# MSc Scientific Computing Dissertation Benchmarking a Raspberry Pi 4 Cluster

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# Part I Project Report

## Chapter 1

## Introduction

#### 1.1 Arm

Since the release of the Acorn Computers Arm1 in 1985, as a second coprocessor for the BBC Micro, through to powering today's fastest supercomputer, the Japanese 8 million core Fugaku supercomputer, Arm has steadily grown to become a dominant force in the microprocessor industry, with more than 170+billion Arm-based processors shipped to date.

Famed for power efficiency, which directly equates to battery life, Arm-based processors dominate the mobile device market for phones and tablets. And market segments which have almost exclusively been based upon x86 processors from Intel or AMD are also increasingly turning to Arm-based processors. Microsoft's current flagship laptop, the Surface Pro X, released in October 2019, is based on a Microsoft designed Arm-based processor. And Apple announced in June 2020 a roadmap to transition all Apple devices to Apple designed Arm-based processors within 2 years.

When Acorn engineers designed the Arm1, and subsequently the Arm2 for the Acorn Archimedes personal computer, low power consumptions was not the primary design criteria. Their focus was on simplicity of design. Influenced by research projects at Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley, their focus was on producing a Reduced Instruction Set Computer (RISC). In comparison to a contemporary Complicated Instruction Set Computer (CISC), the simplicity of a RISC design required fewer transistors, which directly translated to a lower power consumption. The RISC design permitted the Arm2 to outperform the Intel 80286, a contemporary CISC design, whilst using less power.



Figure 1.1: The Raspberry Pi 4 Model B.

## 1.2 Raspberry Pi

The Raspberry Pi Foundation, founded in 2009, is a UK based charity whose aim is to "promote the study of computer science and related topics, especially at school level, and to put the fun back into learning computing". Through it's subsidiary, Raspberry Pi (Trading) Ltd, it provides low-cost, high-performance single-board computers called Raspberry Pi's, and free software.

At the heart of every Raspberry Pi is a Broadcom "System on a Chip" (SoC). The SoC integrates Arm processor cores with video, audio and Input/Output (IO). The IO includes USB, Ethernet, and General Purpose IO (GPIO) pins for interfacing with devices such as sensors and motors. The SoC is mounted on small form factor circuit board which hosts the memory chip, and video, audio, and IO connectors. A MicroSD card is used to boot the operating system and for permanent storage.

Initially released in 2012 as the Raspberry Pi 1, each subsequent model has seen improvements in SoC processor core count or performance, clock speed, connectivity and available memory.

The Raspberry Pi 1 has a single-core 32-bit ARM1176JZF-S based SoC clocked at 700 MHz and 256 MB of RAM. The RAM was increased to 512 MB in 2016.



Figure 1.2: The Raspberry Pi Zero.

The Raspberry Pi 2, released in 2015, introduced a quad-core 32-bit Arm Cortex-A7 based SoC clocked at 900 MHz and 1 GB of RAM.

In 2016, the Raspberry Pi 3 was released with a quad-core 64-bit Arm Cortex-A53 based SoC clocked at 1.2 GHz, together with 1 GB of RAM.

The most recent addition to the range, in 2019, is the Raspberry Pi 4, sporting a quad-core 64-bit Cortex-A-72 based SoC clocked at 1.5 GHz. This model is available with 1, 2, 4 and 8 GB of RAM. This model with 4 GB of RAM was used for this project.

Since 2012 the official operating system for all Raspberry Pi models has been Raspbian, a Linux operating system based on Debian. Raspbian has recently been renamed Raspberry Pi OS. To support the aims of the Foundation, a number of educational software packages are bundled with Raspberry Pi OS. These include a "non-commercial use" version of Mathematica, and a graphical programming environment aimed a young children called Scratch.

Python is the official programming language, due to its popularity and ease of use, and the inclusion of an easy to use Python IDE has been a Foundation priority. This is currently Thonny.

Even though the Raspberry Pi 3 introduced a 64-bit processor, Raspberry Pi OS has remained a 32-bit operating system. However, to complement the intro-



Figure 1.3: The Raspberry Pi Compute Module 3+ (CM3+).

duction of the Raspberry Pi 4 with 8 GB of RAM, a 64-bit version is currently in public beta testing.

Raspberry Pi OS is not the only operating system available for the Raspberry Pi. The Raspberry Pi website provides downloads for Raspberry Pi OS, and also NOOBS (New Out of the Box Software), together with a MicroSD card OS image burning tool called Raspberry Pi Imager. NOOBS and Raspberry Pi Imager make it easy to install operating systems such as Ubuntu, RISC OS, Windows 10 IoT Core, and more. Ubuntu 20.04 LTS 64-bit, the operating system used for this project, is available for download from the Ubuntu website, and is also available as an install option within Raspberry Pi Imager.

Since the release of the Raspberry Pi 1, the Raspberry Pi has been available in a number of model variants and circuit board formats. The Model B of each release is the most powerful variant, intended for desktop use. The Model A is a simpler and cheaper variant intended for embedded projects. The models B+ and A+ designate an improvement to the current release hardware. The Raspberry Pi Zero is a tiny, inexpensive variant without most of the external connectors, designed for low power, possibly battery powered, embedded projects. The Raspberry Pi Compute Module is a stripped down version of the Raspberry Pi without any external connectors. This model is aimed at industrial applications and fits in a standard DDR2 SODIMM connector.

#### 1.3 Aims

#### 1.3.1 Benchmark Performance

The main aim of this project is to benchmark the performance of an 8 node Raspberry Pi 4 Model B cluster using standard HPC benchmarks. These benchmarks include High Performance Linpack (HPL), HPC Challenge (HPCC) and High Performance Conjugate Gradient (HPCG).

A pure OpenMPI topology was benchmarked, together with a hybrid OpenMPI/OpenMP topology.

#### 1.3.2 Performance Optimisations

Having determined a Baseline performance benchmark, opportunities for performance optimisations were investigated for a single core, single node and the whole cluster. Network optimisation was also investigated, and proved to be significant factor in overall cluster performance.

#### 1.3.3 Investigate Gflops/Watt

The Green500 List ranks computer systems by energy efficiency, Gflops/Watt. In June 2020, ranking Number 1, the most energy-efficient system was the MN-3 by Preferred Networks in Japan, which achieved a record 21.1 Gigaflops/Watt. Ranking 200 was Archer at the University of Edinburgh, which achieved 0.497 Gflops/Watt.

The final aim of this project was to investigate where the Aerin cluster might fair in relation to the Green500 List.

## 1.4 Typography

This has been a very hands-on computing project with lots of Linux command line use. To enable a reader to replicate the cluster build and results, the Linux commands, output and file listings are included in the dissertation text, and colour coded as follows to aid readability.

This is a computer name.

node1

This is a command to type.

```
$ cat /proc/softirqs
```

This is the command output.

|           | CPUO    | CPU1    | CPU2    | CPU3    |  |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| HI:       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 1       |  |
| TIMER:    | 3835342 | 3454143 | 3431155 | 3431023 |  |
| NET_TX:   | 36635   | 0       | 0       | 0       |  |
| NET_RX:   | 509189  | 146     | 105     | 121     |  |
| BLOCK:    | 95326   | 4367    | 4311    | 4256    |  |
| IRQ_POLL: | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |  |
| TASKLET:  | 4900    | 3       | 4       | 25      |  |
| SCHED:    | 444569  | 267214  | 218701  | 189120  |  |
| HRTIMER:  | 67      | 0       | 0       | 0       |  |
| RCU:      | 604466  | 281455  | 260784  | 277699  |  |

This is a long command to type.

Yes, in the command above, it is possible to reduce typing by putting the host data in a hostfile, but this illustrates the typography.

This is a file listing.

Listing 1.1: /etc/hosts

```
1
  # Host Database
2
  # localhost is used to configure the loopback interface
  # when the system is booting. Do not change this entry.
  127.0.0.1 localhost
  255.255.255.255 broadcasthost
                  localhost
  192.168.0.1 node1
  192.168.0.2 node2
  192.168.0.3 node3
  192.168.0.4 node4
  192.168.0.5 node5
  192.168.0.6 node6
  192.168.0.7 node7
  192.168.0.8 node8
  192.168.0.9 node9
```

And this is something to take note of.

```
This is a 'gotcha', or
This differs from a similar build procedure, or
This is a 'hack' to be fixed permanently later, or
Don't do this at home, or,
Something similar
```

## 1.5 Project GitHub Repositories

The project code and benchmark results are hosted in the following GitHub repository.

https://github.com/johnduffymsc/picluster

This dissertation TeX and PDF files, and the Jupyter Notebook used to generate the plots, are hosted in the following GitHub repository.

https://github.com/johnduffymsc/dissertation

# Chapter 2

# ARM Architectures for HP

## Chapter 3

# The Aerin Cluster

This chapter describes the components of the Aerin Cluster, and includes some advice and lessons learned. Detailed build instructions are included in Part II Chapter 7.

Photo...

The Aerin Cluster consists of the following hardware and software components.

#### 3.1 Hardware

- 8 x Raspberry Pi 4 Model B compute nodes, node1 to node8
- 1 x Raspberry Pi 4 Model B build node, node9
- 9 x Official Raspberry Pi 4 power supplies
- 9 x Class 10 A1 MicroSD cards
- 9 x Heatsinks with integrated fans
- 1 x Netgear FVS318G 8 Port Gigabit Router/Firewall
- 1 x Netgear GS316 16 Port Gigabit Switch (with Jumbo Frame Support)
- Cat 7 cabling

#### 3.1.1 Raspberry Pi's

The 9 x Raspberry Pi 4 used in the cluster are the 4GB RAM version. Recently, an 8GB RAM version became available. This which would be the preferred version for a future cluster.

