Semaphores

Semaphores

- Think of semaphores as bouncers at a nightclub. There are a limited number of people that are allowed in the club at once. If the club is full no one is allowed to enter, but as soon as one person leaves another person might enter. It's simply a way to limit the number of consumers for a specific resource. For example, to limit the number of simultaneous calls to a database in an application.

```
class Semaphore {
public:
    Semaphore(int cnt=1);
    virtual ~Semaphore();

    void wait();
    void signal();

private:
    volatile int count;
    std::mutex m;
    std::condition_variable cv;
};
```

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Semaphore::Semaphore(int cnt) :
        count(cnt) {
}
Semaphore::~Semaphore() {
}

void Semaphore::wait() {
    unique_lock<mutex> mlk(m);

    //if you equal 0 you wait
    while(count <= 0)
            cv.wait(mlk);
    --count;
}
void Semaphore::signal() {
    {
        unique_lock<mutex> mlk(m);
        ++count;
    }
    //if a bunch of threads are blocked
    //there is no point in calling notify_all
    //since the first to wake in wait()
    //will decrement the count and then
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- Must initialize count. It corresponds to how many at once

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- wait(): decrements count, if count==0 then thread is blocked otherwise thread proceeds

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- signal(): increments count and notifies one of the waiting threads, thread wakes decrements count and then works

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- wait(): decrements count, if count==0 then thread is blocked otherwise thread proceeds
- signal(): increments count and notifies one of the waiting threads, thread wakes decrements count and then works

Also, you Can signal and wait on different threads!

Semaphores

An Example

Semaphores

```
semaphore s(1);

:

void withdraw(int amount){

    //first one in continues
    s.wait();

    if (balance>amount){
        cout<<"approved"<<endl;
        balance -= amount;
    }
    //after this other threads can enter
    s.signal();

    :

int main(){
    thread T1(withdraw, 10);
    thread T2(withdraw, 10);
    thread T3(withdraw, 10);

    :
}
```

- An Example:
- Semaphore initialized to 1
- This is known as a binary semaphore
- It acts like a mutex.

