

History of the Supercomputers

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Summary

- 1 Introduction
- 2 1930 - 1965 : The first computers
- 3 1965 - 1996 : The “real” supercomputers
- 4 1996 - Today : Beowulf clusters
- 5 2000's : The return of the specialized machines
- 6 A very special supercomputer
- 7 Conclusion



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From “computer” and “supercomputer” definitions...

- Faster than human being
- Electronic machine
- Digital processing of the information
- Stored program
- Execution of instructions
- Huge computational power
- Small cycle times
- Huge resources
- Parallel operations



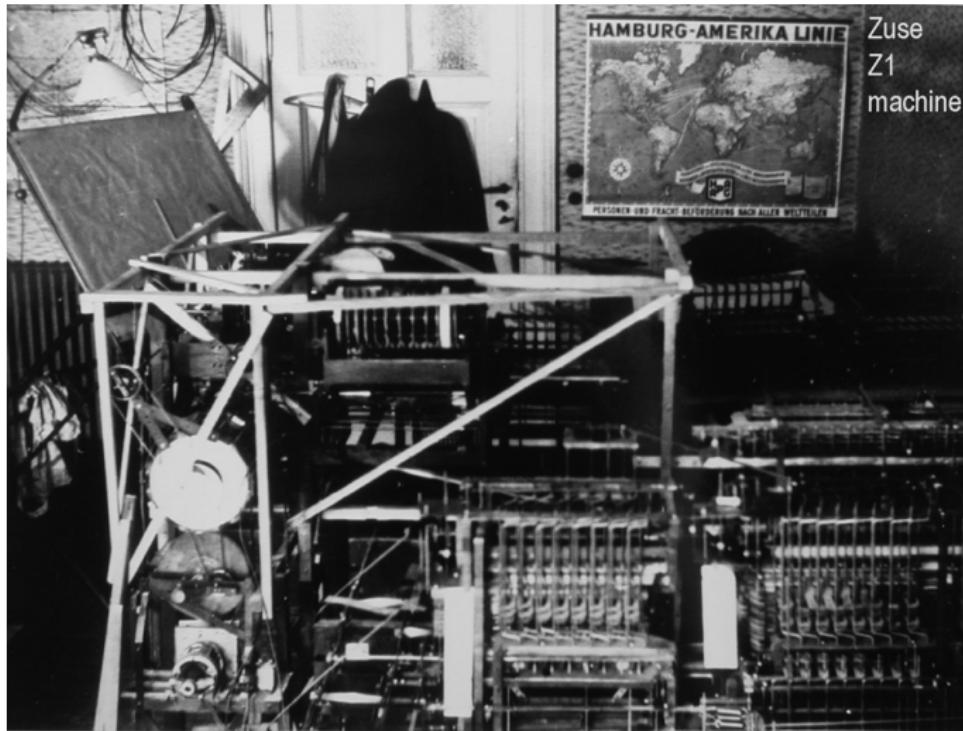
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1937 : FASTER THAN HUMAN BEING

