

IWOCL 2025



SYCL Interoperability with DirectX and Vulkan via Bindless Images

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Disclaimer – This is an experimental extension and so is subject to change

IWOCL 2024 Bindless Images presentation and slides

- Video Presentation:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfxiFRw3yAA>
- Slides:
 - <https://www.iwocl.org/wp-content/uploads/9301-Sean-Stirling-Codeplay.pdf>

Agenda

- Intro
 - Overview of Bindless Images
 - Brief catchup of new features
- Importing Vulkan/DX12 memory into SYCL
- Exporting SYCL memory into Vulkan/DX12
- Importing Vulkan/DX12 semaphores into SYCL
- Exporting semaphores from SYCL into Vulkan/DX12
- Problems encountered and interop as separate extension
- Q&A

Motivation of Bindless Images

- SYCL 2020 images has too many limitations
 - DPC++ implementation not using texture hardware efficiently
 - Need to request access through accessors
 - Number of images must be known at compile time
 - No control over how images are stored on the device (layouts, encodings, USM, etc)
 - No mipmaps or cubemaps
 - No interop with graphics APIs

Highlights of Bindless Images

- Separation of image memory and the actual image object
 - Can use device-optimized memory layout, USM allocations from SYCL, or imported memory
 - RAI wrappers
- Images as opaque handles
 - No accessors required, vary number of images at runtime
- Flexible copy functions and flexible on-device access
 - Many options for copying and reinterpreting image data
- Additional image types
 - Mipmaps, cubemap, image arrays, etc.

New features since IWOCL 2024

- Explicit ``fetch_image``, ``sample_image``, ``sample_mipmap``, etc. naming
- Sampled image arrays
- Extended image copies (device to device, image arrays, sub-copies)
- USM host image memory and copies
- Vulkan mipmap interop
- Limited 3 channel image support (Level Zero only)
- ``gather_image`` to get values used for linear interpolation

Backend Support

- CUDA Backend
 - Full Support – Everything in the bindless spec is implemented
- Level Zero Backend
 - Partial Support – 1-2-3D images, sampling, USM images, image arrays, 3-channel images
- HIP Backend
 - Basic support - 1-2-3D images, sampling

Blender using Bindless Images

- Initial changes have been pushed to Blender to allow SYCL backend use of Bindless Images
- Not fully upstreamed yet
- Works on CUDA, Level Zero and HIP
- Effort has been taken to optimize as much as possible
- Not currently using interop features
- Has been covered in more detail in previous presentation



Blender is a registered trademark (®) of the Blender Foundation in EU and USA

Importing Vulkan/DX12 memory into SYCL

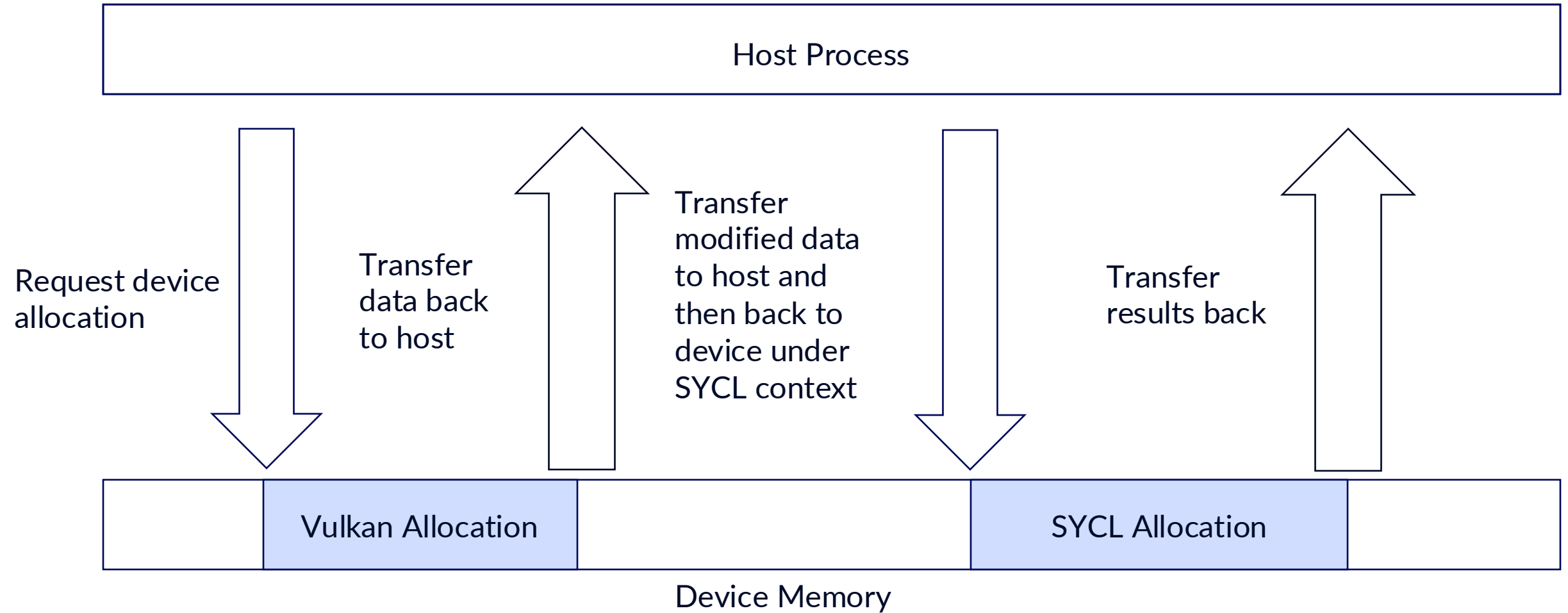
Why is interop between SYCL and Vulkan/DX12 needed?

