Practical Concurrent and Parallel Programming 2

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Plan for today

- Primitive atomic operations: AtomicLong, ...
- Immutability, final, and safe publication
- Java monitor pattern
- Defensive copying, VehicleTracker
- Standard collection classes not thread-safe
- FutureTask<T> and asynchronous execution
- Building a scalable result cache

Exercises

- Hand-ins this week:
 - Must put yourself into a group, maybe 1-person
 - Or else your handin will be lost ...
 - Your hand-in will automatically count for the group
- Last week's exercises:
 - Too easy?
 - Too hard?
 - Too time-consuming?
 - Too confusing?
 - Any particular problems?

Goetz examples use servlets

- Because a webserver is naturally concurrent
 - So servlets should be thread-safe
- We use similar, simpler examples:

```
class StatelessFactorizer implements Factorizer {
  public long[] getFactors(long p) {
    long[] factors = PrimeFactors.compute(p);
    return factors;
  }
}
```

A "server" for computing prime factors 2 3 5 7 11 ... of a number

Could replace the example by this

```
interface Factorizer {
  public long[] getFactors(long p);
  public long getCount();
}
```

Call the server from multiple threads:

```
for (int t=0; t<threadCount; t++) {
  threads[t] =
    new Thread(() -> {
     for (int i=2; i<range; i++) {
        long[] result = factorizer.getFactors(i);
     }
    });
  threads[t].start();
}</pre>
```

Like Goetz p. 18

Stateless objects are thread-safe

```
class StatelessFactorizer implements Factorizer {
  public long[] getFactors(long p) {
    long[] factors = PrimeFactors.compute(p);
    return factors;
  }
  public long getCount() { return 0; }
}
```

- Local variables (p, factors) are never shared between threads
 - two getFactors calls can execute at the same time

Bad attempt to count calls

```
class UnsafeCountingFactorizer implements Factorizer {
  private long count = 0;
  public long[] getFactors(long p) {
    long[] factors = PrimeFactors.compute(p);
    count++;
    return factors;
  }
  public long getCount() { return count; }
}
```

- Not thread-safe
- Q: Why?
- Q: How could we make it thread-safe?

Thread-safe server counting calls

```
class CountingFactorizer implements Factorizer {
 private final AtomicLong count = new AtomicLong(0);
 public long[] getFactors(long p) {
    long[] factors = PrimeFactors.compute(p);
    count.incrementAndGet();
    return factors;
                                                          Like Goetz
 public long getCount() { return count.get(); }
```

- java.util.concurrent.atomic.AtomicLong supports atomic thread-safe arithmetics
- Similar to a thread-safe LongCounter class

Bad attempt to cache last factorization

```
class TooSynchronizedCachingFactorizer implements Factorize:
 private long lastNumber = 1;
                                                         cache
 private long[] lastFactors = new long[] { 1 };
  // Invariant: product(lastFactors) == lastNumber
 public synchronized long[] getFactors(long p) {
    if (p == lastNumber)
                                                             Goetz
      return lastFactors.clone();
    else {
      long[] factors = PrimeFactors.compute(p);
      lastNumber = p;
                                     Without synchronized the
      lastFactors = factors;
                                     two fields could be written
      return factors;
                                        by different threads
} } }
```

- Bad performance: no parallelism at all
- Q: Why?

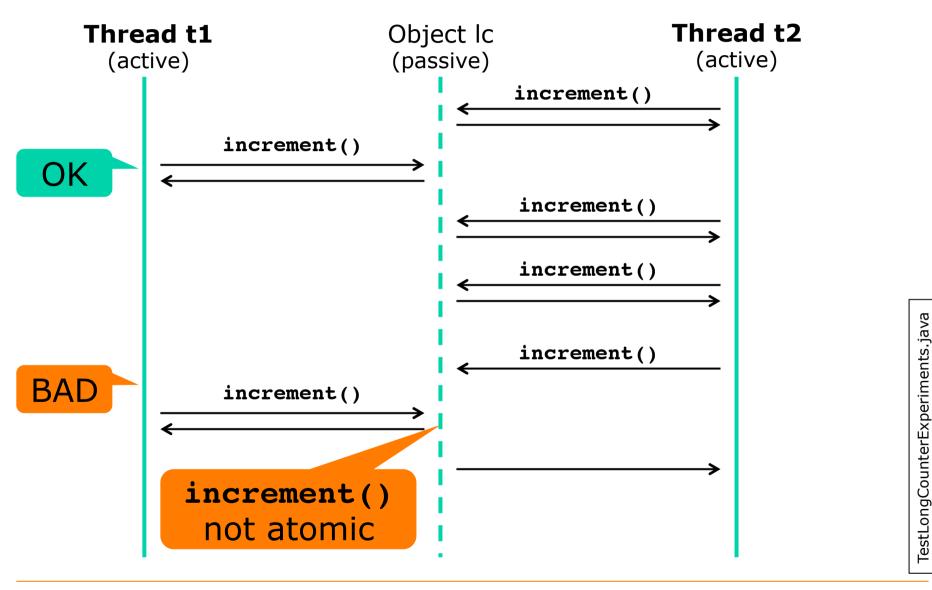
Atomic operations

We want to atomically update both
 lastNumber and lastFactors

Operations A and B are *atomic* with respect to each other if, from the perspective of a thread executing A, when another thread executes B, either all of B has executed or none of it has.

