

Introduction

- Class is an introduction to parallel computing
 - topics include: hardware, applications, compilers, system software, and tools
- Will count for Masters/PhD Comp Credit
- Work required
 - small programming assignments (two)
 - midterm
 - classroom participation
 - project

What is Parallel Computing?

- Does it include:
 - super-scalar processing (more than one instruction at once)?
 - client/server computing?
 - what if RPC calls are non-blocking?
 - vector processing (same instruction to several values)?
 - collection of PC's **not** connected to a network?
- For this class, parallel computing requires:
 - more than one processing element
 - nodes connected to a communication network
 - nodes working together to solve a single problem

Why Parallelism

- Speed
 - need to get results faster than possible with sequential
 - a weather forecast that is late is useless
 - could come from
 - more processing elements (P.E.)
 - more memory (or cache)
 - more disks
- Cost: cheaper to buy many smaller machines
 - this is only recently true due to
 - VLSI
 - commodity parts

What Does a Parallel Computer Look Like?

- Hardware

- processors
- communication
- memory
- coordination

- Software

- programming model
- communication libraries
- operating system

Processing Elements (PE)

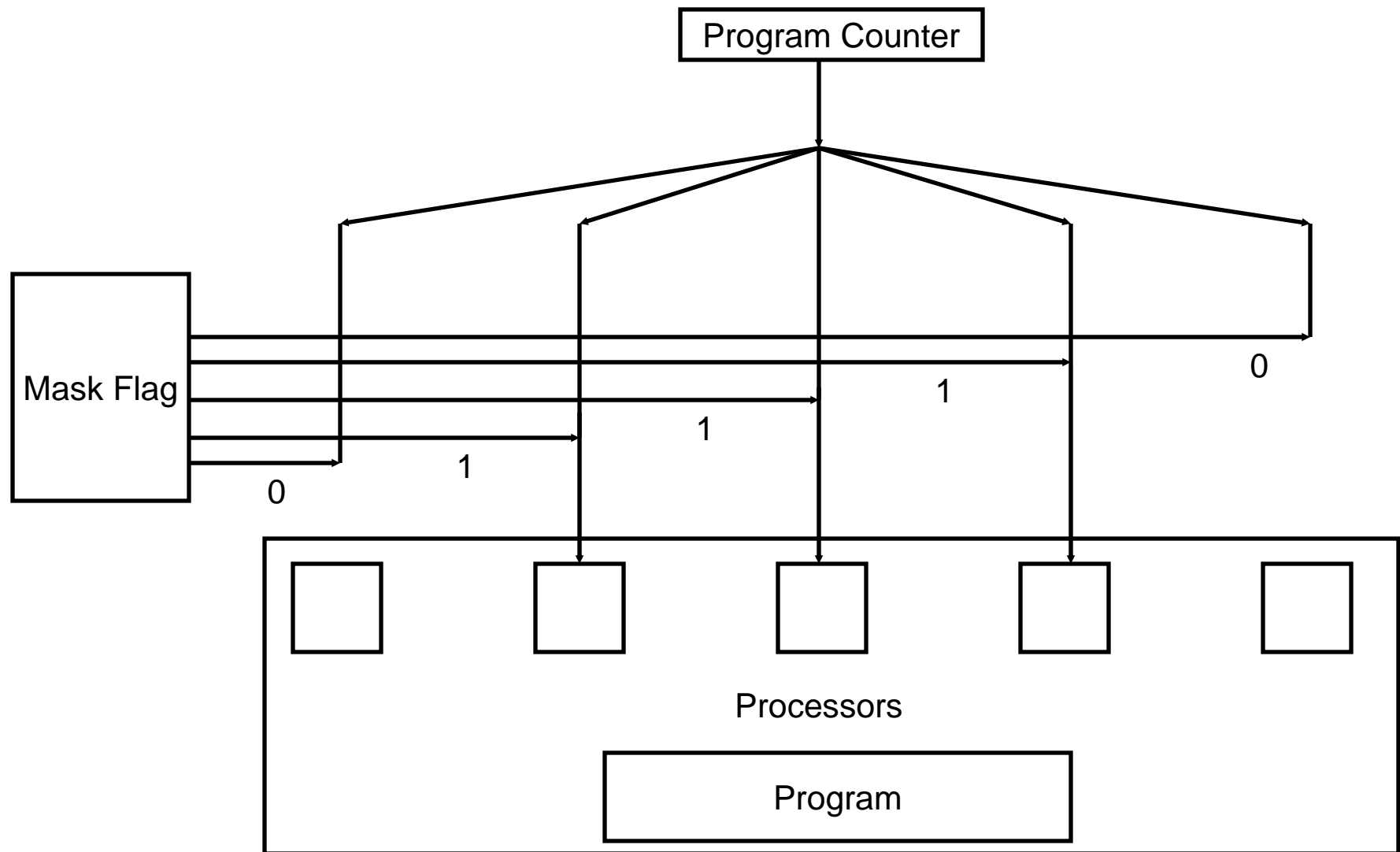
- Key Processor Choices

- How many?
- How powerful?
- Custom or off-the-shelf?

- Major Styles of Parallel Computing

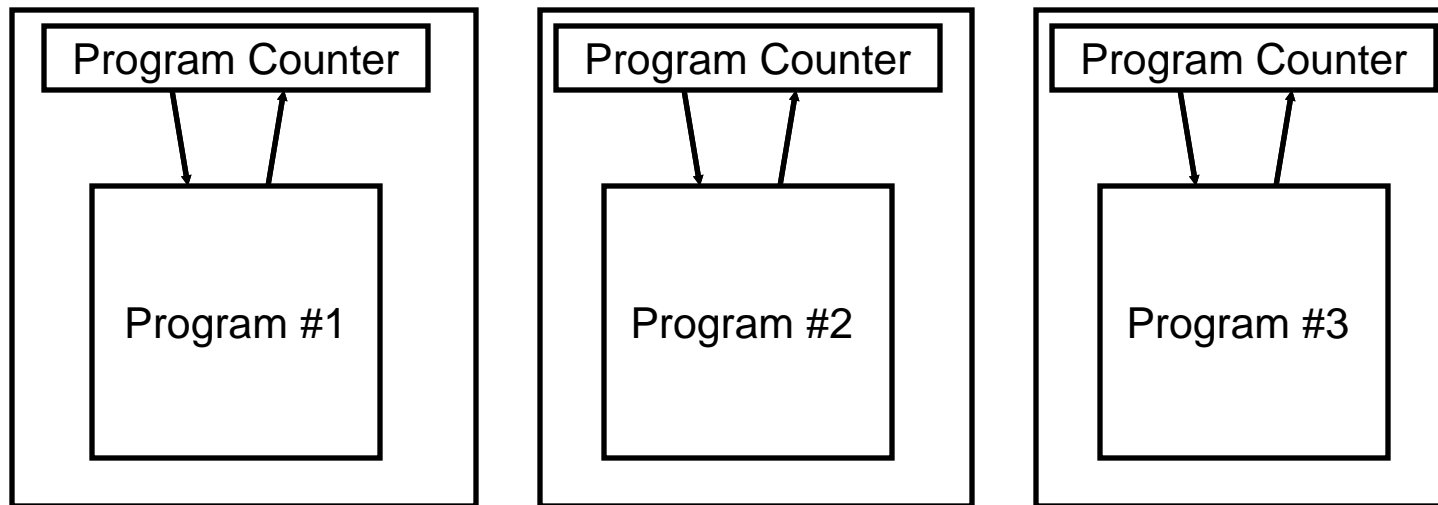
- SIMD - Single Instruction Multiple Data
 - one master program counter (PC)
- MIMD - Multiple Instruction Multiple Data
 - separate code for each processor
- SPMD - Single Program Multiple Data
 - same code on each processor, separate PC's on each
- Dataflow - instruction waits for operands
 - “automatically” finds parallelism

