

# Distributed Operating Systems

## Synchronization in Parallel Systems

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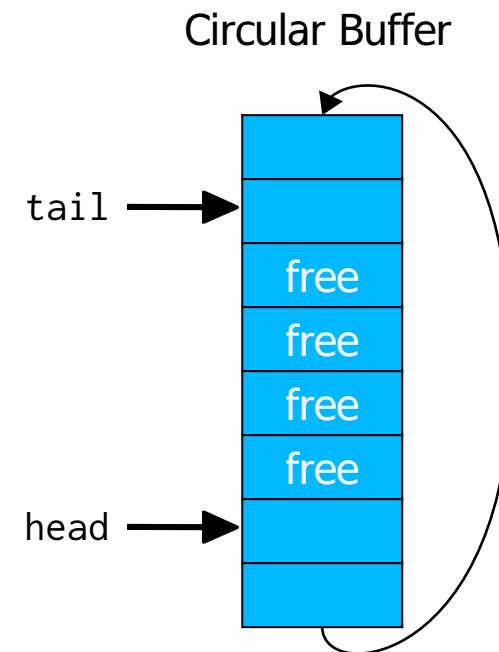
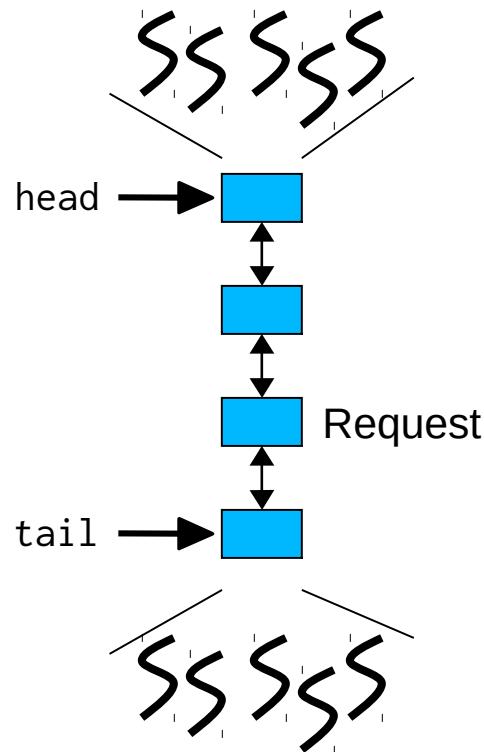
Till Smejkal  
2018

# Overview

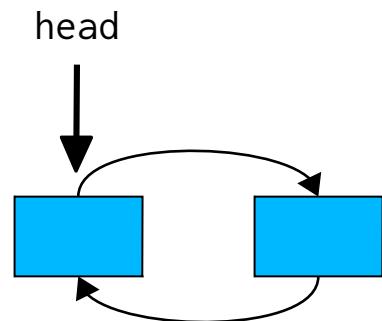
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- Introduction
- Hardware Primitives
- Synchronization with Locks (Part I)
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  - Locks
    - Spin Lock (Test & Set Lock)
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- Synchronization without Locks
- Synchronization with Locks (Part II)
  - MCS Lock
  - Performance
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    - Reader Writer Lock
    - Lockholder Preemption
    - Monitor, Mwait

# Introduction

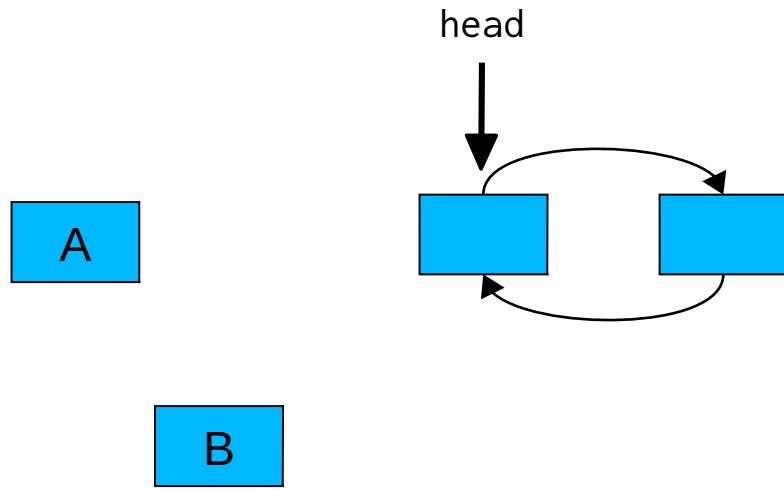


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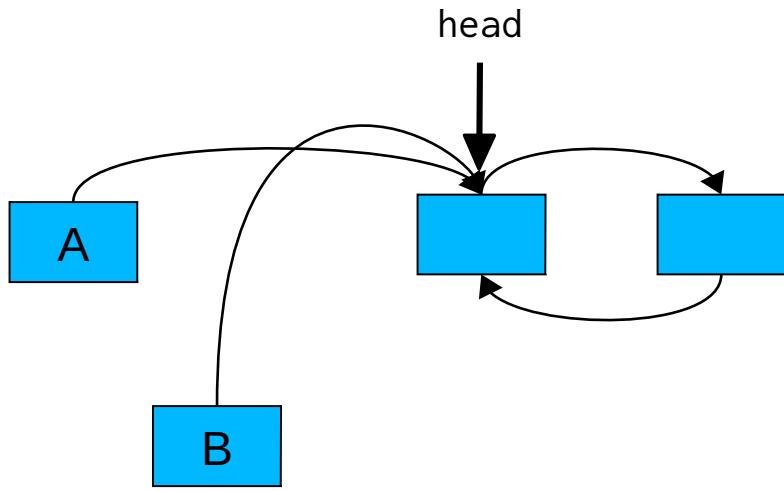