An atomic operation is one that is atomic with respect to all operations (including itself) that operate on the same state.

Lack of atomicity: overlapping reads and writes



Atomic update without excess locking

```
class CachingFactorizer implements Factorizer {
  private long lastNumber = 0;
  private long[] lastFactors = new long[] { 1 };
  public long[] getFactors(long p) {
    long[] factors = null;
    synchronized (this) {
                                                  Atomic
      if (p == lastNumber)
                                               test-then-act
        factors = lastFactors.clone();
    if (factors == null) {
                                                               \infty
      factors = PrimeFactors.compute(p);
      synchronized (this) {
                                                               Like Goetz
                                               Atomic write
        lastNumber = p;
                                               of both fields
        lastFactors = factors.clone();
    return factors;
} }
```

Correct but subtle

Goetz p. 28, 2

Using locks for atomicity

For each mutable state variable that may be accessed by more than one thread, **all** accesses to that variable must be performed with the **same** lock held. Then the variable is *guarded* by that lock.

For every invariant that involves more than one variable, **all** the variables involved in that invariant must be guarded by the **same** lock.

- Common mis-reading and mis-reasoning:
 - The *purpose* of **synchronized** is to get atomicity
 - So synchronized roughly means "atomic" Wrong
 - True only if all other accesses are synchronized!!!

Alternative: Wrap the state in an immutable object

```
class OneValueCache {
  private final long lastNumber;
                                                              Like Goetz
 private final long[] lastFactors;
  public OneValueCache(long p, long[] factors) {
    this.lastNumber = p;
    this.lastFactors = factors.clone();
  public long[] getFactors(long p) {
    if (lastFactors == null || lastNumber != p)
      return null;
                                            The fields cannot
    else
                                            change between
      return lastFactors.clone():
                                             test and return
```

• Immutable, so automatically thread-safe

Make the state a single field, referring to an immutable object

- Only one mutable field, atomic update
- Easy to implement, easy to see it is correct
- Allocates many OneValueCache objects: Bad?
 - Not a problem with modern garbage collectors

Goetz p. 46, 47

Immutability

- OOP: An object has state, held by its fields
 - Fields should be **private** for encapsulation
 - It is common to define getters and setters
- But mutable state causes lots of problems
 - Better make fields final and remove the setters

Immutable objects are always thread-safe.

An object is *immutable* if:

- Its state cannot be modified after construction
- All its fields are final
- It is properly constructed (this does not escape)

Bloch: Effective Java, item 15

Item 15: Minimize mutability

An immutable class is simply a class whose instances cannot be modified. All of the information contained in each instance is provided when it is created and is fixed for the lifetime of the object. The Java platform libraries contain many immutable classes, including String, the boxed primitive classes, and BigInteger and BigDecimal. There are many good reasons for this: Immutable classes are easier to design, implement, and use than mutable classes. They are less prone to error and are more secure.

To make a class immutable, follow these five rules:

- 1. **Don't provide any methods that modify the object's state** (known as *mutators*).
- 2. Ensure that the class can't be extended. This prevents careless or malicious subclasses from compromising the immutable behavior of the class by behaving as if the object's state has changed. Preventing subclassing is generally ac-

Josh Bloch designed the Java collection classes

A serious Java (or C#) developer should own and use this book

- d Classes should be immutable unless there's a very good reason to make them
- 3. M mutable. Immutable classes provide many advantages, and their only disadvan-
- forced by the system. Also, it is necessary to ensure correct behavior if a refer
 - ence to a newly created instance is passed from one thread to another without synchronization, as spelled out in the *memory model* [JLS, 17.5; Goetz06 16].
- 4. Make all fields private. This prevents clients from obtaining access to muta-

Safe publication: visibility

- The final field modifier has two effects
 - Non-updatability can be checked by the compiler
 - Visibility from other threads of the fields' values after the constructor returns
- So final has visibility effect like volatile
- Without final or synchronization, another thread may not see the given field values
- That was Java. What about C#/.NET?
 - No visibility effect of readonly field modifier
 - So must be ensured by locking or MemoryBarrier
 - Seems a little dangerous?

Why .clone() in the factorizers?

```
public long[] getFactors(long p) {
    ...
    factors = lastFactors.clone();
    ...
    lastFactors = factors.clone();
    ...
}
```

- Because Java array elements are mutable
- So unsafe to share an array with just anybody
- Must defensively clone the array when passing a reference to other parts of the program
- This is a problem in sequential code too, but much worse in concurrent code
 - Minimize Mutability!

