Adaptive Task Allocation and Scheduling on NoC based Multicore Platforms with Multitasking Processors

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The application workloads in modern multicore platforms are becoming increasingly dynamic. It becomes challenging when multiple applications need to be executed in parallel in such systems. Mapping and scheduling of these applications are critical for system performance and energy consumption, especially in Network-on-Chip (NoC) based multicore systems. These systems with multitasking processors offer better opportunity for parallel application execution. Mapping solutions generated at design-time may be inappropriate for dynamic workloads. To improve the utilization of the underlying multicore platform and cope with the dynamism of application workload, often task allocation is carried out dynamically. This paper presents a hybrid task allocation and scheduling strategy which exploits the design-time results at run-time. By considering the multitasking capability of the processors, communication energy and timing characteristics of the tasks, different allocation options are obtained at design-time. During run-time, based on the availability of the platform resources and application requirements, the design-time allocations are adapted for mapping and scheduling of tasks which result in improved run-time performance. Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed approach achieves, on an average 11.5%, 22.3%, 28.6% and 34.6% reduction in communication energy consumption as compared to CAM [18], DEAMS [4], TSMM [38] and CPNN [32], respectively for NoC based multicore platforms with multitasking processors. Also, the deadline satisfaction of the tasks of allocated applications improves on an average by 32.8% when compared with the state-of-the-art dynamic resource allocation approaches.

$\label{eq:CCS Concepts: • Networks \rightarrow Network on chip; • Computer systems organization \rightarrow Interconnection architectures; Real-time systems.$

Additional Key Words and Phrases: Multicore systems, Network-on-Chip, Dynamic resource allocation, Communication energy, Deadline

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1 INTRODUCTION

² Advancement in VLSI technology has made it possible for designers to integrate a large number

³ of Processing Elements (PEs), Intellectual Property (IP) cores and memory units (MUs) onto a

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single chip, resulting in multicore based embedded systems. These systems provide increased par-4 allelism which demand fast communication infrastructure to fulfill the inter-core communication

requirements. Network-on-Chip (NoC) paradigm provides the necessary scalable and efficient com-6

munication infrastructure between multiple processing cores [7]. NoC based multicore platforms 7

are emerging in implementation of various application domains such as cloud computing, auto-8

motive, avionic applications and multimedia and NoC-based FPGA devices are now available [37]. g

Allocation of the executable tasks of applications onto the available resources is crucial as it affects 10 the system performance. The complexity of the problem increases in multicore systems when 11 multiple applications are executed in parallel to maximize the use of system resources. 12

The communication dependencies between the tasks and the spatial location of the PEs on a target 13 multicore system are key factors affecting the allocation decisions. For real-time applications, the 14 validity of results not only depends on the logical correctness but also on the time of obtaining the 15 output. Thus, it is important to consider their timing constraints while performing task assignments. 16 As most of the embedded systems are battery operated [13], reducing the energy consumption prolongs the duration of operation of the system. Energy consumed during the exchange of data 18 packets on a NoC based platform is affected by the task allocation decisions such as contiguity 19 of allocated PEs and placement of communicating tasks on PEs located in close vicinity. NoC 20 based multicore systems, executing afore-mentioned embedded applications, exhibit time-varying 21 workloads on the given platform. These variations cannot be predicted accurately during design-22 time. Such scenarios can occur when applications arrive or depart during run-time or user-driven 23 requests [5]. Offline allocation methods produce sub-optimal solutions as they are unaware of online 24 variations of application workloads. Thus, task allocation strategies that can take into account the 25 varying run-time workload on NoC based multicore systems are essential for embedded applications. 26 Typically, when the set of applications is known, task assignment and scheduling problem is 27 solved statically (referred to as design-time task allocation). These algorithms typically use intensive 28 search space exploration methods to obtain the optimal mapping for the given applications. However, 29 these approaches are computationally intensive and cannot cope with dynamic application behavior 30 (workload variation) in which different combinations of applications can be executed concurrently 31 over time. Thus, dynamic task allocation techniques (referred to as run-time task allocation) for 32 embedded applications are essential, which take into account the varying workload on NoC based 33 multicore systems.

Task allocation at run-time can be performed either with or without pre-computed task mapping 35 results. Several efficient online heuristics have been proposed for assigning tasks of new applications 36 submitted during run-time for on-the-fly allocation [4][5][32]. But, due to the availability of limited 37 computation time at run-time, task schedulability and optimal mapping may not always be ensured 38 by these heuristics. To overcome the shortcomings mentioned above of static and dynamic task 39 allocation algorithms, hybrid task allocation strategies have become increasingly popular in recent 40 years [19][25][31]. Typically, in this kind of allocation policy, multiple potential allocation solutions 41 are obtained at design time. One of these pre-determined solutions is then selected and applied at 42 run-time depending on the system state. This strategy helps in accomplishing efficient run-time 43 mapping/scheduling decisions. However, most of the existing hybrid mapping approaches reported 44 in literature allocate a single task per processor [19][26][31][39]. These techniques are inadequate 45 for applying in systems where PEs execute multitask operating systems. In such systems, each 46 PE can support multiple tasks based on the amount of its memory [18][32]. Few of the hybrid 47 strategies [30][24] for run-time task assignments target multitasking platform but solve task 48 mapping problem. The challenges of energy-awareness and task scheduling are not addressed 49 which renders these approaches insufficient for allocation of real-time tasks. Thus, an improved 50 hybrid strategy is essential for dynamic task assignment and scheduling of real-time applications 51

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targeting such multicore systems. In these systems, considering multiple tasks per PE allocation
strategy can potentially result in better utilization of the available computing resources [24]. Also,

such an allocation approach facilitates the design of a light-weight run-time platform manager. 54 On a multicore system with multitasking PEs, each application may have multiple configurations 55 with different usage of platform resources and different performance costs (timing response and 56 energy consumption). The challenges of assigning multiple tasks per PE with a global scheduler 57 on NoC based multicore system involve exploring the spatial distribution of the subset of the PEs 58 chosen for task execution and determining the allocation of tasks within the set of identified PEs 59 with a constraint on energy consumption and deadline satisfaction. The solution space consisting 60 of PEs arranged in regions (contiguous and non-contiguous) is larger in comparison to multicore 61 systems supporting single task assignment per processor. Thus, an efficient approach considering 62 the multitasking capability of the underlying multicore platform is essential for hybrid mapping 63 and scheduling. 64

In this work, we propose an improved hybrid task allocation and scheduling approach for NoC 65 based multitasking multicore systems to cater to application dynamism at run-time and obtain an 66 improved task allocation for real-time applications. First, as part of the design-time exploration, a 67 set of potential operating conditions are generated for a given set of target applications. It consists 68 of possible shapes of allocation regions of PEs and mapping/scheduling of tasks within these 69 regions. Next, at run-time, this primer allocation information is utilized to determine a suitable 70 allocation configuration of the incoming applications based on the current state of the system. 71 Towards this end, we introduce an improved online algorithm for selecting and adapting the design-72 time allocation solutions dynamically while meeting the deadline of the tasks and reducing the 73 communication energy consumption. Thus, by leveraging the pre-computed task mapping choices 74 for the target platform, the proposed strategy offers fast online decisions for run-time resource 75 allocation and scheduling for multitasking multicore systems. 76 The novel contributions of this article are summarized as follows:

- Proposition of an improved methodology for region shape generation for task allocation on
 a multitasking NoC based multicore platform.
- Augmenting Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) formulation for task allocation and schedul ing considering multitask assignment on processors in a given multicore platform.
- Presenting a dynamic strategy for selection and placement of the set of pre-determined
 allocation configurations at run-time for satisfying the deadline of the tasks and reducing
 the energy consumption.
- Evaluation of the proposed approach, demonstrating its effectiveness in terms of communi cation energy consumption and deadline satisfaction of the allocated applications.

The remainder of this article is organized as follows: Section 2 describes the related works in hybrid task allocation techniques. Section 3 gives prerequisites and problem definition for this work: section 4 details the proposed hybrid task allocation and scheduling algorithm. The test setup and the simulation results are discussed in Section 5. Section 6 concludes.

91 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

⁹² This section presents a review of literature in the domain of dynamic task mapping and scheduling.

⁹³ Algorithms can perform run-time task allocation on-the-fly, i.e., tasks are mapped as and when an

- ⁹⁴ application or a set of applications is submitted for execution by the user. It can also be performed
- ⁹⁵ at run-time using hybrid task allocation techniques.

