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# C++ for OpenCL 2021

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Justas Janickas, Anastasia Stulova  
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# Motivation

- C++ for OpenCL kernel language [1] brings many C++ language features to OpenCL, while keeping backward compatibility with OpenCL C.
  - Version 1.0 was built on top of C++17 and OpenCL 2.0.
- Evolution of C++ for OpenCL alongside OpenCL standard is key.
- Main design goal of C++ for OpenCL 2021 is compatibility with OpenCL 3.0 (released in Sep 2020).
- clang-14 provides complete experimental support of OpenCL C 3.0.
- C++ for OpenCL 2021 support in clang is built on top of existing clang features for maximal code reuse and backward compatibility guarantee.

# C++ for OpenCL 2021 overview

- Key differences to OpenCL C 3.0:
  - Many native C++ language features are enabled:
    - Object oriented or generic programming.
  - In common behaviour:
    - Variadic macros can be used as in C++17.
    - Atomic types can be used with built-in operators if the sequential consistency memory model is supported.
    - Blocks are not supported.
    - `NULL` is defined as `nullptr` rather than `((void*)0)`.
    - C++ for OpenCL limits usage of some C-specific features:
      - implicit type conversions are stricter.
      - `restrict` keyword is not supported.
      - `goto` statements follow the rules from C++17.
- Key differences to C++ for OpenCL 1.0:
  - C++ for OpenCL 2021 provides all optional features from OpenCL C 3.0 including but not limited to:
    - generic address space, program scope variables in global address space, sequential consistency memory model, etc.
  - Address space removal type trait introduced.

# Implementation in Clang

- Experimental support released in clang-14.
- Extended command line flag for language version:  
`clang++ -cl-std=clc++2021 --target=spirv64 mykernel.clcpp`
- Implicitly defined version macros:  
`__CL_CPP_VERSION_2021__` and `__OPENCL_CPP_VERSION__` set to `202100`.
- Further unified with OpenCL C
  - `getOpenCLCompatibleVersion()` helper performs mapping from C++ for OpenCL or OpenCL C version to a corresponding compatible OpenCL version.
- Extended optionality of generic address space to C++ specific constructs:
  - e.g., implicit pointer to object parameters, special member functions.
  - `getDefaultOpenCLPointeeAddrSpace()` helper determines whether generic or private address space should be deduced by the compiler.
- Added address space removal utility
  - Based on feedback from LLVM community.

# Demonstration – generic address spaces optionality

```
struct C {  
    void foo(int *par);  
#ifndef __openc1_c_generic_address_space  
    // W/o generic address space (GAS)  
    // support an overload is needed for  
    // objects in __global address space.  
    void foo(int *par) __global;  
#endif  
};  
__global C globC{};  
void bar() {  
    __private C locC;  
    int i;  
    locC.foo(&i);  
    globC.foo(&i); // error w/o GAS support.  
}
```

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}
```

```
template<typename T> void helper(T *par) {  
#ifdef __openc1_c_generic_address_space  
    // If GAS is supported T is deduced to it.  
    // As local variables can not be declared  
    // with GAS an address space qualifiers  
    // needs to be removed.  
    typename __remove_address_space<T>::type var;  
#else  
    T var;  
#endif  
}  
void C::foo(int *par) {  
    helper(par);  
}  
#ifndef __openc1_c_generic_address_space  
void C::foo(int *par) __global {  
    helper(par);  
}  
#endif
```

# Conclusions and feedback

- More details about the new versions can be found in the unified language documentation:
  - [https://www.khronos.org/opencl/assets/CXX\\_for\\_OpenCL.html](https://www.khronos.org/opencl/assets/CXX_for_OpenCL.html)
- C++ for OpenCL 2021 is implemented in clang-14 as an experimental feature and it provides compatibility with OpenCL C 3.0 and C++17.
  - <https://clang.llvm.org/docs/OpenCLSupport.html#cxx-for-opencl-impl>
- Developers are invited for experimenting and contributing.
  - Feedback helps us to identify bugs, missing features and shape the language evolution.
- Future: more effort is needed on expanding test coverage towards the final release of C++ for OpenCL 2021.

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Thank You

Danke

Gracias

谢谢

ありがとう

Asante

Merci

감사합니다

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Kiitos

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