

Network Architecture Trends

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U.S. DOE Potential System Architecture Targets

System attributes	2010	2017-2018		2023-2024	
System peak	2 Peta	150-300 Petaflop/sec		1 Exaflop/sec	
Power	6 MW	15 MW		20 MW	
System memory	0.3 PB	5 PB		32-64 PB	
Node performance	125 GF	3 TF	30 TF	10 TF	100 TF
Node memory BW	25 GB/s	0.1TB/sec	1 TB/sec	0.4TB/sec	4 TB/sec
Node concurrency	12	O(100)	O(1,000)	O(1,000)	O(10,000)
System size (nodes)	18,700	50,000	5,000	100,000	10,000
Total Node Interconnect BW	1.5 GB/s	20 GB/sec		200GB/sec	
MTTI	days	O(1day)		O(1 day)	

*Current
production*

*Planned
Upgrades
(e.g., CORAL)*

*Exascale
Goals*

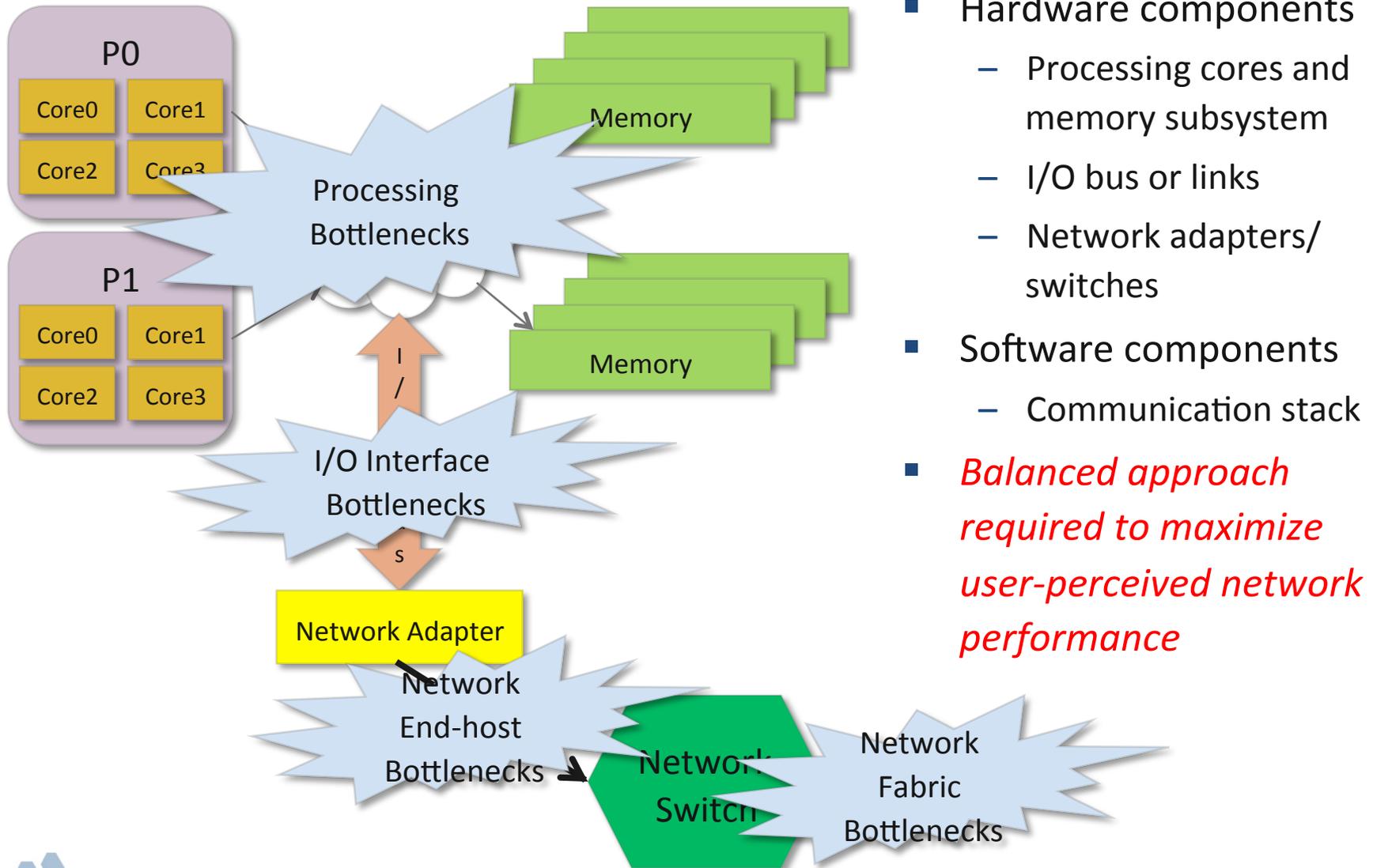
(Includes modifications to the DOE Exascale report by Pavan Balaji, Argonne, 2015)

General Trends in System Architecture

- Number of nodes is increasing, but at a moderate pace
- Number of cores/threads on a node is increasing rapidly
- Each core is not increasing in speed (clock frequency)
- Chip logic complexity decreasing (in-order instructions, no pipelining, no branch prediction)
- What does this mean for networks?
 - More cores will drive the network
 - More sharing of the network infrastructure
 - The aggregate amount of communication from each node will increase moderately, but will be divided into many smaller messages
 - A single core will not be able to drive the network fully



A Simplified Network Architecture



Agenda

Network Adapters

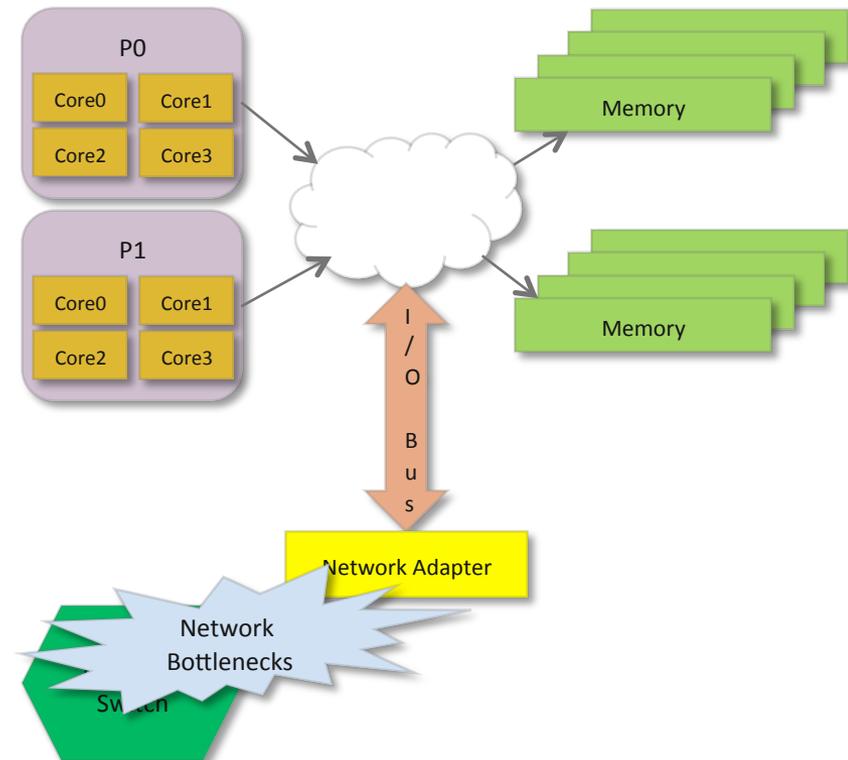
Network Topologies

Network/Processor/Memory
Interactions



Bottlenecks on Traditional Network Adapters

- Network speeds saturated at around 1Gbps
 - Features provided were limited
 - Commodity networks were not considered scalable enough for very large-scale systems

