

Performance optimisation of research codes for the Supercomputing Wales programme: three case studies

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SUPERCOMPUTING WALES
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@SuperCompWales



@sa2c_swansea

HPC-LEAP Conference, Cambridge University

11 July 2018

Slides: git.io/fNTis

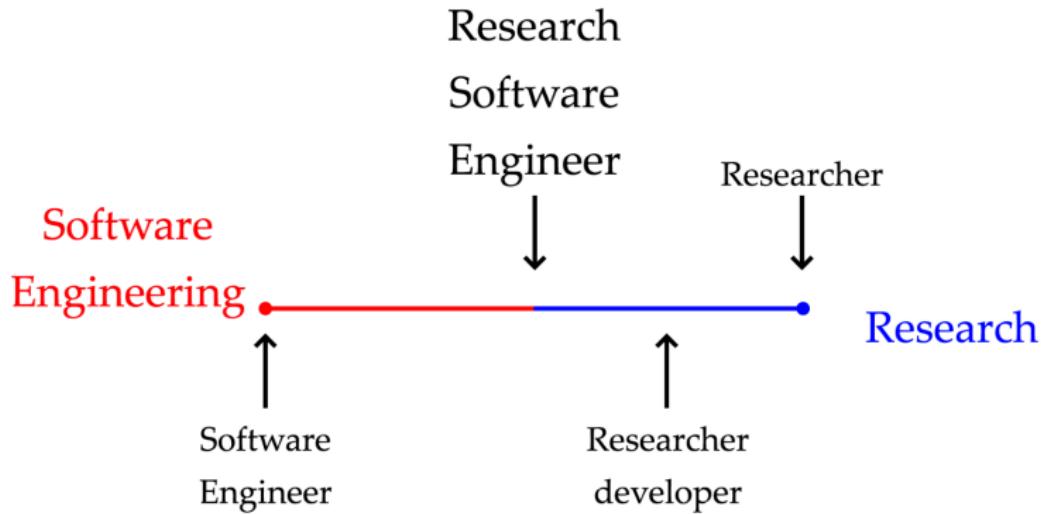
In this talk

- The Supercomputing Wales programme
- What is a Research Software Engineer?
- Case studies:
 - Throughput optimization of a life sciences application
 - Improving parallel efficiency of a CFD application
 - Parallelising a lattice field theory code

The Supercomputing Wales programme

- £15m investment by EU, Welsh Government, and four Welsh Universities
 - Cardiff
 - Swansea
 - Aberystwyth
 - Bangor
- Two HPC facilities
 - 12,000 Skylake cores
 - 34 Nvidia V100 GPUs
 - 2 Bullion Analytics Factories
- 15 Research Software Engineers

What is a Research Software Engineer?

