

When to Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

Douglas C. Schmidt

d.schmidt@vanderbilt.edu

www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt



Professor of Computer Science

**Institute for Software
Integrated Systems**

**Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee, USA**



Learning Objectives in this Part of the Lesson

- Learn when to use parallel streams
- & when *not* to use parallel streams
 - e.g., the source is expensive to split or splits unevenly, startup costs of parallelism are too high, combining partial results is costly, as well as when there aren't many cores



NOTICE

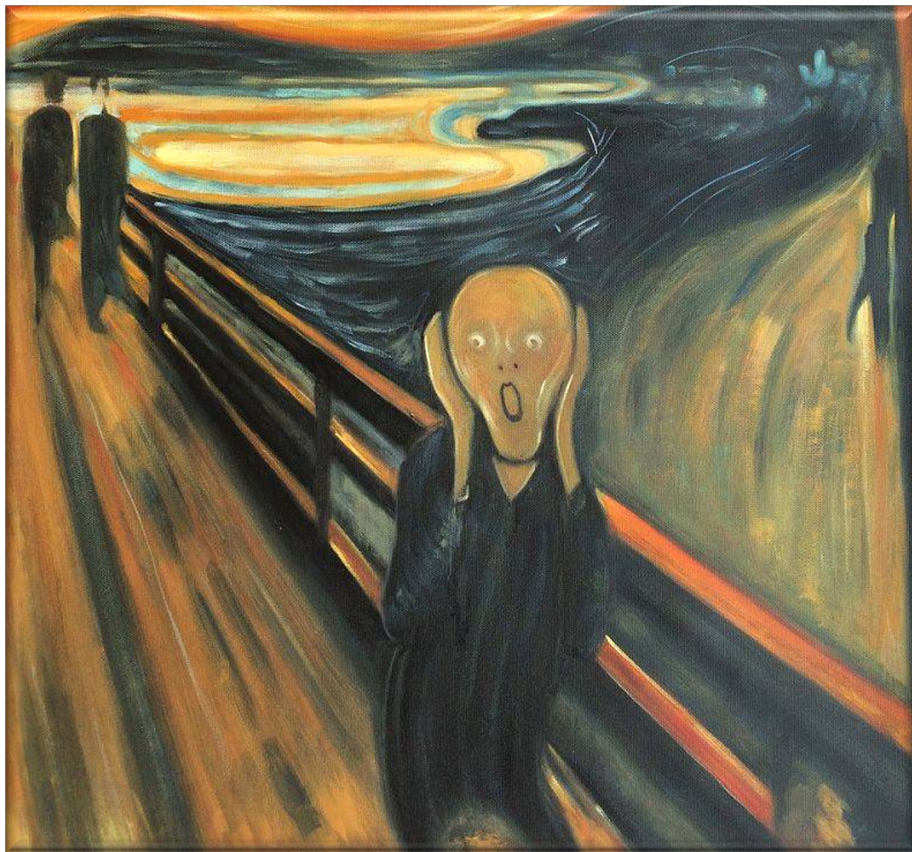
**DO NOT
USE**

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs

DENIED



See developer.ibm.com/articles/j-java-streams-5-brian-goetz

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
- The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly



```
List<CharSequence> arrayWords =  
    TestDataFactory.getInput  
        (sSHAKESPEARE_WORKS,  
         sWHITESPACE_AND_PUNCTUATION");
```

```
List<CharSequence> listWords =  
    new LinkedList<>(arrayWords);
```

```
arrayWords.parallelStream()  
    ...;
```

```
listWords.parallelStream()  
    ...;
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
- The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly

Make an ArrayList that contains all words in the works of Shakespeare

```
List<CharSequence> arrayWords =  
    TestDataFactory.getInput  
        (sSHAKESPEARE_WORKS,  
         sWHITESPACE_AND_PUNCTUATION");
```

