



# KNL PROFILING WITH VTUNE AMPLIFIER XE

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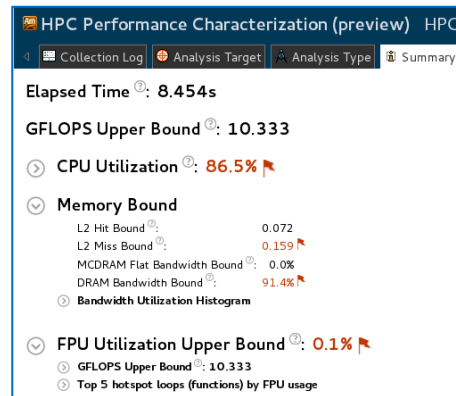
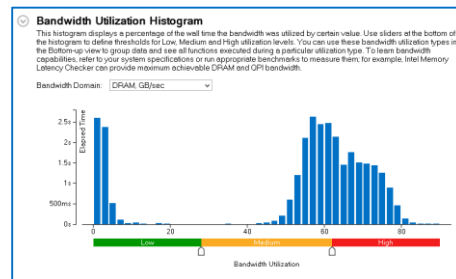
# Agenda

- Overview
- System configuration
- Analysis Configuration
- Analysis Workflow
- Memory Access analysis
- Micro-arch analysis with General Exploration
- Performance Overview with HPC Performance Characterization (tech preview)
- Basic Hotspots, Concurrency, Locks and Waits

# Overview


Explore Performance on Intel® Xeon Phi™ Processor (KNL Self Boot Linux)

- Use **VTune Amplifier XE 2016 U4 and further** (no NDA package required)
- **Memory Access analysis**
  - Memory access problems by memory hierarchy
  - High Bandwidth Memory analysis
    - Defines if the app is DRAM or MCDRAM bandwidth bound
    - Helps to determine data structures worth to allocate to MCDRAM for DRAM bound apps
- Micro-architectural issues with **General Exploration analysis**
  - Explore how efficiently your code passing through the core pipeline
- Performance overview with **HPC Performance Characterization**
  - Important scalability aspects for OpenMP and hybrid MPI+OpenMP apps
    - CPU utilization
      - Serial vs Parallel time, imbalance, parallel runtime overhead cost, parallel loop parameters
    - Memory access efficiency
    - FPU utilization (upper bound), FLOPS (upper bound), basic loop vectorization info
- Algorithmic tuning opportunities with **Advanced Hotspots**
- Advanced measurements with Custom HW EBS event collection
- And more...



# System Configuration

## Prerequisites for HW EBS event based collections

- VTune on KNL works with SEP driver (recommended) or upon perf
  - Related to: Advanced Hotspots, Memory Access, General Exploration, HPC Performance Characterization, custom event analysis
- Perf-based collection limitations:
  - Memory Access analysis is enabled with perf starting 2017 Gold
  - To enable uncore event collections, system wide collection set under sudo/root:
    -  `>echo 0>/proc/sys/kernel/perf_event_paranoid`
    - Pre-requisite for memory access analysis upon perf**
    - Switch to system-wide mode with "analyze-system" option for application to launch to avoid perf collection overhead**
  - To collect General Exploration or custom event collection with big number of events increase default limit of opened file descriptors:
    - In `/etc/security/limits.conf` increase default number to `100 * <number_of_logic_CPU_cores>`:
      - `<user> hard nofile <100 * number_of_logic_CPU_cores>`
      - `<user> soft nofile <100 * number_of_logic_CPU_cores>`
- Default sampling interval on KNL is 10ms

# Analysis Configuration (1/4)

## How to Run VTune on MPI Applications

><mpi\_launcher> -n N <vtune\_command\_line> ./app\_to\_run

- >srun -n 48 -N 16 amplxe-cl -collect **-trace-mpi** -r result\_dir ./my\_mpi\_app
- >mpirun -n 48 -ppn 16 amplxe-cl -collect advanced-hotspots -r result\_dir ./my\_mpi\_app

➡ NB: -r <result\_dir> is mandatory option for MPI profiling

- Encapsulates ranks to per-node result directories suffixed with hostname

- result\_dir.hostname1 with 0-15, result\_dir.hostname2 with 16-31, result\_dir.hostname3 with 32-47

➡ Add **-trace-mpi** option for VTune CL to enable per-node result directories for non-Intel MPIS

- Works for software and Intel driver-based collectors

- Enabled for perf-based collection from 2017 Gold

- Highly recommended to set /proc/sys/kernel/perf\_event\_paranoid=0 to allow system wide collection to capture multiple ranks in profiling per node w/o overhead

# Analysis Configuration (2/4)

## Selective Rank Profiling

Superposition of application to launch and VTune command line for selective ranks to reduce trace size

Example: profile rank 1 from 0-15:

```
>mpirun -n 1 ./my_app : -n 1 <vtune_command_line> ./my_app : -n 14 ./my_app
```

- In the case of Intel MPI launcher `-gttool` option can be used:

