多线程 Multithreading

现代C++基础 Modern C++ Basics

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Synchronization utilities

High-level Abstraction of Asynchronous Operation

Multithreading

Multithreading

- Thread
 - Abstract thread model
 - thread
 - jthread
 - Miscellaneous topics

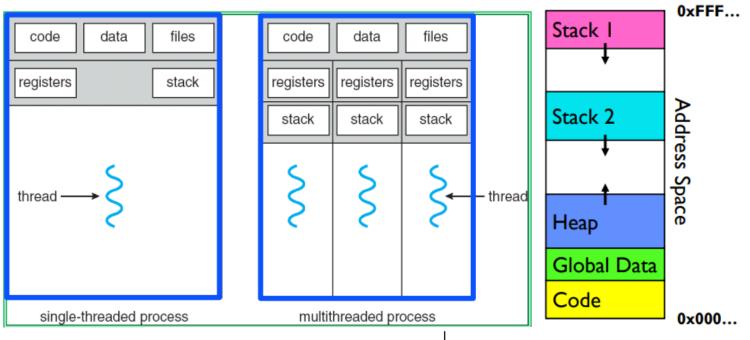
Thread model

- We first briefly review what thread is...
- We've learnt in ICS that each program is a process;
 - It has independent address space, and possibly other status like file descriptors (depend on OS).
 - Good isolation, good protection, really limited ability to access memory of another process.
- Threads: less protection, better data sharing!
 - They still partially keep their own set of resources (like registers)...
 - But lie in the same virtual address space, so easy to access memory of other threads!
 - Usually, OS will schedule threads instead of processes;
 - So to some extent, we can say threads are the smallest units to utilize multicore parallelism.

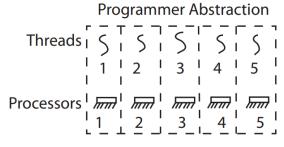
BTW: C++ standard in fact doesn't have a concept of "process", since all things it regulates happen in a single program; you need OS-dependent APIs to manipulate processes, like fork/exec in Linux, or external libraries like Boost.Process.

Thread model

In a nutshell:



Roughly speaking, if there are two physical cores, there are actually only two threads executing simultaneously; but OS gives an illusion that more than two threads run concurrently by scheduling.



Physical Reality

Physical Reality

Physical Reality

Physical Reality

Physical Reality

Show that the second sec

Credit: Prof. Jin Xin @ PKU OS.

We only give a very rough understanding of thread; you need to learn it comprehensively in OS course.

Thread model

- Scheduling is in fact pausing a running thread, then running a ready thread.
 - And scheduling algorithms determine which to pause and which to run.
 - Registers will be saved and restored during context switch.
- Threads compete with each other for executing themselves!
 - Thus, you may think statements may execute in any order, which leads to data race and synchronization problems.^[1]
- Threads need to be joined or detached after creation; the former will wait until the thread function exits, and the latter will make it execute separately and freely.

[1]: We'll give a rigorous definition for data races in *Advanced Concurrency*.

Multithreading

- Thread
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- We've learnt in ICS how to use pthread in POSIX system.
 - pthread_create/join/..., like this:
 - Obscure C interface...
 - The thread function should be void* func(void*);
 - 2. Parameters are packed in a void* to be passed in.
 - You need to unpack it inside the thread function, like (int) here.
 - 3. Return value is accepted by void*.
 - Here we pthread_join(..., NULL), i.e. not need return value.
 - If you need it, unpack again...
 - Very strange... can we improve it in C++?

```
// create the function to be executed as a thread
void *thread(void *ptr)
    int type = (int) ptr;
    fprintf(stderr, "Thread - %d\n", type);
    return ptr;
int main(int argc, char **argv)
    // create the thread objs
   pthread t thread1, thread2;
   int thr = 1;
    int thr2 = 2:
    // start the threads
   pthread create(&thread1, NULL, thread, (void *) thr)
   pthread create(&thread2, NULL, thread, (void *) thr2)
   // wait for threads to finish
   pthread join(thread1,NULL);
   pthread join(thread2,NULL);
    return 0;
```

- Of course! We may code like:
- Very intuitive, very simple, by std::thread defined in <thread>.
 - 1. It isn't limited to a function, but can use any functor.
 - It's equivalent to call std::invoke, so you can also pass into pointer to member function with this, like { &SomeClass::MemberFunc, this, params... };
 - Functor will be copied; you can explicitly std::move(functor) to make it a std::ref to make it a std::referous
 - 2. You can call .detach() to detach the thread.
 - After join/detach, the underlying thread is not associated with std::thread object. Unless you move a new object to it, this std::thread object is in an empty state (just like default-constructed/moved).
 - 3. Return value of func will be omitted; it should be passed by ref. param.

```
void func(int num)
{
    std::println("Thread info: {}", num);
}
int main()
{
    std::thread t{ func, 1 };
    t.join();
}
```

- And some other APIs:
 - 1. Move ctor, move assignment, and swappable (by .swap() or std::swap).
 - 2. .joinable() -> bool: whether the thread is in an empty state.
 - E.g. before calling .join()/.detach(), it returns true; afterwards false.
 - 3. Dtor: std::terminate if .joinable(), otherwise do nothing;
 - That is, every running std::thread must call .join()/.detach() before destruction.
 - 4. .get_id(): get thread id;
 - Class std::thread::id instead of simply an integer.
 - Restricted integer: only comparable, hashable and printable (by << since C++11 or std::formatter since C++23).
 - Particularly, it only supports fill-align-width format.
 - std::thread in empty state will get default-constructed id.

