

# Concurrent Systems

*Nebenläufige Systeme*

## I. Introduction

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## Abstract Concept

- meaning of the lecture labelling in linguistic terms [3]:  
**con·cur·rent** (lat.) *concurrens*: preposition of *concurrere*

1. occurring at the same time; existing together
2. meeting in or going toward the same point; converging
3. acting together; cooperating
4. in agreement; harmonious
5. exercised equally over the same area

**sys·tems** plural of (gr.) *systemas*: to place together

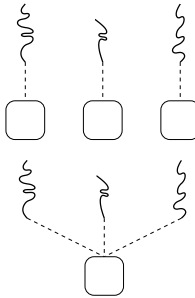
1. a set of arrangements of things so related or connected as to form a unity or organic whole
2. a set of facts, principles, rules, etc. classified or arranged in a regularly, orderly form so as to show a logical plan linking the various parts
3. a method or plan of classification or arrangement
- ⋮

- in terms of computer science: a system of several computations which are executing simultaneously, potentially interacting with each other



## Concurrency as a System Property

- **simultaneous execution** of potentially interacting computations
  - with the latter being logical (cooperating) or incidental (contending)
- concurrence in the program flow is due to:
  - multiplication** of processing units, **but also**
    - real parallelism
    - instruction set architecture level
    - partitioning in space
  - multiplexing** (partial virtualisation [2])
    - pseudo-parallelism
    - operating-system machine level
    - partitioning in time
- functionally equal, but non-functionally unequal, characteristics
  - however, each of the two “concurrency dimensions” originates in different functions to coordinate/synchronise concurrent processes
- focus is on **parallel processing** of the same **non-sequential program**



## Parallel Processing

master/slave



## Parallel Processing

asymmetric



## Parallel Processing

clustered & symmetric





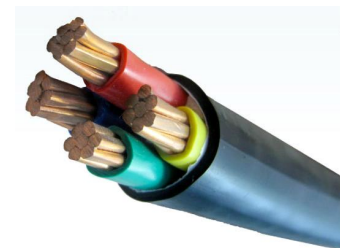
- parallel-computer engineering is pervasive
  - multi-core ■ conventional characteristic
  - uni-core ■ rather unconventional, but rife

- by the way: multi-core  $\subset$  many-core

- multi ■ little tens ("handful") of cores
- many ■ several tens of cores and more
  - hundreds or even thousands

- exposure to parallelism is indispensable [4]
  - mandatory at least for operating systems

- many-core processors make core multiplexing almost superfluous
  - unless latency hiding becomes an issue within a parallel process



28 cores, uniformly distributed across four tiles ☺



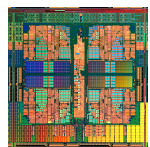
## Parallel Processor: CPU

AMD, IBM, Intel, Tiler

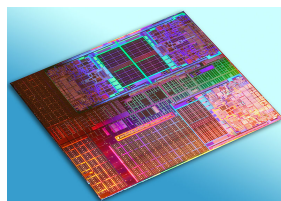
2 cores



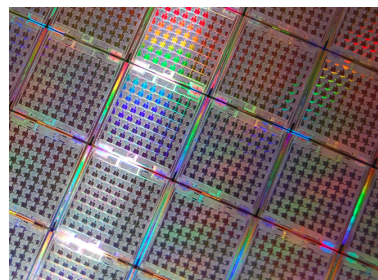
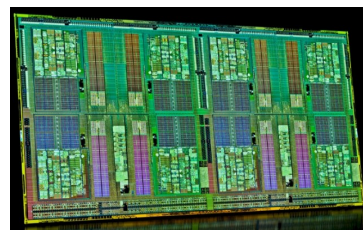
4 cores



