## Elements of JVM Concurrency

In the context of Scala, and Cats-Effect

Alexandru Nedelcu alexn.org


## Plan

## - Synchronization

- Monitors, atomic references, Ref, volatiles
- Interruption
- Java, Cats-Effect
- Goal: confidence boost



## Concurrency vs. Parallelism



Source: https://freecontent.manning.com/concurrency-vs-parallelism/

## Interruption



```
val th = new Thread:
        while !Thread.interrupted() do
        process()
```

th.start()
//...
th.interrupt()
val th = new Thread:
while true do process()
Thread.sleep(1000)
th.start()
//...
th.interrupt()

## Java interruption is usable, but error prone

1. Must own the thread, or do expensive synchronization;
2. Code can catch and ignore interruption;
3. Interruption is too cooperative.

## Just use cats.effect.IO

val task =
IO. interruptible:
while !Thread.interrupted() do process()
Thread.sleep(1000)
.timeout(30.seconds)
trait ConcurrentQueue[A]:
def push(a: A): Unit def pop(): A

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { ref.synchronized \{ } \\
& \text { //... }
\end{aligned}
$$

atomic references

## Atomic References

import cats.effect.IO
class AtomicQueueVer1[A]:
private val ref = new AtomicReference(immutable.Queue.empty[A])
def push(event: A): IO[Unit] = IO.defer:

```
val current = ref.get
val update = current.enqueue(event)
if ref.compareAndSet(current, update) then
    IO.unit
else // RETRY!
        push(event)
```


## Atomic References

import cats.effect.IO
class AtomicQueueVer1[A]:
private val ref = new AtomicReference(immutable.Queue.empty[A])
def push(event: A): IO[Unit] =
IO.defer:
val current = ref.get
val update = current.enqueue(event)
if ref.compareAndSet(current, update) then
IO.unit
else // RETRY!
push(event)

## Atomic References

```
import cats.effect.IO
```

class AtomicQueueVer1[A]:
private val ref = new AtomicReference(immutable.Queue.empty[A])
def push(event: A): IO[Unit] =
IO.defer:
val current = ref.get
val update = current.enqueue(event)
if ref.compareAndSet(current, update) then
IO. unit
else // RETRY!
push(event)

## Atomic References

```
import cats.effect.IO
class AtomicQueueVer1[A]:
    private val ref = new AtomicReference(immutable.Queue.empty[A])
    def push(event: A): IO[Unit] =
        IO.defer:
            val current = ref.get
            val update = current.enqueue(event)
            if ref.compareAndSet(current, update) then
            IO.unit
            else // RETRY!
        push(event)
```

f: State => (State, Return)
extension [State](self: AtomicReference[State])
def modify[Return](f: State => (State, Return)): IO[Return] = IO.defer:
val current = self.get
val (updated, returnValue) = f(current)
if (self.compareAndSet(current, updated))
IO. pure (returnValue)
else // RETRY! modify(f)

## Atomic References

class AtomicQueueVer1[A]:
private val ref = new AtomicReference(immutable.Queue.empty[A])

```
def push(event: A): IO[Unit] =
    ref.modify: queue =>
        (queue.enqueue(event), ())
```


## class AtomicQueueVer1[A]:

private val ref $=$ new AtomicReference(immutable.Queue.empty[A])

```
def pop: IO[A] =
    ref.modify: queue =>
        queue.dequeueOption match
        case Some((event, rest)) =>
        (rest, IO.pure(event))
        case None =>
        val retry = IO.sleep(500.millis) *> pop
        (queue, retry)
```

    .flatten
    State Machines, FTW!

import scala.collection.immutable.Queue as ScalaQueue

```
type Callback[-A] = Either[Throwable, A] => Unit
enum State[A]:
    case HasEvents(
        events: ScalaQueue[A]
    )
case HasConsumers(
        callbacks: ScalaQueue[Callback[A]]
)
```