- Note: parameters are decay-copied to the thread functions.
 - And since C++23 it can be explained by auto(...) + materialization, i.e. generate a prvalue that is materialized in the current thread.
 - So auto will decay type, e.g. Object& -> Object.
 - When forwarded type is Object&, then copy;
 - When Object&&, then move;
- Let's break it down step by step...

```
void func(Object object)
{
    std::cout << "Thread id: " << std::this_thread::get_id() << "\n";
}
int main()
{
    std::cout << "Main id: " << std::this_thread::get_id() << "\n";
    std::thread t{ func, Object{} };
    t.join();
}</pre>
```

```
std::thread t{ func, Object{} };
```

```
template< class F, class... Args >
explicit thread( F&& f, Args&&... args );
```

- 1. Parameters are passed into ctor of std::thread.
 - Encountering reference, prvalue Object{} is materialized and thus constructed as arg0.
- 2. arg0 is then decay-copied.
 - Here it's prvalue Object{ std:: move(arg0) }, and materialized (and thus move-constructed).

- 3. Then thread executes std::invoke;
 - · Materialized parameters are passed to new thread.
- 4. And finally arg1 is forwarded to parameters of func.
 - And thus move-constructed as object.

```
1) Invoke the Callable object [f] with the parameters [args] as by 
 INVOKE(std::forward<F>(f), std::forward<Args>(args)...)
```

template< class F, class... Args >

invoke(F&& f, Args&&... args)

std::invoke_result_t<F, Args...>

```
void func(Object object)
{
    std::cout << "Thread id: " << std::this_thread::get_id() << "\n";
}</pre>
```

You'll implement std::thread yourself in our homework to know how these really happen.

• The first three steps happen at the current thread, and the final step happens at the new thread.

Main id: 21244

- So the output is like:
 - Any exception thrown in step 1 & 2 can then be caught in old thread.

Main id: 21244
Construct at 21244
Move at 21244
Destruct at 21244
Move at 8504
Thread id: 8504
Destruct at 8504
Destruct at 8504

Step 1 Step 2; new thread executes Step 3. Param of thread ctor destructed. Step 4

Param of func destructed. Materialized temporary destructed.

- Exercise: is this piece of code right?
 - No, since we forward materialized temporary to func, i.e. func(std::move(...));
 - And you cannot bind rvalue to Ivalue reference...
 - Even if you use const int&, it in fact refers to a temporary, not the parameter you passed to thread ctor.

```
#include <thread>
#include <iostream>

void func(int& type) {
    type = 2;
}

int main()

{
    int type = 1;
    std::thread t{ func, type };
    t.join();
    return 0;
}
```

- Reason: decay-copy instead of reference is safer.
 - We've learnt in ICS that you may pass a pointer to another thread, so that another thread can access memory of current thread.

t.join();

C:\WINDOWS\system32

std::cout << type; 2请按任意键继续. . .

- If the referred object goes out of its lifetime, you're accessing invalid memory!
- Simultaneous access in different threads may lead to data races too.
- You need to use std::(c)ref() explicitly to pass the (const) reference.
 - You've seen similar way in std::bind_xx, which also warns you about lifetime problem.

```
native_handle_type native_handle(); (since C++11) (not always present)
```

Returns the implementation defined underlying thread handle.

- Note 1: APIs provided in std::thread are high-level; sometimes you may want fine-grained control.
 - For example, you may want to change the priority of some threads.
 - It's platform-dependent, so C++ provides a .native_handle() for it.
 - The return type is platform-dependent (e.g. pthread_t in POSIX system).
- Note 2: static constexpr std::thread::hardware_concurrency() can be used to check number of real parallel threads.
 - Roughly speaking, how many physical cores.
 - This is only a hint to the possible maximum parallelism; you need profiling to get the best thread number for your program's performance.
 - When the system cannot give a hint, return 0.

- Note 3: some rare but possible exceptions, listed here.
 - All exceptions are std::system_error with some error code.
 - Ctor: *Throws*: system_error if unable to start the new thread.

Error conditions: i.e. error code

- resource_unavailable_try_again the system lacked the necessary resources to create another thread, or the system-imposed limit on the number of threads in a process would be exceeded.
- .join()/.detach():

Error conditions:

- resource_deadlock_would_occur if deadlock is detected or get_id() == this_thread::get_id(). A thread waiting for itself; .detach() doesn't have this case.
- no_such_process if the thread is not valid.
- invalid_argument if the thread is not joinable.

- Note 4: namespace std::this_thread has many methods for the current thread.
 - get_id(): get id of current thread.
 - sleep_for()/sleep_until(): pause the current thread.
 - yield(): request scheduling.
 - We've said that threads compete with each other; OS will schedule a thread when it has executing for a period of time.
 - That is, a thread will execute eagerly, and OS forces it to pause.
 - yield means the thread gives up execution right voluntarily, and OS reschedules it.
 - However, OS may still choose the original thread to run, if the priority of this thread is high enough so that scheduling algorithms still choose it.
 - i.e. pause the thread, save its state, and reload the same state, and continue to run.

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jthread

- C++ encourages RAII, which means dtor will release resource acquired by ctor.
 - But std::thread seems to violate it, because if you forget to join/detach a thread, then the whole program is terminated.
 - std::jthread in <thread> since C++20 is used to solve that; it will
 automatically join the thread if its joinable() is still true in dtor.
 - It has all APIs of std::thread, i.e. you can use join/detach/swap/move/ native_handle/joinable/get_id/hardware_concurrency.
 - But move will try to join thread it holds, and then move another to *this.
 - Self-move will also join itself!
- In C++11, some argue that termination is better than silent wait, which makes it not default behavior for std::thread.

