# CSC 112: Computer Operating Systems Lecture 3

Synchronization

Department of Computer Science, Hofstra University

# Outline

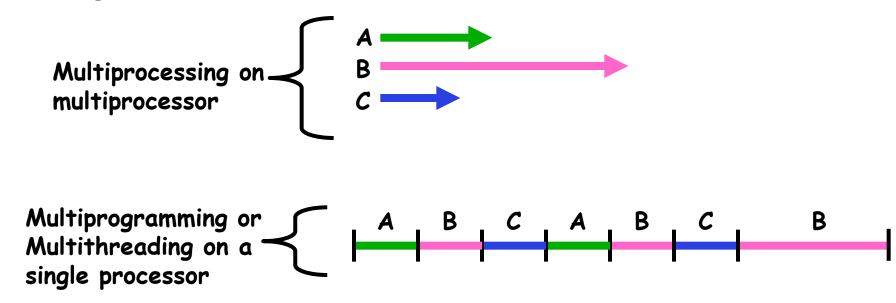
- Concurrency & Spinlocks
- Semaphores
- Monitors

### **Different Types of Concurrencies**

- Multiprocessing → multiple CPUs running in parallel
- Multiprogramming 

  multiple processes scheduled on a single processor by time-sharing
- Multithreading 

  multiple threads per process scheduled on a single processor by time-sharing



### Concurrency

```
#include <stdio.h>
                                       int main(int argc, char *argv[])
#include <stdlib.h>
#include "common.h"
                                            if (argc != 2){
#include "common_threads.h"
                                                 fprintf(stderr, "usage: threads <loops>\n");
                                                 exit(1); }
int counter = 0:
                                            loops = atoi(argv[1]);
int loops;
                                            pthread t p1, p2;
void *worker(void *arg) {
                                            printf("Initial value : %d\n", counter);
                                            pthread create(&p1, NULL, worker, NULL);
     int i.
                                            pthread create(&p2, NULL, worker, NULL);
     for (i = 0; i < loops; i++)
                                            pthread join(p1, NULL);
     {counter++; }
                                            pthread join(p2, NULL);
     return NULL;
                                            printf("Final value : %d\n", counter);
                                            return 0:
```

This concurrent program has a race condition, and may produce different final values of counter for different runs, depending on different non-deterministic interleavings of worker threads

### **Race Condition**

- Incrementing counter has 3 instructions in assembly code:
- Id w8, [x9]: Read the value of counter at memory address x9 into register w8
- add w8, w8, #0x1: increment the value of register w8 by 1
- st w8, [x9]: write the new value of counter in register w8 to memory address x9
- When both threads read the same value of counter before writing to it, counter is incremented only by 1 instead of by 2!
- Note: threads in the same process share the same memory space, but have separate registers. So in both threads, [x9] refers to the same memory address at x9, but w8 refers to different registers in each thread.

#### counter++;

Id w8, [x9] add w8, w8, #0x1 st w8, [x9]

Thread 1

ld w8, [x9] add w8, w8, #0x1 st w8, [x9]

Thread 2

Thread 1

ld w8, [x9] add w8, w8, #0x1 st w8, [x9] counter

Thread 2

100 101

100 101 101

Id w8, [x9] add w8, w8, #0x1 st w8, [x9]

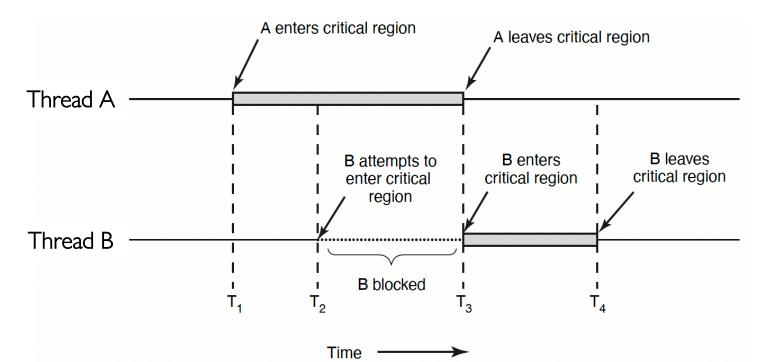
st w8, [x9]

101

### **Race Condition & Critical Section**

#### Race condition:

- Multiple threads of execution update shared data variables, and final results depend on the execution order
- Race condition leads to non-deterministic results: different results even for the same inputs
- To prevent race condition, a **critical section** should be used to protect shared data variables
  - A critical section is executed atomically
  - Mutual exclusion (mutex) ensures that when one thread is executing in its critical section, no other thread is allowed to execute in that critical section





### Lock to Protect a Critical Section

Count Thread 2 Thread 1 Value 100 ld w8, [x9] 101 add w8, w8, #0x1 st w8, [x9] 101 101 ld w8, [x9] 102 add w8, w8, #0x1 st w8, [x9] 102 Lock it

- Critical section: a piece of code that accesses a shared resource, usually a variable or data structure
- Correctness of a concurrent program:
  - Mutual exclusion: Only one thread in critical section at a time
  - Progress (deadlock-free): If several simultaneous requests, must allow one to proceed
  - Bounded (starvation-free): Must eventually allow each waiting thread to enter

Lock it

### Locks

- A lock is a variable
- Objective: Provide mutual exclusion (mutex)
- Two states
  - Available or free
  - Locked or held
- lock(): tries to acquire the lock
- unlock(): releases the lock that was previously acquired }

```
lock_t mutex
void *worker(void *arg) {
    int i;
    for (i = 0; i < loops;i++) {
        lock(&mutex);
        counter++;
        unlock(&mutex)}
    return NULL;</pre>
```

# **Locks: Disable Interrupts**

- An early solution: disable interrupts for critical sections
- Problems:
  - System becomes irresponsive if interrupts are disabled for a long time
  - Does not work on multiprocessors, as disabling interrupts on all processor cores requires inter-core messages and would be very time consuming

```
void lock() {
    DisableInterrupts();
}
void unlock() {
    EnableInterrupts();
}
```

### **Locks: Loads/Stores**

- This implementation does not ensure mutual exclusion, since both threads may grab the lock:
- After Thread 1 reads flag==0 and exits the while loop, it is preempted/interrupted by Thread 2, which also reads flag==0 and exits the while loop. Then both threads set flag=1 and enter the critical section.
- Root cause: Lock is not an atomic operation!

```
typedef struct __lock_t { int flag; } lock_t;
                                                           flag = 0
   void init(lock t *mutex) {
        // 0 -> lock is available, 1 -> held
                                                           Thread 1
                                                                                       Thread 2
        mutex - > flag = 0;
                                                           call lock()
                                                           while (flag == 1)
                                                           interrupt: switch to Thread 2
   void lock(lock t *mutex) {
                                                                                       call lock()
        while (mutex->flag == 1) // TEST the flag
                                                                                       while (flag == 1)
            ; // spin-wait (do nothing)
                                                                                       flag = 1;
        mutex \rightarrow flaq = 1; // now SET it!
                                                                                       interrupt: switch to Thread 1
12
                                                           flag = 1; // set flag to 1 (too!)
13
   void unlock(lock_t *mutex) {
        mutex -> flaq = 0;
```

