

# Chapter 3: Processes

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# Outline

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- Process Concept
- Process Scheduling
- Operations on Processes
- Interprocess Communication
- IPC in Shared-Memory Systems
- IPC in Message-Passing Systems
- Examples of IPC Systems
- Communication in Client-Server Systems





# Objectives

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- Identify the separate components of a process and illustrate how they are represented and scheduled in an operating system.
- Describe how processes are created and terminated in an operating system, including developing programs using the appropriate system calls that perform these operations.
- Describe and contrast interprocess communication using shared memory and message passing.
- Design programs that uses pipes and POSIX shared memory to perform interprocess communication.
- Describe client-server communication using sockets and remote procedure calls.
- Design kernel modules that interact with the Linux operating system.





# Process Concept

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- An operating system executes a variety of programs that run as a process.
- **Process** – a program in execution; process execution must progress in sequential fashion. No parallel execution of instructions of a single process
- Multiple parts
  - The program code, also called **text section**
  - Current activity including **program counter**, processor registers
  - **Stack** containing temporary data
    - ▶ Function parameters, return addresses, local variables
  - **Data section** containing global variables
  - **Heap** containing memory dynamically allocated during run time





# Process Concept (Cont.)

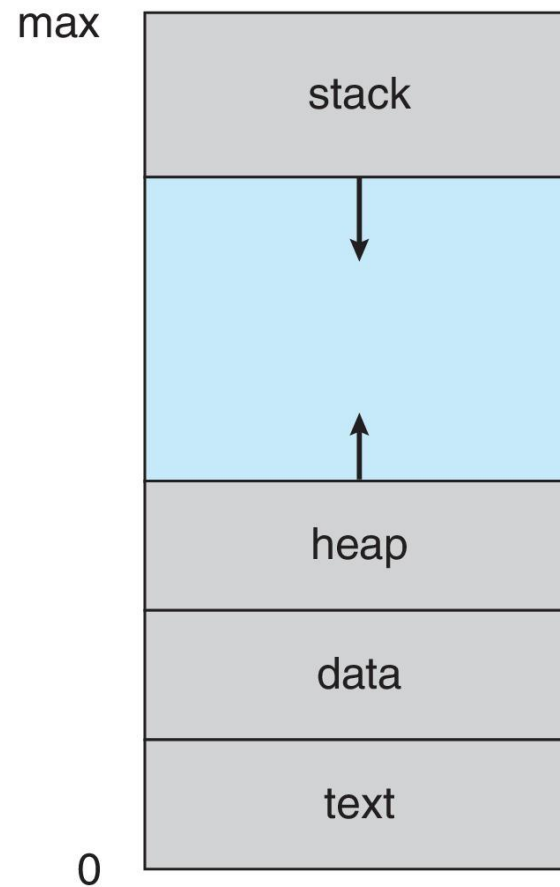
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- Program is **passive** entity stored on disk (**executable file**); process is **active**
  - Program becomes process when an executable file is loaded into memory
- Execution of program started via GUI mouse clicks, command line entry of its name, etc.
- One program can be several processes
  - Consider multiple users executing the same program



