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Minimal-Precision Computing for High-Performance, Energy-Efficient, and Reliable Computations

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Introduction

In numerical computations, the precision of floating-point computations is a key factor to determine the performance (speed and energy-efficiency) as well as the reliability (accuracy and reproducibility). However, the precision generally plays a contrary role for both. Therefore, the ultimate concept for maximizing both at the same time is the minimal-precision computation through precision-tuning, which adjusts the optimal precision for each operation and data. Several studies have been already conducted for it so far, but the scope of those studies is limited to the precision-tuning alone. In this study, we propose a more broad concept of the minimal-precision computing with precision-tuning, involving both hardware and software stack.

Available Components

(1) Precision-tuning with numerical validation based on stochastic arithmetic

- Rounding-errors can be estimated stochastically with a **reasonable cost** (for details, see "A. Stochastic Arithmetic Tools" at the bottom left)
- General scheme applicable for **any floating-point computations**

Tools:
 • **PROMISE** [17] (based on a stochastic arithmetic library, **CADNA** [18], Verrou [19], etc.
Related work (not validation-based):
 • Precimonious [20], GPUmixer [22] etc.

(2) Arbitrary-precision libraries and fast accurate numerical libraries

- Reduced-/mixed-precision with FP16/FP32/FP64 enables us to **improve performance & energy-efficiency**
- High-precision libraries and fast accurate computation methods have been developed for **reliable & reproducible computation**

Tools:
 • High-precision arithmetic: binary128 (intel, gcc), QD [1], MPFR [2], ARPREC [3], CAMPARY [4], etc.
 • Accurate sum/dot: AccSum/Dot [5], Ozaki-scheme [6], etc.
 • Numerical libraries: MPLAPACK [7], **QPEigen** [8], **QPBLAS** [9], XBLAS [10], ReproBLAS [11], **ExBLAS** [12], **OzBLAS** [13], etc.

(3) Field-Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) with High-Level Synthesis (HLS)

- FPGA enables us to implement any operations on hardware, including arbitrary-precision operations
- HLS enables us to use FPGAs through existing programming languages such as C/C++ and OpenCL
- FPGA can be used to perform **arbitrary-precision computations on hardware** efficiently (high-performance and energy-efficient)

Tools:
 • Compilers: **SPGen** [14], **Nymbly** [15], etc.
 • Custom floating-point operation generator: FloPoCo [16], etc.

