

An Introduction to Parallel Supercomputing

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MCS Division meeting c. 1983

- "If our R&D is going to be relevant ten years from now, we need to shift our attention to parallel computer architectures"
- "Los Alamos has a Denelcor HEP: let's experiment with it"



POOMA Project: 1996 John Reynders



Parallel Platform Paradox

"The average time required to implement a moderate-sized application on a parallel computer architecture is equivalent to the half-life of the latest parallel supercomputer."

"Although a strict definition of "half-life" could be argued, no computational physicist in the fusion community would dispute the face that most of the time spent implementing parallel simulations was focused on code maintenance, rather than on exploring new physics. Architectures, software environments, and parallel languages came and went, leaving the investment in the new physics code buried with the demise of the latest supercomputer. There had to be a way to preserve that investment."







Understand the Model



Histogram of Execution Time

INTEL MARRYING FPGA, BEEFY BROADWELL FOR OPEN COMPUTE FUTURE

March 14, 2016 Nicole Hemsoth



For those who read here often, there are clear signs that the FPGA is set to become a compelling acceleration story over the next few years.

From the relatively recent Intel acquisition of Altera by chip giant Intel, to less talked-about advancements on the programming front (OpenCL progress, advancements in both hardware and software from FPGA competitor to Intel/Altera, Xilinx) and of course, consistent competition for the compute acceleration market from GPUs, which dominate the coprocessor market for now

Last week at the Open Compute Summit we finally got a glimpse of one of the many ways FPGAs might fit into the hyperscale ecosystem (along with other future hardware insight) with an announcement that Intel will be working on future OCP designs featuring an integrated FPGA and Xeon chip. Unlike what many expected, the CPU mate will not be a Xeon D, but rather a proper Broadwell EP. As seen below, this appears to be a 15-core part (Intel did not confirm, but their diagram makes counting rather easy) matched with the Altera Arria 10 GX FPGAs.

High-bandwidth In-Package Memory



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Pete's Investment Recommendations

OPM (Other People's Math (libraries))

Encapsulation

- Parallelism & Messaging & I/O

Embedded Capabilities

- Debugging
- Performance Monitoring
- Correctness Detection
- Resilience

The Two Workflow Views

- Science: (problem setup, analysis, etc.)
- Programmer: (mod, testing, document, commit)

Automation

- A+ Build system, nightly test and build, configuration
- Embedded versioning and metadata

Community: web, tutorial, email, bug tracking, etc

Memory Heterogeneity Variability



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