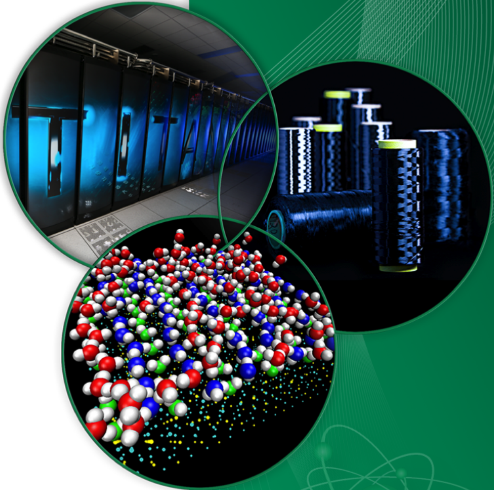
Parallel Algorithms for Monte Carlo Linear Solvers



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Motivation

- As we move towards exascale computing, the rate of errors is expected to increase dramatically
  - The probability that a compute node will fail during the course of a large scale calculation may be near 1
- Algorithms need to not only have increased concurrency/scalability but have the ability to recover from hardware faults
  - Lightweight machines
  - Heterogeneous machines
  - Both characterized by low power and high concurrency

Towards Exascale Concurrency and Resiliency

- Two basic strategies:

  1. Start with current "state of the art" methods and make incremental modifications to improve scalability and fault tolerance
     - Many efforts are heading in this direction, attempting to find additional concurrency to exploit
  2. Start with methods having natural scalability and resiliency aspects and work at improving performance (e.g. Monte Carlo)
     - Soft failures introduce an additional stochastic error component
     - Hard failures potentially mitigated by replication
     - Concurrency enabled by several levels of parallelism

Monte Carlo for Linear Systems

- Suppose we want to solve $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$
- If $\rho(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) < 1$, we can write the solution using the Neumann series

$$\mathbf{x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^n \mathbf{b} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathbf{H}^n \mathbf{b}$$

  where $\mathbf{H} \equiv (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})$ is the Richardson iteration matrix
- Build the Neumann series stochastically

$$x_i = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i_1}^{N} \sum_{i_2}^{N} \dots \sum_{i_k}^{N} h_{i,i_1} h_{i_1,i_2} \dots h_{i_{k-1},i_k} b_{i_k}$$

- Define a sequence of state transitions

$$\nu = i \rightarrow i_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow i_{k-1} \rightarrow i_k$$

Forward Monte Carlo

- Choose a row-stochastic matrix $\mathbf{P}$ and weight matrix $\mathbf{W}$ such that $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{P} \circ \mathbf{W}$
- Typical choice (Monte Carlo Almost-Optimal):

$$\mathbf{P}_{ij} = \frac{|\mathbf{H}_{ij}|}{\sum_{j=1}^{N} |\mathbf{H}_{ij}|}$$

- To compute solution component $\mathbf{x}_i$:
  - Start a history in state i (with initial weight of 1)
  - Transition to new state j based probabilities determined by $\mathbf{P}_i$
  - Modify history weight based on corresponding entry in $\mathbf{W}_{ij}$
  - Add contribution to $\mathbf{x}_i$ based on current history weight and value of $\mathbf{b}_j$
- A given random walk can only contribute to a single component of the solution vector with $\mathbf{x} \approx \mathbf{M_{MC}}\mathbf{b}$

Sampling Example (Forward Monte Carlo)

- Suppose

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & -0.2 & -0.6 \\ -0.4 & 1.0 & -0.4 \\ -0.1 & -0.4 & 1.0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \mathbf{H} \equiv (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0 & 0.2 & 0.6 \\ 0.4 & 0.0 & 0.4 \\ 0.1 & 0.4 & 0.0 \end{bmatrix}$$

then

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0 & 0.25 & 0.75 \\ 0.5 & 0.0 & 0.5 \\ 0.2 & 0.8 & 0.0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{W} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0 & 0.8 & 0.8 \\ 0.8 & 0.0 & 0.8 \\ 0.5 & 0.5 & 0.0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- If a history is started in state 3, there is a 20% chance of it transitioning to state 1 and an 80% chance of moving to state 2

