

# Concurrent Systems

*Nebenläufige Systeme*

## VIII. Monitor

Wolfgang Schröder-Preikschat

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# Agenda

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Preface

Fundamentals

- Mutual Exclusion

- Condition Variable

- Signalling Semantics

Implementation

- Data Structures

- Use Case

- Operations

Summary



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# Subject Matter

- discussion on **abstract concepts** as to “a shared variable and the set of meaningful operations on it” [7, p. 121]:
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  - explanation of various styles: Hansen, Hoare, Concurrent Pascal, Mesa
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  - according to this, schematic representation of implementation variants
- demonstrate basic functions of a fictitious (language) run-time system



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  - too low level, programmers must keep track of all calls to  $P$  and  $V$
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  - secretary ■ idea for structuring control of sharing [5, p. 135–136]
  - critical region ■ **mutual exclusive** use of a shared variable [6]
  - event variable ■ a shared variable associated with an **event queue** [6]
  - path expressions ■ synchronisation rules within type definitions [2]



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    - inspired by SIMULA 67 [4, 3]
    - first implemented in Concurrent Pascal [9]
    - comes in a characteristic of many kinds [1, 10]



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    - comes in a characteristic of many kinds [1, 10]
- however, the concept is beyond a programming-language construct
  - it is fundamental for system programming and system-level operation

### Hint (Monitor [7, p. 121])

*The purpose of a monitor is to control the scheduling of resources among individual processes according to a certain policy.*



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    - only constructs beyond the **frame of reference** may force abnormality<sup>1</sup>
  - in logical respect, deadlocks due to programmed absence of unblocking of critical sections are impossible
- accordingly, instructions for synchronisation are cross-cutting concern of the monitor and no longer of the whole non-sequential program
  - particularly, instructions to protect critical sections are not made explicit
  - given that foreign-language synchronisation primitives cannot be used<sup>1</sup>

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- in this spirit, the **signalling convention** makes the wide difference and affects structuring of monitor-based non-sequential programs [13]



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  - wait ■ join monitor **entrance queue** and leave the monitor
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## Waiting inside a monitor

Without leaving the monitor, another process is unable to signal.



# Atomicity of Control Transfer

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- consequence for the **ownership structure** of monitor and signaller:
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    - if applicable, the order of process resumption is undefined
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  - by definition, the process to be resumed is predetermined
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  - ↔ **if** (!condition), wait: **intolerant to false signalisation**
  - return** ■ *ditto*
- keeping ownership by the signaller means fewer context switches and, thus, less background noise but higher (signal) allocation latency



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# Fundamental Data Types

```
1 typedef struct monitor {
2     semaphore_t mutex; /* initial {1} */
3 #ifdef __FAME_MONITOR_SIGNAL_URGENT_WAIT__
4     lineup_t urgent; /* urgent waiting signallers */
5 #endif
6 } monitor_t;
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8 typedef struct condition {
9     monitor_t *guard; /* enclosing monitor */
10    lineup_t event; /* signal-awaiting processes */
11 } condition_t;
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- data type used for keeping track of **waiting processes** (cf. p. 18):

```
1 typedef struct lineup {
2     int count; /* number of waiting processes */
3     event_t crowd; /* wait-for event */
4 } lineup_t;
```



```
1 extern void lockout(monitor_t*); /* enter monitor */
2 extern void proceed(monitor_t*); /* leave monitor */
3
4 extern void watch(condition_t*); /* wait on signal */
5 extern void spark(condition_t*); /* signal condition */
```

- consider these operations an additional **run-time system** element for a compiler of a “concurrent C-like” programming language
  - calls to *lockout* and *proceed* will be automatically generated as part of the pro- and epilogue of the respective monitor procedure
  - similarly, calls to *watch* and *spark* will be generated for the corresponding applications of condition variables
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  - in addition, instances of type *monitor* and *condition* will be automatically ejected, too, by the code generation process of such a compiler
- further improvements [12, p. 551] are imaginable to also better reflect the different signalling semantics



- a bounded buffer is controlled by a **pair** of condition variables:

```
1 #include "monitor.h"
2
3 #define BUF_SIZE 80
4
5 typedef struct buffer {
6     condition_t space;      /* control of reusables */
7     condition_t data;      /* control of consumables */
8     char store[BUF_SIZE];  /* reusable resource */
9     unsigned in, out;      /* store housekeeping */
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- instantiation of the necessary monitor and condition variables:

```
1 static monitor_t storehouse = {1}; /* monitor is free */
2 static buffer_t buffer = {          /* actual buffer */
3     {&storehouse}, {&storehouse}   /* link to monitor */
4 };
```