Goetz's VehicleTracker example

- Maintains a real-time map of taxi locations
- Concurrent calls to
 - setLocation(...) from each of the taxis
 - getLocation(...) from the operator
 - getLocations() from large wall display
- We shall see four thread-safe versions
 - V1: unmodifiable HashMap of mutable points, lock
 - V2A: modifiable ConcurrentHashMap of immutable points, give out unmodifiable view of map
 - V2B: same but give out only copy of map
 - V3: use thread-safe mutable points

Goetz p. 60

Java monitor pattern

An object following the Java monitor pattern encapsulates all its mutable state (in private fields) and guards it with the object's own intrinsic lock (synchronized).

- Monitors invented 1974 by Hansen and Hoare
 - A way to encapsulate mutable state in concurrency
- Java monitor pattern implements monitors
 - If you use care and discipline!
 - Per Brinch Hansen critical of Java, 1999 paper
- Modern (Java) data structures are subtler ...
 - Illustrated by Goetz's VehicleTracker example

A class of mutable points

MutablePoint, like java.awt.Point

Design mistake

```
class MutablePoint {
   public int x, y;
   public MutablePoint() {
      x = 0; y = 0;
   }
   public MutablePoint(MutablePoint p) {
      Copy
      this.x = p.x; this.y = p.y;
   }
}
Copy
Copy
Copy
Constructor
```

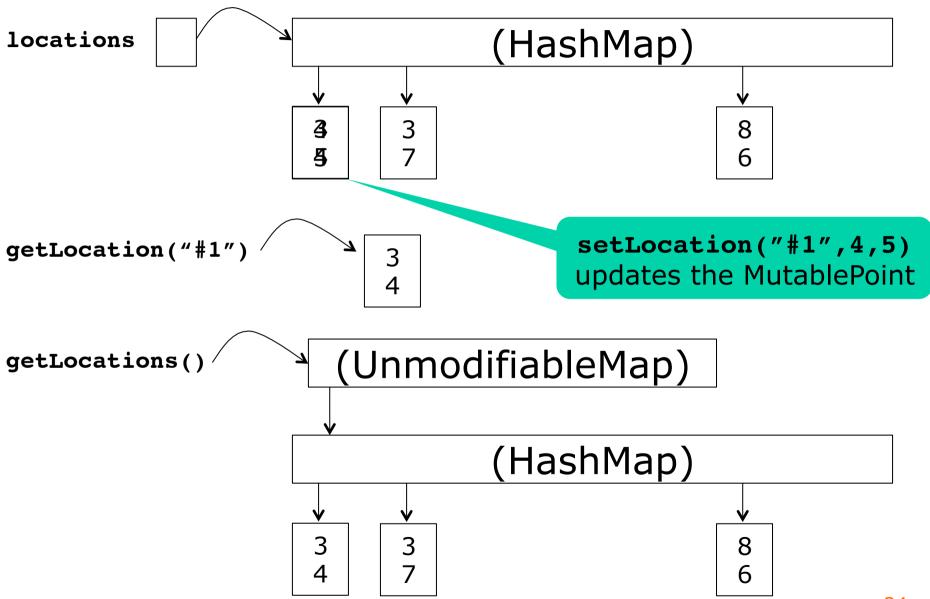
Q: Why not thread-safe?

Vehicle tracker as a monitor class

```
class MonitorVehicleTracker {
 private final Map<String, MutablePoint> locations;
 public MonitorVehicleTracker(Map<String, MutablePoint> locations) {
                                                                                      a.
    this.locations = deepCopy(locations);
                                                                                      Goetz
 public synchronized Map<String, MutablePoint> getLocations() {
    return deepCopy (locations);
                                                                                      TestVehicleTracker.java
 public synchronized MutablePoint getLocation(String id) {
    MutablePoint loc = locations.get(id);
    return loc == null ? null : new MutablePoint(loc);
 public synchronized void setLocation(String id, int x, int y) {
    MutablePoint loc = locations.get(id);
    loc.x = x;
    loc.y = y;
 private static Map<String, MutablePoint> deepCopy (Map<String, MutablePoint> m) {
    Map<String, MutablePoint> result = new HashMap<String, MutablePoint>();
    for (String id : m.keySet())
      result.put(id, new MutablePoint(m.get(id)));
    return Collections.unmodifiableMap(result);
```

- Protects its state in field locations
- But why all that copying?

