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Toward Adjoint OpenMP

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Abstract. Shared-memory multiprocessing is becoming increasingly important in high-performance scientific computing. Algorithmic differentiation provides accurate derivative values and better runtime performance of the adjoint model compared with finite differences. This paper presents a source-to-source transformation of OpenMP augmented code that can be used in source transformation tools for creating the adjoint code of a given input code. Only some directives of the OpenMP standard are considered here, namely, directives to parallelize loops.

1 Introduction

In numerical applications correct and accurate derivative values are essential. These values are computed by finite differences or by algorithmic differentiation (AD) [GW08]. AD has the advantage of providing accurate derivative values up to machine precision. The program code of a numerical application can be considered as a multivariate vector function

$$F : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m, \tag{1}$$

where F maps an input vector $\mathbf{x} \equiv (x_i)_{i=0,\ldots,n-1}$ onto an output vector $\mathbf{y} \equiv (y_i)_{i=0,\ldots,m-1}$; that is, $\mathbf{y} = F(\mathbf{x})$. The assumption that F is continuously differentiable in the neighborhood of all arguments implies the existence of all entries of the Jacobian matrix $\nabla F \equiv \nabla F(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. To compute ∇F with AD, we have the tangent-linear model and the adjoint model at our disposal. Both models can be implemented either in scalar mode or in vector mode. In scalar mode the Jacobian is computed column by column (tangent-linear) or row by row (adjoint), respectively. The vector mode computes the whole Jacobian in one evaluation but has the downside of using much more memory. The computational complexity of the Jacobian accumulation based on the tangent-linear model depends on the input size n. The corresponding complexity of the adjoint model depends on the output size m. Since in many applications the input size is much bigger than the output size, we focus on the adjoint model in this paper. The downside of the adjoint model is the necessary data flow reversal. This leads to the need for storing values in the forward section that are being overwritten later. These values are restored in the reverse section, making the adjoint model expensive because of its memory usage.

OpenMP [Ope08] is a good way to parallelize a numerical simulation merely by augmenting the code with compiler directives. The software engineer needs to be aware only of data dependencies in the numerical simulation instead of needing detailed insight into parallel programming as would be necessary for

POSIX threads [IEE92]. The OpenMP directives are also useful for AD. There is the problem of obtaining non-parallelizable code by reversing a parallelizable code. Because OpenMP is used in many numerical applications, it is important to investigate automatic adjoint code generation of OpenMP augmented code. This paper is the first step toward a source-to-source transformation for adjoining OpenMP augmented code.

The structure of this paper is as follows. Section 2 briefly discusses previous work with OpenMP and AD. Section 3 gives a brief overview of the basic principles of AD and the adjoint model. In Section 4 we show selected features of the OpenMP standard that occur in Section 5 where the source-to-source transformation is presented. Results are presented in Section 6. Section 7 closes the paper with a description of possible next steps.

2 Related Work

In [BLaMB01] the authors assume that the AD tool augments each assignment in the input code by a loop where the gradient of this assignment is computed. Since the computations of each gradient entry are mutually independent, the authors suggest to parallelize this loop with OpenMP. Based on this approach, [BLR$^+$02] tries to improve synchronizing and workload issues. What both approaches have in common is the application of OpenMP to a sequential code generated by AD. Sequential in a way that the generated code does not contain any exploitation of parallelism. In [BRW04] the input code is assumed to have OpenMP directives. The authors suggest to create below this top-level parallel evaluation another parallel level that computes the gradient in parallel. This is possible with OpenMP by enabling nested parallelization what is disabled by default. Nested parallelization means that each thread of the current level creates another group of threads when it encounter the parallel directive of OpenMP. The authors mention that AD tools could be capable of handling programs with OpenMP directives but they do not describe how. Especially in the adjoint case the transformation of the OpenMP directives is not straightforward.

In contrast to the above work we want to focus mainly on the adjoint mode with its quality to be able to compute a whole gradient with only one evaluation as opposed to the componentwise gradient computation in tangent-linear mode. The original code is assumed to contain OpenMP directives. Their handling by an adjoint code generation algorithm is the subject of this paper.

