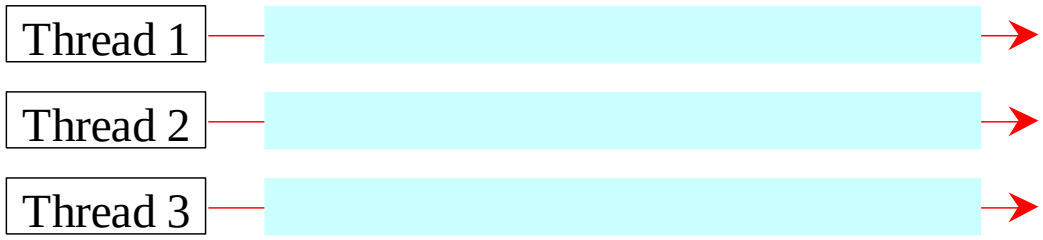
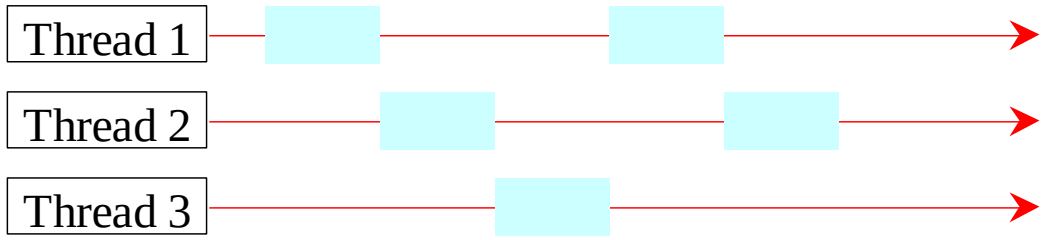
Chapter 29 Multithreading

Threads Concept

Multiple threads on multiple CPUs



Multiple threads sharing a single CPU

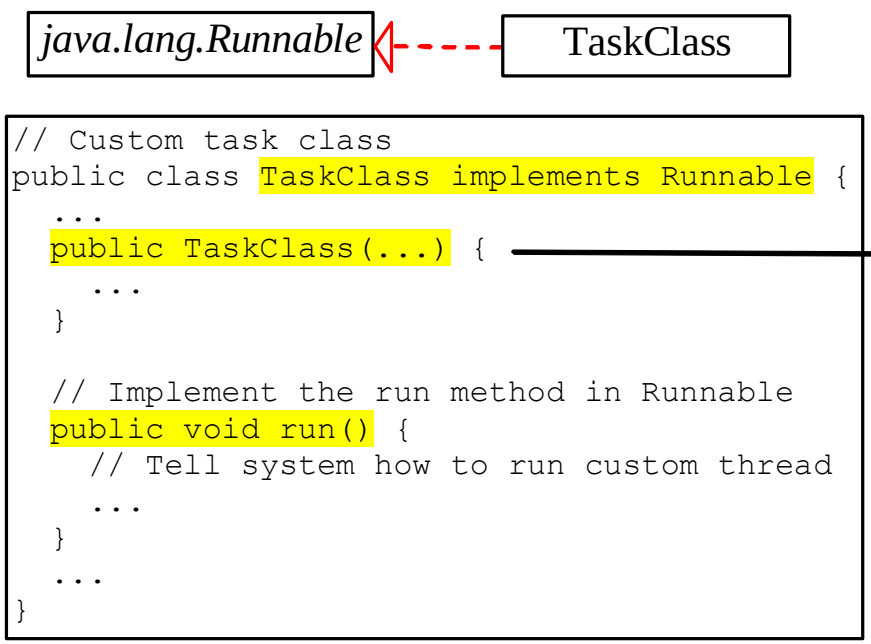


Using the `Runnable` Interface to Create and Launch Threads

- **Objective: Define a Task, create objects of Task and run in threads:**
  - MyTask prints a text and sleeps for a while

```
Interface Runnable {
 void run();
}
class MyTask implements Runnable {
}
```

