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e-infrastructure

CAPACITIES

HPC vs. Cloud Benchmarking
An empirical evaluation of the performance and cost metrics

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ICHEC - in a nutshell

- **I**rish **C**entre for **H**igh-**E**nd **C**omputing
  - National Tier-1 Centre
  - Run Irish National HPC service for Academics
  - PRACE partner
- Interest in understanding the competitive costs
  - Understanding various infrastructures & workloads
    - HPC, HTC, HPC Cloud, HTC Cloud
- What is the most effective means to address our customers (Academics) needs?

Outline

- Benchmarking - Why, which benchmark?
- NAS Parallel Benchmark (NPB)
- Environment Setup
- Results
- Next Steps

MOTIVATION

If there is a better reason to paddle, I don't know what it is.

Overview

- Diversity
  - Diverse computing infrastructures (HPC. HTC, Cloud)
  - Diverse workloads for various academic communities
- Cost analysis and performance metrics
  - Performance and configuration overhead as indirect costs
- System benchmarking for:
  - Comparison of HPC and HTC systems vs. Cloud offerings
  - Comparison of parallelism techniques (e.g. MPI/OMP)

HPC/HTC Benchmarks

- LINPACK – Top 500
- SPEC06 – CPU intensive benchmark
  - HEP-SPEC06
- HPC Challenge (HPCC)
- Graph 500
- STREAM – for memory bandwidth
- MPPtest – MPI performance
- NAS Parallel Benchmark (NPB)
- …

NAS Parallel Benchmark

- Open-source and free CFD benchmark
- Performance evaluation of commonly used parallelism techniques
  - Serial, MPI, OpenMP, OpenMP+MPI, Java, HPF
- Customisable for different problem sizes
  - Classes S: small for quick tests
  - Class W: workstation size
  - Classes A, B, C: standard test problems
  - Classes D, E, F: large test problems

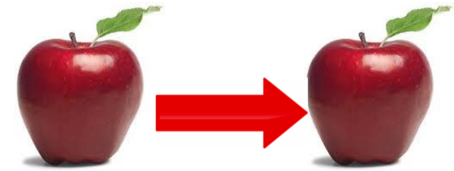
NPB Kernels

Kernel	Description	Problem Size	Memory (MW)
EP	Monte Carlo kernel to compute the solution of an integral – Embarrassingly parallel	2^{30}	18
MG	Multi-grid kernel to compute the solution of the 3D Poisson equation	256^3	59
CG	Kernel to compute the smallest eigenvalue of a symmetric positive definite matrix	75000	97
FT	Kernel to solve a 3D partial difference equation using an FFT based method	512x256x256	162
IS	Parallel sort kernel based on bucket sort	2^{25}	114
LU	Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) application using symmetric successive over relaxation	102^3	122
SP	CFD application using the Beam-Warming approximate factorisation method	102^3	22
BT	CFD application using an implicit solution method	102^3	96

Cloud Cluster Setup

- EC2 instance management
  - StarCluster Toolkit
    - http://web.mit.edu/star/cluster/
    - StarCluster AMIs – Amazon Machine Image
      - Resource manager plugin
- Login vs. compute instances
  - EC2 small instance as login node
  - File system shared via NFS across nodes

