CS162
Operating Systems and Systems Programming
Lecture 7

Synchronization

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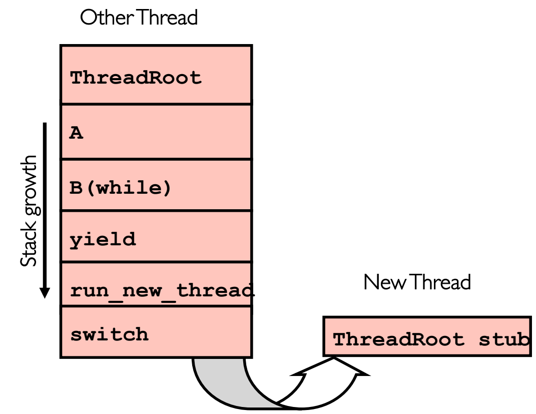
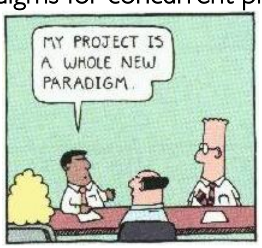
Recall: How does Thread get started?



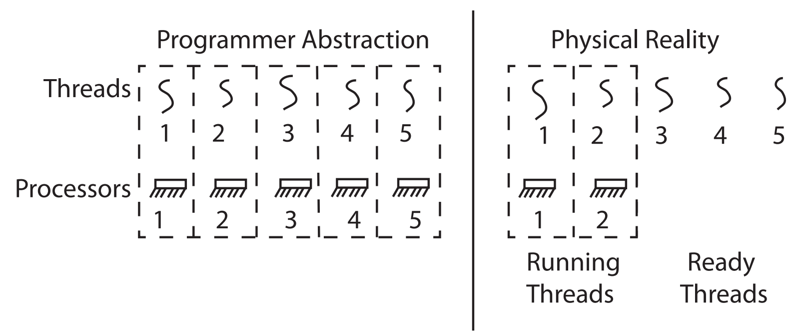
- Eventually, **`run_new_thread()`** will select this TCB and return into beginning of **`ThreadRoot()`**
  - This really starts the new thread

Goals for Today

- Synchronization Operations
- Higher-level Synchronization Abstractions
  - Semaphores, monitors, and condition variables
- Programming paradigms for concurrent programs



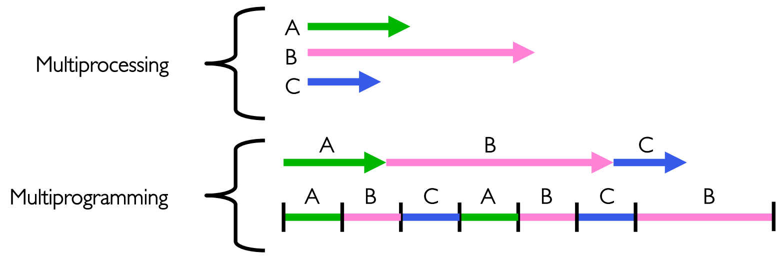
Recall: Thread Abstraction



- Infinite number of processors
- Threads execute with variable speed
  - Programs must be designed to work with any schedule

Recall: Multiprocessing vs Multiprogramming

- What does it mean to run two threads "concurrently"?
  - Scheduler is free to run threads in any order and interleaving: FIFO, Random, …
  - Dispatcher can choose to run each thread to completion or time-slice in big chunks or small chunks

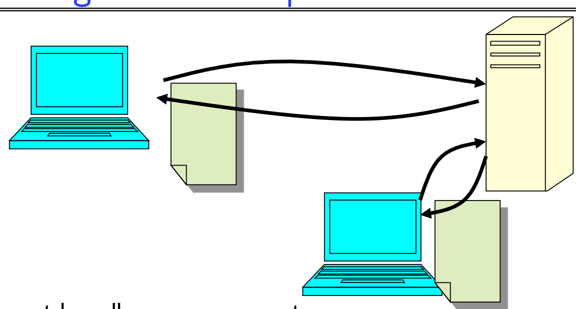


- Also recall: Hyperthreading
  - Possible to interleave threads on a per-instruction basis
  - Keep this in mind for our examples (like multiprocessing)

