

# mdspan in C++: A Case Study in the Integration of Performance Portable Features into International Language Standards



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# Follow along!



[dsh.fyi/TODO](https://dsh.fyi/TODO)

# Disclaimer



## DISCLAIMER

This presentation contains some C++ source code.

# Outline





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- Introduction



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- Design Overview



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  - Shape and Indexing



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  - `subspan`



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- Concluding Remarks

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  - First submitted to Autumn 2015 meeting
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  - Currently under wording review
- Support for arbitrary (rectangular) shapes, mixing of static and runtime extents, layout customization, and memory access customization

# Design Overview

# Basic Usage



```
void some_function(double* data, float* data2) {  
  
    // std::dynamic_extent means it's a dimension given at runtime  
    auto my_matrix = mdspan<double, dynamic_extent, dynamic_extent>(data, 20, 40);  
  
    // runtime and compile-time dimensions can be mixed  
    auto other_matrix = mdspan<float, 20, dynamic_extent>(data2, 40);  
  
    /* ... */  
  
    my_matrix(17, 34) = 3.14;  
    other_matrix(0, 12) = my_matrix(17, 34);  
}
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View data as a 20x40 matrix of doubles (runtime extents)

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Mixed compile-time and runtime dimensions

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Access to values uses the parenthesis operator

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- mdspan is just an alias for basic\_mdspan (just like string is an alias for basic\_string)
- std::extents is a class template that expresses the shape of the mdspan.

# subspan



```
auto s = mdspan<double, 3, 4, 5>(data);  
s(1, 2, 3) = 2.78;  
auto s2 = subspan(s, 1, pair{1, 3}, all);  
assert(s2(1, 3) == s(1, 2, 3));
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  - sparse layouts
  - compressed layouts (with the help of an `AccessorPolicy`)



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  - Expose non-aliasing semantics (i.e., like `restrict` in C)
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  - Access data stored in a compressed format of some sort
  - Access data atomically (using P0019, `atomic_ref`)

# Benchmarks

# Sum3D



```
for(ptrdiff_t i = 0; i < s.extent(0); ++i) {  
    for (ptrdiff_t j = 0; j < s.extent(1); ++j) {  
        for (ptrdiff_t k = 0; k < s.extent(2); ++k) {  
            sum += s(i, j, k);  
        }  
    }  
}
```

