# Semantic-Driven Parallelization of Loops Operating on User-Defined Containers

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**Abstract.** We describe ROSE, a C++ infrastructure for source-to-source translation, that provides an interface for programmers to easily write their own translators for optimizing user-defined high-level abstractions. Utilizing the semantics of these high-level abstractions, we demonstrate the automatic parallelization of loops that iterate over user-defined containers that have interfaces similar to the lists, vectors and sets in the Standard Template Library (STL). The parallelization is realized in two phases. First, we insert OpenMP directives into a serial program, driven by the recognition of the high-level abstractions, containers, that are thread-safe. Then, we translate the OpenMP directives into library routines that explicitly create and manage parallelism. By providing an interface for the programmer to classify the semantics of their abstractions, we are able to automatically parallelize operations on containers, such as linked-lists, without resorting to complex loop dependence analysis techniques. Our approach is consistent with general goals within *telescoping languages*.

## 1 Introduction

In object-oriented languages such as C++, abstractions are a key aspect of library design, sharing aspects of language design, which aims to provide the application developer with an efficient and convenient interface. For example, the C++ Standard Template Library (STL), parts of which are standardized within the C++ standard libraries, includes a collection of template classes that can be used as containers for user-defined constructs. Some STL containers, such as vectors, provide random access to their elements using an integer index, while other containers such as lists and sets provide other means to access their elements. Nevertheless, all STL containers provide sequential element accesses and thus all of them can be used in the code fragment in Figure 1. This design strategy permits all containers to be used interchangeably in algorithms that process a sequence of elements.

At this level, library design greatly resembles language design, but without increasing the complexity of the compiler. The term *telescoping languages* was coined by Kennedy [?] in 2000. Within telescoping languages, a base language is chosen and domain-specific types are constructed entirely within the base language with no language extension. The iterative progression of a library to a higher-level language comes only with compile-time support for its user-defined types. The telescoping aspect relates to the optional use of the compile-time optimizations, because the abstractions are defined fundamentally as a library completely within the base language. The idea of higher-level languages driving the generation of lower-level C++ code was originally discussed by Stroustrup in 1994 [1] (page 204). The techniques presented in this paper are a special case of compiler support for high-level abstractions such as those defined in the STL. Specifically in this paper we utilize the semantics of the high-level abstractions and generate low-level C++ code.

```
MyContainer myContainer;
MyContainer::iterator p;
for (p = myContainer.begin(); p != myContainer.end(); ++p) {
  foo(*p);
}
```

**Fig. 1.** Example: a code fragment processing a user-defined container

Due to the increasing popularity of the STL library, more and more libraries provide containers that conform to the STL interface. Since the library developer knows the semantics of the library's containers and of each element in the containers, he can write a *source-to-source translator* that optimizes the performance of every program that uses his library. For example, in Figure 1, if the library writer knows that none of the elements in *MyContainer* can be aliased and that the function *foo* is side-effect free (i.e., it does not modify any global variables), he can safely parallelize the surrounding loop and thus achieve better performance for the user's application. Due to the undecidability of precise alias and control-flow analysis, it could be impossible for a compiler to automatically figure out this semantic information. Thus, our approach can better optimize any application code that uses the library since we allow the library developer to communicate this semantic information to the source-to-source translator. The application developer sees only an automated process.

We present ROSE, a C++ source-to-source infrastructure especially for this purpose [2, 3]. In addition to being a general source-to-source compiler infrastructure, ROSE provides several mechanisms, including a very high level Abstract Syntax Tree (AST) that maintains the original structure of the user program, traversal facilities for modifying the AST, and a string interface for inserting new C++ code fragments (which are represented as strings) into the AST directly. Since we have not only the syntax of the original program but also its full type resolution within the ROSE AST, we can use specific user-defined type information as a basis for optimizing an application. Thus, the compiler has fundamentally more information, enabling greater levels of optimization. In the case of parallelizing user-defined containers, for example, we can automate the introduction of OpenMP directives into otherwise serial code because the library writer guarantees the required semantics. Based on the additional semantics of user-defined abstractions, this approach permits parallel execution of appropriate fundamentally serial code. Section 2 presents the ROSE infrastructure in more detail.

