AUTOGEN: automatic discovery of cache-oblivious parallel recursive algorithms for solving dynamic programs

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AUTOGÉN: Automatic Discovery of Cache-Oblivious Parallel Recursive Algorithms for Solving Dynamic Programs

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Abstract
We present AUTOGÉN — an algorithm that for a wide class of dynamic programming (DP) problems automatically discovers highly efficient cache-oblivious parallel recursive divide-and-conquer algorithms from inefficient iterative descriptions of DP recurrences. AUTOGÉN analyzes the set of DP table locations accessed by the iterative algorithm when run on a DP table of small size, and automatically identifies a recursive access pattern and a corresponding provably correct recursive algorithm for solving the DP recurrence. We use AUTOGÉN to autodiscover efficient algorithms for several well-known problems. Our experimental results show that several autodiscovered algorithms significantly outperform parallel looping and tiled loop-based algorithms. Also these algorithms are less sensitive to fluctuations of memory and bandwidth compared with their looping counterparts, and their running times and energy profiles remain relatively more stable. To the best of our knowledge, AUTOGÉN is the first algorithm that can automatically discover new nontrivial divide-and-conquer algorithms.

Keywords: AutoGen, automatic discovery, dynamic programming, recursive, divide-and-conquer, cache-efficient, parallel, cache-oblivious, energy-efficient, cache-adaptive

1. Introduction
AUTOGÉN is an algorithm for automatic discovery of efficient recursive divide-and-conquer dynamic programming (DP) algorithms for multicore machines from naïve iterative descriptions of the dynamic programs. DP (Bellman 1957; Sniedovich 2010; Cormen et al. 2009) is a widely used algorithm design technique that finds optimal solutions to a problem by combining optimal solutions to its overlapping subproblems, and explores an otherwise exponential sized search space in polynomial time by saving solutions to subproblems in a table and never recomputing them. DP is extensively used in computational biology (Bafna and Edwards 2003; Durbin et al. 1998; Gusfield 1997; Waterman 1995), and in many other application areas including operations research, compilers (Lew and Mauch 2006), sports (Romero 2002; Duckworth and Lewis 1998), games (Smith 2007), economics (Robscheik et al. 1971) and agriculture (Kennedy 1981).

Dynamic programs are described through recurrence relations that specify how the cells of a DP table must be filled using already computed values. Such recurrences are commonly implemented using simple algorithms that fill out DP tables iteratively. These loop-based codes are straightforward to implement, often have good spatial cache locality1, and benefit from hardware prefetchers. But looping codes suffer in performance from poor temporal cache locality2. Iterative DP implementations are also often inflexible in the sense that the loops and the data in the DP table cannot be suitably reordered in order to optimize for better spatial locality, parallelization, and/or vectorization. Such inflexibility arises because the codes often read from and write to the same DP table, and thus imposing strict read-write ordering of the cells.

Recursive divide-and-conquer DP algorithms (see Table 1) can often overcome many limitations of their iterative counterparts. Because of their recursive nature such algorithms are known to have excellent (and often optimal) temporal locality. Efficient implementations of these algorithms use iterative kernels when the problem size becomes reasonably small. But unlike in standard loop-based DP codes, the loops inside these iterative kernels can often be easily reordered, thus allowing for better spatial locality, vectorization, parallelization, and other optimizations. The sizes of the iterative kernels are determined based on vectorization efficiency and overhead of recursion, and not on cache sizes, and thus the algorithms remain cache-oblivious3 (Frigo et al. 1999) and more portable than cache-aware tiled iterative codes. Unlike tiled looping codes these algorithms are also cache-adaptive (Bender et al. 2014) — they passively self-adapt to fluctuations in available cache space when caches are shared with other concurrently running programs.

For example, consider the dynamic program for solving the parenthesis problem (Galil and Park 1994) in which we are given a sequence of characters S = S1 ... Sn and we are required to

1 Spatial locality — whenever a cache block is brought into the cache, it contains as much useful data as possible.

2 Temporal locality — whenever a cache block is brought into the cache, as much useful work as possible is performed on this data before removing the block from the cache.

3 Cache-oblivious algorithms — algorithms that do not use the knowledge of cache parameters in the algorithm description.
compute the minimum cost of parenthesizing $S$. Let $C[i, j]$ denote the minimum cost of parenthesizing $s_i \ldots s_j$. Then the DP table $C[0 : n, 0 : n]$ is filled up using the following recurrence:

$$
C[i, j] = \begin{cases} 
\infty & \text{if } 0 \leq i = j \leq n, \\
\min_{k \leq j} \{ (C[i, k] + C[k, j]) + w(i, k, j) \} & \text{if } 0 \leq i < j < n; 
\end{cases}
$$

where the $w_i$'s and function $w(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$ are given.

Figure 1 shows a serial looping code LOOP-PARENTHESES implementing Recurrence 1. Though the code is really easy to understand and write, it suffers from poor cache performance. Observe that the innermost loop scans one row and one column of the same DP table $C$. Assuming that $C$ is of size $n \times n$ and is too large to fit into the cache, each iteration of the innermost loop may incur one or more cache misses leading to a total of $\Theta(n^3)$ cache misses in the ideal-cache model (Frigo et al. 1999). Such extreme inefficiency in cache usage makes the code difficult to adapt to cache sharing.

In this paper, we present AUTOGEN — an algorithm that for a very wide class of DP problems can automatically discover efficient cache-oblivious parallel recursive divide-and-conquer algorithms from naive serial iterative descriptions of DP recurrences (see Figure 2). AUTOGEN works by analyzing the set of DP table locations accessed by the input serial algorithm when run on a DP table of suitably small size, and identifying a recursive fractal-like pattern in that set. For the class of DP problems handled by AUTOGEN the set of table locations accessed by the algorithm is independent of the data stored in the table. The class includes many well-known DP problems such as the parenthesis problem, pairwise sequence alignment and the gap problem as well as problems that are yet to be encountered. AUTOGEN effectively eliminates the need for human involvement in the design of efficient cache-oblivious parallel algorithms for all present and future problems in that class.

