

# 30. Parallel Programming IV

Futures, Read-Modify-Write Instruktionen, Atomare Variablen, Idee der lockfreien Programmierung

## Futures: Motivation

Threads waren bisher Funktionen ohne Resultat:

```
void action(some parameters){  
    ...  
}  
  
std::thread t(action, parameters);  
...  
t.join();  
// potentially read result written via ref-parameters
```

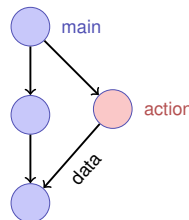
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## Futures: Motivation

Wir wollen nun etwas in dieser Art:

```
T action(some parameters){  
    ...  
    return value;  
}  
  
std::thread t(action, parameters);  
...  
value = get_value_from_thread();
```



## Wir können das schon!

- Wir verwenden das Producer/Consumer Pattern (implementiert mit Bedingungsvariablen)
- Starten einen Thread mit Referenz auf den Buffer
- Wenn wir das Resultat brauchen, holen wir es vom Buffer
- Synchronisation ist ja bereits implementiert

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## Zur Erinnerung

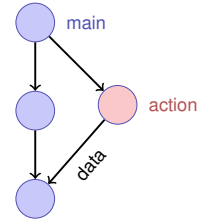
```
template <typename T>
class Buffer {
    std::queue<T> buf;
    std::mutex m;
    std::condition_variable cond;
public:
    void put(T x){ std::unique_lock<std::mutex> g(m);
        buf.push(x);
        cond.notify_one();
    }
    T get(){ std::unique_lock<std::mutex> g(m);
        cond.wait(g, [&]{return (!buf.empty());});
        T x = buf.front(); buf.pop(); return x;
    }
};
```

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## Anwendung

```
void action(Buffer<int>& c){
    // some long lasting operation ...
    c.put(42);
}

int main(){
    Buffer<int> c;
    std::thread t(action, std::ref(c));
    t.detach(); // no join required for free running thread
    // can do some more work here in parallel
    int val = c.get();
    // use result
    return 0;
}
```

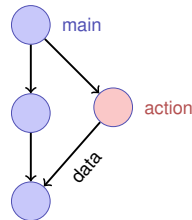


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## Mit C++11 Bordmitteln

```
int action(){
    // some long lasting operation
    return 42;
}

int main(){
    std::future<int> f = std::async(action);
    // can do some work here in parallel
    int val = f.get();
    // use result
    return 0;
}
```



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## 30.2 Read-Modify-Write

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## Beispiel: Atomare Operationen in Hardware

### CMPXCHG

### Compare and Exchange

Compares the value in the AL, AX, EAX, or RAX register with the value in a register or a memory location (first operand). If the two values are equal, the instruction copies the value in the second operand to the first operand and sets the ZF flag in the rFLAGS register to 1. Otherwise, it copies the value in the first operand to the AL, AX, EAX, or RAX register and clears the ZF flag to 0.

The OF, SF, AF, DF, and CF flags are set to reflect the results of the compare.

When the first operand is a register, the instruction copies the value in the register to the first operand.

The forms of the instruction are described in the LOCK prefix section of the AMD64 Architecture Programmer's Manual.

Mnemonic

CMPXCHG r/m16, r/m16

CMPXCHG r/m32, r/m32

CMPXCHG r/m64, r/m64

CMPXCHG r/m16, r/m16, r/m16

CMPXCHG r/m32, r/m32, r/m32

CMPXCHG r/m64, r/m64, r/m64

Related Instructions

CMPXCHG8B, CMPXCHG16B

CMPXCHG mem, reg  
«compares the value in Register A with the value in a memory location. If the two values are equal, the instruction copies the value in the second operand to the first operand and sets the ZF flag in the flag registers to 1. Otherwise it copies the value in the first operand to A register and clears ZF flag to 0»

### 1.2.5 Lock Prefix

The LOCK prefix causes certain kinds of memory read-modify-write instructions to occur atomically. The mechanism for doing so is implementation-dependent (for example, the mechanism may involve bus signaling or packet messaging between the processor and a memory controller). The prefix is intended to give the processor exclusive use of shared memory in a multiprocessor system.

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bus signaling or packet messaging between the processor and a memory controller. The prefix is intended to give the processor exclusive use of shared memory in a multiprocessor system.

The LOCK prefix can only be used with forms of the following instructions that write a memory operand: ADC, ADD, AND, BTC, BTR, BTS, CMPXCHG, CMPXCHG8B, CMPXCHG16B, DEC, INC, NEG, NOT, OR, SBB, SUB, XADD, XCHG, and XOR. An invalid-opcode exception occurs if the LOCK prefix is used with any other instruction.

register or memory operand to the first operand to AL.

register or memory operand to the first operand to AX.

register or memory operand to the first operand to EAX.

location. If equal, copy the second operand to the first operand. Otherwise, copy the first operand to RAX.

«The lock prefix causes certain kinds of memory read-modify-write instructions to occur atomically»

AMD64 Architecture  
Programmer's Manual

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## Read-Modify-Write

Konzept von **Read-Modify-Write**: Lesen, Verändern und Zurückschreiben, zu einem Zeitpunkt (atomar).

