Advanced Multiprocessor Programming
Vorbesprechung

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The takeaway

Lectures:
Mondays, 13:00 (c.t)-15:00, EI 5 "Hohenegg".

Exercises:
Two batches, exercises from the book(s), hand-in 24.4 and 8.5

Exercise Presentations, projects and progress presentation:
Thursdays, after Easter, 11:00 (c.t) – 13:00

Project hand-in 19.6, NO EXTENSION. Machine account 27.3.
Exam: 26.6 to 30.6. Sign up in TISS (May)

Further information, all material: TUWEL (and TISS)

Team

- Jesper Larsson Träff: Lectures, everything
- Thomas Schlögl, Stephan Felber: Exercises, Projects, Exam

- Markus Hinkel: Technical support

The facts and the problems

Modern multi-core processors (2, 4, …, 80 cores + multi/hyper-threading)

- do not really correspond to standard theoretical models (PRAM)
- are very, very difficult to program effectively and efficiently: Performance and correctness

This course:

- Advanced programming techniques in theory (the possible and the impossible) and practice for modern multi-core processors (not GPUs):
- How to implement traditional constructs like locks and barriers efficiently
- How to program without locks and barriers: Data structures and algorithms

Formalities

VU (Lecture-Exercises-Project)

4.5 ECTS (=112.5 hours of work)

Breakdown:

- Lecture 1.5 ECTS
- Exercises 1.0 ECTS
- Programming Project: 2.0 ECTS

Participation MANDATORY, credit given based on Participation, Blackboard Exercises, Programming Project, and Exam

Detailed break-down

- Planning, intro ("Vorbesprechung"): 2h
- Lectures: 15 x 2h = 30h
- Preparation: 15 x 2.5h = 22.5h
- Project/Exercises: 50h
- Exam, including preparation: 8h

Total: 112.5h = 4.5 ECTS

Lecture:

Monday, 13:00 – 15:00, EI 5, "Hohenegg"
Thursdays (from 27.4), 11:00 – 13:00, EI 5, "Hohenegg"

"Sprechstunde" Jesper Larsson Träff, Thomas Schlögl, Stephan Felber: by appointment

Email: traff@par. …, Thomas.e191-02.schloegl@ …
stephan.felber@ …

Sign-up required (deadline 31.3, in TISS)

Sign-out if you don't follow the lecture (before 24. April)

- Theory exercises should be done individually (discussions encouraged…)
- Project in groups of ≤2 members

Now: ≤3

- Get machine account via TUWEL: 27.3 (will be enabled soon, TUWEL exercise to upload 4K public ssh key)

Topics, Goals

Basic understanding of principles and practice of thread-based shared-memory multiprocessor parallel programming

Principles/theory:

- Synchronization and coordination mechanisms
- Scope and limitations
- Correctness: safety and liveness

C/C++, threads, OpenMP, CilkPlus, …

Practice:

- Implementation of basic synchronization mechanisms
- Fundamental (lock- and wait-free) data structures
- Memory models

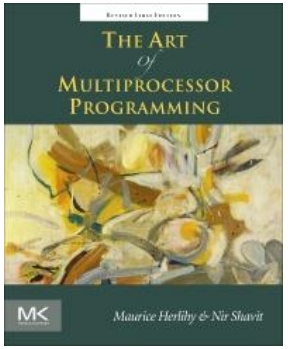
Supporting higher-level shared memory programming models:

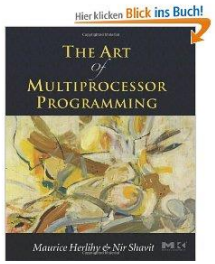
- Task parallel models by work-stealing
- (Transactional memory)

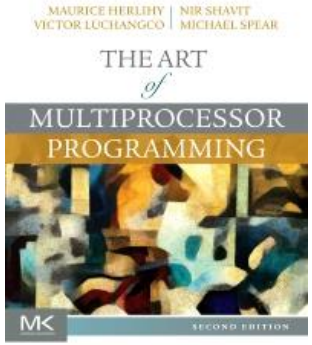
Literature/Material

Book:

Maurice Herlihy (Brown), Nir Shavit (Tel Aviv):
The Art of Multiprocessor Programming. Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, 2008, revised 1st edition, 2012, second edition, 2021 (now with Victor Luchangco and Michael Spear)







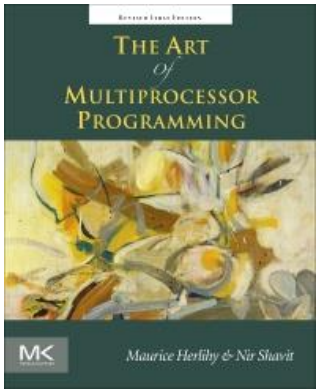
Recommended: buy it!

