Issues in Multiprocessors

Which programming model for interprocessor communication

- shared memory
  - regular loads & stores
  - SGI UV, Intel Core i3, i5, i7, AMD Opteron “Bulldozer”, Sun SPARC T4, ARM Cortex A5, Nvidia Tegra 3
- message passing
  - can directly access only private address space
  - explicit sends & receives for shared data
  - IBM BlueGene/Q, Cray XE6, Fujitsu K Computer, Intel Paragon

Shared Memory vs. Message Passing

Shared memory
+ simple parallel programming model
  - global shared address space
  - not worry about data locality but
    get better performance when program for data placement
    lower latency when data is local
  - but can do data placement if it is crucial, but don’t have to
  - hardware maintains data coherence & threads synchronize to order processor’s accesses to shared data
  - almost like uniprocessor code so parallelizing by programmer or compiler is easier
  ⇒ can focus on program semantics, not inter-processor communication or data layout
Shared Memory vs. Message Passing

Shared memory
+ low latency (no message passing software) **but**
  overlap of communication & computation
  latency-hiding techniques can be applied to message passing machines
+ higher bandwidth for small transfers **but**
  usually the only choice

Message passing
+ abstraction in the programming model encapsulates the communication costs **but**
  overheads: copying, buffer management, protection
  additional language constructs
  need to program for nearest neighbor communication
+ no coherency hardware
+ good throughput on large transfers **but**
  what about small transfers?
+ more scalable (memory latency for uniform memory doesn’t scale with the number of processors) **but**
  large-scale SM has distributed memory also
    • **hah!** so you’re going to adopt the message-passing model?
Shared Memory vs. Message Passing

Why there was a debate

• little experimental data
• not separate implementation from programming model
• can emulate one paradigm with the other
  • MP on SM machine
    message buffers in local (to each processor) memory
    copy messages by ld/st between buffers
  • SM on MP machine
    ld/st becomes a message copy
    sloooooooooow

Who won?

Issues in Multiprocessors

Which execution model

• control parallel
  • identify & synchronize different asynchronous threads
• data parallel
  • same operation on different parts of the shared data space
• dataflow
Issues in Multiprocessors

How to express error-free parallelism (hardest problem)
- language support
  - HPF, ZPL
- runtime library constructs to support threads
  - coarse-grain, explicitly parallel C programs
- automatic (compiler) thread creation
  - implicitly parallel C & Fortran programs, e.g., SUIF & PTRANS compilers
- HW & compiler support for maintaining correctness (today’s efforts)

Flynn’s Taxonomy

Classifies computers by control & data streams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single Instruction, Single Data (SISD) (single-context uniprocessor)</th>
<th>Single Instruction, Multiple Data (SIMD) (single PC: Vector, GPUs, CM-2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Instruction, Single Data (MISD) (systolic arrays, streaming processors)</td>
<td>Multiple Instruction, Multiple Data MIMD (Clusters, SMP servers)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Systolic Architectures**

Replace single processor with array of regular (or specialized) processing elements
Orchestrate data flow for high throughput with less memory access

**Important Issues**

- the programming model debate for inter-processor communication
- Flynn's taxonomy