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Parallel Programming and Heterogeneous Computing

Shared-Memory: Concurrency & Synchronization

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Concurrency in History

- 1961, Atlas Computer & LEO III
 - Based on Germanium transistors, military use & accounting
 - First use of interrupts to simulate concurrent execution of multiple programs *multiprogramming*
- 60's and 70's: Foundations for concurrent software developed
 - 1965, Cooperating Sequential Processes, E. W. Dijkstra
 - First principles of concurrent programming
 - Basic concepts: Critical section, mutual exclusion, fairness, speed independence





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Cooperating Sequential Processes



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Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965] A Comparator



Paper starts with a discussion of theoretical sequential machines.

Example: **Sequential** electromagnetic solution to find the index of the **largest** value in an array.

Building block: Binary comparator cell

- Current lead through magnet coil
- Switch to magnet with larger current



Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965] Sequence of Comparators





- Progress of time is relevant
 - After applying one step, machine needs some time to show the result
 - Same line differs only in left operand
 - Concept of a parameter that comes from past operations, leads to alternative setup for the same behavior
- Rules of behavior form a program



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Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965] Different Expressions of Sequence

- Idea: Many programs for expressing the same intent
- Example: Consider repetitive nature of the problem
 - Invest in a variable j
 - \rightarrow generalize the solution for any number of items



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Chart 6



Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965]

- Assume we have multiple of these sequential programs
- How about the cooperation between such, maybe loosely coupled, sequential processes ?
 - Beside rare moments of communication, processes run autonomously
- Disallow any assumption about the relative speed
 - Aligns to understanding of sequential process, which is not affected in its correctness by execution speed
 - If this is not fulfilled, might result in "analogue interferences" (race conditions).
- Prevention: **A critical section** for two cyclic sequential processes
 - At any moment, at most one process is engaged in the section
 - Implemented through common variables
 - Implementation requires atomic read / write behavior

: Race condition

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Critical Section



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Chart **9**

Critical Section Problem

- N tasks have some code **critical section** with shared data access
- Mutual Exclusion demand
 - Only one task at a time is allowed into its critical section, among all tasks that have critical sections for the same resource.

Progress demand

 If no other task is in the critical section, the decision for entering should not be postponed indefinitely. Only tasks that wait for entering the critical section are allowed to participate in decisions.

Bounded Waiting demand

 It must not be possible for a task requiring access to a critical section to be delayed indefinitely by other threads entering the section (starvation problem)

- : Critical Section
- : Mutual Exclusion
- : Progress
- : Bounded Waiting

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Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965] Compounds and cycles

 parbegin / parend extension to ALGOLG60 – every statement within compound block is run concurrently

begin S1; parbegin S2; S3; S4 parend; S5 end



- A system is a repeated synchronization, critical costion and non
- A cycle is a repeated synchronization, critical section and non-critical remainder part of two cooperating processes.



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Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965] Approach #1: Turn Flag

- First approach:
 - Passing a single flag
- Discussion:
 - Too restrictive, since strictly alternating
 - One process may die or hang outside of the critical section (no progress)

"begin	<pre>integer turn; turn:= 1;</pre>					
	<u>parbegi</u> r	1				
	process	1:	begin	L1:	$\underline{if} turn = 2 \underline{then} \underline{goto} L1;$	
					critical section 1;	
					<pre>turn:= 2;</pre>	
					remainder of cycle 1; <u>goto</u> L1	
			end;			
	process	2:	begin	L2:	\underline{if} turn = 1 then goto L2;	
					critical section 2;	
					turn:= 1;	
					remainder of cycle 2; <u>goto</u> L2	
			end			
	parend					
end"						

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Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965] Approach #2: Two Flags

- Separate indicators for enter/ leave
- More fine-grained waiting approach
- Too optimistic, both processes may end up in the critical section (no mutual exclusion)

"begin	integer c1, c2;
	c1:= 1; c2:= 1;
	parbegin
	process 1: begin L1: if c2 = 0 then goto L1;
	c1:= 0;
	critical section 1;
	c1:= 1;
	remainder of cycle 1; <u>goto</u> L1
	end;
	process 2: begin L2: if c1 = 0 then goto L2;
	c2:= 0;
	critical section 2;
	c2:= 1;
	remainder of cycle 2; goto L2
	end
	parend
end"	
[



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Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965] Approach #3: First Raise, then Check

- First raise the flag, then check for the other
- Mutual exclusion works
- If c1=0, then c2=1, and vice versa in CS
- Variables change outside of the critical section only
- Danger of mutual blocking (**deadlock**)

