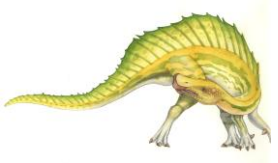
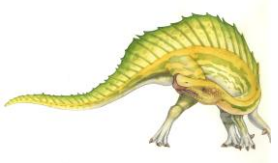
Cooperating Processes

- ***Independent*** process cannot affect or be affected by the execution of another process
- ***Cooperating*** process can affect or be affected by the execution of another process
- Advantages of process cooperation
  - Information sharing
  - Computation speed-up
  - Modularity
  - Convenience



Producer-Consumer Problem

- Paradigm for cooperating processes, *producer* process produces information that is consumed by a *consumer* process
  - **unbounded-buffer** places no practical limit on the size of the buffer
  - **bounded-buffer** assumes that there is a fixed buffer size

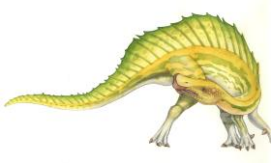


Bounded-Buffer – Shared-Memory Solution

- Shared data

```
#define BUFFER_SIZE 10
typedef struct {
  . . .
} item;

item buffer[BUFFER_SIZE];
int in = 0;
int out = 0;
```

- Solution is correct, but can only use BUFFER_SIZE-1 elements

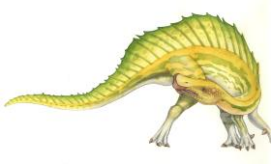


Bounded-Buffer – Producer

```
item next_produced;
while (true) {
        /* produce an item in next produced */
        while (((in + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE) == out)
                ; /* do nothing */
        buffer[in] = next_produced;
        in = (in + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;
}
```

Bounded Buffer – Consumer

```
item next_consumed;

while (true) {
        while (in == out)
                ; /* do nothing */
        next_consumed = buffer[out];

        out = (out + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;

        /* consume the item in next consumed */

}
```



Interprocess Communication – Shared Memory

- An area of memory shared among the processes that wish to communicate
- The communication is under the control of the users processes not the operating system.
- Major issues is to provide mechanism that will allow the user processes to synchronize their actions when they access shared memory.
- Synchronization

Interprocess Communication – Message Passing

- Mechanism for processes to communicate and to synchronize their actions
- Message system – processes communicate with each other without resorting to shared variables
- IPC facility provides two operations:
  - **`send`**(*message*)
  - **`receive`**(*message*)
- The *message* size is either fixed or variable

Message Passing (Cont.)

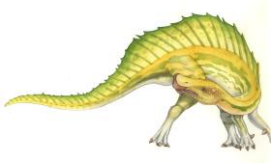
- If processes *P* and *Q* wish to communicate, they need to:
  - Establish a ***communication link*** between them
  - Exchange messages via send/receive
- Implementation issues:
  - How are links established?
  - Can a link be associated with more than two processes?
  - How many links can there be between every pair of communicating processes?
  - What is the capacity of a link?
  - Is the size of a message that the link can accommodate fixed or variable?
  - Is a link unidirectional or bi-directional?

Direct Communication

- Processes must name each other explicitly:
  - **`send`** (*P, message*) – send a message to process P
  - **`receive`**(*Q, message*) – receive a message from process Q
- Properties of communication link
  - Links are established automatically
  - A link is associated with exactly one pair of communicating processes
  - Between each pair there exists exactly one link
  - The link may be unidirectional, but is usually bi-directional

Indirect Communication

- Messages are directed and received from mailboxes (also referred to as ports)
  - Each mailbox has a unique id
  - Processes can communicate only if they share a mailbox
- Properties of communication link
  - Link established only if processes share a common mailbox
  - A link may be associated with many processes
  - Each pair of processes may share several communication links
  - Link may be unidirectional or bi-directional

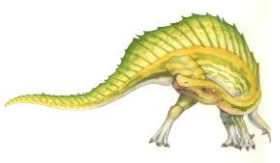


Indirect Communication

- Operations
  - create a new mailbox (port)
  - send and receive messages through mailbox
  - destroy a mailbox
- Primitives are defined as:

  `send`(*A, message*) – send a message to mailbox A

  `receive`(*A, message*) – receive a message from mailbox A



Synchronization

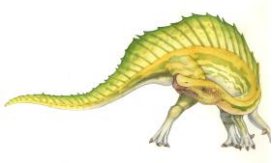
- Message passing may be either blocking or non-blocking
- **Blocking** is considered **synchronous**
  - **Blocking send** -- the sender is blocked until the message is received
  - **Blocking receive** -- the receiver is blocked until a message is available
- **Non-blocking** is considered **asynchronous**
  - **Non-blocking send** -- the sender sends the message and continue
  - **Non-blocking receive** -- the receiver receives:
    - A valid message, or
    - Null message
- Different combinations possible
  - If both send and receive are blocking, we have a **rendezvous**

Synchronization (Cont.)

