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PART V: PROTOTYPE DOCUMENTATION FOR THE PERFORMANCE PREDICTION COMPONENT

Task 2.4 Interactive and semiautomatic performance evaluation tools - Performance Prediction Component

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Abstract: This document describes the prototype developed during the first year of the project. The features of this prototype, called PPC are based on our experience in a previous tool called "Avispa" developed for a particular multiprocessor and a particular problem (iterative methods for sparse systems). Some new functionalities that are specific for Grid environments as well as other kernels are also implemented in this prototype, and will be added in future versions. We developed the prototype for the matrix-vector product and other kernels of sparse matrix algebra, as well as for the vertlq routine extracted from one of the applications of task 1.4.



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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
1. INTRODUCTION	6
1.1. PURPOSE	6
1.2. DEFINITIONS, ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS.....	6
2. REFERENCES	7
2.1. SOURCE CODE	7
2.2. CONTACT INFORMATION.....	7
3. IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE	9
4. PROTOTYPE FUNCTIONALITY	16
4.1. STATE OF THE ART	16
4.2. USE CASES.....	16
5. USER MANUAL	18
5.1. DEPENDENCIES	18
5.2. INSTALLATION	18
5.3. RUNNING	18
5.4. INTERFACE DESCRIPTION	30
6. INTERNAL TESTS	31
7. ISSUES	32

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document describes the Performance Prediction (PPC) prototype developed. It is based on Avispa, so many of the description is from Avispa. Some new functionalities that are specific for Grid environments as well as other kernels are also implemented in this prototype. All of them are described in this document. We developed the prototype for the matrix-vector product and other kernels of sparse matrix algebra, as well as for the vertlq routine extracted from one of the applications of task 1.4. Also relevant features of these kernels are explained in the document.

Section 1 introduces the tool, and summarizes the current status.

Section 2 includes some references about the tool as well as information on how to contact the team that is in charge of the implementation.

In section 3, the structure of the implementation in the current status is described.

Section 4 contains information about the functionality of the prototype and locates the tool in the context of the current state of the art.

Section 5 is a short and graphical user's manual.

Finally section 6 and 7 briefly points some internal tests and issues.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS:

We started to test the tool under two limiting circumstances: the availability of the testbed and the development of the applications. It is important to remark that the tool is useful for computational intensive kernels. We decided to start using a well known library to develop the first prototype of the tool, and then we included more kernels provided by WP1. Additionally, we started the development of the analytical models for the local cluster and then we will move to the heterogeneous testbed. In addition to this application-dependent kernels, it is important to mention that the communications routines are also included in the set of kernels as low-level components. Their study is important not only in the context of the application of WP1, but in a more general environment. The status of the kernels included and to be included in the future are summarized in the next table:

	Applicable to	Tested with	Used by
MPICH-G2 communication routines	Yes	Yes ¹	Yes ¹
WP 1.1 BioMed	No ²		
WP 1.2 Flooding	Yes	Yes ³	No
WP 1.3 HEP	Yes	No ⁴	No
WP 1.4 METEO	Yes	Yes	Yes
WP 2.3 benchmarks	Yes	No ⁴	No
Paraiso library (ourselves)	Yes	Yes	Yes

¹ These kernels can be used by any application even out of the context of WP1. In particular, we mark a “Yes” answer because they were used by ourselves.

² Application that does not have computational intensive kernels. So, no kernels will be provided. Their main topic is to communicate huge sets of data.

³ It is under development nowadays

⁴ Will be included in the near future.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE

The global purpose of the tool is to provide performance information about some important computational kernels when they are executed in a Grid. In some cases, this information is just predicted (execution times, communications overhead, ...), in others it is, in fact, real (number of communications, load balance, ...). The tool presents a GUI in such a way that the user can establish the features of the Grid to simulate their effects on the parallel codes, getting information about the behaviour of the kernels under different virtual hardware configurations. Note that this tool can be run in a single workstation or PC, because no Grid computations are involved.

The purpose of the prototype is twofold: on one hand, the adaptation of *Avispa* to a new heterogeneous platform, and on the other, adding new kernels into the tool.

1.2. DEFINITIONS, ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS

Self-explanatory.

API	Application Program Interface
Avispa	A Visualization tool for Paraiso codes
CVS	Concurrent Version System
F90	Fortran 90 language
GUI	Graphical User Interface
HPF	High Performance Fortran
Paraiso	Parallel Iterative Solvers library
PIPlot	PIPlot plotting library
TCL/TK	Tool Command Language

2. REFERENCES

1. PARAISO and AVISPA. <http://ulla.dec.usc.es/~paraiso/>
2. V. Blanco, J.C. Cabaleiro, P. Gonzalez, D.B. Heras, T.F. Pena, J.J. Pombo and F.F. Rivera. "Performance prediction for parallel iterative solvers". Int. Conference on Computational Science. ICCS 2002.
3. V. Blanco, J.C. Cabaleiro, P. Gonzalez, D.B. Heras, T.F. Pena, J.J. Pombo and F.F. Rivera. "A performance visualization tool for HPF and MPI iterative solvers". 16th Int. parallel and distributed processing symposium (IPDPS 02).
4. V. Blanco, J.C. cabaleiro, P. Gonzalez, D. heras, T.F. Pena, J.J. Pombo and F.F. Rivera. "Avispa: visualizing the performance prediction of parallel iterative solvers". Future generations in computer science. Vol 19. n. 5. pp. 721-733. 2003.

2.1. SOURCE CODE

The tool will be called PPC. The current version integrated in the CVS repository is highly dependent on the Avispa tool, but we will include new features in the near future. These features are being developed in our local cluster. We use the standard TCL/TK as API, and the computational parts of the tool are coded in C and C++. In addition to PPC we included in the repository the coded kernels (code of the kernels considered by PPC).

2.2. CONTACT INFORMATION

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3. IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

The implementation of the tool have two different works: on one hand we have to study in detail the behaviour of the kernels to be considered by the tool, and on the other hand we have to develop the functionalities of the visualization tool, some of these functionalities depend on the kernels themselves. Therefore this section is divided into two subsections.

3.1. The prediction model

The Performance Prediction Component (PPC) is a tool that provides information about the behaviour of some important kernels when they are executed in the Grid. The tool consists of two components:

- The performance model itself, that is an analytical model obtained from multiple executions of the kernels that are correlated with Grid features when they execute. There are two kinds of kernels to be considered, in one hand low level kernels that are useful for any Grid user when programming in parallel using MPICH-G2: they are the communication routines provided by this platform, in the other hand, high level kernels that are specific of the applications, and that are mainly computational intensive, and probably including communications.
- A visualization tool to be integrated in the CrossGrid portal provided by task 3.1. As the final product does not need to execute in the Grid, but in the user interface (any personal computer or desktop) we are implemented it as a Java applet that can be executed from the portal.

