Java Threads

Object Oriented Programming

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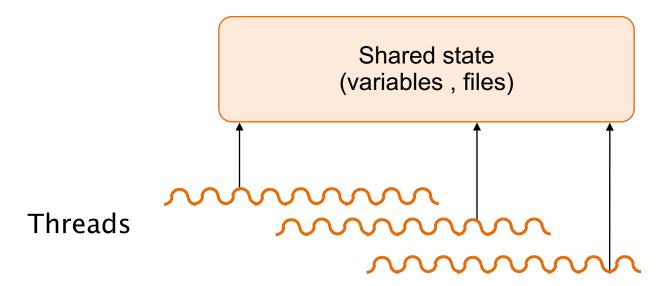






THREADS AND PROCESSES

What Are Threads?



- General-purpose solution for managing concurrency
- Multiple independent execution streams
- Shared state

What Are Threads Used For?

- Operating systems
 - one kernel thread for each user process.
- Scientific applications
 - one thread per CPU (solve problems faster).
- Distributed systems
 - process requests concurrently (overlap I/Os).
- GUIs
 - Threads correspond to user actions; they can help display during long-running computations.
 - Multimedia, animations.

Process

- From an OS viewpoint, a process is an instance of a running application
- Has it own
 - (virtual) memory space
 - code,
 - data,
 - OS resources (e.g. files)
- A process also contains one or more threads that run in the context of the process.

Thread

- A thread is the basic entity to which the operating system allocates CPU time.
- A thread can execute any part of the process code
 - Including a part currently being executed by another thread.
- All threads of a process share the same memory space, global variables, and operating system resources.

Multitasking

- User: capability to have several applications open and working at the same time.
 - A user can edit a file with one application while another application is printing or recalculating a spreadsheet.
- Developer: capability to create processes that use more than one thread of execution, e.g.
 - One handles interactions with the user
 - Another performs background work

Multitasking

- A multitasking OS assigns portions of CPU time (slices) to threads
- A preemptive OS executes a thread until
 - Its assigned time slice is over,
 - It ends its own execution,
 - It blocks (synchronization with other threads)
 - A thread with higher priority becomes available
- Using small time-slices (e.g. 20 ms) the thread execution is apparently parallel
 - Actually parallel in multiprocessor systems

Multitasking Problems

- O.S. consumes memory for the structures required by both processes and threads.
 - Keeping track of a large number of threads also consumes CPU time.
- Multiple threads accessing the same resources should be synchronized to avoid conflicts (deadlocks or race conditions)
 - System resources (communications ports, disk drives),
 - Handles to resources shared by multiple processes (files)
 - Resources of a process (variables used by multiple threads)

Thread non-determinism

- Do not interpret the behavior on one machine as "the way usually threads work"
- Design a program so that it will work regardless of the underlying OS.
- Thread programming motto:

When it comes to threads, very little is guaranteed

JVM Scheduler

- The Scheduler is the JVM component that decides
 - Picks a thread to be run at a given time,
 - Takes threads out of the running state.
- Some JVMs use OS scheduler
 - native threads

JVM Scheduler

- Modern CPUs contain multiple cores
 - Only one thread at a time can actually run on a given core.
- The order in which the available threads are chosen to be running next is
 - NOT guaranteed
 - NOT controlled

THREADS IN JAVA

Create a thread

- Threads can be created by extending Thread and overriding the run() method.
- Thread objects can also be created by calling the Thread constructor that takes a Runnable argument (the target of the thread)
 - The same Runnable object can be the target of different Thread objects

Create a Thread

1. Extends Thread class

```
class X extends Thread {
   public void run() { //code here }
}
Thread t = new X();
t.start(); // Create and start
```

2. Implementing Runnable interface (better)

```
class Y implements Runnable {
   public void run() { //code here }
}
Thread r = new Thread (new Y());
r.start(); //invoke run() & create new call-stack
```

