Programming Shared-memory Platforms with OpenMP

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Topics for Today

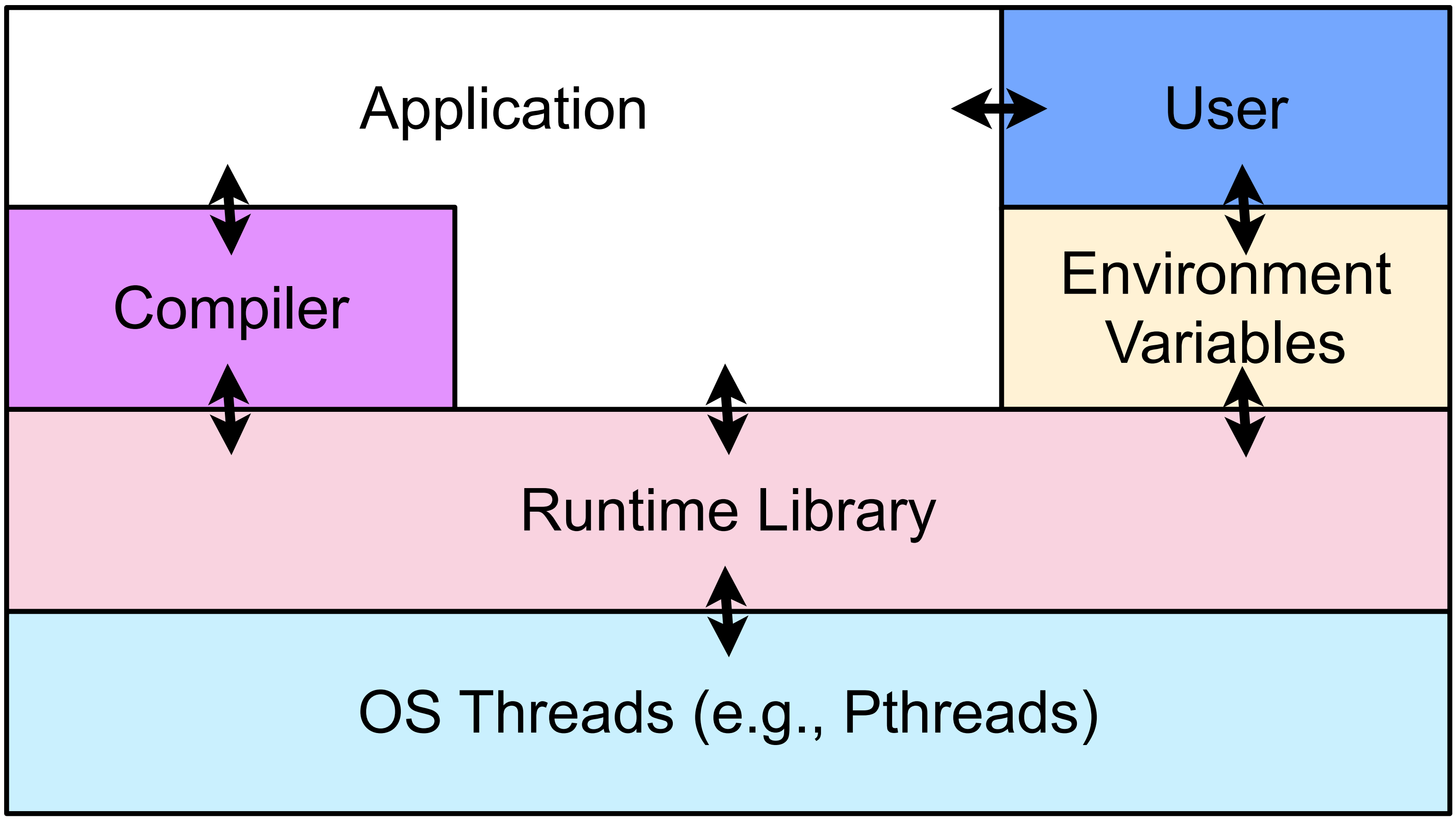
- Introduction to OpenMP
- OpenMP directives
  - concurrency directives
    - parallel regions
    - loops, sections, tasks
  - synchronization directives
    - reductions, barrier, critical, ordered
  - data handling clauses
    - shared, private, firstprivate, lastprivate
  - tasks
- Performance tuning hints
- Library primitives
- Environment variables

What is OpenMP?

