MPSoC Programming using the MAPS Compiler

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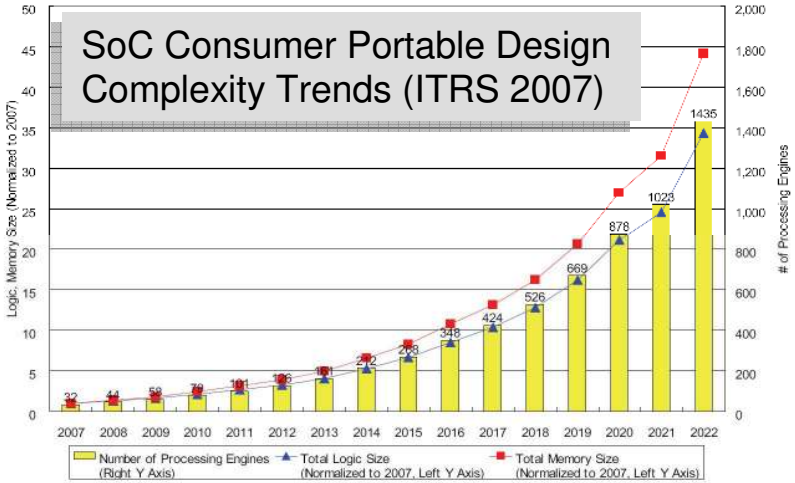
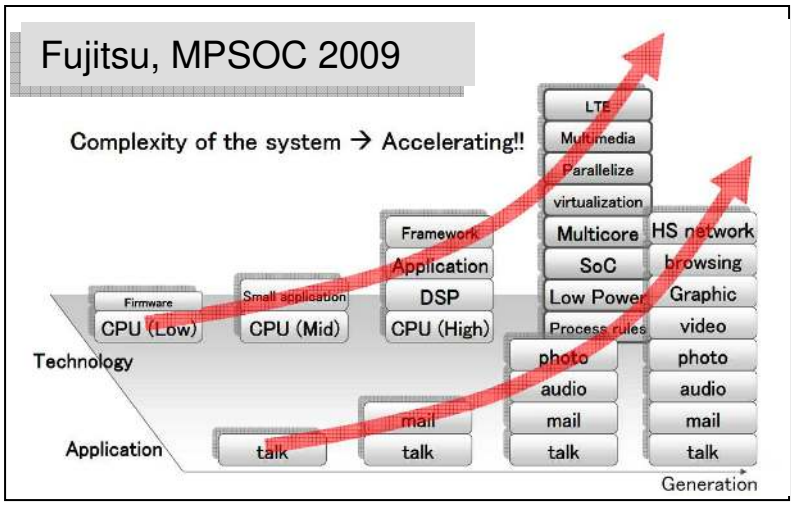
Motivation: MPSoCs and the Productivity Gap

- **Multi-Processor Systems on Chip are a reality**
  - Increased HW and SW complexity



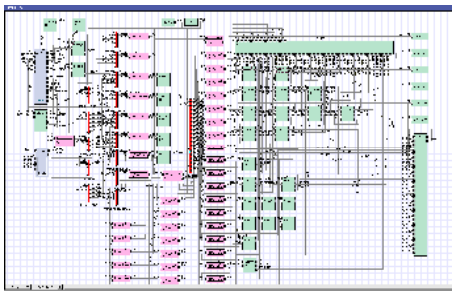


- **The productivity Gap: Requirements double every 10 months, HW/SW productivity every 2 years** (Ecker, Mueller, Doemer, 2008)

