AGH University of Science and Technology

Operating systems (5)

Concurrency: Mutual Exclusion and Synchronization

Department of Computer Science
Faculty of Computer Science, Electronics and Telecommunications
AGH University of Science and Technology, Krakow, POLAND

Roadmap

- **Principals of Concurrency**
- Semaphores
- Monitors
- Readers/Writers Problem

Multiple Processes

- Central to the design of modern Operating Systems is managing multiple processes
  - Multiprogramming
  - Multiprocessing
  - Distributed Processing
- Big Issue is Concurrency
  - Managing the interaction of all of these processes

Concurrency

Concurrency arises in:

- Multiple applications
  - Sharing time
- Structured applications
  - Extension of modular design
- Operating system structure
  - OS themselves implemented as a set of processes or threads

Key Terms

atomic operation	A sequence of one or more statements that appears to be indivisible; that is, no other process can see an intermediate state or interrupt the operation.
critical section	A section of code within a process that requires access to shared resources and that must not be executed while another process is in a corresponding section of code.
deadlock	A situation in which two or more processes are unable to proceed because each is waiting for one of the others to do something.
livelock	A situation in which two or more processes continuously change their states in response to changes in the other process(es) without doing any useful work.
mutual exclusion	The requirement that when one process is in a critical section that accesses shared resources, no other process may be in a critical section that accesses any of those shared resources.
race condition	A situation in which multiple threads or processes read and write a shared data item and the final result depends on the relative timing of their execution.
starvation	A situation in which a runnable process is overlooked indefinitely by the scheduler; although it is able to proceed, it is never chosen.

Difficulties of Concurrency

- Sharing of global resources
- Optimally managing the allocation of resources
- Difficult to locate programming errors as results are not deterministic and reproducible.

Operating System Concerns

- What design and management issues are raised by the existence of concurrency?
- The OS must
  - Keep track of various processes
  - Allocate and de-allocate resources
  - Protect the data and resources against interference by other processes.
  - Ensure that the processes and outputs are independent of the processing speed

Competition among Processes for Resources

Three main control problems:

- Need for Mutual Exclusion
  - Critical sections
- Deadlock
- Starvation

Requirements for Mutual Exclusion

- Only one process at a time is allowed in the critical section for a resource
- A process that halts in its noncritical section must do so without interfering with other processes
- No deadlock or starvation

Requirements for Mutual Exclusion

- A process must not be delayed access to a critical section when there is no other process using it
- No assumptions are made about relative process speeds or number of processes
- A process remains inside its critical section for a finite time only

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Semaphore

- Semaphore:
  - An integer value used for signalling among processes.
- Only three operations may be performed on a semaphore, all of which are atomic:
  - initialize,
  - Decrement (`semWait`)
  - increment. (`semSignal`)

Semaphore Primitives

```
struct semaphore {
      int count;
      queueType queue;
};
void semWait(semaphore s)
{
      s.count--;
      if (s.count < 0) {
            /* place this process in s.queue */;
            /* block this process */;
      }
}
void semSignal(semaphore s)
{
      s.count++;
      if (s.count <= 0) {
            /* remove a process P from s.queue */;
            /* place process P on ready list */;
      }
}
```

Binary Semaphore Primitives

```
struct binary_semaphore {
     enum {zero, one} value;
     queueType queue;
};
void semWaitB(binary_semaphore s)
{
     if (s.value == one)
          s.value = zero;
     else {
               /* place this process in s.queue */;
               /* block this process */;
     }
}
void semSignalB(semaphore s)
{
     if (s.queue is empty())
          s.value = one;
     else {
               /* remove a process P from s.queue */;
               /* place process P on ready list */;
     }
}
```

