



Example Semaphore

UNIX/Linux



Two Semaphores in UNIX/Linux

- POSIX-semaphore:
 - `sem_init()`, `sem_wait()`, `sem_trywait()`,
`sem_post()`, `sem_getvalue()`, `sem_destroy()`
- System-V-semaphore
 - `semget()`, `semop()`, `semctl()`
- UNIX/Linux often implement both standards
- Often implemented as „weak semaphores“
 - Use POSIX-semaphores to synchronize KLTs of the same task
 - Use System-V-semaphores if you must synchronize across AS boundaries, i.e. between 2 processes



POSIX Semaphore (1)

#include <semaphore.h>

contains all needed declarations:

- Semaphore operations
- Semaphore datatype **sem_t**
 - A process wanting to synchronize via POSIX semaphore, must use another variable of type **sem_t**
 - Processes/KLTs that want to synchronize must use the semaphore operations on a shared semaphore variable of type **sem_t**



POSIX Semaphore (2)

```
int sem_init(sem_t *sem,  
int pshared, unsigned int value)
```

initializes a semaphore with return values:

- 0 if initialization was successful
- -1 in case of an error
- **sem** is a pointer to semaphore variable
- **pshared** is a flag
 - If =0: can only be used by the calling activity
 - If !=0 can be used by all activities
- **value**: is initial value of the semaphore counter



POSIX Semaphore (3)

```
int sem_wait(sem_t *sem)
```

- return value always 0 (cannot fail)
- **sem:** pointer to semaphore variable, where the „semaphore operation“ **p()** should take place

```
int sem_post(sem_t, sem)
```

- return value 0 if successful, -1 in case of an error
- **sem:** pointer to semaphore variable, where the „semaphore operation“ **v()** should take place



POSIX Semaphore (4)

```
int sem_destroy(sem_t *sem)
```

- releases all resources, that had been allocated during `sem_init`
- return value `0` if successful, `-1` in case of an error, e.g. when there are still waiting threads at sem)
- `sem`: pointer to semaphore variable, where the „semaphore operation“ `p()` should take place

```
int sem_trywait(sem_t, sem)
```

- only works when caller does not have to wait

```
int sem_getvalue(sem_t sem)
```

- Reads the counter value of the semaphore



Example POSIX Semaphore (1)

```
#include <pthread.h>
#include <semaphore.h>

sem_t mutex;           // declaration of mutex

void *my_thread(void *arg){
    while(1){
        sem_wait(&mutex);  // ~Dijkstras p()
        //CS
        sem_post(&mutex)    // ~Dijkstras v()
    }
}
```



Example POSIX Semaphore (2)

```
int main(){
    pthread_t thread1_id, thread2_id;

    sem_init(&mutex, 0, 1);    // initialize mutex

    pthread_create(&thread1_id, NULL, &my_thread, NULL);
    pthread_create(&thread2_id, NULL, &my_thread, NULL);
    pthread_join(thread1_id, NULL);
    pthread_join(thread2_id, NULL);

    sem_destroy(&mutex);
}
```




Review: POSIX Threads

```
int pthread_create(pthread_t *thread,  
                  const pthread_attr_t *attr,  
                  void *(*start_routine)(void*),  
                  void *arg);
```

- return value `=0` if successful, otherwise `-1`, i.e. because there are not enough resources to install a new thread or because the application has already created too many threads or because the attributes in `attr` are invalid etc.
- `thread` will contain the ID of the new thread
- If `attr = NULL`, the default attributes are initialized
- `start_routine` is the function that will be executed if the thread has been created with `arg` as its arguments
- The signal state of the new threads is initialized as follows:
 - Signal mask is inherited from the caller
 - Set of pending signals is empty