



CS 11 java track: lecture 7

- This week:
 - multithreaded programming
 - **synchronized** methods and blocks
 - locks/monitors/mutexes
 - `wait()`, `notify()`, `notifyAll()`
- Web tutorial:
 - <http://java.sun.com/docs/books/tutorial/essential/threads/multithreaded.html>



bank account example (1)

- one **BankAccount** object that allows withdrawals and deposits
- two **People** objects that are **Runnable** and that each have a reference to the same **BankAccount** object



bank account example (2)

```
public class BankAccount {
    private int balance;
    BankAccount(int b) { balance = b; }
    public int withdraw(int dollars) {
        if (balance >= dollars) {
            balance -= dollars;
            return dollars;
        }
        else throw new InsufficientBalanceException();
    }
    public void deposit(int dollars) {
        balance = balance + dollars;
    }
}
```



bank account example (2)

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    BankAccount acc = new BankAccount(1000);
    // Boy, Girl both Runnable subclasses of People:
    Girl alice = new Girl(acc);
    Boy bob = new Boy(acc);
    Thread aliceThread = new Thread(alice);
    Thread bobThread = new Thread(bob);
    aliceThread.start();
    bobThread.start();
    // alice or bob can withdraw/deposit cash
    // at arbitrary times.
}
```



bank account example (3)

```
// in bob's run() method:
```

```
acc.deposit(100);
```

```
// in alice's run() method:
```

```
acc.withdraw(100);
```

```
// Assume bob gets interrupted here:
```

```
balance = balance + dollars;
```

^

```
// Here, rhs is 1100 dollars.
```

```
// Then alice takes over and withdraws 100 dollars
```

```
// (balance = 900). Then bob resumes and sets
```

```
// balance to 1100 dollars!
```



bank account example (4)

- Moral: need to block withdrawals during deposits and vice versa. How?
 - declare methods **synchronized**

```
public synchronized int withdraw(int dollars) {  
    if (balance >= dollars) {  
        balance -= dollars;  
        return dollars;  
    }  
    else throw new InsufficientBalanceException();  
}  
  
public synchronized void deposit(int dollars) {  
    balance = balance + dollars;  
}
```



synchronized

- meaning of **synchronized**:
- each object has a single *lock* (monitor, mutex) that can be held by only a single thread at a time
- before entering a synchronized method
 - thread must acquire the lock
 - if it can't (already in use), must wait until lock released
- lock is released when thread leaves synchronized method



rule of thumb

- ANY method that
 - manipulates the state of an object
 - will be called from multiple threads
 - should be **synchronized**

- Q: why not declare ALL methods synchronized?
 - slows things down
 - acquiring/releasing lock takes time



synchronized blocks (1)

- Sometimes have methods like this:

```
public void foo() {  
    // code that computes values independent  
    //   of object state  
    // code that manipulates state  
}
```

- could declare entire method **synchronized**
- wasteful (most of code doesn't manipulate state)
- how to declare part of method synchronized?



synchronized blocks (2)

```
public void foo() {  
    // code that computes values independent  
    //   of object state  
    synchronized(this) { // grab lock of "this"  
        // code that manipulates state  
    }  
}
```

- can also do synchronized blocks on other objects



cubbyhole example (1)

- a **CubbyHole** is an object that has a slot which contains at most one object
- one thread adds items into the **CubbyHole**
- one thread removes them from the **CubbyHole**
- **CubbyHole** empty → removing thread must wait until full before removing items
- **CubbyHole** full → adding thread must wait until empty before adding items
- want to add a series of items and withdraw in order



cubbyhole example (2)

```
// Version 1:
```

```
public class CubbyHole {  
    private Object slot;  
    public CubbyHole() { slot = null; } // null == empty  
    public void put(Object obj) { slot = obj; }  
    public Object get() {  
        Object obj = slot;  
        slot = null; // mark as empty  
        return obj;  
    }  
}
```



cubbyhole example (3)

- scenarios:
 - one thread tries to `get ()` when nothing there
 - returns null
 - one thread tries to `put ()` when slot occupied
 - object doesn't get transferred
 - one thread tries to `put ()` when another thread is `get ()`-ting
 - object **might not** get transferred
- all bad! Solution?



cubbyhole example (4)

```
// Version 2:
```

```
public class CubbyHole {  
    private Object slot;  
    public CubbyHole() { slot = null; } // null == empty  
    public synchronized void put(Object obj) {  
        slot = obj;  
    }  
    public synchronized Object get() {  
        Object obj = slot;  
        slot = null; // mark as empty  
        return obj;  
    }  
}
```



cubbyhole example (5)

- now can't `get ()` and `put ()` at same time, but what if...
 - one thread tries to `get ()` when nothing there
 - one thread tries to `put ()` when slot is full
- still broken!
- any ideas?



cubbyhole example (6)

```
// Version 3 (skip constructor, fields)
public synchronized void put(Object obj)
    throws InterruptedException {
    if (slot != null) { wait(); }
    slot = obj;
    notifyAll(); // signal that slot now filled
}

public synchronized Object get()
    throws InterruptedException {
    if (slot == null) { wait(); }
    Object obj = slot;
    slot = null; // mark as empty
    notifyAll(); // signal that slot now empty
    return obj;
}
```




cubbyhole example (7)

- ok for 1 producer thread, 1 consumer thread, but...
- imagine:
 - 2 producer threads, 2 consumer threads
 - one producer thread fills slot, calls `notifyAll()`
 - both consumer threads wake up
 - one grabs lock, removes item, returns (releasing lock)
 - other grabs lock, but no item to grab, so returns null (error!)
 - moral: can't assume slot filled after returning from `wait()`
 - solution?



cubbyhole example (8)

```
// Version 4 (skip constructor, fields)
public synchronized void put(Object obj)
    throws InterruptedException {
    while (slot != null) { wait(); }
    slot = obj;
    notifyAll(); // signal that slot now filled
}

public synchronized Object get()
    throws InterruptedException {
    while (slot == null) { wait(); }
    Object obj = slot;
    slot = null; // mark as empty
    notifyAll(); // signal that slot now empty
    return obj;
}
```



assignment

- multithreaded version of web crawler
- need to use very similar pattern
 - actually somewhat easier – why?
- multithreaded programming *full* of subtle traps like this
 - whole books, courses on how to avoid pitfalls
 - can't deal with it here



next week

- last assignment! woo hoo!
 - much easier
- serialization
 - saving precious objects to permanent storage and restoring them