**Parallelization: Conway’s Game of Life**

**By Aaron Weeden, Shodor Education Foundation, Inc.**

**Exercise 2**

This exercise will take you through writing a small piece of C code, outfitting it with MPI and OpenMP directives, and running it on a cluster.

To complete this exercise, you will need access to a Linux cluster with a Portable Batch System (PBS) scheduler, a gcc or gfortran compiler, and an MPI binding with support for C or Fortran 90. Other compilers may be used, with possible differences in performance.

The example cluster used in this module is al-salam, part of the Earlham College Cluster Computing Group. If you wish to use al-salam for this exercise, you can contact the Cluster Computing Group to obtain accounts by sending email to [ccg@cs.earlham.edu](mailto:ccg@cs.earlham.edu).

You will make use of the **vi** text editor, which is provided by default on most Linux-based operating systems, such as the one used by Earlham’s cluster. For an overview of vi, see http://www.eng.hawaii.edu/Tutor/vi.html.

In this exercise, any line with a dollar sign ($) in front of it is a command to be entered in a shell (a command line utility used by the operating system to interact with the user).

**Part I: Write, compile, and run a serial program**

1. Log into the cluster. The example here is al-salam – note that you must first log into hopper, which is al-salam’s gateway.

$ ssh <yourusername>@cluster.earlham.edu

$ ssh as0

$

1. Create a small “Hello, World” program in C or Fortran 90:
   1. Open a new file called hello.c or hello.F90 in vi:

$ vi hello.c

$

OR

$ vi hello.F90

$

* 1. Enter vi’s “insert mode” by pressing the **i** key.
  2. Write a small C or Fortran 90 code that will print “Hello, World!” on the screen:

**C**

#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char\*\* argv)

{

printf("Hello, World!\n");

return 0;  
}

**Fortran 90**

PROGRAM hello

IMPLICIT NONE

PRINT \*, “Hello, World!”

END PROGRAM hello

* 1. Press **Escape (esc)** to exit vi’s insert mode.
  2. Save the file and exit vi by entering **<Shift>-Z-Z**.

1. Compile the code with GNU’s compiler. This will produce an executable file called hello:

$ gcc –o hello hello.c

$

OR

$ gfortran –o hello hello.F90

$

If any errors are listed, make sure there are no typos in hello.c or hello.F90 (go back through step 2).

1. Create a script to run the program on the cluster.
   1. Open a new file called hello.qsub in vi:

$ vi hello.qsub

* 1. Enter insert mode (as you did in step 2b) and write a small Portable Batch System (PBS) script:

#PBS –q ec

#PBS –o hello.out

#PBS –e hello.err

cd $PBS\_O\_WORKDIR

./hello

Each line of this script tells the scheduler to do something:

#PBS –q ec says to use the “ec” queue. Change this value to the name of the queue on the cluster you are using.

#PBS –o hello.out says to save the output of standard out to a file called hello.out rather than to print it on the terminal.

#PBS –e hello.err says to save the output of standard error to a file called hello.err rather than to print it on the terminal.

cd $PBS\_O\_WORKDIR tells the scheduler to change directories to the directory from which the job is submitted.

./hello says to run the hello executable.

* 1. Save the file and exit vi (as you did in steps 2d and 2e).

1. Submit a job to the scheduler:

$ qsub hello.qsub

19098.as0.al-salam.loc

$

1. This will submit a job and output its job ID, 19098 in this example. Your job will now be waiting in the queue, running, or finished. You can monitor it at any time by entering qstat 19098 (or whatever your Job ID is) in the shell.

You may see something like the following:

qstat 19098

qstat: Unknown Job Id 19098.as0.al-salam.loc

This means the job is complete.

If the job were instead still running, you would see something like the following table:

Job id Name User Time Use S Queue

------------------------- ---------------- --------------- -------- - -----

19098.as0 STDIN amweeden06 0 R ec

In this output, the S column is the status column. The letter under this column tells you the status of the job; Q means it is waiting in the queue and R means it is running.

1. Once the job is complete, show the contents of hello.out with the cat command:

$ cat hello.out

Hello, World!

$

1. hello.err should be empty if there were no errors in running the program. Show the contents of hello.err with the cat command:

$ cat hello.err

$

If this command returns just a prompt ($), then the file is empty and there were no errors. Otherwise, the errors will be listed.

