# Multithreading with modern C++

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### Memory model of a process

- Process is a running program
- Every process has its virtual memory allocation

**A Computer Process** 



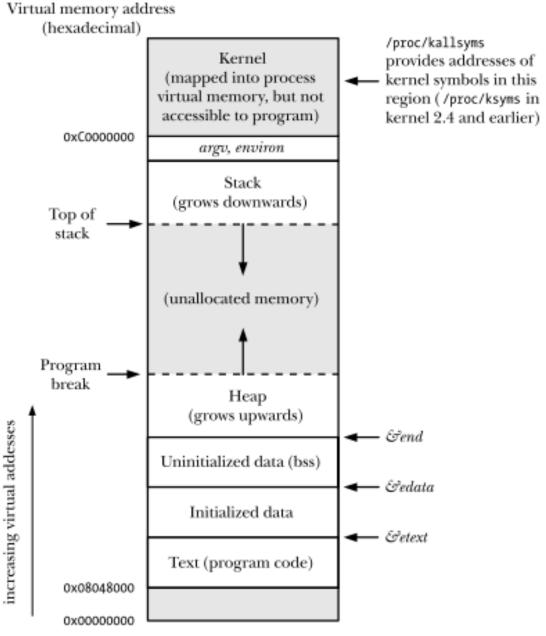
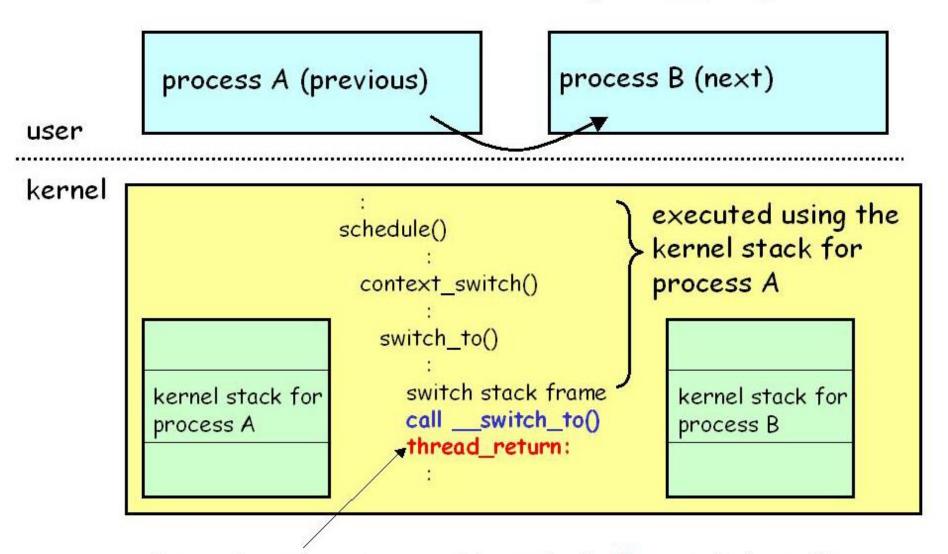


Figure 6-1: Typical memory layout of a process on Linux/x86-32

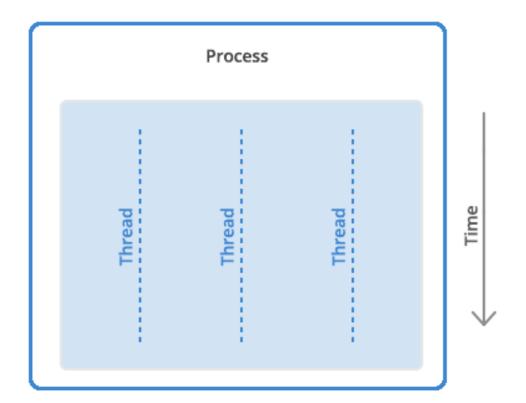
### Context Switch of Linux(x86\_64)