From the start (pre-C++11), many (incl. me) had wanted **thread** to have what is now **jthread**'s behavior, but people grounded in traditional operating systems threads insisted that terminating a program was far preferable to a deadlock. In 2012 and 2013, Herb Sutter proposed a joining

jthread

- Besides, std::jthread also adds stop token handling.
 - Also sometimes called *cooperative cancellation*.
- We know that threads compete and execute eagerly.
 - You can seldom force a thread to do something, but request it to do.
 - For stopping a thread, you may set some shared data, and the thread checks it periodically; when check succeeds, it **returns voluntarily**.
 - Note that you can NOT kill a thread (though you can kill a process), since data dependence in threads is too common.
 - For example, what if a thread is still holding a lock, but it's forced to exit? Then
 the waiting thread will go into deadlock!
 - All in all, you can hardly ever guarantee a thread to be in a consistent state when you kill it; that's why we need stop token as a hint.

- So the requester holds a stop source, and the thread holds a stop token that associates with the stop source.
 - To prevent use-after-free, they share an underlying stop state with reference counts;
 - The state records related information and will be freed when counts goes to 0.
 - The stop source can only request once, which sets some flag in state;
 - Future requests have no actual effects.
 - · And the stop token can check regularly whether the flag is set.
- So the state should expose interface below:
 - Setter: request_stop(), set the flag;
 - Getter: stop_requested(), check whether the flag is set;
 - Share/Detach: increment/decrement reference count.

 And accordingly, std::stop_source and std::stop_token in <stop_token> wrap and expose them in a thread-safe way.

```
std::stop_source:
Setter: .request_stop();
Getter: .stop_requested();
Share & Detach:
Default ctor: create a stop_source with newly created state.
Copy ctor & assignment: share the current state with others;
Move ctor & assignment: transfer the ownership;
Dtor: detach.
```

.get_token() -> std::stop_token: get a stop token that shares the same state.

- std::stop token:
 - No setter;
 - Getter: .stop requested();
 - Share & Detach:
 - Copy ctor & assignment: share the current state with others;
 - Move ctor & assignment: transfer the ownership;
 - Dtor: detach.
- For example:

```
void func(std::stop_token token, int& cnt)
{
    while (!token.stop_requested())
    {
        cnt++;
    }
}
```

```
int main()
{
   int cnt = 0;
   using namespace std::literals; // To use literal suffix 'ms'.

   std::stop_source source;
   std::thread t{ func, source.get_token(), std::ref(cnt) };
   std::this_thread::sleep_for(1ms);
   source.request_stop();
   t.join();

   return 0;
}
```

- They can also attach to an empty state, then every operation does nothing.
 - std::stop_token: default construct it;
 - std::stop source: add a placeholder tag:

```
explicit stop_source( std::nostopstate_t nss ) noexcept; (2) std::stop_source source{ std::nostopstate }
```

- Since default ctor will create a new state.
- When they're e.g. moved-from, then the state will be empty too.
- To check whether the current state is empty, you can use method .stop_possible(); it returns false when empty.
 - And .stop_requested() also returns false when empty.
- Particularly, when only stop tokens associate with a state that hasn't been requested (i.e. no stop source, so no possible request), token.stop_possible() also returns false.

• To conclude:

std::stop_token

Member functions

(constructor)	(public member function)
(destructor)	destructs the stop_token object (public member function)
operator=	assigns the stop_token object (public member function)
Modifiers	
swap	swaps two stop_token objects (public member function)
Observers	
stop_requested	checks whether the associated stop-state has been requested to stop (public member function)
stop_possible checks whether associated stop-state can be requested to stop (public member function)	

Non-member functions

operator== (C++20)	compares two std::stop_token objects (function)
<pre>swap(std::stop_token) (C++20)</pre>	specializes the std::swap algorithm (function)

std::stop_source

Member functions

ODOFATOR=	assigns the stop_source object (public member function)
Idestructori	destructs the stop_source object (public member function)
(CONSTRUCTOR)	constructs new stop_source object (public member function)

request_stop	makes a stop request for the associated stop-state, if any (public member function)
swap	swaps two stop_source objects (public member function)

Observers

get_token	returns a stop_token for the associated stop-state (public member function)
stop_requested	checks whether the associated stop-state has been requested to stop (public member function)
stop_possible	checks whether associated stop-state can be requested to stop (public member function)

Non-member functions

operator== (C++20)	<pre>compares two std::stop_source objects (function)</pre>
<pre>swap(std::stop_source) (C++20)</pre>	specializes the std::swap algorithm (function)

- So how does std::jthread cooperate with stop token?
- 1. It contains a default-constructed std::stop source directly.
 - .get_stop_source() to get a copy;
 - .get_stop_token() to get a token associated with underlying source;
 - Equivalent to underlying_source.get_token().
 - And .request_stop(), equivalent to underlying_source.request_stop().
- 2. In dtor of std::jthread, if the source hasn't issued a request,
 call .request_stop();
 - RAII to some extent.
- 3. When possible, it will pass get_token() to its functor.

The new thread of execution starts executing:

if the expression above is well-formed, otherwise starts executing:

For example:

get_stop_token() is
provided automatically.

This may be omitted since dtor of std::jthread will automatically .request_stop().

Note that std::cout is safe to be used in multiple threads; other streams should use std::osyncstream in C++20.

• Another example:

t2 doesn't use its own .get_token()
in functor; the functor shares the
 same state with t.

```
using namespace std::literals;
std::jthread t{ [](std::stop token token) {
    while (!token.stop requested())
        std::cout << "PKU No.1!\n";
std::jthread t2{ [](std::stop token token) {
    while (!token.stop_requested())
        std::cout << "THU No.2!\n";
}, t.get_stop_token() };
std::this_thread::sleep_for(1s);
t.request_stop();
```

Question: can we omit t.request_stop() here?

No! Since t2 is destructed first, so t2.join() is before t.request_stop() in dtor of t.

Thus infinite loop in t2...

