

18-447 Lecture 25: Synchronization

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Housekeeping

- Your goal today
 - be introduced to synchronization concepts
 - see hardware support for synchronization
- Notices
 - Lab 4: due Friday, 5/7 noon
 - HW5: due Friday, 5/7 10pm
 - Midterm 3: Tuesday, 5/11, 5:30~6:25pm
- Readings
 - P&H Ch2.11, Ch6
 - *Synthesis Lecture: Shared-Memory Synchronization*, 2013 (advanced optional)

A simple example: producer-consumer

- Consumer waiting for result from producer in shared-memory variable **D**ata
- Producer uses another shared-memory variable **R**eady to indicate readiness (**R**=0 initially)

(upper-case for shared-mem **V**ariables)

producer:

```
.....
  compute into D
  - - - - -
  R=1
  .....
```

consumer:

```
.....
  while (R!=1) ;
  - - - - -
  consume D
  .....
```

- Straightforward if SC; if WC, need memory fences to order operations on **R** and **D**

Data Races

- E.g., threads **T1** and **T2** increment a shared-memory variable **V** initially 0 (assume SC)

T1:

```
t=V
t=t+1
V=t
```

T2:

```
t=V
t=t+1
V=t
```

Both threads both read and write **V**

- What happens depends on what **T2** does in between **T1**'s read and write to **V** (and vice versa)
- Correctness depends on **T2** not reading or writing **V** between **T1**'s read and write (“critical section”)

Mutual Exclusion: General Strategy

- **Goal:** allow only either **T1** or **T2** to execute their respective critical sections at one time

No overlapping of critical sections!

- **Idea:** use a shared-memory variable **L**ock to indicate whether a thread is already in critical section and the other thread should wait
- **Conceptual Primitives:**
 - **wait-on:** to check and block if **L** is already set
 - **acquire:** to set **L** before a thread enters critical sect
 - **release:** to clear **L** when a thread leaves critical sect

Mutual Exclusion: 1st Try

- Assume **L=0** initially

T1:

```
while (L!=0) ;  
L=1 ;  
critical {  
  t=V  
  t=func1 (t, ...)  
  V=t  
  L=0 ;  
}
```

T2:

```
while (L!=0) ; ← wait  
L=1 ; ← acquire  
critical {  
  t=V  
  t=func2 (t, ...)  
  V=t  
  L=0 ; ← release  
}
```

But wait, same problem with data race on **L**

Mutual Exclusion: Dekker's

- Using 3 shared-memory variables: **C**lear**1**=1, **C**lear**2**=1, **T**urn=1 or 2 initially (assumes SC)

```

C1=0 ;
while (C2==0)
    if (T==2) {
        C1=1 ;
        while (T==2) ;
        C1=0 ;
    }
    { ... Critical Section ... }
T=2 ;
C1=1 ;

```

```

C2=0 ;
while (C1==0)
    if (T==1) {
        C2=1 ;
        while (T==1) ;
        C2=0 ;
    }
    { ... Critical Section ... }
T=1 ;
C2=1 ;

```

(hint: **T** is the tie breaker)

- Can you decipher this? Extend to 3-way?

Need an easier, more general solution

Atomic Read-Modify-Write Instruction

- Special class of memory instructions to facilitate implementations of lock synchronizations
- All effects “atomically” executed
 - reads a memory location
 - performs some simple calculation
 - writes something back to the same location

HW guarantees no intervening read/write by others

E.g.,

```
<swap> (addr, reg) :  
    temp ← MEM[addr] ;  
    MEM[addr] ← reg ;  
    reg ← temp ;
```

```
<test&set> (addr, reg) :  
    reg ← MEM[addr] ;  
    if (reg == 0)  
        MEM[addr] ← 1 ;
```

Expensive to implement and to execute

Acquire and Release

- Could rewrite earlier examples directly using `<swap>` or `<test&set>` instead loads and stores
- Better to hide ISA-dependence behind portable `Acquire()` and `Release()` routines

T1:

`Acquire(L);`

critical {
`t=V`
`t=func1(t, V, ...)`
`V=t`

`Release(L);`

T2:

`Acquire(L);`

critical {
`t=V`
`t=func2(t, V, ...)`
`V=t`

`Release(L);`

Note: implicit in `Acquire(L)` is to wait on `L` if not free

Acquire and Release

- Using `<swap>`, **L** initially 0

```
void Acquire(L) {  
    do {  
        reg=1;  
        <swap>(L, reg);  
    } while (reg!=0);  
}
```

```
void Release(L) {  
    L=0;  
}
```

- Using `<test&set>`, **L** initially 0

```
void Acquire(L) {  
    do {  
        <test&set>(L, reg);  
    } while (reg!=0);  
}
```

```
void Release(L) {  
    L=0;  
}
```

Many equally powerful variations of atomic
RMW insts can accomplish the same

High Cost of Atomic RMW Instructions

- Literal enforcement of atomicity very early on
- In CC shared-memory multiproc/multicores
 - RMW requires a writeable **M/E** cache copy
 - lock cacheblock from replacement during RMW
 - expensive when lock contended by many concurrent acquires—a lot of cache misses and cacheblock transfers, just to swap “1” with “1”
- Optimization
 - check lock value using normal load on read-only **S** copy
 - attempt RMW only when success is possible

```
do {  
    reg=1;  
    if (!L) {  
        <swap>(L, reg);  
    }  
} while (reg!=0);
```

RMW without Atomic Instructions

- Add per-thread architectural state: *reserved*, *address* and *status*

```
<ld-linked>(reg, addr) :  
  reg ← MEM[addr];  
  reserved ← 1;  
  address ← addr;
```

```
<st-cond>(addr, reg) :  
  if (reserved &&  
      address==addr)  
    M[addr] ← reg;  
    status ← 1;  
  else  
    status ← 0;
```

- `<ld-linked>` requests **S**-copy (if not cached **S** / **M**)
- HW clears *reserved* if cached copy lost due to CC (i.e., store or `<st-cond>` at another thread)
- If *reserved* stays valid until `<st-cond>`, request **M**-copy (if not already **M**) and update; can be no other intervening stores to `addr` in between!!

Acquire () by ld-linked and st-cond

```
void Acquire (L) {  
    do  
        reg=1;  
    do {  
        <ld-linked>(reg, L)  
        while (reg!=0);  
        <st-cond>(L, reg);  
    } while (status==0);  
}
```

if **L** is modified in between by another thread, <st-cond> will fail and you know to try again

Resolving Data Race without Lock

- E.g., two threads **T1** and **T2** increment a shared-memory variable **V** initially 0 (assume SC)

context
switch
okay?

```
T1:
do {
  <ld-linked>(t, V)
  t=t+1
  <st-cond>(V, t)
  while(status==0)
```

```
T2:
do {
  <ld-linked>(t, V)
  t=t+1
  <st-cond>(V, t)
  while(status==0)
```

- Atomicity not guaranteed, but
- You know if you succeeded; no effect if you don't

Just try and try again until you succeed

Transactional Memory

T1:

```
TxnBegin ();  
  
t=V  
t=func1 (t, V, ...)  
V=t  
  
TxnEnd ();
```

T2:

```
TxnBegin ();  
  
t=V  
t=func2 (t, V, ...)  
V=t  
  
TxnEnd ();
```

- **Acquire (L) / Release (L)** say do one at a time
- **TxnBegin () / TxnEnd ()** say “look like” done one at a time

Implementation can allow transactions to overlap and only fixes things if violations observable

Optimistic Execution Strategy

- Allow multiple transaction executions to overlap
- Detect atomicity violations between transactions
- On violation, one of the conflicting transactions is aborted (i.e., restarted from the beginning)
 - TM writes are speculative until reaching **TxnEnd**
 - speculative TM writes not observable by others
- Effective when actual violation is unlikely, e.g.,
 - multiple threads sharing a complex data structure
 - cannot decide statically which part of the data structure touched by different threads' accesses
 - conservative locking adds a cost to every access
 - TM incurs a cost only when data races occur

Why not transaction'ize everything?

