

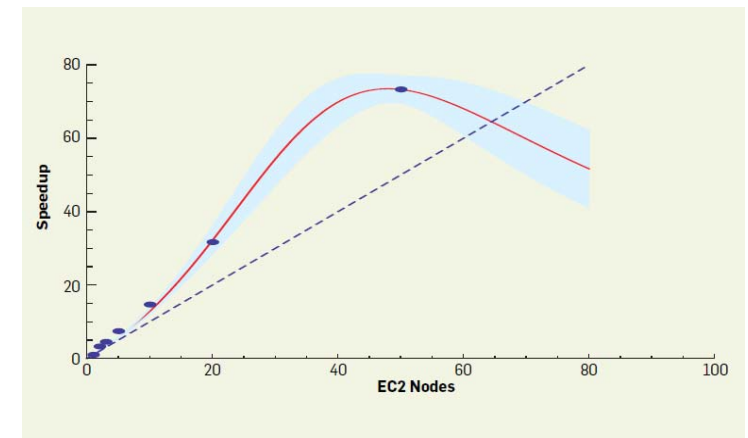
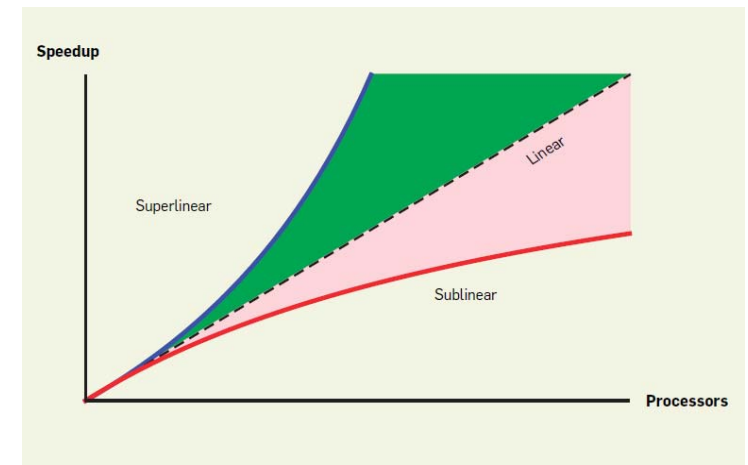


Performance Analysis

CS121 Parallel Computing
Spring 2021

Parallel performance

- Ideally, a program runs k times faster on k processors than on one.
 - Almost never achieved in practice. Why?
- **Goal** Given a parallel program, understand its performance under increasing levels of parallelism.
 - Identify performance bottlenecks.
 - Compare different algorithms for a problem.
- Try to abstract away machine details.
 - Find performance properties that hold regardless of architecture.
 - Use asymptotic analysis.





Speedup

- For a given problem X and parallel algorithm A solving X , let
 - T_s = minimum time to solve X on one processor, i.e. the time for the best sequential algorithm.
 - T_1 = time algorithm A takes using one processor.
 - $T_1 \geq T_s$.
 - T_p = time algorithm A takes using p processors.
- **Absolute speedup** $S_p^* = T_s / T_p$.
 - Compare A with the best sequential algorithm.
- **Relative speedup**, aka scalability $S_p = T_1 / T_p$.
 - Compare A with itself on different machine sizes.
 - Focus on scalability, since hard to know what best sequential algorithm is.
- **Work** $W_p = p T_p$ = “total cycles burned” by p processors.
 - $p T_p \geq T_s$, because parallel system has to do at least as much total work as the best sequential algorithm.
- **Efficiency** $E_p = S_p / p$ = speedup per processor.
 - Typically ≤ 1 due to overhead.
 - But can be > 1 in practice in special circumstances.