Start a Thread

- When a Thread object is created, it does not become an actual executable thread until its start() method is invoked.
- When a Thread object exists but hasn't been started, it is in the New state and it is not considered alive.
- The method start() can be called on a Thread object only once.
 - If it is called more than once on same object, it will throw a RuntimeException

```
public class Starting {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    m();
  static void m() {
    Thread t = new MyThread();
    t.start();
    sayHello("main");
  static void sayHello(String a) {
    System.out.println(a+": Hello!");
  static class MyThread extends Thread{
    public void run(){
       sayHello("t");
```

main

```
main
public class Starting {
  public static void main(String[] args)
                                                  main()
    m();
  static void m() {
    Thread t = new MyThread();
    t.start();
    sayHello("main");
  static void sayHello(String a) {
    System.out.println(a+": Hello!");
  static class MyThread extends Thread{
    public void run(){
       sayHello("t");
```

```
main
public class Starting {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
                                                main()
   m();
  static void m() {
    Thread t = new MyThread();
    t.start();
    sayHello("main");
  static void sayHello(String a) {
    System.out.println(a+": Hello!");
  static class MyThread extends Thread{
    public void run(){
      sayHello("t");
```

```
main
public class Starting {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
                                                  main()
    m();
                                                    m ()
  static void m(){
    Thread t = new MyThread();
    t.start();
    sayHello("main");
  static void sayHello(String a) {
    System.out.println(a+": Hello!");
  static class MyThread extends Thread{
    public void run(){
       sayHello("t");
```

```
main
public class Starting {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
                                                  main()
    m();
                                                    m()
  static void m() {
    Thread t = new MyThread();
    t.start();
    sayHello("main");
  static void sayHello(String a) {
    System.out.println(a+": Hello!");
  static class MyThread extends Thread{
    public void run(){
       sayHello("t");
                          Non-deterministic
                              area ahead
```

```
main
public class Starting {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
                                                  main()
    m();
                                                   m()
  static void m() {
    Thread t = new MyThread();
    t.start();
    sayHello("main");
  static void sayHello(String a) {
    System.out.println(a+": Hello!");
  static class MyThread extends Thread{
    public void run(){
                                                         run()
       sayHello("t");
```

```
main
public class Starting {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
                                                  main()
    m();
                                                    m()
                                                  sayH()
  static void m() {
    Thread t = new MyThread();
    t.start();
    sayHello("main");
  static void sayHello(String a) {
    System.out.println(a+": Hello!");
  static class MyThread extends Thread{
    public void run(){
                                                         run()
       sayHello("t");
                                                         sayH()
```

Example: extends Thread

Two threads, each counting up to N

```
class Counter extends Thread {
   private int num; String name;
   public Counter(String nn, int n) {
          name= nn; num = n;
   public void run(){
      for( int i=0; i<num; ++i)</pre>
        System.out.print(name+": "+i+" ");
     public static void main(String args[]) {
     Counter t1 = new Counter("Kevin",10);
        Counter t2 = new Counter("Bob",5);
        t1.start(); t2.start();
```

Ex. implements Runnable

```
class CounterR implements Runnable {
 private int num; private String lab;
 public CounterR(String 1, int n) {
     num = n; lab = 1; 
 public void run(){
    for(int i=0; i<num; ++i)</pre>
     System.out.print(lab+": "+i+" ");
public static void main(String args[]) {
   Thread t1,t2;
   t1 = new Thread(new CounterR("Kevin",10));
   t2 = new Thread(new CounterR("Bob",5));
   t1.start(); t2.start();
```

Ex. Runnable lambda

```
public static void main(String args[]) {
  Thread t1, t2;
  final int num1 = 10;
  t1 = new Thread(() -> IntStream.range(0,num1)
                 .mapToObj(i->"Kevin: ",i+" ")
                 .forEach(System.out::print);
  final int num2 = 5;
  t2 = new Thread(() -> IntStream.range(0,num2)
                 .mapToObj(i->"Bob: ",i+" ")
                 .forEach(System.out::print);
                 );
  t1.start();
  t2.start();
```

Ex. Runnable factory W/λ

```
public static void main(String args[]) {
   Thread t1,t2;
   t1 = new Thread(counting("Kevin",10));
   t2 = new Thread(counting("Bob",5));
   t1.start();
   t2.start();
}
```

Running Multiple Threads

- There is no guarantee that:
 - threads will begin execution in the order they were started
 - a thread keeps executing until it's done
 - a loop completes before another thread begins
- Nothing is guaranteed except:

Each thread will start, and each thread will run to completion, hopefully.

