Homework 000

Prof. Josef Spjut

Due February 4, 2013

Abstract

Computer architecture as a field draws heavily on influences from outside to inspire advances in parallelism and computing. The word "computer" for instance dates back to the 1600s where it was used to describe a person who would perform mathematical calculations. When more than one person was working on those calculations, the "computer" became parallel.

Assignment

Your assignment is to find something from an area outside of computing or electronics that exhibits some aspect of parallelism and compose a short essay describing what makes that thing parallel and what you can learn from it. Your essay should be clear and concise, and be no more than 3 pages in length, with shorter lengths being preferred as long as you sufficiently describe your subject. This is meant to be a thinking assignment, and you are encouraged to discuss your thoughts with other students in the class, but you should not use the same subject as anyone else with whom you discuss your ideas. The assignment should be turned in at the beginning of class on the deadline.