Sharing Non-Processor Resources in Multiprocessor Real-Time Systems

Dissertation Defense

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Real-Time System

- System that requires both
 - Logical correctness, and
 - Temporal correctness.



Common in safety-critical and cyber-physical systems.



Fundamentally affects how systems are designed and built. **Predictability is more important than performance.**

- Systems that requires both
 - Logical correctness, and
 - Temporal correctness.



Common in safety-critical and cyber-physical systems.



Temporal Correctness

- Temporal correctness requires:
 - **Models** of system components,
 - Sound mathematical **analysis**.

Pedestrian Detection









Pedestrian Detection



Period: time between frames. e.g., 33ms for 30FPS.

Pedestrian Detection







Pedestrian Detection

Job **deadlines**.

Time by which the computation must complete.

time

Relative Deadline: time between release and deadline.

Scheduling and Analysis

- Scheduling algorithm determines when jobs run.
 - Earliest-Deadline First (EDF).
 - Fixed Priority (FP).
- Schedulability test used to determine whether all jobs will provably finish before their deadlines.

Synchronization

 In practice, tasks share resources to which accesses must be synchronized.



Locking protocol used to synchronize such accesses to ensure safety.

```
def transaction(from_acct, to_acct, amount)
    if(balances[from_acct] < amount)
        # Insufficient funds
        return False
        else
        balances[to_acct] = balances[to_acct] + amount
        balances[from_acct] = balances[from_acct] - amount
</pre>
```

def transaction(from_acct, to_acct, amount) if(balances[from acct] < amount)</pre> # Insufficient funds return False else balances[to acct] = balances[to acct] + amount balances[from acct] = balances[from acct] - amount

Task 1: transaction(A, B, 10)

Task 2: transaction(A, C, 10)

Task 1: transaction(A, B, 10)

Task 2: transaction(A, C, 10)

Synchronization Example def transaction(from_acct, to_acct, amount) if(balances[from acct] < amount)</pre> # Insufficient funds return False else balances[to acct] = balances[to acct] + amount balances[from acct] = balances[from acct] - amount

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else

balances[to acct] = balances[to acct] + amount balances[from acct] = balances[from acct] - amount

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balances[from_acct] = balances[from acct] - amount

```
def transaction(to_acct, from_acct, amount)
    lock()
    if(balances[from_acct] < amount)
        # Insufficient funds
        return False
    else
        balances[to_acct] = balances[to_acct] + amount
        balances[from_acct] = balances[from_acct] - amount
        unlock()</pre>
```

```
def transaction(to_acct, from_acct, amount)
    lock()
    if(balances[from_acct] < amount)
        # Insufficient funds
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    else
        balances[to_acct] = balances[to_acct] + amount
        balances[from_acct] = balances[from_acct] - amount
        unlock()</pre>
```

Using a locking protocol, we can fix this issue by ensuring only one transaction executes at a time.



• Synchronization may cause priority-inversion blocking (pi-blocking).



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- Pi-blocking must be incorporated into schedulability analysis.



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- Pi-blocking must be incorporated into schedulability analysis.
- Pi-blocking can cause significant **utilization loss**.





 Must consider scheduling and synchronization interactions in computing pi-blocking bounds.



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Medium-priority non-resource using task can cause pi-blocking for blocked high-priority task.



- Must consider scheduling and synchronization interactions in computing pi-blocking bounds.
- Progress mechanisms used to mitigate such adverse interactions.



Priority Inheritance

- An example progress mechanism is priority inheritance.
- Resource-holding job inherits the priority of the highest-priority blocked job.
- Can cause pi-blocking for non-resource-using tasks.



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Modern Multicore Architectures


Multicore processors are designed with several shared hardware components. Explicitly synchronizing access to such resources can improve predictability.



"Dependencies among tasks in real-time systems through shared resources, both **memory objects**, as well as **shared hardware resources**, can be managed through synchronization protocols. Such protocols can be designed to exploit the inherent sharing constraints of the managed resources in order to achieve **improved resource utilization**."

