# Point to Point Communication and Collective MPI Performance Test

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## ABSTRACT

Communication among multiple nodes plays a critical role in the performance of High Performance Computing. MPI [2] offers a great number of libraries to maximize and test the communication performance in the parallel computing networks. The message passing has been observed to spend additional time in transfering information from one node to another, and several parallel models have been devised to properly describe the phenomenon, which in terms serve as criteria for future benchmarking. In this work, we build a collective MPI performance test to evaluate the performance among different models. To accomplish this, we have a parallel version of Game of Life program optimized with MPI communication scheme and CUDA for GPU parallelization. As far as the authors are concerned, this work could be the first intend to verify the networking perforamnce of a GPU-aided program in terms of different parallel models. In terms of hardware, the benchmarking takes place on AiMOS [4], an eight petaflop supercomputer using a heterogenous system architecture built with IBM POWER9 CPUs and NVIDIA GPUs. On the software side, the program relies on IBM Spectrum MPI and NVidia CUDA math library [17].

## KEYWORDS

Parallel Computing, High Perforamnce Computing, CUDA, MPI

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

## 2 RELATED WORKS

There are several works discussing the benchmarking of MPI performance on parallel systems using different libraries. Pješivac-Grbović et al. [16] give a thorough overview of the parallel models, and compare the performances on inter-cluster MPI collective operations on two systems. The authors in the mentioned article also demontrate that the gap between the message sendings depends on the number of unique destination nodes.

There are also works whose authors discuss the communication performance on the parallel version of Conway's Game of Life. L. Ma et al. [13] demonstrate the performance boosting by implementing the algorithm into its parallel counterpart. The articleś author implemented the parallel program with OpenMP library, which takes advantage of the multithreading in the CPU rather than seeking time efficiency improvement from multi-node perspective.

In our work we referenced an open-source framework for implementing network benchmarks presented by T. Hoefler et al. [9] This framework seperate communication patterns from communication moddules which allows independently added benchmark types and network protocols. The authors also presented a LogGPS pattern [8] which supports measurement of LogP and LogGP models parameters such as latency, overhead and gap per bytes over MPI.

## 3 GAME OF LIFE AS AN ALGORITHM

The Game of Life as invented by the British mathematician John Horton Conway in 1970 [6] is a cellular automaton. The algorithm is a zero-player game and as the game evolves throughout undetermined number of iterations, the outcome is determined by the given initial configuration. The game is taken place on a two-dimensional orthogonal grid of square cells. The cell status is atomic, that is it can only be found as alive or dead. Each cell's status is determined by eight adjacent neighboring cells. At each step in time, any cell with fewer than two live neighbors dies due to under-population.

On the contrary, if the cell lives with two or three live neighbors survives to the next step. If there are more than three immediately adjacent cells, the cell perishes due to overpopulation. Lastly, the cell resucitates with exactly three live neighbors and can be seen as the result of cellular reproduction.

The operations involved in the Game of Life include instantiation of the world configuration, the update of the cells in the world, and swaping the newly updated world with the previous one. The operations not only is possible to implement serially, but also with parallel speed-up mechanism to take advantage of the efficient memory manipulation offered by NVIDIA CUDA math library, or through the de-facto networking of various nodes through MPI libraries when the dimension of the world increases toward dimension of high orders of magnitude. This latter deployment scenario is the focus of our study.

## 4 GPU AND CUDA TOOLKIT

According to [17], AiMOS uses NVidia Tesla V100 GPUs in conjunction with the compute nodes. The NVIDIA Tesla V100 accelerator contains the Volta GV100 GPU. Volta is the codename for NVidiaś GPU microarchitecture release on December 7, 2017. Volta was NVidiaś first chip to feature Tensor Cores, designed specially to yield higher deep learning performance than regular CUDA cores. [15]. The architecture is implemented with TSMCś 12 nm FinFET process.

