CSE113: Parallel Programming Feb. 10, 2023

- Topics:
 - Concurrent data structure specifications
 - Sequential consistency
 - Breaking sequential consistency
 - Linearizability



Announcements

- Expect HW1 grades by Moday
 - Let us know if there are any issues ASAP
- Homework 2 was due, but you have until Monday
 - Please use office hours or piazza if you have questions
 - Remember, nights and weekends have no guarantees of responses.
- Homework 3 is scheduled for Monday release

Announcements

- Midterm is released on Monday
 - asynchronous, Monday morning to Friday night
 - no time limit
 - Open note, open internet (to a reasonable extent: no googling exact questions or asking questions on forums or chatGPT)
 - do not discuss with classmates AT ALL while the test is active
 - No late tests will be accepted.

It is impossible to use objects that are not thread-safe in a concurrent program.

⊖ True

⊖ False

Non-locking objects do not use mutexes in their implementation. This is beneficial because:

 \bigcirc it is potentially faster

 \bigcirc it is easier to reason about

 \bigcirc it is easier to extend

When multiple threads access a concurrent object, only 1 possible execution is allowed. We reason about that execution by sequentializing object method calls and it is called sequential consistency

⊖ True

 \bigcirc False

Write a few sentences about the pros and cons of using a concurrent data structure vs. using mutexes to protect data structures that are not thread-safe.

Review

Concurrent Data Structures

global variables:

int tylers_account = 0;

```
Tyler's coffee addiction:
for (int i = 0; i < HOURS; i++) {
   tylers_account -= 1;
}</pre>
```

Tyler's employer

```
for (int j = 0; j < HOURS; j++) {
    tylers_account += 1;
}</pre>
```

global variables:

bank_account tylers_account;

```
Tyler's coffee addiction:
```

```
for (int i = 0; i < HOURS; i++) {
   tylers_account.buy_coffee();
}</pre>
```

Tyler's employer

```
for (int j = 0; j < HOURS; j++) {
   tylers_account.get_paid();
}</pre>
```

```
class bank account {
 public:
    bank account() {
      balance = 0;
    void buy coffee() {
      balance -= 1;
    void get paid() {
      balance += 1;
 private:
    int balance;
};
```

global variables:

bank_account tylers_account;

```
Tyler's coffee addiction:
for (int i = 0; i < HOURS; i++) {
   tylers_account.buy_coffee();
}
```

Tyler's employer

```
for (int j = 0; j < HOURS; j++) {
   tylers_account.get_paid();
}</pre>
```

```
class bank account {
 public:
    bank account() {
      balance = 0;
    void buy coffee() {
      balance -= 1;
    void get paid() {
      balance += 1;
 private:
    int balance;
};
```

what happens if

we run these

concurrently?

```
global variables:
```

```
bank_account tylers_account;
mutex m;
```

Tyler's coffee addiction:

```
for (int i = 0; i < HOURS; i++) {
    m.lock();
    tylers_account.buy_coffee();
    m.unlock();
}</pre>
```

Tyler's employer

```
for (int j = 0; j < HOURS; j++) {
    m.lock();
    tylers_account.get_paid();
    m.unlock();
}</pre>
```

```
class bank_account {
 public:
    bank_account() {
      balance = 0;
    void buy coffee() {
      balance -= 1;
    void get_paid() {
      balance += 1;
 private:
    int balance;
};
```

The object is not "thread safe"

global variables:

bank_account tylers_account;

Tyler's coffee addiction:

```
for (int i = 0; i < HOURS; i++) {
    tylers_account.buy_coffee();
}</pre>
```

Tyler's employer

```
for (int j = 0; j < HOURS; j++) {
   tylers_account.get_paid();
}</pre>
```

```
class bank_account {
                      public:
                         bank account() {
                           balance = 0;
                         void buy coffee() {
                           m.lock();
                           balance -= 1;
                           m.unlock();
                         void get paid() {
                           m.lock();
                           balance += 1;
                           m.unlock();
                      private:
                         int balance;
The object is "thread safe"
                        mutex m;
                    };
```

global variables:

bank_account tylers_account;

Tyler's coffee addiction:

```
for (int i = 0; i < HOURS; i++) {
   tylers_account.buy_coffee();
}</pre>
```

Tyler's employer

```
for (int j = 0; j < HOURS; j++) {
   tylers_account.get_paid();
}</pre>
```

```
class bank account {
  public:
    bank account() {
      balance = 0;
    void buy coffee() {
      atomic_fetch_add(&balance, -1);
   void get paid() {
      atomic_fetch_add(&balance, 1);
 private:
    atomic int balance;
};
```

The object is "non-locking"

3 dimensions for concurrent objects

• Correctness:

• How should concurrent objects behave (Specification)

• Performance:

• How to make things fast fast fast!

