Final Project – Speedup through Parallelization Traveling Salesman Problem Brennan Reamer ELEC5975 Parallel Computer Architecture April 13, 2023

Problem Description:

The Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP) is an optimization problem in which a salesman must visit a set of cities and return to the starting city while minimizing the total distance traveled. In parallel computing, the TSP can be solved using multiple processors to speed up the computation. This can be done by dividing the problem into smaller subproblems and solving them concurrently on different processors. The results from each processor are then combined to obtain the final solution.

Decomposition Strategy:

The array of distances between cities and the number of cities are provided in a text file for the program to access. The code must initially read both the number of cities and the array of distances and store them into appropriate variables. As this needs to be performed serially within the master process, these variables can then be sent to all of the other processes using MPI Bcast.

To decompose the TSP for parallel computing, taking advantage of data parallelism is necessary. The cities can be divided into smaller groups, and then the TSP can be solved for each group in parallel. For example, if there are 100 cities, they could be divided into 10 groups of 10 cities each. Then, the TSP could be solved for each group in parallel, using a separate process for each group.

Once each group has been solved, the results can be combined to find the optimal route that visits all cities. The solutions may be combined using MPI_Reduce, finding the minimum distance to travel through all cities.

Implementation:

In this project, a parallel solution to the Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP) using the Message Passing Interface (MPI) was implemented in C. The program reads an inputted dataset from a text file, where the first line consists of the number of cities, and the remaining numbers in the file represent the cost, or distance, matrix. The cost matrix consists of the distances between each pair of cities, as a larger distance represents a larger cost.

MPI was used to divide the cities into equal-sized groups, or chunks, for each process. Each process then computed the shortest path between all cities in its chunk using a brute force method. The results from all processes were combined using MPI_Reduce to find the minimum distance and the average time taken for each processor to complete the parallel section of the code.

The master process reads the data from the text file and stores the cost matrix and number of cities into variables. It then broadcasts the cost matrix and number of cities to all processes using MPI_Bcast. The cities are divided into equal-sized chunks for each process and the tsp function is called to compute the shortest path between all cities. The results from all processes are combined using MPI_Reduce to find the minimum distance and average time taken for the processors to complete the parallel section of the code. The minimum distance, average time for the parallel section of the code, and the total elapsed time are outputted to the console.

Performance evaluation:

We can measure the performance of the parallel version by comparing its execution time with that of the serial version for different numbers of processes. In order to further determine the advantages and disadvantages of the use of parallel computing within the context of the Traveling Salesman Problem, we can also measure the speedup to compare across different numbers of processors.

The program was tested on a dataset containing the distances between 312 cities, located in a text file formatted to include the number of cities on the first line, and the space-separated array of distances starting on the second line.

The MPI program was implemented in C, and both the Torque batch queuing system and command line were used to run the program on the cluster. The MPI program was run for 1, 2, 3, ..., 40 processes and processors with and without Torque batch queuing. The minimum distance, execution time, and calculated speedup were recorded for each run.

Expected speedup can be calculated using the following formula,

Expected Speedup =
$$\frac{1}{(1-P) + \frac{P}{N}}$$

where *P* is the portion of the program that can run in parallel, and *N* is the number of processors. Assuming $P \approx 0.90$ and N = 40, expected speedup can be found to be,

Expected Speedup =
$$\frac{1}{(1-0.90) + \frac{0.90}{40}}$$
 = 8.16.

The table below shows the calculated minimum distance and execution times for the Parallel TSP program with a varying number of processes. Assume NumCities = 312. The actual value of the minimum distance is 262420.

Results

In order to evaluate the impact of the number of processes on the execution time, we conducted a series of experiments without using the Torque Batch Queueing system. **Table A1** in the appendix presents the detailed results obtained for each number of processes tested. *Figure 1* and *Figure 2* below illustrate the same results in graphical form, showing how the speedup and execution time varies with the number of processes used in the computations. We discuss the insights gained from this analysis in the following section.

All programs, regardless of the number of processes, resulted in the correct minimum distance, as they used a brute-force algorithm, running through every possibility. The brute-force algorithm can be parallelized by distributing a chunk of cities to each process, rather than having a single process perform the calculations for all cities.

