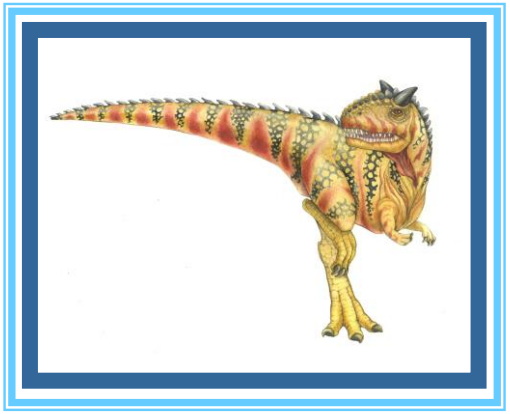
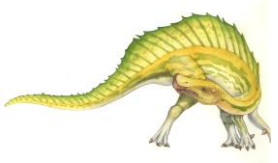
Chapter 7: Deadlocks



Chapter 7: Deadlocks

- System Model
- Deadlock Characterization
- Methods for Handling Deadlocks
- Deadlock Prevention
- Deadlock Avoidance
- Deadlock Detection
- Recovery from Deadlock



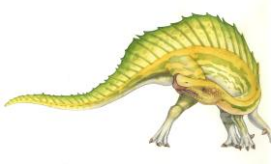
Chapter Objectives

- To develop a description of deadlocks, which prevent sets of concurrent processes from completing their tasks
- To present a number of different methods for preventing or avoiding deadlocks in a computer system

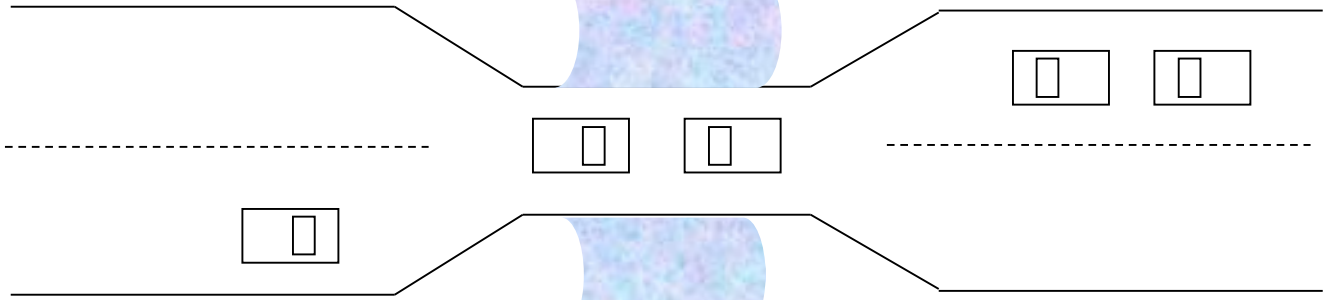
The Deadlock Problem (沈庭宇）

- 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)



Bridge Crossing Example（張育維）

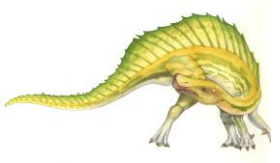


- Traffic only in one direction
- Each section of a bridge can be viewed as a resource
- If a deadlock occurs, it can be resolved if one car backs up (preempt resources and rollback)
- Several cars may have to be backed up if a deadlock occurs
- Starvation is possible
- Note – Most OSes do not prevent or deal with deadlocks

System Model（劉秋志）

- System consists of resources
- Resource types $R_1, R_2, \ldots, R_m$

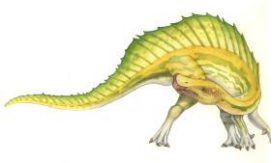
  CPU cycles, memory space, I/O devices
- Each resource type R_i has W_i instances.
- Each process utilizes a resource as follows:
  - **request**
  - **use**
  - **release**



Deadlock Characterization (1/2)

Deadlock can arise if four conditions hold simultaneously.

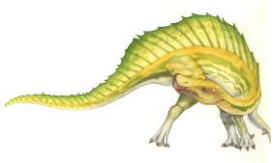
1. **Mutual exclusion:** only one process at a time can use a resource
2. **Hold and wait:** a process holding at least one resource is waiting to acquire additional resources held by other processes
3. **No preemption:** a resource can be released only voluntarily by the process holding it, after that process has completed its task



Deadlock Characterization (2/2)

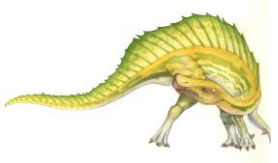
Deadlock can arise if four conditions hold simultaneously.

4. **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,
   - …,
   - 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.



Deadlock with Mutex Locks

- Deadlocks can occur via system calls, locking, etc
- See example box in text page 318 for mutex deadlock



Resource-Allocation Graph

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

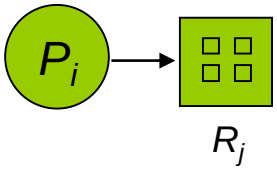
- V is partitioned into two types:
  - $P = \{P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_n\}$, the set consisting of all the processes in the system
  - $R = \{R_1, R_2, \ldots, R_m\}$, the set consisting of all resource types in the system
- **request edge** – directed edge $P_i \rightarrow R_j$
- **assignment edge** – directed edge $R_j \rightarrow P_i$

Resource-Allocation Graph (Cont.)

