Introduction to Concurrent Programming in Java™
(lots of slides cut for 433)

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Designing Objects for Concurrency

- Isolation
  - Avoiding interference by not sharing
- Immutability
  - Avoiding interference by avoiding change
- Locking
  - Dynamically guaranteeing exclusive access
- Splitting objects
  - Changing representation to facilitate concurrency control
- Containment
  - Guaranteeing exclusive control of internal components
  - Managing ownership
  - Protecting unhidden components
Isolation

- Objects that are not shared can not suffer interference
  - Heap objects accessible only from current thread
  - Parameters and local variables
    - Applies to references not the objects referred to
  - `java.lang.ThreadLocal`
    - Simplifies access from other objects running in same thread
  - No need for any synchronization
- Objects can be shared across threads provided they are isolated to one thread at a time
  - Transfer of ownership protocols
    - T1 uses O1, hands off to T2 and then forgets about O1
  - Transfer requires synchronization—subsequent use of object does not

Thread Locals

- Suppose you want multiple web servers, each running in a different thread, and each using a different document directory
  - Could define a `documentRoot` field in `WebServer` class
- Or, define the document root as a variable tied to the Thread
  - Easiest way to do this is to use `java.lang.ThreadLocal`
    - Equivalent to adding instance variables to all Thread objects
- No need to define subclasses or control thread creation
- All methods running in the thread can access when needed
- No interference when ALL access is within same thread

```java
class WebServer {
  static final ThreadLocal documentRoot = new ThreadLocal();
  // ...
  public WebServer(int port, File root) throws IOException { // ...
    documentRoot.set(root);
  }
  private void processRequest(Socket sock) throws IOException {
    File root = (File) documentRoot.get(); // ...
  }
}
```
When to Use Thread Locals

- Variables that apply per-activity, not per-object
  - Timeout values, transaction IDs, Principals, current directories, default parameters
- Replacements for static variables
  - When different threads should use different values
- Tools to eliminate need for locking
  - Used internally in JVMs to optimize memory allocation, locks, etc via per-thread caches

Stateless Objects

```java
class StatelessAdder {
    int addOne( int i) { return i + 1; }
    int addTwo( int i) { return i + 2; }
}
```

- There are no special concurrency concerns
  - No storage conflicts as no per-instance state
  - No representation invariants as no representation
  - Multiple concurrent executions—so no liveness problems
  - No need to create threads to make this call
  - No interaction with other objects—so no concurrent protocol design issues

Example: `java.lang.Math`
Immutable Objects

```java
class ImmutableAdder {
    private final int offset;
    ImmutableAdder(int offset) { this.offset = offset; }
    int add(int i) { return i + offset; }
}
```

- Object state frozen upon initialisation
  - Still no safety or liveness concerns
  - No interference as per-instance state never changes
  - Java finals enforce most senses of immutability
- Immutability is often suitable for closed Abstract Data Types eg.
  - java.lang.String, java.lang.Integer

Containment of Unsafe Objects

- Suppose Statistics class was written as follows:
  ```java
  public static class Statistics {
      // Mutable!
      public long requests;
      public double avgTime;
      public Statistics(long requests, double avgTime) {
          this.requests = requests; this.avgTime = avgTime;
      }
  }
  ```
  - Fields are public and mutable!
    - Therefore instances can not be shared
- Can be safely contained within a WebServer instance
  ```java
  class WebServer {
      private final Statistics stats = new Statistics(0,0.0);
      public synchronized Statistics getStatistics() {
          return new Statistics(stats.requests, stats.avgTime);
      }
      private void processRequest(Socket sock) throws IOException {
          synchronized(this) {
              double total = stats.avgTime*stats.requests + elapsed;
              stats.avgTime = total / (++stats.requests);
          }
      }
  }
  ```
  - Can't expose mutable state so we make copies of it
Containment

- Strict containment creates islands of objects
  - Applies recursively
- Allows inner code to run faster
  - Can be used with legacy sequential code
- Requires inner code to be communication closed
  - No unprotected calls into or out of island
- Requires outer objects to never leak inner references
  - Or uses ownership transfer protocol
- Can be difficult to enforce and check

