

# Parallel Loop Constructs and Clauses

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- Loop
-

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# Clauses (14)

## **schedule** (type)

Specifies how iterations of the for loop are divided among available threads. Acceptable values for type are:

### **auto**

With auto, scheduling is delegated to the compiler and runtime system. The compiler and runtime system can choose any possible mapping of iterations to threads (including all possible valid schedules) and these may be different in different loops.

### **dynamic**

Iterations of a loop are divided into chunks of size  $\text{ceiling}(\text{number\_of\_iterations}/\text{number\_of\_threads})$ .

Chunks are dynamically assigned to active threads on a "first-come, first-do" basis until all work has been assigned.

### **dynamic,n**

As above, except chunks are set to size n. n must be an integral assignment expression of value 1 or greater.

<https://www.ibm.com/docs/en/xl-c-aix/13.1.2?topic=processing-pragma-omp-section-pragma-omp-sections>

# Clauses (15)

## **guided**

Chunks are made progressively smaller until the default minimum chunk size is reached. The first chunk is of size  $\text{ceiling}(\text{number\_of\_iterations}/\text{number\_of\_threads})$ . Remaining chunks are of size  $\text{ceiling}(\text{number\_of\_iterations\_left}/\text{number\_of\_threads})$ .

The minimum chunk size is 1.

Chunks are assigned to active threads on a "first-come, first-do" basis until all work has been assigned.

## **guided,n**

As above, except the minimum chunk size is set to  $n$ ;  $n$  must be an integral assignment expression of value 1 or greater.

<https://www.ibm.com/docs/en/xl-c-aix/13.1.2?topic=processing-pragma-omp-section-pragma-omp-sections>

# Clauses (16)

## **runtime**

Scheduling policy is determined at run time. Use the `OMP_SCHEDULE` environment variable to set the scheduling type and chunk size.

## **static**

Iterations of a loop are divided into chunks of size  $\text{ceiling}(\text{number\_of\_iterations}/\text{number\_of\_threads})$ . Each thread is assigned a separate chunk.

This scheduling policy is also known as block scheduling.

## **static,n**

Iterations of a loop are divided into chunks of size  $n$ . Each chunk is assigned to a thread in round-robin fashion.

$n$  must be an integral assignment expression of value 1 or greater.

This scheduling policy is also known as block cyclic scheduling.

<https://www.ibm.com/docs/en/xl-c-aix/13.1.2?topic=processing-pragma-omp-section-pragma-omp-sections>

# Parallel region

An important difference between **OpenMP** and **MPI** is that parallelism in **OpenMP** is **dynamically activated** by a **thread spawning** a **team of threads**.

Furthermore, the **number of threads** used can differ between **parallel regions**, and **threads** can create threads recursively.

This is known as as **dynamic mode** .

By contrast, in an **MPI** program the **number** of running processes is (mostly) constant throughout the run, and determined by factors external to the program.

<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-parallel.html>

# Loop parallelism

OpenMP parallel loops are an example of OpenMP 'worksharing' constructs

take an amount of **work** and **distribute** it over the available **threads** in a parallel region.

The parallel execution of a loop can be handled a number of different ways.

For instance, you can create a parallel region around the loop, and adjust the **loop bounds**:

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
    int threadnum = omp_get_thread_num(),
        numthreads = omp_get_num_threads();

    int low = N*threadnum/numthreads,
        high = N*(threadnum+1)/numthreads;

    for (i=low; i<high; i++)
        // do something with i
}
```

<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>

# Loop parallelism

use the **parallel for** pragma:

```
#pragma omp parallel
#pragma omp for
for (i=0; i<N; i++) {
    // do something with i
}
```

you don't have to calculate  
the **loop bounds** for the threads yourself,

but you can also tell OpenMP  
to assign the loop iterations  
according to different **schedules**

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
    code1();
    #pragma omp for
    for (i=1; i<=4*N; i++) {
        code2();
    }
    code3();
}
```

The code before and after the loop is  
executed identically in each thread; t

he loop iterations are spread  
over the four threads.

<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>



# Loop parallelism

`#pragma omp parallel` spawns a group of threads, while `#pragma omp for` divides loop iterations between the spawned threads. You can do both things at once with the fused `#pragma omp parallel for` directive.

`#pragma omp for` only delegates portions of the loop for different threads in the current team. A team is the group of threads executing the program. At program start, the team consists only of a single member: the master thread that runs the program.

