Review: Thread package API

- tid thread_create (void (*fn) (void *), void *arg);
 Create a new thread that calls fn with arg
- void thread_exit ();
- void thread_join (tid thread);
- The execution of multiple threads is interleaved
- Can have non-preemptive threads:
 - One thread executes exclusively until it makes a blocking call
- Or *preemptive threads* (what we usually mean in this class):
 - May switch to another thread between any two instructions.
- Using multiple CPUs is inherently preemptive
 - Even if you don't take CPU_0 away from thread T, another thread on CPU_1 can execute "between" any two instructions of T

Program A

```
int flag1 = 0, flag2 = 0;
void p1 (void *ignored) {
   flag1 = 1;
   if (!flag2) { critical_section_1 (); }
}
void p2 (void *ignored) {
   flag2 = 1;
   if (!flag1) { critical_section_2 (); }
}
int main () {
   tid id = thread_create (p1, NULL);
   p2 ();
   thread_join (id);
}
```

Q: Can both critical sections run?

1/44

Program B	Program C
<pre>int data = 0; int ready = 0; void p1 (void *ignored) { data = 2000; ready = 1;</pre>	<pre>int a = 0; int b = 0; void p1 (void *ignored) { a = 1; }</pre>
<pre>} void p2 (void *ignored) { while (!ready)</pre>	<pre>void p2 (void *ignored) { if (a == 1) b = 1; }</pre>

```
while (!ready)
;
use (data);
}
```

```
int main () { ... }
```

Q: Can use be called with value 0?

Q: If p1-3 run concurrently, can use be called with value 0?

	3 / 44	Q. II pri Stuli concurrentiy, call abe be called with value 0.	4/44
Correct answers		Correct answers	

}

[git push slides to web site now]

• Program A: I don't know

void p3 (void *ignored) {

if (b == 1) use (a);

Correct answers	Correct answers
 Program A: I don't know Program B: I don't know 	 Program A: I don't know Program B: I don't know Program C: I don't know Why don't we know? It depends on what machine you use If a system provides sequential consistency, then answers all No But not all hardware provides sequential consistency Note: Examples, other content from [Adve & Gharachorloo] Another great reference: Why Memory Barriers
	5/44
Outline	Sequential Consistency
 Memory consistency The critical section problem 	Definition Sequential consistency: The result of execution is as if all operation were executed in some sequential order, and the operations of each processor occurred in the order specified by the program. – Lamport
3 Mutexes and condition variables	 Boils down to two requirements on loads and stores: Maintaining program order of each individual processor
Implementing synchronization5 Alternate synchronization abstractions	 2. Ensuring write atomicity Without SC (Sequential Consistency), multiple CPUs can be "worse"—i.e., less intuitive—than preemptive threads Result may not correspond to any instruction interleaving on 1 CPU Why doesn't all hardware support sequential consistency?
	6/44
SC thwarts hardware optimizations	SC thwarts compiler optimizations

- Complicates write buffers
 - E.g., read flag n before flag (3 n) written through in Program A

• Can't re-order overlapping write operations

- Concurrent writes to different memory modules
- Coalescing writes to same cache line

Complicates non-blocking reads

- E.g., speculatively prefetch data in Program B
- Makes cache coherence more expensive
 - Must delay write completion until invalidation/update (Program B)
 - Can't allow overlapping updates if no globally visible order (Program C)

- Code motion
- Caching value in register
 - Collapse multiple loads/stores of same address into one operation
- Common subexpression elimination
 - Could cause memory location to be read fewer times
- Loop blocking
 - Re-arrange loops for better cache performance
- Software pipelining
 - Move instructions across iterations of a loop to overlap instruction latency with branch cost

x86 consistency [intel 3a, §8.2]

- x86 supports multiple consistency/caching models
 - Memory Type Range Registers (MTRR) specify consistency for ranges of physical memory (e.g., frame buffer)
 - Page Attribute Table (PAT) allows control for each 4K page

Choices include:

- WB: Write-back caching (the default)
- WT: Write-through caching (all writes go to memory)
- UC: Uncacheable (for device memory)
- WC: Write-combining weak consistency & no caching (used for frame buffers, when sending a lot of data to GPU)

Some instructions have weaker consistency

- String instructions (written cache-lines can be re-ordered)
- Special "non-temporal" store instructions (movnt*) that bypass cache and can be re-ordered with respect to other writes

10/44

x86 WB consistency

Old x86s (e.g, 486, Pentium 1) had almost SC

Exception: A read could finish before an earlier write to a different location

- Which of Programs A, B, C might be affected? Just A

Newer x86s also let a CPU read its own writes early

volatile int flag1;	volatile int flag2;
int p1 (void)	int p2 (void)
{	{
<pre>register int f, g;</pre>	<pre>register int f, g;</pre>
flag1 = 1;	flag2 = 1;
f = flag1;	f = flag2;
g = flag2;	g = flag1;
return 2*f + g;	return 2*f + g;
}	}

- E.g., both p1 and p2 can return 2:
- Older CPUs would wait at "f = ..." until store complete

11/44

Outline

- Memory consistency
- 2 The critical section problem
- Mutexes and condition variables
- Implementing synchronization
- 6 Alternate synchronization abstractions

x86 WB consistency

Old x86s (e.g, 486, Pentium 1) had almost SC

- Exception: A read could finish before an earlier write to a different location
- Which of Programs A, B, C might be affected?
- Reminder:
 - Program A: flag1 = 1; if (!flag2) critical_section_1();
 - Program B: while (!ready); use(data);
 - Program C: P2 if (a == 1) b = 1; and P3 if (b == 1) use(a);

11/44

x86 atomicity

Iock prefix makes a memory instruction atomic

- Historically locked bus for duration of instruction (expensive!)
- Now requires exclusively caching memory, synchronizing with
- other memory operations
- All lock instructions totally ordered
- Other memory instructions cannot be re-ordered with locked ones

xchg instruction is always locked (even without prefix)

- Special barrier (or "fence") instructions can prevent re-ordering
 - lfence can't be reordered with reads (or later writes)
 - sfence can't be reordered with writes
 - (e.g., use after non-temporal stores, before setting a ready flag)
 - mfence can't be reordered with reads or writes

12/44

Assuming sequential consistency

- Often we reason about concurrent code assuming SC
- But for low-level code, either know your memory model or program for worst-case relaxed consistency (~DEC alpha)
 - May need to sprinkle barrier/fence instructions into your source
 - Or may need compiler barriers to restrict optimization
- For most code, avoid depending on memory model
 - Idea: If you obey certain rules (discussed later) ... system behavior should be indistinguishable from SC
- Let's for now say we have sequential consistency
- Example concurrent code: Producer/Consumer
 - buffer stores BUFFER SIZE items
 - count is number of used slots
 - out is next empty buffer slot to fill (if any)
 - in is oldest filled slot to consume (if any)

```
void producer (void *ignored) {
                                                                                                    Data races
    for (;;) {
       item *nextProduced = produce item ():
       while (count == BUFFER_SIZE)
            /* do nothing */;

    count may have wrong value

       buffer[in] = nextProduced;
       in = (in + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;

    Possible implementation of count++ and count--

        count++;
                                                                               register ← count
                                                                                                       register ← count
    }
}
                                                                               register \leftarrow register + 1 register \leftarrow register - 1
                                                                               count←register
                                                                                                       count←register
void consumer (void *ignored) {
                                                                          • Possible execution (count one less than correct):
    for (;;) {
       while (count == 0)
                                                                               register ← count
            /* do nothing */;
                                                                               register \leftarrow register + 1
       item *nextConsumed = buffer[out];
                                                                                                       register ← count
       out = (out + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;
                                                                                                       register \leftarrow register - 1
        count --;
        consume_item (nextConsumed);
                                                                               count←register
    }
                                                                                                       count←register
}
```

Q: What can go wrong in above threads (even with SC)?

15/44

16/44

Data races (continued)

• What about a single-instruction add?

- E.g., i386 allows single instruction addl \$1,_count
- So implement count++/-- with one instruction
- Now are we safe?