- handmade monitor procedure to put one item into the buffer:

```
1 void put(char item) {
2     lockout(&storehouse);    /* procedure prologue */
3     {
4         while (buffer.count == BUF_SIZE)
5             watch(&buffer.space);
6
7         buffer.store[buffer.in] = item;
8         buffer.in = (buffer.in + 1) % BUF_SIZE;
9         buffer.count += 1;
10
11        spark(&buffer.data);
12    }
13    proceed(&storehouse);    /* procedure epilogue */
14 }
```

- 2-3 ■ monitor **entrance**, usually to be generated by a compiler
- 4-11 ■ **body** of monitor procedure, to be programmed by a human
- 12-13 ■ monitor **exit**, usually to be generated by a compiler



- handmade monitor procedure to get one item out of the buffer:

```
1 char get() {
2     char item;
3
4     lockout(&storehouse);    /* procedure prologue */
5     {
6         while (buffer.count == 0) watch(&buffer.data);
7
8         item = buffer.store[buffer.out];
9         buffer.out = (buffer.out + 1) % BUF_SIZE;
10        buffer.count -= 1;
11
12        spark(&buffer.space);
13    }
14    proceed(&storehouse);    /* procedure epilogue */
15
16    return item;
17 }
```

- monitor entrance and exit and body of monitor procedure as before



- a classic monitor implementation on **event queue** basis is considered:

```
1 typedef struct event { } event_t;;
2
3 extern void catch(event_t*);      /* expect event */
4 extern int  coast();              /* wait for event */
5 extern int  await(event_t*);     /* catch & coast */
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- i non-effective in case of cooperative scheduling, otherwise
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  - iii notifies event sensibility to potential signalers (*cause*)
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- ensures that a process in running state is detectable by *cause*

*coast* ■ if the process was not yet detected by *cause*, blocks on the event

- otherwise, clears the catch state and keeps the process running



- a classic monitor implementation on **event queue** basis is considered:

```
1 typedef struct event { } event_t;;
2
3 extern void catch(event_t*);      /* expect event */
4 extern int  coast();              /* wait for event */
5 extern int  await(event_t*);     /* catch & coast */
6 extern int  cause(event_t*);     /* signal event */
```

*catch* ■ makes the process unsusceptible against **lost wakeup**:

- i non-effective in case of cooperative scheduling, otherwise
- ii inhibits preemption or dispatching (SMP), resp., or
- iii notifies event sensibility to potential signalers (*cause*)

- ensures that a process in running state is detectable by *cause*

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*await* ■ blocks the process on the specified event (i.e., signalled by *cause*)



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*await* ■ blocks the process on the specified event (i.e., signalled by *cause*)

*cause* ■ unblocks processes (tentatively) waiting on the specified event

- based on this abstraction, **waitlist operations** can be composed next



```
1 inline void brace(lineup_t *this) {
2     this->count++;           /* one more delaying */
3     catch(&this->crowd);     /* ready to block/continue */
4 }
5
6 inline void shift(lineup_t *this) {
7     coast();                /* conditionally block */
8     this->count--;          /* one less delaying */
9 }
10
11 inline void defer(lineup_t *this) {
12     this->count++;           /* one more delaying */
13     await(&this->crowd);    /* unconditionally block */
14     this->count--;          /* one less delaying */
15 }
16
17 inline int level(lineup_t *this) {
18     return this->count;     /* number delayed procs. */
19 }
```



```
1 inline int avail(lineup_t *this) {
2     if (this->count > 0)                /* any delayed? */
3         cause(&this->crowd);           /* yes, unblock */
4     return this->count;
5 }
6
7 inline int evoke(lineup_t *this) {
8     int count = this->count;            /* save state */
9     if (count > 0)                     /* any delayed? */
10        admit(elect(&this->crowd));    /* yes, seize CPU */
11    return count;
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  - as the case may be, the resuming process then unlocks the monitor
  - consequently, the monitor should not be protected by a **mutex** object



