

Assignment 4 – Word Blast

Description:

This assignment is to write a C program that accepts arguments of a filename and a thread count and process the file using multithreading

Approach / What I Did:

My first step to resolve the assignment was to plan out my approach. I decided a linked list would be the best way to store the words as it grows dynamically and I know how to write my own. During the coding stage I copied a bubble sort algorithm from Geeks for Geeks so that I could focus on the multithreading aspect first and then try to solve the sorting part after. I initially used the `pread` and `strtok` functions but I found that I didn't understand the outputs they were giving me. After switching to the `read` function I found that it tended to work out better, as I could specify the buffer size and where I wanted the function to start.

Issues and Resolutions:

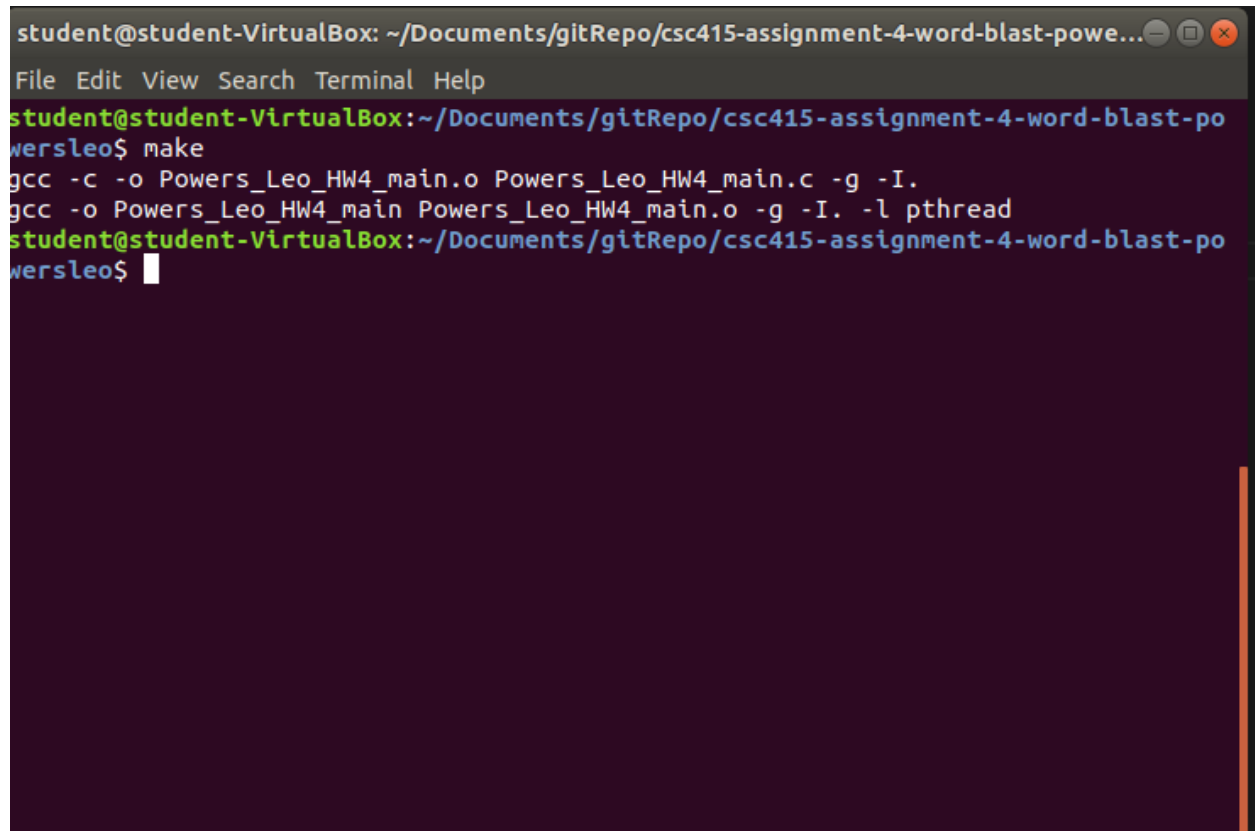
My first issue I ran into was that the `pread` function wasn't reading the entire file. I tried to fix it but eventually switched over the `read` function and it ended up working better. Another issue was the `strtok` function was not working as I intended but the `strtok_r` seemed to give me the correct tokens without any finagling. Another issue was the `strcmp` function, I initially used that one and was very confused as to why my count was not the same as the readme file results but changing to the `strcasecmp` function fixed that.