Using the ROSE approach for processing user-defined abstractions, we present a source-to-source translator that automatically introduces OpenMP directives in loop computations on STL-like container classes such as the one in Figure 1. The only additional information that needs to be provided by the library programmer is the set of container classes that disallow aliased elements and the side-effects of library functions. We then invoke another translator within ROSE to recognize specific OpenMP pragma directives and to translate these directives (along with their associated code fragments). The final result is a parallel program that explicitly creates and manages parallelism.

## 2 Infrastructure

The ROSE infrastructure offers several components to the library writer to build a source-to-source translator. The translator is then used to read in the sequential user code, parallelize it, and generate code with OpenMP directives explicitly expressing parallelism.

A complete C++ front-end is available that generates an object-oriented annotated abstract syntax tree (AST) as an intermediate representation. Several different components can be used to build the mid-end of a translator that operates on the AST to implement transformations: a predefined traversal mechanism; a restructuring mechanism; and an attribute evaluation mechanism. Other features include parsing of OpenMP directives and integrating these directives into the AST. A C++ back-end can be used to unparse the AST and generate C++ code (see Figure 2).

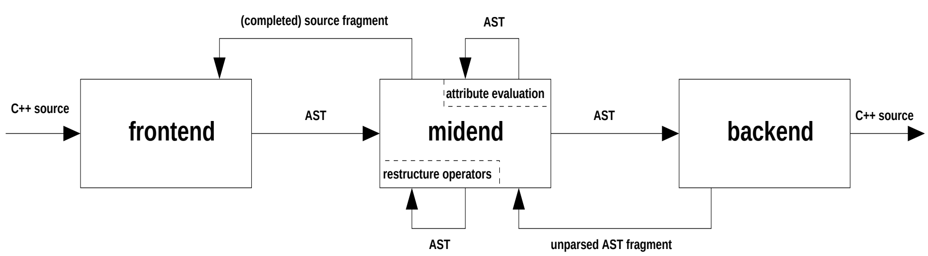


**Fig. 2.** ROSE Source-To-Source infrastructure with front-end/back-end reinvocation

### 2.1 Front-End

We use the Edison Design Group C++ front-end (EDG) [4] to parse C++ programs. The EDG front-end performs a full type evaluation of the C++ program and then generates an AST, which is represented as a C data structure. We translate this data structure into an object-oriented abstract syntax tree (AST) which is used by the mid-end as an intermediate representation. We use Sage III as an intermediate representation, which we have developed as a revision of the Sage II [5] AST restructuring tool.

### 2.2 Mid-End

The mid-end supports restructuring of the AST. The programmer can add code to the AST by specifying a source string using C++ syntax, or by constructing subtrees node by node. A program transformation consists of a series of AST restructuring operations, each of which specifies a location in the AST where a code fragment (specified as a C++ source string or as an AST subtree). should be inserted, deleted, or replaced.

The order of the restructuring operations is based on a pre-defined traversal. A transformation traverses the AST and invokes multiple restructuring operations on the AST. To address the problem of restructuring the AST while traversing it, we make restructuring operations side-effect free functions that define a mapping from one subtree of the AST to another subtree. The new subtree is not inserted until after the complete traversal of the original subtree. We provide interfaces for invoking restructuring operations that buffer these operations to ensure that no subtrees are replaced while they are being traversed.

The mid-end also provides an attribute evaluation mechanism that allows the computation of arbitrary attribute values for AST nodes. During traversal, context information can be passed down the AST as inherited attributes, and results of transforming a subtree can be passed up the tree as synthesized attributes. Examples for inherited and synthesized attributes include the type information of objects, the sizes of arrays, the nesting levels of loops and the scopes of associated pragma statements. These attributes can then be used to compute constraints on transformations — for example, to decide whether to apply a restructuring operation on a particular AST node.