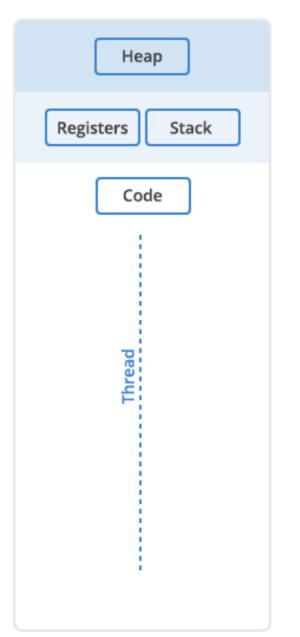


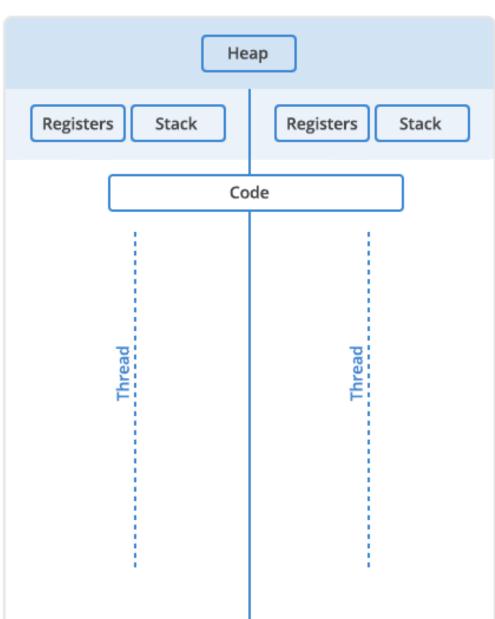
Stored as the return address by 'call \_\_switch\_to()' into the kernel stack for process B. Thus, on return of \_\_switch\_to(), process B begins to run from thread\_return.

### Thread (lightweight process)

- A thread is the unit of execution within a process
- spreading a single process across multiple threads







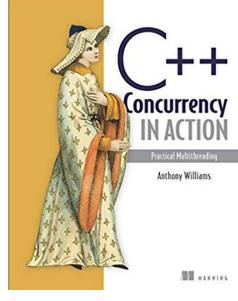
### Life cycle

- 1. The program starts out as a text file of programming code,
- 2. The program is compiled or interpreted into binary form,
- The program is loaded into memory,
- The program becomes one or more running processes.
- 5. Processes are typically independent of each other,
- 6. While threads exist as the subset of a process.
  - Threads can communicate with each other more easily than processes can,
  - But threads are more vulnerable to problems caused by other threads in the same process.

PROCESS	THREAD

Processes are heavyweight operations	Threads are lighter weight operations
Each process has its own memory space	Threads use the memory of the process they belong to
Inter-process communication is slow as processes have different memory addresses	Inter-thread communication can be faster than inter-process communication because threads of the same process share memory with the process they belong to
Context switching between processes is more expensive	Context switching between threads of the same process is less expensive
Processes don't share memory with other processes	Threads share memory with other threads of the same process
$m{A}$	

### Hello concurrent world!



### Ways of invoking a thread

```
void do some work();
    std::thread my thread(do some work);
                                                  class background task
        std::thread my thread([](
                                                  public:
            do something();
                                                      void operator()() const
            do something else();
        });
                                                           do something();
                                                           do something else();
class X
public:
                                                  background task f;
   void do lengthy work();
                                                  std::thread my thread(f);
};
X my x;
std::thread t(&X::do_lengthy_work,&my_x);
```

### Std::bind

```
#include <random>
#include <iostream>
#include <memory>
#include <functional>
void f(int n1, int n2, int n3, const int& n4, int n5)
    std::cout << n1 << ' ' << n2 << ' ' << n3 << ' ' << n4 << ' ' << n5 << '\n':
int g(int n1)
    return n1;
struct Foo {
    void print sum(int n1, int n2)
        std::cout << n1+n2 << '\n':
    int data = 10;
};
```