### Locks: Test-and-Set

- How to provide mutual exclusion for locks?
  - Get help from hardware!
- CPUs provide special hardware instructions to help achieve mutual exclusion
  - The Test-and-Set (TAS) instruction tests and modifies the content of a memory word atomically
- Locking with TAS: TAS fetches the old value of lock->flag into variable old, sets lock->flag to 1, then return variable old, all in one atomic operation
  - If lock-flag==0, then lock() sets it to 1 and returns old==0, so the thread exits the while loop and enters critical section
  - If lock-flag==1, then lock() returns old==1, so the thread spin-waits in the while loop and does not enter critical section
- If multiple threads call TAS when lockflag==0, only one thread will see lockflag==0, set it to 1 and enter the critical section, and all the other threads will see lock-flag==1 and spin-wait.

```
typedef struct lock t{
 int flag;
 lock t;
int TestAndSet(int *old ptr, int new) {
  int old = *old ptr; // fetch old value at old ptr
  *old ptr = new; // store new into old ptr
 return old; // return the old value
void lock(lock t *lock) {
 while (TestAndSet(&lock->flag, 1) == 1)
    ; // spin-wait
void unlock(lock t *lock) {
 lock -> flag = 0;
```

### Locks: Compare-and-Swap

- Another hardware primitive: Compare-and-Swap (CAS)
- Locking with CAS: CAS fetches the old value of lock-flag into variable original, compares original with expected (0), and if they are equal (lock-flag==0), sets lock->flag to 1, then return variable original, all in one atomic operation
  - If lock-flag==0, then lock() sets it to 1 and returns old==0, so the thread exits the while loop and enters critical section
  - If lock-flag==1, then lock() returns old==1, so the thread spins in the while loop and does not enter critical section

```
int CompareAndSwap(int *ptr, int expected, int new) {
  int old = *ptr;
  if (old == expected)
    *ptr = new;
  return old;
}

void lock(lock_t *lock) {
  while (CompareAndSwap(&lock->flag, 0, 1) == 1)
    ; //spin-wait
}
```

# TAS vs. CAS

Feature	Test-and-Set (TAS)	Compare-and-Swap (CAS)
Operation	Sets a bit and returns its old value	Compares current value with expected value and swaps if equal
Parameters	Single memory location	Memory location, expected value, new value
Consensus Number	Limited to 2	Arbitrary number of processes
Efficiency	Faster for simple locks	More versatile but computationally heavier

# **Locks: Busy Waiting**

```
void lock(lock_t *lock) {
    while (TestAndSet(&lock->flag, 1) == 1)
        ; // spin-wait (do nothing)
}

void lock(lock_t *lock) {
    while (CompareAndSwap(&lock->flag, 0, 1) == 1)
        ; // spin
}
```

- Both TAS and CAS are spinlocks based on busy waiting
  - A thread is stuck in a while loop endlessly checking lock->flag if the lock is held by others
- Goals achieved?
  - Mutual exclusion (Yes!)
  - Fairness (NO!!)
  - Performance?

### Ticket Lock

- Basic spinlocks are not fair and may cause starvation
- Ticket lock uses hardware primitive fetch-and-add to guarantee fairness
- Lock:
  - Use fetch-and-add on the ticket value
  - The return value is the thread's "turn" value

#### • Unlock:

Increment the turn

```
int FetchAndAdd(int *ptr) {
    int old = *ptr;
    *ptr = old + 1;
    return old;
}
```

```
typedef struct __lock_t {
    int ticket;
    int turn;
} lock_t;
void lock_init(lock_t *lock) {
    lock->ticket = 0;
    lock->turn = 0;
void lock(lock_t *lock) {
    int myturn = FetchAndAdd(&lock->ticket);
    while (lock->turn != myturn)
        ; // spin
void unlock(lock_t *lock) {
    lock - turn = lock - turn + 1;
```

### Ticket Lock

- A ticket lock is a synchronization mechanism used in multithreaded programming to ensure that threads acquire a lock in the order they request it. It uses two counters:
  - tickets (or next\_ticket): Tracks the next "ticket number" to be assigned to a thread requesting the lock.
  - turn: Tracks the "ticket number" of the thread currently holding the lock.
- Lock Acquisition (lock()):
  - A thread atomically increments the tickets counter (using fetch-and-add) and receives its "ticket number."
  - The thread then spin-waits until its ticket number matches the turn counter, indicating it is
    its turn to enter the critical section.
- Lock Release (unlock()):
  - When a thread finishes its critical section, it increments the turn counter, signaling that the next thread in line can proceed.
  - This ensures that threads are served in a first-come, first-served (FCFS) manner, preventing starvation and ensuring fairness.

```
void lock(lock_t *lock) {
   int myturn = FetchAndAdd(&lock->ticket); ___
   while (lock->turn != myturn)
   ; // spin
}
```

#### Initial value tickets=0 turn=0

	Ticket	Turn
A lock(), A enters CS	1	0
B lock(), spin-waits	2	0
C lock(), spin-waits	3	0

		myturn		
	A	0		
	3	1		
(	C	2		
<pre>int }</pre>	FetchAnd int old *ptr = o return o	= *ptr; ld + 1;	*ptr)	{

```
void lock(lock_t *lock) {
   int myturn = FetchAndAdd(&lock->ticket); ___
   while (lock->turn != myturn)
   ; // spin
}
```

#### Initial value tickets=0 turn=0

	Ticket	Turn
A lock(), A enters CS	1	0
B lock(), spin-waits	2	0
C lock(), spin-waits	3	0
A unlock(), B enters CS	3	1
A lock(), spin-waits	4	1

urn=0			
		myturn	
	Α	3	
	В	1	
	С	2	
	int (	nAndAdd(intolog) old = *ptr = old + 1 rn old;	;
<pre>void unlock     lock-&gt;t; }</pre>		*lock) ock->turr	

```
void lock(lock_t *lock) {
   int myturn = FetchAndAdd(&lock->ticket); ___
   while (lock->turn != myturn)
   ; // spin
}
```

#### Initial value tickets=0 turn=0

	Ticket	Turn
A lock(), A enters CS	1	0
B lock(), spin-waits	2	0
C lock(), spin-waits	3	0
A unlock(), B enters CS	3	1
A lock(), spin-waits	4	1
B unlock(), C enters CS	4	2
C unlock(), A enters CS	4	3
A unlock()	4	4

	А В С	myturn 3 1 2		
<pre>int FetchAndAdd(int *ptr) {     int old = *ptr;     *ptr = old + 1;     return old; }</pre>			{	
void unlock(lo	100		+ 1;	

### Recap

- Locks --- mutual execution
  - Only one thread must execute critical section
- Hardware support atomical execution
  - Test-and-set and compare-and-swap
- Busy-waiting --- spinlock
- Metrics to evaluate locks:
  - Correctness: mutual execution
  - Fairness: no starvation
  - Performance: no high cost to acquire and release a lock
- Ticket locks --- No starvation

# Semaphores

- Semaphores were proposed by a Dutch computer scientist Dijkstra in late 60s
- Definition: a semaphore has a non-negative integer value and supports the following operations:
  - sem\_t sem or semaphore sem: Declare a semaphore
  - sem\_init(&sem, 0, N): Initialize the semaphore with an initial value of 1, shared among threads (indicated by the middle 0)
  - sem\_wait(&sem): also called down() or P(), an atomic operation that decrements it by 1 if non-zero. If the semaphore is equal to 0, go to sleep waiting to be signaled by another thread
  - sem\_post(&sem): also called signal(), up() or V(), an atomic operation that increments it by 1, and wakes up a waiting/sleeping thread, if any
- Semaphores are also called sleeping locks, since the waiting thread goes to sleep instead of spin-waiting
  - If the waiting time is long, then sleeping is more efficient since the thread gives up the CPU to other threads, but incurs system call (kernel) overhead to go to sleep and wake up; if waiting time is short, then spin-waiting is more efficient since it does not involve the kernel.

