changelog

26 March 2024: mutual exclusion definition: correct reference to ‘milk’ (from older slides) in example

last time

translation lookaside buffers

- special additional cache for last-level page table entries
- looked by virtual page number
- can practically be very small and therefore very fast

pthread API — pthread_create, pthread_join

- pthread_join — collect thread function return value + wait for thread to finish
- like waitpid: can call when thread already finished

quiz Q1-2

write 4 bytes, set index 4, tag 0x1234 — miss (W 0, R 12)

- write-allocate: read rest of block (12 bytes)
- write-back: store written data in cache only + mark dirty

read 4 bytes, set index 3, tag 0x1234 — miss (W 0, R 16)

- read 16 bytes (block)

write 4 bytes, set index 3, tag 0x1234 — hit (W 0, R 0)

- write-back: modify locally, mark dirty

write 4 bytes, set index 4, tag 0x1234 — miss (W 16, R 12)

- write-allocate: evict other block which is dirty → write 16 bytes
- write-allocate: read rest of block (12 bytes)
- write-back: store written data in cache + mark dirty)

writes to next: 0+0+0+16=16; reads: 12+16+0+12=40

quiz Q3

0x1000000-0x100000f: cache set 0, array elems 0–3

0x1000010-0x100001f: cache set 1, array elems 4–7

...

0x1000190-0x100019f: cache set 25, array elems 100–103

...

0x1000ff0-0x1000fff: cache set 255, array elems 1020–1023

0x1001000-0x100100f: cache set 0, array elems 1024–1027

0x1001010-0x100101f: cache set 1, array elems 1028–1031

...

0x1001190-0x100119f: cache set 25, array elems 1124–1127

quiz Q4

16 entries and 2 ways $\rightarrow$ 8 entries/way $\rightarrow$ 8 sets

virtual address 0xABCDEF: VPN 0xABC, page offset 0xDEF

0xABC = (TLB tag) 1010 1011 1 (TLB index) 100 (4)

quiz Q5

two address 0x1000 bytes apart same cache set?

not possible if physical addresses (different index bits)

problem: index bits depend on page table mapping

if consecutive VPNs map to similar physical page numbers

…have same index bits

quiz Q6

*p = *p + x

modifies *p (what p points to)

p points to variable z

z is local variable for main()

value is on stack

quiz Q7

pthread_create returns when new thread is setup

thread may not run until processor core available

thread might run really fast

so all but D are possible

re D: thread's retun value needs to be kept around + related bookkeeping

thread joining

pthread_join allows collecting thread return value

if you don't join joinable thread, then memory leak!

thread joining

pthread_join allows collecting thread return value

if you don't join joinable thread, then memory leak!

avoiding memory leak?

always join...or

"detach" thread to make it not joinable

pthread_detach

```
void *show_progress(void * ...) { ... }
void spawn_show_progress_thread() {
    pthread_t show_progress_thread;
    pthread_create(&show_progress_thread, NULL,
                   show_progress, NULL);

    /* instead of keeping pthread_t around to join thread later: */
    pthread_detach(show_progress_thread);
}

int main() {
    spawn_show_progress_thread();
    do_othe
    ...
}
```

detach = don't care about return value, etc.
system will deallocate when thread terminates

starting threads detached

```
void *show_progress(void * ...) { ... }
void spawn_show_progress_thread() {
    pthread_t show_progress_thread;
    pthread_attr_t attrs;
    pthread_attr_init(&attrs);
    pthread_attr_setdetachstate(&attrs, PTHREAD_CREATE_DETACHED);
    pthread_create(&show_progress_thread, attrs,
                   show_progress, NULL);
    pthread_attr_destroy(&attrs);
}
```

setting stack sizes

```
void *show_progress(void * ...) { ... }
void spawn_show_progress_thread() {
    pthread_t show_progress_thread;
    pthread_attr_t attrs;
    pthread_attr_init(&attrs);
    pthread_attr_setstacksize(&attrs, 32 * 1024 /* bytes */);
    pthread_create(&show_progress_thread, attrs,
                   show_progress, NULL);
}
```

a threading race

```
#include <pthread.h>
#include <stdio.h>
void *print_message(void *ignored_argument) {
    printf("In the thread\n");
    return NULL;
}
int main() {
    printf("About to start thread\n");
    pthread_t the_thread;
    /* assume does not fail */
    pthread_create(&the_thread, NULL, print_message, NULL);
    printf("Done starting thread\n");
    return 0;
}
```