Tesla V100 delivers 7.8 TFLOPS of double precision floating point (FP64) performance, 15.7 TFLOPS of single precision (FP32) performance, and 125 Tensor TFLOPS based on GPU Boost clock.

In AiMOS cluster, there are 16 nodes each containing four NVidia Tesla V100 GPUs with 16 GiB of memory each. In addition, there are 252 nodes each possessing six of the same accelerators with 32 GiB of memory each [5].

The CUDA Toolkit version used in AiMOS is CUDA 9.1 and 10.0 [5].

## 5 MPI

AiMOS adopts MPI Spectrum as its message passing interface library. The MPI Spectrum is developed by IBM as a high-performance, production quality implementation of MPI to accelerate end-to-end communication. MPI Spectrum is based on the open-source MPI library, but is integrated with improved RDMA networking add supports NVIDIA GPUs based on IBM PAMI backend. Another feature is that MPI Spectrum enhaces collective library running blocking and non-blocking algorithms [14].

## 6 MODELS TO DESCRIBE THE PARALLEL SYSTEMS

To verify the communication performance of the GPU-accelerated MPI-aided Game of Life program, different configurations of nodes are set. The collective MPI performance is expressed in terms of the four common netowkring performance models: Hockney [7], LogP [3], LogGP [1], and PLogP [10]. The parallel models can be seen as a sequence of proposals towarad establishing the proper description for both point-to-point and collective commnication time consumption under any parallel computing system.

The Hockney model is considered the simplest parallel model of communication. The model assumes that the time taken to send a message is

$$T = \alpha + \beta m$$

where $\alpha$ is the size of the messsage, and $\beta$ is the inverse of the bandwidth, while $m$ represents the message size. The model is suitable to describe point-to-point communication systems.

The LogP model intends to offer a simple yet more detail view to facilitate the finding of bottlenecks in possible communication latency. The model id described with four parameters: the latency $L$, overhead $o$, gap between the sending of messages $g$, and the nmber of processors or nodes involved in the communication $P$. The model assumes that only small amount of messages is transferred simultaneously. The time needed to transfer messages between nodes takes

$$T = L + 2o$$

where $L$ is the latency, and $o$ as the overhead.

Since LogP does not monitor transmission of long messages, LogGP further extend such aspect in its description. A new parameter Gap per byte (G) is taken into account, which is defined as the time per byte for a long message [1]. Unlike the LogP model which restricts to constant small size messages, LogGP allows sending larger messages. Typically, time taken to transfer a message is:

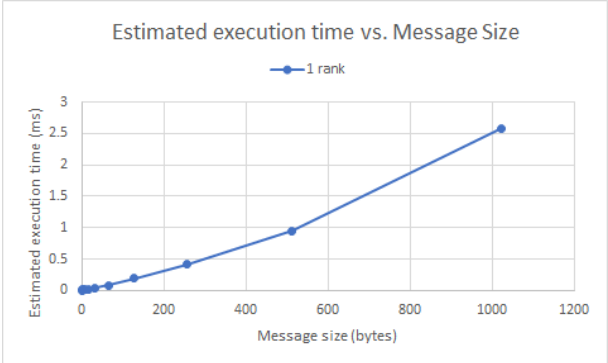
$$T = L + 2o + (m-1)G$$

where $G$ is the gap per byte and $m$ is the size of the message.

