# **TPU-KNN** K Nearest Neighbor Search at Peak FLOP/s

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### Abstract

This paper presents a novel nearest neighbor search algorithm achieving TPU 1 (Google Tensor Processing Unit) peak performance, outperforming state-of-the-2 art GPU algorithms with similar level of recall. The design of the proposed з algorithm is motivated by an accurate accelerator performance model that takes into 4 account both the memory and instruction bottlenecks. Our algorithm comes with 5 6 an analytical guarantee of recall in expectation and does not require maintaining sophisticated index data structure or tuning, making it suitable for applications 7 with frequent updates. Our work is available in the open-source package of Jax and 8 Tensorflow on TPU. 9

# 10 1 Introduction

The K-nearest neighbor (K-NN) search problem has a wide range of applications in machine learning 11 and information retrieval systems, including image search (Jia et al., 2021; Babenko and Lempitsky, 12 2016), semantic textual retrieval (Liu et al., 2009; Cer et al., 2018), anomaly detection (Gu et al., 13 2019; Omar et al., 2013), recommendation systems (Sarwar et al., 2002; Zhao et al., 2019), as well as 14 serving as a component for a downstream tasks (Borgeaud et al., 2021; Guu et al., 2020; Lindgren 15 et al., 2021; Shazeer et al., 2017). Given a query, the objective of K-NN is to identify K closest 16 datapoints from a database of finite number of data points in a vector space. The main challenge of 17 designing a good K-NN algorithm is to compute accurate K-NN results while being computationally 18 efficient. 19

Solving the K-NN problem on accelerators has emerging interests from both the academia and the 20 industry (Johnson et al., 2021; Shanbhag et al., 2018; Zhao et al., 2020). Many accelerators can 21 deliver hundreds of Tera Floating Point Operations Per Seconds (TFLOPS) vital to the neighbor 22 distance computation. However, utilizing accelerators in K-NN problems is not straightforward; 23 multiple issues in data locality, memory bandwidth, and multiple types of hardware parallelism need 24 to be carefully considered to achieve high utilization. In this paper we extend the *roofline performance* 25 model (Williams et al., 2009) to quantify the hardware characteristics accurately. As a result, we 26 designed a K-NN algorithm to reach peak performance by the precise modeling of the accelerators, 27 and our TPU implementation aligned with our predicted performance. 28

<sup>29</sup> The main contributions of this work are:

- We extend the roofline model to address the operation throughput differences of the instructions, essential to the algorithm analysis in this paper.
- We design an approximate *K*-NN algorithm with recall and performance guarantees based on our proposed roofline model.

• We conduct experiments verifying our TPU implementation of the algorithm accurately 34 aligned with the performance model and achieves state-of-the-art speed-recall trade-offs on 35 standard nearest neighbor search benchmarks. 36

#### **Preliminaries** 2 37

This section covers the necessary notations to work with the nearest neighbor search problem. Given 38 a matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$ , we let  $a_{i,j}$  denote the item at the *i*th row and *j*th column of  $\mathbf{A}$ , and  $\mathbf{a}_i$  denote 39 the *i*th *row-vector* of **A**. We use the matrix  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D}$  to abbreviate a set-representation of a 40 database  $\mathbf{X} = {\mathbf{x}_i}_{i=1,2,...,N}$  with N data points, where each data point  $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^D$  is a row vector of 41 the matrix  $\mathbf{X}$  in a  $\hat{D}$  dimensional vector space. The set and matrix representation of database  $\mathbf{X}$  are 42 used interchangeably in this paper. 43

The K nearest neighbor search problem is stated as follows. Given a database  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D}$  and a 44 query vector  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{R}^{D}$ , find the subset  $\mathbf{S}^* \subset \mathbf{X}$  collecting the K-closest data points to  $\mathbf{q}$ : 45

$$\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{q}}^{*} = K\operatorname{-argmin}_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbf{X}} \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{x}),$$
(1)

