CS162
Operating Systems and Systems Programming
Lecture 6

Semaphores, Conditional Variables, Deadlocks

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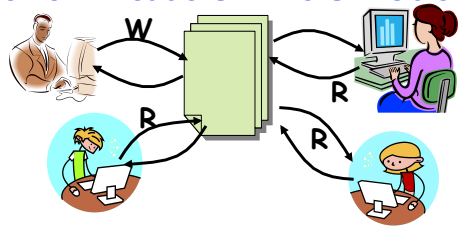
Review: Definition of Monitor

- Semaphores are confusing because dual purpose:
  - Both mutual exclusion and scheduling constraints
  - Cleaner idea: Use *locks* for mutual exclusion and *condition variables* for scheduling constraints
- Monitor: a lock and zero or more condition variables for managing concurrent access to shared data
- Lock: provides mutual exclusion to shared data:
  - Always acquire before accessing shared data structure
  - Always release after finishing with shared data
- 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

Review: Readers/Writers Problem



- Motivation: Consider a shared database
  - Two classes of users:
    - » Readers – never modify database
    - » Writers – read and modify database
  - Is using a single lock on the whole database sufficient?
    - » Like to have many readers at the same time
    - » Only one writer at a time

Review: Code for a Reader

```
Reader() {
  // First check self into system
  lock.Acquire();
  while ((AW + WW) > 0) {  // Is it safe to read?
    WR++;                  // No. Writers exist
    okToRead.wait(&lock);  // Sleep on cond var
    WR--;                  // No longer waiting
  }
  AR++;                    // Now we are active!
  lock.release();
  // Perform actual read-only access
  AccessDatabase(ReadOnly);
  // Now, check out of system
  lock.Acquire();
  AR--;                    // No longer active
  if (AR == 0 && WW > 0)   // No other active readers
    okToWrite.signal();    // Wake up one writer
  lock.Release();
}
```

Review: Code for a Writer

```
Writer() {
  // First check self into system
  lock.Acquire();
  while ((AW + AR) > 0) { // Is it safe to write?
    WW++;                 // No. Active users exist
    okToWrite.wait(&lock);  // Sleep on cond var
    WW--;                 // No longer waiting
  }
  AW++;                   // Now we are active!
  lock.release();
  // Perform actual read/write access
  AccessDatabase(ReadWrite);
  // Now, check out of system
  lock.Acquire();
  AW--;                   // No longer active
  if (WW > 0){            // Give priority to writers
    okToWrite.signal();   // Wake up one writer
  } else if (WR > 0) {    // Otherwise, wake reader
    okToRead.broadcast(); // Wake all readers
  }
  lock.Release();
}
```


Simulation of Readers/Writers solution

- Consider the following sequence of operators:
  - R1, R2, W1, R3 (AR = WR = AW = WW = 0)
- On entry, each reader checks the following:

```
while ((AW + WW) > 0) { // Is it safe to read?
  WR++;                 // No. Writers exist
  okToRead.wait(&lock); // Sleep on cond var
  WR--;                 // No longer waiting
}
AR++;                   // Now we are active!
```

- First, R1 comes along:
  AR = 1, WR = 0, AW = 0, WW = 0
- Next, R2 comes along:
  AR = 2, WR = 0, AW = 0, WW = 0
- Now, readers may take a while to access database
  - Situation: Locks released
  - Only AR is non-zero

Simulation(2)

- Next, W1 comes along:

```
while ((AW + AR) > 0) { // Is it safe to write?
  WW++;                 // No. Active users exist
  okToWrite.wait(&lock); // Sleep on cond var
  WW--;                 // No longer waiting
}
AW++;
```

- Can't start because of readers, so go to sleep:
  AR = 2, WR = 0, AW = 0, WW = 1
- Finally, R3 comes along:
  AR = 2, WR = 1, AW = 0, WW = 1
- Now, say that R2 finishes before R1:
  AR = 1, WR = 1, AW = 0, WW = 1
- Finally, last of first two readers (R1) finishes and wakes up writer:

```
if (AR == 0 && WW > 0)  // No other active readers
  okToWrite.signal();   // Wake up one writer
```


Simulation(3)

