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Leveraging SmartNICs in HPC

Sergio Iserte and Antonio J. Peña

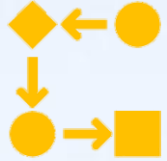
12/03/2025

Academic Salon on High-Performance Ethernet: Host
Networking and Monitoring - Munich (Germany)



SmartNICs in HPC

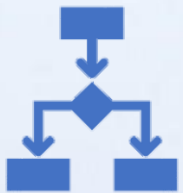
Overlapping computational stages



Pre/post-processing



Asynchronous or non-dependent tasks



Computation/
Communication

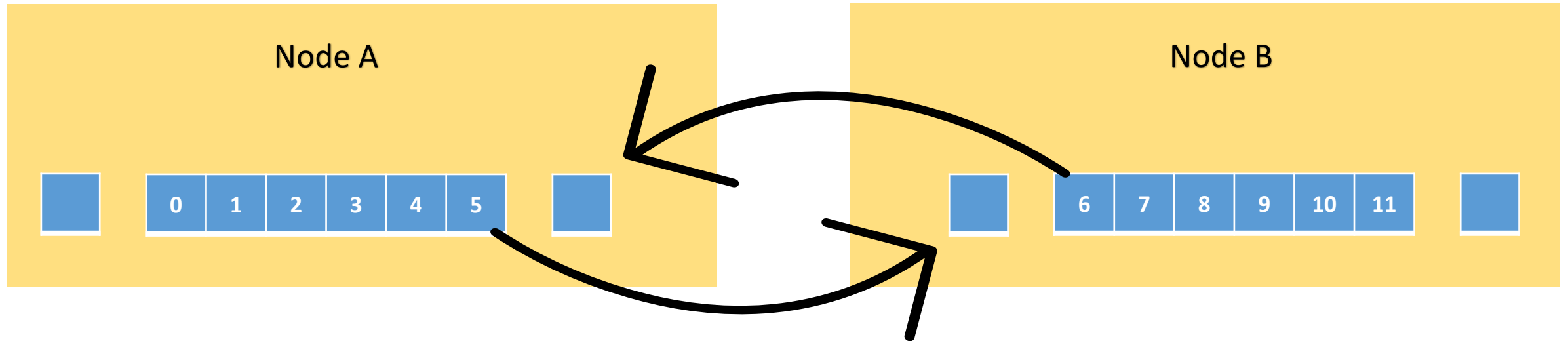
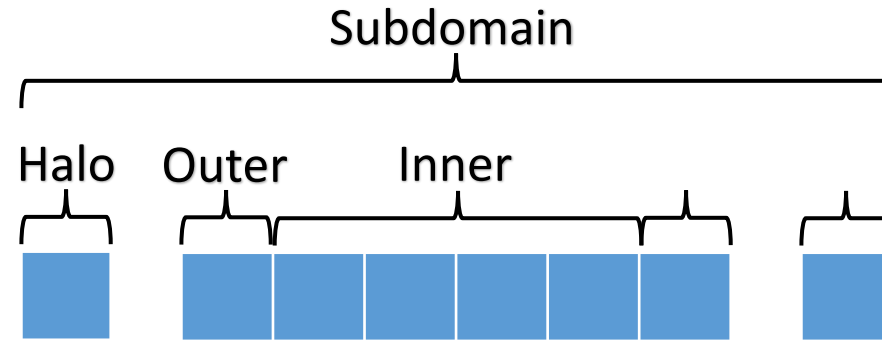
Adaptive mesh refinement

