Concurrent Programming (with Java Threads)

Samit Bhattacharya

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

Before we start

- Lab has three components (concurrent, functional, logic prog)
  - Tutorials for each of the components
  - Assignments = 50%
  - 10% on written test and/or viva at the end of each component
  - 20% on viva at the end

- Assignments to be done in groups (hope already formed) – will be checked by TAs
- Copying is strictly prohibited (if caught at any stage will lead to F for the whole course)

Before we start

- Head TA
  - Subrata Tikadar
  - Ujjwal Biswas
  - Md Shakeel Iqbal Saikia

- Doubt clearing
  - On Moodle discussion forum
  - TAs (mutually-agreed time)
  - Instructor (mutually agreed time)

Basics revisited

- Concurrency – doing things simultaneously

- Concurrent programming – doing things (tasks) simultaneously (mainly at the application/user level)
  - Accessing slow I/O devices
  - Servicing multiple network clients
  - Computing in parallel on multi-core machines

Basics revisited

- Process vs threads
  - Concurrency using multi-threading

- Why threads (example – interactive system response time)
  - Important requirement – synchronization

- Synchronization: Methods to manage and control concurrent access to shared data by multiple-threads

True parallelism vs pseudo-parallelism

- Earlier, computers used to support pseudo-parallelism
  - One CPU, time-sharing
- Modern day computers come with many CPUs (multicore architecture)
  - It is now possible to run multiple instructions at the same time (true parallelism)

The Visibility problem

- Consider a two-core system
- Two threads are running on the two CPUs (true parallelism)
- Each CPU has its own cache
- Both the threads access a shared object which contains a counter variable declared like this

```
public class SharedObject {
public int counter = 0;}
```

- Only Thread 1 increments counter, but both Threads may read

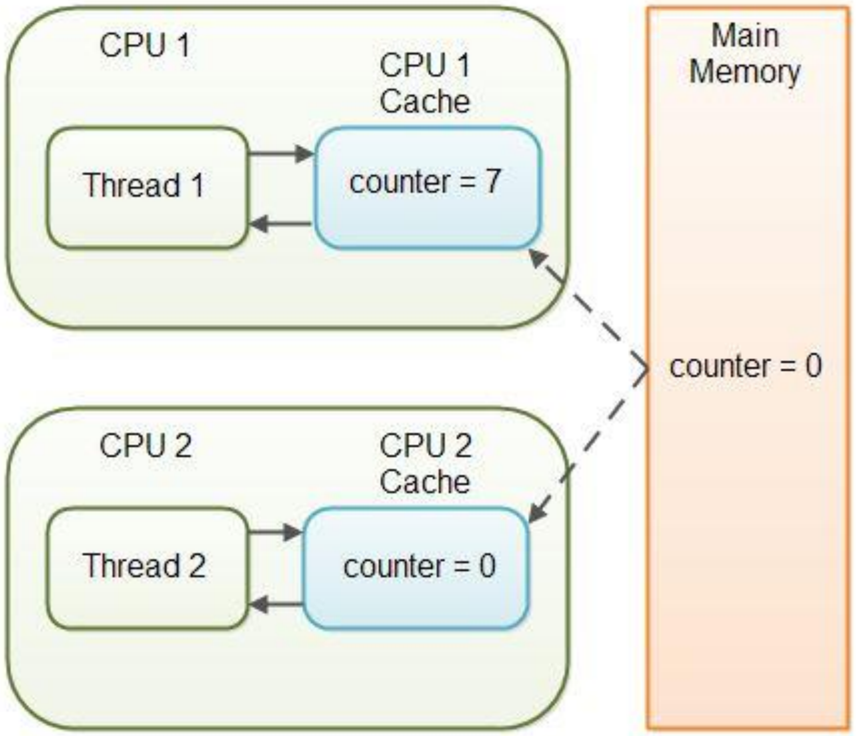
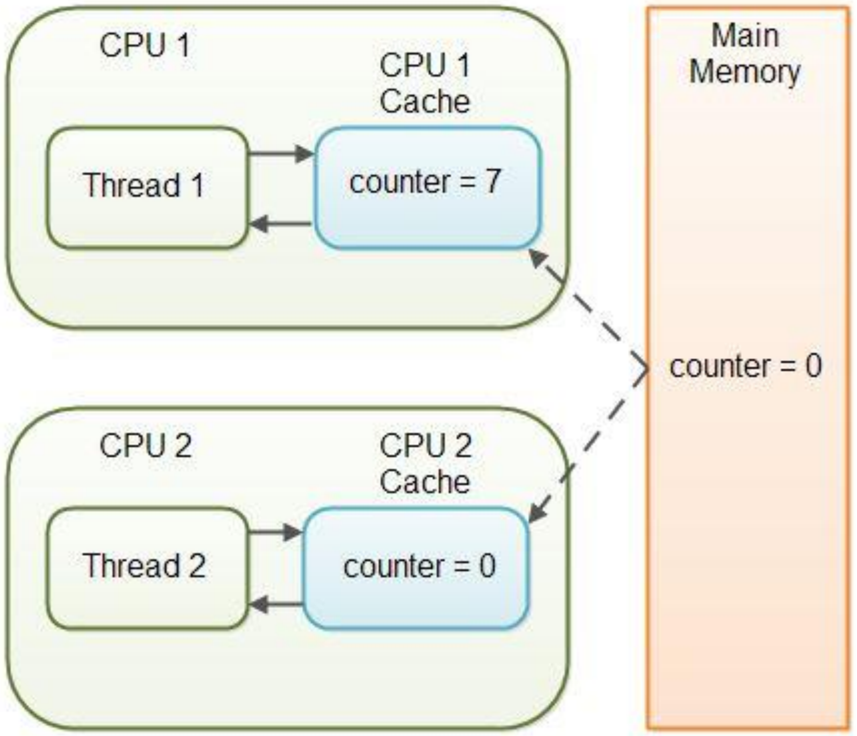


