Using Semaphores

- It is difficult to use semaphores
  - see example in Fig 5.9
  - semaphores may be scattered throughout the program
    - difficult to assess overall effect

- Monitors provide similar functionality
  - but are easier to control
  - implemented in languages like Concurrent Pascal, Pascal-Plus, Modula-2 & 3, and Java
Monitors

• A Monitor is a software module
• Chief characteristics
  – Local data variables are accessible only by the monitor
  – Process enters monitor by invoking one of its procedures
  – Only one process may be executing in the monitor at a time
Monitors

• Provides mutual exclusion facility
• Shared data structure can be protected by placing it into a monitor
• If the data in a monitor represents some resource, then mutual exclusion is guaranteed for that resource
Monitors

• Synchronization support is needed
  – implemented using special data types called *condition variables*
  – these variables are affected by two functions
    • `cwait(c)`
      – suspend calling process on condition `c`
      – now monitor can be used by other process
    • `csignal(c)`
      – resume blocked process after `cwait` on same condition `c`
Monitors

• So what is the difference between the use of cwait and csignal in monitors and the wait and signal of semaphores?
  – Hint: remember what got us in trouble when using semaphores
Monitors

- Monitor wait and signal operations are different from their counterparts in semaphores
  - If a process in a monitor signals and corresponding queue is empty then signal is lost
Figure 5.15  Structure of a Monitor
/* program producerconsumer */
monitor boundedbuffer;
char buffer [N];           /* space for N items */
int nextin, nextout;       /* buffer pointers */
int count;                 /* number of items in buffer */
cond notfull, notempty;    /* condition variables for synchronization */

void append (char x)
{
    if (count == N)
        cwait(notfull);  /* buffer is full; avoid overflow */
    buffer[nextin] = x;
    nextin = (nextin + 1) % N;
    count++;
    /* one more item in buffer */
    csignal(notempty);  /* resume any waiting consumer */
}

void take (char x)
{
    if (count == 0)
        cwait(notempty);  /* buffer is empty; avoid underflow */
    x = buffer[nextout];
    nextout = (nextout + 1) % N;
    count--;
    /* one fewer item in buffer */
    csignal(notfull);  /* resume any waiting producer */
}

{  /* monitor body */
    nextin = 0; nextout = 0; count = 0;  /* buffer initially empty */
}
Figure 5.16 A Solution to the Bounded-Buffer Producer/Consumer Problem Using a Monitor
Message Passing

• Interaction between processes
  – synchronization
  – communication

• One solution to this is message passing
  – works in tightly and loosely coupled systems
Message Passing

- Enforce mutual exclusion
- Exchange information

send (destination, message)
receive (source, message)
Synchronization

• Sender and receiver may or may not be blocking (waiting for message)

• Blocking send, blocking receive
  – Both sender and receiver are blocked until message is delivered
  – This is called a rendezvous
Synchronization

• Nonblocking send, blocking receive
  – Sender continues on
  – Receiver is blocked until the requested message arrives

• Nonblocking send, nonblocking receive
  – Neither party is required to wait
Addressing

• Direct addressing
  – Send primitive includes a specific identifier of the destination process
  – Receive primitive could know ahead of time which process a message is expecting
  – Receive primitive could use source parameter to return a value when the receive operation has been performed
Addressing

• Indirect addressing
  – Messages are sent to a shared data structure consisting of queues
  – Queues are called mailboxes
  – One process sends a message to the mailbox and the other process picks up the message from the mailbox
  – relationship between sender & receiver
    • 1-to-1, many-to-1, 1-to-many, many-to-many
Figure 5.18  Indirect Process Communication
Message Format

Figure 5.19  General Message Format
Assumptions:
- blocking receive
- non-blocking send

```c
/* program mutualexclusion */
const int n = /* number of processes */;
void P(int i)
{
    message msg;
    while (true)
    {
        receive (mutex, msg);
        /* critical section */;
        send (mutex, msg);
        /* remainder */;
    }
}
void main()
{
    create_mailbox (mutex);
    send (mutex, null);
    parbegin (P(1), P(2), . . . , P(n));
}
```

What happens if the send is omitted?

**Figure 5.20 Mutual Exclusion Using Messages**
What does the for loop do?

```c
const int
  capacity = /* buffering capacity */ ;
  null =/* empty message */ ;
int i;
void producer()
{
  message pmsg;
  while (true)
  {
    receive (mayproduce, pmsg);
    pmsg = produce();
    send (mayconsume, pmsg);
  }
}
void consumer()
{
  message cmsg;
  while (true)
  {
    receive (mayconsume, cmsg);
    consume (cmsg);
    send (mayproduce, null);
  }
}
void main()
{
  create_mailbox (mayproduce);
  create_mailbox (mayconsume);
  for (int i = 1; i <= capacity; i++)
    send (mayproduce, null);
  parbegin (producer, consumer);
}
```

**Figure 5.21** A Solution to the Bounded-Buffer Producer/Consumer Problem Using Messages
Readers/Writers Problem

• Different variations on the theme, e.g.,
  – dedicated readers and dedicated writers
  – they all can read and write

• Here we look at the “dedicated” case
  – Any number of readers may simultaneously read the file
  – Only one writer at a time may write to the file
  – If a writer is writing to the file, no reader may read it
/* program readersandwriters */
int readcount;
semaphore x = 1, wsem = 1;
void reader()
{
    while (true)
    {
        semWait (x);
        readcount++;
        if (readcount == 1)
            semWait (wsem);
        semSignal (x);
        READUNIT();
        semWait (x);
        readcount--;
        if (readcount == 0)
            semSignal (wsem);
        semSignal (x);
    }
}
void writer()
{
    while (true)
    {
        semWait (wsem);
        WRITEUNIT();
        semSignal (wsem);
    }
}
void main()
{
    readcount = 0;
    parbegin (reader, writer);
}
z: prevent long reader queue; only 1 reader lines up at rsem, other readers line up at z

y: controls updating of writecount

Figure 5.23  A Solution to the Readers/Writers Problem Using
Semaphores: Writers Have Priority