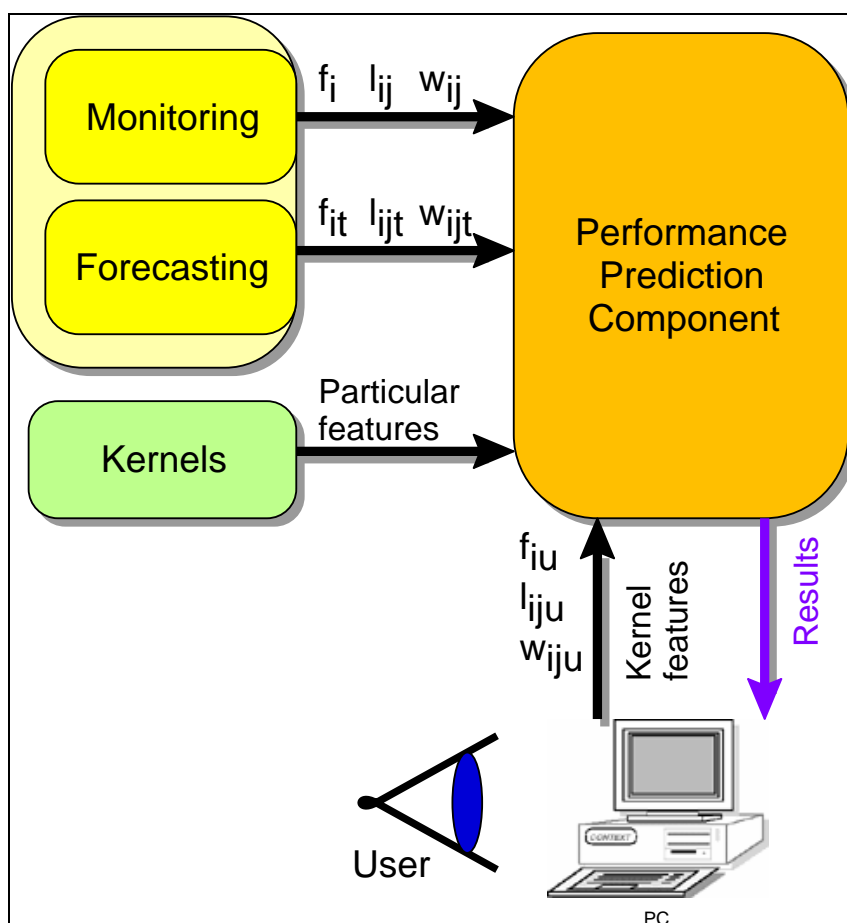


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the relationship between PPC and other components in the frame of the CrossGrid project.

3.2. Kernels

We are currently considering three different kernels: sparse matrix algebra problems, dense matrix - vector product and the vertlq routine. The status of the analysis of these kernels is different:

- **Sparse matrix algebra problems:**

We were adapting the HPF codes of the Paraiso library into efficient MPI versions. Therefore, a large part of the work developed to characterize the computational work was already done in a previous work, however, the communications analysis must be performed again, as the MPI behaviour is quite different from the HPF one. In particular, it is important due to the decrease in the number and size of the involved communications. These kernels can be used in some of the applications, so, as soon as we have enough good implementations of them, we can offer them to the users of WP1.

Currently, the new parallel version includes the following methods: Conjugate Gradient, Biconjugate Gradient Squared and the Generalized Minimal Residual. Others will be implemented in the near future, as well as some preconditioners and triangular solvers needed to complete the solution of a general linear system. Of course, the sparse matrix – vector routine was also implemented as it is needed for all the methods. In terms of the performance prediction model, the number of computations is obviously the same as in Paraiso, but the number and size of the communications is now much lower.

- **Dense matrix – vector product:**

This is the kernel in which we are paying more attention, and it is used to develop the visualization tool. This kernel is simple but with enough load in terms of computations and communications to be interesting as initial case of study.

Currently, the routine was coded and it is running. It was characterized in terms of computations and communications. In fact, the communications included in it are collective: broadcasts, gathers and scatters, and they are characterized in terms of point to point messages.

- **The vertlq routine:**

The last set of kernels that we have considered are those associated to the air pollution application in task 1.4 as it will be developed by a group in our institution, and we are quite familiar with it. We know this application in detail, and we are evaluating the main kernels. All of them require dense matrix computations with a small number of communications.

The nested loop structure of the air pollution model in task 1.4 is similar to many simulations based on a finite difference method. The sequential program consists of four main nested loops: a temporal loop, and a loop for each dimension of the simulated 3D space. The temporal loop specifies the duration of the simulation process and the time simulated in each iteration. The basic modules and routines of the program are the “hor” and the “vertlq” modules. They are responsible for the horizontal transport and for the chemical reactions simulations. In the experiments of the sequential program, the results obtained are: more than 97% of the time is consumed in the “vertlq” module, and 2.5% in the “hor” module, so we first focused on this “vertlq” module, and

we will include it in the set of kernels for our prediction tool. From the computational point of view, “vertlq” presents three nested loops. All of them can be parallelized, and in fact, in the parallel implementation, the processors are distributed in such a way that the user can decide which loops are parallelized. There are no communications inside the “vertlq” module, but a global reduction must be performed before each execution of the module. So, both the computations and communications structures are quite simple, and they can be modeled easily.

To obtain a precise prediction for these kernels, we need access to the execution of them on different clusters and finally on the Grid, but from now we have the precise number of events, and we can characterize some parameters of the prediction model as the memory load balance or the number of communications, among others.

One of the initial data to be considered is the number of floating point operations (FLOPs) required for every kernel. We counted the number of FLOPs for one iteration of the iterative solvers, as the number of iterations required to achieve convergence can not be predicted. These data consist on the evaluation of simple algebraic expressions involving certain parameters of the matrix at hand, such as the number of non-zero entries, n , or the dimension of the matrix, N , as well as some information on the operations, such as the grade in the polynomial preconditioners. Sometimes, the counting is much more expensive because it depends on dynamic parameters such as the matrix pattern. In the following table, the number of FLOPs for the kernels already analyzed is shown.

KERNEL	FLOPs
Dense matrix-vector product	$2N^3/P$
Conjugate Gradient	$(19N+7n-3)/P$
Biconjugate Gradient Squared	$(23N+9n-4)/P$
Generalized Minimal Residual	$(n^2+6n+13)N/P$
Vertlq	wm^3/P

Where, for the vertlq routine, m is the number of points in each dimension of the simulation space (assuming an $m \times m \times m$ 3D space), P is the number of processors, and w is an integer that depends on the number of chemical reactions to be considered by the application.

The study of the communication patterns generated by the MPI routines used in the kernels is essential for predicting their overheads. The straightforward way to check these patterns is to execute the program with profiling capabilities, taking results from different executions. In the current situation, we can get only information about the number of communications performed by each processor in the parallel kernels, but presently, it is impossible to characterize their costs because the Grid environment is not yet available. The following tables show the number and size of collective and individual communications in the current versions of the parallel kernels.

KERNEL	# collective communications	Size
Dense matrix-vector product	3	1

Conjugate Gradient	1	n/P
Biconjugate Gradient Squared	1	n/P
Generalized Minimal Residual	2	n/P
Vertlq	1	m ³ /P

KERNEL	# point to point communications	Size
Dense matrix-vector product	0	0
Conjugate Gradient	N	c/P
Biconjugate Gradient Squared	N	c/P
Generalized Minimal Residual	N	c/P
Vertlq	0	0

Where c is the average number of entries per column of the considered sparse matrix.

In the particular case of the memory balance, it depends on the sparse matrix pattern for the iterative solvers, so the solution offered by Avispa is correct in this implementation, because the data distributions are exactly the same. On the other hand, the vertlq module and the dense matrix-vector product are perfectly balanced. Other performance features depend on the systems used to execute them, and the analytical models must be established at that moment.

In order to characterize the collective communications, we have obtained the behavior of the broadcast, gather and scatter routines in terms of point to point communications. In this way, with the information about latency and bandwidth, the cost of these routines can be estimated.

3.3. The visualization tool

The visualization of the performance prediction data are based on Avispa, a visualization tool for the performance predictions of codes of Paraiso in a multiprocessor homogeneous environment. It was developed using standard TCL/TK, so it can be adapted to different GUIs.

The data to be shown in the graphical interface are application's dependent. Currently, we are adapting Avispa to a cluster and Grid environments, so the results to be shown are the ones corresponding to the iterative methods used in Avispa. Therefore, the results of the performance predictions have to be integrated into an interactive visual tool to be user-friendly for users or developers. This tool will be based on Avispa (A VISualization tool for PARaiso) for the iterative solvers, and it should be similar for other kernels, except for their particular features. In addition, for the iterative solvers, this tool must include detailed information about the matrix itself, the methods, preconditioners and kernels, as well as other information about the execution of these codes. In fact, the visualization tool allows the user to interact in the analysis of the behavior of the codes of Paraiso under different conditions

(number of processors, different distributions, different matrices, ...). Next, some examples of the capabilities of Avispa are shown, they can help the users to understand how the final product should work for their kernels.

