Synchronization: Implementing Barriers Promises + Futures

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Today

- Questions?
- Administrivia
 - Lab 2 due sooner than you'd like
- Material for the day
 - Barrier implementation
 - Promises & Futures
- Acknowledgements
 - Thanks to Gadi Taubenfield: I borrowed from some of his slides on barriers



Faux Quiz (answer any N, 5 min)

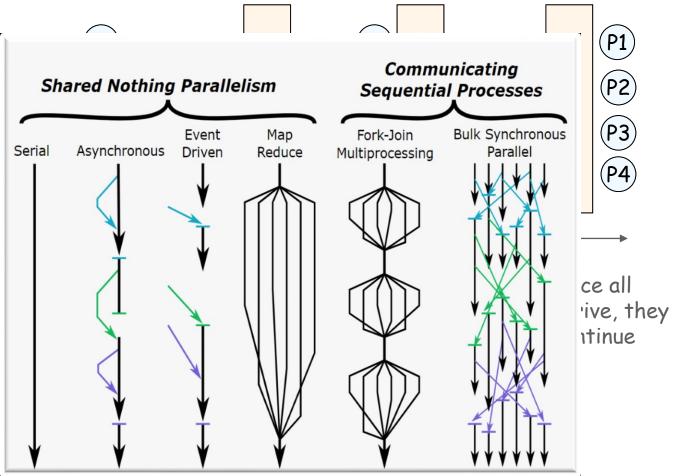
• How are promises and futures related? Since there is disagreement on the nomenclature, don't worry about which is which—just describe what the different objects are and how they function.

Barriers



Review: Barrier Basics

- Coordination mechanism
- participants wait until all reach same poin
- Once all reach it, all can pass.
- Workhorse of BSP programming models



Review: Barrier API

```
Wait();
  Init/Destroy();
Type pthread barrier t
   int pthread barrier_init(pthread_barrier_t *barrier,
                       const pthread barrierattr t *attr,
                       unsigned count);
   int pthread barrier destroy (pthread barrier t *barrier);
   int pthread_barrier_wait(pthread barrier t *barrier);
```

Barriers: Goals

Desirable barrier properties:

- Low shared memory space complexity
- Low contention on shared objects
- Low shared memory references per process
- No need for shared memory initialization
- Symmetric: same amount of work for all
- Algorithm simplicity
- Simple basic primitive
- Minimal propagation time
- Reusability of the barrier (must!)

Let's build a Barrier (woot!)

```
class Barrier {
        initialize() {
        wait() {
```

Barrier Building Blocks

- Conditions
- Semaphores
- Atomic Bit
- Atomic Register
- Fetch-and-increment register
- Test and set bits
- Read-Modify-Write register

Barrier with Semaphores



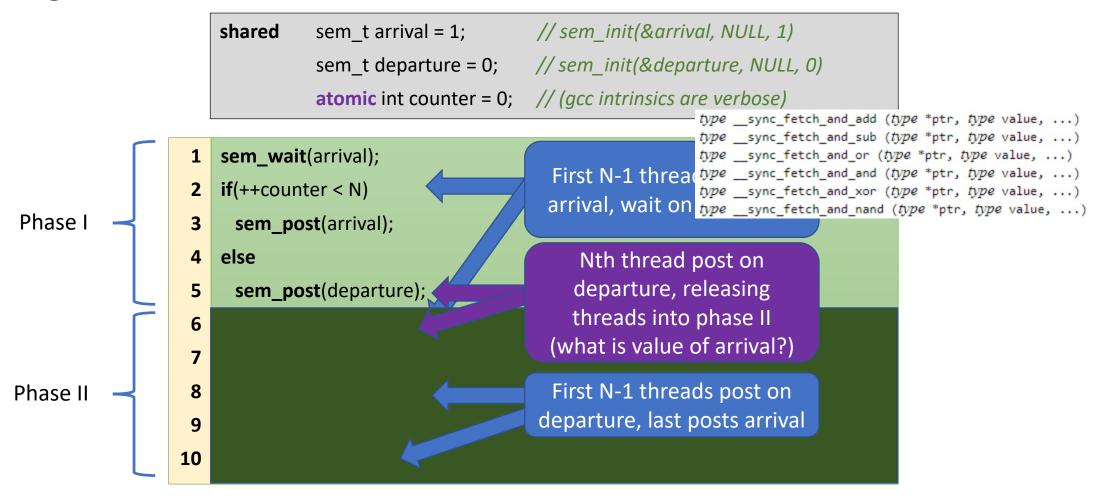


Barrier using Semaphores

Algorithm for N threads





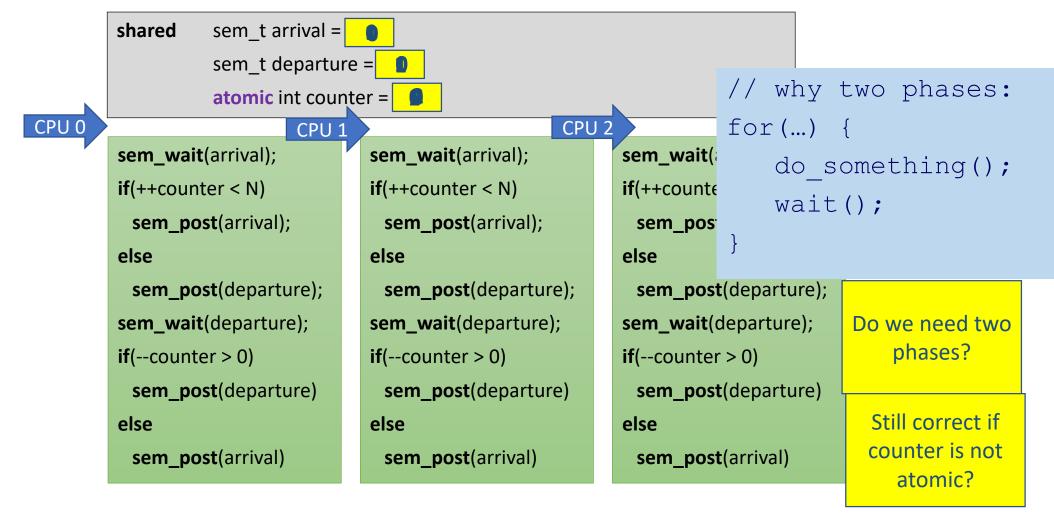


Semaphore Barrier Action Zone





```
N == 3
```



Barrier using Semaphores Properties

• Pros:

- Very Simple
- Space complexity O(1)
- Symmetric

• Cons:

- Required a strong object
 - Requires some central manager
 - High contention on the semaphores
- Propagation delay O(n)





Barriers based on counters



Counter Barrier Ingredients

Fetch-and-Increment register

- A shared register that supports a F&I operation:
- Input: register *r*
- Atomic operation:
 - *r* is incremented by 1
 - the old value of r is returned

```
function fetch-and-increment (r : register)
    orig_r := r;
    r:= r + 1;
    return (orig_r);
end-function
```

Await

- For brevity, we use the await macro
- Not an operation of an object
- This is just "spinning"

```
macro await (condition : boolean condition)
    repeat
        cond = eval(condition);
    until (cond)
end-macro
```

Simple Barrier Using an Atomic Counter

```
local.go := go
local.counter := fetch-and-increment (counter)

if local.counter + 1 = n then

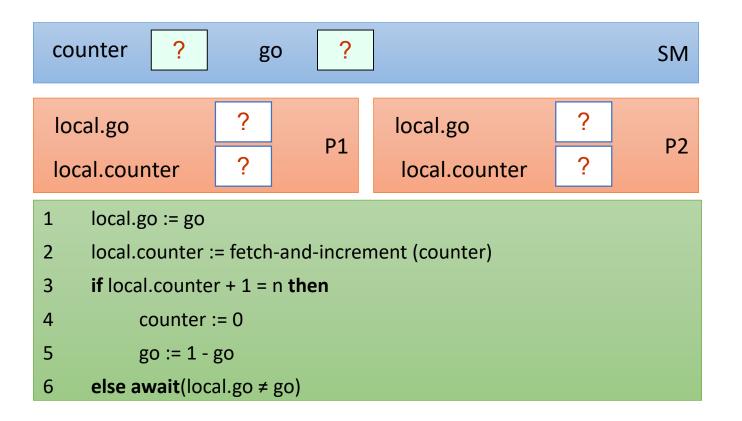
counter := 0

go := 1 - go

else await(local.go ≠ go)
```

