



Synchronization

Creating shared memory  
between processes

---

# Two processes can share memory

- Like threads.
- We will use mmap API

**#include <sys/mman.h>**

- **void \*mmap(void \*addr, size\_t length, int prot, int flags, int fd, off\_t offset);**
- **int munmap(void \*addr, size\_t length);**

For processes memory is not shared unless we state otherwise

For threads memory is shared by default.

# Message Passing between processes

- Can be done using Sockets
- (And other APIs)
- But we don't need to checksum the data (twice in IP and TCP) and we don't need to send acks and we don't need to control window size!
- We can create "Sockets" that does everything accept communication and achieve much better performance
- Enter UNIX domain sockets

# UNIX domain sockets

- PATH is used instead of port for bind/connect.
- Offcourse no DNS resolution
- Otherwise same as TCP/IP sockets
- See Beej guide for IPC (Chapter 11) for example

sync  
primitives



# Only two basic types of synchronization



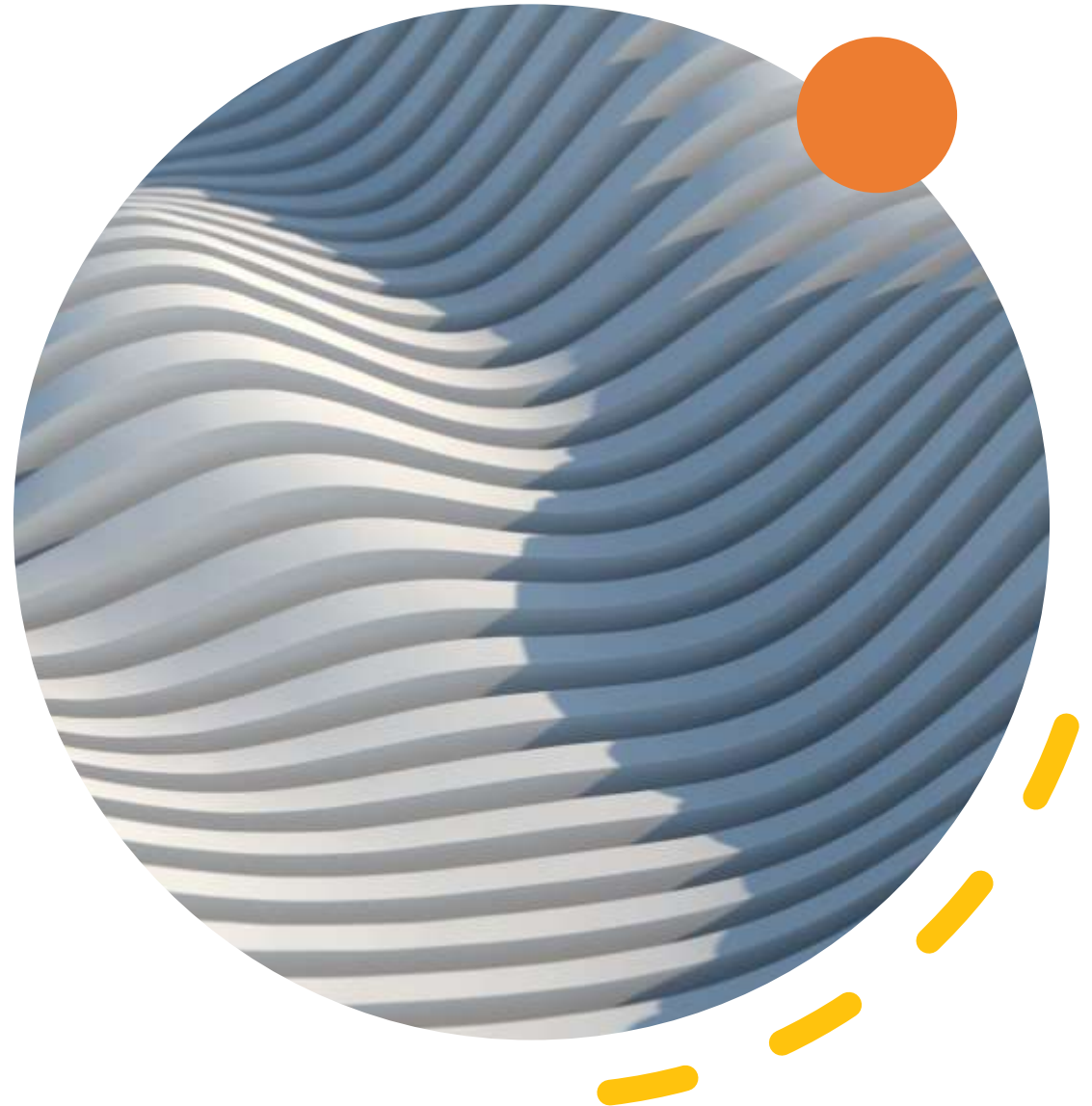
SOCK-ON-DOOR



PRODUCER-CONSUMER



IN ALL PROGRAMMING  
LANGUAGES IN ALL  
SCENARIOS



# Sock-on-door

- [Doorsock](#) (Urban dictionary)
- A warning **signal** which is made by placing a sock over **the doorknob** of a **bedroom** door. This signifies to a roommate that you are inside the bedroom, engaged in sexual behavior.
- The sock-on-door is often called MUTEX (Mutally-exclusive)





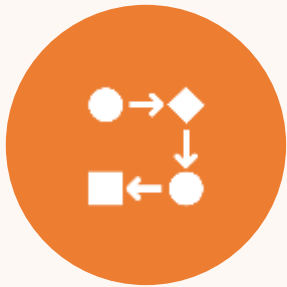
# What does sock-on-door do?

- It does not lock the door.
- It tells people who participate in the “game” that they are not supposed to go in.
- As we know from countless of college comedies at some time, some body (a foreign exchange student from Borat-land) will open the door... and then all hell breaks loose.
- Advisory locking – if you ask (or look for socks) it is locked. If you don’t ask you can access it.
- Mandatory locking - locked means locked

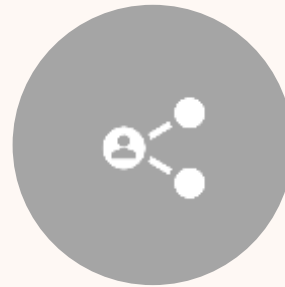


Sock-on-door is  
advisory locking

# When to use sock-on-door



You have two tasks (threads or processes) – roommates.



They share a resource – room



One of them is engaged in an activity and needs to use the room all by himself



