

Taskflow: A General-purpose Taskparallel Programming System

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- Express your parallelism in the right way
- Program static task graph parallelism using Taskflow
- Program dynamic task graph parallelism using Taskflow
- Overcome the scheduling challenges
- Demonstrate the efficiency of Taskflow
- Conclude the talk

Why Parallel Computing?

Advances performance to a new level previously out of reach





Today's Parallel Workload is Very Complex

GPU-parallel circuit simulation task graph of Nvidia's NVDLA design¹



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Parallel Programming is Not Easy

You need to deal with A LOT OF technical details

- Parallelism abstraction (software + hardware)
- Concurrency control
- Task and data race avoidance
- Dependency constraints
- Scheduling efficiencies (load balancing)
- Performance portability
- ...

And, don't forget about trade-offs

• Performance vs Desires



Need a Good Programming Abstraction

- From user's perspective, the biggest challenge is *transparency*
 - Programming abstraction, runtime optimization, load balancing, etc.
- Observing from the evolution of parallel programming standards:
 - Task graph parallelism (TGP) is the best model for future parallel architectures
 - Capture programmers' intention in decomposing a heterogeneous algorithm into a top-down task graph
 - Runtime can schedule dependent tasks across many processing units
- Increasing numbers of task-parallel programming systems





Two Problems of Existing Tools for EDA ...

EDA has very complex task dependencies

- Example: analysis algorithms compute the circuit network of multi-millions of nodes and dependencies
- **Problem**: existing tools are often good at loop parallelism (e.g., embarrassinglyparallel loops) but weak in expressing task graphs at this large scale

• EDA has very complex control flow

- Example: synthesis algorithms make essential use of *dynamic control flow* to implement various patterns
 - Combinatorial optimization (e.g., graph algorithms, discrete math)
 - Analytical methods (e.g., physical synthesis)
- **Problem**: existing tools are often limited to *direct acyclic graph* (DAC) models, requiring users to manually partition their workloads around control-flow or decision-making points





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[] () { std::cout << "TaskC\n"; }, [] () { std::cout << "TaskD\n"; }

A.precede(B, C); D.succeed(B, C); executor.run(taskflow).wait(); return 0;

#include <taskflow/taskflow.hpp>

tf::Taskflow taskflow;

tf::Executor executor;

int main(){

¹: T.-W. Huang, et. al, "Taskflow: A Lightweight Parallel and Heterogeneous Task Graph Computing System," IEEE TPDS, 2022.

"Hello World" in Taskflow¹

auto [A, B, C, D] = taskflow.emplace(

[] () { std::cout << "TaskA\n"; }

[] () { std::cout << "TaskB\n"; },

// live: <u>https://godbolt.org/z/j8hx3xnnx</u>





Taskflow Supports Drop-in Integration

- Taskflow is header-only *no wrangle with installation*
- # clone the Taskflow project
- ~\$ git clone https://github.com/taskflow/taskflow.git
- ~\$ cd taskflow
- # compile your program and tell it where to find Taskflow header files
- ~\$ g++ -std=c++20 examples/simple.cpp –I ./ -O2 -pthread -o simple
- ~\$./simple
- TaskA
- TaskC
- TaskB
- TaskD

Built-in Task Execution Visualizer

run you program with the env variable TF_ENABLE_PROFILER enabled # and paste the JSON content to <u>https://taskflow.github.io/tfprof/</u> ~\$ TF_ENABLE_PROFILER=simple.json ./simple



Control Taskflow Graph Programming (CTFG)



// CTFG goes beyond the limitation of traditional DAG-based models auto cond $1 = taskflow.emplace([](){ return run B() ? 0 : 1; }); // 0: is the index of B$ auto cond_2 = taskflow.emplace([](){ return run_G() ? 0 : 1; }); // 0: is the index of G auto cond_3 = taskflow.emplace([](){ return loop() ? 0 : 1; }); // 0: is the index of cond_3 cond 1.precede(B, E); // cycle Very difficult for existing DAG-based cond_2.precede(G, H); // if-else systems to express an efficient overlap cond 3.precede(cond 3, L); // loop between tasks and control flow ... cond_1 0 E Α 0 cond_2 Н cond 3 Μ