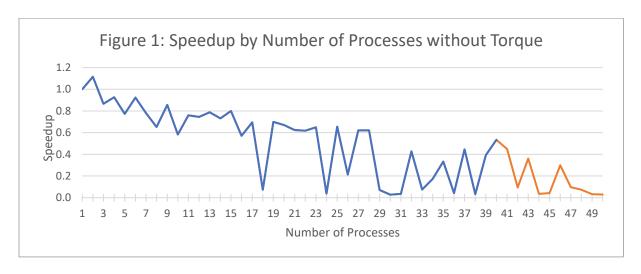


Figure 1 demonstrates the impact of the number of processes on the speedup of a brute-force algorithm used to solve the Traveling Salesman Problem. As the number of processes increases, the speedup decreases linearly. These results highlight the importance of optimizing the number of processes when implementing brute-force algorithms for large-scale problems.

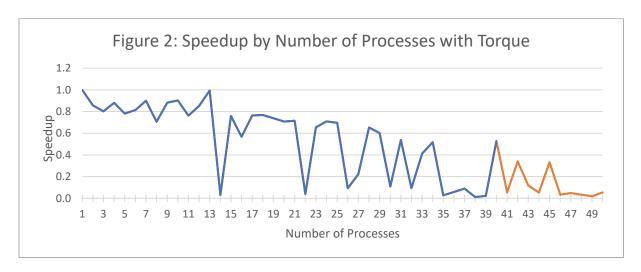


Figure 2 displays the impact of the number of processes on the speedup of the brute-force algorithm while using Torque batch queueing. Torque batch queueing does not greatly impact the results of the speedup testing. This may be due to the testing without Torque being able to fully utilize all processors without the need for batch queueing.

These results are not very promising as they show a decrease in speedup as parallelism increases. This could be due to a variety of factors, such as communication costs, or serial sections of the code. In order to further delve into the decrease in speedup, testing was conducted recording the average execution time of the parallel section of code as the number of processes increases.

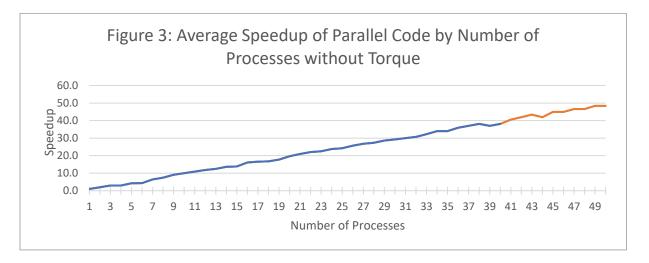
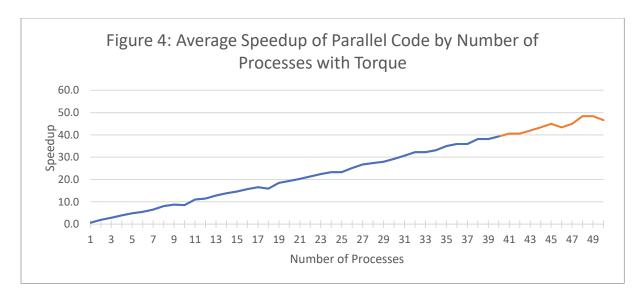


Figure 3 displays a linear increase in average speedup of the parallel code, showing how the time for each process to complete calculations decreases significantly as the work becomes more parallelized.



A similar outcome can be seen in *Figure 4* with the use of Torque batch queueing. The use of Torque likely did not increase the speedup significantly due to all processors already being available when Torque was not used. Without batch queueing, the processes are distributed to whatever processors are available, not guaranteeing fully parallel processing as each processor could have multiple processes if the Turing cluster is busy. Torque batch queueing allows the program to be guaranteed all 40 processors while it runs, allowing each processor to be guaranteed a single process. This minimizes the required amount of serial processing, increasing

resultant speedup. The results using Torque batch queueing should be either faster than command line, if the Turing cluster is busy when running from the command line, or similar to command line, if the Turing cluster is able to fully use all 40 processors when running from the command line.

Conclusions

The Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP) has potential to be parallelized by taking advantage of data parallelism. Splitting the data into chunks based on the number of processes used allows each process to complete at a much faster rate than a single process completing all calculations serially. As shown in *Figure 1* and *Figure 2*, there is actually a reduction in overall speedup when data parallelism was implemented for the TSP. Without the use of Torque, a speedup of 0.53x was calculated with the use of 40 processes. This result indicates an increase in execution time of almost 2x the original, serial execution time. This could be due to serial code operating at a slower rate due to holdups from waiting for other processes or could be due to larger communication costs as the number of processes increases. These costs outweigh the increase in speedup provided by the parallel code.