96 2.1 On-the-fly task allocation techniques

In [5][6], a run-time mapping policy incorporating the user behavior in allocation decisions is 97 presented. In [1], dynamic task allocation heuristics are proposed considering different factors 98 such as min/max channel load, average channel load and path load. A dynamic mapping approach 99 employing task assignment in a spiral fashion at run-time has been presented in DSM [20]. It 100 attempts to reduce the time for task communication, reconfiguration and task migration. A run-time 101 mapping approach using distributed agents is mentioned in [9]. In [12], a run-time task allocation 102 scheme for minimizing the internal and external congestion has been proposed using contiguous 103 neighborhood allocation (CoNA) algorithm. The impact of selecting the first node on the quality of 104 mapping obtained by the CoNA algorithm is investigated in [10]. It shows that a square shape is 105 preferred for processor allocation for applications with dependent tasks. A contiguity adjustable 106 square allocation (CASqA) algorithm for run-time task allocation has been proposed in [11]. It 107 provides the flexibility to adjust the contiguity of the allocated processors by expanding the square 108 search region for dynamic task allocation. The afore-mentioned approaches are aimed for single 109 task allocation per processor and are unsuitable for run-time task assignment on multitasking 110 multicore platforms where PEs can support multiple tasks. Furthermore, these techniques solve the 111 task allocation problem and ignore the timing characteristics of task rendering them insufficient 112 for real-time applications. Few works in literature deal with dynamic task mapping on multicore 113 platforms with multitasking processors. Here, multiple tasks can be supported on processors up to 114 to a maximum limit determined by the amount of its available memory. In [32], communicating 115 tasks are mapped in close proximity of each other in a compact manner using a packing strategy. 116 However, the execution time requirement of the tasks is not considered. Consequently, with an 117 increase in the degree of task graph, more tasks get mapped onto the same processor, causing 118 deadline misses. Authors in [18] extend the work presented in [32] by incorporating task migration 119 based mapping improvement policy to shift the tasks from heavy loaded processors to appropriate 120 processors. A run-time unified mapping and scheduling technique presented in [4] reduces the 121 communication energy consumption of the mapped application while meeting the task deadline. All the above on-the-fly mapping approaches focus on fast heuristics for task assignment to take 123 quick on-line decisions as the computation performed by the algorithms may add to the application 124 execution time. Consequently, the quality of the mapping solution obtained by the above methods may be low. 126

127 2.2 Hybrid task allocation techniques

Hybrid mapping techniques have been proposed in the literature to remove the bottleneck of 128 on-the-fly heuristics for run-time task allocation. These approaches exploit pre-computed results 129 obtained offline to perform dynamic task mapping. Numerous efforts have been reported for hybrid 130 mapping techniques. An online execution trace analysis for multimedia applications is proposed 131 for run-time allocation in [31]. It rapidly identifies the mapping for optimizing the throughput, 132 resource usage and energy consumption of the executing applications. [39] proposes an automated 133 design-time exploration engine to enable dynamic application configuration as per the available 134 resources using a priority-based run-time heuristic. Authors in [19] propose a framework for 135 design space exploration for resource management by software reconfiguration on an industrial 136 multicore platform. By a combination of design time and run-time methods, an appropriate system 137 configuration point is selected at run-time which helps to meet the QoS constraints imposed by the 138 user. [36] proposes a scenario-based run-time mapping strategy for homogeneous platforms. In 139 this work, the optimal mappings for inter-application scenarios are explored at design-time and 140 serve as the basis for run-time decision making. Authors in [24] present a model-based framework 141

for run-time system adaptability. The proposed dynamic mapping heuristic aims at run-time power 142 reduction considering multitask allocation and cost of already mapped communicating tasks. The 143 experimental results show that the multitask approach lowers energy consumption. However, this 144 work is unsuitable for real-time task allocation. A hybrid task mapping approach for MPSoCs which 145 focuses on inter-application and intra-application dynamic behavior has been proposed in [25]. 146 During design-time, optimal solutions are obtained considering throughput maximization with 147 or without a predefined energy budget. At run-time, by using the design-time results, it achieves 148 performance improvement and energy savings for multiple applications simultaneously active. In 149 the hybrid mapping approach presented in [30], multiple design points indicating throughput and 150 energy consumption at different resource combinations are explored. This technique is utilized 151 in a run-time algorithm to select a suitable design-point depending on available resources and 152 application throughput. [23] describes a move-based algorithm for run-time mapping targeting 153 dataflow actors on the heterogeneous MPSoCs. In [33] describes a hybrid task mapping and 154 scheduling method by using worst case timing and schedule update with actual execution time at 155 run-time. Its main focus is to provide guaranteed latency for real-time applications. 156 From the above survey, it can be noted that the existing dynamic allocation approaches em-157

ploying hybrid strategies for run-time task assignments offer better quality allocation decisions. 158 However, these task allocation techniques for NoC based multicore systems largely consider single 159 task allocation per PE. As a result, they are inadequate for applying in multicore systems with 160 multitasking PEs. The reported hybrid task assignment methods mostly solve only the task mapping 161 problem using run-time results due to which these hybrid approaches are insufficient for task 162 allocation of real-time applications. Further, few works address task mapping/scheduling problem 163 for real-time applications on multitasking platforms but do not consider energy-awareness. In this 164 work, we propose an improved strategy for dynamic task allocation using design-time results. It 165 gives a unified mapping and scheduling solution targeting NoC based multicore platforms with 166 multitasking PEs. The design-time stage generates both contiguous and non-contiguous sets of 167 PE regions for task execution for guiding the PE assignment and scheduling decisions at run-time. 168 This helps to handle the dynamism in application arrival and resource availability encountered at 169 run-time while reducing the communication energy consumption of executing applications and 170 satisfying the task deadline. 171

172 3 SYSTEM MODEL

We use a multicore computing platform that is modular and configurable for parallel multi-threaded 173 applications. The system model consists of basic processing nodes, interconnected to each other 174 through a NoC communication infrastructure in 2D mesh, as shown in Fig. 1. The NoC based multi-175 core platform provides computation and communication resources to execute multiple applications. 176 In this work, we assume that each node is made of general-purpose processors that are considered 177 homogeneous. Therefore, the computation time of the task while executing uninterrupted on any PE 178 is identical. A unique id, *PE_i* identify each processor. Being connected through an NoC infrastructure, 179 each processing node has a specific position described by its (x, y) integer coordinates. The PEs 180 are independent subsystems having a local processor unit, control unit and memory. Similar to 181 [4][18][32], the size of the available memory in a PE determines the maximum number of tasks, 182 PE_{cap} that can be supported. We have assumed a distributed multiprocessor system model and 183 therefore, we do not consider any shared memory. Thus each node can communicate with any 184 other node in the architecture through messages sent through the NoC routers. 185

A special node called the *Platform Manager* (PM) runs the RTOS and coordinates the platform
 activity. PM consists of software modules which include Resource Observer (RO) and Task Allocation
 and Scheduling Unit (TASU). RO notes the status of the PEs such as occupied or idle. When an

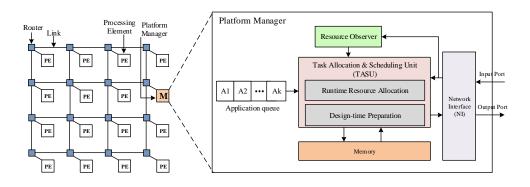


Fig. 1. Overview of the system model

executing task finishes its execution, the PE assigned to it sends its address to the PM to notify 189 their availability which is then updated in RO. TASU runs the proposed adaptive task allocation 190 algorithm. The pre-computed allocation configurations are stored in the offline repository present 191 in memory of PM. These are fetched by TASU at run-time and used to allocate the tasks of each 192 application on a region of PEs. The tasks of applications are dispatched from PM to the selected 193 PEs and executed on these PEs. Since this article deals with algorithm for task allocation and 194 scheduling during design-time/run-time stages on multitasking processors, it is assumed that 195 suitable mechanisms for loading of task code onto the PE memory and contention delay avoidance 196 during packet transfer already exist on the given platform similar to [3][5][21]. We have considered 197 that no incoming application workload is executed in PM to minimize any time overhead imposed 198 on application management. Furthermore, OS supports non-preemptive multitasking and event-199 based programming environment. It monitors the arrival of the new applications and makes the 200 task allocation decision only when a new event occurs i.e. an application enters or leaves the 201 system. It is assumed that the platform has sufficient resources to allocate the tasks of incoming 202 applications onto the PEs. 203

204 4 PROBLEM REPRESENTATION

This section presents the necessary definitions and notations required to represent the problem of dynamic resource allocation for real-time applications using design-time analysis.

Application Task Graph: An application is represented as a directed acyclic graph $G = (\Gamma, \mathcal{E})$. Γ denotes the set of tasks associated with the application.

A task $\tau_i \in \Gamma$ has following parameters: (ex_i, dl_i) . ex_i is considered as worst-case execution time (WCET) taken by τ_i which remains fixed while executing on a PE. dl_i is the deadline of the task which is considered with respect to the time of arrival of the application. In addition, we denote the slack-time associated with the task by sl_i . It refers to the difference between the time at which a task would complete if it started now and its deadline time. sl_i is given by Eq. 1.

$$sl_i = dl_i - (current time + remaining task execution time)$$
 (1)

Being a dynamic attribute of a task, sl_i depends on the run-time situation. The results obtained on completion of task execution is transmitted as encapsulated messages. In this work, we have considered soft real-time tasks.

 \mathcal{E} is the set of directed edges $e_{kl} = 1 \le k, l \le |\Gamma|$ representing the communication between the tasks τ_k and τ_l . The communication volume between task τ_k and τ_l is denoted by the edge weight

 w_{kl} . A given task, except the root task, can begin its execution on a PE when it is available and the required data from all its parent tasks reaches the PE.