Related work focusing on distributed parallelization with MPI can be found in [SNHU10,SNF10,UHH$^+$09]. Common parallel techniques for AD are described in [VN07,Ben96,BGJ91,Bis91,Fis90] discussing how the structure of the Jacobian can be exploited by seeding the evaluation not only with one Cartesian basis vector but also with a sum of Cartesian basis vectors. This can be done in $\mathbb{R}^n$ for the tangent-linear model or in $\mathbb{R}^m$ when using the adjoint model, respectively. Here we focus on transforming an original code augmented with OpenMP directives into the adjoint model in scalar mode.

3 Algorithmic Differentiation

The function $\bar{F} : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^n$ defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y} &= F(\mathbf{x}) \\ \bar{\mathbf{x}} &= \bar{\mathbf{x}} + \nabla F(\mathbf{x})^T \cdot \bar{\mathbf{y}} \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

is known as the adjoint model of F. $\bar{F}$ is obtained by augmenting F. The Jacobian matrix can be computed row by row in $\bar{\mathbf{x}} = (x_i)_{i=0,\ldots,n-1}$ by initializing $\bar{x_i} = 0$ for $i = 0, \ldots, n-1$ followed by letting $\bar{\mathbf{y}} = (y_i)_{i=0,\ldots,m-1}$ range over the Cartesian basis vectors in $\mathbb{R}^m$. Hence, m evaluations are necessary to compute the whole Jacobian matrix. If $m = 1$, then we need only one evaluation to get all entries of the gradient instead of n evaluations of the tangent-linear model. The downside is the data flow reversal of F needed for the adjoint code in $\bar{F}$ [NULF04].

Let $F : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ be given as

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \sin\left(a_{i,j} \cdot x_j\right) \right)^2 \quad , \tag{3}$$

where $A = (a_{i,j})_{i,j=0,\ldots,n-1}$, $\mathbf{x} = (x_j)_{j=0,\ldots,n-1}$. A possible implementation of F is shown in Listing 1.1. We are interested in the derivative of y with respect to x. Applying (2) to Listing 1.1 leads to the adjoint code shown in Listing 1.2. The application of (2) to the assignment in Listing 1.1, line 9 leads to the code shown in Listing 1.2, line 13 and line 22. Since the value of z is overwritten in each iteration of the forward section while the value is needed in the reverse section (see Listing 1.2, line 19), we store this variable onto a stack in line 10 and restore the value in line 24.

```
 void f(int n, double** A, double* x, double& y)
2{
   int i=0, j=0;
4  double z=0;
   y=0;
6  for(i=0;i<n;i++) {
     z=0;
8    for(j=0;j<n;j++) {
       z+=sin(A[i][j]*x[j]);
10   }
     y+=z*z;
12 }
}
```

Listing 1.1. Example implementation of (3)

Since the iterations of the outer loop in Listing 1.1, line 6 are all independent of each other we can parallelize this loop. How this can be done with OpenMP is shown in Section 4. This parallelization not only gives better runtime performance but also reduces the memory requirement of the forward section of the adjoint code, as we will see in Section 5.

```
void a1_f(int n, double** A,
          double* x, double* a1_x,
          double& y, double& a1_y)
{
  int i=0, j=0;
  double z=0, a1_z=0;
  stack<double> fds;
  y=0;
  for(i=0;i<n;i++) {
    fds.push(z);
    z=0;
    for(j=0;j<n;j++) {
      z+=sin(A[i][j]*x[j]);
    }
    y+=z*z;
  }
  // reverse section
  for(i=n-1;i>=0;i--) {
    a1_z+=a1_y*2*z;
    for(j=n-1;j>=0;j--) {
      a1_x[j]+=
        a1_z*cos((A[i][j]*x[j]))*A[i][j];
    }
    z=fds.top();fds.pop();
    a1_z=0;
  }
  a1_y=0;
}
```

Listing 1.2. Adjoint code of Listing 1.1 implementing (2)

4 OpenMP

OpenMP is a shared-memory parallel programming concept. As opposed to using POSIX threads, the user parallelizes code by augmenting it with OpenMP's directives telling the compiler which instructions to execute in parallel. The OpenMP API provides a collection of compiler directives. For the sake of brevity we will focus on selected OpenMP directives for C that are relevant to the following discussion. A detailed overview of OpenMP can be found in [CJP07,CDK+01].