As can be seen in *Figure 3* and *Figure 4*, the parallel code actually provides a large speedup to the data calculations. Analysis of the average execution time of the parallel code using 40 processes without Torque results in an increase in speedup of 38.12x, but that significant speedup is outweighed by large communication costs and serial code.

Future work could be performed on optimizing this solution to the TSP to decrease communication costs and increase speedup. Another option for future work, could be to instead implement an optimized algorithmic solution, such as the Branch-and-Bound approach or the matrix reduction approach, rather than performing the brute force method. These approaches may require approximations, resulting in a less exact answer, but they have potential to allow for greater speedup improvements through parallelism.

Appendix

Appendix A1 – Table A1

Table A1: Execution Time without Torque Batch Queuing			
Number of Processes	Outputted Value	Execution Time	Speedup
1	262420	0.001598	1.00
2	262420	0.001433	1.12
3	262420	0.001845	0.87
4	262420	0.001724	0.93
5	262420	0.002066	0.77
6	262420	0.001729	0.92
7	262420	0.002049	0.78
8	262420	0.002451	0.65
9	262420	0.001869	0.86
10	262420	0.002745	0.58
11	262420	0.002102	0.76
12	262420	0.002144	0.75
13	262420	0.002027	0.79
14	262420	0.002182	0.73
15	262420	0.001997	0.80
16	262420	0.002801	0.57
17	262420	0.002298	0.70
18	262420	0.021645	0.07
19	262420	0.002286	0.70
20	262420	0.002387	0.67
21	262420	0.002562	0.62
22	262420	0.002587	0.62
23	262420	0.002463	0.65
24	262420	0.041031	0.04
25	262420	0.002439	0.66
26	262420	0.007478	0.21
27	262420	0.002574	0.62
28	262420	0.002570	0.62
29	262420	0.022662	0.07
30	262420	0.056584	0.03
31	262420	0.045183	0.04
32	262420	0.003732	0.43
33	262420	0.021303	0.08
34	262420	0.009187	0.17

35	262420	0.004799	0.33
36	262420	0.037549	0.04
37	262420	0.003583	0.45
38	262420	0.049610	0.03
39	262420	0.004068	0.39
40	262420	0.002988	0.53
41	262420	0.003566	0.45
42	262420	0.016807	0.10
43	262420	0.004423	0.36
44	262420	0.045428	0.04
45	262420	0.037233	0.04
46	262420	0.005325	0.30
47	262420	0.016282	0.10
48	262420	0.021437	0.07
49	262420	0.049028	0.03
50	262420	0.052955	0.03

Appendix A2 – Table A2

Table A2: Execution Time with Torque Batch Queuing				
Number of Processes	Outputted Value	Execution Time	Speedup	
1	262420	0.001690	1.00	
2	262420	0.001974	0.86	
3	262420	0.002105	0.80	
4	262420	0.001920	0.88	
5	262420	0.002163	0.78	
6	262420	0.002078	0.81	
7	262420	0.001878	0.90	
8	262420	0.002392	0.71	
9	262420	0.001916	0.88	
10	262420	0.001874	0.90	
11	262420	0.002219	0.76	
12	262420	0.001984	0.85	
13	262420	0.001700	0.99	
14	262420	0.054801	0.03	
15	262420	0.002227	0.76	
16	262420	0.002975	0.57	
17	262420	0.002211	0.76	
18	262420	0.002198	0.77	

19	262420	0.002288	0.74
20	262420	0.002386	0.71
21	262420	0.002363	0.72
22	262420	0.043475	0.04
23	262420	0.002583	0.65
24	262420	0.002385	0.71
25	262420	0.002426	0.70
26	262420	0.018234	0.09
27	262420	0.007615	0.22
28	262420	0.002588	0.65
29	262420	0.002810	0.60
30	262420	0.015611	0.11
31	262420	0.003139	0.54
32	262420	0.017921	0.09
33	262420	0.004092	0.41
34	262420	0.003268	0.52
35	262420	0.061421	0.03
36	262420	0.029212	0.06
37	262420	0.018730	0.09
38	262420	0.156720	0.01
39	262420	0.070951	0.02
40	262420	0.003203	0.53
41	262420	0.030985	0.05
42	262420	0.004970	0.34
43	262420	0.014126	0.12
44	262420	0.032020	0.05
45	262420	0.005079	0.33
46	262420	0.050598	0.03
47	262420	0.034678	0.05
48	262420	0.049920	0.03
49	262420	0.090867	0.02
50	262420	0.031064	0.05