Correctness for systems with concurrent threads

- If dispatcher can schedule threads in any way, programs must work under all circumstances
  - Can you test for this?
  - How can you know if your program works?
- Independent Threads:
  - No state shared with other threads
  - Deterministic ⇒ Input state determines results
  - Reproducible ⇒ Can recreate Starting Conditions, I/O
  - Scheduling order doesn't matter (if `switch()` works!!!)
- Cooperating Threads:
  - Shared State between multiple threads
  - Non-deterministic
  - Non-reproducible
- Non-deterministic and Non-reproducible means that bugs can be intermittent
  - Sometimes called "Heisenbugs"

High-level Example: Web Server



- Server must handle many requests
- Non-cooperating version:

```
serverLoop() {
    con = AcceptCon();
    ProcessFork(ServiceWebPage(),con);
}
```

- What are some disadvantages of this technique?

Threaded Web Server

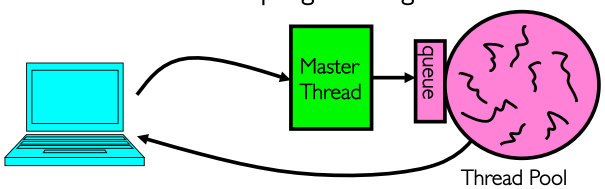
- Now, use a single process
- Multithreaded (cooperating) version:

```
serverLoop() {
    connection = AcceptCon();
    ThreadFork(ServiceWebPage(),connection);
}
```

- Looks almost the same, but has many advantages:
  - Can share file caches kept in memory, results of CGI scripts, other things
  - Threads are *much* cheaper to create than processes, so this has a lower per-request overhead
- Question: would a user-level (say one-to-many) thread package make sense here?
  - When one request blocks on disk, all block…
- What about Denial of Service attacks or digg / Slash-dot effects?

Thread Pools

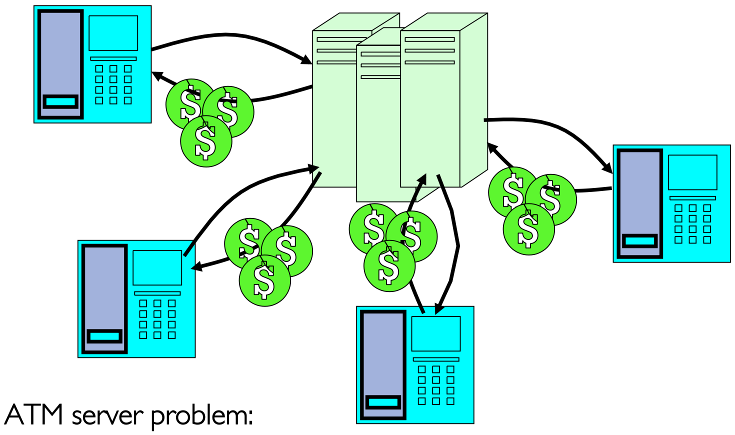
- Problem with previous version: Unbounded Threads
  - When web-site becomes too popular – throughput sinks
- Instead, allocate a bounded "pool" of worker threads, representing the maximum level of multiprogramming




```
master() {
   allocThreads(worker,queue);
   while(TRUE) {
      con=AcceptCon();
      Enqueue(queue,con);
      wakeUp(queue);
   }
}
```

```
worker(queue) {
   while(TRUE) {
      con=Dequeue(queue);
      if (con==null)
         sleepOn(queue);
      else
         ServiceWebPage(con);
   }
}
```


ATM Bank Server



- ATM server problem:
  - Service a set of requests
  - Do so without corrupting database
  - Don't hand out too much money

ATM bank server example

- Suppose we wanted to implement a server process to handle requests from an ATM network:

```
BankServer() {
   while (TRUE) {
      ReceiveRequest(&op, &acctId, &amount);
      ProcessRequest(op, acctId, amount);
   }
}
ProcessRequest(op, acctId, amount) {
   if (op == deposit) Deposit(acctId, amount);
   else if …
}
Deposit(acctId, amount) {
   acct = GetAccount(acctId); /* may use disk I/O */
   acct->balance += amount;
   StoreAccount(acct); /* Involves disk I/O */
}
```