Thesis Statement

Outline

- Introduction & Background
- Memory Objects
 - Fine-grained mutex locks (RNLP)
 - Fine-grained reader/writer locks (R/W RNLP)
- Hardware Resources
 - Preemptive mutual exclusion
 - Half-protected exclusion
- Conclusions

Coarse-Grained Locking

```
def transaction(to_acct, from_acct, amount)
    lock()
    if(balances[from_acct] < amount)
        # Insufficient funds
        return False
    else
        balances[to_acct] = balances[to_acct] + amount
        balances[from_acct] = balances[from_acct] - amount
        unlock()</pre>
```



Fine-Grained Locking

```
def transaction(to_acct, from_acct, amount)
    <u>lock(from_acct)</u>
    if(balances[from_acct] < amount)
        # Insufficient funds
        return False
    else
        lock(to_acct)
        balances[to_acct] = balances[to_acct] + amount
        unlock(to_acct)
        balances[from_acct] = balances[from_acct] - amount
        unlock(from_acct)</pre>
```



Balances

Fine-grained locking can reduce blocking by allowing non-conflicting transactions to be processed concurrently.

```
def transaction(to_acct, from_acct, amount)
    <u>lock(from_acct)</u>
    if(balances[from_acct] < amount)
    # Insufficient funds
    return False
    else
    lock(to_acct)
    balances[to_acct] = balances[to_acct] + amount
    unlock(to_acct)
    balances[from_acct] = balances[from_acct] - amount
    unlock(from_acct)</pre>
```



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Balances

RNLP

- Real-Time Nested Locking Protocol (RNLP).
- First multiprocessor real-time locking protocol to support fine-grained locking.
- Modular, "plug-and-play" architecture can be configured optimally under different schedulers and analysis assumptions.



Token Lock











In the RNLP, this problem is avoided by preventing later-issued requests from acquiring resources that may be requested in a nested fashion.



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Transitive blocking is still possible, and must be considered.

Analysis	Scheduler	Token Lock	$ \mathcal{T} $	RSM	PMR Pi-blocking	Per-Request Pi-blocking
spin	Any	TTL	m	S-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
s-aware	Partitioned	TTL	n	B-RSM	O(n)	$(n-1)L_{\max}$
	Clustered	TTL	n	RSB-RSM	O(n)	$(n-1)L_{\max}$
s-aware	Global	TTL	n	RSB-RSM	O(n)	$(n-1)L_{\max}$
		TTL	n	I-RSM	$O(n)^{\dagger}$	$(n-1)L_{\max}$
	Partitioned	CK-OMLP	m	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
s-oblivious	Clustered	CK-OMLP	т	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
s-oblivious	Global	CK-OMLP	m	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
		R ² DGLP	m	I-RSM	0	$(2m-1)L_{\max}$

Analysis	Scheduler	Token Lock	$ \mathcal{T} $	RSM	PMR Pi-blocking	Per-Request Pi-blocking		
spin	Any	TTL	m	S-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$		
s-aware	Partitioned	TTL	n	B-RSM	O(n)	$(n-1)L_{\max}$		
	Clustered	TTL	n	RSB-RSM	O(n)	$(n-1)L_{\max}$		
	Global	TTL	n	RSB-RSM	O(n)	$(n-1)L_{\max}$		
		TTL	n	I-RSM	$O(n)^{\dagger}$	$(n-1)L_{\max}$		
s-oblivious	Partitioned	CK-OMLP	m	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$		
	Clustered	CK-OMLP	m	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$		
	Global	CK-OMLP	m	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$		
		R ² DGLP	m	I-RSM	0	$(2m-1)L_{\max}$		

Number of tokens

Analysis	Scheduler	Token Lock	$ \mathcal{T} $	RSM	PMR Pi-blocking	Per-Request Pi-blocking
spin	Any	TTL	m	S-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
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		R ² DGLP	m	I-RSM	0	$(2m-1)L_{\max}$

Progress mechanism used

Analysis	Scheduler	Token Lock	$ \mathcal{T} $	RSM	PMR Pi-blocking	Per-Request Pi-blocking
spin	Any	TTL	m	S-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
s-aware	Partitioned	TTL	n	B-RSM	O(n)	$(n-1)L_{\max}$
	Clustered	TTL	n	RSB-RSM	O(n)	$(n-1)L_{\max}$
5-aware	Global	TTL	n	RSB-RSM	O(n)	$(n-1)L_{\max}$
		TTL	n	I-RSM	$O(n)^{\dagger}$	$(n-1)L_{\max}$
	Partitioned	CK-OMLP	m	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
s-oblivious	Clustered	CK-OMLP	m	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
s-oblivious	Global	CK-OMLP	m	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
		R ² DGLP	m	I-RSM	0	$(2m-1)L_{\max}$

These blocking bounds match those of previous optimal coarse-grained protocols.

