

# Design and Analysis of Parallel Programs

TDDE35 Lecture 3-4

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**Background reading:** C. Kessler, “*Design and Analysis of Parallel Algorithms – An Introduction*”, Compendium TDDC78/TDDD56 Chapter 2. (c) 2019, 2020  
<https://www.ida.liu.se/~TDDC78/handouts.shtml> login: parallel

# Outline

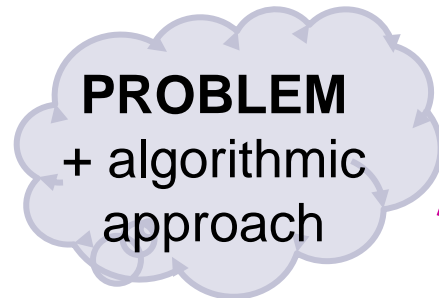
## Design and analysis of parallel algorithms

- Foster's PCAM method for the design of parallel programs
- Parallel cost models
- Parallel work, time, cost
- Parallel speed-up; speed-up anomalies
- Amdahl's Law
- Fundamental parallel algorithms: Parallel prefix, List ranking

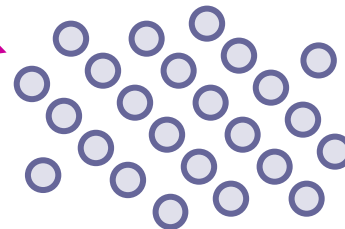
+ TDDD56: Parallel Sorting Algorithms

+ TDDC78: Parallel Linear Algebra and Linear System Solving

# Foster's Method for Design of Parallel Programs ("PCAM")

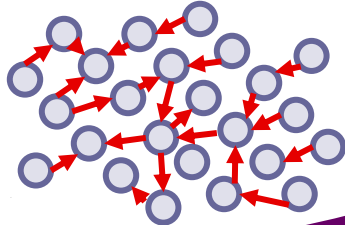


**PARTITIONING**

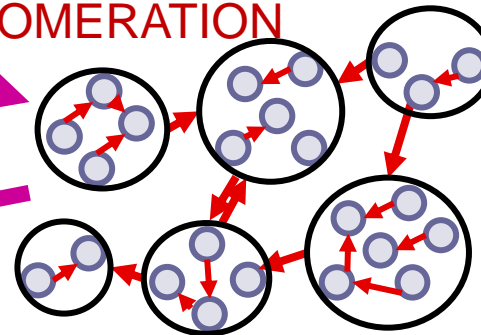


**PARALLEL  
ALGORITHM  
DESIGN**

**COMMUNICATION  
+ SYNCHRONIZATION**

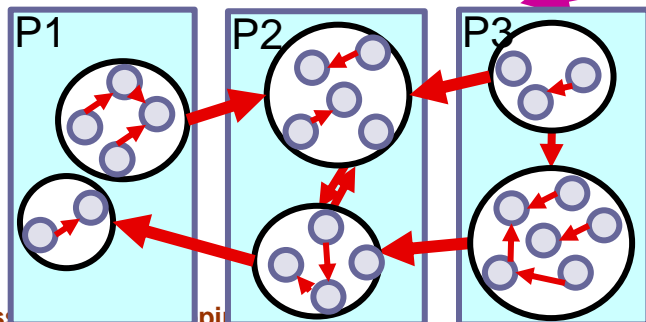


**AGGLOMERATION**



**PARALLEL  
ALGORITHM  
ENGINEERING**

**MAPPING  
+ SCHEDULING**



(Implementation and  
adaptation for a specific  
(type of) parallel  
computer)

# **Parallel Cost Models**

## **A Quantitative Basis for the Design of Parallel Algorithms**

# Parallel Computation Model

## = Programming Model + Cost Model

- + abstract from hardware and technology
- + specify basic operations, when applicable
- + specify how data can be stored

→ analyze algorithms **before** implementation  
independent of a particular parallel computer

$$\rightarrow T = f(n, p, \dots)$$

→ focus on **most characteristic** (w.r.t. influence on exec. time)  
features of a broader class of parallel machines

### Programming model

- shared memory / message passing,
- degree of synchronous execution

### Cost model

- key parameters
- cost functions for basic operations
- constraints

# Parallel Computation Models

## Shared-Memory Models

- PRAM (Parallel Random Access Machine) [Fortune, Wyllie '78]  
including variants such as Asynchronous PRAM, QRQW PRAM
- Data-parallel computing
- Task Graphs (Circuit model; Delay model)
- Functional parallel programming
- ...

## Message-Passing Models

- BSP (Bulk-Synchronous Parallel) Computing [Valiant'90]  
including variants such as Multi-BSP [Valiant'08]
- MPI (programming model)  
+ Delay-model or LogP-model (cost model)
- Synchronous reactive (event-based) programming e.g. Erlang
- Dataflow programming

# Cost Model

Cost model: should

- + explain available observations
- + predict future behaviour
- + abstract from unimportant details → generalization

Simplifications to reduce model complexity:

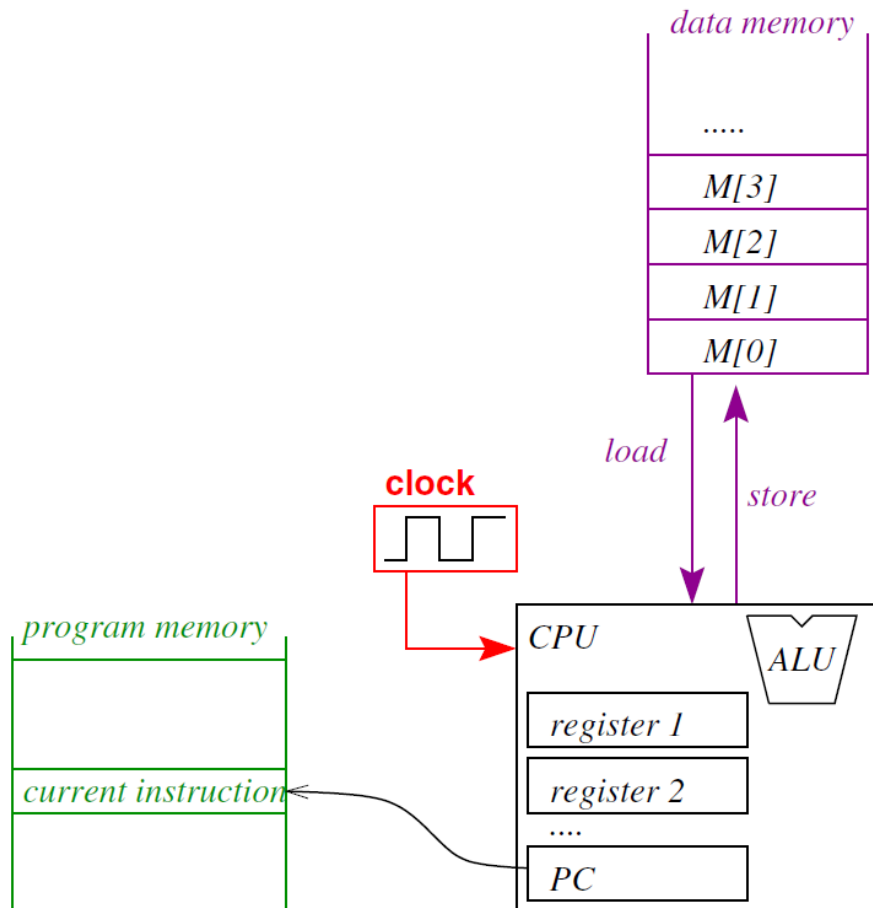
- use idealized multicomputer model
  - ignore hardware details: memory hierarchies, network topology, ...
- use scale analysis
  - drop insignificant effects
- use empirical studies
  - calibrate simple models with empirical data
  - rather than developing more complex models

# Flashback to DALG, Lecture 1:

## The RAM (von Neumann) model for sequential computing

### RAM (Random Access Machine)

programming and cost model for the analysis of sequential algorithms



### Basic operations (instructions):

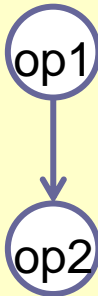
- Arithmetic (add, mul, ...) on registers
- Load
- Store
- Branch



### Simplifying assumptions

for time analysis:

- All of these take 1 time unit
  - Serial composition adds time costs
- $$T(\text{op1}; \text{op2}) = T(\text{op1}) + T(\text{op2})$$





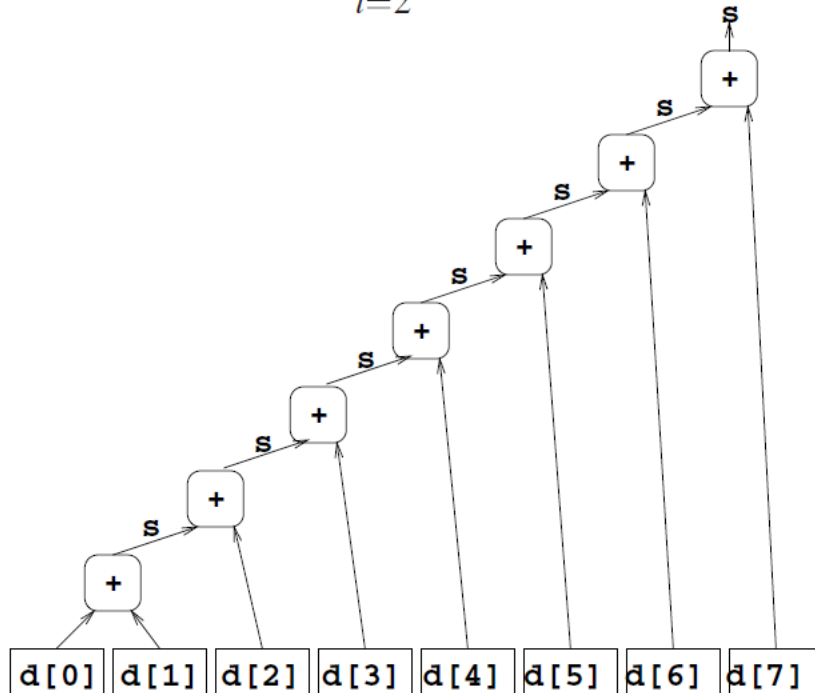
# Analysis of sequential algorithms: RAM model (Random Access Machine)

Algorithm analysis: Counting instructions

**Example:** Computing the global sum of  $N$  elements

```
s = d[0];
for (i=1; i<N; i++)
    s = s + d[i];
```

$$t = t_{load} + t_{store} + \sum_{i=2}^N (2t_{load} + t_{add} + t_{store} + t_{branch}) = 5N - 3 \in \Theta(N)$$



← *Data flow graph,*  
showing dependences  
(precedence constraints)  
between operations

c. → arithmetic circuit model, directed acyclic graph (DAG) model

# The PRAM Model – a Parallel RAM

Parallel Random Access Machine

[Fortune/Wyllie'78]

$p$  processors

MIMD

common clock signal

arithm./jump: 1 clock cycle

shared memory

uniform memory access time

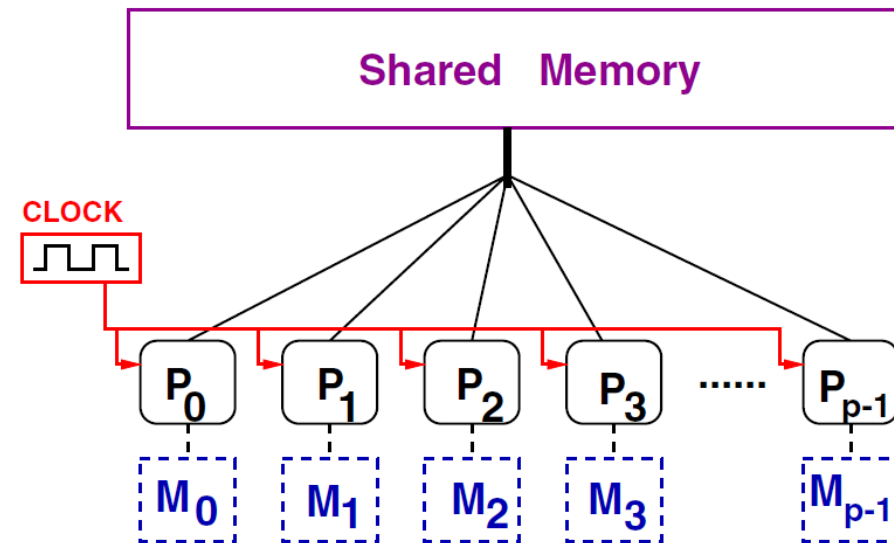
latency: 1 clock cycle (!)

concurrent memory accesses

sequential consistency

private memory (optional)

c. processor-local access only



# Remark

PRAM model is very idealized,  
extremely simplifying / abstracting from real parallel architectures:

unbounded number of processors:

abstracts from scheduling overhead

local operations cost 1 unit of time

every processor has unit time memory access

to any shared memory location:

abstracts from communication time, bandwidth limitation,  
memory latency, memory hierarchy, and locality

→ focus on pure, fine-grained parallelism

→ Good for rapid prototyping of parallel algorithm designs:

A parallel algorithm that does not scale under the PRAM model  
does not scale well anywhere else!

