# A Multithreaded, Transaction-Based, Read/Write Locking Strategy for Containers

#### Overview

Sharing a container among multiple threads

A motivating problem

Some possible solutions

A solution based on strict timestamp ordering (STO)

Testing the STO-based solution

Summary

## Sharing a Container

Sometimes a container must be shared between threads

- We desire to avoid race conditions during writes
  - Assume elements are themselves unsynchronized i.e., susceptible to races
  - Exactly one thread may update an element at any given time
  - No other thread may read an element while the writer is updating it
  - More than one thread may read an element when no update is in progress
- We now have a wealth of concurrency tools at our disposal
  - Writing multi-threaded applications is easier than ever
    - (Maybe)

#### Sharing a Container – Avoiding Race Conditions

- If all threads are readers...
  - No locking is required
- If the number of reads is much larger than the number of writes...
  - We might be able to use a readers/writer lock (std::shared\_mutex)
- What about the case where most operations are writes?
  - A per-element mutex strategy might work...
  - ... if a given write operation requires locking exactly one element

#### Sharing a Container – Avoiding Race Conditions

What about the case where all operations are writes...

```
-- and --
```

- Each element E to be updated is related to a set R<sub>E</sub> of other elements
  - let's call this set E's related group
  - let's define  $U_F = \{E \cup R_F\}$  and call it E's update group

```
-- and --
```

• One or more elements in  $R_{\it E}$  must also be updated at the same time as, and consistently, with  $\it E$ 

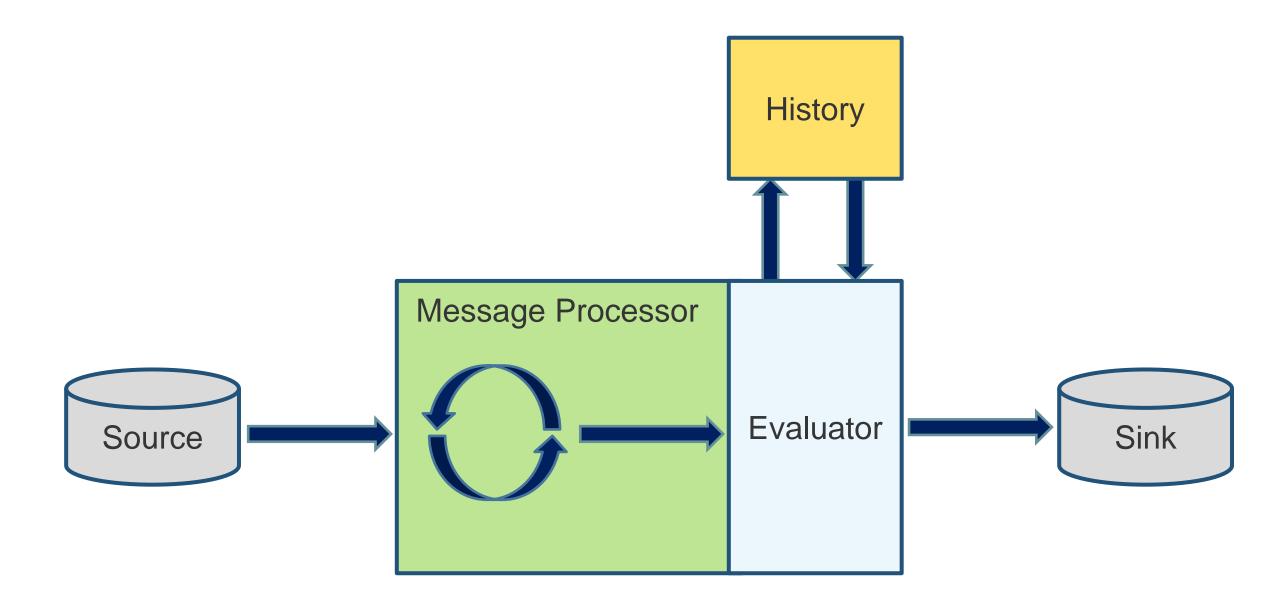
```
-- and --
```

• The number of elements in  $R_F$  to be updated varies

```
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```

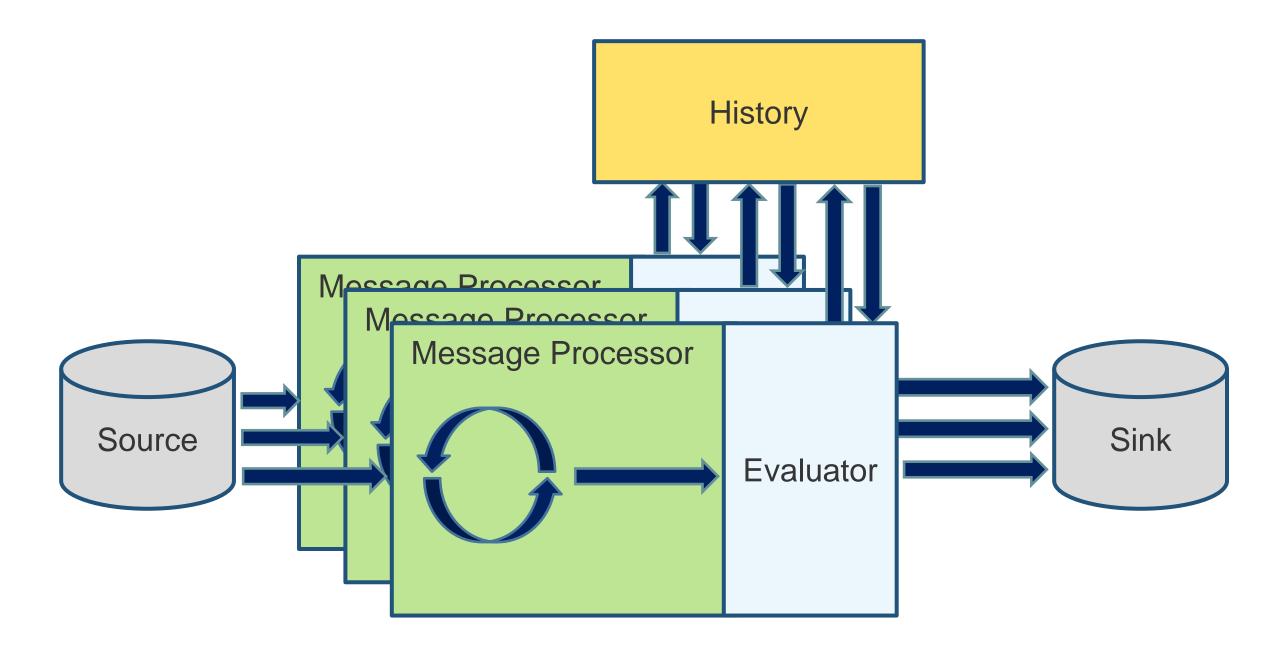
• The membership of  $R_F$  varies

- Receives a continuous stream of input messages
- Generates output only when something interesting happens
  - A history must be maintained to detect relevant changes
- Reading the state of the history is never required
- Every message input requires a write operation to the history
  - Which uses one or more containers



- Receives a continuous stream of input messages
- Generates output only when something special happens
  - History must be maintained to detect "special" changes
- Reading the state of the history is never required
- Every message input requires a write operation to a container
  - Which uses one or more containers

It must scale to multiple threads!



#### Solution Requirements

- Atomic: Each modification of an update group is treated as a single transaction, which either succeeds completely, or fails completely
- **Consistent:** Each transaction can only bring the update group (and the enclosing container) from one valid state to another, maintaining all invariants

• **Isolated**: Each transaction must ensure that concurrent execution of other transactions leaves its update group (and the container) in the same state that would have been obtained as if the transactions were executed in some valid sequential order

#### Some Solutions - Sharding

- Divide the set of elements into individual shards such that the members of each element's related group are also in the shard
- Updates to each shard are performed by only one thread dedicated to servicing that shard
- Upside
  - Good performance
- Downside
  - Increased complexity
  - It works IFF the data is amenable to sharding

#### Some Solutions – Per-Container Mutex

 Instantiate a per-container mutex and perform updates in a single critical section guarded by the mutex

- Upside
  - It works
  - Easy to understand and think about
- Downside
  - Does not scale

#### Some Solutions – Per-Element Mutex

 Instantiate a per-element mutex, acquire the mutexes for all the elements in the update group, then update and release them all

#### Upside

- Seems like it should work (at least for the case of exactly one element)
- Slightly more difficult to understand and think about

#### Downside

- Some mutex implementations are not small
- What if  $E_0$ 's related group contains  $E_1$ , and  $E_1$ 's related group contains  $E_0$ ?

Trap!

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- Trap!

## Another Solution – Strict Timestamp Ordering (STO)

- STO is one of many database concurrency control algorithms
- It is a transactional, timestamp-based algorithm

#### Timestamp

- A monotonically increasing value that indicates the age of a transaction
- A lower timestamp value (TSV) indicates an older transaction
- A higher timestamp value indicates a newer transaction

STO uses timestamps to serialize concurrent transactions

- When each transaction begins it is assigned a unique timestamp from a universal timestamp source
- If two transactions are attempting to write the same update group at the same time, the transaction with the lower timestamp goes first
  - Younger transactions always wait for older transactions
  - Older transactions never wait for younger transactions, they give up (roll back) and try again
- STO operation schedules are serializable and deadlock-free
  - Price for deadlock-freedom is the potential restart of a transaction

- A transaction TX<sub>0</sub> with timestamp tsv
  - Functions begin(), commit(), and rollback()
- An element E<sub>0</sub> with
  - A read timestamp rd\_tsv
  - A write timestamp wr\_tsv
- Function update() to update E<sub>0</sub>
- Function read() to read from E<sub>0</sub>

Transaction TX<sub>0</sub> calls read(E<sub>0</sub>)

- If [TX<sub>0</sub>.tsv < E<sub>0</sub>.wr\_tsv] then
  - a younger transaction has already written E<sub>0</sub>, so call rollback(TX<sub>0</sub>)
- If [TX<sub>0</sub>.tsv > E<sub>0</sub>.wr\_tsv] then
  - delay  $TX_0$  until  $TX_1$  (the transaction that wrote  $E_0$ ) is done
  - update E<sub>0</sub>.rd\_tsv

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- If [TX<sub>0</sub>.tsv < E<sub>0</sub>.wr\_tsv] then
  - a younger transaction has already written to E<sub>0</sub>, so call rollback (TX<sub>0</sub>)
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  - update E<sub>0</sub> and E<sub>0</sub>.wr\_tsv

# Implementing STO in C++

- For our problem, assume all operations are updates
  - Then we need only one timestamp per element, E.tsv
- Transaction TX<sub>0</sub> calls update(E<sub>0</sub>)
- If [TX<sub>0</sub>.tsv < E<sub>0</sub>.tsv] then
  - a younger transaction has already written to E<sub>0</sub>, so call rollback(TX<sub>0</sub>)
- If [TX<sub>0</sub>.tsv > E<sub>0</sub>.tsv] then
  - delay  $TX_0$  until  $TX_1$  (the transaction that wrote  $E_0$ ) is done
  - update  $E_{\theta}$  and  $E_{\theta}$ .tsv

- Need some basic synchronization components
  - Mutex
  - Condition variable
  - Atomic pointer
  - Atomic compare and exchange
- Need a class that represents a lockable item (element)
- Need a class that represents a transaction

- Threads share containers holding lockable items
- Threads will instantiate and own transactions
- A transaction's key member functions (begin, acquire, commit, rollback) will only be called by the owning thread
- Transactions acquire lockable items on behalf of their owning thread
  - Owning thread performs actual write operations

 Transactions will acquire the entire update group before the thread applies any write operation to any member of that group