Our infrastructure supports the use of C++ source strings to define code fragments. Any source string that represents a valid declaration, statement list, or expression can specify a code pattern to be inserted into the AST. The translation of a source code string, $s$, into an AST fragment, is performed by reinvoking the front-end. Our system extends $s$ to form a complete program, which it then parses into an AST by reinvoking the front-end. From this AST, it finally extracts the AST fragment that corresponds to $s$. This AST fragment is inserted into the AST of the original program.

Further, we provide an abstract C++ grammar which covers all of C++ and defines the set of all abstract syntax trees. The grammar has 165 production rules. It is abstract with respect to the concrete C++ grammar and does not contain any C++ syntax. We have integrated the attribute grammar tool Coco [6], ported to C++ by Frankie Arzu. This allows the use of the abstract C++ grammar. In the semantic actions source-strings and restructure operators can be used to specify the source code transformation. In section 3.4 we show how a transformation can be specified using the abstract grammar, source-strings, and AST restructure operations.

### 2.3 Back-End

The back-end unparses the AST and generates C++ source code. It can either unparse all included (header) files or the source file(s) specified on the command line only. This feature is important when transforming user-defined data types, for example, when adding compiler-generated methods. Using this feature preserves all C preprocessor (cpp) control structures (including comments). Output code from the back-end appears nearly indistinguishable from input code, except for transformations, to simplify acceptance by users.

The back-end can also be invoked during a transformation, to obtain the source code string that corresponds to a subtree of the AST. Such a string can be combined with new code (also represented as a source string) and inserted into the AST.

Both phases, the introduction of OpenMP directives and the translation of OpenMP directives, can be automated using the above mechanisms, as described in the following sections.

## 3 Parallelizing User-Defined Containers Using OpenMP

The OpenMP standard provides a convenient mechanism for achieving high performance on modern parallel machine architectures. By extending traditional languages such as Fortran, C and C++, OpenMP allows developing parallel applications without the explicit management of threads or communications. Introducing OpenMP directives into a sequential program thus requires substantially less work than using distributed memory programming models like MPI.

In addition, current use of distributed memory programming models only extends to a subset of the processors available on IBM machines at LLNL. Specifically, the limit on the number of MPI tasks requires a hybrid programming model that combines message passing and shared memory programming in order to use all of the machine's processors. These hybrid programming models significantly increase the complexity of the already difficult task of developing scientific applications. Thus, our approach is particularly useful in extending existing distributed memory applications to use these modern computer architectures effectively. By automating (or simplifying) the introduction of parallelism to leverage the shared memory nodes and, thus, a larger part of these machines, we can significantly improve programmer productivity. The use of dual shared memory and distributed memory programming models is a more general issue within cluster computing (using a connected set of shared memory nodes).

Current compiler technology [7–11] can efficiently automate the introduction of OpenMP directives to regular loops that iterate over random-access arrays as defined by Fortran or C. However, because most C++ programs, including many scientific applications, use higher-level abstractions for which semantics are unknown to the compiler, these abstractions are left unoptimized by most parallelizing compilers. By providing mechanisms to optimize object-oriented library abstractions, we thus allow the efficient tailoring of the programming environment as essentially a programming language that is more domain-specific than a general purpose language could allow, thereby allowing the improvement of programmer productivity without degrading application performance.

The ROSE infrastructure provides support for generating source-to-source translators that essentially act as compilers for these domain-specific languages. The designer of the high-level abstractions captures the semantics of those abstractions so that the source-to-source translators can generate high performance code for the user of the domain-specific language. Generally, the designer of the abstractions will be a library writer, although nothing prevents the end user from designing clean interfaces and capturing the semantics for his specific abstractions.

In this section, we present a mechanism to automatically introduce OpenMP directives for user-defined STL-like containers, which is one of the most commonly used abstractions in object-oriented programming.

### 3.1 User-Defined Containers

Scientific applications are increasingly using STL, but at present with no path available toward automated shared memory parallelization of sequential STL usages in application programs. Clearly our goal in addressing the parallelization of user-defined container classes includes eventually processing STL containers. Such work would have broad impact on how STL could be used within scientific programming.

