



# Parallel Computing

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#### Shared memory: OpenMP C/C++ directives



# shared / private variables

- Common clauses shared by several directives address how variables are shared/made private within threads:
- private(list of variables) a new version of the original variable with the same type and size is created in the memory of each thread belonging to the parallel region
- shared(list of variables) threads of the team access and modify the same original variable in the shared memory.
- default(shared | none) used to specify whether variables in a parallel region are shared or private by default. The first option causes all variables referenced in the construct to be shared except the private variables which are specified explicitly, while none requires each variable in the construct to be specified explicitly as shared or private.



# shared / private variables

 Common clauses shared by several directives address how variables are shared/made private within threads:

private variables are not initialised, i.e. they start with random values like any other local automatic variable (and they are often implemented using automatic variables on the stack of each thread).

 default(shared | none) - used to specify whether variables in a parallel region are shared or private by default. The first option causes all variables referenced in the construct to be shared except the private variables which are specified explicitly, while none requires each variable in the construct to be specified explicitly as shared or private.



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# It's a good practice to explicitly decide the scope of the variables. Use default(none) to be forced to make the declaration !

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# private variables in/out

- Use firstprivate to declare private variables that are initialized with the main thread's value of the variables
- Use lastprivate to declare private variables whose values are copied back out to main thread's variables by the thread that executes the last iteration of a parallel for loop, or the thread that executes the last parallel section
- These are special cases of private, and are useful to bring values in and out from the parallel section of code.



#### reduction

- A typical calculation which needs to be synchronized is a global reduction operation performed in parallel by the threads of a team.
- It is possible to use the reduction clause with parallel and for directives. The syntax is:
- reduction (op: list) with op ∈{+, -, \*, &, ^, |, &&, ||}
- For each of the variables in list, a private copy is created for each thread of the team. The private copies are initialized to the neutral element of the operation op (e.g. 0 for +, 1 for \*) and can be updated by the owning thread.

At the end of the region for which the reduction clause is specified, the local values of the reduction variables are combined according to the operator op and the result of the reduction is written into the original shared variable.



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simpler than critical access to update the shared variable



# parallel region

- #pragma omp parallel [clause [clause] ... ]
  {
   // structured block ...
  }
- A team of threads is created to execute the parallel region in parallel.

Each thread of the team is assigned a unique thread number, (master=0 ... n-1).

The parallel construct creates the team but **does not distribute the work** of the parallel region among the threads of the team.

Use for or sections to distribute the work (work sharing)



# parallel region clauses

- Define the scope of variables in the clauses with the clauses seen previously
- Set the number of threads with num\_threads(integer\_expression)
- Decide the parallel execution based on if clause that evaluates an expression returning non-zero as true or zero as false (serial execution)





# parallel region nesting

- A nesting of parallel regions by calling a parallel construct within a parallel region is possible.
   However, the default execution mode assigns only one thread to the team of the inner parallel region.
- int omp\_get\_nested() to know if nesting is active
- void omp\_set\_nested(int nested) to set
   nesting (with nested != 0)



#### for loop

 The loop construct causes a distribution of the iterates of a parallel loop:

```
#pragma omp for [clauses [ ] ...]
```

- It is restricted to loops which are parallel loops, in which the iterates of the loop are independent of each other and for which the total number of iterates is known in advance.
- The index variable should not be changed within the loop (as lower and upper bounds) and is considered as private variable of the thread executing the corresponding iterate.



### for loop

- for (name = lower\_bound; name op upper\_bound; incr\_expr) { // loop iterate ... }
- Acceptable for loops must:
  - have lower\_bound and upper\_bound are integer expressions
  - have op in {<, <=, >, >=}
  - have incr\_expr in the form: ++name, name++, --name, name--, name += incr, name -= incr, name = name + incr, name = incr + name, name = name - incr, with incr that does not change within the loop

