User-level Mutual Exclusion

Lock-free?

• Avoid needing locking by using lock-free date structure

– Still need short atomic sequences
• compare-and-swap

• Lock-based data structure also need mutual exclusion to implement the lock primitive themselves.

How do we provide efficient mutual exclusion to kernel-implemented threads at user-level

- · Interrupt disabling?
- · Syscalls?
- · Processor Instructions?

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Optimistic Approach

- · Assume the critical code runs atomically
 - Atomic Sequence
- If an interrupt occurs, OS recovers such that atomicity is preserved
- Two basic mechanisms
 - Rollback
 - · Only single memory location update
 - · Guarantee progress???
 - Rollforward

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How does the OS know what is an atomic sequence?

- · Designated sequences
 - Match well know sequences surrounding PC
 - · Matching takes time
 - sequence may occur outside an atomic sequences
 - Rollback might break code
 - Rollforward okay
 - · Sequences can be inlined
 - No overhead added to each sequence, overhead only on interruption



Static Registration
 All sequences are registered at program startup
 No direct overhead to sequences themselves
 Limited number of sequences
 Reasonable to identify on interrupt
 No inlining













