REAL TIME EMBEDDED SYSTEMS

First Assignment: Implementation of Producers – Consumers Problem

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Code link: https://github.com/sportokalidis/producers-consumers

Problem Description

The "Producers - Consumers" is a well-known programming problem. On the one hand, we have the producers, who add objects in a queue, and on the other hand there are consumers, who delete the objects from this queue. In this assignment, we are called to implement a parallel version of this problem. We have "p" producer threads and "q" consumer threads, who add and remove workFunction objects from queue buffer, respectively. WorkFunction objects include a function pointer and the arguments of this function. Consumers, when, remove an object from the queue buffer, must run this function. The target of this assignment is to take some statistics from remaining time of objects in the queue and find the suitable number of consumers that minimize the average remaining time.

Project and Code Explanation

https://github.com/sportokalidis/producers-consumers/blob/master/README.md

Hardware

4 x Intel Core i7-7500 CPU 2,70 GHz

Results

1st part of statistics: In this part, Queue size and number of producers are constant.
I) Queue_size = 1,000 and P = 4, **II)** Queue_size = 5,000 and P = 4, **III)** Queue_size = 20,000 and P = 4

I)

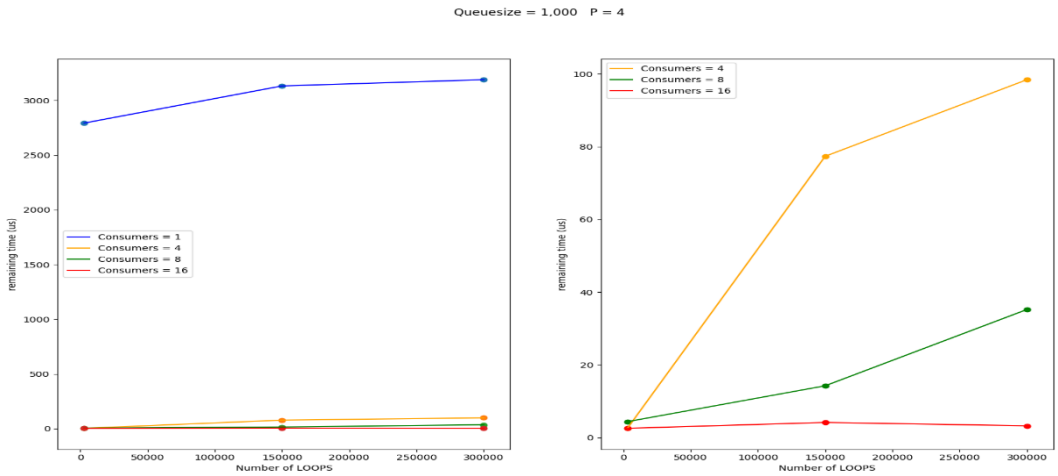
		Number of Consumers			
		1	4	8	16
Num of Loops	3,000	2793	2.52	4.36	2.52
	150,000	3132	77.36	14.22	4.14
	300,000	3189	98.43	35.21	3.22

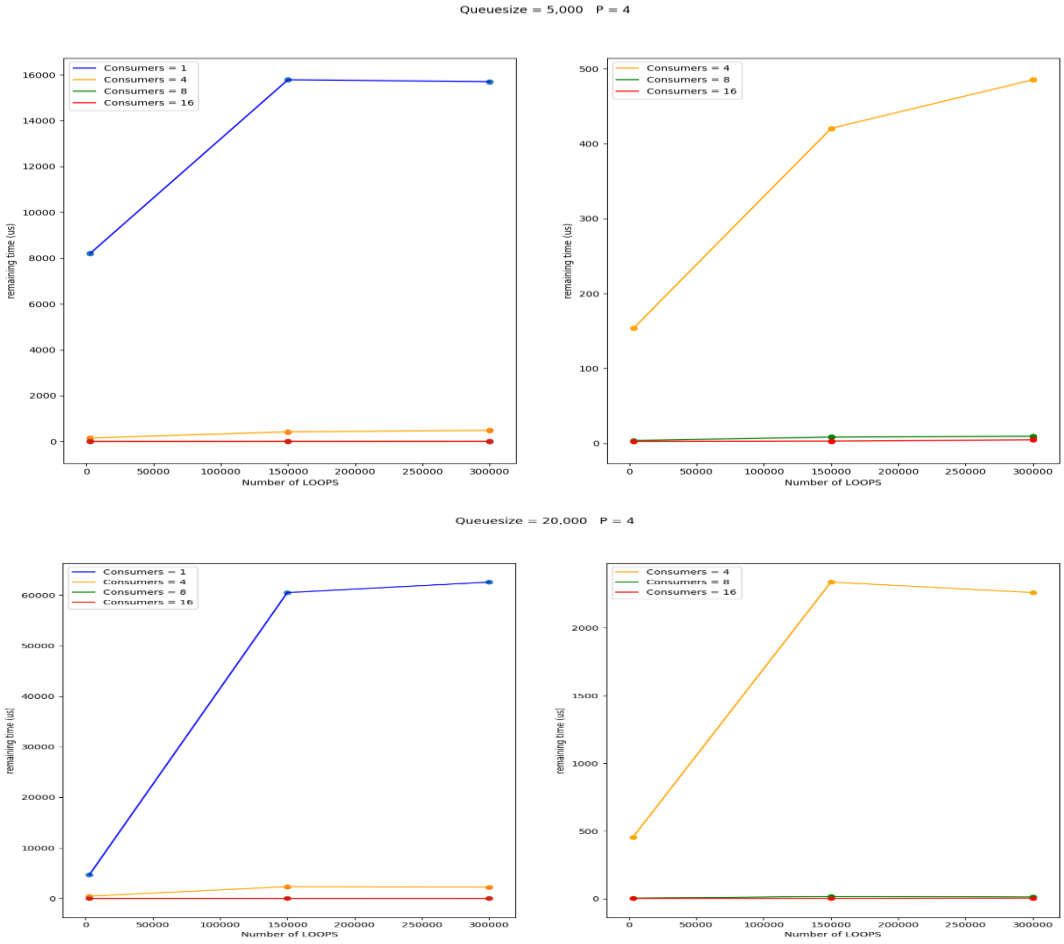
II)

