Project Threads Design

Group 48

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Efficient Alarm Clock

Data Structures and Functions

We add static struct list sleeping_threads to devices/timer.c which stores instances of struct sleeping_thread, defined as follows.

```
struct sleeping_thread {
  uint64_t wake_ticks;
  struct semaphore wake_wait;
  struct list_elem elem;
};
```

We modify the following functions.

- void timer_init(void) in devices/timer.c
- void timer_sleep(int64_t ticks) in devices/timer.c
- static intr_handler_func timer_interrupt in devices/timer.c

We add the following function.

static list_less_func sleeping_thread_less in devices/timer.c, a
 comparison function for the sleeping_threads list

Algorithms

We modify timer_sleep(int64_t ticks) to remove the current busy-waiting implementation.

- Disable interrupts using intr_disable, storing the old intr_level as old_level.
- Create a new sleeping_thread struct with wake_ticks set to timer_ticks() + ticks and wake_wait initialized to 0.
- Add the new struct to the sleeping_threads list using list_insert_ordered with the newly-added function sleeping_threads, defined by the natural ordering of wake_ticks.
- Call sema_down on wake_wait (sema_down may be called with interrupts disabled).
- Restore the old intr_level with intr_set_level(old_level).

We make the following additions to timer_interrupt(struct intr_frame args).

- Iterate through all the sleeping_thread structs in sleeping_threads and compare the value of wake_ticks to timer_ticks().
 - If wake_ticks is less than or equal to timer_ticks(), remove the sleeping_thread from the list, call sema_up on wake_ticks, free the sleeping_thread, and continue iterating.
 - o If wake_ticks is greater than timer_ticks(), break from the loop. We can do this because the list is sorted and we will not find any more threads that should be put back on the ready queue.

Synchronization

The sleeping_threads list is modified by both the timer_interrupt function and the timer_sleep function. Interrupts are already disabled in timer_interrupt, and we disable interrupts in timer_sleep to prevent any race conditions on sleeping_threads.

Rationale

Instead of busy waiting in timer_sleep, we keep track of the threads that should be put on the ready queue at a given tick. To do this, we use the sleeping_thread data structure in a list that we check at every timer interrupt, when ticks is incremented. Because we insert into the sleeping_threads list in order by wake_ticks, timer_sleep will have O(n) runtime, where n is the number of sleeping threads. However, this is still significantly more efficient than busy-waiting.

Strict Priority Scheduler

Data Structures and Functions

We add static struct list prio_ready_lists[PRI_MAX - PRI_MIN + 1] to threads/thread.c. This is an array of lists, indexed by priority, containing the threads in THREAD_READY state for each effective priority.

We add the following fields to the TCB.

```
struct thread {
   /* Existing fields omitted */
   int effective_priority;   /* Effective priority of this thr
ead */
   struct list locks_held;   /* List of locks held by this thr
ead */
   struct lock* lock_waiting; /* Pointer the lock this thready
may be waiting on */
};
```

To support the list locks_held, we add a struct list_elem to struct lock.

```
struct lock {
   /* Existing fields omitted */
   struct list_elem elem; /* List element for TCB's locks_held
list */
};
```

To support ordering by priority for monitors, we add a pointer to a TCB to struct semaphore_elem in threads/synch.c.

```
struct semaphore_elem {
  /* Existing fields omitted */
  struct thread* thread; /* Pointer to the thread awoken by u
p'ing this semaphore */
```

We modify the following functions.

- void thread_init(void) in threads/thread.c
- static void init_thread(struct thread*, const char* name, int priority) in threads/thread.c
- static struct thread* thread_schedule_prio(void) in threads/thread.c
- static void thread_enqueue(struct thread*) in threads/thread.c
- int thread_get_priority(void) in threads/thread.c
- void thread_set_priority(int) in threads/thread.c
- void sema_up(struct semaphore*) in threads/synch.c
- void lock_acquire(struct lock*) in threads/synch.c
- void lock_release(struct lock*) in threads/synch.c
- void cond_wait(struct condition*, struct lock*) in threads/synch.c
- void cond_signal(struct condition*, struct lock*) in threads/synch.c

We add the following functions.

