# MULTITHREADING

# ATOMIC VARIABLES CALL ONCE



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#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Thread-safe queue
- 2 std::condition variable
- 3. Memory model
- 4. How to stop a looped thread?
- 5. Atomic variables
- 6. std::memory\_order
- 7. std::call\_once
- 8. Thread-safe singletons
- 9. Exceptions in std::call\_once

# C++ MEMORY MODEL



## C++ MEMORY MODEL

- The smallest memory unit is 1 byte
- Each byte has a unique memory address
- Synchronization is not needed if you are writing something concurrently to different areas of memory

```
1 vector<int> v{10};
2 thread t1([&]{ v[0] = 5; });
3 thread t2([&]{ v[1] = 15; });
```

- Synchronization is needed when you are writing something concurrently to the same memory areas
- Synchronization is needed if at least one thread is writing and others are reading the same area of memory
- No synchronization when required == race condition == undefined behavior
- const implies multi-threaded safety, because it guarantees reading only
- C++ Memory model on cppreference.com

## IS SYNCHRONIZATION NEEDED HERE?

```
1 struct S {
2    char a;
3    int b;
4 } obj;
5 thread t1([&]{ obj.a = 'a'; });
6 thread t2([&]{ obj.b = 4; });
```

- Since C++11 no. Despite the same structure, the memory areas in which we save data are separate
- Race condition is possible in old POSIX threads

### IS SYNCHRONIZATION NEEDED HERE?

```
1 vector<int> v(10, 0);
2 for (int = 0; i < 10; i++)
3 thread t([&]{ v[i] = i; });</pre>
```

- YES
- There is a data race on variable i
- But the vector access is race free
- Despite the same structure, the memory areas in which we save data are separate
- Proper version that do not require synchronization:

```
1 vector<int> v(10, 0);
2 for (int = 0; i < 10; i++)
3 thread t([&, i]{ v[i] = i; });</pre>
```

## IS SYNCHRONIZATION NEEDED HERE?

```
1 vector<int> v;
2 for (int = 0; i < 10; i++)
3 thread t([&]{ v.emplace_back(i); });</pre>
```

- YES
- We have to increment the end() iterator while we are adding new elements possible race condition
- When adding a new object, the vector may be reallocated. Some threads may have iterators on the deprecated vector position.

## **HOW TO SYNCHRONIZE?**

How to sync writing / writing + reading?

• std::mutex

```
1 int a = 0;
2 mutex m;
3 thread t1([&]{
4    lock_guard<mutex> lg(m);
5    a = 1;
6 });
7 thread t2([&]{
8    lock_guard<mutex> lg(m);
9    a = 2;
10 });
```

• std::atomic<T>

```
1 atomic<int> a = 0;
2 thread t1([&]{ a = 1; });
3 thread t2([&]{ a = 2; });
```

# LOOPED THREAD



#### **HOW TO STOP A LOOPED THREAD?**

```
1 #include <thread>
  using namespace std;
   int main() {
       bool stop = false;
       auto f = [&] {
           while (not stop) {
               /* do sth... */
10
       };
11
    thread t(f);
       stop = true;
12
13
     t.join();
14
       return 0;
15 }
```



```
$> g++ 01_stop.cpp -lpthread -fsanitize=thread
$> ./a.out
WARNING: ThreadSanitizer: data race (pid=10179)
...
$> g++ 01_stop.cpp -lpthread -fsanitize=thread -03
$> ./a.out
deadlock
```

#### **HOW TO STOP A LOOPED THREAD?**

#### **VOLATILE?**

```
1 #include <thread>
   using namespace std;
   int main() {
       volatile bool stop = false;
       auto f = [&] {
           while (not stop) {
               /* do sth... */
       };
10
11
       thread t(f);
12
       stop = true;
13
       t.join();
14
       return 0;
15 }
```



```
$> g++ 01b_volatile.cpp -lpthread -fsanitize=thread
$> ./a.out
WARNING: ThreadSanitizer: data race (pid=10179)
...
$> g++ 01b_volatile.cpp -lpthread -fsanitize=thread -03
$> ./a.out
```

