Outline of Talk

• In the 90s and early 2000 SDSC machines were from CRAY, IBM, SGI etc.

• In the ~last decade we primarily receive hardware from vendors and create and maintain our own software stack

• In this context we will present the three HPC machines at SDSC
  • Trestles: 2011 – 2014
  • Comet: 2015 – 2021
  • Architecture and the science enabled by these three machines
Trestles at SDSC: 2011 – 2014
A high-productivity HPC system targeted to modest-scale and gateway users

- Designed for modest scale, high throughput and science gateway jobs
- Researchers from diverse areas who need access to a fully supported supercomputer with shorter turnaround times
- User requirements for more flexible access modes - enabled pre-emptive on-demand queues for applications which require urgent access in response to unpredictable natural or manmade events
- 10,368 processor cores, a peak speed of 100 teraflop/s, 20 terabytes memory, and 39 terabytes of flash memory (pioneering use of flash)
- Large memory (64 GB) and core count (32) per node
- Local flash drives available as fast scratch space
The Majority of TeraGrid/XD Projects Had Modest-Scale Resource Needs

- “80/20” rule around 512 cores
  - ~80% of projects only run jobs smaller than this ...
  - And use <20% of resources
- Only ~1% of projects run jobs as large as 16K cores and consume >30% of resources
- Many projects/users only need modest-scale jobs/resources
- And a modest-size resource can provide the resources for a large number of these projects/users

Exceedance distributions of projects and usage as a function of the largest job (core count) run by a project over a full year (FY2009)
Trestles Targeted to Modest-Scale Users and Gateway Projects

- Gateways - an emerging usage mode within TeraGrid/XD
  - Many more communities
- Growth in the number of TeraGrid users is largely driven by gateway users
- An effective system can off-load many users/jobs, including gateway users from capability systems ... a win-win for everyone

- Many users cite queue wait times as primary drawback of TeraGrid/XD systems
- For a targeted base of modest-scale users, design the system for productivity, including fast turnaround!
Trestles is a 100TF system with 324 nodes
(Each node 4 socket*8-core/64GB DRAM/120GB flash, AMD Magny-Cours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System Component</th>
<th>Configuration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMD MAGNY-COURS COMPUTE NODE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sockets</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cores</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clock Speed</td>
<td>2.4 GHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flop Speed</td>
<td>307 Gflop/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory capacity</td>
<td>64 GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory bandwidth</td>
<td>171 GB/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STREAM Triad bandwidth</td>
<td>100 GB/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flash memory (SSD)</td>
<td>120 GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FULL SYSTEM</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total compute nodes</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total compute cores</td>
<td>10,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak performance</td>
<td>100 TFlop/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total memory</td>
<td>20.7 TB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total memory bandwidth</td>
<td>55.4 TB/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total flash memory</td>
<td>39 TB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QDR INFINIBAND INTERCONNECT</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topology</td>
<td>Fat tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link bandwidth</td>
<td>8 GB/s (bidirectional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak bisection bandwidth</td>
<td>5.2 TB/s (bidirectional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPI latency</td>
<td>1.3 us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DISK I/O SUBSYSTEM</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File systems</td>
<td>NFS, Lustre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage capacity (usable)</td>
<td>150 TB: Dec 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2PB : August 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4PB: July 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/O bandwidth</td>
<td>50 GB/s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trestles – Actively managed the system to achieve its objectives

- **Target modest-scale users**
  - Limit job size to 1024 cores (32 nodes)

- **Serve a large number of users**
  - Cap allocation per project at 1.5M SUs/year (~2.5% of annual total)
  - Gateways are an exception because they represent large # of users

- **Maintain fast turnaround time**
  - Allocate ~70% of the theoretically available SUs (may be revised as we collect data)
  - Limiting projects to small fractional allocations also should reduce queue waits
  - Configure queues and scheduler to manage to short waits and lower expansion factors

- **Be responsive to user’s requirements**
  - Robust software suite
  - Unique capabilities like on-demand access and user-settable reservations

- **Bring in new users/communities**
  - Welcome small jobs/allocations, start-up requests up to 50,000 SUs, gateway-friendly
Queue Structure and Scheduler Policies

