Intel® Software Development Products

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Modeling parallelism with Intel® Advisor XE

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Executive Summary

***Challenge**: Parallel programming can be rewarding but daunting!*

***Intel® Advisor XE** is a methodology and set of tools to help you easily add correct and effective **parallelism** to your program*

***Intel® Advisor XE** supports C/C++, Fortran on Windows/Linux and C# on Windows*

But why should you care about Parallelism?

In a word: "**Performance**"

Serial optimizations may achieve less than 25%

Data Parallelism, e.g., Vectorization may gain **2-4X**

Task Parallelism may provide speed-ups proportional to the number of cores, e.g., **4-8X**

Don't leave all that potential performance on the table!

Agenda

Introduction

Advisor Workflow

- **Survey**
- Add **Annotations**
- Model **Suitability**
- Check **Correctness**
- Add **Parallel Framework**

Conclusion

Suppose you had a magical tool that

- Lets you quickly write a serial program to implement your algorithm,
- Causes your program to run correctly *even in the presence of coding bugs,*
- Helps you find and fix the bugs,
- And also tells you the best performance to expect from your algorithm.
- Would this make you more productive? Of course it would!

Suppose you had a magical tool that…

- Lets you quickly write a serial program to implement your algorithm,
- Causes your program to run correctly *even in the presence of coding bugs,*
- Helps you find and fix the bugs,
- And also tells you the best performance to expect from your algorithm.
- Would this make you more productive? Of course it would!

This is similar to how Intel® Advisor XE works when you add Parallelism to your Serial program.

Intel® Advisor XE

Advisor XE is a toolset

- design tool that assists in making good decisions to transform a serial algorithm to use multi-core hardware

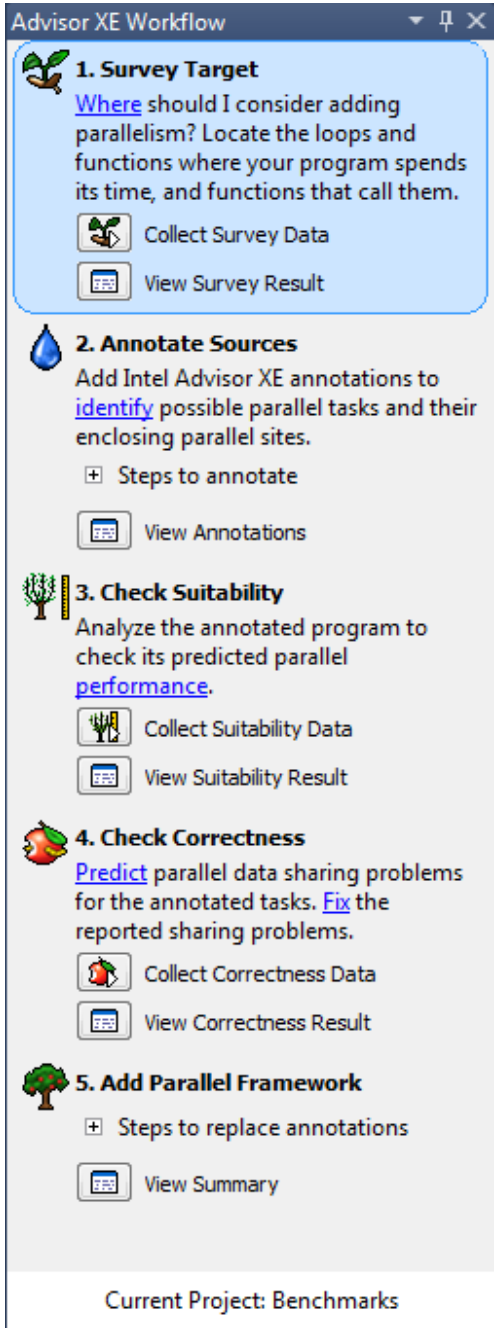
- parallel modeling tool that forecasts what might happen ***if*** that code were to execute in parallel
  - uses annotations in the serial code to calculate what

- A methodology and workflow to educate users on an effective method of using parallel programming

Intel® Advisor XE
Introduction

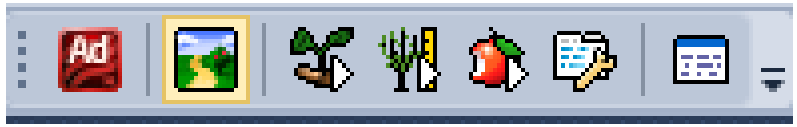
Transforming many serial algorithms into parallel form takes 5 easy high-level steps:

1. Survey and Summary tools: where to add parallelism
2. Annotations: experiment with parallel program structure
3. Suitability tool (!): predict and model program scalability & benefits
4. Correctness tool: discover potential synchronization problems
5. Manually convert annotations to parallel framework API (with a little help of Annotations/Summary)

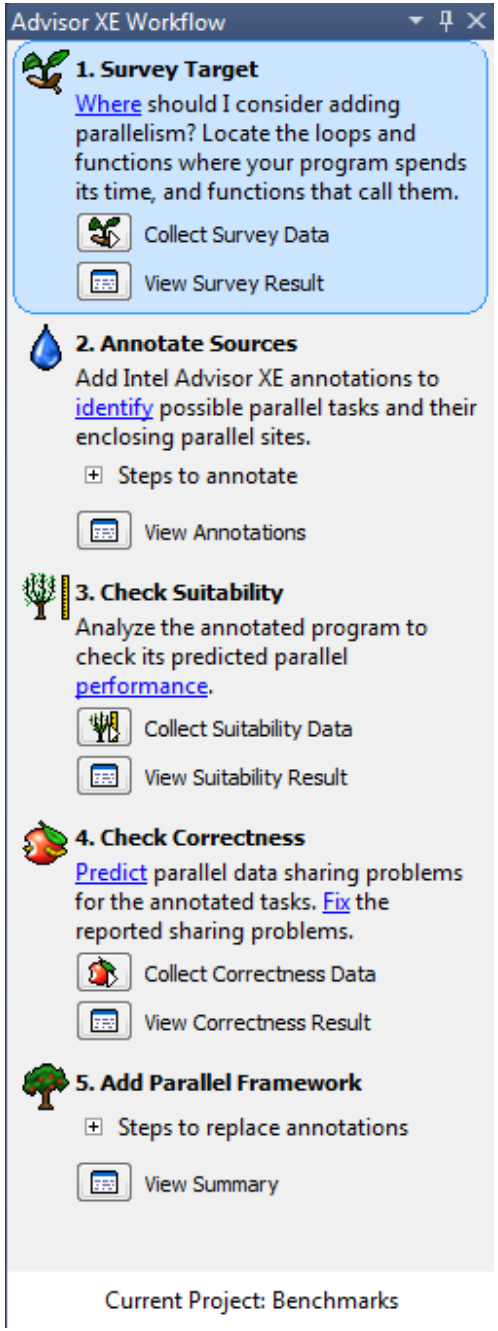


Intel® Advisor XE
Introduction

- Advisor XE guides you through these 5 steps, providing assisting tools
  - No auto-parallelization
- Model & evaluate potential return of parallelization investments.
- On your serial program



