

On the Flop and Flap Counts of the 2,8-Split-Radix FFT

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<https://hpkfft.com>

2025 May 5
in the West Texas town of El Paso

“Running Gun”

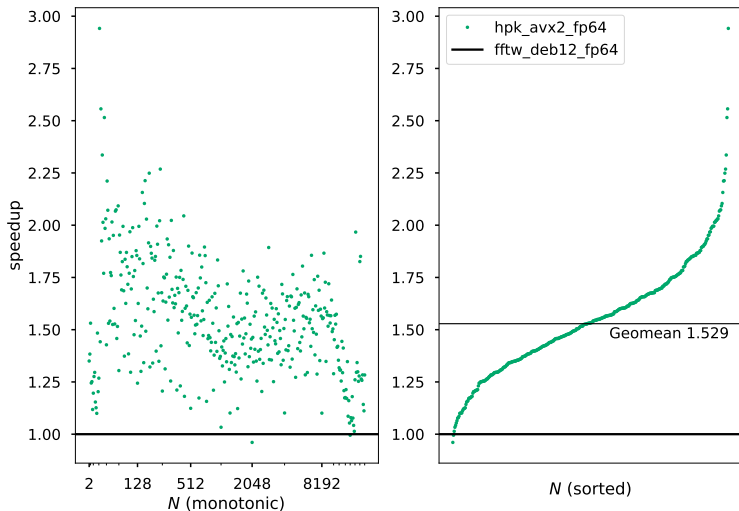


I knew someday I'd meet him,
for his hand like lightning flashed.
My own gun stood in leather,
as his bullet tore its path.
As my strength was slowly fading,
I could see him walk away.
And I knew that where I lie tonight,
he too must lie some day.

Performance: AVX2 Double Precision vs. FFTW

Relative Performance

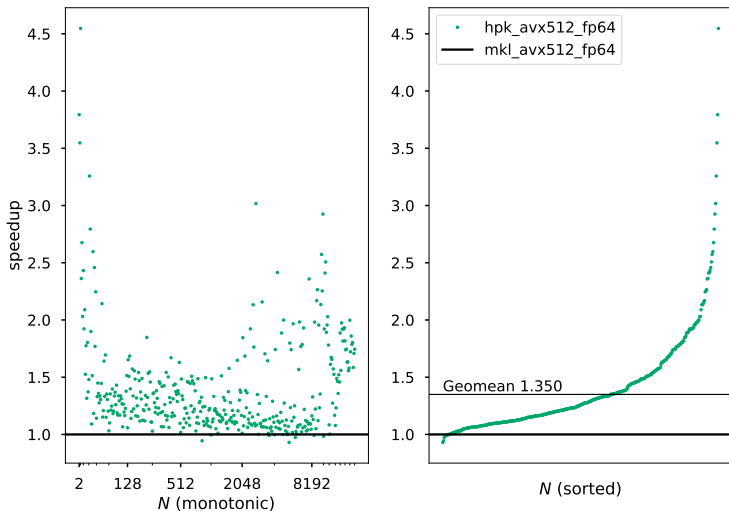
(Bigger is better)



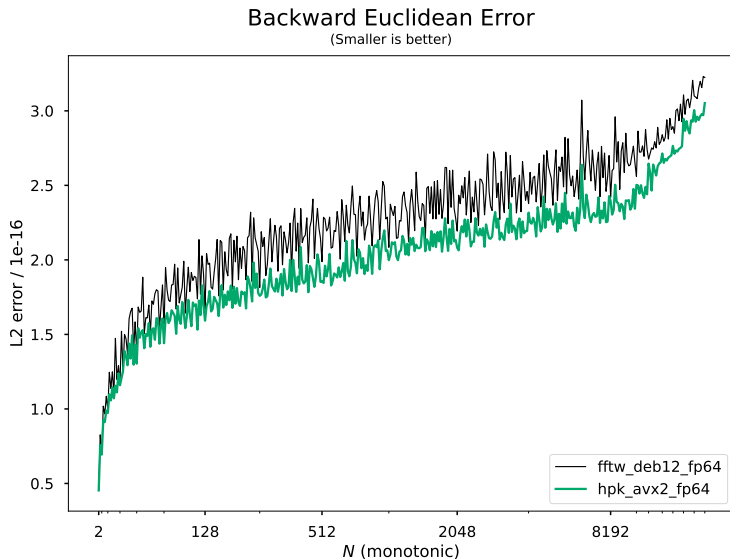
Performance: AVX512 Double Precision vs. MKL

