CSE 373: Data Structures and Algorithms

Lecture 23: Parallelism: Map, Reduce, Analysis

Instructor: Lilian de Greef
Quarter: Summer 2017
Today

• More on parallelism
  • Map & Reduce
  • Analysis of Efficiency

• Reminder:
  • Come visit my office hours to pick up midterm
Outline

Done:
• How to write a parallel algorithm with fork and join
• Why using divide-and-conquer with lots of small tasks is best
  • Combines results in parallel
  • (Assuming library can handle “lots of small threads”)

Now:
• More examples of simple parallel programs that fit the “map” or “reduce” patterns
• Teaser: Beyond maps and reductions
• Asymptotic analysis for fork-join parallelism
• Amdahl’s Law
What else looks like this?

- Saw summing an array went from $O(n)$ sequential to $O(\log n)$ parallel (assuming a lot of processors and very large $n$)
  - Exponential speed-up in theory ($n / \log n$ grows exponentially)

- Anything that can use results from two halves and merge them in $O(1)$ time has the same property...
Examples

• Maximum or minimum element
• Check for an element satisfying some property
• Find left-most element satisfying some property
• Counts
Reductions

- Computations of this form are called reductions

- Produce single answer from collection via an associative operator
  - Associative operator:
  - Examples: max, sum, product, count ...
    - max:
    - sum:
    - product:
  - Non-examples: subtraction, exponentiation, median, ...
    - subtraction:
Maps (Data Parallelism)

- A map operates on each element of a collection independently to create a new collection of the same size

- Example: Vector addition

```
int[] vector_add(int[] arr1, int[] arr2){
    assert (arr1.length == arr2.length);
    result = new int[arr1.length];
    FORALL(i=0; i < arr1.length; i++) {
        result[i] = arr1[i] + arr2[i];
    }
    return result;
}
```

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<th>6</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>10</th>
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Maps and reductions: the “workhorses” of parallel programming

- By far the two most important and common patterns

- Learn to recognize when an algorithm can be written in terms of maps and reductions

- Use maps and reductions to describe (parallel) algorithms

- Programming them becomes “trivial” with a little practice
  - Exactly like sequential for-loops seem second-nature
Practice: Map or Reduce?

For each of the following example scenarios, would you use map or reduce?
In the poll, vote for all that you would use reduce on.

A. Mark all the tasks in a to-do list as “done”
B. Get the total cost of a shopping list
C. Get the number of times someone said “like” or “um” in a transcription
D. Double a recipe by multiplying the amount for each ingredient by 2
E. Change driving directions to use “km” instead of “miles”
F. Find out whether a particular item you want to buy is in a store inventory
(Space for notes / scratch-work)
Beyond maps and reductions

• Some problems are “inherently sequential”
  “Six ovens can’t bake a pie in 10 minutes instead of an hour”

• But not all parallelizable problems are maps and reductions

• Cool example that we don’t have time for: “parallel prefix”, a clever algorithm to parallelize the problem that this sequential code solves

```java
int[] prefix_sum(int[] input){
    int[] output = new int[input.length];
    output[0] = input[0];
    for(int i=1; i < input.length; i++)
        output[i] = output[i-1]+input[i];
    return output;
}
```

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MapReduce on computer clusters

• You may have heard of Google’s “map/reduce”
  • Or the open-source version Hadoop

• Idea: Perform maps/reduces on data using many machines
  • The system takes care of distributing the data and managing fault tolerance
  • You just write code to map one element and reduce elements to a combined result

• Separates how to do recursive divide-and-conquer from what computation to perform
  • Separating concerns is good software engineering
Moore’s Law

An observation on the semiconductor industry: the density of transistors doubles roughly every 2.5 years.

Expected to reach limit around 2025 (can only fit so many atoms in one space!)
Analyzing algorithms

- Like all algorithms, parallel algorithms should be:

- For our algorithms so far, we’ll focus on efficiency
  (the correctness of summing numbers, etc. are not as interesting/insightful)
  - Want

- Want to analyze the algorithm without regard to a specific number of

- Here: Identify the “” if the underlying thread-scheduler does its part
Work and Span

Let $T_p$ be the running time if there are $P$ processors available.

