

AMD ROCm™ Basics & Optimization Overview

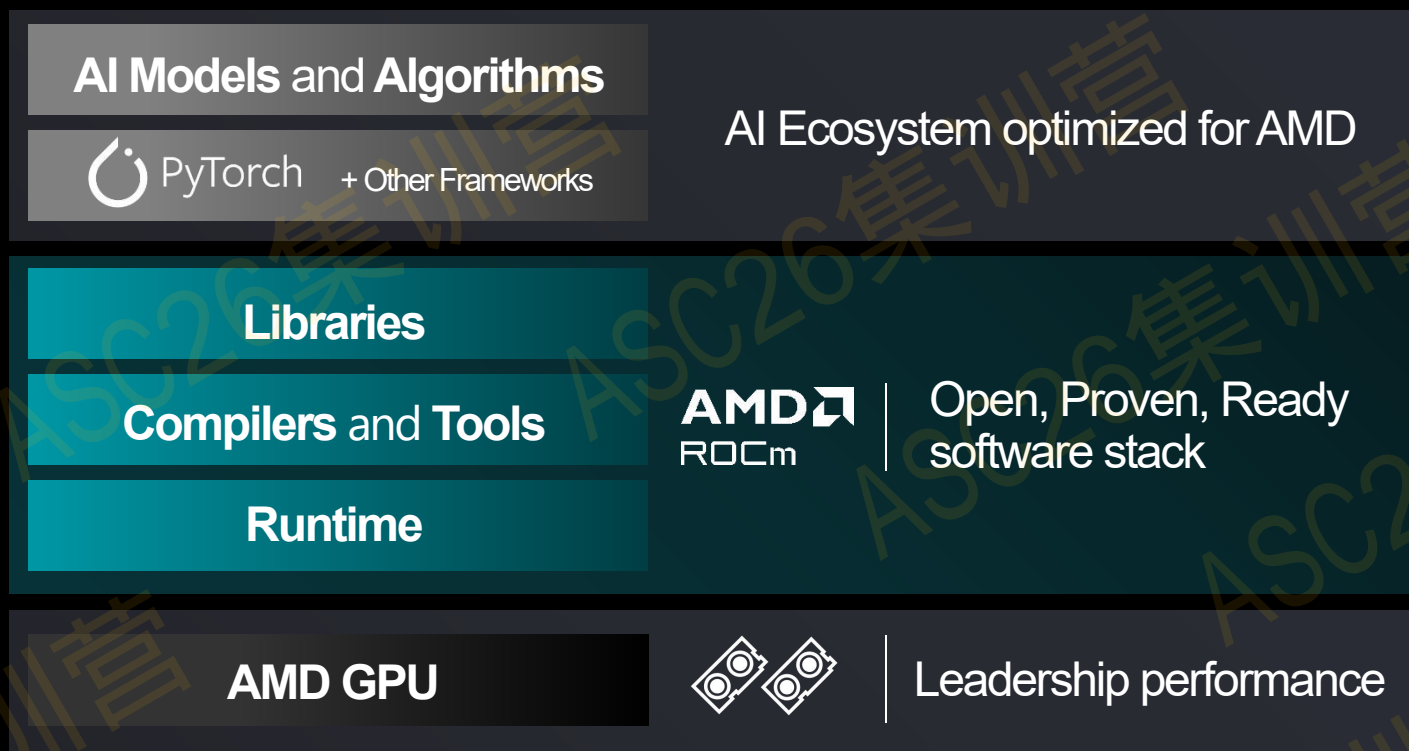
Joe Liu 刘仕洲
Jan 2026

Agenda

1. Introduction to the AMD ROCm™ Software Stack
2. Transitioning Workloads to AMD GPUs
3. Performance Optimization
 - Optimizing application using popular libraries
 - Profiling the models
 - Adding HIP kernel to implement a custom layer
4. Available Collaterals, Q&A