```
List<CharSequence> listWords =  
    new LinkedList<>(arrayWords);
```

```
arrayWords.parallelStream()  
    ...;
```

```
listWords.parallelStream()  
    ...;
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
- The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly

```
List<CharSequence> arrayWords =  
    TestDataFactory.getInput  
        (sSHAKESPEARE_WORKS,  
         sWHITESPACE_AND_PUNCTUATION");
```

```
List<CharSequence> listWords =  
    new LinkedList<>(arrayAllWords);
```

*Make a LinkedList that
contains all words in the
works of Shakespeare*

```
arrayWords.parallelStream()  
    ...;
```

```
listWords.parallelStream()  
    ...;
```

LinkedList doesn't split evenly or efficiently compared with ArrayList

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly

Starting spliterator tests for 100000 words....printing results

599 msecs: ArrayList parallel

701 msecs: LinkedList parallel

Starting spliterator tests for 883311 words....printing results

5718 msecs: ArrayList parallel

31226 msecs: LinkedList parallel

```
List<CharSequence> arrayWords =  
    TestDataFactory.getInput  
        (sSHAKESPEARE_WORKS,  
         sWHITESPACE_AND_PUNCTUATION");
```

```
List<CharSequence> listWords =  
    new LinkedList<>(arrayAllWords);
```

```
arrayWords.parallelStream()  
    ...;
```

```
listWords.parallelStream()  
    ...;
```

The ArrayList parallel stream is much faster than the LinkedList parallel stream.

See earlier lesson on "Java Parallel Stream Internals: Demo'ing Spliterator Performance"

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
- The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly

The ArrayList spliterator runs in $O(1)$ constant time

```
class ArrayListSpliterator {  
    ...  
    ArrayListSpliterator<E>  
    trySplit() {  
        int hi = getFence(), lo =  
            index, mid = (lo + hi) >>> 1;  
        return lo >= mid  
            ? null  
            : new  
                ArrayListSpliterator<E>  
                    (list, lo, index = mid,  
                     expectedModCount);  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

See [openjdk/8u40-b25/java/util/ArrayList.java](https://openjdk.org/jdk-8u40-b25/java/util/ArrayList.java)

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
- The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly

```
class ArrayListSplitter {  
    ...  
    ArrayListSplitter<E>  
        trySplit() {  
            int hi = getFence(), lo =  
                index, mid = (lo + hi) >>> 1;  
            return lo >= mid  
                ? null  
                : new  
                    ArrayListSplitter<E>  
                        (list, lo, index = mid,  
                            expectedModCount);  
        }  
    ...  
}
```

Compute the mid-point efficiently

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
- The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly

*Split the array list evenly
without copying the data*

```
class ArrayListSplitter {  
    ...  
    ArrayListSplitter<E>  
        trySplit() {  
            int hi = getFence(), lo =  
                index, mid = (lo + hi) >>> 1;  
            return lo >= mid  
                ? null  
                : new  
                    ArrayListSplitter<E>  
                        (list, lo, index = mid,  
                            expectedModCount);  
        }  
    ...  
}
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
- The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly

The LinkedList spliterator runs in $O(n)$ linear time

```
class LLSpliterator {  
    ...  
    public Spliterator<E> trySplit() {  
        ...  
        int n = batch + BATCH_UNIT;  
        ...  
        Object[] a = new Object[n];  
        int j = 0;  
        do { a[j++] = p.item; }  
        while ((p = p.next) != null  
            && j < n);  
        ...  
        return Spliterators  
            .spliterator(a, 0, j,  
                Spliterator.ORDERED);  
    }  
}
```

See openjdk/8-b132/java/util/LinkedList.java

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
- The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly

Create a fixed-size chunk

```
class LLSpliterator {  
    ...  
    public Spliterator<E> trySplit() {  
        ...  
        int n = batch + BATCH_UNIT;  
        ...  
        Object[] a = new Object[n];  
        int j = 0;  
        do { a[j++] = p.item; }  
        while ((p = p.next) != null  
                && j < n);  
        ...  
        return Spliterators  
            .spliterator(a, 0, j,  
                Spliterator.ORDERED);  
    }  
}
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
- The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly

```
class LLSpliterator {  
    ...  
    public Spliterator<E> trySplit() {  
        ...  
        int n = batch + BATCH_UNIT;  
        ...  
        Object[] a = new Object[n];  
        int j = 0;  
        do { a[j++] = p.item; }  
        while ((p = p.next) != null  
                && j < n);  
        ...  
        return Spliterators  
            .spliterator(a, 0, j,  
                Spliterator.ORDERED);  
    }  
}
```

Copy data into the chunk



When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly

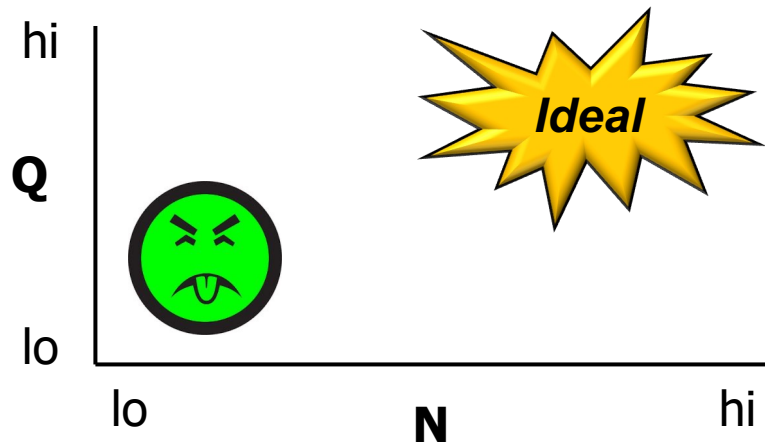
```
class LLSpliterator {  
    ...  
    public Spliterator<E> trySplit() {  
        ...  
        int n = batch + BATCH_UNIT;  
        ...  
        Object[] a = new Object[n];  
        int j = 0;  
        do { a[j++] = p.item; }  
        while ((p = p.next) != null  
                && j < n);  
        ...  
        return Spliterators  
            .spliterator(a, 0, j,  
                Spliterator.ORDERED);  
    }  
}
```

*Create a new spliterator
that covers the chunk*



When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data



```
class ParallelStreamFactorial {  
    BigInteger factorial(long n) {  
        return LongStream  
            .rangeClosed(1, n)  
            .parallel() ...  
            .reduce(BigInteger.ONE,  
                    BigInteger::multiply);  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

```
class SequentialStreamFactorial {  
    BigInteger factorial(long n) {  
        return LongStream  
            .rangeClosed(1, n) ...  
            .reduce(BigInteger.ONE,  
                    BigInteger::multiply);  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

See previous lesson on "*When to Use Parallel Streams*"

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data

The overhead of creating a parallel stream is > than the benefits of parallelism for small values of 'n'

```
class ParallelStreamFactorial {  
    BigInteger factorial(long n) {  
        return LongStream  
            .rangeClosed(1, n)  
            .parallel() ...  
            .reduce(BigInteger.ONE,  
                    BigInteger::multiply);  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

```
class SequentialStreamFactorial {  
    BigInteger factorial(long n) {  
        return LongStream  
            .rangeClosed(1, n) ...  
            .reduce(BigInteger.ONE,  
                    BigInteger::multiply);  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data

If n is small then this parallel solution will be inefficient

```
class ParallelStreamFactorial {  
    BigInteger factorial(long n) {  
        return LongStream  
            .rangeClosed(1, n)  
            .parallel() ...  
            .reduce(BigInteger.ONE,  
                    BigInteger::multiply);  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

```
class SequentialStreamFactorial {  
    BigInteger factorial(long n) {  
        return LongStream  
            .rangeClosed(1, n) ...  
            .reduce(BigInteger.ONE,  
                    BigInteger::multiply);  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data

