Chapter 7

Multicores, Multiprocessors, and Clusters
Introduction

- **Goal: connecting multiple computers to get higher performance**
  - Multiprocessors
  - Scalability, availability, power efficiency
- **Job-level (process-level) parallelism**
  - High throughput for independent jobs
- **Parallel processing program**
  - Single program run on multiple processors
- **Multicore microprocessors**
  - Chips with multiple processors (cores)
Hardware and Software

- **Hardware**
  - Serial: e.g., Pentium 4
  - Parallel: e.g., quad-core Xeon e5345

- **Software**
  - Sequential: e.g., matrix multiplication
  - Concurrent: e.g., operating system

- **Sequential/concurrent software can run on serial/parallel hardware**
  - Challenge: making effective use of parallel hardware
Parallel Programming

- Parallel software is the problem
- Need to get significant performance improvement
  - Otherwise, just use a faster uniprocessor, since it’s easier!
- Difficulties
  - Partitioning
  - Coordination
  - Communications overhead
Amdahl’s Law

- Sequential part can limit speedup
- Example: 100 processors, 90× speedup?
  - \( T_{\text{new}} = \frac{T_{\text{parallelizable}}}{100} + T_{\text{sequential}} \)
  - Speedup = \( \frac{1}{(1-F_{\text{parallelizable}}) + F_{\text{parallelizable}}/100} \) = 90
  - Solving: \( F_{\text{parallelizable}} = 0.999 \)
- Need sequential part to be 0.1% of original time
Scaling Example

- **Workload:** sum of 10 scalars, and $10 \times 10$ matrix sum
  - Speed up from 10 to 100 processors
- **Single processor:** Time = $(10 + 100) \times t_{\text{add}}$
- **10 processors**
  - Time = $10 \times t_{\text{add}} + 100/10 \times t_{\text{add}} = 20 \times t_{\text{add}}$
  - Speedup = $110/20 = 5.5$ (55% of potential)
- **100 processors**
  - Time = $10 \times t_{\text{add}} + 100/100 \times t_{\text{add}} = 11 \times t_{\text{add}}$
  - Speedup = $110/11 = 10$ (10% of potential)
- **Assumes** load can be balanced across processors
Scaling Example (cont)

- What if matrix size is 100 × 100?
- Single processor: Time = (10 + 10000) × t_{add}
- 10 processors
  - Time = 10 × t_{add} + 10000/10 × t_{add} = 1010 × t_{add}
  - Speedup = 10010/1010 = 9.9 (99% of potential)
- 100 processors
  - Time = 10 × t_{add} + 10000/100 × t_{add} = 110 × t_{add}
  - Speedup = 10010/110 = 91 (91% of potential)
- Assuming load balanced
Strong vs Weak Scaling

- **Strong scaling: problem size fixed**
  - As in example

- **Weak scaling: problem size proportional to number of processors**
  - 10 processors, $10 \times 10$ matrix
    - Time = $20 \times t_{\text{add}}$
  - 100 processors, $32 \times 32$ matrix
    - Time = $10 \times t_{\text{add}} + 1000/100 \times t_{\text{add}} = 20 \times t_{\text{add}}$
  - Constant performance in this example
Shared Memory

- **SMP: shared memory multiprocessor**
  - Hardware provides single physical address space for all processors
  - Synchronize shared variables using locks
  - Memory access time
    - UMA (uniform) vs. NUMA (nonuniform)
Example: Sum Reduction

- Sum 100,000 numbers on 100 processor UMA
  - Each processor has ID: $0 \leq P_n \leq 99$
  - Partition 1000 numbers per processor
  - Initial summation on each processor
    \[
    \text{sum}[P_n] = 0; \\
    \text{for } (i = 1000 \times P_n; \ i < 1000 \times (P_n + 1); \ i = i + 1) \\
    \text{sum}[P_n] = \text{sum}[P_n] + A[i];
    \]

- Now need to add these partial sums
  - Reduction: divide and conquer
  - Half the processors add pairs, then quarter, …
  - Need to synchronize between reduction steps
half = 100;
repeat
  synch();
  if (half%2 != 0 && Pn == 0)
    sum[0] = sum[0] + sum[half-1];
    /* Conditional sum needed when half is odd;
     Processor0 gets missing element */
  half = half/2; /* dividing line on who sums */
  if (Pn < half) sum[Pn] = sum[Pn] + sum[Pn+half];
until (half == 1);
Message Passing

- Each processor has private physical address space
- Hardware sends/receives messages between processors
Loosely Coupled Clusters

- **Network of independent computers**
  - Each has private memory and OS
  - Connected using I/O system
    - E.g., Ethernet/switch, Internet

- **Suitable for applications with independent tasks**
  - Web servers, databases, simulations, ...

