#### **Synchronization: Basics**

Introduction to Computer Systems 26<sup>th</sup> Lecture, Dec. 18, 2019

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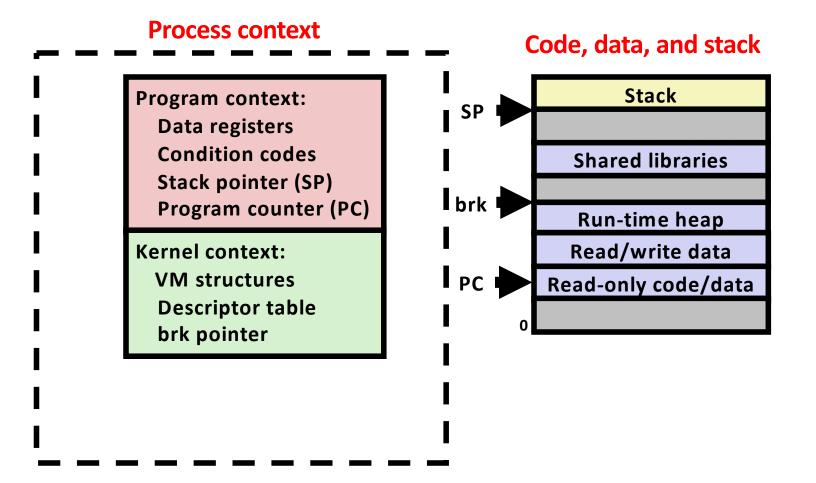
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# **Today**

- Threads review
- Sharing
- Mutual exclusion
- Semaphores

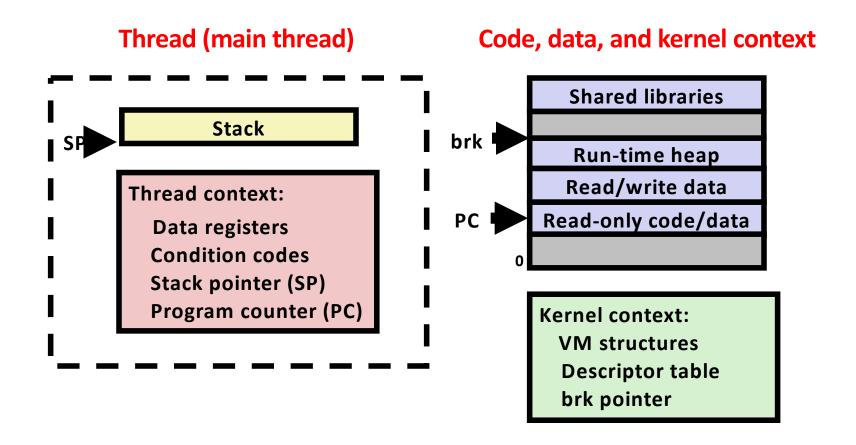
#### **Traditional View of a Process**

Process = process context + code, data, and stack



#### **Alternate View of a Process**

Process = thread + code, data, and kernel context



## A Process With Multiple Threads

- Multiple threads can be associated with a process
  - Each thread has its own logical control flow
  - Each thread shares the same code, data, and kernel context
  - Each thread has its own stack for local variables
    - but not protected from other threads
  - Each thread has its own thread id (TID)

#### Thread 1 (main thread) Thread 2 (peer thread)

stack 1

Thread 1 context:

Data registers

Condition codes

SP1

PC1

stack 2

Thread 2 context:

Data registers

Condition codes

SP2

PC2

#### **Shared code and data**

run-time heap
read/write data
read-only code/data

Kernel context:
VM structures
Descriptor table
brk pointer

#### Threads vs. Processes

#### Threads and processes: similarities

- Each has its own logical control flow
- Each can run concurrently with others
- Each is scheduled and context switched by the kernel

#### Threads and processes: differences

- Threads share code and data, processes (typically) do not
- Threads are less expensive than processes
  - Process control (creating and reaping) is more expensive than thread control
  - Context switches for processes more expensive than for threads

# **Pros and Cons of Thread-Based Designs**

- + Easy to share data structures between threads
  - e.g., logging information, file cache
- + Threads are more efficient than processes
- Unintentional sharing can introduce subtle and hard-toreproduce errors!

# **Today**

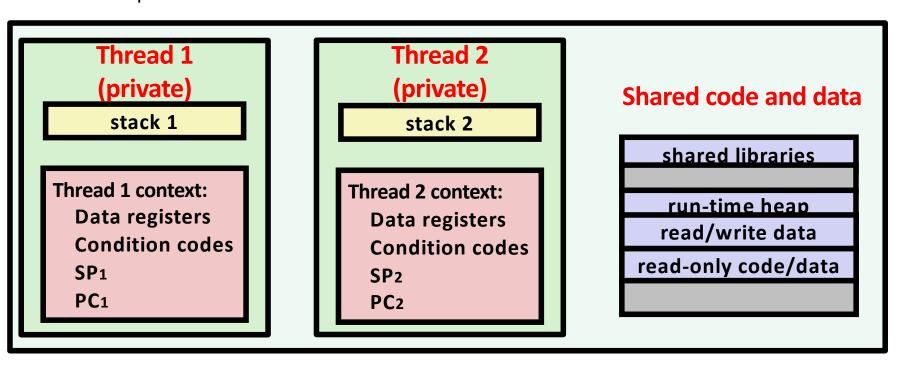
- Threads review
- Sharing
- Mutual exclusion
- Semaphores
- Producer-Consumer Synchronization

# **Shared Variables in Threaded C Programs**

- Question: Which variables in a threaded C program are shared?
  - The answer is not as simple as "global variables are shared" and "stack variables are private"
- Def: A variable x is shared if and only if multiple threads reference some instance of x.
- Requires answers to the following questions:
  - What is the memory model for threads?
  - How are instances of variables mapped to memory?
  - How many threads might reference each of these instances?