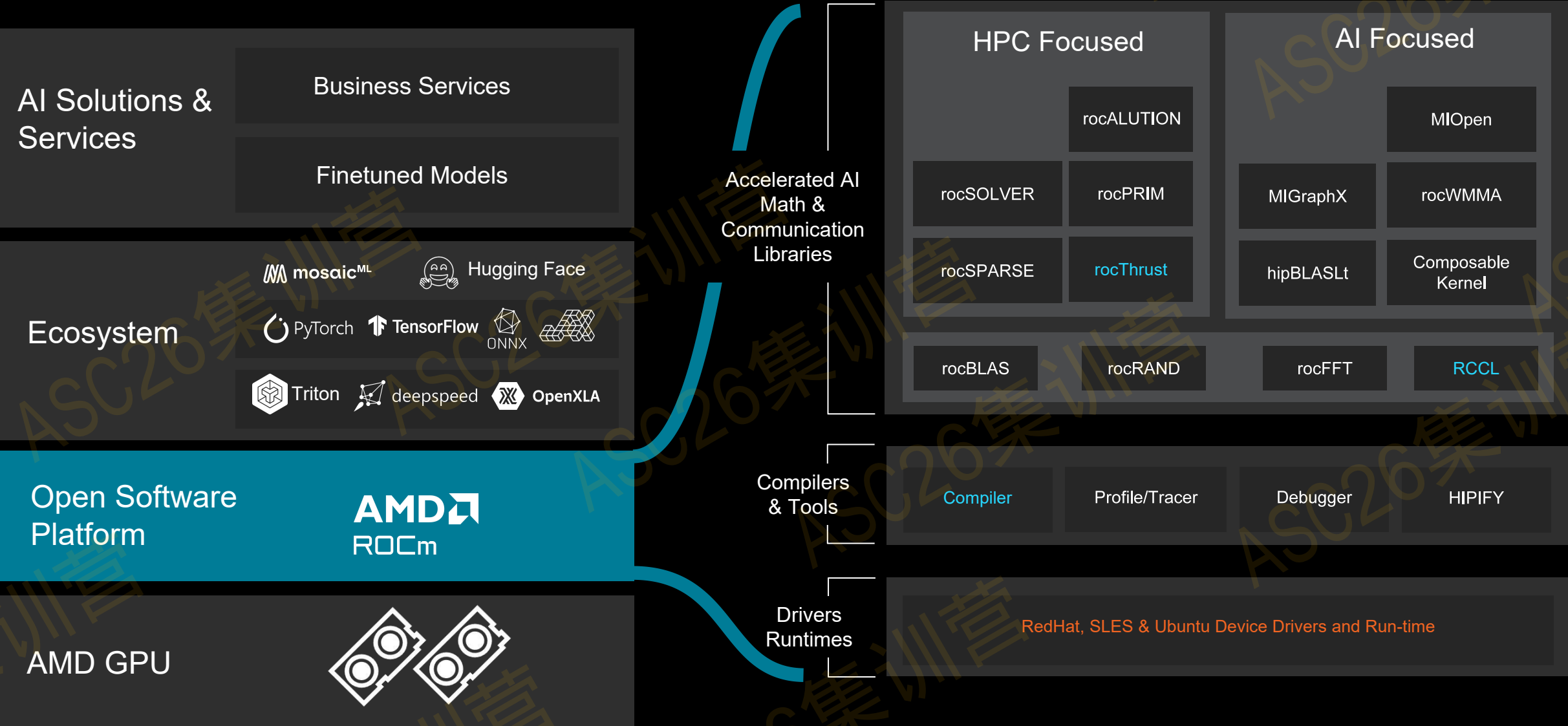


Optimized AI Software Stack



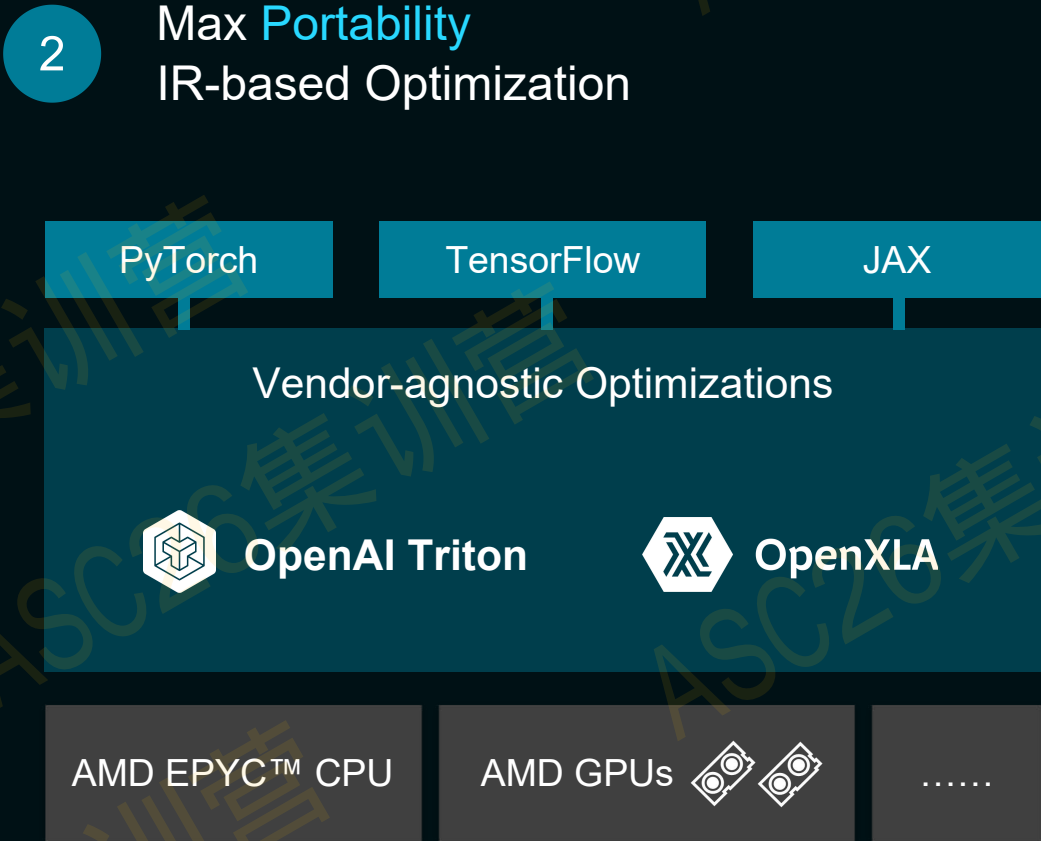
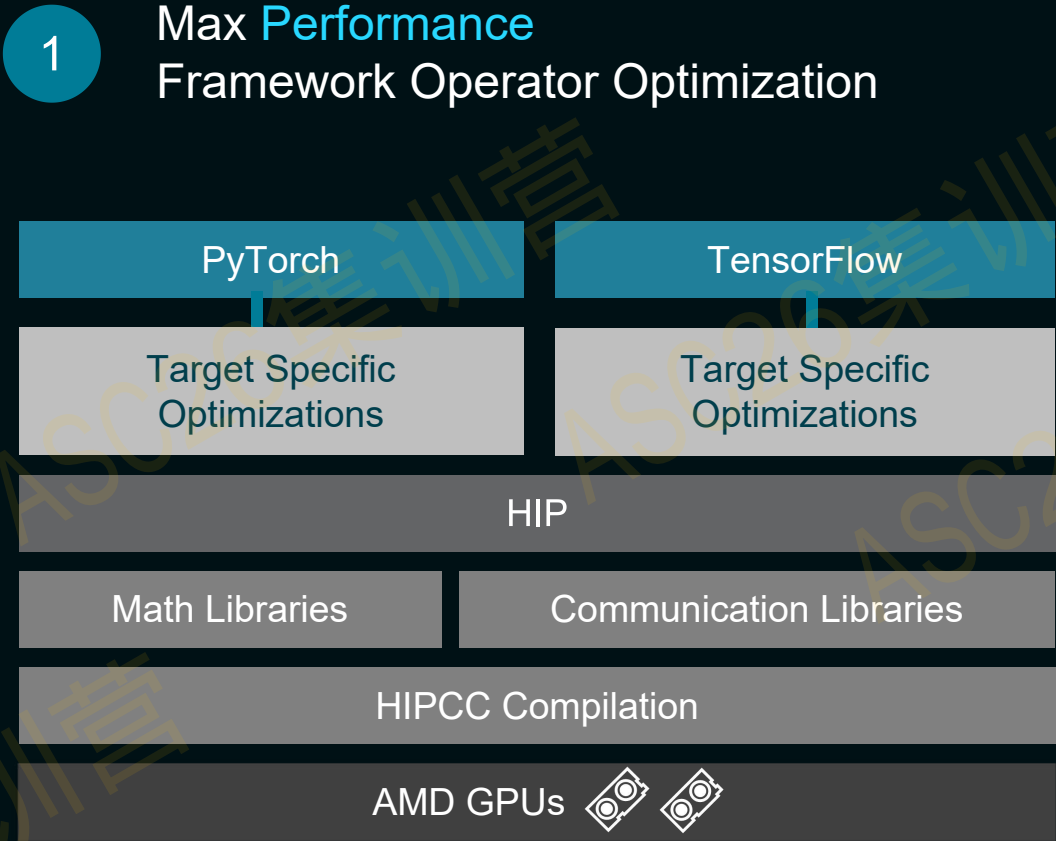
- Commitment to **Open-Source**
- **No Code Change** Execution
- Optimized for **Generative AI**

AMD ROCm™ Software Stack



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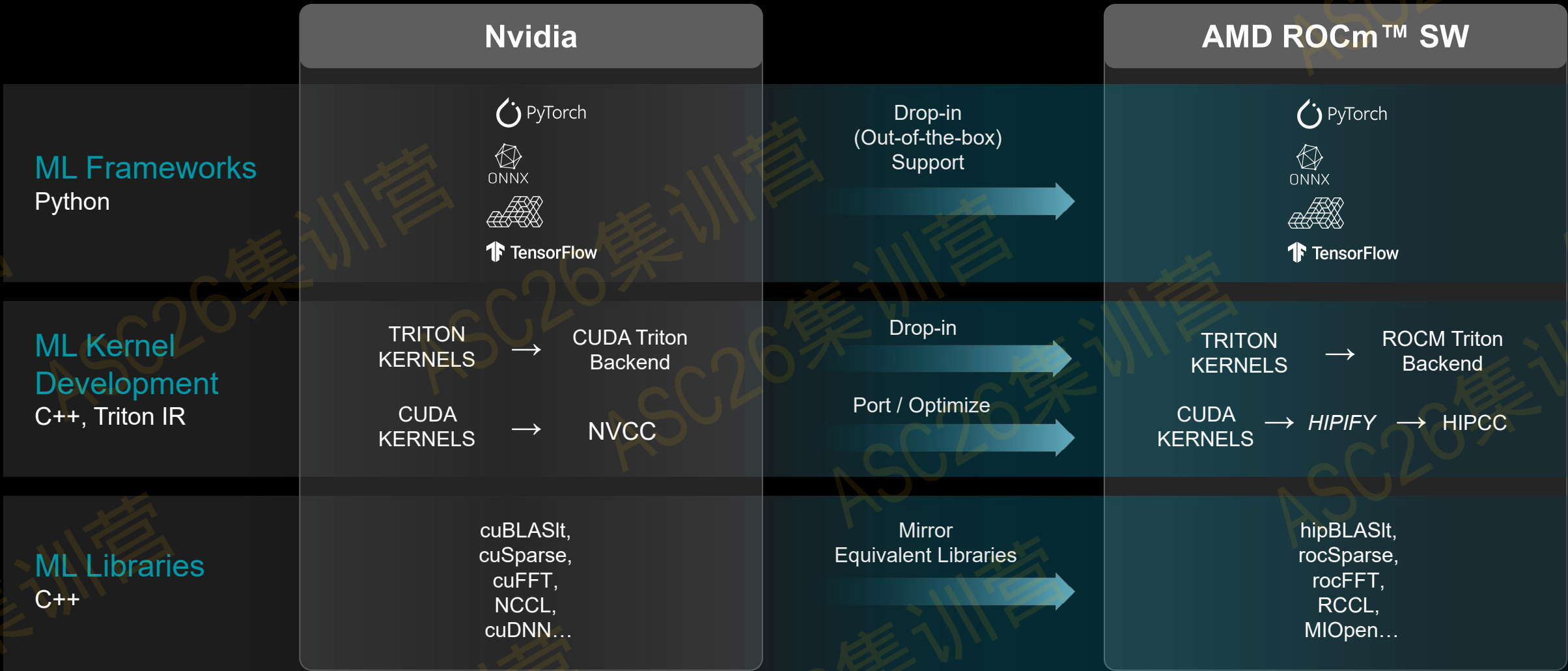
Library and Compiler Based Optimization



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Transitioning AI Workloads to AMD GPUs



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ROCm™ Software: Can You Spot a Difference?

NVIDIA CUDA

```
import torch
import torch.nn as nn

# Get cpu or gpu device for training.
device = "cuda:0" if torch.cuda.is_available() else "cpu"
print(f"Using {device} device")

# Define model
class Network(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self):
        super().__init__()
        self.flatten = nn.Flatten()
        self.linear_relu_stack = nn.Sequential(
            nn.Linear(28 * 28, 512),
            nn.ReLU(),
            nn.Linear(512, 512),
            nn.ReLU(),
            nn.Linear(512, 10)
        )

    def forward(self, x):
        x = self.flatten(x)
        logits = self.linear_relu_stack(x)
        return logits

model = Network().to(device)
print(model)
```