Hierarchical Containment Locking

- Applies when logically contained parts are not hidden from clients
- Avoids deadlocks that could occur if parts fully synchronised
  - All parts use lock provided by the common owner
    - Can use either internal or external conventions
Internal Containment Locking

- Visible components protect themselves using their owners’ locks
  
  ```java
  class Part {
    protected Container owner_; // Never null
    public Container owner() { return owner_; }
    private void bareAction() { /* ... unsafe ... */ }
    public void m() {
      synchronized (owner()) { bareAction(); }
    }
  }
  ```

  - Parts don’t deadlock when invoking each other’s methods
  - Parts must be aware that they are contained

- Or implement using inner classes—Owner is outer class:
  
  ```java
  class Container {
    class Part {
      //...
      public void m() {
        synchronized (Container.this) { bareAction(); }
      }
    }
  }
  ```

External Containment Locking

- Rely on callers to provide the locking
  - Client-side synchronization
    
    ```java
    class Client {
      void f(Part p) {
        synchronized (p.owner()) { p.bareAction(); }
      }
    }
    ```

  - Used in AWT
    
    ```java
    java.awt.Component.getTreeLock()
    ```

  - Can sometimes avoid more locking overhead, at price of fragility
    - Can manually minimize use of synchronized
    - Requires that all callers obey conventions
    - Effectiveness is context dependent
      - Breaks encapsulation
      - Doesn’t work with fancier schemes that do not directly rely on synchronized blocks or methods for locking
Subclassing Unsafe Code

- Suppose `processRequest` invokes
  ```java
  handlerHelper.mountFileSystem();
  ```
  where:
  ```java
  class HandlerHelper{
    native void mountFileSystem();
  }
  ```
- If we don’t trust this class to be thread-safe, we could
  - Wrap calls in synch blocks (i.e., containment), or
  - Create a simple subclass that adds synch...
    ```java
    class SafeHandlerHelper extends HandlerHelper{
      synchronized void mountFileSystem() {
        super.mountFileSystem();
      }
    }
    ```
    ... and instantiate it instead
    - This localizes synch control in the place it is needed
- Subclassing is usually the most convenient way to do this
  - Can also use unrelated wrapper classes and delegate

Open Call Principle

- In service design, availability is a key factor
- Methods that employ synchronization reduce availability
  - While synchronized code is executing the service is closed
- General rule of thumb
  - When invoking methods on an external object leave the service object open—that is, don’t hold locks
    - *Open call principle*
- Advantages
  - Minimizes the time service is unavailable to other threads
  - Reduces possibility of bad concurrent interactions
    - Deadlock, lockouts
- But ...
  - Only applicable if there are no atomicity constraints over the external call and its surrounding code
State Dependent Actions

- State Dependence
- Balking
- Guarded Suspension
- Optimistic Retries
- Specifying Policies

Examples of State Dependent Actions

- Operations on collections, streams, databases
  - Remove an element from an empty queue
  - Add an element to a full buffer
- Operations on objects maintaining constrained values
  - Withdraw money from an empty bank account
- Operations requiring resources
  - Print a file
- Operations requiring particular message orderings
  - Read an unopened file
- Operations on external controllers
  - Shift to reverse gear in a moving car
Policies for State Dependent Actions

- Some Policy choices for dealing with pre-and post-conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blind action</th>
<th>Proceed anyway; no guarantee of outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inaction</td>
<td>Ignore request if not in right state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balking</td>
<td>Fail (throw exception) if not in right state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guarding</td>
<td>Suspend until in right state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trying</td>
<td>Proceed, check if succeeded; if not, roll back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retrying</td>
<td>Keep trying until success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing out</td>
<td>Wait or retry for a while; then fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>First initiate activity that will achieve right state</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balking

