

# Thread Safety with Phaser, StampedLock and VarHandle

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Last updated 2018-10-24

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# Phaser



## Phasers

- **Allows threads to coordinate by phases**
  - Similar to `CountDownLatch` and `CyclicBarrier`, but more flexible
- **Registration**
  - Number of parties *registered* may vary over time
    - Same as *count* in `CountDownLatch`, *parties* in `CyclicBarrier`
    - A party can register/deregister itself at any time
- **ManagedBlocker**
  - Can be used in the `ForkJoinPool`
- <https://github.com/kabutz/modern-synchronizers>



# Demo of CyclicBarrier vs Phaser

[github.com/kabutz/modern-synchronizers](https://github.com/kabutz/modern-synchronizers)





## Who's Who

- **Heinz Kabutz @heinzkabutz**
  - **JCreate Unfounder**
    - [www.jcreate.org](http://www.jcreate.org)
  - **Java Specialists Newsletter**
    - [www.javaspecialists.eu](http://www.javaspecialists.eu)
  - **Oracle Groundbreaker Ambassador**
    - [developer.oracle.com/ambassadors](http://developer.oracle.com/ambassadors)
  - **Java Champion**
    - [www.javachampions.org](http://www.javachampions.org)





# StampedLock





## What is StampedLock?

- **Java 8 synchronizer**
- **Allows optimistic reads**
  - ReentrantReadWriteLock only has pessimistic reads
- **Not reentrant**
  - This is not a feature
- **Use to enforce invariants across multiple fields**
  - For simple classes, synchronized/volatile is easier and faster
- **Can split locking and unlocking between threads**



## Pessimistic Exclusive Lock (write)

```
public class StampedLock {  
    long writeLock() // never returns 0, might block  
  
    // returns new write stamp if successful; otherwise 0  
    long tryConvertToWriteLock(long stamp)  
  
    void unlockWrite(long stamp) // needs write stamp  
  
    // and a bunch of other methods left out for brevity
```



## Pessimistic Non-Exclusive Lock (read)

```
public class StampedLock { // continued ...  
    long readLock() // never returns 0, might block  
  
    // returns new read stamp if successful; otherwise 0  
    long tryConvertToReadLock(long stamp)  
  
    void unlockRead(long stamp) // needs read stamp  
  
    void unlock(long stamp) // unlocks read or write
```



## Optimistic Non-Exclusive Read (No Lock)

```
public class StampedLock { // continued ...  
    // could return 0 if a write stamp has been issued  
    long tryOptimisticRead()  
  
    // return true if stamp was non-zero and no write  
    // lock has been requested by another thread since  
    // the call to tryOptimisticRead()  
    boolean validate(long stamp)
```



## Code Idiom for Optimistic Read

```
public double optimisticRead() {
    long stamp = sl.tryOptimisticRead();
    double currentState1 = state1,
           currentState2 = state2, ... etc.;
    if (!sl.validate(stamp)) {
        stamp = sl.readLock();
        try {
            currentState1 = state1;
            currentState2 = state2, ... etc.;
        } finally {
            sl.unlockRead(stamp);
        }
    }
    return calculateSomething(currentState1, currentState2);
}
```



## Code Idiom for Optimistic Read

```
public double optimisticRead() {  
    long stamp = sl.tryOptimisticRead();  
    double currentState1 = state1,  
           currentState2 = state2, ... etc.;  
    if (!sl.validate(stamp)) {  
        stamp = sl.readLock();  
        try {  
            currentState1 = state1;  
            currentState2 = state2, ... etc.;  
        } finally {  
            sl.unlockRead(stamp);  
        }  
    }  
    return calculateSomething(currentState1, currentState2);  
}
```

We get a stamp to use for the optimistic read



## Code Idiom for Optimistic Read

```
public double optimisticRead() {
    long stamp = sl.tryOptimisticRead();
    double currentState1 = state1,
           currentState2 = state2, ... etc.;
    if (!sl.validate(stamp)) {
        stamp = sl.readLock();
        try {
            currentState1 = state1;
            currentState2 = state2, ... etc.;
        } finally {
            sl.unlockRead(stamp);
        }
    }
    return calculateSomething(currentState1, currentState2);
}
```

We read field values into local fields



## Code Idiom for Optimistic Read

```
public double optimisticRead() {  
    long stamp = sl.tryOptimisticRead();  
    double currentState1 = state1,  
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    if (!sl.validate(stamp)) {  
        stamp = sl.readLock();  
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        } finally {  
            sl.unlockRead(stamp);  
        }  
    }  
    return calculateSomething(currentState1, currentState2);  
}
```

Next we validate that no write locks have been issued in the meanwhile



## Code Idiom for Optimistic Read

```
public double optimisticRead() {  
    long stamp = sl.tryOptimisticRead();  
    double currentState1 = state1,  
           currentState2 = state2, ... etc.;  
    if (!sl.validate(stamp)) {  
        stamp = sl.readLock();  
        try {  
            currentState1 = state1;  
            currentState2 = state2, ... etc.;  
        } finally {  
            sl.unlockRead(stamp);  
        }  
    }  
    return calculateSomething(currentState1, cur  
}
```

