Introduction to Parallel Computing (CMSC498X / CMSC818X)

Lecture 2: Terminology and Definitions

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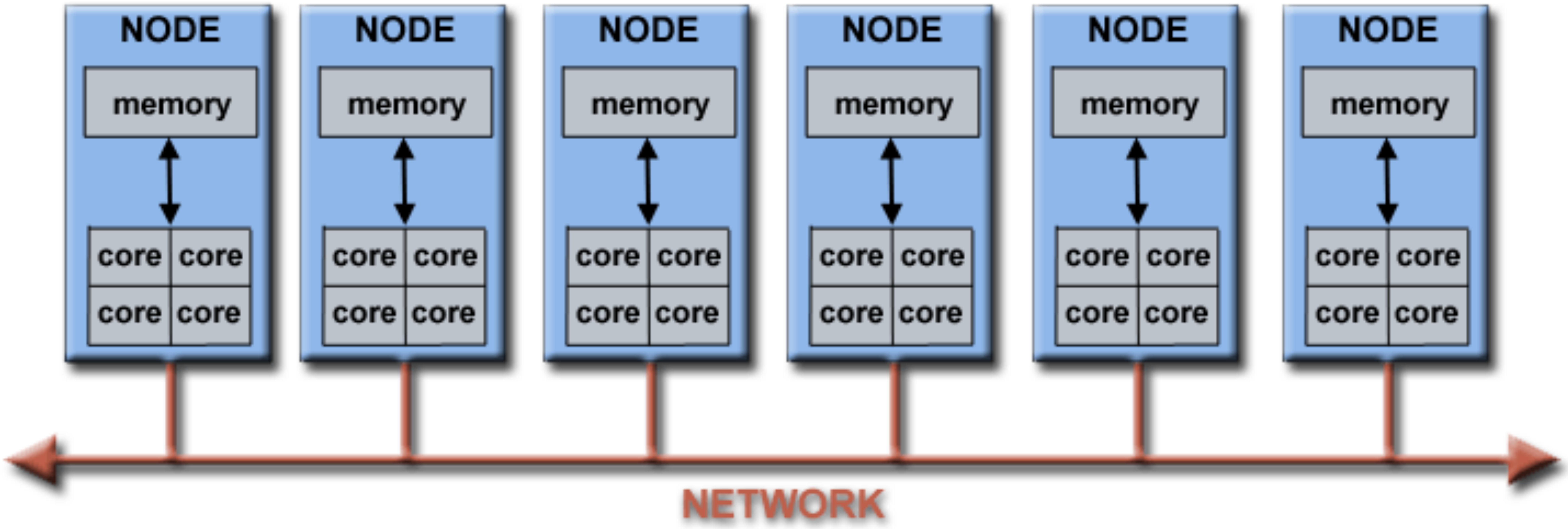
Announcements

- Piazza space for the course is live. Sign up link:
  - https://piazza.com/umd/fall2020/cmsc498xcmsc818x
- Slides from previous class are posted online on the course website
- Recorded video is available via Panopto or ELMS

