

3 Introduction

Parallel Computing

A **parallel computer** is a collection of processors **usually of the same type**, interconnected to allow coordination and exchange of data.

The processors are primarily used to **jointly** solve a given problem.

Distributed Systems

A set of possibly many **different types** of processors are distributed over a larger geographic area.

Processors do not work on a single problem.

Some processors may act in a malicious way.

How do we evaluate sequential algorithms?

- ▶ time efficiency
- ▶ space utilization
- ▶ energy consumption
- ▶ programmability
- ▶ ...

Asymptotic bounds (e.g., for running time) often give a good indication on the algorithms performance on a **wide variety of machines**.

Cost measures

How do we evaluate parallel algorithms?

- ▶ time efficiency
- ▶ space utilization
- ▶ energy consumption
- ▶ programmability
- ▶ communication requirement
- ▶ ...

Problems

- ▶ performance (e.g. runtime) depends on problem size n **and** on number of processors p
- ▶ statements usually only hold for restricted types of parallel machine as parallel computers may have vastly different characteristics (in particular w.r.t. communication)

Speedup

Suppose a problem P has **sequential complexity** $T^*(n)$, i.e., there is no algorithm that solves P in time $o(T^*(n))$.

Definition 1

The **speedup** $S_p(n)$ of a parallel algorithm A that requires time $T_p(n)$ for solving P with p processors is defined as

$$S_p(n) = \frac{T^*(n)}{T_p(n)} .$$

Clearly, $S_p(n) \leq p$. **Goal:** obtain $S_p(n) \approx p$.

It is common to replace $T^*(n)$ by the time bound of the best **known** sequential algorithm for P !

Efficiency

Definition 2

The **efficiency** of a parallel algorithm A that requires time $T_p(n)$ when using p processors on a problem of size n is

$$E_p(n) = \frac{T_1(n)}{pT_p(n)} .$$

$E_p(n) \approx 1$ indicates that the algorithm is running roughly p times faster with p processors than with one processor.

Note that $E_p(n) \leq \frac{T_1(n)}{pT_\infty(n)}$. Hence, the efficiency goes down rapidly if $p \geq T_1(n)/T_\infty(n)$.

Disadvantage: cost-measure does not relate to the optimum sequential algorithm.

Parallel Models — Requirements

Simplicity

A model should allow to easily analyze various performance measures (speed, communication, memory utilization etc.).

Results should be as hardware-independent as possible.

Implementability

Parallel algorithms developed in a model should be easily implementable on a parallel machine.

Theoretical analysis should carry over and give meaningful performance estimates.

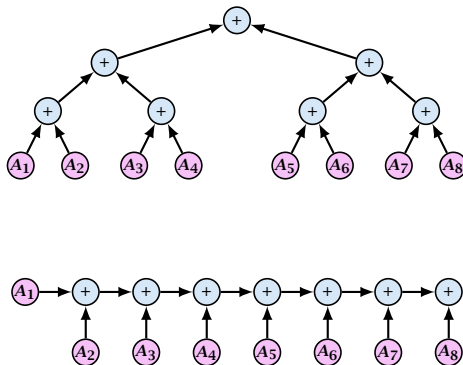
A real satisfactory model does not exist!

DAG model — computation graph

- ▶ nodes represent operations (single instructions or larger blocks)
- ▶ edges represent dependencies (precedence constraints)
- ▶ closely related to circuits; however there exist many different variants
- ▶ branching instructions cannot be modelled
- ▶ completely hardware independent
- ▶ scheduling is not defined

Often used for automatically parallelizing numerical computations.

Example: Addition



Here, vertices without incoming edges correspond to input data.
The graph can be viewed as a **data flow graph**.

DAG model — computation graph

The DAG itself is not a complete algorithm. A **scheduling** implements the algorithm on a parallel machine, by assigning a time-step t_v and a processor p_v to every node.

Definition 3

A **scheduling** of a DAG $G = (V, E)$ on p processors is an assignment of pairs (t_v, p_v) to every **internal** node $v \in V$, s.t.,

- ▶ $p_v \in \{1, \dots, p\}; t_v \in \{1, \dots, T\}$
- ▶ $t_u = t_v \Rightarrow p_u \neq p_v$
- ▶ $(u, v) \in E \Rightarrow t_v \geq t_u + 1$

where a non-internal node x (an input node) has $t_x = 0$.

T is the **length** of the schedule.

