A Generalized Framework for Global Communication Optimization

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Abstract

In distributed-memory message-passing architectures reducing communication cost is extremely important. In this paper, we present a technique to optimize communication globally. Our approach is based on a combination of linear algebra framework and dataflow analysis, and can take arbitrary control flow into account. The distinctive features of the algorithm are its accuracy in keeping communication set information and its support for general alignments and distributions including block-cyclic distributions. The method is currently being implemented in the PARADIGM compiler. The preliminary results show that the technique is effective in reducing both number as well as volume of the communication.

1. Introduction

Distributed-memory multiprocessors are attractive for high performance computing in that they offer potentially high levels of flexibility, scalability and performance. But the need for explicit message passing resulting from the lack of a globally shared address space renders programming these machines a difficult task. The main objective behind the efforts such as High Performance Fortran (HPF) is to raise the level of programming by allowing the user write programs with a shared address space view augmented with directives that specify data mapping. The compilers for such languages are responsible for partitioning computation, inserting necessary commands that implement required message passing for access to non-local data.

On such machines, cost to access non-local data is usually orders of magnitude higher than accessing local data. Therefore, it is imperative to reduce the frequency and volume of non-local accesses as much as possible. Several efforts have been aimed at reducing communication overhead incurred. The most common optimization technique used by previous researchers is message vectorization [7, 3]. In message vectorization, instead of naively inserting send and recv operations just before references to non-local data, communication is hoisted to outer loops. Essentially this optimization replaces many small messages with one large message reducing the number of messages. Some researchers [7] have also considered message coalescing which combines messages due to different references to the same array, and message aggregation which combines messages due to references to different arrays to the same destination processor into a single message. Many of these techniques are limited to a single loop nest.

Recently a number of authors have proposed techniques based on dataflow analysis to optimize communication across multiple loop nests [5, 6, 10]. Almost all of the approaches use a variant of Regular Section Descriptors (RSD) introduced by Callahan and Kennedy [4]. For each array referenced in the program, an RSD is defined which describes the portion of the array that is referenced. Although this representation is convenient for simple array sections such as those found in pure block or cyclic distributions, it is hard to embed alignment and general distribution information into it. Apart from inadequate support for block-cyclic distributions, working with section descriptors may sometimes result in overestimation of the communication sets.

In this paper, we show that the problem of global communication optimization can be cast in a linear algebra framework. This allows the compiler to easily apply traditional loop-based optimization techniques such as message vectorization, message coalescing as well as global optimizations such as redundant communication elimination and communication hoisting. Using the linear algebra framework proposed by Ancourt et al. [2], our technique is able to handle the optimization problem at the granularity of individual array elements. The task of code generation is made easier by our use of the Omega library [9] from the University of Maryland. The global communication sets resulted from our dataflow analysis can be manipulated by the Omega system. Our approach gives the compiler the capability to represent communication sets globally as equalities and inequalities as well as to use polyhedron scanning techniques to perform optimizations such as redundant communication elimination and global message coalescing which
were not possible under the loop nest based communication optimization schemes. We assume reader's familiarity with basic dataflow concepts such as control flow graph (CFG), basic block, and interval analysis as well as basic HPF directives. We also assume that prior to our analysis, the compiler has performed all loop-level transformations to enhance parallelism (e.g., loop permutation, loop distribution). Our technique is based on interval analysis performed on the CFG. The interval analysis [1] consists of a contraction phase and an elimination phase. In this paper, an interval corresponds to a loop and depending on the context the term ‘node’ is used for a statement, a basic block or a reduced interval.

2. Dataflow analysis

Consider the following program fragment annotated by HPF-like directives.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{real } X(a_0; a_d) \\
\text{HPFS template } T(d_0) \\
\text{HPFS processors } \text{PROC}(p_d; p_u) \\
\text{HPFS align } X(j) \text{ with } T(\alpha^* + \beta) \\
\text{HPFS distribute } T(\text{cyclic}(C)) \text{ onto } \text{PROC}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
do i = i_v, i_u \\
X(\gamma_L * i + \theta_L) &= \ldots X(\gamma_R * i + \theta_R) \ldots \\
\end{align*}
\]