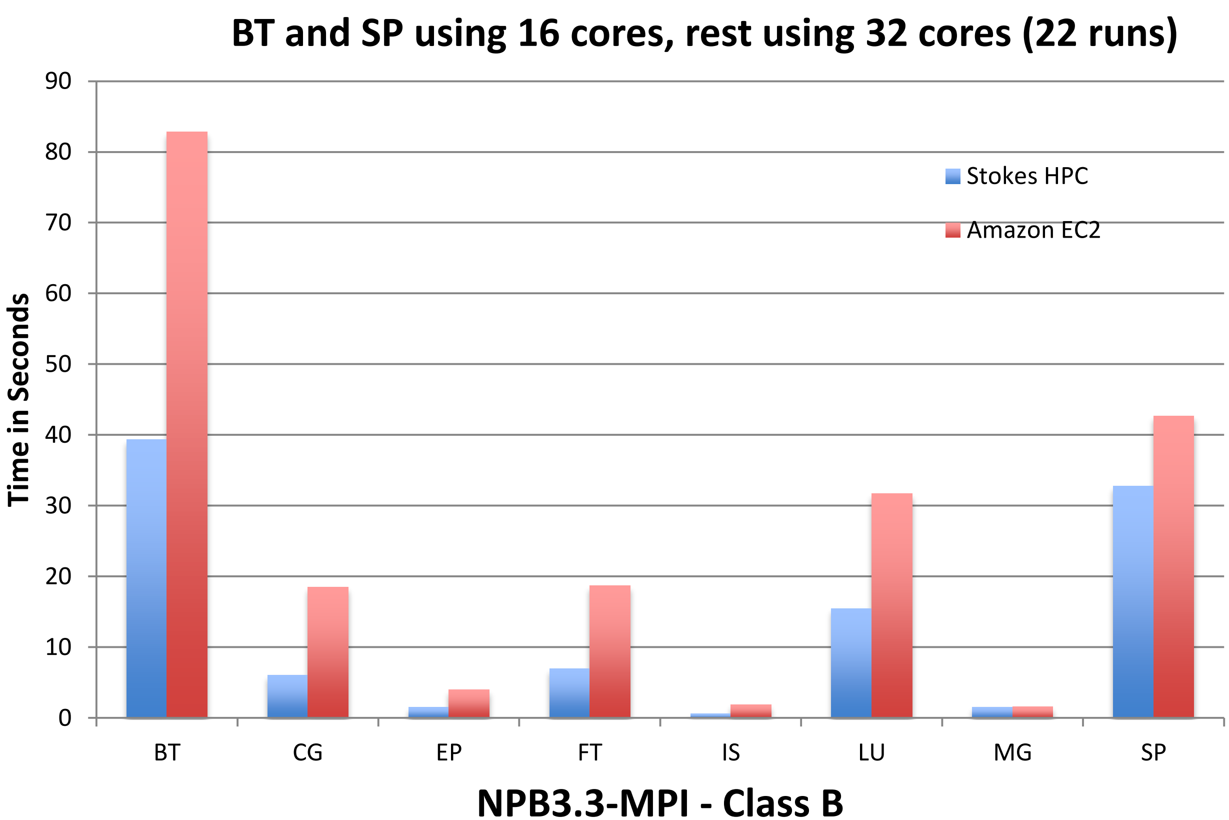
Cloud vs. HPC



	Amazon EC2	Stokes HPC
Compute Node	23 GB of memory, 2 x Intel Xeon X5570, quad-core "Nehalem"	24 GB memory, 2 x Intel Xeon E5650, hex-core "Westmere"
Connectivity	10 Gigabit Ethernet	ConnectX Infiniband (DDR)
OS	Ubuntu, 64-bit platform	Open-SUSE, 64-bit platform
Resource manager	Sun Grid Engine	Torque
Compilers & libraries	Intel C, Intel Fortran, Intel MKL, Intel MVAPICH2	Intel C, Intel Fortran, Intel MKL, Intel MVAPICH2