1937 Z1 : mecanical machine

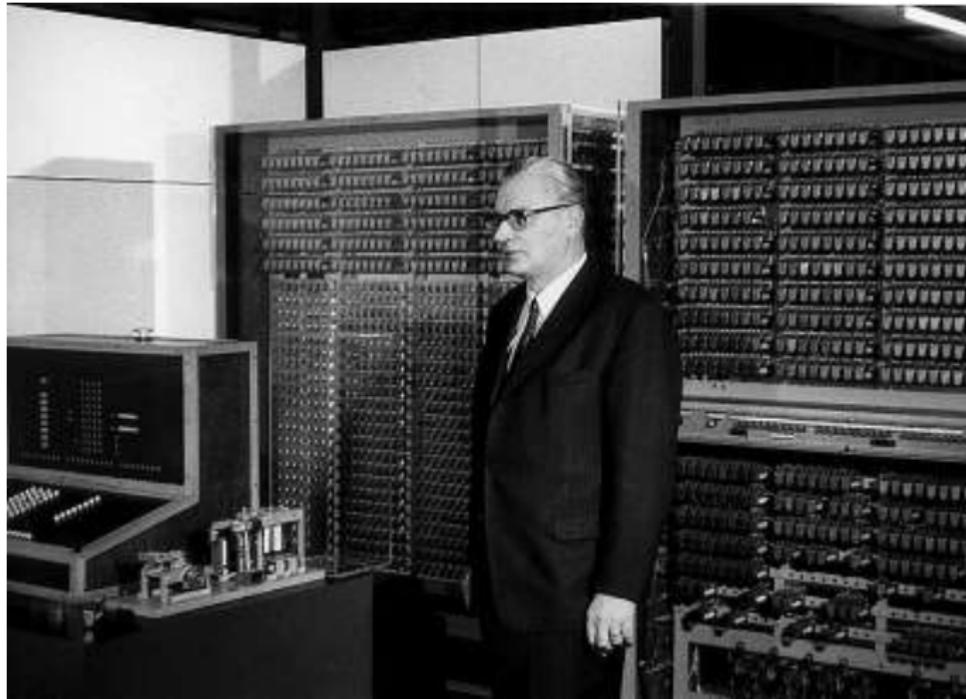


Zuse
Z1
machine

1941 : ELECTRO-MECANICAL MACHINE (relays + mechanics)



1941 Z3 : electro-mechanical



1944

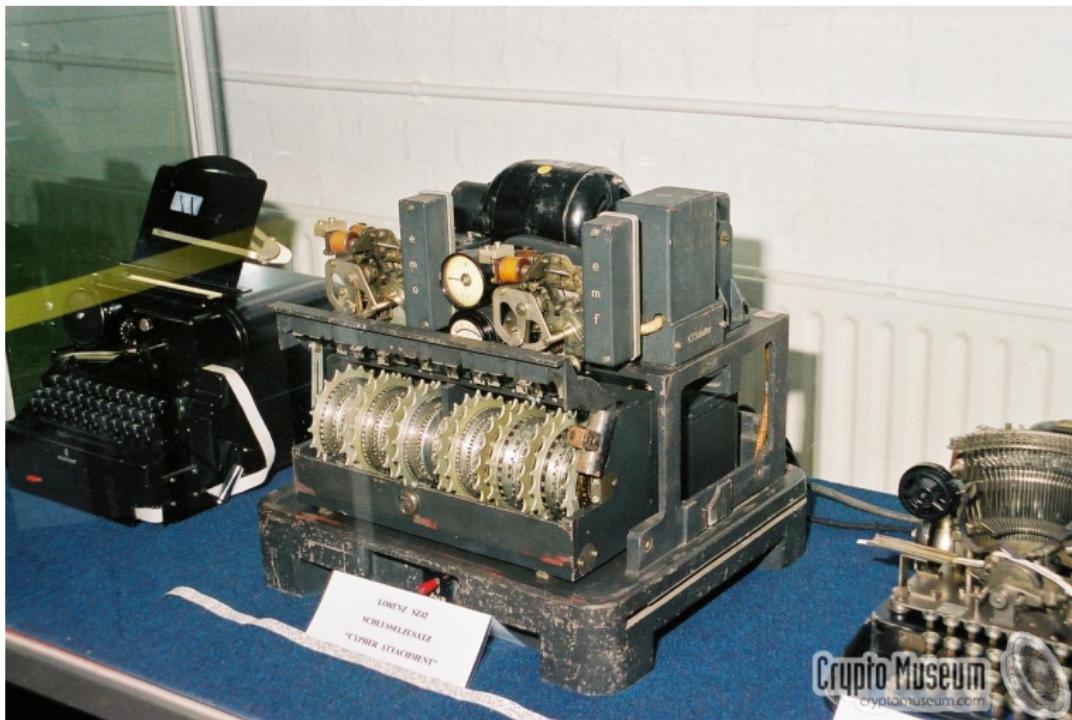
FULL ELECTRONIC MACHINE
(vacuum tubes)
DIGITAL PROCESSING
(Military classified machines)