Semaphores

Another Example

```
semaphore s(2); //allow 2 at a time
void fun(int i){
    s.wait();
    cout<<"Thread "<<i<<" leaving"<<endl;
    s.signal();
}

int main(){
    thread T1(fun, 1);
    thread T2(fun, 2);
    thread T3(fun, 3);
    :
}
```

```
/*
 * Semaphore.cpp
 *
 *  Created on: Nov 8, 2017
 *      Author: keith
 */
#include <iostream>
#include "Semaphore.h"
using namespace std;

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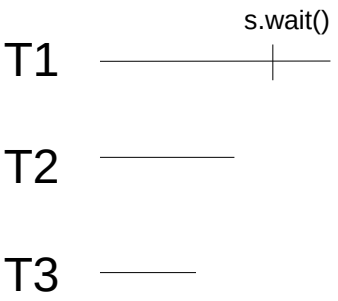
Assumming the order that threads start is (T1,T2,T3). Here is what happens:

T1 calls s.wait()



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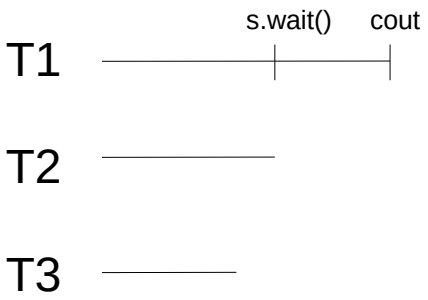
T1 calls s.wait() after which s.count==1, T1 Then couts…



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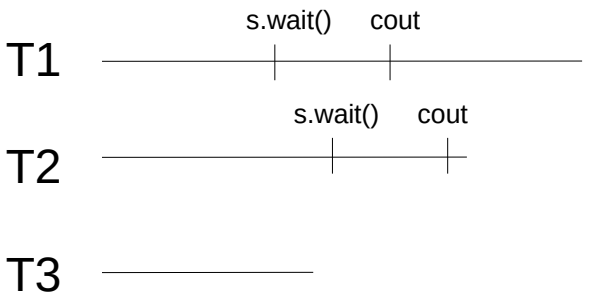

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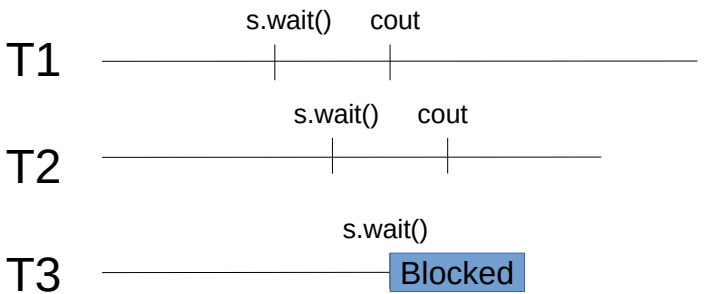

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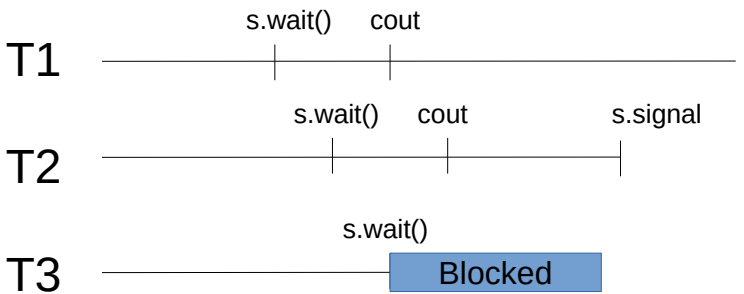

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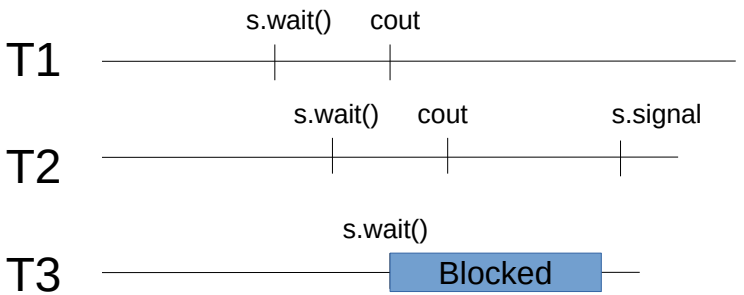

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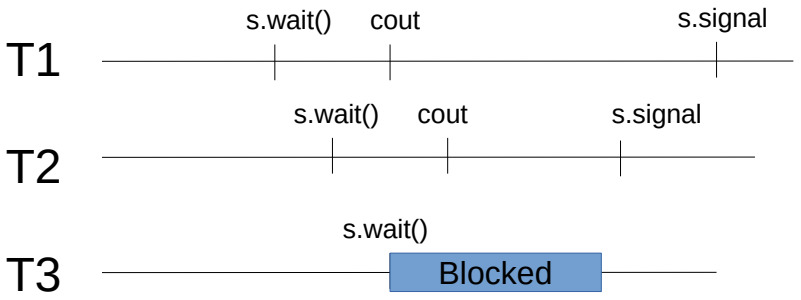

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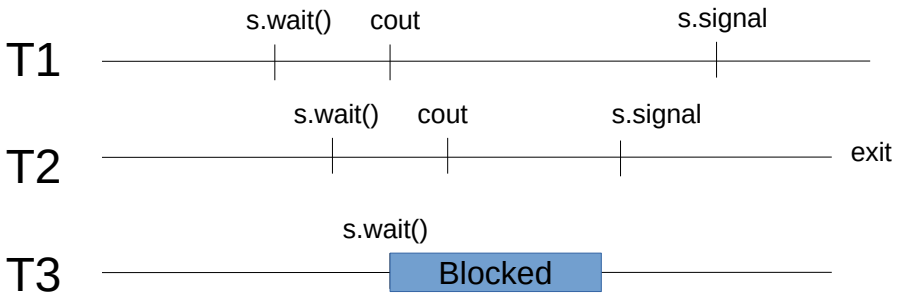

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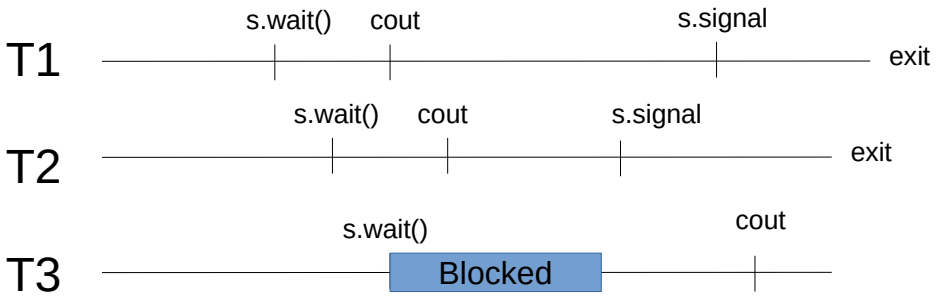

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T1 exits, T3 couts
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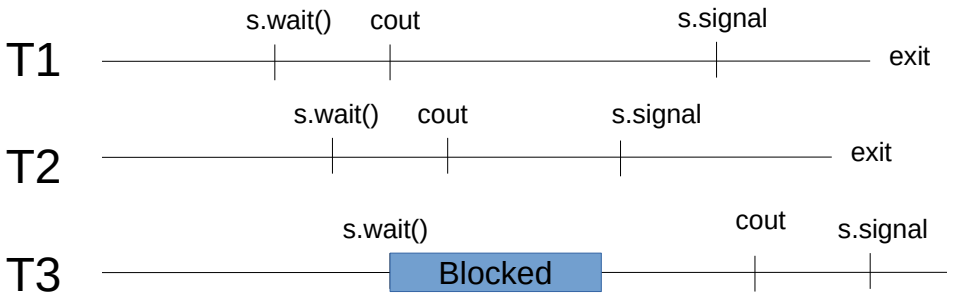

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semaphore s(2); //allow 2 at a time