- void update_effective_priority(void) in threads/thread.c recomputes the effective priority of the current thread and yields the CPU if the thread no longer has the highest priority.
- list_less_func thread_priority_greater in threads/thread.h is a comparison function for struct thread's that will sort them by effective priority in descending order.
- static void donate_priority(void) in threads/synch.c recursively donates priority to any thread blocking the current thread.
- static list_less_func semaphore_elem_greater in threads/synch.c is a comparison function for struct semaphore_elem's that will sort them by the effective priority of their corresponding threads in descending order.

Algorithms

thread_schedule_prio should return the highest priority thread in THREAD_READY state, with ties broken by FIFO.

- Iterate through the array prio_ready_list in reverse order from index PRI_MAX PRI_MIN to index 0.
 - For the first nonempty list, pop its first element and return a pointer to the corresponding thread.

If all lists are empty, return idle_thread.

For thread_enqueue, if active_sched_policy is SCHED_PRIO, we append the given thread to the end of the run queue corresponding to its effective_priority.

- Assert that t->effective_priority >= PRI_MIN and t->effective_priority <= PRI_MAX.
- Append the given thread to the end of prio_ready_lists[t->effective_priority - PRI_MIN]

thread_get_priority should be modified to return effective_priority instead of (base) priority.

thread_set_priority should be updated to yield the CPU if the priority is lowered such that the running thread no longer has the highest priority.

• In addition to setting thread_current()->priority to new_priority, call the helper function update_effective_priority (described below).

We add the helper function static void update_effective_priority(void). This function recalculates the current thread's effective priority using the effective priorities of threads that it's blocking. If the thread no longer has the highest priority after updating its effective priority, it yields the CPU.

- Disable interrupts, saving the old interrupt level.
- Save the existing value of thread_current()->effective_priority as old_effective_priority.
- Iterate through the list thread_current()->locks_held
 - Get the effective priority of the highest priority thread blocked by lock. To do
 this, we call list_max on lock->semaphore.waiters with
 thread_priority_greater.
- Set thread_current()->effective_priority to the maximum of thread_current()->priority and the highest effective priority found among the threads blocked by the current thread.
- Iterate through prio_ready_lists from index old_effective_priority PRI_MIN to index t->effective_priority + 1.
 - If one of these ready lists is nonempty, there exists a thread in state THREAD_READY with higher priority, so we yield the CPU by calling thread_yield.

Restore the old interrupt level.

sema_up should be modified to unblock the highest priority thread in its waiters list. Specifically, the call to list_pop_front should be replaced with a call to list_max with thread_priority_greater and a call to list_remove.

lock_acquire should be modified to perform priority donation in the event that a thread with priority lower than that of the current thread holds the lock.

- Disable interrupts, saving the old interrupt level.
- Before the call to sema down
 - Set thread_current()->lock_waiting to lock.
 - Call the helper function donate_priority (described below).
- After the call to sema down
 - Set thread_current()->lock_waiting to NULL.
 - Append lock to thread_current()->locks_held using list_push_back.
- Restore the old interrupt level.

We add the helper function static void donate_priority(void) to perform priority donation.

- Disable interrupts, saving the old interrupt level.
- Define the variable struct thread* receiver to be t->lock_waiting->holder.
- Loop while receiver is not NULL and receiver->effective_priority < t->effective_priority.
 - Set receiver->effective_priority to t->effective_priority.
 - Set receiver to receiver->lock_waiting->holder.
- Restore the old interrupt level.

lock_release should be modified to undo priority donation and yield the CPU if the current thread no longer has the highest effective priority.

- Disable interrupts, saving the old interrupt level.
- After the call to sema_up
 - Remove lock from thread_current()->locks_held using list_remove
 - Call update_effective_priority.
- Restore the old interrupt level.

cond_wait should be updated to store a pointer to the current thread in struct semaphore_elem.

cond_signal should signal the highest priority waiting thread. Specifically, the call to list_pop_front should be replaced with a call to list_max with semaphore_elem_greater and a call to list_remove.