Open specifications for Multi Processing

- **An API for explicit multi-threaded, shared memory parallelism**
- **Three components**
  - —compiler directives
  - —runtime library routines
  - —environment variables
- **Higher-level programming model than Pthreads**
  - —implicit mapping and load balancing of work
- **Portable**
  - —API is specified for C/C++ and Fortran
  - —implementations on almost all platforms
- **Standardized**

OpenMP at a Glance



OpenMP Is Not

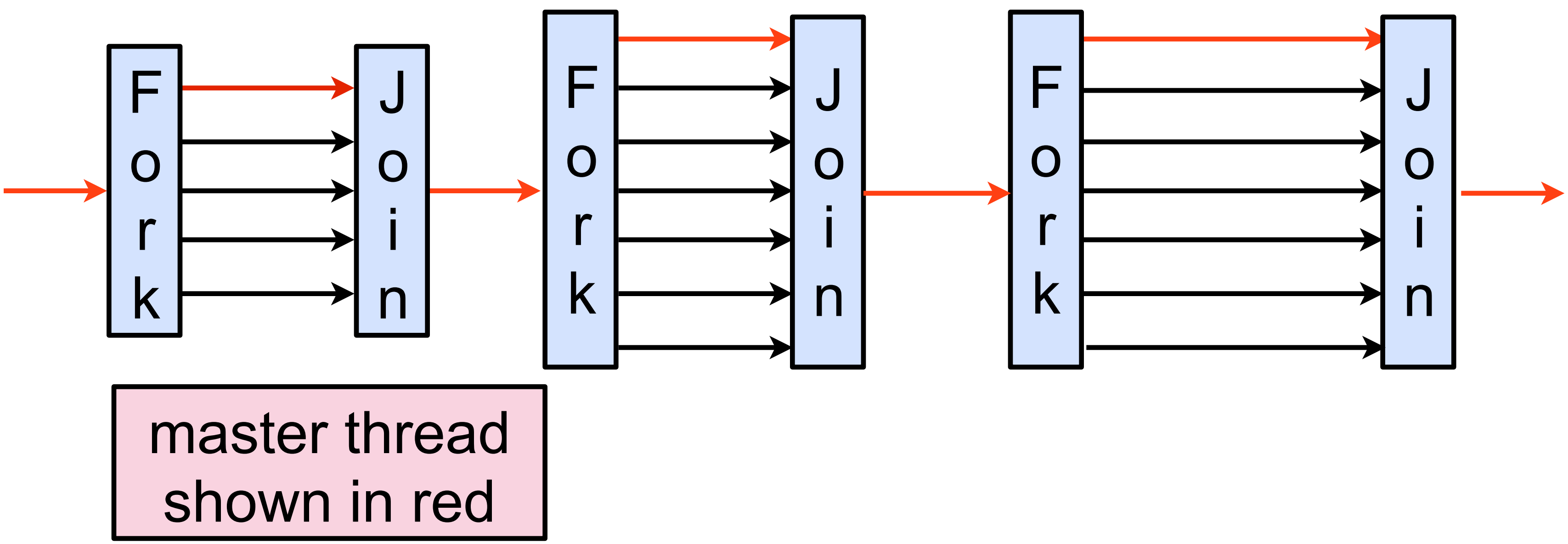
- **An automatic parallel programming model**
  - —parallelism is explicit
  - —programmer full control (and responsibility) over parallelization
- **Meant for distributed-memory parallel systems (by itself)**
  - —designed for shared address spaced machines
- **Necessarily implemented identically by all vendors**
- **Guaranteed to make the most efficient use of shared memory**
  - —no data locality control