Topology Graph: The topology graph is an undirected graph $\mathcal{H} = (P, L)$. *P* representing the set of processors present in the NoC topology. Each $PE_j \in P$ is attached to the on-chip network through a router. The bidirectional communication link connecting the routers for PE_j and PE_k is represented by an edge $l_{ik} \in L$.

Resource Assignment: The resource assignment χ for a given application *G* on a finite set of processors is defined by the function pair $\mathcal{R} = (map, start)$. map() and start() indicate the spatial and temporal assignment of the tasks of *G* onto a set of PEs of the multicore platform.

Spatial Allocation: The spatial allocation of application *G* on the set of processors *P* is represented by the function $map: \Gamma \mapsto P$. $map(\tau_k) = PE_j$ indicates that task τ_k is allocated to $PE_j \in P$ for execution.

Temporal Allocation: The starting time of the task is given by its temporal allocation. This involves obtaining the schedule of tasks present in application *G* on its allocated processor. This is determined by the function *start* : $\Gamma \mapsto \mathbb{Q}_+$ which gives the start time of tasks. Thus, *start*(τ_k) represents the time at which task τ_k begins execution on a PE given by $map(\tau_k)$.

If *finish*() represents the time at which task completes its execution, then

$$finish(\tau_k) = start(\tau_k) + ex_k \tag{2}$$

If $finish(\tau_k) \le dl_k$, then τ_k meets its deadline. For a multitasking PE PE_k , multiple tasks may be assigned to it. While scheduling a task τ_i , the earliest time at which the particular processor is available for its execution is given by the function EAT (earliest available time) defined as:

$$EAT(PE_k) = \max_{\forall \tau_i \in \Gamma | PE_k = map(\tau_i)} finish(\tau_i)$$
(3)

Communication Energy: Communication energy is defined as the amount of energy consumed 239 for transferring data packets from the source to the destination PE. It depends upon (i) distance 240 between the processors executing the communicating tasks (ii) data volume and (iii) energy required 241 to transfer a single bit through the NoC. Similar to existing works [3][5][32], we assume constant 242 energy is consumed in one bit transmission. Let E_r and E_l be the energy consumption for one bit 243 transmission in a router and a link, respectively. The number of routers N_r and links N_l traversed 244 in the communication path is calculated using the hop count between the source-destination 245 pair. Communication energy, *E_{comm}*, in *uJ* for allocated applications on a given NoC platform is 246 estimated: 247

$$E_{comm} = \sum_{\forall G_i} \sum_{\forall e_{ij} \in G_i} (E_r * N_r + E_l * N_l) * w_{ij}$$

$$N_r = HC(map(t_i), map(t_j)) + 1$$

$$N_l = HC(map(t_i), map(t_j))$$
(4)

where, w_{ij} is the data volume between tasks t_i and t_j in megabits. It is the total data that needs to be transferred between the tasks in packetized form where each packet consists of various flits. *HC* denotes the hop-counts.

Operating Condition: Each application has a specific operating condition which consists of its allocation policy, used resources and energy consumption. A suitable operating condition for an application is essential for correct application behavior during run-time such that all the tasks in a given application satisfy their respective deadline. We define the operating condition, C_G of application G with the following tuple:

$$C_G = \left\langle \psi, \rho, \mathcal{S}_{\rho}, E_{comm}, G^{ct} \right\rangle \tag{5}$$

- An application, G can have two types of *allocation mode* denoted by $\psi = EA$ or FA, where EA
- represents *communication energy aware* mode in which tasks of G are assigned to a PE in a given
- multicore platform such that communication energy of the application is minimized. *FA* denotes

finish-time aware allocation mode which aims at reducing the finish-time of the tasks present in application. ρ indicates the number of PEs used for assigning the tasks of application *G*. In a multicore platform with processors having multitasking capability PE_{cap} , $\rho = R_{min}...R_{max}$ where $R_{min} = |\Gamma|/PE_{cap}$ and $R_{max} = |\Gamma|$. The number of allocated PEs is *n* where $n \subset \rho$. For a given NoC based multicore platform, these *n* PEs can have different spatial distribution resulting in different shapes of region of allocation. This is indicated by S_{ρ} . G^{ct} represents the completion time

of execution of the allocated application G.

266 4.1 Problem Formulation

We formally state the hybrid resource allocation problem addressed in this work as follows. 267 268 Design-time sub-problem. 4.1.1 269 270 Given the following as inputs: 271 (1) A set G of known applications each represented by a directed acyclic graph $G = (\Gamma, \mathcal{E})$. 272 (2) A target NoC based multicore platform given by $\mathcal{H} = (P, L)$ with each processor having 273 maximum task capacity PE_{cap} . 274 (3) Timing information of the task τ_i of the applications • execution time, $ex_i > 0$ 276 • deadline, $dl_i \ge ex_i$ **Determine** the operating conditions for each of these application to find: 278 • number of PEs ρ used for allocating the tasks in $G(\Gamma, \mathcal{E})$ 279 • shapes of allocation region, S_{ρ} for all values of ρ 280 • $map: \Gamma \longmapsto P \mid PE_{tasks} \leq PE_{cab}$ 281 such that 282 (1) tasks meet their deadline. 283 (2) E_{comm} of the application is reduced. 284 285 286 4.1.2 Run-time resource allocation sub-problem. 287 288 *Given* the following as inputs: 289 (1) A set of arrived applications $Q = \{G_1, G_2...G_n\}$ where $Q \subset \mathbb{G}$ 290 (2) A target NoC platform $\mathcal{H} = (P, L)$ where processors have task capacity PE_{cap} . 291 (3) A set of operating conditions identified at design-time for each application. 292 Determine an adaptive resource allocation at run-time to identify the operating conditions 293 for each of the arrived applications: 294

$$\gamma = \left\langle C_{G_1}, C_{G_2} \dots C_{G_n} \right\rangle, C_{G_i} \in C_G \land 1 \le i \le n \tag{6}$$

- such that during execution of the arrived application on $\mathcal{H}(P, L)$:
- (1) Finish-time of the allocated application G_i^{ct} is reduced $\forall G_i \in Q$
- (2) Increase in E_{comm} of the allocated applications at run-time is low.
- 298 (3) $\sum_{G_i \in \mathbb{G}} C_{G_i}(\rho) \le |P|$

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(4) Overhead of taking run-time mapping and scheduling decision is low.

300 5 PROPOSED APPROACH

In this section, we describe the proposed allocation strategy for NoC based multicore platform.For mapping and scheduling applications on a multicore platform containing PEs with multitasking capability, a hybrid scheme is adopted. We first derive the allocation templates of individual applications at design-time with a focus on energy consumption and deadline satisfaction of each task. Next, we use an improved run-time heuristic for online adaptation of the design-time identified allocation decisions according to the platform resource availability and application requirements. The details of the proposed design-time and run-time strategy are as described next.

308 5.1 Design-Time Preparation

In the design-time exploration stage, a set of operating points are determined which consist of 309 allocation templates for the tasks of the application. It consists of various allocations of tasks that 310 infer different scheduling solutions, based on EAT of processors that gives different completion 311 time of each application. As the order and time instant of arrival of applications are unknown the 312 applications sharing the given platform are unavailable at this stage. Thus, for the given set of 313 applications, the allocation decision is done during design-time considering individual application 314 execution. This involves spatial allocation configuration of tasks and allocation template formation 315 using the allocated PEs. These steps are as follows. 316

5.1.1 Spatial allocation configuration: In this step, the spatial allocation configuration for tasks of each of the applications is obtained. A configuration is characterized by (i) allocation size, which is the number of the selected PEs for task execution of the given application, and (ii) allocation shape, which is the spatial distribution of the chosen PEs. This is determined by the number of tasks present in each of the applications and the multitasking capability of the PEs. The afore-mentioned information is used to find the various configuration for allocating tasks of applications as described below.

Spatial allocation on a multicore platform involves selecting the allocation region, which consists 324 of a set of PEs for task execution. The region is characterized by the relative position and the 325 number of PEs forming the region. Therefore, these regions can have different shapes and sizes 326 which is required to be determined. Algorithm 1 describes the proposed selective region shape 327 generation (SRSG) approach employed to identify these regions for any given application. First, 328 the algorithm enumerates the possible sizes of each region *R*. This is done by using the number 329 of tasks N present in the application and the multitask capability PE_{cap} of the given multicore 330 platform. For an application with N tasks the region size varies between N/PE_{cap} to N. Next, 331 for each of these region sizes, the distribution of PEs is determined. Please note that we consider 332 contiguous PE selection for the allocated region. The quality of the allocated region is governed by 333 the average manhattan distance (AMD) between the PEs [12]. A compact region gives smaller AMD 334 value compared to a scattered region of PEs. The proposed algorithm accomplishes the objective 335 mentioned above by selectively growing the allocation region shape. At each intermediate level of 336 the region growth, the set of nodes, S_i satisfying the contiguity constraint is selected. However, 337 this may give rise to identical regions i.e. regions having the same spatial pattern of PEs but with 338 different orientations. For a 2D mesh NoC based multicore platform, rotations in steps of 90° can 339 be used to identify the identical regions. Such regions are excluded from further exploration. This 340 method ensures that the set of PEs determined by Algorithm 1 consists of unique region shapes. 341 Such regions are enlisted in *Shape list* for the given application and target multicore platform. 342 These steps are repeated for each of the region sizes to find regions of various shapes. 343