Relative Performance

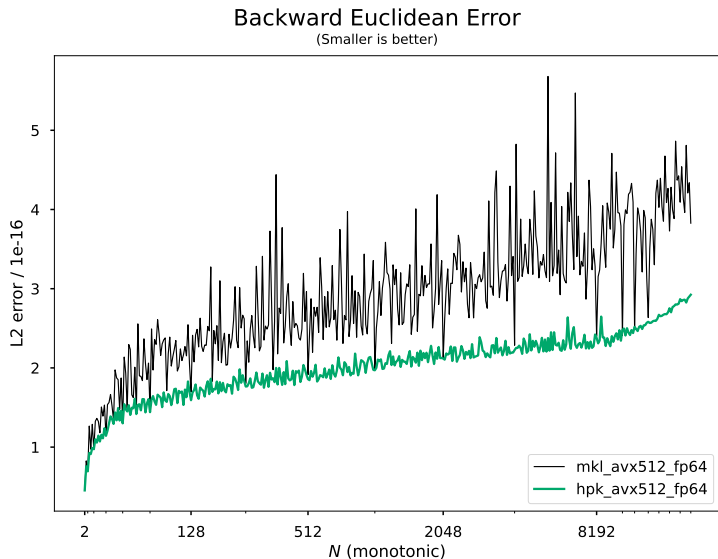
(Bigger is better)



Accuracy: AVX2 Double Precision vs. FFTW



Accuracy: AVX512 Double Precision vs. MKL



Flops and Flaps

Definition

A *floating-point operation*, or *flop*, is the addition, subtraction, or multiplication of two floating-point numbers.

Definition

A *floating-point amalgamated operation*, or *flap*, is either an FMA or a flop that is not itself a component of an FMA.

Example #1 $(x_0 \cdot x_1)$

input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $Y_0 \in \mathbb{C}$

function cmul

$\Re(tmp) \leftarrow \Im(x_0) \Im(x_1)$ // MUL

$\Im(tmp) \leftarrow \Im(x_0) \Re(x_1)$ // MUL

$\Re(Y_0) \leftarrow \Re(x_0) \Re(x_1) - \Re(tmp)$ // FMA

$\Im(Y_0) \leftarrow \Re(x_0) \Im(x_1) + \Im(tmp)$ // FMA

end

flops: 6

flaps: 4



Example #1 $(x_0 \cdot x_1)$

input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

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$\Re(Y_0) \leftarrow \Re(x_0) \Re(x_1) - \Re(tmp)$ // FMA

