Lecture 11.2
MPI

EN 600.320/420

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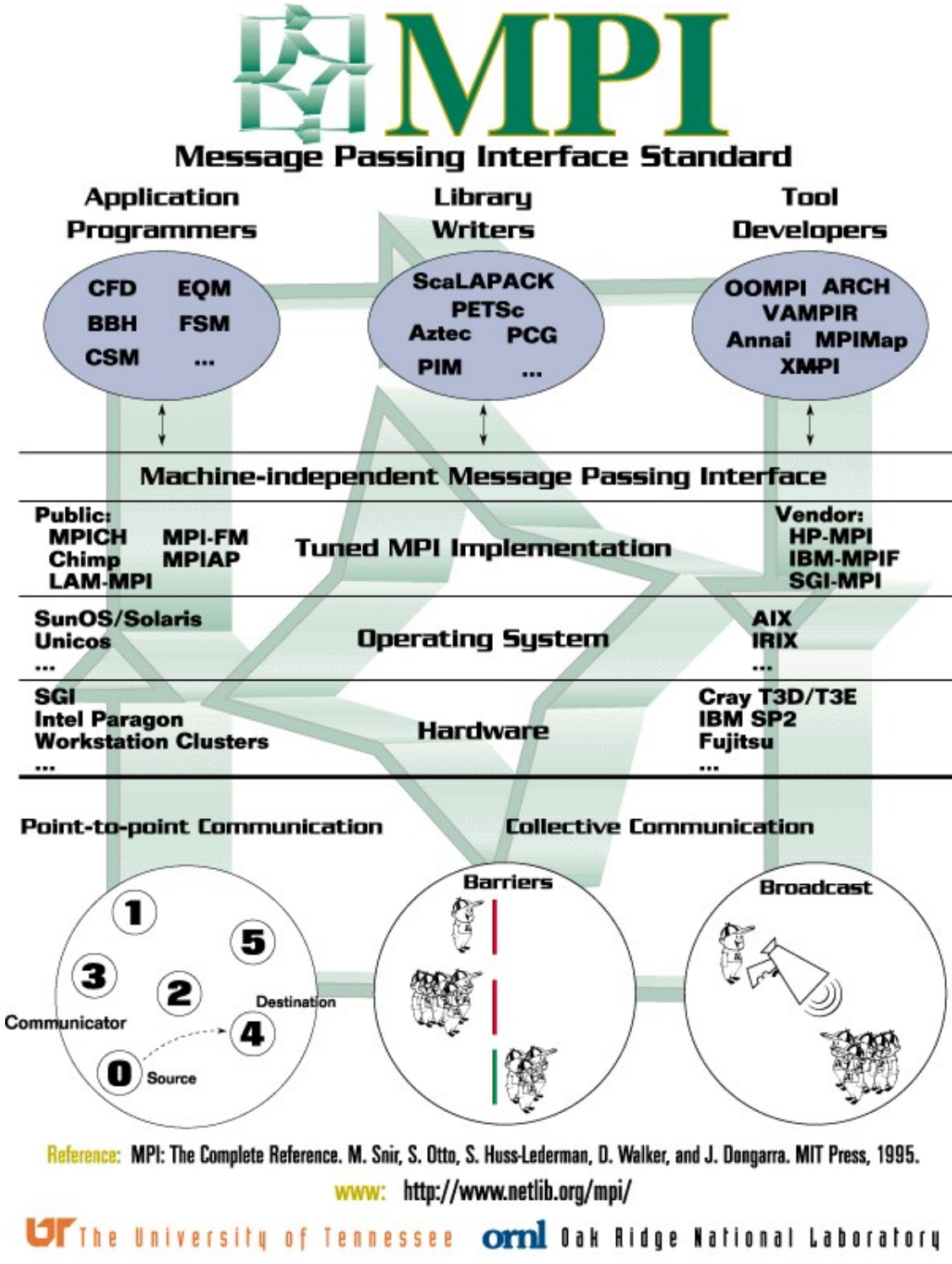
MPI

- MPI = Message Passing Interface
  - Message passing parallelism
  - Cluster computing (no shared memory)
  - Process (not thread oriented)
- Parallelism model
  - SPMD: by definition
  - Also implement: master/worker, loop parallelism
- MPI environment
  - Application programming interface
  - Implemented in libraries
  - Multi-language support (C/C++ and Fortran)