Non-deterministic Control Flow with CTFG



>>

auto A = taskflow.emplace([&](){ }); init auto B = taskflow.emplace([&](){ return rand()%2; }); auto C = taskflow.emplace([&](){ return rand()%2; }); flip-coin-1 auto D = taskflow.emplace([&](){ return rand()%2; }); auto E = taskflow.emplace([&](){ return rand()%2; }); flip-coin-2 auto F = taskflow.emplace([&](){ return rand()%2; }); auto G = taskflow.emplace([&](){}); flip-coin-3 A precede(B) name("init"); B precede(C, B).name("flip-coin-1"); Each task flips a binary C.precede(D, B).name("flip-coin-2"); flip-coin-4 coin to decide the next D.precede(E, B).name("flip-coin-3"); task to run E.precede(F, B).name("flip-coin-4"); flip-coin-5 F.precede(G, B).name("flip-coin-5"); G.name("end"); end

Existing Frameworks on Control Flow?

Most existing libraries are DAG-based

• Do not anticipate conditional execution ...

Unroll a task graph over fixed iterations

• Task graph size becomes very large ...

What about dynamic control flow?

- Resort to client-side partitions of the task graph around each decision-making points
- Synchronize the execution of partitioned task graphs around decision-making points
- Lack end-to-end parallelism

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```
tf::Taskflow G;
auto X = G.emplace([](){});
auto Y = G.emplace([](){
  return converged() ? 1 : 0;
});
cond.precede(Z, X);
executor.run(G).wait();
```

tbb::flow::graph¹ X, Y, Z; do { X.run(); Y.run(); } while (!converged()); Z.run();

Composable Tasking

```
tf::Taskflow f1, f2;
auto [f1A, f1B] = f1.emplace(
 []() { std::cout << "Task f1A\n"; },
 []() { std::cout << "Task f1B\n"; }
auto [f2A, f2B, f2C] = f2.emplace(
 []() { std::cout << "Task f2A\n"; },
 []() { std::cout << "Task f2B\n"; },
 []() { std::cout << "Task f2C\n"; }
);
auto f1 module task = f2.composed of(f1);
f1 module task.succeed(f2A, f2B)
                 .precede(f2C);
```







3.7x

2.0x

GPU Tasking with CUDA Graph¹

tf::cudaGraph cg; auto h2d_x = cg.copy(dx, hx.data(), N); auto h2d_y = cg.copy(dy, hy.data(), N); auto d2h_x = cg.copy(hx.data(), dx, N); auto d2h_y = cg.copy(hy.data(), dy, N);

// saxpy kernel with 4 blocks each of 512 threads
auto kernel = cg.kernel(4, 512, 0, saxpy, N, 2f, dx, dy);
kernel.succeed(h2d_x, h2d_y).precede(d2h_x, d2h_y);

// create an executable and run it 10 times
tf::cudaGraphExec exec(cg);
tf::cudaStream stream;
stream.run_n(exec, 10).synchronize();



2.2x

V100

1.5x

Advantage of CUDA Graph

1.5x

5.0x

4.0x

1.0

0.0



Everything is Composable in Taskflow

End-to-end parallelism in one graph

- Task, dependency, control flow all together
- Scheduling with whole-graph optimization
- Efficient overlap among heterogeneous tasks

Largely improved productivity!

Composition (HPDC'22, ICPP'22, HPEC'19)





Reddit: https://www.reddit.com/r/cpp/ [under taskflow]

I've migrated <u>https://ossia.io</u> from TBB flow graph to taskflow a couple weeks ago. Net +8% of throughput on the graph processing itself, and took only a couple hours to do the change Also don't have to fight with building the TBB libraries for 30 different platforms and configurations since it's header only.

☆ 8
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• In STGP, the graph structure must be known up front

• Execution of STGP is based on the construct-and-run model

Lack of overlap between task construction and task execution

• For large task graphs (e.g., multi-million tasks and dependencies), such an overlap can bring a significant performance advantage

Lack of flexible and dynamic expression of TGP

• Task graph structure cannot depend on runtime values or control-flow results



Problem of STGP: Example #1



Runtime breakdown of a task-parallel circuit timing analyzer¹



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Problem of STGP: Example #2



• Express TGP that depends on runtime variables...?

