





# Inter-Process Communication (IPC)

- Processes do not only carry out operations on data, but also:
  - call each other
  - wait for each other
  - coordinate each other
  - In short: They must **interact** with each other
- Important questions regarding **inter-process communication** (IPC):
  - How can a process transmit information to others?
  - How can multiple processes access shared resources?

Question: What is the situation here with threads?

- For threads, the same challenges and solutions exist as for inter-process communication with processes
- Only the communication between the threads of a process is no problem because they operate in the same address space



1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1997, 34, 1, 1-14.

1. **Accession Number**

$$\text{in} = \text{next free slot} + 1: (17)$$

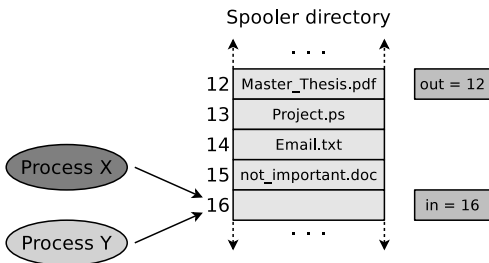
1. 1000000

Store entry in next free

$$\text{in} = \text{next free slot} + 1; \quad (17)$$

## References

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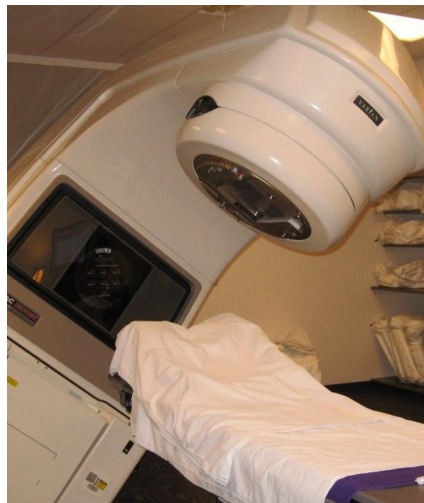
- The spooling directory is consistent
  - But the entry of **process Y** was overwritten by **process X** and got lost
- Such a situation is called **race condition**

- **Unintended race condition** of 2 processes, which want to modify the value of the same record
  - The result of a process depends on the order or timing of other events
  - Frequent reason for bugs, which are hard to locate and fix
- Problem: The occurrence of the symptoms depends on different events
  - In each test run, the symptoms may vary or disappear
- Race conditions can be avoided with the **semaphore** concept  
( $\Rightarrow$  slide 64)

## Therac-25: Race Condition with tragic Result (1/2)

- Therac-25 is a linear particle accelerator for the radiation therapy of cancer tumors
- Mid-1980s: In the United States some accidents happened because of poor programming and quality assurance
  - Some patients got an up to 100 times increased radiation dose

Image source: Google image search



Downloaded from <http://ajphaphysocpharm.sagepub.com/> at 11:06 11 November 2014

*An Investigation of the Therac-25 Accidents.* Nancy Leveson, Clark S. Turner  
IEEE Computer, Vol. 26, No. 7, July 1993, pp. 18-41  
[http://courses.cs.vt.edu/~cs3604/lib/Therac\\_25/Therac\\_1.html](http://courses.cs.vt.edu/~cs3604/lib/Therac_25/Therac_1.html)

- 3 patients died because of *bugs*
- 2 patients died because of a race condition, which resulted in inconsistent settings of the device, causing an increased radiation dose
  - The control process did not synchronize correctly with the user interface process
  - The bug only occurred in case the operator was too fast
  - During testing, the error did not occur, because experience (routine) was required to operate the device this fast



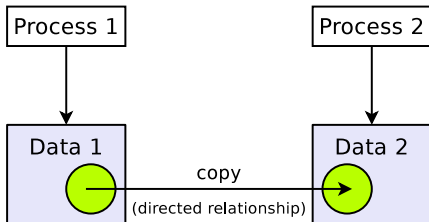
Image source: <http://www.ircrisk.com/blognet/>



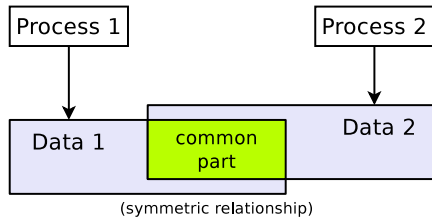
# Communication vs. Cooperation

- Inter process communication has 2 aspects:
  - Functional aspect: **communication** and **cooperation**
  - Temporal aspect: **synchronization**

