

ALCF INCITE GPU Hackathon May 20-22, 2025



Performance Analysis of GPU-accelerated Applications with HPCToolkit

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Outline

- Introduction to HPCToolkit performance tools
 - Overview of HPCToolkit components and their workflow
 - HPCToolkit's graphical user interfaces
- Analyzing the performance of GPU-accelerated codes with HPCToolkit
 - Slides: Exawind (AMReX)
 - Slides: LAMMPS at Exascale (Kokkos)
 - Demo: GAMESS (OpenMP)
 - Hands-on:
 - Explore available performance databases for a set of applications
 - Collect and explore some measurements for some prepared examples

Linux Foundation's HPCToolkit Performance Tools

Collect **profiles and traces of unmodified parallel CPU and GPU-accelerated applications**

Understand where an application spends its time and why

- call path profiles **associate metrics with application source code** contexts

- analyze instruction-level performance within GPU kernels** and attribute it to your source code

- hierarchical **traces to understand execution dynamics**

Parallel programming models

- across nodes: MPI, SHMEM, UPC++, ...

- within nodes: OpenMP, Kokkos, RAJA, HIP, DPC++, Sycl, CUDA, OpenACC, ...

Languages

- C, C++, Fortran, Python, ...

Hardware

- CPU cores and GPUs within a node

- CPU: x86_64, Power, ARM

- GPU: NVIDIA, AMD, Intel

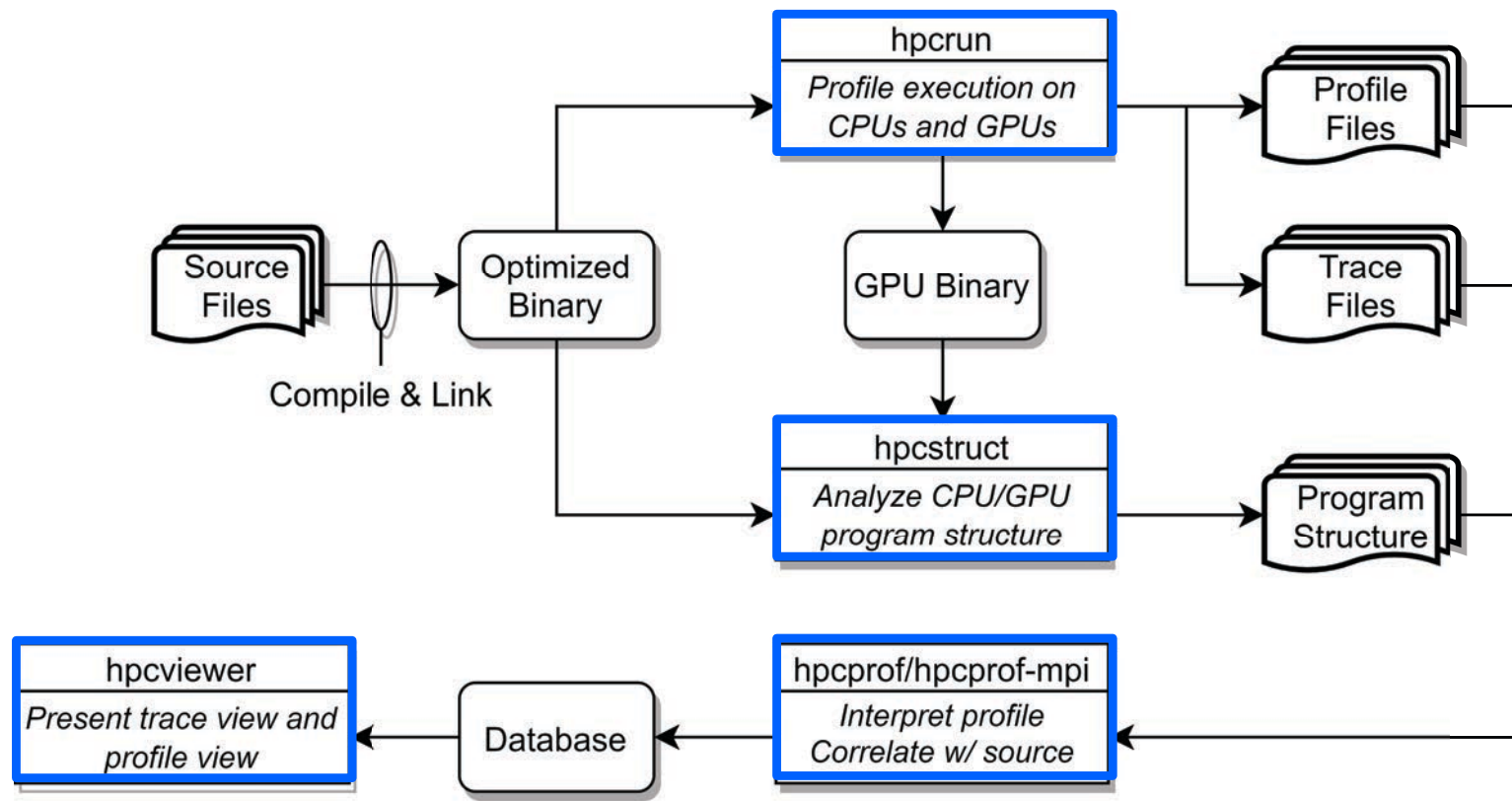
Why HPCToolkit?

- Measure and analyze performance of CPU and GPU-accelerated applications
- Easy: profile unmodified application binaries
- Fast: low-overhead measurement
- Informative: understand where an application spends its time and why
 - call path profiles associate metrics with application source code contexts
 - optional hierarchical traces to understand execution dynamics
- Broad audience
 - application developers
 - framework developers
 - runtime and tool developers
- Unlike vendor tools works with a wide range of CPUs and GPUs

How does HPCToolkit Differ from Vendor Tools?

- NVIDIA NSight Systems
 - tracing of CPU and GPU streams
 - analyze traces when you open them with the GUI
 - long running traces are huge and thus extremely slow to analyze, limiting scalability
 - designed for measurement and analysis within a node
- NVIDIA NSight Compute
 - detailed measurement of kernels with counters and execution replay
 - very slow measurement
 - flat display of measurements within GPU kernels
- Intel VTune: designed for analysis of performance on a single node
- AMD Omitrace: designed for analysis of performance on a single node
- HPCToolkit
 - supports more scalable tracing than vendor tools
 - measure exascale executions across many GPUs and nodes
 - scalable, parallel post-mortem analysis vs. non-scalable in-GUI analysis
 - detailed reconstruction of estimates for calling context profiles within GPU kernels

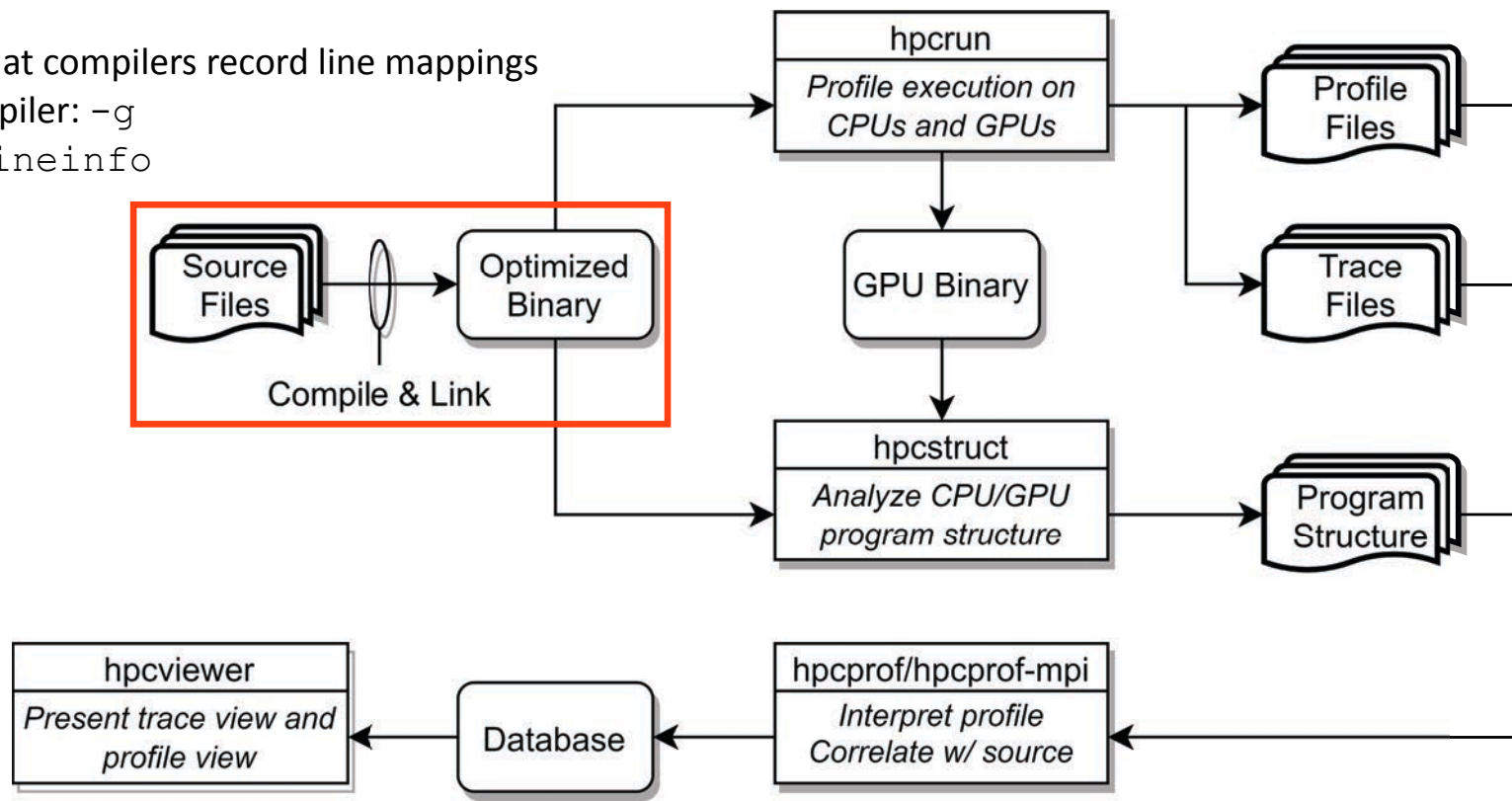
HPCToolkit's Workflow for GPU-accelerated Applications



HPCToolkit's Workflow for GPU-accelerated Applications

Step 1:

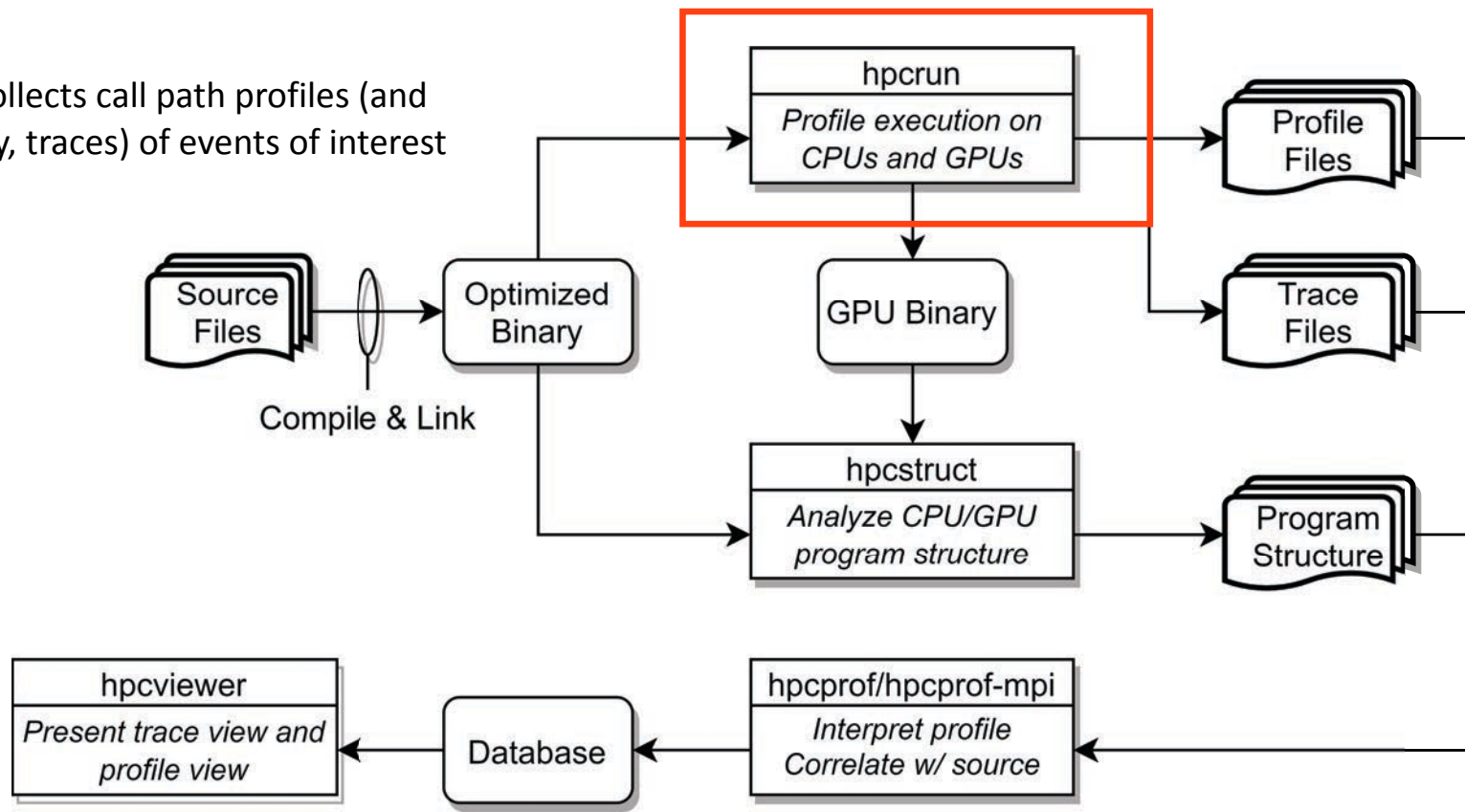
- Ensure that compilers record line mappings
- host compiler: `-g`
- `nvcc: -lineinfo`



HPCToolkit's Workflow for GPU-accelerated Applications

Step 2:

- *hpcrun* collects call path profiles (and optionally, traces) of events of interest



Measurement of CPU and GPU-accelerated Applications

- Sampling using Linux timers and hardware counter overflows on the CPU
- Callbacks when GPU operations are launched and (sometimes) completed
- Event stream for GPU operations
- PC Samples: NVIDIA (in progress: AMD, Intel)
- Binary instrumentation of GPU kernels on Intel GPUs for fine-grain measurement

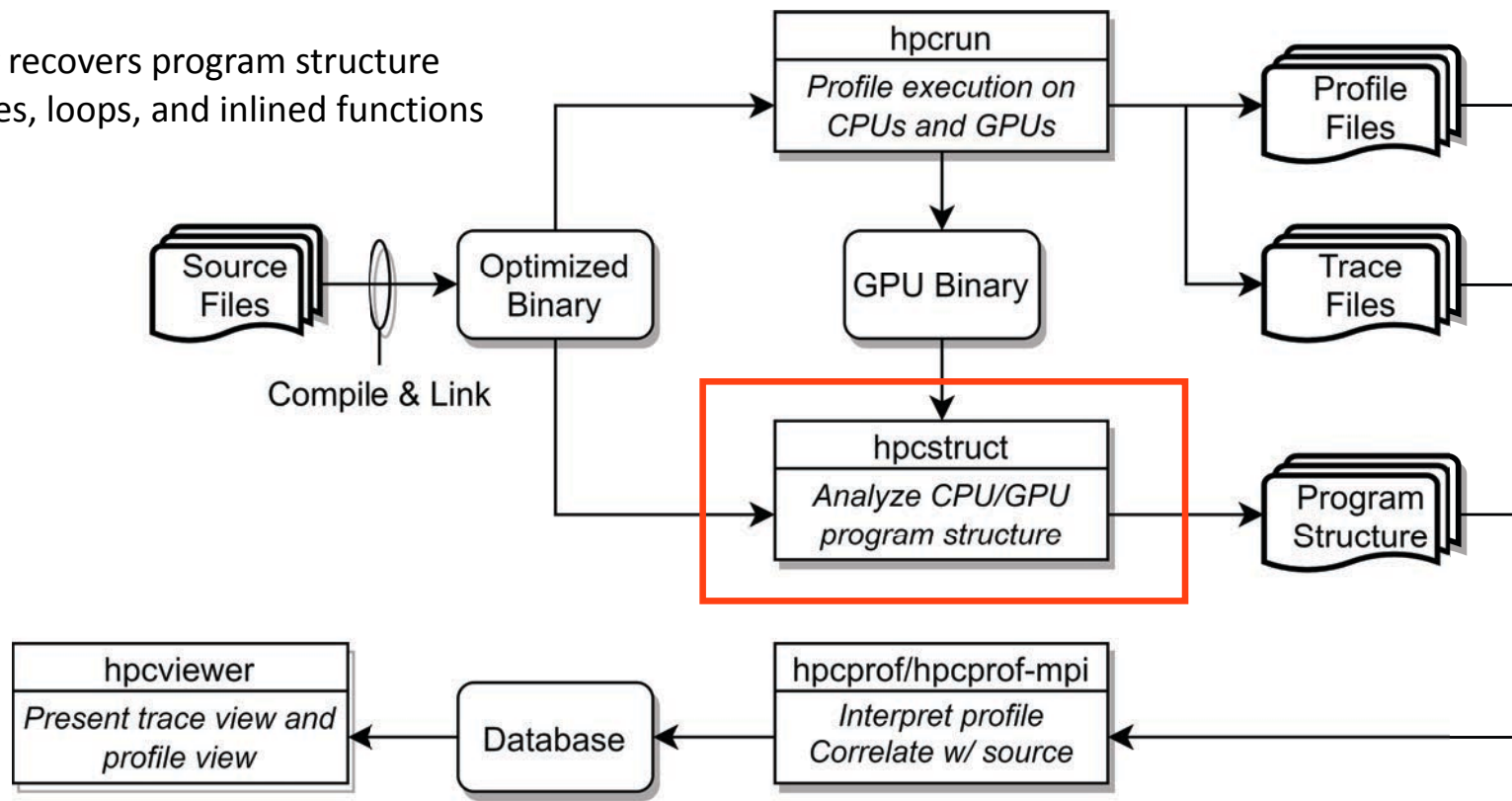
hpcrun: Measure CPU and/or GPU activity

- GPU profiling
—hpcrun -e gpu=xxx <app> ... xxx $\in \{nvidia, amd, opencl, level0\}$
- GPU PC sampling (NVIDIA GPU only)
—hpcrun -e gpu=nvidia,pc <app>
- CPU and GPU Tracing (in addition to profiling)
—hpcrun -e CPUTIME -e gpu=xxx -tt <app>
- Use hpcrun with MPI on Polaris or Aurora
—mpiexec -n <ranks> ... hpcrun -e gpu=xxx <app>

HPCToolkit's Workflow for GPU-accelerated Applications

Step 3:

- *hpcstruct* recovers program structure about lines, loops, and inlined functions



hpcstruct: Analyze CPU and GPU Binaries Using Multiple Threads

- Usage

```
hpcstruct [--gpucfg yes] <measurement-directory>
```

- What it does

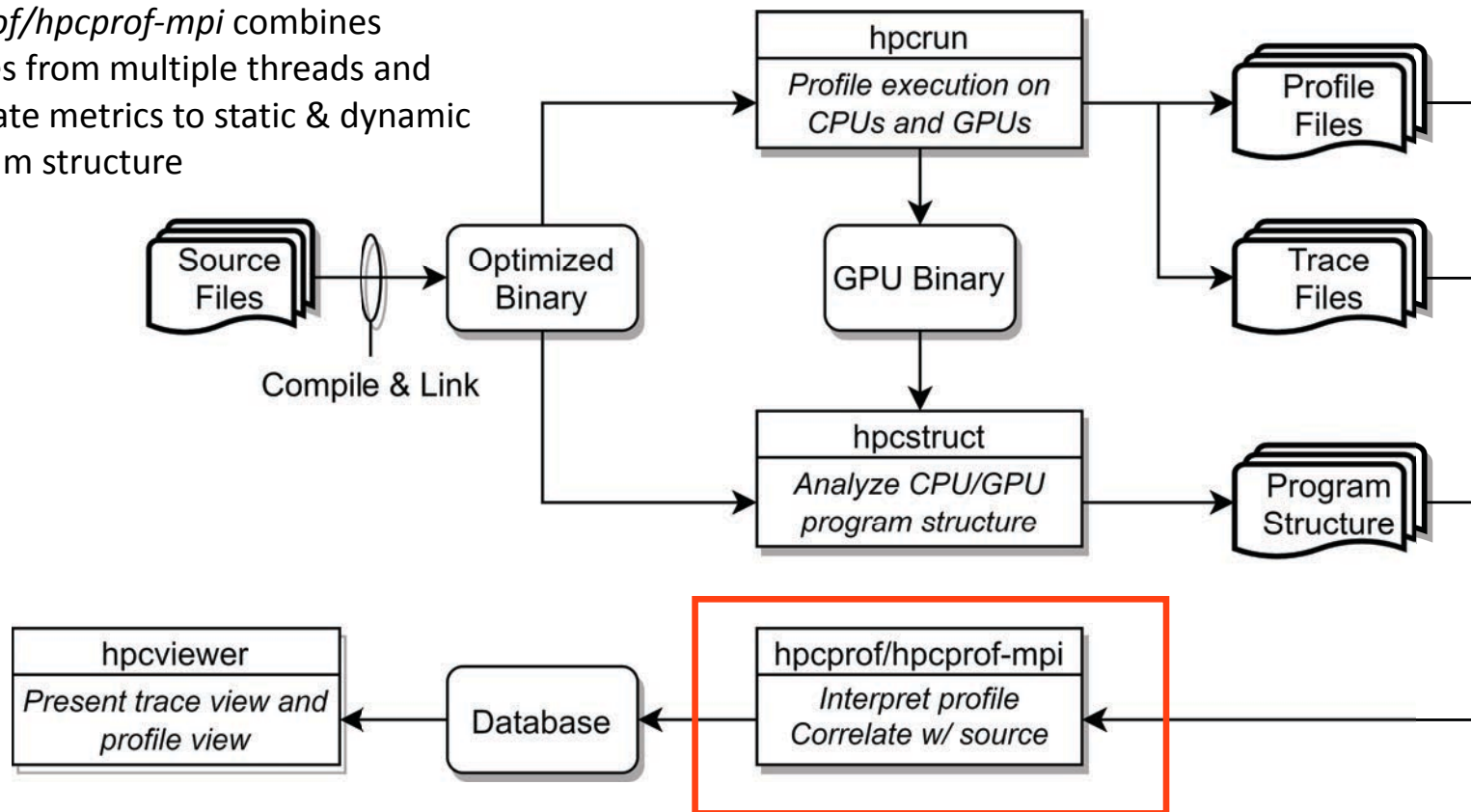
- Recover program structure information
 - Files, functions, inlined templates or functions, loops, source lines
- In parallel, analyze all CPU and GPU binaries that were measured by HPCToolkit
 - typically analyze large application binaries with 16 threads
 - typically analyze multiple small application binaries concurrently with 2 threads each
- Cache binary analysis results for reuse when analyzing other executions