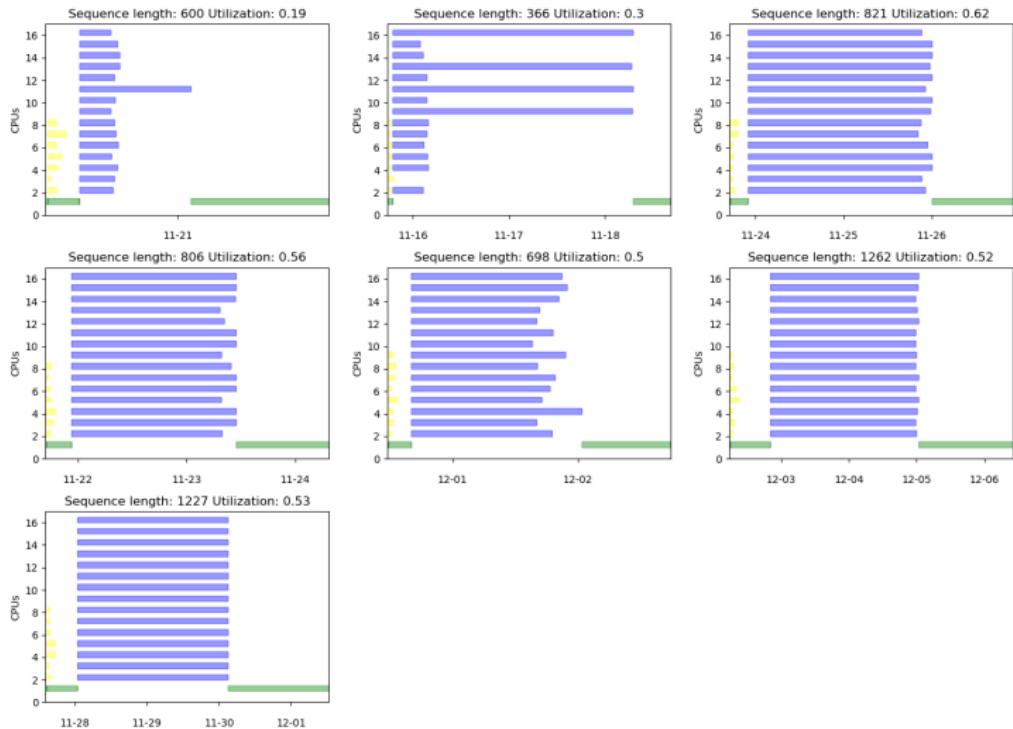


(from Simon Hettrick, <https://goo.gl/znRRzb>)

Supercomputing Wales RSEs

- RSEs:
 - Know software engineering
 - Know research
 - Develop software for research
- Supercomputing Wales RSEs:
 - Do all this
 - Know about HPC
 - Adapt, optimize, and benchmark research software for HPC

Throughput optimisation for life sciences



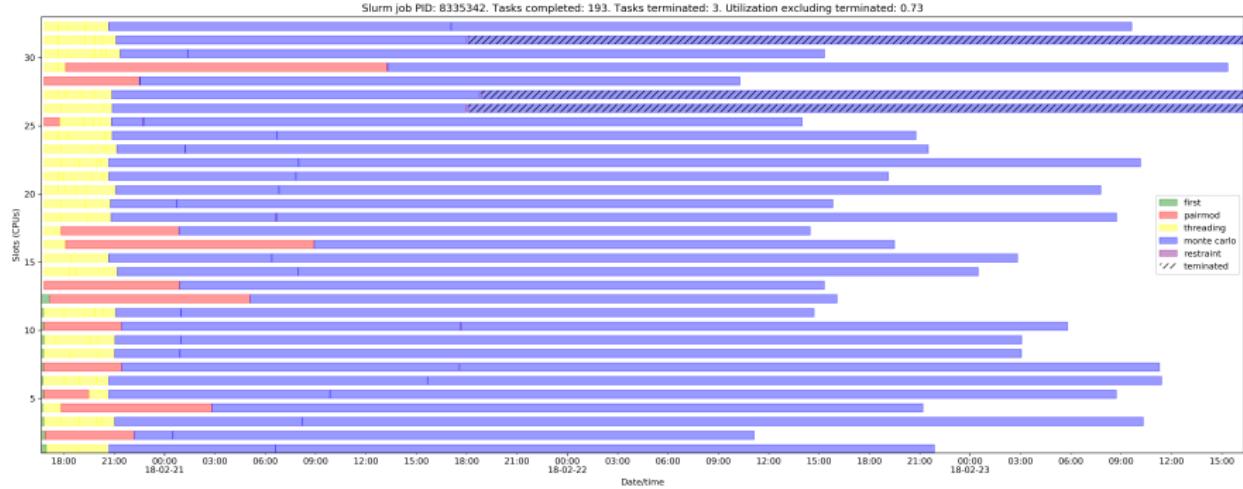
Options considered

- Serialise
- Separate jobs, SLURM dependencies
- Allocate a single job, run many jobs within it
 - Require a queue manager to organise this

METAQ (<https://git.io/fNUxC>)

- Written in bash
- Filesystem-based
- No support for dependencies
 - Now implemented