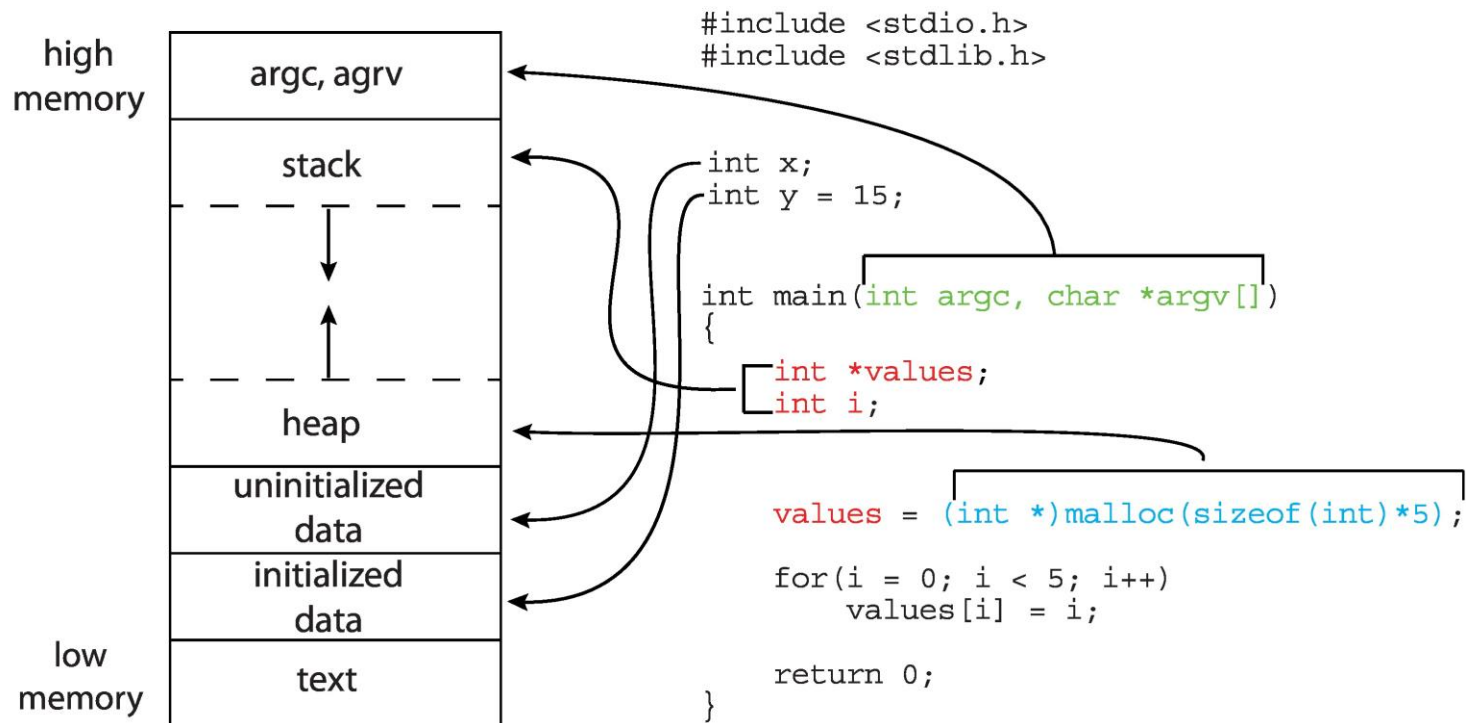


# Process in Memory





# Memory Layout of a C Program





# Process State

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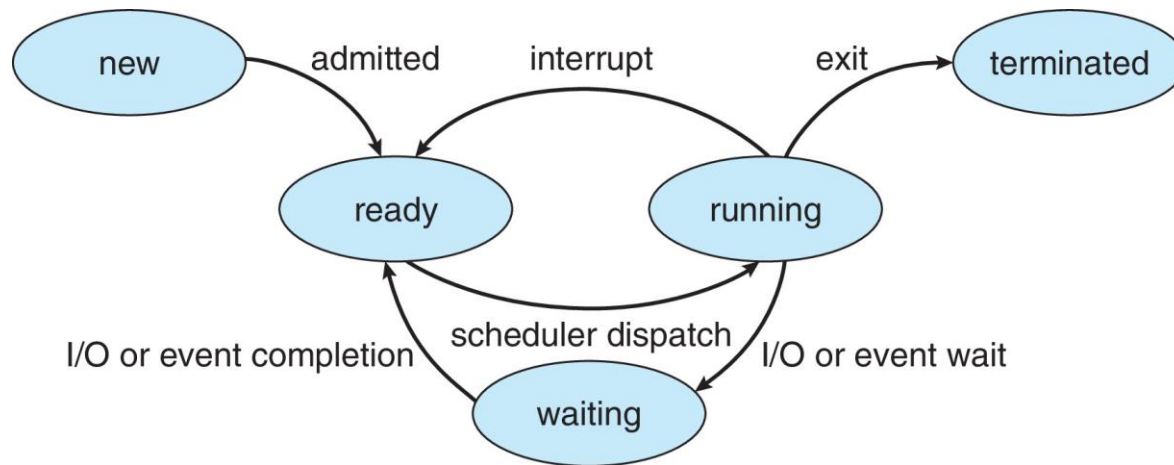
- As a process executes, it changes **state**
  - **New**: The process is being created
  - **Running**: Instructions are being executed
  - **Waiting**: The process is waiting for some event to occur
  - **Ready**: The process is waiting to be assigned to a processor
  - **Terminated**: The process has finished execution