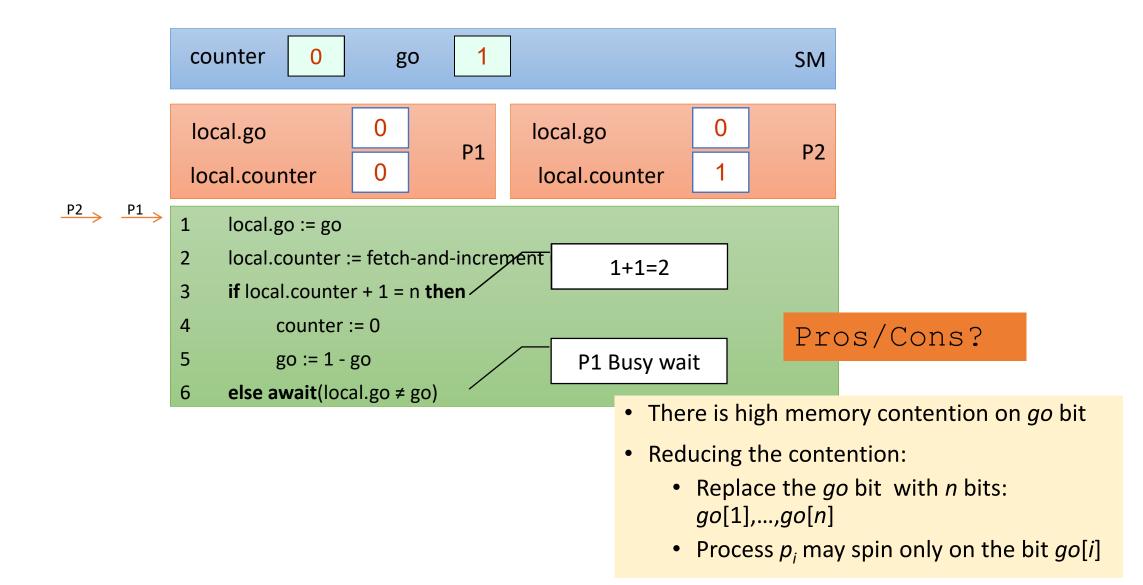
Simple Barrier Using an Atomic Counter

Run for n=2 Threads



Simple Barrier Using an Atomic Counter

Run for n=2 Threads



A Local Spinning Counter Barrier

Program of a Thread i

```
local.go := go[i]
local.counter := fetch-and-increment (counter)

if local.counter + 1 = n then

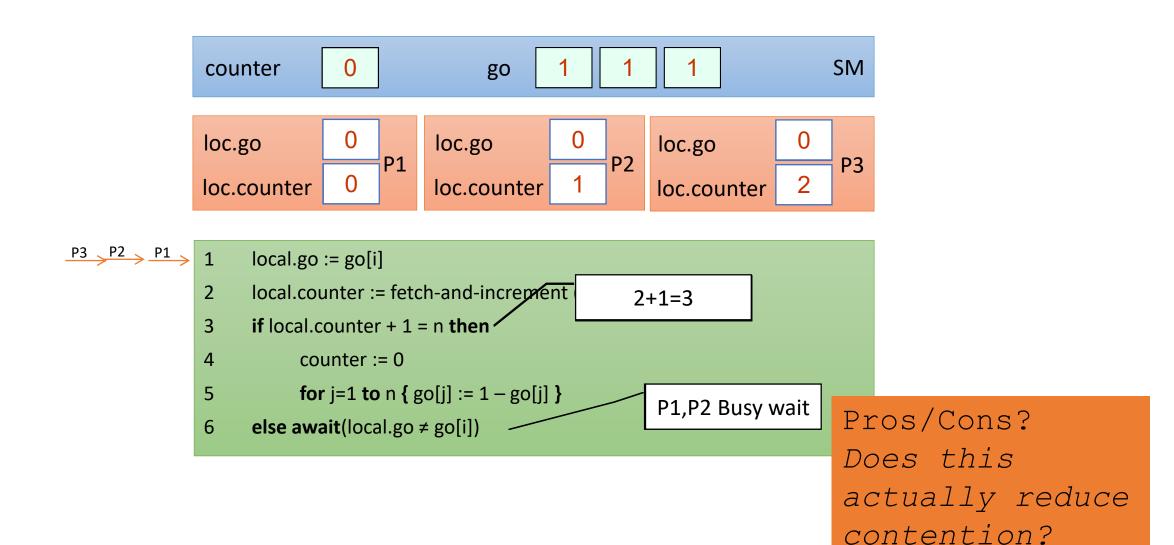
counter := 0

for j=1 to n { go[j] := 1 - go[j] }

else await(local.go ≠ go[i])
```

A Local Spinning Counter Barrier

Example Run for n=3 Threads



Comparison of counter-based Barriers

Simple Barrier

Simple Barrier with go array

• Pros:	• Pros:
• Cons:	• Cons:

Comparison of counter-based Barriers

Simple Barrier

- Pros:
 - Very Simple
 - Shared memory: O(log n) *bits*
 - Takes O(1) until last waiting p is awaken
- Cons:
 - High contention on the go bit
 - Contention on the counter register (*)

Simple Barrier with go array

- Pros:
 - Low contention on the go array
 - In some models:
 - spinning is done on local memory
 - remote mem. ref.: O(1)
- Cons:
 - Shared memory: O(n)
 - Still contention on the counter register (*)
 - Takes O(n) until last waiting p is awaken

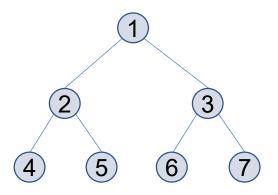
Tree Barriers



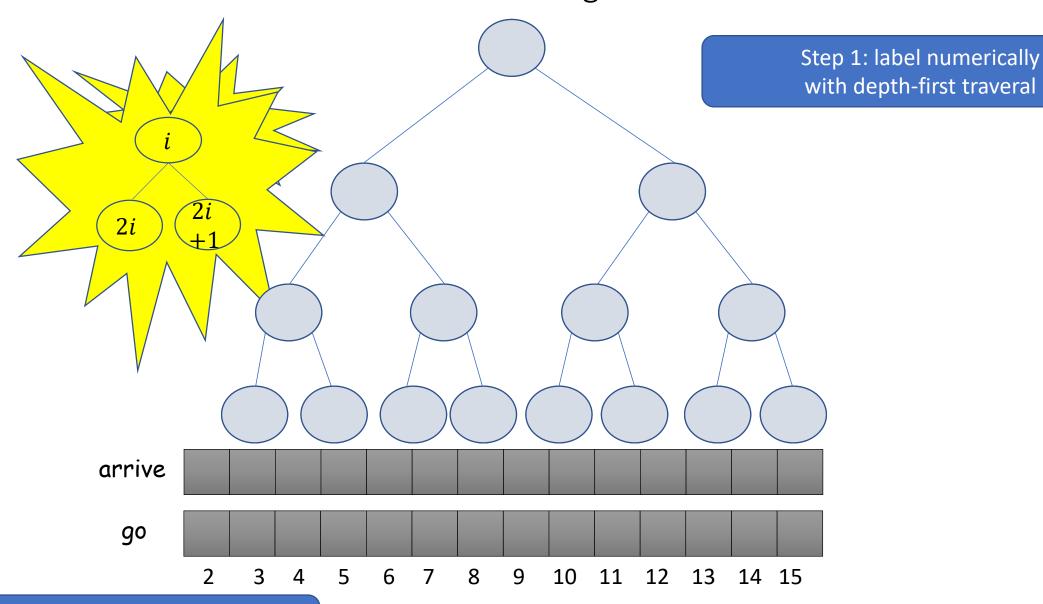


A Tree-based Barrier

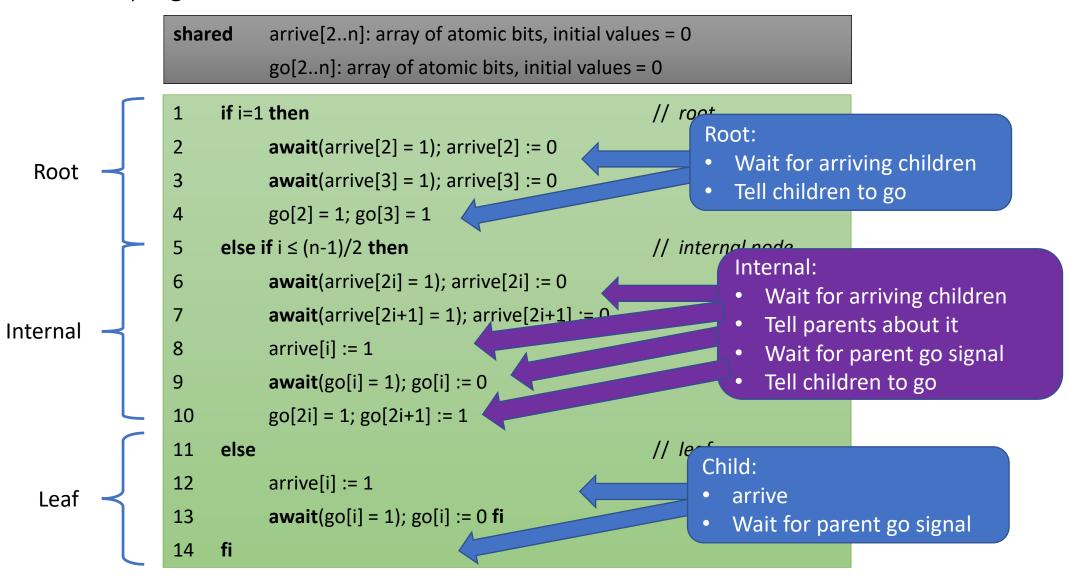
- Threads are organized in a binary tree
- Each node is owned by a predetermined thread
- Each thread waits until its 2 children arrive
 - combines results
 - passes them on to its parent
- Root learns that its 2 children have arrived \rightarrow tells children they can go
- The signal propagates down the tree until all the threads get the message