The new thread of execution starts executing:

if the expression above is well-formed, otherwise starts executing:

- Finally, stop request can be associated with callbacks.
 - By std::stop callback with std::stop token:
 - Ctor registers callback on the state;

```
template< class C >
explicit stop_callback( const std::stop_token& st, C&& cb ) noexcept(/*see below*/);
```

- Dtor deregisters the callback.
- For example:

```
using namespace std::literals;
                                             PKU No.1!
                                             PKU No.1!
std::jthread t{ [](std::stop_token_token) {
                                             PKU No.1!
    while (!token.stop requested())
                                             PKU No.1!
                                             PKU No.1!
                                             PKU No.1!
        std::cout << "PKU No.1!\n";
                                             PKU No.1!
                                             PKU No.1!
                                             PKU No.1!
                                             PKU No.1!
                                             PKU No.1!
                                             PKU No.1!
std::stop callback callback{
    t.get_stop_token(),
                                             PKU No.1!
                                             PKU No.11
     PKU No.1!
                                             PKU No.1!
                                             PKU No.1!
                                             PKU No.1!
std::this thread::sleep for(1s);
t.request stop();
```

- Note 1: it's quite like doing callback in a thread-safe way.
 - Callbacks will be executed exactly once for multiple requests;
 - Register and deregister are thread-safe; Deregister in a thread will wait for invocation in another thread if they happen in parallel.
- Note 2: the thread that first calls .request_stop() will execute all callbacks;
 - If there are multiple callbacks, the execution order is not regulated.
- Note 3: when request has been issued before registering...
 - i.e. in ctor of std::stop_callback, token.stop_requested() == true;
 - Then callback will be executed immediately in ctor in the current thread.
- Note 4: callback is not allowed to throw; std::terminate() if
 exception is thrown out of callback (treated as if noexcept).

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Exception in threads

- We know that if we don't catch an exception in a single-threaded program, then std::terminate.
- Generally speaking, any thread that doesn't catch its exception when exiting will lead to std::terminate.
- So code right doesn't work:

```
void func()
{
    throw std::runtime_error{ "Not implemented" };
}
int main()
{
    try {
        std::thread t{ func }; // std::terminate!
        t.join();
    }
    catch (const std::runtime_error& err)
{
        // ...
}
```

Exception in threads

- So how can we pass the exception out of the thread?
- By std::exception_ptr defined in <exception>!
 - Roughly speaking, it's a shared pointer to exception.
 - Only when all pointers to the exception object destruct will the object destruct.
 - The actual type is implementation-defined... using exception_ptr = /*unspecified*/ (since C++11)
 - It's regulated to expose these interfaces:
 - Default construct: as if it's a nullptr;
 - std::make_exception_ptr(Exception): make a pointer that copies Exception;
 - And can be converted to bool, like a pointer.
 - std::current_exception(): used in catch block, as if make_exception_ptr to the current caught exception;
 - std::rethrow_exception(std::exception_ptr): rethrow the exception object.

Exception in threads

For example:

Pass exception out of thread by parameter.

```
void Watch()
/oid THUStudent() {
   throw std::runtime_error("THU is not best!"); {
                                                                                             Continue to throw
                                                    std::exception_ptr ptr;
   std::cout << "THU is best.\n";
                                                     // join immediately.
                                                                                             the exception in
                                                     {std::jthread _{ Work, std::ref(ptr) };
                                                                                             the main thread.
                                                    if (ptr)
void PKUStudent() {
                                                        std::rethrow_exception(ptr);
   std::cout << "PKU is best.\n";
                                                    std::cout << "All students over.\n";
    Work (std::exception_ptr& ptr)
                                                 int main(
   try {
       PKUStudent();
                                                        Watch();
       THUStudent();
                                                    catch (const std::runtime_error& error)
   catch (const std::runtime_error&) {
                                                        std::cout << error.what();
       ptr = std::current_exception();
                                                                       PKU is best.
   return;
                                                                       THU is not best!
```

Static block variable

- Previously we may use static variables in function to share it across calls.
 - But is it safe to use in multiple threads?
- Yes and no...
 - Yes: only one thread will execute initialization and other threads will wait (since C++11).
 - No: to modify it across multiple threads, you still need lock.

```
void Foo(int id) {
    // Thread-safe: initialization will be executed exactly once.
    static std::map<int, int> lookupTable{};
    // Not thread-safe, need lock protection.
    lookupTable.emplace(1, 2);
}
```

 More generally, if we want to execute some segment of code only once across all threads...

- 1. Tricks by static variable:
 - This trick is often used in single-thread program too...

```
[[maybe_unused]] static int _ = []() {
    HostUtils::CheckOptixError(optixInit());
    return 0;
}();
```

2. By std::call_once and std::once_flag defined in <mutex>:

```
std::once_flag flag1;

void simple_do_once()
{
    std::call_once(flag1, []() { std::cout << "Simple example: called once\n"; });
}
int main()
{
    std::jthread st1{ simple_do_once }, st2{ simple_do_once },
    st3{ simple_do_once }, st4{ simple_do_once };
    Simple example: called once</pre>
```

```
Defined in header <mutex>
template < class Callable, class... Args >
void call_once( std::once_flag& flag, Callable&& f, Args&&... args );
```

- std::once_flag only has a default ctor, meaning "not already called".
- And std::call_once will set the flag; exactly one thread will execute the callable and others will wait until it has completed.
- What's the difference?
- 1. std::call_once is slightly more flexible and intuitive;
 - But return value is ignored.
- 2. Static variable trick may have slightly better performance.
 - See stackoverflow for details.
- 3. Recursive initialization for static variable is UB;
 - While std::call_once will lead to deadlock.

```
int Foo(int a, int b)
{
    static int m = Foo(a + 1, b + 1);
    return m + 1;
}
```

- Sometimes we only want to share variables in calls of the current thread;
 - E.g. each thread has its own "static block variable".
- We can use thread_local to specify thread storage duration!

