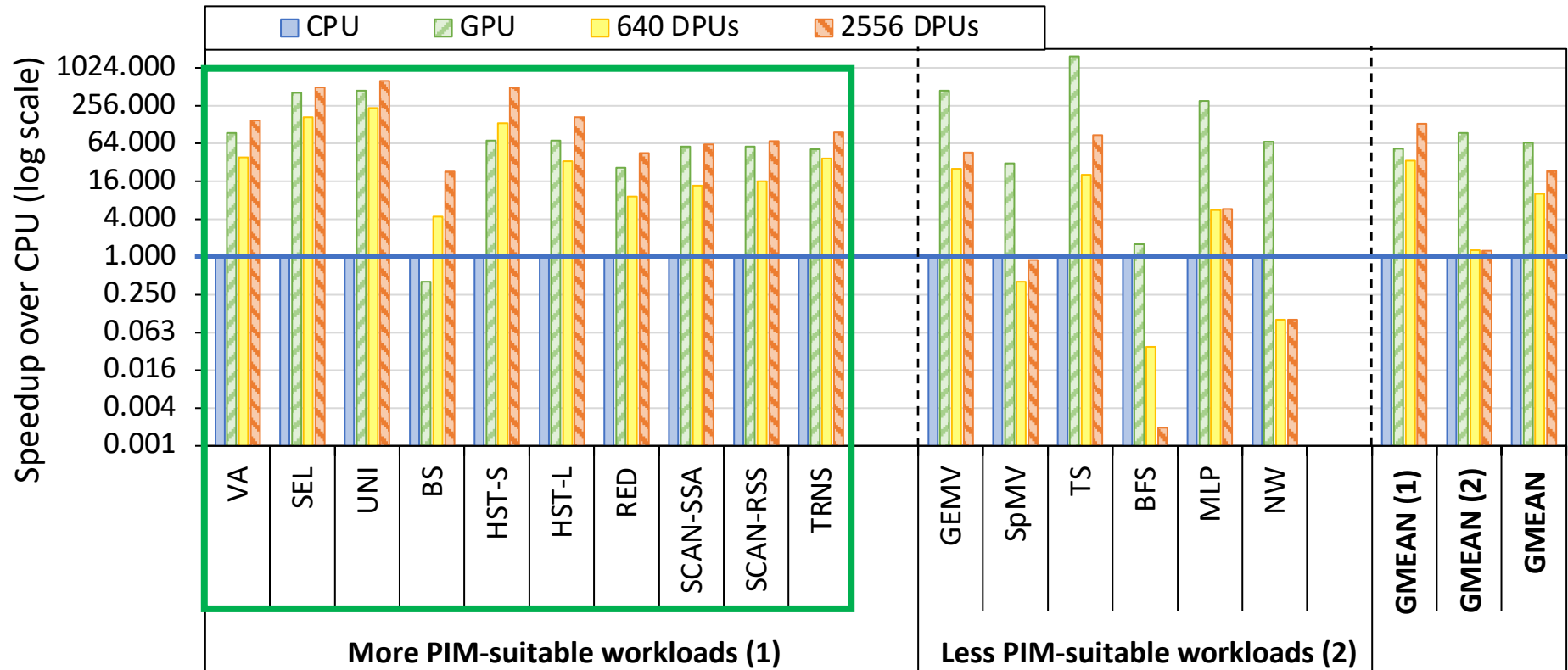
# Key Takeaway 2



## KEY TAKEAWAY 2

The most well-suited workloads for the UPMEM PIM architecture use no arithmetic operations or use only simple operations (e.g., bitwise operations and integer addition/subtraction).

# Key Takeaway 3



## KEY TAKEAWAY 3

The most well-suited workloads for the UPMEM PIM architecture require little or no communication across DPUs (inter-DPU communication).

# Key Takeaway 4

---

## ***KEY TAKEAWAY 4***

- UPMEM-based PIM systems **outperform state-of-the-art CPUs in terms of performance** (by 23.2× on 2,556 DPUs for 16 PrIM benchmarks) **and energy efficiency on most of PrIM benchmarks.**
- UPMEM-based PIM systems **outperform state-of-the-art GPUs on a majority of PrIM benchmarks** (by 2.54× on 2,556 DPUs for 10 PrIM benchmarks), and the outlook is even more positive for future PIM systems.
- UPMEM-based PIM systems are **more energy-efficient than state-of-the-art CPUs and GPUs on workloads that they provide performance improvements** over the CPUs and the GPUs.

# Understanding a Modern PIM Architecture

---

## Benchmarking a New Paradigm: Experimental Analysis and Characterization of a Real Processing-in-Memory System

**JUAN GÓMEZ-LUNA<sup>1</sup>, IZZAT EL HAJJ<sup>2</sup>, IVAN FERNANDEZ<sup>1,3</sup>, CHRISTINA GIANNOULA<sup>1,4</sup>,  
GERALDO F. OLIVEIRA<sup>1</sup>, AND ONUR MUTLU<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>ETH Zürich

<sup>2</sup>American University of Beirut

<sup>3</sup>University of Malaga

<sup>4</sup>National Technical University of Athens

Corresponding author: Juan Gómez-Luna (e-mail: juang@ethz.ch).

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2105.03814.pdf>

<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/prim-benchmarks>

## Benchmarking Memory-Centric Computing Systems: Analysis of Real Processing-in-Memory Hardware

Juan Gómez-Luna  
*ETH Zürich*

Izzat El Hajj  
*American University  
of Beirut*

Ivan Fernandez  
*University  
of Malaga*

Christina Giannoula  
*National Technical  
University of Athens*

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*ETH Zürich*

Onur Mutlu  
*ETH Zürich*

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2110.01709.pdf>

<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/prim-benchmarks>

## Benchmarking a New Paradigm: An Experimental Analysis of a Real Processing-in-Memory Architecture

Juan Gómez-Luna<sup>1</sup> Izzat El Hajj<sup>2</sup> Ivan Fernandez<sup>1,3</sup> Christina Giannoula<sup>1,4</sup>  
Geraldo F. Oliveira<sup>1</sup> Onur Mutlu<sup>1</sup>

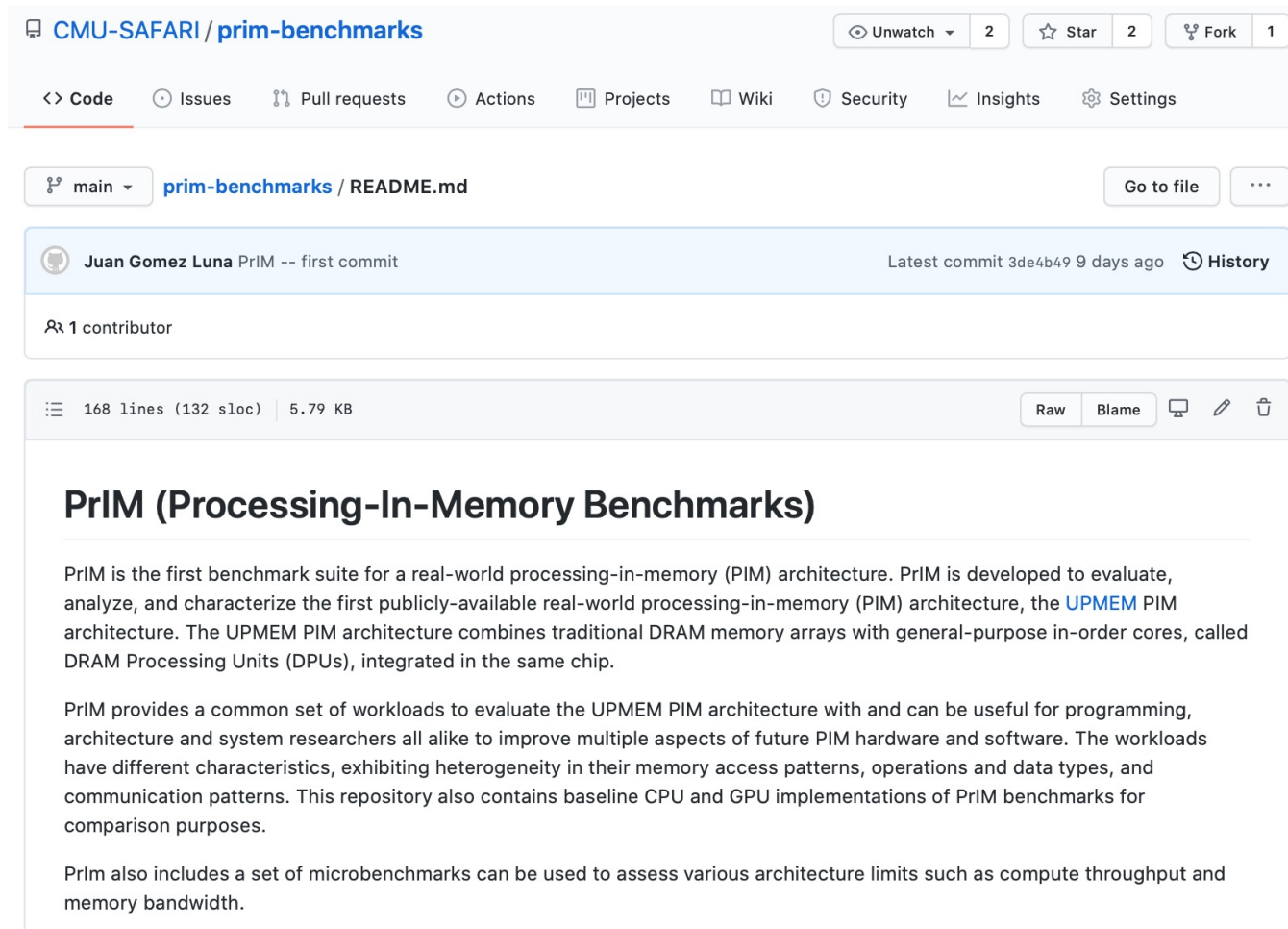
<sup>1</sup>ETH Zürich   <sup>2</sup>American University of Beirut   <sup>3</sup>University of Malaga   <sup>4</sup>National Technical University of Athens

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2105.03814.pdf>

<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/prim-benchmarks>

# PrIM Repository

- All microbenchmarks, benchmarks, and scripts
- <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/prim-benchmarks>



CMU-SAFARI / prim-benchmarks

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main prim-benchmarks / README.md Go to file

Juan Gomez Luna PrIM -- first commit Latest commit 3de4b49 9 days ago History

1 contributor

168 lines (132 sloc) | 5.79 KB Raw Blame

## PrIM (Processing-In-Memory Benchmarks)

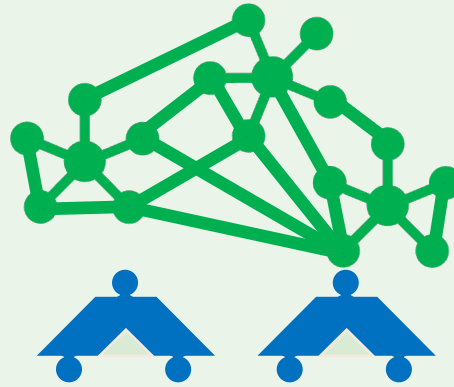
PrIM is the first benchmark suite for a real-world processing-in-memory (PIM) architecture. PrIM is developed to evaluate, analyze, and characterize the first publicly-available real-world processing-in-memory (PIM) architecture, the [UPMEM PIM](#) architecture. The UPMEM PIM architecture combines traditional DRAM memory arrays with general-purpose in-order cores, called DRAM Processing Units (DPUs), integrated in the same chip.

PrIM provides a common set of workloads to evaluate the UPMEM PIM architecture with and can be useful for programming, architecture and system researchers all alike to improve multiple aspects of future PIM hardware and software. The workloads have different characteristics, exhibiting heterogeneity in their memory access patterns, operations and data types, and communication patterns. This repository also contains baseline CPU and GPU implementations of PrIM benchmarks for comparison purposes.

Prim also includes a set of microbenchmarks can be used to assess various architecture limits such as compute throughput and memory bandwidth.



# **Sparse Matrix Vector Multiplication**



# SparseP

Towards Efficient Sparse Matrix Vector Multiplication  
on Real Processing-In-Memory Architectures

Christina Giannoula, Ivan Fernandez, Juan Gomez-Luna,  
Nectarios Koziris, Georgios Goumas, Onur Mutlu

# Our Work

## Efficient Algorithmic Designs

The first open-source Sparse Matrix Vector Multiplication (SpMV) software package, **SparseP**, for real Processing-In-Memory (PIM) systems

SparseP is Open-Source

**SparseP:** <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SparseP>

## Extensive Characterization

The first comprehensive analysis of SpMV on the first real commercial PIM architecture

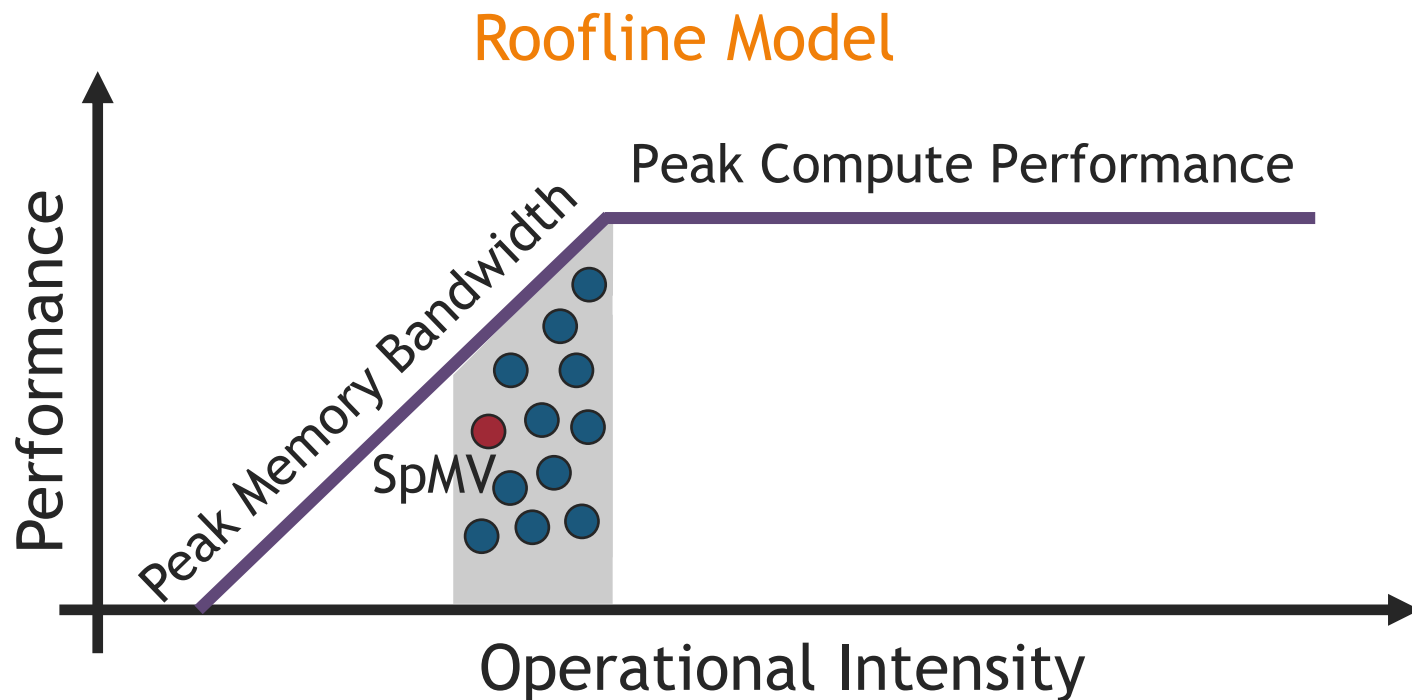
Recommendations for Architects and Programmers

**Full Paper:** <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2201.05072.pdf>

# Sparse Matrix Vector Multiplication

## Sparse Matrix Vector Multiplication (SpMV):

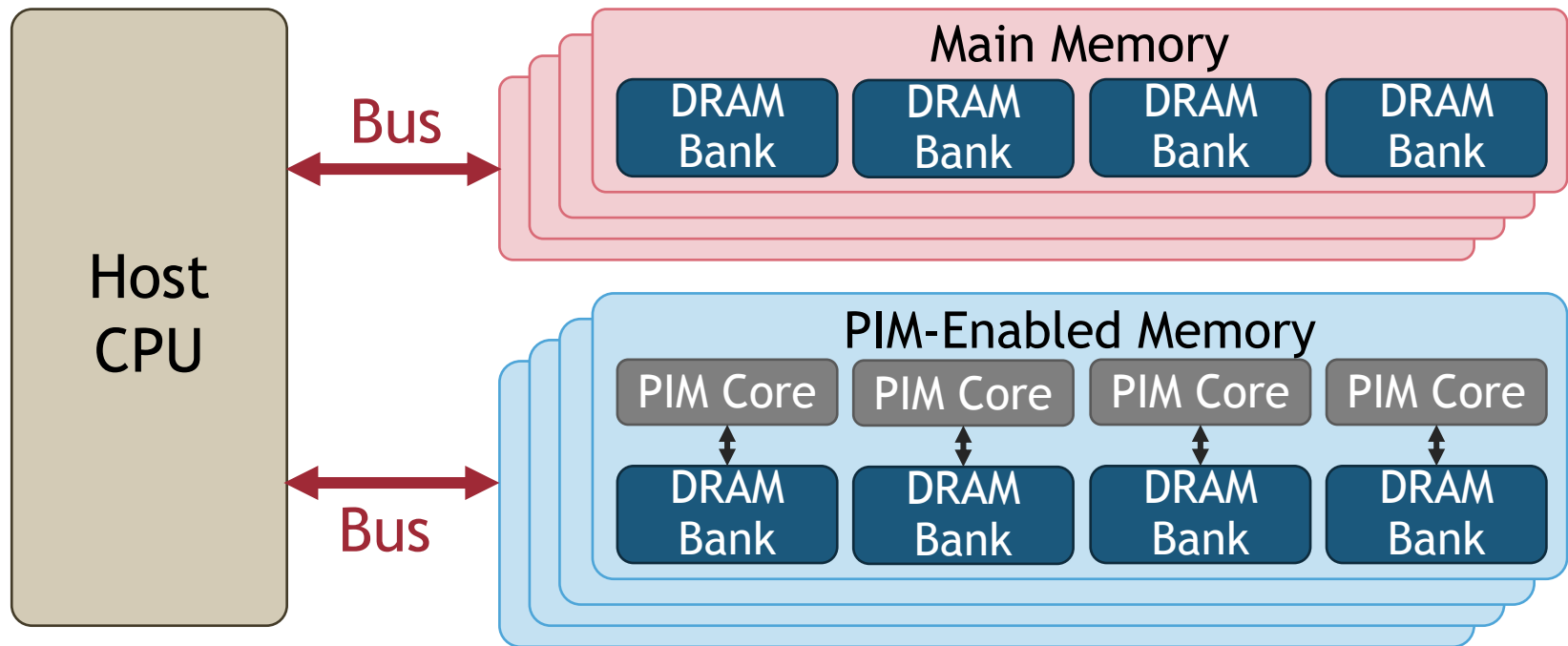
- **Widely-used** kernel in graph processing, machine learning, scientific computing ...
- A **highly memory-bound** kernel



# Real Processing-In-Memory Systems

Real **Near-Bank** Processing-In-Memory (**PIM**) Systems:

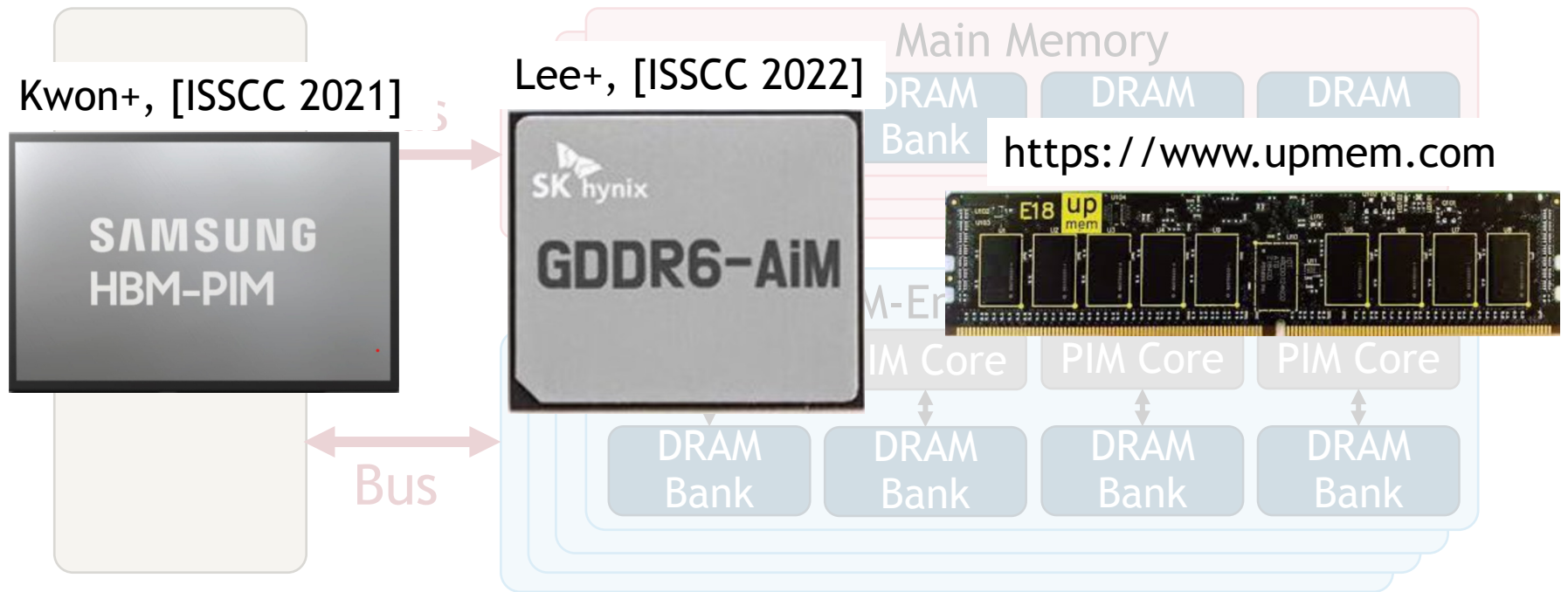
- High levels of **parallelism**
- Low memory access latency
- Large aggregate memory **bandwidth**



# Real Processing-In-Memory Systems


Real **Near-Bank** Processing-In-Memory (PIM) Systems:

- High levels of parallelism
- Low memory access latency
- Large aggregate memory bandwidth



# SparseP: SpMV Library for Real PIMs

## Our Contributions:

1. Design **efficient SpMV kernels** for current and future PIM systems
  - **25 SpMV kernels**
    - 4 compressed matrix formats (CSR, COO, BCSR, BCOO)
    - 6 data types
    - 4 data partitioning techniques
    - Various load balancing schemes among PIM cores/threads
    - 3 synchronization approaches
2. Provide a **comprehensive analysis** of SpMV on the first commercially-available **real PIM system** 
  - **26** sparse matrices
  - Comparisons to state-of-the-art **CPU** and **GPU** systems
  - **Recommendations** for software, system and hardware designers

# Outline

SpMV Kernels for Real PIM  
Systems

Key Takeaways from Our Study

Conclusion



# SpMV Execution on a PIM System

1

Load the  
input vector

2

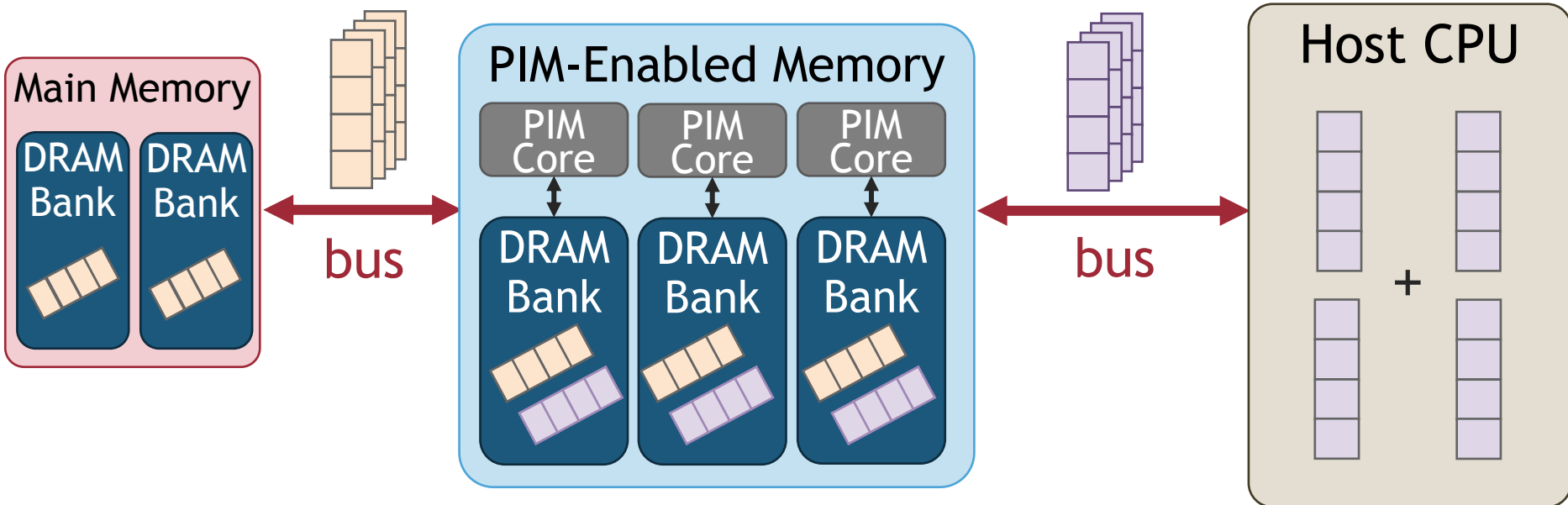
Execute the  
kernel

3

Retrieve the  
partial results

4

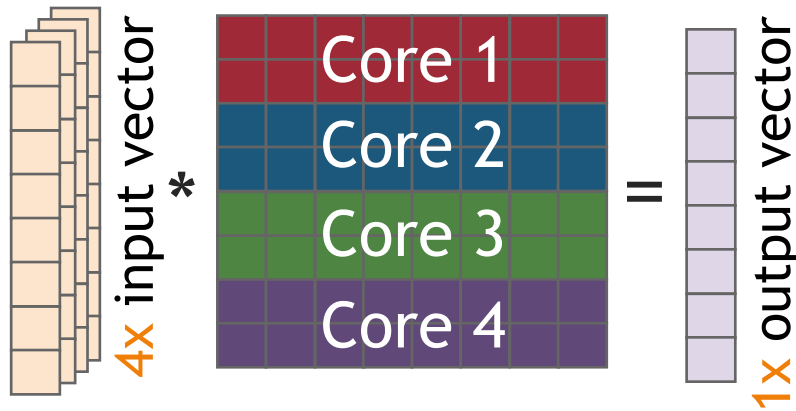
Merge the  
partial results



# Data Partitioning Techniques

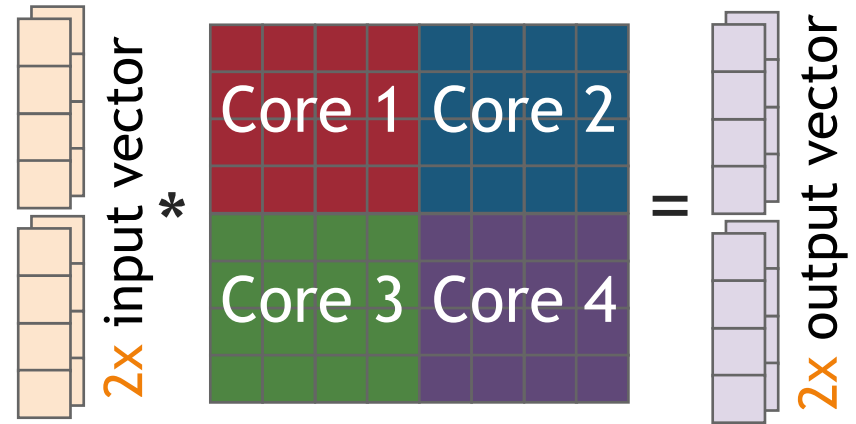
SparseP supports two types of data partitioning techniques:

## 1D Partitioning



perform the **complete**  
SpMV computation  
**only** on PIM cores

## 2D Partitioning



**trade-off**  
computation vs  
data transfer costs

# 1D Partitioning Technique

## Load-Balancing Approaches:

- CSR, COO:
  - Balance Rows
  - Balance NNZs \*
- BCSR, BCOO:
  - Balance Blocks ^
  - Balance NNZs ^

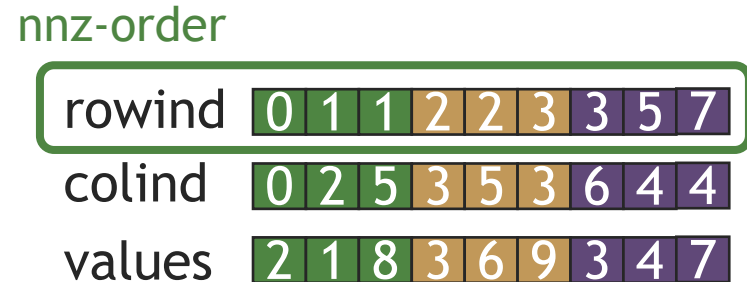
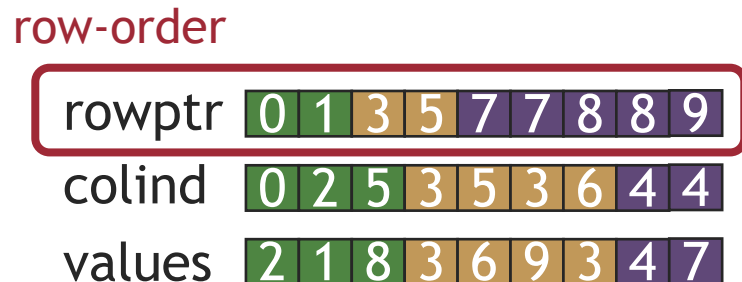
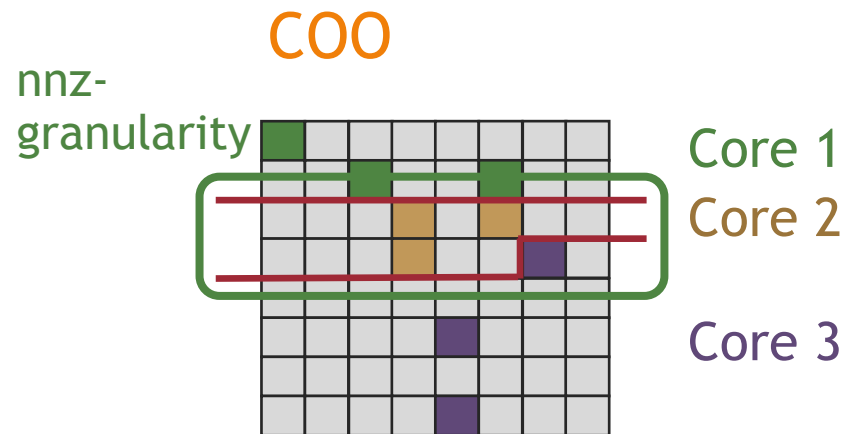
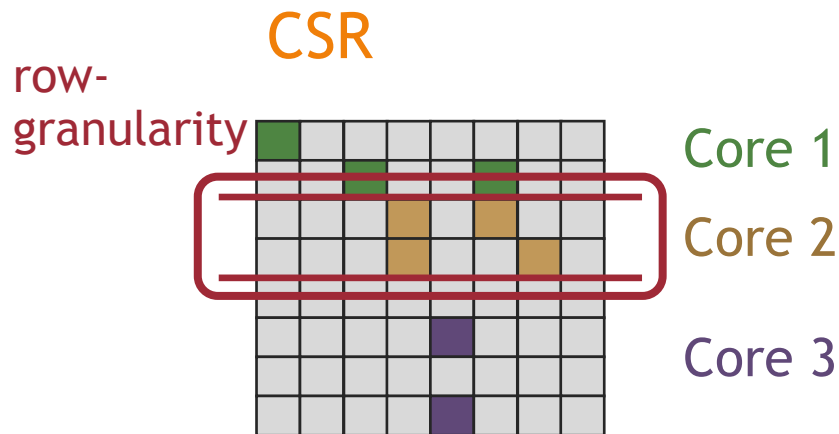
\* row-granularity for CSR

^ block-row-granularity for BCSR

# 1D Partitioning Technique

Load-Balancing of #NNZs:

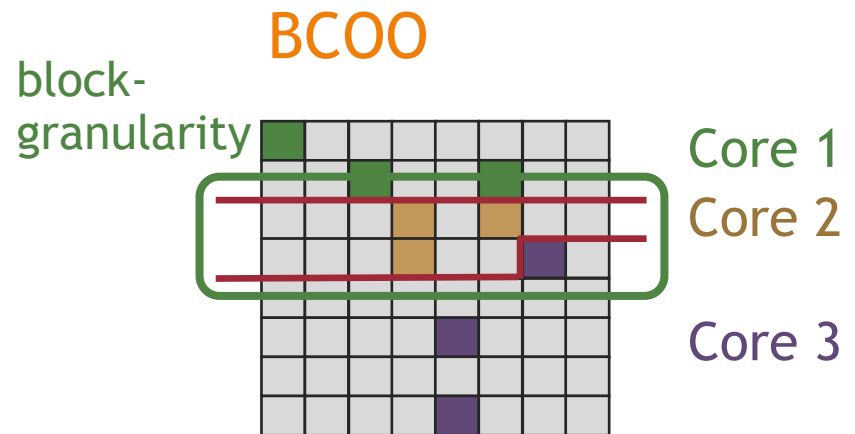
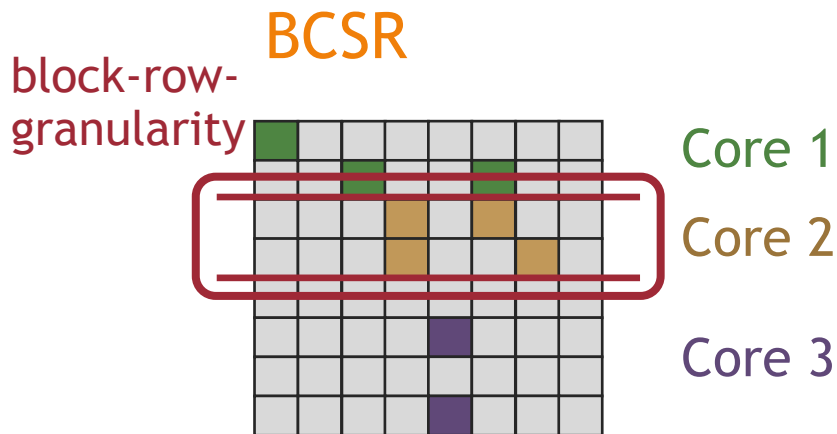
- CSR (row-granularity), COO



# 1D Partitioning Technique

Load-Balancing of #NNZs:

- CSR (row-granularity), COO
- BCSR (block-row-granularity), BCOO



block-row-order

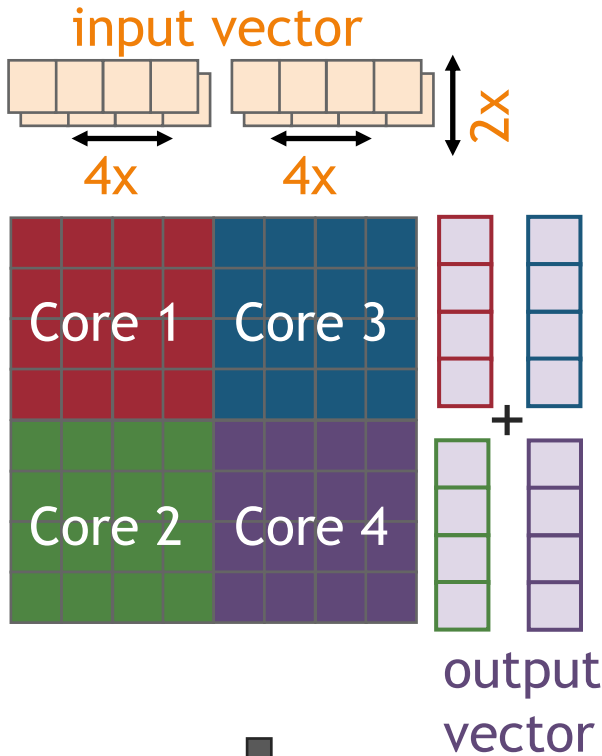
rowptr	0	1	3	5	7	7	8	8	9
colind	0	2	5	3	5	3	6	4	4
values	2	1	8	3	6	9	3	4	7

block-order

rowind	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	5	7
colind	0	2	5	3	5	3	6	4	4
values	2	1	8	3	6	9	3	4	7

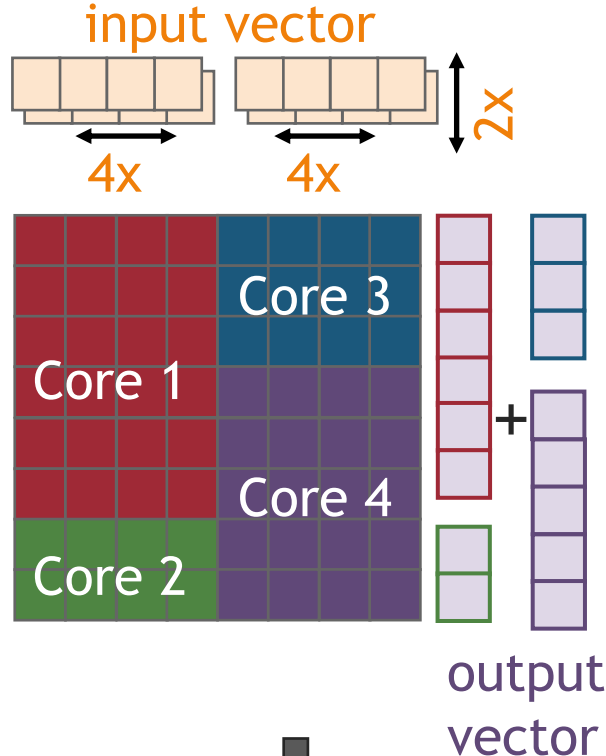
# 2D Partitioning Technique

## Equally-Sized Tiles



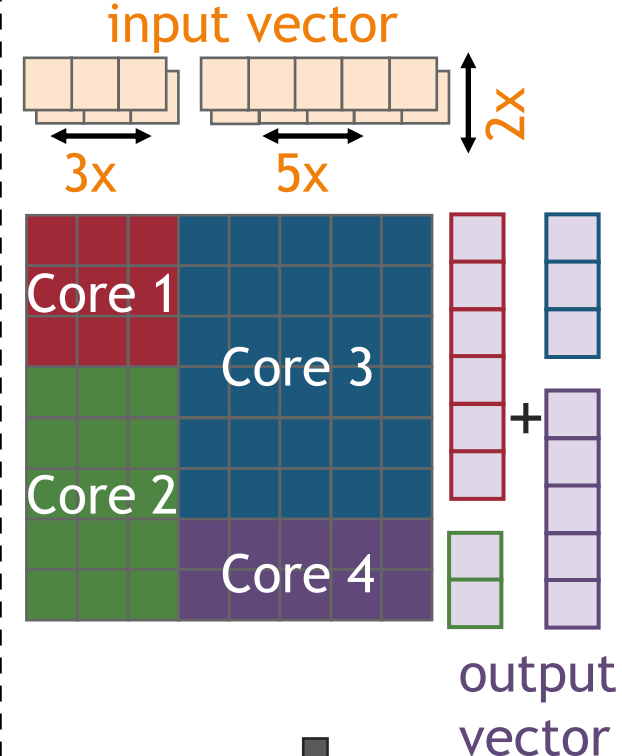
High NNZ **imbalance**  
across PIM cores

## Equally-Wide Tiles



High NNZ **balance**  
across PIM cores of the  
same **vertical** partition

## Variable-Sized Tiles



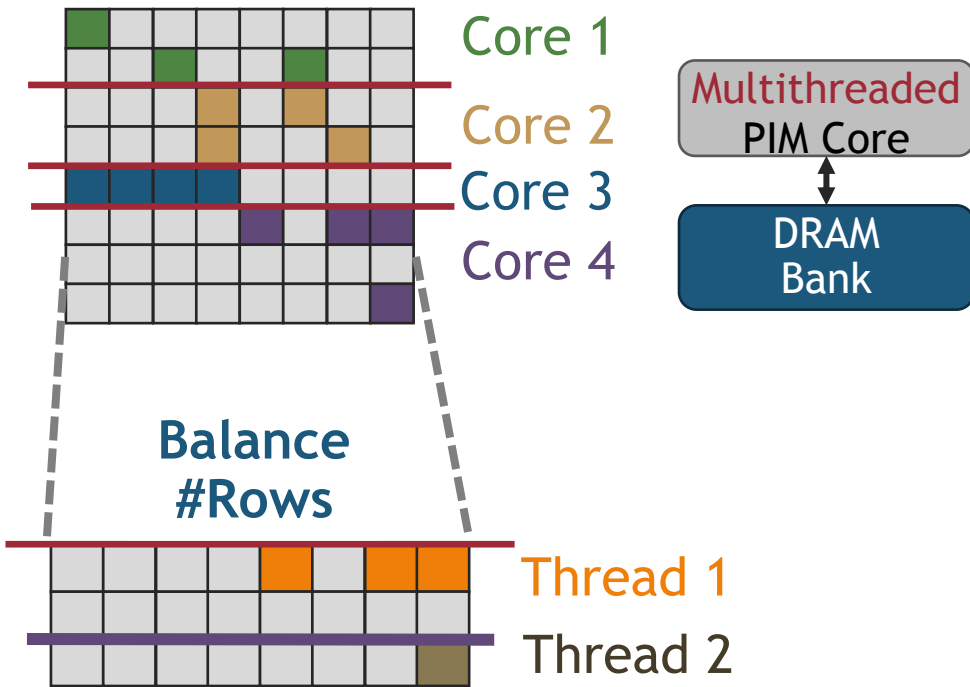
High NNZ **balance**  
across **all** PIM cores

58

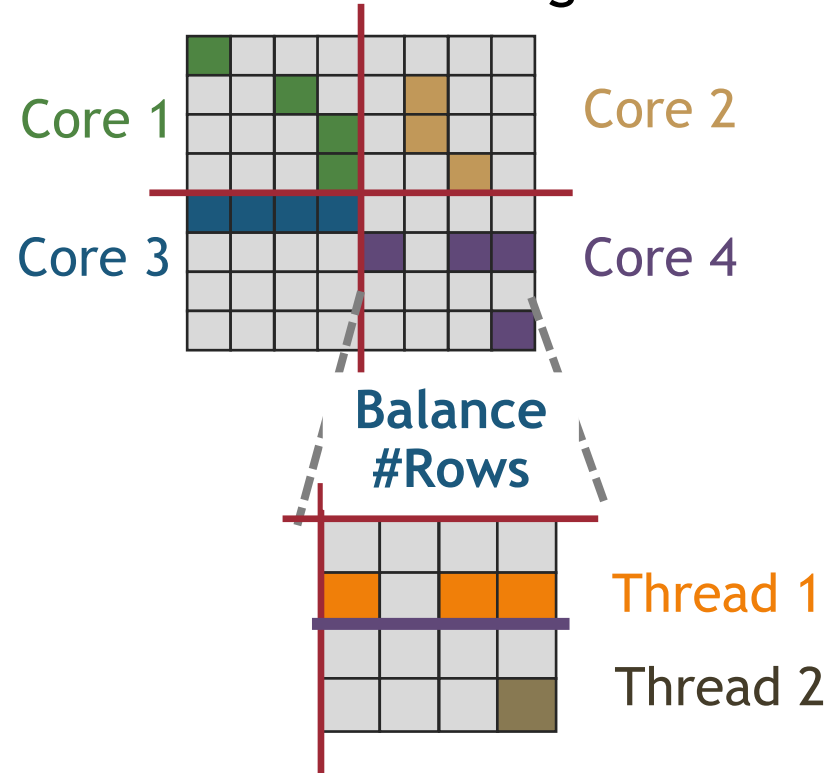
# Load-Balance across Threads

Multithreaded PIM Cores:

1D Partitioning



2D Partitioning

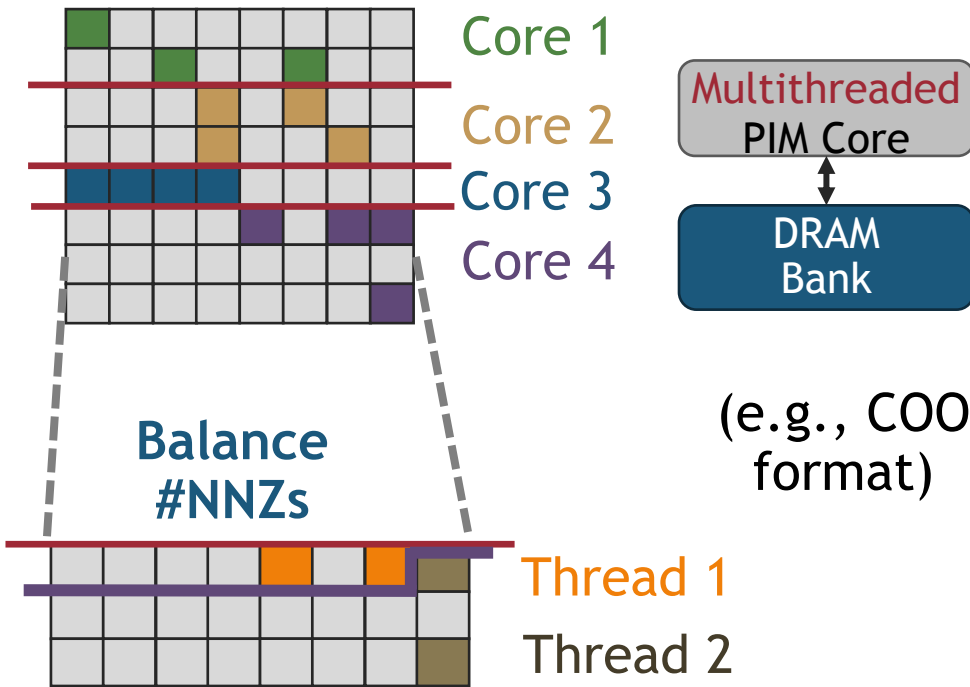


- Various load-balance schemes across threads

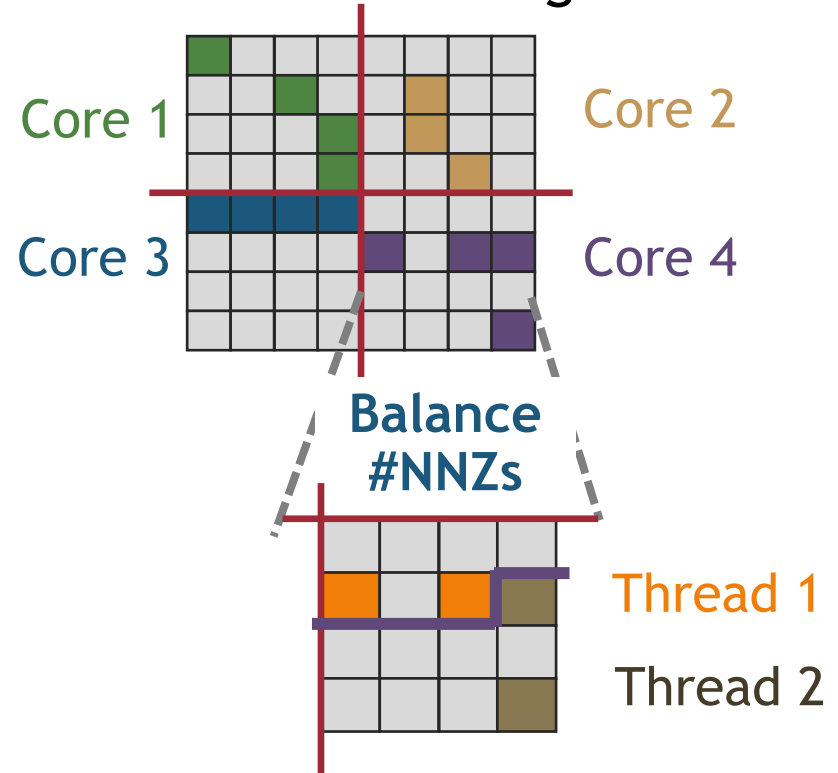
# Load-Balance across Threads

Multithreaded PIM Cores:

1D Partitioning



2D Partitioning



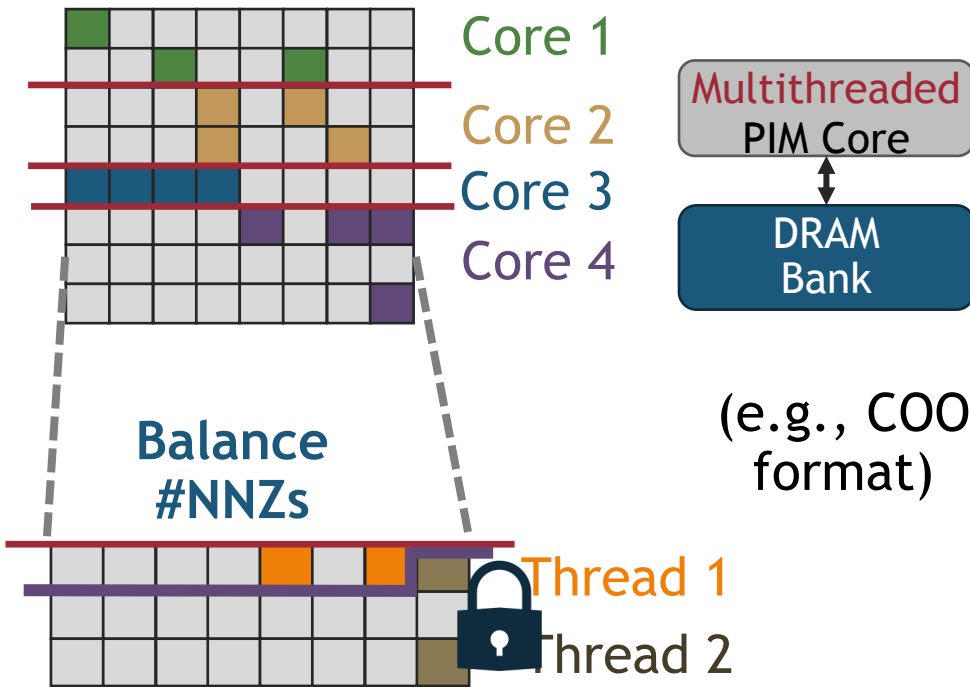
- Various load-balance schemes across threads