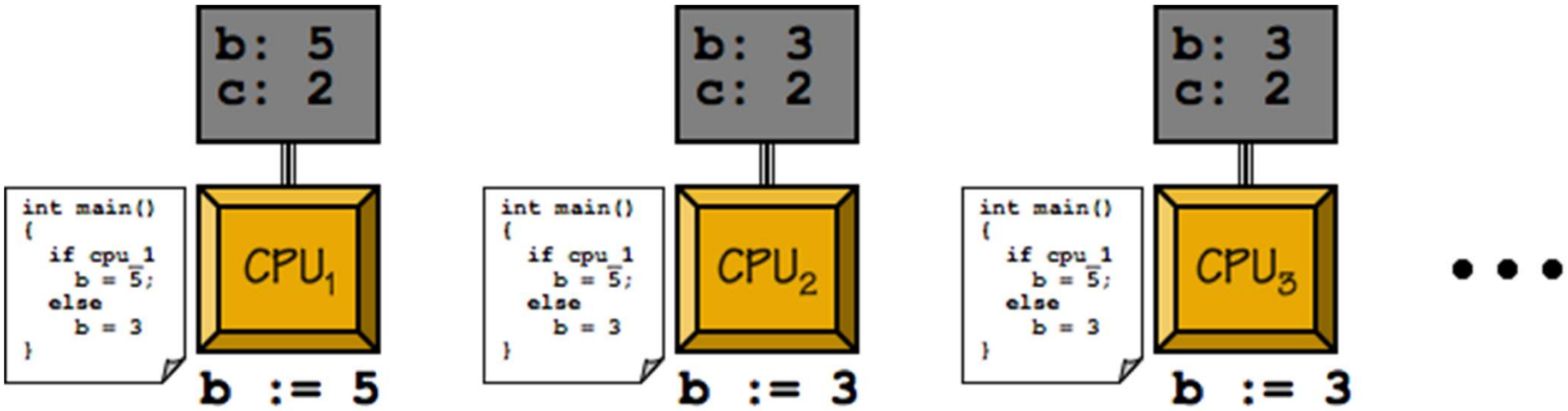
Vision

- Supercomputing Poster 1996



SPMD (Again)

- Single program multiple data
  - From wikipedia “Tasks are split up and run simultaneously on multiple processors with different input in order to obtain results faster. SPMD is the most common style of parallel programming.”
  - Asynchronous execution of the same program (unlike SIMD)



https://www.sharcnet.ca/help/index.php/Getting_Started_with_MPI

A Simple MPI Program

- Configure the MPI environment
- Discover yourself
- Take some differentiated activity

See mpimsg.c

- Idioms
  - SPMD: all processes run the same program
  - MPI_Rank: tell yourself apart from other and customize the local processes behaviours
    - Find neighbors, select data region, etc.

Build and Launch Scripts

- Scripts wrap local compiler and link to MPI

- *mpirun* to launch MPI job on the local machine/cluster
  - Launch through scheduler on HPC clusters (do not run on the login node)