- How could we speed this up?
  - More than one request being processed at once
  - Event driven (overlap computation and I/O)
  - Multiple threads (multi-proc, or overlap comp and I/O)

Event Driven Version of ATM server

- Suppose we only had one CPU
  - Still like to overlap I/O with computation
  - Without threads, we would have to rewrite in event-driven style
- Example

```
BankServer() {
   while(TRUE) {
      event = WaitForNextEvent();
      if (event == ATMRequest)
         StartOnRequest();
      else if (event == AcctAvail)
         ContinueRequest();
      else if (event == AcctStored)
         FinishRequest();
   }
}
```

  - What if we missed a blocking I/O step?
  - What if we have to split code into hundreds of pieces which could be blocking?
  - This technique is used for graphical programming

Can Threads Make This Easier?

- Threads yield overlapped I/O and computation without "deconstructing" code into non-blocking fragments
  - One thread per request
- Requests proceeds to completion, blocking as required:

```
Deposit(acctId, amount) {
  acct = GetAccount(actId); /* May use disk I/O */
  acct->balance += amount;
  StoreAccount(acct);      /* Involves disk I/O */
}
```

- Unfortunately, shared state can get corrupted:

```
           Thread 1                      Thread 2
load r1, acct->balance
                              load r1, acct->balance
                              add r1, amount2
                              store r1, acct->balance
add r1, amount1
store r1, acct->balance
```


Problem is at the lowest level

- Most of the time, threads are working on separate data, so scheduling doesn't matter:

Thread A	Thread B
x = 1;	y = 2;

- However, What about (Initially, y = 12):

Thread A	Thread B
x = 1;	y = 2;
x = y+1;	y = y*2;

  - What are the possible values of x?
- Or, what are the possible values of x below?

Thread A	Thread B
x = 1;	x = 2;

  - X could be 1 or 2 (non-deterministic!)
  - Could even be 3 for serial processors:
    - » Thread A writes 0001, B writes 0010.
    - » Scheduling order ABABABBA yields 3!

♪

Atomic Operations

- To understand a concurrent program, we need to know what the underlying indivisible operations are!
- Atomic Operation: an operation that always runs to completion or not at all
  - It is *indivisible:* it cannot be stopped in the middle and state cannot be modified by someone else in the middle
  - Fundamental building block – if no atomic operations, then have no way for threads to work together
- On most machines, memory references and assignments (i.e. loads and stores) of words are atomic
  - Consequently – weird example that produces "3" on previous slide can't happen
- Many instructions are not atomic
  - Double-precision floating point store often not atomic
  - VAX and IBM 360 had an instruction to copy a whole array

Correctness Requirements

- Threaded programs must work for all interleavings of thread instruction sequences
  - Cooperating threads inherently non-deterministic and non-reproducible
  - Really hard to debug unless carefully designed!
- Example: Therac-25
  - Machine for radiation therapy
    - » Software control of electron accelerator and electron beam/ Xray production
    - » Software control of dosage
  - Software errors caused the death of several patients
    - » A series of race conditions on shared variables and poor software design

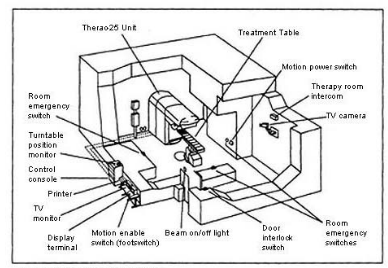
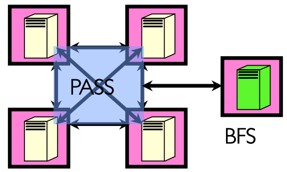


Figure 1. Typical Therac-25 facility

    - » "They determined that data entry speed during editing was the key factor in producing the error condition: If the prescription data was edited at a fast pace, the overdose occurred."

