Concurrent Systems

Nebenläufige Systeme

II. Concurrency

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Agenda

Preface

Causality
   Interdependencies
   Dimensions

Resource Sharing
   Principles
   Competition
   Synchronisation

Summary
Outline

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Causality
  Interdependencies
  Dimensions

Resource Sharing
  Principles
  Competition
  Synchronisation

Summary
discussion on two fundamental abstract concepts:

- **Concurrency** (Ger. *Nebenläufigkeit*)
  - designates the relation of causal independent events
  - is related to events that have no mutual influence

- **Causality** (Ger. *Kausalität, Ursächlichkeit*)
  - designates the relation between cause and effect
  - is the causal chain or connection of two events
discussion on two fundamental **abstract concepts**: concurrency (Ger. *Nebenläufigkeit*)
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**Definition (concurrent)**
Events occur or are concurrent if none is the cause of the other.
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**Definition (concurrent)**
Events occur or are concurrent if none is the cause of the other.

**Explanation**
- explanation of the relation of these concepts to resource sharing
- differentiated with respect to various types of resources and sharing
- classified as to appropriate or necessary synchronisation paradigms
**Principle of Causality**

- causal chain of events related to some other event $e_i$:

- $A$, $B$ and $C$ denote some computation on a private or shared processor
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- $A$, $B$ and $C$ denote some computation on a private or shared processor
- an event is concurrent to another event ($e_i$) if it lies in the elsewhere of the other event ($e_i$)
- the event is neither cause nor effect of the other event ($e_i$)
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- an event is concurrent to another event ($e_i$) if it lies in the elsewhere of the other event ($e_i$)
- the event is neither cause nor effect of the other event ($e_i$)
- as the case may be, it is cause/effect of other events (different from $e_i$) that are lying in the elsewhere (cf. dash-and-dot line)
computations can be carried out concurrently provided that:

- **general**
  - none requires a result of the other (cf. p. 10)
  - non-existent **data dependencies**
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- **special**
  - none depends on delays brought forth by the other
    - deadlines may be missed rarely or under no circumstances
    - periods may be stretched up to a certain limit or not at any time
  - non-existent **timing restrictions** ↼ **real-time processing**
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Interrelation of computations/events constrains concurrency

### Event correlations v. Processing modes

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interrelation of computations/events constrains concurrency

### Event correlations v. Processing modes

```
"is cause of" \(\mapsto\) sequential \(\leadsto\) realised before/at run-time

"is effect of" \(\mapsto\) sequential

"is concurrent to" \(\mapsto\) parallel \(\leadsto\) realised in logical/real terms
```

decrease of the portion of **sequential code** is an important aspect
Limits in the Degree of Concurrency

- Amdahl’s Law [1]: speed-up \((su)\) achievable by parallel processors
  - work load remains constant with the varying number of processors
  - aim at reducing overall computation time for a given fixed-size problem

\[
su = \frac{r_s + r_p n}{r_s + r_p n}
\]

\(r_s\) ratio of sequential code,
\(r_p\) ratio of parallel code,
independent of \(n\) number of processors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Processors</th>
<th>Speedup</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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The speed-up will be constrained by data management housekeeping. The nature of this overhead appears to be sequential.
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Adapting the Work Load

- Gustafson’s Law [4]: scaled speed-up (ssu), “hands-on experience”
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  - aim at getting better results for a given fixed computation time
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- \( r_p \): ratio of parallel code, scales with \( n \)
- \( r_s, n \): as with Amdahl’s Law

[Graph showing speedup for different values of \( r_s \)]
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- \(r_p\) ratio of parallel code, scales with \(n\)
- \(r_s, n\) as with Amdahl’s Law

- data management housekeeping (serial part) becomes less important
  - in practise, the problem size scales with the number of processors: \(\text{HPC}^1\)

\(^1\text{High Performance Computing}\)
Concurrent Operations of a Computation

- operations can be concurrent if none needs the result of the other

```c
int foo, bar;

int sample(int tupel[2]) {
    int subtotal, product;
    foo = tupel[0];
    bar = tupel[1];
    subtotal = foo + bar;
    product = bar * foo;
    return subtotal + product;
}
```

in computation:
which statements can be concurrent?
- (6, 7) and (9, 10)

which statements are not concurrent?
- (9, 10) and 12

defined by the causal order (Ger. Kausalordnung) of the statements as far as the logical dimension of a program is concerned but there is also a physical dimension, namely when it comes to the execution of that program by a real processor; level of abstraction
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Level of Abstraction

