Synchronization: Advanced

15-213 / 18-213: Introduction to Computer Systems
25th Lecture, Nov. 21, 2013

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Review: Semaphores

- **Semaphore**: non-negative global integer synchronization variable

- **Manipulated by P and V operations:**
  - $P(s)$: [ while (s == 0) wait(); s--; ]
    - Dutch for "Proberen" (test)
  - $V(s)$: [ s++; ]
    - Dutch for "Verhogen" (increment)

- **OS kernel guarantees that operations between brackets [ ] are executed indivisibly**
  - Only one $P$ or $V$ operation at a time can modify $s$.
  - When *while* loop in $P$ terminates, only that $P$ can decrement $s$

- **Semaphore invariant**: $(s >= 0)$
Review: Using semaphores to protect shared resources via mutual exclusion

- **Basic idea:**
  - Associate a unique semaphore $mutex$, initially 1, with each shared variable (or related set of shared variables)
  - Surround each access to the shared variable(s) with $P(mutex)$ and $V(mutex)$ operations

```plaintext
mutex = 1
P(mutex)
cnt++
V(mutex)
```
Today

- Using semaphores to schedule shared resources
  - Producer-consumer problem
  - Readers-writers problem

- Other concurrency issues
  - Thread safety
  - Races
  - Deadlocks
Using Semaphores to Coordinate Access to Shared Resources

- **Basic idea:** Thread uses a semaphore operation to notify another thread that some condition has become true
  - Use counting semaphores to keep track of resource state.
  - Use binary semaphores to notify other threads.

- **Two classic examples:**
  - The Producer-Consumer Problem
  - The Readers-Writers Problem
Producer-Consumer Problem

- **Common synchronization pattern:**
  - Producer waits for empty *slot*, inserts item in buffer, and notifies consumer
  - Consumer waits for *item*, removes it from buffer, and notifies producer

- **Examples**
  - Multimedia processing:
    - Producer creates MPEG video frames, consumer renders them
  - Event-driven graphical user interfaces
    - Producer detects mouse clicks, mouse movements, and keyboard hits and inserts corresponding events in buffer
    - Consumer retrieves events from buffer and paints the display
Producer-Consumer on 1-element Buffer

```c
#include "csapp.h"

#define NITERS 5

void *producer(void *arg);
void *consumer(void *arg);

struct {
    int buf; /* shared var */
    sem_t full; /* sems */
    sem_t empty;
} shared;

int main() {
    pthread_t tid_producer;
    pthread_t tid_consumer;

    /* Initialize the semaphores */
    Sem_init(&shared.empty, 0, 1);
    Sem_init(&shared.full, 0, 0);

    /* Create threads and wait */
    Pthread_create(&tid_producer, NULL, producer, NULL);
    Pthread_create(&tid_consumer, NULL, consumer, NULL);
    Pthread_join(tid_producer, NULL);
    Pthread_join(tid_consumer, NULL);

    exit(0);
}
```
Producer-Consumer on 1-element Buffer

Initially: empty==1, full==0

Producer Thread

```c
void *producer(void *arg) {
    int i, item;

    for (i=0; i<NITERS; i++) {
        /* Produce item */
        item = i;
        printf("produced %d\n", item);

        /* Write item to buf */
        P(&shared.empty);
        shared.buf = item;
        V(&shared.full);
    }
    return NULL;
}
```

Consumer Thread

```c
void *consumer(void *arg) {
    int i, item;

    for (i=0; i<NITERS; i++) {
        /* Read item from buf */
        P(&shared.full);
        item = shared.buf;
        V(&shared.empty);

        /* Consume item */
        printf("consumed %d\n", item);
    }
    return NULL;
}
```
Counting with Semaphores

