



Intel Thread Building Blocks, Part II

SPD course 2014-15 Massimo Coppola 5/05/2015









- Portable environment
 - Based on C++11 standard compilers
 - Extensive use of templates
- No vectorization support (portability)
 - use vector support from your specific compiler
- Full environment: compile time + runtime
- Runtime includes
 - memory allocation
 - synchronization
 - task management
- TBB supports patterns as well as other features
 - algorithms, containers, mutexes, tasks...
 - mix of high and low level mechanisms
 - programmer must choose wisely





TBB "layers"



 All TBB architectural elements are present in the user API, except the actual threads











- Composing parallel patterns
 - a pipeline of farms of maps of farms
 - a parallel for nested in a parallel loop within a pipeline
 - each construct can express more potential parallelism
 - deep nesting \rightarrow too many threads \rightarrow overhead
- Potential parallelism should be expressed
 - difficult or impossible to extract for the compiler
- Actual parallelism should be flexibly tuned
 - messy to define and optimize for the programmer, performance hardly portable
- TBB solution
 - Potential parallelism = tasks
 - Actual parallelism = threads
 - Mapping tasks over threads is largely automated and performed at run-time









- Task is a unit of computation in TBB
 - can be executed in parallel with other tasks
 - the computation is carried on by a thread
 - task mapping onto threads is a choice of the runtime
 - the TBB user can provide hints on mapping
- Effects
 - Allow Hierarchical Pattern Composability
 - raise the level of abstraction
 - avoid dealing with different thread semantics
 - increase run-time portability across different architectures
 - adapt to different number of cores/threads per core







Summary



- A quick tour of TBB abstractions used to express parallelism
 - A few C++ Concepts, i.e. sets of template requirements that allow to combine C++ data container classes with parallel patterns
 - Splittable
 - Range
 - TBB Algorithms, i.e. the templates actually expressing thread (task) parallel computation
 - Data container classes that are specific to TBB
 - Lower-level mechanisms (thread storage, Mutexes) that allow the compentent programmers to implement new abstractions and solve special cases







Splittable Concept



- A type is splittable if it has a so-called split constructor that allows splitting an instance in two parts
 - X::X(X& x, split)
 Split X into X and newly constructed object
 - First argument is a reference to the original object
 - Second argument is a dummy placeholder
- Split concept is used to express
 - Range concepts, to allow recursive decomposition
 - Forking a body (a function object) to allow concurrent execution (see the reduce algorithm)
- The binary split is usually in almost equal halves
 - Range classes can have a further split method that also specifies the split proportion







TBB Range classes



- Range classes express intervals of parameter values and their decomposability
 - recursively splitting intervals to produce parallel work for many patterns (e.g. for, reduce, scan...)
- The Range concept relies on five mandatory and two optional methods
 - copy constructor
 - destructor
 - is_divisible() true if range is not too small
 - empty()
 - split()

true if range is not too small true if range empty split the range in two parts

- two more methods allow proportional split









Class R implementing the concept of range must define:

```
R::R( const R& );
R::~R();
bool R::is_divisible() const;
bool R::empty() const;
R::R( R& r, split );
```

Split range R into two subranges. One is returned via the parameter, the other one is the range itself, accordingly reduced







Blocked Range



- TBB 4 has implementations of the range concept as templates for 1D, 2D and 3D blocked ranges
 - 3 nested parallel for are functionally equivalent to a simple parallel for over a 3D range
 - the 2D and 3D range will likely exploit the caches better, due to the explicit 2D/3D tiling

tbb::blocked_range< Value > Class
tbb::blocked_range2d< RowValue, ColValue > Class
tbb::blocked_range3d< PageValue,</pre>

RowValue, ColValue > Class







Proportional split



- Class defining methods that allow control over the size of two split halves
- Passed as argument to methods performing a proportional split
 - proportional_split(size_t _left = 1,

size_t _right = 1)
define a split object using the coefficients to
compute the split ratio

- size_t left() const
 size_t right() const
 return the size of the two halves
- operator split() const backward compatibility with simpler split (allows implicit conversion)









- Optional methods allowing proportional splits
 - R::R(R& r, proportional_split proportion) optional costructor using a proportional split object to define the split ratio
 - static const bool R::is_splittable_in_proportion true iff the range implementation has a constructor allowing the proportional split