- No copies!
 - Otherwise, would need to introduce additional copies
- Easier leveraging of existing Vulkan/DX12 libraries in SYCL and vice versa
- We have designed the API to be generic and applicable to other external APIs

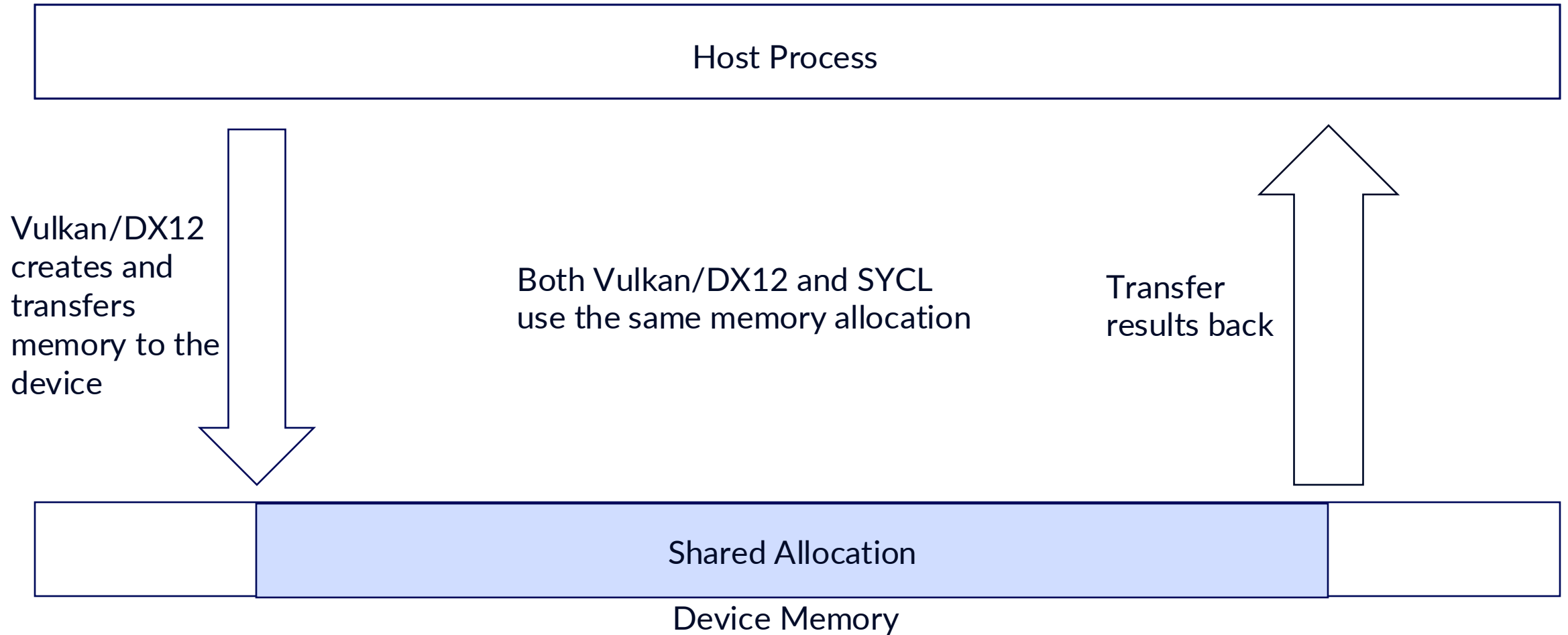


Vulkan is a registered trademark and the Vulkan Portability logo is a trademark of the Khronos Group Inc.

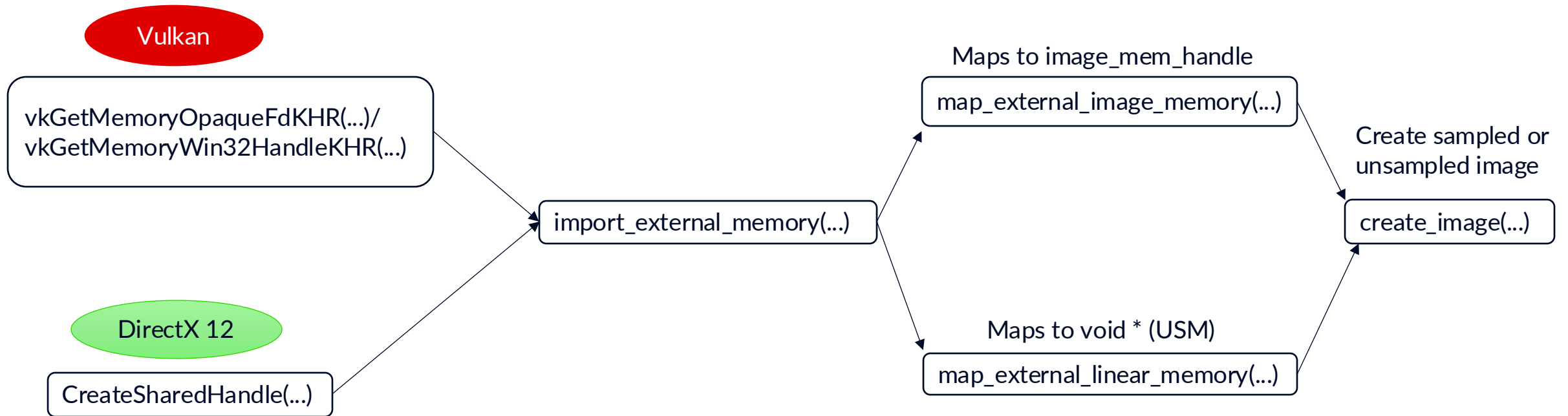
Without SYCL interop



With SYCL interop

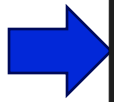


Basic process of importing memory



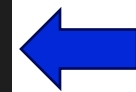
Allocate and export Vulkan memory

Create memory in Vulkan



```
// Allocate memory in Vulkan
const size_t imgSize = numElems * sizeof(dataType) * NChannels;
VkDevice vulkanDevice = /* ... */;
VkDeviceMemory vulkanMemory = /* ... */;

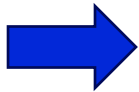
// Export memory from Vulkan
#ifdef _WIN32
VkMemoryGetWin32HandleInfoKHR vulkanHandleInfo = /* ... */;
HANDLE vulkanMemHandle = INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE;
vkGetMemoryWin32HandleKHR(vulkanDevice, &vulkanHandleInfo, &vulkanMemHandle);
#else
VkMemoryGetFdInfoKHR vulkanHandleInfo = /* ... */;
int vulkanMemHandle = 0;
vkGetMemoryFdKHR(vulkanDevice, &vulkanHandleInfo, &vulkanMemHandle);
#endif
```



