MIR: Installation and Usage

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1 Introduction

MIR is a task-based runtime system library. MIR is written using C99 and scales well for medium-grained task-based programs. MIR provides a direct interface for writing task-based programs. A subset of OpenMP 3.0 tasks is also supported. MIR is flexible - the user can experiment with different scheduling policies. Locality-aware scheduling and data distribution support for NUMA systems is also present. MIR supports extensive performance analysis and profiling features. Users can quickly solve performance problems using detailed thread-based and task-based performance information provided by MIR.

2 Requirements

Building MIR as a basic task-based runtime system requires:

- Machine with x86 architecture
- Linux kernel later than January 2012
- GCC and Binutils
- Scons - a build system

2.1 Optional requirements

Extended features of MIR such as profiling and locality-aware scheduling require these additional software:

- libnuma - for data-distribution and locality-aware scheduling on NUMA systems

- PAPI - for reading hardware performance counters during thread-based profiling
- Paraver - for visualizing thread execution traces
- Python 2.X and 3.X - for executing profiling scripts
- Intel Pin sources - for profiling instructions executed by tasks during task-based profiling
- R - for executing profiling scripts
- These R packages:
  - igraph - for task graph processing
  - RColorBrewer - for colors
  - gdata, plyr - for data structure transformations
- Graphviz - for task graph plotting

3 Directory Structure

The MIR source repository is structured as shown below. Directories are shown using /. Nesting is shown using indentation and +.

/ src - Core source files

  +/ arch - Architecture-based source files

  +/ scheduling - Scheduling policy source files

/ scripts - Various profiling and testing scripts

  +/ task-graph - Scripts for task-based profiling

/ test - programs for testing

  +/ omp - OpenMP programs

  +/ bots - BOTS programs written using MIR programming interface

  +/ with-data-footprint - Programs where tasks have explicit data footprint

4 Building

Building the basic MIR library is simple. Follow below steps:

1. Set MIR_ROOT environment variable to the MIR source repository path

```
$ export MIR_ROOT=<<MIR source repository path>>
```

2. Ensure MIR_ROOT/src/SConstruct matches your build intention
3. Build

```
$ cd $MIR_ROOT/src
$ scons
```

4.1 Data-distribution and locality-aware scheduling on NUMA systems

Follow below steps to enable support for NUMA systems.

1. Install libnuma and numactl
2. Create an empty file called HAVE_LIBNUMA

```
$ touch $MIR_ROOT/src/HAVE_LIBNUMA
```

3. Clean and rebuild MIR

```
$ cd $MIR_ROOT/src
$ scons −c
$ scons
```

5 Task-based Programming Interface

MIR provides a direct task-based programming interface and supports a subset of OpenMP 3.0 tasks.

5.1 Direct task-based programming interface

MIR provides a basic interface for task-based programming. Look at mir_public_int.h in MIR_ROOT/src for interface details and programs in MIR_ROOT/test for interface usage details. A simple example program is shown below.

```
#include "mir_public_int.h"

void foo(int id)
{
    printf(stderr, "Hello from task %d\n", id);
}

struct foo_wrapper_arg_t
{
    int id;
};

void foo_wrapper(void* arg)
{
    struct foo_wrapper_arg_t* farg = (struct foo_wrapper_arg_t*)(arg);
    foo(farg->id);
}

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    // Initialize the runtime system
    mir_create();

    // Create as many tasks as there are threads
    int num_workers = mir_get_num_threads();
    for(int i=0; i<num_workers; i++)
    {
            struct foo_wrapper_arg_t arg;
            arg.id = i;
            mir_task_create((mir_tfunc_t) foo_wrapper, &arg, sizeof(struct
      foo_wrapper_arg_t), 0, NULL, NULL);
    }

    // Wait for tasks to finish
    mir_task_wait();

    // Release runtime system resources
    mir_destroy();

    return 0;
}
```

5.2 OpenMP 3.0 task-based programming subset

MIR also supports a subset of OpenMP 3.0 tasks. Only the `task` and `taskwait` constructs are supported. These constructs are sufficient for writing most task based programs. Note that the constructs are supported by intercepting GCC translated calls to GNU libgomp interfaces. Therefore OpenMP 3.0 task support is restricted to programs compiled using GCC.

The parallel construct is deprecated. MIR creates a team of threads during initialization - when mir_create is called. Threads are released when mir_destroy is called.

Tips to write OpenMP 3.0 task programs supported by MIR:

- Initialize and release the runtime system explicitly by calling mir_create and mir_destroy.
- Do not think in terms of threads. Think in terms of tasks.
- Do not use the parallel construct to share work.
- Do not use barriers to synchronize threads.
- Use the task construct to parallelize work. Use clauses shared, firstprivate and private to indicate the data environment.
- Use taskwait to synchronize tasks.
- Use mir_lock instead of the `critical` construct or use native locks such as pthread_lock.
- Use gcc atomic builtins for flushing and atomic operations.
- Look at examples in MIR_ROOT/test/omp.

A simple set of steps we use often when producing MIR supported OpenMP programs is as follows:

1. When parallel execution is required, create a `parallel` block with default(none) followed immediately by a `single` block.
2. Use the `task` construct within the `single` block to parallelize work.
3. Synchronize tasks using the `taskwait` construct explicitly. Do not rely on implicit barriers and taskwaits.
4. Parallelizing work inside a master task context is helpful while interpreting profiling results.
5. Compile and link with the native OpenMP implementation (libgomp) and check if the program runs correctly.
6. Comment out the parallel and single blocks, initialize the MIR runtime system right in the beginning of the program and release it at the end of the program, include mir_public_int.h, compile and link with the appropriate MIR library (opt/debug/prof) to produce the executable.