```
if (a == true) {
 G1 = build task graph1();
 if (b == true) {
  G2 = build task graph2();
  G1.precede(G2);
  if (c == true) {
   ... // need another different TGP
 else {
  G3 = build_task_graph3();
  G3.precede(G1);
```

```
G1 = build task graph1();
G2 = build task graph2();
if (G1.num tasks() == 100) {
  G1.precede(G2);
else {
  G3 = build_task_graph3();
  G2.precede(G1, G3);
  if (G2.num dependencies() >= 10) {
   ... // define dependencies on the fly
```



Dynamic TGP (DTGP) in Taskflow

```
// Live: https://godbolt.org/z/j76ThGbWK
tf::Executor executor;
auto A = executor.silent dependent async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskA\n";</pre>
});
auto B = executor.silent dependent async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskB\n";</pre>
}, A);
auto C = executor.silent dependent async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskC\n";</pre>
}, A);
auto [D, Fu] = executor.dependent_async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskD\n";</pre>
}, B, C); ←
Fu.wait();
```



Specify arbitrary task dependencies using C++ variadic parameter pack

Comparison between STGP and DTGP





DTGP Needs a Correct Topological Order

```
auto A = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskA\n";</pre>
});
auto B = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskB\n";
}, A);
auto C = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
                                                         });
  std::cout << "TaskC\n";</pre>
}, A);
auto D = executor.silent dependent async([](){
                                                         }, A);
  std::cout << "TaskD\n":
}, B, C);
    Topological order #1: A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow D
```





```
Topological order #2: A \rightarrow C \rightarrow B \rightarrow D
auto A = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskA\n";
auto C = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskC\n";</pre>
auto B = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskB\n";</pre>
}, A);
auto D = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskD\n";</pre>
}, B, C);
```



Incorrect Topological Order ...

```
tf::Executor executor;
auto A = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
    std::cout << "TaskA\n";
});
```

```
auto D = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
    std::cout << "TaskD\n";</pre>
```

```
}, <u>B-is-unavailable-yet</u>, <u>C-is-unavailable-yet</u>);
```

```
auto B = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
    std::cout << "TaskB\n";</pre>
```

```
}, A);
```

```
auto C = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
    std::cout << "TaskC\n";</pre>
```

```
}, A);
executor.wait_for_all();
```

A B D

An incorrect topological order ($A \rightarrow D \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$) disallows us from expressing correct DTGP

Variable Range of Task Dependencies

Both methods can take a range of dependent-async tasks

• useful when the task dependencies come as a runtime variable

```
// Live: https://godbolt.org/z/6Pvco4KeE
std::vector<tf::AsyncTask> tasks = {
    executor.silent_dependent_async([](){ std::cout << "TaskA\n"; }),
    executor.silent_dependent_async([](){ std::cout << "TaskB\n"; }),
    executor.silent_dependent_async([](){ std::cout << "TaskC\n"; }),
    executor.silent_dependent_async([](){ std::cout << "TaskD\n"; })
};</pre>
```

// create a dependent-async tasks that depends on tasks, A, B, C, and D
executor.dependent_async([](){}, tasks.begin(), tasks.end());

// create a silent-dependent-async tasks that depends on tasks, A, B, C, and D
executor.silent_dependent_async([](){}, tasks.begin(), tasks.end());





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STGP Scheduling Algorithm

Key results: schedule tasks with in-graph control flow with a strong balance between the number of active workers and dynamically generated tasks – *low latency, energy efficient, and high throughput*

DTGP Scheduling Algorithm

• The algorithm has three parts:

- Build dependencies
- · Wait for dependents to finish
- Execute the task

Three key scheduling challenges:

- 1. ABA a specified dependent task must exist correctly
- **2. Data race** multiple threads may simultaneously add and remove successors to and from a task
- **3. Synchronization** application can issue a global synchronization at anytime to wait for all tasks to finish

Solving Challenge #1: ABA Problem¹