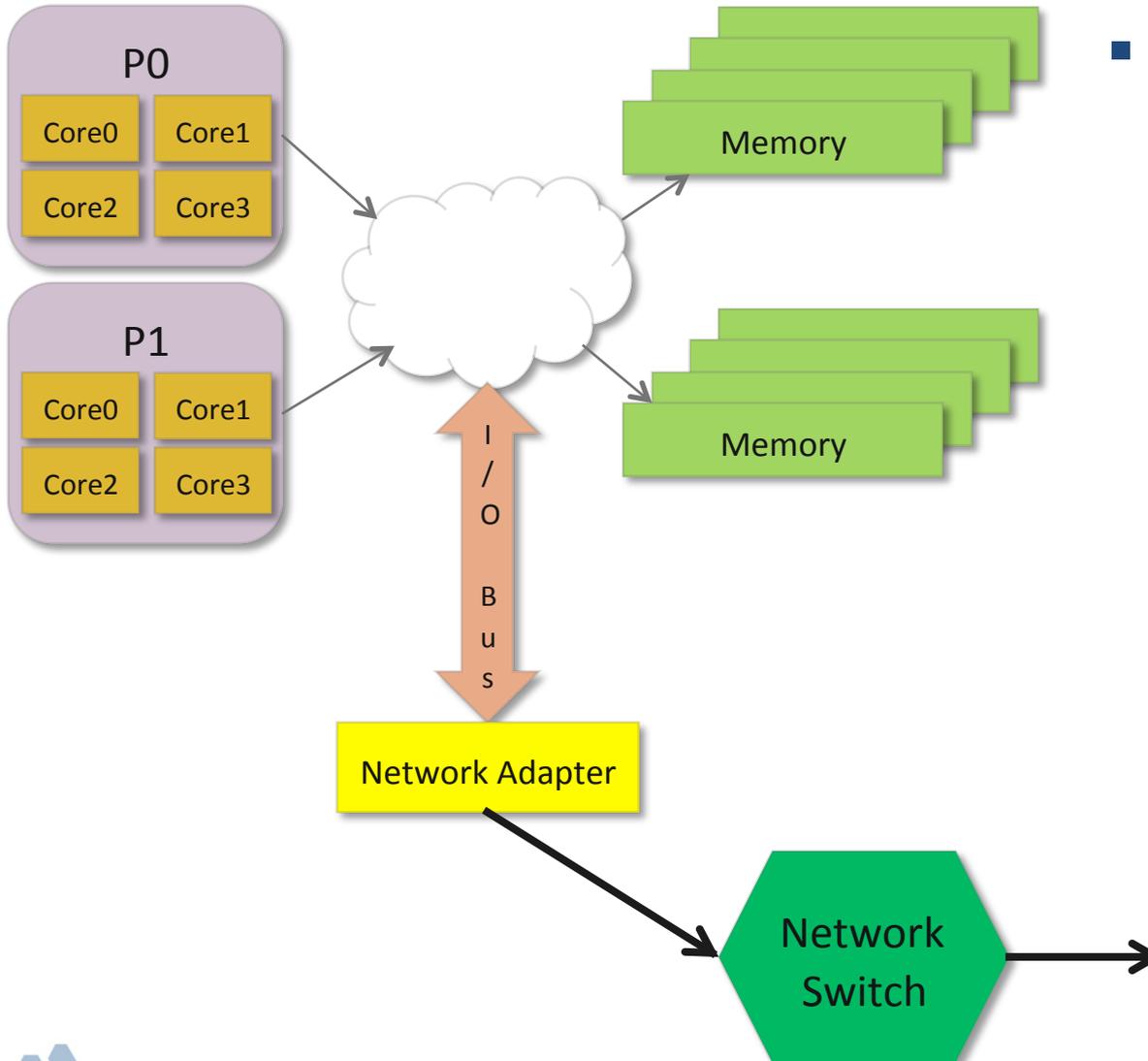


Ethernet (1979 -)	10 Mbit/sec
Fast Ethernet (1993 -)	100 Mbit/sec
Gigabit Ethernet (1995 -)	1000 Mbit /sec
ATM (1995 -)	155/622/1024 Mbit/sec
Myrinet (1993 -)	1 Gbit/sec
Fibre Channel (1994 -)	1 Gbit/sec

End-host Network Interface Speeds

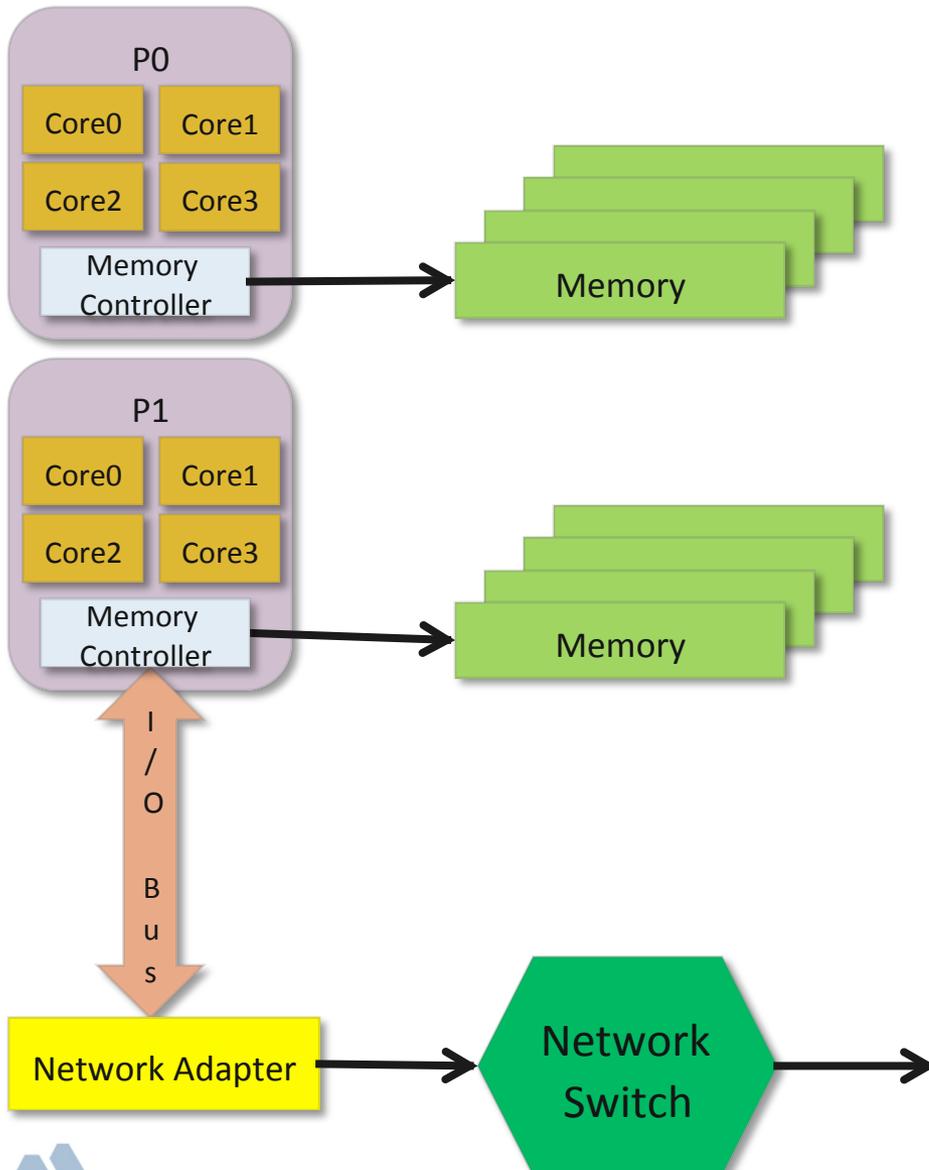
- Recent network technologies provide high bandwidth links
 - InfiniBand FDR gives 14 Gbps per lane/56 Gbps per network link
 - Next generation networks expected to have 100 Gbps per network link
 - Multiple network links becoming a common place
 - ORNL Summit and LLNL Sierra machines, Japanese Post T2K machine
 - Torus style or other multi-dimensional networks
- End-host network bandwidth is “mostly” no longer considered a major technological limitation
- Network latency is still an issue
 - That’s a harder problem to solve – limited by physics, not technology
 - But there is some room to improve it in current technology

Simple Network Architecture (past systems)



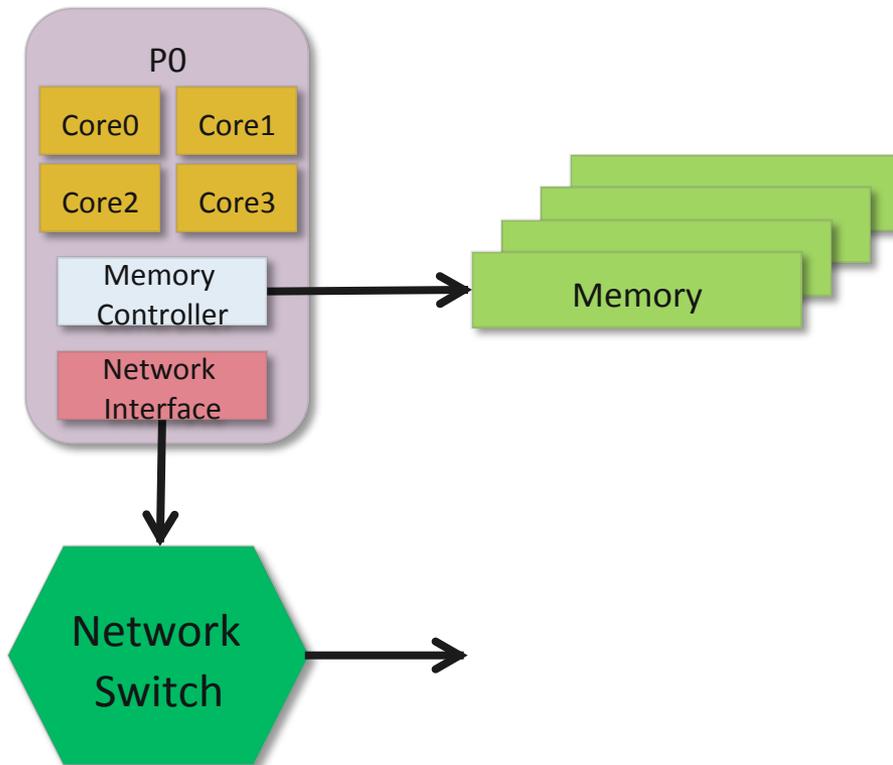
- Processor, memory, network are all decoupled