Example: profile ranks 3, 7, 11-13 from 0-15:

```
>mpirun -gttool "amplxe-cl -collect advanced-hotapots -r result_dir:3,7,11-13" ./my_app
```

# Analysis Configuration (3/4)

## MPI Profiling Command Line Generation from GUI

1. Create a VTune project

2. Choose “Arbitrary Targets/Local”

3. Set processor arch and OS

4. Set application name and parameters

5. Check “Use MPI Launcher”

Provide the launcher name, number of ranks, ranks to profile, set result directory

Choose Target and Analysis Type

Analysis Target Analysis Type

Accessible Targets

- local
- remote Linux (SSH)
- Intel Xeon Phi coprocessor (native)
- Intel Xeon Phi coprocessor (host)

Arbitrary Targets

- local
- Intel Xeon Phi coprocessor (native)
- Intel Xeon Phi coprocessor (host)

Launch Application: my\_mpi\_app

Launch with: GNU/Linux

Specify and configure your analysis target details.

This target system type is used to produce a command line analysis configuration for the selected microarchitecture. You cannot start this analysis from the host. To collect data on the remote system with no connection to the host, copy the generated command line and run it directly on the remote system.

Application: my\_mpi\_app

Application parameters:

☒ Use application directory as working directory

Working directory:

☒ Use MPI launcher

Select MPI launcher:

- ☐ Intel MPI
- ☒ Other: srun

Number of ranks: 16

Profile ranks:

- ☐ All
- ☒ Selective: 3,7,11-13

Result location: my\_result\_dir

# Analysis Configuration (4/4)

## MPI Profiling Command Line Generation from GUI

6. Choose analysis type

7. Generate command line

The screenshot shows the Intel VTune Amplifier XE 2.0 GUI. The 'Choose Target and Analysis Type' dialog is open, with the 'Memory Access' analysis type selected under the 'Microarchitecture Analysis' category. A 'Copy Command Line to Clipboard' dialog is open, displaying the generated command line for MPI profiling. The command line includes options for memory access analysis, result directory, and MPI application. The 'Copy Command Line...' button in the main dialog is highlighted.

**Copy Command Line to Clipboard**

Command line:

```
strun -n 3 my_mpi_app : -n 1 ampxe-cl -collect memory-access -knob analyze-mem-objects=true -result my_result_dir -trace-mpi -- my_mpi_app : -n 3 my_mpi_app : -n 1 ampxe-cl -collect memory-access -knob analyze-mem-objects=true -result my_result_dir -trace-mpi -- my_mpi_app : -n 3 my_mpi_app : -n 1 ampxe-cl -collect memory-access -knob analyze-mem-objects=true -result my_result_dir -trace-mpi -- my_mpi_app : -n 2 my_mpi_app
```

☐ Use -collect-with action  
☒ Hide knobs with default values

**Copy** **Close**

**Copy Command Line...**



# Analysis Workflow

Result finalization and viewing on KNL target might be slow

Use the recommended workflow:

1. Run collection on KNL deferring finalization to host:

```
>amplxe-cl -collect memory-access -no-auto-finalize -r <my_result_dir> ./my_app
```

2. Finalize the result on the host

- Provide search directories to the binaries of interest for resolving with `-search-dir` option

```
>amplxe-cl -finalize -r <my_result_dir> -search-dir <my_binary_dir>
```

3. Generate reports, work with GUI

```
>amplxe-cl -report hotspots -r <my_result_dir>
```

# Memory Access Analysis

## Motivation

- **More ranks/threads** to load many-core processor -> **more data** fetching to saturate computations
- Faster reaching DRAM bandwidth limit (~90GB/s) for BW bound apps and it hurts performance
- On-package MCDRAM (400Gb/s+) helps to extend BW limit and increase performance
  - MCDRAM in cache mode is transparent for a user, might bring additional latency if working set does not suit MCDRAM size (16GB)
  - MCDRAM in flat mode is more flexible – user can control what data to allocate to MCDRAM
    - If working set suits 16GB – use “numactl –m 1” to allocate all data to MCDRAM
    - If working set is more than 16GB – use memkind lib to allocate data structures that induce L2 (LLC on KNL) miss traffic

**USE VTUNE TO DEFINE PROPER DATA STRUCTURES FOR MCDRAM ALLOCATION**

# Memory Access Analysis

## Configuration

### Configuration options:

#### ■ Analyze memory objects:

- Enables the instrumentation of memory allocation/de-allocation and mapping hardware events to memory objects
- May cause additional runtime overhead due to the instrumentation of all system memory allocation/de-allocation API

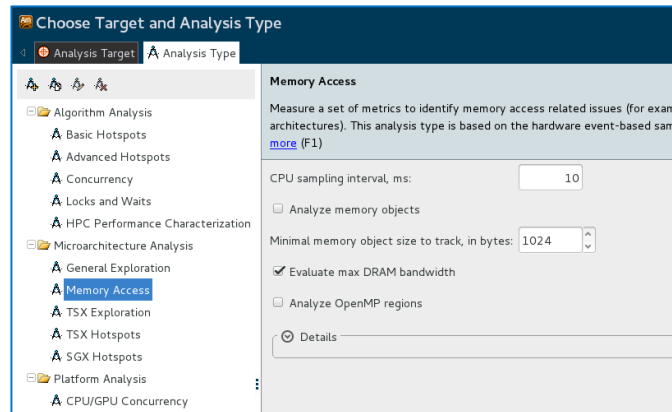
#### ■ Minimal memory object size to track, in bytes:

- Specify a minimal size of memory allocations to analyze. This option helps reduce runtime overhead of the instrumentation

#### ■ “Evaluate max DRAM Bandwidth” is not enabled on KNL, limits hardcoded:

- DRAM: 90GB/s
- MCDRAM 350GB/s

Can be adjusted on BW histogram per result if needed



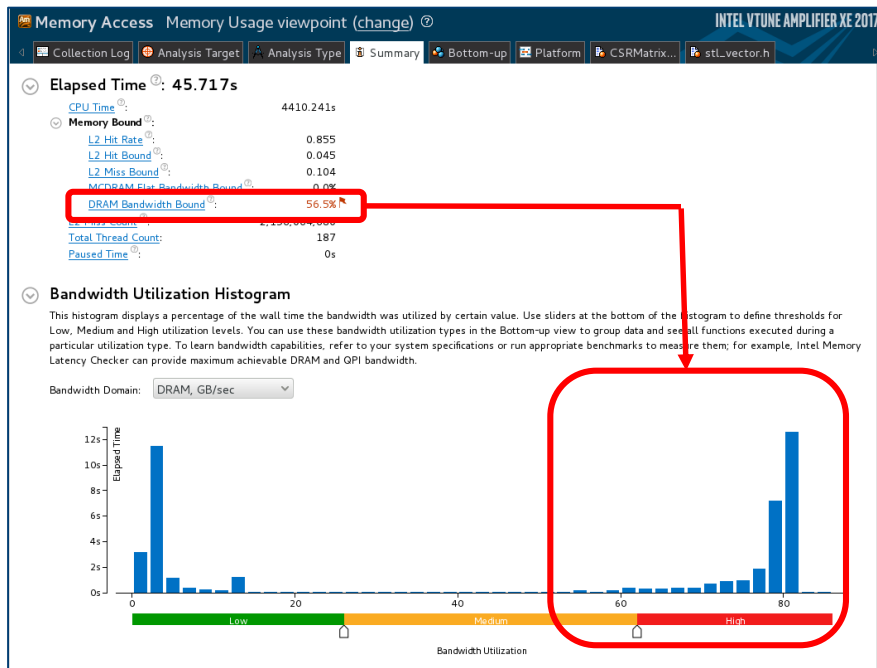
```
>amplxe-cl -c memory-access -knob analyze-mem-objects=true -knob mem-object-size-min-thres=1024 -- <app>
```

# Memory Access Analysis

## High Bandwidth Analysis. Step 1

Explore DRAM Bandwidth Bound metric and histogram on summary to see if the app is bandwidth bound

Significant portion  
of application time  
spent in high memory  
bandwidth utilization  
The app may benefit  
from MCDRAM

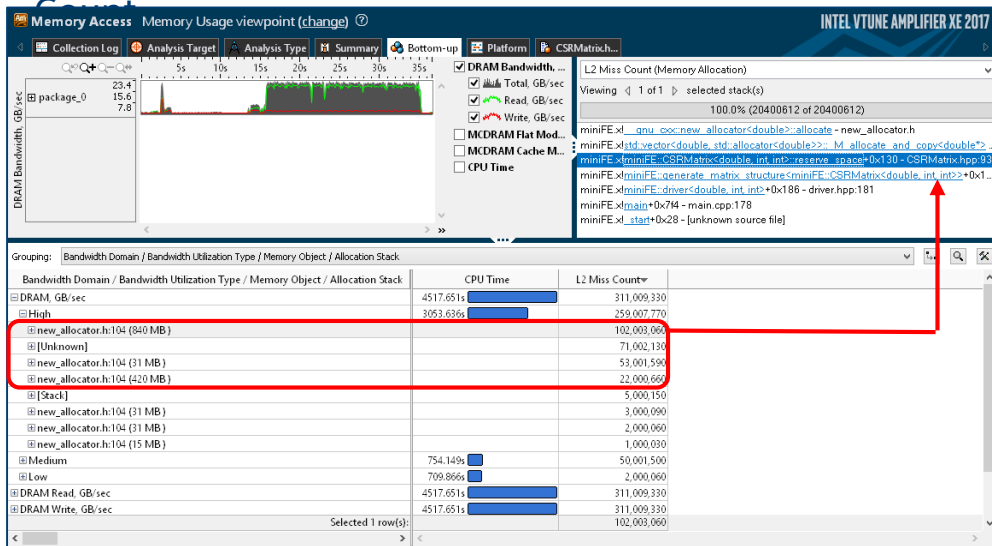


# Memory Access Analysis

## High Bandwidth Analysis. Step 2

### Investigate the memory allocations inducing bandwidth

- “Bandwidth Domain/Bandwidth Utilization Type/Memory Object/Allocation Stack” grouping with expansion by “DRAM/High” and sorting by L2 Miss Count



```
void reserve_space(unsigned nrows, unsigned ncols_per_row)
{
    rows.resize(nrows);
    row_offsets.resize(nrows+1);
    packed_coefs.reserve(nrows * ncols_per_row);
    packed_coefs.reserve(nrows * ncols_per_row);
    #pragma omp parallel for
    for(MINIFE_GLOBAL_ORDINAL i = 0; i < nrows; ++i) {
        rows[i] = 0;
        row_offsets[i] = 0;
    }
}
```