The compute nodes of the cluster are node1 to node8. These are used to run the benchmarks.

Some benchmarks require a substantial amount of time to run, so it is helpful to have a dedicated build node for compiling software, developing scripts, etc, while the benchmarks run on compute nodes. This build node is node9.

It is convenient to have one of the compute nodes designated the "master" node (this is a convenience and not a requirement). This is node1. If any software needs to compiled locally to the compute nodes, and not on the build node, then the "master" node is used to do this. This node is also used to mirror the GitHub repository and to run the various Pi Cluster Tools.

#### 3.1.2 Power Supplies

The Raspberry Pi 4 is sensitive to voltage drops, especially whilst booting. So it was decided to purchase 9 Official Raspberry Pi 4 power supplies, rather than a USB hub with multiple power outlets which may not have been able to maintain output voltage whilst booting 9 nodes. The 9 power supplies do take up some space, so a future development would be to investigate a suitably rated USB hub.

#### 3.1.3 MicroSD Cards

MicroSD cards are available in a number of speed classes and "use" categories. The recommended minimum specification for the Raspberry Pi 4 is Class 10 A1. The "10" refers to a 10 MB/s write speed. The "A" refers to the "Application" category, which supports at least 1500 read operations and 500 write operations per second.

#### 3.1.4 Heatsinks

Cooling is a major consideration when building any cluster, even an 8 node Raspberry Pi cluster. The Raspberry Pi 4 throttles back the clock speed at approximately 85°C, which would not only have had a negative impact on bench-

mark results, but also on repeatability. So, it was very important to select suitable cooling. After some investigation, it was decided to purchase heatsinks with integrated fans. These proved to be very successful, with no greater than 65°C observed at any time, even with 100% CPU utilisation for many hours.

#### 3.1.5 Network Considerations

The MTU is the network packet payload size in bytes, i.e. the size of your data that is transmitted in a single network packet. It is actually 28 bytes less than this due to network protocol overhead. We shall see later how a larger MTU can improve network efficiency and improve benchmark performance.

A Jumbo Frame is any MTU greater than 1500 bytes. There is no standard maximum size for a Jumbo Frame, but the norm seems to be 9000 bytes. Not all network devices support Jumbo Frames, and a change of MTU size from the default 1500 bytes has to be supported by all devices on the network (although some devices are smart enough to accommodate multiple MTU's).

As we shall see, the Raspberry Pi 4 has very good Ethernet networking capabilities. The theoretical maximum bandwidth of a Gigabit Ethernet connection is 1 Gbit/s. With the default MTU (Maximum Transmission Unit) of 1500 bytes, the Raspberry Pi 4 can achieve 930 Mbit/s. This is 93% of the theoretical maximum bandwidth. Increasing the MTU to 9000 bytes increases the achievable, and measurable, bandwidth to 980 Mbit/s. This is, effectively, full Gigabit speed. It is important we make full use of this with adequate network equipment.

It would be tempting to use any old router/firewall, switch, and cabling found lurking around in some dusty cupboard. This would be a mistake, and potentially cripple the cluster network. Courtesy of Ebay, I acquired a professional grade router/firewall and switch for less than £30 each. And the switch supports Jumbo Frames up to 9000 bytes, which we will be making use of.

#### 3.1.6 Router/Firewall

The router/firewall acts a cluster interface to the outside world. The firewall wall only permits certain network packets access to the cluster through holes in the wall, in our case only ssh packets. One side of the firewall is the cluster LAN (Local Area Network). The other side of the firewall is the WAN (Wide Area Network).

In my home environment the WAN is connected to my ADSL router via an ethernet cable. This permits the compute nodes on the LAN to connect to the

internet and download updates. When relocated to UCL, the WAN would be connected to the internal UCL network.

The router exposes a single IP address for the cluster to the WAN. Access from the outside world to the cluster is through this single IP address via ssh, which is routed to node1.

The router also acts as DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) server for the compute node LAN. Compute node hostnames, such as node1 etc, are configured by a boot script which determines the node hostname from the last octet of the node IP address, served by the DHCP server based on the MAC address. This ensures that each compute node is always assigned the same LAN IP address and hostname across reboots.

It sounds more complicated than it actually is, and is easily configured through the router/firewall web-based setup. More details are in Part II Chapter 7.

#### 3.1.7 Network Switch

The switch acts as an extension to the number of ports on the compute node LAN. And because it supports Jumbo Frames it can accommodate an MTU increase to 9000 bytes localised to the compute nodes.

My initial build of the Aerin Cluster only used the 8 port router/firewall. Only having 8 ports quickly became tiresome, so a 5 port switch was added so that I could directly connect node9 and my macbook to the compute nodes without having to ssh through the firewall. Later, when it became apparent that the 5 port switch didn't support Jumbo Frames, this was replaced with the current 16 port switch. I did anticipate having to replace the router/firewall because it doesn't support Jumbo Frames, but the switch is sufficiently smart to route 9000 byte packets between the compute nodes, and fragment any packets to/from the outside world, through the router/firewall, into 1500 byte packets.

#### 3.1.8 Cabling

Cat 5 network cables only support 100 Mbit/s, and without any electrical shielding. Cat 5e supports 1 Gbit/s without shielding. Cat 6 supports 1 Gbit/s, possibly with shielding depending on the cable. Cat 6a and Cat 7 support 10 Gbit/s with electrical shielding. Therefore, to ensure maximum use of the network capabilities of the Raspberry Pi 4, a minimum of Cat 5e cabling must be used. Because the Aerin Cluster cable lengths are relatively short, and therefore inexpensive, I opted to use CAT 7 cabling. My advice would be to do the same for any future clusters. Any performance limiting factor is then not the cabling.

If you need to use old cable, check the labelling!

#### 3.2 Software

#### 3.2.1 Operating System

The operating system used for the Aerin Cluster is Ubuntu 20.04 LTS 64-bit Pre-Installed Server for the Raspberry Pi 4. This can be downloaded from the Ubuntu website or installed via Raspberry Pi Imager.

#### 3.2.2 cloud-init

The cloud-init system was originally developed by Ubuntu to simplify the instantiation of operating system images in cloud computing environments, such as Amazon's AWS and Microsoft's Azure. It is now an industry standard.

It is also very useful for automating the installation of the same operating system on a number of computers using a single installation image. This dramatically simplifies building a cluster.

The idea is that a user-data file is added to the boot directory of an installation image. When a node boots using the image, this file is read and the configuration/actions specified in this file are automatically applied/run as the operating system is installed.

For the Aerin Cluster the following configuration/actions were applied to each node:

- Add the user john to the system and set the initial password
- Add john's public key
- Update the apt data cache
- Upgrade the system
- Install specified software packages
- Create a /etc/hosts file
- Set the hostname based on the IP address

All of this is done from a single image and user-data file. The time invested in getting the user-data file right pays off handsomely, especially when the cluster may need to be rebuild from scratch a number of times.

The main software packages used for benchmarking installed by cloud-init are:

- build-essential
- openmpi-bin
- libopenblas0-serial
- libopenblas0-openmp
- libblis3-serial
- libblis3-openmp

This installs essential software build tools, such as C/C++ compilers, make, etc, OpenMPI binary and development files, and the OpenBLAS and BLIS libraries in both serial and OpenMP versions.

The package names for the OpenBLAS and BLIS libraries are somewhat cryptic and can cause confusion. For example, the BLIS packages libblis64-serial and libblis64-openmp are not the 64-bit packages we would expect to install on a 64-bit operating system. The "64" refers to the integer size for the BLAS library. The packages we need are the libblis3-serial and libblis3-openmp versions, which are still 64-bit packages.

#### 3.2.3 Benchmark Software

The HPL, HPCC and HPCG benchmark software was all compiled locally from source. The instructions for how to do this are in Part II Chapter 7.

#### 3.2.4 BLAS Library Management

On the Aerin Cluster we have two different BLAS libraries installed, OpenBLAS and BLIS, both in serial and OpenMP versions. It is obviously critical to have the same BLAS library configured as the "the BLAS library in use" on each node at the same time.

Debian/Ubuntu have a very clever mechanism for setting a particular version of a library to be the "the BLAS library in use". The is called the "alternatives"

mechanism, and is not just used for BLAS libraries, there are lots of software packages with "alternatives".

Each "alternative" has a name, in the case of the BLAS libraries it is called libblas.so.3. What is really clever is that you can build software, such as HPL, to link against libblas.so.3, and then change then change what this "alternative" points to without having to rebuild the software.

For example, to set the serial version of OpenBLAS to "the BLAS library in use" we update the "alternative" with the following command:

Alternatively, there is an interactive version of the command which allows you to select a BLAS library from a list of options:

The "alternatives" mechanism is very clever, but when you need to set the BLAS library on 8 nodes quite frequently this is a lot of typing and also error prone. So to make life easier I wrote two BLAS library management wrapper scripts described in the section below.

#### 3.2.5 Pi Cluster Tools

Even a cluster of only 8 nodes requires quite a bit of effort, and typing, to keep the system up to date and to ensure the same BLAS library is running on each node. Logging in to each node individually to do this is a chore, and more importantly it is very error prone.

To get around this problem, a number of bash scripts were written as Pi Cluster Tools. Each script loops over a list of node names and uses ssh to run a command remotely on each node in turn.

The following scripts are included as Pi Cluster Tools.

- upgrade
- reboot
- shutdown
- do

- libblas-query
- libblas-set

Listings of the scripts are included in Part II Chapter 17.