The PRAM cost model  
has only 1 machine-specific  
parameter:  
the number of processors

# PRAM Variants

## Exclusive Read, Exclusive Write (EREW) PRAM

concurrent access only to different locations in the same cycle

## Concurrent Read, Exclusive Write (CREW) PRAM

simultaneous reading from *or* writing to same location is possible:

## Concurrent Read, Concurrent Write (CRCW) PRAM

simultaneous reading from *or* writing to same location is possible:

Weak CRCW

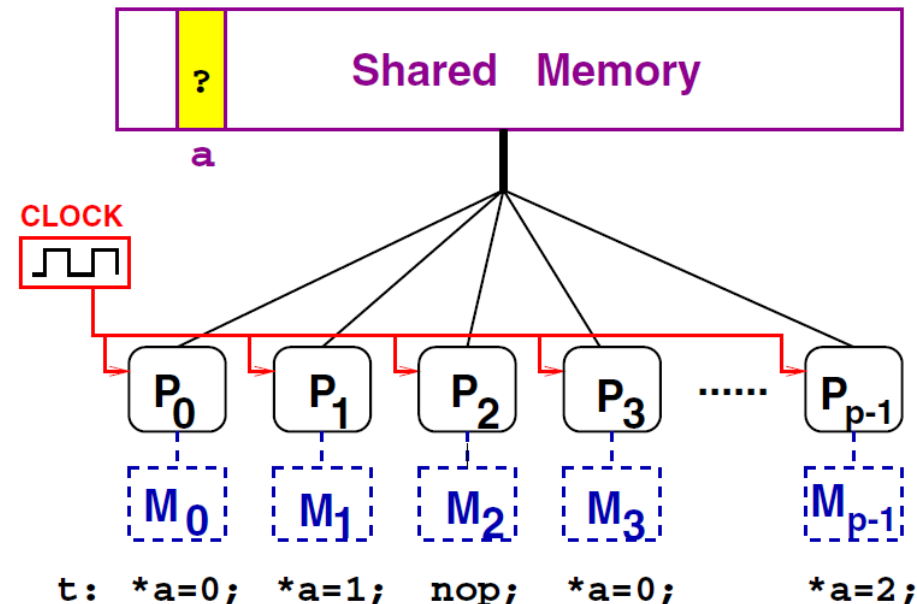
Common CRCW

Arbitrary CRCW

Priority CRCW

Combining CRCW

(global sum, max, etc.)

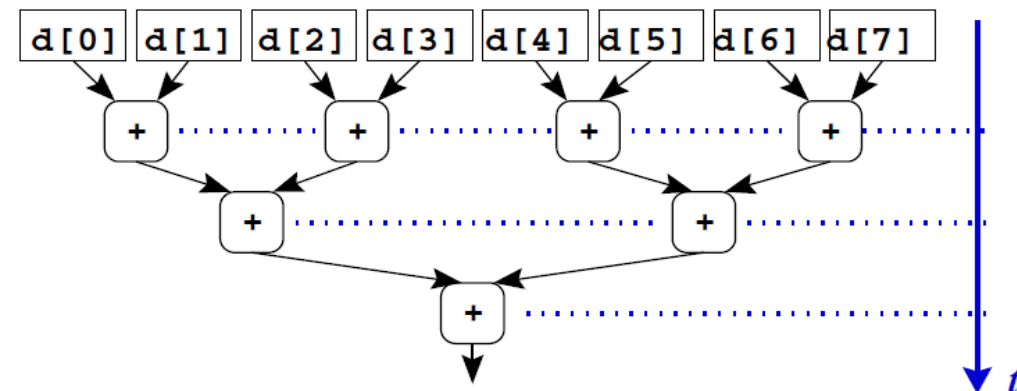
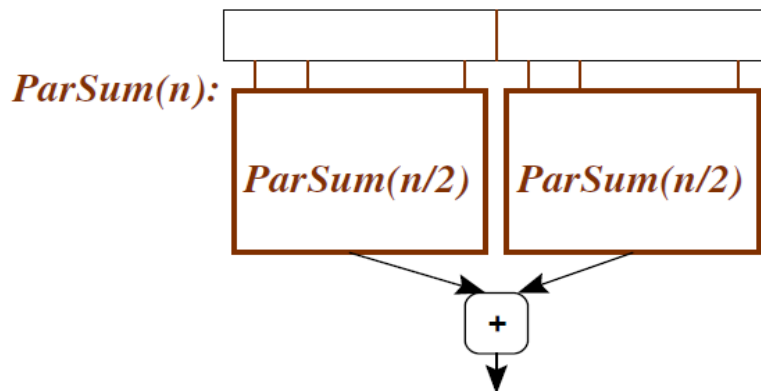


# Divide&Conquer Parallel Sum Algorithm in the PRAM / Circuit (DAG) cost model

Given  $n$  numbers  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}$  stored in an array.

The global sum  $\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x_i$  can be computed in  $\lceil \log_2 n \rceil$  time steps  
on an EREW PRAM with  $n$  processors.

Parallel algorithmic paradigm used: **Parallel Divide-and-Conquer**



Divide phase: trivial, time  $O(1)$

Recursive calls: parallel time  $T(n/2)$

with base case: load operation, time  $O(1)$

Combine phase: addition, time  $O(1)$

Recurrence equation for  
parallel execution time:

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} T(n) = T(n/2) + O(1) \\ T(1) = O(1) \end{cases}$$

Use induction or the master theorem [Cormen+'90 Ch.4]  $\rightarrow T(n) \in O(\log n)$

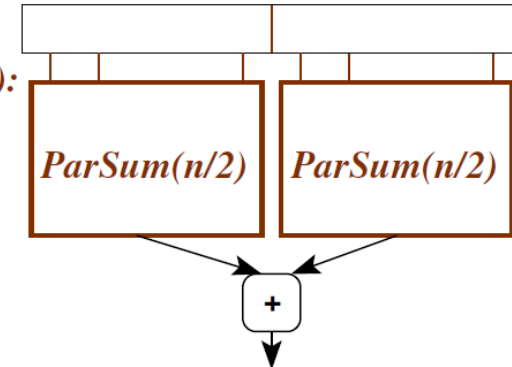
# Recursive formulation of DC parallel sum algorithm in some programming model

Implementation e.g. in **Cilk**: (shared memory)

```
cilk int parsum ( int *d, int from, int to )
{
    int mid, sumleft, sumright;
    if (from == to) return d[from]; // base case
    else {
        mid = (from + to) / 2;
        sumleft = spawn parsum ( d, from, mid );
        sumright = parsum( d, mid+1, to );
        sync;
        return sumleft + sumright;
    }
}
```

**Fork-Join execution style:**  
single task starts,  
tasks spawn child tasks for  
independent subtasks, and  
synchronize with them

*ParSum(n):*



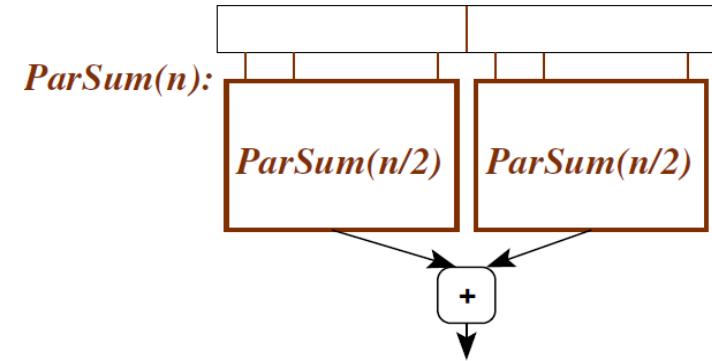
// The main program:

```
main()
{
    ...
    parsum ( data, 0, n-1 );
    ...
}
```

# Recursive formulation of DC parallel sum algorithm in EREW-PRAM model

**SPMD** (single-program-multiple-data) execution style:  
code executed by all threads (PRAM procs) in parallel,  
threads distinguished by thread ID \$

in the PRAM programming language Fork  
[Keller, K., Träff'01]

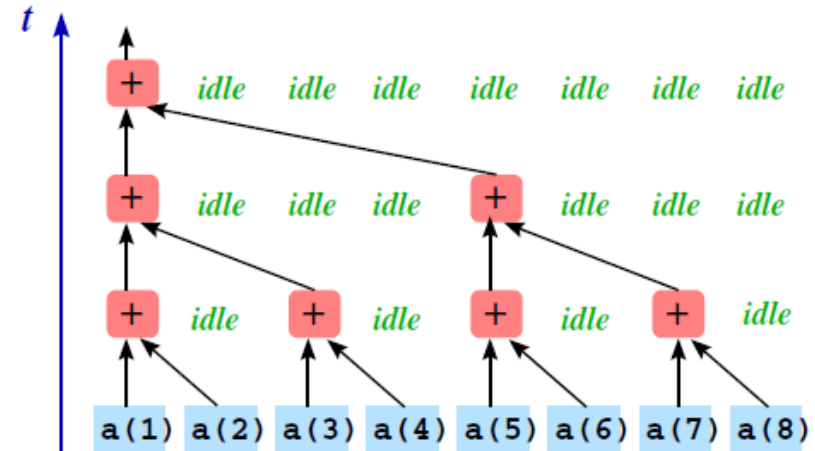


```

sync int parsum( sh int *d, sh int n)
{
    // calling group's processor ranks $ in [0...#-1]
    sh int s1, s2;
    sh int nd2 = n / 2;
    if (n==1) return d[0]; // base case
    if ($<nd2)           // split processor group:
        s1 = parsum( d, nd2 );
    else                  s2 = parsum( &(amp;d[nd2]), n-nd2 );
    // subgroups merge here, barrier synchronization
    return s1 + s2;
}
  
```

# Iterative formulation of DC parallel sum in EREW-PRAM model

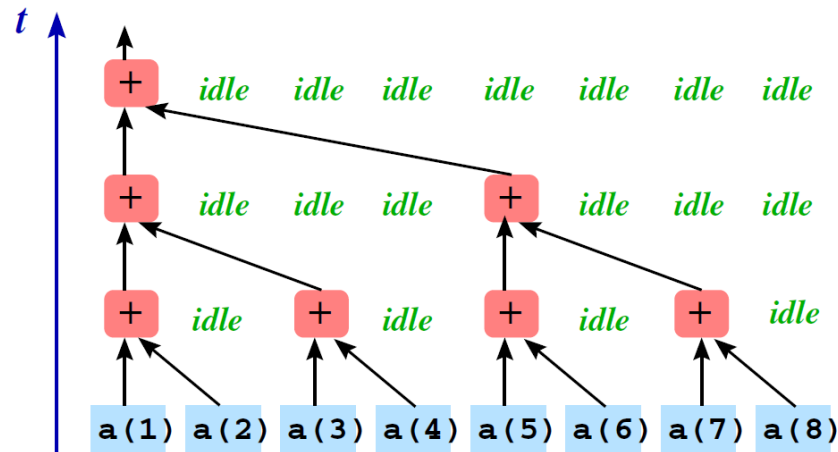
```
int sum(sh int a[], sh int n)
{
    int d, dd;
    int ID = rerank();
    d = 1;
    while (d < n) {
        dd = d; d = d*2;
        if (ID % d == 0) a[ID] = a[ID] + a[ID+dd];
    }
}
```





# Circuit / DAG model

- Independent of how the parallel computation is expressed, the resulting (unfolded) task graph looks the same.



- Task graph** is a directed acyclic graph (DAG)  $G=(V,E)$ 
  - Set  $V$  of vertices: elementary tasks (taking time 1 resp.  $O(1)$  each)
  - Set  $E$  of directed edges: dependences (partial order on tasks)  
 $(v_1, v_2)$  in  $E \rightarrow v_1$  must be finished before  $v_2$  can start
- Critical path** = longest path from an entry to an exit node
  - Length of critical path is a lower bound for parallel time complexity
- Parallel time** can be longer if number of processors is limited
  - *schedule tasks* to processors such that dependences are preserved -  
 by programmer (SPMD execution) or run-time system (fork-join execution)

# For a fixed number of processors ... ?

- Usually,  $p \ll n$
- Requires scheduling the work to  $p$  processors

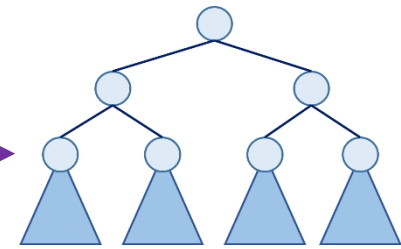
**(A)** manually, at algorithm design time:

- Requires **algorithm engineering**
- E.g. for parallel sum:

stop the parallel divide-and-conquer

e.g. at subproblem size  $n/p$

and switch there to sequential divide-and-conquer  
(= task agglomeration)



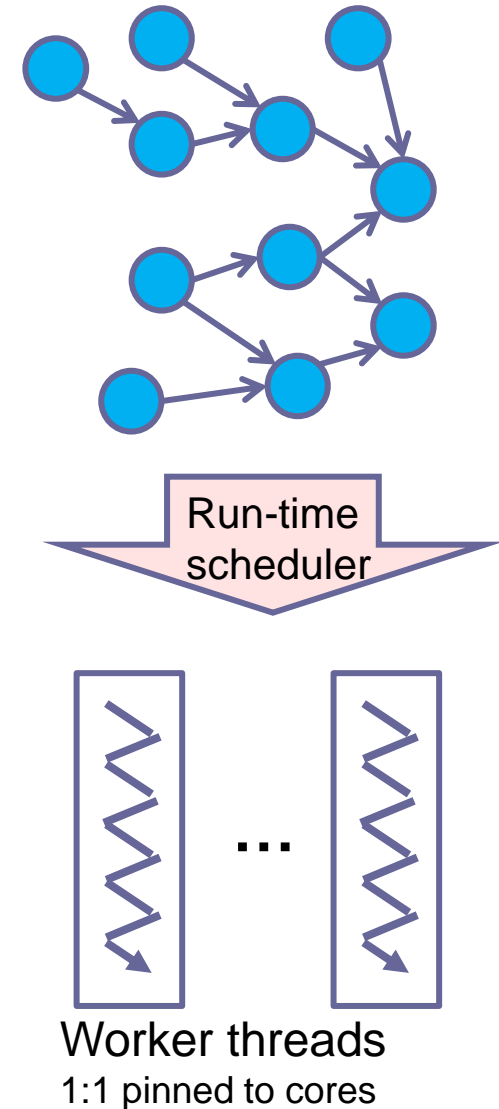
- Step 0. Partition the array of  $n$  elements in  $p$  slices of  $n/p$  elements each (= domain decomposition)
- Step 1. Each processor calculates a local sum for one slice, using the sequential sum algorithm, resulting in  $p$  partial sums (intermediate values)
- Step 2. The  $p$  processors run the parallel algorithm to sum up the intermediate values to the global sum.