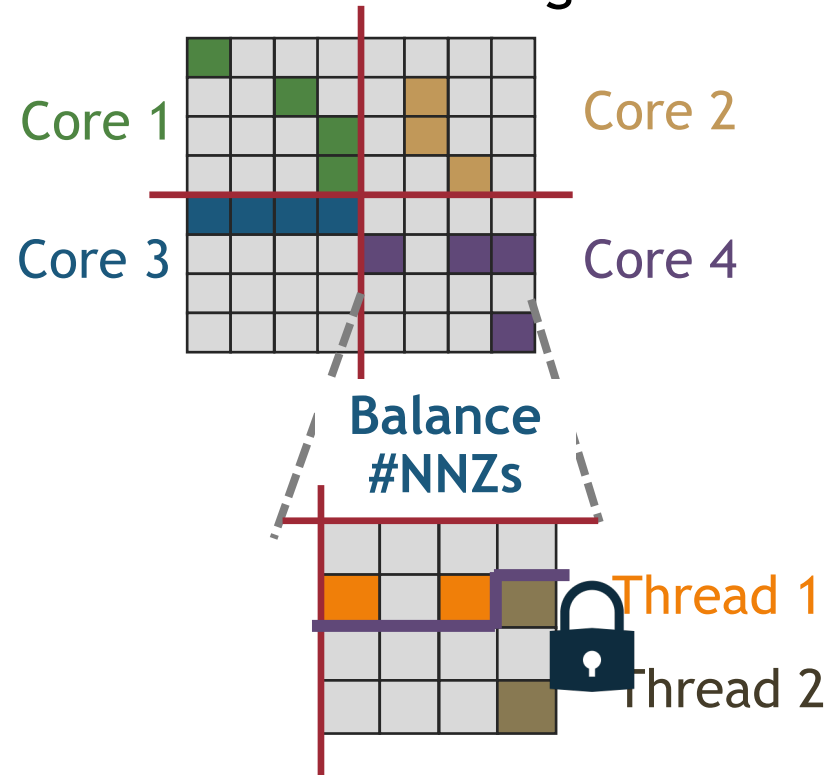
# Load-Balance across Threads

Multithreaded PIM Cores:

1D Partitioning

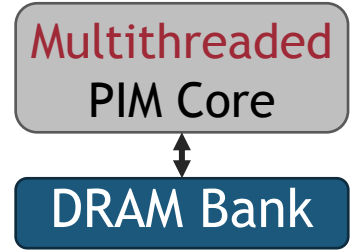


2D Partitioning



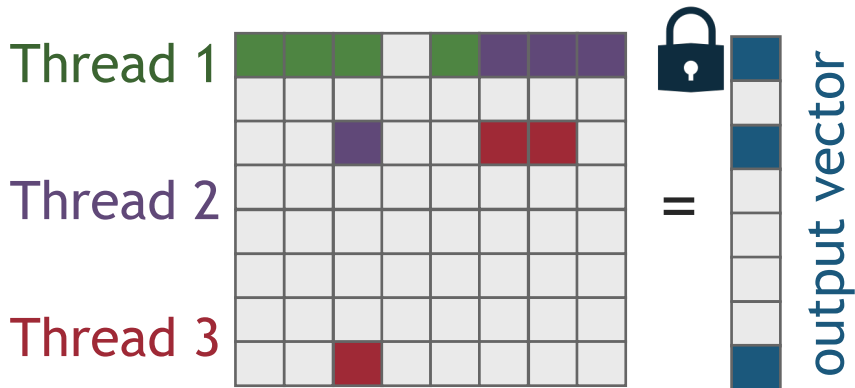
- Various **load-balance** schemes across threads
- Various **synchronization** approaches among threads

# Synchronization Approaches

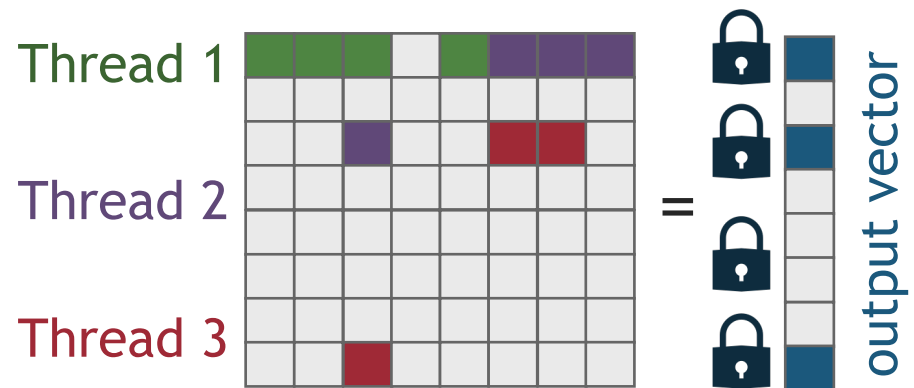


## Multithreaded PIM Core:

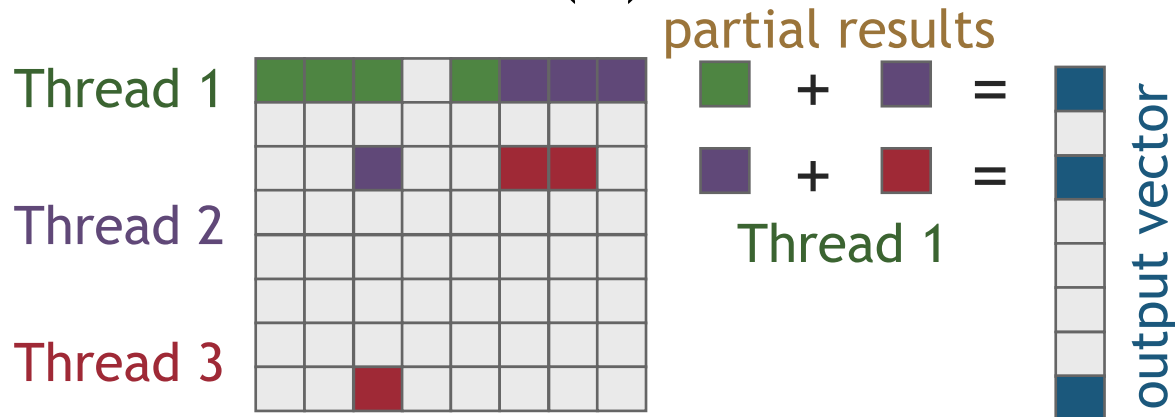
### Coarse-Grained (lb-cg)



### Fine-Grained (lb-fg)



### Lock-Free (lf)



# SparseP Software Package

25 SpMV kernels for PIM Systems →

<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SparseP>

Partitioning	Matrix Format	Load-Balancing
9x 1D Kernels	CSR	rows, nnzs *
	COO <sup>△</sup>	rows, nnzs *, nnzs
	BCSR	blocks <sup>^</sup> , nnzs <sup>^</sup>
	BCOO <sup>△</sup>	blocks, nnzs
4x 2D Equally-Sized Tiles	CSR	--
	COO <sup>△</sup>	--
	BCSR	--
	BCOO <sup>△</sup>	--
6x 2D Equally-Wide Tiles	CSR	nnzs *
	COO <sup>△</sup>	nnzs
	BCSR	blocks <sup>^</sup> , nnzs <sup>^</sup>
	BCOO <sup>△</sup>	blocks, nnzs
6x 2D Variable-Sized Tiles	CSR	nnzs *
	COO <sup>△</sup>	nnzs
	BCSR	blocks <sup>^</sup> , nnzs <sup>^</sup>
	BCOO <sup>△</sup>	blocks, nnz

Load-balance

across PIM cores/threads:

\* row-granularity (CSR)

<sup>^</sup> block-row-granularity (BCSR)

Synchronization

among threads of a PIM core:

<sup>△</sup> lb-cg, lb-fb, lf (COO, BCOO)

Data Types:

- 8-bit integer
- 16-bit integer
- 32-bit integer
- 64-bit integer
- 32-bit float
- 64-bit float

# Outline

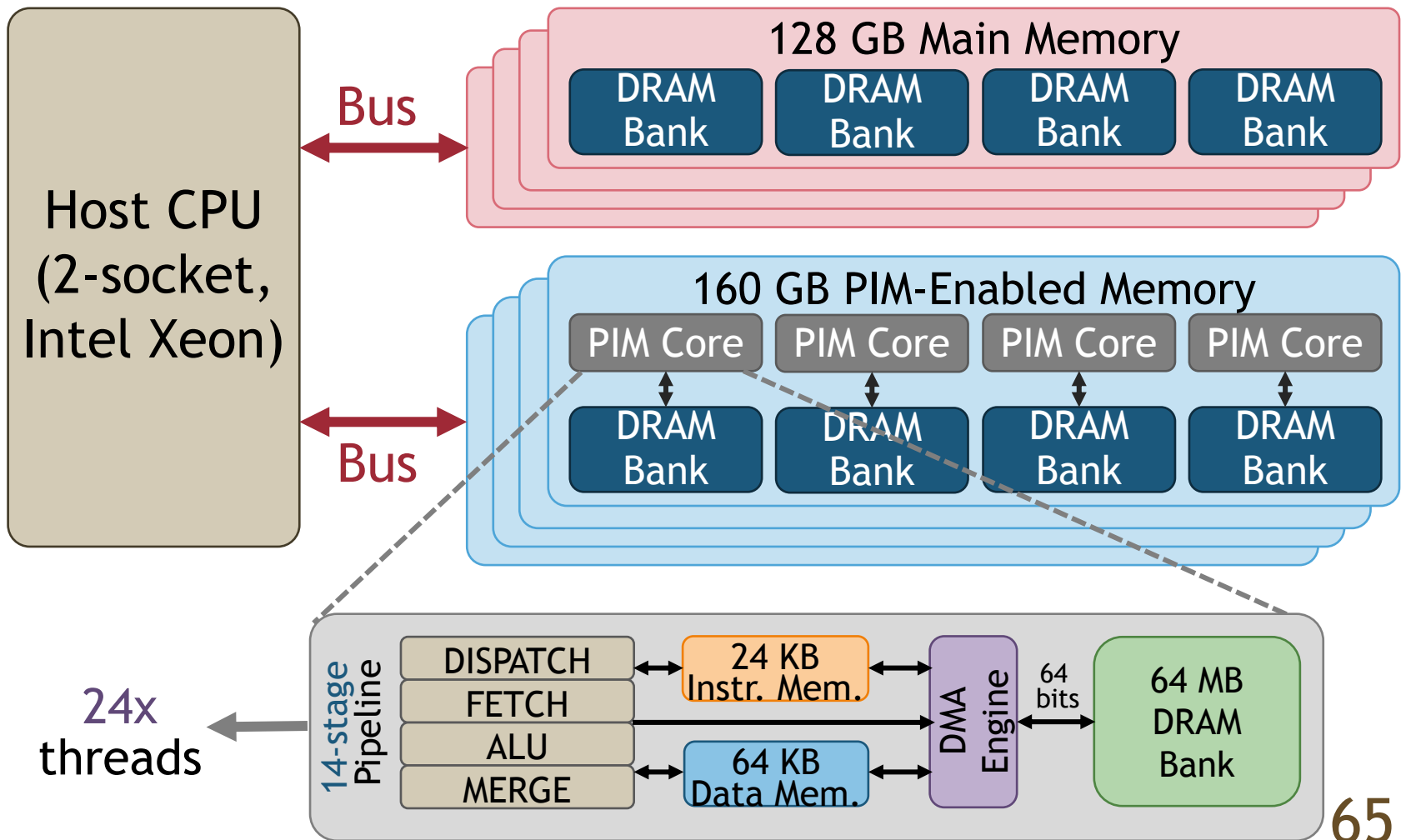
SpMV Kernels for Real PIM Systems

Key Takeaways from Our Study

Conclusion

# UPMEM-based PIM System

- 20 UPMEM PIM DIMMs with 2560 PIM cores in total
- Each multithreaded PIM core supports 24 threads

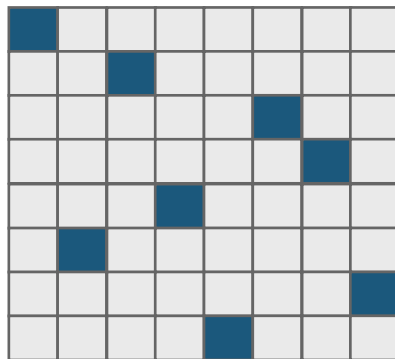


# Sparse Matrix Data Set

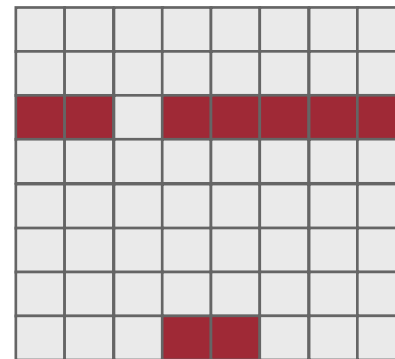
26 sparse matrices\*:

- Diverse **sparsity** patterns
- Variability on **irregular** patterns
- Variability on **block** patterns

Regular Matrix



Scale-Free Matrix



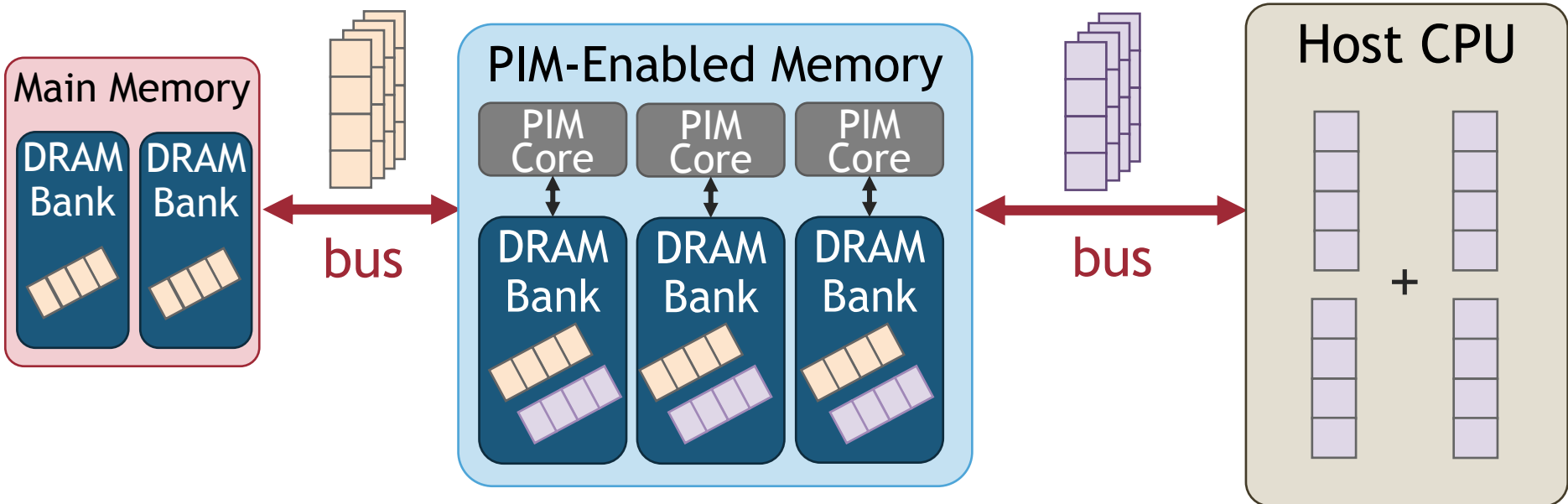
\* Suite Sparse Matrix Collection: <https://sparse.tamu.edu/>

# Kernel Execution on One PIM Core

① Load the input vector

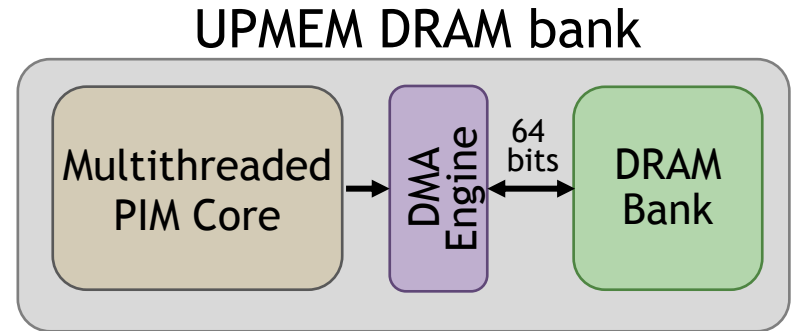
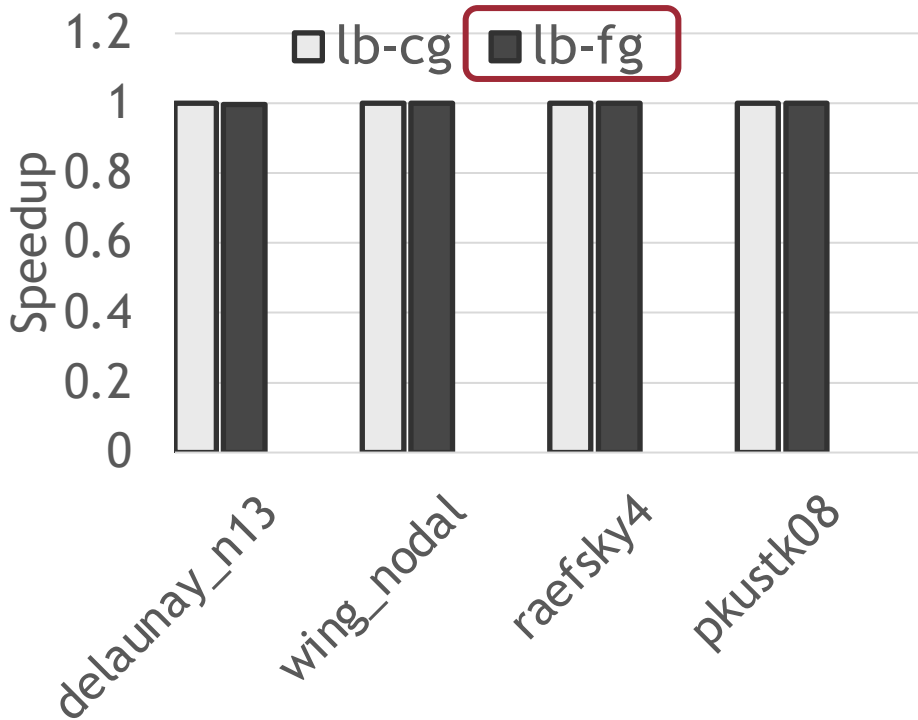
② Execute the kernel

③ Retrieve the partial results  
④ Merge the partial results



# Lock-Based Synchronization

16 threads, COO, 32-bit integer



Fine-grained locking (lb-fg) does **not** improve performance over coarse-grained locking (lb-cg)

Fine-Grained Locking: memory **accesses** to the **local** DRAM bank **are serialized** in the DMA engine of the UPMEM PIM hardware.

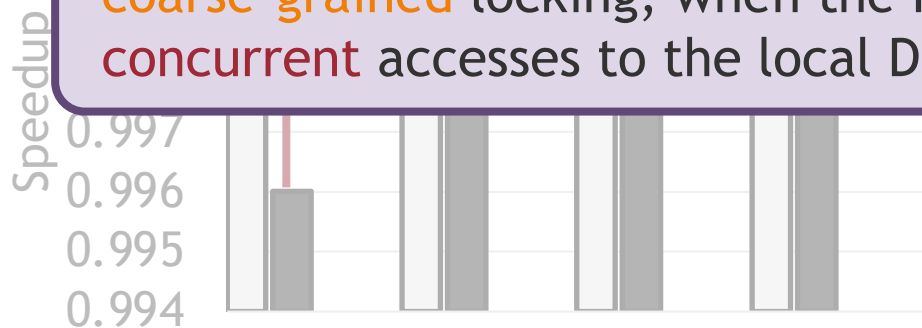


# Lock-Based Synchronization

16 threads, COO, 32-bit integer

## Key Takeaway 1

**Fine-grained** locking approaches **cannot improve performance** over **coarse-grained** locking, when the PIM hardware does **not** support **concurrent** accesses to the local DRAM bank.



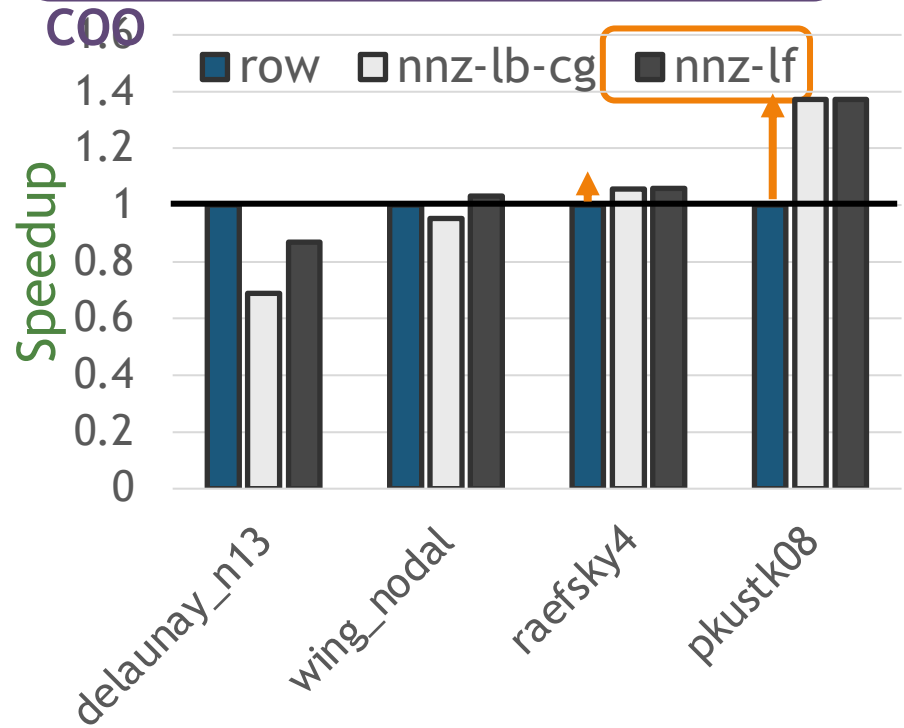
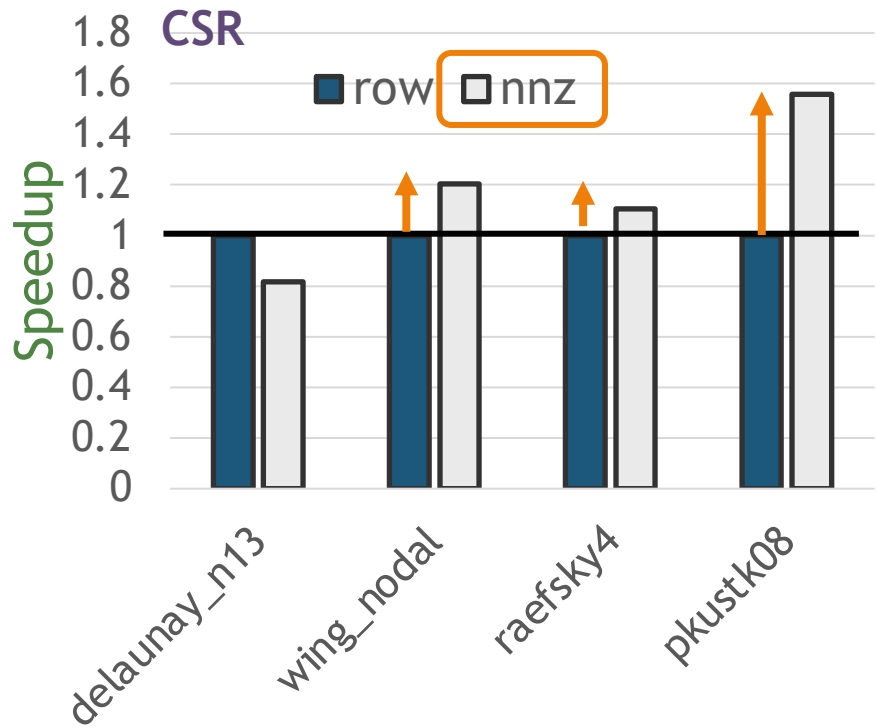
## Recommendation 1

Provide **low-cost synchronization** support and hardware support to enable **concurrent** memory **accesses** to the local DRAM bank, and integrate **multiple** DRAM **banks** per PIM core to increase execution parallelism.

# Load-Balance within a PIM Core

16 threads, 32-bit integer

Load-balancing #NNZs performs **best** in most matrices

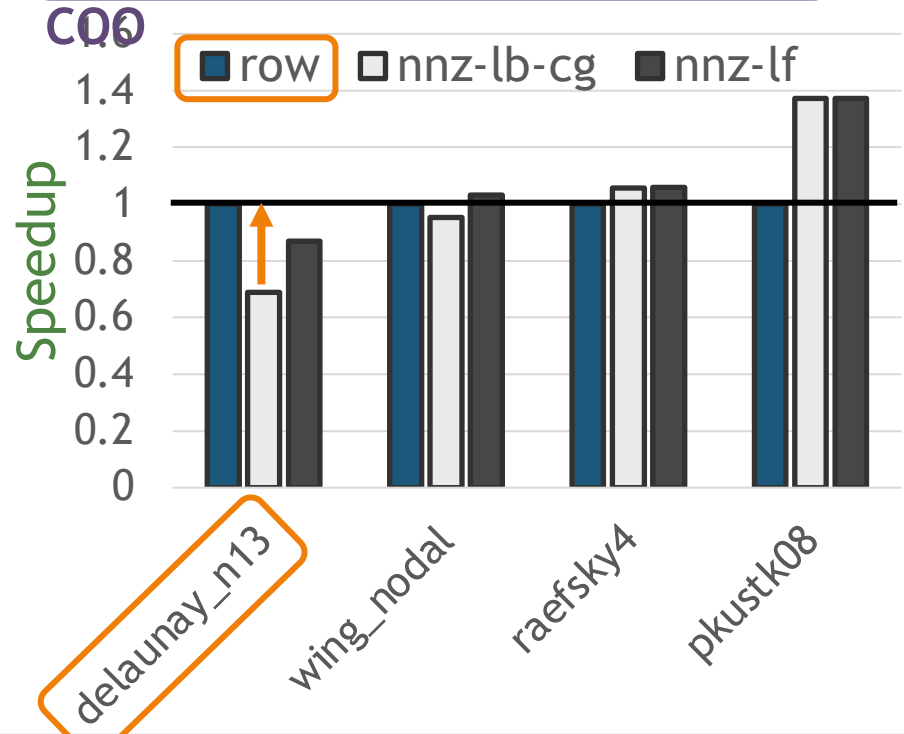
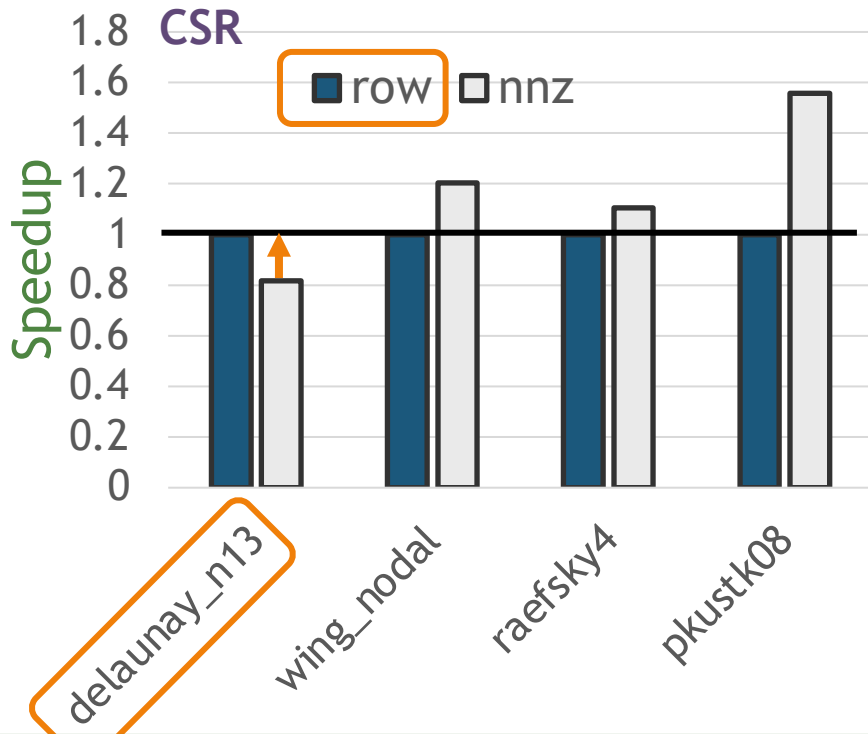


Load-balancing #NNZ typically provides high **computation balance** across threads of a compute-limited PIM core

# Load-Balance within a PIM Core

16 threads, 32-bit integer

Load-balancing #NNZs causes high row imbalance



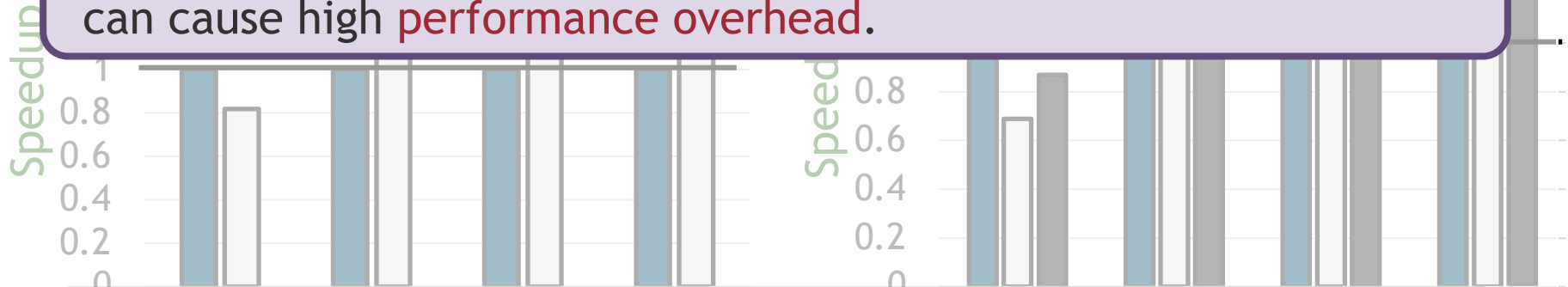
Load-balancing #NNZs: one single thread performs a much higher #memory accesses and #synchronization operations than the rest

# Load-Balance within a PIM Core

16 threads, 32-bit integer

## Key Takeaway 2

High **operation imbalance** in computation, synchronization, or memory instructions executed by multiple threads of a PIM core can cause high **performance overhead**.

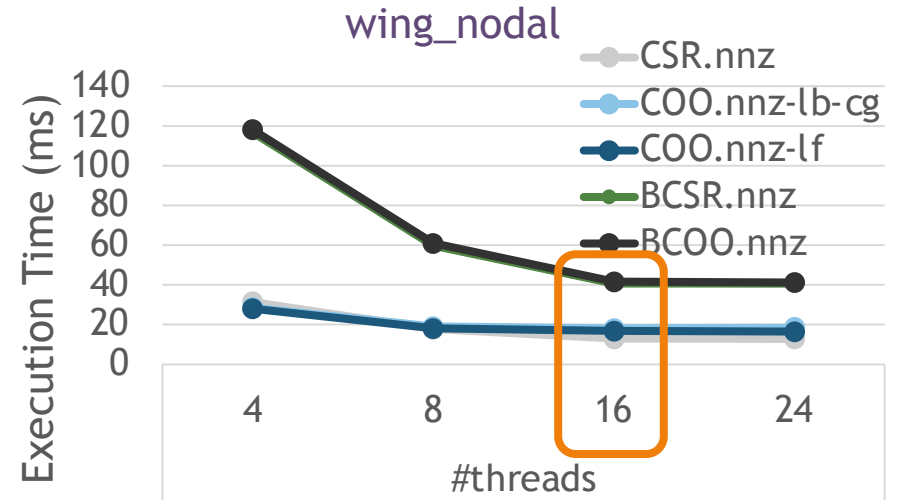
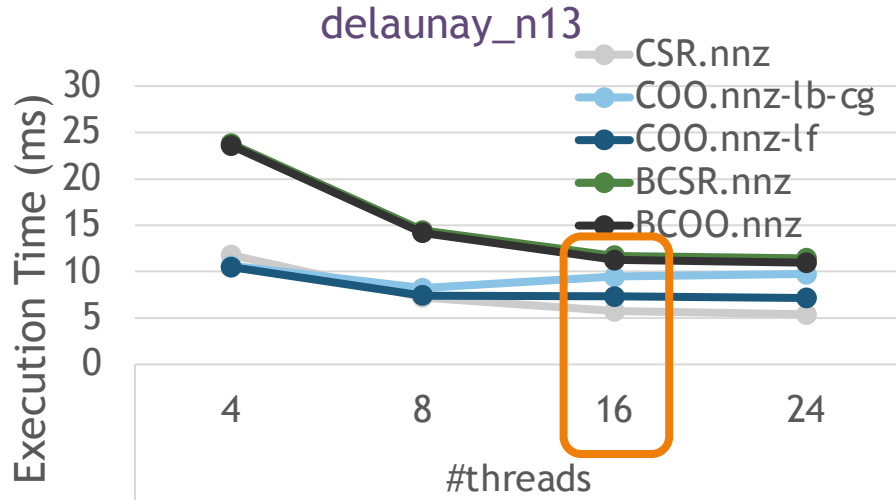


## Recommendation 2

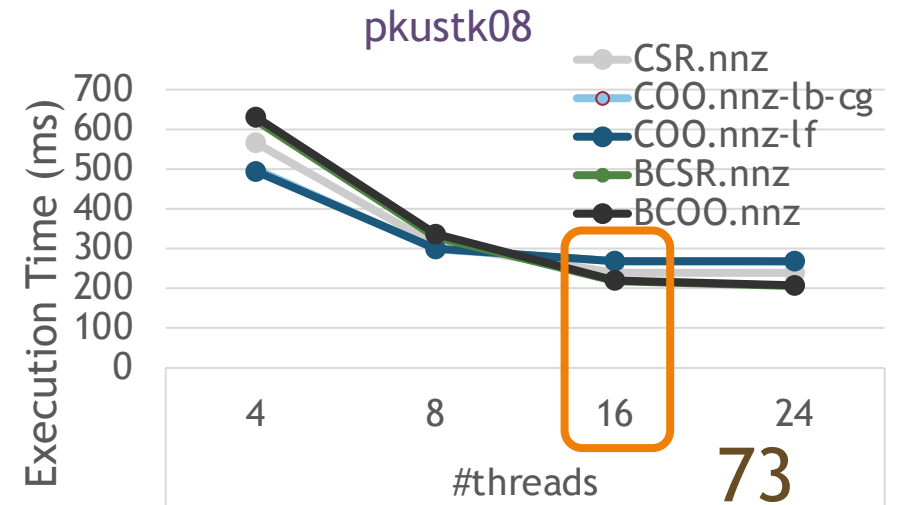
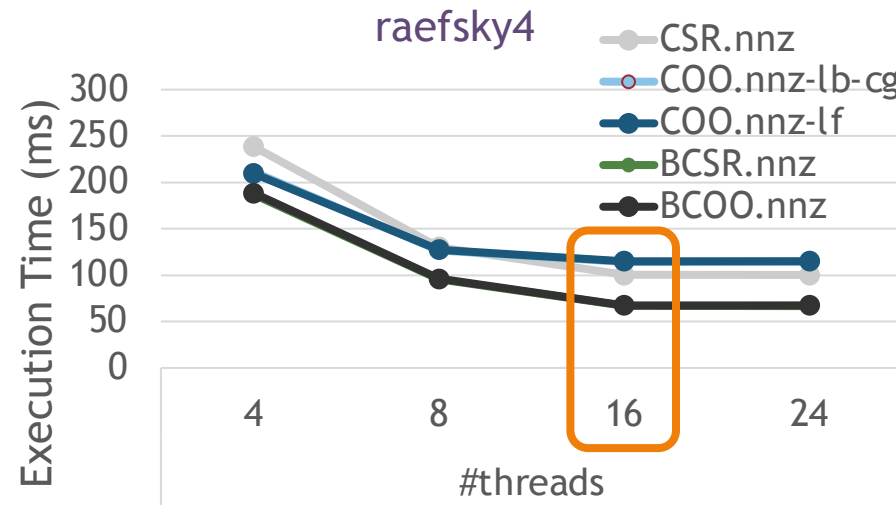
Design algorithms that provide **high load balance** across threads of PIM core in terms of computations, synchronization points and memory accesses.

# Scalability within a PIM Core

32-bit integer



Scalability increases up to 16 threads

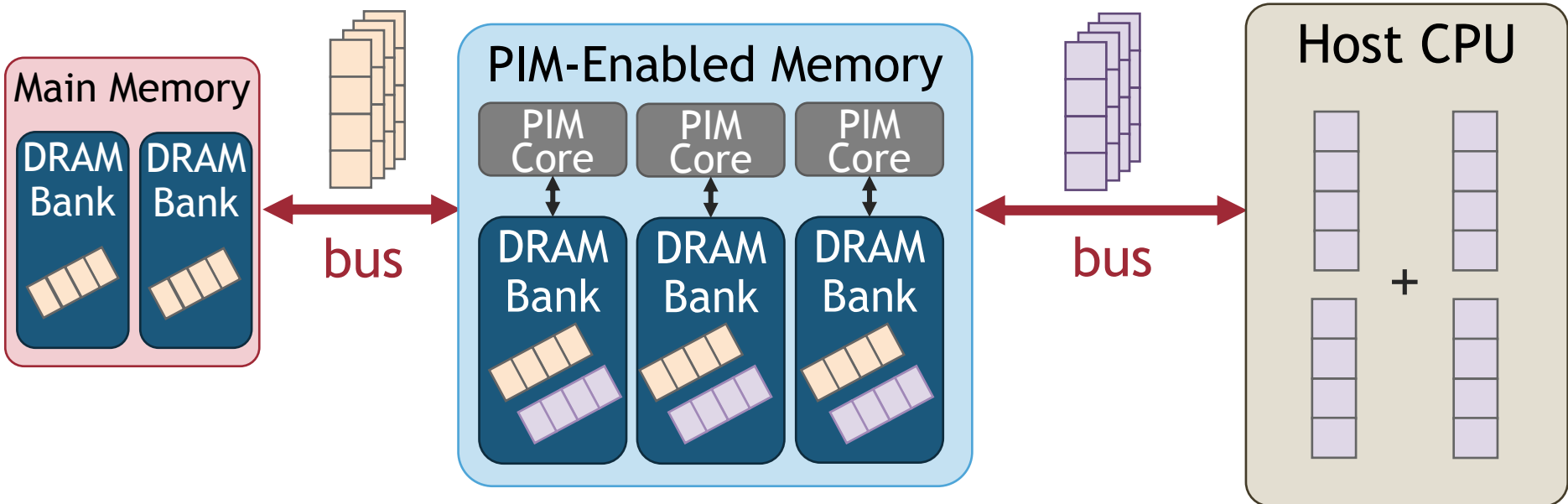


# Kernel Execution on Multiple PIM Cores

① Load the input vector

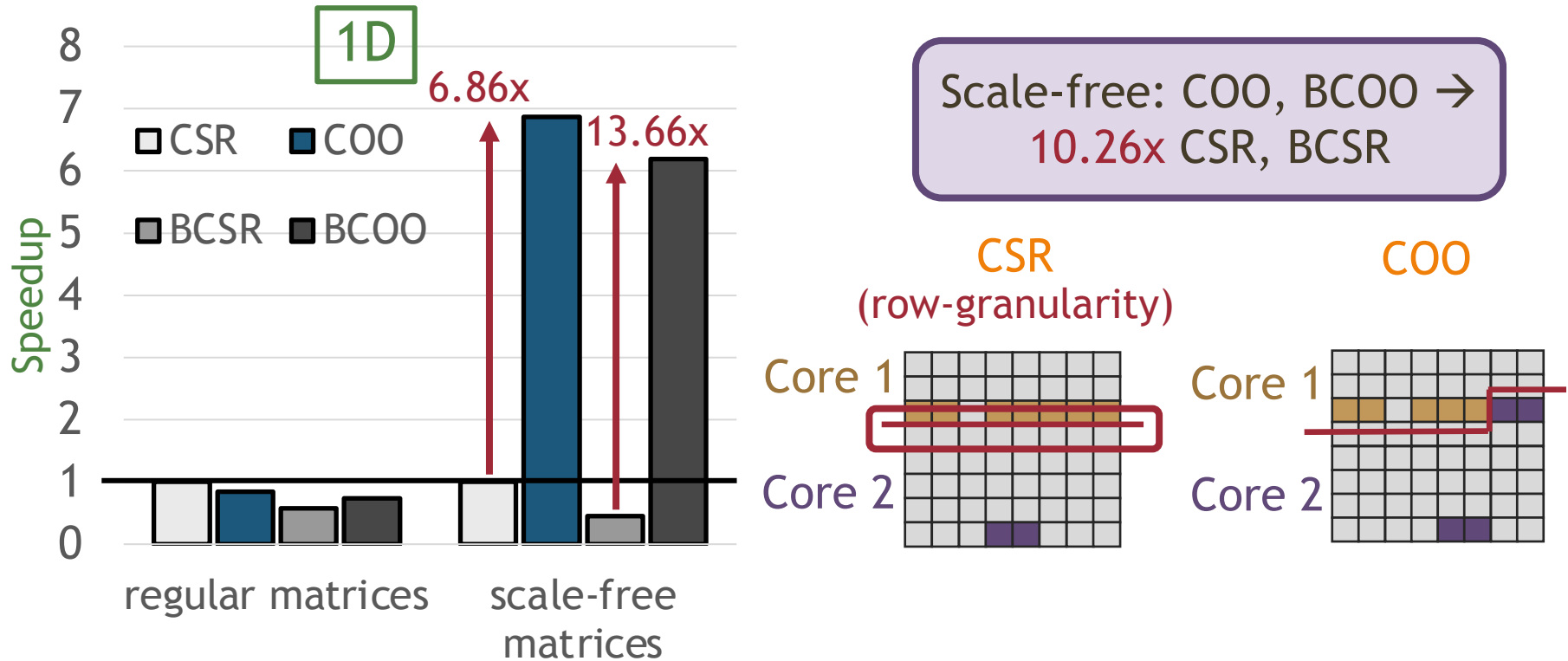
② Execute the kernel

③ Retrieve the partial results  
④ Merge the partial results



# Comparison of Compressed Formats

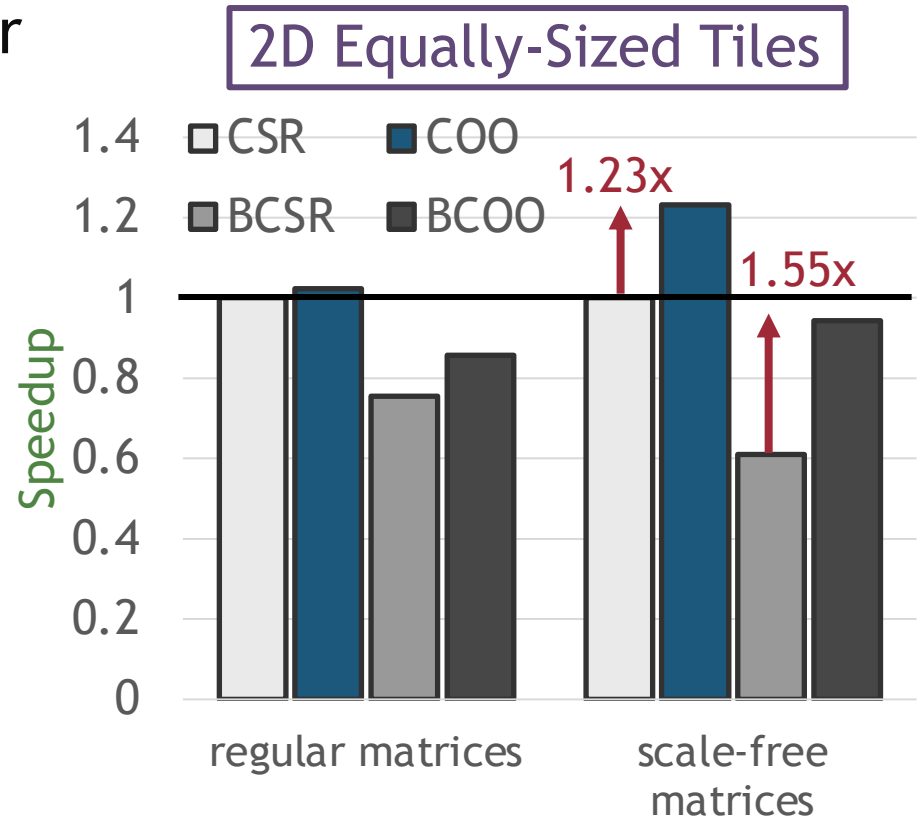
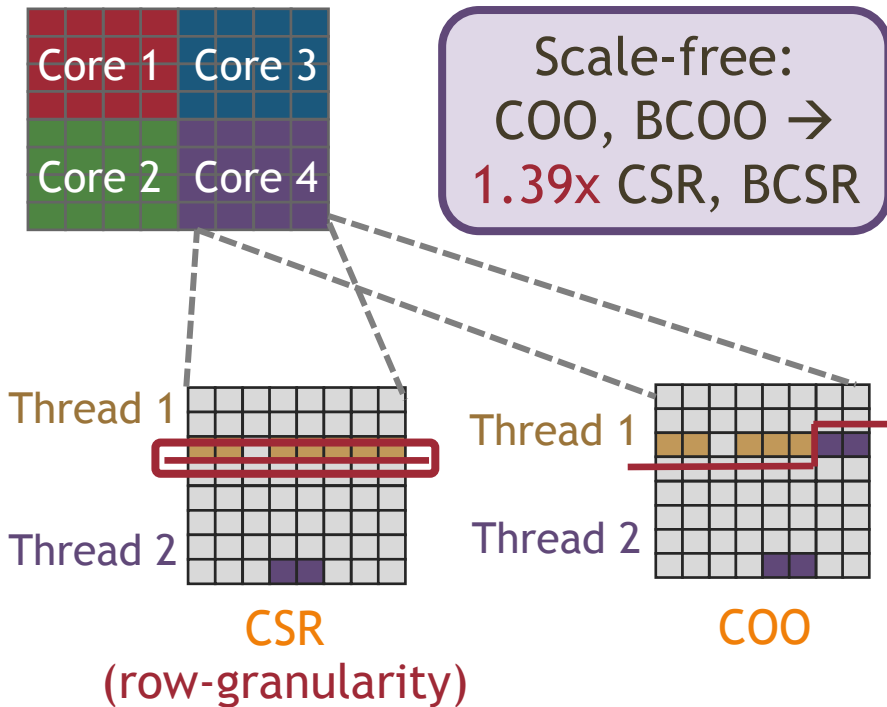
2048 PIM Cores, 32-bit integer



In **scale-free** matrices, **COO** + **BCOO** provide higher non-zero element balance across PIM cores than **CSR** + **BCSR**, respectively.

# Comparison of Compressed Formats

2048 PIM Cores, 32-bit integer



In **scale-free** matrices, **COO** + **BCOO** provide higher non-zero element balance across threads than **CSR** + **BCSR**, respectively.