- where  $\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  is a distance measure such as Euclidean distance  $\mathcal{D}_{\ell^2}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) := \|\mathbf{x} \mathbf{y}\|_2$  or the cosine 46
- 47
- distance  $\mathcal{D}_{cos}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) := 1 \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle}{\|\mathbf{x}\| \|\mathbf{y}\|}$ . A related problem is the maximum inner product search (MIPS), where the goal is to find the data points that have the highest inner products with the query: 48

$$\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{q}}^{*} = K \operatorname{-argmax}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}} \langle \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{x} \rangle.$$
(2)

MIPS is equivalent to the cosine similarity search when all data points are  $\ell^2$ -normalized. 49

#### 3 **Related work** 50

Exhaustively searching all pair-wise distances between the query and the entire database is compute-51

intensive and often infeasible on many platforms. Therefore, a problem extensively discussed in the 52

- literature (Wang et al., 2014, 2015) is to find approximate nearest neighbors (ANN) in exchange of 53
- speed. By convention, the quality of ANN is measured by 54

$$\operatorname{Recall} := \frac{|\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{q}} \cap \mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{q}}^{*}|}{|\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{q}}^{*}|}, \qquad (3)$$

where  $\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{q}} \subset \mathbf{X}$  denotes the set of data points retrieved by the search method. 55

**Compressed domain search** One class of ANN approaches is to search on a lossy-compressed 56 problem domain. These methods are composed in two steps: a) search on compressed representation<sup>1</sup> 57 of the original problem to find a set of candidate data points, b) compute the distances between the 58 query and the candidate data points to select the top-K results. Since only a subset of data points 59

requires the exact distance computation, the overall cost is reduced. 60

The two steps can be composed in arbitrary ways. Locality sensitive hashing (Andoni et al., 2015; 61

Nevshabur and Srebro, 2015) applies search followed by scoring; tree-search (Muja and Lowe, 2014; 62

Dasgupta and Freund, 2008) applies the two steps recursively; graph-search (Malkov and Yashunin, 63

2018) iterates between two steps until the stopping condition is met. And the inverted file (IVF) 64

method (Jegou et al., 2010; Babenko and Lempitsky, 2014; Baranchuk et al., 2018; Guo et al., 2020) 65

search on subset of data points indexed by the k-means centroids. 66

67 We see that there are two major challenges with the compressed domain search:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Here we mean data structures like tree, graph, locality sensitive hash etc.

Fractional search has a poor cache reuse rate because the candidate data points for each query rarely overlaps. We show optimizing the cache usage has a huge headroom for accelerators in Section 4.2.

Tweaking the speed-recall trade-off is data-dependent and non-trivial to tune. The key result of Beyer et al. (1999) states that the distance contrast of neighbors diminishes with increasing dimensionality (also known as the curse of high dimensionality). Furthermore, the key result of Rubinstein (2018) states that sub-linear time nearest neighbor search with high recall is impossible for Euclidean, Manhattan, or Hamming distance; otherwise, it contradicts the Strong Exponential Time Hypothesis (Impagliazzo and Paturi 1990)

contradicts the Strong Exponential Time Hypothesis (Impagliazzo and Paturi, 1999).

Our work takes an opposite approach to focus on machine efficiency with zero search space prun ing. Moreover, since our method computes all the distances, it is immune to the curse of high
 dimensionality.

Accelerators In this paper, the phrase *accelerators* represents a class of specialized hardware to accelerate machine learning workloads. In particular, we are interested in the novel platforms that deliver high FLOP/s for distance computation, namely Google TPU V3, V4, Nvidia GPU V100, and A100 in our analysis and evaluation.

Modern accelerators have special computation units for matrix multiplication, providing a higher
operation throughput over the regular coefficient-wise operations. The corresponding units are tensor
cores in Nvidia GPUs (Markidis et al., 2018) and systolic arrays in Google TPUs (Jouppi et al., 2017;
Norrie et al., 2021). Addressing these operation throughput differences is essential to our algorithm
design.