# For a fixed number of processors ... ?

- Usually,  $p \ll n$
- Requires scheduling the work to  $p$  processors

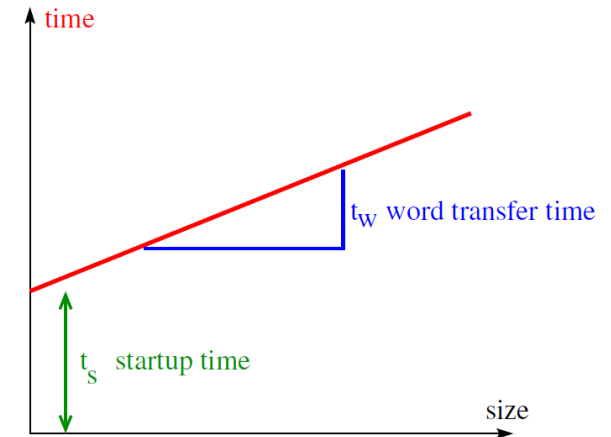
**(B)** automatically, at run time:

- Requires a **task-based runtime system** with dynamic scheduler
  - Each newly created task is dispatched at runtime to an available worker processor
    - ▶ run-time overhead ☹️
  - Dynamic load balancing 😊
    - ▶ Central task queue where idle workers fetch next task to execute
    - ▶ Local task queues + Work stealing – idle workers steal a task from some other processor



# Delay Model

Idealized multicomputer: point-to-point communication costs overhead  $t_{msg}$ .



Cost of communicating a larger block of  $n$  bytes:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{time } t_{msg}(n) &= \text{sender overhead} + \text{latency} + \text{receiver overhead} + n/\text{bandwidth} \\ &=: t_{startup} + n \cdot t_{transfer} \end{aligned}$$

LINEAR

**Assumption:** network not overloaded; no conflicts occur at routing

$t_{startup}$  = startup time (time to send a 0-byte message)  
accounts for hardware and software overhead.

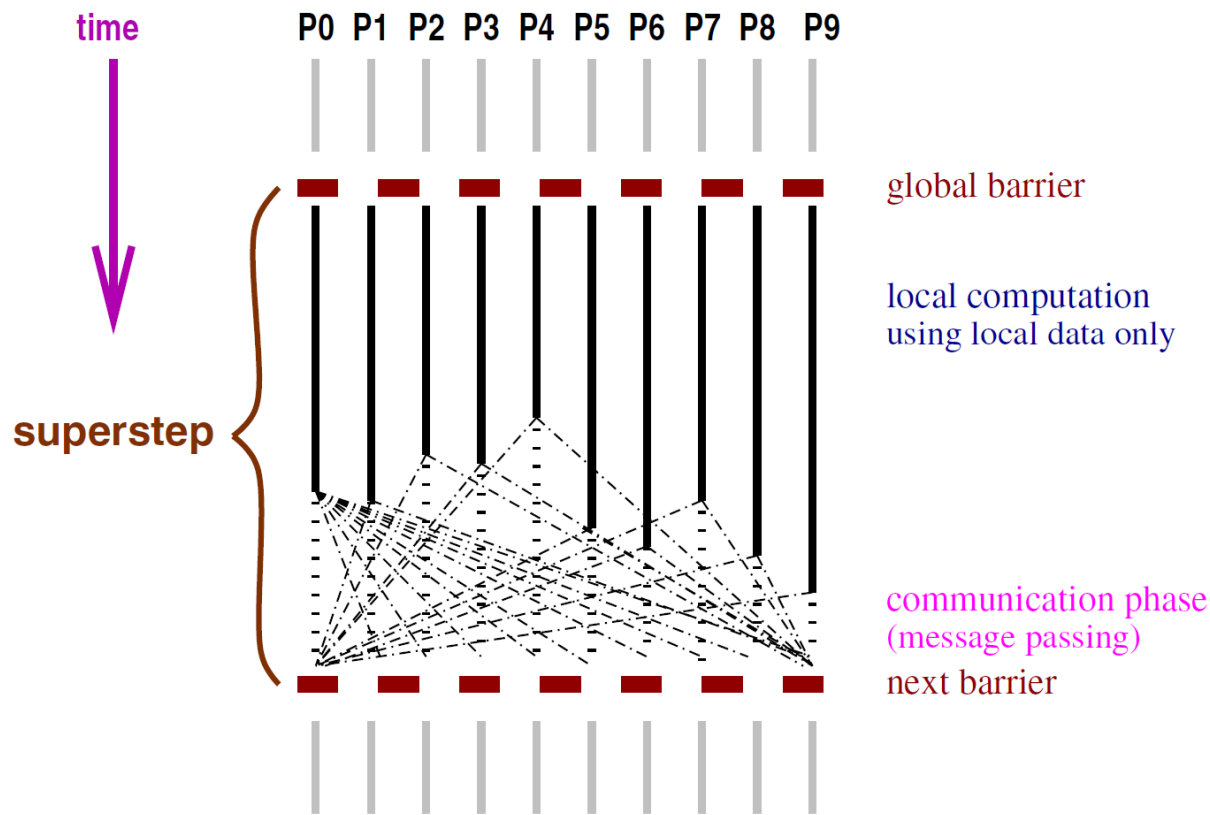
$t_{transfer}$  = transfer rate, send time per word sent.  
depends on the network bandwidth.

# BSP-Model

Bulk-synchronous parallel programming

[Valiant'90] [McColl'93]

BSP computer = abstract message passing architecture  $(p, L, g, s)$



MIMD

SPMD

$h$ -relation models  
communication  
pattern / volume

$h_i$  [words] = comm.  
fan-in, fan-out of  $P_i$

$$h = \max_{1 \leq i \leq p} h_i$$

$$t_{step} = w + hg + L$$

BSP program = sequence of supersteps, separated by (logical) barriers

# BSP Example:

## Global Maximum (NB: non-optimal algorithm)

Compute maximum of  $n$  numbers  $A[0, \dots, n-1]$  on BSP( $p, L, g, s$ ):

//  $A[0..n-1]$  distributed block-wise across  $p$  processors

step

// local computation phase:

$m \leftarrow -\infty$ ;

for all  $A[i]$  in my local partition of  $A$  {

$m \leftarrow \max(m, A[i]);$

// communication phase:

if myPID  $\neq 0$

send ( $m, 0$ );

else // on  $P_0$ :

for each  $i \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$

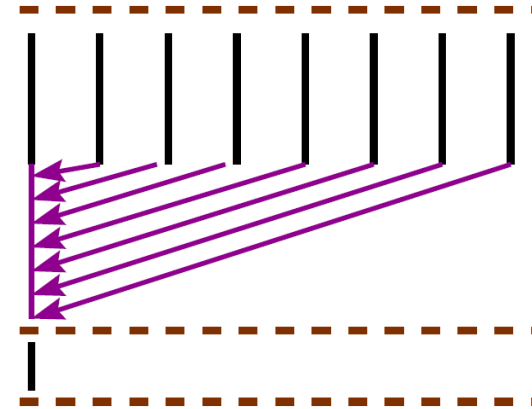
recv ( $m_i, i$ );

step

if myPID = 0

for each  $i \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$

$m \leftarrow \max(m, m_i);$



Local work:

$$\Theta(n/p)$$

Communication:

$$h = p - 1$$

( $P_0$  is bottleneck)

$$t_{step} = w + hg + L$$

$$= \Theta\left(\frac{n}{p} + pg + L\right)$$

# LogP Model → TDDC78

## LogP model

[Culler et al. 1993]

for the cost of communicating small messages (a few bytes)

4 parameters:

latency  $L$

overhead  $o$

gap  $g$  (models bandwidth)

processor number  $P$

abstracts from network topology

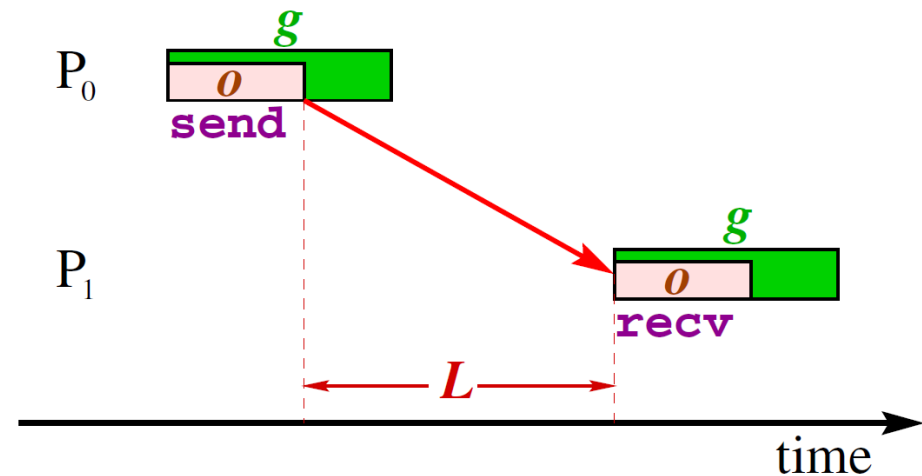
gap  $g$  = inverse network bandwidth per processor:

Network capacity is  $L/g$  messages to or from each processor.

$L$ ,  $o$ ,  $g$  typically measured as multiples of the CPU cycle time.

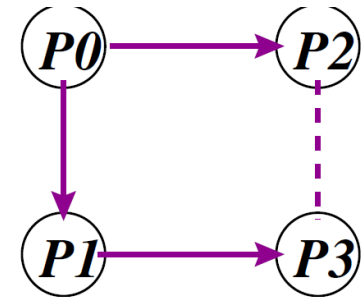
transmission time for a small message:

$2 \cdot o + L$  if the network capacity is not exceeded

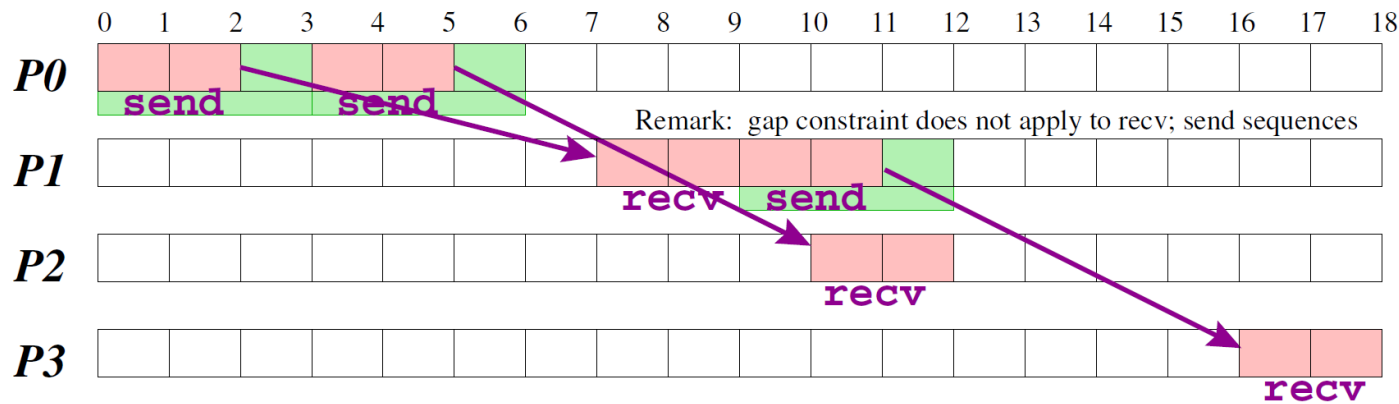


# LogP Model: Example → TDDC78

Example: Broadcast on a 2-dimensional hypercube



With example parameters  $P = 4$ ,  $o = 2\mu s$ ,  $g = 3\mu s$ ,  $L = 5\mu s$



it takes at least  $18\mu s$  to broadcast 1 byte from  $P0$  to  $P1, P2, P3$

**Remark:** for determining time-optimal broadcast trees in LogP, see

[Papadimitriou/Yannakakis'89], [Karp et al.'93]

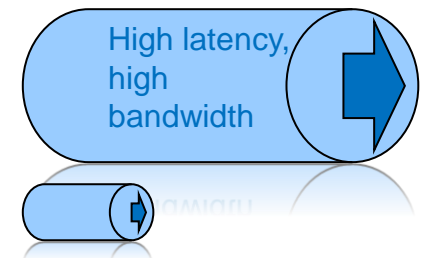


# **Analysis of Parallel Algorithms**

# Analysis of Parallel Algorithms

## Performance metrics of parallel programs

- **Parallel execution time**
  - Counted from the start time of the earliest task to the finishing time of the latest task
- **Work** – the total number of performed elementary operations
- **Cost** – the product of parallel execution time and #processors
- **Speed-up**
  - the factor by how much faster we can solve a problem with  $p$  processors than with 1 processor, usually in range  $(0 \dots p)$
- **Parallel efficiency** = Speed-up / #processors, usually in  $(0 \dots 1)$
- **Throughput** = #operations finished per second
- **Scalability**
  - does speedup keep growing well also when #processors grows large?