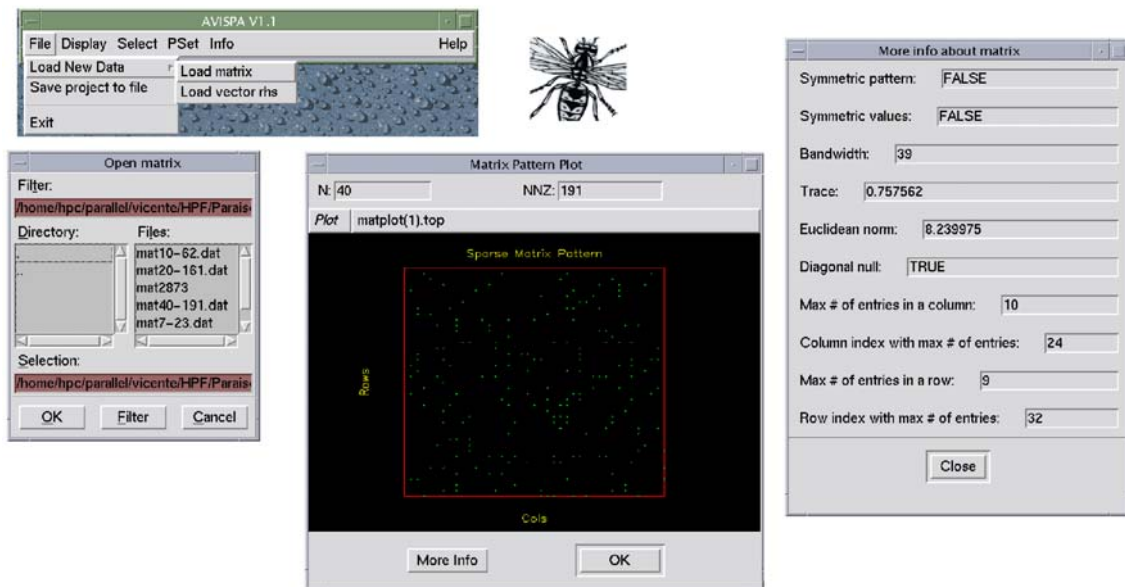


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the selection of a sparse matrix to be analyzed by the tool. In particular, it shows the menu to load the matrix, that launches the window to select the matrix file from disk. The user can see the pattern of the matrix and some additional features in two different windows as shown in this figure.

As soon as the matrix and the right hand side vector of the system were selected, the user can choose the number of processors, method and preconditioner, and the parallel version of the codes. Figure 2 displays examples of how some of these selections can be done in Avispa. In addition, a window displaying statistics about the number of FLOPs is included in this figure, and another one provides theoretical information about the selected method.

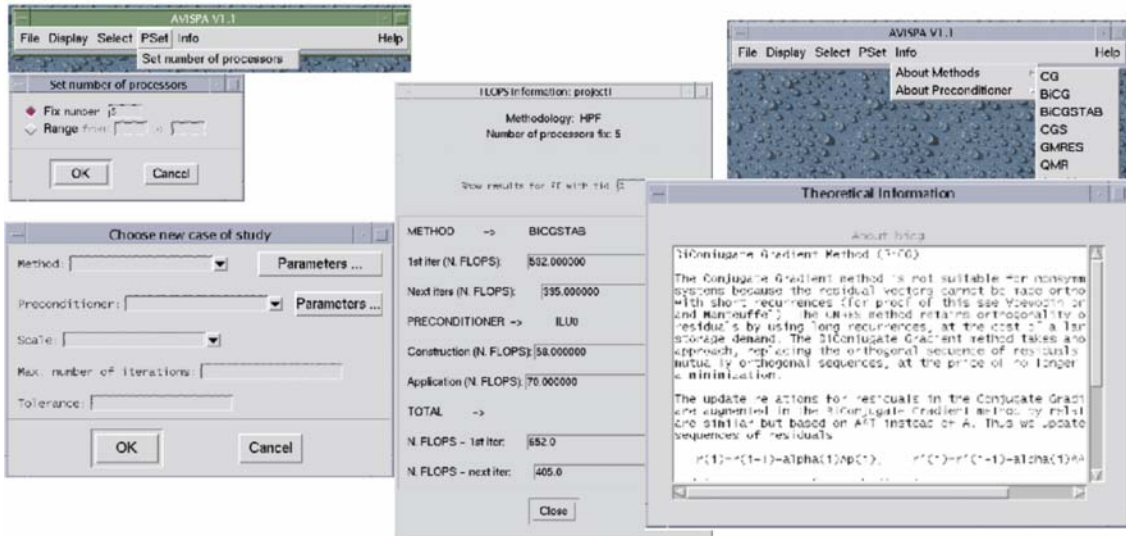


Figure 2

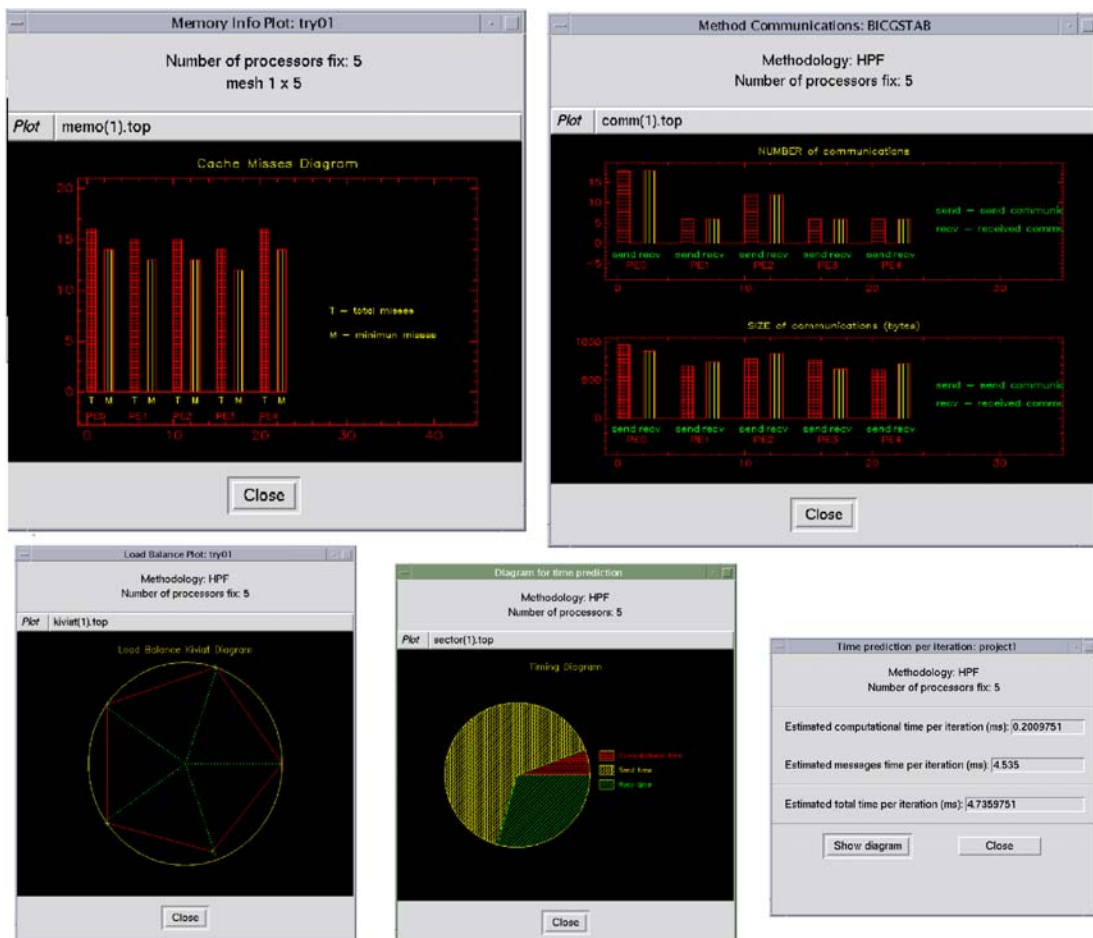


Figure 3

Among the large amount of performance prediction data, some examples are shown in figure 3. In particular, this figure displays information about perprocessor cache misses, and predicts number and size of communications, both sent and received messages. It also shows the predicted load balance using a Kiviat diagram, the ratio between computation costs and communication overheads in a sector diagram, and a window summarizing the total execution time per iteration.