- When writer wakes up, get:
  AR = 0, WR = 1, AW = 1, WW = 0
- Then, when writer finishes:

```
if (WW > 0){            // Give priority to writers
  okToWrite.signal();   // Wake up one writer
} else if (WR > 0) {    // Otherwise, wake reader
  okToRead.broadcast(); // Wake all readers
}
```

  - Writer wakes up reader, so get:
    AR = 1, WR = 0, AW = 0, WW = 0
- When reader completes, we are finished

Questions

- Can readers starve? Consider Reader() entry code:

```
while ((AW + WW) > 0) {  // Is it safe to read?
  WR++;                  // No. Writers exist
  okToRead.wait(&lock);  // Sleep on cond var
  WR--;                  // No longer waiting
}
AR++;                    // Now we are active!
```

- What if we erase the condition check in Reader exit?

```
AR--;                    // No longer active
if (AR == 0 && WW > 0)   // No other active readers
  okToWrite.signal();    // Wake up one writer
```

- Further, what if we turn the signal() into broadcast()

```
AR--;                    // No longer active
okToWrite.broadcast();   // Wake up one writer
```

- Finally, what if we use only one condition variable (call it "okToContinue") instead of two separate ones?
  - Both readers and writers sleep on this variable
  - Must use broadcast() instead of signal()

Can we construct Monitors from Semaphores?

- Locking aspect is easy: Just use a mutex
- Can we implement condition variables this way?

```
Wait()   { semaphore.P(); }
Signal() { semaphore.V(); }
```

- Does this work better?

```
Wait(Lock lock) {
   lock.Release();
   semaphore.P();
   lock.Acquire();
}
Signal() { semaphore.V(); }
```

:

Construction of Monitors from Semaphores (con't)

- Problem with previous try:
  - P and V are commutative – result is the same no matter what order they occur
  - Condition variables are NOT commutative
- Does this fix the problem?

```
Wait(Lock lock) {
   lock.Release();
   semaphore.P();
   lock.Acquire();
}
Signal() {
   if semaphore queue is not empty
      semaphore.V();
}
```

  - Not legal to look at contents of semaphore queue
  - There is a race condition – signaler can slip in after lock release and before waiter executes semaphore.P()
- It is actually possible to do this correctly
  - Complex solution for Hoare scheduling in book
  - Can you come up with simpler Mesa-scheduled solution?

Monitor Conclusion

- Monitors represent the logic of the program
  - Wait if necessary
  - Signal when change something so any waiting threads can proceed
- Basic structure of monitor-based program:

```
lock
while (need to wait) {
   condvar.wait();
}
unlock

do something so no need to wait

lock

condvar.signal();

unlock
```

Check and/or update state variables
Wait if necessary

Check and/or update state variables

C-Language Support for Synchronization

- C language: Pretty straightforward synchronization
  - Just make sure you know *all* the code paths out of a critical section

```
int Rtn() {
   lock.acquire();
   …
   if (exception) {
      lock.release();
      return errReturnCode;
   }
   …
   lock.release();
   return OK;
}
```


C++ Language Support for Synchronization

- Languages with exceptions like C++
  - Languages that support exceptions are problematic (easy to make a non-local exit without releasing lock)
  - Consider:

```
void Rtn() {
   lock.acquire();
   …
   DoFoo();
   …
   lock.release();
}
void DoFoo() {
   …
   if (exception) throw errException;
   …
}
```

  - Notice that an exception in DoFoo() will exit without releasing the lock

C++ Language Support for Synchronization (con't)

- Must catch all exceptions in critical sections
  - Catch exceptions, release lock, and re-throw exception:

```
void Rtn() {
   lock.acquire();
   try {
      …
      DoFoo();
      …
   } catch (…) {      // catch exception
      lock.release(); // release lock
      throw;          // re-throw the exception
   }
   lock.release();
}
void DoFoo() {
   …
   if (exception) throw errException;
   …
}
```

  - Even Better: auto_ptr<T> facility. See C++ Spec.
    - » Can deallocate/free lock regardless of exit method

Java Language Support for Synchronization

- Java has explicit support for threads and thread synchronization
- Bank Account example:

```
class Account {
   private int balance;
   // object constructor
   public Account (int initialBalance) {
      balance = initialBalance;
   }
   public synchronized int getBalance() {
      return balance;
   }
   public synchronized void deposit(int amount) {
      balance += amount;
   }
}
```

  - Every object has an associated lock which gets automatically acquired and released on entry and exit from a *synchronized* method.