Synchronization

We consider synchronization for the following shared resources.

- prio_ready_lists is accessed only while interrupts are disabled (in thread_engueue and thread_schedule_prio). No additional strategy is required.
- struct thread
 - priority is accessed only by the current thread (in thread_set_priority),
 so no synchronization strategy is required.
 - o effective_priority is accessed by thread_enqueue and thread_get_priority and modified by update_effective_priority and donate_priority. Interrupts are disabled in thread_enqueue, so we do likewise in update_effective_priority and donate_priority. It's not necessary to disable interrupts in thread_get_priority because it simply returns the current value.
 - o locks_held is accessed by update_effective_priority and modified by lock_acquire and lock_release. These functions can be called only on the current thread, to which locks_held belongs, so no synchronization is necessary.
 - lock_waiting is modified in lock_acquire and accessed in donate_priority. We disable interrupts in both.
- struct semaphore
 - waiters is accessed in update_effective_priority and modified in sema_up. Interrupts are disabled and reenabled in sema_up, so we do likewise in update_effective_priority.
- struct lock
 - o holder is accessed in donate_priority and modified in lock_acquire and lock_release. We can't use a lock in our implementation of a lock, so we disable and reenable interrupts in lock_acquire and lock_release, and likewise in donate priority.
- struct condition
 - waiters is modified by cond_wait and cond_signal. The monitor's lock is held during this process, so no additional synchronization strategy is required.

Although disabling interrupts in donate_priority and update_effective_priority is a coarse synchronization strategy, both functions access resources that are protected by disabling interrupts because these resources are used in the implementation of locks and semaphores. Furthermore, if a thread running update_effective_priority is interrupted, during which a higher priority thread becomes blocked by a lock held by the original thread, the new effective

Rationale

priority computed may be incorrect.

Because the number of priorities is held constant (between PRI_MIN and PRI_MAX inclusive) and relatively small, we felt that the best way to keep track of threads and their priorities in the scheduler is using PRI_MAX - PRI_MIN + 1 queues, one for each priority. This means that adding and removing threads to and from the scheduler's ready queue is an O(1) operation for any priority. For updating a thread's priority, we have to find it in the list corresponding to its current priority, remove it, and push it the end of the list corresponding to its new priority. The latter operations are O(1), but the first is O(n), meaning that updating a thread's priority overall is O(n) with respect to the number of threads that share its current priority. Finally, using a queue as our data structure inherently implements the FCFS ordering we desire for threads sharing a priority.

The use of the <code>locks_held</code> list and <code>lock_waiting</code> pointer in the TCB gives rise to a tree structure with the root being an active thread and the descendants being the locks (and by extension waiting threads). This is because although a thread can have multiple locks with other threads waiting on those locks, a thread can only wait on a single lock held by a single thread. This lets us implement priority donation by traversing up the tree through the <code>lock_waiting</code> and <code>lock_waiting->holder</code>, setting the effective priority as we go if the donator's priority is greater than the effective priority as we traverse. It also means that if we reach a thread with a greater effective priority than the donator's priority, we can stop the traversal as every ancestor thread will necessarily have a priority greater than or equal to the current thread. When a thread releases a resource, we simply recalculate the effective priority through the locks it still owns and its base priority. By exploiting the tree structure that our design naturally gives rise to, we are able to efficiently manage locks held by threads and prevent priority inversion.

User Threads

Data Structures and Functions

Create the following struct in process.c:

```
struct pthread_args {
   stub_fun sf;
   pthread_fun tf;
   void *arg;
   struct semaphore create_wait; // Used to wait for thread cre
   ation in pthread_create
   bool success;
}
```

Create the following struct in process.h:

Add the following fields to the PCB:

```
struct process {
   /* Owned by process.c. */
   ...
   struct list all_locks; // Process-level list of user_loc
ks
   struct list all_semaphores; // Process-level list of semapho
res
```

```
struct list user_threads; // List of all user threads crea
ted under this process
  struct lock user_list_lock;
  struct lock locks_list_lock;
  struct lock semaphores_list_lock;
  struct lock join_lock; // Lock to call pthread_join
};
```