MonitorVehiclerTracker memory



A class of immutable points

• Immutable Point class:

```
class Point {
  public final int x, y;
  public Point(int x, int y) {
    this.x = x; this.y = y;
  }
}
```

Automatically thread-safe

V2A

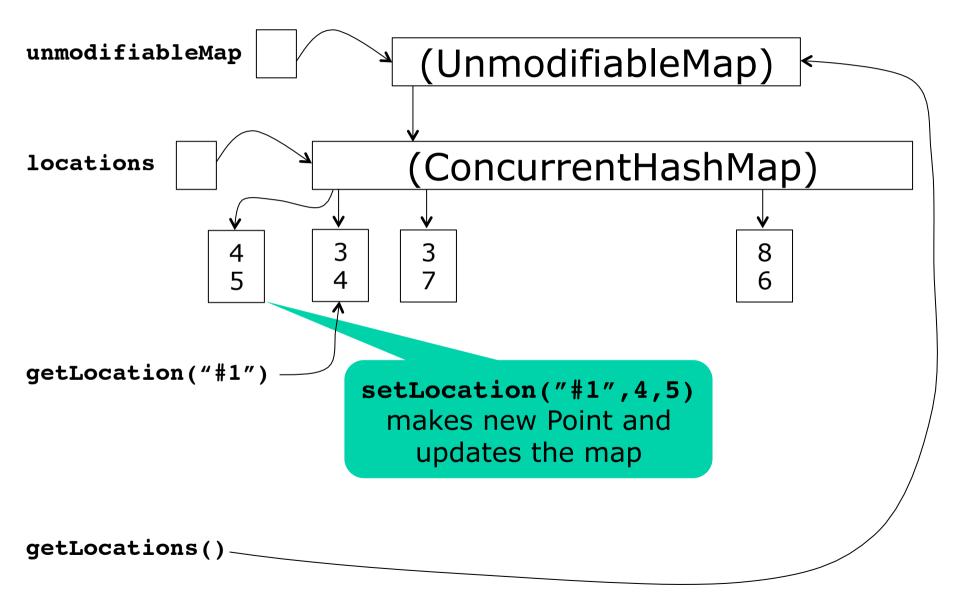
Thread safety by delegation and immutable points

```
class DelegatingVehicleTracker {
  private final ConcurrentMap<String, Point> locations;
  private final Map<String, Point> unmodifiableMap;
  public DelegatingVehicleTracker(Map<String, Point> points) {
    locations = new ConcurrentHashMap<String, Point> (points);
    unmodifiableMap = Collections.unmodifiableMap(locations);
  }
  public Map<String, Point> getLocations() {
    return unmodifiableMap;
  }
  public Point getLocation(String id) {
    return locations.get(id);
  }
  public void setLocation(String id, int x, int y) {
    locations.replace(id, new Point(x, y));
  }
}
```

- No defensive copying any longer
 - Immutability can give better performance!
- Q: Why not just cast locations to an interface without setters?

V2A

DelegatingVehicleTracker memory



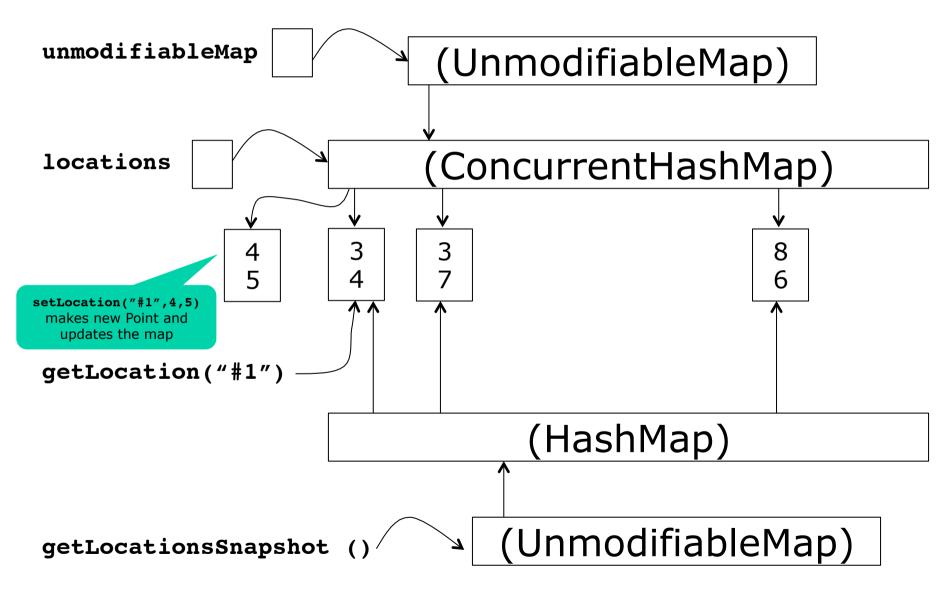
V2B

- Alternative getLocations()
- Returns unmodifiable view
 - of snapshot copy of hashmap,
 - referring to the existing immutable points

Goetz

```
public Map<String, Point> getLocationsAsSnapshot() {
 return Collections.unmodifiableMap(new HashMap<String, Point>(locations));
```

DelegatingVehicleTracker memory with static getLocations result



Immutability is good

- Can simplify thread-safety
- Can speed up some operations
- Microsoft .NET has new immutable collections
 - https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ mt452182(v=vs.110).aspx
 - https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/bclteam/
 2012/12/18/preview-of-immutable-collectionsreleased-on-nuget/
 - Different from unmodifiable collections
 - No underlying modifiable collection
 - Enumeration is safe, including thread-safe
- Java 8 does not have immutable collections