(Advisor XE toolbar)



Intel® Advisor XE
Advantages of Advisor XE modeling

Serial modeling benefits:

1. **Your application can't fail due to bugs caused by incorrect parallel execution (it's running serially)**

2. **You can easily experiment with several different proposals before committing to a specific implementation**

3. **All of your test suites should still pass when validating the correctness of your transformations**

But you still can use Advisor XE on partially or completely parallelized code.

Intel® Advisor XE
Advantages of Advisor XE modeling

Advisor XE modeling avoids the major design mistakes:

1. Measure performance, focus on hotspots.
2. Predict scalability, load balancing and overheads.
3. Predict data races

Automated analysis catches cases people miss.
Making good decisions early saves time.

Advisor XE increases parallelization ROI

Parallel Advisor vs Advisor XE "what's new"

	Parallel Advisor	Advisor XE
Name	Intel® Parallel Advisor	Intel® Advisor XE
Component of	Intel® Parallel Studio	Intel® Parallel Studio and Cluster Studio XE
Windows OS	Windows XP and later; Windows Vista is deprecated.	Windows XP and later (but no support for Vista). Windows XP is deprecated.
VS integration	VS 2005, 2008, 2010	VS 2008, 2010 and later
Linux OS	No	**Yes**
Languages	C/C++	**C/C++** **Fortran** **C# .NET (Windows only)**
Standalone GUI	No	**Yes (Windows and Linux)**
CLI	No	**Yes (Windows and Linux)**

Where should we begin?

You either start with a blank sheet of paper … or you don't

Almost no one starts from a blank sheet of paper

- Useful for writing explicitly parallel kernels and skeletons, but difficult to use when migrating legacy applications
- All others have to first get their ideas organized, usually by expressing a serial algorithm, which you then need to figure out how to express using parallelism

Almost everyone is worried about how to improve something which already has demonstrated value

- if you need to parallelize it
- it can't already be parallel
- so therefore it must be serial

This is the assumption of this talk

Do you really mean that?

1

```
for (int I = 0; I < N; ++I)
        A[I] = B[I] + C[I];
```

This loop is equivalent to:

```
I = 0;
if (! (I < N)) goto done;

A[0] = B[0] + C[0]; // I = 0

++I;
if (! (I < N)) goto done;

A[1] = B[1] + C[1]; // I = 1
…
     done:
```

2

```
for (int I = 0; I < N; ++I)
        Work( &A[I] );
```

This loop is equivalent to:

```
I = 0;
if (! (I < N)) goto done;

Work( &A[0] ); // I = 0

++I;
if (! (I < N)) goto done;

Work( &A[1] ); // I = 1
…
     done:
```

Or did you really mean this…

1

```
for (int I = 0; I < N; ++I)
        A[I] = B[I] + C[I];
```

```
A[0…N-1] = B[0…N-1] + C[0…N-1]
```

2

```
for (int I = 0; I < N; ++I)
        Work( &A[I] );
```

```
foreach X in A[0…N-1]
        Work( &X );
```

or even…

```
Work( &A[0…N-1] )
```

Digression: debugging

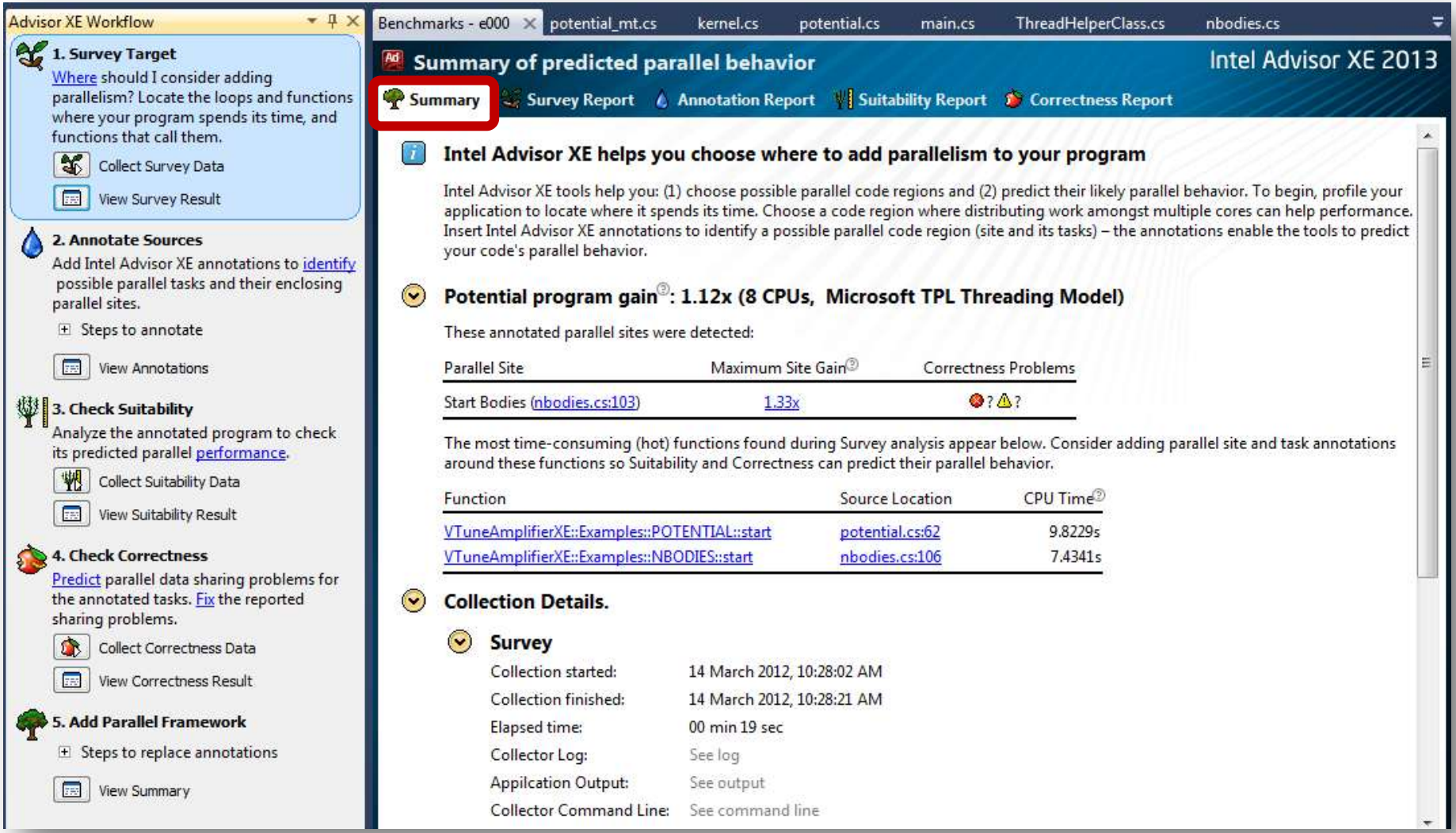
What is still claimed to be the #1 debugging tool in use today?