# Introduction

1) A,B create list element

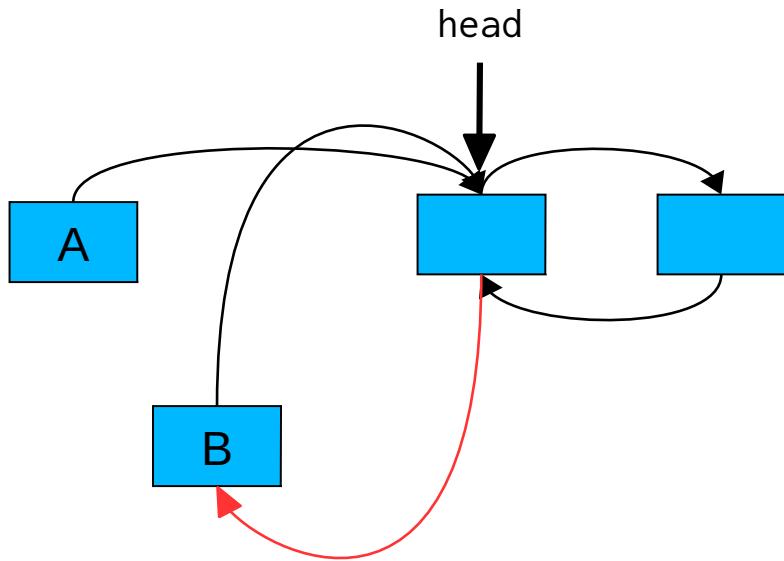


# Introduction



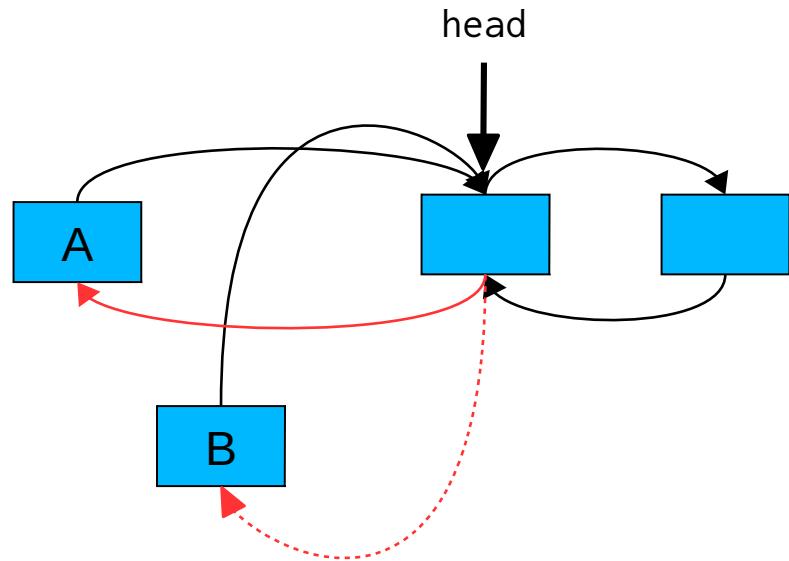
- 1) A,B create list element
- 2) A,B set next pointer

# Introduction



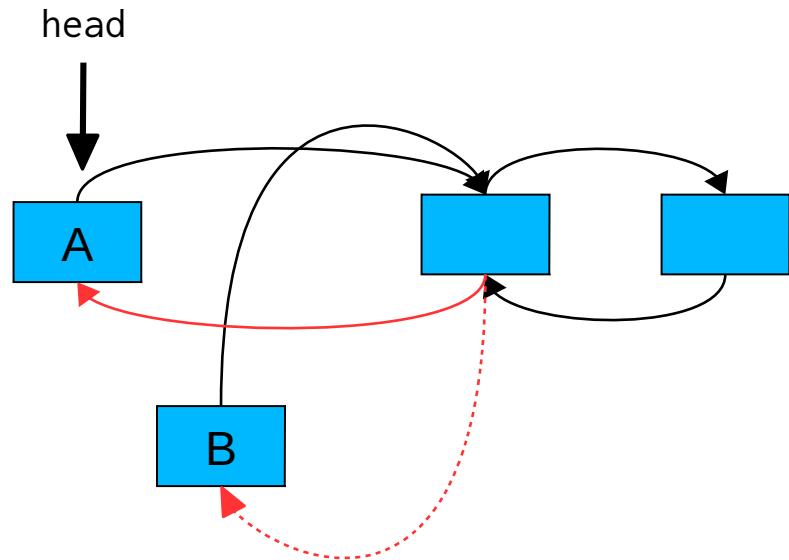
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- 3) B sets prev pointer

# Introduction



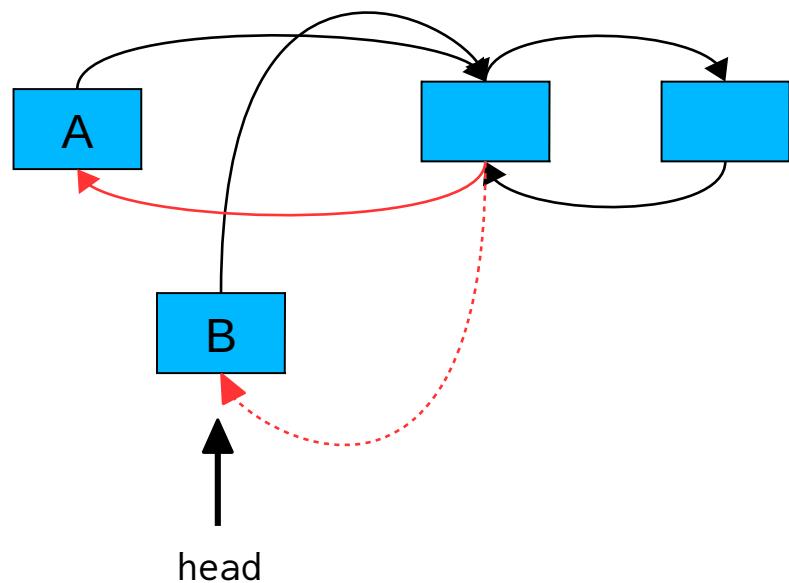
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- 4) A sets prev pointer

# Introduction



- 1) A,B create list element
- 2) A,B set next pointer
- 3) B sets prev pointer
- 4) A sets prev pointer
- 5) A updates head

# Introduction



- 1) A,B create list element
- 2) A,B set next pointer
- 3) B sets prev pointer
- 4) A sets prev pointer
- 5) A updates head
- 6) B updates head

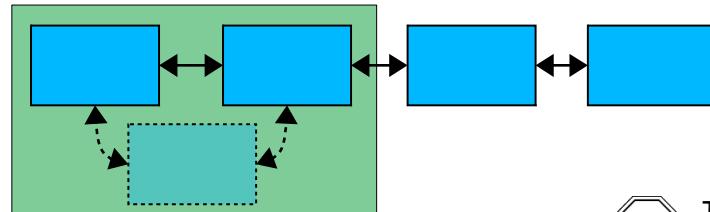
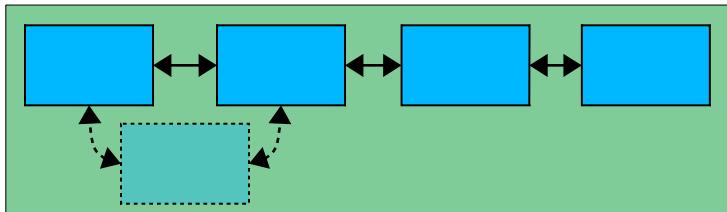
# Mutual Exclusion – w/ Locks

coarse grained (lock entire list)

```
lock(list);
list->insert_element(ele);
unlock(list);
```

fine grained (lock list elements)

```
retry:
lock(head);
if (trylock(head->next)) {
    head->insert_element(ele);
    unlock(head->next);
} else {
    unlock(head);
    goto retry;
}
unlock(head)
```



# Mutual Exclusion – w/o Locks

Decker / Peterson

- atomic stores, atomic loads
- sequential consistent memory (or memory fences)

```
bool flag[2] = {false, false};  
int turn = 0;  
  
void entersection(int thread) {  
    int other = 1 - thread;                      /* id of other thread; thread in {0,1} */  
    flag[thread] = true;                         /* show interest */  
    turn = other;                                /* give precedence to other thread */  
    while (turn == other && flag[other]) {}       /* wait */  
}  
  
void leavesection(int thread) {  
    flag[thread] = false;  
}
```

# Atomic Hardware Instructions

- A, B are atomic if  $A \parallel B = A;B$  **or**  $B;A$
- Read-Modify-Write instructions are typically not atomic