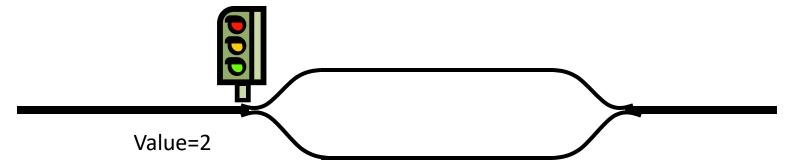
# **POSIX** pthreads API

- A Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) library (IEEE 1003.1c), written in C language
- In this lecture, we sometimes use some simpler notations for brevity, e.g.,
- sem\_init(&sem, 0, N)
  - written as: semaphore sem=N;
- sem\_wait(&sem)
  - written as sem.wait()
- sem\_post(&sem)
  - written as sem.signal()

API	Functionality
pthread_create	Create a new thread in the caller's address space
pthread_exit	Terminate the calling thread
pthread_join	Wait for a thread to terminate
pthread_mutex_lock	Lock a mutex
pthread_mutex_unlock	Unlock a mutex
sem_wait	Wait on a semaphore
sem_post	Signal or post on a semaphore
pthread_cond_wait	Wait on a condition variable
pthread_cond_signal	Wake up one thread waiting on a condition variable
pthread_cond_broadcast	Wake up all threads waiting on a condition variable

# Semaphores Like Integers Except...

- Semaphores are like integers, except:
  - No negative values
  - Only operations allowed are sem\_wait() and sem\_post() cannot read or write value, except initialization
  - Operations must be atomic
    - » Two calls to sem\_wait() together can't decrement value below zero
    - » A thread going to sleep in sem\_wait() won't miss wakeup from sem\_post () even if both happen concurrently
- Semaphore from railway analogy
  - Here is a semaphore initialized to 2, to allow two trains to enter the two tracks in the middle



# Implementing Semaphores with TestAndSet

Use TAS, but only spin-wait to atomically check guard value (very short waiting time)

```
int guard = 0;
int value = 0;
```

```
sem wait() {
  //While guard is true, spin-
wait
  while (TestAndSet(quard));
  if (value == 0) {
    quard = 0;
    put thread on wait queue;
    sleep();
  } else {
    value = value - 1;
    quard = 0;
```

```
sem post() {
  //While guard is true, spin-
wait
  while (TestAndSet(guard));
  if any thread in wait queue {
    take thread off wait queue;
    place on ready queue;
  } else {
    value = value + 1;
  quard = 0;
```

# Two Uses of Semaphores

Mutual Exclusion (value = 0 or 1)

- Called "Binary Semaphore" or "mutex". Can be used for mutual exclusion as a lock
- Example: sem is initialized to 1. The first thread that calls sem\_wait() decrements sem to 0 and enters the critical section: other threads will be blocked when they see sem==0. When the first thread calls sem\_post() to increment sem to 1, one of the waiting threads will wake up, decrement sem to 0 and enter the critical section.

```
sem_init(&sem, 0, 1):
sem_wait(&sem);
   //Critical section
sem_post(&sem);
```

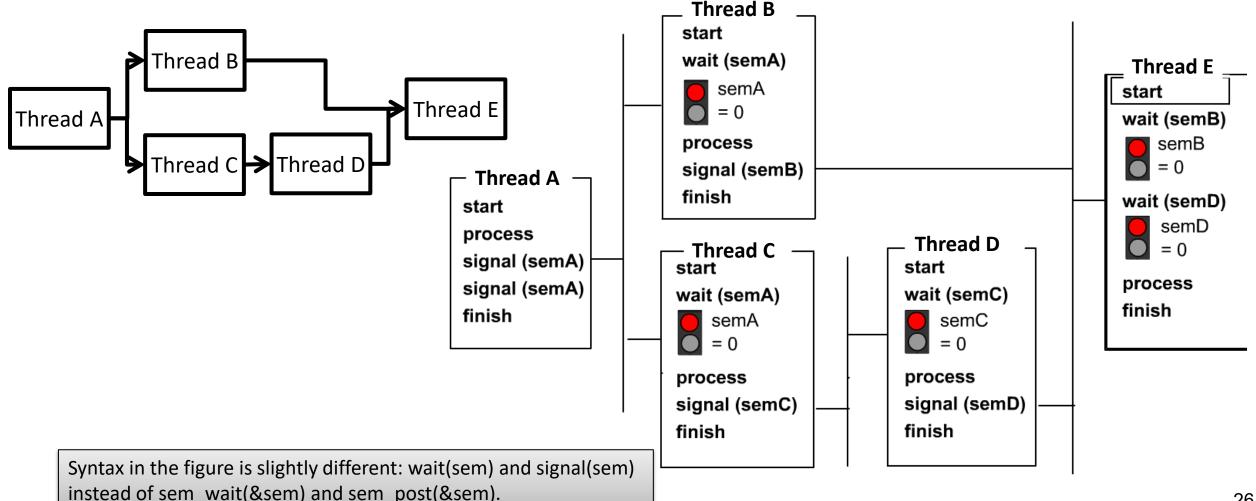
Scheduling Constraints (value >= 0)

- Called "Counting Semaphore"
- Example: sem is initialized to 0. thread 1 calls sem\_wait() in ThreadJoin() and is blocked; when another thread 2 calls sem\_post() in ThreadFinish() to increment sem to 1, thread 1 will wake up, decrement sem to 0, and continue.

```
sem_init(&sem, 0, 0):
ThreadJoin() {
    sem_wait(&sem);
}
ThreadFinish() {
    sem_post(&sem);
}
```

# <u>Using Semaphores for Scheduling</u>

• Consider 5 threads A, B, C, D, E. They must execute based on the partial ordering below, regardless of the ordering of process start (e.g., if E starts before B and D finishes, it will be blocked waiting for B and D to finish before it can execute)



# Readers/Writers Problem

- We have two classes of concurrent processes:
  - Writers: they change data, so only one writer can be active
  - Readers: these only read data, thus multiple readers can be active, as long as there is no active writer
- Shared Resource Conflict:
  - Multiple readers can safely access the resource at the same time, but if any writer is modifying the resource, no other process (either reader or writer) should access it. This ensures data consistency.
- Readers vs. Writers Priority:
  - If a reader is already accessing the resource, additional readers are allowed to enter immediately. A writer, however, must wait until all readers have finished. Consequently, readers are favoured over writers, which can lead to writer starvation if new readers keep arriving.