WARNING: ThreadSanitizer: data race (pid=10179)

#### **HOW TO STOP A LOOPED THREAD?**

#### **VARIABLE WITH MUTEX?**

```
1 #include <thread>
 2 #include <mutex>
   using namespace std;
   int main() {
       bool flag = false;
       mutex m;
10
       auto stop = [&] {
           lock guard<mutex> lg(m);
12
           return flag;
13
       };
14
15
       auto f = [&] {
16
           while (not stop()) {
17
               /* do sth... */
18
19
       };
20
       thread t(f);
21
22
           lock guard<mutex> lg(m);
23
           flag = true;
24
25
       t.join();
26
       return 0;
27 }
```

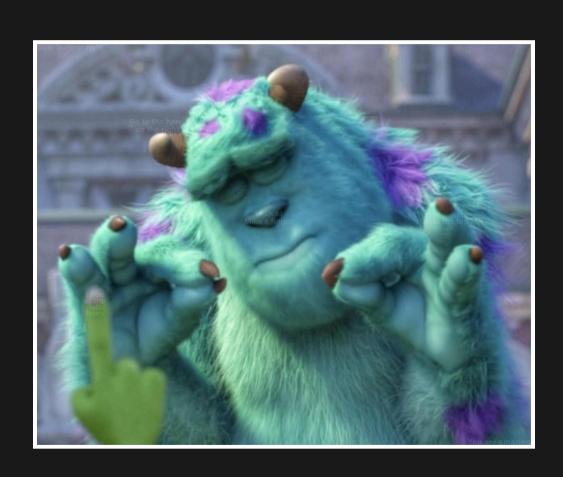


```
$> g++ 01c_mutex.cpp -lpthread -fsanitize=thread
$> ./a.out
$> g++ 01c_mutex.cpp -lpthread -fsanitize=thread -03
$> ./a.out
```

### **HOW TO STOP A LOOPED THREAD?**

#### **ATOMIC VARIABLE**

```
1 #include <thread>
 2 #include <atomic>
   using namespace std;
   int main() {
       atomic<bool> stop{false};
 6
       auto f = [&] {
           while (not stop) {
 9
               /* do sth... */
10
11
      };
12
       thread t(f);
13
       stop = true;
14
       t.join();
15
       return 0;
16 }
```



```
$> g++ 01d_atomic.cpp -lpthread -fsanitize=thread -03
$> ./a.out
```

# std::memory\_order



# NORMAL VARIABLES VS ATOMIC VARIABLES

#### Normal variables

- simultaneous write and read == undefined behavior
- need to block with mutexes in case of modification

#### Atomic variables

- simultaneous write and read == defined behavior
- no additional locking mechanisms required

# ATOMIC VARIABLES THE MOST IMPORTANT OPERATIONS

- store() saves the value in an atomic variable, you can also specify
   std::memory order
- operator=() saves the value in an atomic variable
- load() reads the value from an atomic variable, you can also specify std::memory order
- operator T() reads the value from an atomic variable

# std::memory\_order

- As part of optimization, the compiler has the right to change the order of operations
- The compiler needs to know which operations can be rearranged and which must follow a certain order
- SC Sequential consistency (memory\_order\_seq\_cst) ensures that the order of operations set by the developer is preserved, sometimes at the expense of performance. This is the default behavior of std::atomic variables
- Thanks to SC, we can correctly conclude what values may variables have regardless of the processor optimization
  - Compiler optimizations cannot create race conditions
  - Boring Details: memory\_order on cppreference.com

# SEQUENTIAL CONSISTENCY AND OPTIMIZATIONS

```
1 // INPUT:
2 int foo(int a)
3 {
4     if(a<1)
5         b=2;
6     if(a==2)
7         b=2;
8     if(a>2)
9         b=2;
10     return b;
11 }
12
13
```

```
1 // OPT1:
2 int foo(int a)
3 {
4     if(a>2)
5     b=2;
6     else
7      if(a<1)
8         b=2;
9     else
10         if(a==2)
11               b=2;
12     return b;
13 }</pre>
```

```
1 // OPT2:
2 int foo(int a)
3 {
4          const int tmp=b;
5          b=2;
6          if(a==1)
7          b=tmp;
8          return b;
9 }
10
11
12
13
```

