

Cloud Computing Report (Basic)

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Some details about the benchmarks can be found here <https://github.com/onafetsidrasul/Cloud>.

1 Setting up the VMs cluster

This part is based on prof. Taffoni's tutorial, so I will not go too much in detail.

The VMs cluster has been setup on VirtualBox and is based on a **master node** and 2 computational nodes (**node01** and **node02**). Every machine has **1024MB of memory**, **1 CPU** and **25GB of disk**. The operative system I used is Ubuntu Server 24.04.2 for ARM architecture, indeed I'm working on a MacbookAir M2.

The host machine can access through ssh to the master which can access to all the nodes: this is guaranteed by the fact that the master has port forwarding and each machine is connected to an internal network named *clustervimnet*. Moreover each machine is connected to a NAT adapter for internet access.

```
vboxuser@master:~$ ip link show
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN mode DEFAULT group default qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
2: enp0s8: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP mode DEFAULT group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:af:bc:13 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
3: enp0s9: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP mode DEFAULT group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:e4:59:d3 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
```

Figure 1: Available interfaces

The IPs are assigned dynamically thanks to the configuration of *dnsmasq* on the master node. I also implemented a distributed filesystem using NFS at the location */shared*.

2 Benchmarks

2.1 HPCC

To execute the HPCC benchmark we need to clone the repository:

```
git clone https://www.github.com/icl-utk-edu/hpcc.git
```

To have a more recent version of hpl I actually substituted the hpl folder with hpl-2.3

```
wget https://www.netlib.org/benchmark/hpl/hpl-2.3.tar.gz
gunzip hpl-2.3.tar.gz; tar -xvf hpl-2.3.tar
```

Then I managed to create the executable for hpcc with the makefile *Make.Linux_PII_CBLAS* after having installed all the libraries needed that can be found in *configure* (inside the hpl directory)

```
cp ./setup/Make.Linux_PII_CBLAS Make.aarch64
```

and finally, in the hpcc directory

```
make arch=aarch64 CC=mpicc
```

At this point it is necessary to configure the hpccinf.txt file, which is practically the same file as the one for hpl.

For this purpose I basically used this calculator www.advancedclustering.com/act_kb/tune-hpl-dat-file/ setting the number of nodes = 3, cores per node = 1, block size = 300 and I also changed the size of the problem to be = 5000.

To run the benchmark I created a very simple *hostfile*

```
master slots=1
node01 slots=1
node02 slots=1
```

so I will use all the 3 machines for the benchmark. The benchmark can now be run with:

```
mpirun --hostfile hostfile -np 3 --mca btl ^vader --mca
    btl_tcp_if_include enp0s9 hpcc
```

Then I am using the 3 processors specified in the hostfile, I disabled vader (which would be useful in case I run the benchmark locally) and I specify the interface for the communication between the machines.

Note while the benchmark is running I can check that it is forwarded to all the machines with *htop*.

For all the benchmarks in the HPCC package I also tested the single machine changing the file to run everything on a single node, the rest has been kept constant.

2.1.1 HPL (floating point rate of execution for solving a linear system of equations)

	cluster	master	node01	node02
GFLOPS/s	70.4	47.2	47.0	47.1

While we notice that there isn't a big difference in terms of performance between the different machines we notice that there is a convenience in using the cluster instead of the single node. We'll see that this is not true in general for all the benchmarks and probably this happens because of how hpl is optimized for parallel execution.

2.1.2 DGEMM (floating point rate of execution of double precision real matrix-matrix multiplication)

	cluster	master	node01	node02
Avg GFLOPS/s	43.077100	47.627563	45.392535	47.334444

As before, the difference between the nodes is neglectable, but in this case there isn't a convenience in using the cluster rather than the single machine. This is probably due to the overhead introduced while the machines are communicating and due to virtualization.

2.1.3 STREAM (sustainable memory bandwidth measurement)

Function	cluster	master	node01	node02
Copy	21.0654 GB/s	67.9878 GB/s	65.1284 GB/s	66.1927 GB/s
Scale	15.2794 GB/s	48.9594 GB/s	48.3682 GB/s	48.0428 GB/s
Add	16.2840 GB/s	50.7092 GB/s	51.1403 GB/s	51.0885 GB/s
Triad	18.7210 GB/s	51.0712 GB/s	51.0702 GB/s	51.4444 GB/s

In this case the single node overperforms the cluster probably due to virtualization and Numa effect: on a cluster every node has its own ram and if a node wants to access another node's memory that is not so immediate as it is when it is accessing its own memory.