# Analysis of Parallel Algorithms

## Asymptotic Analysis

- Estimation based on a cost model and algorithm idea (pseudocode operations)
- Discuss behavior for large problem sizes, large #processors

## Empirical Analysis

- Implement in a concrete parallel programming language
- Measure time on a concrete parallel computer
  - Vary number of processors used, as far as possible
- More precise
- More work, and fixing bad designs at this stage is expensive

# Parallel Time, Work, Cost

problem size  $n$

# processors  $p$

time  $t(p, n)$

work  $w(p, n)$

cost  $c(p, n) = t \cdot p$

Example:

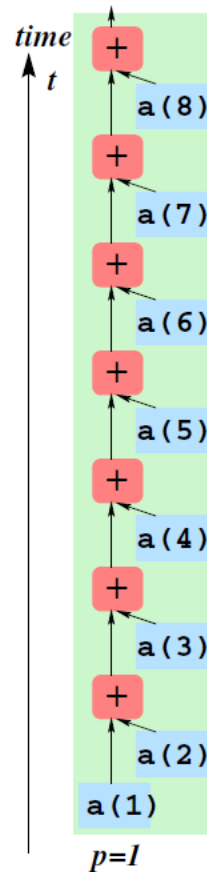
seq. sum algorithm

```
s = a(1)
do i = 2, n
  s = s + a(i)
end do
```

$n - 1$  additions

$n$  loads

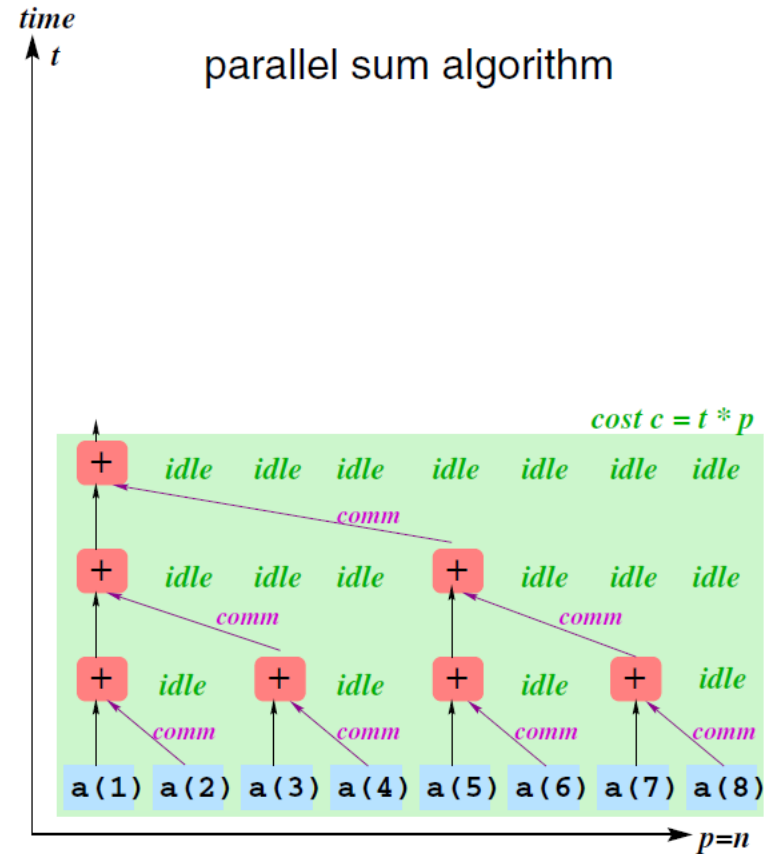
$O(n)$  other



$$t(1, n) = t_{seq}(n) = O(n)$$

$$w(1, n) = O(n)$$

$$c(1, n) = t(1, n) \cdot 1 = O(n)$$



$$t(n, n) = O(\log n)$$

$$w(n, n) = O(n)$$

$$c(n, n) = O(n \log n)$$

par. sum alg. *not* cost-effective!

# Parallel work, time, cost

**parallel work**  $w_A(n)$  of algorithm  $A$  on an input of size  $n$

= max. number of instructions performed by all procs during execution of  $A$ ,  
where in each (parallel) time step as many processors are available  
as needed to execute the step in constant time.

**parallel time**  $t_A(n)$  of algorithm  $A$  on input of size  $n$

= max. number of parallel time steps required under the same circumstances

**parallel cost**  $c_A(n) = t_A(n) * p_A(n) \rightarrow c_A(n) \geq w_A(n)$

where  $p_A(n) = \max_i p_i(n) = \max.$  number of processors used in a step of  $A$

Work, time, cost are thus *worst-case* measures.

$t_A(n)$  is sometimes called the **depth** of  $A$

(cf. **circuit model** of (parallel) computation)

$p_i(n)$  = number of processors needed in time step  $i$ ,  $0 \leq i < t_A(n)$ ,

to execute the step in constant time. Then,  $w_A(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{t_A(n)} p_i(n)$

# Work-optimal and cost-optimal

A parallel algorithm  $A$  is asymptotically **work-optimal** iff  $w_A(p, n) = O(t_{seq}(n))$

A parallel algorithm  $A$  is asymptotically **cost-optimal** iff  $c_A(p, n) = O(t_{seq}(n))$

## Making the parallel sum algorithm cost-optimal:

Instead of  $n$  processors, use only  $n / \log_2 n$  processors.

First, each processor computes sequentially the global sum of “its”  $\log n$  local elements. This takes time  $O(\log n)$ .

Then, they compute the global sum of  $n / \log n$  partial sums using the previous parallel sum algorithm.

Time:  $O(\log n)$  for local summation,  $O(\log n)$  for global summation

Cost:  $n / \log n \cdot O(\log n) = O(n)$  **linear!**

→ TDDD56

c. This is an example of a more general technique based on **Brent's theorem**.

# Speedup

Consider problem  $\mathcal{P}$ , parallel algorithm  $A$  for  $\mathcal{P}$

$T_s$  = time to execute the best serial algorithm for  $\mathcal{P}$   
on one processor of the parallel machine

$T(1)$  = time to execute parallel algorithm  $A$  on 1 processor

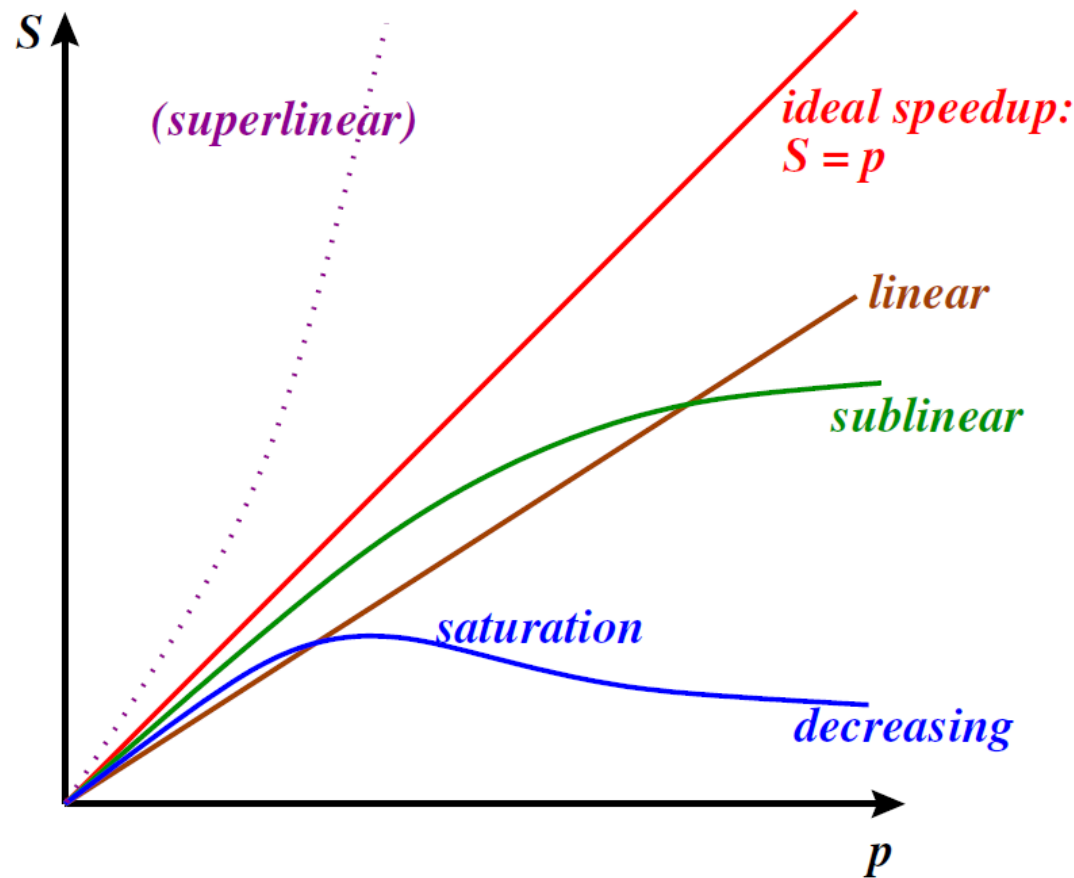
$T(p)$  = time to execute parallel algorithm  $A$  on  $p$  processors

Absolute speedup  $S_{abs} = \frac{T_s}{T(p)}$

Relative speedup  $S_{rel} = \frac{T(1)}{T(p)}$

$$S_{abs} \leq S_{rel}$$

# Speedup



trivially parallel

(e.g., matrix product, LU decomposition, ray tracing)  
→ close to ideal  $S = p$

work-bound algorithms

→ linear  $S \in \Theta(p)$ , work-optimal

tree-like task graphs

(e.g., global sum / max)  
→ sublinear  $S \in \Theta(p/\log p)$

communication-bound

→ sublinear  $S = 1/fn(p)$

Most papers on parallelization show only relative speedup

(as  $S_{abs} \leq S_{rel}$ , and best seq. algorithm needed for  $S_{abs}$ )



# Amdahl's Law: Upper bound on Speedup

Consider execution (trace) of parallel algorithm  $A$ :

sequential part  $A^s$  where only 1 processor is active

parallel part  $A^p$  that can be sped up perfectly by  $p$  processors

→ total work  $w_A(n) = w_{A^s}(n) + w_{A^p}(n)$ , time  $T = T_{A^s} + \frac{T_{A^p}}{p}$ ,

## Amdahl's Law

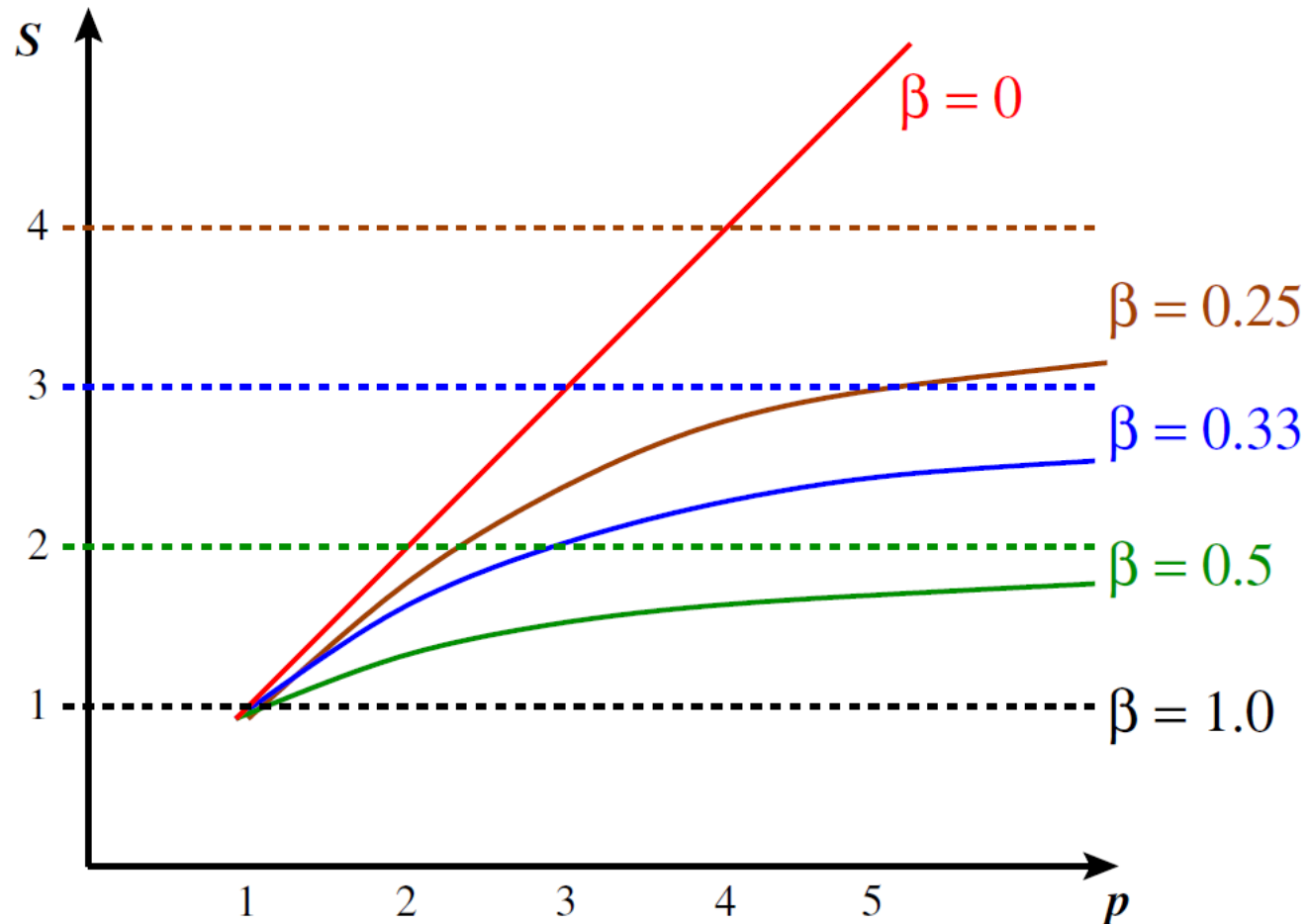
If the sequential part of  $A$  is a *fixed* fraction of the total work irrespective of the problem size  $n$ , that is, if there is a constant  $\beta$  with

$$\beta = \frac{w_{A^s}(n)}{w_A(n)} \leq 1$$

the relative speedup of  $A$  with  $p$  processors is limited by

$$\frac{p}{\beta p + (1 - \beta)} < 1/\beta$$

# Amdahl's Law



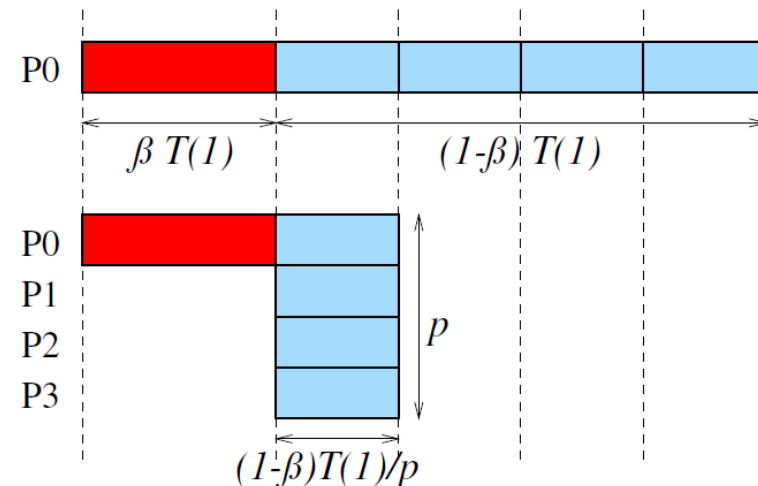
$$S(p) = \frac{p}{\beta p + (1 - \beta)} < 1/\beta$$

# Proof of Amdahl's Law

$$S_{rel} = \frac{T(1)}{T(p)} = \frac{T(1)}{T_{As} + T_{Ap}(p)}$$

Assume perfect parallelizability of the parallel part  $A^p$ ,  
that is,  $T_{Ap}(p) = (1 - \beta)T(p) = (1 - \beta)T(1)/p$ :

$$S_{rel} = \frac{T(1)}{\beta T(1) + (1 - \beta)T(1)/p} = \frac{p}{\beta p + 1 - \beta} \leq 1/\beta$$



Remark:

- c. For most parallel algorithms the sequential part is *not* a fixed fraction.