Space Shuttle Example

- Original Space Shuttle launch aborted 20 minutes before scheduled launch
- Shuttle has five computers:
  - Four run the "Primary Avionics Software System" (PASS)
    - » Asynchronous and real-time
    - » Runs all of the control systems
    - » Results synchronized and compared every 3 to 4 ms
  - The Fifth computer is the "Backup Flight System" (BFS)
    - » stays synchronized in case it is needed
    - » Written by completely different team than PASS



- Countdown aborted because BFS disagreed with PASS
  - A 1/67 chance that PASS was out of sync one cycle
  - Bug due to modifications in initialization code of PASS
    - » A delayed init request placed into timer queue
    - » As a result, timer queue not empty at expected time to force use of hardware clock
  - Bug not found during extensive simulation

Another Concurrent Program Example

- Two threads, A and B, compete with each other
  - One tries to increment a shared counter
  - The other tries to decrement the counter

Thread A	Thread B

i = 0;
while (i < 10)
  i = i + 1;
printf("A wins!");
	i = 0;
	while (i > -10)
	  i = i – 1;
	printf("B wins!");

- Assume that memory loads and stores are atomic, but incrementing and decrementing are *not* atomic
- Who wins? Could be either
- Is it guaranteed that someone wins? Why or why not?
- What if both threads have their own CPU running at same speed? Is it guaranteed that it goes on forever?

Hand Simulation Multiprocessor Example

- Inner loop looks like this:

Thread A		Thread B	
r1=0	load r1, M[i]		
		r1=0	load r1, M[i]
r1=1	add r1, r1, 1		
		r1=-1	sub r1, r1, 1
M[i]=1	store r1, M[i]		
		M[i]=-1	store r1, M[i]

- Hand Simulation:
  - And we're off. A gets off to an early start
  - B says "hmph, better go fast" and tries really hard
  - A goes ahead and writes "1"
  - B goes and writes "-1"
  - A says "HUH??? I could have sworn I put a 1 there"
- Could this happen on a uniprocessor?
  - Yes! Unlikely, but if you are depending on it not happening, it will and your system will break…

Administrivia

- Group/Section assignments should be completed!
  - If you are not in group, talk to us immediately!
- Section assignments out on piazza
  - Start going to them this week
  - Need to know your TA!
    - » Participation is 5% of your grade
    - » Should attend section with your TA
- First design doc due this Friday
  - This means you should be well on your way with Project 1
  - Watch for notification from your TA to sign up for design review

Motivation: "Too Much Milk"

- Great thing about OS's – analogy between problems in OS and problems in real life
  - Help you understand real life problems better
  - But, computers are much stupider than people
- Example: People need to coordinate:

Time	Person A	Person B
3:00	Look in Fridge. Out of milk	
3:05	Leave for store	
3:10	Arrive at store	Look in Fridge. Out of milk
3:15	Buy milk	Leave for store
3:20	Arrive home, put milk away	Arrive at store
3:25		Buy milk
3:30		Arrive home, put milk away

Definitions

- Synchronization: using atomic operations to ensure cooperation between threads
  - For now, only loads and stores are atomic
  - We are going to show that its hard to build anything useful with only reads and writes
- Mutual Exclusion: ensuring that only one thread does a particular thing at a time
  - One thread *excludes* the other while doing its task
- Critical Section: piece of code that only one thread can execute at once. Only one thread at a time will get into this section of code
  - Critical section is the result of mutual exclusion
  - Critical section and mutual exclusion are two ways of describing the same thing

More Definitions

- Lock: prevents someone from doing something
  - Lock before entering critical section and before accessing shared data
  - Unlock when leaving, after accessing shared data
  - Wait if locked
    - » Important idea: all synchronization involves waiting

- For example: fix the milk problem by putting a key on the refrigerator
  - Lock it and take key if you are going to go buy milk
  - Fixes too much: roommate angry if only wants OJ

  - Of Course – We don't know how to make a lock yet

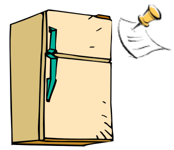
Too Much Milk: Correctness Properties

- Need to be careful about correctness of concurrent programs, since non-deterministic
  - Always write down behavior first
  - Impulse is to start coding first, then when it doesn't work, pull hair out
  - Instead, think first, then code
- What are the correctness properties for the "Too much milk" problem???
  - Never more than one person buys
  - Someone buys if needed
- Restrict ourselves to use only atomic load and store operations as building blocks

Too Much Milk: Solution #1

- Use a note to avoid buying too much milk:
  - Leave a note before buying (kind of "lock")
  - Remove note after buying (kind of "unlock")
  - Don't buy if note (wait)
- Suppose a computer tries this (remember, only memory read/write are atomic):

```
if (noMilk) {
    if (noNote) {
        leave Note;
        buy milk;
        remove note;
    }
}
```



- Result?
  - Still too much milk but only occasionally!
  - Thread can get context switched after checking milk and note but before buying milk!
- Solution makes problem worse since fails intermittently
  - Makes it really hard to debug…
  - Must work despite what the dispatcher does!

