SuperClusters: A New Approach for High-Performance Computing

Prof. David A. Bader
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering & Albuquerque High Performance Computing Center
University of New Mexico
<dbader@eece.unm.edu>
SuperCluster Outline

- History of Cluster Computing
- Recent Developments
- SuperCluster Architecture and Technology
- SuperCluster Systems Software
- Computational Grid
- Case Study: Alliance/UNM Roadrunner SuperCluster
  - Performance Analysis
  - Alliance Applications
Brief History of Cluster Computing

- Commodity microprocessors in supercomputers
  - Thinking Machines CM-5 (SPARC)
  - Intel Paragon (i/860)
  - Cray T3D/E (Alpha)
  - Silicon Graphics Challenge/Origin (R-series)
  - IBM SP (RS6000)
History of Clusters

• Leveraging of workstation technologies
  • Operating systems
  • Programming languages
  • Compilers
  • Proprietary interconnections networks
DOE ASCI Platforms

- Red ➞ Intel Teraflops
- Blue Mountain ➞ SGI Origin 2000
- Blue Pacific ➞ IBM SP-2
Success Stories

• Networks of workstations (NOW)
  ▶ Cycle stealing
  ▶ Parallel Virtual Machine
  ▶ Condor: High-throughput computing

• Message Passing Interface

• Beowulf Systems
  ▶ Friendly-user development systems
  ▶ Optimize price (MM-COTS)
  ▶ Home-built
Scalable SuperCluster Design

- **Beowulf design minimizes price per megaflop**
  - Order from “Computer Shopper”
  - Assembly required
  - Last generation of processor
  - Fast Ethernet

- **SuperCluster design maximizes capability**
  - Rely on an integrator
    - packaging, operating system and software, support
  - Lastest processor technology (e.g., Intel/Alpha)
    - SMP nodes, large memory
  - Scalable interconnection network (Myrinet, GigE, ..)
    - Perhaps 40% of the overall price
  - Vendor-Independent
Recent Developments

- Hardware/Software integrators
  - Alta Technology
  - VA Linux Systems
  - ParaLogic
- Vendor support
- Standard environment
- Packaging
- Remote temperature monitoring and reset
- Cloning software
- Scalable networks and systems software
Architecture & Technologies

- Intel Pentium Processors
- Fast Ethernet
- Gigabit Ethernet
- Myrinet
• Full-duplex 1.28 Gbps scalable network
• Low latency (10’s of $\text{usec}$) cut-through cross-bar switches
Octal SAN switch

Front

Back
System Software

- Operating Systems
- Compilers
- Parallel Programming Environment
- Job Scheduling
Operating Systems

- Open Source
- Freely Available
- Linux
Parallel Programming Environment

• Message Passing Standard: MPI
  • Enforces a shared-nothing paradigm between tasks
  • Communication via explicit messaging, perhaps through shared member buffers when processors are on the same SMP node

• Shared Memory Paradigm
  • Coordinate accesses to shared memory
  • Simulate global shared address space via software-based distributed shared memory
Message Passing Interface

- Standard (1.1, June 1995)
- Portable, practical
- Freely-available reference implementations
- Version 2.0 includes parallel I/O, one-sided communication, etc.
• HPF Parallel Fortran for clusters
• F90 Parallel SMP Fortran 90
• F77 Parallel SMP Fortran 77
• CC Parallel SMP C/C++
• DBG symbolic debugger
• PROF performance profiler
Parallel Job Scheduling

- Node-based resource allocation
- Job monitoring and auditing
- Resource reservations
Computational Grid

- National Technology Grid
- Globus Infrastructure
  - Authentication
  - Security
  - Heterogenous environments
  - Distributed applications
  - Resource monitoring
National Technology Grid

GUSTO Testbed from SC98
Clusters on the Grid

• Smooth transition from the desktop to cluster, supercluster, and supercomputer
• Think global, act local!
Alliance/UNM Roadrunner SuperCluster
Alliance/UNM Roadrunner SuperCluster

• Strategic Collaborations with
  • Alta Technologies
  • Intel Corp.