ALGORITHM 1: Selective Region Shape Generation

Input : $G = (\Gamma, \mathcal{E}); PE_{cap}; AMD$ Output: A set of allocation region shapes consisting of different number of PEs Shape_list $\leftarrow \emptyset$; $R \leftarrow \emptyset$; $S_i \leftarrow \emptyset$; j=0; 1 $R_{max} = N$; $\backslash N$ is total number of tasks in $G = (\Gamma, \mathcal{E})$ 2 $R_{min} = N/PE_{cap};$ 3 for $i = R_{min}$ to R_{max} do 4 while size of generated region \neq i do 5 $R \leftarrow$ choose a PE with maximum free neighbour; 6 **for** each adjacent PE location (x, y) of R **do** 7 $\vec{R} = R \cup (x, y);$ 8 h = ComputeAMD(R);9 if h < AMD then 10 $S_i \leftarrow R'$; \\include the PE locations in generated shape 11 *j* + +; 12 for each shape S_i do 13 **if** S_j is identical with shape S_k where $j \neq k$ **then** 14 remove S_i ; \\check and remove identical shapes 15 else 16 $Shape_list \leftarrow Shape_list \cup S_i$;\\update the list of generated shapes 17 **return** Shape_list; 18

Allocation template formation: In this step, the regions obtained by spatial allocation process 5.1.2 344 are used to determine the allocation templates i.e. the allocation of the tasks of application onto 345 the PEs constituting these regions. It involves allocation of tasks and their sequence of execution, 346 considering the task precedence constraints and their timing characteristics according to EAT 347 values of PEs (refer Eq. 3). To explore the mapping and scheduling of tasks on the PEs, we use a 348 particle swarm optimization (PSO) based approach, which is popular for tasks allocation [27][14]. 349 In a PSO based method, multiple candidate solutions co-exist and collaborate simultaneously. In 350 this work, we have used a discrete particle swarm optimization (DPSO) to solve the problem of 351 tasks to PE mapping and scheduling. First, we present a brief overview of the DPSO scheme. 352

Let p_k^i denote the *i*th particle in its k^{th} iteration. It can be represented in *n*-dimensional space as $\langle p_{k,1}, p_{k,2}...p_{k,n} \rangle$. Every particle has its corresponding local best solution which the particle has seen over the generations. *gbest_k* is the best particle present until generation *k*. Eq. 7 gives the new position of the particle as follows:

$$p_{k+1}^{i} = (c_1 * I \oplus c_2 * (p_k \to pbest^{i}) \oplus c_3 * (p_k \to gbest_k)) \cdot p_k^{i}$$

$$\tag{7}$$

In this equation, the minimum length sequence of swapping to be applied on elements of *a* to 357 change it to b is indicated by $a \rightarrow b$. \oplus sign is the fusion operator. $a \oplus b$ is equal to the sequence in 358 which the sequence of swaps in *a* is followed by the sequence of swaps in *b*. c_1, c_2 and c_3 are the 359 inertia, self-confidence and swarm confidence values. The factor $c_i * (a \rightarrow b)$ means that the swaps 360 in the sequence are applied with probability c_i . The sequence of identity swaps is indicated by I 361 which indicates the inertia of particle to retain its current configuration. To generate p_{k+1}^i from p_k^i , 362 final swap corresponding to $c_1 * I \oplus c_2 * (p_k \to pbest^i) \oplus c_3 * (p_k \to gbest_k)$ is applied. As reported 363 in [17], DPSO particle system converges to a solution if the following condition is satisfied: 364

$$(1 - \sqrt{c_1})^2 \le c_2 + c_3 \le (1 + \sqrt{c_1})^2 \tag{8}$$

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We have experimented with different values of c_1 , c_2 and c_3 . The results reported in this work correspond to $c_1 = 1$, $c_2 = 0.5$ and $c_3 = 0.5$. Other values of c_1 , c_2 and c_3 affects the convergence rate while giving the same final results. Next, we describe the formulation of the particle to address the mapping and scheduling problem. Input to our formulation is the application task graph and the shape of the PE region determined during the previous step.

Particle representation: For each task present in the application, a PE from the set of PEs con-370 stituting the region shape needs to be assigned. In the proposed PSO formulation, a particle is a 371 sequence of integers represented as an array. The length of the particle, representing the array 372 index, is equal to the number of tasks present in the application. Each element of the array indicates 373 the PE id (PE_{id}) considered for executing the task. Fig. 2 illustrates a typical particle formulation 374 for mapping an application with 6 tasks on a platform having 4 PEs with $PE_{cap} = 2$. The length of 375 the particle (array size) is 6 which is equal to the number of tasks. The numbers inside the boxes 376 indicate the PE_{id} , whereas the numbers shown outside the boxes (array indices) represent task id 377 τ_i . Each of the PE_{id} can be repeated depending on the task capacity of the processors of the target 378 platform. By this particle structure, we represent multitask assignment on the PEs of the given 379 multicore platform. 380

> τ_2, τ_3 τ_5 1 1 3 3 2 4 τ_0, τ_1 τ_4 0 1 2 3 4 5

A typical allocation of 6 tasks

A particle structure representing the task allocation

Fig. 2. Particle structure for representation of task to PE assignment

In this work, we focus on the communication energy reduction and deadline satisfaction of the tasks of the application. In the fitness function formulation, we consider the communication energy of the mapping and timing constraint satisfaction for the tasks, which are represented in the particle. The fitness of a particle p_i , $FF[p_i]$ is given by Eq. 9. B_i and α are binary factors. $B_i = 1$ if p_i represents schedulable task assignment i.e. tasks can satisfy their deadline on the identified PEs, otherwise $B_i = 0$.

$$FF[p_i] = \alpha * E_{comm}[p_i] * B_i + (1 - \alpha) * B_i$$
(9)

 α indicates if the application has dependent tasks (α =1) or independent tasks(α =0). It is determined by the edges present in the task graph. The particles with small non-zero fitness value are preferable. This is because we are interested in task allocations which give low communication energy consumption while meeting the deadline of the tasks.

Evolution of particles: The initial generation of PSO comprises of particles which represent task to 391 PE assignment such that the tasks are schedulable. To achieve improvement in further evolutions, 392 local best of each particle *lbest* and global best *gbest* of a given generation is considered. The global 393 best of the generation is initialized with the particle having the lowest non-zero value of fitness 394 function. Such a particle satisfies the task deadline and results in least communication energy. The 395 second generation of particle is obtained by random exchange of tasks (swap operations) between 396 the selected PE pair(s). Subsequent generations are evolved by changing the particles through a 397 sequence of swap operations [34][16]. The swap sequences are identified to align a particle with its 398 local best and global best values by applying on the original particle with different probabilities. 399 The local best value of a particular particle is updated whenever the communication energy of the 400

0:12

⁴⁰¹ particle is lesser than its previous value and meets deadline of its task. This is due to the fact that ⁴⁰² although the swap operators help in obtaining particles with reduced communication cost but may ⁴⁰³ result in task schedule which may not satisfy their timing constraint. In such a case, the particle ⁴⁰⁴ may be rejected or the swap operation(s) may not be allowed. In this work, we have not allowed ⁴⁰⁵ such swap operations. The global best value of a generation is updated when the corresponding ⁴⁰⁶ fitness value of the present generation is better i.e. smaller in magnitude compared to the previous ⁴⁰⁷ generation.

5.1.3 Routing for allocation templates: The generated regions are of different shapes and sizes. Let 408 us consider a NoC based multicore platform where multiple applications are executed in parallel. 409 In the case of regions with irregular shape, packet communication using dimension order routing 410 may allow packets to pass through the routers associated with PEs belonging to different region. 411 This will lead to traffic overlap between the packets of different applications, which may affect 412 the performance of the applications running in two different regions. Thus, we use table-based 413 routing algorithm for routing packets between a pair of communicating nodes. Here, the route 414 of the communication packets of the tasks of assigned application are confined to the routers 415 associated with PEs present in its allocated region. Also, tasks belonging to different applications do 416 not share a PE. This avoids the situation of tasks using the same link and thereby avoids deadlock. 417 We use Lee's shortest path routing algorithm to determine the routes for the communication nodes. 418 This information is stored in a routing table present in all the routers. Based on the source and 419 destination node, the routers (both sender/receiver and intermediate) route the packets within the 420 allocated region. 421

The allocation decision consisting of spatial (PE for tasks), temporal allocations (scheduling of tasks) and routing of the data packets are stored in the offline repository as allocation templates for each application. This information is exploited during run-time to carry out online resource assignment which is explained next.

426 5.2 Run-time resource allocation

Fast decision making is required during assigning the tasks of incoming applications to PEs to ensure that task allocation and scheduling process has low time overhead. We use the design-time results to obtain a light-weight scheme for run-time task assignments. It consists of determining the suitable set of PEs to map the tasks of an application and scheduling their execution at run-time.