NOTE: `--gpucfg yes` needed only for analysis of GPU binaries for interpreting PC samples on NVIDIA GPUs

HPCToolkit's Workflow for GPU-accelerated Applications

Step 4:

- *hpcprof/hpcprof-mpi* combines profiles from multiple threads and correlate metrics to static & dynamic program structure



hpcprof/hpcprof-mpi: Associate Measurements with Program Structure

- Analyze data from modest executions with multithreading (moderate scale)

```
hpcprof <measurement-directory>
```

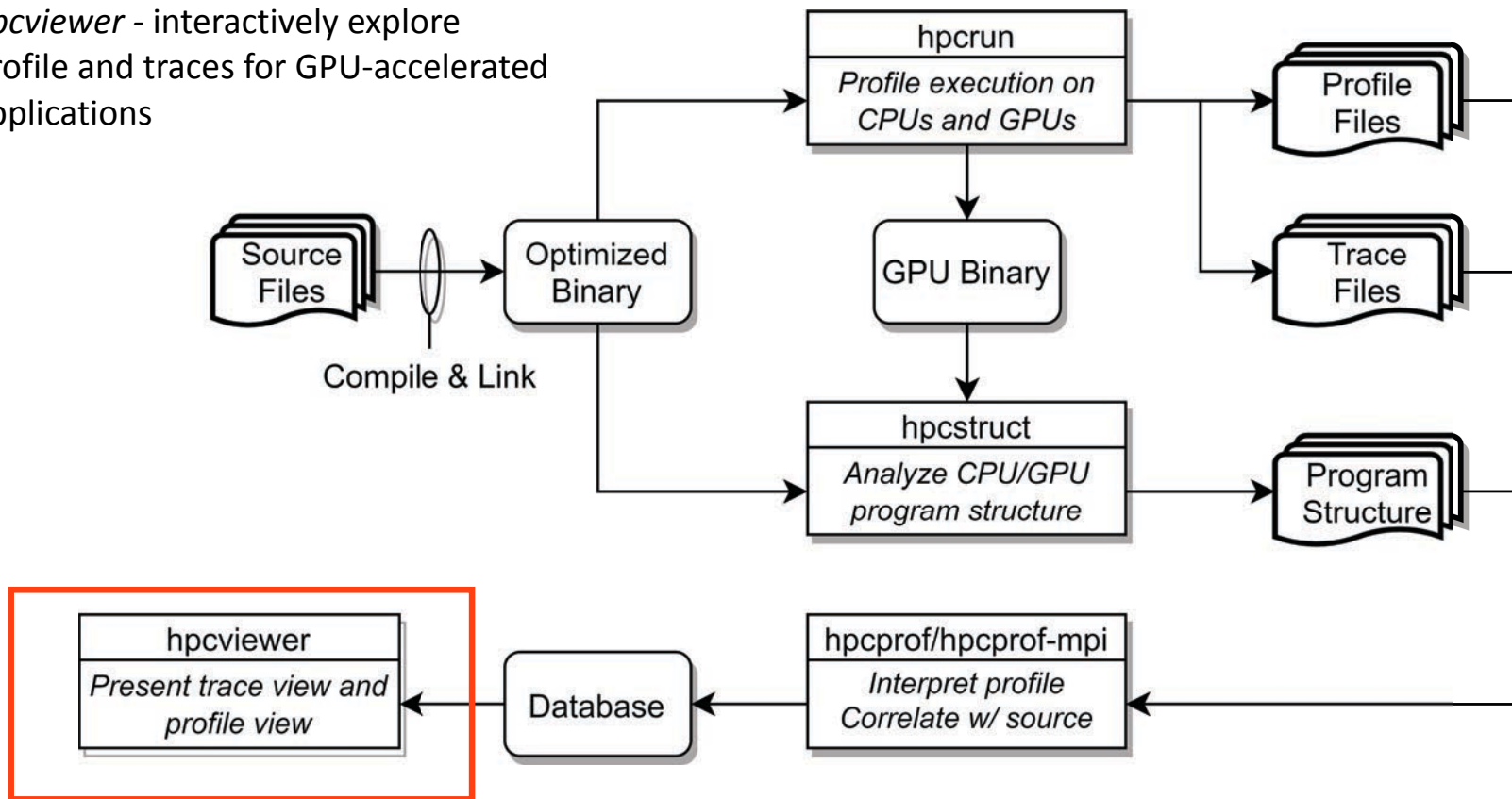
- Analyze data from large executions with distributed-memory parallelism + multithreading (large scale)

```
mpiexec -n ${NODES} --ppn 1 -depth=128 \  
hpcprof-mpi <measurement-directory>
```

HPCToolkit's Workflow for GPU-accelerated Applications

Step 4:

- *hpcviewer* - interactively explore profile and traces for GPU-accelerated applications

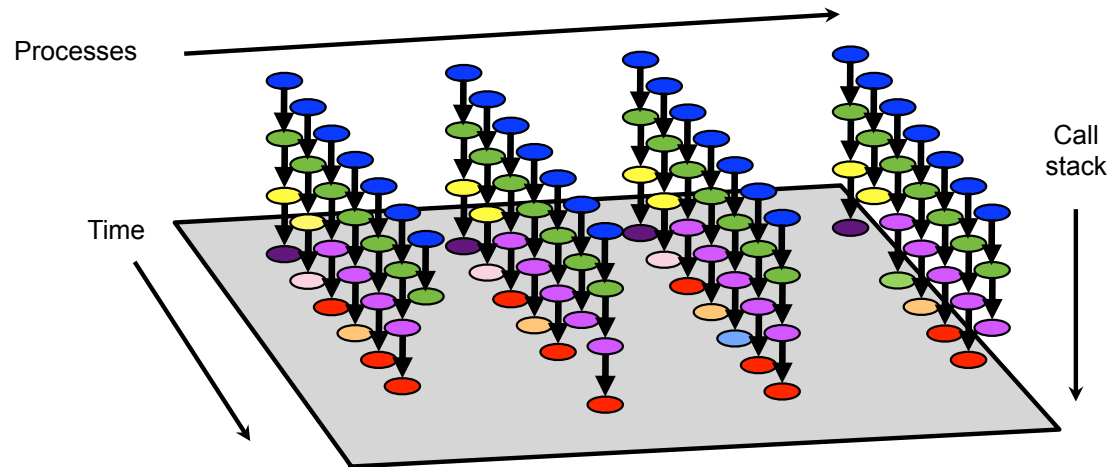


Code-centric Analysis with hpcviewer

[illegible]

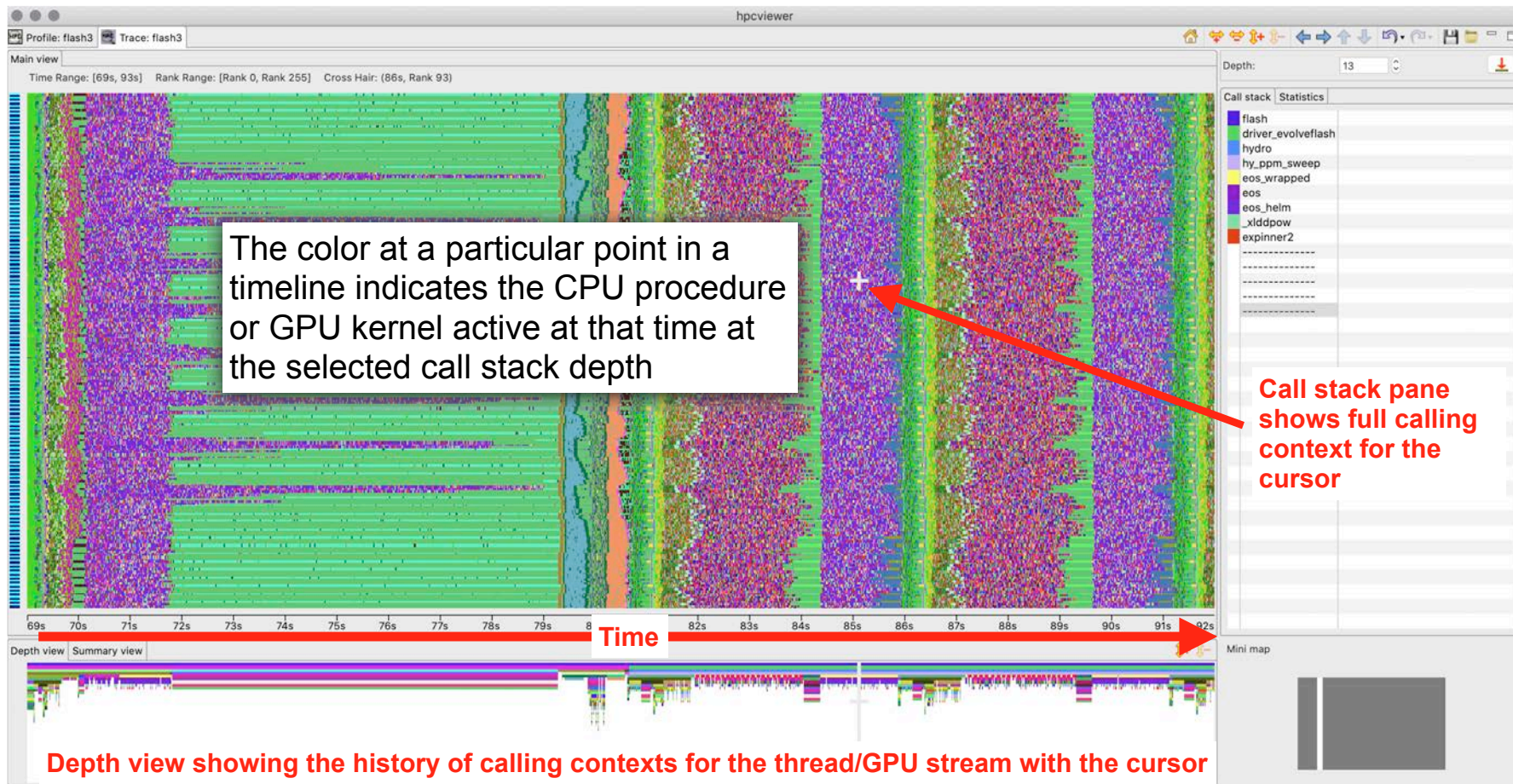
Understanding Temporal Behavior

- Profiling compresses out the temporal dimension
 - Temporal patterns, e.g. serial sections and dynamic load imbalance are invisible in profiles
- What can we do? Trace call path samples
 - N times per second, take a call path sample of each thread
 - Organize the samples for each thread along a time line
 - View how the execution evolves left to right
 - What do we view? assign each procedure a color; view a depth slice of an execution



