OSTEP Locks and Condition Variables

Questions answered in this lecture:

How can threads **block** instead of **spin-waiting** while waiting for a lock?

When should a waiting thread block and when should it spin?

How can threads enforce **ordering** across operations?

How can **thread_join()** be implemented?

How can condition variables be used to support producer/consumer apps?

Review: Ticket Lock

```
void acquire(lock_t *lock) {
typedef struct ___lock_t {
                                          int myturn = FAA(&lock->ticket);
 int ticket;
                                          while (lock->turn != myturn)
 int turn;
                                                yield();
void lock_init(lock_t *lock) {
 lock->ticket = 0;
                                    void release (lock_t *lock) {
 lock->turn = 0;
                                          FAA(&lock->turn);
```

Are both FAA() instructions needed or can replace with simple ++?

Review: Ticket Lock

```
void acquire(lock_t *lock) {
typedef struct ___lock_t {
                                          int myturn = FAA(&lock->ticket);
 int ticket;
                                          while (lock->turn != myturn)
 int turn;
                                                yield(); // spin
void lock_init(lock_t *lock) {
 lock->ticket = 0;
                                    void release (lock_t *lock) {
 lock->turn = 0;
                                          lock->turn++;
```

FAA() used in textbook → conservative
Try this modification in Homework simulations

Lock Evaluation

How to tell if a lock implementation is good?

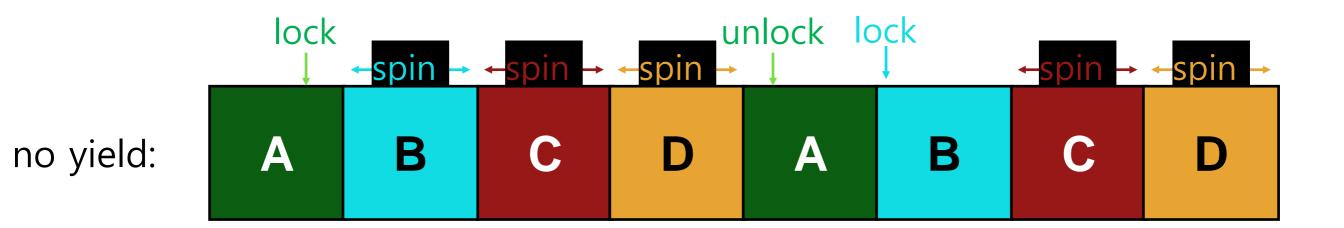
Fairness:

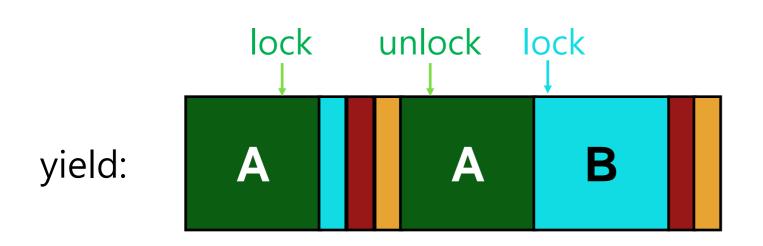
Do processes acquire lock in same order as requested?

Performance

Two scenarios:

- low contention (fewer threads, lock usually available)
- - high contention (many threads per CPU, each contending)





Why is yield useful?
Why doesn't yield solve all performance problems?

Spinlock Performance

Waste...

Without yield: O(threads * context_switch)

With yield: O(threads * time_slice)

So even with yield, we're slow with high contention.

Race Condition

```
Thread 2
Thread 1
if (lock->flag == 0)
queue_push(lock->q, gettid());
lock->guard = 0;
                                while (xchg(\&lock->guard, 1) == 1)
                                if (queue_empty(lock->q))
                                unpark(queue_pop(lock->q));
                                lock->guard = 0;
park();
       (in lock)
                                       (in unlock)
```

Incorrect Code

```
void lock(lock_t *lock) {
  while (xchg(\&lock->guard, 1) == 1)
       ; // spin
  if (lock->flag == 0) { // lock is free: grab it!
       lock -> flag = 1;
       lock->guard = 0;
  } else { // lock not free: sleep
       queue_push(lock->q, gettid());
       lock->guard = 0;
       park(); // put self to sleep
```

Correct Code

```
void lock(lock_t *lock) {
  while (xchg(\&lock->guard, 1) == 1)
       ; // spin
  if (lock->flag == 0) { // lock is free: grab it!
       lock - flag = 1;
       lock->guard = 0;
  } else { // lock not free: sleep
       queue_push(lock->q, gettid());
       setpark();
       lock->guard = 0;
       park(); // put self to sleep
```

Lock Implementation: Block when Waiting

Lock implementation removes waiting threads from scheduler ready queue (e.g., park() and unpark())

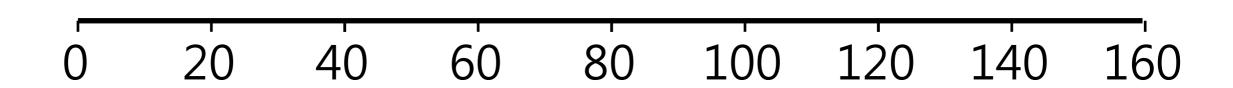
Scheduler runs any thread that is ready

Good separation of concerns

RUNNABLE: A, B, C, D

RUNNING: <empty>

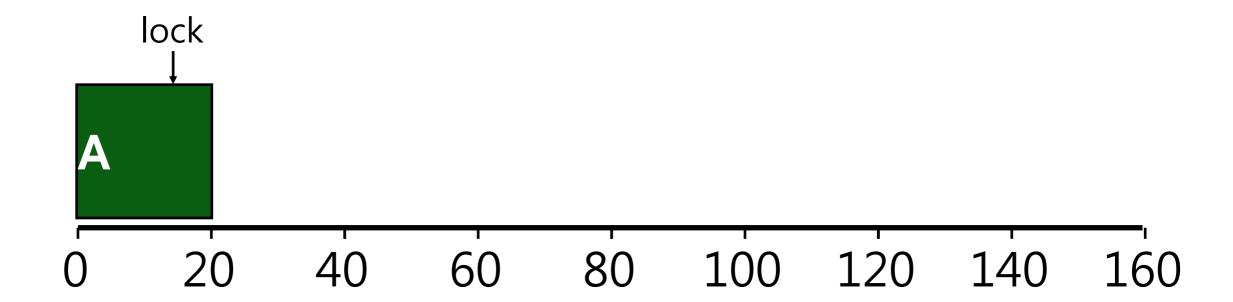
WAITING: <empty>



RUNNABLE: B, C, D

RUNNING: A

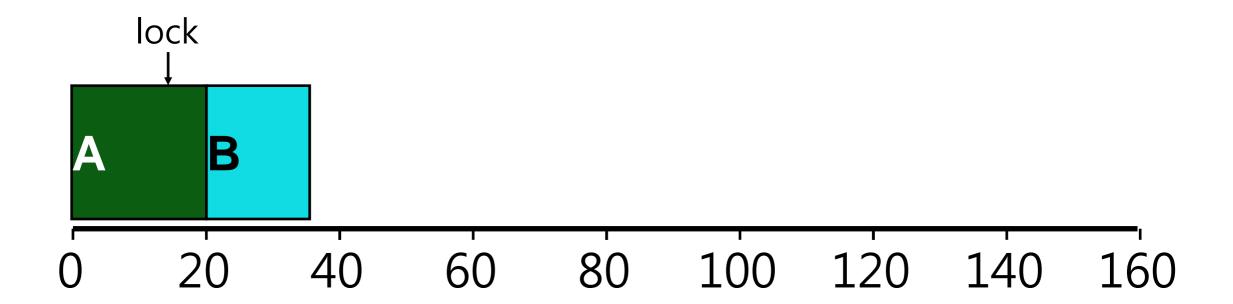
WAITING: <empty>



RUNNABLE: C, D, A

RUNNING: B

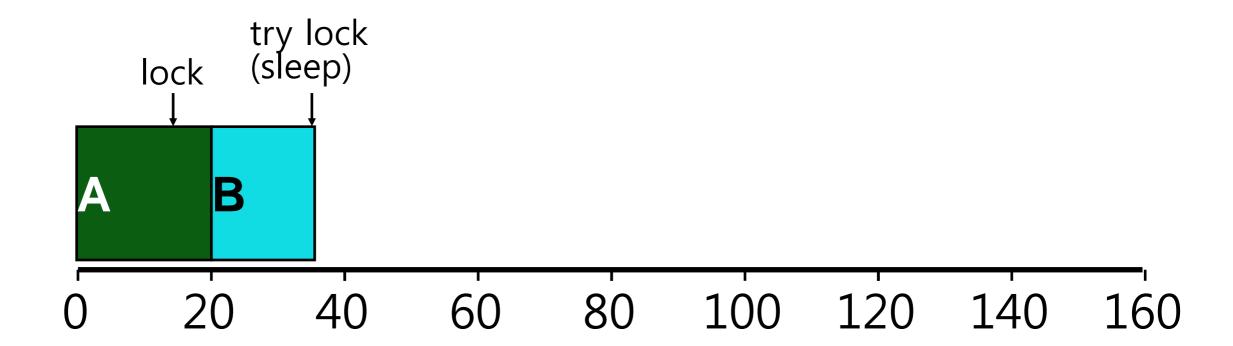
WAITING: <empty>



RUNNABLE: C, D, A

RUNNING:

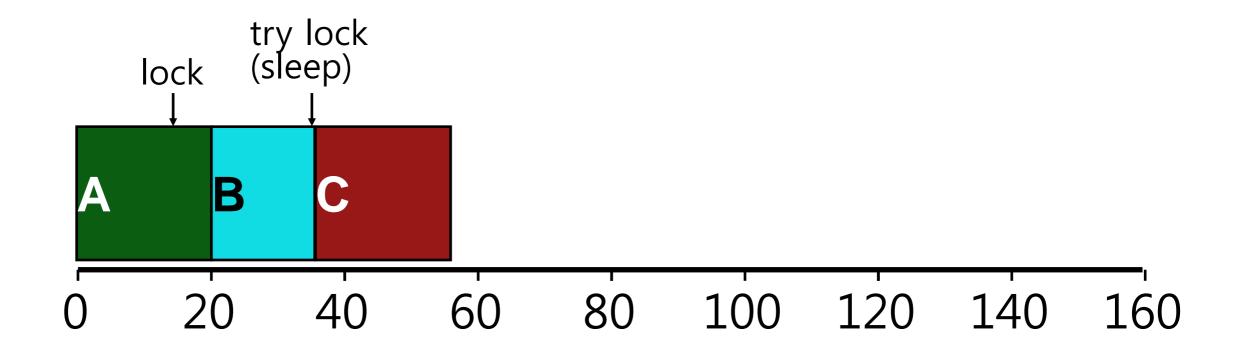
WAITING: B



RUNNABLE: D, A

RUNNING: C

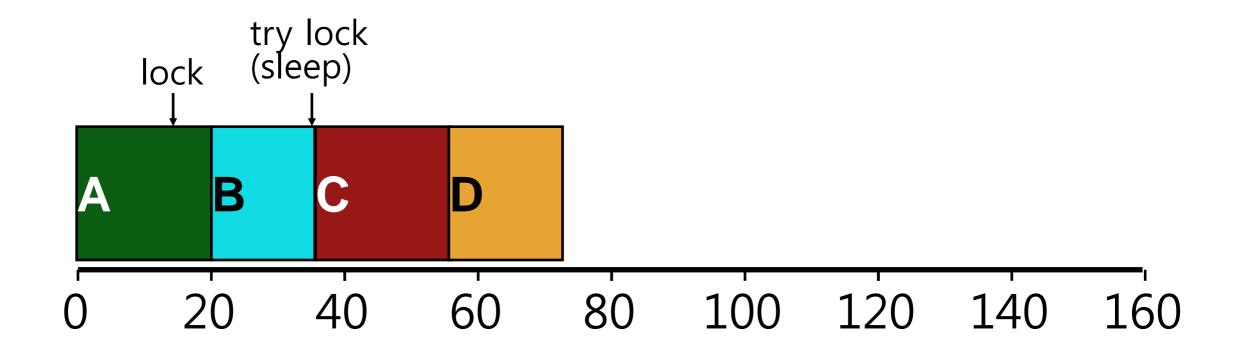
WAITING: B



RUNNABLE: A, C

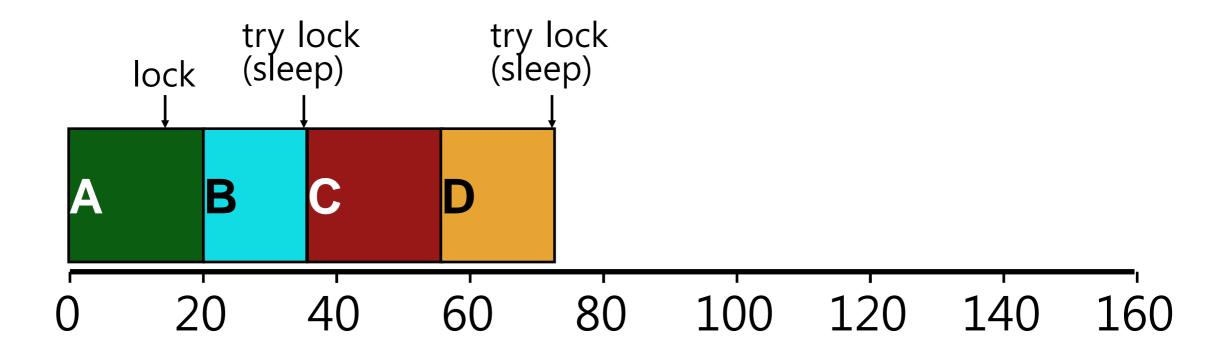
RUNNING: D

WAITING: B



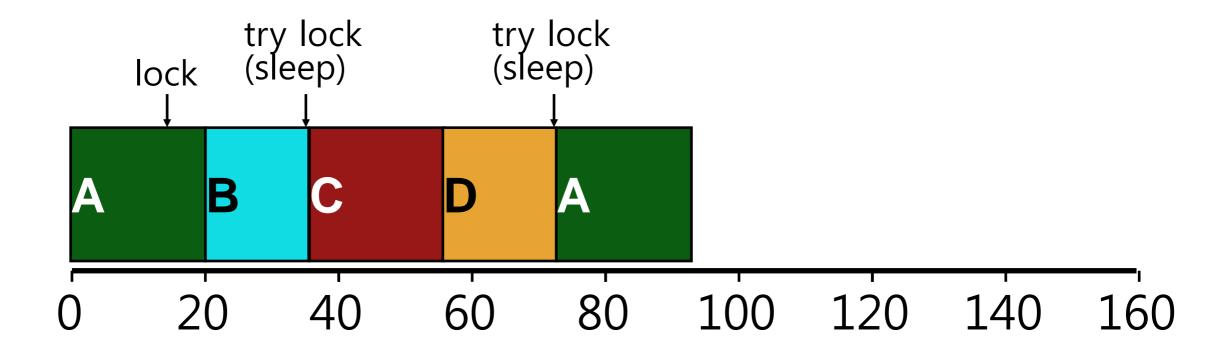
RUNNABLE: A, C

RUNNING:



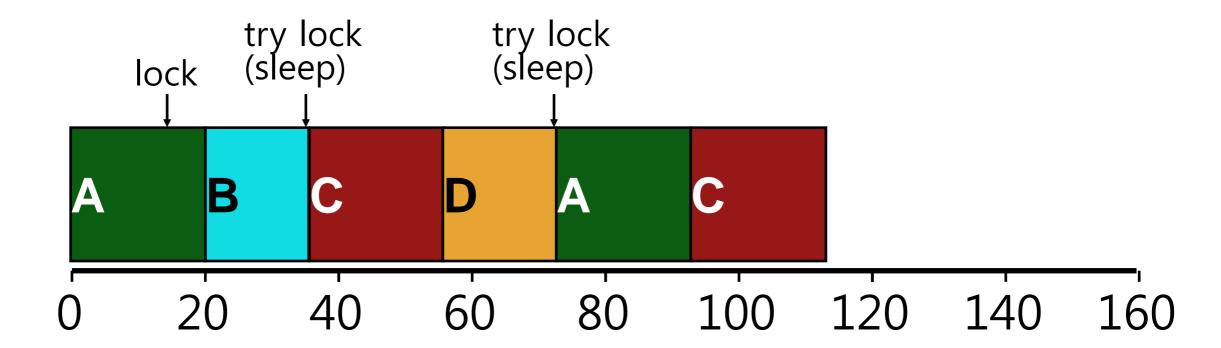
RUNNABLE: C

RUNNING: A



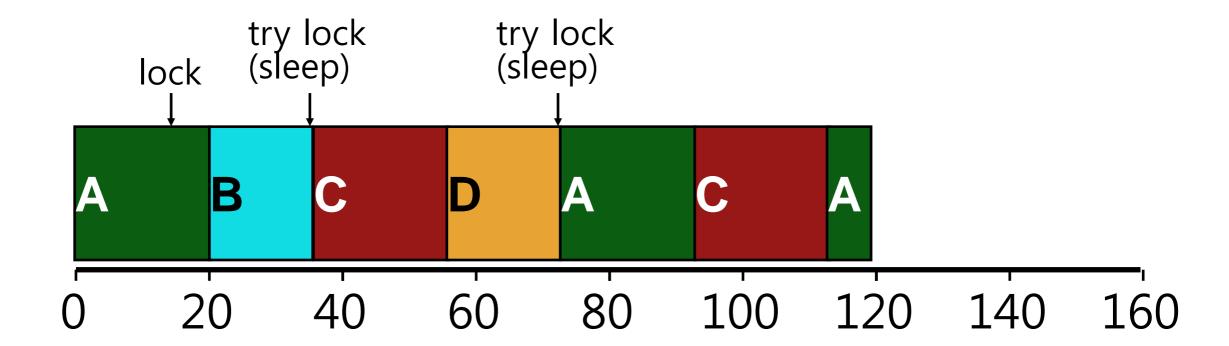
RUNNABLE: A

RUNNING: C



RUNNABLE: C

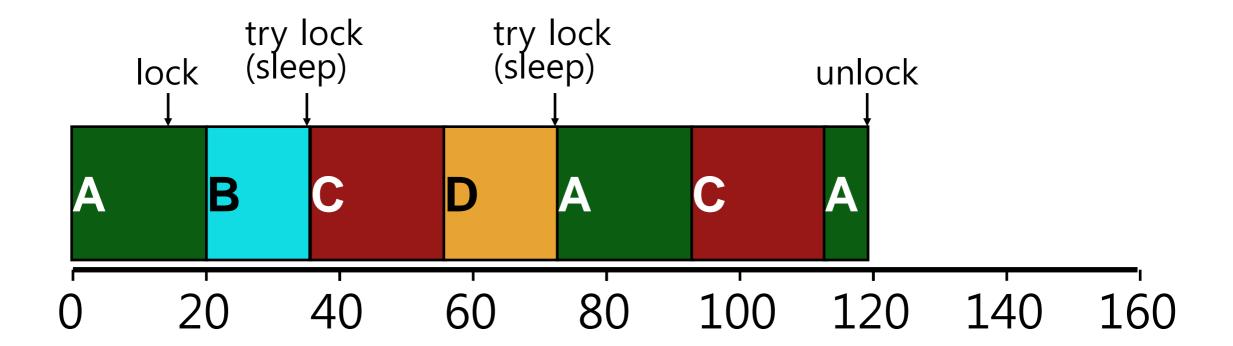
RUNNING: A



RUNNABLE: B, C

RUNNING: A

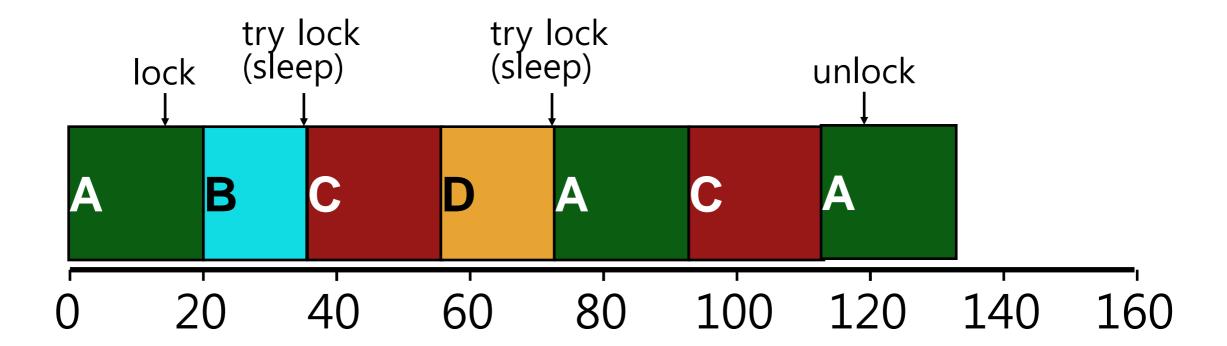
WAITING: D



RUNNABLE: B, C

RUNNING: A

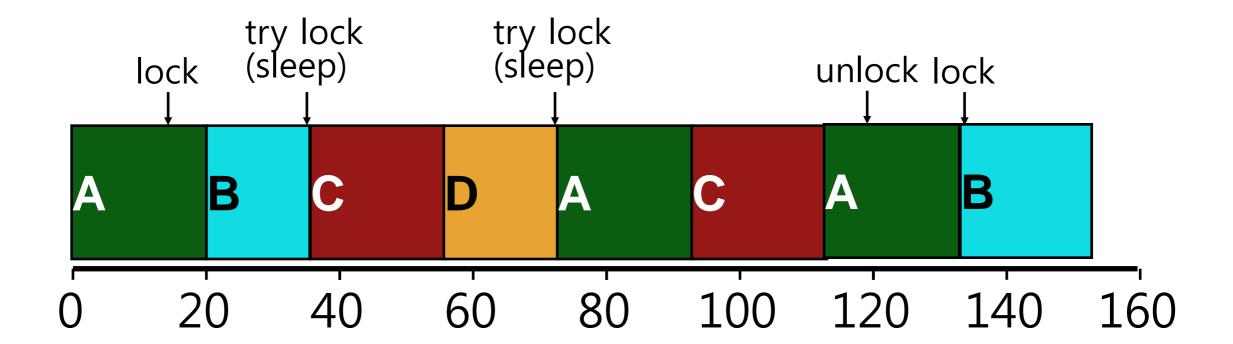
WAITING: D



RUNNABLE: C, A

RUNNING: B

WAITING: D



Lock Implementation: Block when Waiting

```
typedef struct {
  bool lock = false;
   bool guard = false;
  queue_t q;
 } LockT;
(a) Why is guard used?
(b) Why okay to spin on guard?
(c) In release(), why not set lock=fals
e when unpark?
(d) What is the race condition?
```

```
void acquire(LockT *I) {
   while (TAS(&I->guard, true));
   if (I->lock) {
              qadd(l->q, tid);
              I->guard = false;
                         // blocked
              park();
   } else {
              I->lock = true;
              I->guard = false;
void release(LockT *I) {
   while (TAS(&I->guard, true));
   if (qempty(I->q)) I->lock=false;
   else unpark(qremove(I->q));
   I->guard = false;
```

Race Condition

Problem: Guard not held when call park()
Unlocking thread may unpark() before other park()

Block when Waiting: FINAL correct LOCK

```
Typedef struct {
                                        void acquire(LockT *I) {
                                            while (TAS(&I->guard, true));
 bool lock = false;
                                            if (I->lock) {
 bool guard = false;
                                                       qadd(l->q, tid);
 queue_t q;
                                                       setpark(); // notify of plan
                                                       I->guard = false;
} LockT;
                                                       park(); // unless unpark()
                                            } else {
                                                       I->lock = true;
                                                       I->guard = false;
setpark() fixes race condition
                                        void release(LockT *I) {
                                            while (TAS(&I->guard, true));
                                            if (qempty(l->q)) l->lock=false;
                                            else unpark(qremove(I->q));
                                            I->guard = false;
```

}

Spin-Waiting vs Blocking

Each approach is better under different circumstances

Uniprocessor

Waiting process is scheduled --> Process holding lock isn't

Waiting process should always relinquish processor

Associate queue of waiters with each lock (as in previous implement ation)

Multiprocessor

Waiting process is scheduled --> Process holding lock might be

Spin or block depends on how long, t, before lock is released

Lock released quickly --> Spin-wait

Lock released slowly --> Block

Quick and slow are relative to context-switch cost, C

When to Spin-Wait? When to Block?

If know how long, t, before lock released, can determine optimal behavior

How much CPU time is wasted when spin-waiting?

t

How much wasted when block?

C

What is the best action when t<C?

spin-wait

When t>C?

block

Problem:

Requires knowledge of future; too much overhead to do any special prediction

Two-Phase Waiting

Theory: Bound worst-case performance; ratio of actual/optimal When does worst-possible performance occur?

```
Spin for very long time t >> C
Ratio: t/C (unbounded)
```

Algorithm: Spin-wait for C then block --> Factor of 2 of optimal Two cases:

- t < C: optimal spin-waits for t; we spin-wait t too
- t > C: optimal blocks immediately (cost of C); we pay spin C then block (cost of 2 C); 2C / C \rightarrow 2-competitive algorithm

Example of competitive analysis

Condition Variables

There are many cases where a thread wishes to <u>check</u> whether a **condition** is true before continuing its execution.

