

Supercomputing

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Computers

Today (order of magnitude):

- 1 socket (x86 CPU @ 2.2-3.3 GHz, quad-core, hyperthreading)
- ~4-16 GB RAM
- 2TB HDD (7200 rpm) / SSD (~128GB)
- Graphics card : ATI Radeon, Nvidia GeForce
- Gigabit ethernet
- USB, Webcam, Sound card, etc

~600 euros



Computer designed for computation

Today (order of magnitude):

- 2 sockets (x86 CPU @ 2.8 GHz, 12 cores/socket, hyperthreading)
- 64-128 GB RAM
- Multiple 15k rpm or write-intensive SSD HDDs (RAID0)
- Gigabit ethernet
- Eventually an Accelerator (Nvidia Tesla/Pascal or Intel Xeon Phi)

~6k euros



Cluster

- Many computers designed for computation
- Compact (1-2U in rack) / machine
- Network switches
- Login server
- Batch queuing system (SLURM / PBS / SGE / LFS)
- Cheap Cooling system
- Requires a lot of electrical power (~10kW/rack)
- Eventually a Low-latency / High-bandwidth network (Infiniband or 10Gb ethernet)

>50k euros



Supercomputers

- Many computers designed for computation
- Very compact (<1U in rack) / machine
- Low-latency / High-bandwidth network (Infiniband or 10Gb ethernet)
- Network switches
- Parallel filesystem for scratch space (Lustre / BeeGFS / GPFS)
- Multiple login servers
- Batch queuing system (SLURM / PBS / SGE / LFS)
- Highly efficient cooling system (water)
- Requires a lot of electrical power (>100kW)

> 1M euros



Definitions

Top500

Rank of the 500 fastest supercomputers

Flop

Floating point operation

Flops/s

Number of Floating point operations per second

RPeak

Peak performance, max possible number of Flops/s

RMax

Real performance on the Linpack benchmark (dense eigenproblem)

SP

Single precision (32-bit floats)

DP

Double precision (64-bit floats)

FMA

Fused multiply-add ($a \times b + c$ in 1 instruction)

Number of hours

/month : 730, /year : 8760

Units

Kilo (K), Mega (M), Giga (G), Tera (T), Peta (P), Exa (E), ...

Example

RPeak of Xeon E5-2680 v4 : 14 cores, 2.4~GHz, 8 FMA (DP) per cycle.

$14 \times (4 \times 2) \times 2.4 \times 10^9 = 166.4 \times 10^9 \text{ flops/s} = 268.8 \text{ Gflops/s (DP)}$

TOP 10 Sites for June 1996

For more information about the sites and systems in the list, click on the links or view the [complete list](#).

Rank	Site	System	Cores	Rmax (GFlop/s)	Rpeak (GFlop/s)	Power (kW)
1	University of Tokyo Japan	SR2201/1024 Hitachi	1,024	220.4	307.2	
2	National Aerospace Laboratory of Japan Japan	Numerical Wind Tunnel Fujitsu	166	170.0	279.6	
3	Sandia National Laboratories United States	XP/S140 Intel	3,680	143.4	184.0	
4	DOE/SC/Oak Ridge National Laboratory United States	XP/S-MP 150 Intel	3,072	127.1	154.0	
5	Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute Japan	XP/S-MP 125 Intel	2,502	103.5	125.1	

TOP 10 Sites for November 2016

For more information about the sites and systems in the list, click on the links or view the [complete list](#).

Rank	Site	System	Cores	Rmax (TFlop/s)	Rpeak (TFlop/s)	Power (kW)
1	National Supercomputing Center in Wuxi China	Sunway TaihuLight - Sunway MPP, Sunway SW26010 260C 1.45GHz, Sunway NRCP	10,649,600	93,014.6	125,435.9	15,371
2	National Super Computer Center in Guangzhou China	Tianhe-2 (MilkyWay-2) - TH-IVB-FEP Cluster, Intel Xeon E5-2692 12C 2.200GHz, TH Express-2, Intel Xeon Phi 31S1P NUDT	3,120,000	33,862.7	54,902.4	17,808
3	DOE/SC/Oak Ridge National Laboratory United States	Titan - Cray XK7 , Opteron 6274 16C 2.200GHz, Cray Gemini interconnect, NVIDIA K20x Cray Inc.	560,640	17,590.0	27,112.5	8,209
4	DOE/NNSA/LLNL United States	Sequoia - BlueGene/Q, Power BQC 16C 1.60 GHz, Custom IBM	1,572,864	17,173.2	20,132.7	7,890
5	DOE/SC/LBNL/NERSC United States	Cori - Cray XC40, Intel Xeon Phi 7250 68C 1.4GHz, Aries interconnect Cray Inc.	622,336	14,014.7	27,880.7	3,939