AMD ROCm™ Software

```
import torch
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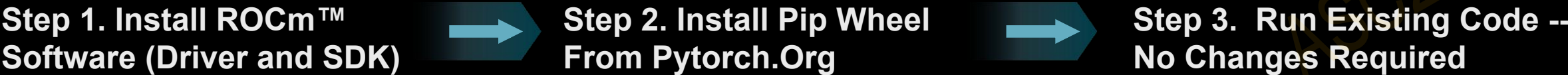
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```


PyTorch 2.8 Easily Enabled on AMD GPUs



PyTorch Build	Stable (2.9.1)		Preview (Nightly)	
Your OS	Linux	Mac	Windows	
Package	Conda	Pip	LibTorch	Source
Language	Python		C++ / Java	
Compute Platform	CUDA 12.6	CUDA 12.8	ROCm 6.4	CPU
Run this Command	pip3 install torch torchvision torchaudio --index-url https://download.pytorch.org/whl/rocm6.4			

- Optionally Install Docker containers from:
- `rocm/pytorch:latest`
 - `rocm/pytorch-nightly:latest`

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import torch.nn as nn

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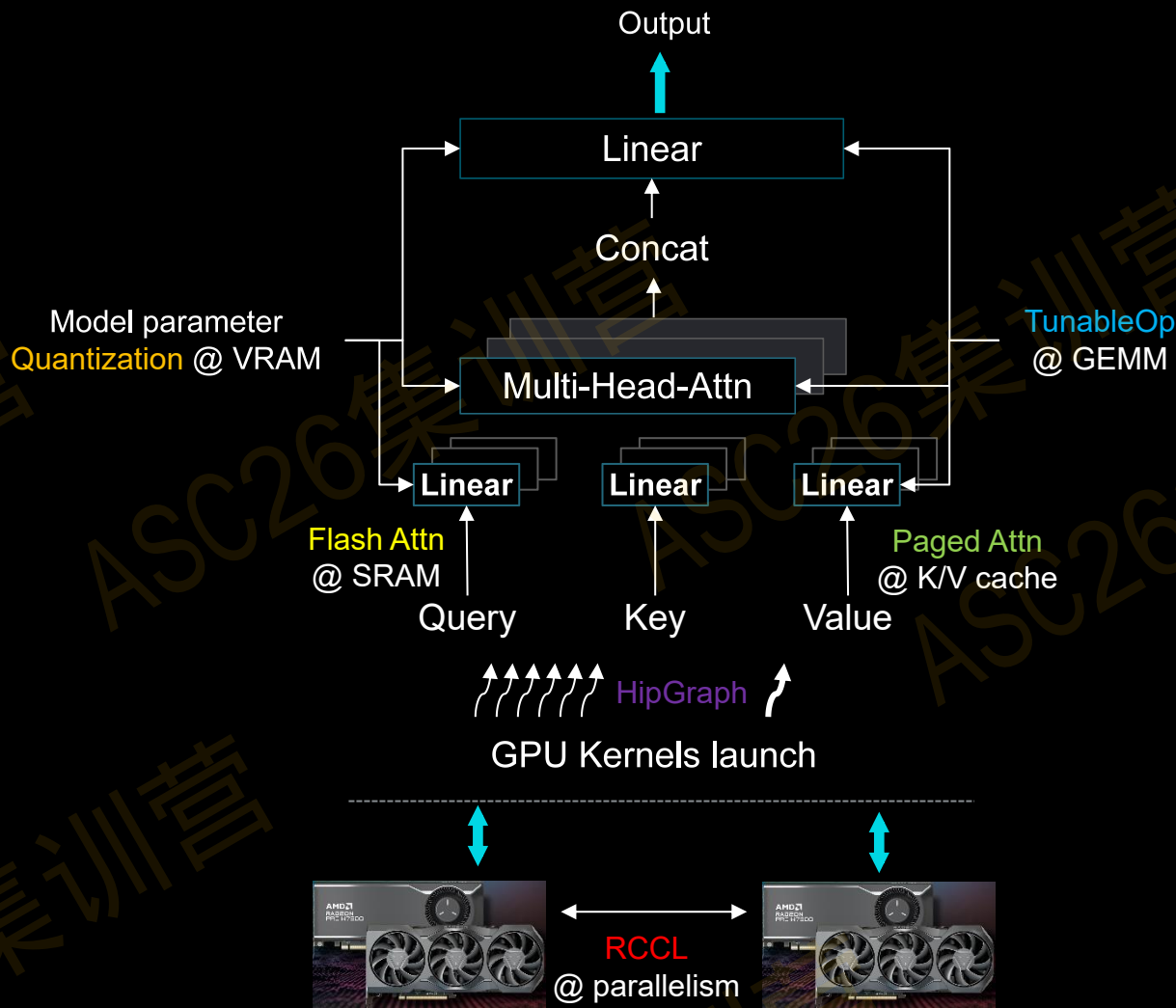
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Inference Challenges and Optimization Opportunities



Flash Attention, Xformers

- Tiling of input sequence in GPU SRAM to reduce VRAM data movement

Paged Attention

- Partitioned KV cache into fixed size blocks to reduce memory usage

GEMM Optimization – PyTorch TunableOp

- Automatic selection of the best performing GEMM kernels

Graph Optimization – HipGraph

- Launch multiple kernels through a single CPU operation

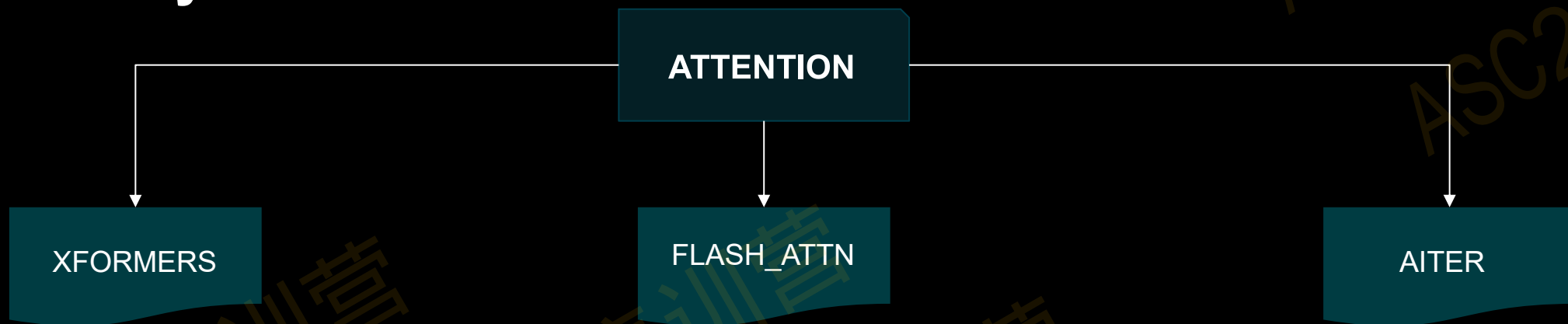
Collective communication – RCCL

- Collective Ops across multiple devices to support Tensor/Pipeline parallel

Quantization – GPTQ, Bitsandbytes

- Weight-only compression to reduce video memory footprint

Portability - Libraries



```
import xformers.ops as xops
```

```
out = xops.memory_efficient_attention(q,  
    k,  
    v,  
    attn_bias=None,  
    op=None)
```

```
from flash_attn import flash_attn_varlen_func
```

```
# batch and sequence dimensions merged into a single dimension  
q, k, v = (rearrange(x, "b s ... -> (b s) ...")  
    for x in [q, k, v])
```

```
out = flash_attn_varlen_func(q,  
    k,  
    v,  
    cu_seqlens_q=cu_seqlens,  
    cu_seqlens_k=cu_seqlens,  
    max_seqlen_q=max_seqlen,  
    max_seqlen_k=max_seqlen)
```

