1. **What do you mean by parallel processing?**

A system is said to be parallel system in which multiple processor have direct access to shared memory which forms a common address space. Usually tightly coupled system are referred to as parallel system. In these systems, there is a single system wide primary memory (address space) that is shared by all the processors. In short parallel processing in the use of two or more processors in combination to solve a single problem.

1. **What are the** **application areas of parallel processing?**

Application areas of parallel processing:

Parallel computing us an evolution of serial computing that attempts to emulate what has been always been that state of affairs in the natural world: many complex, interrelated events happening at the same time, yet within a sequence. For Eamples:

* Planetary and galactic orbits
* Weather and ocean patterns
* Tectonic plate drift
* Rush hour traffic in Paris
* Automobile assembly line
* Daily operations within a business
* Building a shopping mall
* Ordering a hamburger at the drive through

Traditionally, parallel computing has been considered to be “the high end of computing” and has been motivated by numeric simulations of complex systems and “grand challenge problems”, such as:

* Weather and climate
* Chemical and nuclear reactions
* Biological, human resource
* Geological, seismic activity
* Mechanical devices – from prosthetics to spacecraft
* Electronic circuits
* Manufacturing processes

Today, commercial applications are providing an equal or greater driving force in the development of faster computers. These applications require that processing of large amounts of data in sophisticated ways. Example includes:

* Parallel database, data mining
* Oil exploration
* Web search engines web based business services
* Computer-aided diagnosis in medicine
* Management of national and multi-national corporations
* Networked video and multimedia technologies

1. **Distinguish SIMD and MIMD architectures.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SIMD | MIMD |
| Stands for Single Instruction Multiple Data | Stands for Multiple Instruction Multiple Data |
| It is also called as array processor | It is also called multiprocessor |
| Single program, processing element operate synchronously | Multiple communication programs, processing element operate asynchronously. |
| One copy of the program stored. | Each Processing element stores it own program |
| One decoder in control unit. | One decoder in each Processing element |
| Architecture is simple | Architecture is complex. |
| Cost is low. | Cost is high. |
| Scalability in size and performance | Complex in size and good performance. |
| Single stream of instruction is fetched | Multiple streams of instruction fetched |
| Instruction stream is fetched by shared memory | Instruction streams are fetched by control unit |
| Instruction is broadcasted to multiple processing elements | Instruction streams are decoded to get multiple decoded instruction stream |

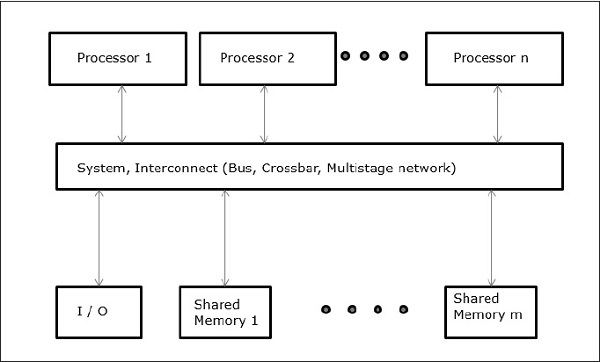
1. **Describe the physical models of shared memory multiprocessors briefly.**

A system with multiple CPUs sharing the same main memory is called shared memory multiprocessor. In a shared memory multiprocessor system all processes on the various CPUs share a unique logical address space, which is mapped on a physical memory that can be distributed among the processors. Each process can read and write data item simply using load and store operations and process communication through shared memory. There are three classes of shared memory multiprocessors according to the way each CPU sees main memory:

1. UMA
2. NUMA
3. COMA

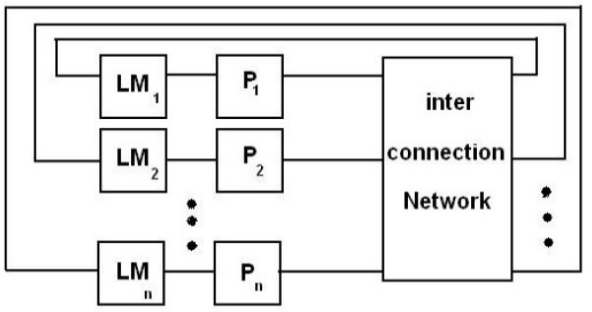
Uniform Memory Access (UMA):

