

CSI62  
Operating Systems and  
Systems Programming  
Lecture 8

Locks, Semaphores, Monitors

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## Review: Too Much Milk Solution #3

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- Here is a possible two-note solution:

<u>Thread A</u>	<u>Thread B</u>
leave note A;	leave note B;
while (note B) {\\X	if (noNote A) {\\Y
do nothing;	if (noMilk) {
}	buy milk;
if (noMilk) {	}
buy milk;	}
}	remove note B;
remove note A;	

- Does this work? **Yes**. Both can guarantee that:
  - It is safe to buy, or
  - Other will buy, ok to quit
- At **X**:
  - If no note B, safe for A to buy,
  - Otherwise wait to find out what will happen
- At **Y**:
  - If no note A, safe for B to buy
  - Otherwise, A is either buying or waiting for B to quit

# Case I

---

- “leave note A” happens before “if (noNote A)”

```
leave note A;  
while (note B) {\X  
    do nothing;  
};
```

*happened  
before*

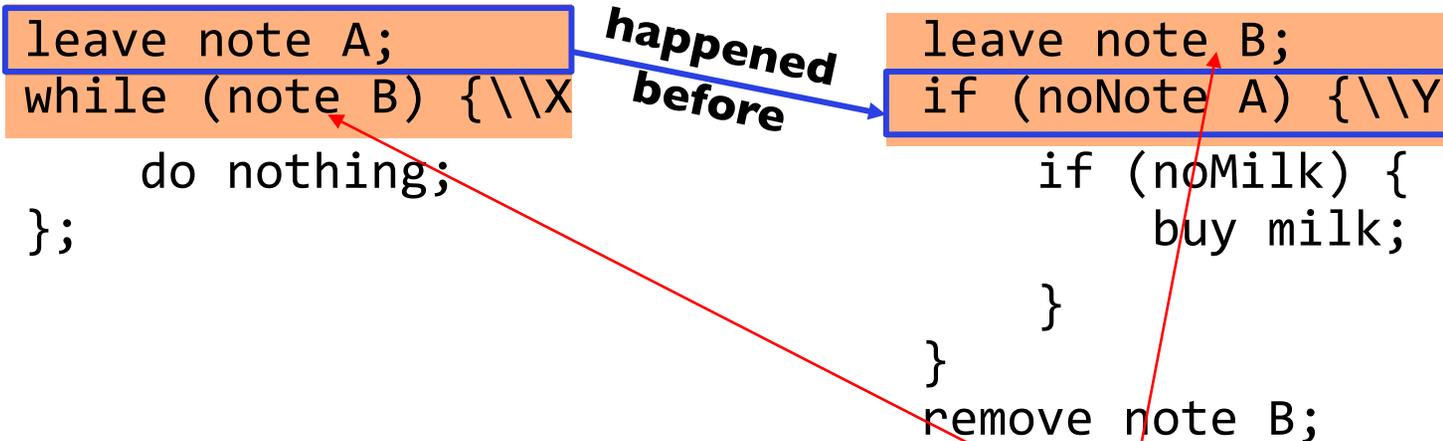
```
leave note B;  
if (noNote A) {\Y  
    if (noMilk) {  
        buy milk;  
    }  
}  
remove note B;
```

```
if (noMilk) {  
    buy milk;}  
}  
remove note A;
```

**B will not buy milk!**

# Case I

- “leave note A” happens before “if (noNote A)”



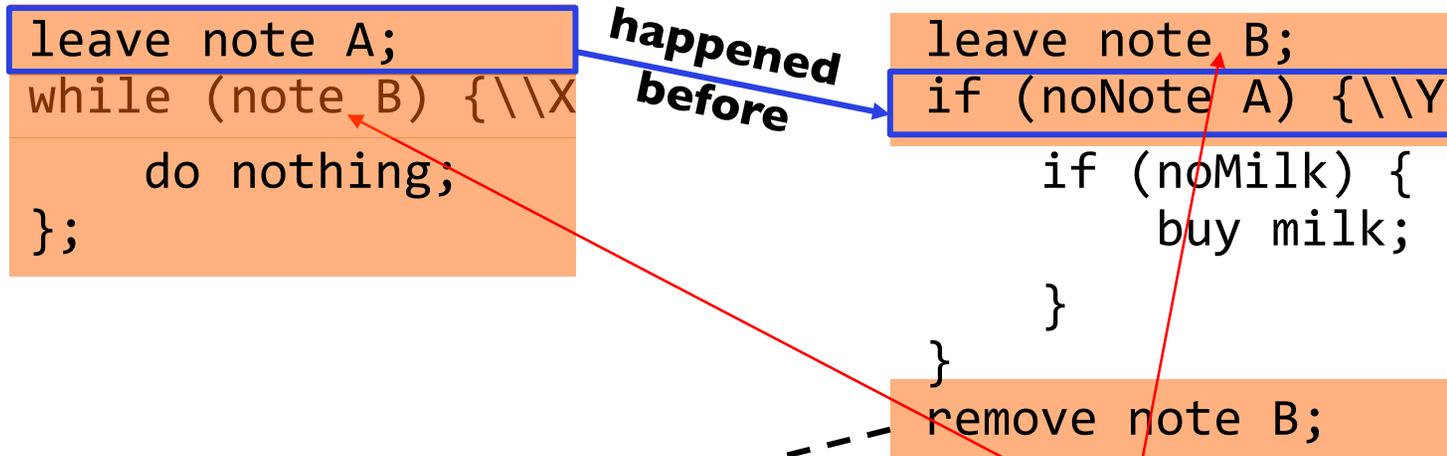
```
if (noMilk) {
    buy milk;}
}
remove note A;
```

if “while (note B)” happens **before** “leave note B”

- A goes ahead and buys milk

# Case I

- “leave note A” happens before “if (noNote A)”



```
if (noMilk) {
    buy milk;}
}
remove note A;
```

