

OS Assignment-4: Modified philosophers problem

Karanjot Singh
2019050

Semaphore:

Semaphores can't be created with mutexes without the help of condition variable. Hence, A semaphore structure is defined and named `my_semaphore`. This structure contains attributes of type `pthread_cond_t` (count) and `pthread_mutex_t` (mutex).

The wait and signal functions of a semaphore are implemented with the help of :

1. `pthread_cond_signal()` wakes up exactly one thread among the threads that are blocked on the condition variable
2. `pthread_cond_wait` atomically unlocks the mutex (as per `pthread_unlock_mutex`) and waits for the condition variable `cond` to be signaled.

For blocking:

Mutex is locked by calling `pthread_mutex_lock()`. If the mutex is already locked, the calling thread shall block until the mutex becomes available.

For non-blocking:

The `pthread_mutex_trylock()` function attempts to acquire ownership of the mutex specified without blocking the calling thread. If the mutex is currently locked by another thread, the call to `pthread_mutex_trylock()` returns an error of `EBUSY`.

Philosopher's problem:

`My_semaphore` is used to implement the philosophers' problem, Each bowl is allotted a semaphore and the forks are also represented by an array of semaphores.

To avoid deadlocks, Only those threads which acquire both the forks can acquire one of the bowls.

Only after which a philosopher can eat. Also, the bowls are released in a reverse order than they were taken to avoid deadlocks.

References:

Man pages

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