

Practical Concurrent and Parallel Programming I

Intro to Concurrency and Mutual Exclusion

Raúl Pardo, Jørgen Staunstrup

Agenda



- Course General Info
- Introduction to Concurrency
- Java Threads
- Mutual Exclusion
- Java Locks

Teachers



Course manager: Raúl Pardo

- PhD from Chalmers University 2017
- Postdoc at Inria 2017 & ITU 2019
- Research interest: Privacy & Security,
 Formal Methods, Probabilistic Reasoning, Concurrency



Co-teacher: Jørgen Staunstrup

• He will introduce himself shortly



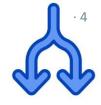
Teaching Assistants

- Holger Stadel Borum
- Amund Ranheim Lome
- You will meet them after the lecture





Standard weekly plan



- Lectures
 - Mondays 10-12
 - We publish the readings for the lecture a week before the lecture (approx.)
- Exercise sessions
 - Mondays 12-14
 - Every week we publish a set of exercises covering the material of the lecture

Course Info Online



- The learnIT website (https://learnit.itu.dk/course/view.php?id=3020335) contains information about the course and submission links for the assignments
- The material of the course is hosted in our github repository (https://github.itu.dk/jst/PCPP2021-public)
 - Lecture slides
 - Readings
 - Example code
 - Exercises
 - Accompanying code for the exercises

Exercises



- You are expected to work on groups of 2/3 people
 - Today in the exercise session we will start by forming groups with the help of TAs
- Solutions are submitted bi-weekly
 - Every two weeks you submit the solution to the two exercise sets of the two previous weeks
- Assignments submissions on Mondays before the lecture
 - We made sure to minimize clashing with other courses in the CS programme
 - An assignment is hand-in including solutions to two exercise sets
- Oral Feedback and Assessment
 - Feedback and assessment of assignments if provided in oral sessions
 - You must book an oral feedback slot with a TA/teacher using the scheduler in learnIT
 - Today in the exercise session you can already book a slot (https://learnit.itu.dk/mod/scheduler/view.php?id=143279)
- In total there are 12 exercise sets, you must pass 10 to be entitled to take the exam
- Exercises are divided into mandatory and challenging
 - Doing the challenging exercises will increase your chances of getting high marks in the exam
 - Challenging exercises are optional

Questions and Answers Forum



- The main channel of communication is the Questions and Answers Forum in LearnIT
 - https://learnit.itu.dk/mod/hsuforum/view.php?id=143401
 - We strongly encourage you to use the forum!
 - We will check the forum regularly
 - But, we also encourage you to answers questions yourself!
 - The forum is meant to be a discussion platform to boost learning and share knowledge
 - The only constraint: do not directly post solutions to exercises

Exam



- Oral exam
 - We will ask questions covering all the content in the readings and lecture slides



Datalog/Computer scientist Aarhus University: 1975



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Taught first course on Concurrency: 1978 (USC, Los Angeles)



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It was an on-line course!!

Joined ITU in 2001, retired in 2014

Teaching MSc course Mobile App Development at ITU since 2016





It takes one person 2 hours to dig 2 meters of ditch. How long will it take 2 people to dig 4 meters of ditch?

What if they only have one shovel?

What if they have to dig a hole (and not a ditch)?

How fast can a 100 persons dig 1 meter of ditch?

...





The Turing machine (1936) - a mathematical model



The Turing machine (1936) - a mathematical model





The Turing machine (1936) - a mathematical model



Eniac (1945)





The Turing machine (1936) - a mathematical model



Eniac (1945)





Transistormaskinen GIER, 1961

Timesharing - my first programs (1969)





Via a number of terminals several users shared the computer

My first (and best) question:

What happens if two users print simultaneously?



```
public class RemoveDuplicateInArrayExample{
  public static int removeDuplicateElements(int arr[], int n) {
    if (n==0 || n==1) { return n; }
    int[] temp = new int[n];
    int j = 0;
    for (int i=0; i< n-1; i++) {
      if (arr[i] != arr[i+1]) {
        temp[j++] = arr[i];
    temp[j++] = arr[n-1];
    // Changing original array
    for (int i=0; i<j; i++) {
      arr[i] = temp[i];
    return j;
  public static void main (String[] args) {
    int arr[] = \{10, 20, 20, 30, 30, 40, 50, 50\};
    int length = arr.length;
    length = removeDuplicateElements(arr, length);
    //printing array elements
    for (int i=0; i length; i++) System.out.print(arr[i]+" ");
```

```
public class RemoveDuplicateInArrayExample{
  public static int removeDuplicateElements(int arr[], int n) {
    if (n==0 || n==1) { return n; }
    int[] temp = new int[n];
    int j = 0;
    for (int i=0; i< n-1; i++) {
     if (arr[i] != arr[i+1]) {
        temp[j++] = arr[i];
    temp[j++] = arr[n-1];
    // Changing original array
    for (int i=0; i<j; i++) {
      arr[i] = temp[i];
    return j;
  public static void main (String[] args) {
    int arr[] = \{10, 20, 20, 30, 30, 40, 50, 50\};
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    for (int i=0; i <length; i++) System.out.print(arr[i]+" ");
```

