

Special Topic: GPUs

COMP 520: Compiler Design

Alexander Krolik

alexander.krolik@mail.mcgill.ca



What is a GPU?

- "Graphics Processing Unit"
- A specialized processor originally designed for graphics operations

What kind of code can they execute?

- Historically: only graphics code (OpenGL)
- Currently: GPGPUs (General-Purpose GPUs) execute generalized parallel code (OpenCL/CUDA)

A modern GPU architecture is geared towards high degrees of parallelism

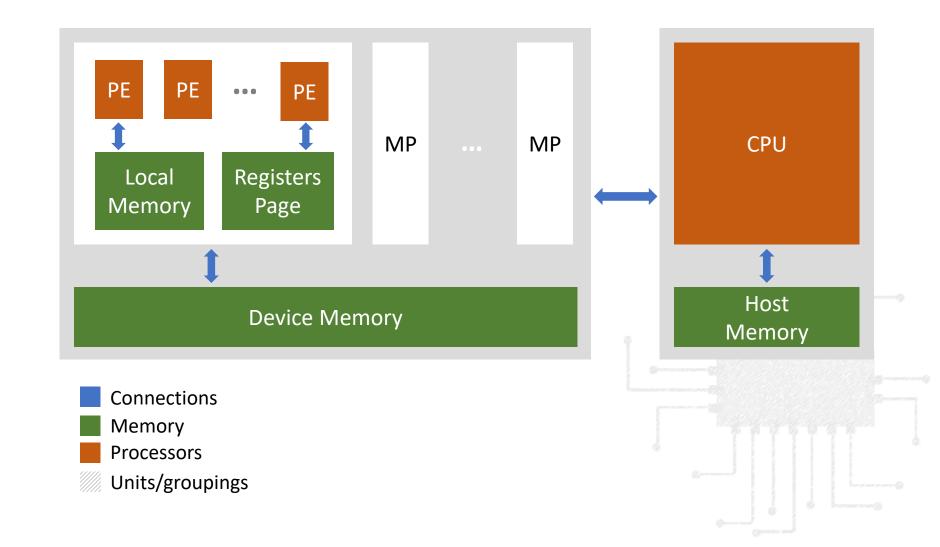
Execution

- Highly parallel, with thousands (and thousands of threads)
- Hierarchically parallel, with threads grouped at multiple levels

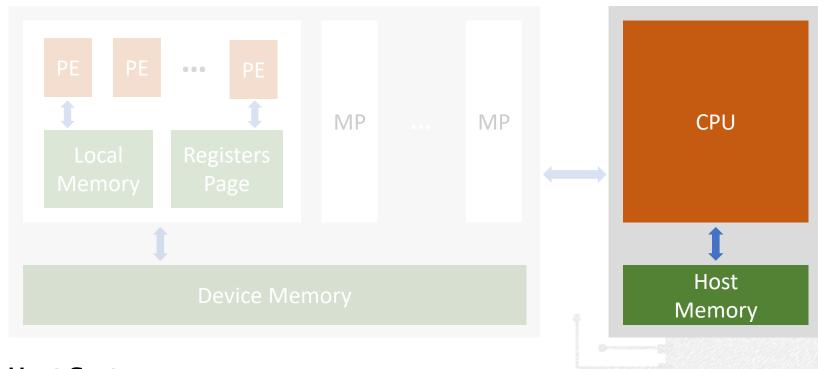
Memory

- High bandwidth, allowing fast concurrent accesses between multiple threads
- Hierarchical design, with multiple levels corresponding to thread groupings