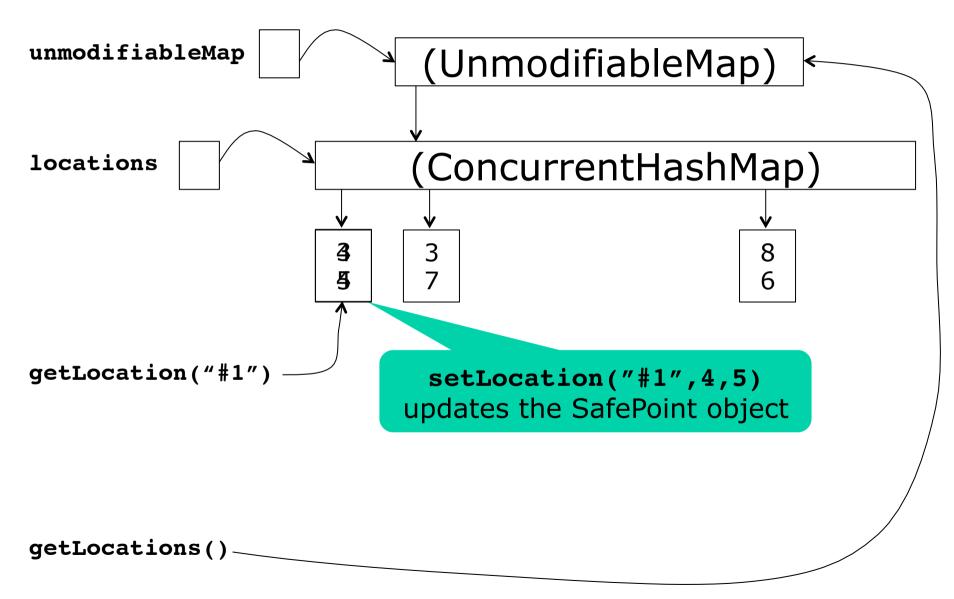
Safe mutable point class

Mutable point as monitor

```
public class SafePoint {
  private int x, y;
  private SafePoint(int[] a) { this(a[0], a[1]); }
  public SafePoint(SafePoint p) { this(p.get()); }
  public SafePoint(int x, int y) { this.set(x, y); }
  public synchronized int[] get() {
    return new int[]{x, y};
  }
  public synchronized void set(int x, int y) {
    this.x = x; this.y = y;
  }
}
```

Safe publishing vehicle tracker

```
public class PublishingVehicleTracker {
 private final Map<String, SafePoint> locations;
 private final Map<String, SafePoint> unmodifiableMap;
                                                                         Goetz
 public PublishingVehicleTracker(Map<String, SafePoint> locations) {
    this.locations
      = new ConcurrentHashMap<String, SafePoint>(locations);
    this.unmodifiableMap = Collections.unmodifiableMap(this.locations);
 public Map<String, SafePoint> getLocations() {
    return unmodifiableMap;
 public SafePoint getLocation(String id) {
    return locations.get(id);
 public void setLocation(String id, int x, int y) {
    locations.get(id).set(x, y);
```



Which VehicleTracker is best?

- All are thread-safe
 - Some due to defensive copying
 - Some due to immutability or unmodifiability
- Different meanings of setLocation:
 - getLocations is affected by later setLocation:
 - DelegatingVehicleTracker (V2A)
 - SafePublishingVehicleTracker (V3)
 - getLocations not affected by later setLocation:
 - MonitorVehicleTracker (V1)
 - DelegatingVehicleTracker with getLocationsSnapshot (V2B)
- Performance depends on the usage
 - Number of calls to setLocation vs getLocations
 - Number of results returned by getLocations

The classic collection classes are not threadsafe

```
final Collection<Integer> coll = new HashSet<Integer>();
final int itemCount = 100_000;
Thread addEven = new Thread(new Runnable() { public void run() {
   for (int i=0; i<itemCount; i++)
      coll.add(2 * i);
}});
Thread addOdd = new Thread(new Runnable() { public void run() {
   for (int i=0; i<itemCount; i++)
      coll.add(2 * i + 1);
}});</pre>
```

May give wrong results or obscure exceptions:

```
There are 169563 items, should be 200000

"Thread-0" ClassCastException: java.util.HashMap$Node cannot be cast to java.util.HashMap$TreeNode
```

Wrap as synchronized coll. for thread safety

Collections in a concurrent context

- Preferably use a modern concurrent collection class from java.util.concurrent.*
 - Operations get, put, remove ... are thread-safe
 - But iterators and for are only weakly consistent:
 - they may proceed concurrently with other operations
 - they will never throw ConcurrentModificationException
 - they are guaranteed to traverse elements as they existed upon construction exactly once, and may (but are not guaranteed to) reflect any modifications subsequent to construction.
- Or else wrap collection as synchronized
- Or synchronize accesses yourself
- Or make a thread-local copy of the collection and iterate over that

Callable<T> versus Runnable

A Runnable is one method that returns nothing

```
public interface Runnable {
  public void run();
}
unit -> unit
```