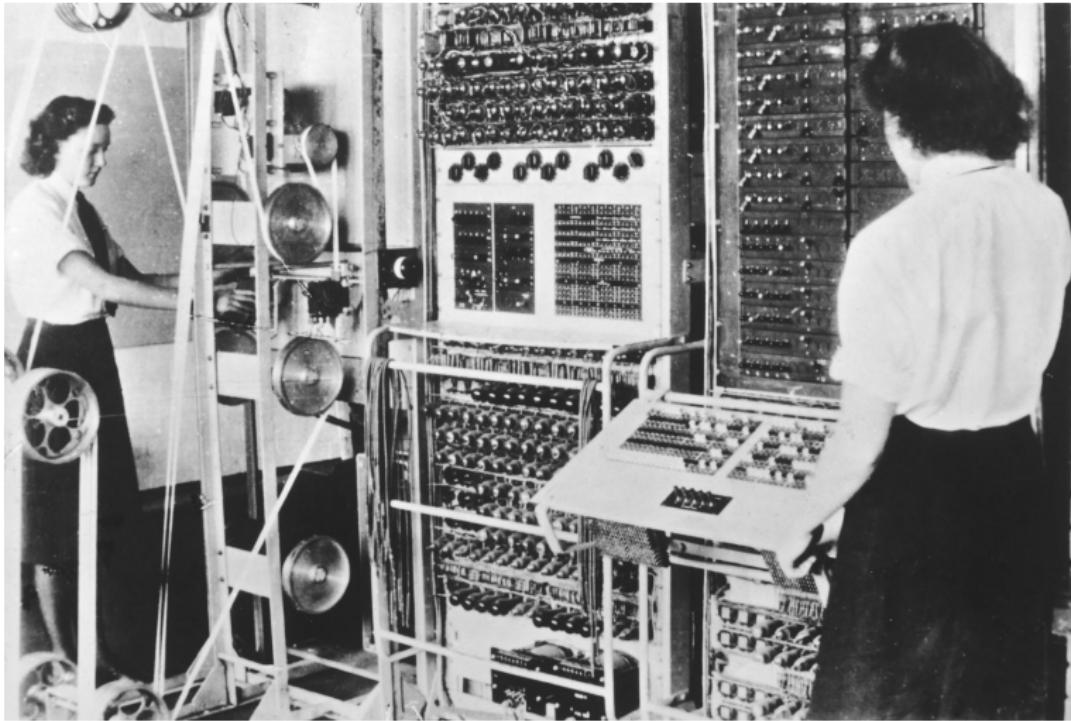
1944 Harvard MARK 1 (IBM ASCC) : ballistics and warship design



