Topic 10 Parallel Programming: Models, Methods, and Programming Languages

José Cunha, Marco Danelutto, Christoph Herrmann, and Peter Welch Topic Chairs

This topic deals with advances in algorithmic and programming models, design methods, languages, and interfaces which are needed to produce correct, portable parallel software with predictable performance on different parallel and distributed architectures.

Of the 22 papers submitted to this topic, 11 have been accepted as regular and one as distinguished. Two papers delegated from other topics could not be accepted due to the high quality standards of this topic.

The topic has been divided into four sessions of three talks each:

1. Concurrent programming languages

They are dealing with communication mechanisms like channels in Eden (Haskell) and Concurrent ML, or multiple-way receives in the Java extension JR.

2. Functional programming methods and cost models

Functional techniques are applied in the skeleton approaches of the distinguished paper of Double Scan and of tree skeletons, as well as for a kind of parallel composition in BSP/OCaml.

3. Systems and environments This session presents Java-based grid systems, a software solution for distributed shared memory and an environment for structured parallel programming.

4. Nondeterminism and analytical cost models

Nondeterminism is addressed by order sensitive computations in Parallel Prolog and by an API for highly-irregular computations in C++. One paper discusses the relation between theoretical and practical performance analysis.

The distinguished paper by Bischof, Gorlatch and Kitzelmann presents a composition of their Double-Scan skeleton (generalization of tridiagonal system solving) by blockwise combinators, which permits a parallel implementation of linear cost, i.e., cost-optimal complexity.

Acknowledgements. The topic chairs would like to thank the external reviewers for their help. Special thanks go to Harald Kosch for his frequent, extremely ambitious and always friendly support and advice.