➔ Need better support for SW development in the MPSoC era

MAPS: Bridging the Productivity Gap

- **MAPS: MPSoC Application Programming Studio:**



Source: Virtual Platform of Shapes RDT, SSS RWTH Aachen

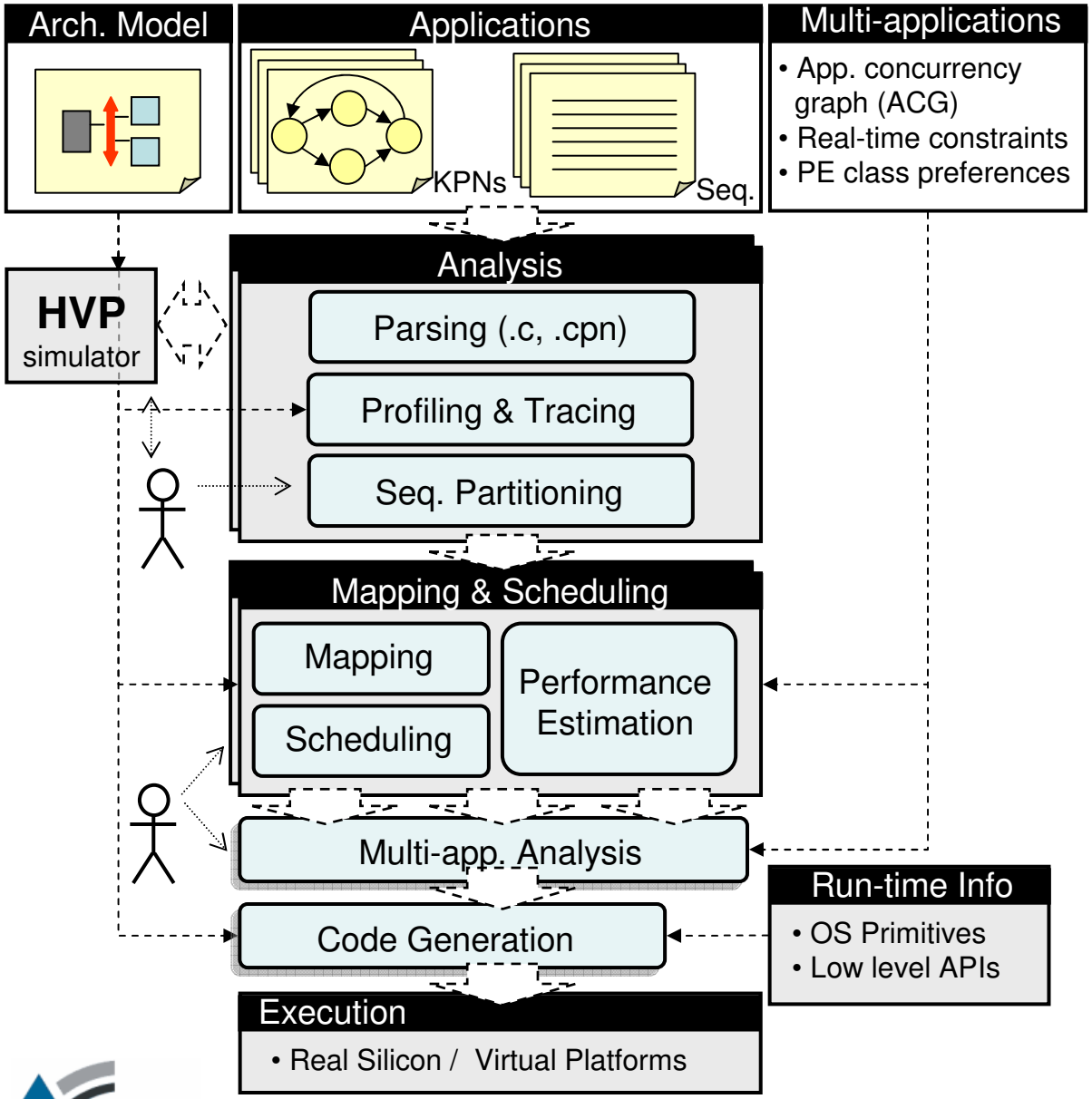
Source: Chen, NTU, MPSoC 2008

- Flexible input specification: 85% of embedded programmers use C/C++ (www.eetimes.com)
  - Legacy C-code and partitioning
  - Explicitly parallel C-like programming model (KPN)
- Abstraction & retargetability:
  - Abstract APIs for early SW design
  - Code generation hides HW dependent SW
- Functional validation:
  - Abstract simulator (HVP), no processor-specific tool chains involved
- Mapping & Scheduling frameworks:
  - Manage the huge design space
- Multiple application of different classes (real-time, best effort)

Outline

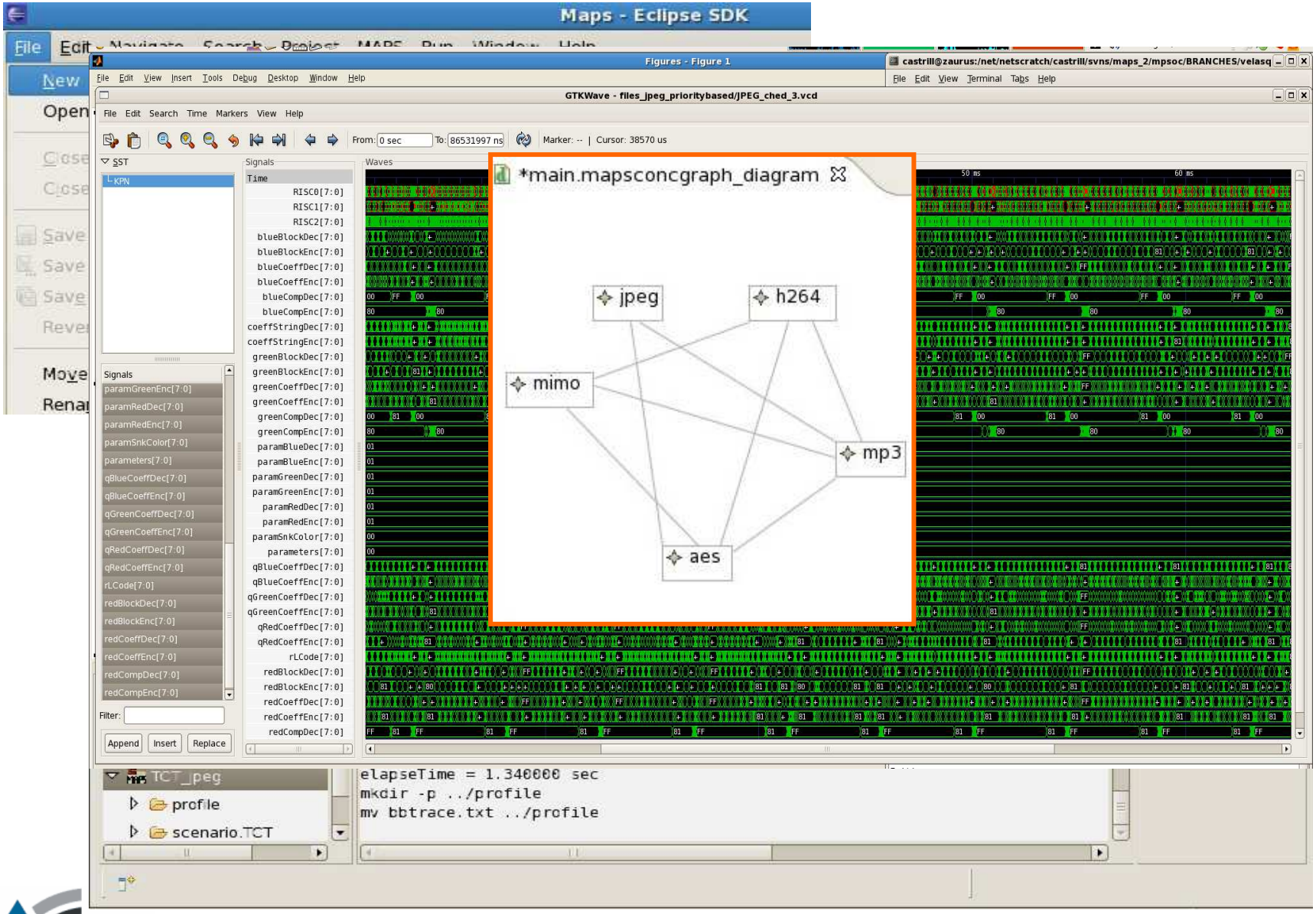
- **Motivation**
- **MAPS Overview**
- **Sequential and Parallel Flows**
- **Results**
- **Conclusions and Outlook**