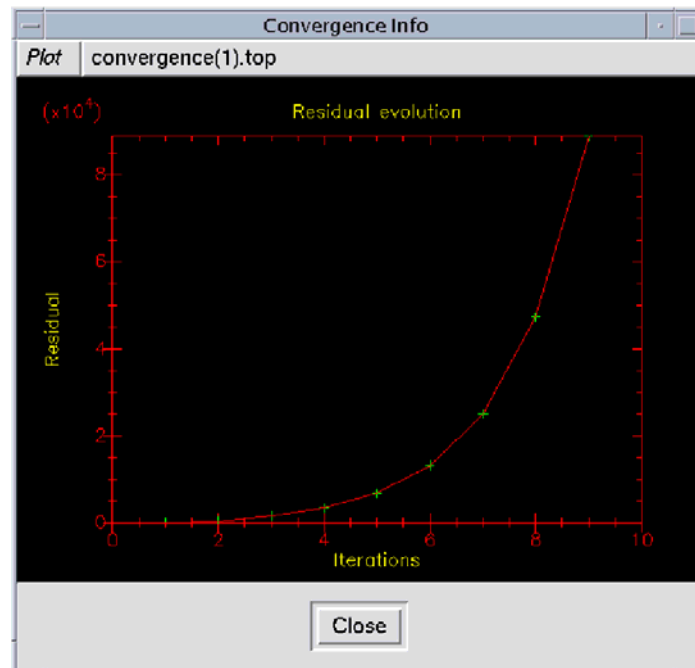


Figure 4

As an additional feature, a small number of iterations can be executed in order to analyze the residual evolution, and so, get a first approach about the convergence of the methods. Figure 4 shows the residuals for the first 10 iterations of a method that does not converge. This is a typical example of a feature that is application-dependent that can be included in the tool in an easy way.

The parameters that characterize the hardware are visualized as a triangular matrix that stores the latency, the bandwidth between each pair of nodes and the computational power of each node. In the present version we are considering just two levels: the LAN level and the cluster level, so we need a triangular matrix for each. This can be generalized to more complicated situations. The information provided by these matrices can be established by default or provided by monitoring or even modified by the user himself in an easy way. Therefore, hypothetical cases can be considered in which the network is faster or the number of nodes increases, and so on.

4. PROTOTYPE FUNCTIONALITY

4.1. STATE OF THE ART

Performance evaluation, instrumentation, prediction and visualization of parallel codes has been found to be a complex multidimensional problem in parallel and distributed systems. This situation is critical in GRID environments. Tuning the performance of codes on distributed memory systems has been a high time-consuming task for users. When programming these systems, the reasons for poor performance of parallel message-passing and data parallel codes can be varied and complex, and users need to be able to understand and correct performance problems in order to achieve good results. This is especially relevant when high level libraries and programming languages are used to implement parallel codes. A performance data collection, analysis, prediction and visualization environment is needed to detect the effects of architectural and system software variations.

The application of these techniques has so far been largely restricted to accurate prediction of performance of code kernels with the goal of automatic parallelization or execution steering. And all of them focus on specific parallel systems, at most on clusters of workstations, like DIMEMAS or Carnival, but to our knowledge, no one is currently adapted to GRID environments. DAMIEN is a project to do that for DIMEMAS. On the other hand, most of these tools require simulation of the codes, that takes much time, also they are not application-dependent, and some of them are for specific programming platforms, P3T is for High Performance Fortran programs, AlpStone and Carnival are for PVM programs, PERFORM is just for sequential systems, and PerFore is integrated in a specific compiler.

The proposal of our prediction model is application-dependent, and focuses on some kernels from the applications of WP1. In this way, the result will be more accurate, and as the performance will be modeled by simple analytical expressions, it is very fast. We will obtain a model for each MPI-coded kernel on the GRID.

4.2. USE CASES

The results obtained up to now agree with the provisions and are as expected. Two brief use cases can help to understand the functionality of the tool.

- **Use case 1, for a real user of the tool:**
 1. As soon as the user executes the tool, he can obtain information about any of the kernels on real monitored features in the Grid, basically latencies, bandwidths, FLOPS of each node, ...
 2. In particular, predicted runtimes are depicted.
 3. Some particular points can be extracted, like the load balance, the number and size of the communications, ...
 4. Some specific features can be obtained, like the pattern of a sparse matrix, or the fact that a particular matrix is symmetric, ...
 5. He can modify the performance features on the Grid to check the behaviour of the kernel in other Grid circumstances: with more nodes, or faster links, ...

6. All of these studies are done in any local workstations or PC, because Grid computations are not needed.
- **Use case 2, for the developers of the performance models:**
 1. The developer executes enough times the kernel in the Grid under different hardware features.
 2. The number of FLOPs and communications, as well as their size are obtained by studying the kernels.
 3. The behaviour of the communications is established, in particular, this is important for collective communications.
 4. A statistical analysis of data from the above steps is done in order to get an analytical model for the computations costs and the communications overheads.
 5. The analytical models are included in the visualization tool.

5. USER MANUAL

5.1. DEPENDENCIES

To compile PPC, it's necessary a F90 version of Paraiso Library. Due to this, a Fortran 90 Compiler is required. As the current repository of PPC in CVS is mainly based on Avispa, this dependency will be removed soon in new versions.

PPC requires Tcl/Tk with Incr Tcl extensions and Megawidgets and a plotting library for graphs and charts (PIPlot, a 2D/3D-plotting library). Current version is working with Tcl/Tk 8.0.5, ITcl 3.0.0 and PIPLot, version pplot-990122. This software is installed in RedHat 6.2 by default. Also PIPlot is available for Linux as a RPM package.

5.2. INSTALLATION

1. Go to Paraiso HOME (PARAHOME) and type "make F90" to construct a F90 version of Paraiso.
2. Edit PPCmake.inc to set environment variables and type "make PPC".
3. To execute PPC, set PARAHOME and PATH environment variables:
 - a. sh style:
 - i. export PARAHOME=\$HOME/Paraiso
 - ii. export PATH=\$PARAHOME/PPC/bin:\$PATH
 - b. csh style:
 - i. setenv PARAHOME \$HOME/Paraiso
 - ii. setenv PATH \$PARAHOME/PPC/bin:\$PATH

5.3. RUNNING

In this section the use of PPC is shown in detail. This document covers the basics for using PPC: how to prepare an application for PPC, run it, view its performance data, and find performance bottlenecks in the application. PPC is easy to install and its usage is fairly self-explanatory. The figures in this description are from Avispa, but they are exacty the same for PPC.

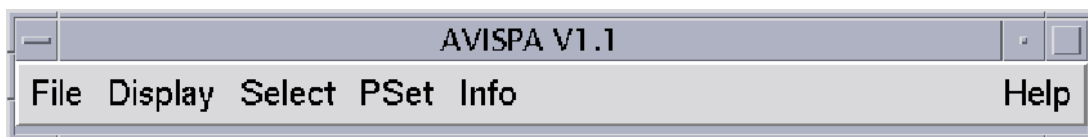


Figure 5: Main control window

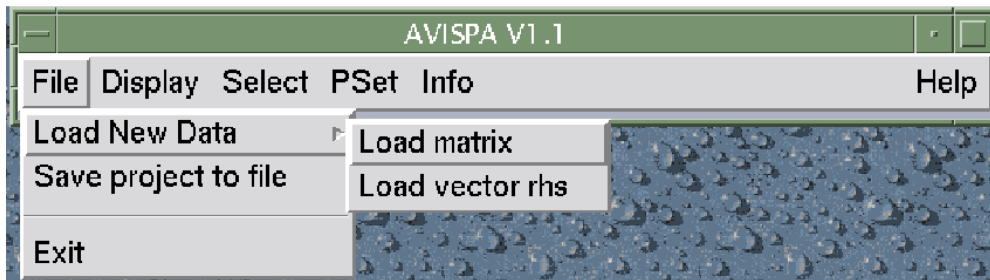


Figure 6: Main menu to load a matrix and a vector from disk

PPC starts running and displaying the main control window shown in Figure 5. In this window there are six buttons. The first one is used for loading new data to work with. The menu to load them is shown in Figure 6. Note that the last option of this menu is the way to exit PPC.