A	B	
add &x, 1		mov &x, 2
		(x = 0)

# Atomic Hardware Instructions

- A, B are atomic if  $A \parallel B = A;B$  or  $B;A$
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A

load &x -> Reg

add Reg, 1

store Reg -> &x

B

(x = 0)

store 2 -> &x

# Atomic Hardware Instructions

- A, B are atomic if  $A \parallel B = A;B$  or  $B;A$
- Read-Modify-Write instructions are typically not atomic

A

```
load &x -> Reg  
add Reg, 1  
store Reg -> &x
```

B

( $x = 0$ )

store 2 -> &x

x == 1

A;B → x == 2  
B;A → x == 3

# Atomic Hardware Instructions

## How to make instructions atomic?

- Bus lock
  - Lock memory bus until all memory accesses of a RMW instruction have completed
  - Intel Pentium 3 and older x86 CPUs

```
lock; add &x, 1; unlock
```
- Cache Lock
  - Delay snoop traffic until all memory accesses of a RMW instruction have completed
  - Intel Pentium 4 and newer x86 CPUs

# Atomic Hardware Instructions

## How to make instructions atomic?

- Observe Cache
  - Install cache watchdog on load
  - Abort store if watchdog has detected a concurrent access; retry OP
  - ARM, Alpha
    - retry:

```
load_linked &x -> Reg;
modify Reg;
if (!store_conditional(Reg -> &x))
    goto retry
```
- Hardware Transactional Memory
  - Install watchdog for all memory used by the transaction
  - Discard changes on write-write or write-read conflicts
  - Intel TSX, IBM BlueGeneQ

# Atomic Hardware Instructions

How to make instructions atomic?

- Cache Lock

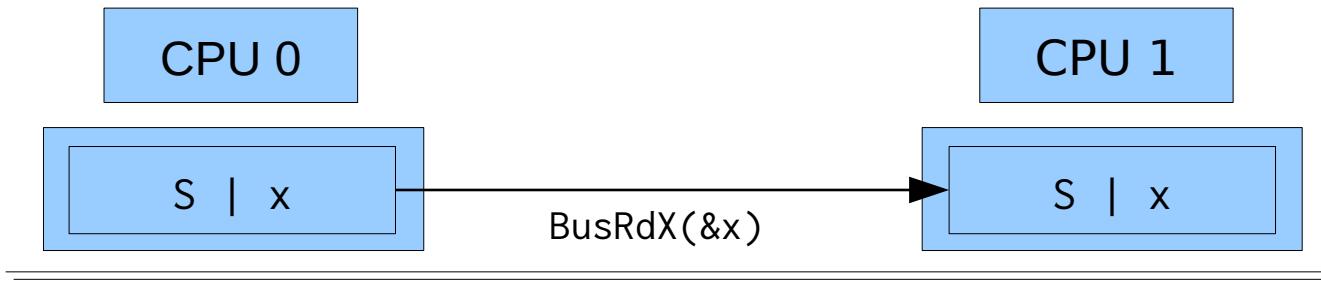
- Delay snoop traffic until all memory accesses of a RMW instruction have completed
- Can be achieved with the M(O)ESI Cache Coherence protocol

add &x, 1

1. **read\_for\_ownership(&x)**
2. load &x -> Reg
3. add Reg, 1
4. store Reg -> &x

mov &x, 2

2. store 2 -> &x



# Atomic Hardware Instructions

How to make instructions atomic?

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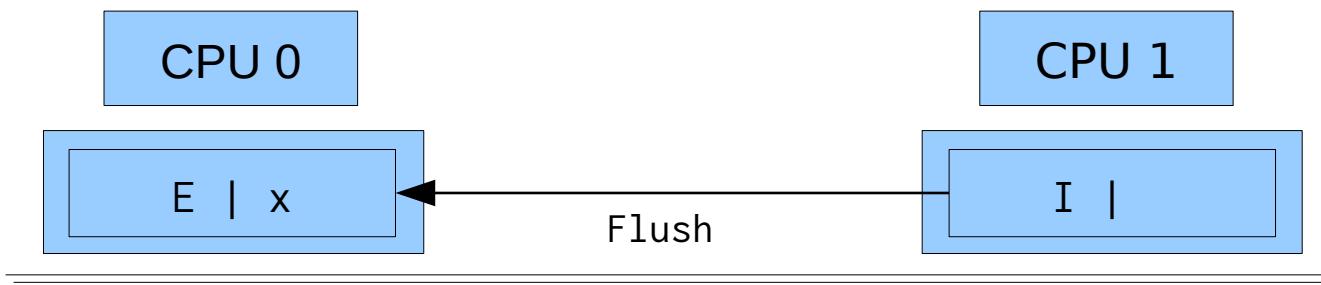
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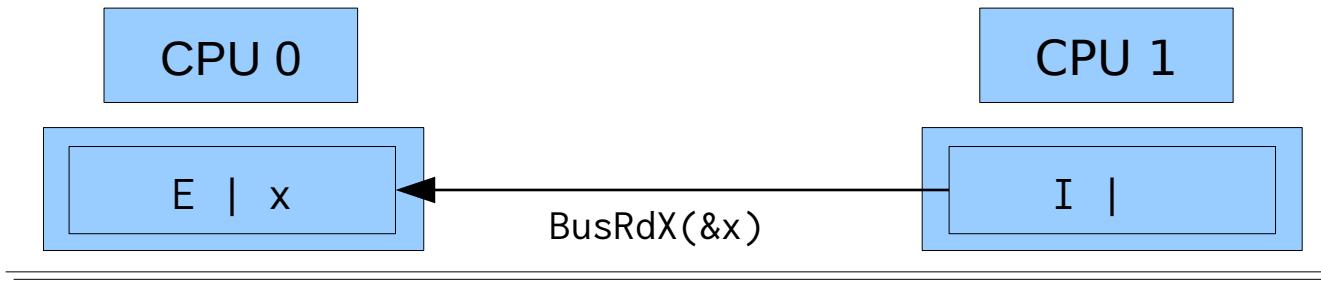
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2. **store 2 -> &x**



# Atomic Hardware Instructions

How to make instructions atomic?