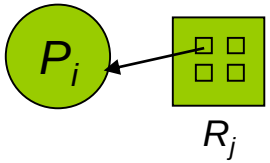
- Process

- Resource Type with 4 instances

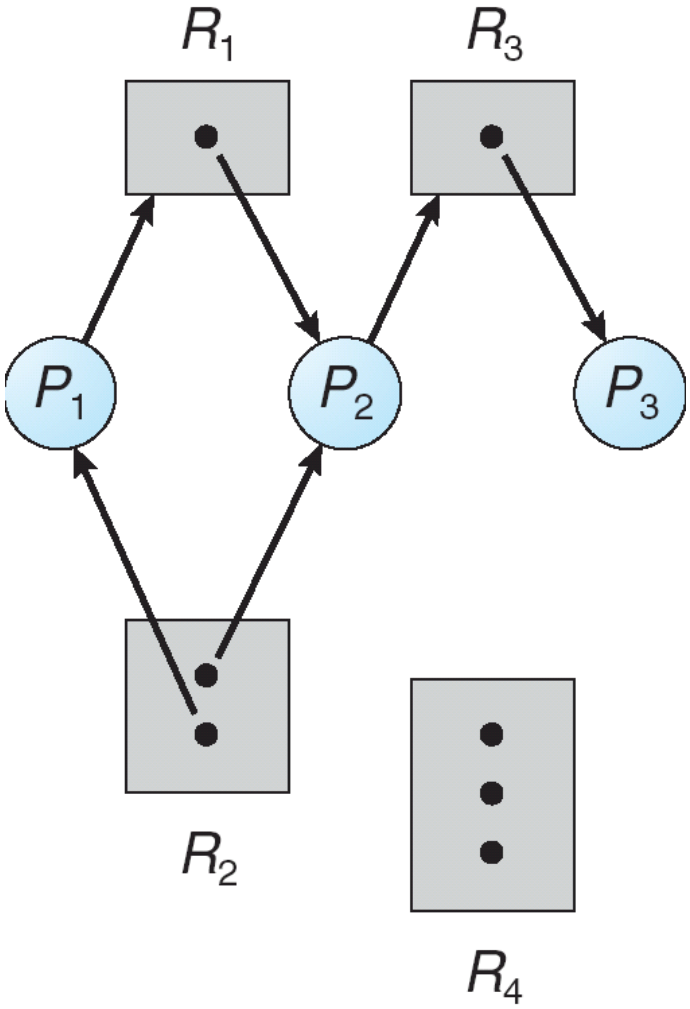
- P_i requests instance of R_j



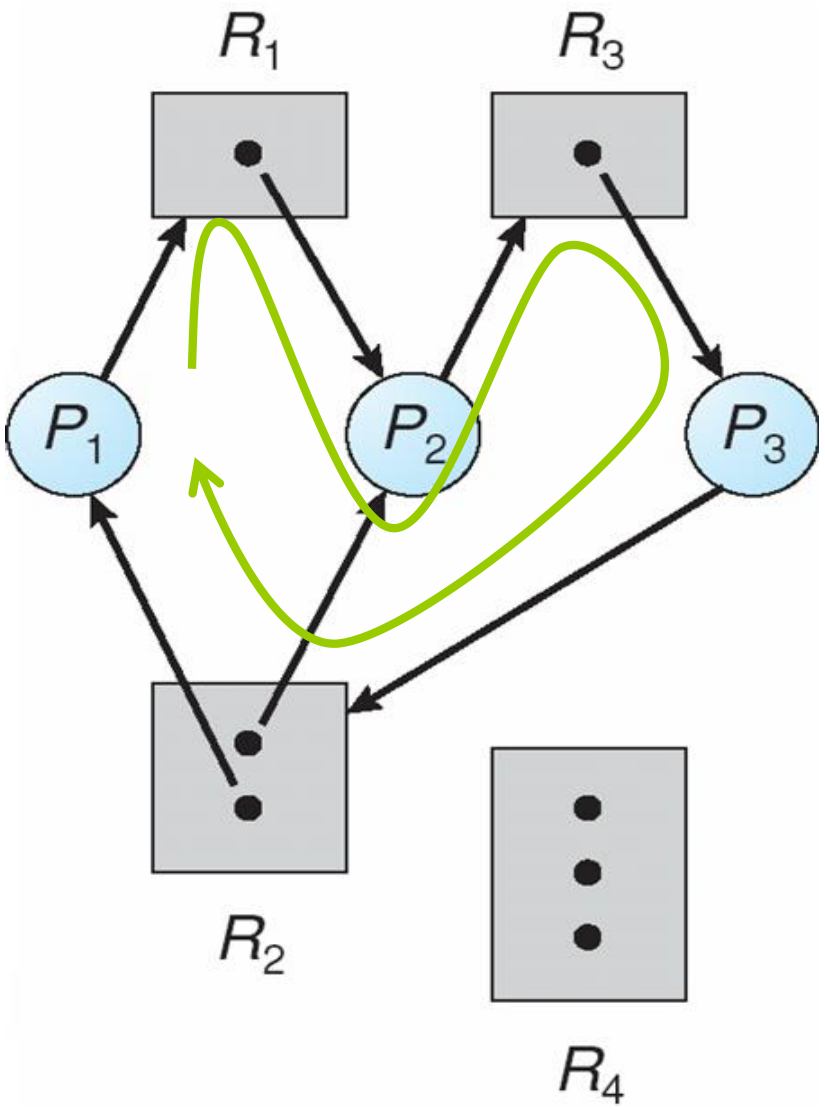
- P_i is holding an instance of R_j



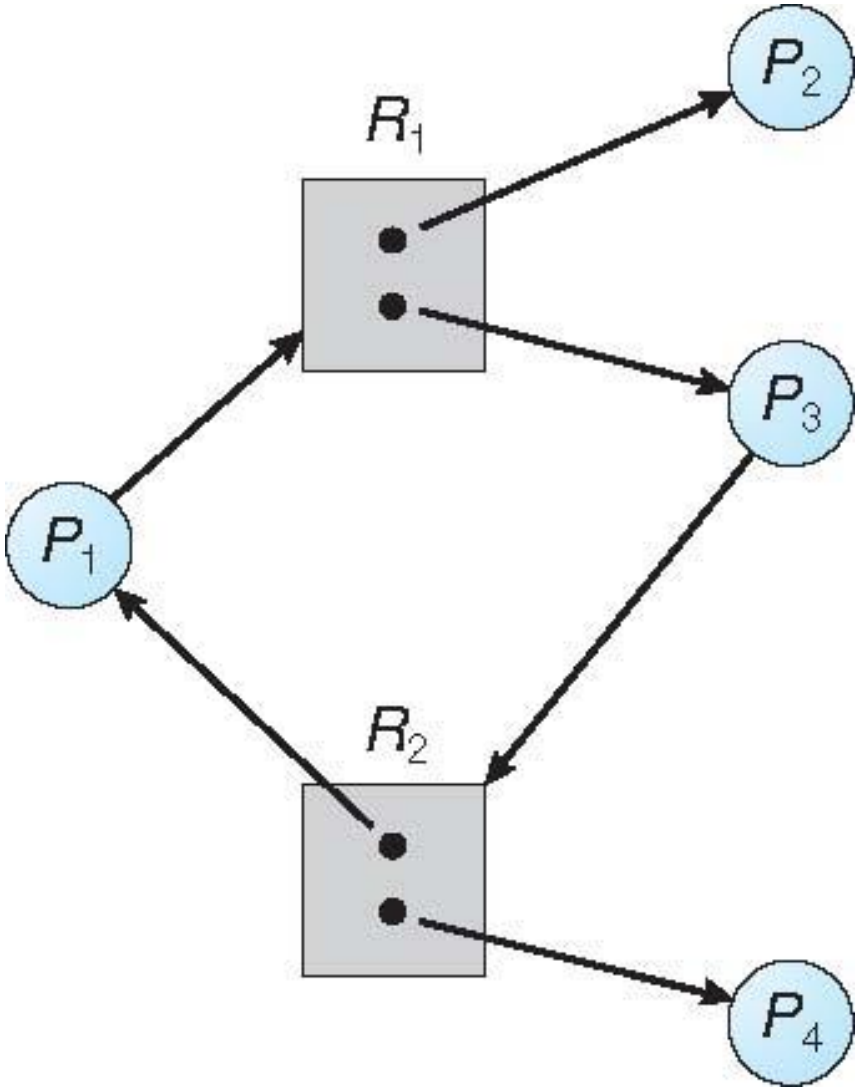
Example of a Resource Allocation Graph



Resource Allocation Graph With A Deadlock



Graph With A Cycle But No Deadlock

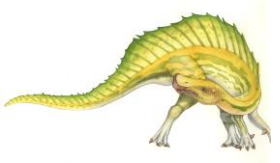


Basic Facts

- If graph contains no cycles $\Rightarrow$ no deadlock
- If graph contains a cycle $\Rightarrow$
  - if only one instance per resource type, then deadlock
  - if several instances per resource type, possibility of deadlock

Methods for Handling Deadlocks

- Ensure that the system will *never* enter a deadlock state
- Allow the system to enter a deadlock state and then recover
- Ignore the problem and pretend that deadlocks never occur in the system;
  - Restart the system “manually” if the system “seems” to be deadlocked or stops functioning.
  - Note that the system may be “frozen” temporarily!
  - used by most operating systems, including UNIX

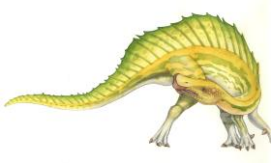


Deadlock Prevention

Restrain the ways request can be made

- **Mutual Exclusion** – not required for sharable resources; must hold for nonsharable resources

- **Hold and Wait** – must guarantee that whenever a process requests a resource, it does not hold any other resources
  - Require process to request and be allocated all its resources before it begins execution, or allow process to request resources only when the process has none
  - Low resource utilization; starvation possible

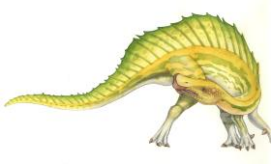


Deadlock Prevention (Cont.)

- **No Preemption** –
  - If a process that is holding some resources requests another resource that cannot be immediately allocated to it, then all resources currently being held are released
  - Preempted resources are added to the list of resources for which the process is waiting
  - Process will be restarted only when it can regain its old resources, as well as the new ones that it is requesting
- **Circular Wait** – impose a total ordering of all resource types, and require that each process requests resources in an increasing order of enumeration

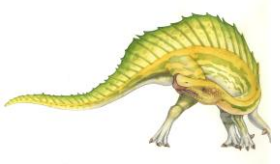
Deadlock Example

```
/* thread one runs in this function */
void *do work one(void *param)
{
   pthread mutex lock(&first mutex);