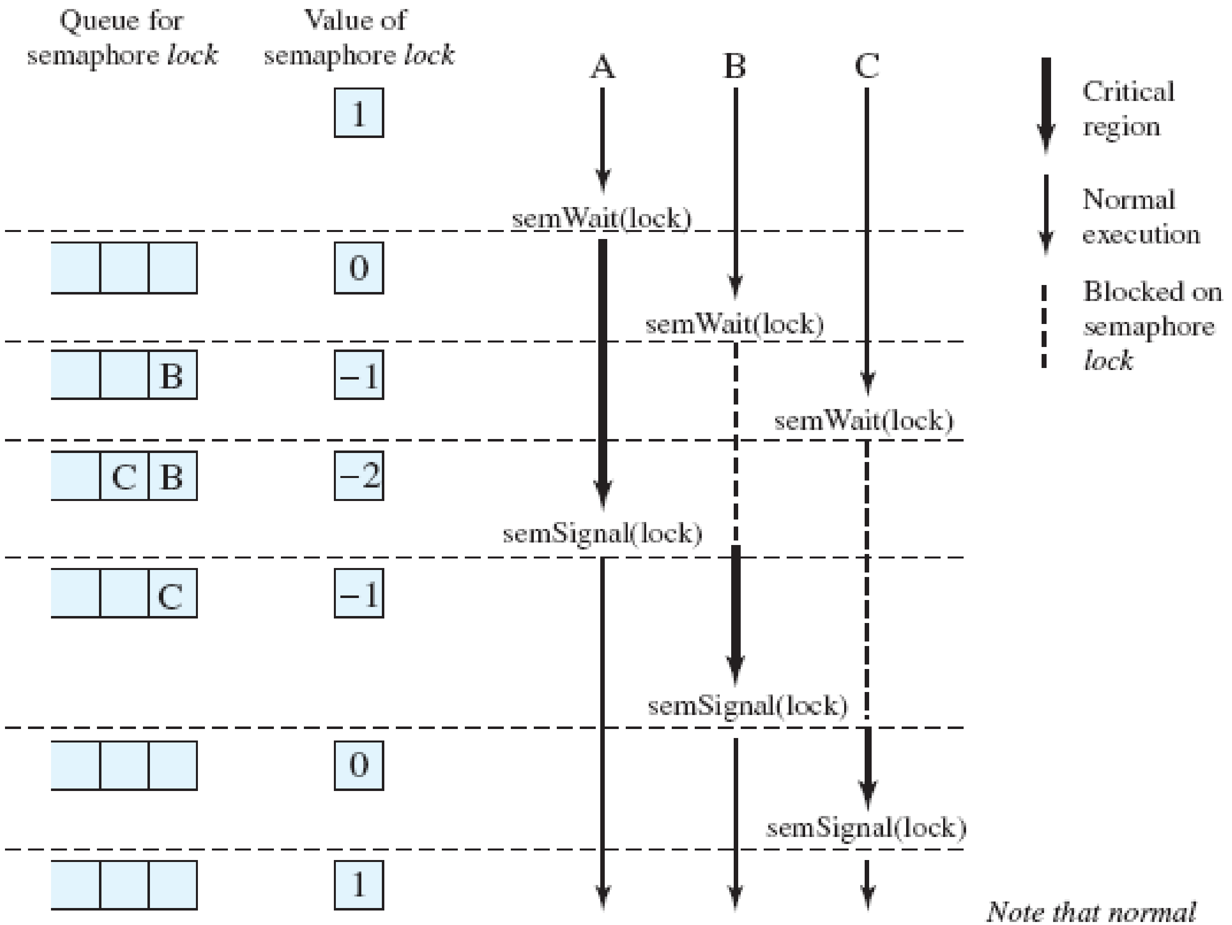
Strong/Weak Semaphore

- A queue is used to hold processes waiting on the semaphore
  - In what order are processes removed from the queue?
- ***Strong Semaphores*** use FIFO
- ***Weak Semaphores*** don’t specify the order of removal from the queue

Mutual Exclusion Using Semaphores

```
/* program mutualexclusion */
const int n = /* number of processes  */;
semaphore s = 1;
void P(int i)
{
     while (true) {
          semWait(s);
          /* critical section   */;
          semSignal(s);
          /* remainder   */;
     }
}
void main()
{
     parbegin (P(1), P(2), . . ., P(n));
}
```

Processes Using Semaphore



Note that normal execution can proceed in parallel but that critical regions are serialized.