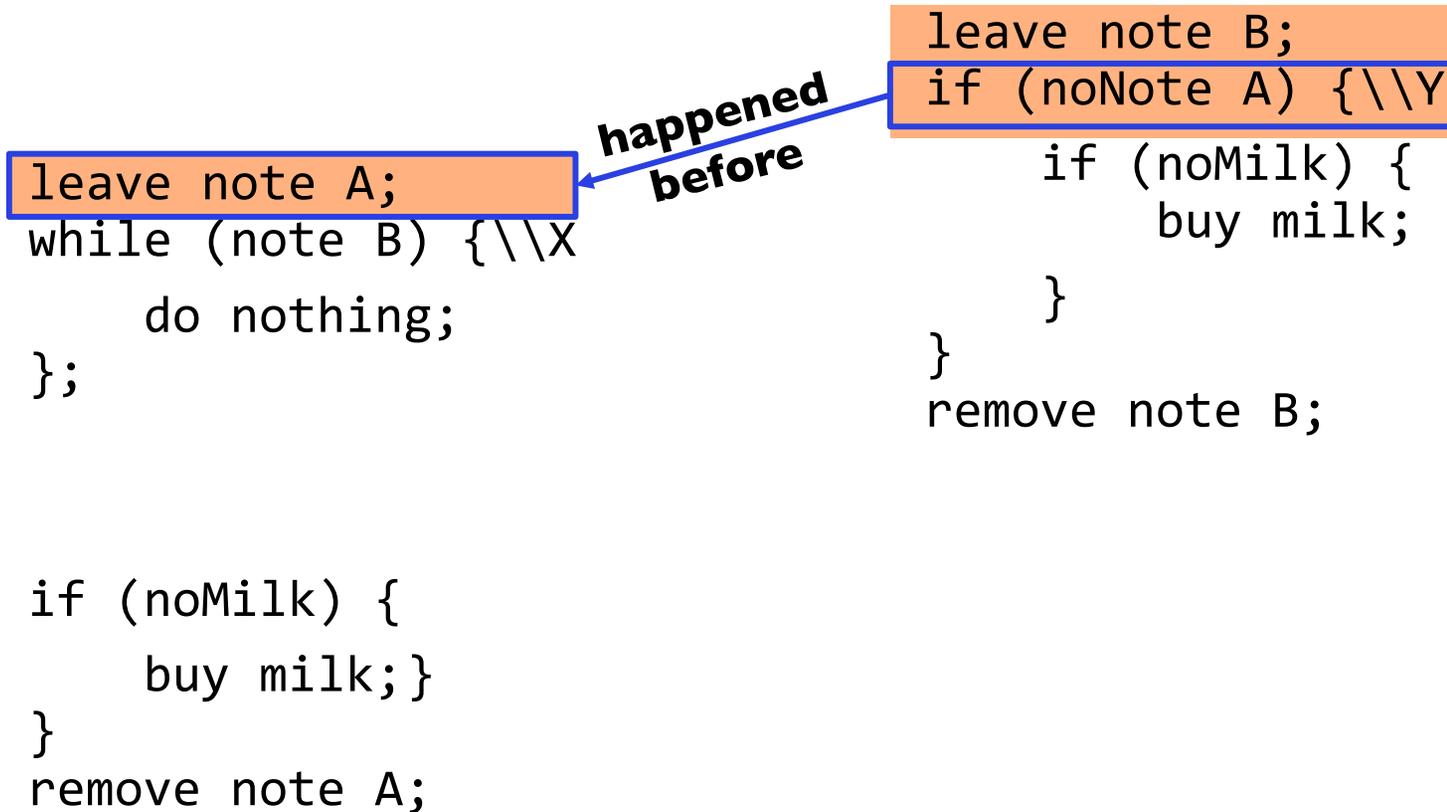
if “while (note B)” happens **after** “leave note B”

- A waits until “remove note B”,
- Then, A goes ahead and buys milk

## Case 2

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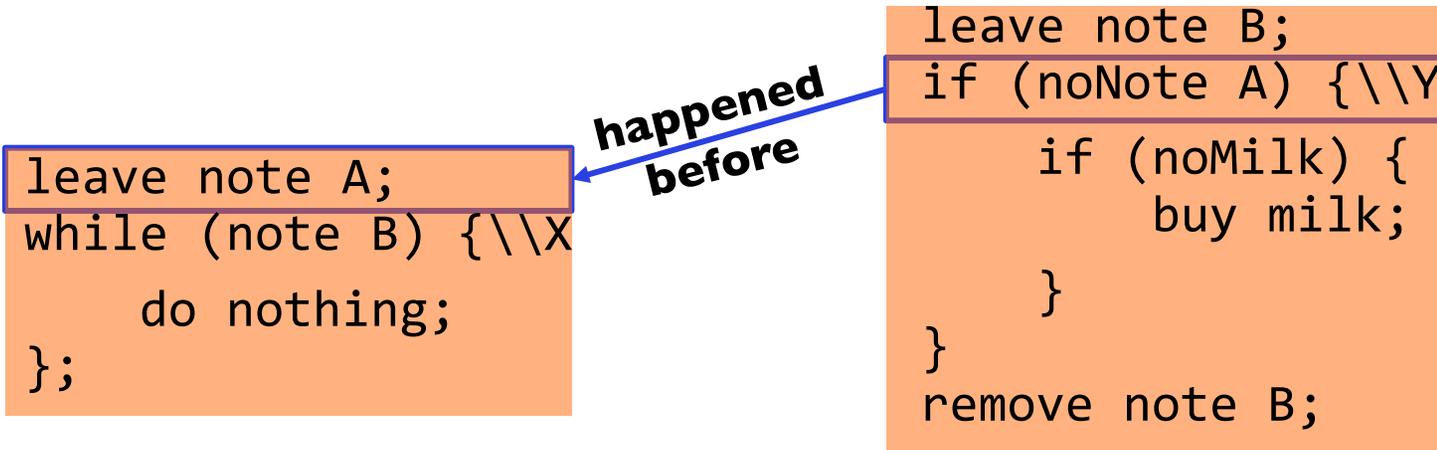
- “if (noNote A)” happens before “leave note A”



