

High Performance Math Libraries Version 2.1 Release Notes

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1.0. Introduction

Concurrent's High Performance Math Libraries are a port of the ATLAS and LAPACK libraries to Concurrent's real-time operating system, RedHawk. The installation process has been streamlined and tailored for the architectures RedHawk supports, and the API has been enhanced to take advantage of RedHawk's real-time features.

ATLAS (<http://math-atlas.sourceforge.net/>) is an implementation of BLAS (<http://netlib.org/blas>). Since the real-time user will likely be using it on a shielded subset of available processors, the default installation process will install versions of the library built for every possible CPU subset-size.

LAPACK (<http://netlib.org/lapack>) is merged with the LAPACK subset provided by ATLAS to provide an integrated package.

BLAS (<http://netlib.org/blas>) is used as a reference port when testing the ATLAS routines.

GCC 4.2.3 (<http://gcc.gnu.org>) is used to build and tune the core routines of ATLAS.

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We will gladly answer any questions regarding the software. If a modification is done, however, it is the responsibility of the person who modified the routine to provide support.

2.4. GCC

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```

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Documentation

3.0. Documentation

3.1. ATLAS (BLAS)

ATLAS is documented on the developer's web site at <http://math-atlas.sourceforge.net/>. Many of these documents may be found in `/usr/opt/ccur-atlas-3.8.1/doc`. Concurrent's API extensions are documented in "Using High Performance Math Libraries" on page 15.

3.2. LAPACK

LAPACK is documented on the developer's web site at <http://netlib.org/lapack>. There is also the book *Lapack Users' Guide (Software, Environments and Tools, 9)*, by Z. Bai, et al: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0898714478/qid=1122583061/sr=2-1/ref=pd_bbs_b_ur_2_1/104-2342399-1695901.

4.0. Prerequisites

4.1. Software

RedHawk 2.3 or later.

4.2. Hardware

Any Pentium or AMD64-based machine supported by RedHawk 2.3 or later.

Approximately 30MB disk space in `/opt` per CPU.

5.0. System Installation

5.1. Basic Installation Instructions

To install the Concurrent High Performance Math Libraries, issue the following commands on your RedHawk system as **root**:

1. Insert the Concurrent High Performance Math Libraries CD in the CD-ROM drive.
2. Mount the CD-ROM drive (assuming the standard mount entry for the CD-ROM device exists in `/etc/fstab`)¹:

```
mount /mnt/cdrom
```

3. Change the current working directory to the directory containing the Concurrent High Performance Math Libraries RPMs:

```
cd /mnt/cdrom
```

4. Invoke the installation script when the system is otherwise idle:

```
./ccur-install
```

The installation process for the ATLAS component will actually build tailored versions for the host system. It does this by making various measurements on the system that might be interfered with if other programs are running.

Since it builds a version for every possible CPU subset size, the installation process may take a long time on a machine with many CPUs (approximately 10-20 minutes per version).

You may see messages similar to the following during an install (or uninstall):

```
failed to stat /nfsfilesystem: Stale NFS file handle  
or  
the use of `tmpnam' is dangerous, better use `mkstemp'
```

where */nfsfilesystem* may be any NFS file system. These messages may be ignored.

5. Change the current working directory outside the `/mnt/cdrom` hierarchy:

```
cd /
```

6. Unmount the CD-ROM drive (otherwise, you will be unable to remove the installation CD from the CD-ROM drive):

```
umount /mnt/cdrom
```

¹ In special circumstances, some customers might receive an ISO9660 image file. To mount this, issue the command:

```
mount -tiso9660 -o loop /path/to/HPML_2.1.iso9660 /mnt/cdrom
```


To uninstall Concurrent High Performance Math Libraries, use the following command:

```
./ccur-uninstall
```

found on the installation CD. (Follow the installation instructions above for mounting the CD-ROM drive, maneuvering to the correct working directory, unmounting the CD-ROM drive, etc.)

5.2. Manually Installing the Product

In order to avoid a long installation time on a system with many CPUs or to perform manual tuning of ATLAS, the administrator may wish to install the RPMs and configure the product manually. Follow the preceding section's instructions for mounting, maneuvering to the correct working directories, and unmounting the CD-ROM drive, etc.

1. Change the current working directory to the directory containing the RPMs:

```
cd /mnt/cdrom/RPM/platform
```

where *platform* is **i386** or **x86_64**.

2. Issue the **rpm** commands:

```
rpm -U ccur-gcc-4.2.3-*.rpm
rpm -U ccur-lapack-3.1.1-*.rpm
rpm -U ccur-atlas-3.8.1-*.rpm
```

Only the ATLAS source is installed at this point. Follow one of the following procedures to build and install ATLAS manually.