At present, the ROSE infrastructure does not handle templates sufficiently well to address STL optimization directly. Figure 3 presents a compromise, an example container class that is similar to the STL list class. It has an identical iterator interface, but does not use templates. The example list class accurately reproduces the same iterator interface as is used in STL and more general user-defined containers. The exact details of the iterator interface are not particularly important; our approach could be used to parallelize alternative methods of traversing the elements of containers. Further, the easy construction of compile-time transformations with ROSE could use even more precise semantics of domain-specific containers if necessary.

Figure 4 defines a class to support the automated transformation of iteration on user-defined containers. The automated transformation process introduces new code that uses this supporting class into the application. The `SupportingOmpContainer_list` class builds an array of fixed size, internally, containing pointers to the container's elements. Using this array the class provides indexed access for the OpenMP `parallel for` loop.

```
class list {
  public:
       typedef int elementType;
       class iterator
          {
            friend class list;
            protected:
                 link_type node;
                 iterator(link_type x);
            public:
                 iterator();
                 bool operator==(const iterator& x) const;
                 bool operator!=(const iterator& x) const;
                 reference operator*() const;
                 iterator& operator++();
                 iterator operator++(int);
          };
       list();
       iterator begin();
       iterator end();
       unsigned int size();
       void push_back(const reference x);
  protected:
       struct list_node {
            list_node* next; list_node* prev;
            elementType data;
          };
       typedef elementType* pointer;
       typedef elementType& reference;
       typedef list_node* link_type;
       typedef size_t size_type;
       link_type first,last;
       size_type length;
};
```

**Fig. 3.** Example: Code fragment showing `list` class using iterators.

### 3.2 Collecting Domain-Specific Information

Our goal is to parallelize loops that iterate over user-defined containers. Given a candidate loop, we must ensure that it is safe to parallelize, that is, dependences cannot exist between different iterations of the loop body [12]. In determining this constraint, our algorithm is different from traditional compiler approaches in that we ask the library developer to supply the following domain-specific information to drive the analysis.

- `known_containers` A set of user-defined containers for which the library writer guarantees element uniqueness, i.e., the instances of the container class includes no aliased or overlapping elements. All of these containers must have a forward iterator interface as shown in Figure 1. Since the elements cannot be aliased to each other, our analysis can safely conclude that it is safe to parallelize a loop that uses the iterator interface of the container, as long as the loop body does not carry cross-iteration dependences.
- `known_functions` A set of user-defined functions whose side effects are known to the library writer. These functions can include both global functions and the member functions of user-defined abstractions.

```
class SupportingOmpContainer_list {
     // This class is used to support the transformation of iterations over STL
     // containers to a form with which we can use OpenMP to parallelize the execution.

     public:
          typedef list::elementType elementType;
          list::elementType** dataPointer;
          unsigned int length;

     public:
          SupportingOmpContainer_list(list & l) {
               length = l.size();
               dataPointer = new list::elementType* [length];
               assert (dataPointer != NULL);

               list::iterator p;
               int i = 0;
               for (p = l.begin(); p != l.end(); p++) {
                    dataPointer[i++] = &(*p);
               }
          }

          unsigned int size() { return length; }
          elementType& operator[](int i) {
             return *dataPointer[i];
          }
};
```

**Fig. 4.** Example: Code fragment showing the implementation of supporting abstraction for OpenMP translation.

– `side_effects`$(f)$ $\forall f \in$ `known_functions` The side effects of each function $f$ known by the library writer. Specifically, for each function $f \in$ `known_functions`, which parameters and global variables can be modified by $f$. This information allows us to compute the set of variables modified by an arbitrary statement without resorting to inter-procedural side effect analysis.

To collect the above information, we ask the library writer to supply two files: one contains a list of `known_containers`, each container specified by a string representing its class name; the other file contains a list of `known_functions`, each function specified by a string representing its name (for class member functions, the class name is counted as part of the function name), a list of strings representing the names of global variables modified by the function, and a list of integers representing the indices of the function paramenters being modified. Our compiler reads in these two files into a user-specification class object (variable *libSpec* in Figure 5), which then uses the information to answer queries from the parallelization analysis algorithm shown in Figure 5.