As the arrival-time of applications is not known apriori, the run-time scenarios cannot be predicted. Following factors affect the run-time task allocation: (a) the availability of PEs when a new application requests for execution and (b) timing characteristics of tasks. Due to these factors, the design-time decisions may not always be suitable for run-time implementation. Thus, when an application is submitted at run-time, the allocation of the tasks of application needs to be customized. We have developed an Online Allocation Reconfiguration (OAR) strategy for online task allocation driven by design-time results and run-time resource availability (presented in Algorithm 2).

5.2.1 Allocation region size selection at run-time: The selection of the set of PEs for allocation of 438 tasks at run-time is carried out in two modes (i) energy-aware and (ii) finish-time-aware. In energy-439 aware region selection mode, the region selection and mapping help to reduce the communication 440 energy consumption of the application being mapped on the multicore platform. This is achieved 441 by using a heuristic approach which selects a suitable allocation template from the repository. 442 The selection procedure is implemented in ascending order of the region sizes starting from the 443 least size allocation template (R_{min}) up to the number of available PEs $(Avail_{size})$ on the platform. 444 The search procedure is iterated till a suitable region size is found to fit in the available set of PEs 445 present in the multicore platform at run-time. 446

ALGORITHM 2: Online Allocation Reconfiguration Input : $G = (\Gamma, \mathcal{E})$; $\mathcal{H} = (P, L)$; Shape list Output: Reconfigured allocation and scheduling decisions of tasks of application on the available PEs at run-time $PE_Avail = get_avail_Proc(P);$ 1 $PE_Cust = \emptyset$; \\set of PEs in customized PE region selected at run-time for task allocation 2 Availsize = size of PE_Avail; 3 obtain the region sizes R_s of G from repository; 4 if energy-aware allocation mode is used then 5 if $Avail_{size} < R_{max}$ then 6 7 for $R_s = R_{min}$ to $Avail_{size}$ do **for** each shape $S_i \in Shape_list$ with size = R_s **do** 8 $(PE_Cust, status) = Online_Allocation_Adapt(S_i, PE_Avail);$ 9 if status is TRUE then 10 11 goto line 24; else 12 **goto** line 8 with $R_s = R_{max}$; 13 else 14 if finish-time aware allocation mode is used then 15 if $Avail_{size} < R_{max}$ then 16 17 for $R_s = Avail_{size}$ to R_{min} do for each shape $S_i \in Shape_list$ with size = R_s do 18 $(PE_Cust, status) = Online_Allocation_Adapt(S_i, PE_Avail);$ 19 if status is TRUE then 20 21 goto line 24; else 22 **goto** line 18 with $R_s = R_{max}$; 23 24 **for** each task $\tau_i \in \Gamma$ **do** τ_{sel} = task with earliest deadline among the tasks ready for execution; 25 PE_{target} = PE assigned to most communicating parent task of τ_{sel} ; 26 $PE_{sel} = PE \in PE_Cust$ with $EAT(PE) < slack - time(\tau_{sel})$ and nearest to PE_{target} ; 27 assign start-time of τ_{sel} on PE_{sel} ; 28 update EAT(PE_{sel}); 29

The second region selection mode consists of finish-time-aware allocation template selection. 447 Here, we select an allocation size which results in the least finish-time of the application. First, 448 the regions with size equal to the number of PEs available on the platform is checked. Then the 449 algorithm considers pre-computed regions in descending order of their region sizes. The availability 450 of free PEs on the platform affects the parallel execution of tasks present in a given application. 451 Larger sized allocation region, offer a better opportunity for simultaneous execution of these tasks 452 due to the availability of PEs and hence improve the finish-time of the application. This process 453 is repeated until a suitable region size fits into the available PEs during run-time. In cases where 454 Availsize is greater than the size of any of the allocation regions, then the templates of highest 455 region size is selected. 456

5.2.2 Run-time adaptation of task allocation: In this step, the actual task allocation and scheduling
 on the PEs is determined at run-time. Towards this end, an appropriate shape of the allocation
 region for a chosen region size needs to be decided for using during run-time scenario. The region

shapes pre-determined at design-time may not always be appropriate for directly adopting on the 460 available PEs of the platform. Thus, it is necessary to customize the shape of the selected allocation 461 template. This problem of run-time adaptation of allocation template is solved by invoking function 462 Online_Allocation_Adapt() in lines 8, 18 of Algorithm 2. It reconfigures the offline mapping and 463 scheduling decisions by identifying suitable PEs. The task having earliest deadline among the tasks 464 ready for execution is selected for allocation. PEs with available task capacity are considered for 465 mapping task(s) if their EAT is within the slack-time margin (refer Eq. 1) of the task to be mapped. 466 Such a PE is chosen as the PE hosting the most communicating parent task or in its close vicinity. 467 Tasks are then assigned start-time of execution on the identified PEs. Online Allocation Adapt() 468 employs the following heuristics for the above process of allocation and scheduling: 469

A) *best_fit*(): In this scheme, the pre-determined allocation template found at design-time can be directly applied to the set of available PEs at run-time. This occurs in the scenario when the distribution of available PEs on the platform is such that the shapes of the allocation region can be accommodated without any change in spatial allocation. This scheme provides the opportunity to maximally exploit the design-time results with incremental changes. These changes involve updating the start-time of tasks depending of the EAT of the selected PEs for task execution.

B) reorient fit(): During run-time, the PEs availability depends on the timing characteristics of 476 the tasks executing on them. As tasks can have different execution times, the spatial distribution 477 of the available PEs may not readily match with the allocation templates. Reorient fit heuristic is 478 used in this condition for adapting the design-time allocation templates according to the run-time 479 resource distribution. Here, the allocation templates are customized by re-orientation of allocation 480 region to fit the spatial distribution of the available set of PEs. In the context of the mesh-based 481 NoC platform, it is sufficient to consider rotating the allocation templates by 90° towards left or 482 right along with mirroring in the horizontal or vertical direction. 483

C) *flexible fit*(): The distribution of available PEs can be scattered on the platform. As a result, 484 the pre-determined allocation templates maynot be fit to those PEs by directly applying on the 485 available set of PEs (BF) or by re-orientation (RF). To overcome this, *flexible fit()* heuristic is 486 used for customizing the allocation templates. For a selected region size, the allocation template is 487 chosen which has most PE locations similar to the distribution of the available PEs on the platform. 488 Next, the mapping and scheduling decisions of the tasks in the allocation region are customized. 489 This is done by considering the PE executing the most communicating parent task or in its close 490 vicinity. Such PEs are selected with EAT less than the available slack time of the task. This policy 491 helps to reduce the rise in communication energy consumption while meeting task deadline. 492

Using these heuristics, the design-time results are customized in accordance with the prevalent run-time scenario for online resource allocation of the tasks of application.

495 5.3 Working Example

In this sub-section, we explain the working of the proposed algorithm. Let us consider an application 496 A_1 consisting of six tasks $\tau_0, \tau_1, \dots, \tau_5$ as shown in Fig. 3a. In the table depicted in Fig.3a, the execution 497 time and deadline of each task are shown. We assume that the target platform for execution of this 498 application is a 4 \times 4 NoC based multicore platform with maximum $PE_{cap} = 2$ for each PE. The 499 design-time analysis as detailed in subsection 5.1 is carried out to obtain the spatial allocation and 500 configuration of the tasks. The possible sizes of allocation region and the relative distribution of 501 the PEs constituting these regions are depicted in the repository presented in Fig. 3b. The AMD 502 and the application finish-time of the resulting allocation templates are shown in the table given in 503 Fig. 3b. We find that for assigning the tasks of the given application, allocation region size can vary 504 between 3 to 6. In this example, we assume the upper limit on the AMD of the allocation shape to 505 be 4.0 during region shape generation. Therefore, we illustrate the repository for region size (R_{size}) 506

⁵⁰⁷ upto 5. Each of these generated allocation regions is used for obtaining the allocation template of
 ⁵⁰⁸ the tasks showing various timing response for the target application.

