

Why	• Threads act as part of a process instead of creating an entirely new
Threads?	process
	Shared access to code, data, and files
Thread Benefits	ResponsivenessResource sharing
	 Economy
	 Solaris OS creating a thread is 30 times faster
	 Solaris OS context switching is 5x faster with threads
	• Scalability
	 Can run threads on multiple processors
Multicore Programming	Parallelism – can perform more than one task simultaneously
	 Concurrency – allows all tasks to make progress by rapidly switching
	between processes on a single CPU
	• Amdahl's Law (S is the percent performed Serially, N is the number of
	processing cores):
	$speedup \leq \frac{1}{(S + \frac{(1-S)}{N})}$
	$(S + \frac{1}{N})$
	• Modern computers with increased hardware enhancements may render
	this law irrelevant
Programming Challenges	1. Identifying tasks – which tasks can be run independently and htus in
	parallel?
	2. Balance – is it worth the cost to separate some tasks?
	3. Data splitting – data accessed by tasks must be divided to run on separate
	cores
	4. Data dependency – must ensure synchronization where required
Types of Parallelism	
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Thread Libraries	 Three main thread libraries
	 POSIX Pthreads
	 Windows
	o Java
	 Unix/Linux – typically implemented using Pthreads
	 Two general strategies for creating multiple threads
	 Asynchronous
	 Synchronous
Pthreads	• Pthreads – POSIX standard defining an API for thread creation and
	synchronization
Pthraada	
Pthreads	 Specification, not an implementation
Types of Parallelism Thread	 4. Data dependency – must ensure synchronization where required 5. Testing and debugging – more difficult given the inconsistency of runtime execution 1. Data parallelism – how to split up the data? a. Example: sum an array 2. Task parallelism – split the work (tasks) Three main thread libraries POSIX Pthreads Windows Java Windows – typically uses Windows API Unix/Linux – typically implemented using Pthreads Two general strategies for creating multiple threads Asynchronous Synchronous Pthreads – POSIX standard defining an API for thread creation and