Integrated Memory Controllers (current systems)



- In the past 10 years or so, memory controllers have been integrated on to the processor
- Primary purpose was scalable memory bandwidth (NUMA)
- Also helps network communication
 - Data transfer to/from network requires coordination with caches
- Several network I/O technologies exist
 - PCIe, HTX, QPI, NVLink
 - Expected to provide higher bandwidth than what network links will have

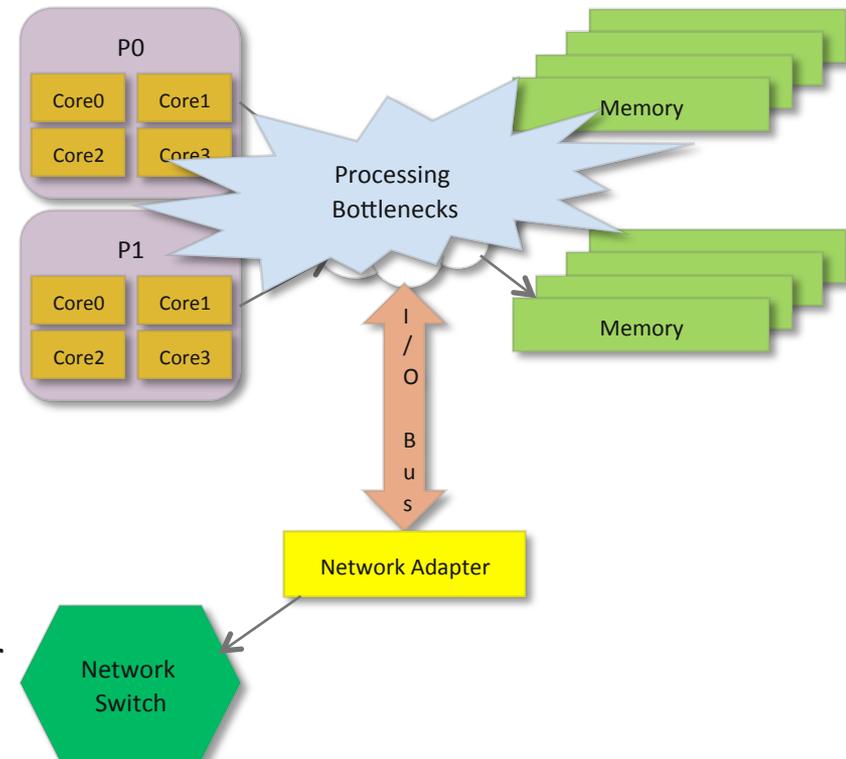
Integrated Network Adapters (future systems)



- Several vendors are considering processor-integrated network adapters
- May improve network bandwidth
 - Unclear if the network link is slower than I/O bus
 - Potential to improve bandwidth for on-package memory
- Improves network latencies
 - Control messages between the processor and network are now on-chip
- Improves network functionality
 - Communication is a first-class citizen and better integrated with processor features
 - E.g., network atomic operations can be atomic with respect to processor atomics

Processing Bottlenecks in Traditional Protocols

- Ex: TCP/IP, UDP/IP
- Generic architecture for all networks
- Host processor handles almost all aspects of communication
 - Data buffering (copies on sender and receiver)
 - Data integrity (checksum)
 - Routing aspects (IP routing)
- Signaling between different layers
 - Hardware interrupt on packet arrival or transmission
 - Software signals between different layers to handle protocol processing in different priority levels

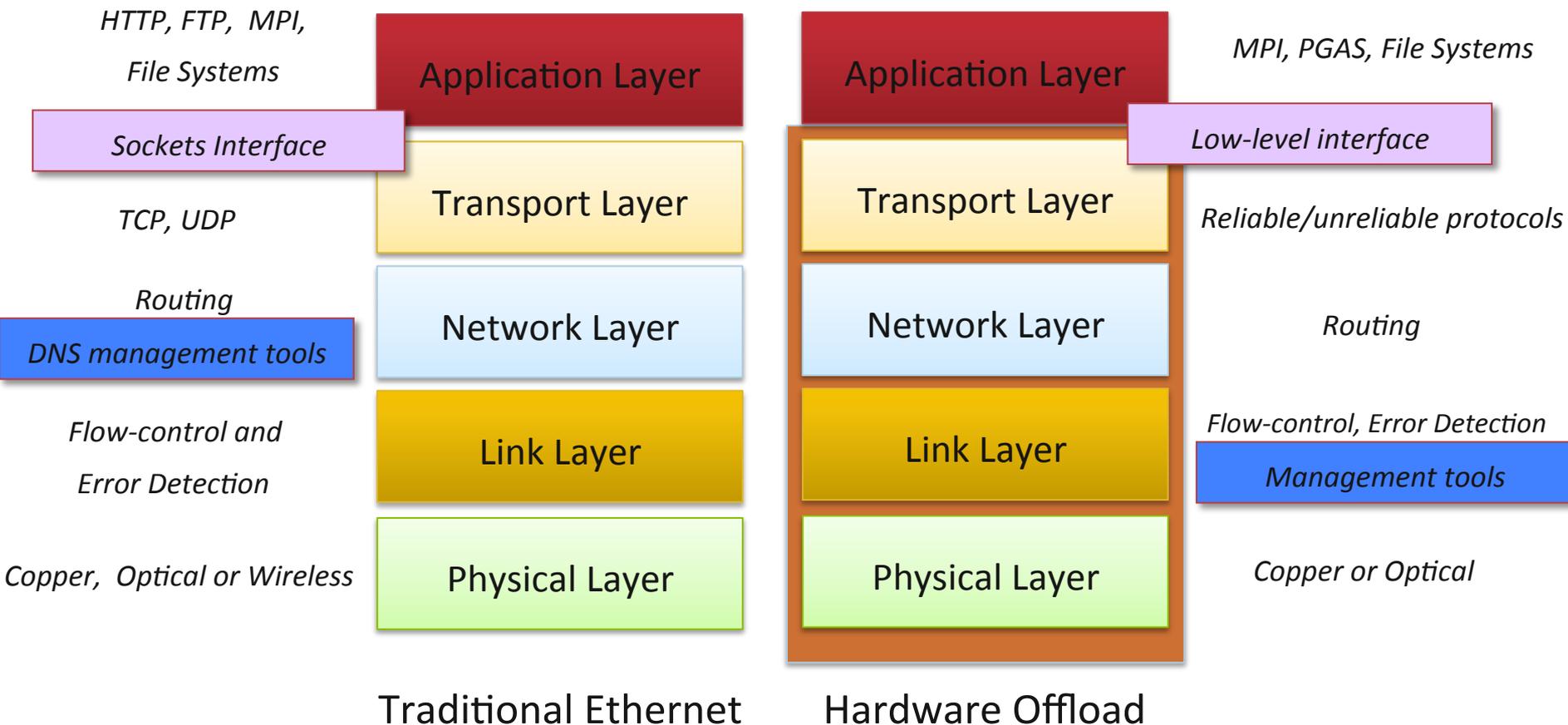


Network Protocol Stacks: The Offload Era

- Modern networks are spending more and more network real-estate on offloading various communication features on hardware
- Network and transport layers are hardware offloaded for most modern networks
 - Reliability (retransmissions, CRC checks), packetization
 - OS-based memory registration, and user-level data transmission



Comparing Offloaded Network Stacks with Traditional Network Stacks



Current Situation for Network API Standards (1/2)