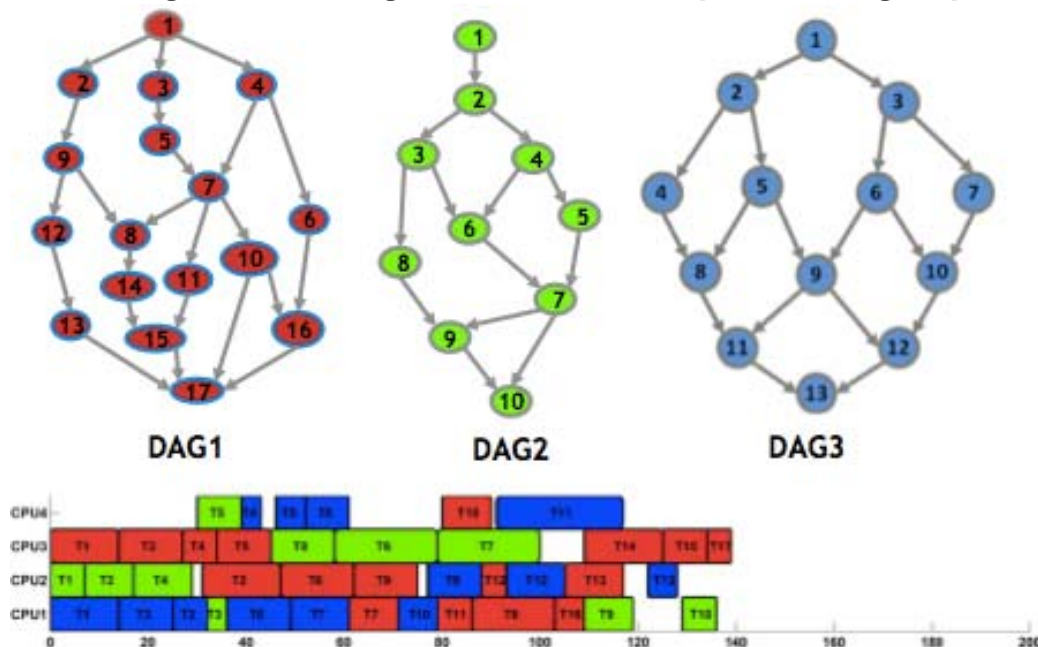


Overheads

- Linear scalability $S_p = \Theta(p)$.
- Hard to achieve due to overheads.
 - Communication and synchronization time between processors.
 - Processors can idle due to poor partitioning or load imbalance.
 - Sometimes cheaper for a processor to redo a computation than get the result from another processor. But this increases overall computation.
- Sometimes the best sequential algorithm is not parallelizable.
 - Must choose more work intensive (higher W_p) but more parallelizable algorithm.
 - **Ex** Dijkstra's shortest path algorithm does less work than Bellman-Ford, but BF is more parallelizable.

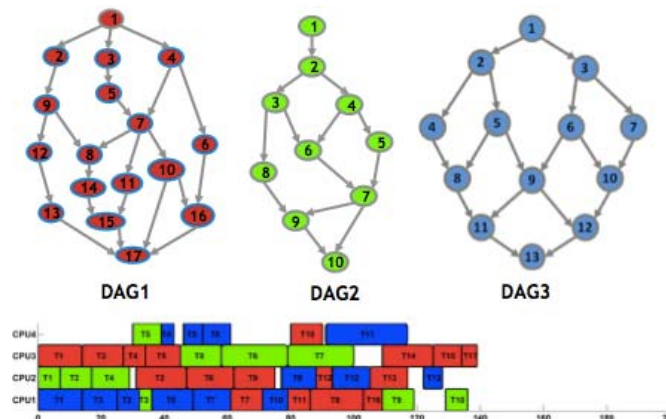
DAG model

- Nodes represent computations / tasks.
 - Can be weighted to represent different task sizes.
- Directed edges represent dependencies between tasks.
 - (u,v) indicates task u must finish before task v completes.
 - Can be weighted to indicate communication, startup cost etc. for task.
 - Assume default weight is 0.
- Graph can't contain cycles, i.e. computation must eventually finish.
- **Critical path** is length of longest directed path in graph.



DAG model

- Given a dag G , let
 - C = sum of node and edge weights in G .
 - D = length of critical path in G .
 - T_p = time taken by p processors to execute G .
 - T_∞ = minimum time to execute G using arbitrary number of processors.
- Assume p processors, each doing one unit of work per time step.
- **Work law** $p T_p \geq C$.
 - I.e. $T_p \geq C / p$. Places lower bound on parallel running time.
 - Holds because processors must do all the work in G .
- **Span law** $T_\infty \geq D$.
 - Due to dependency, tasks along critical path must be done sequentially, regardless of number of processors.



