Checkpointing the Un-checkpointable: the Split-Process Approach for MPI and Formal Verification

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Checkpointing: A Tour of the Split-Process Appro

DMTCP — A review

- 2 DMTCP Plugins A review
- 3 Split Processes: MANA for MPI
- 4 But What about Microsoft Windows?
- 5 POSIX Threads: SimGrid and Formal Verification
- 6 Putting it all together: SimGrid, Ckpt and Split Processes
- ONWARD: Split processes for CUDA and Numerical libraries

Outline

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DMTCP History

The DMTCP project and antecedents began almost 15 years ago, and is widely used today:

http://dmtcp.sourceforge.net/publications.html

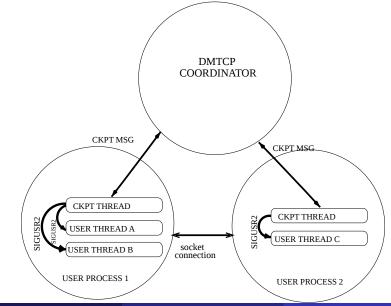
Typical use case for HPC: 12-hour batch time slot, an application is expected to finish in 18 hours.

(NOTE: A resource manager such as SLURM can send a signal one hour before the end of the time slot, giving the application time to checkpoint; DMTCP can then transparently checkpoint the state.)

Ease of use (unprivileged and transparent): dmtcp_launch a.out arg1 arg2 ... dmtcp_command --checkpoint # from other terminal or window dmtcp_restart ckpt_a.out_*.dmtcp

(DMTCP also works for programs that are multi-threaded, distributed, MPI-based,)

DMTCP Architecture: Coordinated Checkpointing



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Fundamental Research Question for the DMTCP Team

"What are the limits of checkpointing applications in the real-world?"

- PROBLEM: An application may store a session id, tty, network peer address, TMPDIR for temporary files, process id, thread id, etc. On restart, some or all of these are likely to change.
- SOLUTION: Process virtualization: interpose on all calls to such ids; replace actual id by DMTCP-defined virtual id. PRINCIPLE: "Never let the application see a real id!"

Scalability:

Checkpointing HPCG: 32,752 CPU cores), and (NAMD: 16,368 CPU cores) for checkpointing MPI applications natively over InfiniBand at TACC: **"System-level Scalable Checkpoint-Restart for Petascale Computing"**, Jiajun Cao et al., *Int. Conf. on Parallel and Dist. Sys.* (ICPADS'16), 2016 (*To the best of our knowledge, this is 100 times larger than the previously largest transparent checkpointing study in the literature.*)

Reinvent HPC (Pthread or MPI): Ckpt + Split Processes + SimGrid

Goal: Efficient, flexible MPI programming (and Pthread and CUDA and ...)

Advantages: Software migration, cross-cluster migration, fault tolerance, model checking with no intermediate model, bug diagnosis even after a long computation, ...

Isolation - The "Split-Process" Approach

Terminology	Single Memory Space	
Upper-Half program		Checkpoint and Restore
	MPI Application	Standard C Calling Conventions No RPC involved
Lower-Half program 😽	MPL Drowy Library MPI Library MPI Library	Discard and Re-initialize
	Network Libraries	
	LIBC	

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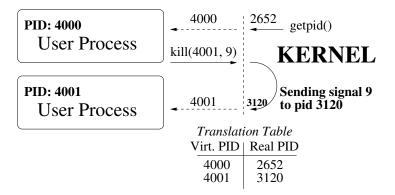
WHY PLUGINS?

- Processes must talk with the rest of the world!
- Process virtualization: virtualize the connections to the rest of the world

In short, a plugin is responsible for modeling an external subsystem, and then creating a semantically equivalent construct at the time of restart.

• PRINCIPLE:

The user sees only virtual pids; The kernel sees only real pids



Plugins for EDA: A Real-world Example

EDA is "Electronic Design Automation" (circuit design for chips).
Part of a four-year collaboration between DMTCP team and Intel:
"Be Kind, Rewind — Checkpoint & Restore Capability for Improving Reliability of Large-scale Semiconductor Design", I. Ljubuncic, R. Giri, A. Rozenfeld, and A. Goldis, IEEE HPEC-14, Sept., 2014. (published solely by Intel co-authors)

Fictional scenario with ball-park numbers (no particular vendor):

- Software circuit simulation: about 1 million times slowdown
- Hardware emulation at back-end: about 1 thousand times slowdown
- Cost of back-end hardware emulator: about \$800,000
- Use case A (for a new CPU design): Boot Microsoft Windows overnight with emulator, and then test Microsoft Office.
- Use case B: Boot Microsoft Windows overnight with emulator, and checkpoint. In later iterations, restart, and then test Microsoft Office.