Time-centric Analysis with hpcviewer

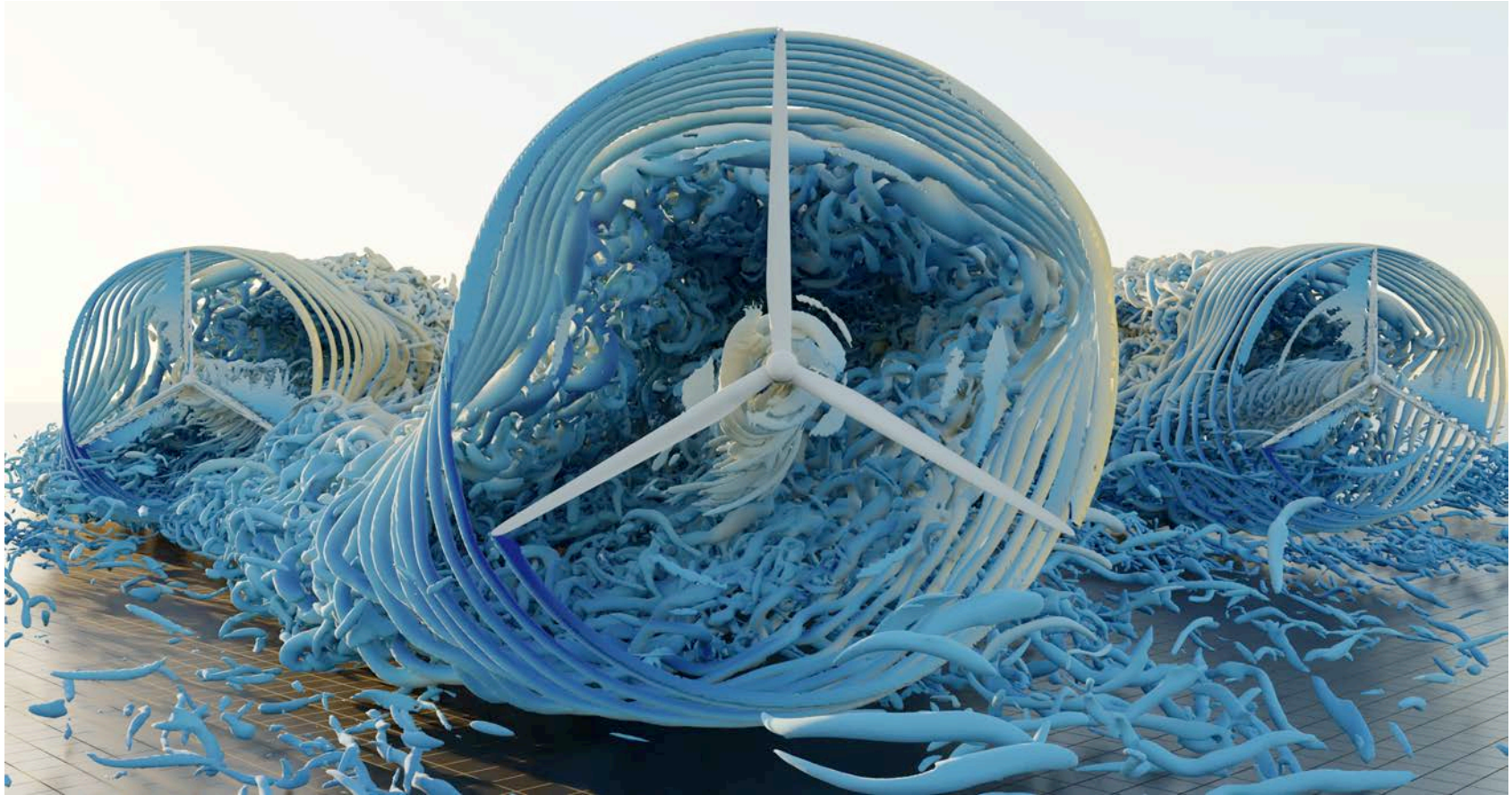
MPI ranks, OpenMP Threads, GPU streams



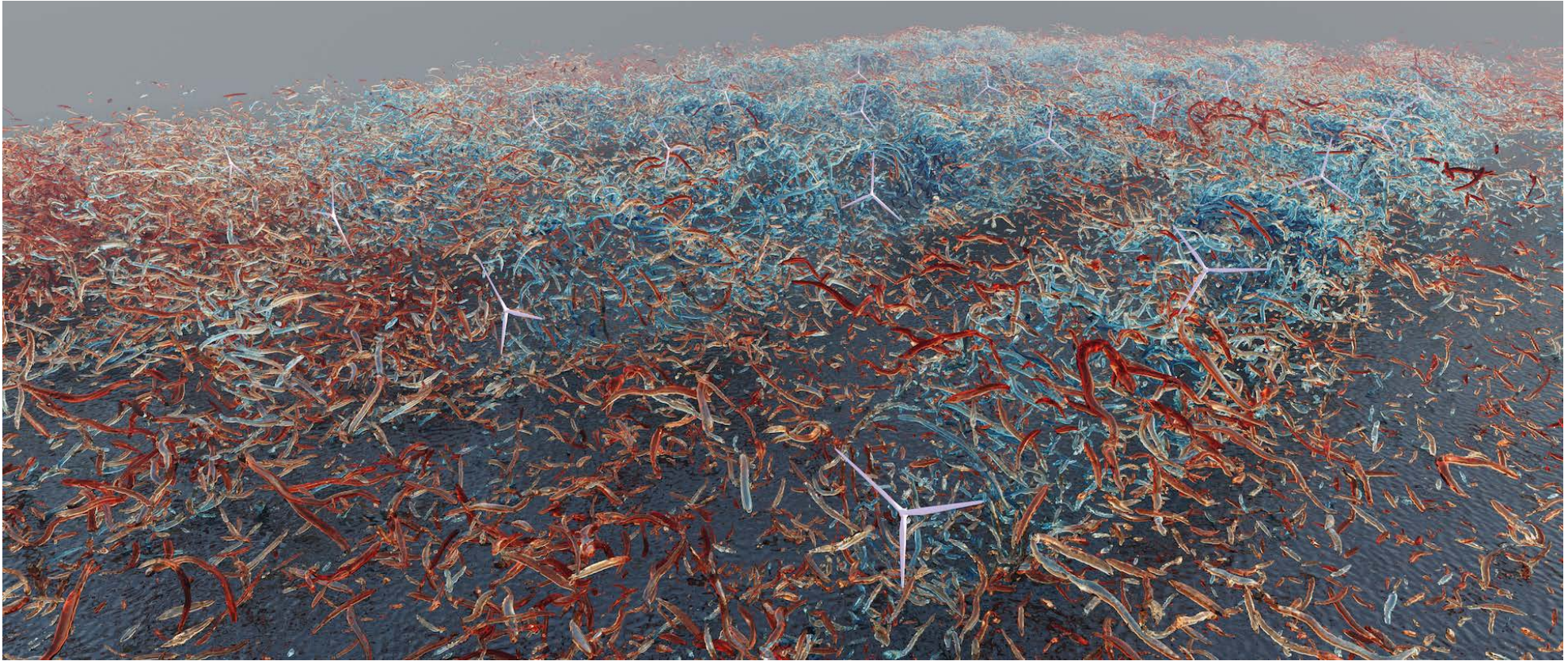
Case Studies

- ExaWind
- GAMESS (OpenMP)
- Quicksilver (CUDA)
- LAMMPS (Kokkos) at exascale

ExaWind: Wakes from Three Turbines over Time



ExaWind: Visualization of a Wind Farm Simulation



ExaWind: Execution Traces on Frontier Collected with HPCToolkit

Traces on roughly ~70K MPI ranks for ~17minutes

Before: MPI waiting (bad), shown in red

After: MPI overhead negligible*

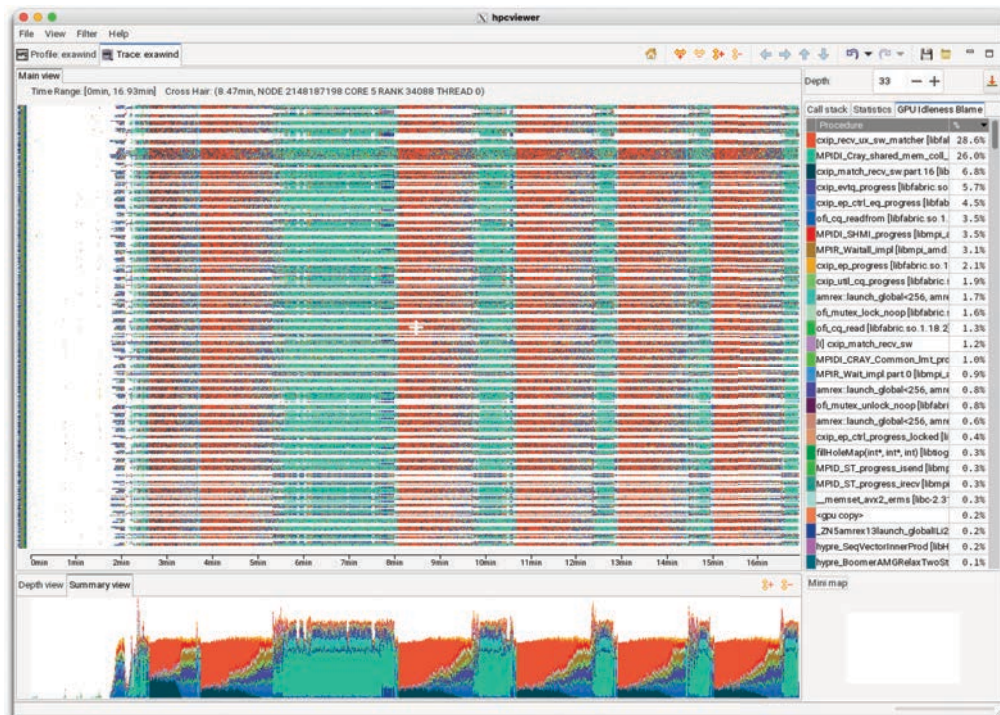


Figure credits: Jon Rood, NREL

*replaced non-blocking send/recv with ialltoallv

ExaWind Testimonials for HPCToolkit

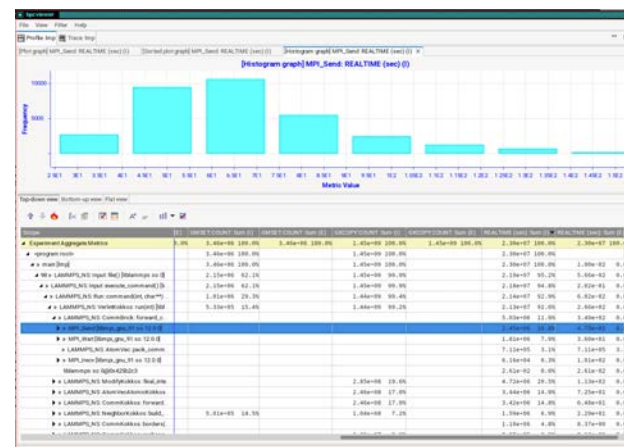
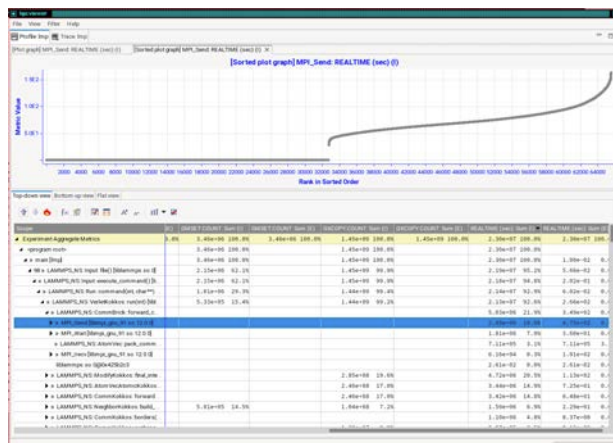
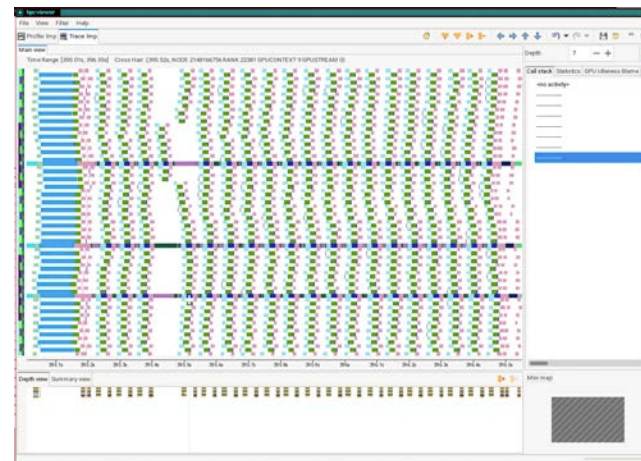
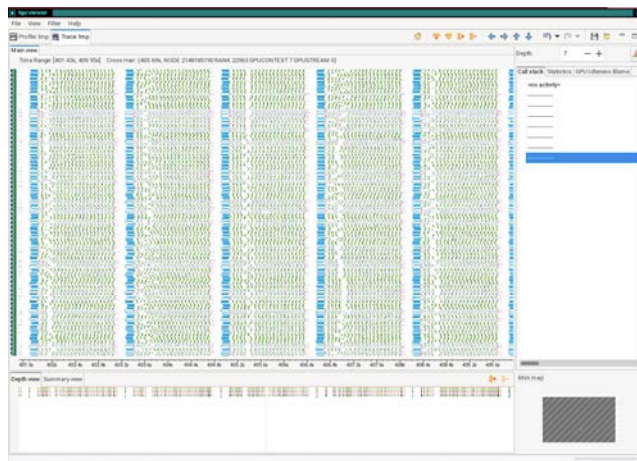
*I just wanted to mention we've been using HPCToolkit a lot for our ExaWind application on Frontier, which is **a hugely complicated code**, and **your profiler is one of the only ones we've found that really lets us easily instrument and then browse what our application is doing at runtime including GPUs**. As an example, during a recent hackathon we had, we **improved our large scale performance by 24x** by understanding our code better with HPCToolkit and **running it on 1000s of nodes while profiling**. We also recently improved upon this by 10% for our total runtime.*

- Jon Rood NREL (5/31/2024)

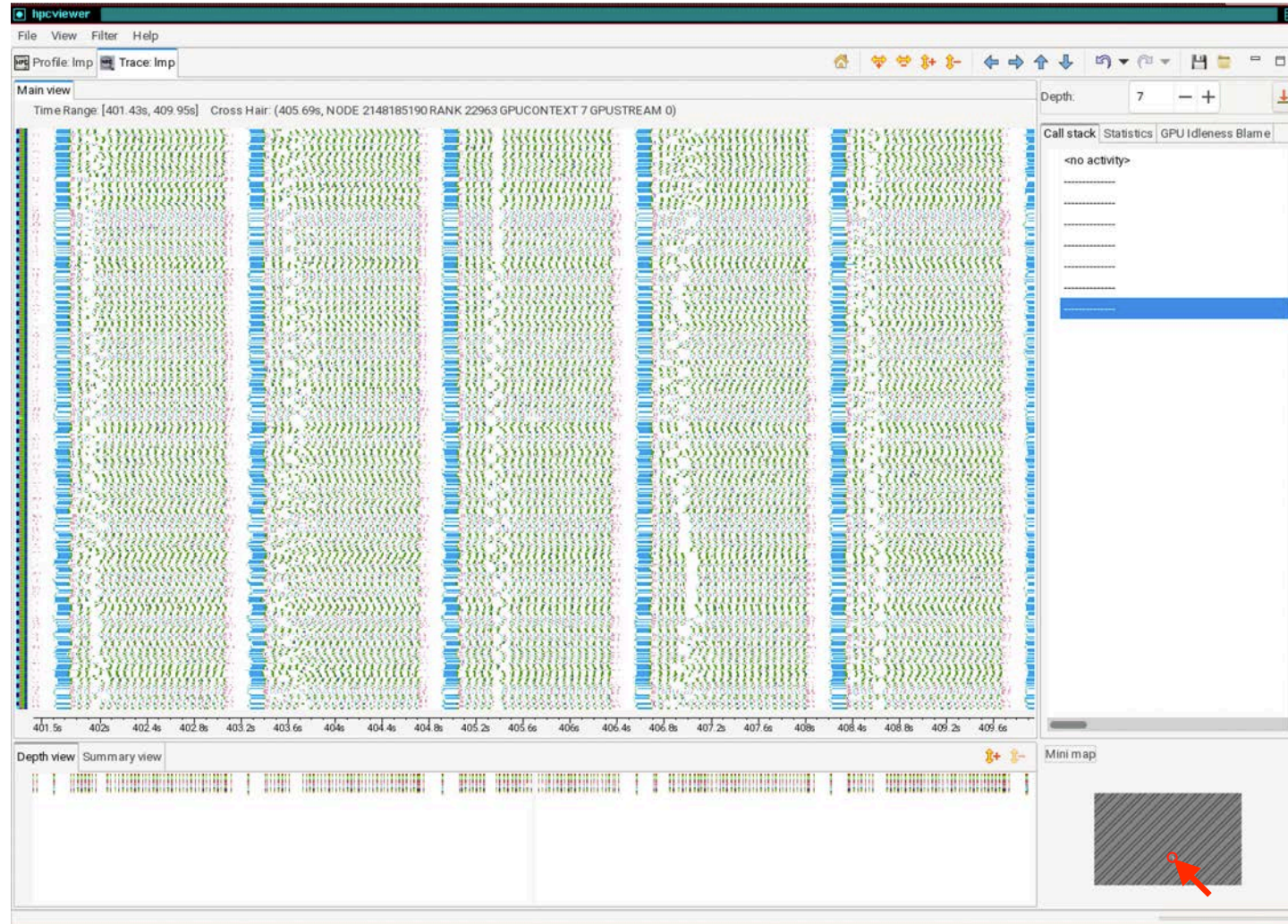
*One big thing for us is that we can't overstate how complicated ExaWind is in general, and how complicated it is to build, so finding out that **HPCToolkit could easily profile our entire application without a ton of instrumentation during the build process, and be able to profile it on a huge amount of Frontier with line numbers and visualizing the trace was really amazing to us**.*

- Jon Rood NREL (6/3/2024)

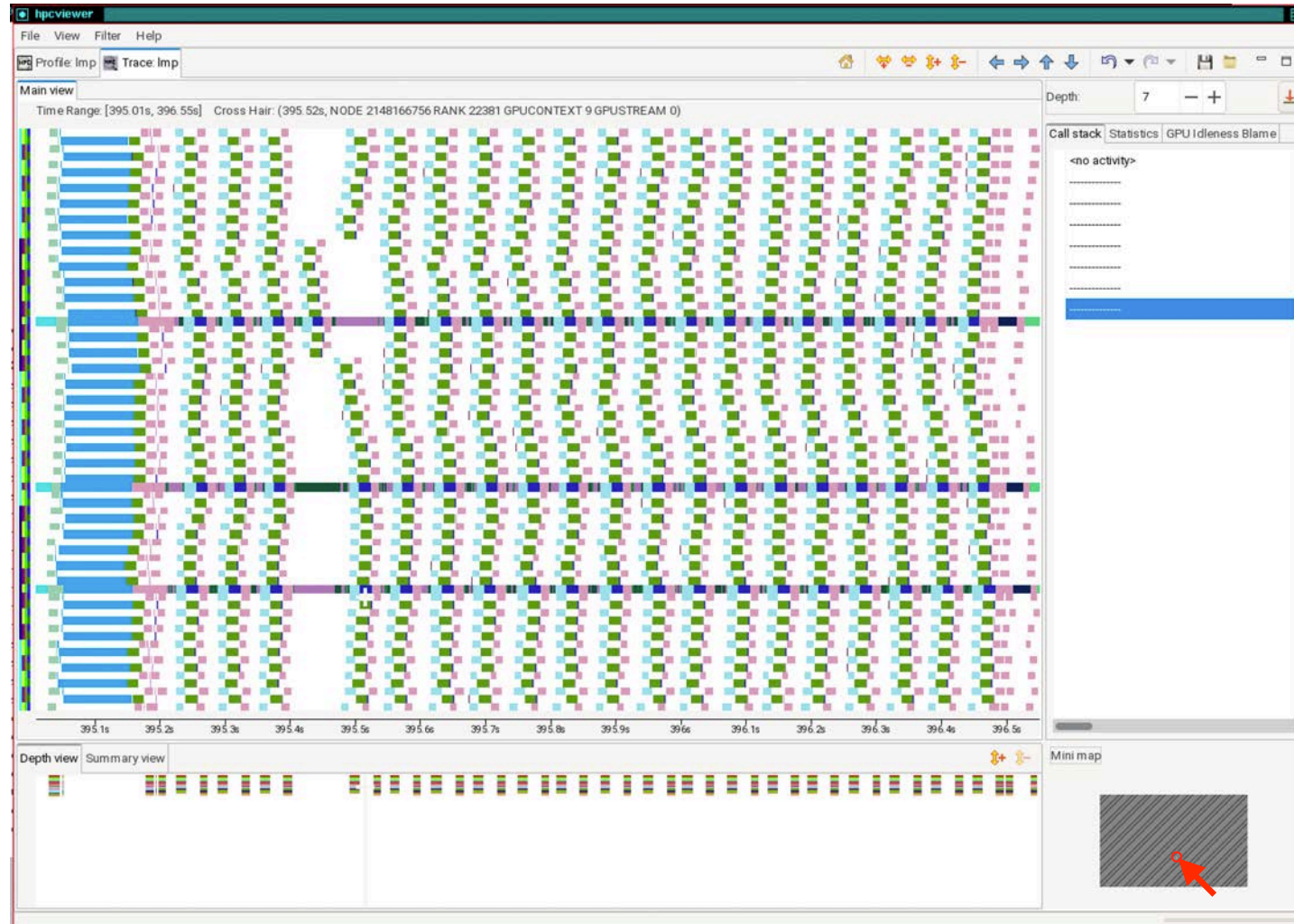
LAMMPS on Frontier: Executions with Kernel Duration of Milliseconds



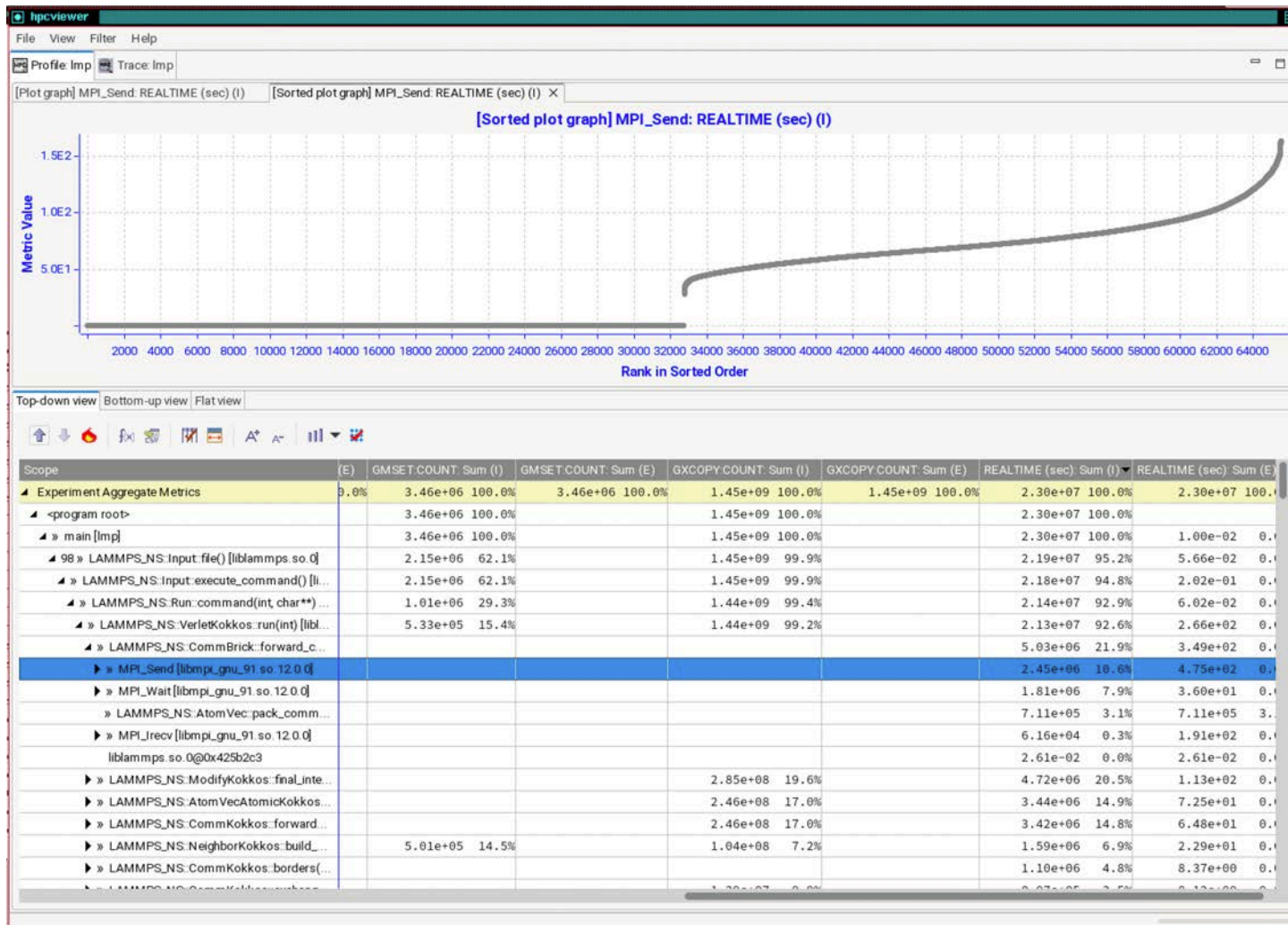
LAMMPS on Frontier: Executions with Kernel Duration of Milliseconds



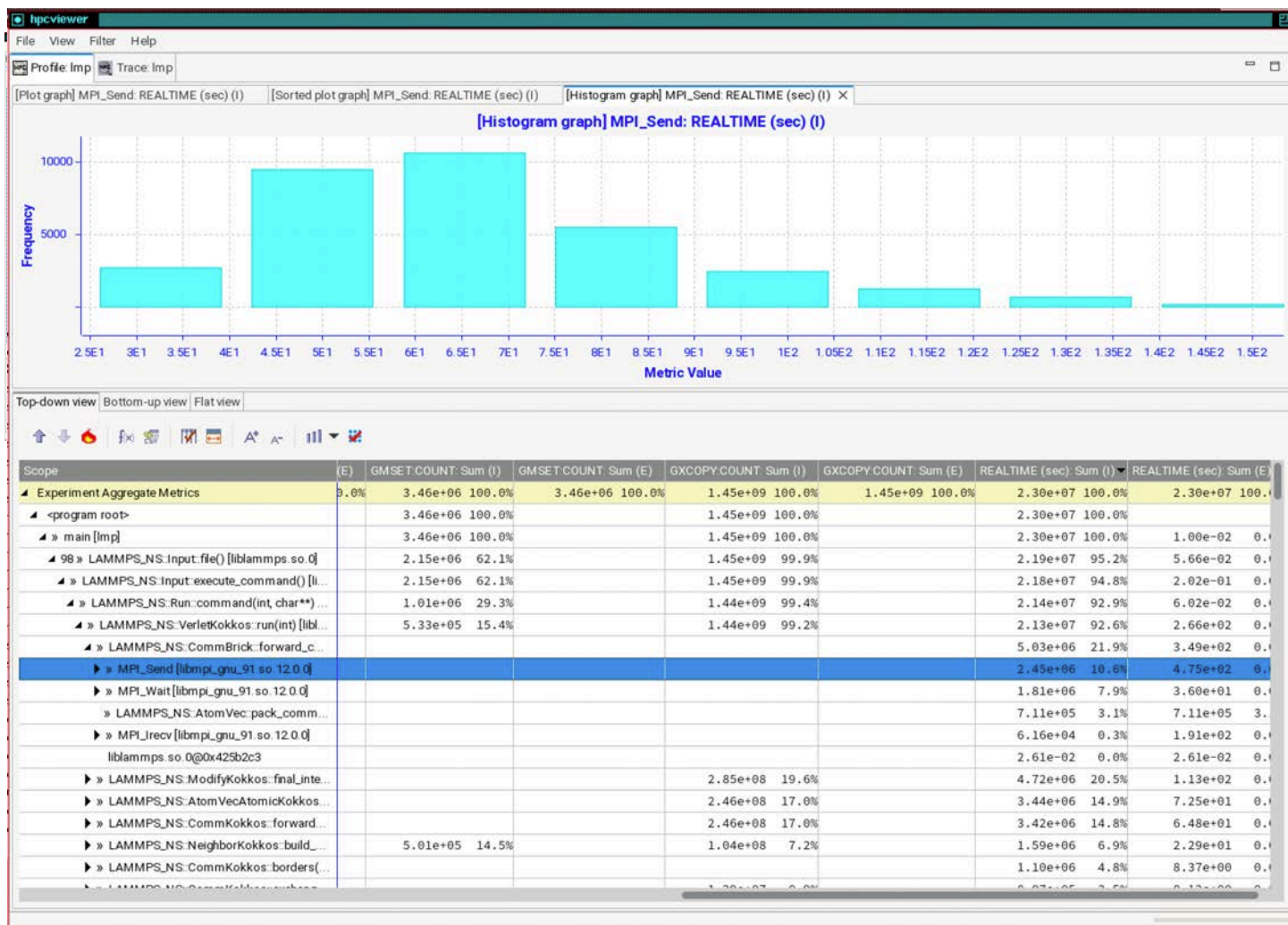
LAMMPS on Frontier: Executions with Kernel Duration of Milliseconds



