

# Parallel Programming with Processes, Threads and Message Passing

#### **TDDE35**

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#### **Outline**

#### Lecture 2a: Parallel programming with threads

- Shared Memory programming model
- Revisiting processes, threads, synchronization
- Pthreads
- OpenMP (very shortly)

#### Lecture 2b: Parallel programming with message passing

- Distributed Memory programming model
- MPI introduction



#### **Concurrency vs. Parallelism**

# Concurrent computing

1 or few CPUs

Quasi-simultaneous execution



# Parallel computing

Many CPUs

Simultaneous execution of many / all threads of the same application

#### Common issues:

- threads/processes for overlapping execution
- synchronization, communication
- resource contention, races, deadlocks

Goals of concurrent execution:

- Increase CPU utilization
- Increase responsitivity of a system
- Support multiple users

**Central issues:** Scheduling, priorities, ...

**Goals** of parallel execution:

- Speedup of 1 application (large problem)

**Central issues:** Parallel algorithms and data structures, Mapping, Load balancing...



# **Parallel Programming Models**



#### **Parallel Programming Model**

- System-software-enabled programmer's view of the underlying hardware
- Abstracts from details of the underlying architecture, e.g. network topology
- Focuses on a few characteristic properties, e.g. memory model
- → **Portability** of algorithms/programs across a family of parallel architectures





### **Processes**

(Refresher from TDDB68)



#### **Example: Process Creation in UNIX**

- fork system call
  - creates new child process
- exec system call
  - used after a **fork** to replace the process' memory space with a new program
- wait system call
  - by parent, suspends parent execution until child process has terminated



```
int main()
                      C program forking
                     a separate process
   Pid t ret;
   /* fork another process: */
   ret = fork();
   if (ret < 0) { /* error occurred */
         fprintf ( stderr, "Fork Failed" );
         exit(-1);
   else if (ret == 0) { /* child process */
         execlp ( "/bin/ls", "ls", NULL );
   }
   else { /*parent process: ret=childPID *
         /* will wait for child to complete: *
         wait (NULL);
         printf ("Child Complete");
```

```
exit(0);
```



#### Parallel programming with processes

- Processes can create new processes that execute concurrently with the parent process
- OS scheduler also for single-core CPUs
- Different processes share nothing by default
  - Inter-process communication via OS only, via shared memory (write/read) or message passing (send/recv)
- Threads are a more light-weight alternative for programming shared-memory applications
  - Sharing memory (except local stack) by default
  - Lower overhead for creation and scheduling/dispatch
    - E.g. Solaris: creation 30x, switching 5x faster



#### **IPC Models – Realization by OS**





#### **Example: POSIX Shared Memory API**

- #include <sys/shm.h> #include <sys/stat.h>
- Let OS create a shared memory segment (system call):
  - int segment\_id = shmget ( IPC\_PRIVATE, size, S\_IRUSR | S\_IWUSR );
- Attach the segment to the executing process (system call):
  - void \*shmemptr = shmat ( segment\_id, NULL, 0 );
- Now access it:
  - strcpy ( (char \*)shmemptr, "Hello world" ); // Example: copy a string into it
     ....
- Detach it from executing process when no longer accessed:
  - shmdt ( shmemptr );
- Let OS delete it when no longer used:
  - shmctl ( segment\_id, IPC\_RMID, NULL );

process A	
shared	
process B	ł
kernel	



## **Threads**



#### **Single- and Multithreaded Processes**



A **thread** is a basic unit of CPU utilization:

• Thread ID, program counter, register set, stack.

A process may have one or several threads.