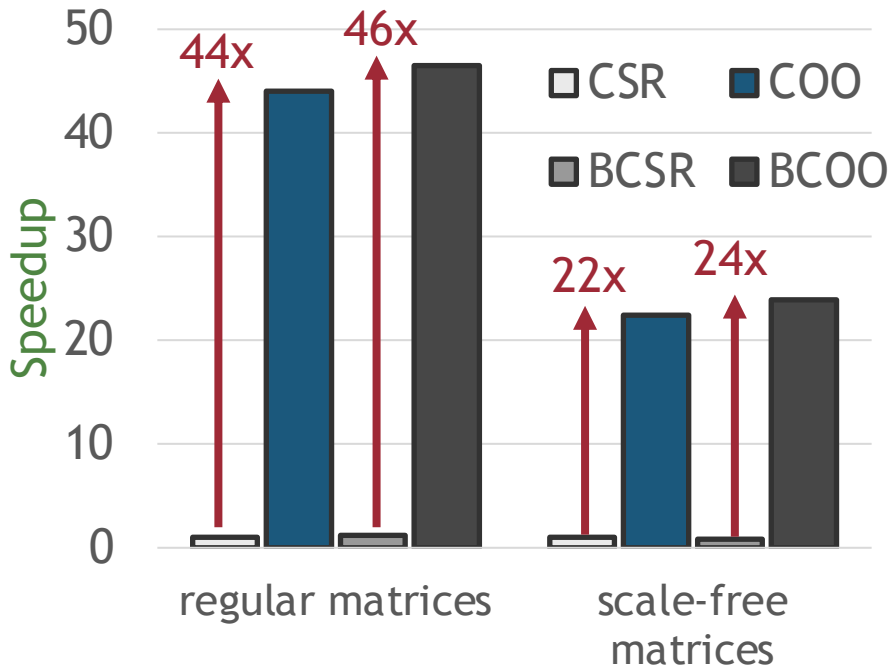


# Comparison of Compressed Formats

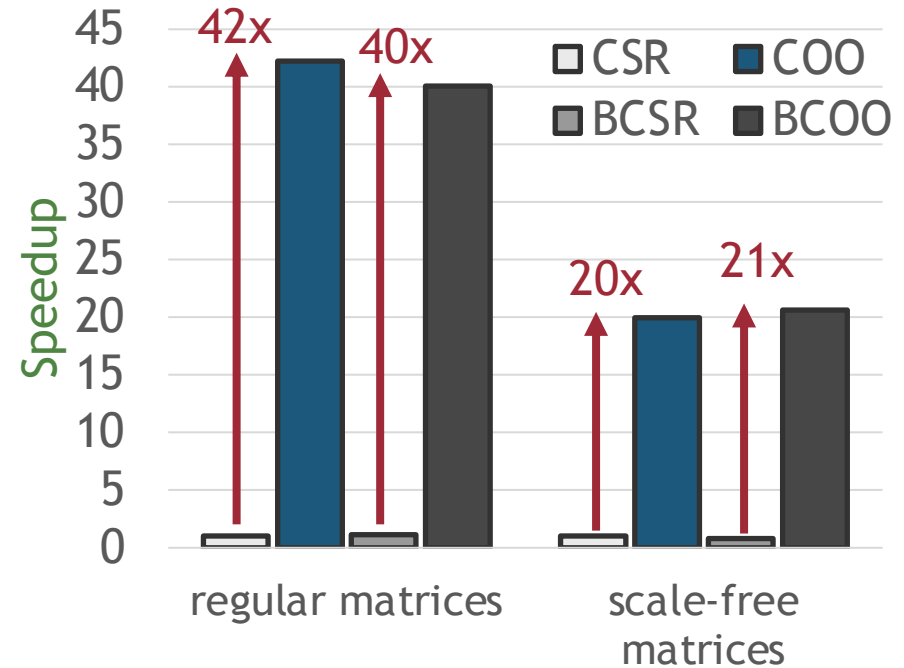
2048 PIM Cores, 32-bit integer

COO, BCOO → 32.38x CSR, BCSR

2D Equally-Wide Tiles



2D Variable-Sized Tiles



COO + BCOO formats provide higher non-zero element balance across PIM cores + threads than CSR + BCSR, respectively.

# Comparison of Compressed Formats

2048 PIM Cores, 32-bit integer

1D

2D Equally-Sized

## Key Takeaway 3

The **compressed matrix format** used to store the input matrix **determines** the **data partitioning** across DRAM banks of PIM-enabled memory. As a result, it affects the **load-balance** across PIM cores (and threads of a PIM core) with corresponding **performance** implications.

regular matrices

scale-free  
matrices

regular matrices

scale-free  
matrices

2D Equally-Wide

2D Variable-Sized

## Recommendation 3

Design **compressed** data structures that can be **effectively** partitioned across DRAM banks, with the goal of providing **high computation balance** across PIM cores (and threads of a PIM core).

regular matrices

scale-free  
matrices

regular matrices

scale-free  
matrices

# End-to-End Performance

1

Load the  
input vector

2

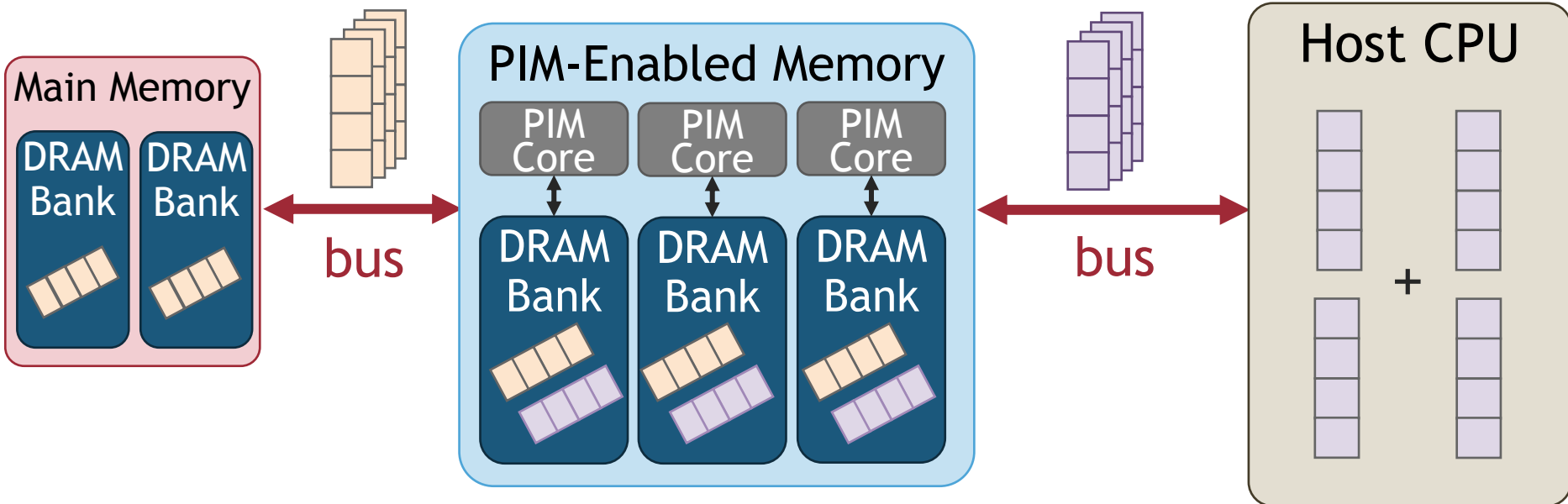
Execute the  
kernel

3

Retrieve the  
partial results

4

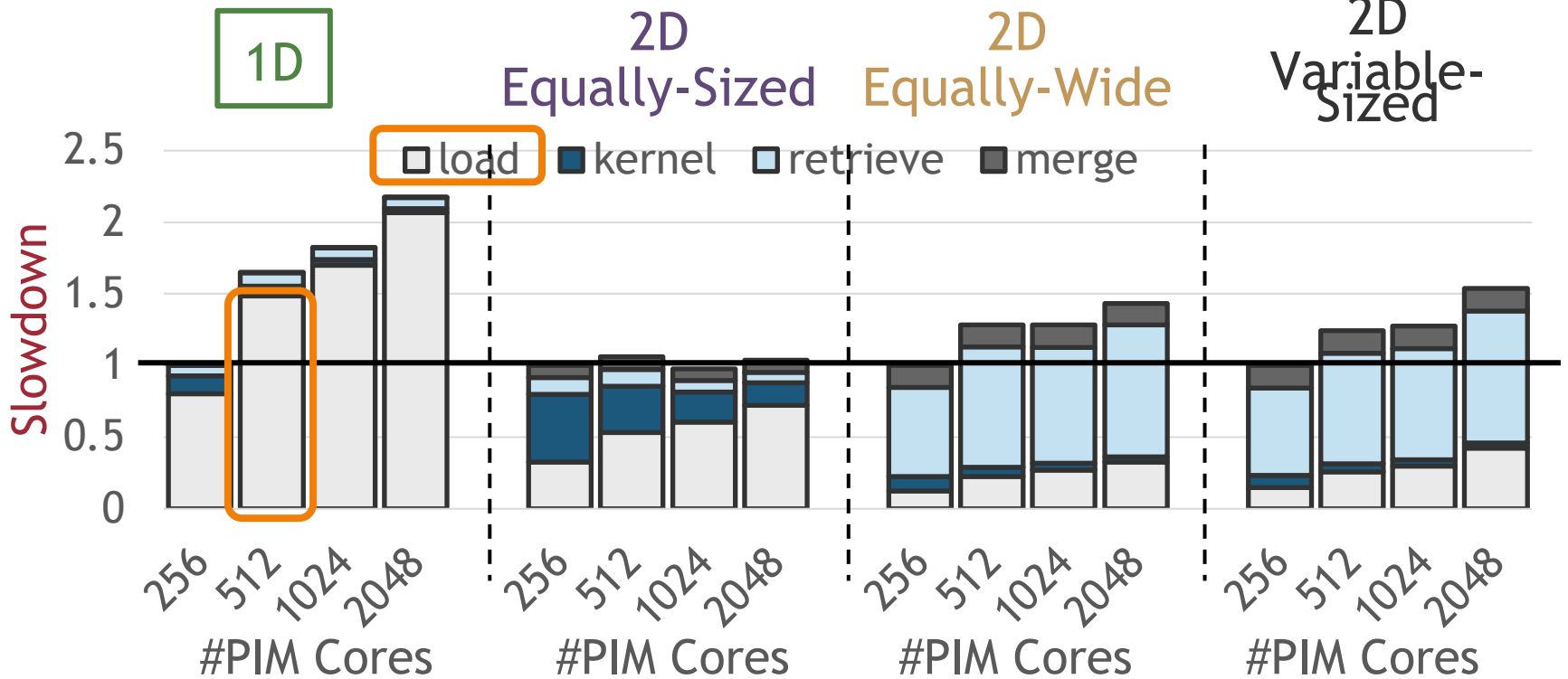
Merge the  
partial results



# Scalability

COO format, 32-bit integer

The scalability is limited by the **load** time



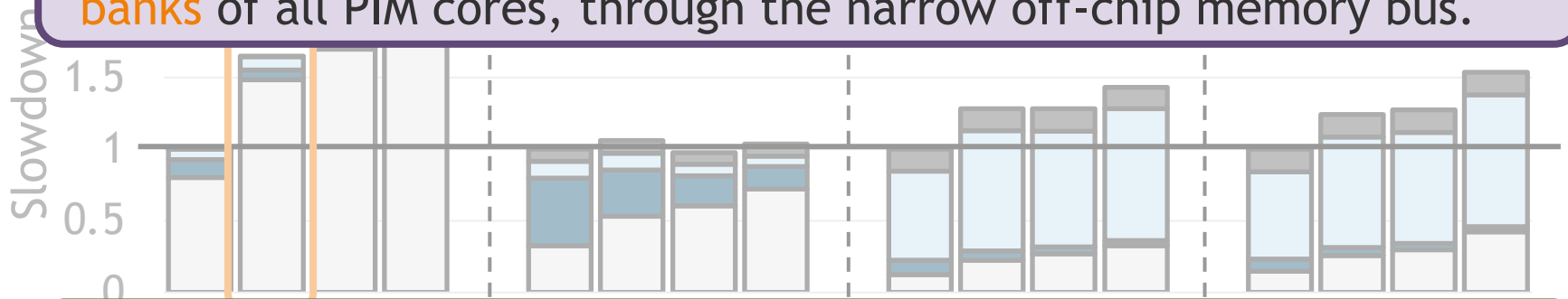
1D: #bytes to **load** the input vector grows **linearly** to #PIM cores

# Scalability

COO format, 32-bit integer

## Key Takeaway 4

The 1D-partitioned kernels are severely **bottlenecked** by the high data transfer costs to **broadcast** the whole **input** vector **into DRAM banks** of all PIM cores, through the narrow off-chip memory bus.



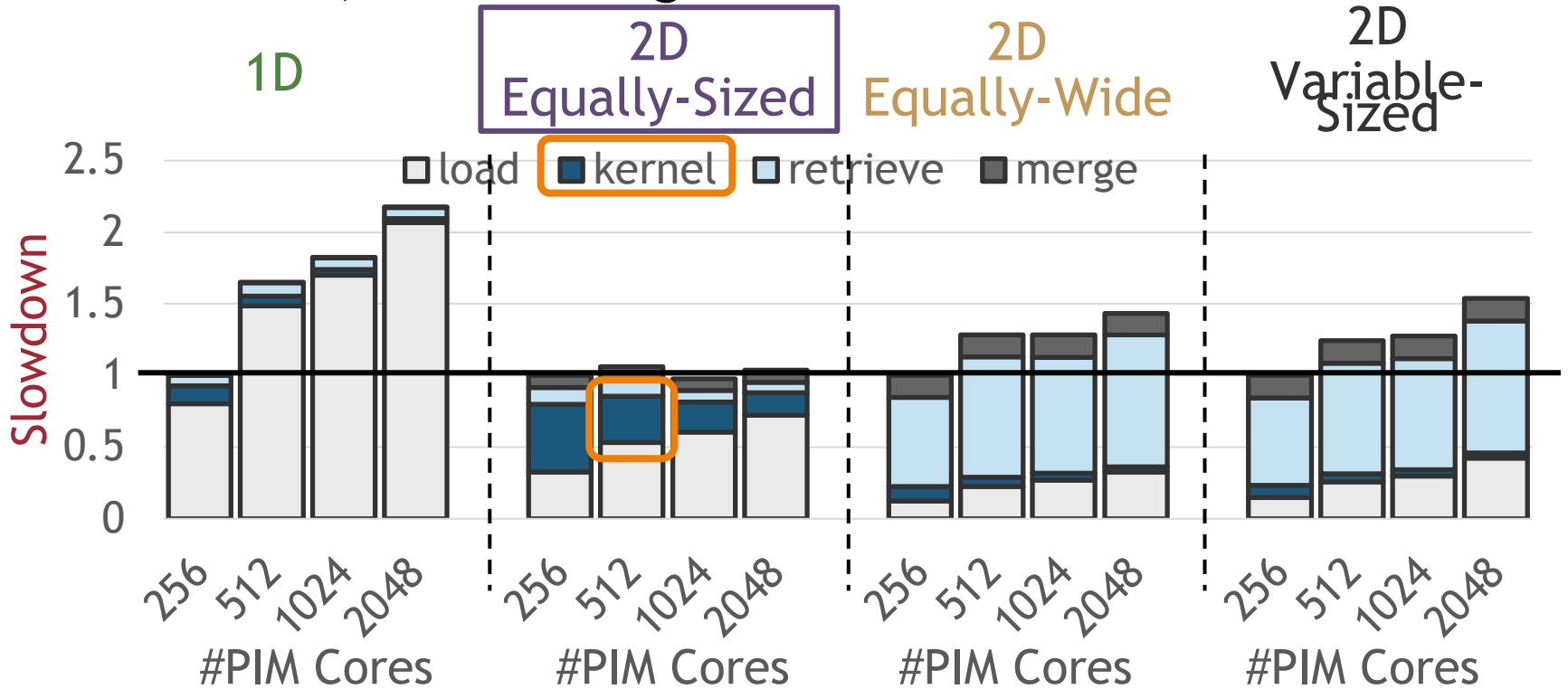
## Recommendation 4

Optimize the **broadcast collective** collective in data transfers to PIM-enabled memory to efficiently copy the **input data** into DRAM banks in the PIM system.

# Scalability

COO format, 32-bit integer

The scalability is limited by the **kernel** time

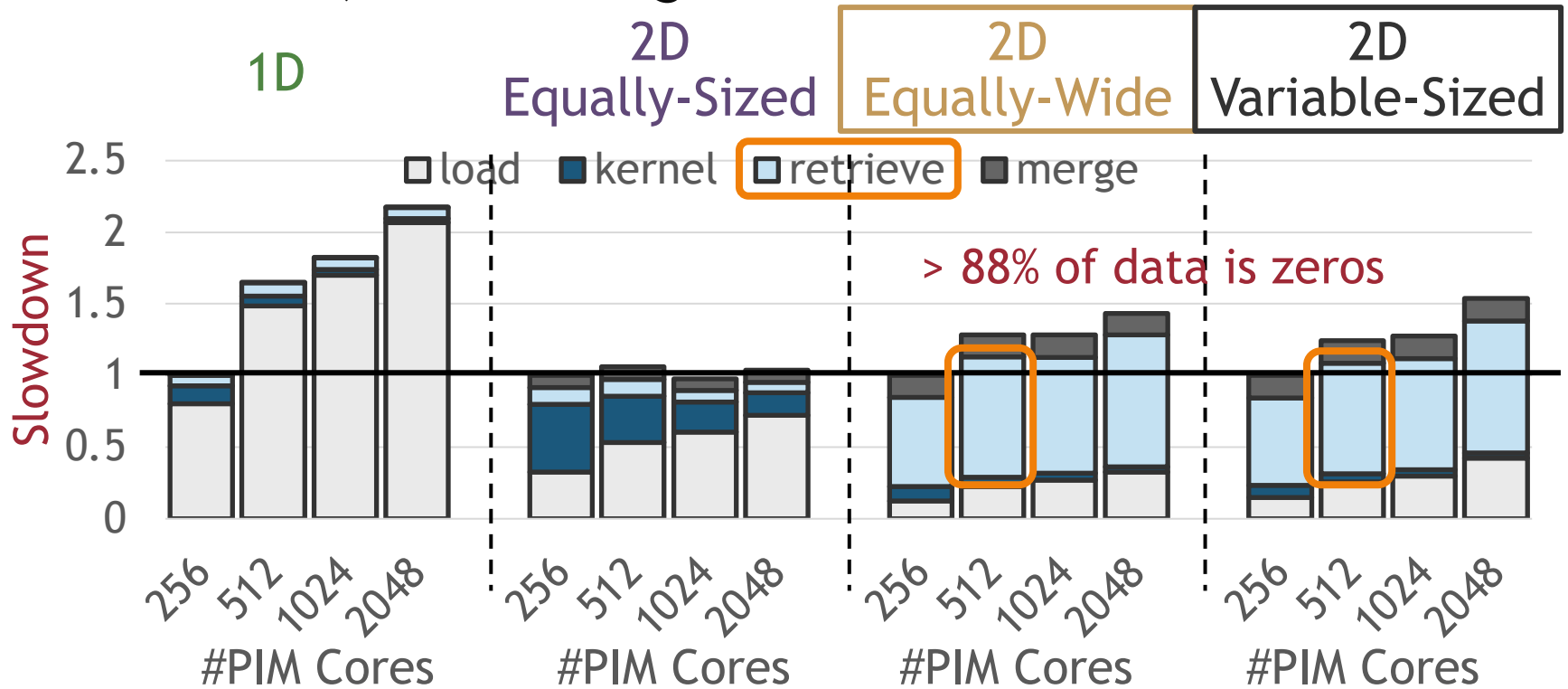


2D Equally-Sized: **kernel** time is limited by only a **few** PIM cores assigned to the 2D tiles with the **largest #NNZs**

# Scalability

COO format, 32-bit integer

The scalability is limited by the **retrieve** time



2D Equally-Wide + 2D Variable-Sized:

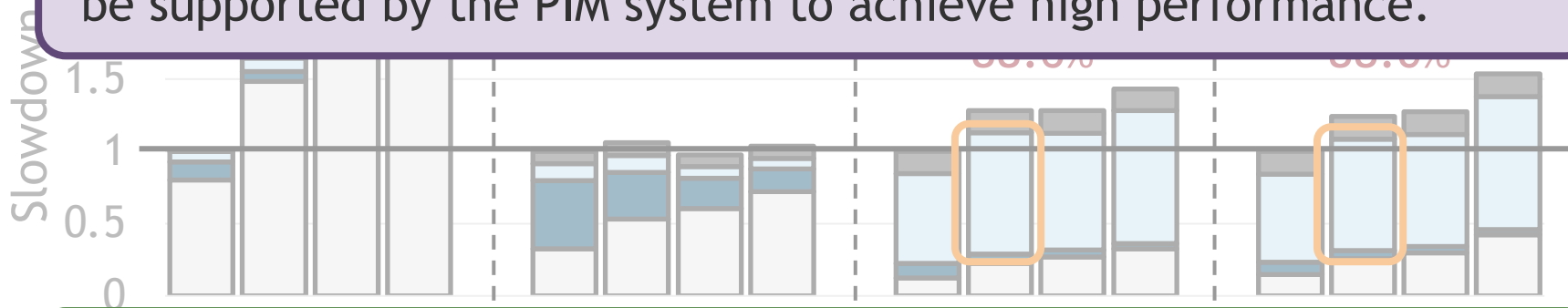
high amount of **zero padding** to **gather** the output vector → **parallel** transfers supported at **rank granularity** = 64 PIM cores

# Scalability

COO format, 32-bit integer

## Key Takeaway 5

The 2D equally-wide and variable-sized kernels need **fine-grained parallel data transfers** at DRAM bank granularity (**zero padding**) to be supported by the PIM system to achieve high performance.



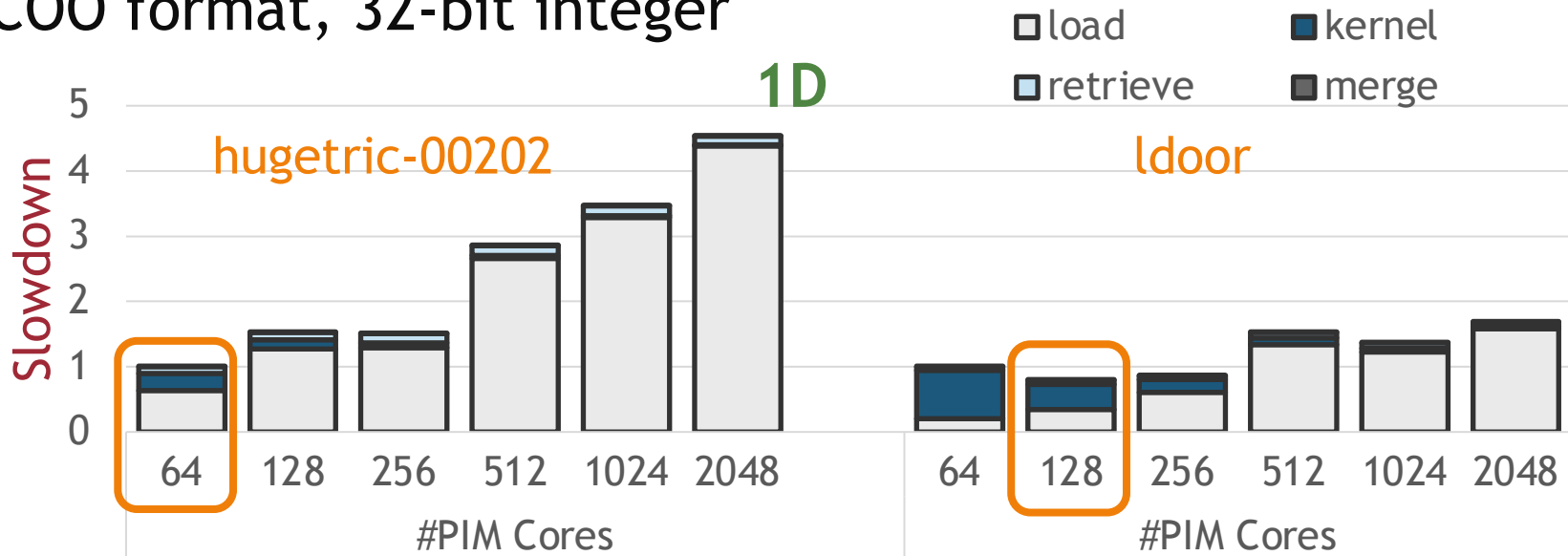
## Recommendation 5

Optimize the **gather collective** operation at **DRAM bank granularity** in data transfers from PIM-enabled memory to efficiently retrieve the **output results** to the host CPU.



# Comparison of Sparse Matrices

COO format, 32-bit integer



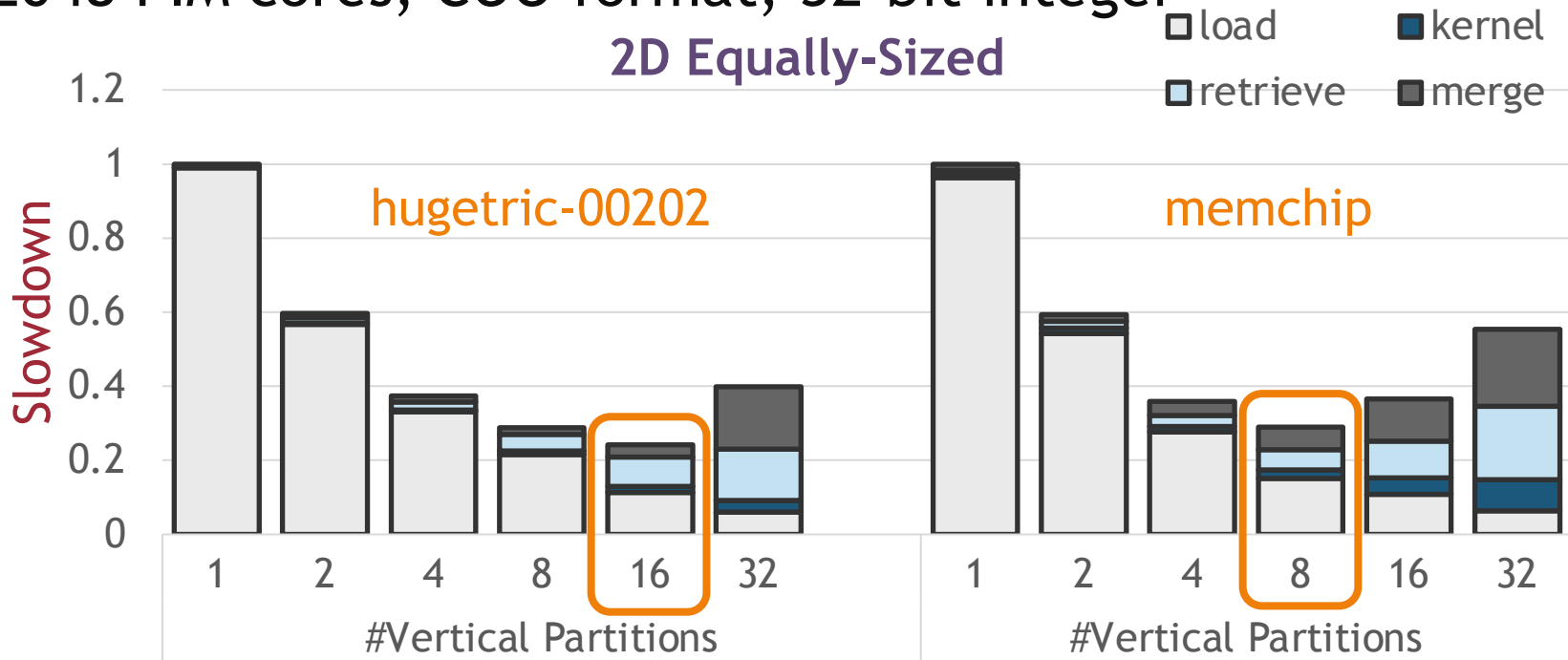
Best-performing = 64 PIM cores

Best-performing = 128 PIM cores

1D: #PIM cores that provides the best performance depends on the sparsity pattern of the input matrix

# Comparison of Sparse Matrices

2048 PIM cores, COO format, 32-bit integer



Best-performing = 16 vertical part.

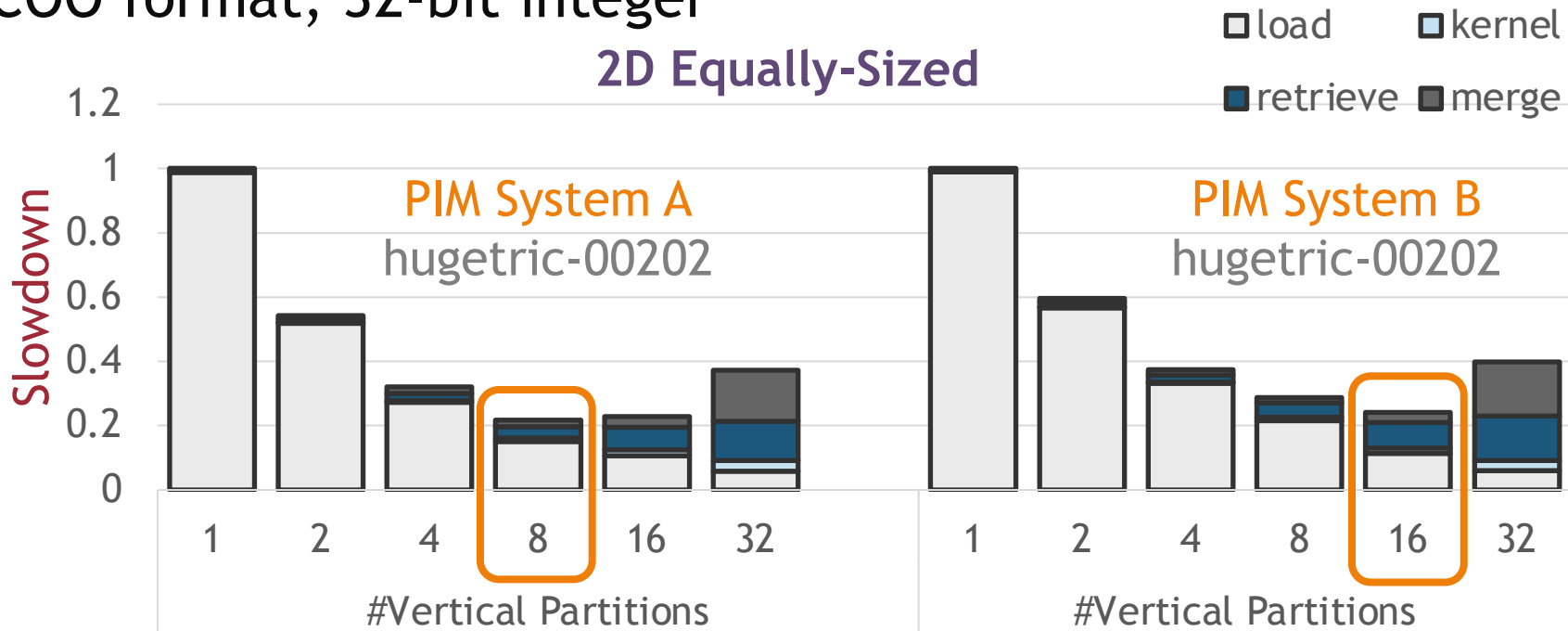
Best-performing = 8 vertical part.

2D: #vertical partitions that provides the best performance depends on the sparsity pattern of the input matrix

# Comparison of PIM Systems

COO format, 32-bit integer

2D Equally-Sized



Best-performing = 8 vertical part.

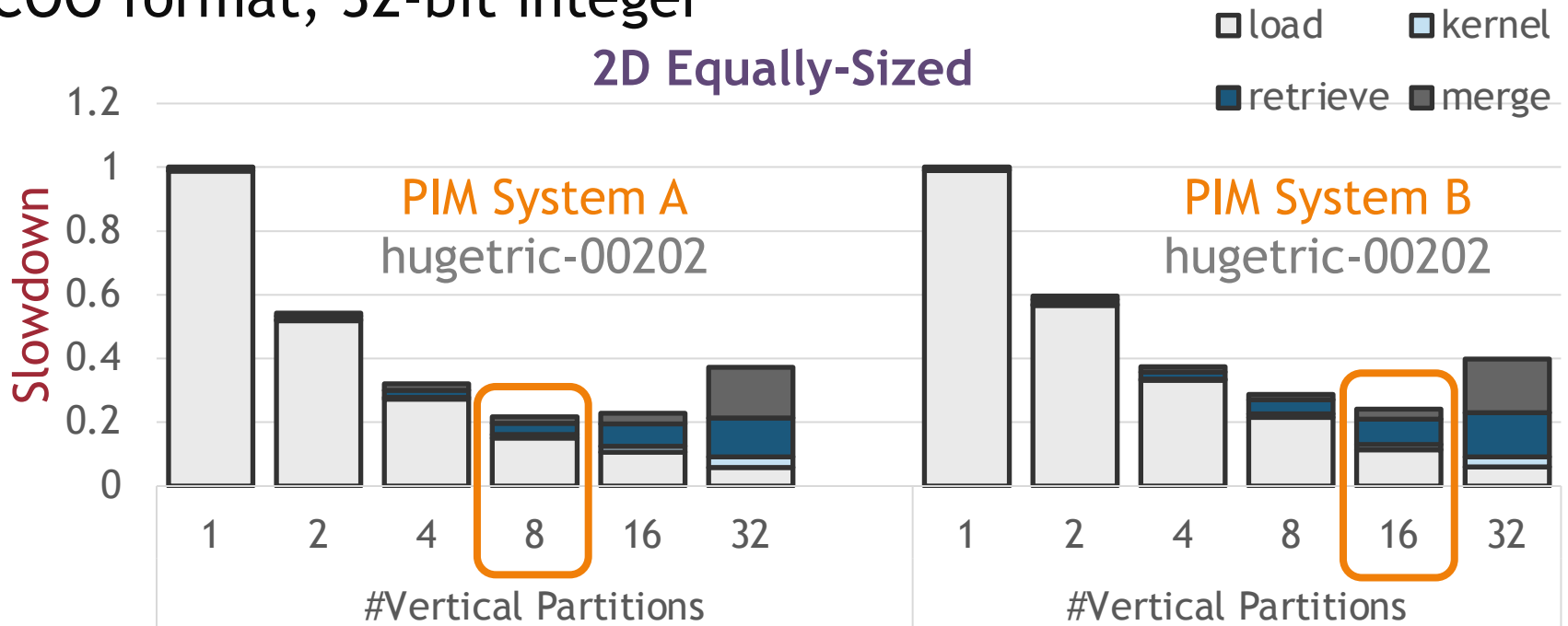
Best-performing = 16 vertical part.

System	PIM Cores	PIM Band.	Host CPU	Bus Band.
PIM A	2048 @350 MHz	1.43 TB/s	Intel Xeon Silver 4110 @2.1 GHz	23.1 GB/s
PIM B	2048 @425 MHz	1.78 TB/s	Intel Xeon Silver 4215 @2.5 GHz	21.8 GB/s

# Comparison of PIM Systems

COO format, 32-bit integer

2D Equally-Sized



Best-performing = 8 vertical part.

Best-performing = 16 vertical part.

2D: #vertical partitions that provides the best performance depends on the underlying hardware characteristics

# Various Matrices and PIM Systems

COO format, 32-bit integer

load kernel  
retrieve merge

1D

5

## Key Takeaway 6

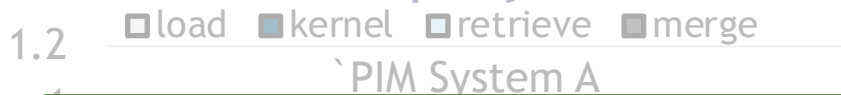
There is **no one-size-fits-all** parallelization approach for SpMV, since the performance of each scheme **depends** on the characteristics of the **input matrix** and the underlying **PIM hardware**.

#PIM Cores

#PIM Cores

2D Equally-Sized

2D Equally-Sized



Slowdown

## Recommendation 6

Design **adaptive** algorithm that **tune** their configuration to the **particular patterns** of each input given and the **characteristics** of the PIM hardware.

1 2 4 8 16 32

hugetric-0020

1 2 4 8 16 32

memchip

#Vertical Partitions

1 2 4 8 16 32

hugetric-0020

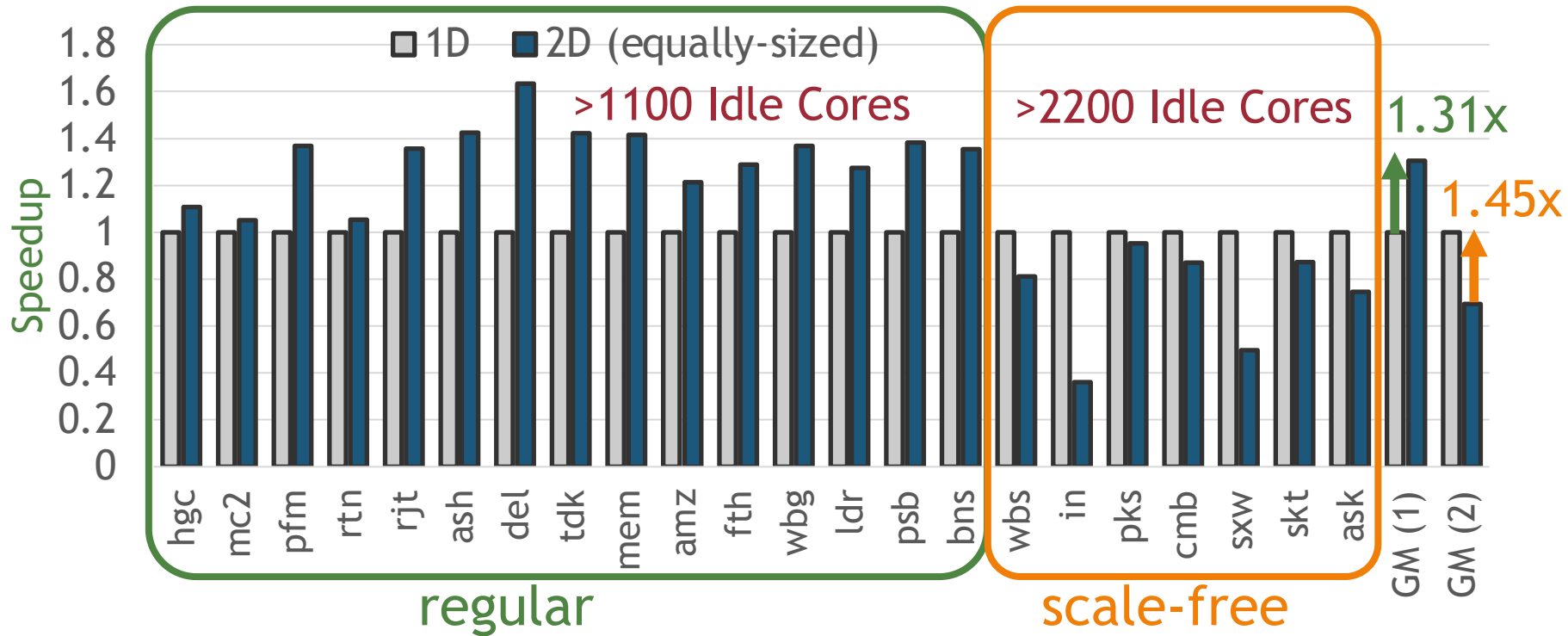
1 2 4 8 16 32

memchip

#Vertical Partitions

# 1D vs 2D

Up to 2528 PIM Cores, 32-bit float

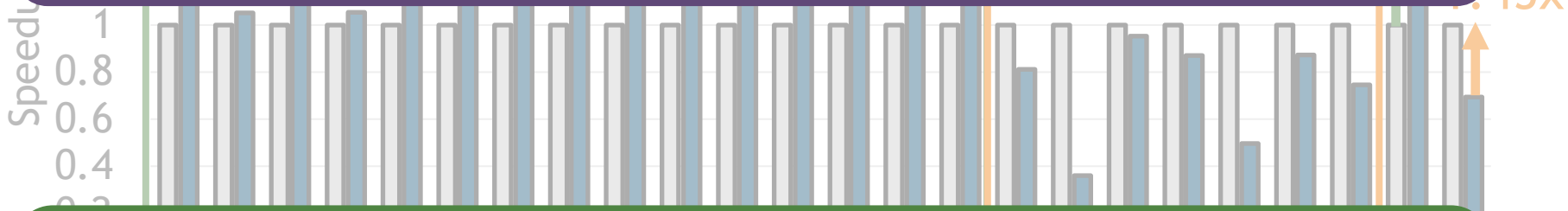


Best-performing SpMV execution:  
trades off computation with lower data transfer costs

# 1D vs 2D

## Key Takeaway 7

Expensive **data transfers** to/from PIM-enabled memory performed via the narrow memory bus impose significant **performance overhead** to end-to-end SpMV execution. Thus, it is hard to **fully exploit** all available PIM cores of the system.

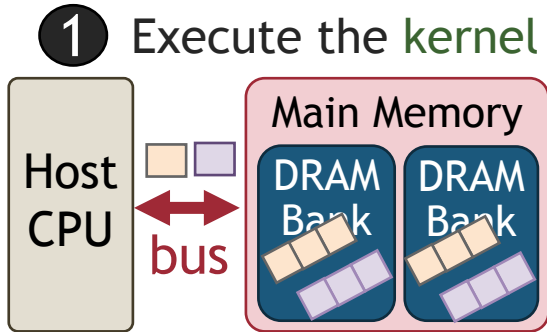


## Recommendation 7

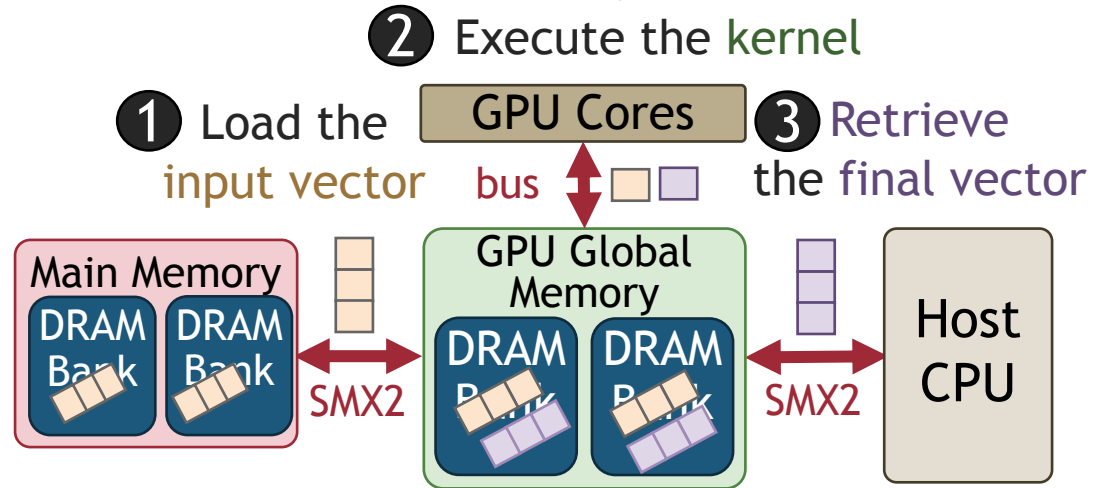
Design **high-speed communication channels** and **optimized libraries** in data transfers to/from PIM-enabled memory, provide **hardware support** to effectively **overlap** computation with data transfers in the PIM system, and/or **integrate** PIM-enabled memory as the main **memory** of the system.

# SpMV Execution on Various Systems

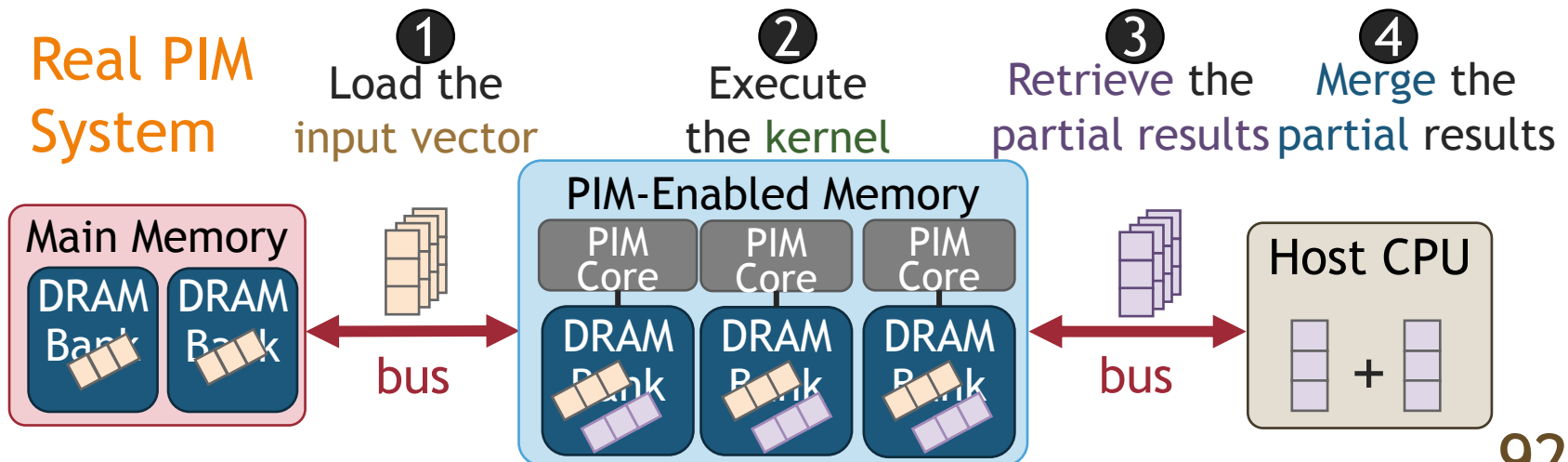
## CPU System



## GPU System



## Real PIM System





# CPU/GPU Comparisons

System		Peak Performance	Bandwidth	TDP	
CPU	Intel Xeon Silver 4110	660 GFlops	23.1 GB/s	2x85 W	} Processor-Centric
GPU	NVIDIA Tesla V100	14.13 TFlops	897 GB/s	300 W	
PIM	UPMEM 1st Gen.	4.66 GFlops	1.77 TB/s	379 W	} Memory-Centric

# CPU/GPU Comparisons

- **Kernel-Only (COO, 32-bit float):**
  - CPU = 0.51% of Peak Perf.
  - GPU = 0.21% of Peak Perf.
  - PIM (1D) = **50.7%** of Peak Perf.

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  - CPU = 0.51% of Peak Perf.
  - GPU = 0.21% of Peak Perf.
  - PIM (1D) = **50.7%** of Peak Perf.
- **End-to-End (COO, 32-bit float):**
  - CPU = **4.08 GFlop/s**
  - GPU = 1.92 GFlop/s
  - PIM (1D) = 0.11 GFlop/s

System		Peak Performance	Bandwidth	TDP
CPU	Intel Xeon Silver 4110	660 GFlops	23.1 GB/s	2x85 W
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} Processor-Centric

Memory-Centric

# CPU/GPU Comparisons

- **Kernel-Energy** (COO, 32-bit float):
  - CPU = 0.247 J
  - GPU = 0.051 J
  - PIM (1D) = 0.179 J

PIM: 1.38x higher energy efficiency over CPU

System		Peak Performance	Bandwidth	TDP	
CPU	Intel Xeon Silver 4110	660 GFlops	23.1 GB/s	2x85 W	} Processor-Centric
GPU	NVIDIA Tesla V100	14.13 TFlops	897 GB/s	300 W	
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# CPU/GPU Comparisons

- **Kernel-Energy** (COO, 32-bit float):
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System	Peak Performance	Bandwidth	TDP
Intel Xeon			

Many more results in the full paper:  
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2201.05072.pdf>

1st Gen.