• Torque resource manager, Catalina external scheduler
• Limit of 32 nodes (1K cores) on all jobs
• Default job time limit 48 hrs, but allowed up to 2 weeks
• Nodes can be requested as exclusive or shared
• Node reservations ensured access for shorter jobs
  • 32 nodes for jobs <48 hrs, 2 nodes <30 min, 3 nodes for shared jobs
• Users can make their own reservations for nodes at specific times to ensure access and enable workflows
  • Individual reservations default to a limit of 2 reservations per allocations account, each with at most 4 nodes, each with at most 4 hours duration
  • Policy limit on user-settable reservations during any 24 hour period of 32 node-hours
• Approved users also have on-demand access for urgent computing
• Keep expansion factors near unity while maintaining good utilization
Simulation shows atomic structure of a chain of polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) a silicon-based polymer widely used in thermal management – microelectronics. T. Lou, MIT; April 2011, Journal of Applied Physics

- Large number of smaller jobs simultaneously
- Larger simulation of 512 cores – tens of thousands of atoms
- Long jobs – running for ~two weeks
- I/O intensive first principle – benefitted from local flash
- 64 GB – large memory for memory demanding FP

Gravitational wave ripples generated during a high-energy collision of two black holes shot at each other at ~75% speed of light. X and Y measures the horizontal/vertical distances from the center of mass in units of the black hole’s radius. U. Sperhake, CalTech. May 2011, Physical Review D

- Used 100s of cores
- Total of 100s of GBs of memory
An innovative data intensive supercomputer

Designed for data and memory intensive applications that don’t run well on traditional distributed memory machines

- Large shared memory requirements
- Serial or threaded (OpenMP, Pthreads)
- Limited scalability
- High performance data base applications
- Random I/O combined with very large data sets
- Large scratch files
Gordon – An Innovative Data Intensive Supercomputer

- Designed to accelerate access to massive amounts of data in areas of genomics, earth science, engineering, medicine, and others
- Emphasizes memory and IO over FLOPS.
- Appro (later Cray) integrated 1,024 node Sandy Bridge cluster
- 300 TB of high performance Intel flash
- Large memory supernodes via vSMP Foundation from ScaleMP
- 3D torus interconnect from Mellanox
- Production operation - February 2012
- Funded by the NSF and provided through the NSF Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment program (XSEDE)
# Gordon System Specification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>INTEL SANDY BRIDGE COMPUTE NODE</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sockets, Cores</td>
<td>2 / 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clock speed</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAM capacity</td>
<td>64 GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSD</td>
<td>80 GB</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>INTEL FLASH I/O NODE</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAND flash SSD drives</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSD capacity per drive/Capacity per node/total</td>
<td>300 GB / 4.8 TB / 300 TB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flash bandwidth per drive (read/write) IOPS</td>
<td>270 MB/s / 210 MB/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38,000 / 2,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SMP SUPER-NODE</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compute nodes</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/O nodes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addressable DRAM</td>
<td>2 TB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addressable memory including flash</td>
<td>12TB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FULL SYSTEM</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compute Nodes, Cores</td>
<td>1,024 / 16,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak performance</td>
<td>341TF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate memory</td>
<td>64 TB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>INFINIBAND INTERCONNECT</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate torus BW</td>
<td>9.2 TB/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Dual-Rail QDR InfiniBand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link Bandwidth</td>
<td>8 GB/s (bidirectional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latency (min-max)</td>
<td>1.25 µs – 2.5 µs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DATA OASIS LUSTRE FILE SYSTEM</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total storage</td>
<td>4.5 PB (raw)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/O bandwidth</td>
<td>100 GB/s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Gordon System Specification**

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**SDSC**
**SUPERCOMPUTER CENTER**

**UC San Diego**
Gordon Design: Two Driving Ideas

• **Observation #1:** Data keeps getting further away from processor cores ("red shift")
  • Do we need a new level in the memory hierarchy?