#### ARE OPT1 AND OPT2 CORRECT?

- Only OPT1
- In OPT2, state b has changed regardless of the value of a
- Another thread may have read b value at this time

# std::memory\_order VALUES

- memory order relaxed
- memory order consume
- memory\_order\_acquire
- memory\_order\_release
- memory\_order\_acq\_rel
- memory order seq cst

# memory\_order\_relaxed

- No synchronization or ordering constraints imposed on other reads or writes
- Only this operation's atomicity is guaranteed (read or write)

```
1 int main() {
       std::atomic<int> x{}, y{};
       int r1{}, r2{};
 3
 5
       std::thread t1{[&] {
 6
           r1 = y.load(std::memory order relaxed); // A
           x.store(r1, std::memory order relaxed); // B
8
       } };
       std::thread t2{[&] {
           r2 = x.load(std::memory order relaxed); // C
10
           y.store(42, std::memory order relaxed); // D
11
12
       } };
13
       t1.join();
14
       t2.join();
       std::cout << r1 << ' ' << r2 << '\n';
15
16 }
```

#### POSSIBLE RESULTS?

# memory\_order\_relaxed

```
std::thread t1{[&] {
    r1 = y.load(std::memory_order_relaxed); // A
    x.store(r1, std::memory_order_relaxed); // B
}};
std::thread t2{[&] {
    r2 = x.load(std::memory_order_relaxed); // C
    y.store(42, std::memory_order_relaxed); // D
}};
```

#### POSSIBLE RESULTS

```
r1 = 0, r2 = 0
orders of execution: ABCD, ACBD, ACDB, CADB, CABD
r1 = 42, r2 = 0
orders of execution: CDAB
r1 = 42, r2 = 42
orders of execution: DABC!?
```

#### **HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?**

# memory\_order\_relaxed

```
std::thread t1{[&] {
    r1 = y.load(std::memory_order_relaxed); // A
    x.store(r1, std::memory_order_relaxed); // B
}};
std::thread t2{[&] {
    r2 = x.load(std::memory_order_relaxed); // C
    y.store(42, std::memory_order_relaxed); // D
}};
```

#### **HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?**

- Compiler reordering!
- A is sequenced-before B within thread 1 and A must occur before B. B depends on the result of A.
- C is sequenced-before D within thread 2, but they are independent.
- Nothing prevents D from appearing before A in the modification order of y, and B from appearing before C in the modification order of x

# SEQUENTIAL CONSISTENCY (CS)

- Aka "full barrier", "standalone fence", "full memory fence"
- Not only order memory the same way as release/acquire ordering, but also establish a single total modification order of all atomic operations that are so tagged.

```
1 int v1 = 0;
2 int v2 = 0;
3 int v3 = 0;
4 std::atomic<int> number{0};
5
6 v1 = 5;
7 v2 = 10;
8 auto value = number.load(std::memory_order_seq_cst); // full barrier XXX
9 v2 = 15;
10 v1 = 20;
11 number.store(10, std::memory_order_seq_cst); // full barrier XXX
12 v2 = 25;
13 v3 = 30;
```

• Instructions can't be reordered across full barriers

```
1 int v1 = 0;
2 int v2 = 0;
3 int v3 = 0;
4 std::atomic<int> number{0};
5
6 v2 = 10;
7 v1 = 5;
8 auto value = number.load(std::memory_order_seq_cst); // full barrier XXX
9 v1 = 20;
10 v2 = 15;
11 number.store(10, std::memory_order_seq_cst); // full barrier XXX
12 v3 = 30;
13 v2 = 25;
```

• Instructions can't be reordered across full barriers

```
1 int v1 = 0;
2 int v2 = 0;
3 int v3 = 0;
4 std::atomic<int> number{0};
5
6 v2 = 10;
7 v1 = 5;
8 auto value = number.load(); // full barrier XXX
9 v1 = 20;
10 v2 = 15;
11 number.store(10); // full barrier XXX
12 v3 = 30;
13 v2 = 25;
```