Image Source: http://tutorials.jenkov.com/java-concurrency/volatile.html

The Visibility problem

- The counter value in CPU cache may not be the same as in main memory
- Only Thread 1 has access to the latest value; Thread 2 may not (unless CPU 1 cache is *written back* to main memory and subsequently CPU 2 cache gets updated)



Threads not seeing the latest value of a variable because it has not yet been written back to main memory is called "visibility" problem. The updates of one thread are not visible to other threads.

Should take care of this issue in concurrent programs

Image Source: http://tutorials.jenkov.com/java-concurrency/volatile.html

Java

- Hope you know
  - If not, follow the link (or any other of the numerous online tutorials) to learn the basics

    https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/

Java – A Quick Primer

```
import java.io.*;
class Div{
        float numerator, denominator;
        Div(float input_1, float input_2){
                numerator= input_1;
                denominator= input_2;
        }
        Div(float input_1){
                numerator= input_1;
                denominator=2;
        }
        float Divide(){
                return (numerator/denominator);
        }
}
```

Imports IO package

Name of the Class

Constructor Overloading

Java – A Quick Primer

```
class SubDiv extends Div{
        SubDiv(float num1, float num2){
                super(num1,num2);
        }
        SubDiv(float num1){
                super(num1);
        }
        float Divide()throws ArithmeticException{
        float result=0;
                try{
                        result=numerator/denominator;
                }catch(ArithmeticException e){
                        System.out.print("Exception caught by the Subclass ");
                }
        return result;
        }
}
```

SubDiv class inherits Div Class

Constructor Overloading

Method Overriding

Exception Handling

Java – A Quick Primer

```
class Division{
        public static void main(String args[])throws IOException{
        float input1, input2;
        String input_string1,input_string2;
        BufferedReader br =new BufferedReader(new
        InputStreamReader(System.in));
        System.out.print("\n Enter the value of numerator : ");
        input_string1=br.readLine();
        input1=Float.valueOf(input_string1);
        System.out.print("\n Enter the value of denominator : ");
        input_string2=br.readLine();
        input2=Float.valueOf(input_string2);
        SubDiv object_sd1 = new SubDiv(input1, input2);
        SubDiv object_sd2 = new SubDiv(input1);
        System.out.println("Result of Division: " + object_sd1 .Divide());
        System.out.println("Result of Division from single parameter(div by 2): " + object_sd2.Divide());
        }
}
```

Main Class

Access Specifier

I/O Stream

Type Casting

Object Creation

Method Call

Output

Command Prompt

```
D:\TA-WORK\TA-JULY-NOV-2018>javac Division.java

D:\TA-WORK\TA-JULY-NOV-2018>java Division

 Enter the value of numerator : 20

 Enter the value of denomenator : 10
Result of Division: 2.0
Result of Division from single parameter(div by 2): 10.0

D:\TA-WORK\TA-JULY-NOV-2018>java Division

 Enter the value of numerator : 2

 Enter the value of denomenator : 0
Result of Division: Infinity
Result of Division from single parameter(div by 2): 1.0

D:\TA-WORK\TA-JULY-NOV-2018>javac Division.java

D:\TA-WORK\TA-JULY-NOV-2018>java Division

 Enter the value of numerator : 30

 Enter the value of denomenator : 0
Result of Division: Infinity
Result of Division from single parameter(div by 2): 15.0

D:\TA-WORK\TA-JULY-NOV-2018>
```

