Parallel Graph Decompositions Using Random Shifts

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The Problem
“Decomposing an undirected unweighted graph into small diameter pieces”
Background Information
“Decomposing an undirected unweighted graph into small diameter pieces”

- **Decomposing**
  - Breaking a graph into smaller pieces such that the two sub-graphs share no edges
- **Undirected**
  - None of the edges in the graph have directions
- **Unweighted**
  - None of the edges in the graph have weights (all have weight 1)
- **Diameter**
  - The length of the shortest path between the farthest nodes
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“Decomposing an undirected unweighted graph into small diameter pieces”

- Why use diameter as a parameter?
  - A variety of other measures are used
  - More intricate measures such as conductance have proven to be more useful in many applications
  - However, even algorithms that use conductance, as well as many others, use simpler low diameter decompositions as a subroutine
“Decomposing an undirected unweighted graph into small diameter pieces”

- How to compute the diameter of a graph?
  - Strong diameter
    - Restricts the shortest path between two vertices in S to only use vertices S (S being the sub-graph)
    - Parallelized with nearly-linear work
  - Weak diameter
    - Allows for shortcuts through vertices outside of S
    - Parallelized with quadratic work in the optimal tree metric embedding algorithm
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“Decomposing an undirected unweighted graph into small diameter pieces”
“Decomposing in Parallel an undirected unweighted graph into small diameter pieces”
Why?
Applications

● Generally
  ○ Decompositions form critical subroutines in a number of graph algorithms.

● Low Diameter Decompositions
  ○ Approximations to sparsest cut
  ○ Construction of spanners
  ○ Parallel approximations of shortest path in undirected graphs
  ○ Generating low-stretch embedding of graphs into trees
  ○ Construction of low-stretch spanning trees
  ○ Computing separators in minor-free graphs
  ○ Nearly linear work parallel solvers for SDD linear systems
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SDD Linear Systems

- Low diameter graph decompositions using strong diameter as a measure are particularly useful for solving symmetric diagonally dominant linear systems
- Computing maximum flow and negative length shortest paths
- Used in many applications
  - Symmetric matrix where one where $|a_{ii}| \geq \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|$ for all $i$
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$$\begin{bmatrix}
3 & 2 & 1 \\
2 & -3 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 5
\end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{align*}
|+3| & \geq |+2| + |+1| \\
|-3| & \geq |+2| + |0| \\
|+5| & \geq |+1| + |0|
\end{align*}$$
SDD Linear Systems

Algorithms solving symmetric diagonally dominant linear systems created by authors of this paper

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Previous Approaches
Relevant Research

- Previous algorithms based upon conductance rather than diameters have studied
  - This algorithm could be used as a subroutine for them
- Others have used diameters but their work was either serial or measuring diameters weakly
- Shifted shortest path approach introduced in [Blelloch, Gupta, Koutis, Miller, Peng, Tangwongsan, SPAA 2011]
  - This algorithm is largely based on this work and mainly seeks to simply it while maintaining the same asymptotic runtimes
Overview of Algorithm
Ball Growing
Internal Edges vs External Edges

Consider the subgraph in blue
Internal Nodes vs External Nodes

These are the internal edges
Internal Nodes vs External Nodes

These are the external edges
Constriction is defined as \[ \text{Constriction} = \frac{\text{the number of external edges}}{\text{the number of internal edges}} \]
Starts with a single vertex, and repeatedly adds the neighbors similarly to BFS. It terminates when the constriction is less than $\beta$. 
\[ \beta = \frac{1}{2} \]
External edges: 2
Internal edges: 0
Constriction: 2/0
\[ \beta = \frac{1}{2} \]
External edges: 5
Internal edges: 2
Constriction: 5/2

$\beta = \frac{1}{2}$
External edges: 3
Internal edges: 7
**Constriction:** $3/7 < 1/2$

$\beta = \frac{1}{2}$
Ball Growing

- Diameter of a piece is bounded by $O\left(\frac{\log n}{\beta}\right)$
- Easy to run serially
  - Find the second subgraph after we are done finding the first
- However, if we parallelize then we get problems with overlapping
Shifting
Dealing with Overlaps

Decompose(V):
    cilk_for(u in V):
        ball_growing(u, rand_time(node))

ball_growing(u, start_time):
    if time == start_time:
        if !u.cluster:
            u.cluster = u
            BFS(u)

BFS(u):
    cilk_for(v in u.neighbors):
        if !v.cluster:
            v.cluster = u.cluster
            BFS(v)
Distances not Times

\[ \text{dist}_{-\delta}(u, v) = \text{dist}(u, v) - \delta_u \]
\[ F(t) = 1 - e^{-\lambda t} \]

(Cumulative distribution function)

\[ f(t) = \lambda e^{-\lambda t} \]

(Probability density function)

\[ \lambda = 1 \]

\[
F_{Exp}(x, \gamma) = \Pr[\text{Exp}(\gamma) \leq x] = \begin{cases} 
1 - \exp(-\gamma x) & \text{if } x \geq 0, \\
0 & \text{otherwise}.
\end{cases}
\]
Algorithm 1 Parallel Partition Algorithm

Parallel Partition

Input: Undirected, unweighted graph $G = (V, E)$, parameter $0 < \beta < 1$

Output: $(\beta, O(\log n/\beta))$ decomposition of $G$ WHP

1: IN PARALLEL each vertex $u$ picks $\delta_u$ independently from an exponential distribution with mean $1/\beta$.
2: IN PARALLEL compute $\delta_{\text{max}} = \max\{\delta_u \mid u \in V\}$
3: Perform PARALLEL BFS, with vertex $u$ starting when the vertex at the head of the queue has distance more than $\delta_{\text{max}} - \delta_u$.
4: IN PARALLEL Assign each vertex $u$ to point of origin of the shortest path that reached it in the BFS.
Impact and Analysis

- By picking shifts uniformly from a sufficiently large range, a \( (\beta, O\left(\frac{\log^c n}{\beta}\right)) \) decomposition can be obtained.
- A common algorithmic routine is to partition a graph into \( O(\log n) \) blocks such that each connected piece in a block has diameter \( O(\log n) \)
  - This can be obtained using this algorithm by running a \((1/2, O(\log n))\) low diameter decomposition \( O(\log n) \) times as the number of edges not in a block decreases by a factor of 2 per iteration
- As a sequential algorithm, it can also lead to similar guarantees on weighted graphs to Bartal’s decomposition scheme as well as generalizations needed for improved low stretch spanning tree algorithms
- Parallel performance with weighted graph has not been analyzed
Future Steps

- Obtaining similar parallel guarantees in the weighted setting
- Showing clustering-based properties