**Our contributions.** Our major contributions are as follows:

1. **Algorithmic** We present AUTOGEN — an algorithm that for a wide class of DP problems automatically discovers highly efficient cache-oblivious parallel recursive divide-and-conquer algorithms from iterative descriptions of DP recurrences. AUTOGEN works by analyzing the DP table accesses (assumed to be independent of the data in the table) of an iterative algorithm on a table of small size, finding the dependencies among different orthants of the DP table recursively, and constructing a tree and directed acyclic graphs that represent a set of recursive functions corresponding to a parallel recursive divide-and-conquer algorithm. We prove the correctness of the algorithms generated by AUTOGEN.

2. **Experimental** We have implemented a prototype of AUTOGEN which we have used to autogenerate efficient cache-oblivious parallel recursive divide-and-conquer algorithms (pseudocodes) from naive serial iterative descriptions of several DP recurrences. We present experimental results showing that several autogenerated algorithms without any nontrivial hand-tuning significantly outperform parallel looping codes in practice, and have more stable running times and energy profiles in a multiprogramming environment compared to looping and tiling algorithms.

**Related work.** Systems for auto-generating fast iterative DP implementations (not algorithms) exist. The Bellman’s GAP compiler (Giegerich and Sauthoff 2011) converts declarative programs into optimized C++ code. A semi-automatic synthesizer (Pu et al. 2011) converts class templates to solve problems in bioinformatics. A semi-automatic synthesizer (Pu et al. 2011) converts class templates to solve problems in bioinformatics.

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Formalizing the memory access patterns of naive serial iterative algorithms by attempting to automate the process of discovering efficient cache-tiers and row splitting to parallelize DP loops.

Figure 1. Left upper half: A parallel looping code that evaluates Rec. 1. Left lower half: AUTOGEN takes the serial parenthesis algorithm as input and automatically discovers a recursive divide-and-conquer cache-oblivious parallel algorithm. Initial call to the divide-and-conquer algorithm is \( A_{par}(\langle X, X, X \rangle) \).

\[
A_{par}(\langle X, X, X \rangle)
\]
1. If \( X \) is a small matrix then \( A_{loop-par}(\langle X, X, X \rangle) \)
2. else
3. \( par: A_{par}(\langle X_{11}, X_{11}, X_{11} \rangle), A_{par}(\langle X_{22}, X_{22}, X_{22} \rangle) \)
4. \( b_{par}(\langle X_{12}, X_{11}, X_{22} \rangle) \)

\[
b_{par}(\langle X, U, V \rangle)
\]
1. If \( X \) is a small matrix then \( b_{loop-par}(\langle X, U, V \rangle) \)
2. else
3. \( b_{par}(\langle X_{22}, U_{22}, V_{12} \rangle), b_{par}(\langle X_{22}, X_{21}, V_{12} \rangle) \)
4. \( c_{par}(\langle X_{11}, U_{11}, V_{12} \rangle), b_{par}(\langle X_{22}, X_{21}, V_{12} \rangle) \)
5. \( c_{par}(\langle X_{12}, X_{11}, V_{12} \rangle), c_{par}(\langle X_{22}, X_{22}, V_{22} \rangle) \)
6. \( c_{par}(\langle X_{12}, X_{11}, V_{12} \rangle, c_{par}(\langle X_{12}, X_{11}, V_{12} \rangle) \)
7. \( c_{par}(\langle X_{12}, X_{11}, V_{12} \rangle, c_{par}(\langle X_{12}, X_{11}, V_{12} \rangle) \)
8. \( c_{par}(\langle X_{12}, X_{11}, V_{12} \rangle, c_{par}(\langle X_{12}, X_{11}, V_{12} \rangle) \)

\[
c_{par}(\langle U, V \rangle)
\]
1. If \( X \) is a small matrix then \( c_{loop-par}(\langle U, V \rangle) \)
2. else
3. \( c_{par}(\langle X_{11}, U_{11}, V_{12} \rangle), c_{par}(\langle X_{12}, U_{11}, V_{12} \rangle) \)
4. \( c_{par}(\langle X_{21}, U_{21}, V_{12} \rangle), c_{par}(\langle X_{22}, U_{21}, V_{12} \rangle) \)
5. \( c_{par}(\langle X_{11}, U_{11}, V_{12} \rangle), c_{par}(\langle X_{12}, U_{12}, V_{22} \rangle) \)
6. \( c_{par}(\langle X_{21}, U_{22}, V_{21} \rangle), c_{par}(\langle X_{22}, U_{22}, V_{22} \rangle) \)
7. \( c_{par}(\langle X_{11}, U_{11}, V_{12} \rangle, c_{par}(\langle X_{12}, U_{12}, V_{22} \rangle) \)
8. \( c_{par}(\langle X_{21}, U_{22}, V_{21} \rangle, c_{par}(\langle X_{22}, U_{22}, V_{22} \rangle) \)

Figure 2. Input and output of AUTOGEN.

Pochoir tailors the implementation of the same cache-oblivious algorithm to different stencil computations, AUTOGEN discovers a (possibly) brand new efficient parallel cache-oblivious algorithm for every new DP problem it encounters.

Compiler technology for automatically converting iterative versions of matrix programs to serial recursive versions is described in (Ahmed and Pingali 2000). The approach relies on heavy machinery such as dependence analysis (based on integer programming) and polyhedral techniques. AUTOGEN, on the other hand, is a much simpler stand-alone algorithm that analyzes the data access pattern of a given naive (e.g., looped) serial DP code when run on a small example, and inductively generates a provably correct parallel recursive algorithm for solving the same DP.
For every unique function of \(\Theta (n^d)\), Algorithm-tree construction.

A cell-set (i.e., set of cell-dependencies \(\Theta (n^d)\)) is generated from a run of the given \(I-D\mathcal{DP}\) on a DP table of small size. See §2.1.