enddo

Let \( R_L = X(\gamma_L * i + \theta_L) \) and \( R_R = X(\gamma_R * i + \theta_R) \). Assuming \( p \) and \( q \) denote two processors, the following sets can be defined:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Own}(X, q) &= \{ d \mid d \in X \text{ and is owned by } q \} \\
\text{Compute}(X, R_L, q) &= \{ i \mid \gamma_L * i + \theta_L \in \text{Own}(X, q) \\
&\quad \text{and } i_v \leq i \leq i_u \} \\
\text{View}(X, R_R, q) &= \{ d \mid \exists \text{ st. } i \in \text{Compute}(X, R_L, q) \text{ and } \\
&\quad d = X(\gamma_R * i + \theta_R) \text{ and } i_v \leq i \leq i_u \} \\
\text{CommSet}(X, R_R, p, q) &= \text{Own}(X, q) \cap \text{View}(X, R_R, p).
\end{align*}
\]

Intuitively, the set \( \text{Own}(X, q) \) refers to the elements mapped onto processor \( q \) through compiler directives. The set of iterations to be executed by \( q \) due to a LHS reference \( R_L \) is given by \( \text{Compute}(X, R_L, q) \). Of course, during the execution of this iteration set, some elements (local or non-local) accessed by RHS reference \( R_R \) will be required; the set \( \text{View}(X, R_R, q) \) defines these elements. Finally, \( \text{CommSet}(X, R_R, p, q) \) defines the elements that should be communicated from processor \( q \) to processor \( p \) due to reference \( R_R \). It should be noted that in general there may be more than one RHS reference, and the computation may involve multi-dimensional arrays and a multi-level nest in which case \( \alpha \) and \( i \) denote data and iteration vectors respectively. Also in the most general case, \( \alpha, \gamma_L \) and \( \gamma_R \) are matrices, and \( \beta, \theta_L \) and \( \theta_R \) are vectors.

The definition of the \( \text{Own} \) set above is rather informal. For a more precise definition, we take into account the

block-cyclic distribution and define the \( \text{Own} \) set as

\[
\text{Own}(X, q) = \{ d \mid \exists t, c, l \text{ such that } t = \alpha * d + \beta \text{ and } \\
&\quad t = c * p + c * e + c * q + 1 \text{ and } a_l \leq d \leq a_u \text{ and } \\
&\quad p_l \leq q \leq p_u \text{ and } t_l \leq t \leq t_u \text{ and } 0 \leq l \leq C - 1 \},
\]

where \( P = p_u - p_l + 1 \). In this formulation, \( t = \alpha * d + \beta \) represents alignment information and \( t = c * p + c * e + c * q + 1 \) denotes the distribution information. Simple BLOCK and CYCLIC (\ref{cylic}) distributions can easily be handled within this framework by setting \( c = 0 \) and \( 1 = 0 \), respectively. See [2] for the exact definition of a communication set depends on the context in which it is used. Throughout our analysis, a set is defined as \( \{ d \mid d \text{ is owned by } q \} \) and is required (by or should be transferred to or has already been transferred to \( p \) \} except for the \( \text{KILL} \) set, which defines the set of elements written (killed) by \( q \). Since we define a communication set as a list of equalities and inequalities, it can be represented as \( S = \{ d \mid P(d) \} \) where \( P(\cdot) \) is a predicate. Let \( \{ d \mid P(d) \} \) and \( \{ d \mid Q(d) \} \) be two communication sets. We define the operations \( +, - \), and \( \cap \) on communication sets as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\{ d \mid P(d) \} + c \{ d \mid Q(d) \} &= \{ d \mid P(d) \text{ or } Q(d) \} \\
\{ d \mid P(d) \} - c \{ d \mid Q(d) \} &= \{ d \mid P(d) \text{ and not } Q(d) \} \\
\{ d \mid P(d) \} \cap \{ d \mid Q(d) \} &= \{ d \mid P(d) \text{ and } Q(d) \}
\end{align*}
\]

Note that the operations ‘or’, ‘and’ and ‘not’ can easily be performed by the corresponding Omega operations on sets which contain equalities and inequalities.

Let \( D = (R, S) \) be a communication descriptor. We define two functions: a function \( \mathcal{N} \) from communication descriptors space to array identifiers space; and a function \( \mathcal{M} \) from communication descriptors space to communication sets space such that \( \mathcal{N}(D) = R \) and \( \mathcal{M}(D) = S \).