**Part II. Outfit the program with MPI**

1. We will now make a parallel version of the code using MPI. First we will tell the program to include the MPI library. We also tell the program that we are using MPI by putting MPI\_Init at the top of main and MPI\_Finalize at the bottom.
   1. Open hello.c or hello.F90 and add the lines to the code as below:

**C**

#include <mpi.h>

#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char\*\* argv)

{

MPI\_Init(&argc, &argv);

printf(“Hello, World!\n”);

MPI\_Finalize();

return 0;  
}

**Fortran 90**

PROGRAM hello

IMPLICIT NONE

INCLUDE 'mpif.h'

INTEGER :: ierror

CALL MPI\_INIT(ierror)

PRINT \*, "Hello, World!"

CALL MPI\_FINALIZE(ierror)

END PROGRAM hello

* 1. Save and quit the file.

1. Compile the code with GNU’s MPI compiler:

$ mpicc –o hello hello.c

$

OR

$ mpif90 –o hello hello.F90

$

If any errors are listed, make sure there are no typos in hello.c or hello.F90 (go back through step 9).

1. Edit the PBS script to use the MPI run command:
   1. Open the hello.qsub file in vi:

$ vi hello.qsub

* 1. Enter insert mode and change the last line to use mpirun as below:

#PBS –q ec

#PBS –o hello.out

#PBS –e hello.err

cd $PBS\_O\_WORKDIR

mpirun –np 2 ./hello

Here –np 2 tells MPI to use 2 processes. Both processes will run the hello executable.

* 1. Save and quit the file.

1. Submit a job to the scheduler:

$ qsub hello.qsub

19099.as0.al-salam.loc

$

1. Monitor the job with qstat. Once it finishes, view the contents of standard out and standard error:

$ cat hello.out

Hello, World!

Hello, World!

$ cat hello.err

$

What do you notice about hello.out this time?

1. Let’s have the processes print some useful information. We will have them print their rank, the total number of processes, and the name of the processor on which they are running.
   1. Open hello.c or hello.F90 in vi:

$ vi hello.c

$

OR

$ vi hello.F90

$

* 1. Add the following lines to hello.c or hello.F90:

**C**

#include <mpi.h>

#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char\*\* argv)

{

int rank = 0;

int size = 0;

int len = 0;

char name[MPI\_MAX\_PROCESSOR\_NAME];

MPI\_Init(&argc, &argv);

MPI\_Comm\_rank(MPI\_COMM\_WORLD, &rank);

MPI\_Comm\_size(MPI\_COMM\_WORLD, &size);

MPI\_Get\_processor\_name(name, &len);

printf("Hello, World from rank %d of %d on %s\n",

rank, size, name);

MPI\_Finalize();

return 0;

}

**Fortran 90**

PROGRAM hello

IMPLICIT NONE

INCLUDE 'mpif.h'

INTEGER :: ierror, rank, size, len

CHARACTER\*(MPI\_MAX\_PROCESSOR\_NAME) :: name

CALL MPI\_INIT(ierror)

CALL MPI\_COMM\_RANK(MPI\_COMM\_WORLD, rank, ierror)

CALL MPI\_COMM\_SIZE(MPI\_COMM\_WORLD, size, ierror)

CALL MPI\_GET\_PROCESSOR\_NAME(name, len, ierror)

PRINT \*, "Hello, World from rank ", rank, “of ”, size, &

“on ”, name

CALL MPI\_FINALIZE(ierror)

END PROGRAM hello

rank will be the rank of the process, size the total number of processes, and name the name of the processor on which the process is running.

* 1. Save and quit the file.

1. Compile the code with GNU’s MPI compiler:

$ mpicc –o hello hello.c

$

OR

$ mpif90 –o hello hello.F90

$

1. We don’t need to change the PBS script because we will be using the same mpirun –np 2 ./hello command to execute the program. We will expect to see something different in hello.out, however. Let’s submit the job and see what we get:

$ qsub hello.qsub

19100.as0.al-salam.loc

$

1. Monitor the job with qstat, and once it is finished check the contents of hello.out and hello.err:

$ cat hello.out

Hello, World from rank 0 of 2 on as1.al-salam.loc

Hello, World from rank 1 of 2 on as1.al-salam.loc

$ cat hello.err

$

On which processor did Rank 0 run for you? How about Rank 1?

1. Let’s try running across multiple nodes instead of just one node (as1.al-salam.loc in the example above). Edit the hello.qsub file to include the following lines:

#PBS -q ec

#PBS -o hello.out

#PBS -e hello.err

#PBS -l nodes=2:ppn=1

cd $PBS\_O\_WORKDIR

mpirun -np 2 ./hello

The line that we added, #PBS -l nodes=2:ppn=1, says to run the job on 2 nodes with 1 core per node.