Java Language Support for Synchronization (con't)

- Java also has *synchronized* statements:

```
synchronized (object) {
     …
}
```

  - Since every Java object has an associated lock, this type of statement acquires and releases the object's lock on entry and exit of the body
  - Works properly even with exceptions:

```
synchronized (object) {
   …
   DoFoo();
   …
}
void DoFoo() {
   throw errException;
}
```


Java Language Support for Synchronization (2/2)

- In addition to a lock, every object has a single condition variable associated with it
  - How to wait inside a synchronization method of block:
    - » `void wait(long timeout); // Wait for timeout`
    - » `void wait(long timeout, int nanoseconds); //variant`
    - » `void wait();`
  - How to signal in a synchronized method or block:
    - » `void notify();  // wakes up oldest waiter`
    - » `void notifyAll(); // like broadcast, wakes everyone`
  - Condition variables can wait for a bounded length of time. This is useful for handling exception cases:

```
t1 = time.now();
while (!ATMRequest()) {
   wait (CHECKPERIOD);
   t2 = time.new();
   if (t2 - t1 > LONG_TIME) checkMachine();
}
```

  - Not all Java VMs equivalent!
    - » Different scheduling policies, not necessarily preemptive!

Summary: Semaphores and Cond. Variables

- 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()`
- Language support for synchronization:
  - Java provides synchronized keyword and one condition-variable per object (with `wait()` and `notify()`)

5min Break

Tips for Programming in a Project Team

"You just have to get your synchronization right!"

- Big projects require more than one person (or long, long, long time)
  - Big OS: thousands of person-years!
- It's very hard to make software project teams work correctly
  - Doesn't seem to be as true of big construction projects
    - » Empire state building finished in one year: staging iron production thousands of miles away
    - » Or the Hoover dam: built towns to hold workers

Big Projects

- What is a big project?
  - Time/work estimation is hard
  - Programmers are eternal optimistics (it will only take two days)!
    - » This is why we bug you about starting the project early
- Can a project be efficiently partitioned?
  - Partitionable task decreases in time as you add people
  - But, if you require communication:
    - » Time reaches a minimum bound
    - » With complex interactions, time increases!
  - Mythical person-month problem:
    - » You estimate how long a project will take
    - » Starts to fall behind, so you add more people
    - » Project takes even more time!

Techniques for Partitioning Tasks

- Functional
  - Person A implements threads, Person B implements semaphores, Person C implements locks…
  - Problem: Lots of communication across APIs
    - » If B changes the API, A may need to make changes
    - » Story: Large airline company spent $200 million on a new scheduling and booking system. Two teams "working together." After two years, went to merge software. Failed! Interfaces had changed (documented, but no one noticed). Result: would cost another $200 million to fix.
- Task
  - Person A designs, Person B writes code, Person C tests
  - May be difficult to find right balance, but can focus on each person's strengths (Theory vs systems hacker)
  - Since Debugging is hard, Microsoft has *two* testers for *each* programmer
- Most CS162 project teams are functional, but people have had success with task-based divisions

Communication

- More people mean more communication
  - Changes have to be propagated to more people
  - Think about person writing code for most fundamental component of system: everyone depends on them!
- Miscommunication is common
  - "Index starts at 0? I thought you said 1!"
- Who makes decisions?
  - Individual decisions are fast but trouble
  - Group decisions take time
  - Centralized decisions require a big picture view (someone who can be the "system architect")
- Often designating someone as the system architect can be a good thing
  - Better not be clueless
  - Better have good people skills
  - Better let other people do work

Coordination

- More people ⇒ no one can make all meetings!
  - They miss decisions and associated discussion
  - Example from earlier class: one person missed meetings and did something group had rejected
  - Why do we limit groups to 5 people?
    - » You would never be able to schedule meetings otherwise
  - Why do we require 4 people minimum?
    - » You need to experience groups to get ready for real world
- People have different work styles
  - Some people work in the morning, some at night
  - How do you decide when to meet or work together?
- What about project slippage?
  - It will happen, guaranteed!
  - Ex: everyone busy but not talking. One person way behind. No one knew until very end – too late!
- Hard to add people to existing group
  - Members have already figured out how to work together

How to Make it Work?