Suppose \( DS_1 \) and \( DS_2 \) are two communication descriptor sets. Three operations, namely \( +, - \), and \( \cap \), are defined on these sets as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
DS_1 +_d DS_2 &= \{ D \mid D \in DS_1 \text{ and } VD' \in DS_2 \mathcal{N}(D) \neq \mathcal{N}(D') \} \\
&\cup \{ D \mid D \in DS_1, D' \in DS_2 \mathcal{N}(D) = \mathcal{N}(D') \} \\
&\cup \{ D \mid 3D' \in DS_1, D'' \in DS_2 \text{ st. } \\
&\mathcal{N}(D) = \mathcal{N}(D') = \mathcal{N}(D'') \text{ and } \\
&\mathcal{M}(D) = \mathcal{M}(D') + c \mathcal{M}(D'') \}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
DS_1 -_d DS_2 &= \{ D \mid D \in DS_1 \text{ and } VD' \in DS_2 \mathcal{N}(D) \neq \mathcal{N}(D') \} \\
&\cup \{ D \mid 3D' \in DS_1, D'' \in DS_2 \text{ st. } \\
&\mathcal{N}(D) = \mathcal{N}(D') = \mathcal{N}(D'') \text{ and } \\
&\mathcal{M}(D) = \mathcal{M}(D') - c \mathcal{M}(D'') \}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
DS_1 \cap_d DS_2 &= \{ D \mid 3D' \in DS_1, D'' \in DS_2 \text{ st. } \\
&\mathcal{N}(D) = \mathcal{N}(D') = \mathcal{N}(D'') \text{ and } \\
&\mathcal{M}(D) = \mathcal{M}(D') \cap c \mathcal{M}(D'') \}
\end{align*}
\]

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In this paper, we sometimes use $\cup_c$ and $\cup_d$ instead of $+_c$ and $+_d$, respectively. It should be noted that although these operations are similar to those presented by Gong et al. [5], there is an important difference. Since we keep the communication sets accurately in terms of equalities and inequalities, we can optimize (e.g., coalesce) communication messages even if the messages do not have the same communication pattern (e.g., broadcast, point-to-point) or identical sender/receiver sets.

2.1. Local (Intra-Interval) Analysis

The local analysis part of our framework computes $KILL$, $GEN$ and $POST_GEN$ sets for each interval. Then the interval is reduced to a single node and annotated with this information.

Let $R_L(i)$ and $R_R(i)$ be the data elements obtained from references $R_L$ and $R_R$ respectively with a specific iteration vector $i$. The computation of the $KILL$ set proceeds in the forward direction; that is, the nodes within the interval are traversed in topological sort order. Let $KILL(i, q)$ be the set of elements written (killed) by processor $q$ in node $i$, and $Modified(i, q)$ be the set of elements that may be killed along any path from the beginning of the interval to node $i$ (including node $i$). Then,

$$KILL(i, q) = \{ \bar{d} \mid \bar{d} \in Own(X, q) \text{ and } \exists \text{st. } \bar{d} = R_L(i) \text{ and } i \leq i \leq i_u \}$$

$$Modified(i, q) = \bigcup_{j \in pred(i)} Modified(j, q) \cup KILL(i, q)$$

assuming that $Modified(\text{pred(first}(i)), q) = \emptyset$ where $\text{first}(i)$ is the first node in $i$. If $\text{last}(i)$ is the last node in $i$, then

$$KILL(i, q) = Modified(\text{last}(i), q).$$

This last equation is used to reduce an interval into a node.

$GEN(i, p, q)$ is the set of elements required by processor $p$ from processor $q$ at node $i$ with no preceding write (assignment) to them. The computation of the $GEN$ proceeds in the backward direction, i.e., the nodes within each interval are traversed in reverse topological sort order. The elements that can be communicated at the beginning of a node are the elements required by any RHS reference within the node except the ones that are written before being referenced.

