Engineering a Scalable High Quality Graph Partitioner

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Abstract

We describe an approach to parallel graph partitioning that scales to hundreds of processors and produces a high solution quality. For example, for many instances from Walshaw’s benchmark collection we improve the best known partitioning. We use the well known framework of multi-level graph partitioning. All components are implemented by scalable parallel algorithms. Quality improvements compared to previous systems are due to better prioritization of edges to be contracted, better approximation algorithms for identifying matchings, better local search heuristics, and perhaps most notably, a parallelization of the FM local search algorithm that works more locally than previous approaches.

1 Introduction

Many important applications of computer science involve processing large graphs, e.g., stemming from finite element methods, digital circuit design, route planning, social networks, . . . Very often these graphs need to be partitioned or clustered such that there are few edges between the blocks (pieces). In particular, when you process a graph in parallel on k PEs (processing elements) you often want to partition the graph into k blocks of about equal size. In this paper we focus on a version of the problem that constrains the maximum block size to \((1 + \epsilon)\) times the average block size and tries to minimize the total cut size, i.e., the number of edges that run between blocks. It is well known that there are more realistic (and more complicated) objective functions involving also the block that is worst and the number of its neighboring nodes [14] but minimizing the cut size has been adopted as a kind of standard since it is usually highly correlated with the other formulations. We believe that the results presented here will be adaptable to other objective functions and also to other setting such as graph clustering where \(k\) and the block sizes are not necessarily fixed.

We begin in Section 2 by introducing basic concepts. The main part of the paper are the sections on contraction 3, initial partitioning 4, and refinement 5. Section 6 summarizes extensive experiments done to tune the algorithm and evaluate its performance. Some related work is discussed in Section 7 and Section 8 summarizes the results and gives some outlook on future work.

2 Preliminaries

Consider an undirected graph \(G = (V, E, c, \omega)\) with edge weights \(\omega : E \to \mathbb{R}_{>0}\), node weights \(c : V \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}\), \(n = |V|\), and \(m = |E|\). We extend \(c\) and \(\omega\) to sets, i.e., \(c(V') := \sum_{v \in V'} c(v)\) and
\( \omega(E') \) := \( \sum_{e \in E'} \omega(e) \), \( \Gamma(v) := \{u : \{v, u\} \in E\} \) denotes the neighbors of \( v \).

We are looking for blocks of nodes \( V_1, \ldots, V_k \) that partition \( V \), i.e., \( V_1 \cup \cdots \cup V_k = V \) and \( V_i \cap V_j = \emptyset \) for \( i \neq j \). The balancing constraint demands that \( \forall i \in 1..k : c(V_i) \leq L_{\text{max}} := (1 + \epsilon)c(V)/k + \max_{v \in V} c(v) \) for some parameter \( \epsilon \). The objective is to minimize the total cut \( \sum_{i<j} w(E_{ij}) \) where \( E_{ij} := \{\{u, v\} : u \in V_i, v \in V_j\} \). By default, our initial inputs will have unit edge and node weights. However, even those will be translated into weighted problems in the course of the algorithm.

A matching \( M \subseteq E \) is a set of edges that do not share any common nodes, i.e., the graph \((V, M)\) has maximum degree one.

An edge coloring \( C \) assigns a color (a number) to each edge of a graph such that no two incident edges have the same color. Note that the edges with a particular color define a matching, i.e., \( C \) partitions the edges into matchings. We will be interested in colorings with a small number of different colors used.

**Contracting** an edge \( \{u, v\} \) means to replace the nodes \( u \) and \( v \) by a new node \( x \) connected to the former neighbors of \( u \) and \( v \). We set \( c(x) = c(u) + c(v) \). If replacing edges of the form \( \{u, w\}, \{v, w\} \) would generate two parallel edges \( \{x, w\} \), we insert a single edge with \( \omega(\{x, w\}) = \omega(\{u, w\}) + \omega(\{v, w\}) \). **Uncontracting** an edge \( e \) undos its contraction. In order to avoid tedious notation, \( G \) will denote the current state of the graph before and after a (un)contraction unless we explicitly want to refer to different states of the graph.

The multilevel approach to clustering consists of three main phases.

In the contraction (coarsening) phase, we iteratively identify matchings \( M \subseteq E \) and contract the edges in \( M \). This is repeated until \( |V| \) falls below some threshold. Contraction should quickly reduce the size of the input and each computed level should reflect the global structure of the input network. In particular, nodes should represent densely connected subgraphs.

Contraction is stopped when the graph is small enough to be directly partitioned in the initial partitioning phase using some other algorithm. We could actually use a trivial initial partitioning algorithm if we contract until exactly \( k \) nodes are left. However, if \( |V| \gg k \) we can afford to run some fairly expensive algorithm for initial partitioning.

In the refinement (or uncoarsening) phase, the matchings are iteratively uncontracted. After uncontracting a matching, the refinement algorithm moves nodes between blocks in order to reduce the cut size or balance. The nodes to move are often found using some kind of local search. The intuition behind this approach is that a good partition at one level of the hierarchy will also be a good partition on the next finer level so that refinement will quickly find a good solution.

### 3 Contraction

We distinguish two separate choices for computing a matching: A rating function for the edges telling us which edges are how valuable for the matching and a matching algorithm that tries to find a matching of near maximum weight efficiently. Contractions are run until the graph is “small enough”.

2
3.1 Edge Rating

In most previous work, the edge weight \( \omega(e) \) itself is used as a rating function (see Section 7 for more details). We additionally consider

\[
\text{expansion}\left(\{u, v\}\right) := \frac{\omega(\{u, v\})}{c(u) + c(v)}
\]

\[
\text{expansion}^*\left(\{u, v\}\right) := \frac{\omega(\{u, v\})}{c(u)c(v)}
\]

\[
\text{expansion}^{*2}\left(\{u, v\}\right) := \frac{\omega(\{u, v\})^2}{c(u)c(v)}
\]

\[
\text{innerOuter}\left(\{u, v\}\right) := \frac{\omega(\{u, v\})}{\text{Out}(v) + \text{Out}(u) - 2\omega(u, v)}
\]

where \( \text{Out}(v) := \sum_{x \in \Gamma(v)} \omega(\{v, x\}) \). These bounds are heuristically inferred from a few basic principles: it’s good to contract heavy edges because this decreases the cut size. For the same reason we want to avoid clusters with many outgoing edges. Furthermore, we preferably contract light nodes because we want to keep the node weight at any level of contraction reasonably uniform.

In [15] several other functions based on ratings used in graph clustering are considered. However, they did not lead to very good results so that we do not go into details here.

3.2 Sequential Matching Algorithms

Although the maximum weight matching problem can be solved optimally in polynomial time, the available algorithms are too slow for very large graphs so that all graph partitioners use fast approximation algorithms. We tried three different matching algorithms that all run in linear or near linear time:

**SHEM: Sorted Heavy Edge Matching** is the algorithm used in Metis [22]. The nodes are sorted by increasing degree and then scanned. For each scanned node \( v \), the heaviest edge \( \{u, v\} \) incident to \( v \) is put into the matching and all remaining edges incident to \( u \) and \( v \) are excluded from further consideration. This algorithm is very fast but cannot give any worst case guarantees.

**Greedy:** The edges are sorted by descending weight and then scanned. When edge \( \{u, v\} \) and neither \( u \) nor \( v \) are matched yet, \( \{u, v\} \) is put into the matching. The Greedy algorithm guarantees a matching whose weight is at least half of the weight of a maximum weight matching.