This static can be omitted; thread_local block variables imply static if not specified. See C++ Standard.

```
void Foo(int id) {
    // Each thread has its own loopupTable.
    thread_local static std::map<int, int> lookupTable{};
    lookupTable.emplace(1, 2);
    lookupTable.find(id);
}

thread local int m = 0; // external local
```

 Of course, you can use in "global" variables...

```
thread_local int m = 0; // external linkage
static thread_local int n = 0; // internal linkage
class A
{
    static thread_local int k;
};
thread_local int A::k = 0; Note that it's not allowed
to write static here.
```

 thread_local global variables are created after a thread starts, and destructed when it exits.

- Final word: if an exception throws out of:
 - Initialization of static block variables;
 - Function of std::call_once;
- Then it's seen as execution failure, and it will be initialized / executed again the next time.
 - So pay attention if there are other side effects that cannot be executed twice.

Multithreading

Synchronization Utilities

Multithreading

- Synchronization Utilities
 - semaphore
 - mutex & lock
 - condition variable
 - latch & barrier

Semaphore

int main()
{
 int a = 0;
 {std::jthread t1{ Inc, std::ref(a) }, t2{ Inc, std::ref(a) }; }
 std::cout << a;
 return 0;
 C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
 174568请按任意键继续. . .

void Inc(int& a) { for (int i = 0; i < 100000; i++) a++; }</pre>

- We've learnt data races in ICS.
 - When more than one thread access the same memory location concurrently, with at least one writing the memory, the final result is unexpected and unpredictable.
 - E.g. Two threads executing a++ for 100000 times may not result in a += 200000.
 - We call region that may cause data races "critical section" (CS).
 - The most basic way is to guarantee only one thread will operate data!
- Semaphore, proposed by Dijkstra in 1962, is for that.
 - It has an initial integer state and two operations.
 - V, or up, or release, means that the state is increased by 1.
 - P, or down, or acquire, means that the state is decreased by 1.
 - The state cannot be negative; if it has reached 0, then wait until it's increased.
 - Two operations are exclusive and safe to execute concurrently.

Semaphore

Since the initial state is 1, only one thread can enter CS and a++.

- <semaphore> is introduced since C++20:
 - Ctor is just the initial integer state.
- More generally, you can use std::counting_semaphore<LeastMaxValue>.
 - And std::binary_semaphore is just std::counting_semaphore<1>.
 - Library may do optimization based on LeastMaxValue, e.g. when LeastMaxValue <= 255, use std::uint8_t; otherwise std::uint32_t; etc.
 - So the actual max possible value that can be represented by the semaphore is not necessarily LeastMaxValue;
 - You can use static constexpr std::ptrdiff_t max() to check the actual max possible value.

```
oid Inc(int& a, std::binary_semaphore& sem)
   for (int i = 0; i < 100000; i++)
      sem.acquire();
       sem.release();
                 C:\WINDOWS\syste...
                 200000请按任意键继续. . .
  main()
  int a = 0:
  std::binary semaphore sem{ 1 };
   [ std::jthread t1{ Inc, std::ref(a), std::ref(sem) }
      t2{ Inc, std::ref(a), std::ref(sem) }; }
  std::cout << a:
   return 0:
```

Semaphore

- Quite easy, so just list methods below:
 - Ctor: assign the initial integer state;
 - Not copyable, moveable, copy-assignable and move-assignable.
 - Acquire / Decrement:
 - .acquire(): decrease the semaphore; if it can't (i.e. current state is 0), wait.
 - .try_acquire(): decrease the semaphore and return true; if it can't, return false.
 - It's allowed to fail spuriously, i.e. the current state is not 0 but try_acquire still returns false.
 - .try_acquire_for/until(...): try to decrease the semaphore for at most a period of time; if it fails, return false.
 - Release / Increment:
 - .release(std::ptrdiff_t n = 1): increase the semaphore by n.
 - Dtor: when destructing, no thread should wait on the semaphore (UB).

Multithreading

- Synchronization Utilities
 - semaphore
 - mutex & lock
 - condition variable
 - latch & barrier

Mutex

Mutual exclusion means to make threads do some operations

exclusively.

Kind of like binary semaphore.

 For our ++ example, you can also write like this:

Again, very easy APIs, just list here.

- Default ctor, meaning "unlock" state.
 - Not copyable, moveable, assignable.
- .lock()/.unlock();
- .try_lock();
 - No time-related APIs, e.g. .try_lock_for.
- Dtor: when destructing, no thread should wait on the mutex.
- .native_handle(): optional and platform-dependent, e.g. return pthread_mutex_t in POSIX system.

In <mutex>

Mutex

- So what's the difference between mutex and semaphore?
 - 1. Semaphore can be initialized with an integer state that can be 0 or more than 1, but mutex is always like binary semaphore with initial state as 1.
 - The up-down parameter of semaphore can also be inconsistent, e.g. you can down 1 but up 3.
 - 2. Semaphore can be released by a thread that doesn't acquire it, but mutex must be unlocked by the thread that locks it.
 - Thus, mutex is exactly used for mutual exclusion;
 - But semaphores can be used in other ways, like act as an efficient condition variable sometimes.

Mutex

- When a mutex is locked twice in the same thread, then UB.
 - A typical behavior is deadlock.
 - The implementation is encouraged to throw exception std::system_error
 with error code resource_deadlock_would_occur.
- If you want to lock for multiple times in the locking thread, you can use std::recursive_mutex.
 - You need to unlock for a matching time to make it really unlocks.
 - APIs are completely same as std::mutex, not listed again.
 - For example:

```
class Bar
{
public:
    void Work1();
    work1();
    /* other work */
    m.unlock();
    /* some work */
    m.unlock();
    std::recursive_mutex m;
};
```

*Normally code that uses recursive mutex can be transformed to only use simple mutex in some way. **Note that usually mutex is mutable data member to lock & unlock in const methods.