   pthread mutex lock(&second mutex);
   /** * Do some work */
   pthread mutex unlock(&second mutex);
   pthread mutex unlock(&first mutex);
   pthread exit(0);
}
/* thread two runs in this function */
void *do work two(void *param)
{
   pthread mutex lock(&second mutex);
   pthread mutex lock(&first mutex);
   /** * Do some work */
   pthread mutex unlock(&first mutex);
   pthread mutex unlock(&second mutex);
   pthread exit(0);
}
```



Deadlock Example with Lock Ordering

```
void transaction(Account from, Account to, double amount)
{
   mutex lock1, lock2;
   lock1 = get lock(from);
   lock2 = get lock(to);
   acquire(lock1);
      acquire(lock2);
         withdraw(from, amount);
         deposit(to, amount);
      release(lock2);
   release(lock1);
}
```



Deadlock Prevention

Circular Wait

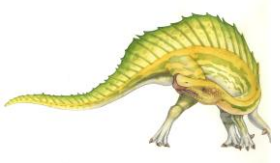
A resource-ordering approach:

$F : R \rightarrow N$

Resource requests must be made in an increasing order of enumeration.

- Type 1 – strictly increasing order of resource requests.
  - Initially, order any # of instances of Ri
  - Following requests of any # of instances of Rj must satisfy F(Rj) > F(Ri), and so on.

  * A single request must be issued for all needed instances of the same resources.



Deadlock Prevention

- Type 2
  - Processes must release all Ri's when they request any instance of Rj if F(Ri) ≥ F(Rj)
- F : R → N must be defined according to the normal order of resource usages in a system, e.g.,

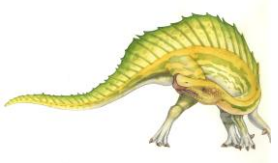
F(tape drive) = 1
F(disk drive) = 5
F(printer) = 12

?? feasible ??

Deadlock Avoidance

Requires that the system has some additional ***a priori*** information available

- Simplest and most useful model requires that each process declare the ***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

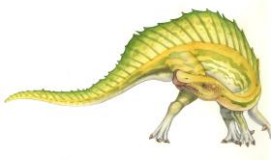


Safe State

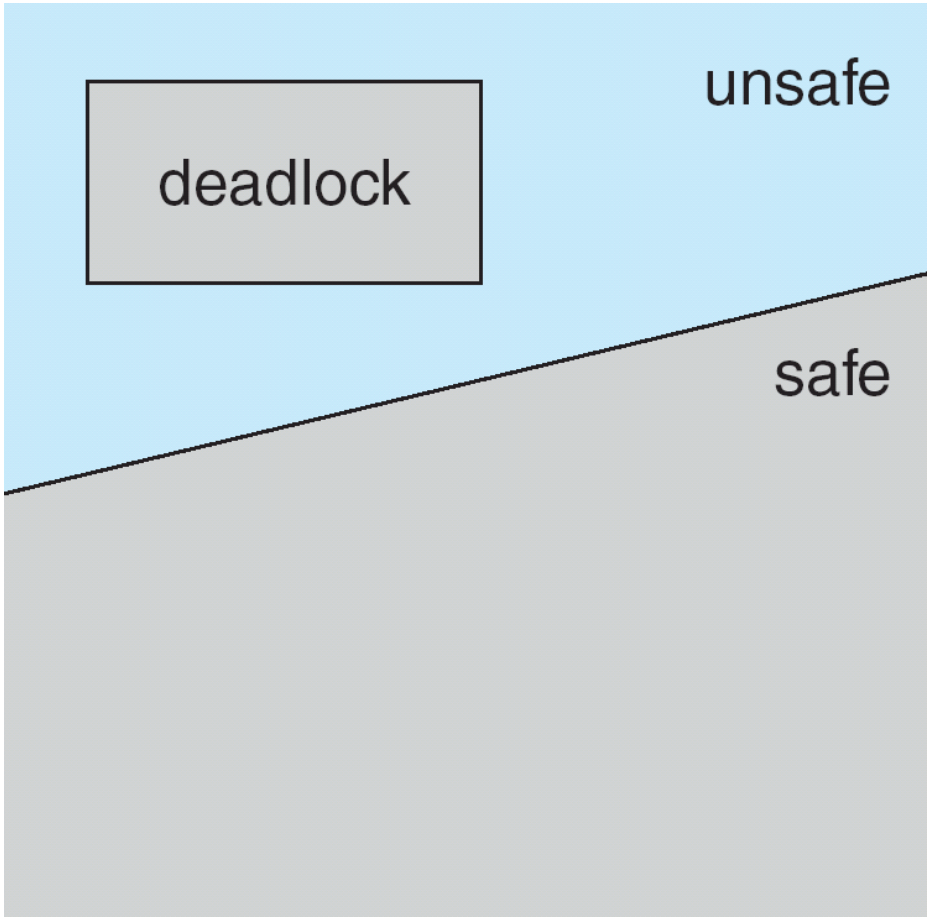
- When a process requests an available resource, system must decide if immediate allocation leaves the system in a safe state
- System is in **safe state** if there exists a sequence $<P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_n>$ of ALL the processes in the systems such that for each P_i, the resources that P_i can still 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 $\Rightarrow$ no deadlocks
- If a system is in unsafe state $\Rightarrow$ possibility of deadlock
- Avoidance $\Rightarrow$ ensure that a system will never enter an unsafe state.