• Fairness:

• Under what conditions can concurrent objects deadlock

Sequential Consistency

• Our first specification

Lets think about a Queue

What is a queue?

We consider 2 API functions:

- enq(value v) enqueues the value v
- deq() returns the value at the front of the queue

```
Queue<int> q;
q.enq(6);
int t = q.deq();
```

```
Queue<int> q;
q.enq(6);
q.enq(7);
int t = q.deq();
```

```
Queue<int> q;
q.enq(6);
q.enq(7);
int t = q.deq();
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Lets think about a Queue

What is a queue?

We consider 2 API functions:

- enq(value v) enqueues the value v
- deq() returns the value at the front of the queue

```
Queue<int> q;
int t = q.deq();
```

Let's say: *value of 0*

Lets think about a Queue

This is called a sequential specification:

The sequential specification is nice! We want to base our concurrent specification on the sequential specification

We will have to deal with the non-determinism of concurrency

Queue<int> q; q.enq(6); q.enq(7); int t = q.deq();

<u>Global variable:</u> CQueue<int> q;

Lets call our concurrent queue "CQueue"

<u>Thread 0:</u> q.enq(6); q.enq(7); int t = q.deq();

<u>Global variable:</u> CQueue<int> q;

<u>Thread O:</u> q.enq(6); q.enq(7);

what can be stored in t after this concurrent program?

<u>Global variable:</u> CQueue<int> q;

<u>Thread O:</u> q.enq(6); q.enq(7);

what can be stored in t after this concurrent program? Can t be 256?

<u>Global variable:</u> CQueue<int> q;

<u>Thread O:</u> q.enq(6); q.enq(7);

what can be stored in t after this concurrent program? Can t be 256? it should be one of {None, 6, 7}

<u>Thread O:</u> q.enq(6); q.enq(7);

Construct a sequential timeline of API calls Any sequence is valid: <u>Thread 1:</u>
int t = q.deq();

```
Global variable:
CQueue<int> q;
```

<u>Thread O:</u> q.enq(6); q.enq(7);

Construct a sequential timeline of API calls Any sequence is valid: <u>Thread 1:</u>
int t = q.deq();



```
<u>Global variable:</u>
CQueue<int> q;
```

<u>Thread 0:</u>
q.enq(6);
q.enq(7);

Construct a sequential timeline of API calls Any sequence is valid: <u>Thread 1:</u>
int t = q.deq();



t is 6



q.enq(7);

Construct a sequential timeline of API calls Any sequence is valid: <u>Thread 1:</u>
int t = q.deq();



t is 6

t is 6

t is None



Construct a sequential timeline of API calls Any sequence is valid:

Thread 1: int t = q.deq();



t is 6

<u>Thread O:</u> q.enq(6); q.enq(7);

Construct a sequential timeline of API calls Any sequence is valid: <u>Thread 1:</u>
int t = q.deq();

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Construct a sequential timeline of API calls Any sequence is valid: <u>Thread 1:</u>
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```
Global variable:
CQueue<int> q;
```

<u>Thread O:</u> q.enq(6); q.enq(7);

Construct a sequential timeline of API calls Any sequence is valid: <u>Thread 1:</u>
int t = q.deq();

The events of Thread 0 don't appear in the same order of the program!

This should not be allowed!



Sequential Consistency

- Valid executions correspond a sequentialization of object method calls
- The sequentialization must respect per-thread "program order", the order in which the object method calls occur in the thread
- Events across threads can interleave in any way possible
Sequential Consistency

- Valid executions correspond a sequentialization of object method calls
- The sequentialization must respect per-thread "program order", the order in which the object method calls occur in the thread
- Events across threads can interleave in any way possible

How many possible interleavings? Combinatorics question:

if Thread 0 has N events if Thread 1 has M events

 $\frac{(N+M)!}{N!M!}$

Sequential Consistency

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Reminder that N and M are events, not instructions

Sequential Consistency

How many possible interleavings? Combinatorics question:

if Thread 0 has N events if Thread 1 has M events

> (N+M)!N!M!