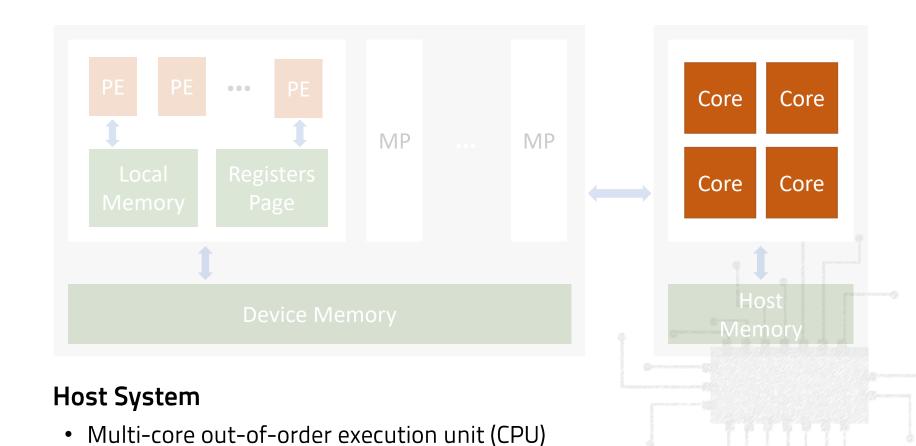
Host System

- Multi-core out-of-order execution unit (CPU)
- Large host memory

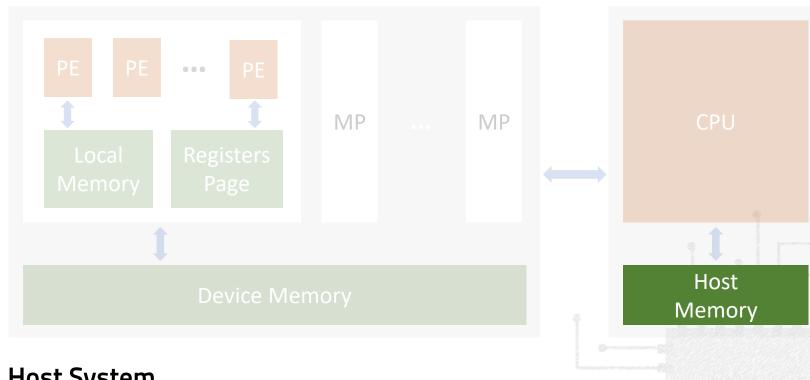


Large host memory

GPU Architecture



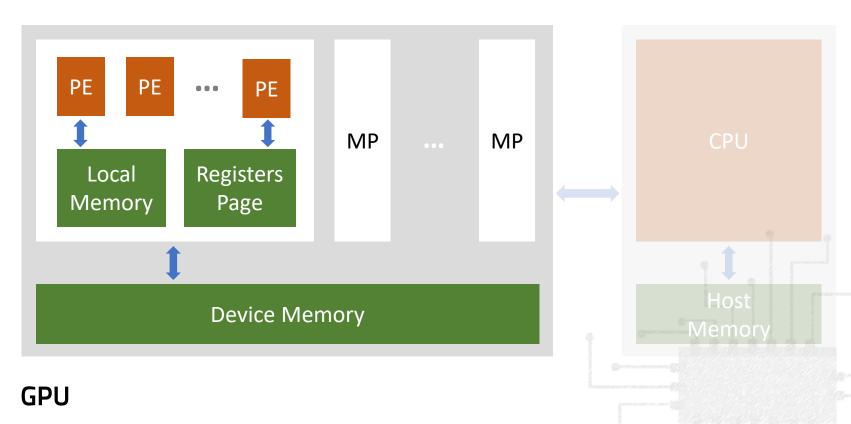




Host System

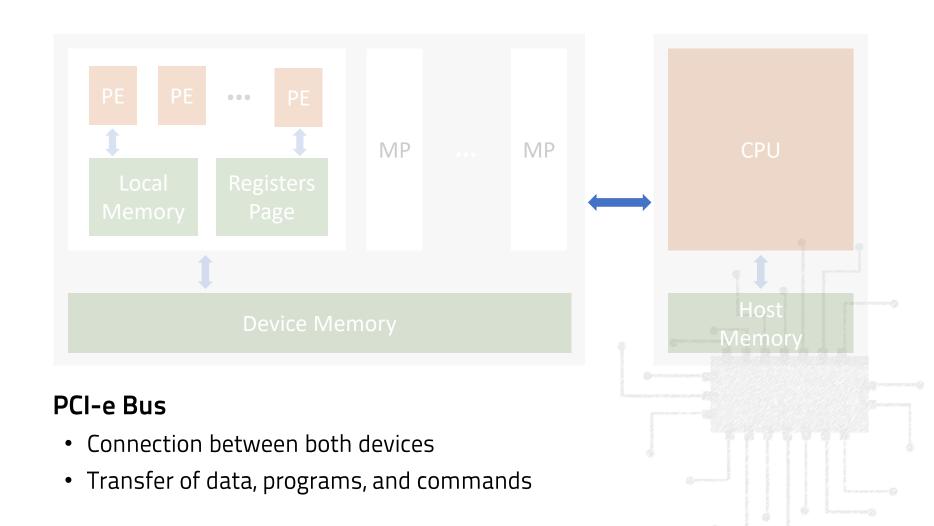
- Multi-core out-of-order execution unit (CPU)
- Large host memory