```
thread function(shared_collection)
    [Create a transaction object]
    while [Work remains to be done]
        [Begin a new transaction]
        [Find target element E in shared_collection]
        [Determine the membership of the update group to the extent possible]
        while [Update group members remain unacquired AND acquisitions have all succeeded]
            [Starting with E, attempt to acquire the next unacquired member of the update group]
            [Revise the membership of the update group, if necessary]
        endwhile
        if [All members of the update group were acquired]
            [Apply write operations to the members of the update group]
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```

## Prerequisites

## Inclusions, Type Aliases, Forward Declarations

```
//- Stuff we need.
#include <cstring>
#include <atomic>
#include <chrono>
#include <condition variable>
#include <functional>
#include <future>
#include <mutex>
#include <random>
#include <thread>
#include <type traits>
#include <vector>
using tsv_type = uint64_t; //- Timestamp value
                = uint64_t; //- Transaction ID
using tx_id_type
class transaction;
class lockable_item;
class stopwatch;
```

### Class Overview – stopwatch

```
//- Simple class to provide timing in test functions.
class stopwatch
  public:
    ~stopwatch() = default;
    stopwatch();
    stopwatch(stopwatch&&) = default;
    stopwatch(stopwatch const&) = default;
    stopwatch& operator =(stopwatch&&) = default;
    stopwatch& operator =(stopwatch const&) = default;
    template<class T> T seconds_elapsed() const;
    template<class T> T milliseconds_elapsed() const;
            start();
    void
            stop();
    void
  private:
```

# Class lockable\_item

### Class Overview — lockable\_item

```
class lockable_item
 public:
   lockable_item();
   item_id_type id() const noexcept;
            last_tsv() const noexcept;
   tsv_type
 private:
   friend class transaction;
   using atomic_tx_pointer = std::atomic<transaction*>;
   using atomic_item_id = std::atomic<item_id_type>;
                      mp_owning_tx; //- Pointer to transaction object that owns this object
   atomic_tx_pointer
   tsv_type
                      m_last_tsv;  //- Timestamp of last owner
                      m_item_id;  //- For debugging/tracking/logging
   item_id_type
   static atomic_item_id sm_item_id_generator;
```

## Member Functions — lockable\_item

```
inline
lockable_item::lockable_item()
   mp_owning_tx(nullptr), m_last_tsv(0), m_item_id(++sm_item_id_generator)
inline item_id_type
lockable_item::id() const noexcept
   return m_item_id;
inline tsv_type
lockable_item::last_tsv() const noexcept
   return m_last_tsv;
lockable_item::atomic_item_id
                                lockable_item::sm_item_id_generator = 0;
```

## Class transaction

```
class transaction
 public:
   ~transaction();
   transaction(int log_level, FILE* fp=nullptr);
   tx_id_type id() const noexcept;
   tsv_type tsv() const noexcept;
          begin();
   void
    void
         commit();
         rollback();
   void
   bool
           acquire(lockable_item& item);
  private:
    . . .
```

```
. . .
private:
 using item_ptr_list = std::vector<lockable_item*>;
 using mutex = std::mutex;
 using tx_lock = std::unique_lock<std::mutex>;
 using cond_var = std::condition_variable;
 using atomic_tsv = std::atomic<tsv_type>;
 using atomic_tx_id = std::atomic<tx_id_type>;
 tx_id_type
               m_tx_id;
 tsv_type
            m_tx_tsv;
 item_ptr_list
                m_item_ptrs;
                 m_mutex;
 mutex
 cond_var
                 m_cond;
                 m_fp;
 FILE*
                 m_log_level;
 int
 static atomic_tsv
                        sm_tsv_generator;
 static atomic_tx_id
                        sm_tx_id_generator;
  . . .
```

```
. . .
private:
 using item_ptr_list = std::vector<lockable_item*>;
 using mutex = std::mutex;
 using tx_lock = std::unique_lock<std::mutex>;
 using cond_var = std::condition_variable;
 using atomic_tsv = std::atomic<tsv_type>;
 using atomic_tx_id = std::atomic<tx_id_type>;
 tx_id_type
           m_tx_id;
 tsv_type
          m_tx_tsv;
 item_ptr_list m_item_ptrs;
            m_mutex;
 mutex
 cond_var
                m_cond;
                m_fp;
 FILE*
                m_log_level;
 int
 static atomic_tsv sm_tsv_generator;
 static atomic_tx_id
                       sm_tx_id_generator;
  . . .
```

```
. . .
  private:
   void
            log_begin() const;
    void
            log_commit() const;
            log_rollback() const;
   void
            log_acquisition_success(lockable_item const& item) const;
   void
            log_acquisition_failure(lockable_item const& item) const;
   void
            log_acquisition_same(lockable_item const& item) const;
   void
            log_acquisition_waiting(lockable_item const& item, transaction* p_curr_tx) const;
    void
};
transaction::atomic_tsv
                            transaction::sm_tsv_generator
                                                            = 0;
transaction::atomic_tx_id
                            transaction::sm_tx_id_generator = 0;
```

#### Member Functions — transaction

```
transaction::transaction(int log_level, FILE* fp)
:    m_tx_id(++sm_tx_id_generator)
,    m_tx_tsv(0)
,    m_item_ptrs()
,    m_mutex()
,    m_cond()
,    m_fp(fp)
,    m_log_level(log_level)
{
    m_item_ptrs.reserve(100u);
}
```

#### Member Functions — transaction

```
inline tx_id_type
transaction::id() const noexcept
    return m_tx_id;
inline tsv_type
transaction::tsv() const noexcept
    return m_tx_tsv;
```

## Member Functions - transaction::begin()

```
void
transaction::begin()
{
    log_begin();
    m_mutex.lock();
    m_tx_tsv = ++sm_tsv_generator;
    m_mutex.unlock();
}
```

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```
void
transaction::commit()
    log_commit();
                lock(m_mutex);
   tx_lock
   while (m_item_ptrs.size() != 0)
       m_item_ptrs.back()->mp_owning_tx.store(nullptr);
       m_item_ptrs.pop_back();
   m_cond.notify_all();
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```
acquire(lockable_item item)
    while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [Failure - return and caller rolls back]
            endif
        else
            if [I already own item]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
        endif
    endwhile
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
    while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [Failure - return and caller rolls back]
            endif
        else
            if [I already own item]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
        endif
    endwhile
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
    while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [Failure - return and caller rolls back]
            endif
        else
            if [I already own item]
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            else
                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
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    endwhile
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
    while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
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                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [Failure - return and caller rolls back]
            endif
        else
            if [I already own item]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
        endif
    endwhile
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
    while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
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                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
        endif
    endwhile
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
    while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [Failure - return and caller rolls back]
            endif
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        endif
    endwhile
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
    while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
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            endif
        else
            if [I already own item]
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            else
                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
        endif
    endwhile
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
    while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
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            if [I already own item]
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            else
                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
        endif
    endwhile
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
    while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
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                [Failure - return and caller rolls back]
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        else
            if [I already own item]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
        endif
    endwhile
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
    while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
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                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
        endif
    endwhile
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
    while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [Failure - return and caller rolls back]
            endif
        else
            if [I already own item]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
        endif
    endwhile
```

```
bool
transaction::acquire(lockable_item& item)
   while (true)
        transaction* p_curr_tx = nullptr;
        if (item.mp_owning_tx.compare_exchange_strong(p_curr_tx, this))
            m_item_ptrs.push_back(&item);
            if (m_tx_tsv > item.m_last_tsv)
                log_acquisition_success(item);
                item.m_last_tsv = m_tx_tsv;
                return true;
            . . .
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
   while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [Failure - return and caller rolls back]
            endif
        else
            if [I already own item]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
        endif
    endwhile
```

```
while (true)
    transaction* p_curr_tx = nullptr;
    if (item.mp_owning_tx.compare_exchange_strong(p_curr_tx, this))
        m_item_ptrs.push_back(&item);
        if (m_tx_tsv > item.m_last_tsv)
            log_acquisition_success(item);
            item.m_last_tsv = m_tx_tsv;
            return true;
        else
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
    else
```

```
while (true)
    transaction* p_curr_tx = nullptr;
    if (item.mp_owning_tx.compare_exchange_strong(p_curr_tx, this))
        m_item_ptrs.push_back(&item);
        if (m_tx_tsv > item.m_last_tsv)
            log_acquisition_success(item);
            item.m_last_tsv = m_tx_tsv;
            return true;
        else
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
    else
```

#### Atomic Compare and Exchange

- Paraphrasing cppreference.com:
  - Atomically compares the representation of \*this with that of expected, and if those are bitwise-equal, replaces the representation of \*this with desired and returns true;
  - Otherwise, loads the actual value stored in \*this into expected and returns false.

```
while (true)
    transaction* p_curr_tx = nullptr;
    if (item.mp_owning_tx.compare_exchange_strong(p_curr_tx, this))
        m_item_ptrs.push_back(&item);
        if (m_tx_tsv > item.m_last_tsv)
            log_acquisition_success(item);
            item.m_last_tsv = m_tx_tsv;
            return true;
        else
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
    else
```

```
while (true)
    transaction* p_curr_tx = nullptr;
    if (item.mp_owning_tx.compare_exchange_strong(p_curr_tx, this))
        m_item_ptrs.push_back(&item);
        if (m_tx_tsv > item.m_last_tsv)
            log_acquisition_success(item);
            item.m_last_tsv = m_tx_tsv;
            return true;
        else
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
    else
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
   while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [Failure - return and caller rolls back]
            endif
        else
            if [I already own item]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
        endif
    endwhile
```

```
. . .
    if (m_tx_tsv > item.m_last_tsv)
        log_acquisition_success(item);
        item.m_last_tsv = m_tx_tsv;
        return true;
    else
        log_acquisition_failure(item);
        return false;
else
    if (p_curr_tx == this)
        log_acquisition_same(item);
        return true;
```

```
. . .
    if (m_tx_tsv > item.m_last_tsv)
        log_acquisition_success(item);
        item.m_last_tsv = m_tx_tsv;
        return true;
    else
        log_acquisition_failure(item);
        return false;
else
    if (p_curr_tx == this)
        log_acquisition_same(item);
        return true;
```

```
. . .
    if (m_tx_tsv > item.m_last_tsv)
        log_acquisition_success(item);
        item.m_last_tsv = m_tx_tsv;
        return true;
    else
        log_acquisition_failure(item);
        return false;
else
    if (p_curr_tx == this)
        log_acquisition_same(item);
        return true;
```

