Performance Engineering in HPC Application Development

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27-06-2012

German Research School for Simulation Sciences

- Joint venture of
  - Forschungszentrum Jülich
  - RWTH Aachen University

- Four research laboratories
  - Computational biophysics
  - Computational engineering
  - Computational materials science
  - Parallel programming

- Education
  - M.Sc. in Simulation Sciences
  - Ph.D. program

- About 50 scientific staff members
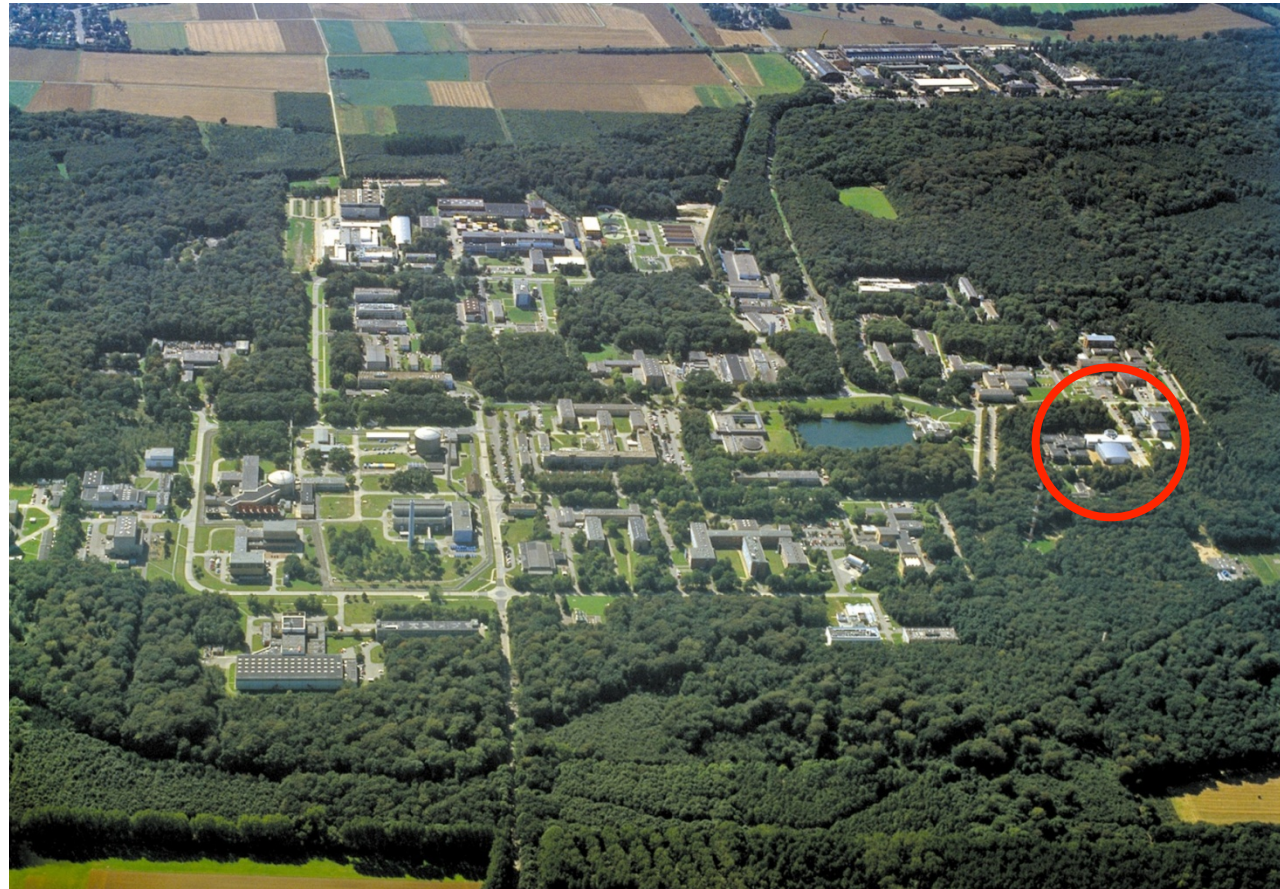

Aachen

Jülich

Forschungszentrum Jülich

Helmholtz Center with ca. 4400 employees

Application areas
– Health
– Energy
– Environment
– Information

Key competencies
– Physics
– Supercomputing

Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen

- 260 institutes in nine faculties
- Strong focus on engineering
- > 200 M€ third-party funding per year
- Around 31,000 students are enrolled in over 100 academic programs
- More than 5,000 are international students from 120 different countries
- Cooperates with Jülich within the Jülich Aachen Research Alliance (JARA)

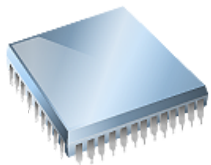University main building

Euro-Par 2013 in Aachen

- International conference series
  - Dedicated to parallel and distributed computing

- Wide spectrum of topics
  - Algorithms and theory
  - Software technology
  - Hardware-related issues

Euro-Par
Conference Series

Performance

$$\textbf{Performance} \sim \frac{1}{\text{Resources to solution}}$$

Hardware   Time   Energy   … and ultimately   Money

Performance optimization pays off

Example: HPC Service RWTH Aachen
~300 TFlops Bull/Intel cluster

Total cost of ownership (TCO) per year: **5.5** M€

Resource type	Fraction of TCO
Hardware	1/2
Energy	1/4
Staff	1/8
Others	1/8

Tuning the
workload by 1%
will "save"
55k€ per year
~ 1 FTE

Source: Bischof, an Mey, Iwainsky: Brainware for green
HPC, Computer Science-Research and Development,
Springer