- Mutex doesn't obey RAII...
 - If you return in many paths (including possible exceptions), it's miserable and dangerous to write unlock yourself.
 - A better way is to lock mutex in ctor, and unlock it in dtor.
- Lock in C++ is for that!
 - The most basic one is std::lock_guard<MutexType> in <mutex>:
 - For provided MutexType in ctor, it will call .lock();
 - And .unlock() it in dtor.

Note:

- 1. Here CTAD so MutexType can be omitted.
- 2. _ is necessary, otherwise it's a temporary and will be destructed (i.e. unlocked) immediately after this statement.

```
void Inc(int& a, std::mutex& mut) {
    for (int i = 0; i < 100000; i++)
    {
        std::lock_guard _{ mut };
        a++;
    }
}</pre>
```

Note 1: if initializer can be used if you want to lock the mutex in an if clause:

• It will lock for the whole clause, e.g. including else here.

- have any other APIs; you
- Note 2: std::lock_guard doesn't have any other APIs; you cannot unlock by lock_guard until destruction.
- Note 3: if you want to use std::lock_guard to manage a mutex that's already locked, add a tag parameter std::adopt_lock.
 - A naïve example:

```
std::recursive_mutex m;
m.lock();
std::lock_guard _{ m, std::adopt_lock };
```

- A more general RAII type is std::unique_lock.
 - It "owns" some mutex, and can also give up this ownership.
 - Specifically, this ownership has two aspects:
 - A. Have (associate with) a mutex or not;
 - B. Lock a mutex or not.
 - Take ctor as example:
 - Default ctor: not have a mutex, no lock → !A & !B
 - (MutexType& m): takes a mutex, and lock it (call m.lock()) → A & B
 - (MutexType& m, std::adopt_lock): takes a locked mutex → A & B
 - (MutexType& m, std::defer_lock): takes a mutex, but not lock it → A & !B
 - (MutexType& m, std::try_to_lock): call m.try_lock();
 - If succeed → A & B; otherwise → A & !B.

- Dtor: A & B → .unlock() in dtor; otherwise do nothing.
- When std::unique lock have a mutex...
 - If you have locked it, you can call...
 - .unlock().
 - If you haven't locked it, you can call...
 - .lock().
 - .try lock().
 - release(): disassociate with the mutex (without calling .unlock()).
- When std::unique lock doesn't have a mutex...
 - All locking operations, e.g. .unlock/lock/try_lock(), will throw exception.
 - You can use move assignment / swap to associate with a new mutex;
 - Move assignment equiv. to call dtor + steal the new state (move ctor).

- You can also observe the ownership:
 - .mutex(): return pointer to the mutex; if no associated mutex, nullptr;
 - .owns_lock() / operator bool(): check whether it has a mutex and has locked it (A & B).
- For example:

```
auto worker task = [&](int id)
    std::unique lock<std::mutex> lock(counter mutex);
    ++counter;
    std::cout << id << ", initial counter: " << counter << '\n';</pre>
    lock.unlock();
    // don't hold the lock while we simulate an expensive operation
    std::this thread::sleep for(std::chrono::seconds(1));
    lock.lock();
    ++counter:
    std::cout << id << ", final counter: " << counter << '\n';</pre>
};
for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++i)
    threads.emplace back(worker task, i);
for (auto& thread: threads)
    thread.join();
```

Another example:

We'll cover std::lock later; it locks two locks here.

```
void transfer(Box& from, Box& to, int num)
{
    // don't actually take the locks yet
    std::unique_lock lock1{from.m, std::defer_lock};
    std::unique_lock lock2{to.m, std::defer_lock};

    // lock both unique_locks without deadlock
    std::lock(lock1, lock2);

    from.num_things -= num;
    to.num_things += num;

    // "from.m" and "to.m" mutexes unlocked in unique_lock dtors
}
```

	!A & !B (No mutex)	A & !B (Have mutex, not locked)	A & B (Have mutex, locked)
.lock/try_lock()	<pre>std::system_error{ operation_not_permi tted }</pre>	→ A & B	<pre>std::system_error{ resource_deadlock_w ould_occur}</pre>
.unlock()	<pre>std::system_error{ operation_not_permi tted }</pre>	<pre>std::system_error{ operation_not_permi tted }</pre>	→ A & !B
.release()	→ !A & !B	→ !A & !B	→ !A & !B
<pre>.mutex()</pre>	nullptr	Pointer to mutex	Pointer to mutex
<pre>.owns_lock/operator bool()</pre>	false	false	true

We omit possible exceptions thrown by e.g. mutex.lock() here.

Shared mutex

- All mutexes before lead to exclusive access in CS.
 - But in fact only write is needed to be exclusive; read can be performed simultaneously.
 - Also known as "Readers-Writers Problem".
- Shared mutex since C++17 is for that...
 - std::shared_mutex in <shared_mutex>;
 - Two modes exclusive mode and shared mode.
 - For exclusive mode, APIs and functionalities are same as std::mutex.
 - Mutex can only be held by one thread; other threads will wait until unlock.
 - For shared mode, .lock_shared(), .unlock_shared() and .try_lock_shared() are provided.
 - Mutex can be held by multiple threads; threads that want to hold mutex in exclusive mode will be blocked until all sharing threads unlock.

Unmatched lock & unlock (e.g. lock in exclusive mode but unlock in shared mode) is UB.