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- note that *evoke* forces a process switch within a still locked monitor
  - as the case may be, the resuming process then unlocks the monitor
  - consequently, the monitor should not be protected by a **mutex** object
- thereto, a cut-through to basic **process management** is appropriate:
  - elect** ■ selects the next process, if any, from the specified waitlist
  - admit** ■ books the current process (signaller) “ready to run” and
    - makes the elected process (signallee) available to the processor



# Signalling Semantics

- as has been foreshadowed by a **configuration option** (cf. p. 12):
  - signal and continue ■ Mesa-style [14]
  - signal and return ■ Hansen-style as to Concurrent Pascal [8, 9]
  - signal and wait ■ Hansen-style as originally proposed [7]
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  - note that signalling is non-effective if no process is waiting on it (cf. p. 8)
  - this excludes the use of semaphores, as  $V$  leaves a signal trace
    - $V$  always has an effect: at least it increases the semaphore value



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  - this excludes the use of semaphores, as  $V$  leaves a signal trace
    - $V$  always has an effect: at least it increases the semaphore value
- lightweight and efficient monitor operation benefits from **cross-layer optimisation** in constructive means
  - from language- to system-level run-time system to operating system



## Signal and Continue

```
1 void lockout(monitor_t *this) { P(&this->mutex); }
2
3 void proceed(monitor_t *this) { V(&this->mutex); }
4
5 void watch(condition_t *this) {
6     brace(&this->event);           /* prepare to release */
7     proceed(&this->guard);         /* release monitor */
8     shift(&this->event);           /* release processor */
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11 void spark(condition_t *this) {
12     avail(&this->event);           /* try signal process */
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- as *watch* needs to release the monitor before releasing the processor, a potential **race condition** must be prevented
  - *brace* notifies upcoming blocking of the current process to the system
  - this is to assure the current process of progress guarantee as soon as the monitor was released and another process is enabled to *spark* a signal



# Signal and Return

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- calling *spark* must be the **final action** within a monitor procedure
  - similar to the *continue* statement of Concurrent Pascal [9, p. 205]



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- calling *spark* must be the **final action** within a monitor procedure
  - similar to the *continue* statement of Concurrent Pascal [9, p. 205]
- otherwise, the signaller could proceed inside an unlocked monitor if no signallee was detected



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9 }
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11 void spark(condition_t *this) {
12     if (evoke(&this->event))     /* signallee done! */
13         lockout(this->guard);    /* re-enter monitor */
14 }
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13         lockout(this->guard);     /* re-enter monitor */
14 }
```