Needs to inform the other not to use shared resource



# What do you do when you reach "sock-on-door"

- You can wait \*that's what you usually do\*
- You can do other things.
- You can not interfere and you cannot ask your roommate to "hurry-up"



# How to use sock on door in THREADS environment

- POSIX 95 to the rescue
- Virtually the best and almost only standard way to Implement mutex between threads. (We will implement threads using atomic counter and TBB)

# Mutex and just a regular boolean variable

- Both mutex and boolean variable support “locked” and “unlocked” states only.
- Mutex supports Test and Set atomic operation i.e. if (unlocked) lock()
- Atomic here means “indivisible” which means that either it completes or it doesn’t start but it can’t be interrupted
- With boolean variable one could consider a scenario where T1 does

if (mutex.locked == false)

*\*BOOM context switch BOOM\* then T2 does*

(mutex.locked == false)

(mutex.lock=true) ...

*\* BOOM context switch BOOM\* returning to T1*

(mutex.lock=true) ...

*\* nuclear cataclysim \**



# POSIX API

- `#include <pthread.h>`
- `int pthread_mutex_destroy(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);`
- `int pthread_mutex_init(pthread_mutex_t *restrict mutex,  
const pthread_mutexattr_t *restrict attr);`
- `pthread_mutex_t mutex =  
PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;`
- `int pthread_mutex_lock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);`
- `int pthread_mutex_trylock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);`
- `int pthread_mutex_unlock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);`



# What happens when you lock a locked mutex?

---

- If somebody else locked it – you wait
- But if you locked it ... is it unlocked with two unlocks or a single unlock
- Behaviour can be changed if mutex is recursive mutex (two unlocks required) or not-recursive (one unlock required)
- So recursive mutex basically adds “lock count”
- Type can be set using mutex attributes.
- POSIX does not define if default is recursive or unrecursive
- Default behaviour in Linux is recursive (BTW in Solaris it is not recursive – so make no assumptions)