Single stream

```
-----
----
_____
----
---
-----
```

```
public class RemoveDuplicateInArrayExample{
  public static int removeDuplicateElements(int arr[], int n) {
    if (n==0 || n==1) { return n; }
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    int j = 0;
    for (int i=0; i< n-1; i++) {
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        temp[j++] = arr[i];
    temp[j++] = arr[n-1];
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    for (int i=0; i<j; i++) {
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    return j;
  public static void main (String[] args) {
    int arr[] = \{10, 20, 20, 30, 30, 40, 50, 50\};
    int length = arr.length;
    length = removeDuplicateElements(arr, length);
    //printing array elements
    for (int i=0; i <length; i++) System.out.print(arr[i]+" ");
```

Single stream

```
----
```





int j = 0;

return j;



```
④ ■ □ ■ □ □ □ □ 09:04
```

Concurrent (multiple streams)

Single stream

public static void main (String[] args) { int arr[] = $\{10, 20, 20, 30, 30, 40, 50, 50\};$

length = removeDuplicateElements(arr, length);

for (int i=0; i <length; i++) System.out.print(arr[i]+" ");

public class RemoveDuplicateInArrayExample{

if (n==0 || n==1) { return n; } int[] temp = new int[n];

for (int i=0; i< n-1; i++) { if (arr[i] != arr[i+1]) { temp[j++] = arr[i];

temp[j++] = arr[n-1];// Changing original array for (int i=0; i<j; i++) { arr[i] = temp[i];

int length = arr.length;

//printing array elements

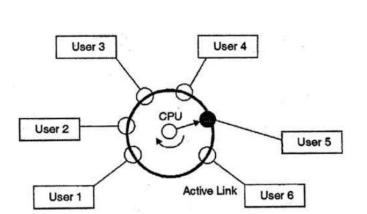
public static int removeDuplicateElements(int arr[], int n) {



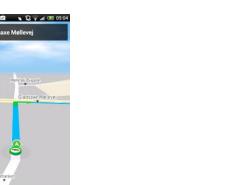


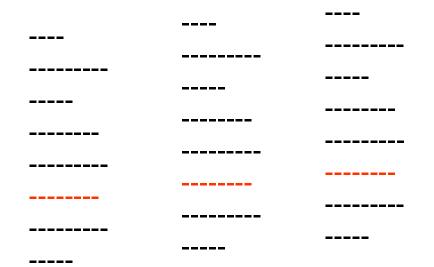




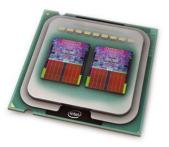


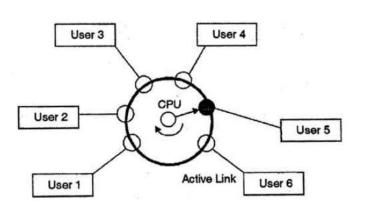




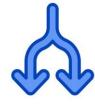


Exploitation

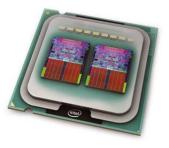








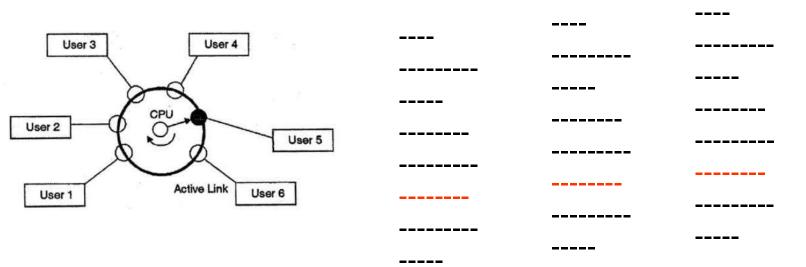
Exploitation











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Exploitation

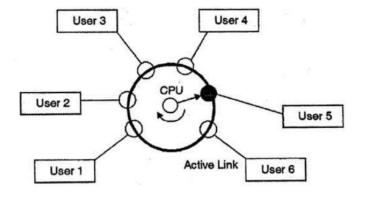


Inherent





Hidden



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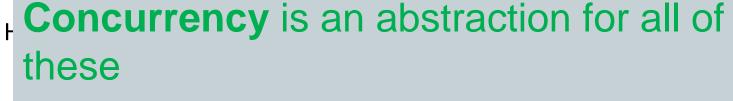




Inherent







□ (and more)

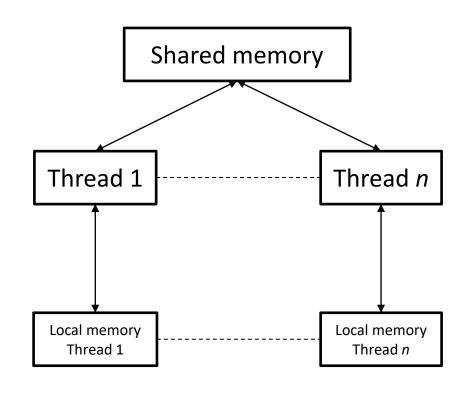
Active Link User 1

User 6

Threads in Java

16

- A thread is a stream of program statements executed sequentially
- Several threads can be executed at the same time, i.e., concurrently
- Each threads works at its own speed
- Each thread has its own local memory
- Threads can communicate via shared memory



Sequential vs Parallel vs Concurrent



Sequential execution (in 1 processing core)



Parallel execution (in 2 processing cores)



Sequential vs Parallel vs Concurrent



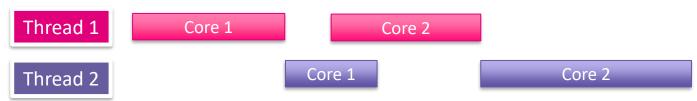
Sequential execution (in 1 processing core)