MAPS Flow Overview



- **Architecture model for retargetability**
- **Applications:**
  - C code for legacy
  - Parallel code to leverage a-priori knowledge
- **Analysis Phase:**
  - Profile-driven
  - Interactive
- **Mapping/Scheduling:**
  - Extensible
  - Cost-table driven performance estimation
- **Multiple Application**
  - Interaction through ACG
  - Composition approach
  - Different app. classes

MAPS: Graphical User Interface



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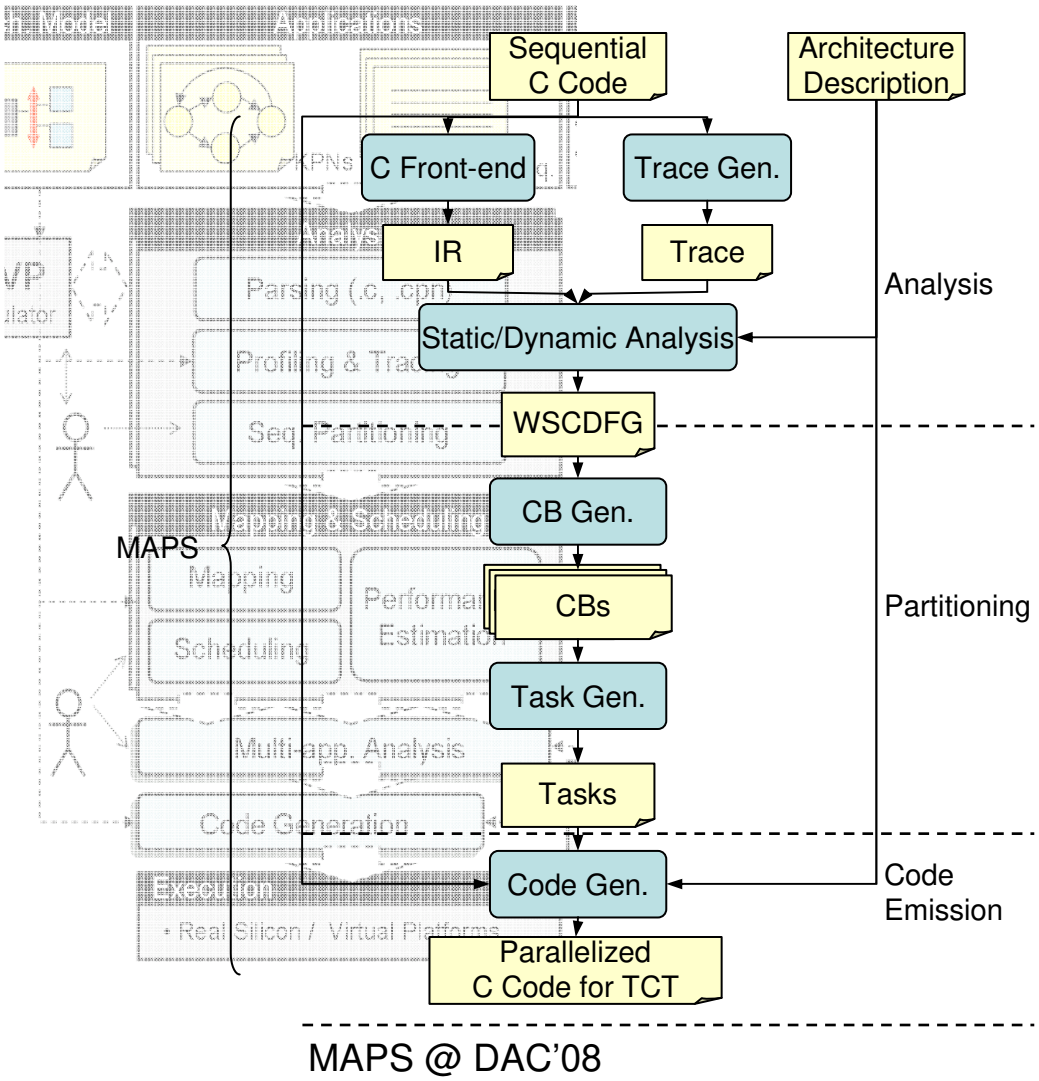
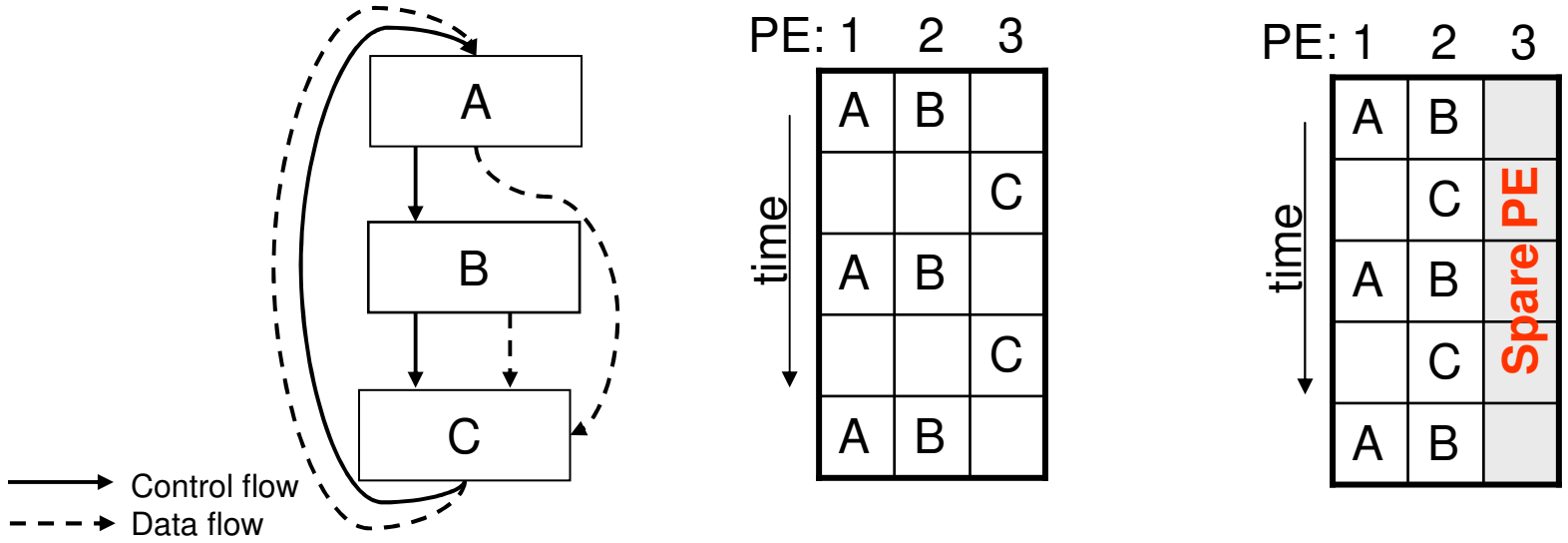
Sequential Flow: How it started…