must not contain break instruction



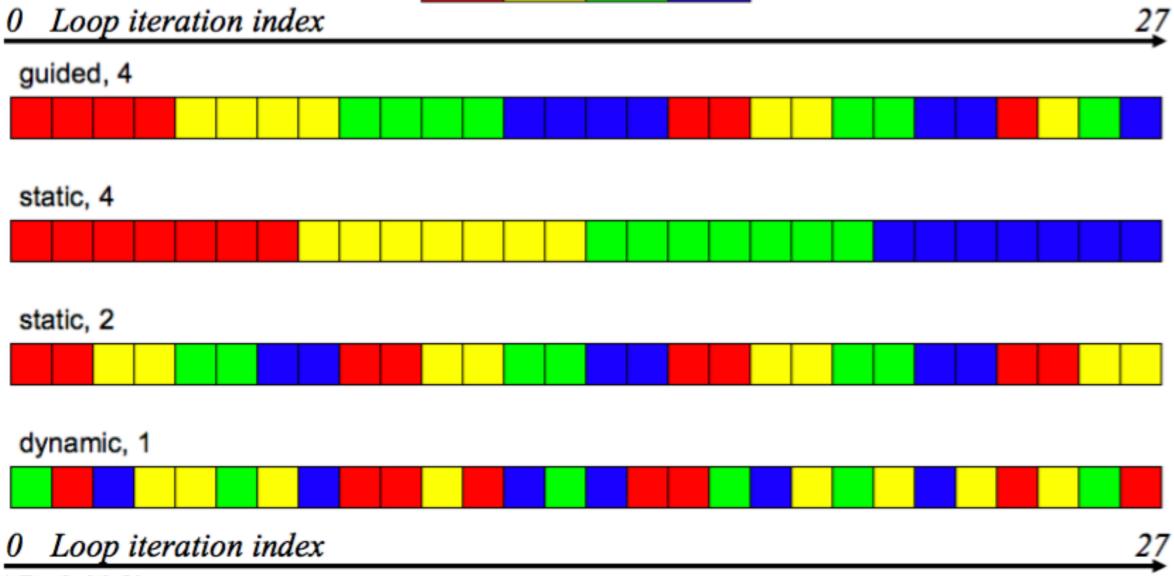
# for loop scheduling

- Distribution of iterates to threads is done by a scheduling strategy, specified with schedule clause:
- schedule(static, block\_size): static distribution of iterates of blocks of size block\_size in a round-robin fashion. If block\_size is not given, blocks of almost equal size are formed and assigned to the threads.
- schedule(dynamic, block\_size) specifies a dynamic distribution of blocks to threads. A new block of size block\_size is assigned to a thread as soon as the thread has finished the computation of the previously assigned block. If block\_size is not provided, it is set to 1.
- schedule(guided, block\_size) specifies a dynamic scheduling of blocks with decreasing size.
- schedule(auto) delegates the scheduling decision to the compiler and/or runtime system.
- schedule(runtime) uses the value of environment variable OMP\_SCHEDULE
  - If no schedule is provided the a default implementation-specific strategy is used