• **Observation #2:** Many data-intensive applications are serial and difficult to parallelize
  • Would a large, shared memory machine be better from the standpoint of researcher productivity for some of these?
  • ➔ Rapid prototyping of new approaches to data analysis
The Memory Hierarchy of Gordon

- Registers (1 cycle)
- Caches (2-10 cycles)
- Memory (100 cycles)
- Remote Memory (10,000 cycles)
- Flash Drives (100,000 cycles)
- Spinning Disks (10,000,000 cycles)

Categories:
- BIG
- DATA
- Shared memory Programming (multiple nodes)
- Disk I/O
Gordon Design Highlights

- 1,024 2S Xeon E5 (Sandy Bridge) nodes
  - 16 cores, 64 GB/node
  - Intel Jefferson Pass mobo
  - PCI Gen3

- 3D Torus
  - Dual rail QDR

- Large Memory vSMP Supernodes
  - 2TB DRAM
  - 10 TB Flash

- 300 GB Intel 710 eMLC SSDs
- 300 TB aggregate

- 64, 2S Westmere I/O nodes
  - 12 core, 48 GB/node
  - 4 LSI controllers
  - 16 SSDs
  - Dual 10GbE
  - SuperMicro mobo
  - PCI Gen2

“Data Oasis”
Lustre PFS
100 GB/sec, 4 PB

SDSC
SAN DIEGO SUPERCOMPUTER CENTER
UC San Diego
Subrack and Cabling Design Detail
Switches are interconnected by 3 links in each +/- x, y, z direction.

Connectivity wraps around.

Each node is switch.

Gordon Architecture: 3D Torus of Switches

- Switches are connected in 4x4x4 3D torus
- Linearly expandable
- Short Cables- Fiber Optic cables generally not required
- Lower Cost: 40% as many switches, 25% to 50% fewer cables
- Works well for localized communication
- Fault Tolerant within the mesh with 2QoS Alternate Routing
- Fault Tolerant with Dual-Rails for all routing algorithms
- Two rails – i.e., two complete tori with 64 switch nodes in each torus
- Maximum of 6 hops

Switches are interconnected by 3 links in each +/- x, y, z direction.
## Gordon Systems Software Stack

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Version/Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cluster management</td>
<td>Rocks 5.4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating System</td>
<td>CentOS 5.6 – modified for AVX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>InfiniBand</td>
<td>OFED 1.5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mellanox subnet manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPI</td>
<td>MVAPICH2 (Native)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MPICH2 (vSMP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Memory</td>
<td>vSMP Foundation v4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flash</td>
<td>iSCSI over RDMA (iSER)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target daemon (tgtd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>XFS, OCFS, et al</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Environment</td>
<td>Modules; Rocks Rolls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parallel File System</td>
<td>Lustre 1.8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job scheduling</td>
<td>Torque (PBS), Catalina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local enhancements for topology aware scheduling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MVAPICH2 on Gordon

• MVAPICH2 {version is 1.9] was the default MPI implementation on Gordon. (now version 2.1)

• Compiled with --enable-3dtorus-support flag. Multi-rail support.

• LIMIC2 [Version on system was 0.5.6]

• SSDs on Gordon are in I/O nodes. Exported to the compute nodes via iSER. Rail 1 (mlx4_1) is used for this part.

• I/O nodes also serve as lustre routers. Again I/O traffic is going on rail 1 (mlx4_1).

• Given I/O traffic, both to lustre and SSDs (local scratch) can saturate rail 1, default recommendation is to run MVAPICH2 with one rail [MV2_IBA_HCA=mlx4_0, MV2_NUM_HCAS=1]
Dual Rail QDR vs FDR OSU Bandwidth Test

- **MVAPICH2 out of the box without any tuning**

*Tests done by Glenn Lockwood (then at SDSC; now NERSC)*
Dual Rail QDR vs FDR OSU Bandwidth Test

- \textit{MV2\_RAIL\_SHARING\_LARGE\_MSG\_THRESHOLD}=8k

*Tests done by Glenn Lockwood (then at SDSC; now NERSC)*
Dual Rail QDR vs FDR OSU Bandwidth Test

- `MV2_SM_SCHEDULING=ROUND_ROBIN`
- *In new version this is MV2_RAIL_SHARING_POLICY, default*

Tests done by Glenn Lockwood (then at SDSC; now NERSC)
Production Gordon stack featured MVAPICH2 w/ --enable-3dtorus- support flag and dual rail support

- Dual rail QDR performance competitive with FDR performance.
  - MVAPICH2 environment variables such as MV2_RAIL_SHARING_LARGE_MSG_THRESHOLD and MV2_RAIL_SHARING_POLICY (earlier MV2_SM_SCHEDULING) can be used to tune performance.

- Gordon has oversubscription of switch to switch links. Spreading tasks to reduce contention can improve performance.