- Remember, it’s a non-negative integer
  - So, values greater than 1 are legal
- Lets repeat thing_5() 5 times for every 3 of thing_3()

```c
/* thing_5 and thing_3 */
#include "csapp.h"

sem_t five;
sem_t three;

void *five_times(void *arg);
void *three_times(void *arg);

int main() {
    pthread_t tid_five, tid_three;

    /* initialize the semaphores */
    Sem_init(&five, 0, 5);
    Sem_init(&three, 0, 3);

    /* create threads and wait */
    Pthread_create(&tid_five, NULL,
                   five_times, NULL);
    Pthread_create(&tid_three, NULL,
                   three_times, NULL);

    .
    .
    .
    }
```
Counting with semaphores (cont)
Initially: five = 5, three = 3

/* thing_5() thread */
void *five_times(void *arg) {
  int i;

  while (1) {
    for (i=0; i<5; i++) {
      /* wait & thing_5() */
      P(&five);
      thing_5();
    }
    V(&three);
    V(&three);
    V(&three);
  }
  return NULL;
}

/* thing_3() thread */
void *three_times(void *arg) {
  int i;

  while (1) {
    for (i=0; i<3; i++) {
      /* wait & thing_3() */
      P(&three);
      thing_3();
    }
    V(&five);
    V(&five);
    V(&five);
    V(&five);
    V(&five);
  }
  return NULL;
}
Producer-Consumer on an \( n \)-element Buffer

- Requires a mutex and two counting semaphores:
  - \textbf{mutex}: enforces mutually exclusive access to the buffer
  - \textbf{slots}: counts the available slots in the buffer
  - \textbf{items}: counts the available items in the buffer

- Implemented using a shared buffer package called \texttt{sbuf}.
#include "csapp.h"

typedef struct {
    int *buf;          /* Buffer array */
    int n;             /* Maximum number of slots */
    int front;         /* buf[(front+1)%n] is first item */
    int rear;          /* buf[rear%n] is last item */
    sem_t mutex;       /* Protects accesses to buf */
    sem_t slots;       /* Counts available slots */
    sem_t items;       /* Counts available items */
} sbuf_t;

void sbuf_init(sbuf_t *sp, int n);
void sbuf_deinit(sbuf_t *sp);
void sbuf_insert(sbuf_t *sp, int item);
int sbuf_remove(sbuf_t *sp);
sbuf Package - Implementation

Initializing and deinitializing a shared buffer:

```c
/* Create an empty, bounded, shared FIFO buffer with n slots */
void sbuf_init(sbuf_t *sp, int n)
{
    sp->buf = Calloc(n, sizeof(int));
    sp->n = n;                      /* Buffer holds max of n items */
    sp->front = sp->rear = 0;       /* Empty buffer iff front == rear */
    Sem_init(&sp->mutex, 0, 1);     /* Binary semaphore for locking */
    Sem_init(&sp->slots, 0, n);     /* Initially, buf has n empty slots */
    Sem_init(&sp->items, 0, 0);     /* Initially, buf has zero items */
}

/* Clean up buffer sp */
void sbuf_deinit(sbuf_t *sp)
{
    Free(sp->buf);
}
```

sbuf.c
sbuf  Package - Implementation

Inserting an item into a shared buffer:

```c
/* Insert item onto the rear of shared buffer sp */
void sbuf_insert(sbuf_t *sp, int item)
{
    P(&sp->slots);                        /* Wait for available slot */
    P(&sp->mutex);                        /* Lock the buffer */
    sp->buf[ (++sp->rear) % (sp->n) ] = item; /* Insert the item */
    V(&sp->mutex);                        /* Unlock the buffer */
    V(&sp->items);                        /* Announce available item */
}
```

sbuf.c
Removing an item from a shared buffer:

```c
/* Remove and return the first item from buffer sp */
int sbuf_remove(sbuf_t *sp)
{
    int item;

    P(&sp->items);  /* Wait for available item */
    P(&sp->mutex);  /* Lock the buffer */
    item = sp->buf[ (++sp->front) % (sp->n) ]; /* Remove the item */
    V(&sp->mutex);  /* Unlock the buffer */
    V(&sp->slots);  /* Announce available slot */
    return item;
}
```
Readers-Writers Problem

Generalization of the mutual exclusion problem

Problem statement:
- *Reader* threads only read the object
- *Writer* threads modify the object
- Writers must have exclusive access to the object
- Unlimited number of readers can access the object

Occurs frequently in real systems, e.g.,
- Online airline reservation system
- Multithreaded caching Web proxy
Variants of Readers-Writers

- **First readers-writers problem** (favors readers)
  - No reader should be kept waiting unless a writer has already been granted permission to use the object.
  - A reader that arrives after a waiting writer gets priority over the writer.