When the Antonio of the
"begin integer cl, c2;
c1:= 1; c2:= 1;
parbegin
process 1: begin A1: c1:= 0;
L1: if c2 = 0 then goto L1;
critical section 1;
c1:= 1;
remainder of cycle 1; goto A1
end;
process 2: begin A2: c2:= 0;
L2: \underline{if} c1 = 0 then goto L2;
critical section 2;
c2:= 1;
remainder of cycle 2; goto A2
end
. narend
parend
end" ·
end"

: Deadlock

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Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965] Approach #4: Raise, Check, Lower, Repeat HPI Hasso Plattner Institut

- Reset locking of critical section if the other one is already in
- Problem due to assumption of relative speed
- Can lead for one slow process to starve (**bounded waiting**)
- or live lock (both spinning)

"begin	integer c1, c2;	
	c1:= 1; c2:= 1;	
	parbegin	
	process 1: begin L1:	c1:= 0;
		\underline{if} $c2 = 0$ then
		begin c1:= 1; goto L1 end;
		critical section 1;
		c1:= 1;
		remainder of cycle 1; <u>goto</u> L1
	end;	
	process 2: <u>begin</u> L2:	c2:= 0;
		$\underline{if} c1 = 0 \underline{then}$
		begin c2:= 1; gota L2 end;
		critical section 2;
		c2:= 1;
		remainder of cycle 2; <u>goto</u> L2
	end	
	parend	
end"		
		,

: Livelock

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Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965] Solution: Dekker got it!



- Combination of approach #4 and a variable `turn`, which realizes mutual blocking avoidance through prioritization
- Idea: Spin for section entry only if it is your turn



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Bakery Algorithm [Lamport1974]

```
def lock(i) { # wait until we have the smallest num
   choosing[i] = True;
   num[i] = max(num[0], num[1] ..., num[n-1]) + 1;
   choosing[i] = False;
   for (j = 0; j < n; j++) {
          while (choosing[j]) ;
         while ((num[j] != 0) &&
  ((num[j],j) "<" (num[i],i)))</pre>
           };}}
def unlock(i) {
   num[i] = 0; \}
lock(i)
... critical section ...
unlock(i)
```





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 Dekker provided first correct solution only based on shared memory, guarantees three major properties

- Mutual exclusion
- Freedom from deadlock
- Freedom from starvation
- Generalization by Lamport with the **Bakery algorithm**
 - Relies only on memory access atomicity
- Both solutions assume atomicity and predictable sequential execution on machine code level
- Situation today: Unpredictable sequential instruction stream
 - Out-of-order execution
 - Re-ordered memory access
 - Compiler optimizations

critical section 2;

turn:= 1; c2:= 1;

remainder of cycle 2; goto A2

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Test-and-Set Instructions

- Test-and-set processor instruction, wrapped by the operating system or compiler
 - Write to a memory location and return its old value as atomic step
 - Also known as compare-and-swap (CAS) or read-modify-write
- Idea: Spin in writing 1 to a memory cell, until the old value was 0
 - Between writing and test, no other operation can modify the value
- Busy waiting for acquiring a **(spin) lock**
- Efficient especially for short waiting periods
- For long periods try to *deactivate* your processor between loops.

```
function Lock(boolean *lock) {
   while (test_and_set (lock))
   ;
}
#define LOCKED 1
   int TestAndSet(int* lockPtr) {
      int oldValue;
      oldValue = SwapAtomic(lockPtr, LOCKED);
      return oldValue == LOCKED;
}
```

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Let us take the period of time during which one of the processes is in its critical section. We all know, that during that period, no other processes can enter their critical section and that, if they want to do so, they have to

wait until the current critical section execution has been completed. For the remainder of that period hardly any activity is required from them: they have to wait anyhow, and as far as we are concerned "they could go to sleep".

Our solution does not reflect this at all: we keep the processes busy setting and inspecting common variables all the time, as if no price has to be paid for this activity. But if our implementation -i.e. the ways in which

or the means by which these processes are carried out- is such, that "sleeping"

EWD123 - 27

is a less expensive activity than this busy way of waiting, then we are fully justified (now also from an economic point of view) to call our solution misleading.