## Case 2

---

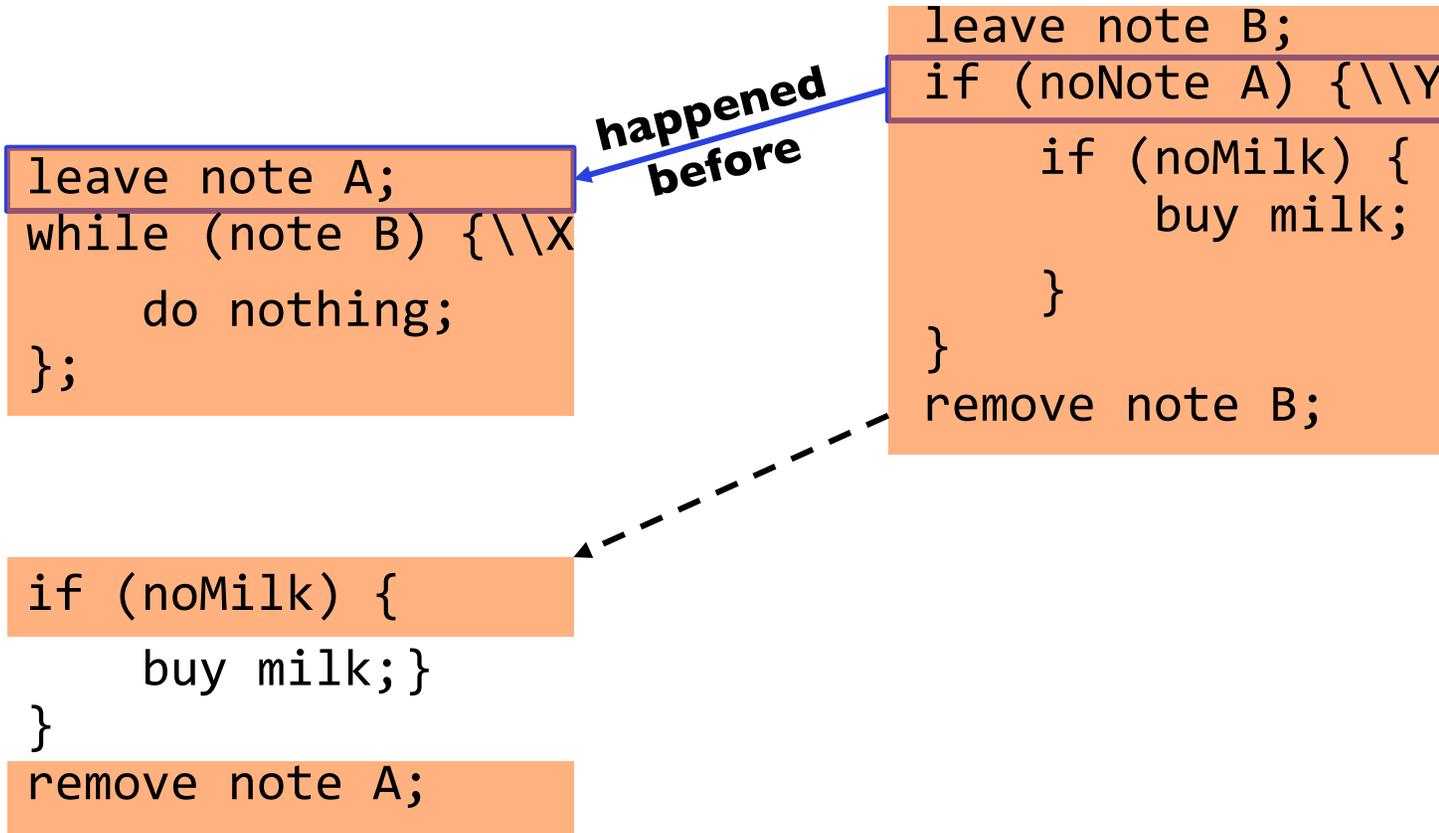
- “if (noNote A)” happens before “leave note A”



```
if (noMilk) {
    buy milk;}
}
remove note A;
```

## Case 2

- “if (noNote A)” happens before “leave note A”



# Review: Solution #3 discussion

---

- Our solution protects a single “Critical-Section” piece of code for each thread:

```
if (noMilk) {  
    buy milk;  
}
```

- Solution #3 works, but it's really unsatisfactory
  - Really complex – even for this simple an example
    - » Hard to convince yourself that this really works
  - A's code is different from B's – what if lots of threads?
    - » Code would have to be slightly different for each thread
  - While A is waiting, it is consuming CPU time
    - » This is called “busy-waiting”
- There's a better way
  - Have hardware provide higher-level primitives than atomic load & store
  - Build even higher-level programming abstractions on this hardware support

## Too Much Milk: Solution #4

---

- Suppose we have some sort of implementation of a lock
  - **lock.Acquire()** – wait until lock is free, then grab
  - **lock.Release()** – Unlock, waking up anyone waiting
  - These must be atomic operations – if two threads are waiting for the lock and both see it's free, only one succeeds to grab the lock
- Then, our milk problem is easy:

```
    milklock.Acquire();
    if (nomilk)
        buy milk;
    milklock.Release();
```
- Once again, section of code between **Acquire()** and **Release()** called a “**Critical Section**”
- Of course, you can make this even simpler: suppose you are out of ice cream instead of milk
  - Skip the test since you always need more ice cream ;-)

# Where are we going with synchronization?

Programs	Shared Programs
Higher-level API	Locks Semaphores Monitors Send/Receive
Hardware	Load/Store Disable Ints Test&Set Compare&Swap

- We are going to implement various higher-level synchronization primitives using atomic operations
  - Everything is pretty painful if only atomic primitives are load and store
  - Need to provide primitives useful at user-level

# Goals for Today

---

- Explore several implementations of locks
- Continue with Synchronization Abstractions
  - Semaphores, Monitors, and Condition variables
- Very Quick Introduction to scheduling

# How to Implement Locks?

---



- **Lock**: prevents someone from doing something
  - Lock before entering critical section and before accessing shared data
  - Unlock when leaving, after accessing shared data
  - Wait if locked
    - » Important idea: all synchronization involves waiting
    - » Should *sleep* if waiting for a long time
- Atomic Load/Store: get solution like Milk #3
  - Pretty complex and error prone
- Hardware Lock instruction
  - Is this a good idea?
  - What about putting a task to sleep?
    - » How do you handle the interface between the hardware and scheduler?
  - Complexity?
    - » Done in the Intel 432 – each feature makes HW more complex and slow

# Naïve use of Interrupt Enable/Disable

---

How can we build multi-instruction atomic operations?

- Recall: dispatcher gets control in two ways.
  - Internal: Thread does something to relinquish the CPU
  - External: Interrupts cause dispatcher to take CPU
- On a uniprocessor, can avoid context-switching by:
  - Avoiding internal events (although virtual memory tricky)
  - Preventing external events by disabling interrupts

Consequently, naïve Implementation of locks:

```
LockAcquire { disable Ints; }  
LockRelease { enable Ints; }
```

# Naïve use of Interrupt Enable/Disable: Problems

---

Can't let user do this! Consider following:

```
LockAcquire();  
While(TRUE) {;
```

Real-Time system—no guarantees on timing!

- Critical Sections might be arbitrarily long

What happens with I/O or other important events?

- “Reactor about to meltdown. Help?”