Example:

- A parent thread might wish to check whether a child thread has completed.
- This is often called a join().

Condition Variables (Cont.)

A Parent Waiting For Its Child

```
void *child(void *arg) {
          printf("child\n");
          // XXX how to indicate we are done?
          return NULL;
       int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
           printf("parent: begin\n");
           pthread t c;
           Pthread create(&c, NULL, child, NULL); // create
10
child
           // XXX how to wait for child?
11
12
          printf("parent: end\n");
13
          return 0;
14
```

What we would like to see here is:

```
parent: begin
child
parent: end
```

Parent waiting fore child: Spin-based Approach

```
volatile int done = 0;
      void *child(void *arg) {
           printf("child\n");
           done = 1;
          return NULL;
      int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
10
           printf("parent: begin\n");
11
          pthread t c;
12
           Pthread create (&c, NULL, child, NULL); // create child
13
           while (done == 0)
               ; // spin
14
15
          printf("parent: end\n");
16
          return 0;
17
```

• This is hugely inefficient as the parent spins and wastes CPU time.

How to wait for a condition

Condition variable

- Waiting on the condition
 - <u>An explicit queue</u> that threads can put themselves on when some state of execution is not as desired.
- Signaling on the condition
 - Some other thread, when it changes said state, can wake one of those waiting threads and allow them to continue.

Definition and Routines

Declare condition variable

```
pthread cond t c;
```

Proper initialization is required.

Operation (the POSIX calls)

- The wait() call takes a <u>mutex</u> as a parameter.
 - The wait() call release the lock and put the calling thread to sleep.
 - When the thread wakes up, it must re-acquire the lock.

Parent waiting for Child: Use a condition variable

```
int done = 0;
      pthread mutex t m = PTHREAD MUTEX INITIALIZER;
      pthread cond t c = PTHREAD COND INITIALIZER;
      void thr exit() {
              Pthread mutex lock(&m);
              done = 1;
             Pthread cond signal(&c);
              Pthread mutex unlock(&m);
10
11
12
      void *child(void *arg) {
13
             printf("child\n");
14
             thr exit();
15
             return NULL;
16
17
18
      void thr join() {
19
              Pthread mutex lock(&m);
             while (done == 0)
20
                     Pthread cond wait(&c, &m);
21
22
              Pthread mutex unlock(&m);
23
24
```

Parent waiting for Child: Use a condition variable

```
(cont.)
25
       int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
26
              printf("parent: begin\n");
             pthread t p;
27
              Pthread create(&p, NULL, child, NULL);
28
              thr join();
29
30
              printf("parent: end\n");
31
             return 0;
32
```

Parent waiting for Child: Use a condition variable

Parent:

- Create the child thread and continues running itself.
- Call into thr_join() to wait for the child thread to complete.
 - Acquire the lock
 - Check if the child is done
 - Put itself to sleep by calling wait()
 - Release the lock

Child:

- Print the message "child"
- Call thr_exit() to wake the parent thread
 - Grab the lock
 - Set the state variable done
 - Signal the parent thus waking it.

The importance of the state variable done

```
1  void thr_exit() {
2     Pthread_mutex_lock(&m);
3     Pthread_cond_signal(&c);
4     Pthread_mutex_unlock(&m);
5  }
6
7  void thr_join() {
8     Pthread_mutex_lock(&m);
9     Pthread_cond_wait(&c, &m);
10     Pthread_mutex_unlock(&m);
11 }
```

thr exit() and thr join() without variable done

- Imagine the case where the *child runs immediately*.
 - The child will signal, but there is no thread asleep on the condition.
 - When the parent runs, it will call wait and be stuck.
 - No thread will ever wake it.

Another poor implementation

- The issue here is a subtle race condition.
 - The parent calls thr join().
 - The parent checks the value of done.
 - It will see that it is 0 and try to go to sleep.
 - *Just before* it calls wait to go to sleep, the parent is <u>interrupted</u> and the child runs.
 - The child changes the state variable done to 1 and signals.
 - But no thread is waiting and thus no thread is woken.
 - When the parent runs again, it sleeps forever.

Condition Variables

Concurrency Objectives

Mutual exclusion (e.g., A and B don't run at same ti me)

- solved with *locks*

Ordering (e.g., B runs after A does something)

- solved with condition variables and semaphores

Ordering Example: Join

```
pthread_t p1, p2;
Pthread_create(&p1, NULL, mythread, "A");
Pthread_create(&p2, NULL, mythread, "B");
// join waits for the threads to finish
Pthread_join(p1, NULL);
                              how to implement join()?
Pthread_join(p2, NULL);
printf("main: done\n [balance: %d]\n [should: %d]\n",
   balance, max*2);
return 0;
```

Condition Variables

Condition Variable: queue of waiting threads

- B waits for a signal on CV before running
 - wait(CV, ...)
- A sends signal to CV when time for B to run
 - signal(CV, ...)

Condition Variables

wait(cond_t *cv, mutex_t *lock)

- assumes the lock is held when wait() is called
- puts caller to sleep + releases the lock (atomically)
- when awoken, reacquires lock before returning

signal(cond_t *cv)

- wake a single waiting thread (if >= 1 thread is waiting)
- if there is no waiting thread, just return, doing nothing

Join Implementation: Attempt 1

```
Child:
 Parent:
void thread_join() {
                                        void thread_exit() {
           Mutex_lock(&m);
                                 // x
                                                   Mutex_lock(&m);
                                                                          // a
                                                   Cond_signal(&c);
           Cond_wait(&c, &m); // y
                                                                          // b
                                                   Mutex_unlock(&m);
           Mutex_unlock(&m); // z
                                                                          // c
Example schedule:
   Parent:
                   X
                                                            Z
   Child:
                                            b
```

Works!

Join Implementation: Attempt 1

Can you construct ordering that does not work?

Example broken schedule:

Parent: x y

Child: a b c

Rule of Thumb 1

Keep state in addition to CV's!

CV's are used to signal threads when state changes

If state is already as needed, thread doesn't wait for a signal!

Join Implementation: Attempt 2

Fixes previous broken ordering:

Parent: w x y z

Child: a b

Join Implementation: Attempt 2

Can you construct ordering that does not work?

Parent:w x ... sleep forever ...

Child: a b

Join Implementation: Correct

```
Child:
   Parent:
                                            void thread_exit() {
void thread_join() {
                                                        Mutex_lock(&m);
                                                                                 // a
            Mutex_lock(&m);
                                      // w
                                                        done = 1;
                                                                                 // b
            if (done == 0)
                                     // x
                                                        Cond_signal(&c);
                                                                                 // c
                  Cond_wait(&c, &m); // y
                                                        Mutex_unlock(&m);
                                                                                 // d
            Mutex_unlock(&m);
```

```
Parent: w x y
```

Child: a b c

Use mutex to ensure no race between interacting with state and wait/signal

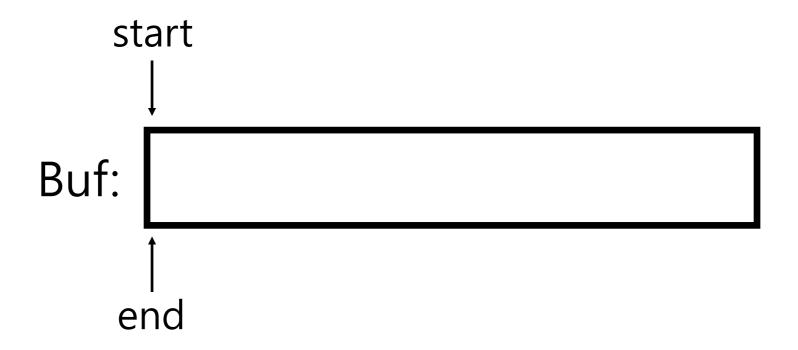
Producer/Consumer Problem

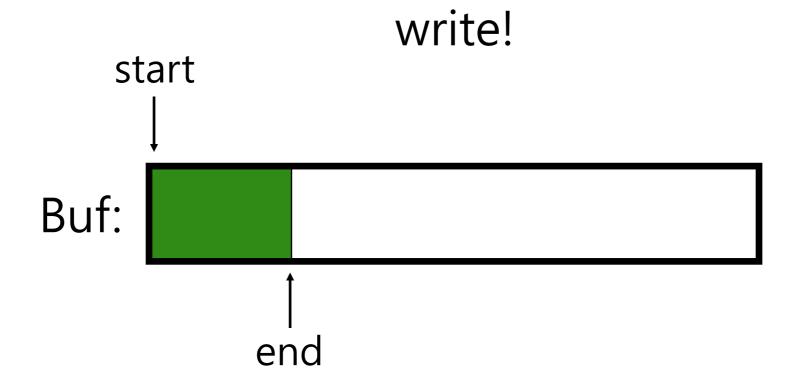
A pipe may have many writers and readers