LAMMPS on Frontier: Executions with Kernel Duration of Milliseconds

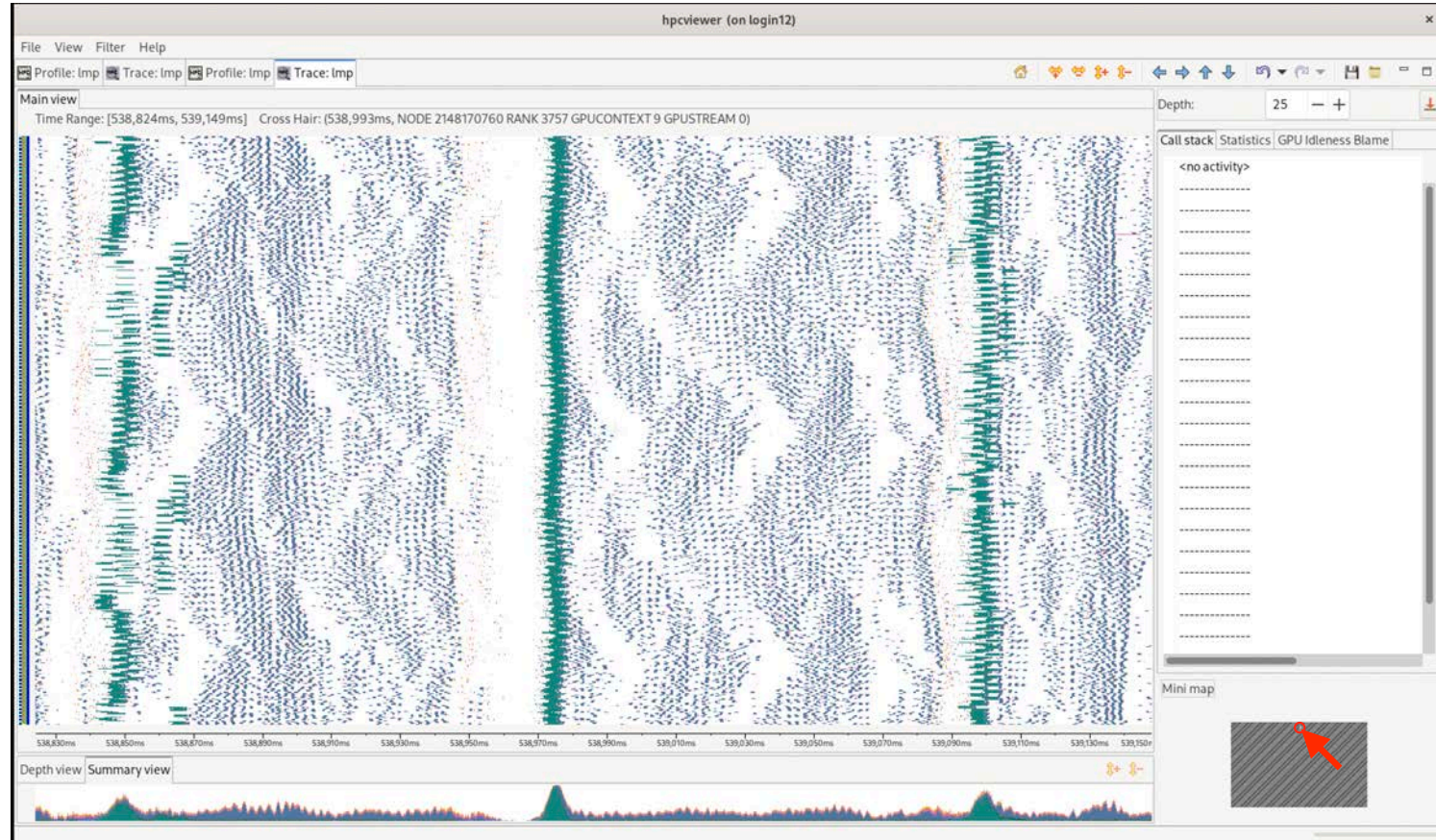


LAMMPS on Frontier: Executions with Kernel Duration of Milliseconds



LAMMPS on Frontier: 8K nodes, 64K MPI ranks + 64K GPU tiles

Kernel duration of microseconds



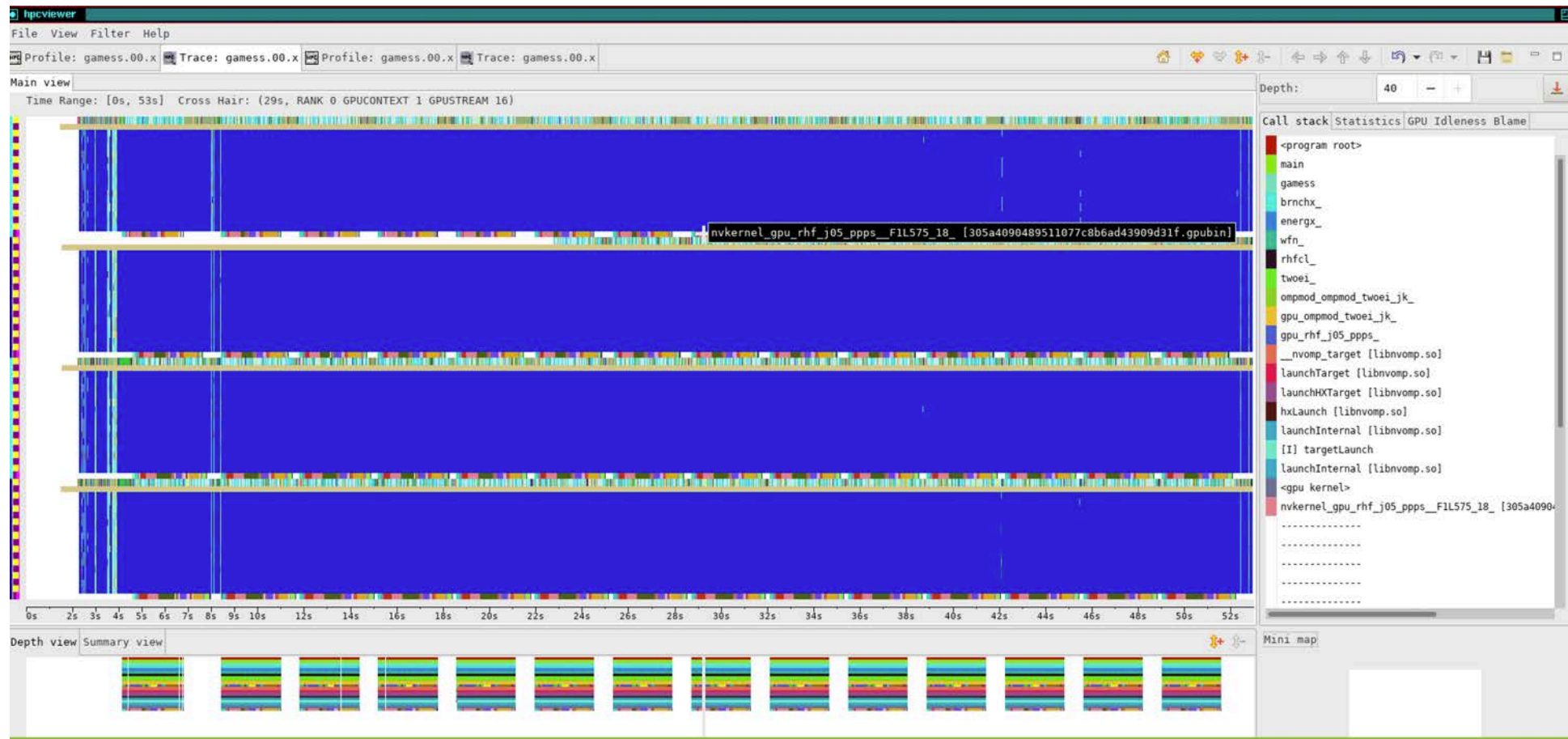
Case Study: GAMESS

- General Atomic and Molecular Electronic Structure System (GAMESS)
 - general *ab initio* quantum chemistry package
- Calculates the energies, structures, and properties of a wide range of chemical systems
- Experiments
 - GPU-accelerated nodes at a prior Perlmutter hackathon
 - Single node with 4 GPUs
 - Five nodes with 20 GPUs

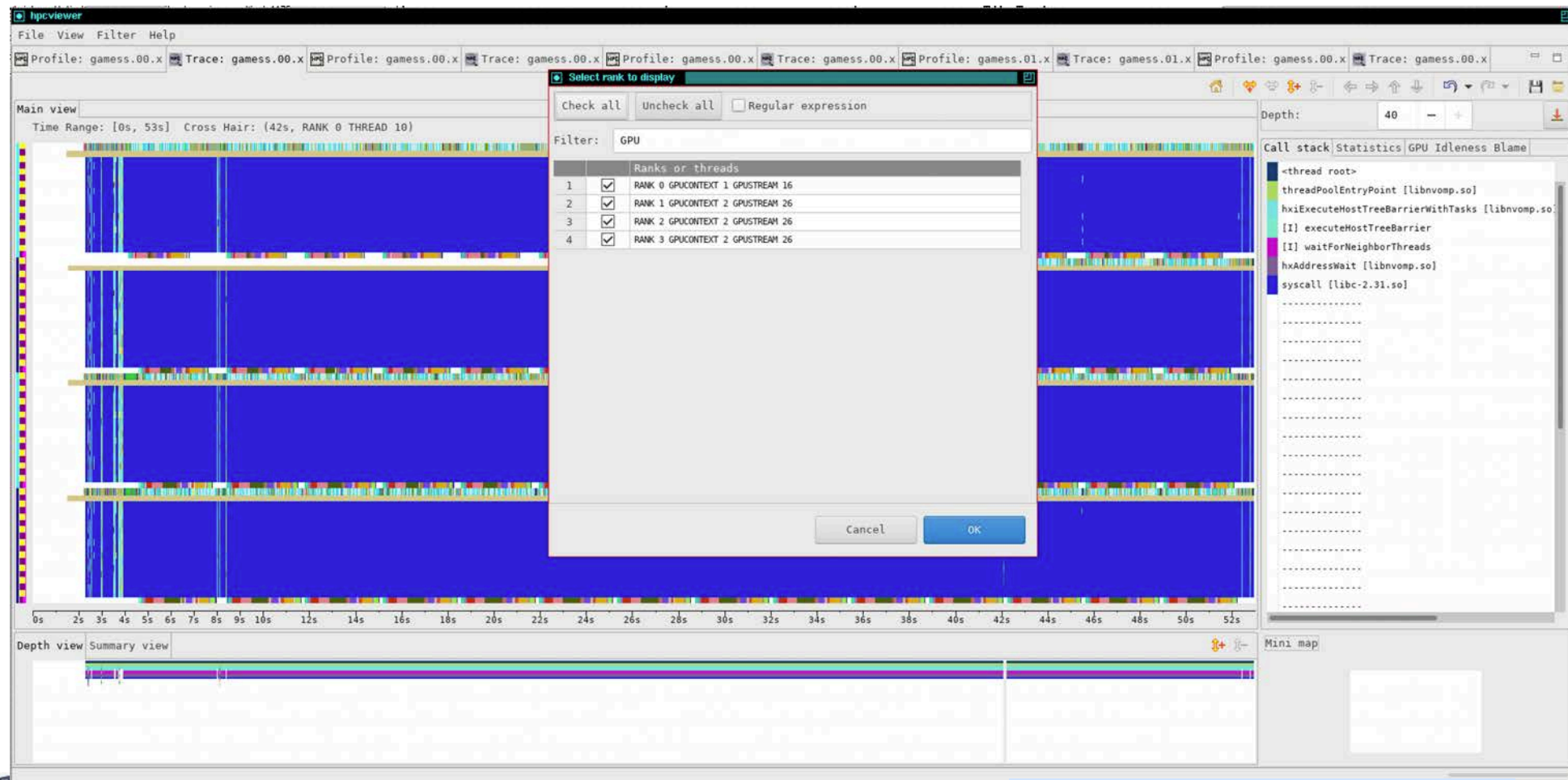
Perlmutter node at a glance

AMD Milan CPU
4 NVIDIA A100 GPUs
256 GB memory

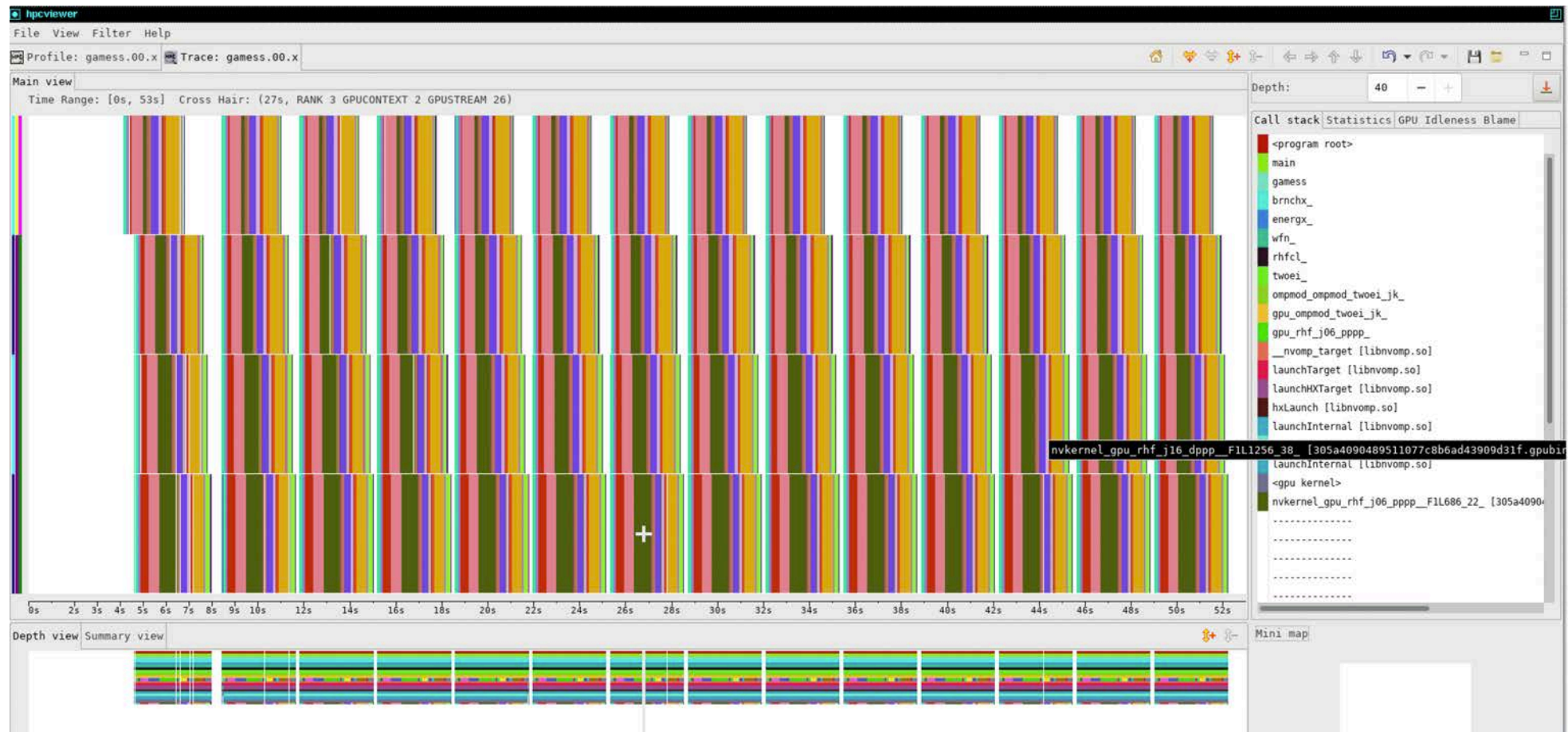
Time-centric Analysis: GAMESS 4 ranks, 4 GPUs on Perlmutter