DAG model — computation graph

The **parallel complexity** of a DAG is defined as

$$T_p(n) = \min_{\text{schedule } S} \{T(S)\} .$$

$T_1(n)$: #internal nodes in DAG

$T_\infty(n)$: diameter of DAG

Clearly,

$$T_p(n) \geq T_\infty(n)$$

$$T_p(n) \geq T_1(n)/p$$

Lemma 4

A schedule with length $\mathcal{O}(T_1(n)/p + T_\infty(n))$ can be found easily.

Lemma 5

Finding an optimal schedule is in general NP-complete.

Note that the DAG model as defined is a **non-uniform** model of computation.

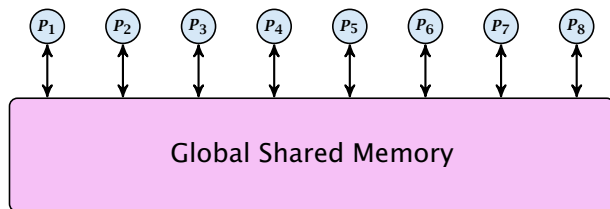
In principle, there could be a different DAG for every input size n .

An algorithm (e.g. for a RAM) must work for every input size and must be of finite description length.

Hence, specifying a different DAG for every n has more expressive power.

Also, this is not really a complete model, as the operations allowed in a DAG node are not clearly defined.

PRAM Model



All processors are **synchronized**.

In every round a processor can:

- ▶ read a register from global memory into local memory
- ▶ do a local computation à la RAM
- ▶ write a local register into global memory

PRAM Model

Every processor executes the same program.

However, the program has access to two special variables:

- ▶ p : total number of processors
- ▶ $id \in \{1, \dots, p\}$: the id of the current processor

The following (stupid) program copies the content of the global register $x[1]$ to registers $x[2] \dots x[p]$.

Algorithm 1 copy

```
1: if  $id = 1$  then  $round \leftarrow 1$   
2: while  $round \leq p$  and  $id = round$  do  
3:    $x[id + 1] \leftarrow x[id]$   
4:    $round \leftarrow round + 1$ 
```

PRAM Model

- ▶ processors can effectively execute different code because of branching according to id
- ▶ however, not arbitrarily; still **uniform model of computation**

Often it is easier to explicitly define which parts of a program are executed in parallel:

Algorithm 2 sum

```
1: // computes sum of  $x[1] \dots x[p]$ 
2: // red part is executed only by processor 1
3:  $r \leftarrow 1$ 
4: while  $2^r \leq p$  do
5:     for  $id \bmod 2^r = 1$  par do
6:         // only executed by processors whose  $id$  matches
7:              $x[id] = x[id] + x[id + 2^{r-1}]$ 
8:      $r \leftarrow r + 1$ 
9: return  $x[1]$ 
```

Different Types of PRAMs

Simultaneous Access to Shared Memory:

- ▶ EREW PRAM:
simultaneous access is not allowed
- ▶ CREW PRAM:
concurrent read accesses to the same location are allowed;
write accesses have to be exclusive
- ▶ CRCW PRAM:
concurrent read and write accesses allowed
 - ▶ common CRCW PRAM
all processors writing to $x[i]$ must write same value
 - ▶ arbitrary CRCW PRAM
values may be different; an arbitrary processor succeeds
 - ▶ priority CRCW PRAM
values may be different; processor with smallest id succeeds

Algorithm 3 sum

```
1: // computes sum of  $x[1] \dots x[p]$ 
2:  $r \leftarrow 1$ 
3: while  $2^r \leq p$  do
4:   for  $id \bmod 2^r = 1$  pardo
5:      $x[id] = x[id] + x[id + 2^{r-1}]$ 
6:    $r \leftarrow r + 1$ 
7: return  $x[1]$ 
```

The above is an EREW PRAM algorithm.

On a CREW PRAM we could replace Line 4 by
for $1 \leq id \leq p$ **pardo**

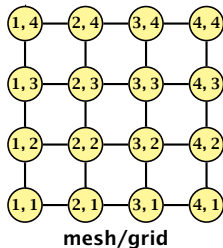
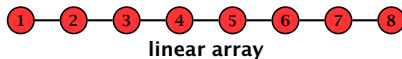
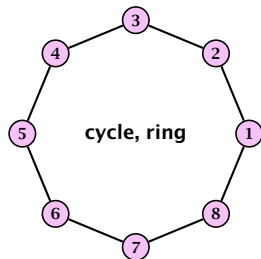
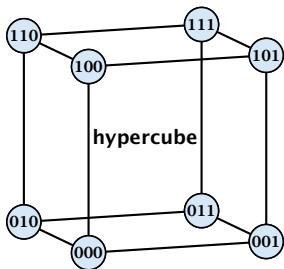
PRAM Model — remarks