Initial results of throughput optimisation



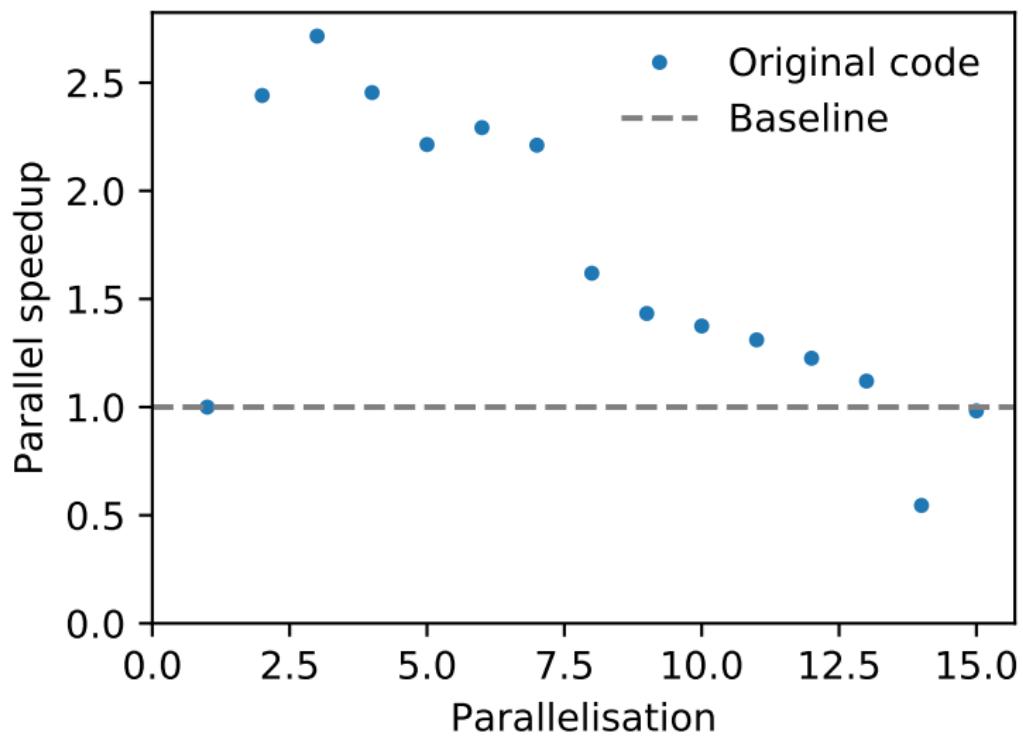
Ongoing work

- Predictions of runtime for each job step
- Collecting data from current runs to allow this

Parallel optimisation of computational fluid dynamics software

- Solver for the 2D Boltzmann equation
 - BGK operator
 - Two-step discontinuous Taylor–Galerkin
- Position and velocity degrees of freedom
- Initially position-space parallelised (domain decomposition)
 - Memory bound
 - Performance not explicitly considered
- Fortran 77 code