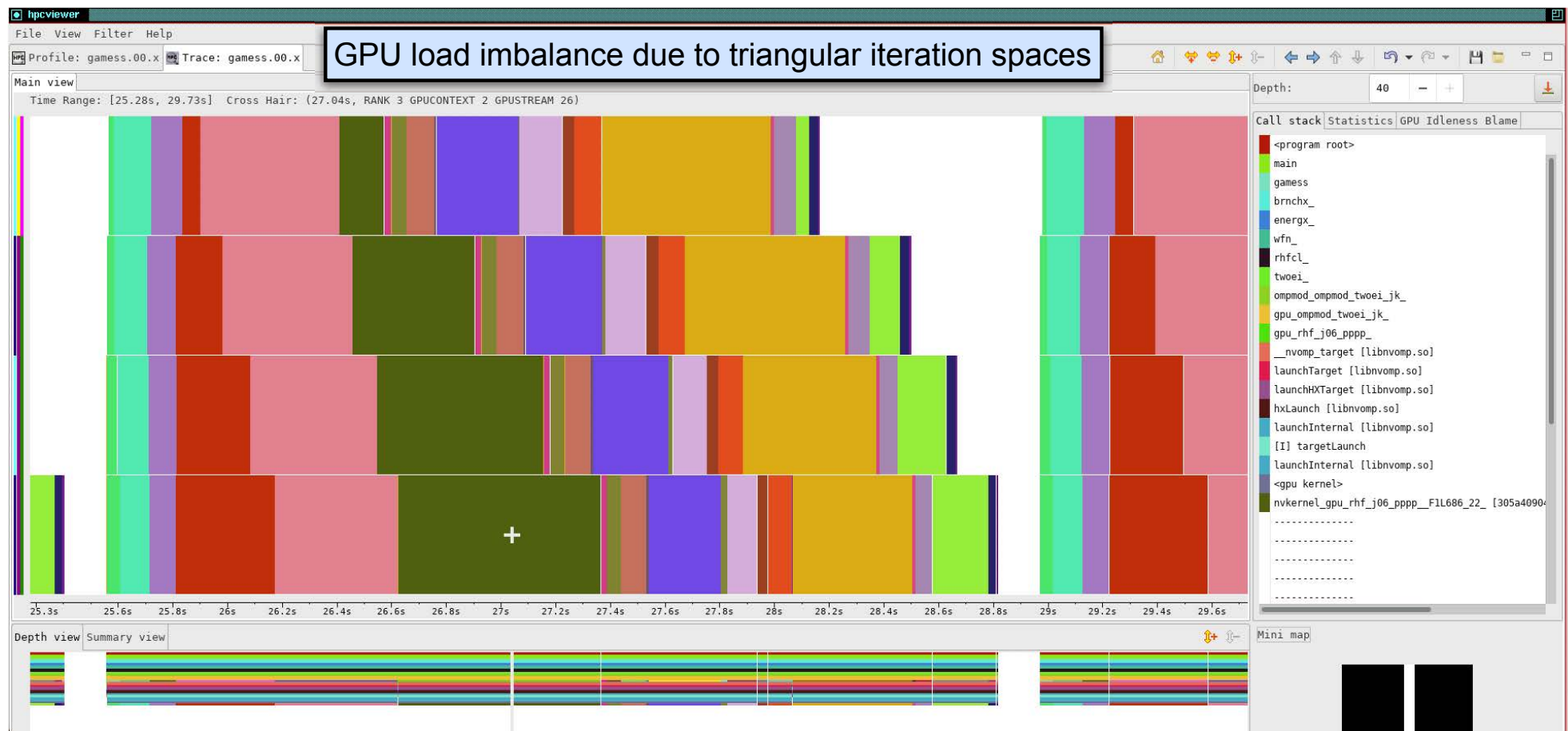
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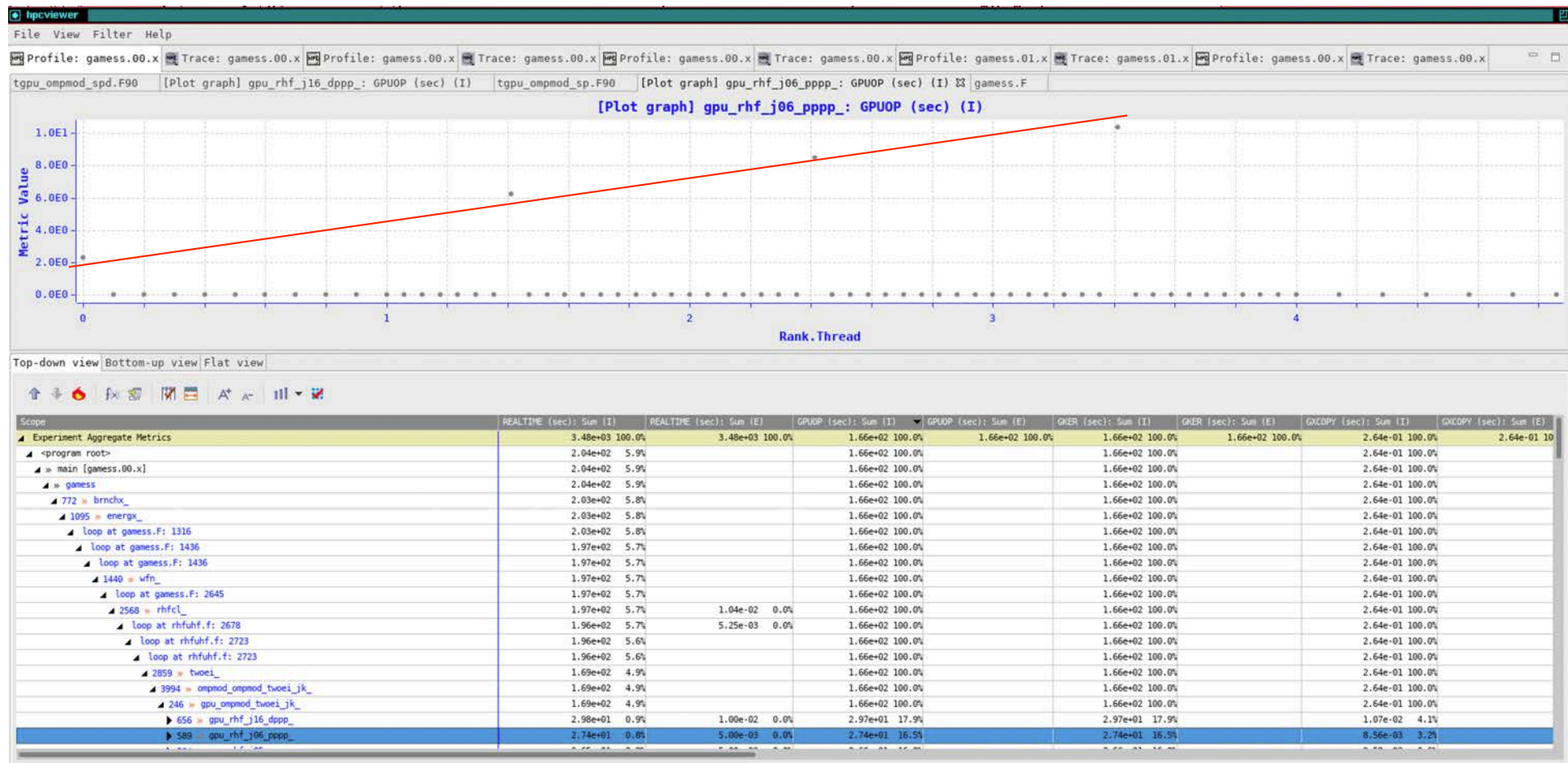
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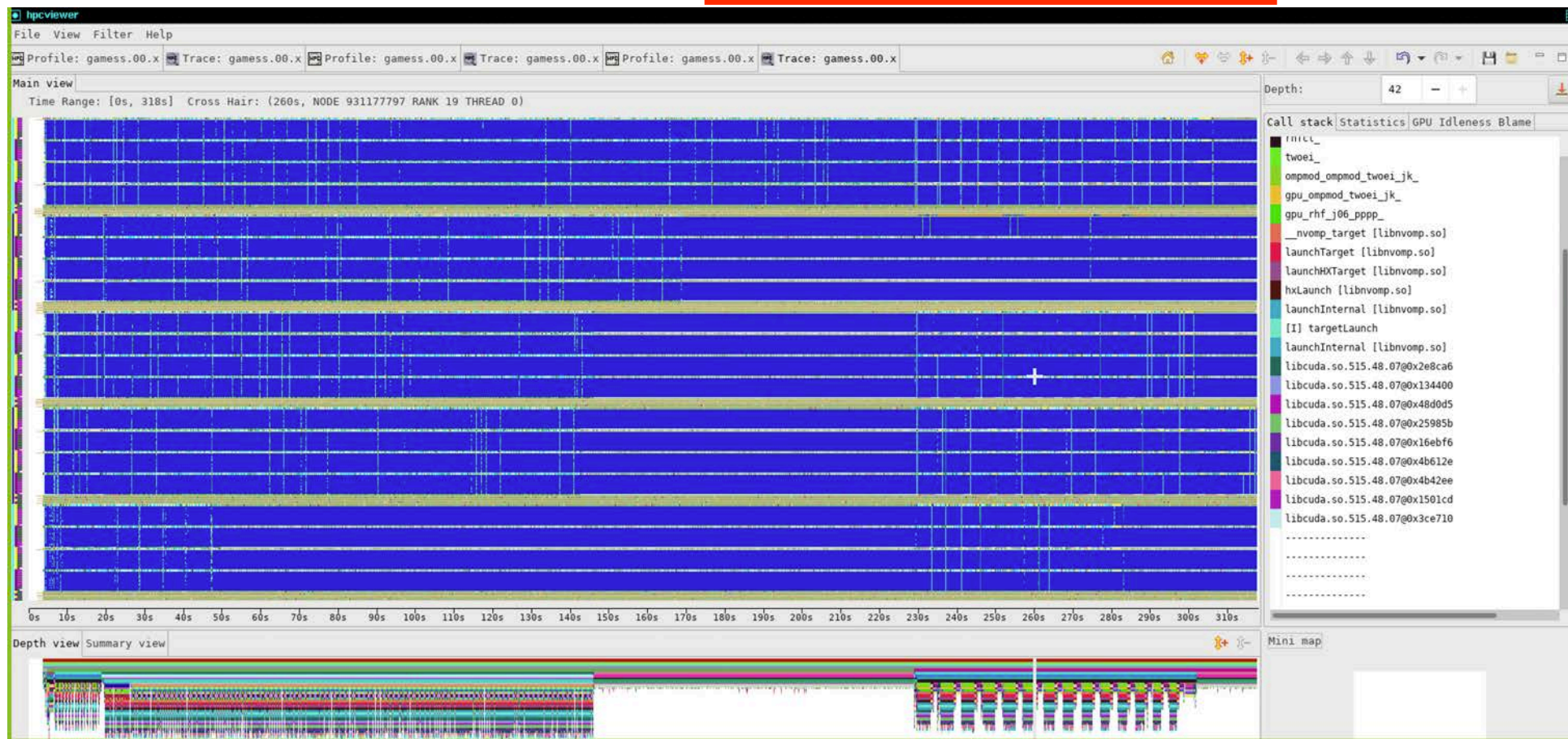
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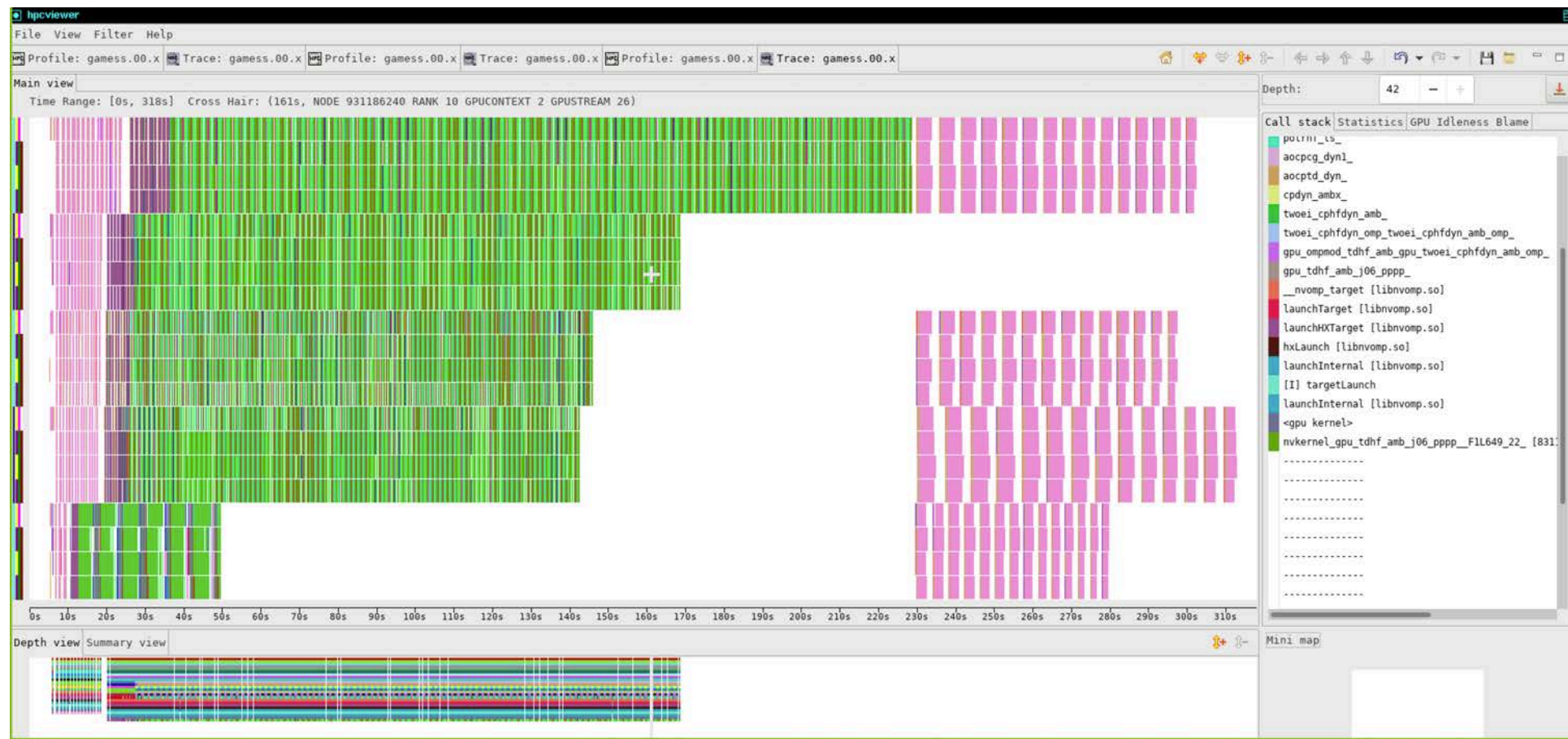
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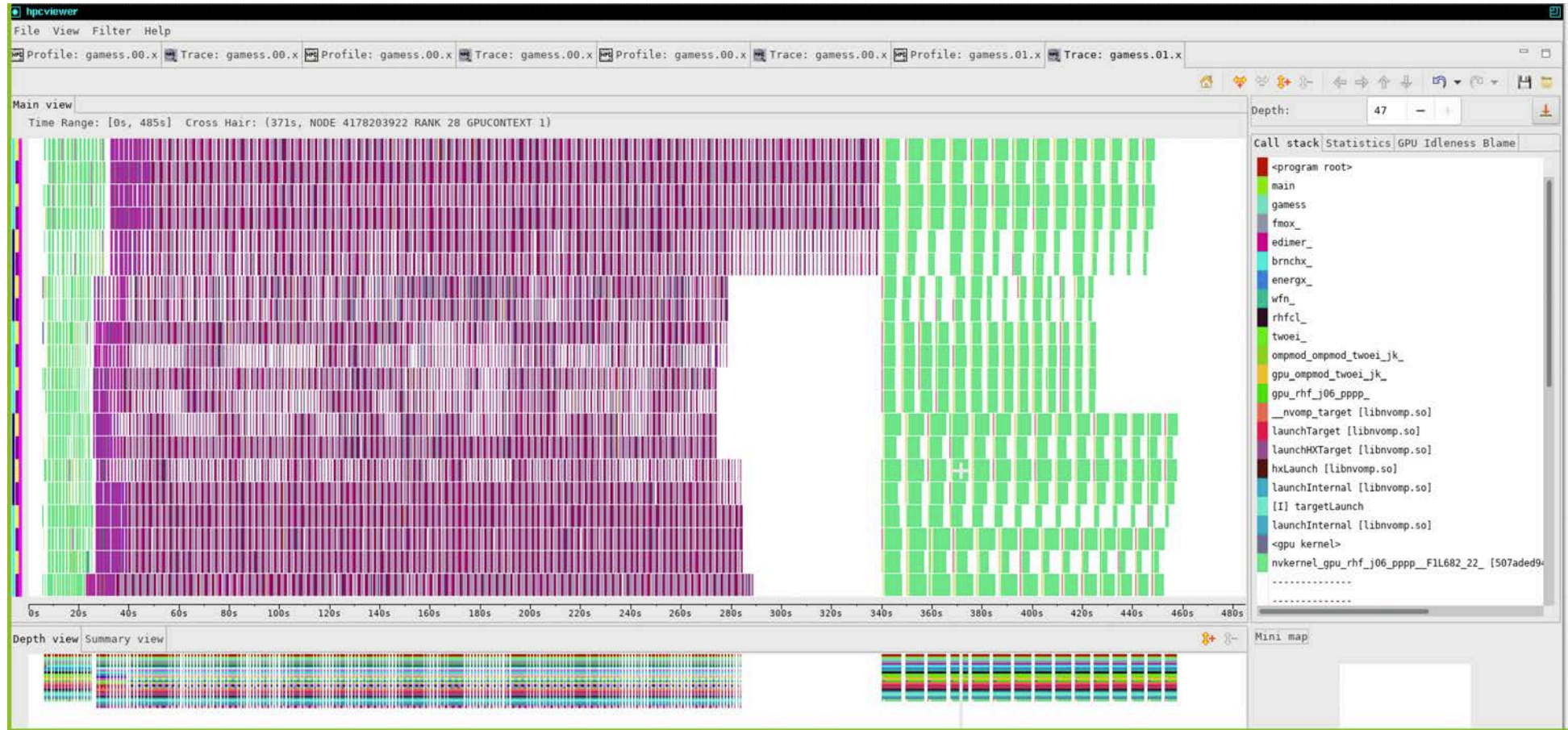
Time-centric Analysis: GAMESS 5 nodes, 40 ranks, 20 GPUs on Perlmutter



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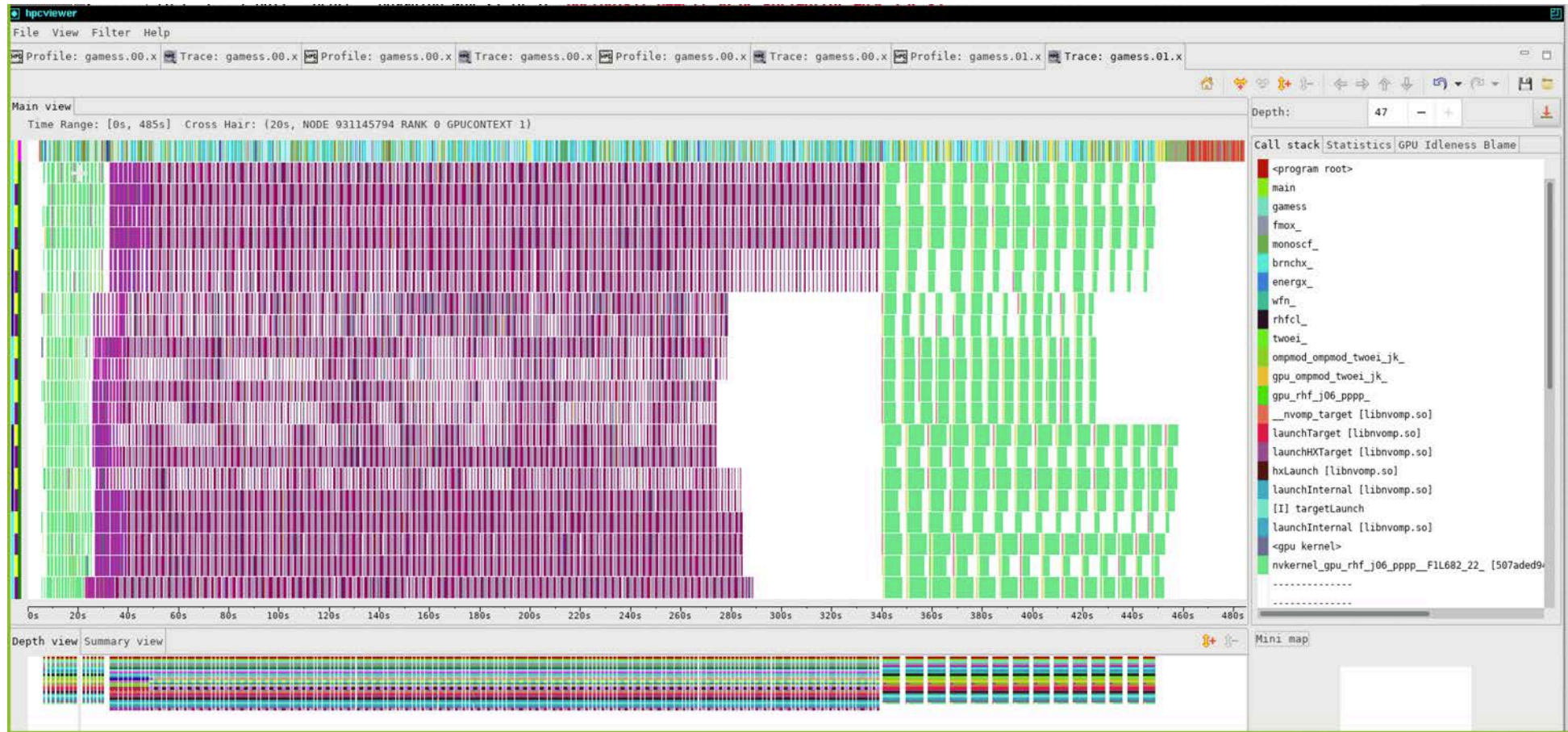