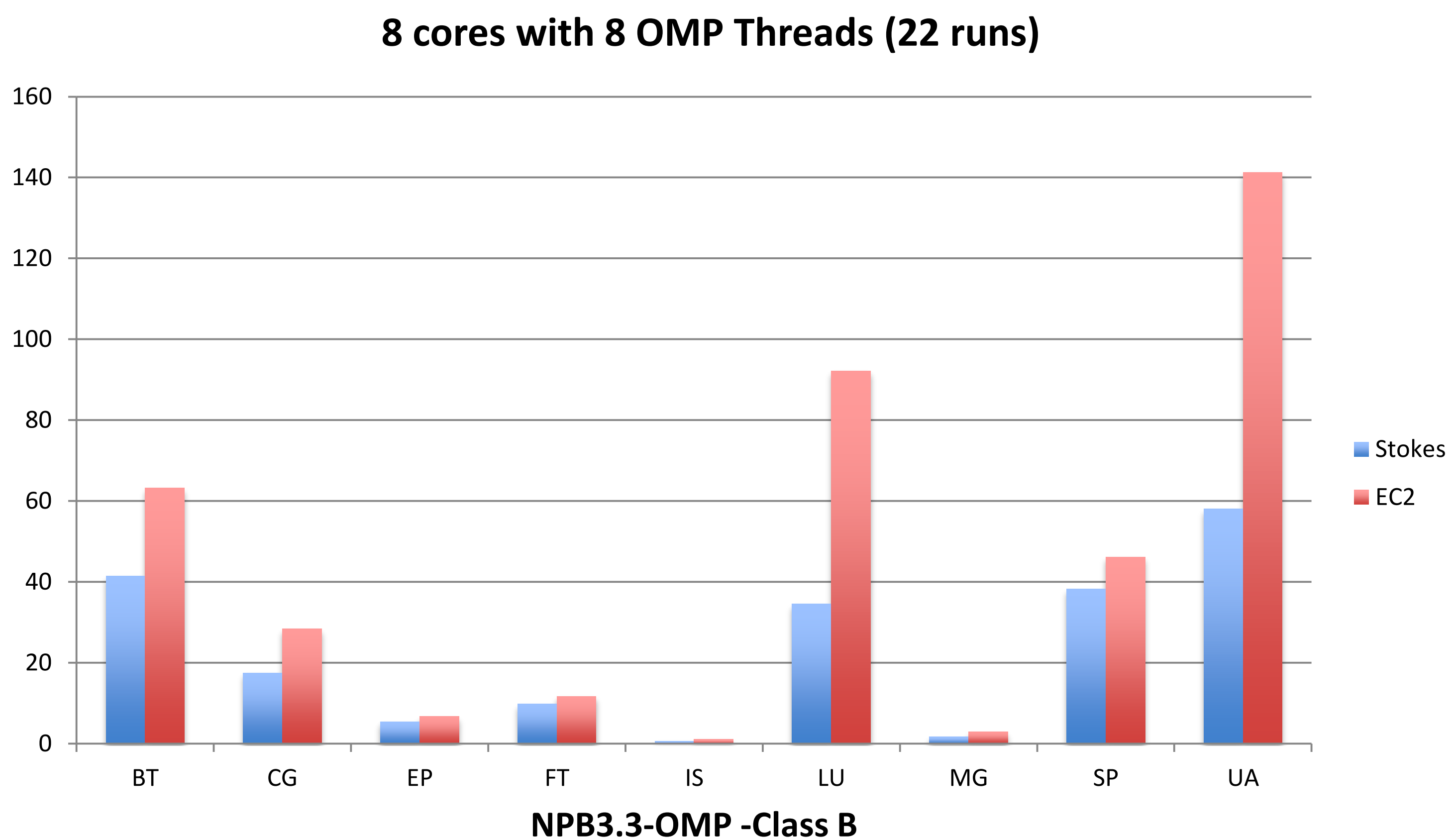
- Non-trivial to replicate runtime environments
- Large variations in performance possible
- Logical vs. Physical cores
  - HT/SMT – Hyper or Simultaneous Multi-Threading

NPB – MPI



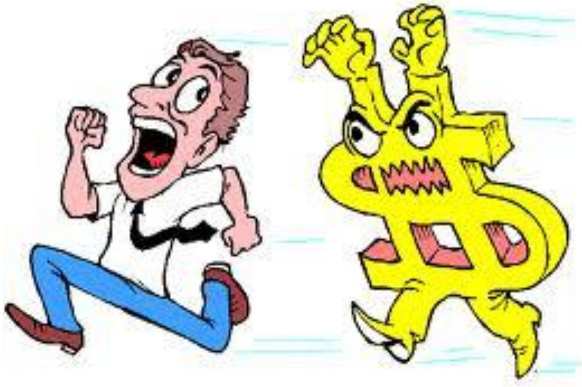
The average performance loss was **48.42**% (ranging from 1.02% to 67.76%).

NPB - OpenMP



The average performance loss was **37.26**%
(ranging from 16.18 - 58.93%

Cost



- 720 hours @ 99.29 USD ☺
  - ~100 % utlisation
  - Compute cluster instance @ $1.300 per Hour
  - Small instance @ $0.080 per Hour
- Other useful insights:
  - Spot instances
  - Overheads (performance, I/O, setup)
  - Data transfer costs and time

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Conclusions

- As expected a purpose built HPC cluster outperforms EC2 cluster for same number of OMP threads
  - Average performance loss over all NPB tests: **~37%**

- Similarly so for when comparing 10GigE versus Infiniband networking fabrics
  - Average performance loss over all NPB test: **~48%**

- Even at a modest problem size the differences in performances between systems is highlighted.

Next steps

- HTC vs. Cloud Benchmarking
  - HEP-SPEC on the virtualised EGI resources
  - and EC2 instances (small, medium, large)
- Benchmarking results in the cost model
  - As an extra weight in addition to monetary costs
- Publications

Thank you for your attention!

Questions??

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