The directive #pragma omp parallel { ... } declares the code between the curly brackets as executable in parallel. In the context of shared-memory parallelization OpenMP distinguishes between shared and private memory. By default all variables are shared; that is, all threads have access to the same variables. To define variables as private for each thread, OpenMP provides the private(< list_of_variables >) clause. For any variable declared in the list of variables each thread is provided with its own instance of this variable having the same type and size. The value of this variable is undefined when the thread starts its execution. In order to define a private copy of an original variable and to initialize it with the value of the original variable, the firstprivate (< list_of_variables >) clause is used. In numerical programs there is often the need for a reduction operation, and for that reason OpenMP has a clause called reduction(operator :< list_of_variables >), where operator is one of $\{+, -, *, \&, |, \hat{}, \&\&, ||\}$. For each list item a private copy is created in each thread and is initialized with the neutral element of the operation. At the end of the parallel region, the original variable of the list item is computed with the values of the private copies using the specified operator. OpenMP provides a synchronizing mechanism with the directives critical and atomic. The directive critical defines a code block as a critical section, whereas atomic defines only the statement following the directive to be executed by only one thread at a time.

We parallelize the execution of the loop in Listing 1.1 by augmenting the code with OpenMP directives. In Listing 1.3 the sequential part before line 5 and after line 13 is executed by the *initial thread* or *master*. When the master thread reaches the OpenMP parallel region, it creates a group of threads that processes the parallel region. By default all variables are shared. We have to declare i, j, z as private in order to give each thread its own instance. Otherwise all threads would write to the same variable in parallel. The reduction operation in line 12 is handled correctly by defining sy as part of a linear reduction; see the reduction clause in line 6.

As mentioned before, we need to reverse the entire data flow. Parallelizable code inside the implementation of F does not imply parallelizable code in the resulting implementation of $\bar{F}$. Next we investigate data races inside the reverse section of $\bar{F}$.

5 Adjoint OpenMP

It is important to know that parts of the input code are parallelizable. This is not only advantageous for the runtime efficiency but also for the memory consumption of the adjoint model. We assume a parallel code region p with parallel program paths $p_{1,\ldots,N}$ and input variables I. Each path p_i starts with

```
 void f(int n, double** A, double* x, double& y)
2{
  int i=0, j=0;
4 double z=0, sy=0;
#pragma omp parallel for private(i,j,z) \
6                        reduction(+:sy)
  for(i=0;i<n;i++) {
8     z=0;
      for(j=0;j<n;j++) {
10      z+=sin(A[i][j]*x[j]);
      }
12    sy += z*z;
  }
14 y=sy;
}
```

Listing 1.3. Augmenting Listing 1.1 with an OpenMP directive.

the same input data at program state s_1. There is no data flow between p_i and p_j with $i \neq j, i, j \in \{1, \ldots, N\}$; otherwise it would not be a parallel path. When the reverse section reaches the adjoint of p, say $\bar{p}$, all input variables in I must be guaranteed to have the same values as at time s_1. This requirement can be met by checkpointing these values.

A naive adjoint implements the adjoint of the loop as first executing all loop iterations p_i in the given sequence eventually followed by executing the adjoint iterations $\bar{p}_i$ in the reverse sequence. The mutual independence of the loop iterations can be exploited by a simple reordering of the p_i and the $\bar{p}_i$. Without the reordering all needed values of all iterations are written to the stack at once, making the stack size required for handling the loop proportional to the iteration count. see Figure 1 (left). By letting each $\bar{p}_i$ immediately follow its corresponding $\bar{p}$ that stack size requirement is decoupled from the iteration count. In other words, it yields an N-fold reduction in the stack size and only depends on the length of a single loop iteration, see Figure 1 (center). This does not require any parallel execution.

If the given hardware supports N-way parallelism, then one obviously obtains an execution time reduction roughly by a factor of N while the overall stack size remains the same as in the case without reordering, see Figure 1 (right). For k-way parallelism ($k < N$) the tradeoff for the lesser time reduction is a $\frac{N}{k}$-fold stack size reduction over the unreordered case.

The minimal stack size costs can be achieved by executing $\bar{p}$ sequentially as shown in Listing 1.4 for our example code in Listing 1.3. From line 10 to line 14 the recomputation of p_i is shown. Here we do not push any value onto the stack; in more complex code it would be necessary to store some values onto the stack for the execution of $\bar{p}_i$. The code for $\bar{p}_i$ is shown from line 15 to line 19 .

