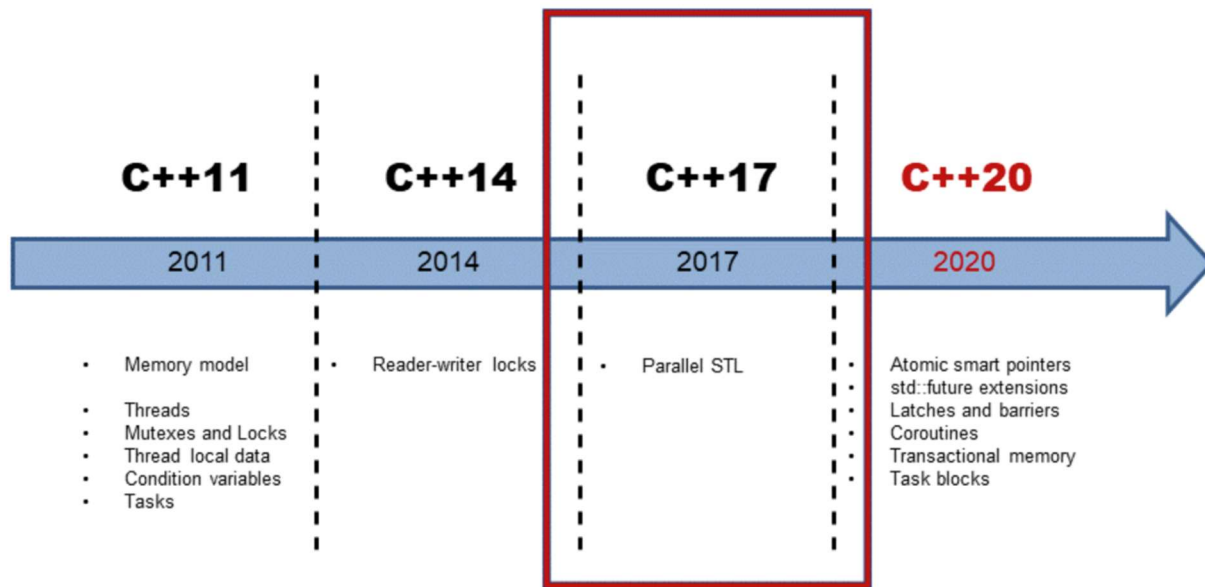


ACTIVITY NO. 13

PARALLEL ALGORITHMS AND MULTITHREADING	
Course Code: CPE010	Program: Computer Engineering
Course Title: Data Structures and Algorithms	Date Performed:
Section:	Date Submitted:
Name:	Instructor: Engr. Roman M. Richard
1. Objective(s)	
Create C++ code that uses modern programming techniques to implement parallel algorithms, multithreading and concurrency.	
2. Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)	
After this activity, the student should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create C++ code that uses parallel algorithms for better performance.• Create C++ code that implements multithreading and concurrency.	
3. Discussion	
<p>In the modern tech climate, concurrency has become an essential skill for all CPP programmers. As programs continue to get more complex, computers are designed with more CPU cores to match.</p> <p>The best way for you to make use of these multicore machines is the coding technique of concurrency.</p> <p>What is concurrency?</p> <p>Concurrency occurs when multiple copies of a program run simultaneously while communicating with each other. Simply put, concurrency is when two tasks are overlapped. A simple concurrent application will use a single machine to store the program's instruction, but that process is executed by multiple, different threads.</p> <p>This setup creates a kind of control flow, where each thread executes its instruction before passing to the next one. The threads act independently and to make decisions based on the previous thread as well. However, some issues can arise in concurrency that make it tricky to implement.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A data race is a common issue you may encounter in C++ concurrency and multi-threaded processes. Data races in C++ occur when at least two threads can simultaneously access a variable or memory location, and at least one of those threads tries to access that variable. <p>This can result in undefined behavior. Regardless of its challenges, concurrency is very important for handling multiple tasks at once.</p> <p>History of Concurrency</p> <p>C++11 was the first C++ standard to introduce concurrency, including threads, the C++ memory model, conditional variables, mutex, and more. The C++11 standard changes drastically with C++17. The addition of parallel algorithms in the Standard Template Library (STL) greatly improved concurrent code.</p>	



Concurrency vs. Parallelism

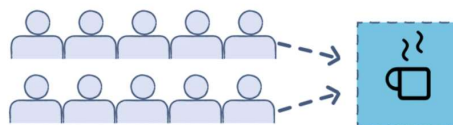
Concurrency and parallelism often get mixed up, but it's important to understand the difference. In parallelism, we run multiple copies of the same program simultaneously, but they are executed on different data.

Example:

- You could use parallelism to send requests to different websites but give each copy of the program a different set of URLs. These copies are not necessarily in communication with each other, but they are running at the same time in parallel.

As we explained above, concurrent programming involves a shared memory location, and the different threads actually "read" the information provided by the previous threads.

