# Unstable-Funcons-beta: Multithreading \*

# The PLanCompS Project

# Multithreading.cbs | PLAIN | PRETTY

#### **OUTLINE**

Multithreading

Initialisation

Activation

Execution

Termination

Scheduling

**Entities** 

Initialisation

Activation

Execution

Termination

Scheduling

## Multithreading

[ Datatype thread-ids

Datatype threads

Funcon thread-joinable Funcon thread-detached ]

#### Initialisation

[ Funcon initialise-multithreading ]

#### **Activation**

[ Funcon multithread funcon thread-activate Funcon thread-detach ]

### **Execution**

[ Funcon current-thread Funcon thread-atomic Funcon thread-yield Funcon thread-spin Funcon thread-suspend Funcon thread-resume ]

Reports of issues: https://github.com/plancomps/CBS-beta/issues.

<sup>\*</sup>Suggestions for improvement: plancomps@gmail.com.

#### **Termination**

```
[ Funcon thread-terminate
Funcon is-thread-terminated
Funcon thread-value
Funcon thread-join
Funcon thread-exterminate ]
```

## Scheduling

```
[ Funcon update-thread-stepping
Funcon update-thread-schedule
Funcon current-thread-schedule
Funcon is-thread-preemptible
Funcon thread-preemptible
Funcon thread-cooperative ]
```

A thread consists of code that can be executed concurrently with code of other threads. The progress of the execution of the threads may be determined cooperatively by threads themselves, or by a preemptive scheduler (or by both).

Threads can be activated by the initial program or by other threads, and share access to the same entities (in contrast to processes). Synchronisation between threads can avoid interference (e.g., data races) arising from concurrent shared access. Synchronisation can also ensure *sequential consistency* of threads, where any concurrent execution corresponds to some (possibly unfair) interleaving of their separate execution steps. Synchronisation can be achieved by various kinds of locks and notifications.

A thread is a value containing a thunk. When a thread has been activated, execution of the body of the thunk can be interleaved with that of other activated threads, possibly subject to scheduling and synchronisation.

Activation of a thread generates a fresh thread-id for referring to it:

```
Auxiliary Datatype thread-ids ::= thread-id(_: atoms)
```

A thread is called joinable when other threads can wait for its termination. A joinable thread contains a list of the threads that are currently waiting to join it. A non-joinable thread is called detached:

```
Auxiliary Datatype threads ::= thread(\_: thunks(values), \_: (lists thread-ids)?)

Funcon thread-joinable(TH: thunks(values)) : \Rightarrow threads

\leadsto thread(TH, [])

Funcon thread-detached(TH: thunks(values)) : \Rightarrow threads

\leadsto thread(TH)
```

In names of funcons and entities, and in informal explanations, a reference to a 'thread' generally concerns a thread-id, rather than a value of type threads. The only funcons that compute threads are thread-joinable (TH) and thread-detached (TH); thread-activate (THR) is the only funcon that takes an argument of type threads.

The thunk contained in a thread can be formed directly from a computation X by thunk closure X. Alternatively, supply(F, V) forms a thunk by supplying an argument value V to a function F without executing F (in contrast to apply(F, V), which forces the evaluation of the body of F).

The current state of a thread is either active, suspended, terminated, or deleted.

• Activation makes a thread active.

- An active thread can be suspended, and subsequently resumed.
- An active or suspended thread can be terminated.
- A thread can be deleted.

The following mutable entities represent the states of all activated threads.