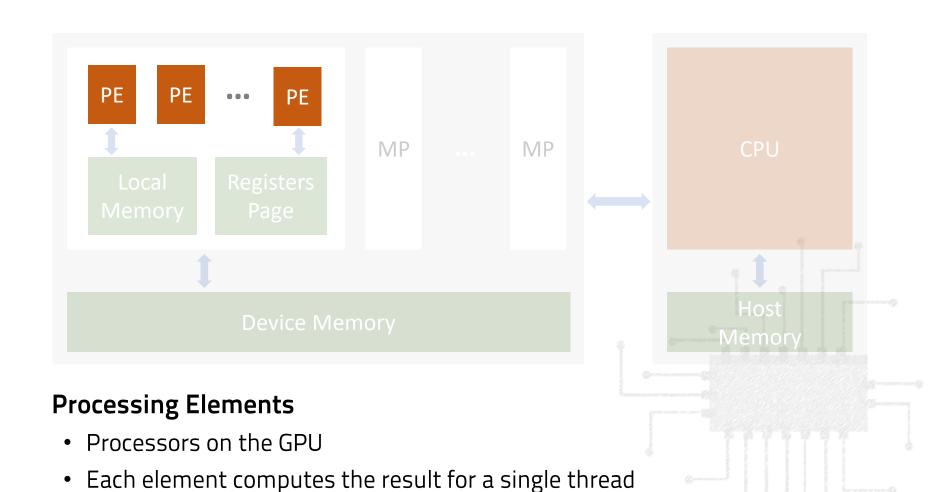


- Single-instruction multiple-data (SIMD) processor
- Hierarchical memory



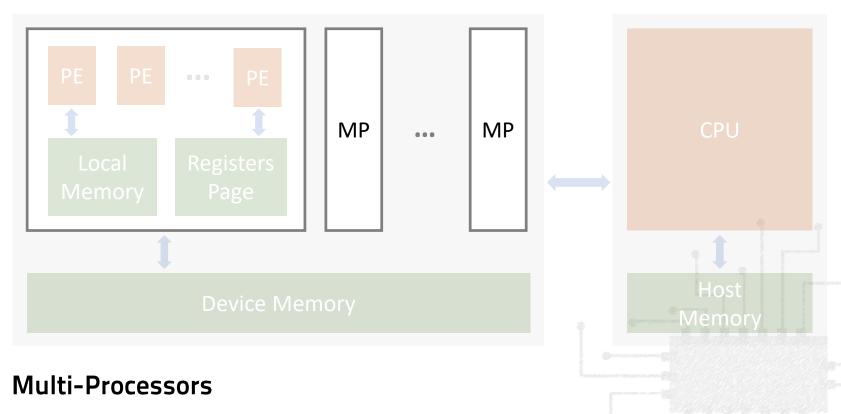






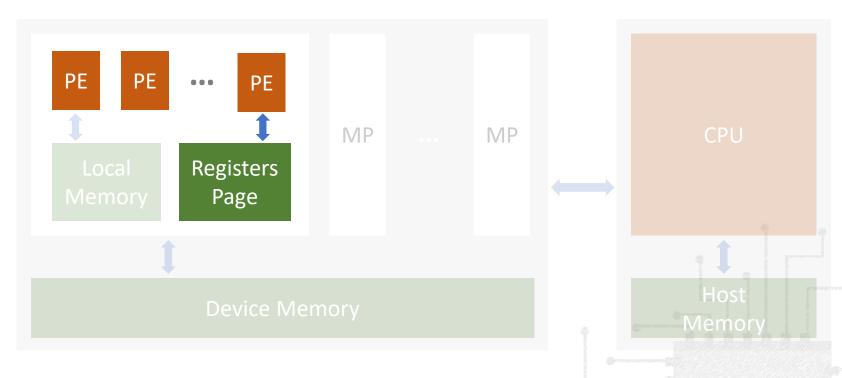
Slower clock speed than the CPU, but there are thousands!





- Grouping of processing elements
- All PE within the same multi-processor execute in lock-step
- There is no guarantee on execution order between multi-processors

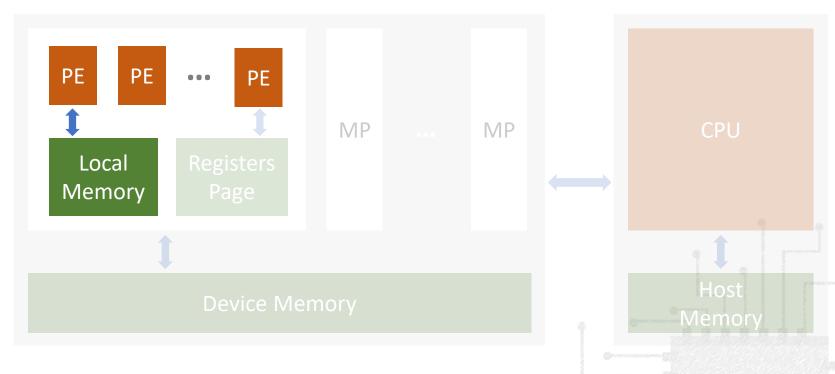




Registers Page

- Private memory for each processing element (no sharing permitted)
- Lowest latency (fastest) memory on the GPU

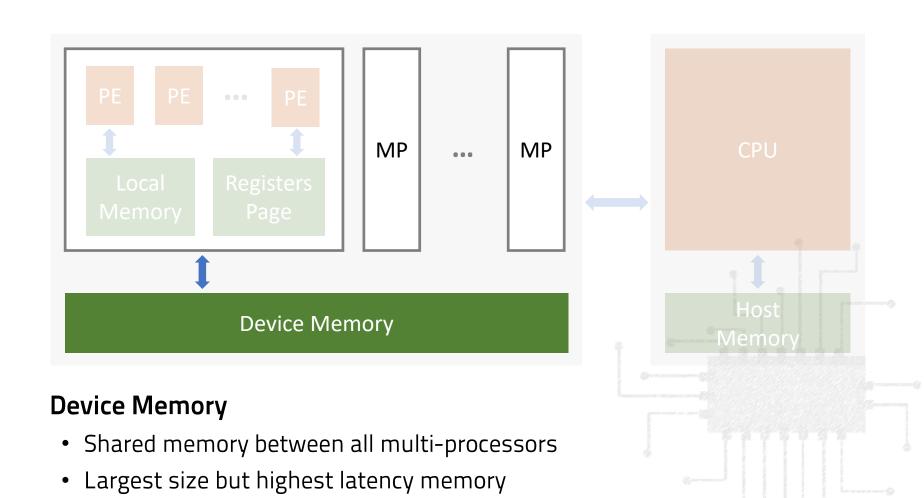




Local Memory

- Shared memory between processing elements in the same multi-processor
- Larger size but higher latency than registers





Persistent between GPU programs (kernels) – other memory is not

GPU Execution

GPUs are **highly** parallel devices, perfect for embarrassingly parallel code

Executing Code

A full GPU program consists of two code sections

- Host code that runs on the CPU
 - · Compiles the program;
 - Transfers the data:
 - · Specifies the thread geometry (number and organization of threads).
- Kernel (GPU code) executes the parallel section



GPU Thread Geometry

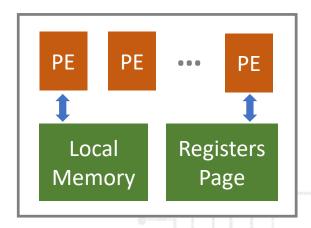
The host code specifies the thread geometry

- · Number of threads; and
- Grouping of threads per multi-processor.

