

COMP 322: Fundamentals of Parallel Programming

Lecture 10: Java's ForkJoin Library

Mack Joyner and Zoran Budimlić
{mjoyner, zoran}@rice.edu

<http://comp322.rice.edu>



Worksheet #9: Classifying different versions of parallel search algorithm

Enter “YES” or “NO”, as appropriate, in each box below

Example: String Search variation	Data Race Free?	Functionally Deterministic?	Structurally Deterministic?
V1: Count of all occurrences	YES	YES	YES
V2: Existence of an occurrence	NO	YES	YES
V3: Index of any occurrence	NO	NO	YES
V4: Optimized existence of an occurrence: do not create more async tasks after occurrence is found	NO	YES	NO
V5: Optimized index of any occurrence: do not create more async tasks after occurrence is found	NO	NO	NO



Updating all Elements in an Array

- Suppose we have a large array a of integers
- We wish to update each element of this array:
 - $a[i] = a[i] / (i + 1)$
- How would we write this as a parallel program using `async` and `finish`?



Recursive Decomposition

```
solve(problem)  
  if problem smaller than threshold  
    solveDirectly(problem)  
  
  else  
  
    in parallel:  
      l = solve(left-half)  
      r = solve(right-half)  
  
    combine(l, r)
```

- In general, can create more than 2 sub-problems
- combine then needs to handle all the sub-problems



Update using `async` and `finish`

```
1. sequentialUpdate(a, lo, hi)
2.     for (i = lo; i < hi; i++)
3.         a[i] = a[i] / (i + 1)
4.
5. parallelUpdate(a, lo, hi)
6.     if (hi - lo) < THRESHOLD
7.         sequentialUpdate(a, lo, hi)
8.     else
9.         mid = (lo + hi) / 2
10.         finish
11.             async parallelUpdate(a, lo, mid)
12.             async parallelUpdate(a, mid, hi)
```



Task Parallelism Using Standard JDK Libraries

- Thread objects (prior to JDK 5)
 - Start Runnable task *t* with *new Thread(t).start()*
 - Create new Thread each time asynchronous task needs to be done
- Executors (JDK 5)
 - Handles thread management with thread pools
 - Use *execute(t)* to start a task *t* with no return value
 - *ExecutorService* allows for tasks with return values (futures)
- ForkJoinTasks (JDK 7) useful for divide and conquer problems
 - Implements work-stealing
- HJLib, Java streams (JDK 8)



Using Java's Fork/Join Library

- We can perform recursive subdivision using the Fork/Join libraries provided in the JDK as follows:

```
public abstract class RecursiveAction extends  
ForkJoinTask<Void> {
```

```
    protected abstract void compute();
```

```
    ...
```

```
}
```

```
public abstract class RecursiveTask<V> extends ForkJoinTask<V>  
{
```

```
    protected abstract V compute();
```

```
    ...
```

```
}
```



RecursiveAction Subclass

```
1.class DivideTask extends RecursiveAction {
2.  static final int THRESHOLD = 5;
3.  final long[] array;
4.  final int lo, hi;
5.
6.  DivideTask(long[] array, int lo, int hi) {
7.    this.array = array;
8.    this.lo = lo;
9.    this.hi = hi;
10. }
11. protected void compute() {...} // next slide
12. }
```



compute()

```
1.  protected void compute() {
2.      if (hi - lo < THRESHOLD) {
3.          for (int i = lo; i <= hi; ++i)
4.              array[i] = array[i] / (i + 1);
5.      } else {
6.          int mid = (lo + hi) >>> 1;
7.          invokeAll(new DivideTask(array, lo, mid),
8.                  new DivideTask(array, mid+1, hi));
9.      }
10. }
```



ForkJoinTask<V>

- Similar to a finish block enclosing a collection of asyncs
- Other Fork/Join methods in superclass ForkJoinTask<V>

```
class ForkJoinTask<V> extends Object
    implements Serializable, Future<V>
{
    ForkJoinTask<V> fork()    // asynchronously executes
    V join()                // returns result when execution completes
    V invoke()              // forks, joins, returns result
    static void invokeAll(ForkJoinTask<?> t1, ForkJoinTask<?> t2)
    ...
}
```



ForkJoinTasks and Futures

- ForkJoinTasks implement the Future interface
- Acts very much like HJLib futures

```
interface Future<V> {  
    V get()  
    V get(long timeout, TimeUnit unit)  
    boolean cancel(boolean interruptIfRunning)  
    boolean isCancelled()  
    boolean isDone()  
}
```



ForkJoinTasks and Futures

- Because ForkJoinTasks are Futures, they are the values returned from `fork()`
- We can obtain the result of a ForkJoinTask using `join()` or `get()`
- When calling `invoke` or `invokeAll`, we never get a handle on the future explicitly
 - Similar to `finish/async` blocks in HJLib



Recursive Array Sum using HJlib

```
1. protected double computeSum(  
2.     final double[] xArray, final int start, final int end)  
3.     throws SuspendableException {  
  
5.     if (end - start < THRESHOLD) {  
  
7.         // sequential threshold cutoff  
8.         return seqArraySum(xArray, start, end);  
  
10.    } else {  
11.        int mid = (end + start) / 2;  
  
13.        HjFuture<Double> leftFuture = future() -> {  
14.            return computeSum(xArray, start, mid);  
15.        });  
16.        HjFuture<Double> rightFuture = future() -> {  
17.            return computeSum(xArray, mid, end);  
18.        });  
19.        return leftFuture.get() + rightFuture.get();  
20.    } }
```



Recursive Array Sum using ForkJoinTasks

```
1. protected static class ArraySumForkJoinTask
2.     extends RecursiveTask<Double> {
3.     ...
4.     protected Double compute() {
5.         if (end - start < THRESHOLD) {
6.             // sequential threshold cutoff
7.             return seqArraySum(xArray, start, end);
8.         } else {
9.             final int mid = (end + start) / 2;
10.            final ArraySumForkJoinTask taskLeft =
11.                new ArraySumForkJoinTask(xArray, start, mid);
12.            final ArraySumForkJoinTask taskRight =
13.                new ArraySumForkJoinTask(xArray, mid, end);
14.
15.            taskRight.fork();
16.            return taskLeft.compute() + taskRight.join();
17.
18.            // What is wrong with the code below?
19.            // taskLeft.fork();
20.            // return taskLeft.join() + taskRight.compute();
21.        } } }
```



Announcements & Reminders

- **HW2 is available and due by 11:59pm on Wednesday, Feb 6th**
- **Quiz for Unit 2 (topics 2.1 - 2.6) is available on Canvas, and due by 11:59pm on Monday, February 11th**
- **See course web site for all work assignments and due dates**
- **Use Piazza (public or private posts, as appropriate) for all communications re. COMP 322**
- **See Office Hours link on course web site for latest office hours schedule.**