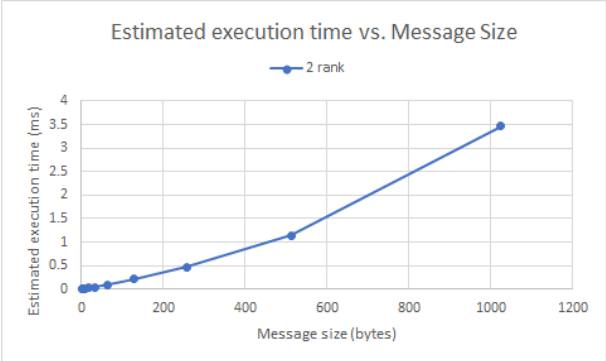
In the work of T. Kielmann et al. [10], parametrized LogP is introduced as a slight extension of LogP and LogGP models that is capable of monitoring the minimal gap between two messages without saturating the network for each message size. In addition to the parameters contained in LogP, additional parameters are included: the sender and receiver overheads, message transfer time and data copying time to and from the network interfaces are included in the latency. Moreover, the gap paraneter is defined as the minimum time interval between consecutive message transmission or reception. The overall time spent in the message transfering can be expressed as:

$$T = L + g(m)$$

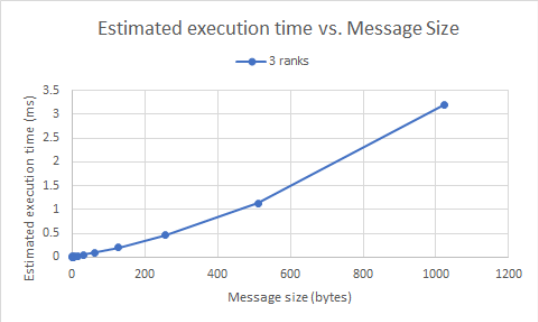
where $g(m)$ is the gap per message. The worth pointing out that the sender $o_s(m)$ and receiver $o_r(m)$ overheads depend on the message size.