- A “print” statement

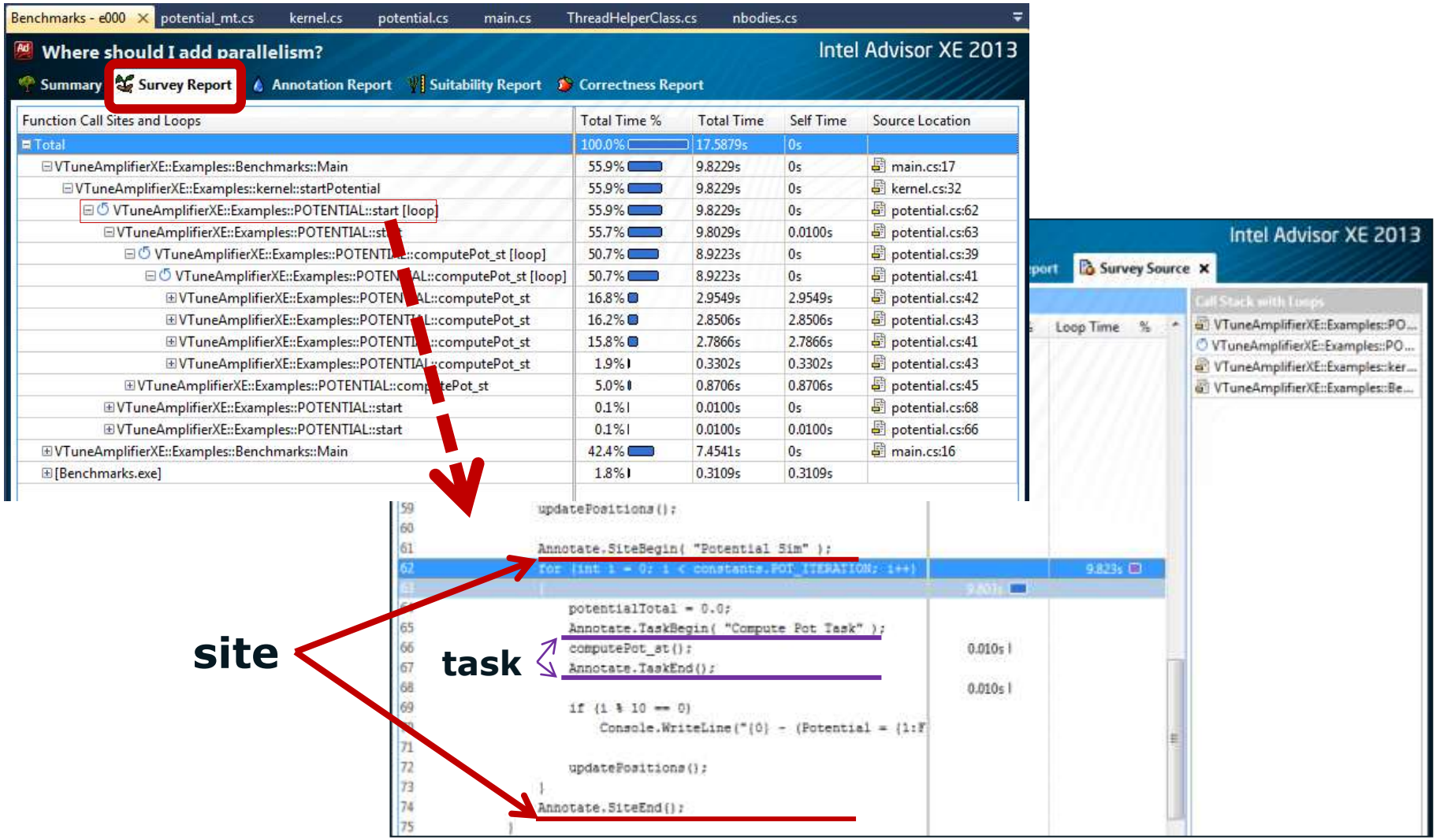
Inserting a “print” statement into your serial program typically does not change its behavior, but does allow you to observe what is happening

We can use this same approach in order to understand the “parallelism potential” present in your existing serial implementation

