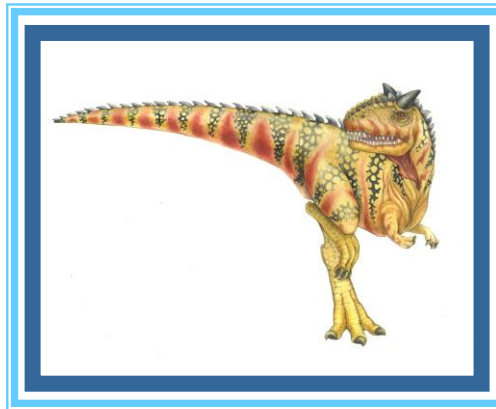


# Chapter 5: Process Synchronization

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# Chapter 5: Process Synchronization

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- Background
- The Critical-Section Problem
- Peterson's Solution
- Semaphores
- Monitors





# Objectives

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- To present the concept of process synchronization.
- To introduce the critical-section problem, whose solutions can be used to ensure the consistency of shared data
- To present both software and hardware solutions of the critical-section problem





# Background

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- Processes can execute concurrently
  - May be interrupted at any time, partially completing execution
- Concurrent access to shared data may result in data inconsistency
- Maintaining data consistency requires mechanisms to ensure the orderly execution of cooperating processes





# Critical Section Problem

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- Consider system of  $n$  processes  $\{p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{n-1}\}$
- Each process has **critical section** segment of code
  - Process may be changing common variables, updating table, writing file, etc
  - When one process in critical section, no other may be in its critical section
- **Critical section problem** is to design protocol to solve this
- Each process must ask permission to enter critical section in **entry section**, may follow critical section with **exit section**, then **remainder section**





# Critical Section

- General structure of process  $P_i$

```
do {  
    entry section  
    critical section  
    exit section  
    remainder section  
} while (true);
```





# Algorithm for Process $P_i$

---

```
do {  
    while (turn == j);  
        critical section  
    turn = j;  
        remainder section  
} while (true);
```





# Solution to Critical-Section Problem

1. **Mutual Exclusion** - If process  $P_i$  is executing in its critical section, then no other processes can be executing in their critical sections
2. **Progress** - If no process is executing in its critical section and there exist some processes that wish to enter their critical section, then the selection of the processes that will enter the critical section next cannot be postponed indefinitely
3. **Bounded Waiting** - A bound must exist on the number of times that other processes are allowed to enter their critical sections after a process has made a request to enter its critical section and before that request is granted
  - Assume that each process executes at a nonzero speed
  - No assumption concerning **relative speed** of the  $n$  processes







# Peterson's Solution

- Good algorithmic description of solving the problem
- Two process solution
- Assume that the **load** and **store** machine-language instructions are atomic; that is, cannot be interrupted
- The two processes share two variables:
  - `int turn;`
  - `Boolean flag[2]`
- The variable `turn` indicates whose turn it is to enter the critical section
- The `flag` array is used to indicate if a process is ready to enter the critical section. `flag[i] = true` implies that process  $P_i$  is ready!





# Algorithm for Process $P_i$

---

```
do {  
    flag[i] = true;  
    turn = j;  
    while (flag[j] && turn == j);  
        critical section  
    flag[i] = false;  
        remainder section  
} while (true);
```





# Peterson's Solution (Cont.)

- Provable that the three CS requirement are met:

1. Mutual exclusion is preserved

$P_i$  enters CS only if:

either `flag[j] = false` or `turn = i`

2. Progress requirement is satisfied
3. Bounded-waiting requirement is met





# Semaphore

- Synchronization tool that provides more sophisticated ways (than Mutex locks) for process to synchronize their activities.
- Semaphore **S** – integer variable
- Can only be accessed via two indivisible (atomic) operations
  - **wait()** and **signal()**
    - ▶ Originally called **P()** and **V()**
- Definition of the **wait()** operation

```
wait(S) {  
    while (S <= 0)  
        ; // busy wait  
    S--;  
}
```