To run a particular tool, for example upgrade, type the following command which will upgrade all of the nodes sequentially.

```
$ ~/picluster/tools/upgrade
```

The do command "does" the same command on each node. Note the required quotation marks.

Probably the most useful of the Pi Cluster Tools are the two BLAS library tools.

libblas-query queries the "the BLAS library in use" on each node. This is extremely useful for ensuring the same library is in use on each node.

For example.

```
$ ~/picluster/tools/libblas-query
```

```
node8... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-openmp/libblas.so.3
node7... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-openmp/libblas.so.3
node6... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-openmp/libblas.so.3
node5... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-openmp/libblas.so.3
node4... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-openmp/libblas.so.3
node3... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-openmp/libblas.so.3
node2... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-openmp/libblas.so.3
node1... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-openmp/libblas.so.3
```

libblas-set takes a single argument, openblas-serial, openblas-openmp, blis-serial, or blis-openmp, and then uses the "alternatives" mechanism to set the "BLAS library in use" on each node.

For example.

```
$ ~/picluster/tools/libblas-set openblas-serial
```

```
node8... done
node7... done
node6... done
node5... done
```

```
node4... done
node3... done
node2... done
node1... done
```

Pi Cluster Tools are not production quality, yet!

# Chapter 4

# **HPC** Benchmarks

- 4.1 BLAS Libraries
- 4.1.1 GotoBLAS
- 4.1.2 OpenBLAS
- 4.1.3 BLIS
- 4.2 OpenMPI Topology

The...

4.3 Hybrid OpenMPI/OpenMP Topology

The network...

4.4 Landscape

 ${\bf Lists...}$ 

Top500...

Green 500...

HPCG...

High Performance Linpack (HPL) is the industry standard HPC benchmark and has been for ??? years. It is used by Top500 and Green500. However, it has been criticised for producing a single number, and not being a true measure of real-world application performance. This has led to the creation of complementary benchmarks, namely HPC Challenge (HPCC) and High Performance Conjugate Gradients (HPCG). These benchmarks measure whole system performance, including processing power, memory bandwidth and network speed, in relation to standard HPC algorithms such as FFT and CG.

A more detailed description of each benchmark follows.

## 4.5 High Performance Linpack (HPL)

Reference Paper...

https://www.netlib.org/benchmark/hpl/...

Describe algorithm...

Terminology  $R_{peak}$ ,  $R_{max}$ ..., problem size...

Describe methodology for determining main parameters NB, N, P and Q...

N formula...

Reference http://hpl-calculator.sourceforge.net

#### 4.5.1 HPL.dat

Describe HPL.dat parameters...

Listing 4.1: Example HPL.dat

```
HPLinpack benchmark input file
Innovative Computing Laboratory, University of Tennessee
HPL.out output file name (if any)

device out (6=stdout,7=stderr,file)

# of problems sizes (N)

26208 Ns
```

```
# of NBs
   1
   32
                 NBs
   0
                 PMAP process mapping (0=Row-,1=Column-major)
   2
                 # of process grids (P x Q)
   1 2
                 Рs
   8 4
                 Qв
   16.0
                 threshold
13
                 # of panel fact
14
   0 1 2
                 PFACTs (0=left, 1=Crout, 2=Right)
15
                 # of recursive stopping criterium
   2
16
   2 4
                 NBMINs (>= 1)
                 # of panels in recursion
18
                 NDIVs
19
                 # of recursive panel fact.
20
   0 1 2
                 RFACTs (0=left, 1=Crout, 2=Right)
21
                 # of broadcast
   1
22
                 BCASTs (0=1rg,1=1rM,2=2rg,3=2rM,4=Lng,5=LnM)
   0
23
                 # of lookahead depth
  1
  0
                 DEPTHs (>=0)
25
                 SWAP (0=bin-exch,1=long,2=mix)
  2
26
  64
                 swapping threshold
27
   0
                 L1 in (0=transposed,1=no-transposed) form
28
   0
                   in (0=transposed,1=no-transposed) form
29
                 Equilibration (0=no,1=yes)
30
  1
                 memory alignment in double (> 0)
   8
```

A detailed description of each line of this file is ...

#### 4.5.2 HPL.out

Describe HPL.out...

It is very easy to use grepto find the lines in HPL.out containing the results. And to then conduct a general numeric sort, first by P and then by Gflops, to find Rmax for each P and Q pair, squeezing repeated white space down to a single space for readability.

```
$ grep WR HPL.out | sort -g -k 4 -k 7 | tr -s ' ' > HPL.out. \hookrightarrow sorted
```

Listing 4.2: Example HPL.out.sorted

```
WR00C2R2 26208 32 1 8 802.01 1.4965e+01
WR00R2C2 26208 32 1 8 799.75 1.5007e+01
WR00L2L2 26208 32 1 8 796.04 1.5077e+01
WR00C2C2 26208 32 1 8 794.65 1.5103e+01
WR00L2C2 26208 32 1 8 793.86 1.5118e+01
```

```
WR00C2L2 26208 32 1 8 793.67 1.5122e+01
   WROOR2L2 26208 32 1 8 793.48 1.5126e+01
   WROOR2R2 26208 32 1 8 790.26 1.5187e+01
   WR00L2R2 26208 32 1 8 789.16 1.5208e+01
  WROOR2L4 26208 32 1 8 774.49 1.5497e+01
   WR00C2R4 26208 32 1 8 773.52 1.5516e+01
   WR00L2L4 26208 32 1 8 770.20 1.5583e+01
12
   WROOR2C4 26208 32 1 8 767.92 1.5629e+01
   WR00L2C4 26208 32 1 8 763.10 1.5728e+01
   WR00L2R4 26208 32 1 8 762.43 1.5742e+01
   WROOR2R4 26208 32 1 8 761.92 1.5752e+01
   WR00C2C4 26208 32 1 8 761.58 1.5759e+01
   WR00C2L4 26208 32 1 8 757.87 1.5836e+01
   WROOR2R2 26208 32 2 4 728.78 1.6468e+01
   WR00R2C2 26208 32 2 4 728.21 1.6481e+01
   WROOR2L2 26208 32 2 4 726.55 1.6519e+01
21
   WR00C2R2 26208 32 2 4 722.38 1.6614e+01
   WR00L2C2 26208 32 2 4 721.63 1.6632e+01
   WR00L2L2 26208 32 2 4 721.54 1.6634e+01
   WR00C2C2 26208 32 2 4 721.25 1.6640e+01
25
   WR00C2L2 26208 32 2 4 720.82 1.6650e+01
   WR00L2R2 26208 32 2 4 720.80 1.6651e+01
27
   WR00L2R4 26208 32 2 4 692.09 1.7341e+01
   WROOR2C4 26208 32 2 4 690.37 1.7385e+01
   WR00C2L4 26208 32 2 4 686.69 1.7478e+01
   WR00C2C4 26208 32 2 4 686.23 1.7489e+01
   WR00C2R4 26208 32 2 4 686.08 1.7493e+01
32
   WR00L2L4 26208 32 2 4 686.02 1.7495e+01
33
   WR00L2C4 26208 32 2 4 685.88 1.7498e+01
  WROOR2L4 26208 32 2 4 685.76 1.7502e+01
  WROOR2R4 26208 32 2 4 684.45 1.7535e+01
```

#### 4.5.3 Running xhpl

To run xhpl using the serial version of OpenBLAS...

```
$ ~/picluster/tools/picluster-set-libblas-openblas-serial
```

or, with the serial version of BLIS...

```
$ ~/picluster/tools/picluster-set-libblas-blis-serial
```

```
cd ~/picluster/hpl/hpl-2.3/bin/serial mpirun -np 4 xhpl
```

## 4.6 HPC Challenge (HPCC)

HPCC...

4.7 High Performance Conjugate Gradients (HPCG)

HPCG...

# Chapter 5

# Benchmarking the Aerin Cluster

## 5.1 Theoretical Maximum Performance (Gflop/s)

The Raspberry Pi 4 Model B is based on the Broadcom BCM2711 System on a Chip (SoC).

Block diagram from Cortex-A72 Software Optimisation Guide

 $4 \, \, \mathrm{cores}$ 

 $1.5~\mathrm{GHz}$ 

128 bit SIMD

4 GB memory (our chosen model)

Caches...

Pipeline...

Simplistically, ...

This ignores instructions pipelining benefits...

#### 5.2 OpenMPI Baseline

Ubuntu 20.04 LTS 64-bit packages, without any tweaks...

1 core... a single ARM Cortex-A72 core...

1 node... a single Raspberry Pi 4 Model B, 4 x ARM Cortex-A72 cores...

Linpack performance scales with problem size... REFERENCE

80% of memory a good initial guess... FAQ REFERENCE...

Methodology...

 $1\ \mathrm{core...}$  to investigate single core performance... cave ats... use 1GB of memory...

1 node... to investigate inter-core performance...

2 nodes... to investigate inter-core and inter-node performance...

 $1..8~\rm nodes \dots$  to investigate over scaling of performance with node count... with optimal N, NB, P and Q parameters determined from 2 node investigation... caveats...

#### 5.2.1 1 Core Baseline

Problem size restricted to 80% of memory...

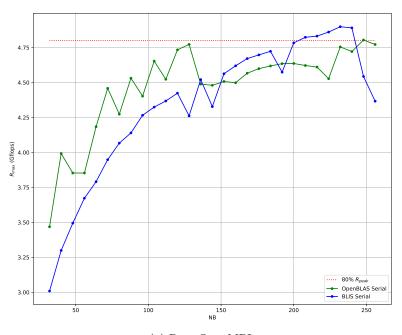
NB 32 to 256 in increments of 8...

