

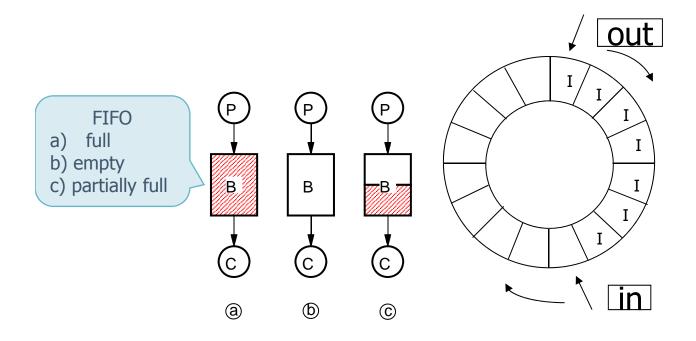
# **Synchronization**

# Synchronization protocols with semaphores

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### **Producer & Consumer with limited memory buffer**

- ➤ Uses a circular buffer of size MAX for storing the produced elements to be consumed
- > The circular buffer implements a FIFO (First-In First-Out) queue



## **Access functions**

```
#define MAX ...
int buffer[MAX];
int in, out;
...
void init () {
  in = 0;
  out = 0;
}
```

```
void enqueue (int val) {
  queue[in] = val;
  in=(in+1)%MAX;
  return;
}
```

```
int dequeue (int *val) {
   *val=queue[out];
   out=(out+1)%MAX;
   return;
}
```

#### **Concurrent access**

number of full elements number of empty elements

#### 1 Producer 1 Consumer

```
Producer () {
   Message m;
   while (TRUE) {
      produces (m);
      wait (empty);
      enqueue (m);
      signal (full);
   }
}
```

```
init (full, 0);
init (empty, MAX);
```

```
Consumer () {
  Message m;

while (TRUE) {

  wait (full);
  m = dequeue ();
  signal (empty);
  consumes (m);
  }
}
```

#### Considerations

- The solution is symmetric (dual)
- Producers and consumers operate on different indexes of the buffer, thus they can operate in concurrency
  - > As long as the queue is not full or empty
  - Otherwise either a producer or a consumer is blocked
- The solution can be easily extended more than one producer and consumer process
  - Two producers or two consumers should instead act in mutual exclusion to protect their index (in or out, respectively)

#### **Producers & Consumers**

P Producers C Consumers

For Mutual Exclusion among Producers (Consumers)

```
Producer () {
   Message m;
   while (TRUE) {
      produces m;
      wait (empty);
      wait (MEp);
      enqueue (m);
      signal (MEp);
      signal (full);
   }
}
```

```
init (full, 0);
init (empty, MAX);
init (MEp, 1);
init (MEc, 1);
```

```
Consumer () {
   Message m;
   while (TRUE) {
      wait (full);
      wait (MEC);
      m = dequeue ();
      signal (MEC);
      signal (empty);
      consumes m;
   }
}
```

- Sharing a database between two sets of concurrent threads
  - One class of such threads is called Reader threads
    - Readers are allowed access the database in concurrency
  - One class of such threads is called Writer threads
    - Writers must access the database is in Mutual Exclusion
      - with other Writers
      - with Readers

- There are two versions of the problem
  - > Reader priority
  - Writer priority

- When a Writer is writing in the database, several Readers and Writers processes can be blocked outside their CSs waiting the end of the write operation
- Readers precedence
  - ➤ At the end of a writing operation, to give priority to the Readers means to favour the access of the waiting Readers rather than of the waiting Writers
- Writers precedence
  - At the end of a writing operation, to give priority to the Writers means to favour the access of the waiting Writers rather than of the waiting Readers

- Common objectives
  - > Respect the precedence protocol
  - > Comply with the Bernstein conditions
  - Maximize concurrency

## Readers priority

- Giving priority to the Readers means that
  - > A Reader does not wait unless a Writer is writing
- Access protocol
  - While Readers are reading (they can access the database in concurrency), new Readers are allowed to read, and Writers are blocked
  - When the last Reader terminates, a waiting Writer can access the database

