Parallel Computing  
CM30225

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### 1. Parallel Algorithms

#### Reduction

There are a couple of issues, however

In real implementations we need to worry about the cost of data movement between processors: reduction inherently needs to move data around

Probably a small cost for a shared memory system, but it can easily be much larger than the cost of the reduction operation if you are not careful

So parallel reduction on, say, a distributed memory machine, is only worthwhile for large datasets

Or a very costly reduction operation

This is grain size, again

### 2. Parallel Algorithms

#### Reduction

The other issue is about reduction in general, not just in parallel. Reduction relies on the associativity of the reduction operation

Reduce the list using

Do we mean

a *left* reduction

Or

a *right* reduction?

### 3. Parallel Algorithms

#### Reduction

And a tree reduction will give



Tree Reduction

Or something else entirely depending on where the data ended up in the tree

### 4. Parallel Algorithms

#### Reduction

The simple answer is not to do reductions using non-associative operations, even sequentially

However, there are many useful reduction operations, including , , max, min, and so on

### 5. Parallel Algorithms

#### Reduction

Reduction appears as an operation in many languages, e.g., JavaScript array.reduce(op) to reduce the array with the op:  
((array[0] op array[1]) op array[2]) op ...

Thus amenable to automatic parallelisation, if the operation is associative and independent of the array (e.g., not if the op updates the array)

### 6. Parallel Algorithms

#### Prefix Scan

Closely related to reduction is the *prefix scan*: with returns

So: (array[0], array[0] op array[1], array[0] op array[1] op array[2], ...)

The partial reductions, usually left associated

### 7. Parallel Algorithms

#### Prefix Scan

This can also be done in steps (on processors)

Even though it seems you need to compute before computing before computing , thus serialising the whole thing

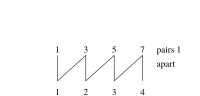
But this is sequential thinking!

For example, you can compute at the same time as ; and then in parallel with

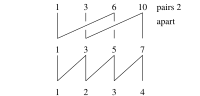
We can proceed in a tree-like sequence of combination of pairs of values

### 8. Parallel Algorithms

#### Prefix Scan



Prefix Scan 1 apart



Prefix Scan 2 apart

### 9. Parallel Algorithms

#### Prefix Scan

First step is to sum array[i] = array[i] + array[i-1] in parallel

Then double the distances:  
array[i] = array[i] + array[i-2]

Then double the distances:  
array[i] = array[i] + array[i-4]

And so on, for steps on processors: this gives us all the prefix sums, including the total reduction as the last element

### 10. Parallel Algorithms

#### Prefix Scan

When limited to processors we can produce a scan in time

Scan has the same issues as reduce, namely data travel and associativity

### 11. Parallel Algorithms

#### Prefix Scan

Scan appears to give us more answers than reduce for the same amount of work!

It’s not: for a start, reduce uses at most processors, while scan uses up to

### 12. Parallel Algorithms

#### Prefix Scan

But more importantly, reduce halves the number of active processors in each step, while scan uses more processors more of the time. It uses active processors in step , so it *ends* with about active processors

They both complete in the same amount of time so they have the same speedup, but scan is more efficient

Meaning scan uses more hardware more of the time (and therefore takes more energy)

We can see that reduce has quite a lot of slack in parallel!

### 13. Parallel Algorithms

#### Prefix Scan

Note that both scan and reduce work well on a SIMD architecture

They work on distributed memory, too, but we have to watch the cost of the messaging

MPI includes several scan operations including  
MPI\_MAX, MPI\_MIN, MP\_SUM, MPI\_PROD, MPI\_LAND (logical AND), MPI\_LOR (logical OR)  
amongst others

**Exercise** Write a parallel prefix scan in OpenMP

**Exercise** In fact there is a better, work efficient, more complicated algorithm that only needs processors. Look it up

### 14. Parallel Algorithms

#### FFT

The Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) is one of the basic algorithms in CS, known by everybody who knows anything about CS

The Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) takes a sequence of (complex) numbers and returns a sequence of numbers

If the input numbers represent a signal, the DFT values represent the constituent frequencies of that signal

The values are input; the values are output

### 15. Parallel Algorithms

#### FFT

This has two obvious elements of parallelism:

* each can be computed independently, for a -way parallelism
* each summation can be done as a tree, for a -way parallelism
* taking total time on processors

But, instead let us look at a sequential divide and conquer version

### 16. Parallel Algorithms

#### FFT

This sum can be computed as presented: summing values for each of values , thus taking time

However, if is even, then we get a nice recursive presentation by splitting the sum into evens and odds

### 17. Parallel Algorithms

#### FFT

This is just two half-size DFTs

### 18. Parallel Algorithms

#### FFT

For a power of 2 we can repeat recursively, leading to the *Fast Fourier Transform*, a way to implement the DFT

In fact, the FFT is an unwinding of the recursion into an iteration that runs slightly faster, but is harder to understand

The FFT takes sequential time , which is a huge improvement over ; e.g., for 1,000,000, this is about 20,000,000 against 1,000,000,000,000

But, for our purposes, we can see this as a simple divide and conquer, thus easily parallelisable

### 19. Parallel Algorithms

#### FFT

The parallelisation of the FFT works in a way very similar to what we have seen before and has complexity on processors, and on processors

As the FFT is such an important algorithm, much has been written about it and its parallel variants, in particular matching it to the various kinds of hardware (SIMD, pipeline, shared memory, etc.)

### 20. Parallel Algorithms

#### And So On

There are very many other parallel algorithms: just think of the large literature on sequential algorithms that exists

We have just looked at a couple, but everything that you have done in the past sequentially will probably have a parallel counterpart

Some algorithms will map best to shared memory, some distributed, some SIMD, and so on

Some will be sensitive to the topology of the architecture (full connect, torus, etc.), others work well regardless

Still more will not work well in parallel at all

**Exercise** Look some up!