Objectives

- Learn about basic performance measurement and analysis methods and techniques for HPC applications
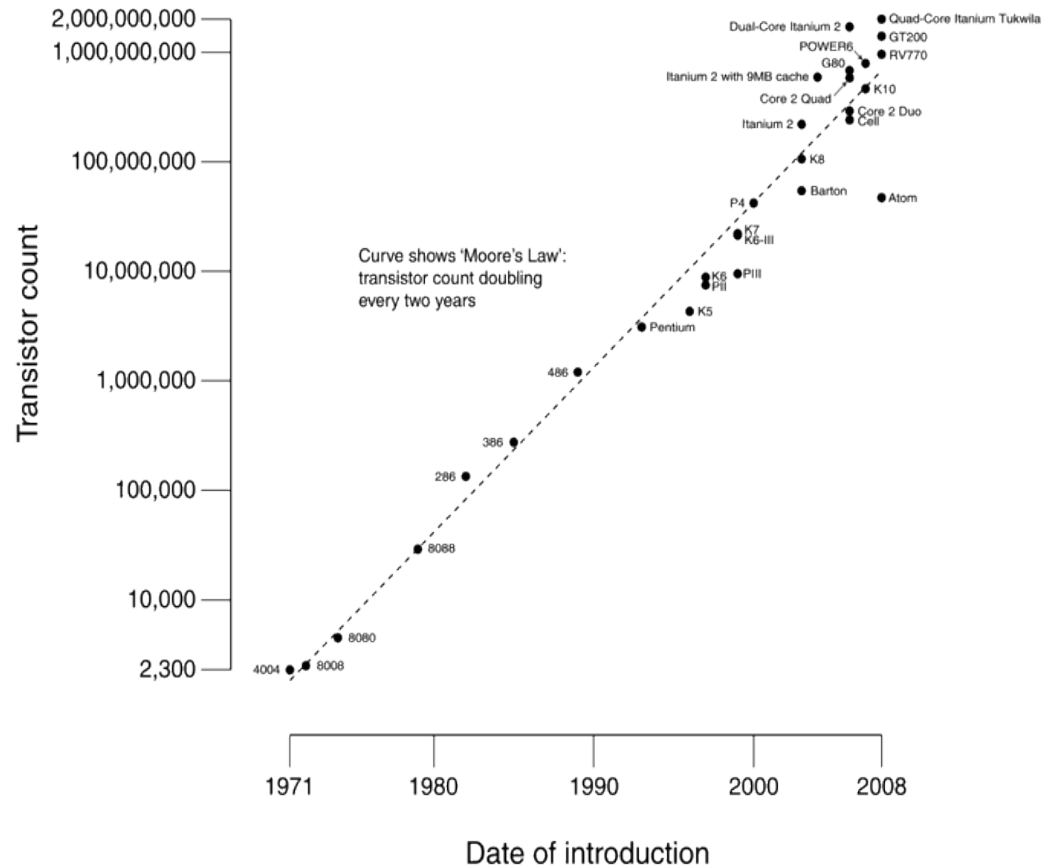- Get to know Scalasca, a scalable and portable performance analysis tool

Outline

- Principles of parallel performance
- Performance analysis techniques
- Practical performance analysis using Scalasca

Why parallelism at all?
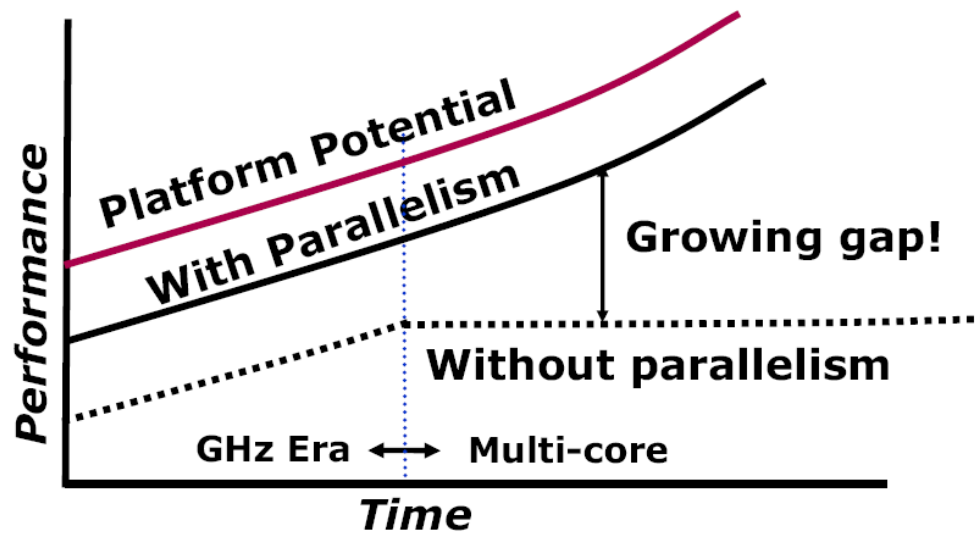# Moore's Law is still in charge…