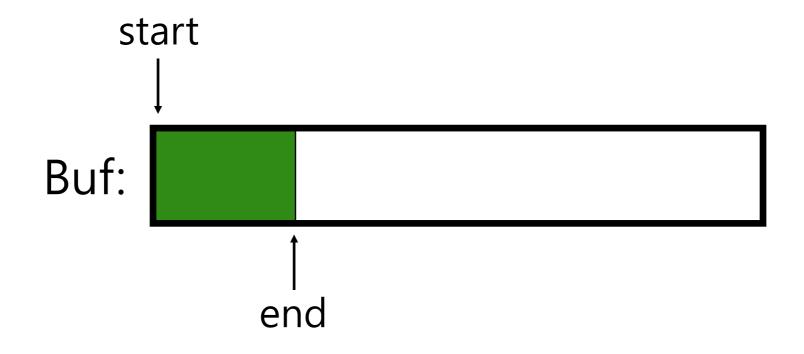
Internally, there is a finite-sized buffer

Writers add data to the buffer Writers have to wait if buffer is full

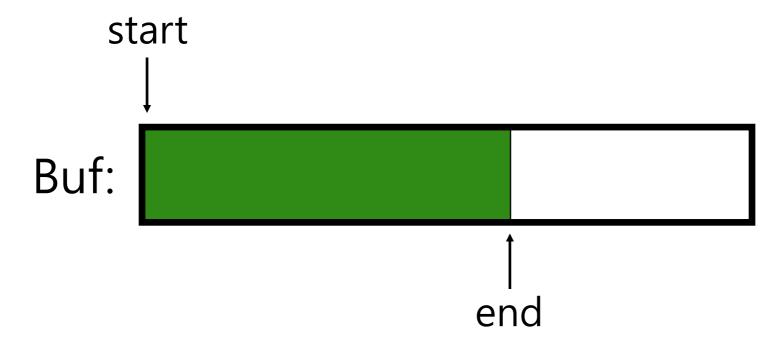
Readers remove data from the buffer Readers have to wait if buffer is empty

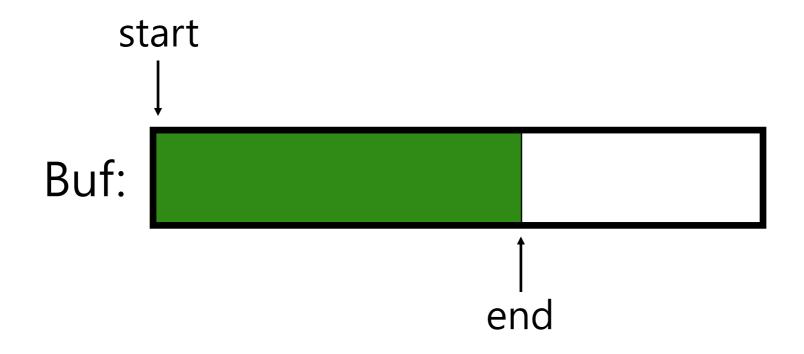






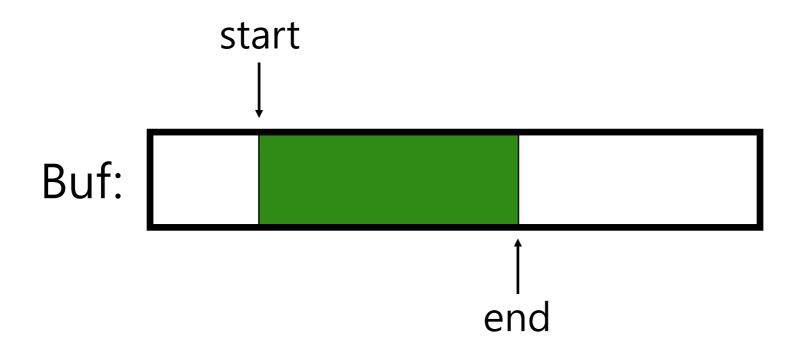
Example: UNIX Pipes write!



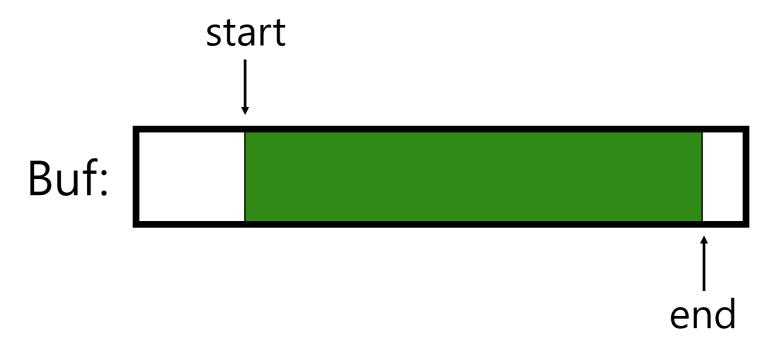


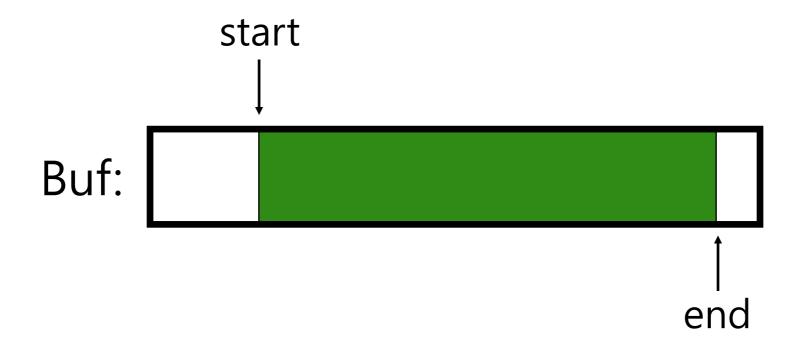
Example: UNIX Pipes read!

start
Buf:

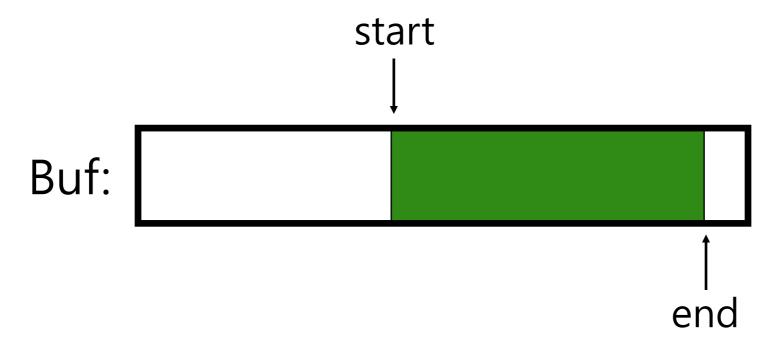


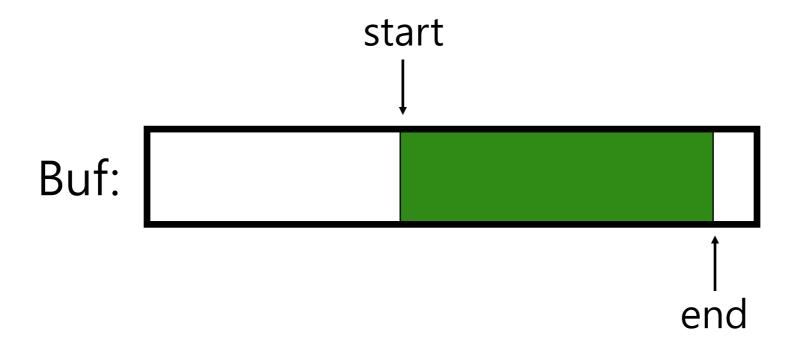
Example: UNIX Pipes write!



