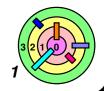
Ch 5: Synchronizing Access to Shared Objects

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Synchronization Motivation



When threads concurrently read/write shared memory, program behavior is undefined

two threads write to the same variable; which one should win?



Thread schedule is non-deterministic

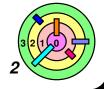
- behavior changes when re-run program
 - does it matter which thread runs first?
 - when would it be considered the behavior wrong/incorrect?
 - programs need to work for any possible interleaving



Compiler/hardware instruction reordering



Multi-word operations (such as memcmp ()) are not atomic



Compiler/Hardware Can Reorder Instructions



Modern compilers (and hardware) reorder instructions to improve performance

- can thread 2 use p before p is initialized?
 - doesn't look like it's possible, right?!
- If you have optimization turned on when you compile, the compiler may decide to do the following (since it doesn't understand that pand pInitialized are semantically related):

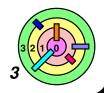
```
Thread 1 Thread 2

pInitialized = true; while (!pInitialized)

p = someComputation() ;

q = anotherComputation(p)
```

clearly, this is no good



Why Reordering?



- Why do compilers reorder instructions?
- efficient code generation requires analyzing control/data dependency



- Why do CPUs reorder instructions?
- write buffering: allow next instruction to execute while write is being completed



- Fix: memory barrier (a.k.a. membar or memory fence)
- instruction to compiler/CPU
- all operations before barrier complete before barrier returns
- no operation after barrier starts until barrier returns



(5.1) Challenges



Race Condition



A *race condition* occurs when the behavior of a program depends on the interleaving of operations of different threads

Thread 1 Thread 2 x = 1; x = 2;

possible final values of x are 1 or 2

Ex: y is initialized to 12

Thread 1 Thread 2 x = y + 1; y = y * 2;

possible final values of x are 13 or 25

Ex: x is initialized to 0

Thread 1 Thread 2 x = x + 1; x = x + 2;

possible final values of x are 1, 2, and 3

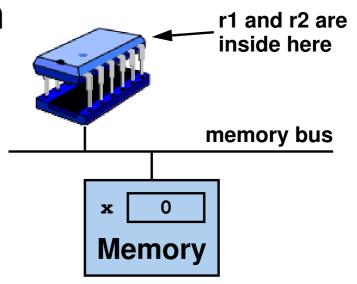


Race Condition

Thread 1:

Thread 2:

```
\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{2};
                    /*
                load r1,x
add r2, r1, 1 add r2, r1, 1
                   store x,r2
```





Unfortunately, processors do not execute high-level language statements

- they execute machine instructions
- if thread 1 executes the first (or two) machine instructions
- context switch can happen (to run a different thread)
 - this *can* happen if you have a *preemptive scheduler*
- then thread 2 executes all 3 machine instructions
- then later thread 1 executes the remaining machine instructions
- x would end up to be 1



Note: load and store are *atomic* (indivisible) operations

Too Much Milk Problem



Two roommates want to make sure that the refrigerator is always well stocked with milk

what's the algorithm for each roommate?



Correctness property

- liveness: the program eventually enters a good state
 - if there is no milk, eventually someone would buy milk
- safety: the program never enters a bad state
 - must not end up with more than one milk



Unless otherwise specified, we will always assume that *neither the* compiler nor the architecture reorders instructions



Too Much Milk Try #1: Leave A Note



Algorithm:

- which statements are atomic?
 - the assumption here is that if a statement only access zero or one memory location, it's an atomic operation (because it cannot be preempted in the middle of that operation)



Q: Does the above solution guarantees safety and liveness?



Too Much Milk Try #1: Leave A Note



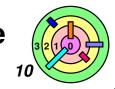
This solution satisfies liveness but violates safety

```
// thread A
                             // thread B
       if (milk == 0) {
                             if(milk == 0){
                                if (note == 0) {
                                  note = 1;
                                  milk++;
                                  note = 0;
          if (note == 0) {
            note = 1;
            milk++;
            note = 0;
time
```

- in this scenario, milk is 2 at the end



occasionally fail in ways that may be difficult to reproduce

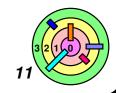




Algorithm:

```
// thread A
noteA = 1;  // leave note
if (noteB == 0) { // if no note
  if (milk == 0) { // if no milk
   milk++; // buy milk
noteA = 0;  // remove note
// thread B
noteB = 1;  // leave note
if(noteA == 0) { // if no note
  if (milk == 0) { // if no milk
   milk++; // buy milk
noteB = 0;  // remove note
```

does this solution guarantees safety and liveness?





To *prove safety*, need to look at all possible interleaving

 proof by contradiction: assuming that the algorithm is not safe, i.e., both A and B will buy milk



Consider the state of the two variables noteB and milk when thread A is at [A1]

 given the assumption, thread A will be at [A3] and thread B will be at [B3]

```
// thread A
      noteA = 1;
[A1]
      if(noteB == 0){
        if(milk == 0){
[A2]
[A3]
          milk++;
      noteA = 0;
      // thread B
      noteB = 1;
      if(noteA == 0){
[B1]
        if (milk == 0) {
[B2]
          milk++;
[B3]
[B4]
[B5]
      noteB = 0;
```





To *prove safety*, need to look at all possible interleaving

 proof by contradiction: assuming that the algorithm is not safe, i.e., both A and B will buy milk



Consider the state of the two variables noteB and milk when thread A is at [A1]

 given the assumption, thread A will be at [A3] and thread B will be at [B3]



Case 1: noteB = 1, milk = don't care

contradiction, thread A will not reach [A3]



Case 2: noteB = 0, milk > 0

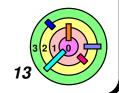
contradiction, thread A will not reach [A3]



Case 3: noteB = 0, milk = 0

contradiction, thread B will not reach [B3] ¤

```
// thread A
      noteA = 1;
[A1]
      if(noteB == 0){
        if(milk == 0){
[A2]
[A3]
          milk++;
      noteA = 0;
      // thread B
      noteB = 1;
      if(noteA == 0){
[B1]
        if (milk == 0) {
[B2]
          milk++;
[B3]
[B4]
[B5]
      noteB = 0;
```

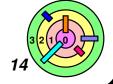




Canno prove liveness

if thread A executes [A0] and switch to thread B to execute [B0], or vice versa, both will not buy milk

```
// thread A
      noteA = 1;
[A0]
[A1]
      if (noteB == 0) {
        if (milk == 0) {
[A2]
[A3]
          milk++;
      noteA = 0;
      // thread B
[B0]
      noteB = 1;
      if(noteA == 0){
[B1]
[B2]
        if (milk == 0) {
[B3]
          milk++;
[B4]
[B5]
      noteB = 0;
```



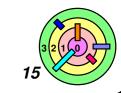
Too Much Milk Try #3: Waiting



Algorithm:

```
// thread A
noteA = 1;  // leave noteA
while(noteB == 1) { // if no note from roommate
                 // spin
if (milk == 0) {  // if no milk
                 // buy milk
 milk++;
noteA = 0;
                 // remove noteA
// thread B
noteB = 1;  // leave note
if (noteA == 0) {      // if no note from roommate
  if (milk == 0) { // if no milk
   milk++; // buy milk
noteB = 0;
                 // remove note
```

does this solution guarantees safety and liveness?