When processing $\bar{p}$ in parallel we encounter a data race for `a1_x[j]`. To resolve this problem, the OpenMP standard provides the constructs `atomic` and `critical` . In Listing 1.5 we see a parallel adjoint implementation of our example code. Line 23 contains the data race since threads are trying to write to the memory location `a1_x[j]` in parallel. The synchronization by the `atomic` construct solves this data race.

```
void a1_f(int n, double** A,
          double* x, double* a1_x,
          double& y, double& a1_y)
{
  int i=0, j=0;
  double z=0,a1_z=0;
  double sy=0,a1_sy=0;
  a1_sy+=a1_y; a1_y=0;
  for(i=0;i<n;i++) {
      z=0;
      for(j=0;j<n;j++) {
          z+=sin(A[i][j]*x[j]);
      }
      sy += z*z;
      a1_z+=a1_sy*2*z;
      for(j=n-1;j>=0;j--) {
          a1_x[j]+=a1_z*cos(A[i][j]*x[j])*A[i][j];
      }
      a1_z=0;
  }
}
```

Listing 1.4. Sequential execution of the adjoint code for Listing 1.3 by exploiting knowledge about the parallelizable loops in the original code.

```
void a1_f(int n, double** A,
          double* x, double* a1_x,
          double& y, double& a1_y)
{
  int i=0, j=0;
  double z=0,a1_z=0;
  double sy=0,a1_sy=0;
  a1_sy+=a1_y; a1_y=0;
#pragma omp parallel private(i,j,z) \
                     firstprivate(sy,a1_sy)
  {
      double a1_z=0;
#pragma omp for
      for(i=0;i<n;i++) {
          z=0;
          for(j=0;j<n;j++) {
              z+=sin(A[i][j]*x[j]);
          }
          sy += z*z;
          a1_z+=a1_sy*2*z;
          for(j=n-1;j>=0;j--) {
#pragma omp atomic
              a1_x[j]+=a1_z*cos(A[i][j]*x[j])*A[i][j];
          }
          a1_z=0;
      }
  }
}
```

Listing 1.5. Synchronization of parallel adjoint code by the OpenMP directive atomic.

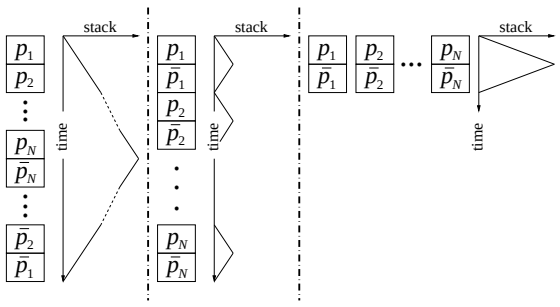

Fig. 1. Stack size vs. run time for original iteration ordering (left), reordered iterations (center), parallel execution (right).

The reduction clause in Listing 1.3, line 6 becomes a firstprivate clause; see Listing 1.5, line 10. In the forward section the reduction operation implies that a private copy of sy is created, one for each implicit task, as if the private clause had been used. This private copy is initialized with zero in the case of a linear reduction. At the end of the OpenMP region (Listing 1.3, line 12), the original sy instance is updated by adding its original value to the final value of each of the private copies. This yields a data flow from all private copies to the original value sy, see Figure 2. Following the rule for the adjoint in (2) we know that for the gradient ∇F for a simple summation is the vector $[1, \ldots, 1]$. The x in (2) are the threadprivate sy_i and the y in (2) is the final sy value in the master thread after the summation. Following (2) the (thread private) adjoints $\overline{sy}_i$ that correspond to the thread private sy_i should be incremented by the value of the $\overline{sy}$ in the master thread. Because the thread private $\overline{sy}_i$ are initialized to 0 the increment amounts to an assignment and can therefore be implemented as a firstprivate clause (think broadcast) of $\overline{sy}$. Figure 3 illustrates the above and shows the data flow reversal in comparison to Figure 2.

Therefore, an adjoint variable of some reduction variable becomes a member of a firstprivate clause in the reverse section. In addition, the variable of the linear reduction itself, here sy, becomes part of a firstprivate clause as each thread recomputes the value for the private copy; see Listing 1.5, line 19. But this value does not have to be propagated outside of the parallel region p.

