

GROMACS Performance Benchmark and Profiling

September 2011

- **The following research was performed under the HPC Advisory Council activities**

- Special thanks for: HP, Mellanox



- **For more information on the supporting vendors solutions please refer to:**

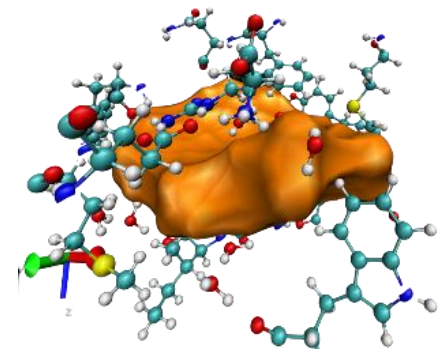
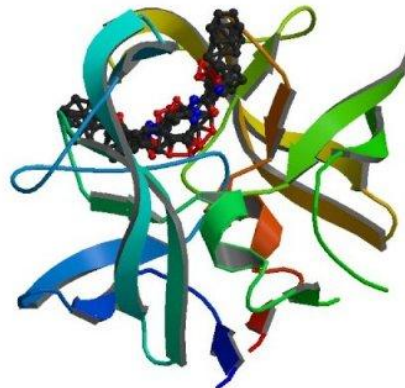
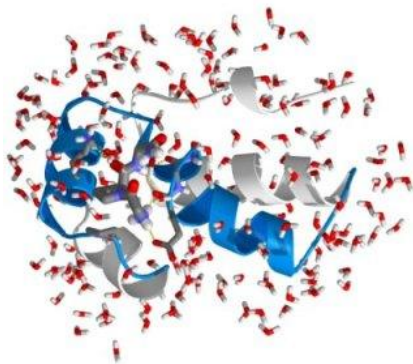
- www.mellanox.com, <http://www.hp.com/go/hpc>

- **For more information on the application:**

- <http://www.gromacs.org>



- **GROMACS (GRONingen MACHine for Chemical Simulations)**
 - A molecular dynamics simulation package
 - Primarily designed for biochemical molecules like proteins, lipids and nucleic acids
 - A lot of algorithmic optimizations have been introduced in the code
 - Extremely fast at calculating the nonbonded interactions
 - Ongoing development to extend GROMACS with interfaces both to Quantum Chemistry and Bioinformatics/databases
 - An open source software released under the GPL

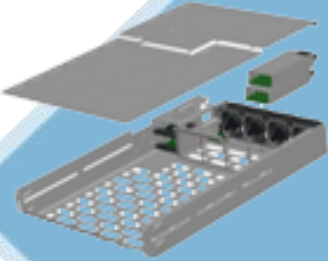


- **The presented research was done to provide best practices**
 - GROMACS performance benchmarking
 - Interconnect performance comparisons
 - MPI performance comparison
 - Understanding GROMACS communication patterns
- **The presented results will demonstrate**
 - The scalability of the compute environment to provide nearly linear application scalability

- **HP ProLiant SL2x170z G6 16-node cluster**
 - Six-Core Intel X5670 @ 2.93 GHz CPUs
 - Memory: 24GB per node
 - OS: CentOS5U5, OFED 1.5.3 InfiniBand SW stack
- **Mellanox ConnectX-2 adapters and switches**
- **Fulcrum based 10GigE switch**
- **MPI: Platform MPI 8.1.1, Intel MPI 4.0.3, Mvapich2-1.6, Open MPI 1.5.3**
- **Application: GROMACS 4.5.4**
- **Benchmark Workload**
 - MD case with 20000 steps

About HP ProLiant SL6000 Scalable System

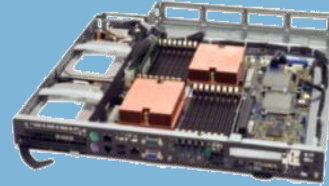
- **Solution-optimized for extreme scale out**



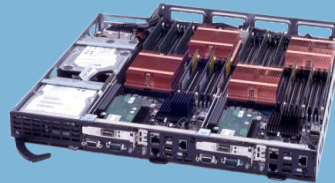
ProLiant z6000 chassis
Shared infrastructure
– fans, chassis, power



