Supercomputing in Plain English Grab Bag: Scientific Libraries, I/O Libraries, Visualization

Henry Neeman, Director

Director, OU Supercomputing Center for Education & Research (OSCER) Assistant Vice President, Information Technology – Research Strategy Advisor Associate Professor, College of Engineering Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Computer Science University of Oklahoma Tuesday April 21 2015







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This is an experiment!

It's the nature of these kinds of videoconferences that FAILURES ARE GUARANTEED TO HAPPEN! NO PROMISES!

- So, please bear with us. Hopefully everything will work out well enough.
- If you lose your connection, you can retry the same kind of connection, or try connecting another way.
- Remember, if all else fails, you always have the toll free phone bridge to fall back on.







PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF

No matter how you connect, **PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF**, so that we cannot hear you.

- At OU, we will turn off the sound on all conferencing technologies.
- That way, we won't have problems with echo cancellation.
- Of course, that means we cannot hear questions.
- So for questions, you'll need to send e-mail.

PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF. PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF.







PLEASE REGISTER

If you haven't already registered, please do so.

You can find the registration link on the SiPE webpage:

http://www.oscer.ou.edu/education/

Our ability to continue providing Supercomputing in Plain English depends on being able to show strong participation.

We use our headcounts, institution counts and state counts (since 2001, over 2000 served, from every US state except RI and VT, plus 17 other countries, on every continent except Australia and Antarctica) to improve grant proposals.







Download the Slides Beforehand

Before the start of the session, please download the slides from the Supercomputing in Plain English website:

http://www.oscer.ou.edu/education/

That way, if anything goes wrong, you can still follow along with just audio.

PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF.







H.323 (Polycom etc) #1

- If you want to use H.323 videoconferencing for example, Polycom – then:
- If you AREN'T registered with the OneNet gatekeeper (which is probably the case), then:
 - Dial 164.58.250.51
 - Bring up the virtual keypad.

On some H.323 devices, you can bring up the virtual keypad by typing: #

(You may want to try without first, then with; some devices won't work with the #, but give cryptic error messages about it.)

- When asked for the conference ID, or if there's no response, enter: 0409
- On most but not all H.323 devices, you indicate the end of the ID with:
 #







If you want to use H.323 videoconferencing – for example, Polycom – then:

 If you ARE already registered with the OneNet gatekeeper (most institutions aren't), dial:

2500409

Many thanks to James Deaton, Skyler Donahue, Jeremy Wright and Steven Haldeman of OneNet for providing this.

PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF.









You can watch from a Windows, MacOS or Linux laptop using Wowza from the following URL:

http://jwplayer.onenet.net/stream6/sipe.html

Wowza behaves a lot like YouTube, except live.

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Wowza has been tested on multiple browsers on each of:

- Windows (7 and 8): IE, Firefox, Chrome, Opera, Safari
- MacOS X: Safari, Firefox
- Linux: Firefox, Opera

PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF.









If you have a video player that can handle RTMP, you can watch the Wowza feed that way:

rtmp://stream3.onenet.net/live/mp4:sipe-wowza



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Toll Free Phone Bridge

IF ALL ELSE FAILS, you can use our toll free phone bridge: 800-832-0736 * 623 2874 #

Please mute yourself and use the phone to listen.

Don't worry, we'll call out slide numbers as we go.

- Please use the phone bridge <u>ONLY</u> if you cannot connect any other way: the phone bridge can handle only 100 simultaneous connections, and we have over 500 participants.
- Many thanks to OU CIO Loretta Early for providing the toll free phone bridge.

PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF.







No matter how you connect, **PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF**, so that we cannot hear you.

- (For Wowza, you don't need to do that, because the information only goes from us to you, not from you to us.)
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Questions via E-mail Only

Ask questions by sending e-mail to:

sipe2015@gmail.com

All questions will be read out loud and then answered out loud.

PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF.







Onsite: Talent Release Form

If you're attending onsite, you <u>MUST</u> do one of the following:

complete and sign the Talent Release Form,

OR

 sit behind the cameras (where you can't be seen) and don't talk at all.

