Laplace Project

Overview
Array class
OptionList class

Distribution
- The project distribution (laplace.tgz) contains:
  - laplace.c (main)
  - Array class
  - OptionList class

Getting Started
- Step 0:
  - look at the Makefile
  - compile the distributed program, make sure it runs
- Step 1:
  - make sure you can compile and run an OpenMP program
  - write a parallel "hello, world" program

C++ Arrays
- 1D arrays (vectors) in C and C++ are pointers to contiguous sections of memory
- The size does not have to be a constant

```c
double *makeVector(int n) {
  return new double[n];
}
...
double *v = makeVector(100);
```
C++ Arrays (cont’d)

- 2D arrays are vectors of pointers to vectors

You can use a double subscript operator to first identify a row and then an item within the row:

```
x = a[i][j];
```

C++ Arrays (cont’d)

- C++ arrays are arranged in row-major order

Fortran Arrays

- 2D arrays in Fortran are laid out in an N X M block of memory
- arranged in column-major order

Column- vs Row-Major

- Why does it matter that you know whether an array is column- or row-major?
  - answer: cache performance
- When the CPU reads the first array element from memory, it also fetches the next few elements
  - example: 32-byte cache lines, double-precision elements (8 bytes each)
  - what happens when a program first reads from an array?
  - C++: fetch a[0][0] through a[0][3]
  - FORTRAN: fetch A(0,0) through A(3,0)
Column- vs Row-Major

- What this means for your program:
- If you use C++ arrays, the inner loop should iterate over columns for best cache performance:
  ```
  for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
    for (int j = 0; i < M; j++)
      a[i][j] = f(i,j);
  ```
- If you use Fortran arrays, the inner loop should iterate over rows:
  ```
  DO J = 1, M
    DO I = 1, N
      A(I,J) = F(I,J)
    END DO
  END DO
  ```

Array Class

- The Array class distributed with the project implements Fortran-style arrays:
  - contiguous N x M (or N x M x L) block of doubles
  - column-major order
  - overloads the () operator to allow easy reference to array elements:
    ```
    for (int j = 0; j < M; j++)
      for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        A(i,j) = i*j;
    ```
- Why bother?
  - flexibility (written before C++ figured out dynamic 2D arrays)
  - compatibility with BLAS subroutine library
    - hand-coded, written for Fortran, can be linked with C/C++

OptionList Class

- The OptionList class provides an interface to command-line parameters
- Example:
  ```
  void init(int argc, char *argv[]){
    OptionList opt(argc,argv);
    nx = opt.getInt("nx",200);
    p = opt.getFlag("p",false);
    f = opt.getDouble("f",1.0);
  }
  ```

Output

- Your program should write the final computed temperatures in a form that can be visualized
- Matlab, R, and other packages have ways of displaying "images"
  - 2D array of integers
  - each integer is an index into a color map
  - color map entries are (R,G,B) values
- R has several pre-defined color maps, including one for temperature values
  - white = very hot
  - red, yellow, etc are decreasing temperatures
  - black = very cold
### Suggestions

- Test the program on a small (10 x 10) grid
- When the sequential program is working, compute the solution for a 100 x 100 grid and plot the result
- Time the sequential program on bigger grids (200 x 200, 400 x 400, etc)
- Add OpenMP pragmas to parallelize the program
- Report timings for a large (1000 x 1000) grid, using up to 8 threads

### Suggestions

- Read up on the GNU Scientific Library
- Find out how matrices are defined there
  - row major? column major?
  - vector operations on rows/cols?
  - are there functions for adding rows?
- Compare execution time of GSL version with previous versions

**NOTE:** you can work on the Laplace project with your term project group....