While accelerators excel in parallelism, developing an efficient *K*-selection algorithm on accelerators
is still an active research area (Monroe et al., 2011; Shanbhag et al., 2018; Johnson et al., 2021; Zhao
et al., 2020). Accelerators with higher FLOP/s introduce a higher opportunity cost of computing the *K*-selection problem instead of the distance computation. The trend of the increasing FLOP/s in
accelerators motivated us to optimize the FLOP/s usage by reducing the time required for computing *K*-selection.

# 95 4 Methodology

<sup>96</sup> This section presents a performance model to identify non-trivial bottlenecks on multiple plat-<sup>97</sup> forms and demonstrates some fundamental limits when designing algorithms for *K*-NN and related

<sup>97</sup> rollins and demonstrates some rundamental mints when designing algorithms for *X*-NN and related <sup>98</sup> problems, and we see that the cache inefficiency of the compressed domain methods introduces a

<sup>99</sup> significant cost on accelerators.

We model the accelerator's runtime as executing a sequence of *computation kernels*, where each kernel is a compiled subroutine on the accelerator used by the main program on the CPU. A kernel may be composed of one or several high-level operators: Einsum, ReLU, ArgMax, etc., and each kernel can have different performance characteristics.

Given a sequence of kernels  $k_i$ , we let  $W_i$  denotes the total amount of work and  $P_i$  denotes the operational speed. Our goal is to estimate the total time of a program:

$$t = \sum_{i} \frac{W_i}{P_i}.$$
(4)

In the following example, we focus on the MIPS problem. Let  $\mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times D}$  and  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D}$  denote the queries and the database, the runtime of a generic approximate-MIPS program can be modeled as

$$t = \frac{\lambda W_{\mathcal{D}}}{P} + \mathcal{O}(\text{Auxiliary}) \ge \frac{\lambda W_{\mathcal{D}}}{P},$$
(5)

where  $W_D$  denotes the total FLOPs required for searching the entire database, and  $\lambda$  denotes the search fraction. We note that P varies by algorithm and platform. Traditionally, compressed domain search methods minimize  $\lambda$  but sacrifice cache efficiency. Our method use an alternative route to optimize P instead.

Name	$\pi$ (TFLOP/s)	$\beta$ (GB/s)	$\gamma$ (TCOP/s)
GPU V100	125	900	15.7
GPU A100	312	1555	19.5
TPU V3	126	858	4.0
TPU V4	274	1144	4.3

Table 1: Hardware specifications for the generalized roofline model

#### 112 4.1 Instruction throughput-aware roofline model

This subsection describes how we model the kernel-dependent performance P on multiple platforms with a small extension of the roofline model.

The *classic roofline model* (Williams et al., 2009) is a function of machine peak performance  $\pi$ measured in FLOP/s, machine peak memory bandwidth  $\beta$  measured in bytes/s, and arithmetic intensity  $I_{\text{MEM}}$  expressed as the ratio of floating-point operations performed to data movement

(FLOP/byte). The model states the performance is bounded by  $P \leq \min(\pi, \beta \times I_{\text{MEM}})$ .

We desire to model kernels that has a mixture of floating point operations accelerated by dedicated hardware as well as other coefficient-wise operations. The coefficient-wise operations are abbreviated as COPs. Almost every non matrix multiplication operations are COPs, including vectorized add, multiply, compare, conditional-move, etc. We use the symbol  $\gamma$  for peak COP/s on platforms, and define the instruction throughput intensity  $I_{COP}$  as the ratio between the number FLOPs and the number of COPs performed in a kernel (FLOP/COP). The attainable performance of a kernel is bounded by:

$$P \le \min \begin{cases} \pi \\ \beta \times I_{\text{MEM}} \\ \gamma \times I_{\text{COP}}. \end{cases}$$
(6)

The statement is self-explanatory because the inadequate resources impede the kernel throughput. Table 1 lists the properties of selected accelerators for our analysis<sup>2</sup>. The roofline model is commonly used in accelerator profiling tools but not as frequently discussed in algorithm designs. The following sections show how the model prevents pitfalls due to the hardware constraints.