ProLiant SL160z G6 ProLiant SL165z G7
Large memory
-memory-cache apps



ProLiant SL170z G6
Large storage
-Web search and database apps



ProLiant SL2x170z G6
Highly dense
- HPC compute and
web front-end apps

Save on cost and
energy -- per node,
rack and data
center

Mix and match
configurations

Deploy with
confidence

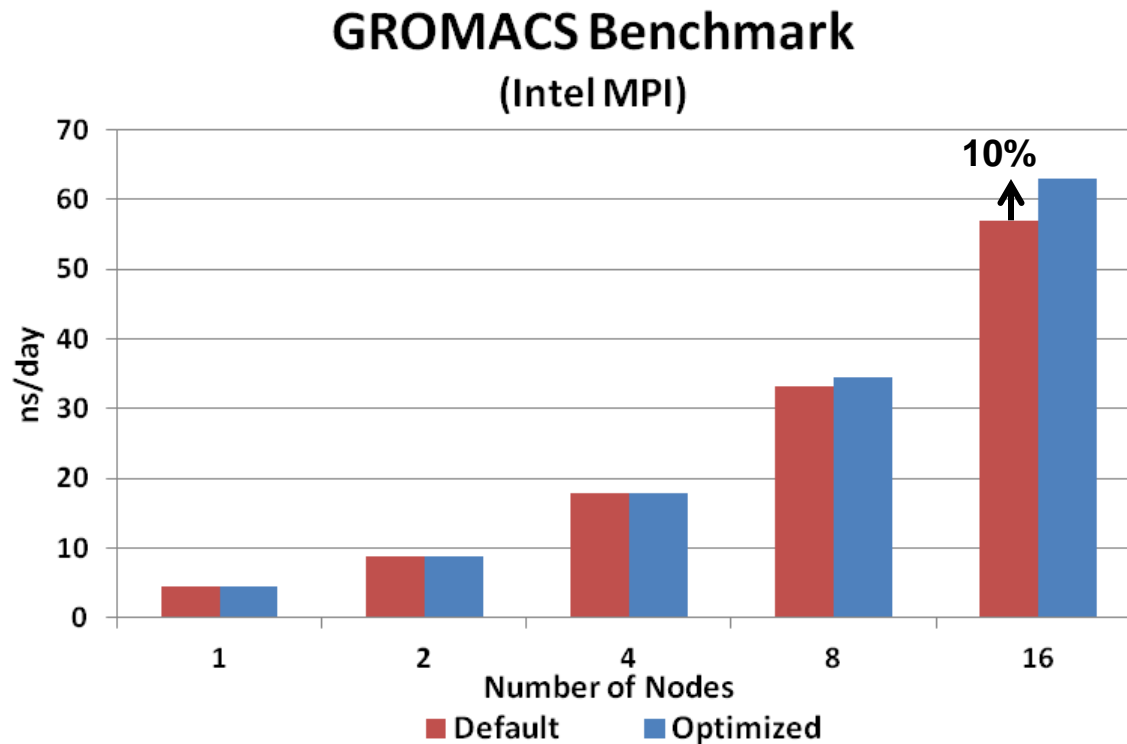


#1
Power
Efficiency*

* SPECpower_ssj2008
www.spec.org
17 June 2010, 13:28

GROMACS Benchmark Result - Tuning

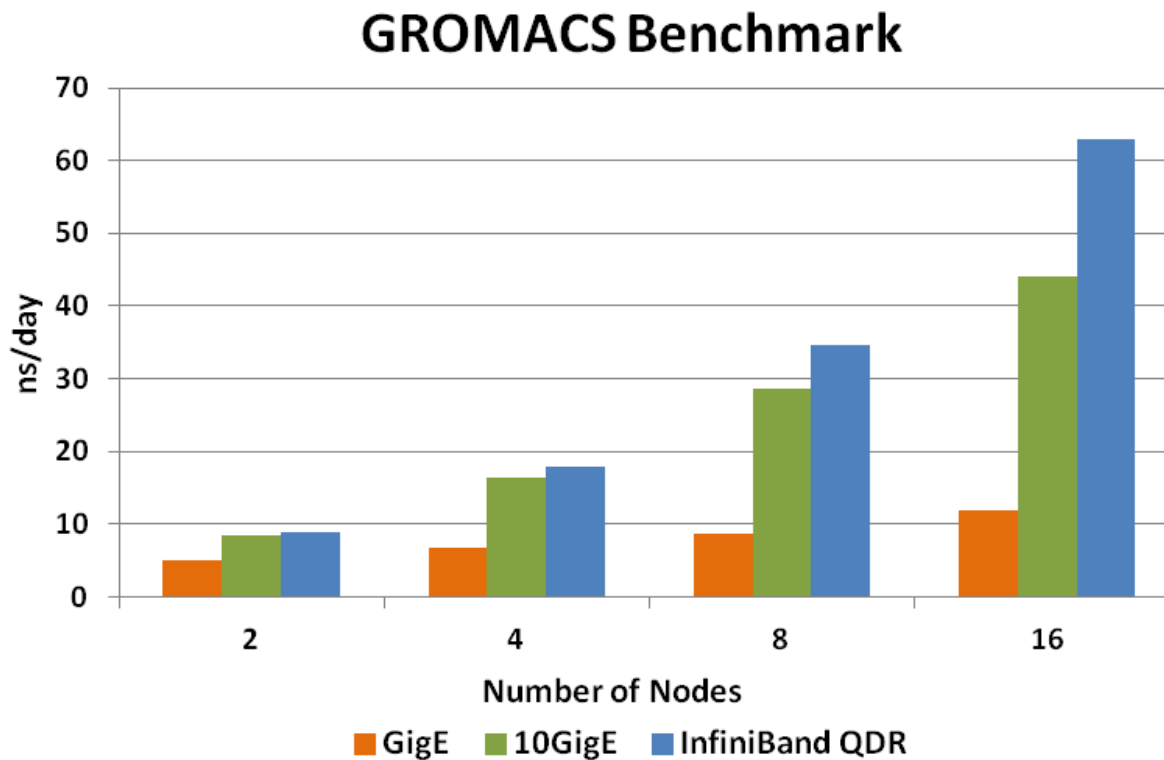
- Intel MPI tuning improves application performance by 10%
 - As cluster size increases, MPI tuning can provide higher advantage