If you aren't onsite, then **PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF.**







TENTATIVE Schedule

Tue Jan 20: Grab Bag: What the Heck is Supercomputing? Tue Jan 27: The Tyranny of the Storage Hierarchy Tue Feb 3: Instruction Level Parallelism Tue Feb 10: Stupid Compiler Tricks Tue Feb 17: Shared Memory Multithreading Tue March 3: Distributed Multiprocessing Tue March 10: Applications and Types of Parallelism Tue March 17: **NO SESSION** (OU's Spring Break) Tue March 24: NO SESSION (Henry has a huge grant proposal due) Tue March 31: Grab Bag Madness Tue Apr 7: High Throughput Computing Tue Apr 14: Grab Bag: Number Crunching in Your Graphics Card Tue Apr 21: Grab Bag: Scientific Libraries, I/O Libraries, Visualization







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- Jim Summers
- The OU IT network team
- James Deaton, Skyler Donahue, Jeremy Wright and Steven Haldeman, OneNet
- Kay Avila, U Iowa
- Stephen Harrell, Purdue U







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Linux Clusters Institute workshop May 18-22 2015 @ OU

http://www.linuxclustersinstitute.org/workshops/

- Great Plains Network Annual Meeting, May 27-29, Kansas City
- Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Research & Education Facilitators (ACI-REF) Virtual Residency May 31 - June 6 2015
- XSEDE2015, July 26-30, St. Louis MO

https://conferences.xsede.org/xsede15

■ IEEE Cluster 2015, Sep 23-27, Chicago IL

http://www.mcs.anl.gov/ieeecluster2015/

- OKLAHOMA SUPERCOMPUTING SYMPOSIUM 2015, Sep 22-23 2015 @ OU
- SC13, Nov 15-20 2015, Austin TX

http://sc15.supercomputing.org/

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OK Supercomputing Symposium 2015





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2007 Keynote: Jay Boisseau Director **Texas Advanced Computing Center** U. Texas Austin Cyberinfrastructure



2008 Keynote: 2009 Keynote: José Munoz **Douglass Post Deputy Office Chief Scientist** Director/Senior US Dept of Defense Scientific Advisor HPC Modernization NSF Office of Program

FREE!

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2010 Keynote: Horst Simon Deputy Director National Laboratory



2012 Keynote: 2011 Keynote: Thom Dunning **Barry Schneider** Director Program Manager Lawrence Berkeley National Science National Center for Supercomputing Foundation Applications



2014 Keynote: 2015 Keynote: Irene Qualters John Shalf **Division** Director Dept Head CS Lawrence Advanced Berkeley Lab Cyberinfarstructure CTO. NERSC Division, NSF



Reception/Poster Session Tue Sep 22 2015 @ OU **Symposium** Wed Sep 23 2015 @ OU







Outline

- Scientific Computing Pipeline
- Scientific Libraries
- I/O Libraries
- Scientific Visualization







Scientific Computing Pipeline

Real World Physics Mathematical Representation (continuous) Numerical Representation (discrete) Algorithm Implementation (program) Port (to a specific platform) Result (run) Analysis Verification Thanks to Julia Mullen of MIT Lincoln Lab for this concept.







Five Rules of Scientific Computing

- 1. Know the physics.
- 2. Control the software.
- 3. Understand the numerics.
- 4. Achieve expected behavior.
- 5. Question unexpected behavior.

Thanks to Robert E. Peterkin for these.







Scientific Libraries



Preinvented Wheels

Many simulations perform fairly common tasks; for example, solving systems of equations: Ax = b

where **A** is the matrix of coefficients, **x** is the vector of unknowns and **b** is the vector of knowns.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} & \cdots & a_{1,n} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & a_{2,3} & \cdots & a_{2,n} \\ a_{3,1} & a_{3,2} & a_{3,3} & \cdots & a_{3,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n,1} & a_{n,2} & a_{n,3} & \cdots & a_{n,n} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix}$$







Scientific Libraries

Because some tasks are quite common across many science and engineering applications, groups of researchers have put a lot of effort into writing <u>scientific libraries</u>: collections of routines for performing these commonly-used tasks (for example, linear algebra solvers).

The people who write these libraries know a lot more about these things than we do.

So, a good strategy is to use their libraries, rather than trying to write our own.







Solver Libraries

Probably the most common scientific computing task is solving a system of equations Ax = b

where **A** is a matrix of coefficients, **x** is a vector of unknowns, and **b** is a vector of knowns.

The goal is to solve for **x**.







Solving Systems of Equations

Don'ts:

- <u>Don't</u> invert the matrix (x = A⁻¹b). That's much more costly than solving directly, and much more prone to numerical error.
- <u>Don't</u> write your own solver code. There are people who devote their whole careers to writing solvers. They know a lot more about writing solvers than we do.





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Do's:

- <u>**Do</u>** use standard, portable solver libraries.</u>
- <u>Do</u> use a version that's tuned for the platform you're running on, if available.
- <u>Do</u> use the information that you have about your system of equations to pick the most efficient solver.









All About Your Matrix

If you know things about your matrix, you maybe can use a more efficient solver.

- Symmetric: $a_{i,j} = a_{j,i}$
- Positive definite: x^TAx > 0 for all x ≠ 0 (for example, if all eigenvalues are positive)
- Banded:

zero except on the bands



Tridiagonal:



and ...