```
from aiter import flash_attn_varlen_func
```

```
# batch and sequence dimensions merged into a single dimension  
q, k, v = (rearrange(x, "b s ... -> (b s) ...")  
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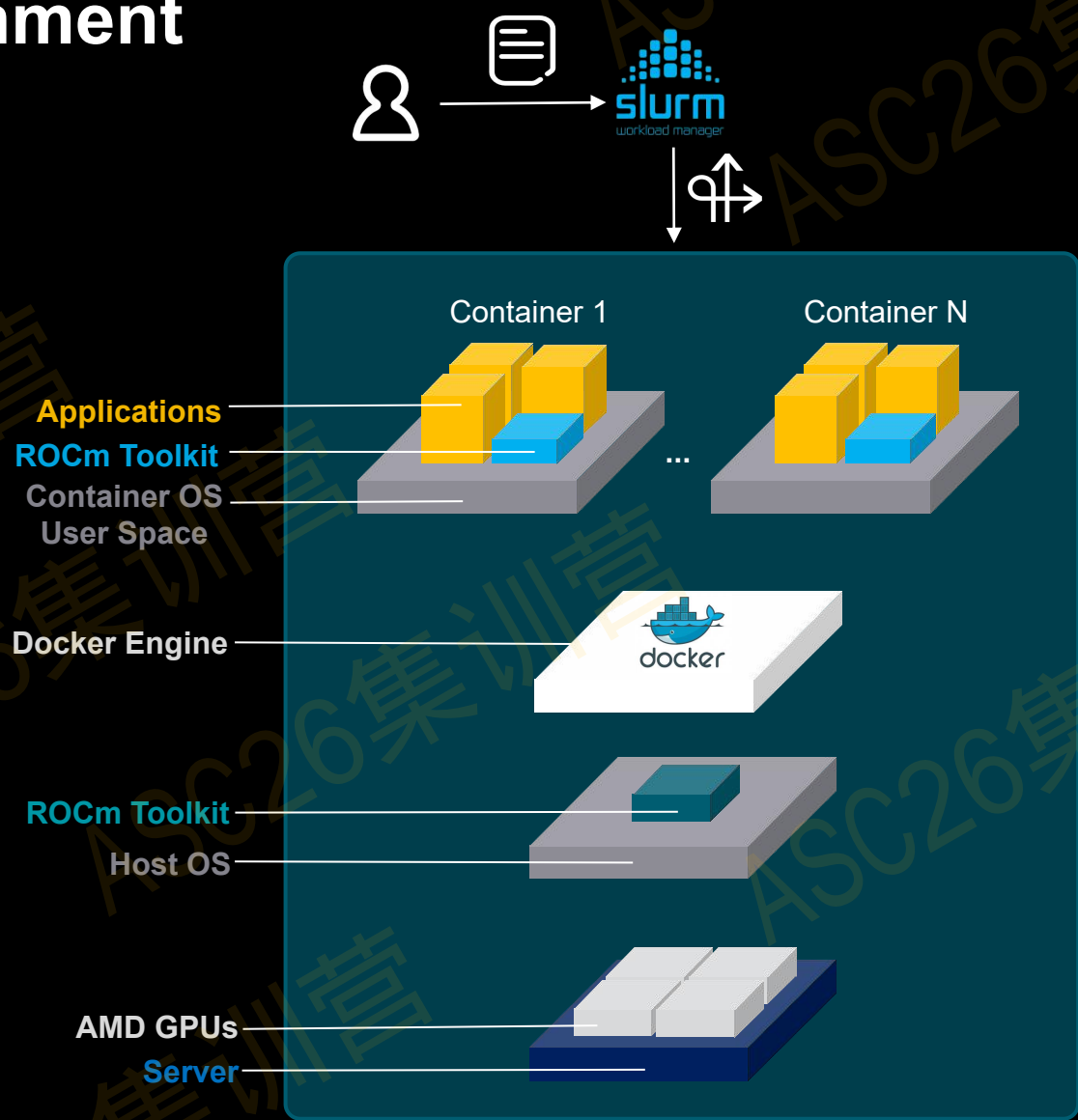
```
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    v,  
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The Components in the Environment

- User submits jobs (sbatch / srun)
- Slurm scheduling layer
 - Allocate nodes / CPU / GPU
 - Launch the container runtime
- Container layer (Docker / Apptainer)
 - Application
 - ROCm user space (HIP Runtime / rocBLAS / MIOpen)
- Host driver layer
 - ROCm driver + kernel
 - /dev/kfd, /dev/dri device mapping
- Hardware layer
 - AMD GPUs & CPUs



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The Profiling Tools and Visualization - rocm-smi

- A command-line utility and library provided by ROCm for monitoring the following AMD GPU status:
 - Power, temperature, clocks (gfx/mem), voltage, fan speed
 - GPU utilization, memory usage (VRAM/GTT), PCIe link speed/width
- Typical usages:

```
# Show a quick summary of all GPUs
```

```
rocm-smi
```

```
# Detailed power, temps, clocks, and utilization
```

```
rocm-smi --showpower --showtemp --showclocks --showuse
```

```
# Memory usage and PCIe info
```

```
rocm-smi --showmemuse --showbus
```

```
# List GPU processes
```

```
rocm-smi --showpids
```

```
# Real-time monitoring (refresh every 0.1s)
```

```
watch -n 0.1 rocm-smi
```

```
watch -c rocm-smi --showclocks
```

```
Every 2.0s: rocm-smi --showclocks
```

```
===== ROCm System Management Interface =====
===== Current clock frequencies =====
GPU[0] : dcefclk clock level: 0: (145Mhz)
GPU[0] : fclk clock level: 1: (1000Mhz)
GPU[0] : mclk clock level: 0: (96Mhz)
GPU[0] : sclk clock level: 1: (0Mhz)
GPU[0] : socclk clock level: 1: (600Mhz)
GPU[0] : pcie clock level: 0 (16.0GT/s x16)
GPU[1] : dcefclk clock level: 0: (145Mhz)
GPU[1] : fclk clock level: 1: (1000Mhz)
GPU[1] : mclk clock level: 0: (96Mhz)
GPU[1] : sclk clock level: 1: (0Mhz)
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GPU[1] : pcie clock level: 0 (16.0GT/s x16)
GPU[2] : dcefclk clock level: 0: (145Mhz)
GPU[2] : fclk clock level: 1: (1000Mhz)
GPU[2] : mclk clock level: 0: (96Mhz)
GPU[2] : sclk clock level: 1: (0Mhz)
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GPU[2] : pcie clock level: 0 (16.0GT/s x16)
GPU[3] : dcefclk clock level: 0: (145Mhz)
GPU[3] : fclk clock level: 1: (1000Mhz)
GPU[3] : mclk clock level: 0: (96Mhz)
GPU[3] : sclk clock level: 1: (0Mhz)
GPU[3] : socclk clock level: 1: (600Mhz)
GPU[3] : pcie clock level: 0 (16.0GT/s x16)
GPU[4] : dcefclk clock level: 0: (145Mhz)
GPU[4] : fclk clock level: 1: (1000Mhz)
GPU[4] : mclk clock level: 0: (96Mhz)
GPU[4] : sclk clock level: 1: (0Mhz)
GPU[4] : socclk clock level: 1: (600Mhz)
GPU[4] : pcie clock level: 0 (16.0GT/s x16)
GPU[5] : dcefclk clock level: 0: (145Mhz)
GPU[5] : fclk clock level: 1: (1000Mhz)
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GPU[7] : sclk clock level: 1: (0Mhz)
GPU[7] : socclk clock level: 0: (500Mhz)
GPU[7] : pcie clock level: 0 (16.0GT/s x16)
=====
===== End of ROCm SMI Log =====
```


The Profiling Tools and Visualization



PyTorch

PyTorch Profiler

- https://pytorch.org/tutorials/recipes/recipes/profiler_recipe.html