# Diagram of Process State





# Process Control Block (PCB)

Information associated with each process(also called **task control block**)

- Process state – running, waiting, etc.
- Program counter – location of instruction to next execute
- CPU registers – contents of all process-centric registers
- CPU scheduling information- priorities, scheduling queue pointers
- Memory-management information – memory allocated to the process
- Accounting information – CPU used, clock time elapsed since start, time limits
- I/O status information – I/O devices allocated to process, list of open files

process state
process number
program counter
registers
memory limits
list of open files
...





# Threads

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- So far, process has a single thread of execution
- Consider having multiple program counters per process
  - Multiple locations can execute at once
    - ▶ Multiple threads of control -> **threads**
- Must then have storage for thread details, multiple program counters in PCB
- Explore in detail in Chapter 4





# Process Scheduling

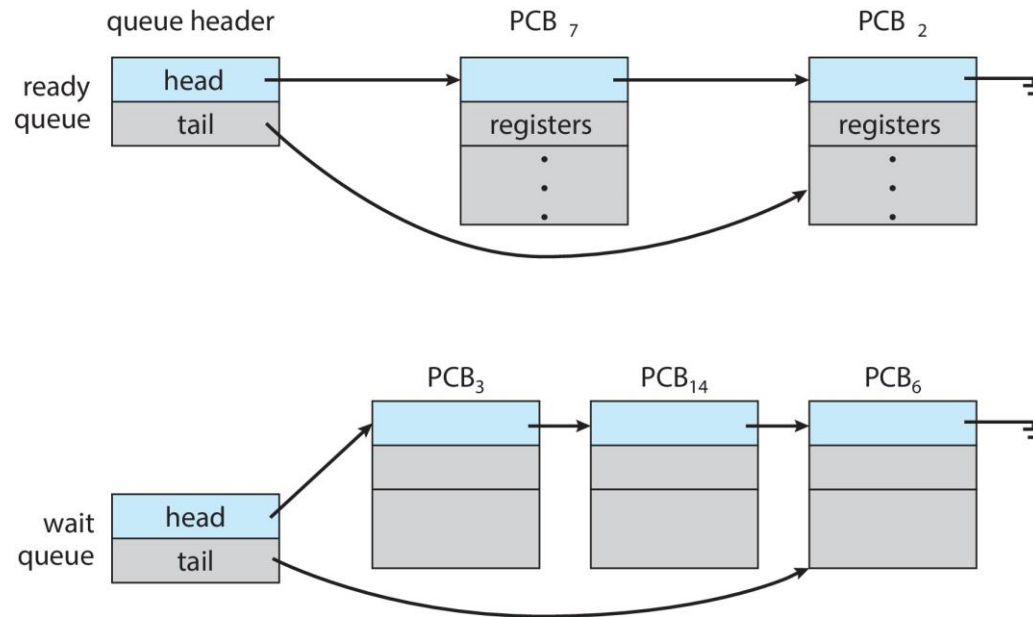
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- **Process scheduler** selects among available processes for next execution on CPU core
- Goal -- Maximize CPU use, quickly switch processes onto CPU core
- Maintains **scheduling queues** of processes
  - **Ready queue** – set of all processes residing in main memory, ready and waiting to execute
  - **Wait queues** – set of processes waiting for an event (i.e., I/O)
  - Processes migrate among the various queues