Analysis:

At 1 thread my code ran at: 1.833 seconds
at 2 threads my code ran at: 0.96 seconds
at 4 threads my code ran at 0.903 seconds
at 8 threads my code ran at 0.902 seconds

I think there was a major jump from 1 to 2 as the file was able to be read at a very fast rate. In 1 thread the reading took a greater amount of time to parse as only 1 thread was reading at a time. At 2 threads the file could be read at half the time, and words could be searched from the linked list. I think the times didn't really change at 4 and 8 threads both because the VM we used locked us to two threads, and because the bottle neck was likely inserting new nodes into the linked list. I think at that point the file was being read very quickly, it took a lot longer for the words to be inserted into the list. I think the way I sorted the linked list also reduced the time by a lot.

Screen shot of compilation:



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "student@student-VirtualBox: ~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-powe...". The terminal shows the execution of the 'make' command, which compiles a C program. The output shows two gcc commands: the first compiles Powers_Leo_HW4_main.c to Powers_Leo_HW4_main.o with flags -g -I., and the second links Powers_Leo_HW4_main.o to Powers_Leo_HW4_main with flags -g -I. -l pthread. The terminal has a dark purple background and a menu bar with File, Edit, View, Search, Terminal, and Help.

```
student@student-VirtualBox: ~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-powe...
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
student@student-VirtualBox:~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-po
wersleo$ make
gcc -c -o Powers_Leo_HW4_main.o Powers_Leo_HW4_main.c -g -I.
gcc -o Powers_Leo_HW4_main Powers_Leo_HW4_main.o -g -I. -l pthread
student@student-VirtualBox:~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-po
wersleo$
```

Screen shot(s) of the execution of the program:

```
student@student-VirtualBox: ~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-powe...
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
student@student-VirtualBox:~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-po
wersleo$ make run
gcc -c -o Powers_Leo_HW4_main.o Powers_Leo_HW4_main.c -g -I.
gcc -o Powers_Leo_HW4_main Powers_Leo_HW4_main.o -g -I. -l pthread
./Powers_Leo_HW4_main WarAndPeace.txt 1
Word Frequency Count on WarAndPeace.txt with 1 threads
Printing top 10 words 6 characters or more.
Number 1 is Pierre with a count of      1963
Number 2 is Prince with a count of      1928
Number 3 is Natásha with a count of     1213
Number 4 is Andrew with a count of      1143
Number 5 is himself with a count of     1020
Number 6 is Princess with a count of     916
Number 7 is French with a count of       881
Number 8 is before with a count of       833
Number 9 is Rostóv with a count of       776
Number 10 is thought with a count of     767
Total Time was 1.833828838 seconds
student@student-VirtualBox:~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-po
wersleo$
```

```
student@student-VirtualBox: ~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-powe...
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
student@student-VirtualBox:~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-po
wersleo$ make run
./Powers_Leo_HW4_main WarAndPeace.txt 2
Word Frequency Count on WarAndPeace.txt with 2 threads
Printing top 10 words 6 characters or more.
Number 1 is Pierre with a count of      1963
Number 2 is Prince with a count of      1928
Number 3 is Natásha with a count of     1213
Number 4 is Andrew with a count of      1143
Number 5 is himself with a count of     1020
Number 6 is Princess with a count of     916
Number 7 is French with a count of       881
Number 8 is before with a count of       833
Number 9 is Rostóv with a count of       776
Number 10 is thought with a count of     767
Total Time was 0.963766269 seconds
student@student-VirtualBox:~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-po
wersleo$
```

```
student@student-VirtualBox: ~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-powe...
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
student@student-VirtualBox:~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-po
wersleo$ make run
./Powers_Leo_HW4_main WarAndPeace.txt 4
Word Frequency Count on WarAndPeace.txt with 4 threads
Printing top 10 words 6 characters or more.
Number 1 is Pierre with a count of      1963
Number 2 is Prince with a count of      1928
Number 3 is Natásha with a count of     1213
Number 4 is Andrew with a count of      1143
Number 5 is himself with a count of     1020
Number 6 is princess with a count of     916
Number 7 is French with a count of       881
Number 8 is before with a count of       833
Number 9 is Rostóv with a count of       776
Number 10 is thought with a count of     767
Total Time was 0.903860723 seconds
student@student-VirtualBox:~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-po
wersleo$
```

```
student@student-VirtualBox: ~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-powe...
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
student@student-VirtualBox:~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-po
wersleo$ make run
./Powers_Leo_HW4_main WarAndPeace.txt 8
Word Frequency Count on WarAndPeace.txt with 8 threads
Printing top 10 words 6 characters or more.
Number 1 is Pierre with a count of      1963
Number 2 is Prince with a count of      1928
Number 3 is Natásha with a count of     1213
Number 4 is Andrew with a count of      1143
Number 5 is himself with a count of     1020
Number 6 is princess with a count of     916
Number 7 is French with a count of       881
Number 8 is Before with a count of       833
Number 9 is Rostóv with a count of       776
Number 10 is thought with a count of     767
Total Time was 0.902422270 seconds
student@student-VirtualBox:~/Documents/gitRepo/csc415-assignment-4-word-blast-po
wersleo$
```