Export memory from Vulkan making it available for SYCL to import

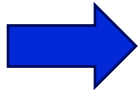
Import Vulkan memory into SYCL

Describe what kind of memory is being imported



```
// Describe memory being imported
#ifdef _WIN32
sycl::external_mem_descriptor<sycl::resource_win32_handle> extMemDesc{
    vulkanMemHandle, sycl::external_mem_handle_type::win32_nt_handle,
    imgSize};
#else
sycl::external_mem_descriptor<sycl::resource_fd> extMemDesc{
    vulkanMemHandle, sycl::external_mem_handle_type::opaque_fd, imgSize};
#endif
```

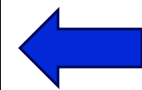
Create image memory handle from imported memory



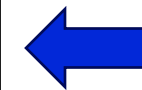
```
// Import memory from Vulkan into SYCL
sycl::external_mem externMem =
    sycl::import_external_memory(extMemDesc, syclQueue);

// Map imported memory into SYCL image memory handle
sycl::image_descriptor desc{imgSize, NChannels, channelType};
sycl::image_mem_handle imgMemHandle =
    sycl::map_external_image_memory(externMem, desc, syclQueue);

// Create SYCL image and use it as usual
sycl::unsampled_image_handle imgHandle =
    sycl::create_image(imgMemHandle, desc, syclQueue);
```



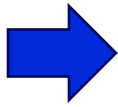
Import memory into SYCL



Create image as usual

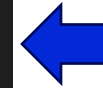
Allocate and export DirectX 12 memory

Create memory in
DX12



```
// Allocate memory in DX12
ComPtr<ID3D12Device> dx12Device = /* ... */;
ComPtr<ID3D12Resource> dx12Texture = /* ... */;

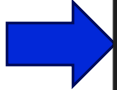
// Export memory from DX12
HANDLE dx12SharedMemHandle = INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE;
dx12Device->CreateSharedHandle(dx12Texture.Get(), nullptr,
                              GENERIC_ALL, nullptr,
                              &dx12MemHandle);
```



Export memory from
DX12 making it
available for SYCL to
import

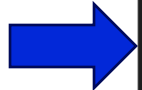
Import DirectX12 memory into SYCL

Describe what kind of memory is being imported



```
// Describe memory being imported
sycl::external_mem_descriptor<sycl::resource_win32_handle> extMemDesc{
    dx12MemHandle,
    sycl::external_mem_handle_type::win32_nt_dx12_resource,
    dx12TexAllocInfo.SizeInBytes};
```

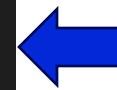
Create image memory handle from imported memory



```
// Import memory from Vulkan into SYCL
sycl::external_mem externMem =
    sycl::import_external_memory(extMemDesc, syclQueue);

// Map imported memory into SYCL memory
sycl::image_descriptor desc{imgSize, NChannels, channelType};
sycl::image_mem_handle imgMemHandle =
    sycl::map_external_image_memory(externMem, desc, syclQueue);

// Create SYCL image and use it as usual
sycl::unsampled_image_handle imgHandle =
    sycl::create_image(imgMemHandle, desc, syclQueue);
```



Import memory into SYCL



Create image as usual

Same process to import Vulkan and DirectX 12 memory into SYCL

Vulkan

```
// Describe memory being imported
#ifdef _WIN32
sycl::external_mem_descriptor<sycl::resource_win32_handle> extMemDesc{
    vulkanMemHandle, sycl::external_mem_handle_type::win32_nt_handle,
    imgSize};
#else
sycl::external_mem_descriptor<sycl::resource_fd> extMemDesc{
    vulkanMemHandle, sycl::external_mem_handle_type::opaque_fd, imgSize};
#endif

// Import memory from Vulkan into SYCL
sycl::external_mem externMem =
    sycl::import_external_memory(extMemDesc, syclQueue);

// Map imported memory into SYCL image memory handle
sycl::image_descriptor desc{imgSize, NChannels, channelType};
sycl::image_mem_handle imgMemHandle =
    sycl::map_external_image_memory(externMem, desc, syclQueue);

// Create SYCL image and use it as usual
sycl::unsampled_image_handle imgHandle =
    sycl::create_image(imgMemHandle, desc, syclQueue);
```