The arguments to bind are copied or moved, and are never passed by reference unless wrapped in std::ref or std::cref.

```
int main()
   using namespace std::placeholders; // for 1, 2, 3...
   // demonstrates argument reordering and pass-by-reference
   int n = 7;
   // ( 1 and 2 are from std::placeholders, and represent future
   // arguments that will be passed to f1)
   auto f1 = std::bind(f, 2, 42, 1, std::cref(n), n);
   n = 10:
   f1(1, 2, 1001); // 1 is bound by 1, 2 is bound by 2, 1001 is unused
                   // makes a call to f(2, 42, 1, n, 7)
   // nested bind subexpressions share the placeholders
   auto f2 = std::bind(f, _3, std::bind(g, _3), _3, 4, 5);
   f2(10, 11, 12); // makes a call to f(12, g(12), 12, 4, 5);
   // common use case: binding a RNG with a distribution
   std::default random engine e;
   std::uniform int distribution<> d(0, 10);
   auto rnd = std::bind(d, e); // a copy of e is stored in rnd
   for(int n=0; n<10; ++n)
        std::cout << rnd() << ' ';
   std::cout << '\n';
   // bind to a pointer to member function
   Foo foo;
   auto f3 = std::bind(&Foo::print sum, &foo, 95, 1);
   f3(5);
   // bind to a pointer to data member
   auto f4 = std::bind(&Foo::data, 1);
   std::cout << f4(foo) << '\n';
   // smart pointers can be used to call members of the referenced objects, too
   std::cout << f4(std::make shared<Foo>(foo)) << '\n'
             << f4(std::make unique<Foo>(foo)) << '\n';
```

### Join or detach a thread

#### Join

- Wait for the thread to complete
- cleans up any storage associated with the thread

#### Detach

- leaves the thread to run in the background, with no direct means of communicating with it.
- It's no longer possible to wait for that thread to complete
- The thread can no longer be joined.

### Thread guard (auto joining at destruction)

```
class thread guard
    std::thread& t;
public:
    explicit thread guard(std::thread& t ):
        t(t_)
    ~thread guard()
        if(t.joinable())
            t.join();
    thread guard(thread guard const&)=delete;
    thread guard& operator=(thread guard const&)=delete;
struct func;
                                             See definition
                                             in listing 2.I
void f()
    int some local state=0;
    func my func (some local state);
    std::thread t(my func);
    thread guard g(t);
    do something in current thread();
```

- local objects are destroyed in reverse order of construction.
- thread\_guard object g is destroyed first, and the thread is joined with in the destructor

## Passing parameter into a thread can be tricky

```
struct func
    int& i;
    func(int& i ):i(i ){}
    void operator()()
        for (unsigned j=0;j<1000000;++j)
                                                  Potential access to
                                                  dangling reference
            do something(i);
                                         void f(int i,std::string const& s);
void oops()
                                         void not oops(int some param)
    int some local state=0;
                                             char buffer[1024];
    func my func (some local state);
                                             sprintf(buffer, "%i", some param);
    std::thread my thread(my func);
                                             std::thread t(f,3,std::string(buffer));
    my_thread.detach();
                                             t.detach();
```

## Use std::ref or cref to pass by reference

```
void update_data_for_widget(widget_id w,widget_data& data);

void oops_again(widget_id w)
{
    widget_data data;
    std::thread t(update_data_for_widget,w,data);
    display_status();
    t.join();
    process_widget_data(data);
}

std::thread t(update_data_for_widget,w,std::ref(data));
```

## Thread is only movable not copyable

```
class scoped thread
    std::thread t;
public:
    explicit scoped thread(std::thread t ):
        t(std::move(t_))
        if(!t.joinable())
            throw std::logic error("No thread");
    ~scoped thread()
        t.join();
    scoped thread(scoped thread const&)=delete;
    scoped thread& operator=(scoped thread const&)=delete;
};
struct func;
                                   listing 2.1
void f()
    int some local state;
    scoped thread t(std::thread(func(some local state)));
    do something in current thread();
```