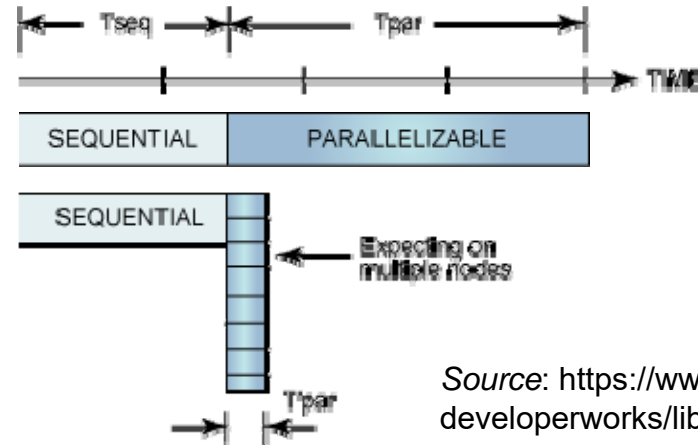


Amdahl's Law

- Another upper bound on the maximum speedup achievable by a program.
- Let T_1 be time to run a program using one processor.
 - Assume f fraction of it the program is inherently sequential, i.e. cannot be parallelized.
 - $f T_1$ amount of work is sequential.
 - $(1-f) T_1$ amount of work is parallelizable.
- On parallel computer with p processors
 - Sequential part still takes $f T_1$ time.
 - Parallel part takes $(1-f) T_1 / p$ time.
 - Total time $T_p = f T_1 + (1-f) T_1 / p$.

Amdahl's Law

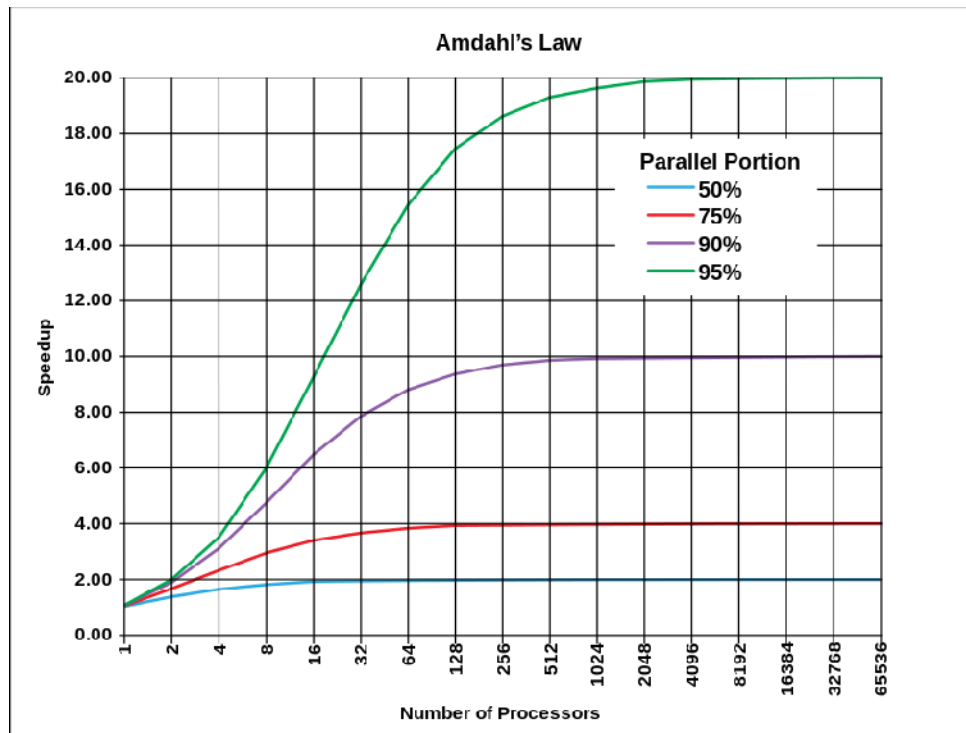
- $$S(p) = \frac{T_1}{T_p} = \frac{T_1}{fT_1 + \frac{(1-f)T_1}{p}} = \frac{1}{f + \frac{1-f}{p}}$$



Source: <https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/library/l-cluster1/>

- As p increases, second term in denominator gets smaller, but first term always stays the same.
- So $S(p) < 1/f$ always.
 - Speedup never exceeds one divided by the fraction of sequential work.

Amdahl's Law



Source: Wikipedia

- Even with a small proportion of sequential work, parallelism is very limited.
- Suggests it's pointless to build large computers with thousands of cores, since they can't improve performance much.
- But, in real world large scale parallelism is very useful. Why?



