Linked Lists: Locking, Lock-Free, and Beyond ...



Companion slides for The Art of Multiprocessor Programming by Maurice Herlihy & Nir Shavit

Last Lecture: Spin-Locks





Today: Concurrent Objects

- Adding threads should not lower throughput
 - Contention effects
 - Mostly fixed by Queue locks



Today: Concurrent Objects

- Adding threads should not lower throughput
 - Contention effects
 - Mostly fixed by Queue locks
- Should increase throughput
 - Not possible if inherently sequential
 - Surprising things are parallelizable



Each method locks the object

 Avoid contention using queue locks



- Each method locks the object
 - Avoid contention using queue locks
 - Easy to reason about
 - In simple cases



- Each method locks the object
 - Avoid contention using queue locks
 - Easy to reason about
 - In simple cases
- So, are we done?



Sequential bottleneck
 – Threads "stand in line"



- Sequential bottleneck
 Threads "stand in line"
- Adding more threads
 - Does not improve throughput
 - Struggle to keep it from getting worse



- Sequential bottleneck
 Threads "stand in line"
- Adding more threads
 - Does not improve throughput
 - Struggle to keep it from getting worse
- So why even use a multiprocessor?
 Well, some apps inherently parallel …



This Lecture

- Introduce four "patterns"
 - Bag of tricks ...
 - Methods that work more than once ...



This Lecture

Introduce four "patterns"

– Bag of tricks ...

– Methods that work more than once ...

- For highly-concurrent objects
 - Concurrent access
 - More threads, more throughput



First: Fine-Grained Synchronization

• Instead of using a single lock ...



First:

Fine-Grained Synchronization

- Instead of using a single lock ...
- Split object into
 - Independently-synchronized components



First:

Fine-Grained Synchronization

- Instead of using a single lock ...
- Split object into

 Independently-synchronized components
- Methods conflict when they access
 - The same component ...
 - At the same time



Second: Optimistic Synchronization

• Search without locking ...



Second: Optimistic Synchronization

- Search without locking ...
- If you find it, lock and check ...
 OK: we are done
 - Oops: start over



Second: Optimistic Synchronization

- Search without locking ...
- If you find it, lock and check ...
 - OK: we are done
 - Oops: start over
- Evaluation
 - Usually cheaper than locking, but
 - Mistakes are expensive



Postpone hard work



- Postpone hard work
- Removing components is tricky



- Postpone hard work
- Removing components is tricky
 - Logical removal
 - Mark component to be deleted



- Postpone hard work
- Removing components is tricky
 - Logical removal
 - Mark component to be deleted
 - Physical removal
 - Do what needs to be done



Fourth: Lock-Free Synchronization

Don't use locks at all

- Use compareAndSet() & relatives ...



Fourth: Lock-Free Synchronization

- Don't use locks at all

 Use compareAndSet() & relatives …
- Advantages
 - No Scheduler Assumptions/Support



Fourth: Lock-Free Synchronization

- Don't use locks at all

 Use compareAndSet() & relatives ...
- Advantages
 - No Scheduler Assumptions/Support
- Disadvantages
 - Complex
 - Sometimes high overhead



Linked List

- Illustrate these patterns ...
- Using a list-based Set
 - Common application
 - Building block for other apps



Set Interface

Unordered collection of items



Set Interface

- Unordered collection of items
- No duplicates



Set Interface

- Unordered collection of items
- No duplicates
- Methods
 - add (x) put x in set
 - remove (x) take x out of set
 - contains (x) tests if x in set



public interface Set<T> {
 public boolean add(T x);
 public boolean remove(T x);
 public boolean contains(T x);















List Node

```
public class Node {
  public T item;
  public int key;
  public volatile Node next;
}
```



List Node



item of interest



List Node




List Node





The List-Based Set



Sorted with Sentinel nodes (min & max possible keys)



Reasoning about Concurrent Objects

- Invariant
 - Property that always holds



Reasoning about Concurrent Objects

- Invariant
 - Property that always holds
- Established because
 - True when object is created
 - Truth preserved by each method
 - Each step of each method



Specifically ...

- Invariants preserved by
 - add ()
 - remove()
 - contains ()



Specifically ...