* + Uniform memory access (UMA) is a shared memory architecture used in parallel computers. All the processors in the UMA model share the physical memory uniformly.
  + In a UMA architecture, access time to a memory location is independent of which processor makes the request or which memory chip contains the transferred data.
  + In the UMA architecture, each processor may use a private cache. Peripherals are also shared in some fashion.
  + The UMA model is suitable for general purpose and time sharing applications by multiple users. It can be used to speed up the execution of a single large program in time- critical applications.
  + Tightly Coupled

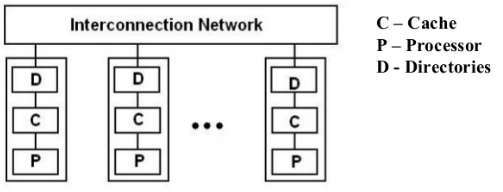


Non-Uniform Memory Access (NUMA):

* Non-uniform memory access (NUMA) is a computer memory design used multiprocessing, where the memory access time depends on the memory location relative to the processor.
* Under NUMA, a processor can access its own local memory faster than non-local memory.
* Access time varies with the location of memory word.
* Shared memory is distributed to all processors.
* Slow access to remote memory attached to other.



Cache Only Memory Access (COMA):

* Data have no specific permanent location (no specific memory address)
* Data partitioning is dynamic and implicit
* There are cache memory instead of local memory known as “attraction memory”
* If Local memory in NUMA model is replaced by a cache memory, then it will be COMA model.
* Easier to program and execution time is less.

1. **Define implicit and explicit parallelism.**

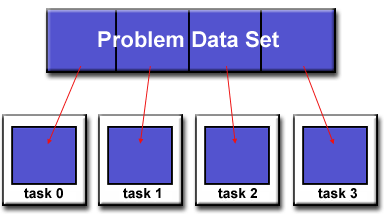
Implicit Parallelism: implicit parallelism is a characteristic of a programming language that allows a compiler or interpreter to automatically exploit the parallelism inherent to the computations expressed by some of the language's constructs. It is visible to programmer.

Explicit Parallelism: Explicit parallelism is a concept of processor-compiler efficiency in which a group of instructions is sent from the compiler to the processor for simultaneous rather than sequential execution. This is not visible to programmer.

1. **How parallel processing is accomplished.**

Parallel processing accomplished by dividing a large task into many smaller tasks and executes the smear tasks concurrently on several nodes. As a result, the larger task completes more quickly. To accomplish parallel processing there are some steps to follow:

Partitioning: One of the first steps in designing a parallel program is to break the problem into discrete "chunks" of work that can be distributed to multiple tasks. This is known as decomposition or partitioning. There are two basic ways to partition computational work among parallel tasks: domain decomposition and functional decomposition.



Communication: A communication between every task is necessary to maintain synchronization. There are a number of important factors to consider when designing your program's inter-task communications:

* Communication Overhead: Communication overhead is the proportion of time spending in communicating with other tasks.
* Latency and Bandwidth: latency is the time it takes to send a minimal (0 byte) message from point A to point B. Commonly expressed as microseconds. Bandwidth is the amount of data that can be communicated per unit of time. Commonly expressed as megabytes/sec or gigabytes/sec.
* Visibility of Communication: With the Message Passing Model, communications are explicit and generally quite visible and under the control of the programmer.
* Scope of Communication: Knowing which tasks must communicate with each other is critical during the design stage of a parallel code. So scope of communication is considered.
* Efficiency of Communication: It depends on network fabric, types of communication etc.

**Synchronization:** Managing the sequence of work and the tasks performing it is a critical design consideration for most parallel programs. It is called synchronization.

**Handle Dependencies:** A dependence exists between program statements when the order of statement execution affects the results of the program.Distributed memory architecture is need to handle communication and shared memory architecture is need to handle I/O operations between dependent tasks.

**Load Balancing:**Load balancing refers to the practice of distributing approximately equal amounts of work among tasks so that all tasks are kept busy all of the time. It can be considered a minimization of task idle time.

**Granularity:** Granularity (or grain size) of a task is a measure of the amount of work (or computation) which is performed by that task.The most efficient granularity is dependent on the algorithm and the hardware environment in which it runs.