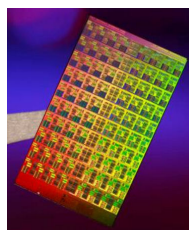
8 cores



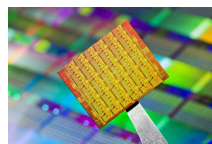
16 cores



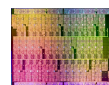
100 cores



80 cores



48 cores

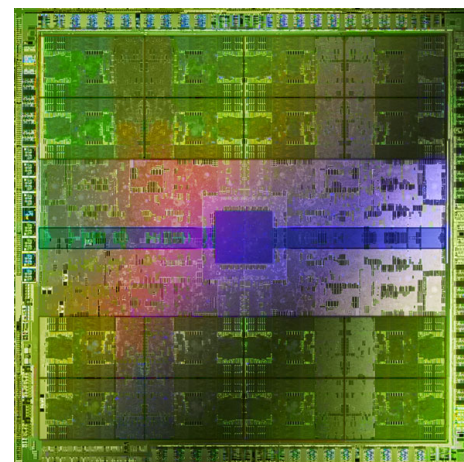


32 cores

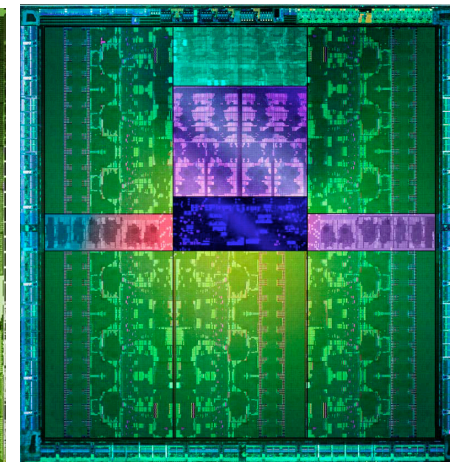


## Parallel Processor: GPU

NVIDIA

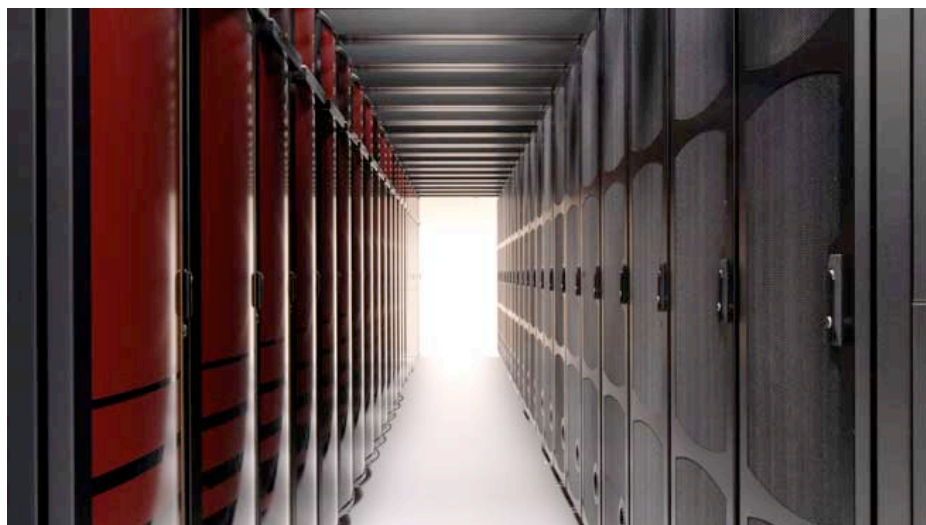


512 cores

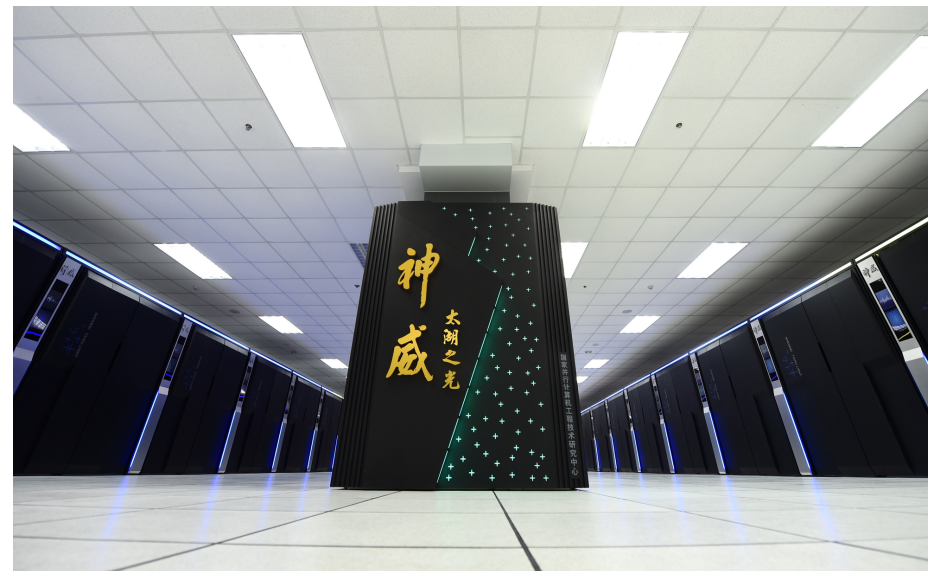


1536/3072 cores





3 120 000 cores



10 649 600 cores



## Characteristic

### Parallel Systems

- **nature** of the overall processor architecture
  - homogeneous** ■ in functional terms: instruction set architecture (ISA)
    - but also non-functional: latency, clock speed, energy use
  - heterogeneous** ■ different in at least one of those aspects
- address-space **organisation**
  - shared** ■ globally direct memory access: load/store operations
    - maybe partitioned global address space (PGAS)
  - distributed** ■ globally indirect memory access: message passing
- cache **coherency**: memory *property*
  - coherent** ■ any read evaluates to the last write to the same address
    - temporary (memory/cache) inconsistencies are tolerated
  - non-coherent** ■ else
- memory (also: cache) **consistency**: memory *state*
  - strict** ■ all accesses are seen in order in which they were issued
  - otherwise** ■ loosened models, differentiate between read and write
    - sequential, processor, weak, entry, or release consistency



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## Introduction:

1. overview, organisation—today's lecture. . .

## General topics and basic principles:

2. notion of “concurrency” against the background of resource sharing
  - causality (“cause and effect”), synchronisation, indivisibility
3. notion of “process” and difference to “program”
  - sequential, non-sequential, concurrent, interacting
4. critical (program) sections and their typical patterns
  - race conditions/hazards: lost update, lost wakeup
5. elementary operations and other hardware aspects