**GPA:** The *Global Path Algorithm* was proposed in [17] as a synthesis of the Greedy algorithm and the Path Growing Algorithm [7]. All three algorithms achieve a half-approximation in the worst case, but empirically, GPA gives considerably better results. Similar to Greedy, GPA scans the edges in order of decreasing weight but rather than immediately building a matching, it first constructs a collection of paths and even cycles. Afterwards, optimal solutions are computed for each of these paths and cycles using dynamic programming.

We have not tried more sophisticated linear time algorithms that achieve 2/3-approximations since in [17] they empirically turn out to be much slower yet not much better than GPA.
3.3 Parallel Matching Algorithms

In our basic strategy we follow [16]. We first compute a preliminary partition of the graph, e.g., using coordinate information. Currently we have implemented a recursive bisection algorithm for nodes with 2D coordinates that alternately splits the data by the $x$-coordinate and the $y$-coordinate [2,3]. We can also use the initial numbering of the nodes. Note that the initial partitioning does not directly affect the final partitioning computed later – its main purpose is to increase locality for the computation of matchings.

We then combine a sequential matching algorithm running on each partition and a parallel matching algorithm running on the gap graph. The gap graph consists on those edges $\{u,v\}$ where $u$ and $v$ reside on different PEs and $\omega(\{u,v\})$ exceeds the weight of the edges that may have been matched by the local matching algorithms to $u$ and $v$. The parallel matching algorithm itself iteratively matches edges that $\{u,v\}$ are locally heaviest both at $u$ and $v$ until no more edges can be matched.

4 Initial Partitioning

The contraction is stopped when the number of remaining nodes on some PE is below $\max(20, n/(\alpha k^2))$ for some tuning parameter $\alpha$. The graph is then small enough to be partitioned on a single PE. Our framework allows using pMetis or Scotch for initial partitioning. We use the sequential algorithms and run them simultaneously on all PEs, each with a different seed for the random number generator. Since initial partitioning is very fast, it is also repeated several times. The best solution is then broadcast to all PEs.

5 Refinement

Recall that the refinement phase iteratively uncontracts the matchings contracted during the contraction phase. After a matching is uncontracted, local search based refinement algorithms move

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.8\textwidth]{partitioned_graph.png}
\caption{A graph which is partitioned into four blocks and its corresponding quotient graph $Q$. The quotient graph has an edge coloring indicated by the numbers and each edge set induced by edges with the same color form a matching $\mathcal{M}(c)$. Pairs of blocks with the same color can be refined in parallel.}
\end{figure}
nodes between block boundaries in order to reduce the cut while maintaining the balancing con-
straint. As most other current systems, we adopt the basic approach from [10] which runs in linear
time. The basic idea behind our parallel refinement algorithm is that at any time, each PE may
work on one pair of neighboring blocks performing a local search constrained to moving nodes
between these two blocks. In order to assign pairs of blocks to PEs, we use the quotient graph \( Q \)
whose nodes are blocks of the current partition and whose edges indicate that there are edges be-
tween these blocks in the underlying graph \( G \). Since we have the same number of PEs and blocks,
each PE will work the block assigned to it and at one of its neighbors in \( Q \). From now on, we will
therefore identify blocks and PEs. Figure 1 gives an example.

We use matchings of \( Q \) to define with which neighbor in \( Q \) a PE is working at a particular
point in time. If \( u, v \) is in the matching, both corresponding PEs will refine the partitions \( u \) and \( v \)
using different seeds for their random number generator. See Section 5.2 for more details. After
the local search is finished, the better partitioning of the two blocks is adopted.

Of course, for a good partition, we need to perform local search on every edge of \( Q \) eventually
(we call this a global iteration). Section 5.1 describes our approaches for ensuring this.

We ensure this by iterating through the matchings defined by an edge coloring of \( Q \). See
Section 5.1 for more details.

Overall, this approach naturally defines a nested loop controlling our local search strategy. The
innermost loop moves nodes between two blocks using the FM-algorithm [10]. A local iteration
repeats this local search. A global iteration iterates over the colors of an edge coloring. The loops
terminate when either no improvement was found (in strong variants: when no improvement was
found twice in a row.) or when a preset maximum number of iterations is exceeded.

5.1 Choosing Matchings

We have implemented two strategies. One finds edges of \( Q \) not yet used for local search in a
randomized local way. The other steps through the colors of an edge coloring of the quotient
graph \( Q \). Note that this requires only local synchronization between PEs actually collaborating at
a particular point in time. We only describe the latter one here since it performs slightly better in
our experiments. Our coloring algorithm is a parallelization of a well known sequential greedy
dge coloring algorithm: Each PE has a set \( \mathcal{L} \) of free colors that have not been used for coloring
incident edges. In each round of the algorithm, PEs throw a coin with sides active and passive.
An active PE \( u \) picks a random incident uncolored edge \( \{u, v\} \) and sends this edge together with
its free-list to PE \( v \). These requests are rejected if they are sent to other active PEs. Passive PEs \( v \)
process requests \( \{\{u, v\}, \mathcal{L}'\} \) by choosing the color \( c = \min \mathcal{L} \cap \mathcal{L}' \) for edge \( \{u, v\} \) and sending \( c \)
back to \( u \). This algorithm is repeated until all edges are colored. It can be shown that this algorithm
needs at most twice as many colors as an optimal edge coloring.

5.2 Refinement Between Two Blocks

We use a fully distributed graph data structure. More precisely, we use hybrid between a static
and a dynamic graph data structure. Immediately after uncontracting a matching, every PE stores
the partition it is responsible for in a static adjacency array representation (also called forward-star
representation), i.e., there is an edge array storing target nodes and edge weights and a node array storing node weights and the start of the relevant segment in the edge array. In addition, we use a hash table to store migrated nodes and a second edge array for the corresponding edges. See [23] for more details. Before a local search operation, we perform a bounded breadth first search starting from the boundary of each block, and send copies of this boundary array to the partner PE in the local search. The local search is then limited to this boundary area. This way, for large graphs, only a small fraction of each block has to be communicated. If it should really happen that the local search would profit from going beyond the boundary area, this will be possible in the next iteration of some of the outer loops. Figure 2 shows this schematically.

The local search algorithm itself is basically the FM-algorithm [10]: For each of the two blocks \( A, B \) under consideration, a PE keeps a priority queue of nodes eligible to move. The priority is based on the gain, i.e., the decrease in edge cut when the node is moved to the other side. Each node is moved at most once within a single local search. The queues are initialized in random order with the nodes at the partition boundary. We have tried several queue selection strategies: Alternating between \( A \) and \( B \) [10], MaxLoad where always the heavier block gives a node, and TopGain, where the queue promising larger gain is used. In order to achieve a good balance, TopGain adopts the exception that MaxLoad is used when one of the blocks is overloaded. When not otherwise mentioned, we use TopGain with random tie breaking. There is also a variant TopGainMaxLoad that uses MaxLoad when both queues promise the same gain.

The search is broken when more than \( \alpha \min \{|A|, |B|\} \) nodes have been moved without yielding an improvement. When the search stops, search is rolled back to the state with the lexicographically best value of the tuple \((imbalance, cutValue)\). Where \(imbalance\) is \(\max(0, \max(c(A) − L_{\max}, c(B) − L_{\max}))\).

6 Experiments

Implementation. We have implemented the algorithm described above using C++ and MPI. Overall, our program consists of about 34 000 lines of code. Priority queues for the local search are based on binary heaps. Hash tables use the library (extended STL) provided with the GCC compiler.