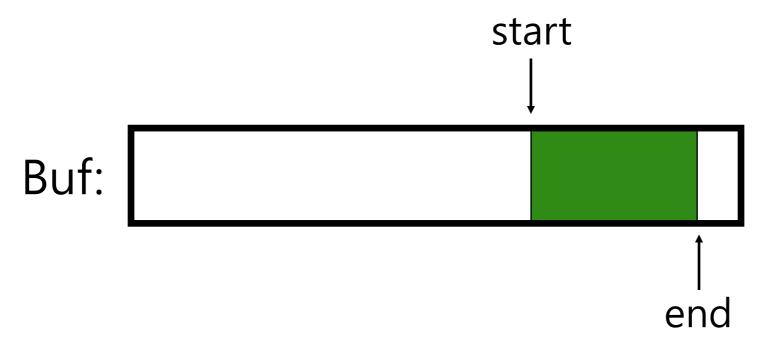


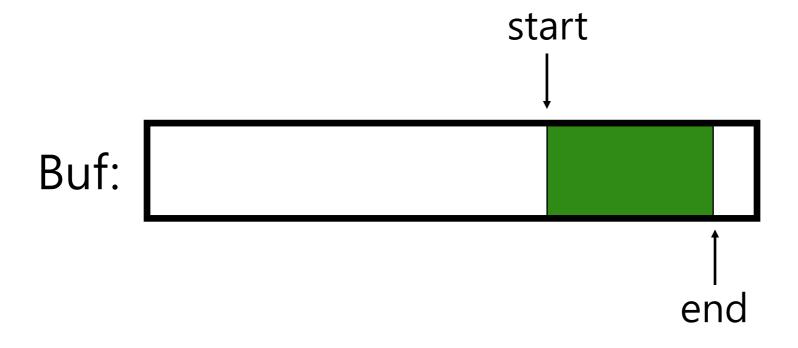
Example: UNIX Pipes read!



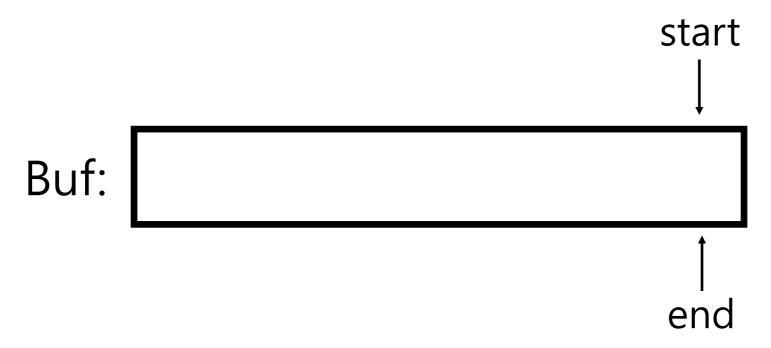


Example: UNIX Pipes read!

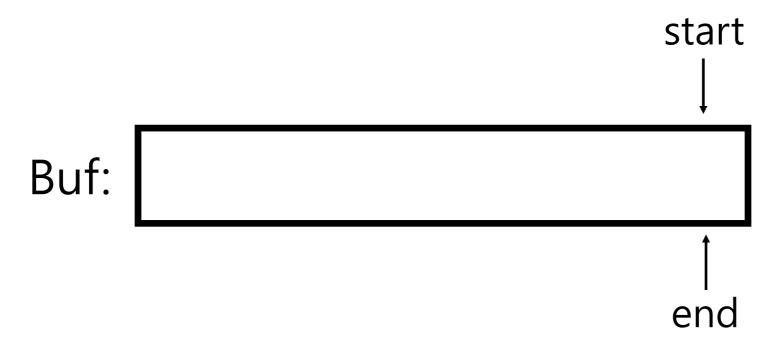




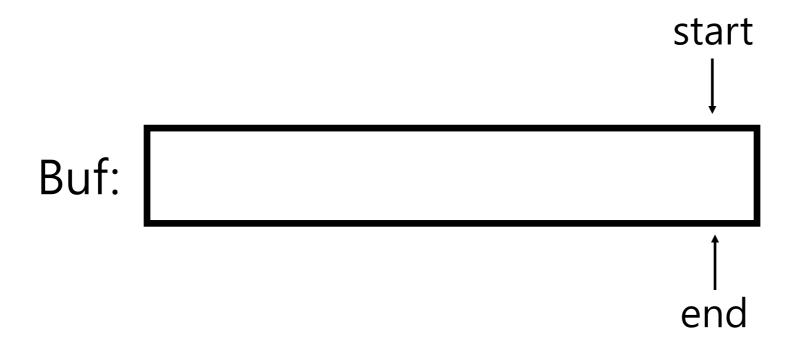
Example: UNIX Pipes read!



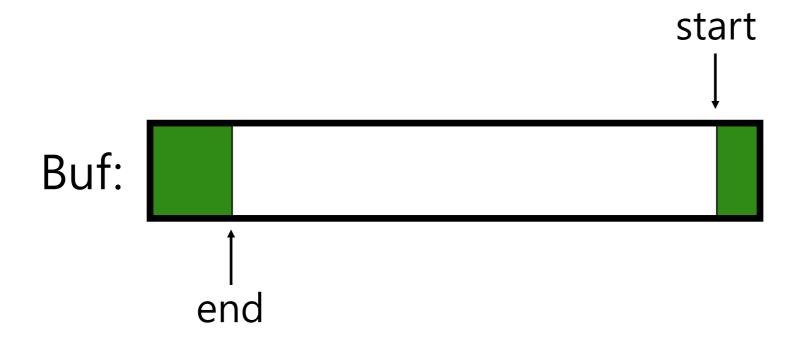
Example: UNIX Pipes read!

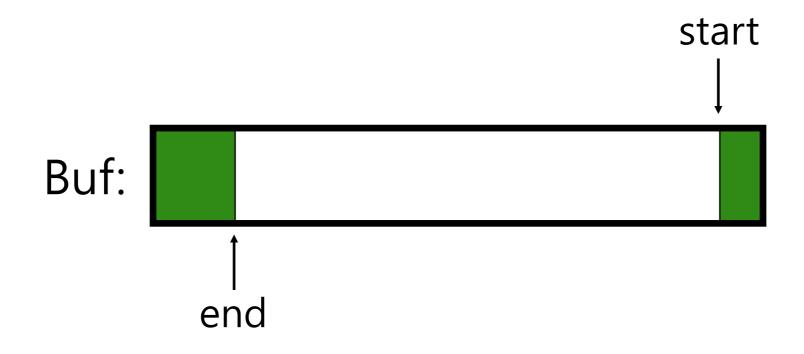


note: readers must wait

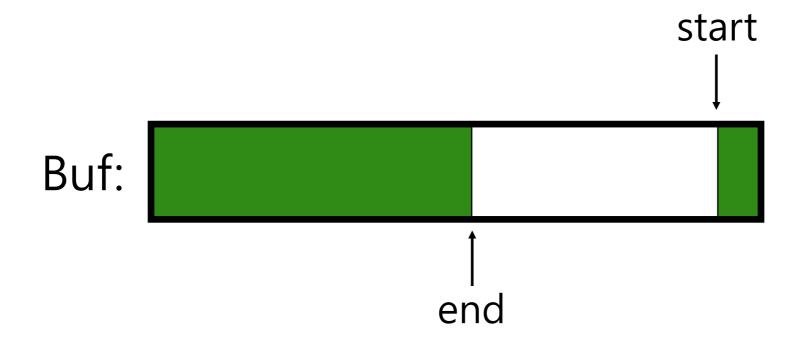


Example: UNIX Pipes write!

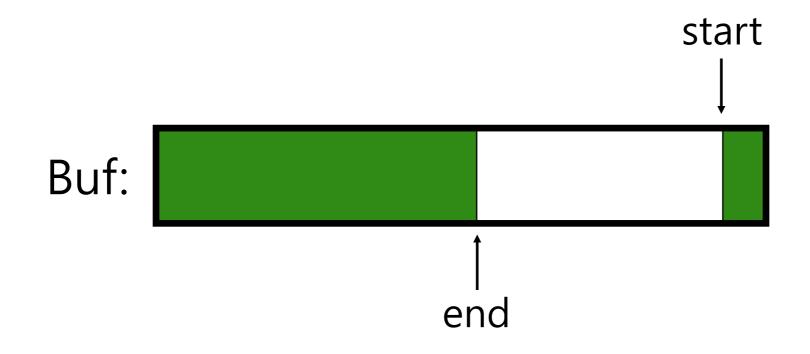




Example: UNIX Pipes write!



Example: UNIX Pipes



Example: UNIX Pipes write!



Example: UNIX Pipes write!