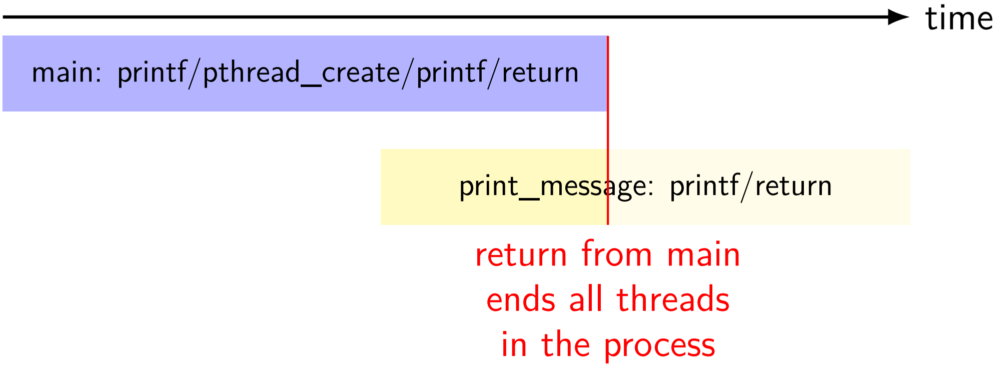
My machine: outputs `In the thread` about 4% of the time.

a race

returning from main exits the entire process (all its threads)

- same as calling exit; not like other threads

race: main's return 0 or print_message's printf first?



the correctness problem

two threads?

introduces *non-determinism*

which one runs first?

allows for “race condition” bugs

…to be avoided with synchronization constructs

example application: ATM server

commands: withdraw, deposit

one correctness goal: don't lose money

ATM server

(pseudocode)

```
ServerLoop() {
    while (true) {
        ReceiveRequest(&operation, &accountNumber, &amount);
        if (operation == DEPOSIT) {
            Deposit(accountNumber, amount);
        } else ...
    }
}
Deposit(accountNumber, amount) {
    account = GetAccount(accountNumber);
    account->balance += amount;
    SaveAccountUpdates(account);
}
```

a threaded server?

```
Deposit(accountNumber, amount) {
    account = GetAccount(accountId);
    account->balance += amount;
    SaveAccountUpdates(account);
}
```

maybe GetAccount/SaveAccountUpdates can be slow?

- read/write disk sometimes? contact another server sometimes?

maybe lots of requests to process?

- maybe real logic has more checks than Deposit()
- …

all reasons to handle multiple requests at once

→ many threads all running the server loop

multiple threads

```
main() {
    for (int i = 0; i < NumberOfThreads; ++i) {
        pthread_create(&server_loop_threads[i], NULL,
                       ServerLoop, NULL);
    }
    ...
}

ServerLoop() {
    while (true) {
        ReceiveRequest(&operation, &accountNumber, &amount);
        if (operation == DEPOSIT) {
            Deposit(accountNumber, amount);
        } else ...
    }
}
```

the lost write

`account->balance += amount;` (in two threads, same account)

Thread A	Thread B
`mov account->balance, %rax`	
`add amount, %rax`	
context switch	
	`mov account->balance, %rax`
	`add amount, %rax`
context switch	
`mov %rax, account->balance`	
context switch	
	`mov %rax, account->balance`

the lost write

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context switch	context switch
	`mov %rax, account->balance`

lost write to balance

"winner" of the race

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Thread A	Thread B
`mov account->balance, %rax`	
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—— context switch ——	
	`mov account->balance, %rax`
	`add amount, %rax`
—— context switch ——	
`mov %rax, account->balance`	
—— context switch ——	
	`mov %rax, account->balance`

lost write to balance

"winner" of the race

lost track of thread A's money

thinking about race conditions (1)

what are the possible values of x? (initially $x = y = 0$)

Thread A	Thread B
$x \leftarrow 1$	$y \leftarrow 2$

thinking about race conditions (1)

what are the possible values of x? (initially $x = y = 0$)

Thread A	**Thread B**
$x \leftarrow 1$	$y \leftarrow 2$

must be 1. Thread B can't do anything

thinking about race conditions (2)

possible values of x? (initially $x = y = 0$)

Thread A	Thread B
$x \leftarrow y + 1$	$y \leftarrow 2$
	$y \leftarrow y \times 2$

thinking about race conditions (2)

possible values of x? (initially $x = y = 0$)

Thread A	Thread B
$x \leftarrow y + 1$	$y \leftarrow 2$
	$y \leftarrow y \times 2$

if A goes first, then B: 1

if B goes first, then A: 5

if B line one, then A, then B line two: 3

thinking about race conditions (3)

what are the possible values of x?

(initially $x = y = 0$)

Thread A	**Thread B**
$x \leftarrow 1$	$x \leftarrow 2$

thinking about race conditions (3)

what are the possible values of x?