OpenMP Targets Ease of Use

- OpenMP does not require that single-threaded code be changed for threading
  - —enables incremental parallelization of a serial program
- OpenMP only adds compiler directives
  - —pragmas (C/C++); significant comments in Fortran
    - if a compiler does not recognize a directive, it simply ignores it
  - —simple & limited set of directives for shared memory programs
  - —significant parallelism possible using just 3 or 4 directives
    - both coarse-grain and fine-grain parallelism
- If OpenMP is disabled when compiling a program, the program will execute sequentially

OpenMP: Fork-Join Parallelism

- **OpenMP program begins execution as a single master thread**
- **Master thread executes sequentially until 1st parallel region**
- **When a parallel region is encountered, master thread**
  - **—creates a group of threads**
  - **—becomes the master of this group of threads**
  - **—is assigned the thread id 0 within the group**



OpenMP Directive Format

- OpenMP directive forms
  - C and C++ use compiler directives
    - prefix: #pragma …
  - Fortran uses significant comments
    - prefixes: !omp, comp, *$omp
- A directive consists of a directive name followed by clauses

C: `#pragma omp parallel default(shared) private(beta,pi)`

Fortran: `!$omp parallel default(shared) private(beta,pi)`

OpenMP parallel Region Directive

#pragma omp parallel [clause list]

Typical clauses in [clause list]

- Conditional parallelization
  - if (scalar expression)
    - determines whether the parallel construct creates threads
- Degree of concurrency
  - num_threads(integer expression): # of threads to create
- Data Scoping
  - private (variable list)
    - specifies variables local to each thread
  - firstprivate (variable list)
    - similar to the private
    - private variables are initialized to variable value before the parallel directive
  - shared (variable list)
    - specifies that variables are shared across all the threads
  - default (data scoping specifier)
    - default data scoping specifier may be shared or none

Interpreting an OpenMP Parallel Directive

```
#pragma omp parallel if (is_parallel==1)  num_threads(8) \
  shared (b) private (a) firstprivate(c) default(none)
{
 /* structured block */
}
```

Meaning

- `if (is_parallel== 1) num_threads(8)`
  —If the value of the variable `is_parallel` is one, create 8 threads
- `shared (b)`
  —each thread shares a single copy of variable b
- `private (a) firstprivate(c)`
  —each thread gets private copies of variables a and c
  —each private copy of c is initialized with the value of c in the "initial thread," which is the one that encounters the parallel directive
- `default(none)`
  — default state of a variable is specified as `none` (rather than `shared`)
  —signals error if not all variables are specified as `shared` or `private`

Specifying Worksharing

Within the scope of a parallel directive, worksharing directives allow concurrency between iterations or tasks

- **OpenMP provides two directives**
  - `DO/for`: concurrent loop iterations
  - `sections`: concurrent tasks

Worksharing DO/for Directive

for directive partitions parallel iterations across threads

DO is the analogous directive for Fortran

- **Usage:**

```
#pragma omp for [clause list]
/* for loop */
```

- **Possible clauses in [clause list]**
  - private, firstprivate, lastprivate
  - reduction
  - schedule, nowait, and ordered
- **Implicit barrier at end of for loop**

A Simple Example Using parallel and for

Program

```
void main()  {
#pragma omp parallel num_threads(3)
{
   int i;
   printf("Hello world\n");
   #pragma omp for
   for (i = 1; i <= 4; i++) {
      printf("Iteration %d\n",i);
   }
   printf("Goodbye world\n");
}
}
```

Output

```
Hello world
Hello world
Hello world
Iteration 1
Iteration 2
Iteration 3
Iteration 4
Goodbye world
Goodbye world
Goodbye world
```

Reduction Clause for Parallel Directive

Specifies how to combine local copies of a variable in different threads into a single copy at the master when threads exit

- **Usage: `reduction` (operator: variable list)**
  - —variables in list are implicitly private to threads
- **Reduction operators: +, *, -, &, |, ^, &&, and ||**
- **Usage sketch**

```
#pragma omp parallel reduction(+: sum) num_threads(8)
{
/* compute local sum in each thread here */
}
/* sum here contains sum of all local instances of sum */
```