EXECUTORS

Executors

- When multiple tasks have to be performed a few issues exist:
 - Thread creation and starting
 - Controlling number of threads
 - Queuing tasks
 - Stop all the running tasks
- Executor services can be used to simplify such operations
 - java.util.concurrent

ExecutorService

- submit()
 - Submits a new task to the service
- shutdown()
 - Awaits for task to terminate and then stops the service
- shutdownNow()
 - Terminates tasks and the service
- awaitTermination()
 - Awaits shutdown to terminate service

Create executor services

- Using class Executors static methods
 - newCachedThreadPool()
 - Creates as many threads as needed and reuse
 - newFixedThreadPool()
 - Creates fixed size thread pool
 - newSingleThreadExecutor()
 - Creates a single thread
 - newWorkStealingPool()
 - Creates as many threads as to match the available number of processors

Tasks

- Runnable
 - Method void run()
- Callable<T>
 - Method T call()
 - Submit returns a Future<T>
 - -isDone() checks if the computation is completed and the value available
 - -get() blocks until a value is returned (or a timeout expires)

Executor Service w/λ factory

Executor with Future

```
ExecutorService deepThought =
           Executors.newCachedThreadPool();
Callable<Long> lifeUniverseEverything = ()->{
                Thread.sleep(SEVEN HALF MY);
                return 42;
Future<Long> answer = deepThought
           .submit(lifeUniverseEverything);
Integer answer = answer.get(); // blocks
System.out.println("The answer is " + answer);
System.out.println("..question will follow");
```

Java Threads

SYNCHRONIZATION

Example scenario

- What happens when two different threads are accessing the same data?
- Let consider two minions having ATM cards both linked to the same account

```
\sim (8-)
```

```
class Account {
  private int balance = 50;
  public int getBalance() {
      return balance;
  }
  public void withdraw(int amount) {
      balance = balance - amount;
  }
}
```



Example scenario (II)

- Two steps are required for performing a safe* withdrawal:
 - 1. Check the balance is sufficient

```
if(account.getBalance() >= amount)
```

2. Execute the withdrawal

```
account.withdraw(amount);
```

* Safe means without overdrawing

Example scenario (II)

- Steps 1 and 2 are distinct
 - Some time passes in between
- Another card holder may attempt the same task at the same time
- The relative order the two steps are performed by the two card holders is note predictable

Both Kevin and Stuart attempt to withdraw the whole balance from the account

```
static boolean
\sim (8 - ) =
           safeWithdrawal(int amount) {
                                                amount: 10
amount: 10
              if (account.getBalance()
                              >= amount) {
                account.withdraw(amount);
                return true
              }else{
                return false;
                                        account
                                      balance: 10
```

Stuart checks the balance is enough

```
static boolean
\sim (8 -) =
           safeWithdrawal(int amount) {
             if (account.getBalance()
                             >= amount) {
               account.withdraw(amount);
                return true
             }else{
               return false;
                                       account
                                     balance: 10
```

Also Kevin checks the balance is enough before Stuart does anything

```
static boolean
           safeWithdrawal(int amount) {
             if (account.getBalance()
                             >= amount) {
\sim (8 - ) =
                account.withdraw(amount);
                return true
             }else{
                return false;
                                       account
                                     balance: 10
```

Having checked, Stuart proceeds with the withdrawal

```
static boolean
           safeWithdrawal(int amount) {
             if (account.getBalance()
                              >= amount) {
\sim (8 - ) =
                account.withdraw(amount);
                return true
              }else{
                return false;
                                       account
                                     balance:
```

Having checked, also Kevin proceeds with the withdrawal but he overdraws the account

```
static boolean
           safeWithdrawal(int amount) {
              if (account.getBalance()
                              >= amount) {
\sim (8 - ) =
                account.withdraw(amount);
                return true
              }else{
                return false;
                                        account
                                     balance: -10
```