### Hardware concurrency

```
unsigned long const hardware_threads=
    std::thread::hardware_concurrency();

std::thread::id master_thread;
void some_core_part_of_algorithm()
{
    if(std::this_thread::get_id() == master_thread)
    {
        do_master_thread_work();
    }
    do_common_work();
}
```

### Sharing data between threads

- Care-free data/function call
  - read-only, there's no problem, because the data read by one thread is unaffected by whether or not another thread is reading the same data.
  - invariants—statements that are always true about a particular data structure, such as "this variable contains the number of items in the list"

#### Data race

- the outcome depends on the relative ordering of execution of operations on two or more threads
- cause the dreaded undefined behavior
- can be benign or *problematic*

### Two solutions for data race

- Finest granularity
  - modify the design of your data structure and its invariants so that modifications are done as a series of indivisible changes, each of which preserves the invariants. This is generally referred to as lock-free programming
- Protect critical sections
  - wrap your data structure with a protection mechanism, to ensure that only the thread actually performing a modification can see the intermediate states where the invariants are broken

### Data race

```
#include <list>
#include <mutex>
#include <algorithm>
std::list<int> some_list;
void add_to_list(int new_value)
    some list.push back(new value);
bool list_contains(int value_to_find)
    return std::find(some_list.begin(),some_list.end(),value_to_find)
        != some_list.end();
```

### Mutex and unique\_lock

```
Critical section; access shared data / data race
#include <list>
#include <mutex>
                                       (define by the life cycle of a lock)
#include <algorithm>
                                       Mutex (door to the critical section)
                                       Lock (own the mutex)
std::list<int> some list;
std::mutex some mutex;
void add to list(int new value)
    std::lock guard<std::mutex> guard(some mutex);
    some list.push back(new value);
bool list contains (int value to find)
    std::lock guard<std::mutex> guard(some mutex);
    return std::find(some list.begin(),some list.end(),value to find)
        != some list.end();
```

#### **AVOID NESTED LOCKS**

don't wait for another thread if there's a chance it's waiting for you

### Jailbreak

```
some data* unprotected;
class some data
                                     void malicious_function(some_data& protected_data)
    int a;
                                        unprotected=&protected_data;
    std::string b;
public:
                                     data wrapper x;
    void do something();
};
                                                                                  Pass i
                                     void foo()
                                                                                  malic
                                                                                  functi
class data_wrapper
                                        x.process_data(malicious_function);
                                         unprotected->do_something();
private:
    some data data;
    std::mutex m;
public:
    template<typename Function>
    void process data (Function func)
         std::lock guard<std::mutex> 1(m);
         func (data);
};
```

### Thread-safe data structure

if(!s.empty())

int const value=s.top();

int const value=s.top();

s.pop();

do\_something(value);

s.pop();

do\_something(value);
s.pop();
do\_something(value);

### A thread-safe stack

```
#include <exception>
#include <memory>
                                          For std::shared ptr<>
struct empty_stack: std::exception
    const char* what() const throw();
};
template<typename T>
                                                                Assignment 1
class threadsafe stack
                                                                operator is
                                                                   deleted
public:
    threadsafe stack();
    threadsafe stack(const threadsafe stack&);
    threadsafe stack& operator=(const threadsafe stack&) = delete;
    void push (T new value);
    std::shared ptr<T> pop();
    void pop(T& value);
    bool empty() const;
};
```

```
private:
    std::stack<T> data;
    mutable std::mutex m;
public:
    threadsafe stack(){}
    threadsafe stack(const threadsafe stack& other)
                                                             Copy performed in
        std::lock_guard<std::mutex> lock(other.m);
                                                             constructor body
        data=other.data;
    threadsafe stack& operator=(const threadsafe stack&) = delete;
    void push(T new_value)
        std::lock_guard<std::mutex> lock(m);
        data.push(new value);
    std::shared ptr<T> pop()
                                                       Check for empty before
                                                       trying to pop value
        std::lock guard<std::mutex> lock(m);
        if(data.empty()) throw empty_stack();
        std::shared ptr<T> const res(std::make shared<T>(data.top()));
        data.pop();
        return res;
                                                                    Allocate return
                                                                      value before
    void pop(T& value)
                                                                   modifying stack
        std::lock guard<std::mutex> lock(m);
        if(data.empty()) throw empty_stack();
        value=data.top();
        data.pop();
    bool empty() const
        std::lock_guard<std::mutex> lock(m);
        return data.empty();
```

