Parallel Algebraic Algorithm Design*

Lecture Notes for a Tutorial
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Erich Kaltofen

Department of Computer Science, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute,
Troy, NY 12180-3590; kaltofen@cs.rpi.edu

Introduction

The notes following this introduction were written by students taking my graduate course 66.696 *Parallel Algorithm Design*, which I taught in the Fall of 1988. The material is largely based on the survey article by Karp and Ramachandran (1988) and the lecture notes by Leighton et al. (1988a), (1988b). However, our notes (as well as the ones by Leighton et al.) do not contain complete and up-to-date references. The following references with respect to the topics discussed in the turorial might be helpful.

Models of parallel computation

A survey of work on the complexity class $\mathcal{NC}$ is Cook's (1985) article. Von zur Gathen (1986) introduces the corresponding algebraic model. A general framework for different network designs, including a relationship between the butterfly and the deBruijn graphs, is discussed by Annexstein et al. (1989). Ranade (1987) shows how to simulate a PRAM on a butterfly network. Fault tolerant network routing on a hypercube is discussed in Hastad et al. (1989).

Workload balancing by processor rescheduling

This principle can be already found in (Brent 1974), where it is also shown that all formulas have equivalent shallow parse trees.

Parallel prefix

The original reference is to Ladner and Fischer (1980). An interesting application to parallel string matching can be found in (Karp and Rabin 1986). The prefix carry look-ahead circuit for integer addition is by (Brent and Kung 1982).

Integer arithmetic

The asymptotically best Boolean circuit for n-bit integer multiplication are still Schönhage's and Strassen's (1971). Division circuits of equivalent gate count and $O(\log(n)\log(\log n))$ delay are discussed by Reif and Tate (1989). With larger gate count delay $O(\log(n))$ was first accomplished by Beame et al. (1986) (see also (Shankar and Ramachandran 1988)).

List ranking

The first randomized workload balanced list ranking algorithm is by Vishkin (1984). A deterministic ruling-set based solution can be found in (Cole and Vishkin 1986). Newer solutions to this problem are in (Cole and Vishkin 1988) and (Anderson and Miller 1988).

Formula and DAG evaluation

A dynamic formula evaluation algorithm was first described by Miller and Reif (Miller and

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Reif 1985). The shunting solution in the tutorial is by Kosaraju and Delcher (1988). Parallel evaluation of degree-bounded computation DAGs goes back to (Valiant et al. 1984); the dynamic scheme discussed in the tutorial is from (Miller et al. 1986). The problem of eliminating division from computation DAGs was first solved by Strassen (1973) for those that compute degree-bounded polynomials, and then by Kaltofen (1988) for the general case of degree-bounded rational functions. The latter article also contains a detailed discussion of Strassen's result.

Systolic greatest common divisors

The linear systolic array for polynomial and integer GCDs is due to Brent and Kung (1983) (see also (Yun and Zhang 1986)).

Linear systems

The first poly-log algorithm for solving linear systems was invented by Csanky (1976). The best version with respect to processor count is by Galil and Pan (1989). The solution discussed in the tutorial is Chistov's (1985). The randomized matrix rank algorithm is due to Borodin et al. (1982), while a deterministic solution was given by Mulmuley (1987). Such randomization techniques apply to matrix canonical form computations, such as the rational and Jordan normal forms; see (Kaltofen et al. 1987) and (Kaltofen et al. 1989).

Implementations

I am aware of three Ph.D. theses written on implementation issues of algebraic algorithms on parallel machines, Watt's (1985), Johnson's (1988), and Ponder's (1988). Efforts to-date are still scattered, among them the Reduce implementation on the CRAY X-MP at the Zuse Center (ZIB) in Berlin (Melenk and Neun 1986), the PAC project at the University of Grenoble (Roch et al. 1988), and efforts at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Hitz 1988) and the University of Delaware (Saunders et al. 1989). Lenstra and Manasse are successfully using a loosely coupled network of workstations for running the Pomerance quadratic sieve integer factoring algorithm, and the implementation of the black box polynomial factorization algorithm (Kaltofen and Trager 1988) on such a distributed network of processors is underway at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Further results not discussed

There is a flurry of $\mathcal{NC}$-style parallel algebraic algorithms: polynomial factorization over finite fields (von zur Gathen 1984); element powering (Fich and Tompa 1988) and inversion (Litow and Davida 1988) in algebraic extensions of finite fields; polynomial arithmetic (Eberly 1984); absolute polynomial irreducibility (Kaltofen 1985); sparse multivariate polynomial interpolation (Ben-Or and Tiwari 1988), (Grigoryev et al. 1988); sign sequences of real roots of polynomials (Ben-Or et al. 1986); this list is by far incomplete. Also an area of activity is iterative methods for solving linear systems started by Pan and Reif (1985). The recently discovered processor efficient solution to the polynomial GCD problem by Kaltofen (1989) is the last chapter of these notes. Combinatorical algorithms are also surveyed by Eppstein and Galil (1988).

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