Too Much Milk Try #3: Waiting



Can prove *safety* using a similar argument for solution 2

- case 1: noteB = 1, milk = don't care
 - o contradiction, B will not buy milk
- case 2: noteB = 0, milk > 0
 - contradiction, A will not buy milk
- case 3: noteB = 0, milk = 0
 - contradiction, B will not buy milk ¤



Liveness: since thread B has no loop, noteB will eventually be 0 and thread A will get to decide to buy milk or not



Solution 3 has both safety and liveness using only atomic load and store operations

```
// thread A
noteA = 1;
while (noteB == 1)
if(milk == 0){
  milk++;
noteA = 0;
// thread B
noteB = 1;
if(noteA == 0){
  if (milk == 0) {
    milk++;
noteB = 0;
```



Too Much Milk Try #3: Waiting



Is solution 3 a "good" solution?

- issues:
 - solution is complex (why the asymmetry?)
 - there is something called Peterson's algorithm that would work more generally
 - solution is inefficient: thread A is doing busy-waiting and consuming CPU resource
 - solution may fail if the compiler or hardware reorders instructions (although this limitation can be addressed by using memory barriers, which would increase the implementation complexity of the algorithm)

```
// thread A
noteA = 1;
while (noteB == 0)
if (milk == 0) {
  milk++;
noteA = 0;
// thread B
noteB = 1;
if(noteA == 0){
  if (milk == 0) {
    milk++;
noteB = 0;
```



Too Much Milk: Use Synchronization Objects



Lock: a primitive that only one thread at a time can own

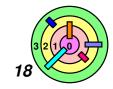
```
// thread A or thread B
Kitchen::buyIfNeeded() {
  lock.acquire();
  if (milk == 0) {
    milk++;
  }
  lock.release();
}
```

simple and symmetrical



Unless otherwise specified, we use the term *lock* and *mutex* interchangeably (although in general, a lock may allow multiple threads to have concurrent access to a resource)

```
// thread A or thread B
Kitchen::buyIfNeeded() {
   mutex.lock();
   ...
   mutex.unlock();
}
```

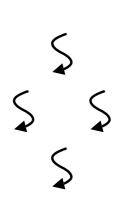


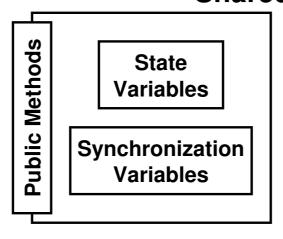
(5.2) Structuring Shared Objects

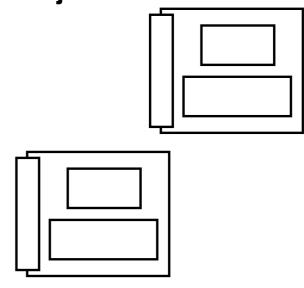


Threads And Shared Objects

Threads Shared Objects









In a multi-threaded program, threads are separate from shared objects and operate concurrently on shared objects

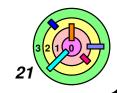
- shared objects contain both shared state and synchronization variables (for controlling concurrent access to shared state)
- Shared objects: objects that can be accessed safely by multiple threads
 - all shared state in a program should be encapsulated in one or more shared objects



Monitors



- When a programming language includes support for shared objects, a shared object is often called a *monitor*
- a monitor is a synchronization construct that allows executing entities to have both mutual exclusion and the ability to wait/block for a certain condition to become true
- Early programming languages with monitors include Birnch Hansen's Concurrent Pascal and Xerox PARC's Mesa
 - today, Java supports monitors via the synchronized keyword



Shared Objects Are Implemented In Layers

Concurrent

Applications:

Shared Objects:

Bounded Buffer

Readers/Writers

Barrier

Synchronization

Variables:

Semaphores

Locks

Condition Variables

Atomic

Instructions:

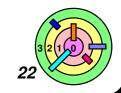
Interrupt Disable

Test-and-Set

Hardware:

Multiple Processors

Hardware Interrupts



(5.3) Locks: Mutual Exclusion

Synchronization Variables:

Semaphores

Locks

Condition Variables



Locks



- A *lock* is a synchronization variable that provides mutual exclusion (when one thread holds a lock, no other thread can hold it, i.e., other threads are excluded)
- while holding a lock, a thread can perform an arbitrary set of operations
 - those operations *appear to be atomic* to other threads
 - no other thread can observe an intermediate state
 - other threads can only observe the state after the lock is released



A program associates each lock with some subset of shared state and requires a thread to hold the lock when accessing that state

as a result, only one thread can access the shared state at a time



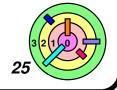
Locks: API and Properties



A lock enables mutual exclusion by providing two methods:

```
Lock::acquite() and Lock::release()
```

- a lock can be in one of two states: BUSY or FREE
- a lock is initially in the FREE state
- Lock::acquire() waits until the lock is FREE and then atomically makes the lock BUSY
 - seeing the state is FREE and setting the state to BUSY are together an atomic operation
 - if multiple threads try to acquire the lock, at most one thread will succeed
 - one thread observes that the lock is FREE and sets it to BUSY while other threads just see that the lock is BUSY
- Lock::release() makes the lock FREE
 - if there are pending acquire() operations, this state change causes one of them to proceed



Locks: API and Properties



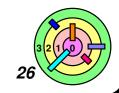
A lock implementation should ensure the following three properties

- mutual exclusion: at most one thread holds the lock
 - this is a safety property locks prevent more than one thread from accessing shared state
- progress: if no thread holds the lock and any thread attempts to acquire the lock, then eveutually some thread succeeds in acquiring the lock
 - this is a *liveness* property if a lock is FREE, some thread must be able to acquire it
- bounded waiting: if a thread T attempts to acquire a lock, then there exists a bound on the number of times other threads can successfully acquire the lock before T does
 - this is a *liveness* property any particular thread that wants to acquire the lock must eventually succeed in doing so



Non-property: thread ordering

no promise that waiting threads acquire the lock in FIFO



Case Study: Thread-Safe Bounded Queue



Use a fixed size buffer to implement a FIFO queue

```
tryget() {
  item = NULL;
  lock.acquire();
  if (front < tail) {
    item = buf[front % MAX];
    front++;
  }
  }
  lock.release();
  return item;
}</pre>
tryput(item) {
  lock.acquire();
  if ((tail - front) < size) {
    buf[tail % MAX] = item;
    tail++;
  }
  lock.release();
}</pre>
```