System. We have run our code on cluster with 200 nodes each equipped with two Quad-core Intel Xeon processors (X5355) which run at a clock speed of 2.667 GHz, have 2x4 MB of level 2 cache each and run Suse Linux Enterprise 10 SP 1. All nodes are attached to an InfiniBand 4X DDR interconnect which is characterized by its very low latency of below 2 microseconds and a point to point bandwidth between two nodes of more than 1300 MB/s. Our program was compiled...
using GCC Version 4.3.1 and optimization level 3 using OpenMPI 1.2.8. Henceforth, a PE is one core of this machine.

Instances. We report experiments on two suites of instances summarized in Table 1. \( \text{rgg}_X \) is a random geometric graph with \( 2^X \) nodes where nodes represent random points in the unit square and edges connect nodes whose Euclidean distance is below \( 0.55 \sqrt{\ln n/n} \). This threshold was chosen in order to ensure that the graph is almost connected. \( \text{Delaunay}_X \) is the Delaunay triangulation of \( 2^X \) random points in the unit square. Graphs \( \text{bcsstk29..fetooth} \) and \( \text{ferotor..auto} \) come from Chris Walshaw’s benchmark archive [28]. Graphs \( \text{bel, nld, deu and eur} \) are undirected versions of the road networks of Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, and Western Europe respectively, used in [5]. Instances \( \text{af..shell9} \) and \( \text{af..shell10} \) come from the Florida Sparse Matrix Collection [4]. \( \text{coAuthorsDBLP, citationCiteseer} \) are examples of social networks taken from [12]. Coordinate information is available for \( \text{rgg}_X, \text{Delaunay}_X \), the road networks, \( \text{bel, nld, deu and eur} \), and for the finite element graphs \( \text{feocean} \) and \( \text{fetooth} \).

For the number of partitions \( k \) we choose the values used in [28]: 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64. Our default value for the allowed inbalance is 3% since this is one of the values used in [28] and the

| graph   | \( n \)   | \( m \)   |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| rgg17   | \( 2^{17} \) | 1457506   |
| rgg18   | \( 2^{18} \) | 3094566   |
| Delaunay17 | \( 2^{17} \) | 786352    |
| Delaunay18 | \( 2^{18} \) | 1572792   |
| bcsstk29 | 13992     | 605496    |
| 4elt    | 15606     | 91756     |
| fesphere | 16386     | 98304     |
| cti     | 16840     | 96464     |
| memplus | 17758     | 108384    |
| cs4     | 33499     | 87716     |
| pwt     | 26519     | 289588    |
| bcsstk32| 44609     | 1970092   |
| body    | 38502     | 327468    |
| t60k    | 60005     | 178880    |
| wing    | 62032     | 243088    |
| finan512| 74752     | 522240    |
| ferotor | 99617     | 1324862   |
| bel     | 463514    | 1183764   |
| nld     | 893041    | 2279080   |
| af..shell9 | 504855    | 17084020  |

Table 1: Basic properties of the graphs from our benchmark set. left: small to medium sized inputs, right: large instances. The latter class is split into five groups: geometric graphs, FEM graphs, street networks, sparse matrices, and social networks. Within their groups, the graphs are sorted by size.
default value in Metis.

When not otherwise mentioned, we perform 10 repetitions of each run and report the average result. When averaging over multiple instances, we use the geometric mean in order to give every instance the same influence on the final figure.

6.1 Configuring the Algorithm

Any multilevel algorithm has a considerable number of choices between algorithmic components and tuning parameters. In the following we explore the most important of these choices. In each case we will infer either a single “good” setting or two choices: the fast setting aims at a low execution time that still gives good partitioning quality and the strong setting targets good partitioning quality without investing an outrageous amount of time. At no point we tune parameters specifically for one instance. All other parameters are fixed at the default choices. When not otherwise mentioned, we use the fast parameter setting. For some of the values we do not show experiments to save space and because the experiments we did try do not give much new insight. Table 2 summarizes the settings. There is also a minimal variant where for all parameters the smallest possible value is chosen. Although the minimal variant can be viewed as overly crippled, it is useful when comparing to other, faster solvers.

Edge Ratings. Table 3 shows the average performance for different edge ratings. Note that the plain edge weight is considerably worse than the other ratings – up to 8.8%. The other ratings are fairly close to each other and further experiments indicate that the remaining differences heavily depend on the instances and other parameters of the strategy. We adopt expansion$^2$ in the following.

| parameter                | minimal | fast       | strong    |
|--------------------------|---------|------------|-----------|
| rating                   | expansion$^2$ |
| matching                 | GPA     |
| stop contraction         | $n/60k^2$ |
| init. part.              | Scotch  |
| init. repeats            | 1 3 5   |
| queue selection          | TopGain |
| BFS search depth         | 1 5 20  |
| stop refinement          | no change 2× no change |
| max. global iterations   | 1 15 15 |
| local iterations         | 1 3 5   |
| matching selection       | distr. edge coloring |
| FM-patience $\alpha$     | 1 % 5 % 20 % |
| avg. cut (geom.)         | 2985 2910 2890 |
| avg. time (geom.)[s]     | 0.67 1.29 2.10 |

Table 2: Parameter settings the for our main strategies.
Table 3: Results for KaPPa-Fast for different edge ratings and matching algorithms.

| Edge Rating     | avg. | best. | avg. bal. | avg. t |
|-----------------|------|-------|-----------|--------|
| expansion*2     | 2910 | 2819  | 1.025     | 1.29   |
| expansion*      | 2914 | 2815  | 1.025     | 1.30   |
| innerOuter      | 2914 | 2816  | 1.025     | 1.32   |
| expansion       | 2940 | 2841  | 1.025     | 1.31   |
| weight          | 3165 | 3010  | 1.026     | 1.40   |

| Seq. Match.     | avg. | best. | avg. bal. | avg. t |
|-----------------|------|-------|-----------|--------|
| gpa             | 2910 | 2819  | 1.025     | 1.29   |
| shem            | 2984 | 2883  | 1.025     | 1.30   |
| greedy          | 3854 | 3347  | 1.025     | 1.31   |

Sequential Matching Algorithm. In Table 3 we see that the other algorithms have at least 2.5% worse edge cuts than GPA. Note that the overall running time in both configurations is about the same – although GPA is slower than SHEM, this disadvantage is offset by less work in the refinement phase. The greedy algorithm performs worse than the other strategies. This is astonishing since in [17] it produces fairly good results. Moreover, in the sequential experiments in [15] it also works well and outperforms SHEM. Apparently, there are some negative interactions with the parallelization here.

Initial Partitioning. So far, we tried pMetis and Scotch for initial partitioning. pMetis is about 4.7% worse than Scotch and only has slightly lower overall runtime. We therefore adopt it as our default initial partitioner.

Queue Selection. Table 4 indicates that TopGain gives about 3.2% better solutions than the more standard MaxLoad strategy. Interestingly, the details of the strategy are very important. Without resolving to MaxLoad in an overloaded situation we would not be able to fulfill the balance constraint. On the other hand, even using MaxLoad for tie breaking we are already worse than the seemingly stupid Alternating rule.

Global Iterations, Local Iterations, BFS Depth, and Local Search Parameters. For these parameters we get the predictable effect that more work yields better solutions albeit at a decreasing return on investment. It is then hard to say what parameters would be optimal. Roughly, our fast strategy represents values that yield execution times no more than 20% larger than for the smallest possible value. These increases in execution time add up to 63% more execution time than the fast strategy on average.

