1 Analyzing Parallel Programs
  • Speedup and Efficiency
  • Amdahl’s Law and Gustafson-Barsis’s Law
  • Evaluating Parallel Algorithms
Some material used in creating these slides comes from

Analyzing Parallel Programs

- Speedup and Efficiency
- Amdahl’s Law and Gustafson-Barsis’s Law
- Evaluating Parallel Algorithms
Speedup

- Speedup is defined as

\[
\text{Speedup on } N \text{ processors} = \frac{\text{sequential execution time}}{\text{execution time on } N \text{ processors}} = \frac{t_{\text{seq}}}{t_{\text{par}}}
\]

- Generally we want to use execution times obtained using the best available algorithm. The best algorithm for a sequential program may be different that the best algorithm for a parallel program.
Efficiency

- Efficiency is defined as

\[
\text{Efficiency} = \frac{\text{speedup}}{N} = \frac{t_{seq}}{N \cdot t_{par}}
\]

- Given this definition, we expect

\[0 \leq \text{efficiency} \leq 1\]
Quinn uses $\psi(n, N)$ for speedup to show it is a function of both problem size $n$ and number of processors $N$.

- $\sigma(n)$: time required computation that is not parallelizable
- $\varphi(n)$: time required for computation that is parallelizable
- $\kappa(n, N)$: time for parallel overhead (communication, barriers, etc.)

Note that

- $t_{seq} = \sigma(n) + \varphi(n)$
- $t_{par} = \sigma(n) + \varphi(n)/N + \kappa(n, N)$

Using these parameters, the speedup $\psi(n, N)$ given by:

$$\psi(n, N) = \frac{\sigma(n) + \varphi(n)}{\sigma(n) + \varphi(n)/N + \kappa(n, N)}$$
Since $\kappa(n, N) \geq 0$, if it is dropped (i.e. assume there is no parallel overhead), we obtain an upper bound on speedup

$$\psi(n, N) \leq \frac{\sigma(n) + \varphi(n)}{\sigma(n) + \varphi(n)/N}$$
Outline

1. Analyzing Parallel Programs
   - Speedup and Efficiency
   - Amdahl’s Law and Gustafson-Barsis’s Law
   - Evaluating Parallel Algorithms
Amdahl’s Law

First appearing in a paper by Gene Amdahl in 1967, this provides an upper bound on achievable speedup based on fraction of computation that can be done in parallel.

Suppose $T$ is the time needed for an application to execute on a single CPU. Suppose also that $\alpha$ is the fraction of the computation that can be done in parallel so that $1 - \alpha$ is the fraction that must be carried out on a single CPU. Then, ignoring parallel overhead, we have

$$\psi(N) = \frac{t_{seq}}{t_{par}} \leq \frac{T}{(1 - \alpha)T + \alpha \frac{T}{N}}$$
Amdahl’s Law

Simplifying we have

$$\psi(N) = \frac{t_{seq}}{t_{par}} \leq \frac{1}{(1 - \alpha) + \frac{\alpha}{N}}$$

This is **Amdal’s Law**. Note that is says something rather discouraging: Even as the number of processors increases without bound, speedup is bounded by

$$\psi \leq \frac{1}{1 - \alpha}.$$  

For example, if 90% of the computation can be parallelized so $\alpha = 0.9$, the speedup cannot be larger than $1/0.1 = 10$ regardless of the number of processors.
Amdahl’s Law speedup prediction

![Amdahl's Law speedup predictions](image)

The graph above illustrates the speedup predictions according to Amdahl's Law, showing the relationship between the number of processes and the optimal speedup. The curves represent different values of the parallel fraction constant, α, indicating the portion of the total runtime that can be parallelized. The graph helps in understanding how the speedup changes as the number of processes increases for various values of α.
Amdahl’s Law efficiency prediction