void fun(int i){
    s.wait();
    cout<<"Thread "<<i<<" leaving"<<endl;
    s.signal();
}

int main(){
    thread T1(fun, 1);
    thread T2(fun, 2);
    thread T3(fun, 3);
    :
}

/*
 * Semaphore.cpp
 *
 *  Created on: Nov 8, 2017
 *      Author: keith
 */
#include <iostream>
#include "Semaphore.h"
using namespace std;

Semaphore::Semaphore(int cnt) :
        count(cnt) {
}
Semaphore::~Semaphore() {
}

void Semaphore::wait() {
    unique_lock<mutex> mlk(m);

    //if you equal 0 you wait
    while(count <= 0)
            cv.wait(mlk);
    --count;
}
void Semaphore::signal() {
    {
        unique_lock<mutex> mlk(m);
        ++count;
    }
    //if a bunch of threads are blocked
    //there is no point in calling notify_all
    //since the first to wake in wait()
    //will decrement the count and then
    //any other threads that wake will
    //see count==0 and will go back to sleep
    cv.notify_one();
}
```
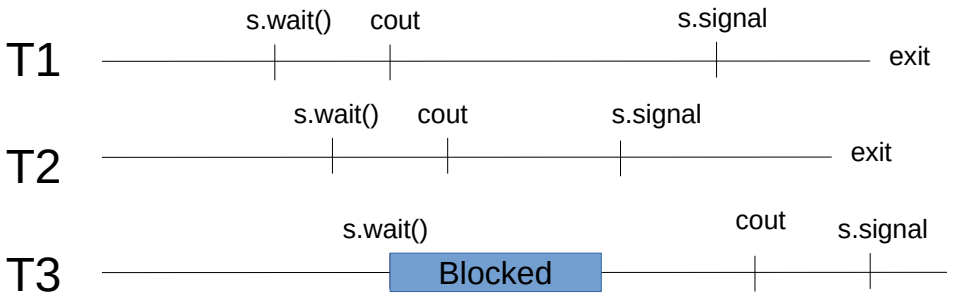

Assumming the order that threads start is (T1,T2,T3). Here is what happens:

T1 calls s.wait() after which s.count==1, T1 Then couts its leaving
T2 calls s.wait() after which s.count==0, T2 Then couts its leaving
T3 calls s.wait() and Blocks…
T2 (or T1) calls s.signal after which s.count==1
T3 awakes as soon as T2 signals, decrements count (s.count==0), works…
T1 calls s.signal after which s.count==1
T2 exits
T1 exits, T3 couts
T3 calls s.signal after which s.count==2
T3 exits

Notice that the Semaphores count is once again 2



Semaphores

Go to project
410_Semaphore_ConditionVar_Mutex_Thread_Producer_Consumer