Solving the Heat Equation: Forward Method

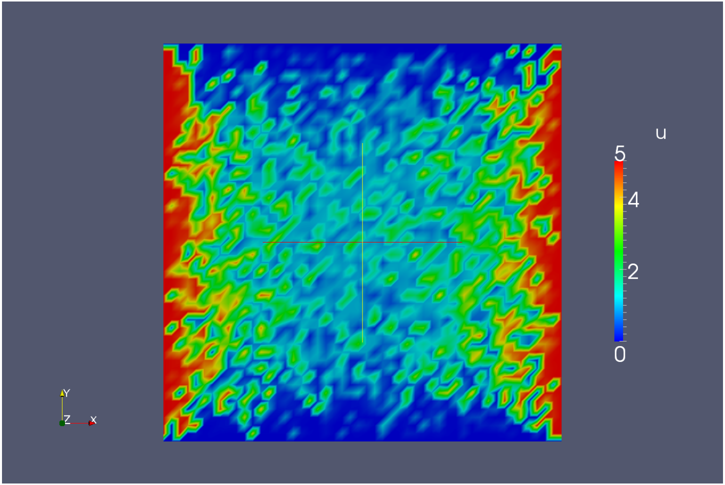

Figure : 2.5×10^3 total histories.

Solving the Heat Equation: Forward Method

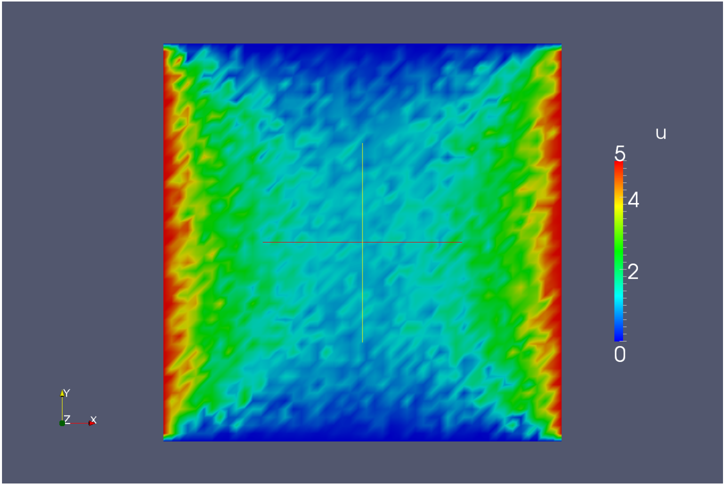

Figure : 2.5×10^4 total histories.

Solving the Heat Equation: Forward Method

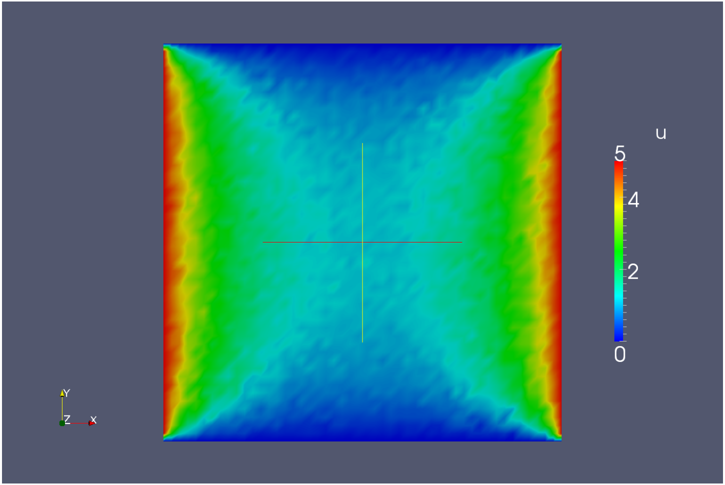

Figure : 2.5×10^5 total histories.

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Solving the Heat Equation: Forward Method

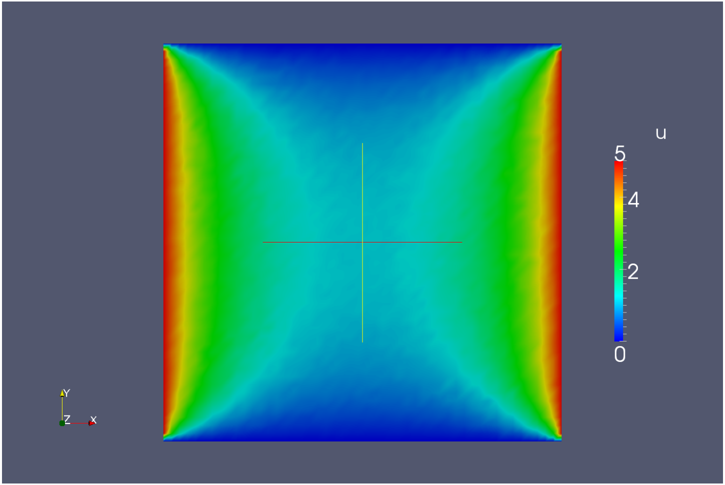


Figure : 2.5×10^6 total histories.

