

PageRank: A Parallel Approach

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1. Introduction

This report is part of the first assignment of cs342 - Parallel Programming course of Computer Science Department, University of Crete. The main point is to present a method to parallel PageRank algorithm efficiently, and the rest of the report is organized as follows: Section 1 is the introduction. Section 2 describes the input graph. Section 3 analyzes the parallelism method. Section 4 shows the measurements. Section 5 is the conclusion.

2. Input Graph

2.1 Structure

The input is converted into a PageRank graph:

```
typedef struct graph_t{           typedef struct node_t{           typedef struct link_t{
    long size;                   long id;                       long from_node_index;
    double init_score;          double score, score_add;      struct link_t *next;
    node_t *nodes;              long outlinks_num,           } link_t;
} graph_t;                      long inclinks_num;
                                link_t *inclinks_head;
                                } node_t;
```

2.2 Graph Division

For the work division, every thread handles a set of nodes, determined from the equation:

$$sets = \frac{graph.size}{threads}$$

The above method requires less work spend on the data parsing, but it does not always result to the best work division. Another approach could try to divide the nodes in a way that nodes with high work demand (etc. many outlinks or inclinks) are given to different threads, but it would result in high overhead for dataset manipulation.

3. Algorithm and Approach

3.1 Formula

Our approach calculates the PageRank of each node using the simplified formula:

$$PR_n(u) = \begin{cases} \sum_{k \in B_u} DF \frac{PR(k)}{L(k)} + PR(u), & \text{if } OutDegree(u) = 0 \\ \sum_{k \in B_u} DF \frac{PR(k)}{L(k)} + (1 - DF) \times PR(u), & \text{if } OutDegree(u) > 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

\Rightarrow

$$PR_n(u) = PR(u) + \sum_{k \in B_u} DF \frac{PR(k)}{L(k)} - \sum_{k \in T_u} DF \frac{PR(u)}{L(u)} \quad (2)$$

PR(x): PageRank of node x in the current iteration, PRn(x) : PageRank of node x for the next iteration, L(x): The number of outgoing links of node x, Bu: Set containing the nodes that point node u, Tu: Set containing the nodes that u points at, DF: Dumping factor, e.g. the percentage that every node offers from its own PageRank. In this approach, this value is considered 0.85, thus every node offers 85% of his PageRank in every iteration.

The above formula implies that the PageRank of a node in the next iteration is the sum of all the scores given from the neighbors, incremented with the previous score minus the score that this node gave throughout the iteration. Note that using this equation means that the total PageRank score of the graph remains constant.

3.2 Parallelism

The parallelism method relies on the observation that PRn(u) refers to the PageRank value that will be used in the next iteration. Thus, this implementation saves the offered PageRank score by each neighbour to a new field of the node struct, and adds it to the PageRank score when the calculations of the corresponding iteration end. This method does not face data race, as only the thread assigned the node has read/write access to the temporary node field:

```
curr = nodes[i].inlinks_head;
while (curr != NULL){
    from_index = curr->from_node_index;
    nodes[i].score_add += nodes[from_index].score * DFACTOR / nodes[from_index].outlinks_num;
    curr = curr->next;
}
```

An important part for this implementation is the use of barriers, to ensure that the score update for each node and the start of the new iteration for each thread will be done concurrently.

```
pthread_barrier_wait(&bar);
for (i = data->from; i < data->to; i++){
    score = nodes[i].score_add;
    if (nodes[i].outlinks_num != 0)
        nodes[i].score = score + nodes[i].score * (1 - DFACTOR);
    else
        nodes[i].score = score + nodes[i].score;
    nodes[i].score_add = 0.0;
}
pthread_barrier_wait(&bar);
```

4. Measurements

In this section the different approaches are measured and the metrics are presented. The values below were extracted using 3 SNAP datasets (Facebook, Gnutella, Enron) on a local machine (8 cores, 16 GB RAM), using the command:

```
clock_gettime(CLOCK_MONOTONIC, &start);
pagerank();
clock_gettime(CLOCK_MONOTONIC, &finish);
```

The time is measured in seconds.

- Facebook Dataset.

Threads	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Run 4	Run 5	Average	Standard Dev.	Average Dev.	Speedup,N*
1	0.038759	0.037749	0.039297	0.04045	0.039666	0.03918	0.00101	0.00074	-
2	0.021782	0.02137	0.02144	0.021435	0.022365	0.2168	0.00042	0.00032	1.807x
3	0.015493	0.01498	0.015683	0.015355	0.015551	0.01541	0.00027	0.0002	2.542x,1.140x
4	0.015658	0.015022	0.014813	0.014786	0.014616	0.01498	0.00041	0.00029	2.615x,1.028x

- Gnutella Dataset.

Threads	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Run 4	Run 5	Average	Standard Dev.	Average Dev.	Speedup,N*
1	0.056732	0.055963	0.059056	0.057208	0.06052	0.0579	0.00186	0.00151	-
2	0.038491	0.037579	0.036734	0.038122	0.038693	0.03792	0.00079	0.00061	1.526x
3	0.027344	0.028106	0.028176	0.027397	0.027783	0.02776	0.00039	0.00031	2.085x,1.366x
4	0.023385	0.022163	0.022034	0.025295	0.023941	0.2336	0.000135	0.00101	2.478x,1.188x

- Enron Dataset.

Threads	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Run 4	Run 5	Average	Standard Dev.	Average Dev.	Speedup,N*
1	0.642836	0.649105	0.617986	0.666572	0.667904	0.64888	0.02041	0.01478	-
2	0.590239	0.588571	0.588146	0.569202	0.583949	0.58402	0.0086	0.00596	1.111x
3	0.513008	0.513008	0.515894	0.511074	0.579348	0.52647	0.02961	0.02115	1.232x,1.109x
4	0.482256	0.484116	0.479822	0.54109	0.492112	0.49588	0.02569	0.01808	1.308x,1.061x

Measurements on a CSD machine are also provided. (*): The second value of the column represents the speedup among thread N and N-1. Speedup was calculated using the formula:

$$SpeedUp = \frac{t_{seq}}{t_{par}} = \frac{thread1_{average}}{threadN_{average}} = S \Rightarrow SpeedUp = Sx$$

$$Assuming : t_{seq} = thread1_{average}$$

5. Conclusion

The approach presented seems to improve the running time of PageRank, especially when the multi-threaded program runs on 2 or 3 threads. Thus, PageRank can be very efficient, even when its used for big graphs.