TCSS 422: OPERATING SYSTEMS

Lock Based Data Structures, Condition Variables

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OBJECTIVES

- Quiz 2 Review
- Tutorial 1 Questions
- Homework 1 Questions
- Feedback from 1/31
- Ch. 29
  - Lock Based Data Structures
- Ch. 30 (start)
  - Condition Variables
- Practice midterm

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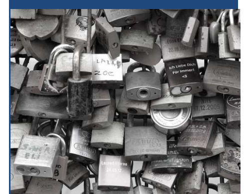
FEEDBACK FROM 1/31

- **For lock implementation, do we want:**
- **Correctness, fairness, OR performance**
- **Correctness, fairness, AND performance**
- Do we want at least two of the three for a good solution?
- Evaluation criteria apply to both:
  - Implementation of locks within a language (e.g. C)
  - Implementation of locking within a user program
- **Correctness**: locks **must be** correct to be usable. Must avoid deadlock, race conditions
- Performance and fairness are never perfect
- Best solutions are correct, while offering some balance of performance and fairness.
  - Performance and fairness aren't directly related

FEEDBACK - 2

- **How does lock granularity impact correctness, fairness, and/or performance of user programs?**
- Fine grained locking increasing program complexity leading to greater potential for race conditions, dead lock from programmer error
- Fine grained locking potentially decreases performance by ***increasing overhead*** for obtaining a large number of locks
  - Coarse grained locking results in more blocked threads, less parallelism, and slower program performance
- With fine grained locking, there should be ***less competition*** for each individual lock, making fairness simpler to provide
  - Coarse grained locks increases competition for each lock
  - More opportunities for lock starvation

CHAPTER 29 – LOCK BASED DATA STRUCTTURES



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LOCK-BASED CONCURRENT DATA STRUCTURES

- Adding locks to data structures make them thread safe.
- Considerations:
  - Correctness
  - Performance
  - Lock granularity

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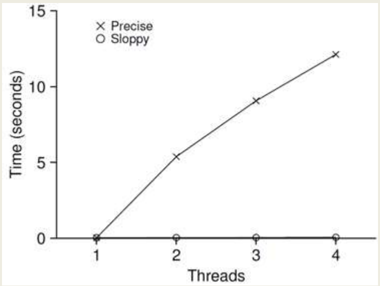
CONCURRENT COUNTERS - PERFORMANCE

- iMac: four core Intel 2.7 GHz i5 CPU
- Each thread increments counter 1,000,000 times

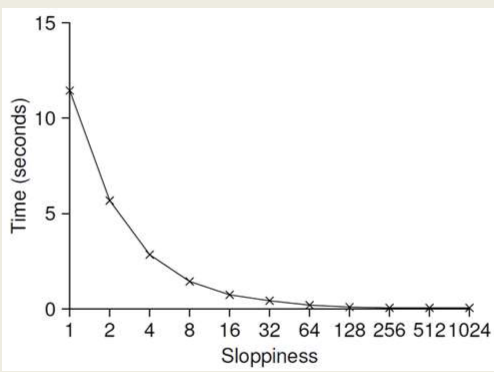


Traditional vs. sloppy counter
Sloppy Threshold (S) = 1024

Synchronized counter scales poorly.

SLOPPY COUNTER - THRESHOLD VALUE S

- Consider 4 threads increment a counter 1000000 times each
- Low *S* → What is the consequence?
- High *S* → What is the consequence?



CONCURRENT LINKED LIST - 1

- Simplification - only basic list operations shown
- Structs and initialization:

```
// basic node structure
typedef struct __node_t {
        int key;
        struct __node_t *next;
} node_t;

// basic list structure (one used per list)
typedef struct __list_t {
        node_t *head;
        pthread_mutex_t lock;
} list_t;

void List_Init(list_t *L) {
        L->head = NULL;
        pthread_mutex_init(&L->lock, NULL);
}

(Cont.)
```


CONCURRENT LINKED LIST - 2

- Insert – adds item to list
- Everything is critical!
  - There are two unlocks

```
(Cont.)
int List_Insert(list_t *L, int key) {
        pthread_mutex_lock(&L->lock);
        node_t *new = malloc(sizeof(node_t));
        if (new == NULL) {
                perror("malloc");
                pthread_mutex_unlock(&L->lock);
        return -1; // fail
        new->key = key;
        new->next = L->head;
        L->head = new;
        pthread_mutex_unlock(&L->lock);
        return 0; // success
}
(Cont.)
```

CONCURRENT LINKED LIST - 3

- Lookup – checks list for existence of item with key
- Once again everything is critical
  - Note - there are also two unlocks

```
(Cont.)
    int List_Lookup(list_t *L, int key) {
        pthread_mutex_lock(&L->lock);
        node_t *curr = L->head;
        while (curr) {
            if (curr->key == key) {
                pthread_mutex_unlock(&L->lock);
                return 0; // success
            }
            curr = curr->next;
        }
        pthread_mutex_unlock(&L->lock);
        return -1; // failure
    }
```


CONCURRENT LINKED LIST

- First Implementation:
  - Lock everything inside Insert() and Lookup()
  - If malloc() fails lock must be released
    - Research has shown "***exception-based control flow***" to be error prone
    - 40% of Linux OS bugs occur in rarely taken code paths
    - Unlocking in an exception handler is considered a poor coding practice
    - There is nothing specifically wrong with this example however
- Second Implementation …