- A large number of network vendor specific APIs
 - InfiniBand verbs, Mellanox MXM, IBM PAMI, Cray Gemini/DMAPP, ...
- Recent efforts to standardize these low-level communication APIs
 - Open Fabrics Interface (OFI)
 - Effort from Intel, CISCO, etc., to provide a unified low-level communication layer that exposes features provided by each network
 - Unified Communication X (UCX)
 - Effort from Mellanox, IBM, ORNL, etc., to provide a unified low-level communication layer that allows for efficient MPI and PGAS communication
 - Low-level Communication (LLC)
 - Effort from RIKEN, Fujitsu, NEC, etc., to provide a unified low-level communication layer for communication, I/O, and analytics

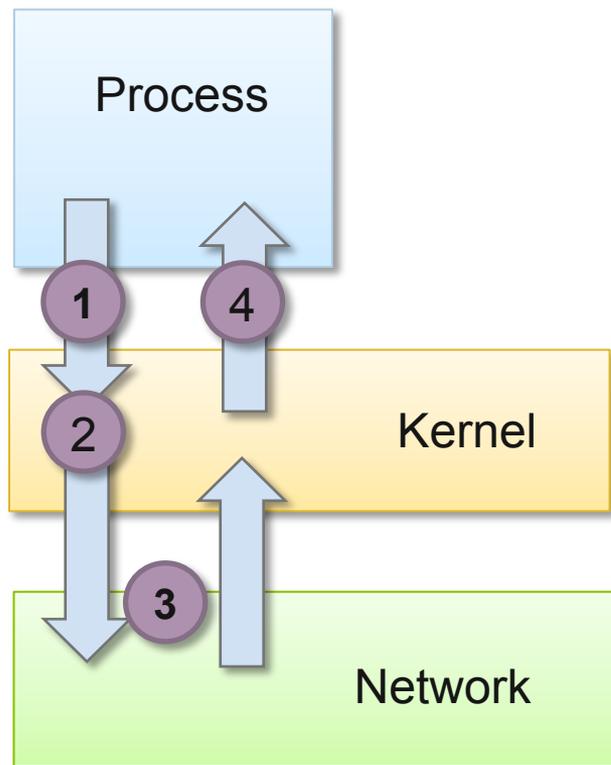
Current Situation for Network API standards (2/2)

HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE:
(SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC.)



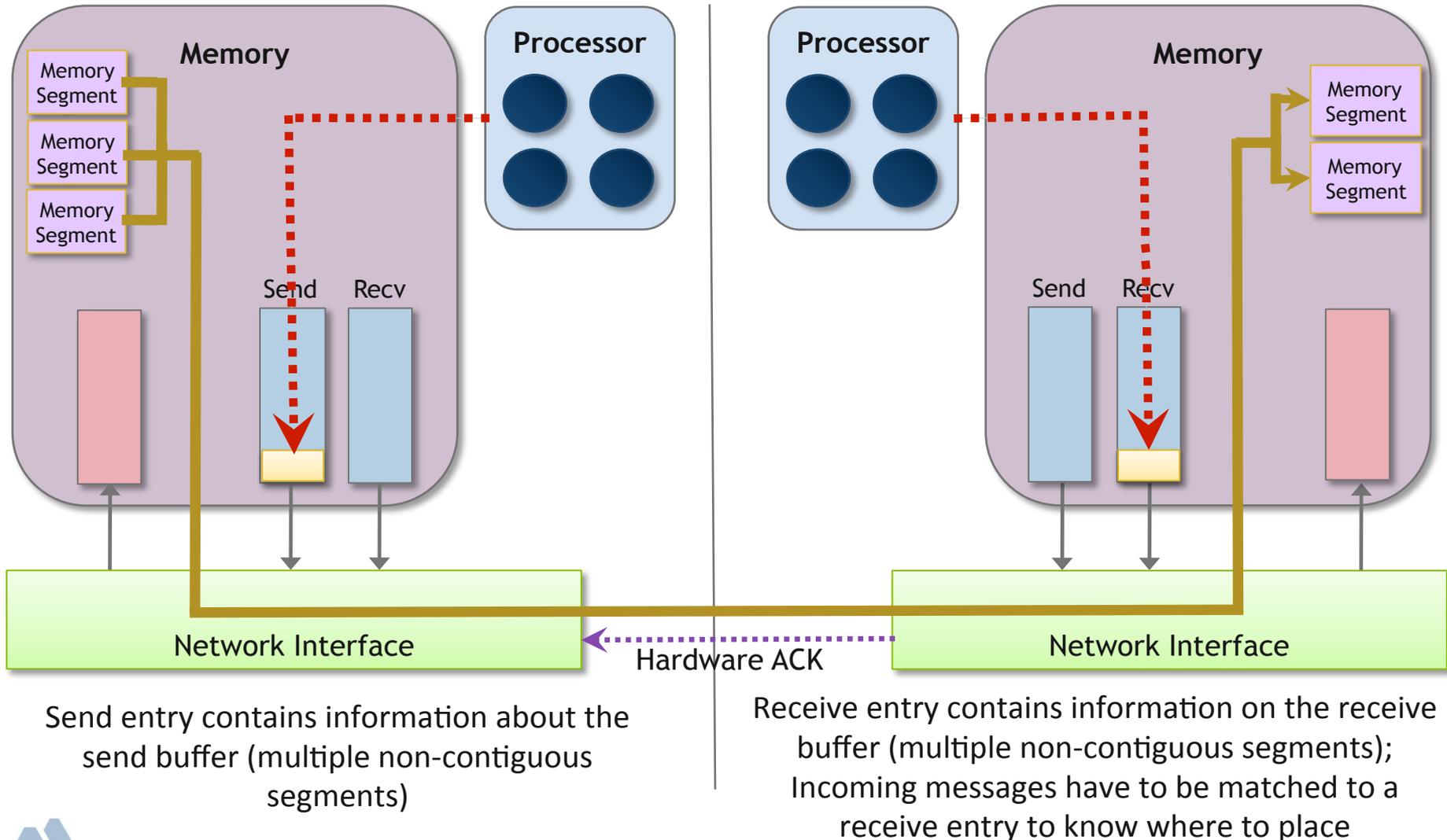
User-level Communication: Memory Registration

Before we do any communication:
All memory used for communication must
be registered