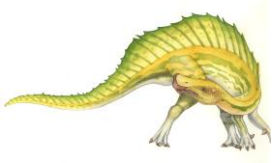


Safe, Unsafe, Deadlock State



Avoidance algorithms

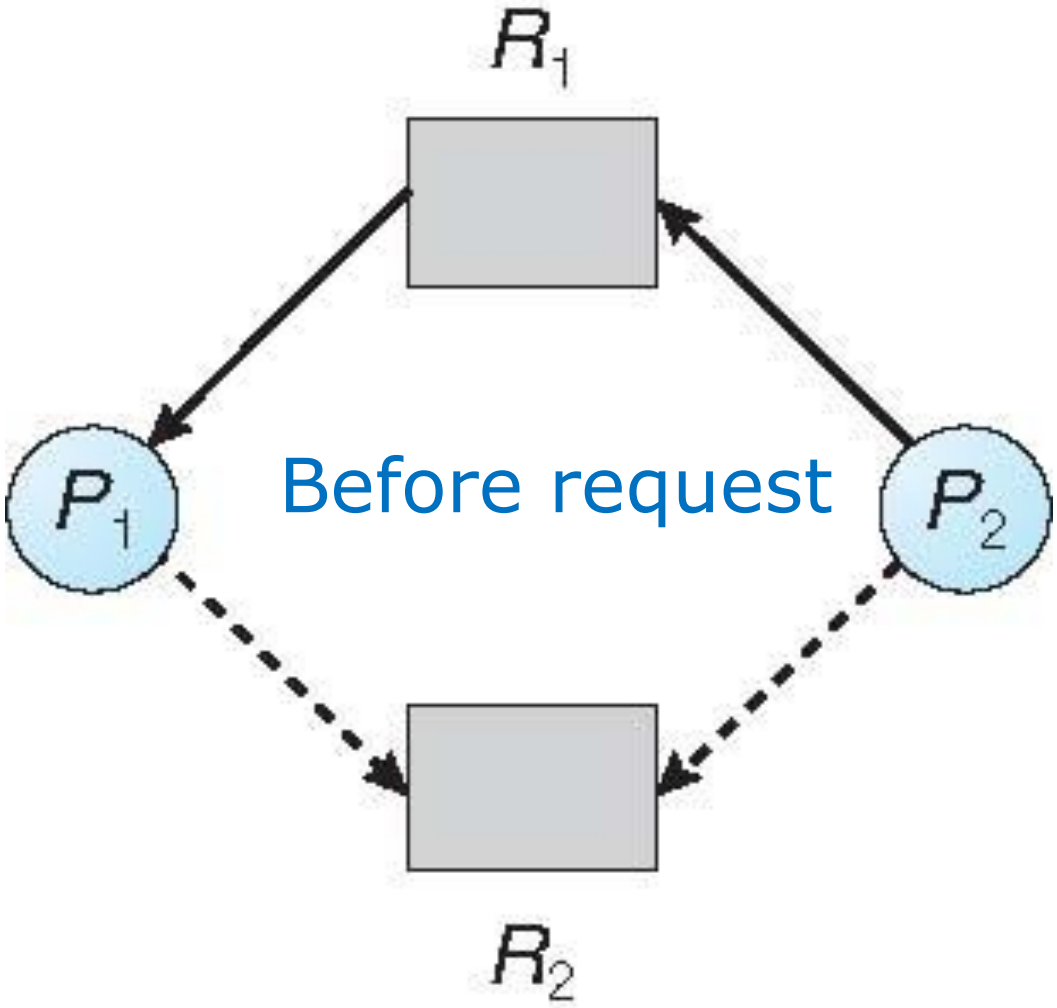
- Single instance of a resource type
  - Use a resource-allocation graph
- Multiple instances of a resource type
  - Use the banker's algorithm



