# Diving Down the Concurrency Rabbit Hole

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#### Expectations...

- Start to unlearn "traditional" approach to concurrency issues
- Assume some knowledge of concurrency approaches

#### Expectations...

- Provide the rationale behind alternative approaches
- Understanding why data/solutions are fundamentally different.

### Expectations...

- First in a series of concurrency optimization talks
- Later talks provide examples
- Later talks provide common patterns and solutions
- Later talks focus a lot on lock/wait-free techniques

Expectations...

- There are "thinking points" in here
- Unanswered questions as exercises

Expectations...

- I like to go off on interesting tangents.
- But you may already know that.

Let's Start w/ a well-known iproblem" and work backward...

But replacing locks wholesale by writing your own lock-free code is not the answer. Lock-free code has two major drawbacks. First, it's not broadly useful for solving typical problems—lots of basic <u>data</u> structures, even doubly linked lists, still have no known lock-free implementations.

#### Lock-Free Code: A False Sense of Security Herb Sutter

http://www.ddj.com/cpp/210600279

PROBLEM: THERE IS NO LOCK-FREE VERSION OF A DONGLY-LINKED LIST.

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As an aside, I disagree with the point above. But that's a topic for a different day.

- The reference problem is just for context.
- No lock-free doubly-linked list here.
- Rather, background on why it's **not** an important problem.

Should expect to understand:

- A doubly-linked list will not meet real constraints of a concurrent system.
- i.e. It's not going to be the solution/data to a concurrent problem.
- If it's used, it's only in a local context.

Should expect to learn:

• Why and how concurrent data design is different.

# PROBLEM:

THERE IS NO LOCK-FREE VERSION OF A DONGLY -LINKED LIST.

> REALLY A PROBLEM.

# PROBLEM: THERE IS NO LOCK-FREE VERSION OF A DONGLY -LINKED LIST.

MORE LIKE AN INTERESTING puzzie.

PROBLEM: THERE IS NO LOCK-FREE VERSION OF A DONGLY-

> IT'S THE WEONG LEVEL OF ABSTRACTION FOR CONCURCENCY.

LINKED LIST.

# Why would data structures be different for concurrent designs?

CREATING CONCURRENT DATA STRUCTURES REQUIRES AN EXTRA DIMENSION OF INFO

# CREATING CONCURRENT DATA STRUCTURES REQUIRES AN EXTRA THIS SEEMS OBVIOUS DIMENSION OF INFO

# Why would data structures change?

- Doubly-linked lists solve a particular set of problems
- The concurrent "version" is a different problem
- Data is designed around the problem(s) being solved.

# DATA STRUCTURES REQUIRES AN EXTRA DIMENSION OF INFO



Sometimes. TRAD. DATA STRUCTS (AN BE USED,

# REQUIRES AN EXTRA DIMENSION OF INFO

THIS S

OBUN

JUST LIKE SOMETIMES 20 STANCTS CAN BE USED IN 30 APPS.

# DIMENSION OF INFO

But only IF you PRESUME CERTAIN THINGS.

DINENSION REMANDER-BUT It's Always About The PRESU data' CIQIA

## It's always about the data!

I will repeat this point a lot.

Why?

Because it's important!



Concurrency is a data problem, not a code problem. designing code - first will oning over complicate

## The Question

Is something like this the best data fit for *any* concurrency problem?

```
struct Node
{
    Node* next;
    Node* prev;
    Packet* data;
};
```

The data structure itself implies a different kind of problem (i.e. local)

# DOUBLY-LINKED LIST PRESUMES SEQUENTIAL

GRDER.

# DOUBLY-LINKED LIST PRESUMES SEQUENTIAL

ORDER.

Well, obviously it's obviously it's a definition of an order,...

# Defining Order

# struct Node { Node\* next; <-- Defines an order Node\* prev; <-- (That's the point.) Packet\* data;</pre>

};

ESUMES SEQUENTIAL DER. But xforms of the data are also mplicitly ordered.