- **Sequential flow as presented in DAC 2008**
- **Key points:**
  1. Analysis phase: Traces for Dynamic Data Flow Analysis
  2. New analysis granularity: "Coupled" blocks as opposed to basic-blocks, functions,…
  3. Performance estimation: annotated 3-address-code IR via cost table
  4. Heuristic for hierarchical code partitioning
- **Simple code generation for TCT platform (TiTech, Tokyo)**
- **Execution on TCT virtual/real platform**

Sequential Flow: Improvements

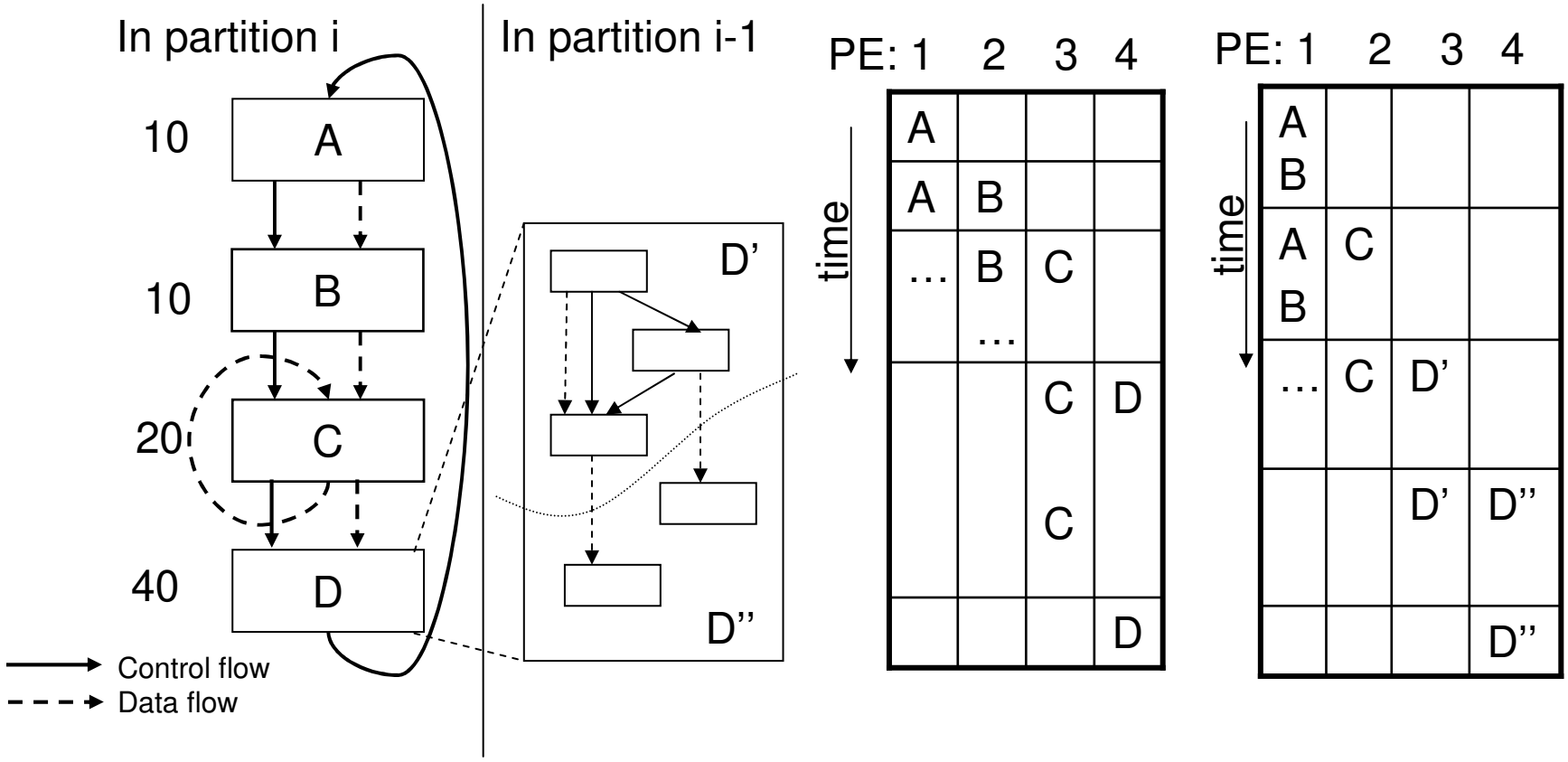
- **Analyze Strongly Connected Components (SCC): improves parallel efficiency, i.e. less PEs – similar execution time**