- Check state upon method entry
  - Must not change state in course of checking it
  - Relevant state must be explicitly represented, so can be checked upon entry
- Exit immediately if not in right state
  - Throw exception or return special error value
  - Client is responsible for handling failure
- The simplest policy for fully synchronized objects
  - Useable in both sequential and concurrent contexts
    - Often used in Collection classes (Vector, etc)
  - In concurrent contexts, the host must always take responsibility for entire check-act/check-fail sequence
    - Clients cannot preclude state changes between check and act, so host must control
### Example: Balking Bounded Buffer

```java
public class BalkingBoundedBuffer implements Buffer {
    private List data;
    private final int capacity;
    public BalkingBoundedBuffer(int capacity) {
        data = new ArrayList(capacity);
        this.capacity = capacity;
    }
    public synchronized Object take() throws Failure {
        if (data.size() == 0)
            throw new Failure("Buffer empty");
        Object temp = data.get(0);
        data.remove(0);
        return temp;
    }
    public synchronized void put(Object obj) throws Failure {
        if (data.size() == capacity)
            throw new Failure("Buffer full");
        data.add(obj);
    }
    public synchronized int size() { return data.size(); }
    public int capacity() { return capacity; }
}
```

### Guarding

- **Generalisation of locking for state dependent actions**
  - Locked: Wait until ready (not engaged in other methods)
  - Guarded: Wait until an arbitrary state predicate holds

- **Check state upon entry**
  - If not in right state, wait
  - Some other action in some other thread may eventually cause a state change that enables resumption

- **Introduces liveness concerns**
  - Relies on actions of other threads to make progress

- **Useless in sequential programs**
  - Client must ensure correct state before calling
Guarding Mechanisms

- **Busy-waits**
  - Thread continually spins until a condition holds
    ```java
    while (!condition) ; // spin
    // use condition
    ```
  - Requires multiple CPU's or timeslicing
    - No way to determine this until JDK 1.4
      ```java
      int nCPUs = Runtime.availableProcessors();
      ```
  - But busy waiting can sometimes be useful; generally when
    - The conditions latch—once set true, they never become false

- **Suspension**
  - Thread stops execution until notified that the condition *may* be true
  - Supported in Java via wait-sets and locks

Guarding Via Suspension

- Waiting for a condition to hold:
  ```java
  synchronized (obj) {
    while (!condition) {
      try { obj.wait(); } 
      catch (InterruptedException ex) { ... }
    // make use of condition
    }
  }
  ```

- Changing a condition:
  ```java
  synchronized (obj) {
    condition = true;
    obj.notifyAll(); // or obj.notify()
  }
  ```

- Golden rule: Always test a condition in a loop
  - Change of state may not be what you need
  - Condition may have changed again
    - No built-in protection from ‘barging’
  - Break the rule only after you have proven it is safe to do so
Wait-sets and Notification

- Every Java Object has a wait-set
  - Can only be manipulated while the object lock is held
    - Otherwise IllegalMonitorStateException is thrown
- Threads enter the wait-set by invoking `wait()`
  - `wait()` atomically releases the lock and suspends the thread
    - Including a lock held multiple times—makes the object ‘open’
    - No other held locks are released
  - Optional timed-wait: `wait(long millis)`
    - No direct indication that a time-out occurred
    - `wait()` is equivalent to `wait(0)`—means wait forever
    - Nanosecond version too

Wait-sets and Notification (cont …)

- Threads are released from the wait-set when:
  - `notifyAll()` is invoked on the object
    - All threads released
  - `notify()` is invoked on the object
    - One thread selected at ‘random’ for release
  - The specified time-out elapses
  - The thread has its `interrupt()` method invoked
    - `InterruptedException` thrown
  - A spurious wakeup occurs
    - Not (yet!) spec’ed but an inherited property of underlying synchronization mechanisms eg. POSIX condition variables
- Lock is always reacquired before `wait()` returns
  - Lock count is restored
  - Can’t be acquired until notifying thread releases it
  - Released thread contends with all other threads for the lock
Wait-sets and Notifications (cont…)

- Consider `notify()` as an optimization which can only be used
  - When only one thread can benefit from the change of state, and
  - All threads are waiting for the same change of state
    - Or else another `notify()` is done by the released thread
  - And these conditions will also hold in all subclasses

- Use of `wait()`, `notifyAll()` and `notify()` similar to
  - Condition queues of classic Monitors
  - But only one ‘queue’ per object
    - Greatly complicates some designs and easily leads to ‘nested monitor lockouts’
    - Java 1.5 allows multiple condition queues