Curie thin nodes (TGCC) : ranked 9th in 2012, 74th today
77184 cores, 1.7 PFlops/s, 2.132 MW

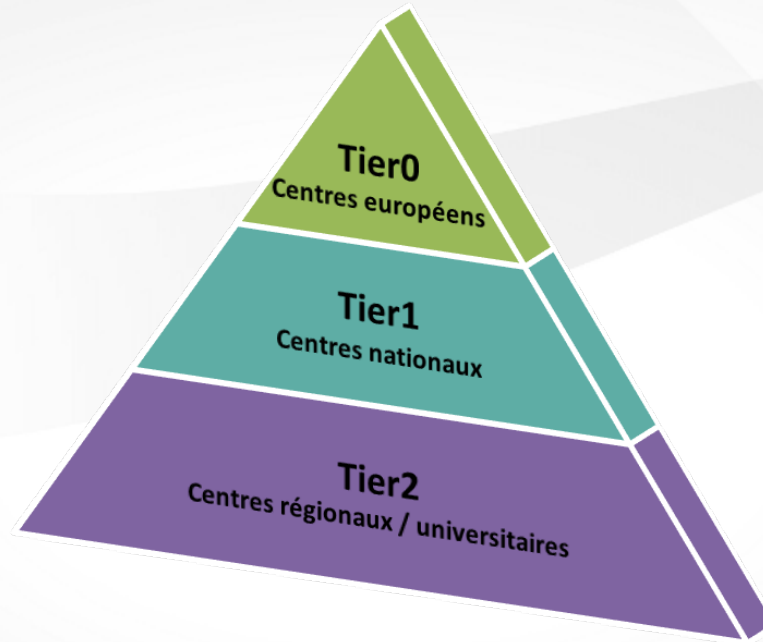


Mare Nostrum (Barcelona, rank 129): 48896 cores, 1.017 PFlops/s, 1.016 MW



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Resources in France



- Europe (Tier0) : > 10M CPU hours
- National (Tier1) : ~ 1-10M CPU hours
- Regional (Tier2) : 100k-1M CPU hours

Europe (Tier0)

- PRACE : Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe (25 countries)

System	Architecture	Site (Country)	Core Hours	Node Hours
Curie	Bull Bullx cluster	GENCI@CEA (FR)	113 million	7 million
Hazel Hen	Cray XC40 System	GCS@HLRS (DE)	57 million	2.4 million
Juqueen	IBM BlueGene/Q system	GCS@JSC (DE)	350 million	4.6 million
Marconi	Lenovo System	CINECA (IT)	630 million (KNL)	9.2 million
			35 million (Broadwell)	1 million
MareNostrum	IBM System X iDataplex	BSC (ES)	316 million	7 million
Piz Daint	Cray XC30 System	CSCS (CH)	476 million	7 million
SuperMUC	IBM System X iDataplex/ Lenovo NextScale	GCS@LRZ (DE)	30 million (SuperMUC 1)	1.9 million
			14 million (SuperMUC 2)	0.5 million

- EGI : European Grid Infrastructure
730 000 cores for high throughput computing (1.6 million computing jobs per day)
6 600 cores for Cloud computing
Online storage / data transfer
- Both PRACE and EGI propose training

National (Tier 1)

GENCI : Grand Equipement National de Calcul Intensif

- IDRIS : Institut du développement et des ressources en informatique scientifique (Orsay)
 - Ada : 10624 x86 cores, 230 TFlops/s
 - Turing : IBM BlueGene/Q, 65536 cores, 836 TFlops/s
- CINES : Occigen (Montpellier)
 - Occigen : 50544 x86 cores, BullX, 2.1 PFlops/s
- TGCC : Curie (Bruyères-le-Chatel)
 - Curie Thin+Fat nodes : 92160 x86 cores, BullX, 2 PFlops/s

France Grilles :

- 18 sites
- ~ 32000 cores (in 2015)

Regional (Tier 2)

