POSIX Threads programming (pthread)

Concurrent Programming

Introduction

- What is Pthread?
- Pthread API
- Example

What is Pthread?

- Pthreads is a POSIX standard for describing a thread model, it specifies the API and the semantics of the calls.
- Model popular – nowadays practically all major thread libraries on Unix systems are Pthreads-compatible
- Pthreads defines a set of C programming language types, functions and constants.

Pthread API

- pthread_create
- pthread_join
- pthread_exit
- pthread_self
- more APIs, but not today

Pthread API – pthread_create

```
int pthread_create(pthread_t *thread,
                   const pthread_attr_t *attr,
                   void *(*start_routine)(void *),
                   void *arg);
```

- Create a new thread

```
@param[out] thread         ID of a new thread
@param[in]  attr           Used for setting attributes of a new thread.(e.g.,Stack size). Default 0
@param[in]  start_routine  Function to be executed by the new thread
@param[in]  arg            Argument to be passed to the start_routine
@return                    0 if thread creation succeeds
```

Pthread API – pthread_join

```
int pthread_join(pthread_t thread,
                 void **ret_val);
```

- Wait for the termination of a specific thread. Return immediately if thread has already ended.

```
@param [in]  thread       Thread ID to wait for terminate
@param [out] ret_val      Return value of terminated thread
@return                   0 if thread join succeeds
```

Pthread API – pthread_exit

```
void pthread_exit(void *ret_val);
```

- Exit the calling thread. *return* of the thread function is the implicit call of pthread_exit.

```
@param [in]  ret_val      Return value of the thread.
                          Parent thread can collect this with pthread_join.
```

Pthread API – pthread_self

```
pthread_t pthread_self(void);
```

- Return the thread ID of calling thread.

```
@return                 Thread ID of the calling thread
```

Example

< prac_pthread.cpp >

```cpp
#include <stdio.h>
#include <pthread.h>

#define NUM_THREADS     10
#define NUM_INCREMENT   1000000

long cnt_global = 0;

void* thread_func(void* arg) {
    long cnt_local = 0;

    for (int i = 0; i < NUM_INCREMENT; i++) {
        cnt_global++;   // increase global value
        cnt_local++;    // increase local value
    }

    return (void*)cnt_local;
}
```

Example (continue..)

```
20 int main(void) {
21     pthread_t threads[NUM_THREADS];
22
23     // create threads
24     for (int i = 0; i < NUM_THREADS; i++) {
25         if (pthread_create(&threads[i], 0, thread_func, NULL) < 0) {
26             printf("error: pthread_create failed!\n");
27             return 0;
28         }
29     }
30
31     // wait the threads end
32     long ret;
33     for (int i = 0; i < NUM_THREADS; i++) {
34         pthread_join(threads[i], (void**)&ret);
35         printf("thread %ld: local count -> %ld\n", threads[i], ret);
36     }
37     printf("global count -> %ld\n", cnt_global);
38
39     return 0;
40 }
```

Example (continue..)

< Result >

```
jongbin@multicore-96:~/TA/Multicore$ g++ prac_pthread.cpp -o prac_pthread -lpthread
jongbin@multicore-96:~/TA/Multicore$ ./prac_pthread
thread 140003858446080: local count -> 1000000
thread 140003841668864: local count -> 1000000
thread 140003833276160: local count -> 1000000
thread 140003824883456: local count -> 1000000
thread 140003816490752: local count -> 1000000
thread 140003808098048: local count -> 1000000
thread 140003799705344: local count -> 1000000
thread 140003791312640: local count -> 1000000
thread 140003782919936: local count -> 1000000
thread 140003774527232: local count -> 1000000
global count -> 1401495
```

Example (continue..)

< assembly instructions for *cnt_global++* in C code >

```
$ g++ -S prac_pthread.cpp
```

```
23 .L3:
24     cmpl    $999999, -12(%rbp)
25     jg  .L2
26     movq    cnt_global(%rip), %rax
27     addq    $1, %rax
28     movq    %rax, cnt_global(%rip)
29     addq    $1, -8(%rbp)
30     addl    $1, -12(%rbp)
31     jmp .L3
32 .L2:
33     movq    -8(%rbp), %rax
```

Thank You