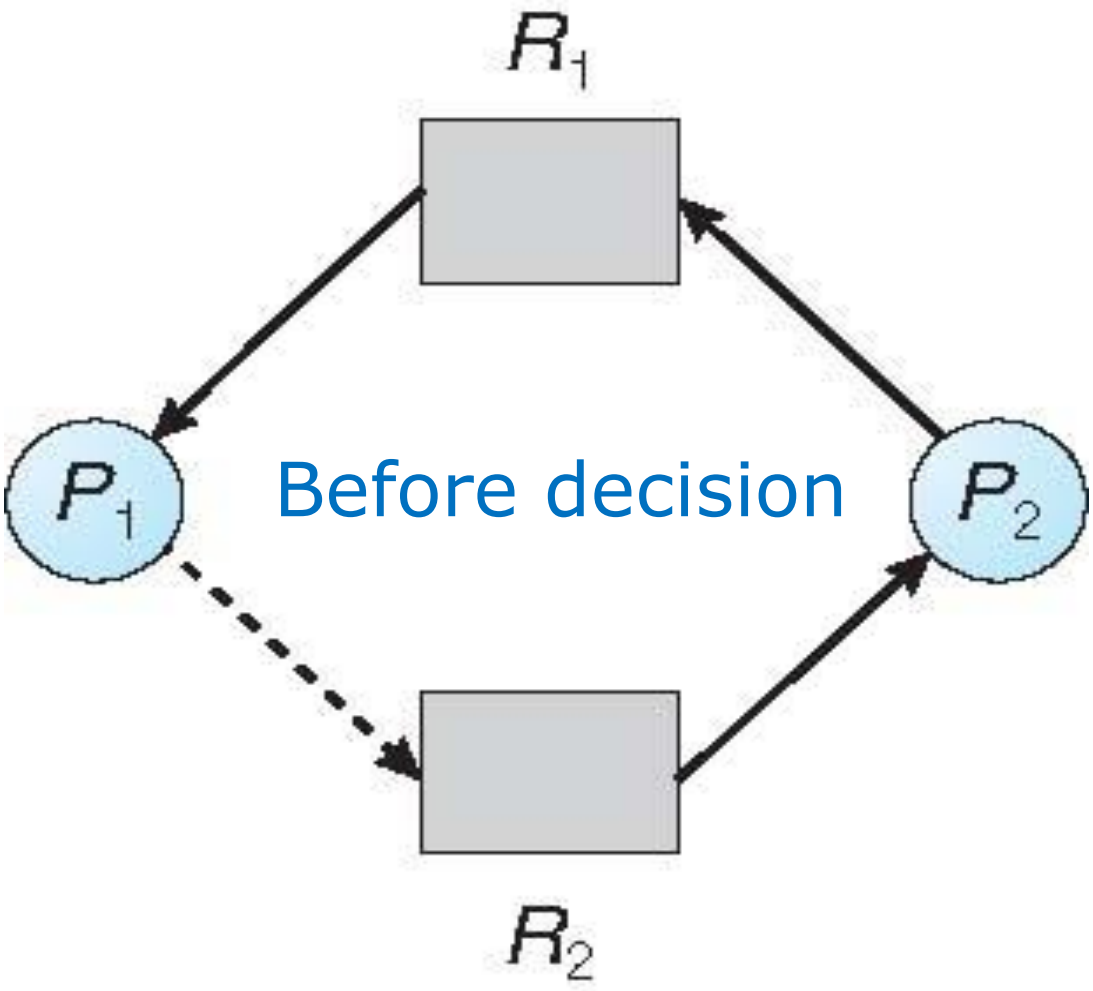
Resource-Allocation Graph Scheme

- **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



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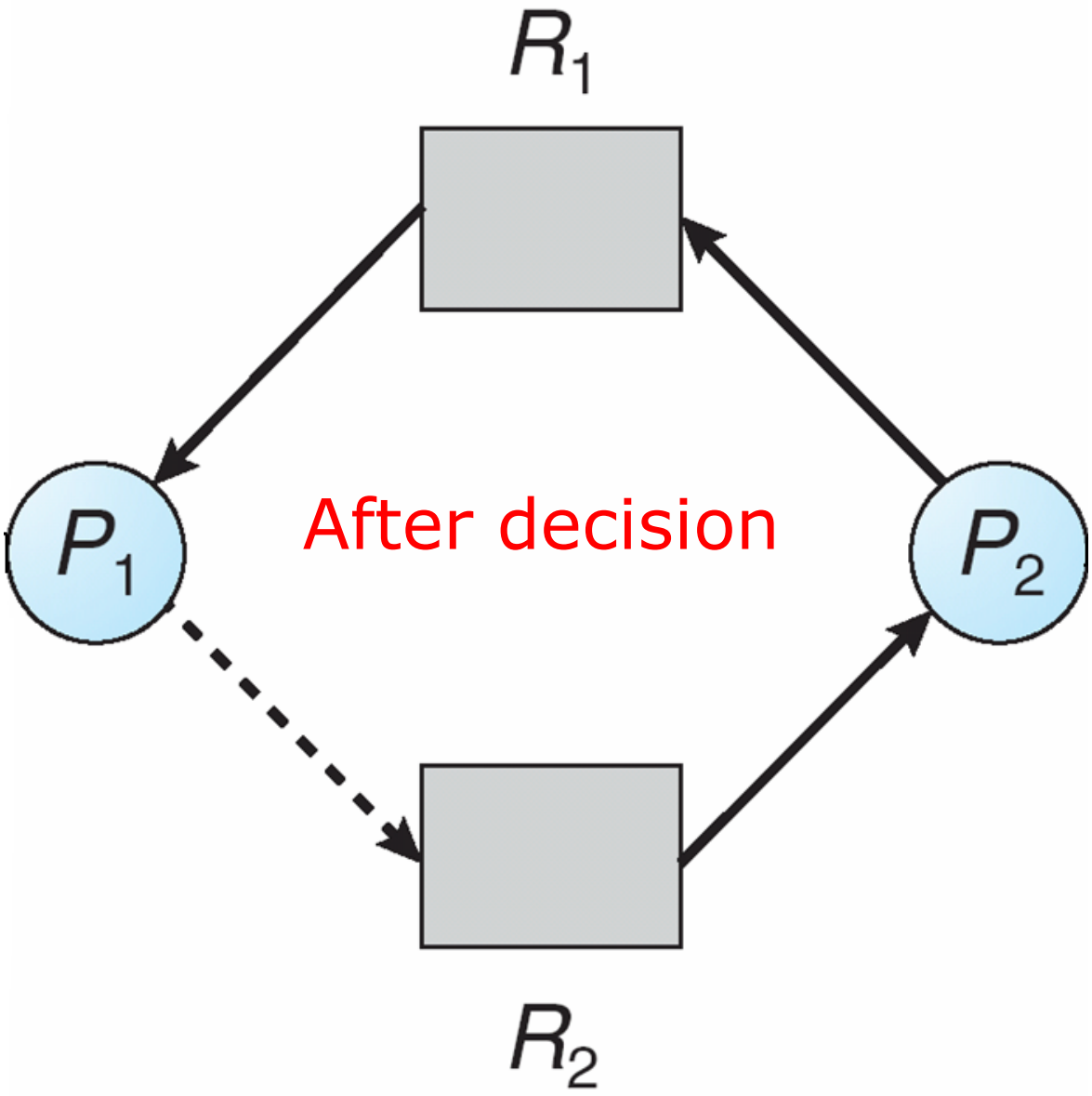
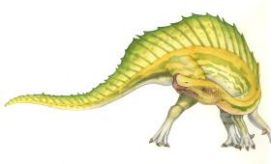


Resource-Allocation Graph Algorithm

- 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

Banker's Algorithm

- Multiple instances
- Each process must a priori claim maximum use
- When a process requests a resource it may have to wait
- When a process gets all its resources it must return them in a finite amount of time

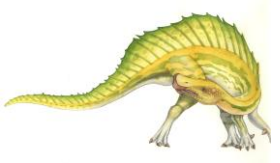


Data Structures for the Banker's Algorithm

Let n = number of processes, and m = number of resources types.

