Developing Soft and Parallel Programming Skills Using Project-Based Learning

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I. Project Description

1.1 Purpose of the Project

The purpose of this project is to 1) become familiar with unified, team-based project management tools and communication applications in order to develop soft skills, 2) identify Raspberry Pi 3+ components and architecture; explain basic multicore architectures and programming using OpenMP and C language 3) gain more practice with ARM assembly programming (Mussa, Assignment 2 Worksheet).

II. Introduction to the Team

2.1 Members' Roles and Assignments

Coordinator: Alec Buchinski

For this assignment, he was the coordinator; his responsibilities contained tasks one, two and six. Task one involves group planning and scheduling and creating a table for task breakdowns. A new GitHub repository was created for assignment 3, sent out invites to the slack and access to upload to the GitHub as well. The final duties involved editing and uploading the video for part 6 to the YouTube channel.

Team Member: Alejandro Herbener

This team member is responsible for task five. I created this report after the other members completed their sections and compiled them into this document.

Team member: Nhi Ong

This team member is responsible for task three. Nhi completed the Parallel Programming portion of this project, as well as taking screenshots and reporting their findings.

Team Member: Johnathon Moore

This team member is responsible for task four. Johnathon completed the ARM Assembly Programming section of this project. This includes taking screenshots, completing the assigned work, and creating a write-up to send to the GitHub for further editing.

III. Planning and Scheduling

3.1 Role as Coordinator

As the coordinator, Alec completed the new assignment table and created a new repository for the assignment. He contacted us to discuss our preferred roles over Slack, and we selected our preferred roles and quickly started to work on each of our sections as seen in figure 1.1.

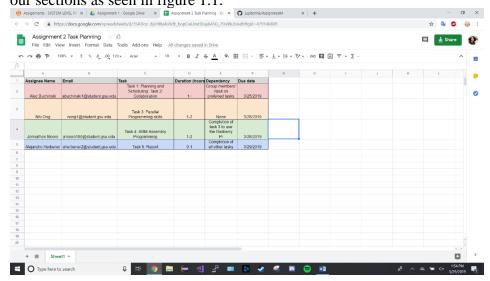


Figure 1.1 – Task One, Assignment Chart

3.2 Additional Tasks

Alec was responsible for creating a new repository for this assignment with a readme page. He added a projects page which details our tasks and allows for any member to update their status on their role. (see Figure 1.2) In addition to this, he also edited our video and uploaded it to YouTube. (see Appendix A, for link to video)

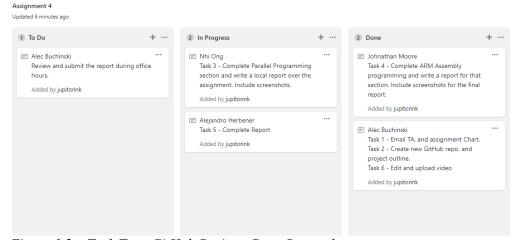


Figure 1.2 – Task Two, GitHub Projects Page Screenshot

IV. Parallel Programming Skills

Task 3a.

What is a race condition?

A race condition occurs within software or systems when there is a dependency on the sequence of other events beyond the programmer's control that affects the output.

Why race condition is difficult to reproduce and debug?

Race conditions are hard to reproduce because often, the ending results or output will vary despite using the same input and conditions, since it depends on the timing of the threads.

How can it be fixed? Provide an example from your project_A3.

You can fix this issue by having good software architecture to prevent the issue from occurring in the first place. An example where the issue is fixed beforehand comes from Assignment 3's Parallel Programming task. The parallel for pragma without the reduction clause resulted in an incorrect outcome, but the solution to this problem simply required declaring the variables as private so that each thread had its own clone. This fixed the issue because the sum variable was dependent on each of the threads' processes during computation.

Summarize the Parallel Programming Patterns section in the "Introduction to Parallel Computing 3.pdf" in your own words (one paragraph, no more than 150 words)

Parallel programs have patterns which are used often by programmers due to their success in previous programs. These patterns are documented for new programmers to use. There are two major categories for the patterns that developers use: strategies and concurrent execution mechanism. Strategies simply refer to the programmer's choice on which "algorithmic strategies" to use as well has how to implement those strategies. Concurrent execution mechanisms have two major categories as well: process/thread control patterns and coordination patterns. Coordination patterns can further be separated into message passing and mutual exclusion. Process/thread control patterns involve the processing units and how they are executed at runtime whereas coordination patterns involve determining how processing units coordinate to complete tasks.

Compare collective synchronization (barrier) with Collective communication (reduction) and Masterworker with fork join.

Barriers are used to enforce collective synchronization by adding wait cycles into a program where a process cannot continue until the other processes have reached the same point, where they will be synchronized. Reductions are used to enforce collective communication by combining multiple vectors of processes or processes into one. Both patterns are concurrent execution mechanisms.

A Master-Worker pattern uses a master process/thread to hold a group of worker processes with a certain number of tasks. The "workers" complete each task simultaneously while removing them from the tasks held by the master process. The Fork-Join pattern describes the process of forking parent tasks to create new tasks and completing them concurrently with other forked tasks, then

waiting until they finish executing before joining them further continue the parent task. Both patterns are strategies.

Where can we find parallelism in programming?

You can find them in loops!

What is dependency and what are its types?

A dependency occurs when the execution of one operation is reliant on the outcome of a previous operation and its execution. There are two types of dependencies—independent and dependent.

Independent:

```
Statement 1 - a = 3;
Statement 2 - b = 3;
Dependent:
Statement 1 - a = 3;
```

Statement 2 - b = a;

When a statement is dependent and when it is independent?

A dependency is independent if changing the order of execution does not affect the outcome. Otherwise, if changing the order causes an error or results in an undesirable outcome, then the dependency is dependent.

Independent:

```
Statement 1 - a = 33;
Statement 2 - b = 33;
Dependent:
Statement 1 - a = b;
Statement 2 - b = 33;
```

When can two statements be executed in parallel?

Two statements can be executed in parallel when the order of the operations do not affect the outcome and the statements themselves, do not have any dependencies.

How can dependency be removed?

Dependencies can be removed by changing the order of the statements or removing some of them completely.

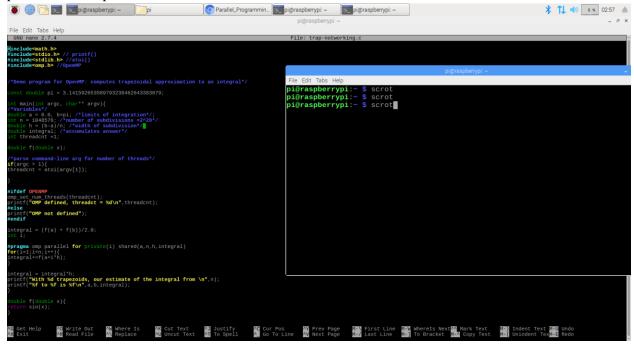
How do we compute dependency for the following two loops and what type/s of dependency?

The two loops are dependent on the value of i in order to find the correct index of a and set the correct value to it.

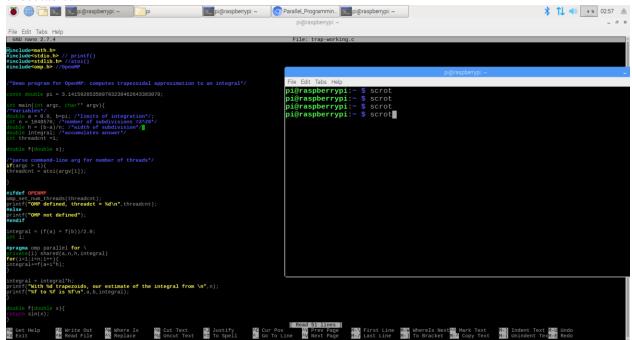
5.2 Task 3b.

Part One: Integration Using the Trapezoidal Rule

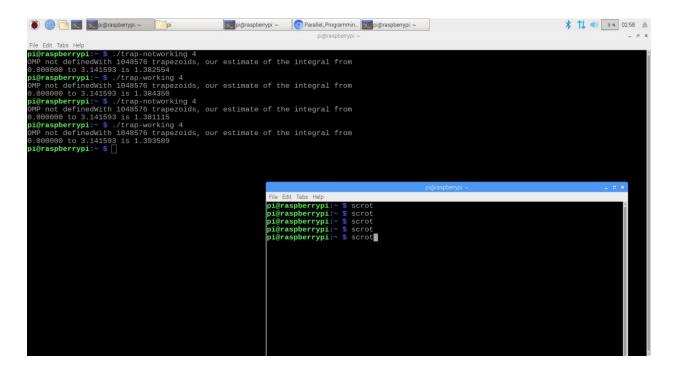
For the first part of this section, I created a file called trap-notworking.c using nano and copied he code provided on the pdf file. I then created an executable as instructed.



After that, I created a new file called trap-working.c and corrected the error by adding a backslash after "#pragma omp parallel for" and moving the line with "private" to the next line. I then created another executable.

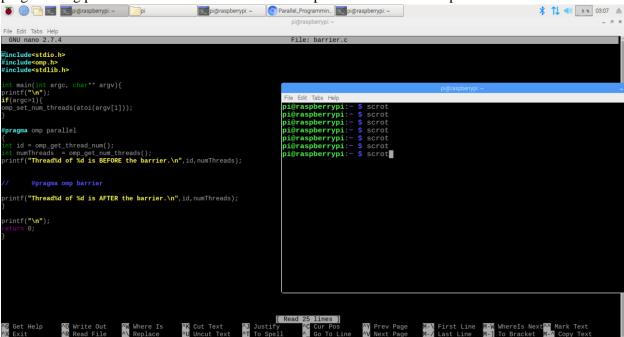


I compared the results between two of the programs multiple times to check if the intended result was reached.

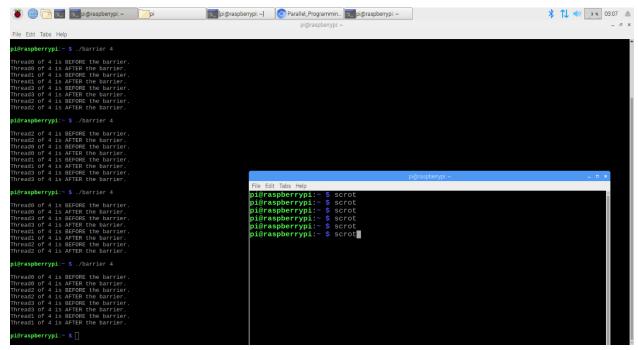


Part Two: Coordination: Synchronization with a Barrier

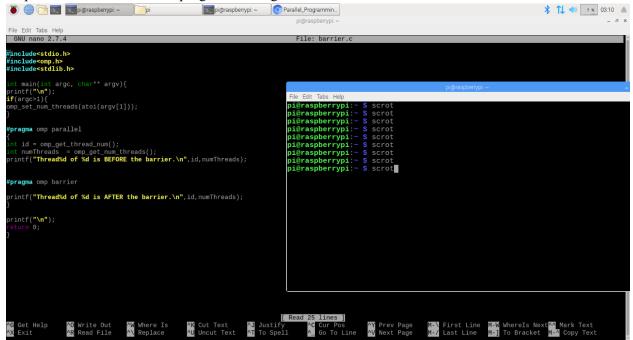
For this section of the task, I read the short excerpt on barriers and then proceeded to complete the programming portion. I created a barrier.c file and copied the code from the pdf.



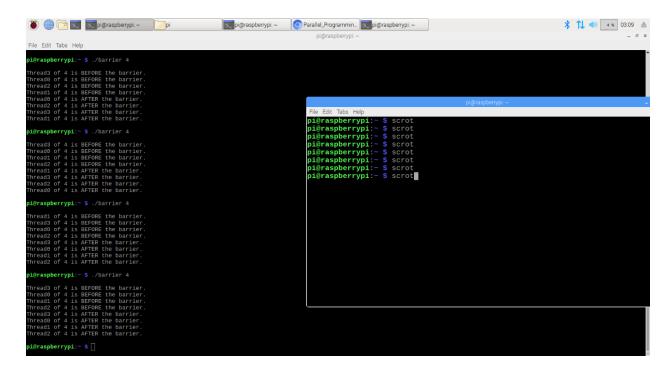
I created an executable for this program and ran it with the "#pragma omp barrier" line still commented out.



As you can see, with the barrier not effect, the program simply runs the operations in random, but sequential order, one after another without stopping. Continuing the task, I uncommented the "#pragma omp barrier" line and ran the program once again.

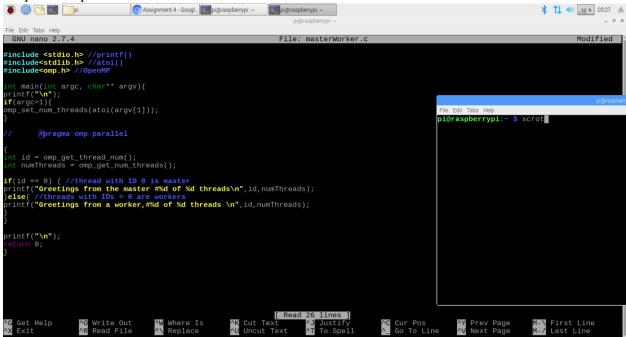


With the barrier in effect this time, you can see that the threads stop before the barrier and continue executing together after the barrier, in contrast to what we observed earlier without the barrier.

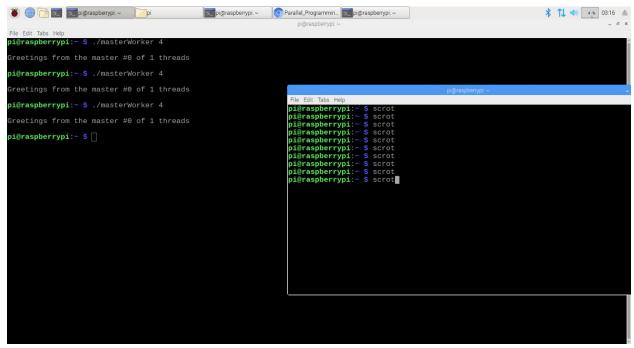


Part Three: Program Structure: The Master-Worker Implementation Strategy

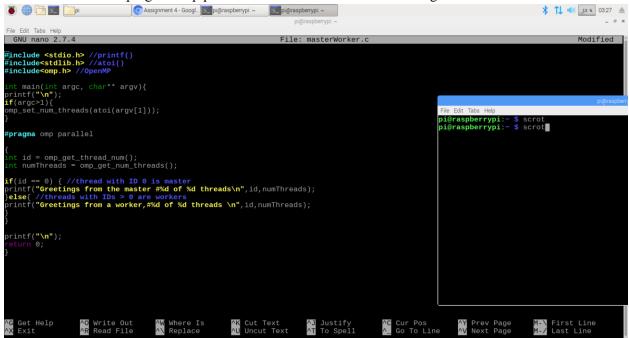
For this portion of the task, I created a file called masterWorker.c and once again copied the code from the provided pdf.



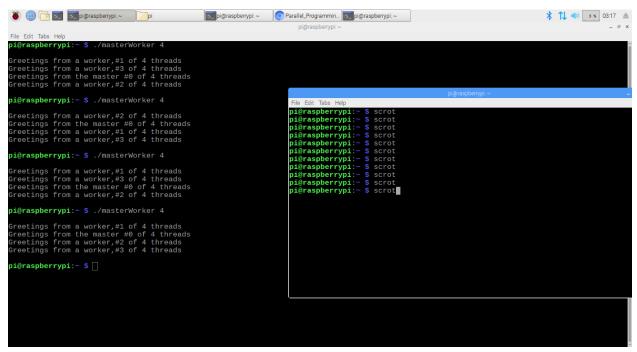
I created an executable to check the results of the program with the "#pragma omp parallel" line commented out.



As expected, only the first condition of the if statement was executed since it was not run parallel. I uncommented the "#pragma omp parallel" line and checked the results again.

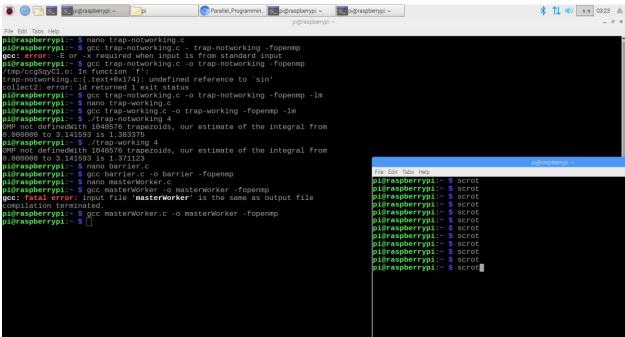


The line is now uncommented. The results shown are below.



Now we are able to see the workers and their corresponding thread number. There are only four threads because it is 4 core. Everything is as expected!

Below is an image of the creation of each of the files and their corresponding gcc line which created the executable for each file.



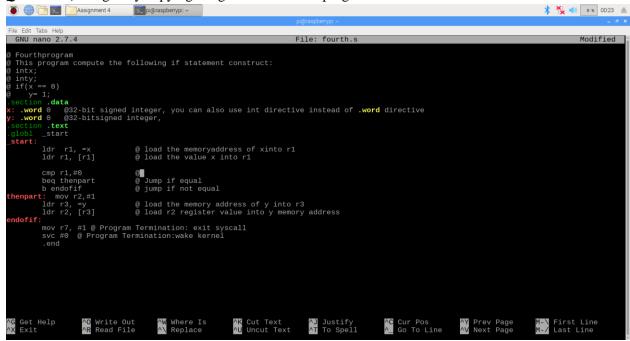
I had to add "-lm" at the end of the gcc lines for the trapezoidal program because it threw an error stating "undefined reference to sin". That was the only major issue I ran into during the completion of this task.

V. ARM Assembly Programming

3/13 Received the PI

3/23 Because of the extended time of the break I had extra time till my assignment was due But I finally got around to it. Programming begins.

Question 1) I began by copying the given code into a program file named fourth.s



I noticed some issues which would not allow my program to be assembled correctly so I corrected them in the code like adding a "#" before 1 in the line that begins with "thenpart:"

After correcting the mistakes I assembled the program and began the debugging section

```
File Edit Tabs Help
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ nano fourth.s
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ as -g -o fourth.o fourth.s
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ ld -o fourth fourth.o
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ gdb fourth
GNU gdb (Raspbian 7.12-6) 7.12.0.20161007-git
Copyright (C) 2016 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <a href="http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html">http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html</a>
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law. Type "show copying" and "show warranty" for details.
This GDB was configured as "arm-linux-gnueabihf".
Type "show configuration" for configuration details.
For bug reporting instructions, please see:
<a href="http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/bugs/">http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/bugs/>.</a>
Find the GDB manual and other documentation resources online at:
<http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/documentation/>.
For help, type "help".
Type "apropos word" to search for commands related to "word"...
Reading symbols from fourth...done.
(gdb) b 7
Breakpoint 1 at 0x10078: file fourth.s, line 7.
(gdb)
```

After seeing up the breakpoint and running the program, I stepped through the program far enough to see the affected values.

First the Y (using &y to find the address and then x/1xw address to retrieve the value)

```
(gdb) p &y
$1 = (<data variable, no debug info> *) 0x200a8
(gdb) x/1xw 0x200a8
0x200a8: 0x00000000
(gdb) ■
```

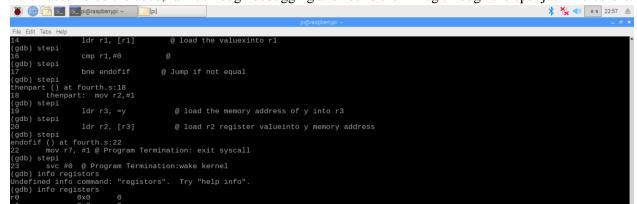
Then I locate the value of the Z-mag by using limb registers, and determining it through the cpsi register							
(gdb)	info	registers	- 5				
r0		0×0	0				
r1		0×0	0				
r2		0×0	0				
r3		0x200a8	131240				
r4		0×0	0				
r5		0×0	0				
r6		0×0	0				
r7		0×1	1				
r8		0×0	0				
r9		0×0	0				
r10		0×0	0				
r11		0×0	0				
r12		0×0	0				
sp	0x7efff		060	0x7efff060			
1r		0×0	0				
рс		0x10098	0x10098	<endofif+4></endofif+4>			
cpsr	cpsr 0x60000		010	1610612752			
(ddb)							

Then I locate the value of the Z-flag by using "info registers" and determining it through the cpsr register

This process was a bit confusing but I learned that cpsr is the register that holds flag values. To find the Z-flag we convert the "60000010" from hex to binary getting 0110 0000 0000... (The rest does not matter for this assignment). We can use prior knowledge to tell that the second binary number from the right represents the status of the Z-Flag. The Z-flag is 1 which is what we are looking for.

2) *Question 2* - Again I am assuming there was an error in the instructions as it tells us to replace beq with "bnq" however it appears to be referencing "bne" so I used that instead.

Other that I just removed the line b endofit and replace the thenpart to endpart.



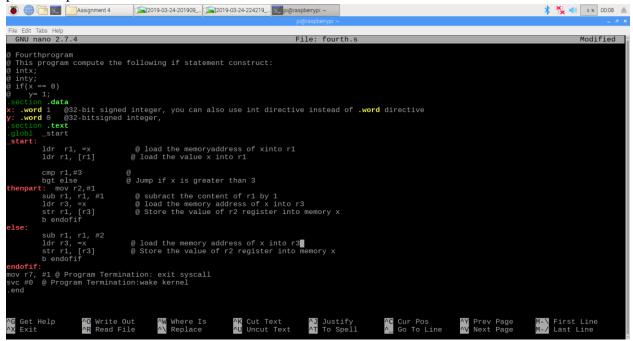
I then assembled the code, ran it through debugging and found the Z-flag through the cpsr just like before.

Just as before, I found cpsr and translated the value given (60...) to binary (01100000...) Finding that the Z-flag is set just as expected.

0x0 0x7efff060

0x10094 0x10094 <endofif+4> 0x60000010 1610612752

Question 3) - Next I had to edit fourth program to make a specific conditional statement that was specified, the issue here was deciding what conditional branch jump commands that I needed for the particular problem. Here is the code:



In this code I replace bne with bgt (which jumps to ____ when X is greater than 3) and had it jump to else, thus skipping thenpart. We were asked to find "if $x \le 3$ " but it was simpler to use the inverse statement ($x \ge 3$) to skip to the else statement. I also added a line "b endofif" which skips the else statement and goes straight to the end of the code thus making it impossible to have both if and else happen at the same time.

I found the X value by:

```
(gdb) p &x
$1 = (<data variable, no debug info> *) 0x200b4
(gdb) x/1xw 0x200b4
0x200b4: 0x00000000
(gdb) ■
```

And the Z-flag, the same as before by:

These values matched with what we were looking for using the given x=1. The Z-flag is set to 0 which means that 1-3!=0 which is true. The x value is 0 as 1-3=-2 which is Less than 3 so we would subtract x-1 which is 1-1=0 which is what we got!

VI. Appendix

A. Link to Slack, GitHub, YouTube Channel, YouTube Video

Slack:

https://csc-3210.slack.com

GitHub:

https://github.com/jupitorink

GitHub Assignment One Repository:

https://github.com/jupitorink/Assignment4

YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChTgBqHzG9G-Mvv-q7uK96g

YouTube Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZP6kCrWliCQ

B. Task One Screenshot

Task Assignment Table:

https://github.com/jupitorink/Assignment-3/blob/master/Task%20Table.png

C. Task Two Screenshot

GitHub Projects Page:

https://github.com/jupitorink/Assignment4/projects/1

D. Task Three Parallel Programming Report, Screenshots

Parallel Programming Report

https://github.com/jupitorink/Assignment4/blob/master/parallelprogramming%20report%20assign4.docx

E. Task Four ARM Assembly Programming Report, Screenshots

ARM Assembly Programming Report

https://github.com/jupitorink/Assignment4/blob/master/Task%204-

Write%20up.docx