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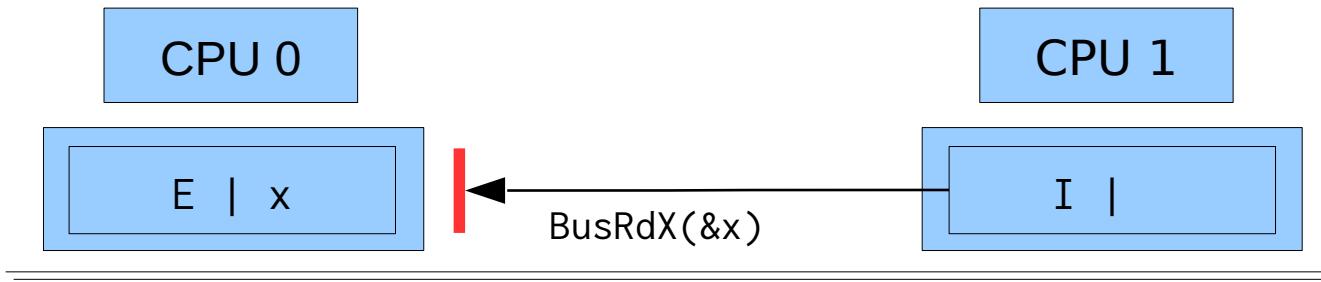
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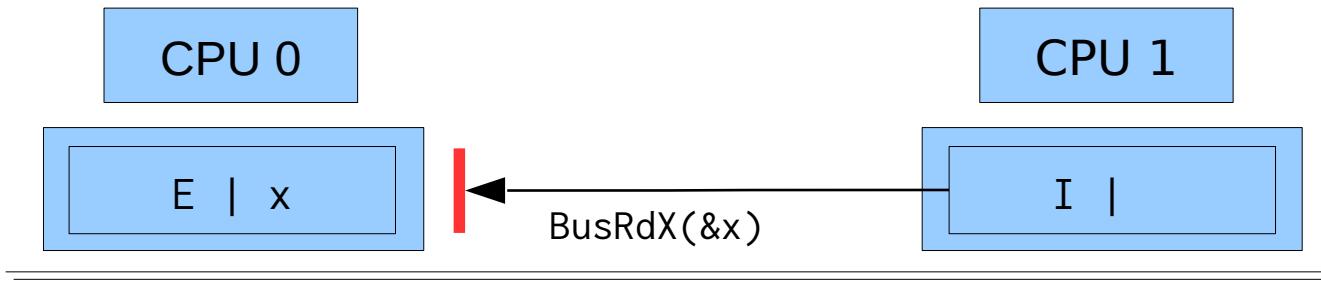
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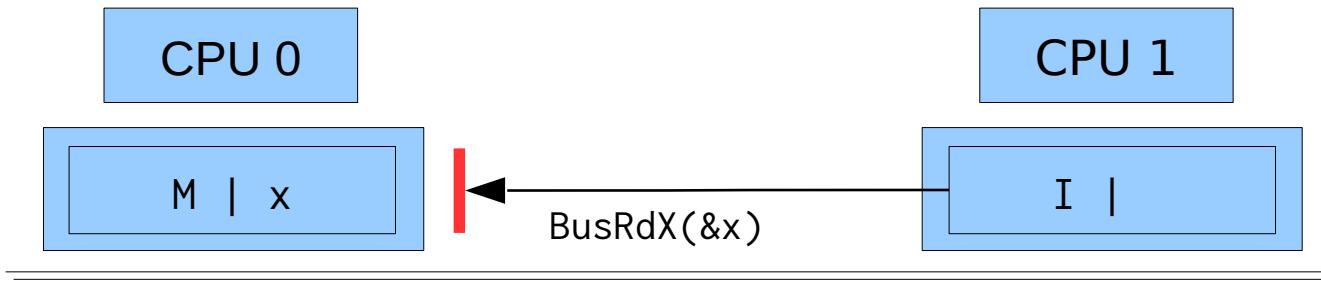
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mov &x, 2

2. store 2 -> &x



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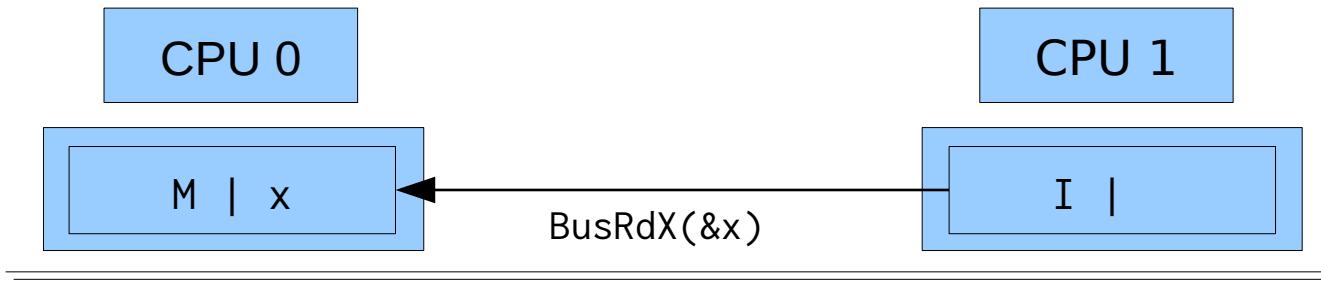
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mov &x, 2

2. `store 2 -> &x`



# Atomic Hardware Instructions

How to make instructions atomic?

- Cache Lock

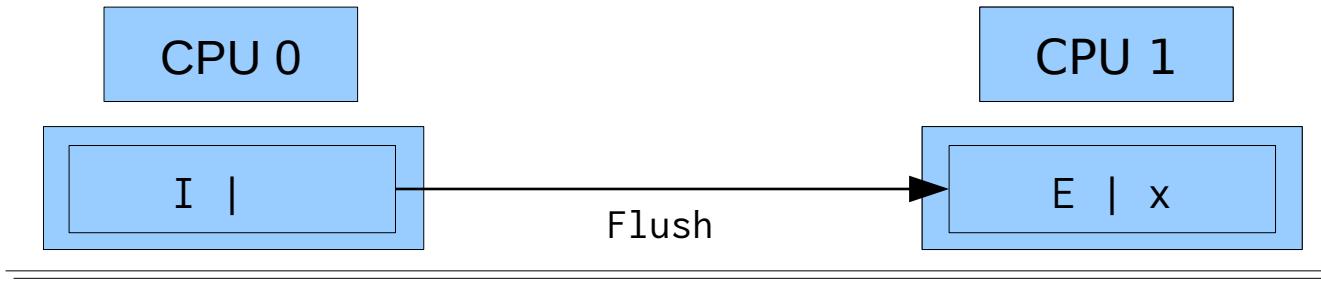
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# Atomic Hardware Instructions

How to make instructions atomic?

- Cache Lock

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mov &x, 2

2. store 2 -> &x



# Atomic Hardware Instructions

How to make instructions atomic?

- Observe Cache
  - Install cache watchdog on load
  - Abort store if watchdog has detected a concurrent access; retry OP

```
add &x, 1
 1. load_linked &x -> Reg
 2. add Reg, 1
 3. store_conditional Reg -> &x
```

