**Experiment-13:Design a C program to simulate the concept of Dining-Philosophers problem**

**Aim:**

The aim of this program is to simulate the **Dining Philosophers Problem**, a classic synchronization problem that demonstrates the issues of concurrency and resource sharing. The goal is to simulate how philosophers (represented by threads) sit at a table, thinking and eating, while sharing limited resources (forks) without causing deadlock or resource contention.

**Problem Description:**

In the Dining Philosophers Problem:

* There are n philosophers sitting around a circular table.
* Each philosopher has a plate of food and needs two forks to eat (one fork to the left, one to the right).
* Philosophers alternate between thinking and eating.
* Philosophers can pick up a fork when it’s available, but they must wait if either fork is unavailable.
* The challenge is to prevent deadlock (where all philosophers are waiting for a fork indefinitely) and ensure there is no starvation (where a philosopher is never able to eat).

**Solution Approach:**

We can use **mutexes** or **semaphores** to synchronize access to the forks. Each philosopher needs to pick up the two adjacent forks (left and right), but this access must be synchronized to avoid race conditions. The program will simulate the dining philosophers problem using **mutexes** for synchronization.

**Procedure:**

1. **Mutexes**: Use mutex locks to ensure that only one philosopher can pick up each fork at a time.
2. **Philosophers as threads**: Each philosopher is represented by a thread.
3. **Thinking & Eating**: Philosophers will alternate between thinking and eating. When eating, they will acquire the two adjacent forks (mutex locks). When thinking, they will release the forks and wait.
4. **Deadlock Avoidance**: Deadlock is avoided by ensuring that each philosopher always picks up the forks in the same order (left first, right second).

**C Program to Simulate the Dining Philosophers Problem:**

#include <stdio.h>

#include <pthread.h>

#include <unistd.h>

#include <stdlib.h>

// Number of philosophers

#define NUM\_PHILOSOPHERS 5

// Mutex array to represent forks

pthread\_mutex\_t forks[NUM\_PHILOSOPHERS];

// Function for the philosopher's behavior

void \*philosopher(void \*num) {

int id = \*(int \*)num;

while (1) {

// Thinking

printf("Philosopher %d is thinking\n", id);

usleep(rand() % 1000); // Simulate thinking

// Attempting to pick up forks

printf("Philosopher %d is hungry\n", id);

// Pick up left fork (mutex lock)

pthread\_mutex\_lock(&forks[id]);

printf("Philosopher %d picked up left fork\n", id);

// Pick up right fork (mutex lock)

pthread\_mutex\_lock(&forks[(id + 1) % NUM\_PHILOSOPHERS]);

printf("Philosopher %d picked up right fork\n", id);

// Eating

printf("Philosopher %d is eating\n", id);

usleep(rand() % 1000); // Simulate eating

// Put down right fork

pthread\_mutex\_unlock(&forks[(id + 1) % NUM\_PHILOSOPHERS]);

printf("Philosopher %d put down right fork\n", id);

// Put down left fork

pthread\_mutex\_unlock(&forks[id]);

printf("Philosopher %d put down left fork\n", id);

}

}

int main() {

pthread\_t philosophers[NUM\_PHILOSOPHERS]; // Philosopher threads

int philosopher\_ids[NUM\_PHILOSOPHERS]; // Philosopher IDs

int i;

// Initialize mutexes (forks)

for (i = 0; i < NUM\_PHILOSOPHERS; i++) {

pthread\_mutex\_init(&forks[i], NULL);

}

// Create philosopher threads

for (i = 0; i < NUM\_PHILOSOPHERS; i++) {

philosopher\_ids[i] = i;

if (pthread\_create(&philosophers[i], NULL, philosopher, (void \*)&philosopher\_ids[i]) != 0) {

printf("Error creating thread for philosopher %d\n", i);

return -1;

}

}

// Wait for philosopher threads to complete (in this case, they run indefinitely)

for (i = 0; i < NUM\_PHILOSOPHERS; i++) {

pthread\_join(philosophers[i], NULL);

}

// Destroy mutexes

for (i = 0; i < NUM\_PHILOSOPHERS; i++) {

pthread\_mutex\_destroy(&forks[i]);

}

return 0;

}

Output:

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