- **Available**: Vector of length m. If available [j] = k, there are k instances of resource type R_j available
- **Max**: n x m matrix. If Max [i,j] = k, then process P_i may request at most k instances of resource type R_j
- **Allocation**: n x m matrix. If Allocation[i,j] = k then P_i is currently allocated k instances of R_j
- **Need**: n x m matrix. If $Need$[i,j] = k, then P_i may need k more instances of R_j to complete its task

$$Need\ [i,j] = Max[i,j] - Allocation\ [i,j]$$



Safety Algorithm

1. Let ***Work*** and ***Finish*** be vectors of length *m* and *n*, respectively. Initialize:

   Work = Available

   ***Finish* [*i*] = *false* for *i* = 0, 1, …, *n*- 1**

2. Find an ***i*** such that both:

   (a) ***Finish* [*i*] = *false***

   (b) $\boldsymbol{Need_i \leq Work}$

   If no such ***i*** exists, go to step 4

3. $\boldsymbol{Work = Work + Allocation_i}$
   Finish*[*i*] = *true
   go to step 2

4. If ***Finish* [*i*] == *true*** for all ***i***, then the system is in a safe state

Give students 5 mins so that they can explian.

Resource-Request Algorithm for Process P_i

Request = request vector for process P_i. If $Request_i[j] = k$ then process P_i wants k instances of resource type R_j

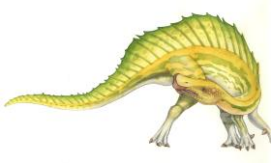
1. If $Request_i \leq Need_i$ go to step 2. Otherwise, raise error condition, since process has exceeded its maximum claim
2. If $Request_i \leq Available$, go to step 3. Otherwise P_i must wait, since resources are not available
3. Pretend to allocate requested resources to P_i by modifying the state as follows:

$$Available = Available - Request;$$

$$Allocation_i = Allocation_i + Request_i;$$

$$Need_i = Need_i - Request_i;$$

- If safe $\Rightarrow$ the resources are allocated to ***Pi***
- If unsafe $\Rightarrow$ ***Pi*** must wait, and the old resource-allocation state is restored



Example of Banker's Algorithm

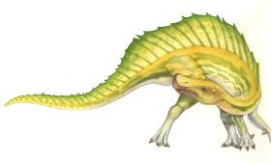
- 5 processes P_0 through P_4;

  3 resource types:

  A (10 instances), B (5instances), and C (7 instances)

Snapshot at time T_0:

	Allocation	*Max*	*Available*	*Need*
	A B C	*A B C*	*A B C*	*A B C*
P_0	0 1 0	7 5 3	3 3 2	7 4 3
P_1	2 0 0	3 2 2		1 2 2
P_2	3 0 2	9 0 2		6 0 0
P_3	2 1 1	2 2 2		0 1 1
P_4	0 0 2	4 3 3		4 3 1



Example (Cont.)

- The content of the matrix ***Need*** is defined to be ***Max – Allocation***

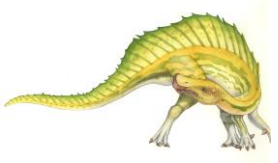
	Need
	A B C
P_0	7 4 3
P_1	1 2 2
P_2	6 0 0
P_3	0 1 1
P_4	4 3 1

- The system is in a safe state since the sequence $< P_1, P_3, P_4, P_2, P_0 >$ satisfies safety criteria

Banker's algorithm

Some issues

- How can we guess the right safe sequence ?
- Can we always guess a right safe sequence ?
- At step 2, when there is no i, why do not we need to backtrack ?
  - If backtrack is needed, the banker's algorithm
    - collapses with huge complexity and
    - is no longer practical for run-time decision support.



Banker's algorithm

Example: P_1 Request (1,0,2)

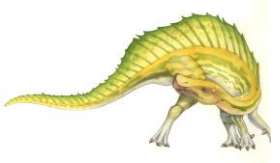
Check that Request ≤ Available (that is, (1,0,2) ≤ (3,3,2) ⇒ true

	Allocation	*Need*	*Available*
	A B C	*A B C*	*A B C*
P_0	0 1 0	7 4 3	2 3 0
P_1	3 0 2	0 2 0	
P_2	3 0 1	6 0 0	
P_3	2 1 1	0 1 1	
P_4	0 0 2	4 3 1	

- Executing safety algorithm shows that sequence

$$< P_1, P_3, P_4, P_0, P_2 >$$

satisfies safety requirement



Example: P_1 Request (1,0,2)

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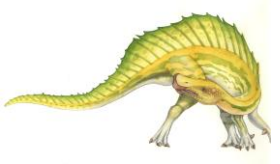
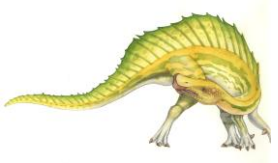
	Allocation	*Need*	*Available*
	A B C	*A B C*	*A B C*
P_0	0 1 0	7 4 3	2 3 0
P_1	3 0 2	0 2 0	
P_2	3 0 2	6 0 0	
P_3	2 1 1	0 1 1	
P_4	0 0 2	4 3 1	

- Executing safety algorithm shows that sequence < $\boldsymbol{P_1}$, $\boldsymbol{P_3}$, $\boldsymbol{P_4}$, $\boldsymbol{P_0}$, $\boldsymbol{P_2}$> satisfies safety requirement
- Can request for (3,3,0) by $\boldsymbol{P_4}$ be granted?
- Can request for (0,2,0) by $\boldsymbol{P_0}$ be granted?