- Instructions can't be reordered across full barriers
- std::memory\_order\_seq\_cst is a default value for load() and store()

```
1 int v1 = 0;
2 int v2 = 0;
3 int v3 = 0;
4 std::atomic<int> number{0};
5
6 v2 = 10;
7 v1 = 5;
8 int value = number; // full barrier XXX
9 v1 = 20;
10 v2 = 15;
11 number = 10; // full barrier XXX
12 v3 = 30;
13 v2 = 25;
```

- Instructions can't be reordered across full barriers
- std::memory\_order\_seq\_cst is a default value for load() and store()
- You can also read data with conversion operator T()
- And write data with assignment operator=()

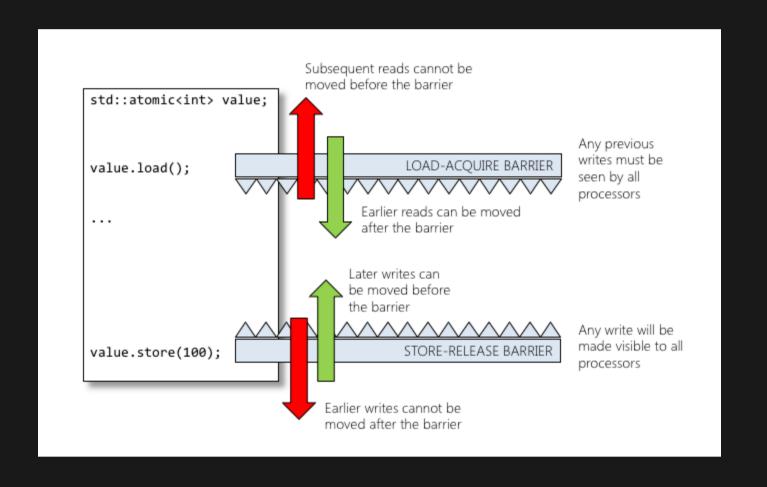
- Sequential ordering may be necessary for multiple producer-multiple consumer situations
  where all consumers must observe the actions of all producers occurring in the same
  order.
- SC may become a performance bottleneck since it forces the affected memory accesses to propagate to every CPU core.
- Conceptually, there is single global memory and a "switch" that connects an arbitrary processor to memory at any time step

# memory\_order\_acquire/ memory\_order\_release

- Aka "one-way barriers", "acquire/release fences", "half fences"
- A release store makes its prior access visible to thread performing an acquire load that sees that store.

```
1 int v1 = 0;
2 int v2 = 0;
3 std::mutex m;
4 bool b = false;
5
6 v1 = 5;
7 m.lock(); // acquire IV
8 b = true;
9 m.unlock(); // release IV
10 v2 = 10;
```

You can always move code inside a global section, but not outside



```
1 int v1 = 0;
2 int v2 = 0;
3 int v3 = 0;
4 std::atomic<int> number{0};
5
6 v1 = 5;
7 v2 = 10;
8 auto value = number.load(std::memory_order_acquire); // III
9 v2 = 15;
10 v1 = 20;
11 number.store(10, std::memory_order_release); // III
12 v2 = 25;
13 v3 = 30;
```

- Instructions can be reordered only in one way
- Acquire pass instruction from above
- Release pass instruction from below

```
1 int v1 = 0;
2 int v2 = 0;
3 int v3 = 0;
4 std::atomic<int> number{0};
5
6 auto value = number.load(std::memory_order_acquire); // II
7 v1 = 5;
8 v2 = 10;
9 v2 = 15;
10 v1 = 20;
11 v2 = 25;
12 v3 = 30;
13 number.store(10, std::memory_order_release); // III
```

- Instructions can be reordered only in one way
- Acquire pass instruction from above
- Release pass instruction from below

# ACQUIRE/RELEASE

```
1 int v1 = 0;
2 int v2 = 0;
3 int v3 = 0;
4 std::atomic<int> number{0};
5
6 auto value = number.load(std::memory_order_acquire); // III
7 v1 = 20;
8 v2 = 25;
9 v3 = 30;
10 number.store(10, std::memory_order_release); // III
```