```
class ParallelStreamFactorial {  
    BigInteger factorial(long n) {  
        return LongStream  
            .rangeClosed(1, n)  
            .parallel() ...  
            .reduce(BigInteger.ONE,  
                    BigInteger::multiply);  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

If n is small then this sequential solution will be more efficient

```
class SequentialStreamFactorial {  
    BigInteger factorial(long n) {  
        return LongStream  
            .rangeClosed(1, n) ...  
            .reduce(BigInteger.ONE,  
                    BigInteger::multiply);  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data
 - Combining partial results is costly



```
List<CharSequence> arrayWords =  
    new ArrayList<>  
        (TestDataFactory.getInput  
         (sSHAKESPEARE_DATA_FILE,  
          sSPLIT_WORDS));  
  
...  
  
collect  
    .apply("non-concurrent "  
        + testType,  
        true,  
        arrayWords,  
        toCollection  
            (setSupplier));
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data
 - Combining partial results is costly

An array list of all words in the complete works of Shakespeare

```
List<CharSequence> arrayWords =  
    new ArrayList<>  
        (TestDataFactory.getInput  
            (sSHAKESPEARE_DATA_FILE,  
             sSPLIT_WORDS));  
...  
collect  
    .apply("non-concurrent "  
        + testType,  
        true,  
        arrayWords,  
        toCollection  
            (setSupplier));
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data
 - Combining partial results is costly

Performance may be poor due to the overhead of combining partial results for a set in a parallel stream

```
List<CharSequence> arrayWords =  
    new ArrayList<>  
        (TestDataFactory.getInput  
            (sSHAKESPEARE_DATA_FILE,  
             sSPLIT_WORDS));  
  
...  
  
collect  
    .apply("non-concurrent "  
        + testType,  
        true,  
        arrayWords,  
        toCollection  
            (setSupplier));
```

In this case setSupplier is TreeSet::new

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data
 - Combining partial results is costly

Combining costs can be alleviated if the amount of work performed per element is large (i.e., the "NQ model")

```
List<CharSequence> arrayWords =  
    new ArrayList<>  
        (TestDataFactory.getInput  
         (sSHAKESPEARE_DATA_FILE,  
          sSPLIT_WORDS));
```

...

collect



```
    .apply("non-concurrent "  
        + testType,  
        true,  
        arrayWords,  
        toCollection  
            (setSupplier));
```

See developer.ibm.com/articles/j-java-streams-5-brian-goetz

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data
 - Combining partial results is costly

```
List<CharSequence> arrayWords =  
    new ArrayList<>  
        (TestDataFactory.getInput  
            (sSHAKESPEARE_DATA_FILE,  
             sSPLIT_WORDS));  
  
...  
  
collect  
    .apply("non-concurrent "  
        + testType,  
        true,  
        arrayWords,  
        toCollection  
            (setSupplier));
```

A concurrent collector can also be used to optimize the reduction phase

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data
- Combining partial results is costly

```
List<CharSequence> arrayWords =  
    new ArrayList<>  
        (TestDataFactory.getInput  
         (sSHAKESPEARE_DATA_FILE,  
          sSPLIT_WORDS));
```

...

```
collect  
    .apply("non-concurrent "  
           + testType,  
           true,  
           arrayWords,  
           toCollection
```

```
Starting collector tests for 100000 words..printing results  
219 msec: parallel timeStreamCollectToConcurrentSet()  
364 msec: parallel timeStreamCollectToSet()  
657 msec: sequential timeStreamCollectToSet()  
804 msec: sequential timeStreamCollectToConcurrentSet()  
Starting collector tests for 883311 words..printing results  
1782 msec: parallel timeStreamCollectToConcurrentSet()  
3010 msec: parallel timeStreamCollectToSet()  
6169 msec: sequential timeStreamCollectToSet()  
7652 msec: sequential timeStreamCollectToConcurrentSet()
```

Concurrent collector may scale much better than non-concurrent collector

See previous earlier lesson on "Java Parallel Stream Internals: Demo'ing Collector Performance"

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data
 - Combining partial results is costly
 - Some streams operations don't sufficiently exploit parallelism

