



SOMAIYA
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY

COA IA2

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Different Multiprocessor Configurations

Multiprocessor configuration

Multiprocessor Systems enhance computational power by utilizing multiple processors to perform tasks concurrently

The main configuration include:-

- Master / Slave configuration:

Description: One master processor controls several slave processors, managing task scheduling & remote resource allocation

Advantages: 1] Easy to design & implement.
2] Efficient resource management by master

Disadvantages: 1] Single point (Master) of failure
2] Overloading Master can slow down processing

- Loosely Coupled Configuration:

Description: Each processor operates independently with its own memory and I/O devices, communicating via message passing

Advantages: 1] High Scalability and fault tolerance
2] Suitable for large, distributed systems.

Disadvantages: 1] High communications overhead
2] Synchronization & coordination can be challenging

- Tightly Coupled Configuration

Description: In this configuration multiple processors share a common memory space and are tightly integrated, allowing for faster communication & data sharing.

Advantages: 1] Shared memory enables quicker access to data between processors.

2] Processors can check collaboratively on tasks, improving performance.

Disadvantages: 1] Requires sophisticated hardware & software mechanism to manage shared resources effectively.

2] Multiple processors accessing shared memory simultaneously can lead to conflict.

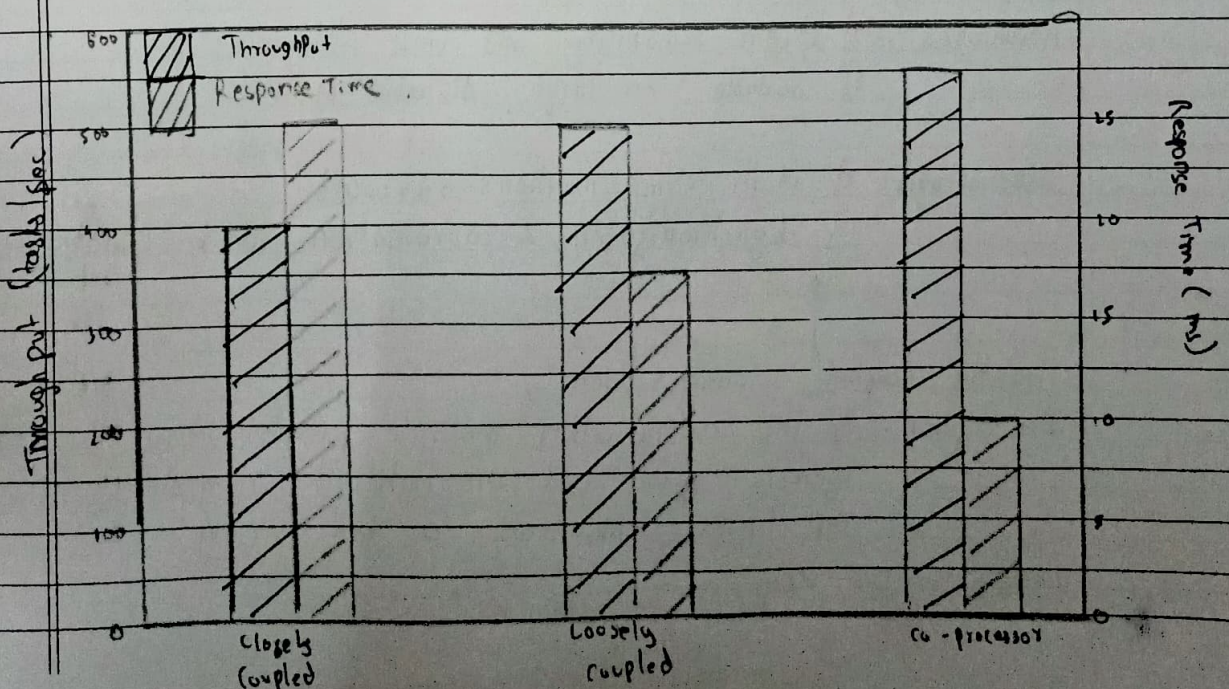
• Co-processors

Description: Co-processors are specialized processors designed to handle specific tasks alongside the main CPU such as floating point calculations or graphics processing.

Advantages: 1] Offloads specialized tasks from CPU, improving efficiency.
2] Can accelerate performance for certain operations.

Disadvantages: 1] Limited in scope to specific tasks
2] Additionally hardware complexity

Performance Metrics of Multiprocessors Configurations





• Flynn's Classification

Flynn Taxonomy is highly relevant to multiprocessor configurations as it helps categorize the different types of processors architectures and their capabilities particularly in context of parallelism & task execution.

- 1] Single Instruction Single Data (SISD) - represents traditional single-core systems, processing one instruction on one data item at a time. Multiprocessors configurations that functions as multiple SISD systems can be inefficient, as they do not utilize parallelism.
- 2] Single Instruction Multiple Data (SIMD) - Ideal for applications with large datasets needing the same operation on multiple data points. SIMD configurations use multiple processing elements to handle parallel data streams, enhancing throughput in data-parallel applications.
- 3] Multiple Instruction Single Data (MISD) - although rare, these architectures can be used for specialized tasks like fault tolerance, where multiple algorithms process the same data stream for reliability.
- 4] Multiple Instruction Multiple Data (MIMD) - These architectures are common in modern multiprocessors systems. Their flexibility supports multitasking & distributed computing, maximizing resource utilization & efficiency.

• Pipelining

Pipelining in Multiprocessing is a technique that divides the execution of instructions into distinct stages, allowing multiple instructions to overlap in execution. Common stages include fetch, decode, execute, Memory access and write back. By enabling different instructions to be processed simultaneously at various stages, pipelining increases instruction-level parallelism, improving the overall throughput of the system, although the latency

for individual instructions may not insignificantly decrease. This method enhances performance and resource efficiency, making it easier to scale the system by adding more stages or processors. However, pipelining introduces challenges, such as data control and structural hazards that can disrupt execution, as well as increased design complexity. Overall, pipelining is essential for optimising processing efficiency in multiprocessor systems by facilitating simultaneous executions at instruction stages.

Multiprocessor Communication Mechanism

Multiprocessor communication mechanism is one vital for enabling efficient interaction among processors in a multiprocessor system. Shared memory allows processors to communicate through a common memory space, offering fast data exchange but facing challenges like memory contention & cache coherence. Message passing involving sending & receiving messages b/w processors, which eliminates shared memory contention and is scalable, though it adds complexity & overhead. Additionally, interconnection networks connect processors in various ways: bus-based systems share a single bus while crossbar switches provide direct communication paths with high bandwidth. Mesh & hypercube networks facilitate efficient communication b/w neighbouring processors. Together these mechanisms enhance parallel processing, resource sharing, ensuring effective operations.

8086 Instruction Set

In a multiprocessor environment, the 8086 instruction set provides fundamental capabilities for data transfer, synchronization & control flow, while it lacks advanced multiprocessor support. Control use of its instructions enables basic inter-processors to work together effectively on shared tasks.

Understanding these instructions is essential for programming in assembly & developing efficient systems on early multiprocessor architectures.



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Conclusion

In conclusion, understanding multiprocessing and its configurations is essential for optimizing performance in modern computer systems. By examining architectures such as coprocessor, loosely coupled & tightly coupled systems, we can see how processors collaborate to improve efficiency.

Flynn's classification aids in comprehending processing capabilities, while ~~processing~~ pipelining & 8086 instruction sets enhance instruction throughput and inter-processor class communication.

Effective communication mechanisms are crucial for seamless communication among processors. ~~Master~~ Mastering these concepts is vital for developing scalable, high-performance multiprocessors systems as technology advances.