

# Parallel Sorting

Chris Kauffman

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# Logistics

## Today

- ▶ Parallel Sorting: Quicksort

## Reading: Grama Ch 9

- ▶ Sorting
- ▶ Focus on 9.4: Quicksort

# Sorting

- ▶ Much loved computation problem
- ▶ What is the best complexity of general purpose (comparison-based) sorting algorithms?
- ▶ What are some algorithms which have this complexity?
- ▶ What are some other sorting algorithms which aren't so hot?
- ▶ What issues need to be addressed to parallelize any sorting algorithm?

# Parallel Sorting Base algorithm

Prospects of parallelizing standard  $O(N \log N)$  sorting algorithms...

## Heap Sort

- ▶ Manipulates a global array
- ▶ Very serial in nature:  
repeatedly percolate array  
elements up heap, swap to  
end of heap, repeat
- ▶ Random access to entire  
array is a must, not good for  
distributed memory

## Merge Sort

- ▶ Has a nice recursive  
decomposition, but...
- ▶ Merging two sorted arrays  
on separate processors to  
produce a larger array would  
involve prohibitive  
communication
- ▶ Will look later at Odd-Even  
sort which has a similar  
flavor

This leaves the king of sorting for a parallel implementation...

# Partition and Quicksort

- ▶ Quicksort has  $O(N \log N)$  average complexity
- ▶ In-place, low overhead sorting, recursive

## Partition

- ▶ Select a pivot value
- ▶ Rearrange elements so
  - ▶ Left array is  $\leq$  pivot
  - ▶ Right array is  $>$  pivot
  - ▶ pivot is in “middle”

```
# A is an array, lo/hi are
# inclusive boundaries
algorithm partition(A, lo, hi):
    pivot := A[hi]
    boundary := lo
    for j = lo to hi do
        if A[j] <= pivot then
            swap A[boundary], A[j]
            boundary++
    swap A[boundary], A[hi]
    return boundary
```

## Quicksort

- ▶ Partition into two parts
- ▶ Recurse on both halves
- ▶ Bail out when boundaries lo/hi cross

```
algorithm quicksort(A, lo, hi):
    if lo < hi then
        p = partition(A, lo, hi)
        quicksort(A, lo, p - 1)
        quicksort(A, p + 1, hi)
```

# Practical Parallel Sorting Setup

- ▶ Input array  $A$  of size  $N$  is already spread across  $P$  processors (no need to scatter)

P0:  $A[] = \{ 84 \ 31 \ 21 \ 28 \}$

P1:  $A[] = \{ 17 \ 20 \ 24 \ 84 \}$

P2:  $A[] = \{ 24 \ 11 \ 31 \ 99 \}$

P3:  $A[] = \{ 13 \ 32 \ 26 \ 75 \}$

- ▶ Goal: Numbers sorted across processors. Smallest on P0, next smallest on P1, etc.

P0:  $A[] = \{ 11 \ 13 \ 17 \ 20 \}$

P1:  $A[] = \{ 21 \ 24 \ 24 \ 26 \}$

P2:  $A[] = \{ 28 \ 31 \ 32 \ 33 \}$

P3:  $A[] = \{ 75 \ 84 \ 84 \ 99 \}$

- ▶ Want to use  $P$  processors as effectively as possible
- ▶ Favor bulk communication over many small messages

## Exercise: Parallel Quicksort

- ▶ Find a way to parallelize quicksort
- ▶ **Hint:** The last step is each processor sorting its own data using a serial algorithm. Try to arrange data so this is possible.

START:

P0: A[] = { 84 32 21 28 }

P1: A[] = { 17 20 25 85 }

P2: A[] = { 24 11 31 99 }

P3: A[] = { 13 32 26 75 }

GOAL

P0: A[] = { 11 13 17 20 }

P1: A[] = { 21 24 25 26 }

P2: A[] = { 28 31 32 33 }

P3: A[] = { 75 84 85 99 }

SERIAL ALGORITHM

```
algorithm quicksort(A, lo, hi) is
  if lo < hi then
    p := partition(A, lo, hi)
    quicksort(A, lo, p - 1)
    quicksort(A, p + 1, hi)
```

```
algorithm partition(A, lo, hi) is
  pivot := A[hi]
  boundary := lo
  for j := lo to hi - 1 do
    if A[j] <= pivot then
      swap A[boundary] with A[j]
      boundary++
  swap A[boundary] with A[hi]
  return boundary
```