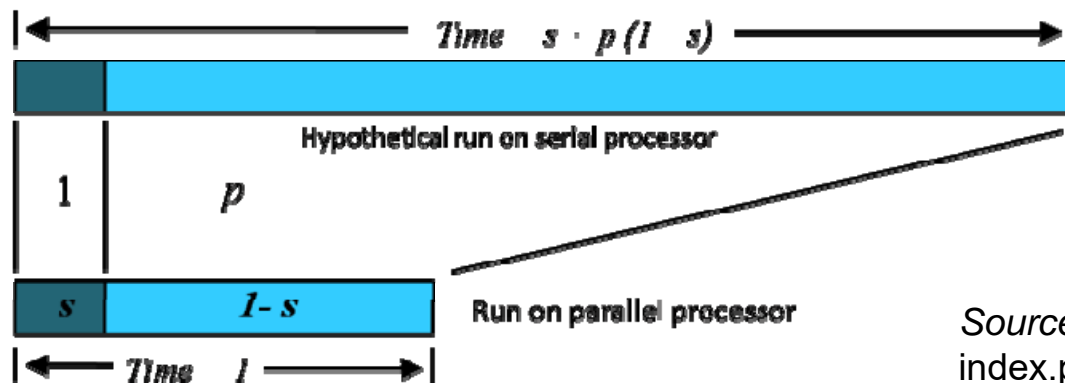
Gustafson's Law

- Gustafson's law tries to explain why real parallel systems often get good speedup.
- Amdahl's Law assumes a fixed problem size, and looks at runtime as we increase parallelism.
- But when parallelism increases, we often try to solve a larger (scaled) problem.
 - Ex Given few processors, we try to solve a coarse weather model. Given more processors, we try to solve a finer model.
- Gustafson's Law assumes size of scaled problem is chosen so the parallel running time stays the same as the running time of the original problem.
- Gustafson's Law also assumes the sequential work in the scaled and unscaled problems are the same.
 - Ex For weather prediction, sequential work may be initialization, which is roughly same in coarse and fine model.
 - This assumption may or may not be valid in practice.
- The parallel work increases in the scaled problem.
 - Ex Parallel work (the actual weather simulation) increases in finer model.

Gustafson's Law

- Given p processors
 - Sequential work is still $f T_1$.
 - Parallel work chosen to be $p(1-f) T_1$.
 - $T_p = f T_1 + p(1-f) T_1 / p = f T_1 + (1-f) T_1 = T_1$.
 - Parallel running time on larger problem equals sequential running time for original small problem, as per assumption.
- Size of scaled problem is $f T_1 + p(1-f) T_1$.
- So a sequential processor takes $T'_1 = f T_1 + p(1-f) T_1$ time to solve scaled problem.
- Scaled speedup ratio

$$S_p = \frac{T'_1}{T_p} = \frac{fT_1 + p(1-f)T_1}{T_1} = f + p(1-f) = p - (p-1)f$$



Source: http://wiki.expertiza.ncsu.edu/index.php/CSC/ECE_506_Spring_2012/4b_rs



Comparison and limitations

- Gustafson's Law predicts much better speedup than Amdahl's Law.
- Ex For $f = 0.05$, $p = 50$.
 - Amdahl's Law gives speedup = $1 / (0.05 + .95/50) = 14.5$
 - Gustafson's Law gives speedup = $50 - 49 * 0.05 = 47.6$
- Amdahl's Law also called strong scaling, i.e. performance improvement for fixed problem size and increasing processors.
- Gustafson's Law also called weak scaling, i.e. performance improvement for fixed problem size per processor.
- Which assumption is more appropriate for given problem determines which law applicable.
- Important shortcoming of Amdahl's and Gustafson's Laws is they ignore overhead as parallelism increases.

Karp-Flatt metric

- Capture parallelism overhead using empirical observations.
- Given a program, let T_q and T_r be the sequential and parallelizable part, resp.
 - $T_1 = T_q + T_r$.
- Experimentally determined serial fraction $e = T_q / T_1$.
 - A priori we don't know e . But we can determine it through other measurable quantities.
- $$T_p = T_q + \frac{T_r}{p} = T_1 e + \frac{T_1(1-e)}{p}$$
- $$\frac{T_p}{T_1} = e + \frac{(1-e)}{p} = \frac{1}{S_p}$$
- $$e = \left(\frac{1}{S_p} - \frac{1}{p}\right) / \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)$$
- S_p can be determined experimentally by running the program. Then we can use S_p to determine the serial fraction e .

Karp-Flatt metric

$$e = (\frac{1}{S_p} - \frac{1}{p}) / (1 - \frac{1}{p})$$

- Suppose observed speedups for a program are

p	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
S_p	1.87	2.61	3.23	3.73	4.14	4.46	4.71
e	0.07	0.075	0.08	0.085	0.09	0.095	0.1

- Since e increases with p, this says overhead is increasing with parallelism.

p	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
S_p	1.82	2.50	3.08	3.57	4.00	4.38	4.71
e	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

- Since e is constant with p, overhead does not increase.

