

Problem 1

a) Multi-core processors are being used in order to increase throughput. Improving single-core processors are becoming harder and harder, and they are not improving fast enough for the ever growing demand for more computation power. While multi-core processors don't necessarily improve response time, it does increase throughput by computing different computations in parallel.

b) SISD: Single instruction single data. A single processor executes one instruction at a time from a single data stream.

SIMD: Single instruction multiple data. Multiple processors execute the same instructions on different data streams.

MISD: Multiple instruction single data. Multiple processors execute different instructions on the same data.

MIMD: Multiple instruction multiple data. Multiple processors execute different instructions on different data.

SPMD: Single program multiple data. A program is divided into several lesser tasks that are executed in parallel on multiple processors.

c) In a distributed-memory system each processor has its own local memory, which it can use for computations. If it requires remote data it has to communicate with the other processors (and their memory) by sending messages over a network. Thus making it harder to keep the data synchronized. In contrast, in a shared-memory system all the processors access the same memory, making both communication and data synchronization much easier.