CSEP 524: Parallel Computation
(week 2)

Brad Chamberlain
Tuesdays 6:30 – 9:20
MGH 231
Outline

• Nuts and Bolts
• Introduction to Chapel
• Discussions on Readings
Nuts and Bolts: Mailing Lists/Permissions

• Did we successfully get everyone...
  – on the mailing list?
  – access to the course widgets?

• If not, come add your name and UWID to my notebook before I leave tonight
Nuts and Bolts: Course Details

• Grading Breakdown:
  – 70%: assignments
  – 15%: reading, discussion questions, class participation
  – 15%: final project

• Mailing list etiquette:
  – message boards are the place to ask Qs on assignments
    • check for duplicates first (proposed convention: “HWx, Qy: subject”)
    • don’t give away more than necessary about the answer
  – cse524-staff@cs is for personal questions/issues
  – cse524a_wi13 is for us to mail you

• Videotaping lectures? Only if someone volunteers...
Nuts and Bolts: Office Hours

• Happy Office Hour is on!
  – 6 of us last week

• Brandon’s Office Hour:
  – Thursday @ 1:30-2:30 (live and online)
Nuts and Bolts: Homework Schedule

• Homework Scheduling Options:
  – we intend to assign 1 week’s HW every week
  – **option 1**: the 2 late day (week) policy advertised last week
  – **option 2**: take 2 weeks to do every homework
    • upsides:
      – like having a late day every week
      – presumably gives you more flexibility in your schedules
    • downsides:
      – requires more self discipline to not get too far behind
      – means we can’t talk about assignments in class
        » (but arguably, we shouldn’t do this if people take late days anyway)
  – put it to a vote?
Nuts and Bolts: Readings

• We plan to have some sort of reading most weeks
• Submit 1-2 questions on each assigned reading
  – intentions:
    • keep yourself honest
    • find misunderstandings
    • generate discussion topics
  – we’ll use dropbox for these going forward, not email
• During discussions, please start with your full name
• Lots of great questions this week!
  – more than we’ll get to tonight, but several will recur or be answered throughout the quarter
Final Project (rough concept)

• Two general approaches:
  – Pick some aspect of parallel programming to learn about that we don’t cover (I’ll generate a list of candidates)
  – Or, pick some parallel programming project

• Deliverables:
  – short paper describing the technology/project
  – 5-minute in-class presentation
    • half the class during the final lecture
    • the other half during the same timeslot on exam week
    • (only required to attend the session you’re presenting at)
    • tradeoffs: have an extra week to finish vs. done a week earlier
Introduction to Chapel

(see separate decks)