Assuming $i = (i_1, \ldots, i_n)$ and $i' = (i'_1, \ldots, i'_n)$, let $i' < i$ mean that $i'$ is lexicographically less than or equal to $i$; and $i' < k i$ mean that $i'_j = i_j$ for all $j < k$, and $(i'_k, \ldots, i'_n) < (i_k, \ldots, i_n)$. Since a node can refer to multiple RHS references, we define

$$GEN(i, p, q) = \bigcup_{R \in R_R} GEN(i, R, p, q).$$

For the sake of simplicity, we assume one RHS reference per node, and use $GEN(i, p, q)$ in the following. Let $Comm(i, p, q)$ be the set of elements that may be communicated at the beginning of interval $i$ to satisfy communication requirements from the beginning of $i$ to the last node of $i$. Then, assuming that $Comm(\text{succ}(\text{last}(i)), q) = \emptyset$, we have

$$GEN(i, p, q) = \{ \bar{d} \mid \exists \bar{d} \text{ st. } \bar{d}_i \leq \bar{d} \leq \bar{d}_{i_u} \text{ and } \bar{d} = Own(X, q) \text{ and } \bar{d} = R_L(i) \text{ and } R_R(i) = Own(X, p) \text{ and not } \left( \exists j, R_L(j) \text{ st. } \bar{d}_i \leq j \leq \bar{d}_{i_u} \text{ and } \bar{d} = R_L(j) \text{ and } j \sim pred(i) \right) \} \cup Comm(s, p, q) \cup GEN(i, p, q).$$

In addition, we use the following equation to reduce an interval into a single node:

$$GEN(i, p, q) = Comm(\text{First}(i), p, q).$$

In the definition of $GEN$, $R_L$ denotes the RHS reference, and $R_R$ denotes the LHS reference of the same statement. $R_L'$, on the other hand, refers to any RHS reference within the same interval. Notice that while $R_L'$ is a reference to the same array as $R_L$, $R_R$ can be a reference to any array. $\text{level}(i)$ gives the nesting level of the interval (loop), $l$ corresponding to the outermost loop in the nest.

After the interval is reduced, the $GEN$ set for it is recorded, and an operator $F$ is applied to the last part of this $GEN$ set to propagate it to the outer interval:

$$F(j \sim k) = j \sim (k_{i_u} - 1) i.$$

We should emphasize that computation of the $GEN$ sets gives us all the communication that can be vectorized above a loop nest; that is, our analysis easily handles message vectorization. Finally, $POST_GEN(i, p, q)$ is the set of elements required by processor $p$ from processor $q$ at node $i$ with no subsequent write to them:

$$POST_GEN(i, p, q) = \{ \bar{d} \mid \exists \bar{d} \text{ st. } \bar{d}_i \leq \bar{d} \leq \bar{d}_{i_u} \text{ and } \bar{d} = Own(X, q) \text{ and } \bar{d} = R_L(i) \text{ and } R_R(i) = Own(X, p) \text{ and not } \left( \exists j, R_L(j) \text{ st. } \bar{d}_i \leq j \leq \bar{d}_{i_u} \text{ and } \bar{d} = R_L(j) \text{ and } j \sim pred(i) \right) \}.$$

The computation of $POST_GEN(i, p, q)$ proceeds in the forward direction. Its computation is similar to those of $KILL(i, q)$ and $GEN(i, p, q)$ sets.

2.2. Dataflow Equations

We concentrate on the computation of the $recv$ sets only. Similar analysis applies to $send$ sets as well except for the fact that the definition of the communication set should be modified accordingly. Our dataflow analysis framework consists of a backward and a forward pass. In the backward pass, the compiler determines sets of data elements that can safely be communicated at specific points. The forward pass, on the other hand, eliminates redundant communication and determines the final
set of elements (if any) that should be communicated at the beginning of each node $i$. The input for the equations consists of the $\text{GEN}(i, p, q), \text{KILL}(i, q)$ and $\text{POST\_GEN}(i, p, q)$ sets as computed during the local analysis. The dataflow equations for the backward analysis are given by Equations (1) and (2) in Figure 1. Note that $\cap$ in this figure denotes $\cap_d$.

$\text{SAFE\_IN}(i, p, q)$ and $\text{SAFE\_OUT}(i, p, q)$ are the sets of communication descriptors which denote the elements that can safely be communicated at the beginning and end of node $i$, respectively. Equation (1) says that an element should be communicated at a point if and only if it will be used in all of the following paths in the CFG. Equation (2), on the other hand, gives the set of elements that can safely be communicated at the beginning of node $i$, and makes use of the $\text{GEN}$ and $\text{KILL}$ sets. Intuitively, an element can be communicated at the beginning of node $i$ if and only if it is either required (generated) by node $i$ or it reaches at the end of node $i$ and is not overwritten (killed) in it. $P(i)$ is a predicate used to control how far the communications should be hoisted. It should be noted that if the elements contained in $\text{SAFE\_IN}$ sets are directly communicated without any further analysis, there would be significant amounts of redundant communication. The task of the forward analysis phase is to eliminate redundant communication.