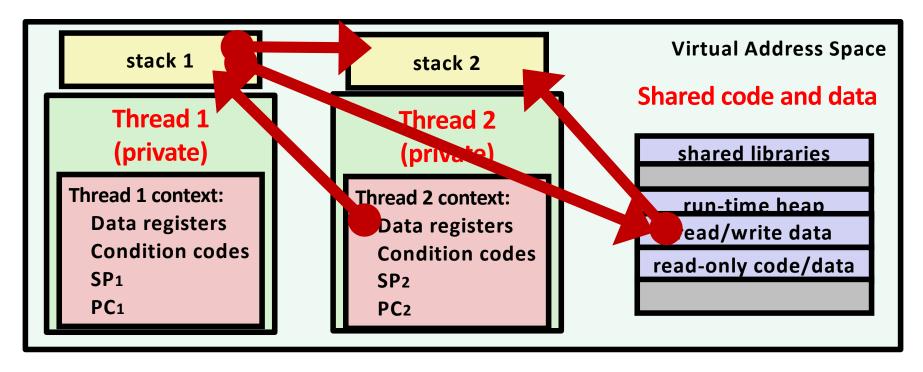
# **Threads Memory Model: Conceptual**

- Multiple threads run within the context of a single process
- Each thread has its own separate thread context
  - Thread ID, stack, stack pointer, PC, condition codes, and GP registers
- All threads share the remaining process context
  - Code, data, heap, and shared library segments of the process virtual address space
  - Open files and installed handlers



### **Threads Memory Model: Actual**

- Separation of data is not strictly enforced:
  - Register values are truly separate and protected, but...
  - Any thread can read and write the stack of any other thread



The mismatch between the conceptual and operation model is a source of confusion and errors

#### **Example Program to Illustrate Sharing**

```
char **ptr; /* global var */
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
    long i;
    pthread t tid;
    char *msgs[2] = {
        "Hello from foo",
        "Hello from bar"
    };
    ptr = msqs;
    for (i = 0; i < 2; i++)
        Pthread create (&tid,
            NULL,
            thread,
            (void *)i);
    Pthread exit(NULL);
                            sharing.c
```

```
void *thread(void *vargp)
{
    long myid = (long)vargp;
    static int cnt = 0;

    printf('[%ld]: %s (cnt=%d)\n",
        my:d, ptr[myid], ++cnt);
    return PULL;
}
```

Peer threads reference main thread's stack indirectly through global ptr variable

A common, but inelegant way to pass a single argument to a thread routine

## **Mapping Variable Instances to Memory**

#### Global variables

- Def: Variable declared outside of a function
- Virtual memory contains exactly one instance of any global variable

#### Local variables

- Def: Variable declared inside function without static attribute
- Each thread stack contains one instance of each local variable

#### Local static variables

- Def: Variable declared inside function with the static attribute
- Virtual memory contains exactly one instance of any local static variable.

## **Mapping Variable Instances to Memory**

Global var: 1 instance (ptr [data])

```
char **ptr; /* global var *
int main(int main, .ar *argv[])
    long i;
    pthread t tid;
    char *msgs[2] =
        "Hello from foo",
        "Hello from bar"
    };
    ptr = msqs;
    for (i = 0; i < 2; i++)
        Pthread create (&tid,
            NULL,
            thread,
            (void *)i);
    Pthread exit(NULL);
                           sharing.c
```

```
Local var: 2 instances (
   myid.p0 [peer thread 0's stack],
   myid.p1 [peer thread 1's stack]
)
```

Local vars: 1 instance (i.m, msgs.m)

Local static var: 1 instance (cnt [data])

#### **Shared Variable Analysis**

Which variables are shared?

```
Referenced by Referenced by
Variable
                                          Referenced by
instance main thread? peer thread 0?
                                          peer thread 1?
              yes
                              yes
                                               yes
ptr
cnt.
              no
                              ves
                                               ves
i.m
                                               no
              yes
                              no
msgs.m
              yes
                              yes
                                               yes
myid.p0
               no
                              yes
                                               no
myid.p1
               no
                              no
                                               yes
```

### **Shared Variable Analysis**

Which variables are shared?

Variable instance	Referenced by main thread?	Referenced by peer thread 0?	Referenced by peer thread 1?
ptr	yes	yes	yes
cnt	no	yes	yes
i.m	yes	no	no
msgs.m	yes	yes	yes
myid.p0	110	yes	no
myid.p1	no	no	yes

- Answer: A variable x is shared iff multiple threads reference at least one instance of x. Thus:
  - ptr, cnt, and msgs are shared
  - i and myid are not shared

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- Threads review
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- Mutual exclusion
- Semaphores
- Producer-Consumer Synchronization

## **Synchronizing Threads**

Shared variables are handy...

...but introduce the possibility of nasty synchronization errors.