Centric

# Outline

SpMV Kernels for Real PIM Systems

Key Takeaways from Our Study

Conclusion

# Conclusion

- *SpMV* is a fundamental linear algebra kernel for important applications (HPC, machine learning, graph analytics... )
- *SpMV* is a **highly memory-bound** kernel in processor-centric systems (e.g., CPU and GPU systems)
- Real near-bank PIM systems can tackle the **data movement bottleneck** (high parallelism, large aggregate memory bandwidth)
- Key Contributions:
  - *SparseP*: first **open-source** *SpMV* library for real PIM systems
  - Comprehensive **characterization** and **analysis** of *SpMV* on the first real PIM system
  - **Recommendations** to improve multiple aspects of future PIM hardware and software

## Our Work

**SparseP**: <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SparseP>

**Full Paper**: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2201.05072.pdf>

# SparseP Paper and Repo

- Appears at SIGMETRICS 2022

## ***SparseP*: Towards Efficient Sparse Matrix Vector Multiplication on Real Processing-In-Memory Systems**

CHRISTINA GIANNOULA, ETH Zürich, Switzerland and National Technical University of Athens, Greece

IVAN FERNANDEZ, ETH Zürich, Switzerland and University of Malaga, Spain

JUAN GÓMEZ-LUNA, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

NECTARIOS KOZIRIS, National Technical University of Athens, Greece

GEORGIOS GOUMAS, National Technical University of Athens, Greece

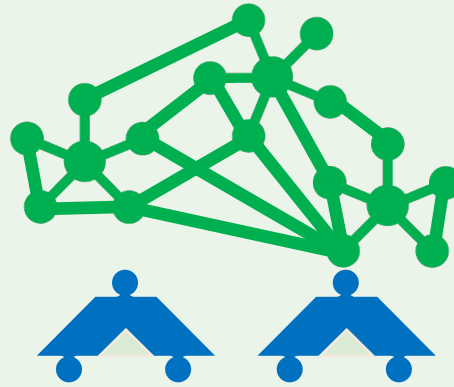
ONUR MUTLU, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2201.05072.pdf>

<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SparseP>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kaOsJKIGrE>





# SparseP

Towards Efficient Sparse Matrix Vector Multiplication  
on Real Processing-In-Memory Architectures

Christina Giannoula, Ivan Fernandez, Juan Gomez-Luna,  
Nectarios Koziris, Georgios Goumas, Onur Mutlu

# Machine Learning Training

# An Experimental Evaluation of Machine Learning Training on a Real Processing-in-Memory System

Juan Gómez Luna, Yuxin Guo, Sylvan Brocard,  
Julien Legriel, Remy Cimadomo, Geraldo F. Oliveira,  
Gagandeep Singh, Onur Mutlu

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2207.07886.pdf>  
<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/pim-ml>  
[juang@ethz.ch](mailto:juang@ethz.ch)



Thursday, May 25, 2023

# ISPASS 2023 Version

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- Presented at ISPASS 2023

## Evaluating Machine Learning Workloads on Memory-Centric Computing Systems

Juan Gómez-Luna<sup>1</sup> Yuxin Guo<sup>1</sup> Sylvan Brocard<sup>2</sup> Julien Legriel<sup>2</sup>  
Remy Cimadomo<sup>2</sup> Geraldo F. Oliveira<sup>1</sup> Gagandeep Singh<sup>1</sup> Onur Mutlu<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>ETH Zürich <sup>2</sup>UPMEM

[https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/pub/MLonUPMEM-PIM\\_isspass23.pdf](https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/pub/MLonUPMEM-PIM_isspass23.pdf)

Source code: <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/pim-ml>

<https://youtu.be/60pkal5AeM4>

# Executive Summary

---

- **Training machine learning** (ML) algorithms is a computationally expensive process, frequently **memory-bound** due to repeatedly accessing **large training datasets**
- **Memory-centric computing systems**, i.e., with **Processing-in-Memory** (PIM) capabilities, can alleviate this **data movement bottleneck**
- Real-world PIM systems have only recently been manufactured and commercialized
  - UPMEM has designed and fabricated **the first publicly-available real-world PIM architecture**
- Our goal is to understand the potential of **modern general-purpose PIM architectures to accelerate machine learning training**
- Our main contributions:
  - **PIM implementation of several classic machine learning algorithms**: linear regression, logistic regression, decision tree, K-means clustering
  - **Workload characterization** in terms of quality, performance, and scaling
  - **Comparison to their counterpart implementations** on processor-centric systems (CPU and GPU)
    - PIM version of DTR is **27x / 1.34x faster than the CPU / GPU** version, respectively
    - PIM version of KME is **2.8x / 3.2x faster than the CPU / GPU** version, respectively
  - Source code: <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/pim-ml>
- Experimental evaluation on a real-world **PIM system with 2,524 PIM cores @ 425 MHz and 158 GB of DRAM memory**
- Key observations, **takeaways**, and **recommendations** for ML workloads on general-purpose PIM systems

# Outline

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Machine learning workloads

Processing-in-memory

PIM implementation of ML workloads

Evaluation

Quality Metrics

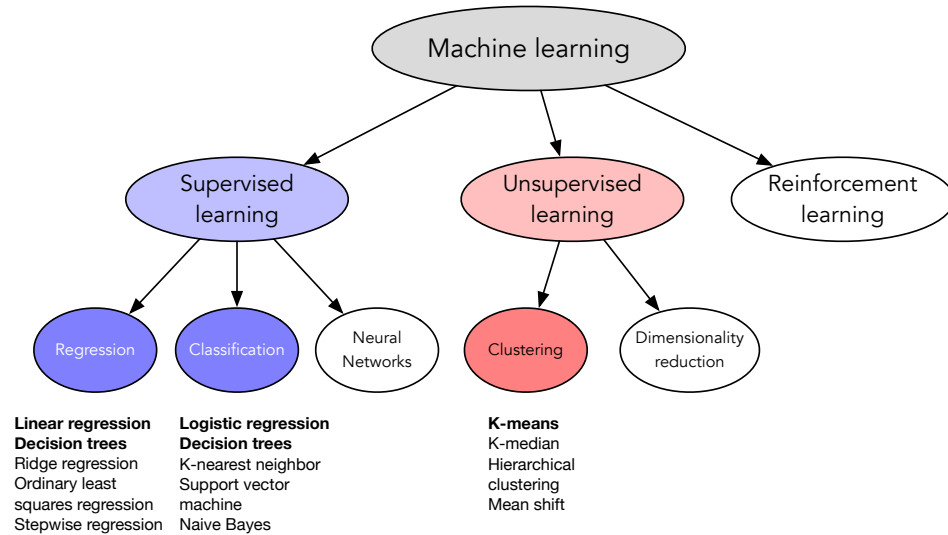
Analysis of PIM Kernels

Performance Scaling

Comparison to CPU and GPU

# Machine Learning Workloads

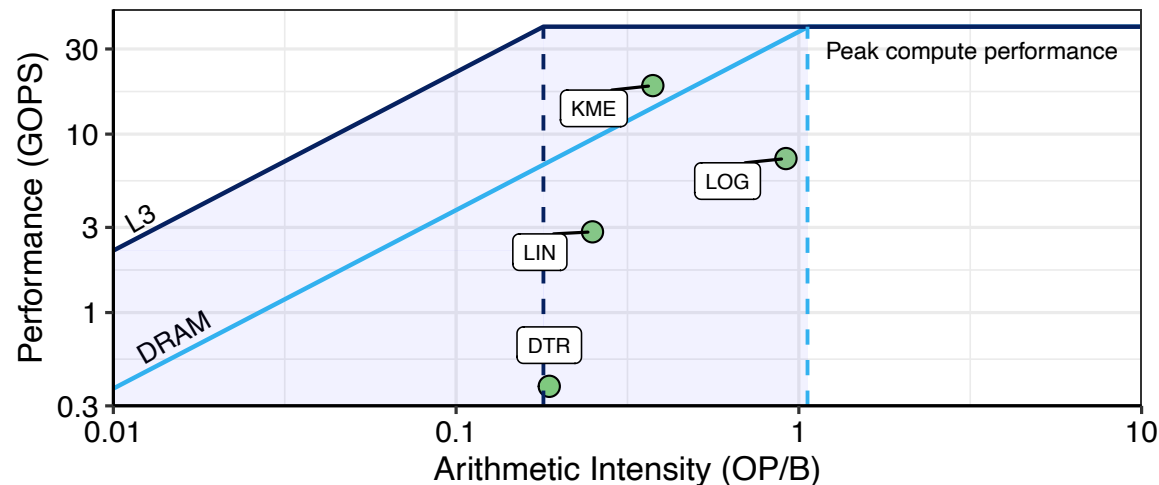
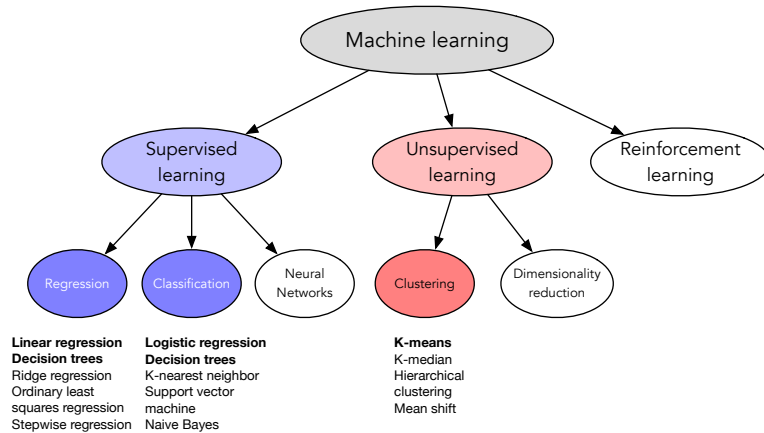
- Machine learning training with **large amounts of data** is a computationally expensive process, which **requires many iterations** to update an ML model's parameters



- Frequent **data movement between memory and processing elements** to access training data
- The amount of **computation is not enough to amortize the cost of moving training data** to the processing elements
  - Low arithmetic intensity
  - Low temporal locality
  - Irregular memory accesses

# Machine Learning Workloads: Our Goal

- Our goal is to study and analyze how real-world general-purpose PIM can accelerate ML training
- Four representative ML algorithms: linear regression, logistic regression, decision tree, K-means
- Roofline model to quantify the memory boundedness of CPU versions of the four workloads



All workloads fall in the memory-bound area of the Roofline



# Outline

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Machine learning workloads

Processing-in-memory

PIM implementation of ML workloads

Evaluation

Quality Metrics

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Performance Scaling

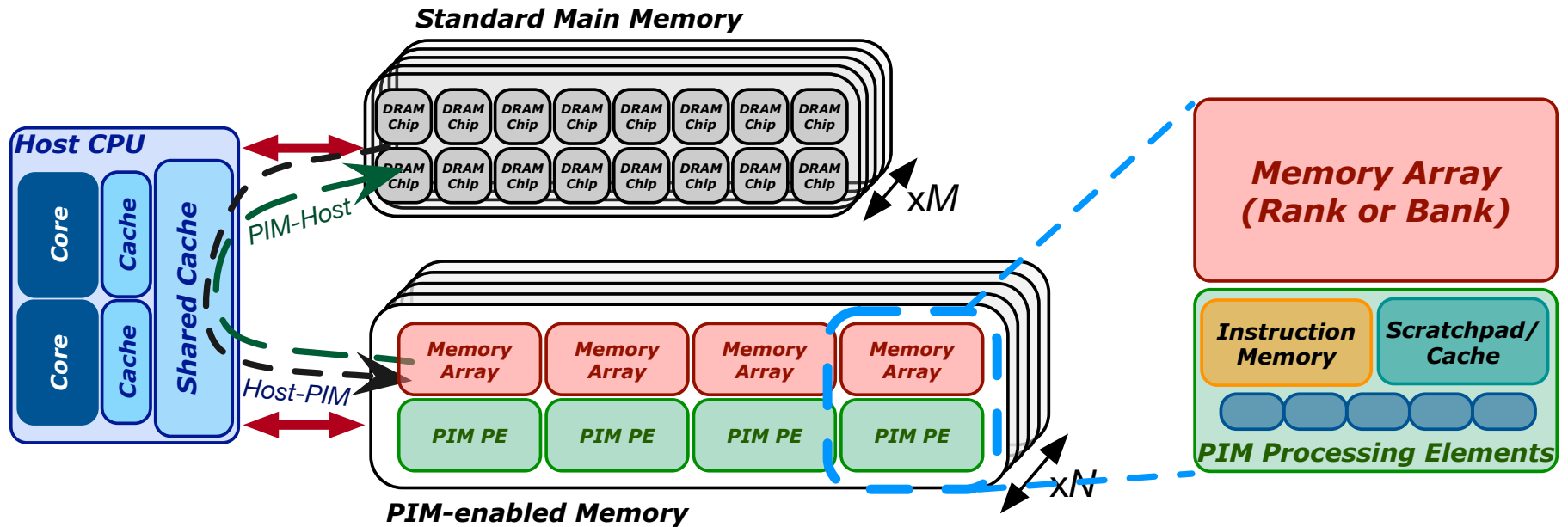
Comparison to CPU and GPU

# Processing-in-Memory (PIM)

---

- PIM is a computing paradigm that advocates for memory-centric computing systems, where **processing elements are placed near or inside the memory arrays**
- **Real-world PIM architectures** are becoming a reality
  - UPMEM PIM, Samsung HBM-PIM, Samsung AxDIMM, SK Hynix AiM, Alibaba HB-PNM
- These PIM systems have **some common characteristics**:
  1. There is a **host processor** (CPU or GPU) with access to (1) standard main memory, and (2) PIM-enabled memory
  2. PIM-enabled memory contains **multiple PIM processing elements** (PEs) with high bandwidth and low latency memory access
  3. PIM PEs run only at **a few hundred MHz** and have **a small number of registers and small (or no) cache/scratchpad**
  4. PIM PEs may need to **communicate via the host processor**

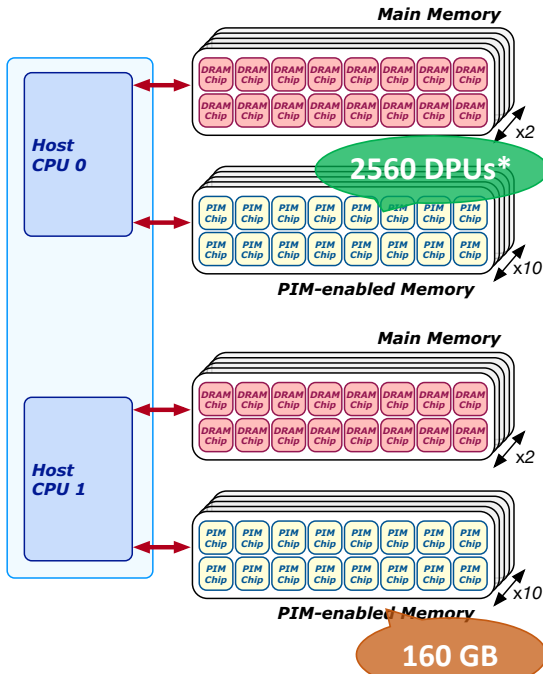
# A State-of-the-Art PIM System



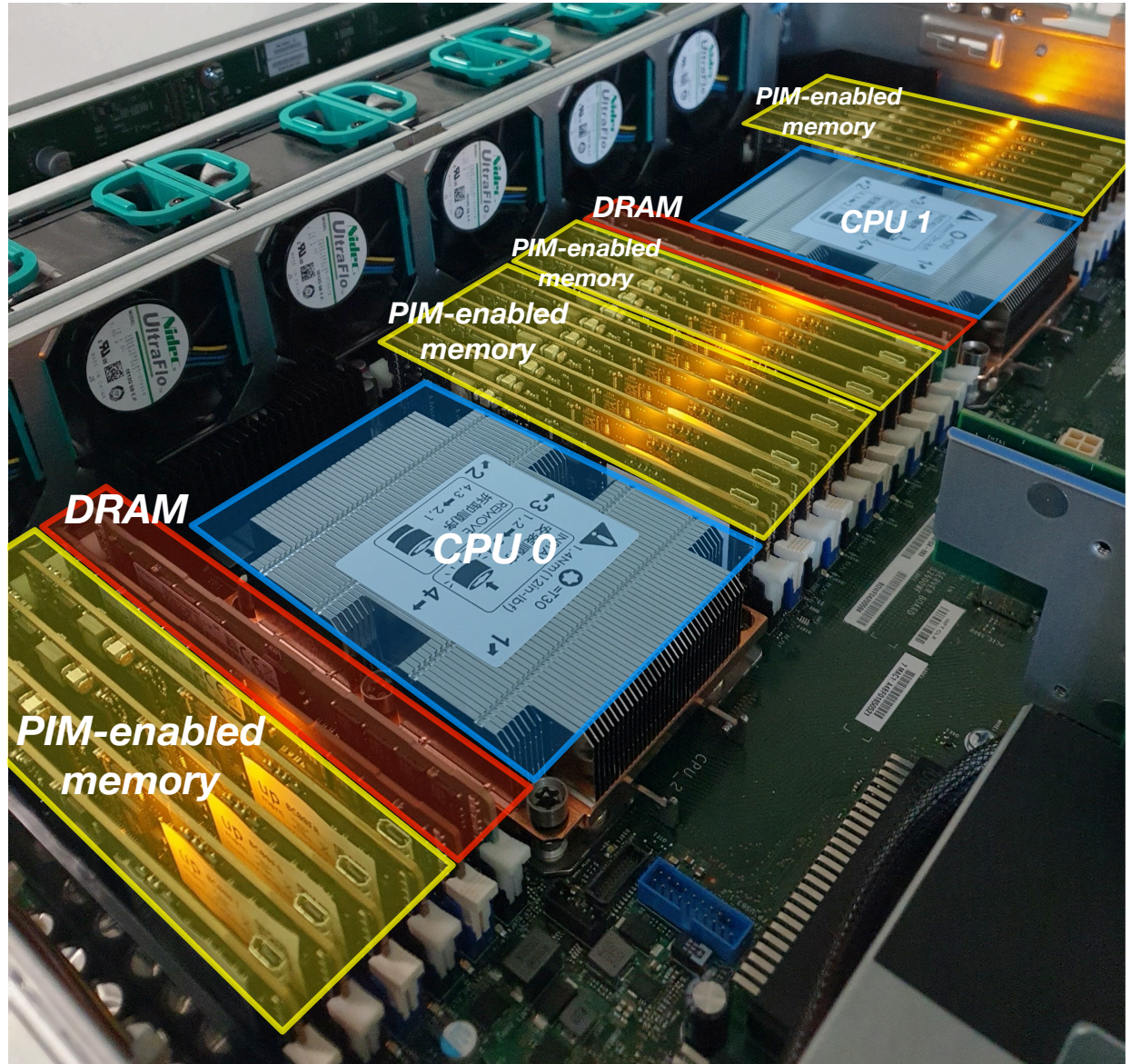
- In our work, we use the UPMEM PIM architecture
  - General-purpose processing cores called DRAM Processing Units (DPUs)
    - Up to 24 PIM threads, called *tasklets*
    - 32-bit integer arithmetic, but multiplication/division are emulated\*, as well as floating-point operations
  - 64-MB DRAM bank (MRAM), 64-KB scratchpad (WRAM)



# 2,560-DPU UPMEM PIM System



- 20 UPMEM DIMMs of 16 chips each (40 ranks)
- Dual x86 socket
- UPMEM DIMMs coexist with regular DDR4 DIMMs
  - 2 memory controllers/socket (3 channels each)
  - 2 conventional DDR4 DIMMs on one channel of one controller



# Outline

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Machine learning workloads

Processing-in-memory

PIM implementation of ML workloads

Evaluation

Quality Metrics

Analysis of PIM Kernels

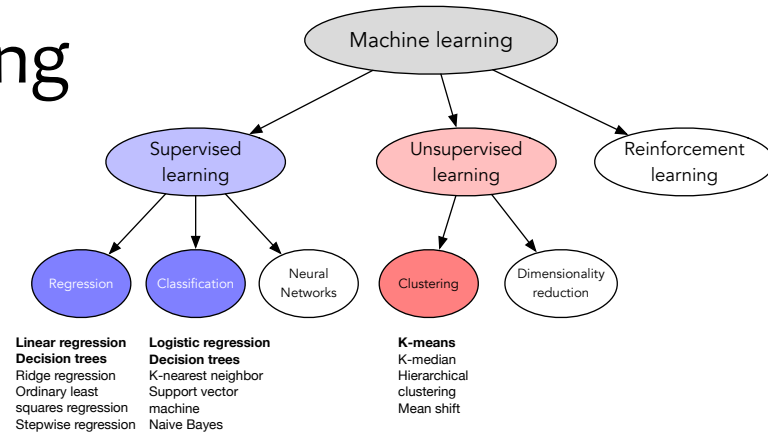
Performance Scaling

Comparison to CPU and GPU

# ML Training Workloads

- Four widely-used machine learning workloads:

- Linear regression (LIN)
- Logistic regression (LOG)
- Decision tree (DTR)
- K-means clustering (KME)



- Diversity of our ML training workloads:

- Memory access patterns
- Operations and datatypes
- Communication/synchronization

Learning approach	Application	Algorithm	Short name	Memory access pattern			Computation pattern		Communication/synchronization	
				Sequential	Strided	Random	Operations	Datatype	Intra PIM Core	Inter PIM Core
Supervised	Regression	<b>Linear Regression</b>	LIN	Yes	No	No	mul, add	float, int32_t	barrier	Yes
	Classification	<b>Logistic Regression</b>	LOG	Yes	No	No	mul, add, exp, div	float, int32_t	barrier	Yes
		<b>Decision Tree</b>	DTR	Yes	No	No	compare, add	float	barrier, mutex	Yes
Unsupervised	Clustering	<b>K-Means</b>	KME	Yes	No	No	mul, compare, add	int16_t, int64_t	barrier, mutex	Yes

# Linear Regression

---

- Linear regression (LIN) is a supervised learning algorithm where the predicted output variable has a linear relation with the input variable
  - We use *gradient descent* as the optimization algorithm to find the minimum of the loss function
- Our **PIM implementation** divides the training dataset ( $X$ ) equally among PIM cores
  - PIM threads compute dot products of row vectors and weights
  - Each dot product is compared to the observed value  $y$  to compute a partial gradient value
  - Partial gradient values are reduced and sent to the host
- Four versions of LIN:
  - LIN-FP32: training datasets of **32-bit real values**
  - LIN-INT32: 32-bit **fixed-point representation**
  - LIN-HYB: **hybrid precision** (8-bit, 16-bit, 32-bit)
  - LIN-BUI: **custom multiplication** based on 8-bit built-in multiplication



# Custom Integer Multiplication

Default integer  
multiplication

C code

```
1 result = X[i] * W[i]; // X and W are in WRAM (scratchpad)
```

UPMEM ISA

```
1 lbs r3, r2, 0 // Load 1 byte from X[i]
2 lsl_add r2, r20, r1, 1 // Address of W[i]: r2=r20+(r1<<1)
3 lhs r4, r2, 0 // Load 2 bytes from W[i]
4 mul_ul_ul r2, r4, r3, small, 0x80000378 // r2=r4(l)*r3(l)
5 mul_sh_ul r5, r4, r3 // r5=r4(h)*r3(l)
6 lsl_add r2, r2, r5, 8 // r2=r2+(r5<<8)
7 mul_sh_ul r5, r3, r4 // r5=r3(h)*r4(l)
8 lsl_add r2, r2, r5, 8 // r2=r2+(r5<<8)
9 mul_sh_sh r3, r4, r3 // r3=r4(h)*r3(h)
10 lsl_add r2, r2, r3, 16, true, 0x80000378 //r2=r2+(r3<<16)
```

Custom integer  
multiplication

C code

```
1 __builtin_mul_sl_ul_rrr(templ, X[i], W[i]);
2 __builtin_mul_sl_sh_rrr(temph, X[i], W[i]);
3 result = (temph << 8) + templ;
```

UPMEM ISA

```
1 lbs r4, r4, 0 // Load 1 byte from X[i]
2 lsl_add r5, r20, r3, 1 // Address of W[i]: r5=r20+(r1<<1)
3 lhs r5, r5, 0 // Load 2 bytes from W[i]
4 mul_sl_ul r6, r4, r5 // r6=r4(l)*r5(l)
5 mul_sl_sh r4, r4, r5 // r4=r4(l)*r5(h)
6 add r2, r6, r2 // r2=r2+r6
7 lsl_add r2, r2, r4, 8 // r2=r2+(r4 << 8)
```



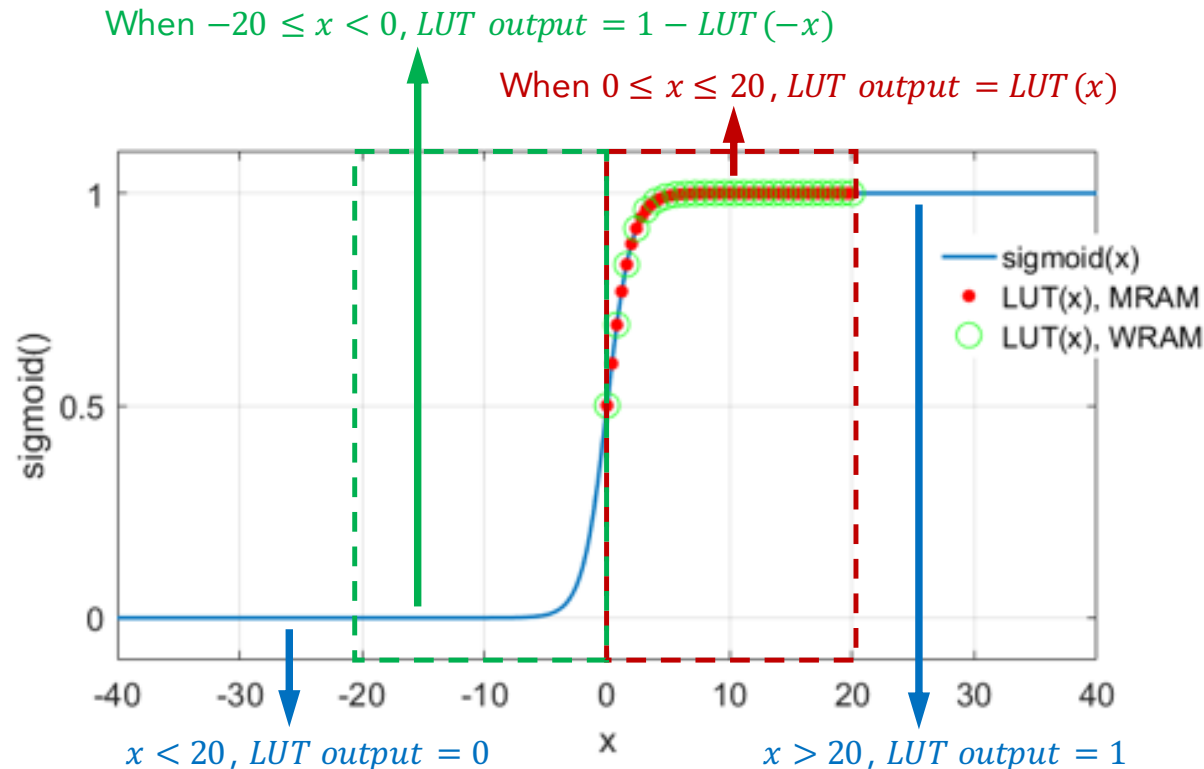
# Logistic Regression

---

- Logistic regression (LOG) is a supervised learning algorithm used for classification, which outputs probability values for each input observation variable or vector
  - *Sigmoid* function to map predicted values to probabilities
- Our **PIM implementation** follows the same workload distribution pattern as our linear regression implementation
- Six versions of LOG:
  - LOG-FP32: training datasets of **32-bit real values**, Sigmoid approximated with Taylor series
  - LOG-INT32: 32-bit **fixed-point representation**, Taylor series
  - LOG-INT32-LUT: Sigmoid calculation with a **lookup table (LUT)**
    - LOG-INT32-LUT (MRAM): LUT in MRAM
    - LOG-INT32-LUT (WRAM): LUT in WRAM
  - LOG-HYB-LUT: **hybrid precision** (8-bit, 16-bit, 32-bit), LUT in WRAM
  - LOG-BUI-LUT: **custom multiplication** based on 8-bit built-in multiplication, LUT in WRAM

# LUT-based Sigmoid Calculation

- We take advantage of the fact that **Sigmoid is symmetric**
- The LUT size depends on the boundary (e.g., 20) and the number of bits for the decimal part of the fixed-point representation (e.g., 10)
  - 20 x 1024 entries (with 16-bit entries) = 40 KB

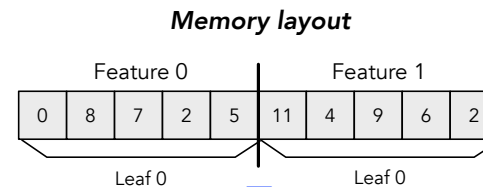


# Decision Tree

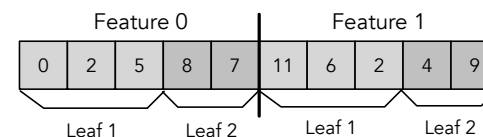
- Decision trees (DTR) are tree-based methods used for classification and regression, which partition the feature space into *leaves*, with a simple prediction model in each leaf
- Our **PIM implementation** partitions the training set among PIM cores, which compute partial *Gini* scores to evaluate the host's *split* decisions
- The host sends commands to the PIM cores:
  - *Split commit* to split a tree leaf
  - *Split evaluate* to evaluate a split
  - *Min-max* to query minimum/maximum values of a feature in a tree leaf
- **Data layout** in split commit to maximize memory bandwidth with **streaming accesses**
- This data layout also ensures memory accesses in streaming in split evaluate

Dataset:

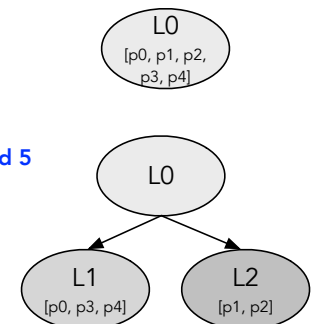
5 points, 2 features:  $p_0 = (0, 11)$ ;  $p_1 = (8, 4)$ ;  $p_2 = (7, 9)$ ;  $p_3 = (2, 6)$ ;  $p_4 = (5, 2)$



Split commit: feature 0, threshold 5



Decision tree



# K-Means Clustering

---

- K-means (KME) is an iterative clustering method used to find groups in a dataset which have not been explicitly labeled
- Our **PIM implementation** distributes the dataset evenly over the PIM cores
- PIM threads evaluate which centroid is the closest one to each point of the training set
  - Counter and accumulator per coordinate (per centroid)
- Then, the host recalculates the centroids
- Convergence to a local optimum when the updated centroid's coordinates are within a threshold (*Frobenius norm*)

# Outline

---

Machine learning workloads

Processing-in-memory

PIM implementation of ML workloads

Evaluation

Quality Metrics

Analysis of PIM Kernels

Performance Scaling

Comparison to CPU and GPU

# Evaluation Methodology

- Synthetic and real datasets

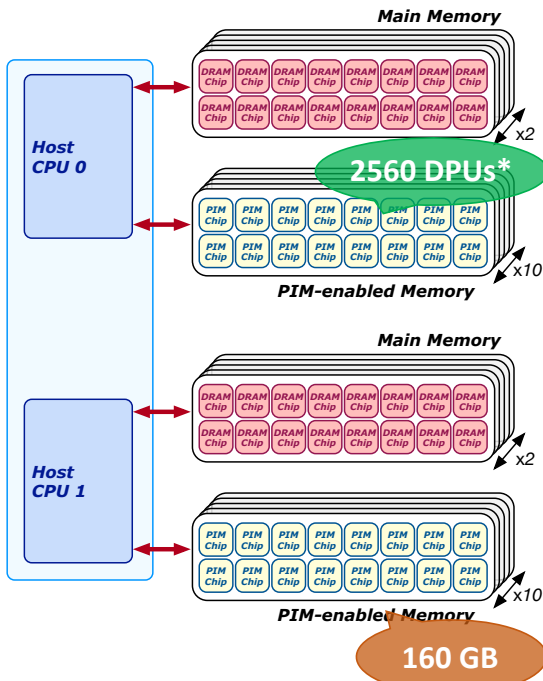
ML Workload	Synthetic Datasets <sup>†</sup>		Real Datasets
	Strong Scaling (1 PIM core   256-2048 PIM cores)	Weak Scaling (per PIM core)	
Linear regression	2,048 samples, 16 attr. (0.125 MB)   6,291,456 samples, 16 attr. (384 MB)	2,048 samples, 16 attr. (0.125 MB)	SUSY [232, 233]
Logistic regression	2,048 samples, 16 attr. (0.125 MB)   6,291,456 samples, 16 attr. (384 MB)	2,048 samples, 16 attr. (0.125 MB)	Skin segmentation [234]
Decision tree	60,000 samples, 16 attr. (3.84 MB)   153,600,000 samples, 16 attr. (9830 MB)	600,000 samples, 16 attr. (38.4 MB)	Higgs boson [232, 235]   Criteo [236]
K-Means	10,000 samples, 16 attr. (0.64 MB)   25,600,000 samples, 16 attr. (1640 MB)	100,000 samples, 16 attr. (6.4 MB)	Higgs boson [232, 235]   Criteo [236]

<sup>†</sup> Format = Samples (dataset elements), Attributes (Size in MB).

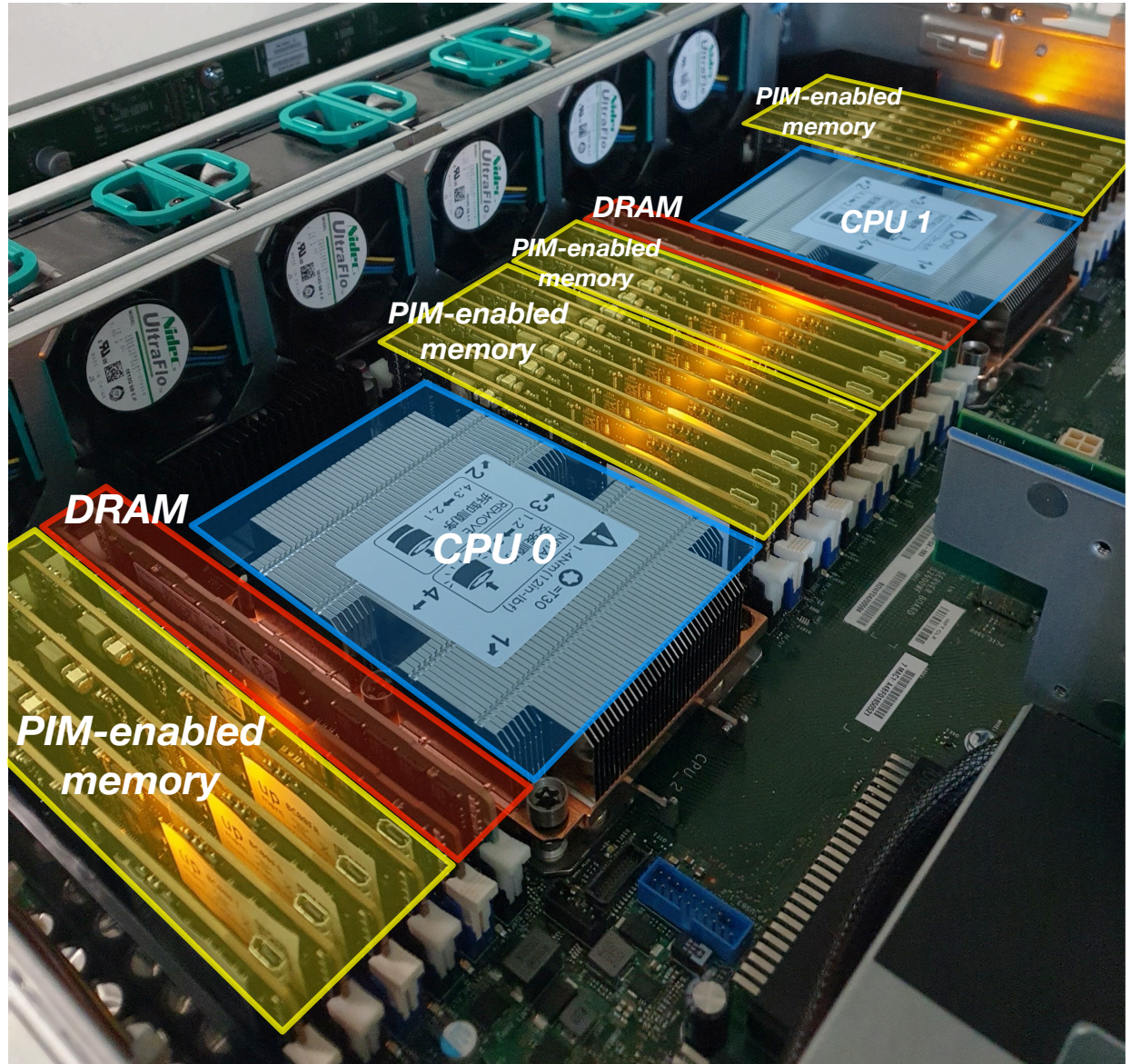
- Evaluated systems
  - UPMEM PIM system with 2,524 PIM cores @ 425 MHz and 158 GB of DRAM
  - Intel Xeon Silver 4215 CPU
  - NVIDIA A100 GPU
- We evaluate:
  - Quality metrics
  - Performance of PIM kernels
  - Performance scaling
  - Comparison to CPU and GPU



# 2,560-DPU UPMEM PIM System



- 20 UPMEM DIMMs of 16 chips each (40 ranks)
- Dual x86 socket
- UPMEM DIMMs coexist with regular DDR4 DIMMs
  - 2 memory controllers/socket (3 channels each)
  - 2 conventional DDR4 DIMMs on one channel of one controller



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---

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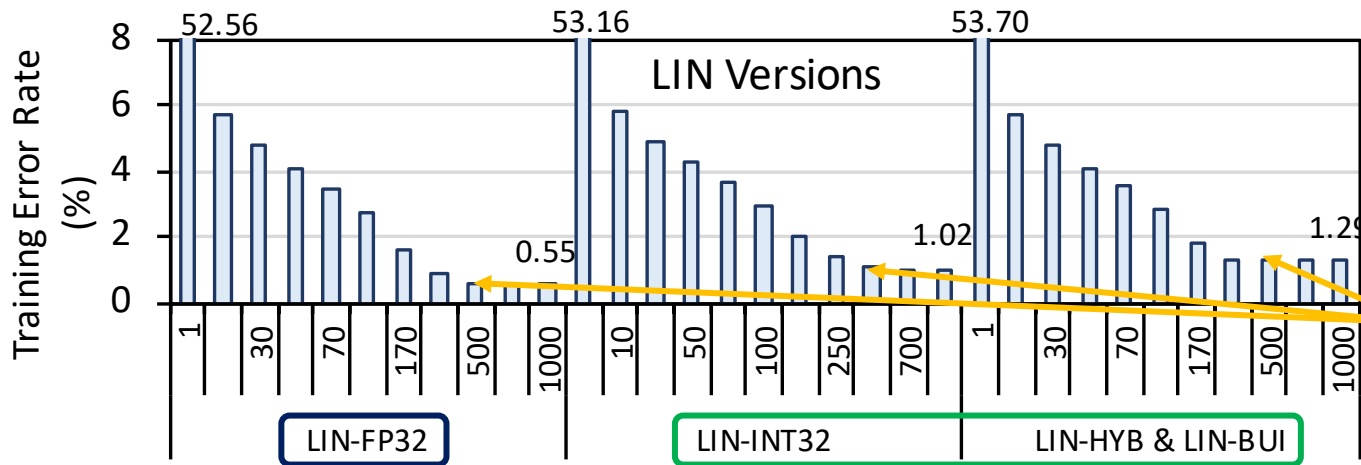
Performance Scaling

Comparison to CPU and GPU



# Evaluation: Quality Metrics: LIN

- Linear regression



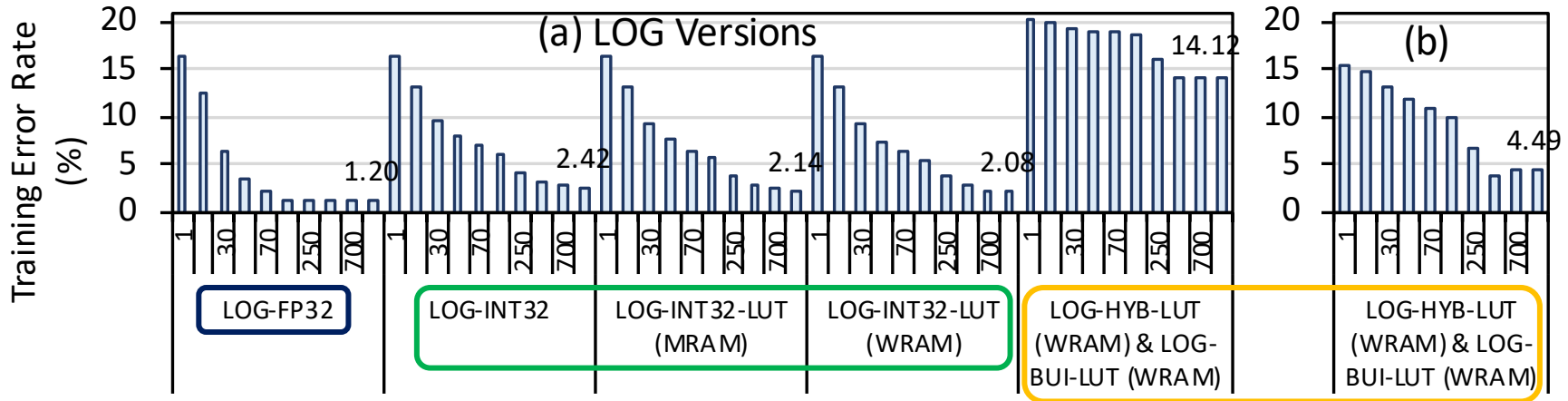
The training error rate flattens after 500 iterations

Training error rate of LIN-FP32 is the same as the CPU version

For the integer versions, the training error rate remains low and close to that of LIN-FP32

# Evaluation: Quality Metrics: LOG

- Logistic regression



Training error rate of LOG-FP32 is the same as the CPU version

LUT-based versions obtain lower training error rates than LOG-INT32, since they use exact values, not approximations

Reduced-precision datatypes increase the training error rate, which heavily depends on the number of decimal numbers of the samples (e.g., 4 in (a), 2 in (b))

# Evaluation: Quality Metrics

---

- Linear regression
  - Training error rate of LIN-FP32 is the same as the CPU version
  - For integer versions, it remains low and close to that of LIN-FP32
- Logistic regression
  - LUT-based versions obtain lower training error rates than LOG-INT32, since they use exact values, not approximations
- Decision tree
  - Training accuracy only slightly lower than that of the CPU version
- K-means clustering
  - Same *Calinski-Harabasz score* and *adjusted Rand index* of PIM and CPU versions

We **maintain the accuracy of all workloads**  
(or keep it close to the CPU baseline)

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---

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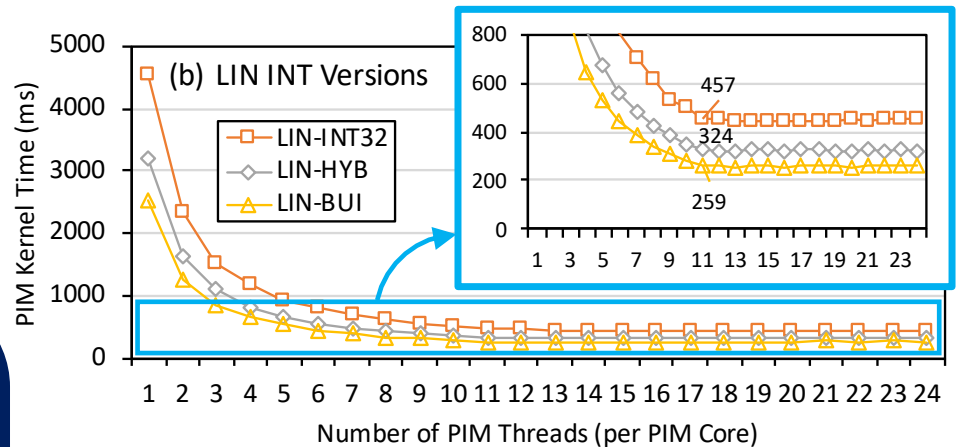
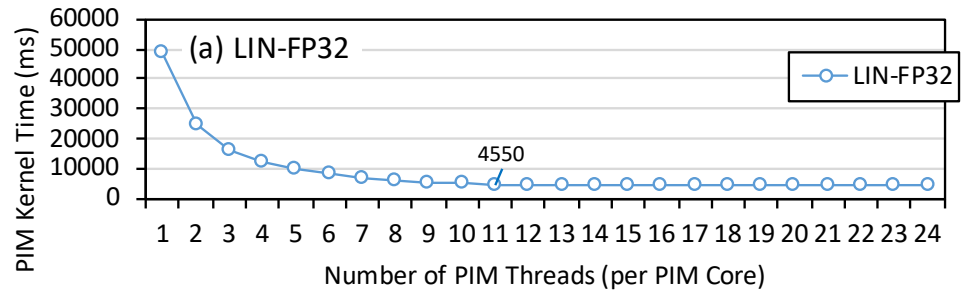
# Evaluation: Analysis of PIM Kernels (I)

- Linear regression

All versions saturate at 11 or more PIM threads

Fixed-point representation accelerates the kernel by an order of magnitude over FP32

**Key Takeaway 1.** Workloads with arithmetic operations or datatypes not natively supported by PIM cores run at low performance due to instruction emulation (e.g., FP in UPMEM PIM).



**Recommendation 1.** Use fixed-point representation, without much accuracy loss, if PIM cores do not support FP.

# Evaluation: Analysis of PIM Kernels (II)

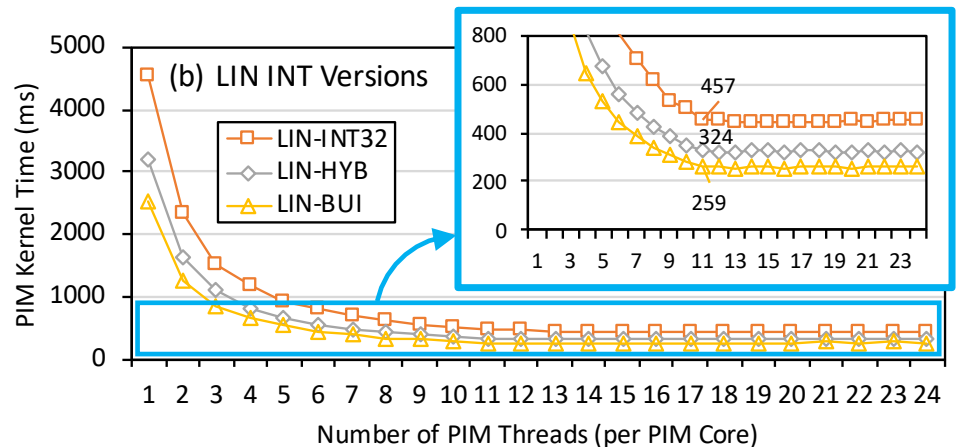
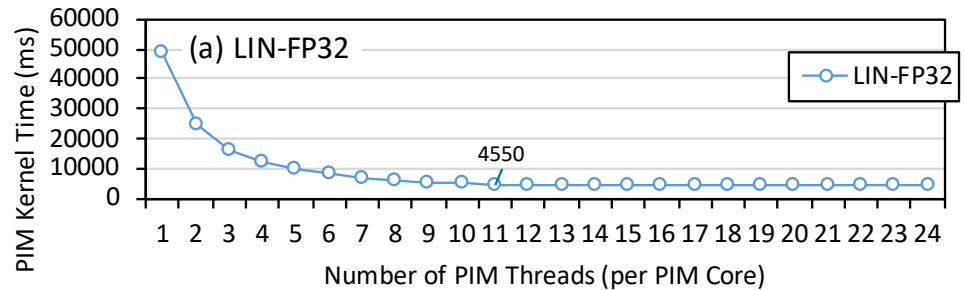
- Linear regression

LIN-HYB is 41% faster than  
LIN-INT32

LIN-BUI provides an  
additional 25% speedup

**Recommendation 2.** **Quantization** can take advantage of native hardware support. **Hybrid precision** can significantly improve performance.

**Recommendation 3.** Programmers/better compilers can **optimize code by leveraging native instructions** (e.g., 8-bit integer multiplication in UPMEM).



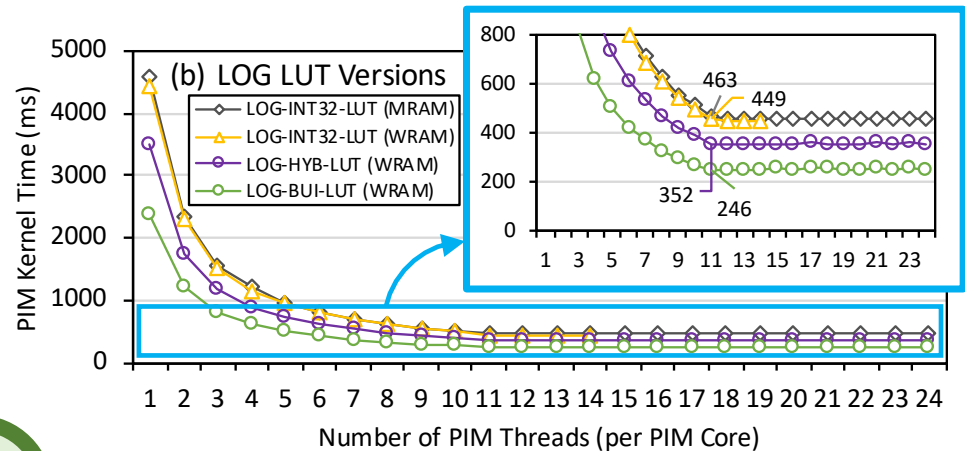
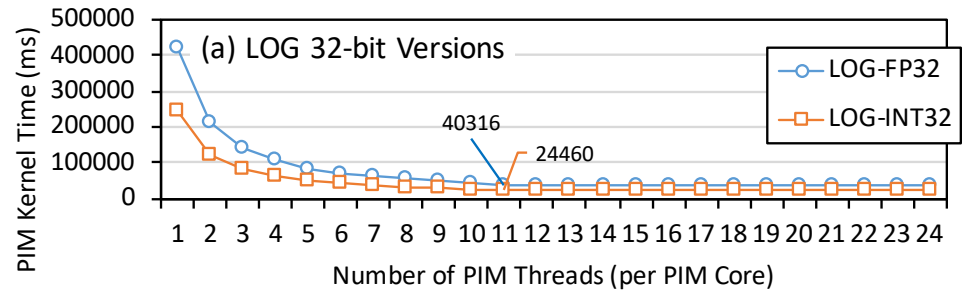
# Evaluation: Analysis of PIM Kernels (III)

- Logistic regression

Very high kernel time of LOG-FP32 and LOG-INT32 due to Sigmoid approximation

LOG-INT32-LUT (MRAM) is 53x faster than LOG-INT32

**Recommendation 4.** Convert computation to memory accesses by **keeping pre-calculated operation results** (e.g., LUTs, memoization) **in memory.**

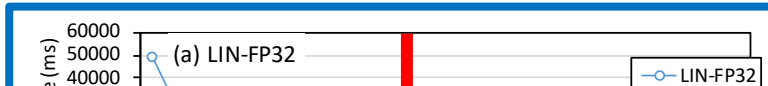


LOG-HYB-LUT is 28% faster than LOG-INT32-LUT

LOG-BUI-LUT provides an additional 43% speedup

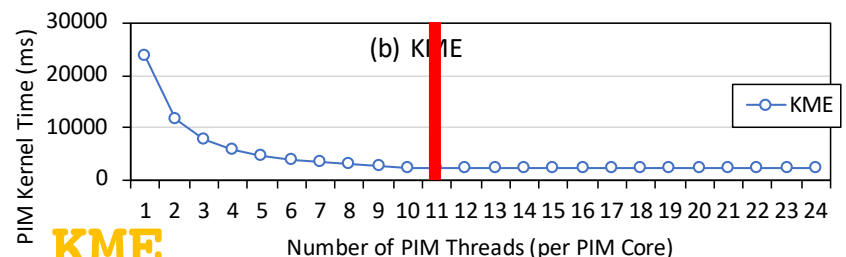
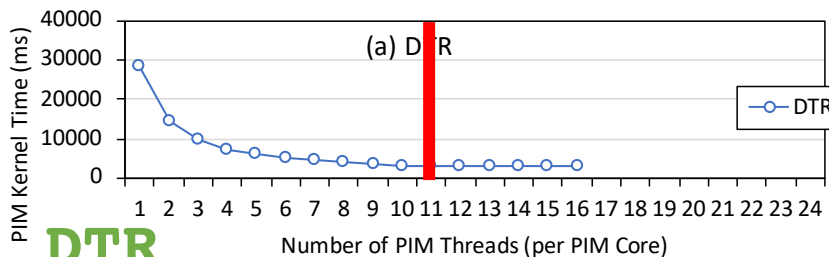
# Evaluation: Analysis of PIM Kernels (IV)

- Linear regression, logistic regression, decision tree, K-means clustering



The performance of all kernels saturates at 11 or more PIM threads. In the UPMEM PIM architecture, this means that the pipeline latency hides the memory latency

As a result, these kernels are compute-bound on the UPMEM PIM architecture



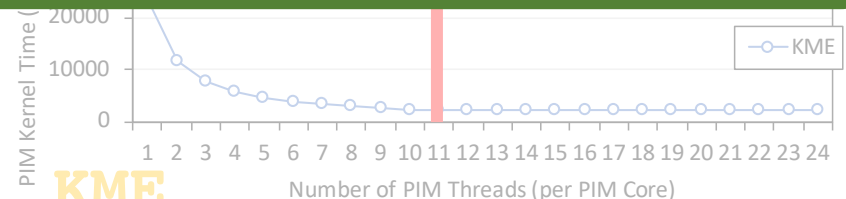
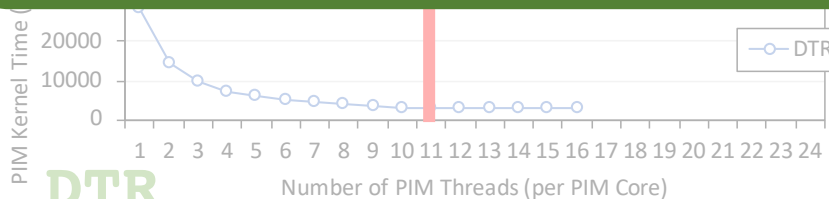


# Evaluation: Analysis of PIM Kernels (V)

- Linear regression, logistic regression, decision tree, K-means clustering

**Key Takeaway 2.** ML workloads that are memory-bound due to low arithmetic intensity in CPU/GPU become **compute-bound** when running on PIM.