Asymptotic complexity

- Compare trends in the sizes of two functions.
- Given functions $f(n)$ and $g(n)$, there are 5 comparison operators.
 - Analogous to the 5 comparison operators for numbers.

Notation	Analogy	Formal definition
$f(n) = O(g(n))$	$f \leq g$	$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} < \infty$
$f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$	$f \geq g$	$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} > 0$
$f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$	$f = g$	$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = c, \quad 0 < c < \infty$
$f(n) = o(g(n))$	$f < g$	$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = 0$
$f(n) = \omega(g(n))$	$f > g$	$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = \infty$

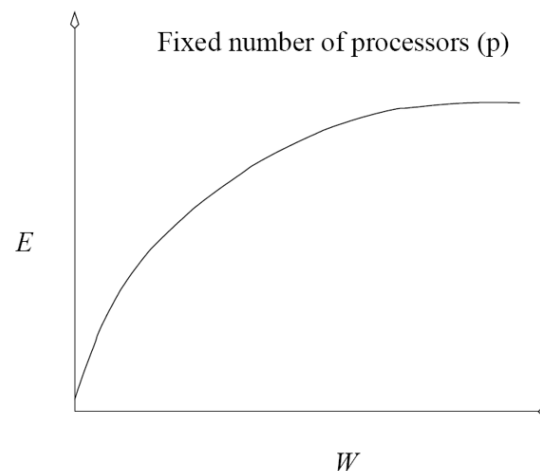
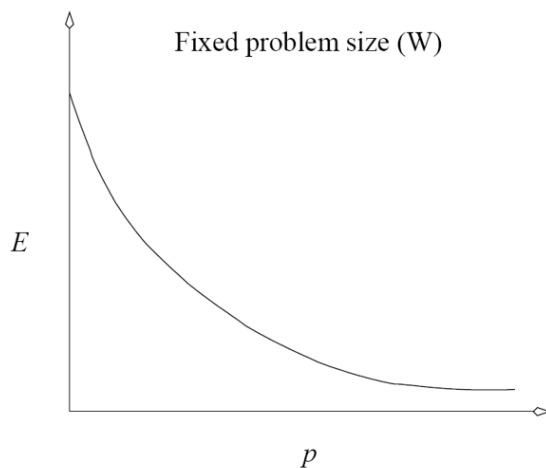


Isoefficiency

- Another way to measure scalability, by looking at the amount of useful work vs overhead as we scale the problem and system.
- Given a problem of size n and p processors, let
 - $W(n)$ = useful work done by processors.
 - $\gamma(n,p)$ = overhead from parallelism.
 - Both W and γ increase in n and p .
- Efficiency $E = \frac{W(n)}{W(n)+\gamma(n,p)} = \frac{1}{1+\frac{\gamma(n,p)}{W(n)}}$.
- Goal is to maintain the same (i.e. iso) efficiency as the number of processors increases.
 - Whether this is possible depends on the relative rate of increase of W vs γ .

Work vs overhead

- As p increases but n stays constant, γ typically increases faster than W .
 - More processors have to do more communication, synchronization, etc.
 - Efficiency decreases for constant problem size and increasing number of processors.
- As n increases but p stays constant, W typically increases faster than γ .
 - There's more work per processor, so they can spend more time computing instead of communicating.
 - Efficiency increases for constant number of processors and increasing problem size.
- Thus, can use increase in problem size to balance increase in processor count to maintain efficiency, i.e. achieve isoefficiency.



Examples

- **Ex** $W(n) = n \log n, \gamma(n, p) = n \log p$

- $E = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{n \log p}{n \log n}} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\log p}{\log n}}$

- So if $\log n = \Omega(\log p)$, i.e. $n = \Omega(p)$, can maintain isoefficiency.

- **Ex** $W(n) = n, \gamma(n, p) = p^{3/2} + p^{3/4}n^{3/4}$

- Find isoefficiency problem size for each term separately.

- For first term, need $n = \Omega(p^{3/2})$.

- For second term, need $n = \Omega(p^{3/4}n^{3/4})$, so $n^{1/4} = p^{3/4}$, so $n = \Omega(p^3)$.

- Thus, $n = \Omega(p^3)$ maintains isoefficiency.

- **Ex** $W(n) = n^2, \gamma(n, p) = n^2 \log p$

- $E = \frac{1}{1 + \log p}$, i.e. E decreases in p , regardless of n .

- So not possible to maintain isoefficiency.