Focus on allocations inducing L2 misses

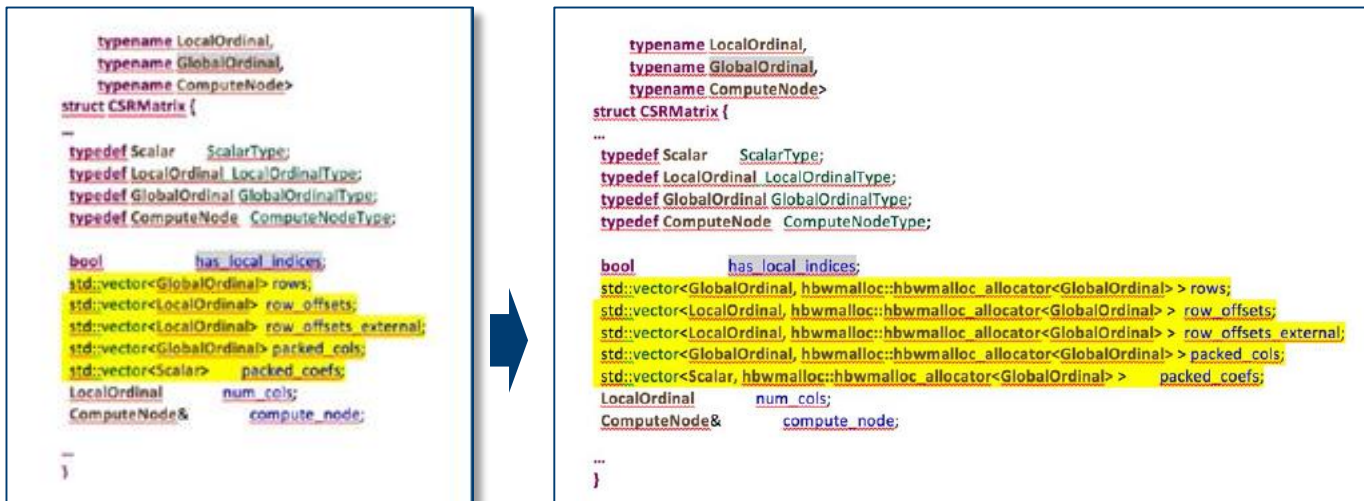
Allocation stack shows the allocation place in user's code

# Memory Access Analysis

## High Bandwidth Analysis. Step 3

### Allocate the data structures to MCDRAM using High Bandwidth Memory

E.g.: specifying a custom memory allocator class from memkind lib for stored vector elements

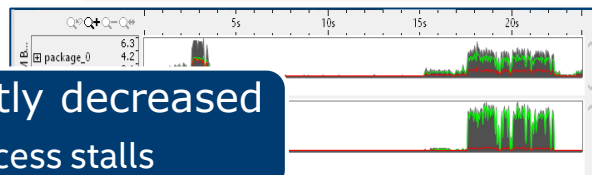
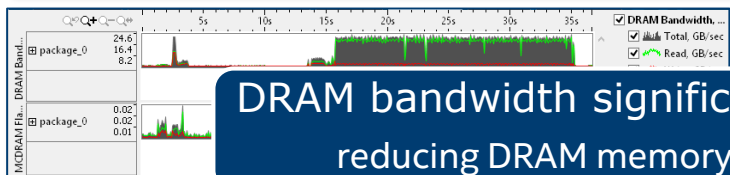
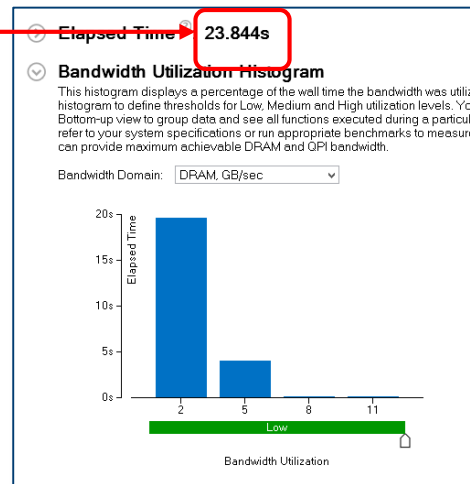
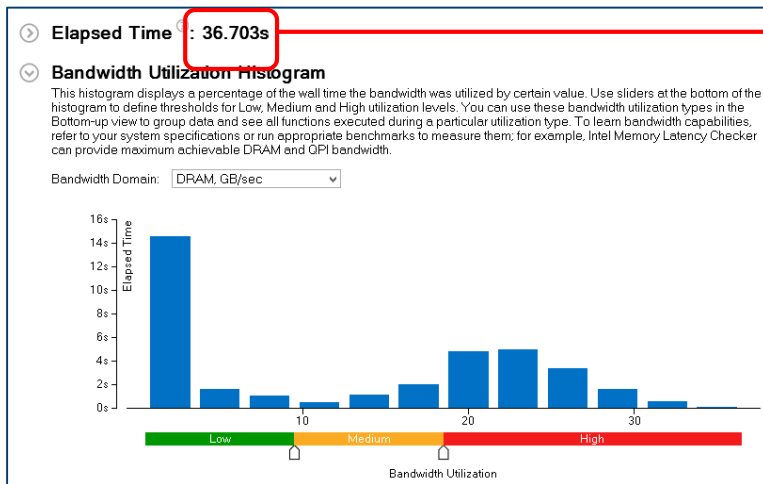


