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CSC 310

1) A torus interconnect is a switch-less network topology for connecting processing nodes in a parallel computer system. Torus interconnect is a switch-less topology that can be seen as a mesh interconnect with nodes arranged in a rectilinear array of $N = 2, 3$, or more dimensions, with processors connected to their nearest neighbors, and corresponding processors on opposite edges of the array connected. In this lattice, each node has $2N$ connections. This topology got the name from the fact that the lattice formed in this way is topologically homogeneous to an N -dimensional torus.

Advantages

- Higher speed, lower latency

Because of the connection of opposite edges, data have more options to travel from one node to another which greatly increased speed.

- Better fairness

In a 4×4 mesh interconnect, the longest distance between nodes is from upper left corner to lower right corner. Each datum takes 6 hops to travel the longest path. But in a 4×4 Torus interconnect, upper left corner can travel to lower right corner

with only 2 hops

- Lower energy consumption

Since data tend to travel fewer hops, the energy consumption tends to be lower.

Disadvantages

- Complexity of wiring

Extra wires can make the routing process in the physical design phase more difficult. If we want to lay out more wires on chip, it is likely that we need to increase the number of metal layers or decrease density on chip, which is more expensive. Otherwise, the wires that connect opposite edges can be much longer than other wires. This inequality of link lengths can cause problems because of RC delay.

- Cost

While long wrap-around links may be the easiest way to visualize the connection topology, in practice, restrictions on cable lengths often make long wrap-around links impractical. Instead, directly connected nodes—including nodes that the above visualization places on opposite edges of a grid, connected by a long wrap-around link—are physically placed nearly adjacent to each other in a folded torus network. Every link in the folded torus network is very short—almost as short as the nearest-neighbor links in a simple grid interconnect—and therefore low-latency.

2) Hypercube networks are a type of network topology used to connect multiple processors with memory modules and accurately route data. Hypercube networks consist of 2^m nodes.

These nodes form the vertices of squares to create an internetwork connection. A hypercube is basically a multidimensional mesh network with two nodes in each dimension. Due to similarity, such topologies are usually grouped into a k-ary d-dimensional mesh topology family where d represents the number of dimensions and k represents the number of nodes in each dimension.

Topology

Hypercube interconnection network is formed by connecting N nodes that can be expressed as a power of 2. This means if the network has n nodes it can be expressed as :

$$N=2^m$$

where m is the number of bits that are required to label the nodes in the network. So, if there are 4 nodes in the network, 2 bits are needed to represent all the nodes in the network. The network is constructed by connecting the nodes that just differ by one bit in their binary representation. This is commonly referred to as Binary labelling. A 3D hypercube internetwork would be a cube with 8 nodes and 12 edges. A 4D hypercube network can be created by duplicating two 3D networks, and adding a most significant bit. The new added bit should be '0' for one 3D hypercube and '1' for the other 3D hypercube. The corners of the respective one-bit changed MSBs are connected to create the higher hypercube network. This method can be used to construct any m-bit represented hypercube with (m-1)-bit represented hypercube.