- **Second readers-writers problem** (favors writers)
  - Once a writer is ready to write, it performs its write as soon as possible
  - A reader that arrives after a writer must wait, even if the writer is also waiting.

- **Starvation** (where a thread waits indefinitely) is possible in both cases.
**Solution to First Readers-Writers Problem**

**Readers:**

```c
int readcnt;    /* Initially 0 */
sem_t mutex, w; /* Both initially 1 */

void reader(void)
{
    while (1) {
        P(&mutex);
        readcnt++;
        if (readcnt == 1) /* First in */
            P(&w);
        V(&mutex);
        /* Reading happens here */
        P(&mutex);
        readcnt--;
        if (readcnt == 0) /* Last out */
            V(&w);
    }
}
```

**Writers:**

```c
void writer(void)
{
    while (1) {
        P(&w);
        /* Writing here */
        V(&w);
    }
}
```

*rw1.c*
Today

- Using semaphores to schedule shared resources
  - Producer-consumer problem
  - Readers-writers problem

- Other concurrency issues
  - Thread safety
  - Races
  - Deadlocks
Crucial concept: Thread Safety

- Functions called from a thread must be *thread-safe*

- **Def:** A function is *thread-safe* iff it will always produce correct results when called repeatedly from multiple concurrent threads.

- Classes of thread-unsafe functions:
  - Class 1: Functions that do not protect shared variables
  - Class 2: Functions that keep state across multiple invocations
  - Class 3: Functions that return a pointer to a static variable
  - Class 4: Functions that call thread-unsafe functions
Thread-Unsafe Functions (Class 1)

- Failing to protect shared variables
  - Fix: Use $P$ and $V$ semaphore operations
  - Example: goodcnt.c
  - Issue: Synchronization operations will slow down code
Thread-Unsafe Functions (Class 2)

- Relying on persistent state across multiple function invocations
  - Example: Random number generator that relies on static state

```c
static unsigned int next = 1;

/* rand: return pseudo-random integer on 0..32767 */
int rand(void)
{
    next = next*1103515245 + 12345;
    return (unsigned int)(next/65536) % 32768;
}

/* srand: set seed for rand() */
void srand(unsigned int seed)
{
    next = seed;
}
```
Thread-Safe Random Number Generator

- Pass state as part of argument
  - and, thereby, eliminate static state

```c
/* rand_r - return pseudo-random integer on 0..32767 */

int rand_r(int *nextp)
{
    *nextp = *nextp*1103515245 + 12345;
    return (unsigned int)(*nextp/65536) % 32768;
}
```

- Consequence: programmer using `rand_r` must maintain seed
Thread-Unsafe Functions (Class 3)

- Returning a pointer to a static variable
- **Fix 1.** Rewrite function so caller passes address of variable to store result
  - Requires changes in caller and callee
- **Fix 2. Lock-and-copy**
  - Requires simple changes in caller (and none in callee)
  - However, caller must free memory.

```c
/* lock-and-copy version */
char *ctime_ts(const time_t *timep,
               char *privatep)
{
    char *sharedp;
    P(&mutex);
    sharedp = ctime(timep);
    strcpy(privatep, sharedp);
    V(&mutex);
    return privatep;
}
```

Warning: Some functions like gethostbyname require a deep copy. Use reentrant gethostbyname_r version instead.
Thread-Unsafe Functions (Class 4)

