

CMSC 714
High Performance Computing
Lecture 1 - Introduction

<http://www.cs.umd.edu/class/spring2010/cmsc714>

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Introduction

- Class is an introduction to parallel computing
 - topics include: hardware, applications, compilers, system software, and tools
- Counts for Masters/PhD Comp Credit
- Work required
 - small programming assignments (two) - MPI/OpenMP
 - midterm
 - classroom participation
 - Everyone will have to prepare questions for the readings for 4 classes (4 students per class with readings), and help explain the papers
 - group project (2 students per group)

What is Parallel Computing?

- Does it include:
 - super-scalar processing (more than one instruction at once)?
 - client/server computing?
 - what if RPC calls are non-blocking?
 - vector processing (same instruction to several values)?
 - collection of PC's **not** connected to a (fast) network?
- For this class, parallel computing requires:
 - more than one processing element
 - nodes connected to a communication network
 - nodes working together to solve a single problem

Why Parallelism

- Speed
 - need to get results faster than possible with sequential
 - a weather forecast that is late is useless
 - could come from
 - more processing elements (P.E.'s)
 - more memory (or cache)
 - more disks
- Cost: cheaper to buy many smaller machines
 - this is only relatively recently true due to
 - VLSI
 - commodity parts

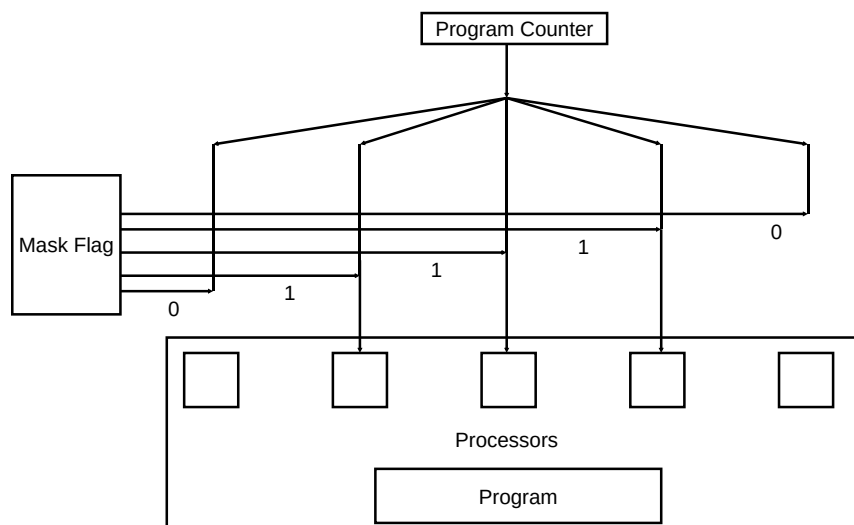
What Does a Parallel Computer Look Like?

- **Hardware**
 - processors
 - communication
 - memory
 - coordination
- **Software**
 - programming model
 - communication libraries
 - operating system

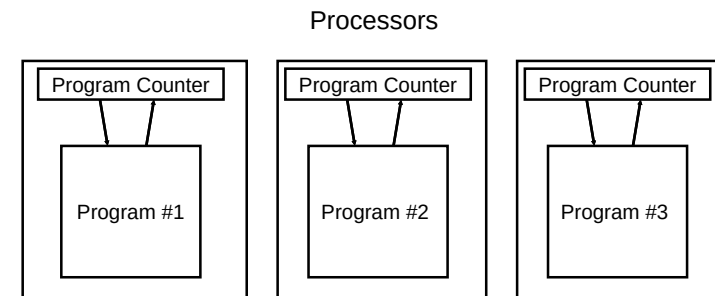
Processing Elements (PE)

- **Key Processor Choices**
 - How many?
 - How powerful?
 - Custom or off-the-shelf?
- **Major Styles of Parallel Computing**
 - SIMD - Single Instruction Multiple Data
 - one master program counter (PC)
 - MIMD - Multiple Instruction Multiple Data
 - separate code for each processor
 - SPMD - Single Program Multiple Data
 - same code on each processor, separate PC's on each
 - Dataflow – instruction (or code block) waits for operands
 - “automatically” finds parallelism

SIMD

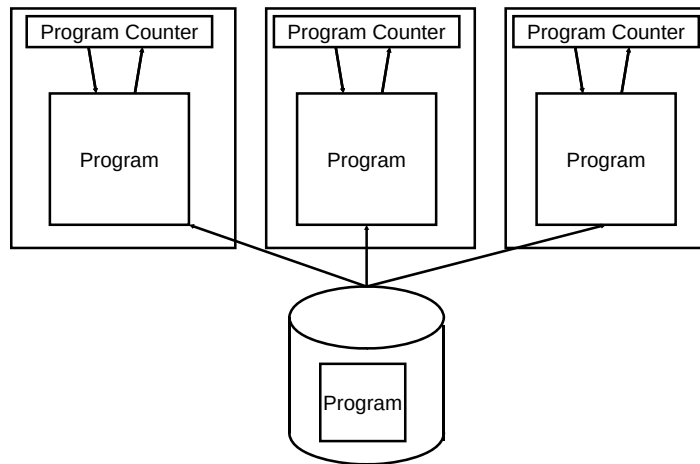


MIMD

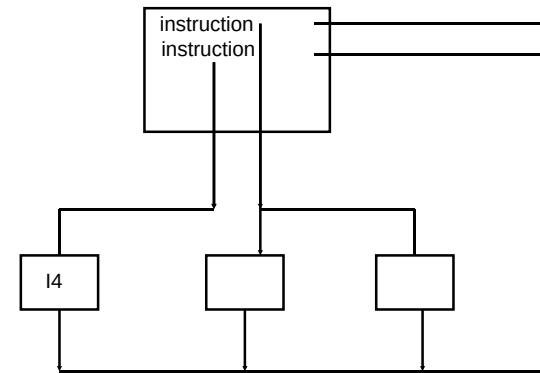


SPMD

Processors

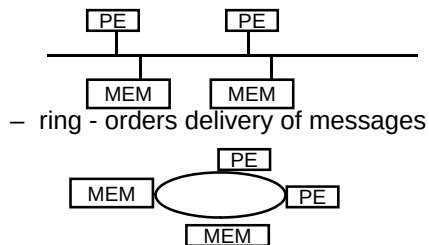


Dataflow



Communication Networks

- **Connect**
 - PE's, memory, I/O
- **Key Performance Issues**
 - latency: time for first byte
 - throughput: average bytes/second
- **Possible Topologies**
 - bus - simple, but doesn't scale

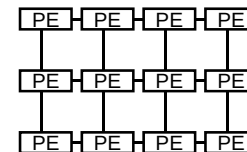


Topologies (cont)

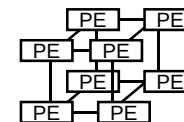
- tree - need to increase bandwidth near the top



- mesh - two or three dimensions



- hypercube - needs a power of (2) number of nodes



Memory Systems

- Key Performance Issues

- latency: time for first byte
- throughput: average bytes/second

- Design Issues

- Where is the memory
 - divided among each node
 - centrally located (on communication network)
- Access by processors
 - can all processors get to all memory?
 - is the access time uniform?
 - UMA vs. NUMA