Too Much Milk: Solution #1½

- Clearly the Note is not quite blocking enough
  - Let's try to fix this by placing note first
- Another try at previous solution:

```
leave Note;
if (noMilk) {
    if (noNote) {
        leave Note;
        buy milk;
    }
}
remove note;
```

- What happens here?
  - Well, with human, probably nothing bad
  - With computer: no one ever buys milk

Too Much Milk Solution #2

- How about labeled notes?
  - Now we can leave note before checking
- Algorithm looks like this:

Thread A

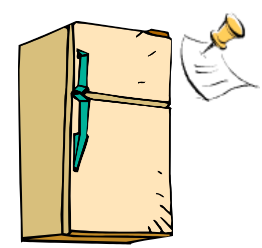
```
leave note A;
if (noNote B) {
    if (noMilk) {
        buy Milk;
    }
}
remove note A;
```

Thread B

```
leave note B;
if (noNoteA) {
    if (noMilk) {
        buy Milk;
    }
}
remove note B;
```

- Does this work?
- Possible for neither thread to buy milk
  - Context switches at exactly the wrong times can lead each to think that the other is going to buy
- Really insidious:
  - Extremely unlikely that this would happen, but will at worse possible time
  - Probably something like this in UNIX

Too Much Milk Solution #2: problem!



- *I'm* not getting milk, *You're* getting milk
- This kind of lockup is called "starvation!"

Too Much Milk Solution #3

- Here is a possible two-note solution:

Thread A	Thread B

<pre>leave note A;
while (note B) { //X
    do nothing;
}
if (noMilk) {
    buy milk;
}
remove note A;</pre>
	<pre>leave note B;
	if (noNote A) { //Y
	    if (noMilk) {
	        buy milk;
	    }
	}
	remove note B;</pre>

- Does this work? Yes. Both can guarantee that:
  - It is safe to buy, or
  - Other will buy, ok to quit
- At X:
  - if no note B, safe for A to buy,
  - otherwise wait to find out what will happen
- At Y:
  - if no note A, safe for B to buy
  - Otherwise, A is either buying or waiting for B to quit

Solution #3 discussion

- Our solution protects a single "Critical-Section" piece of code for each thread:

```
if (noMilk) {
    buy milk;
}
```

- Solution #3 works, but it's really unsatisfactory
  - Really complex – even for this simple an example
    - » Hard to convince yourself that this really works
  - A's code is different from B's – what if lots of threads?
    - » Code would have to be slightly different for each thread
  - While A is waiting, it is consuming CPU time
    - » This is called "busy-waiting"
- There's a better way
  - Have hardware provide better (higher-level) primitives than atomic load and store
  - Build even higher-level programming abstractions on this new hardware support

Too Much Milk: Solution #4

- Suppose we have some sort of implementation of a lock (more in a moment).
  - **Lock.Acquire()** – wait until lock is free, then grab
  - **Lock.Release()** – Unlock, waking up anyone waiting
  - These must be atomic operations – if two threads are waiting for the lock and both see it's free, only one succeeds to grab the lock
- Then, our milk problem is easy:

```
milklock.Acquire();
if (nomilk)
    buy milk;
milklock.Release();
```

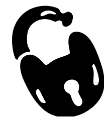
- Once again, section of code between **Acquire()** and **Release()** called a "Critical Section"
- Of course, you can make this even simpler: suppose you are out of ice cream instead of milk
  - Skip the test since you always need more ice cream.

Where are we going with synchronization?

Programs	Shared Programs
Higher-level API	Locks Semaphores Monitors Send/Receive
Hardware	Load/Store Disable Ints Test&Set Comp&Swap

- We are going to implement various higher-level synchronization primitives using atomic operations
  - Everything is pretty painful if only atomic primitives are load and store
  - Need to provide primitives useful at user-level

How to implement Locks?