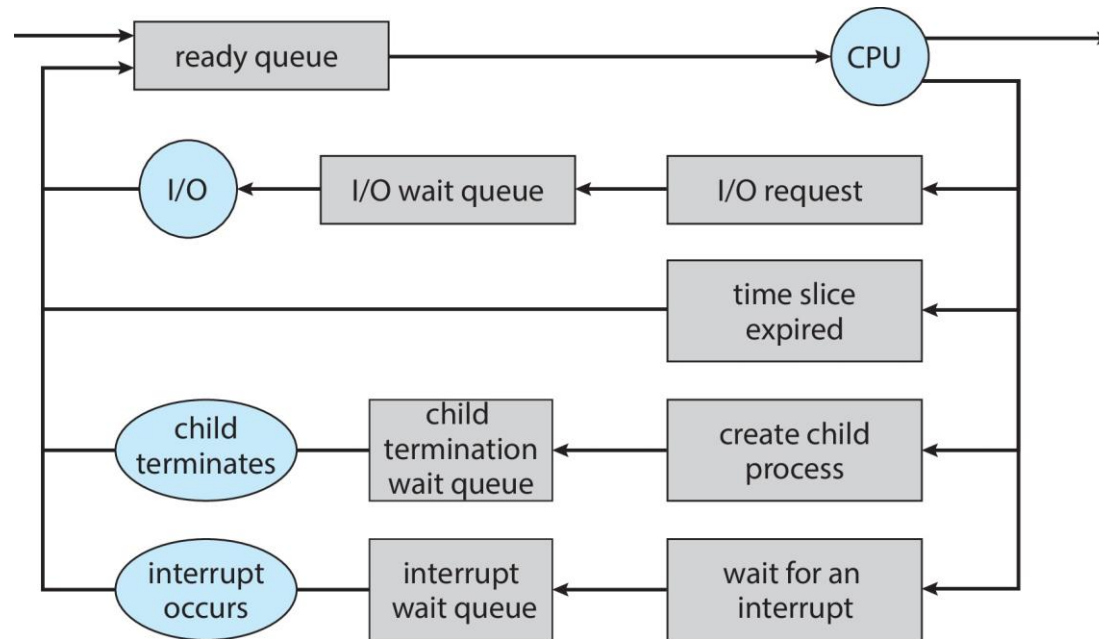


# Ready and Wait Queues





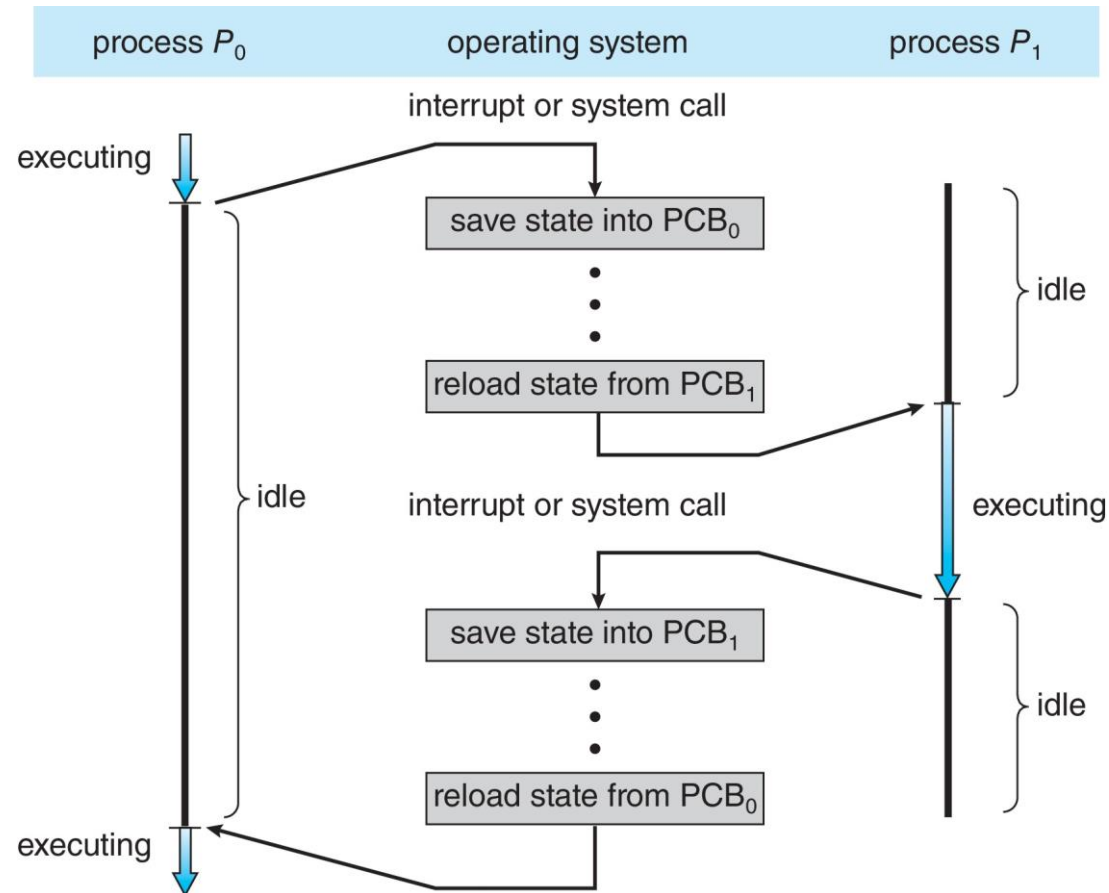
# Representation of Process Scheduling





# CPU Switch From Process to Process

A **context switch** occurs when the CPU switches from one process to another.





# Context Switch

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- When CPU switches to another process, the system must **save the state** of the old process and load the **saved state** for the new process via a **context switch**
- **Context** of a process represented in the PCB
- Context-switch time is pure overhead; the system does no useful work while switching
  - The more complex the OS and the PCB → the longer the context switch







# Multitasking in Mobile Systems

- Some mobile systems (e.g., early version of iOS) allow only one process to run, others suspended
- Due to screen real estate, user interface limits iOS provides for a
  - Single **foreground** process- controlled via user interface
  - Multiple **background** processes– in memory, running, but not on the display, and with limits
  - Limits include single, short task, receiving notification of events, specific long-running tasks like audio playback
- Android runs foreground and background, with fewer limits
  - Background process uses a **service** to perform tasks
  - Service can keep running even if background process is suspended
  - Service has no user interface, small memory use





# Operations on Processes

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- System must provide mechanisms for:
  - Process creation
  - Process termination





# Process Creation

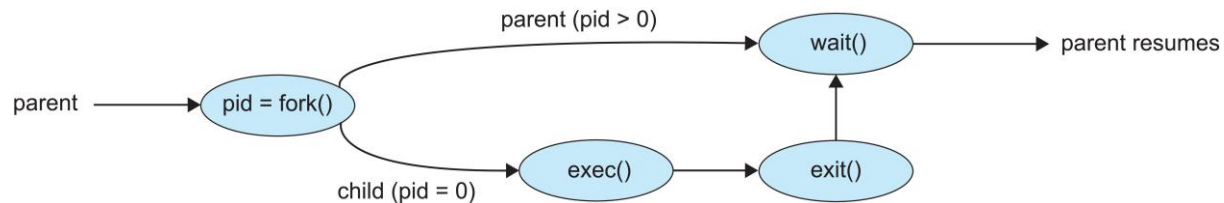
- **Parent** process create **children** processes, which, in turn create other processes, forming a **tree** of processes
- Generally, process identified and managed via a **process identifier (pid)**
- Resource sharing options
  - Parent and children share all resources
  - Children share subset of parent's resources
  - Parent and child share no resources
- Execution options
  - Parent and children execute concurrently
  - Parent waits until children terminate





# Process Creation (Cont.)

- Address space
  - Child duplicate of parent
  - Child has a program loaded into it
- UNIX examples
  - **fork()** system call creates new process
  - **exec()** system call used after a **fork()** to replace the process' memory space with a new program
  - Parent process calls **wait()** waiting for the child to terminate





# C Program Forking Separate Process

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <unistd.h>

int main()
{
    pid_t pid;

    /* fork a child process */
    pid = fork();

    if (pid < 0) { /* error occurred */
        fprintf(stderr, "Fork Failed");
        return 1;
    }
    else if (pid == 0) { /* child process */
        execlp("/bin/ls", "ls", NULL);
    }
    else { /* parent process */
        /* parent will wait for the child to complete */
        wait(NULL);
        printf("Child Complete");
    }