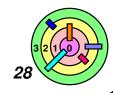
- initially, front=tail=0, lock=FREE, buf [MAX]
- for simplicity, assume no wraparound/overflow on array index
- front = total number of items removed
- tail = total number of items inserted/appended
- a thread cannot know the state of the bounded queue/buffer unless it's holding the lock
 - if tryget() returns NULL, we can only conclude that the buffer was empty

Critical Section



A *critical section* is a sequence of code that *atomically* accesses shared state

a critical section with respect to lock L is code executed when holding lock L (code between L.acquire() and L.release())



(5.4) Condition Variables: Waiting for a Change

Synchronization Variables:

Semaphores

Locks

Condition Variables



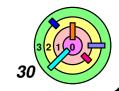
Condition Variables (CV)



Busy waiting:

```
get()
{
  while ((data = tryget()) == NULL);
  return data;
}
```

- The right way to wait for a shared state variable to change value is to go sleep on a queue (i.e., a condition variable queue) and wait for a wake up call (i.e., a notification)
 - these threads are working together and helping each other
- Waiting inside a critical section
 - called only when holding a lock
- Wait: atomically release lock, placing the thread on the CV queue, and suspend the execution of the calling thread
 - reacquire the lock when wakened
- Signal: wake up a waiting thread, if any
- Broadcast: wake up all waiting threads, if any



Condition Variable Design Pattern

```
methodThatWaits() {
  lock.acquire();
  // read/write shared state
  while (!testSharedState()) {
    cv.wait(lock);
  // read/write shared state
  lock.release();
methodThatSignals() {
  lock.acquire();
  // read/write shared state
  // if testSharedState() is true
  cv.signal(lock);
  // read/write shared state
  lock.release();
```

Example: Bounded Queue/Buffer

```
get() {
                            put(item) {
  lock.acquire();
                              lock.acquire();
  while (front==tail) {
                              while ((tail-front) == MAX) {
    empty.wait(lock);
                                 fullf.wait(lock);
  item = buf[front%MAX];
                              buf[tail%MAX] = item;
                              tail++;
  front++;
                              empty.signal(lock);
  full.signal(lock);
  lock.release();
                              lock.release();
  return item;
```



Two CV queues

- empty: threads sleep here because the buffer is empty (nothing to get, nothing to work on)
 - empty.signal() if the buffer is no longer empty
- full: threads sleep here because the buffer is full (cannot add work, no space)
 - full.signal() if the buffer is no longer full

Pre/Post Conditions

```
methodThatWaits() {
  lock.acquire();
  // pre-condition: State is consistent
  // read/write shared state
  while (!testSharedState()) {
    cv.wait(lock);
  // WARNING: shared state may have changed,
  // but testSharedState() is true and
  // pre-condition is true
  // read/write shared state
  lock.release();
methodThatSignals() {
  lock.acquire();
  // pre-condition: State is consistent
  // read/write shared state
  // if testSharedState() is true
  cv.signal(lock);
  // NO WARNING: signal keeps lock
  // read/write shared state
  lock.release();
```

Condition Variables



- Always hold lock when calling wait(), signal(), broadcast()
- always hold lock when accessing shared state



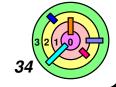
- **Condition variable is memoryless**
- if signal when no one is waiting, it's as if nothing has happened
- if wait before signal, waiting thread wakes up



- wait() atomically releases lock
- When a thread is woken up from wait (), it may not run immediately
- signal()/broadcast() put the thread on the ready list
- when lock is released, any waiting thread might acquire it
- lock is reacquired before wait () returns

wait () must be called in a loop since spurious wakeup can occur

```
while (needToWait()) {
   cv.wait(lock);
}
```



(5.5) Designing and Implementing Shared Objects



Structured Synchronization



- Add locks to object/module
 - grab lock on start to every method/procedure
 - release lock on finish
- If need to wait:

```
while (needToWait()) {
   cv.wait(lock);
}
```

- do not assume when you wake up, signaller just ran
- If do something that might wake someone up
 - signal() Or broadcast()
- Always leave shared state variables in a consistent state when lock is released, or when waiting

Remember The Rules





Always acquire lock at beginning of procedure, release at end

Always hold lock when using a condition variable

Always wait in while loop

Never spin in sleep()



Mesa vs. Hoare Semantics



Mesa

- signal() puts waiting thread on the ready list
- signaller keeps lock and processor



Hoare

- signal() gives processor and lock to waiting thread
- when waiting thread finishes, processor/lock given back to signaller
- nested signals possible
- In general, Mesa semantics makes it easier to write application code, and therefore, more widely used
 - with Hoare semantics, liveness properties is easier to prove
- We generally use the term *monitor* to mean that we are using *locks* and *CVs* for synchronization
 - message-passing is another way for synchronization



Bounded Buffer (Mesa Semantics)

```
get() {
                            put(item) {
  lock.acquire();
                              lock.acquire();
  while (front==tail) {
                              while ((tail-front) ==MAX) {
    empty.wait(lock);
                                 full.wait(lock);
  item = buf[front%MAX];
                              buf[tail%MAX] = item;
                              tail++;
  front++;
  full.signal(lock);
                              empty.signal(lock);
                              lock.release();
  lock.release();
  return item;
```



This is what we had before



Bounded Buffer (Hoare Semantics)

```
get() {
                            put(item) {
                               lock.acquire();
  lock.acquire();
  if (front==tail) {
                               if ((tail-front) ==MAX) {
    empty.wait(lock);
                                 full.wait(lock);
  item = buf[front%MAX];
                              buf[tail%MAX] = item;
                              tail++;
  front++;
                              empty.signal(lock);
  full.signal(lock);
  lock.release();
                               lock.release();
  return item;
```

- No need to loop since the lock is *transferred* from the thread calling empty.signal() to the thread that was sleeping in empty.wait()
- but we said before that wait() must be called in a loop since spurious wakeup is permitted to occur
 - under Hoare semantics, the implementation must make sure that spurious wakeup cannot occur (and this may be difficult to implement on some systems)

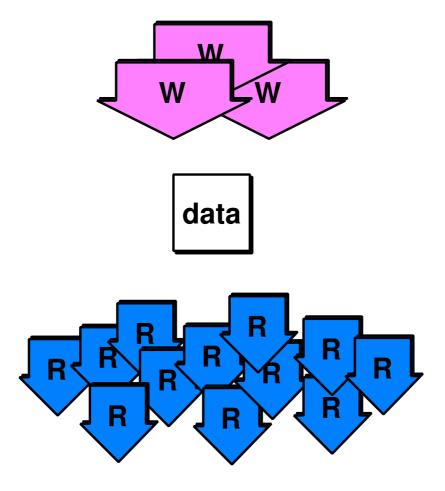
(5.6) Three Case Studies



Readers/Writers Lock



Readers/writers lock (RWLock): a lock which allows multiple reader threads to access shared data concurrently, but still provides mutual exclusion whenever a writer thread is reading or modifying the shared data