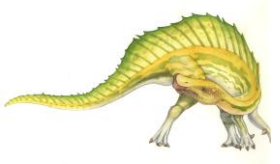
Deadlock Detection

- Allow system to enter deadlock state
- Detection algorithm
- Recovery scheme

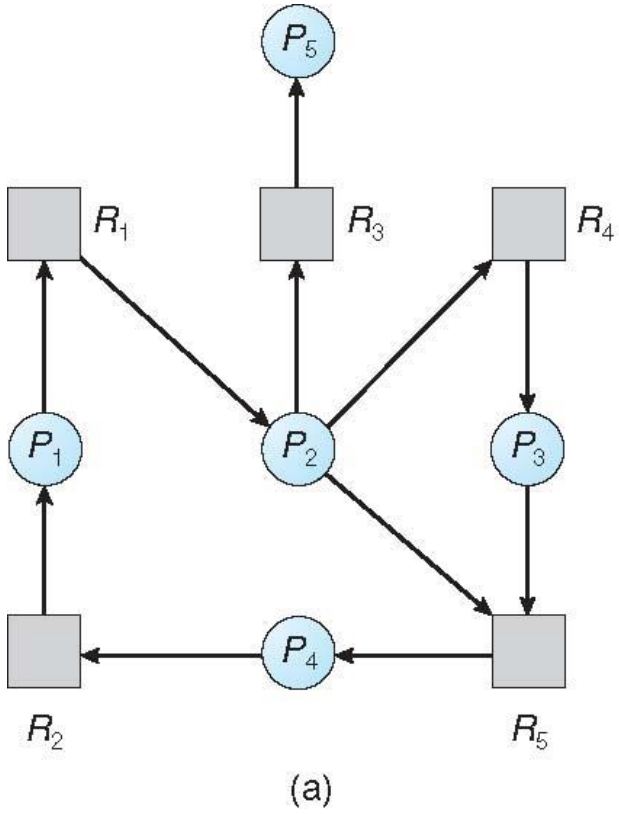


Single Instance of Each Resource Type

- Maintain **wait-for** graph
  - Nodes are processes
  - $P_i \rightarrow P_j$ if P_i is waiting for P_j
- Periodically invoke an algorithm that searches for a cycle in the graph. If there is a cycle, there exists a deadlock
- An algorithm to detect a cycle in a graph requires an order of n^2 operations, where n is the number of vertices in the graph



Resource-Allocation Graph and Wait-for Graph

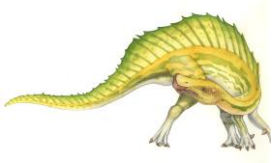


Resource-Allocation Graph

Corresponding wait-for graph

Several Instances of a Resource Type

- **Available**: A vector of length ***m*** indicates the number of available resources of each type
- **Allocation**: An ***n*** **x** ***m*** matrix defines the number of resources of each type currently allocated to each process
- **Request**: An ***n*** **x** ***m*** matrix indicates the current request of each process. If ***Request*** **[*i*][*j*] = *k***, then process P_i is requesting ***k*** more instances of resource type R_j.



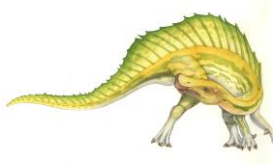
Detection Algorithm

1. Let ***Work*** and ***Finish*** be vectors of length ***m*** and ***n***, respectively Initialize:
   (a) ***Work* = *Available***
   (b) For ***i* = 1,2, …, *n***, if ***Allocation*$_i$ ≠ 0**, then ***Finish*[i] = *false***; otherwise, ***Finish*[i] = *true***

2. Find an index ***i*** such that both:
   (a) ***Finish*[*i*] == *false***
   (b) ***Request*$_i$ ≤ *Work***

   If no such ***i*** exists, go to step 4

O(*m* x *n*^{2}) operations

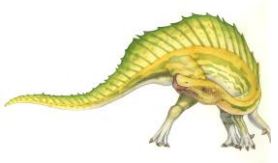


Detection Algorithm (Cont.)

3. ***Work = Work + Allocation***$_i$
   Finish*[*i*] = *true
   go to step 2

4. If ***Finish[i] == false***, for some ***i***, $1 \leq i \leq n$, then the system is in deadlock state. Moreover, if ***Finish*[*i*] == *false***, then P_i is deadlocked

Algorithm requires an order of O(m x n^2) operations to detect whether the system is in deadlocked state



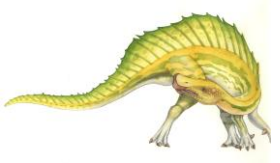
Example of Detection Algorithm

- Five processes P_0 through P_4; three resource types A (7 instances), *B* (2 instances), and *C* (6 instances)

- Snapshot at time T_0:

	Allocation	*Request*	*Available*
	A B C	*A B C*	*A B C*
P_0	0 1 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
P_1	2 0 0	2 0 2	
P_2	3 0 3	0 0 0	
P_3	2 1 1	1 0 0	
P_4	0 0 2	0 0 2	

- Sequence <P_0, P_2, P_3, P_1, P_4> will result in ***Finish[i] = true*** for all ***i***



Example (Cont.)

- P_2 requests an additional instance of type *C*

	Request
	A B C
P_0	0 0 0
P_1	2 0 2
P_2	0 0 1
P_3	1 0 0
P_4	0 0 2

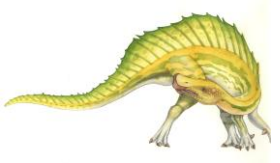
- State of system?
  - Can reclaim resources held by process P_0, but insufficient resources to fulfill other processes; requests
  - Deadlock exists, consisting of processes P_1, P_2, P_3, and P_4

Detection-Algorithm Usage

- When, and how often, to invoke depends on:
  - How often a deadlock is likely to occur?
  - How many processes will need to be rolled back?
    - one for each disjoint cycle
- If detection algorithm is invoked arbitrarily, there may be many cycles in the resource graph and so we would not be able to tell which of the many deadlocked processes “caused” the deadlock.

Recovery from Deadlock: Process Termination

- Abort all deadlocked processes
- Abort one process at a time until the deadlock cycle is eliminated
- In which order should we choose to abort?
  1. Priority of the process
  2. How long process has computed, and how much longer to completion
  3. Resources the process has used
  4. Resources process needs to complete
  5. How many processes will need to be terminated
  6. Is process interactive or batch?



Recovery from Deadlock: Resource Preemption

- **Selecting a victim** – minimize cost
- **Rollback** – return to some safe state, restart process for that state
- **Starvation** – same process may always be picked as victim, include number of rollback in cost factor

Exercise (1/2)

7.8 Summary

A deadlocked state occurs when two or more processes are waiting indefinitely for an event that can be caused only by one of the waiting processes. There are three principal methods for dealing with deadlocks:

- Use some protocol to prevent or avoid deadlocks, ensuring that the system will never enter a deadlocked state.
- Allow the system to enter a deadlocked state, detect it, and then recover.
- Ignore the problem altogether and pretend that deadlocks never occur in the system.

The third solution is the one used by most operating systems, including Linux and Windows.

A deadlock can occur only if four necessary conditions hold simultaneously in the system: mutual exclusion, hold and wait, no preemption, and circular wait. To prevent deadlocks, we can ensure that at least one of the necessary conditions never holds.

A method for avoiding deadlocks, rather than preventing them, requires that the operating system have a priori information about how each process will utilize system resources. The banker's algorithm, for example, requires a priori information about the maximum number of each resource class that each process may request. Using this information, we can define a deadlock-avoidance algorithm.