#### 130 4.2 The memory bandwidth bound

This subsection demonstrates how to evaluate if a kernel hits the memory bandwidth wall. We associate the distance computation with three levels of BLAS (Dongarra et al., 1990). Level 1 BLAS describes vector operations on non-consecutive memory access, such as computing distances while traversing through a graph. Level 2 BLAS represents scoring a query with consecutively stored data points. Level 3 BLAS expresses batched query-database distance computation, often used in brute-force scoring.

<sup>137</sup> Compressed domain searches are either level 1 or 2 BLAS due to the cache inefficiency. It has <sup>138</sup>  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  memory arithmetic intensity because the number of FLOPs is proportion to the bytes read. <sup>139</sup> Combining (5) and (6) we have the following remark:

140 **Remark 1.** Distance computations in compressed domain searches are memory bandwidth bounded. 141 In our model, the runtime is lower bounded by:  $t \ge O(\lambda W_D/\beta)$ .

<sup>142</sup> To estimate the memory arithmetic intensity for level 3 BLAS, we continue to use  $\mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times D}$  and

143  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D}$  for denoting queries and database. In many K-NN applications N and M are much

144 greater than *D*. The corresponding memory arithmetic intensity is:

$$I_{\rm MEM} = \frac{2MND}{4MN + o(MN)} \approx \frac{D}{2}.$$
(7)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Readers can find these numbers from the accelerators' specification sheets.



Figure 1: Memory rooflines of accelerators and a dual-sockets Intel skylake machine as a baseline. Each colored line denotes the maximum performance a platform could achieve, and each vertical line represents the memory arithmetic intensity of an algorithm. The intersections of the lines show the maximum performance of an algorithm could achieve on a platform. We label three levels of BLAS kernels and our algorithm described in Section 5.

The largest term in the denominator of (7) is the 4MN bytes of the query-database distances. We omit the insignificant terms and refer readers to (Golub and Van Loan, 2013, Section 1.5.4) for a comprehensive review on memory transfers in block matrix multiplications.

Figure 1 shows that the distance scoring kernels of different BLAS levels can easily hit the memory bandwidth wall. In order to attain high performance, we designed our algorithm to aggregate the results within the kernel to avoid writing the  $\mathcal{O}(MN)$  bytes into memory.

#### 151 4.3 The instruction bandwidth bound

The use of COPs (non matrix multiplication instructions) introduce another slowdown. We let Cdenotes the number of COPs used per dot-product score in a kernel equipped with COPs and matrix multiplication instructions. There are  $M \times N$  dot-product scores, so the total COPs used in a kernel is CMN. To prevent hitting the COPs bandwidth wall, we must satisfy:

$$I_{\rm COP} = \frac{2\mathcal{HND}}{C\mathcal{MN}} \ge \frac{\pi}{\gamma},\tag{8}$$

$$\Rightarrow C \le \frac{2D \times \gamma}{\pi}.\tag{9}$$

The number of COPs we can afford in the kernels is scarce. We take D = 128 as an example and substitute it into (9). We can only use 4 coefficient-wise instructions per dot-product for TPU V4, and 16 for GPU A100. We conclude with the following remark:

**Remark 2.** *Exact and generic K-selection algorithm cannot be efficiently implemented with the coefficient-wise operations for the selected platforms (GPU V100, A100, TPU V3 and V4).* 

161 Because of Remark 2, we develop an approximate approach to achieve the peak performances.

### 162 **5** Algorithm

- 163 Our algorithm consists of two kernels:
- 164 1. PartialReduce kernel computes the distances and partially aggregate the results from  $M \times N$ 165 distances to  $M \times L$  distances with original indices.