…despite Elsevier

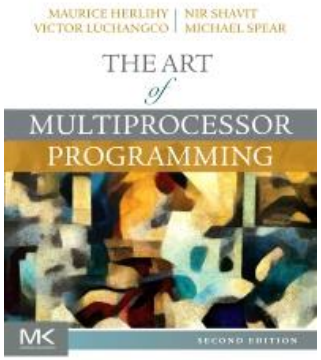
Lecture slides, additional papers… all on TUWEL)

Approx. Coverage

Chapters 1-5 (6), Chapters 7, 9, 10, 11, (12?), 13-16, (17?)
Work-stealing and memory models from other sources

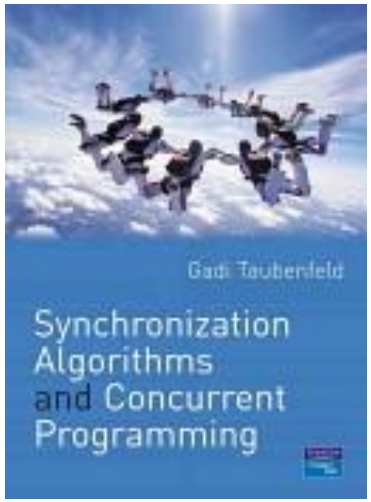


Prerequisites:
- "Introduction to Parallel Computing"
- Algorithms and data structures
- C/C++ (or Java) programming



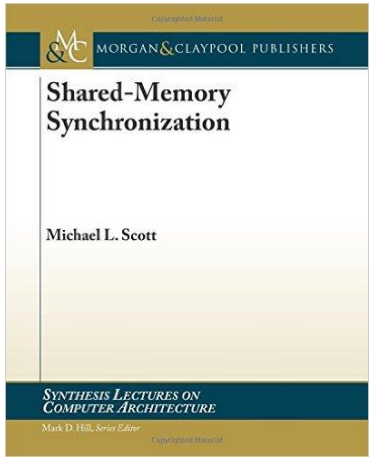
Possible follow-up:
- Parallel Algorithms (PRAM, Scheduling)
- HPC
- Distributed Algorithms (Ulrich Schmid)
- Seminars, Project, Master's thesis

Michel Raynal:
Concurrent programming: Algorithms, Principles, and Foundations. Springer, 2013

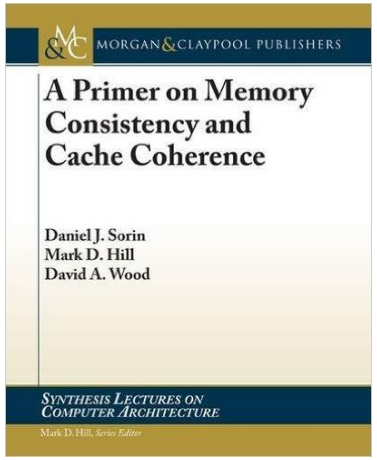


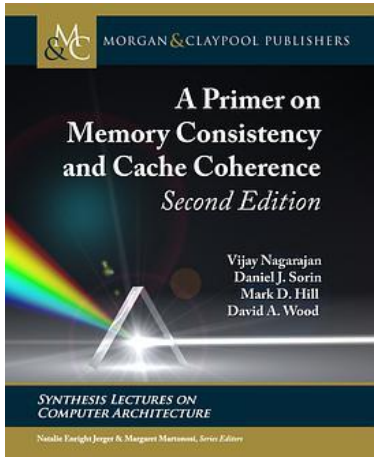
Gadi Taubenfeld:
Synchronization Algorithms and Concurrent Programming.
Pearson/Prentice Hall 2006

Synthesis lectures on computer architecture. Morgan&Claypool



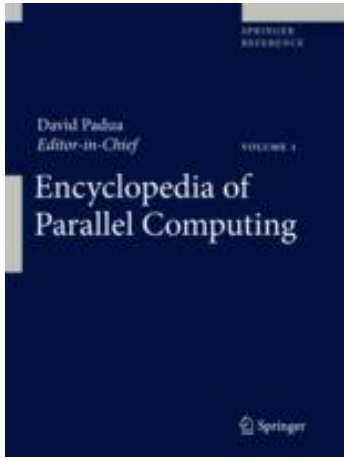
Michael L. Scott: Shared-Memory Synchronization, 2013

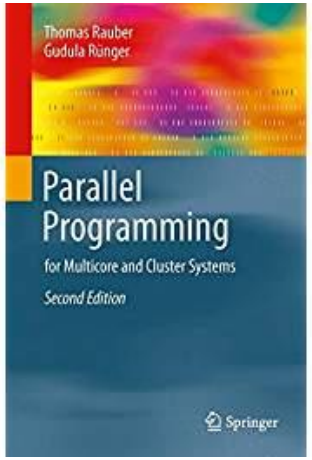




Daniel J. Sorin, Mark. D. Hill, David A. Wood: A Primer on Memory Consistency and Cache Coherence, 2011, second edition 2020