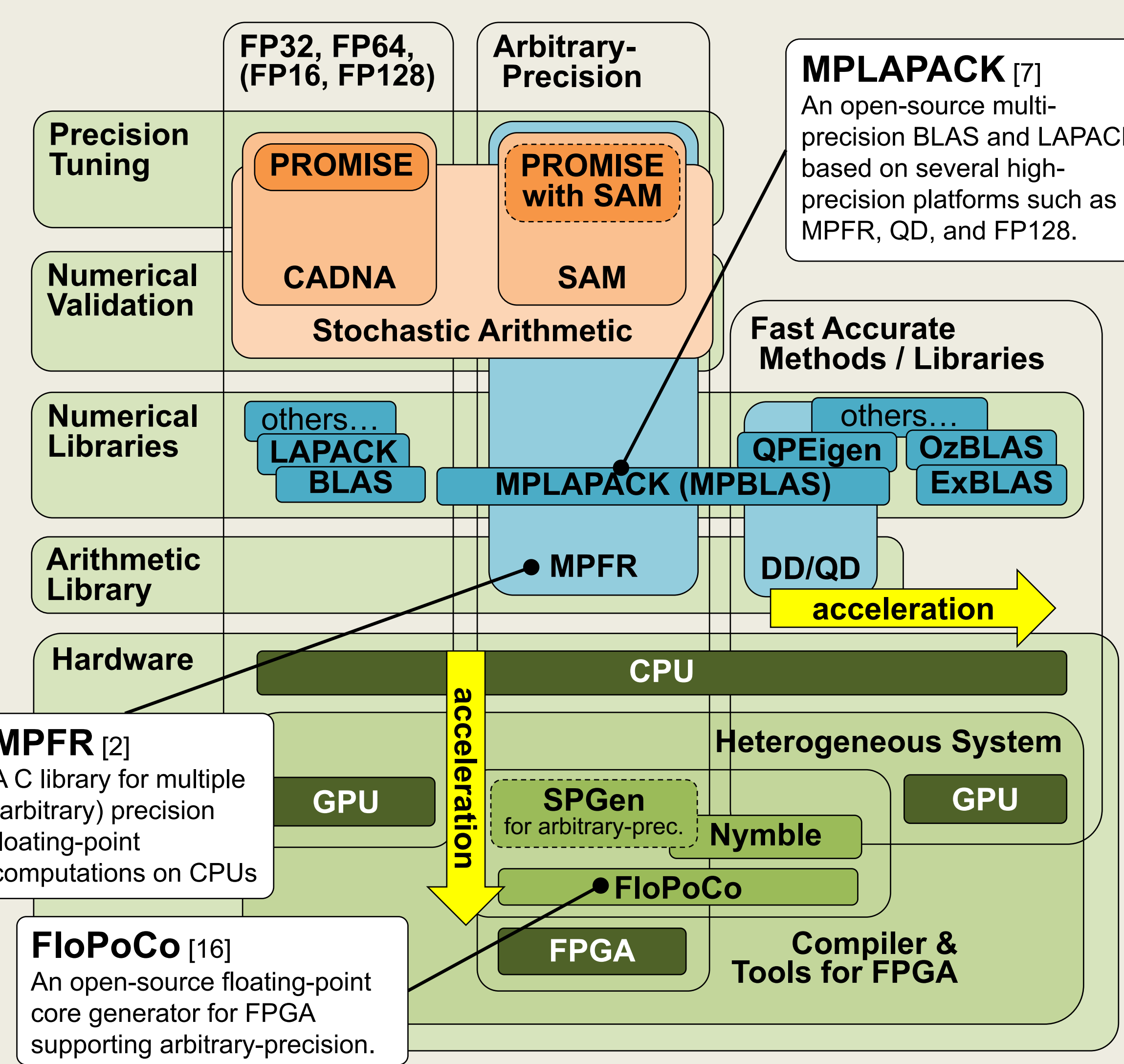
Our Proposal

Minimal-Precision Computing

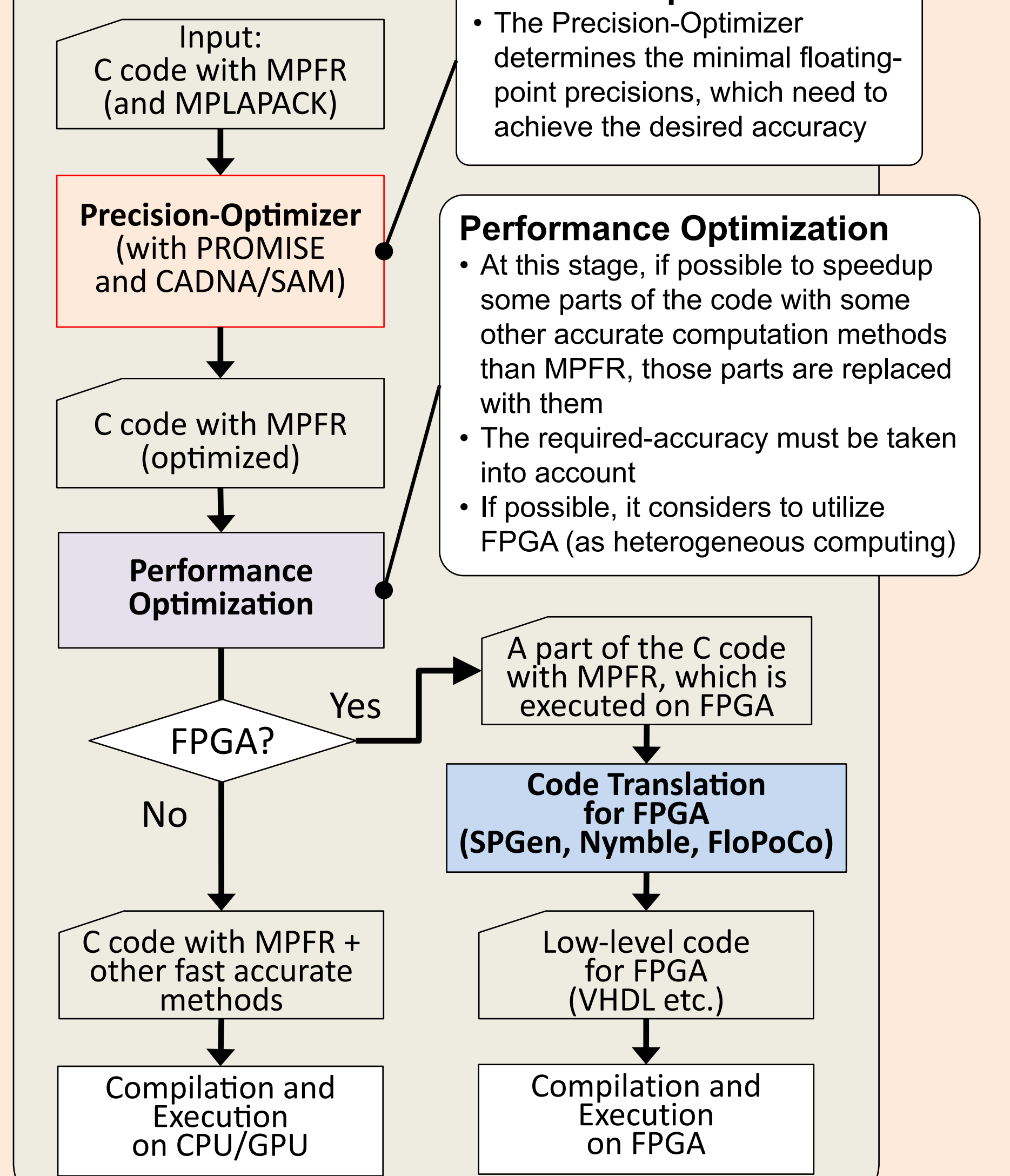
Minimal-precision computing is both reliable (aka robust) and sustainable as it ensures the requested accuracy of the result as well as is energy-efficient.