Time-centric Analysis: GAMESS 5 nodes, 40 ranks, 20 GPUs on Perlmutter

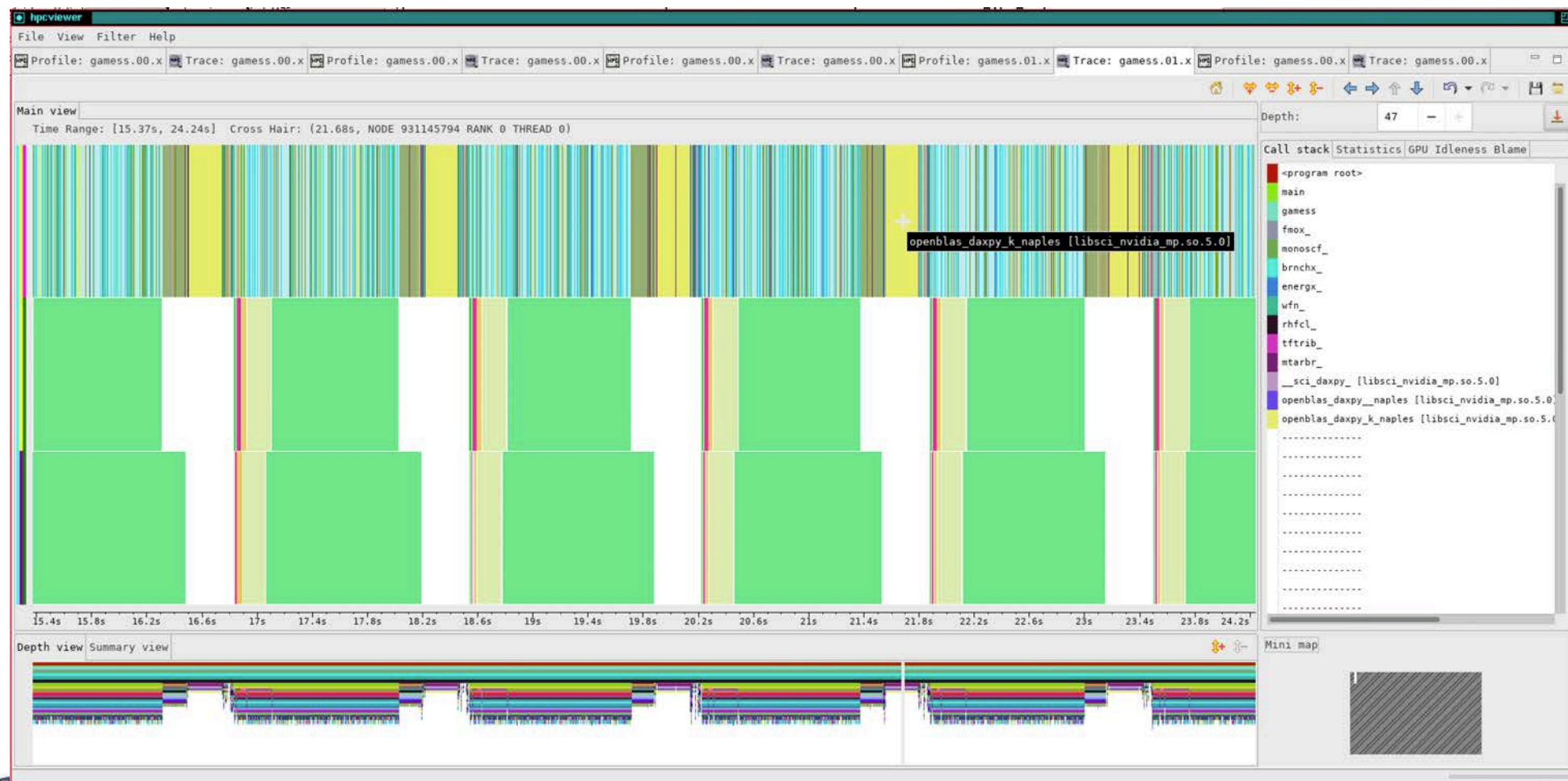


GAMESS improved with better manual distribution of work in input

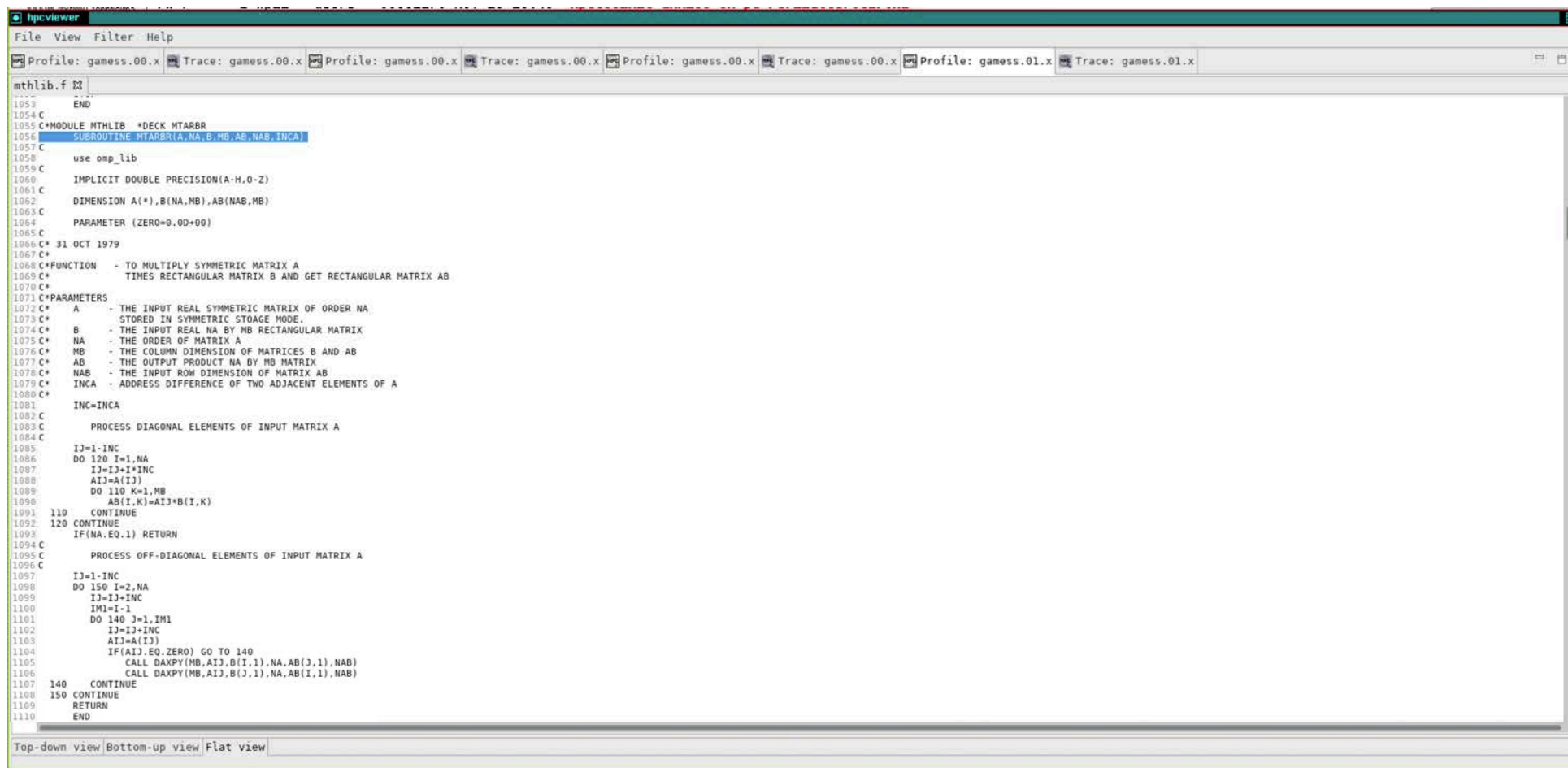
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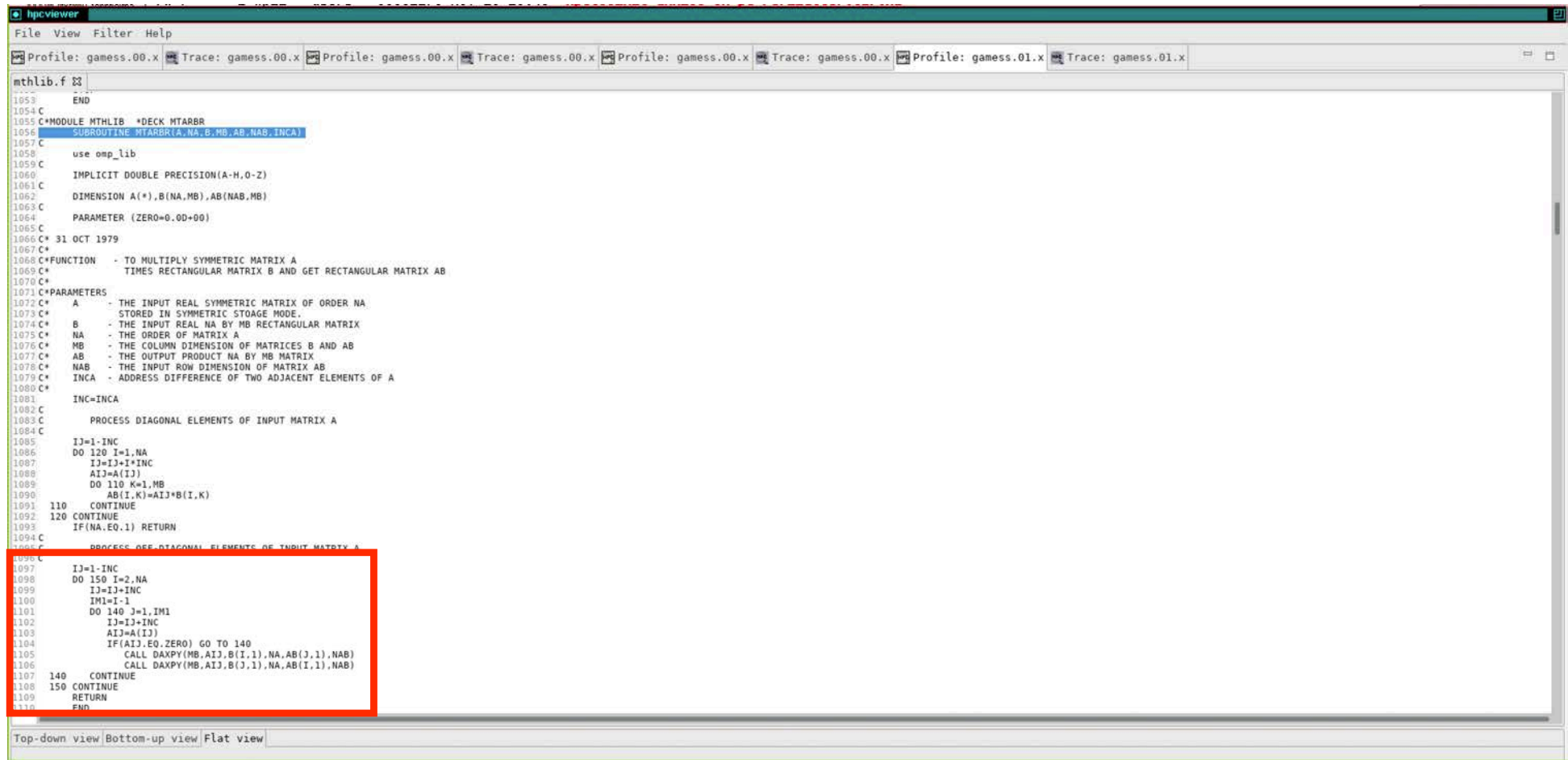


```
hpcviewer
File View Filter Help
Profile: gameess.00.x Trace: gameess.00.x Profile: gameess.00.x Trace: gameess.00.x Profile: gameess.01.x Trace: gameess.01.x

mthlib.f
1053 END
1054 C
1055 C*MODULE MTHLIB *DECK MTARBR
1056 SUBROUTINE MTARBR(A,NA,B,MB,AB,NAB,INCA)
1057 C
1058 use omp_lib
1059 C
1060 IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION(A-H,O-Z)
1061 C
1062 DIMENSION A(*),B(NA,MB),AB(NAB,MB)
1063 C
1064 PARAMETER (ZERO=0.0D+00)
1065 C
1066 C* 31 OCT 1979
1067 C*
1068 C*FUNCTION - TO MULTIPLY SYMMETRIC MATRIX A
1069 C* TIMES RECTANGULAR MATRIX B AND GET RECTANGULAR MATRIX AB
1070 C*
1071 C*PARAMETERS
1072 C* A - THE INPUT REAL SYMMETRIC MATRIX OF ORDER NA
1073 C* STORED IN SYMMETRIC STORAGE MODE.
1074 C* B - THE INPUT REAL NA BY MB RECTANGULAR MATRIX
1075 C* NA - THE ORDER OF MATRIX A
1076 C* MB - THE COLUMN DIMENSION OF MATRICES B AND AB
1077 C* AB - THE OUTPUT PRODUCT NA BY MB MATRIX
1078 C* NAB - THE INPUT ROW DIMENSION OF MATRIX AB
1079 C* INCA - ADDRESS DIFFERENCE OF TWO ADJACENT ELEMENTS OF A
1080 C*
1081 INC=INCA
1082 C
1083 C PROCESS DIAGONAL ELEMENTS OF INPUT MATRIX A
1084 C
1085 IJ=1-INC
1086 DO 120 I=1,NA
1087 IJ=IJ+INC
1088 AIJ=A(IJ)
1089 DO 110 K=1,MB
1090 AB(I,K)=AIJ*B(I,K)
1091 110 CONTINUE
1092 120 CONTINUE
1093 IF(NA.EQ.1) RETURN
1094 C
1095 C PROCESS OFF-DIAGONAL ELEMENTS OF INPUT MATRIX A
1096 C
1097 IJ=1-INC
1098 DO 150 I=2,NA
1099 IJ=IJ+INC
1100 IM1=I-1
1101 DO 140 J=1,IM1
1102 IJ=IJ+INC
1103 AIJ=A(IJ)
1104 IF(AIJ.EQ.ZERO) GO TO 140
1105 CALL DAXPY(MB,AIJ,B(I,1),NA,AB(J,1),NAB)
1106 CALL DAXPY(MB,AIJ,B(J,1),NA,AB(I,1),NAB)
1107 140 CONTINUE
1108 150 CONTINUE
1109 RETURN
1110 END

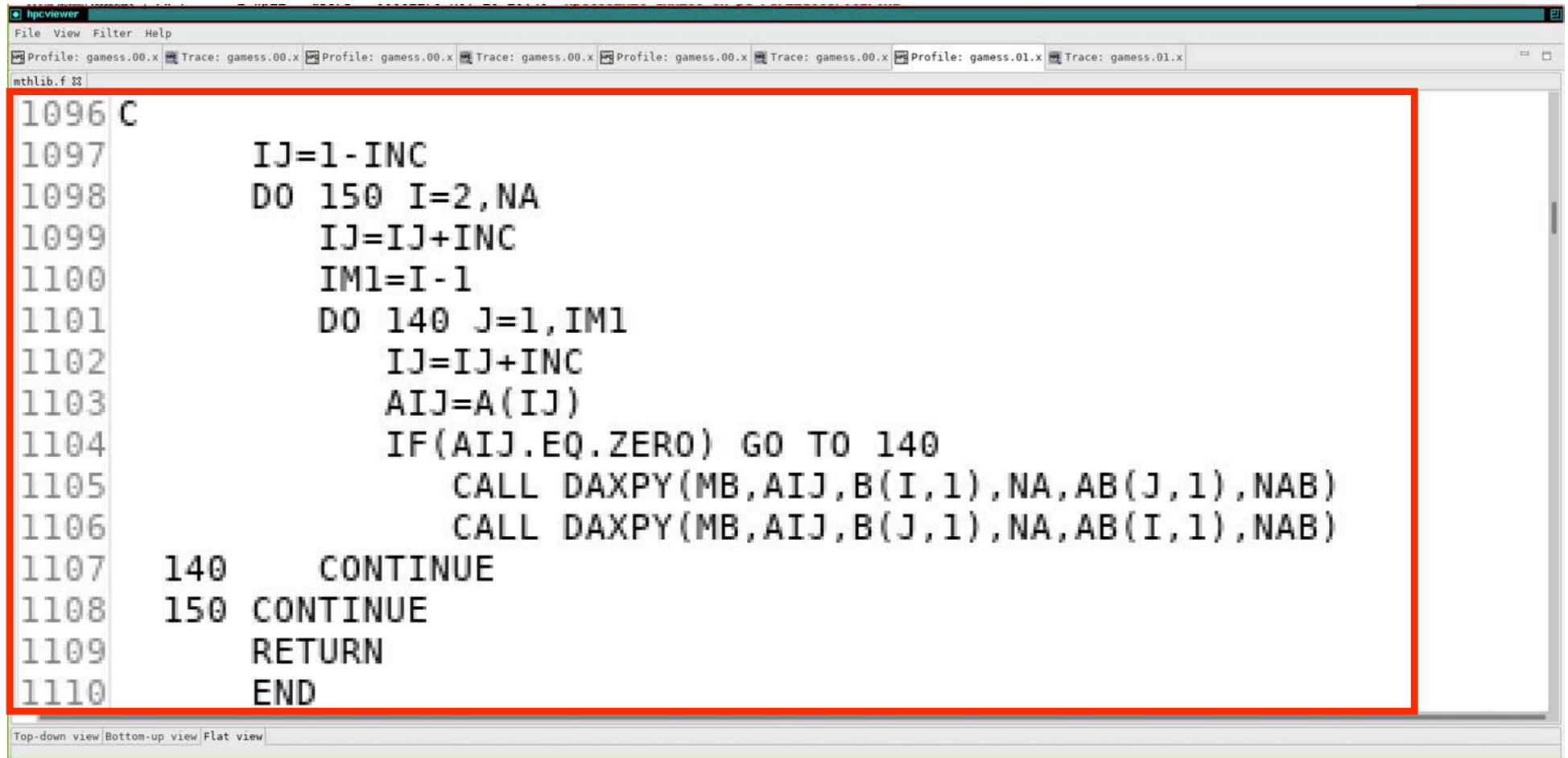
Top-down view Bottom-up view Flat view
```

Time-centric Analysis: GAMESS 5 nodes, 40 ranks, 20 GPUs on Perlmutter



```
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File View Filter Help
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1053 END
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1108 150 CONTINUE
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1110 END
Top-down view Bottom-up view Flat view
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1096 C
1097     IJ=1-INC
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1099         IJ=IJ+INC
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1103             AIJ=A(IJ)
1104             IF(AIJ.EQ.ZERO) GO TO 140
1105                 CALL DAXPY(MB,AIJ,B(I,1),NA,AB(J,1),NAB)
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1107 140     CONTINUE
1108 150 CONTINUE
1109     RETURN
1110     END
```

Case Study: Quicksilver

- Proxy application that represents some elements of LLNL's Mercury workload
- Solves a simplified dynamic Monte Carlo particle transport problem
 - Attempts to replicate memory access patterns, communication patterns, and branching or divergence of Mercury for problems using multigroup cross sections
- Parallelization: MPI, OpenMP, and CUDA
- Performance Issues
 - load imbalance (for canned example)
 - latency bound table look-ups
 - a highly branchy/divergent code path
 - poor vectorization potential

Quicksilver: Detailed analysis within a Kernel using PC Sampling

The screenshot displays the hpcviewer application interface. The top pane shows the source code for `CollisionEvent.cc`, with lines 73-85 highlighted in blue. The bottom pane shows a performance analysis table with columns for various metrics and a tree view on the left.

Source Code (CollisionEvent.cc):

```

69 int uniqueNumber = monteCarlo->materialDatabase->mat[globalMatIndex]._iso[isoIndex]._gid;
70 int numReacts = monteCarlo->nuclearData->getNumberReactions(uniqueNumber);
71 for (int reactIndex = 0; reactIndex < numReacts; reactIndex++)
72 {
73     currentCrossSection -= macroscopicCrossSection(monteCarlo, reactIndex, mc_particle.domain, mc_particle.cell,
74     isoIndex, mc_particle.energy_group);
75     if (currentCrossSection < 0)
76     {
77         selectedIso = isoIndex;
78         selectedUniqueNumber = uniqueNumber;
79         selectedReact = reactIndex;
80         break;
81     }
82 }
83 }
84 qs_assert(selectedIso != -1);
85

```

Performance Analysis Table:

Scope	GINs: Sum (I)	GINs: Sum (E)	GINs:STL_ANY: Sum (I)	GINs:STL_ANY: Sum (E)	GINs:STL_IFET: Sum (I)	GINs:STL_IFET: Sum (E)	GINs:STL_IDEP:
14 » [1] cudaLaunchKernel<char>	1.30e+11 100.0%		1.19e+11 100.0%		5.27e+09 100.0%		9.34e+
211 » cudaLaunchKernel [qs]	1.30e+11 100.0%		1.19e+11 100.0%		5.27e+09 100.0%		9.34e+
» <gpu kernel>	1.30e+11 100.0%		1.19e+11 100.0%		5.27e+09 100.0%		9.34e+
» CycleTrackingKernel(MonteCarlo*, int, ParticleVault*, ParticleVau...	1.30e+11 100.0%	4.08e+07 0.0%	1.19e+11 100.0%	3.62e+07 0.0%	5.27e+09 100.0%	2.11e+07 0.4%	9.34e+
132 » CycleTrackingGuts(MonteCarlo*, int, ParticleVault*, Particle...	1.30e+11 100.0%	9.03e+09 7.0%	1.19e+11 100.0%	9.01e+09 7.6%	5.24e+09 99.5%	8.98e+06 0.2%	9.32e+
26 » [1] CycleTrackingFunction(MonteCarlo*, MC_Particle&, int, P...	8.36e+10 64.4%	4.12e+08 0.3%	7.25e+10 61.1%	3.65e+08 0.3%	5.21e+09 98.9%	1.02e+08 1.9%	9.25e+
» loop at CycleTracking.cc: 118	8.35e+10 64.3%	3.76e+08 0.3%	7.25e+10 61.1%	3.34e+08 0.3%	5.21e+09 98.8%	9.90e+07 1.9%	9.24e+
63 » CollisionEvent(MonteCarlo*, MC_Particle&, unsigned int) [...	5.20e+10 40.1%	4.99e+09 3.8%	4.44e+10 37.4%	4.02e+09 3.4%	3.85e+09 73.1%	4.89e+08 9.3%	6.37e+
» loop at CollisionEvent.cc: 67	4.09e+10 31.5%	8.15e+08 0.6%	3.42e+10 28.8%	6.54e+08 0.6%	3.54e+09 67.1%	1.27e+08 2.4%	5.67e+
» loop at CollisionEvent.cc: 71	3.85e+10 29.6%	2.70e+09 2.1%	3.22e+10 27.1%	2.06e+09 1.7%	3.27e+09 62.0%	2.28e+08 4.3%	5.33e+
73 » macroscopicCrossSection(MonteCarlo*, int, int, int, 1...	3.58e+10 27.5%	1.22e+10 9.4%	3.01e+10 25.4%	9.85e+09 8.3%	3.04e+09 57.7%	1.79e+09 33.9%	4.60e+
41 » NuclearData::getReactionCrossSection(unsigned int, u...	2.09e+10 16.1%	1.09e+10 8.4%	1.79e+10 15.1%	9.42e+09 7.9%	1.26e+09 23.8%	6.68e+08 12.7%	2.19e+
253 » [I] NuclearDataReaction::getCrossSection(unsigned ...	6.89e+09 5.3%	3.77e+09 2.9%	5.86e+09 4.9%	3.32e+09 2.8%	2.25e+08 4.3%	8.24e+07 1.6%	8.86e+
NuclearData.cc: 253	6.28e+09 4.8%	6.28e+09 4.8%	5.66e+09 4.8%	5.66e+09 4.8%	4.76e+08 9.0%	4.76e+08 9.0%	6.11e+
NuclearData.cc: 251	1.85e+09 1.4%	1.85e+09 1.4%	1.64e+09 1.4%	1.64e+09 1.4%	8.12e+07 1.5%	8.12e+07 1.5%	2.47e+
NuclearData.cc: 248	1.61e+09 1.2%	1.61e+09 1.2%	1.18e+09 1.0%	1.18e+09 1.0%	1.10e+08 2.1%	1.10e+08 2.1%	3.62e+
252 » [I] qs_vector<NuclearDataSpecies>::operator[](int)	1.29e+09 1.0%	1.29e+09 1.0%	1.14e+09 1.0%	1.14e+09 1.0%	7.37e+04 0.0%	7.37e+04 0.0%	1.24e+
NuclearData.cc: 252	1.12e+09 0.9%	1.12e+09 0.9%	9.48e+08 0.8%	9.48e+08 0.8%	3.44e+05 0.0%	3.44e+05 0.0%	2.50e+
252 » [I] qs_vector<NuclearDataReaction>::size() const	9.41e+08 0.7%	9.41e+08 0.7%	8.17e+08 0.7%	8.17e+08 0.7%			4.63e+

Quicksilver: Detailed analysis within a Kernel using PC Sampling

```
Scope
  ▲ 14 » [I] cudaLaunchKernel<char>
    ▲ 211 » cudaLaunchKernel [qs]
      ▲ » <gpu kernel>
        ▲ » CycleTrackingKernel(MonteCarlo*, int, ParticleVault*, ParticleVau...
          ▲ 132 » CycleTrackingGuts(MonteCarlo*, int, ParticleVault*, Particle...
            ▲ 26 » [I] CycleTrackingFunction(MonteCarlo*, MC_Particle&, int, P...
              ▲ loop at CycleTracking.cc: 118
                ▲ 63 » CollisionEvent(MonteCarlo*, MC_Particle&, unsigned int) [...
                  ▲ loop at CollisionEvent.cc: 67
                    ▲ loop at CollisionEvent.cc: 71
                      ▲ 73 » macroscopicCrossSection(MonteCarlo*, int, int, int, i...
                        ▲ 41 » NuclearData::getReactionCrossSection(unsigned int, u...
                          ▶ 253 » [I] NuclearDataReaction::getCrossSection(unsigned ...
                            NuclearData.cc: 253
                            NuclearData.cc: 251
                            NuclearData.cc: 248
                          ▶ 252 » [I] qs_vector<NuclearDataSpecies>::operator[](int)
                            NuclearData.cc: 252
                          ▶ 252 » [I] qs_vector<NuclearDataReaction>::size() const
                          ▶ 252 » [I] qs_vector<NuclearDataReaction>::operator[](int)
```

HPCToolkit Resources

- Documentation
 - User manual for HPCToolkit: <http://hpctoolkit.org/manual/HPCToolkit-users-manual.pdf>
 - Cheat sheet: <https://gitlab.com/hpctoolkit/hpctoolkit/-/wikis/HPCToolkit-cheat-sheet>
 - User manual for hpcviewer: <https://hpctoolkit.gitlab.io/hpcviewer>
 - Tutorial videos
 - <http://hpctoolkit.org/training.html>
 - recorded demo of GPU analysis of Quicksilver: <https://youtu.be/vixa3hGDuGg>
 - recorded tutorial presentation including demo with GPU analysis of GAMESS: <https://vimeo.com/781264043>
- Software
 - Download hpcviewer GUI binaries for your laptop, desktop, cluster, or supercomputer
 - OS: Linux, Windows, MacOS
 - Processors: x86_64, aarch64, ppc64le
 - <http://hpctoolkit.org/download.html>
 - Install HPCToolkit on your Linux desktop, cluster, or supercomputer using Spack
 - <http://hpctoolkit.org/software-instructions.html>

Some Hpcviewer Tips

Information for Using Hpcviewer

- Filtering GPU traces
 - Can use the filter menu to select what execution traces you want to see
 - cpu only, gpu, a mix
 - type a string or a regular expression in the chooser select or unselect the new set
 - only traces that exceed a minimum number of samples
- Filtering GPU calling context tree nodes to hide clutter
 - hide individual CCT nodes: e.g. lines that have no source code mapping library@0x0f450
 - hide subtrees: MPI implementation, implementation of CUDA primitives
- When inspecting GPU activity, be aware that hpcviewer has two modes
 - expose GPU traces or not
 - means: when displaying GPU trace lines, don't just show GPU activity if the time in the middle of a pixel is in a GPU operation. instead, show the first (if any) GPU operation between the time in the middle of the pixel and the middle of the next pixel
 - why? GPU activity is so short, it may be hard to find if we don't "expose" where it is
 - downside: makes the GPU appear more active than it is
 - can correct the statistics by turning the mode off
 - mode can be selected from <File>:<Preferences>:<Traces>

Hands-on Examples

Two Kinds of Hands-on Examples

- **Pre-collected databases to explore**
 - **gain experience using hpctoolkit's hpcviewer graphical user interface to analyze performance data**
- **Hands-on examples**
 - **build, run, and view several codes to get the full experience**
 - **hpcrun: measure an application as it executes**
 - **hpcstruct: recover program structure information for mapping measurements to source code**
 - **hpcprof: combine measurements with program structure information**
 - **hpcviewer: explore profiles and traces**

Performance Databases to Explore

- **On an aurora login node**

```
% qsub -I -l select=2,walltime=1:00:00,place=scatter -l  
filesystems=flare -A gpu_hack -q gpu_hack_prio -X
```

- **On an aurora compute node**

```
% module use /soft/perftools/hpctoolkit/modulefiles  
% module load hpctoolkit  
% cd /flare/gpu_hack/hpctoolkit/data  
% ls  
  
    arborx    gamess    minitest    pelelmex    quicksilver
```

NOTE: all of the databases in these directories end with the suffix “.d”. For the gamess examples, the hpctoolkit databases are one directory deeper, i.e. in subdirectories that begin with a number.