To create a new team of threads, you need to specify the `parallel` keyword. It can be specified in the surrounding context:

```
#pragma omp parallel
{
    #pragma omp for
    for(int n = 0; n < 10; ++n)
        printf(" %d", n);
}
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1448318/omp-parallel-vs-omp-parallel-for>

# Loop parallelism

The difference between parallel, parallel for and for is as follows:

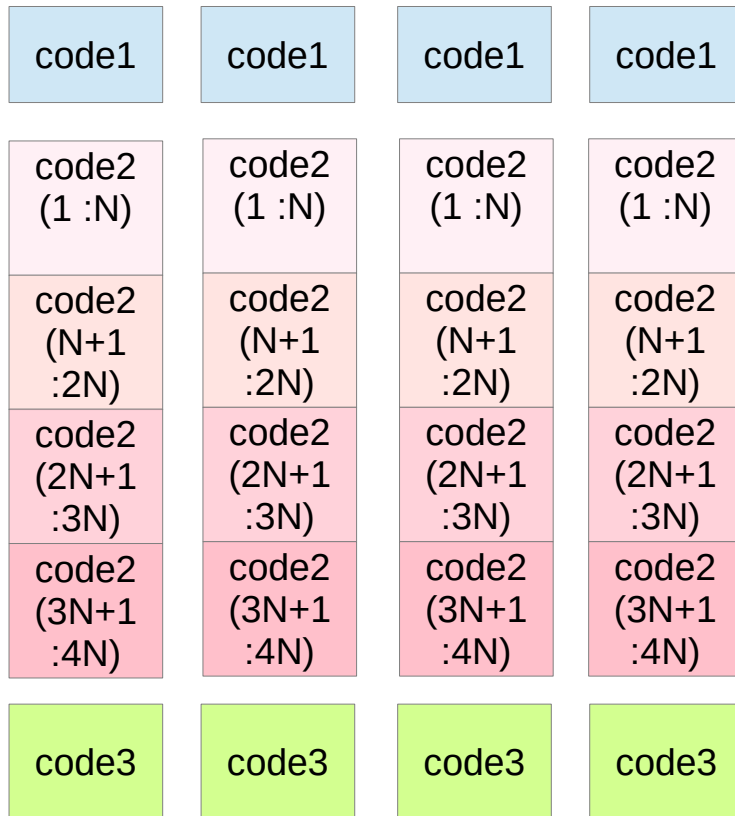
A team is the group of threads that execute currently. At the program beginning, the team consists of a single thread. A parallel construct splits the current thread into a new team of threads for the duration of the next block/statement, after which the team merges back into one. for divides the work of the for-loop among the threads of the current team.

It does not create threads, it only divides the work amongst the threads of the currently executing team. parallel for is a shorthand for two commands at once: parallel and for. Parallel creates a new team, and for splits that team to handle different portions of the loop. If your program never contains a parallel construct, there is never more than one thread; the master thread that starts the program and runs it, as in non-threading programs.

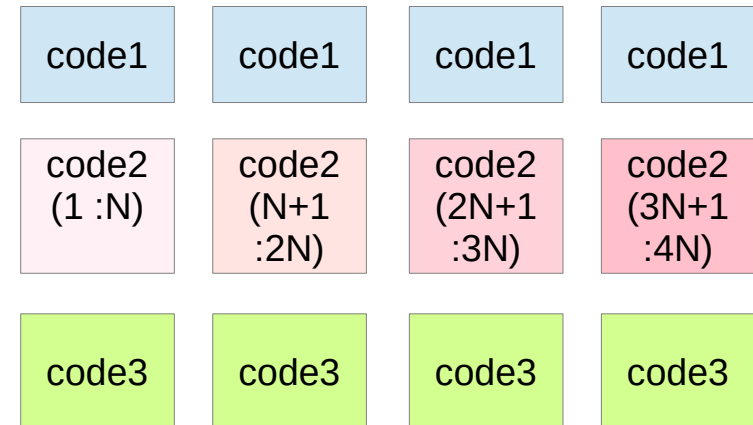
<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1448318/omp-parallel-vs-omp-parallel-for>

# Loop parallelism

Without `#pragma omp for`



With `#pragma omp for`



<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>

# Loop parallelism

Note that the **parallel do** and **parallel for** pragmas do not create a team of threads: they take the team of threads that is active, and divide the loop iterations over them.

This means that the **omp for** or **omp do directive** needs to be inside a **parallel region**. It is also possible to have a combined **omp parallel for** or **omp parallel do** directive.

If your parallel region only contains a loop, you can combine the pragmas for the parallel region and distribution of the loop iterations:

```
#pragma omp parallel for  
for (i=0; .....
```

<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>

# Loop parallelism

Note that the **parallel do** and **parallel for** pragmas do not create a team of threads: they take the team of threads that is active, and divide the loop iterations over them.

This means that the **omp for** or **omp do** directive needs to be inside a **parallel region**. It is also possible to have a combined **omp parallel for** or **omp parallel do** directive.

If your parallel region only contains a loop, you can combine the pragmas for the parallel region and distribution of the loop iterations:

```
#pragma omp parallel for  
for (i=0; .....
```

<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>

# Loop Schedules (1)

more **iterations** in a loop than **threads**  
several ways to assign loop **iterations** to the **threads**  
OpenMP lets you specify this with the **schedule clause**.

**#pragma omp for schedule(...)**

## Static schedules

the **iterations** are assigned purely  
based on the number of iterations  
and the number of threads  
(and the **chunk parameter**; see later).

## Dynamic schedules

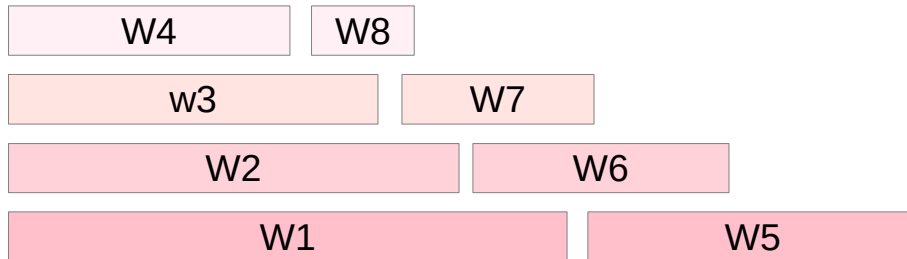
**iterations** are assigned  
to **threads** that are unoccupied.

when iterations take an unpredictable amount of time,  
so **load balancing** is needed.

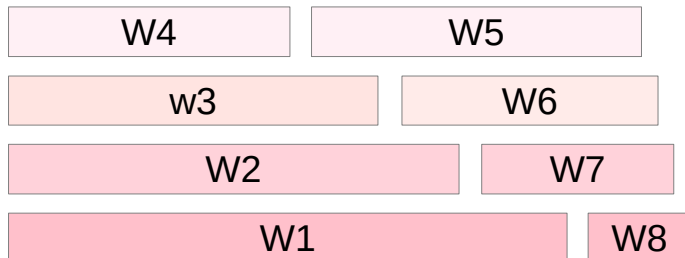
<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>

# Loop Schedules (2)

## Static round robin scheduling

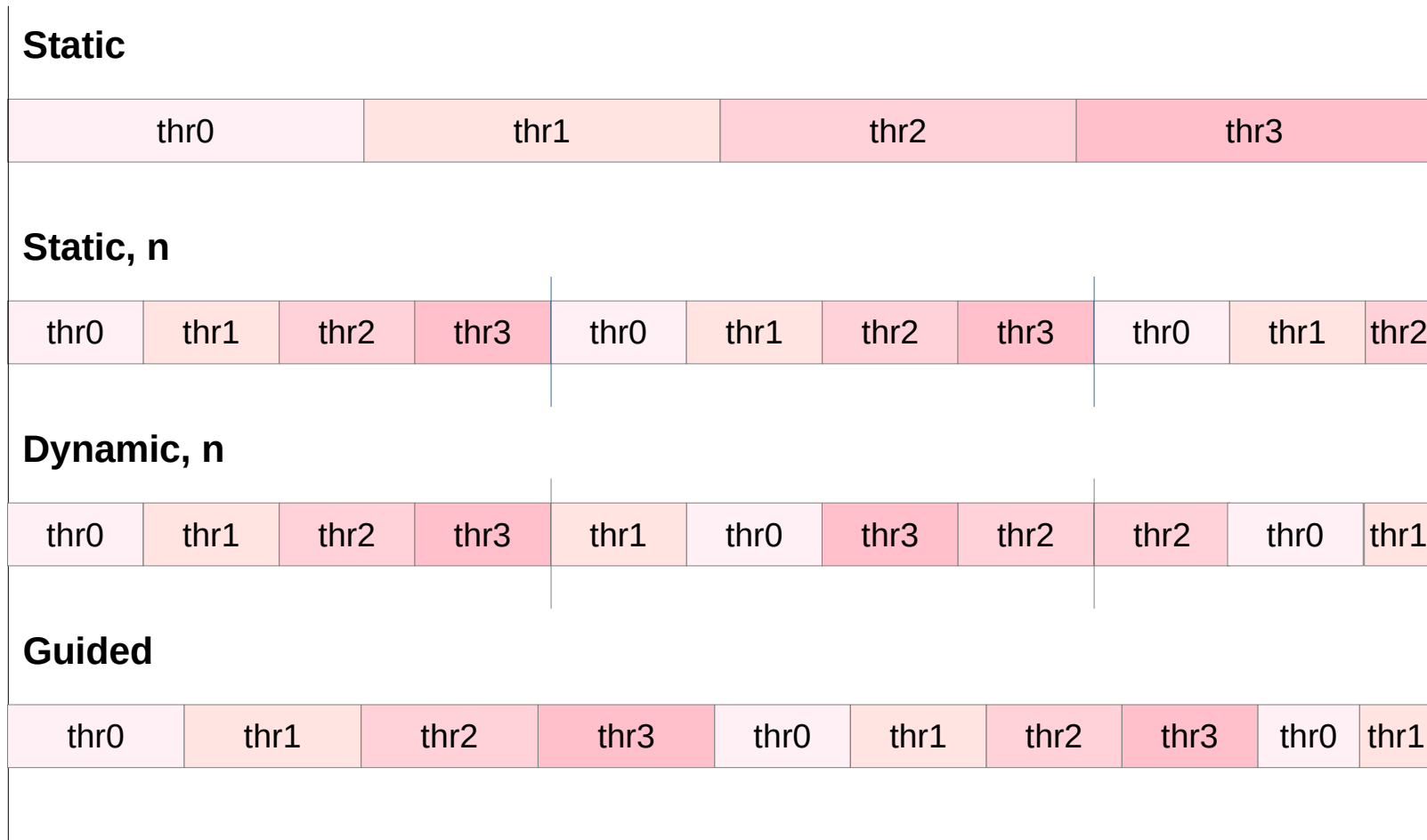


## Dynamic scheduling



<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>

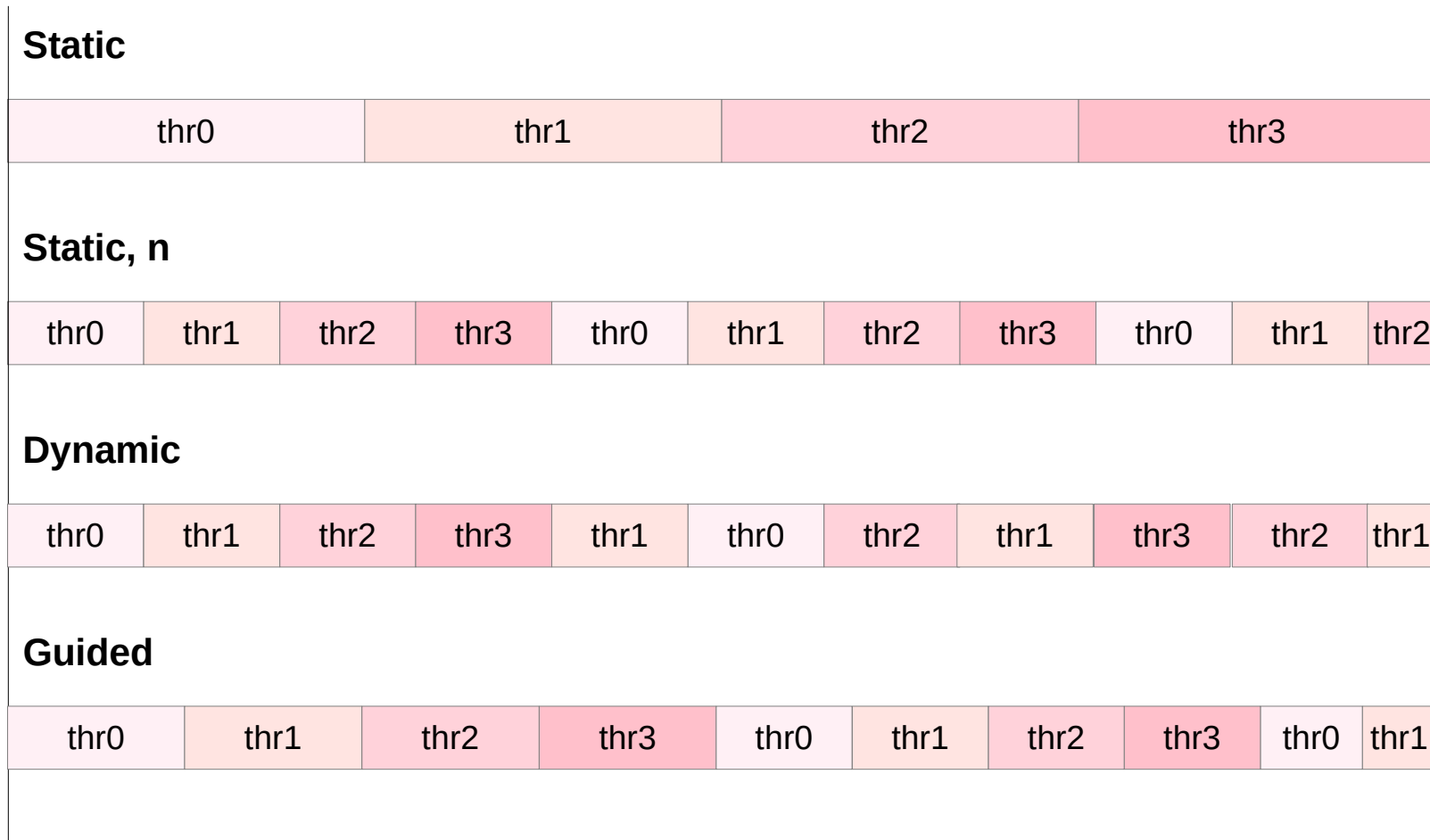
# Loop Schedules (3)



<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>



# Loop Schedules (3)



<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>

# Loop Schedules (4)

assume that each core gets assigned two (blocks of) iterations and these blocks take gradually less and less time.

thread 1 gets two fairly long blocks, whereas thread 4 gets two short blocks,

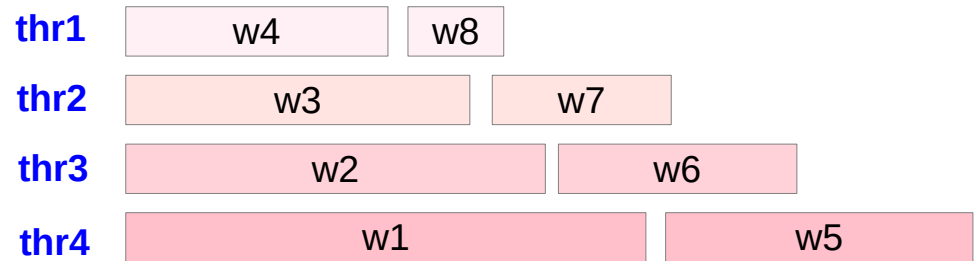
Thread 1 finishes much earlier.

**Imbalance** : unequal amounts of work

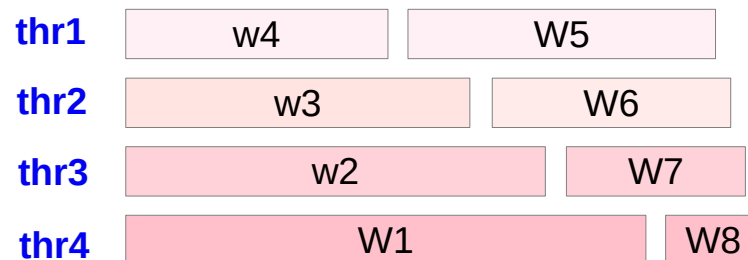
## load balancing

thread 4 gets block 5, since it finishes the first set of blocks early. The effect is a perfect

## Static round robin scheduling



## Dynamic scheduling



# Loop Schedule - Static (1)

The **default static schedule** is to assign one consecutive **block** of **iterations** to each **thread**.

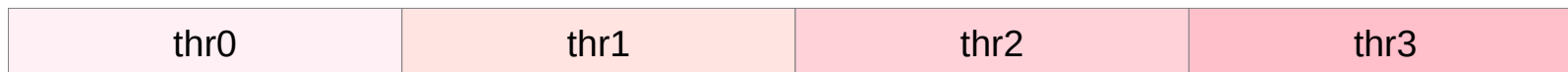
```
#pragma omp for schedule(static)
```