2.1.4 RandomAccess (rate of integer random updates of memory)

	cluster	master	node01	node02
Avg GUP/s	0.116753	0.178320	0.156039	0.180330

The worsening of the performances in the cluster with respect to the nodes can still be explained by Numa effect and virtualization.

2.1.5 FFT

	cluster	master	node01	node02
GFLOPS/s	4.97176	6.27709	6.42946	6.52324

Ibidem.

2.2 sysbench (general system test)

To properly stress the system and get more interesting results I carried on the following benchmarks while running hpcc. The following results are obtained to test the **cpu** with the command:

```
sysbench --test=cpu --cpu-max-prime=20000 run
```

	master	node01	node02
events per second	1870.85	1869.82	1865.88
avg latency (ms)	0.53	0.53	0.53

We don't see a huge difference between the different machines that indeed have the same resources and do not highlight unbalancedness between them.

The latency is small ($< 1ms$).

We can compare the results with the non-stressed scenario.

	master	node01	node02
events per second	3788.56	3788.04	3759.20
avg latency (ms)	0.26	0.26	0.27

And we see that the performances are basically halved in the stressed scenario highlighting performance degradation.

We can also test the **memory** of the nodes with

```
sysbench --test=memory --memory-block-size=8K --memory-total-size=100G run
```

	master	node01	node02
events per second	1708.31e2	1700.36e2	1705.93e2
avg latency (ms)	0.00	0.00	0.00

We see that we have practically no latency, so the local access to memory is not a problem, but accessing the memory in the cluster configuration can slow down the performances of the overall cluster.

	master	node01	node02
events per second	3397.06e2	3403.85e2	3396.70e2
avg latency (ms)	0.00	0.00	0.00

As before we notice performance degradation.

2.3 IOZone (filesystem)

These tests were run both on the single machines' filesystem and on the shared filesystem. We will concentrate on read and write scores. The command I used for the local filesystem is:

```
iozone -a -b output.xlsx
```

As in practically every test I run the performances of the different machines are comparable, so I report only the results for the master. In case you need to access also other machines' result look at the Github. Notice that there is an order of magnitude of difference in the scale of read and write graph.