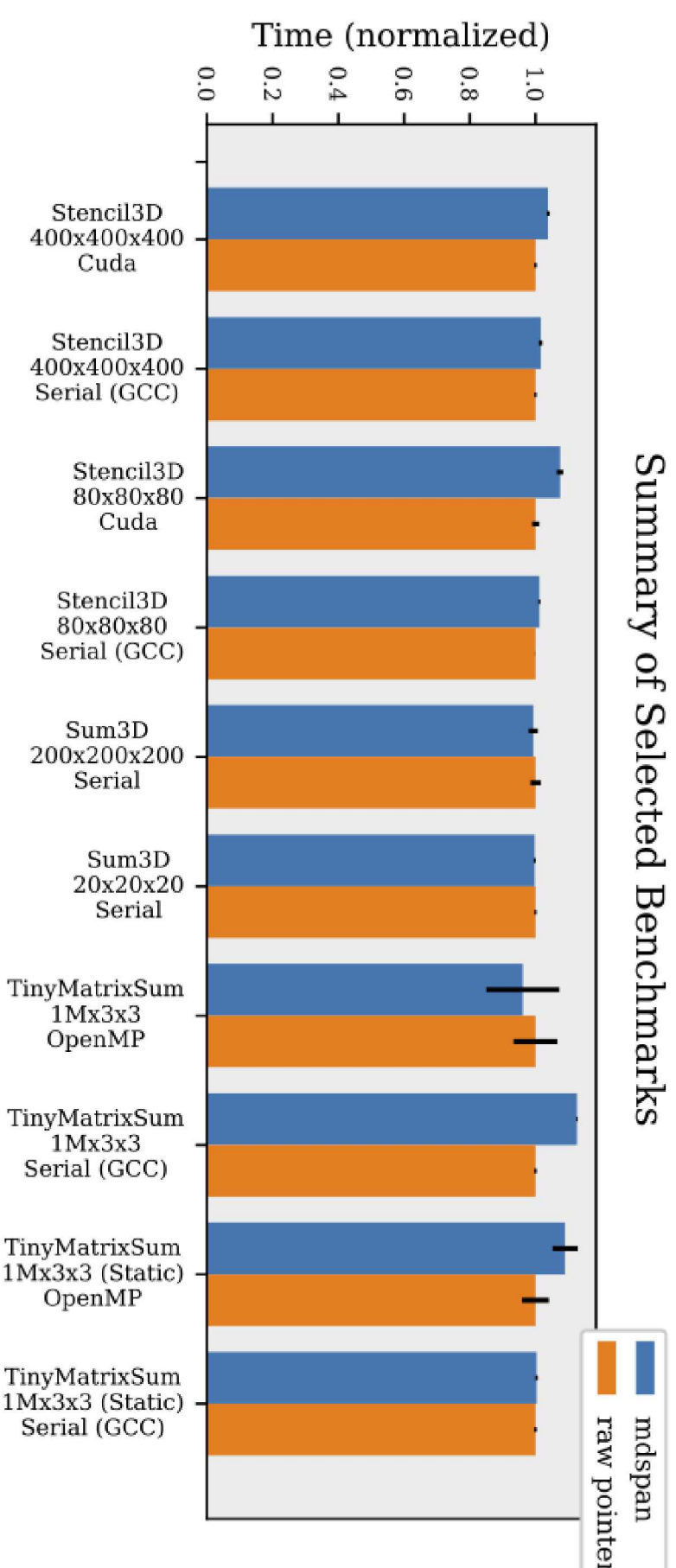
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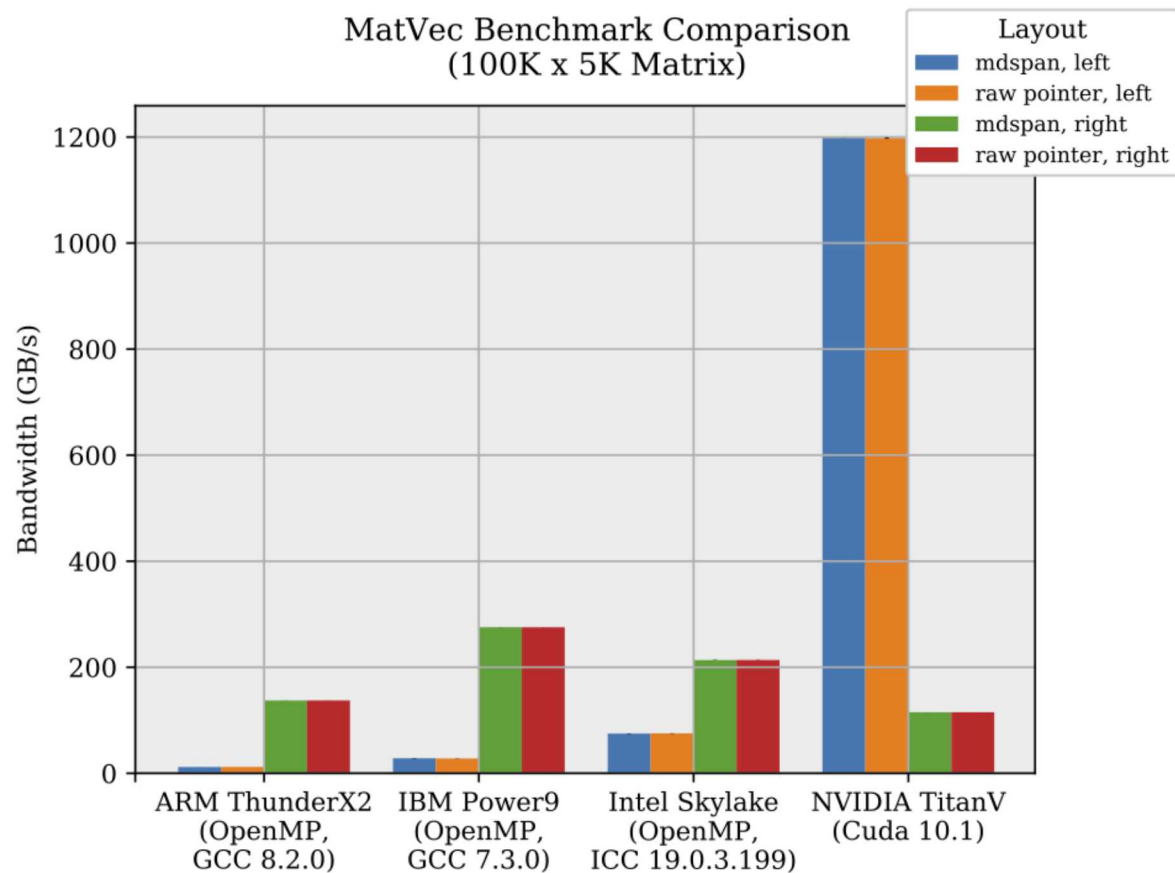
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```

```
for(ptrdiff_t i = 0; i < x; ++i) {  
    for (ptrdiff_t j = 0; j < y; ++j) {  
        for (ptrdiff_t k = 0; k < z; ++k) {  
            sum += s_ptr[k + j*z + i*y*z];  
        }  
    }  
}
```