# Readers priority

```
nR = 0;
init (meR, 1); init (meW,1);
init (w, 1);
```

```
wait (meR);
  nR++;
  if (nR==1)
     wait (w);
signal (meR);
...
read
...
wait (meR);
  nR--;
  if (nR==0)
     signal (w);
signal (meR);
```

```
wait(meW)
wait (w);
...
write
...
signal (w);
signal(meW)
```

# **Analysis**

#### The solution uses

- ➤ A shared variable (**nR**) that counts the number of Readers inside their CS (reading)
- ➤ A Mutual Exclusion semaphore the protects variable **nR** (**meR**)
- ➤ A Mutual Exclusion semaphore (w) among Writers, or among Readers and Writers
- ➤ A Mutual Exclusion semaphore (meW) among Writers, (only writers can queue on this semaphore)

# **Analysis**

- Writers are subject to starvation, since they can wait forever
  - More complex solutions are possible that avoid starvation of the Writers

## Writers priority

- Giving priority to the Writers means
  - > A Writer has priority over all Readers
- Access protocol
  - ➤ A Writer trying to enter its CS blocks **new**Readers, but the Readers that are inside their CS
    are allowed to complete their reading task

# Writers priority

```
nR = nW = 0;
init (w, 1); init (r, 1);
init (meR, 1); init (meW, 1);
```

#### Reader

```
wait (r);
  wait (meR);
  nR++;
  if (nR == 1)
     wait (w);
  signal (meR);
signal (r);
...
read
...
wait (meR);
  nR--;
  if (nR == 0)
     signal (w);
signal (meR);
```

#### Writer

```
wait (meW);
  nW++;
  if (nW == 1)
    wait (r);
signal (meW);
wait (w);
  ...
  write
  ...
signal (w)
wait (meW);
  nW--;
  if (nW == 0)
    signal (r);
signal (meW);
```

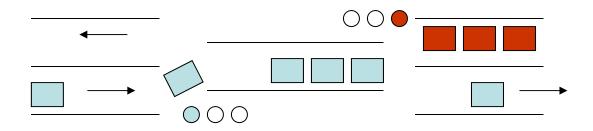
## **Analysis**

#### The solution uses

- Two shared variables (**nR** and **nW**) for counting the Readers inside their CS, and the Writers that need to write (one of them possibly writing)
- Two Mutual Exclusion semaphores (meR and meW) for protecting the variables nR and nW
- ➤ Two Mutual Exclusion semaphores (r and w) to enforce Readers and Writers to wait on different queues
- The Reades are subject to starvation, since they can wait forever
  - More complex solutions are possible that avoid starvation for the Readers

## Single lane tunnel

- A tunnel has a single lane, and cars can proceed only in alternate directions
- Access protocol
  - ➤ Enable any number of cars (threads) to proceed in the same direction
  - ➤ If there is traffic in one direction, block traffic in the opposite direction



## Single lane tunnel

- Similar to the Readers & Writers problem, but for two sets of Readers
- Data structure
  - > Two shared count variables (n1 and n2), one for each travel direction
  - Two semaphores (s1 and s2), one for each travel direction
  - A global semaphore wait (busy)
- In its basic implementation can result in starvation of cars in one direction

### **Solution**

```
n1 = n2 = 0;
init (s1, 1); init (s2, 1);
init (busy, 1);
```

```
left2right
wait (s1);
   n1++;
   if (n1 == 1)
      wait (busy);
signal (s1);
...
Run (left to right)
...
wait (s1);
   n1--;
   if (n1 == 0)
      signal (busy);
signal (s1);
```

```
right2left
wait (s2);
  n2++;
  if (n2 == 1)
    wait (busy);
signal (s2);
...
Run (left to right)
...
wait (s2);
  n2--;
  if (n2 == 0)
    signal (busy);
signal (s2);
```