### badcnt.c: Improper Synchronization

```
/* Global shared variable */
volatile long cnt = 0; /* Counter */
int main(int argc, char **argv)
    long niters;
    pthread t tid1, tid2;
    niters = atoi(argv[1]);
    Pthread create (&tid1, NULL,
        thread, &niters);
    Pthread create (&tid2, NULL,
        thread, &niters);
    Pthread join(tid1, NULL);
    Pthread join(tid2, NULL);
    /* Check result */
    if (cnt != (2 * niters))
        printf("BOOM! cnt=%ld\n", cnt);
    else
        printf("OK cnt=%ld\n", cnt);
    exit(0);
                                  badcnt.c
```

```
linux> ./badcnt 10000
OK cnt=20000
linux> ./badcnt 10000
BOOM! cnt=13051
linux>
```

cnt should equal 20,000.

What went wrong?

#### **Assembly Code for Counter Loop**

#### C code for counter loop in thread i

```
for (i = 0; i < niters; i++)
    cnt++;</pre>
```

#### Asm code for thread i

```
movq (%rdi), %rcx
    testq %rcx,%rcx
                              Hi: Head
    ile .L2
    movl $0, %eax
.L3:
    movq cnt(%rip),%rdx
                              Li: Load cnt
    addq $1, %rdx
                              Ui: Update cnt
          %rdx, cnt(%rip)
                              Si: Store cnt
    movq
    addq $1, %rax
          %rcx, %rax
    cmpq
                              Ti: Tail
           .L3
    jne
.L2:
```

#### **Concurrent Execution**

- Key idea: In general, any sequentially consistent interleaving is possible, but some give an unexpected result!
  - li denotes that thread i executes instruction I
  - %rdxi is the content of %rdx in thread i's context

i (thread)	instri	%rdx1	%rdx2	cnt
1	<b>H</b> 1	-	-	0
1	L1	0	•	0
1	U1	1	•	0
1	<b>S</b> 1	1	•	1
2	H2	•	•	1
2	L2	-	1	1
2	U2	•	2	1
2	S <sub>2</sub>	-	2	2
2	T2	-	2	2
1	<b>T</b> 1	1	-	2

OK

#### **Concurrent Execution**

- Key idea: In general, any sequentially consistent interleaving is possible, but some give an unexpected result!
  - li denotes that thread i executes instruction I
  - %rdxi is the content of %rdx in thread i's context

i (thread)	instri	%rdx1	%rdx2	cnt		
1	H1	-	-	0	<u> </u>	Thread 1
1	L1	0	-	0		critical section
1	U1	1	-	0		critical section
1	<b>S</b> 1	1	-	1		Thread 2
2	H <sub>2</sub>	-	•	1		critical section
2	L2	-	1	1		
2	U2	-	2	1		
2	S <sub>2</sub>	-	2	2		
2	T2	-	2	2		
1	<b>T</b> 1	1	-	2	OK	

## **Concurrent Execution (cont)**

Incorrect ordering: two threads increment the counter,
 but the result is 1 instead of 2

i (thread)	instri	%rdx1	%rdx2	cnt
1	H1	-	-	0
1	L <sub>1</sub>	0	-	0
1	U1	1	-	0
2	H2	-	-	0
2	L2	-	0	0
1	<b>S</b> 1	1	-	1
1	<b>T</b> 1	1	-	1
2	U2	-	1	1
2	S <sub>2</sub>	-	1	1
2	T2	-	1	1

Oops!

### **Concurrent Execution (cont)**

How about this ordering?

i (thread)	instri	%rdx1	%rdx2	cnt
1	H1			0
1	L <sub>1</sub>	0		
2	H2			
2	L2		0	
2	U2		1	
2	S <sub>2</sub>		1	1
1	U1	1		
1	<b>S</b> 1	1		1
1	<b>T</b> 1			1
2	T2			1

Oops!

We can analyze the behavior using a progress graph

#### **Progress Graphs**

 $T_2$ 

 $S_2$ 

 $U_2$ 

L<sub>2</sub>

 $H_2$ 

H<sub>1</sub>

L<sub>1</sub>



 $U_1$ 

 $S_1$ 

 $T_1$ 

(L<sub>1</sub>, S<sub>2</sub>)

A progress graph depicts the discrete execution state space of concurrent threads.

Each axis corresponds to the sequential order of instructions in a thread.

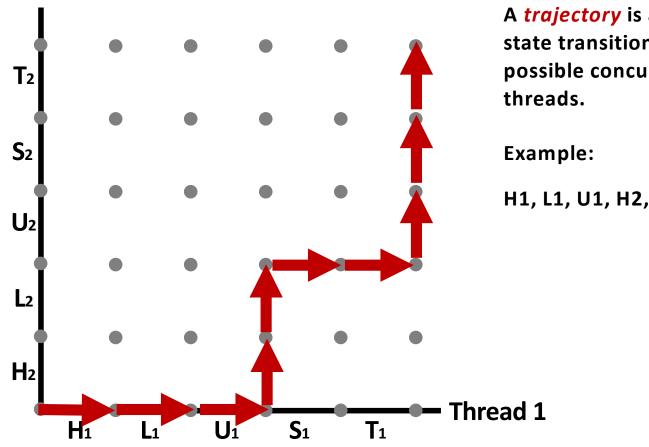
Each point corresponds to a possible execution state (Inst<sub>1</sub>, Inst<sub>2</sub>).

E.g., (L1, S2) denotes state where thread 1 has completed L1 and thread 2 has completed S2.

