Software Tools and Techniques for HPC, Clouds, and Server-Class SoCs

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Existing Approach for Runtime Systems

- Generalized abstractions and machine models that allow algorithm designers and application developers to create code that works reasonably well on a broad spectrum of systems
- Compilers, libraries, RTS, and OS work within the constraints of these abstractions to map the application to the underlying hardware as efficiently as possible
- Performance tools identify shortcomings in the mapping
- Refine the mapping on a per-platform basis
- Adjust the abstractions and models in response to evolving hardware
- Leverage RTS adaptivity within bounded set of resources and relatively fixed cost models
Vision for Exascale Runtime Systems

- Responsible for mapping the machine to the application
- Requires dynamic discovery
  - Determine the goals of the application
  - Develop knowledge on how well resources are being used
  - Make informed optimization decisions
  - Understand behavior in response to decisions
  - Adapt to constantly changing cost models
- Respond to elastic system and application resources
- Richer abstractions and models at the system level
- Improve the productivity of application and library developer as well as the scalability and efficiency of the system
Applications and Usage Models are Diverging

- Application composition becoming more important
  - Ensemble calculations for uncertainty quantification
  - Multi-{material, physics, scale} simulations
  - In-situ analysis and graph analytics
  - Performance and correctness analysis tools
- Applications may be composed of multiple programming models
- More complex workflows are driving need for advanced OS services and capability
  - “Workflow” overtook “Co-Design” as most popular DOE buzzword 😊
- Desire to support “Big Data” applications
  - Significant software stack comes along with this
- Support for more interactive workloads
- Requirements are independent of programming model and hardware
Sandia Research System Software Stack

* Sandia-based software / API
Qthreads System Model

- The programmer exposes application parallelism as massive numbers of lightweight tasks (qthreads).
  - Problem-centric rather than processor-centric work decomposition to enhance productivity with transparent scaling
    - Both loop-based and task-based parallelism supported
  - Full/empty bit primitives for powerful, lightweight synchronization
    - Emulates behavior of Cray XMT (ThreadStorm) architecture
  - C API with no special compiler support required
- The run time system dynamically manages the scheduling of tasks for locality and scalable performance.
  - Heavyweight worker pthreads to execute the user’s tasks
    - Worker pthreads pinned onto underlying hardware cores
    - Architecture-aware mapping of workers to hardware (e.g., NUMA or Phi)
  - Lightweight task switching
Systems Are Converging to Reduce Data Movement

- External parallel file system is being subsumed
  - Near-term capability systems using NVRAM-based burst buffer
  - Future extreme-scale systems will continue to exploit persistent memory technologies

- In-situ and in-transit approaches for visualization and analysis
  - Can’t afford to move data to separate systems for processing
  - GPUs and many-core processors are ideal for visualization and some analysis functions

- Less differentiation between advanced technology and commodity technology systems
  - On-chip integration of processing, memory, and network
  - Summit/Sierra using InfiniBand
Hobbes Node OS Architecture

- Co-kernels: Multiple OS kernels run side-by-side on same node in different enclaves.
- Pisces infrastructure used to launch and manage enclaves and bind enclaves together.
- XEMEM mechanism developed to enable cross-enclave memory sharing.

1. Co-Kernel Architecture, Three Enclave Example
   - User Context
   - Kernel Context
   - Isolated Virtual Machine
     - Palacios VMM
     - Kitten Co-kernel (1)
     - Kitten Co-kernel (2)
   - Applications + Virtual Machines
     - Linux
   - Isolated Application
     - Kitten Co-kernel

2. Cross-enclave communication used for enclave control and for cross-enclave app code coupling.
Hardware Support for OS/Runtime and Interconnect

- Fast context switching of tasks
- Lightweight synchronization between tasks
- Fast task creation on network events
- Hardware queues (tasks and data)
- Isolation mechanisms (Qos)
  - Memory system partitioning
  - Network (Noc/NIC) partitioning
- Sharing mechanisms
  - Shared memory
  - Lightweight signaling
- Intra-node data movement (pt2pt, collective)
- Flexible memory translation capability (segments and pages)
Hardware Support for OS/Runtime and Interconnect (cont’d)

- Lightweight power management/control
- More sophisticated hw error management/control
- Performance information and correlation (memory, cores, NoC, NIC)
- Debugging support features
- Endpoint virtualization (translation)
- Parallelism in the NIC
- Hardware support for active messages
  - Hardware queues
  - Flow control
- Support for non-contiguous data (scatter/gather)