CPU Transistor Counts 1971-2008 & Moore's Law

Source: Wikipedia

Free lunch is over…

Need for Parallelism

Parallelism is crucial for optimal performance

Parallelism

- System/application level
  - Server throughput can be improved by spreading workload across multiple processors or disks
  - Ability to add memory, processors, and disks is called scalability
- Individual processor
  - Pipelining
  - Depends on the fact that many instructions do not depend on the results of their immediate predecessors
- Detailed digital design
  - Set-associative caches use multiple banks of memory
  - Carry-lookahead in modern ALUs

Amdahl's Law for parallelism

- Assumption – program can be parallelized on p processors except for a sequential fraction f with

$$0 \leq f \leq 1$$

$$Speedup(p) = \frac{t_s}{t_p} = \frac{1}{f + \dfrac{1-f}{p}} < \frac{1}{f}$$

- Speedup limited by sequential fraction

Available parallelism

- Overall speedup of 80 on 100 processors

$$80 = \frac{1}{f + \frac{1-f}{p}}$$

f $= 0.0025$

Law of Gustafson

- Amdahl's Law ignores increasing problem size
  - Parallelism often applied to calculate bigger problems instead of calculating a given problem faster
- Fraction of sequential part may be function of problem size
- Assumption
  - Sequential part has constant runtime τ_f
  - Parallel part has runtime $\tau_v(n,p)$
- Speedup

$$\text{Speedup}(n,p) = \frac{\tau_f + \tau_v(n,1)}{\tau_f + \tau_v(n,p)}$$

If parallel part can be perfectly parallelized

Parallel efficiency

$$\text{Efficiency}(p) = \frac{\text{Speedup}(p)}{p}$$

- Metric for cost of parallelization (e.g., communication)
- Without super-linear speedup

$$\text{Efficiency}(p) \leq 1$$

- Super-linear speedup possible
  - Critical data structures may fit into the aggregate cache

Scalability

- Weak scaling
  - Ability to solve a larger input problem by using more resources (here: processors)
  - Example: larger domain, more particles, higher resolution

- Strong scaling
  - Ability to solve the same input problem faster as more resources are used
  - Usually more challenging
  - Limited by Amdahl's Law and communication demand

Serial vs. parallel performance

- Serial programs
  - Cache behavior and ILP

- Parallel programs
  - Amount of parallelism
  - Granularity of parallel tasks
  - Frequency and nature of inter-task communication
  - Frequency and nature of synchronization
    - Number of tasks that synchronize much higher → contention

Goals of performance analysis

- Compare alternatives
  - Which configurations are best under which conditions?
- Determine the impact of a feature
  - Before-and-after comparison
- System tuning
  - Find parameters that produce best overall performance
- Identify relative performance
  - Which program / algorithm is faster?
- Performance debugging
  - Search for bottlenecks
- Set expectations
  - Provide information for users

Analysis techniques (1)

- Analytical modeling
  - Mathematical description of the system
  - Quick change of parameters
  - Often requires restrictive assumptions rarely met in practice
    - Low accuracy
  - Rapid solution
  - Key insights
    - Validation of simulations / measurements

- Example
  - Memory delay $$t_{avg} = ht_c + (1-h)t_m$$

  - Parameters obtained from manufacturer or measurement

Analysis techniques (2)

- Simulation
  - Program written to model important features of the system being analyzed
  - Can be easily modified to study the impact of changes
  - Cost
    - Writing the program
    - Running the program
  - Impossible to model every small detail
    - Simulation refers to "ideal" system
    - Sometimes low accuracy
- Example
  - Cache simulator
  - Parameters: size, block size, associativity, relative cache and memory delays

Analysis techniques (3)

- Measurement
  - No simplifying assumptions
  - Highest credibility
  - Information only on specific system being measured
  - Harder to change system parameters in a real system
  - Difficult and time consuming
  - Need for software tools

- Should be used in conjunction with modeling
  - Can aid the development of performance models
  - Performance models set expectations against which measurements can be compared

Comparison of analysis techniques

Measurement   –   Simulation   –   Performance model

Number of parameters

Model error

Based on SC'11 paper from Torsten Hoefler et al.

Metrics of performance

- What can be measured?
  - A count of how many times an event occurs
    - E.g., Number of input / output requests
  - The duration of some time interval
    - E.g., duration of these requests
  - The size of some parameter
    - Number of bytes transmitted or stored

- Derived metrics
  - E.g., rates / throughput
  - Needed for normalization

Primary performance metrics

- Execution time, response time
  - Time between start and completion of a program or event
  - Only consistent and reliable measure of performance
  - Wall-clock time vs. CPU time

- Throughput
  - Total amount of work done in a given time

- Performance = $\dfrac{1}{\text{Execution time}}$

- Basic principle: reproducibility

- Problem: execution time is slightly non-deterministic
  - Use mean or minimum of several runs

Alternative performance metrics

- Clock rate

- Instructions executed per second

- FLOPS
  - Floating-point operations per second

- Benchmarks
  - Standard test program(s)
  - Standardized methodology
  - E.g., SPEC, Linpack

- QUIPS / HINT [Gustafson and Snell, 95]
  - Quality improvements per second
  - Quality of solution instead of effort to reach it

"Math" operations?
HW operations?
HW instructions?
Single or double precision?