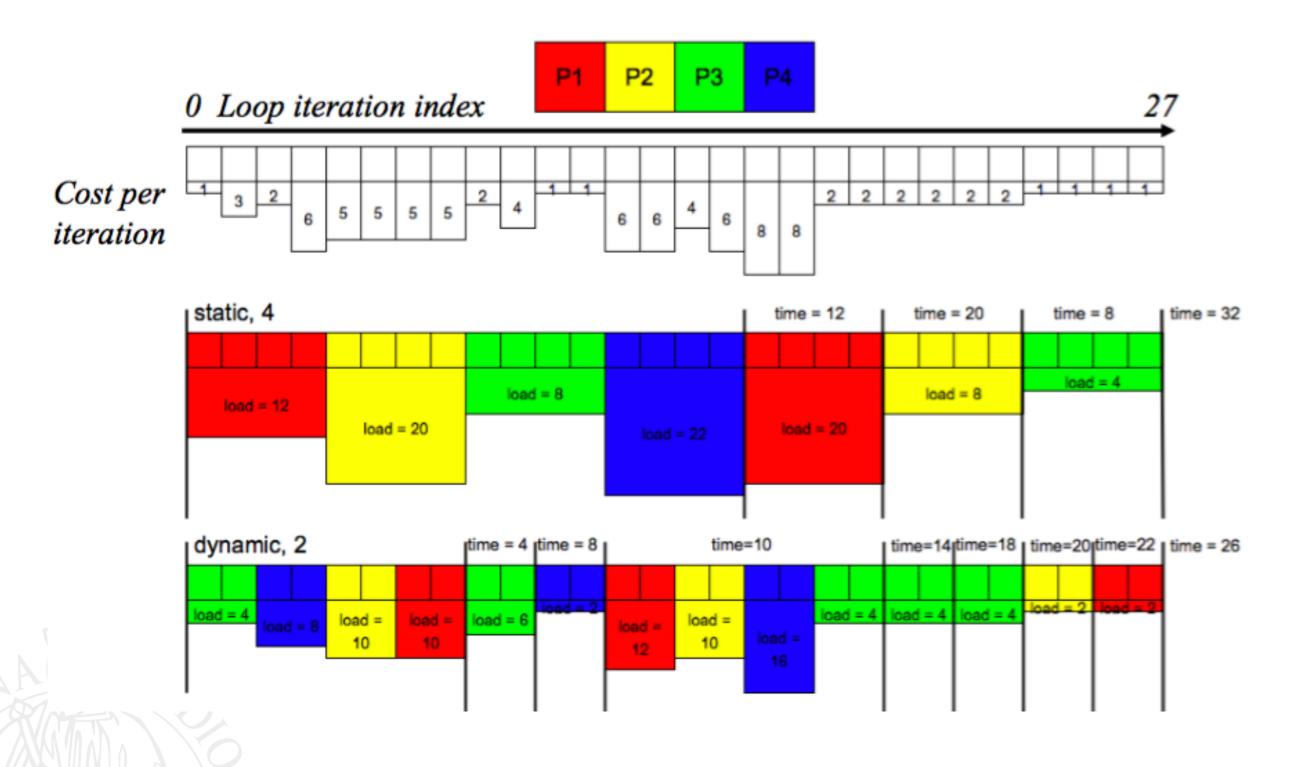
## for loop scheduling







### for loop scheduling





# Simplified syntax

 If a parallel region contains only one for os sections then instead of:

```
• #pragma omp parallel
{
    #pragma omp for
    for (...) {
    }
}
```

- it is possible to use:
- #pragma omp parallel for

```
for (...) {
```



#### **Combining sequential parallel for**

```
#pragma omp parallel for
    for (...) {
                                                          #pragma omp parallel
        // Work-sharing loop 1
                                                               {
    }
                                                                   #pragma omp for // Work-sharing loop 1
#pragma omp parallel for
    for (...) {
                                                                   \{\ldots\}
        // Work-sharing loop 2
                                                                   #pragma omp for // Work-sharing loop 2
    }
                                                                   { . . . . . }
. . . . . . . . .
                                                           . . . . . . . . .
#pragma omp parallel for
                                                                    #pragma omp for // Work-sharing loop N
    for (...) {
                                                                    { ..... }
        // Work-sharing loop N
    }
                                                            }
                                                              Better: The cost of the parallel region
```

Bad: parallel overhead and implied barriers

Better: The cost of the parallel region is amortized over the various worksharing loops.



# Parallel in inner loops

for (i=0; i<n; i++)
 for (j=0; j<n; j++)
 #pragma omp parallel for
 for (k=0; k<n; k++)
 { .....}</pre>

Bad: n<sup>2</sup> overheads of parallel

```
#pragma omp parallel
for (i=0; i<n; i++)
for (j=0; j<n; j++)
#pragma omp for
for (k=0; k<n; k++)
{ .....}
Better: 1 overhead of parallel</pre>
```



#### sections

The goal is to execute concurrently independent sections of code.

```
#pragma omp parallel sections
{
    #pragma omp section
        phase1();
    #pragma omp section
        phase2();
    #pragma omp section
        phase3();
```



#### sections

- At the end of execution of the assigned section, the threads synchronize, unless the nowait clause is used.
- It is illegal to branch in and out of section blocks.





#### for vs. sections

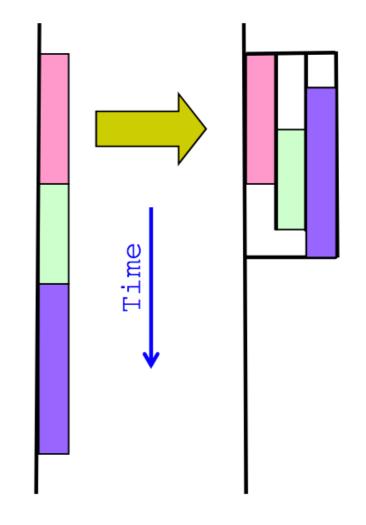
- The for directive splits the iterations of a loop across the different threads.
- The sections directive assigns each thread to explicitly identified tasks.





#### task

- Tasks are independent units of work. A thread is assigned to perform a task: #pragma omp task
- Tasks might be executed immediately or might be deferred
  - The runtime system decides which of the above
- Allows parallelization of irregular problems, e.g.:
  - Unbounded loops
  - Recursive algorithms (e.g. lists)
  - Producer/consumer





#### task completion

- A task stops at:
  - thread barriers, explicit or implicit. Tasks created in a parallel section will stop at its implicit barrier or at #pragma omp barrier

task barriers: #pragma omp taskwait





#### task completion

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
#pragma omp task // multiple foo tasks
  foo();
#pragma omp barrier // explicit barrier
#pragma omp single
#pragma omp task // one bar task
    bar();
 } // implicit barrier
}
```



- while(my\_pointer) {
  - (void) do\_independent\_work(my\_pointer);
    - my\_pointer = my\_pointer->next ;
  - } // End of while loop
- Hard to do without tasking: first count number of iterations, then convert while loop to for loop
- A solution is to use the single construct : one thread generates the tasks. All other threads execute the tasks as they become available.



