Parallel Programming using OpenMP

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Computer Graphics

OpenMP Multithreaded Programming

- OpenMP stands for “Open Multi-Processing”
- OpenMP is a multi-vendor (see next page) standard to perform shared-memory multithreading
- OpenMP uses the fork-join model
- OpenMP is both directive- and library-based
- OpenMP threads share a single executable, global memory, and heap (malloc, new)
- Each OpenMP thread has its own stack (function arguments, function return address, local variables)
- Using OpenMP requires no dramatic code changes
- OpenMP probably gives you the biggest multithread benefit per amount of work you have to put in to using it

Much of your use of OpenMP will be accomplished by issuing C/C++ “pragmas” to tell the compiler how to build the threads into the executable

#pragma omp directive [clause]

Who is in the OpenMP Consortium?

What OpenMP Isn’t:

- OpenMP doesn’t check for data dependencies, data conflicts, deadlocks, or race conditions. You are responsible for avoiding those yourself
- OpenMP doesn’t check for non-conforming code sequences
- OpenMP doesn’t guarantee identical behavior across vendors or hardware, or even between multiple runs on the same vendor’s hardware
- OpenMP doesn’t guarantee the order in which threads execute, just that they do execute
- OpenMP is not overhead-free
- OpenMP does not prevent you from writing code that triggers cache performance problems (such as in false-sharing), in fact, it makes it really easy

We will get to “false sharing” in the cache notes

Memory Allocation in a Multithreaded Program

Don’t take this completely literally. The exact arrangement depends on the operating system and the compiler. For example, sometimes the stack and heap are arranged so that they grow towards each other.

Using OpenMP on Linux

g++ -o proj proj.cpp -lm -fopenmp

icpc -o proj proj.cpp -lm -openmp -align -qopt-report=3 -qopt-report-phase=vec

Using OpenMP in Microsoft Visual Studio

1. Go to the Project menu → Project Properties
2. Change the setting Configuration Properties → C/C++ → Language → OpenMP Support to “Yes (/openmp)”

Seeing if OpenMP is Supported on Your System

#ifndef _OPENMP
fprintf( stderr, “OpenMP is not supported – sorry!\n”);
exit( 0 );
#else
We will get to “false sharing” in the cache notes
#endif
A Potential OpenMP/Visual Studio Problem

If you are using Visual Studio 2019 and get a compile message that looks like this:

```
1>c1xx: error C2338: two-phase name lookup is not supported for C++/CLI, C++/CX, or OpenMP: use /Zc:twoPhase-
```

then do this:
1. Go to "Project Properties" → "C/C++" → "Command Line"
2. Add `/Zc:twoPhase-` in "Additional Options" in the bottom section
3. Press OK

No, I don’t know what this means either …

Numbers of OpenMP threads

How to specify how many OpenMP threads you want to have available:

```
omp_set_num_threads( num );
```

Asking how many cores this program has access to:

```
num = omp_get_num_procs( ) ; -- Actually returns the number of hyperthreads, not the number of physical cores
```

Setting the number of available threads to the exact number of cores available:

```
omp_set_num_threads( omp_get_num_procs( ) );
```

Asking how many OpenMP threads this program is using right now:

```
um = omp_get_num_threads( );
```

Asking which thread number this one is:

```
me = omp_get_thread_num( );
```

Creating an OpenMP Team of Threads

This creates a team of threads

```
#pragma omp parallel default(none)
{
 . . .
}
```

Think of it this way:

```
#pragma omp parallel default(none)
```

#include <stdio.h>
#include <omp.h>

```
int main( )
{
omp_set_num_threads( 8 );
#pragma omp parallel default(none)
for( int i = 0; i < arraySize; i++ )
{
 . . .
}
return 0;
}
```

Hint: run it several times in a row. What do you see? Why?

Uh-oh…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Run</th>
<th>Second Run</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #0</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #1</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #7</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #8</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #9</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #3</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #2</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Third Run</th>
<th>Fourth Run</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #2</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #5</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #6</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #4</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #1</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #3</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #0</td>
<td>Hello, World, from thread #0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is no guarantee of thread execution order!

Creating OpenMP threads in Loops

This tells the compiler to parallelize the for-loop into multiple threads. Each thread automatically gets its own personal copy of the variable `i` because it is defined within the for-loop body.

```
#pragma omp parallel for default(none)
for( int i = 0; i < arraySize; i++ )
{
 . . .
}
```

The `default(none)` directive forces you to explicitly declare all variables declared outside the parallel region to be either private or shared while they are in the parallel region. Variables declared within the for-loop are automatically private.
**OpenMP For-Loop Rules**

```c
#pragma omp parallel for default(none), shared(...), private(....)

for(int index = start; index terminate condition; index changed )
```