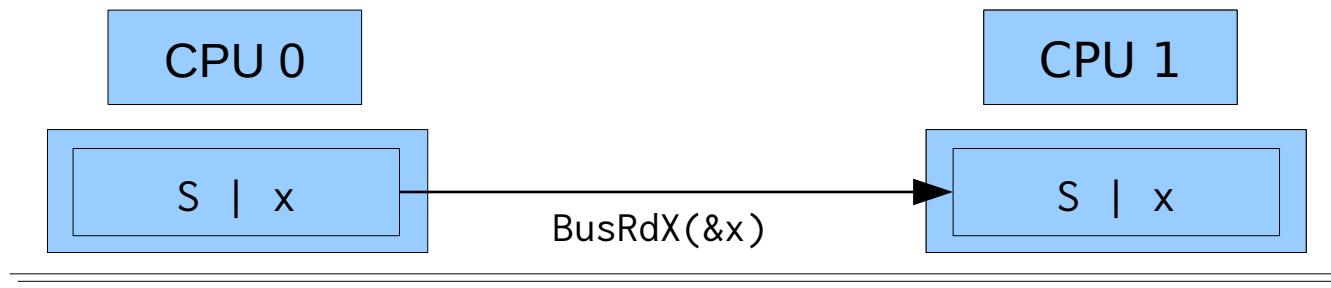


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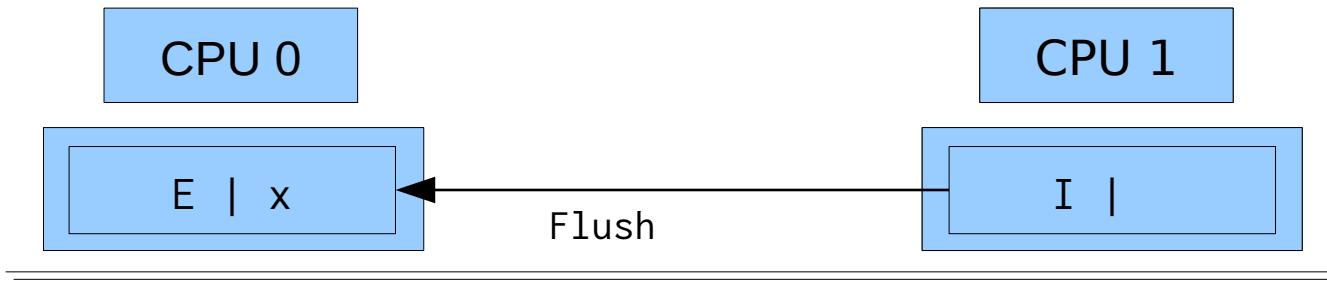
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2. **add Reg, 1**
3. store\_conditional Reg -> &x



# Atomic Hardware Instructions

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add &x, 1
  1. load_linked &x -> Reg
  2. add Reg, 1
  3. store_conditional Reg -> &x
      → Ok
```



# Atomic Hardware Instructions

How to make instructions atomic?

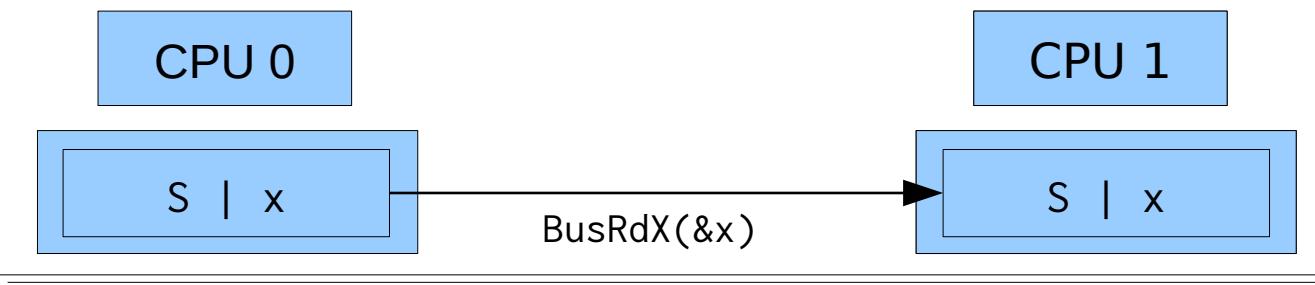
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mov &x, 2

2. **store** 2 -> &x



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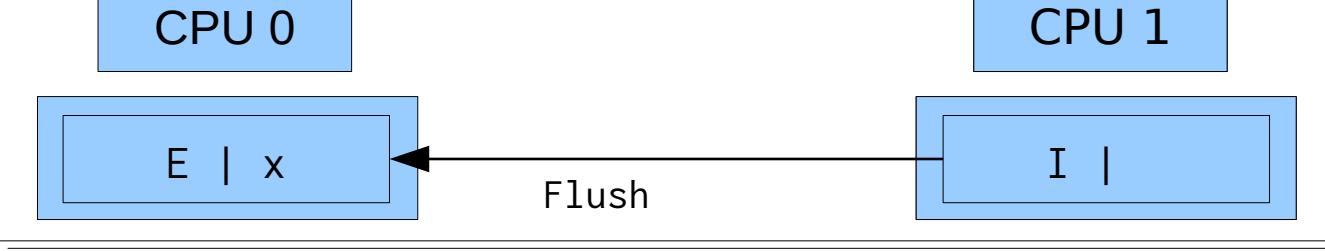
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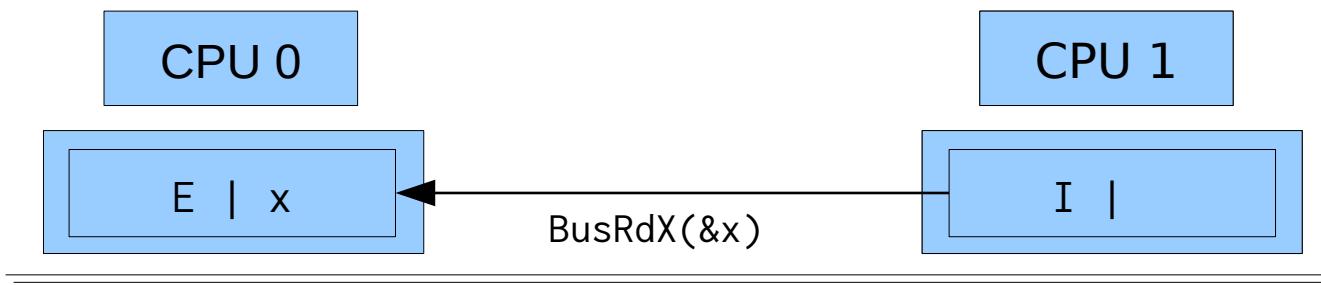
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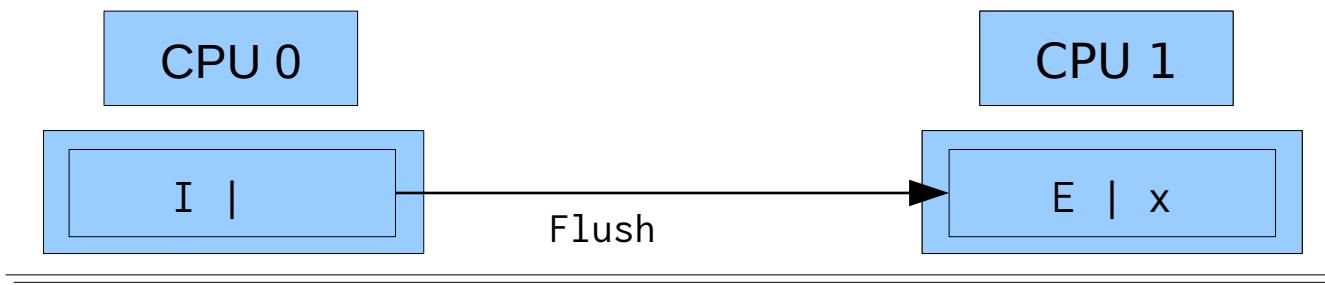
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# Atomic Hardware Instructions

How to make instructions atomic?

- Observe Cache
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add &x, 1

1. load\_linked &x -> Reg
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3. **store\_conditional Reg -> &x**

→ Abort

mov &x, 2

2. store 2 -> &x



# Atomic Hardware Instructions

- Bit Test and Set