Algorithm 1: PartialReduce for MIPS

**Input:**  $\mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times D}$  Batch queries Input:  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D}$  Database **Input:**  $2^W$  Bin size **Output:**  $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times L}$  Top-*K* values **Output:**  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{N}^{M \times L}$  Top-*K* indices 1 for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to M do for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to N do 2  $y_{i,j} \leftarrow \langle \mathbf{q}_i, \mathbf{x}_j \rangle$ ; 3  $l \leftarrow \text{ShiftRight}(j, W);$ /\* Unrolled and does not cost COP \*/ 4  $b \leftarrow y_{i,j} > v_{i,l}$ ; /\* COP 1: Vectorized compare \*/ 5  $v_{i,l} \leftarrow \text{if } b \text{ then } y_{i,j} \text{ else } v_{i,l};$  $a_{i,l} \leftarrow \text{if } b \text{ then } j \text{ else } a_{i,l};$ /\* COP 2: Vectorized conditional move \*/ 6 /\* COP 3: Vectorized conditional move \*/ 7 end 8 9 end

166 2. ExactRescoring kernel is an *optional* kernel that aggregates the final top-K results. The 167 complexity is  $\mathcal{O}(ML\log^2(L))$  by a bitonic sort followed by a truncation.

The PartialReduce kernel is where most of the time and compute takes place. See Algorithm 1 for an outline of the algorithm. We collect top-1 distances from the L non-overlapping bins of size  $2^W$  for each query, resulting high arithmetic intensities:

$$I_{\text{MEM}} \approx \mathcal{O}\left(\min\left(M, N\right)\right),\tag{10}$$

$$I_{\rm COP} = \frac{2MND}{CMN} = \frac{2D}{C}.$$
 (11)

We show these arithmetic intensities can achieve high performance on real world database in section 6.1. See Appendix A.3 for the detailed expansion of the algorithm and how the arithmetic intensities

are derived.

#### 174 5.1 Recall estimation

This section shows the PartialReduce kernel can achieve high recall with good speed. We reformulate our problem in terms of balls and bins. We have K balls representing the top-K distances that are thrown into L bins. The location of each ball is chosen independently and uniformly at random. We let **Z** denotes the random variable of the number of balls that does not share the bin with other balls. Following the recall definition (3) we have:

$$\operatorname{Recall} = \frac{\mathbf{Z}}{K},\tag{12}$$

180 which is a standard Birthday problem:

$$\mathbb{E}[\operatorname{Recall}] = \frac{\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Z}]}{K} = \left(\frac{L-1}{L}\right)^{K-1}.$$
(13)

Our goal is to find the minimal L such that the expected recall is greater equals to the target recall r.

Finding L is simple because (13) is invertible in the natural range 0 < r < 1.

$$\mathbb{E}[\operatorname{Recall}] \ge r \Rightarrow L \ge \frac{1}{1 - r^{1/(K-1)}} \approx \frac{K-1}{1-r}.$$
(14)



Figure 2: Roofline plots for MIPS and  $\ell^2$  search benchmarks using the PartialReduce kernel. The colored lines denotes the attainable performance derived from Table 1. The figure on the left shows none of the benchmark is memory bandwidth limited. The figure on the right shows that our model gives a much tighter bound for  $\ell^2$  on TPU V4. See also Appendix A.5 for detailed deviation of the numbers.

The approximation in (14) follows from Appendix A.4. Since *L* is at the order of *K*, and in most applications  $K \ll N$ , the cost of the ExactRescoring kernel is amortized out. Thus we affirm the claim that our method attains high performance with an analytical recall guarantee.

