Runtime Adaptive Parallelization

Input
Sambamba takes as input a program in LLVM IR. It is developed and tested for C and C++ applications.

Program Analysis
One of the most important analyses used in Sambamba so far is a modified version of the DataStructureAnalysis (DSA). DSA is used to determine data dependences for the construction of a block-level program dependence graph (PDG) used for parallelization.

Candidate Selection
Currently, two parallelization methods are implemented:

One method to select and schedule parallelization candidates employs an ILP solver to find optimal parallel schedules with respect to the cost model. The resulting task-parallelism is not tied to loops, or even special forms thereof.

Another approach tries to widen the applicability of program optimization (and parallelization) in the polyhedral model. Its candidates are code regions (SCOOPs) which are rejected by Polly due to the limitations of the polyhedral representation.

Execution and Profiling
All statically gathered information is packed, together with the Sambamba runtime system, into a fat binary, ready for standalone execution. The runtime system allows to selectively enable branch- and execution-time profiling for individual functions and even call sites. Not only the original, but also newly installed versions are tracked.

Parallelization
Statically found parallelization candidates are combined to find the best combination of parallelization decisions for the situation at hand. The executing hardware as well as runtime profiles are taken into account.

Depending on the parallelization decisions, Intel TBB (for task parallelism) or OpenMP (e.g. used by Polly) are used for parallel execution.

Speculation
Sambamba currently implements protection of speculatively parallelized code by a state-of-the-art software transactional memory (STM) with commit orders. An implementation of thread-level speculation (TLS) based on process forking is currently being implemented.

Based on relevant profiling information like execution time, data size and misspeculation rate of previous versions, the speculation mechanism of Sambamba is able to automatically select the most efficient speculation method (STM or TLS) and its corresponding parameters (size of transaction log, method of conflict detection, ...). These can be adjusted individually for each parallelized function.