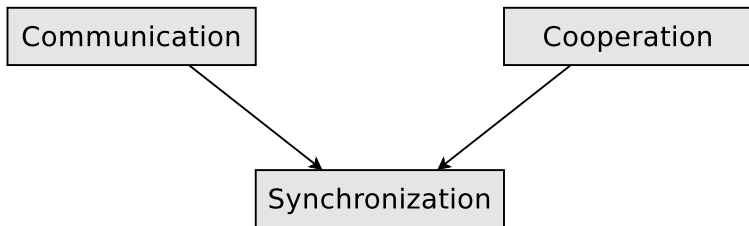
Communication  
(= explicit data transport)



Cooperation  
(= access to common data)



- Communication and cooperation base on synchronization
  - Synchronization is the most elementary form of interaction
    - Reason: communication and cooperation need a synchronization between the interaction partners to obtain correct results
  - Therefore, we first discuss the **synchronization**



























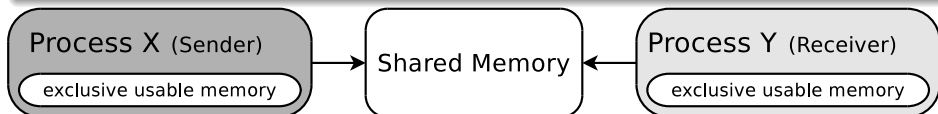




# Shared Memory

- Inter-process communication via a shared memory is also called **memory-based communication**
- **Shared memory segments** are memory areas, which can be accessed by multiple processes
  - These memory areas are located in the address space of multiple processes
- The processes need to coordinate the accesses themselves and to ensure that their memory accesses are mutually exclusive
  - A receiver process, cannot read data from the shared memory, before the sender process has finished its current write operation
  - If access operations are not coordinated carefully  $\implies$  inconsistencies

In all other forms of interprocess communication, the operating system takes care about the synchronization of the access operations







# Working with Shared Memory

Linux/UNIX operating systems provide 4 system calls for working with shared memory

- `shmget()`: Create a shared memory segment or access an existing one
- `shmat()`: Attach a shared memory segment to a process
- `shmdt()`: Detach a shared memory segment from a process
- `shmctl()`: Request status information (e.g. privileges) of a shared memory segment, modify or erase it

One example of working with shared memory segments in Linux can be found on the website of this course

ipcs

The command `ipcs` provides information about existing shared memory segments

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# Attach a Shared Memory Segment (in C)

```
1 #include <sys/types.h>
2 #include <sys/ipc.h>
3 #include <sys/shm.h>
4 #include <stdio.h>
5 #define MAXMEMSIZE 20
6
7 int main(int argc, char **argv) {
8     int shared_memory_id = 12345;
9     int returncode_shmget;
10    char *sharedmempointer;
11
12    // Create shared memory segment or access an existing one
13    returncode_shmget = shmget(shared_memory_id, MAXMEMSIZE, IPC_CREAT | 0600);
14    ...
15
16    // Attach shared memory segment
17    sharedmempointer = shmat(returncode_shmget, 0, 0);
18    if (sharedmempointer==(char *)-1) {
19        printf("Unable to attach the shared memory segment.\n");
20        perror("shmat");
21    } else {
22        printf("The shared memory segment has been attached %p\n", sharedmempointer);
23    }
24 }
25 }
```

```
$ ipcs -m
----- Shared Memory Segments -----
key          shmid      owner          perms          bytes          nattch          status
0x00003039   56393780   bnc            600             20              1
```

```

1 #include <sys/types.h>
2 #include <sys/ipc.h>
3 #include <sys/shm.h>
4 #include <stdio.h>
5 #define MAXMEMSIZE 20
6
7 int main(int argc, char **argv) {
8     int shared_memory_id = 12345;
9     int returncode_shmget, returncode_shmctl, returncode_sprintf;
10    char *sharedmempointer;
11
12    // Create shared memory segment or access an existing one
13    returncode_shmget = shmget(shared_memory_id, MAXMEMSIZE, IPC_CREAT | 0600);
14    ...
15    // Attach shared memory segment
16    sharedmempointer = shmat(returncode_shmget, 0, 0);
17    ...
18
19    // Write a string into the shared memory segment
20    returncode_sprintf = sprintf(sharedmempointer, "Hallo Welt.");
21    if (returncode_sprintf < 0) {
22        printf("The write operation did fail.\n");
23    } else {
24        printf("%i chareacters written into the segment.\n", returncode_sprintf);
25    }
26
27    // Read the string from the shared memory segment
28    if (printf ("%s\n", sharedmempointer) < 0) {
29        printf("The read operation did fail.\n");
30    }
31