A java.util.concurrent.Callable<T> returns a T:

```
public interface Callable<T> {
   public T call() throws Exception;
}
```

```
Callable<String> getWiki = new Callable<String>() {
   public String call() throws Exception {
      return getContents("http://www.wikipedia.org/", 10);
}};
// Call the Callable, block till it returns:
try { String homepage = getWiki.call(); ... }
catch (Exception exn) { throw new RuntimeException(exn); }
```

Synchronous FutureTask<T>

A FutureTask<T>

Similar to .NET System.Threading.Tasks.Task<T>

- Produces a T
- Is created from a Callable<T>
- Above we run it synchronously on the main thread
- More useful to run asynchronously on other thread

Asynchronous FutureTask<T>

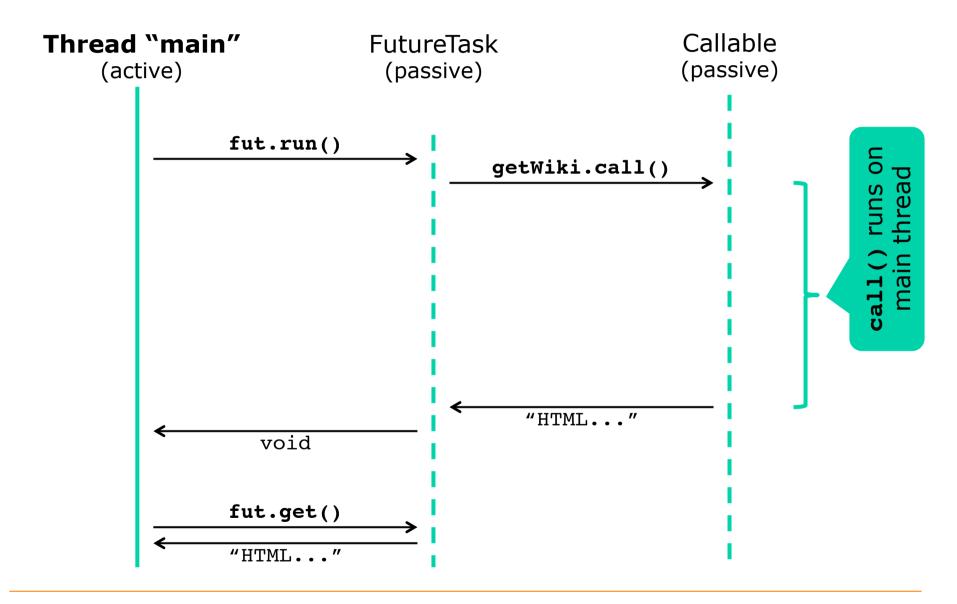
```
Callable<String> getWiki = new Callable<String>() {
   public String call() throws Exception {
     return getContents("http://www.wikipedia.org/", 10);
};
FutureTask<String> fut = new FutureTask<String>(getWiki);

Thread t = new Thread(fut);
t.start();

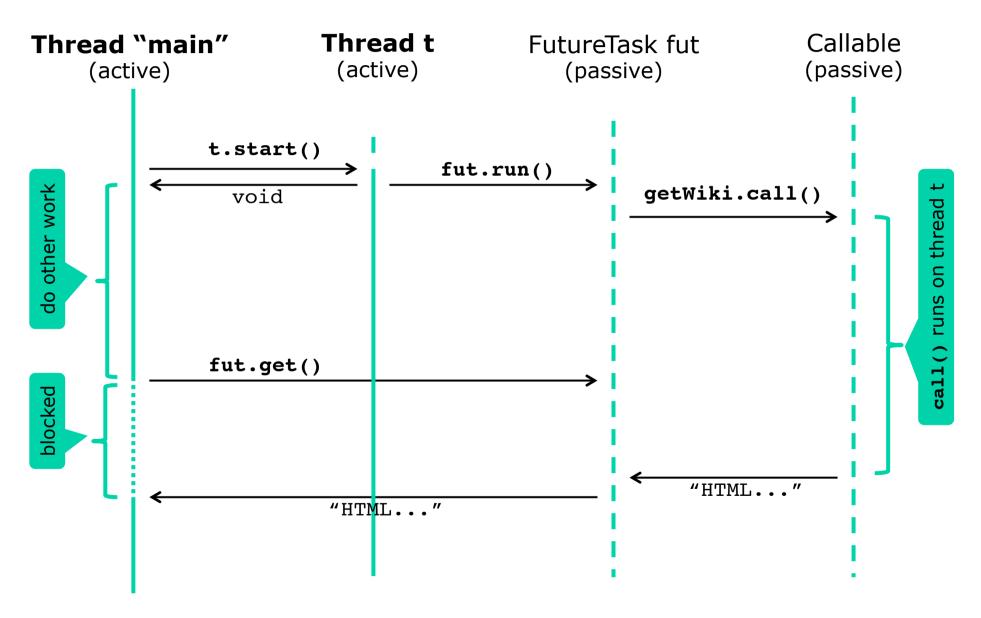
try {
   String homepage = fut.get();
   System.out.println(homepage);
}
catch (Exception exn) { throw new RuntimeException(exn); }
```