- High-performance**
Performance can be improved through the minimal-precision as well as fast numerical libraries and accelerators
- Energy-Efficient**
Through the minimal-precision as well as energy efficient hardware acceleration with FPGA and GPU
- Reliable**
To ensure the requested accuracy, the precision-tuning is processed based on numerical validation, guaranteeing also reproducibility
- General**
Our scheme is applicable for any floating-point computations. It contributes to low development cost and sustainability (easy maintenance and system portability)
- Comprehensive**
We propose a total system from the precision-tuning to the execution of the tuned code, combining heterogeneous hardware and hierarchical software stack
- Realistic**
Our system can be realized by combining available in-house technologies

System Stack



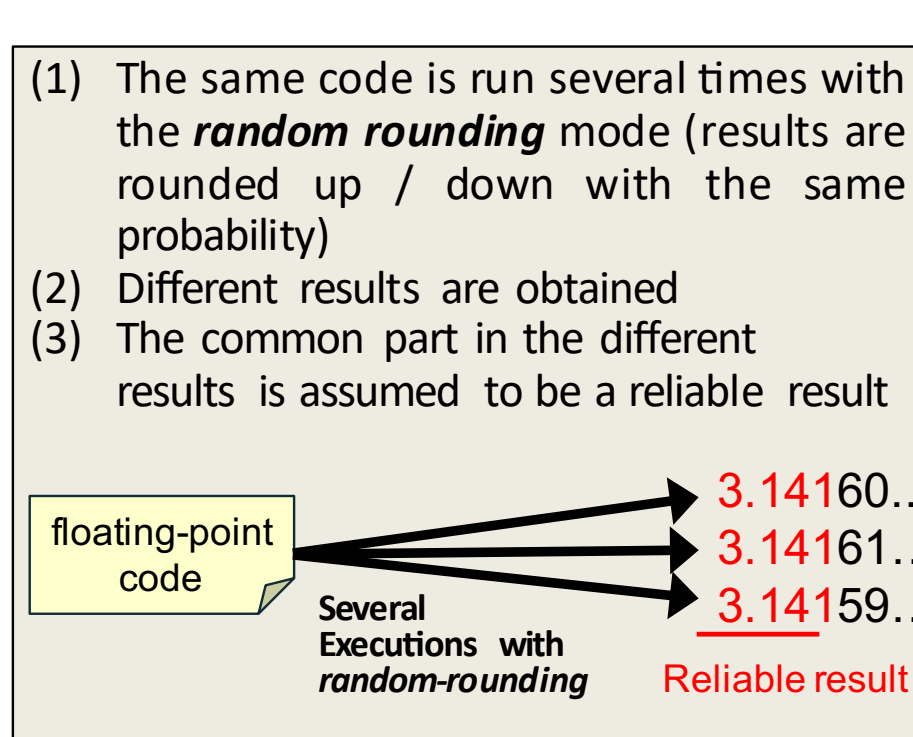
System Workflow



Our Contributions

A Stochastic Arithmetic Tools

Discrete Stochastic Arithmetic (DSA) [21] enables us to estimate rounding errors (i.e., the number of correct digits in the result) with 95% accuracy by executing the code 3 times with random-rounding. DSA is a general scheme applicable for any floating-point operations: no special algorithms and no code modification are needed. It is a light-weight approach in terms of performance, usability, and development cost compared to the other numerical verification / validation methods.

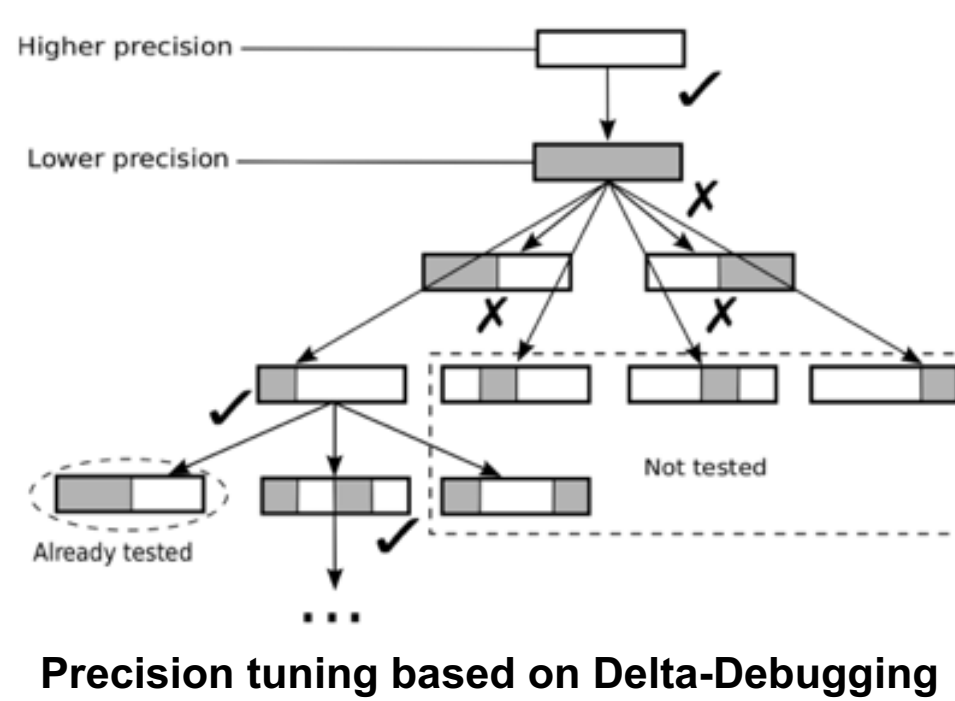


CADNA & SAM (Sorbonne University)
 • CADNA (Control of Accuracy and Debugging for Numerical Applications) [18] is a DSA library for FP16/32/64/128
 • CADNA can be used on CPUs in Fortran/C/C++ codes with OpenMP & MPI and on GPUs with CUDA.
 • SAM (Stochastic Arithmetic in Multiprecision) [23] is a DSA library for arbitrary-precision with MPFR.