2. The AUTOGEN Algorithm

In this section, we describe the AUTOGEN algorithm.

Definition 1 (\(I-D\mathcal{DP}/R-D\mathcal{DP}\) AUTOGEN). Let \(\mathcal{P}\) be a given DP problem. An \(I-D\mathcal{DP}\) is an iterative (i.e., loop-based) algorithm for solving \(\mathcal{P}\). An \(R-D\mathcal{DP}\) is a cache-oblivious parallel recursive divide-and-conquer algorithm (if exists) for \(\mathcal{P}\). AUTOGEN is our algorithm for auto-generating an \(R-D\mathcal{DP}\) from a given \(I-D\mathcal{DP}\) for \(\mathcal{P}\).

We make the following assumption about an \(R-D\mathcal{DP}\).

Assumption 1 (Number of functions). The number of distinct recursive functions in an \(R-D\mathcal{DP}\) is upper bounded by a constant (e.g., the \(R-D\mathcal{DP}\) in Figure 1 has 3 distinct recursive functions).

Algorithm. The four main steps of AUTOGEN are:

1. [Cell-set generation.] A cell-set (i.e., set of cell-dependencies representing DP table cells accessed) is generated from a run of the given \(I-D\mathcal{DP}\) on a DP table of small size. See §2.1.

2. [Algorithm-tree construction.] An algorithm-tree is constructed from the cell-set in which each node represents a subset of the cell-set and follows certain rules. See §2.2.

3. [Algorithm-tree labeling.] The nodes of the tree are labeled with function names, and these labels represent a set of recursive divide-and-conquer functions in an \(R-D\mathcal{DP}\). See §2.3.

4. [Algorithm-DAG construction.] For every unique function of the \(R-D\mathcal{DP}\), we construct a directed acyclic graph (DAG) that shows both the order in which the child functions are to be executed and the parallelism involved. See §2.4.

Example. AUTOGEN works for arbitrary d-D (d \(\geq\) 1) DP problems under the assumption that each dimension of the DP table is of the same length and is a power of 2. For simplicity of exposition, we explain AUTOGEN by applying it on an \(I-D\mathcal{DP}\) for the parenthesis problem, which updates a 2-D DP table. The solution is described by Recurrence 1 which is evaluated by the serial \(I-D\mathcal{DP}\). In the rest of the section, we show how AUTOGEN discovers the \(R-D\mathcal{DP}\) shown in Figure 1 from this serial \(I-D\mathcal{DP}\).

2.1 Cell-set generation

A cell is a spatial grid point in a DP table identified by its d-D coordinates. A d-D DP table \(C\) is called a level-0 region. The orthants of identical dimensions of the level-0 region are called level-i regions. Generalizing, the orthants of level-i regions are called level-\((i + 1)\) regions.

We assume that each iteration of the innermost loop of the given \(I-D\mathcal{DP}\) performs the following update:

\[
C[x] \leftarrow f(C[y_1], C[y_2], \ldots, C[y_s]) \\
\text{or} \\
C[x] \leftarrow C[x] \oplus f(C[y_1], C[y_2], \ldots, C[y_s]),
\]

where \(s \geq 1; x\) is a cell of table \(C; y_i\) is a cell of table \(C^i; \oplus\) is an associative operator (such as min, max, +, \times) and \(f\) is an arbitrary function. We call the tuple \(\langle C[x], C^1[y_1], \ldots, C^s[y_s] \rangle\) a cell-tuple. Let \(C[X_1], C[Y_1], \ldots, C[Y_s]\) be regions such that \(x \in X_i\) and \(y_i \in Y_i\). Then we call the tuple \(\langle C[X_1], C[Y_1], \ldots, C[Y_s] \rangle\) a region-tuple. In simple words, a cell-tuple (resp. region-tuple) gives information of which cell (resp. region) is being written by reading from which cells (resp. regions). The size of a cell-region-tuple is \(1 + s\).

For any given \(I-D\mathcal{DP}\), the set of all cell-tuples for all cells in its DP table is called a cell-set.

Given an \(I-D\mathcal{DP}\), we modify it such that instead of computing its DP table, it generates the cell-set for a problem of suitably small size, generally \(n = 64\) or 128. For example, for the parenthesis problem, we choose \(n = 64\) and generate the cell-set \(\{(C(i,j), C(i,k), C(k,j))\}\) where \(C\) is the DP table, \(0 \leq i < j - 1 < n\), and \(i \leq k \leq j\).

2.2 Algorithm-tree construction

Given an \(I-D\mathcal{DP}\), a tree representing a hierarchy of recursive divide-and-conquer functions which is used to find a potential \(R-D\mathcal{DP}\) is called an algorithm-tree. The way we construct level-i nodes in an algorithm-tree is by analyzing the dependencies between level-i regions using the cell-set. Every node in the algorithm-tree represents a subset of the cell-set satisfying certain region-tuple dependencies. Suppose the algorithm writes into DP table \(C\), and reads from tables \(C^1, \ldots, C^s\) (they can be same as \(C\)). The algorithm-tree is constructed as follows.
At level 0, the only regions possible are the entire tables \( C, C', C'' \). We analyze the cell-tuples of the cell-set to identify the region-tuples at this level. As all the write cells belong to \( C \) and all the read cells belong to \( C', C'' \), the only possible region-tuple is \( (C, C', C'') \). We create a node for this region-tuple and it forms the root node of the algorithm-tree. It represents the entire cell-set. For example, for parenthesis problem, as all the write and read cells belong to the same DP table \( C \), the root node will be \( \{C, C, C\} \).