Parallel execution (in 2 processing cores)



Concurrent execution (in 2 processing cores)



Sequential vs Parallel vs Concurrent



Sequential execution (in 1 processing core)

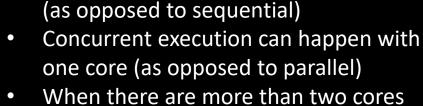


Parallel execution (in 2 processing cores)



Core 1

Concurrent execution (in 2 processing cores)



different threads may run in parallel

Computation is split in arbitrary blocks

Thread 1 Core 2

Thread 2 Core 1 Core 2

Thread 1

Threads in Java – Example Tivoli entrance turnstile







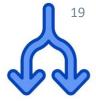
- Java threads can be created either by implementing Runnable or extending from Thread
- The behaviour of the thread is in the **run()** method (override)

```
This thread simulates 10000
final long PEOPLE = 10 000;
                                           people entering to Tivoli
long counter = 0;
public class Turnstile extends Thread {
  public void run() {
       for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
           counter++;
```



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```
This thread simulates 10000
final long PEOPLE = 10 000;
                                            people entering to Tivoli
long counter = 0;
                          Shared memory
public class Turnstile extends Thread {
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public class Turnsti
                                      |[hread {
                           Local memory
   public void run()
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```



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                                            |[hread {
                                Local memory
       public void run()
             for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
Behaviour of
                 counter++;
the thread
```

Threads in Java - Example



- The function start() starts the execution of the thread
- The function join() waits for the thread to terminate

```
Turnstile turnstile = new Turnstile();
                                                       Create an instance
                                                         of the thread
                               Start execution of
turnstile.start();
                                  the thread
turnstile.join();
                                Wait until the
                                                         Print the value of
                              thread terminates
                                                           counter
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
```

Threads in Java - Example



 Altogether (not executable, see CounterThreads.java for the executable program)

```
class CounterThreads {
    long counter = 0;
    final long PEOPLE = 10 000;
    // main thread behaviour
    Turnstile turnstile = new Turnstile();
    turnstile.start();
    turnstile.join();
    System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
    // inner class for accessing shared variables
    public class Turnstile extends Thread {
       public void run() {
           for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
                counter++;
```

Threads in Java - Example



Altogether (not executable, see **CounterThreads.java** for the executable program)

Shared memory

```
class CounterThreads {
    long counter = 0;
    final long PEOPLE
                        = 10 000;
                                                  Create, start, wait
                                                   till termination
                                                   and print results
    // main thread behaviour
    Turnstile turnstile = new Turnstile();
    turnstile.start();
    turnstile.join();
    System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
    // inner class for accessing shared variables
    public class Turnstile extends Thread {
                                                            Definition of the
       public void run() {
           for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
                                                           thread's behaviour
                 counter++;
```



What value of **counter** will this program print?

cutable, see **CounterThreads.java** for gram)

Shared memory

```
class CounterThreads {
    long counter = 0;
    final long PEOPLE
                        = 10 000;
                                                  Create, start, wait
                                                    till termination
                                                   and print results
    // main thread behaviour
    Turnstile turnstile = new Turnstile();
    turnstile.start();
    turnstile.join();
    System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
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    public class Turnstile extends Thread {
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       public void run() {
           for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
                                                           thread's behaviour
                 counter++;
```

Threads in Java — Alternative Definition



Other ways to define threads

Runnable object in the thread constructor

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;

Thread t = new Thread(new Runnable() {
      public void run() {
          for (int i=0; i<PEOPLE; i++) {
                counter++;
          }
      }
});
t.start();
t.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");</pre>
```

Using Java lambda expressions

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;

Thread t = new Thread(() -> {
    for (int i=0; i<PEOPLE; i++) {
        counter++;
    }
});
t.start();
t.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");</pre>
```

Threads in Java — Alternative Definition



Other ways to define threads

Runnable object in the thread constructor

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;

Thread t = new Thread(new Runnable() {
    public void run() {
        for (int i=0; i<PEOPLE; i++) {
            counter++;
        }
    }
});
t.start();
t.join();</pre>
```

System.out.println(counter+" people entered");

Using Java lambda expressions

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;

Thread t = new Thread(() -> {
    for (int i=0; i<PEOPLE; i++) {
        counter++;
    }
});
t.start();
t.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");</pre>
```

I would only recommend these when the thread's code is small, e.g., without several methods. And when the local state of the thread is minimal. WARNING: Possibly bias opinion!

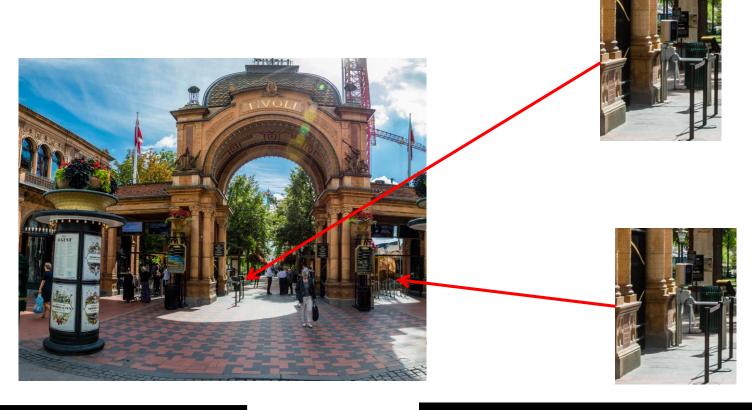
Threads in Java – Example Tivoli entrance turnstile





Threads in Java – Example II Tivoli entrance turnstile





Threads in Java — Example II



Turnstile thread

Altogether (not executable, see **CounterThreads2.java** for the executable program)

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10 000;
Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();
                                                    We simply add another
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();
turnstile1.start();turnstile2.start();
turnstile2.join();turnstile2.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
public class Turnstile extends Thread {
   public void run() {
       for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
          counter++;
```