- Calling thread-unsafe functions
  - Calling one thread-unsafe function makes the entire function that calls it thread-unsafe

- Fix: Modify the function so it calls only thread-safe functions 😊
Reentrant Functions

- Def: A function is *reentrant* iff it accesses no shared variables when called by multiple threads.
  - Important subset of thread-safe functions
    - Require no synchronization operations
    - Only way to make a Class 2 function thread-safe is to make it reentrant (e.g., `rand_r`)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thread-safe functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reentrant functions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Thread-Safe Library Functions

- All functions in the Standard C Library (at the back of your K&R text) are thread-safe
  - Examples: `malloc`, `free`, `printf`, `scanf`

- Most Unix system calls are thread-safe, with a few exceptions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thread-unsafe function</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Reentrant version</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>asctime</code></td>
<td>3</td>
<td><code>asctime_r</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>ctime</code></td>
<td>3</td>
<td><code>ctime_r</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>gethostbyaddr</code></td>
<td>3</td>
<td><code>gethostbyaddr_r</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>gethostbyname</code></td>
<td>3</td>
<td><code>gethostbyname_r</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>inet_ntoa</code></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>(none)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>localtime</code></td>
<td>3</td>
<td><code>localtime_r</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>rand</code></td>
<td>2</td>
<td><code>rand_r</code></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Threads Summary

- Threads provide another mechanism for writing concurrent programs
- Threads are growing in popularity
  - Somewhat cheaper than processes
  - Easy to share data between threads
- However, the ease of sharing has a cost:
  - Easy to introduce subtle synchronization errors
  - Tread carefully with threads!

For more info:
- D. Butenhof, “Programming with Posix Threads”, Addison-Wesley, 1997
Case Study: Prethreaded Concurrent Server

Diagram:
- Client
- Master thread
- Buffer
- Worker thread
- Service client
- Pool of worker threads

Connections:
- Client to Master thread:
  - Accept connections
- Master thread to Buffer:
  - Insert descriptors
- Buffer to Worker threads:
  - Remove descriptors
- Worker threads to Service client:
  - Service client
- Worker threads to Client:
  - Service client
Prethreaded Concurrent Server

sbuf_t sbuf; /* Shared buffer of connected descriptors */

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    int i, listenfd, connfd, port;
    socklen_t clientlen=sizeof(struct sockaddr_in);
    struct sockaddr_in clientaddr;
    pthread_t tid;

    port = atoi(argv[1]);
    sbuf_init(&sbuf, SBUFSIZE);
    listenfd = Open_listenfd(port);

    for (i = 0; i < NTHREADS; i++) /* Create worker threads */
        Pthread_create(&tid, NULL, thread, NULL);

    while (1) {
        connfd = Accept(listenfd, (SA *) &clientaddr, &clientlen);
        sbuf_insert(&sbuf, connfd); /* Insert connfd in buffer */
    }
}
Prethreaded Concurrent Server

Worker thread routine:

```c
void *thread(void *vargp)
{
    Pthread_detach(pthread_self());
    while (1) {
        int connfd = sbuf_remove(&sbuf); /* Remove connfd from buffer */
        echo_cnt(connfd);                /* Service client */
        Close(connfd);
    }
}
```

echoserververt_pre.c
Prethreaded Concurrent Server

echo_cnt initialization routine:

```c
static int byte_cnt; /* Byte counter */
static sem_t mutex;   /* and the mutex that protects it */

static void init_echo_cnt(void)
{
    Sem_init(&mutex, 0, 1);
    byte_cnt = 0;
}
```

`echo_cnt.c`
Prethreaded Concurrent Server

Worker thread service routine:

```c
void echo_cnt(int connfd)
{
    int n;
    char buf[MAXLINE];
    rio_t rio;
    static pthread_once_t once = PTHREAD_ONCE_INIT;
    Pthread_once(&once, init_echo_cnt);
    Rio_readinitb(&rio, connfd);
    while((n = Rio_readlineb(&rio, buf, MAXLINE)) != 0) {
        P(&mutex);
        byte_cnt += n;
        printf("thread %d received %d (%d total) bytes on fd %d\n",
            (int) pthread_self(), n, byte_cnt, connfd);
        V(&mutex);
        Rio_writen(connfd, buf, n);
    }
}
```
One worry: Races