# 186 6 Evaluation

In this section, we show that our proposed algorithm and implementation is near the hardware limit 187 and leads to superior performance over the baselines of similar recalls. We applied our algorithm 188 to two datasets from the public ANN benchmarks (Aumüller et al., 2020). In our first evaluation, 189 we compares the measured FLOP/s to the theoretical peak governed by the proposed refinement of 190 the roofline model (6), proclaiming our implementation is reaching the hardware peak performance. 191 In the second benchmark, we compare the end-to-end performance with competitive baselines with 192 pre-tuned parameters. We plot each algorithm's speed-recall curve and show ours achieves the 193 state-of-the-art. 194

#### **195 6.1** Comparison with the theoretical peak

This section shows that our refined roofline model (6) captures additional performance characteristic
over the classic roofline model, and demonstrates our kernels are having near optimal performances.
We select the Glove<sup>3</sup> (Pennington et al., 2014) and Sift<sup>4</sup> (Jegou et al., 2010) datasets from the ANN
benchmarks. Their corresponding distances are the cosine distance and the Euclidean distance. See
the code snippets in Appendix A.1 and A.2.

See Figure 2, the colored lines represent machines' max performances, and the dots represent each benchmark with its measured FLOP/s. The classic roofline on the left shows that our incache aggregation strategy has a large memory arithmetic intensity (~4,700) exceeding the memory bandwidth ridge points  $\pi/\beta$ . However, it is difficult to diagnose why the Euclidean distance search does not perform well on TPU V4 from the classic roofline plot.

Fortunately, when combined with the instruction bandwidth roofline we can tell the performance regression is caused by hitting the coefficient-wise operation throughput wall. Therefore we affirms

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Released in CC0 public domain.

the claim that our MIPS solution is reaching the peak FLOP/s, and our Euclidean distance search solution is meeting the compute bound on TPU V4 and attaining the peak FLOP/s on TPU V3.

#### 210 6.2 Recall-speed benchmark

To evaluate the effectiveness of the K-NN algorithm in a realistic setting, we adopted the methodology of public ANN benchmarks (Aumüller et al., 2020) to compare the end-to-end performance against other methods. The typical ANN benchmarks are only performed on a single platform. However, it is non-trivial to either port our TPU algorithm to GPU or vice versa. Alternatively, we selected the following GPUs with parity in peak performance to TPU (Table 1).

We select the Faiss GPU (Johnson et al., 2021) implementation as our baseline. Faiss provides three algorithms: Flat, IVF-flat, and IVF-PQ. The Flat algorithm performs a brute-force search, and the IVF-Flat and IVF-PQ algorithms corresponds to the inverted file method with and without the product quantization (Jegou et al., 2010; Johnson et al., 2021). We use the repository's suggested inverted file size (16384) in the IVF methods.

Figure 3 shows our performance significantly outperforms competing methods in the high recall regions. We highlight that our method has a consistent recall-speed trade-off over different datasets, because our recall only rely on the order statistics instead of the information encoded in the compression domain search methods, which may vary by the datasets. Since our method scores all the pair-wise distances, our method is immune from the curse of high dimensionality.

### **7** Discussion and future work

We limit our experiments and discussion to single-chip accelerator *K*-NN performance of dense vectors. Accelerators performance on sparse vectors follow a completely different paradigm due to random memory access. Our algorithm can be naturally extended to multi-chip or distributed settings to handle billion scale datasets through Tensorflow's tf.distribute (Abadi et al., 2015) or Jax's jax.pmap (Bradbury et al., 2018) programming interfaces.

It is also possible to use our operations in conjunction with other strategies, including dimension reduction, quantization and tree search (Van Der Maaten et al., 2009; Jegou et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2014), because many compressed domain search methods use brute-force distance computation on its auxiliary data structures before performing the fractional search. We note that heterogeneous architectures with off-HBM storage such as host-RAM or even SSD (Chen et al., 2021; Jayaram Subramanya et al., 2019; Ren et al., 2020) are great starting points for future research.

Finally, while our refinement of the roofline model handles kernel with mixture of instructions that have different throughput, there are many studies that have extended the roofline model to related topics in recent years: GPU warp instruction roofline (Ding and Williams, 2019), time-based roofline (Wang et al., 2020), roofline for multiple cache tiers (Yang et al., 2021), and energy rooflines (Choi et al., 2013; Lopes et al., 2017). Readers may refer to these models for some analysis that are left out, such as the auxiliary work in (5).