## Answers: Parallel Quicksort Ideas 1 / 3

- ▶ Select a global shared Pivot value and broadcast to all procs
- ▶ Select pivot so that half data elements got to lower processors, half got to higher processors
- ▶ Redistribute low data to low procs, high data to high procs
- ▶ Split procs into low / high group, and recurse
- ▶ When each proc is on its own, sort locally



## Answers: Parallel Quicksort Ideas 2 / 3

A[] = { 84 32 21 11 | 17 20 25 85 | 24 28 31 99 | 13 33 26 75 }  
P0 P1 P2 P3

Partition(pivot=26) on each processor

A[] = { 21 11 84 32 | 17 20 25 85 | 24 28 31 99 | 13 26 33 75 }  
Boundary: ^ ^ ^ ^  
Counts: P0: 2 P1: 3 P2: 1 P3: 2

Calculate which data goes where

A[] = { 21 11 84 32 | 17 20 25 85 | 24 28 31 99 | 13 26 33 75 }  
P0 P0 P2 P2 P0 P0 P1 P2 P1 P2 P3 P3 P1 P1 P3 P3

Re-arrange so values  $\leq 26$  on P0 and P1,  $> 26$  on P2 and P3

A[] = { 21 11 17 20 | 25 24 13 26 | 84 32 85 28 | 31 99 33 75 }  
P0 P1 P2 P3

Split the world: 2 groups

A[] = { 21 11 17 20 | 25 24 13 26 } | { 84 32 85 28 | 31 99 33 75 }  
P0 P1 P2 P3

## Answers: Parallel Quicksort Ideas 3 / 3

Each half partitions on different pivot value

P0-P1: Partition(pivot=20)    P2-P3: Partition(pivot=33)

A[] = { 11 17 20 21 | 13 25 24 26 } | { 28 32 84 85 | 31 33 99 75 }

Boundary:                    ^                    ^                    ^                    ^

Counts: P0: 3                    P1: 1                    P2: 2                    P3: 2

Calculate which data goes where

A[] = { 11 17 20 21 | 13 25 24 26 } | { 28 32 84 85 | 31 33 99 75 }

P0 P0 P0 P1    P0 P1 P1 P1    P2 P2 P3 P3    P2 P2 P3 P3

Re-arrange values to proper processors

A[] = { 11 17 20 13 | 21 25 24 25 } | { 28 32 31 33 | 84 85 99 75 }

P0                    P1                    P2                    P3

Split the world: 4 groups

A[] = { 11 17 20 13 } | { 21 25 24 25 } | { 28 32 31 33 } | { 84 85 99 75 }

P0                    P1                    P2                    P3

4 groups == 4 processors, all processors sort locally

A[] = { 11 13 17 20 } | { 21 24 25 25 } | { 28 31 32 33 } | { 75 84 85 99 }

P0                    P1                    P2                    P3

# Quicksort Difficulties

## Communication

- ▶ Determine which data go to which processors, how many send/receives are required
- ▶ Opportunity for **all-to-all communications** in MPI

## Recurring

- ▶ Recursive step of algorithm requires smaller “worlds”
- ▶ Use MPI's **communicator splitting** capability

## Pivot Value Selection

- ▶ In example, pivot values were cherry-picked to get even distribution of data among processors
- ▶ A bad pivot splits data unevenly, is annoying for serial Quicksort, shaves off processors in parallel quicksort destroying efficiency

# All-to-All Personalized Communication

All-to-all personalized communication: like every processor scattering to every other processor.

BEFORE

```
P0: send[] = {A0, B0, C0, D0}  recv[] = { -, -, -, -, }  
P1: send[] = {A1, B1, C1, D1}  recv[] = { -, -, -, -, }  
P2: send[] = {A2, B2, C2, D2}  recv[] = { -, -, -, -, }  
P3: send[] = {A3, B3, C3, D3}  recv[] = { -, -, -, -, }
```

MPI\_Alltoall(...);

AFTER

```
P0: send[] = {A0, B0, C0, D0}  recv[] = {A0, A1, A2, A3}  
P1: send[] = {A1, B1, C1, D1}  recv[] = {B0, B1, B2, B3}  
P2: send[] = {A2, B2, C2, D2}  recv[] = {C0, C1, C2, C3}  
P3: send[] = {A3, B3, C3, D3}  recv[] = {D0, D1, D2, D3}
```