#### **Benefits of Multithreading**

- Responsiveness
  - Interactive application can continue even when part of it is blocked
- Resource Sharing
  - Threads of a process share its memory by default.
- Economy
  - Light-weight
  - Creation, management, context switching for threads is much faster than for processes
- Utilization of Multiprocessor Architectures
  - Convenient (but low-level) shared memory programming



#### **POSIX Threads (Pthreads)**

- A POSIX standard (IEEE 1003.1c) API for thread programming in C
  - start and terminate threads
  - coordinate threads
  - regulate access to shared data structures
- API specifies behavior, not implementation, of the thread library
- C interface, e.g.
  - int pthread\_create ( pthread\_t \*thread, const pthread\_attr\_t \*attr, void \*(\*start\_routine)(void\*), void \*arg);
- Note: as a library, rely on underlying OS and hardware!
- Common in UNIX operating systems (Solaris, Linux, Mac OS X)



#### **Starting a Thread (1)**

Thread is started with function

- Called func must have parameter and ret values void\*
  - Exception: first thread is started with main()
- Thread terminates when called function terminates, or by pthread\_exit (void \*retval)
- Threads started one by one
- Threads represented by data structure of type pthread\_t



# **Starting a Thread (2)**

Example:

```
#include <pthread.h>
```

```
int main ( int argc, char *argv[] )
{
    int *ptr;
    pthread_t thr;
```

```
pthread_create( &thr,
NULL,
foo,
(void*)ptr );
```

```
pthread_join( &thr, NULL );
return 0;
```

```
void *foo ( void *vp )
ł
  int i = (int) vp;;
// alternative
// - pass a parameter block:
void *foo ( void *vp )
  Userdefinedstructtype *ptr;
  ptr=(Userdefinedstructtype*)vp;
```

. . .



#### Access to Shared Data (0)

- Globally defined variables are globally shared and visible to all threads.
- Locally defined variables are visible to the thread executing the function.
- But all data in shared memory publish an address of data: all threads could access...
- Take care: typically no protection between thread data – thread1 (foo1) could even write to thread2's (foo2) stack frame

```
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```

Example 0: Parallel incrementing

int a[N]; // shared, assume P | N
pthread\_t thr[P];

```
int main(void)
  int t;
  for (t=0; t<P; t++)
    pthread_create(&(thr[t]), NULL,
                    incr, a + t^*N/P );
  for (t=0; t<P; t++)
    pthread join( thr[t], NULL );
   ...
}
void *incr ( void *myptr_a )
{ int i;
  for (i=0; i<N/P; i++)
    ((int*)myptr a[i])++; }
```



#### Access to Shared Data (1)

- Globally defined variables are globally shared and visible to all threads.
- Locally defined variables are visible to the thread executing the function.
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- Take care: typically no protection between thread data – thread1 (foo1) could even write to thread2's (foo2) stack frame

```
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```

```
Example 1
```

```
int *globalptr = NULL; // shared ptr
void *foo1 (void *ptr1)
{
    int i = 15;
    globalptr = &i; // ??? dangerous!
    // if foo1 terminates, foo2 writes
    // somewhere, unless globalptr
    // value is reset to NULL manually
```

```
void *foo2 ( void *ptr2 )
{
    if (globalptr) *globalptr = 17;
...
}
```



#### Access to Shared Data (2)

- Globally defined variables are globally shared and visible to all threads
- Locally defined variables are visible to the thread executing the function
- But all data in shared memory publish an address of data: all threads could access...
- Take care: typically no protection between thread data – thread1 could even write to thread2's stack frame

```
Example 2
```

```
int *globalptr = NULL; // shared ptr
```

```
void *foo1 ( void *ptr1 )
```

```
int i = 15;
globalptr =(int*)malloc(sizeof(int));
// safe, but possibly memory leak;
// OK if garbage collection ok
```

```
void *foo2 ( void *ptr2 )
{
    if (globalptr) *globalptr = 17;
....
```



#### **Coordinating Shared Access (3)**

What if several threads need to write a shared variable?