- Big Thanks to Dr. Panda’s group! Gordon was the first production dual rail InfiniBand 3-D torus machine and the MVAPICH2 deployment was flawless out of the box.
3D Torus Experiences

- First dual rail, 3D torus deployed (that we’re aware of)
- Early engineering work on a 4x4x2 3D torus with Appro and Mellanox was an important risk mitigator
- Low-level performance benchmarks are excellent
  - 1.44 – 2.5 us latency
  - 3.2-3.8 GB/s link bandwidth (half duplex, single rail)
- Operations was a non-issue
  - Running 2 subnet managers (SM) – one for each rail
  - Have had zero failures of the SM
  - No issues with vSMP operations. Switches participate in both native and vSMP environments.
- Zero tolerance for errors in cabling
- Deployed configuration
  - Rail 0 is user MPI traffic
  - Rail 1 is for I/O traffic to I/O nodes (both flash and Lustre)
  - Research work with DK Panda’s team to fully leverage the capabilities of the torus for failover, bandwidth.
Axial compression of caudal rat vertebra using Abaqus and vSMP

The goal of the simulations is to analyze how small variances in boundary conditions effect high strain regions in the model. The research goal is to understand the response of trabecular bone to mechanical stimuli. This has relevance for paleontologists to infer habitual locomotion of ancient people and animals, and in treatment strategies for populations with fragile bones such as the elderly.

- 5 million quadratic, 8 noded elements
- Model created with custom Matlab application that converts 25³ micro CT images into voxel-based finite element models

To determine the impact of high-frequency trading activity on financial markets, it is necessary to construct nanosecond resolution limit order books – records of all unexecuted orders to buy/sell stock at a specified price. Analysis provides evidence of quote stuffing: a manipulative practice that involves submitting a large number of orders with immediate cancellation to generate congestion.

Time to construct limit order books now under 15 minutes for threaded application using 16 cores on single Gordon compute node.

Source: Mao Ye, Dept. of Finance, U. Illinois. Used by permission. 6/1/2012
Large-scale pharmacogenomic analysis

Janssen R&D, a Johnson & Johnson company, has been using whole-genome sequencing in clinical trials of new drug therapies to correlate response or non-response with genetic variants. Janssen has partnered with the Scripps Translational Science Institute (STSI) to perform cutting-edge analyses on hundreds of full human genomes which presents many dimensions of data-intensive challenges.

To analyze 438 human genomes, this project needed
- **16-threads per node and hundreds of nodes** to achieve massive parallelism
- at least of **40 GB of RAM per node** for some pipeline stages
- **over 3 TB of flash storage per node** via "big flash" nodes at a metadata-IOPS rate not sustainable by Lustre
- **over 1.6 TB of input data per node** at some pipeline stages
- **1 GB/s read rate from Lustre per node**

This project accomplished in 5 weeks on Gordon what would have taken 2.5 years of 24/7 compute on a single, 8-core workstation with 32 GB of RAM.

**Walltime**
- 6.5 GB
- 1.7 GB
- 5.4 GB
- 2.2 GB
- 5.3 GB
- 20 GB
- 16 GB

**Memory Requirement**

Each step of the 9-stage read-mapping pipeline had very different resource requirements

**Peak footprint:**
- 257 TB of Oasis Scratch
- 5,000 cores in use (30% of Gordon's total capacity)
Comet at SDSC – “HPC for the long tail of science”

iPhone panorama photograph of 1 of 2 server rows
Comet Built to Serve the 99%

CHALLENGES OUR PROPOSAL ADDRESSES
✓ Attract new users and communities
✓ Support diverse applications with complex workflows
✓ Ensure responsiveness for thousands of users
✓ Transfer, store, analyze, and share massive data sets
✓ Integrate with XSEDE

COMET COMPUTE SYSTEM

Cluster architecture
- Fast standard nodes
- Large-memory nodes
- GPU-accelerated nodes
- FDR InfiniBand

Storage architecture
- Performance Storage
- Durable Storage

Software
- Science Gateways
- Rich base of installed apps
- Virtualization

USER & SYSTEM SUPPORT
- New user orientation
- XSEDE collaborations
- FutureGrid

ALLOCATIONS & SCHEDULING
- Optimized for throughput
- Per-project allocation caps
- Per-job core limits