Thread 1

### **Trajectories in Progress Graphs**

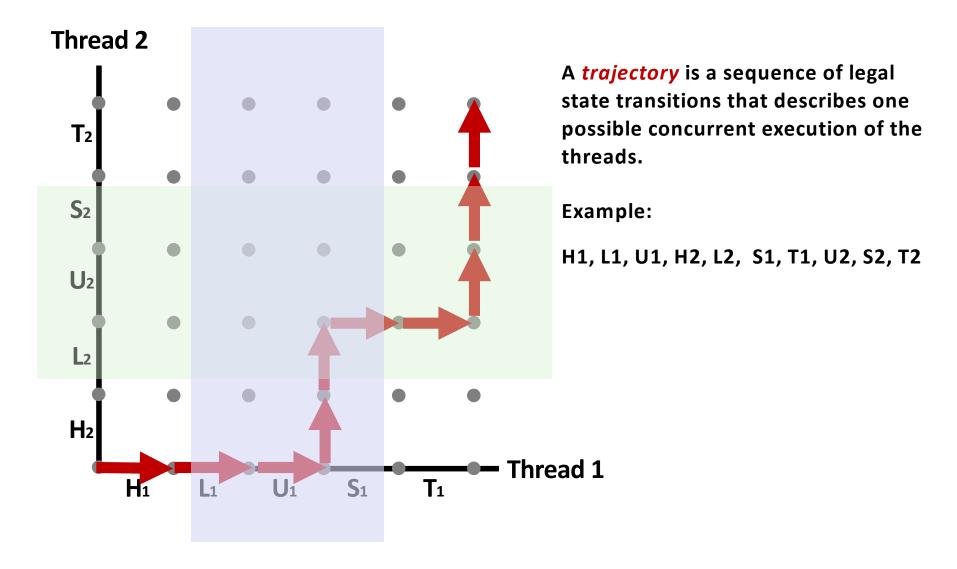
#### **Thread 2**



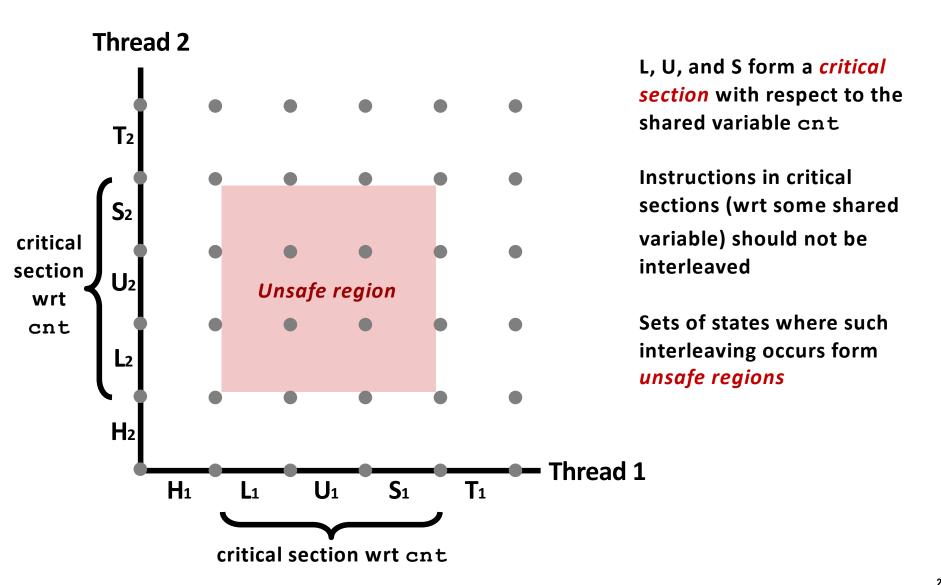
A trajectory is a sequence of legal state transitions that describes one possible concurrent execution of the threads.

H1, L1, U1, H2, L2, S1, T1, U2, S2, T2

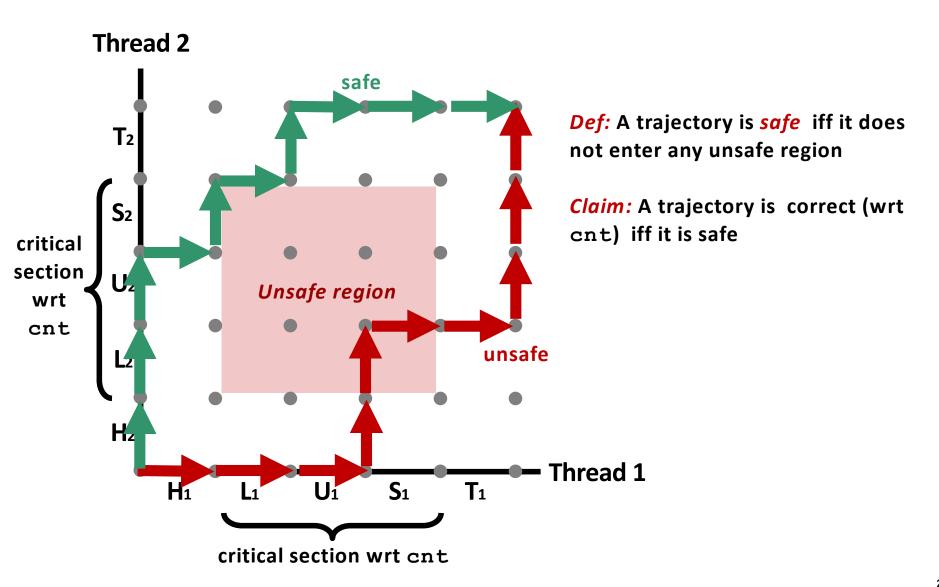
### **Trajectories in Progress Graphs**



#### **Critical Sections and Unsafe Regions**



# **Critical Sections and Unsafe Regions**



### badcnt.c: Improper Synchronization

```
/* Global shared variable */
volatile long cnt = 0; /* Counter */
int main(int argc, char **argv)
    long niters;
    pthread t tid1, tid2;
    niters = atoi(arqv[1]);
    Pthread create (&tid1, NULL,
        thread, &niters);
    Pthread create (&tid2, NULL,
        thread, &niters);
    Pthread join(tid1, NULL);
    Pthread join(tid2, NULL);
    /* Check result */
    if (cnt != (2 * niters))
        printf("BOOM! cnt=%ld\n", cnt);
    else
        printf("OK cnt=%ld\n", cnt);
    exit(0);
                                  badcnt.c
```

