

Assignment 1

Introduction to Parallel Programming

due **Monday 18 September 2017, 18:00** (hard deadline)

Instructions

Although it is allowed to work alone, we suggest that you try to find another student to work together and register in a group for Assignment 1 in Studentportalen. (You will be allowed to change groups, if you want, in the next assignments.) In case of trouble, please contact Stephan (stephan.brandauer@it.uu.se).

Submission checklist:

- Submissions must clearly show your name(s).
- Submit a **single** PDF report, as well as all source code related to the exercises in Studentportalen.
- Solutions must be in C++11.
- Use appropriate synchronization mechanisms from the C++ standard library <http://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/thread>. Do **not** rely on `semaphore.h`, `sem_t`, etc.
- All source code must compile and run on the Linux lab machines.
- **Provide instructions for compilation and running.**
- No source code modifications must be required for reproducing your results.
- Your report must describe the theoretical concepts used as well as all relevant details of your solution.

In case you do not reach a working solution, describe your partial solution, the main challenges you did not manage to overcome, and proposals to address them. Please keep your answers short and concise, but clear and complete.

Exercise 0: “Hello, World!” in C++ (0 points; no need to submit)

a) Write a simple “Hello, World!” program (i.e., a program that simply prints “Hello, World!”) on the console in C++. If you’re new to C++, you can find many good tutorials on the web: for instance, one of them is <http://www.cplusplus.com/doc/tutorial/>.

b) Use g++ to compile your program. Run the resulting executable.

Exercise 1: Concurrency and Non-Determinism (1 point)

Download this program: <http://user.it.uu.se/~tjawe125/lacpp/non-determinism.cpp>.

The program creates a number of independent threads. Each thread simply prints that it is running, and then prints that it is terminating.

Compile the program with: `g++ -std=c++11 -Wall -pthread non-determinism.cpp -o non-determinism`
Run the program several times. Discuss and explain the observed output. Are there other possible outputs that you did not (yet) observe?

Exercise 2: Shared-Memory Concurrency (1 point)

Download this program: <http://user.it.uu.se/~tjawe125/lacpp/shared-variable.cpp>.

The program creates three threads that operate on a shared integer variable.

- The first thread repeatedly increments the variable by 1.
- The second thread repeatedly decrements the variable by 1.
- The third thread repeatedly prints the value of the variable.

All threads terminate after approximately 1 second.

Compile the program using `g++` and run it several times. Discuss and explain the observed output.

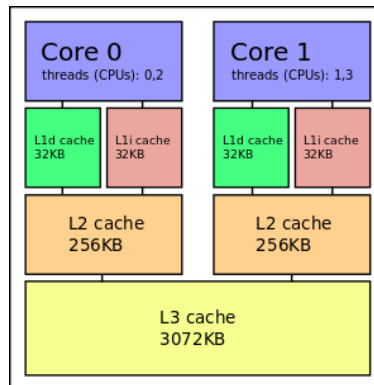
Exercise 3: Race Conditions vs. Data Races (2 points)

Study the source code of `non-determinism.cpp` and `shared-variable.cpp`. Does either program contain a race condition? Does either program contain a data race? Justify your answers.

Exercise 4: Multicore Architectures (2 points)

a) Use the `lscpu` command to obtain some information on the CPU architecture of your lab machine. How many (logical) CPUs does your machine have? How many (physical) processors (i.e., sockets) and processor cores? How many hardware threads are running on each core?

b) The diagram below shows the CPU architecture and cache layout of an Intel I5-450M processor. Use the information gained from `lscpu` and `lscpu -p` to draw (either by hand or with a drawing program) a similar diagram for your lab machine.



(Image source: <http://diego.assencio.com/images/linux/cache-hierarchy-intel-i5-m450.png>)

Exercise 5: Performance Measurements (2 points)

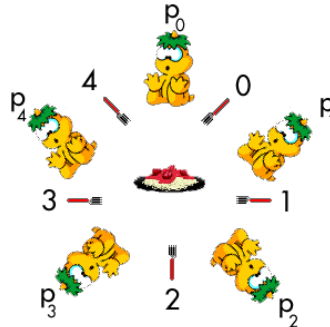
Download this program: <http://user.it.uu.se/~tjawe125/lacpp/performance.cpp> and compile it with `g++`. The program allocates and initializes an array of N MB. It then creates T independent threads (where T and N are given as the command-line arguments). Each thread performs some work on a separate part of the array, of size (approximately) N/T megabytes. When all threads are finished, the array is deallocated.

a) Run the program for *each combination* of $T \in 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32$ and $N \in 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32$. (You can either do this manually or write a simple script to automate it.) Note the reported run times.

- b) Visualize your measurements in a chart (graph), e.g., in a line chart or three-dimensional graph. (You are encouraged to use suitable software, such as LibreOffice Calc, to produce the chart.)
- c) Discuss and attempt to explain your measurements.

Exercise 6: Dining Philosophers (2 points)

Once upon a time, some philosophers were sitting around a table. On the table was a big bowl of spaghetti, and between each pair of adjacent philosophers was a fork.



(Image source: <http://cs.stanford.edu/people/eroberts/courses/soco/projects/1998-99/randomized-algorithms/examples/distributed.html>)

The philosophers spent most of their time thinking. But every so often, one of them would get hungry. To eat some spaghetti, a philosopher needs to pick up *both* the fork to her left and the fork to her right. After eating, she puts both forks down again, so that they may be used by her neighbors.

Download this program: <http://user.it.uu.se/~tjawe125/lacpp/dining.cpp> and compile it with g++. The program simulates N dining philosophers (where N is given as a command-line argument). Each philosopher behaves as follows:

1. think until the left fork is available, pick it up;
2. wait until the right fork is available, pick it up;
3. when both forks are held, eat for a fixed amount of time;
4. then, put the right fork down;
5. then, put the left fork down;
6. repeat from step 1.

a) Run the program several times for different values of N ($2 \leq N \leq 10$). What output do you observe? (You can use Ctrl+C to interrupt the program.) Discuss and explain (as far as you can) the observed output.

b) Devise and implement a solution to the dining philosophers that does not suffer from the problem(s) you observed in part a).

For further information about this problem and some pointers, read the Wikipedia page on the dining philosophers: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dining_philosophers_problem.

Good luck!