# Better Implementation of Locks by Disabling Interrupts

---

Key idea: maintain a lock variable and impose mutual exclusion only during operations on that variable

```
int value = FREE;
```



```
Acquire() {  
    disable interrupts;  
    if (value == BUSY) {  
        put thread on wait queue;  
        Go to sleep();  
        // Enable interrupts?  
    } else {  
        value = BUSY;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```

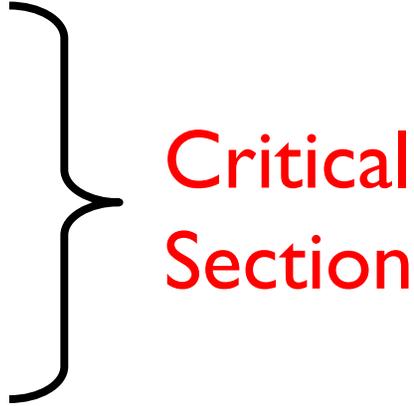
```
Release() {  
    disable interrupts;  
    if (anyone on wait queue) {  
        take thread off wait queue  
        Place on ready queue;  
    } else {  
        value = FREE;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```

# New Lock Implementation: Discussion

---

- Why do we need to disable interrupts at all?
  - Avoid interruption between checking and setting lock value
  - Otherwise two threads could think that they both have lock

```
Acquire() {  
    disable interrupts;  
    if (value == BUSY) {  
        put thread on wait queue;  
        Go to sleep();  
        // Enable interrupts?  
    } else {  
        value = BUSY;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```



**Critical  
Section**

- Note: unlike previous solution, the critical section (inside **Acquire()**) is very short
  - User of lock can take as long as they like in their own critical section: doesn't impact global machine behavior
  - Critical interrupts taken in time!

# Interrupt Re-enable in Going to Sleep

---

- What about re-enabling ints when going to sleep?

```
Acquire() {
    disable interrupts;
    if (value == BUSY) {
        put thread on wait queue;
        Go to sleep();
    } else {
        value = BUSY;
    }
    enable interrupts;
}
```

# Interrupt Re-enable in Going to Sleep

---

- What about re-enabling ints when going to sleep?

**Enable Position** 

```
Acquire() {  
    disable interrupts;  
    if (value == BUSY) {  
        put thread on wait queue;  
        Go to sleep();  
    } else {  
        value = BUSY;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```

- Before Putting thread on the wait queue?

# Interrupt Re-enable in Going to Sleep

---

- What about re-enabling ints when going to sleep?

**Enable Position** 

```
Acquire() {  
    disable interrupts;  
    if (value == BUSY) {  
        put thread on wait queue;  
        Go to sleep();  
    } else {  
        value = BUSY;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```

- Before Putting thread on the wait queue?
  - Release can check the queue and not wake up thread

# Interrupt Re-enable in Going to Sleep

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- What about re-enabling ints when going to sleep?

```
Acquire() {  
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        value = BUSY;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```

Enable Position 

- Before Putting thread on the wait queue?
  - Release can check the queue and not wake up thread
- After putting the thread on the wait queue

# Interrupt Re-enable in Going to Sleep

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- What about re-enabling ints when going to sleep?

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    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```

Enable Position →

- Before Putting thread on the wait queue?
  - Release can check the queue and not wake up thread
- After putting the thread on the wait queue
  - Release puts the thread on the ready queue, but the thread still thinks it needs to go to sleep
  - Misses wakeup and still holds lock (deadlock!)

# Interrupt Re-enable in Going to Sleep

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Acquire() {  
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        Go to sleep();  
    } else {  
        value = BUSY;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```

Enable Position →

- Before Putting thread on the wait queue?
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# Interrupt Re-enable in Going to Sleep

---

- What about re-enabling ints when going to sleep?

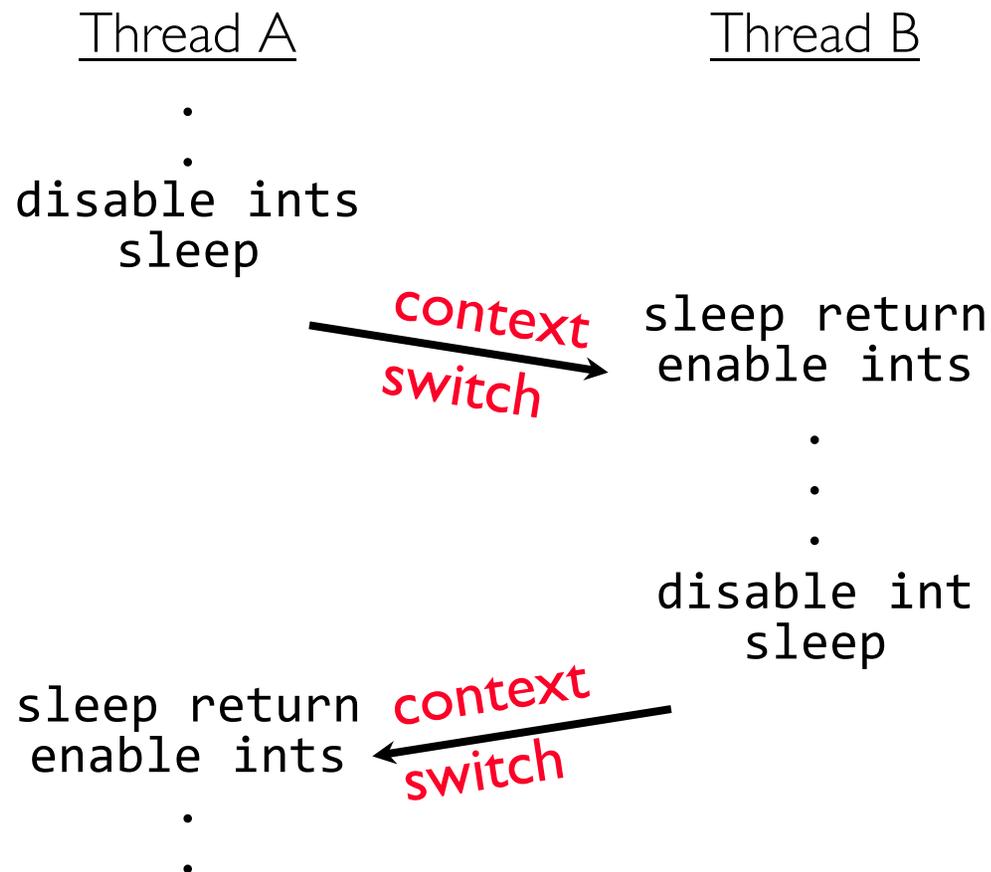
```
Acquire() {  
    disable interrupts;  
    if (value == BUSY) {  
        put thread on wait queue;  
        Go to sleep();  
    } else {  
        value = BUSY;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```

Enable Position →

- Before Putting thread on the wait queue?
  - Release can check the queue and not wake up thread
- After putting the thread on the wait queue
  - Release puts the thread on the ready queue, but the thread still thinks it needs to go to sleep
  - Misses wakeup and still holds lock (deadlock!)
- Want to put it after **sleep()**. But – how?

# How to Re-enable After Sleep()? ---

- In scheduler, since interrupts are disabled when you call sleep:
  - Responsibility of the next thread to re-enable ints
  - When the sleeping thread wakes up, returns to acquire and re-enables interrupts



# Atomic Read-Modify-Write Instructions

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- Problems with previous solution:
  - Can't give lock implementation to users
  - Doesn't work well on multiprocessor
    - » Disabling interrupts on all processors requires messages and would be very time consuming
- Alternative: **atomic instruction sequences**
  - These instructions read a value and write a new value atomically
  - Hardware is responsible for implementing this correctly
    - » on both uniprocessors (not too hard)
    - » and multiprocessors (requires help from cache coherence protocol)
  - Unlike disabling interrupts, can be used on both uniprocessors and multiprocessors

# Examples of Read-Modify-Write

---

