

CS241 #17. Producer Consumer, Semaphores, Condition Variables. Barriers & Reader Writer Problem

1. Producer Consumer & Counting Semaphores (review)

Assume buffer is an array of length 16.

<pre>01 void add(value) { 02 sem_wait(&sem_empty) 03 buffer[(in++) & 15] = value; 04 sem_post(&sem_full); 05 }</pre>	<pre>06 remove() { 07 sem_wait(&sem_full); 08 result = buffer[(out++) & 15]; 09 sem_post(&sem_empty); 10 return result; 11 }</pre>
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Q. What are 'sem_empty' and sem_full? When do they block?

Q. What should be their initial values?

Q. What if sem_empty was only initialized to 7? Would the producer consumer still work? to 32?

Q. What is missing from the above code? When would it matter?

Q. Could you implement a producer consumer queue using condition variables instead?

2. Fix the following multithread code to be thread safe, and use condition variables to avoid busy waiting

```
01 #define N (8)
02 pthread_cond_t cvs[N+1];
03 pthread_mutex_t locks[N+1];
04 int data[N+1];
05 int quit;

06 void init() {
07     for(int i =0; i < N;i++) {
08
09         pthread_cond_init(cvs + i, NULL);
10         pthread_mutex_init(locks + i, NULL);
11     }
12 }

13 // Wait until data[i] > 1, then subtract 2 and increment data[i+1]
14 void runner(void*arg) { // N threads each thread gets a value 0 to N-1
15     int i = (int) arg;
16     while(!quit) {
17         while(data[i] < 2) {
18             sleep for a bit
19         }
20         data[i] -= 2;
21         data[i+1] ++;
22     }
23 }
24
25 int modify(int index, int amount) {

26     data[index] += amount;

27     return resources;
28 }
```

3.Counting Semaphore Quick Review I. choose {will always / may / will never} :

sem_post _____ block sem_wait _____ block.

3.Counting Semaphore Quick Review II

10 threads call `sem_wait`. 3 threads immediately continue, the other 7 are blocked. Then `sem_post` is called twice (2). How many additional threads will continue?

4. Three classic / well known synchronization problems:

Barrier

Producer Consumer

Reader-Writer Problem

5. pthread barriers

```
pthread_barrier_init( &barrier, _____ );  
pthread_barrier_destroy(&barrier)
```

```
pthread_barrier_wait( &barrier)
```

Return values?

0

PTHREAD_BARRIER_SERIAL_THREAD

6. Use a CV to implement a single-use barrier until all 8 threads have reached the barrier.

7. Post-lecture challenge:

- i) Can you make a barrier using only counting semaphores?
- ii) Can you make a barrier using only mutex locks?