- SCCs are recognized and a heuristic is used to merge blocks in order to improve the parallel efficiency
- Especial care of nested SCCs

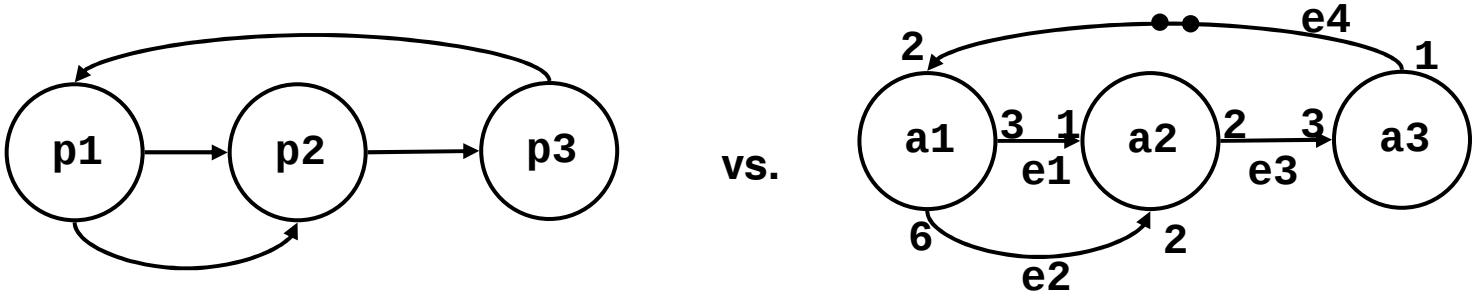
Sequential Flow: Improvements (2)

- **Balance partitions of functions in different locations of the Call Graph**



Parallel Flow: Input Specification

- **Dataflow programming models gain everyday more acceptance… Which to use?**
  - HSDFs, SDFs, MRDFs, CFDF, KPN…



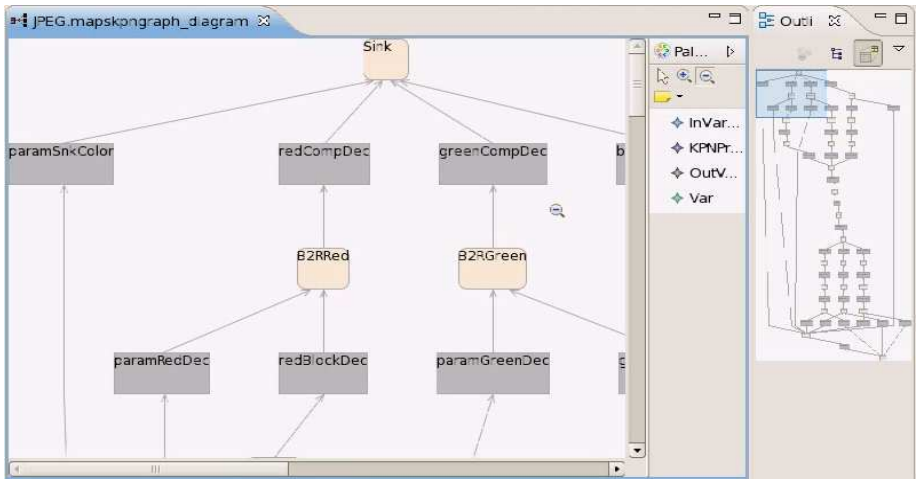
- **MAPS programming model: Based on the Kahn Process Networks (KPN) Model of Computation (MoC)**
  - Better expressiveness compared to other models
  - Simple semantics
  - More difficult to analyze and derive plausible schedules
    - Although comparable when handling multiple applications

Parallel Flow: Input Specification (2)

