

COMP 322: Fundamentals of Parallel Programming

Lecture 34: Eureka-style Speculative Task Parallelism

Mack Joyner
mjoyner@rice.edu

<http://comp322.rice.edu>



What is “Eureka Style” Computation?

- Many optimization and search problems attempts to find a result with a certain property or cost
- Announce when a result has been found
 - An "aha!" moment – **Eureka** event
 - Can make rest of the computation unnecessary

==> Opportunities for “speculative parallelism”, e.g., Parallel Search, Branch and Bound Optimization, Soft Real-Time Deadlines, Convergence Iterations, . . .



Image source: http://www.netstate.com/states/mottoes/images/ca_eureka.jpg



Simple Example: Search in a 2-D Matrix

```
1. class AsyncFinishSearch {
2.   AtomicReference atomicRefFactory() {
3.     // [x, y] is pseudocode syntax for specifying an integer pair
4.     return new AtomicReference([-1, -1])
5.   }
6.   int[] doWork(matrix, goal) {
7.     val token = atomicRefFactory()
8.     finish (() -> {
9.       // How to break from a forasync loop?
10.      forasyncChunked (0, matrix.length - 1, (r) -> {
11.        procRow(matrix(r), r, goal, token)
12.      });
13.    });
14.    // return either [-1, -1] or valid index [i, j] matching goal
15.    return token.get()
16.  }
17.  void procRow(array, r, goal, token) {
18.    for (int c = 0; c < array.length(); c++)
19.      if goal.match(array(c)) // eureka!!!
20.        token.set([r, c])
21.    return
22.  }}
```



Challenges in Parallelizing a Eureka-Style Computation

- Detecting eureka events
 - need to pass token around as extra argument
- Terminating executing tasks after eureka
 - manual termination via cancellation tokens can be a burden
 - throwing an exception does not terminate other parallel tasks
 - “killing” a parallel task can lead to unpredictable results (depending on when the task was terminated)



Example of Manual termination via Cancellation Tokens

- Manual periodic checks with returns

- User controls responsiveness

```
1. class AsyncFinishManualSearch {
2.     int[] doWork(matrix, goal) {
3.         val token = atomicRefFactory()
4.         finish () -> {
5.             forasyncChunked (0, matrix.length - 1, (r) -> {
6.                 if (token.get() != [-1, -1])
7.                     return
8.                 procRow(matrix(r), r, goal, token)
9.             });
10.        });
11.        // [-1, -1] or valid index [i, j] matching goal
12.        return token.get()
13.    }
14.    void procRow(array, r, goal, token) {
15.        for (int c = 0; c < array.length(); c++)
16.            if (token.get() != [-1, -1])
17.                return
18.            if goal.match(array(c)) // eureka!!!
19.                token.set([r, c])
20.        return
    }
```

Repeated checks
which are written
manually

- Cumbersome to write
- Impossible to support inaccessible functions



HJlib solution: the Eureka construct

1. `eureka = eurekaFactory()` // create Eureka object
2. `finish (eureka) S1` // register eureka w/ finish
 - Multiple `finish`'es can register on same Eureka
 - Wait for all tasks to finish as before
 - Except that some tasks may terminate early when eureka is resolved
3. `async` // task candidate for early termination
 - Inherits eureka registrations from immediately-enclosing finish
4. `offer()`
 - Triggers eureka event on registered eureka
5. `check()` // Like a “break” statement for a task
 - Causes task to terminate if eureka resolved



2D Matrix Search using Eureka construct (Pseudocode)

```
1. class AsyncFinishEurekaSearch {
2.   HjEureka eurekaFactory() {
3.     return ...
4.   }
5.   int[] doWork(matrix, goal) {
6.     val eu = eurekaFactory()
7.     finish (eu, () -> { // eureka registration
8.       forasyncChunked (0, matrix.length - 1, (r) -> {
9.         procRow(matrix(r), r, goal)
10.        });
11.      });
12.      // return either [-1, -1] or valid index [i, j] matching goal
13.      return eu.get()
14.    }
15.    void procRow(array, r, goal) {
16.      for (int c = 0; c < array.length(); c++)
17.        check() // cooperative termination check
18.        if goal.match(array(c)) // eureka!!!
19.          offer([r, c]) // trigger eureka event
20.    } }
```



Eureka Variants (Pseudocode)

```
def eurekaFactory() {  
  val initValue = [-1, -1]  
  return new SearchEureka(initValue)  
}
```

```
def eurekaFactory() {  
  val K = 4  
  return new CountEureka(K)  
}
```

```
def eurekaFactory() {  
  // comparator to compare indices  
  val comparator = (a, b) -> {  
    ((a.x - b.x) == 0) ? (a.y - b.y) : (a.x - b.x)  
  }  
  val initValue = [INFINITY, INFINITY]  
  return new MinimaEureka(initValue, comparator)  
}
```



Binary Tree Search Example

```
HjSearchEureka<Integer> eureka = newSearchEureka(null);
finish(eureka, () -> {
    async(() -> {
        searchBody(eureka, rootNode, elemToSearch);
    });
});

private static void searchBody(
    HjSearchEureka<Integer> eureka, Node rootNode,
    int elemToSearch) throws SuspendableException {
    eureka.check();
    if (rootNode.value == elemToSearch) {
        eureka.offer(rootNode.id);
    }
    if (rootNode.left != null) {
        async(() -> {
            searchBody(eureka, rootNode.left, elemToSearch);
        });
    }
    if (rootNode.right != null) {
        async(() -> {
            searchBody(eureka, rootNode.right, elemToSearch);
        });
    }
}
```

Inputs:

- binary tree, T
- Unique id for each node in T (for example, in breadth-first order: root.id = 0, root.left.id = 1, root.right.id = 2, ...)
- value for each node in T that is the search target

Outputs:

- calls to offer() resolve eureka
- calls to check() can lead to early termination
- final value of eureka contains id of a node with value == elemToSearch



Tree Min Index Search Example

```
HjExtremaEureka<Integer> eureka = newExtremaEureka(
    Integer.MAX_VALUE, (Integer i, Integer j) -> i.compareTo(j));
finish(eureka, () -> {
    async() -> {
        minIndexSearchBody(eureka, rootNode, elemToSearch);
    });
});

private static void minIndexSearchBody(
    HjExtremaEureka<Integer> eureka, Node rootNode,
    int elemToSearch) throws SuspendableException {
    eureka.check(rootNode.id);
    if (rootNode.value == elemToSearch) {
        eureka.offer(rootNode.id);
    }
    if (rootNode.left != null) {
        async() -> {
            minIndexSearchBody(eureka, rootNode.left, elemToSearch);
        });
    }
    if (rootNode.right != null) {
        async() -> {
            minIndexSearchBody(eureka, rootNode.right, elemToSearch);
        });
    }
}
```

Inputs:

- binary tree, T
- id for each node in T, in breadth-first order e.g., root.id = 0, root.left.id = 1, root.right.id = 2, ...
- value for each node in T that is the search target

Outputs:

- calls to offer() update eureka with minimum id found so far (among those that match)
- calls to check() can lead to early termination if the argument is >= than current minimum in eureka
- final value of eureka contains minimum id of node with value == elemToSearch