```
my_pointer = listhead;
```

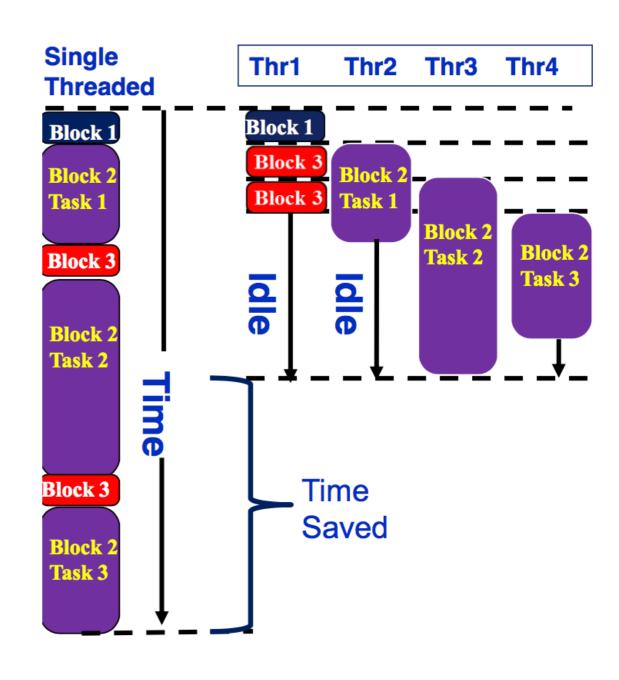
```
#pragma omp parallel
#pragma omp single
  ł
    while(my_pointer) {
#pragma omp task firstprivate(my_pointer)
         (void) do_independent_work (my_pointer);
      }
      my_pointer = my_pointer->next ;
    } // end while
 } // end single region
} // end parallel region
```



```
my_pointer = listhead;
#pragma omp parallel
{
#pragma omp single nowait // eliminate a barrier
  Ł
    while(my_pointer) {
#pragma omp task firstprivate(my_pointer)
      {
         (void) do_independent_work (my_pointer);
      }
      my_pointer = my_pointer->next ;
    } // end while
  } // end single block - no implied barrier (nowait)
} // end parallel block <u>- implied barrier</u>
```



```
#pragma omp parallel
{
#pragma omp single
  { //block 1
    node * p = head;
    while (p) { // block 2
#pragma omp task
      process(p);
      p = p - \text{next}; //block 3
    } // end while
 } // end single block
} // end parallel block
```





# for and task