The level-1 nodes are found by distributing the cell-tuples belonging to the root node among region-tuples of level 1. The level-1 regions are obtained by dividing the DP table \( C \) into four quadrants: \( C_{11} \) (top-left), \( C_{12} \) (top-right), \( C_{21} \) (bottom-left), and \( C_{22} \) (bottom-right). Similarly, each \( C_i \) for \( i \in [1, s] \) is divided into four quadrants: \( C_{i1}, C_{i2}, C_{2i}, C_{22} \). The cell-tuples of the cell-set are analyzed to find all possible nonempty region-tuples at level 1. For example, if a cell-tuple \( (c_1, c_2, ..., c_s) \) is found to have \( c_i \in C_{ki} \) and \( k, k_i \in \{11, 12, 21, 22\} \), then we say that \( (c_i, c_{11}, ..., c_{i1}) \) belongs to region-tuple \( (C_k, C_{ki1}, ..., C_{ki2}) \). Different problems will have different nonempty region-tuples depending on their cell dependencies. For the parenthesis problem, there are four nonempty level-1 region-tuples and they are \( (C_{11}, C_{11}, C_{11}), (C_{22}, C_{22}, C_{22}), (C_{12}, C_{12}, C_{12}), \) and \( (C_{12}, C_{12}, C_{22}). \)

Sometimes two or more region-tuples are combined into a node. The region-tuples that write to and from the same region depend on each other for the complete update of the write region. The following rule guarantees that such region-tuples are processed together to avoid incorrect results.

**Rule 1 (Combine region-tuples).** Two region-tuples at the same level of an algorithm-tree that write to the same region \( X \) are combined into a single node if they also read from \( X \).

For example, in Figure 3, for the parenthesis problem, at level 1, the two region-tuples \( (C_{12}, C_{11}, C_{12}) \) and \( (C_{12}, C_{12}, C_{22}) \) are combined into a single node \( \{(C_{12}, C_{11}, C_{12}), (C_{12}, C_{12}, C_{22})\} \). The other two nodes are \( \{(C_{11}, C_{11}, C_{11})\} \) and \( \{(C_{22}, C_{22}, C_{22})\} \). The three nodes represent three mutually disjoint subsets of the cell-set and have different region-tuple dependencies. Once we find all level 1 nodes, we recursively follow the same strategy to find the nodes of levels \( \geq 2 \) partitioning the subsets of the cell-set further depending on their region-tuple dependencies.

**2.3 Algorithm-tree labeling**

Two nodes of the algorithm-tree are given the same function name provided they have the same output fingerprints as well as the same input fingerprints as defined below.

The **output fingerprint** of a node is the set of all output fingerprints of its region-tuples. The output fingerprint of a region-tuple is defined as the set of all its subregion-tuples present in the child nodes. A subregion-tuple of a region-tuple \((W, R_1, ..., R_s)\) is defined as a tuple \((w, r_1, ..., r_s)\) where \( w, r_i \in \{11, 12, 21, 22\} \) such that \( (W_w, R_{r_1}, ..., R_{r_s}) \) is a region-tuple, where \( \forall i \in [1, s] \).

The **input fingerprint** of a node is the set of all input fingerprints of its region-tuples. The input fingerprint of a region-tuple \((X_1, ..., X_{1+s})\) is a tuple \((p_1, ..., p_{1+s})\), where \( \forall i \in [1, 1+s], p_i \) is the smallest index \( j \in [1, s] \) such that \( X_j = X_i \).

For example, in the parenthesis problem, nodes \( \{(C_{12}, C_{11}, C_{12}), (C_{12}, C_{12}, C_{22})\} \) and \( \{(C_{221}, C_{1122}, C_{21221}), (C_{1221}, C_{21221}, C_{2211})\} \) are given the same function name because they have the same output and input fingerprints.

In an algorithm-tree, at least one new function is invoked at every level starting from level 0 till a certain level \( l \), beyond which no new functions are invoked. We call \( l \) the **threshold level** and it is upper bounded by a constant as per Assumption 1. The labeled algorithm-tree for the parenthesis problem is given in Figure 4(a).

**2.4 Algorithm-DAG construction**

In this step, we construct a directed acyclic graph (DAG) for every function. An algorithm-tree does not give information on (a) the sequence in which a function calls other functions, and (b) the parallelism involved in executing the functions. The DAGs address these two issues using the rules that follow.

We define a few terms before listing the rules. Given a function \( F \), we define \( W(F) \) and \( R(F) \) as the write region and the set of read regions of the region-tuples in \( F \), respectively. For a region-tuple \( T = (W, R_1, ..., R_s) \), we define \( W(T) = W \) and \( R(T) = R_1, ..., R_s \). A region-tuple \( T \) is called flexible provided \( W(T) \not\in R(T) \), i.e., the region-tuple does not write to a region it reads from. A function is called flexible if all of its region-tuples are flexible. If a function \( F \) calls two functions \( F_1 \) and \( F_2 \), then the **function ordering** between \( F_1 \) and \( F_2 \) will be one of the following three: (a) \( F_1 \rightarrow F_2 \) i.e., \( F_1 \) is called before \( F_2 \), (b) \( F_1 \leftarrow F_2 \) i.e., either \( F_1 \rightarrow F_2 \) or \( F_2 \rightarrow F_1 \), and (c) \( F_1 || F_2 \) i.e., \( F_1 \) and \( F_2 \) can be run in parallel with \( F_2 \).

If a function \( F \) calls two functions \( F_1 \) and \( F_2 \), then the order in which \( F_1 \) and \( F_2 \) are executed is determined by the following rules.

**Rule 2.** If \( W(F_1) \not= W(F_2) \) and \( W(F_1) \in R(F_2) \), then \( F_1 \rightarrow F_2 \).

**Rule 3.** If \( W(F_1) = W(F_2) \), \( F_1 \) is flexible but \( F_2 \) is not, then \( F_1 \rightarrow F_2 \).

**Rule 4.** If \( W(F_1) = W(F_2) \) and both \( F_1 \) and \( F_2 \) are flexible, then \( F_1 \leftarrow F_2 \).

**Rule 5.** If \( F_1 \) and \( F_2 \) satisfy none of the rules 2, 3 and 4, then \( F_1 || F_2 \).

We modify the constructed DAGs by deleting redundant edges from them following a specific set of rules (omitted due to space constraints). The set of all modified DAGs for all functions represents an \( R \)-\( D \)P for the given \( I \)-\( D \)P. The algorithm-DAGs for the parenthesis problem is given in Figure 4(b).
3. Correctness & Cache Complexity

In this section, we give a proof of correctness for AUTOGEN and analyze the cache complexity of the autodiscovered R-DFPs.