# Readers/Writers Problem Solution

- This program ensures mutual exclusion between writers, and between the 1<sup>st</sup> reader and any writers, but not between multiple readers.
- A semaphore named mutex is used to ensure mutual exclusion when readers update a shared counter called readcount, which tracks the number of active readers. Another semaphore named wrt is used to control access to the shared resource. It is acquired by writers and by the first reader.
- First Reader Behavior: If the reader finds that it is the first one to enter (i.e., readcount increments from 0 to 1), it calls sem\_wait(&wrt) to acquire the lock wrt. This prevents any writer from entering the critical section while at least one reader is present.
- Last Reader Behavior: If the reader finds that it has been the last to exit (i.e., readcount becomes 0), it calls sem\_post(&wrt) to allow a writer (if any are waiting) to acquire the lock wrt and enter the critical section.
- Writer Behavior: A writer begins by calling sem\_wait(&wrt) to acquire the lock wrt and enter the critical section to write data. Since a writer must have exclusive access, it will block until wrt is available—that is, until no reader holds it (because the first reader acquired it) and no other writer is active. Upon exiting the critical section, it calls sem\_post(&wrt) to allow waiting readers or writers to continue.
- Readers-Preference and Its Consequences: Because the first reader blocks any writer until all readers have exited, if new readers continuously arrive, a writer may starve. This readerspreference model is efficient for systems primarily performing read operations but might cause fairness issues when writes are necessary.

```
/* shared memory */
semaphore mutex;
semaphore wrt;
int readcount;
```

```
/* initialization.*/
mutex = 1;
wrt = 1;
readcount = 0;
```

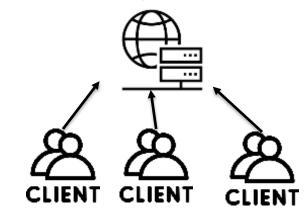
```
/* writer */
sem_wait(&wrt);

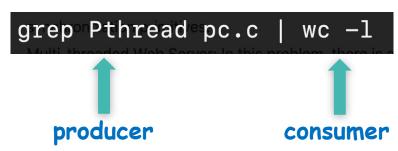
... critical section
to write data ...
sem_post(&wrt);
```

```
/* reader */
sem wait(&mutex);
readcount++;
if (readcount==1)
   sem wait(&wrt);
sem post(&mutex);
... read data ...
sem wait(&mutex);
readcount--;
if (readcount==0)
   sem post(&wrt);
sem post(&mutex);
```

### Producer/Consumer Problem

- A classical synchronization problem, also called the bounded-buffer problem
- A buffer has a bounded size
- Examples of Producer/Consumer Problems:
  - Web servers:
    - » Producer puts requests in a queue
    - » Consumers picks requests from the queue to process
  - Linux Pipes
  - Coke vending machine
    - » Producer can put limited number of cokes in machine
    - » Consumer can't take cokes out if machine is empty
- Different from Readers/Writers problem
  - There is a queue of items
  - Consumer performs destructive read: reading an item removes it from the queue



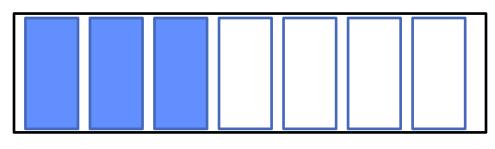




### Producer/Consumer Problem

- Correctness Constraints:
  - When buffer is full, producer must wait
  - When buffer is empty, consumer must wait
  - Only one thread can manipulate buffer at a time (mutual exclusion)
- Use a separate semaphore for each constraint
  - semaphore fullSlots; // consumer's constraint
  - semaphore emptySlots;// producer's constraint
  - semaphore mutex; // mutual exclusion

Producer writes data items to buffer



Bounded buffer fullSlots==3, emptySlots==4

Consumer reads and removes data items from buffer (destructive read)

# Full Solution to Bounded Buffer (coke machine)

```
semaphore fullSlots=0; //Initially, no full slots
semaphore fullSlots=bufSize; //Initially, all slots empty
semaphore mutex=1;
Producer(item) {
   sem wait(&emptySlots);//Wait until emptySlots non-zero
   sem_wait(&mutex);
   enqueue (item);
   sem post (&mutex);
                                                             mutex protects
   sem_post(&fullSlots)
                                                             integrity of the
                            Indicates 1 more full slot
                                                             queue within
Consumer()
                            /Wait until fullSlots non-zero
   sem wait (&fullSlots)
                                                             critical sections
   sem wait (&mutex);
   item = dequeue(
   sem post (&mutex):
   sem post(&emptySlots);
   return item;
```

Indicates 1 more empty slot

emptySlots==0: Producer waits; fullSlots ==0: Consumer waits. fullSlots>0 && emptySlots>0: Producer and Consumer can enqueue/dequeue items. concurrently (within critical section protected by mutex).

### **Discussion about Solution**

Two semaphores

Decrease # of empty slots

Increase # of occupied slots

- Producer does: sem\_wait(&emptySlots), sem\_post(&fullSlots)
- Consumer does: sem\_wait(&fullSlots), sem\_post(&emptySlots)

Decrease # of occupied slots

- Can we put sem\_wait()/sem\_post() for mutex outside of sem\_wait()/sem\_post() for emptySlots and fullSlots?
- No! This may cause deadlock. Suppose the queue is initially empty. Producer enters the critical section, calls sem\_wait(&emptySlots) and is blocked waiting for Consumer to put items into the queue; Consumer calls sem\_wait(&mutex) and is blocked waiting to enter the critical section. But Producer will never exit the critical section and call sem\_post(&mutex) to wake up Consumer!
- Similar deadlock situation when the queue is full, Consumer is blocked on sem\_wait(&fullSlots) and Producer is blocked on sem\_wait(&mutex).

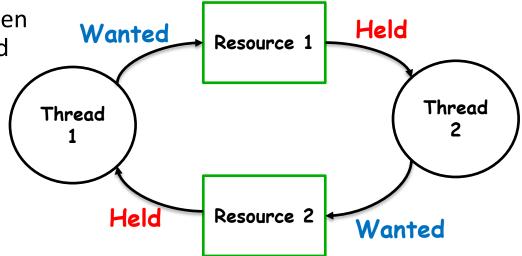
Increase # of empty slots

```
//Incorrect code
Producer(item) {
    sem_wait(&mutex);
    sem_wait(&emptySlots);
    enqueue(item);
    sem_post(&fullSlots);
    sem_post(&mutex);
}
Consumer(item) {
    sem_wait(&mutex);
    sem_wait(&fullSlots);
    enqueue(item);
    sem_post(&emptySlots);
    sem_post(&mutex);
}
```

### Deadlock

 Definition: A set of threads are said to be in a deadlock state when every thread in the set is waiting for an event that can be caused only by another thread in the set

- Conditions for Deadlock
- Mutual exclusion
  - Only one thread at a time can use a given resource
- Hold-and-wait
  - Threads hold resources allocated to them while waiting for additional resources
- No preemption
  - Resources cannot be forcibly removed from threads that are holding them; can be released only voluntarily by each holder
- Circular wait
  - There exists a circle of threads such that each holds one or more resources that are being requested by next thread in the circle





Not a perfect analogy, just a fun image!

