

CS3237:PARALLEL PROGRAMMING FALL2023

DINING PHILOSOPHERS PROBLEM REPORT

200316048 KIYMET NAZLIM 190316040 AYLİN ÇELİK 190316009 İBRAHİM SUDAŞ

Dining philosophers problem:

The dining philosophers problem is a classic synchronization and concurrency problem used to illustrate challenges in concurrent programming. It was formulated by E.W. Dijkstra in 1965 and is often used to discuss issues related to resource allocation and deadlock avoidance in concurrent systems.

The problem is framed around a scenario where a group of philosophers is seated around a dining table. Each philosopher alternates between thinking and eating. The philosophers share a common set of dining utensils, such as forks. To eat, a philosopher needs two forks—one for the left hand and one for the right hand.

The challenge in the dining philosophers problem lies in designing a solution that avoids deadlock and ensures that each philosopher gets a chance to eat without conflicting with others. The potential issues that need to be addressed include:

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STRATEGY: Locked Queue

The strategy of using a "Locked Queue" refers to a solution approach employed to address synchronization issues in problems like the dining philosophers problem. This strategy involves the use of a queue, and this queue, which manages requests for shared resources (such as forks), is protected by lock mechanisms.

Queue: A queue is utilized to manage philosophers' requests for forks. Philosophers add their request to this queue when they want to pick up a fork.

Lock: The queue is protected by a lock mechanism to prevent multiple philosophers from making fork requests simultaneously. This means that when a philosopher is adding a request to the queue or picking up a fork, these operations are performed with the use of a lock.

Fork Acquisition and Release Operations: Philosophers add their fork requests to the queue when they want to pick up a fork. However, to pick up a fork, they need to be in front of the queue. The lock allows only one philosopher at a time to process a fork request. After picking up a fork, when the philosopher wants to release it, the lock is used again to safely add the fork back to the queue.

This strategy ensures that philosophers take turns to perform actions like picking up or releasing forks. As a result, it prevents multiple philosophers from taking the same fork simultaneously, avoiding deadlock situations.

Advantages:

- 1. **Deadlock Prevention:** This strategy prevents deadlock situations by ensuring that philosophers take turns to perform actions like picking up or releasing forks. Each philosopher processes fork requests by adding them to the queue or releasing forks in a sequential manner using lock mechanisms.
- 2. **Ease of Understanding:** The use of queues and lock mechanisms makes synchronization and resource sharing easily understandable and manageable. Consequently, code written using this strategy is often more comprehensible and easier to maintain.
- 3. **General Applicability:** This strategy can be applied in various programming languages and environments. Queues and lock mechanisms are commonly supported features.

Disadvantages:

- 1. **Performance Cost:** Lock mechanisms may incur a performance cost as they allow only one operation to execute at a time. In large-scale systems, delays can arise due to locking, impacting overall performance.
- 2. **Slowness and Waiting:** Since philosophers must take turns to perform actions, a philosopher may need to wait to pick up or release a fork. This waiting can potentially decrease the overall performance of the program.
- 3. **Potential Ordering Issues:** Sequential processing can lead to ordering problems under high workloads. This situation may involve the rapid growth of the queue and frequent changes in ownership of the lock.

STEP BY STEP EXPLANATION OF THE CODE

Class representing the state of each fork

What this class includes:

Lock for the fork

Flag indicating whether the fork is picked up

ID of the philosopher who owns the fork

```
def __call__(self, owner: int):

if self.lock.acquire():

self.owner = owner

self.picked_up = True

return self
```

Function indicating the philosopher who picks up the fork

```
def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_value, traceback):
    self.lock.release()
    self.picked_up = False
    self.owner = -1

def __str__(self):
    return f"F{self.index:2d} ({self.owner:2d})"
```

Function releasing the fork

Class representing the dining philosophers scenario

```
def pick_up_forks(self):
    left_fork = self.fork_queue.get()
    right_fork = self.fork_queue.get()
    return left_fork, right_fork
40
```

Function for picking up forks

```
def put_down_forks(self, left_fork, right_fork):

self.fork_queue.put(left_fork)

self.fork_queue.put(right_fork)

44
```

Function for putting down forks

```
45
     class Philosopher(threading.Thread):
46
         def __init__(self, index: int, dining_philosophers: DiningPhilosophers, m: int):
47
             super().__init__()
             self.index: int = index
48
49
             self.dining_philosophers: DiningPhilosophers = dining_philosophers
             self.spaghetti: int = m
50
             self.state: str = "Thinking" # Initial state is Thinking
51
             self.times_eaten: int = 0
52
```

Thread class representing each philosopher

Main loop of the philosopher

Function simulating thinking

```
def eat(self):
63
            left_fork, right_fork = self.dining_philosophers.pick_up_forks()
64
65
             with left_fork(self.index), right_fork(self.index):
66
67
               time.sleep(5 + random.random() * 5)
68
                self.spaghetti -= 1
69
                self.state = "Eating"
                time.sleep(5 + random.random() * 5)
70
              self.state = "Thinking"
71
72
73
            self.dining_philosophers.put_down_forks(left_fork, right_fork)
74
75
             self.times_eaten += 1
76
77
         def __str__(self):
78
             return f"P{self.index:2d} ({self.state}, Spaghetti: {self.spaghetti:2d})"
```

Function simulating eating

```
81
     def print_table(philosophers):
       header = "Philosopher | Spaghetti | Eating | Hungry"
82
        divider = "-" * len(header)
83
        rows = [f"{philosopher}" for philosopher in philosophers]
84
85
86
        print(header)
87
        print(divider)
88
         for row in rows:
         print(row)
89
90
         print(divider)
91
         print()
```

Helper function to print the table

Main function

```
103 for philosopher in philosophers:
104 philosopher.start()
105
```

Start all philosopher threads

```
while any(philosopher.is_alive() for philosopher in philosophers):
    print_table(philosophers)
    time.sleep(1)
```

Print the table until all philosophers finish their meals

Print the final table

OUTPUT:

```
d-
            PROBLEMS
                            OUTPUT
                                         DEBUG CONSOLE
                                                                 TERMINAL
                                                                                 PORTS
           P 0 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 4)
P 1 (Thinking, Spaghetti: 3)
Q
           P 2 (Eating, Spaghetti: 2)
P 3 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 3)
P 4 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 3)
go
            Philosopher | Spaghetti | Eating | Hungry
4
           P 0 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 4)
P 1 (Thinking, Spaghetti: 3)
P 2 (Thinking, Spaghetti: 2)
02
           P 3 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 3)
P 4 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 3)
Д
           Philosopher | Spaghetti | Eating | Hungry
Ro
           P 0 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 4)
           P 1 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 3)
           P 2 (Thinking, Spaghetti: 2)
           P 3 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 3)
P 4 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 3)
           Philosopher | Spaghetti | Eating | Hungry
           P 0 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 4)
P 1 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 3)
P 2 (Thinking, Spaghetti: 2)
           P 3 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 3)
            P 4 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 3)
           Philosopher | Spaghetti | Eating | Hungry
           P 0 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 4)
P 1 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 3)
P 2 (Thinking, Spaghetti: 2)
P 3 (Eating, Spaghetti: 2)
P 4 (Hungry, Spaghetti: 3)
8
553
            Philosopher | Spaghetti | Eating | Hungry
      ⊗0 △0 ₩0 🕏 Live Share
```





