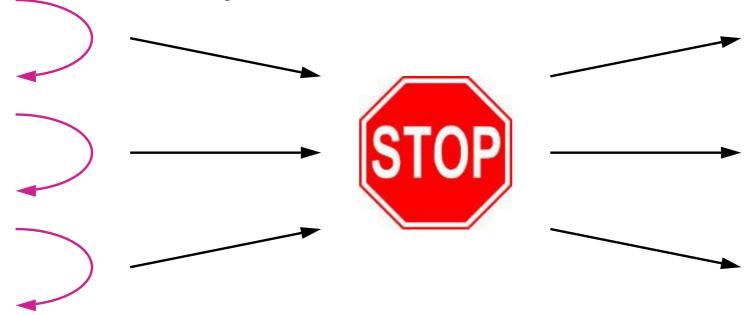




Readers/Writers Lock

```
reader() {
                              writer() {
  lock.acquire();
                                lock.acquire();
 waitingReaders++;
                                waitingWriters++;
                                while(!((readers==0))
  while (!(writers==0))
    readersCV.wait(lock);
                                    && (writers==0)))
 waitingReaders--;
                                  writersCV.wait(lock);
  activeReaders++;
                                waitingWriters--;
  lock.release();
                                activeWriters++;
                                lock.release();
  /* read data */
  lock.acquire();
                                /* write data */
  if (--activeReaders==0)
                                lock.acquire();
    writersCV.signal(lock);
                                activeWriters--;
  lock.release();
                                assert (activeWriters==0);
                                writersCV.signal(lock);
                                readersCV.broadcast(lock);
                                lock.release();
```

- readers read concurrently
- a writer writes exclusively (no concurrent reading or writing by other threads)



- When a thread is done with its work, it must call checkin()
 - checkin() doesn't return until all threads have checked in
- Ex: MapReduce, signal processing
- Synchronization barrier is differrent from a memory barrier
 - memory barrier is to synchronize memory operations for one thread

MapReduce



MapReduce pseudo-code:

- create N threads
- create barrier to synchronize N threads
- each thread executes map operation in parallel
- barrier.checkin()
- each thread sends data in parallel to reducers
- barrier.checkin()
- each thread executes reduce operation in parallel
- barrier.checkin()



```
int numEntered = 0;
void checkin() {
  lock.acquire();
  if (++numEntered < barrierN) {
    while(numEntered < barrierN)
      barrierCV.wait(lock);
  } else {
    barrierCV.broadcast(lock);
  }
  lock.release();
}</pre>
```

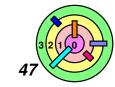
- The above implementation of checkin() results in a barrier that can only be used once
 - where can you reset numEntered to 0 so you can reuse this barrier?





One solution is to use two barriers, one for checking in and one for checking out

```
int numEntered = 0, numLeft = 0;
void checkin()
  lock.acquire();
  if (++numEntered < barrierN) {</pre>
    while (numEntered < barrierN)</pre>
      checkinCV.wait(lock);
  } else {
    numLeft = 0;
    checkinCV.broadcast(lock);
  if (++numLeft < barrierN) {</pre>
    while (numLeft < barrierN)</pre>
      checkoutCV.wait(lock);
  } else {
    numEntered = 0;
    checkoutCV.broadcast(lock);
  lock.release();
```





A more efficient solution

```
int numEntered = 0, generation = 0;
void checkin() {
  lock.acquire();
  if (++numEntered < barrierN) {
    int my_generation = generation;
    while(my_generation == generation)
       barrierCV.wait(lock);
  } else {
    numEntered = 0;
    generation++;
    barrierCV.broadcast(lock);
  }
  lock.release();
}</pre>
```



Starvation



Starvation: the possibility that a thread doesn't get to run

the bounded buffer solution is not starvation-free

```
get() {
                            put(item) {
  lock.acquire();
                              lock.acquire();
                              while ((tail-front) == MAX) {
  while (front==tail) {
    empty.wait(lock);
                                 fullf.wait(lock);
  item = buf[front%MAX];
                              buf[tail%MAX] = item;
                              tail++;
  front++;
                              empty.signal(lock);
  full.signal(lock);
  lock.release();
                               lock.release();
  return item;
```



Let's say that thread X calls get () and goes to sleep because the buffer is empty (and some other threads are doing the same thing)

starvation can happen if every time another thread calls put (), a 3rd thread that has called get () got the item and thread X always see an empty buffer

Starvation



The bounded buffer solution needs liveness constraints:

- starvation-freedom: if a thread waits in get(), it is guaranteed to proceed after a bounded number of put() calls
- first-in-first-out (FIFO): the kth thread to acquire the lock in get () retrieves the item inserted by the kth to acquire the lock in put ()
 - this is a much stronger constraint than starvation-freedom
 - if the FIFO constraint is satisfied, starvation-freedom is guaranteed
 - you can build your own queue for the threads to sleep on (with a queue of CVs)



get () for FIFO Bounded Buffer

```
queue<CV> getQueue, putQueue;
int numGetCalled=0; numPutCalled=0;
get() {
  lock.acquire();
  myGetPos = numGetCalled++;
  myGetCV = new CV;
  getQueue.push_back (myGetCV);
  while (front<myGetPos | front==tail) {</pre>
    myGetCV.wait(lock);
  getQueue.delete_front();
  item = buf[front%MAX];
  front++;
  // wake up the next thread waiting in put(), if any
  nextPutThreadCV = putQueue.front();
  if (nextPutThreadCV != NULL) {
    nextPutThreadCV.signal(lock);
  lock.release();
  return item;
```

put () is similar

(5.7) Implementing Synchronization Objects



Shared Objects Are Implemented In Layers

Concurrent Applications:

Shared Objects:

Bounded Buffer Readers/Writers

Barrier

Synchronization Variables:

Semaphores

Locks

Condition Variables

Atomic

Instructions:

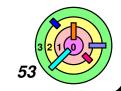
Interrupt Disable

Test-and-Set

Hardware:

Multiple Processors

Hardware Interrupts



Implementing Synchronization



We will talk about kernel thread synchronization first (and will briefly talk about user thread synchronization)



Use memory load/store

see too much milk solution - too complex



Modern systems have hardware support for:

- disabling interrupts: on a uniprocessor, we can make any sequence of instructions atomic by disabling interrupts
- atomic read-modify-write instructions: globally atomic instructions on a multiprocessor system
- note that each of these primitives are also memory barriers, i.e., all prior instructions must complete before one of these instructions is executed



Implementing Locks By Disabling Interrupts

```
Lock::acquire() {
    disableInterrupts();
}
Lock::release() {
    enableInterrupts();
}
```



This implementation does not provide mutual inclusion even on a uniprocessor (if the thread calls yield())



What else is wrong with the above implementation?