**I/O:**Parallel I/O systems may be immature or not available for all platforms.So proper and effective I/O operation is considered.

**Debugging:**Debugging parallel codes can be incredibly difficult, particularly as codes scale upwards. But there are some tools like MPI,OpenMPetc are available for debugging parallel process.

**Performance Analysis and Tuning:** It is also done with debugging. It improves performance of program.

1. **What are the important issues in parallel processing?**

Important issues in parallel processing are:

* Goal is to reduce execution time
  + computation time
  + idle time - waiting for data from other processors
  + communication time - time the processors take to send and receive messages
* Load Balancing
  + divide the work equally among the available processors
* Minimizing Communication
  + reduce the number of messages passed
  + reduce amount of data passed in messages
* Where possible - overlap communication and computation
* Many problems scale well to only a limited number of processors

1. **Explain general architecture for parallel processing.**
2. **Mention some advantages of parallel processing.**

Advantages of parallel processing are:

* Need to solve larger problems
  + more memory intensive
  + more computation
  + more data intensive
* Parallel programming provides
  + more CPU resources
  + more memory resources
  + solve problems that were not possible with serial program
  + solve problems more quickly

1. **Illustrate and describe briefly the various classes of computer architectures in terms of instruction and data streams introducing by Michael Flynn’s.**

**Or,**

**Explain with diagram the Flynn’s classification of various computer architecture.**

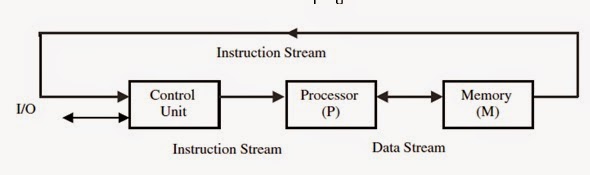
In 1966, Michael Flynn proposed a classification for computer architectures based on the number of instruction streams and data streams. A stream means a sequence of items. The classification of computer architectures based on the number of instruction streams and data streams.

Flynn’s taxonomy:

* SISD: Single Instruction Single Data
* SIMD: Single Instruction Multiple Data
* MISD: Multiple instructions single data
* MIMD: Multiple instructions multiple data

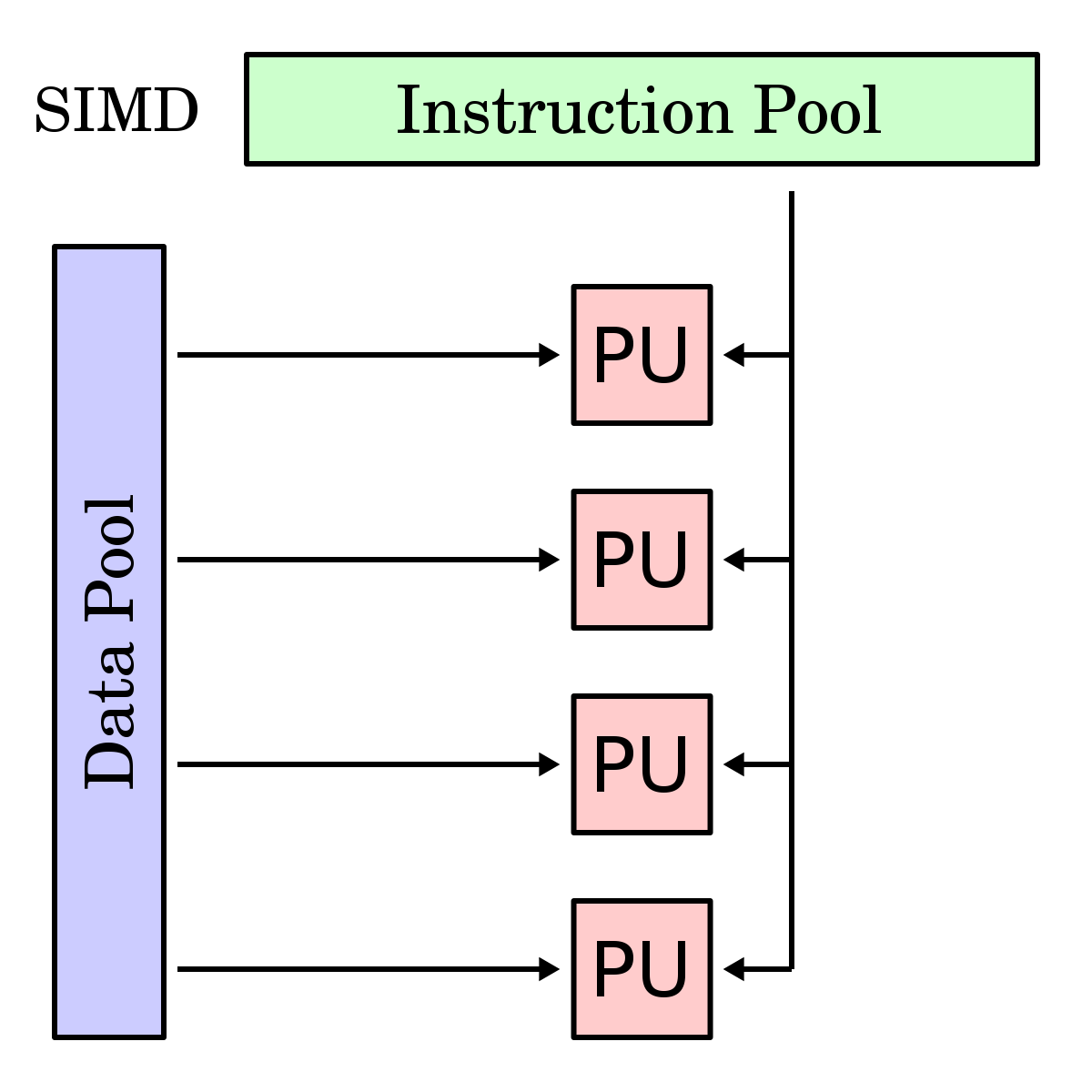
SISD:

* SISD stands for Single Instruction Single data stream
* SISD corresponds to the traditional mono processor.
* A single data stream is being processed by one instruction stream.
* Data stored in single memory.
* Deterministic execution



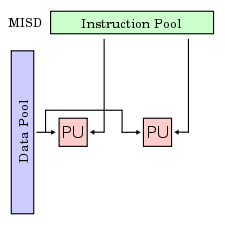
SIMD:

* Stands for Single Instruction Multiple Data Stream
* A type of parallel computer
* Single machine instruction
* Control simultaneous execution
* Each processing element has associated data memory.
* All processing units execute the same instruction at any given clock cycle.
* Each processing unit can operate on a different data element.
* This type of machine typically has an instruction dispatcher, a very high bandwidth internal network and a very large array of very small capacity instruction units.
* Synchronous and deterministic execution.



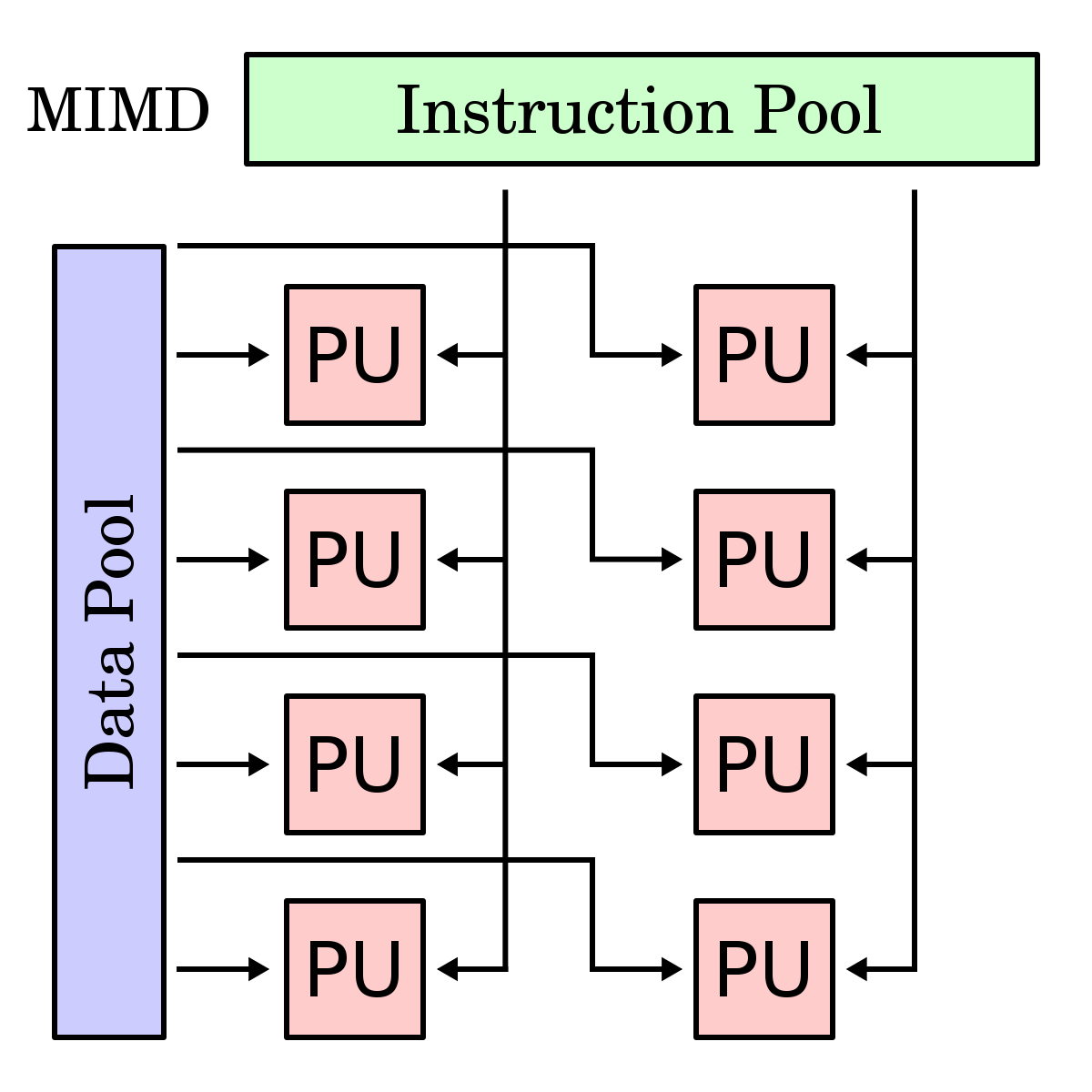
MISD:

* Stands for Multiple Instruction Single Data Stream
* Each processor executes a different sequence of instruction
* Multiple processing units operate on one single data stream.
* Never been implemented



MIMD:

* Stands for Multiple Instruction Multiple Data stream
* Each processor has a separate program
* Each instruction operates on different data.
* Each processor may be working with a different data stream.
* Execution can be synchronous or asynchronous, deterministic or non-deterministic
* Currently most of the super computers are into this category.



1. **Distinguish between shared memory multiprocessor and message passing multiprocessor.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Shared Memory | Message Passing |
| Implicit communication via memory operations (Load/ Store) | Explicit memory communication via messages |
| Tight coupling of program components. | Loose coupling of program components |
