ERLANGEN REGIONAL
COMPUTING CENTER

http://tiny.cc/NLPE-BUW

Node-Level Performance Engineering

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FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER
UNIVERSITÄT
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Quiz

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- What does “clock frequency” mean in computers?
- What is “memory bandwidth”?
- What is SIMD vectorization?
- What is ccNUMA?

Quiz cont.

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- What is a register?
- What is Amdahl's Law?
- What is a pipelined functional unit?

Cycle gymnastics

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- 1 cycle = smallest unit of time on a CPU ("heartbeat")
  - Clock speed of typical CPU: 3.0 Gcy/s (or GHz)
- Basic unit of work: Floating-point operation (Flop)
  - Typical peak performance of 8-core CPU: P_{peak} = 192 Gflop/s
  - How many Flops per cycle per core is that? $\frac{192 \cdot 10^9 \frac{Flops}{s}}{8\ cores \cdot 3.0 \cdot 10^9 \frac{cy}{s}} = 8 \frac{Flops}{cy \cdot core}$
  - Typical duration of a double precision multiply: 5 cycles
    - How much time is that? $\frac{5\ cy}{3.0 \cdot 10^9 \frac{cy}{s}} = 1.67 \cdot 10^{-9} s = 1.67\ ns$
- Basic unit of traffic: Byte
- Unit of bandwidth: Bytes/s
  - Typical memory bandwidth: 48 Gbytes/s = $4.8 \cdot 10^{10}$ Bytes/s
  - How many bytes per cycle is that? $\frac{48 \cdot 10^9 \frac{Bytes}{s}}{3.0 \cdot 10^9 \frac{cy}{s}} = 16 \frac{Bytes}{cy}$

PRELUDE:
SCALABILITY 4 THE WIN!

How to ask the right questions

A conversation

From a student seminar on “Efficient programming of modern multi- and manycore processors”

Student: I have implemented this algorithm on the GPGPU, and it solves a system with 26546 unknowns in 0.12 seconds, so it is really fast.

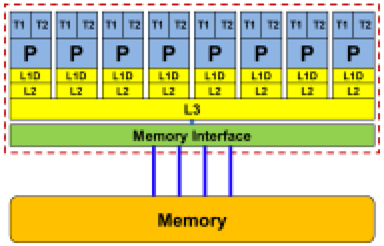
Me: What makes you think that 0.12 seconds is fast?