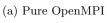
| NB | N     | NB  | N     | NB  | N     | NB  | N     | NB  | N     |
|----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|
| 32 | 18528 | 80  | 18480 | 128 | 18432 | 176 | 18480 | 224 | 18368 |
| 40 | 18520 | 88  | 18480 | 136 | 18496 | 184 | 18400 | 232 | 18328 |
| 48 | 18528 | 96  | 18528 | 144 | 18432 | 192 | 18432 | 240 | 18480 |
| 56 | 18536 | 104 | 18512 | 152 | 18392 | 200 | 18400 | 248 | 18352 |
| 64 | 18496 | 112 | 18480 | 160 | 18400 | 208 | 18512 | 256 | 18432 |
| 72 | 18504 | 120 | 18480 | 168 | 18480 | 216 | 18360 | ı   | -     |

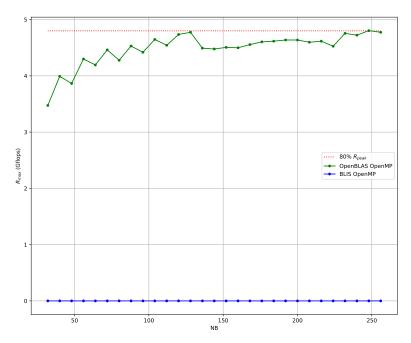
```
$ mpirun -bind-to-core -host node1:1 -np 1 xhpl
```

mpirun does bind to core by default for  $np \leq 2$ 

 $4 \times 4.7527e + 00 = 19 \text{ Gflops}$ 







(b) Hybrid OpenMPI/OpenMP

Figure 5.1: 1 Core  $R_{max}$  vs NB using 80% memory.

Explain -bind-to core

Cache misses from peak...

A single core is capable of achieving maximum theoretical performance... CAVEATS whole L2 cache, whole node 4 GB memory, although problem size limited to 80% of 1 GB...

#### 5.2.2 1 Node Baseline

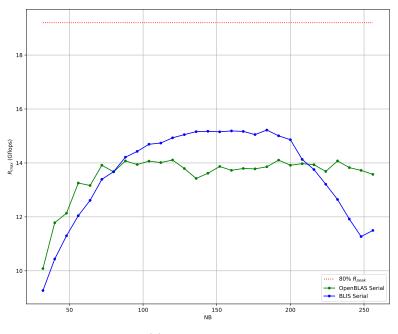
1x4

| NB | N     | NB  | N     | NB  | N     | NB  | N     | NB  | N     |
|----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|
| 32 | 18528 | 80  | 18480 | 128 | 18432 | 176 | 18480 | 224 | 18368 |
| 40 | 18520 | 88  | 18480 | 136 | 18496 | 184 | 18400 | 232 | 18328 |
| 48 | 18528 | 96  | 18528 | 144 | 18432 | 192 | 18432 | 240 | 18480 |
| 56 | 18536 | 104 | 18512 | 152 | 18392 | 200 | 18400 | 248 | 18352 |
| 64 | 18496 | 112 | 18480 | 160 | 18400 | 208 | 18512 | 256 | 18432 |
| 72 | 18504 | 120 | 18480 | 168 | 18480 | 216 | 18360 | -   | -     |

```
$ mpirun -bind-to-core -host node1:4 -n 4 xhpl
```

Explain bind to core...

mpirun does bind to socket by default for  $np \geq 2$ 







(b) Hybrid OpenMPI/OpenMP

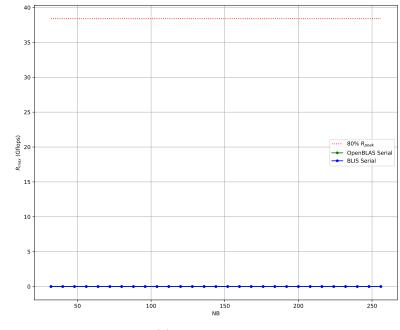
Figure 5.2: 1 Node  $R_{max}$  vs NB using 80% memory.

### 5.2.3 2 Node Baseline

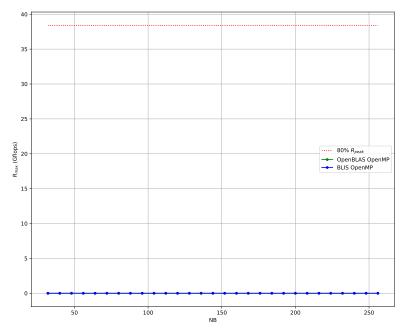
 $\mathrm{P1} \ge \mathrm{Q8}$ 

 $P2 \times Q4$ 

| NB | N     | NB  | N     | NB  | N     | NB  | N     | NB  | N     |
|----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|
| 32 | 26208 | 80  | 26160 | 128 | 26112 | 176 | 26048 | 224 | 26208 |
| 40 | 26200 | 88  | 26136 | 136 | 26112 | 184 | 26128 | 232 | 25984 |
| 48 | 26208 | 96  | 26208 | 144 | 26208 | 192 | 26112 | 240 | 26160 |
| 56 | 26208 | 104 | 26208 | 152 | 26144 | 200 | 26200 | 248 | 26040 |
| 64 | 26176 | 112 | 26208 | 160 | 26080 | 208 | 26208 | 256 | 26112 |
| 72 | 26208 | 120 | 26160 | 168 | 26208 | 216 | 26136 | -   | -     |







(b) Hybrid OpenMPI/OpenMP

Figure 5.3: 2 Node  $R_{max}$  vs NB using 80% memory.

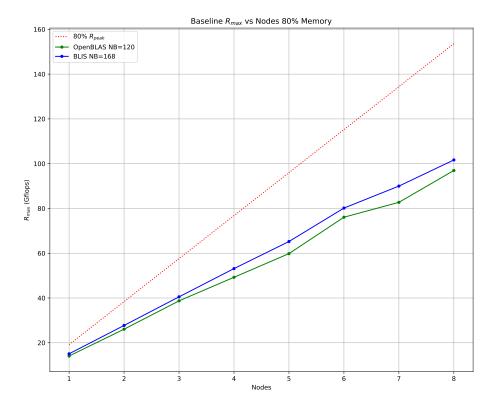


Figure 5.4:  $R_{max}$  vs Nodes using 80% memory.

#### 5.2.4 Cluster Baseline

 $1x32 \ 2x16 \ 4x8$ 

#### 5.2.5 Observations

Best NB...

PxQ discussion... 1x8 vs 2x4... ethernet comment...

 ${\rm Iperf...}$ 

htop...

 $\mathrm{top}...$ 

perf...

cache misses...

software interrupts...

Suggests... improve network efficiency?

#### 5.3 Hybrid OpenMPI/OpenMP Baseline

- 5.3.1 1 Core Baseline
- 5.3.2 1 Node Baseline
- 5.3.3 Cluster Baseline

#### 5.4 Optimisations

#### 5.4.1 Single Core Optimisation

#### Rebuild libopenblas0-serial

Better BLAS library...

The Debian Science Wiki suggests...

So, following the instructions in /usr/local/share/

Details are in Appendix ?...

Poking around in the OpenBLAS source code, I noticed...

 $cpuid\_arm64.c$ 

in function void get\_cpuconfig(void)

Listing 5.1: cpuid\_arm64.c

```
case CPU_CORTEXA57:
case CPU_CORTEXA72:
case CPU_CORTEXA73:

// Common minimum settings for these Arm cores

// Can change a lot, but we need to be conservative

// TODO: detect info from /sys if possible
```

```
printf("#define %s\n", cpuname[d]);
printf("#define L1_CODE_SIZE 49152\n");
printf("#define L1_CODE_LINESIZE 64\n");
printf("#define L1_CODE_ASSOCIATIVE 3\n");
printf("#define L1_DATA_SIZE 32768\n");
printf("#define L1_DATA_LINESIZE 64\n");
printf("#define L1_DATA_ASSOCIATIVE 2\n");
printf("#define L2_SIZE 524288\n");
printf("#define L2_LINESIZE 64\n");
printf("#define L2_ASSOCIATIVE 16\n");
printf("#define DTB_DEFAULT_ENTRIES 64\n");
printf("#define DTB_SIZE 4096\n");
break;
```

REFERENCE: Arm...

The following two lines are incorrect for the Arm Cortex-A72:

```
printf("#define L2_SIZE 524288\n");
printf("#define DTB_DEFAULT_ENTRIES 64\n");
```

To reflect the 1MB of L2 cache of the BCM??????, and the 32 entry L1 Data TLB, they should be:

```
printf("#define L2_SIZE 1048576\n");
printf("#define DTB_DEFAULT_ENTRIES 32\n");
```

Having changed these to the correct values, the build process now accurately reflects the 1MB of L2 cache on line 18 of 0-serial/config.h from which the libopenblas0-serial package is built:

Listing 5.2: 0-serial/config.h

```
#define OS_LINUX 1
  #define ARCH_ARM64 1
  #define C_GCC 1
3
  #define __64BIT__ 1
  #define PTHREAD_CREATE_FUNC pthread_create
  #define BUNDERSCORE _
  #define NEEDBUNDERSCORE 1
  #define ARMV8
  #define HAVE_NEON
  #define HAVE_VFPV4
10
  #define CORTEXA72
11
  #define L1_CODE_SIZE 49152
  #define L1_CODE_LINESIZE 64
  #define L1_CODE_ASSOCIATIVE 3
  #define L1_DATA_SIZE 32768
```

```
#define L1_DATA_LINESIZE 64

#define L1_DATA_ASSOCIATIVE 2

#define L2_SIZE 1048576

#define L2_LINESIZE 64

#define L2_ASSOCIATIVE 16

#define DTB_DEFAULT_ENTRIES 64

#define DTB_SIZE 4096

#define NUM_CORES 4

#define CHAR_CORENAME "CORTEXA72"

#define GEMM_MULTITHREAD_THRESHOLD 4
```

On completion of the build process, and after uninstalling the original libopenblas0-serial package and installing the new one...