Table 4: Left: Results for KaPPa-Fast for different queue selection strategies. Right: Comparison with other tools.

| Queue Sel. S.  | avg. | best. | bal.  | avg. t |
|-----------------|------|-------|-------|--------|
| TopGain         | 2910 | 2819  | 1.025 | 1.29   |
| Alternate       | 2942 | 2839  | 1.024 | 1.27   |
| TopgainMaxLoad  | 2948 | 2855  | 1.014 | 1.22   |
| MaxLoad         | 3002 | 2899  | 1.005 | 1.34   |

| Variant         | avg. | best. | bal.  | avg. t |
|-----------------|------|-------|-------|--------|
| KaPPa-Strong    | 24227| 23739 | 1.028 | 36.93  |
| KaPPa-Fast      | 24725| 24254 | 1.028 | 21.40  |
| KaPPa-Minimal   | 26720| 26005 | 1.028 | 5.94   |
| seq. scotch     | 26811| -     | 1.027 | 5.95   |
| kmetis          | 28705| 26904 | 1.026 | 0.79   |
| parmetis        | 31523| 30449 | 1.041 | 0.59   |
6.2 Comparison with other Partitioners

We now switch to our suite of larger graphs since that’s what KaPPa was designed for and because we thus avoid the effect of overtuning our algorithm parameters to the instances used for calibration.

Table 4 compares the performances of KaPPa with Scotch, kMetis (sequential) and parMetis (parallel). Detailed, per instance results can be found in Appendix A. parMetis produces about 30% larger cuts than the strong variant of KaPPa, 27% more than the fast one, and still 18% more than the minimal one. Note that these differences are much larger than what can be obtained by just repeated runs, which gives only about 3% improvement for 10 repetitions. Moreover parMetis is not able to fully adhere to the balancing constraint. On the other hand, parMetis is at least an order of magnitude faster.

For kMetis the differences are 18%, 16% and 7% respectively. For Scotch, we get 10% for the strong variant, 8% for the fast variant, and similar partitioning quality as for the weak variant. Comparing average execution times of parallel KaPPa with the sequential algorithms scotch and kMetis makes little sense because this depends a lot on the number of PEs used.

Although a large gap between the running times remains, the differences get smaller if one only considers graphs for which the current implementation of KaPPa was optimized: large graphs with coordinate information that allows geometric prepartitioning. Table 5 in the appendix shows data for the four graphs in our benchmark suite that have at least one million nodes and coordinate information (rgg20, Delaunay20, deu, eur). First note that for the European road network, eur, KaPPa produces a several times smaller cut than Metis. Apparently, Metis was not able at all to discover the structure inherent in the network (e.g., due to waterbodies, mountains, and national borders). KaPPa-minimal now outperforms Scotch, comes close to kMetis and is only a factor 3–6 slower than parMetis. Also note that the absolute execution times are in the range of a few seconds – few applications working on such large graphs will work on that time scale. Another interesting observation is that none of the other algorithms consistently complies with the balance constraint of 3%. This is astonishing since these graphs have a very “harmless” structure – they are near planar (except for rgg) and have low maximum degree. It seems that our approach of careful, pairwise refinement successfully avoids such problems.

For the largest graphs available to us, we have scaled the number of processors further up to 1024. In Figure 3 we see that KaPPa scales well all the way to the largest number of processors, while parMetis reaches its limit of scalability at around 100 PEs. Eventually, parMetis is slower than the fastest variant of KaPPa.

6.3 The Walshaw Benchmark

We now apply KaPPa to Walshaw’s benchmark archive [28, 24] using the rules used there, i.e., running time is no issue but we want to achieve minimal cut values for \( k \in \{2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64\} \) and balance parameter \( \epsilon \in \{0.01, 0.03, 0.05\} \). Thus, we further strengthen the strong strategy: We try each of the edge ratings innerOuter, expansion\(^*\), and expansion\(^{\ast 2}\) 50 times; BFS search depth is 20;

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1The minimal variant scales up to 512 PEs but this could be repaired by breaking the contraction later.
Figure 3: Scalability for graphs eur, rgg25, and Delaunay25.

FM patience $\alpha = 30 \%$. Tables 21-23 in the Appendix show the results (left: KaPPa, right: best previous value) indicating an edge rating function that achieved our result. We obtain 54 improved entries for balance 5\%, 46 improvements for 3\%, and 31 improvements for balance 1\%. One interpretation is that the improvement due to the TopGain queue selection strategy become less effective for very small imbalance. Indeed, for balance 0 TopGain yields no improvements.\footnote{However, the MaxLoad strategy given some slack on the balance constraint, yields good solutions that, for small $k$, are often fully balanced and yield improved values.} For
11 out of 14 instances from the large graphs we obtain improvements somewhere and for 9 out of 20 small instances (for all but two of the small instances we sometimes find a solution with the best known cut). The biggest absolute improvement is observed for instance add32 at 1% imbalance, and $k = 64$ where the old partition cuts 45% more edges. We obtain few improvements for $k = 2$, perhaps still lacking specialized techniques for that case. We have many improvements for $k = 4$ going down for smaller graphs and larger $k$. Perhaps this could be changed by combining KaPPa with evolutionary techniques such as [24]. For large $k$ we expect evolutionary methods to be superior to plain restarts that then have trouble exploring a sufficient part of the solution space.

7 Related Work

This paper is a summary and extension of the diploma theses [23, 15]. There has been a huge amount of research on graph partitioning so that we refer to overview papers such as [11, 22, 27] for a general overview. From now on focus on issues closely related to the contributions of our paper. All successful methods that are able to obtain good partitions for large real world graphs are based on the multilevel principle outlined in Section 2. The basic idea can be traced back to multigrid solvers for solving systems of linear equations [25, 9] but more recent practical methods are based on mostly graph theoretic aspects in particular edge contraction and local search. Well known software packages based on this approach include Chaco [13], Jostle [27], Metis [22], Party [8], and Scotch [19]. While Chaco and Party are no longer developed and have no parallel version, the others have been parallelized also. Probably the fastest available parallel code is the parallel version of Metis, parMetis. However, its partitioning quality is worse than the sequential version kMetis. In general it seems to be the case that previous parallelizations came with a penalty in partitioning quality. In contrast, our parallelization approach seems to improve partitioning quality.

The parallel version of Jostle [27] is similar to our approach since it applies local search to pairs of neighboring partitions. However, this parallelization has problems maintaining the balance of the partitions since at any particular time, it is difficult to say how many nodes are assigned to a particular block. We solve this problems by performing concurrent local searches only on independent pairs of partitions.

PT-Scotch, the parallel version of Scotch is based on recursive bipartitioning. This is more difficult to parallelize than direct $k$-partitioning since in the initial bipartition, there is less parallelism available. The unused processor power is used by performing several independent attempts in parallel. The involved communication effort is reduced by considering only nodes close to boundary of the current partitioning (band-refinement). We also use band-refinement but using a different algorithm and with much less replication of work.

DiBaP [18] is a multi-level graph partitioning package based on diffusion. It currently yields the best partitioning results for the biggest graphs in [26] but has no scalable parallelization.

Most previous approaches use the edge weight to quantify with which preference it is included into a matching. In [11], many different edge ratings are considered. However all of them use a very simple rating as the primary sorting criterion. In contrast, our approach genuinely combines the two sometimes conflicting criteria of contracting heavy edges and light vertices.