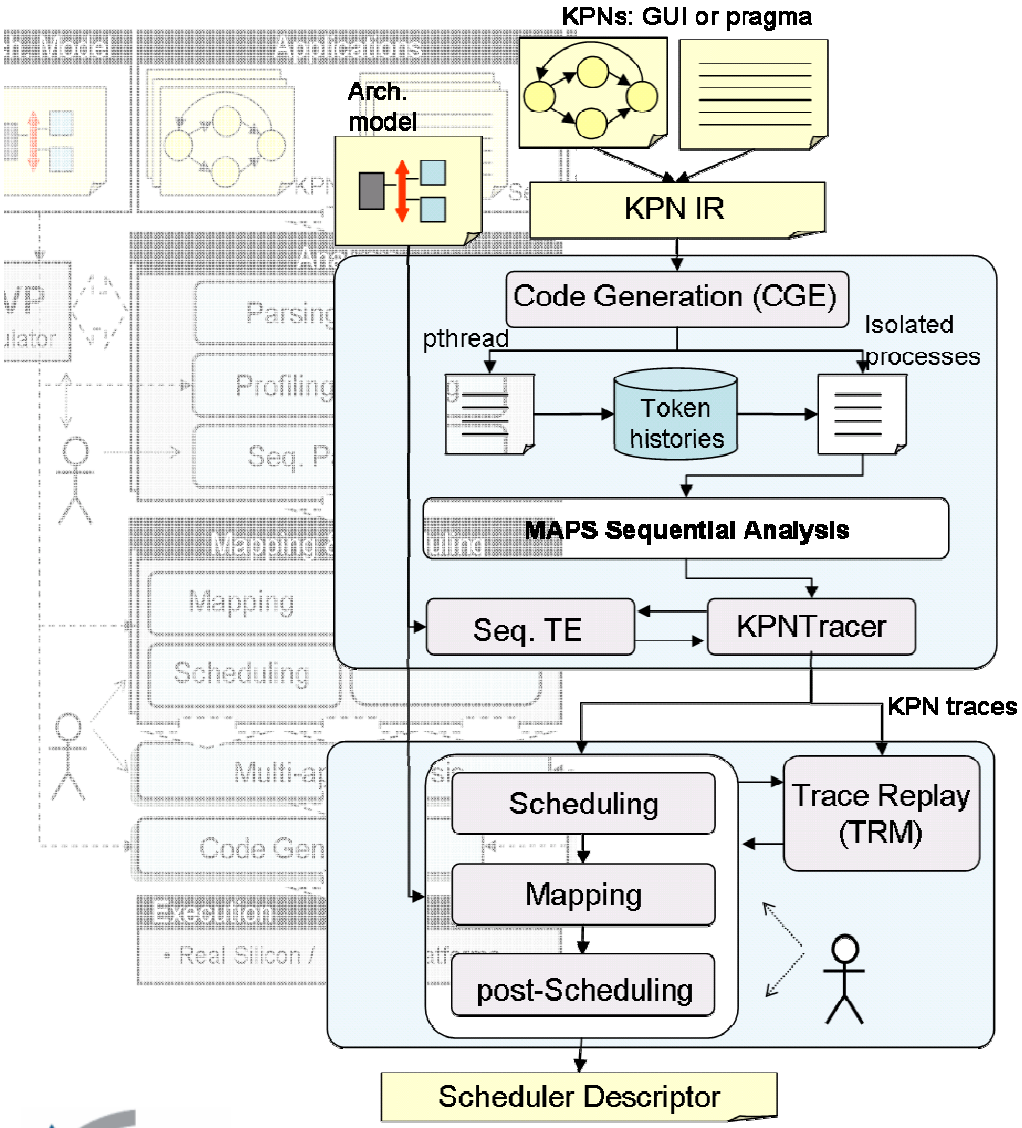
- ***Pragma* extensions to represent KPN applications. Ex. RLE Decoding:**

```
1 __fifo int A, B;
2 #pragma maps process rle_dec, in(A), out(B), prefer(risc)
3 {int cnt, val, i;}      // Local variables to the process
4 {  // Process body: Repeated for ever
5   cnt = A;               // Reads first token: count
6   val = A;               // Reads second token: value
7   for (i = 0; i < cnt; ++i) {
8    B = val;              // Outputs count times val
9 }}
```

- **GUI equivalent editor/viewer:**



Parallel Flow



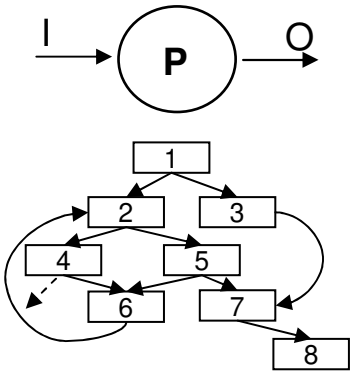
- **Parallel flow, details to appear in DATE Mar. 2010**

- **Key points:**
  1. Intermediate *pthread* code generation for tracing
  2. "*Sequentialized*" processes analyzed by traditional MAPS
  3. KPN tracer generates **KPN traces**
  4. Modular framework for scheduling and mapping: RR, RRWS, priority-based, FIFO,…
  5. TRM allows to compare different schedules

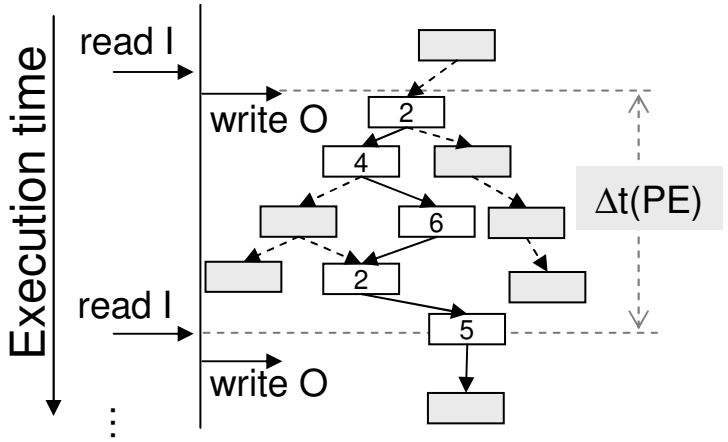
- **The scheduler descriptor can be used to generate code directly**

Parallel Flow: What is a KPN Trace?