DirectX 12

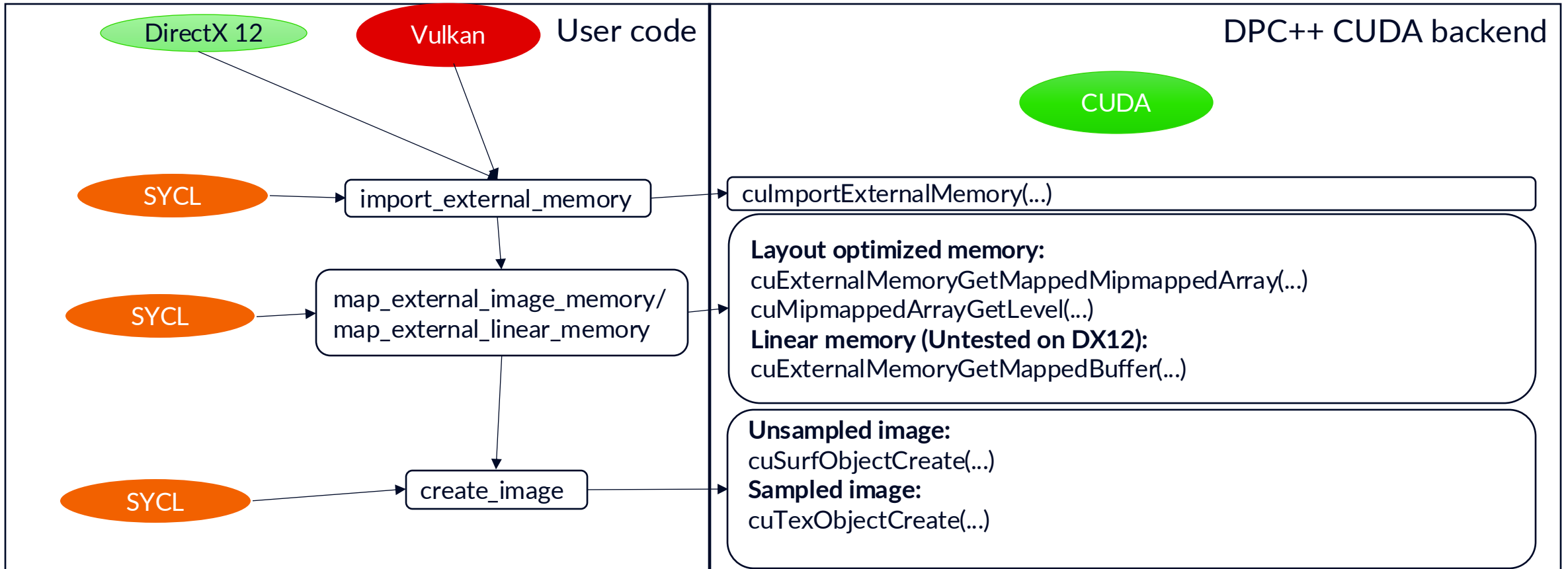
```
// Describe memory being imported
sycl::external_mem_descriptor<sycl::resource_win32_handle> extMemDesc{
    dx12MemHandle,
    sycl::external_mem_handle_type::win32_nt_dx12_resource,
    dx12TexAllocInfo.SizeInBytes};

// Import memory from Vulkan into SYCL
sycl::external_mem externMem =
    sycl::import_external_memory(extMemDesc, syclQueue);

// Map imported memory into SYCL memory
sycl::image_descriptor desc{imgSize, NChannels, channelType};
sycl::image_mem_handle imgMemHandle =
    sycl::map_external_image_memory(externMem, desc, syclQueue);

// Create SYCL image and use it as usual
sycl::unsampled_image_handle imgHandle =
    sycl::create_image(imgMemHandle, desc, syclQueue);
```

