The producer-consumer problem is an example of a [multi-process synchronization](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/introduction-of-process-synchronization/) problem. The problem describes two processes, the producer and the consumer that shares a common fixed-size buffer use it as a [queue](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/queue-data-structure/).

* The producer’s job is to generate data, put it into the buffer, and start again.
* At the same time, the consumer is consuming the data (i.e., removing it from the buffer), one piece at a time.

**Problem:**

* Given the common fixed-size buffer, the task is to make sure that the producer can’t add data into the buffer when it is full and the consumer can’t remove data from an empty buffer.

**Solution:**

* The producer is to either go to sleep or discard data if the buffer is full. The next time the consumer removes an item from the buffer, it notifies the producer, who starts to fill the buffer again.
* In the same manner, the consumer can go to sleep if it finds the buffer to be empty. The next time the producer puts data into the buffer, it wakes up the sleeping consumer.

// C program for the above approach

#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdlib.h>

// Initialize a mutex to 1

int mutex = 1;

// Number of full slots as 0

int full = 0;

// Number of empty slots as size

// of buffer

int empty = 10, x = 0;

// Function to produce an item and

// add it to the buffer

void producer()

{

// Decrease mutex value by 1

--mutex;

// Increase the number of full

// slots by 1

++full;

// Decrease the number of empty

// slots by 1

--empty;

// Item produced

x++;

printf("\nProducer produces"

"item %d",

x);

// Increase mutex value by 1

++mutex;

}

// Function to consume an item and

// remove it from buffer

void consumer()

{

// Decrease mutex value by 1

--mutex;

// Decrease the number of full

// slots by 1

--full;

// Increase the number of empty

// slots by 1

++empty;

printf("\nConsumer consumes "

"item %d",

x);

x--;

// Increase mutex value by 1

++mutex;

}

// Driver Code

int main()

{

int n, i;

printf("\n1. Press 1 for Producer"

"\n2. Press 2 for Consumer"

"\n3. Press 3 for Exit");

// Using '#pragma omp parallel for'

// can give wrong value due to

// synchronization issues.

// 'critical' specifies that code is

// executed by only one thread at a

// time i.e., only one thread enters

// the critical section at a given time

//pragmaomp critical

for (i = 1; i> 0; i++) {

printf("\nEnter your choice:");

scanf("%d", &n);

// Switch Cases

switch (n) {

case 1:

// If mutex is 1 and empty

// is non-zero, then it is

// possible to produce

if ((mutex == 1)

&& (empty != 0)) {

producer();

}

// Otherwise, print buffer

// is full

else {

printf("Buffer is full!");

}

break;

case 2:

// If mutex is 1 and full

// is non-zero, then it is

// possible to consume

if ((mutex == 1)

&& (full != 0)) {

consumer();

}

// Otherwise, print Buffer

// is empty

else {

printf("Buffer is empty!");

}

break;

// Exit Condition

case 3:

exit(0);

break;

}

}

}