# **Transform Order**

};

```
struct Node
{
    Node* next; <-- But WHY is it defined
    Node* prev; <-- this way in 1st place?
    Packet* data;</pre>
```
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struct Node
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};</pre>
```

- It's to make certain operations easier.
- And give those operations certain properties.
- e.g. Insert, Delete

AZB ENSERT

## INSERT (C) AFTER (A) INSERT (D) AFTER (A)

#### HAS GUARANTEED RESULT:



#### **Transform Order**

```
struct Node
{
    Node* next; <-- But WHY is it defined
    Node* prev; <-- this way in 1st place?
    Packet* data;
};</pre>
```

e.g. Insert

So that sequential insert instructions would:

- Have constant insert time
- Have a guaranteed (predictable) result
- Could be inserted before or after given any node
- etc.



The data AZB Struct only exists to Facilitate · INSERT ( C The veralts. · INSERT (D

what should the AZB results be? · INSERT (C · INSERT (D

#### Need to define what the transformations must do before you can define what the data is.

AZB the problem 15n't even The Same · INSERT ( C · INSERT (S

AF So what part of The Solution warld be The same? INS INS

# Operations in a concurrent system would not have the same meaning.

The properties of those operations (constraints) would also be different.

Let's look at the "same" problem as a conccurent operation...





Problem: Concurrent Insert op T. ... Can't Jata define data before even Froblem Problem

#### WHAT CAN YOU GUARANTEE ABOUT THE ORDER HERE?









#### WHICH ORDER 15 "CORRECT"?

AFDFCFB ARCEDRB

### WHICH ORDER IS "CORRECT" ?

## AFOFCFB BOTH! AFCFDFB

#### WHICH ORDER IS "CORRECT" ?

AFDFEB BOTH! AZCZOZB NEITHER!

#### WHICH ORDER 15 "CORRECT"?

AFOFOFB DEPENOS AFOFOFB CEPENOS CONTEXT.

# SCEB "CONTEXT" INCLUDES EXPLICIT DRB Ruces.

Concurrent insert operation needs explicit ordering rule. (Extra dimention of info.)

# The data structure would be different to accommodate ordering rule.

# Is that all the extra information needed?

#### Hint: No.

# So how would we solve the concurrent problem?

#### BUT FIRST ...

## WHAT IS CONCURRENCY?

## WHAT IS CONCURRENCY?

PARAAllelism VS. Concurrency Alguments...



## CONCURRENCY IS TRANSFORMATION OF SHARED DATA SET.

XFORM FORM














XFOR SIMULTANEOUS READS FROM SAME DATA ORM 2









# Concurrent data would be divided in to shared and unshared data for xforms.

- Doubly-linked list makes no such distinction.
- All sequential data structs presume all shared.

## Concurrent data would be divided by readers and writers of data.

- Doubly-linked list makes no such distinction.
- All sequential data structs presume anywhere read/write.

Look at any level of parallelism to see shared data for transforms.

#### FIRST - VARIONS PARALLELISM - INSTRUCTION LEVEC - MULTI - THREADING - MULTI - CORE, SHARE O MEN - MULTI - CORE, INDEPENDENT MEN - MULT - MACHINES





#### Note:

Data file just generic term for organized data.

e.g.

- Registers
- Cache (lines)
- Main memory
- ... or actual file on disk.

### Concurrency is not a systemwide property

Doubly-linked list data struct assumes all operations follow the same (sequential) rules.

## CONCURRENCY 15 AN ATTRIBUTE OF AN OPERATION.

#### CONCURRENCY 15 AN ATTRIBUTE OF AN OPERATION.



# Every concurrent operation must have explicitly defined rules.

# Data is designed that satisfies all the rules.

# But sometimes, attempts are made to use "sequential rules"

#### For example...

## WHAT ABOUT USING TIMESTAMPS TO CONTROL ORDER?

## WHAT ABOUT USING TIMESTAMPS TO CONTROL ORDER? #1 NEED

PErfact 17 Sync'd clocks...

## WHAT ABOUT USING TIMESTAMPS TO CONTROL ORDER?

which are infinitely accurate



#### #2 THIS IS NOT ! CONCURRENCY!



## #2 THIS IS NOT, CONCURRENCY!

: However...