Thread Groups

Threads from the same group

- Execute on the same multiprocessor; and
- Share the same local memory.





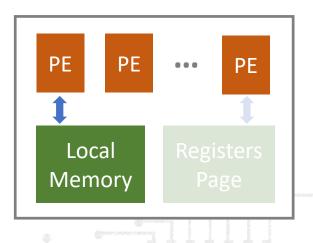
Local Memory

- Shared by all threads in a group; but
- Is not synchronized automatically!!

Synchronization

Synchronization ensures that all threads in a group are at the same point in the kernel

- Within a group: memory barrier
- Between groups: impossible!





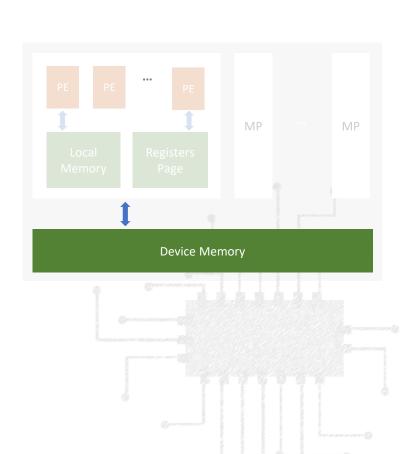
Device Memory

- Shared by all threads on the GPU; but
- Is not synchronized automatically!!

Synchronization

Synchronization ensures that all threads in a group are at the same point in the kernel

- Within a group: memory barrier
- Between groups: impossible!



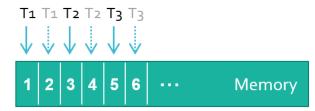


GPU Memory: Coalescing

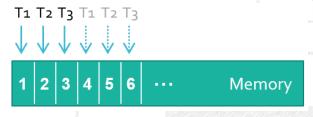
Optimizing GPU memory bandwidth is important for performance

Memory Coalescing

- Concurrent accesses to consecutive memory locations are merged into a single fetch
- Pattern: access consecutive memory locations from consecutive threads



Uncoalesced Access Pattern



Coalesced Access Pattern



Idea: Group the values of multiple rows into a single value (fold)

_	_		_	_	_		_
0	2	4	2	3	2	3	0

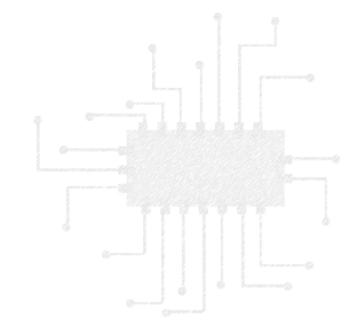
Common Aggregate Functions:

COUNT	SUM	AVG	MAX	MIN
8	16	2	4	1



2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

device





2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

device

2

4

2

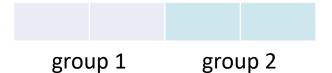
3

2

3

0

local



1 location per thread



2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

device

C

2

4

2

3

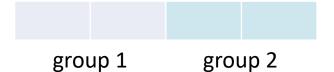
2

3

0

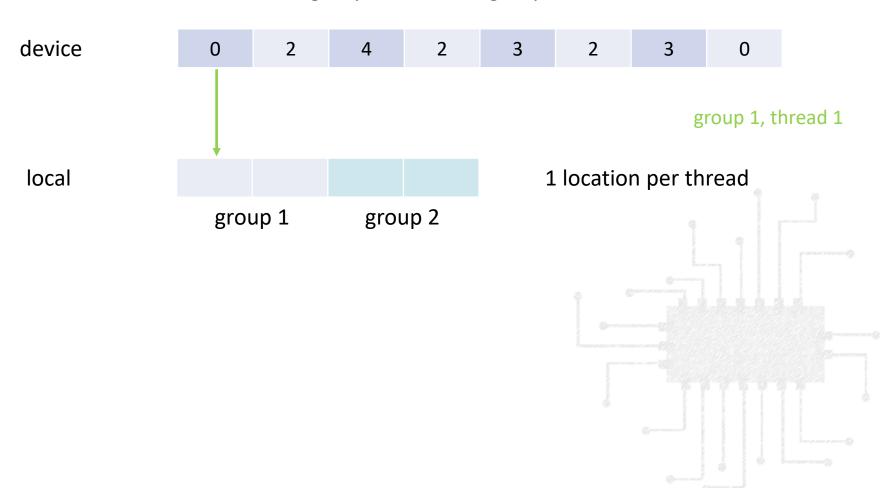
group 1, thread 1

local

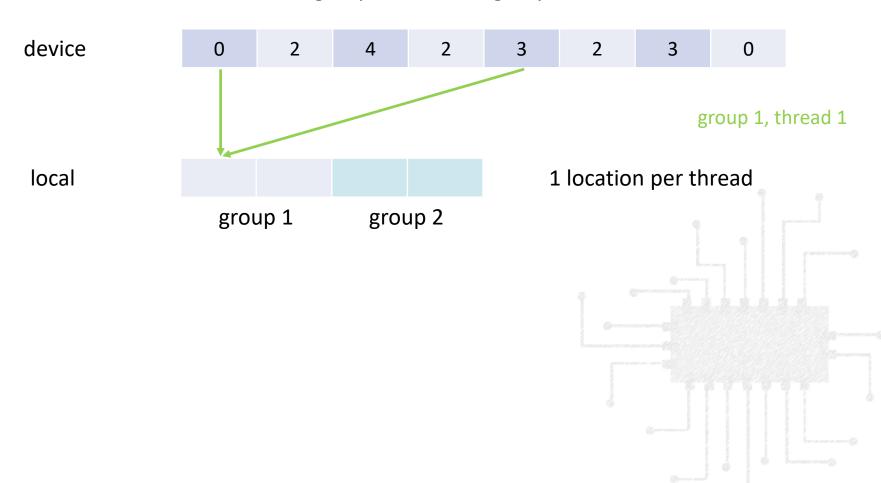


1 location per thread

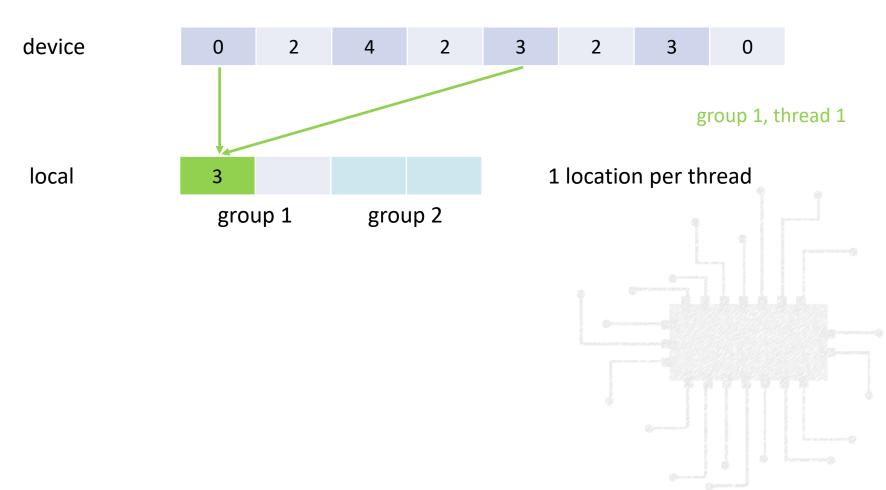




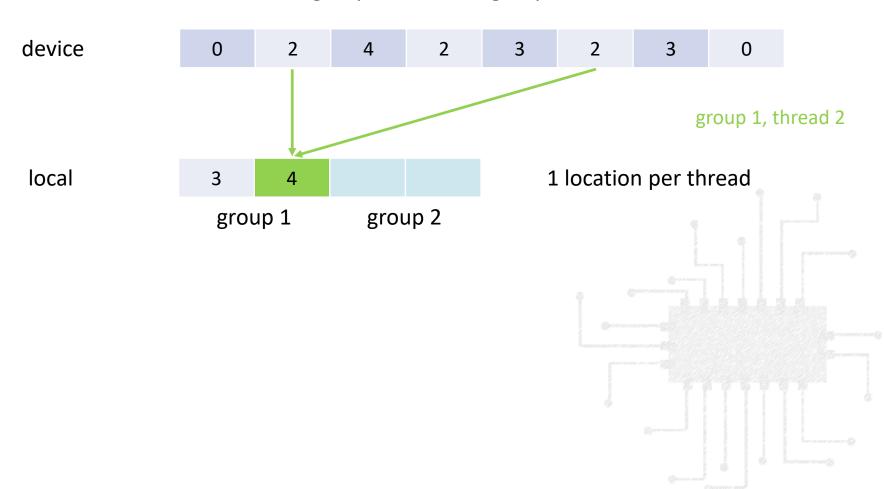




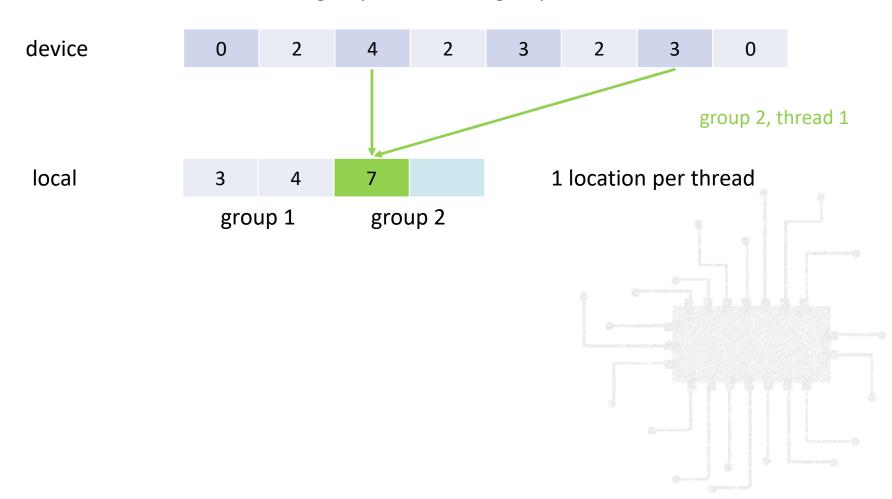




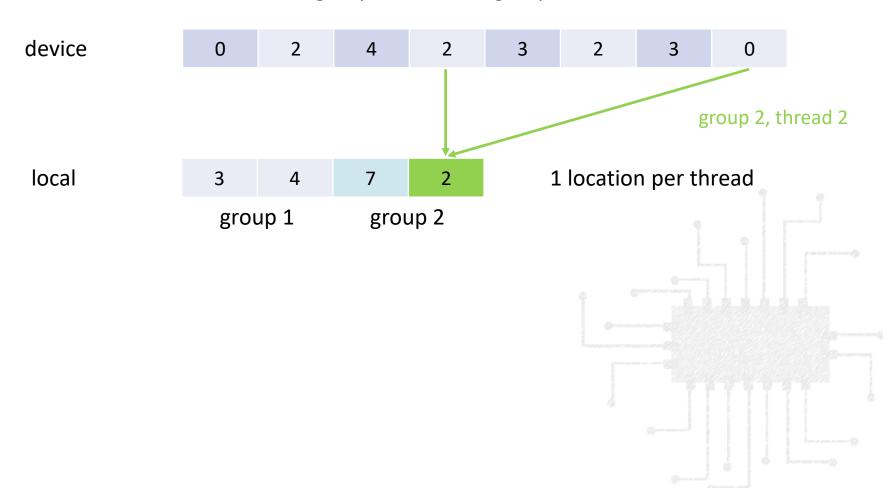




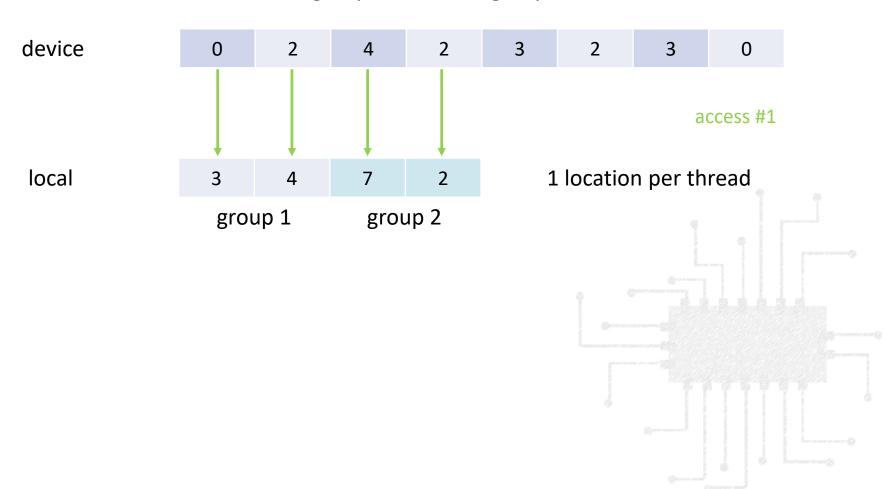






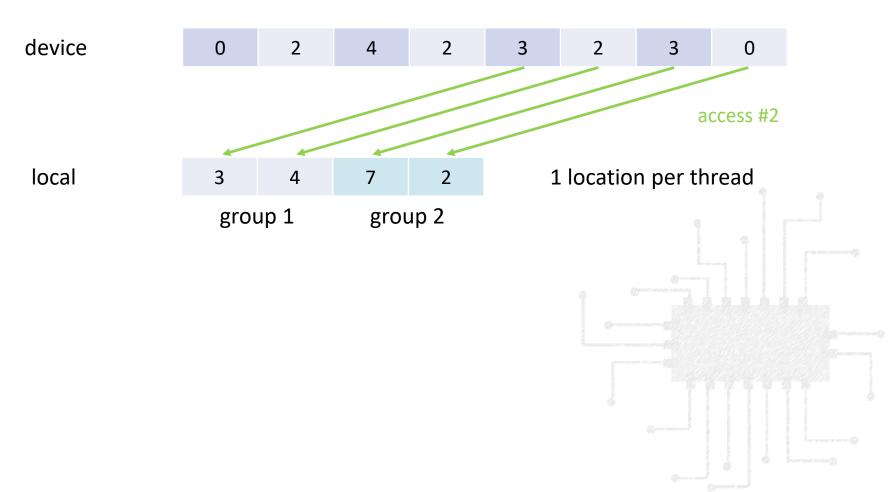














2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

 device
 0
 2
 4
 2
 3
 2
 3
 0

 local
 3
 4
 7
 2
 1 location per thread

 group 1
 group 2

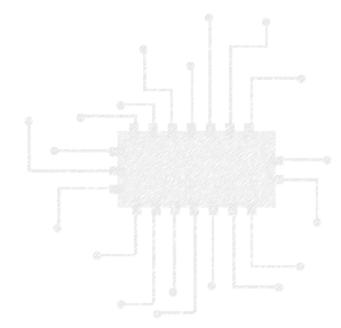


2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

 device
 0
 2
 4
 2
 3
 2
 3
 0

 local
 3
 4
 7
 2
 1 location per thread

local synchronization (CLK_LOCAL_MEM_FENCE) ------





2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

 device
 0
 2
 4
 2
 3
 2
 3
 0

 local
 3
 4
 7
 2
 1 location per thread

local synchronization (CLK_LOCAL_MEM_FENCE)

local

3 4 9 2 group 1 group 2

Same local memory



2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

 device
 0
 2
 4
 2
 3
 2
 3
 0

 local
 3
 4
 7
 2
 1 location per thread

local synchronization (CLK_LOCAL_MEM_FENCE)