Mapping Iterations to Threads

`schedule` clause of the `for` directive

- **Recipe for mapping iterations to threads**
- **Usage: `schedule(scheduling_class[, parameter])`.**
- **Four scheduling classes**
  - **`static`: work partitioned at compile time**
    - iterations statically divided into pieces of size *chunk*
    - statically assigned to threads
  - **`dynamic`: work evenly partitioned at run time**
    - iterations are divided into pieces of size *chunk*
    - chunks dynamically scheduled among the threads
    - when a thread finishes one chunk, it is dynamically assigned another
    - default chunk size is 1
  - **`guided`: guided self-scheduling**
    - chunk size is exponentially reduced with each dispatched piece of work
    - the default minimum chunk size is 1
  - **`runtime`:**
    - scheduling decision from environment variable OMP_SCHEDULE
    - illegal to specify a chunk size for this clause.

Statically Mapping Iterations to Threads

```
/* static scheduling of matrix multiplication loops */
#pragma omp parallel default(private) \
    shared (a, b, c, dim) num_threads(4)
#pragma omp for schedule(static)
for (i = 0; i < dim; i++) {
  for (j = 0; j < dim; j++) {
    c(i,j) = 0;
    for (k = 0; k < dim; k++) {
      c(i,j) += a(i, k) * b(k, j);
    }
  }
}
```

static schedule maps iterations to threads at compile time

Avoiding Unwanted Synchronization

- **Default: worksharing `for` loops end with an implicit barrier**
- **Often, less synchronization is appropriate**
  - —series of independent `for`-directives within a parallel construct
- **`nowait` clause**
  - —modifies a `for` directive
  - —avoids implicit barrier at end of for

Avoiding Synchronization with nowait

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
   #pragma omp for nowait
      for (i = 0; i < nmax; i++)
            a[i] = ...;

   #pragma omp for
      for (i = 0; i < mmax; i++)
            b[i] = ... anything but a ...;
}
```

any thread can begin second loop immediately without waiting for other threads to finish first loop

Worksharing `sections` Directive

`sections` directive enables specification of task parallelism

- Usage

```
#pragma omp sections [clause list]
{
    [#pragma omp section
        /* structured block */
    ]
    [#pragma omp section
        /* structured block */
    ]
    ...
}
```

brackets here represent that section is optional, not the syntax for using them

Using the `sections` Directive

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
   #pragma omp sections
   {
      #pragma omp section
      {
         taskA();
      }
      #pragma omp section
      {
         taskB();
      }
      #pragma omp section
      {
         taskC();
      }
   }
}
```