```
#pragma omp for schedule(static, chunk)
```

With **static scheduling**, the compiler will split up the loop iterations at compile time,

When the iterations take roughly the same amount of time, this is the most efficient at runtime.

## Static



<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>

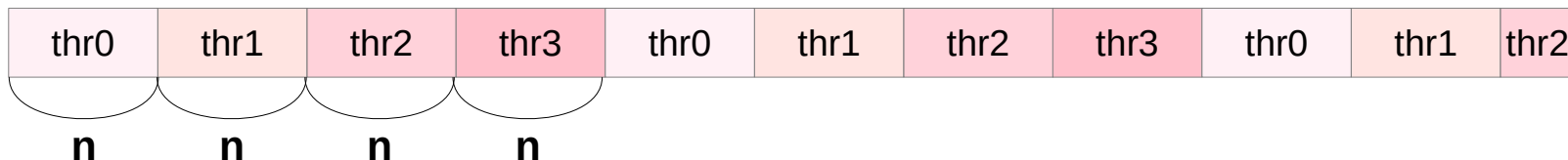
# Loop Schedule - Static (2)

`#pragma omp for schedule(static,chunk)`

If you want different sized blocks  
you can defined a **chunk size chunk**

The choice of a **chunk size** is often  
a balance between the **low overhead**  
of having only a few chunks, (big chunks)  
versus the **load balancing effect**  
of having smaller chunks. (many chunks)

**Static, n**



<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>

# Loop Schedule - Static (3)

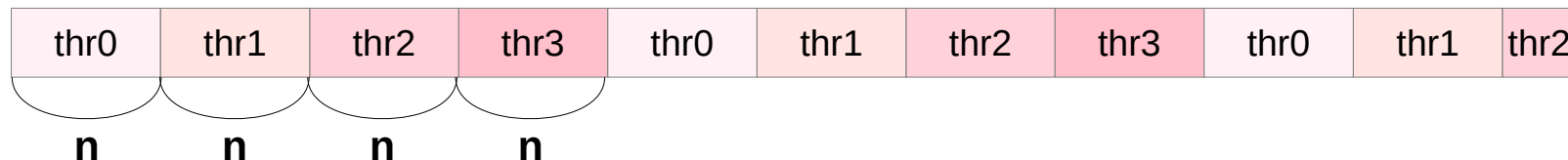
`#pragma omp for schedule(static,chunk)`

OpenMP divides the iterations into chunks of size `chunk-size`

distributes the chunks to **threads** in a `circular order`.

When no chunk-size is specified, OpenMP divides iterations into chunks that are approximately equal in size and distributes at most one chunk to each **thread**.

**Static, n**



<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

# Loop Schedule – Static (4)

Static scheduling is used when you know that each thread will do the approximately same amount of work at the **compile time**.

the following code can be parallelized using OMP. (assume only 4 threads)

```
float A[100][100];
```

```
for(int i = 0; i < 100; i++)  
{  
    for(int j = 0; j < 100; j++)  
    {  
        A[i][j] = 1.0f;  
    }  
}
```

100 \* 100 iterations

10000 / 4 iterations / thread

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/15508128/using-omp-schedule-with-prAGMA-omp-for-parallel-schedulerruntime>

# Loop Schedule – Static (5)

```
float A[100][100];
```

```
#pragma omp for schedule(static)
```

```
for(int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
```

```
{
```

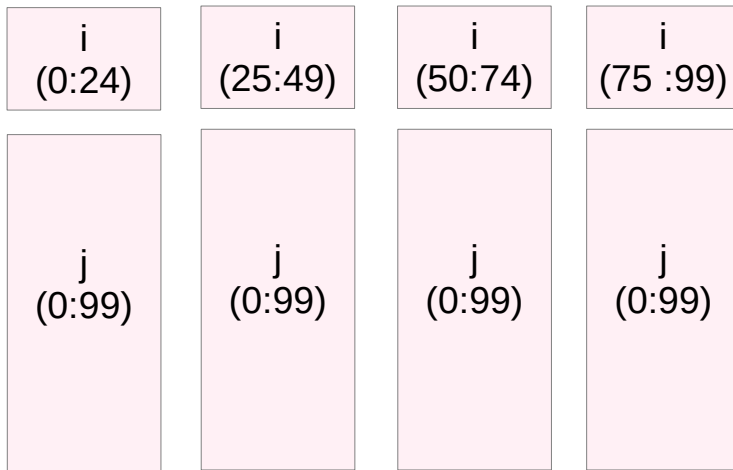
```
  for(int j = 0; j < 100; j++)
```