  - TAS, CAS, and LL/SC versus caches, coherence, and interference



## Classic and folklore:

6. lock algorithms
  - contention, backoff, ticket, interference
7. semaphore
  - binary (vs. “mutex”), general/counting, bolt, set
8. monitor and condition variable
  - signalling semantics: Hansen, Hoare, Mesa, Java
9. deadlock and livelock
  - prevention, avoidance and detection & resolution



## Avant-garde and other:

10. algorithms based on indivisible memory-write instructions
  - assuming vertical (stack-like) overlapping
  - interrupt-transparent synchronisation
11. algorithms based on dedicated machine instructions
  - assuming horizontal (congeneric) overlapping
  - compare and swap (CAS), load linked (LL) and store conditional (SC)
12. transactional memory
  - AMD's advanced synchronisation facility (ASF)
  - Intel's transactional synchronisation extensions (TSX)



## Recapitulation:

13. wrap-up and words in a personal matter
  - retrospection and lessons learned
  - research projects on these topics at the chair
  - perspectives for advanced training: bachelor, master, doctoral thesis

## Hint (Lecture)

*Main objective is to impart knowledge on concurrent systems from the **system programming point of view**. Wide emphasis is on the internals of synchronisation concepts and primitives as well as the implications of the respective implementations. Application of these methods for parallel programming takes a back seat.*



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- depends on the German linguistic abilities of the participants
  - English ■ preferred working language
  - strict choice if at least one attendee does not agree on German
  - German ■ in case of doubt or missing answer, German is fallback position<sup>1</sup>
- written material (slides or handouts, resp.) will be English
  - with technical terms also stated in German, where applicable

<sup>1</sup>Studying abroad also means *living* abroad—and to take part and share in Franconian social life. The latter *soft skills* cannot be overestimated.



