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Porting Distributed Data Structures to Future Many-core Architectures

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A foreseeable future in architecture

m islands (or clusters)

- each comprised of c cores
- containing one or more processors

No (hardware) cache coherence

- main memory is split into modules
- each module associated to a distinct island (or core)
- Message passing.
- DMA is possible.



Data structures crucial for portability and productivity of software design!

Exploiting architecture characteristics



DS stored in distributed directory.

- One server acts as synchronization manager.
- Communication is distributed over the system.

DS distributed over local memories in token ring.

- Communication with current token server.
- When local memory fills up, token is forwarded.





Exploiting communication characteristics:

- Hierarchical design exploits fast intra-island communication.
- Requests are batched in each island and forwarded to appropriate server.

Factors that lead to good scaling



Our Contribution

\rightarrow A first step towards designing customized scalable data structures for future non cache-coherent many-core architectures.

- We studied techniques for implementing distributed DS for many-core architectures.
 Challenges:
 - Non or partially cache-coherent memory
 - Message-passing paradigm
- We combined variants of these techniques to design a rich collection of DS
 - stacks, queues, dequeues, lists, sets
- This collection could be utilized by high-productivity languages
 - Easy porting to new and future architectures!
 - Collection can be used as library even by non-experts
- Our experiments illustrate the scalability power of the hierarchical approach.