Parallel processing

YO DAWG, I HEARD YOU LIKED PROCESSORS...

...SO WE PUT PROCESSORS IN YOUR PROCESSOR SO YOU CAN PROCESS WHILE YOU PROCESS!
Highlights

- Making threads
  ```
  thread another = thread(foo);
  // foo() is a function!
  ```

- Waiting for threads
  ```
  another.join()
  ```

- Review (classes, pointers, inheritance)
Terminology

CPU = area of computer that does thinking
Core = processor = a thinking unit

Program = code = instructions on what to do
Thread = parallel process = an independent part of the program/code

Program = string, thread = 1 part of that
Review: CPUs
Review: CPUs

In the 2000s, computing too a major turn: multi-core processors (CPUs)
Review: CPUs

35 Years of Microprocessor Trend Data

- Transistors (thousands)
- Single-thread Performance (SpecINT)
- Frequency (MHz)
- Typical Power (Watts)
- Number of Cores

Review: CPUs

The major reason is due to heat/energy density
Review: CPUs
Review: CPUs

This trend will almost surely not reverse.

There will be new major advancements in computing eventually (quantum computing?)

But “cloud computing”, which has programs that “run” across multiple computers are going nowhere anytime soon.
Parallel: how

So far our computer programs have run through code one line at a time.

To get multiple parts running at the same time, you must create a new thread and give it a function to start running:

```c
#include <thread>

int main()
{
    // some function...
    thread another = thread(foo);
}
```

Need: `#include <thread>`
Parallel: how

If the function wants arguments, just add them after the function in the thread constructor:

```cpp
int main()
{
    thread another = thread(say, "hello");
}
```

This will start function “say” with first input as “hello” (see: createThreads.cpp)
Parallel: basics

The major drawback of distributed computing (within a single computer or between) is **resource synchronization** (i.e. sharing info)

This causes two types of large problems:
1. Conflicts when multiple threads want to use the same resource
2. Logic errors due to parts of the program having different information
1. Resource conflict

Siblings anyone?

EVERY SHOWER STALL IN THE BATHROOM OCCUPIED?

BACK TO BED IT IS
1. Resource conflict

Public bathroom?

All your programs so far have had 1 restroom, but some parts of your program could be sped up by making 2 lines (as long as no issues)
1. Resource conflict

We will actually learn how to cause minor resource conflicts to ensure no logic errors.

This is similar to a cost of calling your forgetful relative to remind them of something.

This only needs to be done for the important matters that involve both of you (e.g. when the family get-together is happening).
2. Different information

If you and another person try to do something together, but not coordinated... disaster
2. Different information

Each part of the computer has its own local set of information, much like separate people.

Suppose we handed out tally counters and told two people to count the amount of people.
2. Different information

However, two people could easily tally the number entering this room...

Simply stand one by each door and add them

Our goal is to design programs that have these two separate parts that can be done simultaneously (which tries to avoid sharing parts)
Parallel: how

However, main() will keep moving on without any regard to what these threads are doing.

If you want to synchronize them at some later point, you can run the join() function.

This tells the code to wait here until the thread is done (i.e. returns from the function).
Parallel: how

Consider this:

```cpp
void peek()
{
    cout << "peek-a-";
}
```

The `start.join()` stops main until the `peek()` function returns

```cpp
int main()
{
    thread start = thread(peek);
    start.join(); // YOU MAY NOT PASS
    cout << "boo!\n";
}
```

(see: waitForThreads.cpp)
None of these fix our counting issue (this is, in fact, not something we want to parallelize)

I only have 4 cores in my computer, so if I have more than 3 extra threads (my normal program is one) they fight over thinking time

Each thread speeds along, and my operating system decides which thread is going to get a turn and when (semi-random)
Parallel: advanced

We can force threads to not fall all over themselves by using a mutex (stands for “mutual exclusion”)

Mutexes have two functions:
1. lock
2. unlock

After one thread “locks” this mutex, no others can pass their “locks” until it is “unlocked”
Parallel: advanced

You can think about a “mutex” like a porta-potty or airplane lavatory indicator:

It is a variable (information) that lets you know if you can proceed or have to wait (when it is your turn, you indicate that this mutex is “occupied” by you now via “lock()”)

Parallel: advanced

Lock

Unlock
These mutex locks are needed if we are trying to share memory between threads.