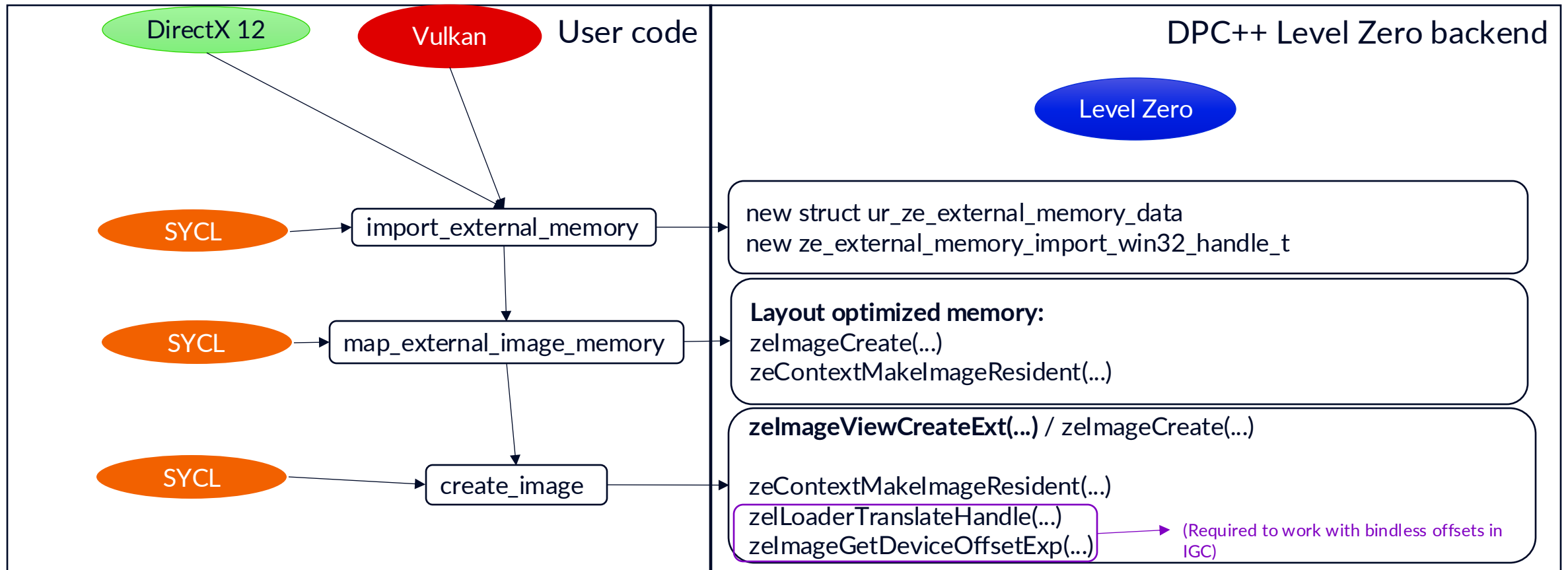
Importing memory with the CUDA backend



https://github.com/intel/llvm/blob/sycl/sycl/source/detail/bindless_images.cpp

<https://github.com/intel/llvm/blob/sycl/unified-runtime/source/adapters/cuda/image.cpp>

Importing memory with the Level Zero backend



https://github.com/intel/llvm/blob/sycl/sycl/source/detail/bindless_images.cpp

https://github.com/intel/llvm/blob/sycl/unified-runtime/source/adapters/level_zero/image.cpp

Destroying external memory handle

`external_mem` objects must be destroyed after using external memory in SYCL

```
void release_external_memory(external_mem externalMem,  
                             const sycl::device &syclDevice,  
                             const sycl::context &syclContext);  
void release_external_memory(external_mem externalMem,  
                             const sycl::queue &syclQueue);
```

Exporting memory from SYCL into Vulkan/DX12

- Currently being investigated
- We hope to make the proposal public soon
- Different processes and capabilities than importing memory
 - Backends handle exporting in different ways

Importing Vulkan/DX12 semaphores into SYCL

Semaphores

- SYCL having access to memory in Vulkan/DX12 is all well and good, but how can we ensure there is no inefficient waiting around?
- Semaphores are synchronization primitives that allow waiting for a condition to be met
- In order for semaphores to properly function, the sycl queue **must** be "in_order"
 - Otherwise kernel and semaphore execution order is not guaranteed

Vulkan/DX12 binary and timeline semaphores

Binary Semaphores

- Has only two states, signaled or unsignaled
- Can only be waited upon to switch to the signalled state
- Simpler, but can also increase complexity due to its simple nature requiring more binary semaphores than if a timeline semaphore was used
- Supported by `opaque_fd` and `win32_nt_handle`