Create the following struct in process.h:

```
struct user_lock {
  struct lock kernel_lock;
  struct list_elem elem;
  lock_t lockID; // Identifier for the lock
}
```

Create the following struct in process.h

```
struct user_semaphore {
  struct semaphore kernel_semaphore;
  struct list_elem elem;
  sema_t semaID; // Identifier for the semaphore
}
```

Algorithms

For reference, we use [] to represent the name of the data structure that was created, i.e. in struct structure something [name] name refers to the struct something

sys_pthread_create

```
Modify the signature of setup_thread in process.c to
setup_thread(struct *pthread_args args, void (**eip)(void), void**
esp)
```

And do the following in the function:

• Call process_activate()

- Set *eip to args→sf, the stub function
- Set *esp to a malloced block of PGSIZE bytes. Return false if malloc fails
- Push the pointers args and args tf in that order onto the stack pointed to by esp
- Push a "fake" null return address onto the stack
- Return true if the above has been completed

Modify pthread_execute to do the following:

- Malloc a new pthread_args struct called arguments setting the parameters sf, tf, args to the fields in this struct. Initialize the semaphore create_wait to 0
- Call thread_create("stub", PRI_DEFAULT, start_pthread, arugments)
- Call sema_down(&arugments→create_wait)
- If &arguments success is false, free arguments and return TID_ERROR.

 Otherwise, free arguments and return the tid returned by thread_create

Modify start_pthread to do the following:

- Unpack the void *exec_ parameter into a struct *pthread_args [args]
- Malloc a new struct user_thread with fields tid initialized to the thread_current()→tid, join_wait initialized to 0, waited initialized to false, and exited initialized to false.
- If malloc fails, set args→success to false and return
- Use list_push_back to add the new user_thread struct to the current process's user_threads list, acquiring and releasing the current PCB's user_list_lock as necessary.
- Create an intr_frame [if_] and set its flags similar to how they are set in start_process. Then call setup_thread(args, &if_.eip, &if_.esp). If setup_thread returns false, set args>success to false and return, otherwise set args>success to true, set the previously created struct user_thread 's stack field to if_.esp and call sema_up(args>create_wait)
- As in start_process, use asm volatile to change the esp to &if_ and jump to intr_exit to simulate a return from an interrupt

In the syscall_pt_create_handler in syscall.c, validate the arguments (check they are in user memory and there are 3 pointers in args) then call pthread_execute(args[0], args[1], args[2]) and place the returned tid_t in *eax

sys_pthread_exit

Get the current thread * t via thread_current(). Iterate through the user_threads list in t>pcb and find the corresponding *user_thread struct [ut] so that ut>tid == t>tid

We define an active user thread as a thread with exited == false in its user_thread struct.

If the current thread is the main thread, i.e. is_main_thread(t, t→pcb) is true, call pthread_exit_main() in process.c which will do the following:

- Set ut→exited to true
- Call sema_up(ut→join_wait)
- For every active user_thread user in t>pcb>user_threads except the main_thread, call sys_pthread_join(user>tid)
- Free ut→stack
- Call process_exit(0)

If the current thread is not the main thread, call pthread_exit() in process.c
which will do the following:

- Set ut→exited to true
- Call sema_up(ut→join_wait)
- Free ut→stack
- Call thread_exit()

sys_pthread_join

Acquire join_lock in the current PCB

Iterate through the user_threads list in the current process, i.e.

thread_current() > pcb > user_threads and find the *user_thread struct [ut] with ut > tid == tid, the user_thread we want to join on (tid is the parameter passed in to sys pthread join)

If no ut could be found or ut→waited == true

• Return TID ERROR

If ut→exited == true

• Return ut→tid

Otherwise:

- Set ut→waited to true
- Call sema_down(ut→join_wait)
- Return tid

Release join_lock before each return

lock_init

Malloc a new struct *user_lock [u_lock] and set u_lock→lockID = *lock, the parameter passed in. Return false if malloc fails. Otherwise, call the kernel-level function

lock_init(&(u_lock->kernel_lock)) and use list_push_back to add u_lock to the all_locks list in the current PCB, acquiring and releasing the locks_list_lock as necessary. Return true once the above is completed.