5.2.1. Build and Install All RedHawk_* ATLAS libraries

To build all the ATLAS libraries for each possible CPU subset size:

```
cd /opt/ccur/atlas-3.8.1
make ccur_install
```

This is the same as using the **ccur-install** script on the CD-ROM, except it allows the administrator to delay building ATLAS. That is useful if the administrator cannot get the machine in an idle state at the time he is installing the RPMs, but must wait until a later time to build ATLAS. ATLAS should always be built without other processes interfering with its tuning process.

5.2.2. Build and Install Select RedHawk_* ATLAS Libraries

On a machine with many processors, the administrator may only wish to build and install ATLAS libraries for only a select set of numbers of CPUs: for example, 1, 2, and 4 processors on an eight processor system. The following commands would be used to do this:

```
cd /opt/ccur/atlas-3.8.1
make ccur_install_one THREADS=1
make ccur_install_one THREADS=2
make ccur_install_one THREADS=4
```

5.2.3. Build and Install a Custom Tuned ATLAS Library

One may choose to build ATLAS by following the instructions in **/opt/ccur/atlas-3.8.1/INSTALL.txt**. This procedure will prompt the administrator for numerous tuning parameters. Some choices will significantly increase the time to compile ATLAS.

The custom tuned libraries' LAPACK subset is not merged with LAPACK automatically. Refer to the instructions in `/usr/opt/ccur-atlas-3.8.1/doc/LibReadme.txt` for instructions on how to do this merge. The unmerged full LAPACK library may be found at `/opt/ccur/lapack-3.1.1/lib/lapack.a`.

5.3. Sanity Testing ATLAS and LAPACK

Since ATLAS is built as part of the installation process, the administrator may wish to do some sanity checking to insure everything built OK. All versions of the library that have been built and installed may be run with the following commands:

```
cd /opt/ccur/atlas-3.8.1
make ccur_sanity
```

Sanity testing may be done for a particular version with the following commands:

```
cd /opt/ccur/atlas-3.8.1
make ccur_sanity_one THREADS=N
```

The BLAS tests will output "DONE" if they all pass.

The LAPACK test output files are searched for "fail" messages, but soft failures of the form "11 out of 1960 tests failed to pass the threshold" are filtered out as these failures are normal (See *LAPACK Working Note 41*).

5.4. Full Testing of ATLAS and LAPACK

Running the full testbed can take days for each version. To run it for all versions (this may take weeks!):

```
cd /opt/ccur/atlas-3.8.1
make ccur_test
```

Testing may be done for a particular version with the following commands:

```
cd /opt/ccur/atlas-3.8.1
make ccur_test_one THREADS=N
```

5.5. System Reconfiguration

Should the system hardware configuration change (such as memory or processors), it is desirable to rebuild the ATLAS libraries from scratch so they are tuned for the changed configuration. This may be done by issuing the following commands:

```
cd /usr/opt/ccur-atlas-3.8.1
make ccur_config
make ccur_install
```

5.6. LOG Files

The ATLAS and LAPACK build and test process normally generates a significant amount of output. When building, installing and testing the Concurrent tuned libraries, this output is captured to various files in the `/usr/opt/ccur-atlas-3.8.1/LOG` directory. Should anything go wrong with the process, these files will be useful to help the administrator or Concurrent support personnel to debug the problem.

6.0. Using High Performance Math Libraries

6.1. Using ATLAS

6.1.1. Header Files

The C and C++ user will want to use the following `#include`:

```
#include <cblas.h>
```

Then, on the command line, add the following option:

```
-I/usr/include/ccur-math.
```

Or, if portability is not an issue, the option may be dispensed with by using the following `#include`:

```
#include <ccur-math/cblas.h>
```

6.1.2. Linking

In the following examples, 32-bit Intel Pentium paths begin with `/lib` and 64-bit AMD Opteron paths begin with `/lib64`.

To link with the unthreaded libraries, use the following options for C/C++:

```
-L/lib/ccur-math/RedHawk_1 -lcblas -latlas, or  
-L/lib64/ccur-math/RedHawk_1 -lcblas -latlas.
```

or the following options for FORTRAN 77:

```
-L/lib/ccur-math/RedHawk_1 -lf77blas -latlas, or  
-L/lib64/ccur-math/RedHawk_1 -lf77blas -latlas.
```

To link with the threaded libraries that will use up to N threads simultaneously, for C/C++ use:

```
-L/lib/ccur-math/RedHawk_N -L/usr/lib/nptl \  
-lptcblas -latlas, or  
-L/lib64/ccur-math/RedHawk_N -L/usr/lib64/nptl \  
-lptcblas -latlas,
```

or for FORTRAN 77 use:

```
-L/lib/ccur-math/RedHawk_N -L/usr/lib/nptl \  
-lptcblas -latlas, or  
-L/lib64/ccur-math/RedHawk_N -L/usr/lib64/nptl \  
-lptcblas -latlas.
```

6.1.3. Using Concurrent Real-Time API Enhancements

Concurrent's Real-Time API enhancements give the user control over the CPU affinity of the threads that ATLAS creates. Ordinarily, the threaded ATLAS libraries create a thread for each CPU on the system, but allows the operating system's load balancing assign CPU to each thread. Since other processes are also competing for CPUs, ATLAS threads can be delayed or even assigned to the same CPU as other ATLAS threads. While this makes efficient use of the CPUs, it can mean that the completion time for ATLAS computations can be highly variable.