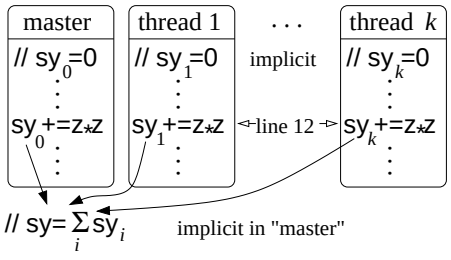

Fig. 2. Data flow for sum reduction, see lines 6 and 12 in Listing 1.3

Another possible source-to-source transformation for our example is based on the fact that one can derive the number of write accesses to a1_x[j] at compile time. This is implied by the assignment in Listing 1.3, line 10 inside the

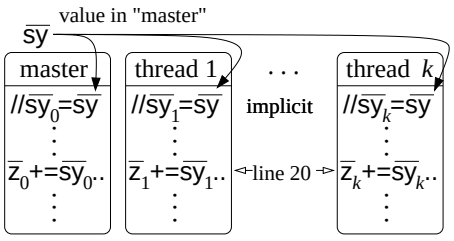

Fig. 3. Data flow for adjoint of sum reduction, see lines 10 and 20 in Listing 1.5

counting loop with induction variable j running from 0 to n−1. The fact that this loop references components of x with indices 0 to n−1 can be exploited for a1_x by giving each thread a private copy of a1_x. Each thread is able to write to this copy without any synchronization. Obviously there is an upper bound for the replication of data due to the memory bound. In practice there has to be a tradeoff between synchronizing the write accesses causing a data race by replicating data or by using the atomic construct. After the parallel section a reduction operation follows to bring the values from the copies to the original instance. Listing 1.6 shows this transformation. The private copies are allocated in line 18. Each thread writes to its own copy (see line 28). The reduction of all copies can be found in line 33 to line 36.

Clearly, the example we chose to illustrate the handling of some OpenMP pragmas is just that, an example. For instance, production reductions pose a more difficult problem when one aims at high efficiency of the adjoint. In a production reduction the ith element of the gradient ∇F can be written as $\prod_{j \neq i} x_j$, i.e. they are themselves product reductions and therefore there is no simple firstprivate solution as in the case of the summation reduction. These observations have been made for similar case of adjoint MPI reduction operations in [UHH+09].

6 Experimental Results

The test system has two Intel Xeon X5570 CPUs. Each CPU has four cores, each with a clock speed of 2.93 GHz and the ability to run two hardware threads (hyperthreading). To show that the solutions in Listing 1.5 and in Listing 1.6 scale with an increasing number of threads, we ran a test with an input size of $n = 40 \cdot 10^3$. In Figure 4 we see that both scale almost identically. With 16 threads we achieve a speedup of 11. The solution with a private array for each thread scales similar to the original code from Listing 1.3 and almost perfectly until the number of threads reaches 8. At this point the physical bound of cores has been reached. More than 8 threads are executed with the help of hyperthreading.

Tests for the sequential solution in Listing 1.4 with an increasing input size n show run times between 3 seconds ($n = 5 \cdot 10^3$) and 209 seconds ($n = 40 \cdot 10^3$). The speedup results for the parallel solutions in Listing 1.5 and in Listing 1.6 with respect to the input size n are given in Figure 5. The number of threads was set to 16 for this test. The plot with square marks is for results using the synchronization construct critical instead of atomic. The overhead for this directive is so high that there is no gain in speed at all. On the other hand the synchronization with the atomic construct shows very good results in comparison

```
void a1_f(int n, double** A,
          double* x, double* a1_x,
          double& y, double& a1_y)
{
  int i=0, j=0;
  double z=0,a1_z=0;
  double sy=0,a1_sy=0;
  a1_sy+=a1_y; a1_y=0;
  int num_threads=omp_get_max_threads();
  double** a1_x_tmp = new double*[num_threads];
#pragma omp parallel private(i,j,z) \
                     firstprivate(sy,a1_sy)
  {
      double a1_z=0;
#pragma omp for
      for(i=0;i<num_threads;i++)
          a1_x_tmp[i]=NULL;
      a1_x_tmp[omp_get_thread_num()]=new double[n];
#pragma omp for
      for(i=0;i<n;i++) {
          z=0;
          for(j=0;j<n;j++) {
              z+=sin(A[i][j]*x[j]);
          }
          sy += z*z;
          a1_z+=a1_sy*2*z;
          for(j=n-1;j>=0;j--)
              a1_x_tmp[omp_get_thread_num()][j]+=
                  a1_z*cos(A[i][j]*x[j])*A[i][j];
          a1_z=0;
      }
#pragma omp for
      for(i=0;i<n;i++)
          for(j=0;j<num_threads;j++)
              if(a1_x_tmp[j])
                  a1_x[i]+=a1_x_tmp[j][i];
#pragma omp for
      for(j=0;j<num_threads;j++)
          delete [] a1_x_tmp[j];
  } // end of parallel region
  delete [] a1_x_tmp;
}
```

Listing 1.6. Synchronization of parallel adjoint code by memory extension.