The need for fast, (near) linear time algorithms for approximate weighted matchings in
hierarchical graph partitioning has been a major motivation for developing such algorithms \cite{21,7,6,20,17}. In contrast to the heavy edge matching algorithms used in most systems, these schemes give approximation guarantees of $1/2$ \cite{21,7} or $2/3$ \cite{6,20}. In \cite{17} we developed another $1/2$ algorithm that turned out to be even better than the $2/3$ algorithms in many practical cases. Interestingly, only few of these results have so far found their way into actual graph partitioners. One contribution of our paper is to try them out.

8 Conclusions and Future Work

We have demonstrated that high quality graph partitioning can be done in parallel in a scalable way. This success is due to several innovations/observations that might also work in the framework of other graph partitioning and graph clustering systems: Edge rating functions that take into account other aspects than edge weight give considerably better results (8.8 \% on the average for the experiments in Section \ref{experiments}). In particular, it seems that discouraging heavy nodes leads to much more uniform contraction all over the graph. High quality matching algorithms like GPA also yield a few percent improvement. In particular, the computational overhead for these algorithms is not affecting the overall runtime of a high quality graph partitioner, presumably because of less work in the refinement phase. FM-style local search can also yield improved quality if the highest gain queue is selected if possible. Feasibility can be maintained using an exception for overloaded blocks. Again, a few percent improvement in solution quality can be obtained. Perhaps the most surprising result is that localizing the local search to two blocks at a time does at the same time enable parallelization and improve partitioning quality compared to global local search. Although the individual improvement due to each improvement is relatively small, they add up to a sizable overall improvement. Also note that within a less tuned system, adding one of the improvements may have a larger effect than in a code with all improvements at once.

The current implementation of KaPPa is a research prototype rather than a widely usable tool. But considering its good results, we want to further improve it and advance it into a fully usable system usable for all kinds of inputs ranging from small graphs better handled by a lean sequential implementation to huge graphs with billions of nodes.

Besides many implementation issues that will hopefully improve execution time, the main conceptual task will be a generalization of the interface. We want a system where the number of partitioning PEs $P$ and the number of blocks $k$ can be chosen independently. This is rather straightforward when $k > P$ since this actually increases the amount of parallelism. For $k < P$, we could simply assign more PEs to the same local search (using different seeds). This would improve quality but reduces scalability and will not work for huge graphs where block sizes may exceed local memory size. Therefore, we need a parallel refinement algorithm working on only two neighboring blocks. We also want to improve performance for graphs that are neither prepartitioned nor equipped with coordinates. The easiest solution for moderate $P$ will be to use parMetis for initial partitioning. For very large systems we want to develop a very fast prepartitioner that works purely graph theoretically. A core component will be fast scalable parallel contraction. There will also be further issues when KaPPa is generalized for graph clustering, hypergraph partitioning, or repartitioning. Besides improving the functionality of KaPPa, there are also many ways to improve its
basic performance. In particular, it would be desirable to implement a more efficient representation of the distributed graph data structure.

Besides improving functionality of KaPPa, many interesting research questions remain. For example, one should investigate rating functions for edge contraction more systematically. Other refinement algorithms, e.g., based on flows or diffusion could be tried within our framework of pairwise refinement.

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### A Detailed Results for the Large Instances.

| alg.            | $k$ | graph    | avg. cut | best. cut. | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|-----------------|-----|----------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| KaPPa-strong    | 64  | rgg20    | 35354    | 34778      | 1.030        | 11.62        |
| KaPPa-strong    | 64  | Delaunay20 | 25179    | 24799      | 1.030        | 22.04        |
| KaPPa-strong    | 64  | deu      | 4093     | 4021       | 1.029        | 49.55        |
| KaPPa-strong    | 64  | eur      | 5393     | 5290       | 1.030        | 308.17       |
| KaPPa-fast      | 64  | rgg20    | 35539    | 35086      | 1.030        | 9.95         |
| KaPPa-fast      | 64  | Delaunay20 | 25129    | 24946      | 1.030        | 12.83        |
| KaPPa-fast      | 64  | deu      | 4146     | 4078       | 1.029        | 31.63        |
| KaPPa-fast      | 64  | eur      | 5538     | 5448       | 1.030        | 183.98       |
| KaPPa-minimal   | 64  | rgg20    | 35629    | 35252      | 1.030        | 2.09         |
| KaPPa-minimal   | 64  | Delaunay20 | 27001    | 26314      | 1.029        | 1.79         |
| KaPPa-minimal   | 64  | deu      | 4317     | 4193       | 1.029        | 5.97         |
| KaPPa-minimal   | 64  | eur      | 5770     | 5569       | 1.029        | 29.64        |
| Scotch          | 64  | rgg20    | 38815    | 38815      | 1.031        | 9.84         |
| Scotch          | 64  | Delaunay20 | 26163    | 26163      | 1.037        | 7.36         |
| Scotch          | 64  | deu      | 4978     | 4978       | 1.028        | 19.52        |
| Scotch          | 64  | eur      | 6772     | 6772       | 1.031        | 77.41        |
| kMetis          | 64  | rgg20    | 42465    | 41066      | 1.030        | 1.58         |
| kMetis          | 64  | Delaunay20 | 28543    | 28318      | 1.030        | 1.21         |
| kMetis          | 64  | deu      | 5385     | 5147       | 1.029        | 5.31         |
| kMetis          | 64  | eur      | 12738    | 11313      | 1.070        | 30.30        |
| parMetis        | 64  | rgg20    | 43545    | 42863      | 1.050        | 0.55         |
| parMetis        | 64  | Delaunay20 | 30321    | 29535      | 1.047        | 0.65         |
| parMetis        | 64  | deu      | 7273     | 7083       | 1.027        | 0.91         |
| parMetis        | 64  | eur      | 16427    | 14976      | 1.025        | 5.65         |

Table 5: Performance for the largest graphs with coordinate information.
### Table 6: KaPPa-Minimal $k = 16$

| graph        | avg. cut | best. cut. | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20        | 15442    | 15039      | 1.029        | 7.20         |
| Delaunay20   | 11533    | 11307      | 1.028        | 6.31         |
| fetooth      | 19813    | 19559      | 1.029        | 0.65         |
| 598a         | 28596    | 27983      | 1.030        | 6.76         |
| focecan      | 9553     | 9457       | 1.029        | 0.70         |
| 144          | 41977    | 40264      | 1.030        | 6.63         |
| wave         | 47270    | 46293      | 1.029        | 1.47         |
| m14b         | 49397    | 48769      | 1.030        | 6.41         |
| auto         | 86001    | 84236      | 1.030        | 12.25        |
| deu          | 1656     | 1593       | 1.029        | 21.79        |
| eur          | 2048     | 1931       | 1.026        | 94.56        |
| afshell10    | 175918   | 174677     | 1.029        | 17.00        |
| coAuthorsDBLP| 163463   | 161842     | 1.030        | 9.99         |
| citationCitepeer| 254914 | 253359    | 1.030        | 20.07        |

### Table 7: KaPPa-Minimal $k = 32$

| graph        | avg. cut | best. cut. | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20        | 24164    | 23842      | 1.029        | 3.94         |
| Delaunay20   | 18179    | 17993      | 1.029        | 3.33         |
| fetooth      | 28391    | 28070      | 1.030        | 0.53         |
| 598a         | 43741    | 43111      | 1.030        | 7.74         |
| focecan      | 15657    | 15465      | 1.030        | 0.47         |
| 144          | 62171    | 61774      | 1.030        | 8.79         |
| wave         | 68620    | 68085      | 1.030        | 1.02         |
| m14b         | 73598    | 72484      | 1.030        | 8.12         |
| auto         | 133723   | 131545     | 1.030        | 20.23        |
| deu          | 2711     | 2626       | 1.029        | 11.50        |
| eur          | 3386     | 3202       | 1.029        | 55.63        |
| afshell10    | 275149   | 270249     | 1.030        | 9.25         |
| coAuthorsDBLP| 172830   | 171784     | 1.030        | 8.57         |
| citationCitepeer| 285710 | 278587    | 1.030        | 19.83        |

