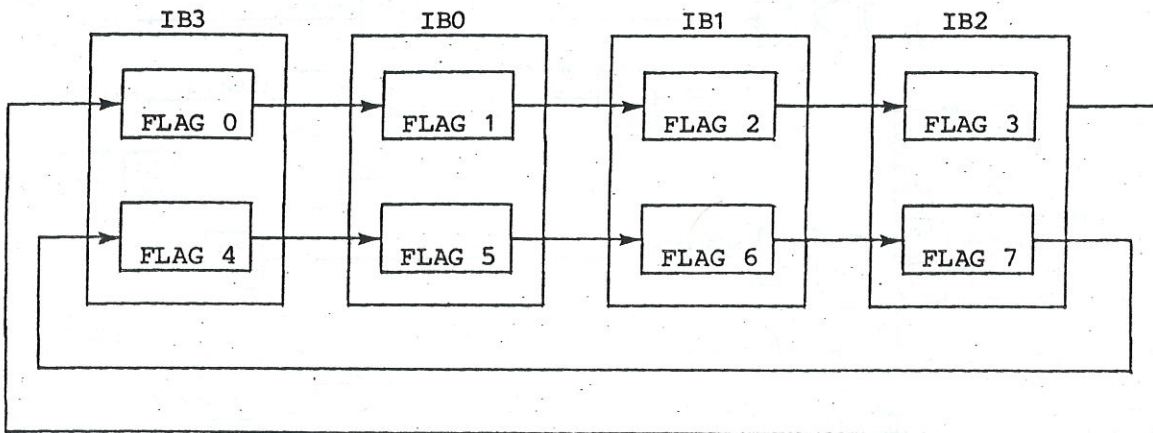


SEMAPHORE FLAGS

The semaphore flags are used to synchronize multiprocessor activity. There are a total of eight semaphore flags in the background processor system. These flags are passed through each processors IB module in the fashion diagramed below.



Instructions 004 through 007 monitor and modify the one flag that the background status register is pointing at (see background status register for specific bits).

Example: 004 instruction - Jump to constant parcel if the semaphore flag is clear and set semaphore.

1. The IB module receives the 004 instruction from the JA module.
2. The IB module generates a 4CP window to view all the semaphore flags.
3. The EA module (background port) supplies a copy of the semaphore pointer from it's status register.
4. The IB samples the correct semaphore flag.
5. The branch is performed if the flag was clear. The branch falls through if the flag was set.
6. The semaphore flag is set.