- as the case may be, the signaller blocks on a condition variable:
  - 12 ■ in case of a pending signallee, the signaller interrupts execution
    - a process switch inside the looked monitor takes place (cf. p. 19)
    - in the further course, another process unlocks/releases the monitor
  - 13 ■ accordingly, the signaller must make sure to **relock** the monitor



```
1 void lockout(monitor_t *this) { P(&this->mutex); }
2
3 void proceed(monitor_t *this) {
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- in contrast to the solutions discussed before, **exit** from the monitor needs to check two waitlists for pending processes:
  - i the re-entrance waitlist (*urgent*), but only in case of urgent processes
  - ii the entrance waitlist (*mutex*), else



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  - i the re-entrance waitlist (*urgent*), but only in case of urgent processes
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- by definition, urgent processes interrupted own operation in favour of processes pending for *event* handling
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- by definition, urgent processes interrupted own operation in favour of processes pending for *event* handling
  - urgent processes caused events, recently, and want be resumed, expressly
- indicator of urgent waiting processes is a counter by means of which the number of process blockings is registered



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8     if (avail(&this->event))       /* watcher waiting? */
9         defer(&this->guard->urgent); /* urgent wait */
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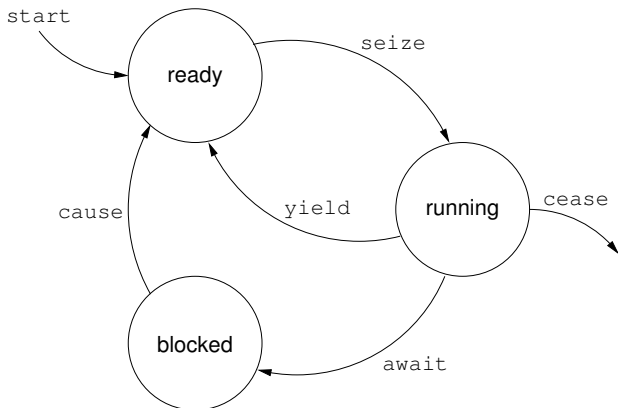
- as the case may be, *spark* makes the current process urgent waiting
  - a **preferential queue** (Ger. *Vorzugswarteschlange*) is used to this end
  - *defer* results in a process switch from line 9 to line 4, back and forth
  - from *spark* to *shift*, out of *watch*, and back to *spark* at monitor exit



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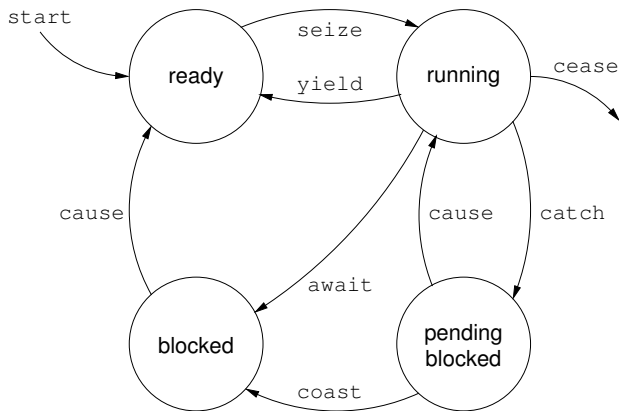
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  - from *spark* to *shift*, out of *watch*, and back to *spark* at monitor exit
- urgent waiting processes keep *proceed* off from unlocking the monitor
  - when the monitor owner returns or blocks, an urgent process resumes
  - as a consequence, the monitor should not be protected by a **mutex**





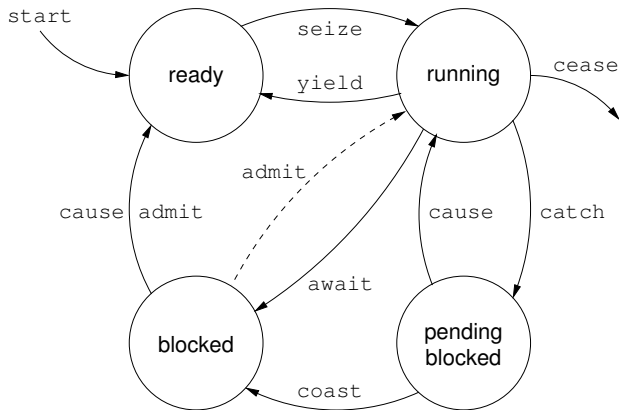
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- blocked** → **ready** ■ all, iff *effective signalling* (i.e., waiting signallee)





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- running** ↔ **pending** ■ all (→), signallee released monitor (←)
- pending** → **blocked** ■ all, no overlap of signaller and signallee





- ready ↔ running ■ wait (←), scheduler (↔)
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# Outline

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Preface

Fundamentals

- Mutual Exclusion

- Condition Variable

- Signalling Semantics

Implementation

- Data Structures

- Use Case

- Operations

Summary



- in linguistic terms, a monitor is a **language notation** for a critical region and one or more associated shared variables
  - a shared class [7, p. 226–232], inspired by SIMULA 67 [3]
  - linked with event queues [6] or condition variables [12], resp.
  - differentiated by several signalling semantics and conventions [13]
- in operating-system terms, a monitor is a means of **control** of the **scheduling** of resources among interacting processes
  - mutual-exclusive use of non-preemptable reusable resources
  - coordinated use of consumable resources according to a causal chain
- in system-programming terms, a monitor can be readily implemented by a **binary semaphore** and **event queues**
  - note that a **mutex** is to be rejected for the *signal and wait* variants

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*In practice, monitors would, of course, be implemented by uninterruptible operations in assembly language. [11, p. 31]*



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- handmade monitor procedures are prone to absence of unblocking the monitor before return: *proceed* is missing or will never be executed
  - object constructors/destructors find a remedy [16, p. 220, Sec. 6.1.4]

```
1 class atomic {
2     static monitor_t sluice;
3 public:
4     atomic() { lockout(&sluice); };
5     ~atomic() { proceed(&sluice); };
6 };
```

- exit from the scope of an *atomic* instance implicitly performs *proceed*:

```
1 int64_t inc64(int64_t *i) {
2     atomic inc; return *i + 1;
3 }
```

- a technique that is also known as the **scoped locking** pattern [15]