**Entities** The thread-map contains all active and suspended threads:

```
Entity \langle \_, thread-map(\_: maps(thread-ids, threads))\rangle \longrightarrow \langle \_, thread-map(\_: maps(thread-ids, threads))\rangle
```

The active-thread-set distinguishes between active and suspended threads:

```
Entity \langle ., \text{active-thread-set}(\_: \text{sets}(\text{thread-ids})) \rangle \longrightarrow \langle ., \text{active-thread-set}(\_: \text{sets}(\text{thread-ids})) \rangle

Funcon is-some-thread-active: \Rightarrow booleans

Rule \langle \text{is-some-thread-active}, \text{active-thread-set}(ATS) \rangle \longrightarrow \text{not is-equal}(ATS, \{ \})

Funcon is-some-thread-suspended: \Rightarrow booleans

Rule \langle \text{is-some-thread-suspended}, \text{active-thread-set}(ATS), \text{thread-map}(TM) \rangle \longrightarrow \text{not is-equal}(ATS, \text{dom } TM)
```

The thread-stepping entity identifies the thread whose step is currently being executed. When defined, it identifies an active thread:

```
Entity \langle \_, thread-stepping(\_: thread-ids?)\rangle \longrightarrow \langle \_, thread-stepping(\_: thread-ids?)\rangle
```

The terminated-thread-map contains the values computed by terminated joinable threads:

```
Entity ⟨_, terminated-thread-map(_ : maps(thread-ids, values))⟩ → ⟨_, terminated-thread-map(_ : maps(thread-ids, values))⟩
```

Deleted threads are not contained in any of the above entities. Terminated detached threads are always deleted.

Scheduling information for each thread may affect the interleaving of thread steps:

```
Entity \langle \_, thread-schedule(\_: sets(ground-values))\rangle \longrightarrow \langle \_, thread-schedule(\_: sets(ground-values))\rangle
```

Scheduling can change dynamically between preemptive and cooperative.

**Initialisation** The entities used to model multithreading need initialising:

The initial values are generally quite obvious:

**Activation** Multithreading can start by activating a single thread, which can then activate further threads:

```
Funcon multithread(\_: \Rightarrow values): \Rightarrow values
```

multithread X forms a joinable thread from thunk closure X and activates it. On normal termination of all threads, it gives the value computed by X. On abrupt termination (caused by a thread step, or by the failure of the check that all threads have terminated) the reason for it:

The update-thread-stepping funcon determines the thread-id for the next step, which may depend on whether the previous step has yielded, on its preemptibility, and on the current scheduling.

A thread can activate the execution of thread-activates:

```
Funcon thread-activate(_: threads): ⇒ thread-ids
```

When a thread is activated, a fresh thread-id is generated, and the thread is included in the thread-map and the active-thread-set:

```
thread-id(fresh-atom) \longrightarrow TI

map-unite(\{TI \mapsto THR\}, TM\} \rightsquigarrow TM'

set-unite(\{TI\}, ATS\} \rightsquigarrow ATS'

\overline{\langle thread-activate(THR : threads), thread-map(TM), active-thread-set(ATS)\rangle \longrightarrow}

\langle TI, thread-map(TM'), active-thread-set(ATS')\rangle
```

A joinable thread can be detached after its activation, discarding its list of joining threads:

```
Funcon thread-detach(_: thread-ids): ⇒ null-type
```

When the thread has not yet terminated, it remains in the thread-map:

```
Rule \begin{array}{l} \mathsf{map-lookup}(\mathit{TM}, \mathit{TI}) \rightsquigarrow \mathsf{thread}(\mathit{TH}, \_) \\ \\ \mathsf{map-override}(\{\mathit{TI} \mapsto \mathsf{thread}(\mathit{TH})\}, \mathit{TM}) \rightsquigarrow \mathit{TM}' \\ \\ \hline \langle \mathsf{thread-detach}(\mathit{TI} : \mathsf{thread-ids}), \mathsf{thread-map}(\mathit{TM}) \rangle \longrightarrow \\ \langle \mathsf{null-value}, \mathsf{thread-map}(\mathit{TM}') \rangle \end{array}
```

When the thread has already terminated, detaching it deletes it from the terminated-thread-map:

```
 \text{rule} \quad \frac{\text{is-in-set}(\textit{TI}, \text{dom } \textit{TMV}) == (\text{true})}{\text{map-delete}(\textit{TMV}, \{\textit{TI}\}) \leadsto \textit{TMV}'} \\ \frac{\text{(thread-detach}(\textit{TI}: \text{thread-ids}), \text{terminated-thread-map}(\textit{TMV}))}{\text{(null-value, terminated-thread-map}(\textit{TMV}'))}
```

(A funcon for making a detached thread joinable could be defined similarly.)