### Deadlock

- This is almost the opposite of a race condition: rather than two threads racing to be first, each one is waiting for the other, so neither makes any progress
- The common advice for avoiding deadlock is to always lock the two mutexes in the same order: if you always lock mutex A before mutex B, then you'll never deadlock.

#### std::defer\_lock, std::try\_to\_lock, std::adopt\_lock

### Avoid deadlock

```
Defined in header <mutex>
                                                             (since C++11)
constexpr std::defer lock t defer lock {};
                                                             (until C++17)
inline constexpr std::defer lock t defer lock {};
                                                             (since C++17)
                                                             (since C++11)
constexpr std::try to lock t try to lock {};
                                                             (until C++17)
inline constexpr std::try to lock t try to lock {};
                                                             (since C++17)
                                                             (since C++11)
constexpr std::adopt lock t adopt lock {};
                                                             (until C++17)
inline constexpr std::adopt lock t adopt lock {};
                                                             (since C++17)
```

```
class some big object;
void swap(some big object& lhs, some big object& rhs);
class X
private:
    some big object some detail;
    std::mutex m;
public:
    X(some big object const& sd):some detail(sd){}
    friend void swap (X& lhs, X& rhs)
        if(&lhs==&rhs)
            return;
        std::lock(lhs.m,rhs.m);
        std::lock guard<std::mutex> lock a(lhs.m,std::adopt lock);
        std::lock guard<std::mutex> lock b(rhs.m,std::adopt lock);
        swap(lhs.some detail,rhs.some detail);
};
```

### Alternative

```
void transfer(bank account &from, bank account &to, int amount)
    // lock both mutexes without deadlock
    std::lock(from.m, to.m);
    // make sure both already-locked mutexes are unlocked at the end of scope
    std::lock guard<std::mutex> lock1(from.m, std::adopt_lock);
    std::lock guard<std::mutex> lock2(to.m, std::adopt lock);
// equivalent approach:
  std::unique lock<std::mutex> lock1(from.m, std::defer lock);
// std::unique lock<std::mutex> lock2(to.m, std::defer lock);
     std::lock(lock1, lock2);
    from.balance -= amount;
    to.balance += amount;
```

### Shared mutex for read only data

Std::shared\_mutex + std::shared\_lock

```
class ThreadSafeCounter {
public:
 ThreadSafeCounter() = default;
 // Multiple threads/readers can read the counter's value at the same time.
 unsigned int get() const {
    std::shared lock lock(mutex );
    return value ;
 // Only one thread/writer can increment/write the counter's value.
 void increment() {
    std::unique lock lock(mutex );
    value ++;
 // Only one thread/writer can reset/write the counter's value.
 void reset() {
    std::unique lock lock(mutex );
   value = 0;
private:
 mutable std::shared mutex mutex ;
 unsigned int value = 0;
```

