

CS 213 Spring 2017

Lecture 23 : Apr 18

Multithreaded Programming I

Prime Numbers Counter

```
package primes;

import java.util.Scanner;

public class Primes {
    static int countPrimes(int n) {
        int count=0, p=2;
        while (p <= n) {
            int d;
            for (d=2; d <= p/2; d++) {
                if ((p % d) == 0) {
                    break;
                }
            }
            if (d > p/2) {
                count++;
            }
            p++;
        }
        return count;
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException {
        Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
        System.out.print("Enter n: ");
        int n = Integer.parseInt(sc.nextLine());
        System.out.println("Number of primes <= " + n + " : " +
                           countPrimes(n));
    }
}
```

```
> java Primes
Enter n: 10000
Number of primes <= 10000 : 1229
```

What if we wanted the user to be able to watch progress by interrupting the program, and seeing how many primes have been computed up to that point?

Prime Numbers: Watching Progress

- There are two ways to address this:
 - **Program-controlled interrupts:**
 - Have the program break at regular intervals
 - Divide range 2..n into k intervals: k is determined by program
 - After number of primes for an interval have been found, interrupt prime computation and print
 - **User-driven interrupts:**
 - Have the user interrupt the program when needed
 - How to record status at every interrupt so computation can be resumed correctly?
 - Solution: On every interrupt, the program keeps churning out the primes, even as it is interacting with the user. That is, the (time intensive) I/O with user should not stop the program from its main work, of counting primes. Question is: *how to have two independent executions at the same time:*
 - One that interacts with user
 - Another that keeps counting primes

Multithreading I/O with Computation

- The answer is to run two independent *threads* in the program: one that interacts with user, and another that computes number of primes
- Here's a recipe to take the first version of Primes and make it multithreaded:
 - **Step 1:** Extend the `java.lang.Thread` class:


```
public class PrimesThread extends Thread {
```

Multithreading I/O with Computation

- Recipe for conversion to multithreading (continued) :
 - **Step 2:** Place the primes counting code in a method called `run` that is specifically defined by the `Thread` class (and is overridden by `PrimesThread`) so it can be executed independently:

```
public void run() {  
    count=0,p=2;  
    while (p <= n) {  
        int d;  
        for (d=2; d <= p/2; d++) {  
            if ((p % d) == 0) {  
                break;  
            }  
        }  
        if (d > p/2) {  
            count++;  
        }  
        p++;  
    }  
}
```

to be run in an independent thread



Multithreading I/O with Computation

- Recipe for conversion to multithreading (continued) :
 - **Step 3:** Since the `run` method is defined not to return values, we need to make `count` and `p` static fields that can be shared by the main method, to report progress on demand
 - **Step 4:** Define a constructor that starts up an independent thread for run:

```
public PrimesThread(int n) {  
    this.n = n;  
    start();  
}
```

The start method is defined by the `Thread` class – calling it does the following:

- Set up the necessary resources to run an independent thread
- Start up the thread to execute the `run` method

Calling run directly (instead of calling start) will not start an independent thread!!!

Multithreading I/O with Computation

- Recipe for conversion to multithreading (continued) :
 - **Step 5:** Change the main method to:
 - Set up an independent thread to count primes
 - On every user interruption, report current number of primes computed

```
Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
System.out.print("Enter n: ");
n = Integer.parseInt(sc.nextLine());
```

```
new PrimesThread(n);
```

← independent thread
to count primes

```
while (true) {
    System.out.print(" ? ");
    String line = sc.nextLine();
    if (line.equals("quit")) {
        break;
    }
    System.out.println("At " + (p-1) +
        ", number of primes = " + count);
}
System.out.println("At " + (p-1) +
    ", number of primes = " + count);
```

Multithreading I/O with Computation

- Two threads are running simultaneously

main thread

```
public static void
main(String[] args)
throws IOException {
    Scanner sc =
        new Scanner(System.in);

    System.out.print(
        "Enter integer bound => ");
    n = Integer
        .parseInt(sc.nextLine());

    new PrimeThread(n);

    while (true) {
        ...
    }
    ...
}
```

prime thread

```
public void run() {
    count=0; p=2;
    while (p <= n) {
        int d;
        for (d=2;
            d <= p/2;
            d++) {
            if ((p%d) == 0) {
                break;
            }
        }
        if (d > p/2) {
            count++;
        }
        p++;
    }
}
```

```
> java PrimesThread
Enter n: 100000
?
At 73740, number of primes = 7254
?
At 100000, number of primes = 9592
```