		Number of Consumers			
		1	4	8	16
Num of Loops	1,000	8205	15.35	3.68	2.49
	150,000	15780	42.04	83.3	2.94
	300,000	15699	48.53	9.4	4.629

III)

		Number of Consumers			
		1	4	8	16
Num of Loops	3,000	4675	454	4,7	2.5
	150,000	60494	2336	16.9	3.1
	300,000	62566	2260	13.05	4.5

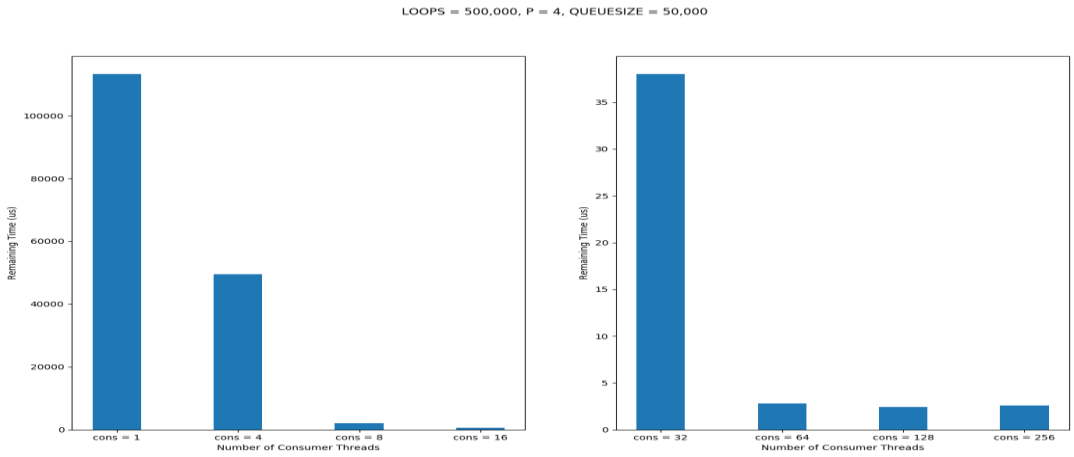




In conclusion, we understand that, for LOOPS > 150,000 there are a relative stabilization of remaining time and the values tend to be close to the mean value. In addition, is important to notice that the Queue size play an important role when the number of consumers is small and on the other hand is not important when the number of consumers are larger (> number of producer). This is an expected result, because when the number of consumers threads increases, the output rate increases, and the input rate is constant.

2nd part of statistics: In this part, Queue size, number of producers and loops are constant. We choose loop number 500,000 in order to take more reliable results. Now, we change the number of consumers in order to find the suitable number of treads which minimize the remaining time.

	Number of producers							
	Q = 1	Q = 4	Q = 8	Q = 16	Q = 32	Q = 64	Q = 128	Q = 256
Remaining time	113,263	49,539	2129	625	38	2.81	2.4	2.5



In conclusion, we notice that at this system the number of consumers that optimize the remaining time is 64. However, this number change from system to system. For example, if we use only one producer, the number of consumers that optimize the system it will be less than 64, because the input rate of objects in queue decreases. In addition, a system that use a larger number of consumers, it has the possibility to use a smaller queue buffer to save the objects, as we notice from the 1st part.