



Faculty of Science



# Solving Tridiagonal Systems in Parallel

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# TRIDAG Problem Statement

## Parallel Algorithm for Computing $X$ :

Given  $A$  and  $D$ , find  $X$  such that  $A * X = D$ ,  
 where  $A \in \mathbb{M}^{n \times n}$  is **tridiagonal**, and  $X$  and  $D$  vectors of size  $n$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc}
 & & & & A & & * & X & = & D & \\
 | & b_0 & c_0 & 0 & 0 & \dots\dots\dots & 0 & | & | & x_0 & | & | & d_0 & | \\
 | & a_0 & b_1 & c_1 & 0 & \dots\dots\dots & 0 & | & | & x_1 & | & | & d_1 & | \\
 | & 0 & a_1 & b_2 & c_2 & 0 & \dots\dots\dots & 0 & | & | & x_2 & | & | & d_2 & | \\
 | & \dots\dots\dots & \dots\dots\dots & \dots\dots\dots & \dots\dots\dots & \dots\dots\dots & \dots\dots\dots & | & * & | & \dots & | & = & | & \dots & | \\
 | & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & a_{n-3} & b_{n-2} & c_{n-2} & | & | & x_{n-2} & | & | & d_{n-2} & | \\
 | & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & a_{n-2} & b_{n-1} & | & | & x_{n-1} & | & | & d_{n-1} & |
 \end{array}$$

## Functional Background: Parallel Prefix Sum (a.k.a. scan) and Map

Given a binary-associative operator  $\odot$  with neutral element  $e_\odot$ , **scan**, defined below, has a well-known parallel algorithm of asymptotic complexity  $O(\log n)$ !

$$\text{scan } \odot \ e_\odot \ [a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n] = [a_1, a_1 \odot a_2, \dots, a_1 \odot a_2 \odot \dots \odot a_n]$$

**Map** is an embarrassingly-parallel functional-basic block: given  $f :: a \rightarrow a$   
 $\text{map } f \ [a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n] = [f \ a_1, f \ a_2, \dots, f \ a_n]$

# High-Level Solution (Sequential and Parallel)

Problem is to Find  $X = [x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}]^T$  such that:

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc|cccc|}
 & A & & & * & X & = & D & & & & \\
 | & b_0 & c_0 & 0 & 0 & & \dots & 0 & | & | & x_0 & | & | & d_0 & | \\
 | & a_0 & b_1 & c_1 & 0 & & \dots & 0 & | & | & x_1 & | & | & d_1 & | \\
 | & 0 & a_1 & b_2 & c_2 & 0 & & \dots & 0 & | & | & x_2 & | & | & d_2 & | \\
 | & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & | & * & | & \dots & | & = & | & \dots & | \\
 | & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & a_{n-3} & b_{n-2} & c_{n-2} & | & | & x_{n-2} & | & | & d_{n-2} & | \\
 | & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & a_{n-2} & b_{n-1} & | & | & x_{n-1} & | & | & d_{n-1} & |
 \end{array}$$

- STEP 1: Compute the LU decomposition of  $A$ , i.e.,  $A = L * U$ , where  $L$  and  $U$  are lower and upper-diagonal matrices  $\in \mathbb{M}^{n \times n}$ .
- STEP 2: Solve  $L * Y = D$ , i.e., compute partial solution  $Y$ .
- STEP 3: Solve  $U * X = Y$ , i.e., compute problem solution  $X$ .
- Each of the three steps needs to be parallel (of depth  $O(\log n)$ )!



# LU-Decomposition Recurrences

Writing the LU decomposition:  $A = L * U$ , where  $L, U \in \mathbb{M}^{n \times n}$

$$\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c}
 A & = & L & * & U & \\
 \hline
 \begin{array}{l}
 | \ b_0 \ c_0 \ 0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ | \\
 | \ a_0 \ b_1 \ c_1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ | \\
 | \ \dots \dots \dots \ c_{n-2} \ | \\
 | \ 0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ a_{n-2} \ b_{n-1} \ |
 \end{array}
 & = &
 \begin{array}{l}
 | \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ | \\
 | \ m_0 \ 1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ | \\
 | \ \dots \dots \dots \ | \\
 | \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ m_{n-2} \ 1 \ |
 \end{array}
 & * &
 \begin{array}{l}
 | \ u_0 \ c_0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ | \\
 | \ 0 \ u_1 \ c_1 \ \dots \ 0 \ | \\
 | \ \dots \dots \dots \ u_{n-2} \ c_{n-2} \ | \\
 | \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ u_{n-1} \ |
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