Creating Tasks and Threads

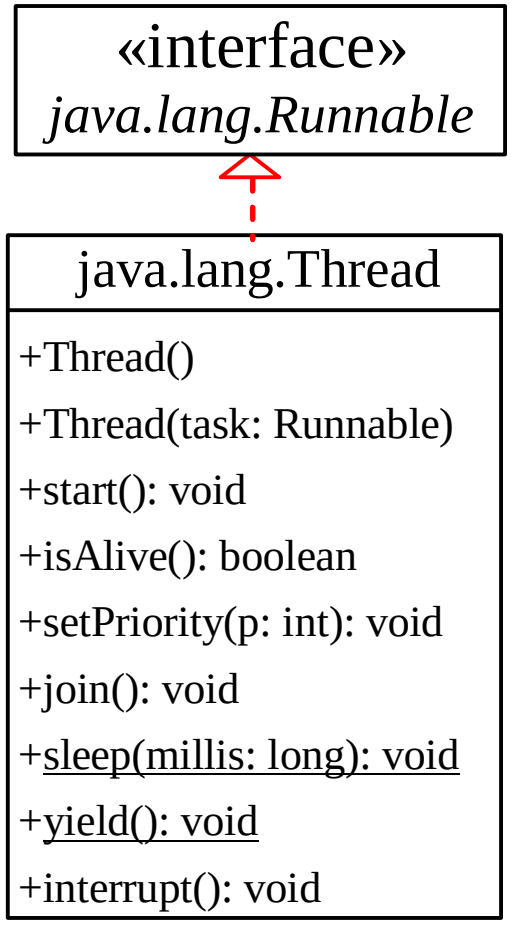



```
// Client class
public class Client {
  ...
  public void someMethod() {
    ...
    // Create an instance of TaskClass
    TaskClass task = new TaskClass(...);

    // Create a thread
    Thread thread = new Thread(task);

    // Start a thread
    thread.start();
    ...
  }
  ...
}
```

The Thread Class



Creates a default thread.

Creates a thread for a specified task.

Starts the thread that causes the run() method to be invoked by the JVM.

Tests whether the thread is currently running.

Sets priority p (ranging from 1 to 10) for this thread.

Waits for this thread to finish.

Puts the runnable object to sleep for a specified time in milliseconds.

Causes this thread to temporarily pause and allow other threads to execute.

Interrupts this thread.

The Static yield() Method

You can use the yield() method to temporarily release time for other threads. For example, suppose you modify the code in Lines 53-57 in TaskThreadDemo.java as follows:

```
public void run() {
  for (int i = 1; i <= lastNum; i++) {
    System.out.print(" " + i);
    Thread.yield();
  }
}
```

Every time a number is printed, the print100 thread is yielded. So, the numbers are printed after the characters.

The Static sleep(milliseconds) Method

The sleep(long mills) method puts the thread to sleep for the specified time in milliseconds. For example, suppose you modify the code in Lines 53-57 in TaskThreadDemo.java as follows:

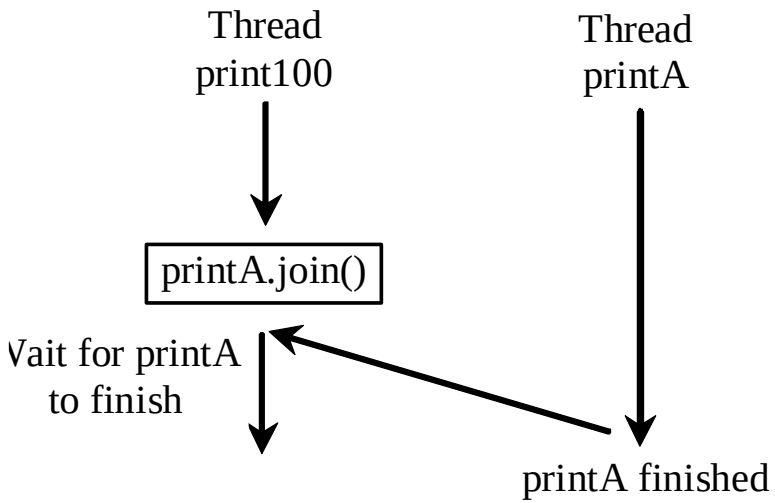
```
public void run() {
  for (int i = 1; i <= lastNum; i++) {
    System.out.print(" " + i);
    try {
      if (i >= 50) Thread.sleep(1);
    }
    catch (InterruptedException ex) {
    }
  }
}
```

Every time a number (>= 50) is printed, the print100 thread is put to sleep for 1 millisecond.

