

What is Parallel Computing?

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Who Needs Parallel Computing?

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Serial Computer Model: The von Neumann Model

A von Neumann computer consists of a random-access memory (RAM), a read only tape, a write only output tape, and a central processing unit (CPU) that stores a program that cannot modify itself. A RAM has instructions like load, store, read, write, add, subtract, test, jump, and halt. There is a uniform cost criterion in that each instruction takes only one unit of time. The CPU executes instructions of the program sequentially.

How to classify Parallel Computers?

Parallel computers can be classified by:

- ▶ type and number of processors
- ▶ interconnection scheme of the processors
- ▶ communication scheme
- ▶ input/output operations

Models of Parallel Computers

There is no single accepted model primarily because the performance of parallel programs depends on a set of interconnected factors in a complex fashion that is machine dependent.

- ▶ Flynn's classification
- ▶ Shared memory model
- ▶ Distributed memory model (a.k.a. Network model)

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- ▶ Algorithms for the PRAM model are usually of SIMD type, that is all processors are executing the same program such that during each time unit all processors execute the same instruction but with different data in general.
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 - ▶ CRCW(concurrent read, concurrent write)
 - ▶ Common CRCW: All processors in a machine using CRCW writing to a certain location must write the same data or there is an error.
 - ▶ Priority CRCW: The processor, among all processors attempting to write to the same location at the same time, with the highest priority succeeds in writing.
 - ▶ Arbitrary CRCW: Arbitrary processor succeeds in writing.

Distributed Memory Model (a.k.a Network Model)

A **network** is a graph $G = (N, E)$, where N and E are sets, with each node $i \in N$ and each edge $(i, j) \in E$ represents a two way communication link between processors i and j . There is no shared memory, though each processor has local memory. The operation of the network may be synchronous or asynchronous.

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Message passing model: Processors coordinate activity by sending and receiving messages. A pair of communicating processors do not have to be adjacent. Each processor “acts” as a network node. The process of delivering messages is called *routing*. The network model incorporates the topology of the underlying network.

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Distance is the number of links (hops) in between the two processors along the shortest path.

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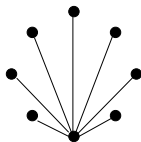
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I/O bandwidth Number of processors with I/O ports. Usually “outer” processors are the only ones with I/O capabilities to reduce cost.