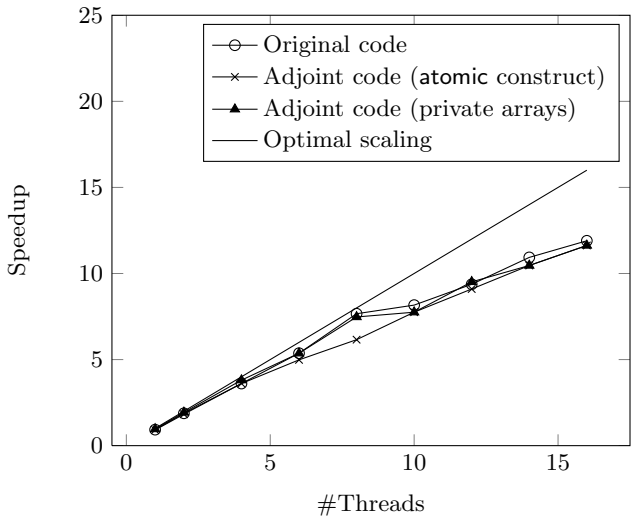

Fig. 4. Speedup for parallel adjoint code with respect to number of threads.

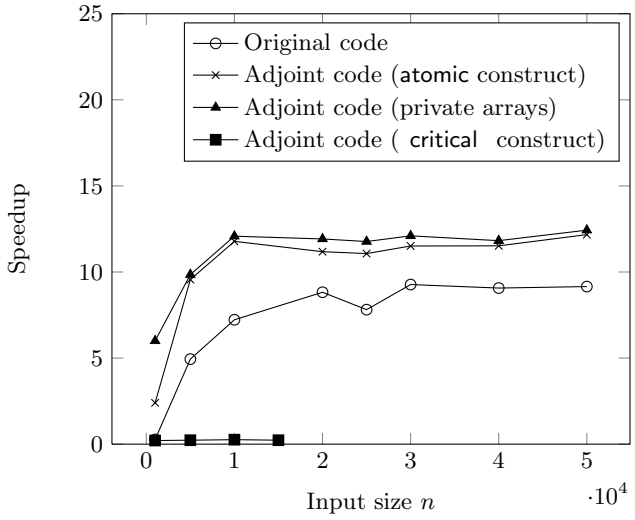

Fig. 5. Speedup for parallel adjoint code with respect to the input size n.

with the solution with a private copy for each thread. Both solutions have almost the same speedup results up to an input size of $n = 50 \cdot 10^3$. We note that the speedup results for the adjoint code are better than those for the original code, likely because of the omitted reduction clause in the adjoint code.

7 Outlook

Despite the fact that the adjoint obtained from a parallel code may end up in a non-parallelizable code, the results for our simple example look promising. We saw that the summation reduction clause inside the original code becomes a firstprivate clause in the adjoint code through the implicit data flow of the reduction clause. This is an illustration for building a body of rules and con-

ditions to allow an automatic adjoint transformation of OpenMP pragmas. We are investigating how other OpenMP clauses, for instance the `lastprivate` clause, should be treated in adjoint code. Another aspect of the ongoing work is how to exploit all facts about data dependencies implied in the OpenMP pragmas for the adjoint construction and how to automatically ascertain that the prerequisites for parallelizing the adjoint code that is the result of a transformation are satisfied.

A common way to implement OpenMP is a source-to-source transformation that replaces the original OpenMP part with a call to an external function; see [LHC+07,LQPdS10,Nov10]. This approach is called *outlining*. The external function contains the code from the OpenMP part, handles the memory-sharing issues according to the clauses used in the OpenMP directive, and creates the threads to process the parallel code. We intend to implement adjoint OpenMP in the same way by outlining the parallel regions. Targets for this implementation are `dcc` [SNF10] and OpenAD [NUW+06].

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