

Computer Systems Fundamentals

[two_threads.c](#)

simple example which launches two threads of execution

```
$ gcc -pthread two_threads.c -o two_threads  
$ ./two_threads | more
```

Hello this is thread #1 i=0

Hello this is thread #1 i=1

Hello this is thread #1 i=2

Hello this is thread #1 i=3

Hello this is thread #1 i=4

Hello this is thread #2 i=0

Hello this is thread #2 i=1

...

```
#include <stdio.h>  
#include <pthread.h>  
  
// this function is called to start thread execution  
// it can be given any pointer as argument (int *) in this example  
  
void *run_thread(void *argument){  
    int *p = argument;  
  
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++){  
        printf("Hello this is thread #d: i=%d\n", *p, i);  
    }  
  
    // a thread finishes when the function returns or thread_exit is called  
    // a pointer of any type can be returned  
    // this can be obtained via thread_join's 2nd argument  
    return NULL;  
}  
  
int main(void){  
    //create two threads performing almost the same task  
  
    pthread_t thread_id1;  
    int thread_number1 = 1;  
    pthread_create(&thread_id1, NULL, run_thread, &thread_number1);  
  
    int thread_number2 = 2;  
    pthread_t thread_id2;  
    pthread_create(&thread_id2, NULL, run_thread, &thread_number2);  
  
    // wait for the 2 threads to finish  
    pthread_join(thread_id1, NULL);  
    pthread_join(thread_id2, NULL);  
    return 0;  
}
```

[two_threads_broken.c](#)

simple example which launches two threads of execution
but demonstrates the perils of accessing non-local variables
from a thread

```
$ gcc -pthread two_threads_broken.c -o two_threads_broken  
$ ./two_threads_broken|more
```

Hello this is thread 2: i=0

Hello this is thread 2: i=1

Hello this is thread 2: i=2

Hello this is thread 2: i=3

Hello this is thread 2: i=4

Hello this is thread 2: i=5

Hello this is thread 2: i=6

Hello this is thread 2: i=7

Hello this is thread 2: i=8

Hello this is thread 2: i=9

Hello this is thread 2: i=0

Hello this is thread 2: i=1

Hello this is thread 2: i=2

Hello this is thread 2: i=3

Hello this is thread 2: i=4

Hello this is thread 2: i=5

Hello this is thread 2: i=6

Hello this is thread 2: i=7

Hello this is thread 2: i=8

Hello this is thread 2: i=9

\$...

```

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

void *run_thread(void *argument){
    int *p = argument;

    for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++){

        // variable thread number will probably have changed in main
        // before execution reaches here
        printf("Hello this is thread %d: i=%d\n", *p, i);

    }

    return NULL;
}

int main(void){
    pthread_t thread_id1;
    int thread_number = 1;
    pthread_create(&thread_id1, NULL, run_thread, &thread_number);

    thread_number = 2;
    pthread_t thread_id2;
    pthread_create(&thread_id2, NULL, run_thread, &thread_number);

    pthread_join(thread_id1, NULL);
    pthread_join(thread_id2, NULL);
    return 0;
}

```

[n threads.c](#)

simple example of running an arbitrary number of threads
for example:

```

$ gcc -pthread n threads.c -o n threads
$ ./n threads 10

```

Hello this is thread 0: i=0

Hello this is thread 0: i=1

Hello this is thread 0: i=2

Hello this is thread 0: i=3

Hello this is thread 0: i=4

Hello this is thread 0: i=5

Hello this is thread 0: i=6

Hello this is thread 0: i=7

...

```

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

void *run_thread(void *argument){
    int *p = argument;

    for (int i = 0; i < 42; i++){
        printf("Hello this is thread %d: i=%d\n", *p, i);
    }
    return NULL;
}

int main(int argc, char *argv[]){
    if (argc != 2){
        fprintf(stderr, "Usage: %s <n-threads>\n", argv[0]);
        return 1;
    }
    int n_threads = strtol(argv[1], NULL, 0);
    assert(n_threads > 0 && n_threads < 100);

    pthread_t thread_id[n_threads];
    int argument[n_threads];

    for (int i = 0; i < n_threads; i++){
        argument[i] = i;
        pthread_create(&thread_id[i], NULL, run_thread, &argument[i]);
    }

    // wait for the threads to finish
    for (int i = 0; i < n_threads; i++){
        pthread_join(thread_id[i], NULL);
    }

    return 0;
}