$p=2$

```
void *sumParallel
    (void *_id) {
    long id=(long) _id;
    long i;
    long N=ARRAY_SIZE/ $p$ ;

    TxnBegin();
    for(i=0;i<N;i++) {
        double v=A[id*N+i];
        if (v>=0)
            SumPos+=v;
        else
            SumNeg+=v;
    }
    TxnEnd();
}
```

```
void *sumParallel
    (void *_id) {
    long id=(long) _id;
    long i;
    long N=ARRAY_SIZE/ $p$ ;

    for(i=0;i<N;i++) {
        TxnBegin();
        double v=A[id*N+i];
        if (v>=0)
            SumPos+=v;
        else
            SumNeg+=v;
        TxnEnd();
    }
}
```

```
void *sumParallel
    (void *_id) {
    long id=(long) _id;
    long i;
    long N=ARRAY_SIZE/ $p$ ;

    for(i=0;i<N;i++) {
        double v=A[id*N+i];
        if (v>=0) {
            TxnBegin();
            SumPos+=v;
            TxnEnd();
        } else {
            TxnBegin();
            SumNeg+=v;
            TxnEnd();
        }
    }
}
```

*Compute separate sums of positive and negative elements of **A** in **SumPos** and **SumNeg***

Better??

Overhead vs Likelihood of Succeeding

```

void *sumParallel
    (void *_id) {
    long id=(long) _id;
    long i;
    long N=ARRAY_SIZE/P;
    double psumPos=0;
    double psumNeg=0;
    } local non-shared

    for(i=0;i<N;i++) {
        double v=A[id*N+i];
        if (v>=0)
            psumPos+=v;
        else
            psumNeg+=v;
    }
    TxnBegin();
    if (psumPos) SumPos+=psumPos;
    if (psumNeg) SumNeg+=psumNeg;
    TxnEnd();
}

```

versus

```

    if (psumPos) {
        Acquire(L_pos);
        SumPos+=psumPos;
        Release(L_pos);
    }
    if (psumNeg) {
        Acquire(L_neg);
        SumNeg+=psumNeg;
        Release(L_neg);
    }

    if (psumPos || psumNeg) {
        Acquire(L);
        SumPos+=psumPos;
        SumNeg+=psumNeg;
        Release(L);
    }
}

```

Detecting Atomicity Violation

- A transaction tracks memory **RdSet** and **WrSet**
- Txn_a appears atomic respect to Txn_b if
 - $\text{WrSet}(\text{Txn}_a) \cap (\text{WrSet}(\text{Txn}_b) \cup \text{RdSet}(\text{Txn}_b)) = \emptyset$
 - $\text{RdSet}(\text{Txn}_a) \cap \text{WrSet}(\text{Txn}_b) = \emptyset$
- Lazy Detection
 - broadcast **RdSet** and **WrSet** to other txns at **TxnEnd**
 - waste time on txns that failed early on
- Eager Detection
 - check violations on-the-fly by monitoring other txns' reads and writes
 - require frequent communications