- A race occurs when correctness of the program depends on one thread reaching point $x$ before another thread reaches point $y$

```c
/* a threaded program with a race */
int main() {
    pthread_t tid[N];
    int i;
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
        Pthread_create(&tid[i], NULL, thread, &i);
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
        Pthread_join(tid[i], NULL);
    exit(0);
}

/* thread routine */
void *thread(void *vargp) {
    int myid = *((int *)vargp);
    printf("Hello from thread %d\n", myid);
    return NULL;
}
```

Race Elimination

- Make sure don’t have unintended sharing of state

```c
/* a threaded program without the race */
int main() {
    pthread_t tid[N];
    int i;
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
        int *valp = malloc(sizeof(int));
        *valp = i;
        Pthread_create(&tid[i], NULL, thread, valp);
    }
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
        Pthread_join(tid[i], NULL);
    exit(0);
}

/* thread routine */
void *thread(void *vargp) {
    int myid = *((int *)vargp);
    free(vargp);
    printf("Hello from thread %d\n", myid);
    return NULL;
}
```

norace.c
Another worry: Deadlock

- Def: A process is *deadlocked* iff it is waiting for a condition that will never be true.

- Typical Scenario
  - Processes 1 and 2 needs two resources (A and B) to proceed
  - Process 1 acquires A, waits for B
  - Process 2 acquires B, waits for A
  - Both will wait forever!
Deadlocking With Semaphores

```c
int main()
{
    pthread_t tid[2];
    Sem_init(&mutex[0], 0, 1); /* mutex[0] = 1 */
    Sem_init(&mutex[1], 0, 1); /* mutex[1] = 1 */
    Pthread_create(&tid[0], NULL, count, (void*) 0);
    Pthread_create(&tid[1], NULL, count, (void*) 1);
    Pthread_join(tid[0], NULL);
    Pthread_join(tid[1], NULL);
    printf("cnt=%d\n", cnt);
    exit(0);
}

void *count(void *vargp)
{
    int i;
    int id = (int) vargp;
    for (i = 0; i < NITERS; i++) {
        P(&mutex[id]); P(&mutex[1-id]);
        cnt++;
        V(&mutex[id]); V(&mutex[1-id]);
    }
    return NULL;
}
```
Deadlock Visualized in Progress Graph

Locking introduces the potential for deadlock: waiting for a condition that will never be true.

Any trajectory that enters the deadlock region will eventually reach the deadlock state, waiting for either S_0 or S_1 to become nonzero.

Other trajectories luck out and skirt the deadlock region.

Unfortunate fact: deadlock is often nondeterministic (race).
Avoiding Deadlock

Acquire shared resources in same order

```c
int main()
{
    pthread_t tid[2];
    Sem_init(&mutex[0], 0, 1); /* mutex[0] = 1 */
    Sem_init(&mutex[1], 0, 1); /* mutex[1] = 1 */
    Pthread_create(&tid[0], NULL, count, (void*) 0);
    Pthread_create(&tid[1], NULL, count, (void*) 1);
    Pthread_join(tid[0], NULL);
    Pthread_join(tid[1], NULL);
    printf("cnt=%d\n", cnt);
    exit(0);
}

void *count(void *vargp)
{
    int i;
    int id = (int) vargp;
    for (i = 0; i < NITERS; i++) {
        P(&mutex[0]); P(&mutex[1]);
        cnt++;
        V(&mutex[id]); V(&mutex[1-id]);
    }
    return NULL;
}
```
Avoided Deadlock in Progress Graph

No way for trajectory to get stuck

Processes acquire locks in same order

Order in which locks released immaterial