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- simultaneous executions are constrained by the resource characteristic
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May result in a *performance penalty*, non-critical situation
a sequential operation (in logical terms) at a higher level can be “concurrent” (i.e., non-sequential in real terms) at a lower level

- the operation appears to be complex, consists of multiple sub-steps
  - the $n$-bit assignment on a $\frac{n}{2}$-bit machine, with $n = 16, 32, 64$
  - the addition of a number to a shared variable located in main memory

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²real-time processing, especially in case of hard deadlines.
Outline

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Summary
Resource Classification

- permanent, limited
  - reusable
    - preemptable
    - non-preemptable
  - temporary, unlimited
    - consumable

Resources are reusable, but always only of limited supply. They are acquired, occupied, used, and released (when no longer required). In-use resources are preemptable or non-preemptable, depending on whether allocation to another occupant is possible. When non-preemptable, they are exclusively owned by an occupant. Temporary resources are of unlimited supply, they are consumable i.e. produced, received, used, and destroyed (when no longer required).

Also referred to as "persistent."
permanent resources are \textbf{reusable}, but always only of limited supply.

- they are acquired, occupied, used, and released (when no longer required)
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- **Hardware resources** as to be managed, e.g., by an operating system

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- **software resources** as to be managed by any other program
  - **reusable**
    - code: critical section/region
    - data: variable, placeholder
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    - signal: notice
    - message: packet, stream
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  - the latter must be contained in variables/placeholders to be processible
- Availability of the former constrains production/consumption of the latter
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- Reusable and consumable resources imply different **use patterns**
Resource Use Patterns

- if so, **reusable resources** are subject to **multilateral** synchronisation

- **consumable resources** are subject to **unilateral** synchronisation
Resource Use Patterns

- if so, **reusable resources** are subject to **multilateral** synchronisation
  - provided that the following two basic conditions (i.e., constraints) apply:
    1. resource accesses by computations may happen (quasi-) simultaneously
    2. simultaneous accesses may cause a **conflicting state change** of the resource
  - simultaneous use of a **shared resource** this way must be coordinated
    - coordination may affect computations in a blocking or non-blocking manner

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4 At the same level of abstraction, use of a shareable resource is exclusive in the blocking case or never refused in the non-blocking case.
Resource Use Patterns

- consumable resources are subject to unilateral synchronisation
- generally also referred to as logical or conditional synchronisation:
  - logical  – as indicated by the “role playing” of the involved computations
  - conditional  – as indicated by a condition for making computational progress
- use of a temporary resource follows a causal course of events or actions
  - by affecting producers in a non-blocking and consumers in a blocking way
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    1. **Logical** – as indicated by the “role playing” of the involved computations
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- Use of a **temporary resource** follows a causal course of events or actions
  - By affecting producers in a non-blocking and consumers in a blocking way
- Simultaneous computations **overlap** in time, interfere with each other
- They become critical in any case if they also overlap in (identical) place

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4 At the same level of abstraction, use of a shareable resource is exclusive in the blocking case or never refused in the non-blocking case.
Consolidating Example

Character Buffer of Limited Size

assuming that the following subroutines (put and get) are executed in any order and that they may also run simultaneously:

```c
char buffer[80];
unsigned in = 0, out = 0;

void put(char item) {
    buffer[in++ % 80] = item;
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char get() {
    return buffer[out++ % 80];
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in which buffer is a **reusable** and item is a **consumable** resource
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- values my be read from an empty buffer: **underflow**

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- **overlapping auto-increments** may manifest wrong values

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put and get must be subject to uni- and multilateral synchronisation
- they are not concurrent under the assumption that was made above
Serialisation of Simultaneous Computations

- simultaneous computations or operations, resp., are in competition:
  - they compete for the **sharing** of the same reusable resource(s)
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• the moment of an simultaneous operation is not predetermined
• the operation in question is complex (i.e., consists of multiple steps)
• the characteristic of this operation is its **divisibility** in temporal respect

conflict-prone operations must go on **seriatim** (Ger. *nacheinander*)

- off-line static scheduling based on control-flow and data dependencies
- analytical approach that takes *a priori* knowledge as given (**v.s.** i)
- at run-time, dependable operations are implicitly synchronised

- on-line suitable explicit synchronisation of all dependable operations
- constructive approach in shape of a non-sequential program based on either pessimistic or optimistic run-time assumptions

the chosen synchronisation method should be **minimally invasive**
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- by way of example an auto-increment operator (cf. p.16):
  - as compiled from C to ASM (x86): `gcc -O3 -m32 -static -S`

