GASNet-EX: RMA and Active Message Communication for Exascale Programming Models

Paul H. Hargrove and Dan Bonachea

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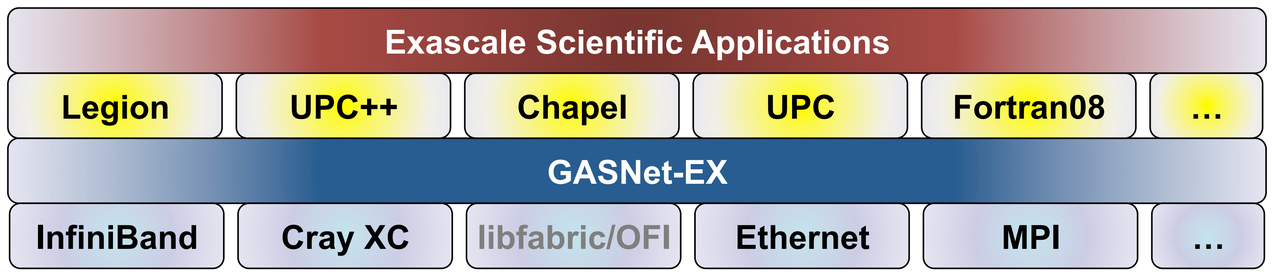
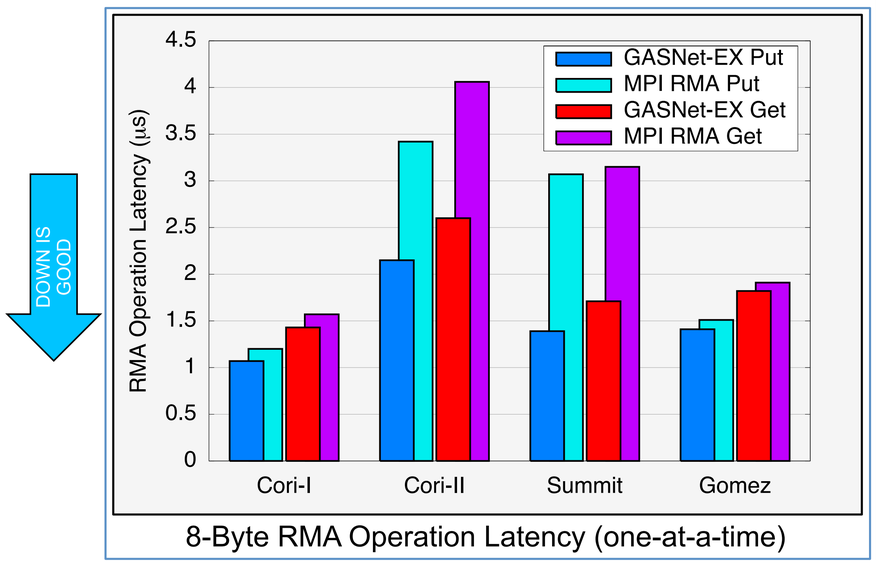
GASNet-EX at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (gasnet.lbl.gov)

- GASNet-EX: communications middleware to support exascale clients
  - One-sided communication – Remote Memory Access (RMA)
  - Active Messages - remote procedure call
  - Implemented over the native APIs for all networks of interest to DOE
- GASNet-EX is an evolution of GASNet-1 for exascale
  - Retains GASNet-1's wide portability (laptops to supercomputers)
  - Provides backwards compatibility for the dozens of GASNet-1 clients, including multiple UPC and CAF/Fortran08 compilers
  - Focus remains on one-sided RMA and Active Messages
  - Reduces CPU and memory overheads
  - Improves many-core and multi-threading support
- Current enhancements:
  - "Immediate mode" injection to avoid stalls due to back-pressure
  - Explicit handling of local-completion (source buffer lifetime)
  - New AM interfaces, e.g. to reduce buffer copies between layers
  - Vector-Index-Strided for non-contiguous point-to-point RMA
  - Remote Atomics, implemented with NIC offload where available
  - Subset teams and non-blocking collectives
- Future enhancements include:
  - Communication directly to/from device memory (e.g. GPUDirect)