Peak performance

- Peak performance is the performance a computer is guaranteed not to exceed

Source: Hennessy, Patterson: Computer Architecture, 4th edition, Morgan Kaufmann

Performance tuning cycle

Instrumentation techniques

- Direct instrumentation
  - Measurement code is inserted at certain points in the program
    - Example: function entry/exit, dispatch or receipt of messages
  - Can be done manually or automatically
  - Advantage: captures all instrumented events
  - Disadvantage: overhead more difficult to control
- Sampling (statistical approach)
  - Based on the assumption that a subset of a population being examined is representative for the whole population
  - Measurement performed only in certain intervals - usually implemented with timer interrupt
  - Advantage: overhead can be easily controlled
  - Disadvantage: incomplete information, harder to access program state

Measurement

Typical performance data include
- Counts
- Durations

inclusive duration

exclusive duration

```
int foo()
{
  int a;

  a = a + 1;

  bar();

  a = a + 1;
}
```

- Communication cost
- Synchronization cost
- IO accesses
- System calls
- Hardware events

Critical issues

- Accuracy
  - Perturbation
    - Measurement alters program behavior
    - E.g., memory access pattern
  - Intrusion overhead
    - Measurement itself needs time and thus lowers performance
  - Accuracy of timers, counters
- Granularity
  - How many measurements
    - Pitfall: short but frequently executed functions
  - How much information / work during each measurement
- Tradeoff
  - Accuracy ⇔ expressiveness of data

Single-node performance

- Huge gap between CPU and memory speed

Source: Hennessy, Patterson: Computer Architecture, 4th edition, Morgan Kaufmann

- Internal operation of a microprocessor potentially complex
  - Pipelining
  - Out-of-order instruction issuing
  - Branch prediction
  - Non-blocking caches

Hardware counters

- Small set of registers that count events
- Events are signals related to the processor's internal function
- Original purpose: design verification and performance debugging for microprocessors
- Idea: use this information to analyze the performance behavior of an application as opposed to a CPU

Typical hardware counters

Cycle count	
Instruction count	All instructions
	Floating point
	Integer
	Load / store
Branches	Taken / not taken
	Mispredictions
Pipeline stalls due to	Memory subsystem
	Resource conflicts
Cache	I/D cache misses for different levels
	Invalidations
TLB	Misses
	Invalidations

Profiling

- Mapping of aggregated information
  - Time
  - Counts
    - Calls
    - Hardware counters
- Onto program and system entities
  - Functions, loops, call paths
  - Processes, threads

Call-path profiling

- Behavior of a function may depend on caller (i.e., parameters)
- Flat function profile often not sufficient
- How to determine call path at runtime?
  - Runtime stack walk
  - Maintain shadow stack
    - Requires tracking of function calls

```
main()
{
  A( );
  B( );
}


A( )      B( )
{         {
  X();      Y();
  Y();    }
}
```

Event tracing

- Typical events
  - Entering and leaving a function
  - Sending and receiving a message

Why tracing?

- High level of detail
- Allows in-depth post-mortem analysis of program behavior
  - Time-line visualization
  - Automatic pattern search
- Identification of wait states

Discovery of wait states

zoom in

Obstacle: trace size

- Problem: width and length of event trace

Tracing vs. profiling

- ## Advantages of tracing
  - Event traces preserve the temporal and spatial relationships among individual events
  - Allows reconstruction of dynamic behavior of application on any required abstraction level
  - Most general measurement technique
    - Profile data can be constructed from event traces

- ## Disadvantages
  - Traces can become very large
  - Writing events to a file at runtime can cause perturbation
  - Writing tracing software is complicated
    - Event buffering, clock synchronization, …

scalasca

- Scalable performance-analysis toolset for parallel codes
  - Focus on communication & synchronization
- Integrated performance analysis process
  - Performance overview on call-path level via call-path profiling
  - In-depth study of application behavior via event tracing
- Supported programming models
  - MPI-1, MPI-2 one-sided communication
  - OpenMP (basic features)
- Available for all major HPC platforms

Joint project of

The team

www.scalasca.org

Encyclopedia of Parallel Computing

Edited by **David Padua**

SPRINGER
REFERENCE

► The comprehensive source of information in the field

► Published as a fully searchable and hyperlinked eReference and in hardcover

Multi-page article on Scalasca

David Padua
Editor-in-Chief

VOLUME 1

Encyclopedia of
Parallel Computing

Springer

Installations and users

- Companies
  - Bull (France)
  - Dassault Aviation (France)
  - EDF (France)
  - Efield Solutions (Sweden)
  - GNS (Germany)
  - IBM (France, Germany)
  - INTES (Germany)
  - MAGMA (Germany)
  - RECOM (Germany)
  - SciLab (France)
  - Shell (Netherlands)
  - SiCortex (USA)
  - Sun Microsystems (USA, Singapore, India)
  - Qontix (UK)
- Research / supercomputing centers
  - Argonne National Laboratory (USA)
  - Barcelona Supercomputing Center (Spain)
  - Bulgarian Supercomputing Centre (Bulgaria)
  - CERFACS (France)
  - Centre Informatique National de l'Enseignement Supérieur (France)
  - Commissariat à l'énergie atomique (France)
  - Computation-based Science and Technology Research Center (Cyprus)
  - CASPUR (Italy)
  - CINECA (Italy)
  - Deutsches Klimarechenzentrum (Germany)
  - Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (Germany)
  - Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre (UK)
  - Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology (Switzerland)
  - Flanders ExaScience Lab (Belgium)
  - Forschungszentrum Jülich (Germany)
  - IT Center for Science (Finland)
  - High Performance Computing Center Stuttgart (Germany)
  - Irish Centre for High-End Computing (Ireland)
  - Institut du développement et des ressources en informatique scientifique (France)
  - Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (Germany)
  - Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (USA)
  - Leibniz-Rechenzentrum (Germany)
  - National Authority For Remote Sensing & Space Science (Egypt)
  - National Center for Atmospheric Research (USA)