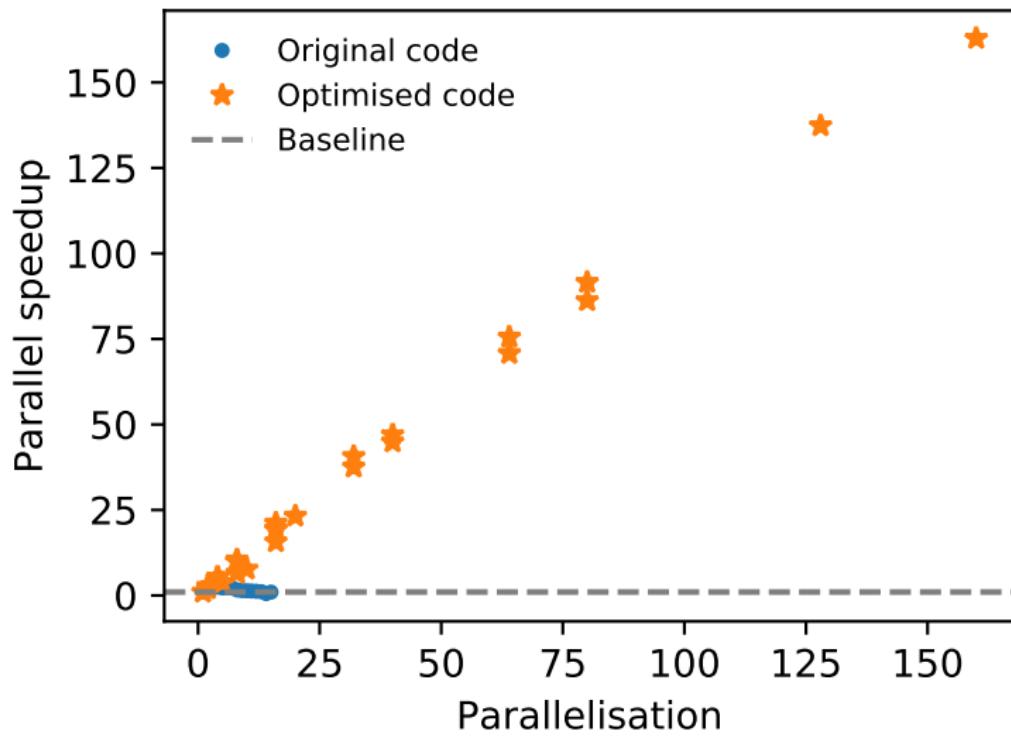
Initial performance



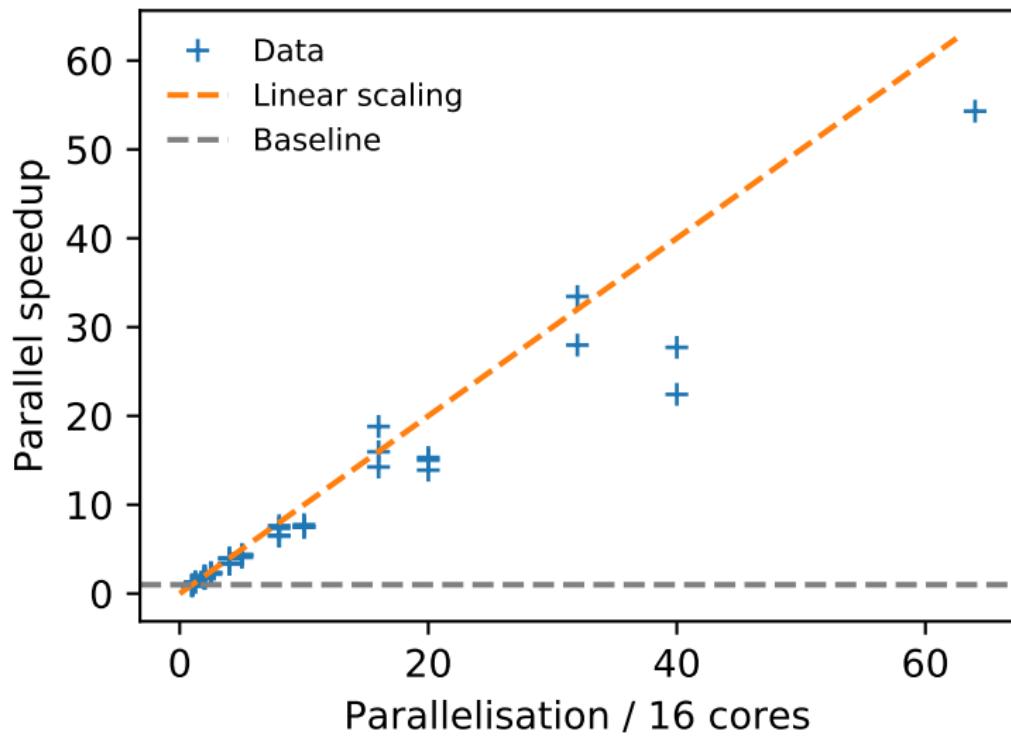
Optimisations implemented

- Parallelise in velocity space
 - Less communication on this axis
- Optimise domain decomposition
 - Better load balancing
 - Less communication

Optimised performance, small problem



Optimised performance, large problem



Parallelising lattice field theory code

- 2+1d Thirring model
- RHMC algorithm
- Serial Fortran 77 (and FORTRAN IV) code
- Domain Wall Fermions
 - Highly vectorisable
- Need for:
 - Larger volumes \Rightarrow longer time per iteration
 - Stronger coupling \Rightarrow more iterations
- \Rightarrow Need parallelism