**Execution** The thread-stepping is undefined only before multithreading starts, and when all non-terminated threads are suspended.

```
Funcon current-thread : \Rightarrow thread-ids 
Rule (current-thread, thread-stepping(TI)) \longrightarrow TI
```

current-thread is only intended for use in threads:

```
Rule \langle \text{current-thread}, \text{thread-stepping}() \rangle \longrightarrow \text{fail}
```

**Stepping** The funcon thread-step executes a single step of the thread identified by thread-stepping:

```
Auxiliary Funcon thread-step : ⇒ null-type
```

Whenever *THR* executes a step and *THR'* represents the remaining steps, the thread-map is updated to map *TI* to *THR'*.

If the body of the thread can make a step, so can thread-step:

```
lookup(TM, TI) \leadsto thread(thunk abstraction(X), L^2)
\langle X, thread-stepping(TI), thread-map(TM)\rangle \longrightarrow
\langle X', thread-stepping(TI^2), thread-map(TM')\rangle
if-true-else(
is-in-set(TI, dom TM'),
map-override(\{TI \mapsto \text{thread}(\text{thunk abstraction}(X'), L^2)\}, TM'),
TM') \leadsto
TM''
\langle \text{thread-step}, \text{thread-stepping}(TI), \text{thread-map}(TM) \rangle \longrightarrow
\langle \text{null-value}, \text{thread-stepping}(TI^2), \text{thread-map}(TM'') \rangle
```

The only other case for a next step is when a thread has terminated normally, and is to be removed from the executing thread map.

If it is detached, its computed value is discarded:

```
Iookup(\mathit{TM}, \mathit{TI}) \rightsquigarrow thread(thunk abstraction(X))
X \rightsquigarrow (V : values)
map-delete(\mathit{TM}, \{\mathit{TI}\}) \rightsquigarrow \mathit{TM}'
set-difference(\mathit{ATS}, \{\mathit{TI}\}) \rightsquigarrow \mathit{ATS}'
\overline{\langle thread-step, active-thread-set(\mathit{ATS}), thread-stepping(\mathit{TI}), thread-map(\mathit{TM}) \rangle} \longrightarrow \langle null-value, active-thread-set(\mathit{ATS}'), thread-stepping(), thread-map(\mathit{TM}') \rangle}
```

If the thread is joinable, all its joining threads are resumed, and its computed value is made available in the terminated-thread-map:

```
lookup(TM, TI) \leadsto thread(thunk abstraction(X), [TI^*]) X \leadsto (V : \text{values}) map-delete(TM, {TI}) \leadsto TM' set-unite(set-difference(ATS, {TI}), {TI^*}) \leadsto ATS' map-unite(TVM, {TI \mapsto V}) \leadsto TVM' (thread-step, active-thread-set(ATS), thread-stepping(TI), thread-map(TM), terminated-thread-map(TVM)) \longrightarrow (null-value, active-thread-set(ATS'), thread-stepping(), thread-map(TM'), terminated-thread-map(TVM'))
```

**Sync atomicity** thread-atomic(X) computes X in a single transition. Assuming that the potentially interfering effects of X may only be updates on the store, thread suspension and/or resumption, and abrupt termination, and that X always terminates, the outcome of thread-atomic(X) is the same as that of computing X without preemption.