If they have,  
then we don't  
know if our  
state is clean

Thus we acquire a  
pessimistic read  
lock and read the  
state into local  
fields



## Code Idiom for Optimistic Read

```
public double optimisticRead() {  
    long stamp = sl.tryOptimisticRead();  
    double currentState1 = state1,  
           currentState2 = state2, ... etc.;  
    if (!sl.validate(stamp)) {  
        stamp = sl.readLock();  
        try {  
            currentState1 = state1;  
            currentState2 = state2, ... etc.;  
        } finally {  
            sl.unlockRead(stamp);  
        }  
    }  
    return calculateSomething(currentState1, currentState2);  
}
```



## Sifis the Cretan Crocodile (RIP)

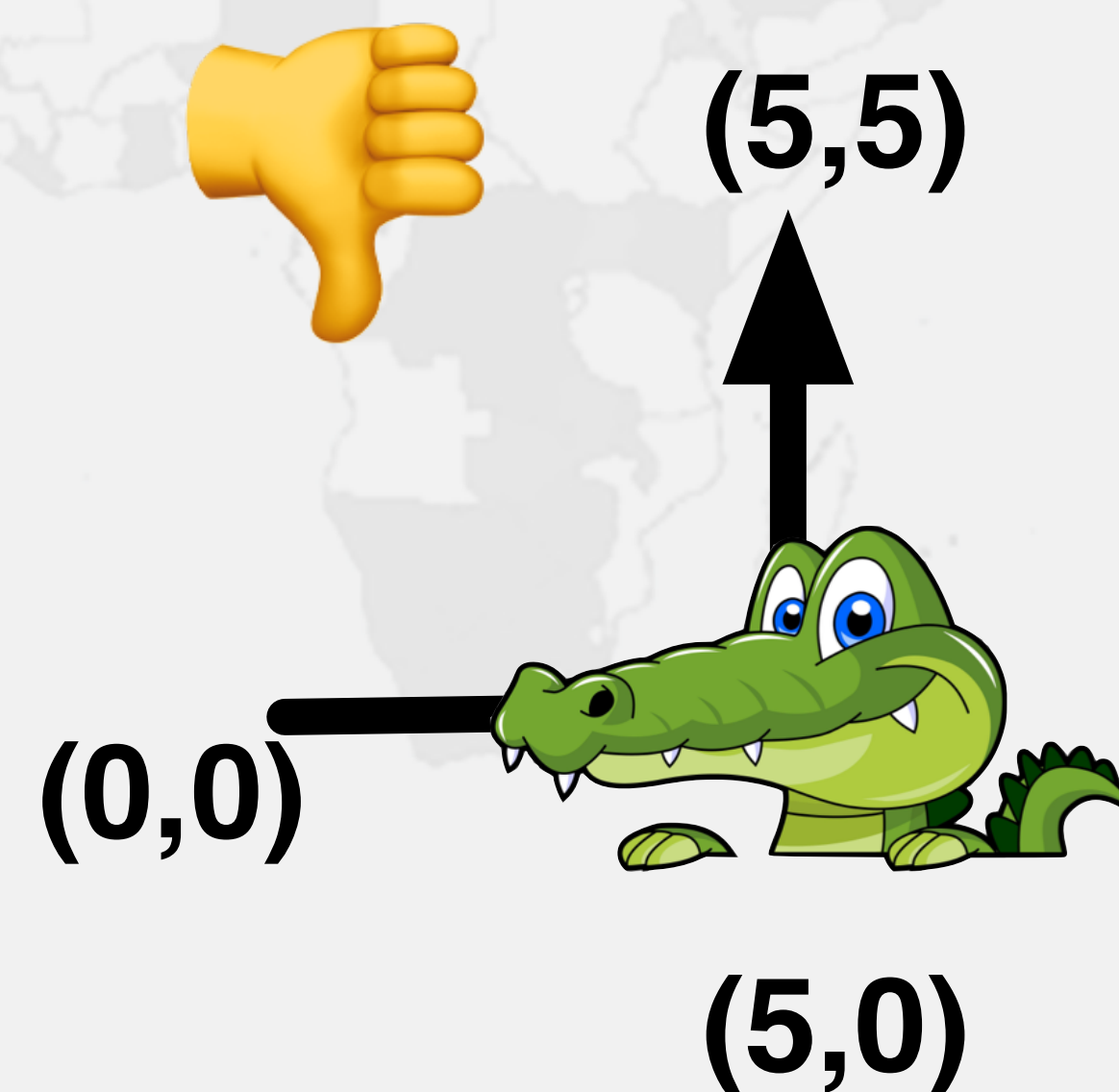
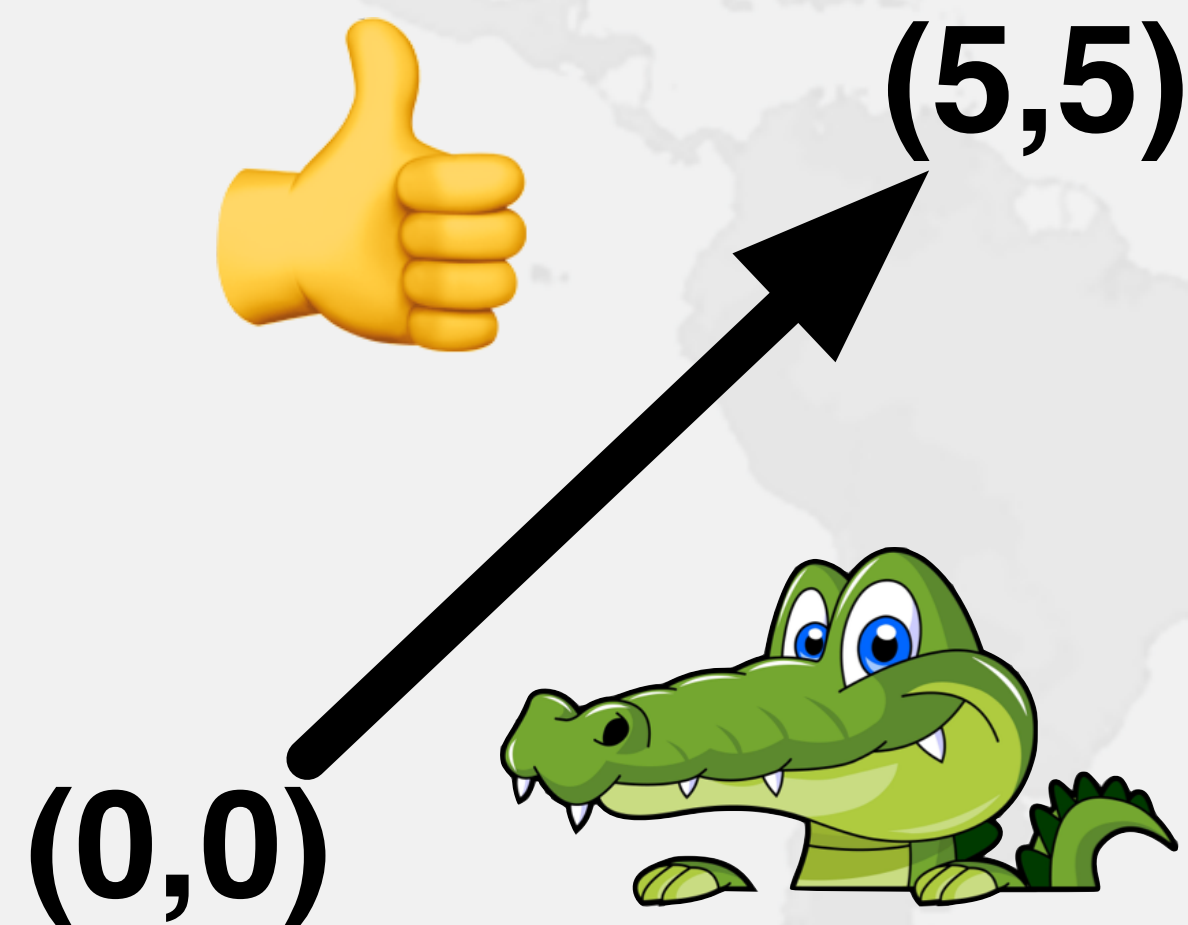
- **Poor critter was roaming around Crete**
  - The pet became too big
  - Or hungry
- **Eventually died in our cold winter months**





## Introducing the Position Class

- When moving from  $(0,0)$  to  $(5,5)$ , we want to travel in a diagonal line
  - We don't want to ever see our position at  $(0,5)$  or especially  $(5,0)$





# Refactoring Position and IntList

[github.com/kabutz/modern-synchronizers](https://github.com/kabutz/modern-synchronizers)





# VarHandle





## Java 9 VarHandles Instead of Unsafe

- **VarHandles remove biggest temptation to use Unsafe**
  - As fast as Unsafe
- **Can read and write fields of class**
  - `getVolatile() / setVolatile()`
  - `getAcquire() / setRelease()`
  - `getOpaque() / setOpaque()`
  - `get() / set()` - plain
  - `compareAndSet()`, returning boolean
  - `compareAndExchangeVolatile()`, returning found value always



# Refactoring Position from StampedLock to VarHandle

[github.com/kabutz/modern-synchronizers](https://github.com/kabutz/modern-synchronizers)





## Questions?

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  - **Oracle Groundbreaker Ambassador**
    - [developer.oracle.com/ambassadors](http://developer.oracle.com/ambassadors)
  - **Java Champion**
    - [www.javachampions.org](http://www.javachampions.org)





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