Compilation

Execution

Multi-threading in Java

- Prior to Java 5
  - Main focus: multithreading through time-slicing (pseudo-parallelism)
- Java 5 and afterwards
  - Many more exclusive constructs
  - Targeted to utilize multi-core architecture (parallelism)

Threads in Java (Prior to Java 5)

- Two ways (need to import java.lang.Thread)

1. By extending Thread class

```
class Multi extends Thread{
    public void run(){
    System.out.println("thread is running...");
}
public static void main(String args[]){
     Multi t1=new Multi();
     t1.start();
    }
}
```

Output: thread is running...

2. By implementing Runnable interface

```
class Multi3 implements Runnable{
    public void run(){
    System.out.println("thread is running...");
}

public static void main(String args[]){
    Multi3 m1=new Multi3();
    Thread t1 =new Thread(m1);
    t1.start();
     }
}
```

Output: thread is running...

Thread class (contd..)

- Class Thread: it’s method run() does its business when that thread is run

- But you never call run(). Instead, you call start() which lets Java start it and call run()

Common Constructors of Thread class

- Thread()
- Thread(String name)
- Thread(Runnable r)
- Thread(Runnable r, String name)

Common methods of Thread class

- **public void run():** is used to perform action for a thread.
- **public void start():** starts the execution of the thread. JVM calls the run() method on the thread.
- **public void sleep (long miliseconds):** Causes the currently executing thread to sleep (temporarily cease execution) for the specified number of milliseconds.
- **public void join():** waits for a thread to die.
- **public void join(long miliseconds):** waits for a thread to die for the specified miliseconds.
- **public int getPriority():** returns the priority of the thread.
- **public int setPriority(int priority):** changes the priority of the thread.
- **public String getName():** returns the name of the thread.
- **public void setName(String name):** changes the name of the thread.
- **public Thread currentThread():** returns the reference of currently executing thread.
- **public int getId():** returns the id of the thread.
- **public Thread.State getState():** returns the state of the thread.
- **public boolean isAlive():** tests if the thread is alive.
- **public void yield():** causes the currently executing thread object to temporarily pause and allow other threads to execute.
- **public void suspend():** is used to suspend the thread(depricated).
- **public void resume():** is used to resume the suspended thread(depricated).
- **public void stop():** is used to stop the thread(depricated).
- **public boolean isDaemon():** tests if the thread is a daemon thread.
- **public void setDaemon(boolean b):** marks the thread as daemon or user thread.
- **public void interrupt():** interrupts the thread.
- **public boolean isInterrupted():** tests if the thread has been interrupted.
- **public static boolean interrupted():** tests if the current thread has been interrupted

Runnable interface

- The Runnable interface should be implemented by any class whose instances are intended to be executed by a thread

- Runnable interface have only one method named **run()**

public void run(): used to perform action for a thread

Starting a thread

- **start() method** of Thread class is used to start a newly created thread. It performs following tasks:
  - A new thread starts (with new callstack)
  - The thread moves from New state to the Runnable state
  - When the thread gets a chance to execute, its target run() method will run

Starting a thread

- To use Thread class directly
  - Define a subclass of Thread and override run()
  - Create a task as a Runnable, link it with a Thread, and then call start() on the Thread
    - ✓ The Thread will run the Runnable's run() method.

Example

```
public class Worker implements Runnable
{
  public static void main (String[] args)
  {
    System.out.println("This is currently running on the main thread, " +
            "the id is: " + Thread.currentThread().getId());
    Worker worker = new Worker();
    Thread thread = new Thread(worker);
    thread.start();
  }

  @Override
  public void run()
  {
    System.out.println("This is currently running on a separate thread, " +
            "the id is: " + Thread.currentThread().getId());
  }
}
```

Output:

```
This is currently running on the main thread, the id is: 1
This is currently running on a separate thread, the id is: 9
```

Synchronization is Important

- ➢ Every Java object with a *critical section* of code gets a lock associated with the object
- ➢ To enter critical section a thread need to obtain the corresponding object's lock

General Syntax :

```
synchronized (object)
{
//statement to be synchronized
}
```

