Question 7: Heatbath

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The program was written serially in heatbath-serial.c. This was timed using the bash time built-in 10 times and the average was 10.0 seconds. The value of point (5.5, 5.5) once the system had reached equilibrium was 4.189211.

The program was then parallelised in heatbath-parallel.c. This was also timed 10 times for 1, 2, 4, 5 and 10 processors and the averages are in table 1. The same result (4.189211) was achieved.

Table 1: Increasing the number of cores can give over a factor of 2 speed up though using more than two cores gives very little speed up.

Time (s)
7.3
3.8
3.5
3.2
4.7