

Java

Thread

Multitasking

- Multitasking allows several activities to occur concurrently on the computer.
- Levels of multitasking:
 - ***Process-based multitasking***
 - Allows programs (processes) to run concurrently.
 - ***Thread-base multitasking (multithreading)***
 - Allows parts of the same process (threads) to run concurrently.

Multitasking

- Advantages of multithreading over process-based multitasking
 - Threads share the same address space
 - Context switching between threads is usually inexpensive
 - Communication between thread is usually inexpensive.
- Java supports thread-based multitasking and provides high-level facilities for multithreaded programming.

Main Thread

- When a Java program starts up, one thread begins running immediately.
- This is called the main thread of the program.
- It is the thread from which the child threads will be spawned.
- Often, it must be the last thread to finish execution.
- **Example- MainThread.java**

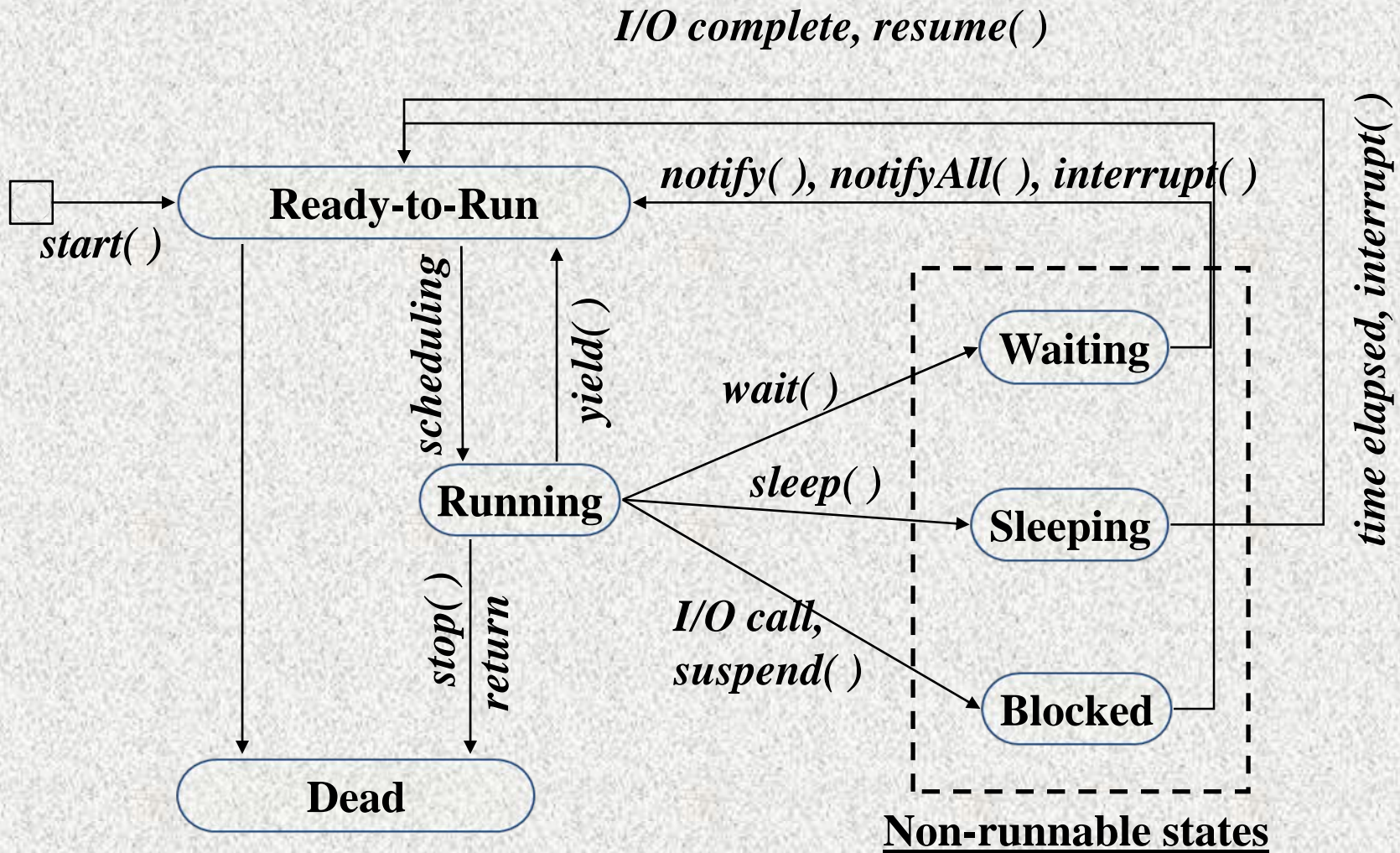
How to create Thread

1. By implementing ***Runnable*** Interface
 2. By extending the ***Thread*** class itself
- *Implementing Runnable*
 - Need to implement the public void run() method
 - **Example : RunnableThread.java**
 - *Extends Thread*
 - Need to override the public void run() method
 - **Example: ExtendsThread.java**
 - Which one is better ?

Multiple Threads

- It is possible to create more than one thread inside the main. **Example: MultipleThreads.java**
- In multiple threads, often you will want the main thread to finish last. This is accomplished in the above program using a large delay in the main thread. But this can be done by using the *join()* method.
- Whether a thread has finished or not can be known using *isAlive()* method.
- **Example: JoinAliveThread.java**

Thread States



Thread Priority

- Threads can be assigned different priorities.
- Thread priorities are used by the thread scheduler to decide when each thread should be allowed to run.
- Theoretically higher priority threads get more CPU time than lower priority threads.
- To set a thread's priority the *setPriority(int level)* method is used. The level must be within the range MIN_PRIORITY(0) and MAX_PRIORITY(10). The default value is NORM_PRIORITY(5).