Race Condition

- Happens when many threads can access the same resource
 - typically an object's instance variable
- If one thread "races in" too quickly before another thread has completed its operation.
- This can result into corrupted data

Preventing Race Conditions

- The individual steps that constitute the operation should be never split apart.
- It must be an atomic operation:
 - It is completed before any other thread can operate on the same resource
 - ...regardless of the number or duration of individual steps

Preventing Race Conditions

- Make the variables as private
 AND
- Synchronize the code accessing the critical variables
 - Only one thread at a time can execute that code

Synchronization in Java

- The modifier synchronized
 - can be applied to a method or a code block
 - locks a code block: only one thread at a time can access it at a given time

```
void synchronized m1() {
    // synchronized context
}
```

```
void m2() {
    // normal (un-synchronized) context
    synchronized(anObject) {
        // synchronized context
    }}
```

Synchronization and Monitor

- Every object in Java has a built-in monitor
- Before a thread can enter a synchronized context it must first acquire the lock of the object's monitor.
- Once a thread acquires a lock, it owns the lock until the thread itself releases the lock
- Only one thread at a time can own a lock
 - If the lock is already owned any thread attempting to acquire the lock is blocked until the lock is released
- When a thread exits a synchronized context it releases the lock

Synchronization and Monitor

- Not all methods in a class need to be synchronized.
 - Multiple threads can still access the class's nonsynchronized methods
 - Methods that don't access the critical data, don't need to be synchronized
- A thread going to sleep, doesn't release locks
- A thread can acquire more than one lock, e.g.
 - A thread can enter a synchronized method
 - Then invoke a synchronized method on another object

Synchronize a code block

```
public synchronized void doStuff() {
    System.out.println("synchronized");
}
```

Is equivalent to this:

```
public void doStuff() {
    synchronized(this) {
       System.out.println("synchronized");
    }
}
```

Synchronize a static method

```
public static synchronized int getCount() {
  return count;
}
```

Is equivalent to this:

```
public static int getCount() {
    synchronized(MyClass.class) {
       return count;
    }
}
```

MyClass.class represents a single lock on the class which is different from the objects' locks

When to Synchronize?

- Two threads executing the same method at the same time may:
 - use different copies of local vars => no problem
 - access fields that contain shared data
- To make a thread-safe class:
 - methods that access changeable fields need to be synchronized.
 - Access to static fields should be done from static synchronized methods.
 - Access to non-static fields should be done from non-static synchronized methods

Example: no synchronization

```
public class NameList {
  private List<String> names =
                          new LinkedList<>();
  public void add(String name) {
    names.add(name);
  public String removeFirst() {
    if(names.size() > 0)
      return names.remove(0);
    else return "<empty>";
```

Example

```
NameList nl = new NameList();
nl.add("Hello");
Callable<String> remove = nl::removeFirst;
Future<String> f1 = es.submit(remove);
Future<String> f2 = es.submit(remove);
```

```
Possible outcomes:

- "Hello" + "<empty>"
- "Hello" + "Hello"
- "Hello" + null
- "Hello" + IndexOutOfBoundsException
- "Hello" + NullPointerException
```

Example: synchronized list

```
public class NameListSL {
  private List<String> names = Collections.
        synchronizedList( new LinkedList() );
  public void add(String name) {
    names.add(name);
  public String removeFirst() {
    if(names.size() > 0)
                             Still a race condition here!
      return names.remove(0);
    else return "<empty>";
```

Thread safe containers

- Thread-safe containers are created with
 - synchronizedList()
 - synchronizedCollection()
 - synchronizedMap()
- In a "thread-safe" class each individual method is synchronized.
 - Still, nothing prevents another thread from doing something in between
- Solution: atomic operations should be synchronized

Example

```
NameListSL nl = new NameListSL();
nl.add("Hello");
Callable<String> remove = nl::removeFirst;
Future<String> f1 = es.submit(remove);
Future<String> f2 = es.submit(remove);
```

```
Possible outcomes:

- "Hello" + "<empty>"
- "Hello" + IndexOutOfBoundsException
```