- If they simply write: ok if write order does not matter
- If they read and write: encapsulate (critical section, monitor) and protect e.g. by mutual exclusion using mutex locks)
- Example: Access to a taskpool
  - Maintain shared list of tasks to be performed
  - If a thread is idle, it gets a task and performs it

```
// each thread:
while (! workdone)
{
   task = gettask( Pooldescr );
   performtask ( task );
}
```

// may be called concurrently:
Tasktype gettask ( Pool p )
{
 // begin critical section
 task = p.queue [ p.index ];
 p.index++;
 // end critical section

return task;

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#### **Race Conditions lead to Nondeterminism**

- Example: p.index++
- could be implemented in machine code as
  - 39: register1 = p.index40: register1 = register1 + 141: p.index = register1

#### Consider this execution interleaving, with "index = 5" initially:

// load

// add

// store

39: thread1 executes register1 = p.index
39: thread2 executes register1 = p.index
40: thread1 executes register1 = register1 + 1
40: thread2 executes register1 = register1 + 1
41: thread1 executes p.index = register1
41: thread2 executes p.index = register1

- Compare to a different interleaving, e.g., 39,40,41, 39,40,41...
  - → Result depends on relative speed of the accessing threads (race condition)

Not atomic!

{ T1.register1 = 5 }
{ T2.register1 = 5 }
1 { T1.register1 = 6 }
1 { T2.register1 = 6 }
{ p.index = 6 }
{ p.index = 6 }



#### **Critical Section**

- Critical Section: A set of instructions, operating on shared data or resources, that should be executed by a <u>single</u> thread at a time <u>without interruption</u>
  - Atomicity of execution
  - Mutual exclusion: At most one process should be allowed to operate inside at any time
  - Consistency: inconsistent intermediate states of shared data not visible to other processes outside
- May consist of different program parts for different threads
  - that access the same shared data
- General structure, with structured control flow:

Entry of critical section C

... critical section C: operation on shared data

Exit of critical section C





#### **Coordinating Shared Access (4)**

pthread\_mutex\_t mutex; // global variable - shared

```
...
// in main:
  pthread_mutex_init( &mutex, NULL );
  ...
                                              Often implemented using
// in gettask:
                                              test_and_set or other atomic
  ...
                                              instruction where available
  pthread_mutex_lock( &mutex );
  task = p.queue [p.index];
  p.index++;
  pthread_mutex_unlock( &mutex );
   ...
```



#### Hardware Support for Synchronization

- Most systems provide hardware support for protecting critical sections
- Uniprocessors could *disable interrupts*
  - Currently running code would execute without preemption
  - Generally too inefficient on multiprocessor systems
    - Operating systems using this are not broadly scalable
- Modern machines provide special *atomic instructions*
  - **TestAndSet**: test memory word <u>and</u> set value atomically
    - Atomic = non-interruptable
    - If multiple TestAndSet instructions are executed simultaneously (each on a different CPU in a multiprocessor), then they take effect sequentially in some arbitrary order.
  - **AtomicSwap**: swap contents of two memory words atomically
  - CompareAndSwap
  - Load-linked / Store-conditional



#### **TestAndSet Instruction**

Definition in pseudocode:

```
boolean TestAndSet (boolean *target)
{
    boolean rv = *target;
    *target = TRUE;
    return rv; // return the OLD value
}
```



#### Mutual Exclusion using TestAndSet

Shared boolean variable lock, initialized to FALSE (= unlocked)

```
do {
   while (TestAndSet (&lock))
       ; // do nothing but spinning on the lock (busy waiting)
   // ... critical section
   lock = FALSE;
   // ... remainder section
```

```
} while ( TRUE);
```



#### **Pitfalls with Semaphores**

- Correct use of mutex operations:
  - Protect all possible entries/exits of control flow into/from critical section:

pthread\_mutex\_lock (&mutex)

pthread\_mutex\_unlock (&mutex)

- ors:
- Possible sources of synchronization errors:
  - Omitting lock(&mutex) or unlock(&mutex) (or both) ??
  - Iock(&mutex) .... Iock(&mutex) ??
  - Iock(&mutex1) .... unlock(&mutex2) ??
  - if-statement in critical section, unlock in then-branch only

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#### **Problems: Deadlock and Starvation**

- Deadlock two or more threads are waiting indefinitely for an event that can be caused only by one of the waiting threads
  - Typical example: Nested critical sections
    - Guarded by locks S and Q, initialized to unlocked

```
        P0
        P1

        mutex_lock(S);
        mutex_lock(Q);

        mutex_lock(Q);
        mutex_lock(S);

        ...
        mutex_unlock(S);

        time
        mutex_unlock(Q);

        time
        mutex_unlock(S);
```

 Starvation – indefinite blocking. A thread may never get the chance to acquire a lock if the mutex mechanism is not *fair*.

