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Today's Issues

- Uniprocessor performance has slowed significantly
- Heat is the issue
- Microprocessors are going multi-core
- Parallelism does not solve all problems



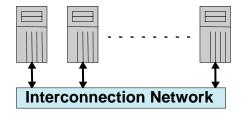
Other Approaches

- Heterogeneity
- More customized solutions can be faster and more efficient
 - But less general
- Clearspeed, vector, Cell, GPU
- FPGAs

Background: Classes of HPC Machines

Class 1 Machines

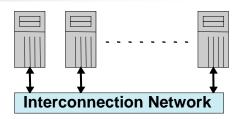
Supercomputers or clusters of workstations



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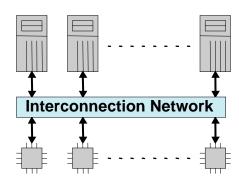
Class 1 Machines

• Supercomputers or clusters of workstations



Class 2 Machines

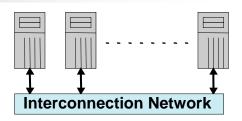
- Hybrid network of CPU and FPGA hardware
- FPGA acts as external co-processor to CPU



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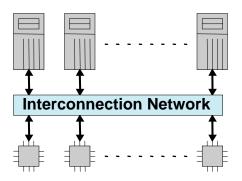
Class 1 Machines

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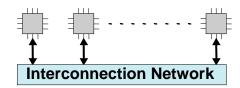
Class 2 Machines

- Hybrid network of CPU and FPGA hardware
- FPGA acts as external co-processor to CPU



Class 3 Machines

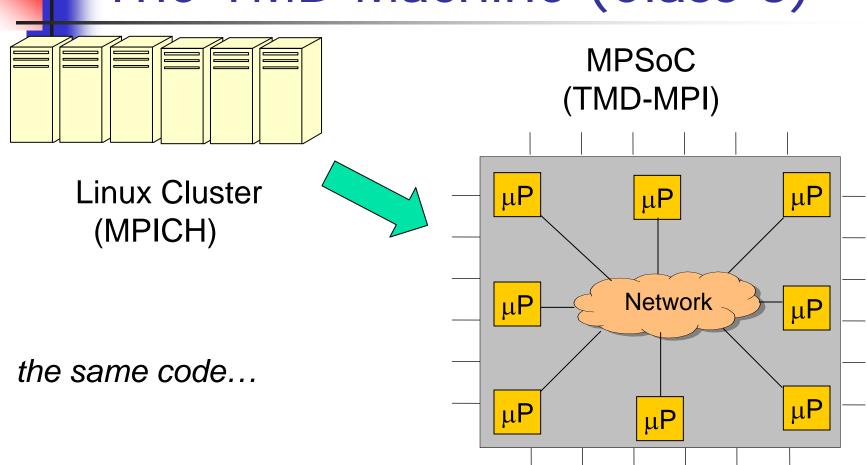
- FPGA-based multiprocessor
- Recent area of academic and industrial focus

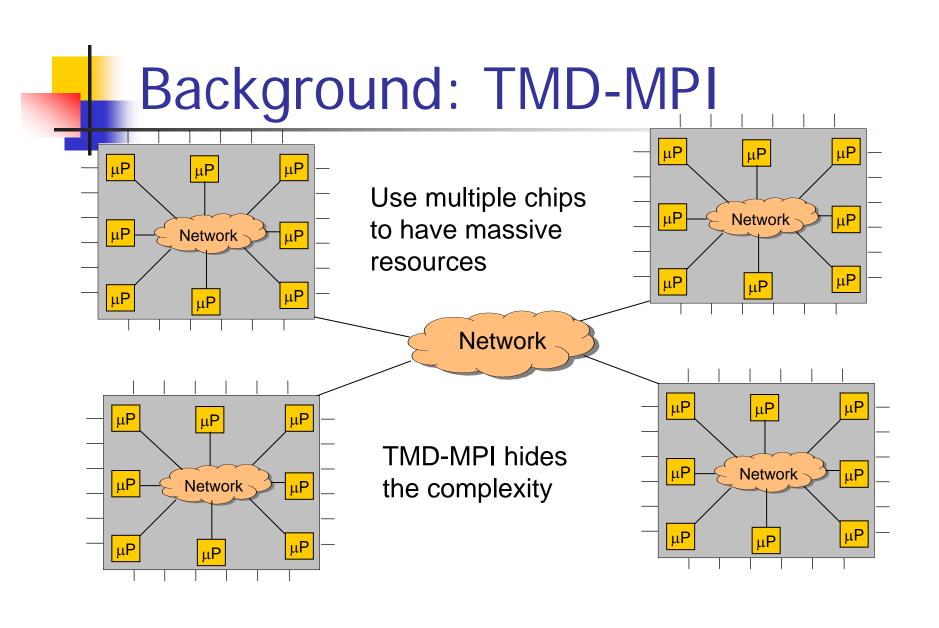


What are the Architecture Issues?

- Interconnect between FPGA and processors (Class 2)
 - Custom and commodity
 - HyperTransport (AMD)
 - XtremeData, DRC, Celoxica
 - PCIe, FSB









The Research

- Map applications
- What are the issues?
- Model
- Better solutions
- How do you program these things?