```
. . .
    if (m_tx_tsv > item.m_last_tsv)
        log_acquisition_success(item);
        item.m_last_tsv = m_tx_tsv;
        return true;
    else
        log_acquisition_failure(item);
        return false;
else
    if (p_curr_tx == this)
        log_acquisition_same(item);
        return true;
```

```
acquire(lockable_item item)
   while (true)
        if [I acquire item]
            [Add item to the list of items that I own]
            if [My timestamp is newer than item's last timestamp]
                [Set item's timestamp to my timestamp]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [Failure - return and caller rolls back]
            endif
        else
            if [I already own item]
                [Success - return and caller keeps going]
            else
                [I'll wait until the current owner releases item and then re-try]
            endif
        endif
    endwhile
```

```
. . .
if (m_tx_tsv > item.m_last_tsv)
    log_acquisition_success(item);
    item.m_last_tsv = m_tx_tsv;
    return true;
else
    log_acquisition_failure(item);
    return false;
if (p_curr_tx == this)
    log_acquisition_same(item);
    return true;
```

```
if (p_curr_tx == this)
    log_acquisition_same(item);
    return true;
else
    log_acquisition_waiting(item, p_curr_tx);
    tx_lock
              lock(p_curr_tx->m_mutex);
    while (item.mp_owning_tx.load() == p_curr_tx)
        if (p_curr_tx->m_tx_tsv > m_tx_tsv)
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
        p_curr_tx->m_cond.wait(lock);
```

```
if (p_curr_tx == this)
    log_acquisition_same(item);
    return true;
else
    log_acquisition_waiting(item, p_curr_tx);
    tx_lock
              lock(p_curr_tx->m_mutex);
    while (item.mp_owning_tx.load() == p_curr_tx)
        if (p_curr_tx->m_tx_tsv > m_tx_tsv)
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
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```

```
if (p_curr_tx == this)
    log_acquisition_same(item);
    return true;
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    log_acquisition_waiting(item, p_curr_tx);
    tx_lock
              lock(p_curr_tx->m_mutex);
    while (item.mp_owning_tx.load() == p_curr_tx)
        if (p_curr_tx->m_tx_tsv > m_tx_tsv)
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
        p_curr_tx->m_cond.wait(lock);
```

```
if (p_curr_tx == this)
    log_acquisition_same(item);
    return true;
else
    log_acquisition_waiting(item, p_curr_tx);
              lock(p_curr_tx->m_mutex);
    tx_lock
    while (item.mp_owning_tx.load() == p_curr_tx)
        if (p_curr_tx->m_tx_tsv > m_tx_tsv)
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
        p_curr_tx->m_cond.wait(lock);
```

```
if (p_curr_tx == this)
    log_acquisition_same(item);
    return true;
else
    log_acquisition_waiting(item, p_curr_tx);
    tx_lock lock(p_curr_tx->m_mutex);
    while (item.mp_owning_tx.load() == p_curr_tx)
        if (p_curr_tx->m_tx_tsv > m_tx_tsv)
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
        p_curr_tx->m_cond.wait(lock);
```

```
if (p_curr_tx == this)
    log_acquisition_same(item);
    return true;
else
    log_acquisition_waiting(item, p_curr_tx);
              lock(p_curr_tx->m_mutex);
    tx_lock
    while (item.mp_owning_tx.load() == p_curr_tx)
        if (p_curr_tx->m_tx_tsv > m_tx_tsv)
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
        p_curr_tx->m_cond.wait(lock);
```

```
if (p_curr_tx == this)
    log_acquisition_same(item);
    return true;
else
    log_acquisition_waiting(item, p_curr_tx);
    tx_lock
              lock(p_curr_tx->m_mutex);
    while (item.mp_owning_tx.load() == p_curr_tx)
        if (p_curr_tx->m_tx_tsv > m_tx_tsv)
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
        p_curr_tx->m_cond.wait(lock);
```

```
if (p_curr_tx == this)
    log_acquisition_same(item);
    return true;
else
    log_acquisition_waiting(item, p_curr_tx);
    tx_lock
              lock(p_curr_tx->m_mutex);
    while (item.mp_owning_tx.load() == p_curr_tx)
        if (p_curr_tx->m_tx_tsv > m_tx_tsv)
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
        p_curr_tx->m_cond.wait(lock);
```

```
if (p_curr_tx == this)
    log_acquisition_same(item);
    return true;
else
    log_acquisition_waiting(item, p_curr_tx);
    tx_lock
              lock(p_curr_tx->m_mutex);
    while (item.mp_owning_tx.load() == p_curr_tx)
        if (p_curr_tx->m_tx_tsv > m_tx_tsv)
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
        p_curr_tx->m_cond.wait(lock);
```

#### Member Functions - transaction::commit()

```
void
transaction::commit()
    log_commit();
                lock(m_mutex);
   tx_lock
   while (m_item_ptrs.size() != 0)
        m_item_ptrs.back()->mp_owning_tx.store(nullptr);
        m_item_ptrs.pop_back();
   m_cond.notify_all();
```

```
. . .
else
    log_acquisition_waiting(item, p_curr_tx);
    tx_lock lock(p_curr_tx->m_mutex);
    while (item.mp_owning_tx.load() == p_curr_tx)
        if (p_curr_tx->m_tx_tsv > m_tx_tsv)
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
        p_curr_tx->m_cond.wait(lock);
```

```
while (true)
    transaction* p_curr_tx = nullptr;
    if (item.mp_owning_tx.compare_exchange_strong(p_curr_tx, this))
        m_item_ptrs.push_back(&item);
        if (m_tx_tsv > item.m_last_tsv)
            log_acquisition_success(item);
            item.m_last_tsv = m_tx_tsv;
            return true;
        else
            log_acquisition_failure(item);
            return false;
    else
```

# Testing

# **Test Strategy**

- Create functions to update a collection of shared items
  - Make sure that data races are possible and can be detected
- Measure single-threaded updates baseline
- Measure multi-threaded updates with induced data races
- Measure multi-threaded updates guarded by a single critical section

Measure multi-threaded transactional updates

#### Testing – Includes, etc.

```
#include "transaction.hpp"
using namespace tx;
using namespace std;
using namespace std::chrono_literals;
//- Forward declarations and common type aliases common to the test functions below().
struct test_item;
using item_list = std::vector<test_item>;
using index_list = std::vector<size_t>;
using entropy = random_device;
using prn_gen = mt19937_64;
using int_dist = uniform_int_distribution<>;
using hasher = hash<string_view>;
```

## Testing - test\_item

```
//- Updates on-board data for the non-STO tests. Checks to see if a race has occurred.
void
test_item::st_update(FILE* fp, prn_gen& gen, int_dist& char_dist)
                    local_chars[buf_size];
    char
    string_view
                   local_view(local_chars, buf_size);
    string_view
                    shared_view(ma_chars, buf_size);
    hasher
                    hash;
    for (size_t i = 0; i < buf_size; ++i)</pre>
        local_chars[i] = ma_chars[i] = (char) char_dist(gen);
    if (hash(shared_view) != hash(local_view))
        fprintf(fp, "RACE FOUND!, item %zd\n", this->id());
```

```
//- Updates on-board data for the non-STO tests. Checks to see if a race has occurred.
void
test_item::st_update(FILE* fp, prn_gen& gen, int_dist& char_dist)
                   local_chars[buf_size];
    char
    string_view local_view(local_chars, buf_size);
    string_view
                  shared_view(ma_chars, buf_size);
   hasher
                   hash;
   for (size_t i = 0; i < buf_size; ++i)</pre>
        local_chars[i] = ma_chars[i] = (char) char_dist(gen);
   if (hash(shared_view) != hash(local_view))
       fprintf(fp, "RACE FOUND!, item %zd\n", this->id());
```

```
//- Updates on-board data for the non-STO tests. Checks to see if a race has occurred.
void
test_item::st_update(FILE* fp, prn_gen& gen, int_dist& char_dist)
                   local_chars[buf_size];
    char
    string_view
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    string_view
                   shared_view(ma_chars, buf_size);
   hasher
                    hash;
   for (size_t i = 0; i < buf_size; ++i)</pre>
        local_chars[i] = ma_chars[i] = (char) char_dist(gen);
   if (hash(shared_view) != hash(local_view))
        fprintf(fp, "RACE FOUND!, item %zd\n", this->id());
```

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//- Updates on-board data for the non-STO tests. Checks to see if a race has occurred.
void
test_item::st_update(FILE* fp, prn_gen& gen, int_dist& char_dist)
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                   shared_view(ma_chars, buf_size);
   hasher
                   hash;
   for (size_t i = 0; i < buf_size; ++i)</pre>
        local_chars[i] = ma_chars[i] = (char) char_dist(gen);
   if (hash(shared_view) != hash(local_view))
        fprintf(fp, "RACE FOUND!, item %zd\n", this->id());
```

```
//- Updates on-board data for the STO tests. Checks to see if a race has occurred.
void
test_item::tx_update(transaction const& tx, FILE* fp, prn_gen& gen, int_dist& char_dist)
                   local_chars[buf_size];
    char
    string_view
                   local_view(local_chars, buf_size);
    string_view
                    shared_view(ma_chars, buf_size);
   hasher
                    hash;
   for (size_t i = 0; i < buf_size; ++i)</pre>
        local_chars[i] = ma_chars[i] = (char) char_dist(gen);
   if (hash(shared_view) != hash(local_view))
        fprintf(fp, "RACE FOUND!, TX %zd item %zd\n", tx.id(), this->id());
```

```
//- Updates on-board data for the STO tests. Checks to see if a race has occurred.
void
test_item::tx_update(transaction const& tx, FILE* fp, prn_gen& gen, int_dist& char_dist)
                   local_chars[buf_size];
    char
    string_view local_view(local_chars, buf_size);
    string_view
                  shared_view(ma_chars, buf_size);
   hasher
                   hash;
   for (size_t i = 0; i < buf_size; ++i)</pre>
        local_chars[i] = ma_chars[i] = (char) char_dist(gen);
   if (hash(shared_view) != hash(local_view))
       fprintf(fp, "RACE FOUND!, TX %zd item %zd\n", tx.id(), this->id());
```

```
//- Updates on-board data for the STO tests. Checks to see if a race has occurred.
void
test_item::tx_update(transaction const& tx, FILE* fp, prn_gen& gen, int_dist& char_dist)
                   local_chars[buf_size];
    char
    string_view
                   local_view(local_chars, buf_size);
    string_view
                    shared_view(ma_chars, buf_size);
   hasher
                    hash;
   for (size_t i = 0; i < buf_size; ++i)</pre>
        local_chars[i] = ma_chars[i] = (char) char_dist(gen);
   if (hash(shared_view) != hash(local_view))
        fprintf(fp, "RACE FOUND!, TX %zd item %zd\n", tx.id(), this->id());
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//- Updates on-board data for the STO tests. Checks to see if a race has occurred.
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test_item::tx_update(transaction const& tx, FILE* fp, prn_gen& gen, int_dist& char_dist)
                   local_chars[buf_size];
    char
    string_view
                   local_view(local_chars, buf_size);
    string_view
                   shared_view(ma_chars, buf_size);
   hasher
                    hash;
   for (size_t i = 0; i < buf_size; ++i)</pre>
        local_chars[i] = ma_chars[i] = (char) char_dist(gen);
   if (hash(shared_view) != hash(local_view))
        fprintf(fp, "RACE FOUND!, TX %zd item %zd\n", tx.id(), this->id());
```