```
import torch
from torch.profiler import profile, record_function, ProfilerActivity
```



ROCProfiler

- <https://rocm.docs.amd.com/projects/rocprofiler/en/latest/install/install.html>
- *rocprof and rocprofv2 are included as standard components of the ROCm distribution*

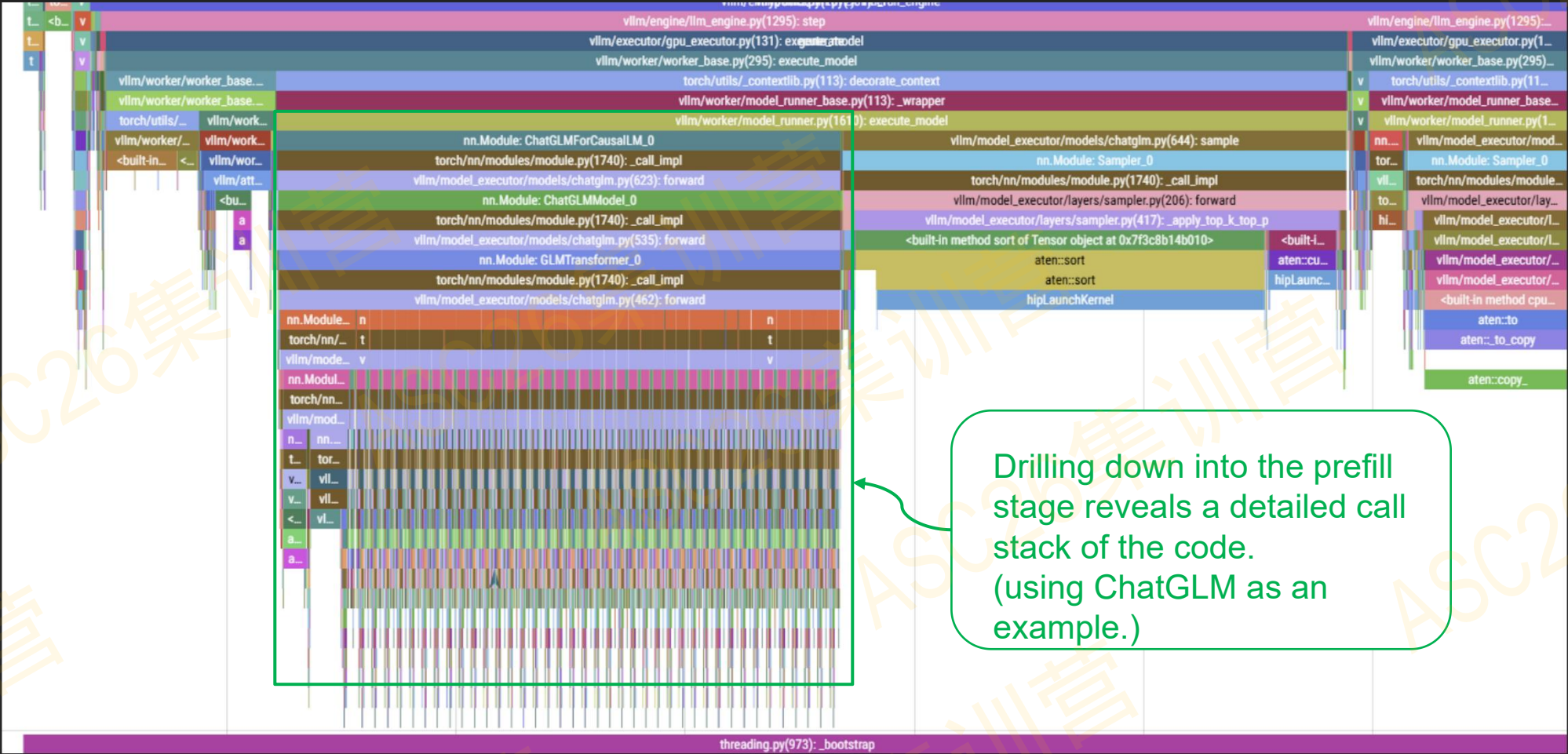
```
rocprof -d outputFolder --hip-trace ./Matrixtranspose
```

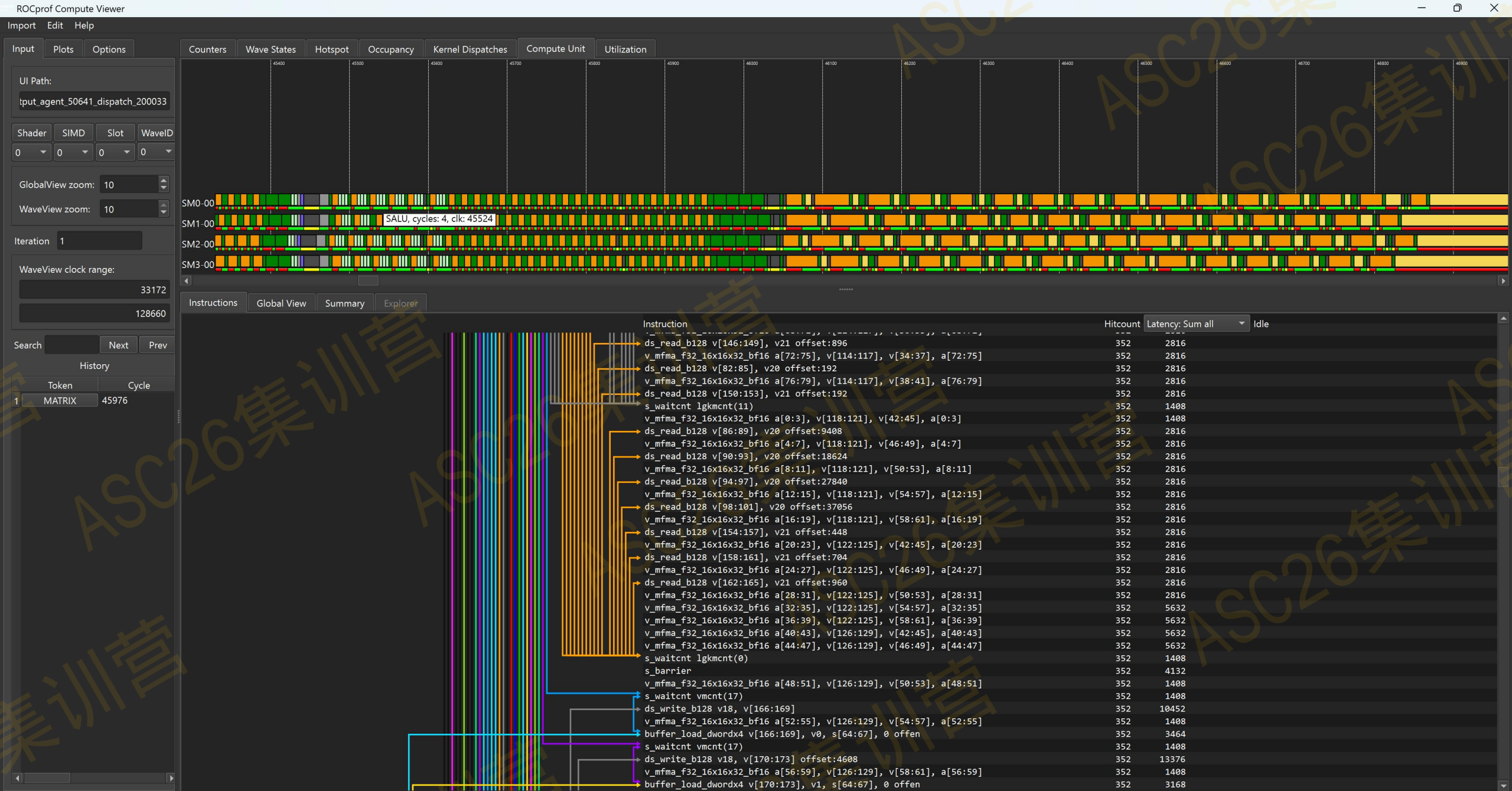
- *ROCTracer API is a library that requires minor code modification in the application to be traced but provides greater flexibility*

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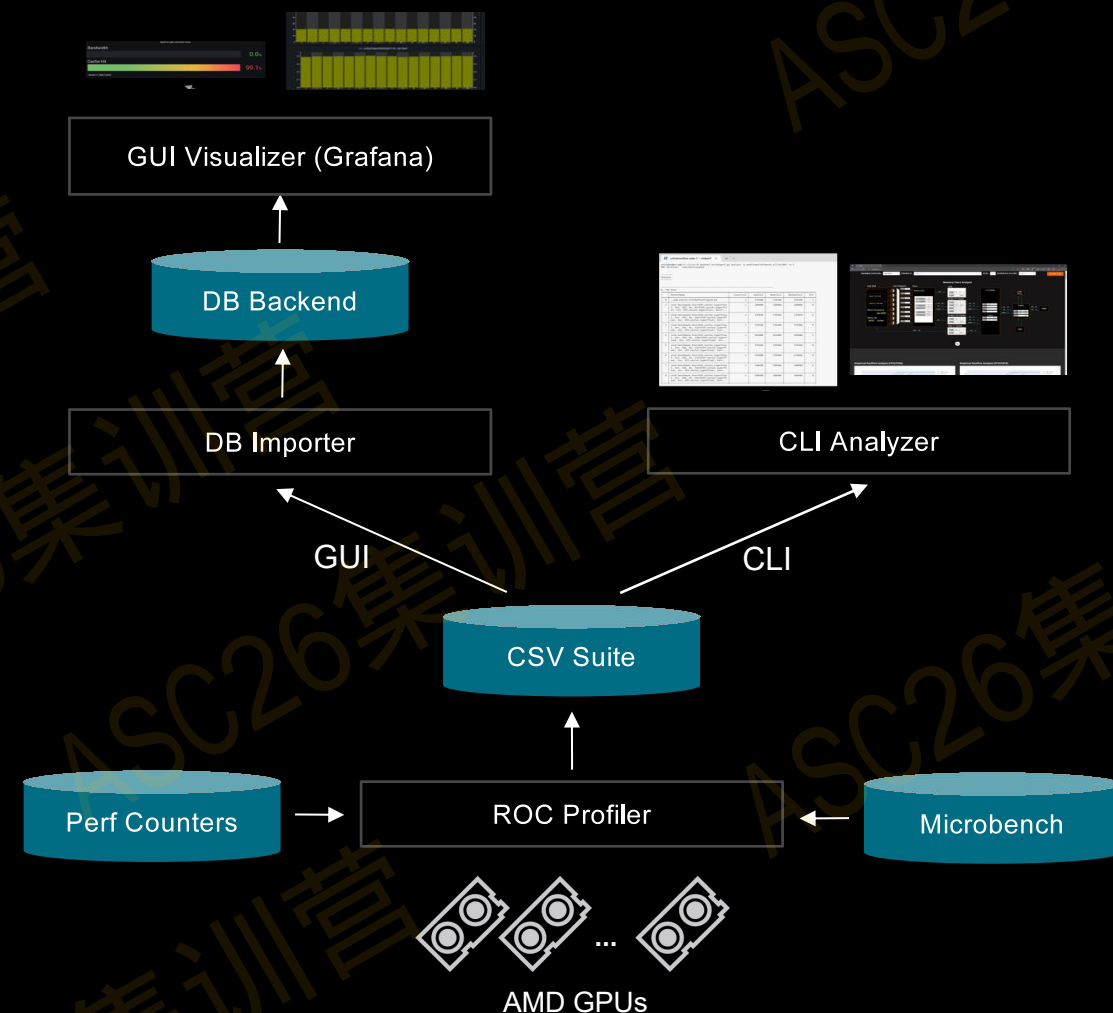
The Profiling Tools and Visualization - Samples





The Profiling Tools and Visualization – Omnipperf

- Core Omnipperf profiler
 - Raw performance counters via application using ROCProfiler
 - Hierarchical roofline data is obtained by a set of micro-benchmarks
- Grafana server for Omnipperf
 - Database: Raw performance counters are imported into a MongoDB
 - Grafana GUI: It displays the relevant performance metrics and visualization by retrieving the data from database
- Omnipperf Standalone GUI Analyzer
 - Omnipperf provides a standalone GUI to enable basic performance analysis without the need to import data into a database instance.
- Features
 - Speed-of-Light (SOL)
 - Hardware Block-level SOL Evaluations
 - Roofline Analysis
 - ...



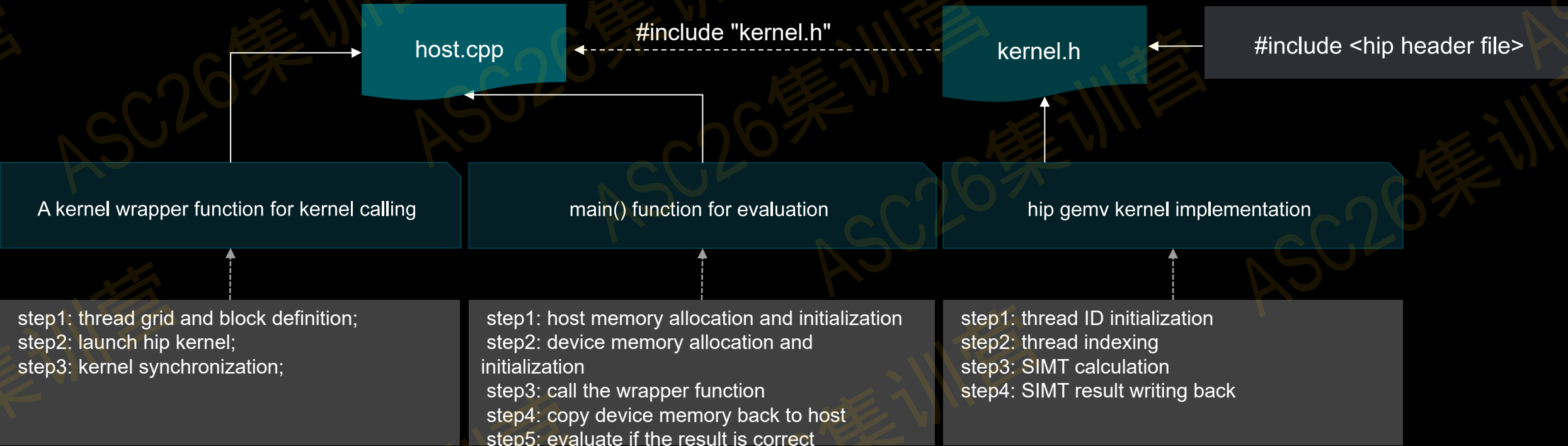
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ROCm Core - Custom HIP GEMV Kernel “hello world” sample

- Given a matrix (M x N), a vector (N x 1), GEMV(matrix, vector) produces an output vector (M x 1)
- GPU kernel (kernel.h) launched from host (host.cpp) explores the GPU compute capability by a single instruction multiple threads (SIMT) design

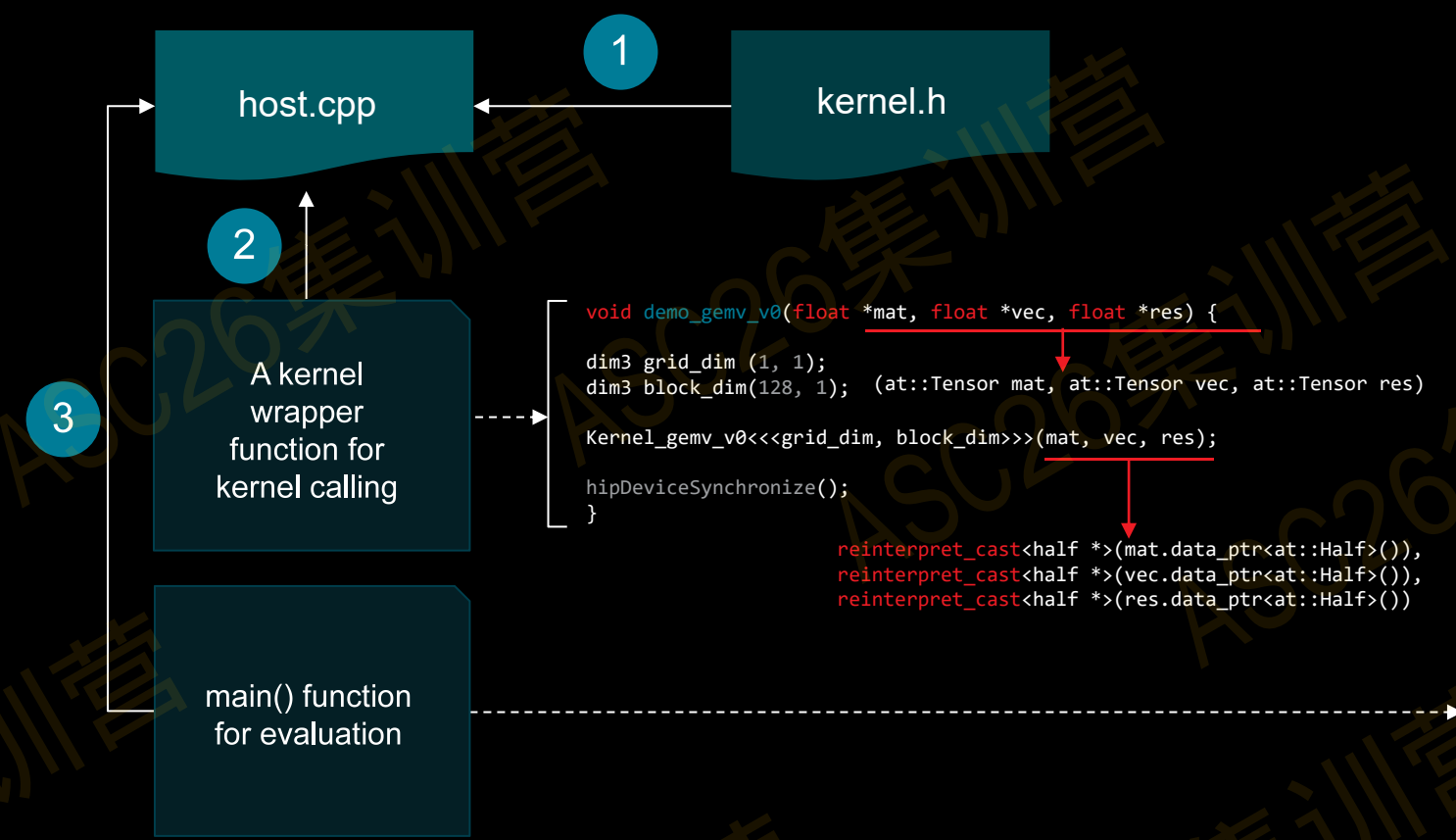
The Implementation Structure of a HIP GEMV Kernel



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HIP GEMV Host Code Design

- Given a matrix (128 x 4), a vector (4 x 1), GEMV(matrix, vector) produces an output vector (128 x 1),
 - A simple thread parallelism is to employ 128 threads to compute 128 rows in parallel