CALMIP : Calcul en Midi-Pyrénées

- Eos : 12240 cores, 255 TFlops/s (274 Tflops/s Peak)
- Mesca : 128 cores SMP, 3TB RAM



Architecture

Supercomputer

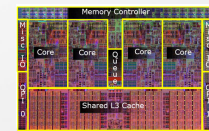


Islands

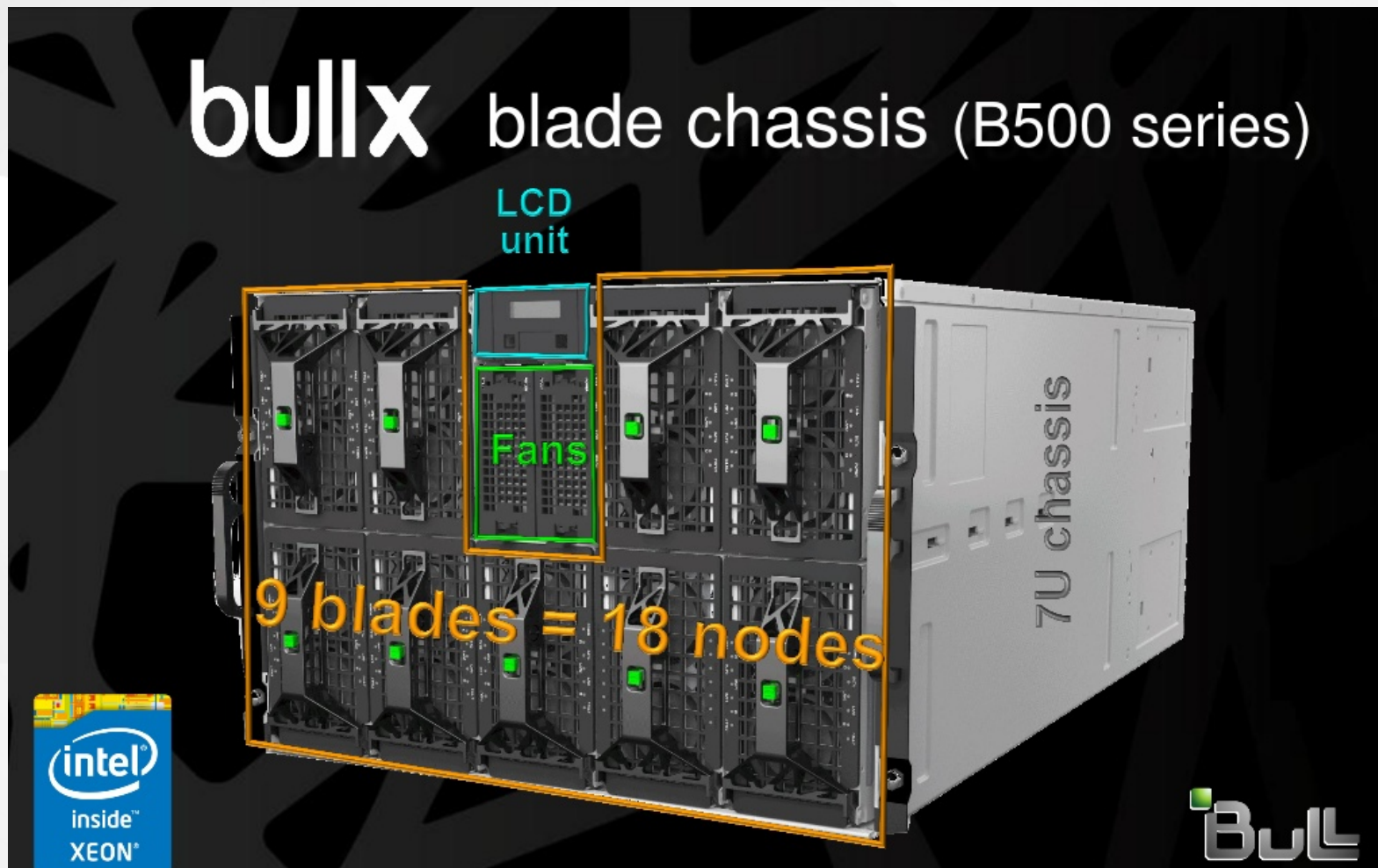
Nodes

Sockets