More about the Available Performance Databases

See /flare/gpu_hack/hpctoolkit/data for each of the following

- quicksilver: Monte Carlo particle transport proxy application (**C++ + CUDA**)
 - hpctoolkit-qs-gpu-cuda.d - profile and trace on 4 CPUs + 4 GPUs
 - hpctoolkit-qs-gpu-cuda-pc.d - instruction-level measurements within kernels using PC sampling
 - **EXERCISES**
- pelelmex: Adaptive mesh hydrodynamics simulation code for low Mach number reacting flows (**C++ + AMReX**)
 - pelelmex.db - a large trace with load imbalance from 2025 NERSC hackathon run on 16 CPUs + 16 GPU
- gamess: General Atomic and Molecular Electronic Structure System (**Fortran + OpenMP**)
 - 1.singlegroup-unbalanced/hpctoolkit-gamess-1n-chol-noDS.d
 - 2.singlegroup-balanced/hpctoolkit-gamess-1n-chol-fix_load_balance_noDS.d/
 - 3.multigroup-unbalanced-mtarbr/hpctoolkit-gamess-5n.d/
 - 4.multigroup-balanced/hpctoolkit-gamess-5n-manualbalance.d/
 - 5.multigroup-unbalanced-pc/hpctoolkit-gamess-5n-pc.d/
 - 6.scale/hpctoolkit-gamess-22n-test.d/
- arborx (**C++ + Kokkos**)
- minitest (**SYCL and OpenMP TARGET**)

Hands-on Tutorial Examples on Aurora

```
% git clone https://gitlab.com/hpctoolkit/tutorial-examples
% cd hpctoolkit-tutorial-examples/gpu/intel
% ls
    arborx.kokkos.sycl    minitest.sycl    minitest.omp
```

For your chosen example

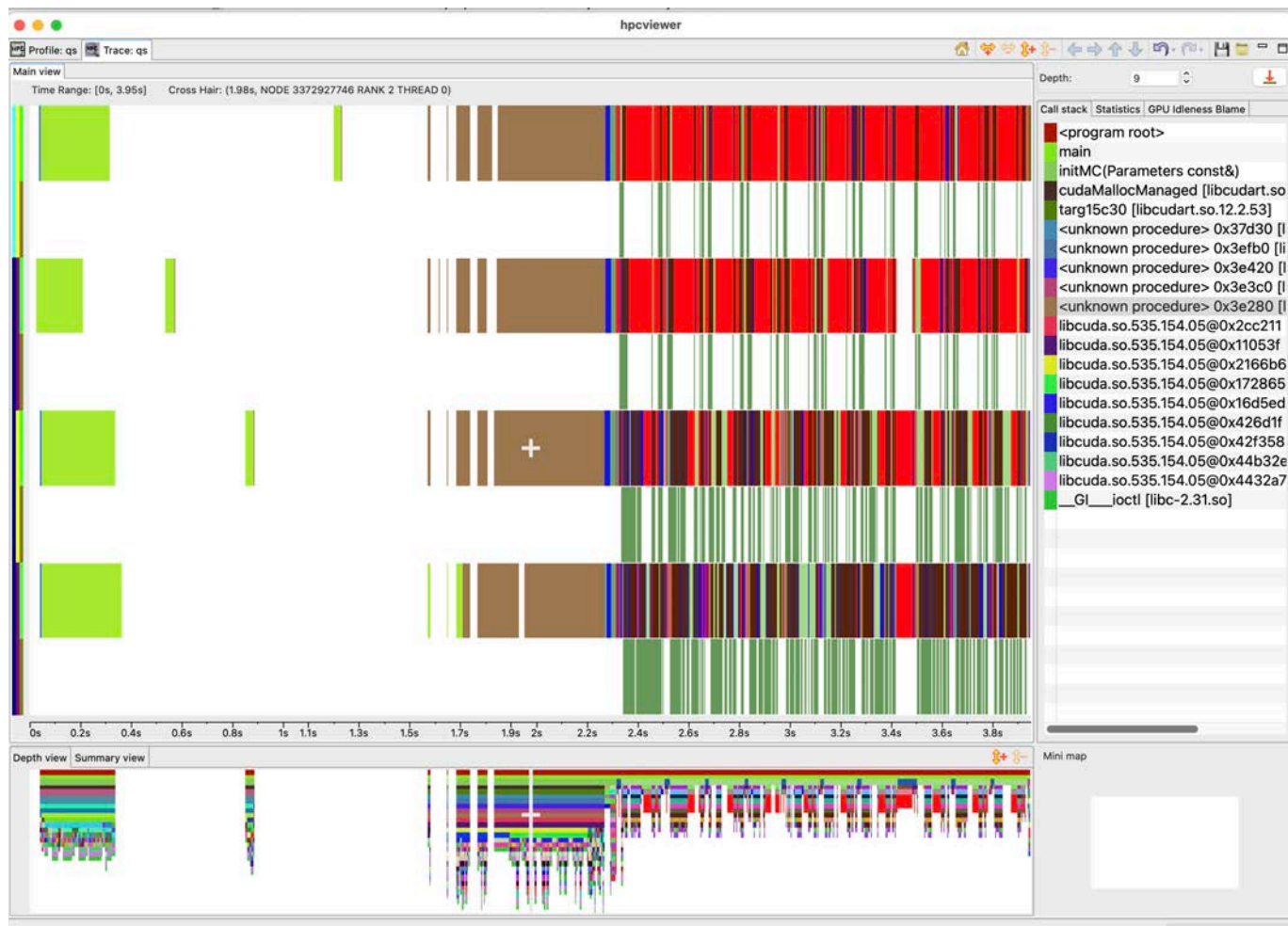
1. cd to the example directory
2. source setup-env/aurora.sh # custom for each example
3. make build # build the code
4. make run # submit to the batch queue
wait until the hpctoolkit database ending in .d appears and you see the file log.run.done appear
5. make view # launch hpcviewer to explore the performance data collected

Hands-on Tutorial Example on Polaris: Quicksilver

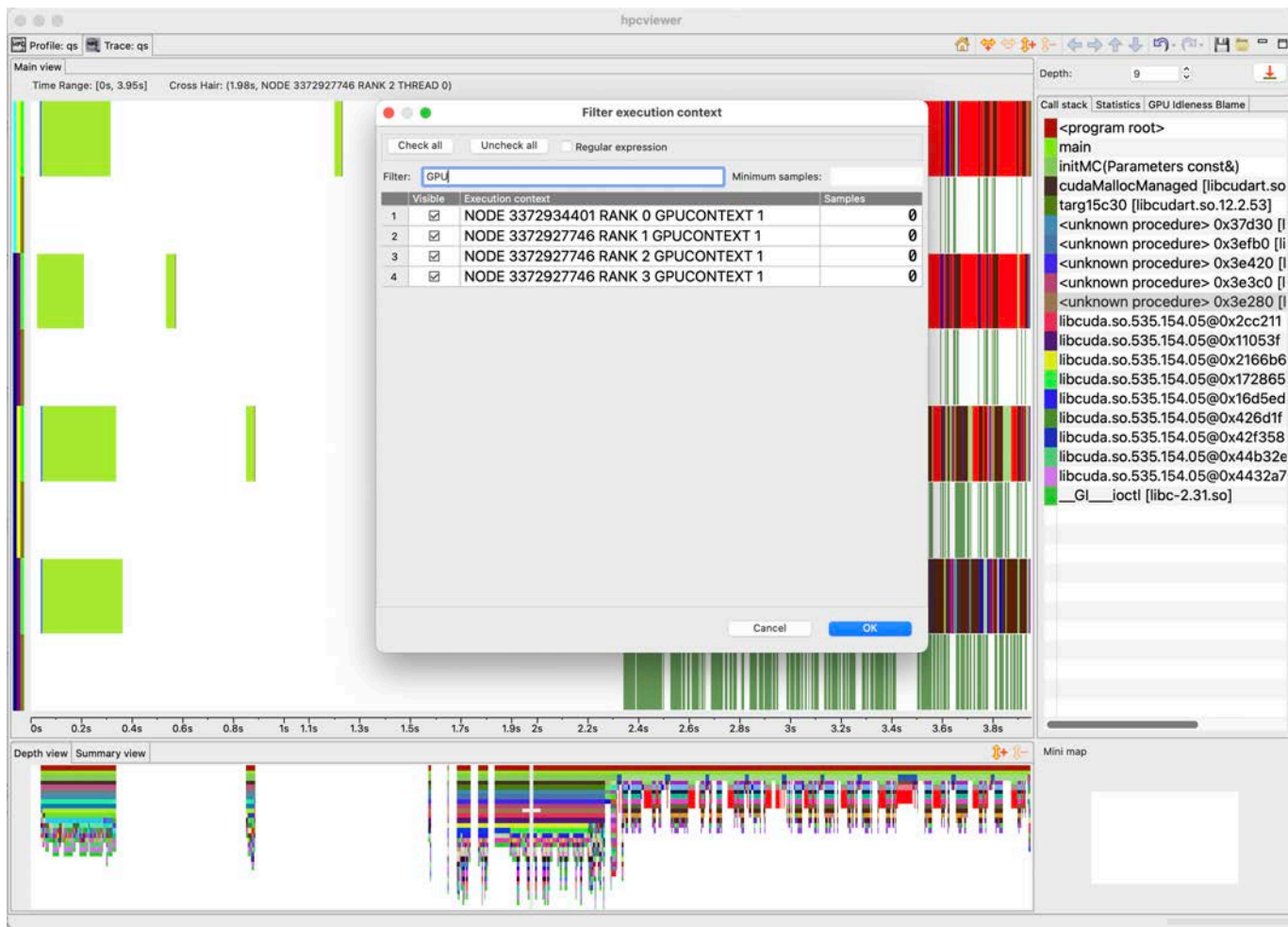
```
% git clone https://gitlab.com/hpctoolkit/tutorial-examples
% cd hpctoolkit-tutorial-examples/gpu/nvidia/quicksilver.cuda
1. source setup-env/polaris.sh # custom for each example
2. make build # build the code
3. make run # submit to the batch queue
   wait until the hpctoolkit database hpctoolkit-qs.d appears and you see
   the file log.run.done appear
4. make view # launch hpcviewer to explore the profiles and traces
5. make run-pc # collect instruction-level kernel measurements
   wait until the hpctoolkit database hpctoolkit-qs-pc.d appears and you
   see the file log.run-pc.done appear
6. make view-pc # launch hpcviewer to explore the pc sampling data
```

Inspecting the Pre-collected Quicksilver Data

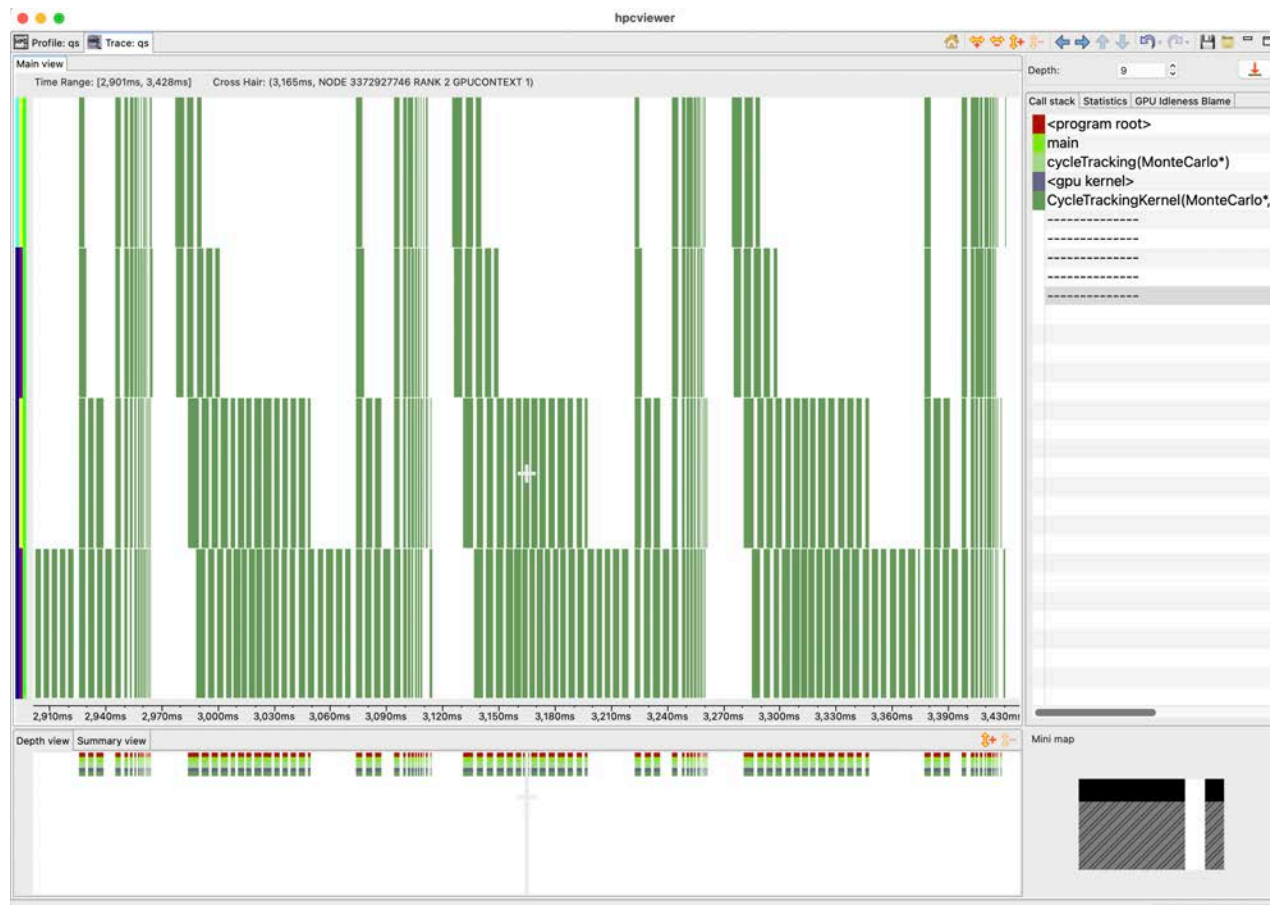
Select the Tab “Trace: qs”



Use the Filter to “Uncheck all” and Check “GPU” streams




See Load Imbalance Across the Four GPUs






Analyzing Quicksilver Traces

Using a measurement database with profiles and traces

- Select the Trace tab “Trace: qs”
- Identifying the traces
 - Select a pixel on a trace line
 - Look at legend on the top of the display, which reports the location of the “cross hair”
 - Is this a CPU or GPU trace line?
 - Repeat this a few times to identify what each of the trace lines represents
- Notice that each time you select a colored pixel on a trace line, you will be shown the function call stack in the rightmost pane
- At the top of the pane is a “depth” indicator, that indicates what level in the call stack you are viewing. The selected level will also be highlighted
- You can change the depth of your view by using the depth up/down, typing a depth, or simply selecting a frame in the call stack at the desired depth
- You can select  above the call stack frame to show the call stacks at the deepest depth
 - If a sample doesn't have an entry at the selected depth, its deepest frame will be shown

Analyzing Quicksilver Traces

Using a measurement database with profiles and traces

- Zoom in on a region in a trace by selecting it in the trace display
- Use the back button  to undo a zoom
- Use the control buttons  at the top of the trace pane to
 - expand or contract the pane
 - move left, right, up, or down
- Keep an eye on the minimap in the lower right corner of the display to know what part of the trace you are viewing
- Use the home button  to reset the trace view to show the whole trace




Analyzing Quicksilver Traces

Using a measurement database with profiles and traces

- Select the Trace tab “Trace: qs”
- Configure filtering
 - Use the Filter menu to select Filter Execution Contexts
 - In the filtering menu, select "Uncheck all"
 - Now, in the empty box preceded by "Filter:", type "GPU" and then click "Check all"
 - Select "OK".
 - Now, the Trace View will show only trace lines for the GPUs.
- Inspect the trace data
 - Is the work load balanced across the GPUs? How can you tell?
 - Bring up the filter menu again. Select "Uncheck all". Type in "RANK 3" in the Filter box. Select thread 0 and the GPU context. Select “OK”.
 - Move the call stack to depth 2
 - What CPU function is Rank 3 thread 0 executing when the GPU is idle?
 - Does this suggest any optimization opportunities?

Analyzing the Quicksilver Summary Profile

Using a measurement database with profiles and traces

- Select the Profile Tab “Profile: qs”
- Use the column selector  to deselect and hide the two REALTIME columns
- Select the GPU OPS column, which represents time spent in all GPU operations
- Select the  button to show the “hot path” according to the selected column
 - the hot path of parent will continue into a child as long as the child accounts for 50% or more of the parent’s cost
- The hot path will select “CycleTrackingKernel” — a GPU kernel that consumes 100% of the GPU cost in this profile
- Use the  button to graph “GPU OPS (I)” — inclusive GPU operations across the profiles
 - Are the GPU operations balanced or not across the execution contexts (ranks)?

Analyzing the Quicksilver Summary Profile

- You will notice that for quicksilver, HPCToolkit doesn't report any data copies between the host and device
- The quicksilver code uses “unified memory” so that all of the data movement occurs between CPU and GPU using page faults rather than explicit copies
- Today's GPU hardware doesn't support attribution of page faults to individual instructions
 - We could profile them, but not attribute them to code

The Profile View in the other “PC Sampling” Database

hpcviewer

Profile: qs Trace: qs Profile: qs

CollisionEvent.cc X

```
67 for (int isoIndex = 0; isoIndex < numIsos && currentCrossSection >= 0; isoIndex++)
68 {
69     int uniqueNumber = monteCarlo->_materialDatabase->_mat[globalMatIndex]._iso[isoIndex]._gid;
70     int numReacts = monteCarlo->_nuclearData->getNumberReactions(uniqueNumber);
71     for (int reactIndex = 0; reactIndex < numReacts; reactIndex++)
72     {
73         currentCrossSection -= macroscopicCrossSection(monteCarlo, reactIndex, mc_particle.domain, mc_particle.cell,
74             isoIndex, mc_particle.energy_group);
75         if (currentCrossSection < 0)
76         {
77             selectedIso = isoIndex;
78             selectedUniqueNumber = uniqueNumber;
79             selectedReact = reactIndex;
80             break;
81         }
82     }
83 }
```

Top-down view Bottom-up view Flat view

Scope

Scope	GINS: Sum (I)	GINS: Sum (E)	GINS:STL_ANY: Sum (I)	GINS:STL_ANY: Sum (E)
Experiment Aggregate Metrics	2.15e+11 100.0%	2.15e+11 100.0%	2.03e+11 100.0%	2.03e+11 100.0%
<program root>	2.15e+11 100.0%		2.03e+11 100.0%	
<main>	2.15e+11 100.0%		2.03e+11 100.0%	
loop at main.cc: 66	2.15e+11 100.0%		2.03e+11 100.0%	
58 » cycleTracking(MonteCarlo*)	2.15e+11 100.0%		2.03e+11 100.0%	
loop at main.cc: 232	2.15e+11 100.0%		2.03e+11 100.0%	
loop at main.cc: 232	2.15e+11 100.0%		2.03e+11 100.0%	
127 » <gpu kernel>	2.15e+11 100.0%		2.03e+11 100.0%	
» CycleTrackingKernel(MonteCarlo*, int, ParticleVault*, ParticleVault*)	2.15e+11 100.0%	1.03e+08 0.0%	2.03e+11 100.0%	9.83e+07 0.0%
132 » CycleTrackingGuts(MonteCarlo*, int, ParticleVault*, ParticleVault*)	2.15e+11 99.9%	2.04e+09 1.0%	2.03e+11 99.9%	2.03e+09 1.0%
26 » [I] CycleTrackingFunction(MonteCarlo*, MC_Particle&, int, ParticleV...	1.08e+11 50.4%	4.95e+08 0.2%	9.63e+10 47.5%	4.38e+08 0.2%
loop at CycleTracking.cc: 118	1.08e+11 50.4%	4.61e+08 0.2%	9.63e+10 47.5%	4.11e+08 0.2%
63 » CollisionEvent(MonteCarlo*, MC_Particle&, unsigned int)	7.08e+10 32.9%	7.69e+09 3.6%	6.21e+10 30.7%	6.42e+09 3.2%
loop at CollisionEvent.cc: 67	5.66e+10 26.3%	1.51e+09 0.7%	4.88e+10 24.1%	1.31e+09 0.6%
loop at CollisionEvent.cc: 71	5.27e+10 24.5%	3.97e+09 1.8%	4.54e+10 22.4%	3.08e+09 1.5%
73 » macroscopicCrossSection(MonteCarlo*, int, int, int, int)	4.87e+10 22.7%	1.78e+10 8.3%	4.23e+10 20.9%	1.49e+10 7.3%
41 » NuclearData::getReactionCrossSection(unsigned int, unsigne...	2.71e+10 12.6%	1.35e+10 6.3%	2.40e+10 11.8%	1.20e+10 5.9%
253 » [I] NuclearDataReaction::getCrossSection(unsigned int)	9.00e+09 4.2%	4.83e+09 2.2%	7.87e+09 3.9%	4.43e+09 2.2%
NuclearData.cc: 253	6.76e+09 3.1%	6.76e+09 3.1%	6.45e+09 3.2%	6.45e+09 3.2%

Analyzing Quicksilver PC Samples

Using a measurement database with traces that was collected **with** PC sampling enabled

Using the default top-down view of the profile

- Select the column “GINS (I)” to focus on the measurement of inclusive GPU Instructions
- Select use the flame button to look at where the instructions are executed
- In the call stack revealed, you will <gpu kernel> placeholder that separates CPU activity (above) from GPU kernel activity (below)
- Below the <gpu kernel> placeholder you will see the function calls, inlined functions, loops and statements in HPCToolkit’s reconstruction of calling contexts within the CycleTrackingKernel
- Using the bottom-up view of the profile
 - Select the bottom-up tab of above the control pane
 - Select the GINS STL_ANY (E) column, which will sort the functions by the exclusive GPU instruction stalls within that function
 - Scroll right to see which of the types of contributing types of stalls accounts for most of the STL_ANY amount
 - Select the function that has the most exclusive stalls
 - Select the the hot path to see where this function is called from.
 - Where do the calls to the costly function come from?
 - Does there appear to be an opportunity to reduce the number of calls to this function?