Data races (continued)

• What about a single-instruction add?

- E.g., i386 allows single instruction addl \$1,_count
- So implement count++/-- with one instruction
- Now are we safe? Not on multiprocessors!

A single instruction may encode a load and a store operation

- S.C. doesn't make such *read-modify-write* instructions atomic
- So on multiprocessor, suffer same race as 3-instruction version
- Can make x86 instruction atomic with lock prefix
 - But lock potentially very expensive
 - Compiler assumes you don't want penalty, doesn't emit it

• Need solution to *critical section* problem

- Place count++ and count-- in critical section
- Protect critical sections from concurrent execution

17/44

Desired properties of solution

- Mutual Exclusion
 - Only one thread can be in critical section at a time
- Progress
 - Say no process currently in critical section (C.S.)
 - One of the processes trying to enter will eventually get in
- Bounded waiting
 - Once a thread T starts trying to enter the critical section, there is a bound on the number of times other threads get in
- Note progress vs. bounded waiting
 - If no thread can enter C.S., don't have progress
 - If thread *A* waiting to enter C.S. while *B* repeatedly leaves and re-enters C.S. *ad infinitum*, don't have bounded waiting

Peterson's solution

- Still assuming sequential consistency
- Assume two threads, T₀ and T₁
- Variables
 - int not_turn; // not this thread's turn to enter C.S.
 - bool wants[2]; // wants[i] indicates if T_i wants to enter C.S.

```
Code:
```

Does Peterson's solution work?

```
for (;;) { /* code in thread i */
wants[i] = true;
not_turn = i;
while (wants[1-i] && not_turn == i)
    /* other thread wants in and not our turn, so loop */;
Critical_section ();
wants[i] = false;
Remainder_section ();
}
```

Mutual exclusion – can't both be in C.S.

- Would mean wants[0] == wants[1] == true, so not_turn would have blocked one thread from C.S.
- Progress given demand, one thread can always enter C.S.
 - If T_{1-i} doesn't want C.S., wants [1-i] == false, so T_i won't loop
 If both threads want in, one thread is not the not_turn thread
- Bounded waiting similar argument to progress
 If T_i wants lock and T_{1-i} tries to re-enter, T_{1-i} will set not_turn = 1 i, allowing T_i in

20/44

Outline

- Memory consistency
- 2 The critical section problem
- 3 Mutexes and condition variables
- Implementing synchronization
- 5 Alternate synchronization abstractions

21/44

Mutexes

- Peterson expensive, only works for 2 processes
 - Can generalize to *n*, but for some fixed *n*
- Must adapt to machine memory model if not SC
 - If you need machine-specific barriers anyway, might as well take advantage of other instructions helpful for synchronization
- Want to insulate programmer from implementing synchronization primitives
- Thread packages typically provide mutexes: void mutex_init (mutex_t *m, ...); void mutex_lock (mutex_t *m); int mutex_trylock (mutex_t *m); void mutex_unlock (mutex_t *m);
 - Only one thread acquires m at a time, others wait

Thread API contract

All global data should be protected by a mutex!

- Global = accessed by more than one thread, at least one write
- Exception is initialization, before exposed to other threads
- This is the responsibility of the application writer

• If you use mutexes properly, behavior should be indistinguishable from Sequential Consistency

- This is the responsibility of the threads package (& compiler)
- Mutex is broken if you use properly and don't see SC

OS kernels also need synchronization

- Some mechanisms look like mutexes
- But interrupts complicate things (incompatible w. mutexes)

22/44

Same concept, many names

Most popular application-level thread API: Pthreads

- Function names in this lecture all based on Pthreads
- Just add pthread_ prefix
- E.g., pthread_mutex_t, pthread_mutex_lock, ...
- C11 uses mtx_ instead of mutex_, C++11 uses methods on mutex
- Pintos uses struct lock for mutexes:

```
void lock_init (struct lock *);
void lock_acquire (struct lock *);
```

```
bool lock_try_acquire (struct lock *);
void lock_release (struct lock *);
```