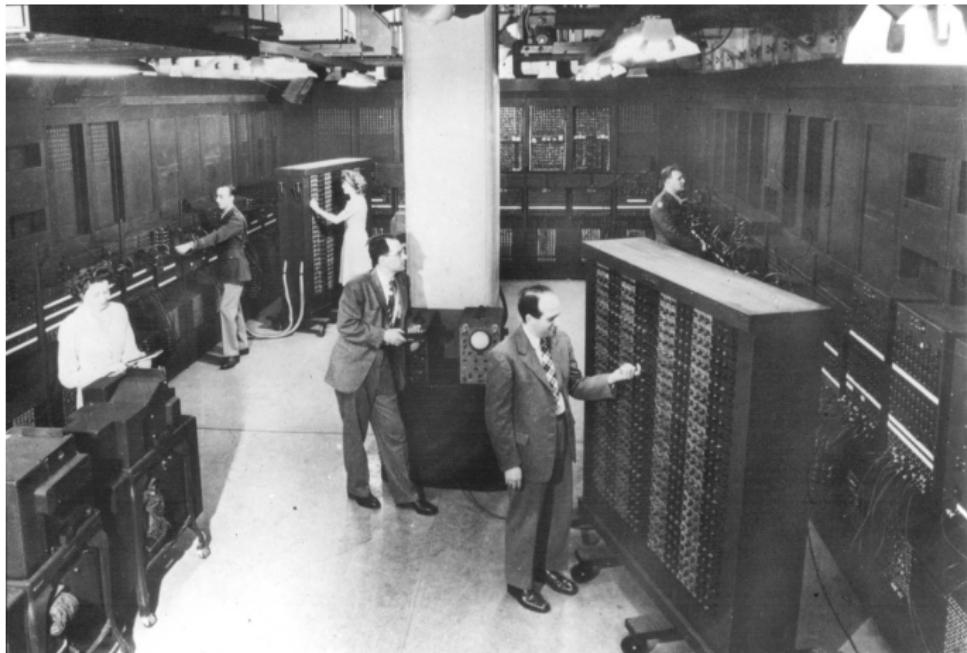
1942 ENIGMA, Lorentz SZ/42



1944 Colossus : decypher Nazis codes



1946 ENIAC, full electronic, first Turing-complete

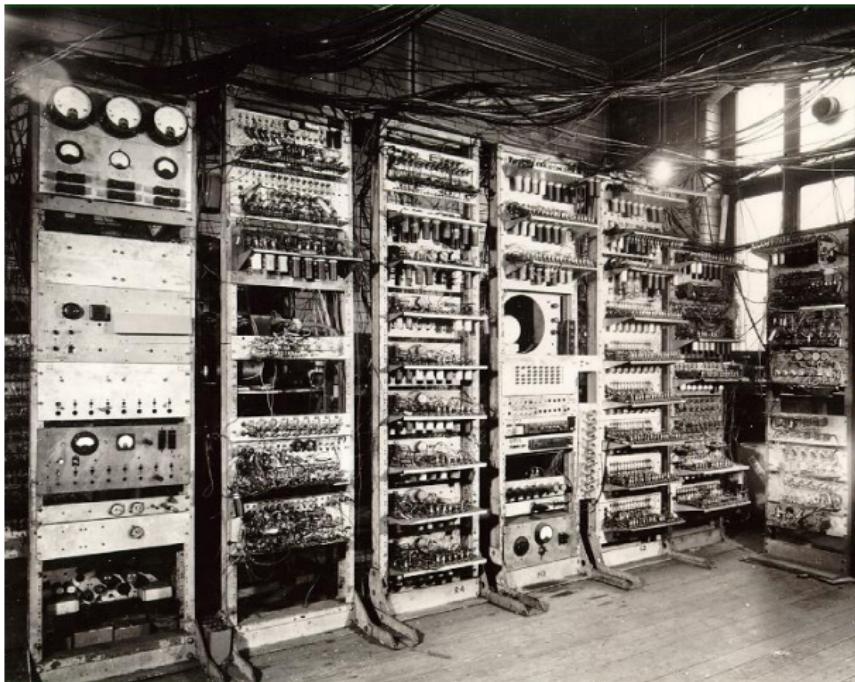


http://www.fi.edu/learn/case-files/eckertmauchly/ENIAC_Image_2.jpg

1948 : STORED PROGRAMS



1948 Manchester MARK 1 : stored programs



1954 : FIRST COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

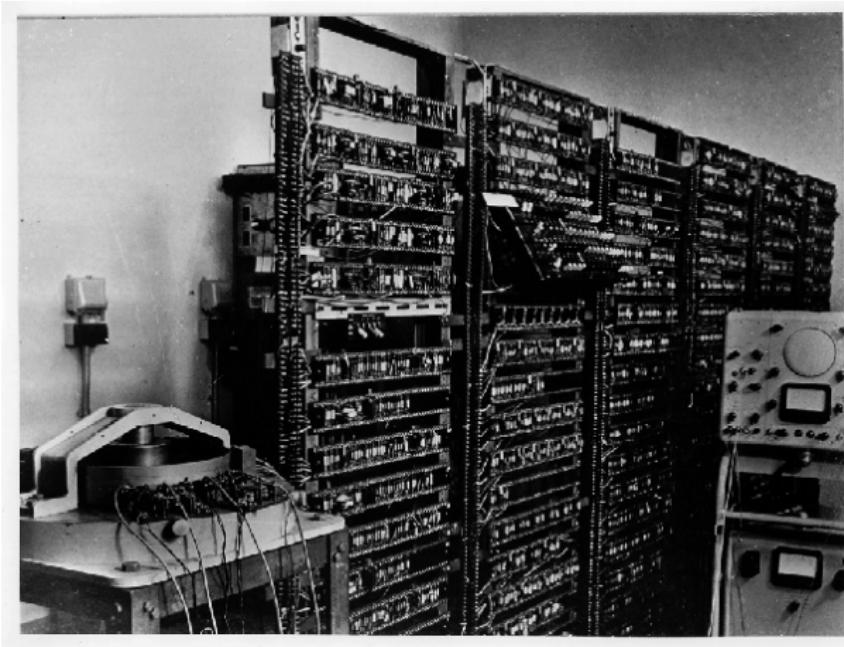
1954 IBM 701 : First commercial success



1955 : FROM VACUUM TUBES TO TRANSISTORS



1953 University of Manchester Experimental Transistor Computer



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1965 : PARALLEL OPERATIONS



1965 CDC 6600 : First commercial supercomputer



<http://www.computer-history.info>

1976 : VECTOR ARCHITECTURE



1976 Cray 1 : The revolution



Cray 1 at EPFL



<http://www.epfl.ch>

1982 : PARALLEL VECTOR PROCESSORS