```
  {
```

```
    A[i][j] = 1.0f;
```

```
  }
```

```
}
```



to use the default **static scheduling**,  
place **pragma** on the outer for loop,

then each thread will do  
25% of the outer loop (i) work  
and equal amount of inner loop (j) work

Hence, the total amount of work done  
by each thread is same.

Hence, we could simply stick  
with the default static scheduling  
to give **optimal load balancing**.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/15508128/using-omp-schedule-with-prAGMA-omp-for-parallel-schedulerruntime>

# Loop Schedule – Static (6)

Assume : a for loop with 64 iterations and 4 threads

## **schedule(static)**

OpenMP divides iterations into 4 chunks of size 16 and it distributes them to four threads.

64 iterations and 4 threads  $\rightarrow 64 / 4 = 16$

the 1<sup>st</sup> thread executes iterations 1, 2, 3, ..., 15 and 16.

the 2<sup>nd</sup> thread executes iterations 17, 18, 19, ..., 31, 32.

## **schedule(static, 4)** and **schedule(static, 8)**

OpenMP divides iterations into chunks of size 4 and 8, respectively.

- when all iterations have the same computational cost.

<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>



# Loop Schedule - Static (6)

**schedule(static, 4)**

0	1	2	3	16	17	18	19	32	33	34	35	48	49	50	51
4	5	6	7	20	21	22	23	36	37	38	39	52	53	54	55
8	9	10	11	24	25	26	27	40	41	42	43	56	57	58	59
12	13	14	15	28	29	30	31	44	45	46	47	60	61	62	63

**schedule(static, 8)**

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63

**schedule(static)**

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63

<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

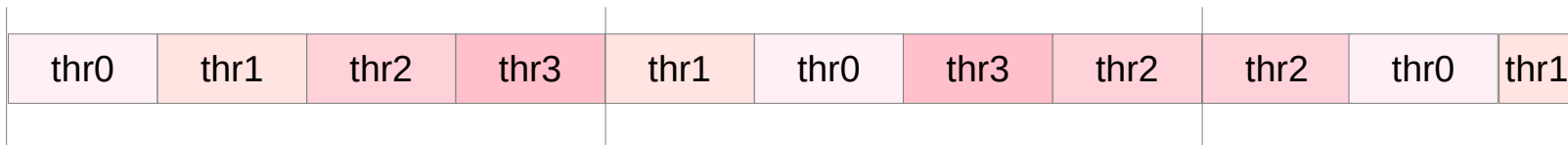
# Loop Schedule – Dynamic (1)

In **dynamic scheduling** OpenMP will put **blocks** of iterations in a **task queue**, (the **default chunk size** is **1**) and the **threads** take **one** of these tasks whenever they are **finished** with the previous.

**#pragma omp for schedule(dynamic[,chunk])**

While this schedule may give **good load balancing** if the iterations take very differing amounts of time to execute, it does carry **runtime overhead** for managing the **queue** of iteration tasks.

## Dynamic



arbitrary thread assignment

fixed chunk size except the last

<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>

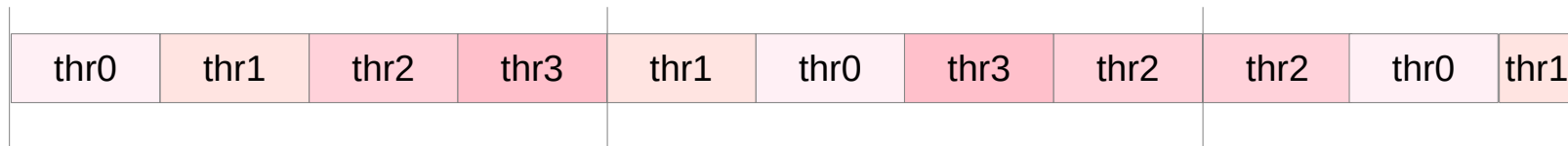
# Loop Schedule - Dynamic (2)

large chunks carry the least overhead,  
but smaller chunks are better for **load balancing**.

If you don't want to decide on a schedule in your code,  
you can specify the schedule will then **at runtime**  
be read from the **OMP\_SCHEDULE** environment variable.

You can even just leave it to the runtime library by specifying  
**omp\_set\_schedule**.

## Dynamic



arbitrary thread assignment

fixed chunk size except the last

<https://pages.tacc.utexas.edu/~eijkhout/pcse/html/omp-loop.html>

# Loop Schedule – Dynamic (3)

**for schedule(dynamic, chunk-size)**

the dynamic scheduling type

OpenMP divides the **iterations**  
into chunks of size **chunk-size**.

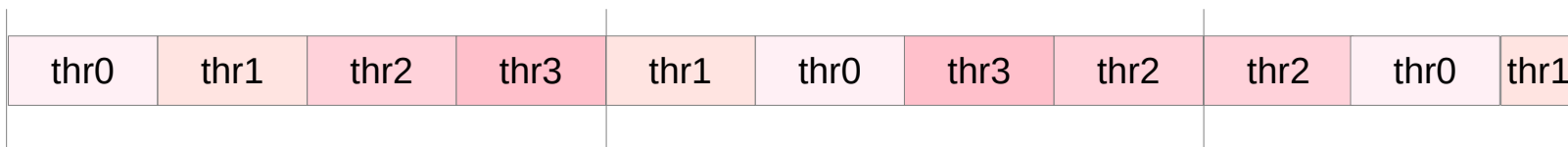
Each thread executes  
**a chunk** of **iterations** and  
then requests another chunk  
until there are no more chunks available.

There is no particular order  
in which the chunks are distributed  
to the **threads**.

The order changes each time  
when we execute the for loop.

If we do not specify **chunk-size**,  
it defaults to one.

## Dynamic



arbitrary thread assignment

fixed chunk size except the last

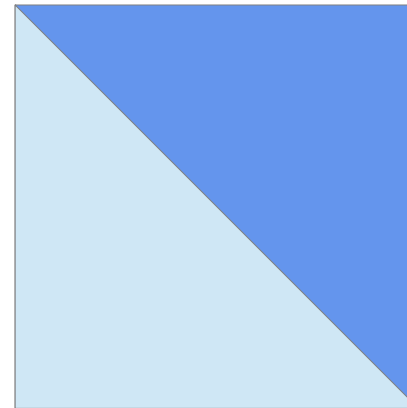
<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

# Loop Schedule – Dynamic (4)

**Dynamic scheduling** is used when you know that each thread will not do same amount of work by using **static scheduling**.