- what if the thread calling acquite() doesn't yield the processor after the lock is acquired?
 - it's not a good idea to run the processor with interrupt disable for a long period of time
 - some interrupt needs attention of the processor right away
 - other threads do not get to run and make the system unresponsive to handling user inputs or other real-time tasks
 - malicious or buggy program can monopolize the processor





If the lock is BUSY, no point in running the acquiring thread until the lock is free

- yield the processor (by calling thread_switch())



Still need to disable the interrupt briefly to protect the lock's data structure

need to re-enable the interrupt before we put the thread to sleep



```
class Lock {
 private:
    int value = FREE;
    queue waiting; // hence the name "queueing lock"
 public:
    void acquire();
    void release();
};
Lock::acquire()
  disableInterrupts();
  if (value == BUSY) {
    waiting.add(runningThread);
    runningThread->state = WAITING;
    TCB *nextThread=readyList.remove();
    thread_switch(runningThread, nextThread);
    runningThread->state = RUNNING;
  } else {
    value = BUSY;
  enable_interrupt();
```

class Lock {

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```
private:
                                          our convention is that
    int value = FREE;
                                            thread_switch() must only be
    queue waiting; // hence the nar
                                            called when interrupt is disabled
  public:
                                          if some code calls
    void acquire();
                                            thread_switch(), it must disable
    void release();
                                            interrupt first and enable interrupt
};
                                            when thread_switch() returns
Lock::acquire()
  disableInterrupts();
  if (value == BUSY)
    waiting.add(runningThread);
    runningThread->state = WAITING;
    TCB *nextThread=readyList.remove();
    thread_switch(runningThread, nextThread);
    runningThread->state = RUNNING;
  } else {
    value = BUSY;
  enable_interrupt();
```

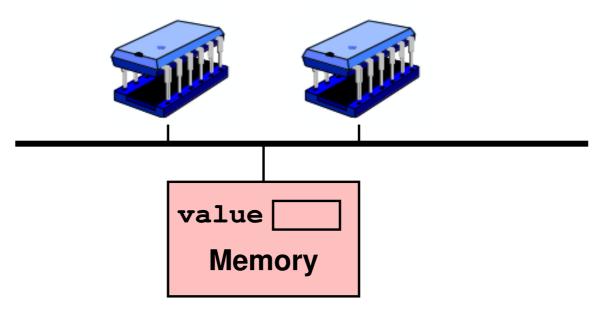
```
Lock::release()
{
    disableInterrupts();
    if (!waiting.empty()) {
        TCB *nextThread=waiting.remove();
        nextThread->state = READY;
        readyList.add(nextThread);
    } else {
        value = FREE;
    }
    enable_interrupt();
}
```



Is it a bug that we don't change value to FREE when lock is released and the waiting queue is not empty?



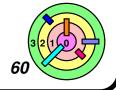
Implementing Multiprocessor Spinlocks



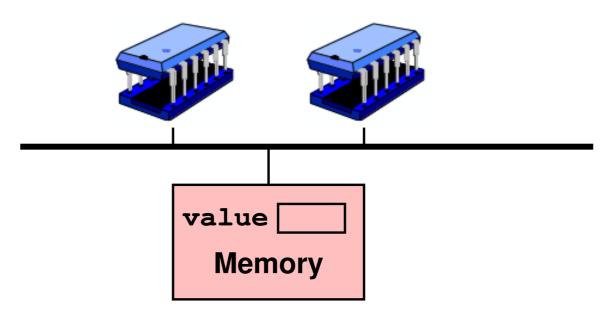
When there are multiple processors, the difficulty lies in locking

```
if (value == FREE) {
  value = BUSY;
}
```

- if both threads execute the above code concurrently in different processors, both threads think they got the lock
- No way to implement this with only software



Atomic Hardware Instructions





Most processor architectures provide *atomic read-modify-write* instructions to support synchronization

 compare-and-swap and test-and-set are other names for such an instruction (two operations locked together as an atomic instruction over the bus)





Lock is represented as a bit, 0 if FREE, 1 if BUSY

```
bool test_and_set(int *lock)
{
   bool previous_value=*lock;
   *lock = BUSY;
   return previous_value;
}
```

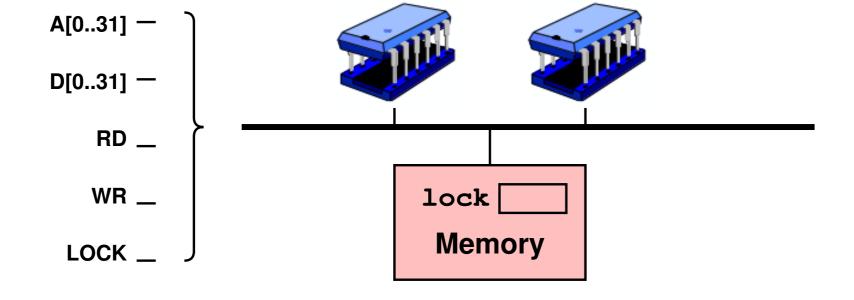
- if test_and_set() returns BUSY (i.e., 1), it means that the calling thread does not own the lock
- if test_and_set() returns FREE (i.e., 0), it means that the calling thread is now the exclusive owner of the lock

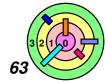


Lock is represented as a bit, 0 if FREE, 1 if BUSY

```
bool test_and_set(int *lock)
{
    bool previous_value=*lock;
    *lock = BUSY;
    return previous_value;
}
```

e.g., value is FREE, call test_and_set (&value)



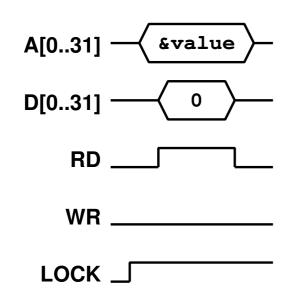




Lock is represented as a bit, 0 if FREE, 1 if BUSY

```
bool test_and_set(int *lock)
{
    bool previous_value=*lock;
    *lock = BUSY;
    return previous_value;
}
```

e.g., value is FREE, call test_and_set (&value)



 if LOCK signal is asserted on the bus, no otherprocessor can perform any operation over the bus

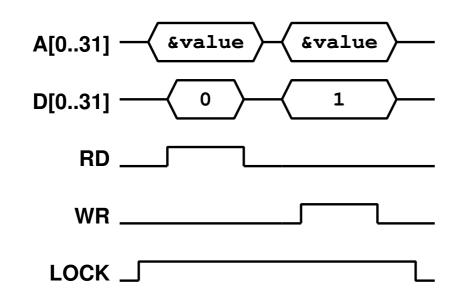




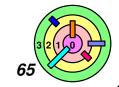
Lock is represented as a bit, 0 if FREE, 1 if BUSY