Shared lock

- Correspondingly, std::shared_lock in <shared_mutex> is provided for RAII (since C++14, before std::shared_mutex is accepted).
 - All APIs are completely same as std::unique_lock; the only difference is that functions that call mutex.lock()/unlock()/try_lock() will call mutex.lock_shared()/unlock_shared()/try_lock_shared() instead.
- So, to lock std::shared_mutex in exclusive mode with RAII...
 - Just use std::unique_lock _{ mut } or std::lock_guard _{ mut };
- And, to lock std::shared_mutex in shared mode with RAII...
 - Just use std::shared lock { mut }.

Shared lock

A naïve example:

```
class Database
   int Read()
       std::shared_lock sharedLock{ mutex_ };
       std::this_thread::sleep_for(100ms); // Assuming we need 100ms to read
       return data_;
   void Write(int d)
       std::lock_guard exclusiveLock{ mutex };
       std::this_thread::sleep_for(300ms); // Assuming we need 300ms
       data_ = d;
   std::shared mutex mutex;
   int data_ = 0;
```

Shared mutex implementation*

- This part is optional.
- In ICS, we've learnt starvation problem...
 - Writer starvation: if we prioritize read, then when there are lots of readers, mutex will be always held in shared mode.
 - Before a reader finishes its read, new readers will come and thus writers block forever.
 - Reader starvation: similarly, if we prioritize write, then when there are lots
 of writers, mutex will be always held in exclusive mode.
- So in some algorithms, you can specify "priority" for lock.
 - But it seems that C++ standard library doesn't do so!
- A reference implementation is proposed by <u>Howard E. Hinnant</u>, which is invented by Alexander Terekhov.

Sorry, but I can't find the exact blog / paper /... of Alexander Terekhov. It seems to be invented during pthread-win32 development around 2003.

Shared mutex implementation*

- This algorithm makes it "fair" for reader and writer.
- To put it simply, two gates:
 - Gate 1: reader and writer compete fairly;
 - When readers pass through gate 1, they can get mutex in shared mode.
 - When a writer pass through gate 1, it needs to wait for gate 2.
 - Gate 2: when a writer waits on gate 2, gate 1 should block all requests;
 - And the writer will wait until all readers that have already passed through gate 1 to unlock.
 - Then the writer will get mutex in exclusive mode.
 - After the writer unlocks, gate 1 will accept requests again.
- libc++ uses this algo.; libstdc++ has a macro to control (either this algo., or native pthread_rwlock_t); MS-STL uses native <u>SRW</u>.

A single SRW lock can be acquired in either mode; reader threads can acquire it in shared mode whereas writer threads can acquire it in exclusive mode. There is no guarantee about the order in which threads that request ownership will be granted ownership; SRW locks are neither fair nor FIFO.

But SRW has OS bug, which may grant exclusive ownership in shared mode. It's fixed by in 2024.5.9 but which Windows update includes this fix is unknown.

Safe Reclamation*

- Shared mutex makes it possible to read concurrently, but still grant write with mutual exclusion.
 - Is it possible to make read and write happen "concurrently"?
- By Read-Copy-Update (RCU) or hazard pointer!
 - To put it simply, RCU allows concurrent write by allocating a new version, so previous read can still go on.
 - Old versions will be freed when no readers are on it.
 - And hazard pointer registers "it's hazard to delete some version" by other techniques, making it protected from use-after-free problem.
- C++26 introduces them by <rcu> and <hazard_pointer>.
 - Quite complex so not discussed here.

Deadlock

- Finally, let's talk about deadlock.
 - Of course, what we talk about is not deadlock caused by locking for multiple times in the same thread.
 - You can use std::recursive_mutex to solve that.
- A typical example: lock in different orders in different threads.

```
oid Worker1(std::mutex& mut1, std::mutex& mut2)
   std::lock guard 1{ mut1 };
                                                             int main()
   std::this thread::sleep for(1s);
   std::lock guard 2{ mut2 };
                                                                std::mutex mut1, mut2;
                                                                std::jthread t1{ Worker1, std::ref(mut1), std::ref(mut2)
                                                                 t2{ Worker2, std::ref(mut1), std::ref(mut2) };
void Worker2(std::mutex &mut1, std::mutex &mut2)
   std::lock_guard _2{ mut2 };
   std::this_thread::sleep_for(1s);
                                                                  Worker1 holds mut1, waits for mut2;
   std::lock_guard_1{ mut1 };
```

But Worker2 holds mut2, waits for mut1.

Deadlock

- Deadlock happens only when these four conditions are true:
 - 1. Mutual exclusion, i.e. only limited threads can use the resource.
 - 2. Hold and wait, i.e. a thread will hold some resource, while requesting other resources.
 - 3. No preemption, i.e. resources are only given up voluntarily, but a thread never does that; and other threads cannot force that thread to give up.
 - 4. Circular wait, i.e. hold & wait sequence has a circle.
- To prevent deadlock, we need to break one of these conditions.
 - 1. is usually not easy to break, because it's determined by the property of shared data.
 - 2. is also necessary when using multiple locks; if you can use only one lock, then that's fine.

Deadlock

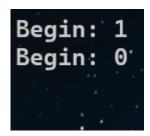
- Generally, there are three practical ways to solve deadlock:
 - Deadlock prevention: pre-design so that deadlock will not happen.
 - Like locking all mutex in the same order;
 - Deadlock recovery: just let deadlock happen; but when a resource is occupied for a too long time, the owner will be forced to give up.
 - This breaks "3. No preemption".
 - Deadlock avoidance: pre-check whether subsequent resource requests will possibly cause deadlock and dynamically delay them if necessary.
 - This breaks "4. Circular wait", i.e. if circular wait is possible, then it will delay following requests.
 - There are many delicate algorithms for deadlock avoidance.
- C++ wraps deadlock avoidance as function std::lock.