- ▶ similar to a RAM we either need to restrict the size of values that can be stored in registers, or we need to have a non-uniform cost model for doing a register manipulation (cost for manipulating $x[i]$ is proportional to the bit-length of the largest number that is ever being stored in $x[i]$)
 - ▶ in this lecture: uniform cost model but we are not exploiting the model
- ▶ **global shared memory** is very unrealistic in practise as uniform access to all memory locations does not exist
- ▶ **global synchronziation** is very unrealistic; in real parallel machines a global synchronization is very costly
- ▶ model is good for understanding basic parallel mechanisms/techniques but **not** for algorithm development
- ▶ model is good for **lower bounds**

Network of Workstations — NOWs

- ▶ interconnection network represented by a graph $G = (V, E)$
- ▶ each $v \in V$ represents a processor
- ▶ an edge $\{u, v\} \in E$ represents a two-way communication link between processors u and v
- ▶ network is **asynchronous**
- ▶ all coordination/communication has to be done by explicit **message passing**

Typical Topologies



Network of Workstations — NOWs

Computing the sum on a d -dimensional hypercube. Note that $x[0] \dots x[2^d - 1]$ are stored at the individual nodes.

Processors are numbered consecutively starting from 0

Algorithm 4 sum

```
1: // computes sum of  $x[0] \dots x[2^d - 1]$ 
2:  $r \leftarrow 1$ 
3: while  $2^r \leq 2^d$  do //  $p = 2^d$ 
4:     if  $id \bmod 2^r = 0$  then
5:          $temp \leftarrow receive(id + 2^{r-1})$ 
6:          $x[id] = x[id] + temp$ 
7:     if  $id \bmod 2^r = 2^{r-1}$  then
8:          $send(x[id], id - 2^{r-1})$ 
9:      $r \leftarrow r + 1$ 
10: if  $id = 0$  then return  $x[id]$ 
```

Remarks

- ▶ One has to ensure that at any point in time there is at most one active communication along a link
- ▶ There also exist synchronized versions of the model, where in every round each link can be used once for communication
- ▶ In particular the asynchronous model is quite realistic
- ▶ Difficult to develop and analyze algorithms as a lot of low level communication has to be dealt with
- ▶ Results only hold for one specific topology and cannot be generalized easily

Performance of PRAM algorithms

Suppose that we can solve an instance of a problem with size n with $P(n)$ processors and time $T(n)$.

We call $C(n) = T(n) \cdot P(n)$ the **time-processor** product or the **cost** of the algorithm.

The following statements are equivalent

- ▶ $P(n)$ processors and time $\mathcal{O}(T(n))$
- ▶ $\mathcal{O}(C(n))$ cost and time $\mathcal{O}(T(n))$
- ▶ $\mathcal{O}(C(n)/p)$ time for any number $p \leq P(n)$ processors
- ▶ $\mathcal{O}(C(n)/p + T(n))$ for any number p of processors

Performance of PRAM algorithms

Suppose we have a PRAM algorithm that takes time $T(n)$ and work $W(n)$, where work is the total number of operations.

We can **nearly always** obtain a PRAM algorithm that uses time at most

$$\lceil W(n)/p \rceil + T(n)$$

parallel steps on p processors.

Idea:

- ▶ $W_i(n)$ denotes operations in parallel step i , $1 \leq i \leq T(n)$
- ▶ simulate each step in $\lceil W_i(n)/p \rceil$ parallel steps
- ▶ then we have

$$\sum_i \lceil W_i(n)/p \rceil \leq \sum_i (\lfloor W_i(n)/p \rfloor + 1) \leq \lfloor W(n)/p \rfloor + T(n)$$

Performance of PRAM algorithms

Why nearly always?

We need to assign processors to operations.

- ▶ every processor p_i needs to know whether it should be active
- ▶ in case it is active it needs to know which operations to perform

**design algorithms for an arbitrary number of processors;
keep total time and work low**

Optimal PRAM algorithms

Suppose the optimal sequential running time for a problem is $T^*(n)$.

We call a PRAM algorithm for the same problem **work optimal** if its work $W(n)$ fulfills

$$W(n) = \Theta(T^*(n))$$

If such an algorithm has running time $T(n)$ it has **speedup**

$$S_p(n) = \Omega\left(\frac{T^*(n)}{T^*(n)/p + T(n)}\right) = \Omega\left(\frac{pT^*(n)}{T^*(n) + pT(n)}\right) = \Omega(p)$$

for $p = \mathcal{O}(T^*(n)/T(n))$.