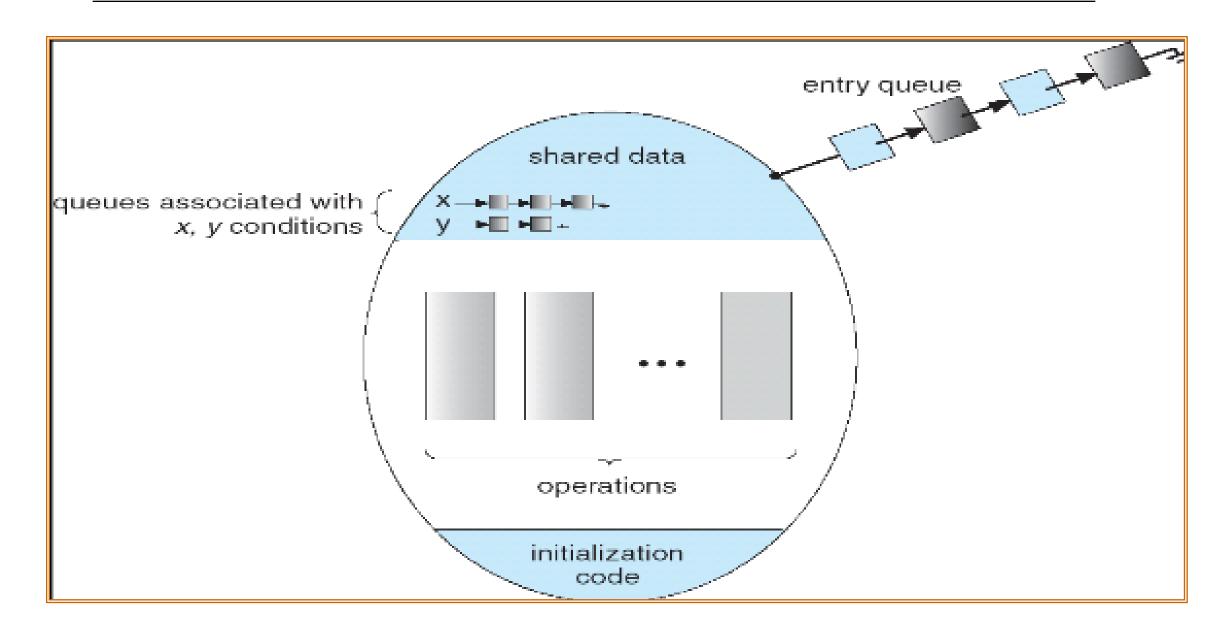
# Semaphores are good but...Monitors are better!

- Semaphores are dual purpose, used for both mutex and scheduling constraints
- Monitors provide a higher-level abstraction that naturally encapsulates shared state and condition variables.
- Monitor: a mutex lock and one or more condition variables for managing concurrent access to shared data
  - A paradigm for concurrent programming
  - Use lock for mutual exclusion and condition variables for scheduling constraints. (Must hold lock when doing condition operations!)
  - -Java supports monitors natively

# Monitor with Condition Variables (CV)

- thread\_mutex\_t mutex: a mutex lock
  - Provides mutual exclusion to critical section
  - Acquire before entering, release upon exiting critical section
- pthread cond t cond: one or more condition variables:
  - For each condition variable, a queue of threads may be waiting for it to be signaled inside the critical section.
    - » Key idea: allow threads to wait on a condition variable (sleeping) inside the critical section, since the mutex lock is released (implicitly) when a thread goes to sleep
    - » Contrast with semaphores: cannot wait on a semaphore inside critical section, otherwise it leads to a deadlock since mutex lock is still held
  - There may be an entry queue of threads waiting on the lock outside of the critical section
- Condition operations:
  - pthread\_cond\_wait(&cond, &mutex): it releases the mutex lock temporarily and enters the monitor's wait queue to go to sleep. This allows other threads to acquire the lock and proceed with their tasks. When the waiting/sleeping thread is signaled, it reacquires the lock before resuming execution.
  - pthread\_cond\_signal(&cond): Wake up one waiter, if any (if no waiter thread, then the signal is Tost/has no effect)
  - pthread\_cond\_broadcast(&cond): Broadcast(): Wake up all waiters (if no waiter thread, then the signal is lost/has no effect)

# Monitor with Condition Variables (CV)



### **CV Common Usage Pattern**

```
pthread mutex t mutex = PTHREAD MUTEX INITIALIZER;
pthread cond t cond = PTHREAD COND INITIALIZER;
bool flag; //Initialization value is application-specific, hence omitted here
// Signaler thread
Signaler() {
   pthread mutex lock(&mutex);
   update flag();
   //Either signal 1 thread, or broadcast to all threads, but not both
   pthread cond signal (&cond);
   //pthread cond broadcast(&cond);
   pthread mutex unlock(&mutex);
// Waiter thread
Waiter() {
   pthread mutex lock(&mutex);
   //Thread goes to sleep during waiting
   while (!flag) {pthread cond wait(&cond, &mutex);}
   // Process data
   pthread mutex unlock(&mutex);
```

# P/C Problem with Condition Variable

```
pthread mutex t mutex = PTHREAD MUTEX INITIALIZER;
  pthread cond t prod CV = PTHREAD COND INITIALIZER;
  pthread cond t cons CV = PTHREAD COND INITIALIZER;
Producer(item) {
  pthread mutex lock(&mutex);
 while(buffer full) {pthread cond wait(&prod CV, &mutex);}
  enqueue(item);
  pthread_cond_signal(&cons_CV);
  pthread mutex unlock (&mutex);
                                      Wake up any waiting consumer
                                      thread blocked on an empty buffer
                                      (if any)
Consumer() {
  pthread mutex lock(&mutex);
  while (buffer empty) {pthread cond wait (&cons CV, &mutex);}
  |item = dequeue();
  pthread cond signal(&prod CV);
  pthread mutex unlock(&mutex);
  return item
```

Wake up any waiting producer thread blocked on a full buffer (if any)

This program has the same behavior as <u>previous program using semaphores</u>.

(Code for updating buffer status and setting Boolean flags "buffer full" or "buffer empty" are omitted)

# While vs. if for Checking Boolean flag

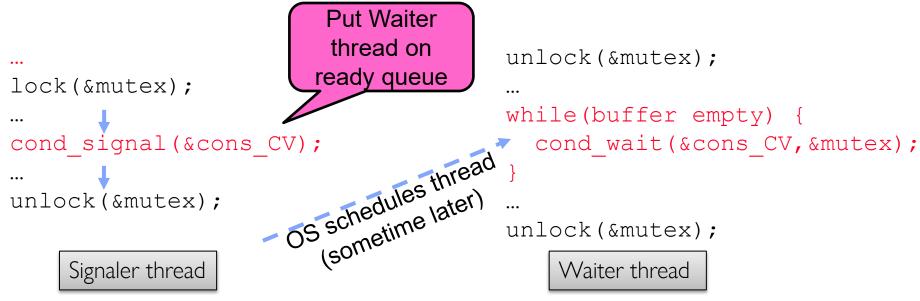
Consider the dequeue code in Consumer thread:

```
while(buffer empty) { //Why not if(buffer empty) here
  cond_wait(&cons_CV, &mutex);
}
item = dequeue(&queue); // Get next item
```

- Why do we use a while loop to check the Boolean flag "buffer empty"?
  - –Most OSes use Mesa-style monitor (named after Xerox-Park Mesa Operating System), where the waiter thread may start to run some time after Signaler thread calls cond\_signal()

#### Mesa monitors

- Inside cond\_wait(), Waiter thread releases the mutex lock temporarily and enters the monitor's wait queue to go to sleep. This allows Signaler thread to acquire the mutex lock and proceed with its task.
- When Signaler thread calls cond\_signal() to signal Waiter thread, Waiter thread is put on the ready queue (not woken up immediately). Signaler thread continues execution and releases the mutex lock. When Waiter thread gets to run on the CPU when OS actually schedules it, it re-acquires the mutex lock, exits cond\_wait(), enters the critical section, and finally releases the mutex lock.