concurrency: CPUS aren 4 Fully concurrent erthe/ 



concurrency: There are explicit ordering rules 1 

Car't be Morc concurrent man h/w D Allows. t'

# So sometimes using sequential rules work.

# And sometimes it's the "right" thing to do.

### But it must be done in a wellinformed way.

# (Know that's what you're doing!)

# What needs to be solved per operation?

# CONCARRENCY IS FIRST ABOUT RESOLVING DATA SYNCHRONIZATION CONFLICTS.
# CONCARRENCY IS FIRST ABOUT RESOLVING DATA SYNCHRONIZATION CONFLICTS. DEFINE DATA IN CONTEXT

# CONCARRENCY IS FIRST ABOUT RESOLVING DATA SYNCHRONIZATION CONFLICTS. MINIMIZE CONFILCTS

### CONCARRENCY IS FIRST ABOUT RESOLVING DATA SYNCHRONIZATION CONFLICTS. CONFUCTS = SEQUENTIAL

DATA

DEDENDENCY



# But how do you know what the conflicts are?



















#### i.e. Understand the data!

(It always comes down to this)

# Defining an concurrent insert operation:

### What would it mean?

# CONCRERENT INSERT OP:

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN CONTEXT?



## · INSERT (C) AFTER (A) · INSERT (D) AFTER (A)

# HAS NO WELL-DEFINED MEANING IN A GENERAL CONCURRENT SYSTEM!

### BUT ...

## . INSERT (C) AFTER (A) · INSERT (D) AFTER (A) THERE IS

203

FRAL

# YAS NO NO "NOW" NO "NOW" IZANING CONCURREN

#### BUT ...

.........

## · INSERT (C) AFTER (A) · INSERT (D) AFTER (A)

SUSTEIN

4AS NO MEANING WOUT "NOW", THERE'S NO EO BEFORE/AFTER ERAL



BUT ...

HAS NO

NEANING

.004

## · INSERT (C) AFTER (A) · INSERT (D) AFTER (A)

HOW IS IT ? HANDLED ?

203

151511

ERAL





# How might you answer these questions?

## WHAT IS THE ACCURACY / GRANNLARITY OF GLOBAL ORDER VALUES?



GRANNUM ORDER VALUES? BICI 目目目目 Maybe A" means in (A) bucket.

ORDER VALU 101 w/in some acceptable range.



nent 目目目目 but global order 1s well-defined.

IS THE ACCURACY / ULARITY OF GLOBAL VALUES ?

 This is an example of an ordering rule.

w

HE ACCURACY / ITY OF GLOBAL 185 ? 

linch 15 necessary to define in Concarent Problems.

define in Concarrent Problems. 目目目 How would This make bal The insuit OP SIMpler? ed.



#### LESSON DONBLY-LINKED LIST IS SEQUENTIAL DATA STRUCT.

#### PRESUMES: - ZERO LATENCY - GNARANTEED ORDER (SEQUENTIAL)

#### CONCURRENT DATA STRUCTURES DEFINED BY:

#### - EXPLICIT LATENCY REQUIREMENTS

- EXPLICIT ORDERING RULES
# But these requirements and rules can only be defined in context

## WHAT ARE SOME CONTEXTS W/IN YOU WOULD USE DOUBLY-LINKED LIST?

## WHAT ARE SOME CONTEXTS W/IN YOU WOULD USE DOUBLY-LINKED LIST? 1.e.

DON'T TRY TO FIT THE 11 SOLATION" TO THE PROBLEM.

## WHAT ARE SOME CONTEXTS W/IN YOU WOULD USE DOUBLY-LINKED LIST? 1.e. TRY

JUST SOLUE THE PROBLEM.



## INSERT SORT MEANS INSERT AT POSITION IN GLOBAL ORDER



6LOBAL INSERT M ordering rule 15 WSERT global Sorting 1 Compare Forne.





R When do other processes need 175? T

6LOBAL ORDE Do you doi think doi 11-ked 11st will be data? risht data? WSERT

Different answers to each question would change the data structure required.

## l.g. Résource Mgmt w/ variable life times

TT

LIMITEO RESOURCE LIST - SPARSE LISTS OF ALLOCATED NODES - VARIABLE LIFETIMES - DIFF "OWNERS", DIFF LISTS

LIMITED RESource LIST STATT W RESOLACES

- SPARSE LISTS OF ALLOCATED NOOES - VARIABLE LIFETIMES

- DIFF "OWNERS"



### - SPARSE LISTS OF ALLOCATED NOOES - VARIABLE LIFETIMES - DIFF "OWNERS", DIFF LISTS

t when "deleted" remove From Jist, return to res. list.

TEO uele

E APPEND TI TO ENO. ORDER NOT TT IMPORTANT

- SPARSE LISTS OF ALLOCATED NOOES - VARIABLE LIFETIMES

THIS IS THE TL EXPLICIT ORDERING r L RULE

- SPARSE LISTS OF ALLOCATED NOOES

Note, implies Insert to Middle 15 Middle 15 not needed. TI ISTS OF 2005



## DATA FOR DIFFERENT ORDERING RULES WILL BE DIFFERENT.

## Data for different latercy rules will be different.

#### Returning to the Question

Which answers/context does this structure match?