- Producer-consumer becomes trivial

```
message next_produced;
while (true) {
    /* produce an item in next produced */
send(next_produced);
}
```

```
message next_consumed;
while (true) {
   receive(next_consumed);

   /* consume the item in next consumed */
}
```

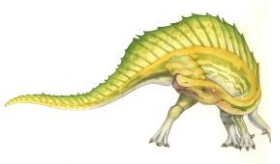


Buffering

- Queue of messages attached to the link.
- implemented in one of three ways
  1. Zero capacity – no messages are queued on a link.
     Sender must wait for receiver (rendezvous)
  2. Bounded capacity – finite length of *n* messages
     Sender must wait if link full
  3. Unbounded capacity – infinite length
     Sender never waits

Examples of IPC Systems - POSIX

- POSIX Shared Memory
  - Process first creates shared memory segment
    ```
    shm_fd = shm_open(name, O CREAT | O RDWR, 0666);
    ```
  - Also used to open an existing segment to share it
  - Set the size of the object
    ```
    ftruncate(shm fd, 4096);
    ```
  - Now the process could write to the shared memory
    ```
    sprintf(shared memory, "Writing to shared
    memory");
    ```

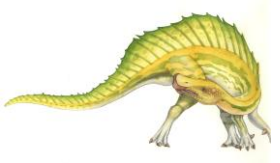


IPC POSIX Producer

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <sys/shm.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>

int main()
{
/* the size (in bytes) of shared memory object */
const int SIZE = 4096;
/* name of the shared memory object */
const char *name = "OS";
/* strings written to shared memory */
const char *message_0 = "Hello";
const char *message_1 = "World!";

/* shared memory file descriptor */
int shm_fd;
/* pointer to shared memory obect */
void *ptr;

   /* create the shared memory object */
   shm_fd = shm_open(name, O_CREAT | O_RDWR, 0666);

   /* configure the size of the shared memory object */
   ftruncate(shm_fd, SIZE);

   /* memory map the shared memory object */
   ptr = mmap(0, SIZE, PROT_WRITE, MAP_SHARED, shm_fd, 0);

   /* write to the shared memory object */
   sprintf(ptr,"%s",message_0);
   ptr += strlen(message_0);
   sprintf(ptr,"%s",message_1);
   ptr += strlen(message_1);

   return 0;
}
```

IPC POSIX Consumer

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <sys/shm.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>

int main()
{
/* the size (in bytes) of shared memory object */
const int SIZE = 4096;
/* name of the shared memory object */
const char *name = "OS";
/* shared memory file descriptor */
int shm_fd;
/* pointer to shared memory obect */
void *ptr;

    /* open the shared memory object */
    shm_fd = shm_open(name, O_RDONLY, 0666);

    /* memory map the shared memory object */
    ptr = mmap(0, SIZE, PROT_READ, MAP_SHARED, shm_fd, 0);

    /* read from the shared memory object */
    printf("%s",(char *)ptr);

    /* remove the shared memory object */
    shm_unlink(name);

    return 0;
}
```



Pipes

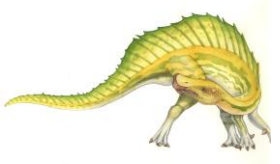
- A **pipe** acts as a conduit allowing two processes to communicate.
- They typically provide one of the simpler ways for processes to communicate with one another, although they also have some limitations.
- Two types we will consider :
  - Ordinary Pipes
  - Named Pipes

Ordinary Pipes

- Ordinary pipes allow two processes to communicate in standard producer–consumer fashion: the producer writes to one end of the pipe (the **write-end**) and the consumer reads from the other end (the **read-end**)
- Unidirectional
- For bidirectional, two pipes need to be created
- Linux : pipe(int fd[])
  - int fd[] file descriptor
  - fd[0] is the read-end of the pipe
  - fd[1] is the write-end

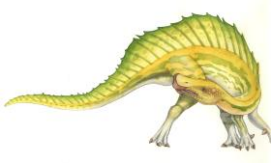
Ordinary Pipe Example

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <unistd.h>

#define BUFFER_SIZE 25
#define READ_END 0
#define WRITE_END 1

int main(void)
{
char write_msg[BUFFER_SIZE] = "Greetings";
char read_msg[BUFFER_SIZE];
int fd[2];
pid_t pid;

/* create the pipe */
if (pipe(fd) == -1) {
   fprintf(stderr,"Pipe failed");
   return 1;
}

/* fork a child process */
pid = fork();
```



Ordinary Pipe Example (contd.)

```
if (pid < 0) { /* error occurred */
   fprintf(stderr, "Fork Failed");
   return 1;
}

if (pid > 0) { /* parent process */
   /* close the unused end of the pipe */
   close(fd[READ_END]);

   /* write to the pipe */
   write(fd[WRITE_END], write_msg, strlen(write_msg)+1);

   /* close the write end of the pipe */
   close(fd[WRITE_END]);
}
else { /* child process */
   /* close the unused end of the pipe */
   close(fd[WRITE_END]);

   /* read from the pipe */
   read(fd[READ_END], read_msg, BUFFER_SIZE);
   printf("read %s",read_msg);

   /* close the write end of the pipe */
   close(fd[READ_END]);
}

return 0;
```



Named Pipes

- Ordinary pipes provide a simple mechanism for allowing a pair of processes to communicate.
- Named pipes provide a much more powerful communication tool.
  - Communication can be bidirectional
  - No parent–child relationship is required
    - Think of other ways to communicate via pipe without parent child relationship
- Once a named pipe is established, several processes can use it for communication.
- Named pipes are referred to as FIFOs in UNIX systems
- Once created, they appear as typical files in the file system.
- A FIFO is created with the mkfifo() system call and manipulated with the ordinary open(), read(), write(), and close() system calls.