```
bit_test_and_set (bit) {  
    if (bit clear) {  
        set bit ; return true;  
    } else { return false; }  
}
```

- Exchange

```
swap (mem, Reg) {  
    mov &mem, tmp;  
    mov Reg, &mem;  
    mov tmp, Reg;  
}
```

- Fetch and Add

```
xadd (mem, Reg) {  
    mov &mem, tmp;  
    add &mem, Reg;  
    return tmp;  
}
```

# Atomic Hardware Instructions

- Compare and Swap

```
cas (mem, expected, desired) {  
    if (&mem == expected) {  
        mov desired, &mem; return true;  
    } else { return false; }  
}
```

- Double Compare and Swap

```
cas (mem1, mem2, exp1, exp2, des1, des2) {  
    if (&mem1 == exp1 && &mem2 == exp2) {  
        mov des1, &mem1;  
        mov des2, &mem2;  
        return true;  
    } else { return false; }  
}
```

# Overview

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  - Properties
  - Locks
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# Synchronization w/ Locks

---

## Properties

- Overhead
  - Taking a lock should be cheap (<10% of CS)
  - Minimize overhead if lock is currently free
- Fairness
  - Every thread should be able to obtain the lock after a finite amount of time
- Abort lock()-operations
  - Abort locking after a specified timeout
  - Stop threads which are currently waiting for a lock
- Concurrent access to CS
  - Support that multiple threads can enter the lock at the same time

# Synchronization w/ Locks

---

## Properties

- Lock-holder preemption
  - Preemption of the thread currently executing the CS
- Priority inversion
  - Prevent higher priority thread from executing because of lower priority thread holding shared lock
    - Not covered in this lecture! (See MKC or RTS)
- Spinning vs. Blocking
  - Release CPU while waiting for the lock to be free again
  - Latency and performance implications

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Spin Lock (Test & Set Lock)

```
void lock (lock_t *l) {
    do {
        int tmp = 1;
        swap (l->lock, tmp);
    } while (tmp == 1);
}

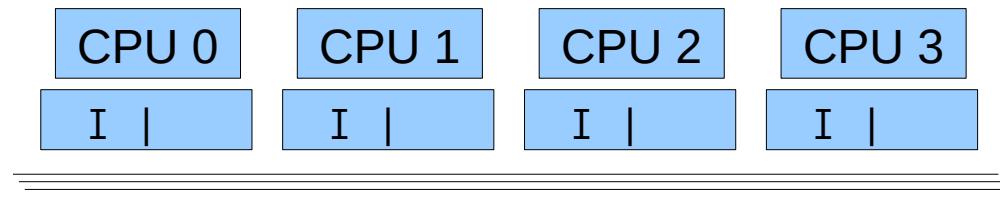
void unlock (lock_t *l) {
    l->lock = 0
}
```

- + only one cheap atomic OP required
- high cache bus traffic while lock is held:

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Spin Lock (Test & Set Lock)

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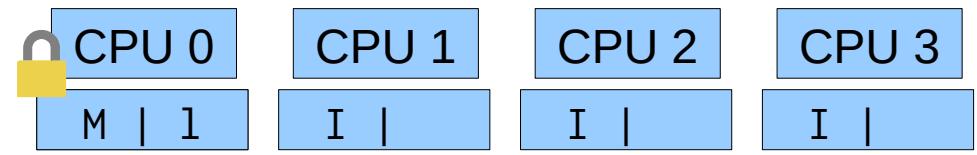
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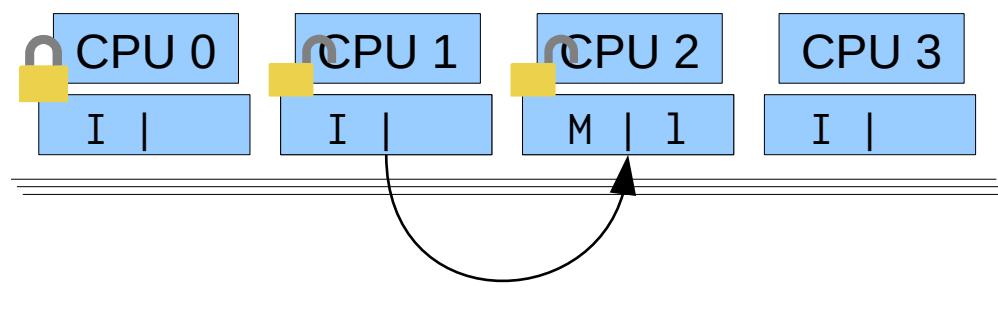


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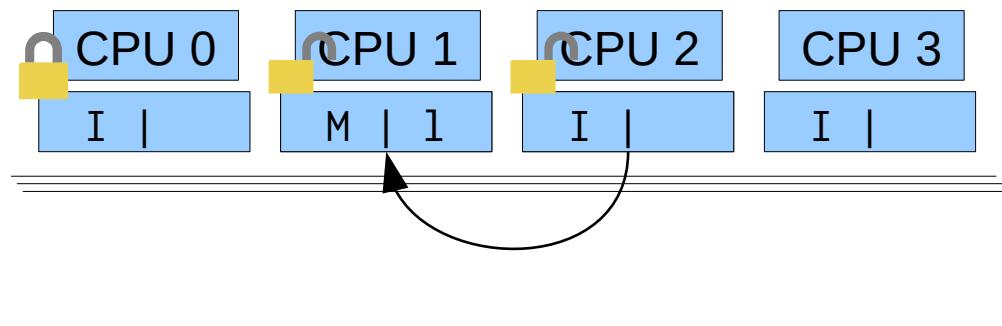


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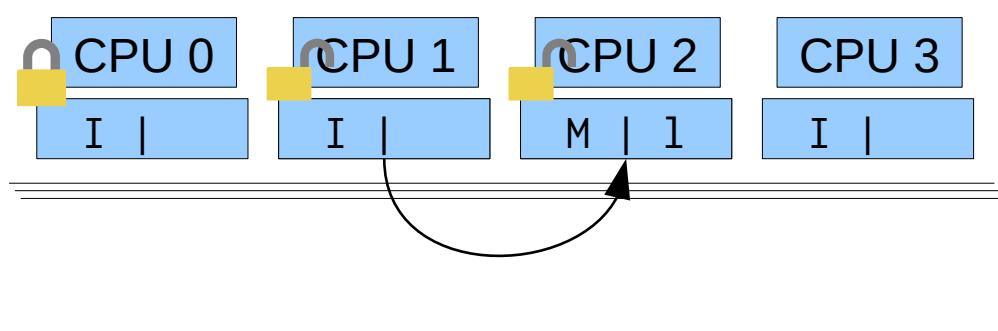


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- high cache bus traffic while lock is held

# Synchronization w/ Locks

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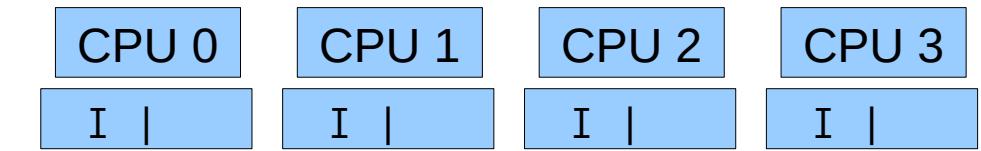
void unlock (lock_t *l) {
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}
```