- The index must be an int or a pointer
- The start and terminate conditions must have compatible types
- Neither the start nor the terminate conditions can be changed during the execution of the loop
- The index can only be modified by the changed expression (i.e., not modified inside the loop itself)
- There can be no inter-loop data dependencies such as:

  ```c
  a[i] = a[i-1] + 1.;
  ```

  ```c
  a[i+1] = a[i] + 1.;    // what if this is the last of thread #0's work?
  ```

  ```c
  a[i] = a[i+1] + 1.; // what if this is the first of thread #1's work?
  ```

**OpenMP For-Loop Rules**

```c
#pragma omp parallel for index < end

index < = end ;
index >= end

index ++

index+= incr

index -= decr

index = index + incr

index = index - decr
```

**What to do about Variables Declared Before the for-loop Starts?**

- `private(x)` Means that each thread will get its own version of the variable
- `shared(x)` Means that all threads will share a common version of the variable
- `default(none)` I recommend that you include this in your OpenMP for-loop directive. This will force you to explicitly flag all of your externally-declared variables as shared or private. Don’t make a mistake by leaving it up to the default!

**Example:**

```c
#pragma omp parallel for default(none), private(x)
```

**OpenMP Allocation of Work to Threads**

**Static Threads**
- All work is allocated and assigned at runtime

**Dynamic Threads**
- The pool is statically assigned some of the work at runtime, but not all of it
- When a thread from the pool becomes idle, it gets a new assignment
- “Round-robin assignments”

**OpenMP Scheduling**
- `schedule(static [chunksize])`
- `schedule(dynamic [chunksize])`
- Defaults to static
- chunksize defaults to 1

**OpenMP Allocation of Work to Threads**

**Single Program Multiple Data (SPMD) in OpenMP**

```c
#define NUM 1000000
float A[NUM], B[NUM], C[NUM];
... 
total = omp_get_num_threads();
#pragma omp parallel default(none),private(me),shared(total)
{
    me = omp_get_thread_num();
    DoWork(me, total);
}
void DoWork(int me, int total)
{
    int first = NUM * me / total;
    int last = NUM * (me+1)/total - 1;
    for( int i = first; i <= last; i++ )
    {
        C[i] = A[i] * B[i];
    }
}
```
Arithmetic Operations Among Threads – A Problem

#pragma omp parallel for private(myPartialSum),shared(sum)
for( int i = 0; i < N; i++ )
{
    float myPartialSum = ...;
    sum = sum + myPartialSum;
}
• There is no guarantee when each thread will execute this line correctly.
• There is not even a guarantee that each thread will finish this line before some other thread interrupts it. (Remember that each line of code usually generates multiple lines of assembly.)
• This is non-deterministic!

Assembly code:

Load sum
Add myPartialSum
Store sum

What if the scheduler decides to switch threads right here?

Conclusion: Don’t do it this way!

Here’s a trapezoid integration example.

The partial sums are added up, as shown on the previous page. The integration was done 30 times. The answer is supposed to be exactly 2.

None of the 30 answers is even close. And, not only are the answers bad, they are not even consistently bad!

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Don’t do it this way! We’ll talk about how to do it correctly in the Trapezoid Integration noteset.

Synchronization

Mutual Exclusion Locks (Mutexes)
omp_init_lock( omp_lock_t * );
omp_set_lock(   omp_lock_t * );
omp_unset_lock( omp_lock_t * );
omp_test_lock(  omp_lock_t * );

(omp_lock_t is really an array of 4 unsigned chars)

Critical sections
#pragma omp critical
Restricts execution to one thread at a time

#pragma omp single
Restricts execution to a single thread ever

Barriers
#pragma omp barrier
Forces each thread to wait here until all threads arrive

Synchronization Examples

omp_lock_t Sync;
...
omp_init_lock( &Sync );
...
omp_set_lock( &Sync );

<< code that needs the mutual exclusion >>
omp_unset_lock( &Sync );
...

while(  omp_test_lock( &Sync ) == 0  )
{
    DoSomeUsefulWork( );
}

Single-thread-execution Synchronization

#pragma omp single
Restricts execution to a single thread ever. This is used when an operation only makes sense for one thread to do. Reading data from a file is a good example.
Creating Sections of OpenMP Code

Sections are independent blocks of code, able to be assigned to separate threads if they are available.

```c
#pragma omp parallel sections
{
    #pragma omp section
    {
        Task 1
    }
    #pragma omp section
    {
        Task 2
    }
}
```

(Note: there is an implied barrier after parallel loops and OpenMP sections, unless the nowait clause is used.)

What do OpenMP Sections do for You?
They decrease your overall execution time.

```c
omp_set_num_threads(1);
omp_set_num_threads(2);
omp_set_num_threads(3);
#pragma omp parallel sections
{
    #pragma omp section
    {
        Watcher();
    }
    #pragma omp section
    {
        Animals();
    }
    #pragma omp section
    {
        Plants();
    }
}   // implied barrier -- all functions must return to get past here
```

A Functional Decomposition example of using Sections