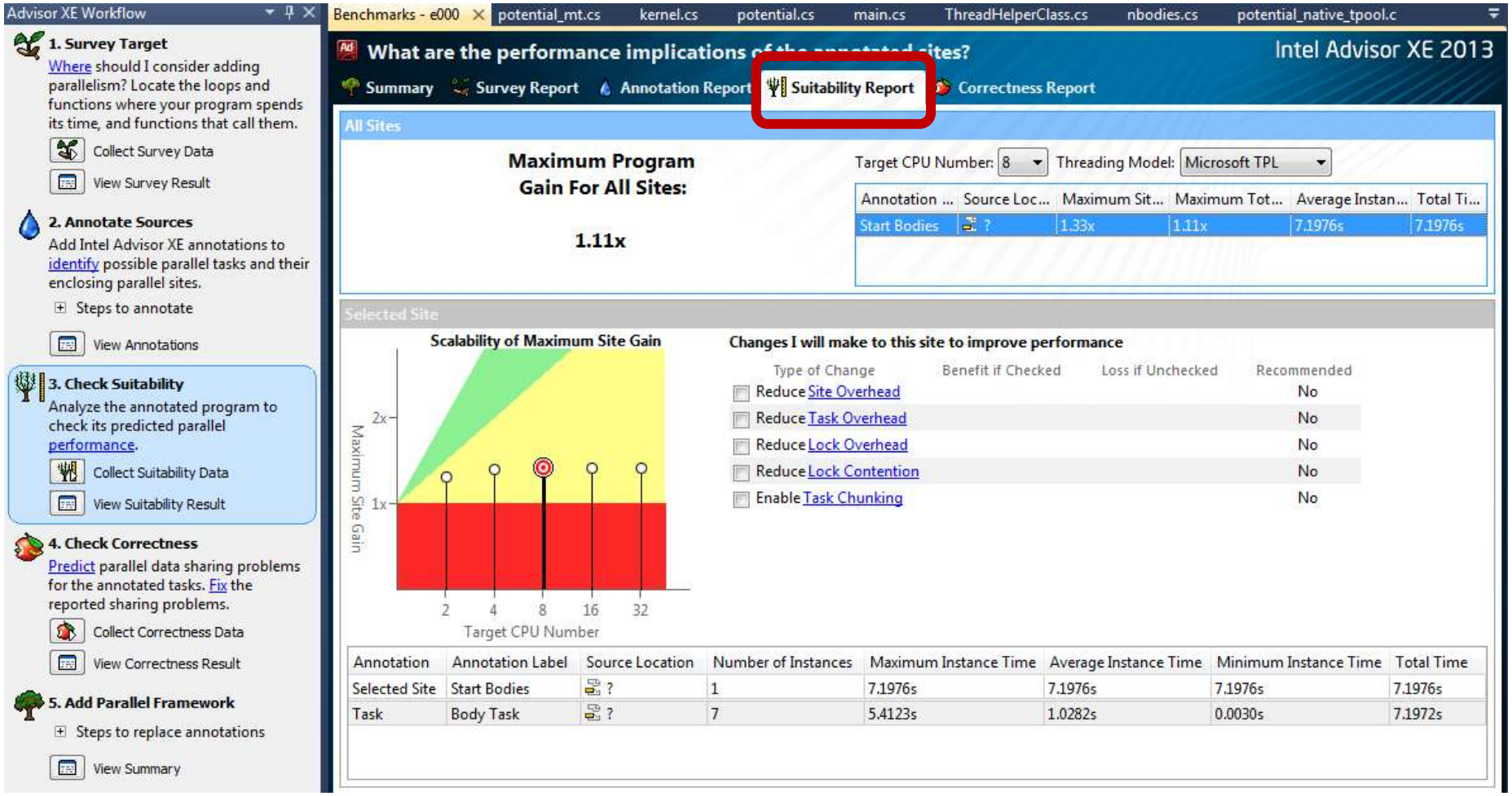
Step: Survey Target



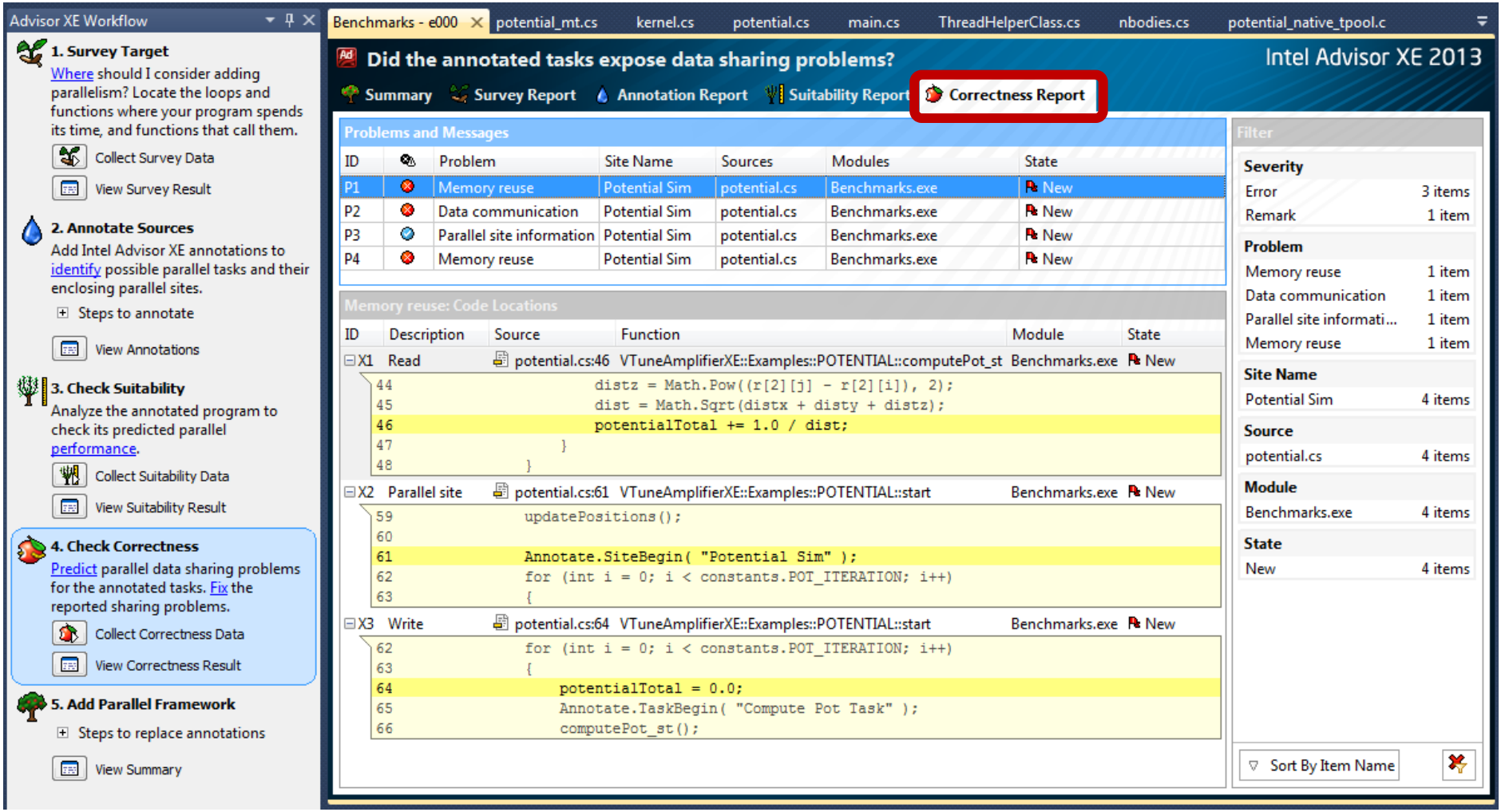
Step: Survey Target & Annotate Sources



Step: Check Suitability



Step: Check Correctness



Case Study - Demo

Advisor Workflow – Case Study

- ***Survey***
- Add **Annotations**
- Model **Suitability**
- Check **Correctness**
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Conclusion

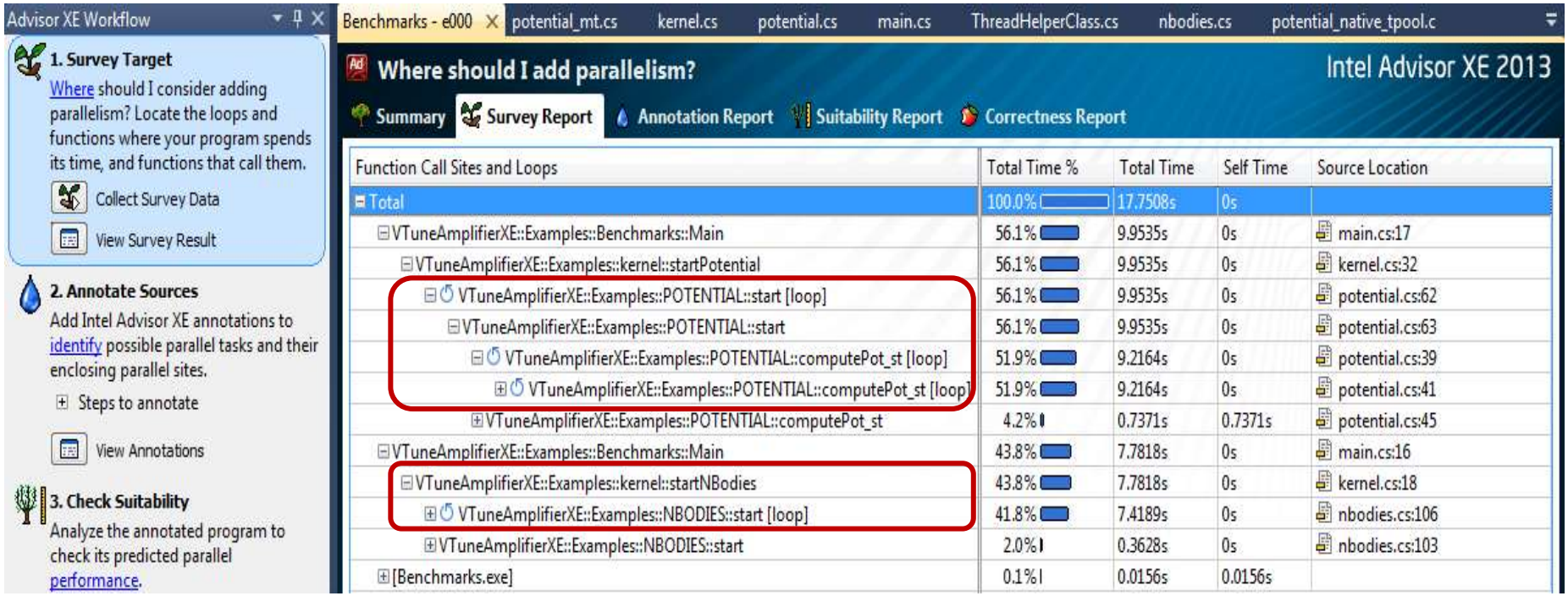
Amdahl's Law

(paraphrased) “The benefit from parallelism is limited by the computation which remains serial”

If you perfectly execute ½ of your application in parallel you will achieve < 2x speedup

The implication of this is that you must focus your attention where your application spends its time

Survey



Find the places that are important to your application

Two Candidate loops

56%: POTENTIAL::start (loop)

Line	Source	Total Time	%	Loop Time	%
60					
61	for (int i = 0; i < constants.POT_ITERATION; i++)				
62	{				
63	potentialTotal = 0.0;			10.022s	
64	computePot_st();	10.012s			
65					
66	if (i % 10 == 0)				
67	Console.WriteLine("{0} - (Potential = {1:F5})", i, pote				
68					
69	updatePositions();	0.010s			
70	}				
71	}				
	Selected (Total Time):	0s			

41.8%: NBODIES::start (loop)

Line	Source	Total Time	%	Loop Time	%
96	public void start()				
97	{				
98	for (int i = 0; i < constants.NB_NUM_BODIES; i++)				
99	body[i] = new body();				
100					
101	// Loop over various sizes of the problem				
102	for (int n = 2; n <= constants.NB_NUM_BODIES; n *= 2)				
103	{				
104	startBodies(n);			7.451s	
105	runBodies(n);	7.451s			
106	}				
107	}				

Agenda

Advisor Workflow – Case Study

- Survey
- *Add **Annotations***
- Model **Suitability**
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Conclusion