lock_acquire

Iterate through the current PCB's all_locks list until a user_lock with lockID == *lock (the parameter passed in) is found

- If no such user_lock is found, return false
- If a user_lock is found (call it u_lock) and u_lock+kernel_lock+holder == thread_current(), i.e. the current thread already holds the lock, return false
- Otherwise, call lock_acquire(&(u_lock > kernel_lock)) and return true

lock_release

lterate through the current PCB's all_locks list until a user_lock with lockID ==
*lock is found

- If no such user_lock is found, return false
- If a user_lock is found (call it u_lock) and u_lock+kernel_lock+holder != thread_current(), i.e. the current thread does not hold the lock, return false
- Otherwise, call lock_release(&(u_lock > kernel_lock)) and return true

sema_init

Malloc a new struct *user_semaphore [u_sem] and set u_sem→semaID = *sema, the parameter passed in. Return false if malloc fails. Otherwise, call the kernel-level function

sema_init(&(u_sem->kernel_semaphore), val) and use list_push_back to add u_sem to the all_semaphores list in the current PCB, acquiring and releasing the semaphores_list_lock as necessary. Return true once the above is completed.

sema_down

Iterate through the current PCB's all_semaphores list until a user_semaphore with semaID == *sema is found

- If no such user_semaphore is found, return false
- If a user_semaphore is found (call it u_sem), call sema_down(& (u_sem→kernel_semaphore)) and return true

sema_up

Iterate through the current PCB's all_semaphores list until a user_semaphore with
semaID == *sema is found

- If no such user_semaphore is found, return false
- If a user_semaphore is found (call it u_sem), call sema_up(& (u_sem→kernel_semaphore)) and return true

get_tid

return thread_current()→tid

Modifications to process control syscalls:

exec

Modify process_execute in process.c to:

- Initialize the lists all_locks, all_semaphores, and user_threads in the new PCB that is being created. Also call lock_init on user_list_lock, locks_list_lock, semaphores_list_lock, and join_lock
- Malloc a new user_thread struct with tid initialized to thread_current()→tid,
 join_wait initialized to 0, and exited and waited initialized to false. Add this
 user_thread to the user_threads list of the new PCB

wait

No changes need to be made to process_wait because our existing implementation already ensures that only the thread that calls the wait syscall is blocked. The other user threads will continue running.

exit

Add the following logic at the end of intr_handler in interrupt.c

- If the current PCB's exit_status has the field exited set to true
 - Use the function is_trap_from_userspace to check if we are going from user mode to kernel mode. If true, call pthread_exit(). Note that we call

pthread_exit() and not pthread_exit_main(), even on the main thread so
no joining will take place.

Modify thread_exit in thread.c as follows:

 At the beginning of the function, iterate through the locks_held list of the current thread and release every lock

Modify process_exit in process.c as follows:

- At the beginning of the function, set the current PCB's exited field to true
- Iterate through the user_threads list of the current PCB and find the corresponding user_thread struct for the current thread. Once found, call sema_up on the join_wait semaphore in this struct
- Iterate through the user_threads list of the current PCB and call sys_pthread_join on every active user_thread in this list
- When freeing the process resources, iterate through the lists all_locks, all_semaphores, and user_threads in the current PCB and free every element
- At the end, change thread_exit() to pthread_exit() so the current thread will also free it's userspace stack before killing the process

Synchronization

We need synchronization for the following lists in the process struct:

- all_locks because multiple user threads may try to initialize and add a new lock to the all_locks list at the same time. We use locks_list_lock to ensure that only one thread can modify this list at a time.
- all_semaphores because of the same reason as all_locks; multiple threads may try to initialize a new semaphore at the same time. We use semaphores_list_lock to ensure only one thread modifies this list at a time.
- user_threads because multiple user threads may call sys_pthread_create simultaneously and try to add their new user_thread struct to the user_threads list in the PCB at the same time. We use user_list_lock to ensure only one thread can add to this list at a time

We also need synchronization for the pthread_join function because multiple threads may attempt to join on the same user thread. In this case, one of the calling user threads may be blocked on sema_down forever, which we don't want. We define

a process-level join_lock so that, for any process, at most one thread can call the pthread_join function at a time. Further join calls on the same user thread will not work since the thread has already been joined.