The above fictional scenario requires a DMTCP plugin to model the back-end emulator. *See publications with emulator vendors for details.*

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MANA for MPI: MPI-Agnostic Network-Agnostic Transparent Checkpointing

Full paper with details at:

"MANA for MPI: *MPI-Agnostic Network-Agnostic* Transparent Checkpointing", by R. Garg, G. Price, and G. Cooperman, *High Performance Distributed Computing* (HPDC'19)

Not just an implementation, but a flexible principle with many applications:

- **IDEA:** Load two independent programs into a *single* process, sharing a single address space. (For a different approach, see "Process-in-process", HPDC'18 from RIKEN et al., employing multiple link maps/dlmopen.)
- LOW OVERHEAD! This completely eliminates the overhead of the proxy approach. (No need for shared memory, cross-memory-attach (cma), XPMEM. One program can directly pass an internal pointer to the other program.)
- Isolate the MPI/network libraries into their own program; completely separate from the program running the MPI application.

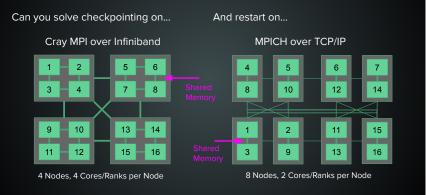
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FEATURES OF THE SPLIT-PROCESS APPROACH:

- Can dynamically change configuration of underlying MPI at runtime. (Why not? The MPI libraries run in a separate program, unrelated to the MPI application program.)
- Can even change the choice of the underlying MPI and network (e.g., InfiniBand vs. Cray GNI) at runtime! (Why not? The MPI and network libraries run in a separate program, unrelated to the MPI application program.)
- Can even migrate to a new cluster at runtime, in which the number of CPU cores per nodes is different!

(Why not? The binding of the MPI libraries to the CPU cores is part of a separate program, unrelated to the MPI application program.)

Puzzle



Checkpointing: A Tour of the Split-Process Appro

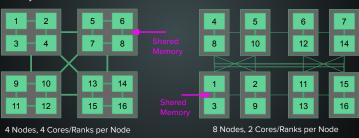
Cross-Cluster Migration

It is now possible to checkpoint on

Cray MPI over Infiniband

And restart on...

MPICH over TCP/IP



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Transparency and Agnosticism

Transparency

- 1. No re-compilation and no re-linking of application
- 2. No re-compilation of MPI
- 3. No special transport stack or drivers

Agnosticism

- 1. Works with any libc or Linux kernel
- 2. Works with any MPI implementation (MPICH, CRAY MPI, etc)
- 3. Works with any network stack (Ethernet, Infiniband, Omni-Path, etc).

Alas, poor transparency, I knew him Horatio...

Transparent checkpointing could die a slow, painful death.

- 1. Open MPI Checkpoint-Restart service (Network Agnostic; cf. Hursey et al.)
 - MPI implementation provides checkpoint service to the application.
- 2. BLCR
 - Utilizes kernel module to checkpoint local MPI ranks
- 3. DMTCP (MPI Agnostic)
 - External program that wraps MPI for checkpointing.

These, and others, have run up against a wall:

MAINTENANCE

The M x N maintenance penalty

MPI:

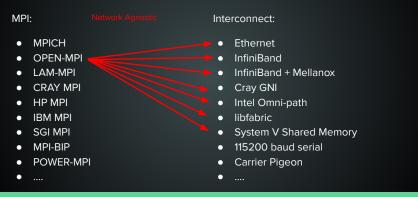
MPICH

- OPEN MPI
- LAM-MPI
- CRAY MPI
- HP MPI
- IBM MPI
- SGI MPI
- MPI-BIP
- POWER-MPI
-

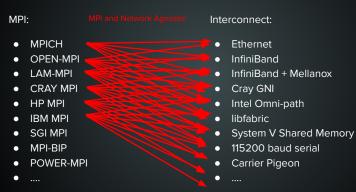
Interconnect:

- Ethernet
- InfiniBand
- InfiniBand + Mellanox
- Cray GNI
- Intel Omni-path
- libfabric
- System V Shared Memory
- 115200 baud serial
- Carrier Pigeon
- ..