    return 0;
}
```





# Process Termination

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- Process executes last statement and then asks the operating system to delete it using the **exit()** system call.
  - Returns status data from child to parent (via **wait()**)
  - Process' resources are deallocated by operating system
- Parent may terminate the execution of children processes using the **abort()** system call. Some reasons for doing so:
  - Child has exceeded allocated resources
  - Task assigned to child is no longer required
  - The parent is exiting, and the operating systems does not allow a child to continue if its parent terminates





# Process Termination

- Some operating systems do not allow child to exist if its parent has terminated. If a process terminates, then all its children must also be terminated.
  - **cascading termination.** All children, grandchildren, etc., are terminated.
  - The termination is initiated by the operating system.
- The parent process may wait for termination of a child process by using the **wait()** system call. The call returns status information and the pid of the terminated process
- If no parent waiting (did not invoke **wait()**) process is a **zombie**
- If parent terminated without invoking **wait()**, process is an **orphan**





# Android Process Importance Hierarchy

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- Mobile operating systems often have to terminate processes to reclaim system resources such as memory. From **most** to **least** important:
  - Foreground process
  - Visible process
  - Service process
  - Background process
  - Empty process
- Android will begin terminating processes that are least important.







# Interprocess Communication

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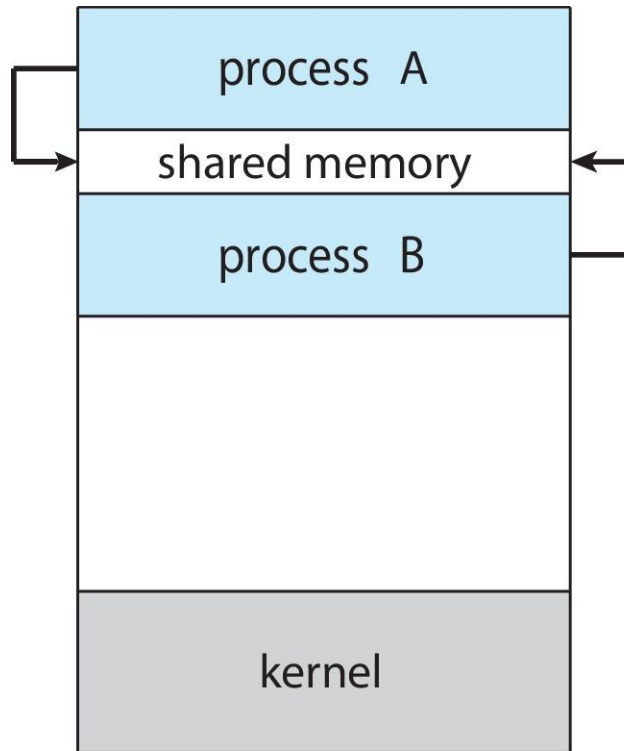
- Processes within a system may be *independent* or *cooperating*
- Cooperating process can affect or be affected by other processes, including sharing data
- Reasons for cooperating processes:
  - Information sharing
  - Computation speedup
  - Modularity
  - Convenience
- Cooperating processes need **interprocess communication (IPC)**
- Two models of IPC
  - **Shared memory**
  - **Message passing**





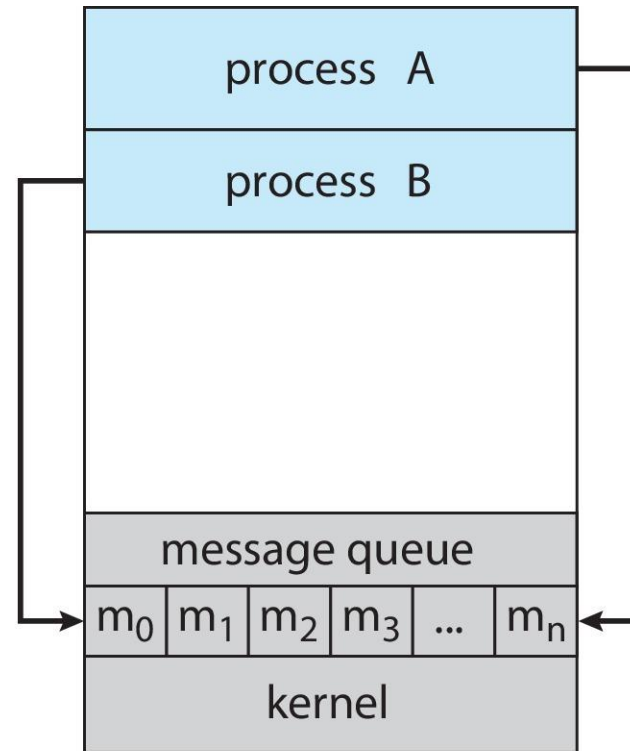
# Communications Models

(a) Shared memory.



(a)

(b) Message passing.



(b)





# Producer-Consumer Problem

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- Paradigm for cooperating processes:
  - *producer* process produces information that is consumed by a *consumer* process
- Two variations:
  - **unbounded-buffer** places no practical limit on the size of the buffer:
    - ▶ Producer never waits
    - ▶ Consumer waits if there is no buffer to consume
  - **bounded-buffer** assumes that there is a fixed buffer size
    - ▶ Producer must wait if all buffers are full
    - ▶ Consumer waits if there is no buffer to consume





# IPC – Shared Memory

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- An area of memory shared among the processes that wish to communicate
- The communication is under the control of the users processes not the operating system.
- Major issues is to provide mechanism that will allow the user processes to synchronize their actions when they access shared memory.
- Synchronization is discussed in great details in Chapters 6 & 7.





# Producer Process – Shared Memory

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```
item next_produced;

while (true) {
    /* produce an item in next produced */
    while (((in + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE) == out)
        ; /* do nothing */
    buffer[in] = next_produced;
    in = (in + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;
}
```