# Remarks on Amdahl's Law

Not limited to speedup by parallelization only!

Can also be applied with other optimizations

e.g. SIMDization, instruction scheduling, data locality improvements, ...

## Amdahl's Law, general formulation:

If you speed up a fraction  $(1 - \beta)$  of a computation by a factor  $p$ , the overall speedup is  $\frac{p}{\beta p + (1 - \beta)}$ , which is  $< \frac{1}{\beta}$ .

## Implications

- Optimize for the common case.  
If  $1 - \beta$  is small, optimization has little effect.
- Ignored optimization opportunities (also) limit the speedup.  
As  $p \rightarrow \infty$ , speedup is bound by  $\frac{1}{\beta}$ .

# Speedup Anomalies

## Speedup anomaly:

An implementation on  $p$  processors may execute faster than expected.

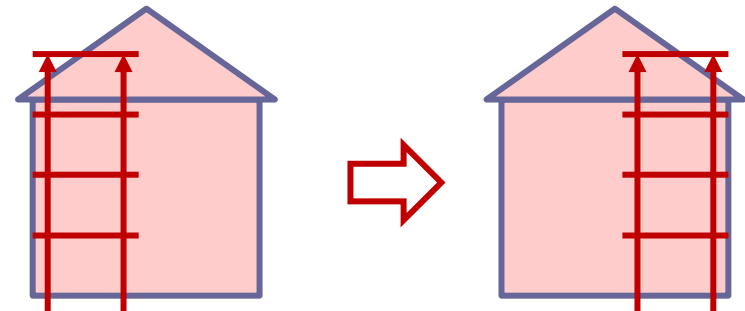
## Superlinear speedup

speedup function that grows faster than linear, i.e., in  $\Omega(p)$

Possible causes:

- cache effects
- search anomalies

Real-world example: move scaffolding



Speedup anomalies may occur only for fixed (small) range of  $p$ .

## Theorem:

There is no absolute superlinear speedup for arbitrarily large  $p$ .

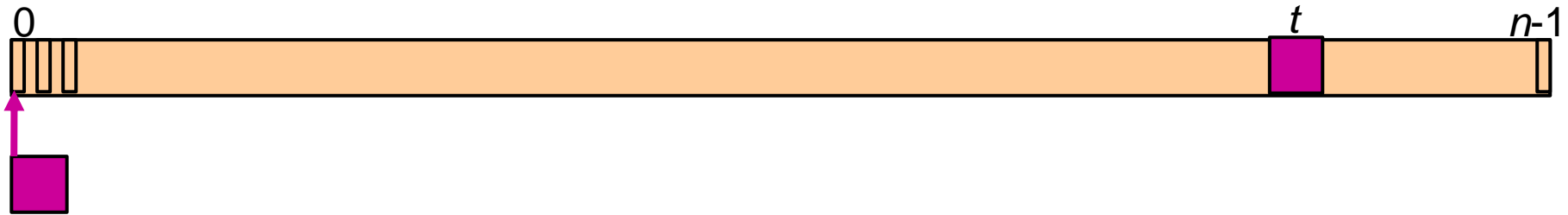
# Search Anomaly Example:

## Simple string search

Given: Large unknown string of length  $n$ ,  
pattern of constant length  $m \ll n$

Search for *any* occurrence of the pattern in the string.

Simple sequential algorithm: Linear search



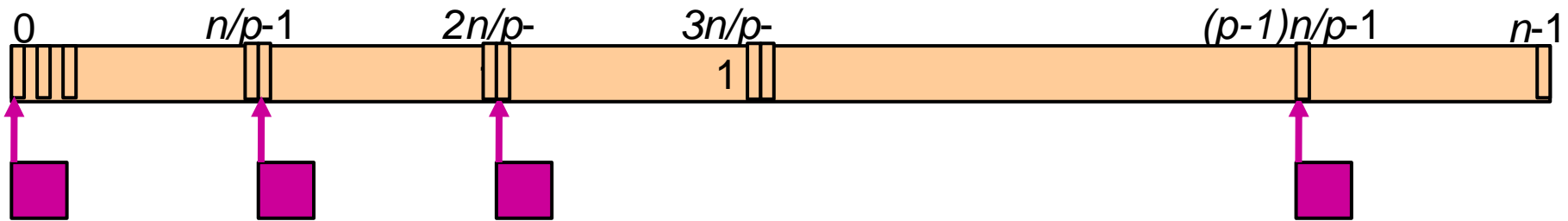
Pattern found at first occurrence at position  $t$  in the string after  $t$  time steps  
or not found after  $n$  steps

# Parallel Simple string search

Given: Large unknown shared string of length  $n$ ,  
pattern of constant length  $m \ll n$

Search for *any* occurrence of the pattern in the string.

Simple parallel algorithm: Contiguous partitions, linear search



Case 1: Pattern not found in the string

→ measured parallel time  $n/p$  steps

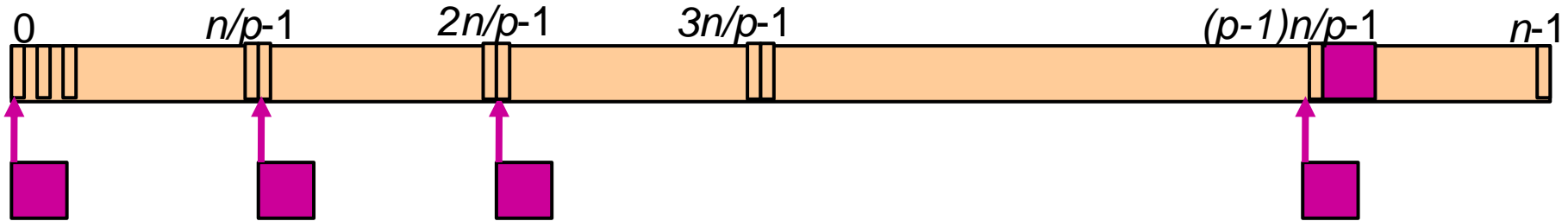
→ speedup =  $n / (n/p) = p$  😊

# Parallel Simple string search

Given: Large unknown shared string of length  $n$ ,  
pattern of constant length  $m \ll n$

Search for *any* occurrence of the pattern in the string.

Simple parallel algorithm: Contiguous partitions, linear search



Case 2: Pattern found in the first position scanned by the last processor  
 → measured parallel time 1 step, sequential time  $n-n/p$  steps  
 → observed speedup  $n-n/p$ , "superlinear" speedup?!?

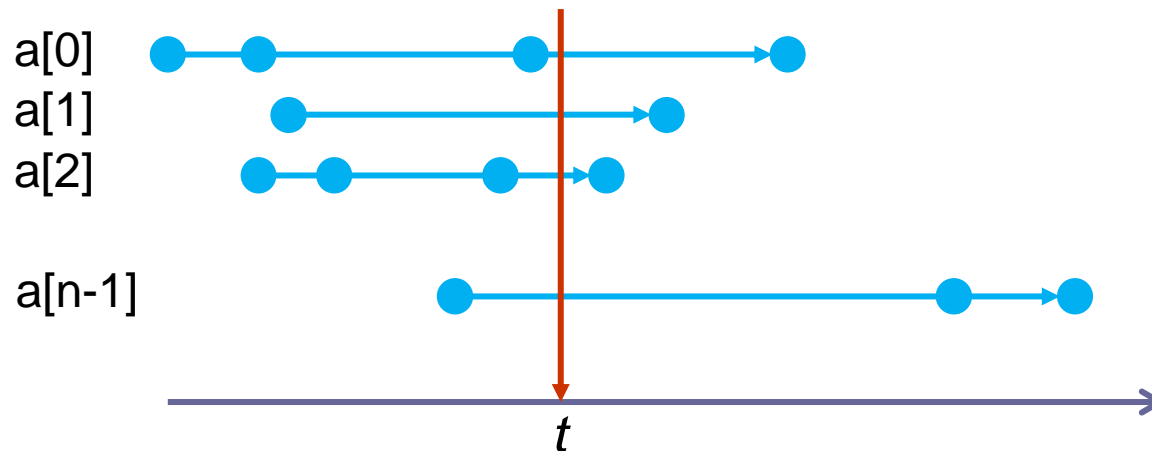
But, ...

... this is not the worst case (but the best case) for the parallel algorithm;  
 ... and we could have achieved the same effect in the sequential algorithm,  
 too, by altering the string traversal order



# Simple Analysis of Cache Impact

- Call a variable (e.g. array element) **live** between its first and its last access in an algorithm's execution
  - Focus on the large data structures of an algorithm (e.g. arrays)
- Working set** of algorithm  $A$  at time  $t$   
 $WS_A(t) = \{ v: \text{variable } v \text{ live at } t \}$
- Worst-case **working set size** / **working space** of  $A$   
 $WSS_A = \max_t | WS_A(t) |$
- Average-case working set size / working space of  $A$   
 $\dots = \text{avg}_t | WS_A(t) |$



# Simple Analysis of Cache Impact

- Call a variable (e.g. array element) **live** between its first and its last access in an algorithm's execution
  - Focus on the large data structures of an algorithm (e.g. arrays)
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 $WSS_A = \max_t | WS_A(t) |$
- Average-case working set size / working space of  $A$   
 $\dots = \text{avg}_t | WS_A(t) |$
- **Rule of thumb:** Algorithm  $A$  has good (last-level) cache locality if  $WSS_A < 0.9 * \text{SizeOfLastLevelCache}$ 
  - Assuming a fully associative cache with perfect LRU impl.
  - Impact of the cache line size not modeled
  - 10% reserve for some “small” data items (current instructions, loop variables, stack frame contents, ...)
- 😊 Allows realistic performance prediction for simple regular algorithms
- 😞 Hard to analyze  $WSS$  for complex, irregular algorithms

# **Further fundamental parallel algorithms**

**Parallel prefix sums**

**Parallel list ranking**

**... as time permits ...**

# Data-Parallel Algorithms

- One task (virtual processor) associated with each data element  
Agglomeration + mapping to hardware processors by the compiler
- Problems of size  $N$   
solved usually in time  $O(1)$  or  $O(\log N)$  using  $N$  processors

## Some data-parallel algorithms

- Parallel sum  $\surd$
- Prefix sums (partial sums)
- Radix sort
- Parsing a regular language
- Parallel combinator reduction
- List ranking (finding the end of a parallel linked list, list prefix sums etc.)
- Matching components of two lists

# The Prefix-Sums Problem

Given: a set  $S$  (e.g., the integers)

a binary associative operator  $\oplus$  on  $S$ ,

a sequence of  $n$  items  $x_0, \dots, x_{n-1} \in S$

compute the sequence  $y$  of *prefix sums* defined by

$$y_i = \bigoplus_{j=0}^i x_j \text{ for } 0 \leq i < n$$

An important building block of many parallel algorithms! [Blelloch'89]

typical operations  $\oplus$ :

integer addition, maximum, bitwise AND, bitwise OR

Example:

bank account: initially 0\$, daily changes  $x_0, x_1, \dots$

→ compute daily balances:  $(0,) \ x_0, \ x_0 + x_1, \ x_0 + x_1 + x_2, \dots$

# Sequential prefix sums algorithm

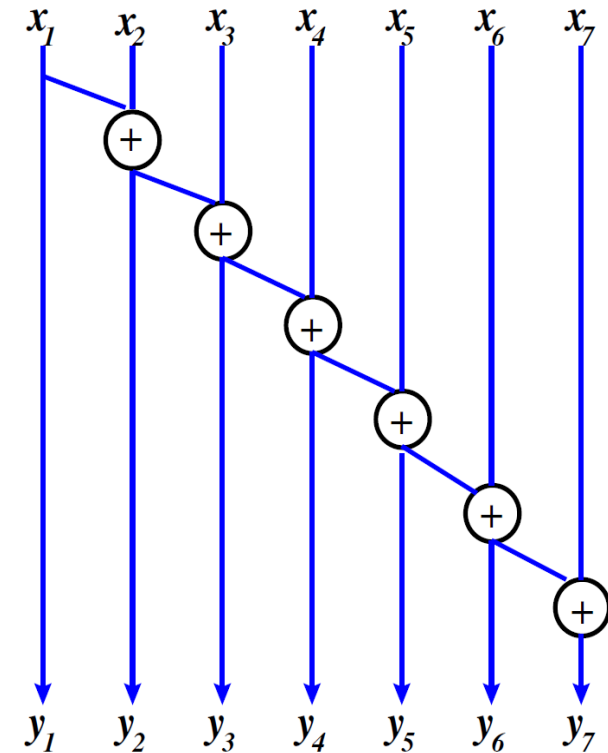
```
void seq_prefix( int x[], int n, int y[] )
{
    int i;
    int ps; // i'th prefix sum
    if (n>0) ps = y[0] = x[0];
    for (i=1; i<n; i++) {
        ps += x[i];
        y[i] = ps;
    }
}
```

if run in parallel on  $n$  virtual processors:

time  $\Theta(n)$ , work  $\Theta(n)$ , cost  $\Theta(n^2)$

Task dependence graph: linear chain of dependences

→ seems to be inherently sequential — how to parallelize?