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| graph    | avg. cut | best. cut | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|----------|----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| rgg20    | 35629    | 35252     | 1.030        | 2.09        |
| Delaunay20 | 27001     | 26314     | 1.029        | 1.79        |
| fethooth | 39095    | 38423     | 1.029        | 0.62        |
| 598a     | 61924    | 61396     | 1.029        | 6.21        |
| feocean  | 24275    | 24147     | 1.030        | 0.51        |
| 144      | 86950    | 86067     | 1.030        | 8.16        |
| wave     | 93424    | 92366     | 1.030        | 1.03        |
| m14b     | 107173   | 106361    | 1.030        | 10.24       |
| auto     | 187424   | 185836    | 1.030        | 25.39       |
| deu      | 4317     | 4193      | 1.029        | 5.97        |
| eur      | 5770     | 5569      | 1.029        | 29.64       |
| afshell10| 404085   | 400378    | 1.030        | 4.82        |
| coAuthorsDBLP | 180724 | 180059 | 1.030 | 15.82 |
| citationCiteseer | 315062 | 313465 | 1.030 | 22.86 |

Table 8: KaPPa-Minimal $k = 64$

| graph    | avg. cut | best. cut | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|----------|----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| rgg20    | 15339    | 15013     | 1.029        | 24.61       |
| Delaunay20 | 11061     | 10882     | 1.029        | 48.05       |
| fethooth | 18524    | 18198     | 1.030        | 3.55        |
| 598a     | 26887    | 26670     | 1.030        | 12.51       |
| feocean  | 8469     | 8294      | 1.030        | 3.04        |
| 144      | 39492    | 39266     | 1.030        | 17.53       |
| wave     | 45202    | 44936     | 1.030        | 10.73       |
| m14b     | 46108    | 45931     | 1.030        | 19.27       |
| auto     | 80683    | 79711     | 1.030        | 58.20       |
| deu      | 1618     | 1556      | 1.027        | 78.82       |
| eur      | 1935     | 1907      | 1.028        | 295.81      |
| afshell10| 166480   | 165625    | 1.030        | 69.97       |
| coAuthorsDBLP | 150272 | 149302 | 1.030 | 66.47 |
| citationCiteseer | 203302 | 198450 | 1.030 | 85.02 |

Table 9: KaPPa-Fast $k = 16$
| graph   | avg. cut | best. cut. | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|---------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20   | 24222    | 23383      | 1.030        | 16.93        |
| Delaunay20 | 17150    | 16814      | 1.030        | 24.44        |
| fetooth | 26677    | 26404      | 1.030        | 2.92         |
| 598a    | 41186    | 40928      | 1.030        | 11.91        |
| feocean | 14042    | 13618      | 1.030        | 2.15         |
| 144     | 58652    | 58175      | 1.030        | 16.03        |
| wave    | 64532    | 64004      | 1.030        | 8.19         |
| m14b    | 69223    | 68715      | 1.030        | 17.99        |
| auto    | 125876   | 124920     | 1.030        | 46.44        |
| deu     | 2641     | 2535       | 1.029        | 41.93        |
| eur     | 3314     | 3231       | 1.030        | 306.52       |
| afshell10 | 255746   | 252487     | 1.030        | 52.00        |
| coAuthorsDBLP | 163767 | 162577     | 1.030        | 58.93        |
| citationCiteseer | 233459 | 229629     | 1.030        | 83.14        |

Table 10: KaPPa-Fast $k = 32$

| graph   | avg. cut | best. cut. | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|---------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20   | 35539    | 35086      | 1.030        | 9.95         |
| Delaunay20 | 25129    | 24946      | 1.030        | 12.83        |
| fetooth | 36992    | 36795      | 1.029        | 2.57         |
| 598a    | 59233    | 59026      | 1.029        | 9.64         |
| feocean | 21973    | 21809      | 1.030        | 2.02         |
| 144     | 82493    | 82029      | 1.030        | 12.05        |
| wave    | 89297    | 88924      | 1.030        | 6.09         |
| m14b    | 101861   | 101410     | 1.030        | 17.46        |
| auto    | 178119   | 177461     | 1.030        | 44.14        |
| deu     | 4146     | 4078       | 1.029        | 31.63        |
| eur     | 5538     | 5448       | 1.030        | 183.98       |
| afshell10 | 384140   | 380225     | 1.030        | 29.43        |
| coAuthorsDBLP | 174411 | 173629     | 1.030        | 65.76        |
| citationCiteseer | 269854 | 268188     | 1.030        | 86.06        |

Table 11: KaPPa-Fast $k = 64$
| graph        | avg. cut | best. cut. | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20        | 15199    | 14953      | 1.029        | 35.86        |
| Delaunay20   | 11008    | 10816      | 1.027        | 67.92        |
| fetooth      | 18570    | 18302      | 1.030        | 7.18         |
| 598a         | 26825    | 26467      | 1.030        | 17.74        |
| feocean      | 8350     | 8188       | 1.030        | 5.62         |
| 144          | 39319    | 39010      | 1.030        | 26.04        |
| wave         | 45048    | 44831      | 1.030        | 20.54        |
| m14b         | 45762    | 45352      | 1.030        | 28.11        |
| auto         | 79769    | 78713      | 1.030        | 87.41        |
| deu          | 1616     | 1550       | 1.027        | 105.96       |
| eur          | 1900     | 1760       | 1.027        | 497.93       |
| afshell10    | 166427   | 165025     | 1.030        | 106.63       |
| coAuthorsDBLP| 145975   | 145031     | 1.030        | 105.61       |
| citationCiteseer | 176690 | 171233     | 1.030        | 142.01       |

Table 12: KaPPa-Strong $k = 16$

| graph        | avg. cut | best. cut. | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20        | 23917    | 23430      | 1.029        | 26.04        |
| Delaunay20   | 17086    | 16813      | 1.030        | 42.67        |
| fetooth      | 26617    | 26397      | 1.030        | 5.28         |
| 598a         | 41190    | 40946      | 1.030        | 18.16        |
| feocean      | 13815    | 13593      | 1.030        | 4.34         |
| 144          | 58631    | 58331      | 1.030        | 24.60        |
| wave         | 64390    | 63981      | 1.030        | 14.94        |
| m14b         | 69075    | 68107      | 1.030        | 29.94        |
| auto         | 125500   | 124606     | 1.030        | 71.77        |
| deu          | 2615     | 2548       | 1.029        | 73.17        |
| eur          | 3291     | 3186       | 1.029        | 417.52       |
| afshell10    | 255535   | 253525     | 1.030        | 80.85        |
| coAuthorsDBLP| 161073   | 160225     | 1.030        | 106.63       |
| citationCiteseer | 207559 | 203989     | 1.030        | 140.53       |