The dataflow equations for the forward analysis are given by Equations (3), (4) and (5) in Figure 1. $\text{RECV\_IN}(i, p, q)$ and $\text{RECV\_OUT}(i, p, q)$ denote the set of communication descriptors which contain the elements that have been communicated so far (at the beginning and end of the node $i$ respectively) from $q$ to $p$. On the other hand, $\text{RECV}(i, p, q)$ denotes the set of communication descriptors which contain elements that should be communicated from $q$ to $p$ at the beginning of node $i$ and is finally used by the communication generation portion of the compiler to generate the actual recv commands. Equation (3) simply says that the communication set arriving at a join node can be found by intersecting the sets for all the joining paths. Equation (4) is used to compute the $\text{RECV}$ set which corresponds to the elements that can be communicated at the beginning of the node except the ones that have already been communicated ($\text{RECV\_IN}$). The elements that have been communicated at the end of node $i$ (that is, $\text{RECV\_OUT}$ set) are simply the union of the elements communicated up to the beginning of $i$, the elements communicated at the beginning of $i$ provided that the condition in equation (5) is not satisfied (except the ones which have been overwritten (killed) in $i$) and the elements communicated in $i$ and not written subsequently ($\text{POST\_GEN}$), again provided that the condition in the equation is not satisfied. It should be emphasized that all these sets are communication descriptor sets, and the order of operations as indicated by the parentheses is important.

2.3 Global Dataflow Analysis

Our approach starts by computing the $\text{GEN}$, $\text{KILL}$ and $\text{POST\_GEN}$ sets for each node. Then the contraction phase of the analysis reduces the intervals from innermost to outermost and annotates them with $\text{GEN}$, $\text{KILL}$ and $\text{POST\_GEN}$ sets. When a reduced CFG with no cycles is reached, the expansion phase starts and $\text{RECV}$ sets for each interval is computed, this time from outermost to innermost. There is one important point to note: before starting to process the next inner graph, the $\text{RECV\_IN}$ set of the first node in this graph is set to the $\text{RECV}$ set of the interval that contains it. More formally, in the expansion phase, we set

$$\text{RECV\_IN}(i, p, q)^k = \text{RECV}(i, p, q)^{(k-1)th\_pass}.$$  

This assignment then triggers the next pass in the expansion phase. Of course, before the expansion phase starts $\text{RECV\_IN}(i, p, q)^{1st\_pass}$ is set to $0$. The $\text{send}$ sets are gen-
Table 1. Results of the static analysis for tomcatv on 8 nodes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>program</th>
<th>number of messages</th>
<th>communication volume (in array elements)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(BLOCK,*)</td>
<td>(CYCLIC(4),*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>base</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opt</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% imprv.</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Results of the static analysis for swim256 on 8 nodes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>program</th>
<th>number of messages</th>
<th>communication volume (in array elements)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(BLOCK,*)</td>
<td>(CYCLIC(4),*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>base</td>
<td>4,691</td>
<td>5,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opt</td>
<td>2,489</td>
<td>2,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% imprv.</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Preliminary results

We measure the effectiveness of our approach statically in terms of number of messages and communication volume across all processors. Tables 1 and 2 present the results of static analysis for the tomcatv and swim256 benchmarks (from Spec95 benchmark suite), respectively, on 8 processors with an input size of 512 for (BLOCK, *), (CYCLIC(4), *) and (CYCLIC, *) distributions. base refers to the message vectorized version whereas opt is the program resulted from our global optimization framework. On the average, for tomcatv, there is a 75% reduction in both number of messages and the communication volume. For swim256, on the other hand, there is a 47% reduction in the number of messages, and a 44% reduction in the communication volume. The results show that our approach is successful at reducing the number of communication calls and communication volume.

4. Conclusions

In this paper, we presented a global communication optimization scheme based on two complementary techniques: dataflow analysis and linear algebra framework. The combination of these techniques allows us to optimize communication globally for HPF-like alignments and distributions including block-cyclic distributions. The cost of the analysis is managed by keeping the communication sets symbolically until the end of the dataflow analysis where the Omega library is called to generate actual sets in terms of equalities and inequalities. The preliminary experimental results show the effectiveness of our approach in reducing the number of messages and the volume of the data to be communicated.

References


