Image Processing

A case study for a domain decomposed MPI code











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Starting with a big array:





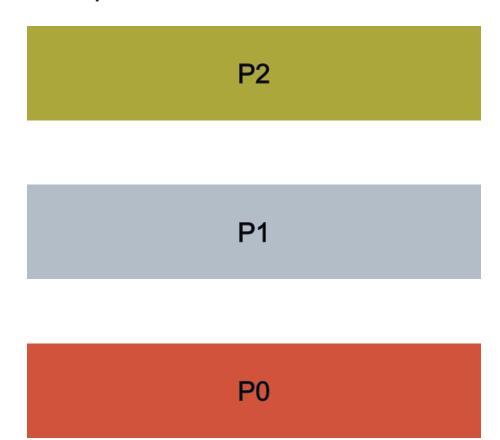
Split it into pieces:







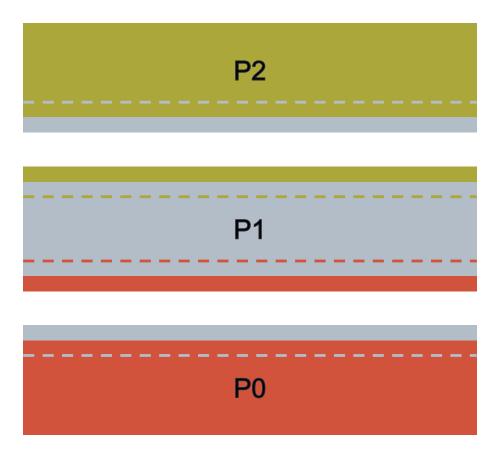
Assign pieces to processes:







Use halos to deal with nearest-neighbour interactions

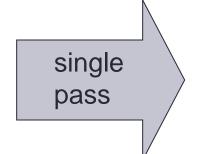






Edge detection / image reconstruction





hundreds of iterations







Edge detection

- Compare pixel to its four nearest neighbours
 - pixel values are from 0 (black) to 255 (white)

$$edge_{i,j} = image_{i-1,j} + image_{i+1,j} + image_{i,j-1} + image_{i,j+1} - 4image_{i,j}$$

- What about the boundary conditions?
 - use non-periodic boundaries
 - pixels off the edge of the image (e.g. image $_{M+1, j}$) are set to white
- Pad 2D arrays with halos
 - in serial code, all halo values set to 255 (i.e. white)





Image reconstruction

- Jacobi Solver to undo the simple edge detection algorithm (a five-point stencil)
 - simple example of discretised partial differential equation with nearest-neighbour interactions
 - actually solving $\nabla^2 image = edge$

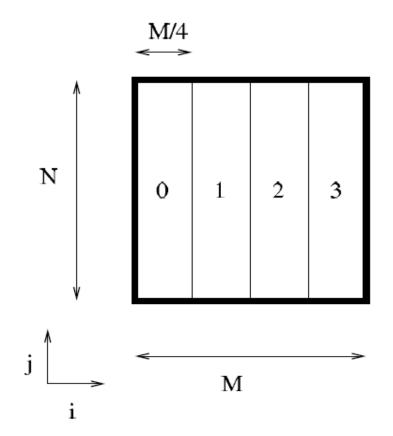
$$new_{i,j} = \frac{1}{4}(old_{i-1,j} + old_{i+1,j} + old_{i,j-1} + old_{i,j+1} - edge_{i,j})$$

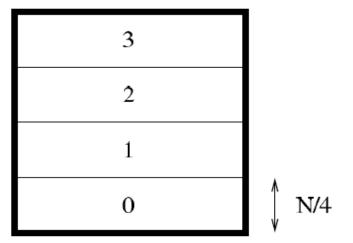
- Repeat many times
 - in parallel, must update halo values from neighbours every iteration





Different choices in C and Fortran









The case study

- I provide you with:
 - More detailed printed instruction
 - Tar-ball (Choice of C or Fortran)
 - Input routine
 - Output routine
 - Couple of input files

Tasks

- Write a serial code (with halos for fixed boundary conditions)
 - check that the serial code works!!
- Distribute the work onto the processors; separate reconstructions
- Get the halos exchanged; single reconstruction, identical to serial
- Further suggestions on the instruction sheet





Viewing the Images

- Images are in a very old-fashioned text-based format
 - Portable Grey Map (PGM)
 - easy to read and write
- You may not be able to view PGM files on your laptop
 - could install *ImageMagick* suite (which contains *display*)
 - user@laptop:~> display image.pgm
 - may have problems with the input edge files (contain negative values!)
 - user@laptop:~> sed 's/\-//g' edge.pgm | display -
- Viewing on Cirrus / ARCHER2 (wrapper script round display)
 - fixes the potential issue with negative values
 - user@cirrus:~> module load ImageMagick
 - user@archer2:~> module load imagemagick
 - user@archer2:~> pgmdisplay image.pgm