Turnstile thread

What value of **counter** cutable, see **CounterThreads2.java** for will this program print? gram)

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10 000;
Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();
                                                    We simply add another
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();
turnstile1.start();turnstile2.start();
turnstile2.join();turnstile2.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
public class Turnstile extends Thread {
   public void run() {
       for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
          counter++;
```



What value of **counter** will this program print?

cutable, see **CounterThreads2.java** for gram)



```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10 000;
Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();
turnstile1.start();turnstile2.start();
turnstile2.join();turnstile2.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
public class Turnstile extends Thread {
   public void run() {
       for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
          counter++;
```

We simply add another Turnstile thread



We simply add another

Turnstile thread

What value of counter will this program print?

cutable, see **CounterThreads2.java** for gram)

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10 000;
Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();
turnstile1.start();turnstile2.start();
turnstile2.join();turnstile2.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
public class Turnstile extends Thread {
   public void run() {
                                    i++) {
```

VERY HARD: What is the minimum value of **counter** that this program can print?

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Threads in Java — Example II



- What was is the problem in the previous program?
- To answer this question we need to understand
 - Atomicity
 - States of a thread
 - Non-determinism
 - Interleavings

Atomicity

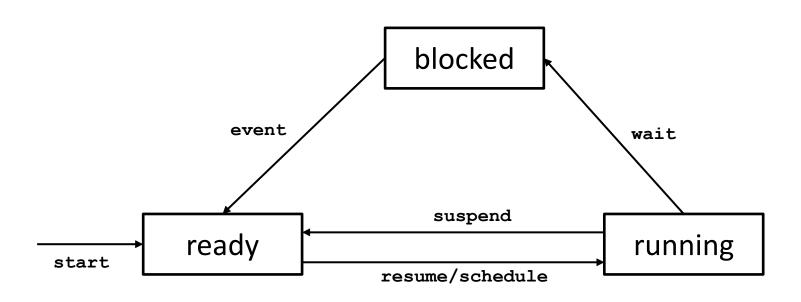


- The program statement **counter++** is not *atomic*
- Atomic statements are executed as a single (indivisible)
 operation

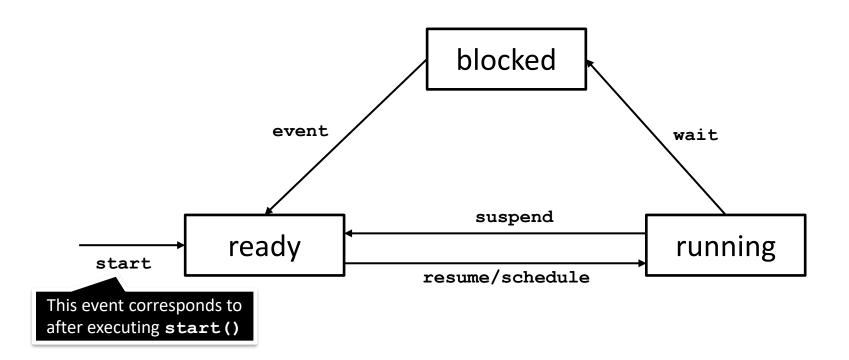
```
public class Turnstile extends Thread {
   public void run() {
      for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
           counter++;
      }
      int temp = counter;
      counter = temp + 1;
}</pre>
```

<u>Watchout</u>: Just because a program statement is a one-liner, it doesn't mean that it is atomic