Higher is better

192 cores/16Nodes

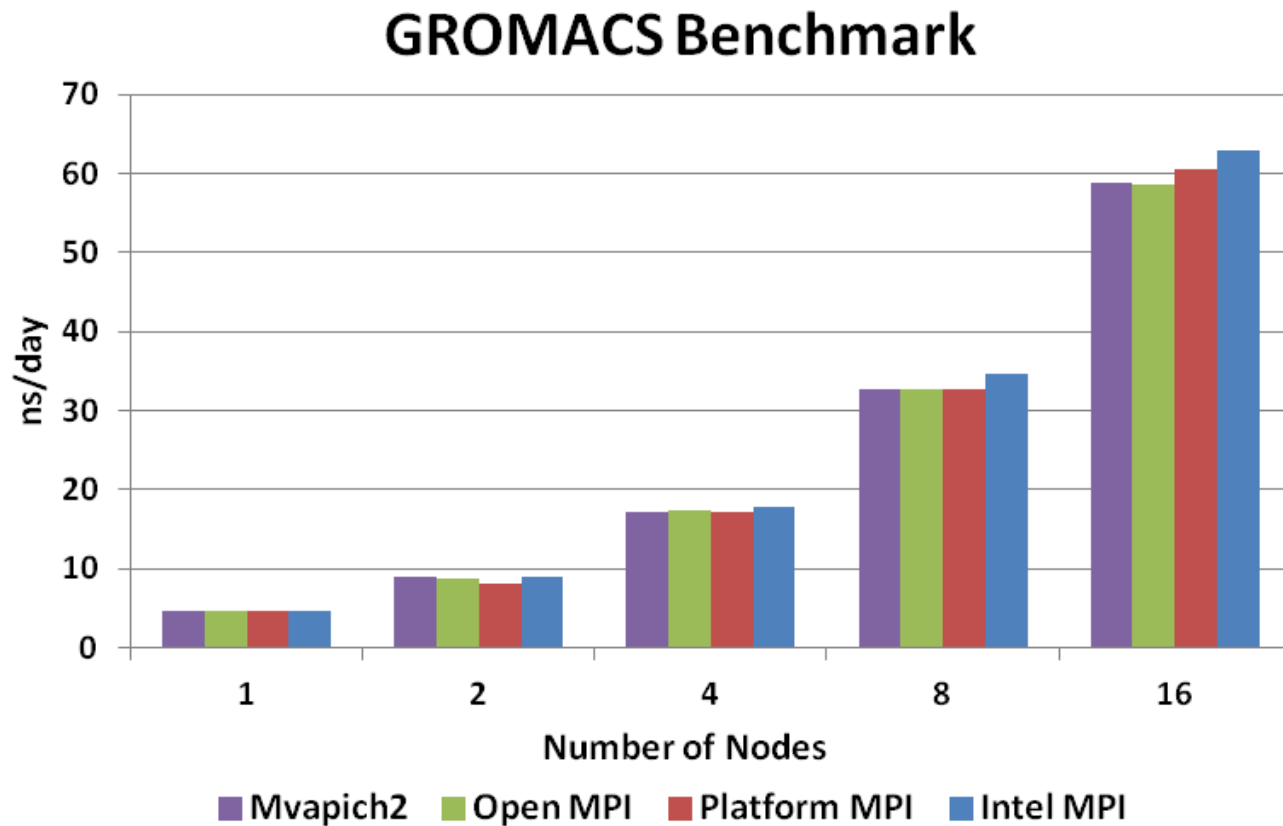
- **InfiniBand QDR enables higher application performance**
 - Up to 43% higher than 10GigE and 430% higher than GigE
 - As cluster size increases, bigger difference is expected