Multithreading I/O with Computation

- Every time the user hits enter, the **main thread** fetches the current status of count and prints it out
- In the meantime, the **prime thread** continues with its computation
- If the user types “quit”, the **prime thread** continues independently until it runs through all p’s up to to n

Having the **prime thread** keep doing stuff past the time when the user hits “quit” is pointless!!

As soon as the user hits “quit” the **prime thread** must be terminated

Prime Numbers Counter: Version 3

- Before we fix this glitch, there is another Java-specific issue we need to deal with: a class may support multithreading by extending **Thread**, but what if it already extends some other class?
- The solution is to have the class in question implement the `java.lang.Runnable` interface instead of extending the `Thread` class
- This interface prescribes a single method:

```
void run( )
```

that must be implemented. The `Thread` class itself implements the `Runnable` interface—we have already seen the `run` method

- In general, it is preferable to design a multithreading supporting class to implement the `Runnable` interface even if the class does not extend another, in order to provide for future extensibility

Prime Numbers Counter: Version 3

- Converting from extending **Thread** to implementing **Runnable** is done as follows:

```
public class PrimesThread
    extends Thread {

    int n;
    static int p,count;

    public PrimeThread(int n)
    {
        this.n = n;
        start();
    }

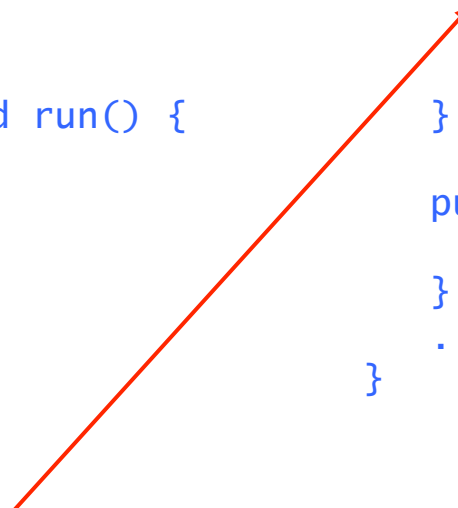
    public void run() {
        ...
    }
    ...
}
```

```
public class PrimesRunnable
    implements Runnable {

    static int count,p; int n;
    static Thread pThread;

    public PrimesRunnable(int n)
    {
        this.n = n;
        pThread = new
            Thread(this);
        pThread.start();
    }

    public void run() {
        ...
    }
    ...
}
```



- Since **Runnable** is only an interface, **PrimesRunnable** is not a **Thread**—a new **Thread** must be created explicitly

Prime Numbers Counter: Version 3

- If the prime thread is finished, the main thread should be terminated, i.e. break out of the main **while** loop

```
public static void main(String[] args)
throws IOException {
    new PrimesRunnable(n);
while (true) {
    while (
        primesThread.getState() != Thread.State.TERMINATED) {
        System.out.print("? ");
        String line = sc.nextLine();
        if (line.equals("quit")) {

            break;
        }
        System.out.println("At " + (p-1) +
            ", number of primes: " + count);
    }
    System.out.println("At " + (p-1) +
        ", number of primes: " + count);
}
```

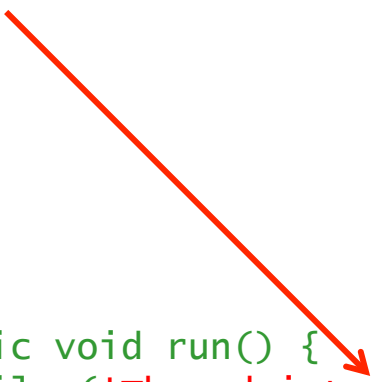
Prime Numbers Counter: Version 3

- If the main thread is finished, the prime thread should be notified to terminate

```
public static void main(String[] args)
throws IOException {
    ...
    new PrimesRunnable(n);

    while (
        primesThread.getState() != Thread.State.TERMINATED) {
        ...
        if (line.equals("quit")) {
            primesThread.interrupt();
            break;
        }
        ...
    }
    ...
}
```