# Consumer Process – Shared Memory

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```
item next_consumed;

while (true) {
    while (in == out)
        ; /* do nothing */
    next_consumed = buffer[out];
    out = (out + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;

    /* consume the item in next consumed */
}
```





# What about Filling all the Buffers?

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- Suppose that we wanted to provide a solution to the consumer-producer problem that fills **all** the buffers.
- We can do so by having an integer **counter** that keeps track of the number of full buffers.
- Initially, **counter** is set to 0.
- The integer **counter** is incremented by the producer after it produces a new buffer.
- The integer **counter** is and is decremented by the consumer after it consumes a buffer.





# Producer

---

```
while (true) {  
    /* produce an item in next produced */  
  
    while (counter == BUFFER_SIZE)  
        ; /* do nothing */  
    buffer[in] = next_produced;  
    in = (in + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;  
    counter++;  
}
```







# Consumer

---

```
while (true) {  
    while (counter == 0)  
        ; /* do nothing */  
    next_consumed = buffer[out];  
    out = (out + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;  
    counter--;  
    /* consume the item in next consumed */  
}
```





# Race Condition

- **counter++** could be implemented as

```
register1 = counter
register1 = register1 + 1
counter = register1
```

- **counter--** could be implemented as

```
register2 = counter
register2 = register2 - 1
counter = register2
```

- Consider this execution interleaving with “count = 5” initially:

S0: producer execute	<b>register1 = counter</b>	{register1 = 5}
S1: producer execute	<b>register1 = register1 + 1</b>	{register1 = 6}
S2: consumer execute	<b>register2 = counter</b>	{register2 = 5}
S3: consumer execute	<b>register2 = register2 - 1</b>	{register2 = 4}
S4: producer execute	<b>counter = register1</b>	{counter = 6}
S5: consumer execute	<b>counter = register2</b>	{counter = 4}





# IPC – Message Passing

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- Processes communicate with each other without resorting to shared variables
- IPC facility provides two operations:
  - **send**(*message*)
  - **receive**(*message*)
- The *message* size is either fixed or variable





# Message Passing (Cont.)

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- If processes  $P$  and  $Q$  wish to communicate, they need to:
  - Establish a **communication link** between them
  - Exchange messages via send/receive
- Implementation issues:
  - How are links established?
  - Can a link be associated with more than two processes?
  - How many links can there be between every pair of communicating processes?
  - What is the capacity of a link?
  - Is the size of a message that the link can accommodate fixed or variable?
  - Is a link unidirectional or bi-directional?





# Implementation of Communication Link

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- Physical:
  - Shared memory
  - Hardware bus
  - Network
- Logical:
  - Direct or indirect
  - Synchronous or asynchronous
  - Automatic or explicit buffering





# Direct Communication

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- Processes must name each other explicitly:
  - **send** ( $P$ , *message*) – send a message to process  $P$
  - **receive**( $Q$ , *message*) – receive a message from process  $Q$
- Properties of communication link
  - Links are established automatically
  - A link is associated with exactly one pair of communicating processes
  - Between each pair there exists exactly one link
  - The link may be unidirectional, but is usually bi-directional