(initially $x = y = 0$)

Thread A	**Thread B**
$x \leftarrow 1$	$x \leftarrow 2$

1 or 2

thinking about race conditions (3)

what are the possible values of x?

(initially $x = y = 0$)

Thread A	Thread B
$x \leftarrow 1$	$x \leftarrow 2$

1 or 2

...but why not 3?

B: x bit 0 $\leftarrow 0$
A: x bit 0 $\leftarrow 1$
A: x bit 1 $\leftarrow 0$
B: x bit 1 $\leftarrow 1$

thinking about race conditions (2)

possible values of x? (initially $x = y = 0$)

Thread A	Thread B
$x \leftarrow y + 1$	$y \leftarrow 2$
	$y \leftarrow y \times 2$

if A goes first, then B: 1

if B goes first, then A: 5

if B line one, then A, then B line two: 3

…and why not 7:

B (start): $y \leftarrow 2 = 0010_{\text{TWO}}$; then y bit 3 ← 0; y bit 2 ← 1; then
A: x ← $110_{\text{TWO}} + 1 = 7$; then
B (finish): y bit 1 ← 0; y bit 0 ← 0

atomic operation

atomic operation = operation that runs to completion or not at all

we will use these to let threads work together

most machines: loading/storing (aligned) words is atomic

- so can't get 3 from $x \leftarrow 1$ and $x \leftarrow 2$ running in parallel
- aligned $\approx$ address of word is multiple of word size (typically done by compilers)

but some instructions are not atomic; examples:

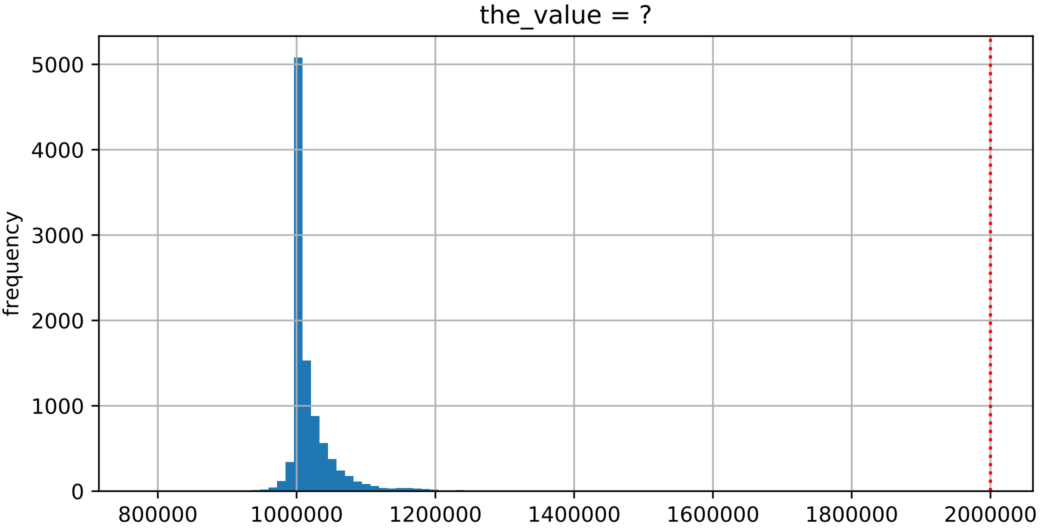
- x86: integer `add` constant to memory location
- many CPUs: loading/storing values that cross cache blocks
  - e.g. if cache blocks `0x40` bytes, load/store 4 byte from addr. `0x3E` is not atomic

lost adds (program)

```
.global update_loop
update_loop:
    addl $1, the_value // the_value (global variable) += 1
    dec %rdi           // argument 1 -= 1
    jg update_loop     // if argument 1 >= 0 repeat
    ret
```

```
int the_value;
extern void *update_loop(void *);
int main(void) {
    the_value = 0;
    pthread_t A, B;
    pthread_create(&A, NULL, update_loop, (void*) 1000000);
    pthread_create(&B, NULL, update_loop, (void*) 1000000);
    pthread_join(A, NULL); pthread_join(B, NULL);
    // expected result: 1000000 + 1000000 = 2000000
    printf("the_value = %d\n", the_value);
}
```

lost adds (results)



but how?

probably not possible on single core

- exceptions can't occur in the middle of `add` instruction

...but 'add to memory' implemented with multiple steps

- still needs to load, add, store internally
- can be interleaved with what other cores do

but how?