Advisor XE Annotation Concepts

Advisor uses 3 primary concepts to create a model

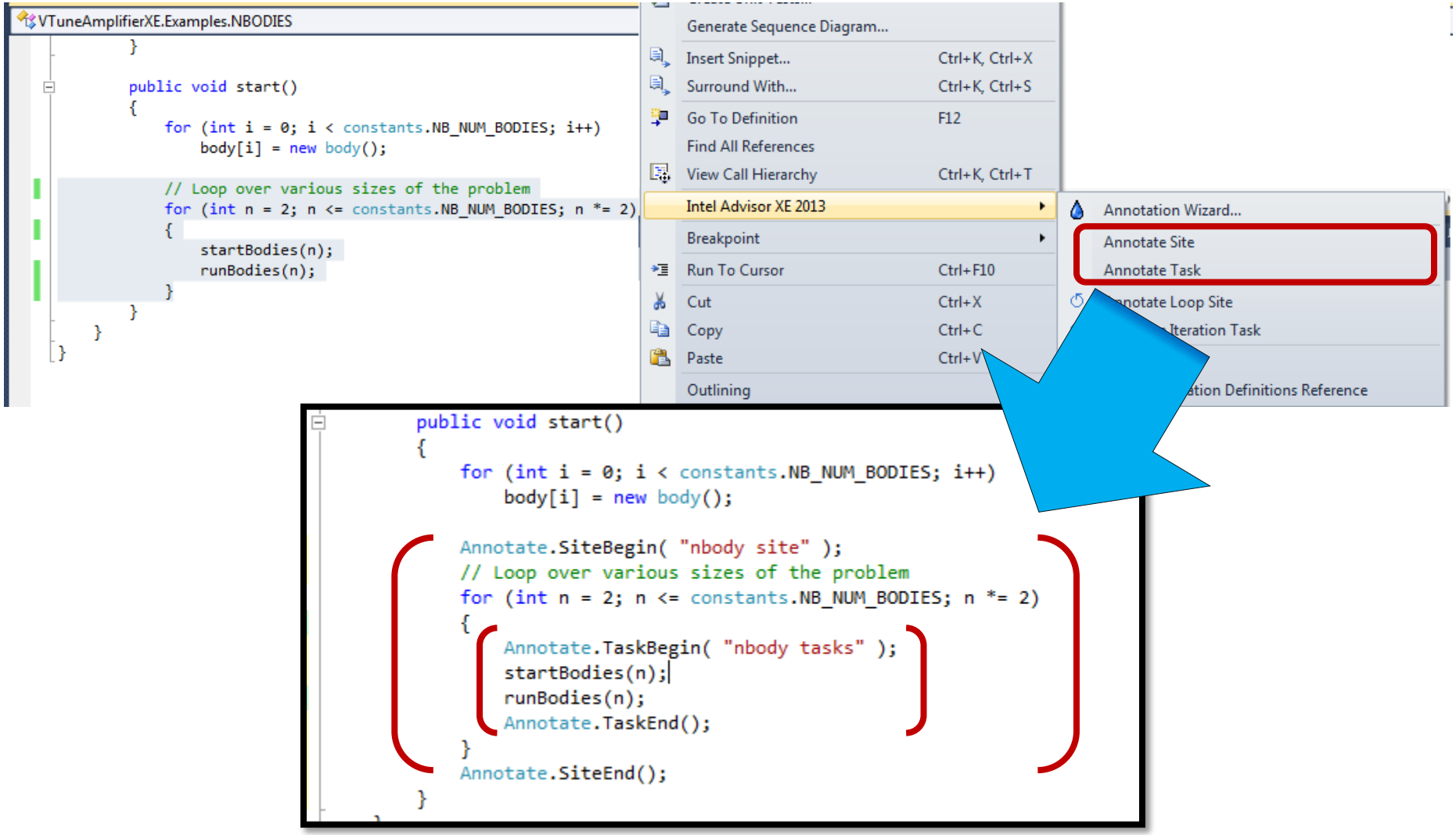
- **SITE**
  - A region of code in your application you want to transform into parallel code
- **TASK**
  - The region of code in a SITE you want to execute in parallel with the rest of the code in the SITE
- **LOCK**
  - Mark regions of code in a TASK which must be serialized

All of these regions may be nested

You may create more than one SITE

Just macros, so work with any C/C++ compiler

Add Annotation
NBODIES::start (loop)



Add Annotation
POTENTIAL::start (loop)

VTuneAmplifierXE.Examples.POTENTIAL — start()

```
Annotate.SiteBegin( "potential site" );
for (int i = 0; i < constants.POT_ITERATION; i++)
{
    potentialTotal = 0.0;
    Annotate.TaskBegin( "potential task" );
    computePot_st();
    Annotate.TaskEnd();

    if (i % 10 == 0)
        Console.WriteLine("{0} - (Potential = {1:F5})", i, potentialTotal);

    updatePositions();
}
Annotate.SiteEnd();
```

Agenda

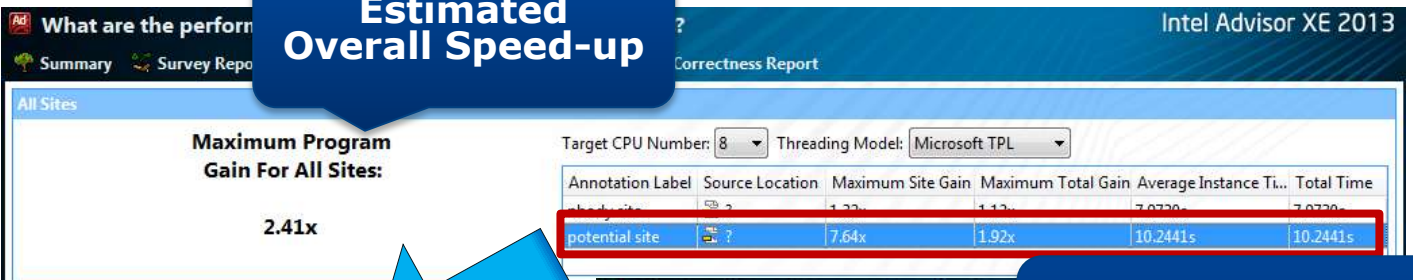
Advisor Workflow – Case Study

- Survey
- Add Annotations
- *Model* ***Suitability***
- Check **Correctness**
- Add **Parallel Framework**