The M x N maintenance penalty

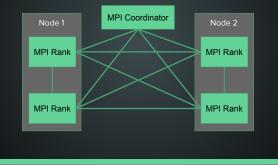


The M x N maintenance penalty



MANA: MPI-Agnostic, Network-Agnostic

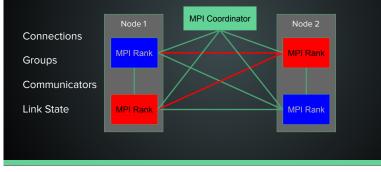
The problem stems from checkpointing both the MPI coordinator and the MPI lib.



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MANA: MPI-Agnostic, Network-Agnostic

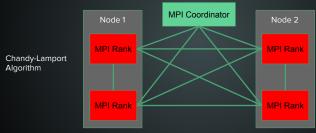
The problem stems from checkpointing MPI - both the coordinator and the library.



Checkpointing: A Tour of the Split-Process Appro

Achieving Agnosticism

Step 1: Drain the Network



As demonstrated by Hursey et al., abstracting by "MPI Messages" allows for Network Agnosticism.

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Checkpointing Collective Operations

Solution: Two-phase collectives

- 1. Preface all collectives with a trivial barrier
- 2. When the trivial barrier is completed, call the original collective



Checkpointing Collective Operations

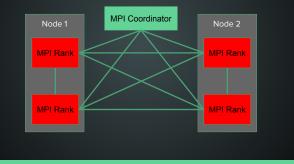
Solution: Two-phase collectives

- 1. Preface all collectives with a trivial barrier
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	Trivial	Barrier Colle	
Rank 1			
Rank 2			
Rank 3			

Achieving Agnosticism

Step 2: Discard the network



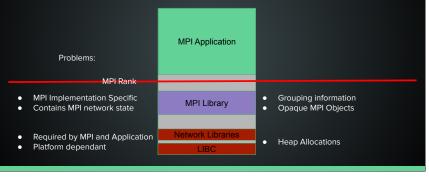
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Checkpointing A Rank

Solection is simpler ... right?



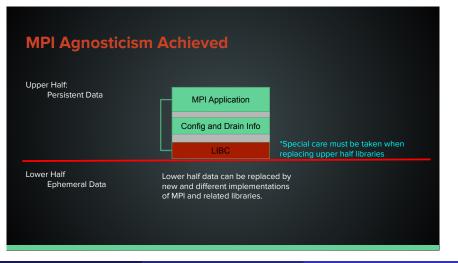
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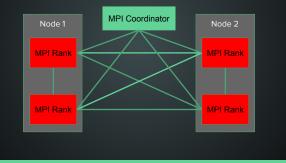
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Checkpoint Process

Step 1: Drain the Network



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Checkpoint Process

Step 1: Drain the Network
Step 2: Checkpoint Upper-Half

MPI Rank MPI Application Config and Drain Info

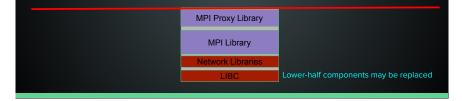
LIBC

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Restart Process

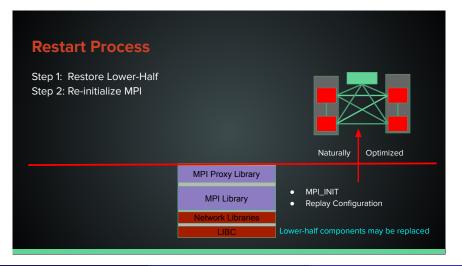
Step 1: Restore Lower-Half



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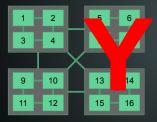
Restart Process

Step 1: Restore Lower-Half Step 2: Re-initialize MPI Step 3: Restore Upper-Half	MPI Rank			
	MPI Application			
	Config and Drain Info			
	LIBC	Naturally	Optimized	
MPI Rank # assigned by MPI_Init used to select checkpoint file for restoring the upper half.	MPI Proxy Library			
	MPI Library	MPI_INIT Replay Configuration		
This avoids the need to virtualize MPI Rank numbers.	Network Libraries			
	LIBC	Lower-half components may be replaced		

Puzzle

Can you solve checkpointing on...

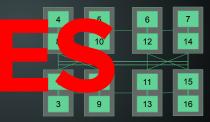
Cray MPI over Infiniband



4 Nodes, 4 Cores/Ranks per Node

And restart on...