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Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965] Binary and General Semaphores

- Find a solution to allow waiting sequential processes to *sleep*
- Special purpose integer called **semaphore**, two **atomic** operations
 - P-operation: Decrease value of its argument semaphore by 1,
 "wait" if the semaphore is already zero
 - V-operation: Increase value of its argument semaphore by 1, useful as *"signal*" operation
- Solution for critical section shared between N processes
- Original proposal by Dijkstra did not mandate any wakeup order
 - $\hfill\square$ Later debated from operating system point of view
 - "Bottom layer should not bother with macroscopic considerations"

```
wait (S):
    while (S <= 0);
    S--;</pre>
```

```
signal (S):
S++;
```

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Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965] Example: Binary Semaphore

```
"begin integer free; free:= 1;
    parbegin
     process 1: begin.....end;
    process 2: begin .....end;
    process N: begin.....end;
    parend
end"
with the i-th process of the form:
"process i: begin
            Li: P(free); critical section i; V(free);
                remainder of cycle i; goto Li
          end" .
```

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Cooperating Sequential Processes [Dijkstra1965] Example: General (Counting) Semaphore

```
"begin integer number of queuing portions, number of empty positions.
               buffer manipulation:
      number of queuing portions:= 0:
      number of empty positions:= N:
      buffer manipulation:= 1;
      parbegin
      producer: begin
                again 1: produce next portion;
                        P(number of empty positions):
                         P(buffer manipulation):
                         add portion to buffer;
                        V(buffer manipulation);
                        V(number of queuing portions); goto again 1 end:
      consumer: begin
               again 2: P(number of queuing portions):
                        P(buffer manipulation);
                        take portion from buffer;
                        V(buffer manipulation):
                        V(number of empty positions);
                        process portion taken; goto again 2 end
       barend
end"
```

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EDSGER W. DIJKSTRA

Fundamental contributions to programming as a high, intellectual challenge.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sIIKP2LzbA



Other Synchronization Primitives

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Dining Philosophers Problem [Dijkstra]

- Five philosophers work in a college, each philosopher has a room for thinking
- Common dining room, furnished with a circular table, surrounded by five labeled chairs
- In the center stood a large bowl of spaghetti, which was constantly replenished
- When a philosopher gets hungry:
 - Sits on his chair
 - Picks up his own fork on the left and plunges it in the spaghetti, then picks up the right fork
 - When finished he put down both forks and gets up
 - May wait for the availability of the second fork







Dining Philosophers Problem [Dijkstra]

- Idea: Shared memory synchronization has different standard issues
- Philosophers as tasks, forks as shared resource
- Explanation of the *deadly embrace (deadlock)* and *starvation*
- How can a deadlock happen ?
 - All pick the left fork first and wait for the right
- How can a live-lock (starvation) happen ?
 - Two fast eaters, sitting in front of each other
- Ideas for solutions
 - Waiter solution (central arbitration)
 - Lefty-righty approach

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Possible Solution: Lefty-Righty-Approach

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- PHILn is a righty (is the only one starting with the right fork)
- Case 1: Has right fork, but left fork is held by left neighbor
 - Left neighbor will put down both forks when finished, so there is a chance
 - PHILⁿ might always be interrupted before eating (starvation), but no deadlock of all participants occurs
- Case 2: Has no fork
 - Right fork is captured by right neighbor
 - In worst case, lock spreads to all but one righty
- Proof by Dijkstra shows deadlock freedom, but still starvation problem



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Coffman Conditions [Coffman1970]

- 1970. E.G. Coffman and A. Shoshani. Sequencing tasks in multiprocess systems to avoid deadlocks.
 - All conditions must be fulfilled to allow a deadlock to happen
 - Mutual exclusion condition Individual resources are available or held by no more than one task at a time
 - Hold and wait condition Task already holding resources may attempt to hold new resources
 - No preemption condition Once a task holds a resource, it must voluntarily release it on its own
 - Circular wait condition Possible for a task to wait for a resource held by the next thread in the chain
- Avoiding circular wait turned out to be the easiest solution for deadlock avoidance
- Avoiding mutual exclusion leads to non-blocking synchronization
 - These algorithms no longer have a critical section

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: Coffman Conditions



Coroutines [Conway1963]

- Generalization of the subroutine concept
 - Explicit language primitive to indicate transfer of control flow
 - Leads to multiple entry points in the routine
- Routines can suspend (yield) and resume in their execution
- Co-routines may always yield new results (=> generators)
 - Less flexible version of a coroutine, since yield always returns to caller
- Good for concurrent, not for parallel programming
- Foundation for other concurrency concepts
 - Exceptions, iterators, pipes, ...
- Implementation demands stack handling and context switching
 - Portable implementations in C are difficult
 - Fiber concept in the operating system is helpful

Design of a Separable Transition-Diagram Compiler*

MELVIN E. CONWAY Directorate of Computers, USAF L. G. Hanscom Field, Bedford, Mass.