- Waiter thread must use a while loop to re-check condition upon wakeup
  - Another thread may be scheduled before Waiter thread gets to run, and "sneak in" to modify the state (e.g., empty the queue), so the condition may be false again (called "spurious wakeups").

#### Thread Join with Condition Variables

• A parent waits for the child by calling thr\_join(); the child signals completion by calling thr\_exit(). We need to implement thr\_join() and thr\_exit() with CV.

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
   printf("parent: begin\n");
                                   Parent
   pthread_t p;
    Pthread_create(&p, NULL, child, NULL);
                  wait
   thr_join();
    printf("parent: end\n");
   return 0;
void *child(void *arg) {
     printf("child\n");
     thr_exit(); signal
                                   Child
     return NULL;
```

#### Incorrect: CV with Only Lock

```
//Declare mutex m and condition
c
//Child
void thr_exit() {
  pthread_mutex_lock(&m); //A
  pthread_cond_signal(&c); //B
  Pthread_mutex_unlock(&m); } //C
//Parent
void thr_join() {
  pthread_mutex_lock(&m); //X
  pthread_cond_wait(&c, &m); //Y
  pthread_mutex_unlock(&m); } //Z
```

Scenario 1: Parent calls thr\_join() first. Works OK.

Parent	X	У				Z
Child			Α	В	С	

Scenario 2: Child calls thr\_exit() first. Parent blocks forever!

Parent				X	У	
Child	Α	В	С			

- Declarations of mutex m and condition c omitted.
- Child thr\_exit() function:
  - Line A: Child thread locks the mutex (pthread\_mutex\_lock(&m)).
  - Line B: It signals the condition variable (pthread\_cond\_signal(&c))
     to notify the parent that it has completed.
  - Line C: It then unlocks the mutex (pthread\_mutex\_unlock(&m)).
- Parent thr\_join() function:
  - Line X: Parent thread locks the mutex (pthread\_mutex\_lock(&m)).
  - Line Y: It waits on the condition variable (pthread\_cond\_wait(&c, &m)). This releases the mutex and puts the parent to sleep until it is signaled.
  - Line Z: Once signaled, it reacquires the mutex and then unlocks it (pthread\_mutex\_unlock(&m)).
- The program assumes that the parent will always call thr\_join()
   (and thus wait on the condition variable) before the child calls
   thr\_exit() to signal. If this ordering is not guaranteed, there is a
   race condition:
  - If the child calls thr\_exit() before the parent starts waiting on pthread\_cond\_wait, the signal (pthread\_cond\_signal) may be missed because condition variables do not queue signals if no thread is waiting at that moment. As a result, the parent could block indefinitely on pthread\_cond\_wait.

#### Correct: CV with Flag & Lock

```
//Child
bool child done = false; //Shared state
void thr exit(){
  pthread mutex lock(&m);
  child done = true; //Set flag
  pthread cond signal(&c); //Signal parent
  pthread mutex unlock(&m);
//Parent
void thr join(){
  pthread mutex lock(&m);
  while(!child done) { //Check flag
    pthread cond wait(&c, &m); // Wait only if
needed
  pthread mutex unlock(&m);
```

- Adding a Boolean flag child\_done and using while(!child\_done) to check the flag, makes the program robust and avoids race conditions.
  - child\_done flag ensures that even if pthread\_cond\_signal occurs before pthread\_cond\_wait, the parent will not block indefinitely because it will detect that child\_done is already set.
  - The use of a while loop around pthread\_cond\_wait ensures correctness in case of spurious wakeups.
- Similar to Boolean flags "buffer full" and "buffer empty" in P/C problem.

# **Dinning Philosophers**

- N philosophers sit at a round table.
- They spend their lives alternating thinking and eating.
- They do not communicate with their neighbors.
- Each philosophers occasionally tries to pick up his left and right forks (one at a time) to eat
- Needs both forks to eat, then releases both when done eating

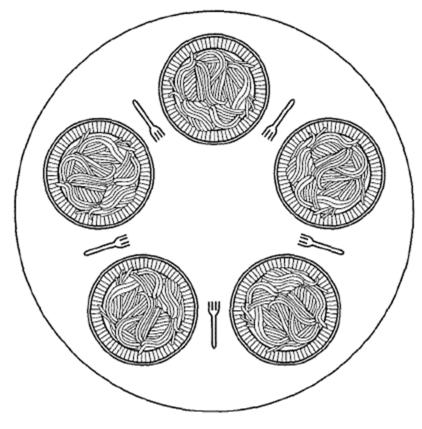


Figure 2-44. Lunch time in the Philosophy Department.

# Semaphore-based Solution: Incorrect

- Each fork (or chopstick) is modeled as a binary semaphore that is initially set to 1, meaning it is available. Suppose we have 5 philosophers numbered 1-5, and 5 forks numbered 1-5; philosopher i has left fork numbered i, and right fork (i+1)%5. When a philosopher wants to eat, they perform a wait (or P) operation to pick up a fork and a signal (or V) operation to release it afterward.
- This solution is flawed because it can lead to deadlock. In the provided code, each philosopher first executes a blocking wait to pick up the left fork and then tries to pick up the right fork. If all philosophers adopt this pattern simultaneously, every philosopher may pick up their left fork and then block waiting for the right fork (which is held by its neighbor), resulting in a deadlock, circular wait where none can proceed.

```
#define N 5 // Number of philosophers and
forks
semaphore fork[N] = \{1, 1, 1, 1, 1\};
void philosopher(int i) {
  while (true) {
    think();
    sem wait(&fork[i]); // Pick up left fork
    sem wait(\&fork[(i + 1) % N]); // Pick up
right fork
    eat();
    sem post(&fork[i]); // Put down left fork
    sem post(&fork[(i + 1) % N]); // Put down
right fork
```

# Semaphore-based Solution I

- One solution is to let each philosopher pick up both left and right forks in one atomic operation.
- The global semaphore pickup mutex protects the code that picks up both forks within a critical section. This guarantees that both left fork[i] and right fork[(i + 1) % N] are picked up without any interference from other philosophers.

```
#define N 5
           // Number of philosophers and
forks
semaphore pickup mutex = 1;
semaphore fork[N] = \{1, 1, 1, 1, 1\};
void philosopher(int i) {
 while (true) {
   think();
    sem wait(&pickup mutex); // Pick up both
forks in one atomic operation
    sem wait(&fork[i]); // Pick up left fork
    sem wait(&fork[(i + 1) % N]); // Pick up
right fork
    sem post(&pickup mutex);
    eat();
    sem post(&fork[i]); // Put down left fork
    sem post(&fork[(i + 1) % N]); // Put down
right fork
    sem post(&room); // Leave the room
```

## Semaphore-based Solution II

 One solution is to introduce an additional "room" semaphore that limits the number of philosophers permitted to start eating concurrently. For example, if there are 4 philosophers, initializing room to 4 guarantees that at least one philosopher can acquire both forks, thus breaking the circular wait condition.