- Definition of the **signal()** operation

```
signal(S) {  
    S++;  
}
```





# Monitors

- A high-level abstraction that provides a convenient and effective mechanism for process synchronization
- *Abstract data type*, internal variables only accessible by code within the procedure
- Only one process may be active within the monitor at a time
- But not powerful enough to model some synchronization schemes

```
monitor monitor-name
{
    // shared variable declarations
    procedure P1 (...) { ... }

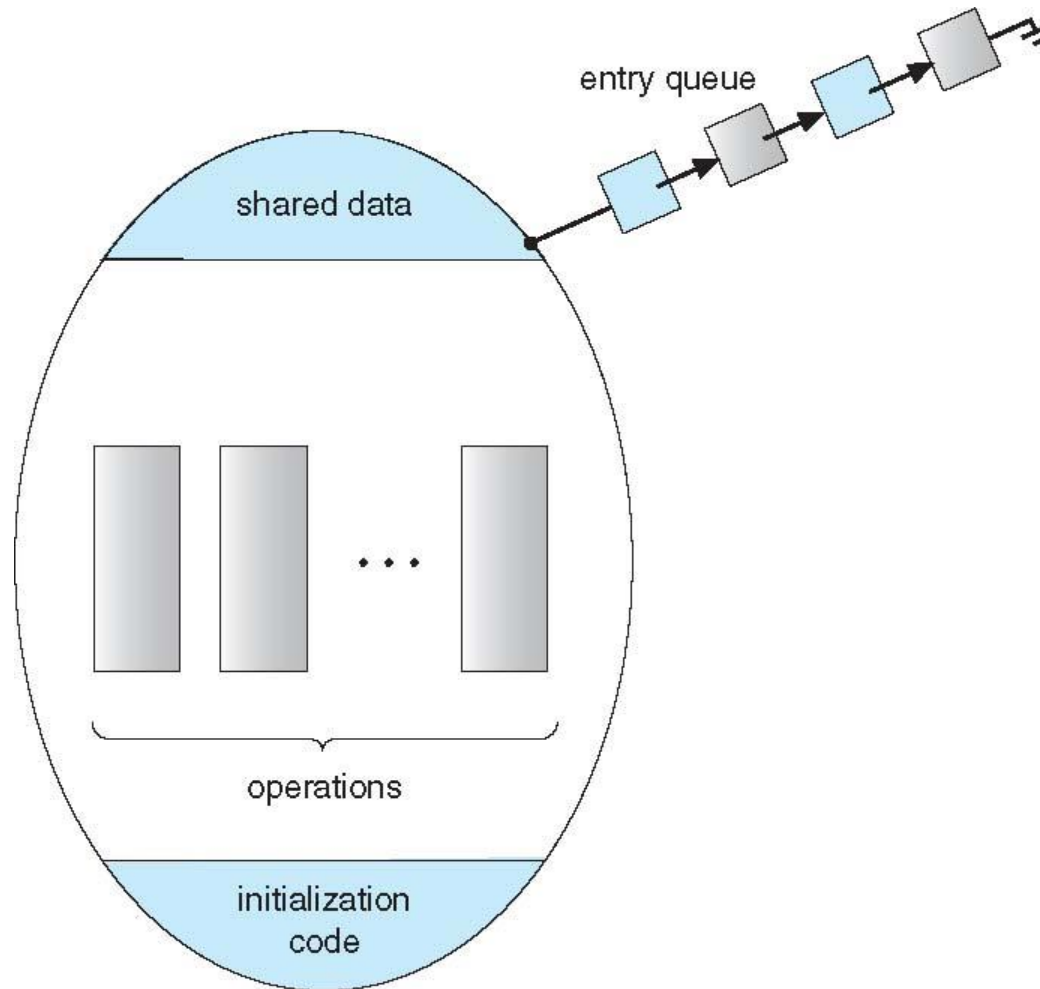
    procedure Pn (...) {.....}

    Initialization code (...) { ... }
}
}
```





# Schematic view of a Monitor



# End of Chapter 5

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