TBB 4 Algorithms (1)



Over time, the distinction between parallel patterns and algorithms may become blurred TBB calls all of them just "algorithms"

parallel_for_each

- iteration via simple iterator, no partitioner choice

- parallel_for
 - iteration over a range, can choose partitioner
- parallel_do
 - iteration over a set, may add items
- parallel_reduce
 - reduction over a range, can choose partitioner, has deterministic variant
- parallel_scan
 - parallel prefix over a range, can choose partitioner







TBB 4 Algorithms (2)



- parallel_while (deprecated, see parallel_do)
 iteration over a stream, may add items
- parallel_sort
 - sort over a set (via a RandomAccessIterator and compare function)
- pipeline and filter
 - runs a pipeline of filter stages, tasks in = tasks out
- parallel_invoke
 - execute a group of tasks in parallel
- thread_bound_filter
 - a filter explicitly bound to a serving thread







Parallel For each



void tbb::parallel_for_each (InputIterator first, InputIterator last, const Function &f)

- simple case, employs iterators
- drop-in replacement for std for_each with parallel execution
 - Easy-case parallelization of existing C++ code
- it was a special case of for in previous TBB
- Serially equivalent to: for (auto i=first; i<last; ++i) f(i);
- There is also the variant specifying the context (task group) in which the tasks are run







Passing args to parallel patterns



- Beside the range of values we need to compute over, we nee to specify the inner code of C++ templates implementing parallel patterns
- Most patterns have two separate forms
 - Args are a function reference (computation to perform to perform) and a series of parameters (to the parallel pattern)
 - Args contain a user-define class "Body" to specify the pattern body,
 - Body is a concrete class instantiating a virtual class specified by TBB as a model for that pattern
 - TBB docs calls "requirements" the methods that the Body class provides and will be called by the pattern implementation
- Example: for_each uses the first method









- Advantages and disadvantages
- Using functions (TBB documentation calls it the "functional form"...)
 - Easier to use lambda functions
 - We are passing around function references
 - Static (compilation-time) type checking is in some cases limited as the template needs to be general enough
- Using Body classes (TBB calls it "imperative")
 - Slightly more lengthy code
 - Better static type-checking
 - Body classes can more easily contain data/ references – they can have state that simplifies some optimization (ex. see the parallel_reduce pattern)









- A partitioner
 - A user-chosen partitioner used to split the range to provide parallelism
 - see later on the properties of auto_partitioner, (default in any recent TBB) simple_partitioner, affinity_partitioner
- task_group_context
 - Allows the user to control in which task group the pattern is executed
 - By default a new, separate task group is created for each pattern







Parallel For



parallel_for (tbb::blocked_range<size_t> (begin, end, GRAIN_SIZE), tbb_parallel_task());

- Loops over integral tipes, positive step, no wraparound
- one way of specifying it, where tbb_parallel_task is a Body user-defined class
- uses a class for parallel loop implementations.
 - The actual loop "chunks" are performed using the () operator of the class
 - the computing function (operator ()) will receive a range as parameter
 - data are passed via the class and the range
- The computing function can also be defined inplace via lambda expressions







Parallel For



parallel_for (
 tbb::blocked_range<size_t> (begin, end,
 GRAIN_SIZE), tbb_parallel_task(), partitioner);

- Extended version
- the partitioner is one of those specified by TBB (simple, auto, affinity)
- no real choice usually, just allocate a const partitioner and pass it to the parallel loops:

tbb::affinity_partitioner ap;

- (unless you want to define your own partitioner)







Parallel_for, 1D alternate syntax



- template<typename Index, typename Func> Func parallel_for(Index first, Index_type last, const Func& f
 [, partitioner
 [, task_group_context& group]]);
- template<typename Index, typename Func> Func parallel_for(Index first, Index_type last, Index step, const Func& f
 [, partitioner

[, task_group_context& group]]);

 Implicit 1D range definition, employs a function reference (e.g. lambda function) to specify the body







partitioners



- simple
 - generate tasks by dividing the range as much as possible (remember about the grain size!)
- auto
 - divide into large chunks, divide further if more tasks are required
- affinity
 - carries state inside, will assign the tasks according to range locality to better exploit caches