For example:

```
class MyMutex : public std::mutex
public:
    void lock()
                                        To make deadlock
        std::this_thread::sleep_for(1s);
                                         definitely happen.
       std::mutex::lock();
void WorkerDeadlock(int id, MyMutex& mut1, MyMutex& mut2)
    std::println("Begin: {}", id);
   std::lock_guard _1{ mut1 }, _2{ mut2 };
    std::println("End: {}", id);
```

Deadlock for reversed lock order.

```
MyMutex mut1, mut2;
// Pass them in reversed order
std::jthread t1{ WorkerDeadlock, 0, std::ref(mut1), std::ref(mut2) },
t2{ WorkerDeadlock, 1, std::ref(mut2), std::ref(mut1) };
```



- If we use std::lock(...):
 - Notice that mutexes are still passed into std::lock in reversed order.

```
void WorkerNoDeadlock(int id, MyMutex& mut1, MyMutex& mut2)
{
   std::println("Begin: {}", id);
   std::lock(mut1, mut2);
   std::lock_guard _1{ mut1, std::adopt_lock }, _2{ mut2, std::adopt_lock };
   std::println("End: {}", id);
}
```

```
Begin: 0
Begin: 1
End: 1
End: 0
```

- So now you can understand this piece of code...
 - Mutex or unique_lock are fine since both of them provides .lock/unlock/try_lock(); lock_guard cannot be passed in.

```
void transfer(Box& from, Box& to, int num)
{
    // don't actually take the locks yet
    std::unique_lock lock1{from.m, std::defer_lock};
    std::unique_lock lock2{to.m, std::defer_lock};

    // lock both unique_locks without deadlock
    std::lock(lock1, lock2);

    from.num_things -= num;
    to.num_things += num;

    // "from.m" and "to.m" mutexes unlocked in unique_lock dtors
}
```

• Since C++17, std::scoped_lock is also provided to do deadlock avoidance with RAII.

```
void WorkerNoDeadlock(int id, MyMutex& mut1, MyMutex& mut2)
{
    std::println("Begin: {}", id);
    std::scoped_lock _{ mut1, mut2 };
    std::println("End: {}", id);
}
```

- Similar to std::lock_guard, only ctor and dtor. Ctor actually calls std::lock.
 - But overload with std::adopt_lock is the first param, since variadic arguments can only be the last.

std::scoped_lock<MutexTypes...>::Scoped_lock

```
explicit scoped_lock( MutexTypes&... m ); (1) (since C++17)
scoped_lock( std::adopt_lock_t, MutexTypes&... m ); (2) (since C++17)
```

 Note 1: multiple std::lock/scoped_lock can still lead to deadlock; only when all locks are provided in one instance can the avoidance algorithm work.



- deadlock avoidance but just an all-or-nothing wrapper.
 - Provided locks are locked according to parameter order exactly;
 - Any failure to .try_lock() (including thrown exception) means overall failure, which will unlock previous locks.
 - Only when all locks are locked will it be seen as success.
 - Return the index of mutex that fails to lock, or -1 if success.
 - Equivalent to (ignoring exception):

```
// for each mutex:
// if(!mut.try_lock())
// unlocks previous lock:
// return index
// return -1
```

Timed mutex

- Back to deadlock recovery...
 - We can also let owners give up their resources voluntarily when waiting for a too long time.
 - That is, we need mechanisms like semaphore .try_acquire_for/until()...
- Timed mutex is provided for that!
 - All mutex types have a timed version: std::timed_mutex, std::recursive_timed_mutex and std::shared_timed_mutex.
 - Normally timed mutex has slightly higher cost than normal ones.
 - Note that std::shared_timed_mutex is introduced in C++14, and for performance std::shared_mutex is introduced in C++17.
 - Beyond original APIs, they also add timed ones.
 - i.e. .try_lock_for/until(); .try_lock_shared_for/until().

Timed mutex

- And std::unique_lock & std::shared_lock will also have .try_lock_for/until() when provided mutex type is timed.
 - And additional ctor overload: template< class Rep, class Period > shared_lock(mutex_type& m, const std::chrono::duration<Rep,Period>& timeout_duration);

 template< class Clock, class Duration > shared lock(mutex type& m,
 - Note again std::shared_lock::try_lock_for() calls MutexType::try_lock_shared_for().
- For example, to do deadlock recovery:

```
class MyMutex : public std::timed_mutex
{
public:
    void lock()
    {
        std::timed_mutex::lock();
        std::this_thread::sleep_for(1s);
    }
};
```

const std::chrono::time point<Clock,Duration>& timeout time);

Deadlock Recovery

```
Begin: 1
Begin: 0
Release resources and try again: 0.
Release resources and try again: 1.
End: 0
End: 1
```

Two segments are basically equivalent here.

```
WorkerDeadlockRecovery(int id, MyMutex& mut1, MyMutex& mut2)
std::println("Begin: {}", id);
while (true)
    std::unique_lock lock1{ mut1 };
    std::unique lock lock2{ mut2, GetRandomNumber() * 1s};
    if (lock2.owns_lock())
        std::println("End: {}", id);
        break;
    else {
        std::println("Release resources and try again: {}.", id);
        lock1.unlock();
        std::this_thread::sleep_for(GetRandomNumber() * 1s);
```

```
void WorkerDeadlockRecovery2(int id, MyMutex& mut1, MyMutex& mut2)
   std::println("Begin: {}", id);
   std::unique_lock lock1{ mut1, std::defer_lock },
                    lock2{ mut2, std::defer_lock };
   while (true)
       lock1.lock();
       if (lock2.try_lock_for(GetRandomNumber() * 1s))
           std::println("End: {}", id);
           break:
        else {
            std::println("Release resources and try again: {}.",
           lock1.unlock();
           std::this_thread::sleep_for(GetRandomNumber() * 1s);
```