A <u>sparse matrix</u> is a matrix that has mostly zeros in it. "Mostly" is vaguely defined, but a good rule of thumb is that a matrix is sparse if more than, say, 90-95% of its entries are zero. (A non-sparse matrix is <u>dense</u>.)









Linear Algebra Libraries

- BLAS [1],[2]
- ATLAS^[3]
- LAPACK^[4]
- ScaLAPACK^[5]
- PETSc^{[6],[7],[8]}









The **Basic Linear Algebra Subprograms** (BLAS) are a set of low level linear algebra routines:

- Level 1: Vector-vector (for example, dot product)
- Level 2: Matrix-vector (for example, matrix-vector multiply)
- Level 3: Matrix-matrix (for example, matrix-matrix multiply)
- Many linear algebra packages, including LAPACK, ScaLAPACK and PETSc, are built on top of BLAS.
- Most supercomputer vendors have versions of BLAS that are highly tuned for their platforms.









The <u>Automatically Tuned Linear Algebra Software</u> package (ATLAS) is a self-tuned version of BLAS (it also includes a few LAPACK routines).

- When it's installed, it tests and times a variety of approaches to each routine, and selects the version that runs the fastest.
- ATLAS is substantially faster than the generic version of BLAS.

And, it's FREE!







Goto BLAS

Several years ago, a new version of BLAS was released, developed by Kazushige Goto (then at UT Austin, now at Intel).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazushige_Goto

- This version is unusual, because instead of optimizing for cache, it optimizes for the *Translation Lookaside Buffer* (TLB), which is a special little cache that often is ignored by software developers.
- Goto realized that optimizing for the TLB would be more efficient than optimizing for cache.







ATLAS vs. Generic BLAS





LAPACK

LAPACK (Linear Algebra PACKage) solves dense or specialcase sparse systems of equations depending on matrix properties such as:

- Precision: single, double
- Data type: real, complex
- Shape: diagonal, bidiagonal, tridiagonal, banded, triangular, trapezoidal, Hesenberg, general dense
- Properties: orthogonal, positive definite, Hermetian (complex), symmetric, general
- LAPACK is built on top of BLAS, which means it can benefit from ATLAS.







LAPACK Example

```
REAL, DIMENSION(numrows, numcols) ::
                                     Α
REAL, DIMENSION (numrows)
                                     Β
REAL, DIMENSION(numcols)
                                     Х
                                   : pivot
INTEGER, DIMENSION(numrows)
INTEGER :: row, col, info, numrhs = 1
DO row = 1, numrows
  B(row) = ...
END DO
DO col = 1, numcols
  DO row = 1, numrows
    A(row, col) = ...
  END DO
END DO
CALL sgesv(numrows, numrhs, A, numrows, pivot, &
           B, numrows, info)
&
DO col = 1, numcols
  X(col) = B(col)
END DO
```







LAPACK: A Library and an API

LAPACK is a library that you can download for free from the Web:

www.netlib.org

- But, it's also an Application Programming Interface (API): a definition of a set of routines, their arguments, and their behaviors.
- So, anyone can write an implementation of LAPACK.







It's Good to Be Popular

LAPACK is a good choice for non-parallelized solving, because its popularity has convinced many supercomputer vendors to write their own, highly tuned versions.

- The API for the LAPACK routines is the same as the portable version from NetLib, but the performance can be much better, via either ATLAS or proprietary vendor-tuned versions.
- Also, some vendors have shared memory parallel versions of LAPACK.







LAPACK Performance

Because LAPACK uses BLAS, it's about as fast as BLAS.

- For example, DGESV (Double precision General SolVer) on a 2 GHz Pentium4 using ATLAS gets 65% of peak, compared to 69% of peak for Matrix-Matrix multiply.
- In fact, an older version of LAPACK, called LINPACK, is used to determine the top 500 supercomputers in the world.









ScaLAPACK is the distributed parallel (MPI) version of LAPACK. It actually contains only a subset of the LAPACK routines, and has a somewhat awkward Application Programming Interface (API).

Like LAPACK, ScaLAPACK is also available from

www.netlib.org.









<u>PETSc</u> (Portable, Extensible Toolkit for Scientific Computation) is a solver library for sparse matrices that uses distributed parallelism (MPI).

- PETSc is designed for general sparse matrices with no special properties, but it also works well for sparse matrices with simple properties like banding and symmetry.
- It has a simpler, more intuitive Application Programming Interface than ScaLAPACK.







Pick Your Solver Package

- Dense Matrix
 - Serial: LAPACK
 - Shared Memory Parallel: threaded LAPACK
 - Distributed Parallel: ScaLAPACK
- Sparse Matrix: PETSc







I/O Libraries



I/O Challenges

I/O presents two important challenges to scientific computing:

- Performance
- Portability
- The performance issue arises because I/O is much more timeconsuming than computation, as we saw in the "Storage Hierarchy" session.
- The portability issue arises because different kinds of computers can have different ways of representing real (floating point) numbers.