## f: State => (State, IO[Return])

## Atomic References

enum State[A]:
//...
def pushEvent(event: A): (State[A], IO[Unit]) = this match
case HasEvents(events) =>
(HasEvents(events.enqueue(event)), IO.unit)
case HasConsumers(consumers) =>
consumers.dequeueOption match
case None =>
(HasEvents(ScalaQueue(event)), IO.unit)
case Some((callback, rest)) =>
(HasConsumers(rest), IO(callback(Right(event))))

## Atomic References

enum State[A]:

```
    //...
def popEvent(cb: Callback[A]): (State[A], IO[Unit]) =
    this match
    case HasEvents(events) =>
        events.dequeueOption match
        case None =>
                (HasConsumers(ScalaQueue(cb)), IO.unit)
        case Some((event, rest)) =>
        (HasEvents(rest), IO(cb(Right(event))))
    case HasConsumers(callbacks) =>
        (HasConsumers(callbacks.enqueue(cb)), IO.unit)
```

enum State[A]:

## //...

def cancelPopAwait(cb: Callback[A]): State[A] = this match
case ref: HasEvents[A] => ref
case HasConsumers(callbacks) => HasConsumers(callbacks.filterNot(_ == cb))
import cats.effect.*
class RefQueue[A](ref: Ref[IO, State[A]]):

```
def push(event: A): IO[Unit] =
    ref.flatModify(_.pushEvent(event))
def pop: IO[A] =
    IO.async: cb =>
    for
                            _ <- ref.flatModify(_.popEvent(cb))
    yield Some(
        // Execute this in case of interruption
        IO(ref.update(_.cancelPopAwait(cb)))
    )
```


## PROS:

- pure functions, immutable data structures
- cheap, often easy to implement
- async-friendly
- lock free


## CONS:

- can have poor performance, sometimes


## Plot Twist

## Synchronization is Ordering!

## class Queue[A]:

## var hasEvent = false

var event: A | Null = null

## def push(a: A): Unit = ???

def pop(): A = ???
class Queue[A]:
var hasEvent = false
var event: A | Null = null
def push(a: A): Unit =
while hasEvent do
Thread.onSpinWait()
event = a
hasEvent = true

## class Queue[A]:

```
var hasEvent = false
var event: A | Null = null
```

def pop(): A =
while !hasEvent do
Thread.onSpinWait()
val ret = event.asInstanceOf[A]
hasEvent = false
ret

## class Queue[A]:

var hasEvent $=$ false
var event: A | Null = null
def pop(): A =
while !hasEvent do
Thread.onSpinWait()
hasEvent = false
// RE-ORDERED!!!
val ret = event.asInstanceOf[A]
ret

```
class Queue[A]:
    var hasEvent = false
    var event: A | Null = null
```

def push(a: A): Unit =
while hasEvent do
Thread.onSpinWait()
hasEvent = true
// RE-ORDERED!
event = a

```
// ...
// producer thread
queue.push("value")
```

// consumer thread println(queue.hasEvent, queue.event)
//=> (false, null)
//=> (false, "value")
//=> (true, "value")
//=> (true, null)

## @volatile

## class SpScQueue[A]:

Qvolatile var hasEvent = false
var event: A | Null = null
def push(a: A): Unit = while hasEvent do

Thread.onSpinWait()
event = a
hasEvent = true

| 1 | class SpScQueue[A]: |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | Qvolatile var hasEvent $=$ false |
| 3 | var event: A \| Null $=$ null |
| 4 |  |
| 5 | def $\operatorname{pop}(): A=$ |
| 6 | while ! hasEvent do |
| 7 | Thread.onSpinWait( ) |
| 8 | val ret $=$ event.asInstance0f[A] |
| 9 | hasEvent $=$ false |
| 10 | ret |

## Reading from a volatile Acquiring a lock Writing to a volatile <br> Releasing a lock

- acquisition and release needs to happen on the same monitor
- volatile reading and writing needs to happen on the same variable
- acquisition and release needs to happen in pair
- reading and writing from a volatile needs to happen in pair
- atomic references and monitor locks have the same visibility guarantees, due to volatile semantics


## Takeaways

- State machines, FTW
-Synchronization is ordering
- Meet concurrency issues with the confidence of Zuzi