```
float A[100][100];

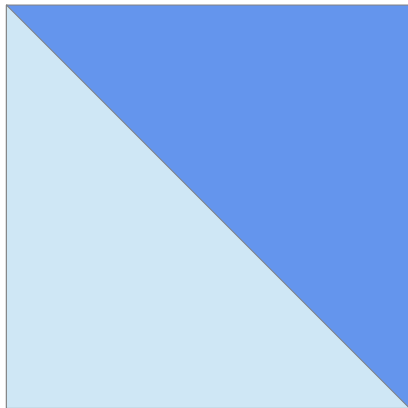
for(int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
{
    for(int j = 0; j < i; j++)
    {
        A[i][j] = 1.0f;
    }
}
```



<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/15508128/using-omp-schedule-with-pragma-omp-for-parallel-scheduleruntime>

# Loop Schedule – Dynamic (5)

```
float A[100][100];  
  
for(int i = 0; i < 100; i++)  
{  
  for(int j = 0; j < i; j++)  
  {  
    A[i][j] = 1.0f;  
  }  
}
```



The inner loop variable  $j$  is dependent on the  $i$ .

the **default static scheduling**,

- the outer loop ( $i$ ) work might be divided equally between the 4 threads,
- but the inner loop ( $j$ ) work will be large for some threads.
  
- not equal amount of work
- not optimal **load balancing**

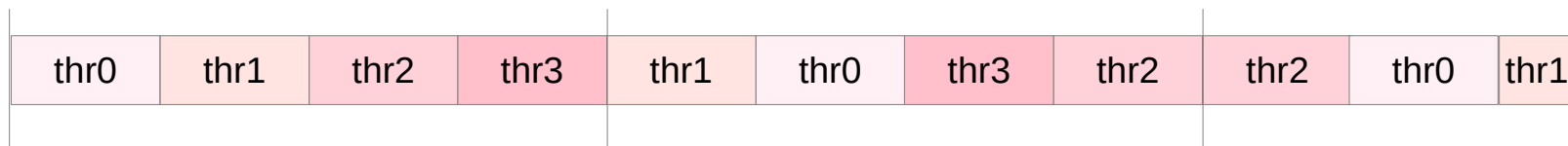
<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/15508128/using-omp-schedule-with-prAGMA-omp-for-parallel-schedulerruntime>

# Loop Schedule – Dynamic (6)

the dynamic scheduling is done **at the run time**  
can make sure **optimal load balance**.

can specify **the chunk\_size** for scheduling  
which depends on the **loop size**.

## Dynamic



arbitrary thread assignment

fixed chunk size except the last

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/15508128/using-omp-schedule-with-pragma-omp-for-parallel-schedulerruntime>

# Loop Schedule – Dynamic (7)

## `schedule(dynamic)` and `schedule(dynamic, 1)`

OpenMP determines similar scheduling.

the **size of chunks** is equal to **1** in both instances.

the distribution of chunks between the threads is arbitrary.

## `schedule(dynamic, 4)` and `schedule(dynamic, 8)`

OpenMP divides iterations into **chunks of size 4** and **8**, respectively.

the distribution of chunks to the threads has no pattern (arbitrary)

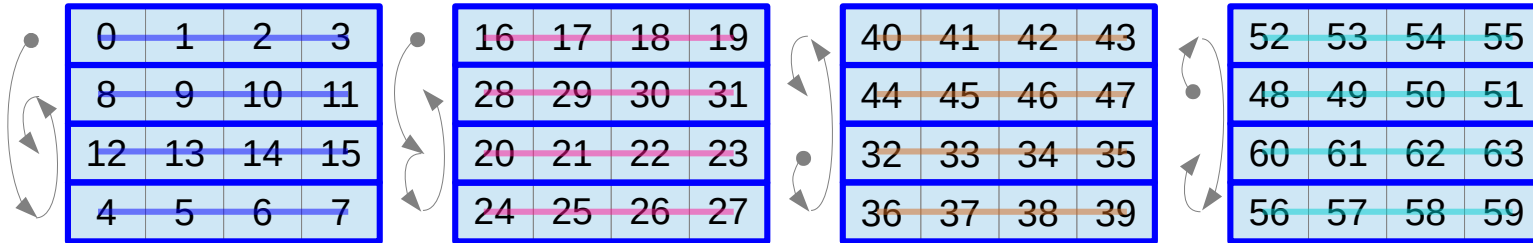
- when the iterations require **different computational costs**.
- when the iterations are **poorly balanced** between each other.
- higher **overhead** than the static scheduling type  
because it **dynamically** distributes the iterations **during the runtime**.

<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

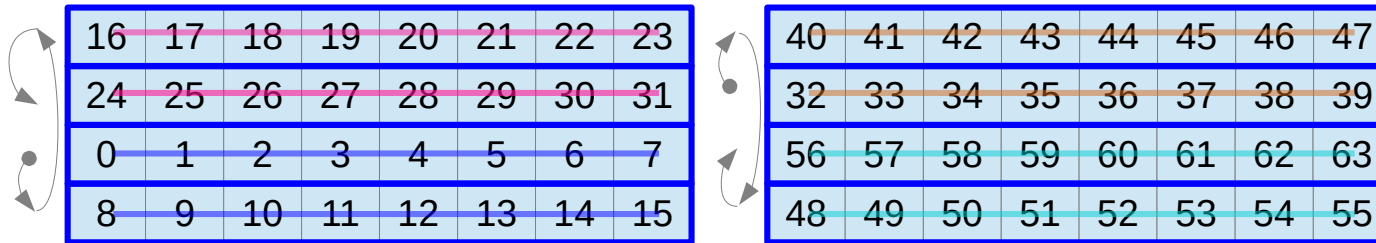


# Loop Schedule - Dynamic (6)

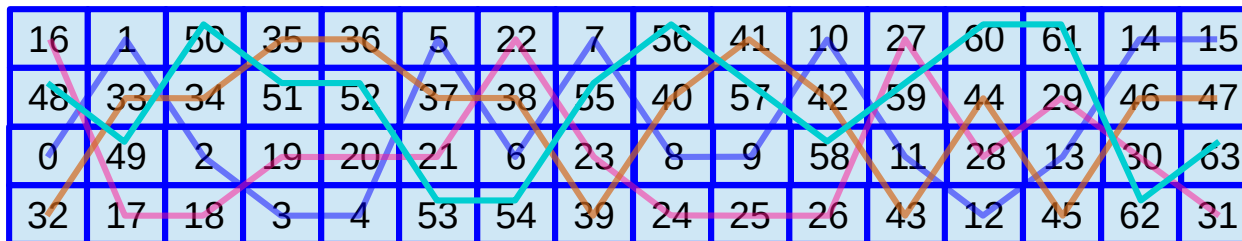
schedule(dynamic, 4)



schedule(dynamic, 8)



schedule(dynamic)



<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

# Loop Schedule - Guided (1)

The **guided** scheduling type is similar to the **dynamic** scheduling type.

OpenMP again divides the iterations into **chunks**.

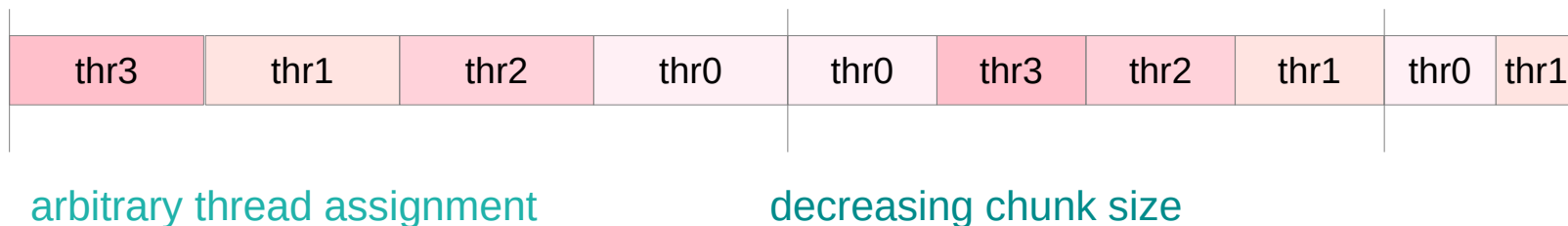
Each thread executes a chunk of iterations and then requests another chunk until there are no more chunks available.

The difference is in **the size of chunks**.

The size of a chunk is **proportional** to the **number of unassigned iterations** divided by the **number of the threads**.

Therefore **the size of the chunks** decreases as the execution goes on

## Guided



<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

# Loop Schedule - Guided (2)

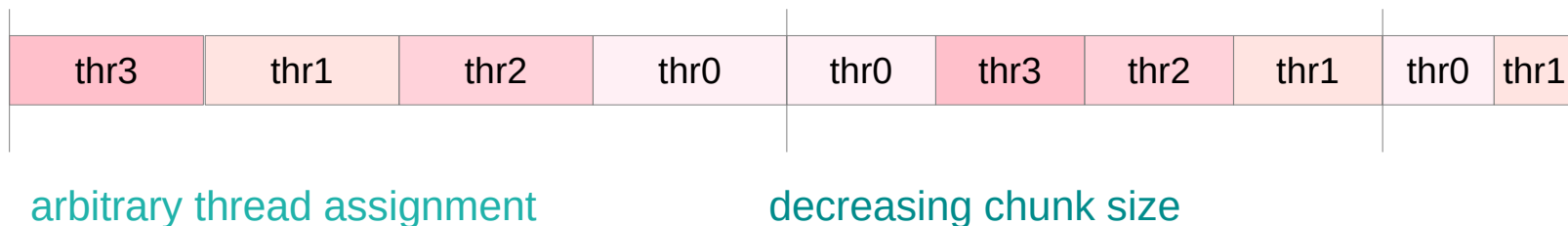
The **minimum size of a chunk** is set by '**chunk-size**' in the scheduling clause:

**for schedule(guided, chunk-size).**

the chunk which contains the last iterations may have smaller size than chunk-size.

If we do not specify **chunk-size**, it defaults to **one**.

## Guided



<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

# Loop Schedule – Guided (3)

the **size** of the **chunks** is decreasing.

1<sup>st</sup> chunk has always 16 iterations.  $64 \text{ iterations} / 4 \text{ threads} \rightarrow 64 / 4 = 16$

2<sup>nd</sup> chunk has always 12 iterations.  $(64-16) \text{ iterations} / 4 \text{ threads} \rightarrow 48 / 4 = 12$