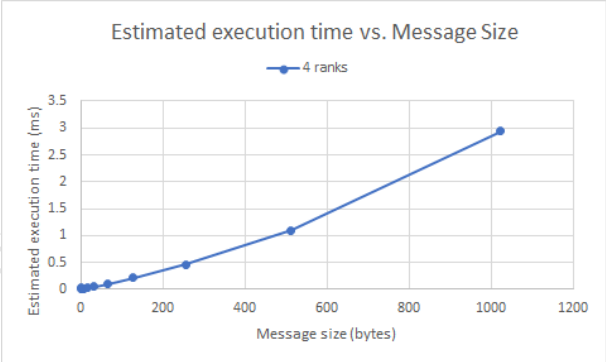

(a) Rank 1



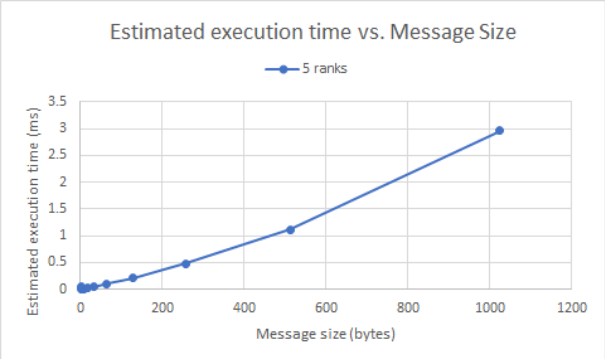

(b) Rank 2



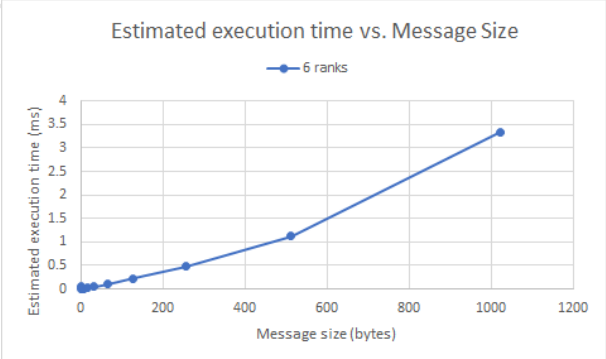

(c) Rank 3




(d) Rank 4




(e) Rank 5




(f) Rank 6

**Figure 1: Estimated execution time vs message size along different ranks.**

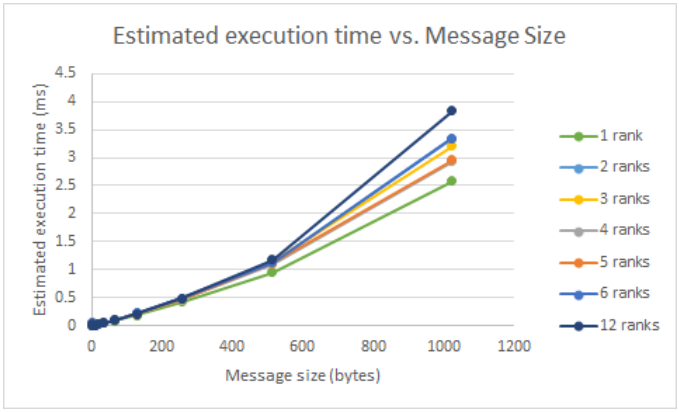
## 7 PERFORAMNCE METRICS

## 8 PERFORMANCE RESULTS

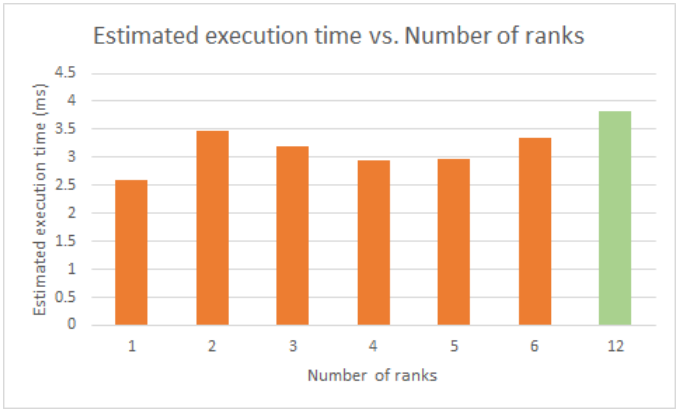
## 9 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORKS

In this work we perform benchmarking on four different parallel models to evaluate the perforamnce of the CUDA-aided Game of Life program. The GPU-accelerated program is integrated with MPI's communication mechanism to effectively manage the memory access as well as transfering among different nodes.

For future works, there are two possible extensions on the program to study how different mechanism may further improve or deteriorate the performance of the current version of Game of Life program. The first possible direction is to incorporate multithreading to the current version to observe how sharing resources on the same node may affect the message communication, and another possible study involves the




(a) Comparison of estimated execution time vs message size across different ranks.




(b) Estimated execution time in relation to ranks

**Figure 2: The relationship between message sizes and number of ranks to estimated execution time.**

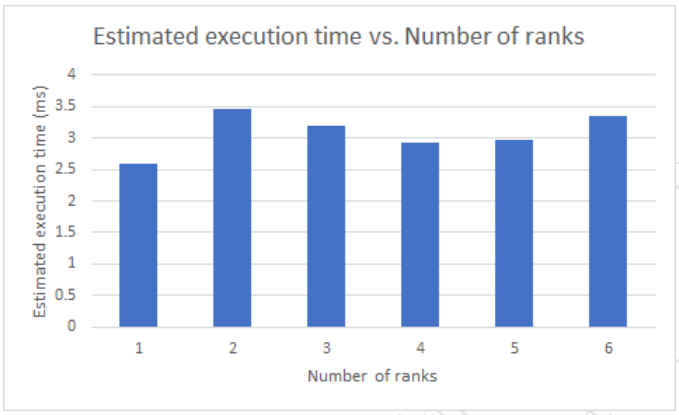



**Figure 3: An alternative interpretation of the relations between estimated execution time and the number of ranks.**

execution of the same GPU-accelerated program on different topologies such as the Fat Tree [12], Dragonfly [11] or Slimfly [18] networks to investigate the difference in performance described with the mentioned parallel models.

## 10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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