Locks & CVs

- Lock issues
  - A thread cannot Acquire a lock it already holds
  - A thread cannot Release a lock it does not hold
  - A lock cannot be deleted if a thread is holding it

- Condition Variable issues
  - A thread can only call Wait and Signal if it holds the mutex
  - Wait must Release the mutex before the thread sleeps
  - Wait must Acquire the mutex after the thread wakes up
  - A condition variable cannot be deleted if a thread is waiting on it
Mailboxes

- Senders and receivers need to be synchronized
  - One sender and one receiver need to rendezvous
- Issues
  - Block all other senders while waiting for receiver in Send
  - Block all other receivers while waiting for sender in Receive
  - When a condition variable is signaled…
    - The waiting thread is placed on the ready list
    - But it has not necessarily re-acquired the lock
    - It only reacquires the lock when it runs again
    - If another thread runs before it does, that thread can acquire the lock before the waiter does
    - Let’s look at an example

Synchronizing with Wait/Signal

while (1) {
    mutex->Acquire();
    printf("ping\n");
    cond->Signal(mutex);
    mutex->Release();
}

while (1) {
    mutex->Acquire();
    cond->Wait(mutex);
    printf("pong\n");
    mutex->Release();
}

Signal places waiter on ready list, and then continues

BUT – the waiter now competes with the signaler to re-acquire the mutex

Output COULD be: ping…ping…ping
Mutex *mutex;
Condition *cond;

void ping_pong () {
    mutex->Acquire();
    while (1) {
        printf("ping or pong\n");
        cond->Signal(mutex);
        cond->Wait(mutex);
    }
    mutex->Release();
}

Waiting after signaling interlocks the two threads.
The thread that signals then does a wait, and cannot proceed until the other thread wakes up from its wait and follows with a signal.

Thread::Join

- **Issues**
  - A thread can only be Joined if specified during creation
  - A thread can only be Joined after it has forked
  - Only one thread can call Join on another
  - A thread cannot call Join on itself
  - A thread should be able to call Join on a thread that has already terminated
    - This is the tricky part
      - Should delay deleting thread object if it is to be joined
        - If it is not going to be Joined, then don't change how it is deleted
      - Where is it deleted now? Look for use of threadToBeDestroyed
      - Where should joined threads be deleted?
      - Need to delete synch primitives as well
**Thread::setPriority(int)**

- **Issues**
  - Priorities have the entire range of an “int”
    - Both negative and positive
  - If one thread has a priority value that is greater than another, that thread has a higher priority (simple integer comparisons)
  - List implementation in list.cc has sorting capabilities
  - Only adjust priority of thread when it is placed on ready list
  - When transferring priority from a high thread to a low thread, the transfer is only temporary
    - When the low thread releases the lock, its priority reverts

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**Mating Whales**

- **Issues**
  - This is a synchronization problem like Bounded-Buffer, Readers/Editors, and Smoking Barber
  - You do not need to implement anything inside of Nachos
    - But you will use the synchronization primitives you implemented
    - You can use any synch primitives you want
  - You will implement Male, Female, and Matchmaker as functions in threadtest.cc (or equivalent), and create and fork threads to execute these functions in ThreadTest:
    - `T1->Fork(Male, 0);` // could fork many males
    - `T2->Fork(Female, 0);` // could fork many females
    - `T3->Fork(Matchmaker, 0);` // could fork many matchmakers
  - There is no API -- we will compile, run, and visually examine your code for correctness
  - Comments will help (both you and us)
**Tips**

- Use DEBUG macro to trace the interaction of the synchronization primitives and thread context switches
  - Run “nachos –d s –d t” to enable synch and thread debugs
- Read the Nachos Road Map, Experience With Nachos Assignments, Synchronization for some good advice