Performance Modeling

Little's Law

Imagine you want to board a train which leaves in 20 minutes. But before you have to buy the train ticket at a counter. You see that there are about 50 people in line before you. Serving a customer takes 40 seconds on average.

What property has to hold for this system to be stable? Will you miss your train?

Roofline Model

Assume a NUMA architecture with 2 nodes and a peak memory bandwidth of $B_1 = 74.2$ GB/s. Every node has 4 cores and can carry out up to P = 332.8 GFLOPs/sec. Each core runs at 2.6 GHz. If the memory accesses are not well balanced, the peak memory bandwidth becomes $B_2 = 31.32$ GB/s. Draw a roofline plot for this processor. If a program and input combination land on the lower left of the plot, what does this tell you about the program?

Will all program executions yield points which lie either on the diagonal or on the "roof" of the roofline plot?

Sparse Matrix Vector Multiplication SpMV

The following code compute a Sparse Matrix Vector Multiplication $\vec{y} = A \cdot \vec{x}$ between a matrix A (sparse) and a vector \vec{x} (dense). The matrix is stored in the Compressed Row Storage format.

<fill data structures: blockptr, values, col_idx, row_start>
#pragma omp parallel private(i,j,is,ie,j0,y0,thread,bs,be)
thread = omp_get_thread_num()
//Compute the block boundaries
bstart = blockptr[thread]

```
for (i=bstart; i<bend; i++){
  y0=0
  row_start = row_start[i]
  next_row_start = row_start[i+1]
  for (j=row_start; j<next_row_start; j++){
    j0 = col_idx[j]
    y0 += value[j] * x[j0]
  }
  y[i] = y0
}</pre>
```

bend = blockptr[thread+1]

Assume that \vec{x} and \vec{y} are kept in cache. The CSR format uses 4byte integers to store column indexes. Values are stored using 8byte doubles. Compute the operational intensity and check if the code is memory- or compute-bound w.r.t. the previously described architecture (consider only the innermost loop).

You run this code, observing that it reaches a performance up to 5.22 GFLOPS, and you notice that this is mostly due to how the array value is stored. Describe an optmization that you can apply to improve the performance.