# Parallel prefix sums algorithm 1

## A first attempt...

Naive parallel implementation:

apply the definition,

$$y_i = \bigoplus_{j=0}^i x_j \text{ for } 0 \leq i < n$$

and assign one processor for computing each  $y_i$

→ parallel time  $\Theta(n)$ , work and cost  $\Theta(n^2)$

But we observe:

a lot of redundant computation (common subexpressions)

# Parallel Prefix Sums Algorithm 2:

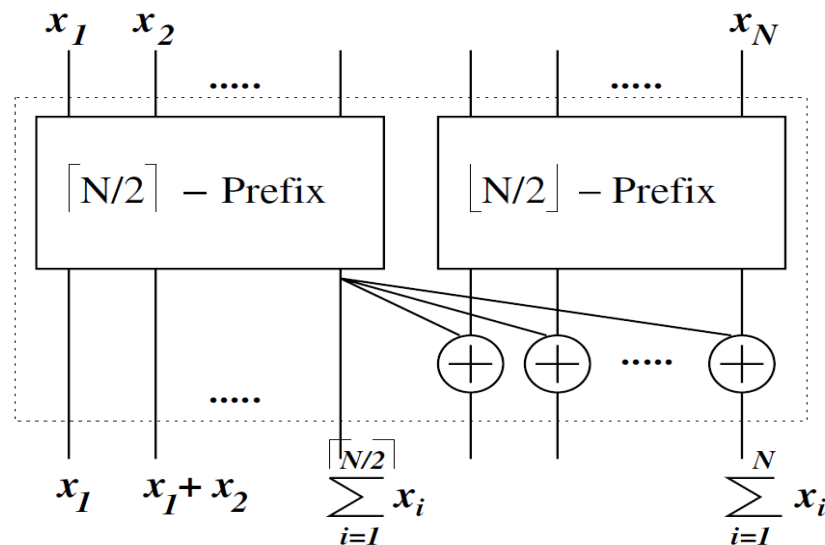
## Upper-Lower Parallel Prefix

Algorithmic technique: parallel divide&conquer

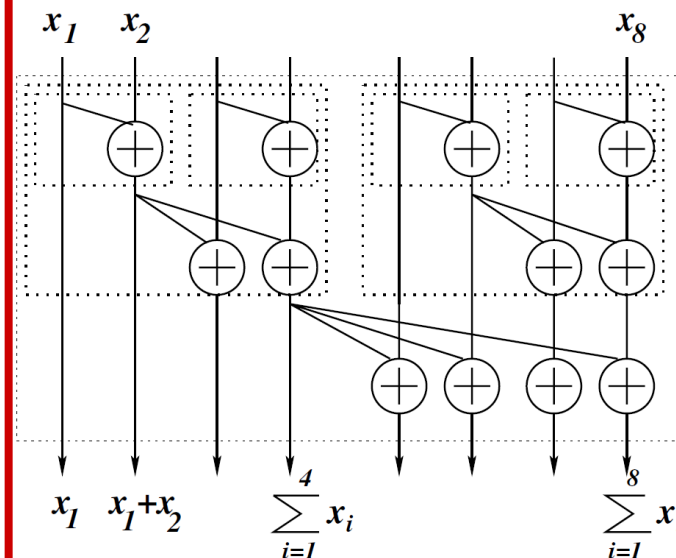
We consider the simplest variant, called Upper/lower parallel prefix:

recursive formulation:

$N$ -prefix is computed as



Upper/lower parallel prefix, unfolded for  $N = 8$ :



Parallel time:  $\log n$  steps, work:  $n/2 \log n$  additions, cost:  $\Theta(n \log n)$

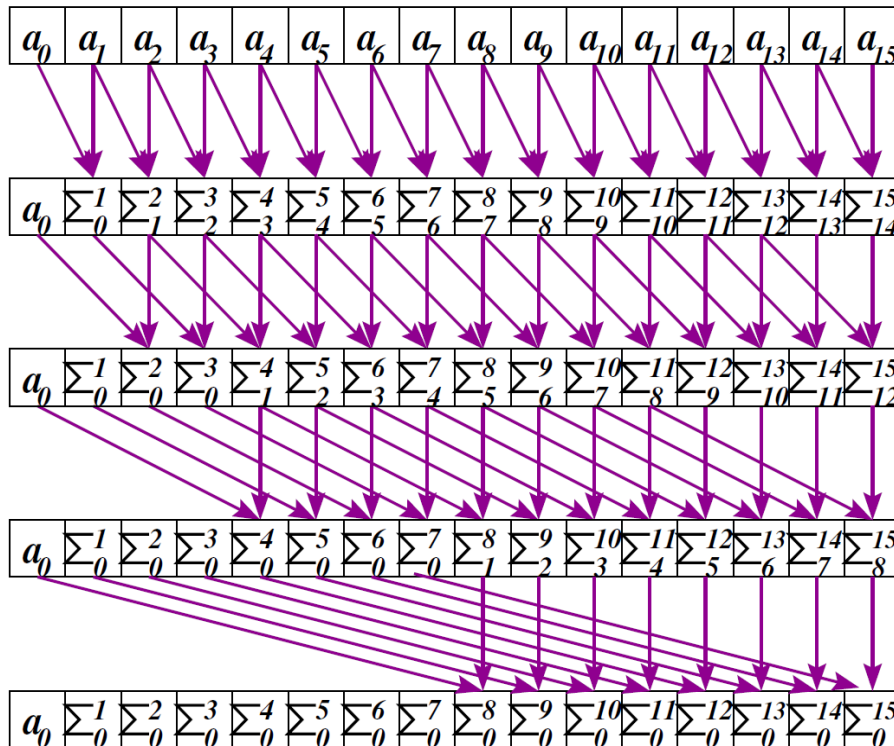
c. Not work-optimal! And needs concurrent read...



# Parallel Prefix Sums Algorithm 3: Recursive Doubling (for EREW PRAM)

[Hillis, Steele '86]

EREW (exclusive read, exclusive write) prefix sums algorithm:



Work:  $\Theta(n \log n)$  :- (

iterative formulation  
in data-parallel pseudocode:

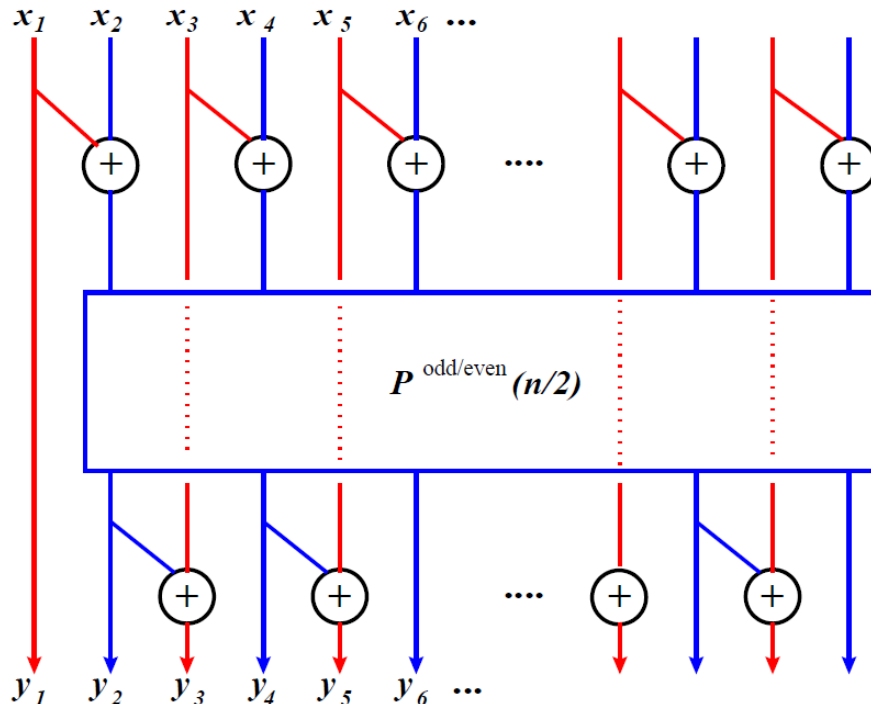
```

real  $a$  : array[0.. $N-1$ ];
int stride;

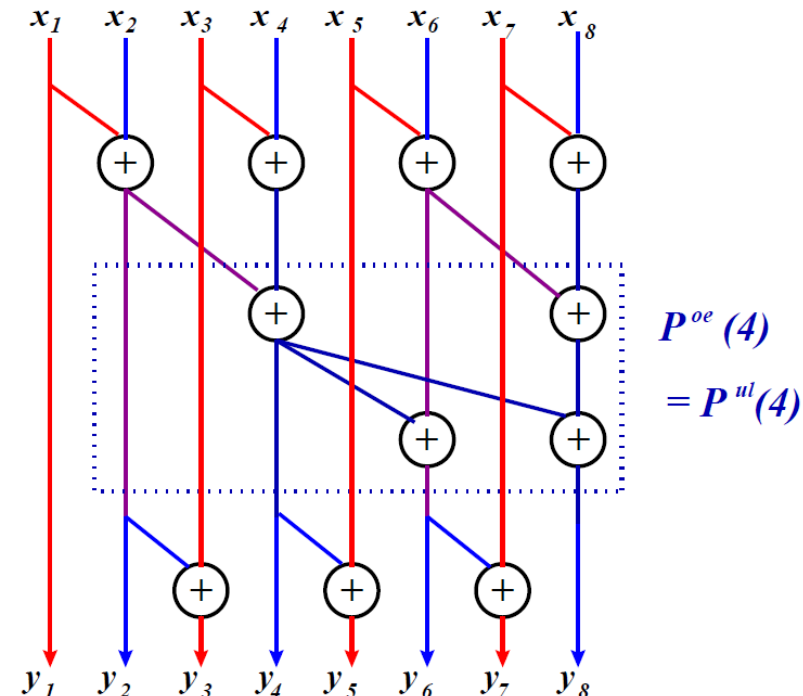
stride  $\leftarrow$  1;
while stride <  $N$  do
    forall  $i$  : [0.. $N-1$ ] in parallel do
        if  $i \geq$  stride then
             $a[i] \leftarrow a[i - \text{stride}] + a[i];$ 
        stride := stride * 2;
    (* finally, sum in  $a[N-1]$  *)
    
```

# Parallel Prefix Sums Algorithm 4: Odd-Even Parallel Prefix

Recursive definition:  $P^{oe}(n)$ :



Example:  $P^{oe}(8)$  with  
base case  $P^{oe}(4)$



EREW,  $2\log n - 2$  time steps, work  $2n - \log n - 2$ , cost  $\Theta(n \log n)$

Not cost-optimal! But may use Brent's theorem...

# Parallel Prefix Sums Algorithm 5

## Ladner-Fischer Parallel Prefix Sums (1980)

Odd-Even Parallel Prefix Sums algorithm  
after work-time rescheduling:

cost-optimal (cost  $\Theta(n)$ ) if using  $\Theta(n/\log n)$  virtual processors only

# Parallel List Ranking (1)

**Parallel list:** (unordered) array of list items (one per proc.), singly linked

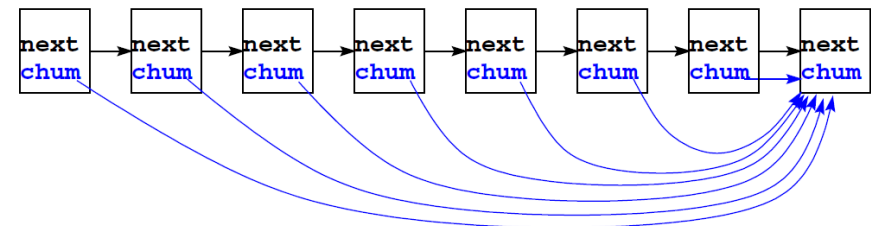
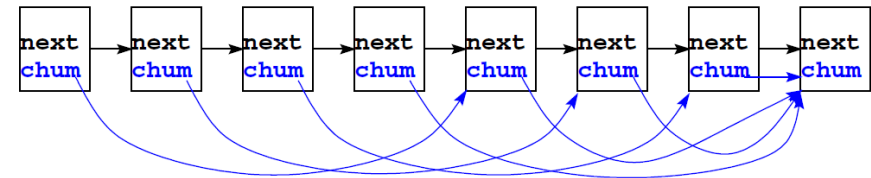
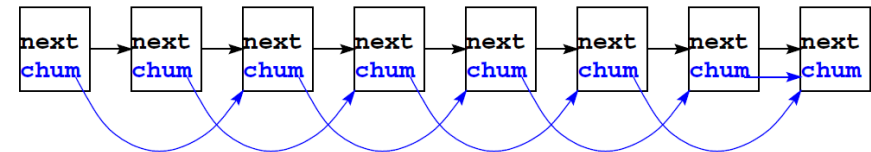
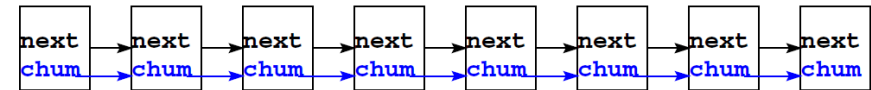
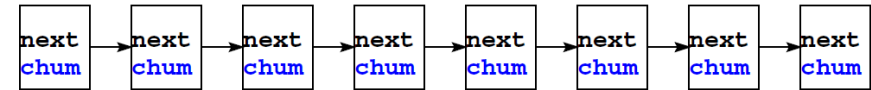
Problem: for each element, find the end of its linked list.