- Any Java object can be used just for its wait-set and/or lock

Example: Guarded Bounded Buffer

```java
public class GuardedBoundedBuffer implements Buffer {
    private List data;
    private final int capacity;

    public GuardedBoundedBuffer(int capacity) {
        data = new ArrayList(capacity);
        this.capacity = capacity;
    }

    public synchronized Object take() throws Failure {
        while (data.size() == 0)
            try { wait(); }
                catch(InterruptedException ex) { throw new Failure();}
        Object temp = data.get(0);
        data.remove(0);
        notifyAll();
        return temp;
    }

    public synchronized void put(Object obj) throws Failure {
        while (data.size() == capacity)
            try { wait(); }
                catch(InterruptedException ex) { throw new Failure();}
        data.add(obj);
        notifyAll();
    }

    public synchronized int size() { return data.size(); }
    public int capacity() { return capacity; }
}
```
Timeouts

- Intermediate points between balking and guarding
  - Can vary timeout parameter from zero to infinity
- Useful for heuristic detection of failures
  - Deadlocks, crashes I/O problems, network disconnects
- But cannot be used for high-precision timing or deadlines
  - Time can elapse between wait and thread resumption
  - Time can elapse after checking the time!
- Java implementation constraints
  - `wait(ms)` does not automatically tell you if it returns because of notification vs timeout
  - Must check for both. Order and style of checking can matter, depending on
    - If always OK to proceed when condition holds
    - If timeouts signify errors
    - No way to establish with 100% certainty that timeout occurred

Timeout Example

```java
public synchronized void put(Object obj, long timeout) throws Failure {
    if (timeout <= 0) // disallowing zero avoids semantic problems
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("timeout must be > 0");
    long timeleft = timeout;
    long start = System.currentTimeMillis();

    while (data.size() == capacity) {
        try { wait(timeleft); }
               catch(InterruptedException ex) { throw new Failure(); }

        // notified, timed-out or spurious?
        if (data.size() < capacity)
            break; // condition holds - don't care if we timed out
        else { // maybe a timeout
            long elapsed = System.currentTimeMillis() - start;
            timeleft = timeout - elapsed;
            if (timeleft <= 0) throw new Failure("Timed-out");
        } // spurious so wait again
    }
    data.add(obj);
    notifyAll();
}
```
Containment and Monitor Methods

class Part {
    protected boolean cond = false;
    synchronized void await() {
        while (!cond)
            try { wait(); }
            catch(InterruptedException ex) { ... }
    }
    synchronized void signal( boolean c) {
        cond = c; notifyAll();
    }
}
class Whole{
    final Part part = new Part();
    synchronized void rely() { part.await(); }
    synchronized void set( boolean c){
        part.signal(c); 
    }
}

What happens when Whole.rely() is called?

Nested Monitors

If thread T calls Whole.rely
◆ It waits within part
◆ The lock to Whole is retained while T is suspended
◆ No other thread will ever unblock it via Whole.set
  ◆ Nested Monitor Lockout

Policy clash between guarding by Part and containment by Whole
 ◆ One or the other should be changed
Avoiding Nested Monitors

- Adapt internal containment locking pattern

```java
class Whole {
    // ...
    class Part {
        // ...
        public void await() {
            synchronized (Whole.this) {
                while (...) Whole.this.wait();
                // ...
            }
        }
    }
}
```

- Owner object provides lock and wait-set

Optimistic Policies: Trying

- Isolate state into versions
  - E.g. by grouping into a helper class
- Isolate state changes to atomic commit method that swaps in new state
- On method entry
  - Save/record current state
  - Apply action to new state
- Only commit if
  - Action succeeds and current state version is unchanged
- If can’t commit: fail or retry
  - Failures are clean (no side effects)
  - Retry policy is variation of a busy-wait
- Only applicable if actions fully reversible
  - No I/O or thread construction unless safely cancellable
  - All internally called methods must be undoable
Optimistic Techniques

Variations for recording versions of mutable data:

- Immutable helper classes
- Version numbers
- Transaction Ids
- Time-stamps

May be more efficient than guarded waits when:

- Conflicts are rare and when running on multiple CPUs

Retries can live-lock unless proven wait-free

- Analog of deadlock in guarded waits
- Should arrange to fail after a certain time or number of attempts