| Communication process execute in non-overlapping lifetimes | Communicating processes have to execute at the same time |
| Faster and cheaper | Slower and expensive |

1. **Define cycle per instruction (CPI) and throughput Rate.**

CPI:CPI (cyles per instruction, or clocks per instruction) is the number of computer clock speed cycles (alternating current pulses) that occur while a computer instruction is being executed (performed by the computer processor). The number of cycles per instruction can be reduced by using pipelining . In some superscalar processors, more than one instruction can be performed during a single clock cycle.Cycles Per Instruction is defined by the following:

Where is the number of instruction for a given instruction type , is the clock-cycles for that instruction and is the total instruction count.

Throughput Rate:How many programs a system can execute per unit time, called the system throughput is often lower than the CPU throughput defined by:

Where is the clock rate, is the instruction count and CPI is clock per second.

1. **Define distributed system.**

A distributed system is a collection of independent computers that appears to its users as a single coherent system. -Tanenbaum and Van Steen

A distributed system is one in which components located at networked computers communicate and co-ordinate their actions only by passing messages. -Coulouris, Kindberg, Dellimore

1. **Write down some goals of the distributed system.**

Four important goals to be achieved by any distributed system are:

* Making Resource Accessible:

Main goal of a distributed system:-

* Make it easy for the users to access remote resources.
* To share them in a controlled and efficient way.
* Distribution Transparency:

Hide the fact that its processes and resources are physically distributed across multiple computers – systems should be transparent.