Example: atomic operation

```
public class NameListA {
  private List<String> names =
                           new LinkedList();
  public void add(String name) {
    names.add(name);
  public synchronized String removeFirst() {
    if(names.size() > 0)
      return names.remove(0);
                                   The whole method
    else return "<empty>";
                                   represents an
                                   atomic operations
```

Example

```
NameListA nl = new NameListA();
nl.add("Hello");
Callable<String> remove = nl::removeFirst;
Future<String> f1 = es.submit(remove);
Future<String> f2 = es.submit(remove);
```

```
Only possible outcome:

- "Hello" + "<empty>"
```

Deadlock

- Deadlock occurs when two threads are blocked, with each waiting for the other's lock.
- ⇒Neither can run until the other gives up its lock, so they wait forever
- Poor design can lead to deadlock
- It is hard to debug code to avoid deadlock

Thread Deadlock

```
public int read() {
  synchronized(resourceA) {
    synchronized(resourceB) {
    return resourceB.value+resourceA.value;
public void write(int a, int b) {
  synchronized(resourceB) {
     synchronized(resourceA) {
       resourceA.value = a;
       resourceB.value = b;
```

THREAD INTERACTIONS

Synchronization in Object

- void wait()
 - Causes current thread to wait until another thread invokes the notify() method or the notifyAll() method for this object.
- void notify()
 - Wakes up a single thread that is waiting on this object's lock.
- void notifyAll()
 - Wakes up all threads that are waiting on this object's lock.

Wait and Notify

- A thread can invoke a wait() on an object monitor
 - Provided it owns a lock on the object monitor
- A a result, the thread
 - Releases the lock
 - Is placed in a waiting pool
- When the thread is signaled
 - It wakes up
 - Tries to acquires back the lock
 - It is possibly blocked while any other owns the lock
 - Return from the wait method

Notify & NotifyAll

- The notify() method sends a signal to one of the threads that are waiting in the same object's waiting pool.
 - The notify() method CANNOT specify which waiting thread to notify.
- The method notifyAll() is similar but it sends the signal to all of the threads waiting on the object.

Example: await notification

```
Worker b = new Worker();
synchronized(b) {
 b.start();
  try {
    System.out.println("Waiting for b to complete");
   b.wait();
  } catch (InterruptedException e) {}
  System.out.println("Total is: " + b.total);
              class Worker extends Thread {
                int total;
```

Example: future notification

```
ExecutorService exec = Executors.newCachedThreadPool();

Future<Integer> out = exec.submit(task);

System.out.println("Waiting for b to complete");

try {
    System.out.println("Total is: " + out.get());
}catch(ExecutionException | InterruptedException ie) {}
```

```
Callable<Integer> task = () -> {
  int total = 0;

for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
    total += i;
  return total;
};</pre>
```

Example: Java FIFO

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public class FIFO<T>{
 private ArrayList<T> v;
  FIFO() {
    v = new ArrayList<T>(3);
  public synchronized void
  insert(T e) {
    v.add(e);
    notify();
```

```
public synchronized
T extract()
  throws Exception{
    T temp;
    if(v.size()==0)
      wait();
    temp=v.get(0);
    v.remove(0);
    return temp;
```

Spontaneous Wakeup

- A thread may wake up even though no code has called notify() or notifyAll()
 - Sometimes the JVM may call **notify()** for reasons of its own,
 - Other class calls it for reasons you just don't know.
- When your thread wakes up from a wait(), you don't know for sure why it was awakened!
- Solution: putting the wait() method in a while loop and re-checking the condition:
 - We ensure that whatever the reason we woke up, we will re-enter the wait() only if the thing we were waiting for has not happened yet.

Example: Java FIFO

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public class FIFO<T>{
  private ArrayList<T> v;
  FIFO() {
    v = new ArrayList<T>(3);
  public synchronized void
  insert(T e) {
    v.add(e);
    notify();
```

```
public synchronized
T extract()
  throws Exception{
    T temp;
    while (v.size() == 0)
      wait();
    temp=v.get(0);
    v.remove(0);
    return temp;
```

Livelock

- A livelock happens when threads are actually running, but no work gets done
 - what is done by a thread is undone by another
- Ex: each thread already holds one object and needs another that is held by the other thread.
- What if each thread unlocks the object it owns and picks up the object unlocked by the other thread?
 - These two threads can run forever in lockstep!