Producer/Consumer Problem

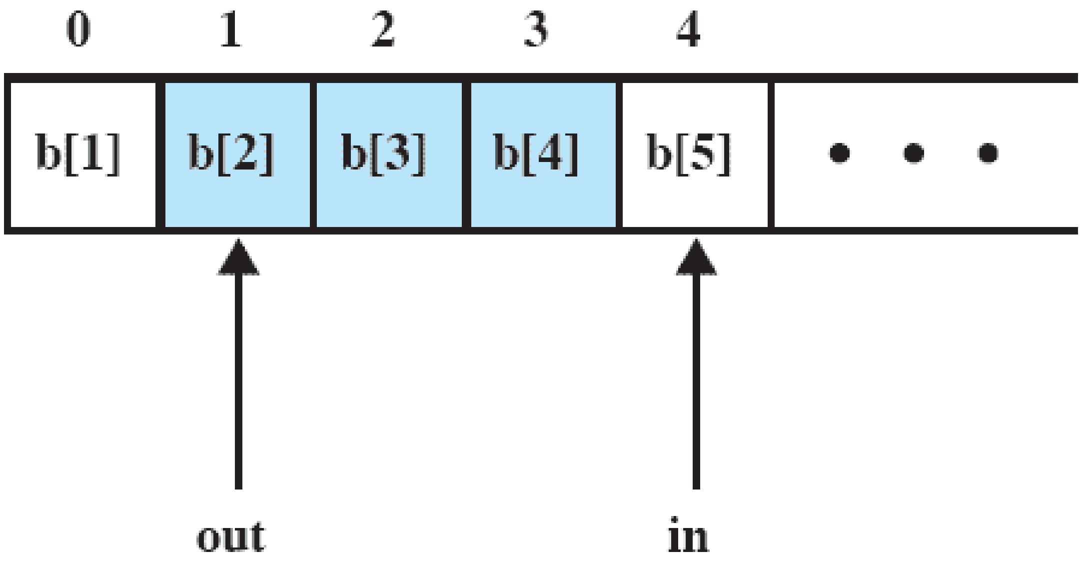
- General Situation:
  - One or more producers are generating data and placing these in a buffer
  - A single consumer is taking items out of the buffer one at time
  - Only one producer or consumer may access the buffer at any one time
- The Problem:
  - Ensure that the Producer can’t add data into full buffer and consumer can’t remove data from empty buffer

Functions

- Assume an infinite buffer ***b*** with a linear array of elements

Producer	Consumer
while (true) {	while (true) {
/* produce item v */	while (in <= out)
b[in] = v;	/*do nothing */;
in++;	w = b[out];
}	out++;
	/* consume item w */
	}

Buffer: Infinite Buffer for Producer/Consumer Problem



Note: shaded area indicates portion of buffer that is occupied

Correct Solution

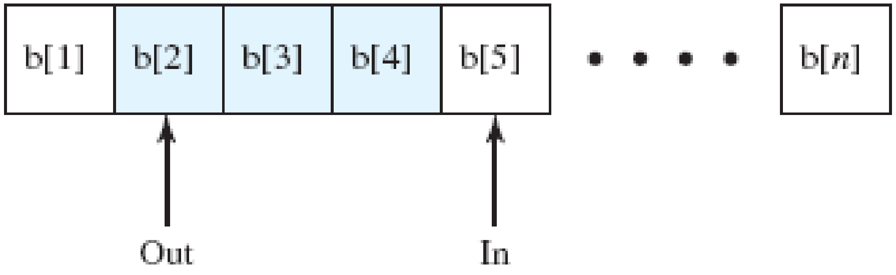
```
/* program producerconsumer */
int n;
binary_semaphore s = 1, delay = 0;
void producer()
{
     while (true) {
          produce();
          semWaitB(s);
          append();
          n++;
          if (n==1) semSignalB(delay);
          semSignalB(s);
     }
}
void consumer()
{
     int m; /* a local variable */
     semWaitB(delay);
     while (true)  {
          semWaitB(s);
          take();
          n--;
          m = n;
          semSignalB(s);
          consume();
          if (m==0) semWaitB(delay);
     }
}
void main()
{
     n = 0;
     parbegin (producer, consumer);
}
```

Semaphores: Solution to the Infinite-Buffer Producer/Consumer Problem Using Semaphores

```
/* program  producerconsumer */
semaphore n = 0, s = 1;
void producer()
{
     while (true) {
          produce();
          semWait(s);
          append();
          semSignal(s);
          semSignal(n);
     }
}
void consumer()
{
     while (true) {
          semWait(n);
          semWait(s);
          take();
          semSignal(s);
          consume();
     }
}
void main()
{
     parbegin (producer, consumer);
}
```

Bounded Buffer: Finite Circular Buffer for the Producer/Consumer Problem

Block on:	Unblock on:
Producer: insert in full buffer	Consumer: item inserted
Consumer: remove from empty buffer	Producer: item removed