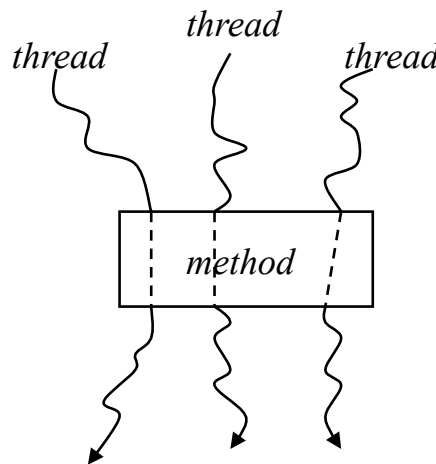
The loop condition checks whether the the thread was interrupted, and if so, stops safely, before it enters an iteration, and not in the middle



```
public void run() {
    while (!Thread.interrupted()
        && p <= n) {
        int d;
        for (d=2; d <= p/2; d++) {
            if ((p%d) == 0) {break;}
        }
        if (d > p/2) {count++;}
        p++;
    }
}
```

Being Executed in a Thread

- When working with multi-threaded programs it is important to see that the code within a method may be executed by any number of threads, even simultaneously (same runnable target for several threads)



- Thus, the phrase “currently executing thread” means the thread that is currently executing the statement in question:

```
Thread.currentThread();
```

- Thus, also, the methods in **Thread** that are static are invoked on the currently executing thread

```
Thread.sleep(1000);
```

- The name of the thread that is currently executing may be obtained by using the construct:

```
Thread.currentThread().getName()
```

Putting a Thread To Sleep

- A thread may be put to sleep for a fixed amount of time by invoking the static sleep method:

```
public static void sleep(long millis)
throws InterruptedException
```

This causes the *currently executing* thread to sleep for the given milliseconds:

- It remains in an active state, but is not scheduled to run until the sleep period has expired
- It can be interrupted from its sleep by another thread

*thread that is executing the
method that invokes sleep*



another thread



- Another version of **sleep** allows the specification of an additional nanoseconds longer for which the thread sleeps:

```
public static void sleep(long millis, int nanos)
throws InterruptedException
```

↑
value 0.999999

Multiple Threads Through Same Code

```
public class Interleave implements Runnable {

    public Interleave(String name) {
        new Thread(this, name).start();
    }

    public void run() {
        for (int i=0; i < 4; i++) {
            System.out.println(
                Thread.currentThread().getName());
            try {
                Thread.sleep((int)Math.random()*1000);
            } catch (InterruptedException e) { }
        }
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        new Interleave("Java");
        new Interleave("Sumatra");
    }
}
```

a Thread constructor that accepts runnable target as well as name for thread

Run 1

Java
Sumatra
Java
Java
Java
Sumatra
Sumatra
Sumatra

Run 2

Java
Sumatra
Java
Suamtra
Java
Sumatra
Java
Sumatra

Each thread executes the body of the **for** loop in **run** four times, in random interleaved sequence – the sequence may be different for different runs

Why Threads

- A thread runs asynchronously, independent of the thread that created it
- A Java application or applet itself runs as a thread, and can spin off as many other threads as needed
- A collection of asynchronously running threads may communicate with each other either indirectly via a buffer, or directly by invoking methods on each other
- Asynchronous computing allows several tasks to be performed in parallel, resulting in:
 - **improved execution time** for the application as a whole
 - **improved turn-around time** seen by the user - for instance a consumer thread displays data on the fly as it comes from the producer, instead of blocking until all data is available
- Asynchronous computing places more onus on the programmer to insure that the program:
 - **avoids race conditions** e.g. two threads trying to update a variable at the exact same time
 - **maintains consistency of data** e.g. two transactions both deposit money into an account, but because of an unlucky interleaving of executions, only one of the deposits is recorded.