MPICH over TCP/IP



8 Nodes, 2 Cores/Ranks per Node

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Checkpoint-Restart Overhead

Checkpoint Data Size

- GROMACS 64 Ranks over 2 Nodes: 5.9GB (and 0.6% runtime overhead)
- HPCG 2048 ranks over 64 nodes: 4TB (and nearly 0% runtime overhead)
- Largely dominated by memory used by benchmark program.

Checkpoint Time

- Largely dominated by disk-write time
- "Stragglers" a single rank takes much longer to checkpoint than others.

Restart Time

• MPI state reconstruction represented < 10% of total restart time.

NEW: Cross-Cluster MPI Application Migration

Traditionally, migration across disparate clusters was not feasible.

- Different MPI packages across clusters
- Highly optimized configurations tied to local cluster (Caches, Cores/Node)
- Overhead of checkpointing entire MPI state is prohibitive

Overhead of migrating under MANA:

- 1.6% runtime overhead after migration.*
- * Linux kernel's upcoming patch https://lwn.net/Articles/769355/ reduces overhead to 0.6%

Collective Communication: Can it really work?

1 If we haven't truly begun ...

Maybe some processes have not completed their current computation task. Maybe we'll wait a long time before they reach the collective communication. Maybe we should abort the collective communication, and checkpoint immediately.

(Aborting the collective communication should be safe. We hope that the lower-half MPI didn't start writing yet into the upper user buffers that were passed as arguments.)

2 But maybe we have begun and we're in the middle of it ... Maybe all processes have already reached the collective communication, and some of them have begun write persistent changes into the upper half user buffers that were passed in. It's dangerous to abort if we've written to the user's buffer. So, maybe we should finish the collective communication if we've truly begun it. We can checkpoint after that.

What to do??? (I'm so confused. 🙂)

Checkpointing Collective Operations

Solution: Two-phase collectives

- 1. Preface all collectives with a trivial barrier
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Collective Communication: How can it work?

- Maybe some processes are still in the trivial barrier. But then no processes are in the actual barrier invoked by the application.
 - **Solution:** At restart time, discard any operations in the trivial barrier from the lower half, and restart the trivial barrier in the new (restarted) lower half MPI library.
- 2 Maybe some processes are still in the actual barrier invoked by the application. But then no processes are in the trivial barrier.
 - **Solution:** We know that all processes must have reached the collective communication, since they have passed through the trivial barrier. So, just wait until they finish the actual collective communication invoked by the application.

There will be no delay. All processes have entered the collective communication!

(But see the paper for the formal details:)

"MANA for MPI: *MPI-Agnostic Network-Agnostic* **Transparent Checkpointing"**, by R. Garg, G. Price, and G. Cooperman, *High Performance Distributed Computing* (HPDC'19)

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Why is Transparent Checkpoint Difficult in Windows?

"To the best of our knowledge, there is still no package for transparent checkpointing in Windows. WHY?

- There is a long history of transparent checkpointing in Linux: DMTCP, CRIU, BLCR, and many others in history.
- **2** The core algorithm is:
 - Checkpoint: (a) Record information about current kernel (e.g., open files and file offsets);
 - (b) Save all of user-accessible memory to a ckpt file.
 - Restart: (a) Start a new process (usually in a new kernel); (b) overwrite the user-space memory by the original memory in the ckpt file;

(c) use system calls to restore information about current kernel (e.g, re-open files, seek to previous file offset).

PROBLEM: Some of Windows kernel state is in the user's process memory, in a hidden format. Restoring it into a new Windows kernel doesn't work.

The Windows Process Control Block PCB) includes a *Process Environment Block (PEB)*, and even *Thread Environment Blocks (TEBs)*, in user space, but in an *internal, undocumented format*.

From Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Process_Environment_Block

"The PEB is closely associated with the kernel mode EPROCESS data structure, as well as with per-process data structures managed within the address space of the Client-Server Runtime Sub-System process. However, ... the PEB is not a kernel mode data structure itself. It resides in the application mode address space of the process that it relates to. This is because it is designed to be used by ... the operating system libraries ... that execute outside of kernel mode,"

Do Split Processes Help? (HINT: "Yes")

RECALL: The essence of split processes is to:

- (a) Combine two programs into a single address space.
- (b) Tag each memory block as either upper half or lower half memory.
- (c) On checkpoint, save upper-half memory; a new lower-half process can later restore this upper-half memory from a checkpoint file.

SOLUTION for Windows (work in progress):: In part (b) above, tag the user application memory as upper-half, but allow the Process Environment Block (PEB) to be implicitly tagged a lower-half.