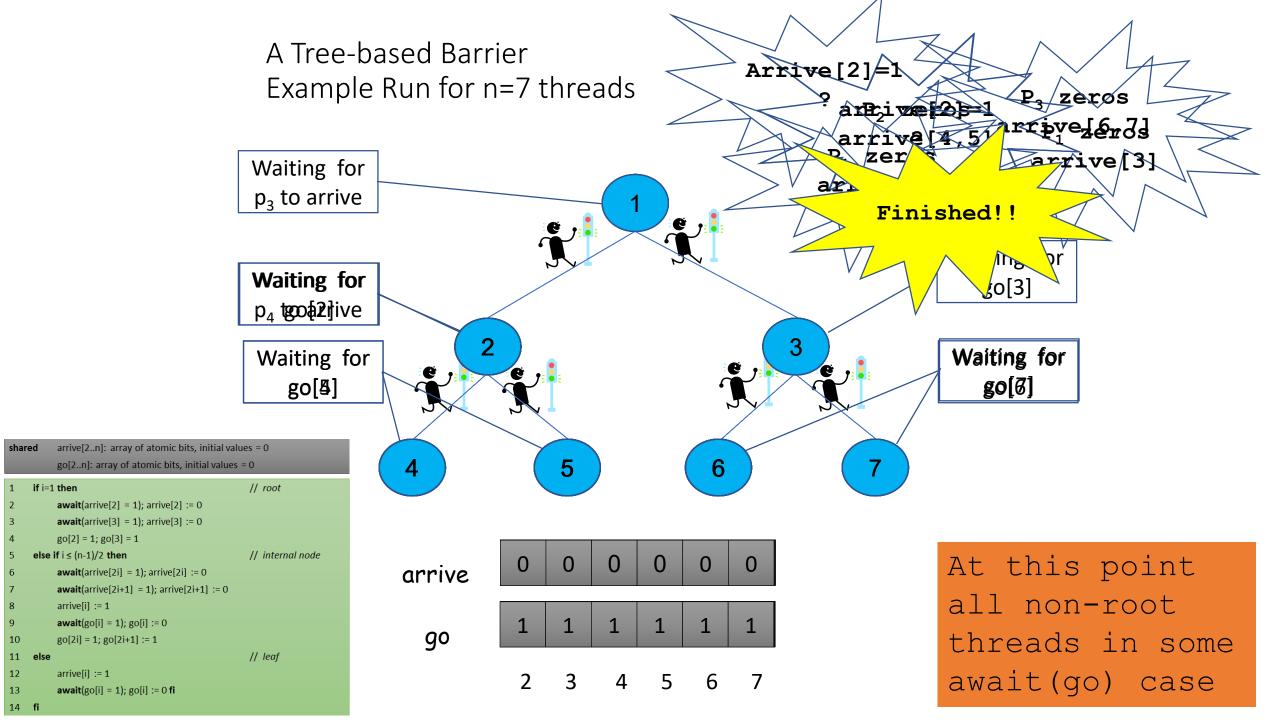


A Tree-based Barrier: indexing



A Tree-based Barrier program of thread i



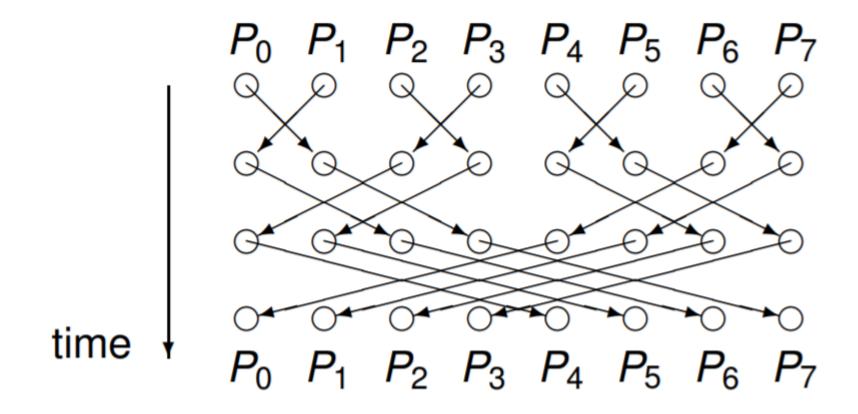


Tree Barrier Tradeoffs

• Pros:

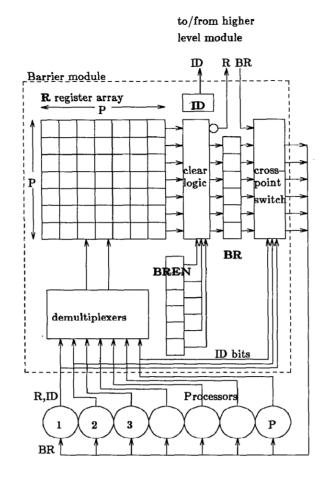
• Cons:

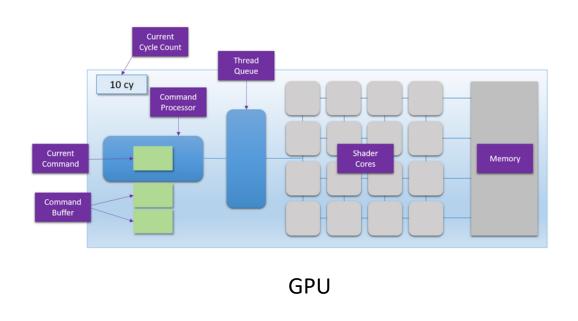
Butterfly Barrier



When would this be preferable?