(The funcon atomic(X) generalises thread-atomic(X) to allow X with arbitrary effects. When the CBS notation "—>1; —>2" for composing transitions has been implemented by the interpreter generation tools, uses of thread-atomic(X) are to be replaced by atomic(X).)

```
Auxiliary Funcon thread-atomic(\_: \Rightarrow values): \Rightarrow values
```

```
\langle X, \mathsf{store}(\sigma), \mathsf{active\text{-}thread\text{-}set}(ATS), \mathsf{thread\text{-}stepping}(TI) \rangle \xrightarrow{\mathsf{abrupted}(\ )}
     \langle X', store(\sigma'), active-thread-set(ATS'), thread-stepping(TI') \rangle
 \langle \mathsf{thread\text{-}atomic}(X'), \mathsf{store}(\sigma'), \mathsf{active\text{-}thread\text{-}set}(\mathit{ATS'}), \mathsf{thread\text{-}stepping}(\mathit{TI'}) \rangle \xrightarrow{\mathsf{abrupted}(\ )}
     \langle V, store(\sigma''), active-thread-set(ATS''), thread-stepping(TI''?) \rangle
   \langle \text{thread-atomic}(X), \text{store}(\sigma), \text{active-thread-set}(ATS), \text{thread-stepping}(TI) \rangle
       \langle V, store(\sigma''), active-thread-set(ATS''), thread-stepping(TI''?) \rangle
\langle X, \mathsf{store}(\sigma), \mathsf{active\text{-}thread\text{-}set}(ATS), \mathsf{thread\text{-}stepping}(TI) \rangle \xrightarrow{\mathsf{abrupted}(\ )}
     \langle X', store(\sigma'), active-thread-set(ATS'), thread-stepping(TI') \rangle
 \langle \mathsf{thread\text{-}atomic}(X'), \mathsf{store}(\sigma'), \mathsf{active\text{-}thread\text{-}set}(ATS'), \mathsf{thread\text{-}stepping}(\mathit{TI'}) \rangle \xrightarrow{\mathsf{abrupted}(A)}
     \langle V, store(\sigma''), active-thread-set(ATS''), thread-stepping(TI''?) \rangle
   \langle \mathsf{thread\text{-}atomic}(X), \mathsf{store}(\sigma), \mathsf{active\text{-}thread\text{-}set}(\mathit{ATS}), \mathsf{thread\text{-}stepping}(\mathit{TI}) \rangle \xrightarrow{\mathsf{abrupted}(\mathit{A})}
       \langle V, store(\sigma''), active-thread-set(ATS''), thread-stepping(TI''?) \rangle
thread-atomic(X) \xrightarrow{\text{abrupted}(A)} thread-atomic(X')
     X \xrightarrow{\mathsf{abrupted}(\ )} (V : \mathsf{values})
thread-atomic(X) \xrightarrow{\text{abrupted()}} V
\frac{X \xrightarrow{\mathsf{abrupted}(A)} (V : \mathsf{values})}{\mathsf{thread-atomic}(X) \xrightarrow{\mathsf{abrupted}(A)} \mathsf{thread-atomic}(V)}
thread-atomic(V: values) \longrightarrow V
```

Note that if the execution of thread-atomic(X) involves thread-yield() or thread-suspend(), this makes thread-stepping undefined, so it has to be the final step of X.

**Yielding** A thread can yield execution:

```
Funcon thread-yield(_: thread-ids?): ⇒ null-type
```

When the argument thread-id is omitted, the next thread to be executed is left undefined, to be determined by the scheduler:

```
Rule thread-yield() → (null-value, thread-stepping())
```

When the argument thread-id is TI, it has to be an active thread:

```
Rule \frac{\text{is-in-set}(TI, ATS) == (\text{true})}{\langle \text{thread-yield}(TI : \text{thread-ids}), \text{active-thread-set}(ATS) \rangle} \longrightarrow \\ \langle \text{null-value}, \text{thread-stepping}(TI) \rangle \\ \frac{\text{is-in-set}(TI, ATS) == (\text{false})}{\langle \text{thread-yield}(TI : \text{thread-ids}), \text{active-thread-set}(ATS) \rangle} \longrightarrow \\ \text{fail}
```

thread-spin(X) repeatedly executes X while it fails, allowing interleaving with other threads.

```
Funcon thread-spin(X:\Rightarrow values): \Rightarrow values \Rightarrow else( X, sequential(thread-yield(), thread-spin(X)))
```