CCL – SECOND IMPLEMENTATION

- **Init and Insert**

```c
void List_Init(list_t *L) {
        L->head = NULL;
        pthread_mutex_init(&L->lock, NULL);
}

void List_Insert(list_t *L, int key) {
        // synchronization not needed
        node_t *new = malloc(sizeof(node_t));
        if (new == NULL) {
                perror("malloc");
                return;
        }
        new->key = key;

        // just lock critical section
        pthread_mutex_lock(&L->lock);
        new->next = L->head;
        L->head = new;
        pthread_mutex_unlock(&L->lock);
}
```


CCL – SECOND IMPLEMENTATION - 2

- **Lookup**

(Cont.)

```c
int List_Lookup(list_t *L, int key) {
        int rv = -1;
        pthread_mutex_lock(&L->lock);
        node_t *curr = L->head;
        while (curr) {
                if (curr->key == key) {
                        rv = 0;
                        break;
                }
                curr = curr->next;
        }
        pthread_mutex_unlock(&L->lock);
        return rv; // now both success and failure
}
```

CONCURRENT LINKED LIST PERFORMANCE

- Using a single lock for entire list is not very performant
- Users must "wait" in line for a single lock to access/modify any item
- Hand-over-hand-locking (lock coupling)
  - Introduce a lock for each node of a list
  - Traversal involves handing over previous node's lock, acquiring the next node's lock...
  - Improves lock granularity
  - Degrades traversal performance
- Consider hybrid approach
  - Fewer locks, but more than 1
  - Best lock-to-node distribution?

MICHAEL AND SCOTT CONCURRENT QUEUES

- Improvement beyond a single master lock for a queue (FIFO)
- Two locks:
  - One for the **head** of the queue
  - One for the **tail**
- Synchronize enqueue and dequeue operations
- Add a dummy node
  - Allocated in the queue initialization routine
  - Supports separation of head and tail operations
- Items can be added and removed by separate threads at the same time

CONCURRENT QUEUE

- Remove from queue

```
typedef struct __node_t {
        int value;
        struct __node_t *next;
} node_t;

typedef struct __queue_t {
        node_t *head;
        node_t *tail;
        pthread_mutex_t headLock;
        pthread_mutex_t tailLock;
} queue_t;

void Queue_Init(queue_t *q) {
        node_t *tmp = malloc(sizeof(node_t));
        tmp->next = NULL;
        q->head = q->tail = tmp;
        pthread_mutex_init(&q->headLock, NULL);
        pthread_mutex_init(&q->tailLock, NULL);
}

(Cont.)
```


CONCURRENT QUEUE - 2

- Add to queue

```
(Cont.)
void Queue_Enqueue(queue_t *q, int value) {
        node_t *tmp = malloc(sizeof(node_t));
        assert(tmp != NULL);

        tmp->value = value;
        tmp->next = NULL;

        pthread_mutex_lock(&q->tailLock);
        q->tail->next = tmp;
        q->tail = tmp;
        pthread_mutex_unlock(&q->tailLock);
}
(Cont.)
```

CONCURRENT HASH TABLE

- Consider a simple hash table
  - Fixed (static) size
  - Hash maps to a bucket
    - Bucket is implemented using a concurrent linked list
    - One lock per hash (bucket)
    - Hash bucket is a linked lists

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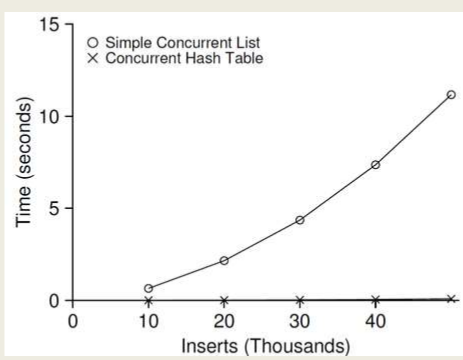
INSERT PERFORMANCE – CONCURRENT HASH TABLE

- Four threads – 10,000 to 50,000 inserts
  - iMac with four-core Intel 2.7 GHz CPU



The simple concurrent hash table scales magnificently.

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CONCURRENT HASH TABLE

```c
#define BUCKETS (101)

typedef struct __hash_t {
        list_t lists[BUCKETS];
} hash_t;

void Hash_Init(hash_t *H) {
        int i;
        for (i = 0; i < BUCKETS; i++) {
                List_Init(&H->lists[i]);
        }
}

int Hash_Insert(hash_t *H, int key) {
        int bucket = key % BUCKETS;
        return List_Insert(&H->lists[bucket], key);
}

int Hash_Lookup(hash_t *H, int key) {
        int bucket = key % BUCKETS;
        return List_Lookup(&H->lists[bucket], key);
}
```


LOCK-FREE DATA STRUCTURES

- Lock-free data structures in Java
- Java.util.concurrent.atomic package
- Classes:
  - AtomicBoolean
  - AtomicInteger
  - AtomicIntegerArray
  - AtomicIntegerFieldUpdater
  - AtomicLong
  - AtomicLongArray
  - AtomicLongFieldUpdater
  - AtomicReference
- See: https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/concurrent/atomic/package-summary.html

QUESTIONS