Exercises

A. Create a subdirectory called THREADS-LAB in the directory you’re using for labs in this course and copy my implementation of the THREADS programming language into it. The directory /home/stone/courses/languages/code/THREADS contain the eight language-specific modules that you need.

- values-environments-and-stores.scm
- tokens.scm
- syntax-trees.scm
- scanner.scm
- parser.scm
- queues.scm
- scheduler.scm
- interpreter.scm

If you don’t already have the four utility modules test.scm, natural-numbers.scm, list-of.scm, and character-sources.scm, you’ll also need to copy them from the directory /home/stone/courses/languages/code into the parent directory of THREADS-LAB.

B. In my implementation the time-slice that the scheduler uses is hard-coded into the interpreter. Rewrite the code so that the run procedure takes an optional second argument, a positive integer, that is used to set the scheduler’s time-slice.

C. Run the examples from Figures 5.16 and 5.17 of the textbook with time-slices that are much larger than the one used in my implementation. Explain the effects of this change on the outputs of the programs.

D. To demonstrate the need for a mutex in the example in Figure 5.20, add a statement at the end of the program that prints out the final value of x, then run the program with a variety of time-slices and to see whether any of them produces the unexpected result described in the text.

E. (Exercise 5.47 from the textbook:) If there are only two threads active in a program, and each is waiting on a mutex that the other holds, what will be the effect on the interpreter? How will it behave?

F. (Exercise 5.45 from the textbook:) Add to THREADS a new expression type, consisting simply of the keyword yield. Executing yield causes the current thread be added to the ready queue (at the end), after which the thread at the front of the ready queue is dequeued and run. (If the ready queue is otherwise empty, the yielding thread will be resumed immediately.) When the thread is resumed, the value of the yield-expression should be the integer value 99.