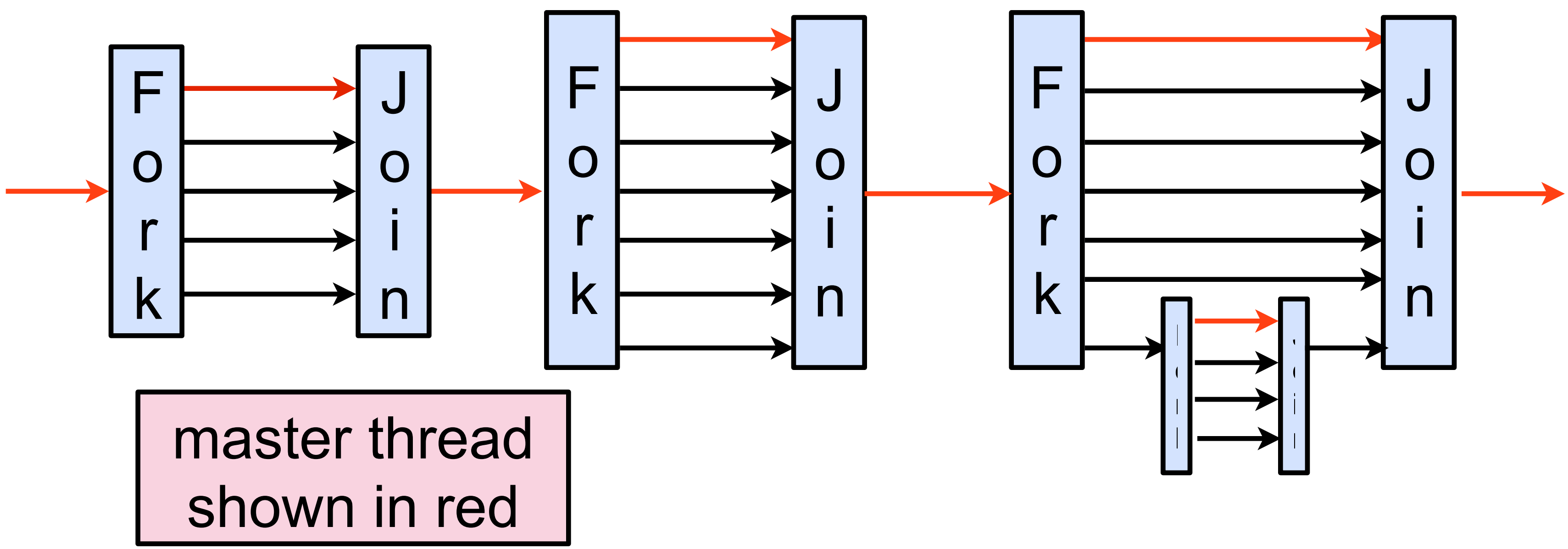
parallel section encloses all parallel work

sections: task parallelism

three concurrent tasks need not be procedure calls

Nesting parallel Directives

- **Nested parallelism enabled using the OMP_NESTED environment variable**
  - **OMP_NESTED = TRUE → nested parallelism is enabled**
- **Each parallel directive creates a new team of threads**



Synchronization Constructs in OpenMP

`#pragma omp barrier` wait until all threads arrive here

`#pragma omp single [`clause list`]`
  structured block

`#pragma omp master`
  structured block

} single-threaded execution

Use MASTER instead of SINGLE wherever possible

- `MASTER` = IF-statement with no implicit `BARRIER`
  - equivalent to
    `IF(omp_get_thread_num() == 0) {...}`
- `SINGLE`: implemented like other worksharing constructs
  - keeping track of which thread reached SINGLE first adds overhead

Synchronization Constructs in OpenMP

#pragma omp critical [(name)] **critical section: like a named lock**

structured block

#pragma omp ordered **for loops with carried dependences**

structured block

Example Using `critical`

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
#pragma omp for nowait shared(best_cost)
  for (i = 0; i < nmax; i++) {
    my_cost = ...;
    …
#pragma omp critical
{
    if (best_cost < my_cost)
    best_cost = my_cost;
}
    …
  }
}
```

critical ensures mutual exclusion when accessing shared state

Example Using ordered

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
#pragma omp for nowait shared(a)
  for (k = 0; k < nmax; k++) {
    …
#pragma omp ordered
{
    a[k] = a[k-1] + …;
}
    …
  }
}
```

ordered ensures carried dependence does not cause a data race

Orphaned Directives

- **Directives may not be lexically nested in a parallel region**
  - —may occur in a separate program unit

```
...
!$omp parallel
call phase1
call phase2
!$omp end parallel
...
```

```
subroutine phase1
!$omp do private(i) shared(n)
do i = 1, n
call some_work(i)
end do
!$omp end do
end
```

```
subroutine phase2
!$omp do private(j) shared(n)
do j = 1, n
call more_work(j)
end do
!$omp end do
end
```

- **Dynamically bind to enclosing parallel region at run time**
- **Benefits**
  - —enables parallelism to be added with a minimum of restructuring
  - —improves performance: enables single parallel region to bind with worksharing constructs in multiple called routines
- **Execution rules**
  - —orphaned worksharing construct is executed serially when not called from within a parallel region

