Static and Dynamic Analyses for Reliable Concurrency

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Multicore CPUs



Concurrent Programming Models

• Multiple threads, shared memory, sync



- Multithreaded programming is difficult.
 - schedule-dependent behavior
 - race conditions, deadlocks, atomicity violations, ...
 - difficult to detect, reproduce, or eliminate

Multiple Threads

x++

is a non-atomic read-modify-write

```
x = 0;
thread interference?
while (x < len) {
    thread interference?
    tmp = a[x];
    thread interference?
    b[x] = tmp;
    thread interference?
    x++;
    thread interference?
}
```

Single Thread

x++

```
x = 0;
while (x < len) {
   tmp = a[x];
   b[x] = tmp;
   x++;
}
```

Controlling Thread Interference: #1 Manually

x = 0; thread interference? while (x < len) thread interference? tmp = a[x]; thread interference? b[x] = tmp; thread interference? x++; thread interference? } 1 Inspect code

{

2 Identify where interference does not occur x = 0;

while (x < len) {
 thread interference?
 tmp = a[x];
 thread interference?
 b[x] = tmp;
 x++;</pre>

Controlling Thread Interference: #1 Manually w/ Productivity Heuristic



• Works some of the time, but subtle bugs...

Race Conditions

two concurrent unsynchronized accesses, at least one write



Race Conditions

two concurrent unsynchronized accesses, at least one write



Race Conditions

two concurrent unsynchronized accesses, at least one write

- Races are correlated to defects
- Race-freedom ensures sequentially-consistent behavior, even on relaxed memory models
- Static and dynamic analysis tools to detect races
- But...

Thread A	Thread A	Thread B
 acq(m);	acq(m)	
t1 = bal;	t1 = bal	
rel(m);	rel(m)	
acq(m);		acq(m)
bal = t1 + 10;		bal = bal-10
		rel(m)
Thread B	acq(m)	
	bal = t1 + 10	
acq(m);	rel(m)	
rel(m);		

Atomic method must behave as if it executed serially, without interleaved operations of other thread

```
void copy() {
  x = 0;
  thread interference?
  while (x < len) {
    thread interference?
    tmp = a[x];
    thread interference?
    b[x] = tmp;
    thread interference?
    x++;
    thread interference?
  }
}</pre>
```

Atomic method must behave as if it executed serially, without interleaved operations of other thread

```
atomic void copy() {
    x = 0;
    while (x < len) {
        tmp = a[x];
        b[x] = tmp;
        x++;
    }
}</pre>
```

- Can use sequential reasoning in atomic methods
- 90% of methods are atomic



- Extension of Java's type system [TOPLAS'08]
- Input: Java code with
 - traditional synchronization
 - atomicity annotations
 - annotations describing protecting lock for fields
- Theorem: In any well-typed program, all paths through atomic methods are serializable

Theory of Reduction [Lipton 76]



- **R** Right-mover
- L Left-mover
- M Both-mover
- N Non-mover

Acquire Release Race-Free Access Racy Access

Serializable blocks have the pattern: R* [N] L*





(R* [N] L*)



Dynamic Analysis for Atomicity

- Atomizer [POPL'04]
 - based on reduction, abstracts ops as R/L/M/N
 - leads to false alarms
- Other techniques: [Wang-Stoller 06], [Xu-Bodik-Hill 06], [Hatcliff et al. 04], [Park-Lu-Zhou 09]
- Velodrome [PLDI 08]
 - reason about serializability via happensbefore relation
 - precise for observed trace, no false alarms

int x = 0; ---volatile int b = 1;

Thread i accesses x only when b == i

Thread 1

```
while (true) {
   loop until b == 1;
   atomic {
      x = x + 100;
      b = 2;
   }
}
```

<u>Thread 2</u>

```
while (true) {
   loop until b == 2;
   atomic {
      x = x - 100;
      b = 1;
   }
}
```