$\Im(Y_0) \leftarrow \Re(x_0) \Im(x_1) + \Im(tmp)$ // FMA

end

flops: 6

flaps: 4



Example #2 $(x_0 - ix_1)$

input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $Y \in \mathbb{C}$

function

$\Re(Y) \leftarrow \Re(x_0) + \Im(x_1)$
 $\Im(Y) \leftarrow \Im(x_0) - \Re(x_1)$

end

flops: 2

flaps: 2



Example #2 $(x_0 - ix_1)$

input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $Y \in \mathbb{C}$

function

$$\Re(Y) \leftarrow \Re(x_0) + \Im(x_1)$$

$$\Im(Y) \leftarrow \Im(x_0) - \Re(x_1)$$

end

flops: 2

flaps: 2



Arm SVE fcadd #270

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output: $Y \in \mathbb{C}$

function

$$\Re(Y) \leftarrow \Re(x_0) + \Im(x_1)$$

$$\Im(Y) \leftarrow \Im(x_0) - \Re(x_1)$$

end

flops: 2

flaps: 2



Arm SVE `fcadd #270`

x86 AVX ~~`vsubadd`~~

Example #2 $(x_0 - ix_1)$

input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $Y \in \mathbb{C}$

function

| $\Re(Y) \leftarrow \Re(x_0) + \Im(x_1)$
| $\Im(Y) \leftarrow \Im(x_0) - \Re(x_1)$

end

flops: 2

flaps: 2



Arm SVE `fcadd #270`

x86 AVX ~~`vsubadd`~~

$$e^{-2\pi i/8} x = (\sqrt{1/2} - \sqrt{1/2} i) x$$

Example #2 $(x_0 - ix_1)$

input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $Y \in \mathbb{C}$

function

| $\Re(Y) \leftarrow \Re(x_0) + \Im(x_1)$
| $\Im(Y) \leftarrow \Im(x_0) - \Re(x_1)$

end

flops: 2

flaps: 2



Arm SVE fcadd #270

x86 AVX ~~vsubadd~~

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-2\pi i/8} x &= (\sqrt{1/2} - \sqrt{1/2} i) x \\ &= \sqrt{1/2} (1 - i) x \end{aligned}$$

Example #2 $(x_0 - ix_1)$

input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $Y \in \mathbb{C}$

function

| $\Re(Y) \leftarrow \Re(x_0) + \Im(x_1)$
| $\Im(Y) \leftarrow \Im(x_0) - \Re(x_1)$

end

flops: 2

flaps: 2



Arm SVE fcadd #270

x86 AVX ~~vsubadd~~

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-2\pi i/8} x &= (\sqrt{1/2} - \sqrt{1/2} i) x \\ &= \sqrt{1/2} (1 - i) x \\ &= \sqrt{1/2} (x - ix) \end{aligned}$$

Example #3 $\langle x_0 + x_1, x_0 - x_1 \rangle$

input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $Y_0, Y_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

function fft_2

$Y_0 \leftarrow x_0 + x_1$
 $Y_1 \leftarrow x_0 - x_1$

end

flops: 4

flaps: 4



Example #3 $\langle x_0 + x_1, x_0 - x_1 \rangle$

input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $Y_0, Y_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

function fft_2

| $Y_0 \leftarrow x_0 + x_1$
| $Y_1 \leftarrow x_0 - x_1$

end

flops: 4

flaps: 4



input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $Y_0, Y_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

function fft_2

| $Y_0 \leftarrow x_0 + x_1$ // ADD
| $Y_1 \leftarrow 2x_0 - Y_0$ // FMA

end

flops: 6

flaps: 4

Example #4 $\langle x_0 + \sqrt{1/2} x_1, x_0 - \sqrt{1/2} x_1 \rangle$

input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $Y_0, Y_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

function

$tmp \leftarrow \sqrt{1/2} x_1$

$Y_0 \leftarrow x_0 + tmp$

$Y_1 \leftarrow x_0 - tmp$

end

flops: 6

flaps: 6

Example #4 $\langle x_0 + \sqrt{1/2} x_1, x_0 - \sqrt{1/2} x_1 \rangle$

input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $Y_0, Y_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

function

$tmp \leftarrow \sqrt{1/2} x_1$

$Y_0 \leftarrow x_0 + tmp$

$Y_1 \leftarrow x_0 - tmp$

end

flops: 6

flaps: 6

input : $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $Y_0, Y_1 \in \mathbb{C}$

function

// FMAs

$Y_0 \leftarrow x_0 + \sqrt{1/2} x_1$

$Y_1 \leftarrow x_0 - \sqrt{1/2} x_1$

end

flops: 8

flaps: 4



$$\langle X_k \rangle = \mathcal{F} \langle x_n \rangle \quad \text{for } x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{N-1} \in \mathbb{C}$$