Without this, there can be miscommunications about the values of the data if one thread is trying to change while another is reading.

A very simple example of this is having multiple threads go: x++
(see: sharingBetweenThreads.cpp)
Parallel: advanced

You have to be careful when locking a mutex, as if that thread crashes or you forget to unlock...
... then your program is in an infinite loop.

There are way around this:
- Timed locks
- atomic operations instead of mutex

The important part is deciding what parts can be parallelized and writing code to achieve this.
Review

DEAR JOHN
Because sending a text message or email is so impersonal.
Final exam

Final exam will be 12 problems, drop any 2

Cumulative up to and including week 14 (emphasis on weeks 9-14: classes & pointers)

2 hours exam time, so 12 min per problem (midterm 2 had 8-ish)
Review: Overview

Peripheral:
- file I/O
- op. overload

Intermediate:
- inheritance
- recursion
- pointers
- dynamic memory

Very Useful:
- scope
- array
- string
- classes

Essentials:
- loop
- types
- if/else
- ops
- functions

Advanced:
- Peripheral
Fundamental Types

bool - true or false
char - (character) A letter or number
int - (integer) Whole numbers
double - Larger decimal numbers
long - (long integers) Larger whole numbers
float - Decimal numbers
Functions allow you to reuse pieces of code (either your own or someone else's)

Every function has a return type, specifically the type of object returned

sqrt(2) returns a double, as the number will probably have a fractional part

The “2” is an argument to the sqrt function
Functions

The return statement value must be the same as the return type (or convertible)

```c
int add(int x, int y)
{
    return x+y;
}
```

3 to x, 5 to y... value 8 returned and stored in x
Functions

Function call stack (after returning, start from where the previous function called it)

Overloading - same function name, different arguments (typically similar)

Call-by-reference (not copy)

```c
void changeMe(int &x)
{
    x = 2;
}
```

Addresses share

Functions should be minimal
Order of operations

Order of precedence (higher operations first):

:: (scope resolution)
functions, . (dot), -> (sorta binary operators)
&, *, -, +, ++, -- and ! (unary operators)
*, / and % (binary operators)
+ and - (binary operators)
==, >=, <= and != (binary operators)
&& and || (binary operators)
=, +=, -=, *=, /=, %= (binary operators)
if/else

-an else statement needs an associated if
-else/if construct ensures only one block is run
-short circuit evaluation

```cpp
if(x != NULL && *x < 10)
{
    cout << "Smaller than 10\n";
}
else
{
    cout << "Bigger than 9\n";
}
```
Loops

3 parts to any (good) loop:
- Test variable initialized
- boolean expression
- Test variable updated inside loop

3 types of loops:
while - general purpose
for - known number of iterations (arrays)
do-while - always run at least once (user input)
continue/break

There are two commands that help control loops:

**continue** tells the loop to start over again (next iteration)

**break** stops the loop
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Advanced
C-Strings and strings

c-string uses null character to tell when to end

```cpp
char word [] = {'h', 'i', '\0'};
string sameWord = word;
```

(c++) string is a class (which is a type) and is newer and has many functions:
- find(), substr(), at() or [ ], etc.

Essential for dealing with more than one char at a time
Scope

Variables exist in the braces where it is declared (in \{ \})

```c
int x = 3;
int main()
{
    int y = 2;
    if(y < 10)
    {
        int z=3;
    }
}
```

- x anywhere here
- knows about x and y
- knows x, y and z
Scope

int add(int x, int y);

int main()
{
    int x = add(2, 4);
}

int add(int x, int y)
{
    int z = x+y;
    return z;
}
Scope

5x - 2 = 13
then
x = 3

But professor, you said yesterday that x was equal to 2!
Arrays

Arrays store multiple things of the same type

```c
int x[5];  // 5 ints
```

Type, [] means array

variable name

length of array

After declaration any use of [ ] is interpreted as element indexing

Arrays are memory addresses, shares with functions (cannot call-by-reference)
Multidimensional Arrays

```c
string myArray[4][5];
```

four rows

five columns

Must specify (some parts of) size when using as argument in function
Classes (and structs)

A class is a way to bundle functions and variables (different types) into one logical unit.

```cpp
class date
{
private:
    int day;
    int month;
    int year;
public:
    date(int day, int month, int year);
    // ^^ constructor has same name as class
    void print();
};
```