# Sock-on-door between processes

---

- There are many APIs for this problem.
- We will teach file locking API. (there are other APIs but I don't wish to spend too much time on several APIs doing the same thing – and a rare thing)

# File locking API

- **#include <fcntl.h>**
- **int fcntl(int *fd*, int *cmd*, ... /\* *arg* \*/ );**
- struct flock { ... short l\_type; /\* Type of lock: F\_RDLCK, F\_WRLCK, F\_UNLCK \*/
- short l\_whence; /\* How to interpret l\_start: SEEK\_SET, SEEK\_CUR, SEEK\_END \*/
- off\_t l\_start; /\* Starting offset for lock \*/
- off\_t l\_len; /\* Number of bytes to lock \*/
- pid\_t l\_pid; /\* PID of process blocking our lock (set by F\_GETLK and F\_OFD\_GETLK) \*/ ...
- };

# Producer consumer

- One thread makes food. (Or generate tasks to be handled e.g. requests to be handled)

- One thread eats (Or handle the tasks)



# Producer- consumer

- We cannot enter the room while Taz is eating
- Taz should not be let into the room before there is actually something to eat
- The Pavlovian solution : Gasteau has a “Gong”
- When dinner is ready Gasteau bangs the Gong and leaves the room. Now Taz can eat
- Note that when Taz is ready and “acquires the lock” he locks himself out of the room. When Food is ready Gasteau bangs the Gong and Taz eats
- Gasteau and Taz are not identical “roommates” they do different things and Gasteau always prepare the food first – Taz eats second

# Producer-Consumer Locking between threads

- `#include <pthread.h>`
- `int pthread_cond_destroy(pthread_cond_t *cond);`
- `int pthread_cond_init(pthread_cond_t *restrict cond, const pthread_condattr_t *restrict attr);`
- `pthread_cond_t cond = PTHREAD_COND_INITIALIZER;`
- `int pthread_cond_timedwait(pthread_cond_t *restrict cond, pthread_mutex_t *restrict mutex, const struct timespec *restrict abstime);`
- `int pthread_cond_wait(pthread_cond_t *restrict cond, pthread_mutex_t *restrict mutex)`
- `int pthread_cond_broadcast(pthread_cond_t *cond);`  
`int pthread_cond_signal(pthread_cond_t *cond);`