Reminder that N and M are events, not instructions

If N and M execute 150 events each, there are more possible executions than particles in the observable universe! *Tyler's employer* for (int j = 0; j < HOURS; j++) {</pre> tylers account += 1; j = 0check(j < HOURS)</pre> tylers account += 1 time j++ (j == 1) check(j < HOURS)</pre> tylers account += 1 j++ (j == 2) check(j < HOURS)tylers_account += 1

}

Don't think about all possible interleavings!

- Higher-level reasoning:
 - I get paid 100 times and buy 100 coffees, I should break even
 - If you enqueue 100 elements to a queue, you should be able to dequeue 100 elements
- Reason about a specific outcome
 - Find an interleaving that allows the outcome
 - Find a counter example

Reasoning about concurrent objects

To show that an outcome is possible, simply construct the sequential sequence

```
<u>Global variable:</u>
CQueue<int> q;
```

<u>Thread O:</u> q.enq(6); q.enq(7); <u>Thread 1:</u> int t0 = q.deq(); int t1 = q.deq();



<u>Thread 1:</u>			
int	t0	=	q.deq();
int	t1	=	q.deq();

int t0 = q.deq();

int t1 = q.deq();





Valid execution!

Are there others?

Global variable:
CQueue<int> q;

<u>Thread O:</u> q.enq(6); q.enq(7); Lets do another!

Three	ad 1:		
int	t0	=	q.deq();
int	t1	=	<pre>q.deq();</pre>



Lets do another!

<u>Thread 1:</u> int t0 = q.deq(); int t1 = q.deq();

int t0 = q.deq();

int t1 = q.deq();





Threa	ad 1:		
int	t0	=	q.deq();
int	t1	=	<pre>q.deq();</pre>

Found one! Are there others?

Can t0 == 6 and t1 == 7?

Reasoning about concurrent objects

To show that an outcome is possible, simply construct the sequential sequence

To show that an outcome is *impossible* show that there is no possible sequential sequence

```
Global variable:
CQueue<int> q;
```

<u>Thread O:</u> q.enq(6); q.enq(7); <u>Thread 1:</u> int t0 = q.deq(); int t1 = q.deq();





Threa	ad 1:		
int	t0	=	q.deq();
int	t1	=	<pre>q.deq();</pre>

One more example

Global variable:
CQueue<int> q;

<u>Thread 0:</u> s.enq(7); int t0 = q.dec(); <u>Thread 1:</u> int t1 = q.deq();

Is it possible for both t0 and t1 to be 0 at the end?



Is it possible for both t0 and t1 to be 0 at the end?

Do we have our specification?

- Is sequential consistency a good enough specification for concurrent objects?
- It's a good first step, but relative timing interacts strangely with absolute time.
- We will need something stronger.

Schedule

- Problems with sequential consistency
- Linearizability
- Specialized concurrent queues

• Add in real time:

each method as a start, and end time stamp

Thread 0



• Add in real time:

This timeline seems strange...





real time line

• Add in real time:

Thread 0

q.enq(6)

This execution is allowed in sequential consistency!

SC doesn't care about real time, only if it can construct its virtual sequential timeline



real time line

• Add in real time:

This execution is allowed in sequential consistency!

SC doesn't care about real time, only if it can construct its virtual sequential timeline

q.enq(6)

Thread 0

Thread 1

real time line

q

• Add in real time:

q.enq(6)

Thread 0

Thread 1

This execution is allowed in sequential consistency!

SC doesn't care about real time, only if it can construct its virtual sequential timeline



real time line

• Add in real time:

2 objects now: p and q



• Add in real time:



• Add in real time:



• Add in real time:



• Add in real time:



• Add in real time:



• Add in real time:

Now consider them all together



```
Global variable:
CQueue<int> p,q;
```

<u>Thread 0:</u> p.enq(11) q.enq(2) p.deq()==12 <u>Thread 1:</u>
q.enq(1)
p.enq(12)
q.deq()==2



Thread 1: q.enq(1)p.enq(12) q.deq()==2

q.deq()== 2;

Global variable: CQueue<int> p,q;

<u>Thread O:</u> p.enq(11) q.enq(2) p.deq()==12


What does this mean?