# Indirect Communication

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- Messages are directed and received from mailboxes (also referred to as ports)
  - Each mailbox has a unique id
  - Processes can communicate only if they share a mailbox
- Properties of communication link
  - Link established only if processes share a common mailbox
  - A link may be associated with many processes
  - Each pair of processes may share several communication links
  - Link may be unidirectional or bi-directional





# Indirect Communication (Cont.)

- Operations
  - Create a new mailbox (port)
  - Send and receive messages through mailbox
  - Delete a mailbox
- Primitives are defined as:
  - **send**(*A, message*) – send a message to mailbox A
  - **receive**(*A, message*) – receive a message from mailbox A







# Indirect Communication (Cont.)

- Mailbox sharing
  - $P_1$ ,  $P_2$ , and  $P_3$  share mailbox A
  - $P_1$ , sends;  $P_2$  and  $P_3$  receive
  - Who gets the message?
- Solutions
  - Allow a link to be associated with at most two processes
  - Allow only one process at a time to execute a receive operation
  - Allow the system to select arbitrarily the receiver. Sender is notified who the receiver was.





# Synchronization

Message passing may be either blocking or non-blocking

- **Blocking** is considered **synchronous**
  - **Blocking send** -- the sender is blocked until the message is received
  - **Blocking receive** -- the receiver is blocked until a message is available
- **Non-blocking** is considered **asynchronous**
  - **Non-blocking send** -- the sender sends the message and continue
  - **Non-blocking receive** -- the receiver receives:
    - ▶ A valid message, or
    - ▶ Null message
- Different combinations possible
  - If both send and receive are blocking, we have a **rendezvous**





# Buffering

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- Queue of messages attached to the link.
- Implemented in one of three ways
  1. Zero capacity – no messages are queued on a link.  
Sender must wait for receiver (rendezvous)
  2. Bounded capacity – finite length of  $n$  messages  
Sender must wait if link full
  3. Unbounded capacity – infinite length  
Sender never waits





# Pipes

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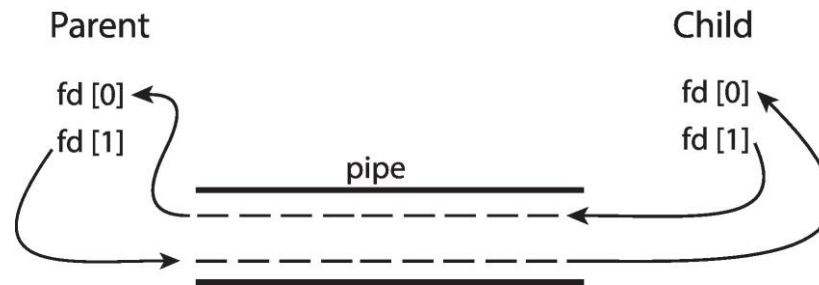
- Allowing two processes to communicate
- Issues:
  - Is communication unidirectional or bidirectional?
  - In the case of two-way communication, is it half or full-duplex?
  - Must there exist a relationship (i.e., **parent-child**) between the communicating processes?
  - Can the pipes be used over a network?
- **Ordinary pipes** – cannot be accessed from outside the process that created it. Typically, a parent process creates a pipe and uses it to communicate with a child process that it created.
- **Named pipes** – can be accessed without a parent-child relationship.





# Ordinary Pipes

- Ordinary Pipes allow communication in standard producer-consumer style
- Producer writes to one end (the **write-end** of the pipe)
- Consumer reads from the other end (the **read-end** of the pipe)
- Ordinary pipes are therefore unidirectional
- Require parent-child relationship between communicating processes



- Windows calls these **anonymous pipes**



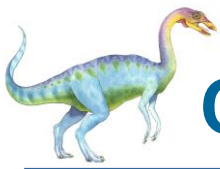


# Named Pipes

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- Named Pipes are more powerful than ordinary pipes
- Communication is bidirectional
- No parent-child relationship is necessary between the communicating processes
- Several processes can use the named pipe for communication
- Provided on both UNIX and Windows systems





# Communications in Client-Server Systems

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- Sockets
- Remote Procedure Calls



# End of Chapter 3

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