

The cause of the deadlock through the trivial implementation in the philosophers, is that they all prioritize picking up the right stick, before the left stick. This could then result in each picking up their right stick at the same time and each then waiting for the left stick, which will never be dropped. The solution I propose is to have one philosopher prioritize his left stick before the right, thereby breaking the cycle. My implementation also uses a fair mutex, in that a waiting philosopher will pick up the stick before the one who dropped it may pick it up again; creating a turn based system for sharing the objects. I claim that this guarantees that any philosopher will only wait a finite amount of time before having both sticks.

Theorem 1. *Define set $P = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ to be the set of n philosophers in the circle and p_k be the k th philosopher in the circle. Let p_1 have swapped stick priorities, i.e. picks up left stick before right stick. Then for any $p \in P$ there is a finite wait time for p to have both sticks.*

Proof. Suppose $k = 2$. Then p_2 will reach for its right stick. If it's currently being used by p_3 , then p_3 must be eating, since p_3 would have gotten its right stick first, before the left one. Hence p_2 needs to only wait for p_3 to stop eating, to obtain its right stick. Since the sticks implement a "fair" mutex, p_3 will not be able to relock the stick before p_2 does. p_2 will then reach for the left stick. If it must wait, p_1 must be eating based on its priorities and will release the stick in a finite amount of time. Hence p_2 will only wait for a finite period. Given p_n waits a finite amount of time to eat, p_{n+1} by a similar argument does as well. Finally p_1 will wait for p_n and p_2 which will both eat in a finite time. \square