- Research/supercomputing centers (cont.)
  - National Center for Supercomputing Applications (USA)
  - National Laboratory for High Performance Computing (Chile)
  - Norddeutscher Verbund zur Förderung des Hoch- und Höchstleistungsrechnens (Germany)
  - Oak Ridge National Laboratory (USA)
  - PDC Center for High Performance Computing (Sweden)
  - Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center (USA)
  - Potsdam-Institut für Klimafolgenforschung (Germany)
  - Rechenzentrum Garching (Germany)
  - SARA Computing and Networking Services (Netherlands)
  - Shanghai Supercomputer Center (China)
  - Swiss National Supercomputing Center (Switzerland)
  - Texas Advanced Computing Center (USA)
  - Texas A&M Supercomputing Facility (USA)
  - Très Grand Centre de calcul (France)
- Universities
  - École Centrale Paris (France)
  - École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)
  - Institut polytechnique de Grenoble (France)
  - King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (Saudi Arabia)
  - Lund University (Sweden)
  - Lomonosov Moscow State University (Russia)
  - Michigan State University (USA)
  - Norwegian University of Science & Technology (Norway)
  - Politechnico di Milano (Italy)
  - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (USA)
  - Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen (Germany)
  - Technische Universität Dresden (Germany)
  - Università degli Studi di Genova (Italy)
  - Universität Basel (Switzwerland)
  - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)
  - Université de Versailles St-Quentin-en-Yvelines (France)
  - University of Graz (Austria)
  - University of Oregon (USA)
  - University of Oslo (Norway)
  - University of Paderborn (Germany)
  - University of Tennessee (USA)
  - University of Tsukuba (Japan)
  - University of Warsaw (Poland)
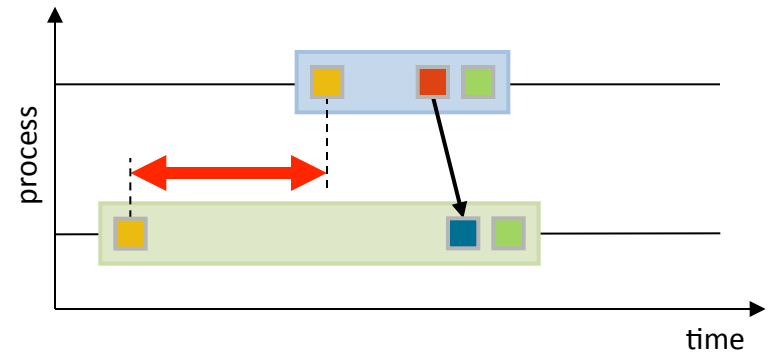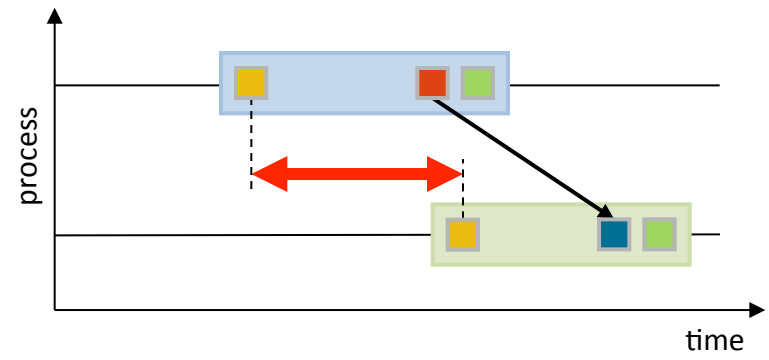- 9 defense-related computing centers

Wait-state analysis

- Classification
- Quantification
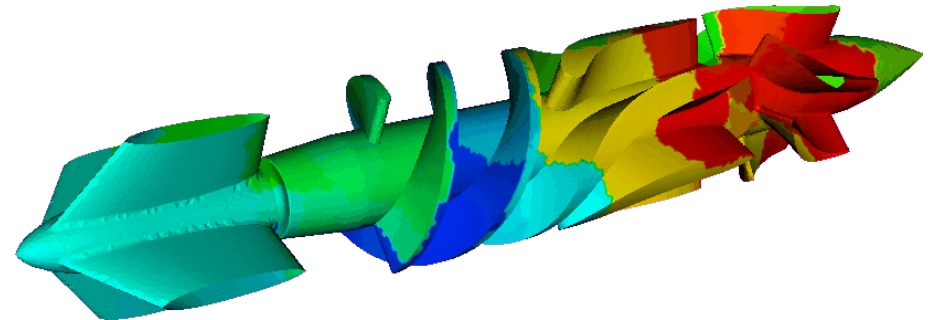

(a) Late Sender

(b) Late Sender / Wrong Order

(c) Late Receiver

XNS CFD simulation application

- Computational fluid dynamics code
  - Developed by Chair for Computational Analysis of Technical Systems, RWTH Aachen University
  - Finite-element method on unstructured 3D meshes
  - Parallel implementation based on message passing
  - >40,000 lines of Fortran & C
  - DeBakey blood pump test case
    - Scalability of original version limited <1024 CPUs

Partitioned finite-element mesh

Call-path profile: Computation

Execution time excl. MPI comm

Just 30% of simulation

Widely spread in code

Call-path profile: P2P messaging

Call-path profile: P2P sync. ops.