- **High availability, scalable, affordable**

- **Problems**
  - Administration cost (prefer virtual machines)
  - Low interconnect bandwidth
    - c.f. processor/memory bandwidth on an SMP
Sum Reduction (Again)

- Sum 100,000 on 100 processors
- First distribute 100 numbers to each
  - The do partial sums
    \[
    \text{sum} = 0; \\
    \text{for } (i = 0; i < 1000; i = i + 1) \\
    \text{sum} = \text{sum} + \text{AN}[i];
    \]
- Reduction
  - Half the processors send, other half receive and add
  - The quarter send, quarter receive and add, …
Sum Reduction (Again)

- Given send() and receive() operations

```c
limit = 100; half = 100; /* 100 processors */
repeat
    half = (half+1)/2; /* send vs. receive dividing line */
    if (Pn >= half && Pn < limit)
        send(Pn - half, sum);
    if (Pn < (limit/2))
        sum = sum + receive();
    limit = half; /* upper limit of senders */
until (half == 1); /* exit with final sum */
```

- Send/receive also provide synchronization
- Assumes send/receive take similar time to addition
Grid Computing

- Separate computers interconnected by long-haul networks
  - E.g., Internet connections
  - Work units farmed out, results sent back

- Can make use of idle time on PCs
  - E.g., SETI@home, World Community Grid
Multithreading

- Performing multiple threads of execution in parallel
  - Replicate registers, PC, etc.
  - Fast switching between threads

- Fine-grain multithreading
  - Switch threads after each cycle
  - Interleave instruction execution
  - If one thread stalls, others are executed

- Coarse-grain multithreading
  - Only switch on long stall (e.g., L2-cache miss)
  - Simplifies hardware, but doesn’t hide short stalls (eg, data hazards)
Simultaneous Multithreading

- In multiple-issue dynamically scheduled processors
  - Schedule instructions from multiple threads
  - Instructions from independent threads execute when function units are available
  - Within threads, dependencies handled by scheduling and register renaming
- Example: Intel Pentium-4 HT
  - Two threads: duplicated registers, shared function units and caches
Multithreading Example

Issue slots

Thread A

Thread B

Thread C

Thread D

Time

Issue slots

Coarse MT

Fine MT

SMT

Time
Future of Multithreading

- Will it survive? In what form?
- Power considerations ⇒ simplified microarchitectures
  - Simpler forms of multithreading
- Tolerating cache-miss latency
  - Thread switch may be most effective
- Multiple simple cores might share resources more effectively
### An alternate classification

<table>
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<th>Instruction Streams</th>
<th>Data Streams</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Multiple</th>
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<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td><strong>SISD:</strong> Intel Pentium 4</td>
<td>SIMD: SSE instructions of x86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td><strong>MISD:</strong> No examples today</td>
<td>MIMD: Intel Xeon e5345</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

- **SPMD:** Single Program Multiple Data
  - A parallel program on a MIMD computer
  - Conditional code for different processors
SIMD

- Operate elementwise on vectors of data
  - E.g., MMX and SSE instructions in x86
    - Multiple data elements in 128-bit wide registers
- All processors execute the same instruction at the same time
  - Each with different data address, etc.
- Simplifies synchronization
- Reduced instruction control hardware
- Works best for highly data-parallel applications
Vector Processors

- Highly pipelined function units
- Stream data from/to vector registers to units
  - Data collected from memory into registers
  - Results stored from registers to memory
- Example: Vector extension to MIPS
  - 32 × 64-element registers (64-bit elements)
  - Vector instructions
    - lv, sv: load/store vector
    - addv.d: add vectors of double
    - addvs.d: add scalar to each element of vector of double
- Significantly reduces instruction-fetch bandwidth
Example: DAXPY \((Y = a \times X + Y)\)

- **Conventional MIPS code**

```mips
l.d $f0,a($sp) ; load scalar a
addiu r4,$s0,#512 ; upper bound of what to load
loop: l.d $f2,0($s0) ; load x(i)
    mul.d $f2,$f2,$f0 ; a \times x(i)
    l.d $f4,0($s1) ; load y(i)
    add.d $f4,$f4,$f2 ; a \times x(i) + y(i)
    s.d $f4,0($s1) ; store into y(i)
    addiu $s0,$s0,#8 ; increment index to x
    addiu $s1,$s1,#8 ; increment index to y
    subu $t0,r4,$s0 ; compute bound
    bne $t0,$zero,loop ; check if done
```

- **Vector MIPS code**

```mips
l.d $f0,a($sp) ; load scalar a
lv $v1,0($s0) ; load vector x
mulvs.d $v2,$v1,$f0 ; vector-scalar multiply
lv $v3,0($s1) ; load vector y
addv.d $v4,$v2,$v3 ; add y to product
sv $v4,0($s1) ; store the result
```
Vector vs. Scalar

- **Vector architectures and compilers**
  - Simplify data-parallel programming
  - Explicit statement of absence of loop-carried dependences
    - Reduced checking in hardware
  - Regular access patterns benefit from interleaved and burst memory
  - Avoid control hazards by avoiding loops

- **More general than ad-hoc media extensions (such as MMX, SSE)**
  - Better match with compiler technology
Fallacies

- Amdahl’s Law doesn’t apply to parallel computers
  - Since we can achieve linear speedup
  - But only on applications with weak scaling

- Peak performance tracks observed performance
  - Marketers like this approach!
  - But compare Xeon with others in example
  - Need to be aware of bottlenecks
Pitfalls

- Not developing the software to take account of a multiprocessor architecture
  - Example: using a single lock for a shared composite resource
    - Serializes accesses, even if they could be done in parallel
    - Use finer-granularity locking
Concluding Remarks

- **Goal:** higher performance by using multiple processors

- **Difficulties**
  - Developing parallel software
  - Devising appropriate architectures

- **Many reasons for optimism**
  - Changing software and application environment
  - Chip-level multiprocessors with lower latency, higher bandwidth interconnect

- **An ongoing challenge for computer architects!**