```

[thread sum.c](#)

simple example of dividing a task between n-threads

compile like this:

```
$ gcc -O3 -pthread thread_sum.c -o thread_sum
```

one thread takes 10 seconds

```
$ time ./thread_sum 1 1000000000
```

Creating 1 threads to sum the first 1000000000 integers

Each thread will sum 1000000000 integers

Thread summing integers 0 to 1000000000 finished sum is 4999999999067863552

Combined sum of integers 0 to 1000000000 is 4999999999067863552

```
real    0m11.924s
```

```
user    0m11.919s
```

```
sys 0m0.004s
```

```
$
```

Four threads runs 4x as fast on a machine with 4 cores

```
$
```

Creating 4 threads to sum the first 1000000000 integers

Each thread will sum 250000000 integers

Thread summing integers 250000000 to 500000000 finished sum is 9374999997502005248

Thread summing integers 750000000 to 1000000000 finished sum is 21874999997502087168

Thread summing integers 500000000 to 750000000 finished sum is 15624999997500696576

Thread summing integers 0 to 250000000 finished sum is 3124999997567081472

Combined sum of integers 0 to 1000000000 is 4999999999071869440

```
real    0m3.154s
```

```
user    0m12.563s
```

```
sys 0m0.004s
```

```
$
```

Note result is inexact because we use values can't be exactly represented as double
and exact value printed depends on how many threads we use - because we break up
the computation differently depending on number of threads



```

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

struct job {
    long start;
    long finish;
    double sum;
};

void *run_thread(void *argument) {
    struct job *j = argument;
    long start = j->start;
    long finish = j->finish;
    double sum = 0;

    for (long i = start; i < finish; i++) {
        sum += i;
    }

    j->sum = sum;

    printf("Thread summing integers %10lu to %11lu finished sum is %20.0f\n", start, finish, sum);
    return NULL;
}

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    if (argc != 3) {
        fprintf(stderr, "Usage: %s <n-threads> <n-integers-to-sum>\n", argv[0]);
        return 1;
    }

    int n_threads = strtol(argv[1], NULL, 0);
    assert(n_threads > 0 && n_threads < 100);
    long integers_to_sum = strtol(argv[2], NULL, 0);
    assert(integers_to_sum > 0);

    long integers_per_thread = (integers_to_sum - 1) / n_threads + 1;

    printf("Creating %d threads to sum the first %lu integers\n", n_threads, integers_to_sum);
    printf("Each thread will sum %lu integers\n", integers_per_thread);

    pthread_t thread_id[n_threads];
    struct job jobs[n_threads];

    for (int i = 0; i < n_threads; i++) {
        jobs[i].start = i * integers_per_thread;
        jobs[i].finish = jobs[i].start + integers_per_thread;
        if (jobs[i].finish > integers_to_sum) {
            jobs[i].finish = integers_to_sum;
        }

        // create a thread which will sum integers_per_thread integers
        pthread_create(&thread_id[i], NULL, run_thread, &jobs[i]);
    }

    // wait for each threads to finish
    // then add its individual sum to the overall sum
    double overall_sum = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < n_threads; i++) {
        pthread_join(thread_id[i], NULL);
        overall_sum += jobs[i].sum;
    }

    //
    printf("\nCombined sum of integers 0 to %lu is %.0f\n", integers_to_sum, overall_sum);
    return 0;
}

```

[bank account broken.c](#)

simple example demonstrating unsafe access to a global variable from threads

```
$ gcc -O3 -pthread bank_account_broken.c -o bank_account_broken
$ ./bank_account_broken
```

```
Andrew's bank account has $108829
$
```

```
#define _POSIX_C_SOURCE 199309L

#include <stdio.h>
#include <pthread.h>
#include <time.h>

int bank_account = 0;

// add $1 to Andrew's bank account 100,000 times
void *add_100000(void *argument){

    for (int i = 0; i < 100000; i++){

        // execution may switch threads in middle of assignment
        // between load of variable value
        // and store of new variable value
        // changes other thread makes to variable will be lost
        nanosleep(&(struct timespec){.tv_nsec = 1}, NULL);
        bank_account = bank_account + 1;
    }

    return NULL;
}

int main(void){
    //create two threads performing the same task

    pthread_t thread_id1;
    pthread_create(&thread_id1, NULL, add_100000, NULL);

    pthread_t thread_id2;
    pthread_create(&thread_id2, NULL, add_100000, NULL);

    // wait for the 2 threads to finish
    pthread_join(thread_id1, NULL);
    pthread_join(thread_id2, NULL);

    // will probably be much less than $200000
    printf("Andrew's bank account has $%d\n", bank_account);
    return 0;
}
```

