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speedup

Canonical name	Speedup
Date of creation	2013-03-22 12:04:12
Last modified on	2013-03-22 12:04:12
Owner	akrowne (2)
Last modified by	akrowne (2)
Numerical id	6
Author	akrowne (2)
Entry type	Definition
Classification	msc 68W40
Classification	msc 68W10

Speedup is a way to quantify the advantage of using a parallel algorithm over a sequential algorithm. The speedup S is defined as

$$S = \frac{R}{P}$$

Where R is the running time of the best available sequential algorithm and P is the running time of the parallel algorithm.

Ideally, on a system with N processors, the speedup for any algorithm would be N. Amdahl's law deals with the speedup in more realistic situations.