```

```

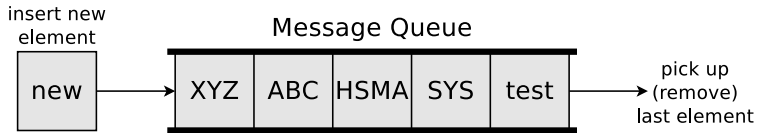
1 #include <sys/types.h>
2 #include <sys/ipc.h>
3 #include <sys/shm.h>
4 #include <stdio.h>
5 #define MAXMEMSIZE 20
6
7 int main(int argc, char **argv) {
8     int shared_memory_id = 12345;
9     int returncode_shmget;
10    int returncode_shmdt;
11    char *sharedmempointer;
12
13    // Create shared memory segment or access an existing one
14    returncode_shmget = shmget(shared_memory_id, MAXMEMSIZE, IPC_CREAT | 0600);
15    ...
16
17    // Attach the shared memory segment
18    sharedmempointer = shmat(returncode_shmget, 0, 0);
19    ...
20
21    // Detach the shared memory segment
22    returncode_shmdt = shmdt(sharedmempointer);
23    if (returncode_shmdt < 0) {
24        printf("Unable to detach the shared memory segment.\n");
25        perror("shmdt");
26    } else {
27        printf("The shared memory segment has been detached.\n");
28    }
29 }
30 }

```



# Message Queues

- Are linked lists with messages
- Operate according to the FIFO principle
- Processes can store data inside and pick them up from there
- Benefit: Even after the termination of the process, which created the message queue, the data inside the message queue stays available



Linux/UNIX operating systems provide 4 system calls for working with message queues

- `msgget()`: Create a message queue or access an existing one
- `msgsnd()`: Write messages into message queues ( $\Rightarrow$  send operation)
- `msgrcv()`: Read messages from message queues ( $\Rightarrow$  receive operation)
- `msgctl()`: Request status information (e.g. privileges) of a message queue, modify or erase it

The command `ipcs` provides information about existing message queues



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```

1 #include <stdlib.h>
2 #include <sys/types.h>
3 #include <sys/ipc.h>
4 #include <stdio.h>
5 #include <sys/msg.h>
6 #include <string.h>           // This header file is required for strcpy()
7
8 struct msgbuf {               // Template of a buffer for msgsnd and msgrcv
9     long mtype;               // Message type
10    char mtext[80];           // Send buffer
11 } msg;
12
13 int main(int argc, char **argv) {
14     int returncode_msgget;
15
16     // Create message queue or access an existing one
17     returncode_msgget = msgget(12345, IPC_CREAT | 0600);
18     ...
19
20     msg.mtype = 1;            // Specify the message type festlegen
21     strcpy(msg.mtext, "Testnachricht"); // Write the message into the send buffer
22
23     // Store a message inside the message queue
24     if (msgsnd(returncode_msgget, &msg, strlen(msg.mtext), 0) == -1) {
25         printf("Unable to store the message into the message queue.\n");
26         exit(1);
27     }
28 }

```

- The message type (a positive integer value) specifies the user

## Result of writing a Message into a Message Queue

- Before...

```
$ ipcs -q
----- Message Queues -----
key          msqid          owner          perms          used-bytes      messages
0x00003039  98304          bnc            600            0                0
```

- Afterwards...