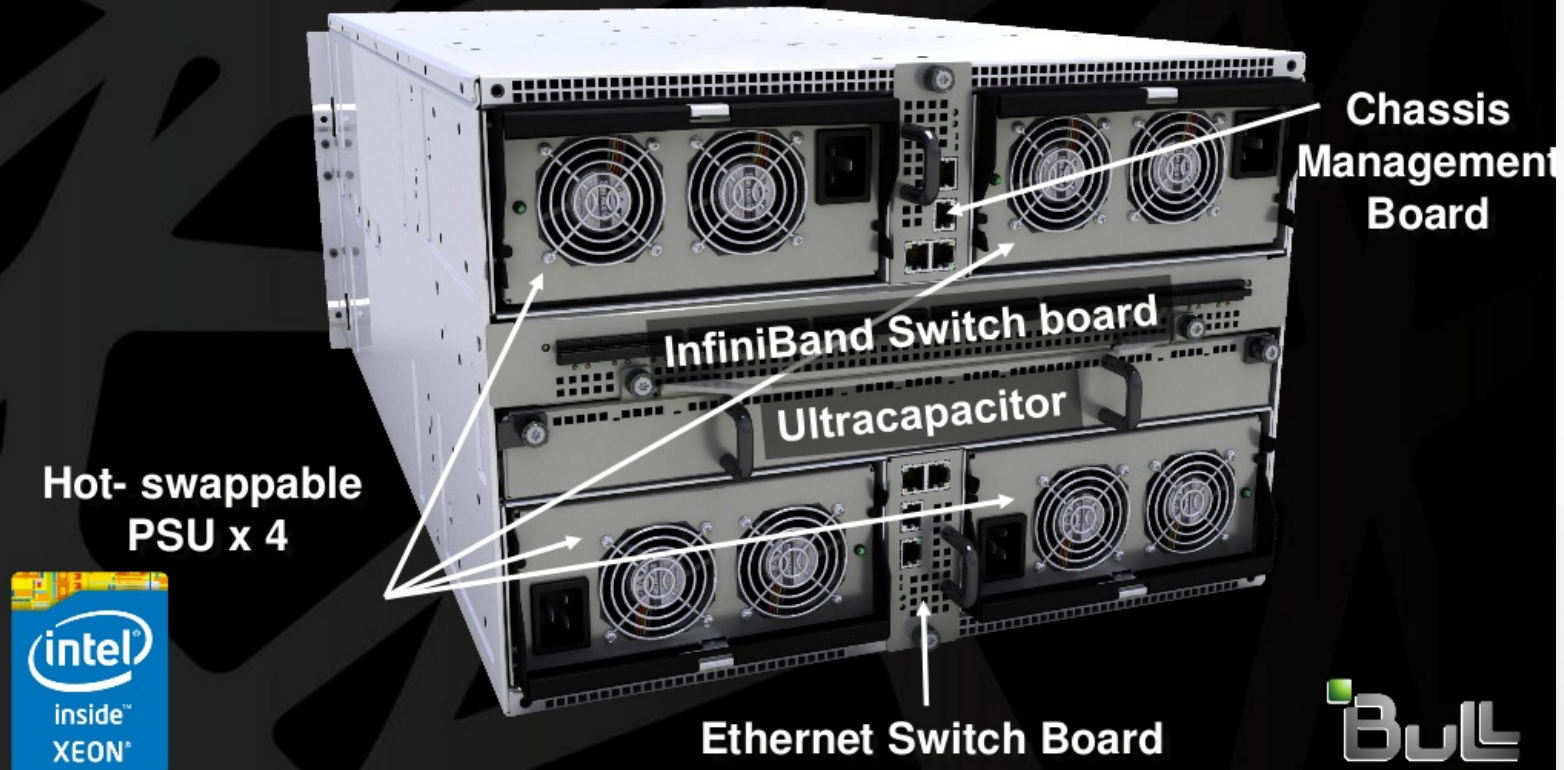
Cores



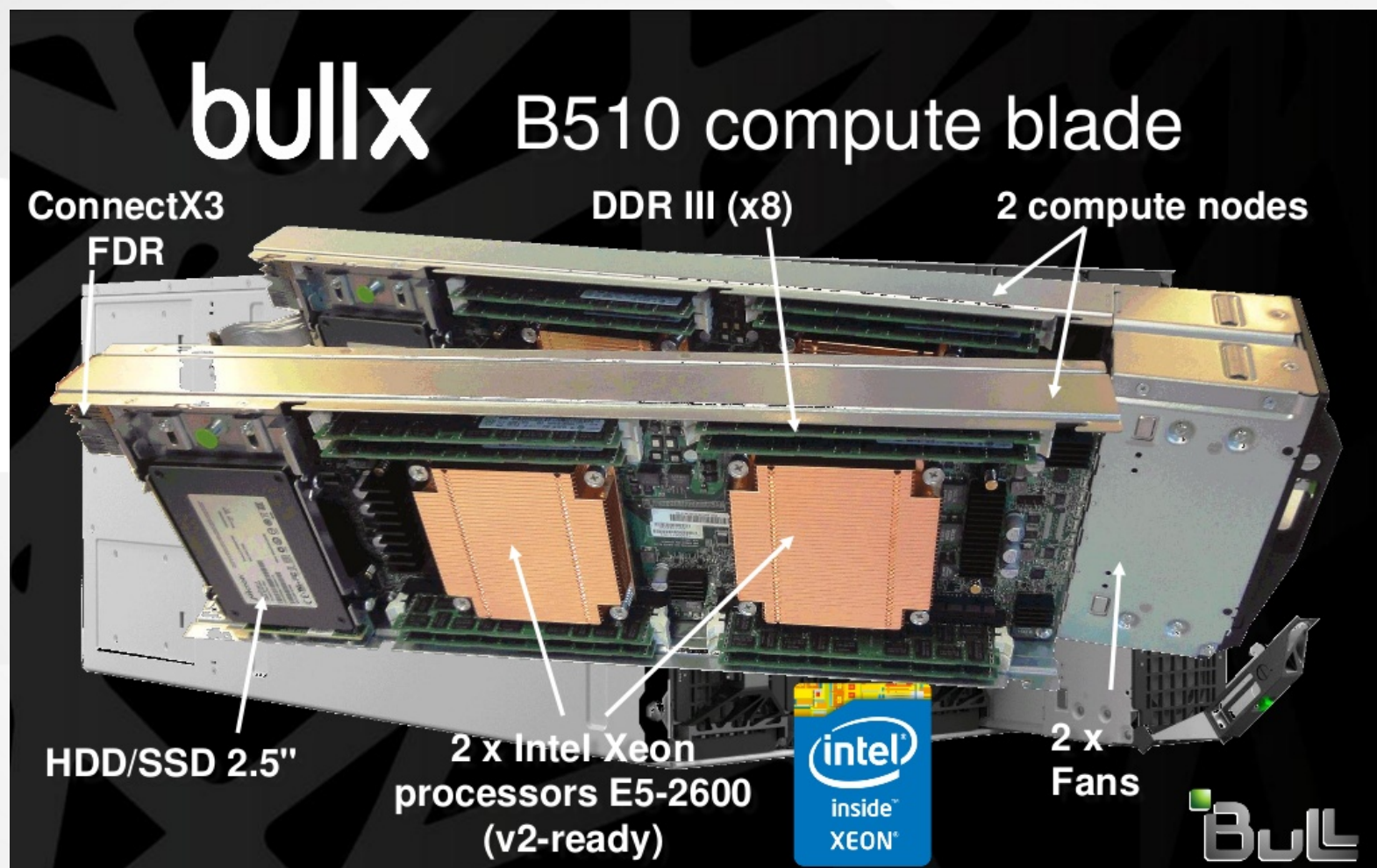
Chassis



bullx blade chassis (B500 series)