**Suspension and resumption** A thread may suspend one or more threads that are currently being executed:

```
Funcon thread-suspend(_: thread-ids<sup>+</sup>): \Rightarrow null-type

is-in-set(TI, {TI^+}) == (false)

is-subset({TI^+}, ATS) == (true)

set-difference(ATS, {TI^+}) \rightsquigarrow ATS'

(thread-suspend(TI^+: thread-ids<sup>+</sup>), thread-stepping(TI), active-thread-set(ATS)) \longrightarrow

(null-value, thread-stepping(TI), active-thread-set(ATS'))
```

If  $TI^+$  includes the current thread, suspension is accompanied by yielding:

```
is-in-set(TI, {TI^+}) == (true)

is-subset({TI^+}, ATS) == (true)

set-difference(ATS, {TI^+}) \rightsquigarrow ATS'

\overline{\text{(thread-suspend(}TI^+ : thread-ids^+), thread-stepping(}TI), active-thread-set(<math>ATS))} \longrightarrow

\overline{\text{(null-value, thread-stepping(), active-thread-set(}ATS'))}
```

(Deadlock occurs if the last non-suspended thread suspends itself.)

A thread may resume any number of suspended threads:

```
Funcon thread-resume(_: thread-ids*): \Rightarrow null-type

is-in-set(TI, {TI*}) == (false)

set-intersect(ATS, {TI*}) == {}

Rule \frac{\text{set-unite}(ATS, \{TI^*\}) \rightsquigarrow ATS'}{\langle \text{thread-resume}(TI^*: \text{thread-ids*}), \text{thread-stepping}(TI), \text{active-thread-set}(ATS') \rangle}{\langle \text{null-value, thread-stepping}(TI), \text{active-thread-set}(ATS') \rangle}
```

**Termination** If the thread-map becomes empty, and there are no suspended threads, the entire multithread computation terminates normally. If it becomes empty while suspended threads remain to be executed, this is regarded as deadlock, and the computation fails.

If the execution of an individual thread terminates normally, the body of its thunk gives its computed value. The thread is removed from the thread-map, and the computed value is added to the terminated-thread-map.

Abrupt termination of a thread body causes immediate abrupt termination of the entire multithread computation. This can be avoided by wrapping the bodies of all threads in appropriate handlers for abrupt termination.

A thread can terminate itself or another thread, optionally specifying its computed value:

```
Funcon thread-terminate(_: thread-ids, _: values?): ⇒ null-type
```

When the thread is detached, no value is specified:

```
lookup(TM, TI') \rightsquigarrow thread(thunk abstraction X)

map-delete(TM, \{TI'\}) \rightsquigarrow TM'

set-difference(ATS, \{TI'\}) \rightsquigarrow ATS'

when-true(not is-equal(TI, TI'), TI) \rightsquigarrow TI?

(thread-terminate(<math>TI': thread-ids), thread-stepping(TI), thread-map(TM), active-thread-set(ATS)) \longrightarrow

(null-value, thread-stepping(<math>TI?), thread-map(TM'), active-thread-set(ATS'))
```

When the thread is joinable, its value has to be specified:

```
lookup(TM, TI') \leadsto thread((thunk abstraction X), [TI^*])

map-delete(TM, {TI'}) \leadsto TM'

set-unite(set-difference(ATS, {TI'}), {TI^*}) \leadsto ATS'

map-unite(TVM, {TI' \mapsto V}) \leadsto TVM'

when-true(not is-equal(TI, TI'), TI) \leadsto TI?

(thread-terminate(TI': thread-ids, V: values), thread-stepping(TI),

thread-map(TM), terminated-thread-map(TVM), active-thread-set(ATS)) \longrightarrow (null-value, thread-stepping(TI^*),

thread-map(TM'), terminated-thread-map(TVM'), active-thread-set(ATS'))
```

A thread can test whether a joinable thread has terminated:

```
Funcon is-thread-terminated(\_: thread-ids): \Rightarrow booleans

Rule (is-thread-terminated(TI: thread-ids), terminated-thread-map(TVM)) \longrightarrow is-value(map-lookup(TVM, TI))
```