```
int main() {
    int mat_rows = 128;
    int vec_cols = 4;

    // Allocate memory on CPU
    float* mat = (float*)malloc(sizeof(float) * mat_rows * vec_cols);
    float* vec = (float*)malloc(sizeof(float) * vec_cols);
    float* res = (float*)malloc(sizeof(float) * mat_rows);

    // Fill in some data into mat and vec
    for (int i = 0; i < mat_rows * vec_cols; ++i)
        mat[i] = (float)1.f;
    for (int i = 0; i < vec_cols; ++i)
        vec[i] = (float)2.f;

    // Allocate memory on GPU
    float *d_mat, *d_vec, *d_res;
    hipMalloc((void **)&d_mat, mat_rows * vec_cols * sizeof(float));
    hipMalloc((void **)&d_vec, vec_cols * sizeof(float));
    hipMalloc((void **)&d_res, mat_rows * sizeof(float));

    // Host to Device
    hipMemcpy(d_mat, mat, (mat_rows * vec_cols) * sizeof(float),
        hipMemcpyHostToDevice);
    hipMemcpy(d_vec, vec, (vec_cols) * sizeof(float), hipMemcpyHostToDevice);

    // Launch kernel
    demo_gemv_v0(d_mat, d_vec, d_res);

    // Device to Host
    hipMemcpy(res, d_res, (mat_rows) * sizeof(float), hipMemcpyDeviceToHost);

    // Print result
    for (int i=0; i < mat_rows; ++i)
        printf("%f ", res[i]);
}
```

HIP GEMV Kernel Design

1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4
2,1	2,2	2,3	2,4
3,1	3,2	3,3	3,4
.....			
128,1	128,2	128,3	128,4

Matrix

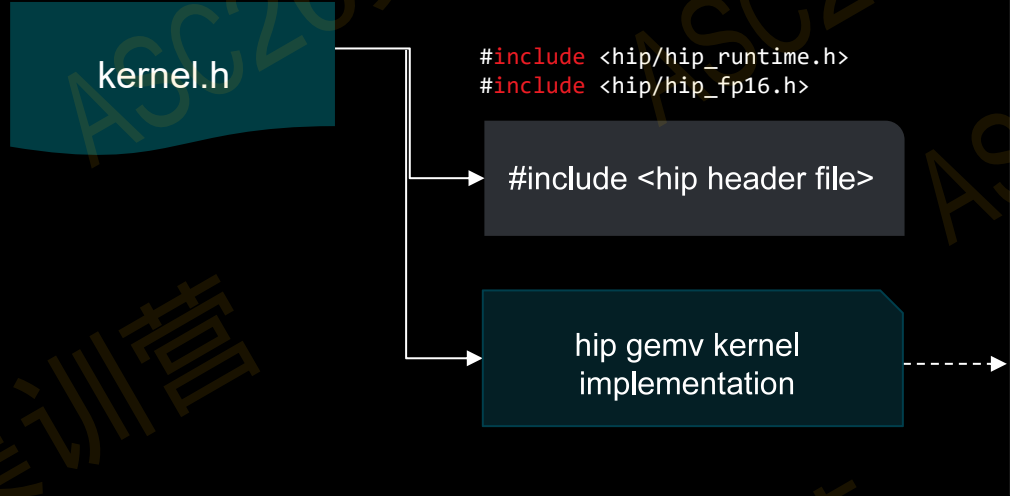
x

1
2
3
4

Vector

=

1,1	1	+	1,2	2	+	1,3	3	+	1,4	4	=	1
2,1	1	+	2,2	2	+	2,3	3	+	2,4	4	=	2
3,1	1	+	3,2	2	+	3,3	3	+	3,4	4	=	3
.....												
128,1	1	+	128,2	2	+	128,3	3	+	128,4	4	=	128