Variable	main	thread1	thread2
cnt	yes*	yes	yes
niters.m	yes	no	no
tid1.m	yes	no	no
i.1	no	yes	no
i.2	no	no	yes
niters.1	no	yes	no
niters.2	no	no	yes

### **Enforcing Mutual Exclusion**

- Question: How can we guarantee a safe trajectory?
- Answer: We must synchronize the execution of the threads so that they can never have an unsafe trajectory.
  - i.e., need to guarantee mutually exclusive access for each critical section.
- Classic solution:
  - Semaphores (Edsger Dijkstra)

# **Today**

- Threads review
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- Semaphores
- Producer-Consumer Synchronization

#### **Semaphores**

- Semaphore: non-negative global integer synchronization variable.
   Manipulated by P and V operations.
- P(s)
  - If *s* is nonzero, then decrement *s* by 1 and return immediately.
    - Test and decrement operations occur atomically (indivisibly)
  - If s is zero, then suspend thread until s becomes nonzero and the thread is restarted by a V operation.
  - After restarting, the P operation decrements s and returns control to the caller.
- V(s):
  - Increment s by 1.
    - Increment operation occurs atomically
  - If there are any threads blocked in a P operation waiting for s to become non-zero, then restart exactly one of those threads, which then completes its P operation by decrementing s.
- Semaphore invariant: (s >= 0)

#### **Semaphores**

- Semaphore: non-negative global integer synchronization variable
- Manipulated by P and V operations:
  - P(s): [ while (s == 0) wait(); s--; ]
    - Dutch for "Proberen" (test)
  - V(s): [ s++; ]
    - Dutch for "Verhogen" (increment)
- OS kernel guarantees that operations between brackets [] are executed indivisibly
  - Only one P or V operation at a time can modify s.
  - When while loop in P terminates, only that P can decrement s
- Semaphore invariant: (s >= 0)

#### **C Semaphore Operations**

#### **Pthreads functions:**

```
#include <semaphore.h>
int sem_init(sem_t *s, 0, unsigned int val);} /* s = val */
int sem_wait(sem_t *s); /* P(s) */
int sem_post(sem_t *s); /* V(s) */
```

#### **CS:APP wrapper functions:**

```
#include "csapp.h"

void P(sem_t *s); /* Wrapper function for sem_wait */
void V(sem_t *s); /* Wrapper function for sem_post */
```

### badcnt.c: Improper Synchronization

```
/* Global shared variable */
volatile long cnt = 0; /* Counter */
int main(int argc, char **argv)
    long niters;
    pthread t tid1, tid2;
    niters = atoi(arqv[1]);
    Pthread create (&tid1, NULL,
        thread, &niters);
    Pthread create (&tid2, NULL,
        thread, &niters);
    Pthread join(tid1, NULL);
    Pthread join(tid2, NULL);
    /* Check result */
    if (cnt != (2 * niters))
        printf("BOOM! cnt=%ld\n", cnt);
    else
        printf("OK cnt=%ld\n", cnt);
    exit(0);
                                  badcnt.c
```

How can we fix this using semaphores?

## **Using Semaphores for Mutual Exclusion**

#### Basic idea:

- Associate a unique semaphore mutex, initially 1, with each shared variable (or related set of shared variables).
- Surround corresponding critical sections with P(mutex) and V(mutex) operations.

#### Terminology:

- Binary semaphore: semaphore whose value is always 0 or 1
- Mutex: binary semaphore used for mutual exclusion
  - P operation: "locking" the mutex
  - V operation: "unlocking" or "releasing" the mutex
  - "Holding" a mutex: locked and not yet unlocked.
- Counting semaphore: used as a counter for set of available resources.

## goodcnt.c: Proper Synchronization

Define and initialize a mutex for the shared variable cnt:

Surround critical section with P and V:

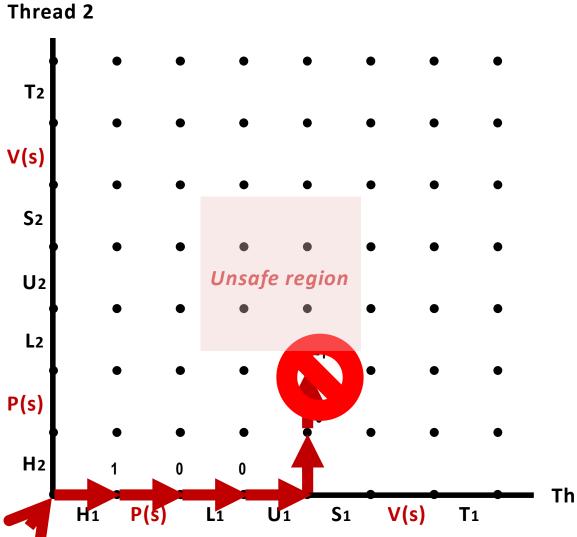
```
for (i = 0; i < niters; i++) {
    P(&mutex);
    cnt++;
    V(&mutex);
}</pre>
```

linux> ./goodcnt	10000
OK cnt=20000 linux> ./goodcnt	10000
OK cnt=20000 linux>	

Warning: It's orders of magnitude slower than badcnt.c.