Letting

$$\omega_N^{kn} = \exp\left(\frac{-2\pi i k n}{N}\right)$$

the Fourier transform is

$$X_k = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \omega_N^{kn} x_n$$

Radix-2 FFT

$$X_k = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \omega_N^{kn} x_n$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_N^{k(2n)} x_{2n} + \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_N^{k(2n+1)} x_{2n+1}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_{N/2}^{kn} x_{2n} + \omega_N^k \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_{N/2}^{kn} x_{2n+1}$$

Radix-2 FFT

$$X_k = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \omega_N^{kn} x_n$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_N^{k(2n)} x_{2n} + \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_N^{k(2n+1)} x_{2n+1}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_{N/2}^{kn} x_{2n} + \omega_N^k \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_{N/2}^{kn} x_{2n+1}$$

Radix-2 FFT

$$\begin{aligned} X_k &= \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \omega_N^{kn} x_n \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_N^{k(2n)} x_{2n} + \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_N^{k(2n+1)} x_{2n+1} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_{N/2}^{kn} x_{2n} + \omega_N^k \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_{N/2}^{kn} x_{2n+1} \end{aligned}$$

Radix-2 FFT

$$X_k = \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_{N/2}^{kn} x_{2n} \\ + \omega_N^k \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_{N/2}^{kn} x_{2n+1}$$

Radix-4 FFT

$$\begin{aligned} X_k = & \sum_{n=0}^{N/4-1} \omega_{N/4}^{kn} x_{4n} + \omega_N^{2k} \sum_{n=0}^{N/4-1} \omega_{N/4}^{kn} x_{4n+2} \\ & + \omega_N^k \sum_{n=0}^{N/4-1} \omega_{N/4}^{kn} x_{4n+1} + \omega_N^{3k} \sum_{n=0}^{N/4-1} \omega_{N/4}^{kn} x_{4n+3} \end{aligned}$$

2,4-Split-Radix FFT

$$\begin{aligned} X_k = & \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_{N/2}^{kn} x_{2n} \\ & + \omega_N^k \sum_{n=0}^{N/4-1} \omega_{N/4}^{kn} x_{4n+1} + \omega_N^{3k} \sum_{n=0}^{N/4-1} \omega_{N/4}^{kn} x_{4n+3} \end{aligned}$$

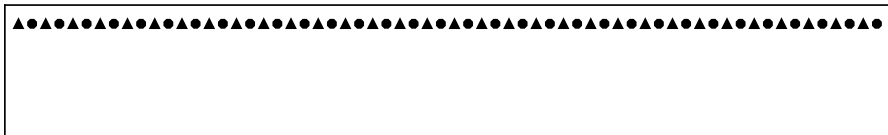
2,8-Split-Radix FFT

$$\begin{aligned} X_k = & \sum_{n=0}^{N/2-1} \omega_{N/2}^{kn} x_{2n} \\ & + \omega_N^k \sum_{n=0}^{N/8-1} \omega_{N/8}^{kn} x_{8n+1} + \omega_N^{3k} \sum_{n=0}^{N/8-1} \omega_{N/8}^{kn} x_{8n+3} \\ & + \omega_N^{5k} \sum_{n=0}^{N/8-1} \omega_{N/8}^{kn} x_{8n+5} + \omega_N^{7k} \sum_{n=0}^{N/8-1} \omega_{N/8}^{kn} x_{8n+7} \end{aligned}$$