- ```
test&set (&address) {          /* most architectures */
    result = M[address];      /* return result from "address" and
    M[address] = 1;          /* set value at "address" to 1 */
    return result;
}
```
- ```
swap (&address, register) { /* x86 */
    temp = M[address];      /* swap register's value to
    M[address] = register;  /* value at "address" */
    register = temp;
}
```
- ```
compare&swap (&address, reg1, reg2) { /* 68000 */
    if (reg1 == M[address]) {
        M[address] = reg2;
        return success;
    } else {
        return failure;
    }
}
```

# Implementing Locks with test&set

---

- Another flawed, but simple solution:

```
int value = 0; // Free
Acquire() {
    while (test&set(value)); // while busy
}
Release() {
    value = 0;
}
```

- Simple explanation:
  - If lock is free, test&set reads 0 and sets value=1, so lock is now busy  
It returns 0 so while exits
  - If lock is busy, test&set reads 1 and sets value=1 (no change)  
It returns 1, so while loop continues
  - When we set value = 0, someone else can get lock
- **Busy-Waiting**: thread consumes cycles while waiting

# Problem: Busy-Waiting for Lock

---

- Positives for this solution
  - Machine can receive interrupts
  - User code can use this lock
  - Works on a multiprocessor
- Negatives
  - This is very inefficient as thread will consume cycles waiting
  - Waiting thread may take cycles away from thread holding lock (no one wins!)
  - **Priority Inversion**: If busy-waiting thread has higher priority than thread holding lock  $\Rightarrow$  no progress!
- Priority Inversion problem with original Martian rover
- For semaphores and monitors, waiting thread may wait for an arbitrary long time!
  - Thus even if busy-waiting was OK for locks, definitely not ok for other primitives
  - Homework/exam solutions should avoid busy-waiting!



# Better Locks using test&set

---

- Can we build test&set locks without busy-waiting?
  - Can't entirely, but can minimize!
  - Idea: only busy-wait to atomically check lock value

```
int guard = 0;  
int value = FREE;
```



```
Acquire() {  
    // Short busy-wait time  
    while (test&set(guard));  
    if (value == BUSY) {  
        put thread on wait queue;  
        go to sleep() & guard = 0;  
    } else {  
        value = BUSY;  
        guard = 0;  
    }  
}
```

```
Release() {  
    // Short busy-wait time  
    while (test&set(guard));  
    if anyone on wait queue {  
        take thread off wait queue  
        Place on ready queue;  
    } else {  
        value = FREE;  
    }  
    guard = 0;  
}
```

- Note: sleep has to be sure to reset the guard variable
  - Why can't we do it just before or just after the sleep?

# Locks using Interrupts vs. test&set

---

Compare to “disable interrupt” solution