The join() Method

You can use the join() method to force one thread to wait for another thread to finish. For example, suppose you modify the code in Lines 53-57 in TaskThreadDemo.java as follows:

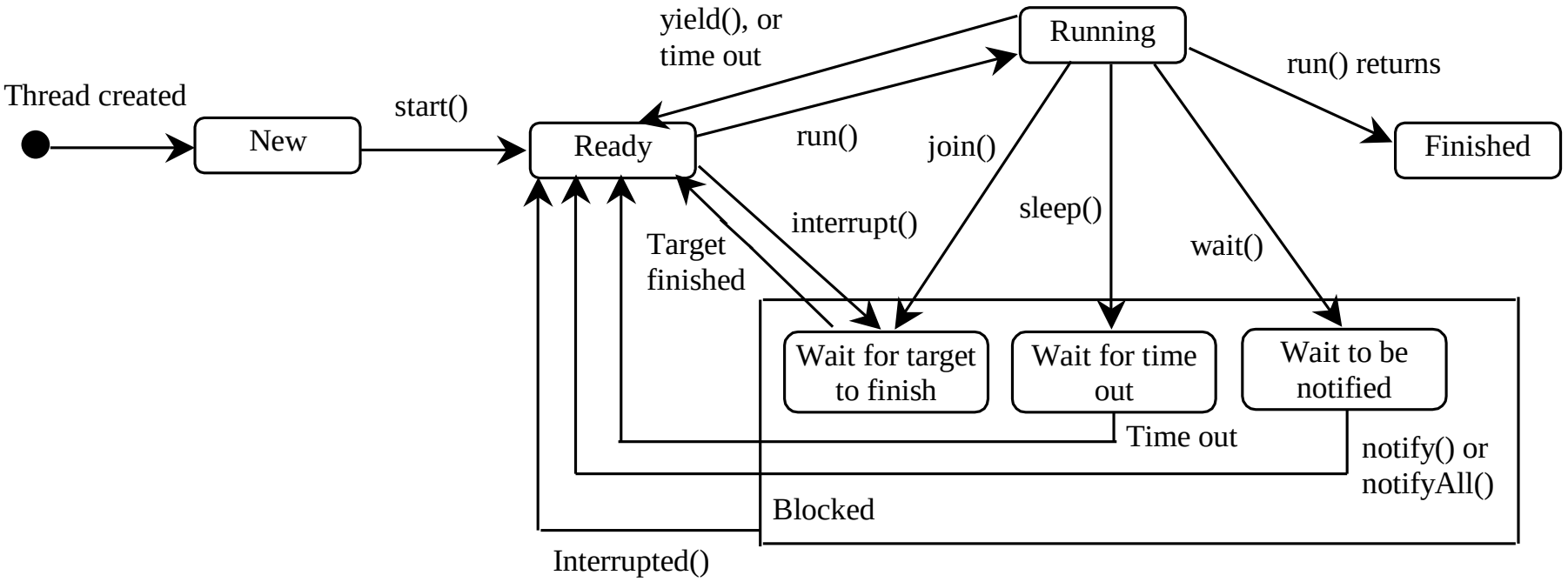
```
public void run() {
  Thread thread4 = new Thread(
    new PrintChar('c', 40));
  thread4.start();
  try {
    for (int i = 1; i <= lastNum; i++) {
      System.out.print(" " + i);
      if (i == 50) thread4.join();
    }
  }
  catch (InterruptedException ex) {
  }
```



The numbers after 50 are printed after thread printA is finished.

Thread States

A thread can be in one of five states: New, Ready, Running, Blocked, or Finished.



isAlive(), interrupt(), and isInterrupted()

The isAlive() method is used to find out the state of a thread. It returns true if a thread is in the Ready, Blocked, or Running state; it returns false if a thread is new and has not started or if it is finished.

The interrupt() method interrupts a thread in the following way: If a thread is currently in the Ready or Running state, its interrupted flag is set; if a thread is currently blocked, it is awakened and enters the Ready state, and an java.io.InterruptedException is thrown.

The isInterrupt() method tests whether the thread is interrupted.

Thread Priority

- Each thread is assigned a default priority of `Thread.NORM_PRIORITY`. You can reset the priority using `setPriority(int priority)`.