* Openness:

Offer services according to standard rules that describe the syntax and semantics of those services.

* Scalability:
  + Can easily add more users and resources to the system.
  + Users and resource may lie far apart, but user can have the resource any time.
  + Can be easy to manage even if it spans many independent administrative organizations.

1. **Differentiate parallel processing and distributed processing.**

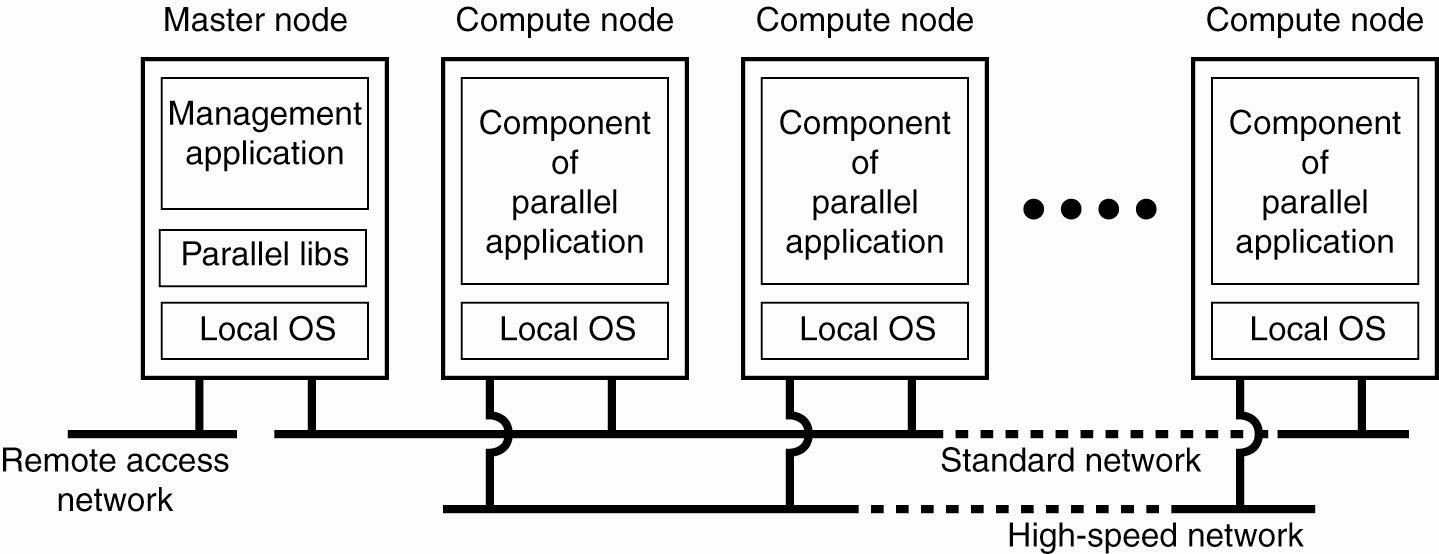
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parallel Processing | Distributed Processing |
| Tightly coupled system. | Weakly coupled system. |
| Share a memory | Each processing unit has it’s own memory. |
| Has global clock control. | Has no global clock control. |
| Program run time comparatively Lower. | Program run time comparatively higher. |
| Amount of overhead is low. | Amount of overhead is high. |
| Interaction between I/O devices is high. | Interaction between I/O devices is very low. |
| Processor has unmapped local memory. | There are no unmapped local memory. |
| More expensive. | Less expensive. |
| Maintaining consistency is easier. | Maintaining consistency is difficult. |
| Difficult to expand. | Easier to expand. |

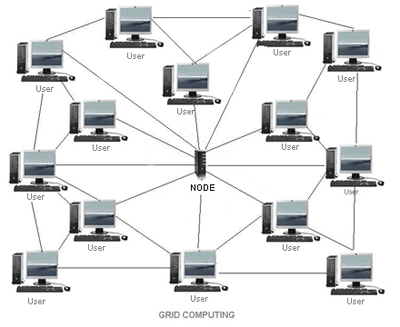
1. **What are the main types of distributed system? Explain with necessary diagram.**

