

National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences



Laboratory Manual
for
Operating Systems Lab
(CL-220)

Course Instructor	Ms. Namra Absar
Lab Instructor(s)	Rasaal Ahmad
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Department of Computer Science
FAST-NU, Lahore, Pakistan

Objectives

- To understand and learn about threads and their implementation in programs

BACKGROUND

Threads:

`pthread_create(pthread_t* , NULL, void* , void*)`

- ☐ The first Parameter is a pointer of thread ID it should be different for all threads.
- ☐ The second Parameter is used to change the stack size of the thread. Null means use the default size.
- ☐ The third parameter is the address of function which we are going to use as thread.
- ☐ Forth parameter is an argument to function.
`pthread_join(i pthread_t , void**)`
Pthread join is used in the main program to wait for the end of a particular thread.
- ☐ The first parameter is the Thread ID of a particular thread.
- ☐ The second Parameter is used to catch the return value from the thread.

Thread Library:

- ☐ POSIX Pthreads
- ☐ Two general strategies for creating multiple threads.
 - a) Asynchronous threading:
 - a. Parent and child threads run independently of each other
 - b. Typically little data sharing between threads
 - b) Synchronous threading:
 - a. Parent thread waits for all of its children to terminate
 - b. Children threads run concurrently
 - c. Significant data sharing

Pthreads

- ☐ **pthread.h**
 - ☐ Each thread has a set of attributes, including stack size and scheduling information · In a Pthreads program, separate threads begin execution in a specified function //runner()
 - ☐ When a program begins
 - A single thread of control begins in the main()
 - main() creates a second thread that begins control in the runner() function
 - Both threads share the global data
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Example:

Design a multi-threaded program that performs the summation of a non-negative integer in a separate thread using the summation function:

For example, if N were 5, this function would represent the summation of integers from 0 to 5, which is 15.

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

int sum; // this data is shared by the thread(s)
// The thread will begin control in this function
void *runner(void *parameters)
{
    int i, upper = atoi(parameters);
    if (upper > 0)
    {
        for (i = 1; i <= upper; i++)
            sum = sum + i;
    }
    pthread_exit(0);
} // End runner

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    // thread identifier
    pthread_t threadID;
    // set attributes for the thread
    pthread_attr_t attributes;
    // get the default attributes
    pthread_attr_init(&attributes);
    // create the thread
    pthread_create(&threadID, &attributes, runner,
```

```
        argv[1]);  
  
    // now wait for the thread to exit  
    pthread_join(threadID, NULL);  
    printf("sum=%d\n", sum);  
}
```

Lab Questions

Question 1:

Write a program that takes some positive integers (let's say **N** number of positive integers) as command line parameters, creates **N** synchronous threads, and sends the corresponding integer as a parameter to the thread function `fibonacciGenerator`. The function returns the generated series to the main thread. The main thread will then print the thread number and the series generated by that thread. The output will be like:

Thread 1: 0 1 1 2 3 5 8 13

Example:

If you pass as command line argument the following numbers: 3 13 34 89

Then the program will create 4 threads. The first thread will find Fibonacci terms until 3 is generated, the second Fibonacci term will find Fibonacci terms until the term generated is 13 so on and so forth. All generated terms will be output on the screen by the main thread as follows:

Thread 0: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3

Thread 1: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13

Thread 2: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34

Thread 3: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89

It is possible that the number passed to the thread is not a Fibonacci number. In this case, the thread will generate numbers until the term generated is greater than the passed number. For example, if 7 is passed as a parameter to a thread, then the thread will return the following series:

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8

Question 2:

Write a multithreaded program that calculates various statistical values for a list of numbers. This program will pass a series of numbers on the command line and will then create three separate worker threads. One thread will determine the average of the numbers, the second will determine the maximum value, and the third will determine the minimum value. For example, suppose your program has passed the integers. (The array of numbers must be passed as a parameter to threads, and the thread must return the calculated value to the main thread).

90 81 78 95 79 72 85

The main thread will print:

The average value is 82