Parallel computing background (also wikipedia.org)





Exercises/Project

"Theoretical" exercises from book, hand-in and discussion/presentation on blackboard

Two slots

Small programming project:
Implementation and benchmarking (comparison) of lock-free data structure(s) and other material from the lectures

Implementation in C++ threads or C with (p)threads, OpenMP, possibly with CilkPlus (or other C-based framework)

Latex template will be available. Follow instructions on how/what to hand in

Exercises: 2 batches, hand-in

- 27.3 -> 24.4 (Monday):
- 24.4 -> 8.5 (Monday):

Mandatory to pass course (and at least 50% correct)

Project is done in groups of ≤2 (since 10.3: ≤3)

Project:

- 17.4 (Monday): Project topic presentation (by me)
- 24.4 (Monday): Project commit (by you)
- Ca. 1.6: Project status presentation (by you: each group gives a 5-10 minute overview of what it is doing)
- 19.6: Project hand-in (fixed deadline, no extension)

EXAM: From late June (26.6-30.6)

Start early on the project!

System

Possible to start developing on own PC/laptop (no lab access)

Benchmarking/testing: Nebula, new shared-memory node at TUWien

- 2 AMD EPYC 7351P 32-core processors, 2-way hyperthreading, 1.2GHz, total 64 cores, 256G main memory
- Possibly ARM system (Medusa)

Start early on the project!

More later… (get account via TUWEL on 27.3)

Grading/participation

- Attending lectures and exercises (MANDATORY)
- Active participation
- Solving the exercises, presentation on the blackboard (theoretical exercises, hand-in of practical programming exercise, MANDATORY)
- Examination based on project but can cover whole material
- NO ChatGPT

NOTE:
- You only learn by doing exercises and project by yourself.
- Copying/plagiarism will result in grade 5
- Discussion with other groups encouraged, but hand in your own solution

Don't forget: EVALUATE THE COURSE by end of semester (TISS)

Project hand-in:

- Short description of problem, your solution
- Some argument for correctness, testing procedure…
- The required tests/benchmark comparisons (plots, tables)

Both correctness and performance are important!

Grade weighting: ¼ for exercises, ½ for project, ¼ for exam

Start early on the project!

Solving in group:

- Active collaboration, "2*100%", NOT "2*50%"
- Both members get same grade (unless blatantly different)
- Both members must understand all aspects of solutions

Project hand-in:

- Short description of problem, your solution
- Some argument for correctness, testing procedure…
- The required tests/benchmark comparisons (plots, tables)

Both correctness and performance are important!

If done in group, only one hand-in counts (the worst…); groups can hand in two solutions, that should then be identical, or just one (more risky…)

Follow instructions, hand-in via TUWEL

Exam

Oral examination based on project, but can cover whole lecture

Ca. ½ hour

Now: Might be written exam instead

Sign-up in TISS later (group exam or individual to be decided)

If you are signed up for the exam, but do not show up without (or extremely late) notice, grade is 5

Detailed lecture plan (subject to change), Mondays

6.3: "Vorbesprechung". Intro. Mutual Exclusion problem
13.3: Constructions of atomic registers, register snapshot
20.3: Relative power of synchronization operations, correctness conditions
27.3: Relative power of synchronization operations, universality
17.4: Projects (description). Relative power of synchronization operations. Wrap-up.
24.4: Practical lock implementations
(27.4, Thursday, TBA)
8.5: Data structures (I): List-based set
15.5: Data structures (II): Queues and stacks
22.5: Memory consistency models, memory reclamation
5.6: Data structures (III): Skiplist, priority queues
12.6: Data structures (IV): Hash tables
19.6: Barrier synchronization, work-stealing theory (TBA)

Easter: 3.4-14.4
Whitsun: 29.5

1st of May 1.5

Detailed exercise plan (subject to change), Thursdays

27.3 to 24.4 (Monday): Exercise 1, hand-in
24.4 to 8.5 (Monday): Exercise 2, hand-in

4.5 (Thursday): Exercise feedback 1
11.5 (Thursday): Exercise feedback 2

17.4: Project topic presentation
25.5: Project Q&A
1.6: Project presentations, state-of-the-art… (by you)
15.6: Project Q&A

Follow-up

- Projects (6.0+6.0 ECTS)
- Seminar in WS23
- Parallel Algorithms (WS23: VU, 3.0 ECTS)
- High Performance Computing (WS23: VU, 4.5 ECTS)
- Master's Thesis (30.0 ECTS)