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- exceptions can't occur in the middle of `add` instruction

…but 'add to memory' implemented with multiple steps

- still needs to load, add, store internally
- can be interleaved with what other cores do

(and actually it's more complicated than that — we'll talk later)

so, what is actually atomic

for now we'll assume: load/stores of 'words'

(64-bit machine = 64-bits words)

in general: processor designer will tell you

their job to design caches, etc. to work as documented

compilers move loads/stores (1)

```
void WaitForReady() {
    do {} while (!ready);
}
```

```
WaitForOther:
  movl ready, %eax  // eax <- other_ready
.L2:
  testl %eax, %eax
  je .L2                    // while (eax == 0) repeat
  ...
```

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.L2:
  testl %eax, %eax
  je .L2                  // while (eax == 0) repeat
  ...
```

compilers move loads/stores (2)

```
void WaitForOther() {
    is_waiting = 1;
    do {} while (!other_ready);
    is_waiting = 0;
}
```

```
WaitForOther:
  // compiler optimization: don't set is_waiting to 1,
  // (why? it will be set to 0 anyway)
  movl other_ready, %eax  // eax <- other_ready
.L2:
  testl %eax, %eax
  je .L2                         // while (eax == 0) repeat
  ...
  movl $0, is_waiting  // is_waiting <- 0
```

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.L2:
  testl %eax, %eax
  je .L2                      // while (eax == 0) repeat
  ...
  movl $0, is_waiting  // is_waiting <- 0
```

fixing compiler reordering?

isn't there a way to tell compiler not to do these optimizations?

yes, but that is still not enough!

processors sometimes do this kind of reordering too (between cores)

pthreads and reordering

- many pthreads functions prevent reordering
  - everything before function call actually happens before
- includes preventing some optimizations
  - e.g. keeping global variable in register for too long

- pthread_create, pthread_join, other tools we'll talk about ...
  - basically: if pthreads is waiting for/starting something, no weird ordering
- implementation part 1: prevent compiler reordering
- implementation part 2: use special instructions
  - example: x86 `mfence` instruction

some definitions

mutual exclusion: ensuring only one thread does a particular thing at a time

like updating shared balance

some definitions

mutual exclusion: ensuring only one thread does a particular thing at a time

- like updating shared balance

critical section: code that exactly one thread can execute at a time

- result of critical section

some definitions

mutual exclusion: ensuring only one thread does a particular thing at a time

- like updating shared balance

critical section: code that exactly one thread can execute at a time

- result of critical section

lock: object only one thread can hold at a time

- interface for creating critical sections

lock analogy

agreement: only change account balances while wearing this hat

normally hat kept on table

put on hat when editing balance

hopefully, only one person (= thread) can wear hat a time

need to wait for them to remove hat to put it on

lock analogy

agreement: only change account balances while wearing this hat

normally hat kept on table

put on hat when editing balance

hopefully, only one person (= thread) can wear hat a time

need to wait for them to remove hat to put it on

"lock (or acquire) the lock" = get and put on hat

"unlock (or release) the lock" = put hat back on table

the lock primitive

locks: an object with (at least) two operations:

- *acquire* or *lock* — wait until lock is free, then "grab" it
- *release* or *unlock* — let others use lock, wakeup waiters

typical usage: everyone acquires lock before using shared resource

- forget to acquire lock? weird things happen

```
Lock(account_lock);
balance += ...;
Unlock(account_lock);
```

the lock primitive

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typical usage: everyone acquires lock before using shared resource

- forget to acquire lock? weird things happen

```
Lock(account_lock);
balance += ...;
Unlock(account_lock);
```

waiting for lock?

when waiting — ideally:

not using processor (at least if waiting a while)

OS can context switch to other programs

pthread mutex

```
#include <pthread.h>

pthread_mutex_t account_lock;
pthread_mutex_init(&account_lock, NULL);
    // or: pthread_mutex_t account_lock =
    //                 PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;
...
pthread_mutex_lock(&account_lock);
balance += ...;
pthread_mutex_unlock(&account_lock);
```

exercise

```
pthread_mutex_t lock1 = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;
pthread_mutex_t lock2 = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;
string one = "init one", two = "init two";
void ThreadA() {
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock1);
    one = "one in ThreadA";  // (A1)
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock1);
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock2);
    two = "two in ThreadA";  // (A2)
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock2);
}
void ThreadB() {
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock1);
    one = "one in ThreadB";  // (B1)
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock2);
    two = "two in ThreadB";  // (B2)
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock2);
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock1);
}
```