```c
in++
1 movl _in, %ecx
2 leal 1(%ecx), %eax
3 movl %eax, _in

out++
4 movl _out, %ecx
5 leal 1(%ecx), %eax
6 movl %eax, _out
```

© wosch  CS (WS 2016, LEC 2)  Resource Sharing – Competition
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- overlapping execution of `in++` and `out++`
- simultaneous operations work on different variables\(^5\)

\(^5\)Assuming that processor registers are private to each computation.
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```

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- **critical**
  - self-overlapping execution of `in++` or `out++`, resp.
  - simultaneous operations work on the same variable

- the critical case may result in *wrong reading* (Ger. *Zählerwert*) of `in/out`
  - `in++` or `out++` are not concurrent to oneself, resp.: they are *not* re-entrant

---

5Assuming that processor registers are private to each computation.
Establishing of Synchronism

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- indivisibility of a \textit{cycle} is achieved through \textbf{synchronisation},\(^6\) i.e.:
  i coordination of the cooperation and competition between processes
  ii calibration of real-time clocks or data in distributed systems
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\(^6\)(Gr. \textit{sýn}: synced, \textit{chrónos}: time)
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  - **blocking**
    - ensure synchronism at **operation start**
    - lock potential overlapping out in the first place
    - synchronised operation is made of sequential code
  - **non-blocking**
    - ensure synchronism at **operation end**
    - allow potential overlapping, achieve consistency afterwards
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- both approaches come in a variety of solutions to the same problem

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Varieties of Synchronisation Relevant to Operating Systems

Sequential code
- inhibiting
  - interruption
  - continuation
  - preemption
- blocking
  - semaphore (counting)
- condition variable
- lock
- mutex

Multilateral

Non-sequential code
- non-blocking
  - CAS
  - LL/SC
  - atomic R/W
  - TM

Unilateral

Pessimistic, overlapping is not a rare event.
For the most part, the original code cannot be reused.

Optimistic, overlapping is a rare event.
Wherever applicable, downsizing sequential code is basic.

i.a. Amdahl’s Law (cf. p.8) argues for non-blocking synchronization.
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Varieties of Synchronisation

Relevant to Operating Systems

-the methods are more or less disruptive of the problematic operation:

**sequential**
- bracket sequential code by a **locking protocol**
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- reprogram sequential code as a **transaction** 😊
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Synchronisation Behaviour

- Effect of synchronisation procedures on the computations involved:
  - **Inhibiting**: prevents other computations from launching
    - irrespective of the eventuality of co-occurrence
    - applies to consumable resources, only
  - Running computations are not delayed

- **Blocking**
  - Delays computations subject to resource availability
  - Takes effect only in case of co-occurrence (overlapping)
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- **Non-blocking**
  - May force non-dominantly running computations to repeat
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- It bears repeating: downsizing sequential code is basic.
  - Where possible, non-blocking synchronisation should be the first choice

- But even then: there is no all-in-one approach for every purpose...
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Outline

Preface

Causality
  Interdependencies
  Dimensions

Resource Sharing
  Principles
  Competition
  Synchronisation

Summary
understanding (Ger.) *Gleichzeitigkeit* in its various meanings
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**Concurrency**
- happening together in time and place [7]
- designates the relation of causal independent events
- when none computation depends on results of the other

**Simultaneity**
- occurring, done, existing together or at the same time [7]
- effect of a certain operation mode of a computing machine

**Synchronism**
- fact of being synchronous; simultaneous occurrence [7]
- in respect of the multiple sub-steps of a complex operation achieved through “ELOP-ifying” coherent instructions
- simultaneity includes concurrency, but not the other way round
- concurrency implies unconstrained overlapping in time and place but simultaneity may also cause overlapping that must be constrained
- synchronism ensures that overlapped complex operations do right the individual sub-steps will be strictly executed (consecutively) or a transaction will take care for consistent (pseudo-) parallel execution