### synchronization

- Conditional variable
- block a thread until another thread both modifies a shared variable (the condition), and notifies the condition\_ variable

```
Member functions
condition_variable::condition_variable
condition_variable::condition_variable
condition_variable::condition_variable
Notification
condition_variable::notify_one
condition_variable::notify_all
Waiting
condition_variable::wait
condition_variable::wait
condition_variable::wait_condition_variable::wait_until
Native handle
condition_variable::native handle
```

```
#include <iostream>
#include <condition variable>
#include <thread>
#include <chrono>
std::condition_variable_any cv;
std::mutex cv m;
int i = 0:
bool done = false:
void waits()
    std::unique_lock<std::mutex> lk(cv_m);
    std::cout << "Waiting... \n";
    cv.wait(lk, [](){return i == 1;});
    std::cout << "...finished waiting. i == 1 n";
    done = true:
void signals()
    std::this thread::sleep for(std::chrono::seconds(1));
    std::cout << "Notifying...\n";</pre>
    cv.notify one();
    std::unique lock<std::mutex> lk(cv m);
    i = 1;
    while (!done) {
        lk.unlock();
        std::this thread::sleep for(std::chrono::seconds(1));
        lk.lock();
        std::cerr << "Notifying again...\n";</pre>
        cv.notify one();
int main()
    std::thread t1(waits), t2(signals);
    t1.join(); t2.join();
```

### Condition\_variable

The thread that intends to modify the variable has to

- acquire a std::mutex (typically via std::lock\_guard)
- perform the modification while the lock is held
- execute notify\_one or notify\_all on the std::condition\_variable (the lock does not need to be held for notification)

Even if the shared variable is atomic, it must be modified under the mutex in order to correctly publish the modification to the waiting thread.

Any thread that intends to wait on std::condition\_variable has to

- 1. acquire a std::unique\_lock<std::mutex> , on the same mutex as used to protect the shared variable
- execute wait, wait\_for, or wait\_until. The wait operations atomically release the mutex and suspend the execution of the thread.
- When the condition variable is notified, a timeout expires, or a spurious wakeup 
   occurs, the thread is awakened, and the mutex is atomically reacquired. The thread should then check the condition and resume waiting if the wake up was spurious.

### Spurious wakeup

Is a hardware related issue.

According to David R. Butenhof's Programming with POSIX Threads ISBN 0-201-63392-2:

"This means that when you wait on a condition variable, the wait may (occasionally) return when no thread specifically broadcast or signaled that condition variable. Spurious wakeups may sound strange, but on some multiprocessor systems, making condition wakeup completely predictable might substantially slow all condition variable operations. The race conditions that cause spurious wakeups should be considered rare."

wait causes the current thread to block until the condition variable is notified or a spurious wakeup occurs, optionally looping until some predicate is satisfied.

- 1) Atomically unlocks lock, blocks the current executing thread, and adds it to the list of threads waiting on \*this. The thread will be unblocked when notify\_all() or notify\_one() is executed. It may also be unblocked spuriously. When unblocked, regardless of the reason, lock is reacquired and wait exits. If this function exits via exception, lock is also reacquired. (until C++14)
- 2) Equivalent to

```
while (!pred()) {
    wait(lock);
}
```

### This\_thread::sleep and yield

- They both causes the current thread to block
- sleep (until a condition)
- Yield: busy sleep
- Yield is better for fast turn-over model but waste
   CPU

```
void little_sleep(std::chrono::microseconds us)
{
    auto start = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();
    auto end = start + us;
    do {
        std::this_thread::yield();
    } while (std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now() < end);
}</pre>
```

### Package task/promise/future

```
#include <iostream>
#include <future>
#include <thread>
int main()
    // future from a packaged task
    std::packaged task<int()> task([](){ return 7; }); // wrap the function
    std::future<int> f1 = task.get future(); // get a future
    std::thread(std::move(task)).detach(); // launch on a thread
    // future from an async()
    std::future<int> f2 = std::async(std::launch::async, [](){ return 8; });
    // future from a promise
    std::promise<int> p;
    std::future<int> f3 = p.get future();
    std::thread( [](std::promise<int>& p){ p.set value(9); },
                 std::ref(p) ).detach();
    std::cout << "Waiting..." << std::flush;</pre>
    f1.wait();
    f2.wait():
    f3.wait();
    std::cout << "Done!\nResults are: "</pre>
              << f1.get() << ' ' << f2.get() << ' ' << f3.get() << '\n';
```