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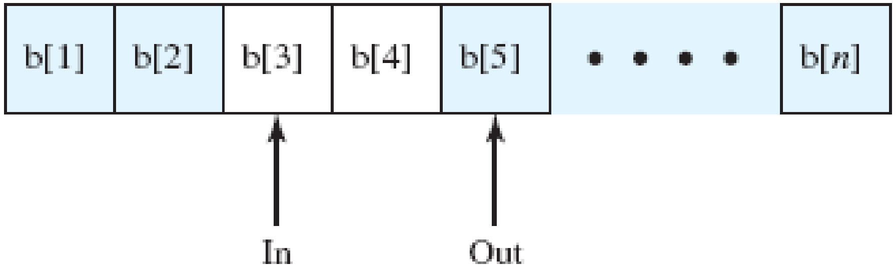

(b)

Semaphores

```
/* program boundedbuffer */
const int sizeofbuffer = /* buffer size */;
semaphore s = 1, n= 0, e= sizeofbuffer;
void producer()
{
     while (true) {
          produce();
          semWait(e);
          semWait(s);
          append();
          semSignal(s);
          semSignal(n);
     }
}
void consumer()
{
     while (true) {
          semWait(n);
          semWait(s);
          take();
          semSignal(s);
          semSignal(e);
          consume();
     }
}
void main()
{
     parbegin (producer, consumer);
}
```

Functions in a Bounded Buffer

- .

Producer	Consumer
while (true) {	while (true) {
/* produce item v */	while (in == out)
while ((in + 1) % n == out) /*	/* do nothing */;
do nothing */;	w = b[out];
b[in] = v;	out = (out + 1) % n;
in = (in + 1) % n	/* consume item w */
}	}

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Monitors

- The monitor is a programming-language construct that provides equivalent functionality to that of semaphores and that is easier to control.
- Implemented in a number of programming languages, including
  - Concurrent Pascal, Pascal-Plus,
  - Modula-2, Modula-3, and Java.

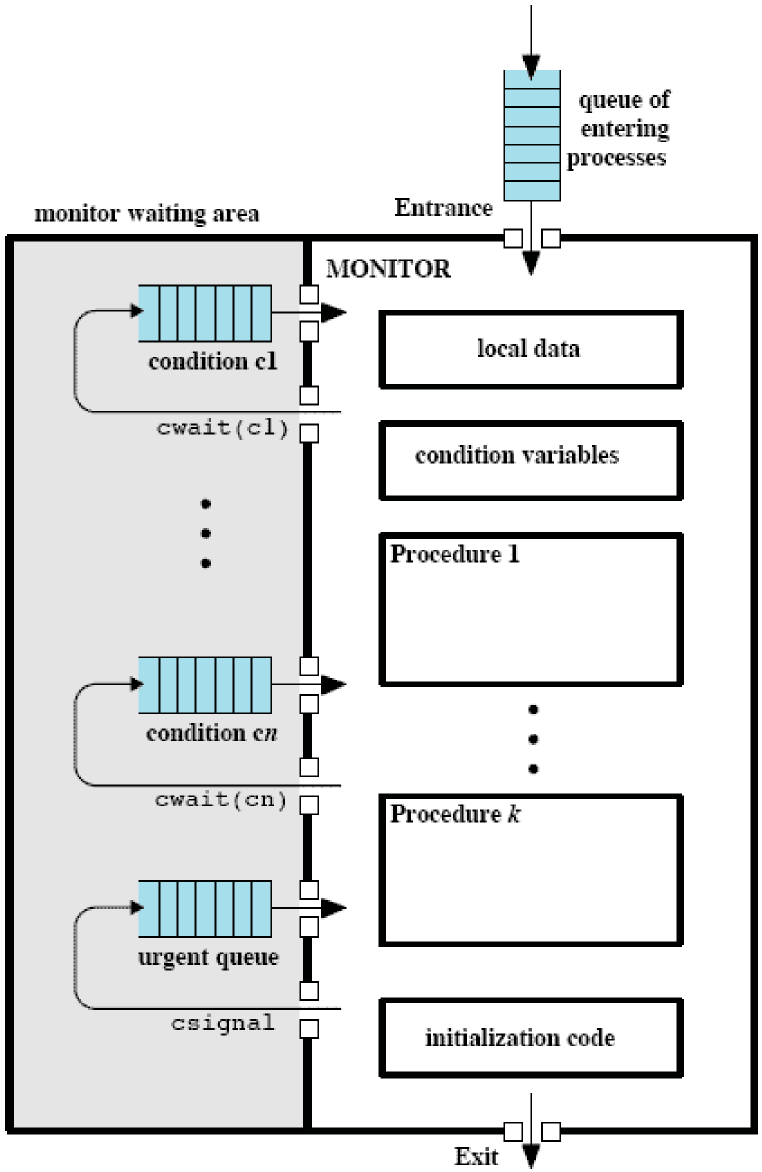
Chief characteristics

- Local data variables are accessible only by the monitor
- Process enters monitor by invoking one of its procedures
- Only one process may be executing in the monitor at a time