Thread Starvation

- Wait/notify primitives of the Java language do not guarantee *liveness* (=> starvation)
- When wait() method is called
 - thread releases the object lock prior to commencing to wait
 - and it must be reacquired before returning from the method, post notification

Thread Starvation

- Once a thread releases the lock on an object (following the call to wait), it is placed in a object's wait-set
 - Implemented as a queue by most JVMs
 - When a notification happens, a new thread will be placed at the back of the queue
- By the time the notified thread actually gets the monitor, the condition for which it was notified may no longer be true ...
 - It will have to wait again
 - This can continue indefinitely => Starvation

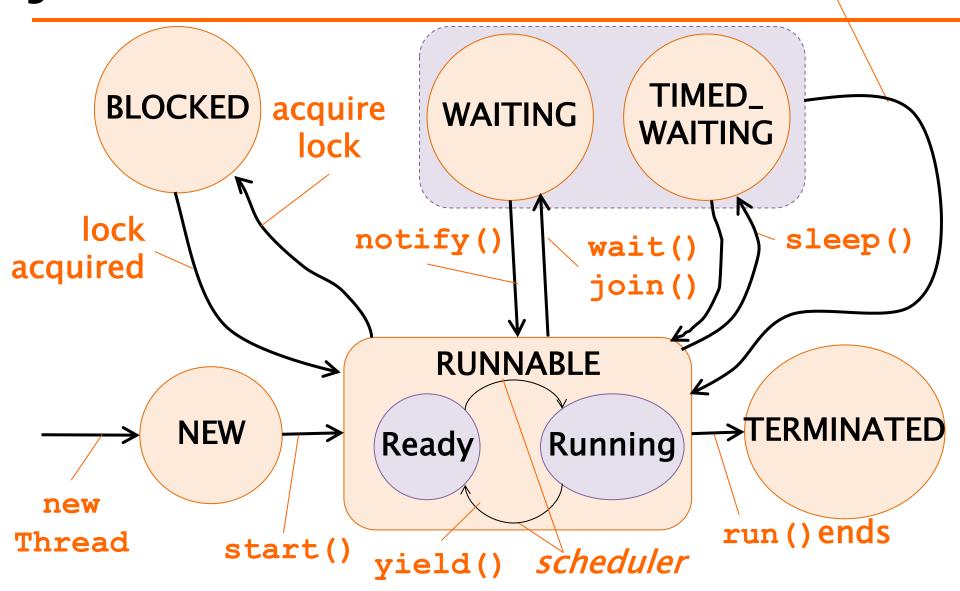
Synchronization objects

- Semaphore
 - Methods: acquire() and release()
- CountDownLatch
 - Methods: await() and countDown()
- CyclicBarrier
 - Methods: await()
 - Constructor accepts number of parties
 - All classes are in package java.util.concurrent

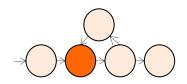
JAVA THREAD STATES

Java Thread States

interrupt()



Thread state: Runnable



- A thread is either
 - queued & eligible to run, but waiting for the CPU time
 - Running on the CPU
- A thread first enters the Runnable state when the start() method is invoked
- A thread can also return to the Runnable state coming back from a blocked, waiting, or sleeping state

Thread Priorities

- A thread always runs with a priority number
- The scheduler in most JVMs uses preemptive, priority-based round-robin scheduling
- Usually time-slicing is used:
 - Each thread is allocated a fair amount of time
 - After that a thread is sent back to the ready queue to give another thread a chance
 - JVM specification does not require a VM to implement a time-slicing scheduler!!!