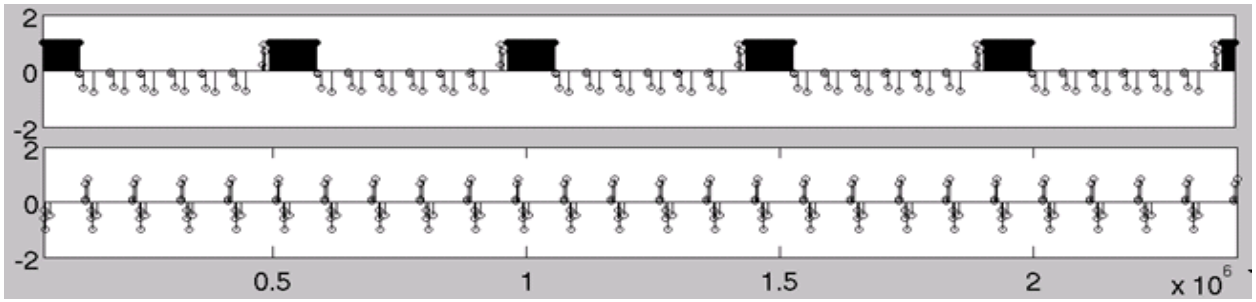
- **A sequential trace is a series of basic blocks**
- **The KPN tracer identifies in which BBs channels were accessed**



Compile time CDFG of P



- **A trace is a sequence of segments, where a segment is a sequence of BBs with a channel access in its last BB**

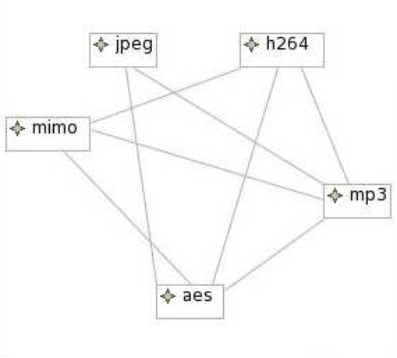


Handling Multiple Applications

- **Applications organized into classes:**
  - Hard/soft real time
  - Best effort

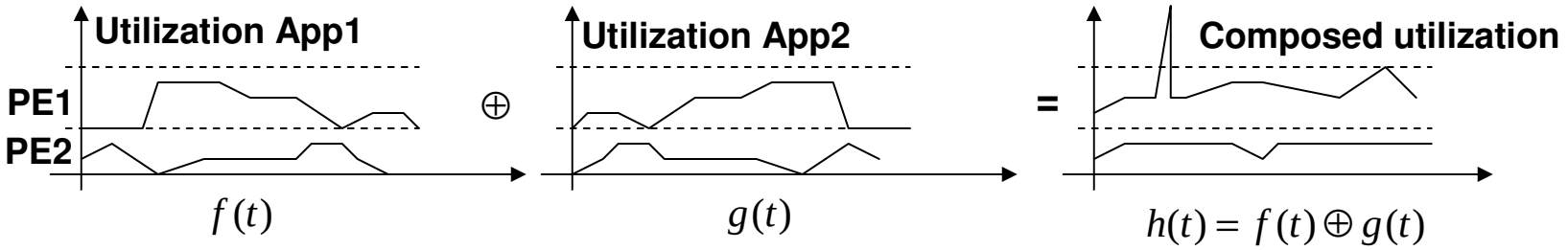
Source: Chen, NTU, MPSoC 2008

- **The Application Concurrency Graph (ACG) serves to describe the interaction among applications**



- **A sub-graph of the ACG represent a *use-case* or *multi-application scenario***
- **Schedules for different applications are computed separately**