3<sup>rd</sup> chunk has always 9 iterations.  $(48-12) \text{ iterations} / 4 \text{ threads} \rightarrow 36 / 4 = 9$

the **minimum chunk size** is determined in the schedule clause.

The only exception is the **last chunk**.

Its size might be lower than the prescribed minimum size.

The guided scheduling type is appropriate when the iterations are poorly balanced between each other.

The initial chunks are larger, because they reduce overhead.

The smaller chunks fill the schedule towards the end of the computation and improve load balancing.

This scheduling type is especially appropriate when poor load balancing occurs toward the end of the computation.

<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

# Loop Schedule - Guided (3)

schedule(guided)

64	$64 / 4 = 16$
(64-16)	$48 / 4 = 12$
(48-12)	$36 / 4 = 9$
(36-9)	$27 / 4 = 7$
(27-7)	$20 / 4 = 5$
(20-5)	$15 / 4 = 4$
(15-4)	$11 / 4 = 3$
(11-3)	$8 / 4 = 2$
(8-2)	$6 / 4 = 2$
(6-2)	$4 / 4 = 1$
(4-1)	$3 / 4 = 1$
(3-1)	$2 / 4 = 1$
(2-1)	$1 / 4 = 1$

schedule(guided, 4)

64	$64 / 4 = 16$
(64-16)	$48 / 4 = 12$
(48-12)	$36 / 4 = 9$
(36-9)	$27 / 4 = 7$
(27-7)	$20 / 4 = 5$
(20-5)	$15 / 4 = 4$
(15-4)	$11 / 4 = 3 < 4$
(11-4)	7      4
(7-4)	3      3
(3-3)	0

schedule(guided, 8)

64	$64 / 4 = 16$
(64-16)	$48 / 4 = 12$
(48-12)	$36 / 4 = 9$
(36-9)	$27 / 4 = 7 < 8$
(27-8)	19    8
(19-8)	11    8
(11-8)	3      3
(3-3)	0

unassigned iterations / threads

<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

# Loop Schedule - Static (6)

schedule(static)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63

schedule(guided)

64            64 / 4 = 16  
 (64-16)    48 / 4 = 12  
 (48-12)    36 / 4 = 9  
 (36-9)     27 / 4 = 7  
 (27-7)     20 / 4 = 5  
 (20-5)     15 / 4 = 4  
 (15-4)     11 / 4 = 3  
 (11-3)     8 / 4 = 2  
 (8-2)      6 / 4 = 2  
 (6-2)      4 / 4 = 1  
 (4-1)      3 / 4 = 1  
 (3-1)      2 / 4 = 1  
 (2-1)      1 / 4 = 1

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	44	45	46	47	48	58	59	63
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	49	50	51	52	60							
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	53	54	55	61											
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	56	57	62														

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	63							
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	53	54	55	60								
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	49	50	51	52	56	57	61								
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	58	59	62									

<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

# Loop Schedule - Static (6)

schedule(static)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63

schedule(guided, 4)

64            64 / 4 = 16  
 (64-16)    48 / 4 = 12  
 (48-12)    36 / 4 = 9  
 (36-9)     27 / 4 = 7  
 (27-7)     20 / 4 = 5  
 (20-5)     15 / 4 = 4  
 (15-4)     11 / 4 = 3 < 4  
 (11-4)     7            4  
 (7-4)      3            3  
 (3-3)      0

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	44	45	46	47	48	61
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	49	50	51	52	62					
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	53	54	55	56	63								
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	57	58	59	60											

<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

# Loop Schedule – Auto

---

The auto scheduling type delegates the decision of the scheduling to the **compiler** and/or **runtime** system.

<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>



# Loop Schedule – Runtime

The `schedule(runtime)` clause tells it to set the schedule using the environment variable.

The environment variable can be set to any other scheduling type.

It can be set by