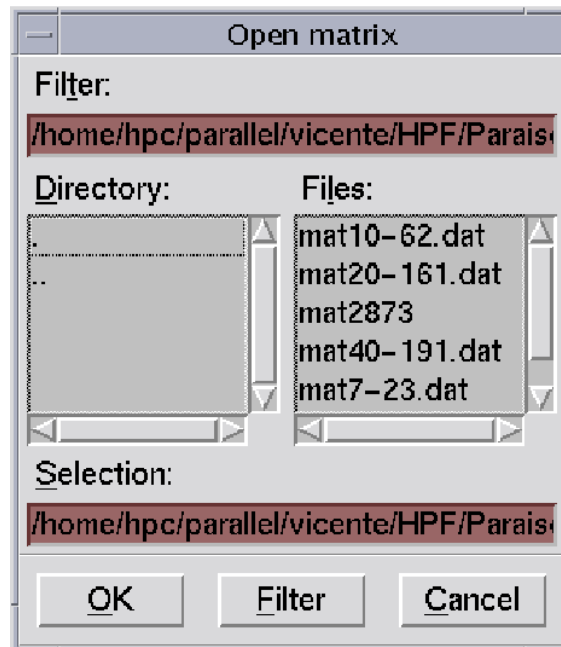


Figure 7: Dialog to load a sparse matrix from a file

When buttons *Load new data* and *Load matrix* are clicked, the dialog in Figure 7 is opened. This allows you to choose a file from disk in which a matrix is stored. A similar dialog appears when buttons *Load new data* and *Load vector* are selected to load a vector from disk.

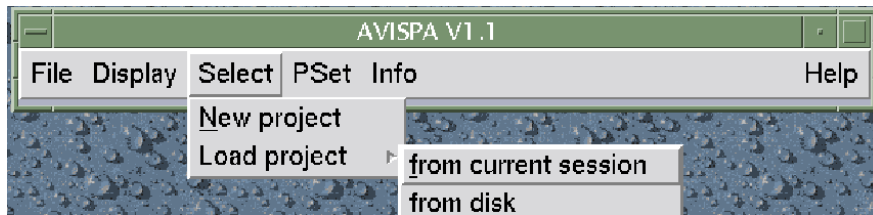


Figure 8: Project set menu

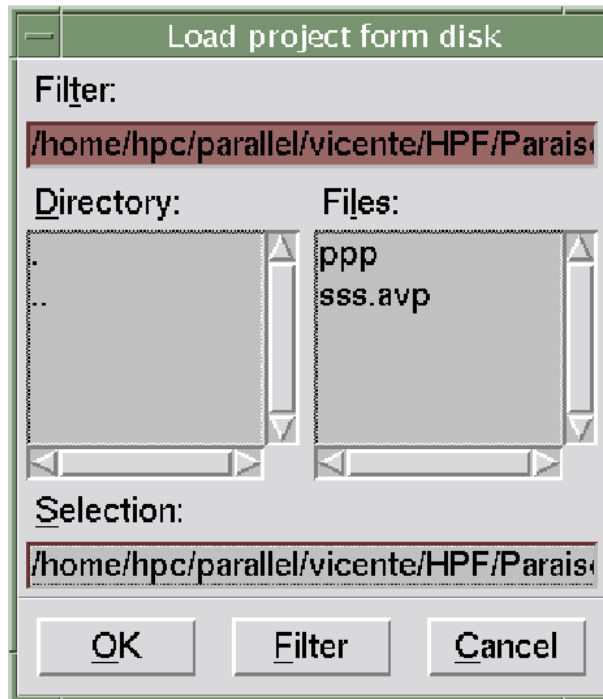


Figure 9: Dialog to select a project from disk

Before running the display of performance information, a project must be started. Figure 8 shows the way to load a project from the main menu. There are two possibilities, to create a new project or to load a previous one. A previous project can be selected from disk if it was previously saved. If this last option is selected, the dialog Figure 9 is opened. To load a project not saved on disk but used previously in this session, the dialog of Figure 10 is opened. Note in Figure 6 the button to save on disk the target project.

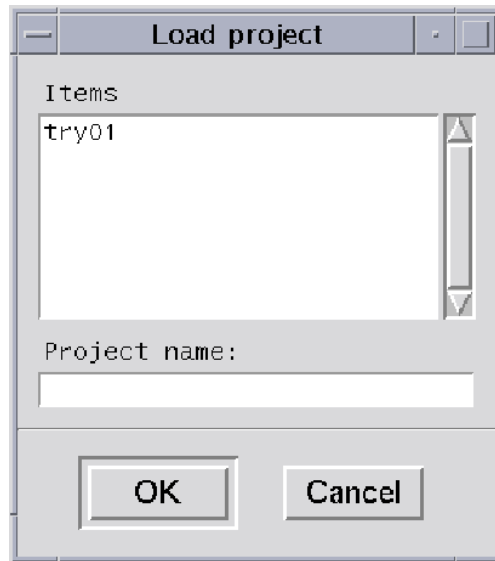


Figure 10: Dialog to load a project from the current session



Figure 11: Window to create a new project



Figure 12: Window to accept a default name for a new project

In Figure 11 the dialog to select a name for a new project is shown. In this example, the name *try01* was selected. When no name is typed, Figure 12 shows the window that automatically appears to accept a default name suggested by PPC.

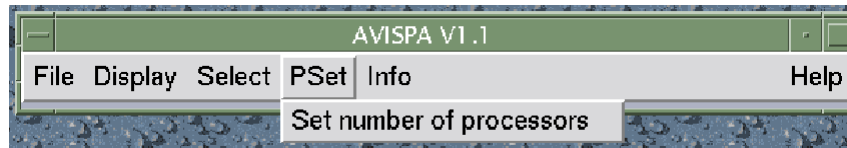


Figure 13: Menu to select the number of processors

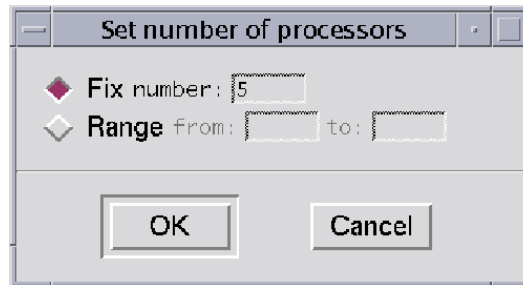


Figure 14: Dialog to select the number of processors

Before showing performance results, the number of processors must be fixed. The menu to be selected for that is shown in Figure 13. When this selection is done, the dialog of Figure 14 appears in a new window. Note that there are two possibilities to select the number of processors: a fixed value or a range of numbers. In the example of this figure five processors were selected. If a range was chosen, performance results for any number of processors in the range can be visualized to study the scalability of the codes. By default, the number of processors is one.

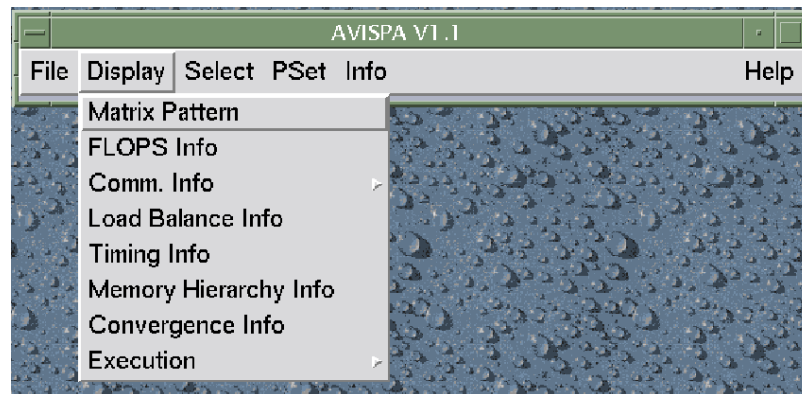


Figure 15: Menu to select the information to be showed

At this point, PPC is ready to start running the visualization. You can now select the *Display* button from the PPC main control window to start a visualization process, as shown in Figure 15. Data presentation modules include bar graphs, Kivi diagrams, 2-D scatter plots, matrix displays, polar plots, etc.