Concurrent: *Two Queues & a Single Espresso machine.*



Parallel: *Two Queues & Two Espresso machines.*

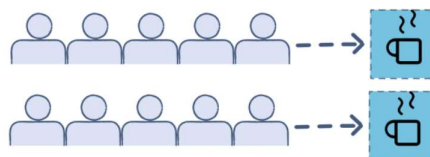


Image from EdPresso shot, "What is concurrent programming?"

Methods of Implementing Concurrency

In C++, the two most common ways of implementing concurrency are through multithreading and parallelism. While these can be used in other programming languages, C++ stands out for its concurrent capabilities with lower-than-average overhead costs as well as its capacity for complex instruction.

C++ multithreading involves creating and using thread objects, seen as `std::thread` in code, to carry out delegated sub-tasks independently.

New threads are passed a function to complete, and optionally some parameters for that function.

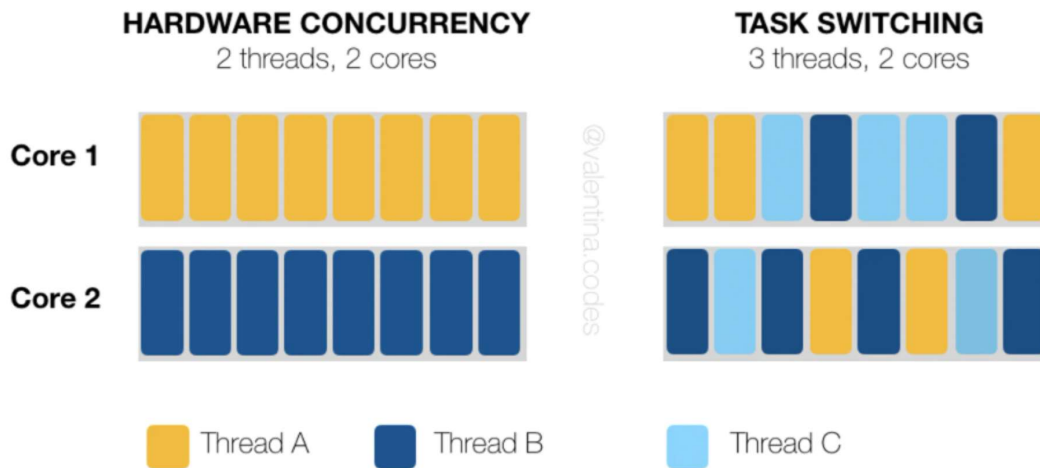


Image from Medium, [C++] Concurrency by Valentina

While each individual thread can complete only one function at a time, thread pools allow us to recycle and reuse thread objects to give programs the illusion of unlimited multitasking. Not only does this take advantage of multiple CPU cores, but it also allows the developer to control the number of tasks taken on by manipulating the thread pool size. The program can then use the computer resources efficiently without overloading becoming overloaded.

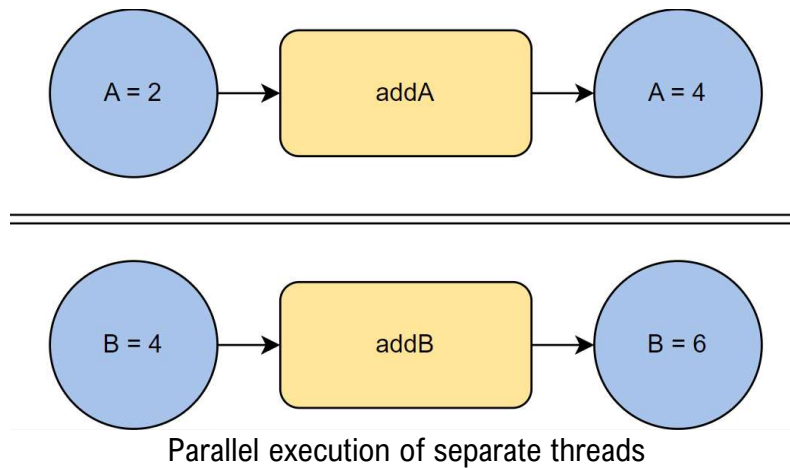
To better understand thread pools, consider the relationship of worker bees to a hive queen:

The queen (the program) has a broader goal to accomplish (the survival of the hive) while the workers (the threads) only have their individual tasks given by the queen. Once these tasks are completed, the bees return to the queen for further instruction. At any one time, there is a set number of these workers being commanded by the queen, enough to utilize all of its hive space without overcrowding it.

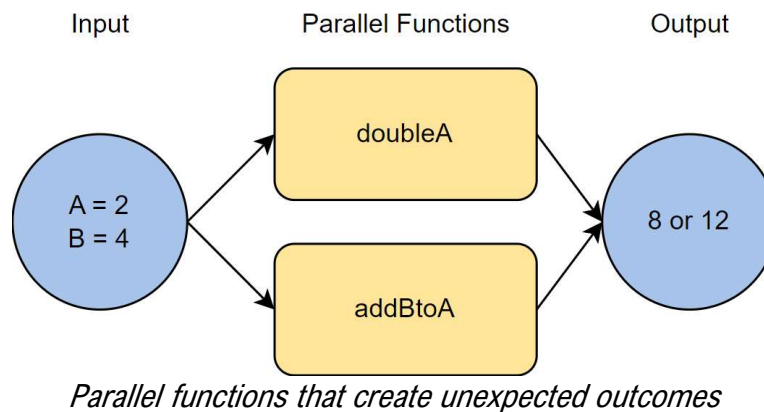
Parallelism

Creating different threads is typically expensive in terms of both time and memory overhead for the program. Multithreading can therefore be wasteful when dealing with short simpler functions. Parallel functions can significantly speed up operations because they automatically use more of the computer's CPU resources.