## Lecture

Meaningful Learning

- acquire new knowledge
  - prepare next reading on ones own initiative
  - attend presentation, listen, and discuss topics treated
  - reinforce learning matter, reflect
- relate it with previous knowledges
  - parallel programming (PFP) 12
  - computer architecture (GRA) 13
  - system programming (SP, SPiC, GSPiC) 14
  - operating systems (BS), operating-systems engineering (BST) 14
  - real-time systems (EVS) 14
- teaching material presented in the **lecture room**:
  - follow “Lehre” (Eng. *teaching*) at <https://www4.cs.fau.de>
  - copies of the slides are made available as handouts free of charge
  - supplemented by secondary literature as and when required
    - see the bibliography at the bottom of each handout
  - glossary of terms at <https://www4.cs.fau.de/~wosch/glossar.pdf>



## Exercise

Experimental Learning

- deepen knowledge by means of direct experience
 

*Acquisition of virtuous behaviour and operational ability is less a matter of easy instruction but rather functional copy, practise, and use. (Aristotle [1])*

  - discussion of assignments, outline of approaches
  - consolidation of the lecture, clarification of open questions
- **blackboard practice** under guidance of an exercise instructor
  - registration through [WAFFEL](#)<sup>2</sup> (URL see CS web page)
  - assignments are to be processed in teamwork: discretionary clause
    - depending on the number of participants
- **computer work** under individual responsibility
  - registration is not scheduled, reserved workplaces are available
  - in case of questions, a CS exercise instructor is available

<sup>2</sup>abbr. for (Ger.) *Webanmeldefrickelformular Enterprise Logic*



## Requirements

- **hard skills** (computer-science expertise)
  - mandatory
    - structured computer organisation
    - algorithm design and development
    - principles of programming in C or C++
  - knowledge gaps will not be closed actively: no extra tuition
  - optional
    - assembly language (absolute) programming
    - system programming
    - operating systems
  - as appropriate, knowledge gaps will be closed on demand by the instructors
- **soft** (personal, social, methodical) **skills**
  - staying power, capacity of teamwork, structured problem solving



## Major Course Assessment

- achievable credit points
  - 5 ECTS (*European Credit Transfer System*)
  - corresponding to a face time of 4 contact hours per week
    - lecture and practice, with 2 SWS<sup>3</sup> (i.e., 2.5 ECTS) each
- German or English (cf. p. 22) **oral examination**
  - date by arrangement: send e-mail to [wosch@cs.fau.de](mailto:wosch@cs.fau.de)
  - propose desired date within the official audit period
    - the exception (from this very period) proves the rule...
- examination subjects
  - topics of lecture, blackboard practice, but also computer work
  - brought up in the manner of an “expert talk”
    - major goal is to find out the degree of understanding of inter-relations
- registration through “mein campus”: <https://www.campus.fau.de>

<sup>3</sup>abbr. for (Ger.) *Semesterwochenstunden*



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## Subject Matter

- coordination of cooperation and concurrency
  - between interacting (i.e., control- or data-flow dependent) processes
  - with emphasis on explicit synchronisation
- against the background of two dimensions of concurrency
  - vertical** ■ overlapped execution at operating-system machine level
    - process preemption (partial virtualisation)
  - horizontal** ■ overlapped execution at instruction set architecture level
    - processor (core) multiplication
- in-depth study of approaches suitable (not only) for operating systems
  - advanced studies to the range of topics on system programming
  - basic studies to concurrent (i.e., non sequential) programming
- fundamental understanding of different synchronisation paradigms
  - blocking versus non-blocking synchronisation
  - where is what paradigm mandatory, optional, beneficial, or adversely...



# Reference List I

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- [2] CORBATÓ, F. J. ; MERWIN-DAGGETT, M. ; DALEY, R. C.:  
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*Webster's New World Dictionary*.  
Simon & Schuster, Inc., 1988
- [4] SUTTER, H. :  
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In: *Dr. Dobbs' Journal* 30 (2005), Nr. 3, S. 202–210