Internet2, ESnet @100G
(Universities, Labs)

Open Science Grid

XSEDE Service Providers

Science Gateways

Cluster

Durable Storage

Performance Storage

UCSD Campus Bridging (e.g., LHC Tier 2 Data Site)

- Island architecture
- Mix of node types
- Virtualized HPC clusters
Comet: System Characteristics

• Total peak flops ~2.1 PF
• Dell primary integrator
  • Intel Haswell processors w/ AVX2
  • Mellanox FDR InfiniBand
• 1,944 standard compute nodes (46,656 cores)
  • Dual CPUs, each 12-core, 2.5 GHz
  • 128 GB DDR4 2133 MHz DRAM
  • 2*160GB GB SSDs (local disk)
• 72 GPU nodes
  • 36 nodes same as standard nodes plus Two NVIDIA K80 cards, each with dual Kepler3 GPUs
  • 36 nodes with 2 14-core Intel Broadwell CPUs plus 4 NVIDIA P100 GPUs
• 4 large-memory nodes
  • 1.5 TB DDR4 1866 MHz DRAM
  • Four Haswell processors/node
  • 64 cores/node
• Hybrid fat-tree topology
  • FDR (56 Gbps) InfiniBand
  • Rack-level (72 nodes, 1,728 cores) full bisection bandwidth
  • 4:1 oversubscription cross-rack
• Performance Storage (Aeon)
  • 7.6 PB, 200 GB/s; Lustre
  • Scratch & Persistent Storage segments
• Durable Storage (Aeon)
  • 6 PB, 100 GB/s; Lustre
  • Automatic backups of critical data
  • Home grown
• Home directory storage
• Gateway hosting nodes
• 100 Gbps external connectivity to Internet2 & ESNet
~67 TF supercomputer in a rack

1 rack = 72 nodes
= 1728 cores
= 9.2 TB DRAM
= 23 TB SSD
= FDR InfiniBand
And 27 single-rack supercomputers

27 standard racks
= 1944 nodes
= 46,656 cores
= 249 TB DRAM
= 622 TB SSD
Comet’s operational polices and software are designed to support long tail users

- **Allocations**
  - Individual PIs limited to 10M SU
  - Gateways can request more than 10M SUs
  - Gateways exempt from ”reconciliation” cuts

- **Optimized for throughput**
  - Job limits are set at jobs of 1,728 cores or less (a single rack)
  - Support for shared node jobs is a boon for high throughput computing and utilization
  - Comet “Trial Accounts” provide 1000 SU accounts within one day

- **Science gateways reach large communities**
  - There 13 gateways on Comet, reaching thousands of users through easy to use web portals

- **Virtual Clusters (VC) support well-formed communities**
  - Near native IB performance
  - Project-controlled resources and software environments
  - Requires the allocation team possess systems administration expertise
Comet: MPI options, RDMA enabled software

**MVAPICH2 v2.1** is the default MPI on Comet. v2.2 and v2.3 also available
Intel MPI and OpenMPI also available.

**MVAPICH2-X v2.2a** to provide unified high-performance runtime supporting both MPI and PGAS programming models.

**MVAPICH2-GDR (v2.2)** on the GPU nodes featuring NVIDIA K80s and P100s. *(Earlier representation by Dr. Mahidhar Tatineni on Benchmark and application performance)*

RDMA-Hadoop (2x-1.1.0), RDMA-Spark (0.9.5) *(from Dr. Panda’s HiBD lab)* also available.
RDMA-Hadoop and RDMA-Spark

Network-Based Computing Lab, Ohio State University

- HDFS, MapReduce, and RPC over native InfiniBand and RDMA over Converged Ethernet (RoCE).

- Based on Apache distributions of Hadoop and Spark.

- Version RDMA-Apache-Hadoop-2.x 1.1.0 (based on Apache Hadoop 2.6.0) available on Comet

- Version RDMA-Spark 0.9.5 (based on Apache Spark 2.1.0) available on Comet.

- More details on the RDMA-Hadoop and RDMA-Spark projects at:
  - http://hibd.cse.ohio-state.edu/
Motivation for Virtual Clusters

- OS and software requirements are diversifying. *Growing number of user communities that can’t work in traditional HPC software environment.*
- Communities that have expertise and ability to utilize large clusters but *need hardware.*
- Institutions that have *bursty or intermittent need* for computational resources.