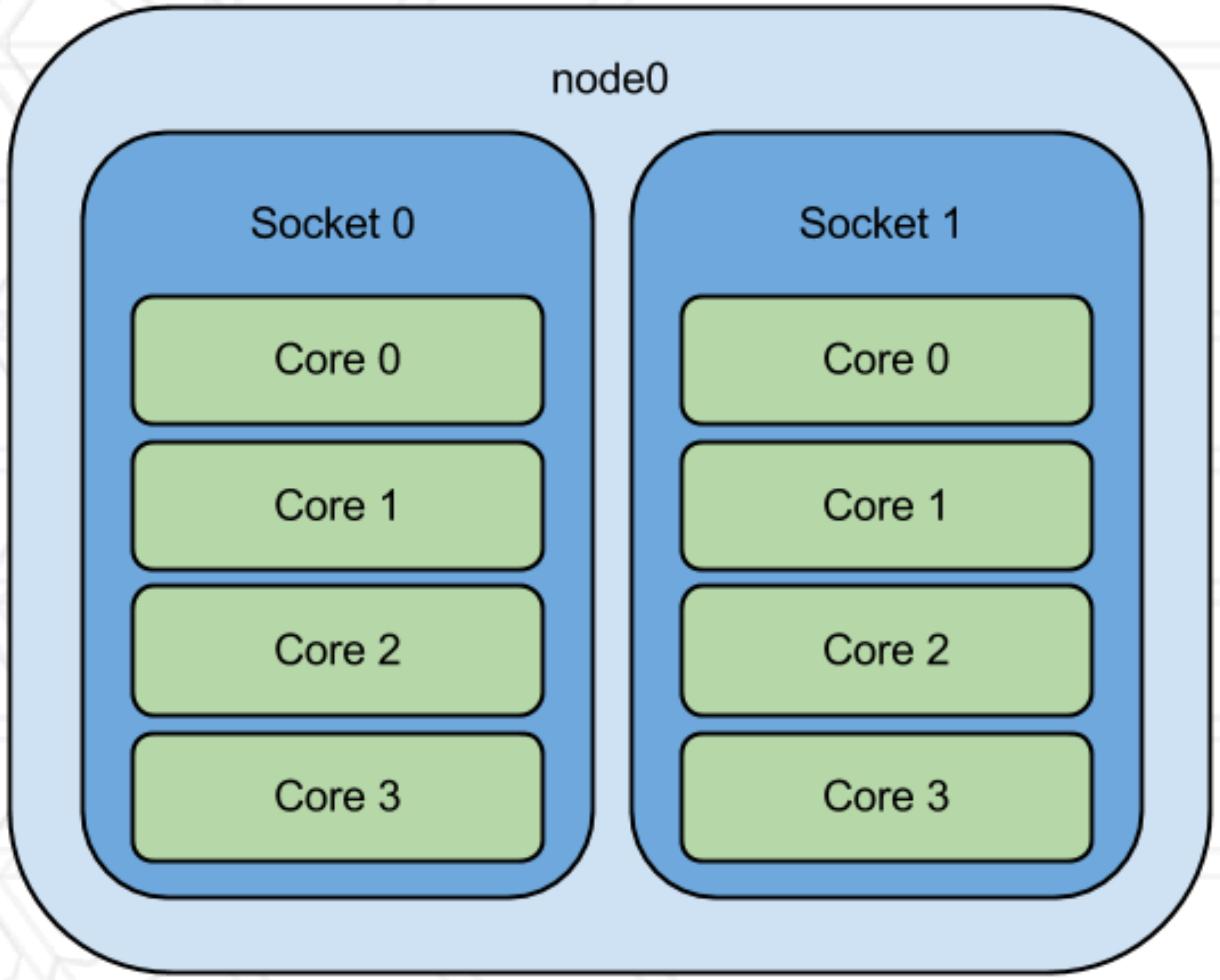
Summary of last lecture

- Need for parallel and high performance computing
- Parallel architecture: nodes, memory, network, storage



Cores, sockets, nodes

- CPU: processor
  - Single-core or multi-core
  - Core is a processing unit, multiple such units on a single chip make it a multi-core processor
- Socket: same as chip or processor
- Node: packaging of sockets



https://www.glennklockwood.com/hpc-howtos/process-affinity.html

Job scheduling

Job scheduling

- HPC systems use job or batch scheduling
- Each user submits their parallel programs for execution to a “job” scheduler

Job Queue

	#Nodes Requested	Time Requested
1	128	30 mins
2	64	24 hours
3	56	6 hours
4	192	12 hours
5	…	…
6	…	…

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  - what job to schedule next (based on an algorithm: FCFS, priority-based, ….)
  - what resources (compute nodes) to allocate to the ready job

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- Compute nodes: dedicated to each job
- Network, filesystem: shared by all jobs

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Compute nodes vs. login nodes

- Compute nodes: dedicated nodes for running jobs
  - Can only be accessed when they have been allocated to a user by the job scheduler
- Login nodes: nodes shared by all users to compile their programs, submit jobs etc.

Supercomputers vs. commodity clusters

- Supercomputer refers to a large expensive installation, typically using custom hardware
  - High-speed interconnect
  - IBM Blue Gene, Cray XT, Cray XC
- Cluster refers to a cluster of nodes, typically put together using commodity (off-the-shelf) hardware

Serial vs. parallel code

- Thread: a thread or path of execution managed by the OS
  - Share memory
- Process: heavy-weight, processes do not share resources such as memory, file descriptors etc.
- Serial or sequential code: can only run on a single thread or process
- Parallel code: can be run on one or more threads or processes

Scaling and scalable

- Scaling: running a parallel program on 1 to n processes
  - 1, 2, 3, … , n
  - 1, 2, 4, 8, …, n
- Scalable: A program is scalable if it's performance improves when using more resources