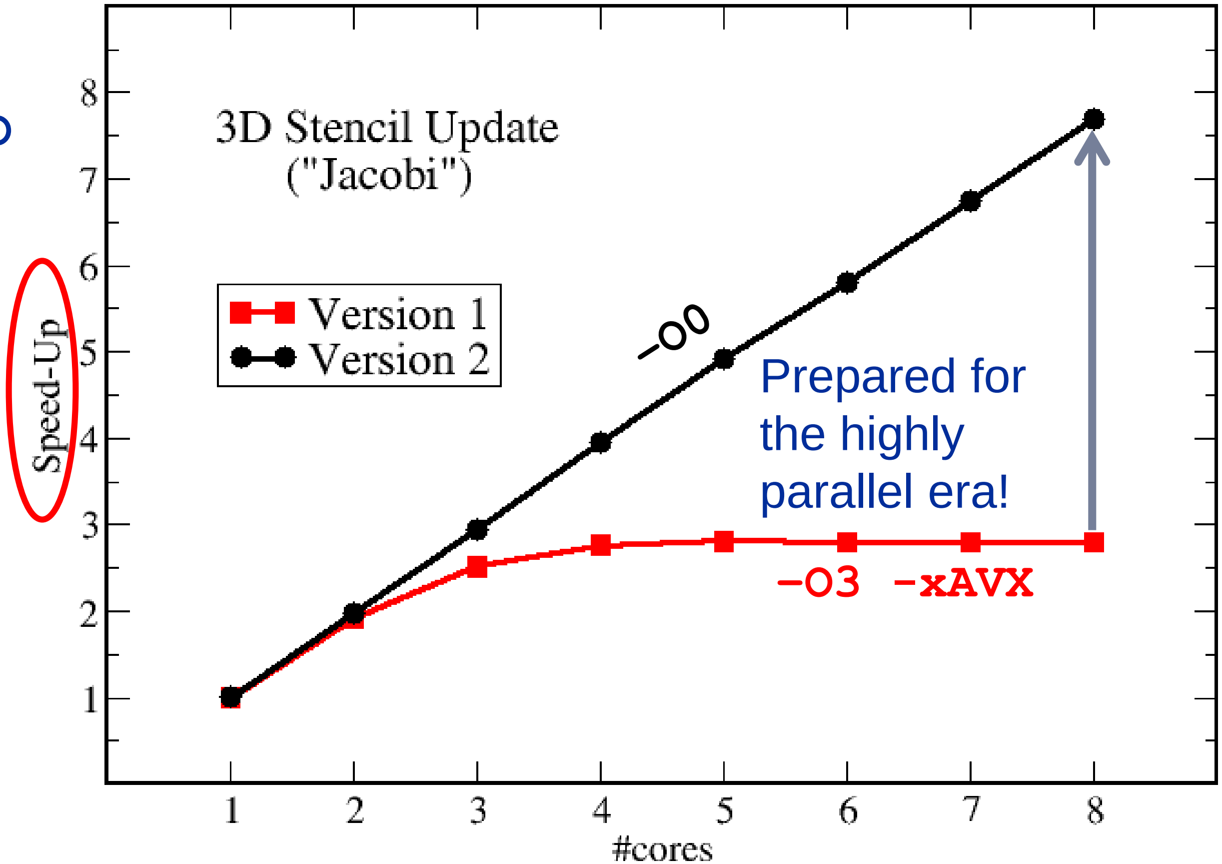
Student: It is fast because my baseline C++ code on the CPU is about 20 times slower.

Scalability Myth: Code scalability is the key issue

```
!$OMP PARALLEL DO
do k = 1 , Nk
  do j = 1 , Nj; do i = 1 , Ni
     y(i,j,k)= b*(  x(i-1,j,k)+ x(i+1,j,k)+ x(i,j-1,k)+
                    x(i,j+1,k)+ x(i,j,k-1)+ x(i,j,k+1))
    enddo; enddo
enddo
!$OMP END PARALLEL DO
```