The directly-programmed example shown previously written using the OpenMP 3.0 task subset supported by MIR is shown below.

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    // Initialize the runtime system
    mir_create();

//#pragma omp parallel default(none)
//{
//#pragma omp single
//{
// Master task context: helpful for interpreting profiling results.
#pragma omp task
{
    // Now parallelize the work involved
    // Work in this case: create as many tasks as there are threads
    int num_workers = mir_get_num_threads();
    for(int i=0; i<num_workers; i++)
    {
        #pragma omp task firstprivate(i)
            foo(i);
    }

    // Wait for tasks to finish
    #pragma omp taskwait
}
// Wait for master task to finish
#pragma omp taskwait
//}
//}
    // Release runtime system resources
    mir_destroy();

    return 0;
}
```

Look at test programs in MIR_ROOT/test for advanced usage examples.

6 Testing

MIR does not have a dedicated test case (unit testing) suite yet. The fib test program (Fibonacci number calculation) is recommended for testing.

```
$ cd $MIR_ROOT/test/fib
$ scons -c
```

```
$ scons
$ echo "Executing verbose build"
$ ./fib-verbose
$ echo "Executing debug build"
$ ./fib-debug
$ echo "Executing optimized (production) build"
$ ./fib-opt
```

Other test programs in MIR_ROOT/test can also be used for testing.

6.1 Compiling and linking

Look at SConstruct - the scons build file - of each test program to understand how to compile and link with the MIR library. Observing scons build messages is also recommended.

6.2 Configuration

MIR has several configurable options which can be set using the environment variable MIR_CONF. Set the -h flag to see available configuration options.

```
$ cd $MIR_ROOT/test/fib
$ scons
$ MIR_CONF="-h" ./fib-opt 3
```

7 Profiling

MIR supports detailed thread-based and task-based profiling.

7.1 Thread-based profiling

Thread states and events are main performance indicators in thread-based profiling.

Enable the -r flag to get detailed per-thread state and event information in files with .rec extension. Each rec file represents a worker thread. The name of each rec file begins with the Unix time when the runtime system was initialized. The rec files can be inspected individually or combined and visualized using Paraver.

```
$ rm *.rec *.prv *.pcf
$ MIR_CONF="-r" ./fib-opt
$ $MIR_ROOT/scripts/mirtoparaver.py *-config.rec
$ wxparaver *-paraver.prv
```

A set of files matching the pattern «Unix time»-state-time*.rec are also created when -r is enabled. These files contain thread state duration information which can be aggregated for analysis without Paraver.

```
$ $MIR_ROOT/scripts/get-state-stats.sh <<Unix time>>
$ cat state-file-acc.info
```

Hardware performance counters can be read during thread events. This process is not fully automated and needs work from the user.

First install PAPI. Then set the PAPI_ROOT environment variable and create a file called HAVE_PAPI in MIR_ROOT/src. Next enable the preprocessor definition MIR_RECORDER_USE_HW_PERF_COUNTERS in MIR_ROOT/src/mir_defines.h. Next enable hardware performance counters of interest in MIR_ROOT/src/mir_recorder.c|h. Rebuild MIR.

```
$ export PAPI_ROOT=<<PAPI install path, typically /usr>>
$ touch $MIR_ROOT/src/HAVE_PAPI
$ cat mir_defines.h mir_recorder.{c|h}
$ scons
```

Performance counter readings will be now be added to .rec files produced by enabling thread-based profiling (-r flag). The readings can either be viewed on Paraver or aggregated for analysis outside Paraver.

```
$ $MIR_ROOT/scripts/get-event-counts.sh <<.prv file>>
$ cat event-counts-*.txt
```

7.2 Task-based profiling

Task are first-class citizens in task-based profiling.

Enable the -i flag in MIR_CONF to get basic task-based information in a file called mir-stats.

```
$ MIR_CONF="-i" ./fib-opt
$ cat mir-stats
```

Enable the -g flag to generate and plot the fork-join task graph that unfolded during execution.

```
$ MIR_CONF="-g" ./fib-opt
$ Rscript ${MIR_ROOT}/scripts/task-graph/mir-fork-join-graph-plot.R mir-
    task-graph color
```

MIR can also generate an instruction-level profile of tasks. Instruction-level task profiling support is restricted to programs compiled using GCC. To enable instruction-level profiling support, first get PIN sources and set the below environment variables.

```
$ export PIN_ROOT=<<Pin source path>>
$ export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=$LD_LIBRARY_PATH:<<Pin install path>>
```

Next, edit PIN_ROOT/source/tools/Config/makefile.unix.config and add -fopenmp (note the -) to variables TOOL_LDFLAGS_NOOPT, TOOL_CXXFLAGS_NOOPT.

Next build mir_outline_function_profiler.so - the Pin tool which profiles tasks.

```
$ cd $MIR_ROOT/scripts/task-graph
$ make PIN_ROOT=$PIN_ROOT
```

View profiling options options using -h.

```
$ $PIN_ROOT/intel64/bin/pinbin -t $MIR_ROOT/scripts/task-graph/obj-
    intel64/mir_outline_function_profiler.so -h -- echo
```

Look at MIR_ROOT/docs/ATG.pdf for more information on instruction-level profiling. Also, the file MIR_ROOT/test/fib/profile-test.sh shows how to automate instruction-level profiling.