Function	badcnt	goodcnt
Time (ms) niters = 10 <sup>6</sup>	12	450
Slowdown	1.0	37.5



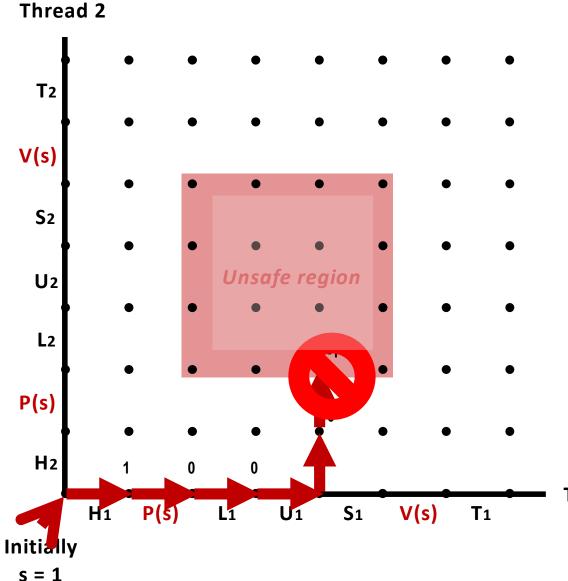


Provide mutually exclusive access to shared variable by surrounding critical section with P and V operations on semaphore s (initially set to 1)

Thread 1

Initially.





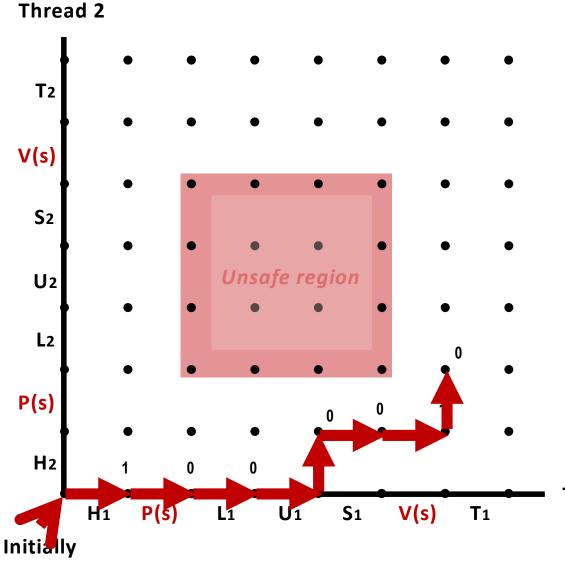
Provide mutually exclusive access to shared variable by surrounding critical section with P and V operations on semaphore s (initially set to 1)

**Semaphore invariant** creates a forbidden region that encloses unsafe region and that cannot be entered by any trajectory.

Thread 1



s = 1

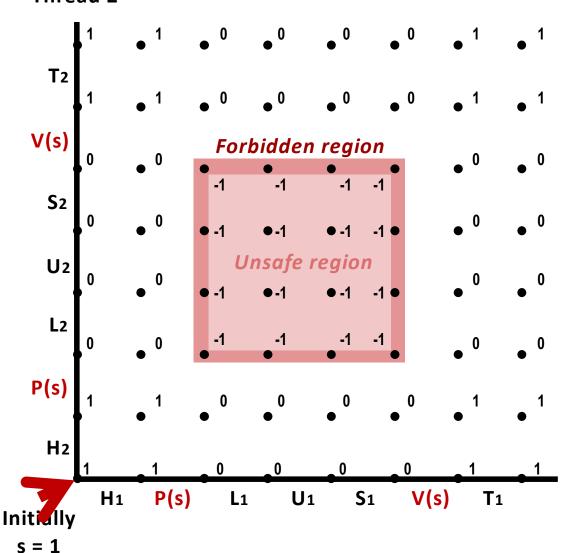


Provide mutually exclusive access to shared variable by surrounding critical section with P and V operations on semaphore s (initially set to 1)

**Semaphore invariant** creates a forbidden region that encloses unsafe region and that cannot be entered by any trajectory.

Thread 1

#### Thread 2



Provide mutually exclusive access to shared variable by surrounding critical section with *P* and *V* operations on semaphore s (initially set to 1)

Semaphore invariant creates a *forbidden region* that encloses unsafe region and that cannot be entered by any trajectory.

