

EXERCISE 2: DISTRIBUTED MUTUAL EXCLUSION

Learning Objectives

By the end of this exercise, you should be able to:

- Implemented clock based mutexes.
- Understand distributed system synchronization challenges.

Exercise statement

We need to design and implement a distributed application. This application must have two *heavyweight* processes **ProcessA** and **ProcessB**. ProcessA must invoke 3 lightweight processes **ProcessLWA1**, **ProcessLWA2** and **ProcessLWA3**. ProcessB, on the other hand, must invoke 3 processes **ProcessLWB1**, **ProcessLWB2**, **ProcessLWB3**. Each lightweight process must live in a infinity loop which will consist of showing your ID on the screen 10 times and while waiting 1 second.

Both heavyweight processes have to run on the same machine, so all lightweight processes will compete for the same shared resource: the screen. A token-based mutual exclusion policy will need to be implemented between the two heavyweight processes. Among the processes invoked by ProcessA, a *Lamport's policy* must be implemented for mutual exclusion. Among the processes invoked by ProcessB, *Ricart and Agrawala's policy* will need to be implemented for mutual exclusion.

So, when running our distributed application, an output like the following should appear:

```
1 | I'm lightweight process A1
2 | I'm lightweight process A1
3 | ...
4 | I'm lightweight process A1
5 | I'm lightweight process A1
6 | I'm lightweight process A2
7 | I'm lightweight process A2
8 | ...
9 | I'm lightweight process A2
10 | I'm lightweight process A2
11 | I'm lightweight process A3
12 | I'm lightweight process A3
13 | ...
```

```
14 | I'm lightweight process A3
15 | I'm lightweight process A3
16 | I'm lightweight process B1
17 | I'm lightweight process B1
18 | ...
19 | I'm lightweight process B1
20 | I'm lightweight process B1
21 | I'm lightweight process B2
22 | I'm lightweight process B2
23 | ...
24 | I'm lightweight process B2
25 | I'm lightweight process B2
26 | I'm lightweight process B3
27 | I'm lightweight process B3
28 | ...
```

Although all *heavyweight* and *lightweight* processes must run on the same machine, these must be independent programs that can only communicate with each other via *sockets*.

Below is an example of the skeleton of each of the heavyweight processes:

```
1 | ...
2 | while(1){
3 |     while(!token) listenHeavyweight();
4 |     for (int i=0; i<NUM_LIGHTWEIGHTS; i++) {
5 |         sendActionToLightweight();
6 |     }
7 |     while(answersfromLightweight < NUM_LIGHTWEIGHTS) {
8 |         listenLightweight();
9 |     }
10 |     token=0;
11 |     sendTokenToHeavyweight();
12 | }
13 | ...
```

Below is an example of the skeleton of each of the lightweight processes:

```
1  ...
2  while(1){
3      waitHeavyWeight();
4      requestCS();
5      for (int i=0; i<10; i++){
6          printf("I'm lightweight process %s\n", myID);
7          waitSecond();
8      }
9      releaseCS();
10     notifyHeavyWeight();
11 }
12 ...
```