```
• #pragma omp parallel
 #pragma omp for private(p)
   for ( int i =0; i <numlists ; i++) {</pre>
     p = listheads[ i ] ;
     while( p ) {
 #pragma omp task
       process(p)
        p = next(p);
     } // end while
   } // end for
 } // end parallel
```

Example – parallel pointer chasing on multiple lists using tasks (nested parallelism)



#### OpenMP memory model and synchronization



# **OpenMP memory model**

- In the shared memory model of OpenMP all threads share an address space ... but what they actually see at a given point in time may be complicated: a variable residing in shared memory may be in the cache of several CPUs/cores.
- A memory model is defined in terms of:
  - Coherence: Behavior of the memory system when a single address is accessed by multiple threads.
  - Consistency: Orderings of reads, writes, or synchronizations (RWS) with various addresses and by multiple threads.



# **OpenMP memory model**

 In the shared memory model of OpenMP all threads share an address space ... but what they actually see at a given point in time may be complicated: a variable residing in shared memory may be in the cache of several CPUs/cores.

At a given point in time, the "private view" seen by a thread may be different from the view in shared memory.

In fact, there are several re-orderings from the original source code:

- Compiler re-orders program order to the code order - Machine re-orders code order to the memory commit order



# Consistency

- Sequential Consistency:
  - In a multi-processor, ops (R, W, S) are sequentially consistent if:
    - They remain in program order for each processor.
    - They are seen to be in the same overall order by each of the other processors.
  - Program order = code order = commit order
- Relaxed consistency:
  - Remove some of the ordering constraints for memory ops (R, W, S).



# **OpenMP consistency**

- OpenMP has a relaxed consistency:
  - S ops must be in sequential order across threads.
  - Can not reorder S ops with R or W ops on the same addresses on the same thread
  - The S operation provided by OpenMP is flush





# **OpenMP consistency**

Relaxed consistency means that memory updates made by one CPU may not be immediately visible to another CPU

- Data can be in registers
- Data can be in cache
   (acaba cabaranaa protocol in

(cache coherence protocol is slow or non-existent)

Therefore, the updated value of a shared variable that was set by a thread may not be available to another

The **flush** construct flushes shared variables from local storage (registers, cache) to shared memory

The S operation provided by OpenMP is flush





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The **flush** construct flushes shared variables from local storage (registers, cache) to shared memory



## Implicit flush

- An OpenMP flush is automatically performed at:
  - Entry and exit of parallel and critical and atomic (only variable being atomically updated)
    - unless nowait is specified
  - Exit of for
  - Exit of sections
  - Exit of single
  - Barriers
  - When setting/unsetting/testing locks after acquisition



 the flush operation does not actually synchronize different threads. It just ensures that a thread's values are made consistent with main memory.

$$flush$$

$$n = 3;$$

$$a = n$$

$$b = n$$

b = 3, but there is no guarantee that a will be 3

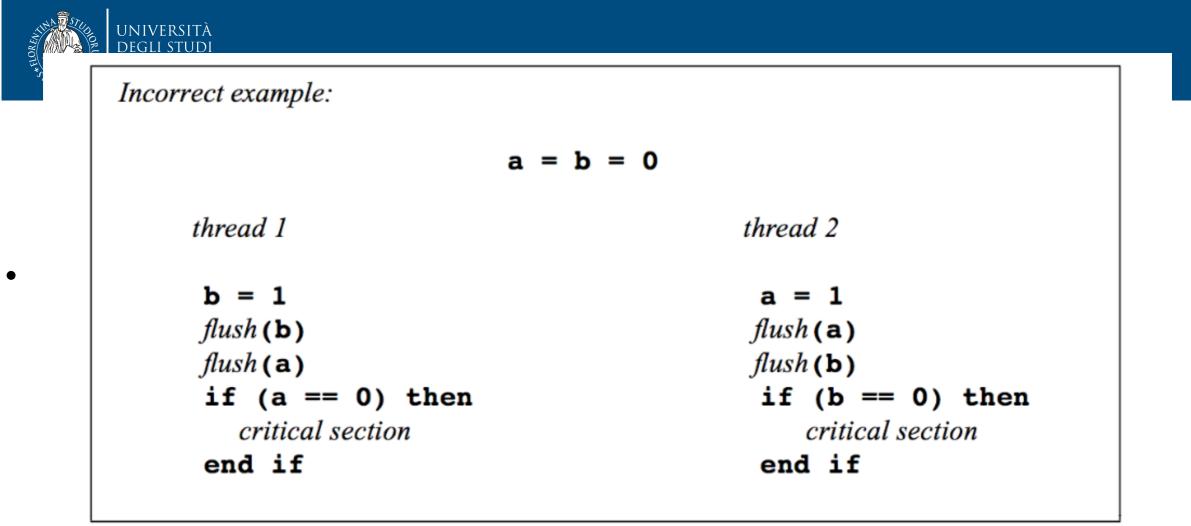


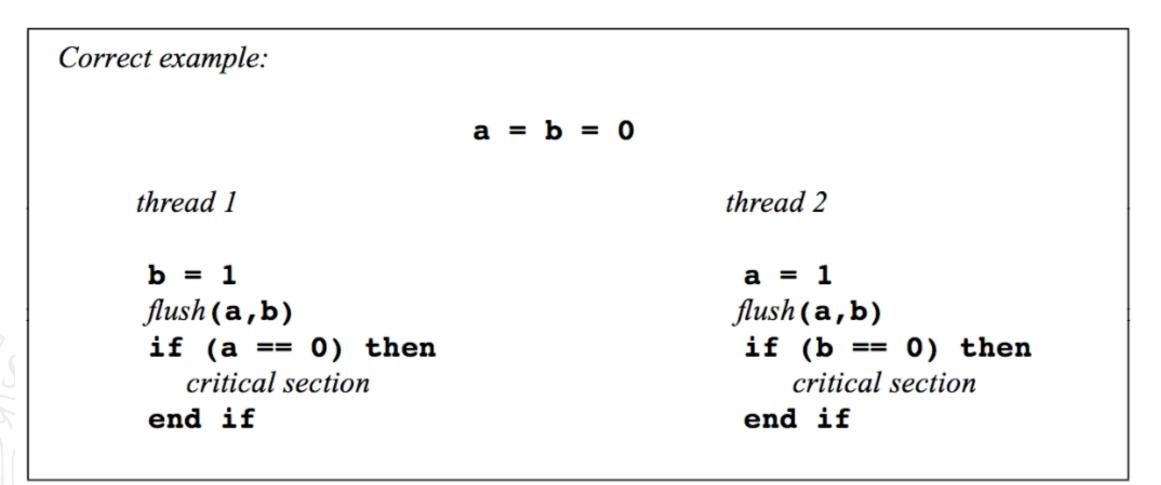
#### flush

- Defines a sequence point at which a thread is guaranteed to see a consistent view of memory with respect to the "flush set".
- The flush set is:
  - "all thread visible variables" for a flush construct without an argument list.
  - a list of variables when the flush(list) construct is used.
- The action of flush is to guarantee that:
  - All R,W ops that overlap the flush set and occur prior to the flush complete before the flush executes
  - All R,W ops that overlap the flush set and occur after the flush don't execute until after the flush.
  - Flushes with overlapping flush sets can not be reordered.
- Flush forces data to be updated in memory so other threads see the most recent value.



- A flush construct with a list applies the flush operation to the items in the list, and does not return until the operation is complete for all specified list items.
  - If a pointer is present in the list, the pointer itself is flushed, not the object to which the pointer refers
- A flush construct without a list, executed on a given thread, operates as if the whole thread-visible data state of the program is flushed.





lacksquare



### Atomics

- If a variable used as flag is flushed, does the flush assure that the flag value is cleanly communicated ?
- No: if the flag variable straddles word boundaries or is a data type that consists of multiple words, it is possible for the read to load a partial result.
- We need the ability to manage updates to memory locations atomically.



#### atomic

- # pragma omp atomic [read | write | update | capture]
- Atomic can protect loads
  - # pragma omp atomic read
     v = x;
- Atomic can protect stores
  - # pragma omp atomic write x = expr;
- Atomic can protect updates to a storage location (this is the default behavior ... i.e. when you don't provide a clause)
  - # pragma omp atomic update
     x++; or ++x; or x--; or -x;
     or x binop= expr; or x = x binop expr;
     where binop ∈ {+, -, \*, /, &, ^, |, <<, >>}



#### atomic

- Atomic can protect the assignment of a value (its capture) **and** an associated update operation:
  - # pragma omp atomic capture statement or structured block
- Where the statement is one of the following forms:
  - v=x++; v=++x; v=x--; v= --x; v=x binop expr;
- Where the structured block is one of the following forms:
  - {v=x; x binop = expr;} {x binop = expr; v=x;}
  - {v=x; x = x binop expr;} {x = x binop expr; v=x;}
  - {v=x; x++;} {v=x; ++x}
  - {++x; v=x} {x++; v=x;}
  - {v=x; x--;} {v=x; --x;}
    - $\{--x; v=x;\}$   $\{x--; v=x;\}$



## atomic and flush

Thread 1

#pragma omp flush(flag)
#pragma omp atomic write
 flag = 1;
#pragma omp flush(flag)

Thread 2

#pragma omp flush(flag)
#pragms omp atomic read
 flg\_tmp= flag;
if (flg\_tmp == 1)
 // do something...





### critical

- The critical construct protects access to shared, modifiable data.
- The critical section allows only one thread to enter it at a given time.