- Invariants preserved by
 - add ()
 - remove()
 - contains ()
- Most steps are trivial
 - Usually one step tricky
 - Often linearization point



Invariants make sense only if

 methods considered
 are the only modifiers



- Invariants make sense only if

 methods considered
 are the only modifiers
- Language encapsulation helps

 List nodes not visible outside class



- Invariants make sense only if

 methods considered
 are the only modifiers
- Language encapsulation helps

 List nodes not visible outside class



- Freedom from interference needed even for removed nodes
 - Some algorithms traverse removed nodes
 - Careful with malloc()& free()!
- We rely on garbage collection



Abstract Data Types

• Concrete representation:

 Abstract Type: {a, b}



Abstract Data Types

 Meaning of rep given by abstraction map

S(_____) = {a,b}



Rep Invariant

- Which concrete values meaningful?
 - Sorted?
 - Duplicates?
- Rep invariant
 - Characterizes legal concrete reps
 - Preserved by methods
 - Relied on by methods



Blame Game

- Rep invariant is a contract
- Suppose
 - add () leaves behind 2 copies of x
 - remove () removes only 1
- Which is incorrect?



Blame Game

Suppose

- add () leaves behind 2 copies of x
- remove () removes only 1



Blame Game

Suppose

- add () leaves behind 2 copies of x
- remove () removes only 1
- Which is incorrect?
 - If rep invariant says no duplicates
 - add () is incorrect
 - Otherwise
 - remove() is incorrect



Rep Invariant (partly)

Sentinel nodes

- tail reachable from head

- Sorted
- No duplicates



Abstraction Map

- S(head) =
 - { x | there exists a such that
 - a reachable from head and
 - a.item = x



Sequential List Based Set





remove()



Sequential List Based Set

add()



remove()















Easy, same as synchronized methods

 "One lock to rule them all ..."



- Easy, same as synchronized methods

 "One lock to rule them all ..."
- Simple, clearly correct – Deserves respect!
- Works poorly with contention
 - Queue locks help
 - But bottleneck still an issue



Fine-grained Locking

- Requires careful thought
 - "Do not meddle in the affairs of wizards, for they are subtle and quick to anger"



Fine-grained Locking

Requires careful thought

 "Do not meddle in the affairs of wizards, for they are subtle and quick to anger"

- Split object into pieces
 - Each piece has own lock
 - Methods that work on disjoint pieces need not exclude each other



















Removing a Node



Removing a Node b С a d remove(b Ο 0 Art of Multiprocessor Programming 70

Removing a Node



Removing a Node


Removing a Node R b a remove(b 0 0



Art of Multiprocessor Programming

























Uh, Oh



Problem

- To delete node c

 Swing node b's next field to d
- Problem is,
 - Someone deleting b concurrently could direct a pointer
 to C



Insight

- If a node is locked
 - No one can delete node's successor
- If a thread locks
 - Node to be deleted
 - And its predecessor
 - Then it works



















Removing a Node D С C a remove(c) remove(b 0 0 Art of Multiprocessor Programming 96









Removing a Node a D remove(c) remove(b Ο 0



Art of Multiprocessor Programming














Removing a Node



Removing a Node





```
public boolean remove(T item) {
  int key = item.hashCode();
  Node pred, curr;
  try {
    ...
  } finally {
    curr.unlock();
    pred.unlock();
  }}
```





Key used to order node





Predecessor and current nodes











```
try {
  pred = head;
  pred.lock();
  curr = pred.next;
  curr.lock();
 ...
} finally { ... }
```















```
while (curr.key <= key) {</pre>
  if (item == curr.item) {
   pred.next = curr.next;
   return true;
  pred.unlock();
  pred = curr;
  curr = curr.next;
  curr.lock();
 return false;
```



















Only one node locked!









Art of Multiprocessor Programming

























```
while (curr.key <= key) {</pre>
  if (item == curr.item) {
   pred.next = curr.next;
   return true;
  pred.unlock();
  pred = curr;
  curr = curr.next;
                         Item not present
  curr.lock();
 return false
```



```
while (curr.key <= key) {</pre>
  if (item == curr.item) {
   pred.next = curr.next;
   return true;
  pred.unlock();
  pred = curr;
  curr = curr.next

    pred reachable from head

  curr.lock();

    curr is pred.next

                        •pred.key < key</pre>
                        •key < curr.key</pre>
```







Adding Nodes

- To add node e
 - Must lock predecessor
 - Must lock successor
- Neither can be deleted
 - (Is successor lock actually required?)