- People are human. Get over it.
  - People will make mistakes, miss meetings, miss deadlines, etc. You need to live with it and adapt
  - It is better to anticipate problems than clean up afterwards.
- Document, document, document

  - Why Document?
    - » Expose decisions and communicate to others
    - » Easier to spot mistakes early
    - » Easier to estimate progress
  - What to document?
    - » Everything (but don't overwhelm people or no one will read)
  - Standardize!
    - » One programming format: variable naming conventions, tab indents,etc.
    - » Comments (Requires, effects, modifies)—javadoc?

Suggested Documents for You to Maintain

- Project objectives: goals, constraints, and priorities
- Specifications: the manual plus performance specs
  - This should be the first document generated and the last one finished
- Meeting notes
  - Document all decisions
  - You can often cut & paste for the design documents
- Schedule: What is your anticipated timing?
  - This document is critical!
- Organizational Chart
  - Who is responsible for what task?

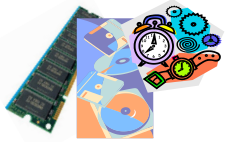
Test Continuously

- Integration tests all the time, not at 11pm on due date!
  - Write dummy stubs with simple functionality
    - » Let's people test continuously, but more work
  - Schedule periodic integration tests
    - » Get everyone in the same room, check out code, build, and test.
    - » Don't wait until it is too late!
- Testing types:
  - Unit tests: check each module in isolation (use JUnit?)
  - Daemons: subject code to exceptional cases
  - Random testing: Subject code to random timing changes
- Test early, test later, test again
  - Tendency is to test once and forget; what if something changes in some other part of the code?

Resource Contention and Deadlock

Resources

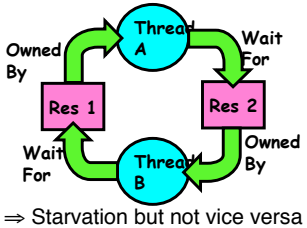
- Resources – passive entities needed by threads to do their work
  - CPU time, disk space, memory
- Two types of resources:
  - Preemptable – can take it away
    - » CPU, Embedded security chip
  - Non-preemptable – must leave it with the thread
    - » Disk space, printer, chunk of virtual address space
    - » Critical section



- Resources may require exclusive access or may be sharable
  - Read-only files are typically sharable
  - Printers are not sharable during time of printing
- One of the major tasks of an operating system is to manage resources

Starvation vs Deadlock

- Starvation vs. Deadlock
  - Starvation: thread waits indefinitely
    - » Example, low-priority thread waiting for resources constantly in use by high-priority threads
  - Deadlock: circular waiting for resources
    - » Thread A owns Res 1 and is waiting for Res 2
      Thread B owns Res 2 and is waiting for Res 1



  - Deadlock ⇒ Starvation but not vice versa
    - » Starvation can end (but doesn't have to)
    - » Deadlock can't end without external intervention

Conditions for Deadlock

- Deadlock not always deterministic – Example 2 mutexes:

Thread A	Thread B
x.P();	y.P();
y.P();	x.P();
y.V();	x.V();
x.V();	y.V();

Deadlock

```
A: x.P();
A: y.p();
B: y.P();
B: x.P();
...
```

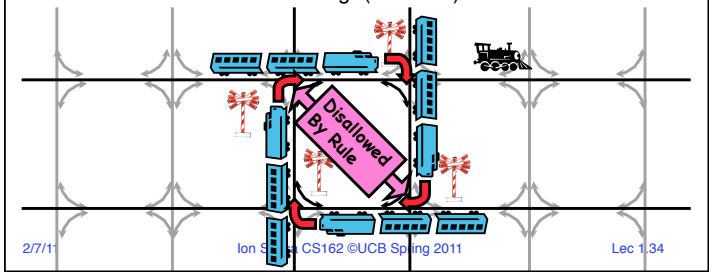
  - Deadlock won't always happen with this code
    - » Have to have exactly the right timing ("wrong" tim
    - » So you release a piece of software, and you tested it, and there it is, controlling a nuclear power plant…
- Deadlocks occur with multiple resources
  - Means you can't decompose the problem
  - Can't solve deadlock for each resource independently
- Example: System with 2 disk drives and two threads
  - Each thread needs 2 disk drives to function
  - Each thread gets one disk and waits for another one