```
$ ipcs -q
----- Message Queues -----
key          msqid          owner          perms          used-bytes      messages
0x00003039  98304          bnc            600            80             1
```

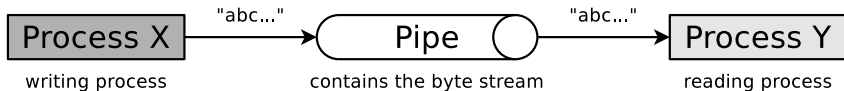


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# Pipes (1/2)

- An **anonymous Pipe**...

- is a buffered unidirectional communication channel between 2 processes
  - If communication in both directions shall be possible at the same time, 2 pipes are necessary – one for each communication direction
- operates according to the FIFO principle
- has a limited capacity
  - Pipe = filled  $\implies$  the writing process gets blocked
  - Pipe = empty  $\implies$  the reading process gets blocked
- is created with the system call `pipe()`
  - During this process, the kernel of the operating system creates an Inode ( $\implies$  slide set 6) and 2 file descriptors (*handles*)
  - Processes access the access identifiers with `read()` and `write()` system calls (or standard library functions) for reading data from or writing data into the pipe



## Pipes (2/2)

- When child processes are created with `fork()`, the child processes also inherit access to the file descriptors
- **Anonymous pipes** provide process communication only between closely related processes
  - Only processes, which are closely related via `fork()` can communicate with each other via anonymous pipes
  - If the last process, which has access to an anonymous pipe, terminates, the pipe gets erased by the operating system
- Processes, which are not closely related with each other, can communicate via **named pipes**
  - These pipes can be accessed by using their names
    - They are created in C by: `mkfifo("<pathname>", <permissions>)`
  - Any process, which knows the name of a pipe, can use the name to access the pipe and communicate with other processes
- The operating system ensures **mutual exclusion**
  - At any time, only a single process can access a pipe

# An Anonymous Pipe Example (in C) – Part 1/2

One example of working with named pipes in Linux can be found on the website of this course

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <unistd.h>
3 #include <stdlib.h>
4
5 void main() {
6     int pid_des_Kindes;
7     // Zugriffskennungen zum Lesen (testpipe[0]) und Schreiben (testpipe[1]) anlegen
8     int testpipe[2];
9
10    // Die Pipe testpipe anlegen
11    if (pipe(testpipe) < 0) {
12        printf("Das Anlegen der Pipe ist fehlgeschlagen.\n");
13        // Programmabbruch
14        exit(1);
15    } else {
16        printf("Die Pipe testpipe wurde angelegt.\n");
17    }
18
19    // Einen Kindprozess erzeugen
20    pid_des_Kindes = fork();
21
22    // Es kam beim fork zu einem Fehler
23    if (pid_des_Kindes < 0) {
24        perror("Es kam bei fork zu einem Fehler!\n");
25        // Programmabbruch
26        exit(1);
27    }
```



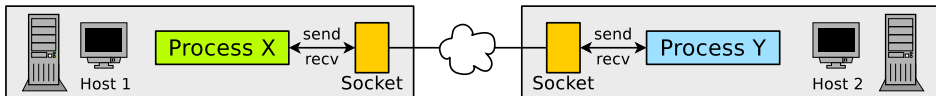
# An Anonymous Pipe Example (in C) – Part 2/2

```
28 // Elternprozess
29 if (pid_des_Kindes > 0) {
30     printf("Elternprozess: PID: %i\n", getpid());
31     // Lesekanal der Pipe testpipe blockieren
32     close(testpipe[0]);
33     char nachricht[] = "Testnachricht";
34     // Daten in den Schreibkanal der Pipe schreiben
35     write(testpipe[1], &nachricht, sizeof(nachricht));
36 }
37
38 // Kindprozess
39 if (pid_des_Kindes == 0) {
40     printf("Kindprozess: PID: %i\n", getpid());
41     // Schreibkanal der Pipe testpipe blockieren
42     close(testpipe[1]);
43     // Einen Empfangspuffer mit 80 Zeichen Kapazität anlegen
44     char puffer[80];
45     // Daten aus dem Lesekanal der Pipe auslesen
46     read(testpipe[0], puffer, sizeof(puffer));
47     // Empfangene Daten ausgeben
48     printf("Empfangene Daten: %s\n", puffer);
49 }
50 }
```

```
$ gcc pipe_beispiel.c -o pipe_beispiel
$ ./pipe_beispiel
Die Pipe testpipe wurde angelegt.
Elternprozess: PID: 6363
Kindprozess: PID: 6364
Empfangene Daten: Testnachricht
```

# Sockets

- Full duplex-ready alternative to pipes and shared memory
  - Allow interprocess communication in distributed systems
- An user process can request a socket from the operating system and afterwards send and receive data via the socket
  - The operating system maintains all used sockets and the related connection information



- Ports are used for the communication via sockets
  - Port numbers are randomly assigned during connection establishment
  - Port numbers are assigned randomly by the operating system
    - Exceptions are port numbers of well-known applications, such as HTTP (80) SMTP (25), Telnet (23), SSH (22), FTP (21),...
- Sockets can be used in a blocking (synchronous) and non-blocking (asynchronous) way

# Different Types of Sockets

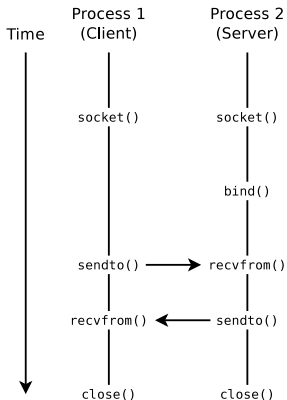
- **Connection-less sockets (= datagram sockets)**
  - Use the Transport Layer protocol UDP
  - Advantage: Better data rate as with TCP
    - Reason: Lesser overhead for the protocol
  - Drawback: Segments may arrive in wrong sequence or may get lost
- **Connection-oriented sockets (= stream sockets)**
  - Use the Transport Layer protocol TCP
  - Advantage: Better reliability
    - Segments cannot get lost
    - Segments always arrive in the correct sequence
  - Drawback: Lower data rate as with UDP
    - Reason: More overhead for the protocol