Hardware Supported Barriers





• When would this be useful?

Barriers Summary

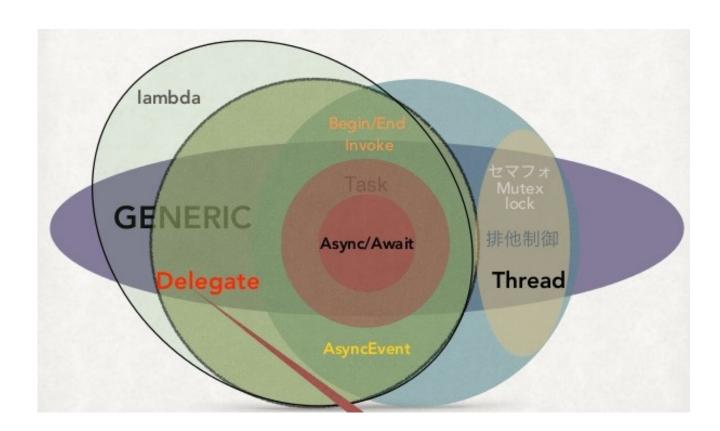
Seen:

- Semaphore-based barrier
- Simple barrier
 - Based on atomic fetch-and-increment counter
- Local spinning barrier
 - Based on atomic fetch-and-increment counter and go array
- Tree-based barrier

Not seen:

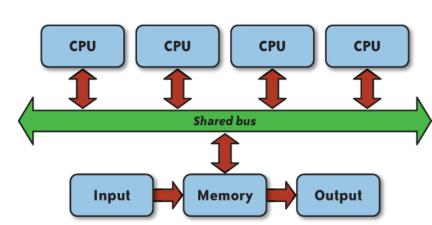
- Test-and-Set barriers
 - Based on test-and-test-and-set objects
 - One version without memory initialization
- See-Saw barrier
- Book has condition barriers

Asynchronous Programming Events, Promises, and Futures



Programming Models for Concurrency

- Concrete model:
 - CPU(s) execute instructions sequentially
- Dimensions:
 - How to specify computation
 - How to specify communication
 - How to specify coordination/control transfer
- Techniques/primitives
 - Message passing vs shared memory
 - Preemption vs Non-preemption
- Dimensions/techniques not always orthogonal



Futures & Promises

- Values that will eventually become available
- Time-dependent states:
 - Completed/determined
 - Computation complete, value concrete
 - Incomplete/undetermined
 - Computation not complete yet
- Construct (future X)
 - immediately returns value
 - concurrently executes X

Java Example

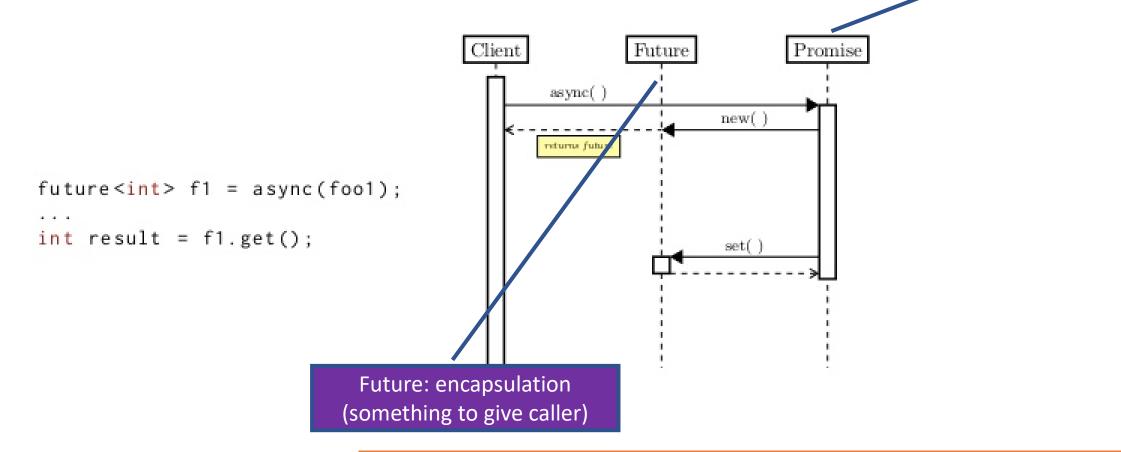
```
static void runAsyncExample() {
    CompletableFuture cf = CompletableFuture.runAsync(() -> {
        assertTrue(Thread.currentThread().isDaemon());
        randomSleep();
    });
    assertFalse(cf.isDone());
    sleepEnough();
    assertTrue(cf.isDone());
}
```

- CompletableFuture is a container for Future object type
- cf is an instance
- runAsync() accepts
 - Lambda expression
 - Anonymous function
 - Functor
- runAsync() immediately returns a waitable object (cf)
- Where (on what thread) does the lambda expression run?

Futures and Promises:

Why two kinds of objects?