Example with No-Synchronization

```java
class First{
 public void display(String msg) {
  System.out.print ("["+msg);
  try  {
   Thread.sleep(1000);
  }
  catch(InterruptedException e)  {
   e.printStackTrace();
  }
  System.out.println ("]");
  }
}
```

```java
class Second extends Thread{
 String msg;
 First fobj;
 Second (First fp,String str) {
  fobj = fp;
  msg = str;
  start();
 }
 public void run() {
  fobj.display(msg);
 }
}
```

Example with No-Synchronization (contd..)

```
public class Syncro
{
 public static void main (String[] args)  {
  First fnew = new First();
  Second ss = new Second(fnew, "welcome");
  Second ss1= new Second (fnew,"new");
  Second ss2 = new Second(fnew,
"programmer");
 }
}
```

Output:

[welcome [new [programmer]

]

]

In this program, object **fnew** of class First is shared by all the three running threads (ss, ss1 and ss2) to call the shared method(**display**). Hence the result is unsynchronized and such situation is called **Race condition**

Synchronized keyword

- To synchronize the program, we must *serialize* access to the shared **display()** method, making it available to only one thread at a time

- This is done using keyword **synchronized** with display() method

Example with Synchronization

```
class First{
 public void display(String msg) {
  System.out.print ("["+msg);
  try  {
   Thread.sleep(1000);
  }
  catch(InterruptedException e)
  {
   e.printStackTrace();
  }
  System.out.println ("]"); }}
```

```
class Second extends Thread{
 String msg;
 First fobj;
 Second (First fp,String str) {
  fobj = fp;
  msg = str;
  start();
 }
 public void run() {
  synchronized(fobj)      //Synchronized block
  {    fobj.display(msg);   } }}
```

Example with Synchronization (contd..)

```
public class Syncro1{
 public static void main (String[] args) {
  First fnew = new First();
  Second ss = new Second(fnew,
"welcome");
  Second ss1= new Second
(fnew,"new");
  Second ss2 = new Second(fnew,
"programmer");
 }
}
```

Output:

[welcome]

[new]

[programmer]

Because of synchronized block this program gives the expected output

Synchronization (prior to Java 5)

- Synchronized methods

```
public class SynchronizedCounter {
    public synchronized void update(int x) {
    count += x;
    }
    public synchronized void reset {
    count = 0;
    }
}
```

Synchronization (prior to Java 5)

- Synchronized statements

```
public class MsLunch {
    private long c1 = 0;
    private long c2 = 0;
    private Object lock1 = new Object();

    public void inc1() {
        synchronized(lock1) { c1++; }
}
```

Join

- The **Thread** class defines various primitive methods you could not implement on your own
  - For example: **start**, which calls **run** in a new thread

- The join() method is one such method, essential for coordination in this kind of computation
  - Caller blocks until/unless the receiver is done executing (meaning its **run** returns)
  - E.g. in method foo() running in "main" thread, we call:
    myThread.start(); myThread.join();
  - Then this code waits ("blocks") until myThread's run() completes

- Fork-Join framework (Java 7 onwards)

Java 5 and later

- Improved concurrent programming support

- Try to exploit multi-core architecture

- Dedicated concurrency support package - *java.util.concurrent*

Atomic and lock objects

- *java.util.concurrent.atomic* contains constructs to work with atomic objects
  - When an atomic object is accessed. The operation either completes or does not take place at all
  - Atomic objects provide a way to implement synchronization without using locks

- *java.util.concurrent.lock* contains constructs to manage locks
  - Defines interfaces and classes for locking and waiting for certain condition
  - Allows creation of own synchronization frameworks different than built-in locking and monitors

Read yourself the package details

Synchronization

➢ Java.util.concurrent contains several synchronization constructs

- Semaphor
- CountDownLatch
- Barriers
- Executor

Read yourself the details

Java Volatile Keyword

- The Java volatile keyword is used to mark a Java variable as "being stored in main memory“
  - Every read of a volatile variable will be read from the computer's main memory, and not from the CPU cache
  - Every write to a volatile variable will be written to main memory, and not just to the CPU cache
  - From Java 5 onwards the volatile keyword guarantees
    - Visibility of changes to variables across threads
    - Happens-Before relations

The Java volatile Visibility Guarantee (contd..)