- Apply a range template to your elementary data type
- Define a class computing the proper forbody over elements of a range
- Call the parallel_for passing at least the range and the function
- specify a partitioner and/or a grain size to tune task creation for load balancing







Example (with lambda)



```
void relax( double *a, double *b,
             size t n, int iterations)
{
   tbb::affinity partitioner ap;
   for (size t t=0; t<iterations; ++t) {</pre>
      tbb::parallel for(
          tbb::blocked range<size t>(1,n-1),
          [=]( tbb::blocked_range<size t> r) {
             size t e = r.end();
             for (size t i=r.begin(), i<e; ++i)</pre>
                /*do work on a[i], b[i] */;
          },
          ap);
      std:swap(a,b); // always read from a, write to b
   }
```

}







Intel Thread Building Blocks, Part III

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- Reduce has also two forms
 - "Functional" from, nice with lambda function definitions
 - "Imperative" form, minimizes data copying
 - Please remember this is just TBB terminology

template<typename Range, typename Value, typename Func, typename Reduction>

Value parallel_reduce(const Range& range, const Value& identity, const Func& func, const Reduction& reduction, [, partitioner[, task_group_context& group]]);

template<typename Range, typename Body>

void parallel_reduce(const Range& range, const Body& body [, partitioner[, task_group_context& group]]);







"Functional" form



- Beside the function, several other objects have to be passed to the reduce
- Value Identity

 left identity for the operator
- Value Func::operator()(const Range& range, const Value& x)
 - must accumulate a whole subrange of values starting from x ("sequential reduction")
- Value Reduction::operator()(const Value& x, const Value& y);
 - Combines two values ("parallel" reduction)







Object-oriented form



- Computes the reduction on its Body object together with the associated Range
 - Data (reference) is held within the Body
 - The reduce can split() the body parameter, and will split() the range accordingly
 - Can also split only the range, and compute over a range that is smaller than the Body's data
 - This may allow saving some data copy operation when we exploit parallel slackness together with affinity
 - Results form each side will the be combined
- Body object's state contains the reduced value
 - Final result is accumulated in initial Body object







Reduce



- Both the function-based form and the OO one can specify a custom partitioner
- Both forms can specify a task group that will be used for the execution









- parallel_deterministic_reduce
- Performs a deterministically chosen sets of splits, joins and computations
- Exploits the simple_partitioner → no partitioner argument allowed
- Computes the same regardless of the number of threads in execution
 - no adaptive work assignment is ever performed
 - grain size must be carefully chosen in order to achieve ideal parallelism
- Has both the functional form and the OO one











- Pipeline pattern
 - pipeline class not strongly typed
 - parallel_pipeline strongly typed interface
- Implements the pipeline pattern
 - A series of filter applied to a stream
 - You need to subclass the abstract filter class
 - Each filter can work in one of three modes
 - Parallel
 - Serial in order
 - Serial out of order







Pipeline class



- Pipeline is dynamically constructed
 - pipeline() create an empty pipeline
 - ~pipeline() destructor
 - void add_filter(filter& f)
 add a filter
 - clear() remove all filters
 - void run(size_t max_number_of_live_tokens [, task_group_context& group])
- Run until the first filter returns NULL
- Actual parallelism depends on pipeline structure, and on parameter
 - max_number_of_live_tokens
- Pipelines can be reused, but NOT concurrently
- Stages can be added in between runs
- Can have all tasks belong in a specified optional group, by default a new group is created









• Abstract class implementing filters for pipelines

filter

- Three modes, specified in the constructor
 - Parallel can process/produce any number of item in any order (e.g. nested parallelism)
 - Serial out of order filter processes items one at a time, and in no particular order
 - Serial in order filter processes items one at a time, in the received order
- Computation is specified by overriding the operator ()
 - virtual void* operator()(void * item)
 - Process one item and return result, via pointers
 - First stage signals with NULL the end of the stream
 - Result of last stage is ignored