```
setenv OMP_SCHEDULE "dynamic,5"
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/15508128/using-omp-schedule-with-prAGMA-omp-for-parallel-scheduleruntime>

# Loop Schedules – Runtime

The **runtime** scheduling type defers the decision about the scheduling until the **runtime**.

different ways of specifying the scheduling type in this case.

One option is with the environment variable **OMP\_SCHEDULE**

and the other option is with the function **omp\_set\_schedule**.

<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

# Loop Schedules – Runtime

If the scheduling-type (in the schedule clause of the loop construct) is equal to runtime then OpenMP determines the scheduling by the internal control variable run-sched-var. We can set this variable by setting the environment variable OMP\_SCHEDULE to the desired scheduling type. For example, in bash-like terminals, we can do

```
$ export OMP_SCHEDULE=scheduling-type
```

Another way to specify run-sched-var is to set it with omp\_set\_schedule function.

```
...  
omp_set_schedule(scheduling-type);  
...
```

<http://jakascorner.com/blog/2016/06/omp-for-scheduling.html>

# for construct

```
#pragma omp for [clause ...] newline
```

**schedule** (type [,chunk])

**ordered**

**private** (list)

**firstprivate** (list)

**lastprivate** (list)

**shared** (list)

**reduction** (operator: list)

**collapse** (n)

**nowait**

for\_loop

<https://hpc.llnl.gov/openmp-tutorial#WorkSharing>

# Nested Parallelism (1)

```
void fun1()
{
    for (int i=0; i<80; i++)
        ...
}
```

the 2nd loop in **main**  
can only be distributed to **10** threads

**80** loop iterations in **fun1**  
which will be called **10** times in **main** loop.

```
main()
{
    #pragma omp parallel
    {
        #pragma omp for
        for (int i=0; i<100; i++)
            ...

        #pragma omp for
        for (int i=0; i<10; i++)
            fun1();
    }
}
```

total **800** iterations in **fun1** and the **main** loop

This gives much more parallelism potential  
if parallelism can be added in both levels.

<https://software.intel.com/content/www/us/en/develop/articles/exploit-nested-parallelism-with-openmp-tasking-model.html>

# Nested Parallelism (2)

```
void fun1()
```

```
{
```

```
#pragma omp parallel for
```

```
for (int i=0; i<80; i++)
```

```
...
```

```
}
```

```
main
```

```
{
```

```
#Pragma omp parallel
```

```
{
```

```
#pragma omp for
```

```
for (int i=0; i<100; i++)
```

```
...
```

```
#pragma omp for
```

```
for (int i=0; i<10; i++)
```

```
fun1();
```

```
}
```

```
}
```

may either have insufficient threads for the 1st main loop as it has larger loop count, or

create exploded number of threads for the 2nd main loop when **OMP\_NESTED=TRUE**.

The simple solution is to split the parallel region in main and create separate ones for each loop with a distinct thread number specified.

<https://software.intel.com/content/www/us/en/develop/articles/exploit-nested-parallelism-with-openmp-tasking-model.html>

# Nested Parallelism (3)

```
void fun1()
{
    #pragma omp taskloop
    for (int I = 0; i<80; i++)
        ...
}
```

don't have to worry about the thread number changes in 1st and 2nd main loops.

Even though you still have a small amount of (10) threads allocated for 2nd main loop, the rest available threads will be able to be distributed through omp **taskloop** in fun1.

```
main
{
    #pragma omp parallel
    {
        #pragma omp for
        for (int i=0; i<100; i++)
            ...

        #pragma omp for
        for (int i=0; i<10; i++)
            fun1();
    }
}
```

<https://software.intel.com/content/www/us/en/develop/articles/exploit-nested-parallelism-with-openmp-tasking-model.html>

# Nested Parallelism (4)

**nested parallel regions** is a way to distribute **tasks** by creating / forking more **threads**.

**parallel region** is the only construct determines **execution thread number** and controls **thread affinity**

Using **nested parallel regions** means each **thread** in **parent region** will yield multiple **threads** in enclosed regions, which in turn create a product of **thread number**.

<https://software.intel.com/content/www/us/en/develop/articles/exploit-nested-parallelism-with-openmp-tasking-model.html>



# Nested Parallelism (5)

**omp tasking** shows another way to explore parallelism by adding more **tasks**, instead of **threads**.

though the **thread number** is unchanged as specified at the entry of the **parallel region**, the increased tasks from the **nested tasking** constructs can be distributed and executed by any available/idle **threads** in the current team of the same parallel region.

This gives opportunities to fully use all threads' capability, and improve balance of workloads automatically.

<https://software.intel.com/content/www/us/en/develop/articles/exploit-nested-parallelism-with-openmp-tasking-model.html>

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## References

- [1] en.wikipedia.org
- [2] M Harris, <http://beowulf.lcs.mit.edu/18.337-2008/lectslides/scan.pdf>