

Get the Parallelism out of my Cloud

Karu Sankaralingam and Remzi H. Arpaci-Dusseau

University of Wisconsin-Madison http://www.cs.wisc.edu/vertical



The Good Old Times



horse pulls the cart



or maybe not so good times....



New World?



Multi-core drives bloated Software?



compilers parallelism parallel-thinking programming-paradigms under-grad curriculum

Do (real) developers and users care? What does it provide to end-users? Who is the end-user?



Can we exploit some synergistic trends... Cloud + Multicore = ?



Cloud + Devices







Cloud + Devices







Myth vs. Reality



i. Hardware drives Softwareii. Multicore everywhereiii. Everyone must be a parallel programmer



Hardware Drives Software

- Primary driver for software:
 - Efficiency and thus cycles were precious
 - Hardware folks have been hard at work
 - Counting cycles is no longer the developer's primary worry





Hardware Drives Software

- Today's development is at a high-level of abstraction (figuratively and literally at the cloud level):
 - Google's 1st hit for lamp?
 - Django, Ruby, AJAX
 - Primary driver:
 - Laziness 🙂 write as little code as possible



About 85,900,000 results (0.24 seconds)

Advanced search





REALIT CHECK

Does Hardware drive Software?

- Software trends driven by:
 - Development productivity
 - What end-users want
- Maybe software is driving hardware?
 - Intel SCC, Larrabee

Software trends have become decoupled?







Multicore Everywhere



Number of cores





Multicore Everywhere



Number of cores





Multicore Everywhere



Number of cores

Performance





Parallel Hardware >> All Parallel Programmers

- Parallelism is a great challenge, but:
 - disruptive (change undergrad curriculum?)
 - if necessary for multi-core, we probably needed it solved yesterday
 - Very hard
- If possible, lets not solve it, because:
 - disruptive; if necessary, for multi-core we needed it solved yesterday; very hard
 - Lets leave it as an open problem 🙂
 - May not be necessary





Cloud + Devices >> Parallelism Unnecessary (client-side)









We probably agree that...

Efficiency is a primary goal...

If efficiency is a primary goal...

The fact that so much code is written at higher and higher levels of software may have system-wide implications...

... motivates a vertically integrated approach?



Data-Centric Concurrency

- Simple hardware, because of s/w model
- Simple s/w, because done at high-level
- Specialization for efficiency









Some Implications



Efficiency is a primary goal



Hardware: Exploit Software Trends

- Use processors for computation
 - 128 ALUs consume less area than Atom's L1 data-cache
 - Specialization is possible
- Map software abstraction to hardware
 - Staged databases
 - PLUGs map data-structures to hardware





Software: exploit app. trend

Concurrency management

- Global resource management
- Storage
 - On devices
 - On cloud





Education

- Continue with C, Java, assembly?
- Or parallelism?
 - Some (small) number of programmers must wrestle with parallelism
 - Should it be pervasive?
- Or Cloud: Joe programmer is at this level
 - What higher level languages?
 - What abstractions, mechanisms, skills?





Conclusion

- Today's processor is very capable...
 - This talk created and given on a \$220 netbook
- S/W & programmer driven by productivity
 Developing at cloud-level already
- Hardware must follow the S/W trend

Should we rethink roll of parallelism?









* Remzi is to blame for the things you disagree with...







Must Solve this Equation







Ecosystem of Devices + Cloud Users like it (want it) Simple hardware and simple software





Must Solve this Equation





One solution...



Does it exploit cloud + multicore synergy? Do (real) developers care? What does it provide to end-users?





- Driven by energy efficiency
- Hardware guys got lazy



Trends



Cloud computing

- Easy to deploy software
- Easy to deploy hardware
- Simple devices to access the cloud