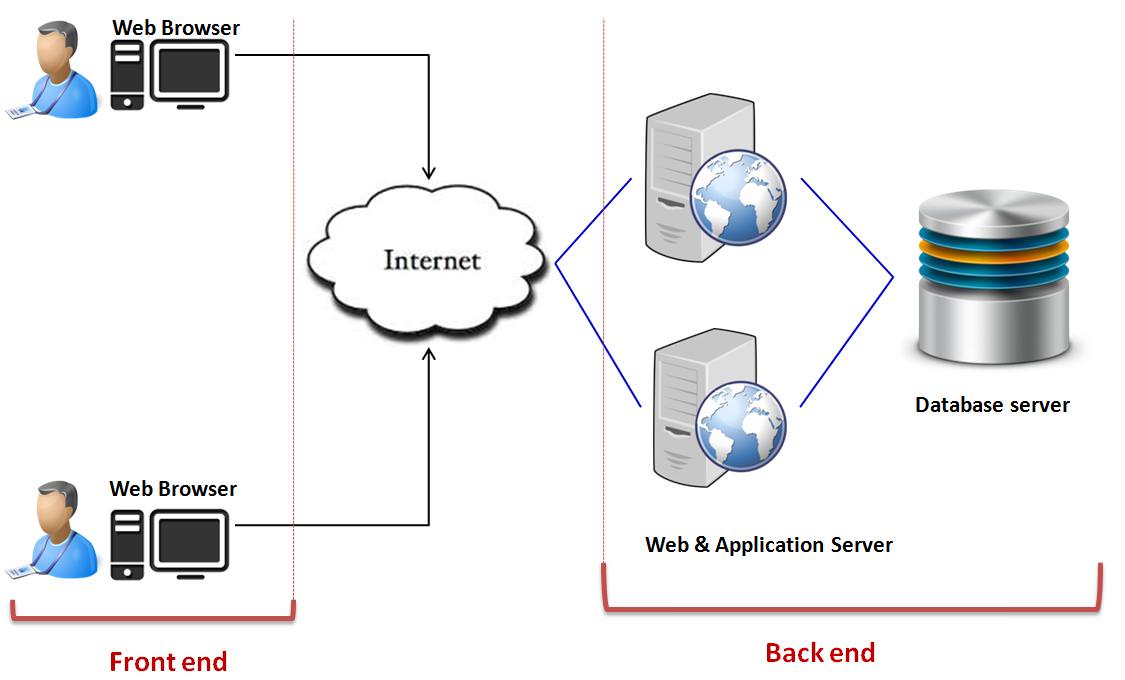
There are mainly three types of distributed system:

1. Distributed computing system
   1. Clusters
   2. Grids
   3. Clouds
2. Distributed information systems
3. Distributed embedded system

* Cluster Computing: A collection of similar processors (PCs, workstations) running the same operating system, connected by a high-speed LAN. They are several types of clusters. High performance clusters, Load balancing clusters, High availability clusters.



* Grid Computing: This is similar to clusters but processors are more loosely coupled, tend to be heterogeneous, and are not all in a central location. Here Problems are broken up into parts and distributed across multiple computers in the grid. It is highly heterogeneous with respect to hardware, software, networks, security policies, etc. 
* Cloud Computing: Cloud computing is the practice of using a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet to store, manage, and process data, rather than a local server or a personal computer.



Distributed Information System: A set of information systems physically distributed over multiple sites, which are connected with some kind of communication network. Remote processes called clients access the servers to manipulate the information. Different models are used to communicate. The most usual are RPC and the object oriented RMI.

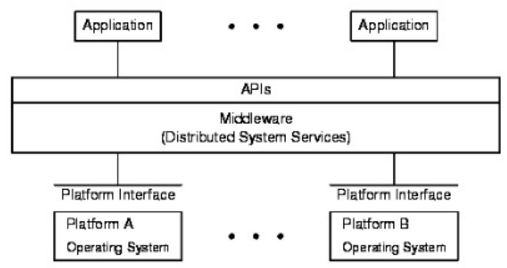
Distributed Embedded System: These are the distributed systems involving mobile and embedded computer devices. These systems characterized by their instability when compared to more traditional distributed systems.