Discussion...

#### Rebuild libblis3-serial

#### 5.4.2 Single Node Optimisation

#### Kernel Preemption Model

The Linux kernel has 3 Preemption Models...

1... 2... The default 3...

As per the Help in the Kernel Configuration...

Listing 5.3: Kernel Configuration Preemption Model Help

So, kernel rebuilt with CONFIG\_PREEMPT\_NONE=y

See Appendix? on how to rebuild the kernel...

Installed on each node...

So, although this optimisation applies to single node, the benefits of applying this optimisation may not be apparent until the kernel has to juggle networking etc...

RESULTS...

#### Recieve Queues

```
$ sudo perf record mpirun -allow-run-as-root -np 4 xhpl
```

Running xhpl on 8 nodes using OpenBLAS...

```
$ mpirun -host node1:4 ... node8:4 -np 32 xhpl
```

#### SHORTLY AFTER PROGRAM START...

On node1,... where we initiated...

top...

```
top - 20:33:15 up 8 days,
                             6:02, 1 user, load average:

→ 4.02, 4.03, 4.00

Tasks: 140 total,
                     5 running, 135 sleeping,
                                                  0 stopped,
   \hookrightarrow 0 zombie
%Cpu(s): 72.5 us, 21.7 sy,
                              0.0 ni, 0.0 id, 0.0 wa, 0.0
   \hookrightarrow hi, 5.8 si, 0.0 st
MiB Mem : 3793.3 total,
                               330.1 free,
                                              3034.9 used,
   \hookrightarrow 428.3 buff/cache
MiB Swap:
               0.0 total,
                                 0.0 free,
                                                  0.0 used.
   \hookrightarrow 698.7 avail Mem
    PID USER
                              VIRT
                                       RES
                                              SHR S %CPU
                                                            %MEM
                   PR NI
       \hookrightarrow
                TIME+ COMMAND
  34884 john
                   20
                            932964 732156
                                             7980 R 100.3
                                                            18.8

→ 106:40.29 xhpl

  34881 john
                   20
                            933692 732272
                                             7916 R 100.0
                                                            18.9

→ 107:29.75 xhpl

  34883 john
                            932932 731720
                                             8136 R 99.3
                   20
                                                            18.8

→ 107:33.25 xhpl

                           932932 731784
                                             8208 R 97.7 18.8
  34882 john
                   20

→ 107:33.64 xhpl
```

SOFTIRQS...

NODE 2 - 2 NODES ONLY TO SEE EFFECT...

IPERF!!!

On node8, running the top command...

```
$ top
```

We can see...

```
top - 18:58:44 up 8 days, 4:29, 1 user,
                                          load average:
   \hookrightarrow 4.00, 3.75, 2.35
Tasks: 133 total,
                   5 running, 128 sleeping,
                                              0 stopped,
   \hookrightarrow 0 zombie
%Cpu(s): 50.7 us, 47.8 sy,
                           0.0 ni, 0.0 id, 0.0 wa, 0.0
   \hookrightarrow hi, 1.4 si, 0.0 st
MiB Mem : 3793.3 total,
                            392.7 free,
                                          2832.6 used,
   → 568.0 buff/cache
MiB Swap:
              0.0 total,
                              0.0 free,
                                             0.0 used.
   → 901.1 avail Mem
   PID USER
                           VIRT
                                   RES
                                          SHR S
                                                %CPU
                                                       %MEM
                 PR NI
      \hookrightarrow
               TIME+ COMMAND
  23928 john
                 20
                      0
                         883880 682456
                                         8200 R 100.0
                                                       17.6
     23927 john
                 20
                         883988 682432
                                         7932 R
                                                99.7
                                                       17.6
                     0
     23930 john
                         883912 682664
                                         7832 R
                                                 99.7
                 20 0
                                                       17.6
     23929 john
                 20
                     0
                         883880 682640
                                         8376 R
                                                 99.3
                                                       17.6
          13:16.25 xhpl
```

Indicates that only 50.7% of CPU time is being utilised by user programs (us), Linpack/OpenMPI...

I hypothesise that the 1.4% of software interrupts (si) is responsible 47.8% of CPU time in the kernel (sy) servicing these interrupts...

Lets have a look at the software interrupts on the system...

```
$ watch -n 1 cat /proc/softirqs
```

```
Every 1.0s: cat /proc/softirqs

CPU0 CPU1 CPU2 CPU3

HI: 0 1 0 1

TIMER: 122234556 86872295 85904119 85646345
```

| NET_TX:   | 222717797  | 228381  | 147690  | 144396  |   |
|-----------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---|
| NET_RX:   | 1505715680 | 1132    | 1294    | 1048    |   |
| BLOCK:    | 63160      | 11906   | 13148   | 11223   |   |
| IRQ_POLL: | 0          | 0       | 0       | 0       |   |
| TASKLET:  | 58902273   | 33      | 2       | 6       |   |
| SCHED:    | 3239933    | 3988327 | 2243001 | 2084571 |   |
| HRTIMER:  | 8116       | 55      | 53      | 50      |   |
| RCU:      | 6277982    | 4069531 | 4080009 | 3994395 |   |
|           |            |         |         |         | i |

As can be seen...

- 1. the majority of software interrupts are being generated by network receive (NET\_RX) activity, followed by network transmit activity (NET\_TX)...
- 2. these interrupts are being almost exclusively handled by CPU0...

What is there to be done?...

- 1. Reduce the numbers of interrupts...
- 1.1 Each packet produces an interrupt interrupt coalesing...
- 1.2 Reduce the number of packets increase MTU...
- 2.1 Share the interrupt servicing activity evenly across the CPUs...

#### 5.4.3 Network Optimisation

On node2 start the Iperf server...

```
$ iperf -s
```

On node1 start the Iperf client...

```
$ iperf -c
```

ping tests of MTU...

iperf network speed...

#### **Jumbo Frames**

Requires a network switch capable of Jumbo frames...

```
$ ip link show eth0
```

```
2: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc mq

→ state UP mode DEFAULT group default qlen 1000
link/ether dc:a6:32:60:7b:cd brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
```

```
$ ping -c 1 -s 1500 -M do node2
```

```
PING node2 (192.168.0.2) 1500(1528) bytes of data.
ping: local error: message too long, mtu=1500
```

```
$ ping -c 1 -s 1472 -M do node2
```

```
PING node2 (192.168.0.2) 1472(1500) bytes of data. 1480 bytes from node2 (192.168.0.2): icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time \rightarrow =0.392 ms
```

Trying to set the MTU to 9000 bytes...

```
$ sudo ip link set eth0 mtu 9000
```

... results with...

```
Error: mtu greater than device maximum.
```

In fact, attempting to set the MTU to anything greater than 1500 bytes...

```
$ sudo ip link set eth0 mtu 1501
```

... results with...

```
Error: mtu greater than device maximum.
```

Need to build a kernel with Jumbo frame support...

See Appendix?...

```
$ ip link show eth0
```

```
2: eth0: <BROADCAST, MULTICAST, UP, LOWER_UP> mtu 9000 qdisc mq

→ state UP mode DEFAULT group default qlen 1000
link/ether dc:a6:32:60:7b:cd brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
```

```
$ ping -c 1 -s 9000 -M do node2
```

```
PING node2 (192.168.0.2) 9000(9028) bytes of data.
ping: local error: message too long, mtu=9000
```

```
$ ping -c 1 -s 8972 -M do node2
```

On node2 create the Iperf server...

```
$ iperf -s
```

On node1 create and run the Iperf client...

```
$ iperf -i 1 -c node2
```

#### 5.4.4 Kernel TCP Parameters Tuning

#### REFERENCE...

https://www.open-mpi.org/faq/?category=tcp

Listing 5.4: /etc/sysctl.d/picluster.conf

```
net.core.rmem_max = 16777216
net.core.wmem_max = 16777216
net.ipv4.tcp_rmem = 4096 87380 16777216
net.ipv4.tcp_wmem = 4096 65536 16777216
net.core.netdev_max_backlog = 30000
net.core.rmem_default = 16777216
net.core.wmem_default = 16777216
net.ipv4.tcp_mem = 16777216 16777216
net.ipv4.tcp_mem = 16777216 16777216
net.ipv4.route.flush = 1
```



Figure 5.5: Network Node to Node Bandwidth vs MTU.

```
\verb"sudo" sysctl --system"
```

or

```
sudo shutdown -r now
```

```
Aug 11 03:35:40 node5 kernel: [19256.425779] bcmgenet \hookrightarrow fd580000.ethernet eth0: bcmgenet_xmit: tx ring 1 full \hookrightarrow when queue 2 awake
```

Summary

# Part II Build Instructions

# The Aerin Cluster

#### 7.1 Introduction

This appendix is intended to be a complete and self contained guide for building a Raspberry Pi Cluster. With the caveat that the cluster has the bare minimum software/functionality necessary to compile and run the High Performance Linpack (HPL) benchmark, namely the build-essential package, two BLAS libraries (OpenBLAS and BLIS), and Open-MPI. A number of performance measurement tools are also installed, such as perf and iperf. The latest version of HPL is downloaded and built from source.