# Using Sockets

- Almost all major operating systems support sockets
  - Advantage: Better portability of applications
- Functions for communication via sockets:
  - Creating a Socket:  
`socket()`
  - Binding a socket to a port number and making it ready to receive data:  
`bind()`, `listen()`, `accept()` and `connect()`
  - Sending/receiving messages via the socket:  
`send()`, `sendto()`, `recv()` and `recvfrom()`
  - Closing eines Socket:  
`shutdown()` or `close()`

Overview of the sockets in Linux/UNIX: `netstat -n` or `lsof | grep socket`

# Connection-less Communication via Sockets – UDP



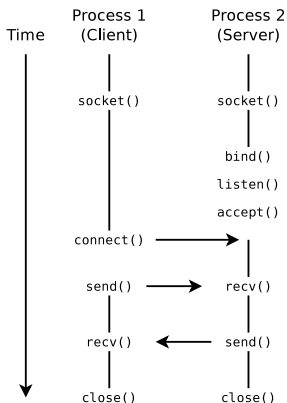
## • Client

- Create socket (`socket`)
- Send (`sendto`) and receive data (`recvfrom`)
- Close socket (`close`)

## • Server

- Create socket (`socket`)
- Bind socket to a port (`bind`)
- Send (`sendto`) and receive data (`recvfrom`)
- Close socket (`close`)

# Connection-oriented Communication via Sockets – TCP



## • Client

- Create socket (`socket`)
- Connect client with server socket (`connect`)
- Send (`send`) and receive data (`recv`)
- Close socket (`close`)

## • Server

- Create socket (`socket`)
- Bind socket to a port (`bind`)
- Make socket ready to receive (`listen`)
  - Set up a queue for connections with clients
- Server accepts connections (`accept`)
- Send (`send`) and receive data (`recv`)
- Close socket (`close`)

# Create a Socket: socket

```
int socket(int domain, int type, int protocol);
```

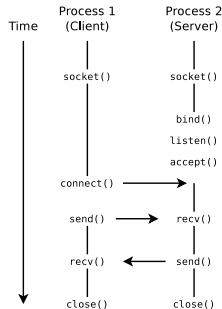
- A call of `socket()` returns an integer value
  - The value is called **socket descriptor** (*socket file descriptor*)
- `domain`: Specifies the protocol family
  - `PF_UNIX`: Local inter-process communication in Linux/UNIX
  - `PF_INET`: IPv4
  - `PF_INET6`: IPv6
- `type`: Specifies the type of the socket (and thus the protocol):
  - `SOCK_STREAM`: Stream socket (TCP)
  - `SOCK_DGRAM`: Datagram socket (UDP)
  - `SOCK_RAW`: RAW socket (IP)
- In most cases the `protocol` parameter is set to value zero
- Create a socket with `socket()`:

```
1 sd = socket(PF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 0);
2   if (sd < 0) {
3       perror("The socket could not be created");
4       return 1;
5   }
```

# Bind Address and Port Number: bind

```
int bind(int sd, struct sockaddr *address, int addrlen);
```

- `bind()` binds the newly created socket (`sd`) to the address (`address`) of the server
  - `sd` is the socket descriptor from the previous call of `socket()`
  - `address` is a data structure, which contains the IP address of the server and a port number
  - `addrlen` is the length of the data structure, which contains the IP address and port number

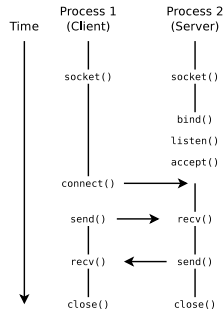




# Make a Server ready to receive Data: listen

```
int listen(int sd, int backlog);
```

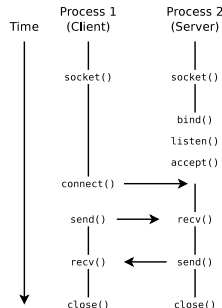
- `listen()` specifies how many connection requests can be buffered by the socket
  - If the `listen()` queue has no more free capacity, further connection requests from clients are rejected
  - `sd` is the socket descriptor from the previous call of `socket()`
  - `backlog` contains the number of possible connection requests, which can be stored in the queue
    - Default value: 5
  - A server for datagrams (UDP) does not need to call `listen()`, because it does not establish connections to clients