- Instructions can be reordered only in one way
- Acquire pass instruction from above
- Release pass instruction from below
- Some compiler optimizations are possible :)

# ACQUIRE/RELEASE

- Acquire: no reads or writes in the current thread can be reordered before this load.
  - Acquire allows earlier instruction to be executed later
  - atomic.load() -> use acquire (the default is seq\_cst)
- Release: no reads or writes in the current thread can be reordered after this store.
  - Release allows later instructions to be executed earlier
  - atomic.store() -> use release (the default is seq\_cst)
- std::mutex is an example of release-acquire synchronization: when the lock is released by thread A and acquired by thread B, everything that took place in the critical section (before the release) in the context of thread A has to be visible to thread B (after the acquire).
  - mutex.lock() == acquire
  - mutex.unlock() == release

### **EXAMPLES**

- memory\_order\_relaxed \*\*\*
  - In general counters incrementation
  - shared ptr's reference counter incrementation (but not decrementation!)
- - mutex.lock()
  - atomic.load() (the default is seq\_cst, but you can safely use acquire)
- memory\_order\_release 1111
  - mutex.unlock()
  - atomic.store() (the default is seq\_cst, but you can safely use release)
- memory\_order\_seq\_cst
  - multiple producer-multiple consumer situations

# std::memory\_order

#### There are 2 more:

- memory\_order\_consume
  - "Dragons be here"
  - std::kill dependency and [[carries dependency]]
  - This is too difficult...
  - Must be 3m (10 feet) tall to use it 69
- memory\_order\_acq\_rel
  - Both acquire and release fences in one sequence point = full barrier
  - But it's not sequentially consistent
  - Used in instructions that read and write data atomically compare\_exchange\_strong,
     compare exchange weak, exchange
  - shared\_ptr's reference counter decrementation (watch Atomic Weapons by Herb Sutter)

# ATOMIC VARIABLES - SUMMARY

- std::atomic is a light synchronization
- Allows simple arithmetic and bitwise operations: ++, --, +=, -=, &=, |=, ^=
- Typically: numbers, pointers
- Uses special processor instructions to modify data atomically
- std::atomic doesn't make sense on complex types
  - there are no special processor instructions that ensure the indivisibility of such operations
  - no transactional memory model in C++ (yet)
  - if it is successful, it may not work as intended (see Stack Overflow)
  - you must use mutexes
- The default memory order is sequential consistency. Avoid it.
  - Prefer acquire for reading data
  - Prefer release for writing data
  - Rather do not use relaxed memory order. It may be useful only in rare situations (reference counting)
  - ullet But remember, that clear code is better than prematurely optimized code ullet

Atomic<> Weapons by Herb Sutter

What do each memory\_order mean? - StackOverflow

# std::call\_once



# std::call\_once

- #include <mutex>
- std::call once
- Wraps a function that must be executed only once
- Guarantees one call, even when called concurrently by several threads
- Calls the passed function on its own thread (doesn't create a new one)
- It needs std::once\_flag flag

# std::call\_once

```
1 #include <iostream>
 2 #include <thread>
 3 #include <mutex>
 5 std::once flag flag;
   void do once() {
       std::call once(flag, [] {
           std::cout << "Called once!\n";</pre>
10
       });
11 }
12
13 int main() {
       std::thread t1(do once);
14
15
       std::thread t2(do once);
16
       std::thread t3(do once);
17
      t1.join();
18
      t2.join();
19
       t3.join();
20
       return 0;
21 }
```

```
$> g++ 01_call_once.cpp -lpthread -fsanitize=thread
$> ./a.out
Called once!
```

# ONCE\_FLAG

- #include <mutex>
- std::once flag
- An auxiliary structure for use with std::call once
- Neither copyable nor movable
- Contains information whether the function has already been called
- The constructor sets the state to not called

# call\_once WAY OF OPERATION

- If once\_flag is in the "called" state, call\_once immediately returns (passive call)
- If once\_flag is in the "not called" state, call\_once executes the passed function, passing further arguments to it (active call)
  - If the function throws an exception, it is propagated on, and once\_flag is not set to "called state" (exceptional call), so different call once can be called (at least in theory (a))
  - If the function ends normally, once\_flag is set to the "called" state. It is guaranteed that all other calls will be passive.
- Multiple active calls on the same once\_flag are queued.
- If the same flag is used for concurrent calls to different functions, it is not specified which function will be called.