## LU-decomposition Recurrences:

I. First, compute  $u_i$ ,  $i \in \{0 \dots n-1\}$ :

I.a)  $u_0 = b_0$

I.b)  $u_i = b_i - (a_{i-1} * c_{i-1}) / u_{i-1}$ ,  $i \in \{1 \dots n-1\}$

II. Knowing the  $u$ 's, we can easily compute the  $m$ 's:

$$m_i = a_i / u_i, \ i \in \{0 \dots n-2\}$$



# The Difficult Recurrence of LU-Decomposition I.b)

## Parallel Algorithm: **scan** with $\mathbb{M}^{2 \times 2}$ multiplication operator

Recurrence:

$$\text{I.a)} \quad u_0 = b_0$$

$$\text{I.b)} \quad u_i = b_i - (a_{i-1} * c_{i-1}) / u_{i-1}, \quad i \in \{1 \dots n-1\}$$

1) Substitute in I.b)  $u_i \leftarrow q_{i+1} / q_i$ ,  
 where  $q_1 = b_0$  and  $q_0 = 1.0$ , i.e.,  $u_0 == b_0$  still holds! We obtain:

$$\text{I.c)} \quad \begin{vmatrix} q_{i+1} \\ q_i \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} b_i & -a_{i-1} * c_{i-1} \\ 1.0 & 0.0 \end{vmatrix} * \begin{vmatrix} q_i \\ q_{i-1} \end{vmatrix} \quad i \in \{1 \dots n-1\}$$

2) Denoting the above  $2 \times 2$  matrix by  $S_i \in \mathbb{M}^{2 \times 2}$  we obtain by induction:

$$\text{I.d)} \quad \begin{vmatrix} q_{i+1} & q_i \end{vmatrix}^T = (S_i * S_{i-1} * S_1) * \begin{vmatrix} b_0 & 1.0 \end{vmatrix}^T$$

3) We can compute all such matrices, i.e.,  $S_i * S_{i-1} * S_1$  with  $i \in \{1..n-1\}$ ,  
 by applying **scan** with the (associative) matrix-multiplication operator (\*)

$$\text{I.e)} \quad \text{matrices} = \text{scan} (*) [S_{n-1}, S_{n-2}, \dots, S_1]$$

4) Finally, we compute each  $[q_{i+1}, q_i]^T$  by multiplying its corresponding  
 matrix with  $[b_0, 1.0]^T$ , and compute  $u_i = q_{i+1} / q_i$ . Both are **PARALLEL**:

$$\text{I.f)} \quad \text{q\_pairs} = \text{map} (\text{matVectMult} [b_0, 1.0]) \text{matrices}$$

$$\text{I.g)} \quad u = \text{map} (\lambda [x,y] \rightarrow x/y) \text{q\_pairs}$$



# Implementing The LU-Decomposition Recurrences

5) Recurrence II, i.e.,  $m_i = a_i / u_i$ ,  $i \in \{0..n-2\}$  is written in parallel as:  $m = \text{map } (\text{lambda}(x,y) \rightarrow x/y) (\text{zip } a \ u)$

## Haskell Code for Parallel LU Decomposition:

```
computeLU_us_par :: (Fractional a, Ord a) => [a] -> [a] -> [a] -> [a]
computeLU_us_par a b c =
    let matMult2by2 [a1, a2, a3, a4] [b1, b2, b3, b4] =
        [ (b1*a1+b2*a3), (b1*a2+b2*a4), (b3*a1+b4*a3), (b3*a2+b4*a4) ]
        matVectMult b0 [a1, a2, a3, a4] = (a1*b0 + a2) / (a3*b0 + a4)

        b0          = head b
        abc          = zip3 a (tail b) c
        matrices_inp = map (lambda (a,b,c)->[b, (- (a * c)), 1.0, 0.0]) abc
        matrices_out = scanl matMult2by2 [1.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0] matrices_inp
    in map (matVectMult b0) matrices_out

computeLU_ms_par :: (Fractional a, Ord a) => [a] -> [a] -> [a]
computeLU_ms_par a u = map (lambda(x,y) -> x/y) (zip a u)

decompLU :: (Fractional a, Ord a) => [a] -> [a] -> [a] -> ([a],[a])
decompLU a b c = (computeLU_us_par a b c, computeLU_ms_par a us)
```



