

ECE-C353: Systems Programming

Homework Assignment 5: Message Queues

You have been given a simple program (`control.c`) that simulates receiving commands over the network. In its current state, this program simply prints commands received over the simulated network to the screen along with a time stamp (in milliseconds) and the command's priority. Compile this program with:

```
$ gcc -o control control.c -lm
```

Your job is simple. Modify the provided program to send these messages to a message queue with their corresponding priority. If `Ctrl+C` is pressed, then `control.c` should put the command `SHUTDOWN` in the message queue with the highest priority, print “Sending SHUTDOWN message.”, close the message queue, unlink the message queue, print “Shutting down.”, and then terminate successfully.

Now, write another program named `worker.c` that will be controlled by the messages sent to the message queue by `control.c`. The behavior of `worker.c` is simple:

- `worker.c` can only be in one of two states: **running** or **paused**. It should start in the paused state.
- If `worker.c` is **running** it will attempt to calculate:

$$Result = \sum_{i=0}^N i \tag{1}$$

where N is effectively infinity, but `UINT_MAX` will suffice for this assignment. Store the value of *Result* in an unsigned long int.

- If `worker.c` is **paused** it will stop accumulating values of i into *Result*, but it will maintain its current values of i and *Result* so that it may resume the computation where it left off if it is later set to the **running** state again. It should try to not use the CPU when paused. See the man pages for `sleep()` and `pause()`. Either or a combination of these is fine. Avoid 100% CPU usage when paused. You can check CPU usage with the `top` command.
- If the `RESET` command is received from the message queue, the values of i and *Result* will both be set to zero and it will print “Reset.” to the screen. The state of `worker.c` will not change. If it is already **paused**, it will stay paused. If it is already **running**, it will continue running.
- If the `PRINT` command is received from the message queue, `worker.c` will print the current value of *Result* to the screen in the format “Current Result: 234”, for example.
- If the `RUN` command is received from the message queue and `worker.c` is currently **paused**, it will print “>>RUNNING<<” to the screen and change its state to **running**. If `worker.c` is already in the **running** state, this command has no effect and nothing will be printed to the screen.
- If the `PAUSE` command is received from the message queue and `worker.c` is currently **running**, it will print “[PAUSED]” to the screen and change its state to **paused**. If `worker.c` is already in the **paused** state, this command has no effect and nothing will be printed to the screen.
- If the `SHUTDOWN` command is received from the message queue, `worker.c` closes the message queue, prints “Shutting down.” to the screen, and terminates successfully.
- If `worker.c` is unable to open the message queue, it should print an informative message to `stderr` and exit with failure.

Note, messages generated by `control.c` all have a priority of 0 by default. This is to make debugging your program easier. Once you have everything working, try changing `#define USE_PRIORITY` to 1 to test your program with messages that have different priorities.

Deliverables:

You will submit 3 file via BBLearn:

- `control.c` – Modified to send commands to a message queue.
- `worker.c` – Your program that is properly controlled by commands received from the message queue.
- `README.txt` – A description of your code including how to compile and run it.