However, it is best saved for functions that have little interaction with other functions using dependencies or data editing. This is because while they are worked on concurrently, there is no way to know which will complete first, meaning the result is unpredictable unless synchronization such as mutex or condition variables are used.



Imagine we have two variables, A and B, and create functions addA and addB, which add 2 to their value. We could do so with parallelism, as the behavior of addA is independent on the behavior of the other parallel function addB, and therefore has no problem executing concurrently.



However, if the functions both impacted the same variable, we would instead want to use sequential execution. Imagine that we instead had one which multiplied variable A by two, doubleA, and another which added B to A, addBtoA.

In this case, we would not want to use parallel execution as the outcome of this set of functions depends on which is completed first and would, therefore, result in a race condition.

While both multithreading and parallelism are helpful concepts for implementing concurrency in a C++ program, multithreading is more widely applicable due to its ability to handle complex operations. In the next section, we'll look at a code example of multithreading at its most basic.

4. Materials and Equipment

Personal Computer with C++ IDE

Recommended IDE:

- CLion (must use TIP email to download)
- DevC++ (use the embarcadero fork or configure to C++17)

5. Procedure

ILO A & ILO B:

Part 1: Simple One-Threaded Example

Since all threads must be given a function to complete at their creation, we first must declare a function for it to be given. We'll name this function print and will design it to take int and string arguments when called. When executed, this code will simply report the data values passed in.

```
void print(int n, const std::string &str) {  
    std::cout << "Printing integer: " << n << std::endl;  
    std::cout << "Printing string: " << str << std::endl;  
}
```

In the next section, we'll initialize a thread and have it execute the above function. To do this, we'll have the main function, the default executor present in all C++ applications, initialize the thread for the print function.

After that, we use another handy multithreading command, `join()`, pausing the main function's thread until the specified thread, in this case `t1`, has finished its task. Without `join()` here, the main thread would finish its task before `t1` would complete print, resulting in an error.

```
int main() {  
    std::thread t1(print, 10, "T.I.P.");  
    t1.join();  
    return 0;  
}
```

Show your output and analysis in section 6 as its own table.

Part 2: Multi-Threaded Example

While the outcome of the single thread example above could easily be replicated without using multithreaded code, we can truly see concurrency's benefits when we attempt to complete print multiple times with different sets of data. Without multithreading, this would be done by simply having the main thread repeat print one at a time until completion.

To do this with concurrency in mind, we instead use a for loop to initialize multiple threads, pass them the print function and arguments, which they then complete concurrently. This multithreading option would be faster one using only the main thread as more of the total CPU is being used.

Runtime difference between multithreading and non-multithreading solutions increasing as more print executions are needed.

Let's see what a many-thread version of the above code would look like:

```

void print(int n, const std::string &str) {
    std::string msg = std::to_string(n) + " : " + str;
    std::cout << msg << std::endl;
}

int main() {
    std::vector<std::string> s = {
        "T.I.P.",
        "Competent",
        "Computer",
        "Engineers"
    };
    std::vector<std::thread> threads;

    for (int i = 0; i < s.size(); i++) {
        threads.push_back(std::thread(print, i, s[i]));
    }

    for (auto &th : threads) {
        th.join();
    }
    return 0;
}

```

Show your output and analysis in section 6 as its own table.

6. Output

Screenshot	
Analysis	

Table 13-1. Simple One-Threaded Example

Screenshot	
Analysis	

Table 13-2. Multithreaded Example.

7. Supplementary Activity

Part A: Demonstrate an understanding of parallelism, concurrency, and multithreading in C++ by answering the given questions. Use of supplementary materials to support answers must be cited as reference.

Questions:

1. Write a definition of multithreading and its advantages/disadvantages.

2. Rationalize the use of multithreading by providing at least 3 use-cases.

3. Differentiate between parallelism and concurrency.

Part B: Create C++ Code and show a solution that satisfies the given requirements below.

- Create a global variable of type integer.
- Create an add function that will take an integer parameter and add that value to the global variable.
- Use multi-threading techniques to create 3 threads; individually pass the add function to the threads.
- Display the value of global variable at different combinations of using the join() per thread. Such that:
 - Display
 - T1.join()
 - Display
 - T2.join()
 - Display
 - T3.join()
- Provide an analysis based on the outputs of the multi-threading exercise.

Part C: Use multi-threading with one of the algorithms previously developed in the course; provide an analysis of the result.

(include screenshots)

8. Conclusion
Provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of lessons learned• Analysis of the procedure• Analysis of the supplementary activity• Concluding statement / Feedback: How well did you think you did in this activity? What are your areas for improvement?
9. Assessment Rubric