```
tf::Executor executor;
auto A = executor.silent dependent async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskA\n";</pre>
});
auto B = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskB\n";</pre>
}, A);
auto C = executor.silent dependent async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskC\n";</pre>
}, A);
auto D = executor.silent dependent async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskD\n";</pre>
}, B, C);
executor.wait for all();
```


Retain Shared Ownership of Every Task


```
tf::Executor executor;
tf::AsyncTask A = executor.silent dependent async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskA\n";</pre>
});
tf::AsyncTask B = executor.silent dependent_async([](){
                                                               tf::AsyncTask acks like
  std::cout << "TaskB\n";</pre>
                                                                 a std::shared ptr to
}, A); ←
                                                               ensure tasks stay alive
tf::AsyncTask C = executor.silent dependent async([](){
                                                                 when they are used
  std::cout << "TaskC\n";</pre>
}, A);
tf::AsyncTask D = executor.silent dependent async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskD\n";</pre>
}, B, C);
executor.wait for all();
```

Solving Challenge #2: Data Race

- Both B and C want to add themselves to the successors of A
 - In the meantime, A may want to remove its successor
- Apply compare-and-swap (CAS) to enable exclusive access
 - As a result, constructing a dynamic task graph can be completely thread-safe

Solving Challenge #3: Synchronization

Application can issue a global synchronization at any time

• Ex: executor.wait_for_all(), future.get(), etc.

tf::Executor executor;

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auto A = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){}); auto B = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){}, A); / executor.wait_for_all(); // wait for A and B to finish

auto C = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){}, A); auto D = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){}, B, C); executor.wait for all(); // wait for C and D to finish

Taskflow uses C++20 atomic variables to perform waiting/notifying operations; many synchronizations can happen at user space instead of kernel // lock-based solution
// lock-based solution
std::unique_lock lock(mutex);
cv.wait(lock, [&](){
 return num_tasks == 0;
});

C++17

// atomic wait-based solution
auto n = num_tasks.load();
while(n != 0) {
 num_tasks.wait(n);
 n = num_tasks.load();
});

C++20

Lock-free Scheduling Algorithm¹

Algorithm 1 dependent_async(callable, deps)

- 1: Create a *future*
- 2: $num_deps \leftarrow sizeof(deps)$
- 3: $task \leftarrow initialize_task(callable, num_deps, future)$
- 4: for all $dep \in deps$ do
- 5: process_dependent($task, dep, num_deps$)
- 6: **end for**
- 7: if $num_deps == 0$ then
- 8: schedule_async_task(task)
- 9: end if
- 10: return (task, future)

Algorithm 2 process _dependent(task, dep, num _deps)

- 1: $dep_state \leftarrow dep.state$
- 2: target_state ← UNFINISHED
 3: if dep_state.CAS(target_state, LOCKED) then
- 4: dep.successors.push(task)
- 5: $dep_state \leftarrow UNFINISHED$
- 6: else if $target_state == FINISHED$ then
- 7: $num_deps \leftarrow AtomDec(task.join_counter)$
- 8: **else**