```
bool test_and_set(int *lock)
{
    bool previous_value=*lock;
    *lock = BUSY;
    return previous_value;
}
```

e.g., value is FREE, call test_and_set (&value)



- if LOCK signal is asserted on the bus, no otherprocessor can perform any operation over the bus
 - read from the bus and write to the bus, together, is an atomic operation

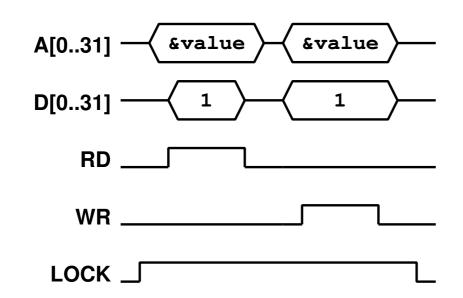




Lock is represented as a bit, 0 if FREE, 1 if BUSY

```
bool test_and_set(int *lock)
{
    bool previous_value=*lock;
    *lock = BUSY;
    return previous_value;
}
```

e.g., value is BUSY, call test_and_set (&value)



- if LOCK signal is asserted on the bus, no otherprocessor can perform any operation over the bus
 - read from the bus and write to the bus, together, is an atomic operation



Better Spinlock



Naive spinlock (lock out the bus way too much)

```
Spinlock::acquire()
{
   while (test_and_set(&value))
    ; // spin
}
```

Better spinlock (try to minimize locking out the bus)

Spinlocks



Spinlocks are wasteful

- processor time wasted waiting for the lock to be released
- barely acceptable if locks are held only briefly



Interrupt service routine must run to completion without blocking

- must use a spinlock to access shared data (since interrupt handlers are not threads)
- in addition, before using a spinlock, must disable interrupts first



Most OSes keep interrupt handlers extremely simple

- minimal work that must be done inside an interrupt handler are
 - wake up a thread waiting for the I/O completion interrupt
 - this would require accessing the ready list (access protected by first disabling interrupts then lock a spinlock)
 - start the next I/O operation (to keep the I/O device as busy as possible)



How Many Spinlocks



Various data structures need synchronized access

- need a queue of waiting threads on lock X
- need a queue of waiting threads on lock Y
- list of threads ready to run



What's wrong with one spinlock for the entire kernel?

bottleneck



Instead:

- one spinlock per lock
- one spinlock for the ready list
 - per-processor ready list: one spinlock per processor/core



Which Thread Is Currently Running?



Thread scheduler needs to find the TCB of the currently running thread

- to suspend and switch to a new thread
- to check if the current thread holds a lock before acquiring or releasing it



On a uniprocessor, easy: use a global variable (currentThread)



On a multiprocessor system, varioius methods:

- compiler can dedicate a register: e.g., use r31 to point to the TCB of the running thread and every processor has its own r31
- if stack sizes are fixed: can put a pointer to the TCB of the running thread at the bottom of its stack (assuming the base address of the stack is page-aligned)
 - find the address of this pointer by masking the current stack pointer (i.e., zeroing out the least-significant bits)



```
class Lock {
  private:
    int value = FREE;
    SpinLock spinLock; // need this for multiprocessor
    queue waiting; // queueing lock
  public:
    void acquire();
    void release();
};
```



```
Lock::acquire()
  spinLock.acquire();
  if (value == BUSY)
    waiting.add(runningThread);
    // spinLock released inside suspend()
    scheduler.suspend(&spinLock);
  } else {
    value = BUSY;
    spinLock.release();
Lock::release()
  spinLock.acquire();
  if (!waiting.empty()) {
    TCB *nextThread=waiting.remove();
    scheduler.makeReady(nextThread);
  } else {
    value = FREE;
  spinLock.release();
```

Scheduler Implementing

```
class Scheduler {
  private:
    // access only when owning schedulerSpinLock
    queue readyList;
    // access only when interrupt is disabled
    SpinLock schedulerSpinLock;
  public:
    void suspend(SpinLock *lock);
    void makeReady(TCB *thread);
};
```



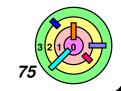
Scheduler Implementing

```
Scheduler::suspend(SpinLock *lock)
  disableInterrupts();
  schedulerSpinLock.acquire();
  lock->release();
  runningThread->state = WAITING;
  TCB *nextThread=readyList.remove();
  thread_switch(runningThread, nextThread);
  runningThread->state = RUNNING;
  schedulerSpinLock.release();
  enableInterrupts();
Scheduler::makeReady(TCB *thread)
  disableInterrupts();
  schedulerSpinLock.acquire();
  nextThread->state = READY;
  readyList.add(thread);
  schedulerSpinLock.release();
  enable_interrupt();
```

Scheduler Implementing

```
Scheduler::suspend(SpinLock *lock)
  disableInterrupts();
  schedulerSpinLock.acquire();
  lock->release();
  runningThread->state = WAITING;
  TCB *nextThread=readyList.remove();
  thread_switch(runningThread, nextThread);
  runningThread->state = RUNNING;
  schedulerSpinLock.release();
  enableInterrupts();
Scheduler::makeReady(TCB *thread)
  disableInterrupts();
  schedulerSpinLock.acquire();
  nextThread->state = READY;
  readyList.add(thread);
  schedulerSpinLock.release();
  enable_interrupt();
```

without using schedulerSpinLock, thread 1 can be running in two CPUs simultaneously

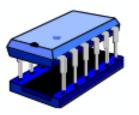


Cache Affinity



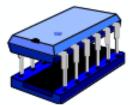
After a thread has run on a particular processor, next time it runs, it would be cheaper to run it on the same processor

cache affinity









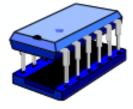


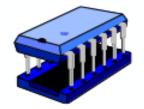


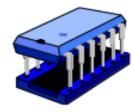
This means that if you use a shared ready list for multiple processors, you will not be able to take advantage of cache affinity

- therefore, you should use one ready list per processor
- scheduler may do *load balancing* occasionally







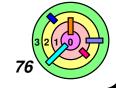




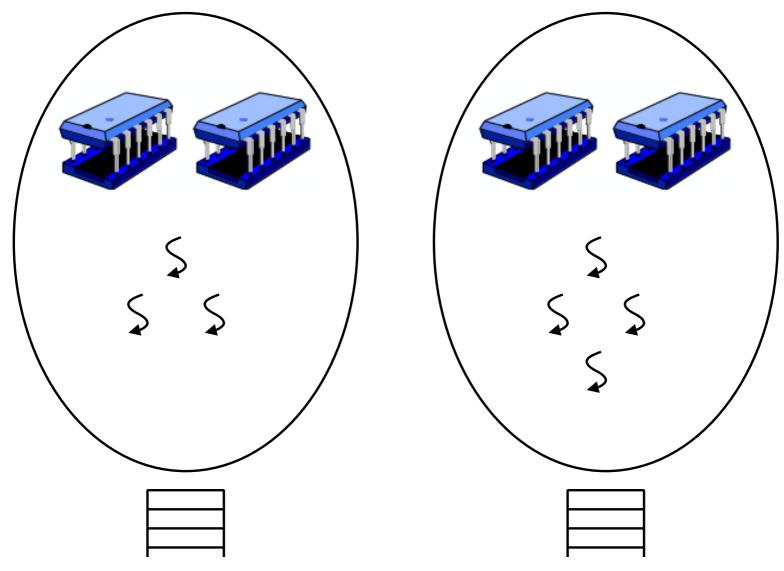








Solaris: Processor Sets





Somewhere between the two extremes

reducing the frequency of requiring load balancing



Case Study: Linux 2.6 Kernel Mutex Lock



Linux kernel implementation is optimized for the common case

- common case (fast path): locks are in the FREE state
 - use read-modify-write instruction to acquire the lock and be optimistic that most of the time, it would be successful and be done with acquiring the lock
 - x86 processor has atomic decrment/increment (return previous value), atomic exchange (swap content of memory location and CPU register), atomic test-and-set
- rare case (slow path): locks are in the BUSY state and lots of threads are waiting in a long queue to acquire it
 - if the read-modify-write instruction failed to acquire the lock, then use the previous approach for multiprocessor queueing locks



Fast Path Acquire