```
__global__ void kernel_gemv_v0(float *mat, float *vec, float* res) {
    unsigned int tid = threadIdx.x;
    unsigned int row = tid;
    unsigned int start_idx = 4 * row;

    float mat_h0 = mat[start_idx];
    float mat_h1 = mat[start_idx + 1];
    float mat_h2 = mat[start_idx + 2];
    float mat_h3 = mat[start_idx + 3];

    float vec_h0 = vec[0];
    float vec_h1 = vec[1];
    float vec_h2 = vec[2];
    float vec_h3 = vec[3];

    float sum = 0.0;
    sum += (mat_h0) * (vec_h0);
    sum += (mat_h1) * (vec_h1);
    sum += (mat_h2) * (vec_h2);
    sum += (mat_h3) * (vec_h3);

    res[row] = sum;
}

(half *mat, half *vec, half *res)
float mat_h0 = mat[start_idx];
float mat_h1 = mat[start_idx + 1];
float mat_h2 = mat[start_idx + 2];
float mat_h3 = mat[start_idx + 3];

float vec_h0 = vec[0];
float vec_h1 = vec[1];
float vec_h2 = vec[2];
float vec_h3 = vec[3];

float sum = 0.0;
sum += __half2float(mat_h0) * __half2float(vec_h0);
sum += __half2float(mat_h1) * __half2float(vec_h1);
sum += __half2float(mat_h2) * __half2float(vec_h2);
sum += __half2float(mat_h3) * __half2float(vec_h3);

res[row] = __half2float sum;
}
```

```
hipcc --offload-arch=gfx1100 host.cpp -o gemv_v0
./gemv_v0
```

Performance Optimization – Instruction Throughput

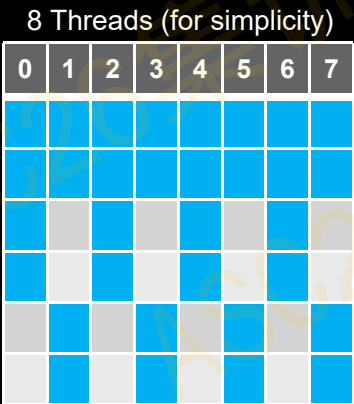
Control Flow & Divergence

- A wave executes in lockstep. If threads in a wavefront take different branches of an if/else, the GPU executes both paths, masking off threads, leading to divergence and wasted cycles.

Example:

```
int i = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;