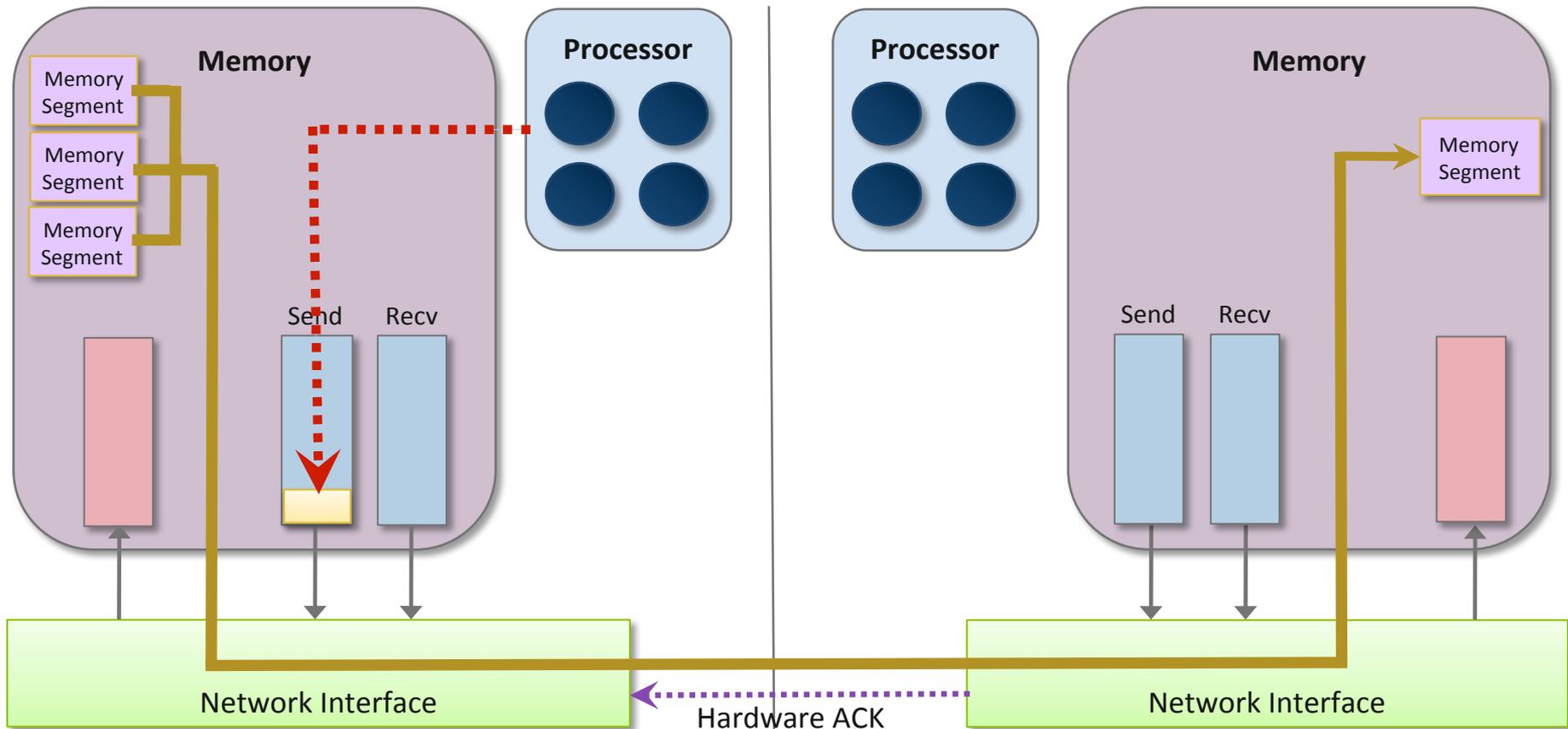


1. Registration Request
 - Send virtual address and length
2. Kernel handles virtual->physical mapping and pins region into physical memory
 - Process cannot map memory that it does not own (security !)
3. Network adapter caches the virtual to physical mapping and issues a handle
4. Handle is returned to application

Send/Receive Communication

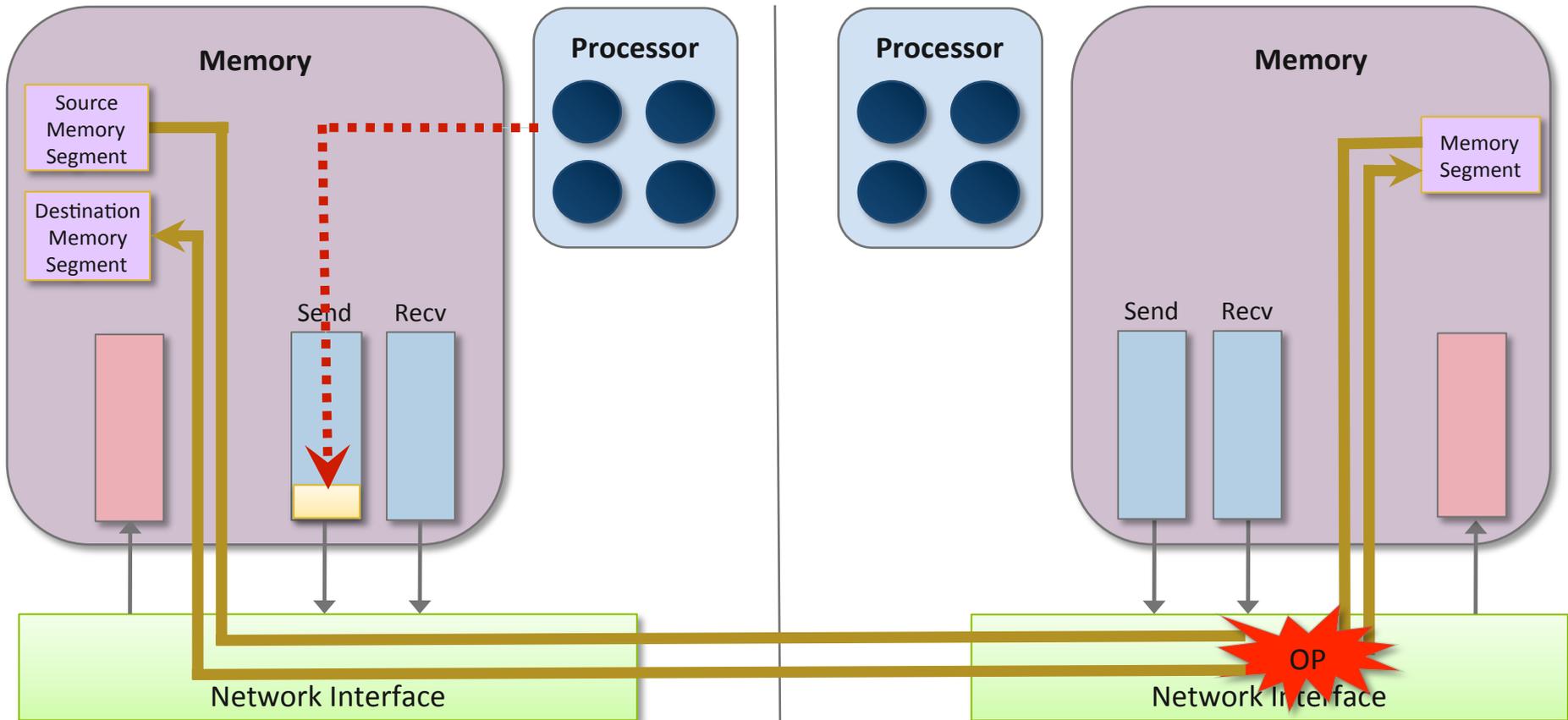


PUT/GET Communication



Send entry contains information about the send buffer (multiple segments) and the receive buffer (single segment)

Atomic Operations



Send entry contains information about the send buffer and the receive buffer

Network Protocol Stacks: Specialization

- Increasing network specialization is the focus today
 - The next generation of networks plan to have further support for noncontiguous data movement, and multiple contexts for multithreaded architectures
- Some networks, such as the Blue Gene network, Cray network and InfiniBand, are also offloading some MPI and PGAS features on to hardware
 - E.g., PUT/GET communication has hardware support
 - Increasing number of atomic operations being offloaded to hardware
 - Compare-and-swap, fetch-and-add, swap
 - Collective operations
 - Portals based networks also had support for hardware matching for MPI send/recv
 - Cray Seastar, Bull BMI



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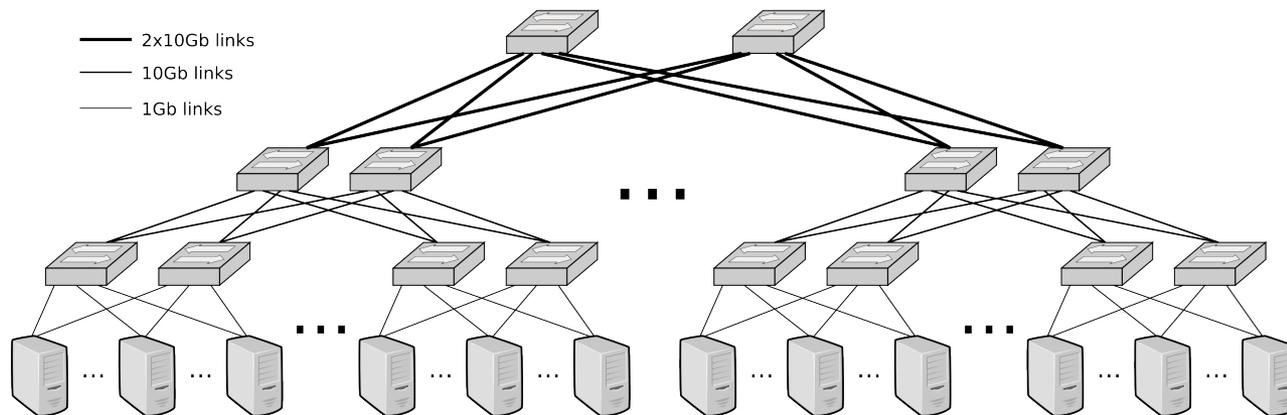
Traditional Network Topologies: Crossbar

- A network topology describes how different network adapters and switches are interconnected with each other
- The most ideal network topology (for performance) is a crossbar
 - Alltoall connection between network adapters
 - Typically done on a single network ASIC
 - Current network crossbar ASICs go up to 64 ports; too expensive to scale to higher port counts
 - All communication is nonblocking