<i>PE</i> ₃₀	PE_{31}	PE_{32}	<i>PE</i> ₃₃
<i>PE</i> ₂₀	PE_{21}	<i>PE</i> ₂₂	<i>PE</i> ₂₃
<i>PE</i> ₁₀	PE_{11}	PE_{12}	<i>PE</i> ₁₃
PE ₀₀	PE_{01}	PE_{02}	<i>PE</i> ₀₃

A 4x4 multicore platform

S 32

 S_{42}

 S_{52}

S58

Rshape

 S_{AI}

 S_{51}

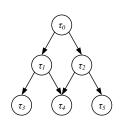
S57

Rsize

3

4

5



Application A₁

 S_{45}

S44

 S_{54}

S510

S 53

S 59

Different shapes of the regions

(a)

S55

 S_{511}

S 56

 S_{512}

Tasks	Execution time (msec)	Deadline (msec)
$ au_0$	1.0	1.5
$ au_l$	0.5	2.0
$ au_2$	0.5	1.5
τ_3	1.5	3.2
$ au_4$	1.0	4.3
τ_5	1.5	4.8

Task timing characteristics

R _{shapes}	AMD	Finish Time (msec)	$E_{comm}(uJ)$	
S31	1.33	4.0	97.11	
S ₃₂	1.33	4.0	167.40	
S_{41}	2.0	3.5	205.01	
S_{42}	2.5	3.5	178.51	
S43	2.25	3.5	260.1	
S_{44}	2.5	3.5	336.39	
S_{45}	2.5	3.5	341.95	
S ₅₁	3.2	3.0	341.95	
S_{52}	3.2	3.0	341.95	
S53	3.6	3.0	358.61	
S_{54}	3.6	3.0	369.72	
S_{55}	3.6	3.0	391.93	
S56	3.6	3.0	391.93	
S ₅₇	4.0	3.0	397.47	
S_{58}	4.0	3.0	397.47	
S_{59}	4.0	3.0	397.47	
S_{510}	4.0	3.0	397.47	
S_{511}	4.0	3.0	341.95	
S512	4.0	3.0	397.47	

Typical shape characteristics

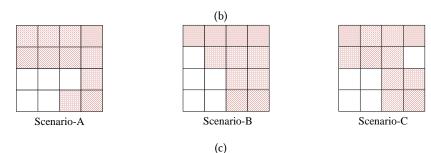


Fig. 3. Working of the proposed adaptive resource allocation strategy

Next, we explain the run-time selection and placement of the differently shaped regions from
the repository generated at the design-time. We assume a time-aware allocation strategy. As online
scenarios cannot be predicted during static analysis, therefore in some cases, reconfiguration of the
predetermined allocation region is performed. The run-time mapping scenarios are depicted in Fig.
3c. We assume that at run-time, some applications are already active on PEs of the target multicore
platform. This has been depicted by shaded regions of red color to indicate that 100% PE capacity
are already used. In this example, we consider three run-time scenarios-A to C for illustrating the

proposed run-time adaption and reconfiguration approach. In these scenarios, we depict a typical 516 situation with five available PEs for task allocation and scheduling. The proposed algorithm adapts 517 the pre-computed allocation information for A_1 to take decisions on task allocation at run-time. 518 First, the region size of the allocation template is decided. As time-aware allocation strategy is used, 519 the allocation templates are evaluated in decreasing order of region size. As a result, the region size 520 comprising of 5 PEs is evaluated for task assignment. In case sufficient PEs for required region size 521 $(R_{size} = 5)$ is not available, the algorithm considers the next smaller size region for allocation. The 522 working of online shape adaptation heuristics using different run-time scenarios is described next. 523 Consider the scenario-A shown in Fig. 3c. The proposed algorithm first employs the $best_fit()$ 524 heuristic to select an allocation template of $R_{size} = 5$. Here, the shape S_{51} is selected as it has the least AMD, and it can fit into the current distribution of PEs in scenario-1. Hence the task of A_1 526 is allocated and scheduled using S_{51} allocation template. Next, consider the run-time situation as shown in scenario-B. In this case, *best_fit(*) heuristic could not select a suitable allocation template. 528 This is because none of the shapes (in $R_{size} = 5$) match directly with the pattern of the available 529 PEs in the run-time scenario. As a result, the pre-computed decisions are required to be customized 530 based on the current system state. The proposed algorithm selects an allocation region for tasks of A_1 using *reorient_fit(*) heuristic. The proposed algorithm considers the re-orientations of the 532 allocation template of S_{51} . It fits within the available PEs with a 90° anti-clockwise re-orientation. 533 Scenario-C (refer Fig. 3c) depicts the case where the strategies used by *best_fit(*) and *reorient_fit(*) 534 heuristics to select a suitable allocation template could not identify one for assigning the tasks of 535 A_1 . In such cases, $flexible_fit()$ heuristic is used by the proposed algorithm. The spatial location 536 of available PEs on the platform is most similar to template S_{51} . Hence, this template is used for 537 driving the task allocation steps. While mapping the tasks of A_1 , the proposed algorithm selects 538 PE_{00} , PE_{10} and PE_{11} . However, all the tasks of A_1 cannot be fitted in the selected PEs. For 539 mapping the remaining task, a PE is chosen during run-time in the close vicinity of the PE executing 540 its most communicating parent task. This reduces the increase in the communication energy of 541 the application while meeting its deadline. As all the adjacent PEs are busy (hosting maximum 542 number of tasks), therefore PE23 is selected for executing the remaining task. However, this type 543 of mapping favouring reduction of finish-time may result in a penalty on communication energy 544 consumption of the mapped application. In such condition, selecting the allocation template with 545 smaller region size can help in saving communication energy consumption on the given NoC based 546 multicore platform. For e.g. if we use $R_{size} = 4$, it results in 18.3% lower communication energy 547 consumption compared to using template S_{51} with reconfiguration. However, it results in 10.2% 548 average rise in finish-time of task of application. 549

550 6 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

We have evaluated the performance of the proposed algorithm experimentally. The following subsection describes the experimental setup and simulation results.

553 6.1 Test Setup

We have used a C++ based simulator to perform application mapping/scheduling in NoC based 554 multicore system. The simulator can simulate different-sized 2D mesh NoC topology and is based 555 on the previous works [3][4]. We have modified the simulator for implementing the proposed task 556 allocation strategy. The simulation process is divided into the following steps. In the first step, we 557 implement the design-time allocation template generation. This consists of (i) formation of different 558 regular and irregular shapes consisting of contiguous processor allocation, (ii) a particle swarm 559 optimization (PSO) based mapping and scheduling of tasks onto the different generated shapes 560 and (iii) determination of routing information of the mapped tasks. The output results obtained at 561

Adaptive Task allocation & Scheduling on multicore platforms with multitasking processors 0:17 Table 1. Various benchmark and synthetic applications

Application Type	Applications	Total tasks	
Benchmark applications	263ENC MP3DEC	12	
	263DEC MP3DEC	14	
	MP3ENC MP3DEC	13	
	MPEG4	12	
	PIP	8	
	TGFF1	45	
Synthetic applications	TGFF2	60	
	TGFF3	85	
	TGFF4	100	

Parameter	Value
Technology	45 nm
Transistor	NVT
V_{dd}	1.0 v
Router Frequency	250 MHz
No. of pipeline stages	4
Flit width	32
Link wire layer type	Global
Link wire width & spacing	DWIDTH_DSPACE

Table 2. Simulation settings for ORION 3.0

Table 3. Network settings

Parameter	Value				
Packet size	64 flits (32 bits per flit)				
Buffer depth	8				
Selection logic	Random				
Traffic	Table based				
Warm up time	5000 clk cycles				
Simulation time	200000 clk cycles				

Table 4. Test scenarios and their initial conditions

Test scenarios	Initial condition
Scenario-1	All PEs are available
Scenario-2	10% of platform PEs occupied
Scenario-3	25% of platform PEs occupied
Scenario-4	40% of platform PEs occupied
Scenario-5	55% of platform PEs occupied

design-time are stored as repository files. The second step of the simulation is performed at the 562 run-time, where different applications are submitted dynamically for execution on the NoC based 563 multicore platform. The simulator selects an appropriate allocation template from the repository 564 and customizes it based on the run-time scenarios. We consider 8 × 8 NoC based multicore platform 565 for performing the experiments with one of the processors is selected as the Platform Manager. 566 Experiments are conducted using benchmark applications such as MPEG4, MWD, MP3ENC, 263DEC 567 and 263ENC [28]. However, the availability of large size benchmarks is limited. We use synthetic 568 applications generated by the TGFF tool [8] to obtain the task graphs with a higher number of tasks. 569 The number of tasks is varied between 5 to 100. Also, the benchmark and synthetic applications, 570 as shown in Table 1, have been randomly combined to form different workloads for allocation. 571 Simulation has been carried out using an Intel i7 processor running at 3.0 GHz. We have considered 572 various test scenarios, which consist of initial conditions, as depicted in Table 4. These initial 573 conditions indicate the different numbers of already occupied PEs when an incoming application 574 requires allocation at run-time. The input to the simulator consists of an input file, which typically 575 contains the number of applications, size of each application, execution time of tasks and their 576 deadline. In our experiments, the computation time requirement of the tasks has been uniformly 577 distributed between 50ms to 250ms. Please note that the deadline allocation for each task is similar 578 to [3][4]. 579

Using this information, the simulator allocates the tasks belonging to an application to the available processors as determined by the task allocation algorithm. There are different parameters based on which the quality of allocation results is assessed. These parameters include communication energy, deadline satisfaction of tasks and average communication latency of the allocated application. The energy consumption for packet traversal (E_{comm}) has been computed using Eq. (4). We have used link energy ($E_{link} = 3.12 \times 10^{-13} J/bit$) and router energy ($E_{router} = 5.24 \times 10^{-12} J/bit$) derived from ORION 3.0 power model [15]. The parameter settings for ORION is shown in Table 2. We have used Noxim [2], a cycle accurate simulator, to determine the overall network performance considering an 8 × 8 2D mesh interconnection. The configuration of Noxim simulator is shown in Table 3.