• Node configuration
  • Dual 450MHz Intel Pentium II processors
  • 512 KB cache, 512 MB ECC SDRAM
  • 6.4 GB IDE hard drive
  • Fast Ethernet and Myrinet NICs
Alliance / UNM Roadrunner

• Interconnection Networks
  - Control: 72-port Fast Ethernet Foundry switch with 2 Gigabit Ethernet uplinks
  - Data: Four Myrinet Octal 8-port switches
  - Diagnostic: Chained serial ports
A Peek Inside Roadrunner
Myrinet Topology
Roadrunner System Software

- Redhat Linux 5.2 (6.0)
- SMP Linux kernel 2.2.10
- MPI (Argonne’s MPICH 1.1.2.3)
- Portland Group Compiler Suite
- Myricom GM Drivers (1.04) and
- MPICH-GM (1.1.2.3)
- Portable Batch Scheduler (PBS)
Roadrunner System Libraries

- BLAS
- LAPACK
- ScaLAPACK
- Petsc
- FFTw
- SPRNG
- Globus Grid Infrastructure
Ease of Use

% ssh -l username rr.alliance.unm.edu
% mpicc -o prog helloWorld.c
% qsub -I -l nodes=64
% mpirun prog
Job Monitoring with PBS
Roadrunner Performance

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Time for Large Messages

bytes

microseconds

Myrinet (driver 1.04)  Fast Ethernet
Bandwidth for Large Messages

`MB/s`

`bytes`

- **Myrinet (driver 1.04)**
- **Fast Ethernet**
Alliance Applications

APPLICATION TECHNOLOGIES
Applications: CACTUS

- 3D Numerical Relativity Toolkit for Computational Astrophysics
  (Courtesy of Gabrielle Allen and Ed Seidel)

- Roadrunner performance under the Cactus application benchmark shows near-perfect scalability compared to:
  - NCSA: 32 dual PII 333 512 MB RAM, 64 dual PII 300, 512 MB
  - Alpha/Linux: 48 DEC Alpha 300 XL
  - Origin2000@AEI: 32 R10K, 195 MHz 4 MB Cache 8GB RAM
  - Origin2000@SGI: 32 R12K, 300 MHz ? GB RAM
  - NASA: 64 dual PPro 200, 64MB RAM
  - Roadrunner: 64 dual PII 450 MHz, 512 MB RAM
CACTUS Performance

Wallclock

seconds

gridsize

NASA
Alpha
NCSA
AEI
R12K
RR

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David A. Bader
CACTUS Scaling

Scaling

gridsize

%
CACTUS: The evolution of a pure gravitational wave

A subcritical Brill wave (Amplitude=4.5), showing the Newman-Penrose Quantity as volume rendered 'glowing clouds'. The lapse function is shown as a height field in the bottom part of the picture.

(Courtesy of Werner Benger)
Application: MILC Grand Challenge

• (Courtesy of Steven Gottlieb, Indiana University, and Robert Sugar, University of California, Santa Barbara)

• The MIMD Lattice Computation (MILC) benchmark problem is a conjugate gradient algorithm for Kogut-Susskind quarks. L=4 means that there is a $4^4$ piece of the domain on each node.

• The MILC benchmark was run on two Linux clusters. The Roadrunner SuperCluster and the Indiana University (IU) Physics Linux cluster, a 32-node Fast Ethernet cluster with a 350 MHz Pentium II processor, 64 MB and 4.3 GB disk per node.

• (Non-Roadrunner data - courtesy of NCSA NT Cluster Group.)
• Looking at the single-node benchmarks, we see that for small problem sizes that fit completely or mostly in the cache, the Roadrunner cluster with its 450 MHz processor is faster than the 350 MHz system. For $L > 6$, however, memory access becomes a limiting factor, and there is little performance difference.
For $L \geq 6$, the Myrinet cluster is achieving $> 60$ MF/node for almost all cases. For Fast Ethernet, for $L \geq 8$, on up to 32 nodes, the performance of is near 50% of the Myrinet performance.

As a point of reference for $L=8$ on 16 nodes, MILC achieves 76 MF/node on an Cray T3E-900 and 119 on an SGI Origin 2000 (250 MHz).
MILC: Performance vs. Architecture

MILC
L=8; 4096 lattice pts per node

- RR (Myrinet)
- NCSA NT 550MHz
- NT IA-32 1@300 MHz
- NT IA-32 2@300 MHz
- O2K
- T3E
- SP2
- Exemplar
- NOW
SuperClusters: What’s Next?

- Alliance computational scientists are needed!
- Improving advanced programming models and toolkits
- System and application tuning for SuperClusters
- Combining access and computational grids and post-web environments.
Future Directions

- TeraScale computing
- “A SuperCluster in every lab”
- Efficient use of SMP nodes
- Scalable interconnection networks
- High-performance I/O
- Advanced programming models for hybrid (SMP and Grid-based) clusters
For more information:

- http://www.alliance.unm.edu/

Thank you!