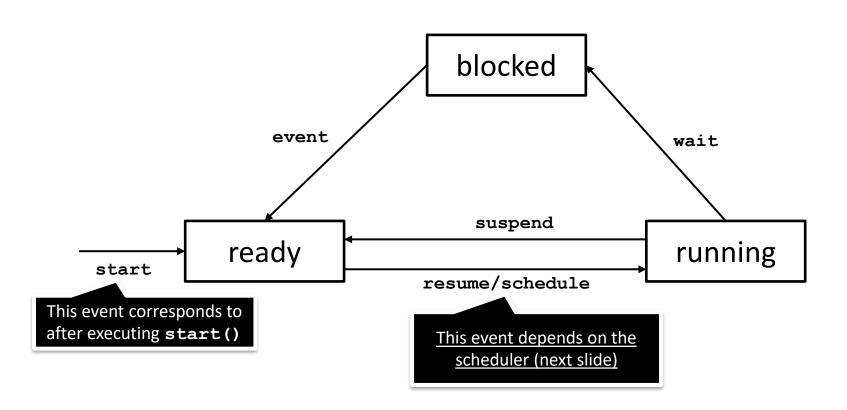




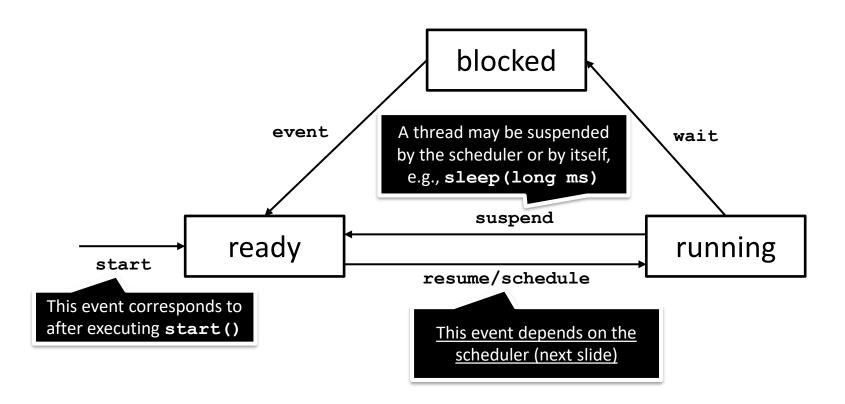




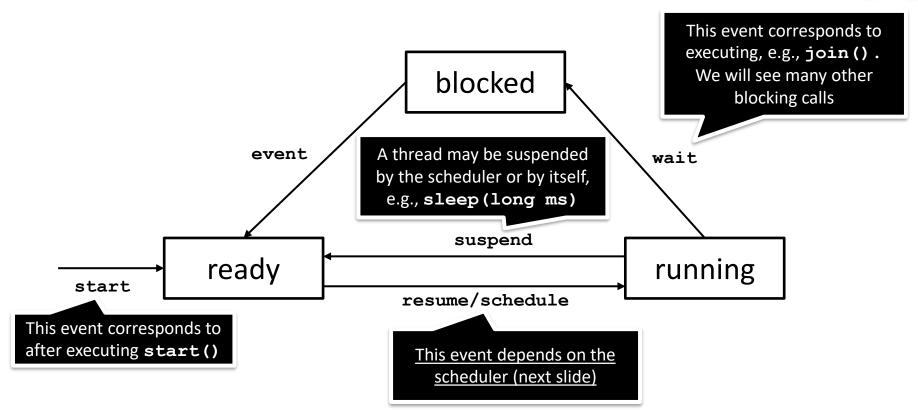




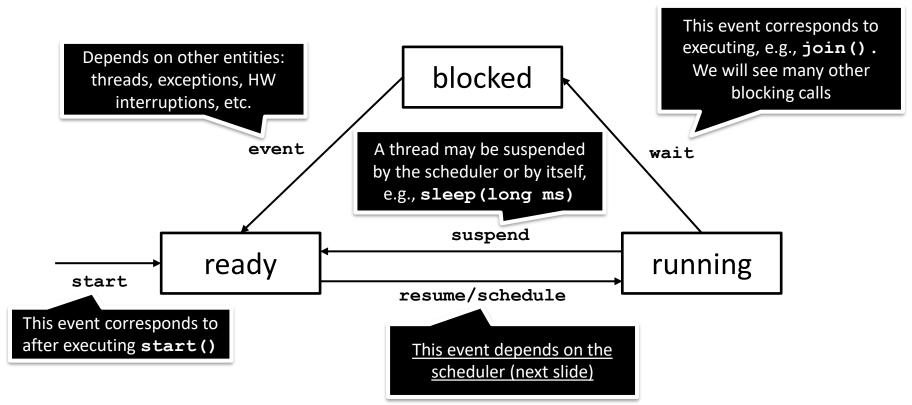














- In all operating systems/executing environments a scheduler selects the processes/threads under execution
 - Threads are selected *non-deterministically*, i.e., no assumptions can be made about what thread will be executed next

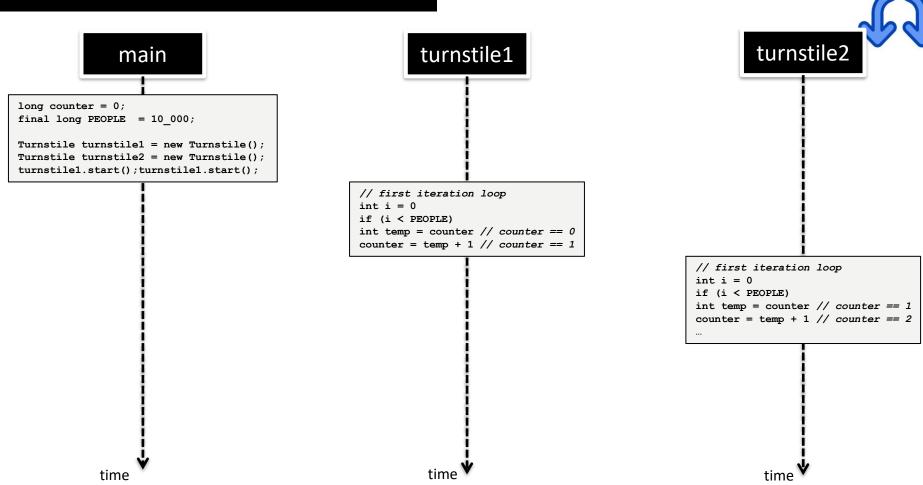
- Consider two threads t1 and t2 in the ready state; t1(ready) and t2(ready)
 - 1. t1(running) -> t1(ready) -> t1(running) -> t1(ready) -> ...
 - 2. t2(running) -> t2(ready) -> t2(running) -> t2(ready) -> ...
 - 3. $t1(running) \rightarrow t1(ready) \rightarrow t2(running) \rightarrow t2(ready) \rightarrow ...$
 - 4. Infinitely many different executions!