Appendix A3 – Table A3

Table A3: Average Execution Time of Parallel Code without Torque Batch Queuing				
Number of Processes	Outputted Value	Execution Time	Speedup	
1	262420	0.001258	1.00	
2	262420	0.000625	2.01	

3	262420	0.000417	3.02
4	262420	0.000427	2.95
5	262420	0.000293	4.29
6	262420	0.000290	4.34
7	262420	0.000194	6.48
8	262420	0.000169	7.44
9	262420	0.000139	9.05
10	262420	0.000126	9.98
11	262420	0.000115	10.94
12	262420	0.000106	11.87
13	262420	0.000101	12.46
14	262420	0.000092	13.67
15	262420	0.000091	13.82
16	262420	0.000078	16.13
17	262420	0.000076	16.55
18	262420	0.000075	16.77
19	262420	0.000071	17.72
20	262420	0.000064	19.66
21	262420	0.000060	20.97
22	262420	0.000057	22.07
23	262420	0.000056	22.46
24	262420	0.000053	23.74
25	262420	0.000052	24.19
26	262420	0.000049	25.67
27	262420	0.000047	26.77
28	262420	0.000046	27.35
29	262420	0.000044	28.59
30	262420	0.000043	29.26
31	262420	0.000042	29.95
32	262420	0.000041	30.68
33	262420	0.000039	32.26
34	262420	0.000037	34.00
35	262420	0.000037	34.00
36	262420	0.000035	35.94
37	262420	0.000034	37.00
38	262420	0.000033	38.12
39	262420	0.000034	37.00
40	262420	0.000033	38.12
41	262420	0.000031	40.58

42	262420	0.000030	41.93
43	262420	0.000029	43.38
44	262420	0.000030	41.93
45	262420	0.000028	44.93
46	262420	0.000028	44.93
47	262420	0.000027	46.59
48	262420	0.000027	46.59
49	262420	0.000026	48.38
50	262420	0.000026	48.38

Appendix A4 – Table A4

Table A4: Average Execution Time of Parallel Code with Torque Batch Queuing				
Number of Processes	Outputted Value	Execution Time	Speedup	
1	262420	0.001998	0.63	
2	262420	0.000651	1.93	
3	262420	0.000443	2.84	
4	262420	0.000317	3.97	
5	262420	0.000258	4.88	
6	262420	0.000227	5.54	
7	262420	0.000194	6.48	
8	262420	0.000156	8.06	
9	262420	0.000144	8.74	
10	262420	0.000147	8.56	
11	262420	0.000114	11.04	
12	262420	0.000110	11.44	
13	262420	0.000098	12.84	
14	262420	0.000091	13.82	
15	262420	0.000086	14.63	
16	262420	0.000080	15.73	
17	262420	0.000076	16.55	
18	262420	0.000079	15.92	
19	262420	0.000068	18.50	
20	262420	0.000065	19.35	
21	262420	0.000062	20.29	
22	262420	0.000059	21.32	
23	262420	0.000056	22.46	
24	262420	0.000054	23.30	
25	262420	0.000054	23.30	

26	262420	0.000050	25.16
27	262420	0.000047	26.77
28	262420	0.000046	27.35
29	262420	0.000045	27.96
30	262420	0.000043	29.26
31	262420	0.000041	30.68
32	262420	0.000039	32.26
33	262420	0.000039	32.26
34	262420	0.000038	33.11
35	262420	0.000036	34.94
36	262420	0.000035	35.94
37	262420	0.000035	35.94
38	262420	0.000033	38.12
39	262420	0.000033	38.12
40	262420	0.000032	39.31
41	262420	0.000031	40.58
42	262420	0.000031	40.58
43	262420	0.000030	41.93
44	262420	0.000029	43.38
45	262420	0.000028	44.93
46	262420	0.000029	43.38
47	262420	0.000028	44.93
48	262420	0.000026	48.38
49	262420	0.000026	48.38
50	262420	0.000027	46.59