3.1 Correctness of AUTOGEN

We prove that if an R-DFP satisfies the following properties, then AUTOGEN can be applied on the R-DFP to get a correct R-DFP:

**Property 1 (One-way sweep).** An R-DFP for a DP table C is said to satisfy the one-way sweep property if the following holds:

∀ cells x, y ∈ C, if x depends on y, then y is fully updated before x reads from y.

**Property 2 (Fractal property).** An R-DFP satisfies the fractal property if the following holds. Let $S_n$ and $S_{2n}$ be the cell-sets of the R-DFP for DP tables $[0..n-1]$ and $[0..2n-1]$, respectively, where $n \geq 4^k$ ($k$ is the problem-specific natural number). Generate the cell-set $S_n' = S_n$, by replacing every coordinate value $j$ with $[j/2]$ and then retaining only the distinct tuples. Then, $S_n = S_n'$.

**Definition 2 (FRACTAL-DFP class).** An R-DFP is said to be in the FRACTAL-DFP class if the following conditions hold: (a) the R-DFP satisfies the one-way sweep property (Prop. 1), (b) the R-DFP satisfies the fractal property (Prop. 2), and (c) the cell-tuple size $(1 + s)$ is upper-bounded by a constant.

**Theorem 1 (Correctness).** Given an R-DFP from the FRACTAL-DFP class as input, AUTOGEN generates an R-DFP that is functionally equivalent to the given R-DFP.

**Proof.** Let the I-DFP and R-DFP algorithms for a problem P be denoted by $I$ and $R$, respectively. We use mathematical induction to prove the correctness of AUTOGEN in d-D, assuming d to be a constant. We first prove the correctness for the threshold problem size (see Section 2.3), i.e., $n = 2^d$ for some $q \in \mathbb{N}$ and then show that if the algorithm is correct for $n = 2^d$, for any $r \geq q$ then it is also correct for $n = 2^{d+1}$.

**Basis.** To prove that AUTOGEN is correct for $n = 2^d$, we have to show the following: (a) the size of the algorithm-tree is $O(1)$, (b) both $I$ and $R$ apply the same set of cell updates, and (c) $R$ never violates the one-way sweep property (Prop. 1).

(a) The size of the algorithm-tree is $O(1)$.

**3.2 Cache complexity of an R-DFP**

A recursive function is closed provided it does not call any other recursive function but itself, and it is semi-closed provided it only calls itself and other closed functions. A closed (resp. semi-closed) function $\mathcal{F}$ is dominating provided no other closed (resp. semi-closed) function of the given R-DFP makes more self-recursive calls than made by $\mathcal{F}$ and every non-closed (resp. non-semi-closed) function makes strictly fewer such calls.

---

Table 2. $T_1$ and $T_2$ are two cell-tuples. Columns 2-5 represent the four conditions for the two cell-tuples. Columns I and R show the ordering of the cell-tuples for I and R algorithms, respectively. The order of cell updates of R is consistent with I.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cell</th>
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Theorem 2 (Cache complexity). If an $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ includes a dominating closed or semi-closed function $f_i$ that calls itself recursively $a_{kk}$ times, then the serial cache complexity of the $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ for a DP table of size $n^d$ is

$$Q_{\theta}(n,d,B,M) = O \left( \frac{BM^{(\theta_k/d)-1}}{n^{d-1} + \frac{d}{B}} + S(n,d)B + 1 \right)$$

under the ideal-cache model, where $L_k = \log_2 a_{kk}, T_1(n) = \text{total work} = O \left( \frac{n^k}{BM^{(\theta_k/d)-1}} \right), M = \text{cache size}, B = \text{block size}, M = \Omega \left( B^d \right)$, and $S(n,d)$ is space complexity, $O(n^d)$.

Proof. Suppose the $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ algorithm consists of a set $\mathcal{F}$ of $m$ recursive functions $f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_m$. For $1 \leq i, j \leq m$, let $a_{ij}$ be the number of times $f_i$ calls $f_j$. Then for a suitable constant $\gamma_i > 0$, the cache complexity $Q_{f_i}$ of $f_i$ on an input of size $n^d$ can be computed recursively as follows:

$$Q_{f_i}(n) = \begin{cases} O \left( \frac{n^d}{B} \right) & \text{if } n^d \leq \gamma_i M, \\ \sum_{j=1}^{m} a_{ij} Q_{f_j}(n/2) + O(1) & \text{otherwise}. \end{cases}$$

If $f_i$ is a closed function, then $Q_{f_i}(n) = a_{ii} Q_{f_i}(n/2) + O(1)$ for $n^d > \gamma_i M$. Solving the recurrence, we get the overall (for all values of $n^d$) cache complexity as $Q_{f_i}(n) = O \left( \frac{n^k}{(BM^{(\theta_k/d)-1})} + n^d/\gamma_i M \right)$.

If $f_i$ is a dominating semi-closed function, then $Q_{f_i}(n) = a_{ii} Q_{f_i}(n/2) + O \left( \frac{n^k}{(BM^{(\theta_k/d)-1})} \right)$ for $n^d > \gamma_i M$. For all sizes of the DP table this recurrence also solves to

$$\begin{align*} O \left( \frac{n^k}{(BM^{(\theta_k/d)-1})} + n^d/\gamma_i M \right). \end{align*}$$

If $f_i$ is a dominating closed (resp. semi-closed) function then

(i) $a_{kk} \geq a_{ii}$ for every closed (resp. semi-closed) function $f_i$, and
(ii) $a_{kk} > a_{ij}$ for every non-closed (resp. non-semi-closed) function $f_j$.