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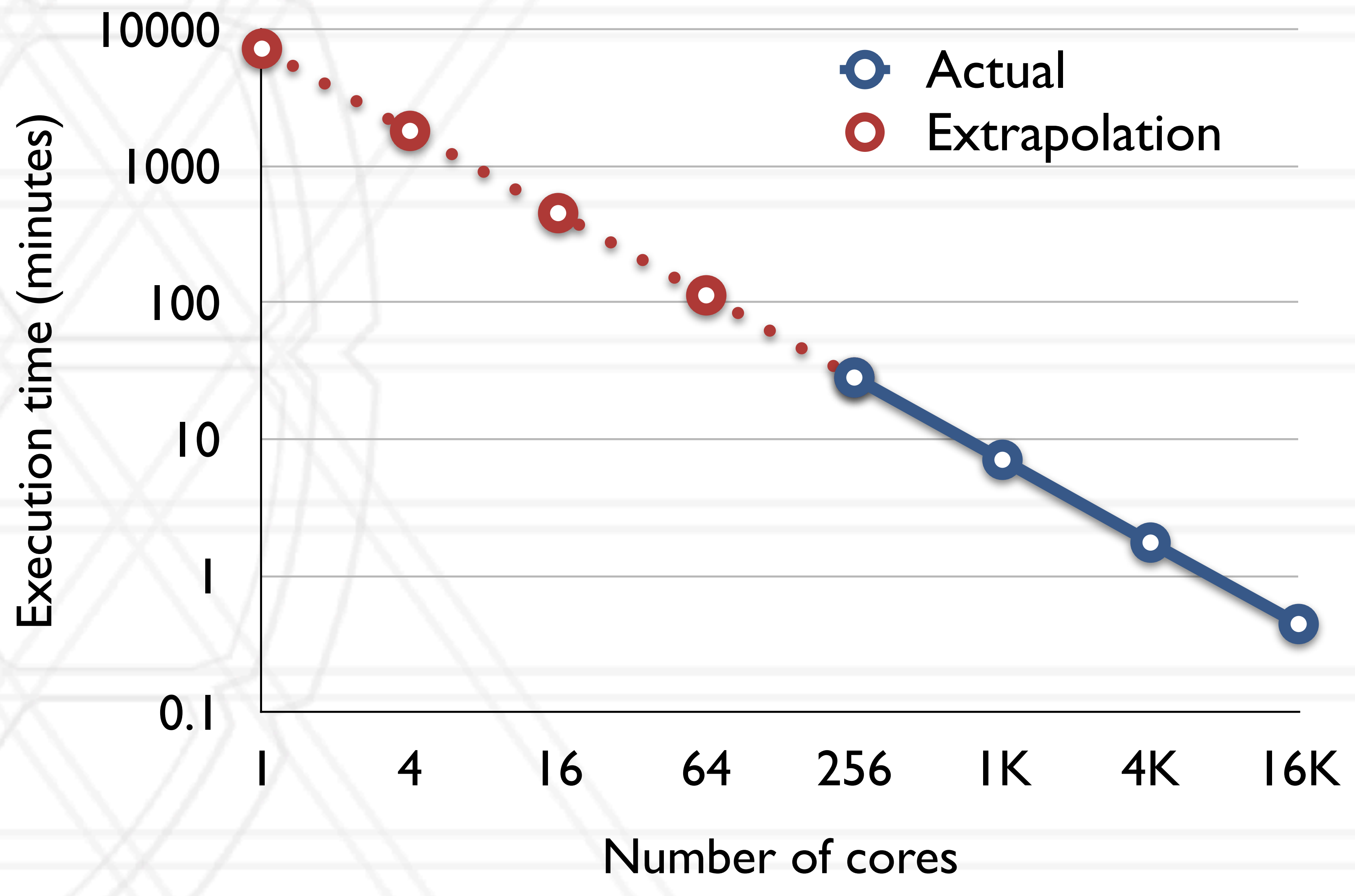

Weak versus strong scaling

- Strong scaling: *Fixed total* problem size as we run on more processes
  - Sorting n numbers on 1 process, 2 processes, 4 processes, …
- Weak scaling: Fixed problem size per process but *increasing total* problem size as we run on more processes
  - Sorting n numbers on 1 process
  - 2n numbers on 2 processes
  - 4n numbers on 4 processes

Speedup and efficiency

- Speedup: Ratio of execution time on one process to that on p processes

$$\text{Speedup} = \frac{t_1}{t_p}$$

- Efficiency: Speedup per process

$$\text{Efficiency} = \frac{t_1}{t_p \times p}$$

Amdahl's law

- Speedup is limited by the serial portion of the code
  - Often referred to as the serial "bottleneck"
- Lets say only a fraction *f* of the code can be parallelized on *p* processes

$$\text{Speedup} = \frac{1}{(1-f) + f/p}$$

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Amdahl's law

$$\text{Speedup} = \frac{1}{(1-p) + p/n}$$

```
fprintf(stdout,"Process %d of %d is on %s\n",
    myid, numprocs, processor_name);
fflush(stdout);

n = 10000;          /* default # of rectangles */
if (myid == 0)
startwtime = MPI_Wtime();
```

```
MPI_Bcast(&n, 1, MPI_INT, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);

h   = 1.0 / (double) n;
sum = 0.0;
/* A slightly better approach starts from large i and works back */
for (i = myid + 1; i <= n; i += numprocs)
{
x = h * ((double)i - 0.5);
sum += f(x);
}
mypi = h * sum;

MPI_Reduce(&mypi, &pi, 1, MPI_DOUBLE, MPI_SUM, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
```

100 - p = 40 s on 1 process

$$\text{Speedup} = \frac{1}{(1-0.6) + 0.6/n}$$

p = 60 s on 1 process

Communication and synchronization

- Each process may execute serial code independently for a while
- When data is needed from other (remote) processes, messaging occurs
  - Referred to as communication or synchronization or MPI messages
- Intra-node vs. inter-node communication
- Bulk synchronous programs: All processes compute simultaneously, then synchronize together

Different models of parallel computation

- SIMD: Single Instruction Multiple Data
- MIMD: Multiple Instruction Multiple Data
- SPMD: Single Program Multiple Data
  - Typical in HPC

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