PROMISE (Sorbonne University)

• **PROMISE (Precision OptimISE)** [17] is a tool based on **Delta-Debugging** [24] to automatically tune the precision of floating-point variables in C/C++ codes
 • The validity of the results is checked with CADNA
 • We are going to extend PROMISE for arbitrary-precision with MPFR

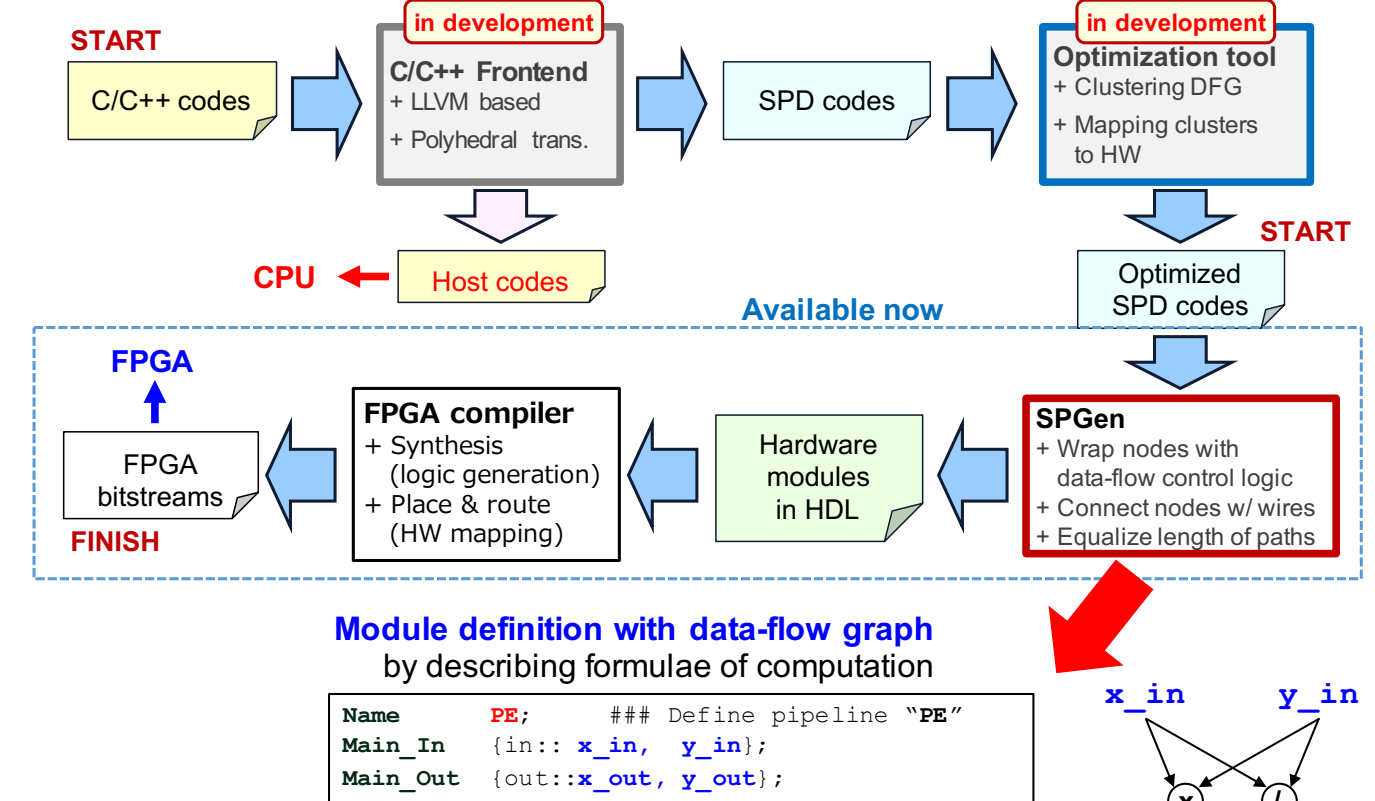


B FPGA as an Arbitrary-Precision Computing Platform

FPGA enables us to implement arbitrary-precision on hardware. High-Level Synthesis (HLS) enables us to program it in OpenCL. However, compiling arbitrary-precision code and obtaining high performance are still challenging. Heterogeneous computing with FPGA & CPU/GPU is also a challenge

SPGen (RIKEN)

• SPGen (Stream Processor Generator) [14] is a compiler to generate HW module codes in Verilog-HDL for FPGA from input codes in Stream Processing Description (SPD) Format. The SPD uses a data-flow graph representation, which is suitable for FPGA.
 • It supports FP32 only, but we are going to extend SPGen to support arbitrary-precision floating-point. Currently, there is no FPGA compiler supporting arbitrary-precision.