Timeline Semaphores

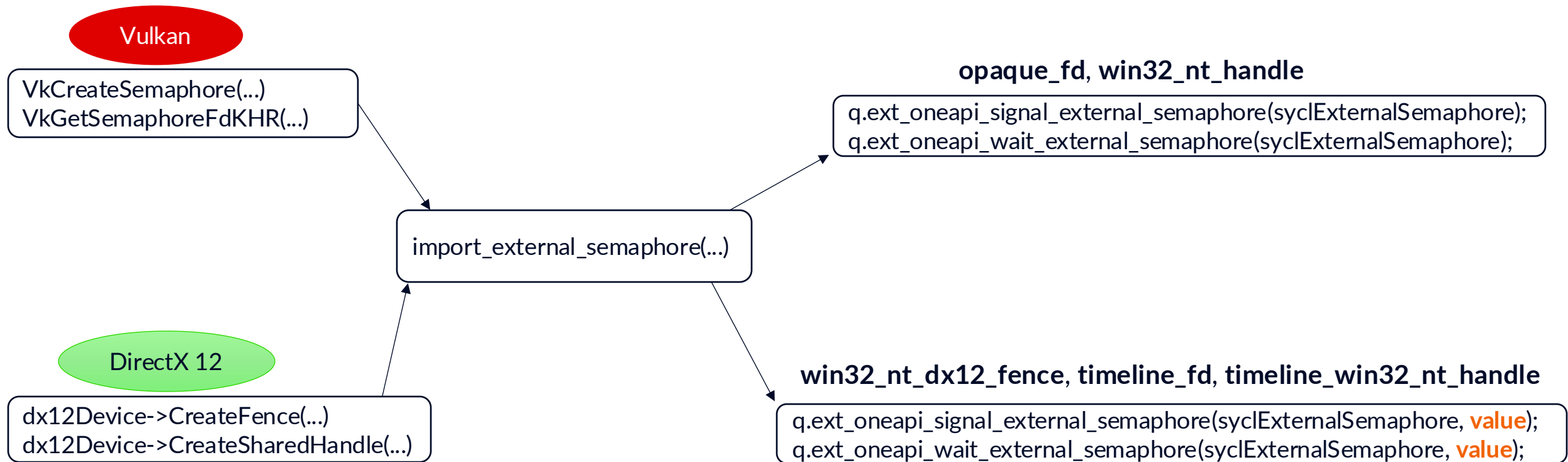
- Has a 64-bit integer value
- Can be waited upon to be a particular value
- Slightly more complex but allows for repeated use – use multiple waits and signals
- Supported by `win32_nt_dx12_fence`, `timeline_fd` and `timeline_win32_nt_handle`

Types of Semaphores in SYCL

- Binary Semaphores
 - opaque_fd
 - win32_nt_handle
- Timeline Semaphores
 - win32_nt_dx12_fence
 - timeline_fd
 - timeline_win32_nt_handle

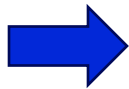
```
// Types of external semaphore handles
enum class external_semaphore_handle_type
{
    opaque_fd = 0,
    win32_nt_handle = 1,
    win32_nt_dx12_fence = 2,
    timeline_fd = 3,
    timeline_win32_nt_handle = 4,
};
```

Basic process of importing and using semaphores



Allocate and export Vulkan semaphore

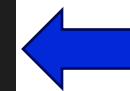
Create exportable semaphore



```
// Setup Vulkan device
VkDevice vulkanDevice = /* ... */;

// Create Vulkan semaphore
VkSemaphore vulkanSemaphore;
{
    VkExportSemaphoreCreateInfo esci = /* ... */;
    VkSemaphoreCreateInfo sci = {};
    sci.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_SEMAPHORE_CREATE_INFO;
    sci.pNext = &esci;
    vkCreateSemaphore(vulkanDevice, &sci, nullptr, &vulkanSemaphore);
}

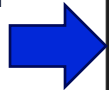
// Export semaphore from Vulkan
#ifdef _WIN32
VkSemaphoreGetWin32HandleInfoKHR sgfi = /* ... */;
HANDLE vulkanSemaphoreHandle;
vkGetSemaphoreKHR(vulkanDevice, &sgfi, &vulkanSemaphoreHandle);
#else
VkSemaphoreGetFdInfoKHR sgfi = /* ... */;
HANDLE vulkanSemaphoreHandle;
vkGetSemaphoreWin32HandleKHR(vulkanDevice, &sgfi, &vulkanSemaphoreHandle);
#endif
```