```
List<Double> result = Stream
    .iterate(2, i -> i + 1)
    .parallel()
    .filter(this::isEven)
    .limit(n)
    .map(this::findSqrt)
    .collect(toList());
```

```
List<Double> result = LongStream
    .range(2, (n * 2) + 1)
    .parallel()
    .filter(this::isEven)
    .mapToObj(this::findSqrt)
    .collect(toList());
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data
 - Combining partial results is costly
 - Some streams operations don't sufficiently exploit parallelism

Create a list containing sqrt of the first 'n' even numbers

```
List<Double> result = Stream
    .iterate(2, i -> i + 1)
    .parallel()
    .filter(this::isEven)
    .limit(n)
    .map(this::findSqrt)
    .collect(toList());
```

```
List<Double> result = LongStream
    .range(2, (n * 2) + 1)
    .parallel()
    .filter(this::isEven)
    .mapToObj(this::findSqrt)
    .collect(toList());
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data
 - Combining partial results is costly
 - Some streams operations don't sufficiently exploit parallelism

Stream.iterate() & limit() split & parallelize poorly since iterate creates an ordered stream...

```
List<Double> result = Stream
    .iterate(2, i -> i + 1)
    .parallel()
    .filter(this::isEven)
    .limit(n)
    .map(this::findSQRT)
    .collect(toList());
```

```
List<Double> result = LongStream
    .range(2, (n * 2) + 1)
    .parallel()
    .filter(this::isEven)
    .mapToObj(this::findSQRT)
    .collect(toList());
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data
 - Combining partial results is costly
- Some streams operations don't sufficiently exploit parallelism

Create a list containing sqrt of the first 'n' even numbers

```
List<Double> result = Stream
    .iterate(2, i -> i + 1)
    .parallel()
    .filter(this::isEven)
    .limit(n)
    .map(this::findSqrt)
    .collect(toList());
```

```
List<Double> result = LongStream
    .range(2, (n * 2) + 1)
    .parallel()
    .filter(this::isEven)
    .mapToObj(this::findSqrt)
    .collect(toList());
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data
 - Combining partial results is costly
 - Some streams operations don't sufficiently exploit parallelism

LongStream.range() splits nicely & thus runs efficiently in parallel

```
List<Double> result = Stream
    .iterate(2, i -> i + 1)
    .parallel()
    .filter(this::isEven)
    .limit(n)
    .map(this::findSqrt)
    .collect(toList());
```

```
List<Double> result = LongStream
    .range(2, (n * 2) + 1)
    .parallel()
    .filter(this::isEven)
    .mapToObj(this::findSqrt)
    .collect(toList());
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Parallel streams aren't suitable for certain types of programs, e.g.
 - The source is expensive to split or splits unevenly
 - The startup costs of parallelism overwhelm the amount of data
 - Combining partial results is costly
 - Some streams operations don't sufficiently exploit parallelism
 - There aren't many cores



Older computing devices just have a single core, which limits available parallelism

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Also be aware that there is no built-in means to shutdown processing of a parallel stream



See video.disney.com/watch/sorcerer-s-apprentice-fantasia-4ea9ebc01a74ea59a5867853

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Also be aware that there is no built-in means to shutdown processing of a parallel stream

```
private static volatile  
    boolean mCancelled;
```

Define a static volatile flag

```
Image downloadImage(Cache.Item  
                    item) {  
    if (mCancelled)  
        throw new  
            CancellationException  
                ("Canceling crawl.");  
    ...
```

When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams

- Also be aware that there is no built-in means to shutdown processing of a parallel stream

```
private static volatile  
    boolean mCancelled;
```

```
Image downloadImage(Cache.Item  
                    item) {  
    if (mCancelled)  
        throw new  
            CancellationException  
                ("Canceling crawl.");  
    ...
```

Before downloading the next image, check for cancellation & throw an exception if cancelled

End of When Not to Use Java Parallel Streams