- + spins locally while lock is held by other CPU
- + like Test & Set Lock but with fewer cache bus traffic

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Spin Lock (Test & Test & Set Lock)

```
void lock (lock_t *l) {  
    do {  
        int tmp = 1;  
        do {} while (l->lock == 1);  
        swap (l->lock, tmp);  
    } while (tmp == 1);  
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void unlock (lock_t *l) {  
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}
```

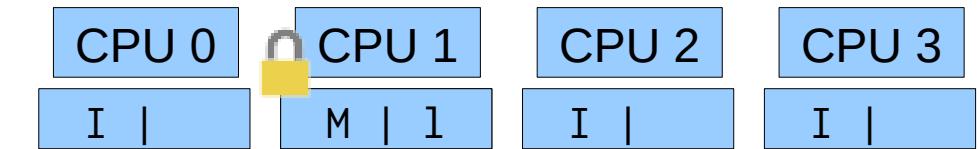


- + spins locally while lock is held by other CPU
- + like Test & Set Lock but with fewer cache bus traffic

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Spin Lock (Test & Test & Set Lock)

```
void lock (lock_t *l) {  
    do {  
        int tmp = 1;  
        do {} while (l->lock == 1);  
        swap (l->lock, tmp);  
    } while (tmp == 1);  
}  
  
void unlock (lock_t *l) {  
    l->lock = 0  
}
```



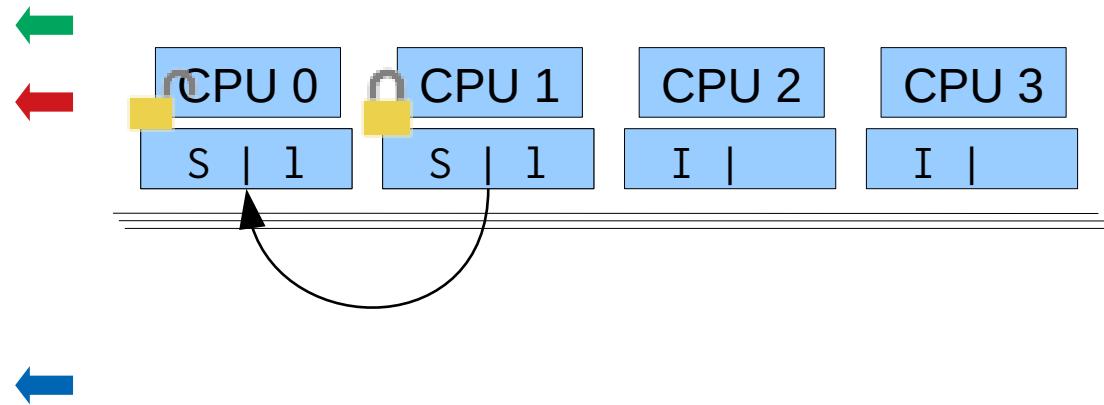
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    } while (tmp == 1);
}

void unlock (lock_t *l) {
    l->lock = 0
}
```



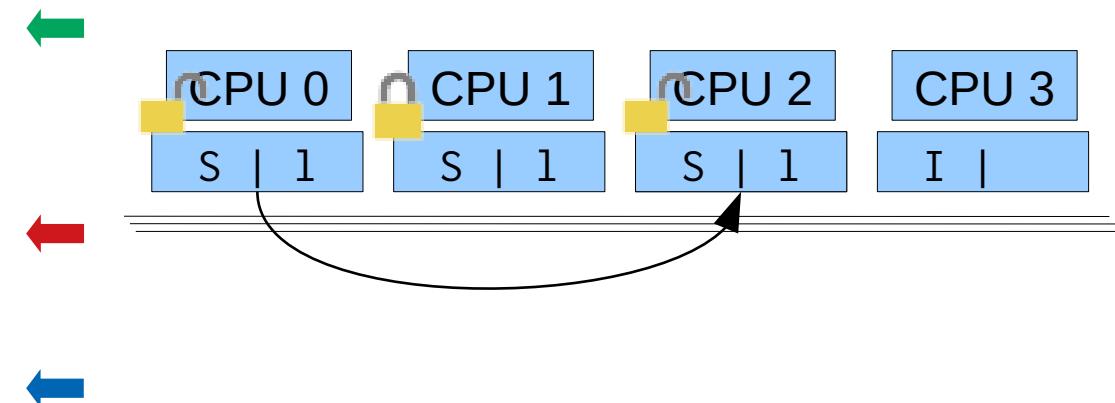
- + spins locally while lock is held by other CPU
- + like Test & Set Lock but with fewer cache bus traffic

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Spin Lock (Test & Test & Set Lock)

```
void lock (lock_t *l) {  
    do {  
        int tmp = 1;  
        do {} while (l->lock == 1); ←  
        swap (l->lock, tmp);  
    } while (tmp == 1);  
}  
}
```

```
void unlock (lock_t *l) {  
    l->lock = 0  
}
```



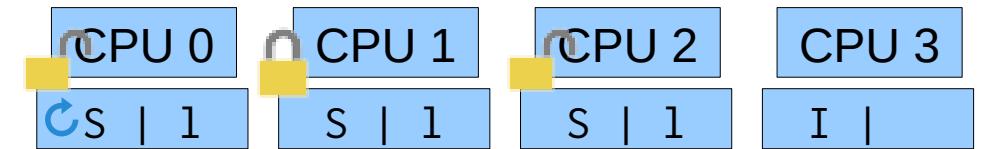
- + spins locally while lock is held by other CPU
- + like Test & Set Lock but with fewer cache bus traffic

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Spin Lock (Test & Test & Set Lock)

```
void lock (lock_t *l) {
    do {
        int tmp = 1;
        do {} while (l->lock == 1); ←
        swap (l->lock, tmp);
    } while (tmp == 1);
}
```

```
void unlock (lock_t *l) {
    l->lock = 0
}
```



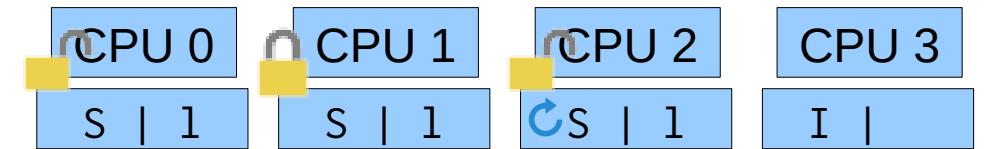
- + spins locally while lock is held by other CPU
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# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Spin Lock (Test & Test & Set Lock)

```
void lock (lock_t *l) {
    do {
        int tmp = 1;
        do {} while (l->lock == 1); ←
        swap (l->lock, tmp);
    } while (tmp == 1);
}
```