Bridge Crossing Example

- Each segment of road can be viewed as a resource
  - Car must own the segment under them
  - Must acquire segment that they are moving into
- For bridge: must acquire both halves
  - Traffic only in one direction at a time
  - Problem occurs when two cars in opposite directions on bridge: each acquires one segment and needs next
- If a deadlock occurs, it can be resolved if one car backs up (preempt resources and rollback)
  - Several cars may have to be backed up
- Starvation is possible
  - East-going traffic really fast ⇒ no one goes west

Train Example (Wormhole-Routed Network)

- Circular dependency (Deadlock!)
  - Each train wants to turn right
  - Blocked by other trains
  - Similar problem to multiprocessor networks
- Fix? Imagine grid extends in all four directions
  - Force ordering of channels (tracks)
    - » Protocol: Always go east-west first, then north-south
  - Called "dimension ordering" (X then Y)



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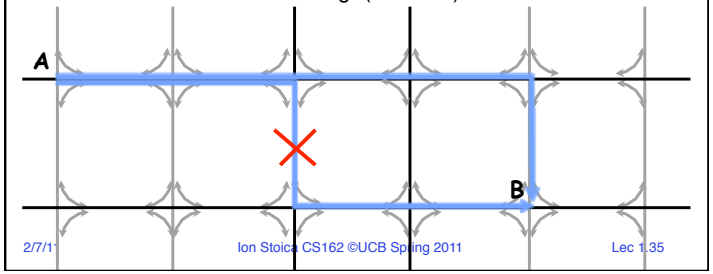
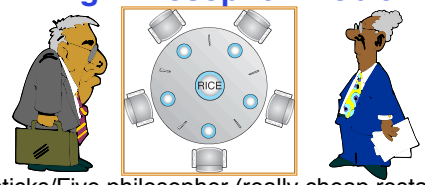


Dining Philosopher Problem



- Five chopsticks/Five philosopher (really cheap restaurant)
  - Free-for all: Philosopher will grab any one they can
  - Need two chopsticks to eat
- What if all grab at same time?
  - Deadlock!
- How to fix deadlock?
  - Make one of them give up a chopstick (Hah!)
  - Eventually everyone will get chance to eat
- How to prevent deadlock?
  - Never let philosopher take last chopstick if no hungry philosopher has two chopsticks afterwards

Four requirements for Deadlock

- Mutual exclusion
  - Only one thread at a time can use a resource.
- Hold and wait
  - Thread holding at least one resource is waiting to acquire additional resources held by other threads
- No preemption
  - Resources are released only voluntarily by the thread holding the resource, after thread is finished with it
- Circular wait
  - There exists a set $\{T_1, \ldots, T_n\}$ of waiting threads
    - » T_1 is waiting for a resource that is held by T_2
    - » T_2 is waiting for a resource that is held by T_3
    - » …
    - » T_n is waiting for a resource that is held by T_1

Summary: Deadlock

- Suggestions for dealing with Project Partners
  - Start Early, Meet Often
  - Develop Good Organizational Plan, Document Everything, Use the right tools, Develop Comprehensive Testing Plan
  - (Oh, and add 2 years to every deadline!)
- Starvation vs. Deadlock
  - Starvation: thread waits indefinitely
  - Deadlock: circular waiting for resources
- Four conditions for deadlocks
  - Mutual exclusion
    - » Only one thread at a time can use a resource
  - Hold and wait
    - » Thread holding at least one resource is waiting to acquire additional resources held by other threads
  - No preemption
    - » Resources are released only voluntarily by the threads
  - Circular wait
    - » ∃ set $\{T_1, \ldots, T_n\}$ of threads with a cyclic waiting pattern