### **EXERCISE: RACE**

### exercises/05 race.cpp

- 10 contestants (threads) are racing for \$1 million
- Only the first player wins the prize, the rest will get nothing
- Implement the function setWinner() so that the winning thread sets itself as the winner and does not allow others to override this value.

```
$> g++ 01_race.cpp -lpthread -fsanitize=thread
$> ./a.out
Called setWinner(139887531521792). Sleeping for 15ms
Called setWinner(139887523129088). Sleeping for 35ms
Called setWinner(139887497950976). Sleeping for 31ms
Call once for 139887531521792
Called setWinner(139887489558272). Sleeping for 16ms
Called setWinner(139887481165568). Sleeping for 14ms
Called setWinner(139887453927168). Sleeping for 35ms
And the winner is... 139887531521792
```

# EXERCISE - SOLUTION

```
void setWinner() {
 2
       auto id = this thread::get id();
       auto sleepDuration = dist(rng);
 3
       stringstream msq;
 5
       msg << "Called " << FUNCTION
           << "(" << id << "). Chasing time: "
 6
            << sleepDuration << "ms\n";
8
       cout << msq.str();</pre>
       this thread::sleep for(chrono::milliseconds(sleepDuration));
 9
10
11
       call once(once, [&]{
12
            cout << "Call once for " << id << '\n';</pre>
            std::stringstream troublesomeConversion;
13
            troublesomeConversion << id;</pre>
14
15
           winnerId = troublesomeConversion.str();
16
       });
17 }
```

### **EXERCISE: MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE CALLS**

### exercises/06 exclusive calls.cpp

```
1 class X {
       vector<double> values;
       void initializeOne() { values = {1.0}; }
       void initializeTwo() { values = {1.0, 2.0}; }
       void initializeThree() { values = {1.0, 2.0, 3.0}
 6
   public:
       explicit X(int i) noexcept {
           switch (i) {
10
           case 2: // top priority
11
12
               initializeTwo();
13
                [[fallthrough]];
14
           case 3:
15
               initializeThree();
                [[fallthrough]];
16
17
           default: // least priority
18
                initializeOne();
19
20
21
22 };
```

- Add the appropriate call\_once and messages so that the output appears as below
- Do not modify the constructor 🤢

```
$> g++ 02_exclusive_calls.cpp
-lpthread -fsanitize=thread
$> ./a.out
initializeTwo
Call once initializeTwo
initializeThree
initializeOne
1 2
initializeThree
Call once initializeThree
initializeOne
1 2 3
initializeOne
Call once initializeOne
1
```

### **EXERCISE - SOLUTION**

```
1 class X {
       once flag once;
 3
      vector<double> values;
 5
       void initializeOne() {
            cout << FUNCTION << '\n';</pre>
 6
            call once(once, [&]{
                cout << "Call once initializeOne\n";</pre>
9
                values = \{1.0\};
10
            });
11
12
13
       void initializeTwo() {
14
            cout << FUNCTION << '\n';</pre>
            call_once(once, [&]{
15
                cout << "Call once initializeTwo\n";</pre>
16
17
                values = \{1.0, 2.0\};
18
            });
19
20
21
       void initializeThree() {
            cout << FUNCTION << '\n';</pre>
22
23
            call once(once, [&]{
```

# THREAD-SAFE SINGLETONS



### **EXAMPLE: THREAD-SAFE SINGLETON**

```
1 class Singleton {
       static std::unique_ptr<Singleton> instance_;
       static std::mutex mutex ;
       Singleton() = default;
   public:
 6
       static Singleton& getInstance() {
               std::unique lock<std::mutex> lock(mutex );
 8
               if (!instance ) {
10
                    instance .reset(new Singleton{});
11
12
13
           return *instance ;
14
15 };
```