- void parallel_pipeline(size_t max_number_of_live_tokens, const filter_t<void,void>& filter_chain [, task_group_context& group]);
- Strongly typed, can use lambdas
 - parallel_pipeline(max_number_of_live_tokens, make_filter<void,l1>(mode0,g0) & make_filter<l1,l2>(mode1,g1) & ... make_filter<ln,void>(moden,gn));
- Employ the make_filter template to build filters on the spot from their operator() function
- Types are checked at compilation time
 - First stage must invoke fc.stop() and return a dummy value to terminate the stream







Parallel_do



template<typename InputIterator, typename Body> void parallel_do(InputIterator first, InputIterator last, Body body [, task_group_context& group]);

- Only has the object oriented syntax
- Applies a function object body to a specified interval
 - The body can add additional tasks dynamically
 - Replaces completely the deprecated parallel_while
 - Iterator is a standard C++ one
 - A purely serial input iterator is a bottleneck: use iterators over random-access data structures







Adding items in a do



B::operator()(T& item, parallel_do_feeder<T>& feeder) const

B::operator()(T& item) const

- The body class need to operate on the template T type
- It needs a copy constructor and a destroyer
- Two possible signatures for Body operator()
 - You can't define both!
 - First signature, with extra parameter, allows each item to add more items dinamically in the do \rightarrow e.g. dynamically bound parallel do, divide & conquer
 - Second signature means the do task set is static









Intel Thread Building Blocks, Part IV

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- container_range
 - extends the range to use a container class
- maps and sets:
 - concurrent_unordered_map
 - concurrent_unordered_set
 - concurrent_hash_map
- Queues:
 - concurrent_queue
 - concurrent_bounded_queue
 - concurrent_priority_queue
- concurrent_vector









- extends the range class to allow using containers as ranges
 (e.g. providing iterators, reference methods)
 Container ranges can be directly used in parallel_for, reduce and scan
- some containers have implementations which support container range
 - concurrent_hash_map
 - concurrent_vector
 - you can call parallel for, scan and reduce over (all or) part of such containers









- Types
 - R::value_type Item type
 - R::reference Item reference type
 - R::const_reference Item const reference type
 - R::difference_type Type for difference of two iterators
- What you need to provide
 - R::iterator Iterator type for range
 - R::iterator R::begin() First item in range
 - R::iterator R::end() One past last item in range
 - R::size_type R::grainsize() const Grain size
- AND all Range methods: split(), is_divisible()...









- The key issue is allowing multiple threads efficient concurrent access to containers
 - keeping as much as possible close to STL usage
 - at the cost of limiting the semantics
 - A (possibly private) memory allocator is an optional parameter
- containers try to support concurrent insertion and traversal
 - semantics similar to STL, in some cases simplified
 - not all containers support full concurrency of insertion, traversal, deletion
 - typically, deletion is forbidden / not efficient
 - some methods are labeled as concurrently unsafe
 - E.g. erase







Types of maps



- We wish to reuse STL based code as much as possible
 - However, STL maps are NOT concurrency aware
- Two main options to make them thread-nice
 - Preserve serial semantics, sacrifice performance
 - Aim for concurrent performance, sacrifice STL semantics
- Choose depending on the semantics you need
- concurrent_hash_map
 - Preserves serial semantics as much as possible
 - Operations are concurrent, but consistency is guaranteed
- concurrent_unordered_map, concurrent_unordered_multimap
 - Partially mimic STL corresponding semantics
 - drops concurrent performance hogging features
 - no strict serial consistency of operations









- concurrent_hash_map
 - Preserves serial semantics as much as possible
 - Operations are concurrent, but subject to a global ordering to ensure consistency
 - Relies on extensive built-in locking for this purpose
 - Data structure access is less scalable, may become a bottleneck
 - Your tasks may be left idle on a lock until data access is not available









- concurrent_unordered_map
- concurrent_unordered_multimap
 - associative containers, concurrent insertion and traversal
 - semantics similar to STL unordered_map/multimap but simplified
 - omits features strongly dependent on C++11
 - Rvalue references, initializer lists
 - some methods are prefixed by unsafe_ as they are concurrently unsafe
 - unsafe_erase, unsafe_bucket methods
 - inserting concurrently the same key may actually create a temporary pair which is destroyed soon after
 - the iterators defined are in the forward iterator category (only allow to go forward)
 - supports concurrent traversal (concurrent insertion does not invalidate the existing iterators)







Comparison of maps



- Choose depending on the semantics you need
- concurrent_hash_map
 - Permits erasure, has built-in locking
- concurrent_unordered_map
 - Allows concurrent traversal/insertion
 - No visible locking
 - minimal software lockout
 - no locks are retained that user code need to care about
 - Has [] and "at" accessors
- concurrent_unordered_multimap
 - Same as previous, holds multiple identical keys
 - Find will return the first matching <key, Value>
 - But concurring threads may have added stuff before it in the meantime!