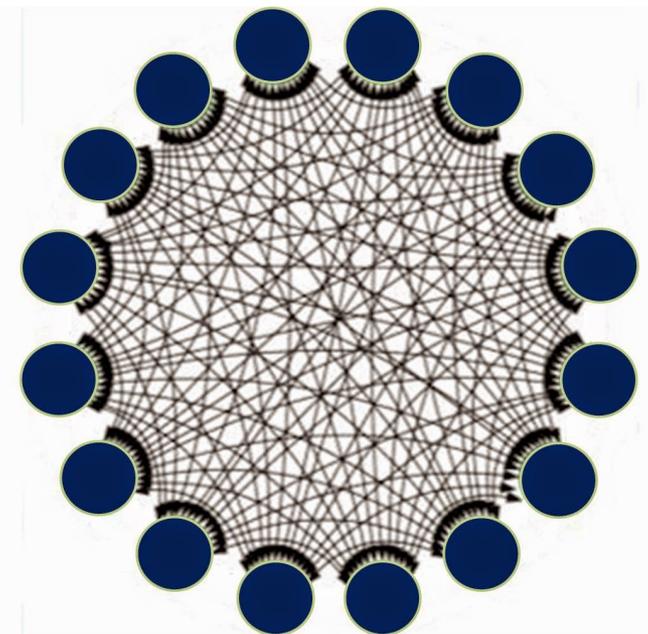
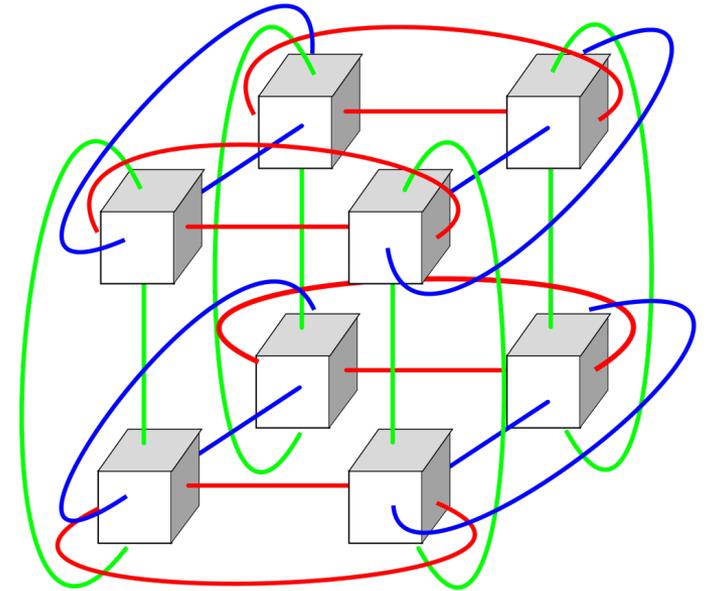
Traditional Network Topologies: Fat-tree

- The most common topology for small and medium scale systems is a fat-tree
 - Nonblocking fat-tree switches available in abundance
 - Allows for pseudo nonblocking communication
 - Between all pairs of processes, there exists a completely nonblocking path, but not all paths are nonblocking
 - More scalable than crossbars, but the number of network links still increases super-linearly with node count
 - Can get very expensive with scale

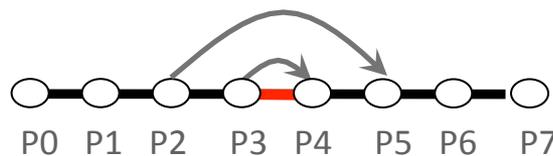
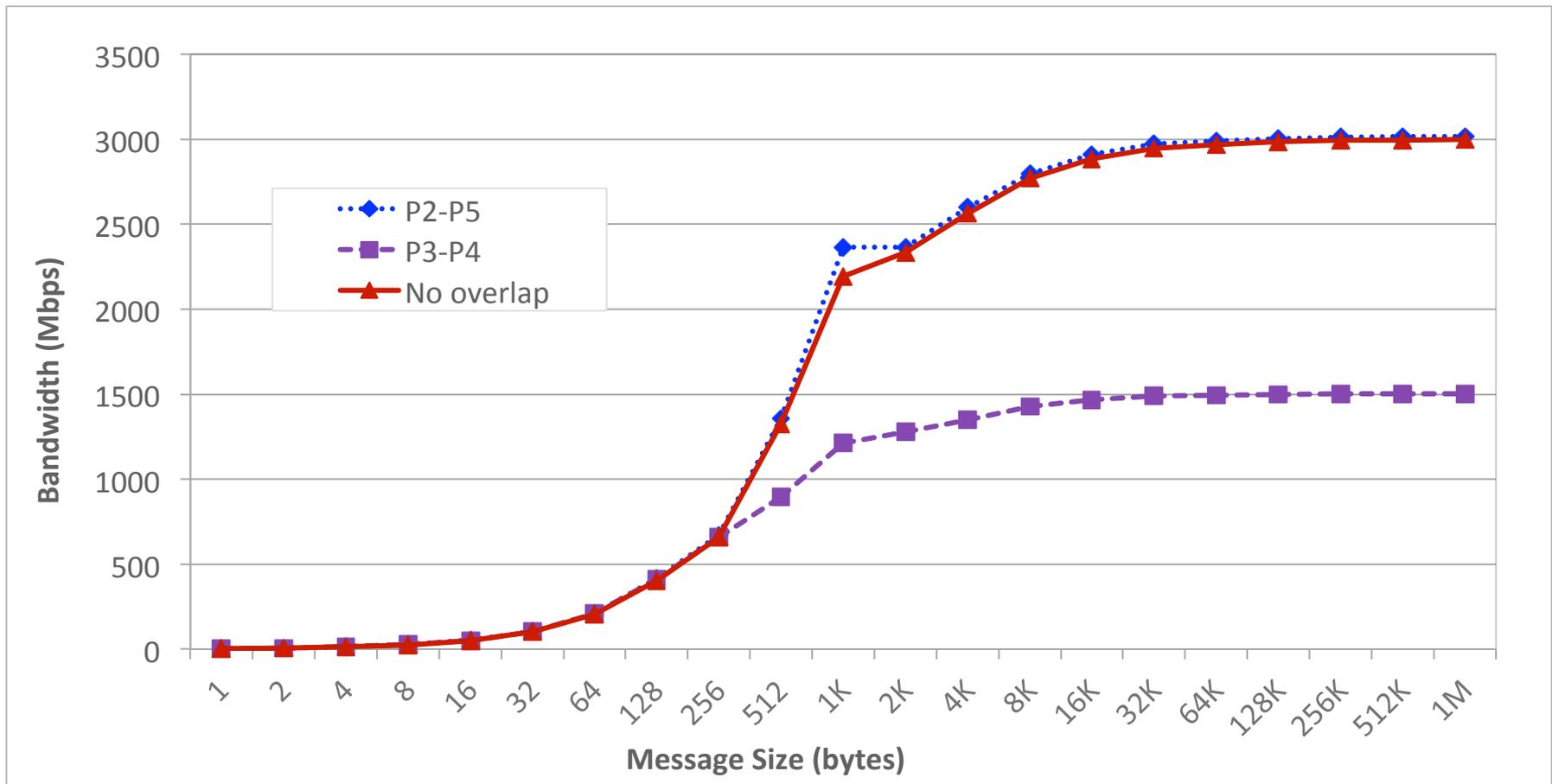