```
//- Updates on-board data for the STO tests. Checks to see if a race has occurred.
void
test_item::tx_update(transaction const& tx, FILE* fp, prn_gen& gen, int_dist& char_dist)
                   local_chars[buf_size];
    char
    string_view
                   local_view(local_chars, buf_size);
    string_view
                    shared_view(ma_chars, buf_size);
   hasher
                    hash;
   for (size_t i = 0; i < buf_size; ++i)</pre>
        local_chars[i] = ma_chars[i] = (char) char_dist(gen);
   if (hash(shared_view) != hash(local_view))
        fprintf(fp, "RACE FOUND!, TX %zd item %zd\n", tx.id(), this->id());
```

```
void
st_access_test(item_list& items, FILE* fp, size_t tx_count, size_t refs_count)
             rd;
    entropy
   prn_gen gen(rd());
    int_dist refs_index_dist(0, (int)(items.size()-1));
   int_dist
               refs_count_dist(1, (int) refs_count);
    int_dist
               char_dist(0, 127);
    stopwatch
                SW;
    index_list indices;
    size_t
                index;
    sw.start();
   for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
       //- Compute the size of the update group
        indices.clear();
        refs_count = refs_count_dist(gen);
        • • •
```

```
void
st_access_test(item_list& items, FILE* fp, size_t tx_count, size_t refs_count)
           rd;
    entropy
   prn_gen gen(rd());
   int_dist refs_index_dist(0, (int)(items.size()-1));
   int_dist refs_count_dist(1, (int) refs_count);
   int_dist char_dist(0, 127);
    stopwatch
               SW;
    index_list indices;
    size_t
               index;
    sw.start();
   for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
       //- Compute the size of the update group
       indices.clear();
       refs_count = refs_count_dist(gen);
        • • •
```

```
• • •
for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
    //- Compute the size of the update group
    indices.clear();
    refs_count = refs_count_dist(gen);
    //- Compute the membership of the update group
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = refs_index_dist(gen);
        indices.push_back(index);
```

```
• • •
for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
    //- Compute the size of the update group
    indices.clear();
    refs_count = refs_count_dist(gen);
    //- Compute the membership of the update group
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = refs_index_dist(gen);
        indices.push_back(index);
```

```
• • •
    //- Compute the membership of the update group
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = refs_index_dist(gen);
        indices.push_back(index);
    //- Modify the members of the update group
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = indices[j];
        items[index].st_update(fp, gen, char_dist);
sw.stop();
fprintf(fp, "TX 0 took %d msec\n", sw.milliseconds_elapsed<int>());
```

```
void
mx_access_test(item_list& items, FILE* fp, size_t tx_count, size_t refs_count)
   static mutex
                 mtx;
             rd;
   entropy
   prn_gen gen(rd());
   int_dist refs_index_dist(0, (int)(items.size()-1));
   int_dist
              refs_count_dist(1, (int) refs_count);
               char_dist(0, 127);
   int_dist
   stopwatch
              SW;
              indices;
   index_list
               index;
   size t
   sw.start();
   for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
```

```
void
mx_access_test(item_list& items, FILE* fp, size_t tx_count, size_t refs_count)
   static mutex mtx;
             rd;
   entropy
   prn_gen gen(rd());
   int_dist refs_index_dist(0, (int)(items.size()-1));
              refs_count_dist(1, (int) refs_count);
   int_dist
               char_dist(0, 127);
   int_dist
   stopwatch
               SW;
              indices;
    index_list
               index;
    size t
    sw.start();
   for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
```

```
void
mx_access_test(item_list& items, FILE* fp, size_t tx_count, size_t refs_count)
   static mutex mtx;
           rd;
   entropy
   prn_gen gen(rd());
   int_dist refs_index_dist(0, (int)(items.size()-1));
   int_dist refs_count_dist(1, (int) refs_count);
              char_dist(0, 127);
   int_dist
   stopwatch
              SW;
   index_list
              indices;
               index;
   size t
   sw.start();
   for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
```

```
. . .
for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
    //- Compute the size of the update group
    indices.clear();
    refs_count = refs_count_dist(gen);
    //- Compute the membership of the update group
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = refs_index_dist(gen);
        indices.push_back(index);
```

```
. . .
for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
    //- Compute the size of the update group
    indices.clear();
    refs_count = refs_count_dist(gen);
    //- Compute the membership of the update group
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = refs_index_dist(gen);
        indices.push_back(index);
```

```
. . .
//- Compute the membership of the update group
for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
    index = refs_index_dist(gen);
    indices.push_back(index);
mtx.lock();
//- Modify the members of the update group
for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
    index = indices[j];
    items[index].st_update(fp, gen, char_dist);
mtx.unlock();
• • •
```

```
. . .
//- Compute the membership of the update group
for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
    index = refs_index_dist(gen);
    indices.push_back(index);
mtx.lock();
//- Modify the members of the update group
for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
    index = indices[j];
    items[index].st_update(fp, gen, char_dist);
mtx.unlock();
• • •
```

```
mtx.lock();
    //- Modify the members of the update group
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = indices[j];
        items[index].st_update(fp, gen, char_dist);
    mtx.unlock();
sw.stop();
fprintf(fp, "TX 0 took %d msec\n", sw.milliseconds_elapsed<int>());
```

```
void
tx_access_test(item_list& items, FILE* fp, size_t tx_count, size_t refs_count)
   entropy
             rd;
   prn_gen gen(rd());
   int_dist refs_index_dist(0, (int)(items.size()-1));
   int_dist
               refs_count_dist(1, (int) refs_count);
    int_dist
               char_dist(0, 127);
    stopwatch
                SW;
    index_list indices;
    size_t
               index;
   transaction tx(1, fp);
                acquired;
    bool
    sw.start();
   for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
        . . .
```

```
void
tx_access_test(item_list& items, FILE* fp, size_t tx_count, size_t refs_count)
   entropy rd;
   prn_gen gen(rd());
   int_dist refs_index_dist(0, (int)(items.size()-1));
   int_dist refs_count_dist(1, (int) refs_count);
   int_dist char_dist(0, 127);
   stopwatch
               SW;
   index_list indices;
   size_t
               index;
   transaction tx(1, fp);
               acquired;
   bool
   sw.start();
   for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
        . . .
```

```
void
tx_access_test(item_list& items, FILE* fp, size_t tx_count, size_t refs_count)
            rd;
    entropy
   prn_gen gen(rd());
   int_dist refs_index_dist(0, (int)(items.size()-1));
   int_dist
               refs_count_dist(1, (int) refs_count);
    int_dist
               char_dist(0, 127);
    stopwatch
               SW;
    index_list indices;
    size_t
               index;
    transaction tx(1, fp);
               acquired;
    bool
    sw.start();
   for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
        . . .
```

```
. . .
for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
    //- Compute the size of the update group
    indices.clear();
    refs_count = refs_count_dist(gen);
    //- Compute the membership of the update group
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = refs_index_dist(gen);
        indices.push_back(index);
```

```
. . .
for (size_t i = 0; i < tx_count; ++i)</pre>
    //- Compute the size of the update group
    indices.clear();
    refs_count = refs_count_dist(gen);
    //- Compute the membership of the update group
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = refs_index_dist(gen);
        indices.push_back(index);
```

```
. . .
//- Compute the membership of the update group
for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
    index = refs_index_dist(gen);
    indices.push_back(index);
tx.begin();
acquired = true;
//- Acquire the members of the update group
for (size_t j = 0; acquired && j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
             = indices[j];
    index
    acquired = (acquired && tx.acquire(items[index]));
```

```
. . .
//- Acquire the members of the update group
for (size_t j = 0; acquired && j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
    index = indices[j];
   acquired = (acquired && tx.acquire(items[index]));
//- Modify the members of the update group
if (acquired)
   for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = indices[j];
        items[index].tx_update(tx, fp, gen, char_dist);
   tx.commit();
```

```
. . .
//- Acquire the members of the update group
for (size_t j = 0; acquired && j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
    index = indices[j];
    acquired = (acquired && tx.acquire(items[index]));
//- Modify the members of the update group
if (acquired)
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = indices[j];
        items[index].tx_update(tx, fp, gen, char_dist);
    tx.commit();
```

```
. . .
//- Acquire the members of the update group
for (size_t j = 0; acquired && j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
             = indices[j];
    index
    acquired = (acquired && tx.acquire(items[index]));
//- Modify the members of the update group
if (acquired)
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = indices[j];
        items[index].tx_update(tx, fp, gen, char_dist);
    tx.commit();
```

```
. . .
//- Acquire the members of the update group
for (size_t j = 0; acquired && j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
    index = indices[j];
    acquired = (acquired && tx.acquire(items[index]));
//- Modify the members of the update group
if (acquired)
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = indices[j];
        items[index].tx_update(tx, fp, gen, char_dist);
    tx.commit();
```

```
. . .
//- Modify the members of the update group
if (acquired)
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = indices[j];
        items[index].tx_update(tx, fp, gen, char_dist);
    tx.commit();
else
    tx.rollback();
. . .
```

```
. . .
//- Modify the members of the update group
if (acquired)
    for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
        index = indices[j];
        items[index].tx_update(tx, fp, gen, char_dist);
    tx.commit();
else
    tx.rollback();
. . .
```

```
. . .
    //- Modify the members of the update group
    if (acquired)
        for (size_t j = 0; j < refs_count; ++j)</pre>
            index = indices[j];
            items[index].tx_update(tx, fp, gen, char_dist);
        tx.commit();
    else
        tx.rollback();
sw.stop();
fprintf(fp, "TX %zd took %d msec\n", tx.id(), sw.milliseconds_elapsed<int>());
```

## Main Test Driver

```
void
test_tx(FILE* fp, size_t item_count, size_t thread_count,
        size_t tx_count, size_t refs_count, size_t mode)
    using future_list = std::vector<std::future<void>>;
    stopwatch
               SW;
   future_list fv;
   //- Mode 0 is a single-threaded run, in order to gather a baseline performance number.
   if (mode == 0)
        st_access_test(items, fp, tx_count, refs_count);
    . . .
```