Or using “numactl –m 1” if the whole working set suits 16 GB

# Memory Access Analysis

## High Bandwidth Analysis. Step 4

### Rerun the benchmark



DRAM bandwidth significantly decreased  
reducing DRAM memory access stalls

# Micro-arch analysis with General Exploration

- Execution pipeline slots distribution by Retiring, Front-End, Back-End, Bad Speculation
- Second level metrics for each aspect of execution pipeline to understand the reason of stalls

The screenshot shows the 'General Exploration' tool interface. The top bar includes tabs for 'Collection Log', 'Analysis Target', 'Analysis Type', 'Summary', and 'Bottom-up'. The main content area displays a tree view of metrics. The 'Elapsed Time' is 24.340s. The 'Front-End Bound' is 6.5%, 'Bad Speculation' is 0.7%, and 'Back-End Bound' is 63.6%. The 'Memory Latency' section shows 'L2 Hit Rate' at 0.938, 'L2 Hit Bound' at 0.157, and 'SIMD Compute-to-L2 Access Ratio' at 15.439. The 'Memory Reissues' section shows 'Split Stores' at 0.002 and 'Loads Blocked by Store Forwarding' at 0.009. The 'Retiring' section shows 'Total Thread Count' at 185 and 'Paused Time' at 0s.

General Exploration	
General Exploration viewpoint (change)	
Collection Log Analysis Target Analysis Type Summary Bottom-up	
Elapsed Time	24.340s
Clockticks	1,834,214,751,318
Instructions Retired	1,032,885,549,326
CPI Rate	1.776
MUX Reliability	1.000
Front-End Bound	6.5%
Cache Misses	0.030
TLB Overhead	0.017
BACLEARS	0.033
MS Entry	0.008
Cache Line Fetch	0.017
Bad Speculation	0.7%
Branch Mispredict	0.7%
SMC Machine Clear	0.000
M0 Machine Clear Overhead	0.000
Back-End Bound	63.6%
Memory Latency	
L1 Hit Rate	0.938
L2 Hit Rate	0.938
L2 Hit Bound	0.157
L2 Miss Bound	0.141
UTLB Overhead	0.009
SIMD Compute-to-L1 Access Ratio	0.894
SIMD Compute-to-L2 Access Ratio	15.439
Contested Accesses (Intra-Tile)	0.000
Page Walk	0.027
Memory Reissues	
Split Stores	0.002
Loads Blocked by Store Forwarding	0.009
Retiring	29.1%
Total Thread Count	185
Paused Time	0s



# Performance Overview with HPC Performance Characterization

## Motivation

### Show important aspects of application performance in one analysis

- Entry point to assess application efficiency on system resources utilization with definition of the next steps to investigate pathologies with significant performance cost
- Monitor how parameters of a run or code changes impact important different performance aspects to better understand their impact on elapsed time

### Customers asking

- I eliminated imbalance with dynamic scheduling but elapsed time of my application became worse, why?
- I vectorized the code but don't have much benefit, why?
- I moved from pure MPI to MPI + OpenMP but the results are much worse, why?