Algorithmic technique:  
recursive doubling, here:  
“pointer jumping” [Wyllie’79]

The algorithm in pseudocode:

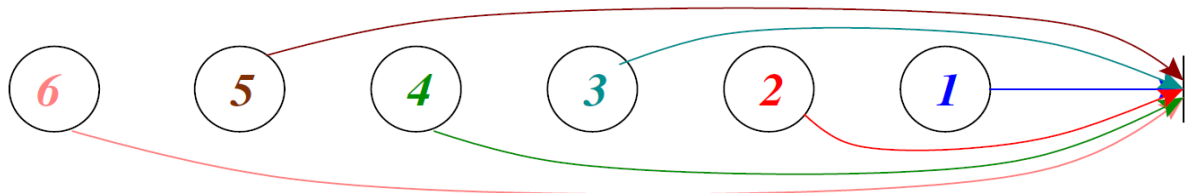
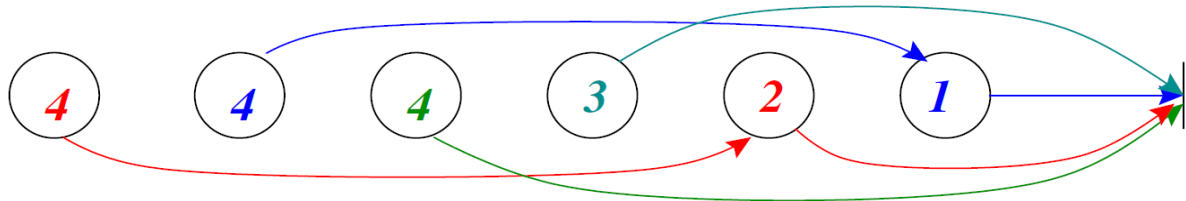
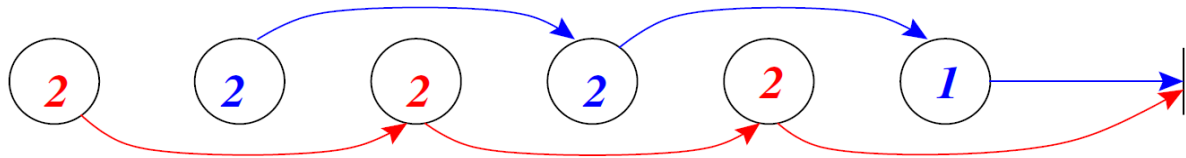
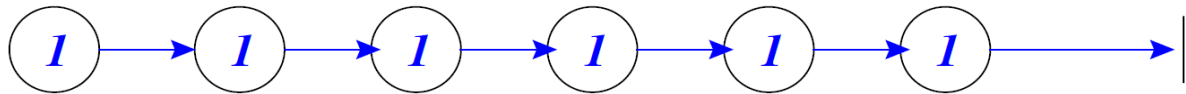
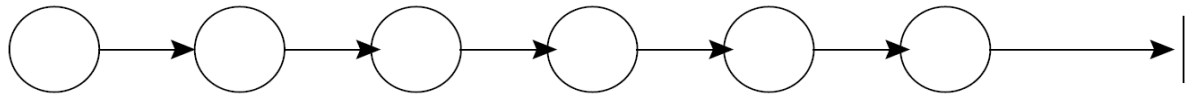
```
forall  $k$  in  $[1..N]$  in parallel do
   $\text{chum}[k] \leftarrow \text{next}[k];$ 
  while  $\text{chum}[k] \neq \text{null}$ 
    and  $\text{chum}[\text{chum}[k]] \neq \text{null}$  do
     $\text{chum}[k] \leftarrow \text{chum}[\text{chum}[k]];$ 
  od
od
```

lengths of **chum** lists halved in each step  
 $\Rightarrow \lceil \log N \rceil$  pointer jumping steps



# Parallel List Ranking (2)

Extended problem: compute the **rank** = distance to the end of the list



By pointer jumping:

in each step:

to my own distance value, I add the distance of my  $\rightarrow$  **chum** that I splice out of the list

Every step

+ doubles #lists

+ halves lengths

$\rightarrow \lceil \log_2 n \rceil$  steps

Not work-efficient!

# Parallel List Ranking (3)

NULL-checks can be avoided by marking list end by a self-loop.

Pointer jumping algorithm for list ranking, implementation in Fork:

```
wyllie( sh LIST list[], sh int length )
{
    LIST *e; // private pointer
    int nn;

    e = list[$$];    // $$ is my processor index
    if (e->next != e) e->rank = 1;  else e->rank = 0;
    nn = length;
    while (nn>1) {
        e->rank = e->rank + e->next->rank;
        e->next = e->next->next;
        nn = nn>>1;  // division by 2
    }
}
```

# Parallel Mergesort

**... if time permits ...**

**More on parallel sorting in TDDD56**

# Mergesort (1)

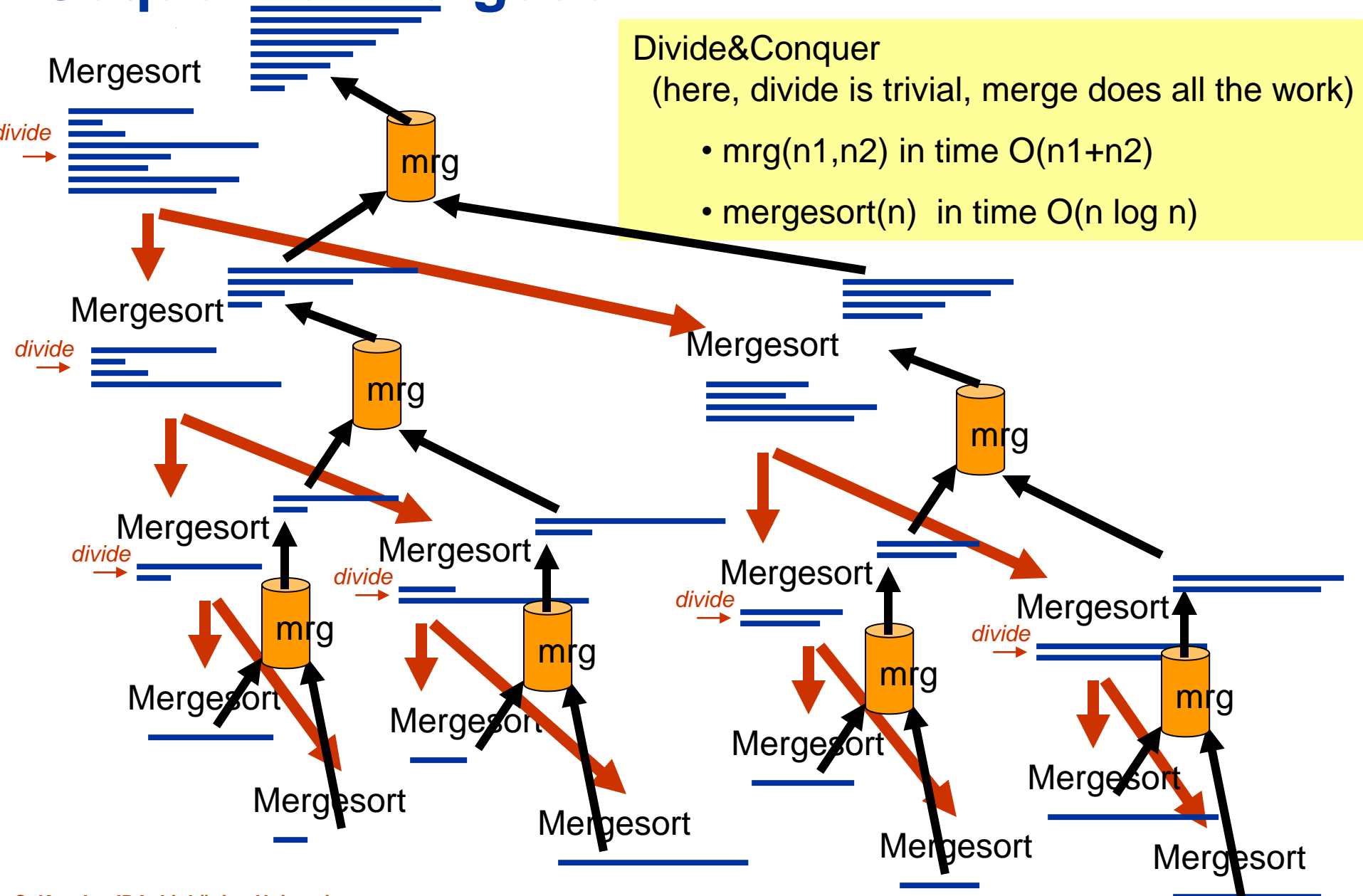
- Known from sequential algorithm design
- **Merge:** take two sorted blocks of length  $k$  and combine into one sorted block of length  $2k$

```
SeqMerge ( int a[k], int b[k], int c[2k] )  
{  
    int ap=0, bp=0, cp=0;  
    while ( cp < 2k ) {      // assume a[k] = b[k] =  $\infty$   
        if (a[ap]<b[bp]) c[cp++] = a[ap++];  
        else             c[cp++] = b[bp++];  
    }  
}
```

- Sequential time:  $O(k)$
- Can also be formulated for in-place merging (copy back)



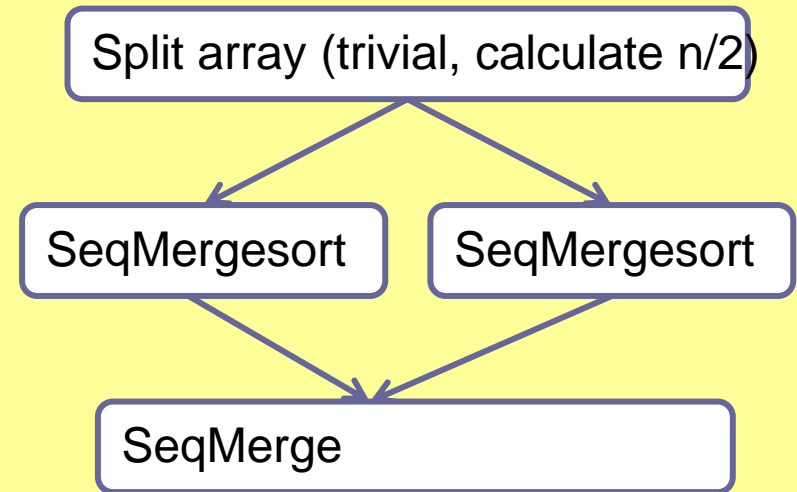
# Sequential Mergesort



# Sequential Mergesort

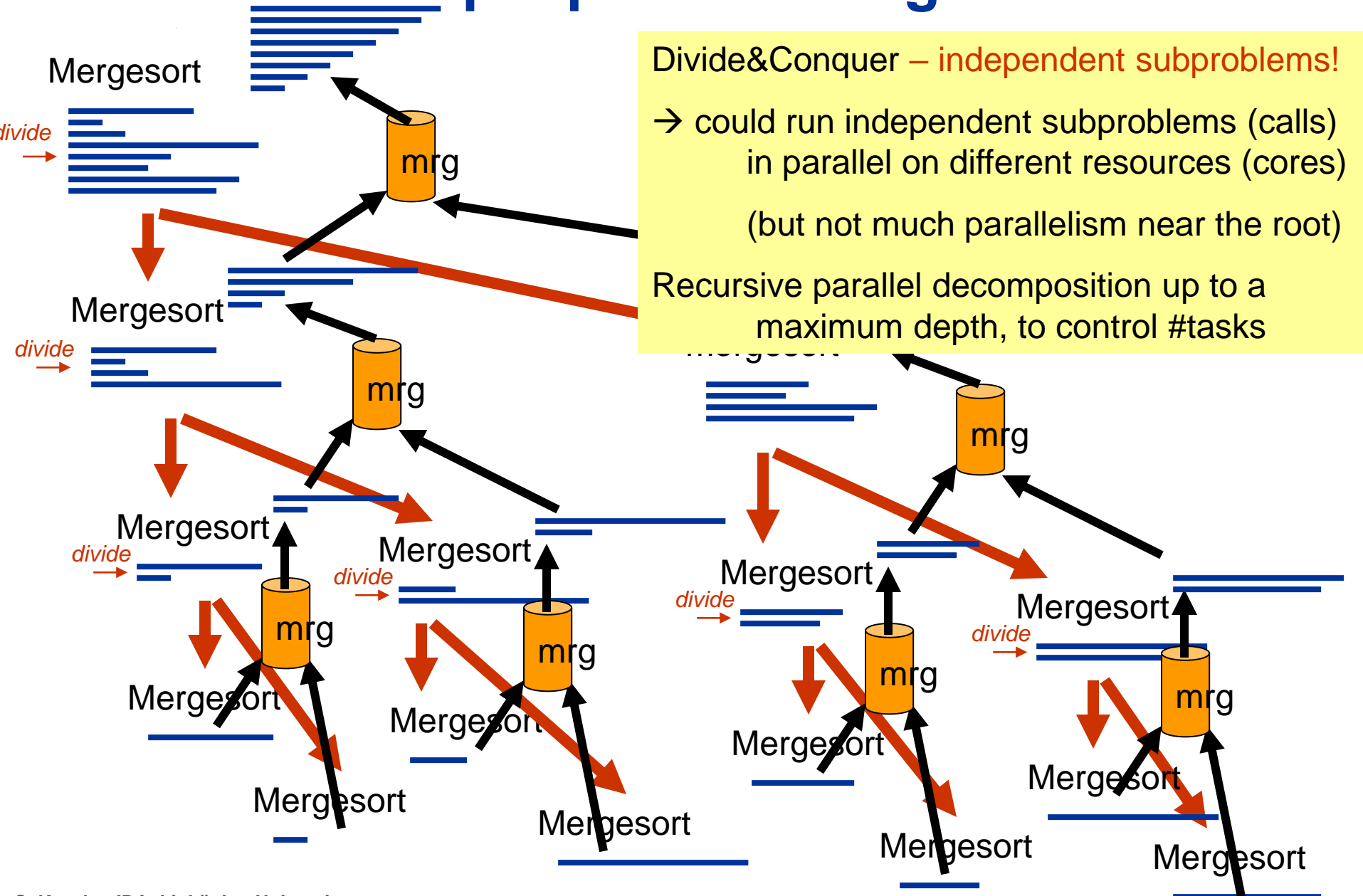
Time:  $O(n \log n)$

```
void SeqMergesort ( int *array, int n ) // in place
{
    if (n==1) return;
    // divide and conquer:
    SeqMergesort ( array, n/2);
    SeqMergesort ( array + n/2, n-n/2 );
    // now the subarrays are sorted
    SeqMerge ( array, n/2, n-n/2 );
}
```



```
void SeqMerge ( int array, int n1, int n2 ) // sequential merge in place
{
    ... ordinary 2-to-1 merge in  $O(n1+n2)$  steps ...
}
```