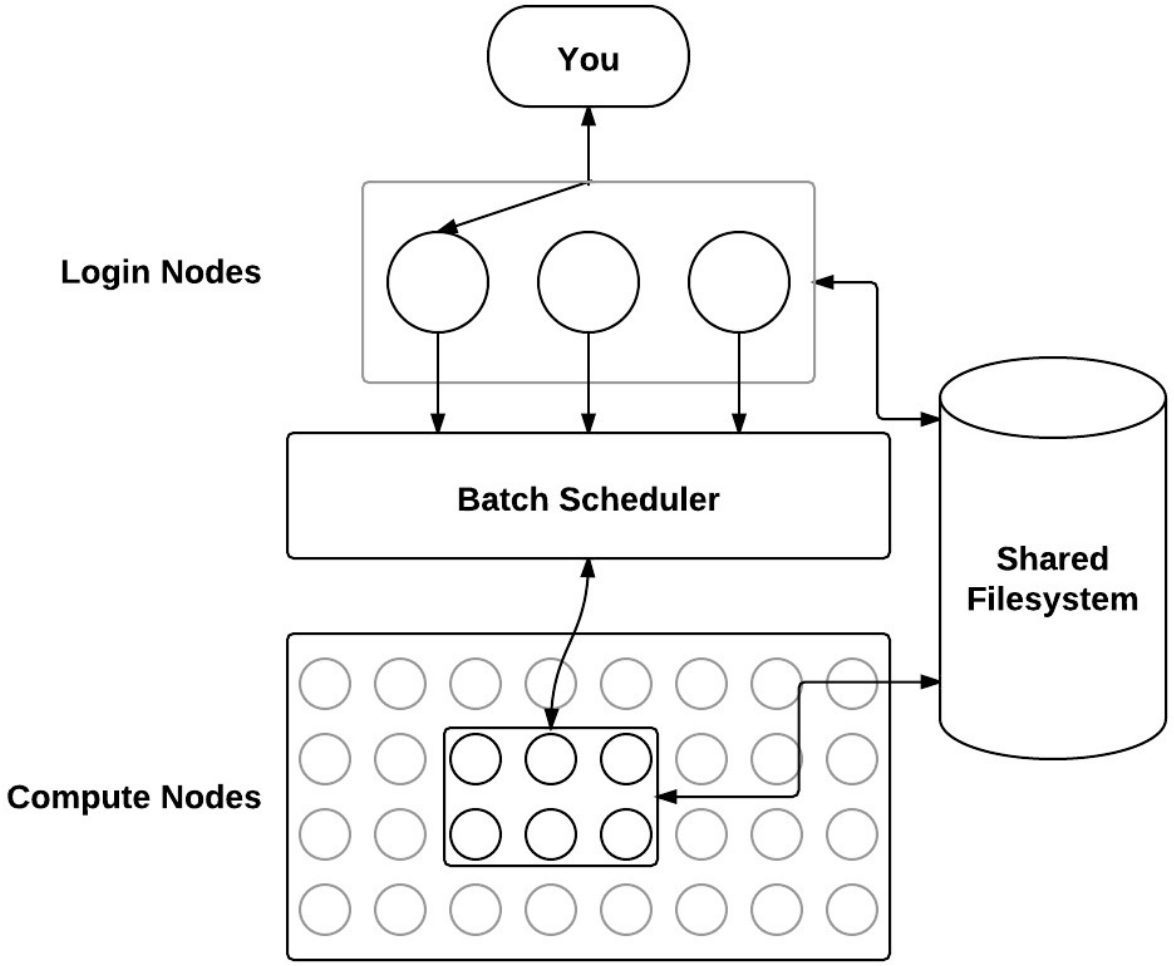
Language	Script Name	Underlying Compiler
C	`mpicc`	gcc
	`mpigcc`	gcc
	`mpiicc`	icc
	`mpipgcc`	pgcc
C++	`mpiCC`	g++
	`mpig++`	g++
	`mpiicpc`	icpc
	`mpipgCC`	pgCC
Fortran	`mpif77`	g77
	`mpigfortran`	gfortran
	`mpiifort`	ifort
	`mpipgf77`	pgf77
	`mpipgf90`	pgf90

HPC Schedulers

- Maui/Torque
- SLURM
- OGE

- Each with their own submission scripts
  - Not mpirun

https://www.osc.edu/supercomputing/getting-started/hpc-basics



Managing the runtime environment

- Initialize the environment
  - MPI_Init (&argc, &argv)
- Acquire information for process
  - MPI_Comm_size (MPI_COMM_WORLD, &num_procs)
  - MPI_Comm_rank (MPI_COMM_WORLD, &ID)
  - To differentiate process behavior in SMPD
- And cleanup
  - MPI_Finalize()
- Some MPI instances leave orphan processes around
  - MPI_Abort()
  - Don't rely on this

MPI is just messaging

- And synchronization constructs, which are built on messaging
- And library calls for discovery and configuration

- Computation is done in C/C++/Fortran SPMD program

- I've heard MPI called the "assembly language" of supercomputing
  - Simple primitives
  - Build your own communication protocols, application topologies, parallel execution
  - The opposite end of the design space from MR, Spark