



Parallel & Concurrent Programming: Concurrency in Java

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CMPSCI 691W - Spring 2006



Concurrency in Java

- Built-in OO-style support
- New concurrency operations
 - Concurrency patterns



Java Object Model

- Every Java object has a lock
 - Lock word
 - Recursive:
 - Thread ID
 - Count
 - Condition variables:
 - Wait queues
- Space overhead, but convenient
 - Can **always** lock an object with **synchronized**



Synchronized Example

```
class AtomicCounter {
    private int count;
    AtomicCounter (int n) {
        count = n;
    }
    public void increment() {
        synchronized (this) {
            count++;
        }
    }
    public int getCount() {
        int c;
        synchronized (this) {
            c = count;
        }
        return c;
    }
}
```



Synchronized Example

```
class AtomicCounter {
    private int count;
    AtomicCounter (int n) {
        count = n;
    }
    synchronized public void increment() {
        count++;
    }
    synchronized public int getCount() {
        int c;

        c = count;

        return c;
    }
}
```



Condition Variables

- Also built-in: **condition variables**
 - `obj.wait()`
 - `obj.wait(long timeout)`
 - Releases monitor, sleeps
 - `obj.notify()`
 - Wakes up one waiting thread
 - `obj.notifyAll()`
 - Wakes up all waiting threads



Java Threads

- **extend Thread**
- **Implement run () method**
- **Invoke with start ()**



Java Threads

```
class CountUp extends Thread {
    public void run () {
        counter.increment();
        System.out.println ("count = " +
            counter.getCount());
    }
    static AtomicCounter counter
        = new AtomicCounter (0);
}

public class testme {
    public static void main (String args[]) {
        for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++) {
            CountUp f = new CountUp();
            f.start();
        }
    }
}
```



Race Condition

- Previous slide: program has race
- (Example execution)



Java Threads

```
class CountUp extends Thread {
    public void run () {
        synchronized (counter) {
            counter.increment();
            System.out.println ("count = " +
                counter.getCount());
        }
    }
    static AtomicCounter counter
        = new AtomicCounter (0);
}

public class testme2 {
    public static void main (String args[]) {
        for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++) {
            CountUp f = new CountUp();
            f.start();
        }
    }
}
```



Thread-Specific Data

- Private local in **Thread** object = thread-specific data
 - Elegant, natural model

```
class CountUp extends Thread {
    public void run () {
        synchronized (counter) {
            counter.increment ();
            System.out.println ("count = " +
                counter.getCount ());
        }
    }
    private AtomicInteger counter
        = new AtomicInteger (0);
}
```



Thread Priority

- Java threads also have **priority**:
 - Unlike UNIX, higher priority value = higher priority
- If any threads are runnable at priority i , they run instead of any thread at priority $\leq i$
 - **Fixed-priority scheduling**
 - Caveat: not guaranteed to always hold



Thread Miscellany

- Other Thread methods:
 - `setPriority(int)`
 - `getPriority()`
 - `yield()`
 - Let other threads execute
 - `t.join()`
 - Wait for thread t to complete



java.util.concurrent

- Extensive support for concurrency
 - A.k.a. “Tiger”
 - Introduced with Java 1.5 (“5”)
 - Built on Lea’s concurrency library



Old Friends

- **Semaphore (int)**
 - Ordinary counting semaphore
 - `acquire()`, `tryAcquire()`, `release()`
- **Semaphore (int, True)**
 - Fair semaphore (FIFO)



Much More...

- **Blocking & non-blocking queues**
 - Numerous flavors
- **Concurrent hash maps**
 - “MT-hot”
- **Copy-on-write arrays**
- **Exchanger**
- **Barriers**
- **Futures**
- **Thread pool support**



Blocking Queues 1

- **LinkedBlockingQueue**
 - Blocks on `put ()` if full, `poll ()` if empty
 - Implement **pipeline** across threads
 - **Producer-consumer** pattern
- Example application:
 - *worker threads*



Blocking Queues 2

- **ArrayBlockingQueue**
 - Array implementation (**bounded buffer**)
- Example application:
 - *worker threads*, without allocation
 - Fixed max number of tasks



Blocking Queues 3

- **SynchronousQueue**
 - Each `put ()` waits for `take ()`
 - Rendezvous channel
- Example application:
 - *worker threads*
 - Same number of threads as tasks



Blocking Queues 4

- **PriorityBlockingQueue**
 - Unbounded queue, based on heap
 - Head = item with *lowest* “priority”
- Example application:
concurrent simulation (priority = time)



Blocking Queues 5

- **DelayQueue**
 - Time-based scheduling queue
 - Only *expired* items may be removed
- Example applications:
 - Manage objects with timeouts
 - Simulator



Copy-on-write arrays

- **CopyOnWriteArrayList**
 - Mutations = **copy** entire backing array, update particular item
- Cost?
- When would this be desirable?



Exchanger

- Simple rendezvous
- Each thread gives object to exchanger, and gets other
- `yours = exchanger.exchange (mine) ;`



Barriers

- All threads reach sync point before continuing: **barrier**
- Very common for scientific apps – in loop: do work, reach barrier

```
for (int i = 0; i < 1000; i++) {  
    // do work  
    try {  
        barrier.await ();  
    } catch (Exception e) { ... }  
}
```



Futures

- **FutureTask** – asynchronously executes some function to compute value
- Future operations:
 - **run ()** – starts execution
 - **get ()** – waits for future to complete,
 - **cancel ()** – aborts execution
 - **isDone ()** – check if future complete



Thread Pools

- Thread invocation & destruction relatively expensive
- Instead: use **pool** of threads
 - When new task arrives, get thread from pool to work on it; block if pool empty
 - Faster with many tasks
 - Limits max threads
- **ThreadPoolExecutor** class



The End

