CSC 369 Midterm 5 Solution

1. No. if the access is read for both threads, then concurrency error will not occur.

2. b), c) and d) are true

### Correct solution

c) and d) are true

### Notes

Question What does it mean when mutex is held by this thread?

Question What I do know is that pthread\_cond\_wait puts thread to sleep. My question here is, how come the mutex is not held when thread is in a blocked state/sleep?

- 3. a) Only b) causes starvation.
  - b) Conditional variable is a queue that allows threads to be put themselves on to sleep (in blocked state) when thread it is not desired using pthread\_cond\_wait function.

Since there are no threads inside cv1, there is nothing to awake using pthread\_cond\_signal.

So, nothing will occur.

c) System call is a subset of interrupt caused by user application to switch from user mode to kernel mode to perform previleged operations for the application.

Interrupt is a signal sent by hardware (e.g keyboard, mouse, hard drive) or software.

It tells the cpu to stop its activities and execute appropriate part of the operating system.

#### Notes

• I need to review how interrupt works. I had to look up the information.

Question How does interrupt work?

- Interrupt
  - Is a signal
  - there are two types of interrupts:
    - \* Hardware interrupt
      - · Is signal generated by hardware (e.g RAM is full, Hard drive is full)
      - · Is sent to operating system
    - \* Software interrupt
      - · Is signal generated by software (e.g program crash, system call)

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- · Is sent to operating system
- · May call trap instruction (esp. system call)



# References

- 1. venkatesan ramachandran, What is an Interrupt?, link
- d) No. This statment is false.

User level threads are generated in user-mode without keneral being aware about it.

## Notes

Question What is the difference between user-level thread and kernel-level thread?

Question Why is thread that is generated at user level using procedure call faster than kernel level thread?

Question What is procedure call? How does it work?

### • Procedure call

- works in user-mode only
- doesn't require context switching
- doesn't need help from OS/Kernel
- no context-switching  $\rightarrow$  faster

# References

1. Tech Dose, System call vs Procedure call, link

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e) System calls do not generate processes. fork() does.

With this reason the program run\_stuff generates only 1 additional process.

### Notes

Question What is a process? And how does process work?

Question How come system call doesn't generate process? And how come fork() generates process?

### • Process

- Is a running program
- Has 3 states

### 1. Running:

- \* means a processs is running on a processor
- \* means instructions are being executed

# 2. Ready:

- \* means a process is ready to run
- \* means OS has chosen not to run the program at the given moment

#### 3. Blocked:

\* means a process has performed some kind of operation that makes it not ready to run until some event takes place

```
4_1
      typedef struct acct {
           float balance;
2
           pthread_mutex_t lock;
3
       } account;
 4
 5
      void transfer_amount(account *a1, account *a2, float amount) {
 6
           // lock critical section during the transfer process
           // transfer amount
9
           // lock the transferring user if the balance is negative
11
13
```

### Notes

Question When do we use the while loop like lock?

Question Does the use of if statement to put thread into sleep acceptable?