- template <typename Key, typename Element, typename Hasher = tbb_hash<Key>, typename Equality = std::equal_to<Key >, typename Allocator = tbb::tbb_allocator<std::pair<const Key, Element > > > class concurrent_unordered_map;
- template <typename Key, typename Element, typename Hasher = tbb_hash<Key>, typename Equality = std::equal_to<Key >, typename Allocator = tbb::tbb_allocator<std::pair<const Key, Element > > > class concurrent_unordered_multimap;







Concurrent sets



- template <typename Key, typename Hasher = tbb_hash<Key>, typename Equality = std::equal_to<Key>, typename Allocator = tbb::tbb_allocator<Key> class concurrent_unordered_set;
- template <typename Key, typename Hasher = tbb_hash<Key>, typename Equality = std::equal_to<Key>, typename Allocator = tbb::tbb_allocator<Key> class concurrent_unordered_multiset;
- concurrent_unordered_set
 - set container supporting insertion and traversal
 - same limitations as map: C++0x, unsafe_erase and bucket methods
 - Forward iterators, not invalidated by concurrent insertion
 - For multiset, same find() behavior as with the maps







Concurrent queues



- STL queues, modified to allow concurrency
 - Unbounded capacity (memory bound!)
 - FIFO, allows multiple threads to push/pop concurrently with high scalability
- Differences with STL
 - No front and back access ightarrow concurrently unsafe
 - Iterators are provided only for debugging purposes!
 - unsafe_begin() unsafe_end() iterators pointing to begin/ end of the queue
 - Size_type is an integral type
 - Unsafe_size() number of items in queue, not guaranteed to be accurate
 - try_pop(T & object)
 - replaces (merges) size() and front() calls
 - attempts a pop, returns true if an object is returned









- Adds the ability to specify a capacity
 - set_capacity() and capacity()
 - default capacity is practically unbounded
- push operation waits until it can complete without exceeding the capacity
 - try_push does not wait, returns true on succes
- Adds a waiting pop() operation that waits until it can pop an item
 - Try_pop does not wait, returns true on success
- Changes the size_type to a signed type, as
 - size() operation returns the number of push operations minus the number of pop operations
 - Can be negative: if 3 pop operations are waiting on an empty queue, size() returns -3.
- abort() causes any waiting push or pop operation to abort and throw an exception







- Concurrent push/pop priority queue
 - Unbounded capacity
 - Push is thread safe, try_pop is thread safe
- Differences to STL
 - Does not allow choosing a container; does allow to choose the memory allocator
 - top() access to highest priority elements is missing (as it is unsafe)
 - pop replaced by try_pop
 - size() is inaccurate on concurrent access
 - empty() may be inaccurate
 - Swap is not thread safe







Concurrent priority queue examples



- concurrent_priority_queue(const allocator_type& a = allocator_type())
 - Empty queue with given allocator
- concurrent_priority_queue(size_type init_capacity, const allocator_type& a = allocator_type())
 - Sets initial capacity
- Priority is provided by the template type T









- Random access by index
- Concurrent growth / append
- Growing does not invalidate indexes
- Some methods are NOT concurrent
 - Reserve, compact, swap
- Shrink_to_fit compacts the memory representation
 - Not done automatically to preserve concurrent access, invalidates indexes
- Implements the range concept
 Can be used for parallel iteration
- Size() can be concurrently inaccurate (includes element in construction)
- Provides forward and reverse iterators









Intel Thread Building Blocks, Part V

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- enumerable_thread_specific
- a container class providing local storage to any of the running threads
 - outside of parallel contexts, the contents of all thread-local copies are accessible by iterator or using combine or combine_each methods
 - thread-local copies are lazily created, with default, exemplar or function initialization
 - thread-local copies do not move (during lifetime, and excepting clear()) so the address of a copy is invariant.
 - the contained objects need not have operator=() defined if combine is not used.
 - enumerable_thread_specific containers may be copyconstructed or assigned.
 - thread-local copies can be managed by hash-table, or can be accessed via TLS storage for speed.