Neighbor building

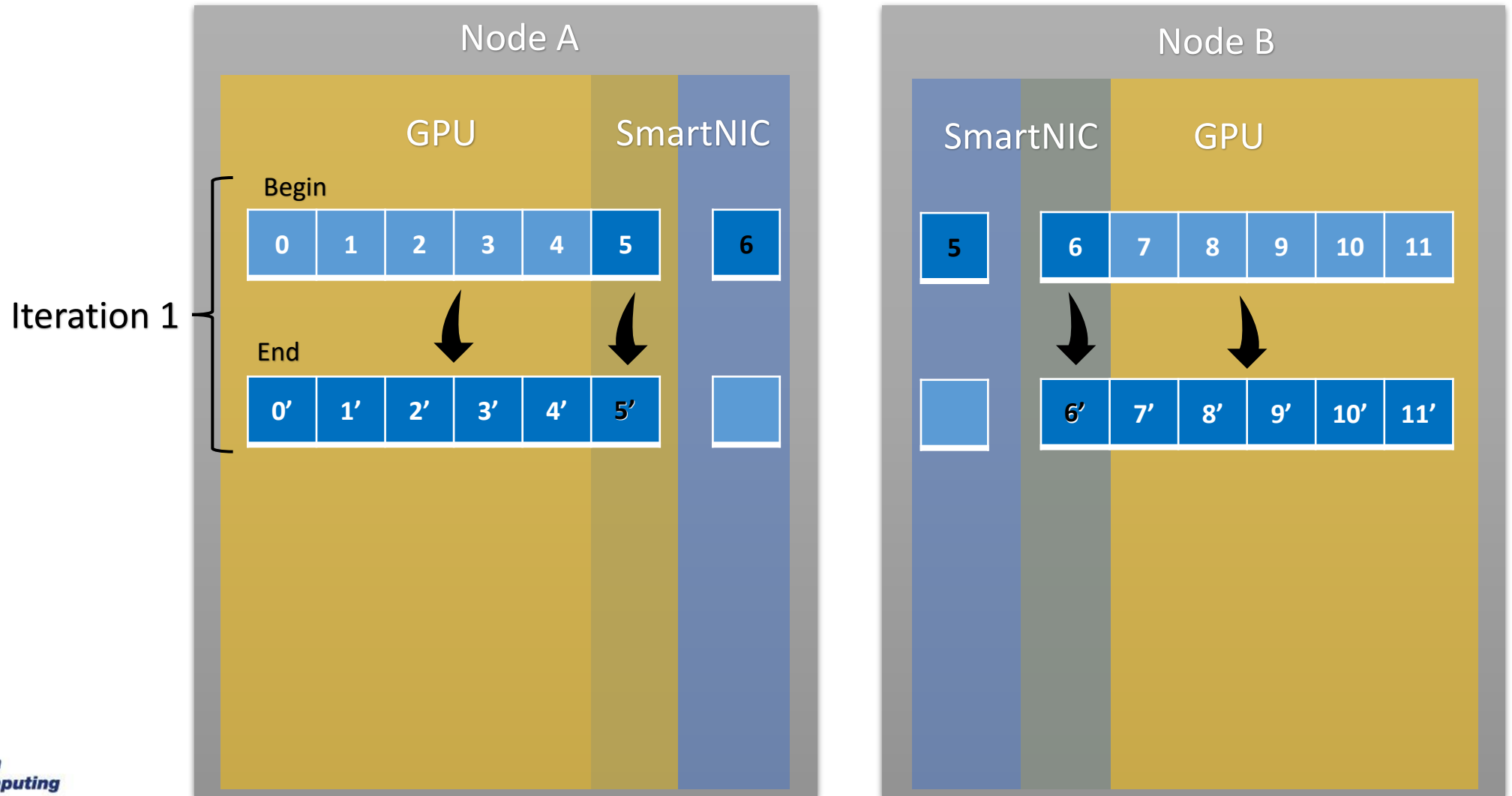
Halo exchange

Halo Exchange Offloading

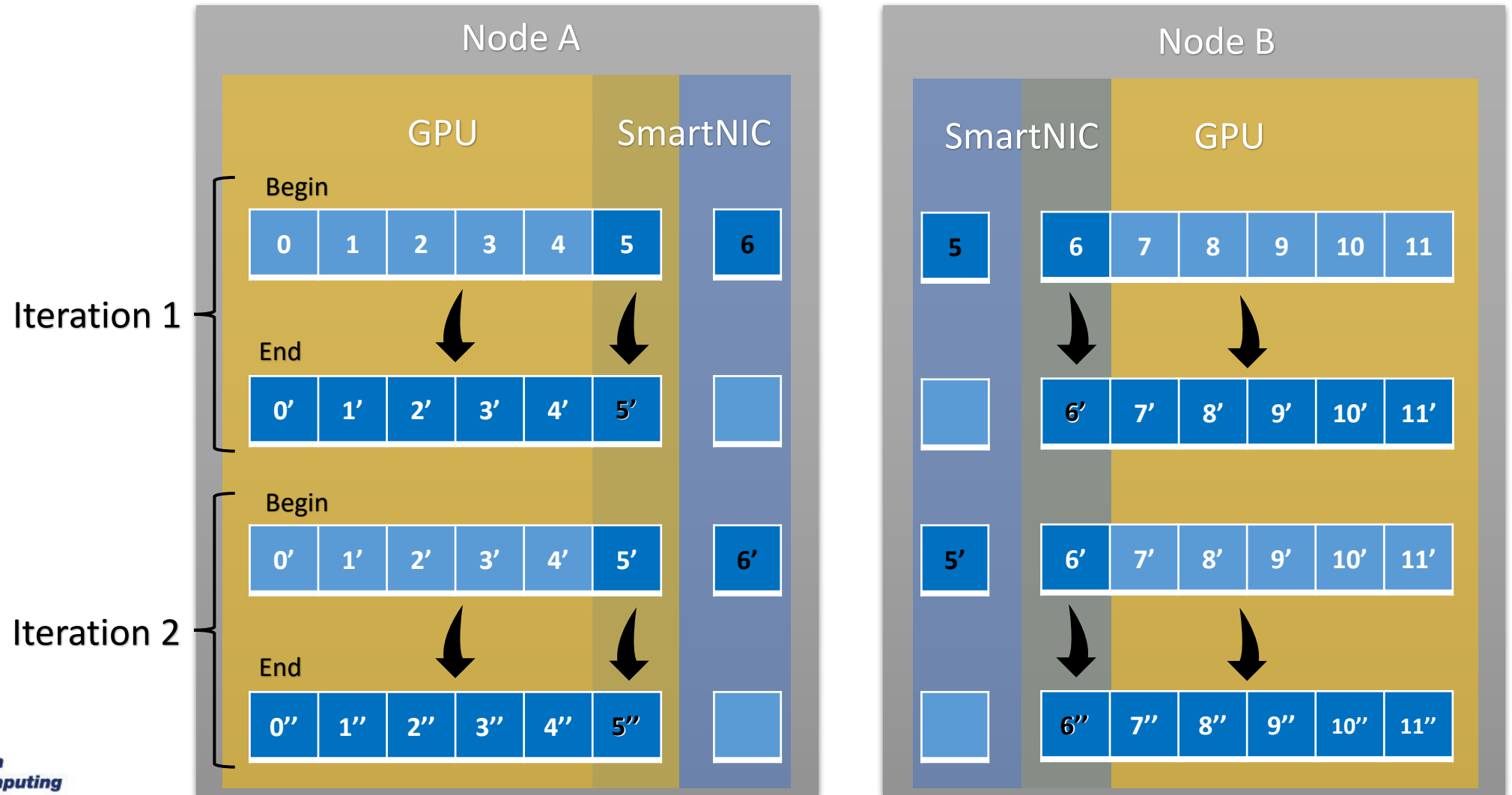
SIZE = 8
THICKNESS = 1



Halo Exchange Offloading



Halo Exchange Offloading



How to Code it?

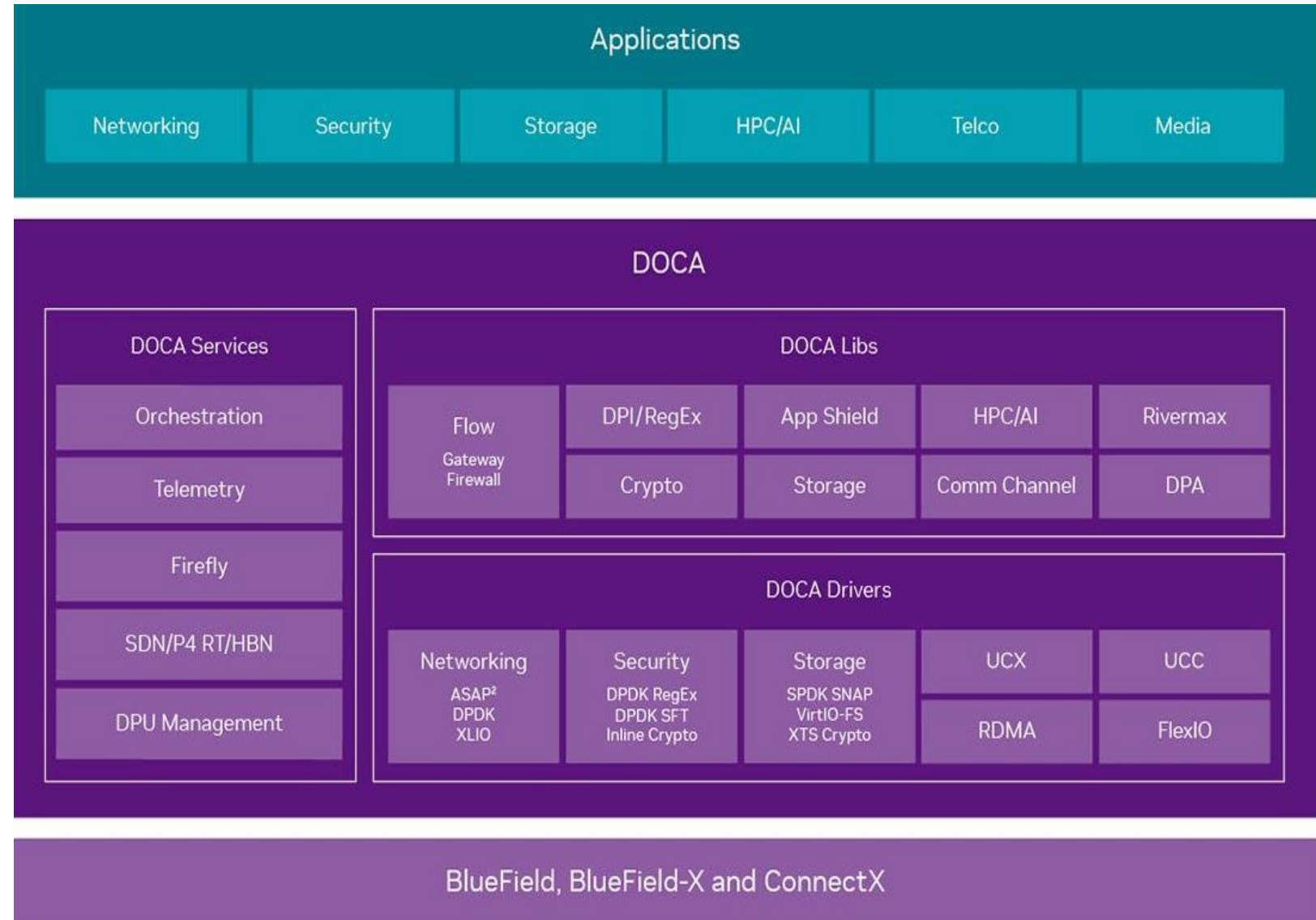


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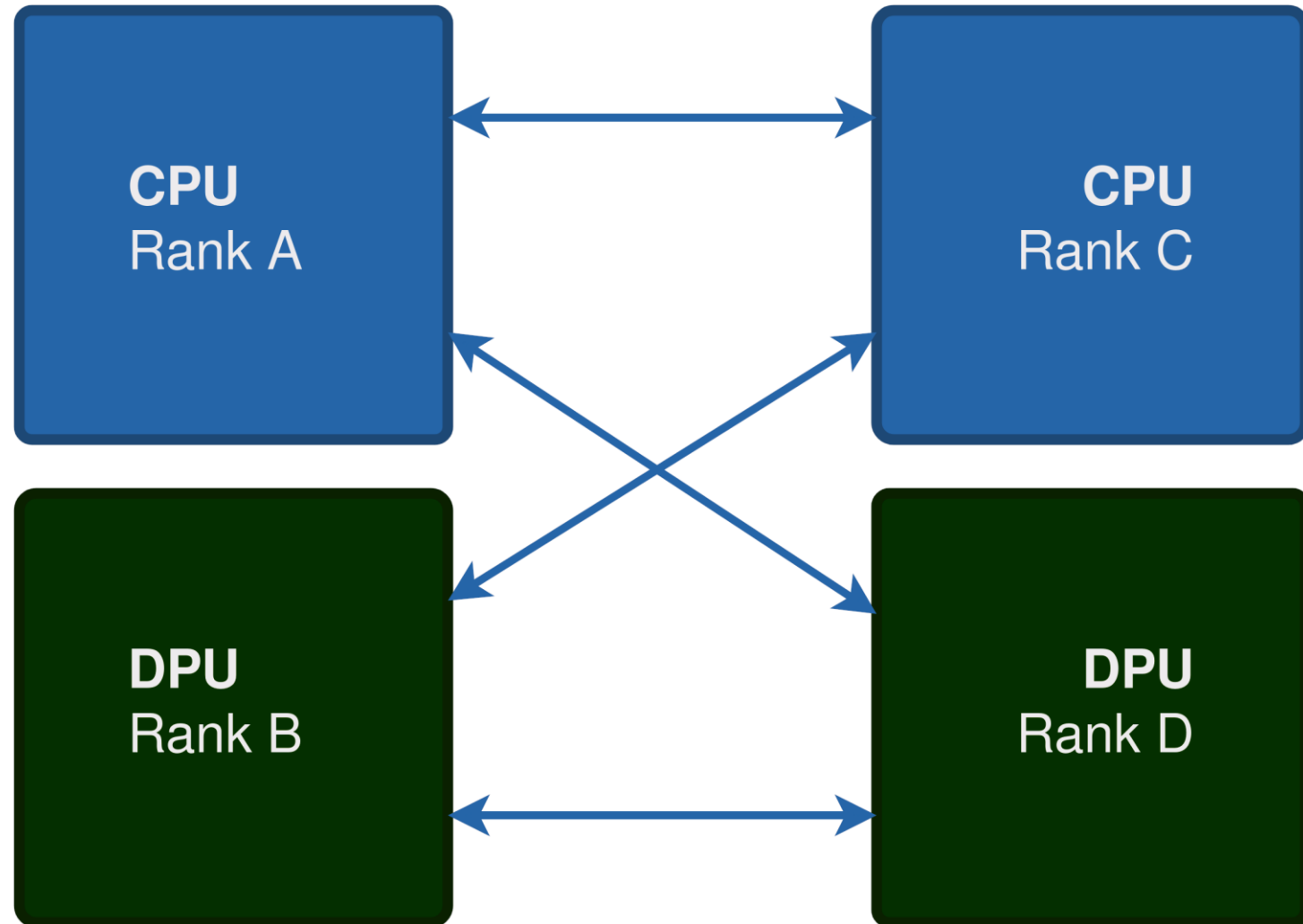
Low Level API