It would be a relatively simple task to add... SLIRM or...

The cluster consists of the following components...

8 x Raspberry Pi 4 Model B 4GB compute nodes, node1 to node8 1 x software development and build node, node9 9 x Official Raspberry Pi 4 Model B power supplies 9 x 32GB Class 10 MicroSD cards 1 x workstation, in my case my MacBook Pro, macbook 1 x 8 port Gigabit Router/Firewall 1 x 16 port Gigabit switch with Jumbo Frame support

 ${\rm Items}$ 

Photo

#### 7.2 Preliminary Tasks

#### 7.2.1 Update Raspberry Pi EE-PROMs

#### 7.2.2 Obtain Raspberry Pi MAC Addresses

#### 7.2.3 Generate User Key Pair

On macbook (no passphrase):

```
$ ssh-genkey -t rsa -C john
```

This will create two files... in ...

#### 7.2.4 Amend macbook /etc/hosts

On macbook, using your favourite editor, add the following to /etc/hosts:

```
1 192.168.0.1 node1

2 192.168.0.2 node2

3 192.168.0.3 node3

4 192.168.0.4 node4

5 192.168.0.5 node5

6 192.168.0.6 node6

7 192.168.0.7 node7

8 192.168.0.8 node8

9 192.168.0.9 node9
```

This enables...

```
$ ssh john@node1
```

or, the abbreviated...

```
$ ssh node1
```

provided the user name on the macbook is the same as the Linux user created by cloud-init.

#### 7.2.5 Router/Firewall Configuration

Local network behind firewall/switch: 192.168.0.254

WAN address LAN address

Firewall/Switch (Netgear FVS318G)

Describe DHCP reservations mapping IP to MAC addresses.

Describe ssh access

Add relevant PDFs.

#### 7.3 Ubuntu 20.04 64-bit LTS Installation

The idea is to have a single (modified) Ubuntu 20.04 image which can be used to install Ubuntu 20.04 on all of the nodes...

#### 7.3.1 Create the Installation Image

The instructions below are for MacOS but should be straightforward to adjust for other operating systems.

#### On macbook...

Download the Raspberry Pi 4 Ubuntu 20.04 LTS 64-bit pre-installed server image from the Ubuntu website.

Double click the compressed the .xz file to extract the .img file.

Double click the .img file to mount the image in the macbook filesystem as:

#### /Volumes/system-boot

We now need to edit the user-data file which stores the cloud-init configuration. The user-data file used to create the Aerin Cluster is at Listing 7.

Listing 7.1: /Volumes/system-boot/user-data

```
#cloud-config
2
   # This is the user-data configuration file for cloud-init.
3
       \hookrightarrow By default this sets
   # up an initial user called "ubuntu" with password "ubuntu",
       \hookrightarrow which must be
   # changed at first login. However, many additional actions
       \hookrightarrow can be initiated on
   # first boot from this file. The cloud-init documentation
6
       → has more details:
7
   # https://cloudinit.readthedocs.io/
   # On first boot, set the (default) ubuntu user's password to
10
       \hookrightarrow "ubuntu" and
   # expire user passwords
11
   chpasswd:
12
     expire: true
13
     list:
14
     - ubuntu:ubuntu
     - john:john
```

```
17
   # Enable password authentication with the SSH daemon
  ssh_pwauth: true
  ## Add users and groups to the system, and import keys with
      \hookrightarrow the ssh-import-id
  groups:
22
   - john: [john]
23
  users:
   - default
   - name: john
     gecos: John Duffy
     {\tt primary\_group: john}
29
     sudo: ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD:ALL
30
    shell: /bin/bash
31
    ssh_authorized_keys:
     - ssh-rsa ...= john
35 ## Update apt database and upgrade packages on first boot
  package_update: true
37 | package_upgrade: true
  | ## Install additional packages on first boot
   packages:
   - git
41
   - tree
42
   - unzip
43
   - iperf
44
  - net-tools
  - linux-tools-common
47 - linux-tools-raspi
  - build-essential
  - gfortran
49
  - gdb
50
  - fakeroot
51
  - devscripts
  - openmpi-bin
   - libblis3-serial
   - libblis3-openmp
   - libopenblas0-serial
   - libopenblas0-openmp
57
  ## Write arbitrary files to the file-system (including
      → binaries!)
   write_files:
   - path: /etc/hosts
     content: |
62
       127.0.0.1 localhost
63
     192.168.0.1 node1
```

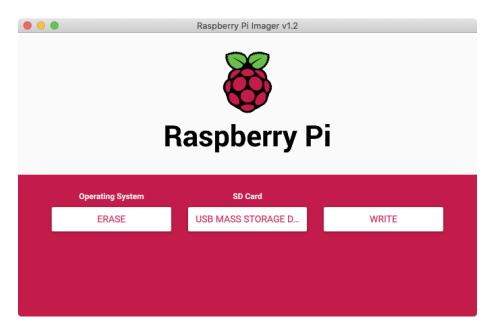


Figure 7.1: Using Raspberry Pi Imager to erase and format a MicroSD card.

```
192.168.0.2 node2
65
        192.168.0.3 node3
66
67
        192.168.0.4 node4
        192.168.0.5 node5
68
        192.168.0.6 node6
69
        192.168.0.7 node7
70
        192.168.0.8 node8
71
        192.168.0.9 node9
72
     permissions: '0644'
73
     owner: root:root
74
75
   ## Run arbitrary commands at rc.local like time
76
   runcmd:
77
   - hostnamectl set-hostname --static node$(hostname -i | cut
78
       \hookrightarrow -d ' ' -f 1 | cut -d '.' -f 4)
   - reboot
```

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Eject}}\xspace/\ensuremath{\mathsf{unmount}}\xspace$  the .img file.

Use Raspberry Pi Imager to erase...

Then use the Raspberry Pi Imager to write preinstalled server image to the MicroSD card...

When complete, remove the MicroSD card from the card reader, place it the



Figure 7.2: Using Raspberry Pi Imager to write the server image to a MicroSD card.

Raspberry Pi and plug in the power cable.

The cloud-init configuration process will now start. The Raspberry Pi will acquire its IP address from the router, setup users, update apt, upgrade the system, download software packages, set the hostname (based on the IP address), and finally the system will reboot.

#### 7.4 Post-Installation Tasks

#### 7.4.1 Enable No Password Access

This is required for Open-MPI...

Our public key was installed on each node by cloud-init. So, we can ssh into each node without a password, and use the abbreviated ssh node1, instead of ssh john@node1 (assuming john is the user name on the workstation).

We need to copy our private key to node1 (only node1)...

```
$ scp ~/.ssh/id_rsa node1:~/.ssh
```

Then to enable access to node node to node without a password from node 1, we need to import the ... keys into the node 1 knownhosts file...

This is easily done. From macbook...

```
$ ssh node1
```

And then from node1, for node2 to node9...

```
$ ssh node2
```

This will generate will generate a message similar to...

Respond yes to this, which imports the host key into the ~/.ssh/knownhosts file of node1.

And then exit from the connected node...

```
$ exit
```

Repeat the above for node2 to node9.

The above is only required to be done once (unless the host keys on node2 to node9 change).

#### 7.4.2 Uninstall unattended-upgrades

The unattended-upgrades package is installed automatically...

This can potentially interferer with long running benchmarks...

Remove...

From macbook:

```
$ ssh node1
$ ~/picluster/tools/do "sudo apt remove unattended-upgrades"
```

Don't forget to upgrade your cluster regularly at convenient times with...

```
$ ssh node1
$ ~/picluster/tools/upgrade
```

#### 7.4.3 Add Ubuntu Source Repositories

We are going to be rebuilding some packages from source...

```
$ ssh node1
$ sudo touch /etc/apt/sources/list.d/picluster.list
$ sudo vim /etc/apt/sources/list.d/picluster.list
```

... and add the following source repositories...

Listing 7.2: /etc/apt/sources.list.d/picluster.list

```
deb-src http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal main universe deb-src http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates main 
→ universe
```

... and then update the repository cache...

```
$ sudo apt update
```

#### 7.4.4 Create a Project Repository

Xpand upon...

```
$ ssh node1
$ mkdir picluster
```

```
$ cd picluster
$ git init
```

Ensure you do push your repository to a remote repository at regular intervals...

#### 7.4.5 Select BLAS Library

The cloud-init process will have installed four BLAS libraries, namely...

libopenblas0-serial

libopenblas0-openmp

libblis0-serial

libblis0-openmp

To query the BLAS library currently in use on each node we can use one of our Pi Cluster tools...

#### \$ ~/picluster/tools/libblas-query

```
node8... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/openblas-openmp/libblas.

→ so.3

node7... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/openblas-openmp/libblas.

→ so.3

node6... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/openblas-openmp/libblas.

→ so.3

node5... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/openblas-openmp/libblas.

→ so.3

node4... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/openblas-openmp/libblas.

→ so.3

node3... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/openblas-openmp/libblas.

→ so.3

node2... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/openblas-openmp/libblas.

→ so.3

node1... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/openblas-openmp/libblas.

→ so.3
```

To select an alternative library we can use another of our Pi Cluster tools...

```
$ ~/picluster/tools/libblas-set blis-serial
```

```
node8... done
node7... done
node6... done
```

```
node5... done
node4... done
node3... done
node2... done
node1... done
```

#### \$ ~/picluster/tools/libblas-query

```
node8... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-serial/libblas.so.3
node7... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-serial/libblas.so.3
node6... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-serial/libblas.so.3
node5... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-serial/libblas.so.3
node4... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-serial/libblas.so.3
node3... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-serial/libblas.so.3
node2... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-serial/libblas.so.3
node1... /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/blis-serial/libblas.so.3
```

# Install High-Performance Linpack (HPL)

Download and install the latest version of HPL on node1...

```
$ ssh node1
$ cd ~/picluster
$ mkdir hp1
$ cd hp1
$ wget https://www.netlib.org/benchmark/hp1/hp1-2.3.tar.gz
$ gunzip hp1-2.3.tar.gz
$ tar xvf hp1-2.3.tar
$ rm hp1-2.3.tar
$ cd hp1-2.3
```

Create a Make.picluster file...

```
$ cd setup
$ bash make_generic
$ cp Make.UNKNOWN ../Make.picluster
$ cd ..
```

Amend Make.picluster as per listing ???.