Only “date” variables can read or modify

Anyone can edit/use

Classes are custom made types (like int), that you make and define.
Classes (and structs)

Every time you actually create an object of the class type, you must run a constructor.

date today1; // default constructor
date today2 = date(); // same as above
date today3(12, 15, 2015); // non-default constructor
date today4 = date(12, 15, 2015); // same as above

Constructors should initialize (probably) all variables inside the class.
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Recursion

There are two important parts of recursion:
- A **stopping** case that ends the recursion
- A **reduction** case that reduces the problem

Identify the problem sub-structure, then move inputs towards the base case

\[ F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}, \]

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, ...

You can assume your function works as you want it to (and it will if you do it properly!)
A **pointer** is used to store a memory address and denoted by a * (star!)

```cpp
int x = 6;
int* xp;
xp = &x;
cout << *xp;
```

- **Declare type of xp as int***
- **Point xp to address of x**
- **Dereference pointer**

As arrays, the * on the declaration is special (declares a type only)

Every other use of * will try to go where the variables is pointing to
Pointers - nullptr

If you try to go to a place outside your memory, you will seg fault

This is especially true with the nullptr (NULL)

```c
int* ptr = nullptr;
*ptr = 2;
```

(Typically the values when uninitialized)
Dynamic memory makes variables without names (much as array elements do not have individual names)

Pointers can hold both a single variable or an array of variables:

```cpp
char* ptr = new char;  
*ptr = 'x';
cout << *ptr;
delete ptr;
```

```cpp
char* ptr = new char[3];  
ptr[0] = 'x';
ptr[2] = '\0';
cout << ptr;
delete [] ptr;
```
Dynamic memory in classes

If a variable inside a class uses dynamic memory, we should build a deconstructor (which does the “delete”ing)

```
Dynamic();  // deconstructor
~Dynamic();
Dynamic(const Dynamic &other);
Dynamic operator=(const Dynamic &d);  // copy constructor
```

If we need one of these, then we need them all:
- deconstructor
- copy-constructor
- overload “=” operator
Inheritance

To create a child class from a parent class, use a `:` in the (child) class declaration:

```
class Child : public Parent {
    // more stuff
};
```

This shares functions and variables from the parent class to the child class.
Picture:
Red = private
Green = protected
Blue = public

Variables should be either private or protected
Dynamic binding

Store child as parent, can keep all of child if you use pointers

```cpp
Person* p = new Person();
Boxer* b = new Boxer();
p = b;
p->swing();
```

Add virtual to use more appropriate function in pointed object:

```cpp
class Person{
public:
    virtual void swing() {};
};
```
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Essentials
File I/O

4 steps to file I/O:
Declare, open, use (loop), close

```cpp
string x;
ifstream in;
in.open("input.txt");
if(!in.fail())
{
    in >> x;
}
in.close();
```

input should check to see if file opened

output overrides file by default

After this point use the variable ("in" above) in place of cin/cout for read/write (respective)
3 ways of looping over whole file (reading)

```c
while(getline(in,x))
while(in >> x)
while(!in.eof())
```

reads from file

does not read from file (just tells if at end)

eof() will not be true until a read fails, so must check for eof() immediately after reading
Operator overloading

Will convert:

- function in class:
  ```cpp
class Point{
  private: // some stuff
  public:
    Point operator+(Point &other);
  }
```

- friend function:
  ```cpp
class Point{
  private: // some stuff
  public:
    friend Point operator+(Point &left, Point &right);
  }
```

... defined as...

- `Point c = a.operator+(b);`
- `Point c = operator+(a,b);`

Use friend over in-class version if order matters (i.e. “cout << c” not “c << cout”)

... defined as...

- access to privates
Problems

Suppose you want a length 10 array, but all the odd indexes are represented by the same number:

This is also true for the even numbers:

change x[0] to 5:
Write some code to make the lines below syntactically correct and cout different things:

```cpp
a* x = new a();
a* y = new b();
x -> foo();
y -> foo();
```
Problems

Can you make a pointer point to itself? Why or why not?
Problems

Suppose there exists a “seat” class

Write the “classroom” class with a constructor that takes in an integer and makes a dynamic array of that many seats

What else does the classroom class need to have?