Higher is better

192 cores/16Nodes

- Intel MPI with tuning delivers higher GROMACS performance

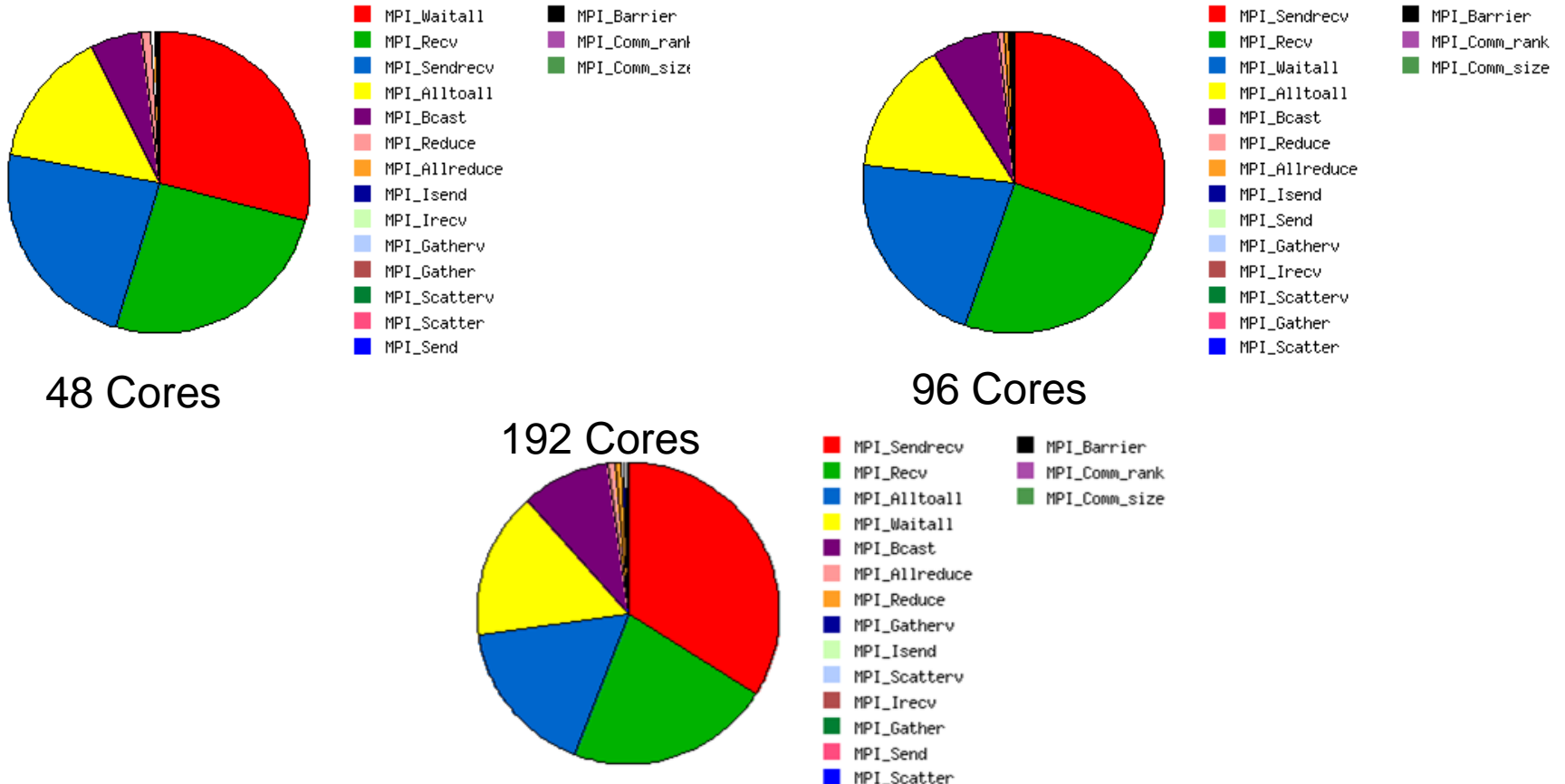


Higher is better

192 cores/16Nodes

- **Mostly used MPI functions**

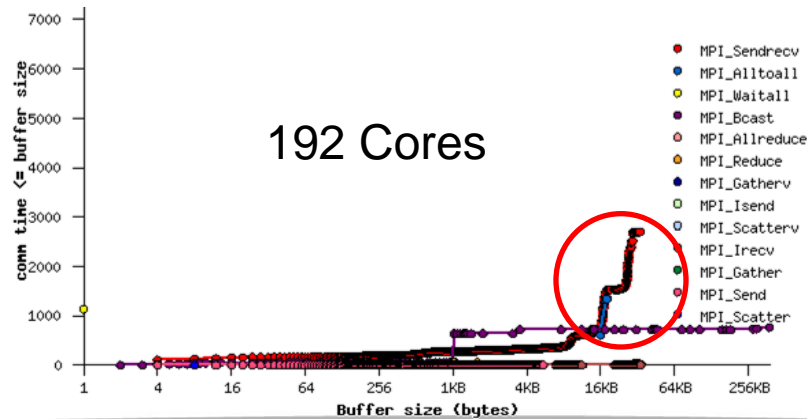
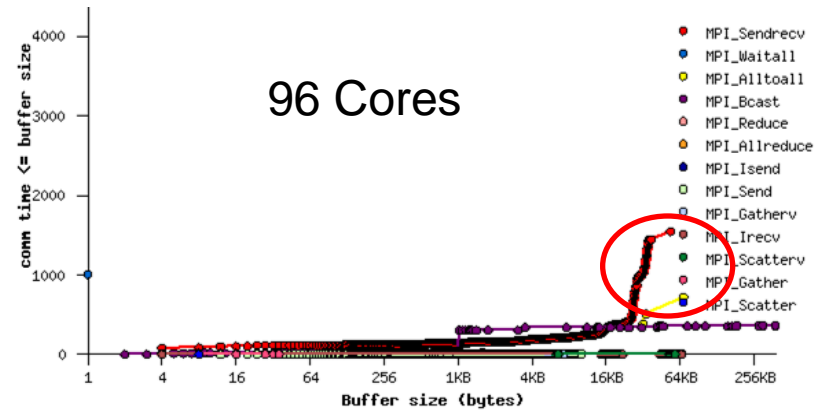
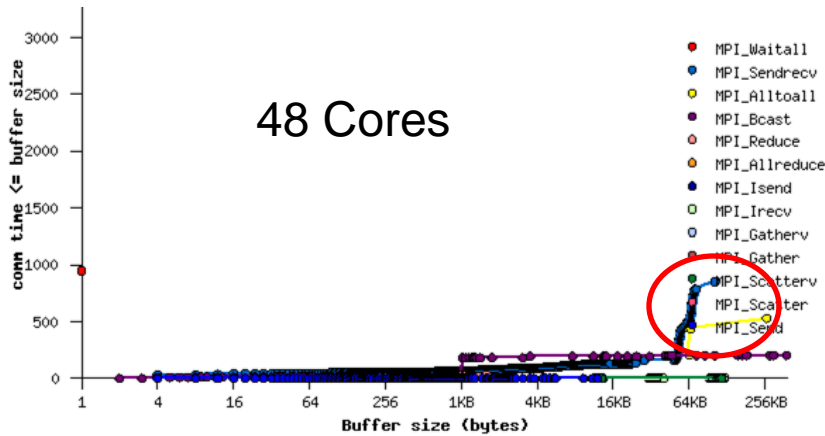
- MPI_Sendrecv, MPI_Recv, MPI_Alltoall, and MPI_Waitall
- Collective overhead increases faster than point-to-point functions
 - MPI_Alltoall and MPI_Bcast



GROMACS Profiling – Message Size

- **As cluster size grows, message size becomes smaller**

- 48 Cores: MPI_Alltoall and MPI_Sendrecv message are typical larger than 48KB
- 96 Cores: MPI_Alltoall and MPI_Sendrecv message are typical between 27KB and 48KB
- 192 Cores: MPI_Alltoall and MPI_Sendrecv message are typical smaller than 27KB



- **GROMACS Profiling**
 - Frequent used message sizes
 - Fairly large message are used at small scale
 - As cluster size increases, messages becomes smaller
 - Frequent used MPI functions
 - Both point-t-point and collectives are heavily used by GROMACS
 - Collectives becomes more critical as cluster size scales
 - Interconnects effect to GROMACS performance
 - Interconnect bandwidth and latency highly influence GROMACS performance
 - Latency becomes more important as cluster size increases
- **GROMACS Performance benchmark**
 - Performance test approved that balanced system (CPU, memory, and Interconnect) is essential for providing application efficiency

Thank You

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