```
9: goto line 2
```

10: **end if**

Algorithm 3 schedule_async_task(task)

- 1: $target_state \leftarrow UNFINISHED$
- 2: while not *task.state*.CAS(*target_state*, *FINISHED*)

do

- 3: $target_state \leftarrow UNFINISHED$
- 4: end while
- 5: Invoke(task.callable)
- 6: for all $successor \in task.successors$ do
- if AtomDec(successor.join_counter) == 0 then
 schedule async task(successor)
- 9: end if
- 10: **end for**
- 11: if AtomDec $(task.ref_count) == 0$ then
- 12: Delete task
- 13: **end if**

¹: Cheng-Hsiang Chiu, et. al, "Programming Dynamic Task Parallelism for Heterogeneous EDA Algorithms," *IEEE/ACM ICCAD*, 2023

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Case Study 1: Task-parallel STA

¹: Tsung-Wei Huang, et al, "OpenTimer v2: A New Parallel Incremental Timing Analysis Engine," *IEEE TCAD*, 2022

Levelization-based vs Task-parallel GBA

- OpenTimer v1: levelization-based parallel timing propagation¹
 - Implemented using OpenMP "parallel_for" primitive
- OpenTimer v2: task-parallel timing propagation²
 - Implemented using Taskflow (<u>https://taskflow.github.io/</u>)

Taskflow allows us to more asynchronously parallelize the timing propagation

¹: Tsung-Wei Huang and Martin Wong, "OpenTimer: A High-Performance Timing Analysis Tool," *IEEE/ACM ICCAD*, 2015 ²: Tsung-Wei Huang, et al, "OpenTimer v2: A New Parallel Incremental Timing Analysis Engine," *IEEE TCAD*, 2022

Our Research atop Task-parallel STA

¹: Tsung-Wei Huang, et al, "OpenTimer v2: A New Parallel Incremental Timing Analysis Engine," *IEEE TCAD*, 2022

Input : G^+ in CSR format, N as #vertices, M as #edges,

vertices [N], edges [M], weights [M]Input : Shortest path forest, forest [N] as edge array,

GPU-accelerated Path-based Analysis (PBA)

• A GPU-parallel path generation algorithm¹

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Performance of GPU-based Path Generation

Benchmark	#Pins	#Gates	#Arcs	OpenTimer Runtime	Our Algorithm #MDL=10		Our Algorithm #MDL=15		Our Algorithm #MDL=20	
					Runtime	Speed-up	Runtime	Speed-up	Runtime	Speed-up
leon2	4328255	1616399	7984262	2875783	4708.36	611×	5295.49ms	543×	5413.84	531×
leon3mp	3376821	1247725	6277562	1217886	5520.85	221×	7091.79ms	172×	8182.84	149×
netcard	3999174	1496719	7404006	752188	2050.60	367×	2475.90ms	304×	2484.08	303×
vga_lcd	397809	139529	756631	53204	682.94	77.9×	683.04ms	77.9×	706.16	75.3×
vga_lcd_iccad	679258	259067	1243041	66582	720.40	92.4×	754.35ms	88.3×	766.29	86.9×
b19_iccad	782914	255278	1576198	402645	2144.67	188×	2948.94ms	137×	3483.05	116×
des_perf_ispd	371587	138878	697145	24120	763.79	31.6×	766.31ms	31.5×	780.56	30.9×
edit_dist_ispd	416609	147650	799167	614043	1818.49	338×	2475.12ms	$248 \times$	2900.14	$212 \times$
mgc_edit_dist	450354	161692	852615	694014	1463.61	$474 \times$	1485.65ms	467×	1493.90	465×
mgc_matric_mult	492568	171282	948154	214980	994.67	216×	1075.90ms	$200 \times$	1113.26	193×

Number of CPU cores in baseline

Case Study 2: GPU-accelerated SSTA

Model the SSTA propagation workload into a GPU task graph

¹: Chih-Chun Chang, et. al, "SSTA-X: GPU-Accelerated First-Order Block-Based Statistical Static Timing Analysis," under submission