# Accept a Connection Request: `accept`

```
int accept(int sd, struct sockaddr *address, int *addrlen);
```

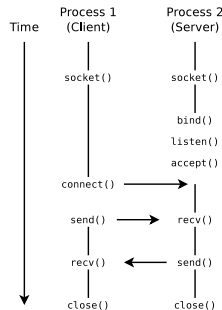
- `accept()` is used by the server to fetch the first connection request from the queue
- The return value is the socket descriptor of the new socket
- If the queue contains no connection requests, the process is blocked until a connection request arrives
- `address` contains the address of the client
- After a connection request was accepted with `accept()`, the connection with the client is established



# Establish a Connection by the Client

```
int connect(int sd, struct sockaddr *servaddr,  
            socklen_t addrlen);
```

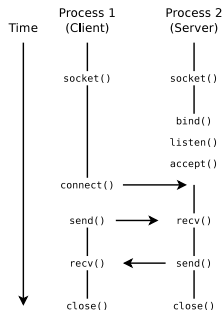
- Via `connect()`, the client tries to establish a connection to a server socket
- The client must know the address (hostname and port number) of the server
- `sd` is the socket descriptor
- `address` contains the address of the server
- `addrlen` is the length of the data structure, which contains the address of the server



# Connection-oriented Exchange of Data: send and recv

```
int send(int sd, char *buffer, int nbytes, int flags);  
int recv(int sd, char *buffer, int nbytes, int flags);
```

- Data are exchanged via `send()` and `recv()` over an existing connection
- `send()` sends a message (`buffer`) via the socket (`sd`)
- `recv()` receives a message from the socket `sd` and stores it in the buffer (`buffer`)
- `sd` is the socket descriptor
- `buffer` contains the data to be sent or received
- `nbytes` specifies the number of bytes in the buffer
- The value of `flags` is usually zero



## Connection-oriented Exchange of Data: read and write

```
int read(int sd, char *buffer, int nbytes);  
int write(int sd, char *buffer, int nbytes);
```

- In UNIX it is in normal case also possible to use `read()` and `write()` for receiving and sending data via a socket
  - „Normal case“ means, that `read()` and `write()` can be used, when the parameter flags of `send()` and `recv()` contains value zero
- The following calls have the same result

```
1 send(socket, "Hello World", 11, 0);  
2 write(socket, "Hello World", 11);
```

## Connection-less Exchange of Data: sendto and recvfrom

```
int sendto(int sd, char *buffer, int nbytes, int flags,  
           struct sockaddr *to, int addrlen);  
int recvfrom(int sd, char *buffer, int nbytes, int flags,  
             struct sockaddr *from, int addrlen);
```

- If a process knows the address of the socket (host and port), to which it should send data, it uses `sendto()`
- `sendto()` always transmits together with the data the local address
- `sd` is the socket descriptor
- `buffer` contains the data to be sent or received
- `nbytes` specifies the number of bytes in the buffer
- `to` contains the address of the receiver
- `from` contains the address of the sender
- `addrlen` is the length of the data structure, which contains the address

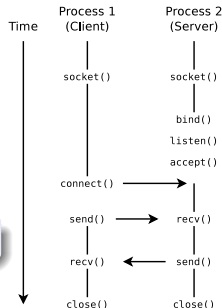
# Close a Socket: close

```
int shutdown(int sd, int how);
```

- `shutdown()` closes a bidirectional socket connection
- The parameter `how` specifies whether no more data will be received (`how=0`), no more data will be send (`how=1`), or both (`how=2`)

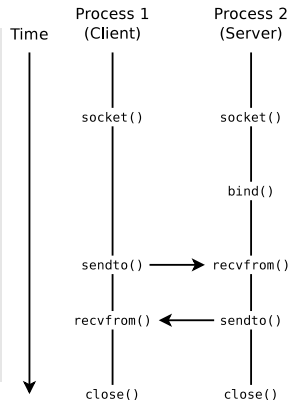
```
int close(int sd);
```

- If `close()` is used instead of `shutdown()`, this corresponds to a `shutdown(sd,2)`



# Sockets via UDP – Example (Server)

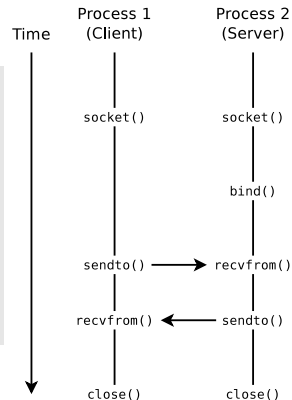
```
1#!/usr/bin/env python
2# Server: Receives a message via UDP
3
4import socket                                # Import module socket
5
6# For all interfaces of the host
7HOST = ''                                    # '' = all interfaces
8PORT = 50000                                # Port number of server
9
10# Create socket and return socket descriptor
11sd = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_DGRAM)
12
13try:
14    sd.bind(HOST, PORT)                      # Bind socket to port
15    while True:
16        data = sd.recvfrom(1024)            # Receive data
17        print 'Received:', repr(data)       # Print out received data
18finally:
19    sd.close()                               # Close socket
```