**Recommendation 6.** Maximize the utilization of PIM cores by **keeping their pipeline fully busy.**



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---

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Quality Metrics

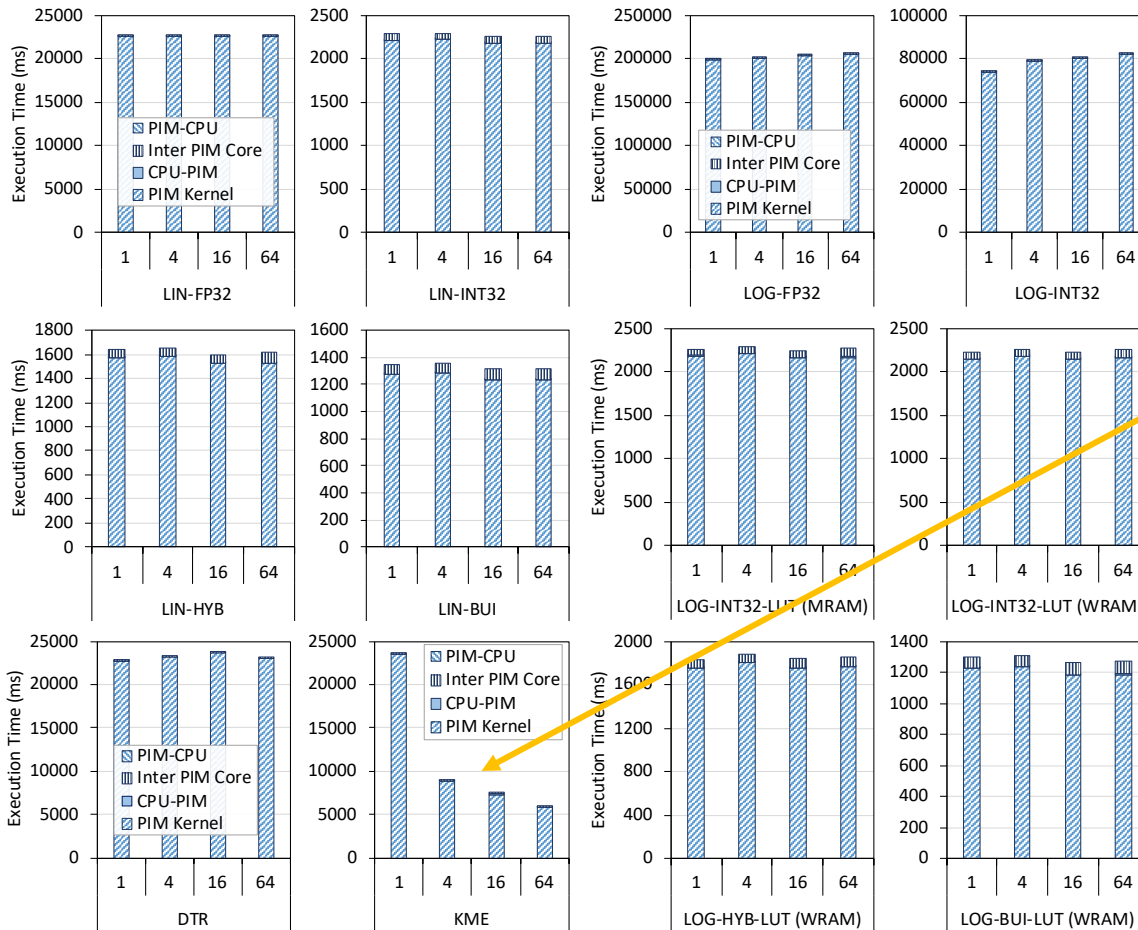
Analysis of PIM Kernels

Performance Scaling

Comparison to CPU and GPU

# Evaluation: Performance Scaling (I)

- Weak scaling: 1 to 64 PIM cores



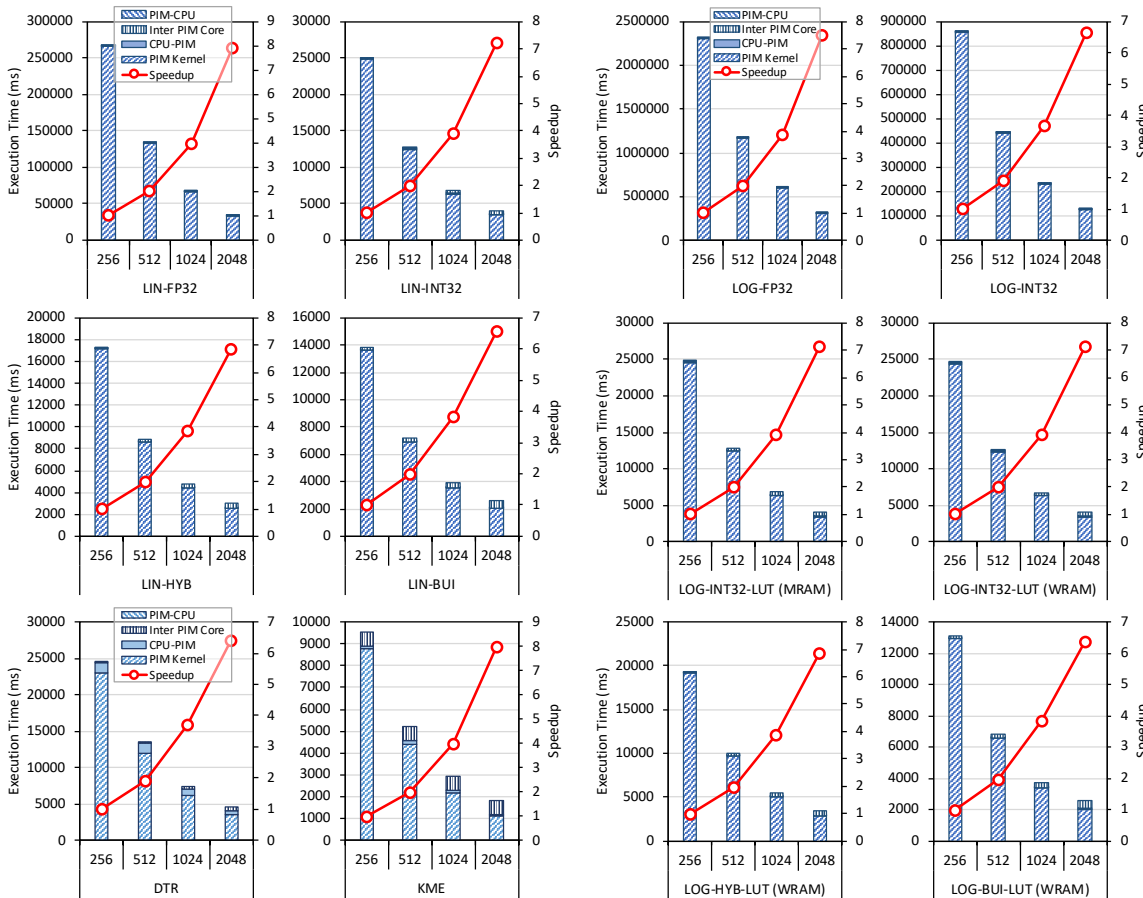
PIM kernel time of LIN, LOG, and DTR scales linearly with the number of PIM cores

KME converges with fewer iterations on a larger dataset

The sum of CPU-PIM, Inter PIM core, and PIM-CPU takes less than 7% of the total execution time in all cases

# Evaluation: Performance Scaling (II)

- Strong scaling: 256 to 2,048 PIM cores



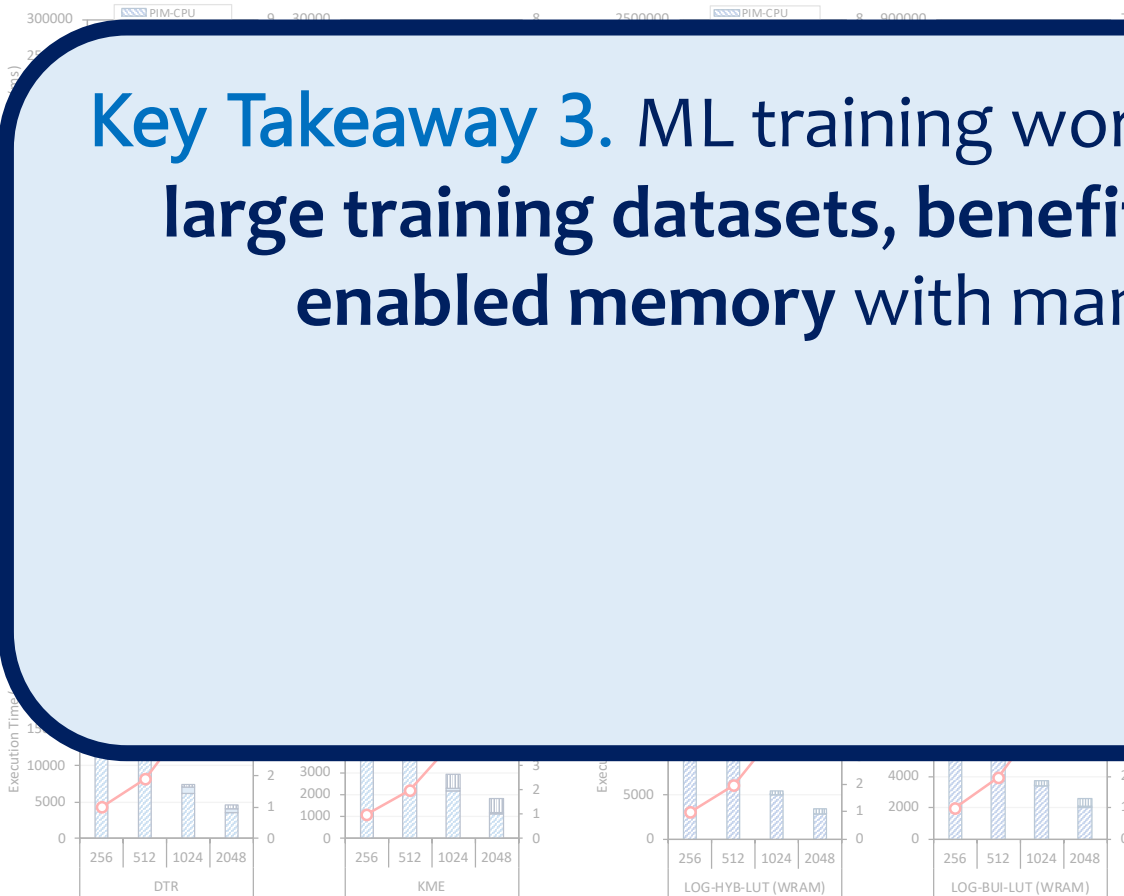
PIM kernel time scales linearly with the number of PIM cores

Little overhead from inter PIM core communication and communication between host and PIM cores

# Evaluation: Performance Scaling (II)

- Strong scaling: 256 to 2,048 PIM cores

**Key Takeaway 3.** ML training workloads, which need large training datasets, benefit from large PIM-enabled memory with many PIM cores.



between host and PIM cores

# Outline

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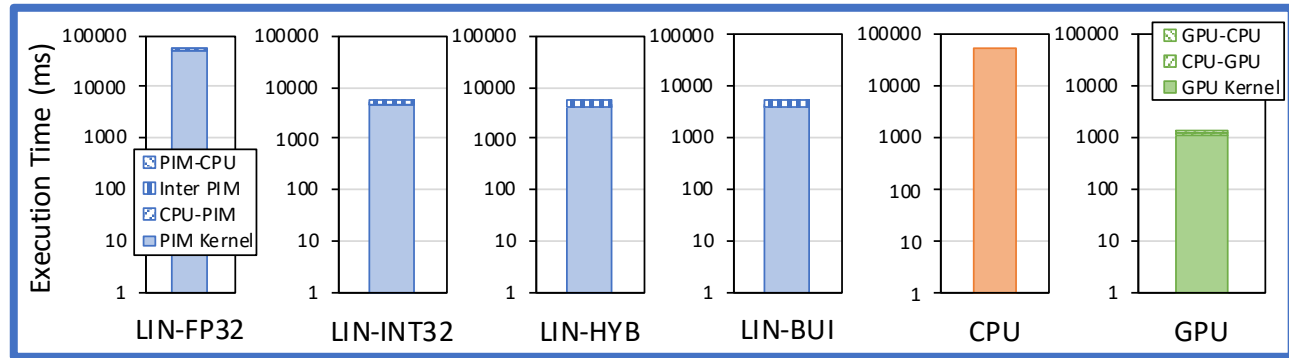
Performance Scaling

Comparison to CPU and GPU

# Comparison to CPU and GPU (I)

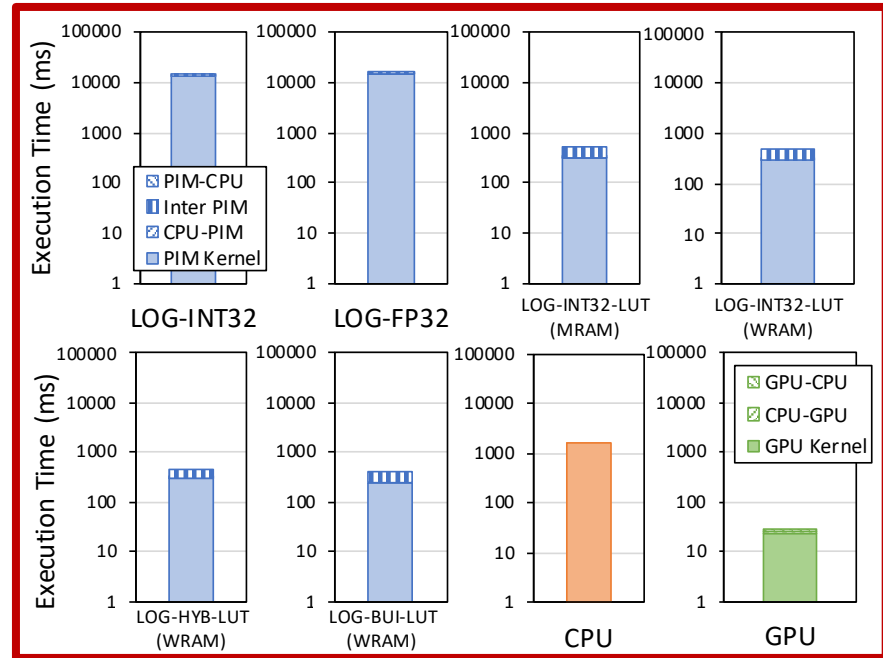
- Linear regression and logistic regression

PIM versions are heavily burdened when they use operations that are not natively supported by the hardware



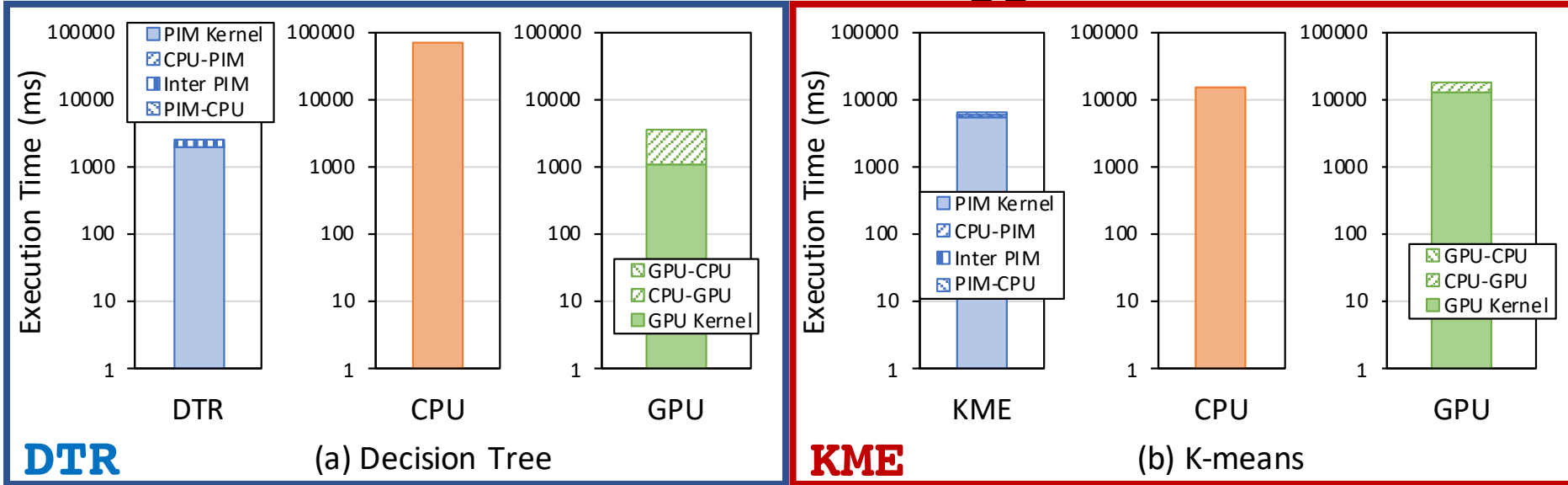
Several optimizations reduce the execution time considerably (LIN/LOG up to 10x/3.9x faster than CPU) and close the gap with GPU performance (LIN/LOG still 4x/16x slower than GPU)

**LOG**



# Comparison to CPU and GPU (II)

- Decision tree and K-means with Higgs boson dataset



PIM version of DTR is **27x** faster than the CPU version and **1.34x** faster than the GPU version

PIM version of KME is **2.8x** faster than the CPU version and **3.2x** faster than the GPU version



# Long arXiv Version

---

- Additional implementation details
- More evaluation results
- Extended observations, takeaways, and recommendations

## **An Experimental Evaluation of Machine Learning Training on a Real Processing-in-Memory System**

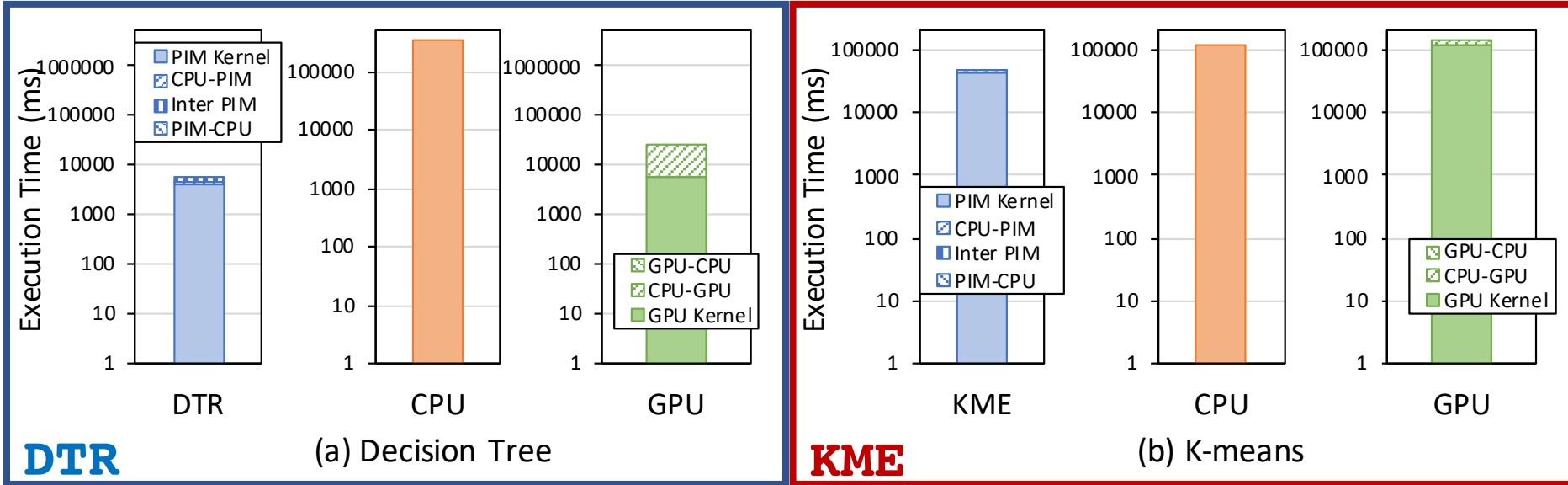
Juan Gómez-Luna<sup>1</sup> Yuxin Guo<sup>1</sup> Sylvan Brocard<sup>2</sup> Julien Legriel<sup>2</sup>  
Remy Cimadomo<sup>2</sup> Geraldo F. Oliveira<sup>1</sup> Gagandeep Singh<sup>1</sup> Onur Mutlu<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>ETH Zürich <sup>2</sup>UPMEM

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2207.07886.pdf>

Source code: <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/pim-ml>

# Comparison to CPU and GPU (III)

- Decision tree and K-means with Criteo 1TB dataset

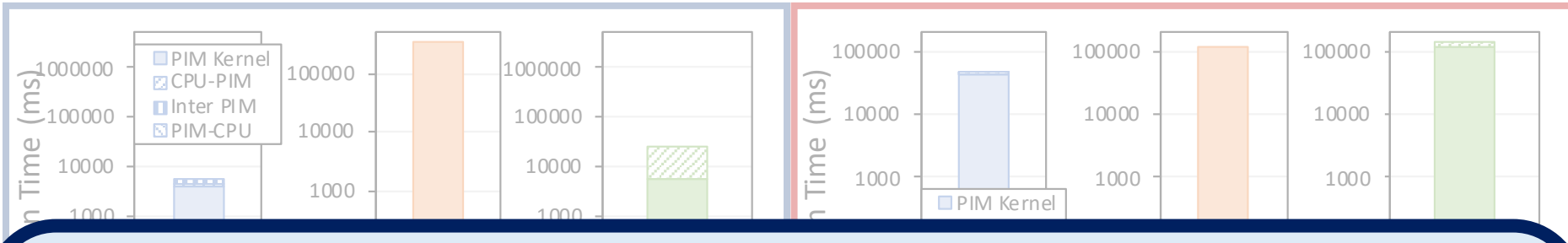


PIM version of DTR is **62x** faster than the CPU version and **4.5x** faster than the GPU version

PIM version of KME is **2.7x** faster than the CPU version and **3.2x** faster than the GPU version

# Comparison to CPU and GPU (IV)

- Decision tree and K-means with Criteo 1TB dataset



**Key Takeaway 4.** ML workloads that require mainly operations natively supported by the PIM architecture, such as decision tree and K-means clustering, outperform their CPU and GPU counterparts.

faster than the CPU version and **4.5x** faster than the GPU version

faster than the CPU version and **3.2x** faster than the GPU version

# Long arXiv Version

---

- Additional implementation details
- More evaluation results
- Extended observations, takeaways, and recommendations

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# Short arXiv Version

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- Presented at ISVLSI 2022

## Machine Learning Training on a Real Processing-in-Memory System

Juan Gómez-Luna<sup>1</sup> Yuxin Guo<sup>1</sup> Sylvan Brocard<sup>2</sup> Julien Legriel<sup>2</sup>  
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<sup>1</sup>ETH Zürich <sup>2</sup>UPMEM

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2206.06022.pdf>

Source code: <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/pim-ml>

<https://youtu.be/CVX8n-X-5wI>

# ISPASS 2023 Version

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- Presented at ISPASS 2023

## Evaluating Machine Learning Workloads on Memory-Centric Computing Systems

Juan Gómez-Luna<sup>1</sup> Yuxin Guo<sup>1</sup> Sylvan Brocard<sup>2</sup> Julien Legriel<sup>2</sup>  
Remy Cimadomo<sup>2</sup> Geraldo F. Oliveira<sup>1</sup> Gagandeep Singh<sup>1</sup> Onur Mutlu<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>ETH Zürich <sup>2</sup>UPMEM

[https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/pub/MLonUPMEM-PIM\\_isspass23.pdf](https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/pub/MLonUPMEM-PIM_isspass23.pdf)

Source code: <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/pim-ml>

<https://youtu.be/60pkal5AeM4>

# Source Code

- <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/pim-ml>

CMU-SAFARI / pim-ml (Public) Edit Pins Unwatch 2

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main 1 branch 0 tags Go to file Add file Code

el1goluj	readme	7d7289d 2 days ago	16 commits
Linear_Regression	upload regression code	2 days ago	
Logistic_Regression	upload regression code	2 days ago	
dpu_kmeans @ 7f28518	submodules	2 days ago	
scikit-dpu @ 1ddeb5d	submodules	2 days ago	
.gitmodules	submodules	2 days ago	
LICENSE	readme	2 days ago	
README.md	readme	2 days ago	

### README.md

## PIM-ML

PIM-ML is a benchmark for training machine learning algorithms on the [UPMEM](#) architecture, which is the first publicly-available real-world processing-in-memory (PIM) architecture. The UPMEM architecture integrates DRAM memory banks and general-purpose in-order cores, called DRAM Processing Units (DPUs), in the same chip.

PIM-ML is designed to understand the potential of modern general-purpose PIM architectures to accelerate machine learning training. PIM-ML implements several representative classic machine learning algorithms:

- Linear Regression
- Logistic Regression
- Decision Tree
- K-means Clustering

# Executive Summary

---

- **Training machine learning** (ML) algorithms is a computationally expensive process, frequently **memory-bound** due to repeatedly accessing **large training datasets**
- **Memory-centric computing systems**, i.e., with **Processing-in-Memory** (PIM) capabilities, can alleviate this **data movement bottleneck**
- Real-world PIM systems have only recently been manufactured and commercialized
  - UPMEM has designed and fabricated **the first publicly-available real-world PIM architecture**
- Our goal is to understand the potential of **modern general-purpose PIM architectures to accelerate machine learning training**
- Our main contributions:
  - **PIM implementation of several classic machine learning algorithms**: linear regression, logistic regression, decision tree, K-means clustering
  - **Workload characterization** in terms of quality, performance, and scaling
  - **Comparison to their counterpart implementations** on processor-centric systems (CPU and GPU)
    - PIM version of DTR is **27x / 1.34x faster than the CPU / GPU** version, respectively
    - PIM version of KME is **2.8x / 3.2x faster than the CPU / GPU** version, respectively
  - Source code: <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/pim-ml>
- Experimental evaluation on a real-world **PIM system with 2,524 PIM cores @ 425 MHz and 158 GB of DRAM memory**
- Key observations, **takeaways**, and **recommendations** for ML workloads on general-purpose PIM systems



# Lecture on PIM-ML

## Evaluation: Analysis of PIM Kernels (II)



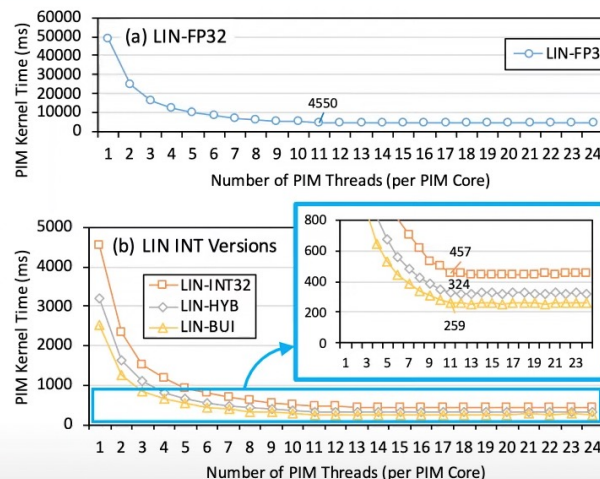
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PIM Course: Lecture 12: ML Training on a Real PIM Architecture (Spring 2023)

Onur Mutlu Lectures  
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Projects & Seminars, ETH Zürich, Spring 2023  
Data-Centric Architectures: Fundamentally Improving Performance and Energy

# An Experimental Evaluation of Machine Learning Training on a Real Processing-in-Memory System

Juan Gómez Luna, Yuxin Guo, Sylvan Brocard,  
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<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/pim-ml>

[juang@ethz.ch](mailto:juang@ethz.ch)



**SAFARI**



Thursday, May 25, 2023

# **Genomics Sequence Alignment**

# High Throughput Sequence Alignment Using Real Processing-in-Memory Systems

Safaa Diab, Amir Nassereldine, Mohammed Alser,  
Juan Gómez Luna, Onur Mutlu, Izzat El Hajj

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2208.01243.pdf>

<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/alignment-in-memory>

[juang@ethz.ch](mailto:juang@ethz.ch)

# Sequence Alignment on Processing-in-Memory

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- Published in Bioinformatics (2023)

## A Framework for High-throughput Sequence Alignment using Real Processing-in-Memory Systems

Safaa Diab<sup>1</sup> Amir Nassereldine<sup>1</sup> Mohammed Alser<sup>2</sup> Juan Gómez Luna<sup>2</sup>  
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<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2204.02085.pdf>

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2208.01243.pdf>

Source code: <https://github.com/safaad/aim>

# Executive Summary

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- **Genome sequence alignment** is typically **memory-bound** on conventional processor-centric systems (CPU, GPU)
- **Processing-in-memory** (PIM) has the potential to overcome this data movement bottleneck by placing compute capabilities near/inside memory arrays
- We present **Alignment-in-Memory** (AiM), a PIM framework for genome sequence alignment on general-purpose PIM systems
  - AiM supports **multiple alignment algorithms**: NW, SWG, GenASM, WFA
  - Implemented for the UPMEM PIM architecture
- Our evaluation shows that sequence alignment on PIM can be significantly faster than on CPUs and GPUs

# Outline

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Background & Motivation:  
Sequence Alignment on CPU

Processing-in-memory to Alleviate the Data  
Movement Bottleneck

Alignment-in-memory: A Framework for  
Sequence Alignment on PIM Systems

Evaluation

# Genome Analysis

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- A **genome** is the complete set of an organism's genetic instructions
- DNA is a string of base pairs (characters): A, C, G, T
  - The **human genome contains 3.2 billion base pairs**
  - **Genome analysis** helps to understand genetic variations, predict the presence and abundance of microbes, monitor disease outbreaks, develop personalized medicine, etc.
- Sequencing machines provide only **randomized fragments (reads)**, which need to be mapped to the reference genome
  - Depending on the sequencing technology, there are short (50-300 bp) and long reads (10K-100K bp)
- A key step in the read mapping process is **sequence alignment**
  - Quadratic-time dynamic programming algorithms, e.g., **Smith-Waterman**, Needleman-Wunsch
  - State-of-the-art algorithms: GenASM, WFA, WFA-adaptive



# Sequence Alignment: Smith-Waterman (I)

- Smith-Waterman performs local **sequence alignment**
  - We compare two sequences A and B
  - For any two elements of A and B, we can obtain a **similarity score**

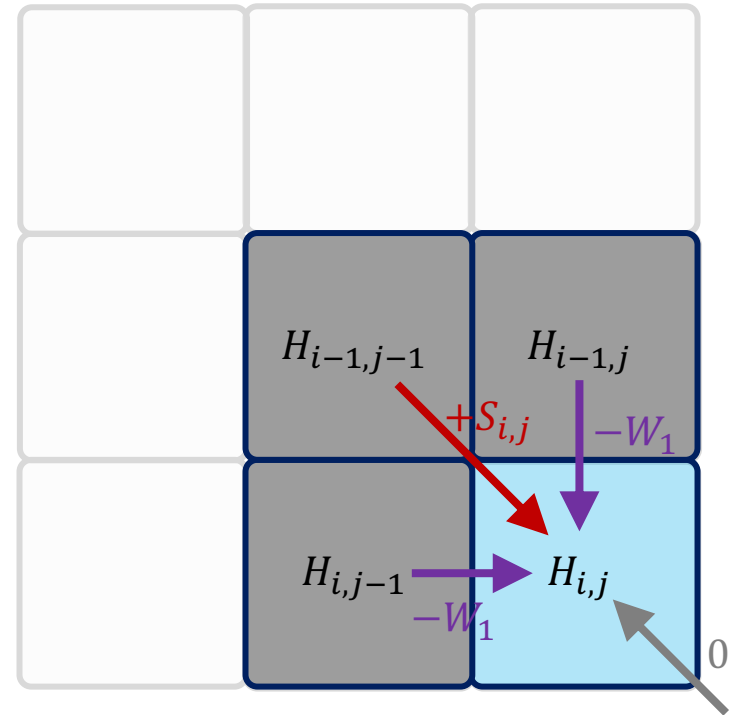
- $S_{i,j} = \begin{cases} +3, & A_i = B_j \\ -3, & A_i \neq B_j \end{cases}$

- **Gap penalty** (linear)

- $W_1 = 2$
- $W_k = kW_1$

- **Scoring matrix**

- $H_{ij} = \max \begin{cases} H_{i-1,j-1} + S_{i,j} \\ H_{i-1,j} - W_1 \\ H_{i,j-1} - W_1 \\ 0 \end{cases}$



# Sequence Alignment: Smith-Waterman (II)

- Let's align two sequences: AACCC and AATC
- First, we compute the **scoring matrix**

		A	A	T	C	
		0	0	0	0	
A		0	3	3	1	0
A		0	3	6	4	2
C		0	1	4	3	7
C		0	0	2	1	6

$$H_{1,1} = \max(H_{0,0} + S_{1,1}, H_{0,1} - W_1, H_{1,0} - W_1, 0) \\ = \max(0 + 3, 0 - 2, 0 - 2, 0) = 3$$

$$H_{2,1} = \max(H_{1,0} + S_{2,1}, H_{1,1} - W_1, H_{2,0} - W_1, 0) \\ = \max(0 + 3, 3 - 2, 0 - 2, 0) = 3$$

$$H_{1,2} = \max(H_{0,1} + S_{1,2}, H_{0,2} - W_1, H_{1,1} - W_1, 0) \\ = \max(0 + 3, 0 - 2, 3 - 2, 0) = 3$$

To calculate one antidiagonal, we need the two previous antidiagonals

# Sequence Alignment: Smith-Waterman (III)

- Let's align two sequences: AACCC and AATC
- Second, **traceback** and alignment

		A	A	T	C	
		0	0	0	0	
A		0	3	3	1	0
A		0	3	6	4	2
C		0	1	4	3	7
C		0	0	2	1	6

A A T C  
| | | |  
A A - C

For the traceback process, we need the **direction** of the score calculation

# Sequence Alignment Algorithms

Needleman-Wunsch (NW)

D		A	T	A
	0	4	8	12
A	4	0	4	8
T	8	4	0	4
C	12	8	4	2
A	16	12	8	4

Smith-Waterman-Gotoh (SWG)

M		A	T	A
	0	5	6	7
A	5	0	5	6
T	6	5	0	5
C	7	6	5	2
A	8	7	6	5

D		A	T	A
		$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
A	-	10	11	12
T	-	5	10	11
C	-	6	5	10
A	-	7	6	7

I		A	T	A
		-	-	-
A	$\infty$	10	5	6
T	$\infty$	11	10	5
C	$\infty$	12	11	10
A	$\infty$	13	12	11

Wavefront Algorithm (WFA)

M		A	T	A
	0	5	6	7
A	5	0		
T	6		0	5
C	7	5	2	
A	8		5	

D		A	T	A
		$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
A	-			
T	-			
C	-	5		
A	-			

I		A	T	A
		-	-	-
A	$\infty$			
T	$\infty$		5	
C	$\infty$			
A	$\infty$			

GenASM

Deletion Example (Text Location=0)				
Text[0]: C	Text[1]: G	Text[2]: T	Text[3]: G	Text[4]: A
R0- : ....	R0- : ....	R0-M : 1011	R0-M : 1101	R0-M : 1110
R1-M : 0111	R1-D : 1011	R1- : ....	R1- : ....	R1- : ....
Match(C)	Del(-)	Match(T)	Match(G)	Match(A)
<3,0,1>	<2,1,1>	<2,2,0>	<1,3,0>	<0,4,0>

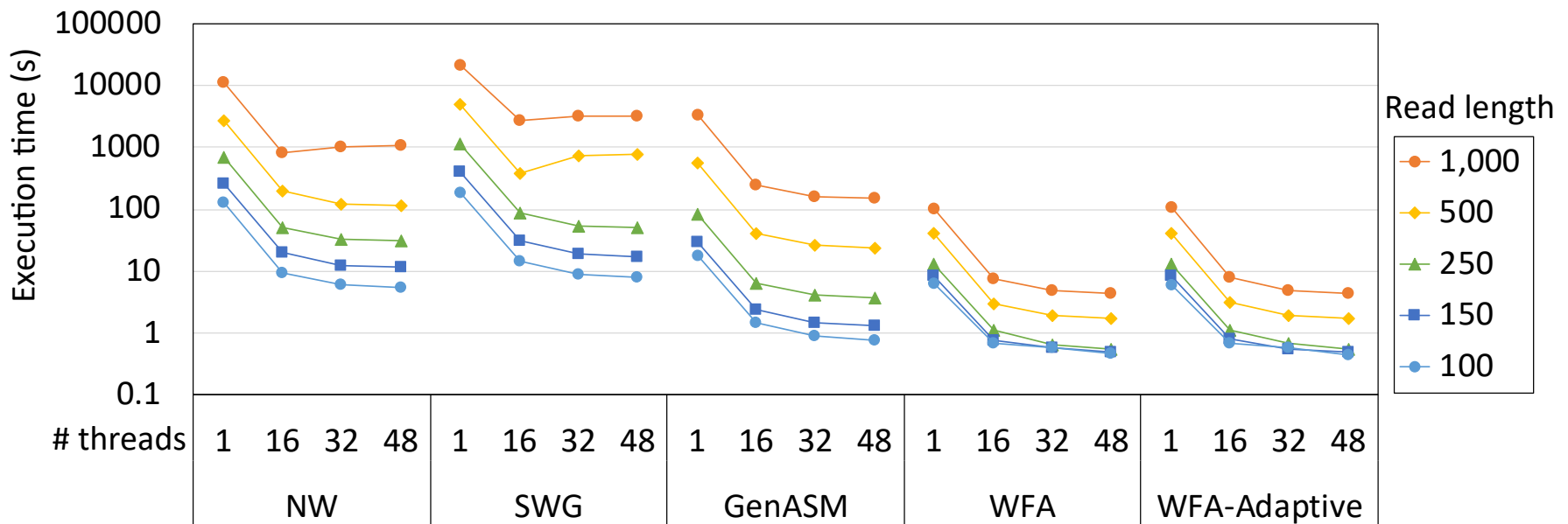
Substitution Example (Text Location=1)			
Text[1]: G	Text[2]: T	Text[3]: G	Text[4]: A
R0- : ....	R0-M : 1011	R0-M : 1101	R0-M : 1110
R1-S : 0110	R1- : ....	R1- : ....	R1- : ....
Subs(C)	Match(T)	Match(G)	Match(A)
<3,1,1>	<2,2,0>	<1,3,0>	<0,4,0>

Insertion Example (Text Location=2)			
Text[-]	Text[2]: T	Text[3]: G	Text[4]: A
R0- : ....	R0-M : 1011	R0-M : 1101	R0-M : 1110
R1-I : 0110	R1- : ....	R1- : ....	R1- : ....
Ins(C)	Match(T)	Match(G)	Match(A)
<3,2,1>	<2,2,0>	<1,3,0>	<0,4,0>

Senol Cali et al. "GenASM: A high-performance, low-power approximate string matching acceleration framework for genome sequence analysis." MICRO 2020  
 Marco-Sola et al. "Fast gap-affine pairwise alignment using the wavefront algorithm." Bioinformatics (2021)

# Motivation: Alignment on CPU (I)

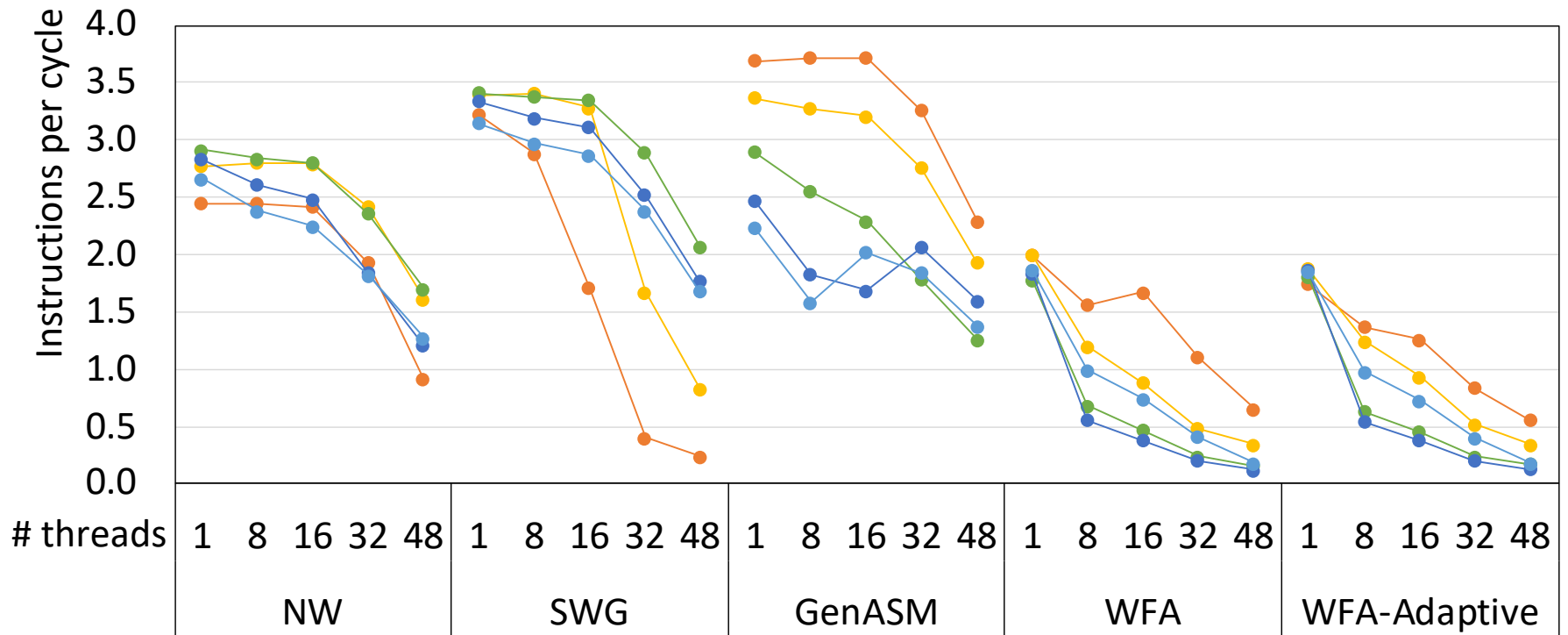
- Scaling of sequence alignment on CPU
  - Execution time



Performance tends to saturate  
as the number of CPU threads grows

# Motivation: Alignment on CPU (II)

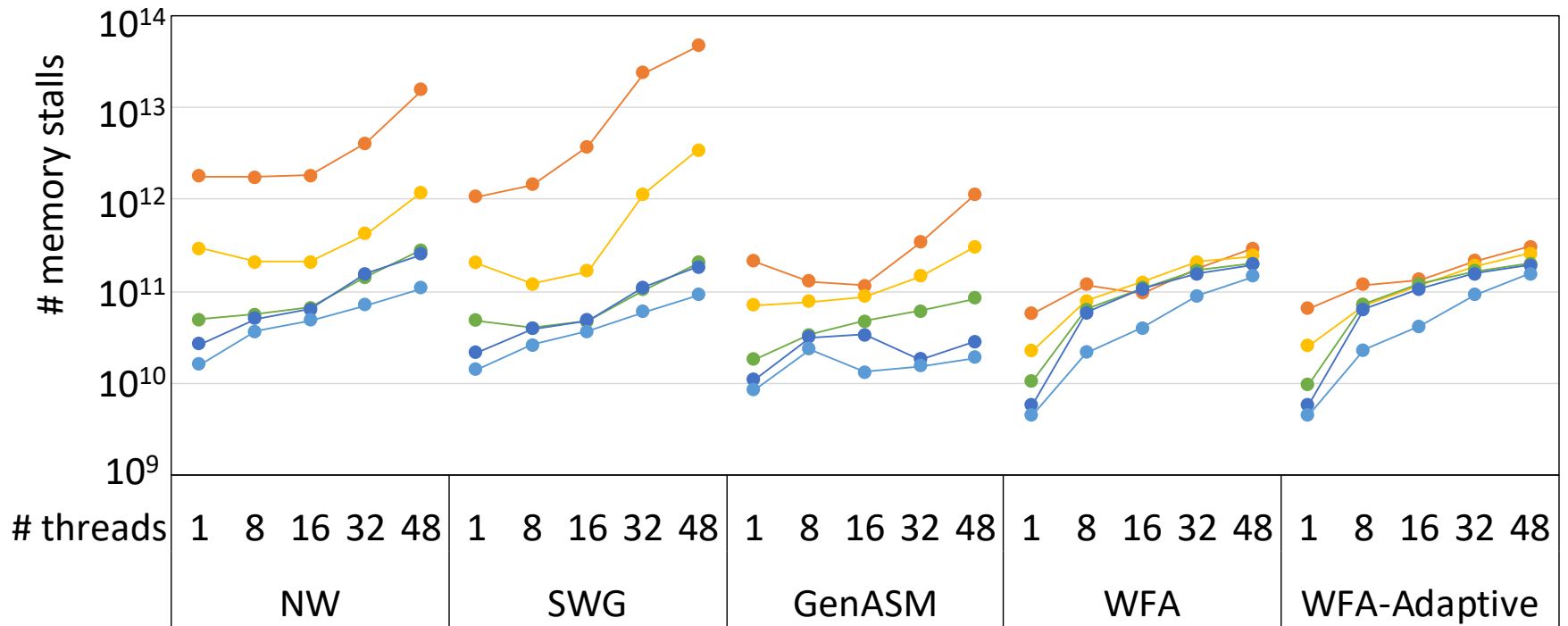
- Scaling of sequence alignment on CPU
  - Instructions per cycle



As the number of CPU threads grows, IPC decreases.  
This means that **threads spend more time idle**

# Motivation: Alignment on CPU (III)

- Scaling of sequence alignment on CPU
  - Memory stalls



As the number of CPU threads grows,  
threads spend more time waiting for memory

# Outline

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Sequence Alignment on CPU

Processing-in-memory to Alleviate the Data  
Movement Bottleneck

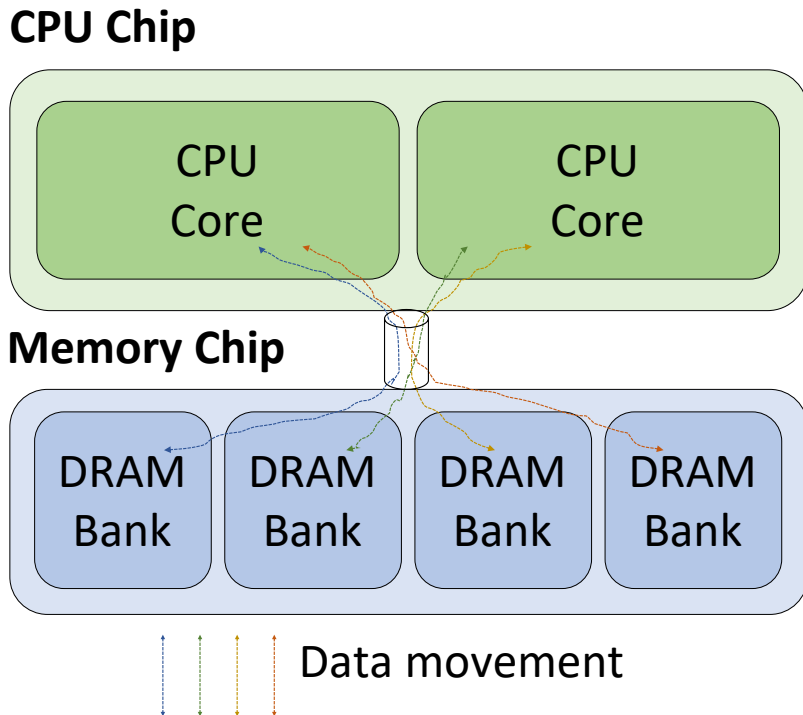
Alignment-in-memory: A Framework for  
Sequence Alignment on PIM Systems

Evaluation

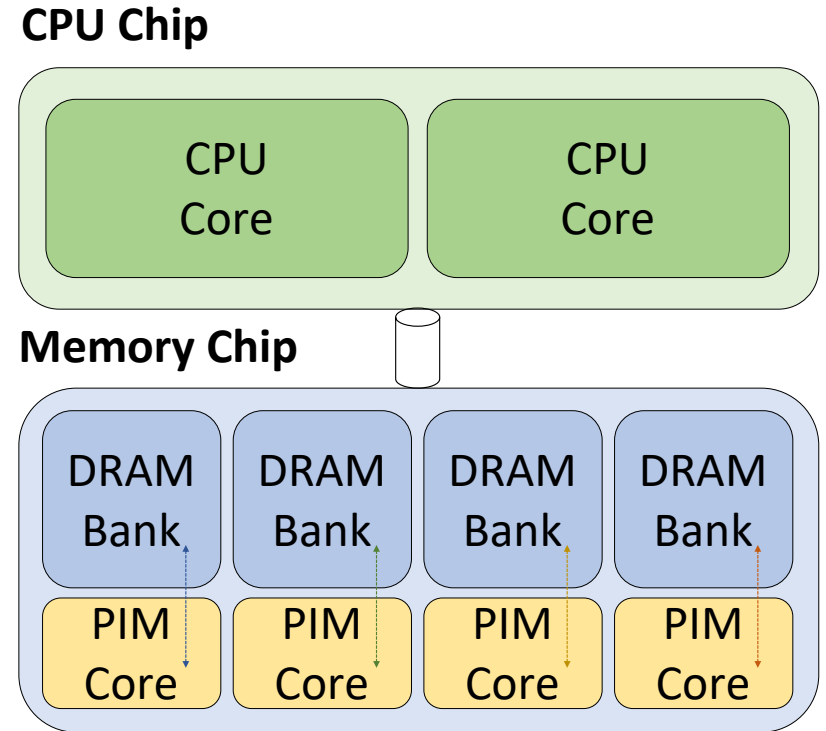


# PIM to Minimize Data Movement

- Processing-in-memory can alleviate the **data movement bottleneck**



Conventional CPU processing



Processing-in-memory (PIM)

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# Alignment-in-Memory (AiM)

- Supported algorithms

## Needleman-Wunsch (NW)

D		A	T	A
	0	4	8	12
A	4	0	4	8
T	8	4	0	4
C	12	8	4	2
A	16	12	8	4

## GenASM

Deletion Example (Text Location=0) (a)

Text[0]: C    Text[1]: G    Text[2]: T    Text[3]: G    Text[4]: A

R0- : ....	R0- : ....	R0-M : 1011	R0-M : 1101	R0-M : 1110
R1-M : 0111	R1-D : 1011	R1- : ....	R1- : ....	R1- : ....