if (i % 2 == 0)
{
    // half the threads do this
    out[i] = in[i] * 2.0f;
}
else
{
    // half the threads do this
    out[i] = in[i] * 3.0f;
}
```



Use Efficient Operations

- Some arithmetic operations are more expensive than others. For example, multiplication is typically faster than division.

Trade Precision for Speed

- Consider using single-precision arithmetic instead of double-precision if possible.

Leverage Intrinsic Functions

- Intrinsic functions are predefined functions available in HIP that can often be executed faster than equivalent arithmetic operations.

Performance Optimization – Parallel Execution

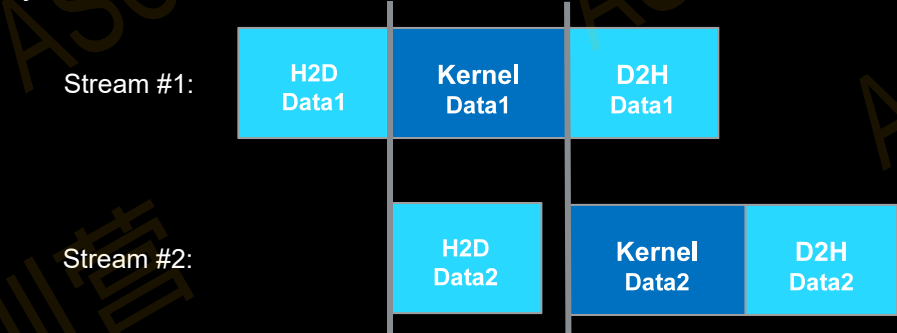
Application Level

- Use asynchronous calls and streams to overlap host/device work. Send serial work to CPU and parallel work to GPU.

Sequential calls:



Asynchronous calls:



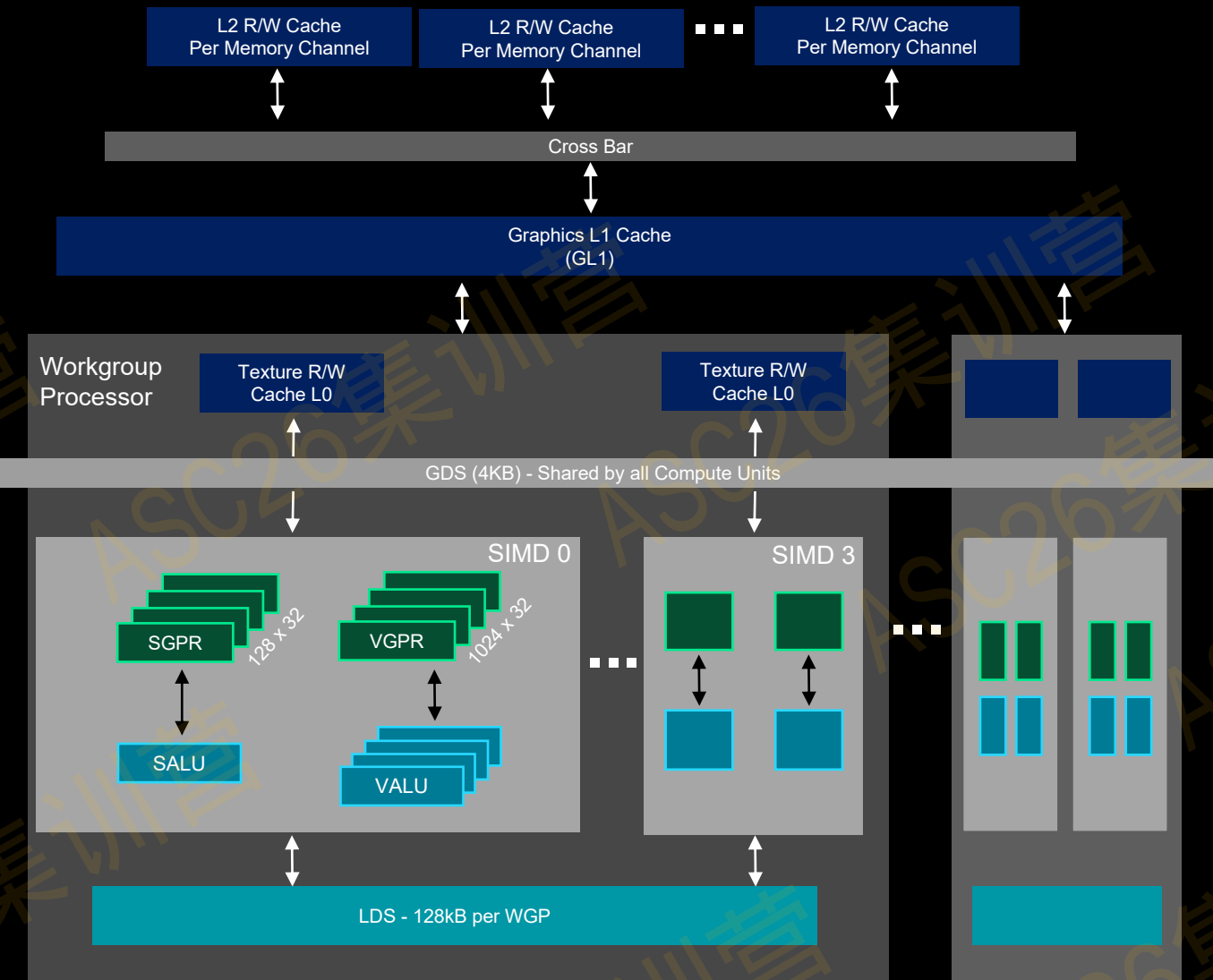
Device Level

- Maximize utilization by executing enough kernels concurrently while avoiding resource contention.

Multiprocessor Level

- At its best every clock cycle has an instruction from a warp is ready for execution. This could either be another independent instruction of the same warp or an instruction of another warp.

Performance Optimization – Memory Throughput



Local Data Share (LDS)

- On- chip shared memory for fast communication and data reuse, often used as a software cache or for cooperative access to off- chip memory.

Global Data Share (GDS)

- Small on- chip memory shared across all WGPs and waves of a kernel. It provides hardware support of append/consume patterns and control data for compute kernels, reduction operations, etc.

Device Memory Hierarchy (L2 → L1 → L0)

- Multiple L2 cache channels feed read- only L1 and per- WGP L0 caches for off- chip memory accesses. Specialized cache- less load instructions allow direct device memory reads when needed, while caches improve reuse and aggregate scattered accesses.

Performance Optimization – Memory Throughput

Local Data Share (LDS)

Bank Conflict: It occurs when multiple threads in the same wave access the same bank in shared memory. In this case, accesses get serialized, leading to inferior performance.

$$\text{bank} = \left(\frac{\text{address in bytes}}{4} \right) \bmod 32$$

(Sample: For AMD GCN architecture)

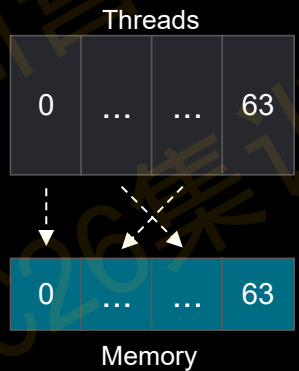
Optimizations:

- Padding: Change the bank mapping
`__shared__ float tile[32][33];`
- XOR Preshuffle: Permute the column indices for each row using XOR.
- Use CK Tile abstractions: They automatically handles bank conflict avoidance.
- Consider access patterns: Design algorithms with bank-friendly patterns.

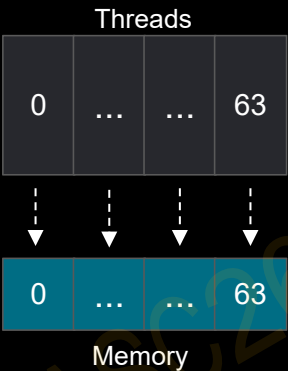
Device Memory

Coalescing: A memory access pattern is coalesced when consecutive threads access consecutive addresses. The hardware can combine them into fewer and wider transactions.

Uncoalesced Access



Coalesced Access



Optimizations:

- Avoid strided access: Array of Structures (AoS) → Structures of Arrays (SoA).
- Align or pad data: Achieve reading/writing contiguous segments.

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AMD ROCm™ Software Developer Hub

Initiative to Educate and Increase ROCm™ Software Stack User Base and Adoption

High-level Overview

Familiarize yourself with the ecosystem
General introduction of ROCm Software

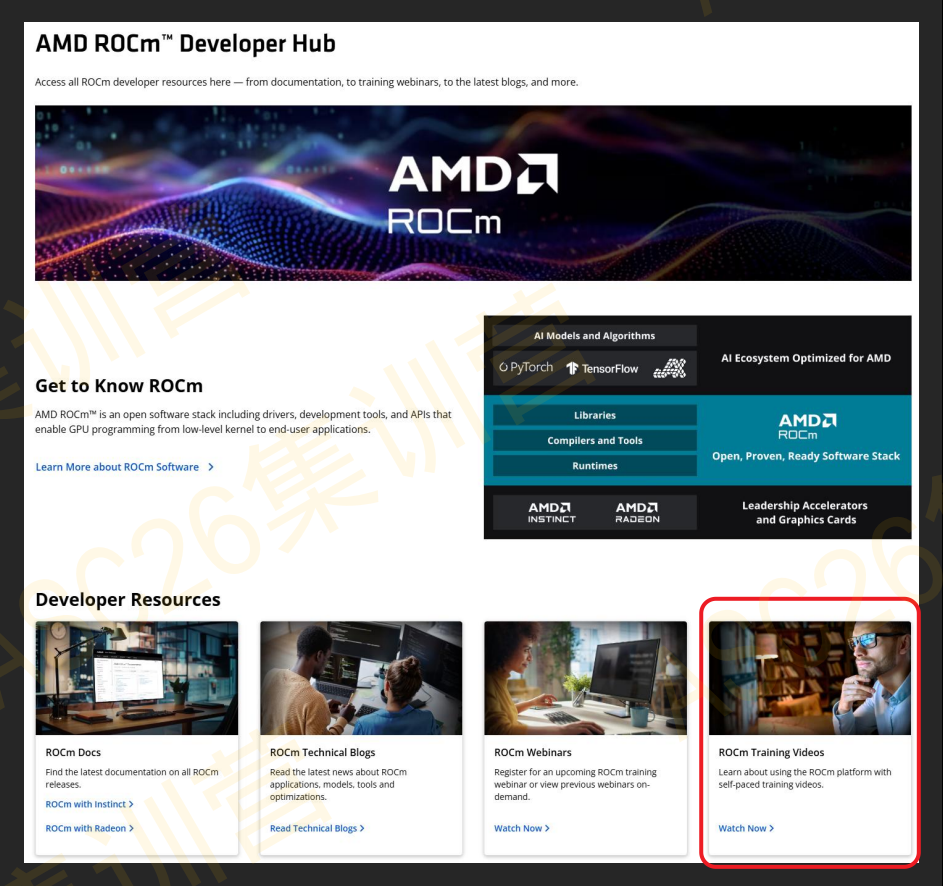
Increase Understanding

Attend ROCm webinars
View one of the many training videos

Build Comprehension

Purchase ROCm textbook
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ROCm Developer Hub



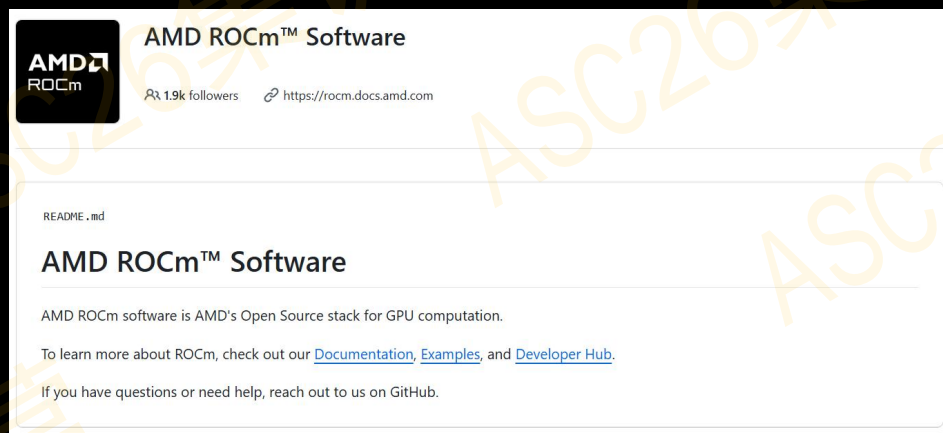
AMD ROCm™ Documentation & Github Repository

Playground for Professional Developers

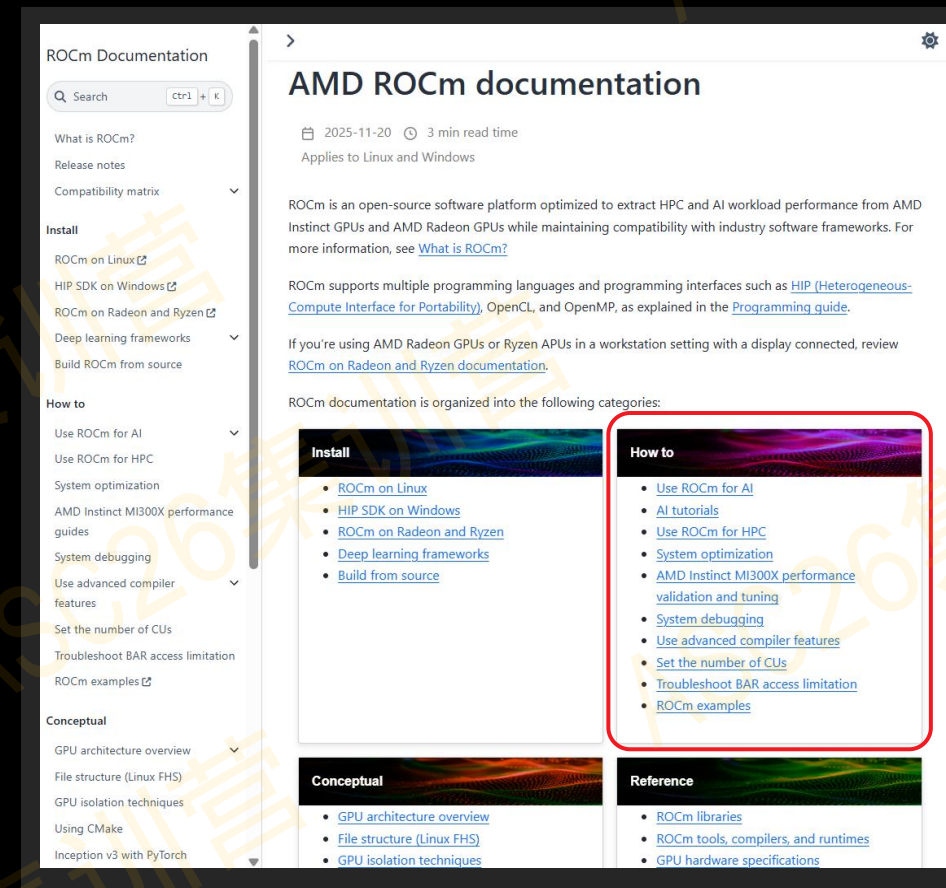
Dive Deeper

Refer to [ROCm documentation](#)

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ROCm Github Organization





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