Efficiency Predictions with Amdahl’s Law

- $\alpha = 0.9$
- $\alpha = 0.8$
- $\alpha = 0.7$
- $\alpha = 0.6$
- $\alpha = 0.5$

number of processes vs. efficiency
Amdahl’s Law example

Suppose a serial program reads \( n \) data from a file, performs some computation, and then writes \( n \) data back out to another file. The I/O time is measured and found to be \( 4500 + n \mu \text{sec} \). If the computation portion takes \( n^2/200 \mu \text{sec} \), what is the maximum speedup we can expect when \( n=10,000 \) and \( p \) processors are used?
Suppose a serial program reads $n$ data from a file, performs some computation, and then writes $n$ data back out to another file. The I/O time is measured and found to be $4500 + n$ $\mu$sec. If the computation portion takes $n^2/200$ $\mu$sec, what is the maximum speedup we can expect when $n=10,000$ and $p$ processors are used?

We assume that the I/O must be done serially but that the computation can be parallelized. Computing $\alpha$ we find

$$f = \frac{500000}{4500 + 10000 + 500000} = \frac{5000}{5145} \approx 0.97182$$

so, by Amdahl’s Law,

$$\psi \leq \frac{1}{(1 - \frac{5000}{5145}) + \frac{5000}{5145N}} = \frac{5145}{145 + 5000/N}$$

This gives a maximum speedup of 6.68 on 8 processors and 11.27 on 16 processors.
Amdahl’s Law assumes the mind set

“*We have a sequential program and want to figure out what speedup is attainable by parallelizing as much of it as possible.*”

It turns out that focusing on parallelizing a sequential program is not a good way to think of this because often parallel implementations of solutions may look very different than the serial solution.

A more useful way of thinking starts with a parallel program and asks

“*We have a parallel program and want to figure out how much faster it is than a sequential program doing the same work.*”
The Gustafson-Barsis Law

- Amdahl’s law focuses on speedup as a function of increasing the number of processors; i.e., “how much faster can we get a fixed amount of work done using \(N\) processors?” Sometimes the question is “how much more work can we get done in a fixed amount of time using \(N\) processors?”

- Let \(T\) be the total time a parallel program requires when using \(N\) processors. As before, let \(0 \leq \alpha \leq 1\) be the fraction of execution time the program spends executing code in parallel. Then

\[
t_{\text{seq}} = (1 - \alpha)T + \alpha \cdot T \cdot N
\]

so

\[
\psi \leq \frac{t_{\text{seq}}}{t_{\text{par}}} = \frac{(1 - \alpha)T + \alpha \cdot T \cdot N}{T} = (1 - \alpha) + \alpha N
\]

- This is the **Gustafson-Barsis Law** (1988).

- The speedup estimate it produces is sometimes called **scaled speedup**.
This is much more encouraging than what Amdahl’s Law showed us.
Again, this is much more encouraging!
A parallel program takes 134 seconds to run on 32 processors. The total time spent in the sequential part of the program was 12 seconds. What is the scaled speedup?

\[
\alpha = \frac{134 - 12}{134} = \frac{122}{134} \\ 
\text{scaled speedup} = \left(1 - \alpha\right) + \alpha N = \left(1 - \frac{122}{134}\right) + \frac{122}{134} \cdot 32 = 29.224
\]

This means that the program is running approximately 29 times faster than the program would run on one processor, assuming it could run on one processor.
Gustafson-Barsis’s Law example

A parallel program takes 134 seconds to run on 32 processors. The total time spent in the sequential part of the program was 12 seconds. What is the scaled speedup?

Here $\alpha = (134 - 12)/134 = 122/134$ so the scaled speedup is

$$(1 - \alpha) + \alpha N = \left(1 - \frac{122}{134}\right) + \frac{122}{134} \cdot 32 = 29.224$$

This means that the program is running approximately 29 times faster than the program would run on one processor..., assuming it could run on one processor.
The laws compared

The Wikipedia page for Gustafson’s Law offers the following metaphor to contrast the two laws.

