



Math for the people, by the people.

proof of Amdahl's Law

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| Canonical name | ProofOfAmdahlsLaw |
| Date of creation | 2013-03-22 13:10:36 |
| Last modified on | 2013-03-22 13:10:36 |
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| Last modified by | lieven (1075) |
| Numerical id | 5 |
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| Entry type | Proof |
| Classification | msc 68M20 |

Suppose an algorithm needs n operations to compute the result. With 1 processor, the algorithm will take n time units. With N processors, the $(1-f)n$ parallelizable operations will take $\frac{(1-f)n}{N}$ time units and the remaining fn non parallelizable operations will take fn time units for a total running time of $fn + \frac{(1-f)n}{N}$ time units. So the speedup S is $\frac{n}{fn + \frac{(1-f)n}{N}} = \frac{1}{f + \frac{1-f}{N}}$.