exercise (alternate 1)

```
pthread_mutex_t lock1 = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;
pthread_mutex_t lock2 = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;
string one = "init one", two = "init two";
void ThreadA() {
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock2);
    two = "two in ThreadA";  // (A2)
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock2);
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock1);
    one = "one in ThreadA";  // (A1)
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock1);
}
void ThreadB() {
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock1);
    one = "one in ThreadB";  // (B1)
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock2);
    two = "two in ThreadB";  // (B2)
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock2);
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock1);
}
```

exercise (alternate 2)

```
pthread_mutex_t lock1 = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;
pthread_mutex_t lock2 = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;
string one = "init one", two = "init two";
void ThreadA() {
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock2);
    two = "two in ThreadA";  // (A2)
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock2);
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock1);
    one = "one in ThreadA";  // (A1)
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock1);
}
void ThreadB() {
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock1);
    one = "one in ThreadB";  // (B1)
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock1);
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock2);
    two = "two in ThreadB";  // (B2)
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock2);
}
```

POSIX mutex restrictions

pthread_mutex rule: unlock from same thread you lock in

does this actually matter?

depends on how pthread_mutex is implemented

preview: general sync

lots of coordinating threads beyond locks/barriers

will talk about two general tools later:
- monitors/condition variables
- semaphores

big added feature: wait for arbitrary thing to happen

a bad idea

one bad idea to wait for an event:

```
pthread_mutex_t lock = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER; bool ready = false;
void WaitForReady() {
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock);
    do {
        pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock);
        /* only time MarkReady() can run */
        pthread_mutex_lock(&lock);
    } while (!ready);
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock);
}
void MarkReady() {
    pthread_mutex_lock(&lock);
    ready = true;
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock);
}
```

DO NOT USE THIS CODE

wastes processor time; MarkReady can stall waiting for unlock

beyond locks

in practice: want more than locks for synchronization

for waiting for arbtirary events (without CPU-hogging-loop):

- monitors
- semaphores

for common synchornization patterns:

- barriers
- reader-writer locks

higher-level interface:

- transactions

barriers

compute minimum of 100M element array with 2 processors

algorithm:

compute minimum of 50M of the elements on each CPU

- one thread for each CPU

wait for all computations to finish

take minimum of all the minimums

barriers

compute minimum of 100M element array with 2 processors

algorithm:

compute minimum of 50M of the elements on each CPU

- one thread for each CPU

wait for all computations to finish

take minimum of all the minimums

barriers API

barrier.Initialize(NumberOfThreads)

barrier.Wait() — return after all threads have waited

idea: multiple threads perform computations in parallel

threads wait for all other threads to call Wait()

barrier: waiting for finish

```
barrier.Initialize(2);
```

Thread 0

```
partial_mins[0] =
    /* min of first
       50M elems */;

barrier.Wait();


total_min = min(
    partial_mins[0],
    partial_mins[1]
);
```

Thread 1

```
partial_mins[1] =
    /* min of last
       50M elems */
barrier.Wait();
```

barriers: reuse

Thread 0

```
results[0][0] = getInitial(0);
barrier.Wait();

results[1][0] =
    computeFrom(
        results[0][0],
        results[0][1]
    );
barrier.Wait();

results[2][0] =
    computeFrom(
        results[1][0],
        results[1][1]
    );
```

Thread 1

```
results[0][1] = getInitial(1);
barrier.Wait();

results[1][1] =
    computeFrom(
        results[0][0],
        results[0][1]
    );
barrier.Wait();

results[2][1] =
    computeFrom(
        results[1][0],
        results[1][1]
    );
```

barriers: reuse

Thread 0

```
results[0][0] = getInitial(0);
barrier.Wait();

results[1][0] =
    computeFrom(
        results[0][0],
        results[0][1]
    );
barrier.Wait();

results[2][0] =
    computeFrom(
        results[1][0],
        results[1][1]
    );
```

Thread 1

```
results[0][1] = getInitial(1);
barrier.Wait();

results[1][1] =
    computeFrom(
        results[0][0],
        results[0][1]
    );
barrier.Wait();

results[2][1] =
    computeFrom(
        results[1][0],
        results[1][1]
    );
```

barriers: reuse

Thread 0

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results[0][0] = getInitial(0);
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results[2][0] =
    computeFrom(
        results[1][0],
        results[1][1]
    );
```

Thread 1

```
results[0][1] = getInitial(1);
barrier.Wait();

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    computeFrom(
        results[0][0],
        results[0][1]
    );
barrier.Wait();

results[2][1] =
    computeFrom(
        results[1][0],
        results[1][1]
    );
```

pthread barriers

```
pthread_barrier_t barrier;
pthread_barrier_init(
    &barrier,
    NULL /* attributes */,
    numberOfThreads
);
...
...
pthread_barrier_wait(&barrier);
```

backup slides