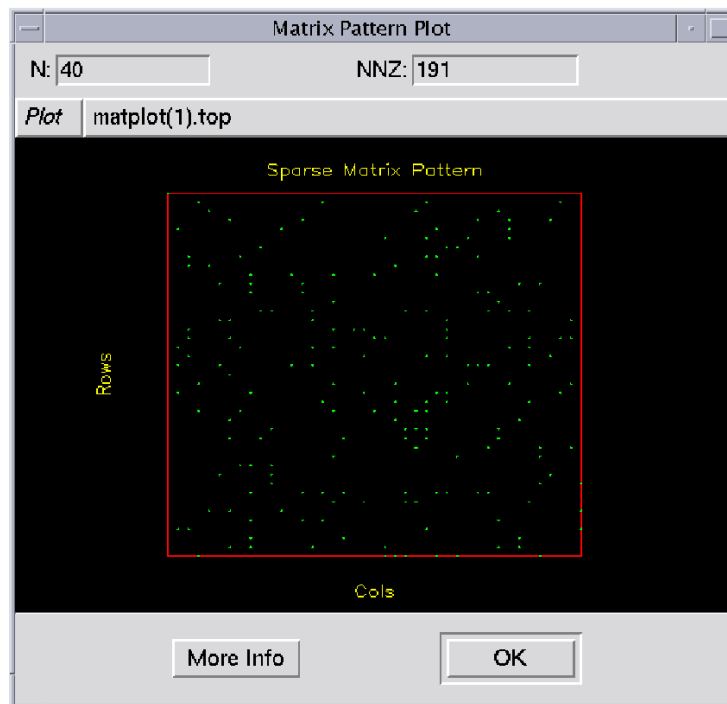


Figure 16: View of the sparse matrix information

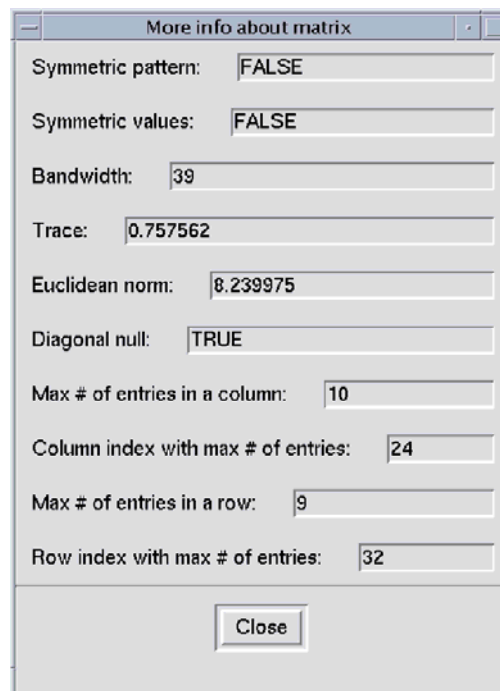


Figure 17: View of more information about the sparse matrix

The first option in the *Display* menu is for showing information about the sparse matrix. The information is shown in a new window like the one in Figure 16. In this figure, the number of rows and the number of non-zero entries are displayed (in our example these numbers are 40 and 191 respectively). Additionally, the pattern of the matrix is also shown and an advise if the matrix is symmetric or not. The display can take some seconds to proceed.

The button called *More Info* in the window of Figure 16 offers more information about the sparse matrix. This information includes: if the matrix is symmetric or not, both in terms of the pattern and in terms of the values, the bandwidth, the trace, the Euclidean norm, if the diagonal is null, the maximum number of entries in a column and its index, and finally, the, maximum number of entries in a row and its index. This information could be valuable in different applications, but it is not usual, this is the reason because it is shown in a secondary window. An example of this window is shown in Figure 17.

The screenshot shows a window titled "FLOPS Information: project1". Inside the window, the following information is displayed:

- Methodology: HPF
- Number of processors fix: 5
- Show results for PE with tid:
- METHOD -> BICGSTAB
- 1st iter (N. FLOPS):
- Next iters (N. FLOPS):
- PRECONDITIONER -> ILU0
- Construction (N. FLOPS):
- Application (N. FLOPS):
- TOTAL ->
- N. FLOPS - 1st iter:
- N. FLOPS - next iter:
- Close

Figure 18: Information about the number of FLOPs

Option *FLOPs Info* from the *Display* menu is used to check computational information in terms of the number of FLOPs to be executed in each processor. Figure 18 shows an example of these results. The user can select a particular processor from whom the information is displayed. Integer numbers from 0 to the number of them minus one identifies processors. Then, the number of FLOPs for the first and for any other iteration of the method are displayed, as well as the number of FLOPs needed for the construction of the preconditioner and for its application. The total number of FLOPs for any iteration is finally shown also for the first and the next iterations.

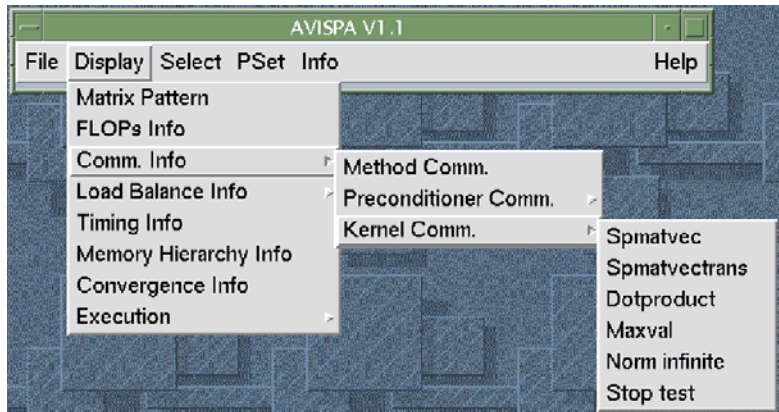


Figure 19: Menu to select communications information about the kernels

The menu to select the view of information about communications is shown in Figure 19. With this information the user can check the influence of the communications in a particular kernel. To choose the kernel for which the metric will be collected, you select resources by clicking on the appropriate button on these menu.

As an example, see Figure 20. This view shows the sends and receives executed on each processor. This view provides information regarding both, the number of messages sent and received, and the number of bytes sent and received. Two horizontal bars represent each processor, with different colors for message activity: number and size of sent and received messages. Heights of the bars are used to represent the number and size of the messages.

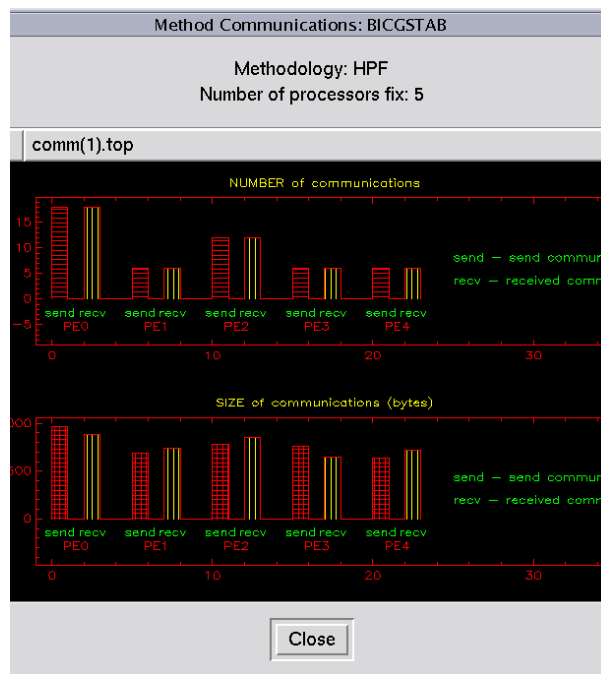


Figure 20: Bars information about communications

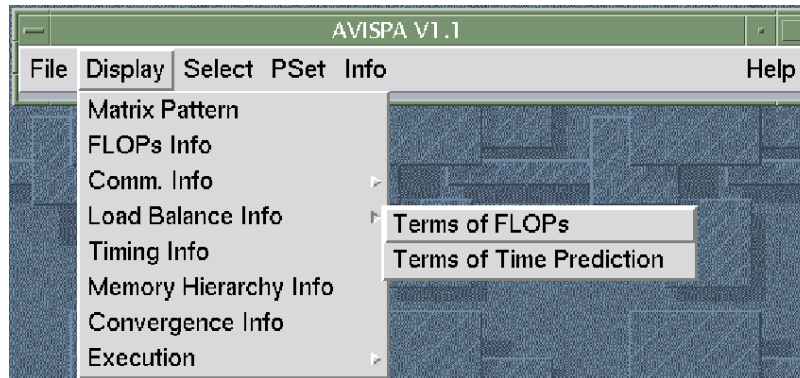


Figure 21: Menu to select the kind of balance information to be shown

If option *Load Balance Info* in Figure 21 is selected, two possibilities are found: to show it in terms of the number of FLOPs or to show it for the estimated execution time. A window like the one of Figure 22 automatically appears for the first option. It shows a Kiviat diagram for the FLOPs in each processor.