Match(C)    Del(-)    Match(T)    Match(G)    Match(A)

<3,0,1>    <2,1,1>    <2,2,0>    <1,3,0>    <0,4,0>

Substitution Example (Text Location=1) (b)

Text[1]: G    Text[2]: T    Text[3]: G    Text[4]: A

R0- : ....	R0-M : 1011	R0-M : 1101	R0-M : 1110
R1-S : 0110	R1- : ....	R1- : ....	R1- : ....

Subs(C)    Match(T)    Match(G)    Match(A)

<3,1,1>    <2,2,0>    <1,3,0>    <0,4,0>

Insertion Example (Text Location=2) (c)

Text[-]    Text[2]: T    Text[3]: G    Text[4]: A

R0- : ....	R0-M : 1011	R0-M : 1101	R0-M : 1110
R1-I : 0110	R1- : ....	R1- : ....	R1- : ....

Ins(C)    Match(T)    Match(G)    Match(A)

<3,2,1>    <2,2,0>    <1,3,0>    <0,4,0>

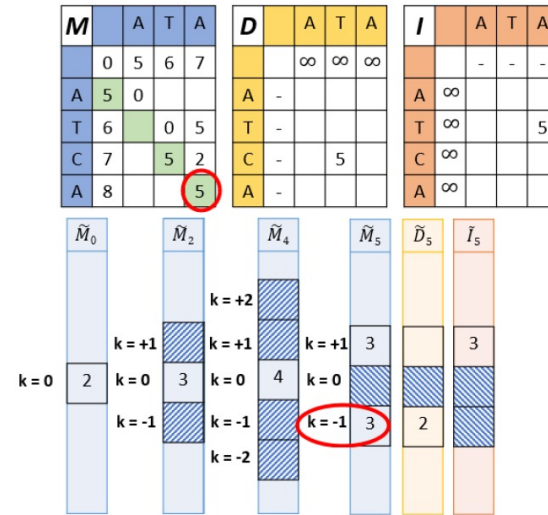
## Smith-Waterman-Gotoh (SWG)

M		A	T	A
	0	5	6	7
A	5	0	5	6
T	6	5	0	5
C	7	6	5	2
A	8	7	6	5

D		A	T	A
		∞	∞	∞
A	-	10	11	12
T	-	5	10	11
C	-	6	5	10
A	-	7	6	7

I		A	T	A
		-	-	-
A	∞	10	5	6
T	∞	11	10	5
C	∞	12	11	10
A	∞	13	12	11

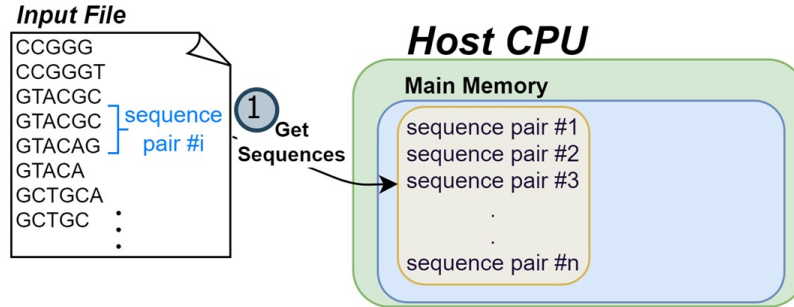
## Wavefront Algorithm (WFA)



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 Marco-Sola et al. "Fast gap-affine pairwise alignment using the wavefront algorithm." Bioinformatics (2021)

# Alignment-in-Memory (AiM)

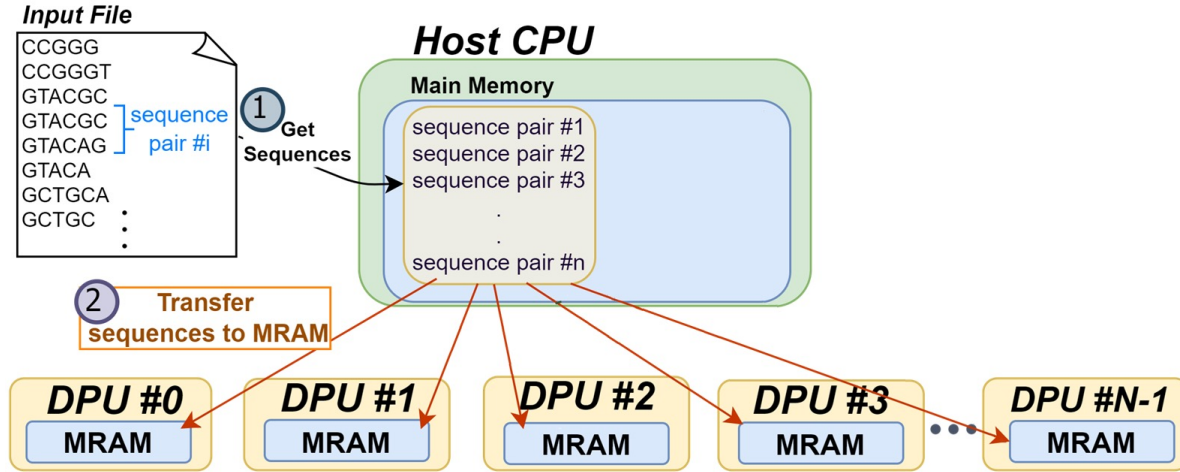
- A framework for sequence alignment on PIM systems



(1) The host CPU reads sequence pairs from an input file and stores them in main memory

# Alignment-in-Memory (AiM)

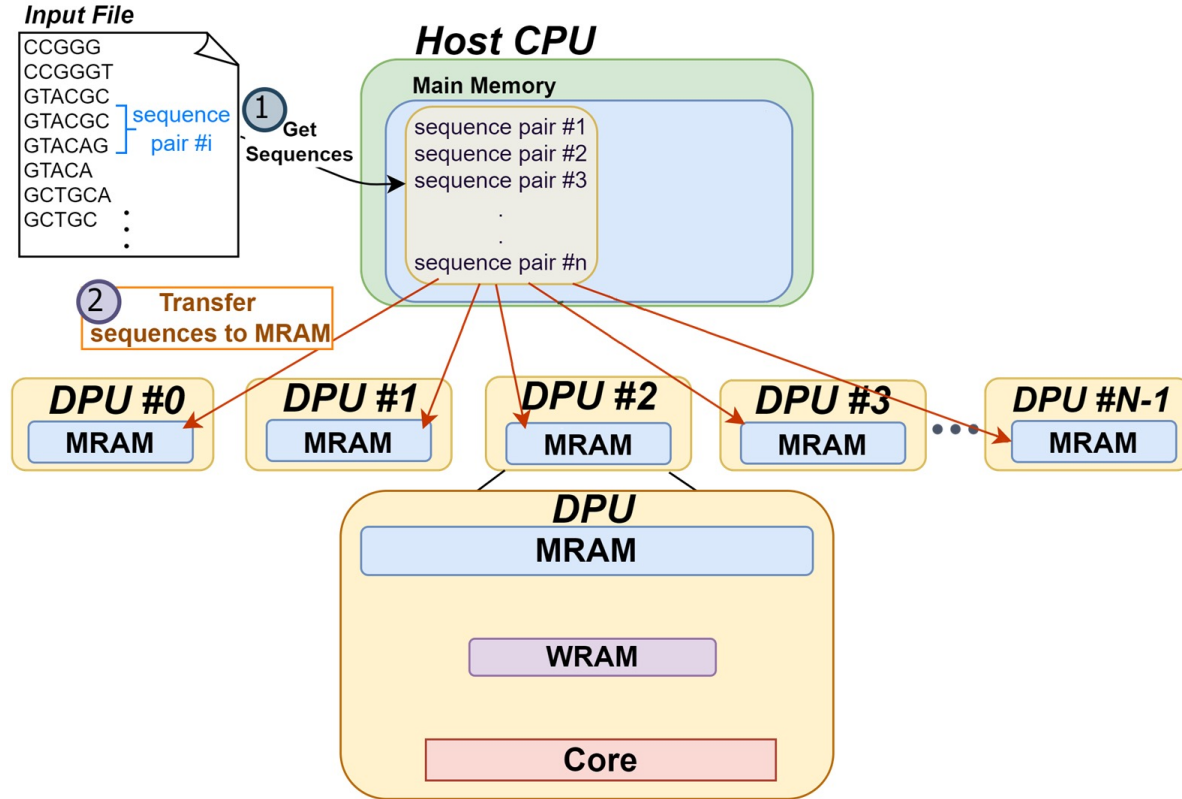
- A framework for sequence alignment on PIM systems



(2) The sequence pairs are evenly partitioned across PIM cores (DPUs) and transferred to the DRAM banks (MRAM) in the PIM DIMMs

# Alignment-in-Memory (AiM)

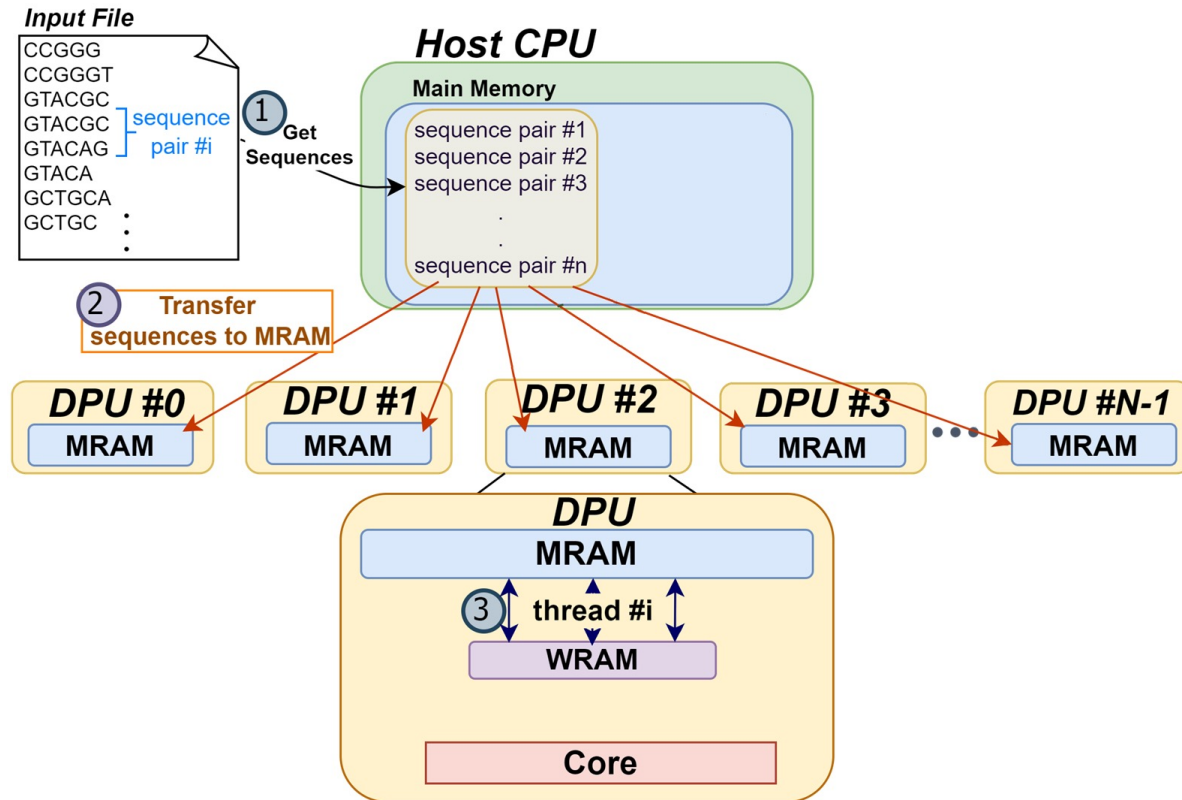
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In each PIM core (DPU) different threads will align different sequence pairs. This approach avoids any inter-thread or inter PIM core synchronization

# Alignment-in-Memory (AiM)

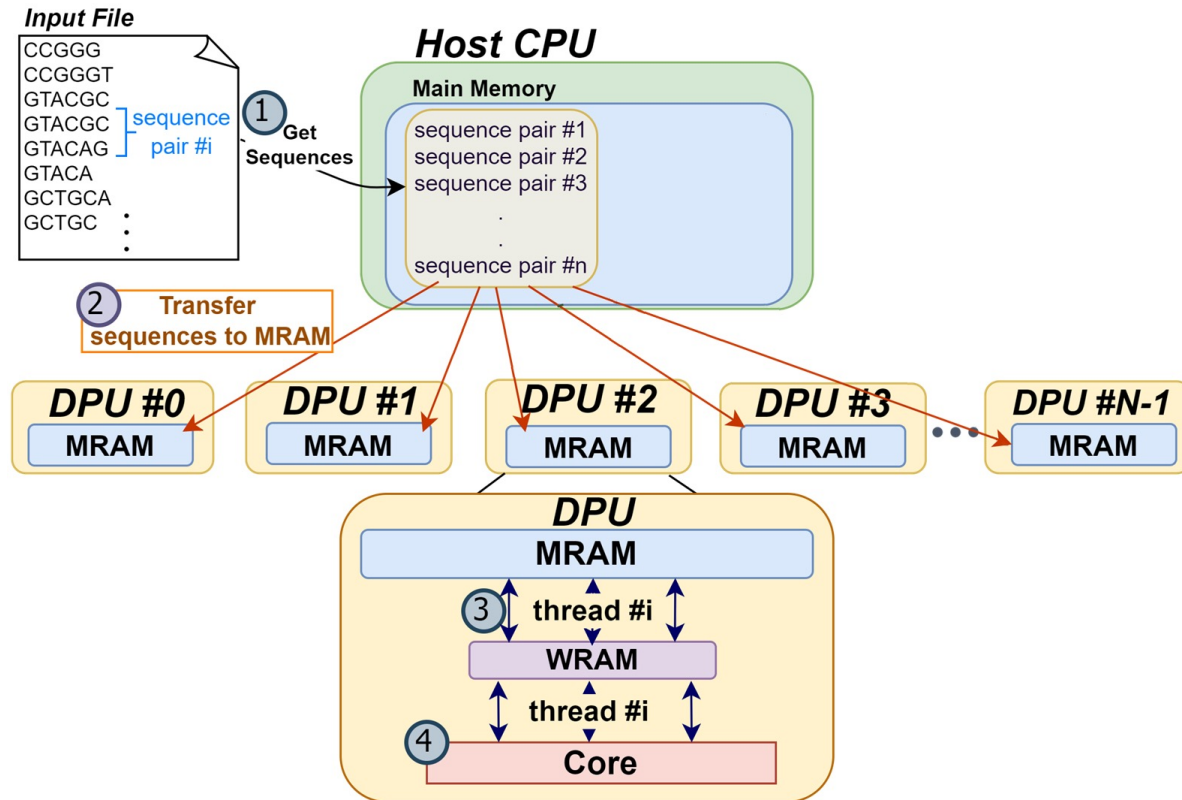
- A framework for sequence alignment on PIM systems



(3) Each thread copies a sequence pair from the DRAM bank (MRAM) to the scratchpad (WRAM) using a DMA transfer

# Alignment-in-Memory (AiM)

- A framework for sequence alignment on PIM systems

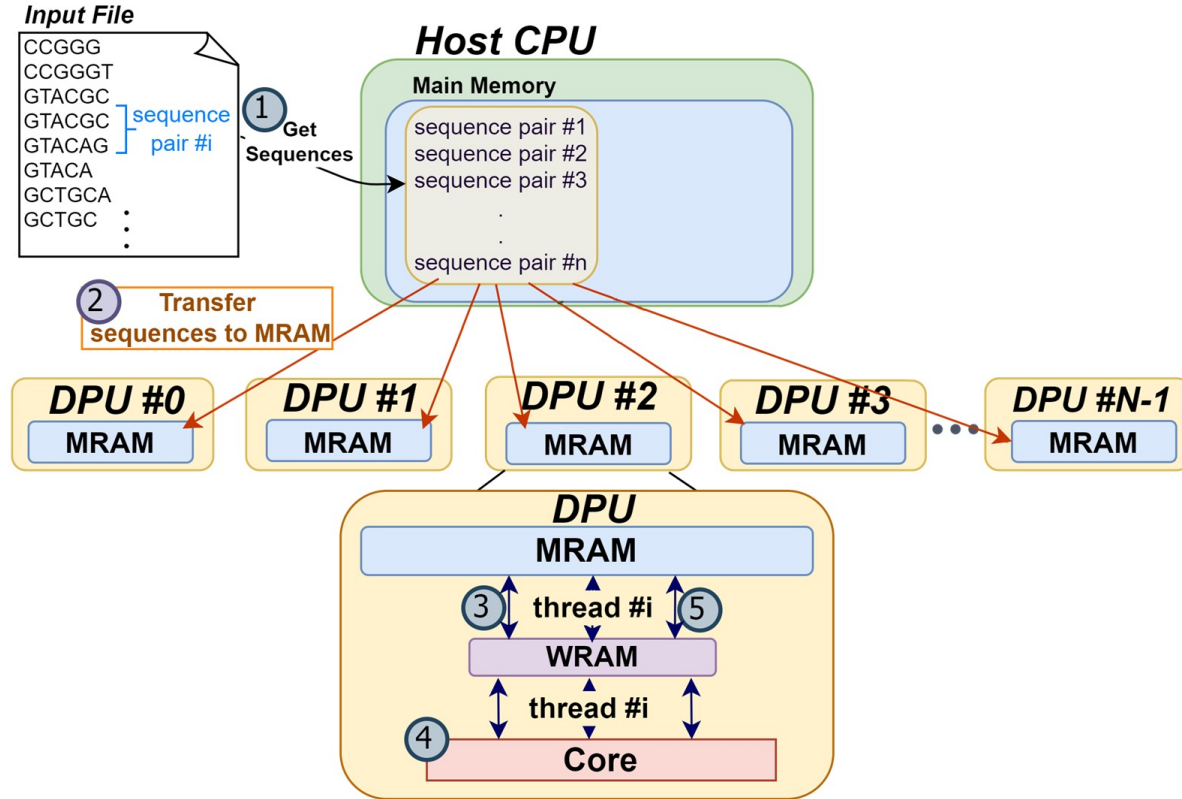


(4) Threads align the sequence pairs and extract the alignment operations using traceback



# Alignment-in-Memory (AiM)

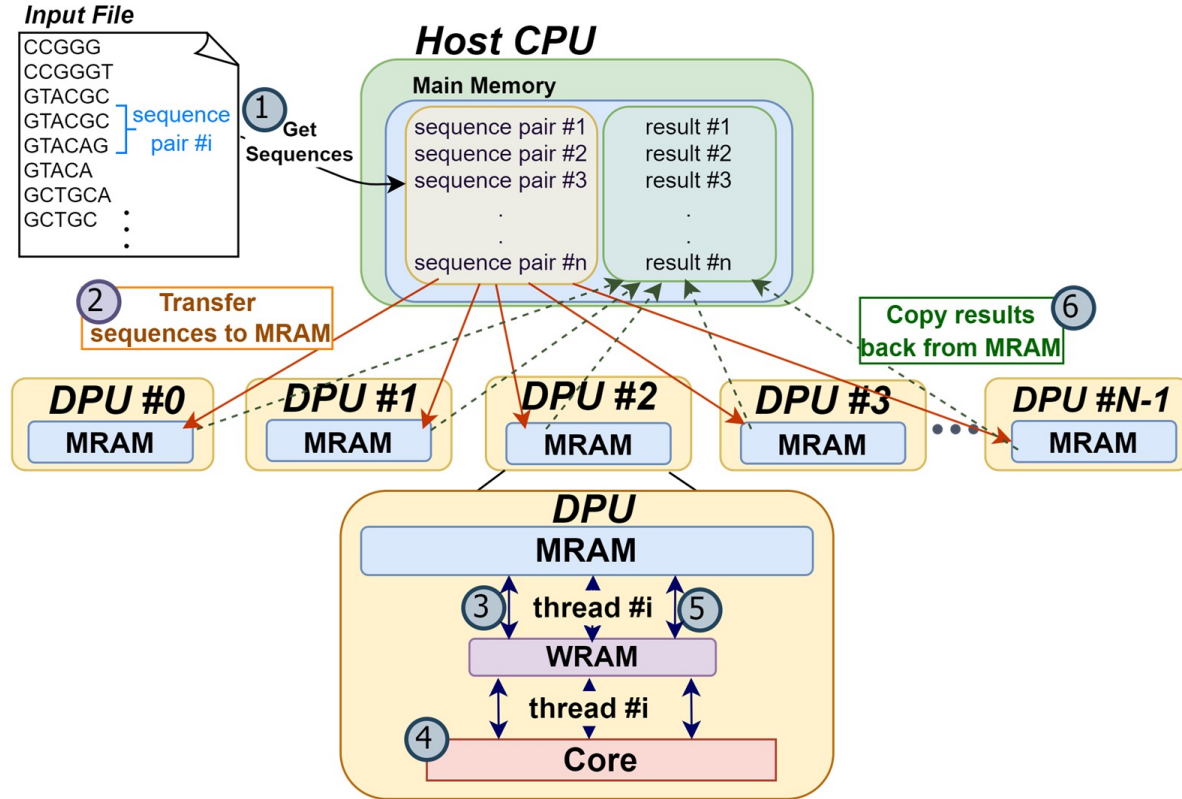
- A framework for sequence alignment on PIM systems



(5) Threads write the alignment score and operations to the DRAM bank via a DMA write transfer

# Alignment-in-Memory (AiM)

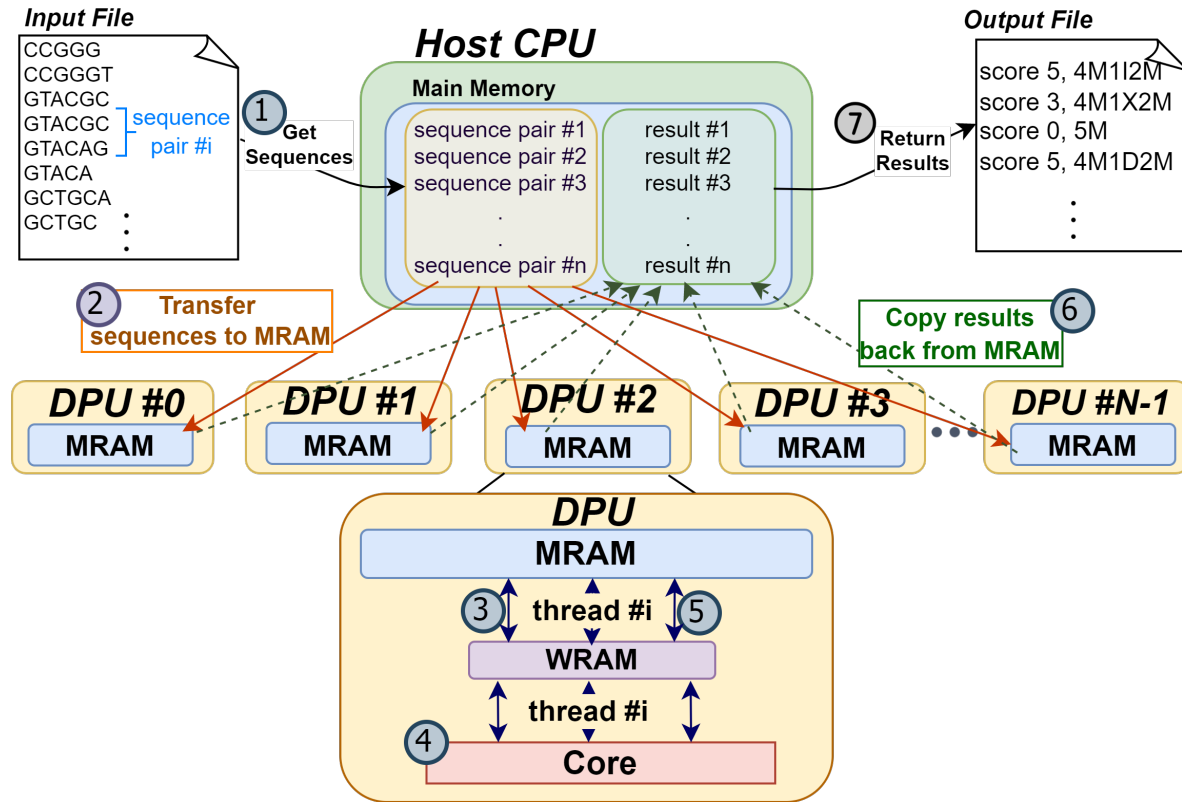
- A framework for sequence alignment on PIM systems



(6) Once the execution on the PIM core has finished, the host CPU reads the alignment score and operations of each sequence pair

# Alignment-in-Memory (AiM)

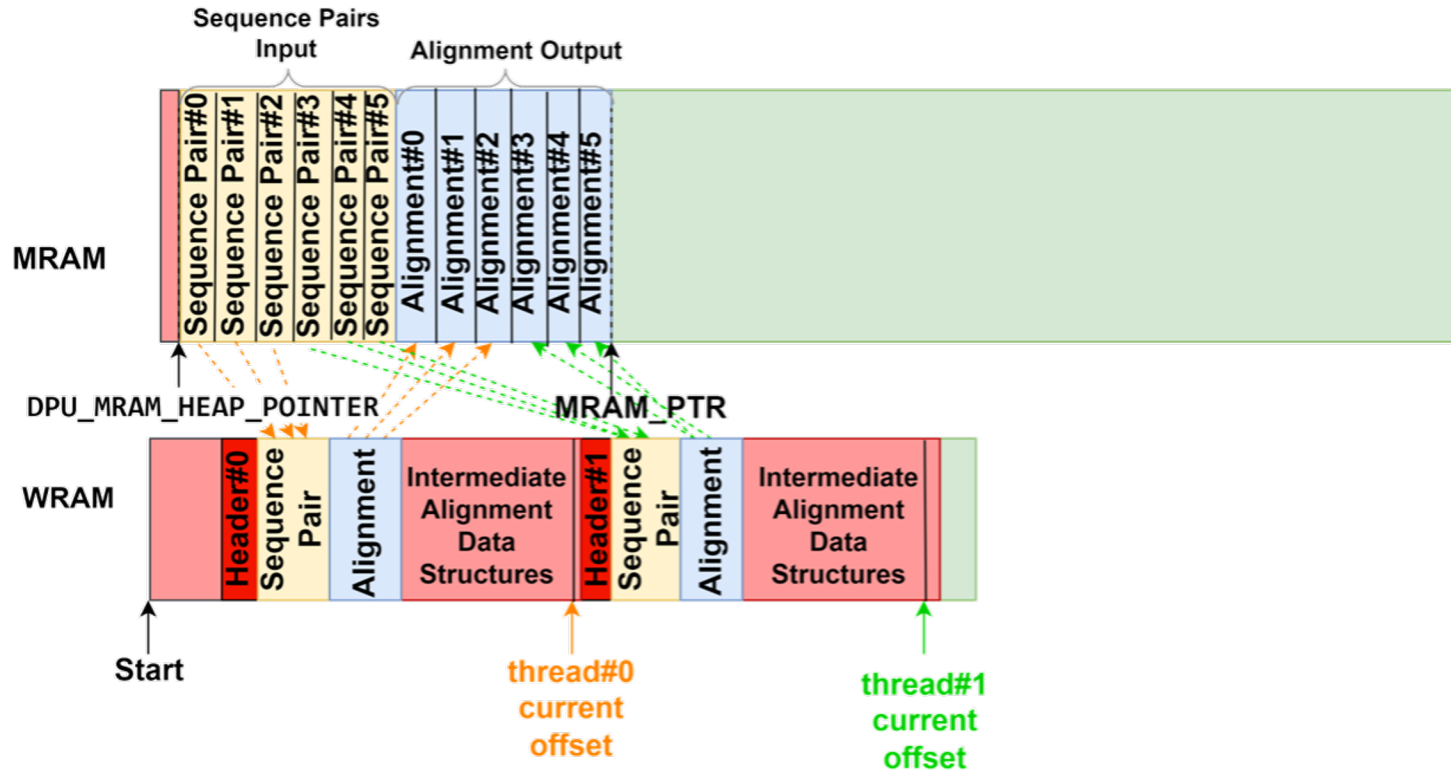
- A framework for sequence alignment on PIM systems



(7) The host CPU writes the alignment results to an output file

# Data Management (I)

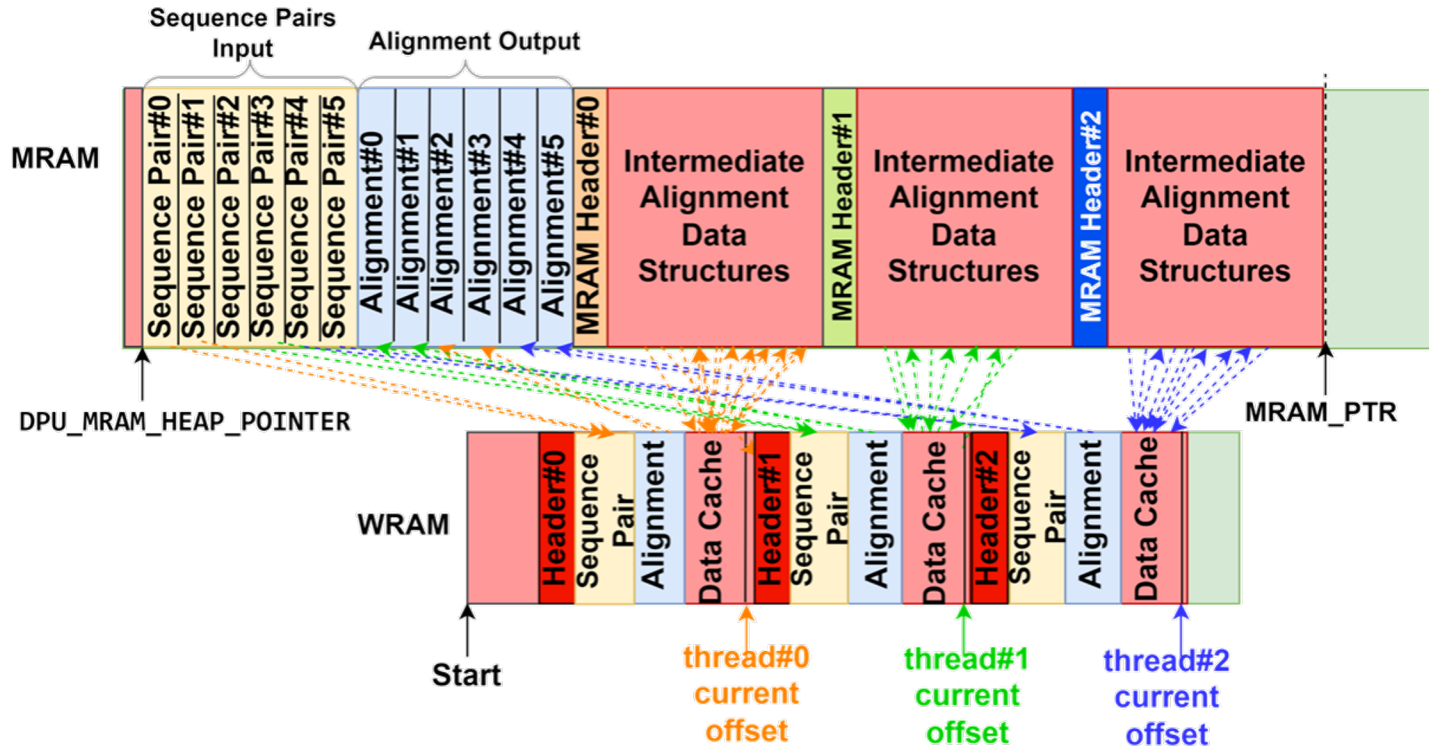
- Using WRAM only for intermediate data structures



The scratchpad (WRAM) is fast but has limited capacity. As a result, larger sequences need larger intermediate data structures, which may limit the number of concurrent PIM threads

# Data Management (II)

- Using WRAM+MRAM for intermediate data structures



Data cache in the scratchpad (WRAM) is loaded on demand. On average, longer access latency than WRAM only, but it is possible to run more concurrent PIM threads

# Data Management (III)

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- WFA and WFA-adaptive use **intermediate data structures of varying size**
  - Wavefront components
- Thus, they require dynamic memory allocation
- UPMEM SDK provides an incremental dynamic memory allocator
  - However, this memory allocator is shared by all PIM threads, which requires synchronization
- We design a **custom per-thread memory allocator** for low-overhead dynamic memory allocation

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Evaluation

# Evaluation Methodology

- Real and synthetic datasets

Read Lengths	Edit Distances	Description
100	0-5%	Real, Accession# ERR240727 *
150	0-5%	Real, Accession# SRR826460 *
250	0-5%	Real, Accession# SRR826471 *
500, 1000, 5000, 10000	0-5%	Synthetic ^

\*<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/view>

^<https://github.com/smarco/WFA2-lib>

- Evaluated systems

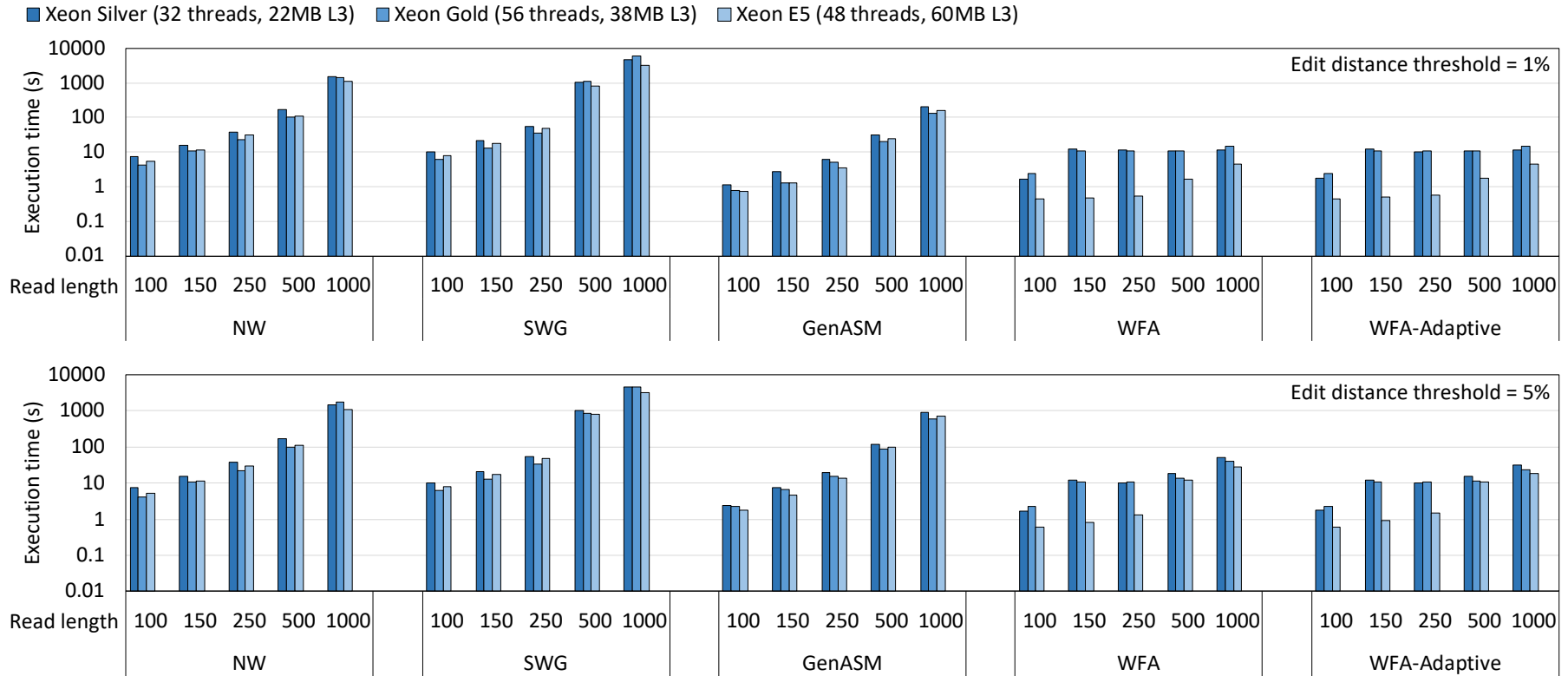
- UPMEM PIM system with 2,560 PIM cores @ 425 MHz and 160 GB of DRAM
- Three CPU systems

System	1	2	3
<b>CPU</b>	Intel Xeon Silver 4215	Intel Xeon Gold 5120	Intel Xeon E5-2697 v2
<b>Process node</b>	14 nm	14 nm	22 nm
<b>Sockets</b>	2	2	2
<b>Cores</b>	16	28	24
<b>Threads</b>	32	56	48
<b>Frequency</b>	2.50 GHz	2.20 GHz	2.70 GHz
<b>L3 cache</b>	22 MB	38 MB	60 MB
<b>Memory</b>	256 GB	64 GB	32 GB
<b>CPU TDP</b>	170 W	210 W	260 W



# Evaluation: PIM vs. CPU (I)

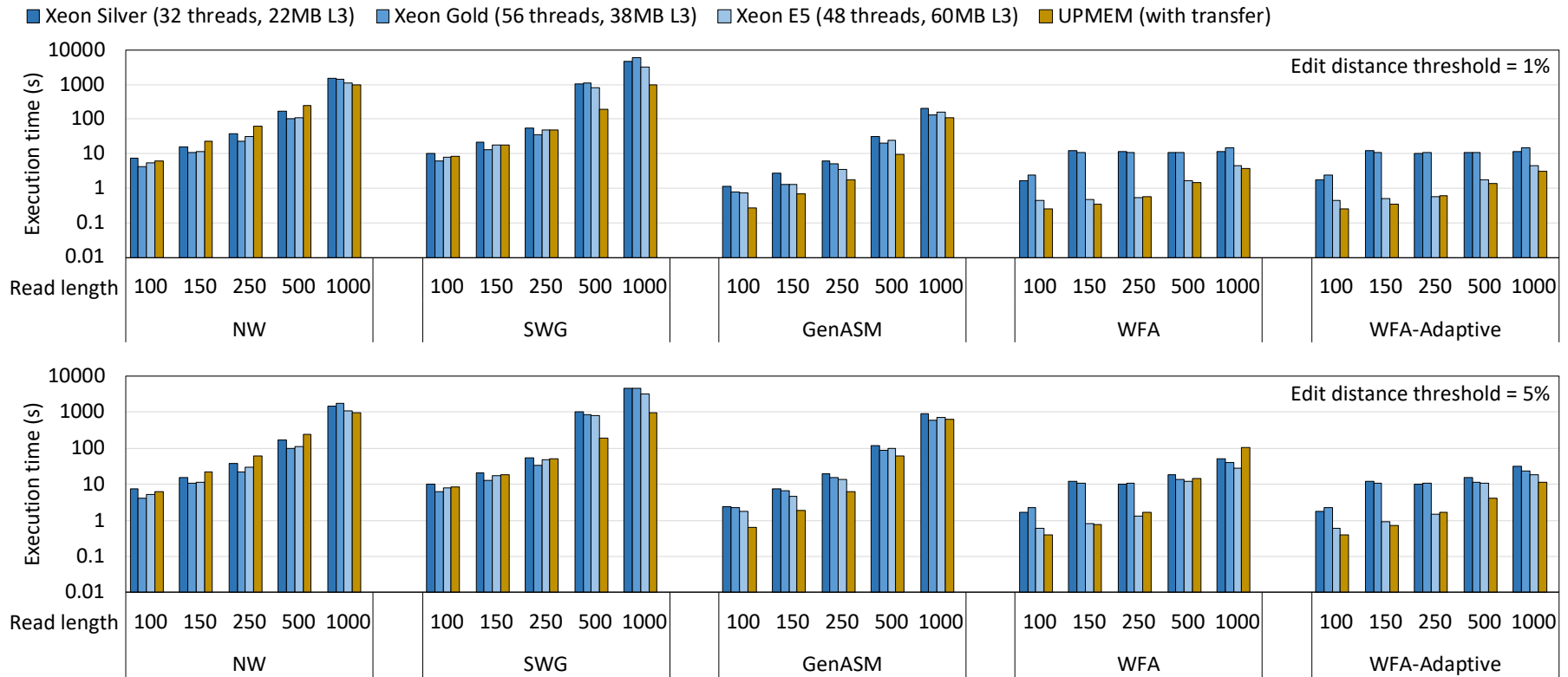
- Evaluation on three CPU systems



The CPU system with the largest L3 cache is the best performing one, which aligns with the memory boundedness of sequence alignment

# Evaluation: PIM vs. CPU (II)

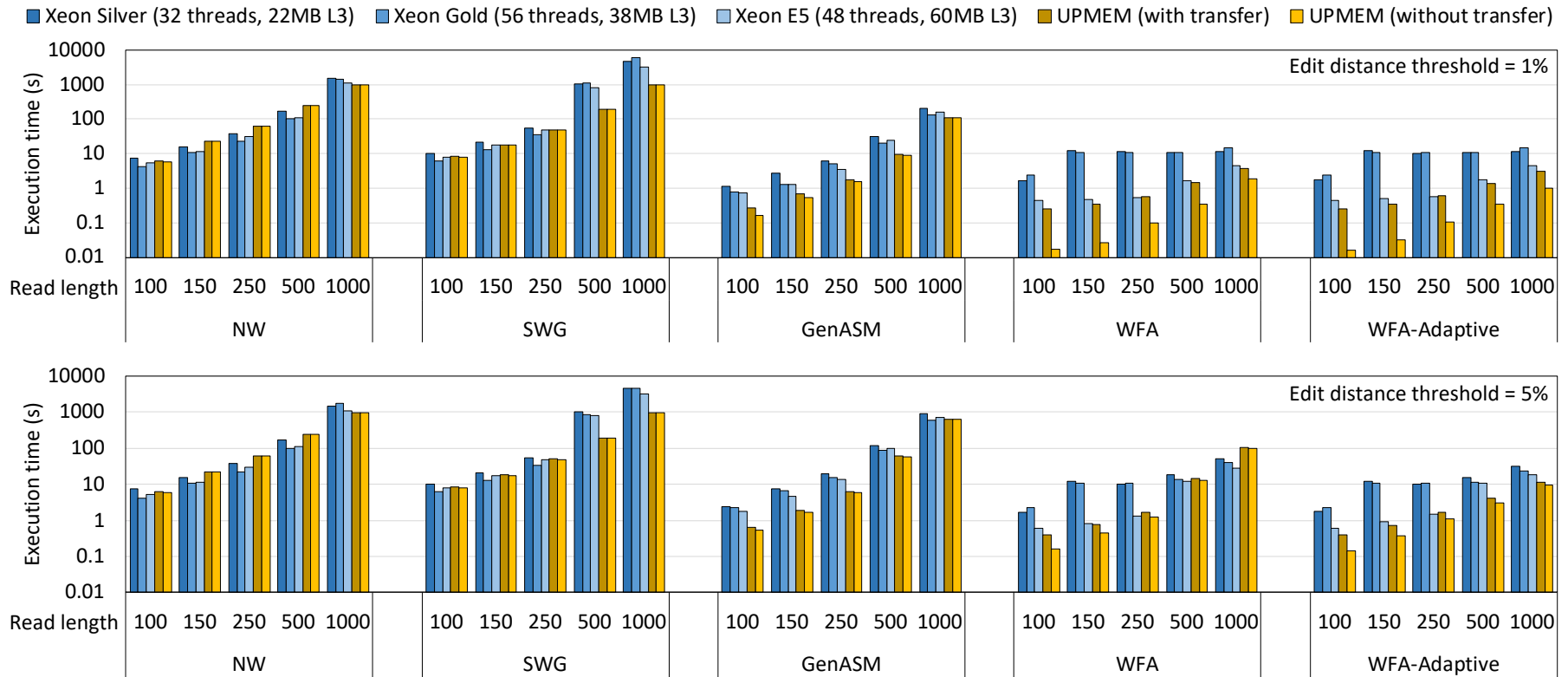
- PIM execution time including CPU-PIM/PIM-CPU transfers



PIM outperforms CPU systems in a majority of experiments  
(up to 4.06× for SWG, up to 1.83× for WFA, up to 2.56× for WFA-adaptive)

# Evaluation: PIM vs. CPU (III)

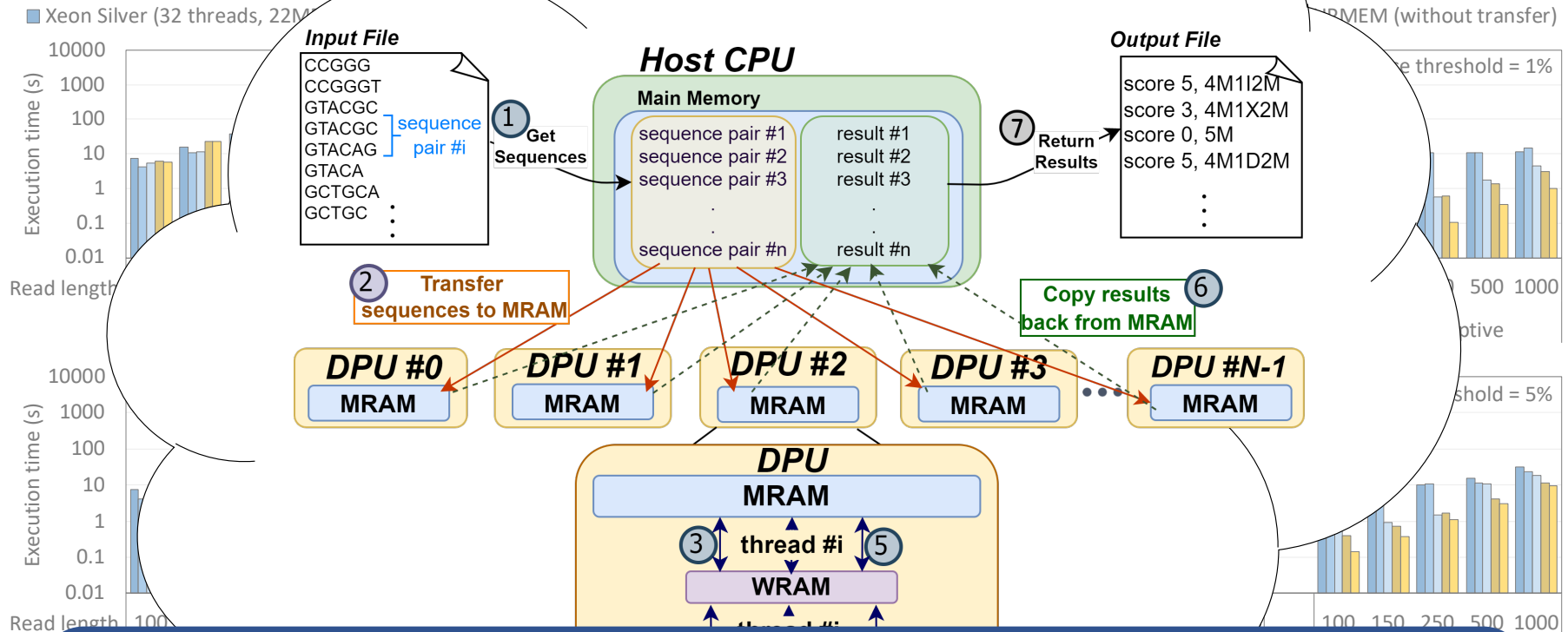
- PIM execution time excluding CPU-PIM/PIM-CPU transfers