Listing 8.1: /picluster/hpl/hpl-2.3/Make.picluster

```
# -- High Performance Computing Linpack Benchmark (HPL)

# HPL - 2.3 - December 2, 2018

# Antoine P. Petitet

University of Tennessee, Knoxville
```

```
Innovative Computing Laboratory
6
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11
      \hookrightarrow with or without
     modification, are permitted provided that the following
12
           conditions
      are met:
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      → disclaimer.
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      \hookrightarrow distribution.
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      \hookrightarrow use of this
      software must display the following acknowledgement:
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      \hookrightarrow University of
      Tennessee, Knoxville, Innovative Computing Laboratory.
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      \hookrightarrow Laboratory, or the
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                          from this software without
29
      \hookrightarrow specific written
     permission.
30
31
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32
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34
      → CONTRIBUTORS
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35
      \hookrightarrow INCLUDING, BUT NOT
     LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND
      → FITNESS FOR
     A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ARE DISCLAIMED. IN NO EVENT SHALL
37
      → THE UNIVERSITY
     OR CONTRIBUTORS BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT,
38
      → INCIDENTAL,
```

```
SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (
39
      \hookrightarrow INCLUDING, BUT NOT
     LIMITED TO, PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES;
40
      \hookrightarrow LOSS OF USE,
     DATA OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER

    → CAUSED AND ON ANY

     THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT
42
      → LIABILITY, OR TORT
     (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY
43
      \hookrightarrow OUT OF THE USE
     OF THIS SOFTWARE, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF

→ SUCH DAMAGE.

45
      #
46
  #
47
      \hookrightarrow
    - shell
48
      > -----
  #
49
50
   SHELL
               = /usr/bin/bash
51
52
  CD
               = cd
53
  CP
               = cp
  LN_S
               = ln -s
  MKDIR
               = mkdir -p
               = rm -f
57
  TOUCH
               = touch
58
59
60
  # - Platform identifier
61
62
  #
  ARCH
             = picluster
64
65
66
      \hookrightarrow
67 # - HPL Directory Structure / HPL library
```

```
#
68
  TOPdir
              = $(HOME)/picluster/hpl/hpl-2.3
             = $(TOPdir)/include
             = $(TOPdir)/bin/$(ARCH)
  LIBdir
              = $(TOPdir)/lib/$(ARCH)
              = $(LIBdir)/libhpl.a
  HPLlib
75
76
77
     → ------
  # - Message Passing library (MPI)
78
79
  # MPinc tells the C compiler where to find the Message
80
     → Passing library
  # header files, MPlib is defined to be the name of the
81
     \hookrightarrow library to be
  # used. The variable MPdir is only used for defining MPinc
     \hookrightarrow and MPlib.
83
  MPdir
             = /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/openmpi
84
  MPinc
              = $(MPdir)/include
85
  MPlib
              = $(MPdir)/lib/libmpi.so
87
      # - Linear Algebra library (BLAS or VSIPL)
89
90
  # LAinc tells the C compiler where to find the Linear
91
      \hookrightarrow Algebra library
  # header files, LAlib is defined to be the name of the
92
     \hookrightarrow library to be
  # used. The variable LAdir is only used for defining LAinc
     \hookrightarrow and LAlib.
  LAdir
              = /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu
96 LAinc
97 LAlib
              = $(LAdir)/libblas.so.3
98 #
```

```
99
       \hookrightarrow
      - F77 / C interface
100
101
    # You can skip this section if and only if you are not
102
       \hookrightarrow planning to use
    # a BLAS library featuring a Fortran 77 interface.
103
       \hookrightarrow Otherwise, it is
    # necessary to fill out the F2CDEFS variable with the
104
       \hookrightarrow appropriate
    \# options. **One and only one** option should be chosen in
105
       → **each** of
    # the 3 following categories:
106
107
    # 1) name space (How C calls a Fortran 77 routine)
108
109
                            : all lower case and a suffixed
    # -DAdd_
110
       Intel, ...),
111
                                        [default]
    # -DNoChange
                            : all lower case (IBM RS6000),
112
                            : all upper case (Cray),
    # -DUpCase
113
    # -DAdd__
                            : the FORTRAN compiler in use is f2c.
114
115
    # 2) C and Fortran 77 integer mapping
116
117
    # -DF77_INTEGER=int
                           : Fortran 77 INTEGER is a C int,
                    [default]
    # -DF77_INTEGER=long : Fortran 77 INTEGER is a C long,
119
    # -DF77_INTEGER=short : Fortran 77 INTEGER is a C short.
120
121
    # 3) Fortran 77 string handling
122
123
                            : The string address is passed at the
      -DStringSunStyle
124

→ string loca-

                              tion on the stack, and the string
125
       \hookrightarrow length is then
                              passed as an F77_INTEGER after
126
       \hookrightarrow all explicit
                              stack arguments,
127
                                   [default]
128
    # -DStringStructPtr
                            : The address of a structure
        \hookrightarrow passed by a
                              Fortran 77 string, and the
129
       \hookrightarrow structure is of the
```

form: struct {char \*cp; F77\_INTEGER

130 #

```
\hookrightarrow len;},
   # -DStringStructVal
                    : A structure is passed by value for
131
      \hookrightarrow each Fortran
                       77 string, and the structure is
132
     \hookrightarrow of the form:
                       struct {char *cp; F77_INTEGER len;},
133
    -DStringCrayStyle
                    : Special option for Cray machines,
134
      \hookrightarrow which uses
                       Cray fcd (fortran character
135
      \hookrightarrow descriptor) for
136
                       interoperation.
             = -DAdd_ -DF77_INTEGER=int -DStringSunStyle
   F2CDEFS
138
139
140
   # - HPL includes / libraries / specifics
142
      143
   HPL_INCLUDES = -I$(INCdir) -I$(INCdir)/$(ARCH) -I$(MPinc)
   HPL_LIBS = $(HPLlib) $(LAlib) $(MPlib)
145
146
   # - Compile time options
147
      148
  # -DHPL_COPY_L
                        force the copy of the panel L
149
     → before bcast;
  # -DHPL_CALL_CBLAS
                        call the cblas interface;
  # -DHPL_CALL_VSIPL
                        call the vsip library;
  # -DHPL_DETAILED_TIMING enable detailed timers;
152
153
  # By default HPL will:
154
       *) not copy L before broadcast,
155
       *) call the BLAS Fortran 77 interface,
       *) not display detailed timing information.
158
   # HPL_OPTS
159
  #
160
161
        ______
  HPL_DEFS = $(F2CDEFS) $(HPL_OPTS) $(HPL_INCLUDES)
163
164
165
```

```
- Compilers / linkers - Optimization flags
166
167
168
               = mpicc
169
               = $(HPL_DEFS)
   CCNOOPT
170
               = $(HPL_DEFS) -03 -march=armv8-a -mtune=cortex-
   CCFLAGS
171
      → a72
172
               = \$(CC)
   LINKER
173
   LINKFLAGS
               = $(CCFLAGS)
174
175
   ARCHIVER
               = ar
176
   ARFLAGS
               = r
177
   RANLIB
               = echo
179
180
        ______
```

Build HPL...

```
$ make arch=picluster
```

This creates the executable xhpl and input file HPL.dat in bin/picluster

The xhpl executable has to exist in the same location on each node, so copy xhpl to node2 to node8 (only xhpl, and not HPL.dat)...

# Install HPC Challenge (HPCC)

These instructions are derived from the README.txt file in the top level directory of the HPCC source code.

Download and install the latest version of HPCC on node1...

Copy the HPL build script Make.picluster to the hpl directory...

```
$ cd hpl
$ cp ~/picluster/hpl/hpl-2.3/Make.picluster .
```

Make the following changes to Make.picluster. These differ from the build instructions for HPL.

Change the TOPdir variable to ../../..

Listing 9.1: Make.picluster

```
TOPdir = ../../..
```

Add the math library explicitly, -lm, for the linker...

Listing 9.2: Make.picluster

```
LAlib = $(LAdir)/libblas.so.3 -lm
```

Add the constant  ${\tt OMPI\_OMIT\_MPI1\_COMPAT\_DECLS}$  to  ${\tt CCFLAGS},$  otherwise the compilation fails...

Listing 9.3: Make.picluster

```
CCFLAGS = $(HPL_DEFS) -03 -march=armv8-a -mtune=cortex-a72 -

→ DOMPI_OMIT_MPI1_COMPAT_DECLS
```

Now move back up into the top level directory...

```
$ cd ..
```

Build HPCC...

```
$ make arch=picluster
```

Copy the hpcc executable to all of the nodes...

Create the input file hpccinf.txt...

```
$ cp _hpccinf.txt hpccinf.txt
```

And amend as necessary. An input file which uses 80% of the total cluster memory is at Listing ???.

