ParFUM: A Parallel Framework for Unstructured Meshes

Aaron Becker, Isaac Dooley, Terry Wilmarth, Sayantan Chakravorty Parallel Programming Lab

What is ParFUM?

- A framework for writing parallel finite element codes
- Takes care of difficult tasks involved in parallelizing a serial code
- Provides advanced mesh operations such as mesh adaptivity
- Constantly evolving to support application needs (for example, now supports cohesive elements and collision detection)
- Based on Charm++, supports C, C++, and Fortran

Making Parallel Finite Element Codes Easier

A simple serial finite element code:

Create mesh

Perform finite element computations

Extract results

Making Parallel Finite Element Codes Easier

A simple parallel finite element code:

Create mesh

Partition mesh

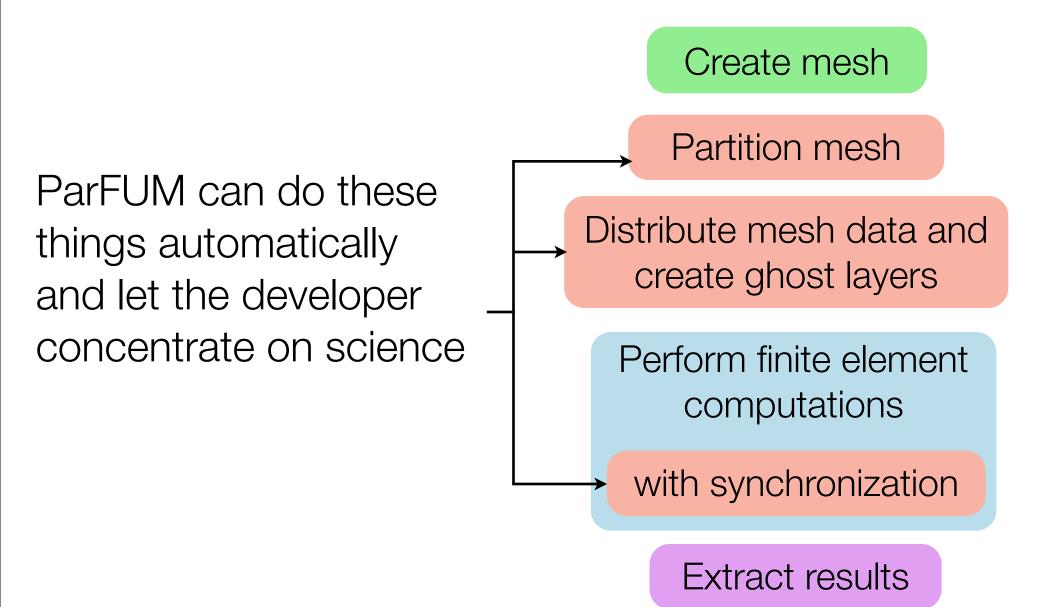
Distribute mesh data and create ghost layers

Perform finite element computations

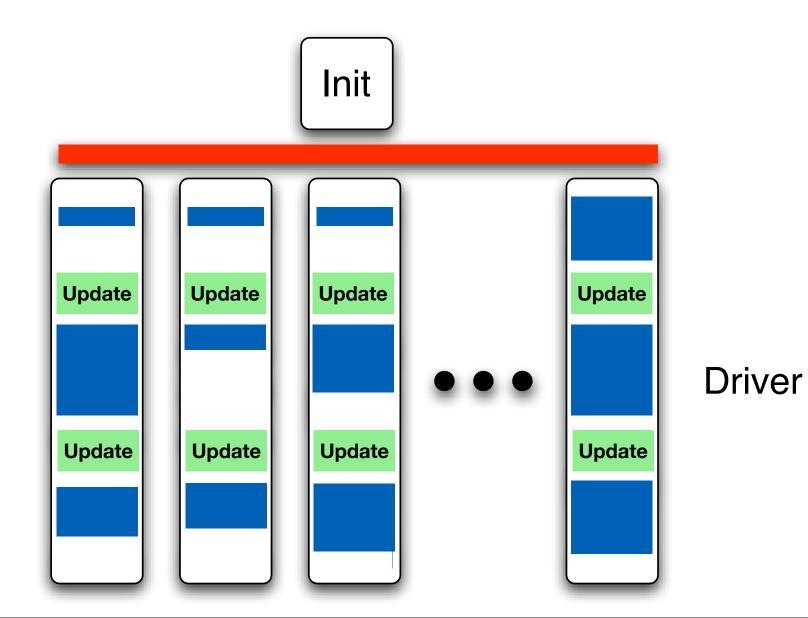
with synchronization

Extract results

Making Parallel Finite Element Codes Easier

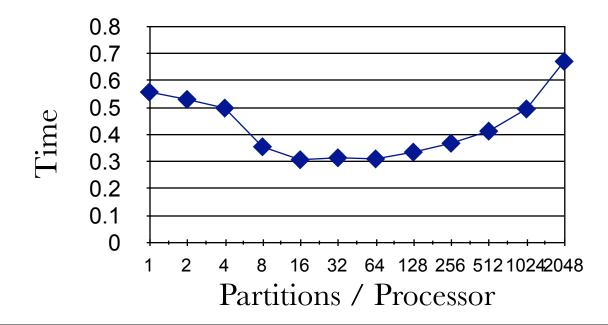


The Structure of a ParFUM Program

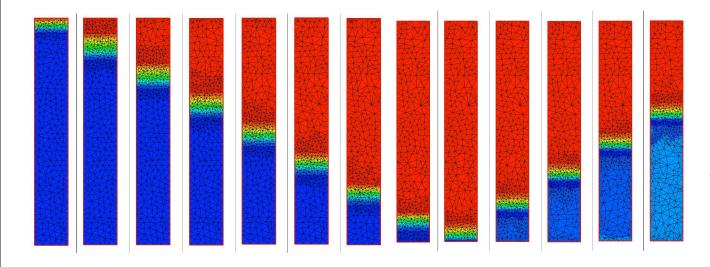


Why Charm++ and AMPI?

- Some mesh operations (such as local adaptivity) are very well suited to the Charm++ message driven style of programming
- The Charm++ runtime provides dynamic load balancing
- Virtualization (multiple mesh regions per processor) can dramatically improve performance:



Parallel Refinement and Coarsening



Shock propagation and reflection down the length of the bar

Adaptive mesh modification to capture the shock propagation