- Slow (mutexes)
- Safe
- Long Code

### **EXAMPLE: THREAD-SAFE SINGLETON**

- Slow (once\_flag)
- Safe
- Less code

### **EXAMPLE: THREAD-SAFE SINGLETON**

```
1 class Singleton {
2    Singleton() = default;
3
4 public:
5    static Singleton& getInstance() {
6        static Singleton instance_;
7        return instance_;
8    }
9 };
10
11 // Meyers Singleton
```

- The fastest one
- Safe static initialization is thread-safe since C++11
- Short
- Lovely

# EXCEPTIONS IN CALL\_ONCE



# EXERCISE: EXCEPTIONS IN CALL\_ONCE

### exercises/07\_exceptional\_exclusive\_calls.cpp

```
1 class X {
       once flag once;
       vector<double> values;
       void initializeOne() {
            cout << FUNCTION << '\n';</pre>
            call once(once, [&]{
                cout << "Call once initializeOne\n";</pre>
                values = \{1.0\};
10
            });
12
13
14
15
       void initializePierdyliard() {
16
            cout << FUNCTION << '\n';</pre>
            call once(once, [&]{
17
                cout << "Call once initializePierdyliard\n";</pre>
18
19
                throw std::bad alloc{};
                // TODO: Can you fix me?
20
21
            });
23 };
```

- Try to fix the problem with throwing exceptions in call\_once
- According to cppreference.com:
  - If that invocation throws an exception, it is propagated to the caller of call\_once, and the flag is not flipped so that another call will be attempted (such call to call\_once is known as exceptional)

```
$> g++ 03_exceptional_exclusive_calls.cpp
-lpthread -fsanitize=thread
$> ./a.out
...
initializePierdyliard
Call once initializePierdyliard
terminate called after throwing an instance
of 'std::bad_alloc'
what(): std::bad_alloc
Aborted (core dumped)
```

### SOLUTION

```
1 class X {
       once flag once;
       vector<double> values;
       void initializeOne() {
            cout << FUNCTION << '\n';</pre>
            call once(once, [&]{
                cout << "Call once initializeOne\n";</pre>
                values = \{1.0\};
10
            });
11
12
13
14
15
       void initializePierdyliard() try {
            cout << FUNCTION << '\n';</pre>
16
            call once(once, [&]{
17
                cout << "Call once initializePierdyliard\n";</pre>
18
19
                throw std::bad alloc{};
20
            });
       } catch (...) { /* ignore exceptions */ }
21
22 };
```

- Try to fix the problem with throwing exceptions in call\_once
- According to cppreference.com:
  - If that invocation throws an exception, it is propagated to the caller of call\_once, and the flag is not flipped so that another call will be attempted (such call to call\_once is known as exceptional)

### **NOT POSSIBLE?**

(AT LEAST FOR G++7.4.0 (a)

```
$> g++ 03_exceptional_exclusive_calls.cpp
-lpthread -fsanitize=thread
$> ./a.out
...
initializePierdyliard
Call once initializePierdyliard
initializeOne
(hang up)
```

# EXCEPTIONS IN CALL\_ONCE - BUG IN STANDARD LIBRARY IMPLEMENTATION

- If once\_flag is in the "called" state, call\_once immediately returns return (passive call)
- If once\_flag is in the "not called" state, call\_once executes the passed function, passing further arguments to it (active call)
  - If the function throws an exception, it is propagated on, and once\_flag is not set to "called state" (exceptional call), so different call\_once can be called (at least in theory (a)) implementation bug, example at cppreference.com also doesn't work. Supposedly works in MSVC (Visual Studio Compiler) and new versions of Apple Clang
  - If the function ends normally, once\_flag is set to the "called" state. It is guaranteed that all other calls will be passive.
- Multiple active calls on the same once\_flag are queued.
- If the same flag is used for concurrent calls to different functions, it is not specified which function will be called.