The essence is to isolate the application code from the systems libraries. This should seem familiar. Recall the history with: Drawbridge (and Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL); Library operating systems, Proxy processes (extensively used in many domains; WINE, Unikernels, etc.

The difficult part is a *clean* isolation paradigm. The goal of our project is *transparent*, *user-space* isolation.

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Sthread, using SimGrid

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[])
                                        15
   #include <sthread.h>
                                        16
2
    bool val1=false:
                                        17
                                              pthread_t thread2;
3
    bool val2=false;
                                        18
                                              pthread_create(&thread2, NULL,
4
    static void* thread2_start() {
                                        19
                                                         thread2_start, NULL);
5
      // yield before shared 'val1'
                                              // yield before shared 'val2'
                                        20
6
      sched_yield();
                                        21
                                              sched_yield();
7
      if (not val1) {
                                        22
                                              if (not val2) {
8
        // Yield before shared 'val2
                                        23
                                                // yield before shared 'val1'
9
        sched_yield();
                                        24
                                                sched_yield();
10
        val2 = true;
                                        25
                                                val1 = true;
11
      }
                                        26
12
      assert(not (val1 and val2));
                                        27
                                              assert(not (val1 and val2));
13
      RETURN NULL; }
                                        28
                                              RETURN 0; }
14
```

Running this code under Sthread immediately yields:

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Sthread for SimGrid (some demos) Sthread: USAGE

/home/gene/simgrid.git/bin/simgrid-mc ./mc-two-thread-bug ... --cfg=model-check/reduction:none --cfg=model-check/max-depth:5

reduction:none: no additional safety properties specified max-depth:5 (default: 5): Show thread schedule only if found for length ≤ 5 *Some violations:* deadlock, livelock (no progress), assert failure, crash

And now a demo for the following case:

- Two threads with two shared variables: ** assert failure: "PROPERTY NOT VALID" **
- 2 Deadlock (deadly embrace), each thread must lock two mutexes: ** "DEADLOCK" **
- Mars Pathfinder (bug due to priority inversion):
 ** progress condition fails: "CRASH IN THE PROGRAM" **
- ABA problem (lock-free algorithm for stack of allocation buffers):
 ** "CRASH IN THE PROGRAM" **

Like Sthread for POSIX threads, there is also Smpi for MPI. Both are based on SimGrid.

For further information, see:

• https://simgrid.org/tutorials/simgrid-smpi-101.pdf (Especially, see pages 5 and 6, out of 22 pages.)

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JOKE: In high-end HPC, we don't debug!!!

Why do practitioners repeat this joke?

ANSWER: High-end clusters are expensive, and should be used only for production — especially for "**deep executions**", where bugs might occur only after hours. So, development and debugging are done on small clusters, where the bug does not appear.

Why do new bugs appear during deep execution?

Some race conditions are rare. If the bug appears once in a billion times, we may have to execute a lot to see the bug.

Why is it expensive to debug on a high-end cluster?

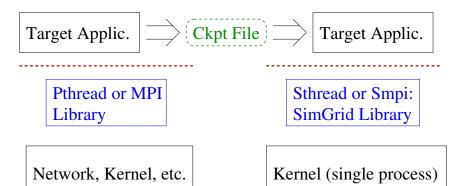
- a. Race conditions are difficult to debug. If only three nodes out of a hundred are involved in the bug, how do we trace those three nodes in isolation? (How do we even know which three nodes to trace?)
- b. We could use GDB and breakpoints on a deep execution, but if we're using a hundred nodes and we debug for hours, this becomes expensive.
- c. We could add extra print and assert statements and then run another production job. But if we do this five or ten more times in order to explore a deep execution, this also becomes expensive.

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This approach extends both Sthread (POSIX threads) and Smpi (MPI). It does *not* discover new bugs. But it can be used to diagnose new bugs.

- **1** Set DMTCP flags for periodic checkpointing (perhaps, every 5 minutes).
- 2 Run target (MPI or POSIX threads) application under DMTCP.
- 3 After program crash or assert failure: Restart from the last checkpoint, but under SimGrid (Sthread or Smpi).