Note that by using type names to recognize the parallelizable containers and iterators, we are able to collect sufficient information without going into details of describing specific properties, such as the specific interface required from the container and iteration classes. Similarly, by describing the side effects of functions using function and variable names, library writers do not need to change their code. This is especially useful if the programmer does not have the source code of the functions for annotations.

### 3.3 Safety of Parallelization

Figure 5 presents our algorithm for the safety analysis of parallelizing user-defined containers, where `TestParallelLoop` is the top-level function, and function `get_modified_vars` is invoked to compute the set of variables modified by a list of arbitrary statements. The domain-specific information described in section 3.2 is represented as the *libSpec* input parameter,

```
TestParallelLoop(l, libSpec)
  l: loop to be parallelized;
  libSpec: info. from programmer
  return: whether loop l can be parallelized
header = get_loop_header(l)
body = get_loop_body(l)
if (header iterates over a container c and
    c ∈ libSpec.known_containers() )
  cur_elem = get_current_element(c)
  local_vars = get_local_declared_vars(body)
  mod = get_modified_vars(body, libSpec)
  if (mod ==UNKNOWN) return false;
  for (each variable var ∈ mod)
    if (var ∉ local_vars and var ≠ cur_elem)
        return false;
  return true;
return false;
```

```
get_modified_vars(body, libSpec)
    body: statements to be examined;
    libSpec: info. from programmer
    return: variables modified by body
  F = get_function_calls(body);
  modVars = ∅;
  for (each function call f ∈ F)
    if (f ∈ libSpec.known_functions() )
      modVars = modVars∪
        libSpec.side_effect(f);
    else return UNKNOWN
  modVars = modVars∪
              get_local_mod_vars(body);
  return modVars
```

**Fig. 5.** Algorithm for safety analysis of parallelization

In Figure 5, the function `get_modified_vars` uses the semantic information in *libSpec* to help determine the side effects at each iteration of the loop body: for each statement within the loop body and for each function invocation $f$ within the statement, if the function does not belong to the known functions in *libSpec*, we assume that the function could induce unknown side effects and thus conservatively disallow the loop parallelization. In addition, the variables locally modified by each statement is also returned as part of the complete side effect of the loop body.

The function `TestParallelLoop` uses both the known containers and known functions from *libSpec* to identify opportunities of loop parallelization. First, we examine the candidate loop to see if it iterates over a container that is known to be safe to be parallelized. We then invoke `get_modified_vars` to summarize the complete side effect of the loop body. To determine the dependence pattern of the loop body, for every variable *var* modified by the loop body, if *var* is exactly the element of the container being accessed by the current iteration, or if *var* is a local variable declared within the loop body, we know that the variable is private to the current iteration and thus cannot introduce cross-iteration dependences; otherwise, we assume that the variable could be aliased to a global variable and disallow the parallelization.

Note that the algorithm in Figure 5 is more conservative than traditional dependence-based approaches in several ways. For example, we perform no standard privatizable array analysis, aliasing analysis, interprocedural analysis or traditional array dependence analysis [12]. Instead, we utilize the C++ variable declaration syntax ( a variable is privatizable only if it is localy declared) and domain-specific semantic information from library writers to drive the analysis. However, by configuring our system with library specific type information, we are able to optimize user-defined objects more effectively than traditional compiler techniques in many cases.

### 3.4 OpenMP Transformation

OpenMP transformations are specified as source-to-source translations. The input program is a sequential C++ program in which we introduce OpenMP pragmas and transform parts of the program into a canonical OpenMP form if necessary.

A transformation is specified as semantic actions of the abstract C++ grammar. In the following example we show how the attribute grammar in combination with the use of source-strings and AST replacement operations, allows to specify the introduction of OpenMP pragmas and the transformation of for-loops to conform to the required canonical form of an omp parallel for.