Same Abstraction Map

- S(head) =
 - { x | there exists a such that
 - a reachable from head and
 - a.item = x



Rep Invariant

- Easy to check that
 - tail always reachable from head
 - Nodes sorted, no duplicates



Drawbacks

- Better than coarse-grained lock
 Threads can traverse in parallel
- Still not ideal
 - Long chain of acquire/release
 - Inefficient



Optimistic Synchronization

- Find nodes without locking
- Lock nodes
- Check that everything is OK



Optimistic: Traverse without Locking





Optimistic: Lock and Load









What could go wrong?




























Validate – Part 1





What Else Could Go Wrong?













What Else Could Go Wrong?









Validate Part 2 (while holding locks)





Optimistic: Linearization Point





Same Abstraction Map

- S(head) =
 - { x | there exists a such that
 - a reachable from head and
 - a.item = x



Invariants

- Careful: we may traverse deleted nodes
- But we establish properties by
 - Validation
 - After we lock target nodes



Correctness

• If

- Nodes b and c both locked
- Node b still accessible
- Node c still successor to b
- Then
 - Neither will be deleted
 - OK to delete and return true



Unsuccessful Remove











Correctness

• If

- Nodes b and d both locked
- Node b still accessible
- Node d still successor to b
- Then
 - Neither will be deleted
 - No thread can add c after b
 - OK to return false



```
private boolean
validate (Node pred,
         Node curry) {
Node node = head;
while (node.key <= pred.key) {</pre>
 if (node == pred)
  return pred.next == curr;
 node = node.next;
return false;
```































```
public boolean remove(T item) {
int key = item.hashCode();
retry: while (true) {
  Node pred = head;
  Node curr = pred.next;
  while (curr.key <= key) {</pre>
   if (item == curr.item)
     break;
   pred = curr;
   curr = curr.next;
    ...
```






















Remove: searching





On Exit from Loop

- If item is present
 - curr holds item
 - pred just before curr
- If item is absent
 - curr has first higher key
 - pred just before curr
- Assuming no synchronization problems



```
try {
pred.lock(); curr.lock();
if (validate(pred,curr) {
  if (curr.item == item) {
   pred.next = curr.next;
   return true;
  } else {
   return false;
  }} finally {
    pred.unlock();
    curr.unlock();
  }}
```























Optimistic List

- Limited hot-spots
 - Targets of add(), remove(), contains()
 - No contention on traversals
- Moreover
 - Traversals are wait-free
 - Food for thought ...



So Far, So Good

- Much less lock acquisition/release
 - Performance
 - Concurrency
- Problems
 - Need to traverse list twice
 - contains () method acquires locks



Evaluation

- Optimistic is effective if

 cost of scanning twice without locks is less than
 cost of scanning once with locks

 Drawback
 - contains () acquires locks
 - 90% of calls in many apps



Lazy List

- Like optimistic, except
 - Scan once
 - contains (x) never locks ...
- Key insight
 - Removing nodes causes trouble
 - Do it "lazily"



Lazy List

- remove()
 - Scans list (as before)
 - Locks predecessor & current (as before)
- Logical delete
 - Marks current node as removed (new!)
- Physical delete

Redirects predecessor's next (as before)























Lazy List

- All Methods
 - Scan through locked and marked nodes
 - Removing a node doesn't slow down other method calls ...
- Must still lock pred and curr nodes.



Validation

- No need to rescan list!
- Check that pred is not marked
- Check that curr is not marked
- Check that pred points to curr





























New Abstraction Map

- S(head) =
 - { x | there exists node a such that
 - a reachable from head and
 - a.item = x and
 - a is unmarked



Invariant

- If not marked then item in the set
- and reachable from head
- and if not yet traversed it is reachable from pred



Validation

```
private boolean
 validate(Node pred, Node curr) {
 return
 !pred.marked &&
 !curr.marked &&
 pred.next == curr);
 }
```



List Validate Method





List Validate Method

private boolean	
validate(Node pred,	Node curr) {
return	
<pre>!pred.marked &&</pre>	
!curr.marked &&	
<pre>pred_next == curr);</pre>	
}	
	Current not
L	odically removed