We don't need additional synchronization for the following:

- pthread_create because, other than user_threads, all resources are modified independently by the calling thread
- pthread_exit because the thread only interacts with its own user_thread struct to set fields and free the stack. It does not modify resources used by any other thread
- lock_acquire, lock_release, sema_up, sema_down because they only read from the all_locks and all_semaphores lists and do not modify them

Rationale

The main idea behind our design was to maintain a 1-1 mapping between kernel threads and user_thread structs via the user_threads list in the PCB. Then, we can interface with this list whenever there are any syscalls involving user threads. We thought about using the existing thread struct and its fields to write the user thread syscalls, but this would not have worked since a user thread can both wait on a child process while joining another thread. Hence, we need different semaphores and boolean flags for user threads. For user thread syscalls, we tried to mirror the process control syscalls. For pthread_create we wrote the helper functions in a similar way to the helper functions for process exec but loading the stub function instead of an executable. For pthread_join we used a semaphore to block the calling thread, similar to the semaphore we used in the wait syscall. And for pthread_exit we simply free the userspace stack allocated to this user thread and call the corresponding kernel thread_exit function. In modifying the exit syscall, we considered different approaches such as having the calling user thread modify the status of every other user thread in the program to THREAD_DYING or modifying the thread_exit function to forcibly remove every other user thread. However, these approaches would have caused more problems so we ultimately decided on a mechanism that checks if a user thread is supposed to be killed on entry into the interrupt handler, then have that user thread kill itself.

For the user-level synchronization primitives, we maintained a mapping for each user-level primitive to a kernel-level structure. Hence, the user locks and

semaphores simply act as identifiers to actual kernel locks and semaphores, which we store as lists in the PCB. We found this to be the cleanest approach since we don't have to modify the existing char primitive for lock_t and sema_t it's easy to reason about the user-level synchronization syscalls.

Concept check

- 1. When a kernel thread calls thread_exit, the page containing its stack and TCB is freed in thread_switch_tail, which is run by the next thread that is scheduled. We can't do this in thread_exit because it is run by the exiting thread, which depends on its own stack and TCB.
- 2. The thread_tick function is executed in the kernel stack of the thread that is currently running. If that thread's time slice expires, it will switch to the next thread to be scheduled.
- 3. The scheduler ordering A, B, A, B will cause a deadlock. In this order, it is possible that thread A will acquire lockA, thread B will acquire lockB, thread A will wait for lockB, and thread B will wait for lockA. This is circular waiting, and neither thread will make progress.
- 4. Thread A taking thread B off the ready queue and freeing its thread stack may leak resources. Other memory allocated on the heap by Thread B is not freed, and my cause performance issues as the system continues to run. Also, Thread B may have held locks that will never be released, leaving any other threads waiting on those locks in a blocked state.
- 5. To show that priority donation does or doesn't work, we will need at least 3 threads, one high priority thread that will wait on a low priority thread (through a lock, for example), and a medium priority thread. The low and medium priority threads will both down a semaphore that will be upped by the main thread. If priority donation works, then the low priority thread will run first, as its effective priority is now that of the high priority thread that is waiting on it. If the bug in sema_up prevents priority donation, the semaphore will incorrectly only consider the base priority and begin running the medium priority thread instead. To demonstrate this, we'll initialize a semaphore to 0 as well as a lock in the main thread. Then, we'll create the low priority thread (still higher than the main thread's priority) and have it acquire the lock and down the semaphore. The main thread will then continue running and create the high priority thread, which will

attempt to acquire the lock currently held by the low priority thread. If priority donation works, then the low priority thread should have a high effective priority. We go back to the main thread again and create the medium priority thread, which downs the semaphore and returns us again to the main thread. Finally, we'll up the semaphore; our expected output will be that the low priority thread runs (which we can check with a msg call), but the actual output with the described bug is that the medium priority thread will run first.