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## Beispiel: Test-And-Set

```
bool TAS(bool& variable){  
    bool old = variable;  
    variable = true;  
    return old;  
}
```

atomic

## Verwendungsbeispiel TAS in C++11

```
class SpinLock{  
    std::atomic_flag taken {false};  
public:  
    void lock(){  
        while (taken.test_and_set());  
    }  
  
    void unlock(){  
        taken.clear();  
    }  
};
```

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## 30.3 Lock-Freie Programmierung

### Compare-And-Swap

```
bool CAS(int& variable, int& expected, int desired){  
    if (variable == expected){  
        variable = desired;  
        return true;  
    }  
    else{  
        expected = variable;  
        return false;  
    }  
}
```

atomic

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### Lock-freie Programmierung

Datenstruktur heisst

- **lock-frei**: zu jeder Zeit macht mindestens ein Thread in beschränkter Zeit Fortschritt, selbst dann, wenn viele Algorithmen nebenläufig ausgeführt werden. Impliziert systemweiten Fortschritt aber nicht Starvationfreiheit.
- **wait-free**: jeder Thread macht zu jeder Zeit in beschränkter Zeit Fortschritt, selbst dann wenn andere Algorithmen nebenläufig ausgeführt werden.

### Fortschrittsbedingungen

	Lock-frei	Blockierend
Jeder macht Fortschritt	Wait-frei	Starvation-frei
Mindestens einer macht Fortschritt	Lock-frei	Deadlock-frei

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## Implikation

- Programmieren mit Locks: jeder Thread kann andere Threads beliebig blockieren.
- Lockfreie Programmierung: der Ausfall oder das Aufhängen eines Threads kann nicht bewirken, dass andere Threads blockiert werden

## Wie funktioniert lock-freie Programmierung?

Beobachtung:

- RMW-Operationen sind in Hardware *Wait-Free* implementiert.
- Jeder Thread sieht das Resultat eines CAS oder TAS in begrenzter Zeit.

Idee der lock-freien Programmierung: lese Zustand der Datenstruktur und verändere die Datenstruktur *atomar* dann und nur dann, wenn der gelesene Zustand unverändert bleibt.

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## Beispiel: lock-freier Stack

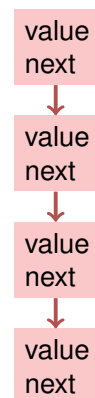
Nachfolgend vereinfachte Variante eines Stacks

- pop prüft nicht, ob der Stack leer ist
- pop gibt nichts zurück

## (Node)

Nodes:

```
struct Node {  
    T value;  
  
    Node<T>* next;  
    Node(T v, Node<T>* nxt): value(v), next(nxt) {}  
};
```

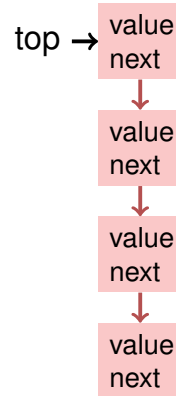


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## (Blockierende Version)

```
template <typename T>
class Stack {
    Node<T> *top=nullptr;
    std::mutex m;
public:
    void push(T val){ guard g(m);
        top = new Node<T>(val, top);
    }
    void pop(){ guard g(m);
        Node<T>* old_top = top;
        top = top->next;
        delete old_top;
    }
};
```



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## Lock-Frei

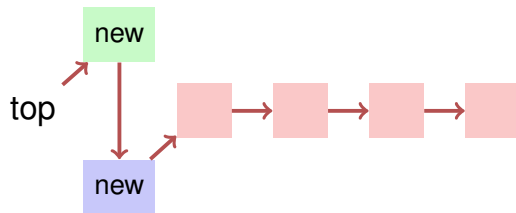
```
template <typename T>
class Stack {
    std::atomic<Node<T>*> top {nullptr};
public:
    void push(T val){
        Node<T>* new_node = new Node<T> (val, top);
        while (!top.compare_exchange_weak(new_node->next, new_node));
    }
    void pop(){
        Node<T>* old_top = top;
        while (!top.compare_exchange_weak(old_top, old_top->next));
        delete old_top;
    }
};
```

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## Push

```
void push(T val){
    Node<T>* new_node = new Node<T> (val, top);
    while (!top.compare_exchange_weak(new_node->next, new_node));
}
```

2 Threads:

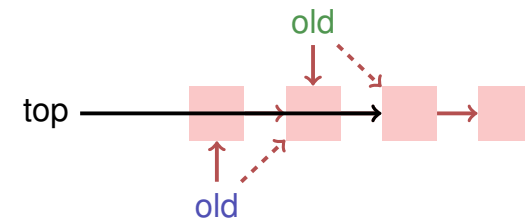


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## Pop

```
void pop(){
    Node<T>* old_top = top;
    while (!top.compare_exchange_weak(old_top, old_top->next));
    delete old_top;
}
```

2 Threads:



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## Lockfreie Programmierung – Grenzen

- Lockfreie Programmierung ist kompliziert.
- Wenn mehr als ein Wert nebenläufig angepasst werden muss (Beispiel: Queue), wird es schwieriger. Damit Algorithmen lock-frei bleiben, müssen Threads sich “gegenseitig helfen”.
- Bei Speicherwiederverwendung kann das *ABA Problem* auftreten.