Execution	atomic {				
Thece	t1 = x				
Truce	x = t1 + 100				
<pre>Thread 1 while (true) { loop until b == 1; atomic { x = x + 100; b = 2; }</pre>	b = 2 } test b == 1				
}	+ 1				
Thread 2	test $D == 1$				
while (true) {	tI = x				
loop until b == $2;$	x = tI + 100				
atomic {	b = 2				
x = x - 100:	}				
b = 1;					
}					
}					

test b == 2		
test b == 2		
test b == 2		
atomic {		
t2 = x		
x = t2 - 100		
b = 1		
}		

test b == 2		
atomic {		
t2 = x		
x = t2 - 100		

Happens-Before Ordering on Operations

• program order





Happens-Before Ordering on Operations

- program order
- synchronization order



Happens-Before Ordering on Operations

- program order
- synchronization order
- communication order



Transactional Happens-Before Ordering



<u>Theorem</u>

Transactional HB order has no cycles **if and only if** Trace is serializable

Equivalent Serial Trace



Equivalent Serial Trace





Atomic method must behave as if it executed serially, without interleaved operations of other thread

```
atomic void copy() {
    x = 0;
    while (x < len) {
        tmp = a[x];
        b[x] = tmp;
        x++;
    }
}</pre>
```

- Can use sequential reasoning in atomic methods
- 90% of methods are atomic
- Static and dynamic analyses

- 10% of methods not atomic
- Local atomic blocks awkward
- Atomicity provides no information about thread interference

```
void busy_wait() {
   acq(m);
   thread interference?
   while (!test()) {
    thread interference?
    rel(m);
    thread interference?
    acq(m);
    thread interference?
    x++;
    thread interference?
  }
}
```



Controlling Thread Interference: #4 Cooperative Multitasking

- Cooperative scheduler performs context switches only at yield statements
- Clean semantics
 - Sequential reasoning valid by default ...
 - ... except where yields
 highlight thread interference
- Limitation: Uses only a single processor





Cooperative Scheduler

- Sequential Reasoning
- Except at yields



Yield-oriented Programming





Contraction of the second seco

Preemptive Scheduler

- Full performance
- No overhead

$acq(m) \\ x = 0$	
rel(m)	
yield	barrier
	yield
yield	acq(m)
_	x = 2
	rel(m)
	yield



Yield vs. Atomic

• Atomic methods are those with no yields

```
atomic void copy() {
  x = 0;
  while (x < len) {
   tmp = a[x];
   b[x] = tmp;
   x++;
  }
}</pre>
```

```
void busy_wait() {
  acq(m);
  thread interference?
  while (!test()) {
    thread interference?
    rel(m);
    thread interference?
    acq(m);
    thread interference?
    x++;
    thread interference?
  }
}
```

Yield vs. Atomic

• Atomic methods are those with no yields

```
atomic void copy() {
  x = 0;
  while (x < len) {
    tmp = a[x];
    b[x] = tmp;
    x++;
  }
}</pre>
```

```
void busy_wait() {
    acq(m);
    while (!test()) {
        rel(m);
        yield;
        acq(m);
        x++;
    }
}
```

- atomic is a method-level spec.
- yield is a code-level spec.

Non-Interference Design Space

Non-Interference Specification

Policy Enforcement		atomic	yield
	traditional sync + analysis	atomicity, serializability	Yield- oriented programming
	new run-time systems	transactional memory	automatic mutual exclusion

Transactional Memory, Larus & Rajwar, 2007 Automatic mutual exclusion, Isard & Birrell, HOTOS '07

Multiple Threads

x++

is a non-atomic read-modify-write

```
x = 0;
while (x < len) {
    thread interference?
    tmp = a[x];
    thread interference?
    b[x] = tmp;
    thread interference?
    x++;
    thread interference?
}
```