OpenMP 3.0 Tasks

- **Motivation: support parallelization of irregular problems**
  - —unbounded loops
  - —recursive algorithms
  - —producer consumer
- **What is a task?**
  - —work unit
    - – execution can begin immediately, or be deferred
  - —components of a task
    - – code to execute, data environment, internal control variables
- **Task execution**
  - —data environment is constructed at creation
  - —tasks are executed by threads of a team
  - —a task can be tied to a thread (i.e. migration/stealing not allowed)
    - – by default: a task is tied to the first thread that executes it

OpenMP 3.0 Tasks

`#pragma omp task` [clause list]

Possible clauses in [clause list]

- Conditional parallelization
  - `if` (scalar expression)
    - determines whether the construct creates a task
- Binding to threads
  - `untied`
- Data scoping
  - `private` (variable list)
    - specifies variables local to the child task
  - `firstprivate` (variable list)
    - similar to the private
    - private variables are initialized to value in parent task before the directive
  - `shared` (variable list)
    - specifies that variables are shared with the parent task
  - `default` (data handling specifier)
    - default data handling specifier may be `shared` or `none`

Composing Tasks and Regions

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
 #pragma omp task
     x();
 #pragma omp barrier
 #pragma omp single
     {
  #pragma omp task
         y();
     }
 }
```

one x task created for each thread in the parallel region

all x tasks complete at barrier

one y task created

region end: y task completes

Data Scoping for Tasks is Tricky

If no default clause specified

- **Static and global variables are `shared`**
- **Automatic (local) variables are `private`**
- **Variables for orphaned tasks are `firstprivate` by default**
- **Variables for non-orphaned tasks inherit the shared attribute**
  - task variables are `firstprivate` unless `shared` in the enclosing context

Fibonacci using (Orphaned) OpenMP 3.0 Tasks

```
int fib ( int n )
    {
        int x,y;
        if ( n < 2 ) return
    n;
    #pragma omp task
    shared(x)
        x = fib(n - 1);
    #pragma omp task
    shared(y)
        y = fib(n - 2);
```

need shared for x and y; default would be firstprivate

suspend parent task until children finish

```
int main (int argc, char **argv)
{
    int n, result;
    n = atoi(argv[1]);
#pragma omp parallel
{
#pragma omp single
{
    result = fib(n);
}
}

    printf("fib(%d) = %d\n",
        n, result);

}
```

create team of threads to execute tasks

only one thread performs the outermost call

List Traversal

```
Element first, e;
• #pragma omp parallel
#pragma omp single
• {
•     for (e = first; e; e = e->next)
• #pragma omp task firstprivate(e)
•         process(e);
• }
```

Is the use of variables safe as written?

Task Scheduling

- **Tied tasks**
  - —only the thread that the task is tied to may execute it
  - —task can only be suspended at a suspend point
    - task creation
    - task finish
    - taskwait
    - barrier
  - —if a task is not suspended at a barrier, it can only switch to a descendant of any task tied to the thread
- **Untied tasks**
  - —no scheduling restrictions
    - can suspend at any point
    - can switch to any task
  - —implementation may schedule for locality and/or load balance

Summary of Clause Applicability

Clause	Directive					
	PARALLEL	DO/for	SECTIONS	SINGLE	PARALLEL DO/for	PARALLEL SECTIONS
IF	●				●	●
PRIVATE	●	●	●	●	●	●
SHARED	●	●			●	●
DEFAULT	●				●	●
FIRSTPRIVATE	●	●	●	●	●	●
LASTPRIVATE		●	●		●	●
REDUCTION	●	●	●		●	●
COPYIN	●				●	●
SCHEDULE		●			●	
ORDERED		●			●	
NOWAIT		●	●	●		

Performance Tuning Hints

Parallelize at the highest level, e.g. outermost `DO`/`for` loops

```
!$OMP PARALLEL
....
do j = 1, 20000
!$OMP DO
  do k = 1, 10000
  ...
  enddo !k
!$OMP END DO
enddo !j
...
!$OMP END PARALLEL
```

Slower