## Deadlock Characterization [Coffman et al. 1971]

Deadlock can arise only if **four conditions** hold simultaneously:

- Mutual exclusion: only one thread at a time can use a resource.
- Hold and wait: a thread holding at least one resource is waiting to acquire additional resources held by other threads.
- No preemption of resources: a resource can be released only voluntarily by the thread holding it, *after* that thread has completed its task.
- Circular wait: there exists a set {P<sub>0</sub>, P<sub>1</sub>, ..., P<sub>n</sub>} of waiting threads such that
  - $P_0$  is waiting for a resource that is held by  $P_1$ ,
  - $P_1$  is waiting for a resource that is held by  $P_2$ , ...,
  - $P_{n-1}$  is waiting for a resource that is held by  $P_n$ , and
  - $P_{\rm n}$  is waiting for a resource that is held by  $P_{\rm 0}$ .

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#### **Coordinating Shared Access (5)**

- Must also rely on implementation for efficiency
- Time to lock / unlock mutex or synchronize threads varies widely between different platforms
- A mutex that all threads access serializes the threads!
  - Convoying
  - Goal: Make critical section as short as possible

```
// in gettask():
int tmpindex; // local (thread-private) variable
pthread_mutex_lock( &mutex );
tmpindex = p.index++;
pthread_mutex_unlock( &mutex );
task = p.queue [ tmpindex ];
```



#### **Coordinating Shared Access (6)**

- When programming on this level of abstraction: can minimize serialization, but not avoid
  - Example: Fine-grained locking
- Better: avoid mutex and similar constructs, and use higher-level data structures that are lock-free
  - Example: NOBLE library
- Also: Transactional memory

More about this in TDDD56



# Performance Issues with Threads on Multicores

#### Performance Issue: Thread Pools

 For a multithreaded process: Create a number of threads in a pool where they await work



- Advantages:
  - Faster to service a request with an existing thread than to create a new thread
  - Allows the number of threads in the application(s) to be bound to the size of the pool
- Win32 API
- OpenMP

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#### Performance Issue: Spinlocks on Multiprocessors

Recall busy waiting at spinlocks:

// ... lock initially 0 (unlocked)
while ( ! test\_and\_set( &lock ))

// ... the critical section ... lock = 0;

- Test\_and\_set in a tight loop
   → high bus traffic on multiprocessor
  - Cache coherence mechanism must broadcast all writing accesses (incl. t&s) to lock immediately to all writing processors, to maintain a consistent view of lock's value
  - → contention
  - degrades performance

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#### Solution 1: TTAS

Combine with ordinary read:

while ( ! test\_and\_set( &lock ))
 while ( lock )

// ... the critical section ...

- Most accesses to lock are now reads
  - → less contention, as long as lock is not released.

#### Solution 2: Back-Off

- while ( ! test\_and\_set( &lock )) do\_nothing\_for ( short\_time ); // ... the critical section ...
- Exponential / random back-off



#### Performance Issue: Manual Avoidance of Idle Waiting

- Thread that unsuccessfully tried to acquire mutex is blocked but not suspended
  - busy waiting, idle ☺
- Can find out that mutex is locked and do something else: pthread\_mutex\_trylock ( &mutex\_lock );
  - If mutex is unlocked, returns 0
     If mutex is locked, returns EBUSY
- Useful for locks that are not accessed too frequently and for threads having the chance to do something else



# Better Programmability for Thread Programming

#### Short overview of OpenMP™

(see TDDC78 for in-depth treatment of OpenMP)


sequential

#pragma omp parallel

### **OpenMP**<sup>™</sup>

- Standard for shared-memory thread programming
- Developed for incremental parallelization of HPC code
- Directives (e.g. #pragma omp parallel)
- Support in recent C compilers, e.g. gcc from v.4.3 and later
- High-level constructs for data and work sharing
  - Low-level thread programming still possible





