Parallel Program Design
Tasks, Critical Path

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Outline

Foster's Methodology

1. *Partitioning*. Divide the computation into small tasks that can be done in parallel
2. *Communication*. Determine the communications between the tasks
3. *Aggregation (or agglomeration)*. Combine tasks and communications into larger tasks
4. *Mapping*. Assign the combined tasks to processes (or threads)

From Ian Foster, *Designing and Building Parallel Programs*, `http://www.mcs.anl.gov/~itf/dbpp/`

Tasks

- We can decompose a computation into smaller parts or tasks
- The goal is to determine which can be executed in parallel
- Fine-grained decomposition: many small tasks
- Coarse-grained decomposition: small number of large tasks
- Task-dependency graph
  - directed acyclic graph
  - nodes are tasks
  - there is an edge between task A and task B if B must be executed after A

Degrees of concurrency

- Maximum degree of concurrency: the maximum number of tasks that can be executed in parallel
- Average degree of concurrency: the average number of tasks that can be executed in parallel
- The average degree of concurrency is a more useful measure

Critical path

- Start nodes: nodes with no incoming edges
- Finish nodes: nodes with no outgoing edges
- Critical path: the longest directed path between any pair of start and finish nodes
- Critical path length: sum of the weights of the nodes on a critical path
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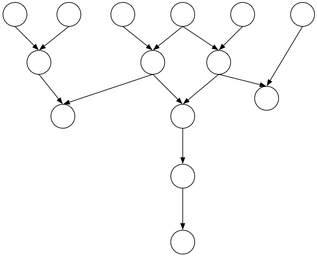
$$\text{ave degree of concurrency} = \frac{\text{total amount of work}}{\text{critical path length}}$$

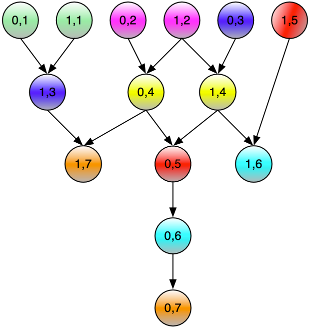
Example

Task-dependency graph

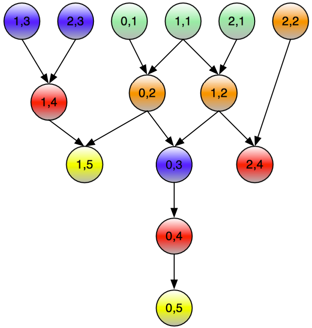


- maximum degree of concurrency is 6
- critical path length is 5
- total amount of work is 14 (assuming each task takes one unit of time)
- average degree of concurrency is $14/5 = 2.8$

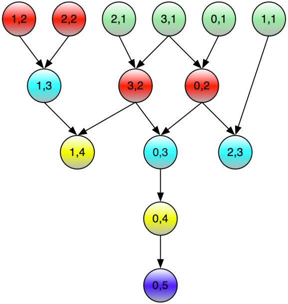
- An assignment to 2 processes and the order in which the tasks are executed
- First number is the process number
- The speedup is $14/7 = 2$



- An assignment to 3 processes
- The speedup is $14/5 = 2.8$



- An assignment to 4 processes
- The speedup is $14/5 = 2.8$



- What is the speedup on 8 processes?

Example: LU decomposition

- We want to compute the LU decomposition of a matrix A
- Assume A consists of 3×3 blocks
- We want

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} \to \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} L_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ L_{21} & L_{22} & 0 \\ L_{31} & L_{32} & L_{33} \end{bmatrix}}_{L} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} U_{11} & U_{12} & U_{13} \\ 0 & U_{22} & U_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & U_{33} \end{bmatrix}}_{U}$$

- We need to determine the L_{ij} and U_{ij}
- Consider L times the first column of U
- We have

$$A_{11} = L_{11}U_{11} \qquad \text{compute } L_{11} \text{ and } U_{11} \tag{1}$$
$$A_{21} = L_{21}U_{11} \qquad L_{21} = A_{21}U_{11}^{-1} \tag{2}$$
$$A_{31} = L_{31}U_{11} \qquad L_{31} = A_{31}U_{11}^{-1} \tag{3}$$

- From multiplying the first row of L times U, we obtain

$$A_{12} = L_{11}U_{12} \qquad U_{12} = L_{11}^{-1}A_{21} \tag{4}$$
$$A_{13} = L_{11}U_{13} \qquad U_{13} = L_{11}^{-1}A_{13} \tag{5}$$

- Then we write

$$
\begin{aligned}
A_{22} &= L_{21}U_{12} + L_{22}U_{22} & A'_{22} = A_{22} - L_{21}U_{12} &= L_{22}U_{22} && (6)\\
&& \text{compute } L_{22} &\text{ and } U_{22} && (7)\\
A_{23} &= L_{21}U_{13} + L_{22}U_{23} & A'_{23} = A_{23} - L_{21}U_{13} &= L_{22}U_{23} && (8)\\
&& U_{23} &= L_{22}^{-1}A'_{23} && (9)\\
A_{32} &= L_{31}U_{12} + L_{32}U_{22} & A'_{32} = A_{32} - L_{31}U_{12} &= L_{32}U_{22} && (10)\\
&& L_{32} &= A'_{32}U_{22}^{-1} && (11)\\
A_{33} &= L_{31}U_{13} + L_{32}U_{23} + L_{33}U_{33} & A'_{33} &= A_{33} - L_{31}U_{13} && (12)\\
&& A''_{33} = A'_{33} - L_{32}U_{23} &= L_{33}U_{33} && (13)\\
&& \text{compute } L_{33} &\text{ and } U_{22} && (14)
\end{aligned}
$$

- Using the right column in (1–14), we can decompose the computation in the following tasks

1. $A_{11} = L_{11}U_{11}$ (compute LU factorization)
2. $L_{21} = A_{21}U_{11}^{-1}$
3. $L_{31} = A_{31}U_{11}^{-1}$
4. $U_{12} = L_{11}^{-1}A_{21}$
5. $U_{13} = L_{11}^{-1}A_{13}$

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6. $A'_{22} = A_{22} - L_{21}U_{12}$
7. $A'_{32} = A_{32} - L_{31}U_{12}$
8. $A'_{23} = A_{23} - L_{21}U_{13}$
9. $A'_{33} = A_{33} - L_{31}U_{13}$
10. $A'_{22} = L_{22}U_{22}$ (compute LU factorization)

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11. $L_{32} = A'_{32}U_{22}^{-1}$
12. $U_{23} = L_{22}^{-1}A'_{23}$

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13. $A''_{33} = A'_{33} - L_{32}U_{23}$
14. $A''_{33} = L_{33}U_{33}$ (compute LU factorization)

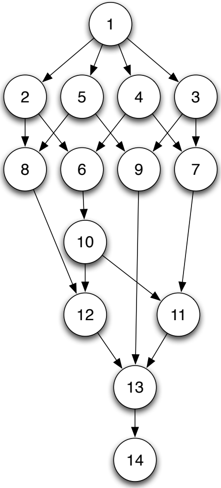

Figure: Task-dependency graph

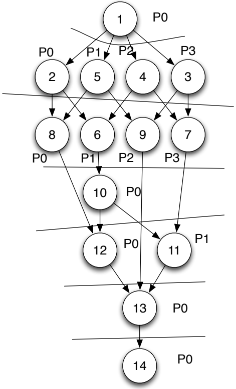

Figure: Task distribution on 4 processes. Maximum speedup is 2