Analysis	Scheduler	Token Lock	$ \mathcal{T} $	RSM	PMR Pi-blocking	Per-Request Pi-blocking
spin	Any	TTL	m	S-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
s-aware	Partitioned	TTL	n	B-RSM	O(n)	$(n-1)L_{\max}$
	Clustered	TTL	n	RSB-RSM	O(n)	$(n-1)L_{\max}$
	Global	TTL	n	RSB-RSM	O(n)	$(n-1)L_{\max}$
		TTL	n	I-RSM	$O(n)^{\dagger}$	$(n-1)L_{\max}$
s-oblivious	Partitioned	CK-OMLP	m	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
	Clustered	CK-OMLP	m	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
	Global	CK-OMLP	m	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
		R ² DGLP	> m	I-RSM	0	$(2m-1)L_{\max}$

A new *k*-exclusion locking protocol also proposed in this dissertation.

*B. Ward, G. Elliott and J. Anderson. "Replica-Request Priority Donation: A Real-Time Progress Mechanism for Global Locking Protocols." RTCSA '12 38

Analysis	Scheduler	Token Lock	\mathcal{T}	RSM	PMR Pi-blocking	Per-Request Pi-blocking
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	Global	CK-OMLP	т	D-RSM	O(m)	$(m-1)L_{\max}$
		R ² DGLP	т	I-RSM	0	$(2m-1)L_{\max}$

The problem of fine-grained locking in multiprocessor realtime systems stood open for over 20 years! The RNLP solves this problem optimally under all common analysis assumptions and platform configurations.

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Motivation

```
def transaction(from_acct, to_acct, amount)
    <u>lock(from_acct)</u>
    if(balances[from_acct] < amount)
        # Insufficient funds
        return False
    else
        lock(to_acct)
        balances[to_acct] = balances[to_acct] + amount
        unlock(to_acct)
        balances[from_acct] = balances[from_acct] - amount
        unlock(from_acct)</pre>
```



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Motivation

def transaction(from_acct, to_acct, amount)
 <u>lock(from_acct)</u>
 if(balances[from_acct] < amount)</pre>

What if there are other routines that need only read the current balance of some accounts?

unlock(to_acct)
balances[from_acct] = balances[from_acct] - amount
unlock(from_acct)



Reader/Writer Locking

• Reader/writer locking:

- Reads can execute in parallel.
- Writes require mutual exclusion.
- Reader/writer locking reduces blocking when reads are common.
- How do we extend the RNLP to support finegrained reader/writer locking?













Key idea: read phases and write phases "take turns."



Result: O(1) read blocking, O(m) write blocking.

*B. Brandenburg and J. Anderson. "Reader-Writer Synchronization for Shared-Memory Multiprocessor Real-Time Systems" ECRTS '09 43

One Challenge

- In the RNLP, a request is never blocked by another later-issued request.
- To achieve O(1) reader blocking, later-issued read requests must "cut ahead" of earlier-issued write requests.

Multi-Resources Phases





What happens if R₁ issues a nested read request for B?




Per-resource phase-fair logic dictates that it should wait.





Per-resource phase-fair logic dictates that it should wait.





Per-resource phase-fair logic dictates that it should wait.

But R₁ would be blocked by later-issued read and write requests!





What if R1 is allowed to cut ahead?

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What if R1 is allowed to cut ahead?

This may increase the readphase duration.





What if R1 is allowed to cut ahead?

This may increase the readphase duration.

R/W RNLP

- These issues are resolved through a concept called entitlement.
 - Entitlement resolves the dilemma of which phase goes next.
- R/W RNLP Results:
 - First fine-grained multiprocessor real-time R/W lock.
 - O(1) reader pi-blocking.
 - O(m) writer pi-blocking.

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Modern Multicore Architectures



Hardware-based Timing Interference



Hardware-based Timing Interference



Hardware-based Timing Interference



Hardware-based interference can entirely negate the benefits of having additional cores. *De Facto* industry standard is to disable all but one core!

Locking Hardware Resources

- Locking hardware resources improves predictability, but is not (necessarily) required for logical correctness.
- Example: Shared cache.
 - **Problem**: a job may evict cached data of another concurrently executing job.
 - **Goal**: "lock" cache resources to prevent such evictions, thereby improving timing predictability.
 - **Observation**: cache critical sections can be safely preempted.

