

Assignment 6: Erlang

Assigned: Saturday, 26 February 2011

Due: 11:00 p.m., Saturday, 5 March 2011

Summary: In this assignment, you will explore parallelism in Erlang.

Purposes: To give you more experience with Erlang. To give you more experience with parallel programming.

Expected Time: Three to four hours.

Collaboration: I would prefer that you work on this assignment in groups of two or three. You may also work on this assignment alone or in groups of up to size four. You may consult with anyone you wish on this assignment (including other classmates), provided you cite your consultants.

Submitting: Upload a tarball to Pioneerweb.

Warning: So that this assignment is a learning experience for everyone, I may spend class time publicly critiquing your work.

Assignment

Implement the following functions that each use K processes (where K is a parameter to the function). Your goal is to minimize the total amount of work on the processor that does the most work. (Hence, it's okay to do more work, as long as the max is low.)

- `largest (List, Comparator, K)` - find the largest value in `List`.
- `sort (List, Comparator, K)` - sort the list.
- `fold (List, BinOp, K)` - fold an operator into a list. You can assume that the operator associates, so that $(a \text{ op } b) \text{ op } c$ is the same as $a \text{ op } (b \text{ op } c)$.

You may substitute a tuple for a list in any of the functions.

Important Evaluation Criteria

I will look at the standard “C” criteria: Is your code **correct**? Is your code **concise**? (This second attribute is particularly appropriate in Ruby.) Is your code appropriately **commented**? Have you used any particularly clever techniques. How **comely** is your code?

Submitting Your Homework

Create a directory for this assignment of the form `hw06.names`. Within that directory, create subdirectories for each part of the assignment (e.g., `part0`, `part1`). Each subdirectory should contain:

- The code that you have written for that part of the assignment.
- A typescript or typescripts in which you demonstrate the utility of the code you have written.
- (Optional) A README file that describes any particularly interesting aspects of your code, or other things that you want me to know.
- (Optional) Unit tests.

Make a gzipped tarball of the assignment directory. (If you don't know how to do that, let me know.) Upload it via the Assignment 6 link on Pioneerweb.