### Performance Issue: Load Balancing

- Parallel execution time ("makespan" in scheduling terminology) is determined by the longest-running process / thread
- Minimized by load balancing
  - Static mapping of tasks to cores before runtime, no OH
  - Dynamic mapping done at runtime
    - Shared (critical section) or distributed work pool
    - On-line problem don't know the future, only the past
      - Heuristics such as best-fit, random work stealing

Example: Parallel loop, iterations of unknown+varying workload #pragma omp parallel for schedule(dynamic) for (i=0; i<N; i++) work ( i, unknownworkload(i) );</p>



### **Example: Sequential sum in C**

```
#define N 2048
```

```
int sum, arr[N];
```

```
void main()
```

```
{
// ... initialize arr
```

```
for (i=0; i<N; i++) {
    sum = sum + arr[i];
  }
// ... output sum</pre>
```



### **Example: Parallel sum in OpenMP**

```
#include <omp.h>
#define N 2048
int sum, arr[N];
void main()
 // ... initialize arr
#pragma omp parallel private(i)
#pragma omp for reduction(+:sum)
  for (i=0; i<N; i++) {
    sum = sum + arr[i];
  }
 // ... output sum
```



# **Message Passing**



### **MPI – Program Startup**

- MPI (implementation) is a **library** of message passing operations, linked with the application's executable code.
- **SPMD** execution style
  - all started processes (at least, 1 per node) execute main() of the same program
- Startup script (platform-dependent), e.g.:

mpirun –np 8 a.out



launches 8 MPI processes, each executing main() of a.out

 Distinguished only by their MPI rank (unique ID in 0 ... #processes – 1)

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### Background: SPMD vs. Fork-Join



constant number of parallel activities (processors / processes / threads)

static mapping to processors

mostly flat parallelism (nested parallelism by group splitting)

Example: MPI, HPF, UPC, NestStep

dynamic creation and deletion of parallel activities

needs dynamic scheduling (overhead)

naturally nested parallelism (nested parallelism by nested spawning)

Example: pthreads, Java threads, Unix–fork, OpenMP, PVM, MPI–2, Cilk



# Hello World (1)



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# **MPI Core Routines (C API)**

MPI\_Init( int \*argc, char \*\*\*argv );

MPI\_Finalize( void );

Status object:

status->MPI\_SOURCE indicates the sender of the message received; status->MPI\_TAG indicates the tag of the message received;

*status*->MPI\_ERROR contains an error code.

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### **MPI – Determinism**

Message passing is generally nondeterministic: Arrival order of two sent messages is unspecified.

MPI guarantees that two messages sent from processor *A* to *B* will arrive in the order sent.

Messages can be distinguished by sender and a tag (integer).

User-defined nondeterminism in receive operations:

wildcard MPI\_ANY\_SOURCE

wildcard MPI\_ANY\_TAG

MPI blocking vs. nonblocking communication operations → TDDC78 MPI communication modes (synchronous, buffered, ...) → TDDC78 C. Kessler, IDA, Linköping University 47



## **Collective Communication Operations**



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### Some Collective Communication Operations in MPI

Single-Broadcast:

#### **Reduction:**

with predefined  $op \in \{ MPI_SUM, MPI_MAX, ... \}$ or user-defined by MPI\_Op\_Create.

MPI\_Allreduce

Barrier synchronization:

c.int MPI\_Barrier( MPI\_Comm comm );

### **Collective Communication in MPI Example: Scatter and Gather**





#include <mpi.h>
#define N 2048

. . .

```
void main( int argc, int argv )
```



int rank, p, i, sum, arr[N], \*myarr, myN, mysum;