```
semaphore room = 4;
semaphore fork[5] = \{1, 1, 1, 1, 1\};
void philosopher(int i) {
  while (true) {
    think();
    sem wait(&room); // Limit number of
philosophers simultaneously hungry to 4
    sem wait(&fork[i]); // Pick up left fork
    sem wait(\&fork[(i + 1) % 5]); // Pick up
right fork
    eat();
    sem post(&fork[i]); // Put down left fork
    sem post(&fork[(i + 1) % 5]); // Put down
right fork
    sem post(&room); // Leave the room
```

# Semaphore-based Solution III

 Another option is to adjust the order in which resources are requested (for instance, having one philosopher, the (N-1)-th philosopher, pick up the right fork first while the others pick up the left fork first), which disrupts the cycle that could lead to deadlock.

```
#define N 5 // Number of philosophers and
forks
semaphore fork[N] = \{1, 1, 1, 1, 1\};
void philosopher(int i) {
  while (true) {
    think();
    if (id == N - 1) {
    sem wait(&fork[i+1]); // Pick up right fork
    sem wait(&fork[(i) % N]);} // Pick up left
fork
    else {
    sem wait(&fork[i]); // Pick up left fork
    sem wait(\&fork[(i + 1) % N]);} // Pick up
right fork
    eat();
    if (id == N - 1) {
    sem post(&fork[i+1]); // Put down right
fork
    sem post(&fork[(i) % N]);} // Put down left
fork
    else {
    sem post(&fork[i]); // Put down left fork
    sem post(&fork[(i + 1) % N]);} // Put down
right fork
```

# Semaphore-based Solution II

 Another option is to adjust the order in which resources are requested (for instance, having one philosopher, the (N-1)-th philosopher, pick up the right fork first while the others pick up the left fork first), which disrupts the cycle that could lead to deadlock.

```
#define N 5 // Number of philosophers and
forks
semaphore fork[N] = \{1, 1, 1, 1, 1\};
void philosopher(int i) {
  while (true) {
    think();
    if (id == N - 1) {
    sem wait(&fork[i+1]); // Pick up right fork
    sem wait(&fork[(i) % N]);} // Pick up left
fork
    else {
    sem wait(&fork[i]); // Pick up left fork
    sem wait(\&fork[(i + 1) % N]);} // Pick up
right fork
    eat();
    if (id == N - 1) {
    sem post(&fork[i+1]); // Put down right
fork
    sem post(&fork[(i) % N]);} // Put down left
fork
    else {
    sem post(&fork[i]); // Put down left fork
    sem post(&fork[(i + 1) % N]);} // Put down
right fork
```

#### **Monitor-based Solution**

- A monitor self[i] is created for each philosopher i.
- Each philosopher can be in any one of three states (THINKING, HUNGRY, or EATING). All philosophers have initial state of THINKING.
- When philosopher i becomes hungry, he calls pickup(i) inside the monitor, which sets their state to HUNGRY and calls test(i) to check if any neighbor is eating.
- If both adjacent philosophers are not eating, philosopher i's state is changed to EATING; otherwise, the philosopher waits on a condition variable.
- Upon finishing eating, philosopher i calls putdown(i), updates their state to THINKING, and then tests if adjacent philosophers can now eat by signaling their condition variables. This structure prevents the circular waiting condition that leads to deadlock.
- This solution requires that both forks are available before the philosopher can begin eating, thus naturally avoiding deadlock. Although monitors simplify mutual exclusion by bundling synchronization within a single construct, they may still allow for starvation if a waiting condition is triggered arbitrarily by the signal mechanism.

```
#define N 5 // Number of philosophers and forks
enum { THINKING, HUNGRY, EATING } state[N];
mutex t m;
condition self[N];
void philosopher(int i) {
  state[i]=THINKING;
  while (true) {pickup(i); putdown(i);}
void pickup(int i) {
    mutex lock(&m);
    state[i] = HUNGRY;
   test(i);
    if (state[i] != EATING)
       wait(&self[i], &m); //Wait until the philosopher can eat
   mutex unlock(&m);
void putdown(int i) {
    mutex lock(&m);
    state[i] = THINKING;
    test((i + 4) % N); // Test left neighbor
    test((i + 1) % N); // Test right neighbor
   mutex unlock(&m);
void test(int i) {
    if (state[i] == HUNGRY &&
        state[(i + 4) % N] != EATING &&
        state[(i + 1) % N] != EATING) {
        state[i] = EATING;
        signal(&self[i]); // Allow the philosopher to eat
```

# Semaphores vs. Monitors

- Semaphores: Like integers with restricted interface
  - Initialize value to any non-negative value
  - Two operations:
    - » sem wait(): Wait/sleep if zero; decrement when becomes non-zero
    - » sem\_post(): also called signal(). Increment and wake up a waiting/sleeping
      thread (if one exists)
  - Use a separate semaphore for each constraint
- Monitors: A mutex lock plus one or more condition variables
  - Always acquire lock before accessing shared data
  - Use condition variables to wait inside critical section
  - Three operations: wait(), signal(), and broadcast()
    - » Wait if necessary (inside a while loop to check a Boolean flag)
    - » Signal (or broadcast) when something is changed to wake up one waiting thread (or all waiting threads)

#### **Quiz: Race Conditions**

Consider the two threads each executing t1 and t2. Values of shared variables y and z are initialized to 0

- Q. Give all possible final values for x and the corresponding order of execution of instructions in t1 and t2.
- 1) t1 runs to the end first; then t2 runs to the end: x = 0+0=0
- 2) t2 to line 2; then t1 to the end; then t2 to the end: x = 1+0 = 1
- 3) t2 to the end; then t1 to the end: x = 1+2 = 3

Are there other possibilities giving additional values?

#### **Quiz: Race Conditions**

- Addition operation x=y+z consist of multiple machine instructions in assembly language:
  - A. fetch operand y into register r1
  - B. fetch operand z into register r2
  - C. add r1 + r2, store result in r3
  - D. store r3 in memory location of x
- If a task switch to t2 occurs between machine instructions A and B; then t2 runs to completion before switching back to t1, then:
  - y is read as 0 (t2 didn't set y yet)
  - z is read as 2 (t2 sets z before execution instruction B of add. in t1)
  - the sum is then x = 0 + 2 = 2

```
int y=0, z=0;

1 t1() {
2  int x;
3  x = y + z;
4 }
1 t2() {
2  y = 1;
3  z = 2;
4 }
```

#### **Quiz: Race Conditions**

Q. Give a solution using semaphores.

Solution: we protect the addition x = y + z within a critical section, using a binary semaphore (mutex). This code guarantees that x can never have the value 1 or 2, possible values are x = 0, 3

(Line "int x" can be outside or inside the critical section with no difference. We use a slightly different notation of s.wait()/s.signal() to denote sem\_wait(&s) and sem\_post(&s).