List Validate Method





Remove

```
try {
pred.lock(); curr.lock();
if (validate(pred,curr) {
 if (curr.key == key) {
   curr.marked = true;
   pred.next = curr.next;
   return true;
  } else {
   return false;
  }} finally {
    pred.unlock();
    curr.unlock();
  }}
```








0

```
public boolean contains(T item) {
    int key = item.hashCode();
    Node curr = head;
    while (curr.key < key) {
        curr = curr.next;
    }
    return curr.key == key && !curr.marked;
}</pre>
```







public boolean contains(T item) { int key = item.hashCode(); Node curr = head; while (curr.key < key) curr = curr.next; key && !curr.marked; return curr.key Search key range





(nodes may have been removed)



```
public boolean contains(T item) {
    int key = item.hashCode();
    Node curr = head;
    while (curr.key < key) {
        curr = curr.next;
    }
}</pre>
```



Present and undeleted?





Use Mark bit + list ordering 1. Not marked \rightarrow in the set 2. Marked or missing \rightarrow not in the set





Lazy add() and remove() + Wait-free contains()



Art of Multiprocessor Programming

Evaluation

- Good:
 - contains () doesn't lock
 - In fact, its wait-free!
 - Good because typically high % contains()
 - Uncontended calls don't re-traverse
- Bad
 - Contended add () and remove () calls must re-traverse
 - Traffic jam if one thread delays



Traffic Jam

- Any concurrent data structure based on mutual exclusion has a weakness
- If one thread
 - Enters critical section
 - And "eats the big muffin"
 - Cache miss, page fault, descheduled ...
 - Everyone else using that lock is stuck!
 - Need to trust the scheduler....



Reminder: Lock-Free Data Structures

• No matter what ...



- Guarantees minimal progress in any execution
- i.e. Some thread will always complete a method call
- Even if others halt at malicious times
- Implies that implementation can't use locks



Lock-free Lists

- Next logical step - Wait-free contains()
 - lock-free add() and remove()
- Use only compareAndSet()

- What could go wrong?









Art of M233processor Programming





Art of M286 processor Programming

```
public abstract class RMWRegister {
private int value;
 public boolean synchronized
   compareAndSet(int expected,
                  int update) {
 if (value==expected) {
  value = update; return
 return false;
 } ... }
                   Report success
```



Art of M285 rocessor Programming





Lock-free Lists

Logical Removal



Use CAS to verify pointer is correct

Physical Removal

Not enough!







The Solution: Combine Bit and Pointer





Solution

- Use AtomicMarkableReference
- Atomically
 - Swing reference and
 - Update flag
- Remove in two steps
 - Set mark bit in next field
 - Redirect predecessor's pointer



Marking a Node

AtomicMarkableReference class

- Java.util.concurrent.atomic package





Extracting Reference & Mark

public Object get(boolean[] marked);



Extracting Reference & Mark











public boolean compareAndSet(
 Object expectedRef,
 Object updateRef,
 boolean expectedMark,
 boolean updateMark);











public boolean attemptMark(
 Object expectedRef,
 boolean updateMark);











Removing a Node





Art of Multiprocessor Programming

Removing a Node


Removing a Node



Removing a Node



Traversing the List

- Q: what do you do when you find a "logically" deleted node in your path?
- A: finish the job.
 - CAS the predecessor's next field
 - Proceed (repeat as needed)



Lock-Free Traversal (only Add and Remove)



The Window Class

```
class Window {
  public Node pred;
  public Node curr;
  Window(Node pred, Node curr) {
    pred = pred; curr = curr;
  }
}
```



The Window Class



A container for pred and current values



Using the Find Method

Window window = find(head, key);
Node pred = window.pred;
curr = window.curr;



Using the Find Method





Using the Find Method







The Find Method





Art of Multiprocessor Programming© Herlihy-Shavit 2007

The Find Method





Art of Multiprocessor Programming© Herlihy-Shavit 2007

```
public boolean remove(T item) {
Boolean snip;
while (true) {
 Window window = find(head, key);
 Node pred = window.pred, curr = window.curr;
  if (curr.key != key) {
     return false;
  } else {
  Node succ = curr.next.getReference();
  snip = curr.next.compareAndSet(succ, succ, false
true);
  if (!snip) continue;
   pred.next.compareAndSet(curr, succ, false, false);
     return true;
}}
```