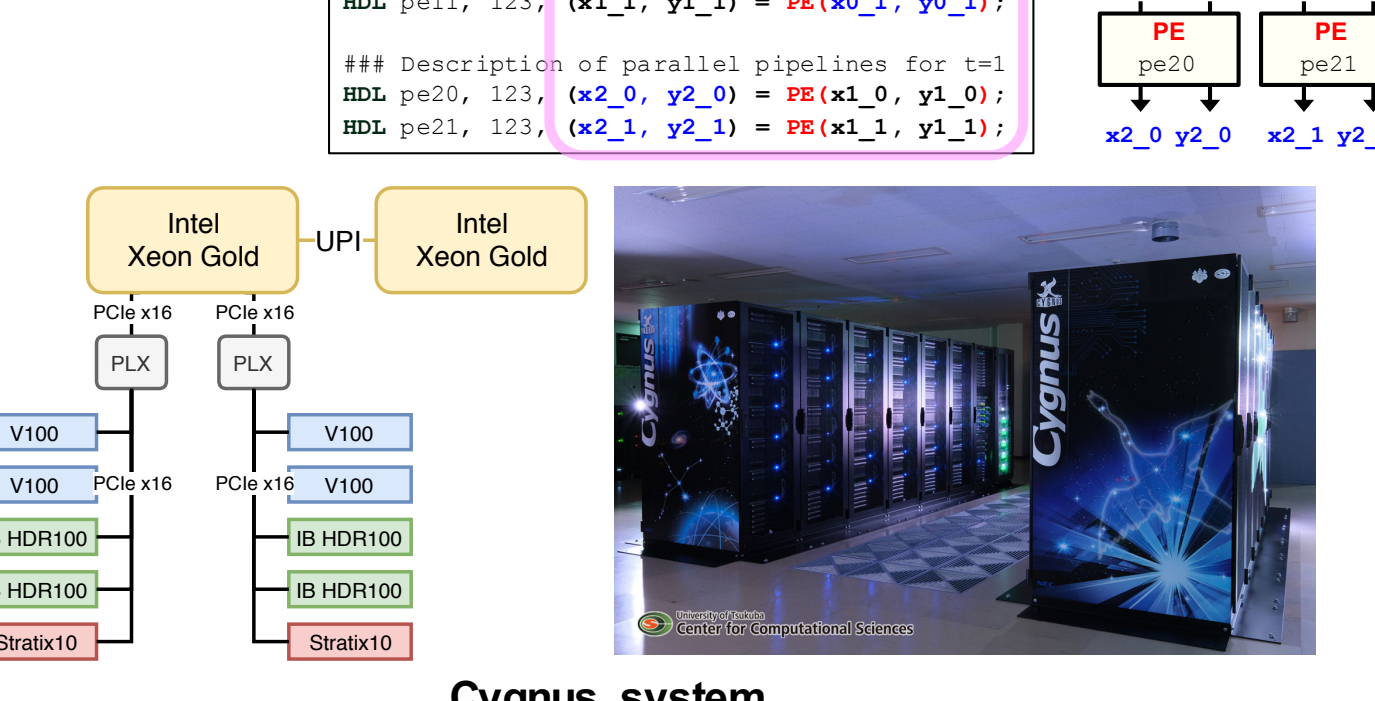


Nymbly (TU Darmstadt, RIKEN)

• Nymbly [15] is another compiler project for FPGA. It directly accepts C codes and has already started to support arbitrary-precision.
 • It is more suited for non-linear memory access pattern, like with graph based data structures.

Cygnus (University of Tsukuba)

• Cygnus is the world's first supercomputer system equipped with both GPU (4x Tesla V100) and FPGA (2x Stratix 10), installed in CCS, University of Tsukuba
 • Each Stratix 10 FPGA has four external links at 100Gbps. 64 FPGAs make 8x8 2D-Torus network for communication
 • This project targets such a heterogeneous system with FPGA.