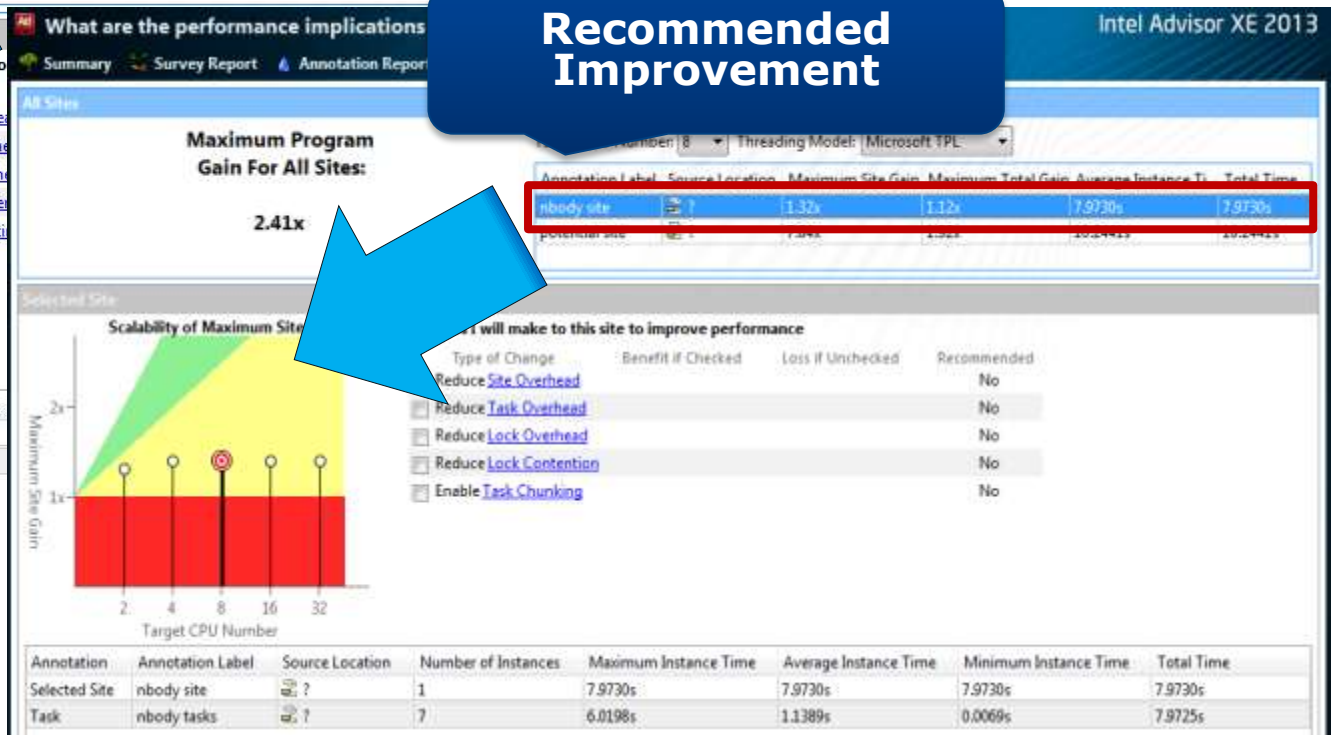
Conclusion

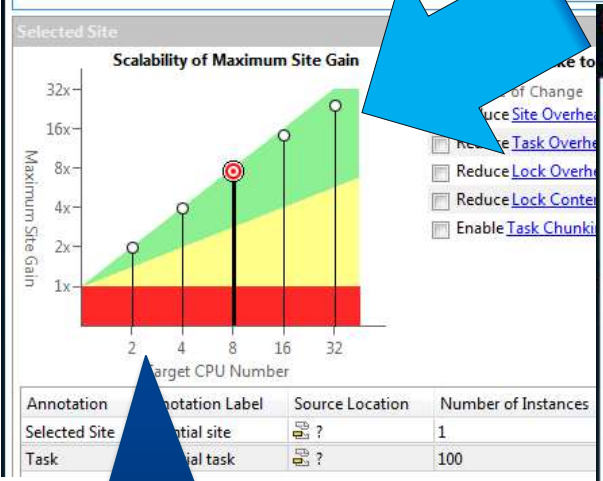
Suitability - Data Collection

Estimated Overall Speed-up



Recommended Improvement





Scalability Graph

Analyze your proposal to see if you made a suitable choice

Agenda

Advisor Workflow – Case Study

- Survey
- Add Annotations
- Model Suitability
- *Check* ***Correctness***
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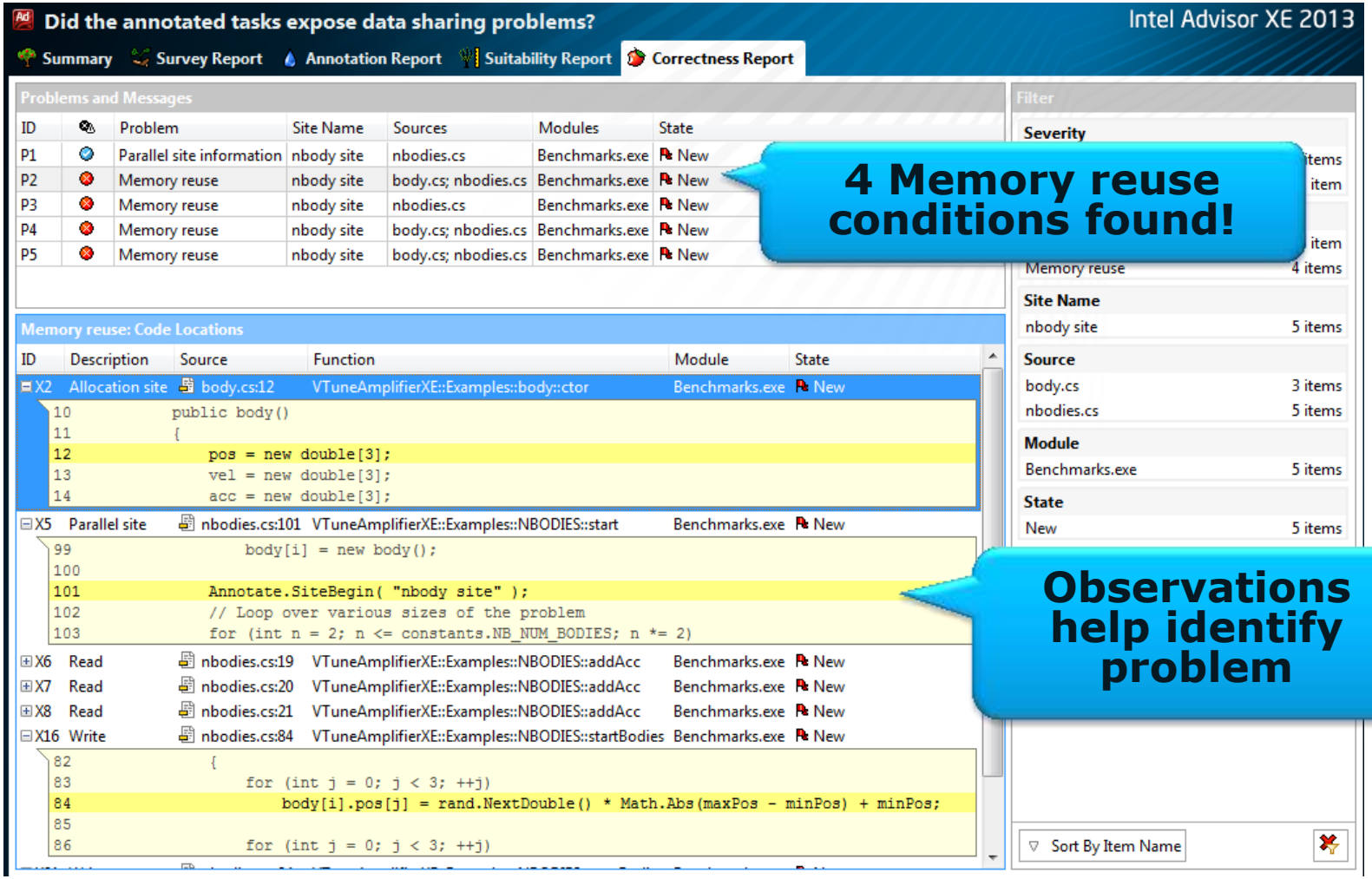
Conclusion