- Extra Pintos feature:
 - Release checks that lock was acquired by same thread
 - bool lock_held_by_current_thread (struct lock *lock);

Improved producer

```
mutex_t mutex = MUTEX_INITIALIZER;
```

```
void producer (void *ignored) {
  for (;;) {
    item *nextProduced = produce_item ();
    mutex_lock (&mutex);
    while (count == BUFFER_SIZE) {
        mutex_unlock (&mutex);
        thread_yield ();
        mutex_lock (&mutex);
    }
    buffer [in] = nextProduced;
```

```
in = (in + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;
count++;
mutex_unlock (&mutex);
```

}

}

Improved consumer

```
void consumer (void *ignored) {
   for (;;) {
       mutex_lock (&mutex);
       while (count == 0) {
         mutex_unlock (&mutex); /* <--- Why? */</pre>
         thread_yield ();
         mutex_lock (&mutex);
       7
       item *nextConsumed = buffer[out];
       out = (out + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;
       count--;
       mutex_unlock (&mutex);
       consume_item (nextConsumed);
   }
}
```

Condition variables

Busy-waiting in application is a bad idea

- Consumes CPU even when a thread can't make progress
- Unnecessarily slows other threads/processes or wastes power
- Better to inform scheduler of which threads can run
- Typically done with condition variables
- struct cond_t; (pthread_cond_t or condition in Pintos)
- void cond_init (cond_t *, ...);
- void cond_wait (cond_t *c, mutex_t *m);
 - Atomically unlock m and sleep until c signaled
 - Then re-acquire m and resume executing
- void cond_signal (cond_t *c);
 - void cond_broadcast (cond_t *c);
 - Wake one/all threads waiting on c

26/44

Improved producer

mutex_t mutex = MUTEX_INITIALIZER; cond_t nonempty = COND_INITIALIZER; cond_t nonfull = COND_INITIALIZER;

```
void producer (void *ignored) {
   for (;;) {
       item *nextProduced = produce_item ();
```

mutex_lock (&mutex); while (count == BUFFER_SIZE) cond_wait (&nonfull, &mutex); buffer [in] = nextProduced;

```
in = (in + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;
count++;
cond_signal (&nonempty);
mutex_unlock (&mutex);
```

```
}
```

}

Re-check conditions

```
    Always re-check condition on wake-up

       while (count == 0) /* not if *
        cond_wait (&nonempty, &mutex);
```

 Otherwise, breaks with spurious wakeup or two consumers - Start where Consumer 1 has mutex but buffer empty, then:

Consumer 1	Consumer 2	Producer
cond_wait ();		<pre>mutex_lock ();</pre>
	<pre>mutex_lock (); if (count == 0)</pre>	<pre>mutex_unlock ();</pre>
USE buffer[out]	← No items in buffer	

Improved consumer

```
void consumer (void *ignored) {
   for (;;) {
       mutex_lock (&mutex);
       while (count == 0)
         cond_wait (&nonempty, &mutex);
       item *nextConsumed = buffer[out];
       out = (out + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;
       count--;
       cond_signal (&nonfull);
       mutex_unlock (&mutex);
       consume_item (nextConsumed);
   }
}
```

28/44

Condition variables (continued)

```
• Why must cond_wait both release mutex & sleep?
```

```
• Why not separate mutexes and condition variables?
```

```
while (count == BUFFER_SIZE) {
 mutex_unlock (&mutex);
  cond_wait (&nonfull);
 mutex_lock (&mutex);
}
```

27/44

Condition variables (continued)

- Why must cond_wait both release mutex & sleep?
- Why not separate mutexes and condition variables?

```
while (count == BUFFER_SIZE) {
  mutex_unlock (&mutex);
  cond_wait (&nonfull);
  mutex_lock (&mutex);
```

}

• Can end up stuck waiting when bad interleaving

Producer	Consumer
<pre>while (count == BUFFER_SIZE) mutex_unlock (&mutex);</pre>	
	<pre>mutex_lock (&mutex);</pre>
	count;
	<pre>cond_signal (&nonfull);</pre>
<pre>cond_wait (&nonfull);</pre>	