# 244 8 Conclusion

Accelerator-based machine learning has become the mainstream in academics and industries. How-245 ever, the performance characteristics of accelerators are counter-intuitive and difficult to program. 246 In this paper, we propose a roofline-based complexity analysis framework to discuss the optimality 247 of the algorithms without low-level optimization details: unrolling factors, batch window sizes, 248 vectorization, and systolic array scheduling, which are platform-dependent and lengthy to read. We 249 demonstrated several examples of inferring the hardware performance limits by simply addressing 250 the kernel's total FLOPs, byte transferred, and the number of coefficient-wise instructions used. Our 251 refined model foreshadowed non-trivial performance regression caused by the coefficient-wise in-252 structions bandwidth. We took it into account to design a new algorithm for K-NN and achieved peak 253 performance on TPU. Finally, our experiments showed that our method outperformed state-of-the-art 254 baselines on platforms with similar performance characteristics, which are known to be hard to beat. 255



Figure 3: Speed-recall trade-off on Glove1.2M and Sift1M. Up and to the right the better. The GPU methods (ivf-flat, ivf-pq, and flat) are released by Faiss (Johnson et al., 2021). For each ivf\* benchmark, the search fractions are  $\lambda = \{0.24\%, 0.61\%, 1.22\%\}$ . We note that the recall differences between datasets with similar ivf search configurations is a known problem asserted by Rubinstein (2018).

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### 378 Checklist

1. For all authors... 379 (a) Do the main claims made in the abstract and introduction accurately reflect the paper's 380 contributions and scope? [Yes] 381 (b) Did you describe the limitations of your work? [Yes] See Section 4 for how we model 382 the hardware limitations and Section 6.1 for real world evaluations. 383 (c) Did you discuss any potential negative societal impacts of your work? [N/A]384 (d) Have you read the ethics review guidelines and ensured that your paper conforms to 385 them? [Yes] 386 2. If you are including theoretical results... 387 (a) Did you state the full set of assumptions of all theoretical results? Yes See Section 388 389 5.1, we formulate the problems in terms of the classic balls into bins. (b) Did you include complete proofs of all theoretical results? [Yes] See Section 5.1 and 390 Appendix A.4. 391 3. If you ran experiments... 392 (a) Did you include the code, data, and instructions needed to reproduce the main experi-393 mental results (either in the supplemental material or as a URL)? [Yes] See Appendix 394 A.1 and A.2 395 (b) Did you specify all the training details (e.g., data splits, hyperparameters, how they 396 were chosen)? [N/A] 397 (c) Did you report error bars (e.g., with respect to the random seed after running experi-398 ments multiple times)? [N/A] 399 (d) Did you include the total amount of compute and the type of resources used (e.g., type 400 of GPUs, internal cluster, or cloud provider)? [Yes] See Table 1 and 2. 401 4. If you are using existing assets (e.g., code, data, models) or curating/releasing new assets... 402 (a) If your work uses existing assets, did you cite the creators? [Yes] See Section 6.1. 403 (b) Did you mention the license of the assets? [Yes] See the footnotes in Section 6.1. 404 (c) Did you include any new assets either in the supplemental material or as a URL? [No] 405 (d) Did you discuss whether and how consent was obtained from people whose data you're 406 using/curating? [N/A] 407 (e) Did you discuss whether the data you are using/curating contains personally identifiable 408 409 information or offensive content? [N/A] 5. If you used crowdsourcing or conducted research with human subjects... 410

411 412	(a)	Did you include the full text of instructions given to participants and screenshots, if applicable? $[N/A]$
413 414	(b)	Did you describe any potential participant risks, with links to Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals, if applicable? [N/A]
415 416	(c)	Did you include the estimated hourly wage paid to participants and the total amount spent on participant compensation? $[N/A]$