- For instance, in Nvidia BlueField DPUs, the DOCA SDK.
- DOCA is to DPUs what CUDA is to GPUs.
- Too low level for domain scientists.



MPMD Execution Model

- Multiple Program Multiple Data, for instance, in MPI.
- Poor productivity because the processors are widely different.



```

void main( int argc, char* argv[] ) {
    // Data initialization
    MPI_Init( &argc, &argv );
    MPI_Comm_rank( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &dpurank );
    if ( dpurank ) // DPU rank receives data
        MPI_Recv( &buf, SIZE, MPI_INT, 0, ... );
    else // Host rank sends data
        MPI_Send( &buf, SIZE, MPI_INT, dpurank, ... );
    for( int t = 1; t <= TIMESTEPS; t++ ) {
        if ( dpurank ); // Offloaded compute
        else; // Host compute
    }
    if ( dpurank ) // DPU rank send data
        MPI_Send( &buf, SIZE, MPI_INT, 0, ... );
    else // Host rank receive data
        MPI_Recv( &buf, SIZE, MPI_INT, dpurank, ... );
    MPI_Finalize();
}

```

```

void main( int argc, char* argv[] ) {
    // Data initialization
    #pragma omp target
        data map(tofrom:buf[0:SIZE]))
    {
        for( int t = 1; t <= TIMESTEPS; t++ ) {
            #pragma omp target
            {
                // Offloaded compute
            }
            // Host compute
        }
    }
}

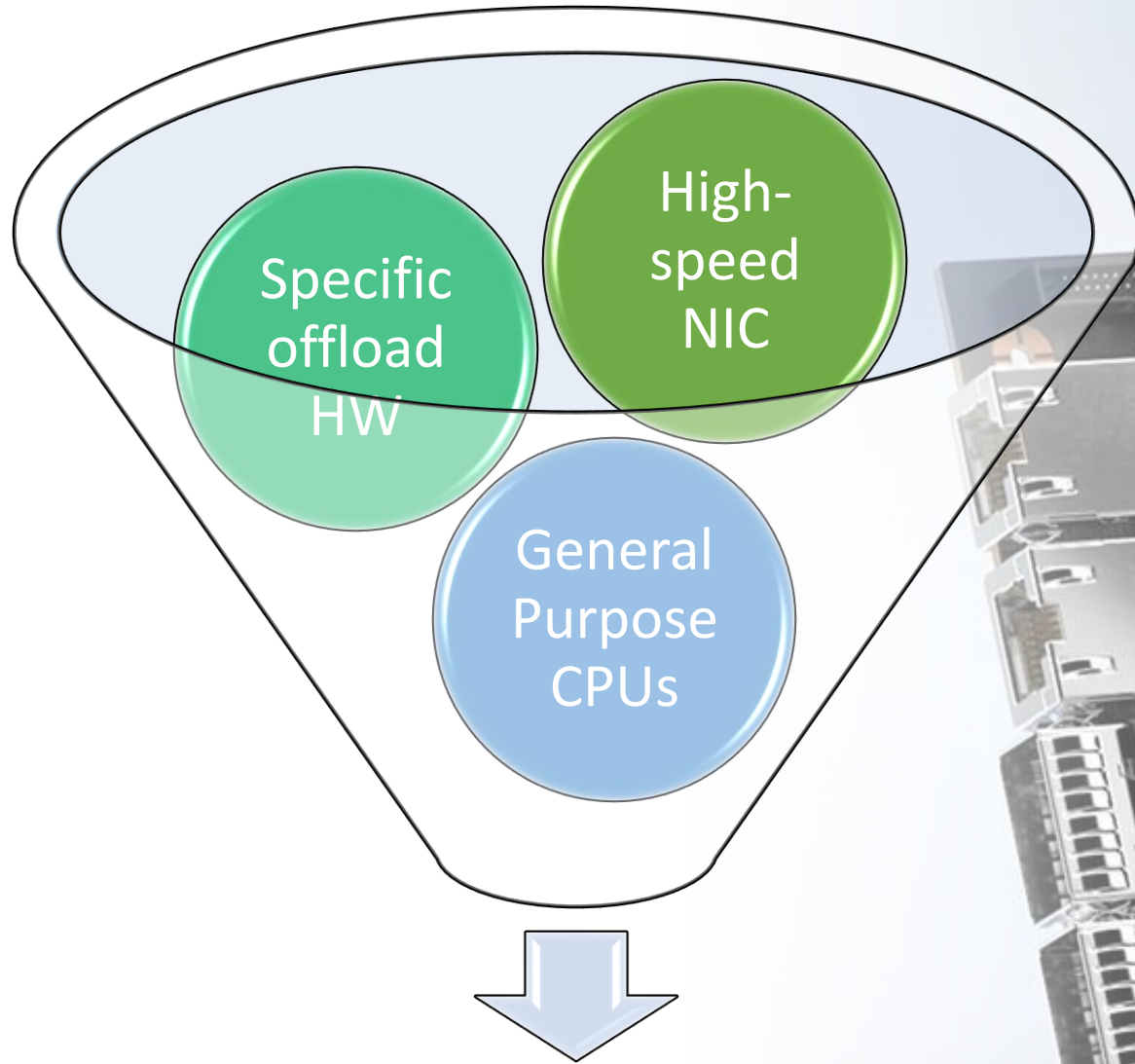
```



OpenMP DPU Offloading Support



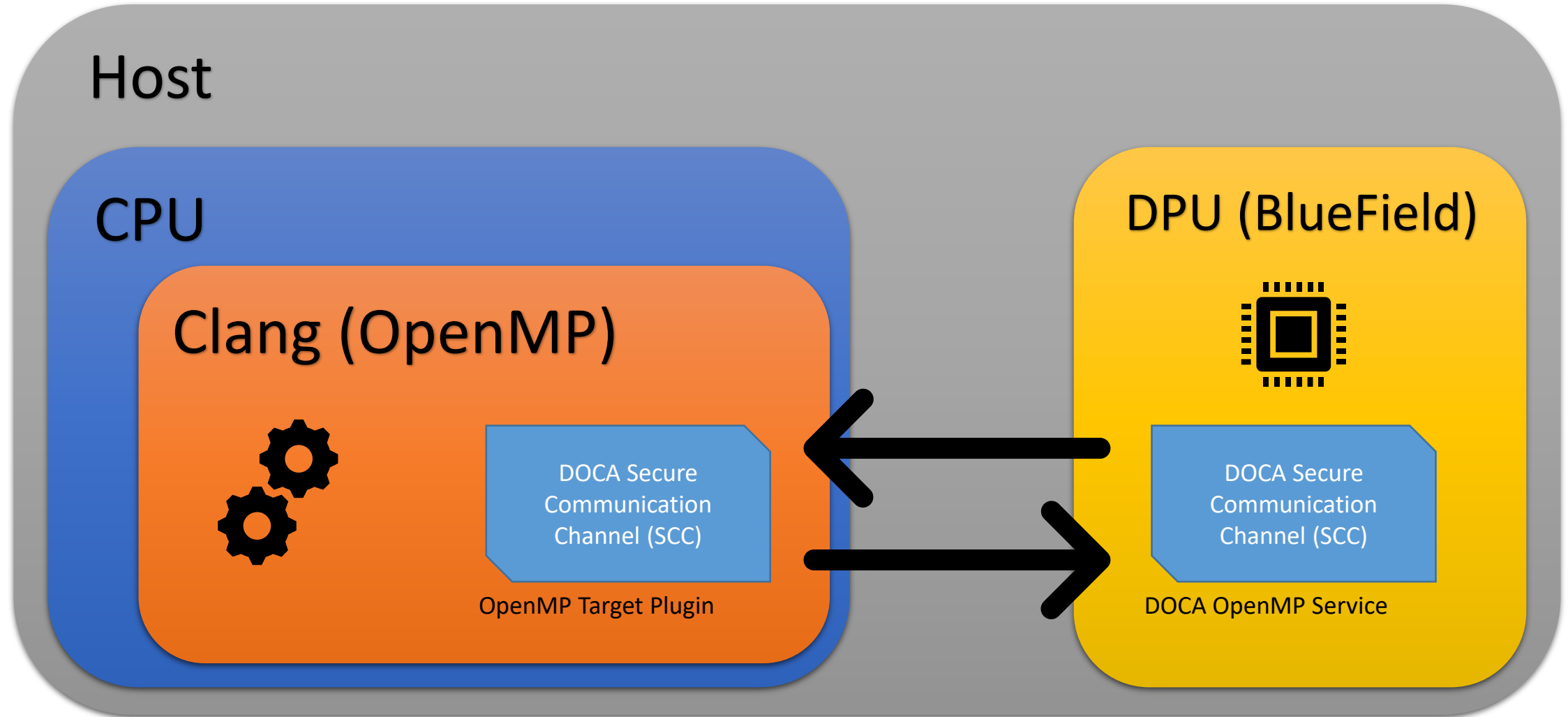
NVIDIA BlueField



Security,
A400Gbps
Networking
...

