Synchronization

Chapter 6

Race Conditions

Race Condition: Any situation in which the outcome of execution depends on the particular order in which multiple processes/threads execute

Prevention: Implement Critical Sections

Critical Section

- Requirements:
 - Mutual Exclusion
 - Progress
 - Bounded Waiting
 - No Timing Assumptions
- Classic Solutions:
 - Peterson's Solution
 - TSL Instructions

Semaphores

- Abstracts details of critical section to simplify programming
 - wait() / P
 - signal() / V
- Variations:
 - Counting
 - Binary (Mutex)

Semaphores

- Implementation
 - Spin Lock
 - Efficient Waiting

Programming

- POSIX: (make sure you look at the code posted!)
 - Supports mutex through pthread library
 - Semaphores are directly supported
- Windows:
 - Support for mutex, semaphores directly
- Java: Supports Mutex, Semaphore, and Monitor