To run HPCC across all 8 nodes...

The output will be in the file  ${\tt hpccoutf.txt.}$ 

Install High Performance Conjugate Gradients (HPCG)

# Ubuntu Kernel Build Procedure

This procedure is derived from the Ubuntu Wiki BuildYourOwnKernel document...

Make sure you have made the source code repositories available as per...

Create a kernel build directory with the correct directory permissions to prevent source download warnings.

```
$ ssh node1
$ mkdir -p ~/picluster/build/kernel
$ sudo chown _apt:root ~/picluster/build/kernel
$ cd ~/picluster/build/kernel
```

Install the kernel build dependencies...

```
$ sudo apt-get build-dep linux linux-image-$(uname -r)
```

Download the kernel source...

```
$ sudo apt-get source linux-image-$(uname -r)
$ cd linux-raspi-5.4.0
```

This bit is a fix for the subsequent editconfigs step of the build procedure...

```
$ cd debian.raspi/etc
$ sudo cp kernelconfig kernelconfig.original
$ sudo vim kernelconfig
```

And make the following change...

Listing 11.1: diff kernelconfig kernelconfig.original

```
5c5
< archs="arm64"
---
> archs="armhf arm64"
```

Then move back up to the kernel source top level directory...

```
$ cd ../..
```

Prepare the build scripts...

```
$ sudo chmod a+x debian/rules
$ sudo chmod a+x debian/scripts/*
$ sudo chmod a+x debian/scripts/misc/*
```

#### SOURCE CHANGES AND/OR verb—editconfigs— AT THIS POINT

```
$ sudo apt install libncurses-dev
$ sudo LANG=C fakeroot debian/rules clean
$ sudo LANG=C fakeroot debian/rules editconfigs
```

Tweak the kernel name for identification...

```
$ cd debian.raspi
$ sudo cp changelog changelog.original
$ sudo vim changelog
```

And make the following change, where +picluster0 is our kernel identifier...

Listing 11.2: diff changelog changelog.original

Move up to the top level kernel source directory...

```
$ cd ..
```

And build the kernel...

```
$ sudo LANG=C fakeroot debian/rules clean
$ sudo LANG=C fakeroot debian/rules binary-arch
cd ..
```

Install the new kernel...

```
$ sudo dpkg -i linux*picluster0*.deb
$ sudo shutdown -r now
```

Another build procedure fix...

After each kernel build delete the linux-libc-dev directory...

```
$ cd ~/picluster/build/kernel/linux-raspi-5.4.0/debian
$ rm -rf linux-libc-dev
$ cd ..
```

# Build Kernel with No Pre-Emption Scheduler

# Build Kernel with Jumbo Frames Support

```
Standard MTU is 1500 bytes...
```

Maximum payload size is 1472 bytes...

NB of 184 (x 8 bytes for Double Precision) = 1472 bytes...

NB > 184 => packet fragmentation => reduced network efficiency...

This causes drop of in performance???...

Max MTU on Raspberry Pi 4 Model B is set at build time to 1500...

Not configurable above 1500...

TODO: EXAMPLE OF ERROR MSG...

Need to build the kernel with higher MTU...

Make the required changes to the source... as per REFERENCE

```
cd linux-raspi-5.4.0
sudo vim include/linux/if_vlan.h...
   #define VLAN_ETH_DATA_LEN 9000
   #define VLAN_ETH_FRAME_LEN 9018
sudo vim include/uapi/linux/if_ether.h...
```

#define ETH\_DATA\_LEN 9000
#define ETH\_FRAME\_LEN 9014

Add a Jumbo Frames identifier, " $+\mathrm{j}\mathrm{f}$ ", to the new kernel name...

sudo vim debian.raspi/changelog...
linux (5.4.0-1013.13+jf) focal; urgency=medium

# Rebuild OpenBLAS

```
$ ssh node1
$ mkdir -p build/openblas
$ chown -R _apt:root build
$ cd build/openblas
$ sudo apt-get source openblas
$ sudo apt-get build-dep openblas
$ cd openblas -0.3.8+ds
```

Edit cpuid\_arm64.c...

```
$ sudo cp cpuid_arm64.c cpuid_arm64.c.original
$ sudo vim cpuid_arm64.c
```

```
$ diff cpuid_arm64.c cpuid_arm64.c.original
```

```
275c275

< printf("#define L2_SIZE 1048576\n");
---
> printf("#define L2_SIZE 524288\n");
278c278

< printf("#define DTB_DEFAULT_ENTRIES 32\n");
---
> printf("#define DTB_DEFAULT_ENTRIES 64\n");
```

And, then following the instructions in debian/README.Debian

```
$ DEB_BUILD_OPTIONS=custom dpkg-buildpackage -uc -b
```

Once the build is complete..

```
cd ..
$ sudo apt remove libopenblas0-serial
$ sudo dpkg -i libopenblas0-serial\_0.3.8+ds-1\_arm64.deb
```

Ensure the correct BLAS library is being used...

```
$ sudo update-alternatives --config libblas.so.3-aarch64-

→ linux-gnu
```

copy to other nodes remove old... install new...

If more than one BLAS library is installed, check update-alternatives!!!

ssh node2 .. node8

# Rebuild BLIS

```
$ ssh node1
$ mkdir -p picluster/build/blis
$ cd picluster/build/blis
$ apt-get source blis
$ sudo apt-get build-dep blis
$ cd blis-0.6.1
```

# Build OpenMPI from Source

Do all of this on node1...

```
$ ssh node1
```

We want to avoid collisions with multiple OpenMPI installations, so remove original installed version...

```
$ sudo apt remove openmpi-common
$ sudo apt remove openmpi-bin
$ sudo apt autoremove
```

OpenMPI requires the libe vent-dev package...

```
$ sudo apt install libevent-dev
```

Create a build directory, and download and, and and following BLAH, BLAH build OpenMPI...

```
$ cd build
$ ../configure CFLAGS="-03 -march=armv8-a -mtune=cortex=a72"
$ make all
$ sudo make install
$ sudo ldconfig
```

OpenMPI will installed to /usr/local  $\,$ 

EXTRACT FROM HPL.dat

TODO: HOW TO COPY TO ALL NODES!

## **Aerin Cluster Tools**

Listing 17.1: picluster/tools/upgrade

```
#!/usr/bin/bash

NODES=9

for (( i=$NODES; i>0; i-- ))

do

echo "Upgrading node$i..."

ssh node$i sudo apt update

ssh node$i sudo apt full-upgrade --yes

ssh node$i sudo apt autoremove --yes

ssh node$i sudo shutdown -r now

done
```

Listing 17.2: picluster/tools/reboot

```
#!/usr/bin/bash

NODES=8

for (( i=$NODES; i>0; i-- ))
do
    echo "Rebooting node$i..."
    ssh node$i sudo shutdown -r now
done
```

Listing 17.3: picluster/tools/shutdown

```
#!/usr/bin/bash
NODES=8
```

```
for (( i=$NODES; i>0; i-- ))
do
echo "Shutting down node$i..."
ssh node$i sudo shutdown -h now
done
```

Listing 17.4: picluster/tools/libblas-query

Listing 17.5: picluster/tools/libblas-set

```
#!/usr/bin/bash
2
   NODES=8
3
4
   case $1 in
5
     "openblas-serial" | "openblas-openmp" | "blis-serial" | "
6
        ⇔ blis-openmp")
       for (( i=$NODES; i>0; i-- ))
8
         printf "node$i..."
9
         ssh node$i sudo update-alternatives --quiet --set \
10
           libblas.so.3-aarch64-linux-gnu \
11
           /usr/lib/aarch64-linux-gnu/$1/libblas.so.3
12
         printf "done\n"
       done
14
       exit
15
       ;;
16
   esac
^{17}
   echo "Usage: libblas-set {openblas-serial|openblas-openmp|
      → blis-serial|blis-openmp}"
```

#### **Arm Performance Libraries**

This does not work, yet! HPL will compile and link to Arm Performance Libraries, but raises an illegal instruction error at runtime.

At the time of writing, Arm Performance Libraries release 20.2.0 requires a minimum Instruction Set Architecture (ISA) of armv8.1-a. Unfortunately, the Raspberry Pi's Cortex-A72 ISA is armv8.0-a. An Arm representative has indicated on the Arm HPC Forum that the next release of the libraries will support the armv8.0-a ISA.

This Chapter is included for future reference.

The Arm Performance Libraries website states:

"Arm Performance Libraries provides optimised standard core math libraries for high-performance computing applications on Arm processors. This free version of the libraries provides optimised libraries for Arm® Neoverse<sup>TM</sup> N1-based Armv8 AArch64 implementations that are compatible with various versions of GCC. You do not require a license for this version of the libraries."

To install Arm Performance Libraries, firstly downloaded Arm Performance Libraries 20.2.0 with GCC 9.3 for Ubuntu 16.04+ from the Arm website.

Then follow these instructions.

\$ ssh node1

Install the required environment\_modules package.

\$ sudo apt install environment-modules

Then extract and install Arm Performance Libraries.

The default installation directory is /opt/arm.

Copy the Make.picluster configuration file.

```
$ cd ~/picluster/hpl/hpl-2.3
$ cp Make.picluster Make.picluster-armpl
```

Make the following changes to Make.picluster-armpl.

Listing 18.1: Make.picluster-armpl

```
LAdir = /opt/arm/armpl_20.2_gcc-9.3

LAinc = LAlib = -L$(LAdir)/lib -larmpl -lgfortran -lamath -lm
```

Build HPL.

```
$ make arch=picluster-armpl
```