

HANDS-ON — CUDA SDK - BASIC CONCEPTS

Siegfried Höfinger

ASC Research Center, TU Wien

October 19, 2025

→ <https://tinyurl.com/cudaforbeginners/ii/ho3/notes-ho3.pdf>

HANDS-ON — CUDA SDK - BASIC CONCEPTS

Exercise

- Q1)** *A simple example to probe tensor core operation is given in the SDK — 3_CUDA_Features/cudaTensorCoreGemm. Create your own private copy (maybe in a separate parallel dir my_cudaTensorCoreGemm), go there, copy over the sources, examine the *.cu, compile it and run it. Can we check whether the GPU is really doing something ? Could we make the compute process on the GPU a bit “heavier” so that we can better monitor it ?*

A1) *Go into the SDK and copy over the mentioned directory,*

cd wherever_the_SDK_may_be/Samples/3_CUDA_Features

cp -r ./cudaTensorCoreGemm ./my_cudaTensorCoreGemm

cd ./my_cudaTensorCoreGemm

Recall that SDK samples nowadays are built with cmake (pick suitable modules)

mkdir build

cd build

cmake ..

make

./cudaTensorCoreGemm

In a second xterm run

watch -n 0.1 nvidia-smi

and observe GPU 0/1 activity. If we increase M/N/K_TILES to 1024, re-compile and re-launch, GPU-Util in nvidia-smi will be monitoring >0%.

→ https://tinyurl.com/cudafordummies/ii/ho3/cudaTensorCoreGemm_v2.cu

Exercise

Q2) *Consider the SDK sample 0_Introduction/simplePrintf. Again, copy/compile/run it in some private directory. Think about 2 modifications inserting assert() calls in the kernel code, one causing no termination, the other triggering exit/abortion, ideally dependent on some value of threadIdx/blockIdx.*

15 min

- A2)** *Repeat the copying/compiling of 0_Introduction/simplePrintf then examine the kernel code. A simple non-harmful `assert()` could be `assert(val < 100);` while another one causing exit could be `assert(k < 3);` with*
- $$k = (\text{blockIdx.y} * \text{gridDim.x}) + \text{blockIdx.x};$$

→ https://tinyurl.com/cudafordummies/ii/ho3/simplePrintf_v2.cu

→ https://tinyurl.com/cudafordummies/ii/ho3/simplePrintf_v3.cu