Domain Decomposed Monte Carlo

- Each parallel process owns a piece of the domain (linear system)
- Random walks must be transported between adjacent domains through parallel communication
- Domain decomposition determined by the input system
- Load balancing not yet addressed

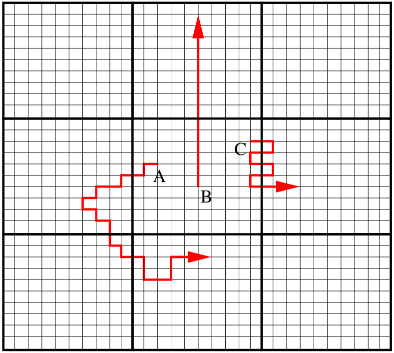
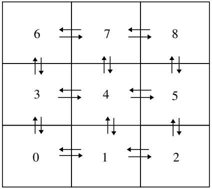
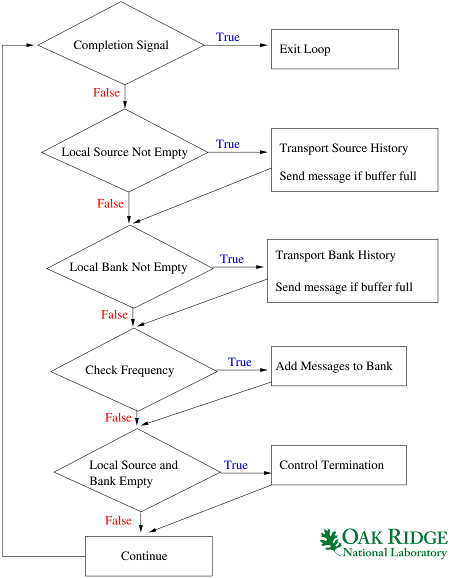


Figure : Domain decomposition example illustrating how domain-to-domain transport creates communication costs.

Asynchronous Monte Carlo Transport Kernel

- General extension of the Milagro algorithm (LANL)
- Asynchronous nearest neighbor communication of histories
- System-tunable communication parameters of buffer size and check frequency (performance impact)
- Need an asynchronous strategy for exiting the transport loop without a collective (running sum)





Exiting the Transport Loop without Collectives

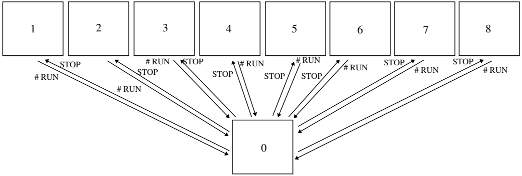


Figure : Master/Slave

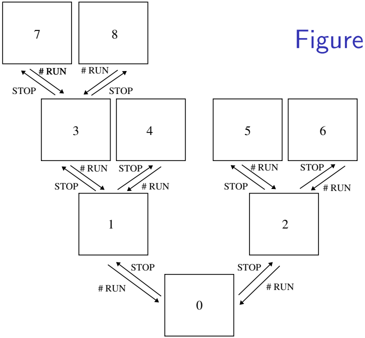


Figure : Binary Tree

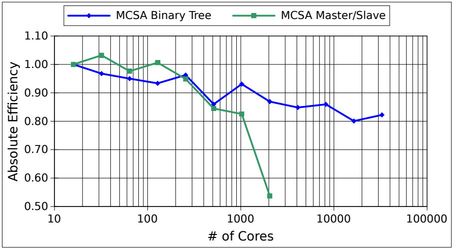


Figure : Weak scaling absolute efficiency

Replication

Different batches of Monte Carlo samples can be combined in summation via superposition if they have different random number streams. For two different batches:

$$\mathbf{M_{MC}x} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{M_1} + \mathbf{M_2})\mathbf{x}$$

Consider each of these batches independent *subsets* of a Monte Carlo operator where now the operator can be formed as a general additive decomposition of N_S subsets:

$$\mathbf{M_{MC}} = \frac{1}{N_S}\sum_{n=1}^{N_s}\mathbf{M_n}$$

We replicate the linear problem and form each subset on a different group of parallel processes. Applying the subsets to a vector requires an AllReduce to form the sum. Each subset is domain decomposed.