# STEP 2 & 3: Solving For/Backward Recurrences

## STEP 2: Parallel Algorithm for $L * Y = D$ (forward recurrence)

- 1) By doing the arithmetics, it comes down to solving the recurrence:
  - II.a)  $y_0 = d_0$
  - II.b)  $y_i = d_i - m_{i-1} * y_{i-1}, \quad i \in 1 .. n-1$
- 2) We shall use **scan** with linear-function-composition operator:
  - i) Consider  $f_1(x) = a_1 + b_1*x$  and  $f_2(x) = a_2 + b_2*x$
  - ii)  $(f_2 \diamond f_1)(x) = (a_2+b_2*a_1) + (b_1*b_2)*x$
  - iii) We represent such a function  $f$  as a pair  $(a, b)$ , and implement function application via operator:  $\text{apply } x (a, b) = a + b*x$
- 3) Denoting  $f_i = (d_i, -m_{i-1} * y_{i-1}), i \in 1 .. n-1$ 
  - i) It follows by induction that  $y_i = (f_i \diamond f_{i-1} \diamond \dots \diamond f_1)(d_0)$
  - ii) We do a **scan** with  $\diamond$  and neutral element  $(0.0, 1.0)$ :  

$$f\_out = \text{scan } (\diamond) (0.0, 1.0) [f_1, \dots, f_{n-1}]$$
  - iii) Finally, apply the  $f\_out$ 's to  $d_0$  to compute all  $y_i, i \in \{1 .. n-1\}$   

$$y = \text{map } (\text{apply } d_0) f\_out$$

STEP 3: Solving  $U * X = Y$  is similar to STEP 2 (but *backwards*):

III.a)  $x_{n-1} = y_{n-1}/u_{n-1}$       b)  $x_i = y_i/u_i - c_i*x_{i+1}/u_i, i \in \{n-2..0\}$



# Putting The Implementation Together

## Haskell Code for For/Backward Recurrence and TRIDAG

```

◇ :: (Fractional a, Ord a) => (a,a) -> (a,a) -> (a,a)
(a_1, b_1) ◇ (a_2, b_2) = (a_2 + b_2*a_1, b_2*b_1)

forward_rec :: (Fractional a, Ord a) => [a] -> [a] -> [a]
forward_rec d m = let d0 = head d
                    fs = scanl (◇) (0.0,1.0) (zip (tail d) (map (0.0 -) m))
                    in map (lambda(a,b) -> a + b*d0) fs

backward_rec :: (Fractional a, Ord a) => [a] -> [a] -> [a] -> [a]
backward_rec y u c = let yuc = reverse (zip3 y u (c ++ [0.0]))
                      (y_nm1, u_nm1, c_nm1) = head yuc
                      fs_inp = map (lambda(y,u,c)->(y/u,-c/u)) (tail yuc)
                      fs_out = scanl (◇) (0.0, 1.0) fs_inp
                      x_nm1 = y_nm1 / u_nm1
                      in reverse (map (lambda(a,b) -> a + b*x_nm1) fs_out)

tridag :: (Fractional a, Ord a) => [a] -> [a] -> [a] -> [a] -> [a]
tridag a b c d = let (u, m) = decompLU a b c
                    y = forward_rec d m
                    in      backward_rec y u c

```





# Resources

[1] Harold S. Stone, "An Efficient Parallel Algorithm for the Solution of a Tridiagonal Linear System of Equations", *In Journal of the ACM*, Vol 20(1), pp. 27–38, January 1973.

- The above paper can be found in the DOC folder.
- Haskell-source code can be found in the `CODE/SourceCodeHaskell` folder.  
Compile with: `"ghc -O2 -o test TRIDAG.hs"`  
and run with: `"/test"`
- Target sequential-C and GPGPU code can be found in the `CODE/SourceCodeHaskell` folder.

The OpenCL (target) implementation solves 131072 tridiagonal systems ( $N = 128$ ). My mobile GPGPU version is about 18x faster than the (sequentially-hand-optimized) C code (on CPU).

Limitations:  $N$  needs to be a power of two and  $N \leq 1024$ .