Table 13: KaPPa-Strong $k = 32$
| graph    | avg. cut | best. cut | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|----------|----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20    | 35354    | 34778     | 1.030        | 11.62        |
| Delaunay20 | 25179    | 24799     | 1.030        | 22.04        |
| fetooth  | 37002    | 36862     | 1.029        | 4.71         |
| 598a     | 59387    | 59148     | 1.029        | 14.15        |
| feocean  | 21859    | 21636     | 1.030        | 3.68         |
| 144      | 82452    | 82286     | 1.030        | 19.11        |
| wave     | 88964    | 88376     | 1.030        | 12.51        |
| m14b     | 101455   | 101053    | 1.030        | 25.26        |
| auto     | 177595   | 177038    | 1.030        | 62.64        |
| deu      | 4093     | 4021      | 1.029        | 49.55        |
| eur      | 5393     | 5290      | 1.030        | 308.17       |
| afshell10| 382923   | 379125    | 1.030        | 43.01        |
| coAuthorsDBLP | 172132   | 171194    | 1.030        | 111.90       |
| citationCiteseer | 249544   | 246150    | 1.030        | 146.65       |

Table 14: KaPPa-Strong $k = 64$

| graph    | avg. cut | best. cut | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|----------|----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20    | 18125    | 17498     | 1.021        | 1.53         |
| Delaunay20 | 12440    | 11854     | 1.016        | 1.14         |
| fetooth  | 20386    | 20035     | 1.029        | 0.09         |
| 598a     | 28854    | 27857     | 1.030        | 0.17         |
| feocean  | 10377    | 10115     | 1.029        | 0.13         |
| 144      | 43041    | 42861     | 1.030        | 0.24         |
| wave     | 49000    | 48404     | 1.030        | 0.22         |
| m14b     | 49269    | 48314     | 1.029        | 0.36         |
| auto     | 89139    | 85562     | 1.030        | 0.91         |
| deu      | 2161     | 2041      | 1.007        | 5.19         |
| eur      | 9395     | 3519      | 1.030        | 30.58        |
| afshell10| 188765   | 184350    | 1.014        | 3.06         |
| coAuthorsDBLP | 139658   | 138334    | 1.031        | 0.98         |
| citationCiteseer | 157011   | 153588    | 1.031        | 1.05         |

Table 15: KMetis $k = 16$
| graph      | avg. cut | best. cut | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|------------|----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20      | 18760    | 18193     | 1.048        | 0.39         |
| Delaunay20 | 13126    | 12806     | 1.043        | 0.35         |
| fetooth    | 20686    | 20255     | 1.046        | 0.06         |
| 598a       | 29858    | 29308     | 1.047        | 0.17         |
| feocean    | 10212    | 9951      | 1.043        | 0.06         |
| 144        | 43019    | 41841     | 1.050        | 0.19         |
| wave       | 49981    | 49537     | 1.048        | 0.09         |
| m14b       | 49621    | 47697     | 1.048        | 0.28         |
| auto       | 87057    | 84900     | 1.047        | 0.54         |
| deu        | 3166     | 3063      | 1.009        | 1.62         |
| eur        | 6861     | 5576      | 1.073        | 12.85        |
| afshell10  | 191995   | 189925    | 1.048        | 0.74         |
| coAuthorsDBLP | 193580 | 190892    | 1.044        | 1.44         |
| citationCiteseer | 197095 | 197095    | 1.047        | 1.41         |

Table 16: parMetis $k = 16$

| graph      | avg. cut | best. cut | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|------------|----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20      | 28495    | 27765     | 1.029        | 1.58         |
| Delaunay20 | 19304    | 18816     | 1.029        | 1.18         |
| fetooth    | 29052    | 28547     | 1.030        | 0.10         |
| 598a       | 44213    | 43256     | 1.030        | 0.19         |
| feocean    | 16877    | 16565     | 1.030        | 0.15         |
| 144        | 62481    | 61716     | 1.030        | 0.26         |
| wave       | 68604    | 68062     | 1.030        | 0.25         |
| m14b       | 74135    | 72746     | 1.030        | 0.40         |
| auto       | 134086   | 133026    | 1.030        | 0.99         |
| deu        | 3445     | 3319      | 1.019        | 5.28         |
| eur        | 9442     | 7424      | 1.078        | 30.81        |
| afshell10  | 291590   | 289400    | 1.027        | 3.13         |
| coAuthorsDBLP | 160373 | 159032    | 1.030        | 1.19         |
| citationCiteseer | 201073 | 197839    | 1.031        | 1.19         |

Table 17: KMetis $k = 32$
| graph        | avg. cut | best. cut. | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|-------------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20       | 29227    | 28650      | 1.049        | 0.22         |
| Delaunay20  | 20141    | 19803      | 1.045        | 0.21         |
| fetooth     | 28790    | 28513      | 1.043        | 0.07         |
| 598a        | 44422    | 43968      | 1.046        | 0.49         |
| feocean     | 16259    | 16010      | 1.040        | 0.05         |
| 144         | 62673    | 62244      | 1.049        | 0.51         |
| wave        | 70365    | 70072      | 1.048        | 0.15         |
| m14b        | 76447    | 75356      | 1.049        | 0.52         |
| auto        | 137913   | 137047     | 1.047        | 0.70         |
| deu         | 4858     | 4703       | 1.034        | 0.87         |
| eur         | 9616     | 8366       | 1.072        | 7.22         |
| afshell10   | 293110   | 289275     | 1.048        | 0.35         |
| coAuthorsDBLP | 211756  | 209846     | 1.046        | 1.59         |
| citationCiteseer | 212524 | 212524     | 1.050        | 1.56         |

Table 18: parMetis $k = 32$

| graph        | avg. cut | best. cut. | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|-------------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20       | 42465    | 41066      | 1.030        | 1.58         |
| Delaunay20  | 28543    | 28318      | 1.030        | 1.21         |
| fetooth     | 39381    | 39233      | 1.030        | 0.12         |
| 598a        | 62703    | 61888      | 1.030        | 0.22         |
| feocean     | 24531    | 24198      | 1.030        | 0.17         |
| 144         | 87208    | 86534      | 1.030        | 0.30         |
| wave        | 94083    | 92148      | 1.030        | 0.29         |
| m14b        | 108141   | 107384     | 1.031        | 0.44         |
| auto        | 189699   | 188555     | 1.030        | 1.08         |
| deu         | 5385     | 5147       | 1.029        | 5.31         |
| eur         | 12738    | 11313      | 1.070        | 30.30        |
| afshell10   | 427047   | 421285     | 1.030        | 3.18         |
| coAuthorsDBLP | 176485  | 174402     | 1.033        | 1.42         |
| citationCiteseer | 244330 | 242677     | 1.033        | 1.41         |

Table 19: KMetis $k = 64$
| graph            | avg. cut | best. cut. | avg. balance | avg. runtime |
|------------------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| rgg20            | 43545    | 42863      | 1.050        | 0.55         |
| Delaunay20       | 30321    | 29535      | 1.047        | 0.65         |
| fetooth          | 39477    | 38790      | 1.047        | 0.56         |
| 598a             | 63688    | 62936      | 1.047        | 1.82         |
| feoceean         | 26249    | 25912      | 1.039        | 0.12         |
| 144              | 87967    | 87163      | 1.047        | 1.58         |
| wave             | 95758    | 94605      | 1.049        | 0.44         |
| m14b             | 108546   | 107125     | 1.049        | 1.98         |
| auto             | 194958   | 192198     | 1.047        | 1.69         |
| deu              | 7273     | 7083       | 1.027        | 0.91         |
| eur              | 16427    | 14976      | 1.025        | 5.65         |
| afshell10        | 435995   | 433525     | 1.049        | 0.20         |
| coAuthorsDBLP    | 218798   | 217403     | 1.050        | 2.32         |
| citationCiteseer | 219850   | 219850     | 1.046        | 2.32         |

