Parallel Programming Introduction

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Why Parallel Computing?

- Problems that cannot be solved fast enough sequentially
 - Real-time constraints
 - Large data sets
 - Accuracy requirements
- Main idea:
 - Decompose large problems into subproblems ...
 - ... that can be solved concurrently.

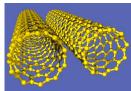
Motivation

Examples

Computational science

- Genome analysis
- Drug development
- Material science
- Weather forecast
- Climate





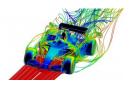
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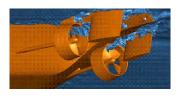
Motivation

Examples

Engineering

- Engine design
- Aerodynamics
- Fluid dynamics
- Crash simulations





Motivation

Examples

Finance

- Economics
- High-Frequency Trading



The Top500 List



- List of the 500 fastests supercomputers in the world
- Twice per year (ISC, June, Germany SC, November, USA)
- Computers ranked based on the LINPACK benchmark
 - Solution of linear system of equations: Ax = b
 - Result measured in Flop/s¹ (in double precision).

Established in 1993:
 60 GFlop/s

Latest, June 2015: 33,862,700 GFlop/s

¹Floating Point Operations per Second

Examples of supercomputers



Sunway TaihuLight.

Source: top500.org

Sunway TaihuLight (Rank #1)

- Site: National Supercomputing Center in Wuxi, China
- 40,960 SW26010 processors, each
 - 256 processing cores
 - 4 auxiliary cores
- 10,649,600 cores
- 1,310,720 GB RAM
- 93,014.6 TFlop/s (125,435.9 TFlop/s)
- 15,371 kW

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Examples of supercomputers



Hazel Hen.

Source: hlrs.de

Hazel Hen (Rank #9)

- Site: HLRS Höchstleistungsrechenzentrum Stuttgart
- 7,712 compute nodes
 - 2 Haswell 12-core CPUs
- 185,088 cores
- 987,136 GBs RAM
- 5,640.17 TFlop/s (7,403.52 TFlop/s)
- ~3200 kW

So...

are parallel computers restricted to supercomputing?

Not at all!!

Parallel Computers are everywhere!



Source: hp.com



Source: bq.com



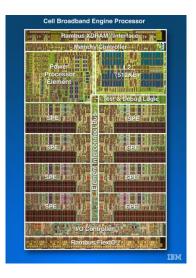
Source: indiatimes.com



Source: wearabledevices.es

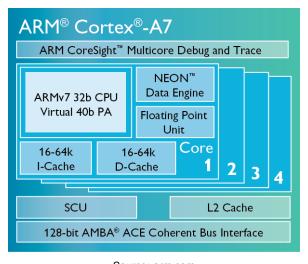
Parallel Computers are everywhere!

Play Station 3



Parallel Computers are everywhere!

My cell phone



Source: arm.com

Summarizing

- Parallel programming is critical in science and engineering
- Not only supercomputers, but in every workstation/laptop
- Let's face it:
 - · Parallel computers are here to stay
 - The burden is and will be on the programmer
 - So, let's roll up our sleeves and do our best :-)