[bank_account_mutex.c](#)

simple example demonstrating safe access to a global variable from threads
using a mutex (mutual exclusion) lock

```
$ gcc -O3 -pthread bank_account_mutex.c -o bank_account_mutex
$ ./bank_account_mutex
```

```
Andrew's bank account has $200000
$
```



```

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

int andrews_bank_account = 0;

pthread_mutex_t bank_account_lock = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;

// add $1 to Andrew's bank account 100,000 times
void *add_100000(void *argument){

    for (int i = 0; i < 100000; i++){

        pthread_mutex_lock(&bank_account_lock);

        // only one thread can execute this section of code at any time

        andrews_bank_account = andrews_bank_account + 1;

        pthread_mutex_unlock(&bank_account_lock);
    }.

    return NULL;
}

int main(void){
    //create two threads performing the same task

    pthread_t thread_id1;
    pthread_create(&thread_id1, NULL, add_100000, NULL);

    pthread_t thread_id2;
    pthread_create(&thread_id2, NULL, add_100000, NULL);

    // wait for the 2 threads to finish
    pthread_join(thread_id1, NULL);
    pthread_join(thread_id2, NULL);

    // will always be $200000
    printf("Andrew's bank account has $%d\n", andrews_bank_account);
    return 0;
}

```

[bank_account_semaphore.c](#)

simple example demonstrating ensuring safe access to a global variable from threads using a semaphore

```

$ gcc -O3 -pthread bank_account_semaphore.c -o bank_account_semaphore
$ ./bank_account_semaphore

```

```

Andrew's bank account has $200000
$

```

```

#include <stdio.h>
#include <pthread.h>
#include <semaphore.h>

int andrews_bank_account = 0;

sem_t bank_account_semaphore;

// add $1 to Andrew's bank account 100,000 times
void *add_100000(void *argument){

    for (int i = 0; i < 100000; i++){

        // decrement bank_account_semaphore if > 0
        // otherwise wait until > 0
        sem_wait(&bank_account_semaphore);

        // only one thread can execute this section of code at any time
        // because bank_account_semaphore was initialized to 1

        andrews_bank_account = andrews_bank_account + 1;

        // increment bank account semaphore
        sem_post(&bank_account_semaphore);
    }

    return NULL;
}

int main(void){
    // initialize bank account semaphore to 1
    sem_init(&bank_account_semaphore, 0, 1);

    //create two threads performing the same task

    pthread_t thread_id1;
    pthread_create(&thread_id1, NULL, add_100000, NULL);

    pthread_t thread_id2;
    pthread_create(&thread_id2, NULL, add_100000, NULL);

    // wait for the 2 threads to finish
    pthread_join(thread_id1, NULL);
    pthread_join(thread_id2, NULL);

    // will always be $200000
    printf("Andrew's bank account has %d\n", andrews_bank_account);

    sem_destroy(&bank_account_semaphore);
    return 0;
}

```

[bank account deadlock.c](#)

simple example which launches two threads of execution which increment a global variable

```

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

int andrews_bank_account1 = 100;
pthread_mutex_t bank_account1_lock = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;

int andrews_bank_account2 = 200;
pthread_mutex_t bank_account2_lock = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;

// swap values between Andrew's two bank account 100,000 times
void *swap1(void *argument) {
    for (int i = 0; i < 100000; i++) {
        pthread_mutex_lock(&bank_account1_lock);
        pthread_mutex_lock(&bank_account2_lock);

        int tmp = andrews_bank_account1;
        andrews_bank_account1 = andrews_bank_account2;
        andrews_bank_account2 = tmp;

        pthread_mutex_unlock(&bank_account2_lock);
        pthread_mutex_unlock(&bank_account1_lock);
    }

    return NULL;
}

// swap values between Andrew's two bank account 100,000 times
void *swap2(void *argument) {
    for (int i = 0; i < 100000; i++) {
        pthread_mutex_lock(&bank_account2_lock);
        pthread_mutex_lock(&bank_account1_lock);

        int tmp = andrews_bank_account1;
        andrews_bank_account1 = andrews_bank_account2;
        andrews_bank_account2 = tmp;

        pthread_mutex_unlock(&bank_account1_lock);
        pthread_mutex_unlock(&bank_account2_lock);
    }

    return NULL;
}

int main(void) {
    //create two threads performing almost the same task

    pthread_t thread_id1;
    pthread_create(&thread_id1, NULL, swap1, NULL);

    pthread_t thread_id2;
    pthread_create(&thread_id2, NULL, swap2, NULL);

    // threads will probably never finish
    // deadlock will likely likely occur
    // with one thread holding bank_account1_lock
    // and waiting for bank_account2_lock
    // and the other thread holding bank_account2_lock
    // and waiting for bank_account1_lock

    pthread_join(thread_id1, NULL);
    pthread_join(thread_id2, NULL);

    return 0;
}

```

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