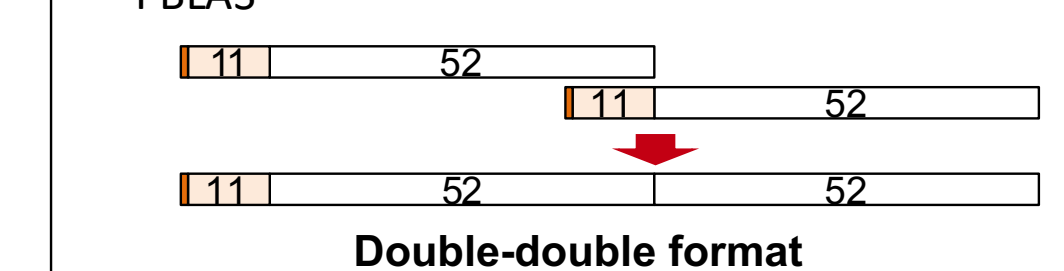


C Fast and Accurate Numerical Libraries

Arbitrary-precision arithmetic is performed using MPFR on CPUs, but the performance is very low. To accelerate it, we are developing several numerical libraries supporting accurate computation based on high-precision arithmetic or algorithmic approach. Some software also support GPU acceleration.

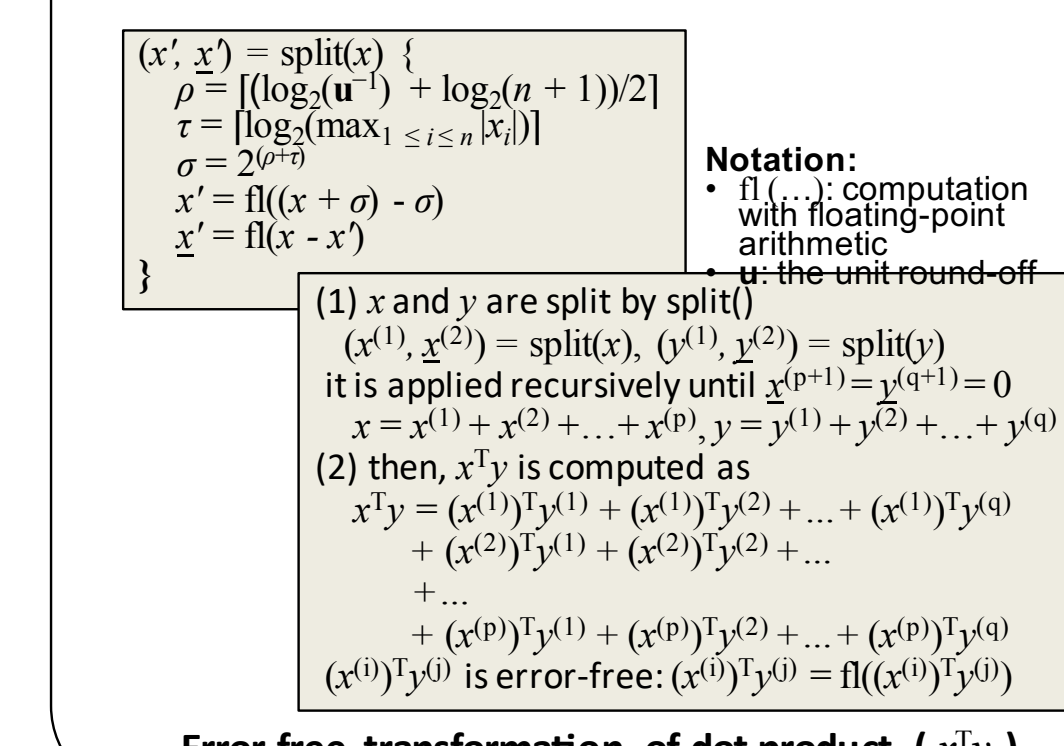
QPEigen & QPBLAS (JAEA, RIKEN)

• Quadruple-precision Eigen solvers (QPEigen) [8, 25] is based on double-double (DD) arithmetic. It is built on a quadruple-precision BLAS (QPBLAS) [9]. They support distributed environments with MPI: equivalent to ScaLAPACK's Eigen solver and PBLAS