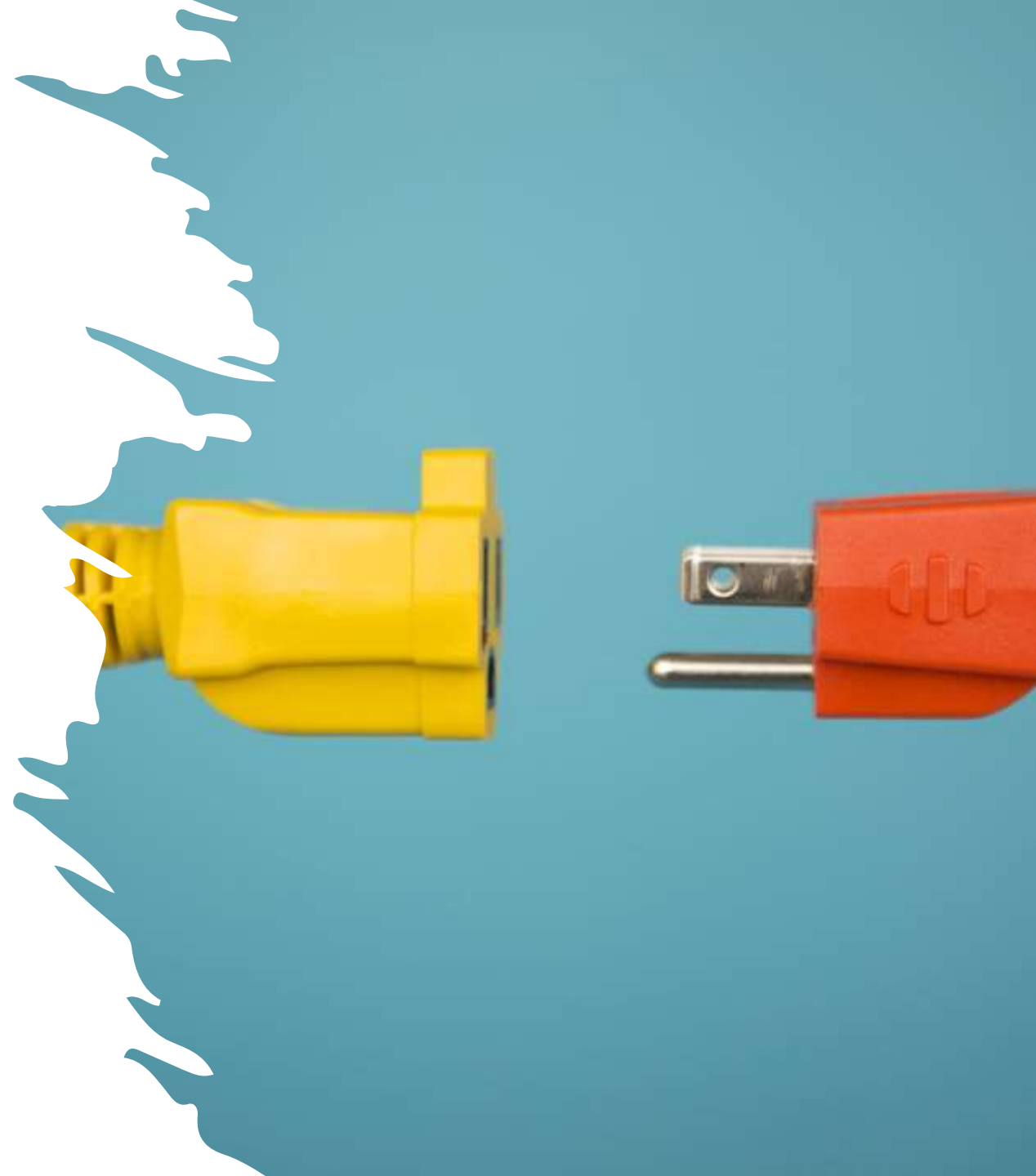
# Bits and bytes

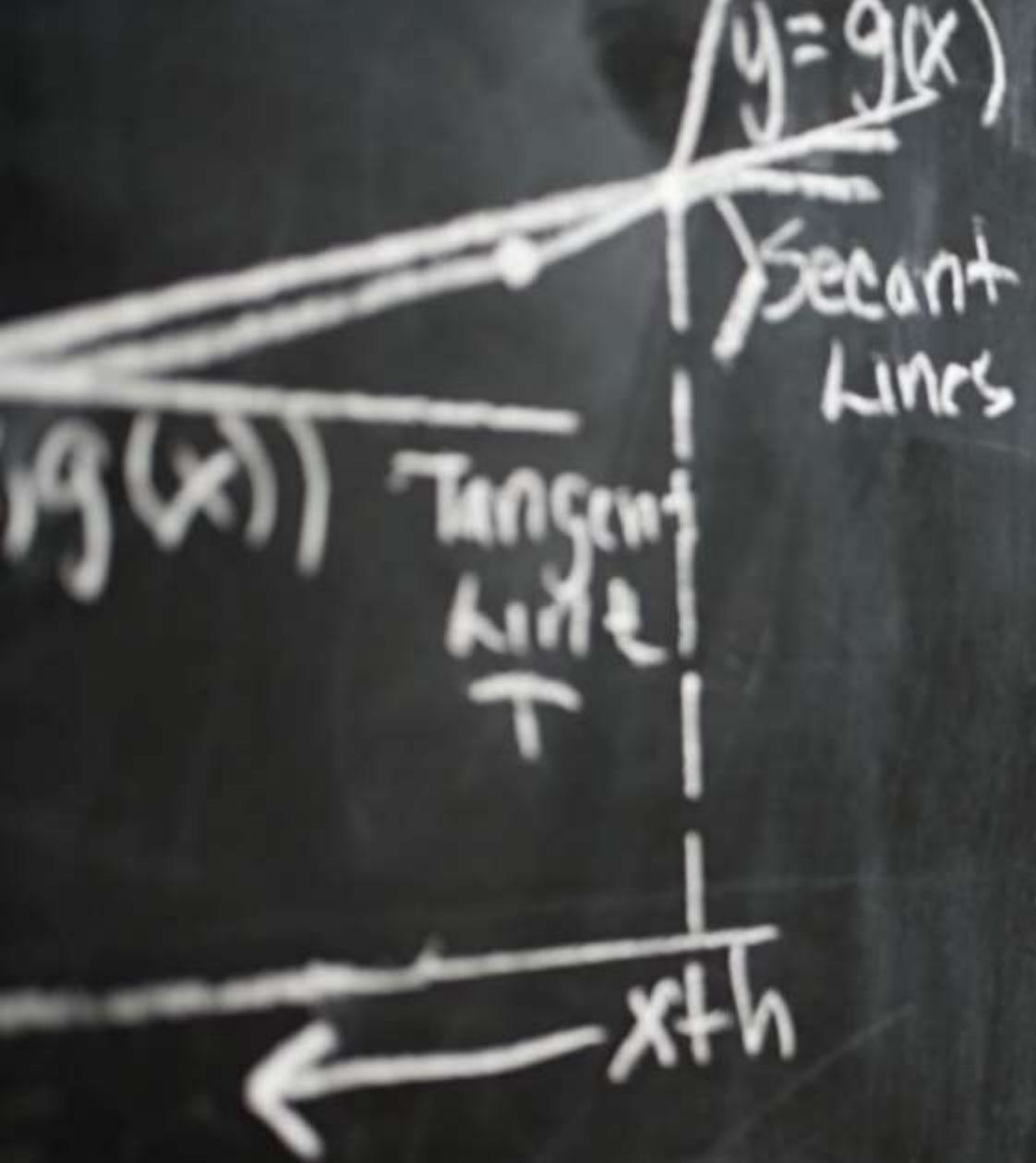
- Cond requires a mutex to wait. When calling cond wait we release the mutex.
- When returning from cond we require two things
  - Somebody called `pthread_cond_signal`
  - The mutex can be reacquired
- We will not return until both conditions were fulfilled.
- Also
- Signal wakes one thread waiting on cond
- Broadcast awakens all threads
- Conds are not using counter. If you signal but nobody is waiting the signal is lost. Use sockets if it matters.



# Producer consumer locking between processes

- Again multiple APIs exist but since you already know sockets we will use sockets.
- Producer sends 1 byte to consumer when food is ready
- Consumer recv 1 byte and blocks until it is received (and we can now eat)
- Since we actually send bytes sockets can be used between thread and implement a counter
- Since we use sockets on the same host UDS can be used more efficiently but we will do that later





$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

$$f(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^2 - x^2}{h} = 1$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 + 2xh + h^2 - x^2}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2xh + h^2}{h}$$

Examples



# On the web

What	URL
Using mmap to copy file and share memory	<a href="https://develloppaper.com/using-mmap-to-copy-large-files-single-process-and-multi-process/">https://develloppaper.com/using-mmap-to-copy-large-files-single-process-and-multi-process/</a>
Using UNIX domain sockets	<a href="https://beej.us/guide/bgipc/html/multi/unixsock.html">https://beej.us/guide/bgipc/html/multi/unixsock.html</a>
Fcntl file locking example	<a href="https://www.informit.com/articles/article.aspx?p=23618&amp;seqNum=4">https://www.informit.com/articles/article.aspx?p=23618&amp;seqNum=4</a>
POSIX mutex	<a href="https://riptutorial.com/posix/example/15910/simple-mutex-usage">https://riptutorial.com/posix/example/15910/simple-mutex-usage</a>
POSIX cond	<a href="https://hpc-tutorials.llnl.gov/posix/example_using_cond_vars/">https://hpc-tutorials.llnl.gov/posix/example_using_cond_vars/</a>