```
void
test_tx(FILE* fp, size_t item_count, size_t thread_count,
        size_t tx_count, size_t refs_count, size_t mode)
    using future_list = std::vector<std::future<void>>;
    stopwatch
               SW;
    future_list fv;
    //- Mode 0 is a single-threaded run, in order to gather a baseline performance number.
    if (mode == 0)
        st_access_test(items, fp, tx_count, refs_count);
    . . .
```

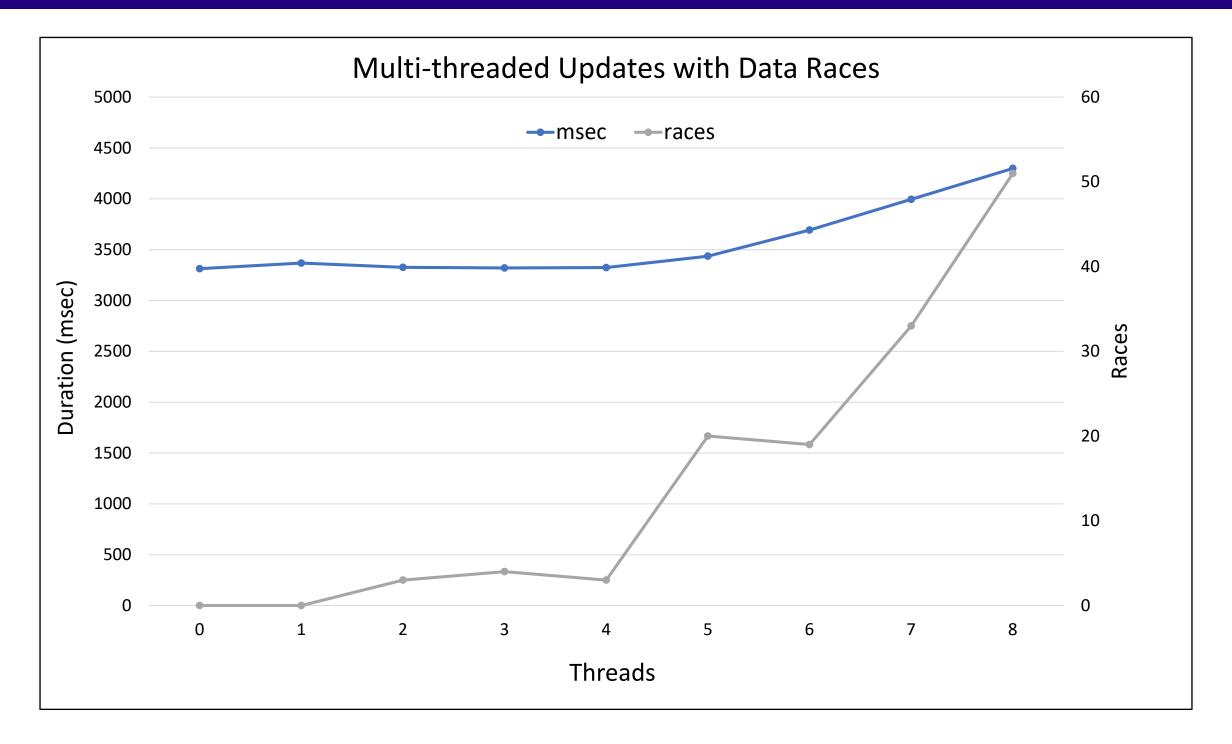
```
void
test_tx(FILE* fp, size_t item_count, size_t thread_count,
        size_t tx_count, size_t refs_count, size_t mode)
    using future_list = std::vector<std::future<void>>;
    stopwatch
               SW;
    future_list fv;
    //- Mode 0 is a single-threaded run, in order to gather a baseline performance number.
    if (mode == 0)
        st_access_test(items, fp, tx_count, refs_count);
    . . .
```

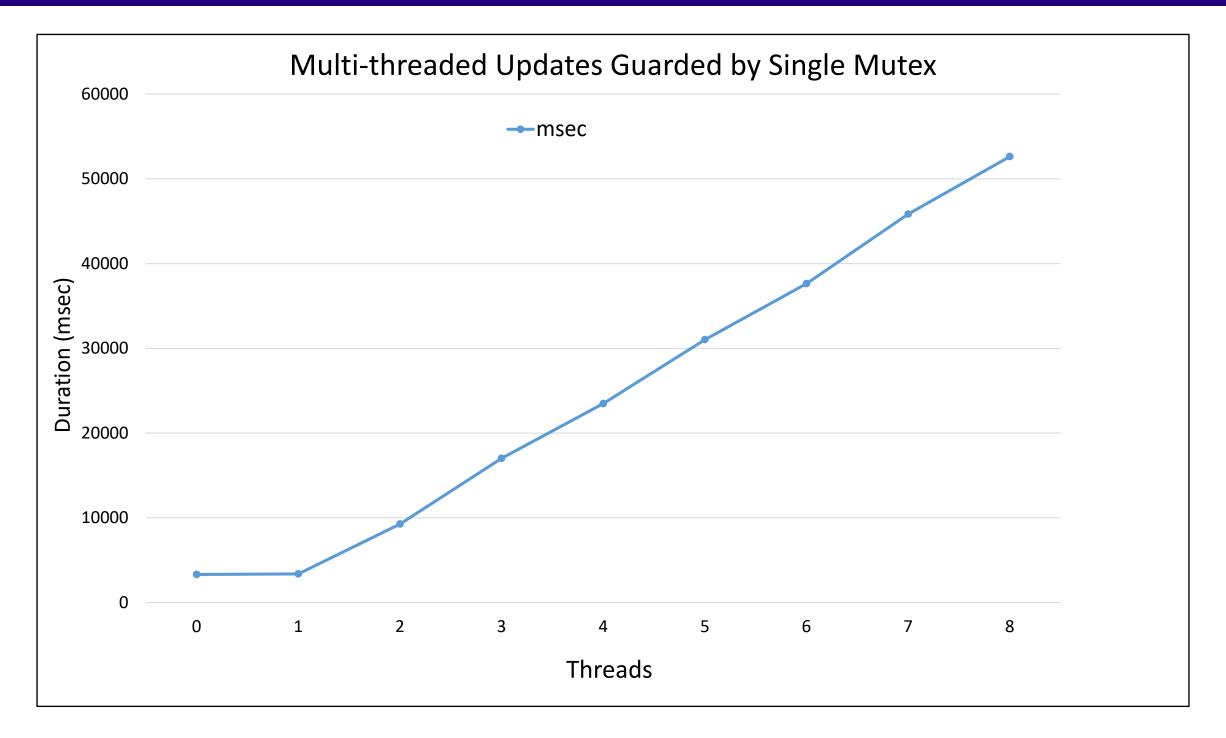
```
. . .
//- Mode 1 is a multi-threaded, transaction-based. This tests the algorithm.
else if (mode == 1)