If a system does not employ a protocol to ensure that deadlocks will never occur, then a detection-and-recovery scheme may be employed. A deadlock-detection algorithm must be invoked to determine whether a deadlock has occurred. If a deadlock is detected, the system must recover either by terminating some of the deadlocked processes or by preempting resources from some of the deadlocked processes.

Where preemption is used to deal with deadlocks, three issues must be addressed: selecting a victim, rollback, and starvation. In a system that selects victims for rollback primarily on the basis of cost factors, starvation may occur, and the selected process can never complete its designated task.

Researchers have argued that none of the basic approaches alone is appropriate for the entire spectrum of resource-allocation problems in operating systems. The basic approaches can be combined, however, allowing us to select an optimal approach for each class of resources in a system.

Exercises

7.1 Consider the traffic deadlock depicted in Figure 7.10.

a. Show that the four necessary conditions for deadlock hold in this example.

b. State a simple rule for avoiding deadlocks in this system.

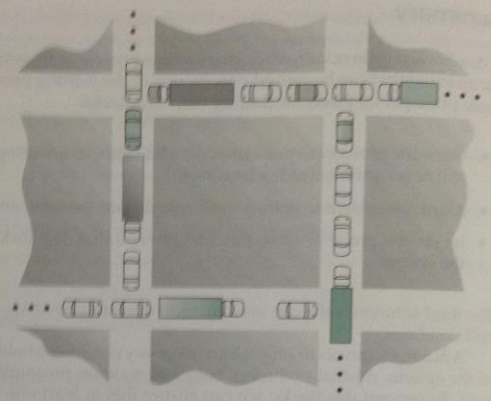


Figure 7.10 Traffic deadlock for Exercise 7.11.

7.2 Assume a multithreaded application uses only reader–writer locks for synchronization. Applying the four necessary conditions for deadlock, is deadlock still possible if multiple reader–writer locks are used?

7.3 The program example shown in Figure 7.4 doesn't always lead to deadlock. Describe what role the CPU scheduler plays and how it can contribute to deadlock in this program.

7.4 In Section 7.4.4, we describe a situation in which we prevent deadlock by ensuring that all locks are acquired in a certain order. However, we also point out that deadlock is possible in this situation if two threads simultaneously invoke the `transaction()` function. Fix the `transaction()` function to prevent deadlocks.

7.5 Compare the circular-wait scheme with the various deadlock-avoidance schemes (like the banker's algorithm) with respect to the following issues:

a. Runtime overheads

b. System throughput

7.6 In a real computer system, neither the resources available nor the demands of processes for resources are consistent over long periods (months). Resources break or are replaced, new processes come and go, and new resources are bought and added to the system. If deadlock is controlled by the banker's algorithm, which of the following changes can be made safely (without introducing the possibility of deadlock), and under what circumstances?

a. Increase *Available* (new resources added).

Exercise (2/2)

b. Decrease *Available* (resource permanently removed from system).

c. Increase *Max* for one process (the process needs or wants more resources than allowed).

d. Decrease *Max* for one process (the process decides it does not need that many resources).

e. Increase the number of processes.

f. Decrease the number of processes.

7.7 Consider a system consisting of four resources of the same type that are shared by three processes, each of which needs at most two resources. Show that the system is deadlock free.

7.8 Consider a system consisting of m resources of the same type being shared by n processes. A process can request or release only one resource at a time. Show that the system is deadlock free if the following two conditions hold:

a. The maximum need of each process is between one resource and m resources.

b. The sum of all maximum needs is less than $m + n$.

7.9 Consider the version of the dining-philosophers problem in which the chopsticks are placed at the center of the table and any two of them can be used by a philosopher. Assume that requests for chopsticks are made one at a time. Describe a simple rule for determining whether a particular request can be satisfied without causing deadlock given the current allocation of chopsticks to philosophers.

7.10 Consider again the setting in the preceding question. Assume now that each philosopher requires three chopsticks to eat. Resource requests are still issued one at a time. Describe some simple rules for determining whether a particular request can be satisfied without causing deadlock given the current allocation of chopsticks to philosophers.

7.11 We can obtain the banker's algorithm for a single resource type from the general banker's algorithm simply by reducing the dimensionality of the various arrays by 1. Show through an example that we cannot implement the multiple-resource-type banker's scheme by applying the single-resource-type scheme to each resource type individually.

7.12 Consider the following snapshot of a system:

	Allocation	*Max*
	A B C D	*A B C D*
P_0	3 0 1 4	5 1 1 7
P_1	2 2 1 0	3 2 1 1
P_2	3 1 2 1	3 3 2 1
P_3	0 5 1 0	4 6 1 2
P_4	4 2 1 2	6 3 2 5

Using the banker's algorithm, determine whether or not each of the following states is unsafe. If the state is safe, illustrate the order in which the processes may complete. Otherwise, illustrate why the state is unsafe.

a. *Available* = (0, 3, 0, 1)

b. *Available* = (1, 0, 0, 2)

7.13 Consider the following snapshot of a system:

	Allocation	*Max*	*Available*
	A B C D	*A B C D*	*A B C D*
P_0	2 0 0 1	4 2 1 2	3 3 2 1
P_1	3 1 2 1	5 2 5 2	
P_2	2 1 0 3	2 3 1 6	
P_3	1 3 1 2	1 4 2 4	
P_4	1 4 3 2	3 6 6 5	

Answer the following questions using the banker's algorithm:

a. Illustrate that the system is in a safe state by demonstrating an order in which the processes may complete.

b. If a request from process P_1 arrives for (1, 1, 0, 0), can the request be granted immediately?

c. If a request from process P_4 arrives for (0, 0, 2, 0), can the request be granted immediately?

7.14 What is the optimistic assumption made in the deadlock-detection algorithm? How can this assumption be violated?

7.15 A single-lane bridge connects the two Vermont villages of North Tunbridge and South Tunbridge. Farmers in the two villages use this bridge to deliver their produce to the neighboring town. The bridge can become deadlocked if a northbound and a southbound farmer get on the bridge at the same time. (Vermont farmers are stubborn and are unable to back up.) Using semaphores and/or mutex locks, design an algorithm in pseudocode that prevents deadlock. Initially, do not be concerned about starvation (the situation in which northbound farmers prevent southbound farmers from using the bridge, or vice versa).

7.16 Modify your solution to Exercise 7.15 so that it is starvation-free.

Programming Problems

7.17 Implement your solution to Exercise 7.15 using POSIX synchronization. In particular, represent northbound and southbound farmers as separate threads. Once a farmer is on the bridge, the associated thread will sleep for a random period of time, representing traveling across the bridge. Design your program so that you can create several threads representing the northbound and southbound farmers.