Correctness – Data Collection



Analyze your annotations to see if you made a correct choice

and then Repeat…

You do not have to choose the perfect answer the first time, so you can go back and modify your choices

Iterative refinement will either

- Create a suitable and correct annotation proposal
- Conclude no viable sites are possible

Efficiently arriving at either answer is valuable

Agenda

Advisor Workflow – Case Study

- Survey
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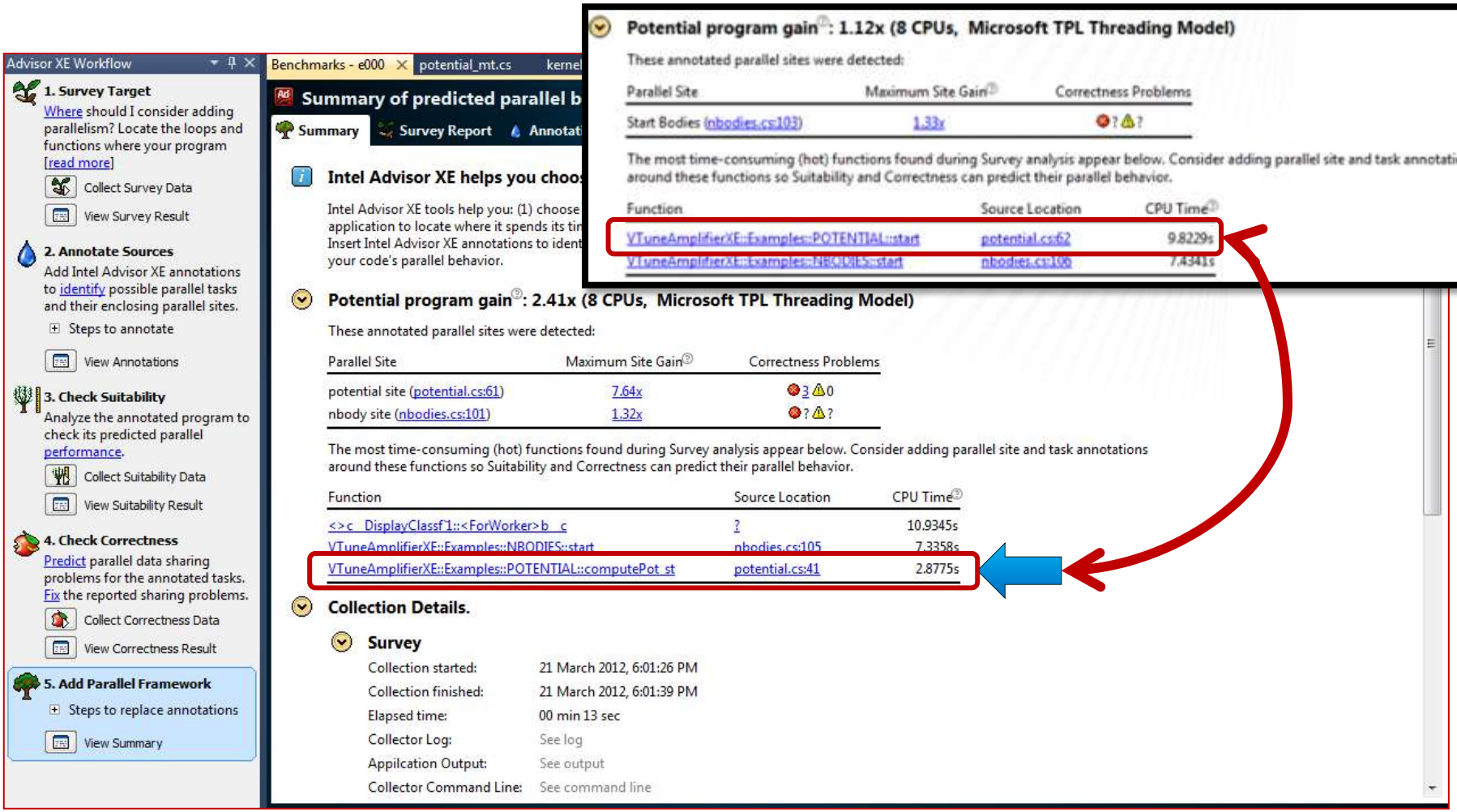
- Check Correctness
- *Add **Parallel Framework***

Conclusion

Add Parallel Framework



Agenda

Advisor Workflow – Case Study

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Conclusion

Summary

The Intel Advisor XE is a unique tool

- assists you to work smarter though detailed modeling
- guides you through the necessary steps
- leaves you in full control of your code and architectural choices
- lets you transform serial algorithms into parallel form faster

The parallel modeling methodology

- maintains your original application's semantics and behavior
- helps find the natural opportunities to exploit parallel execution

Intel® Parallel Studio XE

- Intel® Parallel Studio XE 2013 beta started! Join beta!

www.intel.com/go/parallel

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