Data Processing Unit (DPU)

ODOS Architecture



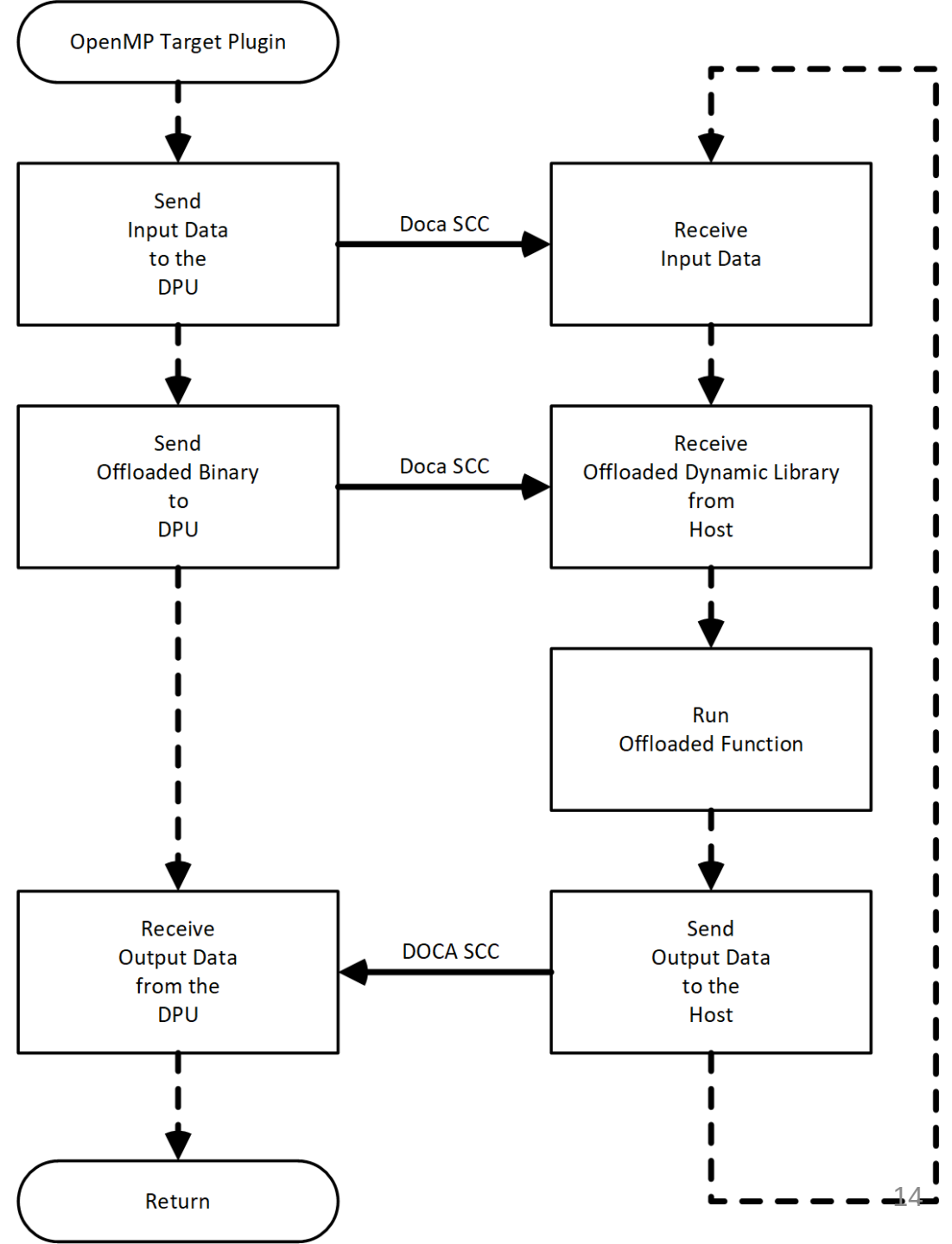
ODOS Flow



Using DPUs as an accelerator instead of a co-host.



DPU usage becomes very friendly to the HPC user.

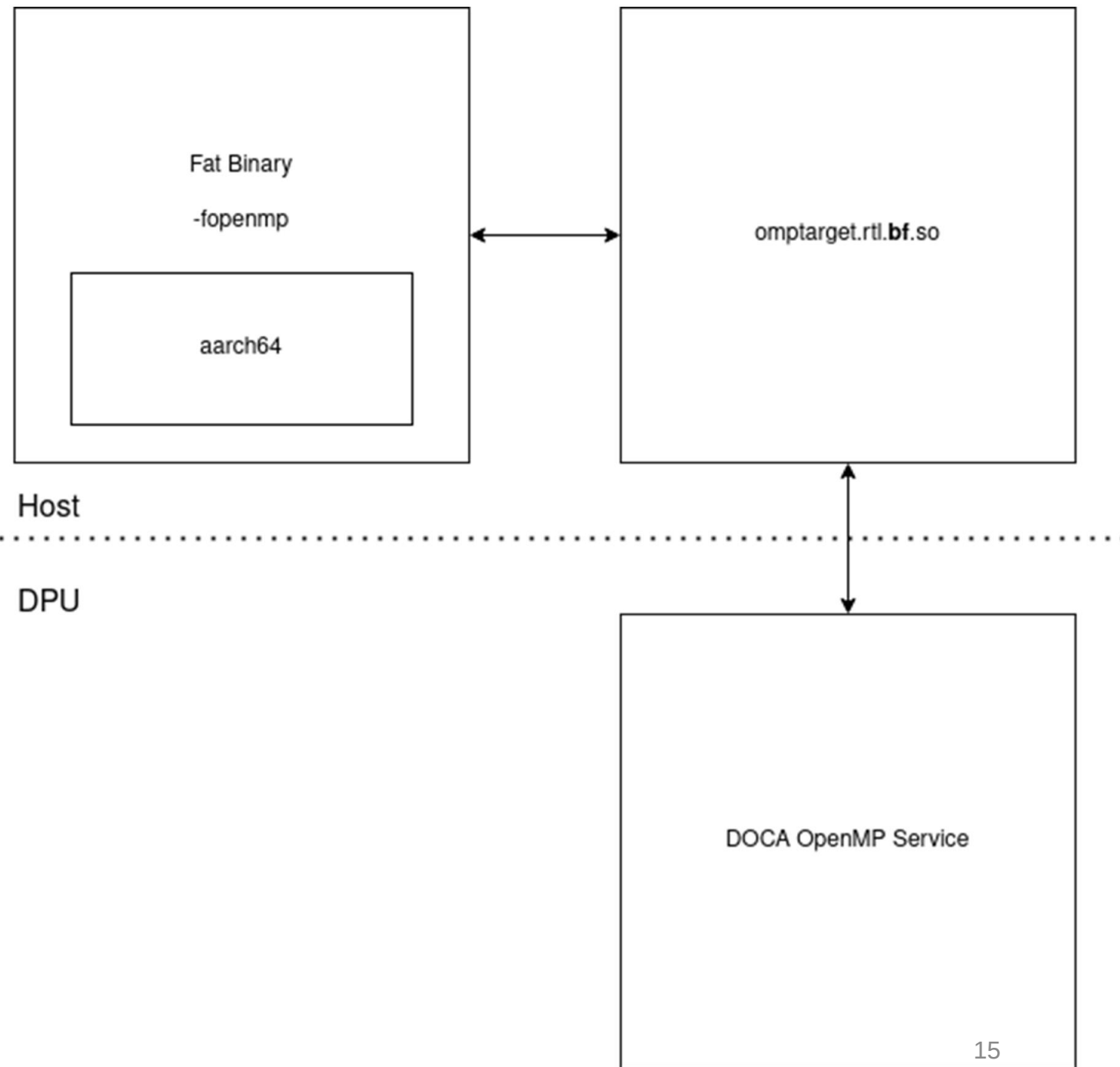


ODOS Modules

Fat Binary Generation

OpenMP Runtime (host)

