GRAPHCORE

HIGH-PERFORMANCE AI FOR FINANCIAL MODELLING

- Founded in 2016
- Technology: Intelligence Processor Unit (IPU)
- Team is over 400 globally
- Offices in UK, US, China, Norway
- Raised over \$450M





























IPU's novel architecture is already enabling us to explore new techniques that have been inefficient or simply not possible before."





We were able to train one of our proprietary probabilistic models In 4.5 minutes instead of 2 hours. That's 26x faster. "





IN FINANCE

MODELS ARE OFTEN OVERSIMPLIFIED TO ACHIEVE COMPETITIVE LATENCY OR FIGHT NOISE

IPU IS ENABLING ADVANCED MODELS TO RUN
UP TO 300x FASTER

DEEPER INSIGHTS AND BETTER DECISIONS IN SHORTER TIME



IPU DELIVERS UNIQUE BENEFITS FOR FINANCIAL MODELING

Inference

- Make decisions with lower latency
- Use models of greater complexity
- Run backtesting faster

Training

- Iterate faster when experimenting with model architectures
- Use probabilistic models to avoid overfitting and account for noise
- Re-train continuously—"nowcasting"



FASTER AND SMARTER FUTURE

Inference

- 300x higher throughput for LSTM at the same latency
- Efficient for non-vectorizable models

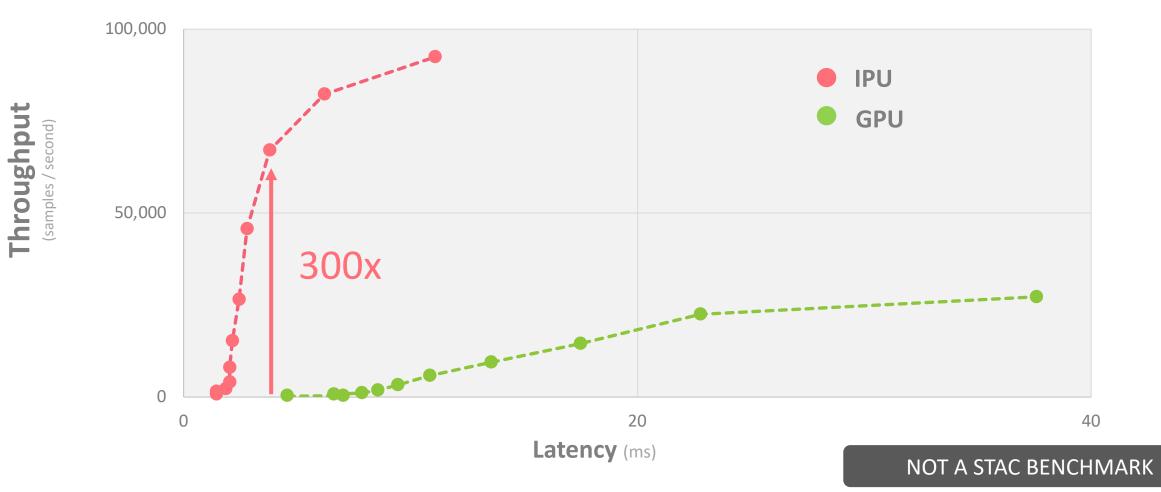
Training

- 26x faster sampling with MCMC for alpha estimation and option pricing
- Up to 13x shorter time to train for reinforcement learning



LSTM INFERENCE FOR TIME SERIES ANALYSIS

>300 higher throughput at lower latency for feature generation and alpha estimation



NOTES:

2 LSTM layers, each with 256 units, 200 time steps, 16 input dimensions, real data, mixed precision IPU: Graphcore C2 using TensorFlow and PopNN (SDK 1.1.11) @ 300W TDP (Batch Sizes upto 1024) GPU: using TensorFlow with optimizations @ 300W TDP (Batch Sizes upto 1024)

