



Lab5

Producer/Consumer Problem

Objectives

- Learn how to use semaphores for mutual exclusion and synchronization.
- Learn how to use shared memory between processes.

Introduction

Each student is required to implement the Bounded-Buffer Producer/Consumer problem as learnt in the lectures. You may have up to 20 producers. Each Producer would declare the live price of a commodity (e.g., GOLD, SILVER, CRUDEOIL, COTTON, ...). One Consumer would show a dashboard for the prices of all commodities. Producers and Consumer would run indefinitely sharing the prices through shared memory.

Producers

Each producer is supposed to continuously declare the price of one commodity. For simplicity, we assume that each commodity price follows a normal distribution with parameters (μ, σ^2) . Therefore, producers will generate a new random price, share it with the consumer, and then sleep for an interval before producing the next price.

All producers are processes running the same codebase. Producers are to be run concurrently, either in separate terminals, or in the background. While running a producer, you will specify the following command line arguments:

- Commodity name (e.g., GOLD – Assume no more than 10 characters.)
- Commodity Price Mean; μ – a double value.
- Commodity Price Standard Deviation; σ – a double value.
- Length of the sleep interval in milliseconds; T – an integer.

Therefore, the command “./producer NATURALGAS 7.1 0.5 200” would run a producer that declares the current price of Natural Gas every 200ms according to a normal distribution with parameters (mean=0.5 and variance=0.25)

Consumer

The consumer is to print the current price of each commodity, along the average of the current and past 4 readings. An Up/Down arrow to show whether the current Price (AvgPrice) got increased or decreased from the prior one. Until you receive current prices, use 0.00 for the current price of any commodity. For simplicity, let's limit the commodities to GOLD, SILVER, CRUDEOIL, NATURALGAS, ALUMINIUM, COPPER, NICKEL, LEAD, ZINC, MENTHAOIL, and COTTON. Show the commodities in alphabetical order. Below is an example output.

Currency	Price	AvgPrice
ALUMINIUM	0.00	0.00
COPPER	0.00	0.00
...		
GOLD	1810.31↑	1815.25↑
...		
SILVER	22.36↓	22.80↓
ZINC	0.00	0.00

Required System Calls

You are to use [System V IPC](#) for interprocess communication. It provides facility for

- Shared Memory; see this [example](#).
- Semaphores; see this [example](#).

Hints

- You may use the standard C++ Random library to generate normally distributed random variables. An example can be found in [its reference](#).
- You may use escape sequences to clear the screen and place the cursor at the top of the screen. It is platform independent.

```
printf("\e[1;1H\e[2J");
```

- You may use escape sequences to move the cursor to a certain position. For instance, the following statement would move the cursor to line 5 and column 10.

```
printf("\033[5;10H");
```

- You may use Linux terminal commands to print color text on the terminal. See the example here.
- Use the format specifier "7.21f" while printing prices.

Deliverables

To be updated!