```
struct Node
{
    Node* next;
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};
```

**NONE.** Each set of rules for concurrent ops and requirements for latency, etc. would require a completely different struct.

## So how to define what the data would be?



### Hardware is the beginning.

Concurrency problems can't be abstracted from how hardware works.



## i.e. What are the basic "primitives" to build concurrency solutions with?

Mutexes?

Semaphores? Mailboxes?

Events?









Concurrency starts with atomic transaction


#### #1 Practical Take-Away:

#### Know how to do lock-free atomic transaction on your h/w.

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#### Know how to do lock-free atomic transaction on your h/w.

The fundamental data operation.
Lock-free techniques built on top of this.

#### IN-ORDER STORES



### FIFO, NO CHAN 42

IN-ORDER PROCESSORS HAVE IMPLICIT SYNC PT EACH INSTRUCTION!

IN-ORDER PROCESSORS HAVE IMPLICIT SYNC PT EACH INSTRUCTION! HERE USE PRE-EXISTING SYNC PTS.

#### ONT-OF-ORDER STORES



OUT-OF-ORDER PROCESSORS PROVIDE ORDERING PRIMITIVES (e.g. FENCE)

OUT-OF-ORDER PROCESSORS PROVIDE ORDERING PRIMITIVES (e.g. FENCE) BUT, MAY Be tuen CHEAPER OPTION!

ocessors m ERING PRIMITIVES (e.g. FENCE) IF CAN SUPPORT HIGHER LATENCY, Ad0 ...

ESSORS ING PRIMITIVES (e.g. FENCE) HIGHER SYNC PT ALREADY EXISTS.

#### Note

In-order and out-of-order refers to load/store unit.

AKA weakly-ordered loads/stores AKA load/store re-ordering

e.g. SPU is in-order processor, but MFC on SPU is not (out of order DMAs)

#### ALSO NOTE LANGUAGE/COMPILER

Compiler / optimizer re-orders Instructions by definition! PROC. Must force order.

# Knowing h/w allows adding minimal sync points.

And..

# GOOD CONCURRENCY DOESN'T ADD UNNEEDED SYNC POINTS.

67000 CONCURRENCY DOESN'T ADD UNNEEDED SYNC POINTS. BUT SHOULD DESIGN KROWNO PRE-EXISTING ONES.

## 67000 CONCURRENCY DOESN'T ADD UNNEEDED 54NC POINTS.

OR USE CHEAPEST ONES AVALLABLE

#### Okay, So now what needs to be defined BEFORE we can even begin to define the data?

## NEED TO ANSWER:

### - HOW WILL DATA BE TRANSFORMED?

### - WHAT ARE THE CONSTRAINTS?

N220 10 IN JUCK - HOW WILL DATA BE TRANSFORMED? 1 - WH DERATIONS CON





- WHAT ARE THE CON STRAINTS? TO OROZEING

- WHAT ARE THE CONSTRAINTS? 1 TO LATENCY



### - WHAT ARE THE CONSTRAINTS?

TO LOCAL GUARANTEES

# Do that and you're on your way.

Next set of talks will apply these lessons to optimizing data for specific examples.

# But the "optimized" part will introduce something new...

Here's a little teaser...



## of OPTIMIZED

15 ....

## concurrent design.

THE

DELAY\*

\* kind of ironic , right?

THE SOONER YOU NEED Some DATA, THE SLOWER THE SYSTEM WILL BE.



#### Thanks!

Great feedback from Bjoern Knafla (@bjoernknafla on twitter). Plus he came up with the name for the presentation.

Also thanks for feedback: @MarcoSalvi, @rickmolloy

Also thanks Rob Wyatt for feedback - and for suggestions on even more fun problems and complex cases that we could cover to make the presentation even longer next time.