Lecture 8: Deadlocks

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The Deadlock Problem

• A set of blocked processes each holding a resource and waiting to acquire a resource held by another process in the set

• Example
  • System has 2 disk drives
  • $P_1$ and $P_2$ each hold one disk drive and each needs another one

• Example
  • semaphores $A$ and $B$, initialized to 1
    
    $P_0$  
    $P_1$
    
    wait (A); wait(B)
    wait (B); wait(A)
System Model

- Resource types $R_1, R_2, \ldots, R_m$
  
  $CPU$ cycles, memory space, $I/O$ devices

- Each resource type $R_i$ has $W_i$ instances.

- Each process utilizes a resource as follows:
  - request
  - use
  - release
Deadlock Characterization

Deadlock can arise if four conditions hold simultaneously.

- **Mutual exclusion**: only one process at a time can use a resource
- **Hold and wait**: a process holding at least one resource is waiting to acquire additional resources held by other processes
- **No preemption**: a resource can be released only voluntarily by the process holding it, after that process has completed its task
- **Circular wait**: there exists a set \{P_0, P_1, \ldots, P_n\} of waiting processes such that \(P_0\) is waiting for a resource that is held by \(P_1\), \(P_1\) is waiting for a resource that is held by \(P_2\), \ldots, \(P_{n-1}\) is waiting for a resource that is held by \(P_n\), and \(P_n\) is waiting for a resource that is held by \(P_0\).
Resource-Allocation Graph

A set of vertices $V$ and a set of edges $E$.

- $V$ is partitioned into two types:
  - $P = \{P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_n\}$, the set consisting of all the processes in the system
  - $R = \{R_1, R_2, \ldots, R_m\}$, the set consisting of all resource types in the system

- **request edge** – directed edge $P_i \rightarrow R_j$

- **assignment edge** – directed edge $R_j \rightarrow P_i$
Resource-Allocation Graph (Cont.)

- Process

- Resource Type with 4 instances

- $P_i$ requests instance of $R_j$

- $P_i$ is holding an instance of $R_j$
Example of a Resource Allocation Graph

![Resource Allocation Graph](image)
Resource Allocation Graph With A Deadlock
Graph With A Cycle But No Deadlock
Basic Facts

• If graph contains no cycles ⇒ no deadlock

• If graph contains a cycle ⇒
  • if only one instance per resource type, then deadlock
  • if several instances per resource type, possibility of deadlock
Methods for Handling Deadlocks

• #1 - Ensure that the system will never enter a deadlock state

• #2 - Allow the system to enter a deadlock state and then recover

• #3 - Ignore the problem and pretend that deadlocks never occur in the system; used by most operating systems, including UNIX
Deadlock Avoidance

Requires that the system has some additional \textit{a priori} information available

- Simplest and most useful model requires that each process declare the \textit{maximum number} of resources of each type that it may need.

- The deadlock-avoidance algorithm dynamically examines the resource-allocation state to ensure that there can never be a circular-wait condition.

- Resource-allocation state is defined by the number of available and allocated resources, and the maximum demands of the processes.
Safe State

• When a process requests an available resource, system must decide if immediate allocation leaves the system in a safe state

• System is in **safe state** if there exists a sequence \(<P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_n>\) of ALL the processes in the system such that for each \(P_i\), the resources that \(P_i\) can still request can be satisfied by currently available resources + resources held by all the \(P_j\), with \(j < i\)

• That is:
  - If \(P_i\) resource needs are not immediately available, then \(P_i\) can wait until all \(P_j\) have finished
  - When \(P_j\) is finished, \(P_i\) can obtain needed resources, execute, return allocated resources, and terminate
  - When \(P_i\) terminates, \(P_{i+1}\) can obtain its needed resources, and so on
Basic Facts

- If a system is in safe state ⇒ no deadlocks
- If a system is in unsafe state ⇒ possibility of deadlock
- Avoidance ⇒ ensure that a system will never enter an unsafe state.
Avoidance algorithms

• Single instance of a resource type
  • Use a resource-allocation graph

• Multiple instances of a resource type
  • Use the banker’s algorithm
  • In book, not discussed in class
Resource-Allocation Graph Scheme

- **Claim edge** $P_i \rightarrow R_j$ indicated that process $P_j$ may request resource $R_j$; represented by a dashed line.

- Claim edge converts to request edge when a process requests a resource.

- Request edge converted to an assignment edge when the resource is allocated to the process.

- When a resource is released by a process, assignment edge reconverts to a claim edge.

- Resources must be claimed *a priori* in the system.
Resource-Allocation Graph
Unsafe State In Resource-Allocation Graph
Resource-Allocation Graph Algorithm

• Suppose that process $P_i$ requests a resource $R_j$

• The request can be granted only if converting the request edge to an assignment edge does not result in the formation of a cycle in the resource allocation graph