

Slide 1

Administrivia

- Reminder: Second installment of Homework 1 (MPI program) due Friday.

Slide 2

Minute Essay From Last Lecture

- (Review question.)
- Problems include poor performance and even deadlock.

Slide 3

Synchronization in Java, Recap

- Simplest way to ensure one-at-a-time access to shared variables is to use `synchronized` keyword.
- Review `HelloSynch*.java` sample programs ...

Slide 4

Numerical Integration Example, Revisited

- How to parallelize using Java? well, first must rewrite in Java (`NumIntSeq.java` on sample programs page).
- Now rewrite to use multiple threads (`NumIntPar.java` on sample programs page) ...

Synchronization in Java, Continued

Slide 5

- `synchronized` methods/blocks can be used to ensure that only one thread at a time accesses some shared variable.
- For more complex synchronization problems, can use `wait` and `notify` (or `notifyAll`):
 - `wait` suspends executing thread (adds to "wait set").
 - `notify` wakes up one thread from the wait set. `notifyAll` wakes up all threads. Waked-up thread(s) then compete to reacquire lock and continue execution.
 - Can only be done from within `synchronized` method/block.
 - Typical idiom — loop to check condition, `wait`.
- Example — bounded buffer class (`BoundedBuffer.java` and `TestBoundedBuffer.java` on sample programs page).

Minute Essay

Slide 6

- In the bounded buffer example, what do you think would happen if we replaced `notifyAll` with `notify`? (Would the program always work, never work, sometimes work? if "sometimes", when?)

Minute Essay Answer

- It might not always work. `notify` wakes up a waiting process, but no control over which one. Probably would be okay for this algorithm (since it seems unlikely that both producers and consumers would be waiting), but `notifyAll` seems like easiest way to be sure of correctness. (Could this be inefficient? maybe, but as Knuth says — “premature optimization is the root of all evil.”)

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