```
int value = FREE;
```



```
Acquire() {  
    disable interrupts;  
    if (value == BUSY) {  
        put thread on wait queue;  
        Go to sleep();  
        // Enable interrupts?  
    } else {  
        value = BUSY;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```

```
Release() {  
    disable interrupts;  
    if (anyone on wait queue) {  
        take thread off wait queue  
        Place on ready queue;  
    } else {  
        value = FREE;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```

Basically replace

- **disable interrupts** → **while (test&set(guard));**
- **enable interrupts** → **guard = 0;**

# Administrivia

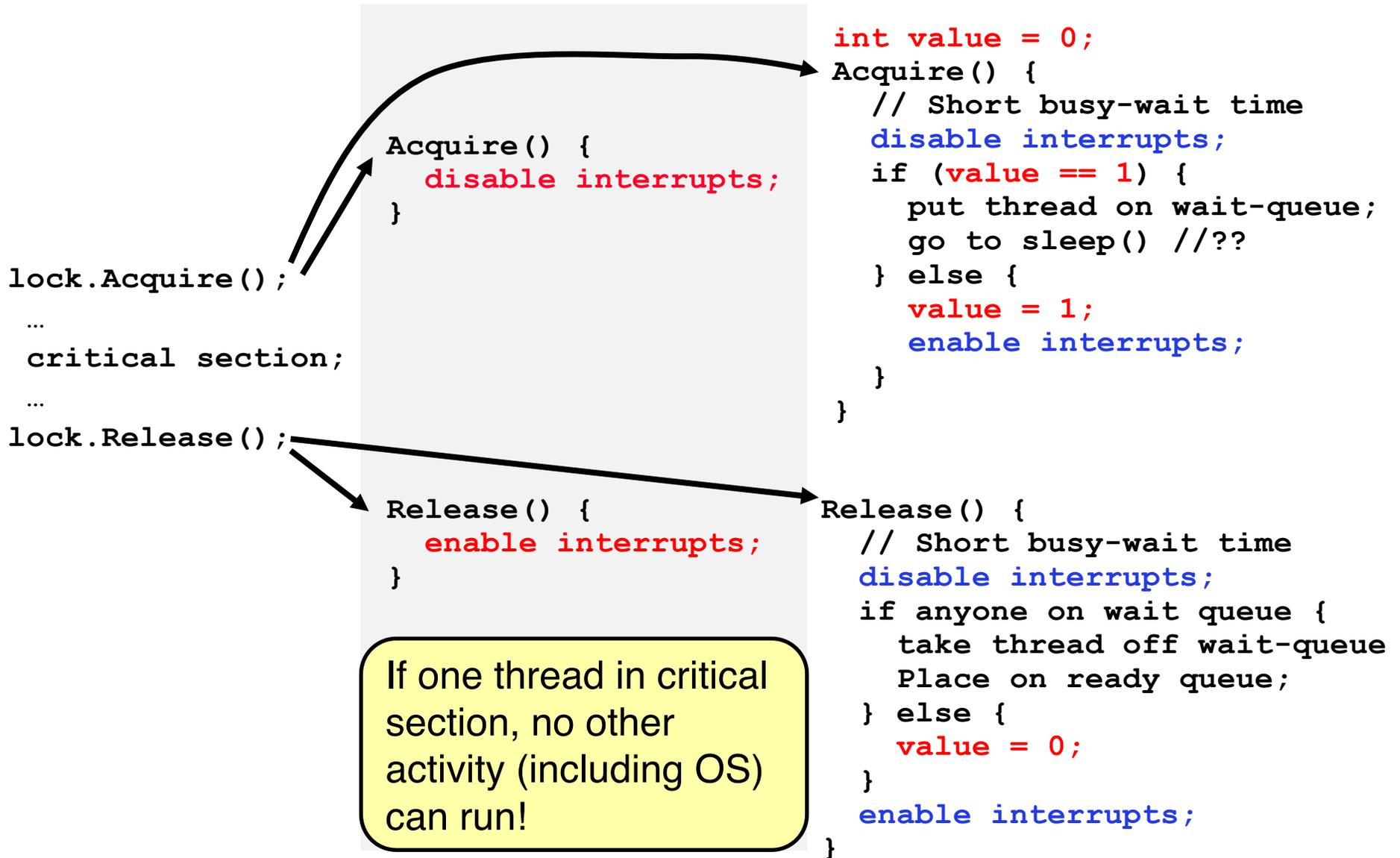
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- Midterm Monday 10/1 5:00-6:30PM
- Project I Design Document due today
- Project I Design reviews upcoming
  - High-level discussion of your approach
    - » What will you modify?
    - » What algorithm will you use?
    - » How will things be linked together, etc.
    - » Do not need final design (complete with all semicolons!)
  - You *will* be asked about testing
    - » Understand testing framework
    - » Are there things you are doing that are not tested by tests we give you?
- *Do your own work!*
  - Please do not try to find solutions from previous terms
  - We will be on the look out for anyone doing this...today

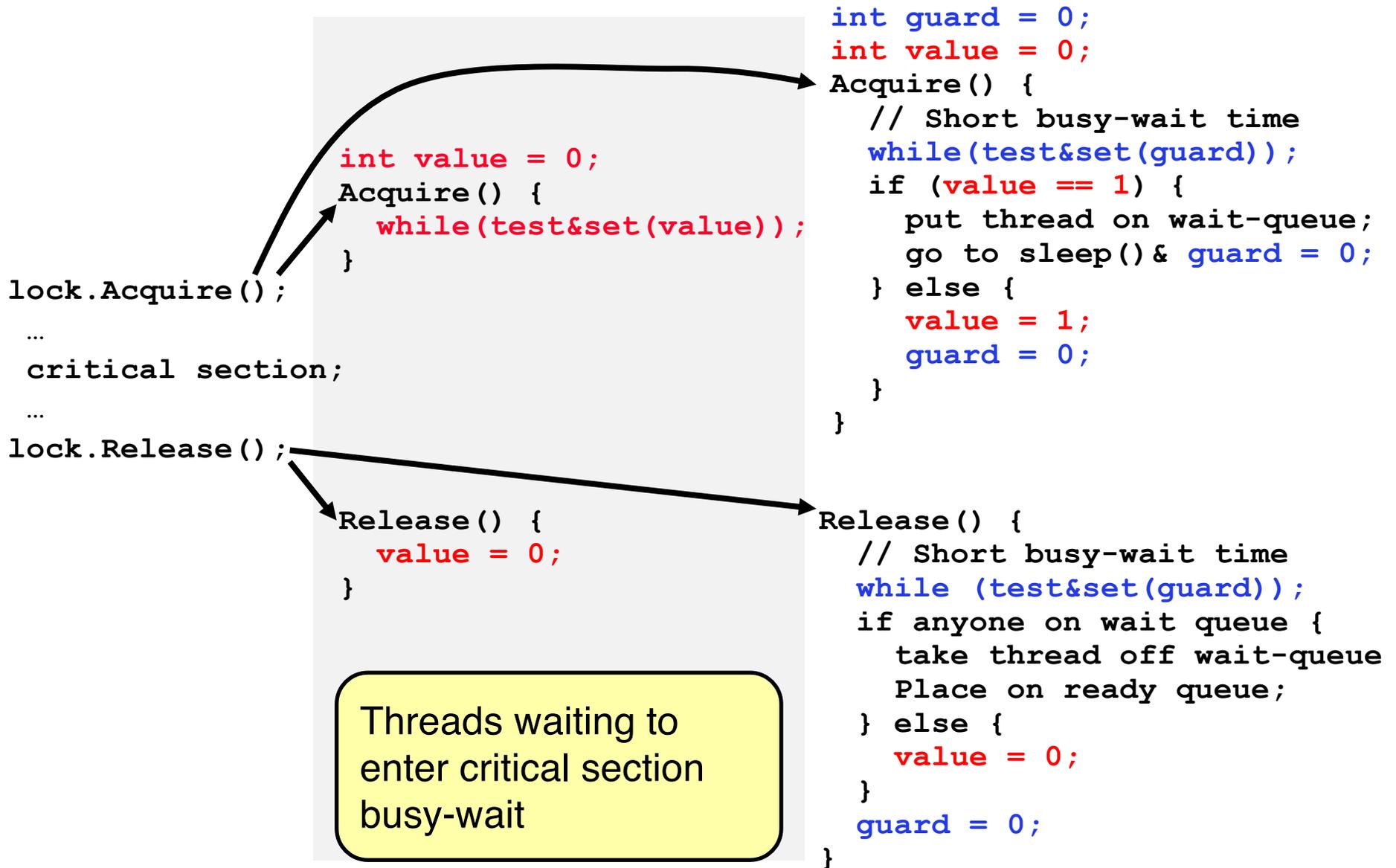
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**BREAK**

# Recap: Locks using interrupts



# Recap: Locks using test & wait



# Higher-level Primitives than Locks

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- Goal of last couple of lectures:
  - What is right abstraction for synchronizing threads that share memory?
  - Want as high a level primitive as possible
- Good primitives and practices important!
  - Since execution is not entirely sequential, really hard to find bugs, since they happen rarely
  - UNIX is pretty stable now, but up until about mid-80s (10 years after started), systems running UNIX would crash every week or so – concurrency bugs
- Synchronization is a way of coordinating multiple concurrent activities that are using shared state
  - This lecture and the next presents a some ways of structuring sharing

# Semaphores

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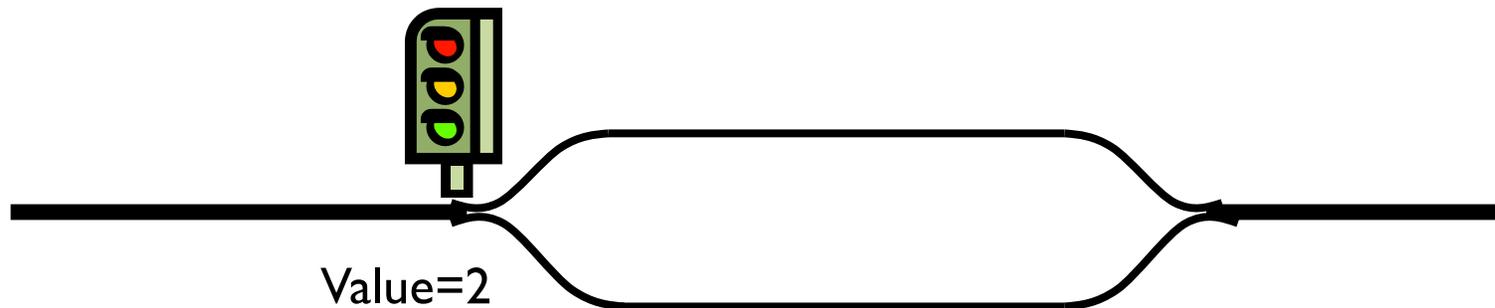


- Semaphores are a kind of generalized lock
  - First defined by Dijkstra in late 60s
  - Main synchronization primitive used in original UNIX
- Definition: a Semaphore has a non-negative integer value and supports the following two operations:
  - **P()**: an atomic operation that waits for semaphore to become positive, then decrements it by 1
    - » Think of this as the wait() operation
  - **V()**: an atomic operation that increments the semaphore by 1, waking up a waiting P, if any
    - » Think of this as the signal() operation
  - Note that **P()** stands for “*proberen*” (to test) and **V()** stands for “*verhogen*” (to increment) in Dutch

# Semaphores Like Integers Except

---

- Semaphores are like integers, except
  - No negative values
  - Only operations allowed are P and V – can't read or write value, except to set it initially
  - Operations must be atomic
    - » Two P's together can't decrement value below zero
    - » Similarly, thread going to sleep in P won't miss wakeup from V – even if they both happen at same time
- Semaphore from railway analogy
  - Here is a semaphore initialized to 2 for resource control:



# Two Uses of Semaphores

---

Mutual Exclusion (initial value = 1)

- Also called “Binary Semaphore”.
- Can be used for mutual exclusion:

```
semaphore.P();  
// Critical section goes here  
semaphore.V();
```

Scheduling Constraints (initial value = 0)

- Allow thread 1 to wait for a signal from thread 2, i.e., thread 2 **schedules** thread 1 when a given **event** occurs
- Example: suppose you had to implement ThreadJoin which must wait for thread to terminate:

```
Initial value of semaphore = 0  
ThreadJoin {  
    semaphore.P();  
}  
ThreadFinish {  
    semaphore.V();  
}
```



# Producer-Consumer with a Bounded Buffer



- Problem Definition
  - Producer puts things into a shared buffer
  - Consumer takes them out
  - Need synchronization to coordinate producer/consumer
- Don't want producer and consumer to have to work in lockstep, so put a fixed-size buffer between them
  - Need to synchronize access to this buffer
  - Producer needs to wait if buffer is full
  - Consumer needs to wait if buffer is empty
- Example 1: GCC compiler
  - `cpp | cc1 | cc2 | as | ld`
- Example 2: Coke machine
  - Producer can put limited number of Cokes in machine
  - Consumer can't take Cokes out if machine is empty



# Correctness constraints for solution

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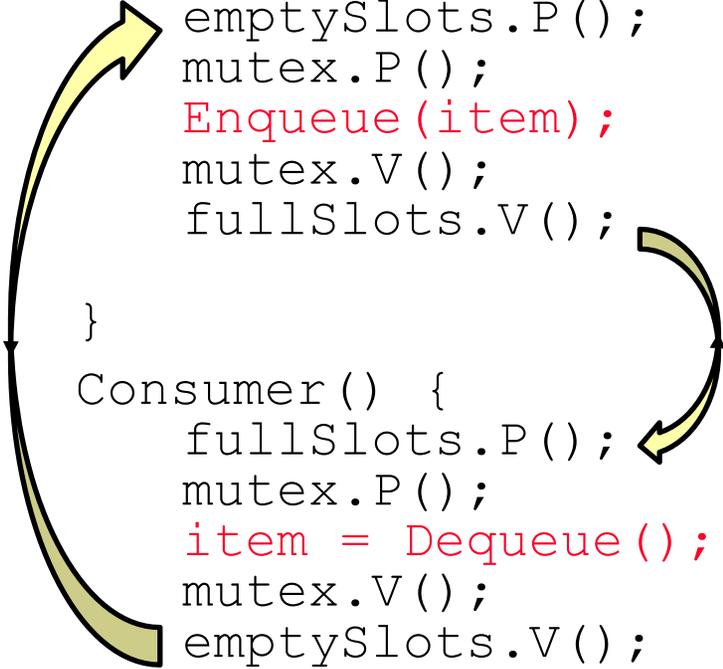
- Correctness Constraints:
  - Consumer must wait for producer to fill buffers, if none full (scheduling constraint)
  - Producer must wait for consumer to empty buffers, if all full (scheduling constraint)
  - Only one thread can manipulate buffer queue at a time (mutual exclusion)
- Remember why we need mutual exclusion
  - Because computers are stupid
  - Imagine if in real life: the delivery person is filling the machine and somebody comes up and tries to stick their money into the machine
- General rule of thumb:  
**Use a separate semaphore for each constraint**
  - Semaphore fullBuffers; // consumer's constraint
  - Semaphore emptyBuffers; // producer's constraint
  - Semaphore mutex; // mutual exclusion

# Full Solution to Bounded Buffer

```
Semaphore fullSlots = 0; // Initially, no coke
Semaphore emptySlots = bufSize;
// Initially, num empty slots
Semaphore mutex = 1; // No one using machine
```

```
Producer(item) {
    emptySlots.P(); // Wait until space
    mutex.P(); // Wait until machine free
    Enqueue(item);
    mutex.V();
    fullSlots.V(); // Tell consumers there is
                  // more coke
}
```