### CPU Utilization, Memory efficiency and FPU utilization aspects are correlated – let's explore them in one view

- Run HPC Performance Characterization analysis

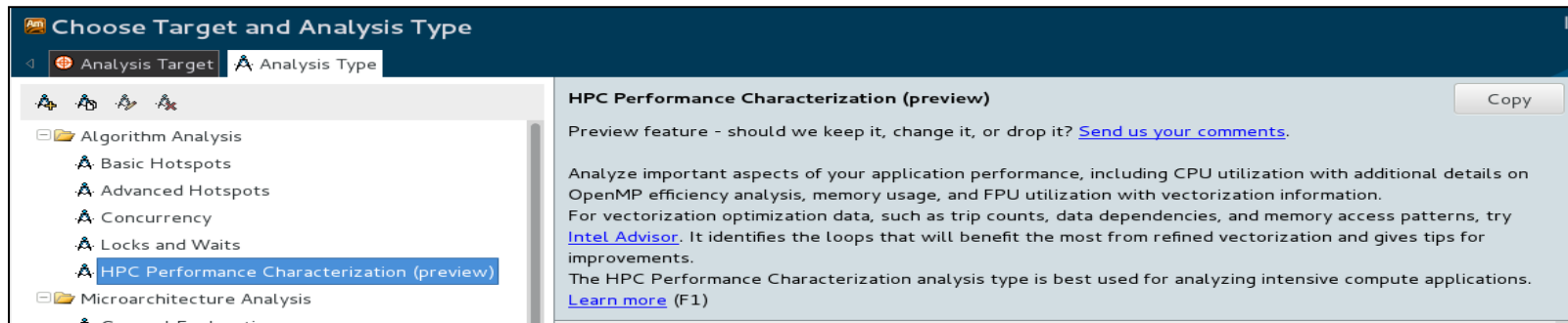
# Performance Overview with HPC Performance Characterization Motivation

CL

```
>amplxe-cl -collect hpc-performance <options> ./my_app
```

```
>mpirun -n 16 -ppn 4 -collect hpc-performance -r result_dir ./my_mpi_app
```

GUI



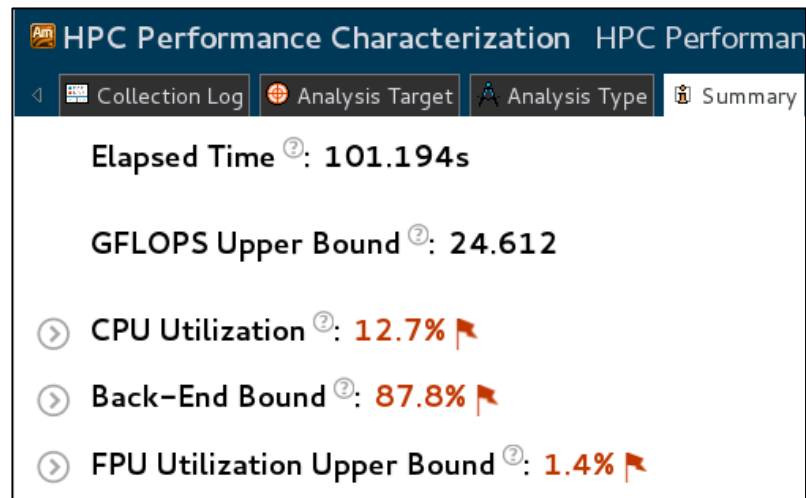
# Performance Overview with HPC Performance Characterization Analysis Structure and Metrics

## Two characterization metrics

- Elapsed Time
- GFLOPs Upper Bound\*

## Three performance aspects

- CPU Utilization
- Memory Bound
- FPU Utilization Upper Bound\*



\*Calculated based on FLOP HW counters assuming full vector utilization

# Performance Overview with HPC Performance Characterization

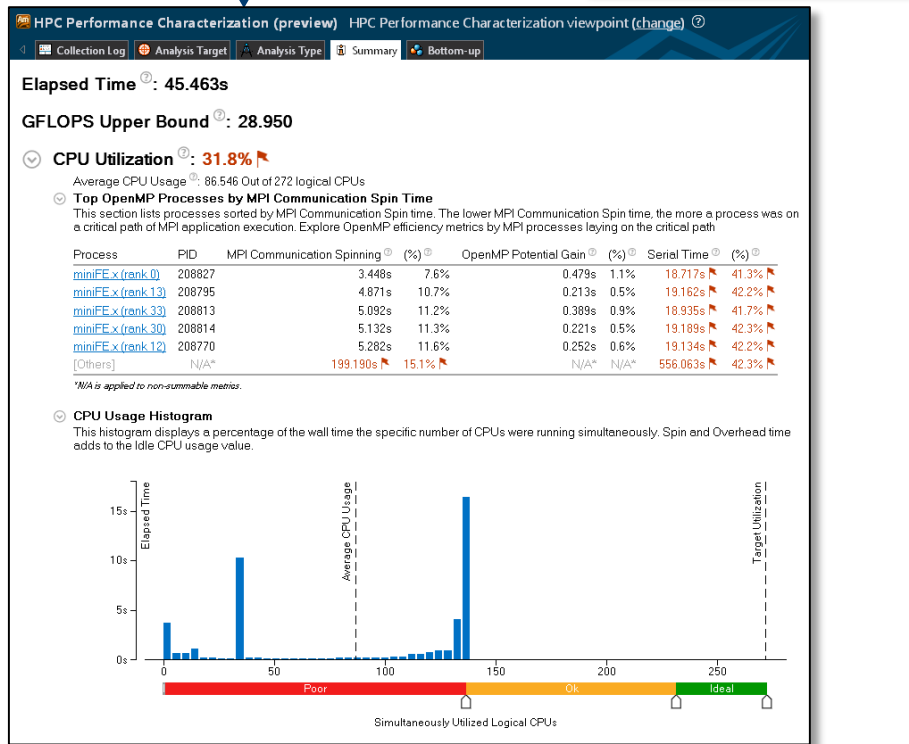
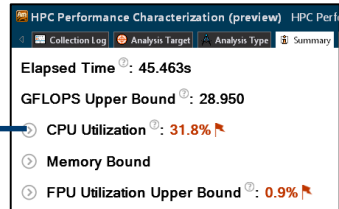
## CPU Utilization