2,8-Split-Radix FFT

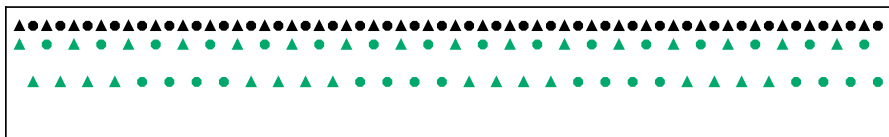
```
function fft_2_8<N>  
  u  $\leftarrow$  fft_2_8<N/2>(x0, x2, x4, x6, x8, ..., xN-2)  
  y  $\leftarrow$  fft_2_8<N/8>(x1, x9, ..., xN-7)  
  ...  
  for k  $\leftarrow$  0 to N/8 - 1 do  
    ...  
    Xk  $\leftarrow$  uk + t1  
    Xk+4N/8  $\leftarrow$  uk - t1  
    Xk+N/8  $\leftarrow$  uk+N/8 +  $\sqrt{1/2}$  t9  
    Xk+5N/8  $\leftarrow$  uk+N/8 -  $\sqrt{1/2}$  t9  
    ...  
  end  
end
```

2,8-Split-Radix FFT



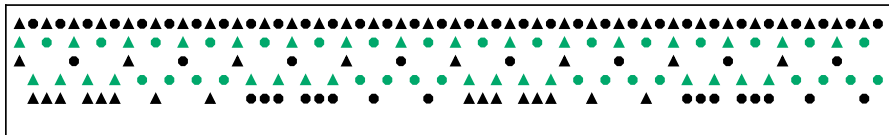
$$\langle g_r \rangle = \left\langle 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{9}{16}, \frac{13}{32}, \dots \right\rangle$$

2,8-Split-Radix FFT



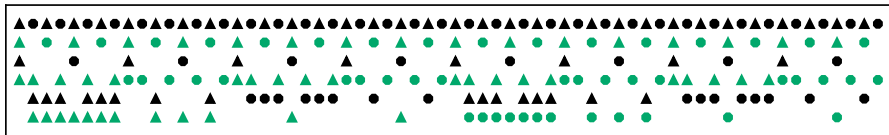
$$\langle g_r \rangle = \left\langle 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{9}{16}, \frac{13}{32}, \dots \right\rangle$$

2,8-Split-Radix FFT



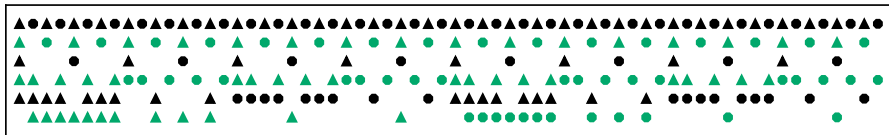
$$\langle g_r \rangle = \left\langle 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{9}{16}, \frac{13}{32}, \dots \right\rangle$$

2,8-Split-Radix FFT



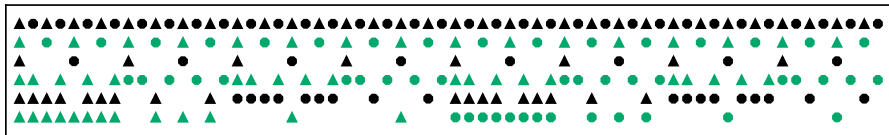
$$\langle g_r \rangle = \left\langle 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{9}{16}, \frac{13}{32}, \dots \right\rangle$$

2,8-Split-Radix FFT



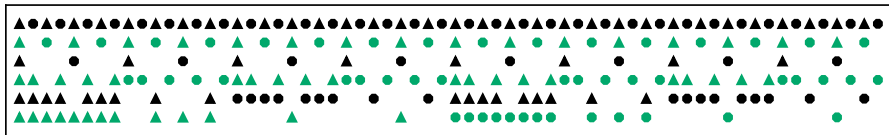
$$\langle g_r \rangle = \left\langle 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{9}{16}, \frac{13}{32}, \dots \right\rangle$$

2,8-Split-Radix FFT



$$\langle g_r \rangle = \left\langle 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{9}{16}, \frac{13}{32}, \dots \right\rangle$$

