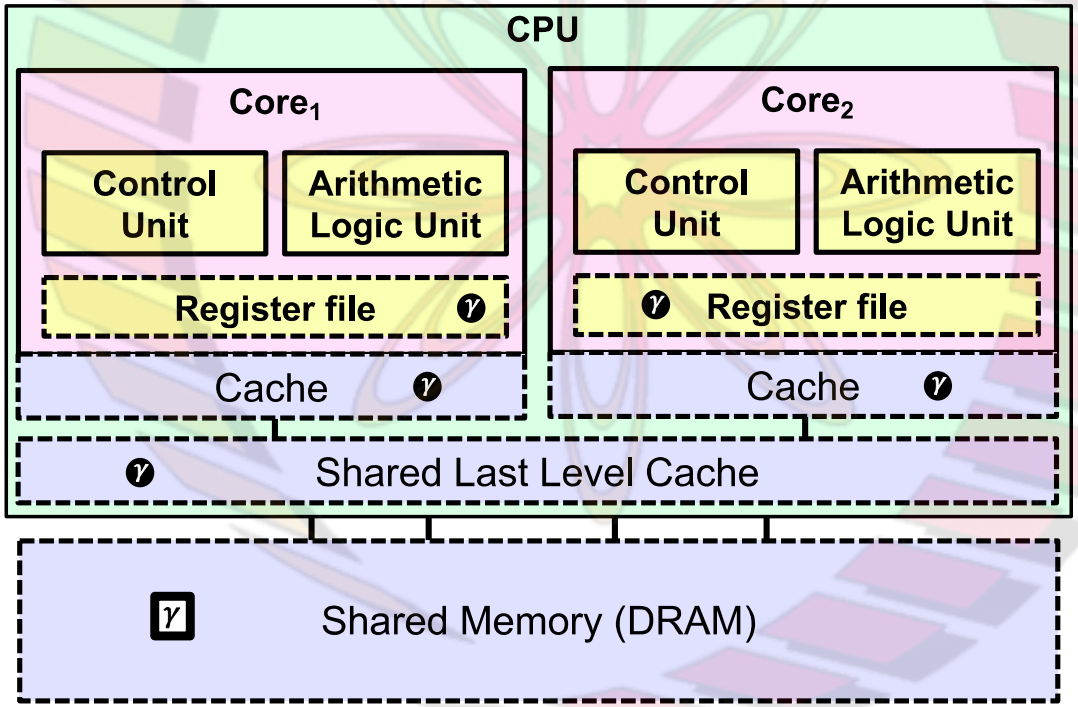
Outline

- Introduction to OpenMP
- Creating Threads
- Synchronization
- Parallel Loops
- Data Environment
- Memory Model
- Irregular Parallelism and Tasks
- Recap
- Beyond the Common Core:
  - Worksharing Revisited
  - Synchronization Revisited: Options for Mutual exclusion
  - Memory models and point-to-point Synchronization
  - Programming your GPU with OpenMP
  - Thread Affinity and Data Locality
  - Thread Private Data

Memory Models …

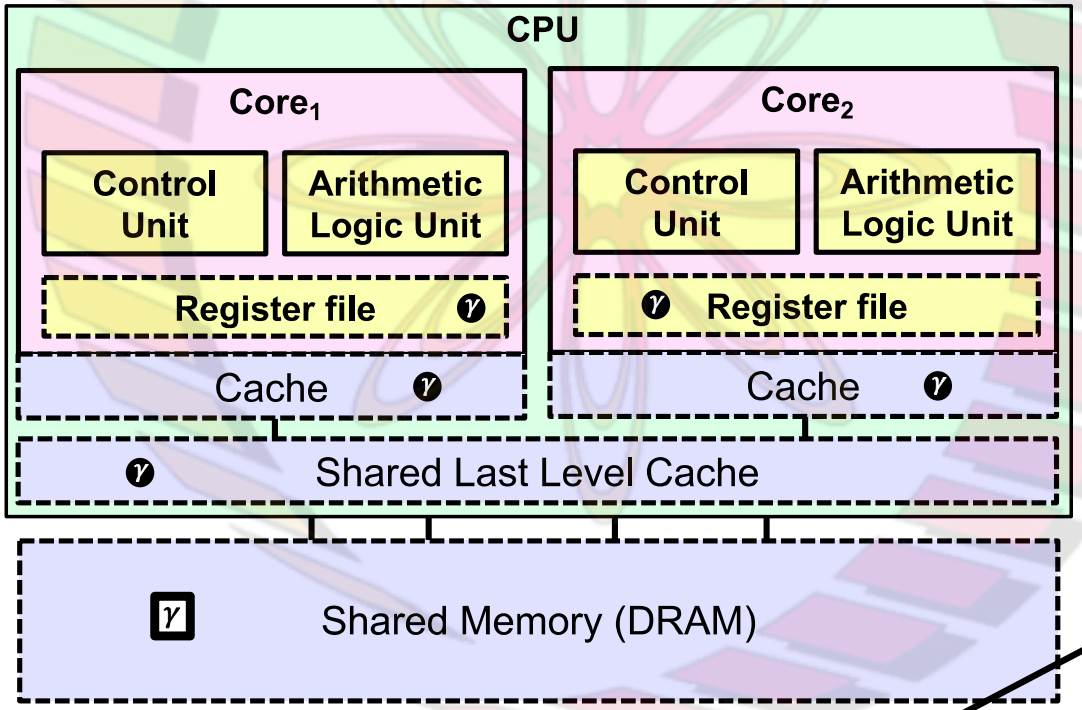
- Programming models for Multithreading support shared memory.
- All threads share an address space … but consider the variable γ



- Multiple copies of a variable (such as γ) may be present at various levels of cache, or in registers and they may ALL have different values.
- So which value of γ is the one a thread should see at any point in a computation?

Memory Models …

- Programming models for Multithreading support shared memory.
- All threads share an address space … but consider the variable γ



A memory consistency model (or "memory model" for short) provides the rules needed to answer this question.

- Multiple copies of a variable (such as γ) may be present at various levels of cache, or in registers and they may ALL have different values.
- So which value of γ is the one a thread should see at any point in a computation?

OpenMP and Relaxed Consistency

- Most (if not all) multithreading programming models (including OpenMP) supports a **relaxed-consistency** memory model
  - Threads can maintain a **temporary view** of shared memory that is not consistent with that of other threads
  - These temporary views are made consistent only at certain points in the program
  - The operation that enforces consistency is called the **flush operation***

*Note: in OpenMP 5.0 the name for the flush described here was changed to a ”strong flush”. This was done so we could distinguish the traditional OpenMP flush (the strong flush) from the new synchronizing flushes (acquire flush and release flush).

Flush Operation

- Defines a sequence point at which a thread is guaranteed to see a consistent view of memory*
  - Previous read/writes by this thread have completed and are visible to other threads
  - No subsequent read/writes by this thread have occurred

- A flush operation is analogous to a **fence** in other shared memory APIs

* This applies to the set of shared variables visible to a thread at the point the flush is encountered. We call this "**the flush set**"

Flush Example

- Flush forces data to be updated in memory so other threads see the most recent value*

```
double A;
A = compute();
#pragma omp flush(A)
   // flush to memory to make sure other
   //  threads can pick up the right value
```

Note: OpenMP's flush is analogous to a fence in other shared memory APIs

* If you pass a list of variables to the flush directive, then that list is "**the flush set**"

What is the BIG DEAL with Flush?

- Compilers routinely reorder instructions implementing a program
  - Can better exploit the functional units, keep the machine busy, hide memory latencies, etc.
- Compilers generally cannot move instructions:
  - Past a barrier
  - Past a flush on all variables
- But it can move them past a flush with a list of variables so long as those variables are not accessed
- Keeping track of consistency when flushes are used can be confusing … especially if “flush(list)” is used.

Warning: the flush operation (a strong flush) does not actually synchronize different threads. It just ensures that a thread’s variables are made consistent with main memory

Flush and Synchronization

- A flush operation is implied by OpenMP synchronizations, e.g.,
  - at entry/exit of parallel regions
  - at implicit and explicit barriers
  - at entry/exit of critical regions

  ….

  (but not on entry to worksharing regions)

WARNING:
If you find your self wanting to write code with explicit flushes, stop and get help. It is very difficult to manage flushes on your own. Even experts often get them wrong.

This is why we defined OpenMP constructs to automatically apply flushes most places where you really need them.

Outline

- Introduction to OpenMP
- Creating Threads
- Synchronization
- Parallel Loops
- Data Environment
- Memory Model
- Irregular Parallelism and Tasks
- Recap
- Beyond the Common Core:
  - Worksharing Revisited
  - Synchronization Revisited: Options for Mutual exclusion
  - Memory models and point-to-point Synchronization
  - Programming your GPU with OpenMP
  - Thread Affinity and Data Locality
  - Thread Private Data

Irregular Parallelism

- Let's call a problem "irregular" when one or both of the following hold:
  - Data Structures are sparse or involve indirect memory references
  - Control structures are not basic for-loops

- Example: Traversing Linked lists:

```
p = listhead ;
while (p) {
  process(p);
  p=p->next;
}
```

- Using what we've learned so far, traversing a linked list in parallel using OpenMP is difficult.

Exercise: Traversing linked lists

- Consider the program linked.c
  - Traverses a linked list computing a sequence of Fibonacci numbers at each node.
- Parallelize this program selecting from the following list of constructs:

```
#pragma omp parallel
#pragma omp for
#pragma omp parallel for
#pragma omp for reduction(op:list)
#pragma omp critical
int omp_get_num_threads();
int omp_get_thread_num();
double omp_get_wtime();
schedule(static[,chunk]) or schedule(dynamic[,chunk])
private(), firstprivate(), default(none)
```

- Hint: Just worry about the while loop that is timed inside main(). You don't need to make any changes to the "list functions"

Linked Lists with OpenMP (without tasks)

```
while (p != NULL) {
     p = p->next;
      count++;
}
struct node *parr = (struct node*) malloc(count*sizeof(struct node));
p = head;
for(i=0; i<count; i++) {
      parr[i] = p;
      p = p->next;
   }
#pragma omp parallel
{
    #pragma omp for schedule(static,1)
    for(i=0; i<count; i++)
       processwork(parr[i]);
}
```

Count number of items in the linked list

Copy pointer to each node into an array

Process nodes in parallel with a for loop

Number of threads	Schedule	
	Default	Static,1
1	48 seconds	45 seconds
2	39 seconds	28 seconds

Results on an Intel dual core 1.83 GHz CPU, Intel IA-32 compiler 10.1 build 2

Linked Lists with OpenMP (without tasks)

- See the file solutions/linked_notasks.c

```
while (p != NULL) {
     p = p->next;
      count++;
}
struct node *parr = (struct node*) malloc(count*sizeof(struct node));
p = head;
for(i=0; i<count; i++) {
      parr[i] = p;
      p = p->next;
   }
#pragma omp parallel
{
    #pragma omp for schedule(static,1)
    for(i=0; i<count; i++)
       processwork(parr[i]);
}
```

Count number of items in the linked list

Copy pointer to each node into an array

Process nodes in parallel with a for loop

With so much code to add and three passes through the data, this is really ugly.

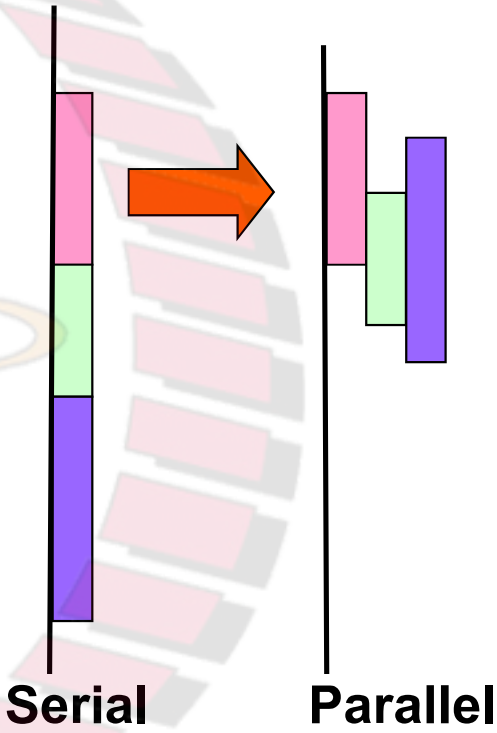
There has got to be a better way to do this

Number of threads	Schedule	
	Default	Static,1
1	48 seconds	45 seconds
2	39 seconds	28 seconds

Results on an Intel dual core 1.83 GHz CPU, Intel IA-32 compiler 10.1 build 2

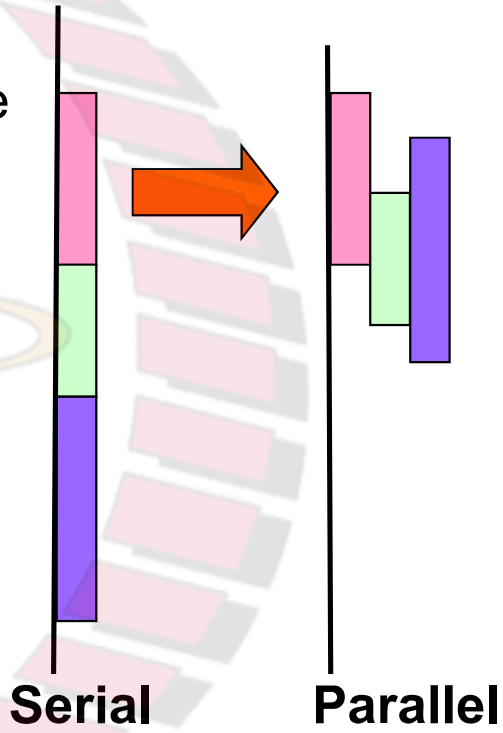
What are Tasks?

- Tasks are independent units of work
- Tasks are composed of:
  - code to execute
  - data to compute with
- Threads are assigned to perform the work of each task.
  - The thread that encounters the task construct may execute the task immediately.
  - The threads may defer execution until later



What are Tasks?

- The task construct includes a structured block of code
- Inside a parallel region, a thread encountering a task construct will package up the code block and its data for execution
- Tasks can be nested: i.e., a task may itself generate tasks.



A common Pattern is to have one thread create the tasks while the other threads wait at a barrier and execute the tasks

Single Worksharing Construct

- The **single** construct denotes a block of code that is executed by only one thread (not necessarily the primary* thread).
- A barrier is implied at the end of the single block (can remove the barrier with a *nowait* clause).

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
        do_many_things();
    #pragma omp single
        {    exchange_boundaries();   }
        do_many_other_things();
}
```

*This used to be called the “master thread”. The term “master” has been deprecated in OpenMP 5.1 and replaced with the term “primary”.

Task Directive

```
#pragma omp task [clauses]
    structured-block
```

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
  #pragma omp single
   {
     #pragma omp task
        fred();
     #pragma omp task
        daisy();
     #pragma omp task
        billy();
   }
}
```

Create some threads

One Thread packages tasks

Tasks executed by some thread in some order

All tasks complete before this barrier is released

Exercise: Simple tasks

- Write a program using tasks that will “randomly” generate one of two strings:
  - “I think “ “race” “car” “s are fun”
  - “I think “ “car” “race” “s are fun”

- Hint: use tasks to print the indeterminate part of the output (i.e. the “race” or “car” parts).

- This is called a “Race Condition”. It occurs when the result of a program depends on how the OS schedules the threads.

- NOTE: A “data race” is when threads “race to update a shared variable”. They produce race conditions. Programs containing data races are undefined (in OpenMP but also ANSI standards C++’11 and beyond).

```
#pragma omp parallel
#pragma omp task
#pragma omp single
```

This exercise comes from Ruud van der Pas of Oracle

Racey Cars: Solution

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <omp.h>
int main()
{  printf("I think");
   #pragma omp parallel
   {
      #pragma omp single
      {
         #pragma omp task
            printf(" car");
         #pragma omp task
            printf(" race");
      }
   }
   printf("s");
   printf(" are fun!\n");
}
```

Data Scoping with Tasks

- Variables can be shared, private or firstprivate with respect to task
- These concepts are a little bit different compared with threads:
  - If a variable is shared on a task construct, the references to it inside the construct are to the storage with that name at the point where the task was encountered
  - If a variable is private on a task construct, the references to it inside the construct are to new uninitialized storage that is created when the task is executed
  - If a variable is firstprivate on a construct, the references to it inside the construct are to new storage that is created and initialized with the value of the existing storage of that name when the task is encountered

Data Scoping Defaults

- The behavior you want for tasks is usually firstprivate, because the task may not be executed until later (and variables may have gone out of scope)
  - Variables that are private when the task construct is encountered are firstprivate by default

- Variables that are shared in all constructs starting from the innermost enclosing parallel construct are shared by default

```
#pragma omp parallel shared(A) private(B)
{
    ...
#pragma omp task
    {
        int C;
        compute(A, B, C);
    }
}
```

A is shared
B is firstprivate
C is private

Exercise: Traversing linked lists

- Consider the program linked.c
  - Traverses a linked list computing a sequence of Fibonacci numbers at each node.
- Parallelize this program selecting from the following list of constructs:

```
#pragma omp parallel
#pragma omp single
#pragma omp task
int omp_get_num_threads();
int omp_get_thread_num();
double omp_get_wtime();
private(), firstprivate()
```

- Hint: Just worry about the contents of main(). You don't need to make any changes to the "list functions"

Parallel Linked List Traversal

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
  #pragma omp single
   {
    p = listhead ;
    while (p) {
       #pragma omp task firstprivate(p)
                {
                  process (p);
                }
       p=next (p) ;
     }
   }
}
```

Only one thread packages tasks

makes a copy of `p` when the task is packaged

When/Where are Tasks Complete?

- At thread barriers (explicit or implicit)
  - all tasks generated inside a region must complete at the next barrier encountered by the threads in that region. Common examples:
    - **Tasks generated inside a single construct**: all tasks complete before exiting the barrier on the single.
    - **Tasks generated inside a parallel region**: all tasks complete before exiting the barrier at the end of the parallel region.

- At taskwait directive
  - i.e. Wait until all tasks defined in the current task have completed.

```
#pragma omp taskwait
```

  - Note: applies only to tasks generated in the current task, not to “descendants” .

Example

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
  #pragma omp single
   {
     #pragma omp task
        fred();
     #pragma omp task
        daisy();
     #pragma omp taskwait
     #pragma omp task
        billy();
   }
}
```

`fred()` and `daisy()` must complete before `billy()` starts, but this does not include tasks created inside **fred()** and **daisy()**

`All tasks` including those created inside **fred()** and **daisy()** must complete before exiting this barrier

Example

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
  #pragma omp single nowait
   {
     #pragma omp task
        fred();
     #pragma omp task
        daisy();
     #pragma omp taskwait
     #pragma omp task
        billy();
   }
}
```

The barrier at the end of the single is expensive and not needed since you get the barrier at the end of the parallel region. So use nowait to turn it off.

All tasks including those created inside **fred()** and **daisy()** must complete before exiting this barrier

Example: Fibonacci numbers

```
int fib (int n)
{
   int x,y;
   if (n < 2) return n;

   x = fib(n-1);
   y = fib (n-2);
   return (x+y);
}

int main()
{
   int NW = 5000;
   fib(NW);
}
```

- $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$
- Inefficient $O(2^n)$ recursive implementation!

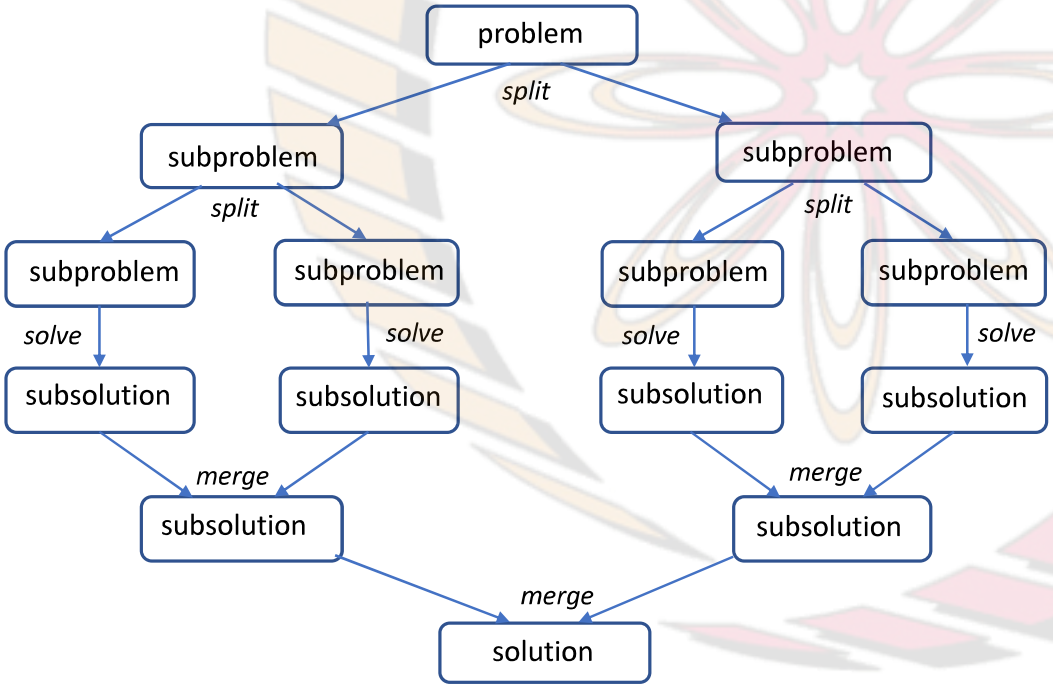
Parallel Fibonacci

```
int fib (int n)
{   int x,y;
   if (n < 2) return n;

#pragma omp task shared(x)
   x = fib(n-1);
#pragma omp task shared(y)
   y = fib (n-2);
#pragma omp taskwait
   return (x+y);
}

Int main()
{  int NW = 5000;
   #pragma omp parallel
   {
      #pragma omp single
           fib(NW);
   }
}
```

- Binary tree of tasks
- Traversed using a recursive function
- A task cannot complete until all tasks below it in the tree are complete (enforced with taskwait)
- `x,y` are local, and so by default they are private to current task
  - must be shared on child tasks so they don't create their own firstprivate copies at this level!

Divide and Conquer

- Split the problem into smaller sub-problems; continue until the sub-problems can be solved directly



- 3 Options for parallelism:
  - Do work as you split into sub-problems
  - Do work only at the leaves
  - Do work as you recombine

Exercise: PI with tasks

- Go back to the original pi.c program
  - Parallelize this program using OpenMP tasks

```
#pragma omp parallel
#pragma omp task
#pragma omp taskwait
#pragma omp single
double omp_get_wtime()
int omp_get_thread_num();
int omp_get_num_threads();
```

- Hint: first create a recursive pi program and verify that it works. **Think about the computation you want to do at the leaves. If you go all the way down to one iteration per leaf-node, won't you just swamp the system with tasks?**

Program: OpenMP tasks

```
include <omp.h>
static long num_steps = 100000000;
#define MIN_BLK  10000000
double pi_comp(int Nstart,int Nfinish,double step)
{   int i,iblk;
    double x, sum = 0.0,sum1, sum2;
    if (Nfinish-Nstart < MIN_BLK){
      for (i=Nstart;i< Nfinish; i++){
        x = (i+0.5)*step;
        sum = sum + 4.0/(1.0+x*x);
      }
    }
    else{
      iblk = Nfinish-Nstart;
      #pragma omp task shared(sum1)
          sum1 = pi_comp(Nstart,        Nfinish-iblk/2,step);
      #pragma omp task shared(sum2)
          sum2 = pi_comp(Nfinish-iblk/2, Nfinish,      step);
      #pragma omp taskwait
        sum = sum1 + sum2;
   }return sum;
}
```

```
int main ()
{
  int i;
  double step, pi, sum;
   step = 1.0/(double) num_steps;
   #pragma omp parallel
   {
      #pragma omp single
         sum =
            pi_comp(0,num_steps,step);
    }
     pi = step * sum;
}
```

Results*: Pi with tasks

threads	1st SPMD	SPMD critical	PI Loop	Pi tasks
1	1.86	1.87	1.91	1.87
2	1.03	1.00	1.02	1.00
3	1.08	0.68	0.80	0.76
4	0.97	0.53	0.68	0.52

*Intel compiler (icpc) with no optimization on Apple OS X 10.7.3 with a dual core (four HW thread) Intel® Core™ i5 processor at 1.7 Ghz and 4 Gbyte DDR3 memory at 1.333 Ghz.

Using Tasks

- Don’t use tasks for things already well supported by OpenMP
  - e.g. standard do/for loops
  - the overhead of using tasks is greater

- Don’t expect miracles from the runtime
  - best results usually obtained where the user controls the number and granularity of tasks