

Dining Philosophers Problem

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Course Syllabus - Unit 2

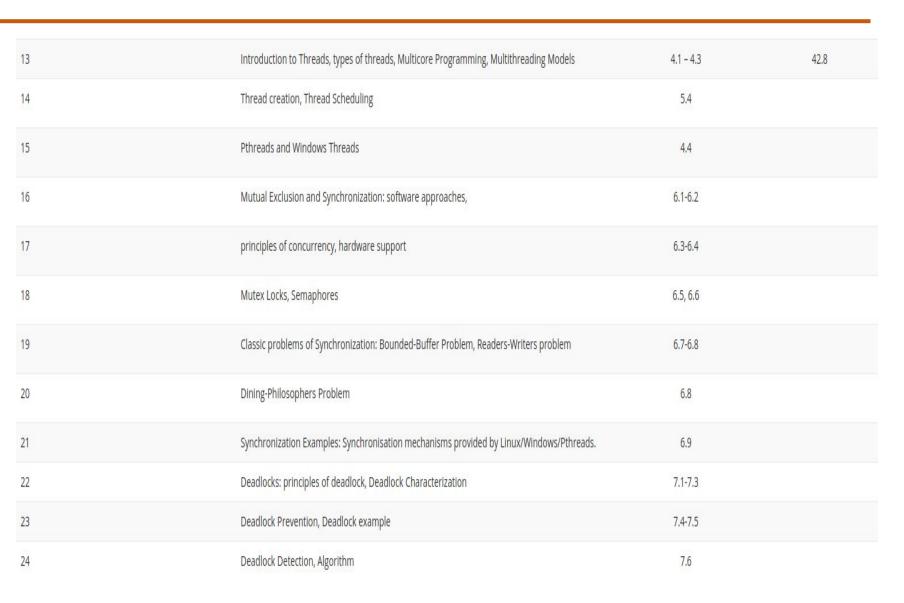


12 Hours

Unit 2: Threads & Concurrency

Introduction to Threads, types of threads, Multicore Programming, Multithreading Models, Thread creation, Thread Scheduling, PThreads and Windows Threads, Mutual Exclusion and Synchronization: software approaches, principles of concurrency, hardware support, Mutex Locks, Semaphores. Classic problems of Synchronization: Bounded-Buffer Problem, Readers -Writers problem, Dining Philosophers Problem concepts. Synchronization Examples - Synchronisation mechanisms provided by Linux/Windows/Pthreads. Deadlocks: principles of deadlock, tools for detection and Prevention.

Course Outline

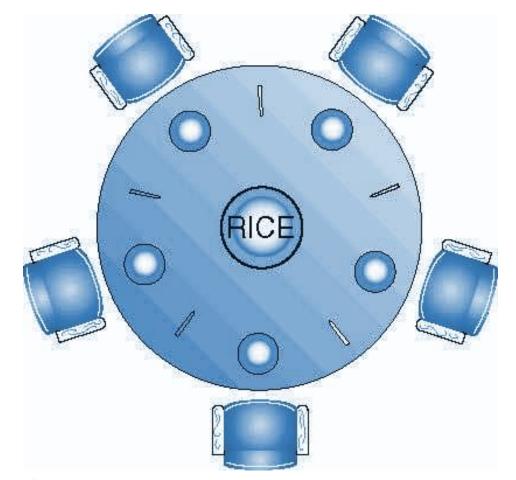




Topic Outline

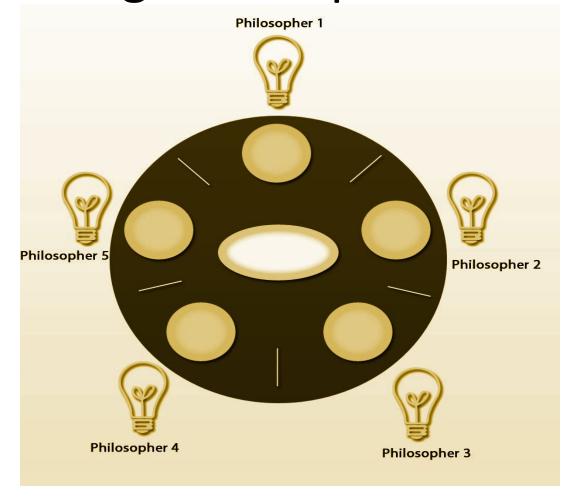
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• The Dining Philosopher Problem



Topic Outline

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Classical Problems of Synchronization: Dining philosophers Problem

- The dining philosophers problem is another classic synchronization problem which is used to evaluate situations where there is a need of allocating multiple resources to multiple processes.
- Philosophers spend their lives alternating thinking and eating
- Don't interact with their neighbors, occasionally try to pick up 2 Forks (Chopsticks) (one at a time) to eat from bowl
- Need both to eat, then release both when done



Classical Problems of Synchronization: Dining philosophers Problem

- In the case of 5 philosophers
- Shared data
 - Bowl of rice (data set)
 - Semaphore Fork [5] or Chopstick[5] initialized to 1

```
The structure of Philosopher i:
do {
    wait (chopstick[i] );
    wait (chopStick[ (i + 1) % 5] );
    // eat

    signal (chopstick[i] );
    signal (chopstick[ (i + 1) % 5] );
    //Think
} while (TRUE);
```





Classical Problems of Synchronization: Dining philosophers Problem

Deadlock handling

- Allow at most 4 philosophers to be sitting simultaneously at the table.
- Allow a philosopher to pick up the forks only if both are available (picking must be done in a critical section.
- Use an asymmetric solution => an odd-numbered philosopher picks up first the left chopstick and then the right chopstick.
- Even-numbered philosopher picks up first the righ chopstick and then the left chopstick.



Incorrect use of Semaphore Operation



Incorrect use of semaphore operations:

- signal (mutex) wait (mutex)
- wait (mutex) ... wait (mutex)
- Omitting of wait (mutex) or signal (mutex) (or both)
- Deadlock and starvation are possible.



THANK YOU

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