

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Amdahl's Law [40 points]

Consider Processor X with area A. You will analyze the performance of different processors with respect to Processor X. All processors discussed in this problem will be built on a die of area **16A**. Assume that the single-thread performance of a core increases with the **square root of its area**. You are given a workload where  $S$  fraction of its work is serial and  $P = 1 - S$  fraction of its work is **perfectly** parallelizable.

In this problem, we define, for a given program:

$$\text{Speedup of Processor A} = \frac{\text{Runtime on Processor X}}{\text{Runtime on Processor A}}$$

- (a) Given Processor Z is made of a single core with area  $16A$ , what is the speedup of this processor when running a program with  $S = 1$ ? Show your work.

**Processor Z**

1 *large* core of area  $16A$



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One core with 4 times the speedup of Processor X runs the whole program.

- (b) Given the same Processor Z from part (a), what is the speed up of this processor when running a program with  $S = 0$ ? Show your work.

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One core with 4 times the speedup of Processor X runs the whole program.

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- (c) What is the speedup equation for a heterogeneous processor that has one large core with area  $N \times A$  and the remaining die area filled with small cores, each with area  $A$ ? Write in terms of  $S$  and  $N$ .

Assume that (i) only the large core will be running the serial portion, and (ii) all cores, including the large core, will be running the parallel portion of the program.

$$\frac{1}{\frac{S}{\sqrt{N}} + \frac{1-S}{(16-N)+\sqrt{N}}}$$

- (d) Now, you are given a chance to design a heterogeneous processor of area  $16A$  to run some workload. The large core on the processor has an area size of  $M^2 \times A$ , where  $M$  is a natural number. What is  $M$  such that the processor can maximize the speedup when running a program with  $P = 0.8$ ? Show your work.

$M = 3$ .

We have 1,2,3,4 as options for  $M$ . When plugged into the equation from the previous part,  $M=3$  gives the best speedup.