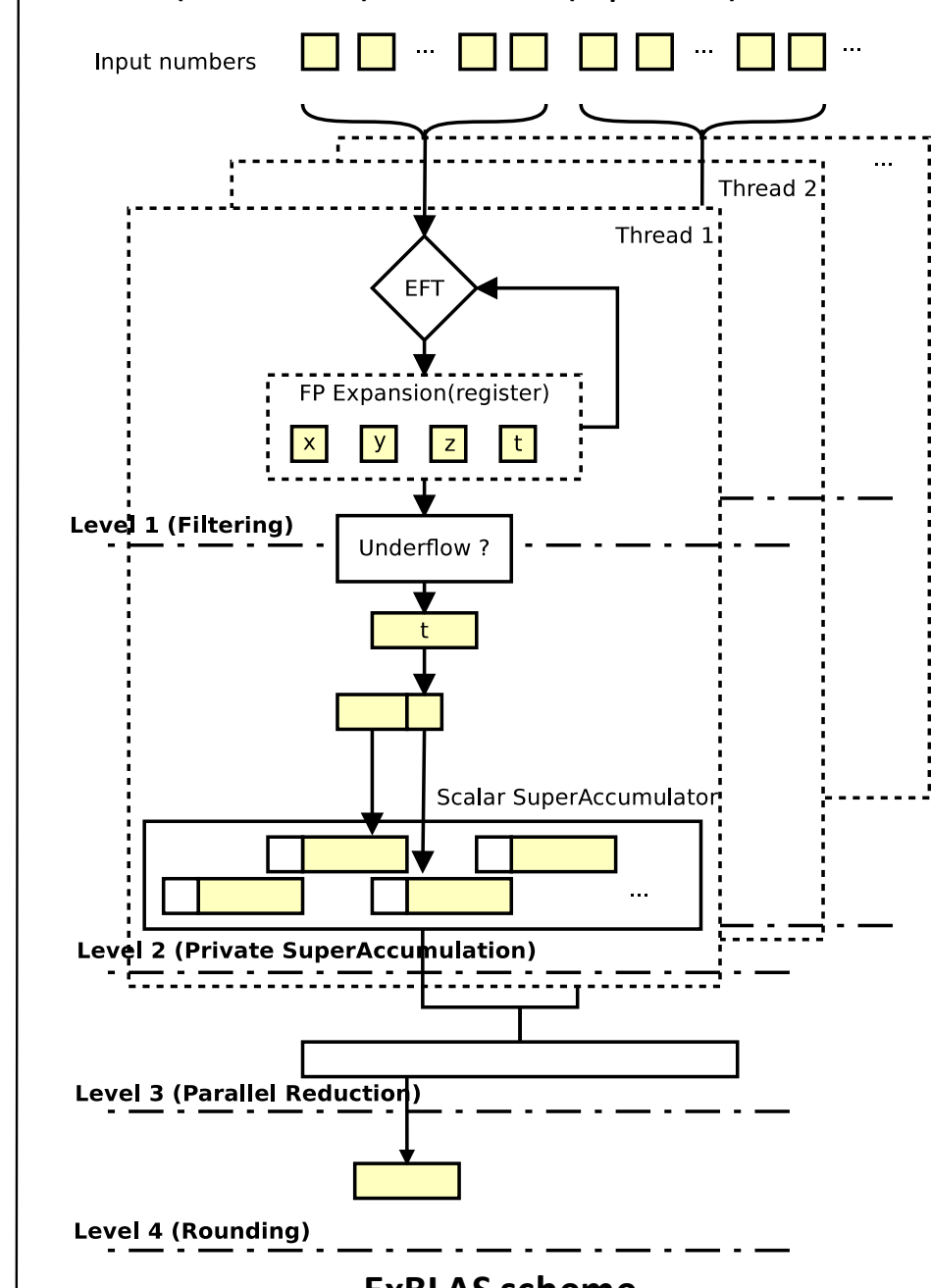
OzBLAS (TWCU, RIKEN)

• OzBLAS [13] is an accurate & reproducible BLAS using Ozaki scheme [18], which is an accurate matrix multiplication method based on the error-free transformation of dot-product
 • The accuracy is tunable and depends on the range of the inputs and the vector length
 • CPU and GPU (CUDA) versions



ExBLAS (Sorbonne University)

• ExBLAS [12] is an accurate & reproducible BLAS based on floating-point expansions with error-free transformations (EFT: twosum and twoprod) and super-accumulator
 • Assures reproducibility through assuring correct-rounding: it preserves every bit of information until the final rounding to the desired format
 • CPU (Intel TBB) and GPU (OpenCL) versions



Conclusion & Future Work

We proposed a new systematic approach for minimal-precision computations. This approach is reliable, general, comprehensive, high-performant, and realistic. Although the proposed system is still in development, it can be constructed by combining already available (developed) in-house technologies as well as extending them. Our ongoing step is to demonstrate the system on a small application.

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