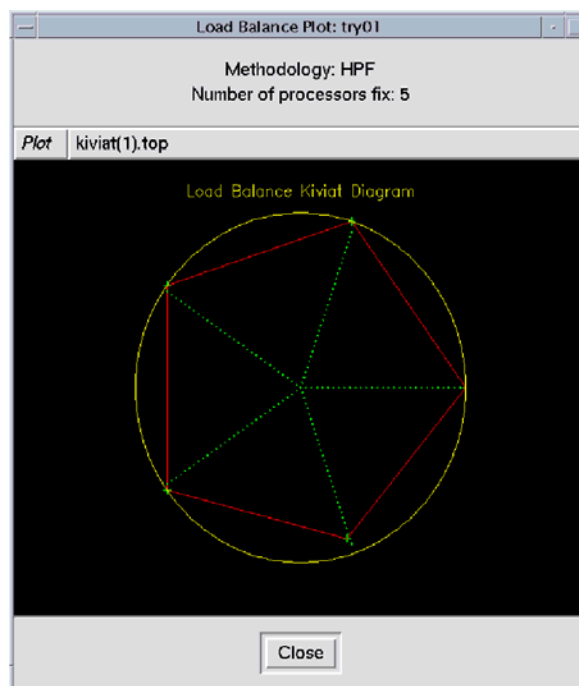


Figure 22: Kiviat diagram of the number of FLOPs for 5 processors

If the second option is selected, then a window like the one in Figure 23 appears. It shows a Kiviat diagram for both, the number of FLOPs and the estimated communication time (for send and receive messages) for any processor. Using this view, the user can check the influence of these events on the load balance. Both views are quite important to detect unbalanced situations.

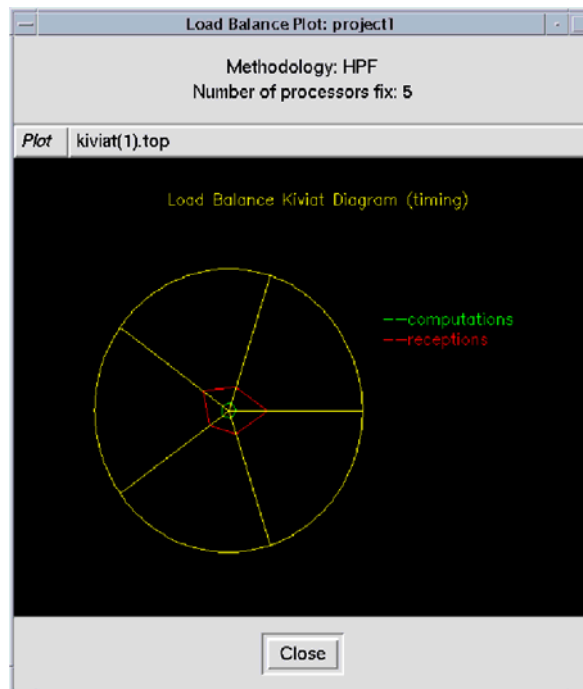


Figure 23: Kiviat diagram of communications and computations

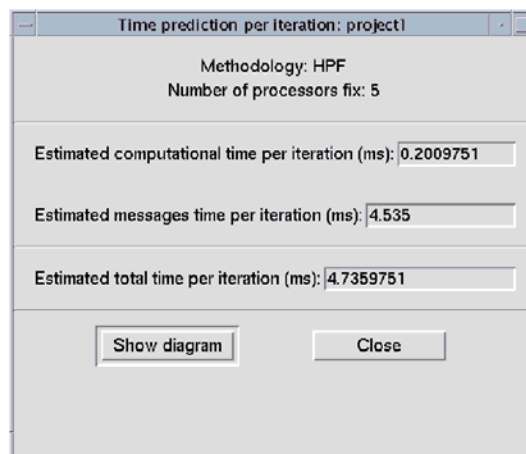


Figure 24: Estimated time per iteration

The next option in the menu of Figure 15 is to get an estimated runtime for an iteration of the kernel. This option is called *Timing Info*. As soon as this option is selected, a window like the one in Figure 24 appears showing this information. Button *Show diagram* can be used to view this information in a sector diagram like the one in Figure 25.

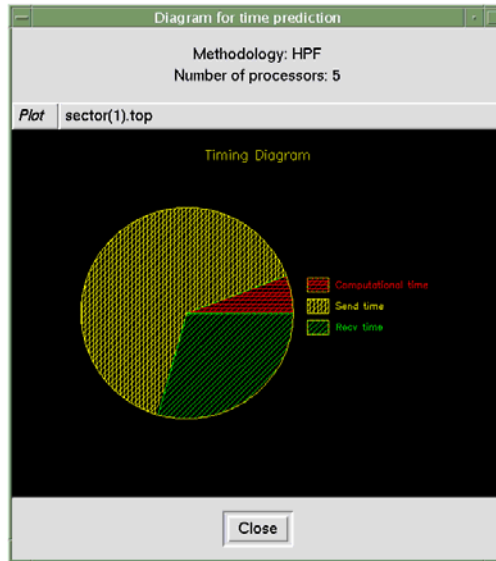


Figure 25: Estimated runtime due to execution and communications

Finally, the option called *Help* (Figure 26) in the main menu is used to get information about PPC. An example of this information is shown in Figure 27.

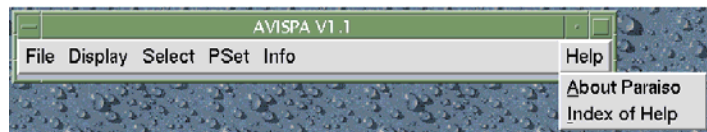


Figure 26: Help option

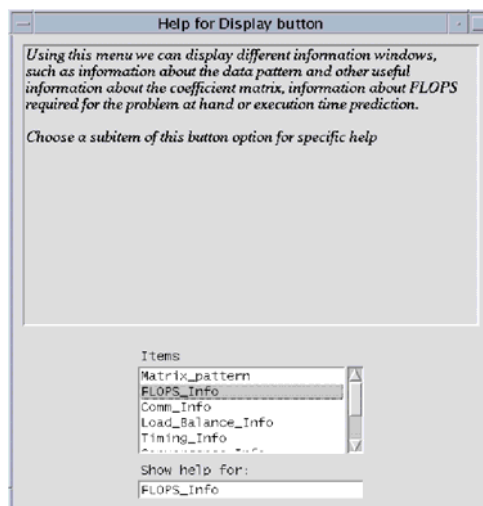


Figure 27: Example of help

The snapshots in Figure 28 show an example of the tool, in particular it shows the main menus, the menu for selecting a sparse matrix from a file, the pattern of this matrix, the help window and the window for selecting the number of processors to execute the parallel code.

And, in Figure 29, note the performance consultant window that shows the statistics for each process, a Kiviati graph showing the load balance and the histogram of the number and length of the messages to be sent and received by each processor.