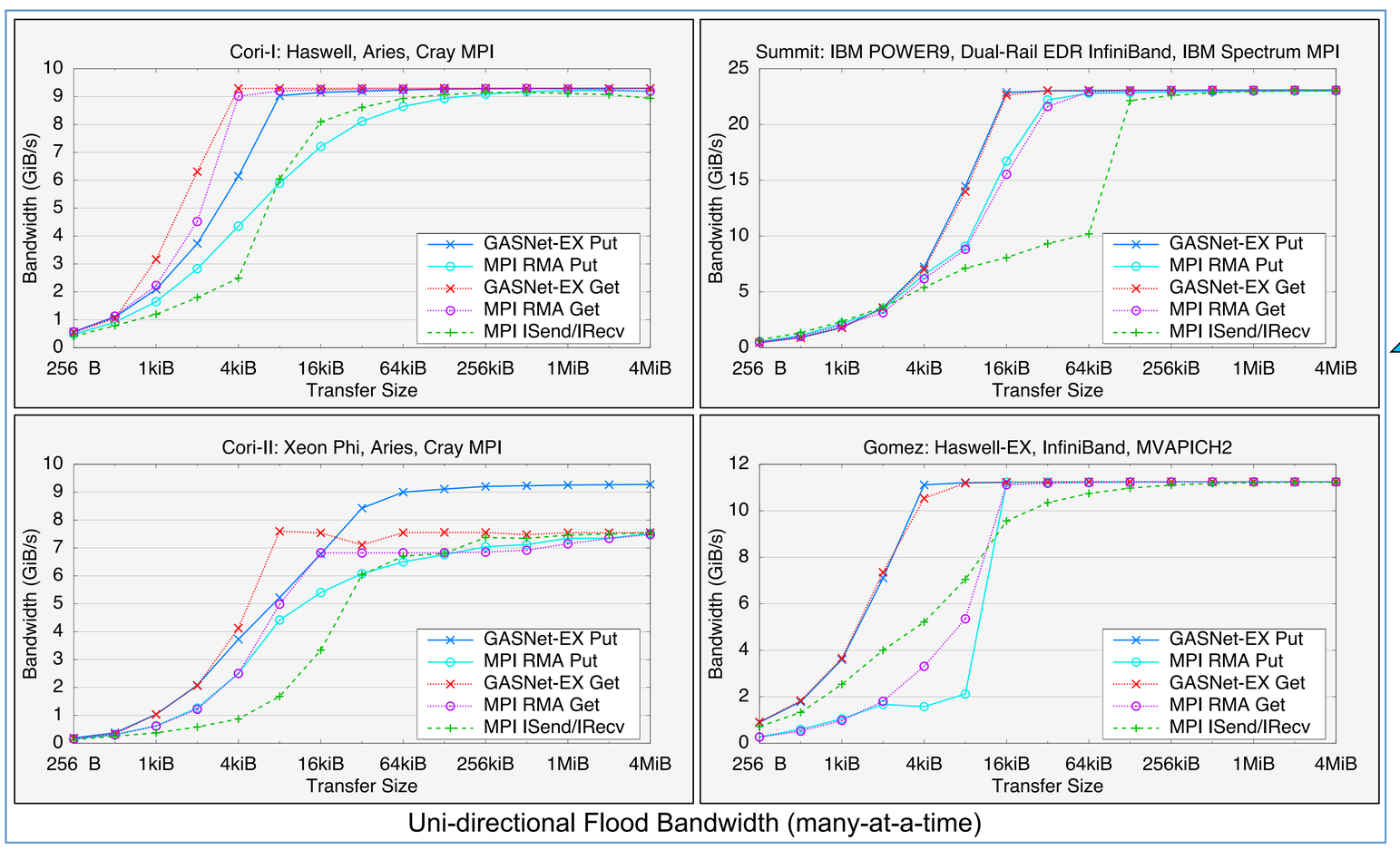


GASNet-EX RMA Performance versus MPI RMA and Isend/Irecv

- Three different MPI implementations
- Two distinct network hardware types
- On four systems the performance of GASNet-EX matches or exceeds that of MPI RMA and message-passing:
  - 8-byte Put latency 6% to 55% better
  - 8-byte Get latency 5% to 45% better
  - Better flood bandwidth efficiency, typically saturating at ½ or ¼ the transfer size