Synchronization mechanisms



- Low level mechanism to control low-level concurrent access to data structures
- Use with great care
 - Can cause software lockout
- Mutexes
 - data structures that allow adding generick locking mechanisms to any data structures
- Atomic
 - template that add very simple, low overhead, hw-supported atomic behaviour to a few machine types available in the language
- PPL Compatibility
 - 2 constructs added for compatibility with Microsoft Parallel Pattern Library
- C++11 syncronizations
 - Supports a subset of the N3000 draft of the C++11 standard
 - will change in future implementations of TBB









- template<typename T> atomic;
- Generate special machine instructions to ensure that operating on a variable in memory is performed atomically
- atomics within the C++11 standard (TBB goes beyond it)
- Integral type, enum type, pointer type
- Template supports atomic read, write, increment, decrement, fetch&add, fetch&store, compare&swap operations
- Arithmetic
 - Pointer arithmetic is T is a pointer
 - not allowed if T is enum, bool or void*









- Copy constructor is never atomic
 - It is compiler generated
 - Need to default construct, then assign
 - atomic<T> y(x); // Not atomic

atomic<T> z; z=x; // Atomic assignment

- C+11 uses the constexpr mechanism for this
- atomic <T*> defines the dereferencing of data as
 - T* operator->() const;







Atomic methods



- value_type fetch_and_add(value_type addend)
 - Add atomically
- value_type fetch_and_increment()
- value_type fetch_and_decrement()
 Increment/decrement atomically
- value_type compare_and_swap(value_type new_value, value_type comparand)
 - If the atomic has value "comparand" set it to "new_value"
- value_type fetch_and_store(value_type new_value)











- Classes to build lock objects
- The new lock object will generally
 - Wait according to specific semantics for locking
 - Lock the object
 - Release lock when destroyed
- Several characteristics of mutexes
 - Scalable
 - Fair
 - Recursive
 - Yield / Block
- Check implementations in the docs:
 - mutex, recursive_mutex, spin_mutex, queueing_mutex, spin_rw_mutex, queueing_rw_mutex, null_mutex, null_rw_mutex
 - Specific reader/writer locks
 - Upgrade/downgrade operation to change r/w role





seudo-Signature	Semantics			
0	Construct unlocked mutex.			
4()	Destroy unlocked mutex.			
ypename M::scoped_lock	Corresponding scoped-lock type.			
::scoped_lock()	Construct lock without acquiring mutex.			
::scoped_lock(M&)	Construct lock and acquire lock on mutex.			
::~scoped_lock()	Release lock (if acquired).			
::scoped_lock::acquire(M&)	Acquire lock on mutex.			
ool M::scoped_lock::try_acquire(M&)	Try to acquire lock on mutex. Return true if lock acquired, false otherwise.			
::scoped_lock::release()	Release lock.			
atic const bool M::is_rw_mutex	True if mutex is reader-writer mutex; false otherwise.			
tatic const bool	True if mutex is recursive mutex; false otherwise.			
::is_recursive_mutex				
tatic const bool M::is fair mutex	True if mutex is fair; false otherwise.			





Types of mutexes



	Scalable	Fair	Reentrant	Long Wait	Size
mutex	OS dependent	OS dependent	No	Blocks	>=3 words
recursive_mutex	OS dependent	OS dependent	Yes	Blocks	>=3 words
spin_mutex	No	No	No	Yields	1 byte
speculative_spin_mutex	No	No	No	Yields	2 cache lines
queuing_mutex	Yes	Yes	No	Yields	1 word
spin_rw_mutex	No	No	No	Yields	1 word
queuing_rw_mutex	Yes	Yes	No	Yields	1 word
null_mutex	-	Yes	Yes	-	empty
null_rw_mutex	-	Yes	Yes	-	empty