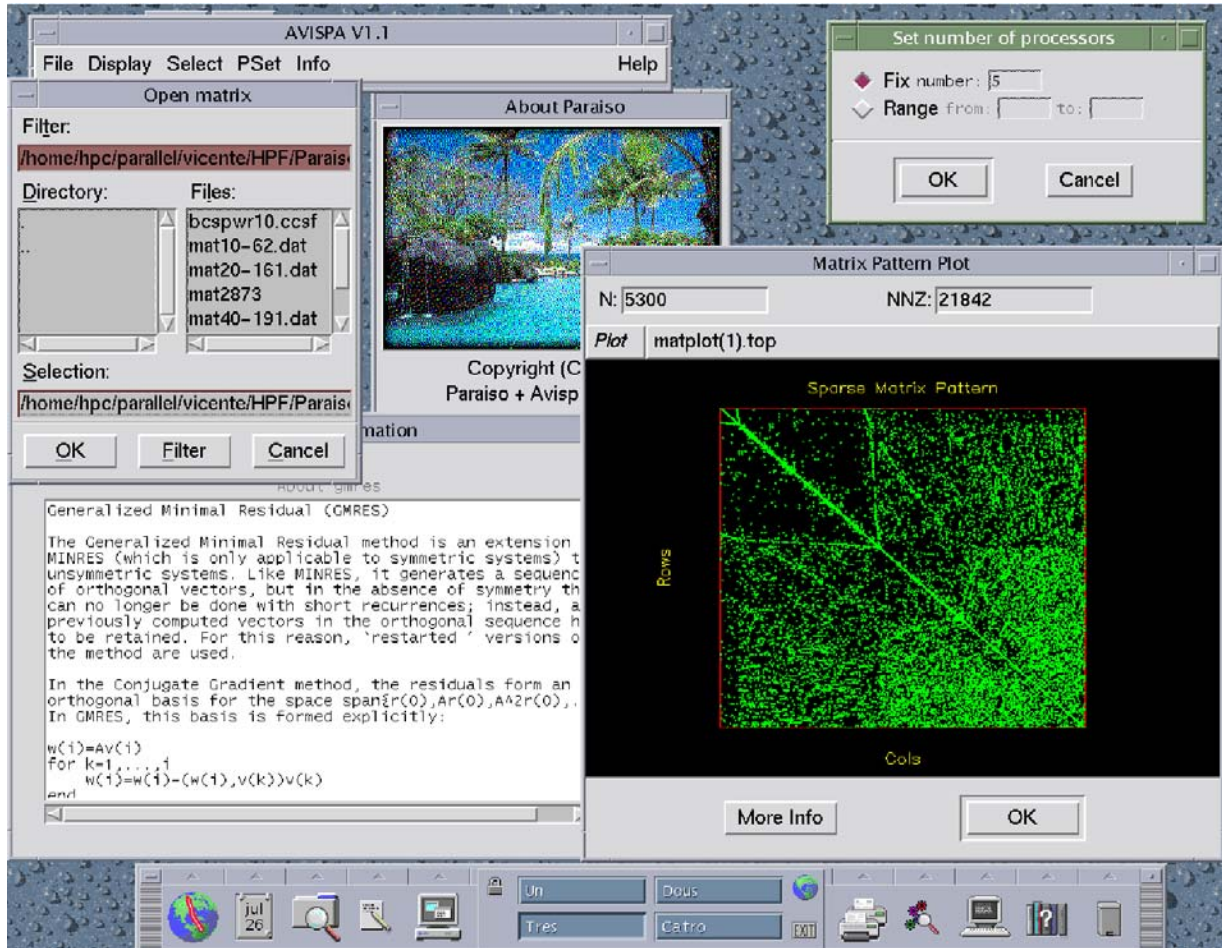


Figure 28: A view of a working session

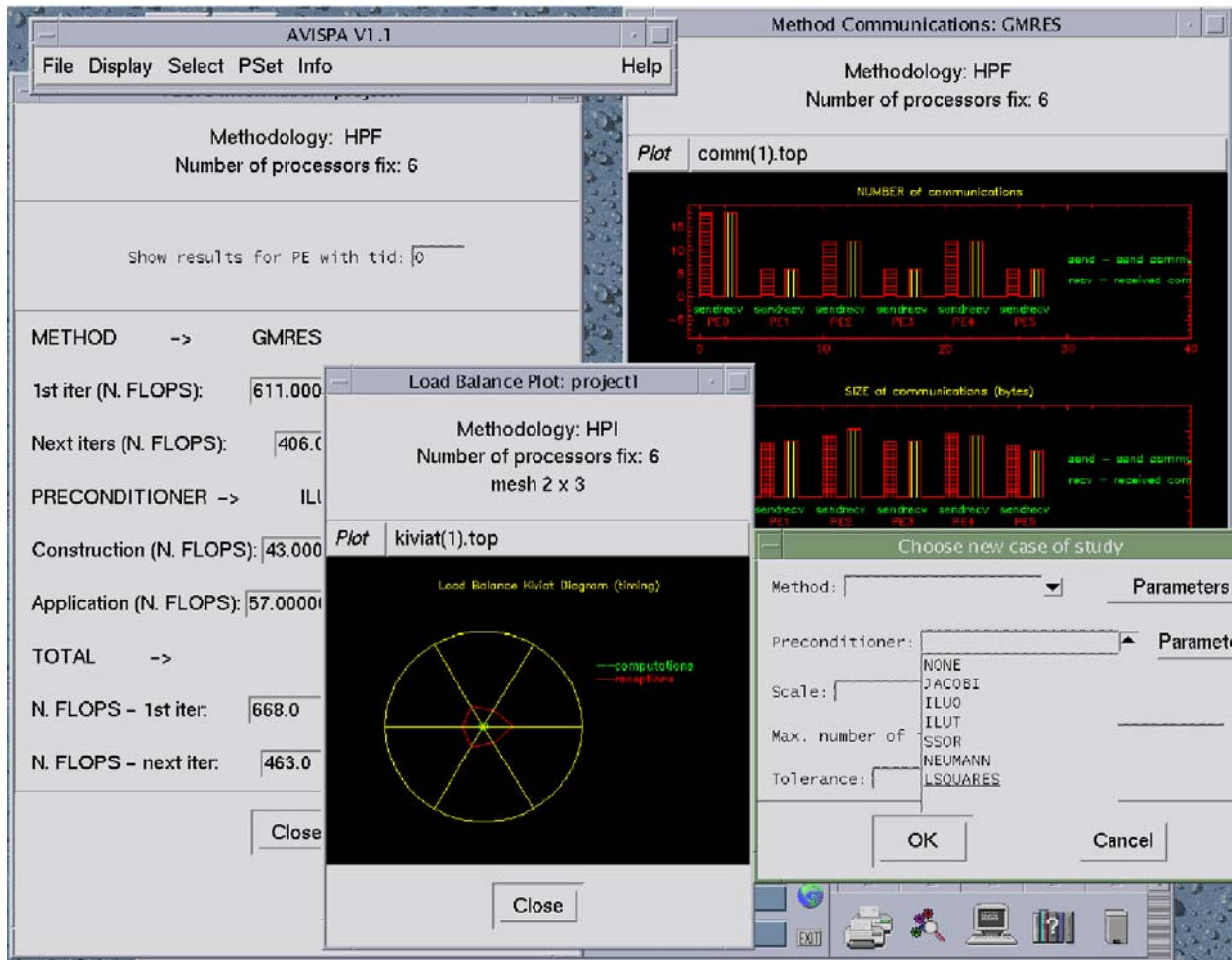


Figure 29: A view of a working session

5.4. INTERFACE DESCRIPTION

The prototype does not provide any API.

6. INTERNAL TESTS

The internal tests about the visualization prototype meet the functionalities, but no tests were done about the accuracy of the performance prediction. The main reason is that they were only validated in the local cluster, assuming a homogeneous architecture.

7. ISSUES

The prototype has a dependency with the Paraiso library. This dependence is going to be removed in future versions.

In the workshop at Santiago, we found that the current version of the user interface developed using the TCL/TK library for X11 platforms is not very convenient for its integration in the CrossGrid portal. Therefore, we decided to port the tool to Java applets. Currently we are working on this issue.