Appendix A5 – Parallel TSP Program

```
|#include <stdio.h>
|#include <stdlib.h>
 #include <math.h>
 #include <limits.h>
 #define MAX_NUM_CITIES 312
Ditypedef struct { // Create a struct to hold the cost matrix
    int arr[MAX_NUM_CITIES][MAX_NUM_CITIES];
 double elapsed; // Array to hold the time for each process
Dint tsp(cities cost, int n, int start, int end) { // Compute the shortest path using the brute force method int min_dist = INT_MAX; // initialize the minimum distance to a large number
     double temp_start = MPI_Wtime(); //Start time for parallelized code
     int i;
for (i = start; i < end; i++) { // iterate through each city i within chunk of cities</pre>
        double temp_end = MPI_Wtime(); //end time for parallelized code
     elapsed = temp_end - temp_start;
     return min dist;
     MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);
     MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&rank);
     MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&size);
         fp = fopen("distances_312.txt", "r");
             printf("Error: File not found.\n");
             return -1:
         // Read cost matrix
```

```
fscanf(fp, "%d", &cost.arr[i][j]);
     fclose(fp);
    start_time = MPI_Wtime();
MPI_Bcast(&cost, sizeof(cities), MPI_BYTE, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
MPI_Bcast(&n, 1, MPI_INT, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
int start = rank * n / size;
int end = (rank + 1) * n / size;
int min_dist = tsp(cost, n, start, end); // Compute the shortest path between all cities
int tot_min_dist;
MPI_Reduce(&min_dist, &tot_min_dist, 1, MPI_INT, MPI_MIN, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD); // Combine the results from all processes
MPI_Reduce(&elapsed, &sum, 1, MPI_DOUBLE, MPI_SUM, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD); // Combine the results from all processes
if (rank == 0) {
    double end_time = MPI_Wtime();
    printf("\%f \ n", sum/size); \ // \ Print the average of the time taken to compute the parallel section of code
    printf("Minimum distance: %d\n", min_dist); // Print the minimum distance
printf("Time taken: %f seconds\n", end_time - start_time); // Print the total time taken
MPI_Finalize();
 return 0;
```

Appendix A6 – Torque Batch Scheduling Script

#!/bin/bash

```
#PBS -S /bin/bash
#PBS -o pbs_out.dat
#PBS -j oe
#PBS -l nodes=1:ppn=40
#PBS -M reamerb1@wit.edu
#PBS -m be
cd $PBS_O_WORKDIR
for i in {1..50}; do
    echo -e "i=$i\t$(mpirun -np $i -machinefile $PBS_NODEFILE ./tsp)" >> output_torque.txt;
done
```

Appendix A7 – Example 42-City Distance Text file

. 105 111 . 106 113 . 62 69 . 63 71 . 64 66 . 47 51 . 46 53 . 49 56 . 54 61 . 48 57 . 46 59 . 59 71 . 85 96 . 119 130 . 115 126 . 88 98 . 66 75 . 98 98 . 98 98 . 98 98 . 98 85 . 98 98 . 98 33 . 42 53 . 28 39 . 33 42 21 . 29 20 . 20 20 . 20 22 . 21 29 . 20 31 . 35 24 . 44 20 . 53 35 . 24 40 . 29 43 . 39 49 . 60 60 . 67 62 . 75 72 . 84 78 . 79 82 . 101 108 . 107 114 77 80 40 46 40 46 40 77 19 40 77 111 84 40 46 107 87 60 40 11 5 3 42 34 42 59 50 52 71 65 67 78 87 91 83 92 85 50 42 51 43 30 22 51 43 36 63 38 32 43 36 49 51 60 63 71 75 103 106 1141 142 1199 112 99 193 1115 126 99 193 115 126 62 66 36 39 124 27 28 31 20 28 8 8 0 15 12 23 14 43 20 44 27 28 31 29 12 28 31 29 12 31 20 48 40 48 40 46 38 88 80 66 53 88 80 66 53 85 88 80 66 53 88 80 66 53 85 88 80 66 53 88 80 67 77 86 39 36 39 52 62 54 59 79 71 73 71 67 86 90