Interleaving

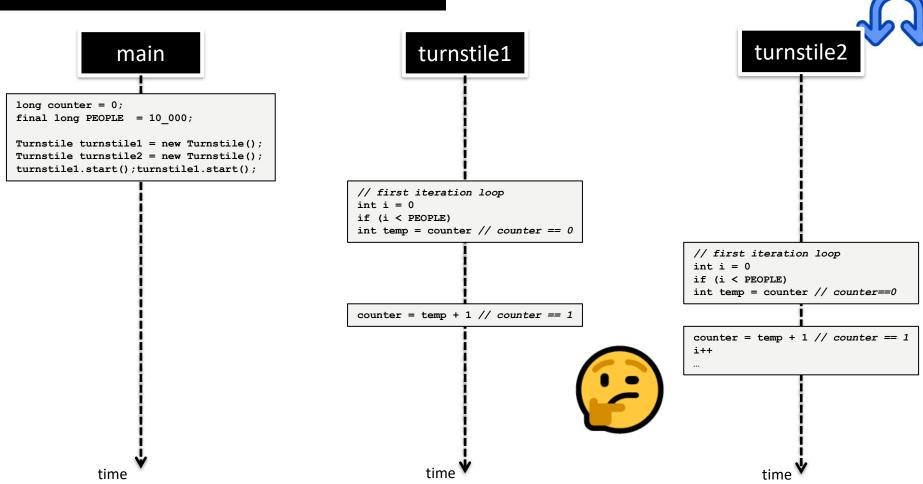


- The statements in a thread are executed when the thread is in its "running" state
- An interleaving is a possible sequence of operations for a concurrent program
 - Note this: <u>a sequence of operations for a concurrent program</u>, not for a thread. Concurrent programs are composed by 2 or more threads.

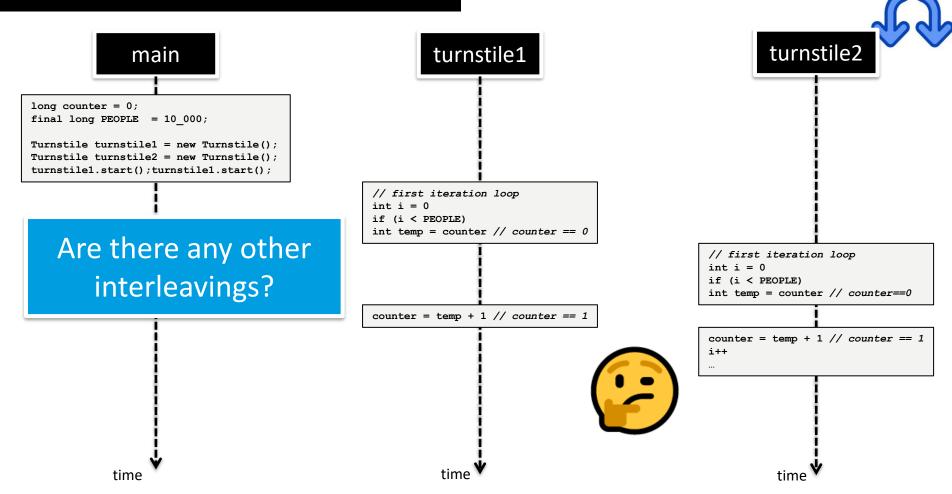
Interleaving – Example I



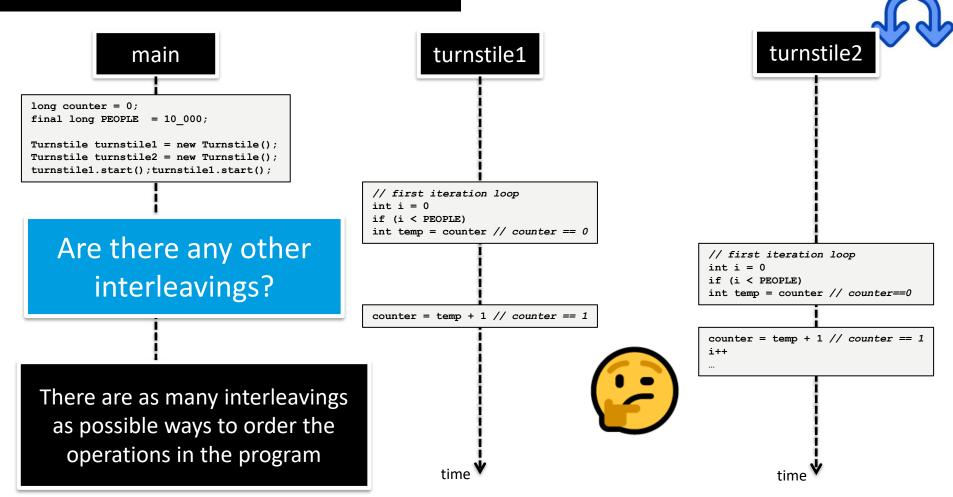
Interleaving – Example II



Interleaving – Example II



Interleaving – Example II



Race Conditions



Concurrency Humour...

- Knock, knock
- Race condition
 - Who's there?



 A race condition occurs when the result of the computation depends on the interleavings of the operations

Data Races



- A data race occurs when two concurrent threads:
 - Access a shared memory location
 - At least one access is a write



Not all <u>race conditions</u> are <u>data races</u>

- Threads may not access shared memory
- Threads may not write on shared memory

Not all <u>data races</u> result in race conditions

 The result of the program may not change based on the writes of threads

Threads in Java — Example II



What was is the problem in the previous program?