Non-Preemptive Mutual Exclusion



Non-Preemptive Mutual Exclusion





Non-Preemptive Mutual Exclusion



Preemptivity allows the higher-priority critical section to preempt the lower-priority one, which prevents the deadline miss.



Preemptive Mutual Exclusion*

- At most one task may execute a critical section at any time, but resource preemptions are allowed.
- This problem is unique to multiprocessors.
- Potential applications:
 - Arbitrating bus accesses, *e.g.*, memory bus.

*B. Ward. "Relaxing Resource-Sharing Constraints for Improved Hardware Management and Schedulability." RTSS '15

Preemptive Mutual Exclusion Algorithm



- Assumptions:
 - Global EDF scheduling.
 - Preemptive resources are EDF prioritized.
 - No nesting.

What must have occurred for this job to have missed its deadline?

td

ta







S. Baruah, "Techniques for Multiprocessor Global Schedulability Analysis", RTSS '07.



Carry-in demand

t₀

Higher-priority demand

60

td

ta





Idleness

- Idleness in this context is caused by blocking.
- Traditionally, blocking modeled by suspensions.

Blocking Analysis



Blocking Analysis



Idleness Analysis

How much idleness can this request induce in the schedule?



Blocking Analysis



Idleness Analysis

How much idleness can this request induce in the schedule?





How much idleness can this request induce in the schedule?





New analysis question:

Is there sufficient demand <u>plus induced</u> <u>idleness</u> to cause the deadline miss?



Advantages:

•

- Simple.
- Flexible.
- Incomparable with previous blocking-analysis techniques.

• Disadvantages:

- Can be pessimistic for high processor counts.
- Does not incorporate protocol-specific information to reduce utilization loss.

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Modern Multicore Architectures



UCBs vs. ECBs

- In cache-related preemption-delay (CRPD) analysis, there are two classes of cache blocks*:
 - Useful (UCB): A cache block that is reused.
 - Evicting (ECB): A cache block that may be accessed, but may not be reused.
- Would like to protect UCBs from ECBs, but need not protect ECBs at all.

*Lee et al. *"Analysis of cache-related preemption delay in fixed-priority preemptive scheduling."* Transactions on Computing '98.

S. Altmeyer and C Maiza. "Cache-related preemption delay via useful cache blocks: Survey and redefinition." Journal of Systems Architecture '11.
Half-Protected Sharing*

- **Protected sections:** require non-preemptive mutual exclusion w.r.t both protected and unprotected sections.
- **Unprotected sections:** may execute whenever a protected section does not.
- Can be seen as a weaker variant of reader/writer sharing: protected = write, unprotected ~ read.

*B. Ward. "Relaxing Resource-Sharing Constraints for Improved Hardware Management and Schedulability." RTSS '15

Half-Protected Lock

- Protected requests are statically prioritized over unprotected requests.
- Protected requests are prioritized by nonpreemptive EDF.
- Unprotected requests may run whenever protected requests do not.



Simple example: Three tasks, T1, T2, and T3 scheduled on m = 2 processors.





T1 preempts T3 while it is in an unprotected section



T1 begins unprotected section, even though T3 has not completed its unprotected section.



Protected section "preempts" the unprotected sections, inducing idleness on CPU 1.



Unprotected section may resume after the protected section completes.





With a reader/writer lock, such a "preemption" is not safe.

Observation: unprotected sections cannot cause blocking.

Observation: unprotected sections cannot cause blocking.



Observation: unprotected sections cannot cause blocking.



Observation: unprotected sections cannot cause blocking.



Result: Ignore them in idleness analysis.

Extending Idleness Analysis

- Idleness analysis can be easily extended to support:
 - Half-protected synchronization,
 - Non-preemptive mutual exclusion.

Schedulability

Per-task critical-section utilization = 0.1

















Schedulability



System Utilization



System Utilization



System Utilization









Conclusions

- **RNLP**: First fine-grained mutex, *k*-exclusion, and reader/writer multiprocessor real-time locking protocols.
- **Idleness analysis**: New analysis technique for accounting for blocking in schedulability analysis.
- Preemptive and half-protected synchronization: New models for synchronizing access to hardware resources that reduce utilization loss.

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