#include <mpi.h>
#define N 2048

```
void main( int argc, int argv )
```



int rank, p, i, sum, arr[N], \*myarr, myN, mysum; MPI\_Init( &argc, &argv ); MPI\_Comm\_rank( MPI\_COMM\_WORLD, &rank ); MPI\_Comm\_size( MPI\_COMM\_WORLD, &p );



```
#include <mpi.h>
#define N 2048
                                       arr
                                                                            N-1
                                           0
void main( int argc, int argv )
 int rank, p, i, sum, arr[N], *myarr, myN, mysum;
 MPI_Init( & argc, & argv );
 MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &rank);
 MPI_Comm_size( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &p );
 if (rank==0) // initialize on P0 only:
   for (i=0; i<N; i++)
     arr[i] = ...;
 myN = N / p; // assume p divides N
 myarr = (int *) malloc( myN * sizeof(int));
```



```
#include <mpi.h>
#define N 2048
                                      arr
                                                                          N-1
                                          0
void main( int argc, int argv)
 int rank, p, i, sum, arr[N], *myarr, myN, mysum;
 MPI_Init( & argc, & argv );
 MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &rank);
 MPI_Comm_size( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &p );
 if (rank==0) // initialize on P0 only:
   for (i=0; i<N; i++)
     arr[i] = ...;
 myN = N / p; // assume p divides N
 myarr = (int *) malloc( myN * sizeof(int));
 MPI_Scatter(arr, N, MPI_INT, myarr, myN, MPI_INT, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
```



```
#include <mpi.h>
#define N 2048
                                      arr
                                                                          N-1
                                          0
void main( int argc, int argv )
 int rank, p, i, sum, arr[N], *myarr, myN, mysum;
 MPI_Init( & argc, & argv );
 MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &rank);
 MPI_Comm_size( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &p );
 if (rank==0) // initialize on P0 only:
   for (i=0; i<N; i++)
     arr[i] = ...;
 myN = N / p; // assume p divides N
 myarr = (int *) malloc( myN * sizeof(int));
 MPI_Scatter(arr, N, MPI_INT, myarr, myN, MPI_INT, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
 mysum = 0;
 for (i=0; i<myN; i++)
    mySum += myarr[i]; // each process calculates partial sum of N/p elements
```



```
#include <mpi.h>
#define N 2048
                                      arr
                                                                         N-1
                                         0
void main( int argc, int argv )
 int rank, p, i, sum, arr[N], *myarr, myN, mysum;
 MPI_Init( & argc, & argv );
 MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &rank);
 MPI_Comm_size( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &p );
 if (rank==0) // initialize on P0 only:
   for (i=0; i<N; i++)
     arr[i] = ...;
 myN = N / p; // assume p divides N
 myarr = (int *) malloc( myN * sizeof(int));
 MPI_Scatter(arr, N, MPI_INT, myarr, myN, MPI_INT, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
 mysum = 0;
 for (i=0; i<myN; i++)
    mySum += myarr[i]; // each process calculates partial sum of N/p elements
 MPI_Reduce( &mysum, &sum, 1, MPI_INT, MPI_SUM, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
 // ... now output sum
 MPI_Finalize();
```

```
C. K }
```



### More about MPI $\rightarrow$ TDDC78

- MPI Communication modes for point-to-point communication
- MPI Communicators and Groups
- MPI Datatypes
- MPI One-Sided Communication (Remote Memory Access)
- MPI Virtual Topologies
- Labs: Image filter, Particle simulation



# **Questions?**



### **Further Reading (Selection)**

- C. Lin, L. Snyder: *Principles of Parallel Programming*. Addison Wesley, 2008. (general introduction; Pthreads)
- B. Wilkinson, M. Allen: *Parallel Programming, 2e.* Prentice Hall, 2005. (general introduction; pthreads, OpenMP, MPI)
- M. Herlihy, N. Shavit: *The Art of Multiprocessor Programming*. Morgan Kaufmann, 2008. (threads; nonblocking synchronization)
- Chandra, Dagum, Kohr, Maydan, McDonald, Menon: Parallel Programming in OpenMP. Morgan Kaufmann, 2001.
- Barbara Chapman et al.: Using OpenMP Portable Shared Memory Parallel Programming. MIT press, 2007.
- OpenMP: www.openmp.org
- MPI: www.mpi-forum.org

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