### CPU Utilization

- % of “Effective” CPU usage by the application under profiling (threshold 90%)
  - Under assumption that the app should use all available logical cores on a node
  - Subtracting spin/overhead time spent in MPI and threading runtimes

### Metrics in CPU utilization section

- Average CPU usage
- Additional MPI and OpenMP scalability metrics impacting effective CPU utilization
- CPU utilization histogram

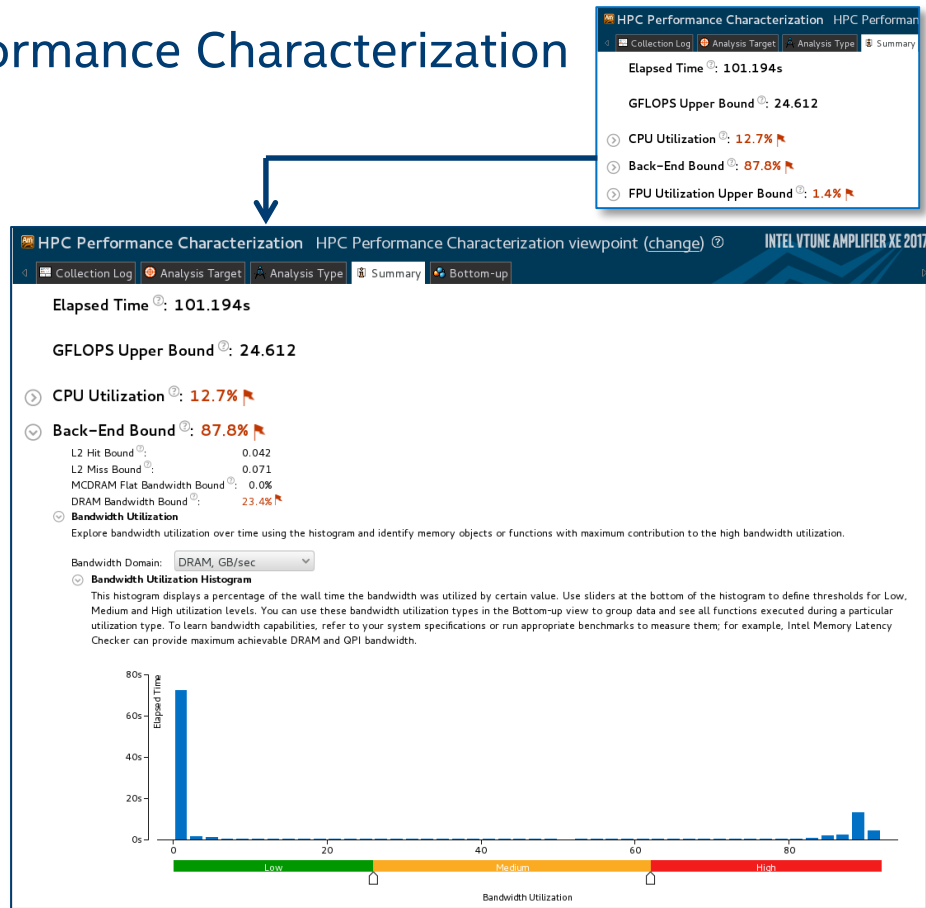


#### Optimization Notice

# Performance Overview with HPC Performance Characterization Memory Bound

Since no memory stall measurement on KNL  
“Memory Bound” high level metric replaced with  
Backed-Bound with second level based on misses  
and bandwidth measurement from uncore events:

- L2Hit Bound
  - Cost of L1 misses served in L2
- L2 Miss Bound
  - Cost of L2 misses
- MCDRAM Bandwidth Bound
  - % of app elapsed time consuming high MCDRAM Bandwidth
- MCDRAM Bandwidth Bound
  - % of app elapsed time consuming high MCDRAM Bandwidth
- Bandwidth utilization histogram



