

User Level Threading: A Two-Hat Perspective



PRESENTED BY

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SNL R&A # (SAND, PR):



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Hat #1: ULT Implementor (Qthreads)

Fundamental idea: Problem-centric not machine-centric computation

- Don't try to program each application directly to each machine's node topology
- Instead, decompose programs into computational tasks
- Runtime system maps the tasks onto the available execution resources

Additional value-add: full-empty bits for flexible synchronization

- Tera MTA / Cray XMT architectures provided them in hardware
- Qthreads implements in software for similar use cases, e.g., producer-consumer

Key interactions

- On-node tasking layer for Cray's Chapel language
- Collaboration with ANL on {Qthreads, Argobots} + {MPICH, OpenMPI}

<https://github.com/qthreads/>

Hat #2: ULT Customer (OpenMP Tasking Chair)

Part of the OpenMP* API spec. since OpenMP 3.0 (2008!)

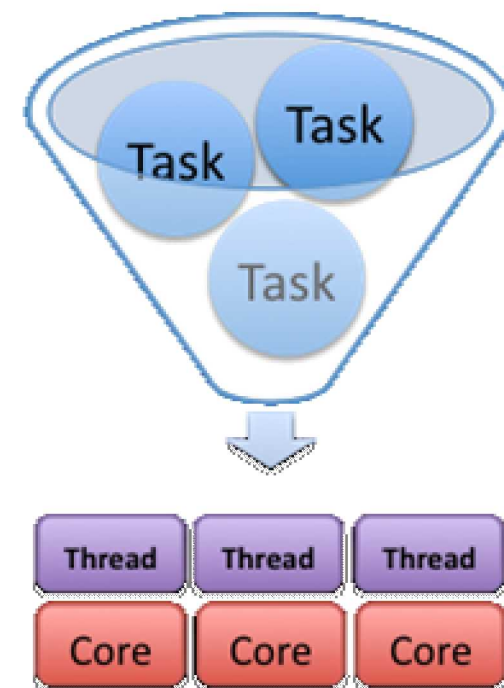
- Complements original OpenMP loop-level parallelism
- Tasks are executed by OpenMP threads in a team
- Includes OpenMP device (accelerator) offload operations

From syntax and semantics to implementation

- Task support in vendor/LLVM runtimes looks a lot like ULT
- Alternative ULT runtimes (Nanos/OmpSs, Argobots/BOLT)

Continuing challenge

- Cycle of “User adoption” \longleftrightarrow “Quality implementations”



<https://www.openmp.org>