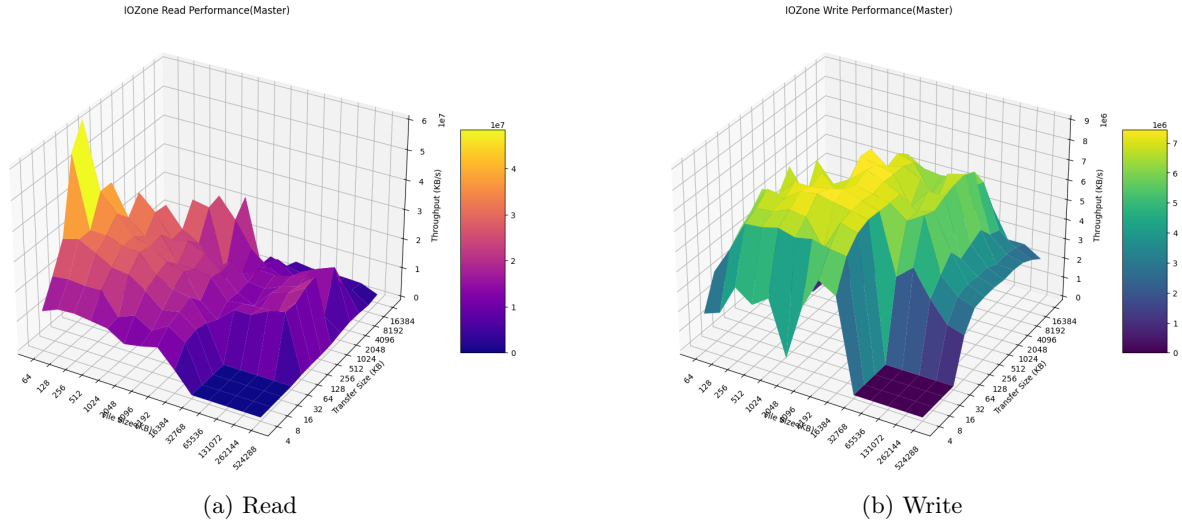


Figure 2: Master

To test the distributed NFS filesystem:

```
iozone -a -b -f /shared/test
```

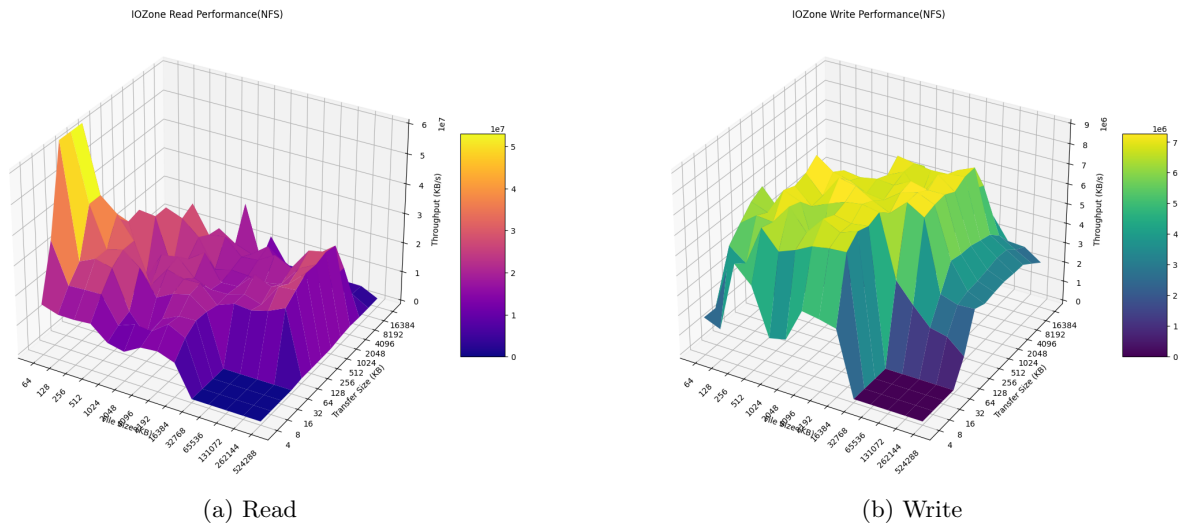


Figure 3: Distributed NFS

We don't see an appreciable difference between the local filesystem and the distributed one but we can try to see what happens to the nfs performances while stressing the network.

2.4 iperf (network)

I used iperf to test the network traffic between the master and the 2 nodes. To do so I run

```
iperf3 -s
```

on the master and

```
iperf3 -c 192.168.0.1
```

on the nodes.

I repeated the test a lot of times due to the high variability of the results I was obtaining.

The results show a transfer speed that ranges between $3.5Gbps$ and $4.8Gbps$ but also a retransmission value that goes from 0 to around 10^3 .

This could be a symptom of an issue related to the network, for instance, congestion, misconfiguration, or more probably latency introduced by virtualization overhead.

At this point I tried to run IOZone and iperf simultaneously setting iperf to be run for 60 seconds and rerun it in case IOZone lasts longer.

For iperf we don't see a performance degradation, while the performances of the distributed NFS filesystem shrink and become less stable.

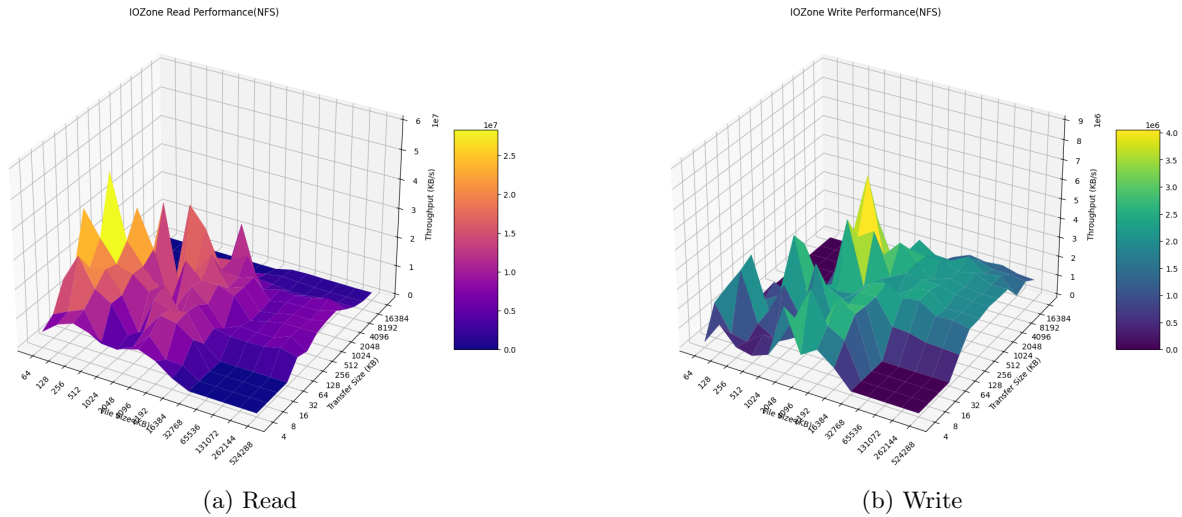


Figure 4: Distributed NFS, stress condition

3 Docker cluster

To configure the Docker cluster I created a *dockercompose.yml* file that you can find in the repository. It basically setup a cluster of 3 machines running Ubuntu, with 1 cpu each and 1 GB of ram each. I decided to do so in order to have a similar configuration compared to the VMs one.