```
!$OMP PARALLEL
....
!$OMP DO
do k = 1, 10000
  do j = 1, 20000
  ...
  enddo !j
enddo !k
!$OMP END DO
...
!$OMP END PARALLEL
```

Faster

Performance Tuning Hints

Merge independent parallel loops when possible

```
!$OMP PARALLEL
....
!$OMP DO
 statement 1
!$OMP END DO
!$OMP DO
 statement 2
!$OMP END DO
....
!$OMP END PARALLEL
```

Slower

```
!$OMP PARALLEL
....
!$OMP DO
 statement 1
 statement 2
!$OMP END DO
....
!$OMP END PARALLEL
```

Faster

Performance Tuning Hints

Minimize use of synchronization

- **BARRIER**
- **CRITICAL sections**
  - **—if necessary, use named CRITICAL for fine-grained locking**
- **ORDERED regions**
- **Use NOWAIT clause to avoid unnecessary barriers**
  - **— adding NOWAIT to a region's final DO eliminates a redundant barrier**

```
data = ...
#pragma omp flush (data)
data_available = true;
```

- **Use explicit FLUSH with care**
  - **—flushes can evict cached values**
  - **—subsequent data accesses may require reloads from memory**

OpenMP Library Functions

- **Processor count**

```
int omp_get_num_procs(); /* # processors currently available */
int omp_in_parallel();   /* determine whether running in parallel */
```

- **Thread count and identity**

```
/* max # threads for next parallel region. only call in serial region */
void omp_set_num_threads(int num_threads);

int omp_get_num_threads(); /*# threads currently active */
int omp_get_max_threads(); /* max # concurrent threads */

int omp_get_thread_num(); /* thread id */
```

OpenMP Library Functions

- Controlling and monitoring thread creation

```
void omp_set_dynamic (int dynamic_threads);
int omp_get_dynamic ();
void omp_set_nested (int nested);
int omp_get_nested ();
```

- Mutual exclusion

```
void omp_init_lock(omp_lock_t *lock);
void omp_destroy_lock(omp_lock_t *lock);

void omp_set_lock(omp_lock_t *lock);
void omp_unset_lock(omp_lock_t *lock);
int omp_test_lock(omp_lock_t *lock);
```

—Lock routines have a nested lock counterpart for recursive mutexes

OpenMP Environment Variables

- OMP_NUM_THREADS
  — specifies the default number of threads for a parallel region
- OMP_DYNAMIC
  — specfies if the number of threads can be dynamically changed
- OMP_NESTED
  —enables nested parallelism (may be nominal: one thread)
- OMP_SCHEDULE
  —specifies scheduling of for-loops if the clause specifies runtime
- OMP_STACKSIZE (for non-master threads)
- OMP_WAIT_POLICY (ACTIVE or PASSIVE)
- OMP_MAX_ACTIVE_LEVELS
  —integer value for maximum # nested parallel regions
- OMP_THREAD_LIMIT (# threads for entire program)

OpenMP Directives vs. Pthreads

- **Directive advantages**
  - —directives facilitate a variety of thread-related tasks
  - —frees programmer from
    - initializing attribute objects
    - setting up thread arguments
    - partitioning iteration spaces, …
- **Directive disadvantages**
  - —data exchange is less apparent
    - leads to mysterious overheads
      - data movement, false sharing, and contention
  - —API is less expressive than Pthreads
    - lacks condition waits, locks of different types, and flexibility for building composite synchronization operations

The Future of OpenMP

- OpenMP 4.0 standard is the most recent standard
- Features new to OpenMP 4.0
  - —SIMD support
    - – e.g., a[0:n-1] = 0
  - —locality and affinity
    - – control mapping of threads to processor cores
    - – proc_bind (master, spread, close)
  - —additional synchronization mechanisms
    - – e.g., taskgroup
- Ongoing refinements
  - —accelerator support, e.g., GPUs
  - —error handling
  - —tools support (OMPT)
  - —tasking

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