Lecture 4: parallel computing, batch systems

https://sites.google.com/site/clustergateorg/

- Parallel performance
- Job — task to perform data conversion
- Batch processing

- Batch processing systems

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Parallel computing

- The cluster (and even one server) consists of many independent components. It gives idea that a range of operations in computing (in general data conversion) might be divided on some independent steps which can be performed at the same time (in parallel).
- It seems parallel operation performance will decrease total time of computing. Quite often it takes place. But not each time.
- In reality parallel computing could decrease the total computing time in in that degree in which we can divide our task in parallel (independent) stages.

Types of parallelism

- **Algorithm pallelism - parallel (almost at the same time) execution of different part of the program (program system).**
- **Data parallelism - parallel (almost at the same time) execution of one program with different data**
  - Statistics values (mean, sigma, etc) in different data sets.

Amdal's law (~1960)

- **If *alpha* is share of algorithm (or programs, or task), which can be performed in parallel on N CPUs, than maximum speedup can be achieved on level *1/alpha* even N becomes unlimited. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parallel_computinghttp://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parallel_computing).**

Parallel performance of computing jobs

- **Job** (request to perform something) – the description, which is interpreted by ***batch processing system***. Job might be interpreted and performed on one server or on the cluster. One job is accomplished in finite time. Often one job is part of large computing process.
- On the cluster there are many jobs from a number of users (customers) at the same time. So we can say about stream of jobs (or **batch**).
- To maximize the cluster usage (maximize the number of accomplished jobs per unit of time) several ***batch processing systems*** are used.

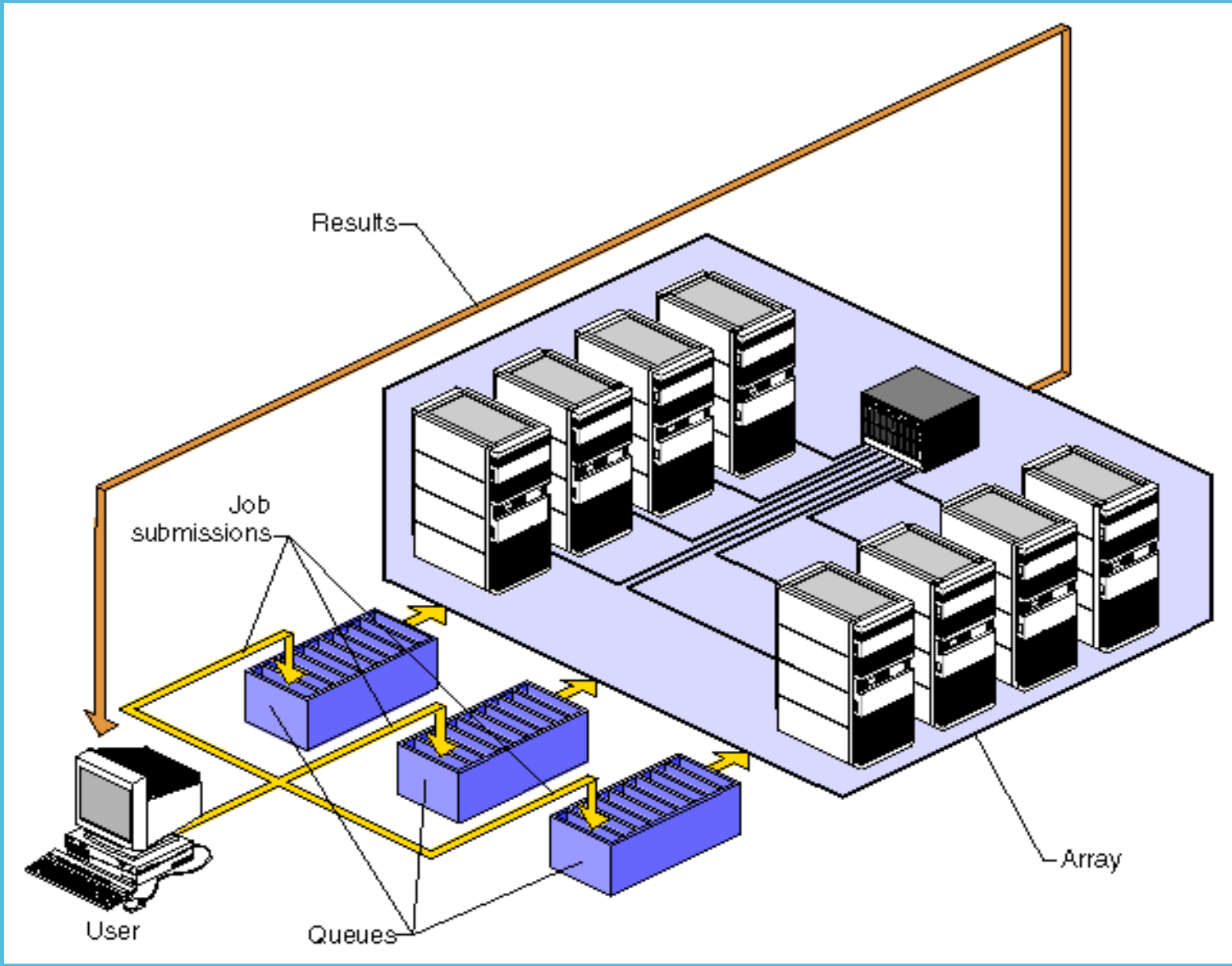
Queues

- If you have more jobs than it is possible to perform at same time you need to put them into ***queue, the batch system will get jobs from input queue in according another cluster node becomes free***.

Job queues

- Usually jobs enter into batch processing system in one of the possible input queues.
- It has to be rule how the concrete job is entered into concrete queue.
- Also it has to be the rule which input queue is more preferrable in concrete time.

Batch processing system functionality



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Examples of batch processing systems

- **PBS/Torque** (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portable_Batch_System, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TORQUE_Resource_Manager)
- **Condor** (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Condor_High-Throughput_Computing_System)
- **LSF** (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platform_LSF)
- **SGE** (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oracle_Grid_Engine)
- **SLURM** - https://computing.llnl.gov/linux/slurm/

Several API for batch processing

- Qsub – submit the job
- Qstat – get the jobs status
- Qdel – delete the job from any queue.

Message Passing Interface (MPI)

- **It is possible to use some library to create the program with parallel parts? YES, it is.**
  - http://www.open-mpi.org/
- **http://cluster.linux-ekb.info/mpi2b.php**

Cluster monitoring

- **Why the monitoring is required?**
  - Ganglia - http://ganglia.sourceforge.net/
  - Zabbix - http://www.zabbix.com/
  - Nagios - https://www.nagios.org/
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End of lecture