8-Byte RMA Operation Latency (one-at-a-time)



Uni-directional Flood Bandwidth (many-at-a-time)

GASNet-EX results from v2018.9.0
MPI results from Intel MPI Benchmarks v2018.1

For more details see Languages and Compilers for Parallel Computing (LCPC'18).
https://doi.org/10.25344/S4QP4W

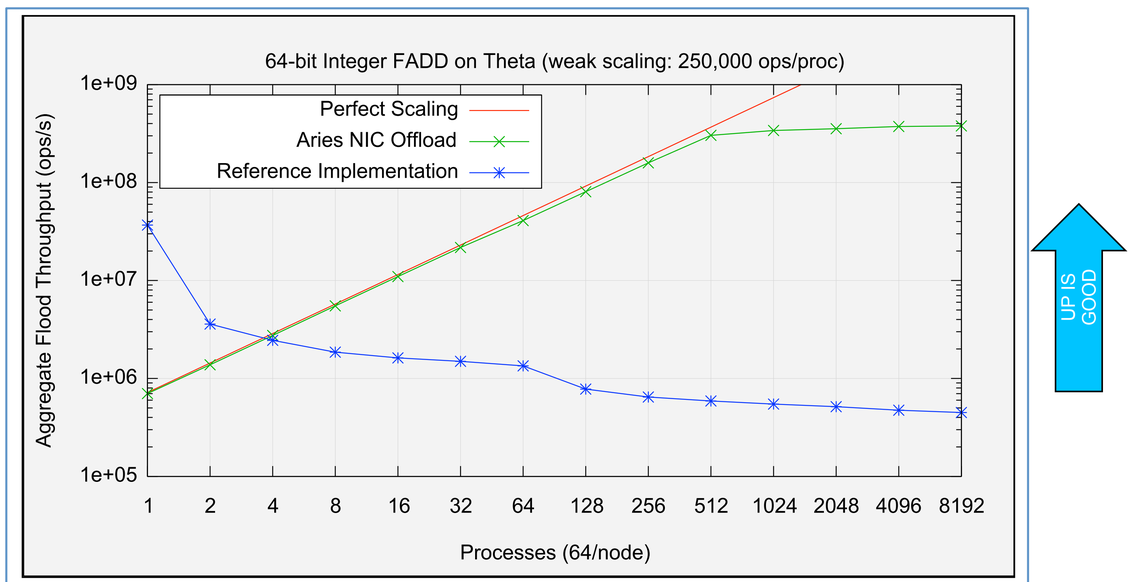
Remote Atomics with Cray Aries NIC Offload

- Implements the Atomic Domains concept (first introduced by UPC 1.3)
  - Domains permit use of NIC offload even when not coherent with CPU
  - Domains are created collectively outside the critical path
  - A Domain has an associated data type and set of allowed operations
    - Domains select the best implementation for the data type and ops
    - e.g. use offload if and only if NIC implements **all** the requested ops
- Example: non-blocking atomic fetch-and-add (FADD) on unsigned 64-bit integer

```
gex_Event_t ev = // *result = ATOMICALLY( *target += addend )
gex_AD_OpNB_U64(domain, &result, target_rank, target_address,
                GEX_OP_FADD, addend, 0 /*unused op2*/, flags);
```

- **`flags`** includes optional behaviors and assertions, such as memory fences
- GASNet-EX provides a network-independent "reference implementation"
  - Uses Active Messages to perform operations using the target CPU
  - Uses GASNet-Tools for atomicity (inline assembly for numerous CPUs)
- Specialization for Cray Aries improves performance vs. reference implementation
  - Reduces latency of inter-node FADD from 4.9us to 2.8us
  - Greatly increases throughput under contention

For more details see PAW-ATM'18 **https://doi.org/10.1109/PAW-ATM.2018.00008**



This figure shows throughput of 1 to 8192 processes (64 per node) performing pipelined FADD of a central counter (measured on ALCF's Theta).

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