- The statement counter++ is not atomic
- Some interleavings result in threads reading stale (outdated) data
- Consequently, the program has race conditions
- In what follows, we will see how to tackle this type of problems

- A critical section is a part of the program that only one thread can execute at the same time
 - Useful to avoid race conditions in concurrent programs

```
public class Turnstile extends Thread {
   public void run() {
      for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
            // start critical section
            int temp = counter;
            counter = temp + 1;
            // end critical section
      }
   }
}</pre>
```



- A critical section is a part of the program that only one thread can execute at the same time
 - Useful to avoid race conditions in concurrent programs

```
public class Turnstile extends Thread {
   public void run() {
      for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
            // start critical section
            int temp = counter;
            counter = temp + 1;
            // end critical section
      }
   }
}</pre>
Critical sections should cover the parts of the code handling shared memory
```



• A *critical section* is a part of the program that only one thread can execute at the same time

```
race conditions in concurrent programs
Shouldn't the critical section
  start before the for?
                          istile extends Thread {
          public void run() {
               for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
                  // start critical section
                   int temp = counter;
                  counter = temp + 1;
                  // end critical section
                                                  Critical sections should cover
                                                  the parts of the code handling
                                                       shared memory
```

Mutual Exclusion



- The mutual exclusion property states that
 - Two or more threads cannot be executing their critical section at the same time
- Mutual exclusion was first formulated by EW Dijkstra (see optional readings)
 - He devised a protocol to ensure mutual exclusion (solving the mutual exclusion problem)
 - He laid down the properties for a satisfactory solution to ensuring mutual exclusion



Mutual Exclusion



- An ideal solution to the mutual exclusion problem must ensure:
 - Mutual exclusion: at most one thread executing the critical section at the same time
 - <u>Absence of *deadlock*</u>: threads eventually exit the critical section allowing other threads to enter
 - <u>Absence of *starvation*</u>: if a thread is ready to enter the critical section, it must eventually do so

Mutual Exclusion

- An ideal solution to the mutual exclusion problem must ensure:
 - Mutual exclusion: at most one thread executing the critical section at the same time
 - Absence of <u>deadlock</u>: threads eventually exit the critical section allowing other threads to enter
 - Absence of starvation: if a thread is ready to enter the critical section, it must eventually do so In practice, we will see that it is not always possible to achieve absence of starvation

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- In Java, mutual exclusion can be achieved using the **Lock** interface in the **java.util.concurrent.locks** package
 - lock()
 - Acquires the lock if available, otherwise it blocks
 - It is blocking
 - unlock()
 - Releases the lock, if there are other threads waiting for the lock it signals one of them
 - It is not blocking

- Simple protocol: call lock() before entering the critical section, and unlock()
 after exiting
- <u>Each critical section must have a lock associated to it, but many critical sections may use the same lock.</u>
- Simplified, see CounterThreadsLock.java

```
Lock 1 = new Lock();
public class Turnstile extends Thread {
  public void run() {
       for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
           1.lock() // start critical section
           int temp = counter;
           counter = temp + 1;
          1.unlock() // end critical section
```

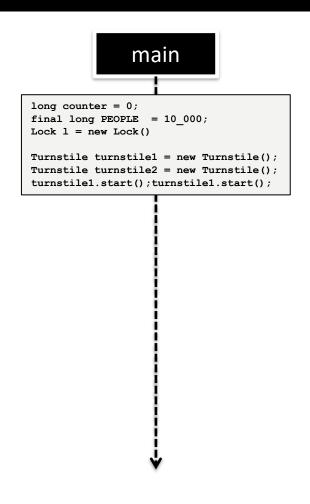
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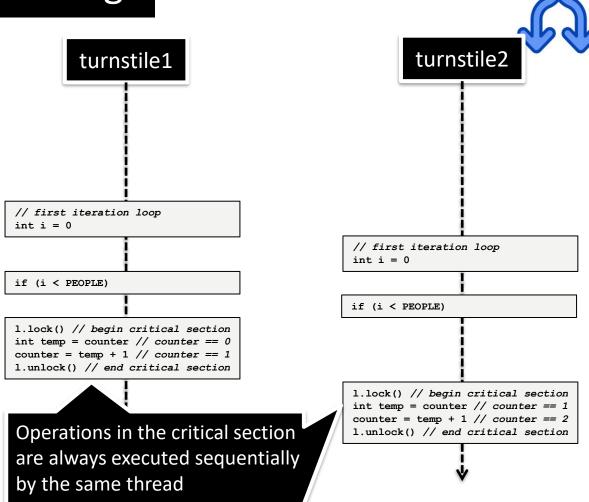
may use the same lock.

 We do not focus on the implementation of lock()/unlock(), but in their use to solve concurrency problems.

 See Sections 2.3, 2.5, 2.7 and Section 7.3 onwards in Herlihy for implementation details of lock()/unlock()

Java Locks | Interleavings





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Happens-before



- In fact, we can now characterize an order of execution between some of the operations of a program
- We say that an operation a <u>happens-before</u> than operation b, denoted as $a \rightarrow b$, iff
 - a and b belong to the same thread and a appears before b in the thread definition
 - a is an **unlock()** and b is a **lock()** on the same lock
- In the absence of happens-before relation between operations, the JVM is free to choose any
 execution order
 - In that case we say that operations are executed concurrently
 - Sometimes denoted as a || b

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- Happens-before is a pre-order over operations of concurrent programs
 - Transitive
 - Anti-symmetric
- "Happened-before" was first introduced by Leslie Lamport for distributed systems
 - See optional readings

Happens-before



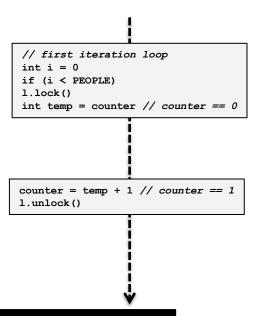
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 - Sometimes denoted as a || b
- Happens-before is a pre-order over operations of concurrent programs
 - Transitive
 - Anti-symmetric
- "Don't be brainwashed by programming languages. Free your mind with
 - See optional r mathematics." Time for one question before we go straight to the next talk.