- The "main" thread can do other work between t.start() and fut.get()
- FutureTask can also be run as a task, week 5

Synchronous FutureTask



Asynchronous FutureTask



Those @\$%&!!! checked exceptions

Our exception handling is simple but gross:

Goetz has a better, more complex, approach:

```
try { String homepage = fut.get(); ... }
catch (ExecutionException exn) {
  Throwable cause = exn.getCause();
  if (cause instanceof IOException)
    throw (IOException) cause;
  else
    throw launderThrowable(cause);
}

Turn others into
unchecked exceptions

Turn others in
```

Goetz's launderThrowable method

unchecked

checked

```
public static RuntimeException launderThrowable(Throwable t) {
  if (t instanceof RuntimeException)
    return (RuntimeException) t;
  else if (t instanceof Error)
    throw (Error) t;
  else
    throw new IllegalStateException("Not unchecked", t);
}
```

- Make a checked exception into an unchecked
 - without adding unreasonable layers of wrapping
 - cannot just throw cause; in previous slide's code
- Mostly an administrative mess
 - caused by the Java's "checked exceptions" design
 - thus not a problem in C#/.NET

Goetz's scalable result cache

- Wrapping a computation so that it caches results and reuses them
 - Example: Given URL, computation fetches webpage
 - If URL is requested again, cache returns webpage
- Versions of Goetz's result cache ("Memoizer")
 - M1: lock-based, not scalable
 - M2: ConcurrentMap, large risk of computing twice
 - M3: use FutureTask, small risk of computing twice
 - M4: use putIfAbsent, no risk of computing twice
 - M5: use computeIfAbsent (Java 8), no risk of ...
 - See also Exercise 2.4.7

Goetz's scalable result cache

Interface representing functions from A to V

```
interface Computable <A, V> {
   V compute(A arg) throws InterruptedException;
}
```

• Example 1: Our prime factorizer

```
class Factorizer implements Computable<Long, long[]> {
   public long[] compute(Long wrappedP) {
      long p = wrappedP;
      ...
} }
```

Example 2: Fetching a web page

```
class FetchWebpage implements Computable<String, String> {
   public String compute(String url) {
      ... create Http connection, fetch webpage ...
} }
```

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Thread-safe but non-scalable cache

```
class Memoizer1<A, V> implements Computable<A, V> {
  private final Map<A, V> cache = new HashMap<A, V>();
 private final Computable<A, V> c;
 public Memoizer1(Computable<A, V> c) { this.c = c; }
  public synchronized V compute(A arg) throws InterruptedEx... {
    V result = cache.get(arg);
    if (result == null) {
                                        If not in cache,
      result = c.compute(arg);
                                        compute and put
      cache.put(arg, result);
    return result;
                                                                   Goetz
```

```
Computable<Long, long[]> factorizer = new Factorizer(),
  cachingFactorizer = new Memoizer1<Long,long[]>(factorizer);
long[] factors = cachingFactorizer.compute(7182763656381322L);
```

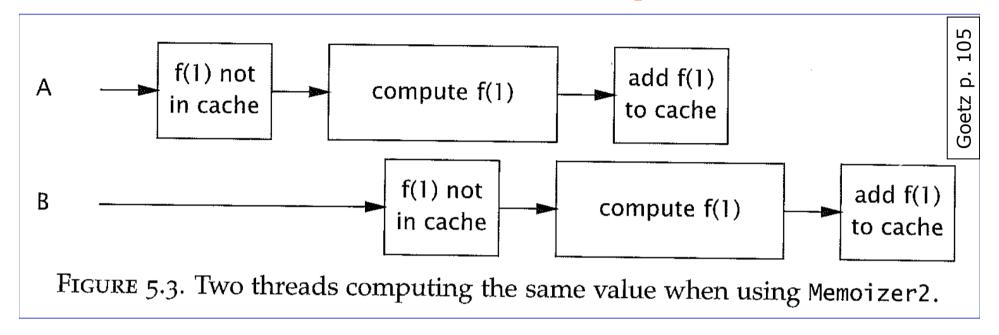
- Q: Why not scalable?
- Q: Would it work to wrap as synchronizedMap?