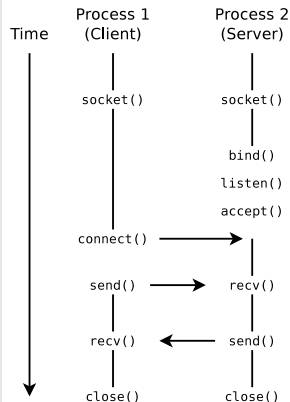
# Sockets via UDP – Example (Client)

```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python
2 # Client: Sends a message via UDP
3
4 import socket                                # Import module socket
5
6 HOST = 'localhost'                           # Hostname of Server
7 PORT = 50000                                 # Port number of Server
8 MESSAGE = 'Hello World'                     # Message
9
10 # Create socket and return socket descriptor
11 sd = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_DGRAM)
12
13 sd.sendto(MESSAGE, (HOST, PORT))             # Send message to socket
14
15 sd.close()                                   # Close socket
```



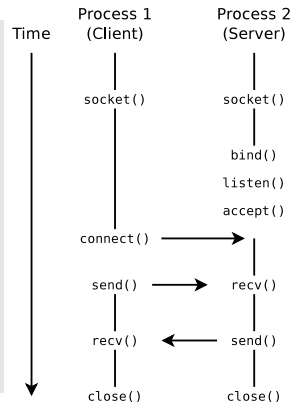
# Sockets via TCP – Example (Server)

```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python
2 # Echo Server via TCP
3
4 import socket                # Import module socket
5
6 HOST = ''                    # '' = all interfaces
7 PORT = 50007                 # Port number of server
8
9 # Create socket and return socket descriptor
10 sd = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
11
12 sd.bind(HOST, PORT)          # Bind socket to port
13
14 sd.listen(1)                 # Make socket ready to receive
15                               # Max. number of connections = 1
16
17 conn, addr = sd.accept()      # Socket accepts connections
18
19 print 'Connected by', addr
20 while 1:
21     data = conn.recv(1024)    # Receive data
22     if not data: break        # Break infinite loop
23     conn.send(data)           # Send back received data
24
25 conn.close()                 # Close socket
```



# Sockets via TCP – Example (Client)

```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python
2 # Echo Client via UDP
3
4 import socket                # Import module socket
5
6 HOST = 'localhost'           # Hostname of Server
7 PORT = 50007                  # Port number of server
8
9 # Create socket and return socket descriptor
10 sd = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
11
12 sd.connect(HOST, PORT)        # Connect with server socket
13
14 sd.send('Hello, world')       # Send data
15
16 data = sd.recv(1024)          # Receive data
17
18 sd.close()                    # Close socket
19
20 print 'Empfangen:', repr(data) # Print out received data
```



# Blocking and non-blocking Sockets

- If a socket is created, it per default in **blocking mode**
  - All method calls wait until the operation, they initiated, was carried out
    - e.g. a call of `recv()` blocks the process until data is received and can be read from the internal buffer of the socket
- The method `setblocking()` **modifies** the mode of a socket
  - `sd.setblocking(0)`  $\implies$  switches into non-blocking mode
  - `sd.setblocking(1)`  $\implies$  switches into blocking mode
- It is possible to switch between the modes **at any time** during process execution
  - e.g. the method `connect()` could be used in blocking mode and afterwards the method `read()` in non-blocking mode

Source: Peter Kaiser, Johannes Ernesti. Python – Das umfassende Handbuch. Galileo (2008)



	Shared Memory	Message Queues	(anon./named) Pipes	Sockets
<b>Sort of communication</b>	Memory-based	Message-based	Message-based	Message-based
<b>Bidirectional</b>	yes	no	no	yes
<b>Platform independent</b>	no	no	no	yes
<b>Processes must be related with each other</b>	no	no	for anon. pipes	no
<b>Communication over computer boundaries</b>	no	no	no	yes
<b>Remain intact without a bound process</b>	yes	yes	no	no
<b>Automatic synchronization</b>	no	yes	yes	yes