Marcin Lother A Northeast MI





Maxim Herbiert Nir Knest MI

```
public boolean remove(T item) {
Boolean snip;
while (true) {
 Window window = find(head, key);
 Node pred = window.pred, curr = window.curr;
 if (curr.key != key) {
     return false;
  } else {
  Node succ = curr.next.getReference();
  snip = curr.next.compareAndSet(succ, succ, false,
true);
  if (!snip) continue;
  pred.next.compareAndSet(curr, scc, false, false);
     return true;
                              Not there ....
```





SP St St



```
public boolean add(T item) {
boolean splice;
 while (true) {
   Window window = find(head, key);
   Node pred = window.pred, curr = window.curr;
   if (curr.key == key) {
      return false;
   } else {
   Node node = new Node(item);
   node.next = new AtomicMarkableRef(curr, false);
   if (pred.next.compareAndSet(curr, node, false,
false)) {return true;}
}}
```



```
public boolean add(T item) {
boolean splice;
 while (true) {
   Window window = find(head, key);
   <u>Node pred = window.pred</u>, curr = window.curr;
   if (curr.key == key) {
      return false;
     \frac{1}{2}
   Node node = new Node(item);
   node.next = new AtomicMarkableRef(curr, false);
   if (pred.next.compareAndSet(curr, node, false,
false)) {return true;
} } }
                 Item already there
```









Wait-free Contains

```
public boolean contains(T item) {
    boolean marked;
    int key = item.hashCode();
    Node curr = head;
    while (curr.key < key)
        curr = curr.next;
    Node succ = curr.next.get(marked);
    return (curr.key == key && !marked[0])
}</pre>
```



Wait-free Contains





```
public Window find(Node head, int key) {
 Node pred = null, curr = null, succ = null;
 boolean[] marked = {false}; boolean snip;
 retry: while (true) {
   pred = head;
   curr = pred.next.getReference();
   while (true) {
    succ = curr.next.get(marked);
    while (marked[0]) {
    •••
    }
    if (curr.key >= key)
         return new Window(pred, curr);
       pred = curr;
       curr = succ;
     }
}
```















path...code details soon





```
public Window find(Node head, int key) {
Node pred = null, curr = null, succ = null;
boolean[] marked = {false}; boolean snip;
 retry: while (true) {
   pred = head;
   curr = pred.next.getReference();
   while (true) {
        - anno nout act (mankad).
 Otherwise advance window and
             loop again
   if (curr.key = key)
         return new Window(pred, curr);
       pred = durr
       curr = succ;
} }
```











succ, f
if (!snip) continue retry;
curr = succ;

succ = curr.next.get(marked);



. . .
Performance

- Different list-based set implementaions
- 16-node machine
- Vary percentage of contains () calls



High Contains Ratio

Ops/sec (90% reads/0 load)





Low Contains Ratio





As Contains Ratio Increases





Summary

- Coarse-grained locking
- Fine-grained locking
- Optimistic synchronization
- Lazy synchronization
- Lock-free synchronization



"To Lock or Not to Lock"

- Locking vs. Non-blocking:
 - Extremist views on both sides
- The answer: nobler to compromise
 - Example: Lazy list combines blocking add() and remove() and a wait-free contains()
 - Remember: Blocking/non-blocking is a property of a method





This work is licensed under a <u>Creative Commons Attribution-</u> <u>ShareAlike 2.5 License</u>.

- You are free:
 - to Share to copy, distribute and transmit the work
 - to Remix to adapt the work
- Under the following conditions:
 - Attribution. You must attribute the work to "The Art of Multiprocessor Programming" (but not in any way that suggests that the authors endorse you or your use of the work).
 - Share Alike. If you alter, transform, or build upon this work, you may distribute the resulting work only under the same, similar or a compatible license.
- For any reuse or distribution, you must make clear to others the license terms of this work. The best way to do this is with a link to
 - http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/.
- Any of the above conditions can be waived if you get permission from the copyright holder.
- Nothing in this license impairs or restricts the author's moral rights.