Thread-safe scalable cache, using concurrent hashmap

```
class Memoizer2<A, V> implements Computable<A, V> {
  private final Map<A, V> cache = new ConcurrentHashMap<A, V>();
  private final Computable<A, V> c;
  public Memoizer2(Computable<A, V> c) { this.c = c; }
  public V compute(A arg) throws InterruptedException {
    V result = cache.get(arg);
    if (result == null) {
      result = c.compute(arg);
      cache.put(arg, result);
    return result;
                                                                  Goetz
}
```

- But large risk of computing same thing twice
 - Argument put in cache only after computing result
 - so cache may be updated long after compute(arg) call

How Memoizer2 can duplicate work



Better approach, Memoizer3:

- Create a FutureTask for arg
- Add the FutureTask to cache immediately at arg
- Run the future on the calling thread
- Return fut.get()

Thread-safe scalable cache using FutureTask<V>, v. 3

```
class Memoizer3<A, V> implements Computable<A, V> {
  private final Map<A, Future<V>> cache
    = new ConcurrentHashMap<A, Future<V>>();
                                                                    Goetz
 private final Computable<A, V> c;
  public V compute(final A arg) throws InterruptedException {
    Future<V> f = cache.get(arg);
                                     If arg not in cache ...
    if (f == null) { ____
      Callable<V> eval = new Callable<V>() {
                                                            ... make
         public V call() throws InterruptedException {
                                                           future, add
           return c.compute(arg);
                                                           to cache ...
      };
      FutureTask<V> ft = new FutureTask<V>(eval);
      cache.put(arg, ft);
                                                          ... run it on
      f = ft;
                                                         calling thread
      ft.run();
                                     Block until completed
    try { return f.get(); }
    catch (ExecutionException e) { throw launderThrowable(...); }
```

Memoizer3 can still duplicate work

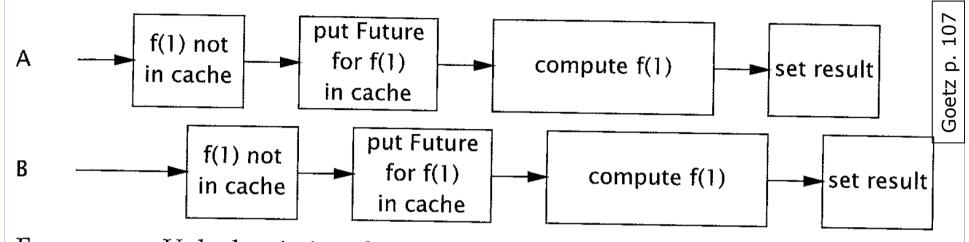


FIGURE 5.4. Unlucky timing that could cause Memoizer3 to calculate the same value twice.

Better approach, Memoizer4:

- Fast initial check for arg cache
- If not, create a future for the computation
- Atomic put-if-absent may add future to cache
- Run the future on the calling thread
- Return fut.get()

Thread-safe scalable cache using FutureTask<V>, v. 4

```
class Memoizer4<A, V> implements Computable<A, V> {
                                                                     TestCache.java
  private final Map<A, Future<V>> cache
    = new ConcurrentHashMap<A, Future<V>>();
  private final Computable<A, V> c;
  public V compute(final A arg) throws InterruptedException {
    Future<V> f = cache.get(arg);
                                        Fast test: If arg not in cache ...
    if (f == null) {
      Callable<V> eval = new Callable<V>() {
         public V call() throws InterruptedException {
                                                              ... make
           return c.compute(arg);
                                                               future
      };
      FutureTask<V> ft = new FutureTask<V>(eval);
      f = cache.putIfAbsent(arg, ft);
                                                ... atomic put-if-absent
      if (f == null) {
        f = ft; ft.run();
                                             ... run on calling thread if
                                             not added to cache before
    try { return f.get(); }
    catch (ExecutionException e) { throw launderThrowable(...); }
```

The technique used in Memoizer4

- Suggestion by Bloch item 69:
 - Make a fast (non-atomic) test for arg in cache
 - If not there, create a future object
 - Then atomically put-if-absent (arg, future)
 - If the arg was added in the meantime, do not add
 - Otherwise, add (arg, future) and run the future
- May wastefully create a future, but only rarely
 - The garbage collector will remove it
- Java 8 has computeIfAbsent, can avoid the two-stage test, but looks complicated

Thread-safe scalable cache using FutureTask<V>, v. 5 (Java 8)

```
class Memoizer5<A, V> implements Computable<A, V> {
                                                                    TestCache.java
  private final Map<A, Future<V>> cache
    = new ConcurrentHashMap<A, Future<V>>();
  private final Computable<A, V> c;
 public V compute(final A arg) throws InterruptedException {
    final AtomicReference<FutureTask<V>> ftr = new ...();
    Future<V> f = cache.computeIfAbsent(arg, (A argv) -> {
         Callable<V> eval = new Callable<V>() {
             public V call() throws InterruptedException {
               return c.compute(arqv);
                                                               make
             };
                                                               future
         ftr.set(new FutureTask<V>(eval));
         return ftr.get();
       });
    if (ftr.get() != null)
                                              ... run on calling thread if
      ftr.get().run();
                                                not already in cache
    try { return f.get(); }
    catch (ExecutionException e) { throw launderThrowable(...); }
```

This week

- Reading
 - Goetz et al chapters 4 and 5
 - Bloch item 15
- Exercises
 - Mandatory hand-in Thursday at 23:55
 - Goals: Build a threadsafe class, use built-in collection classes, use the "future" concept
- Read before for next week's lecture
 - Java Precisely 3rd ed. §11.13, 11.14, 23, 24, 25
 - Available in PDF on LearnIT