Point-to-point msgs w/o data

Masses of P2P sync. operations

Processes all equally responsible

Trace analysis: Late sender

XNS scalability remediation

- Review of original XNS
  - Computation is well balanced
  - Real communication is very imbalanced
  - Huge amounts of P2P synchronisations
    - Grow exponentially with number of processes
- Elimination of redundant messages
  - Relevant neighbor partitions known in advance from static mesh partitioning
  - Most transfers still required at small scale while connectivity is relatively dense
  - Growing benefits at larger scales (>512)

After removal of redundant messages

XNS wait-state analysis of tuned version

(tuned version, simulation time-step loop)

MAGMAfill by MAGMASOFT® GmbH

- Simulates mold-filling in casting processes

- Scalasca used
  - To identify communication bottleneck
  - To compare alternatives using performance algebra utility

- 23% overall runtime improvement

INDEED by GNS® mbh

- Finite-element code for the simulation of material-forming processes
  - Focus on creation of element-stiffness matrix
- Tool workflow
  - Scalasca identified serialization in critical section as bottleneck
  - In-depth analysis using Vampir
- Speedup of 30-40% after optimization

Scalability in terms of the number of cores

- Application study of ASCI Sweep3D benchmark
- Identified MPI waiting time correlating with computational imbalance
- Measurements & analyses demonstrated on
  - Jaguar with up to 192k cores
  - Jugene with up to 288k cores

Brian J.N. Wylie et al.: Large-scale performance analysis of Sweep3D with the Scalasca toolset. Parallel Processing Letters, 20(4):397-414, December 2010.
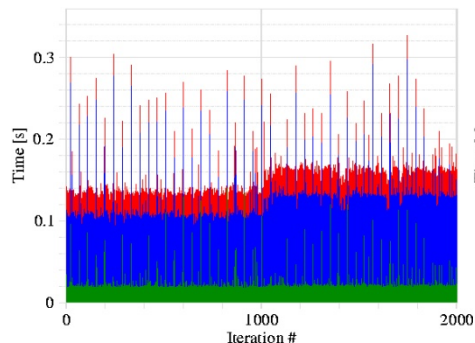

Jaguar, MK = 10 (default)

Computation

Performance dynamics

- Most simulation codes work iteratively
- Growing complexity of codes makes performance behavior more dynamic – even in the absence of failures
  - Periodic extra activities
  - Adaptation to changing state of computation
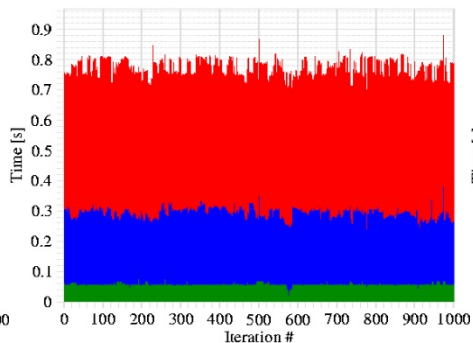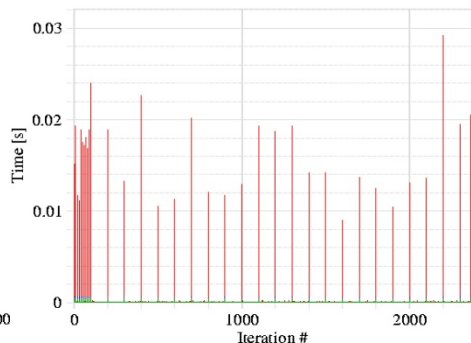- External influence (e.g., dynamic reconfiguration)
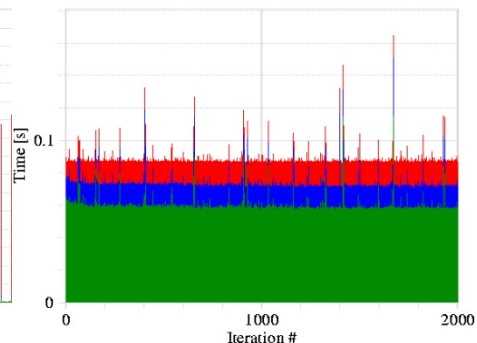

129.tera_tf

P2P communication in SPEC MPI 2007 suite

Scalasca's approach to performance dynamics

Overview
- Capture overview of performance dynamics via time-series profiling
  - Time and count-based metrics

Focus
- Identify pivotal iterations - if reproducible

In-depth analysis
- In-depth analysis of these iterations via tracing
  - Analysis of wait-state formation
  - Critical-path analysis
  - Tracing restricted to iterations of interest
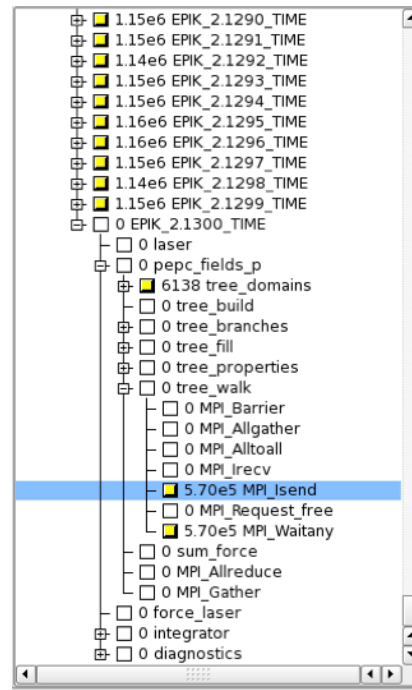
New