Promise: "thing to be done"



Promise to do something in the future

Futures vs Promises

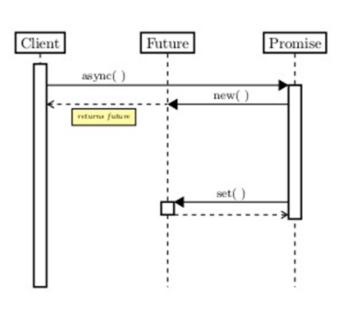
Mnemonic: Promise to *do* something Make a promise *for* the future

- Future: read-only reference to uncompleted value
- Promise: single-assignment variable that the future refers to
- Promises complete the future with:
 - Result with success/failure

Exception



Language	Promise	Future
Algol	Thunk	Address of async result
Java	CompletableFuture <t></t>	Future <t></t>
C#/.NET	TaskCompletionSource <t></t>	Task <t></t>
JavaScript	Deferred	Promise
C++	std::promise	std::future



Putting Futures in Context

My unvarnished opinion

Futures:

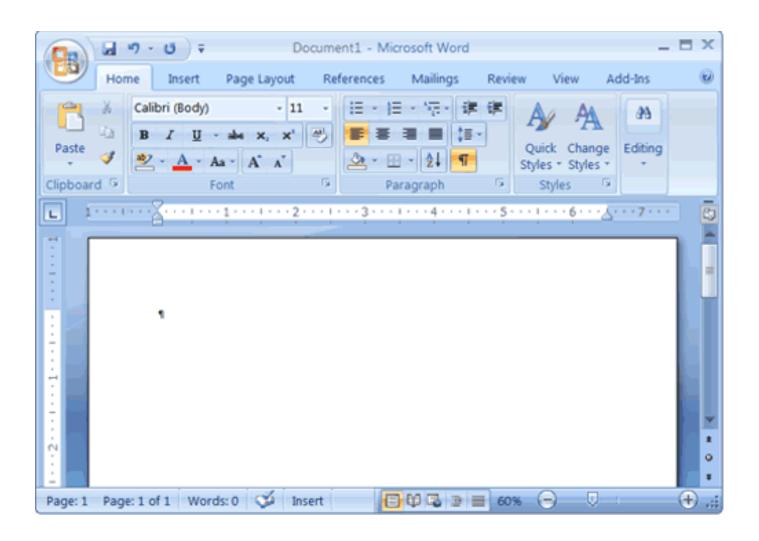
- abstraction for concurrent work supported by
 - Compiler: abstractions are *language-level objects*
 - Runtime: scheduler, task queues, thread-pools are transparent
- Programming remains mostly imperative
 - Threads of control peppered with asynchronous/concurrent tasks

Compromise P

- Event-based
- Thread-based

```
static void runAsyncExample() {
   CompletableFuture cf = CompletableFuture.runAsync(() -> {
        assertTrue(Thread.currentThread().isDaemon());
        randomSleep();
   });
   assertFalse(cf.isDone());
   sleepEnough();
   assertTrue(cf.isDone());
}
```

GUI Programming



```
do {
    WaitForSomething();
    RespondToThing();
} until(forever);
```

GUI Programming

```
// Step 2: Creating the Window
                     hwnd = CreateWindowEx(
switch (message)
                          WS EX CLIENTEDGE,
      //case WM COMM
                          g szClassName,
        // handle me
                          "The title of my window",
      //break;
                          WS OVERLAPPEDWINDOW,
      //case WM PAIN
        // draw our
                          CW USEDEFAULT, CW USEDEFAULT, 240, 120,
      //break;
                         NULL, NULL, hInstance, NULL);
      case WM DESTRO
           PostQuitMessage(0);
      break;
      default:
          // We do not want to handle this message so pass back to Windows
          // to handle it in a default way
          return DefWindowProc(hWnd, message, wParam, 1Param);
                     // Step 3: The Message Loop
                     while(GetMessage(&Msg, NULL, 0, 0) > 0)
                          TranslateMessage(&Msg);
                          DispatchMessage(&Msg);
```

```
int WINAPI WinMain(HINSTANCE hInstance, HINSTANCE hPrevInstance,
    LPSTR lpCmdLine, int nCmdShow)
    WNDCLASSEX wc;
    HWND hwnd;
   MSG Msg;
    //Step 1: Registering the Window Class
    wc.cbSize
                     = sizeof(WNDCLASSEX);
    wc.style
    wc.lpfnWndProc
                    = WndProc;
    wc.cbClsExtra
                     = 0:
    wc.cbWndExtra
                     = 0;
    wc.hInstance
                     = hInstance;
    wc.hIcon
                     = LoadIcon(NULL, IDI APPLICATION);
    wc.hCursor
                     = LoadCursor(NULL, IDC ARROW);
    wc.hbrBackground = (HBRUSH)(COLOR WINDOW+1);
    wc.lpszMenuName = NULL;
    wc.lpszClassName = g szClassName;
                     = LoadIcon(NULL, IDI_APPLICATION);
    wc.hIconSm
    if(!RegisterClassEx(&wc))
        MessageBox(NULL, "Window Registration Failed!", "Error!",
            MB_ICONEXCLAMATION | MB_OK);
        return 0;
      Step 2: Creating the Window
    hwnd = CreateWindowEx(
        WS EX CLIENTEDGE,
        g szClassName,
        "The title of my window",
        WS_OVERLAPPEDWINDOW,
        CW USEDEFAULT, CW USEDEFAULT, 240, 120,
       NULL, NULL, hInstance, NULL);
    if(hwnd == NULL)
       MessageBox(NULL, "Window Creation Failed!", "Error!",
            MB_ICONEXCLAMATION | MB_OK);
        return 0;
    ShowWindow(hwnd, nCmdShow);
    UpdateWindow(hwnd);
    // Step 3: The Message Loop
   while(GetMessage(&Msg, NULL, 0, 0) > 0)
       TranslateMessage(&Msg);
        DispatchMessage(&Msg);
    return Msg.wParam;
```

GUI programming

```
void OnMove() { ... }
                                void OnSize() { ... }
switch (message)
       //case WM_COMMAND:
        // handle menu select
      //break;
                               void OnPaint() { ... }
      //case WM PAINT:
        // draw our window -
      //break;
       case WM_DESTROY:
           PostQuitMessage(0);
       break;
       default:
          // We do not want to handle this message so pass back to Winc
          // to handle it in a default way
          return DefWindowProc(hWnd, message, wParam, 1Param);
```