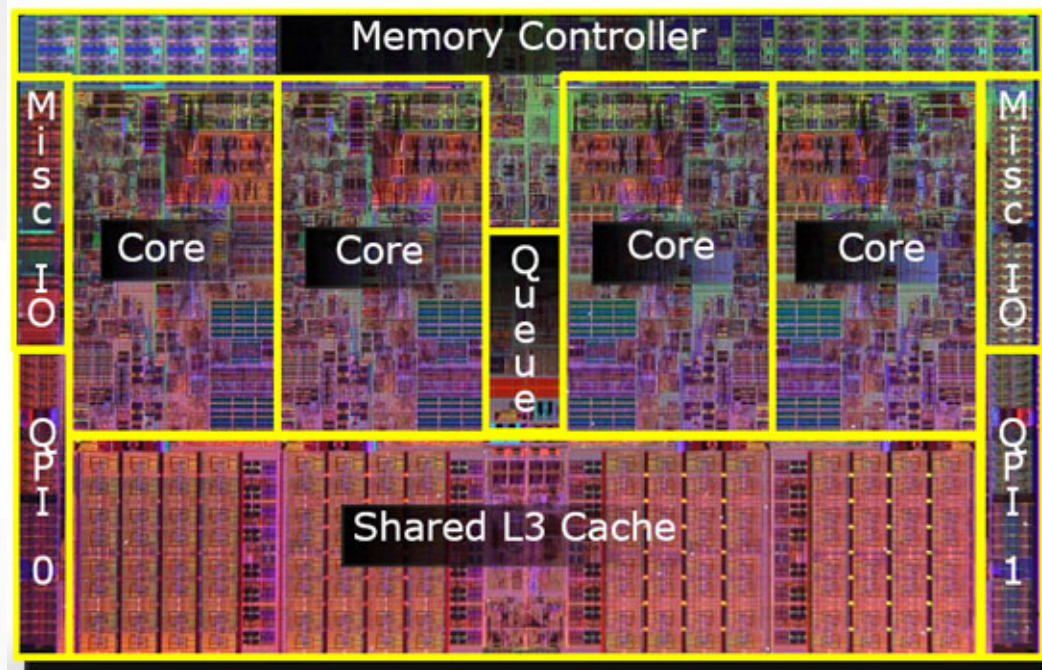
Node



Socket



Core



Why such an architecture?

Moore's law

- "The number of transistors doubles every two years".
- Often interpreted as "the computational power doubles every two years".
- Exponential law -> will fail.
- 14 nm semiconductors in 2017. The atomic limit is approaching.

Main Problem : energy

Dissipation : $D = F \times V^2 \times C$

- F : Frequency (~3 GHz)
- V : tension
- C : constant related to the size of semiconductors (nm)
- For the processor to be stable, the tension needs to be linear with the frequency: so $D = O(F^3)$ -> The frequency has to be kept around 3GHz.

- Solution 1 : double the number of Flops/s = double the number of processors.
- Solution 2 : Use accelerators (GPUs, Xeon Phi)

This requires to re-think programming -> Parallel programming is *unavoidable*.

Today's main problems

1. Energy, physical limits
2. Interconnect technology
3. Increase of computational power is faster than memory capacity : reduction of memory per CPU core
4. Latencies can't be reduced much more : moving data becomes very expensive
5. File systems are **extremely** slow
6. Supercomputers are well tuned for benchmarks (dense linear algebra), but not that much for scientific applications
7. Fault-tolerance

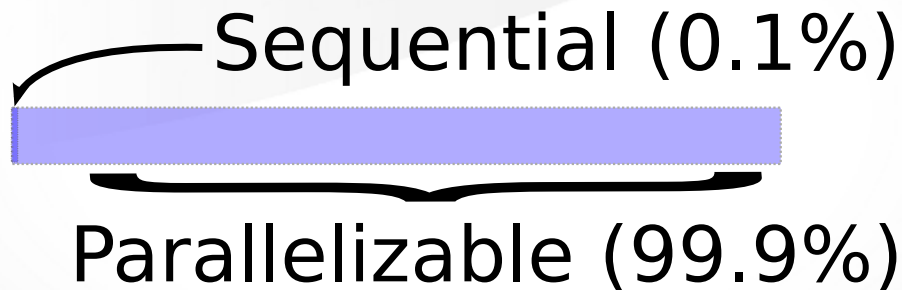
Practical solution: use less efficient/intelligent CPUs, but in a much larger number:

- Intel Atom CPUs (~2GHz, System On Chip, HP Moonshot) : >1500 x86 cores in 3U
- Intel Xeon Phi coprocessor (61 cores, 1GHz)
- Nvidia/ATI GPUs (~3584 cores, ~1GHz), with ARM host CPU
- Intel Knights Landing (72 cores, 288 threads, ~1.5GHz CPU socket)
- IBM OpenPower CPU accelerated with Nvidia GPUs

Amdahl's law

If P is the proportion of a program that can be made parallel, the maximum speedup that can be achieved is:

$$\frac{1}{(1 - P) + P/n}$$



- Max speedup here : 1000x
- Scaling needs **all** the program to be fully parallelized (difficult)