

⑥ Mailboxes

- A mailbox is a communication mechanism That allows message to be exchanged between process.
- Data can be sent to a mailbox by one process and received by another.
- mailbox is a **built-in class** that provides **methods**:

i> new() :-

∴ create a mailbox.

ii> put() :-

∴ place a message in a mailbox

iii> get() or peek() :-

∴ Retrieve a message from a mailbox.

NOTE: put() and get() method of mailbox is **Blocking nature**.

iv> num() :-

∴ Retrieve the number of message in the mailbox.

v> try-put() :-

Try to place a message in a mailbox without Blocking.

vii> try-get() or try-peek :-

∴ Try to retrieve a message from a mailbox without Blocking.

- mailbox behaves as FIFO [FIRST-IN, FIRST-OUT].

① SYNTAX OF mailbox:

mailbox mailbox_name;

② mailbox Types:

i) Bounded mailbox

- number of entries is determined when the mailbox is created.

- put() will be blocked if the mailbox is full.

ex- mailbox mbox = new(5);

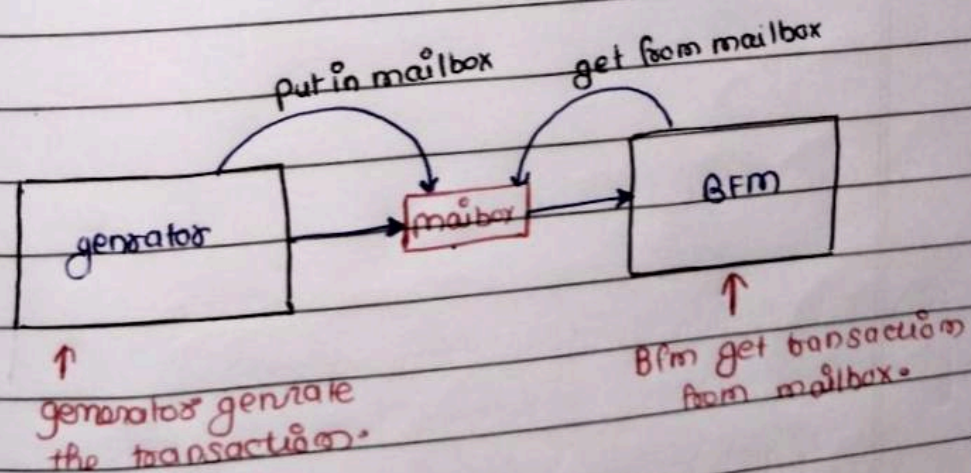
∴ have mailbox of depth = 5

ii) UnBounded mailbox:

- No restrictions placed on size of mailbox.

- put() will never block.

- eg:- mailbox mbox = new();



CODE1: Mailbox is used for communication between generator and BFM(bus functional module)

Example for mailbox :

Step 1: generator generate the sample packet and put into the mailbox.

Code for : Sample_packet

```
class sample_pkt;
rand bit [7:0]addr;
rand bit[7:0]data;

function void post_rand();
    $display("packet generated");
    $display("packet::
addr=%0d,Data=%0d",addr,data);
endfunction
endclass
```

Step2:

Code for Genrator class: generator generate the transaction packet

```
mailbox mbox=new();
class generator;
sample_pkt pkt;

task run();
    repeat(2)begin
        pkt = new();
        pkt.randomize();
        mbox.put(pkt);
        $display("generator::packet put into mailbox");
        #5;
    end
endtask
endclass
```

Step3:

Code for Bfm : gets the sample packet from generator

```
class pkt_bfm;
sample_pkt pkt;

task run();
    repeat(2)begin
        mbox.get(pkt);
        $display("bfm::packet get from mailbox");
        $display("packet:: addr=%0d,Data=%0d",pkt.addr,pkt.data);
        #10;
    end
endtask
endclass
```

Step4:

Code for Top_module

```
`include "sample_pkt.sv" //Forward declaration
`include "pkt_bfm.sv"
`include "pkt_gen.sv"
module top;
generator gen;
pkt_bfm bfm;
initial begin
    gen=new();
    bfm=new();
    fork
        gen.run();
        bfm.run();
    join
end
endmodule
```

CODE2: mailbox methods

```
module tb;
mailbox mbox1;
mailbox mbox2;
int sum;

initial begin
    sum=0;
    forever begin
        mbox2.get(sum);
        $display("%0t: sum: 0x%8x", $time, sum);
        #1;
        sum++;
        mbox1.put(sum);
    end
end

initial begin
    forever begin
        #1;
        mbox2.put(sum);
        mbox1.get(sum);
        sum++;
        $display("%0t: sum: 0x%8x", $time, sum);
    end
end

initial begin
    #10;
    $finish();
end
endmodule
```

```
do run.do
# QuestaSim-64 vlog 2021.1 Compiler 2021.01 Jan 19 2021
# Start time: 23:46:46 on Oct 18, 2023
# vlog -reportprogress 300 code2.sv
# -- Compiling module tb
#
# Top level modules:
#   tb
# End time: 23:46:47 on Oct 18, 2023, Elapsed time: 0:00:01
# Errors: 0, Warnings: 0
# End time: 23:46:53 on Oct 18, 2023, Elapsed time: 0:02:14
# Errors: 0, Warnings: 0
vsim tb
# Start time: 23:46:53 on Oct 18, 2023
# ** Note: (vsim-3813) Design is being optimized due to module recompilation...
# Loading sv_std.sv
# Loading work.tb(fast)
# 0: sum: 0x00000000
# 1: sum: 0x00000001
# 1: sum: 0x00000002
# 2: sum: 0x00000003
# 2: sum: 0x00000004
# 3: sum: 0x00000005
# 3: sum: 0x00000006
# 4: sum: 0x00000007
# 4: sum: 0x00000008
# 5: sum: 0x00000009
# 5: sum: 0x0000000a
# 6: sum: 0x0000000b
# 6: sum: 0x0000000c
# 7: sum: 0x0000000d
# 7: sum: 0x0000000e
# 8: sum: 0x0000000f
# 8: sum: 0x00000010
# 9: sum: 0x00000011
# 9: sum: 0x00000012
# Note: cfinish : code2.sv(28)
# Time: 10 ns Iteration: 0 Instance: /tb
# 1
```