The algorithm-tree must contain at least one path $P = (f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_{|P|})$ from its root $\left( = f_1 \right)$ to a node corresponding to $f_k$ $\left( = f_{|P|} \right)$. Since $|P|$ is a small number independent of $n$, and by definition $a_{r_r r_r} < a_{r_{r_{|P|}}}$ holds for every $i \in [1, |P| - 1]$, one can show that the cache complexity of every function on $P$ is $O \left( Q_{f_k}(n) \right)$. This result is obtained by moving upwards in the tree starting from $f_{|P|}$, writing down the cache complexity recurrence for each function on this path, substituting the cache complexity determined for functions that we have already encountered, and solving the resulting simplified recurrence. Hence, the cache complexity $Q_{f_k}(n)$ of the $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ algorithm is $O \left( Q_{f_k}(n) \right)$. This completes the proof.

4. Extensions of $\text{AUTODYGEN}$

In this section, we briefly discuss how to extend $\text{AUTODYGEN}$ to (i) handle one-sweep property (Prop. 1) violation, and (ii) sometimes reduce the space usage of the generated $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ algorithms.

4.1 Handling one-sweep property (Prop. 1) violation

The following three-step procedure works for dynamic programs that compute paths over a closed semiring in a directed graph (Ullman et al. 1974). Floyd-Warshall’s algorithm for finding all-pairs shortest path (APSP) (Floyd 1962) belongs to this class and is shown in Figure 5.

(i) Project $\mathcal{I}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ to higher dimension. Violation of the one-way sweep property means that some cells of the DP table are computed from cells that are not yet fully updated. By allocating space to retain each intermediate value of every cell, the problem is transformed into a new problem where the cells depend on fully updated cells only. The technique effectively projects the DP on to a higher dimensional space leading to a correct $\mathcal{I}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ that satisfies the one-way sweep property.

(ii) Autodiscover $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ from $\mathcal{I}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$. All\textsc{AUTODYGEN} is applied on the higher dimensional $\mathcal{I}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ that satisfies Prop. 1 to discover an $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ in the same higher dimensional space.

(iii) Project $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ back to original dimension. The autogenerate $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ is projected back to the original dimensional space. One can show that the projected $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ correctly implements the original $\mathcal{I}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ (Cormen et al. 2009; Chowdhury and Ramachandran 2010).

4.2 Space reduction

All\textsc{AUTODYGEN} can be extended to analyze and optimize the functions of an autogenerated $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ for a possible reduction in space usage. We explain through an example.

Example. The LCS problem (Hirschberg 1975; Chowdhury and Ramachandran 2006) asks one to find the longest of all common subsequences (Cormen et al. 2009) between two strings. In LCS, a cell depends on its three adjacent cells. Here, we are interested in finding the length of the LCS and not the LCS itself. Starting from the standard $\Theta \left( n^2 \right)$ space $\mathcal{I}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$, we generate an $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ for the problem that contains four recursive functions. The autogenerated $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ still uses $\Theta \left( n^2 \right)$ space and incurs $O \left( n^2/B \right)$ cache misses. All\textsc{AUTODYGEN} can reason as follows in order to reduce the space usage of this $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ and thereby improving its cache performance.

The autogenerated $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ has two functions of the form $\mathcal{F}(n) \mapsto (\mathcal{F}(n/2), \mathcal{F}(n/2), \mathcal{S}(n/2))$, where $\mathcal{S}$ is of the form $\mathcal{S}(n) \mapsto (\mathcal{S}(n/2))$. Given their dependencies, it is easy that in $\mathcal{S}$, the top-left cell of bottom-right quadrant depends on the bottom-right cell of the top-left quadrant. Also, in $\mathcal{F}$, the leftmost (resp. topmost) boundary cells of one quadrant depends on the rightmost (resp. bottommost) quadrant of adjacent quadrant. When there is only a dependency on the boundary cells, we can copy the values of the boundary cells, which occupies $O(n)$ space, between different function calls and we no longer require quadratic space. At each level of the recursion tree $O(n)$ space is used, and the total space for the parallel $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ algorithm is $O(n \log n)$.

This new $\mathcal{R}\text{-}\mathcal{DP}$ algorithm will have a single function and its cache complexity improves to $O \left( n^2/(BM) \right)$. Space usage can be reduced further to $O(n)$ by simply reusing space between parent and child functions. Cache complexity remains $O \left( n^2/(BM) \right)$.

5. Experimental Results

This section presents empirical results showing the performance benefits and robustness of All\textsc{AUTODYGEN}-discovered algorithms.

5.1 Experimental setup

All our experiments were performed on a multicore machine with dual-socket 8-core 2.7 GHz\textsuperscript{2} Intel Sandy Bridge processors (2 × 8 = 16 cores in total) and 32 GB RAM. Each core was connected

\textsuperscript{2}All energy, adaptivity and robustness experiments were performed on a Sandy Bridge machine with a processor speed 2.00GHz.
Figure 5. (a) An autogenated \textcolor{red}{\textup{$\mathcal{R}$-DP$^3$}} algorithm from the cubic space Floyd-Warshall’s APSP algorithm. In the initial call to $A_{\text{loop-FW}}^3((X, Y, X, X))$, $X$ points to $D[1..n, 1..n, 1..n]$ and $Y$ points to an $n^3$ matrix whose toppmost plane is initialized with $D[1..n, 1..n, 0]$. (b) An \textcolor{red}{\textup{$\mathcal{R}$-DP$^3$}} algorithm obtained by projecting the 3D matrix $D[1..n, 1..n, 0]$ accessed by the algorithm in column (a) to its 2D base $D[1..n, 1..n]$. 

to a 32 KB private L1 cache and a 256 KB private L2 cache. All cores in a processor shared a 20 MB L3 cache. All algorithms were implemented in C++. We used Intel Cilk Plus extension to parallelize and Intel\textsuperscript{\textregistered} C++ Compiler v13.0 to compile all implementations with optimization parameters \texttt{-O3 -ipo -parallel -AVX -xhost}. PAPI 5.3 (PAP) was used to count cache misses, and the MSR (Model-Specific Register) module and \texttt{likwid} (Treibig et al. 2010) were used for energy measurements. We used \texttt{likwid} for the adaptivity (Figure 8) experiments. All \texttt{likwid} measurements were end-to-end (i.e., captures everything from the start to the end of the program). 