    for (size_t i = 0; i < thread_count; ++i)</pre>
        fv.push_back(std::async(std::launch::async,
                                 std::bind(&tx_access_test, std::ref(items), fp,
                                            tx_count, refs_count)));
    for (size_t i = 0; i < thread_count; ++i)</pre>
        fv[i].wait();
```

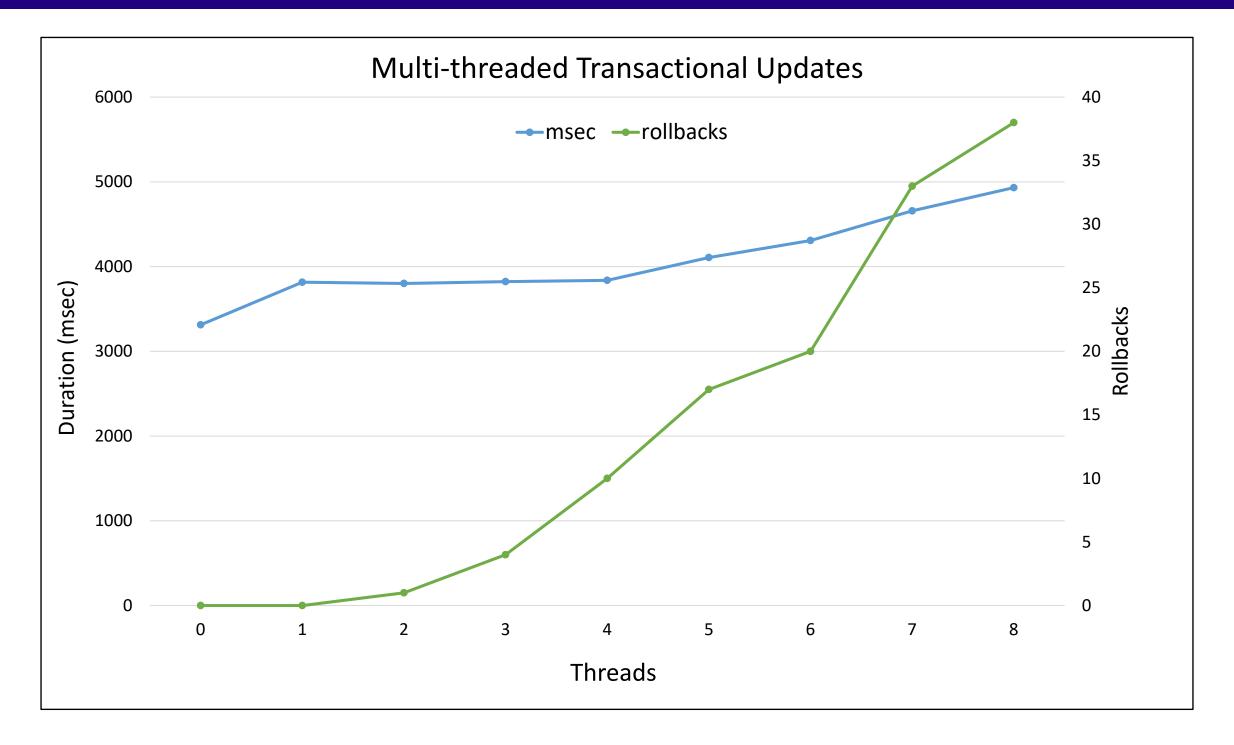
```
. . .
//- Mode 2 is a multi-threaded, but with a single mutex guarding all updates.
else if (mode == 2)
    for (size_t i = 0; i < thread_count; ++i)</pre>
        fv.push_back(std::async(std::launch::async,
                                 std::bind(&mx_access_test, std::ref(items), fp,
                                            tx_count, refs_count)));
    for (size_t i = 0; i < thread_count; ++i)</pre>
        fv[i].wait();
```

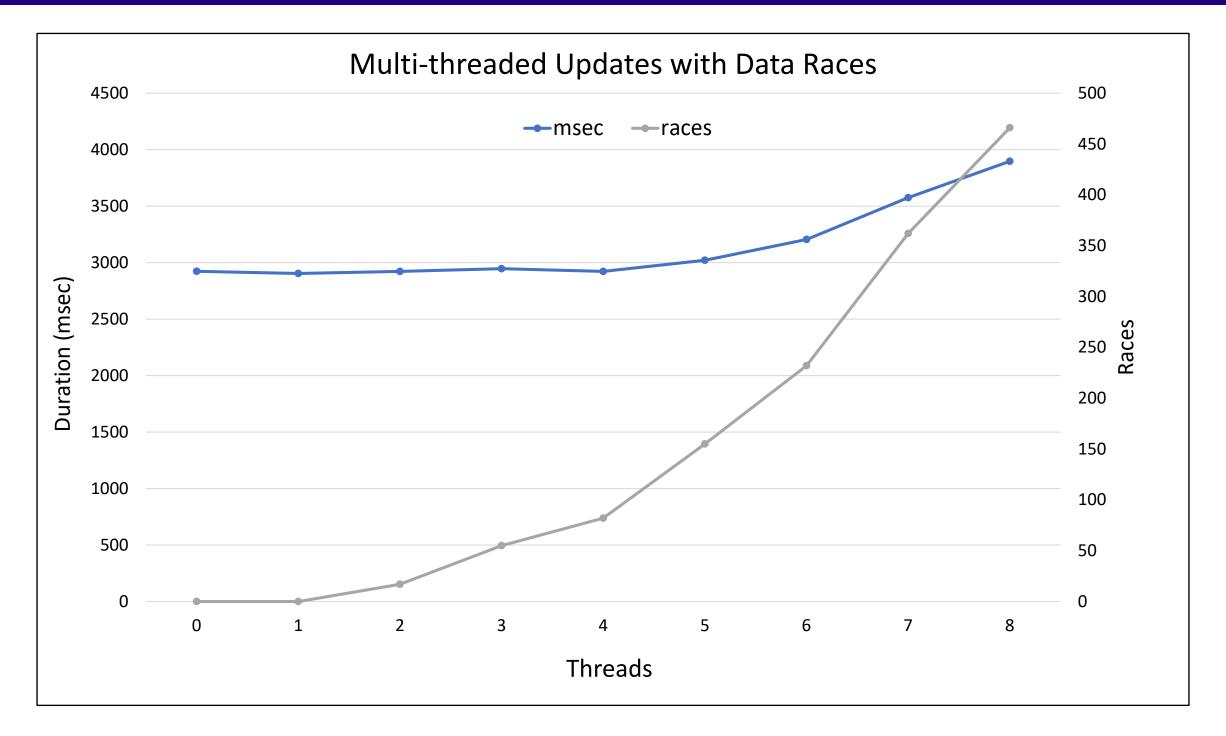
```
. . .
//- Mode 3 is a multi-threaded, but with no protection. Its purpose is to demonstrate
// that data races can occur in the absence of concurrency control.