				LPSTR lpCmdLine, int nCmdShow) {			
					WNDCLASSEX wc; HWND hwnd; MSG Msg; Over 10	1000 last	
	Hex		Decimal		Cymhalia	hecked!	
	0000		0		WM_NULL		
	0001		1		WM_CREATE		
	0002		2		WM_DESTROY	ION);	
	0003		3		WM_MOVE		
	0005		5		WM_SIZE	_ [ON);	
	0006		6		WM_ACTIVATE	,,	
	0007		7		WM_SETFOCUS	ed!", "Error!",	
t	8000		8		WM_KILLFOCUS		
	000a		10		WM_ENABLE		
	000b		11		WM_SETREDRAW		
	000c		12		WM_SETTEXT		
5	000d		13		WM_GETTEXT		
	000e		14		WM_GETTEXTLENGTH		
	000f		15	1	WM_PAINT	"5!"	
	0010		16		WM_CLOSE	"Error!",	
	0011		17		WM_QUERYENDSESSION		
	0012		18		WM_QUIT		
	0013		19		WM_QUERYOPEN		
	0014		20		WM_ERASEBKGND		
					TranslateMessage(&Msg); DispatchMessage(&Msg); } return Msg.wParam;		

int WINAPI WinMain(HINSTANCE hInstance, HINSTANCE hPrevInstance,

GUI Programming Distilled

```
□winmain(...) {
  while(true) {
       message = GetMessage();
       switch (message) {
       case WM LONGRUNNING CPU HOG: HogCPU(); break;
       case WM HIGH LATENCY IO: BlockForALongTime(); break;
       case WM DO QUICK IMPORTANT THING: HopeForTheBest(); break;
```

Pros

- Simple imperative programming
- Good fit for uni-processor

Cons

- Awkward/verbose
- Obscures available parallelism

GUI Programming Distilled

```
How can we
  ⊟winmain(...) {
     while(true) {
                                            parallelize
         message = GetMessage();
         switch (message) {
                                               this?
         case WM THIS: DoThis(); break;
         case WM THAT: DoThat(); break;
         case WM OTHERTHING: DoOtherThing(); break;
         case WM DONE: return;
8
```









Parallel GUI Implementation 1

```
\existswinmain(...) {
   while(true) {
       message = GetMessage();
       switch (message) {
       case WM THIS: DoThis(); break;
       case WM THAT: DoThat(); break;
       case WM OTHERTHING: DoOtherThing(); break;
       case WM DONE: return;
```

Parallel GUI Implementation 1

```
□winmain() {
      pthread create(&tids[i++], DoThisProc);
                                                                         DoThisProc
      pthread create(&tids[i++], DoThatProc);
      pthread create(&tids[i++], DoOtherThingProc)
      for(j=0; j<i; j++)</pre>
           pthread join(&tids[j]);
                                                                         DoThatProc
                            Pros/cons?
□DoThisProc() {
                           Pros:
      while(true) {

    Encapsulates parallel work

           if (ThisHasHap
                                                                         OtherThing
                           Cons:
                DoThis()
                             Obliterates original code structure

    How to assign handlers → CPUs?

                             Load balance?!?
                             Utilization
```

Parallel GUI Implementation 2

```
□winmain() {
     for(i=0; i<NUMPROCS; i++)</pre>
          pthread create(&tids[i], H Cons:
     for(i=0; i<NUMPROCS; i++)</pre>
          pthread join(&tids[i]);
```

```
Pros/cons?
```

Pros:

- Preserves programming model
- Can recover some parallelism

- Workers still have same problem
- How to load balance?
- Shared mutable state a problem

```
pthreadproc(...) {
∃threadproc(...) {
                               ■threadproc(...) {
  while(true) {
                                  while(true) {
                                                                   while(true) {
      message = GetMessage();
                                      message = GetMessage();
      switch (message) {
                                      switch (message) {
                                                                       switch (message) {
      case WM THIS: DoThis();
                                      case WM THIS: DoThis();
      case WM THAT: DoThat();
                                      case WM THAT: DoThat();
```









Extremely difficult to solve without changing the whole programming model...so change it

Event-based Programming: Motivation

- Threads have a *lot* of down-sides:
 - Tuning parallelism for different environments
 - Load balancing/assignment brittle
 - Shared state requires locks →
 - Priority inversion
 - Deadlock
 - Incorrect synchronization

• ...

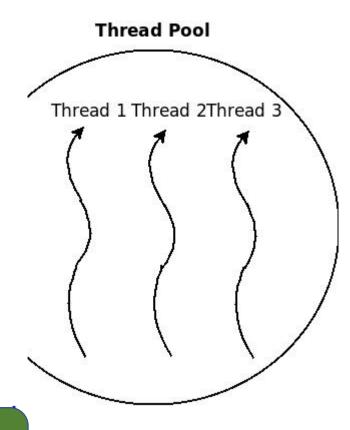
• Events: restructure programming model to have no threads!

Event Programming Model Basics

- Programmer only writes events
- Event: an object queued for a module (think future/promise)
- Basic primitives
 - create_event_queue(handler) → event_q
 - enqueue_event(event_q, event-object)
 - Invokes handler (eventually)
- Scheduler decides which event to execute next
 - E.g. based on priority, CPU usage, etc.

Event-based programming

Runtime



Is the problem solved?