590 6.2 Evaluation of proposed run-time mapping and scheduling algorithm

In this subsection, we evaluate the performance of the proposed dynamic task allocation and 591 scheduling algorithm in terms of communication energy of the allocated applications, finish-time 592 of the mapped tasks and average packet latency of the tasks of the applications. To evaluate the 593 adaptivity of the proposed approach to run-time conditions, application workloads are assumed 594 to arrive randomly at any time with varying availability of PEs as indicated by the different test 595 scenarios. While selecting PEs for task allocation, the occupied PEs are unavailable for new task 596 assignments. For each initial condition corresponding to a test scenario, two cases are considered. In 597 the first case, OPC (occupied PEs-contiguous), we consider the already occupied PEs to be present 598 in contiguous regions on the platform. For experimentation, such regions are assumed to be located 599 on top-left, top-right, bottom-left, bottom-right and centre region of the multicore platform. In the 600 second case, the occupied PEs are considered to be distributed randomly on the multicore platform. 601 This case is referred to as OPD (occupied PEs distributed) in the results. The results for the OPD 602 case are averaged over 100 random arrangements of occupied PEs for each test scenario. 603

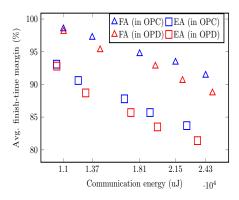
Effect of allocation modes on performance. We have evaluated the effect of allocation modes 604 6.2.1 on energy-consumption and finish-time of the allocated applications. We consider different test 605 scenarios with varying numbers of occupied PEs in the given NoC platform, as shown in Table 4. For 606 each of the test scenarios, we have used energy-aware (EA) mode and finish-time aware (FA) mode 607 separately for selection of allocation regions. The resulting communication-energy and average 608 finish-time margin of the allocated applications is shown in Fig 4a. For any application workload 609 with N tasks, AFTM is given by Eq. 10. It indicates the time margin by which tasks complete their 610 execution within their corresponding deadline. 611

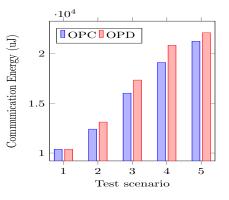
$$AFTM = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\forall \tau_i \in \Gamma} \frac{dl_i - finish(\tau_i)}{dl_i}$$
(10)

It is found that the task allocations using EA mode shows on an average, 17.3% less communication energy consumption compared to the case when the same tasks are assigned using FA mode during region selection. However, AFTM of tasks allocated by using EA mode is, on an average, 20.4% lesser compared to that of allocations using FA mode. Thus, EA mode is suitable for communication energy reduction while FA is more useful for improving the timing performance of tasks.

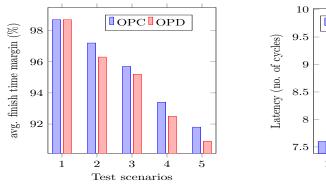
6.2.2 Communication Energy. In this subsection, we evaluate the performance of the energy-aware 617 mode of the proposed dynamic task allocation strategy in terms of the communication energy 618 consumption of the allocated applications. Fig. 4b shows the communication energy consumed by 619 the mapped application during their execution. On an average, test-scenarios 2, 3, 4 and 5 with 620 already occupied PEs in the initial condition distributed on the platform, result in 10.6%, 19.4%, 27.1% 621 and 36.3% more communication energy consumption as compared to test-scenario 1, respectively. 622 Test scenario-1 gives the least communication energy of the allocated application as all the PEs 623 are considered to be available for task assignment. As the number of already occupied PEs of 624 the platform increases progressively from test-scenarios 2 to 5, the mapped region becomes less 625 compact due to the non-availability of free PEs in the regular region for task assignment. This 626

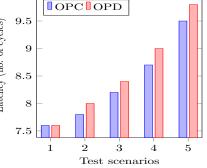
increases the communication energy of the mapped application. For e.g. in test scenarios with OPD
 cases, it is found that the communication energy consumption is, on an average, 21.3% higher as
 compared to the applications mapped in the same test scenario with OPC case.

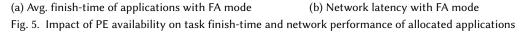




(a) Effect of allocation mode on performance (b) Comm. energy variation with EA mode Fig. 4. Evaluation of allocation modes and communication energy performance with PE availability







Timing performance. The finish-time aware mode of the proposed approach for run-time 6.2.3 630 task allocation considers the completion time of the tasks while choosing an allocation region for 631 their execution. The time margin by which the tasks satisfy their deadline is affected by the size 632 and shape of the allocated region on the platform. Fig. 5a explores the effect of allocated region on 633 the timing performance of the applications in terms of average finish time margin (AFTM) of their 634 tasks. On average, AFTM drops by 20.7% when the occupied PEs considered in the test scenarios 635 rises by 15%. When tasks are allocated, in test-scenarios with higher number of occupied PEs in 636 initial conditions, the allocated region size is more as the PEs located sparsely are selected for 637 task execution. This increases the chance of more tasks being allocated to the already occupied 638 PEs depending on (i) capacity of multitasking and (ii) EAT of the selected PE. Such tasks can 639 start their execution only after the earlier assigned task(s) finish their execution. Additionally, 640 the AFTM is also affected by the contiguity of the already occupied PEs on the platform. For a 641 given test scenario, the AFTM of the scheduled tasks, is on an average, 15.3% lower in case of test-642 scenarios with distributed patterns compared to contiguously occupied PEs. The difference is more 643

⁶⁴⁴ prevalent when the test-scenario has the occupied PEs present in contiguous region. Consequently, ⁶⁴⁵ better opportunity for simultaneous execution of the allocated tasks of application exists due to ⁶⁴⁶ the availability of PEs. More number of scheduled tasks complete their execution within their ⁶⁴⁷ deadline. As a result, the AFTM of the tasks increases when the initial condition has occupied PEs ⁶⁴⁸ in contiguous region.

Communication Latency. The average network latency of the allocated applications under 6.2.4 649 various test scenarios is shown in Fig.5b. It can be observed that with 15% increase in PE occupancy 650 in the initial condition of the test scenarios, the latency of the allocated application rises by 19.2%. As 651 more number of available PEs are present in distributed manner across the platform, the resultant 652 allocated regions are irregular shaped. The communicating tasks get assigned to PEs located 653 sparsely. Data packets from source to destination PEs use more network resources, such as routers 654 and links, for communication between the dependent tasks. Further, it is observed that occupied 655 PEs present in regular regions show reduced communication energy compared to occupied PEs 656 distributed across the platform. On an average the allocated applications show 23.5% higher latency 657 in test scenarios with OPD as compared to OPC. 658

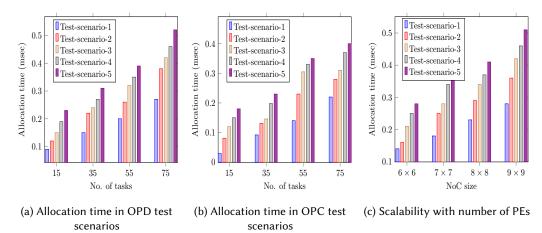


Fig. 6. Scalability of proposed approach with no. of tasks and processors

6.2.5 Scalability. The scalability of the proposed approach with the number of tasks is presented 659 in Fig. 6. We have varied the number of tasks for allocation and the corresponding allocation time 660 taken for executing the proposed method is reported. We have conducted three sets of experiments. 661 In the first set of experiment, we evaluate the allocation time of the tasks considering OPD case. 662 The results are shown in Fig. 6a. It is found that as the number of tasks for allocation increases, the 663 allocation time also rises. On an average, 6.7% rise in allocation time occurs with 10% increase in 664 number of tasks. This is because the scheduler needs to execute the algorithm more number of 665 times to complete the task allocation process. However, for a given number of tasks, the time taken 666 by the scheduler to finish mapping and scheduling decision increases with more number of already 667 occupied PEs present in test scenario in OPD. It is attributed to frequent customization carried out 668 by the *flexible fit(*) heuristic for run-time adaptation of task allocation when the PE availability 669 does not match with the pre-computed region shapes. This increases when more number of already 670 occupied PEs are present distributed in the platform. 671

In the second set of experiment, we have repeated the allocation of the tasks but considering the OPC test cases in regular shapes. As depicted in Fig. 6b, it is observed that there is an average increase of 4.2% in allocation time with 10% increase in number of tasks. However, the rise in

allocation time is less compared to first set of experiments with OPD. This is due to the fact that in case of test-scenario with OPC, the remaining PEs are available in contiguous regions. Thus in most of the cases, the proposed algorithm performs incremental customization by invoking *best_fit(*) and *reorient_fit(*) heuristics. As a result, time consumed in completing the task allocation is lesser compared to former set of experiments.