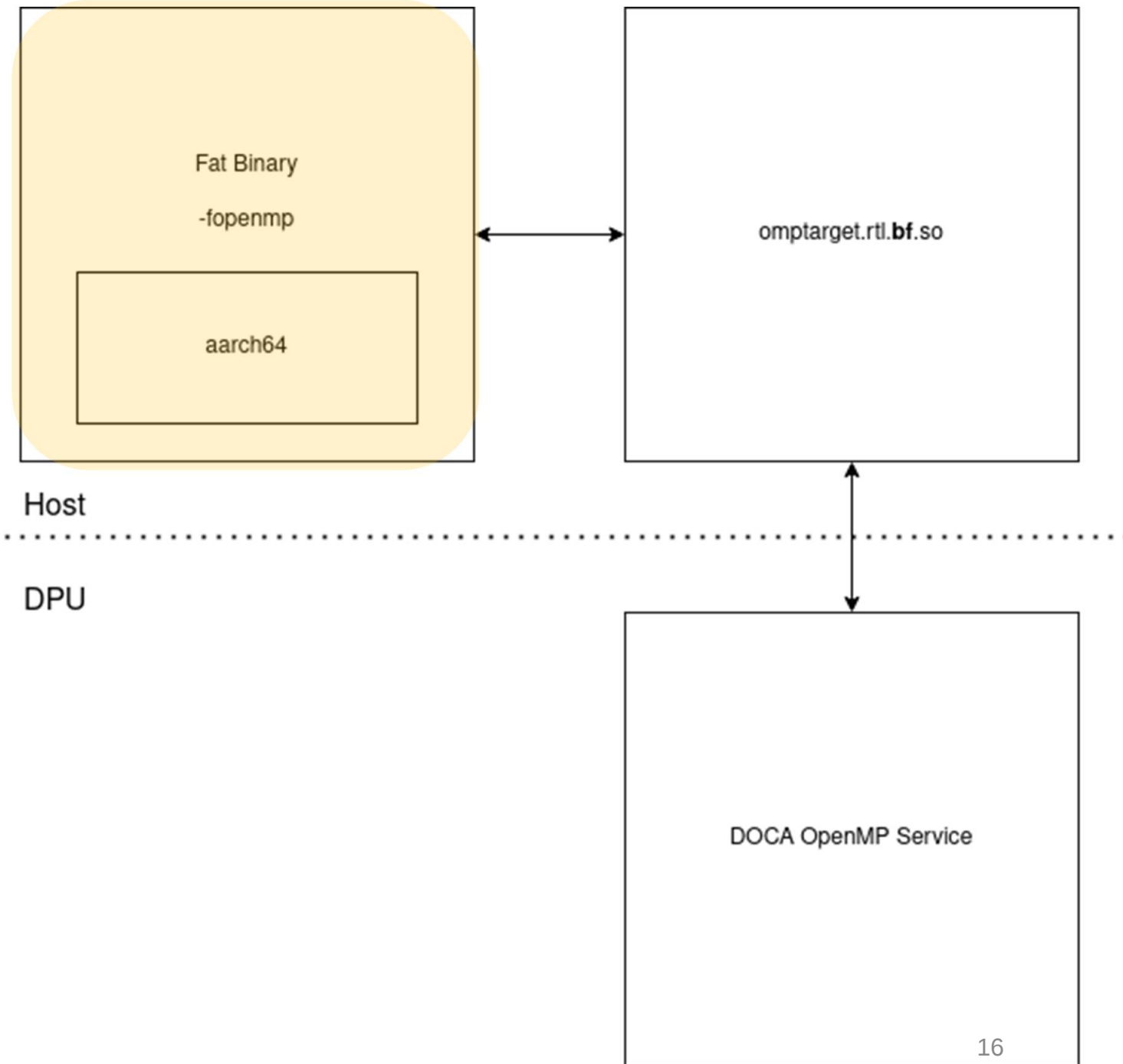
OpenMP Service (device)



Fat Binary Generation

Cross-compilation

- I.e.: x86-64 & aarch64
- Default Linux GNU GCC Compiler

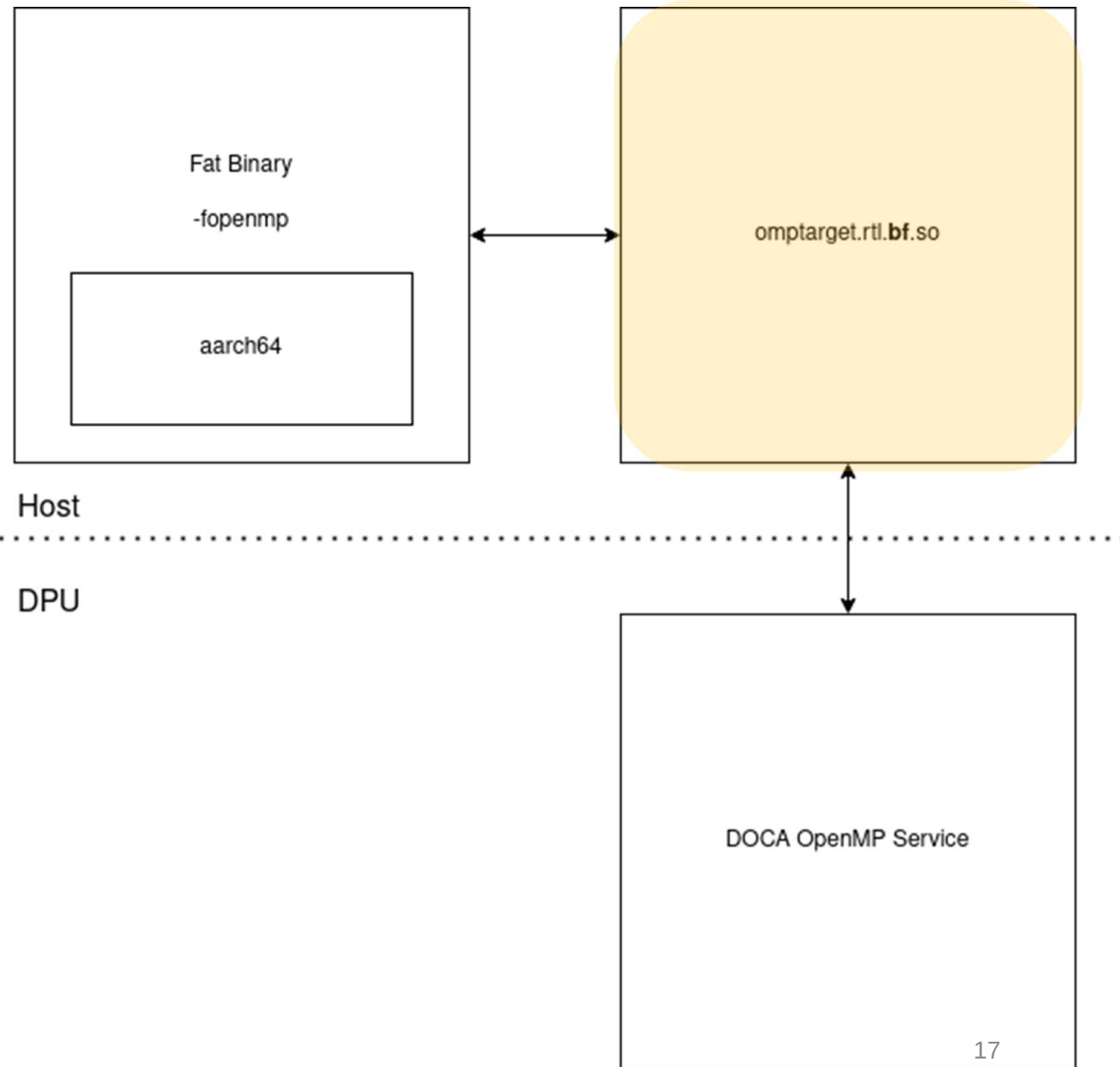


Target Plugin

Communication with the DPU
using DOCA SCC

Send commands to

- Load binary.
- Allocate and exchange data.
- Execute target blocks.