If so, it can get the computed value:

```
Funcon thread-value(\_: thread-ids): \Rightarrow values

Rule \langle thread-value(TI: thread-ids), terminated-thread-map(TVM)\rangle \longrightarrow checked map-lookup(TVM, TI)
```

Joining a thread may cause suspension:

```
Funcon thread-join(\_: thread-ids): \Rightarrow null-type lookup(TM, TI') \rightsquigarrow thread(TH, [TI^*]) map-override(\{TI' \mapsto \text{thread}(TH, [TI^*, TI])\}, TM) \rightsquigarrow TM' set-difference(ATS, \{TI\}) \rightsquigarrow ATS' $$ (thread-join(<math>TI': thread-ids), thread-map(TM), thread-stepping(TI), active-thread-set(ATS)) \rightarrow (null-value, thread-map(TM'), thread-stepping(), active-thread-set(ATS'))
```

If a joinable thread has already terminated, the terminated-thread-map holds its value:

```
Rule is-value(lookup(TVM, TI')) == true \overline{\langle \text{thread-join}(TI': \text{thread-ids}), \text{terminated-thread-map}(TVM) \rangle} \longrightarrow \text{null-value}
```

Trying to join a detached thread fails:

```
Rule \begin{tabular}{l} \hline & lookup(TM,TI') \leadsto thread(TH) \\ \hline & \langle thread-join(TI': thread-ids), thread-map(TM) \rangle \longrightarrow \\ \hline & fail \\ \hline & lookup(TM,TI') == (\ ) \\ \hline & lookup(TVM,TI') == (\ ) \\ \hline & \langle thread-join(TI': thread-ids), thread-map(TM), terminated-thread-map(TVM) \rangle \longrightarrow \\ \hline & fail \\ \hline \end{tabular}
```

Extermination of a thread both terminates it and prevents its subsequent inspection.

**Scheduling** A scheduler determines the interleaving of thread execution, based on mutable information regarding features such as preemptibility, priority, and time-sharing.

The next thread scheduled for execution is an active thread, or undefined when there are no active threads. It may be the same thread that last made a step.

(The following definitions allow update-thread-stepping to update thread-stepping to any valid thread. They are to be replaced by declarations of built-in funcons, allowing exploration of different interleavings using oracles.)

```
Funcon update-thread-stepping: ⇒ null-type
```

When thread-stepping is TI and that thread is not preemptible, update-thread-stepping has no effect:

```
Rule is-thread-preemptible(TI) \longrightarrow false \overline{\langle \text{update-thread-stepping, thread-stepping}(TI) \rangle} \longrightarrow \text{null-value}
```

When thread-stepping is TI and that thread is preemptible, or when thread-stepping is undefined, update-thread-stepping may set it to any active TI':

When there are no active threads, update-thread-stepping ensures that thread-stepping is undefined:

```
Rule \langle \text{update-thread-stepping}, \text{thread-stepping}(TI?), \text{active-thread-set} \} \rangle \longrightarrow \langle \text{null-value}, \text{thread-stepping}() \rangle
```

Scheduling information for each thread can be inspected and updated:

```
Funcon update-thread-schedule(\_: sets(ground-values)): \Rightarrow null-type update-thread-schedule(VS: sets(ground-values)) \longrightarrow \langle null-value, thread-schedule(VS)\rangle
```

```
Funcon current-thread-schedule: \Rightarrow sets(ground-values)

Rule \langle current-thread-schedule, thread-schedule(VS)\rangle \longrightarrow VS

Datatype thread-preemtibilities::= thread-preemptible | thread-cooperative

Funcon is-thread-preemptible(_: thread-ids): \Rightarrow booleans

\Rightarrow not is-in-set(thread-cooperative, current-thread-schedule)
```

For now, all threads are preemptible unless the scheduling includes cooperative.

The representation of scheduling information is left open here, together with the details of how it affects the result of update-thread-stepping.