SIMD



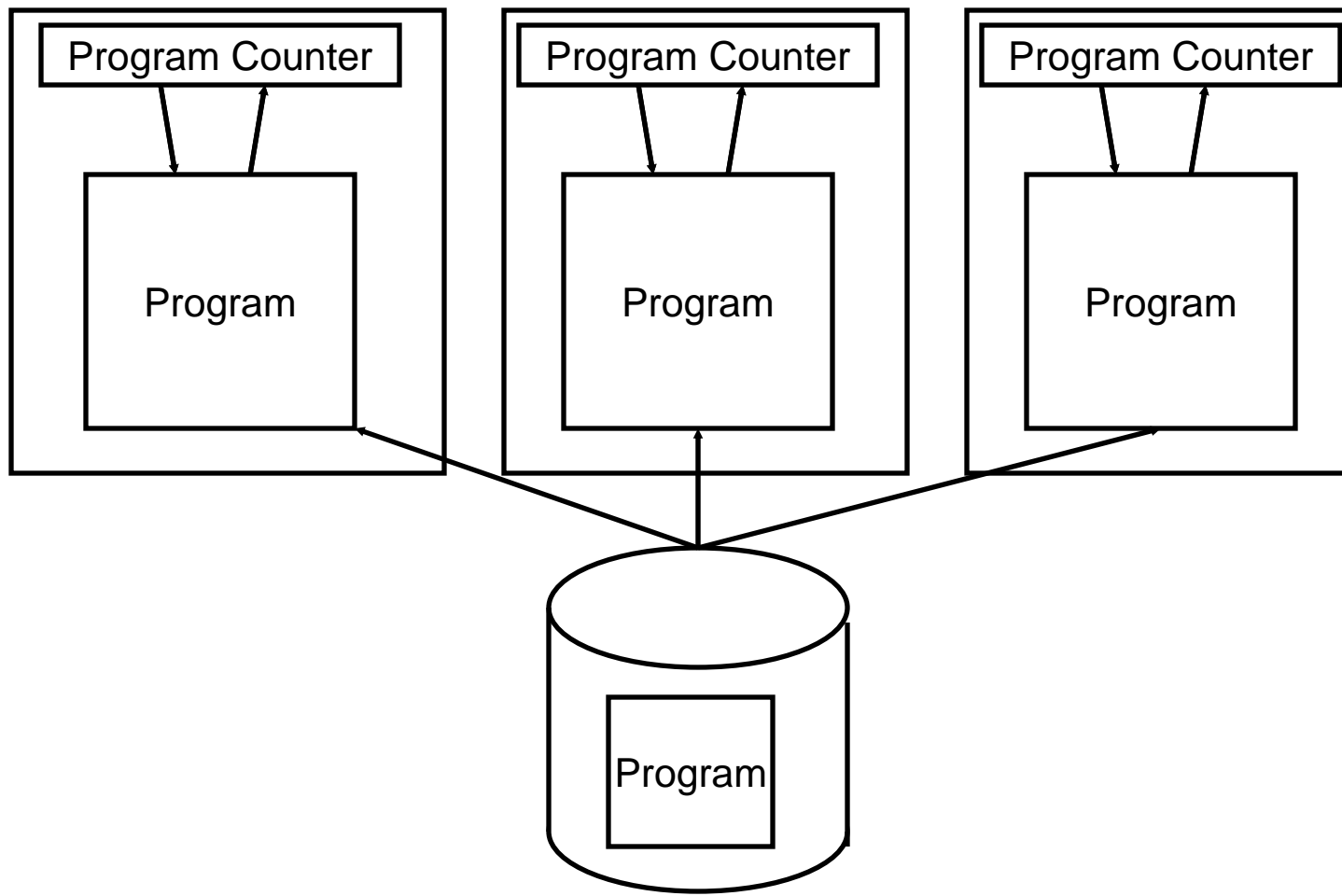
MIMD

Processors



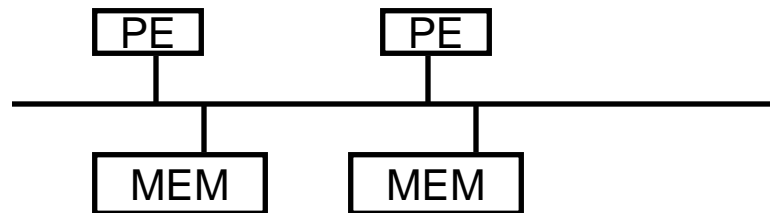
SPMD

Processors



Communication Networks

- Connect
 - PE's, memory, I/O
- Key Performance Issues
 - latency: time for first byte
 - throughput: average bytes/second
- Possible Topologies
 - bus - simple, but doesn't scale



- ring - orders delivery of messages