1982 Cray X-MP : Parallel vector CPUs



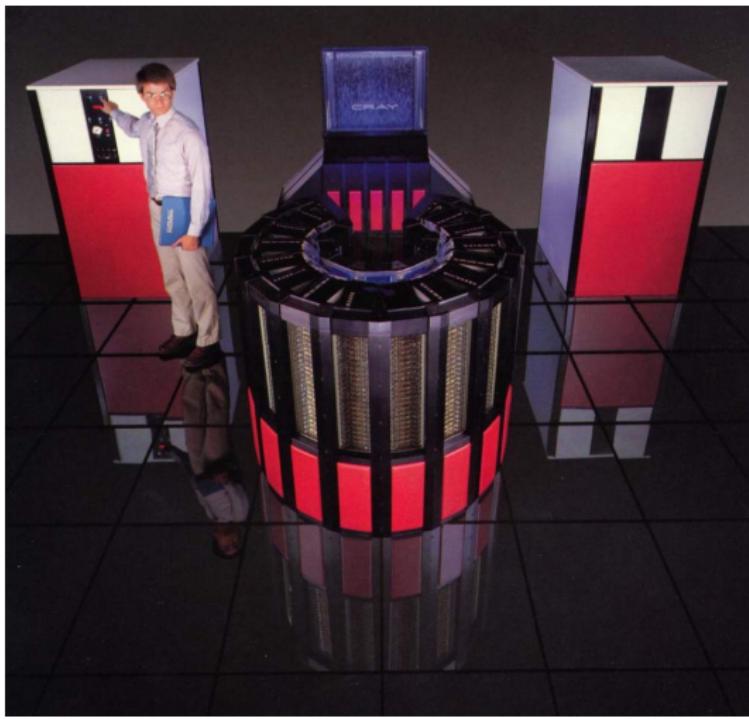
<http://www.craysupercomputers.com>

Cray X-MP at EPFL (originally from CERN)



<http://www.epfl.ch>

1985 Cray 2 : Very large memory (2 GB)



<http://www.craysupercomputers.com>

Cray 2 at l'EPFL

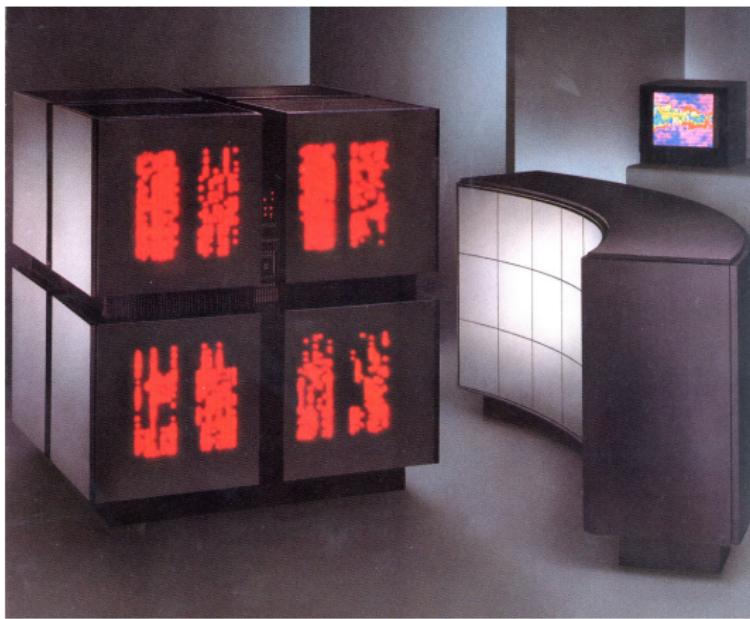


<http://www.epfl.ch>

1987 : MASSIVELY PARALLEL MACHINES



1987 CM-2 : a visionary idea



<http://www.new-npac.org>



1993 : BEGINNING OF TOP500



1993 CM-5 : Very first #1 TOP500



Thinking Machines brochure



mid nineties

END OF PROPRIETARY DESIGN.
OPEN-SOURCE (real) BIRTH



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1994 NASA Goddard : Thomas Sterling starts waste recovery



<http://www.nasa.gov>



mid 2000's : MULTI-CORES NODES



2012 Bellatrix : A standard cluster



<http://hpc.epfl.ch>



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2005 : MASSIVELY PARALLEL, MULTI-CORES NODES



