The program first opens a file called input.in using the fopen() function, and checks if a problem has occurred during the opening operation.

The workload is split among 3 threads: the main() thread performs the Input operations, the processing_routine() performs the Processing operations, and the output_routine() performs the Output operations.

At each iteration, the Input thread reads a char from the file using the getc() function, and creates a Processing thread and an Output thread, and synchronizes with them using pthread_join(). At the end of each iteration, the global variables next, this and last are updated according to the specifications.

In the first iteration we don't have the Processing and Output thread (since we have to wait for the completion of the Input thread), while in the second iteration we don't have the Output thread, which is still waiting for the Processing thread to complete its work.

The last two iterations (which only involve the Processing and Output operations) are unrolled from the loop.