- Suppose two threads access a shared object which contains a counter variable declared like this

```
public class SharedObject {
public int counter = 0;}
```

- Only Thread 1 increments counter, but both Threads may read
- If counter not declared volatile, there is no guarantee when the value of the counter variable is written from the CPU cache back to main memory
  - The counter value in CPU cache may not be the same as in main memory

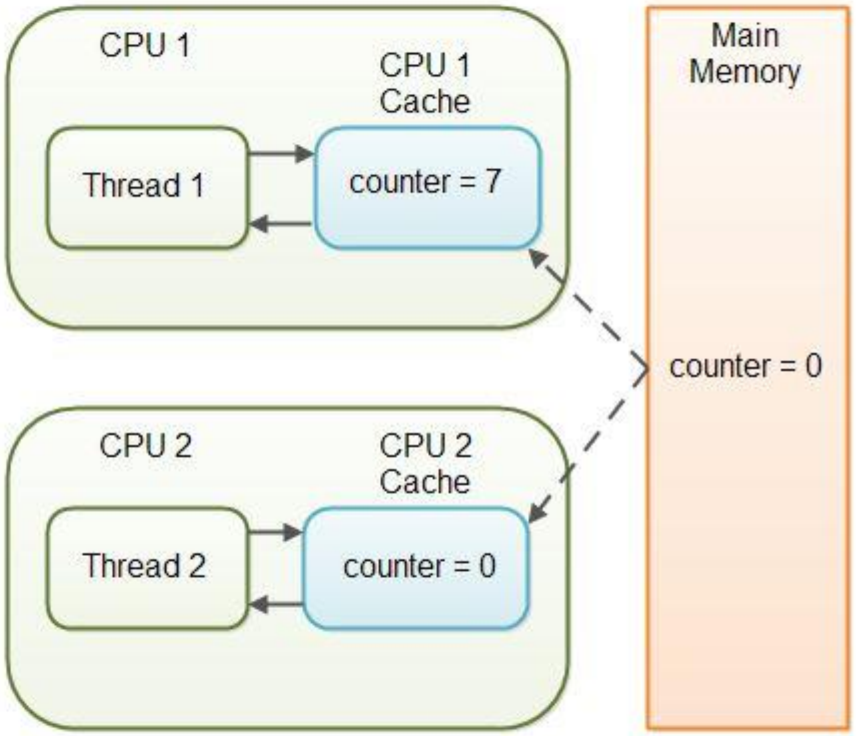


Image Source: http://tutorials.jenkov.com/java-concurrency/volatile.html

The Java volatile Happens-Before Guarantee

- **If Thread A writes to a volatile variable and Thread B subsequently reads the same volatile variable, then all variables *visible* to Thread A before writing the volatile variable, will also be *visible* to Thread B after it has read the volatile variable**

- The reading and writing instructions of volatile variables cannot be *reordered* by the JVM (the JVM may reorder instructions for performance reasons as long as the JVM detects no change in program behaviour from the reordering)
  - Instructions before and after can be reordered, but the volatile read or write cannot be mixed with these instructions
  - Whatever instructions follow a read or write of a volatile variable are guaranteed to happen after the read or write

The Java volatile Happens-Before Guarantee (contd..)

- Look at this (counter is declared volatile)

```
Thread A:
    sharedObject.nonVolatile = 123;
    sharedObject.counter     = sharedObject.counter + 1;
Thread B:
    int counter     = sharedObject.counter;
    int nonVolatile = sharedObject.nonVolatile;
```

- Since Thread A writes the non-volatile variable sharedObject.nonVolatile before writing to the volatile sharedObject.counter, both sharedObject.nonVolatile and sharedObject.counter are written to main memory when Thread A writes to sharedObject.counter (the volatile variable).
- Since Thread B starts by reading the volatile sharedObject.counter, then both the sharedObject.counter and sharedObject.nonVolatile are read from main memory into the CPU cache used by Thread B. By the time Thread B reads sharedObject.nonVolatile it will see the value written by Thread A

Threading in Swing

- Swing: the package in Java for GUI programming

- Threading matters a lot in Swing GUIs
  - main's thread ends "early"
  - JFrame.setvisible(true) starts the "GUI thread"

- Swing methods run in a separate thread called the **Event-Dispatching Thread** (EDT)
  - Why? GUIs need to be responsive quickly (important for good user interaction)

Threading in Swing

- All operations that update GUI components MUST happen in the EDT
  - SwingUtilities.invokeLater(Runnable r) is a method that runs a task in the EDT when appropriate

- But execute slow tasks in separate *worker threads*

- To make common tasks easier, use a SwingWorker task

SwingWorker

- A class designed to be extended to define a task for a worker thread

  - Override method **doInBackground()**
    This is like run() – it's what you want to do

  - Override method **done()**
    This method is for updating the GUI afterwards
    - It will be run in the EDT

Note

- We’ll have one tutorial on Java (for those who are new)!
  - Time and venue will be intimated to you later
- Assignments will be posted by next weekend
  - Get some practice on Java till then
  - If already know, relax and enjoy the weekend!

END