- Even if objects in isolation are sequentially consistent
- Programs composed of multiple objects might not be!
- We would like to be able to use more than 1 object in our programs!

Schedule

- Problems with sequential consistency
- Linearizability
- Specialized concurrent queues

- Linearizability
 - Defined in term of real-time histories
 - We want to ask if an execution is allowed under linearizability
- Slightly different game:
 - sequential consistency is a game about stacking lego bricks
 - linearizability is about sliders



- does not overlap with other with other linearizability points
- indivisible computation (critical section, atomic RMW, atomic load, atomic store)
- object update (or read) occurs exactly at this point

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- does not overlap with other with other linearizability points
- indivisible computation (critical section, atomic RMW, atomic load, atomic store)
- object update (or read) occurs exactly at this point





each command gets a linearization point.

You can place the point any where between its innovation and response!



each command gets a linearization point.

You can place the point any where between its innovation and response!

Project the linearization points to a global timeline



each command gets a linearization point.

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slider game!



each command gets a linearization point.

You can place the point any where between its innovation and response!

Project the linearization points to a global timeline





















- We spent a bunch of time on SC... did we waste our time?
 - No!
 - Linearizability is strictly stronger than SC. Every linearizable execution is SC, but not the other way around.
 - If a behavior is disallowed under SC, it is also disallowed under linearizability.

- How do we write our programs to be linearizable?
 - Identify the linearizability point
 - One indivisible region (e.g. an atomic store, atomic load, atomic RMW, or critical section) where the method call takes effect. Modeled as a point.



• Locked data structures are linearizable.



```
class bank_account {
  public:
    bank account() {
      balance = 0;
    }
    void buy_coffee() {
      m.lock();
      balance -= 1;
      m.unlock();
    }
    void get_paid() {
      m.lock();
      balance += 1;
      m.unlock();
    }
  private:
    int balance;
    mutex m;
};
```

• Locked data structures are linearizable.





```
class bank_account {
  public:
    bank account() {
      balance = 0;
    }
    void buy_coffee() {
      m.lock();
      balance -= 1;
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      m.lock();
      balance += 1;
      m.unlock();
    }
  private:
    int balance;
    mutex m;
};
```

• Locked data structures are linearizable.

typically modeled as the point the lock is acquired or released lets say released.



```
class bank_account {
  public:
    bank account() {
      balance = 0;
    }
    void buy_coffee() {
      m.lock();
      balance -= 1;
      m.unlock();
    void get_paid() {
      m.lock();
      balance += 1;
      m.unlock();
    }
  private:
    int balance;
    mutex m;
};
```

- Our lock-free bank account is linearizable:
 - The atomic operation is the linearizable point

```
class bank account {
 public:
    bank_account() {
      balance = 0;
    void buy coffee() {
      atomic_fetch_add(&balance, -1);
    void get paid() {
      atomic fetch add(&balance, 1);
 private:
    atomic int balance;
};
```



Lecture schedule

- Linearizablity
- Progress Properties
- Implementing a set

• Going back to specifications:

Recall the mutex



what is stopping this?

• Going back to specifications:

Thread 0 is stopping Thread 1 from making progress. If delays in one thread can cause delays in other threads, we say that it is blocking





what is stopping this?

• Going back to specifications:

Thread 0 is stopping Thread 1 from making progress. If delays in one thread can cause delays in other threads, we say that it is blocking

Recall the mutex



what is stopping this?

• Going back to specifications:

Recall the mutex

Thread 0 is stopping Thread 1 from making progress. If delays in one thread can cause delays in other threads, we say that it is blocking





Thread 1







for mutexes, the specification required that the system hang.




Non-blocking specification: Every thread is allowed to continue executing REGARDLESS of the behavior of other threads



Linearizability

Non-blocking specification: Every thread is allowed to continue executing **REGARDLESS of the behavior of other threads**



This is a specification property, not an implementation property! You can implement your concurrent objects with locks and have a "blocking implementation".