# Towards a simple parallel Mergesort...



# Simple Parallel Mergesort

```
void SParMergesort ( int *array, int n ) // in place
```

```
{
```

```
    if (n==1) return; // nothing to sort
```

```
    if (depth_limit_for_recursive_parallel_decomposition_reached())
```

```
        SeqMergesort( array, n ); // switch to sequential
```

```
    // parallel divide and conquer:
```

```
    in parallel do {
```

```
        SParMergesort ( array, n/2);
```

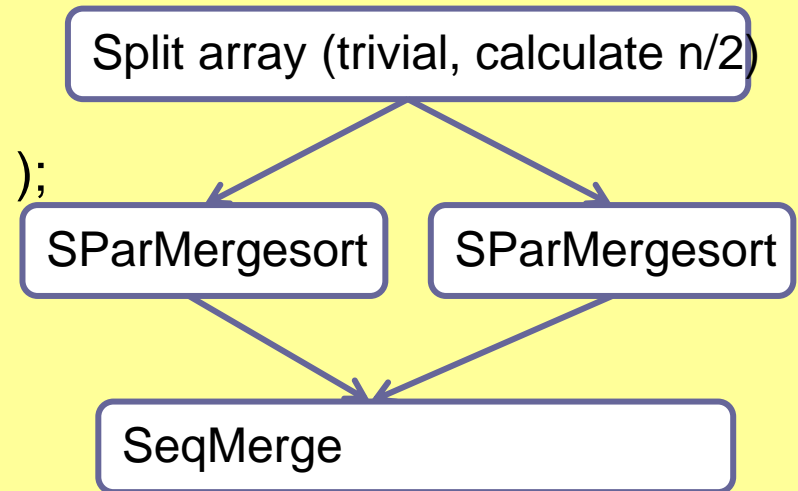
```
        SParMergesort ( array + n/2, n-n/2 );
```

```
    }
```

```
    // now the two subarrays are sorted
```

```
    seq SeqMerge ( array, n/2, n-n/2 );
```

```
}
```



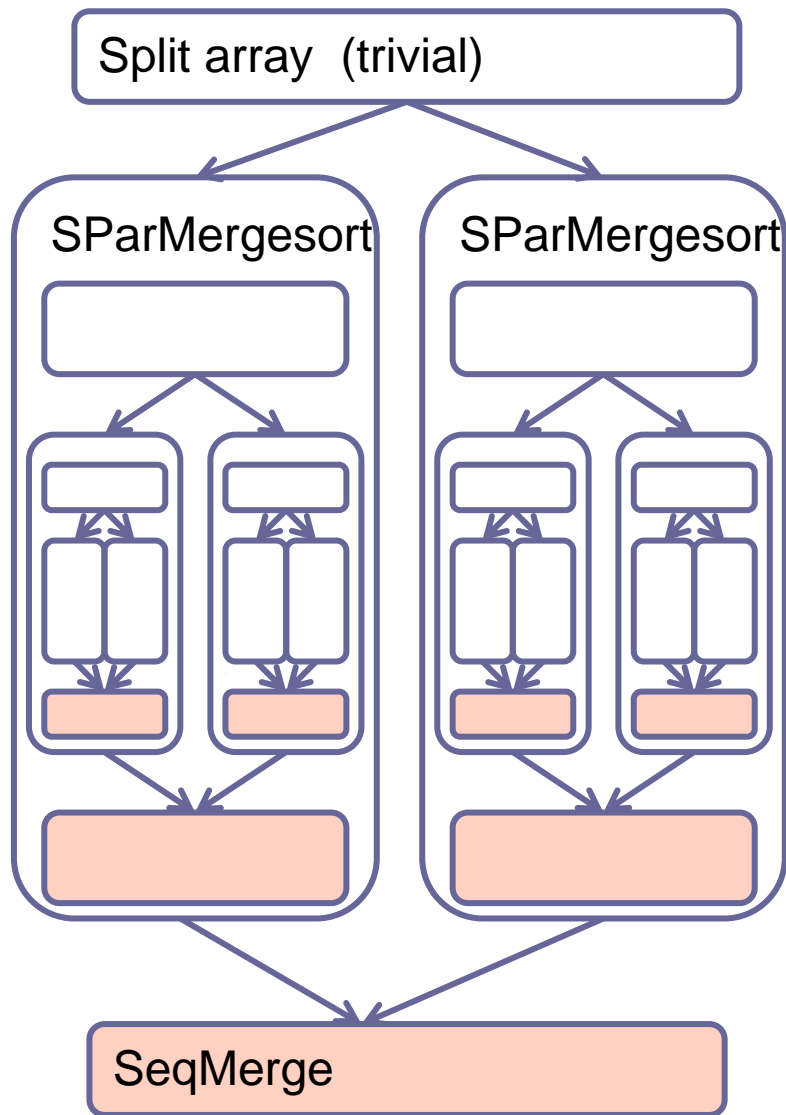
```
void SeqMerge ( int *array, int n1, int n2 ) // sequential merge in place
```

```
{
```

```
    // ... merge in  $O(n1+n2)$  steps ...
```

```
}
```

# Simple Parallel Mergesort, Analysis



NB: SeqMerging  
(linear in input size)  
does all the heavy  
work in Mergesort

...

## Parallel Time:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(n) &= T(n/2) + T_{\text{split}}(n) + T_{\text{SeqMerge}}(n) + O(1) \\
 &= T(n/2) + O(n) \\
 &= O(n) + O(n/2) + O(n/4) + \dots + O(1) \\
 &= O(n) \text{ 😞}
 \end{aligned}$$

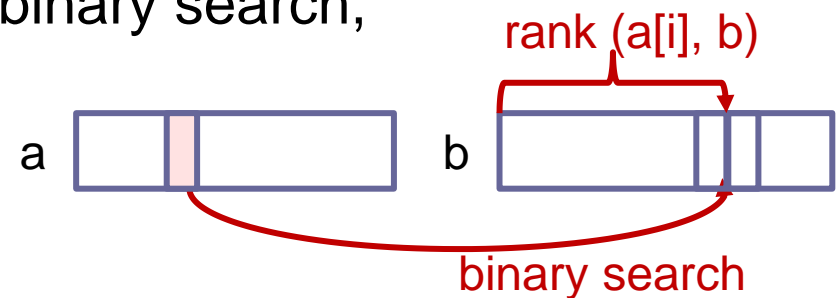
Parallel Work:  $O(n \log n)$  😊

# Simple Parallel Mergesort, Discussion

- Structure is symmetric to Simple Parallel Quicksort
- Here, all the heavy work is done in the SeqMerge() calls
  - The counterpart of SeqPartition in Quicksort
  - Limits speedup and scalability
- Parallel time  $O(n)$ ,  
parallel work  $O(n \log n)$ ,  
speedup limited to  $O(\log n)$
- (Parallel) Mergesort is an oblivious algorithm
  - could be used for a sorting network like bitonic sort
- Exercise:  
Iterative formulation (use a **while** loop instead of recursion)

# How to merge in parallel?

- For each element of the two arrays to be merged, calculate its final position in the merged array by cross-ranking
  - $\text{rank}(x, (a_0, \dots, a_{n-1})) = \#\text{elements } a_i < x$
  - Compute rank by a sequential binary search, time  $O(\log n)$



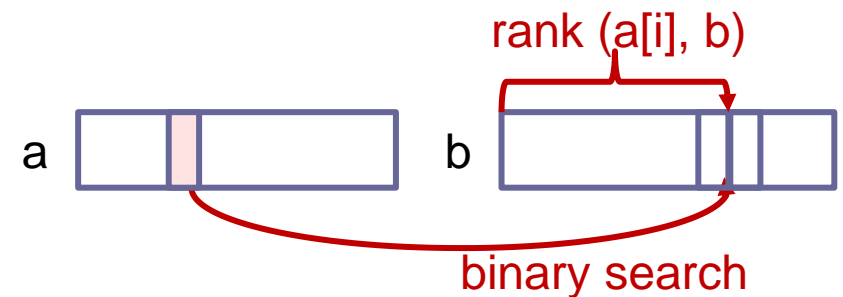
```

■ ParMerge ( int a[n1], int b[n2] )
  // simplifying assumption:
  // All elements in both a and b are pairwise different
  {
    for all i in 0...n1-1 in parallel
      rank_a_in_b[i] = compute_rank( a[i], b, n2 );
    for all i in 0...n2-1 in parallel
      rank_b_in_a[i] = compute_rank( b[i], a, n1 );
    for all i in 0...n1-1 in parallel
      c[ i + rank_a_in_b[i] ] = a[i];
    for all i in 0...n2-1 in parallel
      c[ i + rank_b_in_a[i] ] = b[i];
  }
    
```

Time for one binary search:  $O(\log n)$   
 Par. Time for ParMerge:  $O(\log n)$   
 Par. Work for parMerge:  $O(n \log n)$

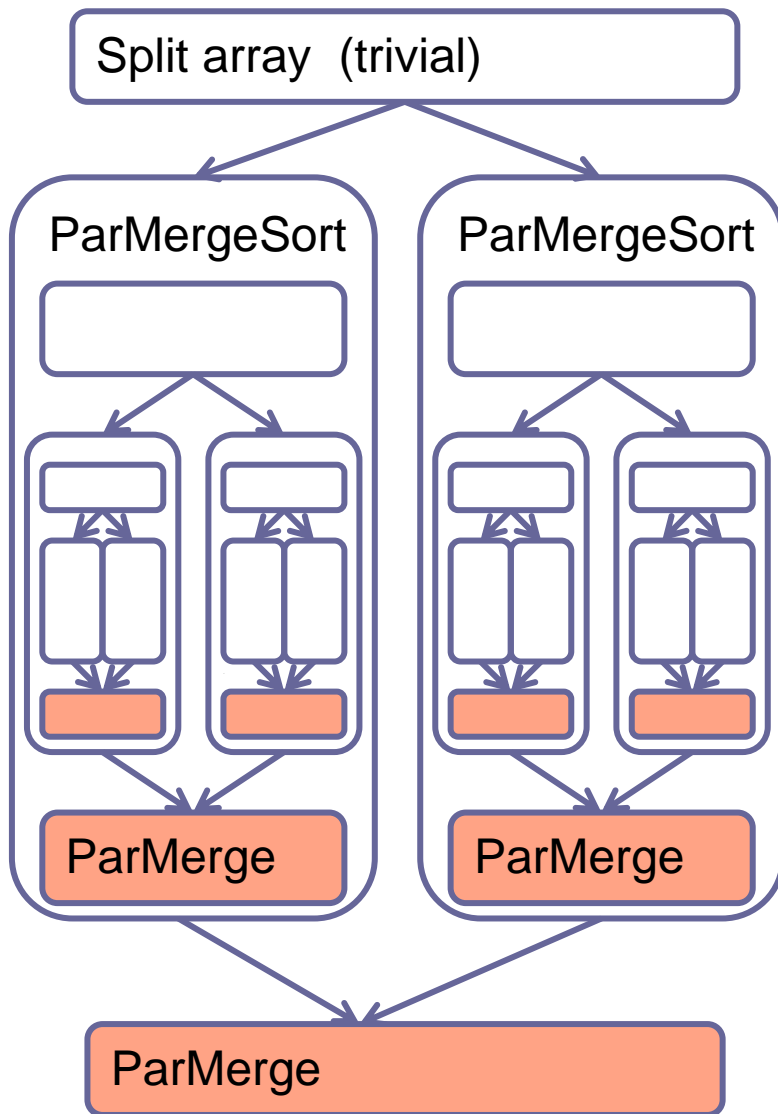
# Example: ParMerge

- $a = (2, 3, 7, 9)$ ,  $b = (1, 4, 5, 8)$ , indices start at 0
- $\text{rank\_a\_in\_b} = (1, 1, 3, 4)$   
 $\text{rank\_b\_in\_a} = (0, 2, 2, 3)$
- $a[0]$  to pos.  $c[0+1] = 1$   
 $a[1]$  to pos.  $c[1+1] = 2$   
 $a[2]$  to pos.  $c[2+3] = 5$   
 $a[3]$  to pos.  $c[3+4] = 7$   
 $b[0]$  to pos.  $c[0+0] = 0$   
 $b[1]$  to pos.  $c[1+2] = 3$   
 $b[2]$  to pos.  $c[2+2] = 4$   
 $b[3]$  to pos.  $c[3+3] = 6$
- After copying,  
 $c = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9)$





# Fully Parallel Mergesort, Analysis



NB: ParMerge (time logarithmic in input size) does all the heavy lifting work in ParMergeSort

## Parallel Time:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(n) &= T(n/2) + T_{\text{split}}(n) + T_{\text{ParMerge}}(n) + O(1) \\
 &= T(n/2) + O(\log n) \\
 &= O(\log n) + O(\log n/2) + \dots + O(1) \\
 &= O(\log^2 n) \quad \text{☹}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Parallel Work:

$$\begin{aligned}
 W(n) &= 2 W(n/2) + O(n \log n) \\
 &= \dots \\
 &= O(n \log^2 n) \quad \text{☹}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Summary

Parallel computation model = programming model + performance model

→ quantitative basis for design and analysis of parallel algorithms

Use simple performance models (PRAM, Delay, BSP)  
early in the design process.

Refine performance model at later stages (BSP, LogP, LogGP)  
and conduct simple experiments to derive model parameters

During implementation, compare performance to predictions by the model  
→ may identify implementation errors and improve quality.

# Questions?

# Further Reading

See the TDDC78/TDDD56 Compendium!

C. Kessler, J. Keller: Models for Parallel Computing: Review and Perspectives.  
*PARS-Mitteilungen* **24**, Gesellschaft für Informatik, Dec. 2007, ISSN 0177-0454.

## On PRAM model and Design and Analysis of Parallel Algorithms

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