Given an iterative description of a DP in the \textcolor{red}{\textup{$\mathcal{R}$-DP$^3$}} class, our \textcolor{red}{\textit{AllToSgen}} prototype generates pseudocode of the corresponding \textcolor{red}{\textup{$\mathcal{R}$-DP$^3$}} algorithm in the format shown in Figure 1. We implemented such autodiscovered \textcolor{red}{\textup{$\mathcal{R}$-DP$^3$}} algorithms for the parenthesis problem, gap problem, and Floyd-Warshall’s APSP (2-D). In order to avoid overhead of recursion and increase vectorization efficiency the \textcolor{red}{\textup{$\mathcal{R}$-DP$^3$}} implementation switched to an iterative kernel when the problem size became sufficiently small (e.g., when problem size reached $64 \times 64$). All our \textcolor{red}{\textup{$\mathcal{R}$-DP$^3$}} implementations were the straightforward implementation of the pseudocode with only trivial hand-optimizations. With nontrivial hand-optimizations \textcolor{red}{\textup{$\mathcal{R}$-DP$^3$}} algorithms can achieve even more speedup (see Tithi et al. 2015). Trivial optimizations include: (i) copy-optimization – copying transpose of a column-major input matrix inside a basecase to a local array, so that it can be accessed in unit stride during actual computation, (ii) using registers for variables that are accessed many times inside the loops, (iii) write optimization in the basecase – if each iteration of an innermost loop updates the same location of the DP table we perform all those updates in a local variable instead of modifying the DP table cell over and over again, and update that cell only once using the updated local variable after the loop terminates, and (iv) using #pragma directives to auto-vectorize / auto-parallelize code. Nontrivial optimizations that we did not apply include: (i) using Z-morton row-major layout (see Tithi et al. 2015) to store the matrices, (ii) using pointer arithmetic and converting all multiplicative indexing to additive indexing, and (iii) using explicit vectorization.
The major optimizations applied on $L$-$DP$ codes include the following: parallelization, use of pragmas (e.g., #pragma ivdep and #pragma parallel), use of 64 byte-aligned matrices, write optimizations, pointer arithmetic, and additive indexing.

We used Pluto (Bondhugula et al. 2008) – a state-of-the-art polyhedral compiler – to generate parallel tiled iterative codes for the parenthesis problem, gap problem, and Floyd-Warshall’s APSP (2-D). Optimized versions of these codes are henceforth called tiled $L$-$DP$. After analyzing the autogenerated codes, we found that the parenthesis implementation had temporal locality as it was tiled across all three dimensions, but FW-APSP and gap codes did not as the dependence-based standard tiling conditions employed by Pluto allowed tiling of only two of the three dimensions for those problems. While both parenthesis and FW-APSP codes had spatial locality, the gap implementation did not as it was accessing data in both row- and column-major orders. Overall, for any given cache level the theoretical cache-complexity of the tiled parenthesis code matched that of parenthesis $R$-$DP$ assuming that the tile size was optimized for that cache level. But tiled FW-APSP and tiled gap had nonoptimal cache complexities. Indeed, the cache complexity of tiled FW-APSP turned out to be $\Theta(n^3/B)$ matching the cache complexity of its $L$-$DP$ counterpart. Similarly, the $\Theta(n^3)$ cache complexity of tiled gap matched that of $L$-$DP$ gap.

The major optimizations we applied on the parallel tiled codes generated by Pluto include (i) use of #pragma ivdep, #pragma parallel, and #pragma min count(B) directives; (ii) write optimizations (as was used for basecases of $R$-$DP$); (iii) use of empirically determined best tile sizes, and (iv) rigorous optimizations using pointer arithmetic, additive indexing, etc. The type of trivial copy optimization we used in $R$-$DP$ did not improve spatial locality of the autogenerated tiled $L$-$DP$ for the gap problem as the code did not have any temporal locality. The code generated for FW-APSP had only one parallel loop, whereas two loops could be parallelized trivially. In all our experiments we used two parallel loops for FW-APSP. The direction of the outermost loop of

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<td>(c) Strong Scalability</td>
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Figure 6. Performance comparison of $L$-$DP$, $R$-$DP$ and tiled $L$-$DP$: (a) Giga updates per second achieved by all algorithms, (b) L2 cache misses for each program, (c) strong scalability with #cores, $p$ when $n$ is fixed at 8192 (in this plot $T_i$ denotes the running time of $L$-$DP$ when $p = 1$), and (d) ratios of total joule energy consumed by Package (PKG) and DRAM. Here, tiled $L$-$DP$ is an optimized version of the parallel tiled code generated by Pluto (Bondhugula et al. 2008).
the autogenerated tiled code for the parenthesis problem had to be reversed in order to avoid violation of dependency constraints.

All algorithms we have tested are in-place, that is, they use only a constant number of extra memory/register locations in addition to the given DP table. The copy optimization requires the use of a small local submatrix per thread but its size is also independent of the input DP table size. None of our optimizations reduces space usage. The write optimization avoids directly writing to the same DP table location in the memory over and over again by collecting all those updates in a local register and then writing the final value of the register to the DP cell.

In the following part of the section, we first show performance of R-DP, I-DP and tiled I-DP implementations for all three problems when each of the programs runs on a dedicated machine. We show that R-DP outperforms I-DP in terms of runtime, scalability, cache-misses, and energy consumption. Next, we show the how the performance of R-DP, I-DP and tiled I-DP implementations change in a multiprogramming environment when multiple processes share cache space and bandwidth.