I also implemented core pinning.

Of course the machines are connected to an internal network, can communicate, and can access internet.

4 Benchmarks

Since the details about the different benchmarks are very similar to the ones I used for the VMs cluster, this part will be shorter and focused on a comparison between the 2 clusters.

4.1 sysbench (general system test)

Here I took the average of the 3 machines for both the clusters.

	VMs	Containers
events per second (cpu)	3778.60	3940.37
avg latency (ms) (cpu)	0.26	0.25
events per second (memory)	3399.20e2	3574.49e2
avg latency (ms) (memory)	0.00	0.00

We already see an improvement of the performances with respect to the VMs cluster that we can explain with the fact that there is less virtualization overhead.

4.2 IOZone (filesystem)

For this benchmark I report the results of only 1 container, complete results can be found in the repository.

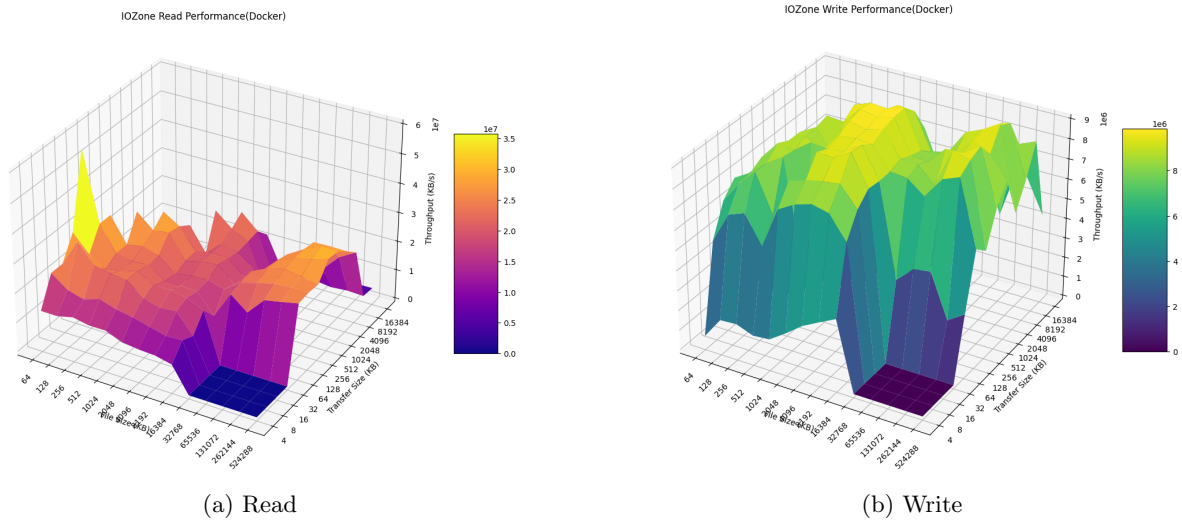


Figure 5: Docker

Here we can notice an improvement in the writing performance, while the reading performance is similar to the VMs one.

4.3 iperf (network)

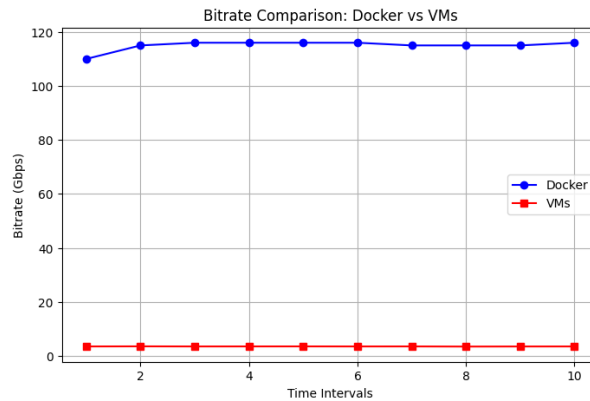


Figure 6: iperf

Even if also in this case the results in term of retransmission are very variable, the Docker cluster overperforms the transfer speed of the Vms one.

5 Conclusions

Considering the overall performance of the VMs cluster, we need to take into account the poor resources allocated for it. This, together with the effect of virtualization, communication overhead and Numa effect leads to performance degradation.

Even though the Docker cluster uses the same resources we see an improvement of the overall performances due to the reduction of virtualization overhead.

Even though containers perform better than VMs, VMs can still be a reliable choice if I care more about isolation and control of resources.