Optimistic Bounded Counter

```java
public class OptimisticBoundedCounter {
    private final long MIN, MAX;
    private Long count; // MIN <= count <= MAX

    public OptimisticBoundedCounter(long min, long max) {
        MIN = min; MAX = max;
        count = new Long(MIN);
    }

    public long value() { return count().longValue(); }

    public synchronized Long count() { return count; }

    private synchronized boolean commit(Long oldc, Long newc) {
        boolean success = (count == oldc);
        if (success) count = newc;
        return success;
    }

    public void inc() throws InterruptedException {
        for (;;) { // retry-based
            if (Thread.interrupted())
                throw new InterruptedException();
            Long c = count(); // record current state
            long v = c.longValue();
            if (v < MAX && commit(c, new Long(v+1)))
                break;
            Thread.yield(); // a good idea in spin loops
        }
    }

    public void dec() { /* symmetrical */}
}
```

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Thread Creation Patterns

Three general sets of patterns for introducing concurrency:

- Autonomous loops
  - Establishing independent cyclic behaviour
- Oneway messages
  - Sending messages without waiting for reply or termination
    - Improves availability of sender object
- Interactive messages (not covered today)
  - Requests that later result in reply or callback messages
    - Allows client to proceed concurrently for a while

Autonomous Loops

Simple non-reactive active objects contain a run loop of form:

```java
public void run() {
    while (!Thread.interrupted())
        doSomething();
}
```

Normally established with a constructor containing:

```java
new Thread(this).start();
```

- Or with an ExecutorService

Normally also support other methods called from other threads

- Requires standard safety measures

Common Applications

- Animations, Simulations, Message buffer Consumers, Polling daemons that periodically sense state of world
- This is the basic approach of our web server so far
Oneway Messages

■ Conceptually oneway messages are sent with
  ◆ No need for replies
  ◆ No concern about failure (exceptions)
  ◆ No dependence on termination of called method
  ◆ No dependence on order that messages are received
  But may sometimes want to cancel messages or resulting activities

■ Once oneway message has been sent, host is ready to accept the next message

Oneway Message Styles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Mouse clicks, etc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notifications</td>
<td>Status change alerts, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postings</td>
<td>Mail messages, stock quotes, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activations</td>
<td>Applet creation, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commands</td>
<td>Print requests, repaint requests, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relays</td>
<td>Chain of responsibility designs, etc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

■ Some semantic choices
  ◆ Asynchronous: Entire message send is independent
    • By far, most common style in reactive applications
  ◆ Synchronous: Caller must wait until message is accepted
    • Basis for rendezvous protocols
  ◆ Multicast: Message is sent to group of recipients
    • The group might not even have any members
Messages in Java

- Direct method invocations
  - Rely on standard call/return mechanics
- Command strings
  - Recipient parses then dispatches to underlying method
  - Widely used in client/server systems including HTTP
- EventObjects and service codes
  - Recipient dispatches
  - Widely used in GUIs, including AWT
- Request objects, asking to perform encoded operation
  - Used in distributed object systems — RMI and CORBA
- Class objects (normally via .class files)
  - Recipient creates instance of class
  - Used in Java Applet framework
- Runnable commands
  - Basis for thread instantiation, mobile code systems

Design Goals for Oneway Messages

- Safety
  - Local state changes should be atomic (normally, locked)
  - Safe guarding and failure policies, when applicable
- Availability
  - Minimize delay until host can accept another message
- Flow
  - The activity should progress with minimal contention
- Performance
  - Minimize overhead and resource usage
- Introducing threads is not always the best solution
  - Consider just issuing open calls
Thread Patterns for Oneway Messages

Thread-per-Message

client → host

new thread

→ handler

Thread-per-Object via Worker Threads or Pools

client

→ host

channel

put

take

worker thread

→ handler

Threads-Per-Message Web Server

Return to one-shot version of startServer but pass each accepted connection to a new thread for processing:

```java
// WebServer14.java
Thread serverThread;

public synchronized void startServer() throws ...
{
    if (serverThread != null)
        throw new IllegalStateException("Already started");
    serverThread = new Thread(new ConnectionHandler());
    serverThread.start();
}

private class ConnectionHandler implements Runnable {
    public void run() {
        // ...
        try {
            while (!Thread.interrupted()) {
                RequestHandler r =
                    new RequestHandler(server.accept());
                new Thread(r, "worker-thread").start();
            }
        } catch (InterruptedException ex) { /* ignore */ } catch (IOException ex) { /* report */ }
    }
}"
```
Thread-Per-Message Web Server (cont...)

```java
private class RequestHandler implements Runnable {
    private final Socket sock;
    public RequestHandler(Socket sock) {
        this.sock = sock;
    }
    public void run() {
        try {
            processRequest(sock);
        } catch (Throwable t) { /* report */ }
    }
}
```