5.2 Single-process performance

Figure 6 shows detailed performance results of I-DP, tiled I-DP and R-DP implementations. For each of the three problems, our R-DP implementations outperformed its I-DP counterpart, and for \( n = 8192 \), the speedup factors w.r.t. parallel I-DP on 16 cores were around 18, 17 and 6 for parenthesis, gap and Floyd-Warshall’s APSP, respectively. For parenthesis and gap problems I-DP consumed 5.5 times more package energy and 7.4 times more DRAM energy than R-DP when \( n = 8192 \). For Floyd-Warshall’s APSP those two factors were 7.4 and 18, respectively.

For the parenthesis problem tiled I-DP (i.e., our optimized version of Pluto-generated parallel tiled code) and R-DP had almost identical performance for \( n > 6000 \). For \( n \leq 6000 \), R-DP was slower than tiled I-DP, but for larger \( n \), R-DP was marginally (1 - 2%) faster on average. Observe that though tiled I-DP and R-DP had almost similar L2 cache performance, Figure 7 shows that R-DP incurred noticably fewer L1 and L2 cache misses than those incurred by tiled I-DP which helped R-DP to eventually fully overcome the overhead of recursion and other implementation overheads. This happened because the tile size of tiled I-DP was optimized for the L2 cache, but R-DP being cache-oblivious was able to adapt to all levels of the cache hierarchy simultaneously (Friso et al. 1999).

As explained in Section 5.1 for the gap problem tiled I-DP had suboptimal cache complexity matching that of I-DP. As a result, tiled I-DP’s performance curves were closer to those of I-DP than R-DP, and R-DP outperformed it by a wide margin. Similarly for Floyd-Warshall’s APSP. However, in case of gap problem tiled I-DP incurred significantly fewer L3 misses than I-DP (not shown in the plots), and as a result, consumed less DRAM energy. The opposite was true for Floyd-Warshall’s APSP.

5.3 Multi-process performance

R-DP algorithms are more robust than both I-DP and tiled I-DP. Our empirical results show that in a multiprogramming environment R-DP algorithms are less likely to significantly slow down when the available shared cache/memory space reduces (unlike
Figure 8. The plots show how the performances of standard looping, tiled looping and recursive codes for the parenthesis problem (for \(n = 2^{13}\)) are affected as multiple instances of the same program are run on an 8-core Intel Sandy Bridge with 20MB shared L3 cache.

tiled code with temporal locality), and less likely to suffer when the available bandwidth reduces (unlike standard \(R-DP\) code and tiled \(T-DP\) without temporal locality). Figures 8 and 9 show the results. For lack of space we have included only results for the parenthesis problem. We have seen similar trends for our other benchmark problems (e.g., FW-APSP).

We have performed experimental analyses of how the performance of a program (\(R-DP\), \(I-DP\), and tiled \(T-DP\)) changes if multiple copies of the same program are run on the same multicore processor (Figure 8). We ran up to 4 instances of the same program on an 8-core Sandy Bridge processor with 2 threads (i.e., cores) per process. The block size of the tiled code was optimized for best performance with 2 threads. With 4 concurrent processes \(T-DP\) slowed down by 82% and tiled \(T-DP\) by 46%, but \(R-DP\) lost only 17% of its performance (see Figure 8). The slowdown of the tiled code resulted from its inability to adapt to the loss in the shared cache space which increased its L3 misses by a factor of 4 (see Figure 8). On the other hand, L3 misses incurred by \(R-DP\) increased by less than a factor of 2.5. Since \(T-DP\) does not have any temporal locality, loss of cache space did not significantly change the number of L3 misses it incurred. But \(T-DP\) already incurred 90 times more L3 misses than \(R-DP\), and with 4 such concurrent processes the pressure on the DRAM bandwidth increased considerably (see Figure 8) causing significant slowdown of the program.

We also report changes in energy consumption of the processes as the number of concurrent processes increases (Figure 8). Energy values were measured using likwid-perfctr (included in likwid) which reads them from the MSR registers. The energy measurements were end-to-end (start to end of the program). Three types of energy were measured: package energy which is the energy consumed by the entire processor die, PP0 energy which is the energy consumed by all cores and private caches, and finally DRAM energy which is the energy consumed by the directly-attached DRAM. We omitted the PP0 energy since the curves almost always look similar to that of package energy. A single instance of tiled \(T-DP\) consumed 5% less energy than an \(R-DP\) instance while \(T-DP\) consumed 9 times more energy. Average package and PP0 energy consumed by tiled \(T-DP\) increased at a faster rate than that by \(R-DP\) as the number of processes increased. This happened because both its running time and L3 performance degraded faster than \(R-DP\) both of which contribute to energy performance. However, since for \(T-DP\) L3 misses did not change much with the increase in the number of processes, its package and PP0 energy consumption increased at a slower rate compared to \(R-DP\)’s when number of processes is less than 3. However, as the number of processes increases, energy consumption increases for \(T-DP\) at a faster rate, and perhaps because of the DRAM bandwidth contention its DRAM energy increased significantly.

We have measured the effect on running times and L3 cache misses of serial \(R-DP\) and serial tiled \(T-DP\) when the available shared L3 cache space is reduced (shown in Figure 9). In this case, the serial tiled-\(T-DP\) algorithm was running around 50% faster than the serial \(R-DP\) code. The Cache Pirate tool (Eklov et al. 2011) was used to steal cache space\(^6\). When the available cache space was reduced to 50%, the number of L3 misses incurred by the tiled code increased by a factor of 22, but for \(R-DP\) the increase was only 17%. As a result, the tiled \(T-DP\) slowed down by over 50% while for \(R-DP\) the slowdown was less than 3%. Thus \(R-DP\) automatically adapts to cache sharing (Bender et al. 2014), but the tiled \(T-DP\) does not. This result can be found in the second column of Figure 8.

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\(^6\) with tile size optimized for best serial performance

\(^7\) Cache Pirate allows only a single program to run, and does not reduce bandwidth.
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