## MPI\_Alltoall

- ▶ Standard version: every processor gets a slice of sendbuf, same sized data
- ▶ Vector version allows different sized slices (appropriate for quicksort)

```
int MPI_Alltoall(  
    void *sendbuf, int sendcount, MPI_Datatype sendtype,  
    void *recvbuf, int recvcount, MPI_Datatype recvtpe,  
    MPI_Comm comm);
```

```
int MPI_Alltoallv(  
    void *sendbuf, int sendcounts[], int sdispls[], MPI_Datatype sendtype,  
    void *recvbuf, int recvcounts[], int rdispls[], MPI_Datatype recvtpe,  
    MPI_Comm comm);
```

## Exercise: Redistribution during Quicksort

- ▶ After partition, procs will redistribute data via all-to-all
- ▶ Perform All-Gather to get counts in table to the right

Element Count vs Pivot			
Proc	<=	>	
P0	2	2	
P1	3	1	
P2	1	3	
P3	2	2	

Each Proc must calculate its own Count/Displ arrays for all-to-all:

P#		P0	P1	P2	P3		P0	P1	P2	P3	P#
P0	RecvCount	2	2	0	0	SendCount	2	0	2	0	P0
P1		0	1	1	2		2	1	1	0	P1
P2		2	1	1	0		0	1	1	2	P2
P3		0	0	2	2		0	2	0	2	P3
P0	RecvDispl	0	2	4	4	SendDispl	0	0	2	0	P0
P1		0	0	1	2		0	2	3	4	P1
P2		0	2	3	4		0	0	1	2	P2
P3		0	0	0	2		0	0	2	2	P3

- ▶ Describe the process of calculating RecvCount
- ▶ Given RecvCount, how can one calculate RecvDispl

## Answers: Redistribution during Quicksort

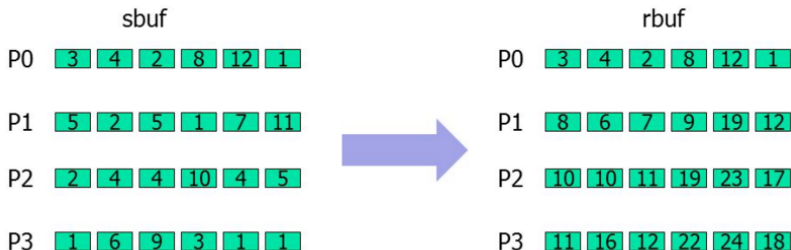
- ▶ RecvCount can be calculate through an iterative process
- ▶ Compute the **prefix sum** of below/above pivot counts

El Count vs Pivot				PS[]: PREFIX SUMS			
Proc	<=	>		Proc	<=	>	
-----+-----+---				-----+-----+---			
P0	2	2	==>	P0	2	2	
P1	3	1		P1	5	3	
P2	1	3		P2	6	6	
P3	2	2		P3	8	8	

- ▶ Know each proc stores  $N / P = 4$  elements
- ▶ Procs receiving  $\leq$  pivot, proc #  $i$ , scan column 0 for
  - ▶ First partner is proc  $F$  where  $PS[F,0] \leq 4*i$
  - ▶ Last partner is proc  $L$  where  $PS[L,0] \geq 4*(i+1)$
- ▶ Procs receiving  $>$  pivot, proc #  $i$ , scan column 1 for
  - ▶ First partner is proc  $F$  where  $PS[F,1] \leq 4*(i-2)$
  - ▶ Last partner is proc  $L$  where  $PS[L,1] \geq 4*(i-2+1)$
- ▶ Actual code will need to do additional arithmetic (e.g. P1 receives 1 element from itself)
- ▶ RecvDispl is the **prefix sum** of RecvCount

## Prefix Sums / Scan

Prefix Sums or Prefix Scans are supported in parallel via MPI



```
int MPI_Scan(const void *sendbuf, void *recvbuf, int count,  
             MPI_Datatype datatype, MPI_Op op, MPI_Comm comm);
```

- ▶ Similar to reduction but only add on values from procs  $\leq$  `proc_id`
- ▶ op can be sum/max/min/etc.
- ▶ In simple Quicksort implementations, **don't use parallel prefix scan** as this does not yield enough info to calculate send/receive partners



# Overall Flow

1. Pivot selection (open question how to do this right)
2. Broadcast of pivot value
3. Each processor partition's its data
4. All-gather to get element/pivot counts
5. Calculate send/receives
6. Redistribute data via `MPI_Alltoallv()`
7. And then...