Another Event-based Program

```
□PROGRAM MyProgram {
     OnOpenFile() {
          char szFileName[BUFSIZE]
          InitFileName(szFileName);
          FILE file = ReadFileEx(szFileName);
          LoadFile (file)
          RedrawScreen();
     OnPaint();
                          Burns CPU!
                                               Blocks!
      Uses Other Handlers!
        (call OnPaint?)
```

No problem! Just use more events/handlers, right?

```
□PROGRAM MyProgram {
        TASK ReadFileAsync(name, callback) {
             ReadFileSync(name);
             Call(callback);
 4
 5
        CALLBACK FinishOpeningFile() {
             LoadFile(file);
             RedrawScreen();
        OnOpenFile() {
10
11
             FILE file;
12
             char szName[BUFSIZE]
13
             InitFileName(szName);
14
             EnqueueTask(ReadFileAsync(szName, FinishOpeningFile));
15
16
        OnPaint();
```

Continuations, BTW

```
□PROGRAM MyProgram {
       OnOpenFile() {
           ReadFile(file, FinishOpeningFile);
       OnFinishOpeningFile() {
           LoadFile (file, OnFinishLoadingFile);
6
       OnFinishLoadingFile() {
8
           RedrawScreen();
       OnPaint();
```

Stack-Ripping

```
□PROGRAM MyProgram {
         TASK ReadFileAsync(name, callback) {
             ReadFileSync(name);
             Call(callback);
 4
 5
         CALLBACK FinishOpeningFile() {
             LoadFil
             RedrawScreen
                                              Stack-based state out-of-scope!
         OnOpenFile()
                                                Requests must carry state
11
12
13
             InitFirename(szName);
             EnqueueTask (ReadFileAsync(szName, FinishOpeningFile));
14
15
16
         OnPaint();
```

Threads vs Events

- Thread Pros
 - Overlap I/O and computation
 - While looking sequential
 - Intermediate state on stack
 - Control flow naturally
- Thread Cons
 - Synchronization requir
 - Overflowable stack
 - Stack memory pressure

Event Pros

- Easier to create well-conditioned system
- Easier to express dynamic change in level of parallelism

Language-level Futures: the sweet spot?

Cons

cult to program

trol flow between callbacks obscure

when to deallocate memory

- Incomplete language/tool/debugger support
- Difficult to exploit concurrent hardware

Threads vs Events

• Thread Pros

• Event Pros

• Thread Cons





Thread Pool Implementation

```
/// <summary> Starts the threads. </summary>
/// <remarks> crossbac, 8/22/2013. </remarks>
/// <param name="uiThreads"> The threads. </param>
/// <param name="bWaitAllThreadsAlive"> The wait all threads alive. </param>
void
ThreadPool::StartThreads (
    in UINT uiThreads,
     in BOOL bWaitAllThreadsAlive
   Lock();
    if(uiThreads != 0 && m vhThreadDescs.size() < m uiTargetSize)</pre>
        ResetEvent (m hAllThreadsAlive);
    while(m vhThreadDescs.size() < m uiTargetSize) {</pre>
        for(UINT i=0; i<uiThreads; i++) {</pre>
            THREADDESC* pDesc = new THREADDESC(this);
            HANDLE * phThread = &pDesc->hThread;
            *phThread = CreateThread(NULL, 0, ThreadPoolProc, pDesc, 0, NULL);
            m vhAvailable.push back(*phThread);
            m vhThreadDescs[*phThread] = pDesc;
   m uiThreads = (UINT)m vhThreadDescs.size();
    Unlock();
    if (bWaitAllThreadsAlive)
        WaitThreadsAlive();
```

Cool project idea: build a thread pool!

Thread Pool Implementation

```
DWORD
ThreadPool::ThreadPoolProc(
     in THREADDESC * pDesc
   HANDLE hThread = pDesc->hThread;
   HANDLE hStartEvent = pDesc->hStartEvent;
   HANDLE hRuntimeTerminate = PTask::Runtime::GetRuntimeTerminateEvent();
   HANDLE vEvents[] = { hStartEvent, hRuntimeTerminate };
   NotifyThreadAlive(hThread);
    while(!pDesc->bTerminate) {
        DWORD dwWait = WaitForMultipleObjects (dwEvents, vEvents, FALSE, INFINITE);
        pDesc->Lock();
        pDesc->bTerminate |= bTerminate;
        if(pDesc->bRoutineValid && !pDesc->bTerminate) {
            LPTHREAD START ROUTINE lpRoutine = pDesc->lpRoutine;
            LPVOID lpParameter = pDesc->lpParameter;
            pDesc->bActive = TRUE;
            pDesc->Unlock();
            dwResult = (*lpRoutine)(lpParameter);
            pDesc->Lock();
            pDesc->bActive = FALSE;
            pDesc->bRoutineValid = FALSE;
        pDesc->Unlock();
        Lock();
        m vhInFlight.erase(pDesc->hThread);
        if(!pDesc->bTerminate)
            m vhAvailable.push back(pDesc->hThread);
        Unlock();
   NotifyThreadExit (hThread);
   return dwResult;
```

ThreadPool Implementation

```
/// <summary>
               Starts a thread: if a previous call to RequestThread was made with
///
               the bStartThread parameter set to false, this API signals the thread
               to begin. Otherwise, the call has no effect (returns FALSE). </summary>
/// <remarks> crossbac, 8/29/2013. </remarks>
/// <param name="hThread"> The thread. </param>
/// <returns> true if it succeeds, false if it fails. </returns>
BOOL
ThreadPool::SignalThread(
    __in HANDLE hThread
   Lock();
    BOOL bResult = FALSE;
    std::set<HANDLE>::iterator si = m vhWaitingStartSignal.find(hThread);
    if(si!=m vhWaitingStartSignal.end()) {
       m vhWaitingStartSignal.erase(hThread);
       THREADDESC * pDesc = m vhThreadDescs[hThread];
       HANDLE hEvent = pDesc->hStartEvent;
       SetEvent (hEvent);
       bResult = TRUE;
   Unlock();
    return bResult;
```

Redux: Futures in Context

Futures:

- abstraction for concurrent work supported by
 - Compiler: abstractions are *language-level objects*
 - Runtime: scheduler, task queues, thread-pools are transparent
- Programming remains mostly imperative
 - Threads of control peppered with asynchronous/concurrent tasks

Compromise Model:

- Event-based programming
- Thread-based programming

Currently: 2nd renaissance IMHO

```
static void runAsyncExample() {
    CompletableFuture cf = CompletableFuture.runAsync(() -> {
        assertTrue(Thread.currentThread().isDaemon());
        randomSleep();
    });
    assertFalse(cf.isDone());
    sleepEnough();
    assertTrue(cf.isDone());
}
```

Questions?