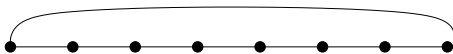
bus-based



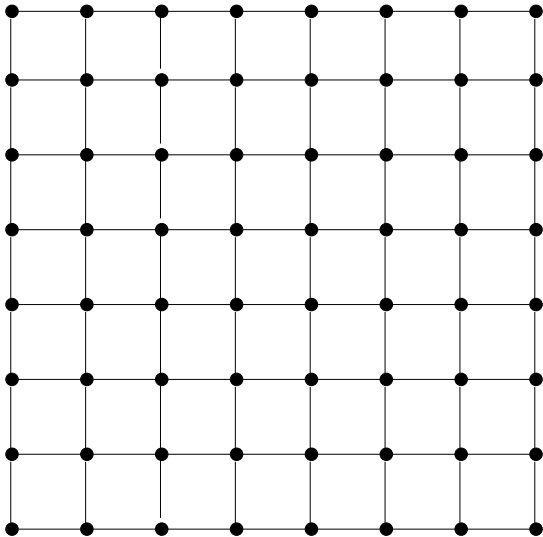
star



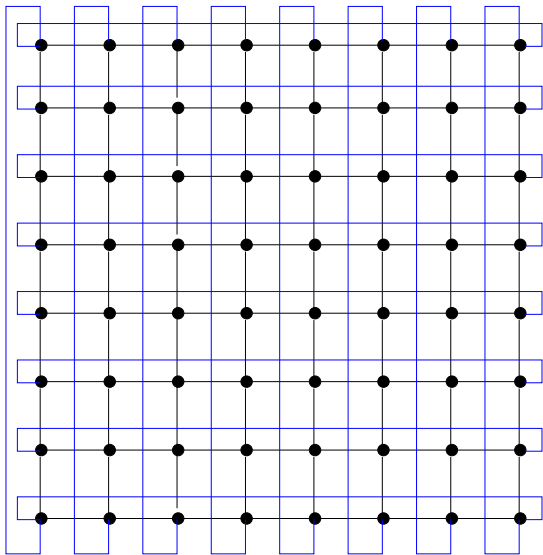
linear array



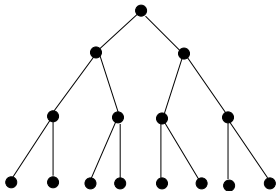
ring



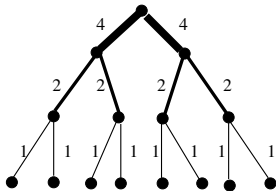
An 8 x 8 mesh



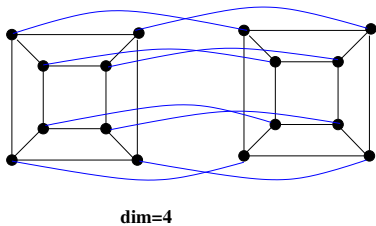
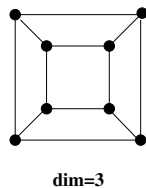
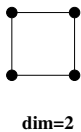
An 8 x 8 torus (a.k.a. wrap-around mesh)



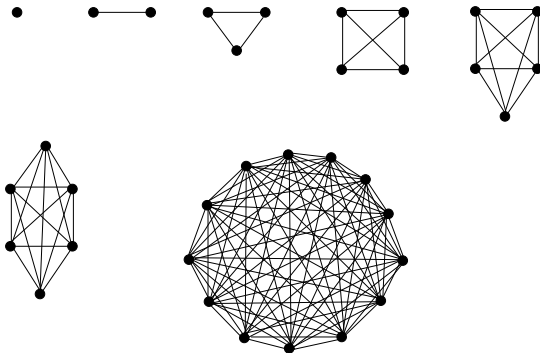
a 15-node complete binary tree



a 15-node fat tree



Hypercubes with dimensions 0 through 4



Crossbars (or completely-connected networks)

How to define a good network parallel computer?

For a “good” parallel machine the diameter should be low, connectivity should be high, max. degree low, bisection width high, symmetry should be present and cost low!

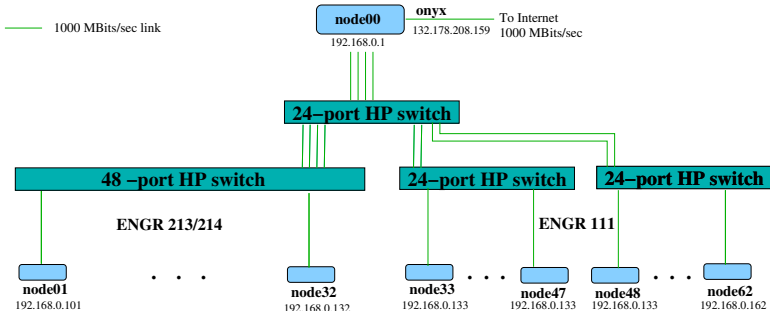
Comparison of network models

Type	Diameter	Min. deg.	Max. deg.	Bisection Width	Cost	Sym.
bus	1	1	1	1	$n-1$ (?)	yes
star	2	1	$n-1$	$\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$	$n-1$	no
linear array	$n-1$	1	2	1	$n-1$	no
ring	$\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$	2	2	2	n	yes
mesh	$2\sqrt{n}-2$	2	4	$\sqrt{n} + (\sqrt{n} \bmod 2)$	$2n - 2\sqrt{n}$	no
torus	$\sqrt{n} - (\sqrt{n} \bmod 2)$	4	4	$2\sqrt{n} + 2(\sqrt{n} \bmod 2)$	$2n$	yes
binary tree	$2\lg(n+1) - 2$	1	3	1	$n-1$	no
fat tree	$2\lg(n+1) - 2$	1	$(n+1)/2$	$(n+1)/4$	$(\lg n - 1)(n+1)/2$	no
hypercube	$\lg n$	$\lg n$	$\lg n$	$n/2$	$(n \lg n)/2$	yes
crossbar	1	$n-1$	$n-1$	$\lfloor n/2 \rfloor \lceil n/2 \rceil$	$n(n-1)/2$	yes

Notes:

- ▶ Assume that there are a total of n processors in each network model.
- ▶ The mesh and the torus each have $n = m \times m$ nodes, that is, n is a square.

