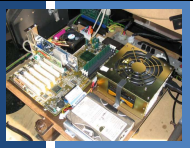
TCSS 422: OPERATING SYSTEMS



Three Easy Pieces:
Condition Variables

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OBJECTIVES

- Assignment 2 – Matrix Task Processor
- Condition Variables – Ch. 30
- Practice Midterm

FEEDBACK – 4/23

- Where should locks be implemented?
  - Lock-based data structures

CHAPTER 30 – CONDITION VARIABLES

CONDITION VARIABLES

- There are many cases where a thread wants to wait for another thread before proceeding with execution
- Consider when a precondition must be fulfilled before it is meaningful to proceed …

CONDITION VARIABLES - 2

- Support a signaling mechanism to alert threads when preconditions have been satisfied
- Eliminate busy waiting
- Alert one or more threads to "consume" a result, or respond to state changes in the application
- Threads are placed on an **explicit queue** (FIFO) to wait for signals
- **Signal**: wakes one thread
  broadcast wakes all (ordering by the OS)

CONDITION VARIABLES - 3

- Condition variable

```
pthread_cond_t c;
```

  - Requires initialization
- Condition API calls

```
pthread_cond_wait(pthread_cond_t *c, pthread_mutex_t *m);    // wait()
pthread_cond_signal(pthread_cond_t *c);                      // signal()
```

- wait() accepts a mutex parameter
  - Releases lock, puts thread to sleep
- signal()
  - Wakes up thread, awakening thread acquires lock

CONDITION VARIABLES - QUESTIONS

- **Why would we want to put waiting threads on a queue… why not use a stack?**
  - Queue (FIFO), Stack (LIFO)
  - Using condition variables eliminates busy waiting by putting threads to "sleep" and yielding the CPU.
- **Why do we want to not busily wait for the lock to become available?**
- A program has 10-threads, where 9 threads are waiting. The working thread finishes and broadcasts that the lock is available. **What happens next?**

MATRIX GENERATOR

Matrix generation example

Chapter 30
signal.c

MATRIX GENERATOR

- The main thread, and worker thread (generates matrices) share a single matrix pointer.
- What would happen if we don't use a condition variable to coordinate exchange of the lock?
- Let's try "nosignal.c"

QUESTIONS