- 4 Sthread/Smpi will produce a schedule for threads (Sthread) or MPI ranks (Smpi). This is the bug diagnosis.
- Replay from the checkpoint, but in a "replay mode" under SimGrid or GDB.

The Roadmap forward (in pictures):



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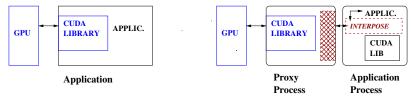
GOAL: To convince you of a general proxy paradigm for handling the "hard" checkpointing challenges that remain.

We take as testbeds two such "hard" examples:

- Checkpoint a CUDA application running on a GPU (Problem: how to save and restore the state of GPU hardware)
 (joint with Rohan Garg, Apoorve Mohan, Michael Sullivan)
 To appear, IEEE Cluster'18; see, also, technical report: https://arxiv.org/abs/1808.00117
- Checkpoint MPI on NERSC/Cori supercomputer (with GNI network; no checkpoint-restart service to support it)

BEFORE:

AFTER:



Basic Idea of a Proxy for System Services

PROBLEM: Often, system services are provided with the help of an auxiliary system that cannot be checkpointed.

EXAMPLES: GPU device hardware; MPI auxiliary process or MPI coordinator; sshd (ssh daemon); VNC server; etc.

SOLUTION:

- A. Split user process into two: an application process with all of the application state; and a proxy process communicating with hardware or software for system services.
- B. System service requests are passed from application process to proxy process through inter-process communication, and pass result back.
- C. At checkpoint time, the proxy process is temporarily disconnected, and the application process is checkpointed as an isolated "vanilla" Linux process. (Note: the proxy process must be in a quiescent state (no unfinished system service tasks) at checkpoint time.)
- D. At restart time, a *new* proxy process re-connects with the system service and with the restarted application. The application process then replays some old system service requests, restoring system to a state that equivalent to pre-checkpoint time.

For more on this, see the thesis of Rohan Garg

(NOTE: Proxies have been used before. For example, this is the basis of an old trick for checkpointing

VNC sessions. We propose it here as a general paradigm for checkpoint-restart.)

CRUM: "Checkpoint-Restart for Unified Memory" for CUDA

Proxy-based shadow paging for CUDA UVM (Unified Virtual Memory)

- *Shadow UVM page synchronization:* Catches memory transfers between proxy and application through memory permissions and segfault detection. The difficulty for transparent checkpointing with CUDA-managed memory: **How to make this efficient?** See the CRUM paper (Algorithm 1, shadow-page synchronization) for details.
- Enables fast *forked checkpointing model* for UVM memory that overlaps writing a checkpoint image to stable storage, while the application continues. *Almost free benefit of our approach!* (This was difficult in the past due to the need to share memory among the GPU device, and the UVM-based host that was split among parent and forked child processes.)

CRUM (Checkpoint-Restart for CUDA Unified Memory): Runtime

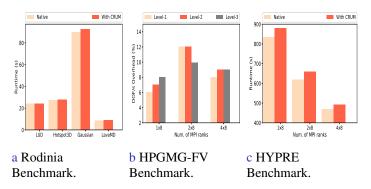


Figure: Runtime overheads for different benchmarks under CRUM.

Operating environment: Four NVIDIA Tesla P100's per node; CUDA 8 (max config: four nodes with 4 GPUs per node and 8 MPI ranks per node) **PROBLEM:** 6% overhead often observed

Gene Cooperman

Checkpointing: A Tour of the Split-Process Appro

CUDA and Numerical Libraries: Same as MPI

"FOLLOW SAME PATTERN AS MPI

This all seems pretty obvious, to have two programs in the same address space in memory. Why hasn't somebody done this before?

ANSWER: Well, we think it's new. Besides, we still haven't heard of somebody else who has a kernel loader.

A Better Answer to the Previous Question

- There are experts on the Linux kernel, and they know everything about launching a classic process (text/data/stack).
- 2 There are experts on the user-space side of operating systems: the linker, the loader, the compiler, the fork/exec process model.
 - (And there's even a cool result using shared memory and dlmopen (see 'man dlmopen') to force the linker to load two independent programs: see "Process-in-Process", Hori et al., HPDC'18)

But that method uses multiple threads, and the cost of context-switching can be expensive: recall the problem with the 'fs' register

- But there aren't enough experts on the interface between the two. By working on transparent checkpointing, we get to know the interface deeply: link maps, fs register, thread-local storage, thread-control block, auxv (auxiliary vector), /proc/*/maps, memory guard pages, user-space page fault handling, vdso, vvar, etc.
- 4 **CONCLUSION:** Come work with us on other cool things. We're always looking for collaborators on our open-source software, on research, and *of course for potential new Ph.D. students*.

Gene Cooperman

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OTHER QUESTIONS?