When you use a **PRINT** statement in Fortran or a **printf** in C or output to **cout** in C++, you are asking the program to output data in human-readable form:

 $\mathbf{x} = 5$

PRINT *, x

But what if the value that you want to output is a real number with lots of significant digits?

1.3456789E+23







Data Output as Text

1.3456789E+23

When you output data as text, each character takes 1 byte.

- So if you output a number with lots of digits, then you're outputting lots of bytes.
- For example, the above number takes 13 bytes to output as text.
- **Jargon**: Text is sometimes called **ASCII** (American Standard Code for Information Interchange).







Output Data in Binary

Inside the computer, a single precision real number (Fortran **REAL**, C/C++ **float**) typically requires 4 bytes, and a double precision number (**DOUBLE PRECISION** or **double**) typically requires 8.

That's less than 13.

- Since I/O is very expensive, it's better to output 4 or 8 bytes than 13 or more.
- Happily, Fortran, C and C++ allow you to output data as **binary** (internal representation) rather than as text.







Binary Output Problems

When you output data as **<u>binary</u>** rather than as text, you output substantially **<u>fewer bytes</u>**, so you save time (since I/O is very expensive) and you save disk space.

But, you pay two prices:

- **<u>Readability</u>**: Humans can't read binary.
- **<u>Portability</u>**: Different kinds of computers have different ways of internally representing numbers.







Binary Readability: No Problem

<u>Readability</u> of binary data **<u>isn't a problem</u>** in scientific computing, because:

- You can always write a little program to read in the binary data and display its text equivalent.
- If you have lots and lots of data (that is, MBs or GBs), you wouldn't want to look at all of it anyway.







Binary Portability: Big Problem

- **Binary data portability** is a **very big problem** in scientific computing, because data that's output on one kind of computer may not be readable on another, and so:
- You can't output the data on one kind of computer and then use them (for example, visualize, analyze) on another kind.
- Some day the kind of computer that output the data will be obsolete, so there may be no computer in the world that can input it, and thus the data are lost.







The HPC community noticed this problem some years ago, and so a number of portable binary data formats were developed. The two most popular are:

• <u>**HDF</u>** (Hierarchical Data Format) from the National Center for Supercomputing Applications:</u>

http://www.hdfgroup.org/

• <u>NetCDF</u> (Network Common Data Form) from Unidata:

http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf







Advantages of Portable I/O

Portable binary I/O packages:

- give you portable binary I/O;
- have simple, clear APIs;
- are available for <u>free;</u>
- run on most platforms;
- allow you to <u>annotate</u> your data (for example, put into the file the variable names, units, experiment name, grid description, etc).

Also, both HDF and netCDF support distributed parallel I/O.





Q Scientific Visualization



Too Many Numbers

A typical scientific code outputs lots and lots of data.

For example, the ARPS weather forecasting code, running a 5 day forecast over the continental U.S. with a resolution of 1 km horizontal and 0.25 km vertical outputting data for every hour would produce about **10 terabytes** (10¹³ bytes).

No one can look at that many numbers.







A Picture is Worth ...



... millions of numbers.

This is Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9, which hit Jupiter in 1994; the image is from 35 seconds after hitting Jupiter's inner atmosphere.^[9]







Types of Visualization

- Contour lines
- Slice planes
- Isosurfaces
- Streamlines
- Volume rendering
- ... and many others.

Note: except for the volume rendering, the following images were created by Vis5D,^[10] which you can download for free.







NFORMATION

IVERSITY & OKLAHON

Contour Lines

This image shows *contour lines* of relative humidity. Each contour line represents a single humidity value.



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A <u>slice plane</u> is a single plane passed through a 3D volume. Typically, it is color coded by mapping some scalar variable to color (for example, low vorticity to blue, high vorticity to red).





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Isosurfaces

An *isosurface* is a surface that has a constant value for some scalar quantity. This image shows an isosurface of temperature at 0° Celsius, colored with pressure.









Streamlines

A streamline traces a vector quantity (for example, velocity).







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Volume Rendering

A *volume rendering* is created by mapping some variable (for example, energy) to color and another variable (for example, density) to opacity.

This image shows the overall structure of the universe.^[11] Notice that the image looks like thick colored smoke.











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2014 Keynote: 2015 Keynote: Irene Qualters John Shalf **Division** Director Dept Head CS Lawrence Advanced Berkeley Lab Cyberinfarstructure CTO. NERSC Division, NSF



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Wed Sep 23 2015 @ OU

FREE!

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Thanks for your attention!



Questions? www.oscer.ou.edu



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[9] http://hneeman.oscer.ou.edu/hamr.html

[10] http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/~billh/vis5d.html

[11] Image by Greg Bryan, MIT.