Before transformation

```
Foo f; list l;
...
for (list::iterator i = l.begin(); i != l.end(); i++) {
  f.foo(*i);
}
```

After transformation

```
Foo f; list l;
...

// Build the supporting container
SupportingOmpContainer_list l2 (l);

#pragma omp parallel for
for (int i = 0; i < l2.size(); i++) {
  f.foobar( l2[i] );
}
```

**Fig. 6.** An iteration on a user-defined container `l` that provides an iterator interface. The object `f` is an instance of the user-defined class `Foo`. Object `l` is of type `list`. In the optimization the iterator is replaced by code conforming to the required canonical form of an OpenMP parallel for.

In the example source in fig. 6 we show an iteration on a user-defined container with an iterator. This pattern is frequently used in applications using C++98 standard container classes. The object `f` is an instance of the user-defined class `Foo`. The transformation we present takes into account the semantics of the type `Foo` and the semantics of class `list`. The transformation is therefore specific to these classes and its semantics.

For the type `list` we know that the type `iterator` defined in the class follows the iterator pattern as used in the STL. For the type `Foo` we know that the method `f` is thread safe. We show the core of a transformation to transform the code into the canonical form of a for-loop as required by the OpenMP standard. We also introduce the OpenMP pragma directive. Note that the variable `i` in the transformed code is implicitly private according to the OpenMP standard 2.0.

In the example in fig. 7 the grammar rule of `SgScopeStatement` is shown. The terminal `SgForStatement` in the example corresponds to the class `SgForStatement`. The semantic actions associated with this rule are executed whenever a node of type SgForStatement is parsed. The variable `astNode` is a pointer to the respective AST node of the terminal and assigned by our supporting system when the scanner accesses the token stream. Note that every terminal in the grammar corresponds to a node in the AST, except the parentheses.

Methods of the object `subst` allow to insert new source code and delete subtrees in the AST. The substitution object `subst` buffers pairs of target location and string. The substitution is not performed before the semantic actions of all subtrees of the target location node have been performed. This mechanism allows to check whether substitutions would operate on overlapping subtrees of the AST (in the same attribute evaluation). In case of overlapping subtrees an error is reported.

The object `query` is of type `AstQuery` and provides frequently used methods for obtaining information stored in annotations of the AST. These methods are also implemented as attribute evaluations.

The inherited attribute `forNestingLevel` is used to handle the nesting of for-loops. It depends on how an OpenMP compiler supports nested parallelism whether we want to parallelize inner for statements or only the outer for statement. In the example `isUserDefIteratorForStatement` is a boolean function which determines whether a for-loop should be parallelized or not. It uses the algorithm *TestParallelLoop*, see Fig. 5 and additional information which can be provided by using attributes. In the example we only use the nesting level of for-loops as additional information.

The object `query` of type `AstQuery` offers methods to provide information on subtrees that have been proven to be useful in different transformations. In the example we use it to obtain variable names and type names. The example shows how we can decompose different aspects of a transformation into separate attribute evaluations. The methods of the query object are implemented by using the attribute evaluation.

```
SgScopeStatement<unsigned int forNestingLevel>
  = SgForStatement
      (.
        bool isOmpForQualified
        = ompTransUtil.isUserDefIteratorForStatement(astNode,forNestingLevel);
      .)
    "(" SgForInitStatementNT<forNestingLevel> SgExpressionRootNT
        SgExpressionRootNT SgBasicBlockNT<forNestingLevel+1>
    ")"
      (.
        if(isOmpForQualified) {
          string iVarName = query.iteratorVariableName(astNode);
          string iContName = query.iteratorContainerName(astNode);
          string iContType = query.iteratorContainerType(astNode);
          string parTypeName = ompTransUtil.supportingParType(astNode,iContType);
          string parContName = ompTransUtil.uniqueVarName(astNode,iContName);
          string modifiedBodyString
                 = ompTransUtil.derefToIndexBody(astNode,iVarName,iContName);
          string support = parTypeName+" "+parContName+"("+iContName+");\n";
          string beforeForStmt
                 = "#pragma omp parallel for\n";
          string newForStmt = "for( int "+iVarName+"=0;"
                              + iVarName+"<"+parContName+".size();"
                              + iVarName+"++ ) "+modifiedBodyString;
          subst.replace(astNode,support + beforeForStmt + newForStmt);
        }
      .)
  | ...
```

**Fig. 7.** A part of the SgScopeStatement rule of the abstract C++ grammar with the semantic action specifying the transformation of a SgForStatement.