JVM Scheduling Policy

- Non-Preemptive: current thread is executed until the end, unless thread explicitly releases CPU to let another thread take its turn
 - used in real-time apps (interruption can cause problems)
- Preemptive time-slicing: thread is executed until its timeslice is over, then the JVM suspends it and starts another runnable thread
 - Simpler development, as all resources handled by JVM
 - Apps do not require to use yield() to release resources
- High priority threads:
 - Are executed more often, or have longer time-slice
 - Stop execution of lower-priority threads before their time-slice is over

Setting a Thread's Priority

- By default, a thread gets the priority of the thread of execution that creates it.
- Priority values are defined between 1 and 10

```
Thread.MIN_PRIORITY (1)
Thread.NORM_PRIORITY (5)
Thread.MAX_PRIORITY (10)
```

Priority can be directly set

```
FooRunnable r = new FooRunnable();
Thread t = new Thread(r);
t.setPriority(8); t.start();
```

yield

- The method yield() sets the currently running thread back to Runnable state
 - It allows other threads of the same priority to get their turn
 - yield() might have no effect at all
 - There's no guarantee the yielding thread won't just be chosen again over all the others

Thread state: Timed waiting

- A thread may be sleeping because the thread's run() code tells it to sleep for some period of time,
- It gets back to Runnable state when it wakes up because its sleep time has expired

```
try {
   Thread.sleep(5*60*1000);
   // Sleeps for 5 min
} catch (InterruptedException ex) { }
```

Example sleep

```
class NameRunnable implements Runnable {
public void run() {
   for (int x = 1; x < 4; x++) {
      System.out.println("Run by "+
                Thread.currentThread().getName());
       try {
          Thread.sleep(1000);
       } catch (InterruptedException ex) { }
       public class ManyNames {
       public static void main (String [] args) {
       NameRunnable nr = new NameRunnable();
       Thread one = new Thread(nr, "Kevin");
       Thread two = new Thread(nr, "Stuart");
       Thread three = new Thread(nr, "Bob");
       one.start(); two.start(); three.start();
```

Thread state: Waiting

- The thread asked to wait for a signal from another thread
- It comes back to Runnable state when another thread
 - Terminates and the current tread asked to join (join())
 - Sends a notification (notify()) that this thread waiting for (wait())
- Used for thread coordination

join

The join () method lets a thread "join onto the end" of another thread

```
Thread t = new Thread();
t.start();
t.join();
```

- The current thread moves to the Waiting state and it will be Runnable when thread t terminates
- An optional timeout can be set t.join(5000);

Thread state: Blocked

- A thread is waiting for acquiring a mutually exclusive access to a resource that is currently owned by another thread
- The thread returns to Runnable state when the lock on the resource is released by the other thread

Interrupting a thread

- A thread cannot be forced to stop!
 - The stop() method is deprecated
- Method interrupt() can be used to "suggest" a thread to stop execution
- When a thread is in Sleep/Wait state and its interrupt() method is invoked the method throws an InterruptedException

Handling an interruption

```
Thread t = new Thread(new ()->{
                                    Perform the
while(true) {
                                     usual task
  try {
    System.out.print(".");
     Thread.sleep(1000);
  }catch(InterruptedException e) {
     System.out.println("|STOP|");
     return;
                          On interruption clean up
                            and terminate thread
```

A word of advice

- Some methods may look like they tell another thread to block, but they don't.
- If t is a thread object reference, you can write something like this:

```
t.sleep() or t.yield()
```

- They are static methods of the Thread class:
 - they don't affect the instance t !!!
 - instead they affect the thread in execution
 - That's why it's a bad idea to use an instance variable to access a static methods

- Threads are concurrent execution contexts
 - Concurrency may be physical (e.g. multicore) or virtual (OS preemption)
- Threads are supported through the class Thread that can be
 - Extended with an overridden run method
 - Initialized with a Runnable object
- Once created, threads must be started

- Threads are assigned time slices
- A thread can hand over execution time by
 - sleep() that pauses the thread
 - yield() that gives another thread the opportunity to run
- A thread can be interrupted with the interrupt() method that makes the thread return from a waiting method with an InterruptedException

- Concurrent access to shared variables must be controlled
- Mutual exclusion is achieved by means of synchronized methods and code blocks
 - Using the monitor associated with any Java object

- Coordination between threads can be performed by
 - wait() that suspends the execution
 - This is an alternative to a busy form of waiting
 - notify() that wakes up a waiting thread