### async (lazy threading)

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <algorithm>
#include <numeric>
#include <future>
template <typename RAIter>
int parallel sum(RAIter beg, RAIter end)
    typename RAIter::difference type len = end-beg;
    if(len < 1000)
        return std::accumulate(beg, end, 0);
    RAIter mid = beg + len/2;
    auto handle = std::async(std::launch::async,
                               parallel sum<RAIter>, mid, end);
    int sum = parallel sum(beg, mid);
    return sum + handle.get();
}
int main()
    std::vector<int> v(10000, 1);
    std::cout << "The sum is " << parallel sum(v.begin(), v.end()) << '\n';</pre>
```

### Jthread (C++20)

The class ithread represents a single thread of execution. It has the same general behavior as std::thread, except that jthread automatically rejoins on destruction, and can be cancelled/stopped in certain situations.

```
1 #include "jthread.hpp"
  2 #include <chrono>
  3 #include <iostream>
        std::this thread::sleep for(std::chrono::seconds(seconds));
  8 }
 10 int main()
        std::jthread jt{ [] (std::stop_token st) {
 12
 13
            while (!st.requested_stop()) {
                std::cout << "Doing work\n";</pre>
        jt.request stop();
        jt.join();
 21 }
```

### Coroutines: lightweight threads

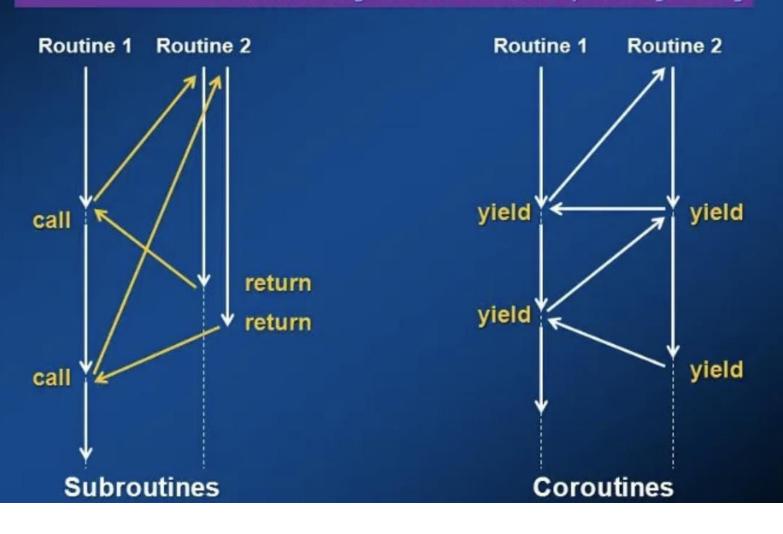
- Coroutines are stackless functions designed for enabling co-operative Multitasking, by allowing execution to be suspended and resumed.
  - Cooperative Multitasking—If multitasking participant process or thread voluntarily let go of control periodically or when idle or logically blocked.
- Coroutines suspend execution by returning to the caller and the data that is required to resume execution is stored separately from the stack. This allows for sequential code that executes asynchronously
  - well-suited for implementing familiar program components such as cooperative tasks, exceptions, event loops, state machines, and pipes.

### Subroutines vs. Coroutines

"Subroutines are a special case of coroutines."

-- Donald Knuth

Fundamental Algorithms. The Art of Computer Programming



### Coroutines vs Threads

- Coroutines provide concurrency but not parallelism
- Switching between coroutines need not involve any system/blocking calls so no need for synchronization primitives such as mutexes, semaphores.
- Coroutines provide asynchronicity and resource locking isn't needed.

### Coroutines in C++20

- A function is a coroutine if its definition does any of the following:
  - uses the co\_await operator to suspend execution until resumed.
  - uses the keyword co\_yield to suspend execution returning a value.
  - uses the keyword co\_return to complete execution. Let's take a similar example to get a range.

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector> // Coroutine gets called on need
generator <int> generateNumbers(int begin, int inc = 1) {
  for (int i = begin;; i += inc) {
                                                       CppCoro - A coroutine library for C++
     co_yield i;
                                                       The 'cppcoro' library provides a large set of general-purpose primitives for m
                                                       proposal described in N4680.
}
                                                       These include:

    Coroutine Types

int main() {
                                                           o task<T>
                                                           o shared_task<T>
  std::cout << std::endl;</pre>
                                                           o generator<T>
                                                           o recursive_generator<T>
                                                           o async_generator<T>
  const auto numbers = generateNumbers(-10);
  for (int i = 1; i \le 20; ++i)
    std::cout << numbers << " "; // Runs finite = 20 times***</pre>
  for (auto n:generateNumbers(0, 5)) // Runs infinite times**
    std::cout << n << " "; // (3)
  std::cout << "\n\n";</pre>
```