Thread 1

## **Enforcing Mutual Exclusion**

- Mutex is special case of semaphore
  - Value either 0 or 1
- Pthreads provides pthread\_mutex\_t
  - Operations: lock, unlock
- Recommended over general semaphores when appropriate

## goodmcnt.c: Mutex Synchronization

Define and initialize a mutex for the shared variable cnt:

```
volatile long cnt = 0; /* Counter */
pthread_mutex_t mutex;
pthread_mutex_init(&mutex, NULL); // No special attributes
```

Surround critical section with *lock* and *unlock*:

```
for (i = 0; i < niters; i++) {
    pthread_mutex_lock(&mutex);
    cnt++;
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&mutex);
}

goodcnt.c</pre>
```

```
linux> ./goodment 10000
OK cnt=20000
linux> ./goodment 10000
OK cnt=20000
linux>
```

Function	badcnt	goodcnt	goodmcnt	
Time (ms) niters = 10 <sup>6</sup>	12	450	214	
Slowdown	1.0	37.5	17.8	4

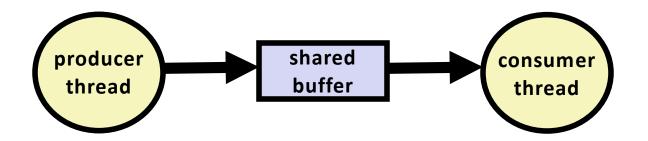
# **Today**

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- Producer-Consumer Synchronization

# Using Semaphores to Coordinate Access to Shared Resources

- Basic idea: Thread uses a semaphore operation to notify another thread that some condition has become true
  - Use counting semaphores to keep track of resource state.
  - Use binary semaphores to notify other threads.
- The Producer-Consumer Problem
  - Mediating interactions between processes that generate information and that then make use of that information

## **Producer-Consumer Problem**



#### Common synchronization pattern:

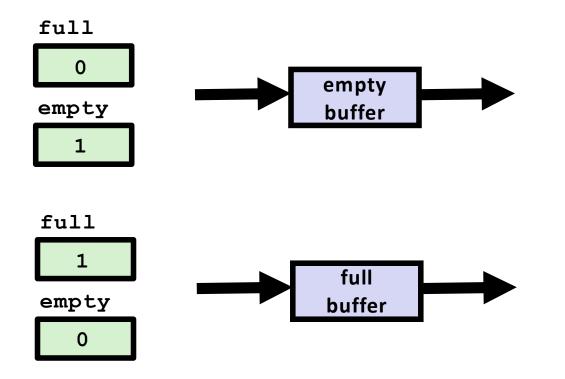
- Producer waits for empty slot, inserts item in buffer, and notifies consumer
- Consumer waits for *item*, removes it from buffer, and notifies producer

### Examples

- Multimedia processing:
  - Producer creates video frames, consumer renders them
- Event-driven graphical user interfaces
  - Producer detects mouse clicks, mouse movements, and keyboard hits and inserts corresponding events in buffer
  - Consumer retrieves events from buffer and paints the display

# Producer-Consumer on 1-element Buffer

Maintain two semaphores: full + empty



## **Producer-Consumer on 1-element Buffer**

```
#include "csapp.h"

#define NITERS 5

void *producer(void *arg);
void *consumer(void *arg);

struct {
  int buf; /* shared var */
  sem_t full; /* sems */
  sem_t empty;
} shared;
```

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
 pthread t tid producer;
 pthread t tid consumer;
  /* Initialize the semaphores */
  Sem init(&shared.empty, 0, 1);
  Sem init(&shared.full, 0, 0);
  /* Create threads and wait */
 Pthread create (&tid producer, NULL,
                 producer, NULL);
 Pthread create (&tid consumer, NULL,
                 consumer, NULL);
 Pthread join(tid producer, NULL);
 Pthread join(tid consumer, NULL);
 return 0;
```

## **Producer-Consumer on 1-element Buffer**

Initially: empty==1, full==0

#### **Producer Thread**

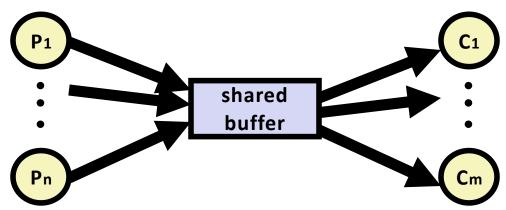
```
void *producer(void *arg)
  int i, item;
  for (i=0; i<NITERS; i++) {
    /* Produce item */
    item = i;
   printf("produced %d\n",
            item);
    /* Write item to buf */
    P(&shared.empty);
    shared.buf = item;
    V(&shared.full);
  return NULL;
```

#### **Consumer Thread**

```
void *consumer(void *arg) {
  int i, item;
  for (i=0; i<NITERS; i++) {
    /* Read item from buf */
    P(&shared.full);
    item = shared.buf;
   V(&shared.empty);
    /* Consume item */
   printf("consumed %d\n", item);
  return NULL;
```

## Why 2 Semaphores for 1-Entry Buffer?

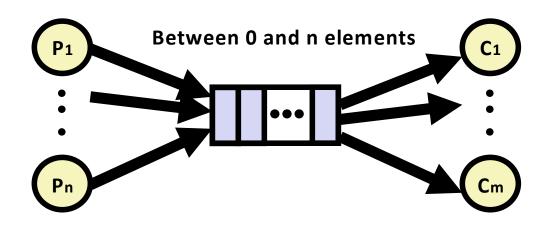
Consider multiple producers & multiple consumers



- Producers will contend with each to get empty
- Consumers will contend with each other to get full

# Producers P(&shared.empty); shared.buf = item; V(&shared.full); Consumers P(&shared.full); item = shared.buf; V(&shared.empty);

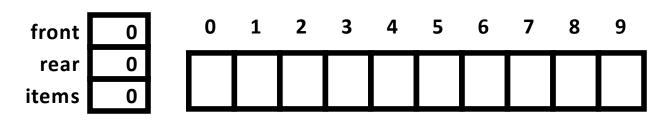
## Producer-Consumer on an *n*-element Buffer



Implemented using a shared buffer package called sbuf.

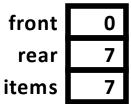
# Circular Buffer (n = 10)

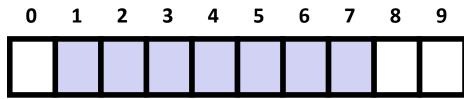
- Store elements in array of size n
- items: number of elements in buffer
- Empty buffer:
  - front = rear
- Nonempty buffer
  - rear: index of most recently inserted element
  - front: (index of next element to remove 1) mod n
- Initially:



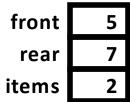
# **Circular Buffer Operation (n = 10)**

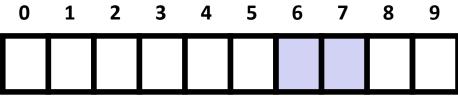
Insert 7 elements



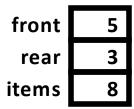


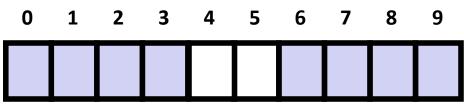
Remove 5 elements



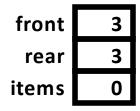


Insert 6 elements





Remove 8 elements

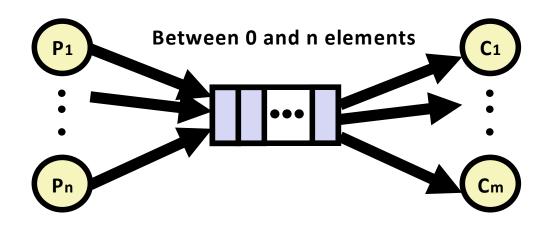


0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

## **Sequential Circular Buffer Code**