Thread-Per-Object via Worker Threads

- Establish a producer-consumer chain
  - Producer
    - Reactive method just places message in a channel
      - Channel might be a buffer, queue, stream, etc
      - Message might be a Runnable command, event, etc
  - Consumer
    - Host contains an autonomous loop thread of form:
      ```java
      while (!Thread.interrupted()) {
          m = channel.take();
          process(m);
      }
      ```
- Common variants
  - Pools
    - Use more than one worker thread
  - Listeners
    - Notify consumer when messages are ready
public interface Channel {
    // buffer, queue, stream etc
    Object take() throws InterruptedException;
    void put(Object obj) throws InterruptedException;
    int size();
}

// WebServer15.java
private Channel channel = new BoundedBuffer(); // synchronized
private class ConnectionHandler implements Runnable {
    public void run() {
        RequestHandler r = null;
        try {
            while (!Thread.interrupted()) {
                r = new RequestHandler(server.accept());
                channel.put(r);
            }
        } // ... interrupt and exception handling - more complex
    }
}

private class ChannelConsumer extends Thread {
    // Exception handling elided for simplicity
    // Also for simplicity, assumes channel has only one consumer
    public void run() {
        boolean stopProcessing = Thread.interrupted();
        while (!stopProcessing || channel.size() > 0) {
            ((Runnable) channel.take()).run();
            if (!stopProcessing)
                stopProcessing = Thread.interrupted();
        }
    }
}

Channel Options

- Unbounded queues
  - Can exhaust resources if clients faster than handlers
- Bounded buffers
  - Can cause clients to block when full
- Synchronous channels
  - Force client to wait for handler to complete previous task
- Leaky bounded buffers
  - For example, drop oldest if full
- Priority queues
  - Run more important tasks first
- Streams or sockets
  - Enable persistence, remote execution
Thread Pools

- Use a collection of worker threads, not just one
  - Can limit maximum number and priorities of threads
  - Dynamic worker thread management
    - Sophisticated policy controls
  - Often faster than thread-per-message for I/O bound actions

Web Server Using Thread Pool

- PooledExecutor (now in Java 1.5 – will discuss details later)

```java
import EDU.oswego.cs.dl.util.concurrent.PooledExecutor;
person PooledExecutor pool;
public synchronized void startServer() throws ... {
    // ... as before
    pool = new PooledExecutor();
    serverThread = new Thread(new ConnectionHandler());
    serverThread.start();
}
private class ConnectionHandler implements Runnable {
    public void run() {
        RequestHandler r = null;
        try {
            while (!Thread.interrupted()) {
                r = new RequestHandler(server.accept());
                pool.execute(r);
            }
        } // ... as before
    }
public void shutdownServer() throws ... {
    // ... as before
    serverThread.interrupt();
    serverThread.join();
    pool.interruptAll();
    server.close();
}
```
Policies and Parameters for Thread Pools

- The kind of channel used as task queue
  - Unbounded queue, bounded queue, synchronous hand-off, priority queue, ordering by task dependencies, stream, socket
- Bounding resources
  - Maximum number of threads
  - Minimum number of threads
  - “Warm” versus on-demand threads
  - Keepalive interval until idle threads die
- Saturation policy
  - Block, drop, etc
- These policies and parameters can interact in subtle ways!

Synchronization Focus Points

- Can these methods execute concurrently?
  - Identify exclusion constraints on shared data
- Is this a valid way of doing this in a concurrent environment?
  - Atomicity of multiple actions e.g. check-and-act sequence
- Is there a state/timing dependency between two actions?
  - Coordination across cooperating threads
- Basic Concurrency Philosophy
  - Assume that threads can be interleaved at any time
    - Protect all access to shared data