Table 20: parMetis $k = 64$
Table 21: Walshaw Benchmark with $\epsilon = 1\%$. * Expansion*, ** Expansion$^2$, + InnerOuter.
| Graph       | 2    | 4    | 8    | 16   | 32   | 64    |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 3elt        | **87 | 87   | +200 | 198  | *343 | 336   |
| add20       | +619 | 576  | *1179| 1158 | **1790|1690   |
| data        | +193 | 185  | **380| 378  | +665 | 650   |
| uk          | **18 | 18   | + 42 | 40   | **82 | 81    |
| add32       | + 10 | 10   | **33 | 33   | **66 | 66    |
| bcsstk33     | +10064 | 10064 | **21195 | 21035 | +34386 | 34078 |
| whitaker3    | +126 | 126  | **384| 378  | **665|1092   |
| crack        | +182 | 182  | * 360| 360  | + 678| 676   |
| wingnodal    | **168 | 1680 | * 3565| 3566 | + 5430|5401   |
| fe4elt2      | +130 | 130  | + 349| 343  | **608| 598   |
| vibrobox     | **1188 |10310 | **19107 |18778 | **24531|24171 |
| bcsstk29     | +2818 |2818 | * 8153|8045  | +14437|13817 |
| 4elt         | +138 | 137  | **320| 319  | + 536| 523   |
| fesphere     | +384 | 384  | * 796| 764  | + 1217|1152   |
| cti          | +318 | 318  | **927| 917  | **1773|1716   |
| memplus      | +5532 |5535 | * 9953|9418  | +12239|11628 |
| cs4          | +383 | 362  | *1001| 936  | **1542|1470   |
| bcsstk30     | +6251 |6251 | *16528|16577 | **34505|34559 |
| bcsstk31     | +2676 |2676 | **7209|7258  | *13253|13246 |
| fepwt        | +340 | 340  | + 705| 704  | +1418 |1421   |
| bcsstk32     | +4667 |4667 | +8805 |9533  | +20992|21307 |
| febody       | +265 | 262  | * 613| 668  | * 1055|1094   |
| t60k         | + 74 | 71   | **211| 207  | * 470 | 454   |
| wing         | **840 |774  | * 1761|1636  | * 2661|2551   |
| brack2       | 685  | 684  | *2840|2864  | * 7105|6994   |
| finan512     | +162 | 162  | + 324| 324  | + 648 | 648   |
| fetooth      | * 3807|3792 | + 6947|7081  | *11562|11957 |
| ferotor      | **1964 |1965 | + 7263|7636  | **12798|12862 |
| s98a         | * 2373 |2367 | * 7963|7978  | *16079|16031 |
| feocean      | +311 | 311  | + 1706|1704  | **3976|4019   |
| 144          | + 6512 |6438 | +15555|15250 | **25529|25611 |
| wave         | * 8699 |8616 | *16947|17407 | **29022|29776 |
| m14b         | * 3833 |3823 | * 13131|13285 | **26044|26153 |
| auto         | **9806 |9782 | +26343|26509 | **45703|48263 |

Table 22: Walshaw Benchmark with $\epsilon = 3\%$. * Expansion*, ** Expansion*², + InnerOuter.
| Graph  | 2    | 4    | 8    | 16   | 32   | 64   |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 3elt   | **87 | **199| **330| **560| **1001| **1615|
| add20  | 550  | **1179| **1157| **1744| **2150| **2560| **3054|
| data   | **188| **374| **368| **650| *1147| **1888| **2910| **2798|
| uk     | **18 | 18   | **41 | **81 | **152| **262| **437 | **410 |
| add32  | 10   | **33 | **66 | **65 | **124| **117| **222| **389 |
| bcsstk33| **9914| **20614| **20584| +34190| **55868| **54323| **79530| **77163| **110822| **106886|
| whitaker3 | **126| **382| **378| **665| **1130| **1084| **1737| **1686| **2655| **2535|
| crack  | **182| 182  | **360| **679| **667| **1122| **1080| **1755| **1679| **2651| **2548|
| wingnodal | **1676| 1668 | **3545| **5350| **8388| **8316| **12252| **11879| **16595| **15873|
| fe4elt2| **130| **130| **349| **583| **1015| **991| **1660| **1633| **2609| **2516|
| vibrobox| **1188| 10310| **18958| **18778| **24121| **23930| **33760| **31235| **42269| **39592| **49552| **48200|
| bcsstk29| **2818| 2818 | +8055| 7942 | **14009| **13614| **23131| **20924| **36633| **32738| **50618| **50935|
| 4elt   | **137| 137  | **319| **315| **526 | **516 | **946 | **902 | **1590 | **1532 | **2675 | **2565|
| feosphere| **384| 384  | **784| **764| +1217| **1152| **1840| **1692| **2709| **2477| **3945| **3547|
| cti    | **318| 318  | **891| 897  | **1737| **1716| **2885| **2725| **4242| **4037| **6010| **5684|
| memplus| **5528| 5267 | **9489| **9299| **12091| **11555| **13701| **13078| **15362| **14249| **17632| **16662|
| cs4    | **373| 356  | **990| **936| **1542| 1470 | **2237| **2126 | **3141| **2995 | **4364 | **4116|
| bcsstk30| **6251| 6251 | **16316| 16417| **34391| **34559| **72087| **70043| **117512| **113321| **177303| **170591|
| bcsstk31| **2676| 2676 | **7118| **7223| **13104| **13058| **24062| **23254| **38279| **37459| **60527| **57534|
| feprt  | **340| 340  | **700| 704  | **1406| 1411 | **2773| 2778 | **5525| **5606| **8582| **8310|
| bcsstk32| **4667| 4667 | **8539| 9052| **20568| **20099| **35962| **35900| **61021| **59824| **96032| **91006|
| febody | **263| 262  | **599| 629  | **1055| 1072 | **1786| 1815 | **2863| 3086 | **4897| **5043|
| t60k   | **69 | **65 | **206| 196  | **469 | **454 | **865 | **818 | **1436| **1376| **2263| **2168|
| wing   | +826| 770  | **1734| **1636| **2632| **2551| **4106| **4015| **6063| **5806| **8300| **7991|
| brack2 | **660| 660  | **2739| **2755| **6776| **6883| **11557| **11558| **17617| **17529| **26555| **26281|
| finan512| **162| **162| **324| 324  | **648 | **648 | **1296| **1296| **2592| **2592| **10909| **10560|
| fetooth| **3785| 3773 | **6863| 7027| +11498| 11957 | **17509| 18000| **25641| **25624| **35795| **35476|
| ferotor| **1955| **1957| **7031| 7520| **12643| **12678| **20098| 20263| **31611| **31576| **47186| **46608|
| s98a   | **2344| 2336 | **7837| 7978 | **15794| 16031| **25782| 26257 | **39478| 40179 | **58180| **58307|
| feocean| **311| 311  | **1688| 1704 | **3952| 4019 | **7671| 7838 | **12953| **12746| **20660| **21784|
| 144    | **650| 6362 | **15313| **15250| **25529| **25611| **38182| 38478| **57202| **57354| **80653| **80257|
| wave   | **8613| 8563 | **16780| 17306| **28753| 29776| **42810| 43791 | **62382| 63675 | **86867| **87654|
| m14b   | **3844| 3802 | **13124| 13285| **25701| 26153| **42644| 43747 | **66845| 67551 | **99460| **100183|
| auto   | **9587| 9450 | **25805| 26097| **44915| 48174| **76500| 80495| **121988| **124251| **174173| **174904|

Table 23: Walshaw Benchmark with $\varepsilon = 5\%$. * Expansion*, ** Expansion*2, + InnerOuter.