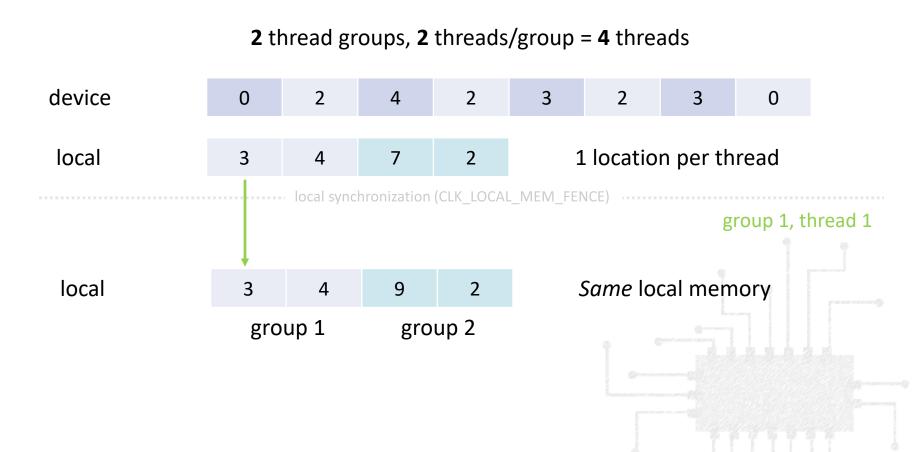
local 3 4

group 1 group 2

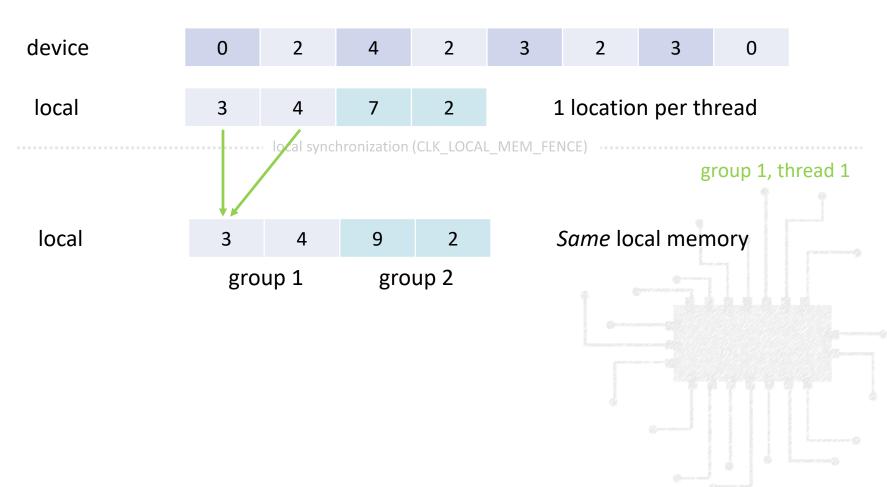
group 1, thread 1

Same local memory

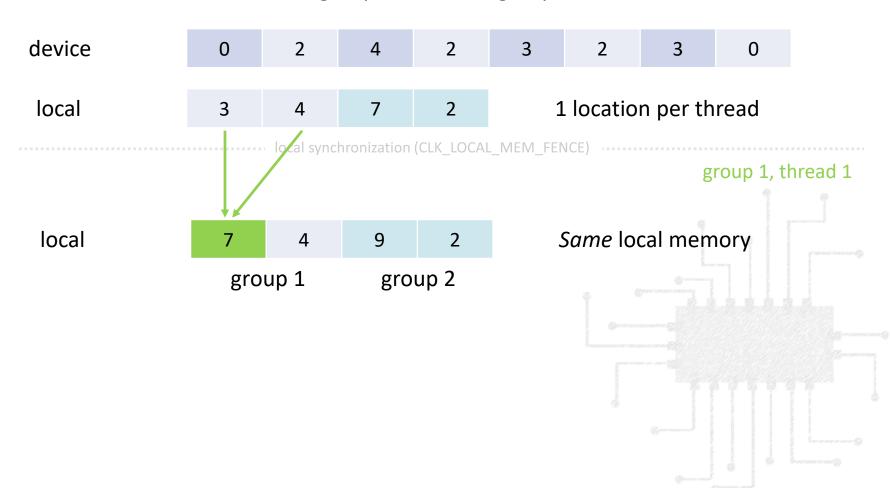






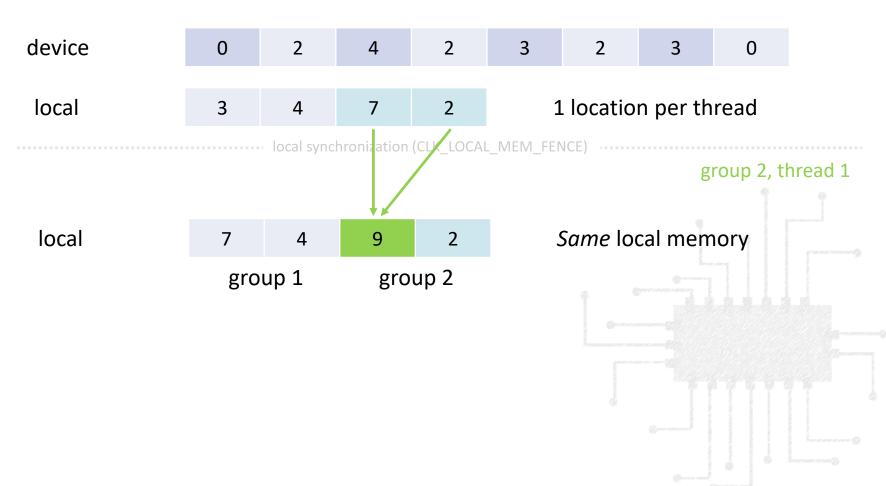






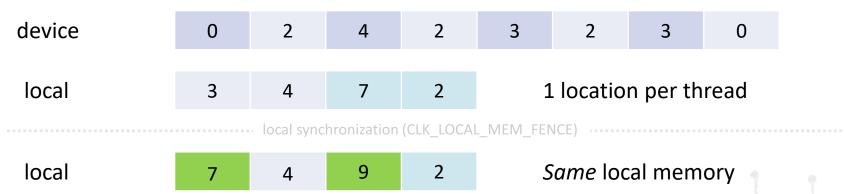


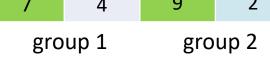














2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

 device
 0
 2
 4
 2
 3
 2
 3
 0

 local
 3
 4
 7
 2
 1 location per thread

 local synchronization (CLK_LOCAL_MEM_FENCE)
 Same local memory

device

1 location per group



2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

 device
 0
 2
 4
 2
 3
 2
 3
 0

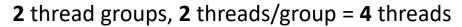
 local
 3
 4
 7
 2
 1 location per thread

 local synchronization (CLK_LOCAL_MEM_FENCE)
 Same local memory

 group 1, thread 1

 device
 1 location per group















2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

 device
 0
 2
 4
 2
 3
 2
 3
 0

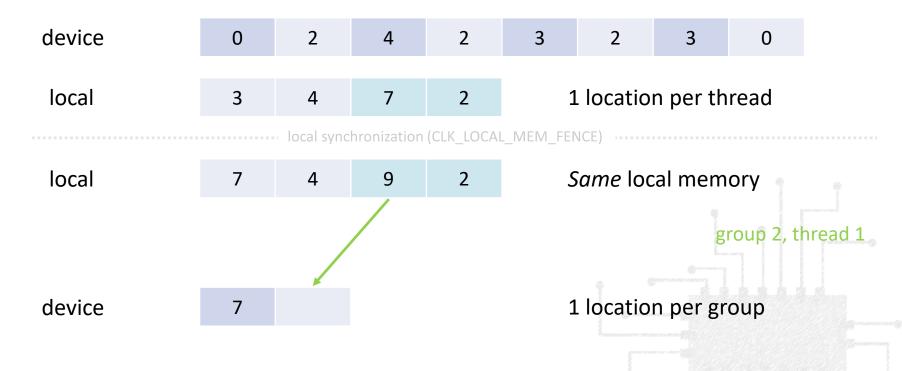
 local
 3
 4
 7
 2
 1 location per thread

 local
 5
 4
 9
 2
 Same local memory