GPU-accelerated STA vs CPU-parallel SSTA¹

					Runtim	e (ms)		Speedup of SSTA-X over			Error Rate
Circuit	#Gates	#Nets	#Pins	MC-SSTA	IITiMER	IITiMER	SSTA-X	MC-SSTA	IITiMER	IITiMER	vs. MC-SSTA
				20 CPUs	1 CPUs	20 CPUs	1 GPU	20 CPUs	1 CPUs	20 CPUs	μ and σ^2 (%)
aes_core	22938	23199	66751	3483	129	26	20	$174.15 \times$	$6.45 \times$	$1.30 \times$	0.29
b19	255278	255300	782914	54989	1411	335	134	$410.36 \times$	$10.50 \times$	2.50 imes	0.38
cordic	45359	45393	127993	7286	226	70	30	$242.86 \times$	7.53 imes	2.33 imes	0.07
des_perf	138878	139112	371587	11403	580	115	52	$219.28 \times$	$11.15 \times$	$2.21 \times$	0.36
leon2	1616369	1616984	4328255	178620	6912	1667	554	$322.41 \times$	$12.47 \times$	$3.01 \times$	0.32
leon3mp	1247725	1247979	3376832	167752	5455	1487	476	$352.42 \times$	$11.46 \times$	$3.10 \times$	0.40
netcard	1496719	1498555	3999174	209258	6668	1799	590	$354.67 \times$	$11.30 \times$	$3.04 \times$	0.34
vga_lcd	139529	139635	397809	20233	674	157	72	$281.01 \times$	9.36 imes	$2.18 \times$	2.11
vga_lcd_iccad	259067	259152	679258	27455	1068	295	103	$266.55 \times$	$10.36 \times$	2.86 imes	0.41
Average								$327.96 \times$	$11.32\times$	$2.81 \times$	0.58

Other Industrial Applications of Taskflow

- Quantum computing
 - Xanadu used Taskflow in their state vector-based simulator, JET
- Computer graphics and game rendering
 - Vulkan recommends Taskflow for parallelizing your rendering engines
- FPGA physical design
 - Vivado uses Taskflow for synthesis

Embedded/edge computing

- Tesseract (robotics planning)
- Cruise (autonomous car)
- Reveal.Tech (drone vision)
- Tesseract Robotic (planning tool)
- . .
- C++26 std::exec (coming soon)
 - Benefit millions of C++ developers $\ensuremath{\textcircled{}}$

¹: Nvidia's implementation of C++26 std::exec: <u>https://github.com/NVIDIA/stdexec/tree/main/include/execpools/taskflow</u>

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Thank you for using Taskflow!

Thank you for Sponsoring Taskflow!

Google Summer of Code

Acknowledgment: Excellent PhD Students

- Please contact me if you have any intern/full-time opportunities!
 - We specialize in CAD, HPC, and GPU heterogeneous programming!
 - <u>https://tsung-wei-huang.github.io/team/</u> (or <u>tsung-wei.huang@wisc.edu</u>)

Questions?

Static task graph parallelism

```
// Live: https://godbolt.org/z/j8hx3xnnx
tf::Taskflow taskflow;
tf::Executor executor;
auto [A, B, C, D] = taskflow.emplace(
  [] () { std::cout << "TaskA\n"; }
  [] () { std::cout << "TaskB\n"; },
  [] () { std::cout << "TaskC\n"; },
  [] () { std::cout << "TaskD\n"; }
);
A.precede(B, C);
D.succeed(B, C);
executor.run(taskflow).wait();
return 0:
```

Dynamic task graph parallelism

```
// Live: <u>https://godbolt.org/z/T87PrTarx</u>
tf::Executor executor;
auto A = executor.silent dependent async([](){
   std::cout << "TaskA\n":
});
auto B = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
  std::cout << "TaskB\n";</pre>
}, A);
auto C = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
   std::cout << "TaskC\n";</pre>
}, A);
auto D = executor.silent_dependent_async([](){
   std::cout << "TaskD\n";</pre>
}, B, C);
executor.wait_for_all();
```