# Splitting the World

```
int MPI_Comm_split(MPI_Comm comm, int color, int key,  
                   MPI_Comm *newcomm);
```

- ▶ `comm` is the old communicator (start with `MPI_COMM_WORLD`)
- ▶ `color` is which sub-comm to go into
  - ▶ Colors 0,1 splits into 2 communicators
  - ▶ Colors 0,1,2,3 splits into 4 communicators
  - ▶ Etc.
- ▶ `key` establishes rank in new sub-comm, usually `proc_id`
- ▶ `newcomm` is filled in with a new communicator
- ▶ Examine `04-mpi-code/comm_split.c`
- ▶ In Quicksort, new comm is different for lower/upper procs

## Exercise: Pivot Selection

- ▶ So far have assumed a “good” pivot can be found
- ▶ Pivot evenly splits  $N/2$  data, half to lower # processors, half to upper

Discuss the following questions with a neighbor

1. What if the pivot is poorly selected? E.g.  $1/4$  below pivot,  $3/4$  above? Could the algorithm adapt?
2. How could one avoid a bad pivot? Discuss some strategies
3. Is there a way to avoid recusing entirely?

## Answers: Pivot Selection 1/2

Discuss the following questions with a neighbor

1. What if the pivot is poorly selected? E.g.  $1/4$  below pivot,  $3/4$  above? Could the algorithm adapt?

*With some additional computation, can split the world unevenly:  $1/4$  procs assigned to “low” numbers,  $3/4$  to “high” numbers. Still broken if a tiny fraction of the array is lower/higher than the pivot: should just try another pivot at that point or use a scheme that prevents poor pivot selection.*

2. How could one avoid a bad pivot? Discuss some strategies

*Lots of these exist, some mentioned in the textbook such as having a randomly selected processor compute its median and broadcast it as the pivot (main text of Grama) or have processors sample random elements, perform All-Gather, then compute a median as the common pivot (Grama Exercise 9.21).*

## Answers: Pivot Selection 2/2

3. Is there a way to avoid recusing entirely, e.g. single multiway pivot?

*Gramma Exercise 9.20 explores this:*

- ▶ *Each proc samples elements, often around  $\log(N)$  elements, and procs perform an All-Gather*
- ▶ *All procs use common sample to select  $P - 1$  common pivots.*
- ▶ *Elements between pivots are sent directly to final destination procs in an All-to-All communication.*
- ▶ *Local sorting commences.*

*In short: With 4 procs, estimate quartile boundaries based on sampling, give bottom 25% of elements to Proc 0, etc. and sort locally.*

# Bubble Sort

- ▶ Classic CS1 Sorting Algorithm
- ▶ Several variants that improve on given pseudocode
  - ▶ Limit inner loop bound  $i < N-1-r$
  - ▶ Terminate when sorted order detected
- ▶ Stated version is obviously  $O(N^2)$  complexity
- ▶ Not a lot of room for parallelism...
- ▶ But a variant of this DOES have room for parallelism

```
void bubble_sort(A[]) {  
    N = length(A[])  
    for(r=0; r < N-1; r++){  
        for(i=0; i < N-1; i++){  
            compare_exchange(A, i, i+1);  
        }  
    }  
}  
  
void compare_exchange(A[], i, j){  
    if(A[i] > A[j]){  
        temp = A[i]  
        A[i] = A[j]  
        A[j] = temp  
    }  
}
```

## Exercise: Odd-Even Sort

- ▶ Variant of bubble sort which splits bubbling into odd/even phases
- ▶  $O(N^2)$  complexity of serial algorithm
- ▶ There is potential for parallelism here: **what is it?**
  - ▶ Consider simple case where each  $P = N$ : each proc hold a single number
  - ▶ What can be parallelized and how?

```
void odd_even_sort(A[]) {  
    N = length(A[])  
    for(r=0 to N-1){  
        if(r is even){  
            for(i=0; i<N-1; i+=2){  
                compare_exchange(A, i, i+1);  
            }  
        }  
        if(r is odd){  
            for(i=1; i<N-1; i+=2){  
                compare_exchange(A, i, i+1);  
            }  
        }  
    }  
}  
  
void compare_exchange(A[], i, j){  
    if(A[i] > A[j]){  
        temp = A[i]  
        A[i] = A[j]  
        A[j] = temp  
    }  
}
```

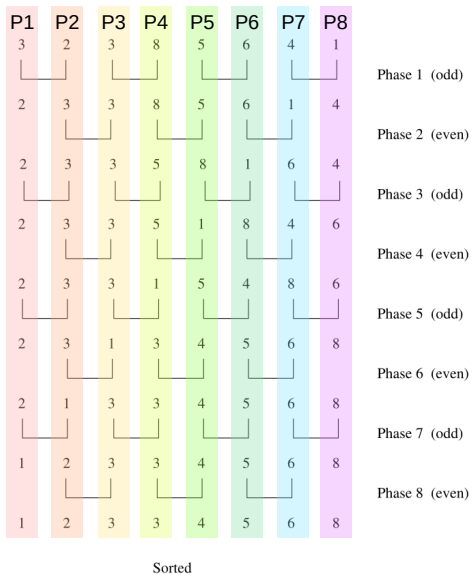
## Answers: Odd-Even Sort

What can be parallelized and how?