1. Submit a job:

$ qsub hello.qsub

19104.as0.al-salam.loc

$

1. Monitor the job with qstat until it finishes, then output the contents of hello.out and hello.err:

$ cat hello.out

Hello, World from rank 0 of 2 on as2.al-salam.loc

Hello, World from rank 1 of 2 on as1.al-salam.loc

$ cat hello.err

$

Now on which processor did Rank 0 run for you? Rank 1?

**Part III. Outfit the program with OpenMP**

1. If we are writing in C, we first need to tell the program to include the OpenMP library. Open hello.c and add a line to the top:

#include <omp.h>

#include <mpi.h>

#include <stdio.h>

If we are writing in Fortran 90, we need to tell the program to use the OMP\_GET\_THREAD\_NUM() and OMP\_GET\_NUM\_THREADS() functions. Open hello.F90 and add a line under the INCLUDE ‘mpif.h’ line:

INTEGER, EXTERNAL :: OMP\_GET\_THREAD\_NUM, &

OMP\_GET\_NUM\_THREADS

1. Compile the code with OpenMP support through the GNU compiler by using the -fopenmp option:

$ mpicc –fopenmp –o hello hello.c

$

OR

$ mpif90 –fopenmp –o hello hello.F90

$

1. OpenMP does not require any special run command or arguments. We may wish to tell the program how many OpenMP threads over which to parallelize, however. Open hello.qsub and add a line before the mpirun command:

cd $PBS\_O\_WORKDIR

export OMP\_NUM\_THREADS=2

mpirun -np 2 ./hello

This line tells the program to spawn 2 OpenMP threads per process when it executes an OpenMP parallel region.

1. Submit a job with qsub, monitor it with qstat until it finishes, and then view the contents of hello.out and hello.err:

$ qsub hello.qsub

19105.as0.al-salam.loc

$ qstat 19105

qstat: Unknown Job Id 19105.as0.al-salam.loc

$ cat hello.out

Hello, World from rank 0 of 2 on as2.al-salam.loc

Hello, World from rank 1 of 2 on as1.al-salam.loc

$ cat hello.err

$

What do you notice about the output? You might expect to see 4 “Hello, World”s because the program is supposed to spawn 2 OpenMP threads per process. However, OpenMP will not spawn any threads unless it is explicitly told to do so by marking an OpenMP parallel region, hence we still only get 2 “Hello, World”s.

1. Let’s mark the print statement as part of a parallel region so each thread will print the rank of the process, the total number of processes, the thread number, the total number of threads, and the processor on which it is running. Open hello.c or hello.F90 in vi and make the following change to the print statement:

**C**

#pragma omp parallel

{

printf("Hello, World from rank %d of %d, thread %d of %d on %s\n", rank, size, omp\_get\_thread\_num(), omp\_get\_num\_threads(), name);

}

**Fortran 90**

!$OMP PARALLEL

PRINT \*, “Hello, World from rank “, rank, “of “, size, &

“thread “, OMP\_GET\_THREAD\_NUM(), “of “, &

OMP\_GET\_NUM\_THREADS(), “on “, name

!$OMP END PARALLEL

Note that in the C version we have now surrounded the printf by #pragma omp parallel followed by curly braces. This indicates that the printf is part of a parallel region that will be executed by multiple OpenMP threads. Note that in the Fortran 90 version we have now surrounded the PRINT by !$OMP PARALLEL and !$OMP END PARALLEL. This indicates that the PRINT statement is part of a parallel region that will be executed by multiple OpenMP threads.

Note also that we added the functions omp\_get\_thread\_num() and omp\_get\_num\_threads(). These will return the thread number of the thread and the total number of threads, respectively.

1. Compile the code and submit a job. Monitor it with qstat until it finishes, then view the contents of hello.out and hello.err:

$ mpicc –fopenmp –o hello hello.c

$ qsub hello.qsub

19106.as0.al-salam.loc

$ qstat 19106

qstat: Unknown Job Id 19106.as0.al-salam.loc

$ cat hello.out

Hello, World from rank 0 of 2, thread 1 of 2 on as2.al-salam.loc

Hello, World from rank 0 of 2, thread 0 of 2 on as2.al-salam.loc

Hello, World from rank 1 of 2, thread 0 of 2 on as1.al-salam.loc

Hello, World from rank 1 of 2, thread 1 of 2 on as1.al-salam.loc

$ cat hello.err

$

What do you notice about the output now?

This completes the exercise.