Amdahl’s Law approximately suggests: Suppose a car is traveling between two cities 60 miles apart, and has already spent one hour traveling half the distance at 30 mph. No matter how fast you drive the last half, it is impossible to achieve 90 mph average before reaching the second city. Since it has already taken you 1 hour and you only have a distance of 60 miles total; going infinitely fast you would only achieve 60 mph.

Gustafson-Barsis’s Law approximately suggests: Suppose a car has already been traveling for some time at less than 90mph. Given enough time and distance to travel, the car’s average speed can always eventually reach 90mph, no matter how long or how slowly it has already traveled. For example, if the car spent one hour at 30 mph, it could achieve this by driving at 120 mph for two additional hours, or at 150 mph for an hour.
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The above metrics ignore communication and other parallel overhead. When evaluating an approach to parallelizing a task, we next should include estimates of communication costs, which can dominate parallel program time.

Let $t_s$ be the time for a sequential version of the program and $t_p$ be the time for the parallel algorithm on $p$ processors. Then speedup is $t_s/t_p$. 
Parallel execution time $t_p$ can be broken down into two parts, computation time $t_{comp}$ and communication time $t_{comm}$.

$$t_p = t_{comp} + t_{comm}$$

Speedup is then

$$\psi = \frac{t_s}{t_p} = \frac{t_s}{t_{comp} + t_{comm}}$$

The *computation/communication ratio* is $t_{comp}/t_{comm}$. 
Message transfer time

Typically the time for communication can be broken down into two parts, the time $t_{\text{startup}}$ necessary for building the message and initiating the transfer, and the time $t_{\text{data}}$ required per data item in the message. At a first approximation this looks like

\[
t = t_{\text{startup}} + m \cdot t_{\text{data}}
\]

where $m$ is the number of data items sent.
The values of $t_{startup}$ and $t_{data}$ can be determined empirically.

Test program written that sends messages ranging in length from 100 to 10000 integers between two nodes.

Each message sent (and received) and then sent back (and received).

Repeated 100 times.

Linear regression used to fit line to timing data.

Determined $t_{startup} = 88.25 \mu\text{sec}$ and $t_{data} = 0.0415 \mu\text{sec}$ per integer, which corresponds to 96.43 MB/s (assuming 4 bytes per integer).
Workstation cluster timing data (Fall 2010)

Cluster message send time (MPI_INT)

 microseconds

message length

0 100 200 300 400 500 600

0 2000 4000 6000 8000 10000
Cluster message send time (MPI_INT)
Latency: 121.425 microseconds, Bandwidth: 108.544 MB/s
Minor Prophets cluster latency and bandwidth (2016)

Cluster message send time (MPI_INT)
Latency: 135.074 microseconds, Bandwidth: 115.131 MB/s

Cluster message send time (MPI_INT)
Latency: 136.041 microseconds, Bandwidth: 116.623 MB/s

Latency vs Bandwidth average (10 runs) on Minor Prophets
(error bars show 1 std. dev.)

**CPS343 (Parallel and HPC)**
Performance Metrics, Prediction, and Measurement
Spring 2016 28 / 32
LittleFe cluster latency and bandwidth (2013)

Cluster message send time (MPI_INT)
Latency: 3415.77 microseconds, Bandwidth: 3.61983 MB/s

Latency vs Bandwidth average (56 runs) on LittleFe Cluster
(error bars show 1 std. dev.)

- MPICH 3.0.2
- OpenMPI 1.6.3
Clustering latency and bandwidth comparison

Minor Prophets

Cluster message send time (MPI_INT)
Latency: 135.074 microseconds, Bandwidth: 115.131 MB/s

Canaan

Cluster message send time (MPI_INT)
Latency: 17.4277 microseconds, Bandwidth: 657.878 MB/s
Cluster latency and bandwidth comparison

**Minor Prophets**

Latency vs Bandwidth average (10 runs) on Minor Prophets (error bars show 1 std. dev.)

Error bars show 1 standard deviation in data values averaged to produce plots.

**Canaan**

Latency vs Bandwidth average (10 runs) on Canaan (error bars show 1 std. dev.)

Error bars show 1 standard deviation in data values averaged to produce plots.