Initial tests

- Tune compiler options: 40% performance improvement
- Automatic multithreading (`-parallel`)
 - Near linear scaling to 4 threads
 - Rapid fall off afterwards
- Deliver $\sim 5\times$ improvement to researcher before starting MPI

Refactoring

- Implement regression testing
- Add per-site random numbers
- Remove indirection
- Move to free-form Fortran
- Replace loop operations with array operations where possible

```
do 1000 i=1,10000  
1000    sum_x = sum_x + x(i)
```

becomes

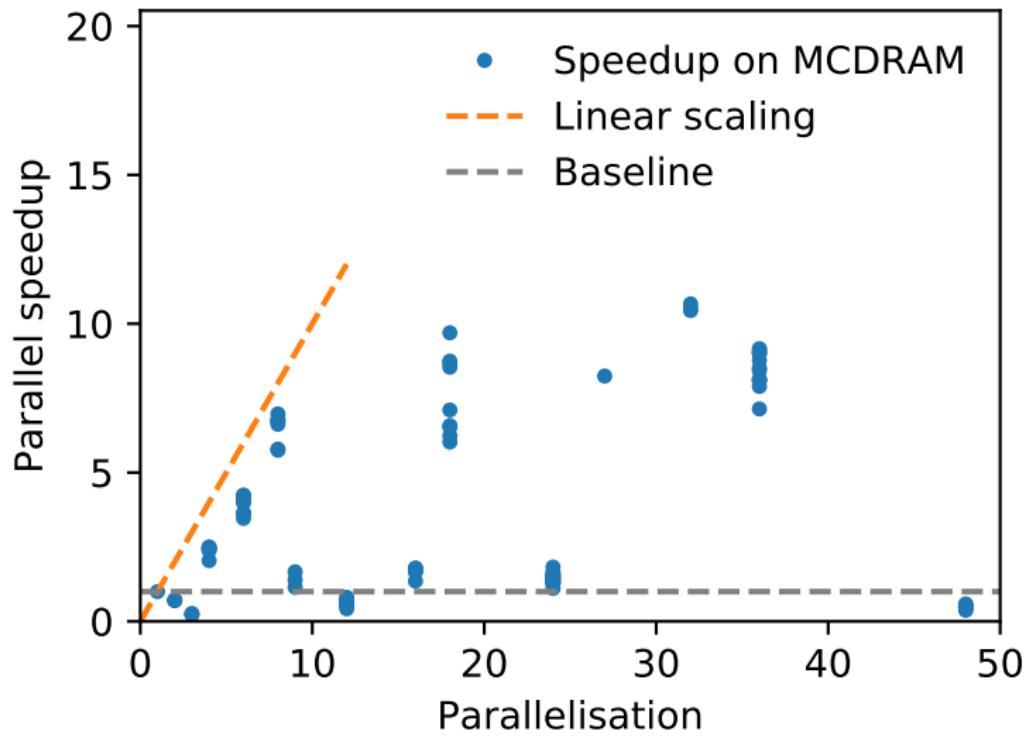
```
sum_x = sum(x)
```

- implicit none
- common blocks → modules
- Global parameters → module

Adding MPI

- 1-site halo in space-time
- Explicit halo communications in serial
- Add parallel communications
 - Broadcast parameters
 - Use MPI-IO
 - Communicate halo
 - Use collective reductions (sum, max, etc.)
 - Seed RNG based on rank
 - Handle correlation functions
- Test, test, test

MPI Performance



Ongoing work

- Full physics tests
- Investigate unexpected MPI slowdowns
- Test combining with automated multithreading

Other projects

- Port openQCD to AVX 512 (KNL, Skylake)
- Port Windows GPU code to Linux
- Prepare benchmark report supporting PRACE application
- Develop accessible desktop client for HPC
- Group theory-based memory compression for $Sp(2N)$ lattice gauge theory
- Speeding up inter-process communication between Python and C++

Thanks for listening!

- Interested?
- Currently recruiting
- bit.ly/swansea-rse-2018
- Deadline: 20 July (next Friday)