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moving- and fixed-platform thought experiment [2, p. 768]:

*The simultaneity of two distant events means a different thing to two different observers if they are moving with respect to each other.*
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the reference frame when reflecting on simultaneous computations is the **level of abstraction** (cf. p. 11) of a particular program section
Relativity of Simultaneity

Physics figuratively

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The reference frame when reflecting on simultaneous computations is the level of abstraction (cf. p. 11) of a particular program section:

- A simplistic operation (`++`) at a higher level may translate to a complex operation (`read-modify-write`) at a lower level.
  - While multiple invocations of the former will take place sequentially, the corresponding ones of the latter may come about non-sequentially.
  - While multiple invocations of the latter discretely can be concurrent, their logical correlation to the former makes them possibly not concurrent.

Due to the fact that each one refers to an ELOP (cf. p. 19), logically.
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- operations must be resolved cross-level (from “fixed platform” observed) in order to realise their ability for concurrency or need for synchronism

---

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computations can be **concurrent** if none needs a result of the other.

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In order to be concurrent, computations must be **simultaneous**

- quasi-simultaneous through partial virtualization (hardware multiplexing)
- or real simultaneous by multiprocessing (hardware multiplication).

- both techniques will induce computations to overlap in time and place.

**overlapping** in time cause interference but is the lesser of two evils.

- more critical is overlapping **in place** relating to the same resource.
- particularly with regard to the same (i.e., shared) memory area.

Critical overlapping must be counteracted through **synchronisation**

- i.e., coordination of the cooperation and competition between processes.
- here: uni- or multilateral synchronisation, depending on the resource type.

Synchronisation ensures for **indivisibility** of a computation cycle.

- at the outset: physical, in blocking manner, by being pessimistic.
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  - At the outset: physical, in blocking manner, by being pessimistic
  - At the road’s end: logical, in non-blocking manner, by being optimistic
computations can be **concurrent** if none needs a result of the other
- they must be free of data and control-flow dependencies

in order to be concurrent, computations must be **simultaneous**
- quasi-simultaneous through partial virtualization (hardware multiplexing)
  - or real simultaneous by multiprocessing (hardware multiplication)
- both techniques will induce computations to overlap in time and place

**overlapping** in time cause interference but is the lesser of two evils
- more critical is overlapping **in place** relating to the same resource
- particularly with regard to the same (i.e., shared) memory area

**critical overlapping must be counteracted through synchronisation**
- i.e., coordination of the cooperation and competition between processes
  - here: uni- or multilateral synchronisation, depending on the resource type

synchronisation ensures for **indivisibility** of a computation cycle
- at the outset: physical, in blocking manner, by being pessimistic 😞
- at the road’s end: logical, in non-blocking manner, by being optimistic 😊
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**bounded buffer** using a counting semaphore [3] for unilateral and an ELOP (x86) for multilateral synchronisation

```c
typedef int semaphore_t;
extern void P(semaphore_t *);
extern void V(semaphore_t *);
semaphore_t free = 80;
semaphore_t empty = 0;
static inline int fai(int *ref) {
    int aux = 1;
    asm volatile("lock; xaddl %0,%1"
               : "=r" (aux), "=m" (*ref)
               : "0" (aux), "m" (*ref));
    return aux;
}
char buffer[80];
unsigned in = 0, out = 0;
void put(char item) {
    P(&free);
    buffer[fai(&in) % 80] = item;
    V(&empty);
}
char get() {
    char item;
    P(&empty);
    item = buffer[fai(&out) % 80];
    V(&free);
    return item;
}
```

- **free** controls the number of unused buffer entries
- **P** prevents from buffer overflow, **V** signals reusable resource
- **empty** controls the number of used buffer entries
- **P** prevents from buffer underflow, **V** signals consumable resource
- **fai** indivisibly *fetch and increment* specified counter variable