- ▶ *Suppose each of  $N$  elements is stored on  $P$  processors in a line/ring with  $N = P$*
- ▶ *The inner loops of `compare_exchange()` can be executed in parallel as it involves communication between 2 procs to potentially exchange elements but only with a single partner.*
- ▶ *Even iterations, lower evens exchange with higher odds*
- ▶ *Odd iterations lower odds exchange with higher evens*
- ▶ *Exchange can be done via a Send/Receive of elements and then “keeping” the appropriate element, min on lower proc, max on higher proc*



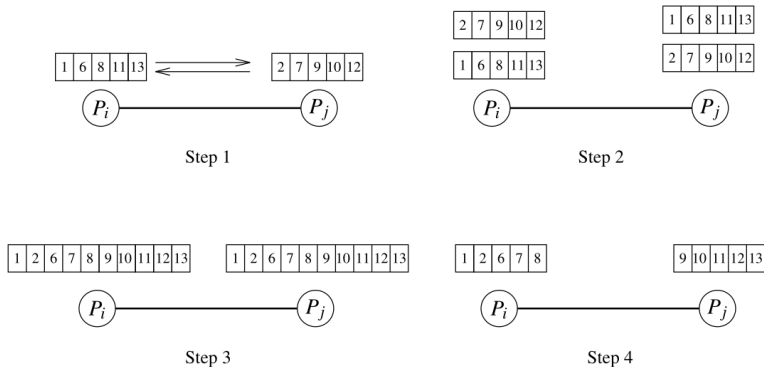
# Answers: Odd-Even Sort



**Figure 9.13** Sorting  $n = 8$  elements, using the odd-even transposition sort algorithm. During each phase,  $n = 8$  elements are compared.

## Odd-Even Sort with $N > P$

- ▶ As before, unrealistic to have  $P = N$ , rather each proc holds  $N/P$  elements of the array  $A[]$
- ▶ `COMPARE_EXCHANGE()` becomes `COMPARE_SPLIT()`



**Figure 9.2** A compare-split operation. Each process sends its block of size  $n/p$  to the other process. Each process merges the received block with its own block and retains only the appropriate half of the merged block. In this example, process  $P_i$  retains the smaller elements and process  $P_j$  retains the larger elements.

## Analysis of Odd-Even Sort

- ▶ Initially all procs sort their local array:  $O(\frac{N}{P} \log \frac{N}{P})$
- ▶ Conduct  $P$  Outer iterations of ODD\_EVEN\_SORT()
- ▶ Each odd/even inner loop is done in parallel by all procs communicating with a neighbor
- ▶ Neighbor procs exchange arrays:  $O(t_s + t_w \frac{N}{P})$
- ▶ Each proc then performs a compare/split:  $O(\frac{2N}{P})$
- ▶ Overall complexity of parallel algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned} T_{par} &= O\left(\frac{N}{P} \log \frac{N}{P}\right) + P \times \left(O\left(t_s + t_w \frac{N}{P}\right) + O\left(\frac{2N}{P}\right)\right) \\ &= O\left(\frac{N}{P} \log \frac{N}{P}\right) + O(N) + O(N) \end{aligned}$$

**Isoefficiency?** : Reported in textbook as  $O(P2^P)$ , linear increase in  $P$  requires exponential increase in problem size to maintain efficiency. Verifying this is a good exercise.

# Sorting Extras

## Odd-Even Sort to Shell Sort

- ▶ Allowing bigger “moves” in odd-even sort can improve practical efficiency of algorithm
- ▶ Shell Sort provides a mechanism for this: neighbors selected according to a “gap” scheme, less known sort with yet mysterious complexity analysis

## Sorting Hardware

- ▶ Grama Ch 9.1 discusses Sorting networks, specialized hardware which can implement sorting
- ▶ With  $N$  processors, can implement Bitonic Sort in a sorting network and achieve  $T_{par} = O(\log^2 N)$
- ▶ Hardware that implements sorting networks is not common but...
- ▶ GPUs provide interesting hardware, large numbers of procs, will revisit sorting on studying CUDA