Single Thread

x++

```
x = 0;
while (x < len) {
   tmp = a[x];
   b[x] = tmp;
   x++;
}
```

Yield-Oriented Programming { int t=x; X++ vs. yield; x=t+1; }

Single Thread

x++

```
x = 0;
while (x < len) {
    yield;
    tmp = a[x];
    yield;
    b[x] = tmp;
    x++;
}
```

x = 0; while (x < len) { tmp = a[x]; b[x] = tmp; x++; }
Yield-Oriented Programming Examples

```
class StringBuffer {
```

```
synchronized StringBuffer append(StringBuffer sb) {
 int len = sb.length();
 yield;
  ... // allocate space for len chars
  sb.getChars(0, len, value, index);
  return this;
}
synchronized void getChars(int, int, char[], int) {...}
synchronized void expandCapacity(int) {...}
synchronized int length() {...}
```

volatile int x;

Version 1

void update_x() {

$$x = slow_f(x);$$

}



```
void update_x() {
   acquire(m);
   x = slow_f(x);
   release(m);
}
```

Version 2

But... Bad performance



```
Version 3
```

```
void update_x() {
    int fx = slow_f(x);
    acquire(m);
    x = fx;
    release(m);
}
```



Version 4

```
void update_x() {
    int fx = slow_f(x);
    yield;
    acquire(m);
    x = fx;
    release(m);
}
```



```
Version 5
void update x() {
  int y = x;
                                      (test and retry)
  for (;;) {
    yield;
    int fy = slow f(y);
    if (x == y) \{
      x = fy; return;
    y = x;
  }
                                      No yield between
                                      accesses to x
                                          Preemptive
Correctness
Cooperative
                  Yield Correctness
Correctness
```

```
void update x() {
                                      Version 6
  int y = x;
  for (;;) {
    yield;
    int fy = slow f(y);
    acquire(m);
    if (x == y) \{
      x = fy; release(m); return;
    y = x;
    release(m);
                                       Preemptive
Cooperative
                 Yield Correctness
                                        .
Correctness
Correctness
```

Do Yields Help?

- Hypothesis: Yields help code comprehension and defect detection
- User study [Sadowski, Yi PLATEAU 2010]
- Methodology
 - Web-based survey, background check on threads
 - Two groups: shown code with or without yields
 - Three code samples, based on real-world bugs
 - Task: Identify all bugs

Do Yields Help?

StringBuffer	Concurrency bug	Some other bug	Didn't find bug	Total
Yields	10	1	1	12
No Yields	1	5	9	15

All Samples	Concurrency bug	Some other bug	Didn't find bug	Total
Yields	30	3	3	36
No Yields	17	6	21	44

Difference is statistically significant

Static Program Analysis for Yield Correctness



- Extension of Java's type system
- Input: Java code with
 - traditional synchronization
 - yield annotations
 - annotations on racy variables (verified separately)
- Theorem:Well-typed programs are yield correct (cooperative-preemptive equivalent)

Identifying Serializable Code

 Compute an *effect* for each stmt to summarize how stmt interacts with other threads

R	Right-mover	Acquire
L	Left-mover	Release
M	Both-mover	Race-Free Access
Ν	Non-mover	Racy Access

Serializable blocks have the pattern:

R* [N] L*

Identifying Yield-Correct Code

 Compute an *effect* for each stmt to summarize how stmt interacts with other threads

R	Right-mover	Acquire
L	Left-mover	Release
M	Both-mover	Race-Free Access
Ν	Non-mover	Racy Access
У	Yielding	yield

 Yield-correct threads have the pattern: ((R* [N] L*) Y)* (R* [N] L*)

DFA for Yield-Correctness

 Trace is yield-correct if each thread satisfies DFA



Concurrency Control and Recover in Database Systems, Bernstein, Hadzilacos, Goodman, 1987

((R* [N] L*) Y)* (R* [N] L*)



