CSCI 347 - Computer Systems II
Spring 2019 Assignment 6, 125 points

Due: Friday June 7, 2019

Threads can be used to reduce “wall clock” run time on a multi-CPU sys-


tem. For this assignment you are to get a copy of my program “mm.c” from
the /home/phil/public/csci347 directory on the lab machines and modify it
to use Pthreads so it can run faster.

In this program, there are two primary routines for which you need
to add thread processing. “MatMul” multiplies two matrices producing a
third. “MatSquare” multiplies a matrix by itself squaring the matrix mul-
tiple times as requested by the arguments. The MatMul uses the standard
O(n^3) algorithm. Currently, “MatSquare” use “MatMul” for the actual
matrix multiplies. All actual computation will be moved out of those two
functions and those two functions just start and manage the threads that do
the actual computation. In the threaded version, “MatSquare” will not call
“MatMul” because the threads in “MatSquare” need to live across matrix
multiplies and “MatSquare” needs to provide proper thread synchroniza-
tion for correct squaring.

Notice that mm.c does command line “option” processing using the
getopt(3) library function. For this assignment you will be adding a few
options to this program and you are to add them to the getopt(3) process-
ing.

The following are the tasks you need to do for this assignment:

• Create a “mm” directory under your csci347_w19 gitlab project and
copy mm.c unmodified into this directory. Commit it and push it.

• (70 points) Copy mm.c to a new file named pt-mm.c and modify that
version do the computation using Pthreads. (Do not break this pro-
gram up into multiple files. My grading script will be using that name
and compiling only a single file. My script will ignore any Makefile.
You may add a Makefile so you need only type make, but it must
be compilable using just the pt-mm.c file. DO NOT #INCLUDE C
FILES.) Now, add a new flag to the getopt(3) processing for the flag
“-n num_threads”. The default should be 8. Don’t forget to update
the “usage()” function.

Change the program to do both MatSquare and MatMul using threads.
Again, each function will not do the computation, but create threads
to do the computation. To correctly complete this assignment you
need to deal with the following issues:
- MatSquare and MatMul prototypes must remain the same except adding a “threads” parameter. No global variables may be used for any code in or called by MatSquare or MatMul. All data for the thread main must be passed via the “void *” parameter to thread main.

- How to equally divide up the work between the threads. For this program, the “minimum work element” may be a single inner product of a row times a column. So, for \( n \times m \) matrix result using \( t \) threads, each thread would compute \( n \times m / t \) values. In the case that \( n \times m \) is not evenly divisible by \( t \), the first \( (n \times m)\%t \) threads need to compute one more result than the last threads.

- In MatSquare, all threads have to be working on the same matrix multiply. This requires thread synchronization to block the early thread finishers until all threads have completed the current matrix multiply before moving to the next matrix multiply.

- Change both mm.c and pt-mm.c to take a new flag, “-T”, that asks for the program to time the computation. This would be the time taken by main function’s call to “MatMul” or “MatSquare”. In the case of “MatSquare”, multiple matrix multiples should be timed. It should report both clock time and CPU time. The only changes to main() should be for added timings. main() should not create any threads. (hint: man clock, man gettimeofday) The time should be reported for just the computation calls. Do not include the time for the initialization step.

- Let \( T_s \) be the the “wall clock” time of the serial solution. Let \( T_t \) be the “wall clock” time of the threaded solution. The “speed up” is defined as \( T_s / T_t \). First, compare the threaded solution’s time compared to the original solution. What should you expect? Next, find the speedups, 2 threads through 16 threads. You can use the machines in CF405, CF420, the downstairs or the Linux cluster to do your timings. Make sure nobody else is using the machine before you do your timings. htop(1) can show you how much each CPU is being utilized. You can ssh into the lab using the name cf420-01 to cf420-40 and cf165-01 to cf165-26 and so forth.

To get times large enough to check out speed ups, you will have to do large matrix multiplies. For matrix multiply, a size of 1500 by 1500 by 1500 will take around 30 seconds of time on the Linux cluster. For
squaring, squaring 6 times and a matrix size of 1200 x 1200 takes about 80 seconds.

• (45 points) Write a report of no more than 1000 words, where figures do not count toward word count, describing your experiments in speed-ups. It should have a title line, an author line, and cover the following points:

  1. Your PThreads implementation. Give a high level description, don’t quote code.
  2. Your experiments and how you conducted them.
  3. Your results. Graphs are great things to include. (man gnuplot)
  4. An explanation of your results and if things were not as you expected, explain why.
  5. A final conclusion paragraph.

Your paper needs to have both source (.tex, .ods, or what ever format you use) as well a final .pdf document and they need to be in your git repo in the mm directory.

• Turn-in will be only by gitlab. When you are done, branch a6. The time you branch a6 will be used as the you turned in a6. Any commits on branch a6 will be used as the final turn in time. This assignment must be “turned in” by the beginning of your class section on the day due or it will be considered late. A late assignment may be turned in up until the beginning of the final. 10 points are for following directions, turn-in, and so forth.

• In debugging, you should verify that your threaded solution calculates the same values as the non-threaded version.

Notes:

• You must create exactly num_threads threads in the function “Mat-Square” or “MatMul”, which ever one is called, and they all must run for the full duration of the function’s run (and thus for the duration of the program).

• Do not worry about timing until you get the computation working.