### **Atomic**

```
//long multiThreadedSum = 0;
std::atomic<long> multiThreadedSum( 0 );
```

```
long multiThreadedSum = 0;

Poold SumNumbers( const std::vector<int>& toBeSummed, int idxStart, int idxEnd )

{
    for (int i = idxStart; i <= idxEnd; ++i)
        {
             multiThreadedSum += toBeSummed[i];
        }
}</pre>
```

```
int main()
{
   volatile int val = 0;
   val += 1;
   return val;
}
```

```
main:

mov DWORD PTR [rsp-4], 0

mov eax, DWORD PTR [rsp-4]

add eax, 1

mov DWORD PTR [rsp-4], eax

mov eax, DWORD PTR [rsp-4]

ret
```

### Memory order

- Relaxed ordering
- Release-Acquire ordering
- Release-Consume ordering
- Sequentially-consistent ordering

```
int x = 0;  // global variable
int y = 0;  // global variable

Thread-1:  Thread-2:
    x = 100;  while (y != 200)
    y = 200;

std::cout << x;</pre>
```

```
1 Thread-1:
2 y = 200;
3 x = 100;
```

### Relaxed ordering

No control at all

```
atomic exchange
void f()
                                                                  atomic exchange explicit (C++11)
                                                                  atomic_compare_exchange_weak
                                                                                                         (C++11)
                                                                  atomic compare exchange weak explicit
                                                                                                         (C++11)
    for (int n = 0; n < 1000; ++n) {
                                                                  atomic compare exchange strong
                                                                                                         (C++11)
                                                                  atomic compare exchange strong explicit(C++11)
         cnt.fetch_add(1, std::memory_order_relaxed);
                                                                  atomic fetch add
                                                                                           (C++11)
                                                                  atomic fetch add explicit(C++11)
                                                                  atomic fetch sub
                                                                  atomic fetch sub explicit(C++11)
                                                                  atomic fetch and
                                                                                           (C++11)
                                                                  atomic_fetch_and_explicit(C++11)
```

### Atomic operations library

The atomic library provides components for fine-grained programming. Each atomic operation is indivisible with object. Atomic objects are free of data races.

Defined in header <atomic>

#### Atomic types

```
atomic (C++11)
atomic_ref (C++20)
```

#### Operations on atomic types

atomic fetch or

atomic fetch or explicit(C++11)

```
atomic_is_lock_free(C++11)

atomic_store (C++11)
atomic_store_explicit(C++11)

atomic_load (C++11)
atomic_load_explicit(C++11)
```

(C++11)

### Release-Acquire ordering

memory\_order\_acquire

A load operation with this memory order performs the *acquire operation* on the affected memory location: no reads or writes in the current thread can be reordered before this load. All writes in other threads that release the same atomic variable are visible in the current thread (see Release-Acquire ordering below)

memory order release

A store operation with this memory order performs the *release operation*: no reads or writes in the current thread can be reordered after this store. All writes in the current thread are visible in other threads that acquire the same atomic variable (see Release-Acquire ordering below) and writes that carry a dependency into the atomic variable become visible in other threads that consume the same atomic (see Release-Consume ordering below).