Examples





class TSP {

volatile int shortestPathLength;



```
class TSP {
  Object lock;
  volatile int shortestPathLength; // lock held on writes
  void searchFrom(Path path) {
    if (path.length() >= shortestPathLength) return;
    if (path.isComplete()) {
      yield;
      synchronized(lock) {
        if (path.length() < shortestPathLength)</pre>
          shortestPathLength = path.length();
      }
    } else {
      for (Path c : path.children()) {
        yield;
        searchFrom(c);
      }
```

```
class Path {
class TSP {
  Object lock;
                           mover int length() ...
                           mover boolean isComplete() ...
  volatile int shortest
  void searchFrom(Path }
                                            one transaction that
    if (path.length()
                                            commutes with other
                                             thread operations
    if (path.isComplete())
      yield;
      synchronized(lock) {
        if (path.length() < shortestPathLength)</pre>
           shortestPathLength = path.length();
    } else {
      for (Path c : path.children()) {
        yield;
        searchFrom(c);
```

```
class TSP {
  Object lock;
  volatile int shortestPathLength; // lock held on writes
  compound void searchFrom(Path path) {
    if (path.leng:) >= shortestPathLength) return;
    if (path.isComplete()) {
                                         series of transactions
                                          that do not commute
      yield;
      synchronized(lock) {
        if (path.length() < shortestPathLength)</pre>
          shortestPathLength = path.length();
    } else {
      for (Path c : path.children()) {
        yield;
        searchFrom(c);
```

```
class TSP {
 Object lock;
  volatile int shortestPathLength; // lock held on writes
  compound void searchFrom(Path path) {
    if (path.length() >= shortestPathLength) return;
    if (path.isComple M)
      yield;
      synchronized(lock) {
        if (path.length() < shortestPathLength)</pre>
          shortestPathLength = path.length();
    } else {
      for (Path c : path.children()) {
        yield;
        searchFrom(c);
      }
                            ((R* [N] L*) Y)* (R* [N] L*)
```

```
class TSP {
  Object lock;
  volatile int shortestPathLength; // lock held on writes
  compound void searchFrom(Path path) {
                                                       M; N
    if (path.length() >= shortestPathLength) return;
    if (path.isComplete()) -{
                                                       У
      yield;
      synchronized(lock) {
                                                      R
        if (path.length() < shortestPathLength)</pre>
                                                     M; M
          shortestPathLength = path.length();
                                                     M; N
    } else {
      for (Path c : path.children()) {
        yield;
        searchFrom(c);
                            ((R* [N] L*) Y)* (R* [N] L*)
```

```
class TSP {
 Object lock;
  volatile int shortestPathLength; // lock held on writes
  compound void searchFrom(Path path) {
                                                       M; N
    if (path.length() >= shortestPathLength) return;
    if (path.isComplete()) -
      yield;
      synchronized(lock) {
        if (path.length() < shortestPathLength)</pre>
          shortestPathLength = path.length();
    } else {
      for (Path c : path.children())
        yield;
        searchFrom(c);
                            ((R* [N] L*) Y)* (R* [N] L*)
```

```
class TSP {
  Object lock;
  volatile int shortestPathLength; // lock held on writes
  compound void searchFrom(Path path) {
                                                      M; N
    if (path.length() >= shortestPathLength) return;
    if (path.isComplete()) -{
      yield;
        if (path.length() < shortestPathLength)
                                                    M; N
          shortestPathLength = path.length();
                                                    M; N
    } else {
      for (Path c : path.children()) {
        yield;
        searchFrom(c);
                            ((R* [N] L*) Y)* (R* [N] L*)
```

```
class TSP {
 Object lock;
  volatile int shortestPathLength; // lock held on writes
  compound void searchFrom(Path path) {
   yield;
    if (path.length() >= shortestPathLength) return;
    if (path.isComplete()) {
      yield;
      synchronized(lock) {
        if (path.length() < shortestPathLength)</pre>
          shortestPathLength = path.length();
      }
    } else {
      for (Path c : path.children()) {
        yield;
        searchFrom(c);
      }
```

```
class TSP {
 Object lock;
 volatile int shortestPathLength; // lock held on writes
  compound void searchFrom(Path path) {
    if (path.length() >= ..shortestPathLength) return;
    if (path.isComplete()) {
      ..synchronized(lock) {
       if (path.length() < shortestPathLength)</pre>
          shortestPathLength = path.length();
      }
    } else {
      for (Path c : path.children()) {
        ..searchFrom#(c);
```

Conditional Effects

class StringBuffer {
 int count;



