

Complex Number Division Calculation Methods and Our Work in MLIR

Shunsuke Watanabe (@s-watanabe314) 2025 AsiaLLVM Developers' Meeting June 2025



Introduction



- Flang's performance was worse than GFortran's on the cam4 benchmark of SPEC CPU 2017.
 - Flang: The Fortran frontend in the LLVM project.
 - GFortran: The GNU Fortran compiler.
 - SPEC CPU 2017: The benchmarks to measure the performance of a processor, memory subsystem, and compiler.
- One reason is complex number division.
 - Flang always lowers complex number division to a scalar runtime function, which prevents vectorization.
 - We are considering using MLIR to lower it to simple instructions.

Complex Number Division Algorithms



• Considering
$$\frac{a+bi}{c+di} = \frac{ac+bd}{c^2+d^2} + \frac{bc-ad}{c^2+d^2}i$$

- Algebraic algorithm
 - Fast but prone to overflow.

```
den = c * c + d * d
real = (a * c + b * d)/den
imag = (b * c - a * d)/den
```

- Smith's algorithm
 - Less prone to overflow but slower than algebraic method.

```
 \begin{aligned} &\text{if } |c| > |d| & &\text{else} \\ &r = d/c & &r = c/d \\ &den = c + r * d & &den = r * c + d \\ &real = (a + b * r)/den & &real = (a * r + b)/den \\ &imag = (b - a * r)/den & &imag = (b * r - a)/den \end{aligned}
```

Proposal for Flang's Complex Number Division



 Improving Flang with MLIR for algorithm selection and vectorization.

Current behavior

```
subroutine div_test(x, y, z)
  complex(4) :: x, y, z
  z = x / y
end subroutine
```

Always lowers to a runtime function

```
%11 = call { float, float } @__divsc3
```

Calculation algorithm and pre/postprocessing depend on the implementation of the runtime function.

	Pre- processing	Division Algorithm	Post- processing
LLVM's runtime	Scaling inputs	Algebraic	NaN handling
GNU's runtime	Using high- precision	Algebraic	-
	Scaling inputs	Smith	NaN handling

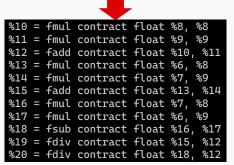
Pre-processing: Preventing overflow
Post-processing: Meeting language standard requirements
for invalid values

Proposal

```
subroutine div_test(x, y, z)
complex(4) :: x, y, z
z = x / y
end subroutine

Selects runtime function
or simple instructions
```

%11 = call { float, float } @__divsc3



%6 = complex.div %4.

Converting to simple instructions facilitates algorithm selection and vectorization.

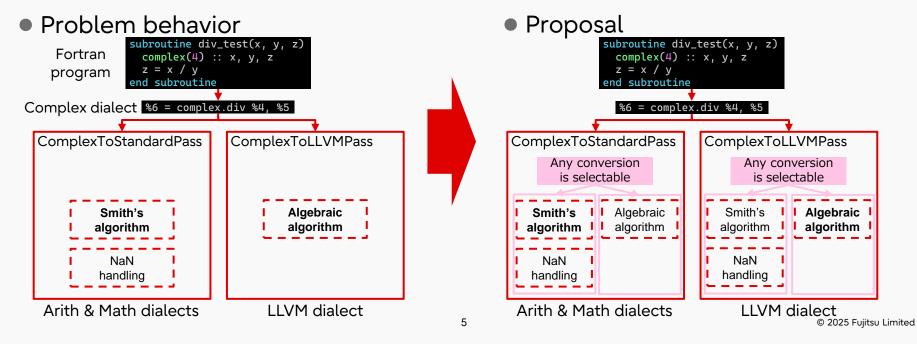
Via complex

dialect in MLIR

Problem of Complex Dialect in MLIR



- When converting the "complex.div" operation, the algorithm was determined by the target dialect.
- Algorithm selection should be independent of the target dialect.



Add Pass Option and Select Algorithm



- Our work (Patch : #127010)
 - Consolidated conversion functions into a single header file.
 - Reduced the risk that only one pass's algorithm is modified in the future.
 - Added new pass options to select the algorithm.
 - This implementation maintains backward compatibility and makes it easy to add new algorithms if needed.
- Using this patch with Flang will promote vectorization.

```
subroutine div_loop(x, y, z)
  integer, parameter :: n = 32768
  integer :: i
  complex(4), dimension(n) :: x, y, z
  do i = 1, n
    z(i) = x(i) / y(i)
```

Current Flang: Can only lower to runtime call even when "-ffast-math" is specified.

- contains unnecessary pre- and post-processingcannot be vectorized because only a scalar version is available

Flang prototype: Can lower to instructions by using the improved "complex.div" when "-ffast-math" is specified, which promotes vectorization.

```
%10 = fmul contract float %8, %8
%11 = fmul contract float %9, %9
%12 = fadd contract float %10, %11
%13 = fmul contract float %6. %8
```

```
%14 = fmul fast <4 x float> %strided.vec36, %strided.vec
%15 = fmul fast <4 x float> %strided.vec37, %strided.vec34
%16 = fadd fast <4 x float> %15, %14
      fmul fast <4 x float> %strided.vec36, %strided.vec34
```

Future Work & Concern



- Discuss and decide which algorithm should be used at each optimization level in Flang (#83468).
- Design Flang driver options.
 - Change the current behavior and add other options for complex number division.

 How can we completely decouple algorithm selection from dialect conversion?

Acknowledgements



 This presentation is based on results obtained from a project, JPNP21029, subsidized by the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO).



Thank you