```
struct mutex {
   atomic_t count;
    // 1: unlocked
    // 0: locked with no waiting thread
    // <0: locked, with possible waiting threads
   spinlock_t wait_lock;
   struct list_head wait_list;
};</pre>
```

1:

Use a macro for the fast path to save procedure call overhead:



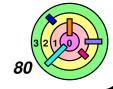
Slow Path Acquire



- The slow path uses the previous approach for multiprocessor queueing locks (start by disabling preemption, acquiring spinlock, adding thread to wait list)
- main difference is that count is no longer 1 or 0 and can go negative
- also, when thread returns from scheduler.suspend(), it cannot not assume that it owns the lock and must try to acquire the lock again

```
for (;;) {
   if (atomic_xchg(&lock->count, -1) == 1)
     break;
   // go to sleep
}
// count is now -1
if (list_empty(&lock->wait_list)) {
   atomic_set(&lock->count, 0);
}
```

release spinlock and enable preemption





Fast Path Release



1:

Use a macro for the fast path to save procedure call overhead:

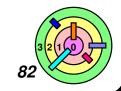


Slow Path Release



The slow path code is similar to the previous approach for multiprocessor queueing locks

```
lock->wait_lock.acquire();
// now unlock the lock
atomic_set(&lock->count, 1);
if (!list_empty(&lock->wait_list)) {
    // wake up one thread on lock->wait_list
}
lock->wait_lock.release();
```



Linux 2.6 Kernel Mutex Lock



Acquiring and releasing a lock can be inexpensive



Programmers sometimes go to great lengths to avoid acquiring a lock

- when there is little contention, avoiding locks is unlikely to significantly improve performance
- it's often better to just keep things simple and use locks to ensure mutual exclusion when accesing shared state



Implementing Condition Variables (Mesa Semantics)

```
void CV::wait(Lock *lock)
                                class CV {
                                  private:
  assert(lock.isHeld());
                                    queue waiting;
  waiting.add(currentThread);
                                  public:
  scheduler.suspend(lock);
                                    void wait(Lock *lock);
  lock->acquire();
                                    void signal();
                                    void broadcast();
                                };
void CV::signal()
  if (waiting.notEmpty())
    TCB *thread = waiting.remove();
    scheduler.makeReady(thread);
void CV::broadcast()
  while (waiting.notEmpty())
    TCB *thread = waiting.remove();
    scheduler.makeReady(thread);
```

since lock is already acquired, the code is simple



Implementing Application-Level Synchronization



Recall from Ch 4 that there are two ways to support application-level concurrency:

- via system calls
- via user-level thread scheduler



Kernel-managed threads

- can split the lock data structure:
 - count is kept in the address space of the user process
 - kernel holds the spinlock and waiting queue



User-managed threads

- lock data structure is kept completely in the address space of the user process
- what about disabling interrupts?
 - only need to disable upcalls from the OS kernel (upcalls in user space is analygous to interrupts in kernel)



(5.8) Semaphores Considered Harmful



Synchronization Primitives



Many different synchronization primitives have been proposed

- semaphores
- communication sequential processes
- event delivery
- message passing
- etc.



None of these are more powerful than using locks and condition variables

 a program using other paradigms can be mapped to threads and monitors using straight-forward transformations



Semaphores



Semaphores are defined as follows:

- a semaphore is a non-negative integer value
- when a semaphore is created, its value can be initialized to any non-negative integer
- a semaphore has only two operations and no other operations are allowed to access the semaphore value
 - atomic decrement: Semaphore::P() waits until the semaphore value is positive, then atomically decrements the semaphore value by 1 and returns
 - atomic increment: Semaphore::V() atomically increments the semaphore value by 1
 - if some threads are waiting in P(), one of them is enabled so that its call to P() succeeds at decrementing the semaphore value and returns



Semaphores Considered Harmful



- Why are semaphores considered harmful?
- because it's used in two different ways



- If semaphore value is initialized to be > 0, it can be used for mutual exclusion
- e.g., can be used to solve the FIFO bounded buffer problem

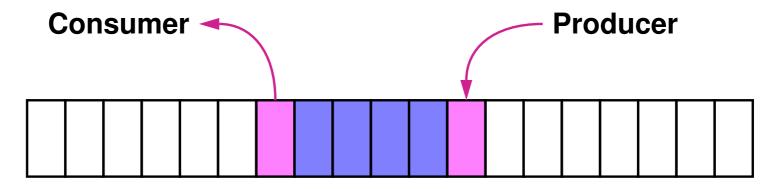


- If semaphore value is initialized to be 0, it can be used for general waiting
- e.g., thread A calls P () to wait for thread B to call V ()
 - thread B can call v() first, then when thread A calls P(), it would return right away
 - P() is like CV::wait() and V() is like CV::signal(), but not exactly the same because if CV::signal() is called first, CV::wait() can get stuck forever
- for general waiting, it's more clean to use CV+lock/mutex and not a semaphore



Semaphores are often used to synchronize communication between an I/ O device and threads waiting for I/ O completion

 one producer (I/O device) and one consumer (thread waiting for I/O completion)



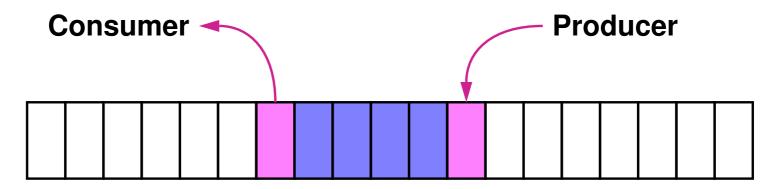


Conveyor belt (in hardware)

- perfect parallelism between producer and consumer
- A circular buffer is used in software implementation
- Most of the time, no interference
 - if you use a single mutex to lock the entire array of buffers, it's an overkill (i.e., too inefficient)



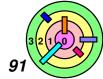
- Semaphores are often used to synchronize communication between an I/ O device and threads waiting for I/ O completion
- one producer (I/O device) and one consumer (thread waiting for I/O completion)





When does it require synchronization?

- producer needs to be blocked when all slots are full
- consumer needs to be blocked when all slots are empty
- We will look at the solution for multiple producer and multiple consumer
 - will use a semaphore as a mutex to atomically accessing some shared variables