- Lock: prevents someone from doing something
  - Lock before entering critical section and before accessing shared data
  - Unlock when leaving, after accessing shared data
  - Wait if locked
    - » Important idea: all synchronization involves waiting
    - » Should *sleep* if waiting for a long time
- Atomic Load/Store: get solution like Milk #3
  - Looked at this last lecture
  - Pretty complex and error prone
- Hardware Lock instruction
  - Is this a good idea?
  - What about putting a task to sleep?
    - » How do you handle the interface between the hardware and scheduler?
  - Complexity?
    - » Done in the Intel 432 – each feature makes HW more complex and slow

Naïve use of Interrupt Enable/Disable

- How can we build multi-instruction atomic operations?
  - Recall: dispatcher gets control in two ways.
    - » Internal: Thread does something to relinquish the CPU
    - » External: Interrupts cause dispatcher to take CPU
  - On a uniprocessor, can avoid context-switching by:
    - » Avoiding internal events (although virtual memory tricky)
    - » Preventing external events by disabling interrupts
- Consequently, naïve Implementation of locks:

```
LockAcquire { disable Ints; }
LockRelease { enable Ints; }
```

- Problems with this approach:
  - Can't let user do this! Consider following:

```
LockAcquire();
While(TRUE) {;}
```

  - Real-Time system—no guarantees on timing!
    - » Critical Sections might be arbitrarily long
  - What happens with I/O or other important events?
    - » "Reactor about to meltdown. Help?"

Better Implementation of Locks by Disabling Interrupts

- Key idea: maintain a lock variable and impose mutual exclusion only during operations on that variable

```
int value = FREE;
```

```
Acquire() {
  disable interrupts;
  if (value == BUSY) {
    put thread on wait queue;
    Go to sleep();
    // Enable interrupts?
  } else {
    value = BUSY;
  }
  enable interrupts;
}
```

```
Release() {
  disable interrupts;
  if (anyone on wait queue) {
    take thread off wait queue
    Place on ready queue;
  } else {
    value = FREE;
  }
  enable interrupts;
}
```


New Lock Implementation: Discussion

- Why do we need to disable interrupts at all?
  - Avoid interruption between checking and setting lock value
  - Otherwise two threads could think that they both have lock

```
Acquire() {
  disable interrupts;
  if (value == BUSY) {
    put thread on wait queue;
    Go to sleep();
    // Enable interrupts?
  } else {
    value = BUSY;
  }
  enable interrupts;
}
```

Critical Section

- Note: unlike previous solution, the critical section (inside **Acquire()**) is very short
  - User of lock can take as long as they like in their own critical section: doesn't impact global machine behavior
  - Critical interrupts taken in time!

Interrupt re-enable in going to sleep

- What about re-enabling ints when going to sleep?

Enable Position
Enable Position
Enable Position

```
Acquire() {
   disable interrupts;
   if (value == BUSY) {
      put thread on wait queue;
      Go to sleep();
   } else {
      value = BUSY;
   }
   enable interrupts;
}
```


How to Re-enable After Sleep()?

- In scheduler, since interrupts are disabled when you call sleep:
  - Responsibility of the next thread to re-enable ints
  - When the sleeping thread wakes up, returns to acquire and re-enables interrupts

```
     Thread A                    Thread B
        .
        .
  disable ints
     sleep
           context
           switch  ------>  sleep return
                            enable ints
                                 .
                                 .
                                 .
                            disable int
                               sleep
  sleep return  context
  enable ints <------
                switch
        .
        .
```


Summary

- Important concept: Atomic Operations
  - An operation that runs to completion or not at all
  - These are the primitives on which to construct various synchronization primitives
- Talked about hardware atomicity primitives:
  - Disabling of Interrupts, test&set, swap, comp&swap, load-linked/store conditional
- Showed several constructions of Locks
  - Must be very careful not to waste/tie up machine resources
    - » Shouldn't disable interrupts for long
    - » Shouldn't spin wait for long
  - Key idea: Separate lock variable, use hardware mechanisms to protect modifications of that variable