1. **What are the roles of middleware in a distributed system?**

Middleware is computer software that provides services to software applications beyond those available from the operating system. Middleware makes it easier for software developers to perform communication and input/output, so they can focus on the specific purpose of their application. Middleware is the software that connects software components or enterprise applications. Typically, it supports complex, distributed business software applications.

So in short middleware is:

* Layer between OS and distributed applications.
* Hides complexity and heterogeneity of distributed system.
* Software that functions as a conversion or translation layer.
* Provides common programming abstraction and infrastructure for distributed applications.



* In the context of distributed system middleware is a software that provides services beyond those provided by the operating system to enable the various components of a distributed system to communicate and manage data.
* Middleware supports and simplifies complex distributed applications.
* It includes web servers, application servers, messaging and similar tools that support application development and delivery.

1. **Describe with block diagram the architectural evolution of parallel/ vector processors and parallel computers.**
2. **Write short notes on performance factors and throughput rate.**

Performance factors: here are five performance factors (Ic, p, m, k, t) which are influenced by four system attributes:

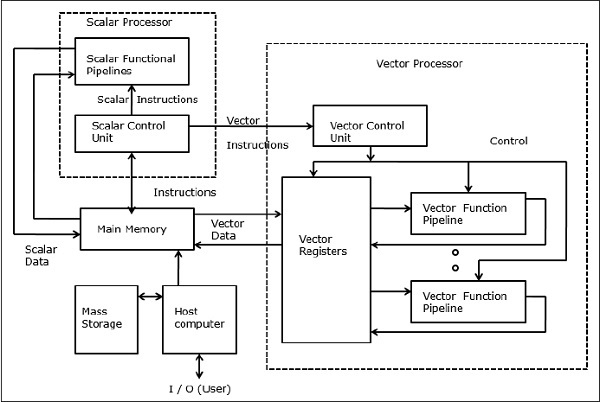
* MIPS: Millions of Instructions Per Second.
* FLOPS: FLoating point Operations Per Second.
* SPECint: SPEC (Standard Performance Evaluation Corporation) benchmarks that evaluate processor performance on integer arithmetic (1992).
* SPECfp: SPEC benchmarks that evaluate processor performance on floating point operations (2000).
* Whetstone: synthetic benchmarks to assess processor performance on floating point operations (1972).
* Dhrystone: synthetic benchmarks to asses processor performance on integer arithmetic (1984).

Throughput rate: Throughput Rate is indicates a number of programs a system can execute per unit time. It is often specified as programs/second. Throughput can be further measured separately for the system (Ws) and for the processor (Wp). The processor throughput is given as

1. **Describe architecture of vector supercomputer.**

In a vector computer, a vector processor is attached to the scalar processor as an optional feature. The host computer first loads program and data to the main memory. Then the scalar control unit decodes all the instructions. If the decoded instructions are scalar operations or program operations, the scalar processor executes those operations using scalar functional pipelines.

On the other hand, if the decoded instructions are vector operations then the instructions will be sent to vector control unit.



1. **What are the types of data dependency? Describe in brief.**

A dependence exists between program statements when the order of statement execution affects the results of the program.

1. **Explain with an example the mismatch between software parallelism and hardware parallelism.**
2. **How mismatch problem can be solved?**
3. **What are the different program flow mechanism? Define and also differentiate them.**
4. **What do you mean by distributed system? Write down the advantage & disadvantage of distributed system over centralized system.**
5. **Describe briefly the different design issue of a distributed system.**
6. **What do you mean by RPC?**
7. **Describe the basic RPC operation for parameter passing with necessary diagram.**
8. **Sketch the basic client-server model with different layer.**
9. **Discribe with diagram the principle operation of a vector super computer.**
10. **How a baseline network can be generated recursively?**
11. **Draw and explain “Illiac mesh”, “Torus” and “CCC” network.**
12. **Write down the characteristics of CISC and RISC architectures.**
13. **Describe the architecture of VAX 8600 processor with figure.**
14. **What are the disadvantages of RISC processor?**
15. **Describe the concept of pipelining of superscalar processor of degree m=3.**