```
Semaphore empty=MAX;
                 Semaphore occupied=0;
                 Semaphore mutex=1;// synchronize threads
                 int front=0, tail=0;
void put(item) {
                               char get() {
  empty.P();
                                  occupied.P();
  mutex.P();
                                  mutex.P();
  buf[tail%MAX] = item;
                                  item = buf[front%MAX];
  tail++;
                                  front++
  mutex.V();
                                  mutex.V();
  occupied.V();
                                  empty.V();
                                  return item;
   empty
 occupied
             Consumer
                           Producer
   mutex
     tail
         0
    front
```

```
Semaphore empty=MAX;
                 Semaphore occupied=0;
                 Semaphore mutex=1;// synchronize threads
                 int front=0, tail=0;
void put(item) {
                               char get() {
                             ccupied.P();
  empty.P();
  mutex.P();
                                 mutex.P();
  buf[tail%MAX] = item;
                                 item = buf[front%MAX];
  tail++;
                                 front++
  mutex.V();
                                 mutex.V();
  occupied.V();
                                 empty.V();
                                 return item;
   empty
 occupied
             Consumer
                           Producer
   mutex
     tail
         0
    front
```

```
Semaphore empty=MAX;
                 Semaphore occupied=0;
                 Semaphore mutex=1;// synchronize threads
                 int front=0, tail=0;
void put(item) {
                               char get() {
                             ccupied.P();
  empty.P();
 mutex.P();
                                 mutex.P();
  buf[tail%MAX] = item;
                                 item = buf[front%MAX];
  tail++;
                                 front++
  mutex.V();
                                 mutex.V();
  occupied.V();
                                 empty.V();
                                 return item;
   empty
 occupied
             Consumer
                           Producer
   mutex
     tail
         0
    front
```

```
Semaphore empty=MAX;
                 Semaphore occupied=0;
                 Semaphore mutex=1;// synchronize threads
                 int front=0, tail=0;
void put(item) {
                               char get() {
                             ccupied.P();
  empty.P();
  mutex.P();
                                 mutex.P();
  buf[tail%MAX] = item;
                                 item = buf[front%MAX];
  tail++;
                                 front++
  mutex.V();
                                 mutex.V();
  occupied.V();
                                 empty.V();
                                 return item;
   empty
 occupied
             Consumer
                           Producer
   mutex
         0
     tail
         0
    front
```

```
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```

- if produce and consume run at same rate and work at different spots, no producer may ever wait for a consumer and vice versa
 - although threads of same type must be synchronized
- if producer is fast and consumer slow, producer may wait
- if consumer is fast and producer slow, consumer may wait

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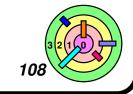


Mutex by itself is more "coarse grain"

you may use one mutex to control access to the number of empty and occupied cells, front, and tail



Semaphore gives more "fine grain parallelism"

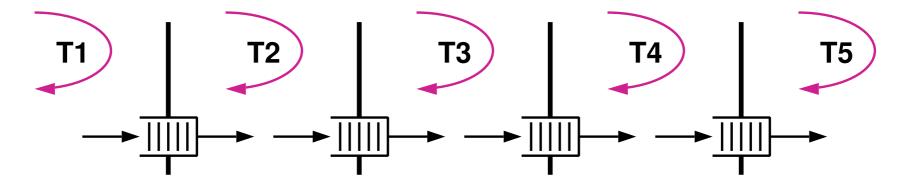


Semaphores Considered Harmful

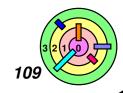


Semaphore has limited use

- difficult to use perfectly due to semaphore's memory property
- pretty much the only place it's really good for is producer-consumer
 - although it's a very important application of semaphores



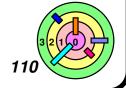
- the queues above are *queues with bounded buffer*
- "pipelined parallelism"



Communicating Sequential Processes (CSP / Google Go)



- One thread per shared object
- only that thread is allowed to touch object's data
- to call a method on the object, send thread a message with method name and arguments
- thread waits in a loop, get message and perform operation
- No memory race conditions!
- since data access is sequential/serialized



CSP Example: FIFO Bounded Buffer

```
CV empty, full;
                int front=0, tail=0;
get() {
                               void put(item) {
  lock.acquire();
                                 lock.acquire();
  while (front==tail) {
                                 while ((tail-front) ==MAX) {
    empty.wait(&lock);
                                   full.wait(&lock);
  item = buf[front%MAX];
                                 buf[tail%MAX] = item;
  front++
                                 tail++;
                                 empty.signal(&lock);
  full.signal(lock);
                                 lock.release();
  lock.release();
  return item;
```

- producer thread sleeps in the full CV queue to wait for an empty spot to appear in the buffer
- consumer thread sleeps in the empty CV queue to wait for a data item to appear in the buffer

CSP Example: FIFO Bounded Buffer

```
while (cmd = getNext()){
  if (cmd == GET) {
    if (front < tail) {</pre>
      // do get()
      // send reply
      // if pending put, do it and send reply
    } else {
      // queue get operation
  } else { // cmd == PUT
    if ((tail-front) < MAX) {</pre>
      // do put()
      // send reply
      // if pending get, do it and send reply
    } else {
      // queue put operation
```

Locks/CVs vs. CSP

- Create a lock on shared data = create a single thread to operate on data
- Create a method on a shared object = send a message and wait for reply
- Wait on a CV = queue an operation that cannot be completed just yet
- Signal a condition = perform a queued operation that has been enabled to proceed



Message-Passing vs. Shared Memory

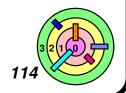


Which approach is better for programming concurrency, message-passing or shared memory?

- as it turns out, any program using monitors can be recast into CSP using a simple transmation, and vice versa
 - executing a procedure while holding a monitor lock is equivalent to processing a message in CSP
 - a monitor is single-threaded while it's holding the lock

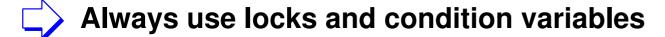


It's just a matter of style!



Review: Remember The Rules



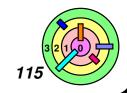






Always wait in while loop

Never spin in sleep()



Extra Slides