Export semaphore from Vulkan making it available for SYCL to import

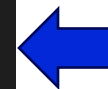
Import Vulkan semaphore into SYCL

Describe what kind
of semaphore is
being imported



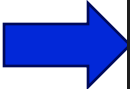
```
// Describe semaphore being imported
#ifdef _WIN32
sycl_exp::external_semaphore_descriptor<sycl_exp::resource_win32_handle>
    syclExternalSemaphoreDesc{
        vulkanSemaphoreHandle,
        sycl_exp::external_semaphore_handle_type::win32_nt_handle};
#else
sycl_exp::external_semaphore_descriptor<sycl_exp::resource_fd>
    syclExternalSemaphoreDesc{
        vulkanSemaphoreHandle,
        sycl_exp::external_semaphore_handle_type::opaque_fd};
#endif

// Import semaphore from Vulkan into SYCL
sycl_exp::external_semaphore syclExternalSemaphore =
    sycl_exp::import_external_semaphore(syclExternalSemaphoreDesc, syclQueue);
```



Import semaphore
into SYCL

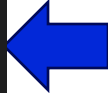
Allocate and export DirectX 12 semaphore

Create semaphore 

```
// Setup DX12 device
ComPtr<ID3D12Device> dx12Device = /* ... */;
ComPtr<ID3D12Fence> dx12Fence;
uint64_t fenceValue = 0;

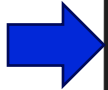
// Create DX12 semaphore
dx12Device->CreateFence(fenceValue, D3D12_FENCE_FLAG_SHARED,
    IID_PPV_ARGS(&dx12Fence));

// Export semaphore from DX12
HANDLE dx12SemaphoreHandle = INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE;
dx12Device->CreateSharedHandle(dx12Fence.Get(), nullptr,
    GENERIC_ALL, nullptr,
    &dx12SemaphoreHandle);
```

 Export semaphore from Vulkan making it available for SYCL to import

Import DirectX 12 semaphore into SYCL

Describe what kind
of semaphore is
being imported



```
// Describe semaphore being imported
sycl_exp::external_semaphore_descriptor<sycl_exp::resource_win32_handle>
    extSemDesc{dx12SemaphoreHandle,
               sycl_exp::external_semaphore_handle_type::win32_nt_dx12_fence};

// Import semaphore from DX12 into SYCL
sycl_exp::external_semaphore syclExternalSemaphore =
    sycl_exp::import_external_semaphore(extSemDesc, syclQueue);
```



Import semaphore
into SYCL

Destroying external semaphore handle

`external_semaphore` objects must be destroyed after using external semaphores in SYCL

```
void release_external_semaphore(external_semaphore semaphoreHandle,  
                                const sycl::device &syclDevice,  
                                const sycl::context &syclContext);  
  
void release_external_semaphore(external_semaphore semaphoreHandle,  
                                const sycl::queue &syclQueue);
```

Exporting semaphores from SYCL into Vulkan/DX12

- There is currently no capability to create semaphores in SYCL
- Neither CUDA or Level Zero have capabilities to create and export semaphores

Problems encountered when mapping CUDA interop API

- There are legacy APIs that are not generic, making mapping difficult at times
- Using CUDA, interop with OpenGL requires using CUDA graphics interoperability API, instead of CUDA external resource interoperability API
 - This former API is very specific to CUDA, making mapping difficult so we favour the latter
 - If we really need to, we will need a separate SYCL extension that is only applicable to CUDA and OpenGL interop

SYCL interop as separate extension

- Planning to have SYCL interop as a separate extension from SYCL Bindless Images extension
 - Possibly multiple separate extensions i.e. separate ones for importing and exporting memory

Future Work

- Exporting memory from SYCL into Vulkan/DX12
- Splitting external memory and semaphores into their own extension
- DX11 interop
- Additional image formats
- SYCL buffer and USM interop
- Additional synchronization primitives
- Use imported object with ``host_task`` to directly access interop resources with the backend API such as CUDA and Level Zero
 - i.e. pass an imported ``CUarray`` directly to a CUDA function using ``host_task``



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Q&A

Thank You!