```
Consumer() {
    fullSlots.P(); // Check if there's a coke
    mutex.P(); // Wait until machine free
    item = Dequeue();
    mutex.V();
    emptySlots.V(); // tell producer need more
    return item;
}
```



# Discussion about Solution

---

Why asymmetry?

Decrease # of  
empty slots

Increase # of  
occupied slots

- Producer does: `emptySlots.P()`, `fullSlots.V()`
- Consumer does: `fullSlots.P()`, `emptySlots.V()`

Decrease # of  
occupied slots

Increase # of  
empty slots

## Discussion about Solution (cont'd)

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Is order of P's important?

Is order of V's important?

What if we have 2 producers or 2 consumers?

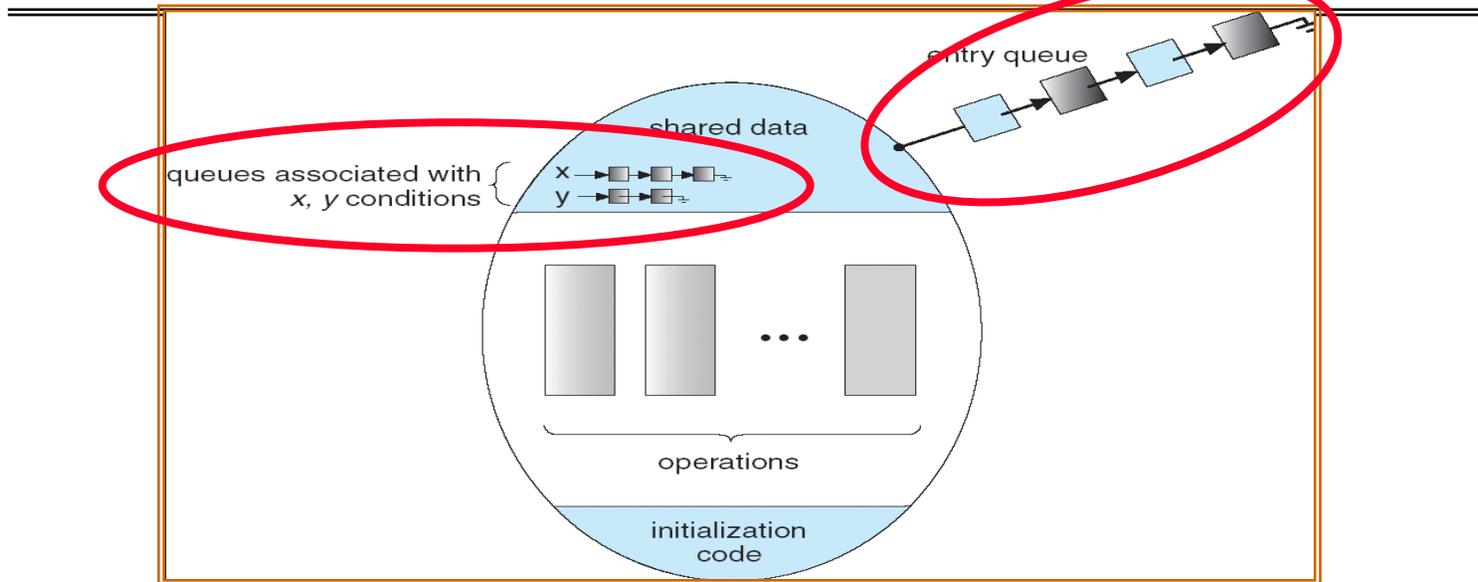
```
Producer(item) {  
    mutex.P();  
    emptySlots.P();  
    Enqueue(item);  
    mutex.V();  
    fullSlots.V();  
}  
  
Consumer() {  
    fullSlots.P();  
    mutex.P();  
    item = Dequeue();  
    mutex.V();  
    emptySlots.V();  
    return item;  
}
```

# Motivation for Monitors and Condition Variables

---

- Semaphores are a huge step up; just think of trying to do the bounded buffer with only loads and stores
  - Problem is that semaphores are dual purpose:
    - » They are used for both mutex and scheduling constraints
    - » Example: the fact that flipping of P's in bounded buffer gives deadlock is not immediately obvious. How do you prove correctness to someone?
- Cleaner idea: Use *locks* for mutual exclusion and *condition variables* for scheduling constraints
- Definition: **Monitor**: a **lock** and zero or more **condition variables** for managing concurrent access to shared data
  - Some languages like Java provide this natively
  - Most others use actual locks and condition variables

# Monitor with Condition Variables



- **Lock**: the lock provides mutual exclusion to shared data
  - Always acquire before accessing shared data structure
  - Always release after finishing with shared data
  - Lock initially free
- **Condition Variable**: a queue of threads waiting for something *inside* a critical section
  - Key idea: make it possible to go to sleep inside critical section by atomically releasing lock at time we go to sleep
  - Contrast to semaphores: Can't wait inside critical section

# Simple Monitor Example (version I)

---

- Here is an (infinite) synchronized queue

```
Lock lock;  
Queue queue;
```

```
AddToQueue(item) {  
    lock.Acquire();           // Lock shared data  
    queue.enqueue(item);     // Add item  
    lock.Release();          // Release Lock  
}  
  
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();           // Lock shared data  
    item = queue.dequeue();  // Get next item or null  
    lock.Release();          // Release Lock  
    return(item);            // Might return null  
}
```

- Not very interesting use of “Monitor”
  - It only uses a lock with no condition variables
  - Cannot put consumer to sleep if no work!

# Condition Variables

---

- How do we change the RemoveFromQueue() routine to wait until something is on the queue?
  - Could do this by keeping a count of the number of things on the queue (with semaphores), but error prone
- **Condition Variable**: a queue of threads waiting for something *inside* a critical section
  - Key idea: allow sleeping inside critical section by atomically releasing lock at time we go to sleep
  - Contrast to semaphores: Can't wait inside critical section
- Operations:
  - **Wait(&lock)**: Atomically release lock and go to sleep. Re-acquire lock later, before returning.
  - **Signal()**: Wake up one waiter, if any
  - **Broadcast()**: Wake up all waiters
- Rule: Must hold lock when doing condition variable ops!
  - In Birrell paper, he says can perform signal() outside of lock – IGNORE HIM (this is only an optimization)

# Complete Monitor Example (with condition variable)

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- Here is an (infinite) synchronized queue

```
Lock lock;
Condition dataready;
Queue queue;

AddToQueue(item) {
    lock.Acquire();           // Get Lock
    queue.enqueue(item);     // Add item
    dataready.signal();     // Signal any waiters
    lock.Release();         // Release Lock
}

RemoveFromQueue() {
    lock.Acquire();         // Get Lock
    while (queue.isEmpty()) {
        dataready.wait(&lock); // If nothing, sleep
    }
    item = queue.dequeue(); // Get next item
    lock.Release();         // Release Lock
    return(item);
}
```

# Summary (1/2)

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- Important concept: **Atomic Operations**
  - An operation that runs to completion or not at all
  - These are the primitives on which to construct various synchronization primitives
- Talked about hardware atomicity primitives:
  - Disabling of Interrupts, test&set, swap, compare&swap, conditional
- Showed several constructions of Locks
  - Must be very careful not to waste/tie up machine resources
    - » Shouldn't disable interrupts for long
    - » Shouldn't spin wait for long
  - Key idea: Separate lock variable, use hardware mechanisms to protect modifications of that variable

## Summary (2/2)

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- **Semaphores**: Like integers with restricted interface
  - Two operations:
    - » **P()**: Wait if zero; decrement when becomes non-zero
    - » **V()**: Increment and wake a sleeping task (if exists)
    - » Can initialize value to any non-negative value
  - Use separate semaphore for each constraint
  
- **Monitors**: A lock plus one or more condition variables
  - Always acquire lock before accessing shared data
  - Use condition variables to wait inside critical section
    - » Three Operations: **Wait()**, **Signal()**, and **Broadcast()**