Two key measures of run-time:

- **Work:** How long it would take 1 processor =
  - Just “sequentialize” the recursive forking

- **Span:** How long it would take infinite processors =
  - The longest dependence-chain
  - Example: $O(\log n)$ for summing an array
    - Notice having $> n/2$ processors is no additional help
Our simple examples

Picture showing all the “stuff that happens” during a reduction or a map: it’s a (conceptual!) DAG

Note: parallel programs can be more complex than our examples
Connecting to performance

• Recall: $T_p = \text{running time if we use}$

• Work = $T_1 = \text{sum of run-time of in the DAG}$
  • That lonely processor does everything
  • Any topological sort is a legal execution
  • $O(n)$ for maps and reductions

• Span = $T_\infty = \text{sum of run-time of in the DAG}$
  • Note: costs are on the nodes, not the edges
  • Our infinite army can do everything that is ready to be done, but still has to wait for earlier results
  • $O(\log n)$ for simple maps and reductions
Speed-up

*Parallelizing algorithms is about decreasing span without increasing work too much*

- **Speed-up** on $P$ processors:

- **Parallelism** is the maximum possible speed-up:
  - At some point, adding processors won’t help
  - What that point is depends on the span

- In practice we have $P$ processors. How well can we do?
  - We cannot do better than (“must obey the span”)
  - We cannot do better than (“must do all the work”)
Examples

Best possible $T_p = O(\max(T_\infty, T_1/P))$

• In the algorithms seen so far (e.g., sum an array):
  • $T_1 = O(n)$
  • $T_\infty = O(\log n)$
  • So expect at best (ignores overheads):

• Suppose instead:
  • $T_1 = O(n^2)$
  • $T_\infty = O(n)$
  • So expect at best (ignores overheads):
Amdahl’s Law (mostly bad news)

• So far: analyze parallel programs in terms of work and span

• In practice, typically have parts of programs that parallelize well...
  
  • Such as maps/reductions over arrays

  ...and parts that don’t parallelize at all

  • Such as reading a linked list, getting input, doing computations where each needs the previous step, etc.
Amdahl’s Law (mostly bad news)

Let the **work** (time to run on 1 processor) be 1 unit time

Let $S$ be the portion of the execution that can’t be parallelized

Then:

Suppose *parallel portion parallelizes perfectly (generous assumption)*

Then:

So the overall speedup with $P$ processors is (Amdahl’s Law):

And the parallelism (infinite processors) is:
Why such bad news

\[
\frac{T_1}{T_p} = \frac{1}{(S + (1-S)/P)} \quad \frac{T_1}{T_\infty} = \frac{1}{S}
\]

• Suppose 33% of a program’s execution is sequential
  • Then a billion processors won’t give a speedup over 3

• From 1980-2005, 12 years was long enough to get 100x speedup
  • Now suppose in 12 years, clock speed is the same but you get 256 processors instead of 1
  • For 256 processors to get at least 100x speedup, we need
    \[
    100 \leq \frac{1}{(S + (1-S)/256)}
    \]
    Which means \( S \leq 0.0061 \) (i.e., 99.4% perfectly parallelizable)
All is not lost

Amdahl’s Law is a bummer!
  • Unparallelized parts become a bottleneck very quickly
  • But it doesn’t mean additional processors are worthless

• We can find new parallel algorithms
  • Some things that seem sequential are actually parallelizable

• We can change the problem or do new things
  • Example: computer graphics use tons of parallel processors
    • Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) are massively parallel!
Moore and Amdahl

• Moore’s “Law” is an observation about the progress of the semiconductor industry
  • Transistor density doubles roughly every 18 months

• Amdahl’s Law is a mathematical theorem
  • Diminishing returns of adding more processors

• Both are incredibly important in designing computer systems
Practice problems
(For in case we have extra time. They’re otherwise intended for Wednesday)

Given an array that contains the values 1 through ‘n’ two times each, find the one number that is contained only one time.
Given a list of integers, find the highest value obtainable by concatenating them together.

For example: given [9, 918, 917], result = 9918917
For example: given [1, 112, 113], result = 1131121
Given a very large file of integers (more than you can store in memory), return a list of the largest 100 numbers in the file
Given an unsorted array of values, find the 2nd biggest value in the array.

(Harder alternative: Find the k’th biggest value in the array)