(12 core 2.6 GHz Xeons, 32GB RAM, SCSI RAID disk drives)



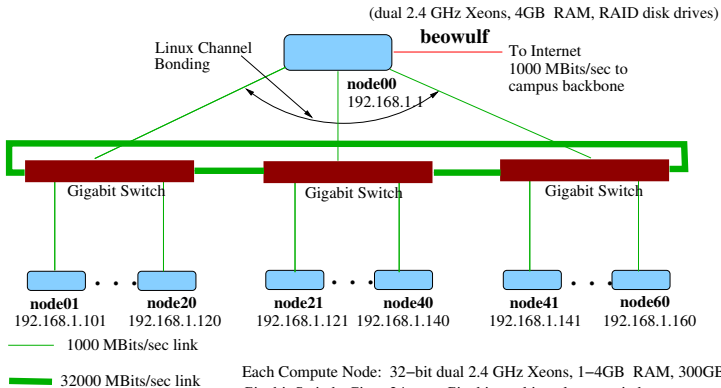
Per Node:

64-bit Intel Xeon quad-core 3.1-3.2 GHz
8GB RAM
250 GB disk
NVIDIA Qudaro 600: 96 cores, 1 GB memory

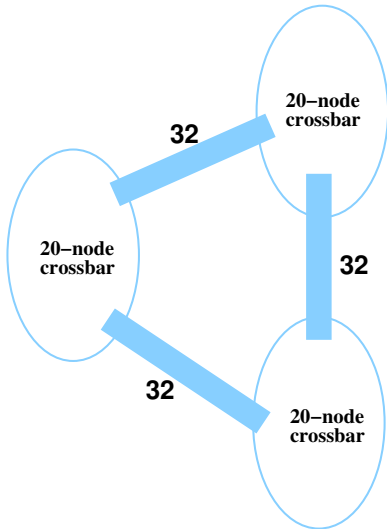
Linux Cluster Lab

Total:

260 cores
528 GB memory
~19TB raw disk space



Beowulf Cluster Architecture



Beowulf Cluster Network

Local Research Clusters

▶ **Genesis Cluster.**

- ▶ 64 cores: 16 quad core Intel i7 CPUs in 16 nodes. Configured as 8 compute and 8 I/O nodes
- ▶ 192GB memory: 12 GB memory per node
- ▶ 100TB of raw disk space
- ▶ 3 GigE channel bonded network on each node (4 GigE channel on head node)
- ▶ Infiniband Mellanox Technologies MT25208: 10 Gig/s network

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▶ **Boise State R1 Cluster**

- ▶ 272 cores: 1 Head node + 16 compute nodes with Dual AMD Opteron 6128 8 core 2.0 Ghz
- ▶ 576GB memory: Head node: 64GB memory, Compute nodes: 32GB memory
- ▶ Eight nodes have dual NVIDIA Tesla 2070 (or GTX 680) cards with 448 cores each
- ▶ Around 50TB of raw disk space
- ▶ InfiniBand: Mellanox MT26428 [ConnectX VPI PCIe 2.0 5GT/s – IB QDR / 10GigE]

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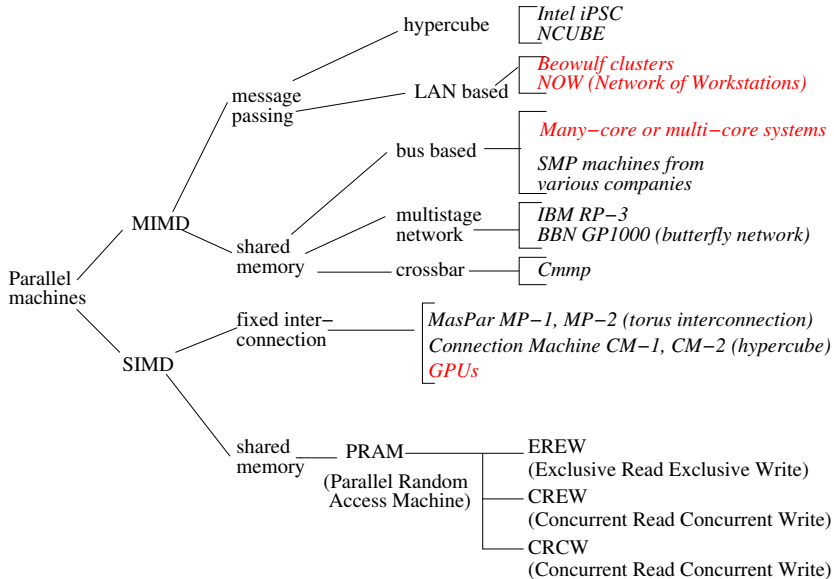
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▶ **Kestrel Cluster.**