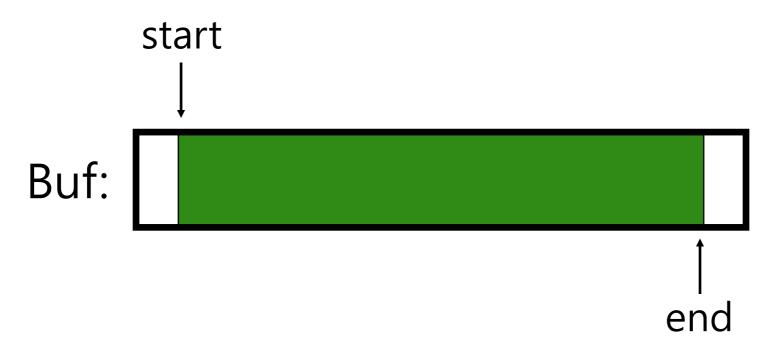


must wait

Example: UNIX Pipes



Example: UNIX Pipes read!



Example: UNIX Pipes

Implementation:

- reads/writes to buffer require locking
- when buffers are full, writers must wait
- when buffers are empty, readers must wait

The Producer / Consumer (Bound Buffer) Problem

Producer

- Produce data items
- Wish to place data items in a buffer

Consumer

Grab data items out of the buffer consume them in some way

Example: Multi-threaded web server

- A producer puts HTTP requests in to a work queue
- Consumer threads take requests out of this queue and process them

Bounded buffer

A bounded buffer is used when you pipe the output of one program into another.

- Example: grep foo file.txt | wc -1
 - The grep process is the producer.
 - The wc process is the consumer.
 - Between them is an in-kernel bounded buffer.
- Bounded buffer is Shared resource → Synchronized access is required.

The Put and Get Routines (Version 1)

- Only put data into the buffer when count is zero.
 - i.e., when the buffer is *empty*.
- Only get data from the buffer when count is one.
 - i.e., when the buffer is *full*.

Producer/Consumer Threads (Version 1)

```
void *producer(void *arg) {
              int i;
              int loops = (int) arg;
              for (i = 0; i < loops; i++) {</pre>
                     put(i);
       void *consumer(void *arg) {
10
              int i;
11
              while (1) {
12
                     int tmp = get();
13
                     printf("%d\n", tmp);
14
15
```

- Producer puts an integer into the shared buffer loops number of times.
- Consumer gets the data out of that shared buffer.

Producer/Consumer: Single CV and If Statement

A single condition variable cond and associated lock mutex

```
cond t cond;
       mutex t mutex;
       void *producer(void *arg) {
           int i;
           for (i = 0; i < loops; i++) {</pre>
               Pthread mutex lock(&mutex);
                                                          // p1
                if (count == 1)
                                                          // p2
                    Pthread cond wait (&cond, &mutex);
                                                          // p3
10
               put(i);
                                                          // p4
               Pthread cond signal (&cond);
11
                                                          // p5
               Pthread mutex unlock(&mutex);
12
                                                          // p6
13
14
15
       void *consumer(void *arg) {
16
17
           int i;
18
           for (i = 0; i < loops; i++) {</pre>
                Pthread mutex lock(&mutex);
19
                                                          // c1
```

Producer/Consumer: Single CV and If Statement

- p1-p3: A producer waits for the buffer to be empty.
- c1-c3: A consumer waits for the buffer to be full.
- With just a single producer and a single consumer, the code works.

If we have more than one of producer and consumer?

Thread Trace: Broken Solution (Version 1)

T_{c1}	State	T_{c2}	State	T_p	State	Count	Comment
C1	Running		Ready		Ready	0	
C2	Running		Ready		Ready	0	
C3	Sleep		Ready		Ready	0	Nothing to get
	Sleep		Ready	p1	Running	0	
	Sleep		Ready	p2	Running	0	
	Sleep		Ready	p4	Running	1	Buffer now full
	Ready		Ready	р5	Running	1	T_{c1} awoken
	Ready		Ready	p6	Running	1	
	Ready		Ready	p1	Running	1	
	Ready		Ready	p2	Running	1	
	Ready		Ready	рЗ	Sleep	1	Buffer full; sleep
	Ready	c1	Running		Sleep	1	T_{c2} sneaks in
	Ready	c2	Running		Sleep	1	
	Ready	c4	Running		Sleep	0	and grabs data
	Ready	c5	Running		Ready	0	T_p awoken
	Ready	с6	Running		Ready	0	
c4	Running		Ready		Ready	0	Oh oh! No data

Thread Trace: Broken Solution (Version 1)

The problem arises for a simple reason:

- After the producer woke T_{c1} , but before T_{c1} ever ran, the state of the bounded buffer *changed by* T_{c2} .
- There is no guarantee that when the woken thread runs, the state will still be as desired → Mesa semantics.
 - Virtually every system ever built employs *Mesa semantics*.
- <u>Hoare semantics</u> provides a stronger guarantee that the woken thread will run immediately upon being woken.

Producer/Consumer: Single CV and While

Consumer T_{c1} wakes up and re-checks the state of the shared variable.

If the buffer is empty, the consumer simply goes back to sleep.

```
cond t cond;
1
       mutex t mutex;
3
       void *producer(void *arg) {
           int i;
           for (i = 0; i < loops; i++) {
               Pthread mutex lock(&mutex);
                                                        // p1
               while (count == 1)
                                                        // p2
                   Pthread cond wait(&cond, &mutex); // p3
9
10
               put(i);
                                                        // p4
               Pthread cond signal (&cond);
11
                                                        // p5
               Pthread mutex unlock(&mutex);
12
                                                        // p6
13
14
15
```

Producer/Consumer: Single CV and While

```
(Cont.)
       void *consumer(void *arg) {
           int i;
17
18
           for (i = 0; i < loops; i++) {</pre>
19
               Pthread mutex lock(&mutex);
                                                         // c1
               while (count == 0)
20
                                                         // c2
21
                    Pthread cond wait(&cond, &mutex); // c3
22
               int tmp = get();
                                                        // c4
               Pthread cond signal(&cond);
23
                                                        // c5
               Pthread mutex unlock(&mutex);
                                                        // c6
24
               printf("%d\n", tmp);
25
26
27
```

- A simple rule to remember with condition variables is to always use while loops.
- However, this code still has a bug (next page).

Thread Trace: Broken Solution (Version 2)

T_{c1}	State	T_{c2}	State	T_p	State	Count	Comment
c1	Running		Ready		Ready	0	
c2	Running		Ready		Ready	0	
c3	Sleep		Ready		Ready	0	Nothing to get
	Sleep	c1	Running		Ready	0	
	Sleep	c2	Running		Ready	0	
	Sleep	c3	Sleep		Ready	0	Nothing to get
	Sleep		Sleep	p1	Running	0	
	Sleep		Sleep	p2	Running	0	
	Sleep		Sleep	p4	Running	1	Buffer now full
	Ready		Sleep	p5	Running	1	T_{c1} awoken
	Ready		Sleep	p6	Running	1	
	Ready		Sleep	p1	Running	1	
	Ready		Sleep	p2	Running	1	
	Ready		Sleep	р3	Sleep	1	Must sleep (full)
c2	Running		Sleep		Sleep	1	Recheck condition
c4	Running		Sleep		Sleep	0	T_{c1} grabs data
c5	Running		Ready		Sleep	0	Oops! Woke T_{c2}

Thread Trace: Broken Solution (Version 2) (Cont.)

T_{c1}	State	T_{c2}	State	T_p	State	Count	Comment
	•••		•••		•••		(cont.)
с6	Running		Ready		Sleep	0	
c1	Running		Ready		Sleep	0	
c2	Running		Ready		Sleep	0	
c3	Sleep		Ready		Sleep	0	Nothing to get
	Sleep	c2	Running		Sleep	0	
	Sleep	c3	Sleep		Sleep	0	Everyone asleep

 A consumer should not wake other consumers, only producers, and vice-versa.