In fig. 6 the generated code is shown. The access uses the notation for random access iterators. The `SupportingOmpContainer_list` class is used to generate an array of pointers to all elements of the list to achieve a complexity of O(1) for the element access. The list of pointers is generated when the supporting container `l2` is created. When the generated code is compiled with an OpenMP compiler the body is executed in parallel.

Note that the generated source code can have a slightly different formatting because the format of the source code is a beautified version of the source corresponding to the transformed AST.

## 4 Related Work

The research community has developed many automatic parallelizing compilers. Examples of these research compilers include the DSystem [7], the Fx compiler [8], the Vienna Fortran Compiler [9], the Paradigm compiler [10], the Polaris compiler [11], and the SUIF compiler [13]. However, except for SUIF, which has front-ends for Fortran, C, and C++; the others listed above optimize only Fortran applications. By providing a C++ front-end for automatic parallelization, we complement previous research in providing support for higher-level object-oriented languages. In addition, we extend previous techniques by utilizing the semantic information of user-defined containers and thus allowing user-defined abstractions to be treated as part of a domain-specific language.

As more and more programmers are using OpenMP to express parallelism, many OpenMP supporting compilers were developed, including both research projects [14–17] and commercial compilers [18–21]. In addition to OpenMP-directive translation, many research compiler infrastructures also investigate techniques to automatically generate OpenMP directives and to optimize the parallel execution of OpenMP applications. However, these research compilers only support applications written in C or FORTRAN, while existing commercial C++ compilers target only specific machine architectures and do not provide an open source-to-source transformation interface to the outside world. By providing a flexible source-to-source translator, we complement previous research by presenting an open research infrastructure for optimizing C++ constructs and OpenMP directives.

A relatively large body of work uses parallel libraries or language extensions, or both, to allow the user to parallelize the code. The Parallel Standard Library [22] uses parallel iterators as a parallel equivalent to STL iterators and provides some parallel algorithms and containers. NESL [23], CILK [24], and SPLIT-C [25] are extended programming languages with NESL providing a library of algorithms. STAPL [26] borrows from the STL philosophy, i.e., containers, iterators, and algorithms. The user must use pContainers, pRange (similar to iterators), and pAlgorithms to express parallelism. STAPL is further distinguished in that it emphasizes both automatic support and user-specified policies for scheduling, data composition, and data dependence enforcement.

In contrast, with our approach the application developer does not need to learn language extensions nor does he need to use a parallel library. It is the library writer who needs to provide additional information, such as side effects, aliasing, etc., about the abstractions used in the library. He then builds a translator using the infrastructure presented in section 2. This translator is used by the application developer to automatically parallelize the sequential user code.

The Broadway Compiler system [27] is in some aspects similar to our approach. It uses an annotation language and a compiler that together can customize a library implementation for specific application needs. The annotation language used in the Broadway Compiler is more sophisticated. However, it addresses optimizations of C programs only which does not allow as great a flexibility in the expression of high-level abstractions as C++.

## 5 Conclusions and Future Work

This paper presents a C++ infrastructure for semantic-driven parallelization of computations that operate on user-defined containers that have an access interface similar to that provided by the Standard Template Library in C++. First, we provide an interface for library developers to inform our compiler about the semantics of their containers and the side-effects of their library functions. Then, we use this information to parallelize loops that iterate over these containers automatically when it is safe to do so.

Our analysis algorithm conservatively disallows the parallelization of loops that modify non-local memory locations, that is, memory locations that are not elements of the user-defined container and are defined outside of the loop. In the future, we will extend our algorithm to be more precise by incorporating global alias analysis and array dependence analysis techniques [12]. This more sophisticated algorithm will be as precise as those used by other automatic parallelizing compilers [7–11, 13], while still being more aggressive for user-defined abstractions by optimizing them as part of a domain-specific language.

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