Network Topology Trends

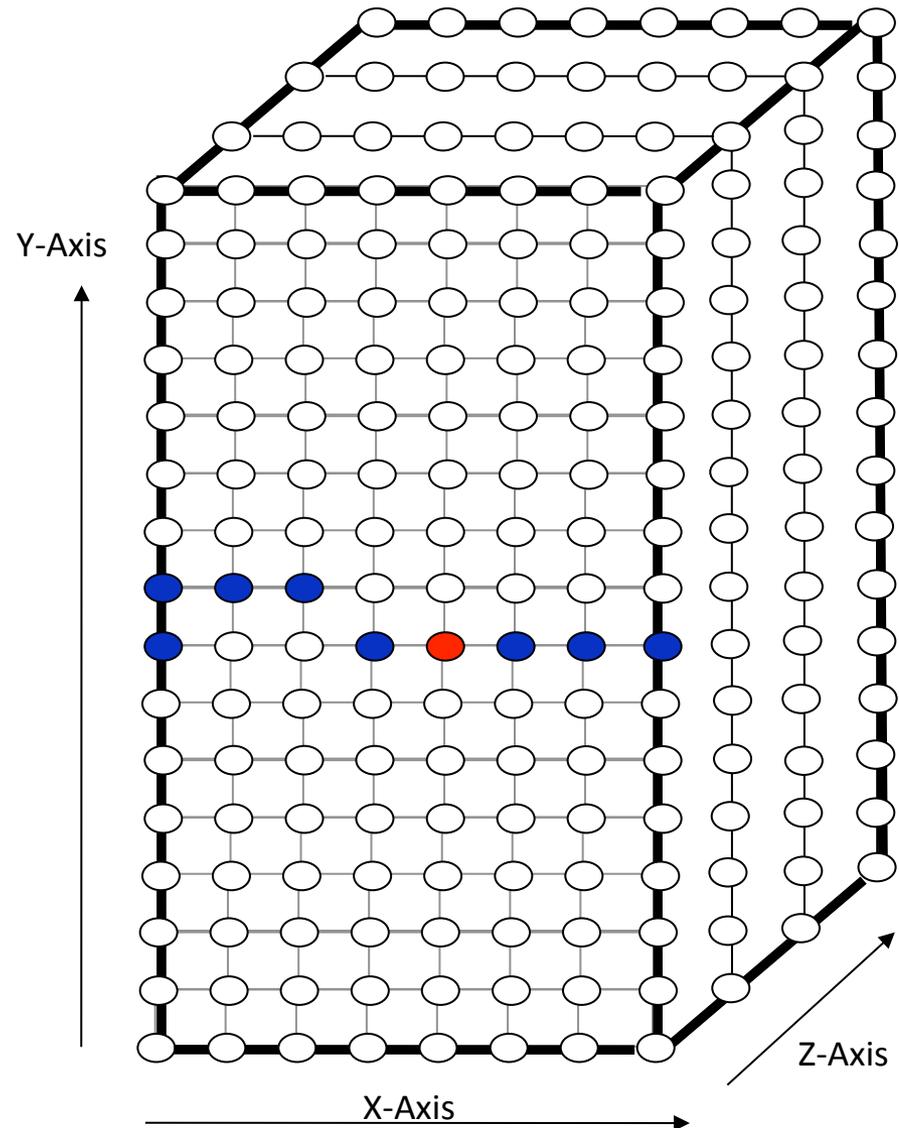
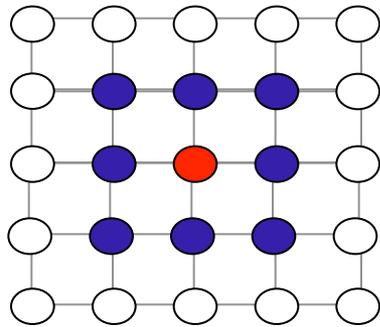
- Modern topologies are moving towards more “scalability” (with respect to cost, not performance)
- Blue Gene, Cray XE/XK, and K supercomputers use a torus-network; Cray XC uses dragonfly
 - Linear increase in the number of links/routers with system size
 - Any communication that is more than one hop away has a possibility of interference – congestion is not just possible, but common
 - Even when there is no congestion, such topologies increase the network diameter causing performance loss
- Take-away: topological locality is important and its not going to get better



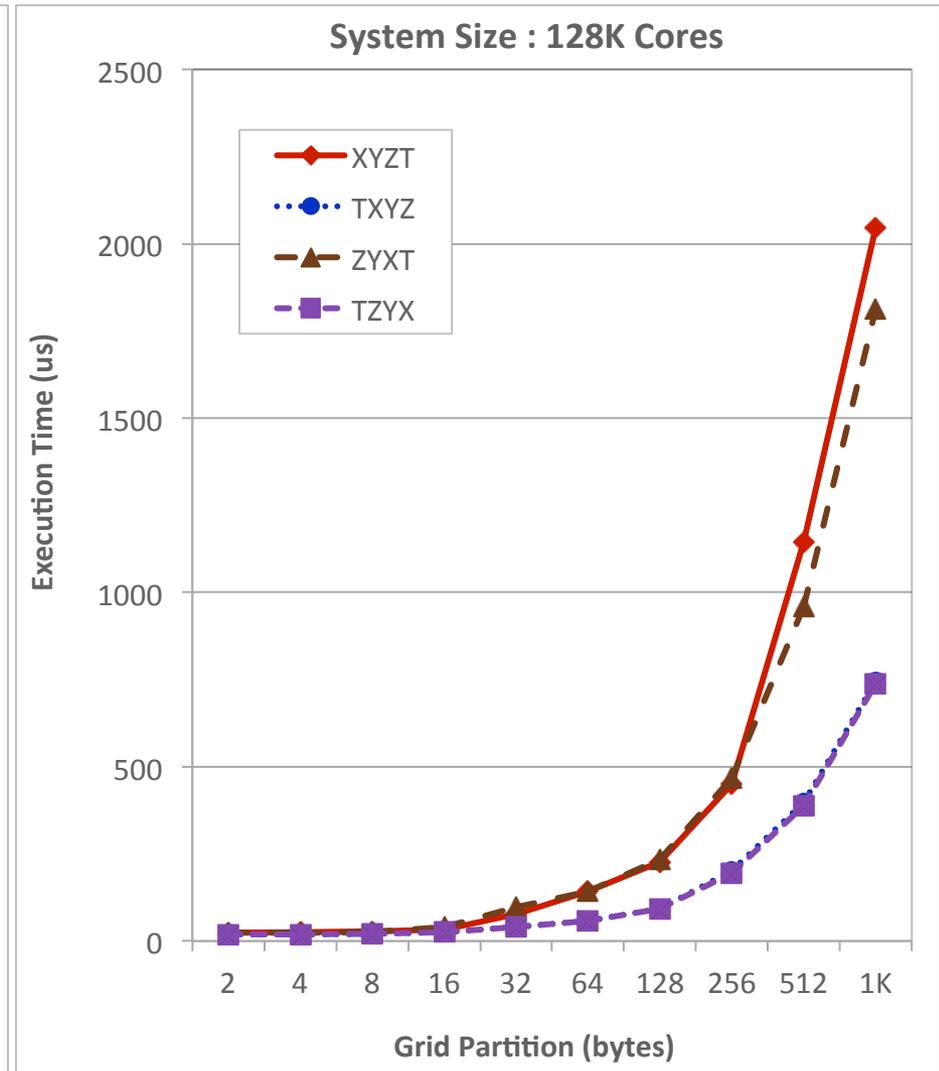
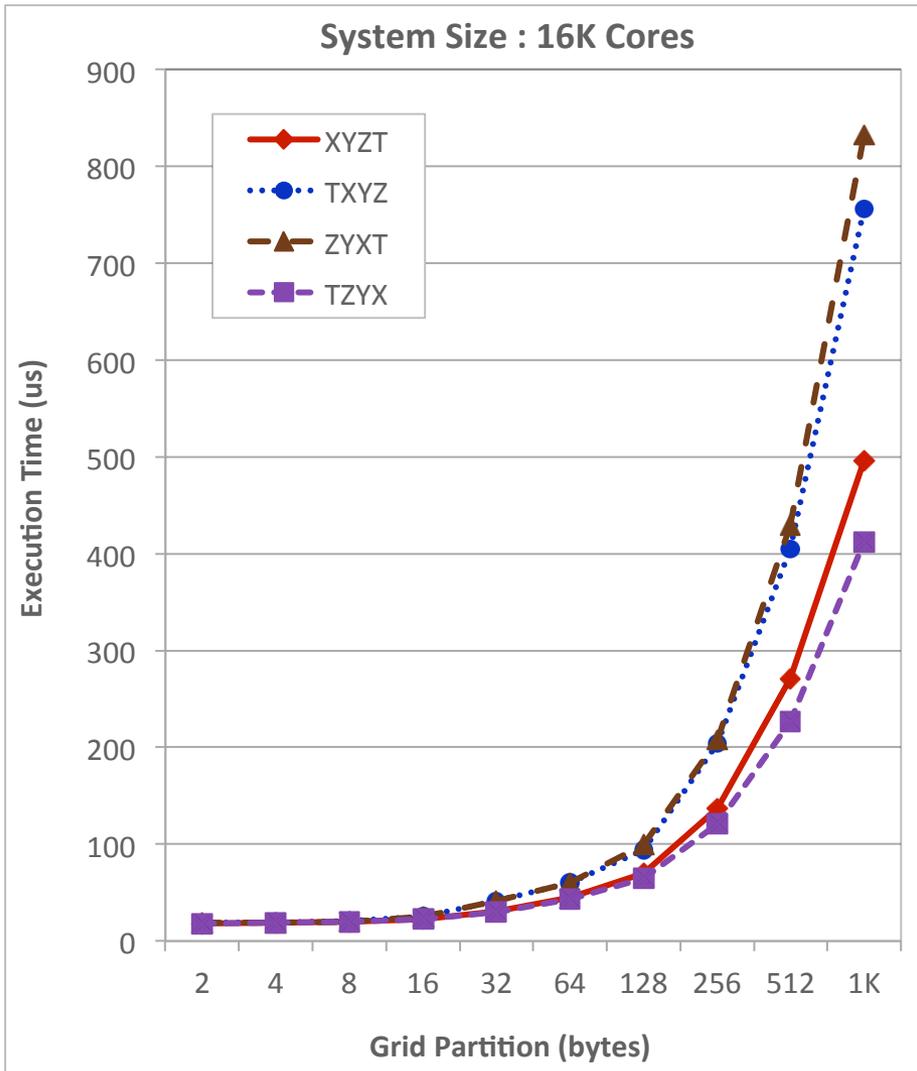
Network Congestion Behavior: IBM BG/P