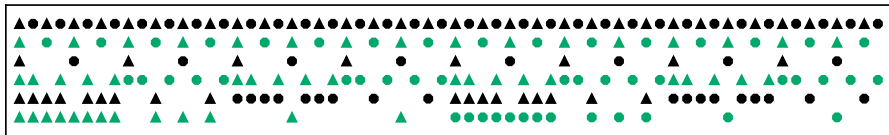
2,8-Split-Radix FFT



$$\langle g_r \rangle = \left\langle 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{9}{16}, \frac{13}{32}, \dots \right\rangle$$

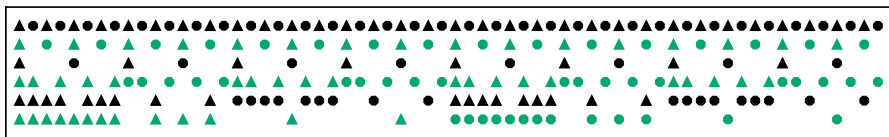
$$g_r = \frac{g_{r-1}}{2} + \frac{g_{r-3}}{2}$$

2,8-Split-Radix FFT



$$g_r = \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{7}}{28}i \right) \left(\frac{-1}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{7}}{4}i \right)^r \\ + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{7}}{28}i \right) \left(\frac{-1}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{7}}{4}i \right)^r$$

2,8-Split-Radix FFT



$$g_r = \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{7}}{28}i \right) \left(\frac{-1}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{7}}{4}i \right)^r \\ + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{7}}{28}i \right) \left(\frac{-1}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{7}}{4}i \right)^r$$

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} g_r = \frac{1}{2}$$

Asymptotic Complexity: $\mathcal{O}(N \log_2 N)$

	radix-2	radix-4	radix-8	2,4-split	2,8-split
ADD	2.0	2.0	$1.83\overline{3}$	2.0	1.75
MUL	1.0	0.75	$0.58\overline{3}$	$0.6\overline{6}$	0.5
FMA	1.0	0.75	$0.91\overline{6}$	$0.6\overline{6}$	1.0
flops	5.0	4.25	4.25	4.0	4.25
flaps	4.0	3.5	$3.3\overline{3}$	$3.3\overline{3}$	3.25

*The radix-8 alternate implementation has $4.08\overline{3}$ flops but 3.5 flaps.

**The 2,8-split-radix alternate has 4.0 flops but 3.5 flaps.

Base Case: 4-point FFT

input : $x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $X_0, X_1, X_2, X_3 \in \mathbb{C}$

function `fft_4`

$$X_0 \leftarrow (x_0 + x_2) + (x_1 + x_3)$$

$$X_1 \leftarrow (x_0 - x_2) - i(x_1 - x_3)$$

$$X_2 \leftarrow (x_0 + x_2) - (x_1 + x_3)$$

$$X_3 \leftarrow (x_0 - x_2) + i(x_1 - x_3)$$

end

Base Case: Scale 4-point FFT

input : $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, $x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3 \in \mathbb{C}$

output: $X_0, X_1, X_2, X_3 \in \mathbb{C}$

function scale_fft_4

$$\hat{x}_2 \leftarrow \alpha x_2$$

$$X_0 \leftarrow (\alpha x_0 + \hat{x}_2) + \alpha(x_1 + x_3)$$

$$X_1 \leftarrow (\alpha x_0 - \hat{x}_2) - \alpha i(x_1 - x_3)$$

$$X_2 \leftarrow (\alpha x_0 + \hat{x}_2) - \alpha(x_1 + x_3)$$

$$X_3 \leftarrow (\alpha x_0 - \hat{x}_2) + \alpha i(x_1 - x_3)$$

end

HPK Programming Interface

```
auto factory =  
2     hpk::fft::makeFactory<double>();  
  
4     std::vector<std::complex<double>> v = ...  
  
6     long N = std::ssize(v);  
  
8     auto fft = factory->makeInplace({N});  
  
10    double alpha = 0x1.0p-8;  
    fft->scaleForward(&alpha, v.data());
```