• Problem: cond_wait & cond_signal do not commute

Other thread package features

- Alerts cause exception in a thread
- Timedwait timeout on condition variable
- Shared locks concurrent read accesses to data
- Thread priorities control scheduling policy
 - Mutex attributes allow various forms of *priority donation* (will be familiar concept after lab 1)
- Thread-specific global data
 - Need for things like errno
- Different synchronization primitives (later in lecture)
- 31/44 32/44 Outline Implementing synchronization Implement mutex as straight-forward data structure? typedef struct mutex { Memory consistency bool is_locked; /* true if locked */ thread_id_t owner; /* thread holding lock, if locked */ thread_list_t waiters; /* threads waiting for lock */ 2 The critical section problem } mutex_t; Mutexes and condition variables Implementing synchronization
- 6 Alternate synchronization abstractions

33/44

Implementing synchronization

• Implement mutex as straight-forward data structure?

typedef struct mutex {
 bool is_locked; /* true if locked */
 thread_id_t owner; /* thread holding lock, if locked */
 thread_list_t waiters; /* threads waiting for lock */
 lower_level_lock_t lk; /* Protect above fields */
} mutex_t;

- Fine, so long as we avoid data races on the mutex itself
- Need lower-level lock 1k for mutual exclusion
 - Internally, mutex_* functions bracket code with lock(&mutex->lk) ... unlock(&mutex->lk)
 - Otherwise, data races! (E.g., two threads manipulating waiters)
- How to implement lower_level_lock_t?
 - Could use Peterson's algorithm, but typically a bad idea (too slow and don't know maximum number of threads)

Approach #1: Disable interrupts

- Only for apps with n : 1 threads (1 kthread)
 - Cannot take advantage of multiprocessors
 - But sometimes most efficient solution for uniprocessors
- Typical setup: periodic timer signal caught by thread scheduler
- Have per-thread "do not interrupt" (DNI) bit
- lock (lk): sets thread's DNI bit
- If timer interrupt arrives
 - Check interrupted thread's DNI bit
 - If DNI clear, preempt current thread
 - If DNI set, set "interrupted" (I) bit & resume current thread
- unlock (lk): clears DNI bit and checks I bit
 - If I bit is set, immediately yields the CPU

Approach #2: Spinlocks

- Most CPUs support atomic read-[modify-]write
- Example: int test_and_set (int *lockp);
 - Atomically sets *lockp = 1 and returns old value
 - Special instruction no way to implement in portable C99 (C11 supports with explicit atomic_flag_tet_and_set function)
- Use this instruction to implement spinlocks:
 #define lock(lockp) while (test_and_set (lockp))
 - #define trylock(lockp) (test_and_set (lockp) == 0)
 #define unlock(lockp) *lockp = 0
- Spinlocks implement mutex's lower_level_lock_t

• Can you use spinlocks instead of mutexes?

- Wastes CPU, especially if thread holding lock not running
- Mutex functions have short C.S., less likely to be preempted
- On multiprocessor, sometimes good to spin for a bit, then yield

36/44

Synchronization on alpha

Id1_1 – load locked

- stl_c store conditional (reg←0 if not atomic w. ldl_l)
- _test_and_set:
- ldq_l v0, 0(a0) # v0 = *lockp (LOCKED) bne v0, 1f # if (v0) return # v0 = 1addq zero, 1, v0 stq_c v0, 0(a0) # *lockp = v0 (CONDITIONAL) v0, _test_and_set # if (failed) try again beq mb # return 0 addq zero, zero, v0 1: ret zero, (ra), 1
- Note: Alpha memory consistency weaker than x86
 - Want all CPUs to think memory accesses in C.S. happened after acquiring lock, before releasing
 - *Memory barrier* instruction mb ensures this (c.f. mfence on x86)
 - See Why Memory Barriers for why alpha still worth understanding

38/44

Kernel locks

Nowadays, should design for multiprocessors

- Even if first version of OS is for uniprocessor
- Someday may want multiple CPUs and need preemptive threads
- That's why Pintos uses sleeping locks (*sleeping* locks means mutexes, as opposed to *spin*locks)
- Multiprocessor performance needs fine-grained locks
 - Want to be able to call into the kernel on multiple CPUs
- If kernel has locks, should it ever disable interrupts?