Time-series call-path profiling

- Instrumentation of the main loop to distinguish individual iterations
  - Complete call tree with multiple metrics recorded for each iteration
  - Challenge: storage requirements proportional to #iterations

```c
#include "epik_user.h"

void initialize() {}
void read_input() {}
void do_work() {}
void do_additional_work() {}
void finish_iteration() {}
void write_output() {}

int main() {
  int iter;
  PHASE_REGISTER(iter,"ITER");
  int t;
  initialize();
  read_input();
  for(t=0; t<5; t++) {
    PHASE_START(iter);
    do_work();
    do_additional_work();
    finish_iteration();
    PHASE_END(iter);
  }
  write_output();

  return 0;
}
```
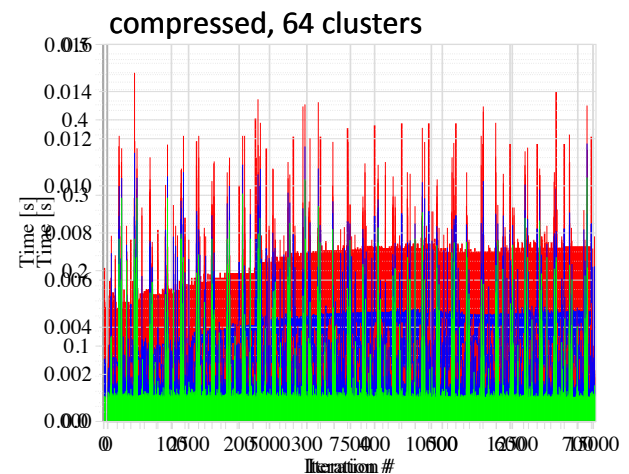

Call tree

Process topology

Online compression

- Exploits similarities between iterations
  - Summarizes similar iterations in a single iteration via clustering and structural comparisons
- On-line to save memory at run-time
- Process-local to
  - Avoid communication
  - Adjust to local temporal patterns
- The number of clusters never exceeds a predefined maximum
  - Merging of the two closest ones

Zoltán Szebenyi et al.: Space-Efficient Time-Series Call-Path Profiling of Parallel Applications. In Proc. of the SC09 Conference, Portland, Oregon, ACM, November 2009.

1437.d2eslif2 MPI P2P time, original

compressed, 64 clusters

Reconciling sampling and direct instrumentation
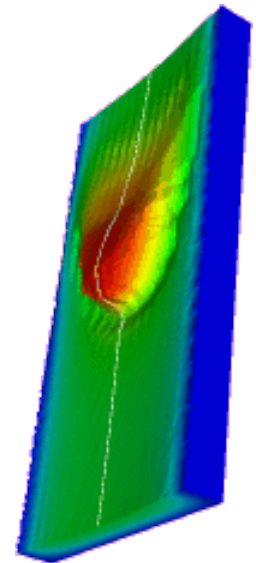
- Semantic compression needs direct instrumentation to capture communication metrics and to track the call path

- Direct instrumentation may result in excessive overhead

- New hybrid approach
  - Applies low-overhead sampling to user code
  - Intercepts MPI calls via direct instrumentation
  - Relies on efficient stack unwinding
  - Integrates measurements in statistically sound manner
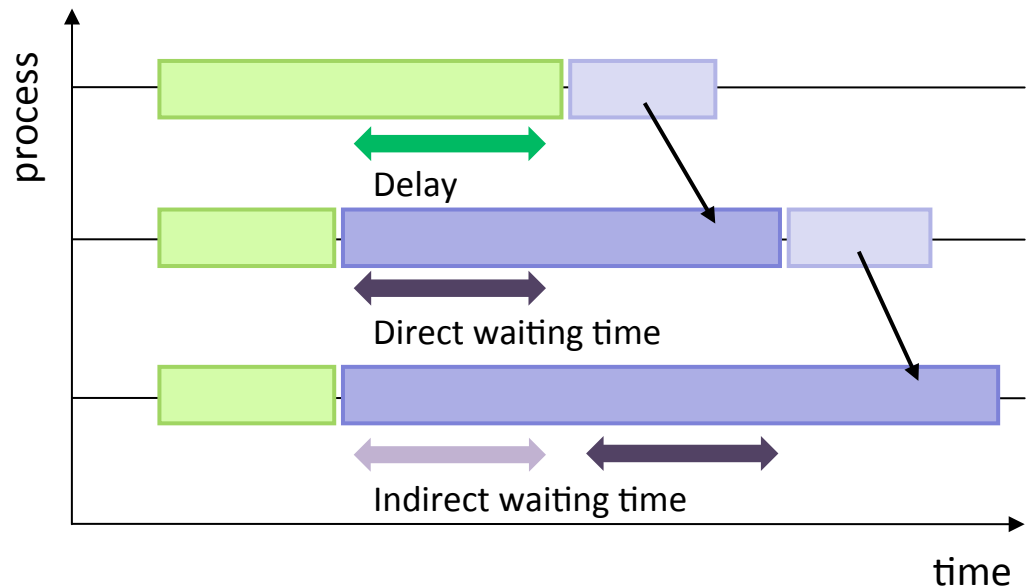
DROPS
IGPM & SC, RWTH

Joint work with **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory**

Zoltan Szebenyi et al.: Reconciling sampling and direct instrumentation for unintrusive call-path profiling of MPI programs. In Proc. of IPDPS, Anchorage, AK, USA. IEEE Computer Society, May 2011.