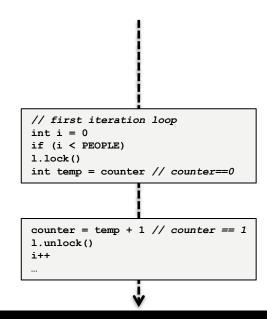
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 We use locks to remove undesired interlavings, and happens-before can help us reasoning about correctness

Is this a valid interleaving?

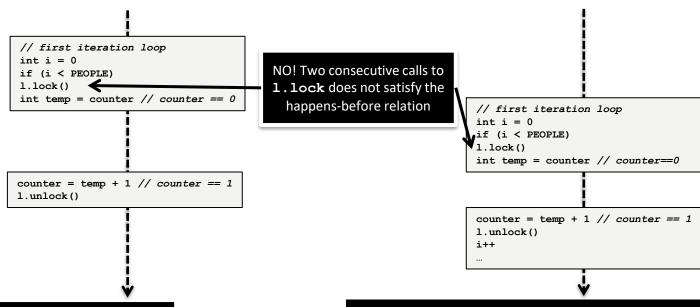






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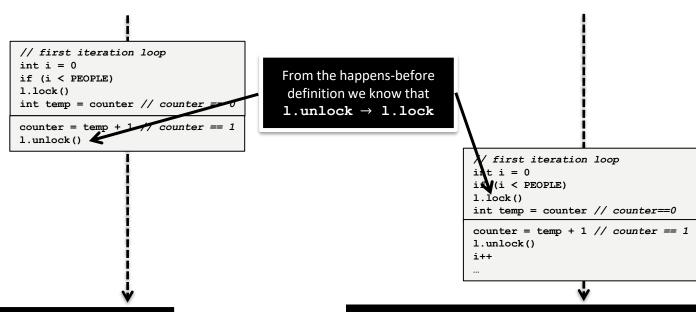
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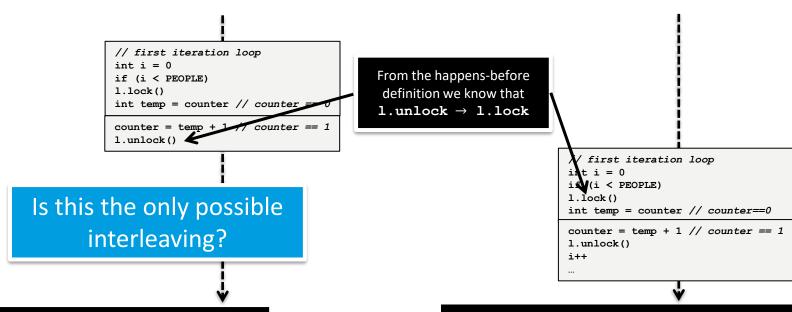
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• <u>We use locks to remove undesired interlavings</u>, and happens-before can help us reasoning about correctness



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 The solution to the turnstile problem ensures mutual exclusion but does it ensure absence of deadlock?

```
Absence of deadlock: threads
Lock 1 = new Lock();
                                                      eventually exit the critical section
                                                      allowing other threads to enter
public class Turnstile extends Thread {
   public void run() {
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
             1.lock() // start critical section
             int temp = counter;
             counter = temp + 1;
             1.unlock() // end critical section
```

(Naïve) examples of deadlocks



 Locking twice within the thread

Thread 1

This is not unrealistic.
For instance, see these bug repots in the Linux kernel

[1] https://github.com/torvalds/linux/commit/e1db4ce [2] https://github.com/torvalds/linux/commit/2904207 Exception during execution

```
for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
    1.lock()
    12.lock()
    int temp = counter;
    throw new Exception();
    // If exception handling doesn't
    unlock, blocks forever
}</pre>
Thread 1
```

```
for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
    12.lock() // blocks forever
    ...
}</pre>
```

Thread 2

(Naïve) examples of deadlocks



 Locking twice within the thread

This is not unrealistic.

For instance, see these bug repots in the Linux kernel

[1] https://github.com/torvalds/linux/commit/e1db4ce

[2] https://github.com/torvalds/linux/commit/2904207

Exceptio Why did I write 1 and 12 in this example?

```
for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
    12.lock() // blocks forever
    ...
}</pre>
```

Thread 2



- When using Java locks, it is recommended to use the idiom on the right
- This prevents deadlocks problems if the thread finish unexpectedly due to exception
 - Solutions not following this idiom cannot be deemed as free from deadlocks (note for assignments)
- We use this idiom in CounterThreadLocks.java

```
Lock 1 = new Lock();

1.lock()
try {
    // critical section code
} finally {
    l.unlock()
}
```



- Java Lock is an interface, so it cannot be used as we showed in the examples today
- We use an implementation of the Lock interface, namely ReentratLock
 - Reentrant locks act like a regular lock, except that they allow locks to be locked more than once by the same

thread