Synchronization on x86

- Test-and-set only one possible atomic instruction
- x86 xchg instruction, exchanges reg with mem
 - Can use to implement test-and-set

```
_test_and_set:
    movl 4(%esp), %edx # %edx = lockp
    movl $1, %eax # %eax = 1
    xchgl %eax, (%edx) # swap (%eax, *lockp)
    ret
```

• CPU locks memory system around read and write

Recall xchgl always acts like it has implicit lock prefix
Prevents other uses of the bus (e.g., DMA)

Usually runs at memory bus speed, not CPU speed

- Much slower than cached read/buffered write

37/44

Kernel Synchronization

Should kernel use locks or disable interrupts?

Old UNIX had 1 CPU, non-preemptive threads, no mutexes

- Interface designed for single CPU, so count++ etc. not data race
- ... Unless memory shared with an interrupt handler

int x = splhigh (); /* Disable interrupts */
/* touch data shared with interrupt handler ... */
splx (x); /* Restore previous state */

- C.f., intr_disable / intr_set_level in Pintos, and preempt_disable / preempt_enable in linux

Used arbitrary pointers like condition variables

- int [t]sleep (void *ident, int priority, ...);
 put thread to sleep; will wake up at priority (~cond_wait)
- int wakeup (void *ident); wake up all threads sleeping on ident ($\sim {\tt cond_broadcast})$

39/44

Kernel locks

Nowadays, should design for multiprocessors

- Even if first version of OS is for uniprocessor
- Someday may want multiple CPUs and need preemptive threads
- That's why Pintos uses sleeping locks (sleeping locks means mutexes, as opposed to spinlocks)
- Multiprocessor performance needs fine-grained locks
 - Want to be able to call into the kernel on multiple CPUs
- If kernel has locks, should it ever disable interrupts?
 - Yes! Can't sleep in interrupt handler, so can't wait for lock
 - So even modern OSes have support for disabling interrupts
 - Often uses DNI trick when cheaper than masking interrupts in hardware

Outline	Semaphores [Dijkstra]
 Memory consistency The critical section problem Mutexes and condition variables Implementing synchronization Alternate synchronization abstractions 	 A Semaphore is initialized with an integer N Provides two functions: sem_wait (S) (originally called P, called sema_down in Pintos) sem_signal (S) (originally called V, called sema_up in Pintos) Guarantees sem_wait will return only N more times than sem_signal called Example: If N == 1, then semaphore acts as a mutex with sem_wait as lock and sem_signal as unlock Semaphores give elegant solutions to some problems Unlike condition variables, wait & signal commute Linux primarily uses semaphores for sleeping locks sem_init, down_interruptible, up, Also weird reader-writer semaphores, rw_semaphore [Love]
41/ Semaphore producer/consumer	42/44 Various synchronization mechanisms
<pre>• Initialize full to 0 (block consumer when buffer empty) • Initialize empty to N (block producer when queue full) void producer (void *ignored) { for (;;) { item *nextProduced = produce_item (); sem_wait (∅); buffer [in] = nextProduced; in = (in + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE; sem_signal (&full); } } void consumer (void *ignored) { for (;;) { sem_wait (&full); item *nextConsumed = buffer[out]; out = (out + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE; sem_signal (∅); consume_item (nextConsumed); } </pre>	 Other more esoteric primitives you might encounter Plan 9 used a rendezvous mechanism Haskell uses MVars (like channels of depth 1) Many synchronization mechanisms equally expressive Pintos implements locks, condition vars using semaphores Could have been vice versa Can even implement condition variables in terms of mutexes Why base everything around semaphore implementation? High-level answer: no particularly good reason If you want only one mechanism, can't be condition variables (interface fundamentally requires mutexes) Because sem_wait and sem_signal commute, eliminates problem of condition variables w/o mutexes

43/44

} }