

UD Computational Science Day 2006

February 14, 2006

Making Parallel Programming Accessible to Inexperienced Programmers Through Cooperative Learning

Lori L. Pollock

Department of Computer and Information Sciences
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716

Abstract

This poster describes how we utilized cooperative learning to meet the practical challenges of teaching parallel programming in the early college years, as well as to provide a more real-world context to the course. Our main contribution is a set of cooperative group activities for both inside and outside the classroom, which are targeted to the computer science discipline, have received very positive student feedback, are easy to implement, and achieve a number of learning objectives beyond knowledge of the specific topic. These activities can be applied directly or be easily adapted to other computer science courses, particularly programming, systems, and experimental computer science courses.