Synchronization

- Synchronisation achieved by **condition variables** within a monitor
  - only accessible by the monitor.
- Monitor Functions:
  - Cwait(c)**:** Suspend execution of the calling process on condition *c*
  - Csignal(c): Resume execution of some process blocked after a cwait on the same condition

Structure of a Monitor



Bounded Buffer Solution Using Monitor

```
/* program producerconsumer */
monitor boundedbuffer;
char buffer [N];                                        /* space for N items */
int nextin, nextout;                                      /* buffer pointers */
int count;                                        /* number of items in buffer */
cond notfull, notempty;             /* condition variables for synchronization */

void append (char x)
{
     if (count == N) cwait(notfull);        /* buffer is full; avoid overflow */
     buffer[nextin] = x;
     nextin = (nextin + 1) % N;
     count++;
     /* one more item in buffer */
     csignal(notempty);                          /* resume any waiting consumer */
}
void take (char x)
{
     if (count == 0) cwait(notempty);   /* buffer is empty; avoid underflow */
     x = buffer[nextout];
     nextout = (nextout + 1) % N;
     count--;                                      /* one fewer item in buffer */
     csignal(notfull);                           /* resume any waiting producer */
}
{                                                              /* monitor body */
     nextin = 0; nextout = 0; count = 0;              /* buffer initially empty */
}
```

Solution Using Monitor

```
void producer()
{
     char x;
     while (true) {
     produce(x);
     append(x);
     }
}
void consumer()
{
     char x;
     while (true) {
       take(x);
       consume(x);
     }
}
void main()
{
     parbegin (producer, consumer);
}
```

Bounded Buffer Monitor

```
void append (char x)
{
     while(count == N) cwait(notfull);   /* buffer is full; avoid overflow */
     buffer[nextin] = x;
     nextin = (nextin + 1) % N;
     count++;                                  /* one more item in buffer */
     cnotify(notempty);                      /* notify any waiting consumer */
}

void take (char x)
{
     while(count == 0) cwait(notempty); /* buffer is empty; avoid underflow */
     x = buffer[nextout];
     nextout = (nextout + 1) % N;
     count--;                                 /* one fewer item in buffer */
     cnotify(notfull);                       /* notify any waiting producer */
}
```

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Readers/Writers Problem

- A data area is shared among many processes
  - Some processes only read the data area, some only write to the area
- Conditions to satisfy:
  1. Multiple readers may read the file at once.
  2. Only one writer at a time may write
  3. If a writer is writing to the file, no reader may read it.

Readers have Priority

```
/* program readersandwriters */
int readcount;
semaphore x = 1, wsem = 1;
void reader()
{
    while (true) {
      semWait (x);
      readcount++;
      if (readcount == 1) semWait (wsem);
      semSignal (x);
      READUNIT();
      semWait (x);
      readcount--;
      if (readcount == 0) semSignal (wsem);
      semSignal (x);
    }
 }
void writer()
{
    while (true) {
      semWait (wsem);
      WRITEUNIT();
      semSignal (wsem);
    }
}

void main()
{
    readcount = 0;
    parbegin (reader, writer);
}
```

Writers have Priority

```
/* program readersandwriters */
int  readcount, writecount;
semaphore x = 1, y = 1, z = 1, wsem = 1, rsem = 1;
void reader()
{
   while (true) {
     semWait (z);
          semWait (rsem);
               semWait (x);
                    readcount++;
                    if (readcount == 1) semWait (wsem);
               semSignal (x);
          semSignal (rsem);
     semSignal (z);
     READUNIT();
     semWait (x);
          readcount--;
          if (readcount == 0) semSignal (wsem);
     semSignal (x);
   }
}
```

Writers have Priority

```
void writer ()
{
    while (true) {
      semWait (y);
           writecount++;
           if (writecount == 1) semWait (rsem);
      semSignal (y);
      semWait (wsem);
      WRITEUNIT();
      semSignal (wsem);
      semWait (y);
           writecount--;
           if (writecount == 0) semSignal (rsem);
      semSignal (y);
    }
}
void main()
{
    readcount = writecount = 0;
    parbegin (reader, writer);
}
```

Bibliography

- William Stallings, „Operating Systems. Internals and Design Principles”. Ninth Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2017
- Dave Bremer, Otago Polytechnic, N.Z., Prentice Hall