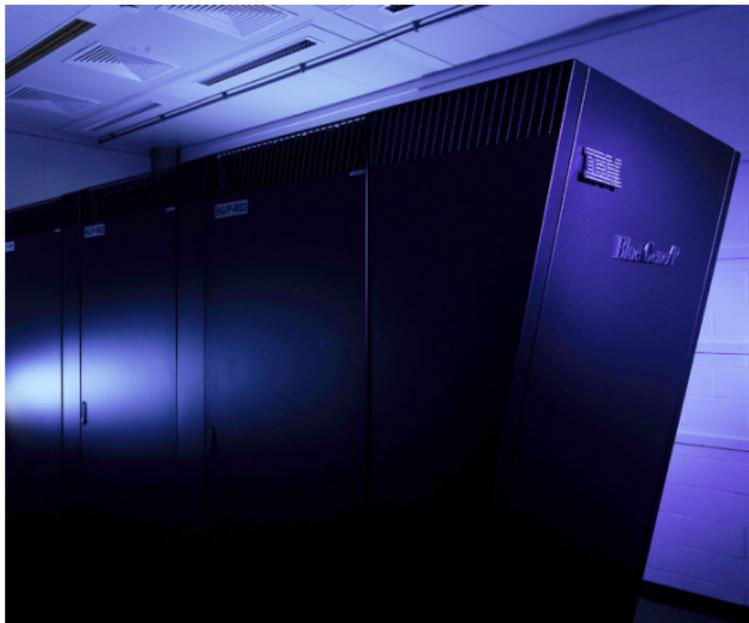
2005 IBM BlueGene/L : 16'384 nodes



<http://hpc.epfl.ch>



2008 IBM BlueGene/P : An evolution



<http://hpc.epfl.ch>

2011 IBM BlueGene/Q : A revolution



<http://hpc.epfl.ch>

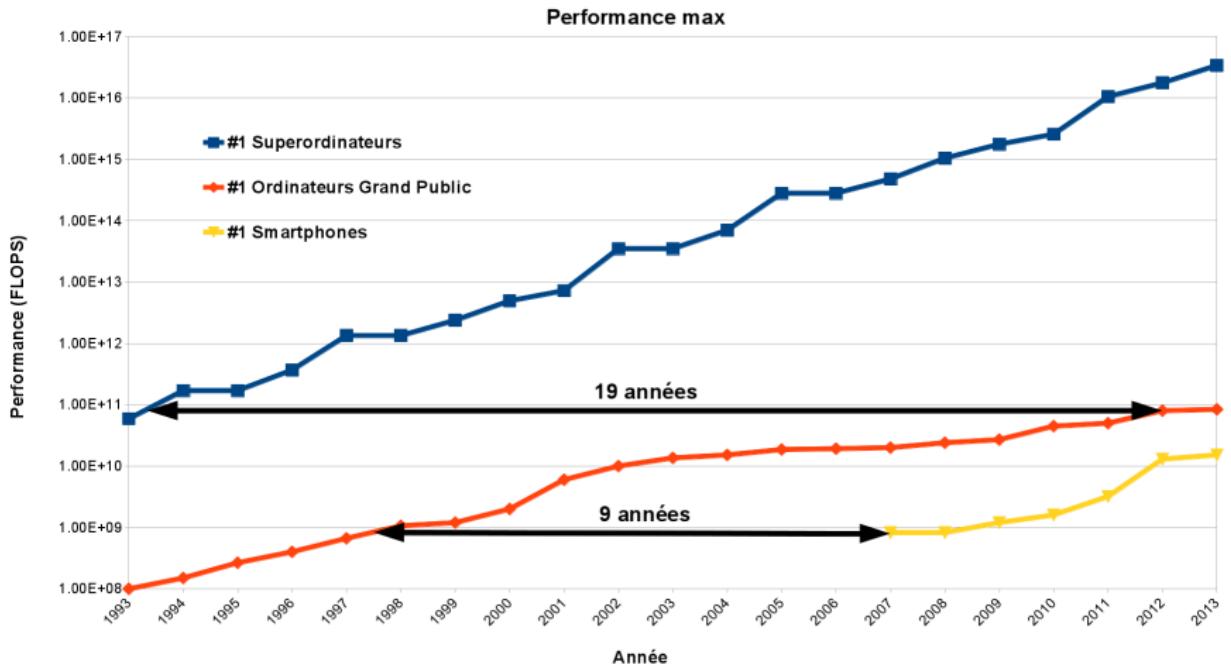


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Peak performance : An interesting comparison



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Cray XT4



Thanks
Questions ?