Parallel Test - Simplified P_N (SP_N) Assembly Problem

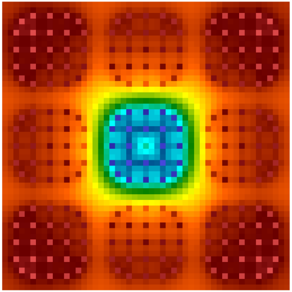


Figure : SP_N solution example

The (SP_N) equations are an approximation to the Boltzmann neutron transport equation used to simulate nuclear reactors

$$-\nabla \cdot \mathbb{D}_n \nabla \mathbb{U}_n + \sum_{m=1}^{4} \mathbb{A}_{nm} \mathbb{U}_m = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{m=1}^{4} \mathbb{F}_{nm} \mathbb{U}_m$$

Scaling problem – 1×1 to 17×17 array of fuel assemblies with 289 pins each resolved by a 2×2 spatial mesh and 200 axial zones

- 7 energy groups, 1 angular moment, 1.6M to 273.5M degrees of freedom
- 64 to 10,800 computational cores via domain decomposition
- We are usually interested in solving generalized eigenvalue problem - we use the operator from these problems to test the kernel scaling

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Monte Carlo Communication Parameters

		Message Check Frequency			
		128	**256**	**512**	**1 024**
Message Buffer Size	**256**	1.054	1.061	1.076	1.076
	512	1.103	1.146	1.211	$\boxed{1.270}$
	1 024	1.062	1.088	1.133	1.176
	2 048	1.030	1.042	1.072	1.107
	4 096	1.010	1.012	1.025	1.050
	8 192	1.001	$\boxed{1.000}$	1.008	1.018
	16 384	1.017	1.003	1.010	1.009

- OLCF Eos: 736-node Cray XC30, Intel Xeon E5-2670, 11,776 cores, 47 TB memory, Cray Aries interconnect
- 64 cores, 1.6M DOFs, history length of 15, 3 histories per DOF
- 27% decrease in runtime observed for bad parameter choices
- Worth the time to do this parameter study when running on new hardware

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Domain Decomposition Scaling

Cores	DOFs	DOFs/Core	Time Min (s)	Time Max (s)	Time Ave (s)	Efficiency
256	273 509 600	1 068 397	515.51	515.52	515.52	1.00
1 024	273 509 600	267 099	122.76	122.77	122.76	1.05
4 096	273 509 600	66 775	27.96	27.97	27.96	1.15
7 744	273 509 600	35 319	17.72	17.72	17.72	0.96
10 816	273 509 600	25 288	13.72	13.72	13.72	0.89

Table : Strong Scaling

Cores	DOFs	DOFs/Core	Time Min (s)	Time Max (s)	Time Ave (s)	Efficiency
64	1 618 400	25 288	12.65	12.65	12.65	1.00
256	6 473 600	25 288	12.86	12.86	12.86	0.98
1 024	25 894 400	25 288	14.59	14.59	14.59	0.87
4 096	103 577 600	25 288	14.25	14.25	14.25	0.89
7 744	195 826 400	25 288	14.75	14.78	14.75	0.86
10 816	273 509 600	25 288	13.72	13.72	13.72	0.92

Table : Weak Scaling

- Titan Cray XK7 was used with no GPUs
- Results are consistent with transport literature
- Need to further push work starvation in strong scaling study

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Replication Scaling

Subsets	Cores	DOFs	Time Min (s)	Time Max (s)	Time Ave (s)	Efficiency
1	256	6 473 600	12.65	12.65	12.65	1.00
2	512	6 473 600	6.62	6.80	6.72	0.93
3	768	6 473 600	4.50	4.73	4.66	0.89
4	1 024	6 473 600	3.62	3.81	3.71	0.83

Table : Fixed algorithmic scaling

- 256 cores per subset with domain decomposition
- $1/N_S$ samples per subset gives flat algorithmic performance
- Two performance issues
  - Dividing up samples creates work starvation
  - AllReduce buffer size is constant regardless of work starvation
- Research is needed for a more performant subset combination

Current Work - Vectorization and Threading

- We have implemented a Monte Carlo kernel using the Kokkos threading model (Trilinos)
  - The kernel supports multi-threaded CPU, GPU, and Xeon Phi architectures with a single implementation
- Vectorization an area of active research with a focus on heterogeneous architectures (Titan and Summit)
  - Currently investigating event-based algorithms to enable vectorization
  - Event-based algorithm concepts are based on vectorized Monte Carlo algorithms from particle transport
- We are exploring an additive-Schwarz formulation to eliminate parallel communication in the Monte Carlo kernel
- Other threading models will be considered (e.g. HPX)

Conclusions and Future Work

- Monte Carlo methods offer great potential for both resilient and highly parallel solvers
  - A fully asynchronous algorithm provides scalability without collectives
  - Replication potentially offers resiliency with some overhead
- Extending methods to broader problem areas is a significant algorithmic challenge and an attractive area for continued research
  - Explicit preconditioners are required for all problems
- Performance modeling and resiliency simulations this FY
  - Fault injection studies using the xSim simulator