Terminology overview

- Thread-safe object:
- Lock-free object:
- Blocking specification:
- Non-blocking specification:
- (non-)blocking implementation:

Terminology overview

- Sequential consistency:
- Linearizability:
- Linearizability point:

Schedule

- Problems with sequential consistency
- Linearizability
- Specialized concurrent queues

Concurrent Queues

- List of items, accessed in a first-in first-out (FIFO) way
- duplicates allowed
- Methods
 - enq(x) put x in the list at the end
 - deq() remove the item at the front of the queue and return it.
 - **size()** returns how many items are in the queue

Concurrent Queues

- General implementation given in Chapter 10 of the book.
- Similar types of reasoning as the linked list
 - Lots of reasoning about node insertion, node deletion
 - Using atomic RMWs (CAS) in clever ways
- We will think about specialized queues
 - Implementations can be simplified!

- Queue in which multiple threads read (deq), or write (enq), but not both.
- Why would we want a thing?
- Computation done in phases:
 - First phase prepares the queue (by writing into it)
 - All threads join
 - Second phase reads values from the queue.











• Example: Information flow in graph applications:



concurrent enqueues!























• Example: Information flow in graph applications:



and so on...

Allocate a contiguous array

Pros: ?

Cons: ?

Allocate a contiguous array



Pros:

+ fast!

+ we can use indexes instead of addresses

Cons:

- need to reason about overflow!

Note on terminology

- Head/tail often used in queue implementations, but switches when we start doing circular buffers.
- Front/end To avoid confusion, we will use front/end for input/output queues.







Think sequentially:



Think sequentially: *reserve a space - increment end



*reserve a space - increment end














does it matter which order threads add their data?



does it matter which order threads add their data?



does it matter which order threads add their data? No! Because there are no deqs!



```
class InputOutputQueue {
private:
   atomic_int end;
   int list[SIZE];
public:
   InputOutputQueue() {
      end = 0;
    }
   void enq(int x) {
       int reserved_index = atomic_fetch_add(&end, 1);
       list[reserved index] = x;
    int size() {
       return end.load();
```

How to protect against overflows?







• Now we only do deqs

deq();

deq();









```
class InputOutputQueue {
private:
   atomic int front;
   atomic int end;
   int list[SIZE];
public:
   InputOutputQueue() {
       front = end = 0;
   void enq(int x) {
       int reserved_index = atomic_fetch_add(&end, 1);
       list[reserved index] = x;
    }
   void deq() {
      int reserved index = atomic fetch add(&front, 1);
      return list[reserved index];
    int size() {
       return ??;
```

```
class InputOutputQueue {
private:
   atomic int front;
   atomic int end;
   int list[SIZE];
public:
   InputOutputQueue() {
       front = end = 0;
   void enq(int x) {
       int reserved index = atomic fetch add(&end, 1);
       list[reserved index] = x;
    }
   void deq() {
      int reserved index = atomic_fetch_add(&front, 1);
      return list[reserved index];
    int size() {
       return ??;
```

How about size?

```
class InputOutputQueue {
private:
   atomic int front;
   atomic int end;
   int list[SIZE];
public:
   InputOutputQueue() {
       front = end = 0;
   void enq(int x) {
       int reserved index = atomic fetch add(&end, 1);
       list[reserved index] = x;
    }
   void deq() {
      int reserved index = atomic fetch add(&front, 1);
      return list[reserved index];
    int size() {
       return end.load() - front.load();
```

how about size?

how do we reset?

```
class InputOutputQueue {
private:
   atomic int front;
   atomic int end;
   int list[SIZE];
public:
   InputOutputQueue() {
       front = end = 0;
   void enq(int x) {
       int reserved index = atomic fetch add(&end, 1);
       list[reserved index] = x;
    }
   void deq() {
      int reserved index = atomic fetch add(&front, 1);
      return list[reserved index];
    int size() {
       return end.load() - front.load();
```

how about size?

how do we reset? Reset front and end

```
class InputOutputQueue {
private:
   atomic int front;
   atomic int end;
   int list[SIZE];
public:
   InputOutputQueue() {
       front = end = 0;
   void enq(int x) {
       int reserved index = atomic fetch add(&end, 1);
       list[reserved index] = x;
    }
   void deq() {
      int reserved index = atomic fetch add(&front, 1);
      return list[reserved index];
    int size() {
       return end.load() - front.load();
```

how about size?

how do we reset? Reset front and end

```
does the list need to be atomic?
```

See you on Monday!

• Get HW 2 submitted!