Conditional Effects





Program	Size (LOC)	Annotation Time (min.)	Anotation Count
java.util.zip.Inflater	317	9	4
java.util.zip.Deflater	381	7	8
java.lang.StringBuffer	1,276	20	10
java.lang.String	2,307	15	5
java.io.PrintWriter	534	40	109
java.util.Vector	1,019	25	43
java.util.zip.ZipFile	490	30	62
sparse	868	15	19
tsp	706	10	45
elevator	1,447	30	64
raytracer-fixed	1,915	10	50
sor-fixed	958	10	32
moldyn-fixed	1,352	10	39
Total	13,570	231	490
Total per KLOC		17	36

Program No Spec		umber of Interference Points				
		Race	Atomic	Atomic Race	Yield	Unintended Yields
java.util.zip.Inflater	36	1-			0	0
jave Interference at		ren at		rence	at:	0
jav • field accesses		hts	• (111-1	field a	ccesses	0
iav • atomic method calls		106		<u> </u>		1
jav spar in non-atomic methods		105	85	53	30	0
		98	48	14	6	0
tsp	445	115	437	80	19	0
elevator 454		F	ower Ti	ntorfoi	ronco [Points:
raytracer-fixed 565 Feeier L			cion to		n abou	+ Codel
sor-fixed	249		Sier Iu	Reuso	n abou	
moldyn-fixed	983	130		37	30	0
Total	3,928	1,291	1,890	432	180	13
Total per KLOC	289	95	139	32	13	1

Dynamic Program Analysis for Yield Correctness

Copper	yield	
[PPOPP 11]	acquire(m)	
	test $x > 0$	yield
	release(m)	
<pre>yield; acquire(m);</pre>		acquire(m)
<pre>while(x>0) {</pre>		x = 1
release(m);		release(m)
acquire(m);	acquire(m)	
} assert x==0 ·	test $x > 0$	yield
release(m);	release(m)	•••
<pre>yield;</pre>		

yield





yield

 Cycles indicate missing yields

Copper

```
yield;
acquire(m);
while(x>0) {
  release(m);
  yield;
  acquire(m);
}
assert x==0;
release(m);
yield;
```


RoadRunner Framework for Dyanamic Concurrency Analyses [PASTE '10, github]



Copper Results





Cooperative Scheduler

- Sequential Reasoning
- Except at yields



Yield-oriented Programming





Preemptive Scheduler

- Full performance
- No overhead

$acq(m) \\ x = 0$	
rel(m)	
yield	barrier
	yield
yield	acq(m)
_	x = 2
	rel(m)
	yield



Summary

Race freedom



- code behaves as if on sequentially consistent machine
- Atomicity
 - code behaves as if atomic methods executed serially
- Yield-oriented programming
 - code behaves as if run on cooperative scheduler
 - sequential reasoning ok, except at yields (1-10/KLOC)
 - <u>http://users.soe.ucsc.edu/~cormac/coop.html</u>
- Other analyses for yield correctness
- Other non-interference properties: determinism, ...
- Deterministic schedulers, record-and-replay
- Other programming models/hardware platforms

Summary

Race freedom



- code behaves as if on sequentially consistent memory model
- Atomicity
 - code behaves as if atomic methods executed serially
- Yield-oriented programming
 - use traditional synchronization & multicore hardware
 - document all interference with yields
 - static analyses check interference only at yields
 - code behaves as if run on cooperative scheduler
 - sequential reasoning ok, except at yields (1-10/KLOC)
 - http://users.soe.ucsc.edu/~cormac/coop.html



- Race freedom
 - code behaves as if on sequentially consistent memory model
- Atomicity
 - code behaves as if atomic methods executed serially
- Yield-oriented programming
 - code behaves as if run on cooperative scheduler
 - sequential reasoning ok, except where yields document thread interference (1-10/KLOC)
 - <u>http://users.soe.ucsc.edu/~cormac/coop.html</u>

Future Directions

- Other analyses for yield correctness
- Other non-interference properties
 - determinism, ...
- Deterministic schedulers
- Record-and-replay
- Other programming models
 - domain-specific
 - multicore and distributed programming