PIM speedups over CPU increase significantly when data transfer times are not included (up to 25.93× for WFA, up to 28.14× for WFA-adaptive)

# Evaluation: PIM vs. CPU (III)

- PIM execution time excluding CPU-MRAM/PIM-CPU transfers

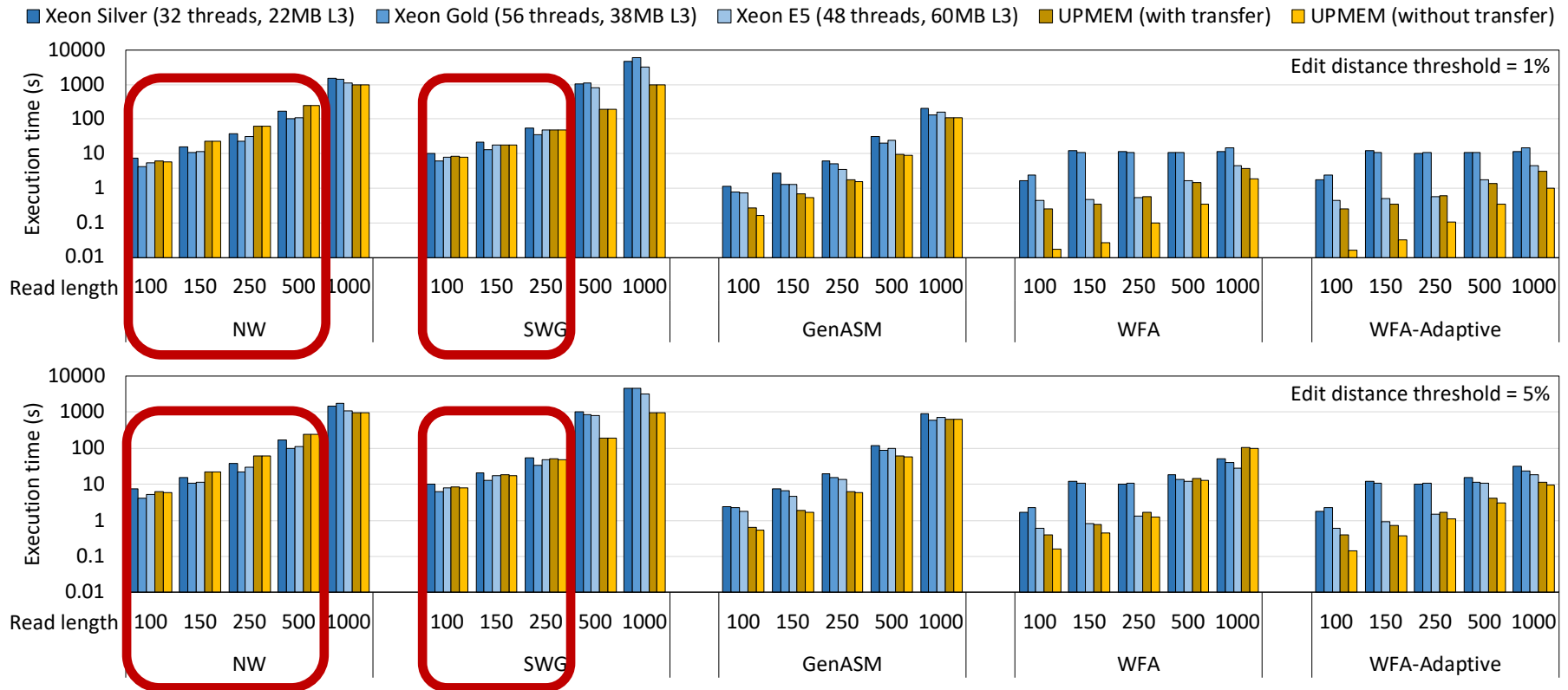


The overhead of CPU-PIM/PIM-CPU transfers could be avoided/hidden in future PIM systems that:

- Use PIM DIMMs as main memory, or
- Overlap data transfers and computation

# Evaluation: PIM vs. CPU (IV)

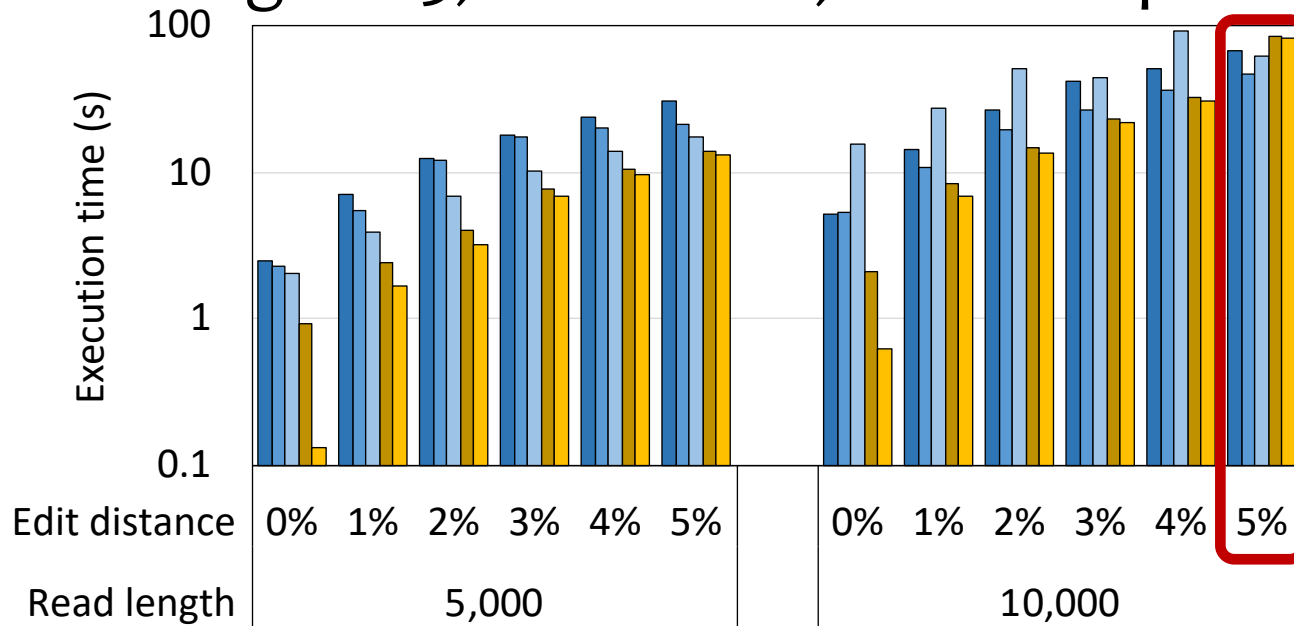
- Algorithms with regular access patterns



PIM does not outperform CPU for algorithms with **regular access patterns at small read lengths**

# WFA-Adaptive with Large Sequences

- WFA and WFA-adaptive have linear space complexity
  - Unlikely to exceed MRAM capacity
- Large read lengths: 5,000 and 10,000 base pairs

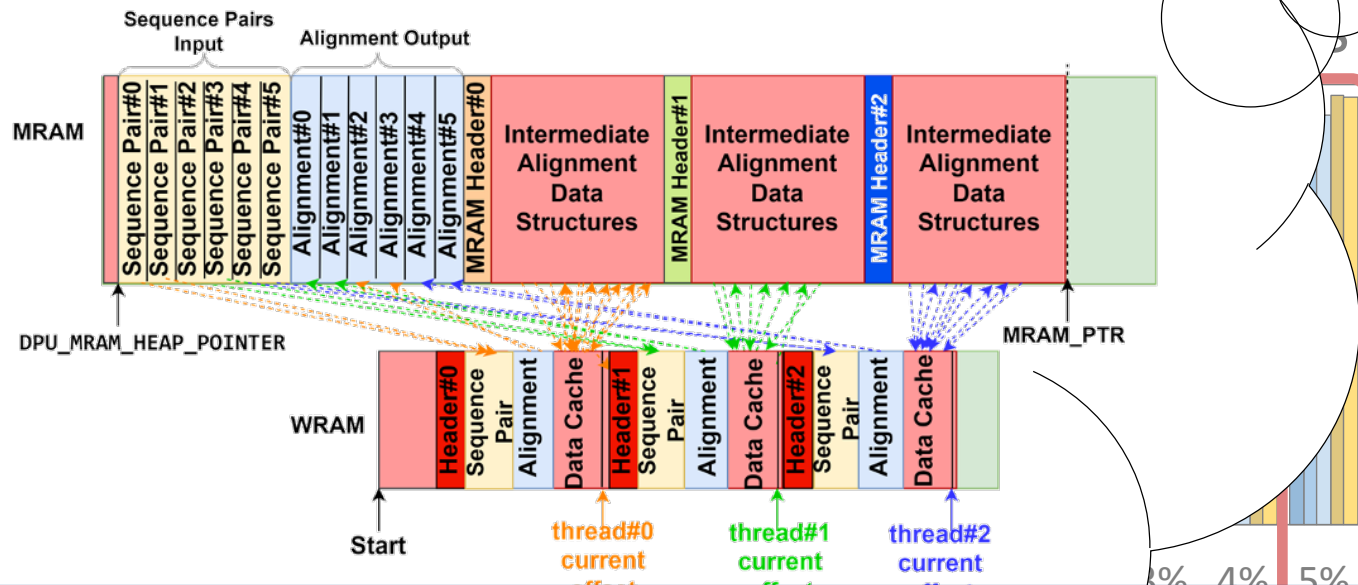


PIM continues to outperform the CPU systems for large read lengths

Scalability is currently limited by WRAM capacity

# WFA-Adaptive with Large Sequences

- WFA and WFA-adaptive have similar complexity
  - Unlike
- Large



Possible software solutions for (even) larger sequences:

- Reduce WRAM footprint by streaming partial wavefront components from MRAM, or
- Multiple PIM threads per alignment

Future UPMEM PIM cores may have larger WRAM capacity

# Evaluation: PIM vs. GPU

- WFA on PIM vs. WFA on GPU

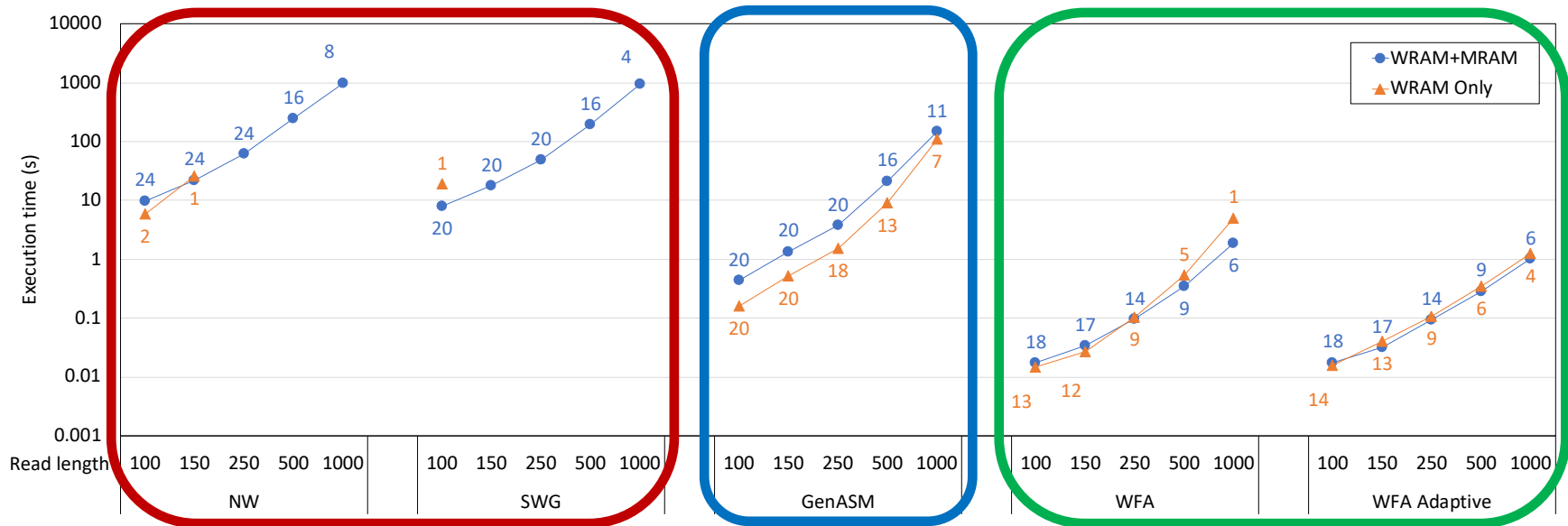
Sequence length	Edit distance	Throughput (alignments per second)		Throughput improvement
		WFA-GPU	UPMEM (with transfer)	
150	2%	9.09M	12.97M	1.42×
	5%	5.56M	7.03M	1.27×
1,000	2%	1.43M	1.10M	0.77×
	5%	370K	434K	1.17×
10,000	2%	25.0K	66.9K	2.68×
	5%	5.56K	11.81K	2.12×

PIM outperforms GPU in a majority of experiments



# Intermediate Data Structures

- WRAM only vs. WRAM+MRAM for intermediate data structures



For large data structures (NW, SWG), WRAM only does not scale

For algorithms that use small data structures (GenASM), WRAM only is better

For algorithms that use medium-sized data structures (WFA, WFA-adaptive), WRAM only is better for short reads while WRAM+MRAM is better for long reads

# Sequence Alignment on Processing-in-Memory

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- Published in Bioinformatics (2023)

## A Framework for High-throughput Sequence Alignment using Real Processing-in-Memory Systems

Safaa Diab<sup>1</sup> Amir Nassereldine<sup>1</sup> Mohammed Alser<sup>2</sup> Juan Gómez Luna<sup>2</sup>  
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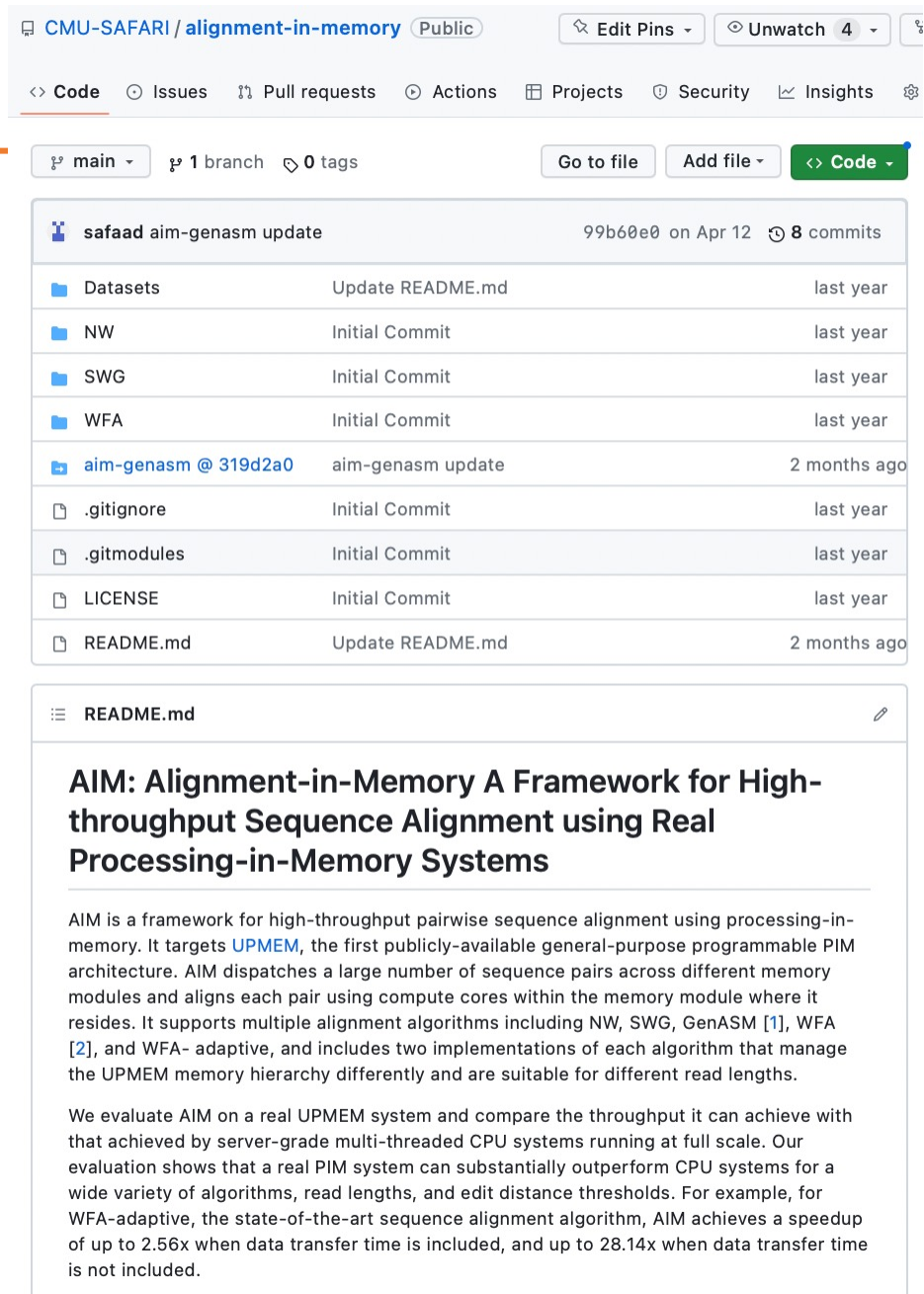
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2204.02085.pdf>

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2208.01243.pdf>

Source code: <https://github.com/safaad/aim>

# Source Code

- <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/alignment-in-memory>
- <https://github.com/safaad/aim>



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main 1 branch 0 tags Go to file Add file Code

👤 safaad aim-genasm update	99b60e0 on Apr 12	🔄 8 commits
📁 Datasets	Update README.md	last year
📁 NW	Initial Commit	last year
📁 SWG	Initial Commit	last year
📁 WFA	Initial Commit	last year
📁 aim-genasm @ 319d2a0	aim-genasm update	2 months ago
📄 .gitignore	Initial Commit	last year
📄 .gitmodules	Initial Commit	last year
📄 LICENSE	Initial Commit	last year
📄 README.md	Update README.md	2 months ago

## README.md

### AIM: Alignment-in-Memory A Framework for High-throughput Sequence Alignment using Real Processing-in-Memory Systems

AIM is a framework for high-throughput pairwise sequence alignment using processing-in-memory. It targets [UPMEM](#), the first publicly-available general-purpose programmable PIM architecture. AIM dispatches a large number of sequence pairs across different memory modules and aligns each pair using compute cores within the memory module where it resides. It supports multiple alignment algorithms including NW, SWG, GenASM [1], WFA [2], and WFA- adaptive, and includes two implementations of each algorithm that manage the UPMEM memory hierarchy differently and are suitable for different read lengths.

We evaluate AIM on a real UPMEM system and compare the throughput it can achieve with that achieved by server-grade multi-threaded CPU systems running at full scale. Our evaluation shows that a real PIM system can substantially outperform CPU systems for a wide variety of algorithms, read lengths, and edit distance thresholds. For example, for WFA-adaptive, the state-of-the-art sequence alignment algorithm, AIM achieves a speedup of up to 2.56x when data transfer time is included, and up to 28.14x when data transfer time is not included.

# Executive Summary

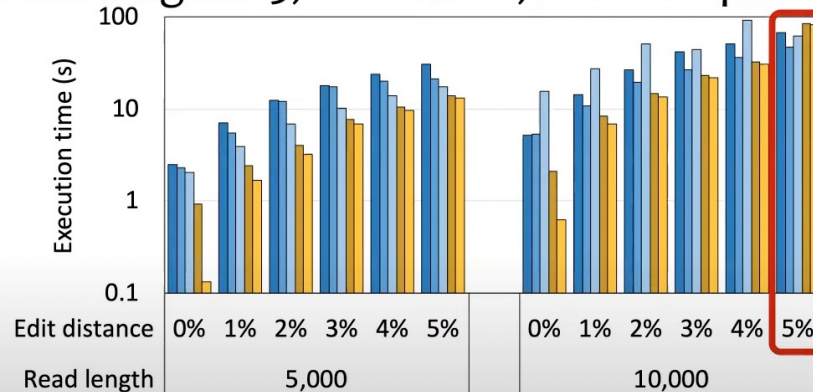
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- **Genome sequence alignment** is typically **memory-bound** on conventional processor-centric systems (CPU, GPU)
- **Processing-in-memory** (PIM) has the potential to overcome this data movement bottleneck by placing compute capabilities near/inside memory arrays
- We present **Alignment-in-Memory** (AiM), a PIM framework for genome sequence alignment on general-purpose PIM systems
  - AiM supports **multiple alignment algorithms**: NW, SWG, GenASM, WFA
  - Implemented for the UPMEM PIM architecture
- Our evaluation shows that sequence alignment on PIM can be significantly faster than on CPUs and GPUs

# Lecture on Alignment-in-Memory

## WFA-Adaptive with Large Sequences

- WFA and WFA-adaptive have linear space complexity
  - Unlikely to exceed MRAM capacity
- Large read lengths: 5,000 and 10,000 base pairs



PIM continues to outperform the CPU systems for large read lengths

Scalability is currently limited by WRAM capacity

PIM Course: Lecture 14: Genome Sequence Alignment on PIM (Spring 2023)



Onur Mutlu Lectures  
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Projects & Seminars, ETH Zürich, Spring 2023  
Data-Centric Architectures: Fundamentally Improving Performance and Energy

# High Throughput Sequence Alignment Using Real Processing-in-Memory Systems

Safaa Diab, Amir Nassereldine, Mohammed Alser,  
Juan Gómez Luna, Onur Mutlu, Izzat El Hajj

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2208.01243.pdf>

<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/alignment-in-memory>

[juang@ethz.ch](mailto:juang@ethz.ch)

# Transcendental Functions

# TransPimLib:

## Efficient Transcendental Functions for Processing-in-Memory Systems

Maurus Item, Juan Gómez Luna, Yuxin Guo,  
Geraldo F. Oliveira, Mohammad Sadrosadati, Onur Mutlu

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.01951.pdf>

<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/transpimlib>

[juang@ethz.ch](mailto:juang@ethz.ch)



Thursday, June 1, 2023



# ISPASS 2023 Version

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- Presented at ISPASS 2023

## TransPimLib: Efficient Transcendental Functions for Processing-in-Memory Systems

Maurus Item  
Geraldo F. Oliveira

Juan Gómez-Luna  
Mohammad Sadrosadati

Yuxin Guo  
Onur Mutlu

ETH Zürich

[https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/pub/TransPIMLib\\_isspass23.pdf](https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/pub/TransPIMLib_isspass23.pdf)

Source code: <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/transpimlib>

<https://youtu.be/lqqf4eaaEE4>

# Executive Summary

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- **Processing-in-Memory** (PIM) promises to alleviate the *data movement bottleneck*
- However, current real-world PIM systems have **very constrained hardware**, which results in limited instruction sets
  - Difficulty/impossibility of computing complex operations, such as **transcendental functions** (e.g., trigonometric, exp, log) and **other hard-to-calculate functions** (e.g., square root)
  - These functions are important for modern workloads, e.g., **activation functions in machine learning applications**
- **TransPimLib** is the first library for transcendental and other hard-to-calculate functions on general-purpose PIM systems
  - CORDIC-based and LUT-based methods for trigonometric functions, hyperbolic functions, exponentiation, logarithm, square root, etc.
  - Source code: <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/transpimlib>
- We implement TransPimLib for the UPMEM PIM architecture and evaluate its methods in terms of **performance, accuracy, memory requirements, and setup time**
  - Three real workloads (Blackscholes, Sigmoid, Softmax)

# Outline

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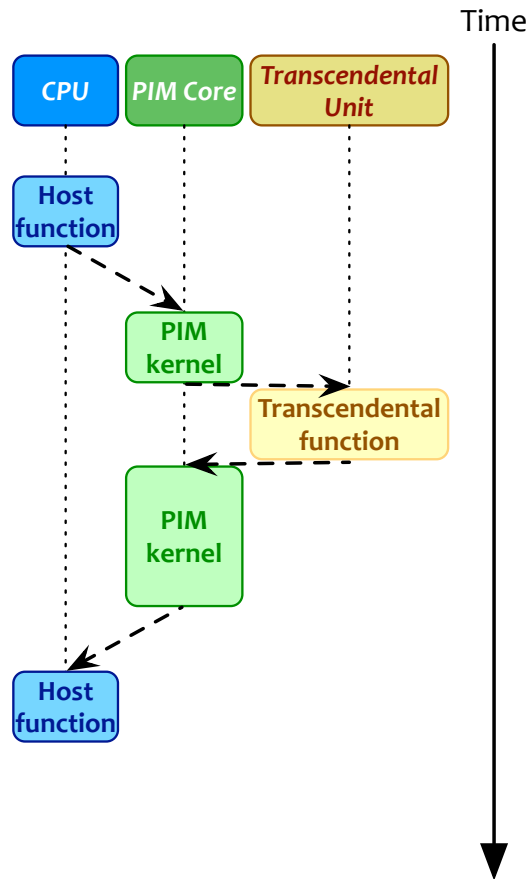
Processing-in-memory  
and transcendental functions

TransPimLib:  
A library for transcendental  
and other hard-to-calculate functions

Evaluation

# How to Calculate Transcendental Functions in a PIM System?

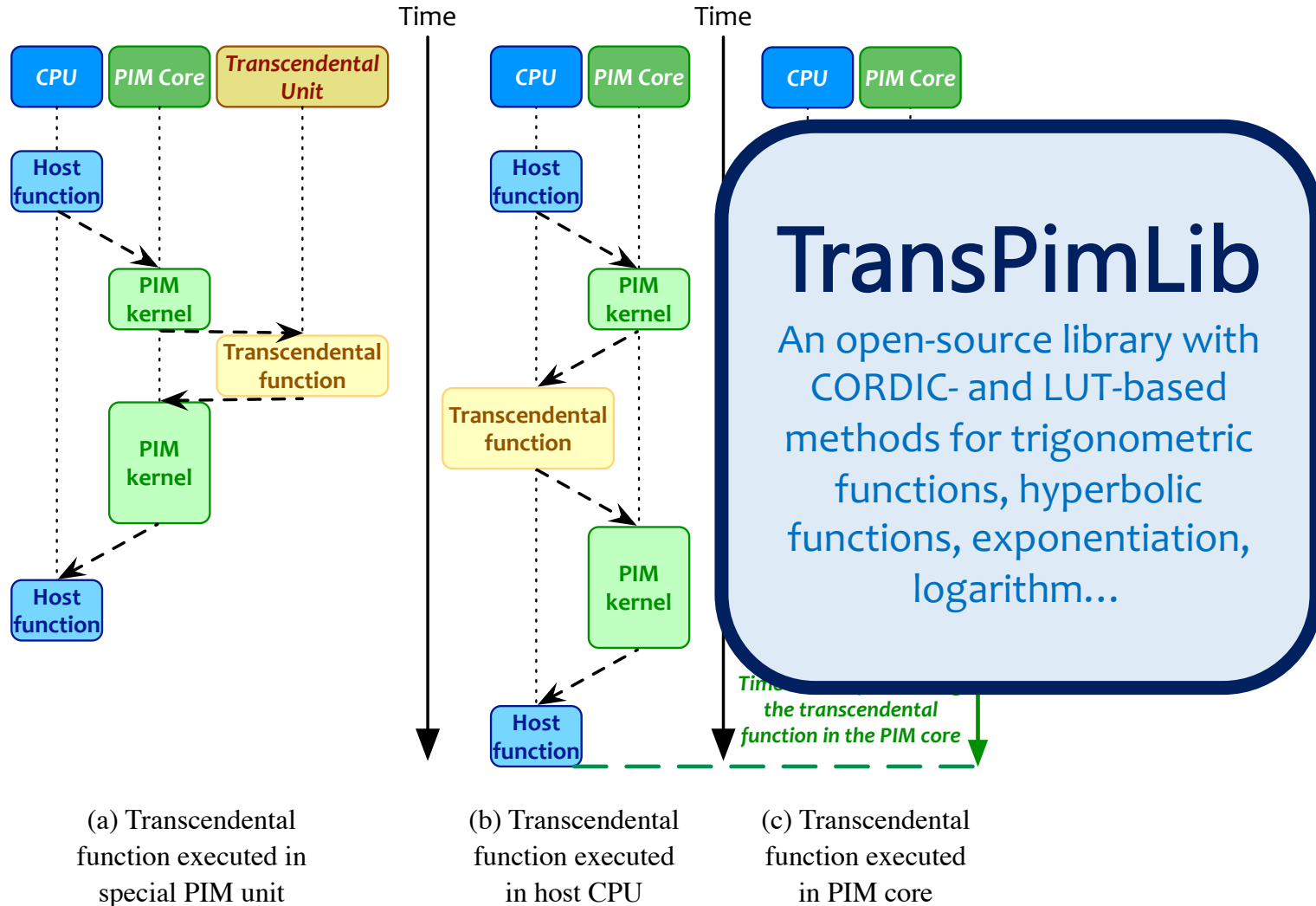
- Three possible alternatives



(a) Transcendental function executed in special PIM unit

# How to Calculate Transcendental Functions in a PIM System?

- Three possible alternatives



# Outline

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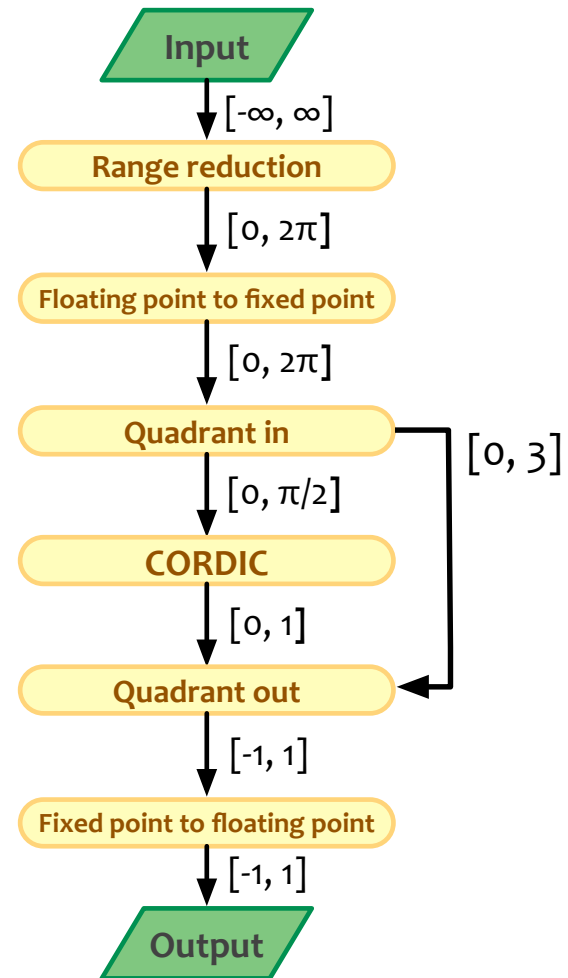
# TransPimLib: Implementation

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- Various methods to calculate transcendental functions:
  - Taylor approximation, minimax polynomials, **CORDIC**, **LUTs**
- **CORDIC** is an iterative method that uses bit-shifts, additions, and table lookups
  - In rotation mode, CORDIC computes the function value for an input  $\theta$  by rotating a vector  $[1, 0]$  iteratively
  - The rotation is done by multiplying the vector and a matrix
  - The matrix represents the rotation angle, which decreases in each iteration
- **Fuzzy Lookup Tables** (LUTs) return an (approximate) output  $f(x)$  for each input  $x$ 
  - A function  $a(x)$  returns an address to access the LUT
  - The table returns  $LUT(a(x)) \simeq f(x)$
  - To generate the LUT, we need a helper function  $a^{-1}()$ , such that  $x = a(a^{-1}(x))$
  - LUTs' accuracy improves with **interpolation**:
$$f(x) \simeq LUT(a(x)) + LUT(a(x)+1) - LUT(a(x)) \cdot \Delta$$

# TransPimLib: CORDIC-based Methods

- TransPimLib contains **CORDIC implementations** of trigonometric (sin, cos, tan) and hyperbolic (sinh, cosh, tanh) functions, exponentiation, logarithm, and square root
- Example: **Sine** function





# TransPimLib: LUT-based Methods

- Multiplication-based LUT (**M-LUT**)

- Regular spacing between table entries
- $a(x) = \text{round}((x - p) \cdot k)$ , where  $k$  represents the LUT density

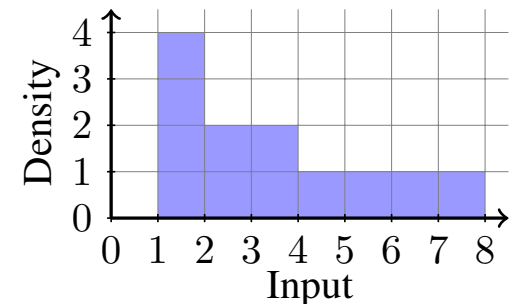
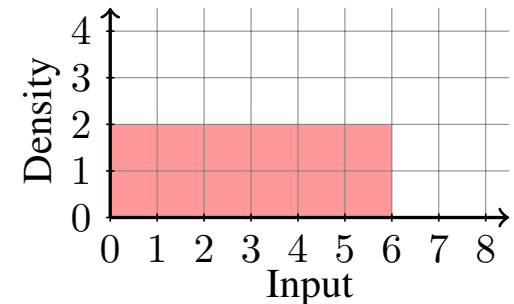
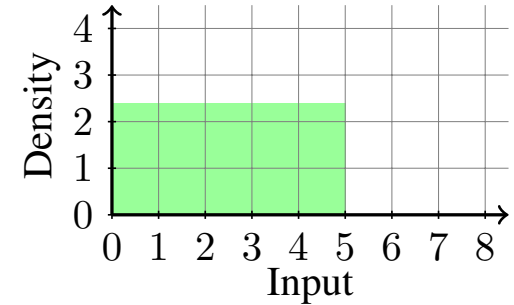
- LDEXP-based LUT (**L-LUT**)

- Multiplication is cheaper if we multiply by  $2^n$
- $\text{ldexp}(\text{arg}, \text{exp})$  to perform  $\text{arg} \cdot 2^{\text{exp}}$
- $a(x) = \text{round}((x - p) \cdot 2^n)$ 
  - $k$  is a power-of-two, which results in less precision but avoids multiplication

- Direct Float Conversion-based LUT (**D-LUT**)

- $a(x)$  uses the last  $n$  bits of the exponent and  $p$  bits of the mantissa
- Piece-wise linear density:  $2^n$  steps of  $2^p$  addresses

Map interval  $[0, 5]$  to a 12-entry LUT

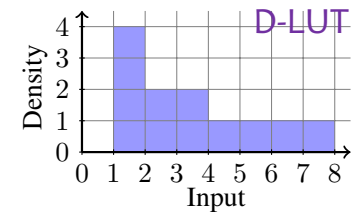
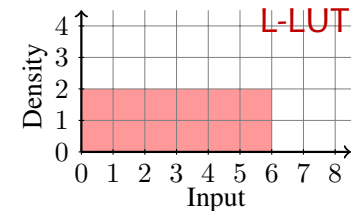
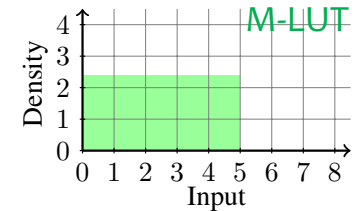
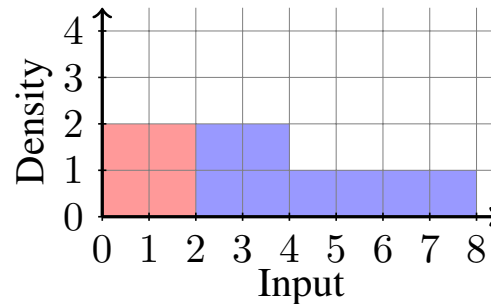


# TransPimLib: Combined Methods

- Direct Float Conversion + LDEXP-based LUT

(DL-LUT)

- Uses an L-LUT between 0 and the smallest exponent and a D-LUT for larger inputs



- CORDIC+L-LUT (CORDIC+LUT)

- Replaces the first few iterations of CORDIC with a LUT
- Flexible tradeoff between computing cost, table size, and precision

# TransPimLib: Supported Functions

Implementation Method	Supported Functions									
	sin	cos	tan	sinh	cosh	tanh	exp	log	sqrt	GELU
CORDIC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
M-LUT	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
M-LUT+Interp.	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
L-LUT	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
L-LUT+Interp.	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
D-LUT+Interp.	✓					✓				✓
DL-LUT+Interp.	✓					✓				✓
CORDIC+LUT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Based on our preliminary analysis, we provide the most suitable methods for each of the supported functions (other than sine).

# Outline

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Processing-in-memory  
and transcendental functions

TransPimLib:  
A library for transcendental  
and other hard-to-calculate functions

Evaluation

# Evaluation Methodology

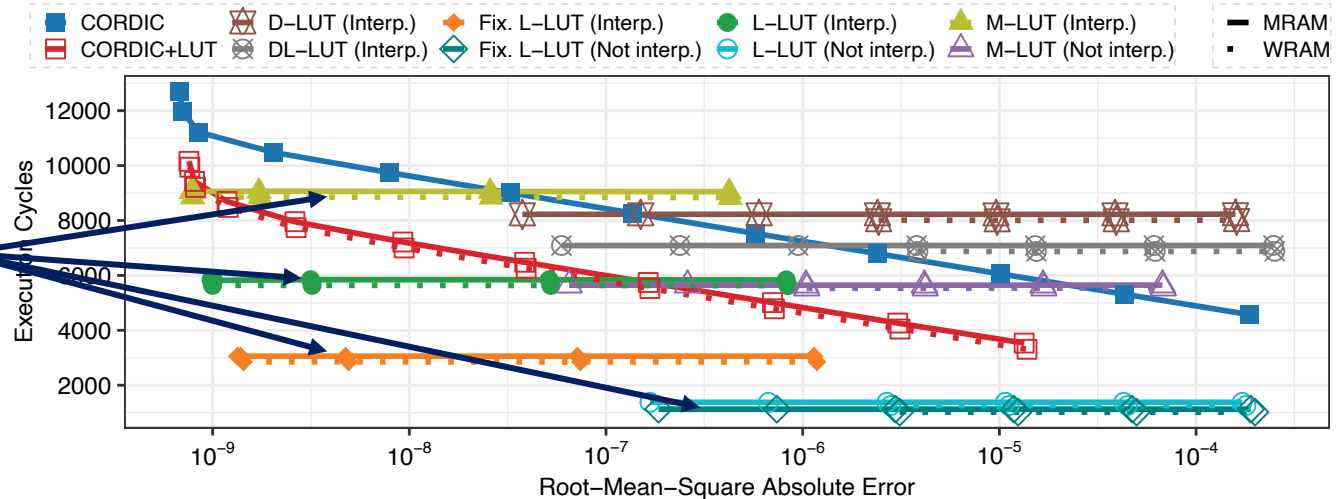
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- Evaluated systems
  - UPMEM PIM system with 2,545 PIM cores @ 350 MHz and 159 GB of DRAM
  - 2-socket Intel Xeon CPU (32 cores)
- Microbenchmarks
  - Performance evaluation
    - We measure execution cycles
  - Accuracy evaluation
    - Root-mean-square absolute error (RMSE) with respect to the CPU with the standard math library
  - Setup time
    - Generation on the host CPU and transfers to the PIM side
  - Memory consumption
    - All tables and variables allocated in the DRAM bank of a PIM core
  - We use sine, as a representative function
- Real-world Benchmarks
  - Blackscholes: exp, log, sqrt, cumulative normal distribution (CNDF)
  - Sigmoid
  - Softmax

# Microbenchmark Results: Performance (I)

- We measure the **execution cycles** for an accuracy range between  $10^{-4}$  and  $10^{-9}$
- LUT-based versions place the LUT in either the PIM core's DRAM bank (MRAM) or the scratchpad (WRAM)

Performance of LUT-based methods is independent of the accuracy



Execution cycles depend on the **number of multiplications**:

- **Interp. M-LUT**: 2 FP multiplications
- **Non-interp. M-LUT** and **interp. L-LUT**: 1 FP multiplication
- **Non-interp. L-LUT**: No FP multiplication

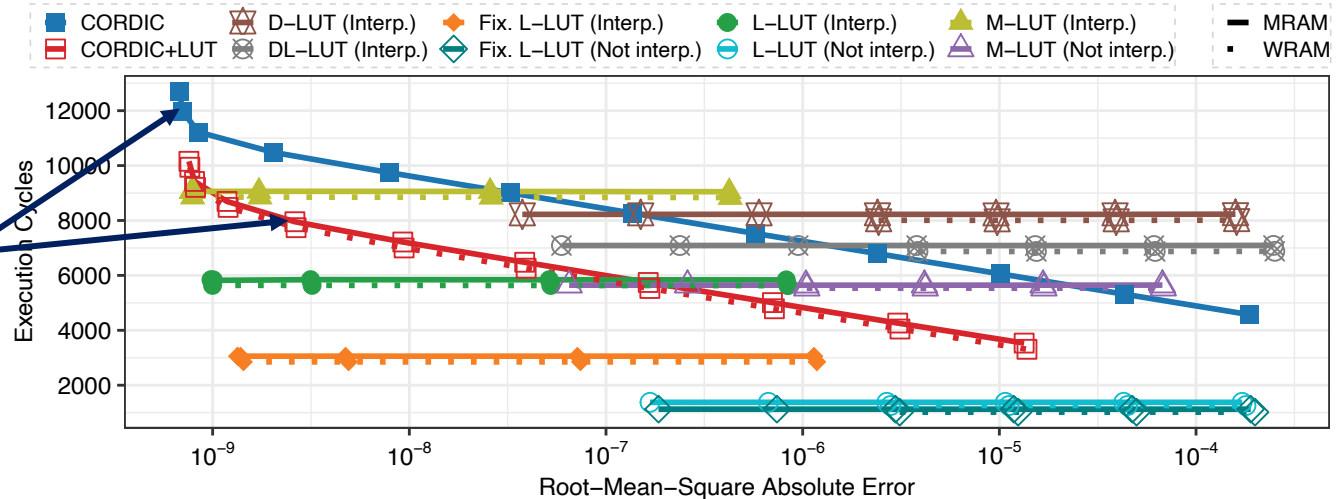
Fixed-point version of the L-LUT

- **Interp. Fix. L-LUT** doubles the performance of **interp. L-LUT** due to faster fixed-point multiplication

# Microbenchmark Results: Performance (II)

- We measure the **execution cycles** for an accuracy range between  $10^{-4}$  and  $10^{-9}$
- CORDIC-based methods take more execution cycles to provide higher accuracy

CORDIC accuracy increases with each iteration of the CORDIC algorithm



**CORDIC+LUT** runs faster than **CORDIC**, as it replaces the initial iterations with an L-LUT query

At some point ( $\sim 10^{-9}$ ), further increasing the LUT size or CORDIC iterations does not improve accuracy

Little benefit from placing LUTs in the scratchpad (WRAM) instead of the DRAM bank (MRAM)

# Microbenchmark Results: Performance (III)

- We measure the **execution cycles** for an accuracy range between  $10^{-4}$  and  $10^{-9}$
- CORDIC-based methods take more execution cycles to provide

## Key Takeaway 1

**Interpolated L-LUT methods** (lookup table with LDEXP operation) offer the **best tradeoff** in terms of **performance** and **accuracy**

**CORDIC+LUT** runs faster than **CORDIC**, as it replaces the initial iterations with an L-LUT query

At some point ( $\sim 10^{-9}$ ), **further increasing the LUT size or CORDIC iterations** does not improve accuracy

Little benefit from **placing LUTs** in the scratchpad (WRAM) instead of the DRAM bank (MRAM)

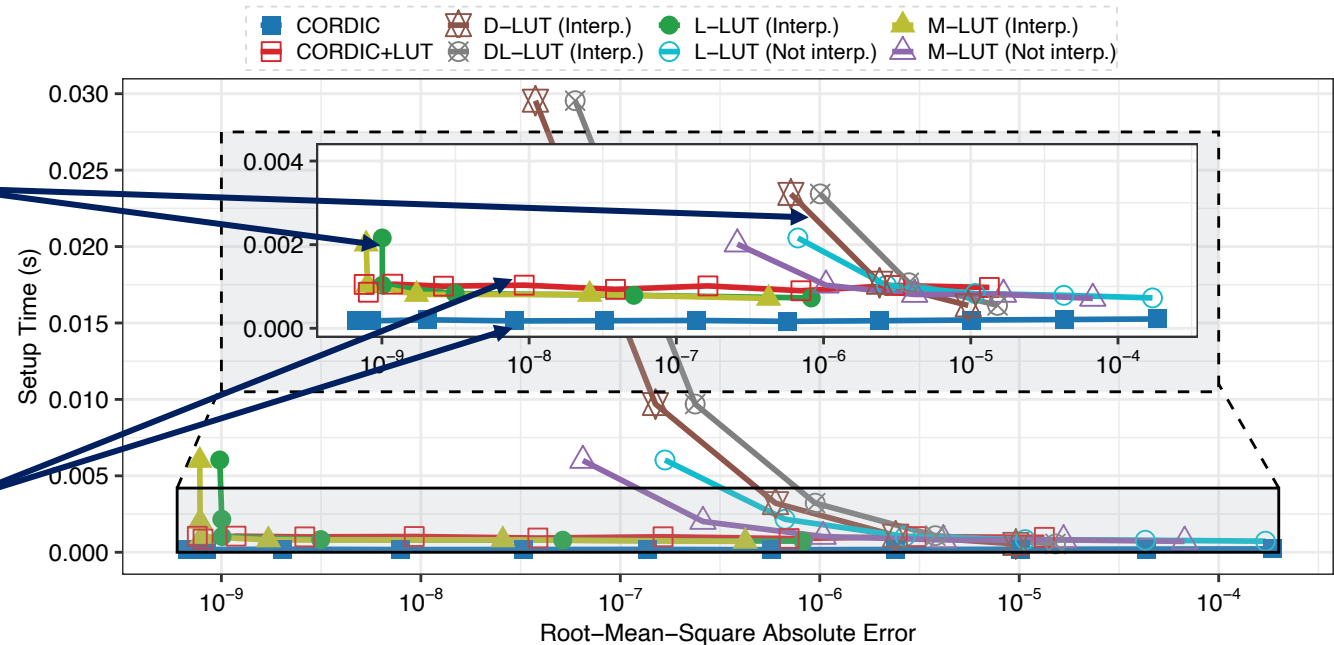


# Microbenchmark Results: Setup Time (I)

- The setup time can also impact the decision of what method to use

For LUT-based methods, setup times **increase** with LUT size

CORDIC methods have **flat** setup times



CORDIC methods can provide higher overall performance (i.e., setup time + PIM kernel time) than LUT-based methods when the total number of transcendental functions in a workload is low. For example, we estimate ~40 sine operations (see paper)

# Microbenchmark Results: Setup Time (II)

- The setup time can also impact the decision of what method to use

■ CORDIC    ⚠ D-LUT (Interp.)    ● L-LUT (Interp.)    ▲ M-LUT (Interp.)

## Key Takeaway 2

**CORDIC-based methods** are preferable when a PIM kernel needs to execute **just a few transcendental functions** due to their **low setup time** in the host CPU

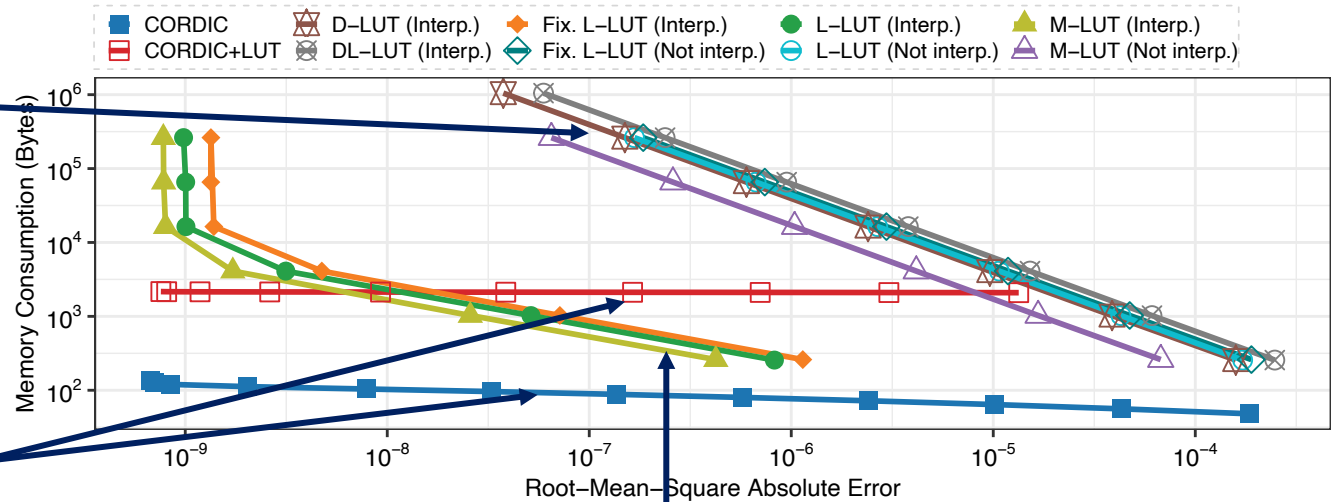
CORDIC methods can provide higher overall performance (i.e., setup time + PIM kernel time) than LUT-based methods when the total number of transcendental functions in a workload is low. For example, we estimate ~40 sine operations (see paper)

# Microbenchmark Results: Memory (I)

- We also obtain the memory consumption (in bytes) in the DRAM bank of a PIM core

Accuracy of non-interp. LUT methods is limited by the available memory

Memory consumption of CORDIC methods does not increase exponentially



Interpolation is an effective way of increasing accuracy without increasing LUT size

# Microbenchmark Results: Memory (II)

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- We also obtain the memory consumption (in bytes) in

## Key Takeaway 3

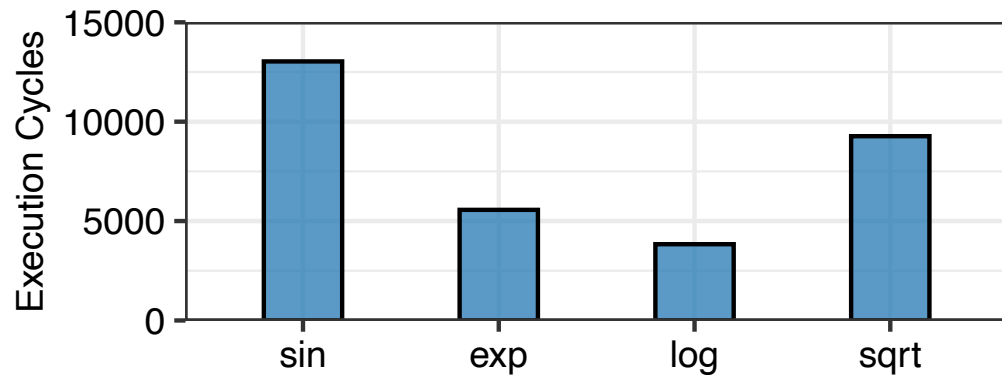
**Interpolated L-LUT methods** offer a good tradeoff in terms of accuracy, execution cycles, and memory consumption.