# RECAP



# 1. WHAT WAS THE MOST SURPRISING FOR YOU? ③ 2. WHAT WAS THE MOST OBVIOUS FOR YOU? ⑥

### POINTS TO REMEMBER

#### • condition variable

- Always use wait() with a predicate!
- Remember about spurious wake-ups and lost notifications
- Remember about a fight for locking a mutex when you use notify all()
- You can't choose which thread should wake up when you use notify one()

#### • atomic

- Only a single operation on atomic type is atomic. Read + write may not be atomic, if you use it incorrectly
- You need to use proper operators to have atomic read + write, or use fetch\_\*() functions, exchange() or compare\_exchange\_\*()
- The default memory order for atomic is sequential consistency. If you need some optimizations you have to loosen the memory order by specifying it manually.
- Memory order acquire is used with load() and release is used with store. If you exchange them, you have undefined behavior.

#### • call once

- Mind the gap bug in g++ and clang++ exceptional call may hang the program
- If you use the same once flag for different functions, you don't know which function will be called.

### PRE-TEST 🤯

```
int main() {
    std::mutex m;
    std::condition variable cv;
    std::vector<int> v;
    std::vector<std::thread> producers;
    std::vector<std::thread> consumers;
    auto consume = [&] {
        std::unique lock<std::mutex> ul(m);
        cv.wait(ul);
        std::cout << v.back();</pre>
        v.pop back();
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) consumers.emplace back(consume);</pre>
    auto produce = [&](int i) {
            std::lock guard<std::mutex> lg(m);
            v.push back(i);
        cv.notify all();
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) producers.emplace back(produce, i);</pre>
    for (auto && p : producers) p.join();
    for (auto && c : consumers) c.join();
```

- 1. there may be an Undefined Behavior in this code
- 2. the output is guaranteed to always be 0123456789
- 3.  $\mathbf{v}$  is always an empty vector at the end of this program
- 4. if some producers threads started before some consumers, we would have a deadlock because of lost notifications
- 5. a change from notify\_all() to notify\_one() guarantees that each consumer thread will receive a different number
- 6. this code can be improved by providing a predicate to wait() to disallow getting elements when the vector is empty

# POST-WORK

- Ping-pong
  - difficult version exercises/03a\_ping\_pong.cpp
  - easier version exercises/03b\_ping\_pong.cpp
- Post-test
- Training evaluation

# HOMEWORK: PING-PONG

- Thread A prints "ping" and the consecutive number
- Thread B prints "pong" and the consecutive number
- Ping always starts. Pong always ends.
- Threads must work in turns. There may not be 2 consecutive pings or pongs. The program cannot end with a ping without a respective pong.
- The program must be terminated either after the given number of repetitions or after the time limit, whichever occurs first. The reason for termination should be displayed on the screen.
- Program parameters:
  - number of repetitions
  - time limit (in seconds)

```
$> g++ 03_ping_pong.cpp -lpthread
-std=c++17 -fsanitize=thread
$> ./a.out 1 10
ping 0
pong 0
Ping reached repetitions limit
Pong reached repetitions limit
$> ./a.out 12 1
ping 0
pong 0
ping 1
pong 1
ping 2
pong 2
Timeout
```

# **TIPS**

#### If you got stuck:

- You need a mutex and a condition variable in your PingPong class
- Wait for a condition variable with wait\_for() in stop() function
- Check the number of repetitions in ping and pong threads
- Use an additional std::atomic variable which will tell all threads to end, when the required conditions are met.
- Ping and pong threads should be using wait() to check if it's their turn to work. Use an additional variable that will be used in the predicate passed to wait().
- The pong thread should end the program after reaching the repetition limit

## **USEFUL LINKS**

- C++ Atomic Types and Operations (C++ Standard)
- C++ Memory model on cppreference.com
- std::memory\_order on cppreference.com
- std::call\_once on cppreference.com
- std::once\_flag on cppreference.com
  - STL bug in exception handling in call\_once
  - call\_once vs mutex on stackoverflow
- Meyers Singleton on stackoverflow
- Atomic<> Weapons by Herb Sutter

# CODERS SCHOOL