- **Example: ThreadPriority.java**

Synchronization

- When two or more threads need access to a shared resource, they need some way to ensure that the resource will be used by only one thread at a time.
- The process by which this is achieved is called synchronization.
- Key to synchronization is the concept of the monitor.
- A monitor is an object that is used as a mutually exclusive lock. Only one thread can own a monitor at a given time.

Synchronization

- When a thread acquires a lock, it is said to have entered the monitor.
- All other threads attempting to enter the locked monitor will be suspended until the first thread exits the monitor.
- These other threads are said to be waiting for the monitor.
- **Example: NonSynchronized.java**

Synchronization

- Two way to achieve synchronization.

- *Synchronized method*

- synchronized*** void call(String msg) {}

- Example: SynchronizedMethod.java**

- *Synchronized block*

- public void run()
{
 synchronized(target)
 {
 target.call(msg); } }

- Example: SynchronizedBlock.java**

Inter Thread Communication

- Polling is usually implemented by a loop that is used to check some condition repeatedly. Once the condition is true, appropriate action is taken. This wastes CPU time.
- Java includes an elegant inter thread communication mechanism via the *wait()*, *notify()* and *notifyAll()* methods.
- These methods are implemented as final methods in Object, so all classes have them.
- All three methods can be called only from within a synchronized method.

Inter Thread Communication

- ***wait()*** - tells the calling thread to give up the monitor and go to sleep until some other thread enters the same monitor and calls ***notify()***.
- ***notify()*** - wakes up the first thread that called ***wait()*** on the same object.
- ***notifyAll()*** - wakes up all the threads that called ***wait()*** on the same object. The highest priority thread will run first.
- Example: **IncorrectProducerConsumer.java, ProducerConsumer.java**

Suspend, Resume and Stop

- Thread can be suspended, resumed and stopped.
- *Suspend*
 - Thread t; t.suspend();
- *Resume*
 - Thread t; t.resume();
- *Stop*
 - Thread t; t.stop(); *Cannot be resumed later.*
- suspend and stop can sometimes cause serious system failures. So new way [Pg: 251]

End