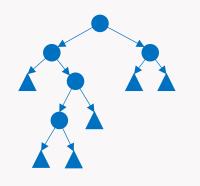
EFFICIENT FOR NON-VECTORIZED MODELS

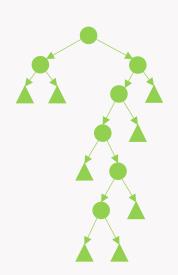
Benefit from thread independency

Heterogeneous Experts

Sparse Random Forests





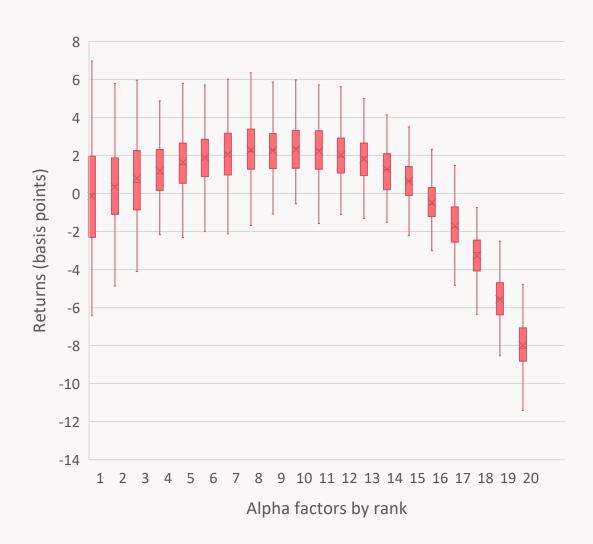


FASTER TIME-TO-INSIGHT

Feature generation and prediction done in one step on IPU



ALPHA ESTIMATION WITH MCMC



Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC): predictions are distributions, not just point values

This helps to:

- Avoid overfitting
- Deal with noisy data
- Handle non-linearities

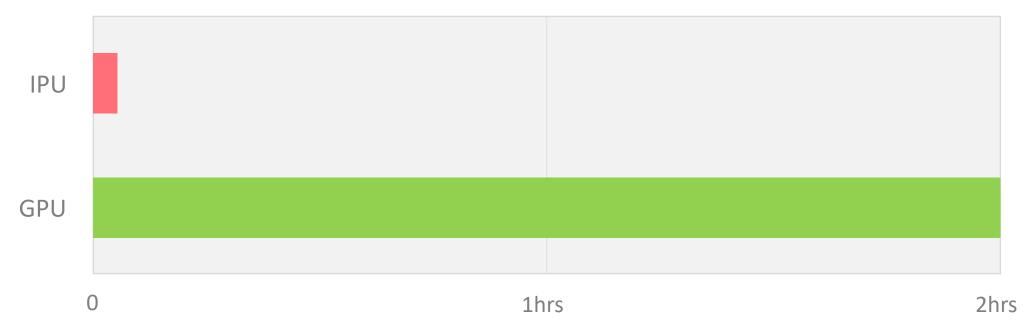
MCMC has long been considered too computationally expensive



MCMC PROBABILISTIC MODEL: TRAINING

Customer implementation

26x higher throughput



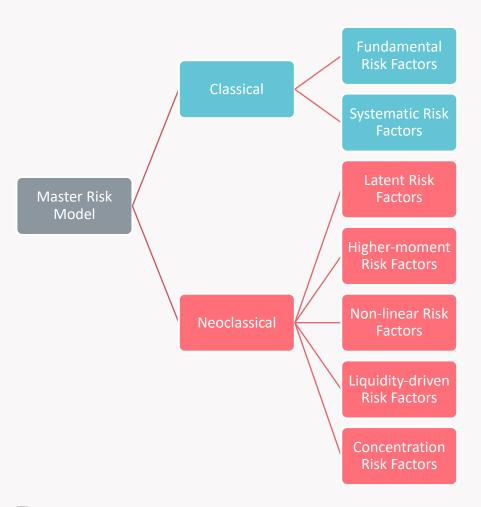
Time to Result

NOTES:

Graphcore customer Markov Chain Monte Carlo Probability model (summary data shared with customer's permission) IPU: Graphcore GC2 @ 150W TDP GPU @ 300W TDP



RISK ESTIMATION AND PORTFOLIO GENERATION



IPU improves performance of complex models to:

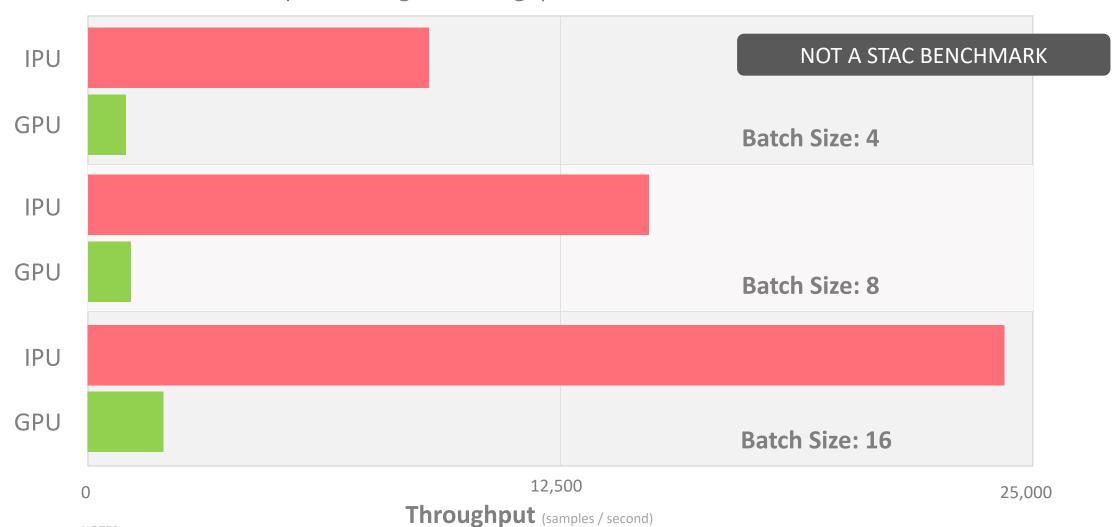
- Estimate full risk profile of a risk factor set
- Find statistical and latent risk factors

4.3x faster training of Variational Autoencoder:

- Identify latent risk factors
- Capture non-linear relationships between the channels more efficiently than SVD

PORTFOLIO REBALANCING WITH REINFORCEMENT LEARNING

Up to 13x higher throughput (faster time to train)



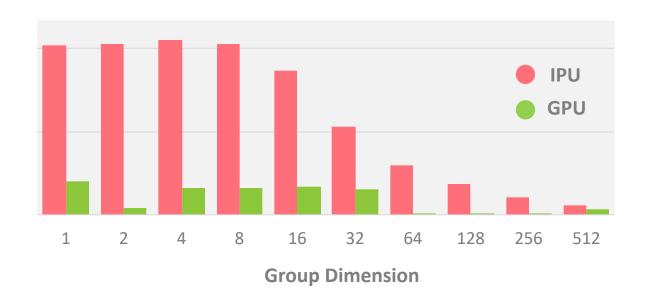
NOTES:

Reinforcement policy model training | representative of large-scale reinforcement learning systems using LSTM IPU: Graphcore C2 using TensorFlow @ 300W TDP GPU: using TensorFlow @ 300W TDP

EFFICIENT FOR ALTERNATIVE DATA

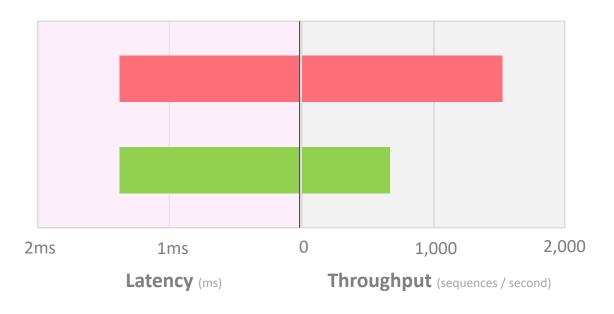
COMPUTER VISION

Up to 100x throughput for grouped convolutions



NLP

2x throughput at lowest latency for BERT-base



NOT STAC BENCHMARKS