```
    float dot_prod(float* a, float* b, int N)

 {
    float sum = 0.0;
 #pragma omp parallel for shared(sum)
    for(int i=0; i<N; i++) {</pre>
 #pragma omp critical
      sum += a[i] * b[i];
    }
    return sum;
```



### critical

- The critical construct protects access to shared, modifiable data.
- The critical section allows only one thread to enter it at a given time.

```
• float RES;
#pragma omp parallel
{
    #pragma omp for
    for(int i=0; i<niters; i++){
      float B = big_job(i);
#pragma omp critical (RES_lock)
      consum(B, RES);
    }</pre>
```



## atomic vs. critical

- atomic is a special case of a critical section
- atomic introduces less overhead then critical
  - the atomic construct does not enforce exclusive access to x with respect to a critical region specified by a critical construct. An advantage of the atomic construct over the critical construct is that parts of an array variable can also be specified as being atomically updated.

The use of a critical construct would protect the entire array.



## locks vs. critical

- locks: performance and function similar to named critical; best used for structures
- E.g.: message queue data structure composed by:
  - list of messages
  - pointer to rear of queue
  - pointer to fron of queue
  - count of messages dequeued
  - omp\_lock\_t lock variable



- Do not mix different types of mutual exclusion for a variable:
- the critical section can not block the atomic directive from accessing x
- Solution: use critical in both fragments or rewrite critical in a form suitable for atomic



• Do not nest anonymous critical sections to avoid deadlocks:

```
#pragma omp critical
y = f(x);
....
double f(double x) {
#pragma omp critical
    z=g(x); /* z is shared */
....
}
```

 When a thread attempts to enter the second critical section, it will block forever. A thread blocked waiting to enter the second critical block will never leave the first, and it will stay blocked forever.



Do not nest anonymous critical sections to avoid deadlocks:

```
# pragma omp critical(one)
y = f(x);
....
double f(double x) {
#pragma omp critical(two)
    z=g(x); /* z is global */
    ....
}
```

 When a thread attempts to enter the second critical section, it will block forever. A thread blocked waiting to enter the second critical block will never leave the first, and it will stay blocked forever.



 Remind Dijkstra: named critical sections acquired in wrong order may lead to deadlock:

Time	Thread u	Thread v
0	Enter crit. sect. one	Enter crit. sect. two
1	Attempt to enter two	Attempt to enter one
2	Block	Block



## **Unnecessary protection**

- Any protection slows down the program's execution and it does not matter whether you use atomic operations, critical sections or locks. Therefore, you should not use memory protection when it is not necessary.
- A variable should not be protected from concurrent writing in the following cases:
  - If a variable is local for a thread (also, if the variable is threadprivate, firstprivate, private or lastprivate).
  - If the variable is accessed in a code fragment which is guaranteed to be executed by a single thread only (in a master or single section).



## **Reduce critical sections**

Critical sections always slow down a program's execution. Do not use critical sections where it is not necessary. For example:

```
#pragma omp parallel for
for ( i = 0 ; i < N; ++i ) {
    #pragma omp critical
    {
        if (arr[i] > max) max = arr[i];
    }
}
```

```
• can be rewritten as:
#pragma omp parallel for
for ( i = 0 ; i < N; ++i ) {
    #pragma omp flush(max)
    if (arr[i] > max) {
        #pragma omp critical
        {
            if (arr[i] > max) max = arr[i];
        }
}
```





# Producer / Consumer



#### Queue

 We need a queue data structure, e.g. following a FIFO policy in which a producer enqueues workloads at the rear of the queue and a consumer dequeues at the front.

```
struct queue_node_s {
                                      struct queue_s*
   int src;
                                      Allocate_queue(void);
                                      void Free_queue(struct queue_s*
   int msg;
   struct queue_node_s* next_p;
                                      q_p);
};
                                      void Print_queue(struct queue_s*
                                      q_p);
struct queue_s{
                                      void Enqueue(struct queue_s* q_p,
   int enqueued;
                                      int src, int msg);
   int dequeued;
                                      int Dequeue(struct queue_s* q_p,
                                      int* src_p, int* msg_p);
   struct queue_node_s* front_p;
   struct queue_node_s* tail_p;
                                      int Search(struct queue_s* q_p, int
};
                                      msg, int* src_p);
```



# Message passing

- Let us consider a case in which any thread may communicate with other threads.
- Each thread needs a queue. It enqueues messages to other threads and dequeues from its own queue to receive from other threads.
  - Let us suppose each thread first sends a message then check is any message has been received.
- When a thread is done sending messages, it receives messages until all the threads are done, at which point all the threads quit.



# Message passing

```
for (sent msgs = 0; sent msgs < send max; sent msgs++) {
   Send_msg();
   Try_receive();
}
while (!Done())
   Try_receive();</pre>
```

Send\_msg() and Try\_receive() use the Enqueue/Dequeue of the queue. Done() checks if the queue is empty and no other threads are still alive to send messages

 When a thread is done sending messages, it receives messages until all the threads are done, at which point all the threads quit.



## Sending messages

Even without looking at the details of the implementation of:

void Enqueue(struct queue\_s\* q\_p, int src, int msg);

we may think that it is going to update the pointer to the last element, i.e. something that is critical...

 Send\_msg() should protect the access to that function...



## Sending messages

Even without looking at the details of the implementation of:

```
mesg = random();
dest = random() % thread count;
# pragma omp critical
Enqueue(queue, dest, my rank, mesg);
```

 Send\_msg() should protect the access to that function...



## **Receiving messages**

- In this scenario only the owner of the queue dequeues a message, so the requirement for synchronization is different.
- If we dequeue one message at a time, and there are at least two messages in the queue, a call to Dequeue can't possibly conflict with any calls to Enqueue:
  - keep track of the size of the queue, so that we can avoid any synchronization as long as there are at least two messages.
  - Keep track of size using 2 variables: queue\_size = enqueued - dequeued
  - dequeued is owned by the receiving thread, while enqueued may be changed by a different thread, but we have small delays only if we get an error when computing size 0 or 1 instead of actual values of 1 or 2.



### **Receiving messages**

It's a tradeoff: we renounce to certain synchronization costs for some uncertain possible delays: waiting when erroneously computing a size of 0 instead of 1, or synchronizing when computing size of 1 instead of 2. Try\_receive() can be implemented as:

```
queue_size = enqueued - dequeued;
```

```
if (queue size == 0)
```

return;

```
else if (queue_size == 1)
```

#pragma omp critical

```
Dequeue(queue, &src, &mesg);
```

else

Dequeue(queue, &src, &mesg);

```
Print message(src, mesg);
```

 dequeued is owned by the receiving thread, while enqueued may be changed by a different thread, but we have small delays only if we get an error when computing size 0 or 1 instead of actual values of 1 or 2.



## **Termination detection**

- We need to know if the queue is empty because nobody will ever produce a new message. Use a counter to know how many active threads are still there...
- Function Done() can be implemented as:

```
queue_size = enqueued - dequeued;
if (queue_size == 0 && done_sending ==
thread_count)
  return TRUE;
else
  return FALSE;
```



## **Termination detection**

When a producer says that it has finished it must update **done\_sending** The update must be **critical** or **atomic**:

#pragma omp atomic
done\_sending++;

• Function Done() can be implemented as:

```
queue_size = enqueued - dequeued;
if (queue_size == 0 && done_sending ==
thread_count)
  return TRUE;
else
  return FALSE;
```



### Startup

- The master thread, will allocate an array of message queues, one for each thread. This array needs to be shared among the threads, since any thread can send to any other thread, and hence any thread can enqueue a message in any of the queues.
- We can start the threads using a parallel directive, and each thread can allocate storage for its individual queue.
  - But we must check that all the queues have been built before starting any threads, to a void writing to a queue not yet available.



### Startup

 The master thread, will allocate an array of message queues, one for each thread. This array needs to be shared among the threads, since any thread can send to any other thread, and hence any thread can enqueue a message in any of the queues.

We can not rely on implicit barrier. Add a:

# pragma omp barrier

When a thread encounters the barrier, it blocks until all the threads in the team have reached the barrier. After all the threads have reached the barrier, all the threads in the team can proceed.

 But we must check that all the queues have been built before starting any threads, to a void writing to a queue not yet available.



# Using locks

- Using unnamed critical sections adds unnecessary synchronization costs in the previous example, where Enqueue and Dequeue block themselves, even when different threads are sending messages to other different threads...
- we can not rely on named critical sections since they have to be defined at compile time... we do not know which thread will try to communicate with another thread.
- Solution: add locks to the data structure.



# Using locks

struct queue\_node\_s { int src; int mesg; struct queue\_node\_s\* next\_p; }; struct queue\_s{ omp\_lock\_t lock; int enqueued; int dequeued; struct queue\_node\_s\* front\_p; struct queue\_node\_s\* tail\_p; };

Solution: add locks to the data structure.



## Sending message

- # pragma omp critical
   /\* q\_p = msg queues[dest] \*/
   Enqueue(q\_p, my rank, mesg);
- can be replaced with
- /\* q p = msg queues[dest] \*/
  omp\_set\_lock(&q\_p->lock);
  Enqueue(q\_p, my rank, mesg);
  omp\_unset\_lock(&q\_p->lock);



## **Receiving message**

- # pragma omp critical
   /\* q\_p = msg queues[my rank] \*/
   Dequeue(q\_p, &src, &mesg);
- can be replaced with
- /\* q\_p = msg queues[my rank] \*/
  omp\_set\_lock(&q\_p->lock);
  Dequeue(q\_p, &src, &mesg);
  omp\_unset\_lock(&q\_p->lock);



#### **Creation/destruction of lock**

- Add initialization of the lock to the function that initializes an empty queue.
- Destruction of the lock can be done by the thread that owns the queue before it frees the queue.





### Credits

- These slides report material from:
  - Prof. Robert van Engelen (Florida State University)
  - Prof. Dan Negrut (UW-Madison)
  - Prof. Robert M. Keller (Harvey Mudd College)
  - Prof. Vivek Sarkar (Rice University)
  - Tim Mattson (Intel Corp.)
  - Mary Thomas (SDSU)





- The Art of Concurrency, Clay Breshears, O'Reilly -Chapt. 5
- Principles of Parallel Programming, Calvin Lyn and Lawrence Snyder, Pearson - Chapt. 6
- Parallel Programming for Multicore and Cluster Systems, Thomas Dauber and Gudula Rünger, Springer - Chapt. 6
- An introduction to parallel programming, Peter S.
   Pacheco, Morgan Kaufman Chapt. 5