



Nested parallelism

epcc

- Unlike most previous directive systems, nested parallelism is permitted in OpenMP.
- This is enabled with the `OMP_NESTED` environment variable or the `OMP_SET_NESTED` routine.
- If a `PARALLEL` directive is encountered within another `PARALLEL` directive, a new team of threads will be created.
- The new team will contain only one thread unless nested parallelism is enabled.

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Nested parallelism (cont)

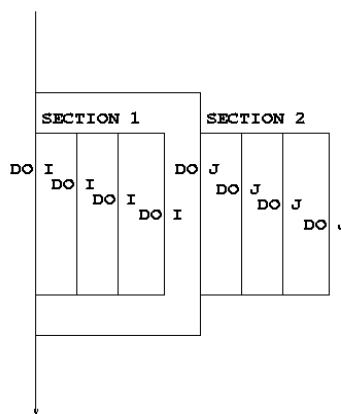


Example:

```

!$OMP PARALLEL
!$OMP SECTIONS
!$OMP SECTION
!$OMP PARALLEL DO
  do i = 1,n
    x(i) = 1.0
  end do
!$OMP SECTION
!$OMP PARALLEL DO
  do j = 1,n
    y(j) = 2.0
  end do
!$OMP END SECTIONS
!$OMP END PARALLEL

```



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Nested parallelism (cont)



- Not often needed, but can be useful to exploit non-scalable parallelism (SECTIONS).
- Note: nested parallelism isn't supported in some implementations (the code will execute, but as if OMP_NESTED is set to FALSE).
 - turns out to be hard to do correctly without impacting performance significantly.

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Controlling the number of threads



- Can use the environment variable

```
export OMP_NUM_THREADS=2,4
```

- Will use 2 threads at the outer level and 4 threads for each of the inner teams.
- Can use `omp_set_num_threads()` or the `num_threads` clause on the parallel region.

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`omp_set_num_threads()`



- Useful if you want inner regions to use different numbers of threads:

```
CALL OMP_SET_NUM_THREADS(2)
!$OMP PARALLEL DO
  DO I = 1,4
    CALL OMP_SET_NUM_THREADS(innerthreads(i))
!$OMP PARALLEL DO
  DO J = 1,N
    A(I,J) = B(I,J)
  END DO
END DO
```

- The value set overrides the value(s) in the environment variable `OMP_NUM_THREADS`

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Orphaned directives



- Directives are active in the *dynamic* scope of a parallel region, not just its *lexical* scope.
- Example:

```
!$OMP PARALLEL
    call fred()
!$OMP END PARALLEL

    subroutine fred()
!$OMP DO
    do i = 1,n
        a(i) = a(i) + 23.5
    end do
    return
end
```

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Orphaned directives (cont)



- This is very useful, as it allows a modular programming style....
- But it can also be rather confusing if the call tree is complicated (what happens if `fred` is also called from outside a parallel region?)
- There are some extra rules about data scope attributes....

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Data scoping rules



When we call a subroutine from inside a parallel region:

- Variables in the argument list inherit their data scope attribute from the calling routine.
- Global variables in C++ and COMMON blocks or module variables in Fortran are shared, unless declared THREADPRIVATE (see later).
- `static` local variables in C/C++ and `SAVE` variables in Fortran are shared.
- All other local variables are private.

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Thread private global variables



- It can be convenient for each thread to have its own copy of variables with global scope (e.g. COMMON blocks and module data in Fortran, or file-scope and namespace-scope variables in C/C++).
- Outside parallel regions and in MASTER directives, accesses to these variables refer to the master thread's copy.

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Thread private globals (cont)



Syntax:

Fortran: **!\$OMP THREADPRIVATE (list)**

where list contains named common blocks (enclosed in slashes), module variables and SAVEd variables..

This directive must come after all the declarations for the common blocks or variables.

C/C++: **#pragma omp threadprivate (list)**

This directive must be at file or namespace scope, after all declarations of variables in *list* and before any references to variables in *list*. See standard document for other restrictions.

The **COPYIN** clause allows the values of the master thread's THREADPRIVATE data to be copied to all other threads at the start of a parallel region.

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Timing routines



OpenMP supports a portable timer:

- return current wall clock time (relative to arbitrary origin) with:

```
DOUBLE PRECISION FUNCTION OMP_GET_WTIME()
```

```
double omp_get_wtime(void);
```

- return clock precision with

```
DOUBLE PRECISION FUNCTION OMP_GET_WTICK()
```

```
double omp_get_wtick(void);
```

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Using timers



```
DOUBLE PRECISION STARTTIME, TIME

STARTTIME = OMP_GET_WTIME()
.....(work to be timed)
TIME = OMP_GET_WTIME() - STARTTIME
```

Note: timers are local to a thread: must make both calls on the same thread.

Also note: no guarantees about resolution!

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Exercise



Molecular dynamics again

- Aim: use of orphaned directives.
- Modify the molecular dynamics code so by placing a parallel region directive around the iteration loop in the main program, and making all code within this sequential except for the forces loop.
- Modify the code further so that each thread accumulates the forces into a local copy of the force array, and reduce these copies into the main array at the end of the loop.

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