```
int y=0, z=0;
semaphore s=1;
```

```
1 t1() {
2   int x;
3   s.wait();
4   x = y + z;
5   s.signal();
6 }
1 t2() {
2   s.wait();
3   y = 1;
4   z = 2;
5   s.signal();
6 }
```

## Quiz: Semaphores

```
t2: 1 int t2() {
    printf("o");
    printf("r");
    printf("l");
    printf("e");
    6 }
```

Q. Use semaphores and insert wait/signal calls into the two threads so that

only "wordle" is printed.

semaphore s1=1, s2=0

```
1 int t2(){
1 int t1(){
                            _ s2.wait();
    s1.wait()
                              printf("o");
    printf("w");
                              printf("r");
   s2.signal();
                              .s1.signal();
   s1.wait();
                           _{6} \rightarrow s2.wait();
   printf("d");
                              printf("l");
   s2.signal();-
                              printf("e");
8 }
                           9 }
```

- t1 has to run first to print "w", so s1 should be initialized to 1.
- t2 has to wait until the "w" has been printed by t1, then it is woken up by t1 calling s2.signal(), so s2 should be initialized to 0.

## Quiz: Semaphores II

 The following three functions of a program f1(), f2(), f3() run in separate threads each and print some prime numbers. All three threads are ready to run at the same time. Use synchronization using the semaphores S1, S2 and S3 and wait/signal operations on the semaphores to ensure that the program outputs the prime numbers in increasing order (2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13).

```
Semaphore S1=0;
Semaphore S2=0;
Semaphore S3=0;
f1() {
  printf("3");
  printf("5");
f2()
  printf("2");
  printf("13");
f3()
  printf("7");
  printf("11");
```

# Quiz: Semaphores | semaphore S1=0;

- Solution 1 (left): With initial values of all semaphores = 0, only f2 can run, prints 2, signals \$1 and then waits for \$2.
   \$1.signal() starts f1, which was waiting for \$1 and can now print 3 and 5 and then signal \$3.
   \$3.signal() now starts f3, which prints 7 and 11 and signals \$2.
   This returns execution to f2, which can then finally print 13.
- Solution 2(right): s2 has initial value 1, so f2 calls S2.wait() and runs first. The rest of the same as Solution 1. You can see that initializing s2=0 has the same effect as initializing s2=1 and let f2 call S2.wait() first. So Solution 1 is better with one less call to wait().

```
semaphore S2=0;
semaphore S3=0;
f1() {
   S1.wait();
   printf("3");
   printf("5");
   S3.signal();
f2() {
   printf("2");
   S1.signal();
   S2.wait();
   printf("13");
f3() {
   S3.wait();
   printf("7");
   printf("11");
   S2.signal();
```

```
semaphore S1=0;
semaphore S2=1;
semaphore S3=0;
f1() {
   S1.wait();
  printf("3");
  printf("5");
   S3.signal();
f2() {
   S2.wait();
  printf("2");
   S1.signal();
   S2.wait();
  printf("13");
f3() {
   S3.wait();
  printf("7");
  printf("11");
   S2.signal();
```

# Quiz: Semaphores III

```
semaphore s a=0, s b=0, s c=0;
                                               int t3() {
                                                 while (1)
                                                    s c.wait();
1 int t1()
                      1 int t2() {
                                                    s c.wait();
   while(1)
                          while (1)
                                                    printf("C");
      printf("A");
                             printf("B");
                                                    s a.signal();
      s c.signal();
                             s c.signal();
                                                    s b.signal();
                             s b.wait();
      s a.wait();
                      6
6
                                             9 }
```

- Q. Which strings can be output when running the 3 threads in parallel?
- Either t1 or t2 could start first, so the first letter can be A or B
- Then both t1 and t2 signal s\_c, only after both have signalled s\_c, t3 can start and print C
- t3 signals s\_a and s\_b, which start in arbitrary order again
- Accordingly, the output is a regular expression ((AB|BA)C)+
  - Print A or B in arbitrary order, then print C, then the process repeats

### **Quiz: Deadlocks**

```
int x=0, y=0, z=0; semaphore lock1=1, lock2=1;
```

```
_1 int t1()
                       _1 int t2()
                          lock2.wait();
    z = z + 2;
                           y = y + 1;
    lock1.wait();
    x = x + 2;
                         > lock1.wait();
    lock2.wait();
                           x = x + 1;
    lock1.signal();
                          lock1.signal();
    y = y + 2;
                          lock2.signal();
    lock2.signal();
                           z = z + 1;
9
                       9 }
```

- a. Executing the threads in parallel could result in a deadlock. Why?
- t1 runs first until line 4 (so lock1=0, lock2=1); switch to t2
- t2 starts and runs until line 3 (so lock1=0, lock2=0); back to t1
- t1 waits for lock2 in line 5 & switch to t2, waits for lock1 in line 4
- This results in a *circular waiting condition* which is not resolved

#### **Quiz: Deadlocks**

```
int x=0, y=0, z=0; semaphore lock1=1, lock2=1;
```

```
1 int t1() {
                       _1 int t2()
                          √lock2.wait();
    z = z + 2;
    lock1.wait();
                        \rightarrow y = y + 1;
    x = x + 2;
                          -lock1.wait();
   lock2.wait(); ▼
                           x = x + 1;
    lock1.signal();
                        lock1.signal();
    y = y + 2;
                        lock2.signal();
    lock2.signal();
                           z = z + 1;
9 }
                       9 }
```

- Q. Executing the threads in parallel could result in a deadlock. Why?
- t2 runs first until line 2 (so lock2=0, lock1=1); switch to t1
- t1 starts and runs until line 3 (so lock1=0, lock2=0); back to t2
- t2 waits for lock2 in line 4; switch to t1, waits for lock1 in line 5

Note: There are other possible interleavings, as long as each thread grabs one lock and requests the other. You can remove all other statements and only leave the lock wait() instructions and get into this deadlock.)

### **Quiz: Deadlocks**

- Q. What are the possible values of x, y and z in the deadlock state?
- t1 runs until Line 5 lock2.wait() and t2 runs until Line 4 lock1.wait(), so x
   = 2, y = 1, z = 2
- Q. What are the possible values of x, y and z if the program finishes successfully without a deadlock?
- t1 runs first to the end, then t2 (or vice versa): x=3, y=3, z=3
- In t1, lock1.signal() sets lock1=1, lock2.signal() sets lock2=1, this exiting the critical sections protected by lock1 and lock2.
- Since Line 2 of t1 "z=z+2", and Line 8 of t2 "z=z+1" are not protected within a critical section, a thread switch may occur in the middle of each line, e.g.,
  - t2 Line 8 reads z=0; before z is written back; switch to t1 Line 2, run t1 to the end; switch to t2 Line 8, write back z=0+1=1.
  - Or, t1 Line 2 reads z=0; before z is written back; switch to t2 Line 2, run t2 to the end; switch to t1 Line 2, write back z=0+2=2.
- Note: to prevent deadlocks, every thread should acquire locks in the same order, e.g. both acquire lock1 before lock2, or both acquire lock2 before lock1

```
int x=0, y=0, z=0;
semaphore lock1=1, lock2=1;
```

```
1 int t1() {
2    z = z + 2;
3    lock1.wait();
4    x = x + 2;
5    lock2.wait();
6    lock1.signal();
7    y = y + 2;
8    lock2.signal();
9 }
```

```
1 int t2() {
2   lock2.wait();
3   y = y + 1;
4   lock1.wait();
5   x = x + 1;
6   lock1.signal();
7   lock2.signal();
8   z = z + 1;
9 }
```