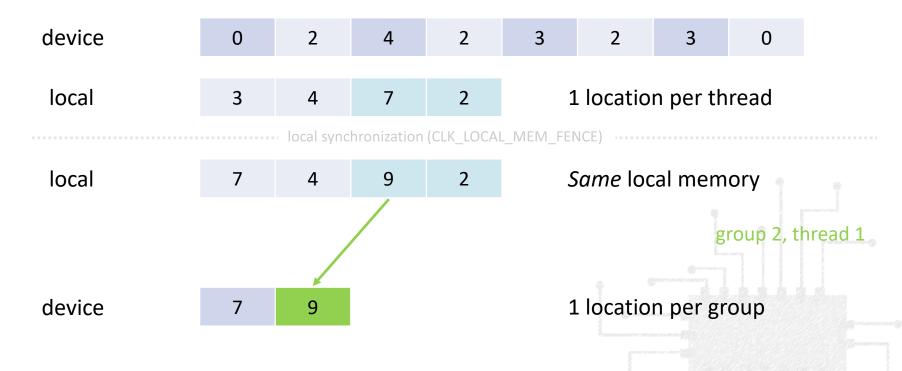
 group 2, thread 1

 device
 7
 1 location per group











2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

device 3 0 local 1 location per thread local synchronization (CLK LOCAL MEM FENCE) local Same local memory device 1 location per group 9



device	0	2	4	2	3	2	3	0	
local	3	4	7	2	1 location per thread				
local	7	4	9	(CLK_LOCAL		Same loc	al mem	ory	⊗
device	7	9			1	. locatio	n per gr	oup	
device synchronization (kernel boundary)									



2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

device 0 2 4 2 3 2 3 0

local 3 4 7 2 1 location per thread

local synchronization (CLK_LOCAL_MEM_FENCE)

local 7 4 9 2 Same local memory

device 7 9 1 location per group

device synchronization (kernel boundary)

device

'

Same device memory



2 thread groups, 2 threads/group = 4 threads

device 0 2 4 2 3 2 3 0

local 3 4 7 2 1 location per thread

local synchronization (CLK_LOCAL_MEM_FENCE)

local 7 4 9 2 Same local memory

device 7 9 1 location per group

device synchronization (kernel boundary)

group 1, thread 1

device 7 9

Same device memory