else if (mode == 3)
    for (size_t i = 0; i < thread_count; ++i)</pre>
        fv.push_back(std::async(std::launch::async,
                                 std::bind(&st_access_test, std::ref(items), fp,
                                           tx_count, refs_count)));
    for (size_t i = 0; i < thread_count; ++i)</pre>
        fv[i].wait();
```

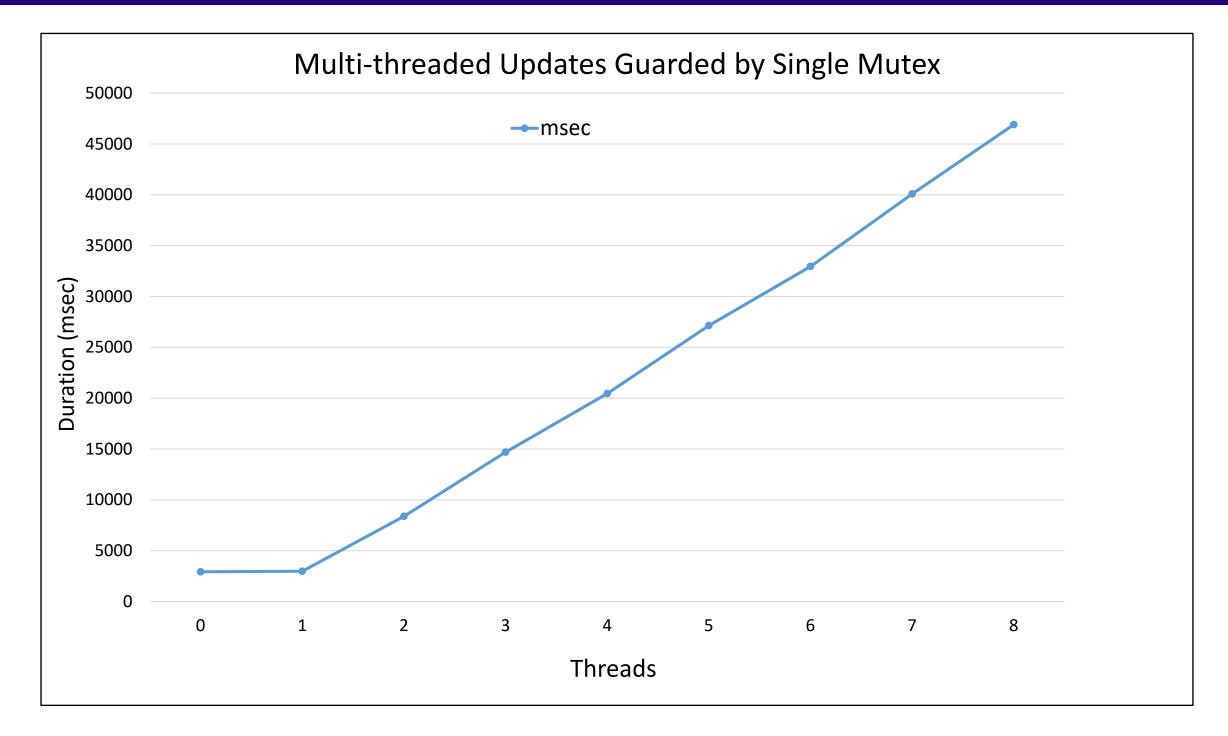
## Test Results

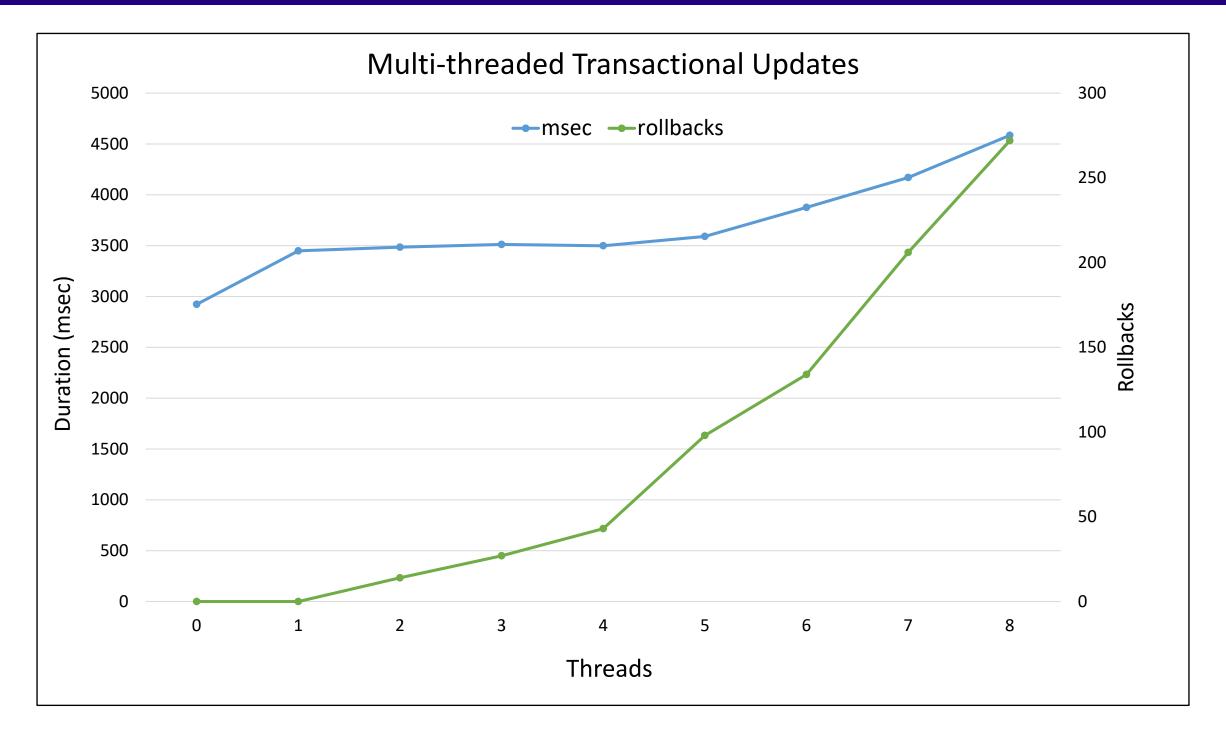


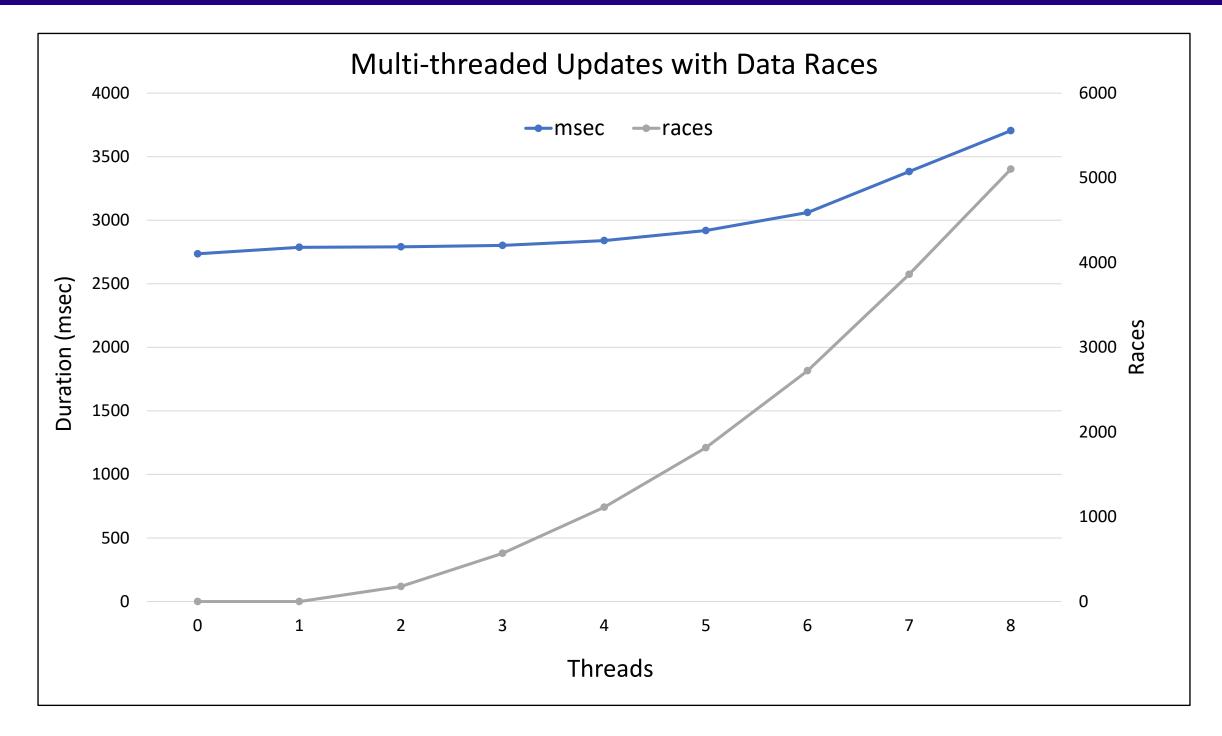


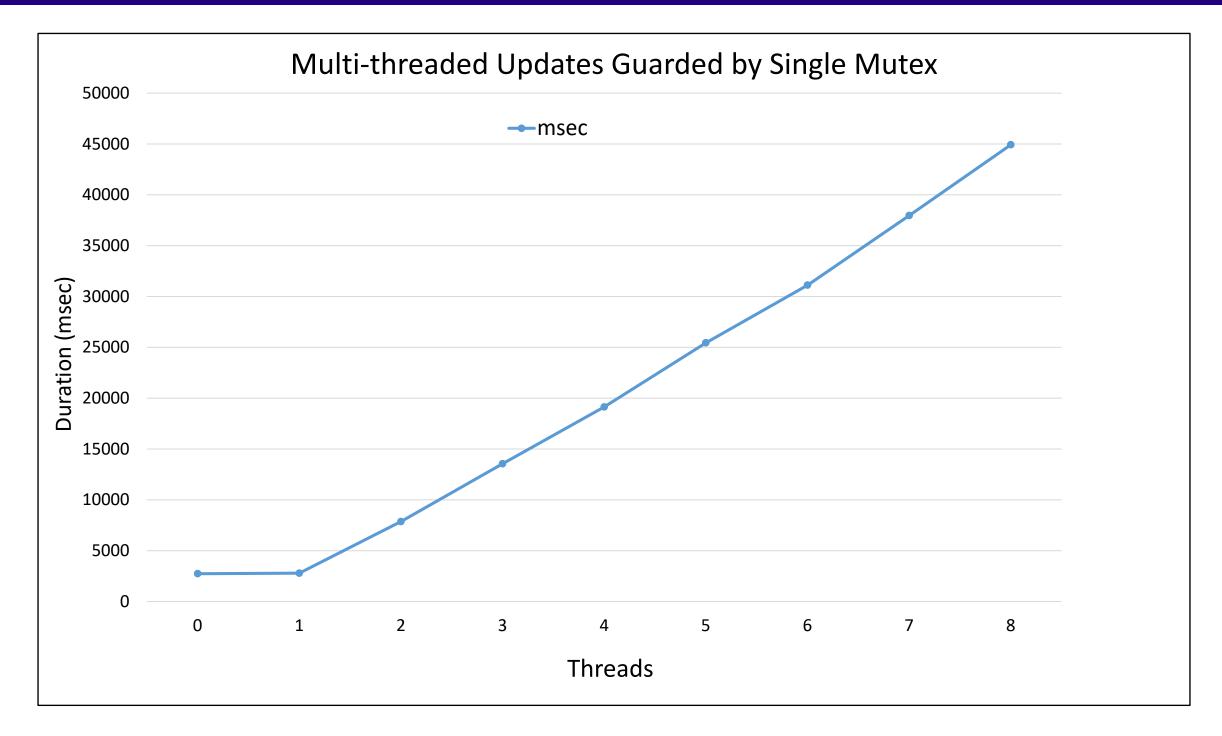


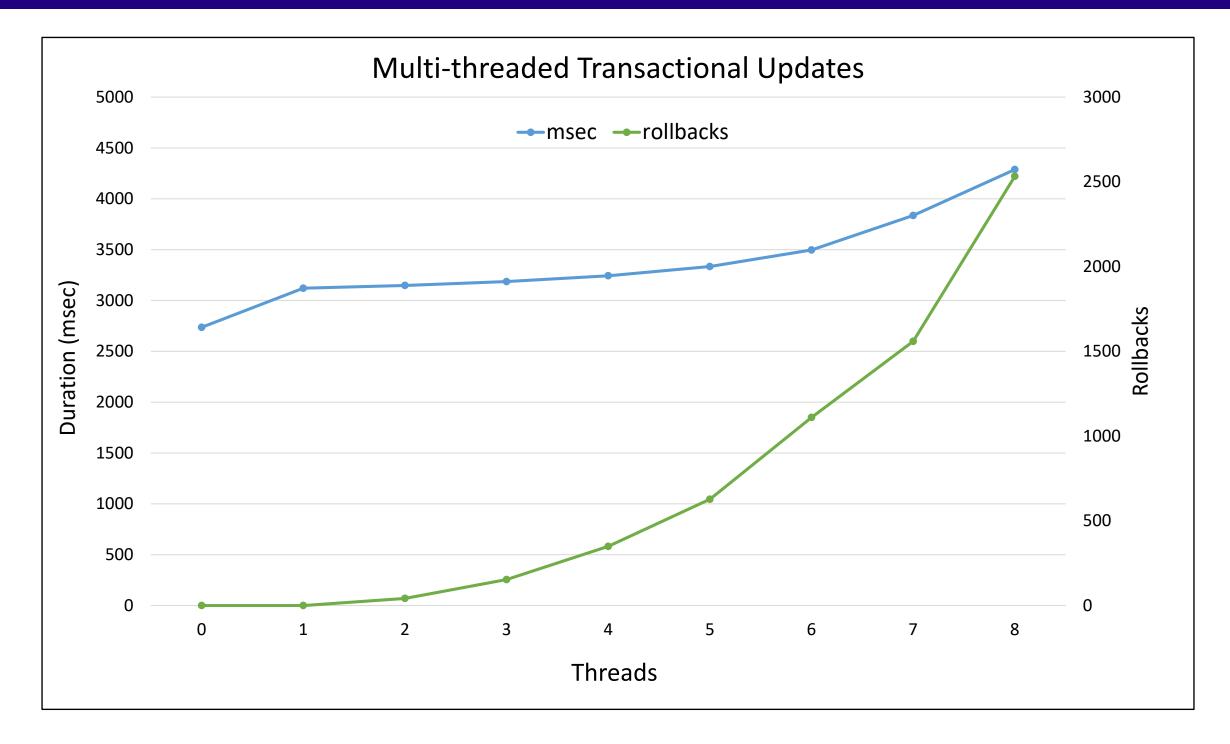


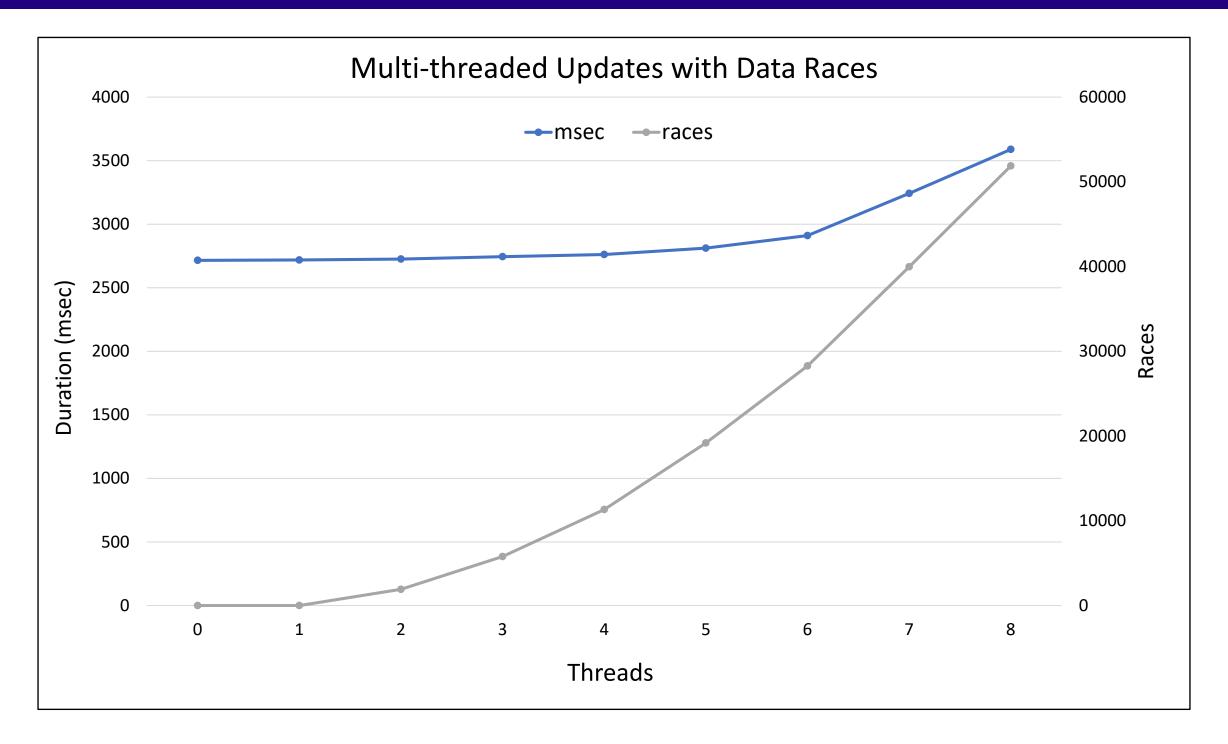


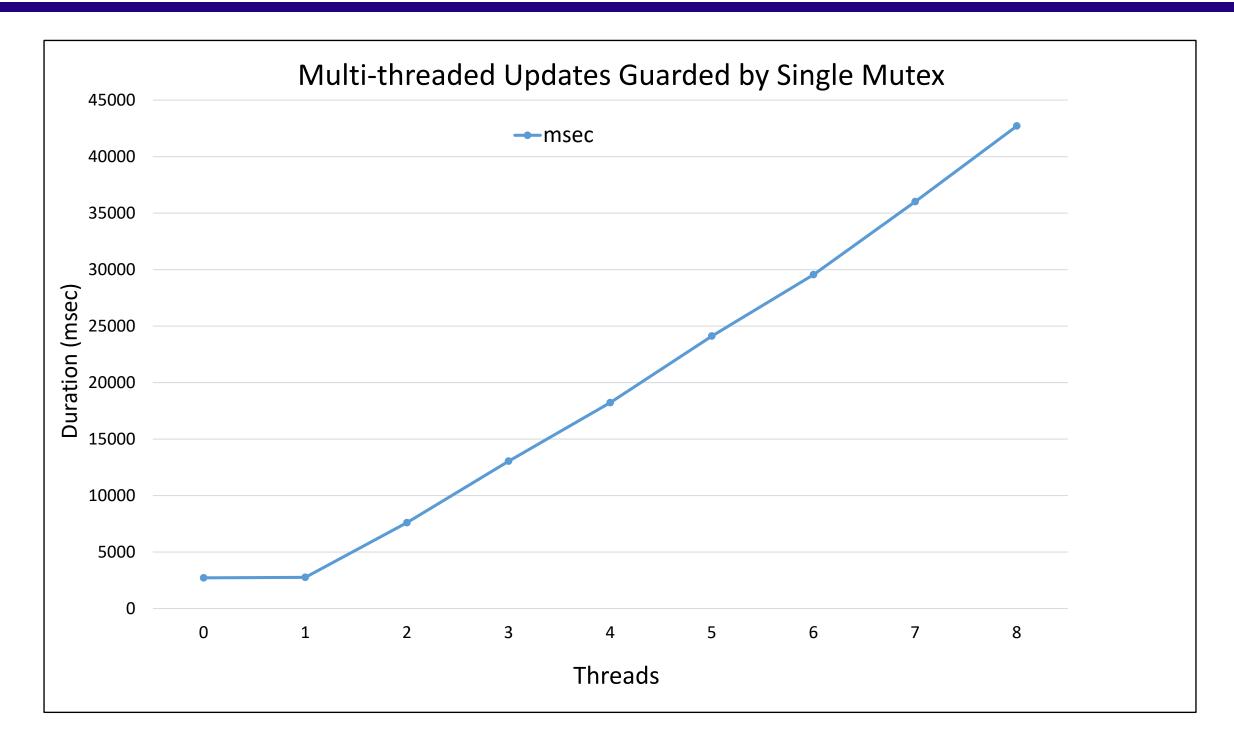


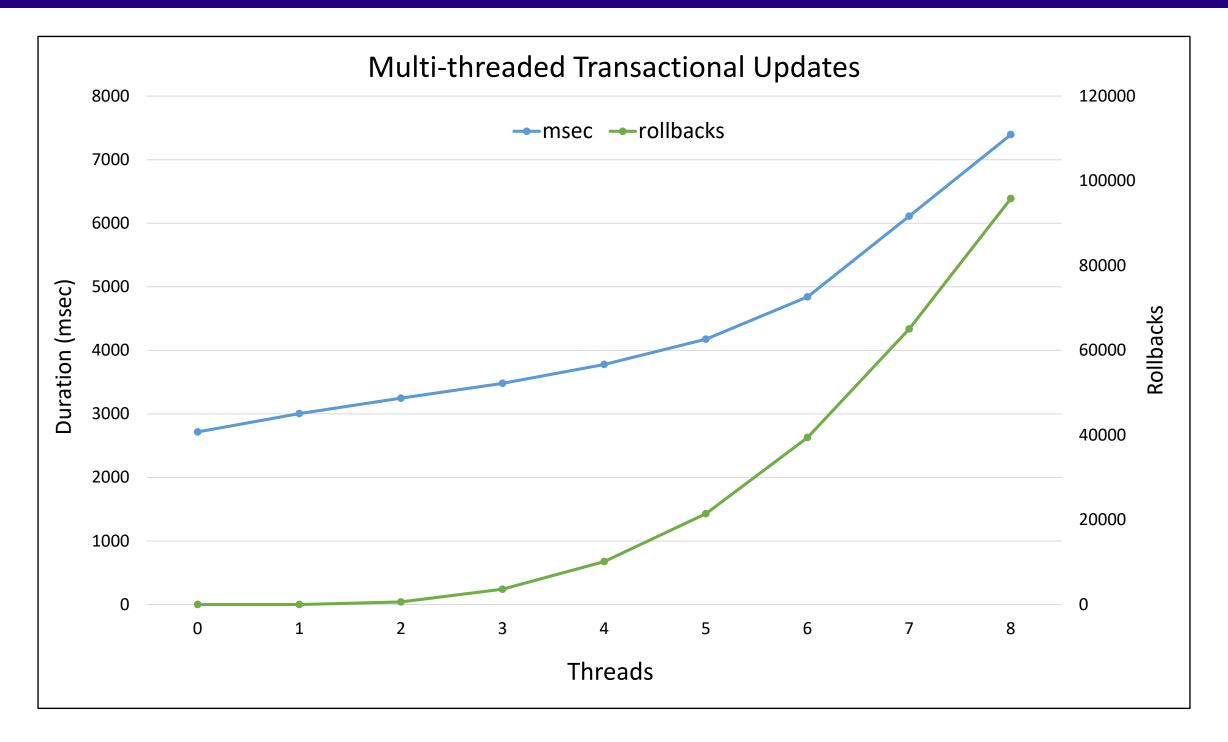


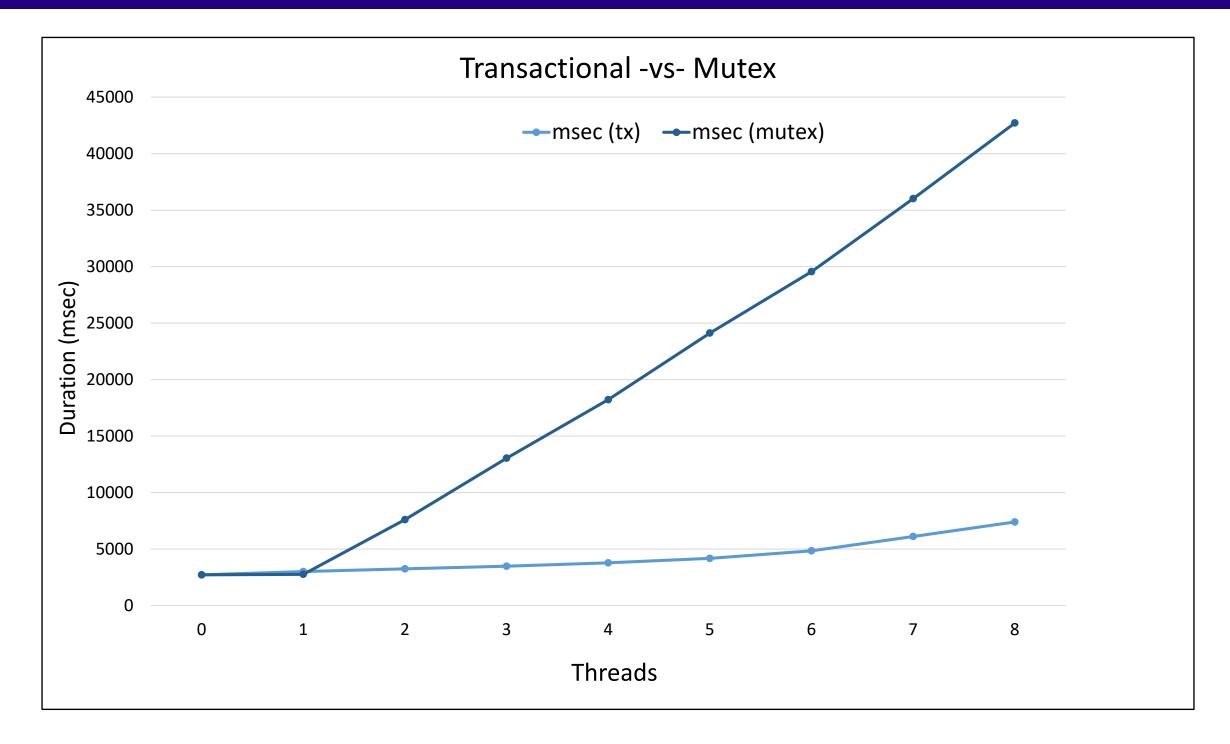


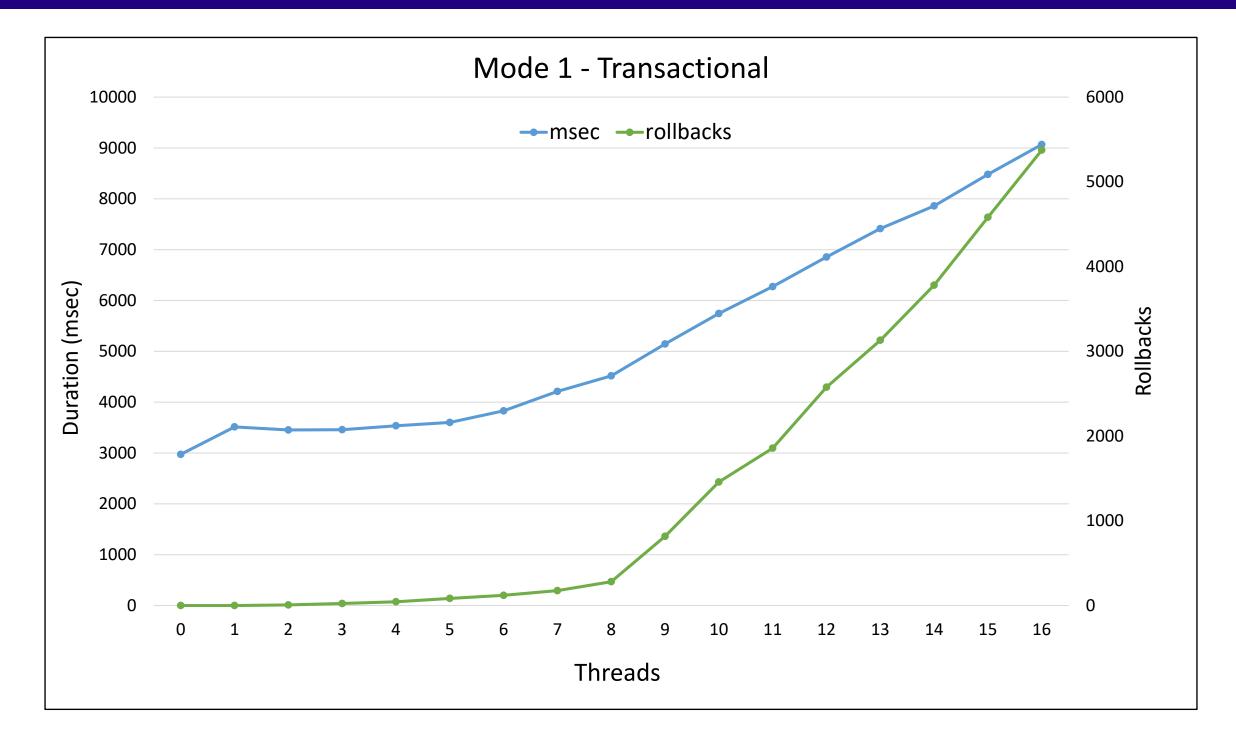












# Summary

#### Some Comments

- These tools operate upon containers and with elements, but don't require changing the containers themselves
- There is an assumption that the container's internal structure is unchanged while transactions are in progress
  - Consider the case of a vector resize
  - Consider the case of adding an element to a map
  - Could this be handled by a per-container shared mutex?

#### **Some Comments**

- So far, only std::vector has been used
  - The maximum number of elements is pre-allocated and resizes don't occur
- To obtain a container that is resizable
  - Create a home-grown hash table using std::vector
  - Each element of the vector is a hash bucket
  - Hash buckets have member functions for adding, finding, erasing elements
  - Hash buckets are locked during transactions, and their contents updated
  - With a good hash function, lookup time is quite fast (but not as fast as indexing)

#### **Some Comments**

- Some threads could starve
  - Transactions might become stale
- Other container types may be amenable...?

Lots of room for more work

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## Questions?

# Thank You for Attending!

Talk: github.com/BobSteagall/CppNow2019

Blog: bobsteagall.com