Shared Objects & Mutual Exclusion

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CSCI 5828 — Lecture 18 — 03/11/2010

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Credit Where Credit is Due

The remainder of the slides in this presentation were created by Magee and Kramer for Chapter 4 of the Concurrency textbook.
Chapter 4

Shared Objects & Mutual Exclusion

Concurrency: shared objects & mutual exclusion
Shared Objects & Mutual Exclusion

**Concepts:** process interference.
  mutual exclusion.

**Models:** model checking for interference
modeling mutual exclusion

**Practice:** thread interference in shared Java objects
mutual exclusion in Java
(synchronized objects/methods).
4.1 Interference

Ornamental garden problem:
People enter an ornamental garden through either of two turnstiles. Management wants to know how many people are in the garden at any time.

The concurrent program consists of two concurrent threads and a shared counter object.
The Turnstile thread simulates the periodic arrival of a visitor to the garden every second by sleeping for a second and then invoking the increment() method of the counter object.
The **Counter** object and **Turnstile** threads are created by the **go()** method of the Garden applet:

```java
private void go() {
    counter = new Counter(counterD);
    west = new Turnstile(westD, counter);
    east = new Turnstile(eastD, counter);
    west.start();
    east.start();
}
```

Note that **counterD**, **westD** and **eastD** are objects of **NumberCanvas** used in chapter 2.
Turnstile class

```java
class Turnstile extends Thread {
    NumberCanvas display;
    Counter people;

    Turnstile(NumberCanvas n, Counter c) {
        display = n; people = c;
    }

    public void run() {
        try {
            display.setvalue(0);
            for (int i = 1; i <= Garden.MAX; i++) {
                Thread.sleep(500); // 0.5 second between arrivals
                display.setvalue(i);
                people.increment();
            }
        } catch (InterruptedException e) {} 
    }
}
```

The `run()` method exits and the thread terminates after `Garden.MAX` visitors have entered.
Counter class

class Counter {
    int value=0;
    NumberCanvas display;

    Counter(NumberCanvas n) {
        display=n;
        display.setValue(value);
    }

    void increment() {
        int temp = value; //read value
        Simulate.HWInterrupt();
        value=temp+1; //write value
        display.setValue(value);
    }
}

Hardware interrupts can occur at arbitrary times.

The counter simulates a hardware interrupt during an increment(), between reading and writing to the shared counter value. Interrupt randomly calls Thread.sleep() to force a thread switch.
After the East and West turnstile threads have each incremented its counter 20 times, the garden people counter is not the sum of the counts displayed. Counter increments have been lost. Why?
Java method activations are not atomic - thread objects `east` and `west` may be executing the code for the increment method at the same time.

```
increment:
read value
write value + 1
```
Process VAR models read and write access to the shared counter value.

Increment is modeled inside TURNSTILE since Java method activations are not atomic i.e. thread objects east and west may interleave their read and write actions.
ornamental garden model

const N = 4
range T = 0..N
set VarAlpha = { value.{read[T],write[T]} }

VAR = VAR[0],
VAR[u:T] = (read[u] ->VAR[u]
|write[v:T]->VAR[v]).

TURNSTILE = (go -> RUN),
RUN = (arrive-> INCREMENT
|end -> TURNSTILE),
INCREMENT = (value.read[x:T]
    -> value.write[x+1]->RUN
)+VarAlpha.

||GARDEN = (east:TURNSTILE || west:TURNSTILE
|| { east,west,display}::value:VAR)
//{ go /{ east,west} .go,
end/{ east,west} .end} .

Concurrency: shared objects & mutual exclusion

The alphabet of shared process VAR is declared explicitly as a set constant, VarAlpha.

The TURNSTILE alphabet is extended with VarAlpha to ensure no unintended free (autonomous) actions in VAR eg. value.write[0]. All actions in the shared VAR must be controlled (shared) by a TURNSTILE.
checking for errors - animation

Scenario checking - use animation to produce a trace.

Is this trace correct?
checking for errors - exhaustive analysis

Exhaustive checking - compose the model with a TEST process which sums the arrivals and checks against the display value:

```
TEST       = TEST[0],
TEST[v:T] =
            (when (v<N) {east.arrive,west.arrive}->TEST[v+1]
             |end->CHECK[v]
            ),
CHECK[v:T] =
            (display.value.read[u:T] ->
             (when (u==v) right -> TEST[v]
              |when (u!=v) wrong -> ERROR
             )
            )+{display.VarAlpha}.
```

Like STOP, ERROR is a predefined FSP local process (state), numbered -1 in the equivalent LTS.
ornamental garden model - checking for errors

||TESTGARDEN = (GARDEN || TEST).

Use \textit{LTSA} to perform an exhaustive search for \textit{ERROR}.