This means by improving the time $T(n)$, (while using same work) we improve the range of p , for which we obtain optimal speedup.

We call an algorithm **worktime (WT) optimal** if $T(n)$ cannot be asymptotically improved by any **work optimal** algorithm.

Example

Algorithm for computing the sum has work $W(n) = \mathcal{O}(n)$.

optimal

$T(n) = \mathcal{O}(\log n)$. Hence, we achieve an optimal speedup for $p = \mathcal{O}(n/\log n)$.

One can show that any CREW PRAM requires $\Omega(\log n)$ time to compute the sum.

Communication Cost

When we differentiate between **local** and **global** memory we can analyze communication cost.

We define the **communication cost** of a PRAM algorithm as the worst-case traffic between the local memory of a processor and the global shared memory.

Important criterion as communication is usually a major bottleneck.

Communication Cost

Algorithm 5 MatrixMult(A, B, n)

```
1: Input:  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  and  $B$ ;  $n = 2^k$ 
2: Output:  $C = AB$ 
3: for  $1 \leq i, j, \ell \leq n$  pardo
4:    $X[i, j, \ell] \leftarrow A[i, \ell] \cdot B[\ell, j]$ 
5: for  $r \leftarrow 1$  to  $\log n$ 
6:   for  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ ;  $\ell \bmod 2^r = 1$  pardo
7:      $X[i, j, \ell] \leftarrow X[i, j, \ell] + X[i, j, \ell + 2^{r-1}]$ 
8: for  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$  pardo
9:    $C[i, j] \leftarrow X[i, j, 1]$ 
```

On n^3 processors this algorithm runs in time $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$.
It uses n^3 multiplications and $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ additions.

What happens if we have n processors?

Phase 1

p_i computes $X[i, j, \ell] = A[i, \ell] \cdot B[\ell, j]$ for all $1 \leq j, \ell \leq n$
 n^2 time; n^2 communication for every processor

Phase 2 (round r)

p_i updates $X[i, j, \ell]$ for all $1 \leq j \leq n; 1 \leq \ell \bmod 2^r = 1$
 $\mathcal{O}(n \cdot n/2^r)$ time; no communication

Phase 3

p_i writes i -th row into $C[i, j]$'s.
 n time; n communication

Alternative Algorithm

Split matrix into blocks of size $n^{2/3} \times n^{2/3}$.

$A_{1,1}$	$A_{1,2}$	$A_{1,3}$	$A_{1,4}$
$A_{2,1}$	$A_{2,2}$	$A_{2,3}$	$A_{2,4}$
$A_{3,1}$	$A_{3,2}$	$A_{3,3}$	$A_{3,4}$
$A_{4,1}$	$A_{4,2}$	$A_{4,3}$	$A_{4,4}$

 \cdot

$B_{1,1}$	$B_{1,2}$	$B_{1,3}$	$B_{1,4}$
$B_{2,1}$	$B_{2,2}$	$B_{2,3}$	$B_{2,4}$
$B_{3,1}$	$B_{3,2}$	$B_{3,3}$	$B_{3,4}$
$B_{4,1}$	$B_{4,2}$	$B_{4,3}$	$B_{4,4}$

 $=$

$C_{1,1}$	$C_{1,2}$	$C_{1,3}$	$C_{1,4}$
$C_{2,1}$	$C_{2,2}$	$C_{2,3}$	$C_{2,4}$
$C_{3,1}$	$C_{3,2}$	$C_{3,3}$	$C_{3,4}$
$C_{4,1}$	$C_{4,2}$	$C_{4,3}$	$C_{4,4}$

Note that $C_{i,j} = \sum_{\ell} A_{i,\ell} B_{\ell,j}$.

Now we have the same problem as before but $n' = n^{1/3}$ and a single multiplication costs time $\mathcal{O}((n^{2/3})^3) = \mathcal{O}(n^2)$. An addition costs $n^{4/3}$.

work for multiplications: $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \cdot (n')^3) = \mathcal{O}(n^3)$

work for additions: $\mathcal{O}(n^{4/3} \cdot (n')^3) = \mathcal{O}(n^3)$

time: $\mathcal{O}(n^2) + \log n' \cdot \mathcal{O}(n^{4/3}) = \mathcal{O}(n^2)$

Alternative Algorithm

The communication cost is only $\mathcal{O}(n^{4/3} \log n')$ as a processor in the original problem touches at most $\log n$ entries of the matrix.

Each entry has size $\mathcal{O}(n^{4/3})$.

The algorithm exhibits less parallelism but still has optimum work/runtime for just n processors.

much, much better in practise