Program Structures and Algorithms
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GITHUB LINK: https://github.com/AshishNevan/INFO6205

Task: Assignment 1: Parallel Sort result and efficacy

Relationship Conclusion:

For recursion depth (d) and number of threads (t):

$$t = 2^d$$

Evidence to support that conclusion:

The runtimes of 10 iterations of parallel sort on array size (N) = 2Million, with different combinations of threads and cutoff ratios are listed:

	Threads			
Ratio	2	4	8	16
5%	82.8	71.3	69.4	64
10%	69.5	54.2	49.5	48.9
15%	72.9	55.3	47.8	47.8
20%	71.9	55.9	46.9	47
25%	69.9	56	47.8	47.6
30%	76.9	53.5	53.4	53.1
35%	77.6	53.2	53.5	53.1
40%	76.5	53.3	53.2	53.4
45%	77.9	53.4	53.2	53.2
50%	78.1	53.3	53.4	53.1

We can infer that lower cutoff values lead to higher recursion depth(parallel) and higher cutoff values lead to lower recursion depth. In order to handle many parallel sort, we will be needing more threads.

Through this experiment, we aim to find the “sweet-spot” of that combination of thread count and cutoff ratio which has the most performance. From the values shown in the table above, it is safe to say that out inference holds true. The “sweet-spot” of threads vs cutoff ratio is found along this diagonal shown below.

	Threads			
Ratio	2	4	8	16
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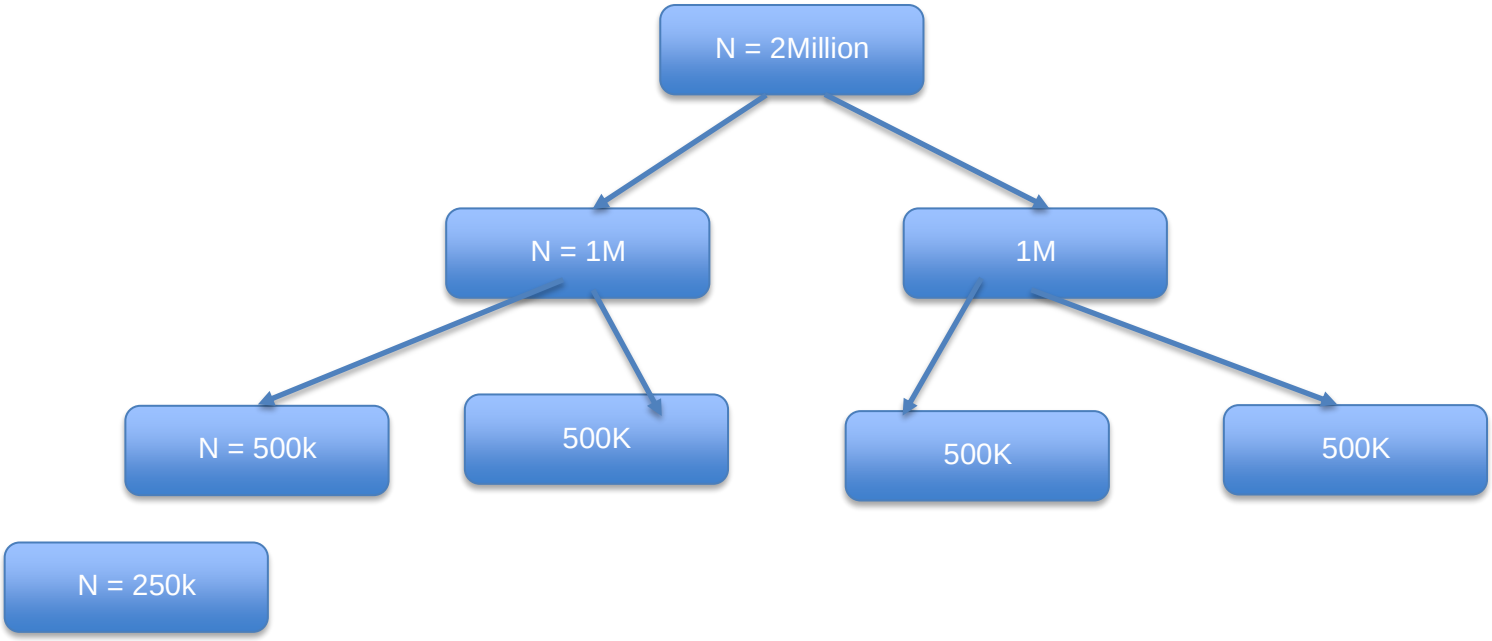
40%	76.5	53.3	53.2	53.4
45%	77.9	53.4	53.2	53.2
50%	78.1	53.3	53.4	53.1

The system I used to run this experiment has 8 threads, and for peak performance, we ought to use all 8 of those threads to perform computation parallelly. Let us attempt to do exactly that visually.



Cutoff of 400K (20% of 2M) has created 8 substasks (recursive depth 3) which would ideally fill 8 threads, an even lower cutoff would make the tasks overload the number of threads hence lead to tasks waiting for ready threads.

We can conclude from this experiment that parallelization parameters of parallel sort is dependent on number of physical threads available in the system. The relationship of max depth (d), arry size (N) and cutoff (c) is given by:

$$d = \lg(N/C)$$

Output: