# Parallel Programming POSIX Threads Programming

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#### Outline

- Pthreads Overview
- 2 Thread management
- Mutex variables
- 4 Condition variables

#### **Process**

- Computer program is a passive collection of instructions
- Process is an instance of a computer program that is being executed
- Several processes may be associated with the same program
- A process consists of following resources
  - Image of the executable machine code
  - Memory :
    - executable code,
    - A call stack (keep track of actives routines)
    - Heap (to hold intermediate data generated during run time)
    - etc.
  - Descriptors of resources allocated to the process : file descriptors (Unix terminology), handles (Windows)
  - Security attributes: process owner and set of permissions of the process
  - Process state (context) : content of registers, physical memory addressing, program counter, etc.

#### **Thread**

- Thread is an independent stream of instructions that can be scheduled to run by the OS
- Threads are contained inside a process: use and exists within the process resources
- A thread maintains its own
  - Stack pointer
  - Registers
  - Scheduling properties (policy or priority)
  - Set of pending and blocked signals
  - Thread specific data
- A thread has its own independent flow of control as long as its parent process exists and the OS supports it
- A thread dies if its parent process dies



#### **Thread**

- Threads within the same process share resources
  - Changes made by one thread to shared system resources (e.g., closing a file) are seen by all other threads of the same process
  - Two pointers having the same value point to the same data
  - Reading and writing to the same memory location is possible, but synchronization must be made by programmers
- All threads within a process share the same address space
- Inter-thread communication is more efficient than inter-process communication

#### **Pthreads**

- In modern, multi-cpu machines, pthreads are suited for parallel programming
- In order for a program to take advantages, it must be organized into discrete, independent tasks which can execute concurrently

#### **Pthreads**

- Set of C language programming types and procedure calls, implemented with a pthread.h header/include file
- Pthreads API was defined in the ANSI/IEEE POSIX 1003.1 1995 standard
- Library :
  - IBM Library functions C/C++: http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/zos/v1r11/index.jsp?topic=/
  - POSIX Threads Programming : https://computing.llnl.gov/tutorials/pthreads/#Misc
  - about 100 subroutines, but we consider only fundamental functions
- Pthreads API is organized into four groups
  - Thread management
  - Mutexes
  - Condition variables
  - Synchronization

# Compiling threaded programs

Compiler / Platform	Compiler Command	Description
INTEL Linux	icc -pthread	С
	icpc -pthread	C++
PathScale Linux	pathcc -pthread	С
	pathCC -pthread	C++
PGI Linux	pgcc -lpthread	С
	pgCC -lpthread	C++
GNU Linux, BG/L, BG/P	gcc -pthread	GNU C
	g++ -pthread	GNU C++
IBM BG/L and BG/P	bgxlc_r / bgcc_r	C (ANSI / non-ANSI)
	bgxlC_r, bgxlc++_r	C++

source : https ://computing.llnl.gov/tutorials/pthreads/

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#### Thread management

- pthread\_create(pthread\_t \* thrd, pthread\_attr\_t\* attr, void\* start\_routine, void\* arg)
- pthread\_exit(void \*value\_ptr)
- pthread\_cancel(pthread\_t thr)
- pthread\_join(pthread\_t thr, void\*\* status)
- pthread\_detach(pthread\_t thr)

# Thread management: Creating a thread

- Attributes specified by attr
- The created thread will execute the start\_routine with arg as its argument
- Once created, threads are peers, and may create other threads. No dependency between threads

# Thread management: Terminating a thread

```
void pthread_exit(void *value_ptr)
```

A thread is terminated in several cases

- The thread finishes normally from its starting routine. Its work is done
- The thread makes a call to pthread\_exit(...) subroutine whether its work is done or not
- The thread is cancelled by another thread via the pthread\_cancel(...)
   subroutine
- The entire process terminates due to making a call to exec() or exit()
- The main finishes without explicitly calling pthread\_exit(...)

# Thread management : Terminating a thread

- The pthread\_exit(...) does not close any files
- If main finishes before the threads it spawned, all these threads will be terminated because main() is done and no longer exists to support the threads.
- By explicitly calling to pthread\_exit(...), main() will block until all threads it created terminate

# Thread management: example

```
1 void *proc(void *threadid)
     long tid = (long)threadid;
     printf("Hello World! | am thread %|d!\n", tid);
     pthread_exit(NULL);
7 int main (int argc, char *argv[])
     int NUM_THREADS = atoi(argv[1]);
     pthread_t threads[NUM_THREADS];
     for (long t=0; t < NUM_THREADS; t++){
        printf("Main: creating thread %Id\n", t);
        int rc = pthread_create(&threads[t], NULL, proc, (void *)t);
13
        if (rc){
           printf("ERROR; return code is %d n", rc); exit(-1);
15
     pthread_exit(NULL);
```

# Thread management : example without call to pthread\_exit(NULL) of main()

```
1 void* proc(void* arg){
    long tid = (long) arg;
   for (int i = 1; i \le 100; i++)
      cout \ll "thread" \ll tid \ll " has i = " \ll i \ll endl;
      sleep(1);
    pthread_exit(NULL);
9 int main(int argc, char** argv){
    int nbThreads = atoi(argv[1]);
    pthread_t thrd[nbThreads];
    for (long t = 0; t < nbThreads; t++){
      int rc = pthread_create(&thrd[t], NULL, proc, (void*)t);
      if (rc){
        cout << "Main Error when create thread with return code is =
15
            " << rc << endl;
        exit(-1);
17
    sleep(3);
19
    // pthread_exit(NULL);
```

# Thread management: passing arguments

- Argument will be a pointer to a structure encapsulating all variables that threads want to handle
- The structure should contain the information about the id of the thread

```
struct Param{
    long tid;

int* a;
    int sz;

int* r;
};
```

```
#include <pthread.h>
2 #include <iostream>
 #include <unistd.h>
  using namespace std;
  void* proc(void* arg){
    long tid = (long) arg;
   for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++){
      cout << "My id is " << tid << " having i = " << i << endl:
10
      sleep(1);
12
  main(){
    pthread_t T;
    int rc = pthread_create(&T, NULL, proc, (void*)123);
18
    sleep(3);
    cout << "main terminates the thread" << endl;
20
    rc = pthread_cancel(T);
    pthread_exit(NULL);
```

- Function main() creates 3 threads (0, 1, 2), each thread increments its own local variable *i* from 1 to 20
- If the value of *i* of the thread 0 reach 10, then it cancel the execution of thread 1

```
struct Param{
2 long tid;
pthread_t* arr;
4 };
```

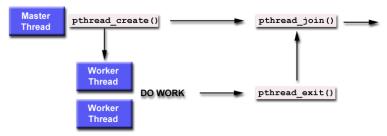
```
void* proc(void* arg){
    int old_cancel_state;
    pthread_setcancelstate(PTHREAD_CANCEL_ENABLE, &old_cancel_state);
5
    Param* p = (Param*)arg;
    long tid = p \rightarrow tid;
    for (int i = 1; i \le 20; i++){
      \overrightarrow{cout} \ll "thread" \ll tid \ll "has i = " \ll i \ll endl;
      if(tid = 0 \&\& i = 10){
         int rc = pthread_cancel(p->arr[1]);
           if(rc) cout << "thread " << tid << " cancel thread 1
               returning error code " << rc << endl;
      sleep(1);
    pthread_exit(NULL);
```

```
int main(int argc, char** argv){
    int nbThreads = atoi(argv[1]);
    pthread_t thrd[nbThreads];
    Param p[nbThreads];
    for (long t = 0; t < nbThreads; t++){
6
      p[t].tid = t;
      p[t].arr = thrd;
      int rc = pthread\_create(\&thrd[t], NULL, proc, (void*)&p[t]);
      if (rc) {
        cout << "Main Error when create thread with return code is =
            " << rc << endl:
        exit(-1);
    pthread_exit(NULL);
```

### Thread management - shared global variables

A created thread can access variables declared as global variables

```
#include <pthread.h>
2 #include <iostream>
 #include <unistd.h>
4 using namespace std;
  int A;
6 void* proc(void* arg){
    long tid = (long) arg;
   for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++){
      cout << "My id is " << tid << " having i = " << i << " A = " <<
           A \ll endl;
      sleep(2);
  main(){
    pthread_t T;
    A = 0:
    int rc = pthread_create(&T, NULL, proc, (void*)123);
    for (int i = 0; i <= 100; i++){
      A++;
      sleep(1);
                         Parallel Programming POSIX Threads Progra
```



source: https://computing.llnl.gov/tutorials/pthreads/

Joining is one way to accomplish synchronization between threads

```
int pthread_join(pthread_t thrd, void **status)
```

- The subroutine pthread\_join() blocks the calling thread until the thread thrd terminates
- We can obtain the target thread's termination return status if it is specified in the target thread's call to pthread\_exit
- To explicitly create a thread as joinable or detached, we use the attr in the method pthread\_create(...)

```
#include <pthread.h>
#include <iostream>
#include <unistd.h>
using namespace std;

void* proc(void* arg){
    long tid = (long) arg;
    for(int i = 0; i < 5*tid; i++){
        cout << "My id is " << tid << " having i = " << i << endl;
        sleep(tid);
    }
}</pre>
```

```
main(){
  int sz = 2;
  pthread_t T[sz+1];
  void* status;
  for (long i = 1; i \le sz; i++)
    int rc = pthread_create(&T[i], NULL, proc, (void*)i);
  for (long i = 1; i \le sz; i++){
    int rc = pthread_join(T[i], &status);
    cout << "Main joins with the created thread " << i << " with rc
         = " << rc << " status = " << status << endl;
  cout << "Main continues" << endl:
  pthread_exit(NULL);
```

```
My id is 1 having i = 0
2 My id is 1 having i = 1
 My id is 2 having i = 0
4 | \text{My id is 1 having i} = 2
 My id is 2 having i = 1
6 My id is 1 having i = 3
 My id is 2 having i = 2
8 My id is 1 having i = 4
 My id is 2 having i = 3
_{10} Main joins with the created thread 1 with {\sf rc}=0 status =0
  My id is 2 having i = 4
My id is 2 having i = 5
 My id is 2 having i = 6
My id is 2 having i = 7
  My id is 2 having i = 8
M_{\rm V} id is 2 having i = 9
  Main joins with the created thread 2 with rc = 0 status = 0
18 Main continues
```

```
#define MAX_SIZE 100000000

int x[MAX_SIZE];

int r[MAX_SIZE];

struct Param{
   long tid;
   int* a;
   int sz;
   int sz;
   int* r;
};
```

```
void* sum(void* arg){
    Param* p;
    p = (Param*) arg;

long tid;
    tid = p->tid;

*(p->r) = -1;
    for(int i = 0; i < p->sz; i++){
        *(p->r) = *(p->r) > *(p->a+i) ? *(p->r) : *(p->a+i);
    }
    pthread_exit(NULL);
}
```

```
int main(int agrc, char** argv){
    pthread_t threads[NUM_THREADS];
    pthread_attr_t attr:
    pthread_attr_init(&attr);
    pthread_attr_setdetachstate(&attr,PTHREAD_CREATE_JOINABLE);
    void* status:
    int sz = N/NUM_THREADS;
    Param pa[NUM_THREADS];
    for (int i = 0; i < NUM_THREADS; i++){
      pa[i].tid = i; pa[i].a = x+i*sz; pa[i].sz = sz; pa[i].r = r+i;
11
    for (long t = 0; t < NUM_THREADS; t++){
      int rc = pthread_create(&threads[t], NULL, sum, (void*)&pa[t]);
      if (rc) {
        printf("ERROR, return code %d n", rc); exit(-1);
17
    pthread_attr_destroy(&attr);
19
```

```
for (long t = 0; t < NUM_THREADS; t++){
      int rc = pthread_join(threads[t], &status);
      if (rc) {
        printf("ERROR, return code %d\n",rc);
        exit(-1);
      printf("main finishes joining with thread %Id having a status
          of %Id\n",t,(long)status);
9
    printf("main finishes\n");
    int M = -1:
    for (int i=0; i<NUM_THREADS; i++) {
      M = M > r[i] ? M : r[i];
      printf("r[%d] = %d\n",i,r[i]);
15
    pthread_exit(NULL);
```

# Thread management : detaching threads

```
int pthread_detach(pthread_t t)
```

- The pthread\_detach(pthread\_t t) routine can be used to explicitly detach a thread even though it was created as joinable
- ullet Storage for the thread t can be reclaimed when that thread terminates
- If we know in advance that a thread will never need to join with other threads, then consider creating it in a detached state. Some system resources may be able to be freed
- If the thread t does not terminate, the subroutine pthread\_detach(pthread\_t
  - t) does not cause t to terminate
- Why pthread\_detach(pthread\_t t)?
  - To detach threads on which pthread\_join was waiting to avoid unbounded waiting periods

# Thread management : detaching threads

```
1 void* proc(void* arg){
    printf("thread start with argument %s\n", arg);
    for (int i = 1; i \le 10; i++)
      cout \ll "thread proc" \ll arg \ll "has i = " \ll i \ll endl;
      if(i = 5){
        cout \ll "i = 5, detach self " <math>\ll endl;
        pthread_detach(pthread_self());
      sleep(1);
    pthread_exit(NULL);
13 int main(int argc, char** argv){
    pthread_t t;
    void *status:
    int rc = pthread_create(&t, NULL, proc, (void*)"thread 2");
    cout << "main() starts joining ..." << endl;</pre>
    rc = pthread_join(t,&status);
    if (rc)
    cout << "main() join thread returns error code " << rc << endl;</pre>
    else
     cout << "main() Join -> OK " << endl;</pre>
    pthread_exit(NULL);
23
```

### Thread management: detaching threads

#### execution result : on MAC OS

```
1 main() starts joining...
 thread start with argument thread 2
3 thread executing proc has i = 1
 thread executing proc has i = 2
5 thread executing proc has i = 3
 thread executing proc has i = 4
7 thread executing proc has i = 5
 i = 5. detach self
9 main() join thread returns error code 3
 thread executing proc has i = 6
11 thread executing proc has i = 7
 thread executing proc has i = 8
thread executing proc has i = 9
 thread executing proc has i = 10
```

### Thread management : Miscellaneous routines

- pthread\_self(): returns the unique, system assigned thread ID of the calling thread
- pthread\_equal(pthread\_t t1, pthread\_t t2): return a non-value if thread t1 and t2 are equal. Otherwise, 0 will be returned

# Thread management : Miscellaneous routines

```
int pthread\_once(pthread\_once\_t *once\_control, void(*init\_routine) ())
```

- There may be several threads calling init\_routine
- But only the first call causes the routine init\_routine to run
- Other threads that reach the same point will be delayed until the execution of init\_routine of the first thread calling it finishes
- The mechanism is used when we want the data structure is initialized by only one thread. An alternative is to use mutex but it is waste of resource.

# Thread management : pthread\_once

```
int main(int argc, char** argv){
    int nbThrds = 4;
    pthread_t t[nbThrds];
    void* status;
    for (long i = 0; i \le nbThrds; i++){
      int rc = pthread_create(&t[i], NULL, proc,(void*) i);
      if (rc) {
        cout << "pthread_create in main() returns error code " << rc</pre>
            << endl;
        exit(-1);
    for (int i = 0; i \le nbThrds; i++){
      int rc = pthread_join(t[i],&status);
      if (rc) {
        cout << "main(), pthread_join thread " << i << " returns</pre>
            error code " << rc << " status = " << status << endl;
        exit(-1);
19
    cout << "global count = " << global_count << endl;</pre>
    pthread_exit(NULL);
```

# Thread management : pthread\_once

```
pthread_once_t once_control = PTHREAD_ONCE_INIT;
2 | int global_count = 0;
4 void init_routine(void){
    cout << "init is called ...." << endl;</pre>
    global_count++;
  void* proc(void* arg){
    long tid = (long)arg;
    cout << "thread " << tid << " is running self = " << pthread_self
        () << endl;
    init_routine();
    pthread_exit(NULL);
```

# Thread management: pthread\_once

```
pthread_once_t once_control = PTHREAD_ONCE_INIT;
2 | int global_count = 0;
4 void init_routine(void){
    cout << "init is called ...." << endl;</pre>
    global_count++;
  void* proc(void* arg){
    long tid = (long)arg;
    cout << "thread " << tid << " is running self = " << pthread_self
        () << endl;
    pthread_once(&once_control , init_routine );
    pthread_exit(NULL);
```

- Input: a text file contains an array A
- Write a parallel problem using pthread for calculating the sum of all items of A

#### First and not correct implementation (line 16)

```
#define MAX 100000000
2 #define MAX_THREADS 10
  int A[MAX];
4 long n;
 long d;
6 int k; // so luong thread
  long tong;
  void* subSum(void* arg){
    long tid = (long)arg;
    long start = tid*d;
    long end = (tid+1)*d -1;
    if (tid = k-1) end = n-1;
14
    for(long j = start; j \le end; j++)
      tong = tong + A[i];
```

#### First and not correct implementation

```
int main(int argc, char** argv){
  k = atoi(argv[1]);
  docdulieu(argv[2]);
  Timer ti;
  double t0 = ti.getElapsedTime();
  d = n/k;
  pthread_t T[k];
  for (long i = 0; i < k; i++)
    pthread_create(&T[i], NULL, subSum, (void*)i);
  printf("Tong = \%Id time = \%If \setminus n", tong, ti.getElapsedTime()-t0);
  pthread_exit(NULL);
```

#### Second and not efficient implementation

```
#define MAX 100000000
2 #define MAX_THREADS 10
 int A[MAX];
4 long n;
 long d;
6 int k; // so luong thread
 long tong;
8 \mid \text{long S[MAX\_THREADS]}; //S[i] \mid \text{la tong con ma thread i tinh toan}
10 void* subSum(void* arg){
    long tid = (long)arg;
    long start = tid*d;
    long end = (tid+1)*d-1;
    if (tid = k-1) end = n-1;
    S[tid] = 0;
    for (long j = start; j \le end; j++)
      S[tid] = S[tid] + A[i];
```

#### Second and not efficient implementation (line 13)

```
1 int main(int argc, char** argv){
    k = atoi(argv[1]);
    docdulieu (argv [2]);
    Timer ti;
    double t0 = ti.getElapsedTime();
    d = n/k;
    pthread_t T[k];
    void* status;
    for (long i = 0; i < k; i++){
      pthread_create(&T[i], NULL, subSum, (void*)i);
      pthread_join(T[i],&status);
13
15
    tong = 0:
    for (int i = 0; i < k; i++)
      tong = tong + S[i];
    printf("Tong = \%Id time = \%If \n", tong, ti.getElapsedTime()-t0);
    pthread_exit(NULL);
```

### Outline

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- One of the primary means for
  - implementing threads synchronization
  - protecting shared data when multiple writes occur
- Acts as a lock
  - Only one thread can lock (or own) a mutex variable at any given time
  - No other threads can lock a mutex until the owning thread unlocks it
- Use to prevent race condition

Thread 1	Thread 2	Balance
Read balance: \$1000		\$1000
	Read balance: \$1000	\$1000
	Deposit \$200	\$1000
Deposit \$200		\$1000
Update balance \$1000+\$200		\$1200
	Update balance \$1000+\$200	\$1200

source = https://computing.llnl.gov/tutorials/pthreads/

- A typical sequence of use of a mutex is as follows
  - Create and initialize a mutex variable
  - Several threads attempt to lock the mutex
  - Only one thread succeeds and it owns the mutex
  - The owner thread performs some actions
  - The owner thread unlocks the mutex
  - Another thread acquires the mutex and performs its actions
  - Finally, the mutex is destroyed
- We can use "trylock" (unblocking call) instead of "lock" to avoid blocking at the call

- Initialize a mutex pthread\_mutex\_init(pthread\_mutex\_t\* mutex, pthread\_attr\_t attr)
- Destroy a mutex pthread\_mutex\_destroy(pthread\_mutex\_t\* mutex)
- Locking a mutex pthread\_mutex\_lock(pthread\_mutex\_t\* mutex)
- NonBlocking lock pthread\_mutex\_trylock(pthread\_mutex\_t\* mutex)
- Unlocking a mutex pthread\_mutex\_unlock(pthread\_mutex\_t\* mutex)

### Mutex variables - sum calculation

```
#define MAX 10000000
2 #define MAX_THREADS 10
 int A[MAX];
4 long n;
 long d:
6 int k; // so luong thread
 long tong;
8 pthread_mutex_t mux;
10 void* subSum(void* arg){
    long tid = (long)arg;
    long start = tid*d;
12
    long end = (tid+1)*d-1;
    if (tid = k-1) end = n-1;
14
    long Si = 0:
    for (long j = start; j \le end; j++)
16
      Si = Si + A[j];
    pthread_mutex_lock(&mux);
18
    tong = tong + Si;
    printf("Thread %Id compute Si = %Id and update tong = %Id\n",tid,
        Si, tong);
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&mux);
```

```
int main(int argc, char** argv){
    k = atoi(argv[1]);
    tong = 0;
    d = n/k;
    Timer ti:
    double t0 = ti.getElapsedTime();
    pthread_mutex_init(&mux, NULL);
    pthread_t T[k];
    for (long i = 0; i < k; i++)
      pthread_create(&T[i], NULL, subSum, (void*)i);
    void* status:
    for (long i = 0; i < k; i++)
      pthread_join(T[i],&status);
    printf("Tong = \%Id time = \%If \setminus n", tong, ti.getElapsedTime()-t0);
14
    pthread_mutex_destroy(&mux);
    pthread_exit(NULL);
```

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- Another way for threads synchronization
- A condition variable is used in conjunction with a mutex lock

Thread A	Thread B
Do work up to the point where a certain condition occurs  Lock the mutex variable and check the value of a global variable  Call pthread_cond_wait() to perform a blocking wait for signal from thread B. Note that a call to pthread_cond_wait() automatically and atomically unlocked the associated mutex so that it can be used by thread B  When signaled, wake up. Mutex is automatically and atomically locked  Explicitly unlock the mutex  Continue	<ul> <li>Do work</li> <li>Locked the associated mutex</li> <li>Change the value of a global variable that thread A is waiting upon</li> <li>Check the value of the global variable. If it fulfills the desired condition, then signal thread A</li> <li>Unlock mutex</li> <li>Continue</li> </ul>

Initializing and destroying condition variables

Waiting and signaling on condition variables

- thread main() will create three threads 1, 2, 3 which share a global variable count
  - thread 2 and 3 augment the value of count each time by one
  - $\bullet$  thread 1 wait until the value of  $_{\text{count}}$  reaches COUNT\_LIMIT , it then augment the value of count by 125 and finishes
  - threads 2 and 3 continue augmenting the value of count by one at each step

```
int count = 0;

pthread_mutex_t count_mutex;

pthread_cond_t count_threshold_cv;
```

```
1 void* inc_count(void* t){
    long my_id = (long)t;
    for (int i = 0; i < TCOUNT; i++){
      pthread_mutex_lock(&count_mutex);
      count++:
      if (count == COUNT_LIMIT) {
        pthread_cond_signal(&count_threshold_cv);
        printf("inc_count(): thread %Id, count = %d, Threshold
            reached \n", my_id, count);
      printf("inc_count(): thread %Id, count = %d, Unlock mutex\n",
          my_id , count );
      pthread_mutex_unlock(&count_mutex);
      /* do some work, so thread can alternate on mutex lock*/
      sleep(2);
19
    pthread_exit(NULL);
```

```
void* watch_count(void* t){
    long my_id = (long)t;
2
    printf("Start watch count, thread %Id\n", my_id);
    pthread_mutex_lock(&count_mutex);
    pthread_cond_wait(&count_threshold_cv , &count_mutex);
    printf("Watch_count(): thread %Id condition singal received\n",
        my_id);
    count += 125:
    printf("watch_count(): thread %Id count is now %d\n", my_id, count)
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&count_mutex);
12
    pthread_exit(NULL);
```

```
1 int main(){
    long t1 = 1, t2 = 2, t3 = 3;
    pthread_t threads[3];
    pthread_attr_t attr;
    pthread_mutex_init(&count_mutex, NULL);
    pthread_cond_init(&count_threshold_cv , NULL);
7
    pthread_attr_init(&attr);
    pthread_attr_setdetachstate(&attr,PTHREAD_CREATE_JOINABLE);
    pthread_create(&threads[0],&attr,watch_count,(void*) t1);
    pthread_create(&threads[1],&attr,inc_count,(void*) t2);
    pthread_create(&threads[2],&attr,inc_count,(void*) t3);
13
    for (int i = 0; i < NUM_THREADS; i++)
      pthread_join(threads[i], NULL);
17
    pthread_attr_destroy(&attr);
    pthread_mutex_destroy(&count_mutex);
19
    pthread_cond_destroy(&count_threshold_cv);
    pthread_exit(NULL);
```