DOCA OpenMP Service

Receive commands using DOCA SCC

Load binary

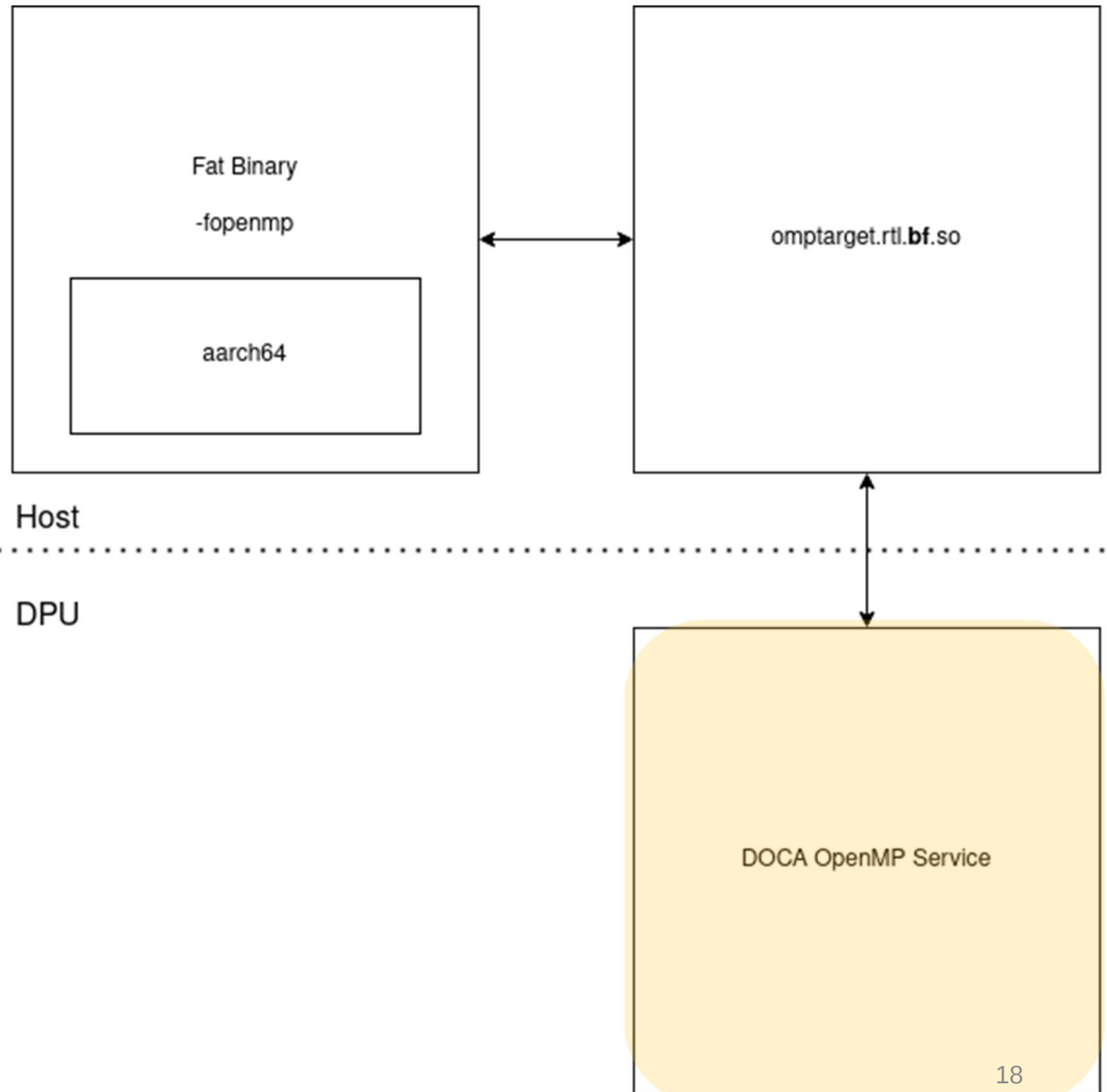
- Save image as a shared object
- Open the image [dlopen]
- Send back handles of symbols to host [dlsym]

Data operations

- Allocate/Delete [malloc/free]
- Send/Retrieve [DOCA SCC]

Target block execution

- Run target handle [ffi_prep_cif, ffi_call]

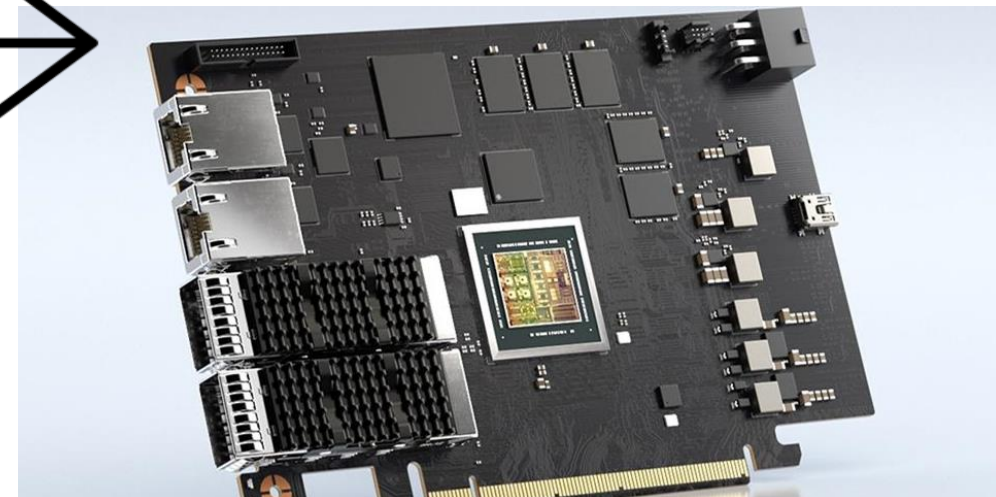
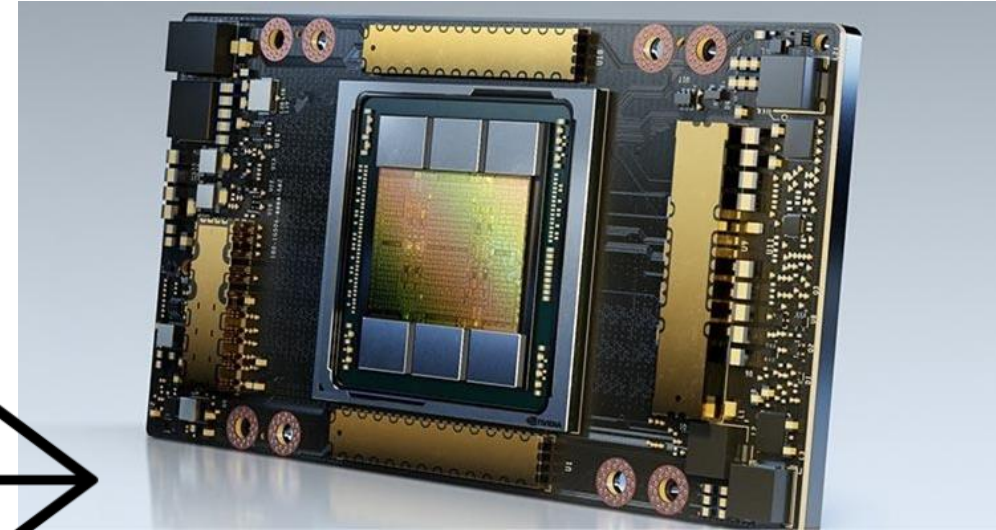


DPU Offload Programming with Standard OpenMP

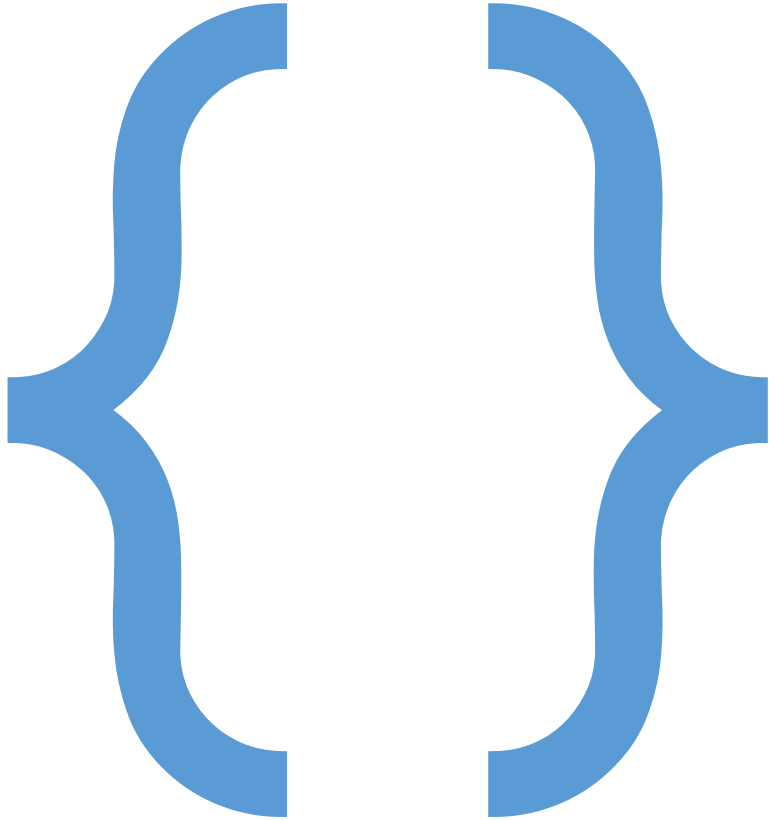
```
int main ()  
{  
    /******/  
    /* exec in host */  
    /******/  
  
    #pragma omp target device ( )  
    {  
        /******/  
        /* exec in target */  
        /******/  
    }  
}
```