A COBOL compiler design is presented which is compact enough to permit rapid, one-pass compilation of a large subset of COBOL on a moderately large computer. Versions of the same compiler for smaller machines require only two working tapes plus a compiler tape. The methods given are largely applicable to the construction of ALGOL compilers.

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Chart **29**

: Coroutines



Coroutines



```
var q := new queue
coroutine produce
loop
    while q is not full
        create some new items
        add the items to q
        yield to consume
coroutine consume
loop
    while q is not empty
        remove some items from q
        use the items
    yield to produce
```

```
def generator():
    for i in range(5):
        yield i * 2
```

```
for item in generator():
    print(item)
```

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Chart 31

Monitors [Hoare1974]

- First formal description of monitor concept, originally invented by Brinch Hansen in 1972 as part of an OS project
- Operating system has to schedule requests for various resources, separate schedulers per resource necessary
- Each contains local administrative data, and functions used by requestors
- Collection of associated data and functionality: monitor
 - Note: The paper mentions Simula 67 classes (1972)
 - Functions are the same for all instances, but invocations should be mutually exclusive
 - Function execution is the **occupation of the monitor**
 - Easily implementable with semaphores

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: Monitors

Chart 32

Condition Variables

- Function implementation itself might need to wait at some point
 - Monitor wait() operation: Issued inside the monitor, causes the caller to wait and temporarily release the monitor while waiting for some assertion
 - Monitor signal() operation: Resume one of the waiting callers
- Might be more than one reason for waiting inside the function
 - Variable of type condition in the monitor, one for each waiting reason
 - Delay operations relate to some specific condition variable: condvar.wait(), condvar.signal()
 - Programs are signaled for the condition they are waiting for
 - Hidden implementation as queue of waiting processes

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Single Resource Monitor

```
single resource:monitor
begin busy:Boolean;
     nonbusy:condition;
  procedure acquire;
     begin if busy then nonbusy.wait;
              busy := true
     end;
 procedure release;
     begin busy := false;
           nonbusy.signal
     end;
  busy := false; comment inital value;
end single resource;
```

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Monitors in Java

- Monitors are part of the Java programming language
- Add *synchronized* keyword to method, to make access exclusive.
- Object base class provides condition variable functionality Object.wait(), Object.notify(), and a wait queue, callable from synchronized methods

Method	Description
<pre>void wait();</pre>	Enter a monitor's wait set until notified by another thread
void wait(long timeout);	Enter a monitor's wait set until notified by another thread or timeout milliseconds elapses
void wait(long timeout, int nanos);	Enter a monitor's wait set until notified by another thread or timeout milliseconds plus nanos nanoseconds elapses
<pre>void notify();</pre>	Wake up one thread waiting in the monitor's wait set. (If no threads are waiting, do nothing.)
<pre>void notifyAll();</pre>	Wake up all threads waiting in the monitor's wait set. (If no threads are waiting, do nothing.)



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Java Example

```
class Queue {
  int n:
  boolean valueSet = false;
  synchronized int get() {
    while(!valueSet)
      try { this.wait(); }
      catch(InterruptedException e) { ... }
    valueSet = false;
    this.notify();
    return n;
  synchronized void put(int n) {
    while (valueSet)
      try { this.wait(); }
      catch(InterruptedException e) { ... }
    this.n = n:
    valueSet = true;
    this.notify();
3
```

```
class Producer implements Runnable {
  Queue q;
  Producer (Queue q) {
    this.q = q;
    new Thread(this, "Producer").start(); }
  public void run() {
    int i = 0;
    while(true) { q.put(i++); }
}}
class Consumer implements Runnable { ... }
class App {
  public static void main(String args[]) {
    Queue q = new Q();
    new Producer(q);
    new Consumer(q);
  }
}
```

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Other High-Level Primitives

- Today: Multitude of high-level synchronization primitives
- Spinlock
 - Perform busy waiting, lowest overhead for short locks

Reader / Writer Lock

- Special case of mutual exclusion through semaphores
- Multiple "Reader" tasks can enter the critical section at the same time, but "Writer" task should gain exclusive access
- Different optimizations possible: minimum reader delay, minimum writer delay, throughput, ...