```
init(int v)
   items = front = rear = 0;
insert(int v)
   if (items >= n)
       error();
   if (++rear >= n) rear = 0;
  buf[rear] = v;
   items++;
int remove()
   if (items == 0)
       error();
   if (++front >= n) front = 0;
   int v = buf[front];
   items--;
   return v;
```

## Producer-Consumer on an *n*-element Buffer



### Requires a mutex and two counting semaphores:

- mutex: enforces mutually exclusive access to the buffer and counters
- slots: counts the available slots in the buffer
- items: counts the available items in the buffer

## Makes use of general semaphores

Will range in value from 0 to n

## sbuf Package - Declarations

```
#include "csapp.h"
typedef struct {
   int *buf; /* Buffer array
                                                       */
   int n; /* Maximum number of slots
                                                       */
   int front;    /* buf[front+1 (mod n)] is first item */
   int rear;  /* buf[rear] is last item
                                                       */
                                                       */
   sem t mutex; /* Protects accesses to buf
   sem t slots; /* Counts available slots
                                                      */
                                                       */
   sem t items; /* Counts available items
 sbuf t;
void sbuf init(sbuf t *sp, int n);
void sbuf deinit(sbuf t *sp);
void sbuf insert(sbuf t *sp, int item);
int sbuf remove(sbuf t *sp);
```

## sbuf Package - Implementation

Initializing and deinitializing a shared buffer:

```
/* Create an empty, bounded, shared FIFO buffer with n slots */
void sbuf init(sbuf t *sp, int n)
   sp->buf = Calloc(n, sizeof(int));
                        /* Buffer holds max of n items */
   sp->n = n;
   sp->front = sp->rear = 0; /* Empty buffer iff front == rear */
   Sem init(&sp->mutex, 0, 1); /* Binary semaphore for locking */
   Sem init(&sp->slots, 0, n); /* Initially, buf has n empty slots */
   Sem init(&sp->items, 0, 0); /* Initially, buf has zero items */
/* Clean up buffer sp */
void sbuf deinit(sbuf t *sp)
   Free (sp->buf);
```

## sbuf Package - Implementation

Inserting an item into a shared buffer:

```
/* Insert item onto the rear of shared buffer sp */
void sbuf insert(sbuf t *sp, int item)
                                /* Wait for available slot */
   P(&sp->slots);
                              /* Lock the buffer
   P(&sp->mutex);
   if (++sp->rear >= sp->n)
                                /* Increment index (mod n)
       sp->rear = 0;
   sp->buf[sp->rear] = item; /* Insert the item
                             /* Unlock the buffer
   V(&sp->mutex);
                                                          */
                                /* Announce available item */
   V(&sp->items);
                                                         sbuf.c
```

## sbuf Package - Implementation

### Removing an item from a shared buffer:

```
/* Remove and return the first item from buffer sp */
int sbuf remove(sbuf t *sp)
   int item;
                                 /* Wait for available item */
   P(&sp->items);
   P(&sp->mutex);
                                 /* Lock the buffer
                                                            */
   if (++sp-)front >= sp-)n /* Increment index (mod n) */
       sp->front = 0;
   item = sp->buf[sp->front];
                               /* Remove the item
                                                            */
                                 /* Unlock the buffer
   V(&sp->mutex);
                                                            */
   V(&sp->slots);
                                 /* Announce available slot */
   return item;
                                                              sbuf.c
```

## **Demonstration**

- See program produce-consume.c in code directory
- 10-entry shared circular buffer
- 5 producers
  - Agent i generates numbers from 20\*i to 20\*i 1.
  - Puts them in buffer
- 5 consumers
  - Each retrieves 20 elements from buffer
- Main program
  - Makes sure each value between 0 and 99 retrieved once

## **Summary**

- Programmers need a clear model of how variables are shared by threads.
- Variables shared by multiple threads must be protected to ensure mutually exclusive access.
- Semaphores are a fundamental mechanism for enforcing mutual exclusion
  - And can also support producer-consumer synchronization