GPU

DPU



Basic Syntax



```
// exec in host
```

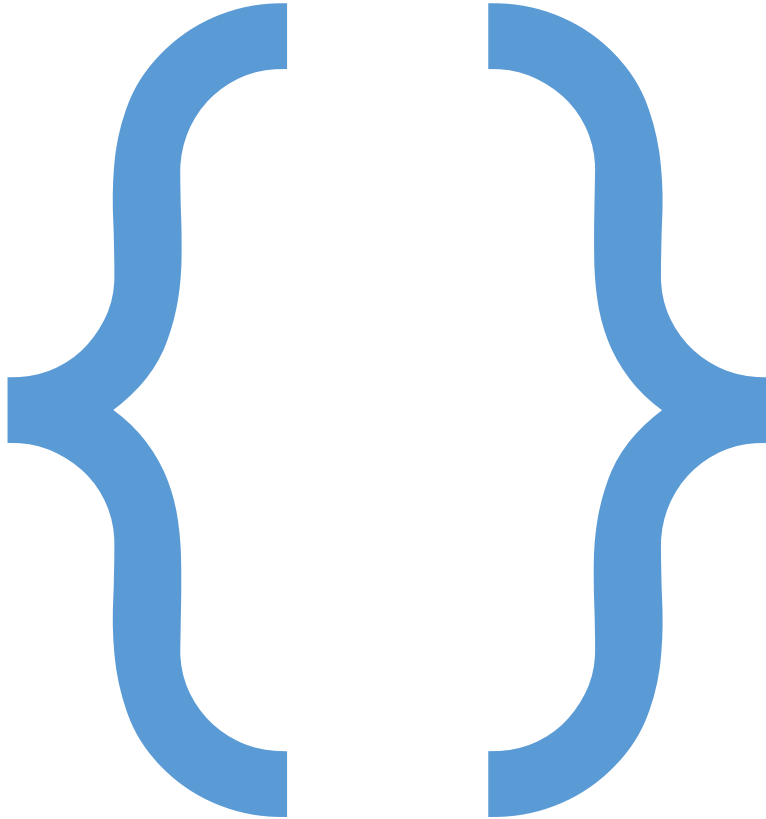
```
#pragma omp target
```

```
{
```

```
    // exec in target
```

```
}
```

Basic Syntax

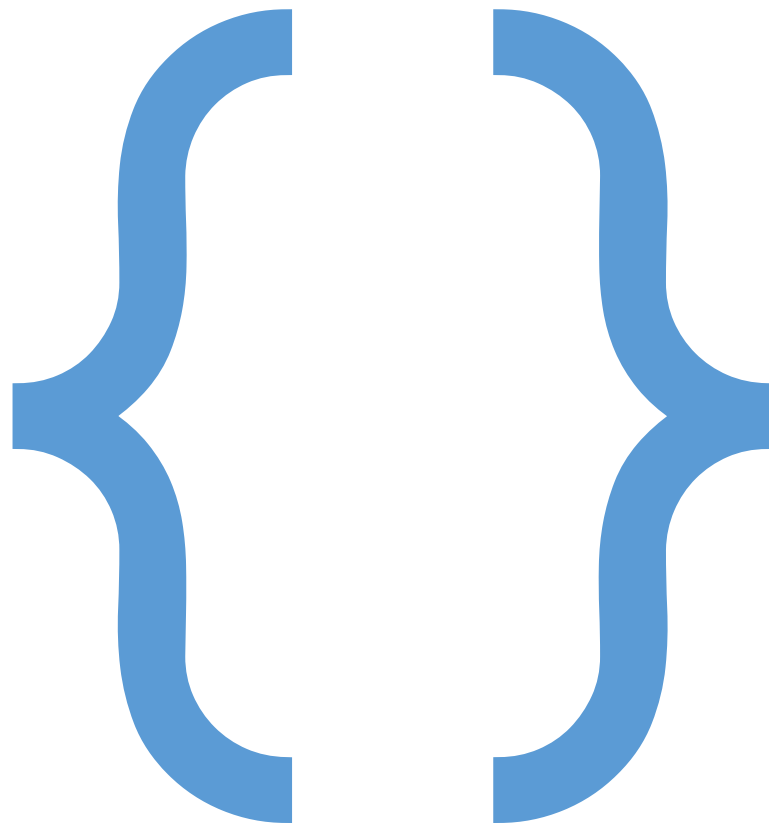


```
$ llvm-omp-device-info
```

```
Device (4):
```

```
CUDA Driver Version:      10020
CUDA Device Number:      0
Device Name:              Tesla V100-SXM2-16GB
Global Memory Size:      16911433728 bytes
Number of Multiprocessors: 80
Concurrent Copy and Execution: Yes
Total Constant Memory:   65536 bytes
Max Shared Memory per Block: 49152 bytes
Registers per Block:     65536
...
Compute Capabilities:    70
```

Basic Sintax



```
$ llvm-omp-device-info
```

```
Device (7):
```

```
BlueField DPU device
```

```
iface      : ib0
```

```
ib dev     : mlx5_2
```

```
doca id    : 2
```

```
pci addr   : 42:00:0
```

```
comm channel:
```

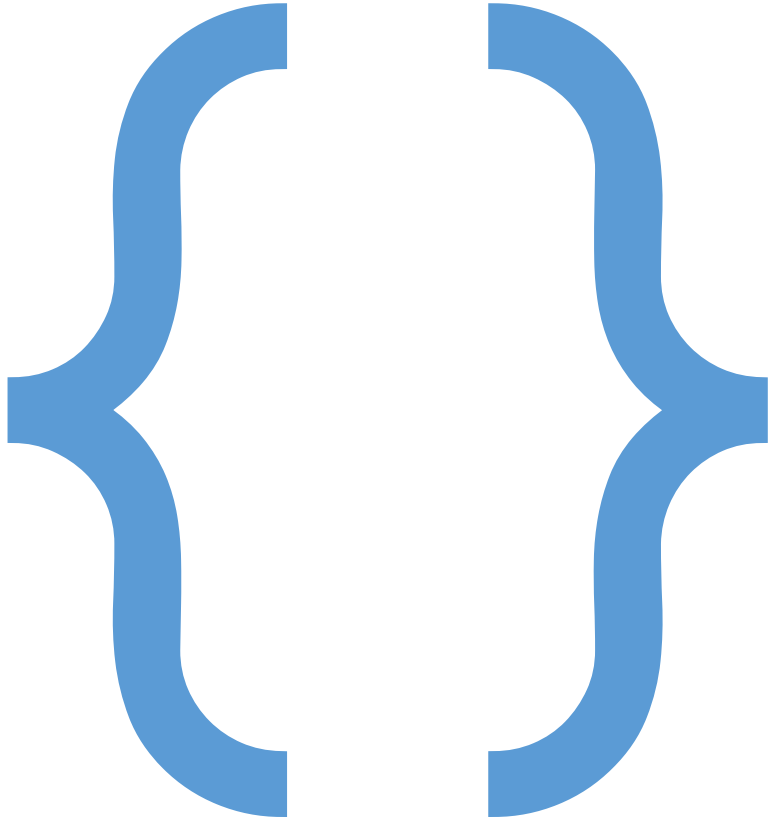
```
max msg size      : 4080
```

```
max send queue size : 8192
```

```
max receive queue size : 8192
```

```
...
```

Basic Syntax



```
// exec in host
```

```
#define __DPUID__ 7
```

```
#pragma omp target device(__DPUID__)
```

```
{
```

```
    // exec in target
```

```
}
```

How to Use it?