- Some constants for priorities include
  `Thread.MIN_PRIORITY`
  `Thread.MAX_PRIORITY`
  `Thread.NORM_PRIORITY`

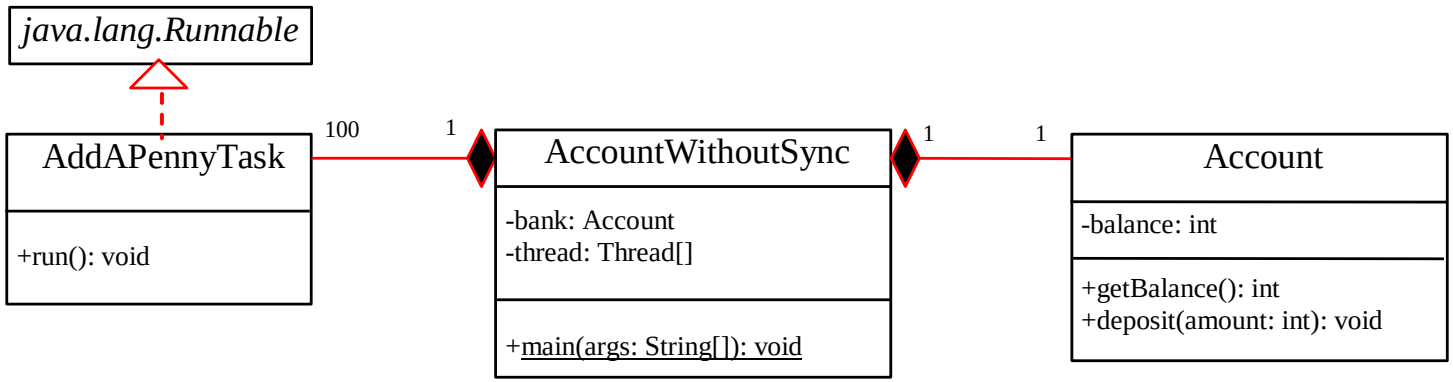
Thread Synchronization

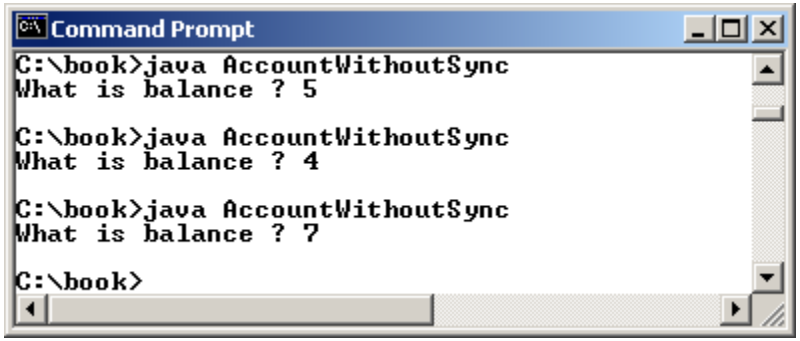
A shared resource may be corrupted if it is accessed simultaneously by multiple threads. For example, two unsynchronized threads accessing the same bank account may cause conflict.

Step	balance	thread[i]	thread[j]
1	0	newBalance = bank.getBalance() + 1;	
2	0		newBalance = bank.getBalance() + 1;
3	1	bank.setBalance(newBalance);	
4	1		bank.setBalance(newBalance);

Example: Showing Resource Conflict

- Objective: Write a program that demonstrates the problem of resource conflict. Suppose that you create and launch one hundred threads, each of which adds a penny to an account. Assume that the account is initially empty.





AccountWithoutSync

Run

Race Condition

What, then, caused the error in the example? Here is a possible scenario:

Step	balance	Task 1	Task 2
1	0	newBalance = balance + 1;	
2	0		newBalance = balance + 1;
3	1	balance = newBalance;	
4	1		balance = newBalance;

The effect of this scenario is that Task 1 did nothing, because in Step 4 Task 2 overrides Task 1's result. Obviously, the problem is that Task 1 and Task 2 are accessing a common resource in a way that causes conflict. This is a common problem known as a *race condition* in multithreaded programs. A class is said to be *thread-safe* if an object of the class does not cause a race condition in the presence of multiple threads. As demonstrated in the preceding example, the Account class is not thread-safe.

The `synchronized` keyword

To avoid race conditions, more than one thread must be prevented from simultaneously entering certain part of the program, known as critical region. The critical region in the Listing 29.7 is the entire deposit method. You can use the synchronized keyword to synchronize the method so that only one thread can access the method at a time. There are several ways to correct the problem in Listing 29.7, one approach is to make Account thread-safe by adding the synchronized keyword in the deposit method in Line 45 as follows:

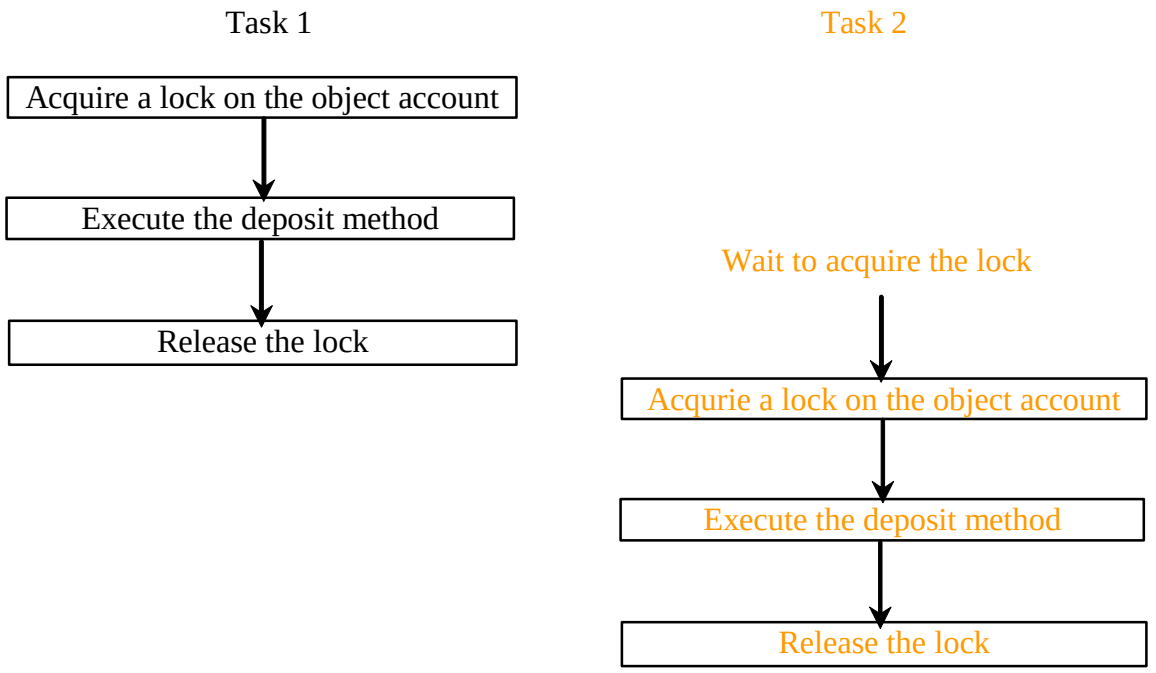
```
public synchronized void deposit(double amount)
```

Synchronizing Instance Methods and Static Methods

A synchronized method acquires a lock before it executes. In the case of an instance method, the lock is on the object for which the method was invoked. In the case of a static method, the lock is on the class. If one thread invokes a synchronized instance method (respectively, static method) on an object, the lock of that object (respectively, class) is acquired first, then the method is executed, and finally the lock is released. Another thread invoking the same method of that object (respectively, class) is blocked until the lock is released.

Synchronizing Instance Methods and Static Methods

With the deposit method synchronized, the preceding scenario cannot happen. If Task 2 starts to enter the method, and Task 1 is already in the method, Task 2 is blocked until Task 1 finishes the method.



Synchronizing Statements

Invoking a synchronized instance method of an object acquires a lock on the object, and invoking a synchronized static method of a class acquires a lock on the class. A synchronized statement can be used to acquire a lock on any object, not just *this* object, when executing a block of the code in a method. This block is referred to as a *synchronized block*. The general form of a synchronized statement is as follows:

```
synchronized (expr) {
  statements;
}
```

The expression expr must evaluate to an object reference. If the object is already locked by another thread, the thread is blocked until the lock is released. When a lock is obtained on the object, the statements in the synchronized block are executed, and then the lock is released.

Synchronizing Statements vs. Methods

Any synchronized instance method can be converted into a synchronized statement. Suppose that the following is a synchronized instance method:

```
public synchronized void xMethod() {
  // method body
}
```

This method is equivalent to

```
public void xMethod() {
  synchronized (this) {
    // method body
  }
}
```

wait(), notify(), and notifyAll()

Use the wait(), notify(), and notifyAll() methods to facilitate communication among threads.

The wait(), notify(), and notifyAll() methods must be called in a synchronized method or a synchronized block on the calling object of these methods. Otherwise, an IllegalMonitorStateException would occur.

The wait() method lets the thread wait until some condition occurs. When it occurs, you can use the notify() or notifyAll() methods to notify the waiting threads to resume normal execution. The notifyAll() method wakes up all waiting threads, while notify() picks up only one thread from a waiting queue.