The single Buffer Producer/Consumer Solution

- Use two condition variables and while
 - Producer threads wait on the condition empty, and signals fill.
 - Consumer threads wait on fill and signal empty.

```
cond_t empty, fill;
       mutex t mutex;
      void *producer(void *arg) {
           int i;
           for (i = 0; i < loops; i++) {
               Pthread mutex lock(&mutex);
               while (count == 1)
                   Pthread cond wait (&empty, &mutex);
10
               put(i);
               Pthread cond signal (&fill);
11
               Pthread mutex unlock (&mutex);
12
13
14
15
```

The single Buffer Producer/Consumer Solution

```
(Cont.)
      void *consumer(void *arg) {
           int i;
           for (i = 0; i < loops; i++) {</pre>
19
               Pthread mutex lock(&mutex);
               while (count == 0)
20
                   Pthread cond wait(&fill, &mutex);
               int tmp = get();
               Pthread cond signal (&empty);
               Pthread mutex unlock(&mutex);
24
               printf("%d\n", tmp);
26
27
```

The Final Producer/Consumer Solution

- More concurrency and efficiency

 Add more buffer slots.
 - Allow concurrent production or consuming to take place.
 - Reduce context switches.

```
int buffer[MAX];
     int fill = 0;
    int use = 0;
      int count = 0;
      void put(int value) {
          buffer[fill] = value;
           fill = (fill + 1) % MAX;
          count++;
10
11
12
      int get() {
13
           int tmp = buffer[use];
14
          use = (use + 1) % MAX;
15
          count--;
16
         return tmp;
17
```

The Final Put and Get Routines

The Final Producer/Consumer Solution (Cont.)

```
cond t empty, fill;
1
2
       mutex t mutex;
       void *producer(void *arg) {
           int i;
           for (i = 0; i < loops; i++) {</pre>
               Pthread mutex lock(&mutex);
                                                         // p1
               while (count == MAX)
                                                         // p2
                    Pthread cond wait (&empty, &mutex);
9
                                                               // p3
10
                                                         // p4
               put(i);
               Pthread cond signal(&fill);
                                                         // p5
11
               Pthread mutex unlock(&mutex);
12
                                                         // p6
13
14
15
16
      void *consumer(void *arg) {
17
           int i;
18
           for (i = 0; i < loops; i++) {</pre>
19
               Pthread mutex lock(&mutex);
                                                         // c1
               while (count == 0)
20
                                                         // c2
21
                    Pthread cond wait(&fill, &mutex);
                                                         // c3
22
               int tmp = qet();
                                                         // c4
```

The Final Producer/Consumer Solution (Cont.)

The Final Working Solution (Cont.)

- p2: A producer only sleeps if all buffers are currently filled.
- c2: A consumer only sleeps if all buffers are currently empty.

Covering Conditions

- Assume there are zero bytes free
 - Thread T_a calls allocate (100).
 - Thread T_b calls allocate (10).
 - Both T_a and T_b wait on the condition and go to sleep.
 - Thread T_c calls free (50).

Which waiting thread should be woken up?

Covering Conditions (Cont.)

```
// how many bytes of the heap are free?
      int bytesLeft = MAX HEAP SIZE;
      // need lock and condition too
      cond t c;
      mutex t m;
      void *
      allocate(int size) {
10
          Pthread mutex lock(&m);
          while (bytesLeft < size)</pre>
11
12
               Pthread cond wait(&c, &m);
13
          void *ptr = ...;
                                      // get mem from heap
14
          bytesLeft -= size;
15
          Pthread mutex unlock(&m);
16
          return ptr;
17
18
19
      void free(void *ptr, int size) {
20
          Pthread mutex lock(&m);
          bytesLeft += size;
21
22
          Pthread cond signal(&c); // whom to signal??
23
          Pthread mutex unlock(&m);
24
```

Covering Conditions (Cont.)

- Solution (Suggested by Lampson and Redell)
 - Replace pthread_cond_signal() with pthread cond broadcast()
 - pthread_cond_broadcast()
 - Wake up all waiting threads.
 - Cost: too many threads might be woken.
 - Threads that shouldn't be awake will simply wake up, re-check the condition, and then go back to sleep.

Producer/Consumer Problem

Producers generate data (like pipe writers)

Consumers grab data and process it (like pipe readers)

Producer/consumer problems are frequent in systems

Web servers

General strategy use condition variables to: make producers wait when buffers are full make consumers wait when there is **nothing to consume**

Produce/Consumer Example

Start with easy case:

- 1 producer thread
- 1 consumer thread
- 1 shared buffer to fill/consume (max = 1)

Numfill = number of buffers currently filled Examine slightly broken code to begin...

[RUNNABLE]

[RUNNABLE]

[RUNNABLE]

[RUNNABLE]

[RUNNABLE]

[SLEEPING]

[RUNNING]

[SLEEPING]

[RUNNING]

[SLEEPING]

[RUNNING]

[SLEEPING]

[SLEEPING]

[SLEEPING]

[SLEEPING]

[RUNNABLE]

[RUNNABLE]

[RUNNABLE]

[RUNNABLE]

[RUNNABLE]

[RUNNABLE]

[RUNNABLE]

[RUNNING]

[RUNNING]

[RUNNING]

[RUNNING]

What about 2 consumers?

Can you find a problematic timeline with 2 consumers (still 1 producer)?

```
void *consumer(void *arg) {
void *producer(void *arg) {
                                                 while(1) {
      for (int i=0; i<loops; i++) {
                                                        Mutex_lock(&m); // c1
             Mutex_lock(&m); // p1
                                                        while(numfull == 0) // c2
             while(numfull == max) //p2
                                                              Cond_wait(&cond, &m); // c3
                   Cond_wait(&cond, &m); //p3
                                                        int tmp = do_get(); // c4
             do_fill(i); // p4
                                                        Cond_signal(&cond); // c5
             Cond_signal(&cond); //p5
                                                        Mutex_unlock(&m); // c6
             Mutex_unlock(&m); //p6
                                                        printf("%d\n", tmp); // c7
                          wait()
                                                       signal()
                                                                        wait()
                                       wait()
                                                                                    signal()
 Producer:
 Consumer1:
 Consumer2:
```

does last signal wake producer or consumer2?

How to wake the right thread?

One solution:

wake all the threads!



Waking All Waiting Threads

wait(cond_t *cv, mutex_t *lock)

- assumes the lock is held when wait() is called
- puts caller to sleep + releases the lock (atomically)
- when awoken, reacquires lock before returning

signal(cond_t *cv)

- wake a single waiting thread (if >= 1 thread is waiting)
- if there is no waiting thread, just return, doing nothing

broadcast(cond_t *cv)

any disadvantage?

- wake all waiting threads (if >= 1 thread is waiting)
- if there are no waiting thread, just return, doing nothing

Example Need for Broadcast

```
void *allocate(int size) {

mutex_lock(&m);

while (bytesLeft < size)

cond_wait(&c);

...
}

void free(void *ptr, int size) {

...

cond_broadcast(&c)

...

}
```

How to wake the right thread?

One solution:

wake all the threads!



Better solution (usually): use two condition variables

Producer/Consumer: Two CVs

```
void *consumer(void *arg) {
void *producer(void *arg) {
      for (int i = 0; i < loops; i++) {
                                                   while (1) {
             Mutex_lock(&m); // p1
                                                          Mutex_lock(&m);
             if (numfull == max) // p2
                                                          if (numfull == 0)
                   Cond_wait(&empty, &m); // p3
                                                                Cond_wait(&fill, &m);
                                                          int tmp = do_get();
             do_fill(i); // p4
             Cond_signal(&fill); // p5
                                                          Cond_signal(&empty);
             Mutex_unlock(&m); //p6
                                                          Mutex_unlock(&m);
```

Is this correct? Can you find a bad schedule?

- 1. consumer1 waits because numfull == 0
- 2. producer increments numfull, wakes consumer1
- 3. before consumer1 runs, consumer2 runs, grabs entry, sets numfull=0.
- 4. consumer2 then reads bad data.

Good Rule of Thumb 3

Whenever a lock is acquired, recheck assumptions about state!

Possible for another thread to grab lock in between signal and wak eup from wait

Note that some libraries also have "spurious wakeups" (may wake multiple waiting threads at signal or at any time)

Producer/Consumer: Two CVs and WHILE

```
void *producer(void *arg) {
                                          void *consumer(void *arg) {
      for (int i = 0; i < loops; i++) {
                                                 while (1) {
             Mutex_lock(&m); // p1
                                                        Mutex_lock(&m);
             while (numfull == max) // p2
                                                        while (numfull == 0)
                   Cond_wait(&empty, &m); // p3
                                                              Cond_wait(&fill, &m);
                                                        int tmp = do_get();
             do_fill(i); // p4
                                                        Cond_signal(&empty);
             Cond_signal(&fill); // p5
             Mutex_unlock(&m); //p6
                                                        Mutex_unlock(&m);
```

Is this correct? Can you find a bad schedule?

Correct!

- no concurrent access to shared state
- every time lock is acquired, assumptions are reevaluated
- a consumer will get to run after every do_fill()
- a producer will get to run after every do_get()

Summary: Rules of thumb for CVs

Keep state in addition to CV's

Always do wait/signal with lock held

Whenever thread wakes from waiting, recheck state