Real-time programmers typically shield a subset of the CPUs, allowing only a few select processes to run on them and carefully control their scheduling. Concurrent's port of ATLAS installs versions built for each possible CPU subset size. Thus if on an eight processor pentium system a programmer shields four processors for use by the real-time program needing to do a BLAS level 3 computation (only the level 3 routines are threaded), he would link with `/usr/lib/RedHawk_P4SSE2_4` libraries.

However, that would still be relying on the operating system's load balancing to spread the threads across the CPUs. The following functions may be used to direct ATLAS to set the CPU affinity of each individual thread to a single CPU when the thread is created. This greatly improves the determinism of real-time processes doing threaded BLAS level 3 computations. These are called prior to invoking an ATLAS routine to control its threading behavior.

Using these functions to specify unshielded CPUs generally hurts performance. This is because when one ATLAS thread gets interrupted by some other process, the other CPUs cannot help pick up the slack. One thread might be delayed by four seconds, instead of four threads being delayed one second each.

- `void CCUR_clearaffinity(void)`
Clear any previous affinity setting. The operating system will select a CPU from the affinity settings of the parent process. This is the default behavior.
- `int CCUR_autoaffinity(void)`
Fetches the CPU affinity setting of the current process and directs ATLAS to assign CPUs from that set to threads in a round-robin manner. See `CCUR_setaffinity` for more details. The return value is the return value of the `sched_affinity()` call that it does.
- `void CCUR_setaffinity(const cpu_set_t *)`
Directs ATLAS to assign CPUs from the specified `cpu_set_t` to threads in a round-robin manner. Each thread will have its CPU affinity set to a single CPU from this set prior to its creation. The affinity set should have enough CPUs to match the number of CPUs the library set was built for to ensure that every thread will be run on a different processor.

Selecting virtual processors that are on the same physical (hyperthreaded) processor may not give as much performance increase or determinism as insuring each virtual processor selected is on a different physical processor. The effect of doing so will vary from model to model of the CPU.

6.2. Using LAPACK

6.2.1. C/C++

LAPACK does not provide C/C++ header files for the LAPACK routines. The user must refer to the documentation of the FORTRAN 77 routines and construct his own declaration of any routine that he wishes to call. The name of the routine in C/C++ will be in all lower case with a single underscore appended to the name. In C++, prepend the declaration with `extern "C"`. All parameters in FORTRAN 77 are called by reference. Thus if the routine takes a `DOUBLE PRECISION` argument in FORTRAN 77, the user must pass a `double *` when calling from C/C++. FORTRAN 77's row/column order is the reverse of C's.

6.2.2. Linking

In the following examples, 32-bit Intel Pentium paths begin with `/lib` and 64-bit AMD Opteron paths begin with `/lib64`. LAPACK uses BLAS routines, so it is necessary to include the ATLAS libraries when using LAPACK.

To link with the unthreaded libraries, use the following options for C/C++ and F77:

```
-L/lib/ccur-math/RedHawk_1 -llapack -lf77blas \  
-lcblas -latlas, or  
-L/lib64/ccur-math/RedHawk_1 -llapack -lf77blas \  
-lcblas -latlas.
```

To link with the threaded libraries that will use up to N threads simultaneously, for C/C++ and F77 use:

```
-L/lib/ccur-math/RedHawk_N -L/usr/lib/nptl \  
-llapack -lptf77blas -lptcblas -latlas, or  
-L/lib64/ccur-math/RedHawk_N -L/usr/lib64/nptl \  
-llapack -lptf77blas -lptcblas -latlas.
```

7.0. Direct Software Support

Software support is available from a central source. If you need assistance or information about your system, please contact the Concurrent Software Support Center at our toll free number 1-800-245-6453. For calls outside the continental United States, the number is 1-954-283-1822. The Software Support Center operates Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

Calling the Software Support Center gives you immediate access to a broad range of skilled personnel and guarantees you a prompt response from the person most qualified to assist you. If you have a question requiring on-site assistance or consultation, the Software Support Center staff will arrange for a field analyst to return your call and schedule a visit.

You may also submit a request for assistance at any time by using the Concurrent Computer Corporation web site at http://www.ccur.com/support_supportservices_CustomerAssistance_rt.aspx.