- ▶ 1024 cores: 32 nodes with 2 Intel Xeon E5-2600 series processors – 16 cores
- ▶ 2048GB memory: 32 GB memory per node
- ▶ 64TB Panasas Parallel File Storage
- ▶ Infiniband Mellanox Technologies ConnectX-3FDR

The Top 500 Supercomputer List

- ▶ Check the list of top 500 supercomputers on the website:
<http://www.top500.org/>
- ▶ Check out various statistics on the top 500 supercomputers? For example, what operating system is used the most? What is the most number of cores per CPU? Which vendors are the dominant players?



Types of parallel machines (with historical machines)

Evaluating Parallel Programs

Parallelizing problems involves dividing the computation into **tasks** or **processes** that can be executed simultaneously.

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(e.g. searching in an unordered database.)

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 - ▶ communication time for sending messages (communication overhead)

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- ▶ The granularity can be measured by looking at the ratio of computation time to communication time in a parallel program. A **coarse-grained** program has high granularity, leading to lower communication overhead. A **fine-grained** program has a low ratio, which implies a lot of communication overhead.

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 - ▶ This is more relevant, especially for the network model. This is saying that if we use twice as many processors to solve a problem of double the size, then it should take the same amount of time as the original problem.

Parallel Summation on a Shared memory machine

Assume that we have an input array $A[0..n-1]$ of n numbers in shared memory. Assume that we have p processors indexed from 0 to $p-1$.

The simple algorithm partitions the numbers among the p processors such that the i th processor gets roughly n/p numbers.

- ▶ i th process add its share of n/p numbers and stores the partial sum in shared memory.
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Good speedup is possible if $p \ll n$, that is, the problem is very large and the number of processors is relatively few.

Parallel Summation on a Distributed memory machine

- ▶ Assume that process 0 initially has the n numbers.
 1. Process 0 sends n/p numbers to each processor.
 2. Each processor adds up its share and sends partial sum back to process 0.
 3. Process 0 adds the p partial sums to get the total sum.

No speedup :- (Step 1 itself takes as much time as a sequential algorithm!

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- ▶ Assume that each processor has its share (that is n/p) numbers to begin with. Then we only Step 2 and 3 above. The speedup and efficiency then is the same as in the shared memory case.

Limitations of Parallel Computing?

Amdahl's Law. Assume that the problem size stays fixed as we scale up the number of processors. Let t_s be the fraction of the sequential time that cannot be parallelized and let t_p be the fraction that can be run fully in parallel. Let $t_s + t_p = 1$ be a constant. Then, the speedup is:

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$$\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} S_p(n) = \frac{1}{t_s}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} S_p(n) &= \frac{t_s + pt_p}{t_s + t_p} = t_s + pt_p \\ &= t_s + (1 - t_s)p \\ &= p + (1 - p)t_s \end{aligned}$$

$$\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} S_p(n) = \infty$$

Exercises

1. Read Wikipedia entries for "Multi-core", "Computer Cluster" and "Supercomputer"
2. What is the diameter, connectivity, cost and bisection width of a 3-dimensional torus with $n = m \times m \times m$ nodes?
3. Draw the layout of a 6-dimensional hypercube with 64 processors. The goal is to make the wiring pattern systematic and neat.
4. A parallel computer consists of 10000 processors, each capable of a peak execution rate of 10 GFLOPs. What is the performance of the system in GFLOPS when 20% of the code is sequential and 80% is parallelizable. (Assume that the problem is not scaled up on the parallel computer)