Oversimplified HW-based TM using CC

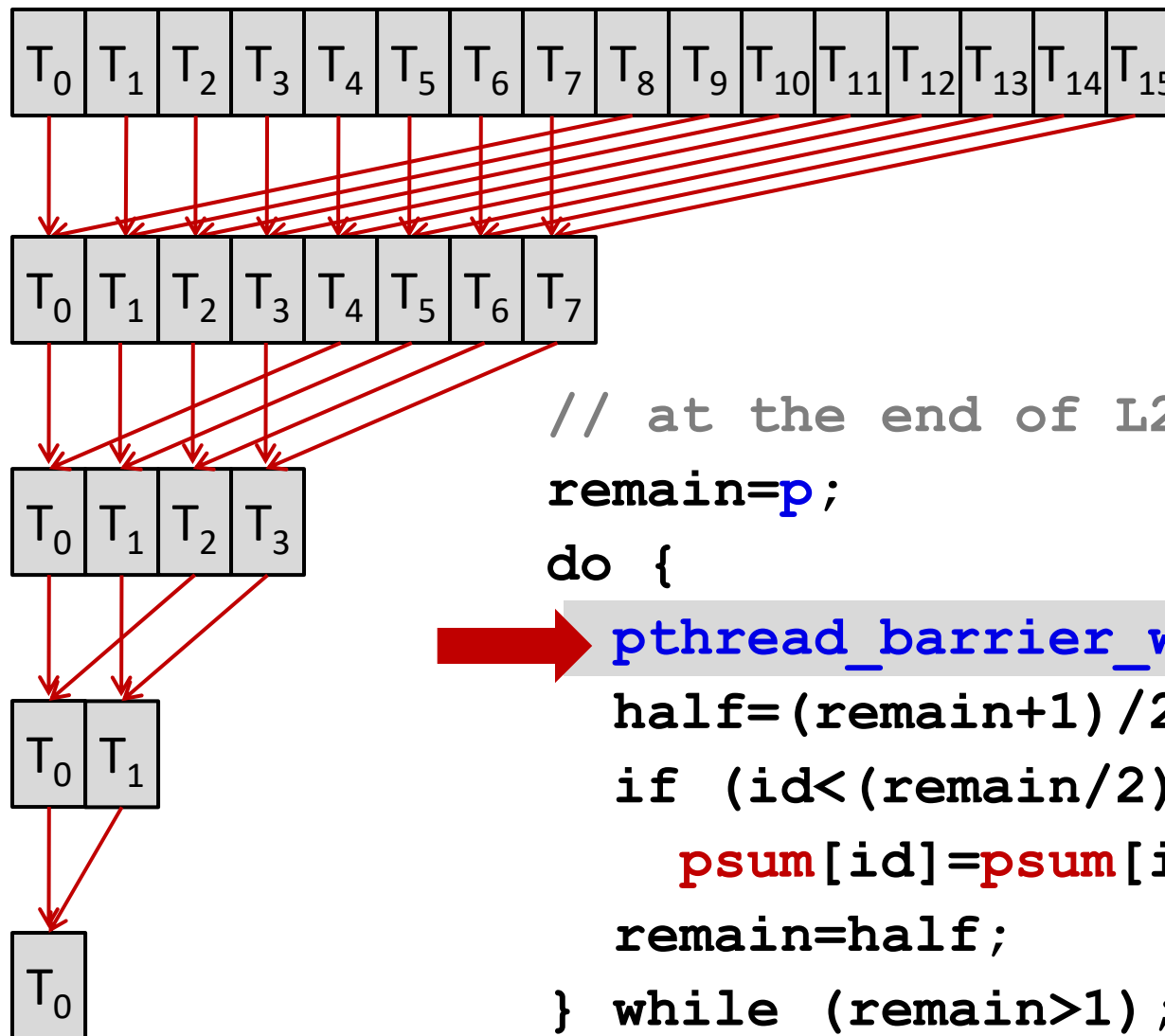
- Add **RdSet** and **WrSet** status bits to identify cacheblocks accessed since **TxnBegin**
- Speculative TM writes
 - issue **BusRdOwn/Invalidate** if starting in **I** or **S**
 - issue **BusWr**(old value) on first write to **M** block
 - on abort, silently invalidate **WrSet** cacheblocks
 - on reaching **TxnEnd**, clear **RdSet/WrSet** bits

Assume **RdSet/WrSet** cacheblocks are never displaced

- Eager Detection
 - snoop for **BusRd**, **BusRdOwn**, and **Invalidation**
 - **M**→**S**, **M**→**I** or **S**→**I** downgrades to **RdSet/WrSet** indicative of atomicity violation

Which transaction to abort?

Barrier Synchronization



```
// at the end of L20 sumParallel()
```

```
remain=p;
```

```
do {
```

```
    pthread_barrier_wait(&barrier);
```

```
    half=(remain+1)/2;
```

```
    if (id<(remain/2))
```

```
        psum[id]=psum[id]+psum[id+half];
```

```
    remain=half;
```

```
} while (remain>1);
```

(Blocking) Barriers

- Ensure a group of threads have all reached an agreed upon point
 - threads that arrive early have to wait
 - all are released when the last thread enters
- Can build from shared memory on small systems
e.g., for a simple 1-time-use barrier ($B=0$ initially)

```
Acquire ( $L_B$ )  
 $B=B+1$  ;  
Release ( $L_B$ )  
while ( $B \neq \text{NUM\_THREADS}$ ) ;
```



enter
wait

- Barrier on large systems are expensive, often supported/assisted by dedicated HW

Nonblocking Barriers

- Separate primitives for enter and exit
 - **enterBar()** is non-blocking and only records that a thread has reached the barrier

```
Acquire ( $L_B$ )  
 $B=B+1$  ;  
Release ( $L_B$ )
```

- **exitBar()** blocks until the barrier is complete

```
while ( $B \neq \text{NUM\_THREADS}$ ) ;
```

- A thread
 - calls **enterBar()** then go on to independent work
 - calls **exitBar()** only when no more work that doesn't depend on the barrier