Changing only a the compile options makes this code scalable on an 8-core chip





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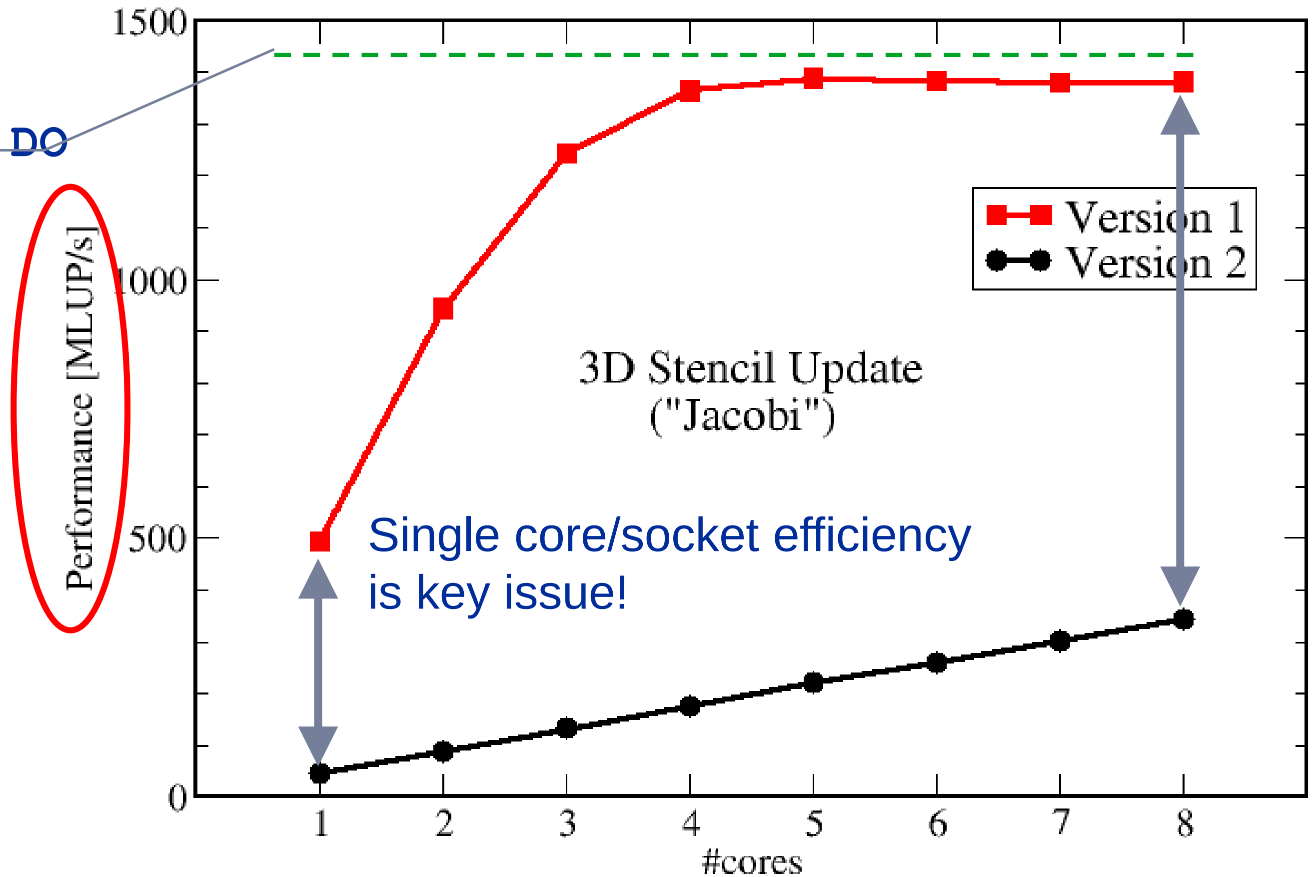
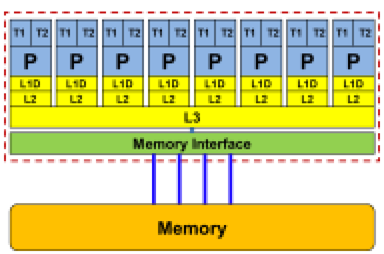
    enddo; enddo
enddo
L DO
```

Upper limit from simple performance model:
35 GB/s & 24 Byte/update





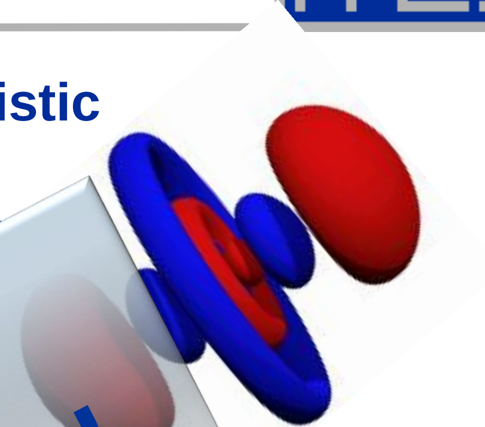
How model-building works: Physics

Newtonian mechanics

$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$$

Fails @ small scales!

Nonrelativistic quantum mechanics



$$i\hbar\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi(\vec{r},t) = H\psi(\vec{r},t)$$

Fails @ even smaller scales!

Relativistic quantum field theory

$$U(1)_Y \otimes SU(2)_L \otimes SU(3)_c$$

If a model fails, we learn something!

Questions to ask in high performance computing

- **Do I understand the performance behavior of my code?**
  - Does the performance match a model I have made?

- **What is the optimal performance for my code on a given machine?**
  - High Performance Computing == Computing at the bottleneck

- **Can I change my code so that the "optimal performance" gets higher?**
  - Circumventing/ameliorating the impact of the bottleneck

- **My model does not work – what's wrong?**
  - This is the good case, because you learn something
  - Performance monitoring / microbenchmarking may help clear up the situation

- **Use your brain! Tools may help, but you do the thinking.**