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```
#include <omp.h>
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int main()
```

```
{
```

```
#pragma omp target
```

```
#pragma omp parallel
```

```
    puts("Hey! OpenMP even work in DPU...");
```

```
    return 0;
```

```
}
```

Host

uthmanhere@thor013:~/omp_exp/labs_sc23/task_b/build\$

DPU

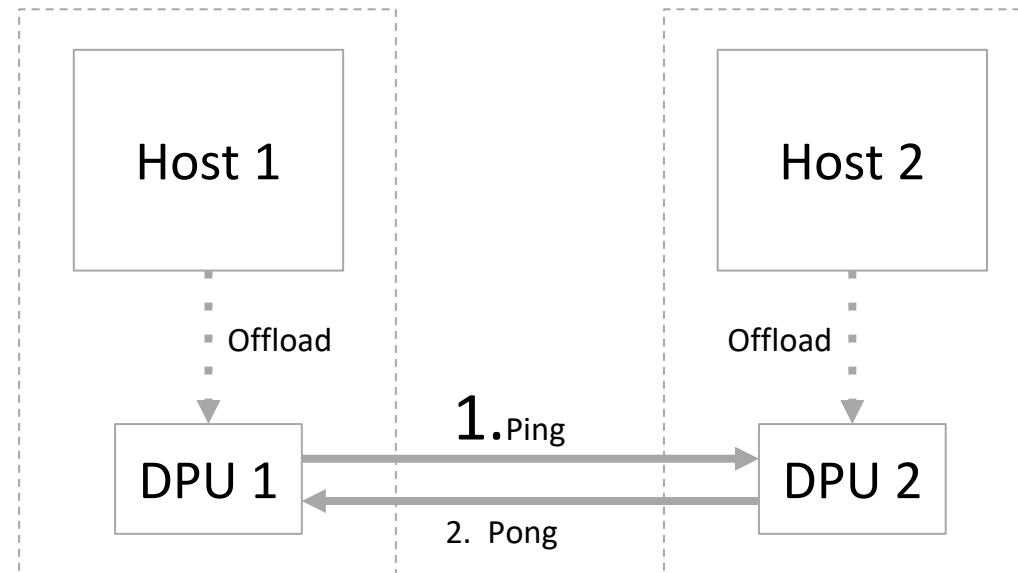
uthmanhere@thorbf3a013:~\$

Asynchronous TCP I/O in DPU using OpenMP (1/2)

```
#pragma omp target nowait
{
    // initialize tcp sockets, listen, bind, connect, and accept.
    fd = tcp_init(mode);

    // compute and communicate asynchronously on DPU
    ping_pong(fd, mode);

    close(fd);
}
#pragma omp taskwait
```



Asynchronous TCP I/O in DPU using OpenMP (2/2)

```
void ping_pong(int fd, char mode)
{
    int i, m;
    m = 0;

    for (i = 0; i < _ITERATIONS_; ++i) {
        if (mode == 'c') {
            printf("to server > %02d\n", m);
            send(fd, &m, sizeof(m), 0);
            recv(fd, &m, sizeof(m), 0);
            ++m;
        } else {
            recv(fd, &m, sizeof(m), 0);
            ++m;
            printf("to client > %02d\n", m);
            send(fd, &m, sizeof(m), 0);
        }
    }
}
```

```
uthmanhere@thor013:~/omp_exp/labs_sc23/task_d/build$  
uthmanhere@thor013:~/omp_exp/labs_sc23/task_d/build$
```



Node Server
(Pong)



```
uthmanhere@thorbf3a013:~$
```

```
uthmanhere@thor014:~/omp_exp/labs_sc23/task_d/build$  
uthmanhere@thor014:~/omp_exp/labs_sc23/task_d/build$
```



Node Client
(Ping)



```
uthmanhere@thorbf3a014:~$
```

ODOS MPI

```
#pragma omp target
{
    if ( rank == 0 ) {
        MPI_Send( &buf, 1, MPI_INT, dst, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD );
    } else {
        MPI_Recv( &recv_data, 1, MPI_INT, src, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD, MPI_STATUS_IGNORE );
    }
}

#pragma omp target
{
    MPI_Alltoall(send_buffer, 1, MPI_INT, recv_buffer, 1, MPI_INT, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
}
```

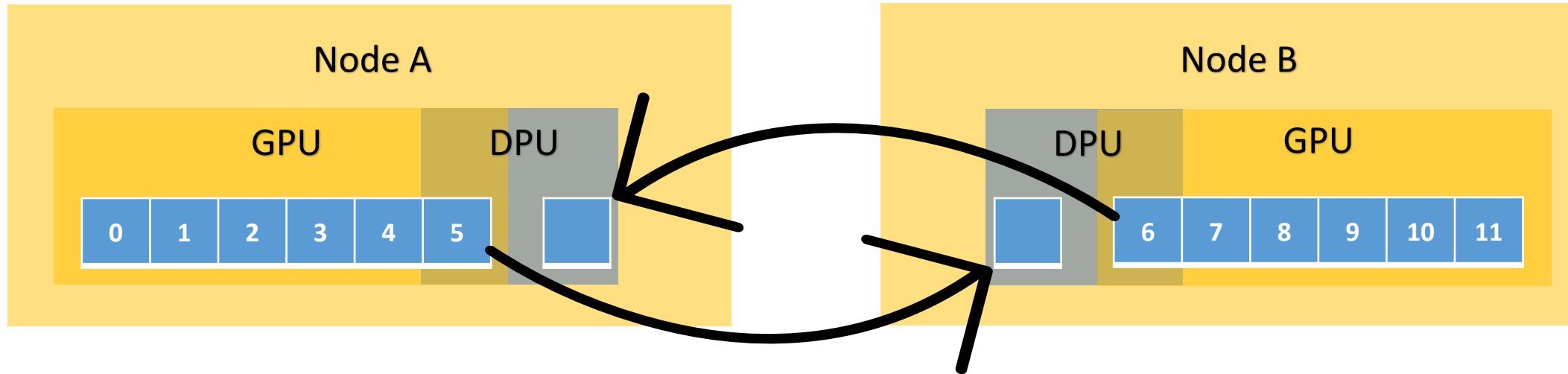
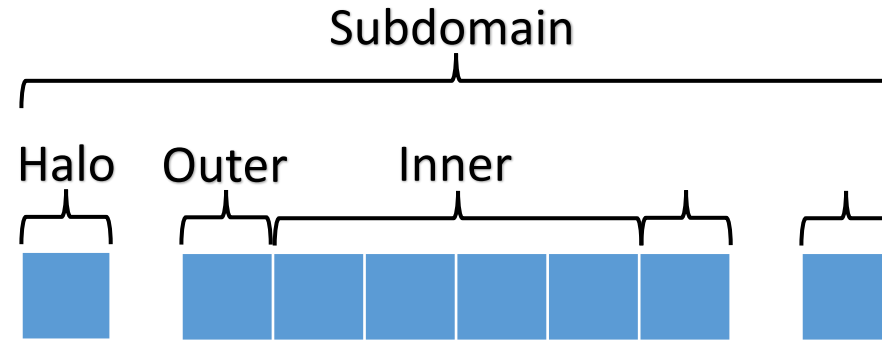
Halo Exchange Offloading



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Halo Exchange Offloading



GPU

```

int curr_subdomain[SIZE + THICKNESS * 2];
int next_subdomain[SIZE + THICKNESS * 2];
#pragma omp target data map(to: curr_subdomain[THICKNESS:SIZE-THICKNESS])
                        map(from: next_subdomain[THICKNESS:SIZE-THICKNESS])
                        device (GPU_ID) nowait
{
    #pragma omp target teams num_teams(2)
    {
        #pragma omp parallel
        {
            next_subdomain[THICKNESS] = compute_inner(curr_subdomain[THICKNESS:SIZE-THICKNESS])
        }
    }
}

#pragma omp target data map(to: curr_subdomain[0:THICKNESS*2], curr_subdomain[SIZE-THICKNESS*2:SIZE]
                        map(from: next_subdomain[0:THICKNESS*2], next_subdomain[SIZE-THICKNESS*2:SIZE])
                        device (DPU_ID) nowait
{
    #pragma omp parallel
    #pragma omp single
    {
        #pragma omp task
        {
            next_subdomain[THICKNESS] = compute_outer(curr_subdomain[0:THICKNESS*2], left);
        }
        #pragma omp task
        {
            next_subdomain[SIZE-THICKNESS*2] = compute_outer(curr_subdomain[SIZE-THICKNESS*2:SIZE], right);
        }
    }
}

#pragma omp barrier
curr_subdomain = copy_domain(next_subdomain);

```

DPU

DPU Offloaded Function

```
int* compute_outer(int* data, int rank_id)
{
    int halo[THICKNESS], outer_domain[THICKNESS], tag_id = 0;
    MPI_Request request;
    MPI_Status status;

    MPI_Irecv(halo, THICKNESS, MPI_INT, rank_id, tag_id, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &request);
    outer_domain = compute(data);
    MPI_Send(outer_domain, THICKNESS, MPI_INT, rank_id, tag_id, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
    MPI_Wait(&request, &status);
    return outer_domain;
}
```

Wrapping up



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Conclusions

SmartNICs in HPC are highly promising:

Additional co-processor closer to the network.



Applications can be accelerated by:

Overlapping and offloading communication/computation stages.



Easy coding is crucial:

To extend SmartNICs usage among HPC users (OpenMP, Kokkos, SYCL...).

Collaboration Opportunities

- Extend ODOS to other SmartNICs or programming models.
- Explore other uses of SmartNICs within HPC.
- Implementation of SmartNIC-enabled scientific codes.



ODOS team:

- Muhammad Usman
- Mariano Benito
- Sergio Iserte
- Antonio J. Peña



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See you around!



FGCS SI on HPC Heterogeneous (Sub) Systems

Deadline May 31st, 2025

7th Marenostrom Hackathon, Barcelona (Spain)

October (TBD), 2025

sergio.iserte@bsc.es