Filtering Tips to Hide Unwanted Implementation Details

- Filter “descendants-only” of CCT nodes with names *MPI* to hide the details of MPI implementation in profiles and traces
- Filter internal details of RAJA and SYCL templates to suppress unwanted detail using a “self-only” filter

Downloading, Installing, and Using Hpcviewer Graphical User Interface on Your Laptop

Hpcviewer Graphical User Interface on Your Laptop

Prepare to explore performance data on your laptop

- Download and install hpcviewer
- See <https://hpctoolkit.org/download.html>

Select the right one for your laptop: MacOS (Apple Silicon, Intel), Windows, Linux

Install a recent Java (17 or 21) if you don't have one, using the directions on the page

- User manual for hpcviewer: <https://hpctoolkit.gitlab.io/hpcviewer>

Viewing Performance Data

- Copy a performance database directory to your laptop and open it locally
- Open a performance database on a remote system

Note: using a HPCViewer with a remote system presumes that hpcserver has already been installed on the remote system

- hpcserver has been installed on Aurora
- you can download and install hpcserver on your local cluster as well (ask in Slack for directions)

Configuring Hpcviewer Remote Access

Run hpcviewer

From the file menu, select “Open remote database”

Fill in the hostname/IP address: aurora.alcf.anl.gov

Fill in your username on Aurora

Fill in the remote installation directory for hpcviewer’s server: `/soft/perftools/hpctoolkit/hpcserver`

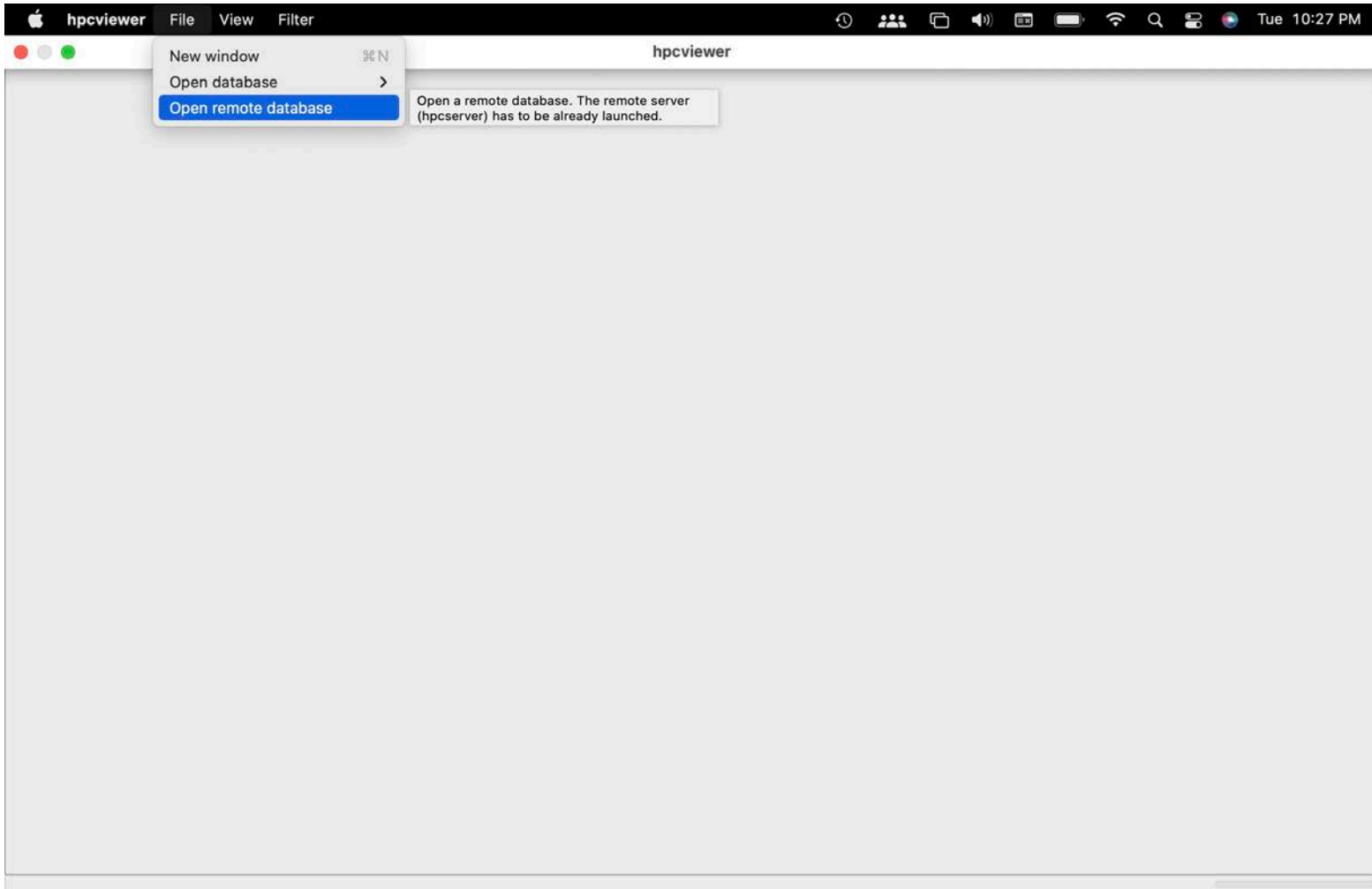
Select the authentication method: “Use password”

Click “OK”

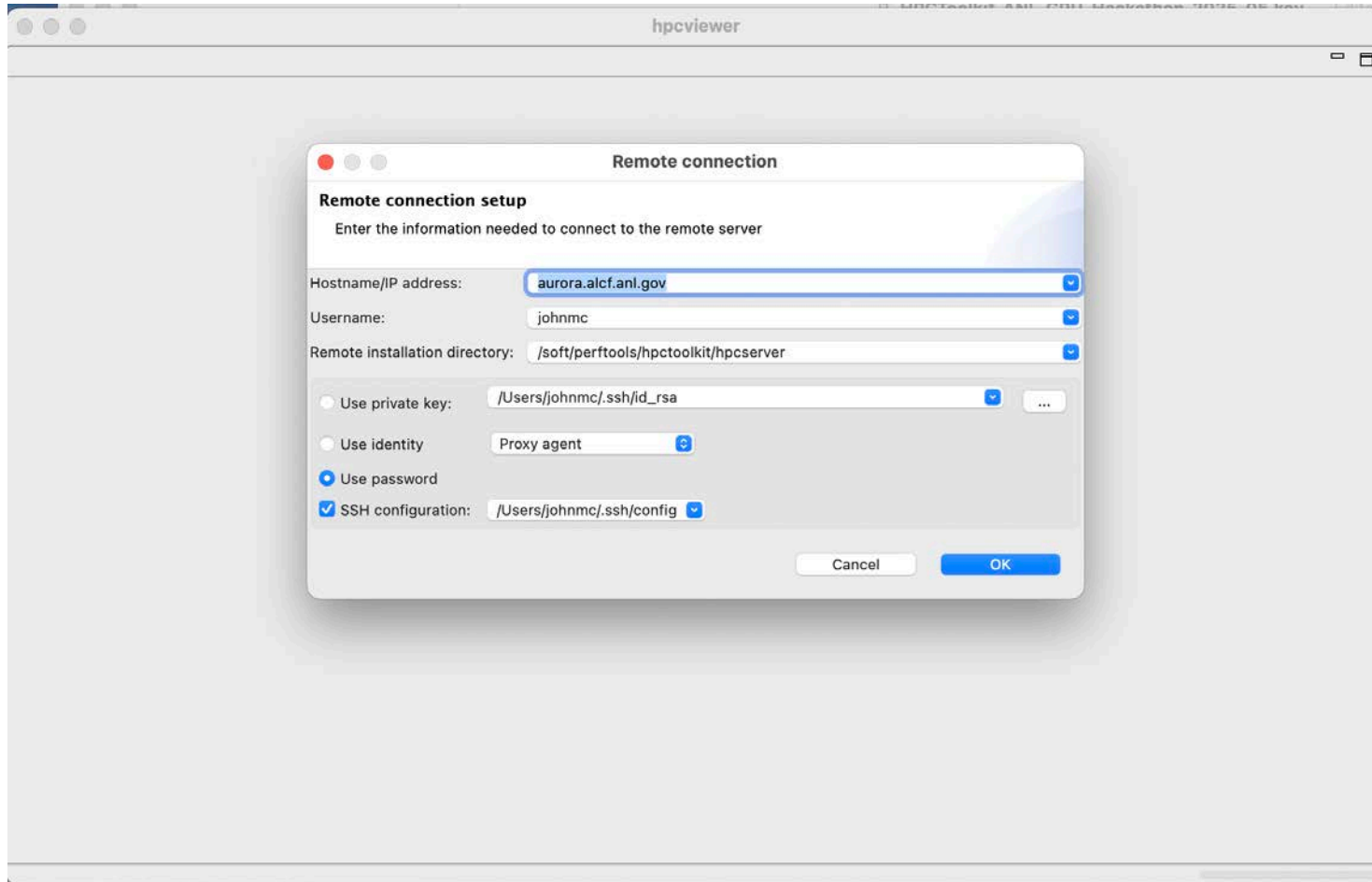
Authenticate using your token as you normally do

Navigate to a database with the file chooser in `/flare/gpu_hack/hpctoolkit/data`

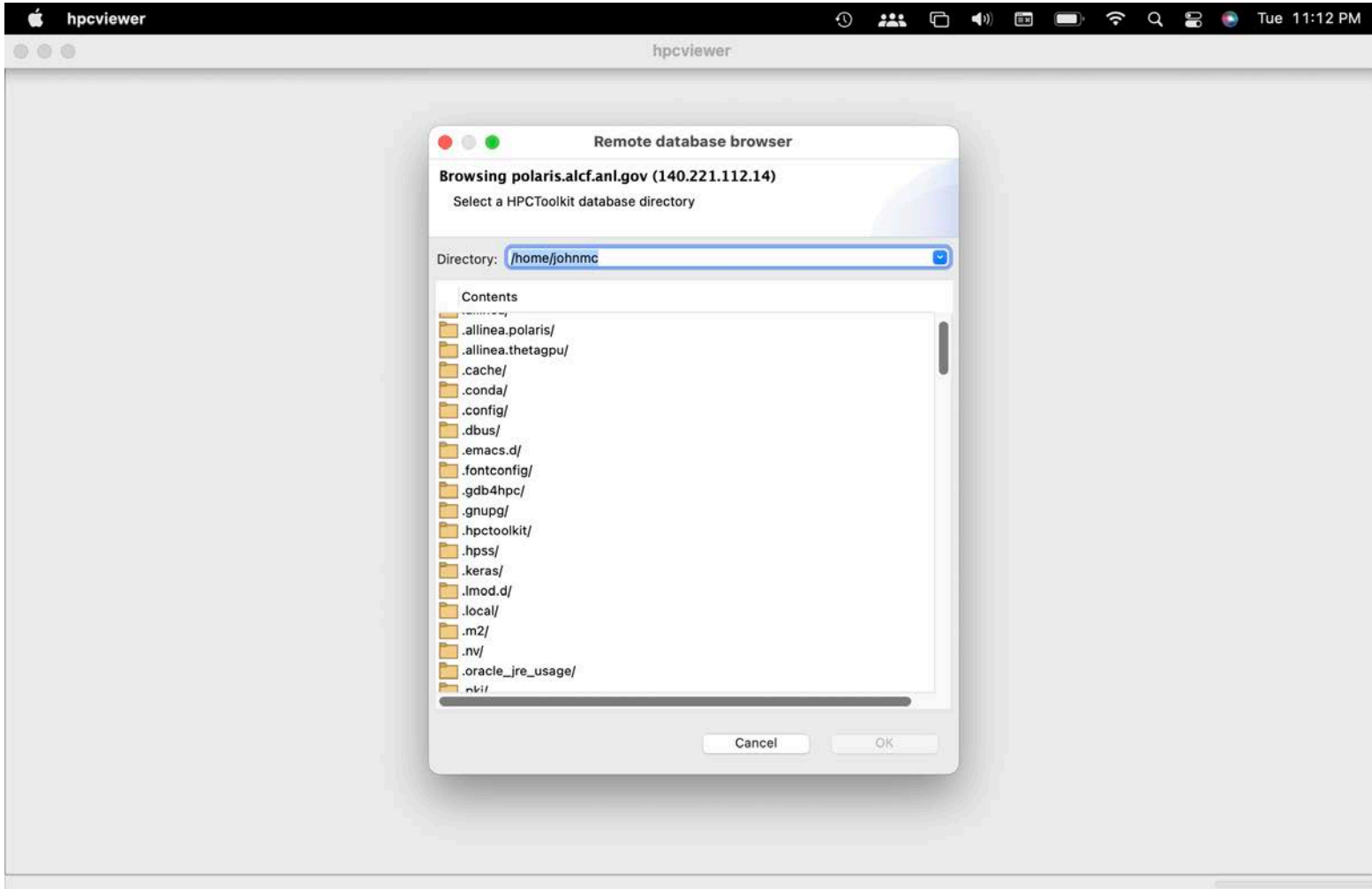
Opening a Remote Database



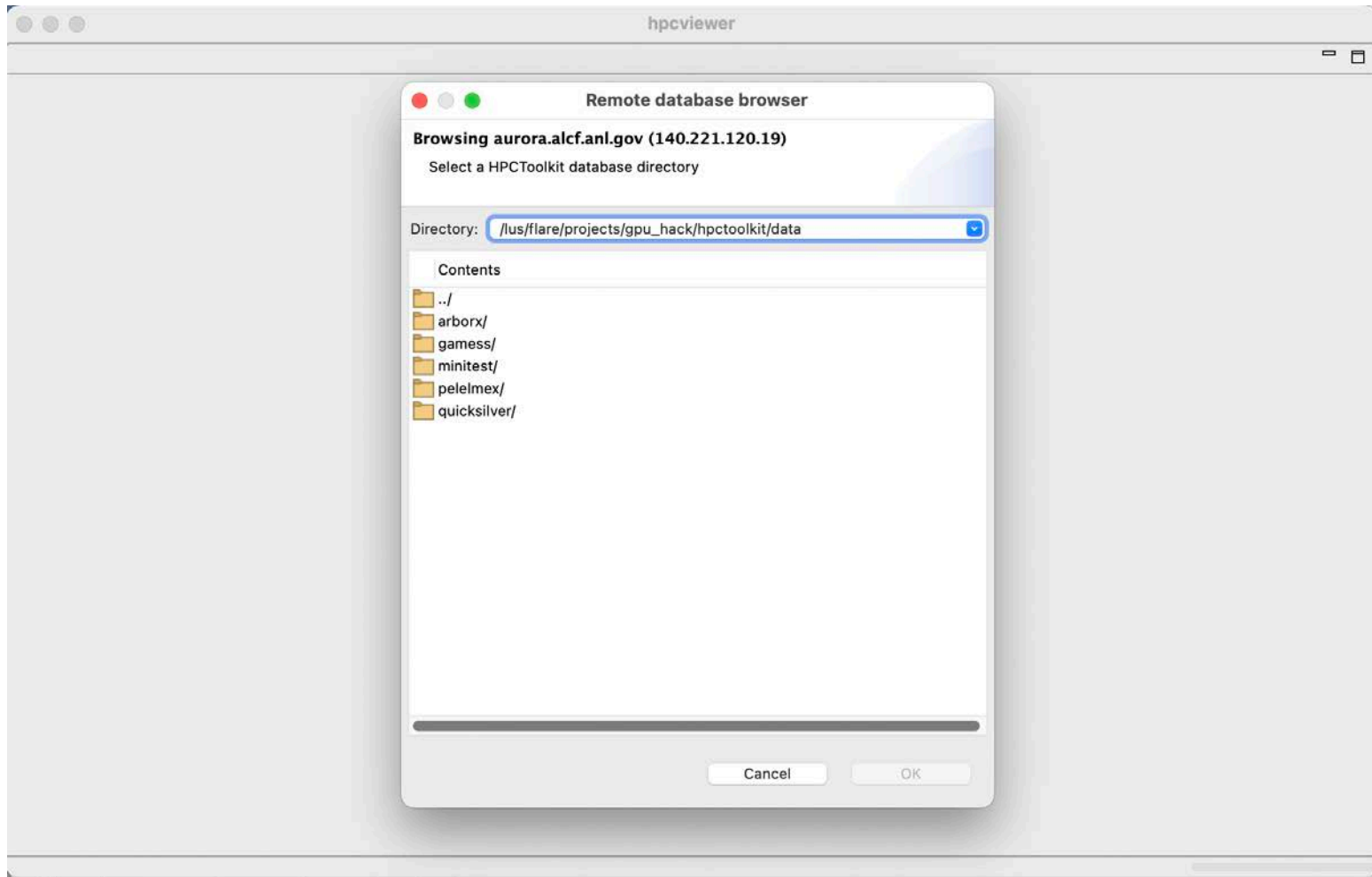
Configuring for remote access to Aurora using hpcserver



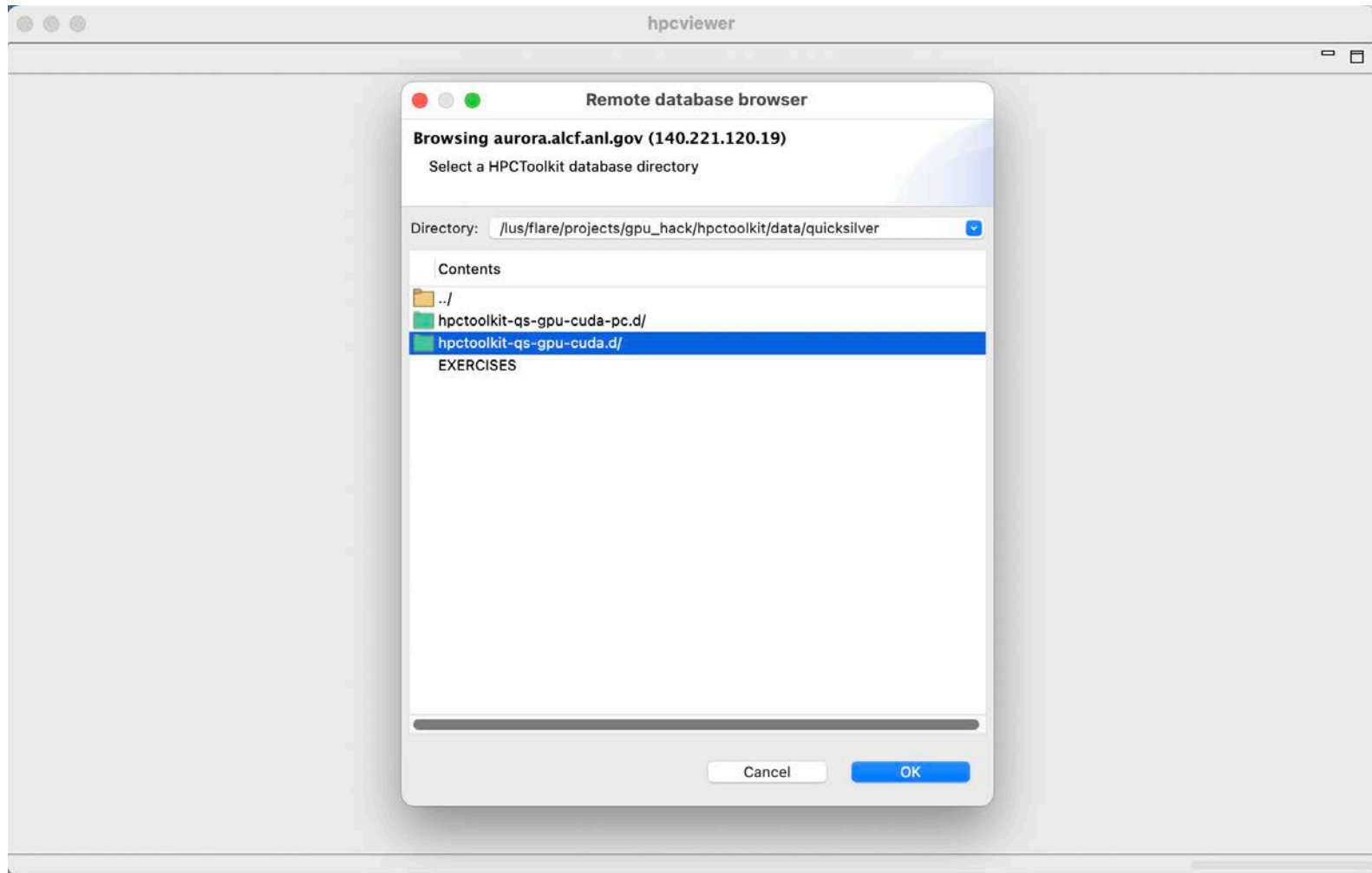
First View of Aurora: Your Home Directory



Navigate to Example Databases



Select a Quicksilver Database with Traces



[illegible]

Troubleshooting Tips

Why can't I see my Source Code?

- To relate performance measurements to your application source code, the code must be compiled with a “-g” option in addition to your optimization flags. Otherwise, there is no information for any tool to map performance to anything finer grain than at the procedure level
 - For instance, if you are building with make, you will want to build **RelWithDebInfo** rather than **Release** for the best experience