6.033 Spring 2015

Lecture #6

- **Threads**
- **Condition Variables**
- **Preemption**

Enforcing Modularity via Virtualization

in order to enforce modularity + build an effective operating system

1. programs shouldn't be able to refer to (and corrupt) each others' **memory** → **virtual memory**
2. programs should be able to **communicate** → **bounded buffers** (virtualize communication links)
3. programs should be able to **share a CPU** without one program halting the progress of the others → **threads** (virtualize processors)

today's goal: use **threads** to allow multiple programs to share a CPU

thread: a virtual processor

thread API:

`suspend()`: save state of current thread to memory

`resume()`: restore state from memory

```
send(bb, message):
  acquire(bb.lock)
  while True:
    if bb.in - bb.out < N:
      bb.buf[bb.in mod N] <- message
      bb.in <- bb.in + 1
      release(bb.lock)
      return
```

```
send(bb, message):
  acquire(bb.lock)
  while True:
    if bb.in - bb.out < N:
      bb.buf[bb.in mod N] <- message
      bb.in <- bb.in + 1
      release(bb.lock)
      return
    release(bb.lock)
    yield()
    acquire(bb.lock)
```

```
yield():
  // Suspend the running thread
  // Choose a new thread to run
  // Resume the new thread
```

```
yield():
  acquire(t_lock)

  // Suspend the running thread
  // Choose a new thread to run
  // Resume the new thread

  release(t_lock)
```

```
yield():
  acquire(t_lock)

  id = id of current thread
  threads[id].state = RUNNABLE
  threads[id].sp = SP
  threads[id].ptr = PTR

  // Choose a new thread to run
  // Resume the new thread

  release(t_lock)
```

Suspend current thread

```
yield():
  acquire(t_lock)

  id = cpus[CPU].thread
  threads[id].state = RUNNABLE
  threads[id].sp = SP
  threads[id].ptr = PTR

  // Choose a new thread to run
  // Resume the new thread

  release(t_lock)
```

Suspend current thread

```
yield():
  acquire(t_lock)

  id = cpus[CPU].thread
  threads[id].state = RUNNABLE
  threads[id].sp = SP
  threads[id].ptr = PTR

  do:
    id = (id + 1) mod N
  while threads[id].state != RUNNABLE

  // Resume the new thread

  release(t_lock)
```

Suspend current thread

Choose new thread

```
yield():
  acquire(t_lock)

  id = cpus[CPU].thread
  threads[id].state = RUNNABLE
  threads[id].sp = SP
  threads[id].ptr = PTR

  do:
    id = (id + 1) mod N
  while threads[id].state != RUNNABLE

  SP = threads[id].sp
  PTR = threads[id].ptr
  threads[id].state = RUNNING
  cpus[CPU].thread = id

  release(t_lock)
```

Suspend current thread

Choose new thread

Resume new thread

```
send(bb, message):
  acquire(bb.lock)
  while True:
    if bb.in – bb.out < N:
      bb.buf[bb.in mod N] <- message
      bb.in <- bb.in + 1
      release(bb.lock)
      return
    release(bb.lock)
    yield()
    acquire(bb.lock)
```

condition variables: let threads wait for events, and get notified when they occur

condition variable API:

`wait(cv)`: yield processor and wait to be notified of cv

`notify(cv)`: notify waiting threads of cv

```
send(bb, message):
  acquire(bb.lock)
  while True:
    if bb.in - bb.out < N:
      bb.buf[bb.in mod N] <- message
      bb.in <- bb.in + 1
      release(bb.lock)
      notify(bb.not_empty)
      return
    release(bb.lock)
    wait(bb.not_full)
    acquire(bb.lock)
```

(threads in `receive()` will wait on `bb.not_empty` and notify of `bb.not_full`)

problem: lost notify

condition variable API:

`wait(cv,lock)`: yield processor, release lock, wait to be notified of cv

`notify(cv)`: notify waiting threads of cv

```
send(bb, message):
  acquire(bb.lock)
  while True:
    if bb.in - bb.out < N:
      bb.buf[bb.in mod N] <- message
      bb.in <- bb.in + 1
      release(bb.lock)
      notify(bb.not_empty)
      return
    wait(bb.not_full, bb.lock)
```

```
wait(cv, lock):
  acquire(t_lock)
  release(lock)
  threads[id].cv = cv
  threads[id].state = WAITING
  yield_wait()
  release(t_lock)
  acquire(lock)
```

← will be different than **yield()**

```
notify(cv):
  acquire(t_lock)
  for i = 0 to N-1:
    if threads[id].cv == cv &&
       threads[id].state == WAITING:
      threads[id].state = RUNNABLE
  release(t_lock)
```

```
yield_wait(): // called by wait()
  acquire(t_lock)

  id = cpus[CPU].thread
  threads[id].state = RUNNABLE
  threads[id].sp = SP
  threads[id].ptr = PTR

  do:
    id = (id + 1) mod N
  while threads[id].state != RUNNABLE

  SP = threads[id].sp
  PTR = threads[id].ptr
  threads[id].state = RUNNING
  cpus[CPU].thread = id

  release(t_lock)
```

problem: `wait()` holds `t_lock`

```
yield_wait(): // called by wait()

  id = cpus[CPU].thread
  threads[id].state = RUNNABLE
  threads[id].sp = SP
  threads[id].ptr = PTR

  do:
    id = (id + 1) mod N
  while threads[id].state != RUNNABLE

  SP = threads[id].sp
  PTR = threads[id].ptr
  threads[id].state = RUNNING
  cpus[CPU].thread = id
```

problem: current thread's state shouldn't be RUNNABLE

```
yield_wait(): // called by wait()

  id = cpus[CPU].thread
  threads[id].sp = SP
  threads[id].ptr = PTR

  do:
    id = (id + 1) mod N
  while threads[id].state != RUNNABLE

  SP = threads[id].sp
  PTR = threads[id].ptr
  threads[id].state = RUNNING
  cpus[CPU].thread = id
```

problem: deadlock (`wait()` holds `t_lock`)

```
yield_wait(): // called by wait()

   id = cpus[CPU].thread
   threads[id].sp = SP
   threads[id].ptr = PTR

   do:
     id = (id + 1) mod N
     release(t_lock)
     acquire(t_lock)
   while threads[id].state != RUNNABLE

   SP = threads[id].sp
   PTR = threads[id].ptr
   threads[id].state = RUNNING
   cpus[CPU].thread = id
```

problem: stack corruption

```
yield_wait(): // called by wait()

  id = cpus[CPU].thread
  threads[id].sp = SP
  threads[id].ptr = PTR
  SP = cpus[CPU].stack

  do:
    id = (id + 1) mod N
    release(t_lock)
    acquire(t_lock)
  while threads[id].state != RUNNABLE

  SP = threads[id].sp
  PTR = threads[id].ptr
  threads[id].state = RUNNING
  cpus[CPU].thread = id
```

preemption: forcibly interrupt threads

```
timer_interrupt():

  push PC
  push registers
  yield()
  pop registers
  pop PC
```

problem: what if timer interrupt occurs while CPU is running yield() or yield_wait()?

preemption: forcibly interrupt threads

```
timer_interrupt():

  push PC
  push registers
  yield()
  pop registers
  pop PC
```

solution: hardware mechanism to disable interrupts

- **Threads**
  Virtualize a processor so that we can share it among programs. **yield()** allows the kernel to suspend the current thread and resume another.

- **Condition Variables**
  Provide a more efficient API for threads, where they **wait** for an event and are **notified** when it occurs. wait() requires a new version of yield(), **yield_wait()**.

- **Preemption**
  Forces a thread to be interrupted so that we don't have to rely on programmers correctly using yield(). Requires a special **interrupt** and hardware support to disable other interrupts.