Trace to property violation in TEST:

\begin{verbatim}
  go
  east.arrive
  east.value.read.0
  west.arrive
  west.value.read.0
  east.value.write.1
  west.value.write.1
  end
  display.value.read.1
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{wrong}

\textit{LTSA} produces the shortest path to reach \textit{ERROR}.
Destructive update, caused by the arbitrary interleaving of read and write actions, is termed *interference*.

Interference bugs are extremely difficult to locate. The general solution is to give methods *mutually exclusive* access to shared objects. Mutual exclusion can be modeled as atomic actions.
4.2 Mutual exclusion in Java

Concurrent activations of a method in Java can be made mutually exclusive by prefixing the method with the keyword synchronized, which uses a lock on the object.

We correct COUNTER class by deriving a class from it and making the increment method synchronized:

```
class SynchronizedCounter extends Counter {
    SynchronizedCounter(NumberCanvas n) {
        super(n);
    }

    synchronized void increment() {
        super.increment();
    }
}
```

Concurrent activations of a method in Java can be made mutually exclusive by prefixing the method with the keyword **synchronized**, which uses a lock on the object.

We correct **COUNTER** class by deriving a class from it and making the increment method **synchronized**:

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class SynchronizedCounter extends Counter {
    SynchronizedCounter(NumberCanvas n) {
        super(n);
    }

    synchronized void increment() {
        super.increment();
    }
}
```
Java associates a **lock** with every object. The Java compiler inserts code to acquire the lock before executing the body of the synchronized method and code to release the lock before the method returns. Concurrent threads are blocked until the lock is released.
**Java synchronized statement**

Access to an object may also be made mutually exclusive by using the `synchronized` statement:

```java
synchronized (object) {
    statements
}
```

A less elegant way to correct the example would be to modify the `Turnstile.run()` method:

```java
synchronized (people) {
    people.increment();
}
```

*Why is this “less elegant”?*

To ensure mutually exclusive access to an object, **all object methods** should be synchronized.
4.3 Modeling mutual exclusion

To add locking to our model, define a LOCK, compose it with the shared VAR in the garden, and modify the alphabet set:

\[
\text{LOCK} = (\text{acquire} \rightarrow \text{release} \rightarrow \text{LOCK}).
\]

\[
\text{||LOCKVAR} = (\text{LOCK} \ || \ \text{VAR}).
\]

set VarAlpha = \{value.{read[T],write[T],
                     acquire, release}\}

Modify TURNSTILE to acquire and release the lock:

\[
\text{TURNSTILE} = (\text{go} \rightarrow \text{RUN}),
\]

\[
\text{RUN} = (\text{arrive} \rightarrow \text{INCREMENT}
            \mid \text{end} \rightarrow \text{TURNSTILE}),
\]

\[
\text{INCREMENT} = (\text{value}.\text{acquire}
                      \rightarrow \text{value}.\text{read}[x:T] \rightarrow \text{value}.\text{write}[x+1]
                      \rightarrow \text{value}.\text{release} \rightarrow \text{RUN}
                      ) + \text{VarAlpha}.
\]
Revised ornamental garden model - checking for errors

A sample animation execution trace

```
go
east.arrive
east.value.acquire
east.value.read.0
east.value.write.1
east.value.release
west.arrive
west.value.acquire
west.value.read.1
west.value.write.2
west.value.release
end
display.value.read.2
right
```

Use TEST and LTSA to perform an exhaustive check.

Is TEST satisfied?
COUNTER: Abstraction using action hiding

To model shared objects directly in terms of their synchronized methods, we can abstract the details by hiding.

For SynchronizedCounter we hide read, write, acquire, release actions.

const N = 4
range T = 0..N
VAR = VAR[0],
VAR[u:T] = (read[u]->VAR[u]
    | write[v:T]->VAR[v]).
LOCK = (acquire->release->LOCK).
INCREMENT = (acquire->read[x:T]
    -> (when (x<N) write[x+1]
    ->release->increment->INCREMENT
    )
    )+{read[T],write[T]}.
||COUNTER = (INCREMENT||LOCK||VAR)@{increment}.

Concurrency: shared objects & mutual exclusion
COUNTER: Abstraction using action hiding

Minimized LTS:

\[\text{COUNTER} = \text{COUNTER}[0]\]
\[\text{COUNTER}[v:T] = (\text{when } (v<N) \text{ increment } \rightarrow \text{COUNTER}[v+1]).\]

We can give a more abstract, simpler description of a COUNTER which generates the same LTS:

This therefore exhibits “equivalent” behavior i.e. has the same observable behavior.
Summary

◆ Concepts
  ● process interference
  ● mutual exclusion

◆ Models
  ● model checking for interference
  ● modeling mutual exclusion

◆ Practice
  ● thread interference in shared Java objects
  ● mutual exclusion in Java (synchronized objects/methods).