- Advantages of message-based communication versus memory-based communication:
  - The operating system takes care about the synchronization of accesses  
⇒ comfortable because the user processes do not need to take care about the synchronization
  - Can be used in distributed systems without a shared memory
  - Better portability of applications

- This allows memory-based communication between processes on different independent systems
- The problem of synchronizing the accesses also exists here



# Semaphore

- In order to protect (lock) critical sections, not only the already discussed locks can be used, but also **semaphores**
- 1965: Published by Edsger W. Dijkstra
- A semaphore is a counter lock **S** with operations **P(S)** and **V(S)**
  - **V** comes from the dutch *verhogen* = raise
  - **P** comes from the dutch *proberen* = try (to reduce)
- The **access operations are atomic**  $\implies$  can not be interrupted (indivisible)
- May also permit multiple processes accessing the critical section
  - In contrast to semaphores, can locks ( $\implies$  slide 14) only be used to permit a single process entering the critical section at the same time

**Cooperating sequential processes.** *Edsger W. Dijkstra* (1965)

<https://www.cs.utexas.edu/~EWD/ewd01xx/EWD123.PDF>



## Semaphore Access Operations (1/3)

## A Semaphore consists of 2 Data Structures

- **COUNT:** An **integer, non-negative counter variable**.  
Specifies how many processes can pass the semaphore now without getting blocked
  - A waiting room for the processes, which **wait** until they are allowed to pass the semaphore  
The processes are in blocked state until they are transferred into ready state by the operating system when the semaphore allows to access the critical section
- 
- **Initialization:** First, a new semaphore is created or an existing one is opened
    - For a new semaphore, the count variable is initialized at the beginning with a non-negative initial value

```
1 // apply the INIT operation on semaphore SEM
2 SEM.INIT(unsigned int init_value) {
3
4     // initialize the variable COUNT of Semaphor SEM
5     // with a non-negative initial value
6     SEM.COUNT = init_value;
7 }
```













\_\_\_\_\_

```

1 // Initialization of semaphores
2 s_init (Sema_Ping, 1);
3 s_init (Sema_Pong, 0);
4
5 task Ping is
6 begin
7     loop
8         P(Sema_Ping);
9         print("Ping");
10        V(Sema_Pong);
11    end loop;
12 end Ping;
13
14 task Pong is
15 begin
16     loop
17         P(Sema_Pong);
18         print("Pong, ");
19         V(Sema_Ping);
20    end loop;
21 end Pong;

```

- The two endless-running processes and Ping print out continuously PingPong, PingPong, PingPong,...







## Semaphore Example: 3 Runners (3/3)

- Possible solution:
  - Introduce a second semaphore
  - The second semaphore is also initialized with value 0
  - Runner 2 increases the second semaphore with its V operation
  - Runner 3 decreases the second semaphore with its P operation

```

1 // Initialization of semaphores
2 s_init (Sema1, 0);
3 s_init (Sema2, 0);
4
5 task First is
6     < run >
7     V(Sema1);
8
9 task Second is
10    P(Sema1);
11    < run >
12    V(Sema2);
13
14 task Third is
15    P(Sema2);
16    < run >

```

Image Source: Carsten Vogt

- 
- Diagram illustrating the structure of a semaphore table (Semaphorentabelle) and its mapping to semaphore groups (Semaphorengruppe).
- The table is indexed by **Gruppennummer** (Group Number) from 0 to  $n$ .
- Each row in the table points to a specific **Semaphorengruppe** (Semaphore Group), which contains individual semaphores ( $S_{ij}$ ).
- Labels and mappings shown:
- Gruppennummer** (Group Number) points to the index of the row.
  - Semaphorengruppe** (Semaphore Group) points to the set of semaphores associated with a specific group number.
  - einzelnes Semaphor** (individual semaphore) points to a specific semaphore within a group (e.g.,  $S_{22}$ ).
  - Semaphorennummer innerhalb der Gruppe** (Semaphore number within the group) points to the index within the group (e.g., 0 to 5 for group 0).
- Example mappings from the diagram:
- Group 0:  $S_{00}, S_{01}, S_{02}, S_{03}, S_{04}, S_{05}$
  - Group 1:  $S_{10}, S_{11}$
  - Group 2:  $S_{20}, S_{21}, S_{22}$
  - Group 3:  $S_{30}, S_{31}, S_{32}, S_{33}, S_{34}$
  - Group  $n$ : leer (empty)

- `semget()`: Create new semaphore or a group of semaphores or open an existing semaphore
- `semctl()`: Request or modify the value of an existing semaphore or of a semaphore group or erase a semaphore
- `semop()`: Carry out P and V operations on semaphores
- Information about existing semaphores provides the command `ipcs`