# Comparison to Raw Pointer



# Effect of Layout on MatVec



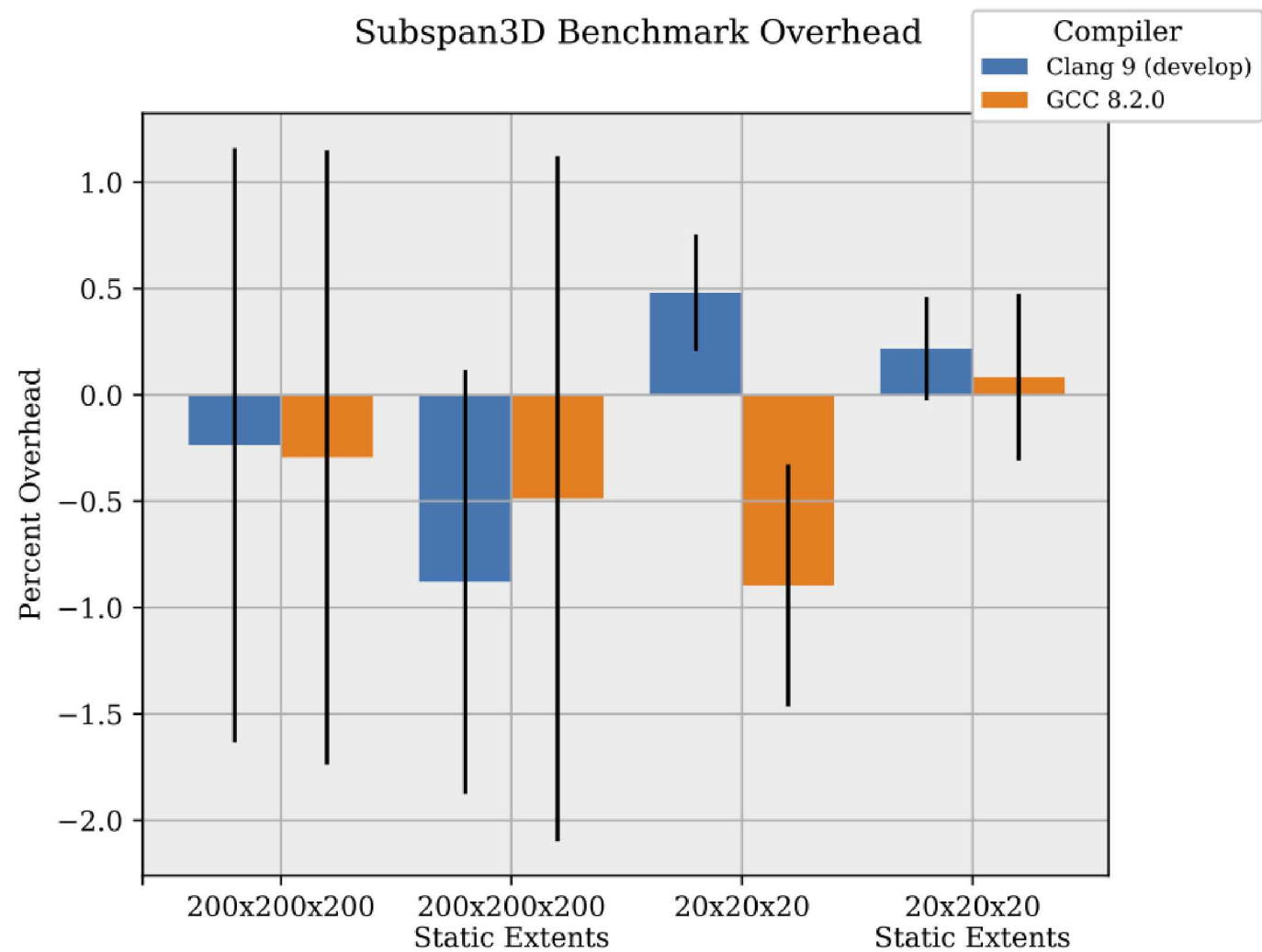


# Subspan3D: Abstraction Overhead Stress Test



```
for(ptrdiff_t i = 0; i < s.extent(0); ++i) {  
    auto sub_i = subspan(s, i, all, all);  
    for (ptrdiff_t j = 0; j < s.extent(1); ++j) {  
        auto sub_i_j = subspan(sub_i, j, all);  
        for (ptrdiff_t k = 0; k < s.extent(2); ++k) {  
            sum += sub_i_j(k);  
        }  
    }  
}
```

# Subspan3D Overhead



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  - Feedback is appreciated!

# Questions?