Delay analysis

- Classification of waiting times into
  - Direct vs. indirect
  - Propagating vs. terminal
- Attributes costs of wait states to delay intervals
  - Scalable through parallel forward and backward replay of traces

David Böhme et al.: Identifying the root causes of wait states in large-scale parallel applications. In Proc. of ICPP, San Diego, CA, IEEE Computer Society, September 2010. **Best Paper Award**
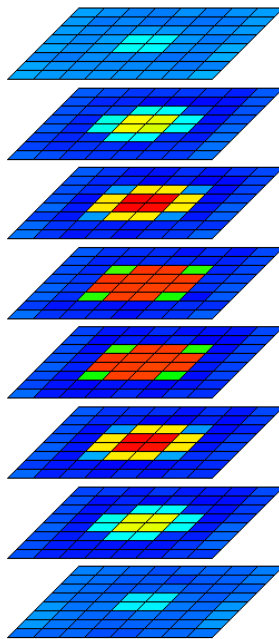
Zeus-MP/2

- Performance solving 3-D magnetohydrodynamic blast wave problem on 512 processes
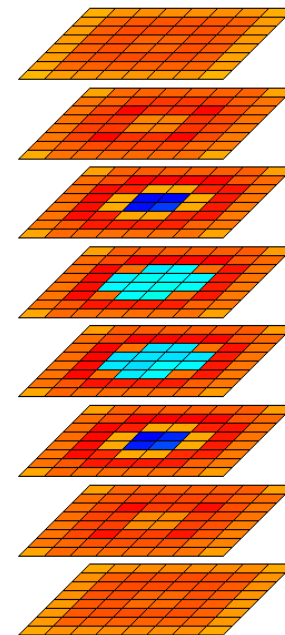

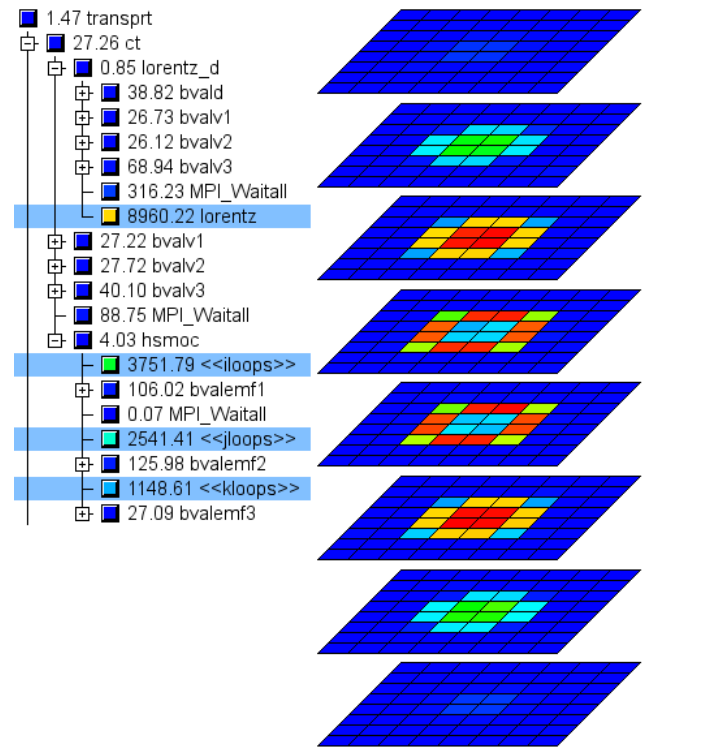197.3 s

151.6 s

Computation

47.1 s

0.62 s

Late-sender wait states

Zeus-MP/2 delay analysis

- Subroutine "lorentz" has highest delay costs
- Delay originates from border of central region
- Cost distribution:
  - 15.9 % short-term
  - 84.1 % long-term


```
 1.47 transprt
 27.26 ct
    0.85 lorentz_d
       38.82 bvald
       26.73 bvalv1
       26.12 bvalv2
       68.94 bvalv3
       316.23 MPI_Waitall
       8960.22 lorentz
    27.22 bvalv1
    27.72 bvalv2
    40.10 bvalv3
    88.75 MPI_Waitall
    4.03 hsmoc
       3751.79 <<iloops>>
       106.02 bvalemf1
       0.07 MPI_Waitall
       2541.41 <<jloops>>
       125.98 bvalemf2
       1148.61 <<kloops>>
       27.09 bvalemf3
```

Delay cost distribution across process topology

Score-P measurement system

Vampir	Scalasca	TAU	Periscope
Interactive trace exploration	Performance dynamics & wait states	Performance data base & data mining	Automatic online classification

Tracing	Profiling	Online interface

Score-P measurement infrastructure

Application (MPI, OpenMP, accelerator, PGAS, hybrid)

Future work

- Integrate into production version
  - Time-series compression
  - Hybrid measurement technique
  - Delay & critical-path analysis
- Further scalability improvements
- Emerging architectures and programming models
  - Accelerators
- Interoperability with 3rd-party tools
  - Common measurement library for several performance tools
- Support for performance modeling
  - Performance extrapolation
  - Multi-experiment analysis

The virtual institute in a…

- Partnership to develop advanced programming tools for complex simulation codes
- Goals
  - Improve code quality
  - Speed up development
- Activities
  - Tool development and integration
  - **Training**
  - Support
  - Academic workshops
- www.vi-hps.org

Thank you!