2D Nearest Neighbor: Process Mapping (XYZ)



Nearest Neighbor Performance: IBM BG/P



2D Halo Exchange

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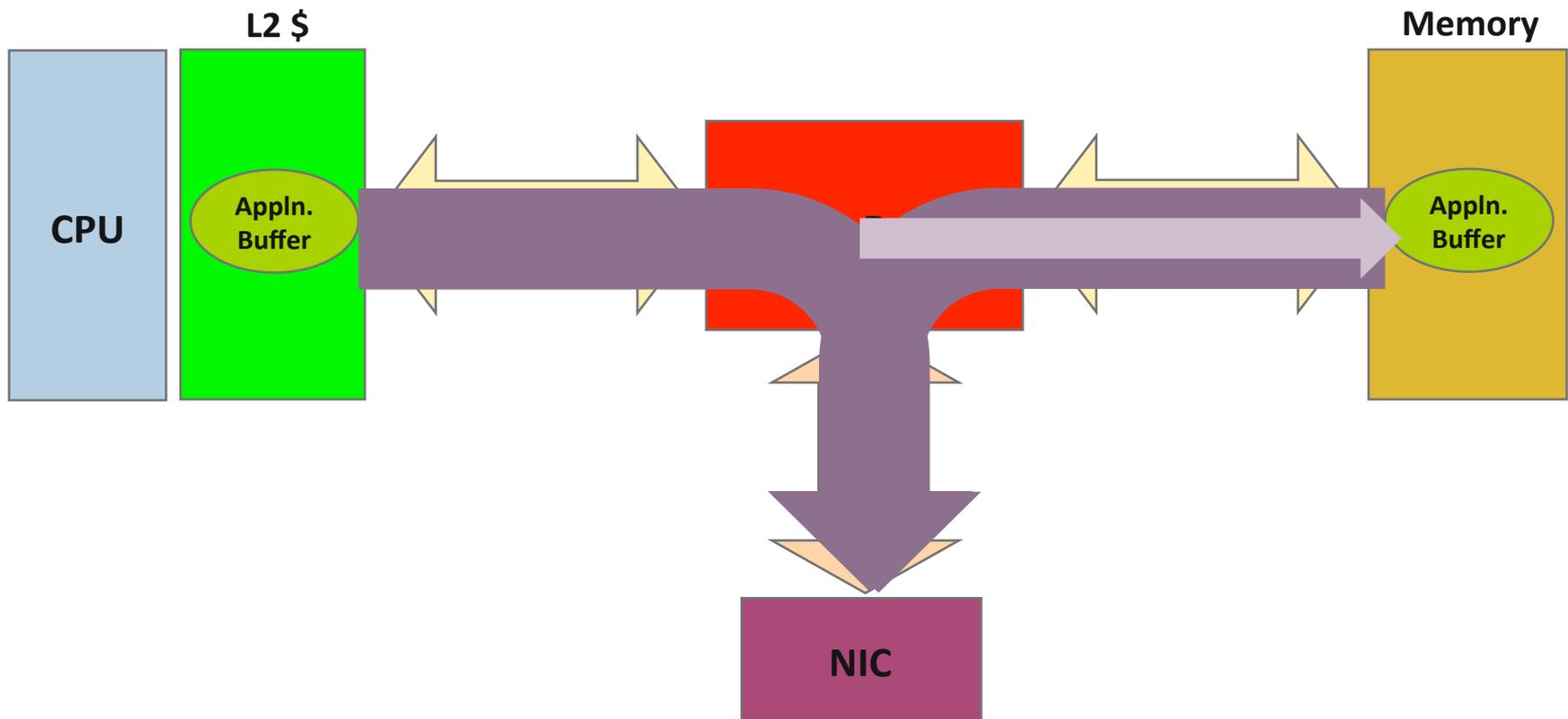


Network Interactions with Memory/Cache

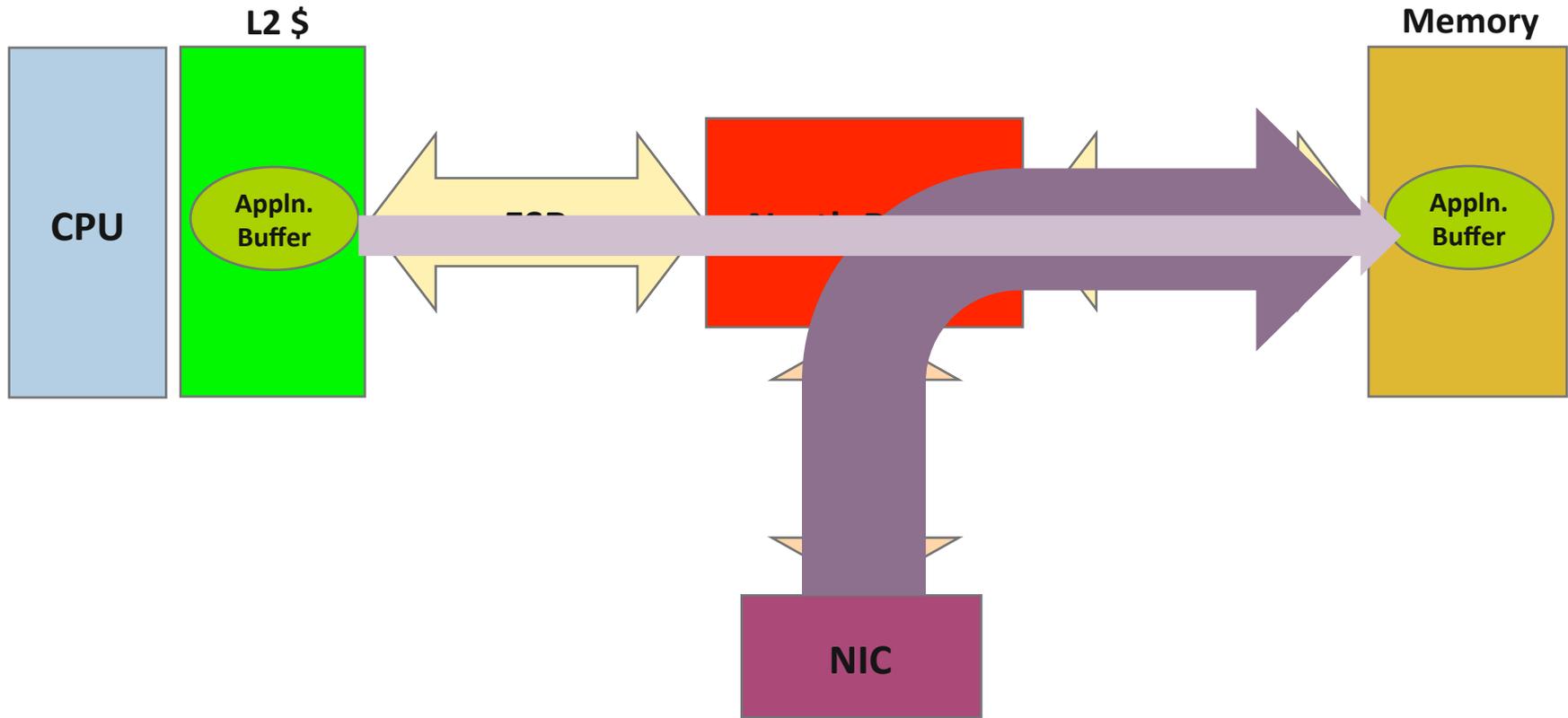
- Most network interfaces understand and work with the cache coherence protocols available on modern systems
 - Users do not have to ensure that data is flushed from cache before communication
 - Network and memory controller hardware understand what state the data is in and communicate appropriately



Send-side Network Communication



Receive-side Network Communication



Network/Processor Interoperation Trends

- Direct cache injection
 - Most current networks inject data into memory
 - If data is in cache, they flush cache and then inject to memory
 - Some networks are investigating direct cache injection
 - Data can be injected directly into the last-level cache
 - Can be tricky since it can cause cache pollution if the incoming data is not used immediately
- Atomic operations
 - Current network atomic operations are only atomic with respect to other network operations and not with respect to processor atomics
 - E.g., network fetch-and-add and processor fetch-and-add might corrupt each other's data
 - With network/processor integration, this is expected to be fixed



Summary

- With every 10X increase in performance, something breaks!
- In the past 20 years, we have enjoyed a million-fold increase in performance
 - Patch-work at every step is not going to cut it at this pace
 - We need to look forward for what's next in technology and think about how to utilize it
- We are looking at another 30X increase in performance over the next decade
- These are interesting times for all components in the overall system architecture: processor, memory, interconnect
 - And interesting times for computational science on these systems!

Thank You!

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