- **Use-case analysis via *composition:***



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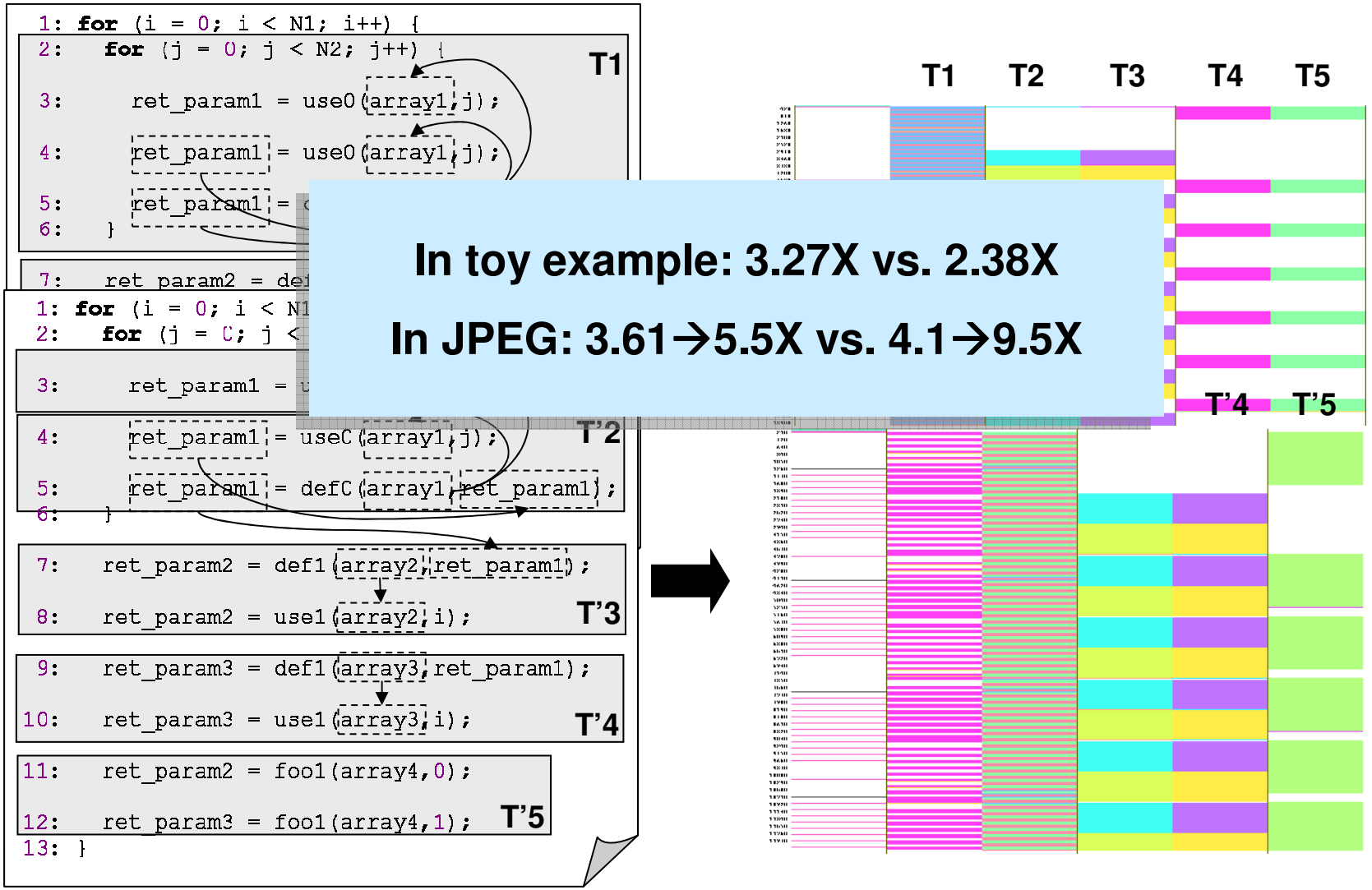
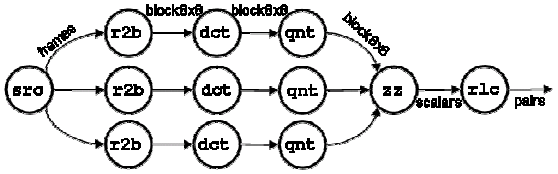
Results: Sequential Flow

- **New partitioning passes: a toy example**

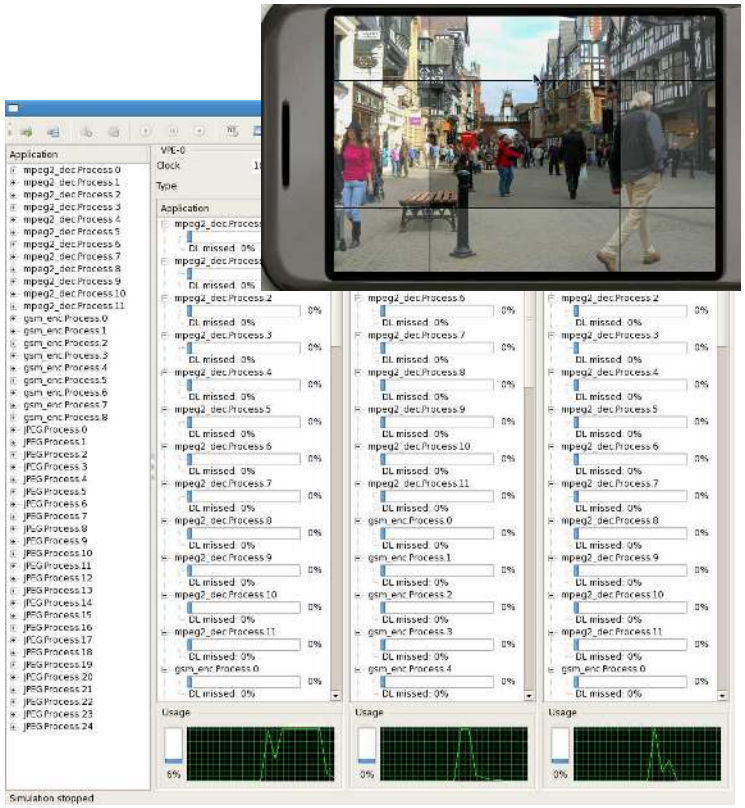


Results: Parallel & Overall Flow

- **The parallel flow has been tested on several real life applications:**
  - MPEG2, JPEG, GSM, MIMO,…



- **MAPS usability fully tested:**
  - Parsing/tracing/profiling
  - Functional validation



- **Later verification on different back-ends**
  - TI-OMAP, TCT, OSIP

Source: www.ti.com

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Conclusions and Outlook

- **MAPS – A fairly complete tool set for MPSoC programming was presented:**
  - Sequential (C) & parallel (KPN) input specification
  - Abstraction: functional simulation, APIs
  - Mapping & scheduling of single and multiple applications to heterogeneous MPSoCs

  … in a user friendly Eclipsed-based GUI

- **Current & future work in MAPS**
  - C extensions instead of *pragmas*, aka: **CPN**
  - Compiler development: CLANG, LLVM
  - Better performance estimation techniques: **TotalProf**
  - Improving mapping and scheduling heuristics
  - Research on *composability* for KPNs

Thank You!
Questions??

Acknowledgments:

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