Deadlock

CSE 410 - Computer Systems

November 30, 2001

Readings and References

- Reading
  - › Chapter 8, *Operating System Concepts*, Silberschatz, Galvin, and Gagne
- Other References

Deadlock

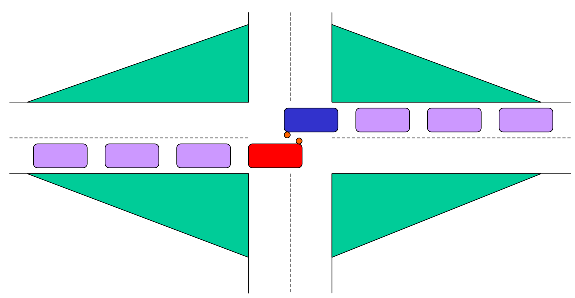
- Circular waiting for resources
  - › Task A wants what task B has
  - › Task B wants what task A has
- No progress possible!
  - › Neither can make progress without the other's resource
  - › Neither will relinquish its own resource

```
...
lockOne->Acquire();
...
...
lockTwo->Acquire();
```

```
...
lockTwo->Acquire();
lockOne->Acquire();
```

DEADLOCK!

Simple Traffic Gridlock Example

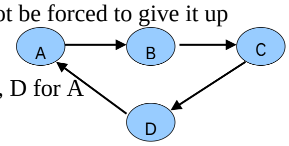


System Model

- There are ***tasks*** and ***resources***
- A task follows these steps to utilize a resource
  - › Acquire the resource
    - If the resource is unavailable, block
  - › Use the resource
  - › Release the resource

Necessary Conditions for Deadlock

- Mutual Exclusion
  - › The resource can't be shared
- Hold and Wait
  - › Task holds one resource while waiting for another
- No Preemption
  - › If a task has a resource, it cannot be forced to give it up
- Circular Wait
  - › A waits for B, B for C, C for D, D for A



Is Gridlock Example Deadlock?

- Mutual Exclusion
  - › space-time can only hold one car at a time
- Hold and wait
  - › I'm here, and I want to turn left, so watch out
- No preemption
  - › cannons are not allowed in cars at this time
- Circular wait
  - › blue waiting for red's space and vice versa

Dealing with Deadlock

- Deadlock Prevention
  - › Ensure statically that deadlock is impossible
- Deadlock Avoidance
  - › Ensure dynamically that deadlock is impossible
- Deadlock Detection and Recovery
  - › Allow deadlock to occur, but notice when it does and try to recover
- Ignore the Problem

Deadlock Prevention

- There are four necessary conditions for deadlock
- Take any one of them away and deadlock is impossible
- Let's attack deadlock by
  - › examining each of the conditions
  - › considering what would happen if we threw it out

Condition: Mutual Exclusion

- Usually can't eliminate this condition
  - › some resources are intrinsically non-sharable
- Examples include printer, write access to a file or record, entry into a section of code
- However, you can often mitigate this by adding a layer of abstraction
  - › For example, use a print spooler, not direct connection to the printer

Condition: Hold and Wait

- Eliminate partial acquisition of resources
- Task must acquire all the resources it needs before it does anything
  - › if it can't get them all, then it gets none
- Resource utilization may be low
  - › If you need P for a long time and Q only at the end, you still have to hold Q's lock the whole time
- Starvation prone
  - › May have to wait indefinitely before popular resources are all available at the same time

Condition: No Preemption

- Allow preemption
  - › If a process asks for a resource not currently available, block it and take away all of its other resources
  - › Add the preempted resources to the list of resources the process is waiting for
- This strategy works for some resources:
  - › CPU state (contents of registers can be spilled to memory)
  - › memory (can be spilled to disk)
- But not for others:
  - › printer - rip off the existing printout and tape it on later?

Condition: Circular Wait

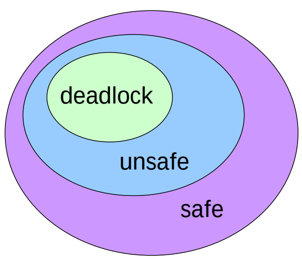
- To attack the circular wait condition:
  - Assign each resource a priority
  - Make processes acquire resources in priority order
- Two processes need the printer and the scanner, both must acquire the printer (higher priority) before the scanner
- This is the most common form of deadlock prevention
- The only problem: sometimes forced to relinquish a resource that you thought you had locked up

Deadlock Avoidance

- Deadlock prevention is often too strict
  - low device utilization
  - reduced system throughput
- If the OS had more information, it could do more sophisticated things to avoid deadlock and keep the system in a safe state
  - "If" is a little word, but it packs a big punch
  - predicting all needed resources *a priori* is hard

The Banker's Algorithm

- Idea: know what each process *might* ask for
- Only make allocations that leave the system in a *safe* state
- Inefficient

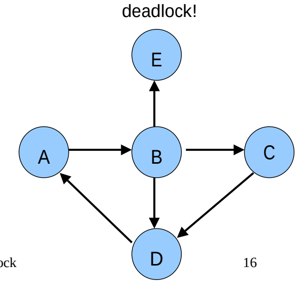


Resource allocation state space

Deadlock Detection

- Build a *wait-for* graph and periodically look for cycles, to find the circular wait condition
- The wait-for graph contains:
  - nodes, corresponding to tasks
  - directed edges, corresponding to a resource held by one task and desired by the other

A waits for **B**
B waits for **D**
D waits for **A**
deadlock!



Deadlock Recovery

- Once you've discovered deadlock, what next?
- Terminate one of the tasks to stop circular wait?
  - Task will likely have to start over from scratch
  - Which task should you choose?
- Take a resource away from a task?
  - Again, which task should you choose?
  - How can you *roll back* the task to the state before it had the coveted resource?
  - Make sure you don't keep on preempting from the same task: avoid starvation

Ignoring Deadlock

- Not a bad policy for operating systems
- The mechanisms outlined previously for handling deadlock may be expensive
  - if the alternative is to have a forced reboot once a year, that might be acceptable
- However, for thread deadlocks, your users may not be quite so tolerant
  - "the program only locks up once in a while"