The third set of experiment evaluates the scalability of the proposed run-time approach with 680 number of processors. The platform size is varied from 6×6 to 9×9 while fixing the number of 681 allocated tasks to 60. As shown in Fig 6c, the allocation time increases for each test scenario as 682 the size of the target platform increases. More number of PEs are present in larger sized platform, 683 so exploring and selecting a suitable set of PE for task allocation and scheduling consumes more 684 time. It is observed that on an average, for a given test scenario, the allocation time rises by 7.2% as 685 the platform size is changed from 6×6 to 9×9 which is reasonable compared to the increase in 686 number of PEs ($\times 2.2$). 687

688 6.3 Comparison with existing works

In this section, we compare the performance of the proposed dynamic allocation approach with 689 the selected state-of-the-art run-time allocation methods reported in the literature for NoC based 690 multicore systems having processors with multitasking capability. We first present the comparison 691 results of the run-time performance of the proposed hybrid mapping technique followed by the 692 discussion on the performance of the design-time computation stage of the algorithm. Deadline and 693 Energy-aware Mapping and Scheduling (DEAMS) [4] approach uses an online heuristic to assign 694 and schedule the tasks on multicore platforms. It selects a PE for assigning tasks of a submitted 695 application while considering the timing characteristics of the tasks. The resultant allocation 696 chooses an occupied PE for executing an unmapped task provided the task has enough slack time 697 to finish within its deadline. Communication aware Packing based Nearest Neighbour (CPNN) 698 described in [32] attempts to allocate the maximum communicating tasks on the same PE. The 699 run-time approach described in [18] performs dynamic allocation of tasks to PEs and, thereafter, 700 performs iterative improvement on the task mapping decisions by a Communication-Aware task 701 Migration (CAM) strategy. The Two-Step Multi-application Mapping (TSMM) heuristic mentioned 702 in [38] uses application mapping followed by task allocation within the selected region of PEs 703 to minimize the communication energy and execution time of each application. The comparison 704 results have been discussed in the following subsections. 705

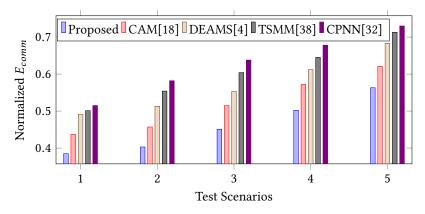


Fig. 7. Comparison of communication energy performance for various dynamic mapping methods

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Communication Energy. Fig.7 shows the comparison of the communication energy consumed 6.3.1 706 by the applications allocated by various dynamic allocation methods concerning the run-time 707 heuristic of the proposed approach. The results are expressed as normalized values for Nearest-708 Neighbour (NN) [1] method considered as the baseline method. From test-scenarios-1 to 5, the 709 set of available PEs on the platform becomes progressively distributed across the platform. All 710 the compared algorithms result in task allocation, which shows rise in communication energy consumption. However, the proposed algorithm out-performs the other run-time algorithms. It 712 results in 24.2% reduction in communication energy of the allocated applications. When compared 713 with CAM, DEAMS, TSMM, and CPNN techniques, the task allocations resulting from the proposed 714 approach achieve 11.5%, 22.3%, 28.6% and 34.6% average reduction in communication energy.

Deadline Performance. Fig. 8 reports the results of comparison of number of tasks meeting 6.3.2 716 their corresponding deadline. Based on our simulations, we observe that using the proposed 717 method, on an average 19.4%, 28.2% and 37.7% more number of tasks satisfy deadline compared 718 to the cases when the same tasks are allocated and scheduled by DEAMS, TSMM and CPNN 719 techniques, respectively. CPNN, TSMM and CAM algorithms solely focus on communication 720 dependency between the tasks and ignore their timing characteristics while mapping them onto 721 the same PE in the multicore platform. This policy causes an increase in the finish-time of the tasks, 722 which negatively impacts their deadline performance. Tasks allocated dynamically using DEAMS 723 show better results compared to the methods mentioned above and result in deadline misses when 724 the task slack-time is low. The proposed dynamic allocation approach exploits the pre-computed 725 decisions of mapping and scheduling for the run-time assignment of the tasks on the multitasking 726 PEs. It uses the timing characteristics of tasks and selects suitable PEs closely located for run-time 727 allocation customization. Thus, the number of tasks completing execution within their deadline 728 increases. 729

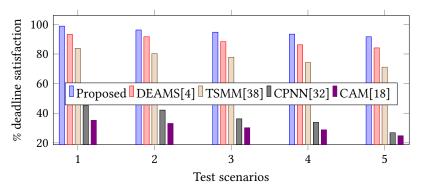


Fig. 8. Deadline performance comparison of different dynamic allocation approaches

Allocation time. It is essential to consider the cost of an online algorithm, i.e., the time 6.3.3 730 spent by the Platform Manager to apply the allocation policy to tasks of the arrived application. A 731 comparison of time-taken by various algorithms for dynamic task allocation is depicted in Fig.9 732 under various test scenarios. Simulation has been carried out on an Intel i7 processor running at 733 3.0 GHz frequency. The proposed approach gives an improved performance concerning the time 734 consumed in the allocation of tasks of the application. When compared to DEAMS, the run-time 735 strategy of the proposed dynamic allocation approach gives a 14.1% average improvement in 736 allocation time. The proposed approach takes into account the resource availability at run-time and 737 performs incremental changes in allocation templates for quick on-line mapping and scheduling. 738 The allocation time of the proposed algorithm shows 12.4% and 28.7% average reduction over CPNN 739

and CAM algorithms, respectively. CPNN and CAM find only the mapping solution in each iteration
 by selecting appropriate PEs for communication energy reduction. Furthermore, the iterative task
 re-mapping performed by CAM adds to the allocation time of the tasks. TSMM results in 18.7%
 more allocation time on an average as compared to the proposed algorithm. This is attributed to
 the use of two sequential steps in TSMM at run-time, which involve application region selection
 and task mapping within the selected region.

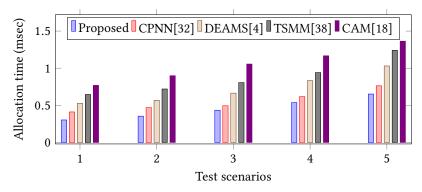


Fig. 9. Allocation time of different run-time heuristics

Design-time performance comparison. We compare the performance of different algorithms 6.3.4 746 for design space exploration to allocate tasks onto multitasking processors in a NoC based multicore 747 platform. In this work, we have used PSO to assign tasks on PEs in the multicore platform. PSO 748 has been reported to have faster convergence than other evolutionary techniques like the Genetic 749 Algorithm (GA) [35] and it is capable of working with a population of relatively small size [28]. 750 Thus, we use existing PSO based DSE approaches for comparing with our proposed allocation 751 strategy. We have considered, discrete PSO (DPSO) based application mapping technique [14] [28] 752 to compare with the proposed PSO based mapping for the allocations found by the design-time 753 method on benchmark applications. Besides, a GA based mapping GBMAP, presented in [35], is 754 also used to compare the mapping results. Table 5 depicts the the exploration time (in sec) and 755 communication cost (CC) i.e. the product of hop counts and data volume of the resultant mapping. 756 The CC values are normalized with respect to NMAP[22] technique, which is popularly used for 757 comparing the application allocation results. For the sake of comparison, in our experiments, we 758 have considered a multicore system with a capacity of one task per PE. The proposed approach 759 gives 23.3%, 16.6%, and 11.1% lower communication cost on an average, as compared to NMAP, 760 PSMAP and DPSO methods respectively. NMAP, PSMAP, and DPSO approaches map the tasks of a 761 given application onto a fixed rectangular-shaped region. Other shaped are not explored in these 762 works. The solution space consisting of PEs arranged in contiguous and non-contiguous regions 763 is larger than fixed rectangular-shaped allocation regions. We address the shape generation and 764 task allocation during design-time separately. This helps to effectively explore the larger search-765 space inherent in case of rectangular and non-rectangular regions. Therefore, the quality of the 766 resultant mapping using our approach is better compared to other works mentioned in the literature. 767 768

769 7 CONCLUSION

We have proposed a hybrid mapping and scheduling algorithm for NoC-based multicore platform
with multitasking processors. Our approach consists of design-time allocation exploration followed
by run-time selection and configuration of the appropriate allocation template. The allocation

Benchmarks	NMAP[22] CC DSE-time		GBMAP[35] CC DSE-time		PSMAP[29] CC DSE-time		DPSO[14] [28] CC DSE-time		Proposed CC DSE-time	
MPEG4	1	0.016	0.94	0.03	0.93	0.04	0.93	2.10	0.912	2.33
263ENC MP3DEC	1	0.012	1	0.13	1	0.26	1	2.08	1	2.36
PIP	1	0.01	1	0.01	1	0.01	1	0.42	1	0.47
MP3ENC MP3DEC	1	0.01	1	0.21	1	0.32	1	1.97	0.821	2.22
263DEC MP3DEC	1	0.01	0.987	0.16	0.969	0.23	0.969	2.09	0.903	2.31

Table 5. Communication cost (cc) & DSE-time (in sec) by different DSE approaches for hybrid strategy

explored during design-time consider the multitasking capability of the processors and task timing

constraints of the given applications. The proposed approach adapts to the dynamism of the

application workload by exploiting these solutions at run-time, based on the resource availability

and application timing requirements. We have evaluated our strategy and compared its performance

vith other task mapping and scheduling algorithms reported in the literature. Experimental results

⁷⁷⁸ indicate its effectiveness in terms of communication energy consumption and deadline satisfaction

779 of the allocated applications. Thus, the proposed strategy is suitable for run-time allocation of

dynamic workloads with multiple applications with real-time constraints on NoC-based multicore

⁷⁸¹ systems. In future, we plan to extend this work to consider the actual execution time of tasks at

run-time by updating the pre-computed decisions. Also, the proposed hybrid approach can be

augmented to limit the mutual interference between tasks for hard real-time systems.

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