However, **CORDIC and CORDIC+LUT methods** are recommended for applications that require high accuracy, where the available memory is limited (e.g., needed for large datasets)

# Other Supported Functions (I)

- The general trends for other functions supported by TransPimLib are similar to those of the sine function
- Some major differences:
  1. **Tangent calculation** takes around 2-3 times more cycles than sine calculation, as it requires
    - a) Calculation of sine and cosine
    - b) A floating-point division
  2. Some supported functions require **range reduction** and/or **range extension**

- a) The cost differs between functions, as it depends on specific mathematical identity needed for the conversion
- b) But range reduction/extension is only necessary depending on the actual range of input values



# Other Supported Functions (II)

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- Some major differences:
  3. Activation functions *tanh* and *GELU* do not require range reduction/extension and are approximately linear in most parts

## Key Takeaway 4

**D-LUT and DL-LUT methods are well-suited for activation functions, such as *tanh* and *GELU*, which (1) do not require range extension, and (2) are approximately linear in most parts.**

**D-LUT and DL-LUT are faster than interpolated L-LUT, while providing similar accuracy**

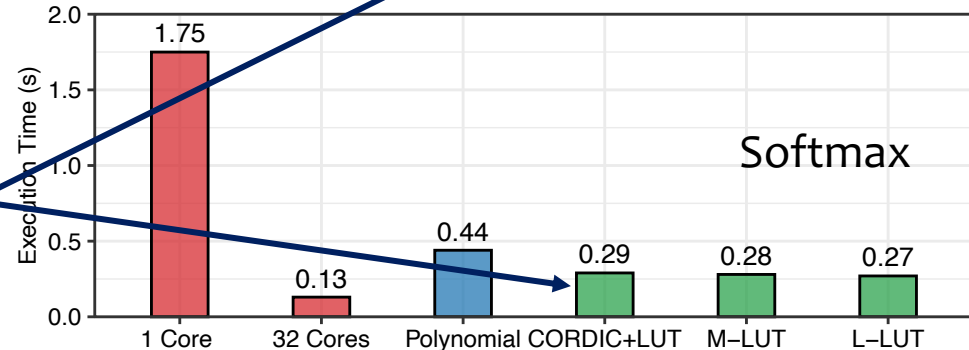
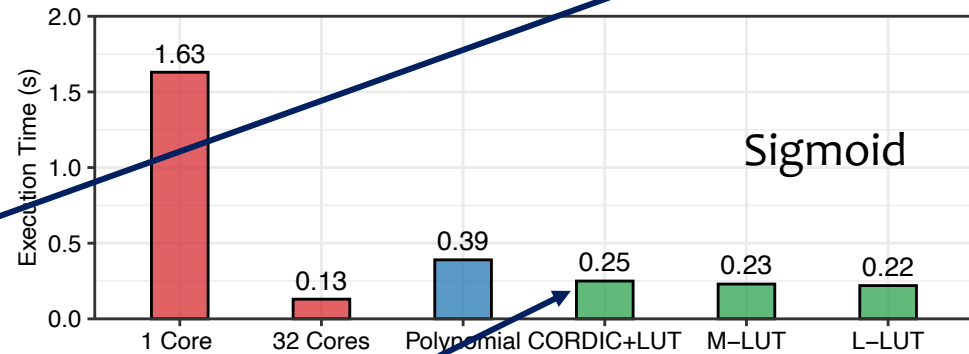
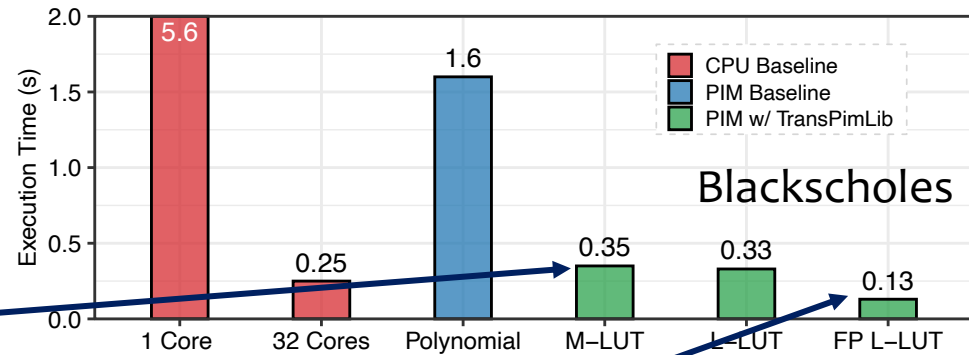
# Real-world Benchmark Results (I)

- 1 & 32 CPU cores
- PIM baseline: Polynomial

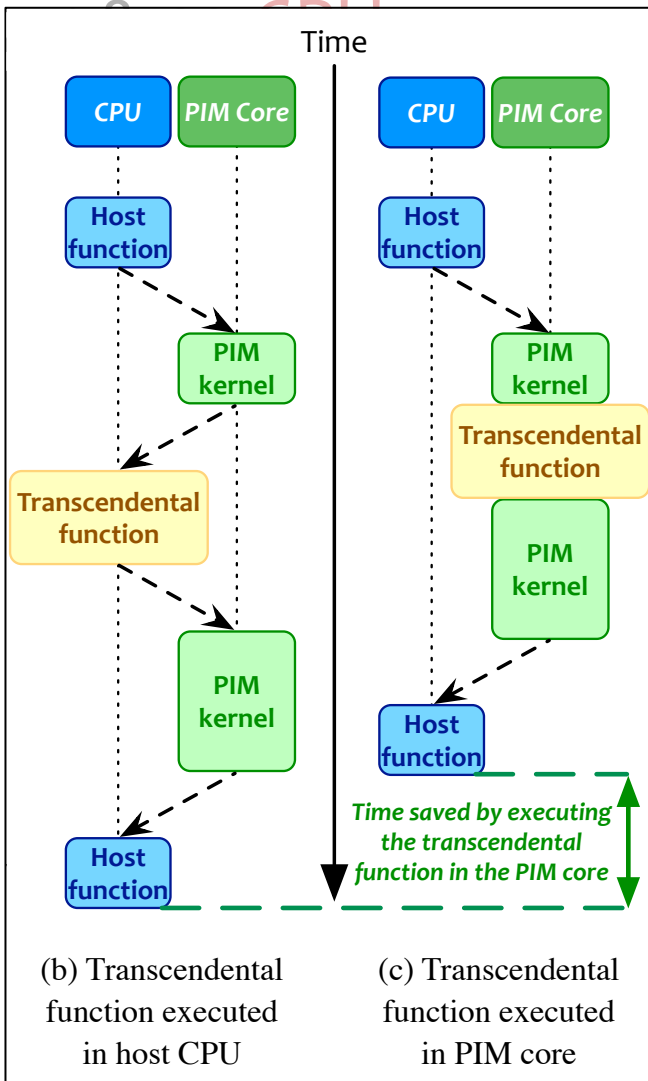
For Blackscholes, TransPimLib is 5-12x faster than the PIM baseline

Fixed-point L-LUT is 92% faster than the 32-thread CPU baseline

For Sigmoid and Softmax, TransPimLib outperforms the PIM baseline and shows that it can save data movement from executing activation functions in the host CPU



# Real-world Benchmark Results (II)



## Key Takeaway 5

TransPimLib can **reduce data movement from PIM cores to the CPU** (Fig. (b)) for applications running on the PIM cores.

As a result, the execution of transcendental functions in the PIM cores (Fig. (c)) could be  $6-8\times$  faster than the execution in the host CPU



# More in the Paper

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- Background on CORDIC and Fuzzy Lookup Tables
- How to use TransPimLib (APIs)
- Additional observations and takeaways

## **TransPimLib: Efficient Transcendental Functions for Processing-in-Memory Systems**

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<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.01951.pdf>

# TransPimLib: arXiv Version

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## TransPimLib: A Library for Efficient Transcendental Functions on Processing-in-Memory Systems

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# ISPASS 2023 Version

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- Presented at ISPASS 2023

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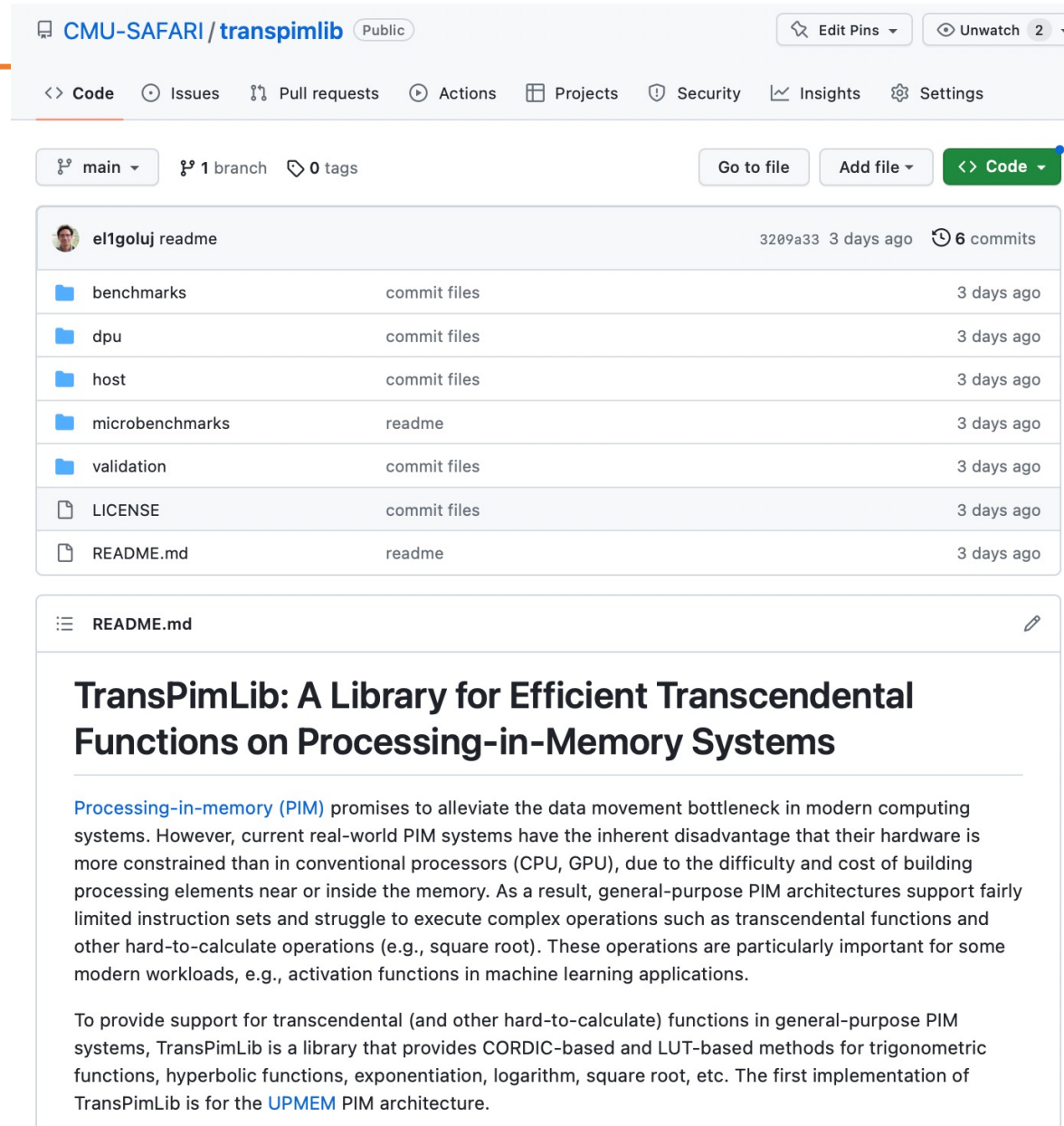
[https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/pub/TransPIMLib\\_isspass23.pdf](https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/pub/TransPIMLib_isspass23.pdf)

Source code: <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/transpimlib>

<https://youtu.be/lqqf4eaaEE4>

# Source Code

- <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/transpimlib>



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☰ README.md

## TransPimLib: A Library for Efficient Transcendental Functions on Processing-in-Memory Systems

[Processing-in-memory \(PIM\)](#) promises to alleviate the data movement bottleneck in modern computing systems. However, current real-world PIM systems have the inherent disadvantage that their hardware is more constrained than in conventional processors (CPU, GPU), due to the difficulty and cost of building processing elements near or inside the memory. As a result, general-purpose PIM architectures support fairly limited instruction sets and struggle to execute complex operations such as transcendental functions and other hard-to-calculate operations (e.g., square root). These operations are particularly important for some modern workloads, e.g., activation functions in machine learning applications.

To provide support for transcendental (and other hard-to-calculate) functions in general-purpose PIM systems, TransPimLib is a library that provides CORDIC-based and LUT-based methods for trigonometric functions, hyperbolic functions, exponentiation, logarithm, square root, etc. The first implementation of TransPimLib is for the [UPMEM](#) PIM architecture.

# Executive Summary

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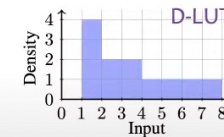
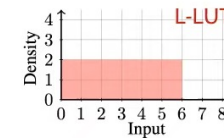
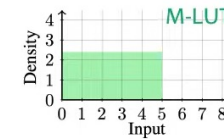
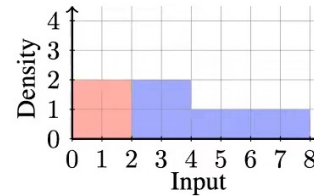
- **Processing-in-Memory** (PIM) promises to alleviate the *data movement bottleneck*
- However, current real-world PIM systems have **very constrained hardware**, which results in limited instruction sets
  - Difficulty/impossibility of computing complex operations, such as **transcendental functions** (e.g., trigonometric, exp, log) and **other hard-to-calculate functions** (e.g., square root)
  - These functions are important for modern workloads, e.g., **activation functions in machine learning applications**
- **TransPimLib** is the first library for transcendental and other hard-to-calculate functions on general-purpose PIM systems
  - CORDIC-based and LUT-based methods for trigonometric functions, hyperbolic functions, exponentiation, logarithm, square root, etc.
  - Source code: <https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/transpimlib>
- We implement TransPimLib for the UPMEM PIM architecture and evaluate its methods in terms of **performance, accuracy, memory requirements, and setup time**
  - Three real workloads (Blackscholes, Sigmoid, Softmax)

# Lecture on TransPimLib

## TransPimLib: Combined Methods

- Direct Float Conversion + LDEXP-based LUT (DL-LUT)

- Uses an L-LUT between 0 and the smallest exponent and a D-LUT for larger inputs



- CORDIC+L-LUT (CORDIC+LUT)

- Replaces the first few iterations of CORDIC with a LUT
- Flexible tradeoff between computing cost, table size, and precision



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PIM Course: Lecture 13: Efficient Transcendental Functions on PIM (Spring 2023)

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# TransPimLib:

## Efficient Transcendental Functions for Processing-in-Memory Systems

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Geraldo F. Oliveira, Mohammad Sadrosadati, Onur Mutlu

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.01951.pdf>

<https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/transpimlib>

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Thursday, June 1, 2023

# Homomorphic Operations



# Evaluating Homomorphic Operations on a Real-World Processing-In-Memory System

Harshita Gupta\* Mayank Kabra\*

Juan Gómez-Luna Konstantinos Kanellopoulos

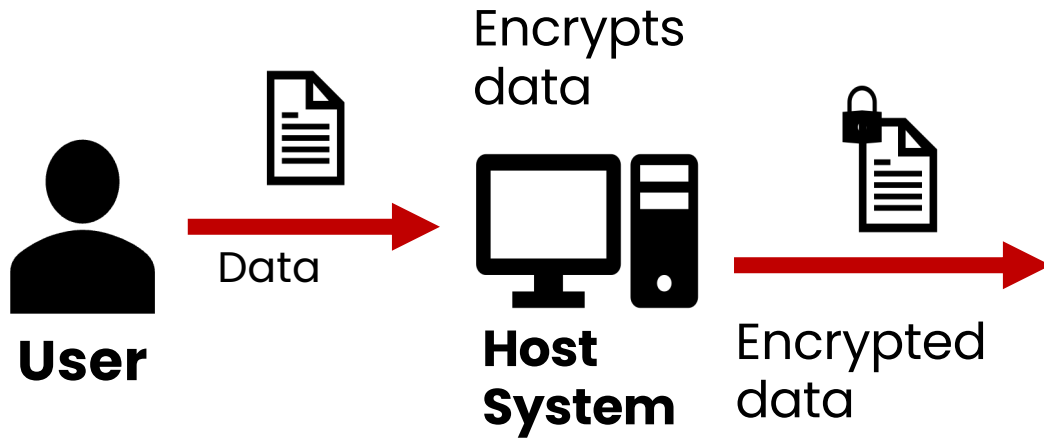
Onur Mutlu

**SAFARI**

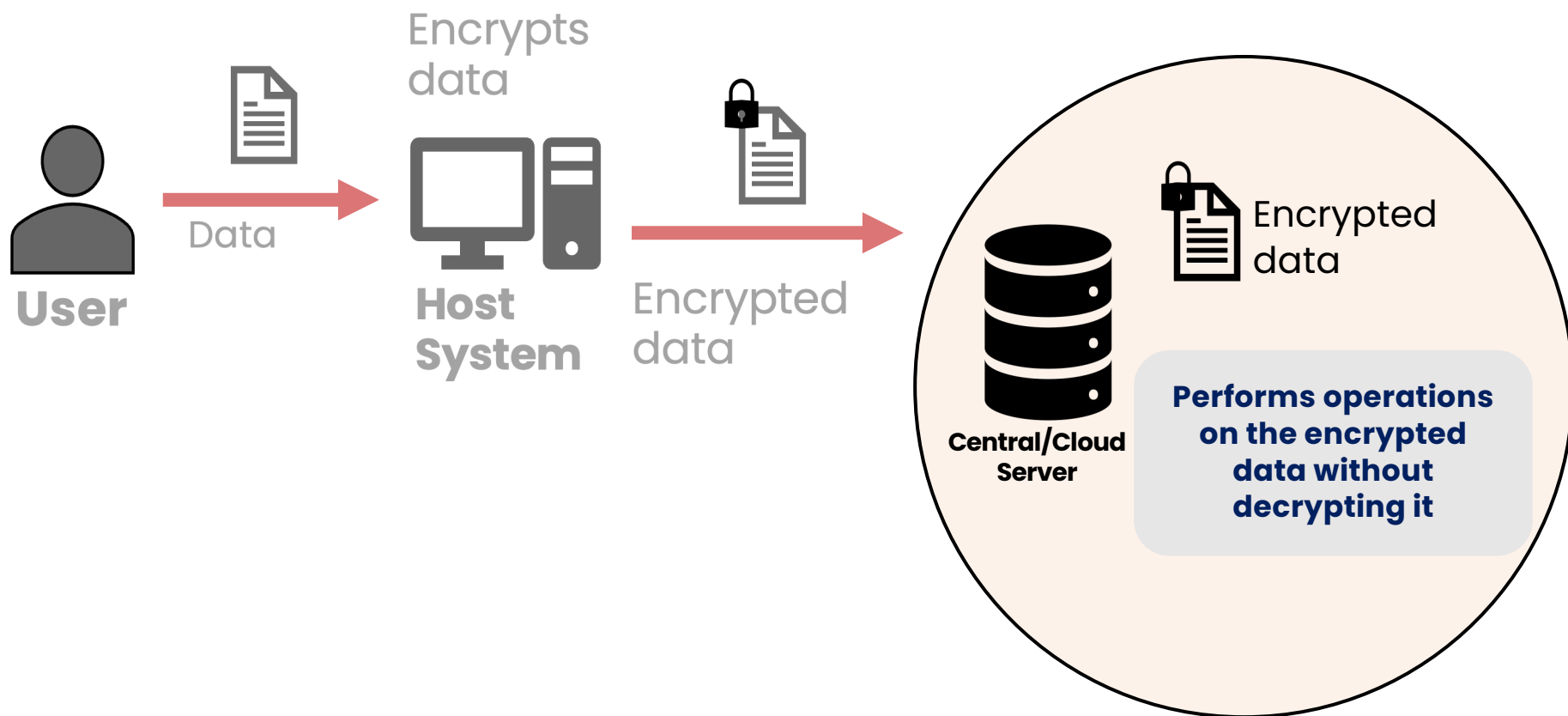
**ETH** zürich

# Homomorphic Encryption

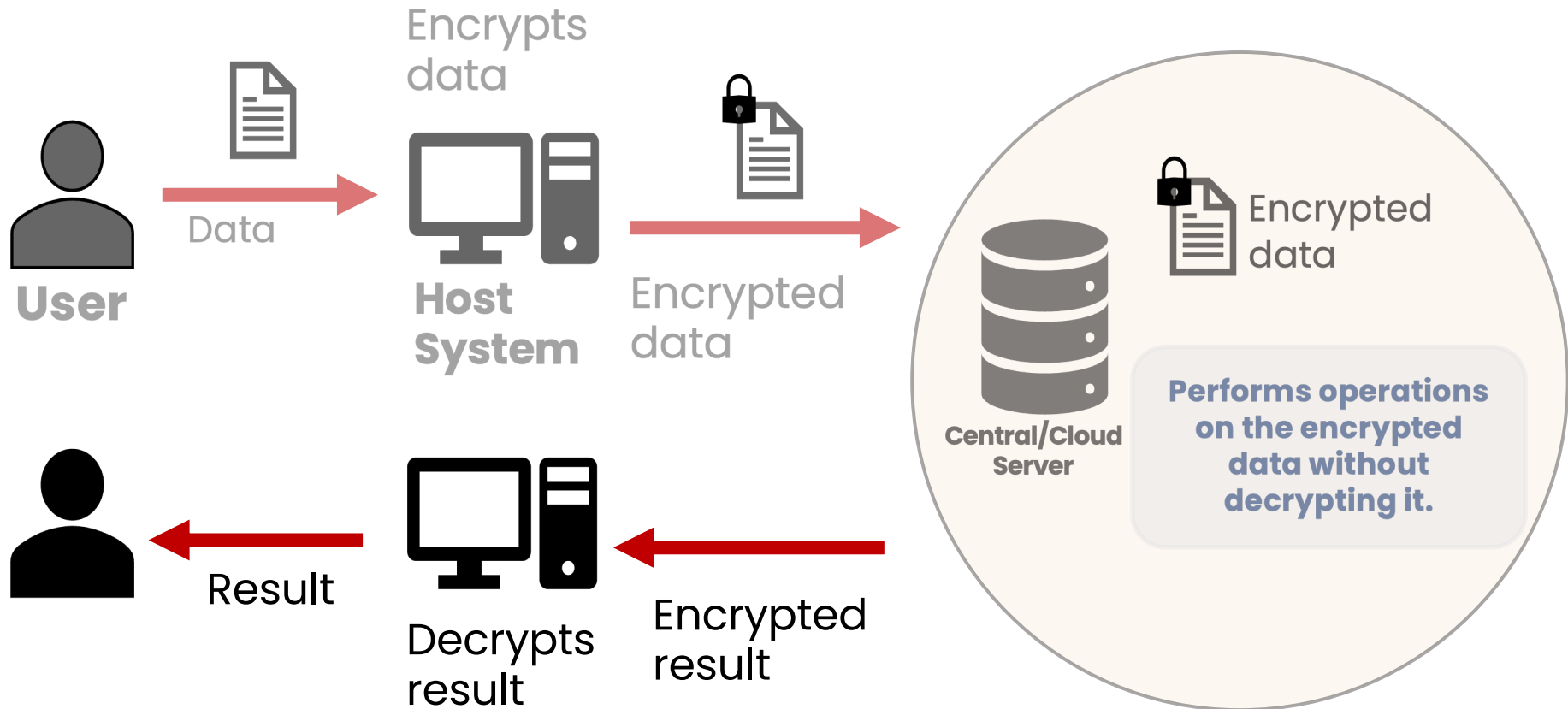
# Homomorphic Encryption



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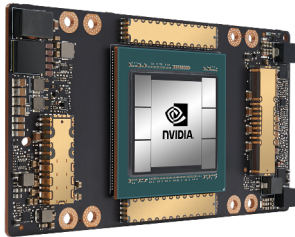


# Motivation

Homomorphic operations suffer from **large memory capacity and data movement bottlenecks**

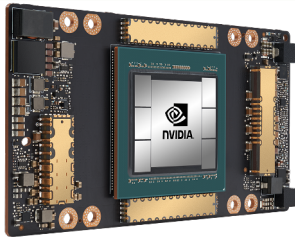


## Acceleration Techniques



# Motivation

These approaches face challenges in resource limitations, data movement, and practical implementation



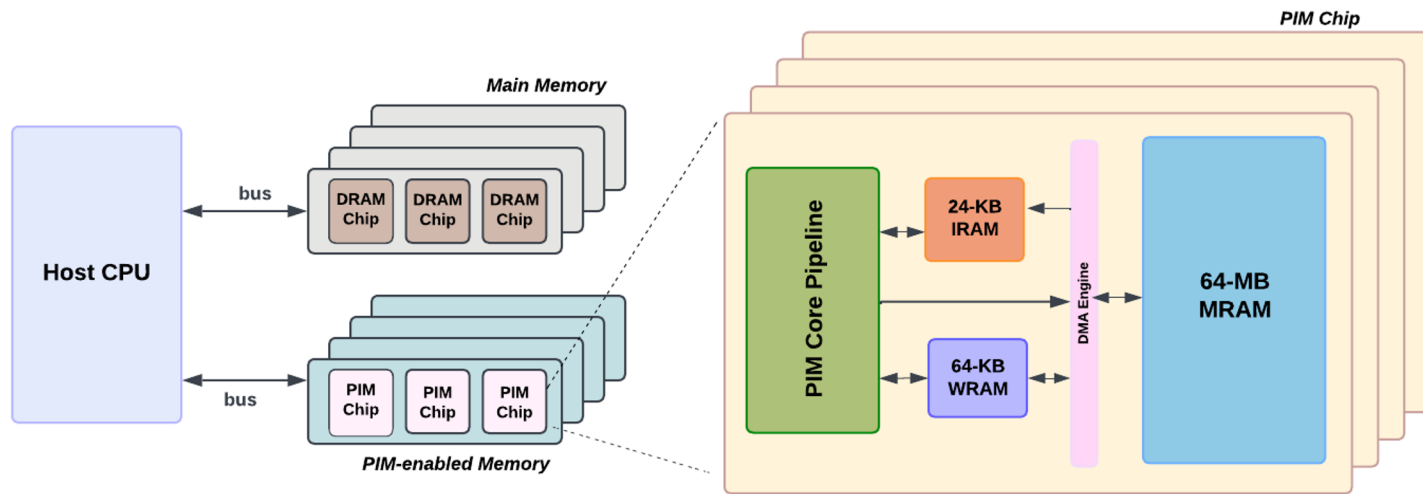
# Our Goal

Evaluate the suitability of real-world general-purpose processing-in-memory (PIM) architectures to perform homomorphic operations.



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**UPMEM: First Real World PIM Architecture**

# Evaluation Methodology

①

Evaluation of **homomorphic addition and multiplication** on UPMEM PIM system

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②

Evaluation with statistical workloads  
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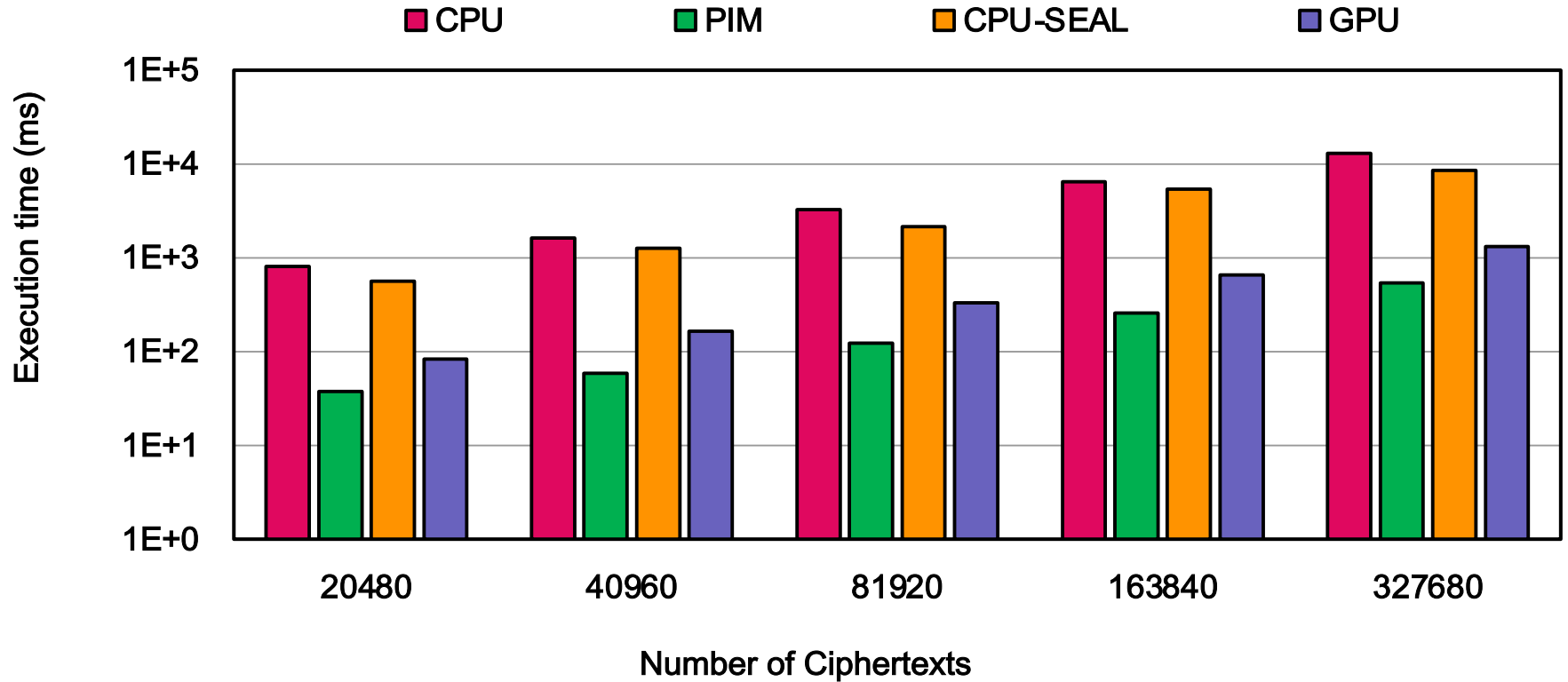
②

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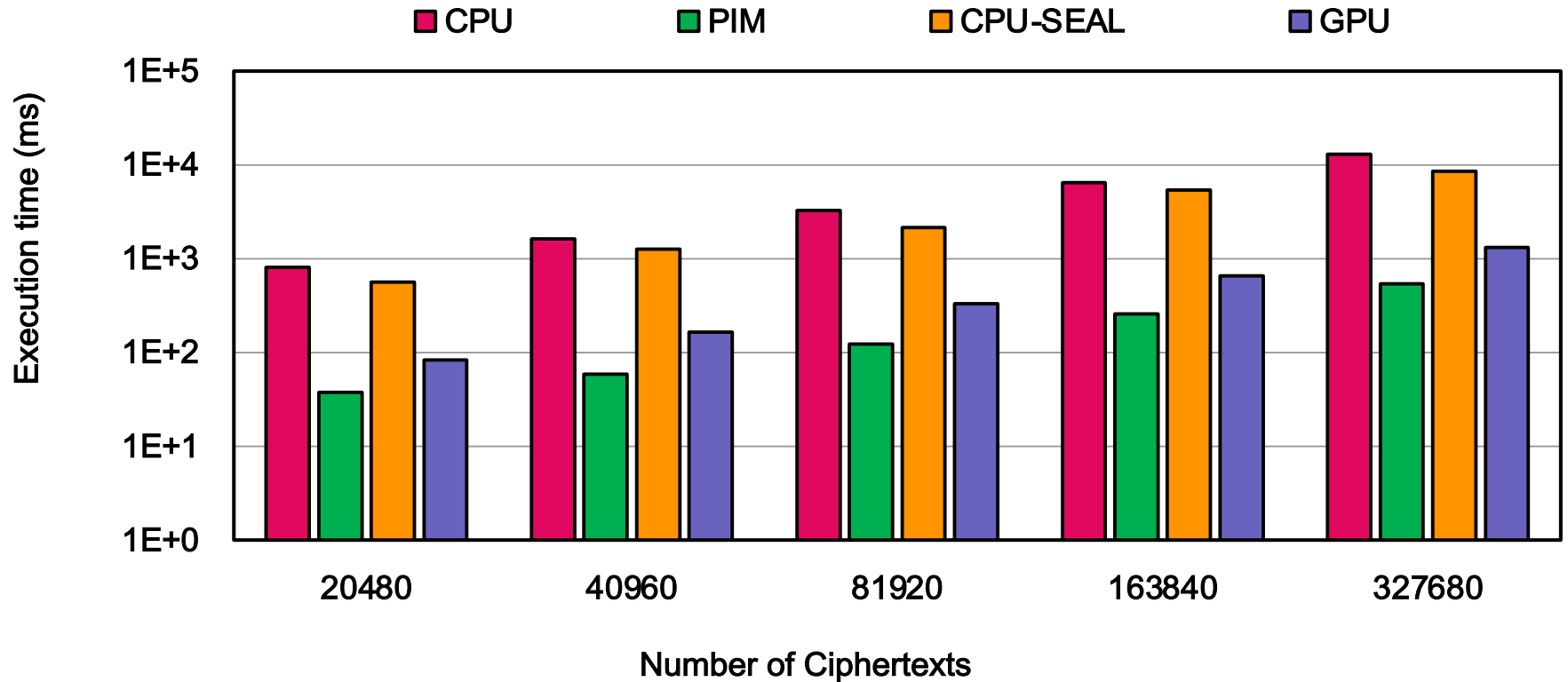
③

Comparison with custom **CPU and GPU** libraries  
and an optimized **CPU library (SEAL)**

# Evaluation: Homomorphic Addition



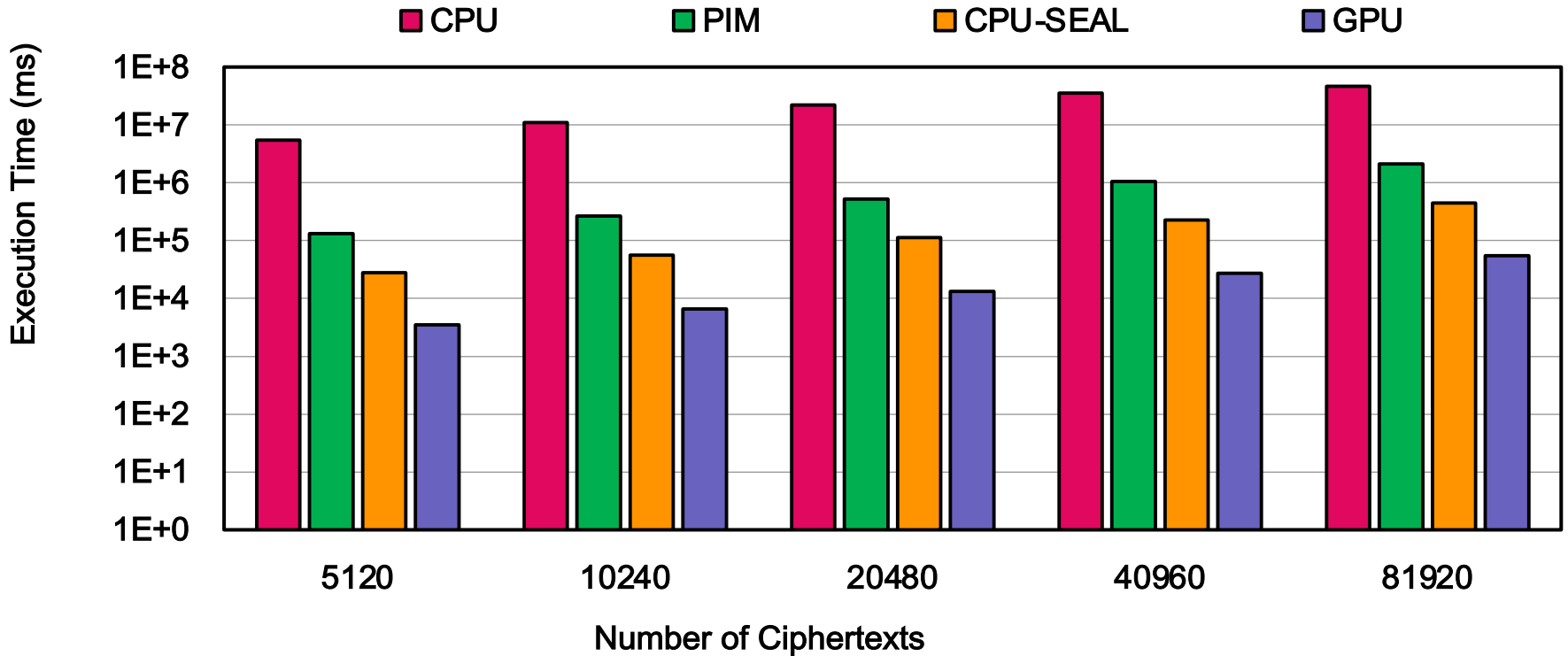
# Evaluation: Homomorphic Addition



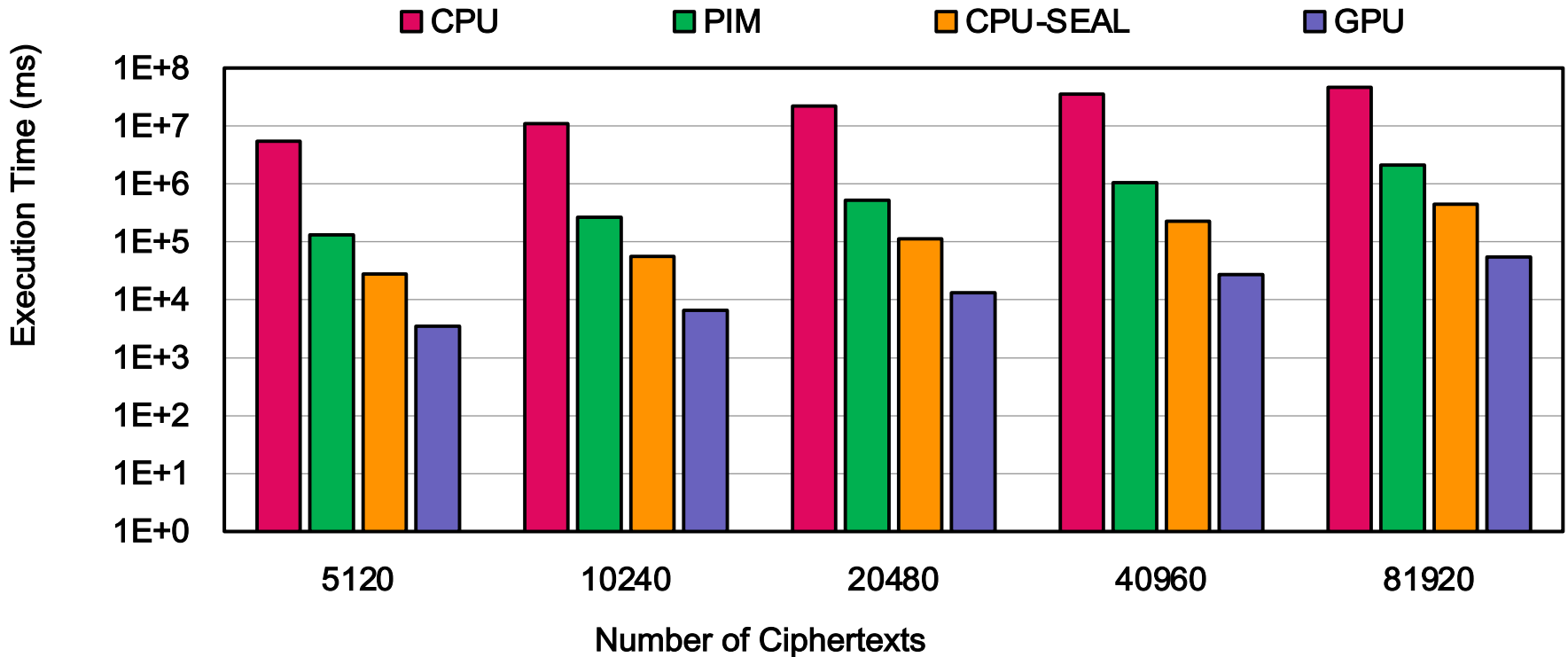
**50 - 100× speedup provided by PIM over CPU**

**2 - 15× speedup over GPU**

# Evaluation: Homomorphic Multiplication



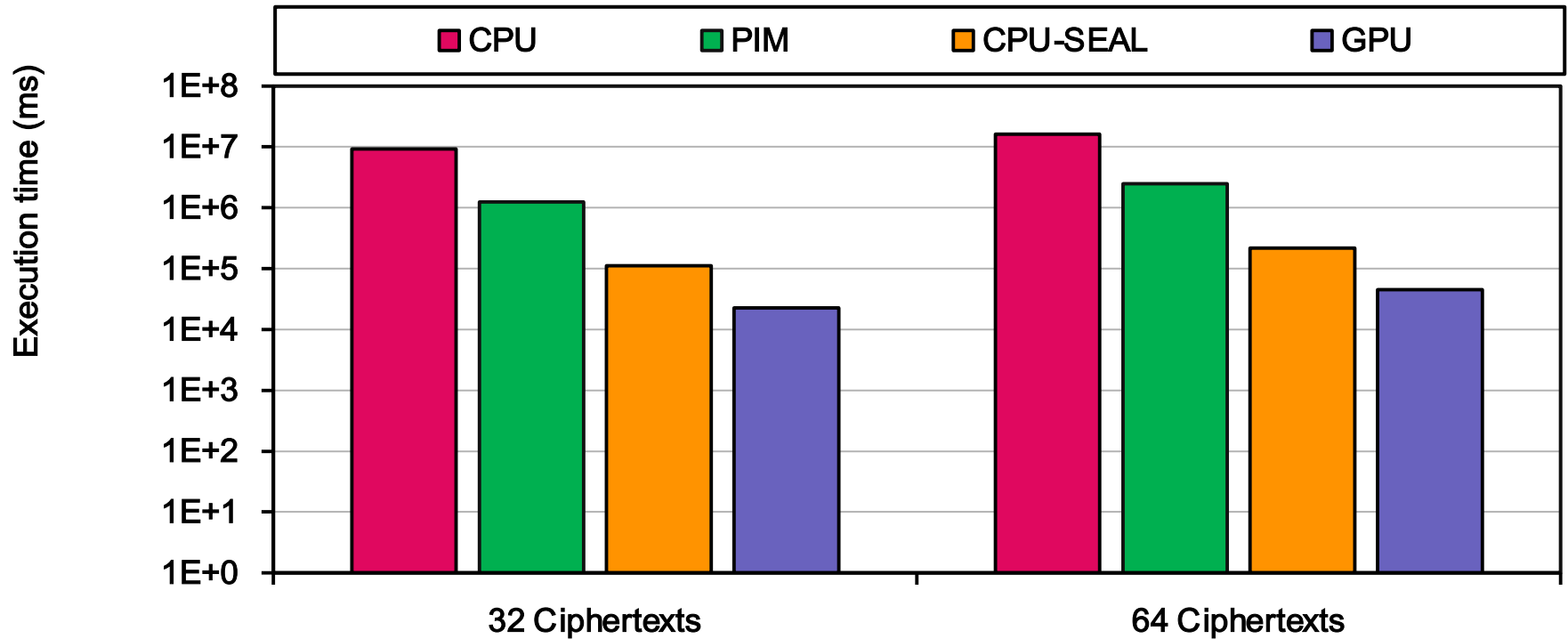
# Evaluation: Homomorphic Multiplication



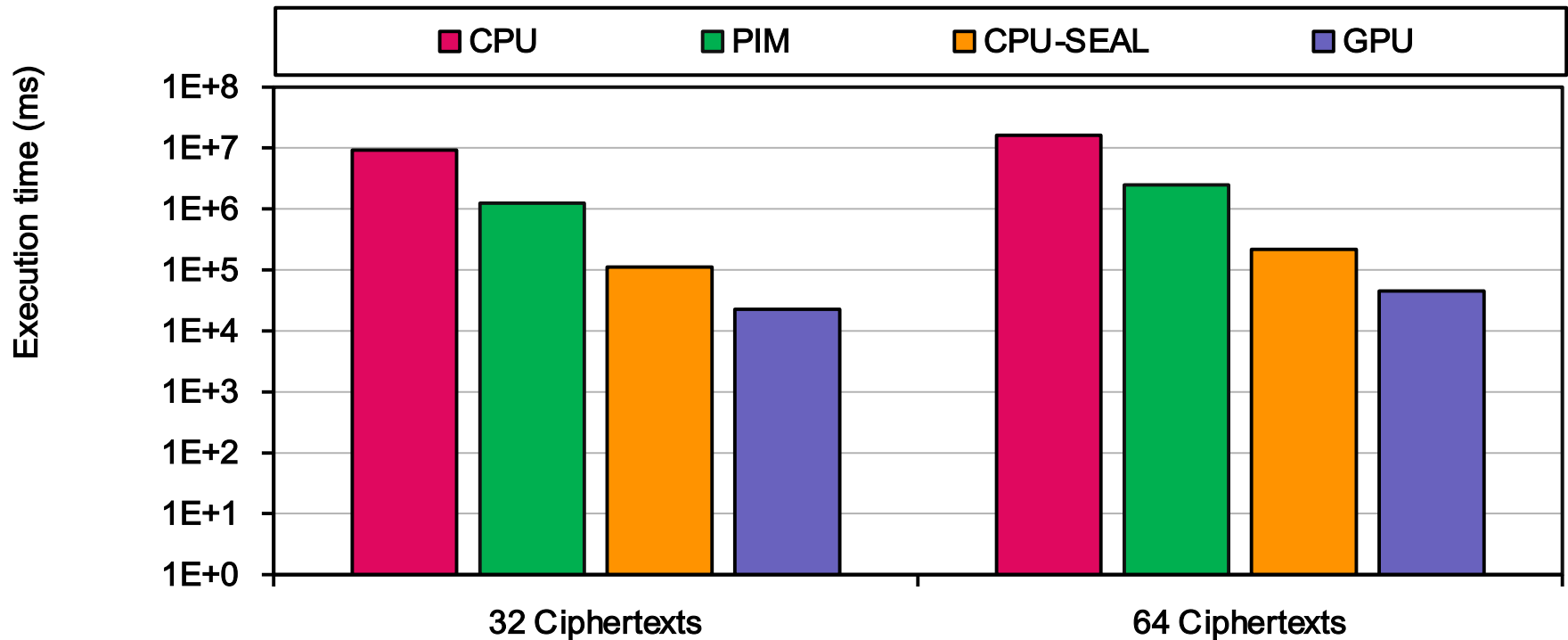
**PIM lags 10 - 15× behind the GPU  
due to the lack of native multiplication support**



# Evaluation: Linear Regression



# Evaluation: Linear Regression



**PIM is 6.4–7.5x faster than the custom CPU implementation**

**CPU-SEAL and GPU are faster than PIM**

# Key Takeaways

1

With **native hardware support for 32-bit integer addition** and large number of PIM cores, the **UPMEM PIM system outperforms** CPU and GPU for homomorphic addition.

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The **lack of native support for 32-bit integer multiplication hampers the performance** of PIM for homomorphic multiplication.

3

The **computational power of PIM scales with memory capacity** via the addition of more memory banks and PIM cores.

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Homomorphic encryption (HE) enables computation on encrypted data, however it suffers from **memory usage and data movement bottlenecks**.

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

1. **Novel Implementation:** First to implement homomorphic addition and multiplication on a real PIM system.
2. **Performance Evaluation:** Evaluated the performance of PIM across different HE security levels with real-world workloads: (i) mean, (ii) variance, (iii) linear regression.
3. **Key Insights:** Revealed PIM system capabilities and trade-offs for cryptography.



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## EVALUATIONS

1. PIM is **50-100×** faster than CPU and **2-15×** faster than GPU in vector addition.
2. PIM outperforms CPU by **40-50×** in vector multiplication but lags **10-15×** behind GPU.
3. For statistical operations, PIM achieves **30× to 300×** improvement over CPU and **10× to 30×** over GPU.

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# Accelerating Modern Workloads on a General-purpose PIM System

Dr. Juan Gómez Luna  
Professor Onur Mutlu