CMSC 132: OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING II

Threads in Java

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Daemon Threads

• Java threads types
  • User
  • Daemon
    • Provide general services
    • Typically, never terminate
    • To set as daemon thread, call setDaemon() before start()

• Program termination
  • All user threads finish
  • Daemon threads are terminated by JVM
Threads - Scheduling

- Scheduler
  - Determines which runnable threads to run
    - When context switching takes place
  - Can be based on thread priority
  - Part of OS or Java Virtual Machine (JVM)

- Scheduling policy
  - Non-preemptive (cooperative) scheduling
  - Preemptive scheduling
Threads - Non-preemptive Scheduling

- Threads continue execution until
  - Thread terminates
  - Executes instruction causing wait (e.g., IO)
  - Thread volunteering to stop (invoking yield or sleep)
- Ready state equivalent to Runnable state
Threads - Preemptive Scheduling

- Threads continue execution until
  - Same reasons as non-preemptive scheduling
  - Preempted by scheduler
Thread Scheduling Observations

- Order thread is selected is indeterminate
  - Depends on scheduler
- Scheduling may not be fair
  - Some threads may execute more often
- Thread can block indefinitely (starvation)
  - If other threads always execute first
- Your code should work correctly regardless the scheduling policy in place
Java Thread Example

```java
public class ThreadNoJoin extends Thread {
    public void run() {
        for (int i = 1; i <= 3; i++) {
            try {
                Thread.sleep((int)(Math.random() * 3000));
            } catch (InterruptedException e) {
                e.printStackTrace();
            }
            System.out.println(i);
        }
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Thread thread1 = new ThreadNoJoin();
        Thread thread2 = new ThreadNoJoin();

        thread1.start();
        thread2.start();

        System.out.println("Done");
    }
}
```

- **Example:** ThreadNoJoin.java
- To understand this example better, let’s assume we want to make a sandwich where one person (thread1) looks for bread, and another for tomato (thread2)
Java Thread Example - Output

- Possible outputs
  - 1,2,3,1,2,3,Done // thread 1, thread 2, main()
  - 1,2,3,Done,1,2,3 // thread 1, main(), thread 2
  - Done,1,2,3,1,2,3 // main(), thread 1, thread 2
  - 1,1,2,2,3,Done,3 // main() & threads interleaved
Thread Class - join( ) Method

• Can wait for thread to terminate with join( )
• Method prototype
  • public final void join( )
  • Blocks thread executing join(). For example, if t1 is a thread, t1.join() will block the thread executing t1.join() (current thread). Current thread execution can continue once t1 thread has finished
• Returns when thread is done
• Throws InterruptedException if interrupted
• Example: ThreadJoin.java
About Join

• Important: You will limit the concurrency level if you do not start/join correctly

• Suppose you want to run many threads concurrently. Start them all and then execute the join for each one. Do not start one thread, then join on that thread, start the second one, join on that thread, etc.

• The following is WRONG as you are executing code sequentially and not concurrently

```java
t1.start()
t1.join()
t2.start()
t2.join()
```

• Feel free to use arrays, sets, etc., to keep track of your threads
About Threads

• **Common mistake** - Calling the `run()` method. If you want to run a thread you must execute `start()` and not call the `run()` method; the `run()` method is called for you.

• **Thread.sleep** - Suppose you have a thread object reference (`t1`) and invoke `t1.sleep(2000)`. Which thread will be sleeping for 2 seconds? **It will NOT be t1.**
Terminating Threads

• A thread ends when the run() method ends
• Sometimes we may need to stop a thread before it ends
  • For example, you may have created several threads to find a problem solution and once one thread finds it, there is no need for the rest
• How to stop thread?
  • Using stop() method - **WRONG!** This is a deprecated method. Using it can lead to problems when data is shared
  • Use interrupt() method
Terminating Threads

- Using interrupt() method
  - This method does not stop the thread. Instead, it notifies the thread that it should terminate. The method sets a boolean variable in the thread and that value can be checked by the thread (by using the method interrupted())
  - It is up to the thread to terminate or not
- public void run() {
  
  while(!Thread.interrupted()) {
    // work
  }

  // Release resources, cleaning tasks
}

- Example: InterruptExample.java
Thread Example

- Swing uses a single-threaded model
- Long computations in the EDT freezes the GUI
- Example: Progress Bar Example