# Performance Overview with HPC Performance Characterization

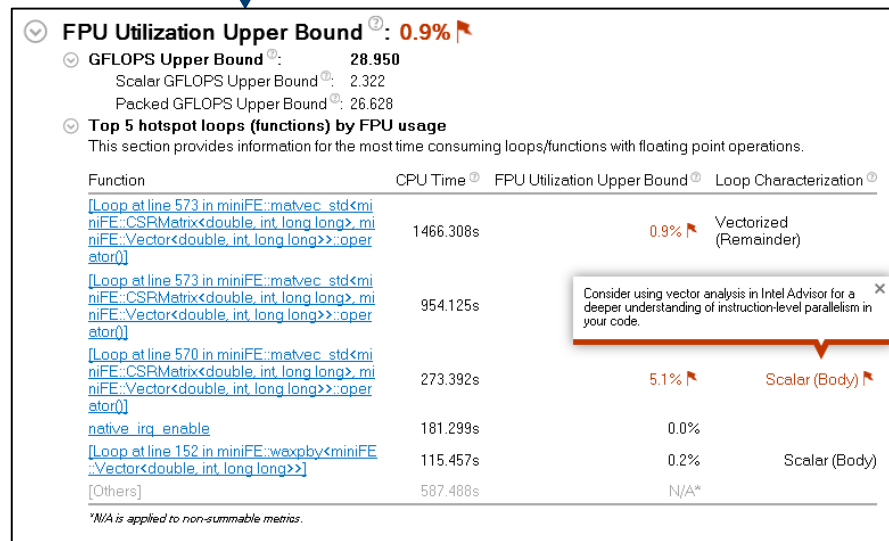
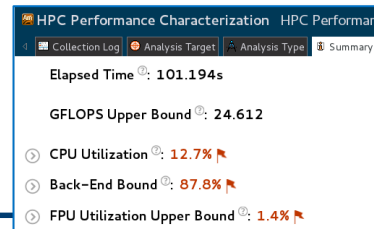
## FPU Utilization

### FPU utilization Upper Bound

- % of FPU load (100% - FPU is fully loaded, threshold 50%)

### Metrics in FPU utilization section

- GLOPs broken down by scalar and packed
- Top 5 loops/functions by FPU usage
  - Dynamically generated issue descriptions on low FPU usage help to define the reason and next steps:  
Non-vectorized, vectorized with legacy instruction set, memory bound limited loops not benefiting from vectorization etc.
- Vector instruction set, FP ratio and FLOPs per rank/loop/region



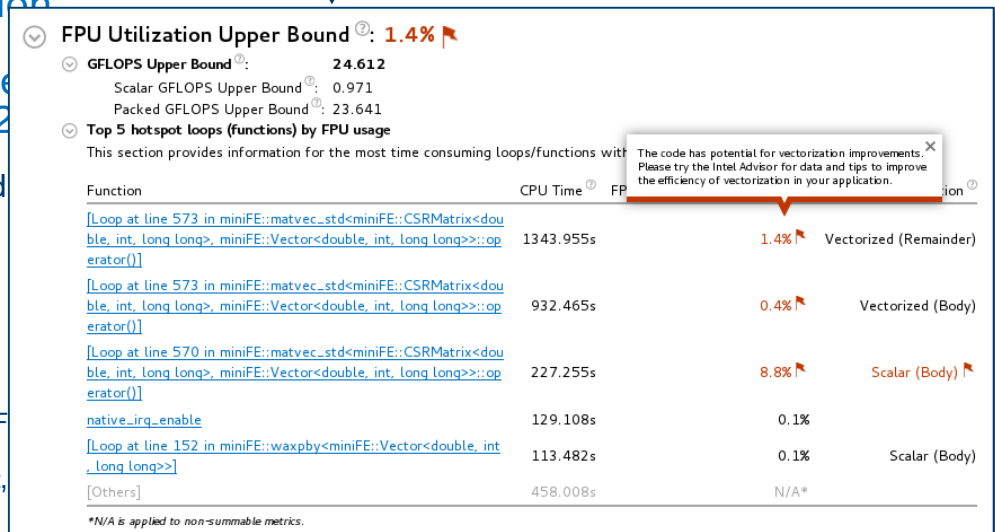
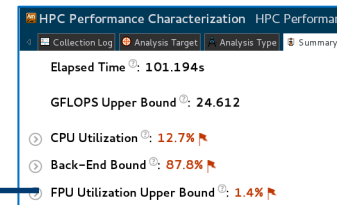
# Performance Overview with HPC Performance Characterization FPU Utilization

Since on KNL only SIMD scalar and vector instruction count enabled w/o vector utilization info we show FLOP Upper Bound metrics assuming full vector utilization. FMA is counted as single instruction so FLOPs multiplied by 2

- % of FPU load (100% - FPU is fully loaded, threshold 50%)

## Metrics in FPU utilization section

- GLOPs broken down by scalar and packed
- Top 5 loops/functions by FPU usage
  - Dynamically generated issue descriptions on low FPU usage help to define the reason and next steps:  
Non-vectorized, vectorized with legacy instruction set, memory bound limited loops not benefiting from vectorization etc.
- Vector instruction set and FLOPs, SIMD ratio, Upper Bound per cycle are available in Grid per rank/loop/region



# Basic Hotspots ,Concurrency, Locks and Waits

- Basic Hotspots, Concurrency, Locks and Waits use instrumentation and might bring significant overhead on runs with big number of threads
- Recommendation:
  - Use Advanced Hotspots instead of Basic Hotspots
    - Switch on stacks in Advanced Hotspots configuration if absolutely needed  
`>amplxe-cl -collect advanced-hotspots -knob collection-detail=stack-sampling ./my_app`
  - Use HPC Performance Characterization instead of Concurrency and Locks and Waits to assess CPU utilization of throughput applications
    - Only if you have different kinds of locks in one lexical OpenMP region and want to understand each lock impact – use Locks and Waits and be ready to significant collection overhead



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