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High-Level Primitives: Concurrent Collections

Datastructures with build-in concurrency support

- concurrent_vector Class
 - · Differences Between concurrent_vector and vector
 - Concurrency-Safe Operations
 - Exception Safety
- concurrent queue Class
 - Differences Between concurrent queue and queue
 - Concurrency–Safe Operations
 - Iterator Support
- concurrent unordered map Class
 - Differences Between concurrent unordered map and unordered map
 - Concurrency-Safe Operations
- concurrent_unordered_multimap Class
- concurrent_unordered_set Class
- concurrent unordered multiset Class

Microsoft Parallel Patterns Library

 java.util.concurrent
\sim
Java

Class Summary

CountDownLatch

CyclicBarrier

Exchanger<V>

Executors

ForkJoinPool

ForkJoinTask<V>

FutureTask<V>

Phaser

ForkJoinWorkerThread

LinkedBlockingDeque<E>

LinkedBlockingQueue<E>

LinkedTransferQueue<E>

PriorityBlockingQueue<E>

RecursiveAction

AbstractExecutorService

ArrayBlockingQueue<E>

Class

ConcurrentHashMap<K,V> ConcurrentLinkedDeque<E> ConcurrentLinkedQueue<E> ConcurrentSkipListMap<K,V> ConcurrentSkipListSet<E> CopyOnWriteArrayList<E> CopyOnWriteArraySet<E> DelayQueue<E extends Delayed> ExecutorCompletionService<V>

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- Lock can be obtained several times without locking on itself
- Useful for cyclic algorithms (e.g. graph traversal) and problems were lock bookkeeping is very expensive
- Reentrant lock needs to remember the locking task(s), which increases the overhead

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- All concurrent activities stop there and continue together
- Participants statically defined at compile- or start-time

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- Lock-free programming as a way of sharing data without maintaining locks
 - Prevents deadlock and live-lock conditions
 - □ Goal:

Suspension of one thread never prevents another thread from making progress (e.g. synchronized shared queue)

- Blocking by design does not disqualify the lock-free realization
- Algorithms rely on hardware support for atomic operations
 - Read-Modify-Write (RMW) operations
 - Compare-And-Swap (CAS) operations
- These operations are typically mapped in operating system API

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Lock-Free Programming

```
void LockFreeQueue::push(Node* newHead)
{
    for (;;)
        // Copy a shared variable (m Head) to a local.
        Node* oldHead = m_Head;
        // Do some speculative work, not yet visible to other threads.
        newHead->next = oldHead:
        // Next, attempt to publish our changes to the shared variable.
        // If the shared variable hasn't changed, the CAS succeeds and we return.
        // Otherwise, repeat.
                                                                                     ParProg20 B1
        if (_InterlockedCompareExchange(&m_Head, newHead, oldHead) == oldHead)
                                                                                     Concurrency &
            return;
                                                                                     Synchronization
                                                                                     Sven Köhler
```



Sequential Consistency



Boehm, H. J., & Adve, S. V. (2012). You don't know jack about shared variables or memory models. Communications of the ACM, 55(2), 48-54.



Instruction Reordering

$$nt \times = 0, y = 0;$$





Sequential Consistency



- Consistency model where the order of memory operations is consistent with the source code
 - Important for lock-free algorithm semantic
 - Not guaranteed by some processor architectures (e.g. ARM/Power)
- Java and C++ support the enforcement of sequential consistency

```
int r1, r2;
void thread1() {
   X.store(1);
   r1 = Y.load();
```

std::atomic<int> X(0), Y(0);

```
void thread2() {
    Y.store(1);
    r2 = X.load();
r1 and r2 never become
zero at the same time
```

}

- Compiler generates additional *memory fences* and *RMW* operations
- Still does not prevent from memory re-ordering due to instruction reordering by the compiler itself

```
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```

```
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```



```
void LockFreeQueue::push(Node* newHead)
{
    atomic_noexcept
    {
        // begin tranxaction
        Node* oldHead = m_Head;
        // Do some speculative work, not yet visible to other threads.
        newHead->next = oldHead;
        // Next, attempt to publish our changes to the shared variable.
        // If the write operation encounters an invalidated cache, fail
        oldHead = newHead;
        // commit transaction, repeat on fail.
    }
```

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Transactional Memory (POWER8)



Le, Hung Q., et al. "Transactional memory support in the IBM POWER8 processor." IBM Journal of Research and Development 59.1 (2015): 8-1.



8 Simple Rules For Concurrency [Breshears2009]

- "Concurrency is still more art than science"
 - Identify truly independent computations
 - Implement concurrency at the highest level possible
 - Plan early for scalability
 - Code re-use through libraries
 - Use the right threading model
 - Never assume a particular order of execution
 - Use thread-local storage if possible, apply locks to specific data
 - Don't change the algorithm for better concurrency

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And now for a break and a cup of macchiato*.