**Goal:** Provide near bare metal HPC performance and management experience for groups that can manage their own clusters.
Key for Performance: Single Root I/O Virtualization (SR-IOV)

- Problem: Virtualization generally has resulted in significant I/O performance degradation (e.g., excessive DMA interrupts)
- Solution: SR-IOV and Mellanox ConnectX-3 InfiniBand host channel adapters
  - One physical function $\rightarrow$ multiple virtual functions, each light weight but with its own DMA streams, memory space, interrupts
  - Allows DMA to bypass hypervisor to VMs
- SRIOV enables virtual HPC cluster w/ near-native InfiniBand latency/bandwidth and minimal overhead
WRF Weather Modeling

- 96-core (4-node) calculation
- Nearest-neighbor communication
- Test Case: 3hr Forecast, 2.5km resolution of Continental US (CONUS).
- Scalable algorithms
- 2% slower w/ SR-IOV vs native IB.
Quantum ESPRESSO

- 48-core (3 node) calculation
- CG matrix inversion - irregular communication
- 3D FFT matrix transposes (all-to-all communication)
- Test Case: DEISA AUSURF 112 benchmark.
- 8% slower w/ SR-IOV vs native IB.
Tundra drains as permafrost thaw

Anna Liljedahl (Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks) has been using Comet to study Arctic hydrology and permafrost. This work has direct relevance to greenhouse gas emissions. No climate projections to date include permafrost thaw with differential ground subsidence at the <1 m scale, which drains the tundra.

Liljedahl et al., Nature Geoscience 2016
Hypersonic Laminar-Turbulent Transition

As part of Dr. Xiaolin Zhong’s research group (UCLA), Carleton Knisely and Christopher Haley use Comet to study boundary layer transition in hypersonic flows. Strategic placement of discrete roughness elements can dampen second mode instability waves, leading to a delay in transition to turbulence. Delaying transition can reduce the heat and drag on a hypersonic vehicle, allowing for heavier payloads and greater fuel efficiency.
Sharon Glotzer (U. Michigan) uses Comet to simulate colloids of hard particles, including spheres, spheres cut by planes, ellipsoids, convex polyhedra, convex spheropolyhedra, and general polyhedra.

Glotzer’s work can lead to the design of better materials, including surfactants, liquid crystals and nanoparticles that spontaneously assemble into sheets, tubes, wires or other geometries.

Workload involves large numbers of small jobs – 147K ran on single core, 219K on single node.
IceCube Neutrino Observatory

IceCube found the first evidence for astrophysical neutrinos in 2013 and is extending the search to lower energy neutrinos. The main challenge is to keep the background low and a precise simulation of signal and background is crucial to the analysis.

Comet’s GPU nodes are a valuable resource for IceCube and integration with the experiment workload management system was very smooth thanks to previous OSG work on Comet.
Studying flu at the molecular scale

Rommie Amaro (UCSD) uses Comet to understand how molecular structure of the flu virus affects infectivity.

Atomic model built from experimentally determined structure. Brownian dynamics then used to understand how glycoprotein stalk height impacts substrate binding.

Alasdair Steven, NIH
Comet ~3 years in operation - Summary

- Users from total number of institutions 550+
- Total number of allocations 1,700+
- Number of unique standard users 4,700+
- Number of unique gateway users 33,000+

- Gateway friendliness impacting thousands of users

- GPU nodes making significant impact – some examples - analysis of data from large instruments (ICECUBE), MD packages (AMBER, LAMMPS), CIPRES gateway (BEAST), ML tools

- HPC Virtualization attracting users
NOWLAB Impact on Science; Prof. DK Panda, Ohio State U.

Comet - ~3 years of operation
# of unique standard users 4,700+
# of unique gateway users 33,000+

Trestles
# of unique standard users 1,600+
Gateway users ~many thousands

Gordon
# of unique standard users 2,100+
Gateway users ~many thousands

SDSC alone ~2011 – now: 42,000 + users

Many other HPC centers worldwide use MVAPICH
Many more thousands of users

Think of total number of publications, Ph.D/MS thesis work
• 20% / 40% / 60% of the user publish
• However you look at it – thousands of research publications, Ph.D/MS thesis
• Impact of NOWLAB system software
Thank you