```
void unlock (lock_t *l) {
    l->lock = 0
}
```



- + spins locally while lock is held by other CPU
- + like Test & Set Lock but with fewer cache bus traffic

# Synchronization w/ Locks

Fairness – Test & Set Locks

CPU 0

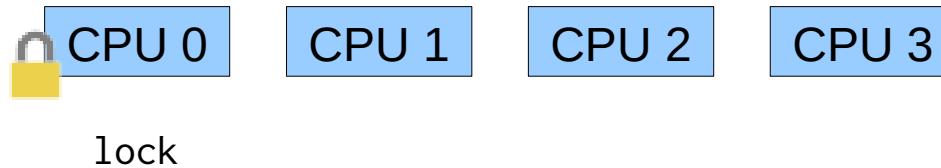
CPU 1

CPU 2

CPU 3

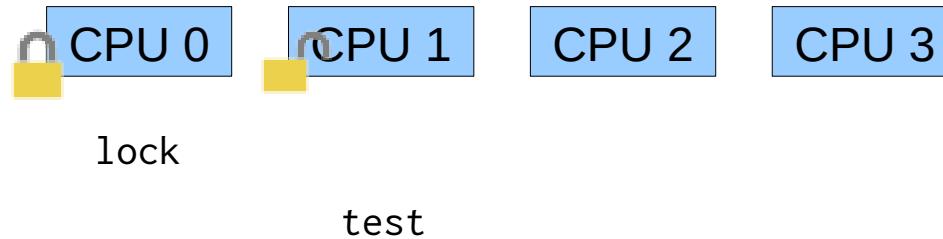
# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fairness – Test & Set Locks



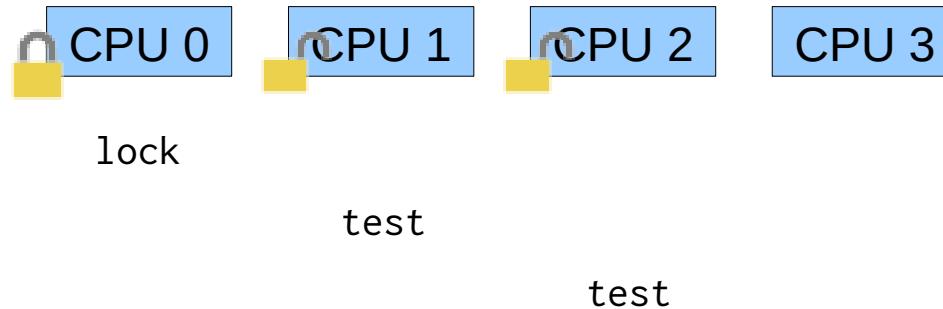
# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fairness – Test & Set Locks



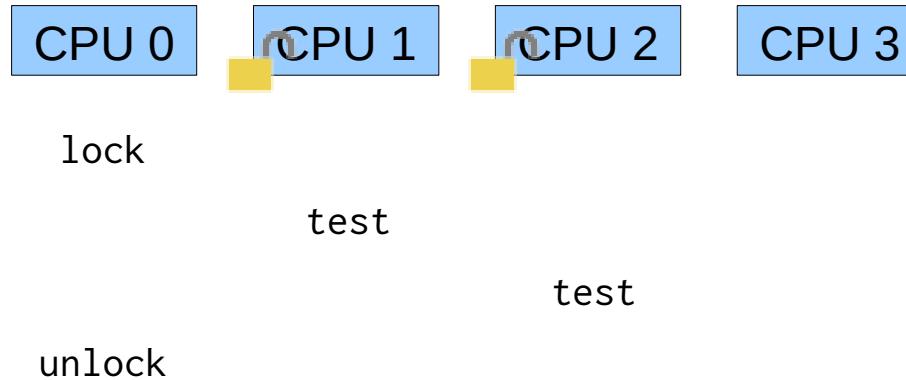
# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fairness – Test & Set Locks



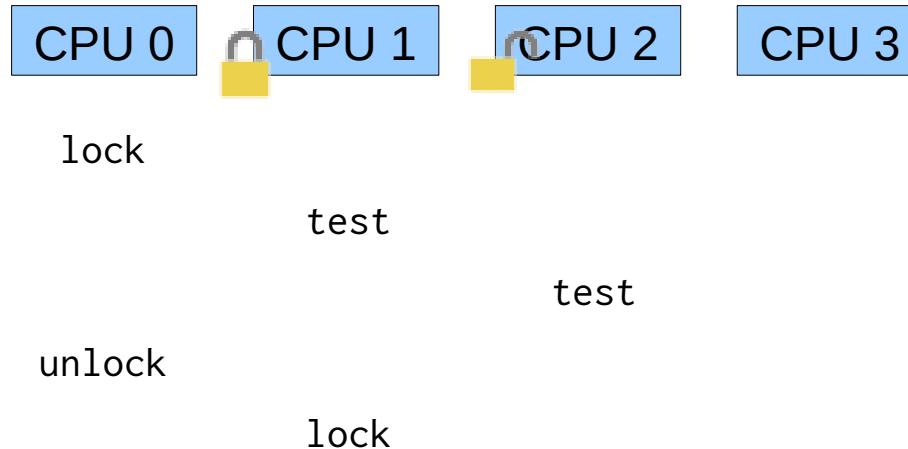
# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fairness – Test & Set Locks



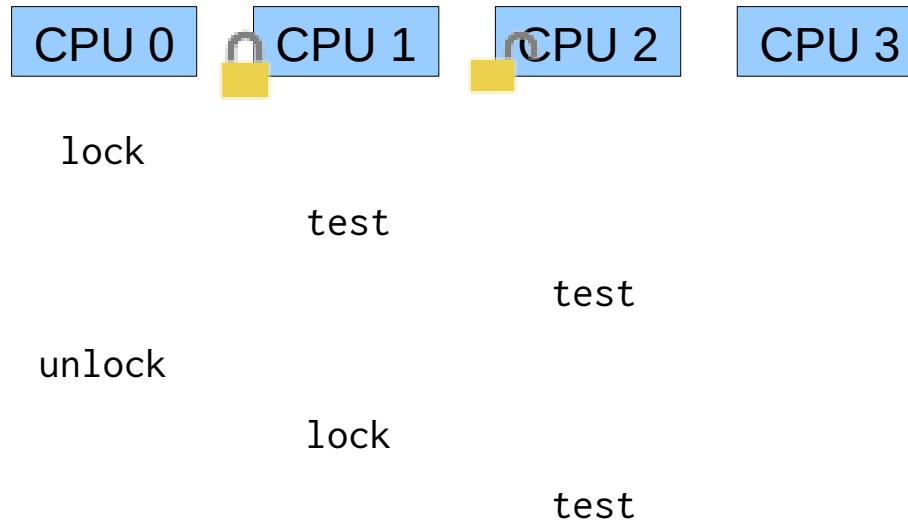
# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fairness – Test & Set Locks



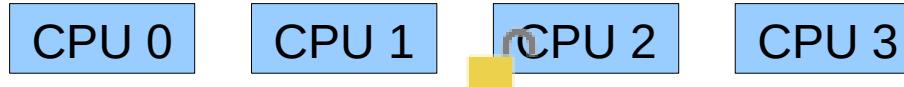
# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fairness – Test & Set Locks



# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fairness – Test & Set Locks



lock

test

test

unlock

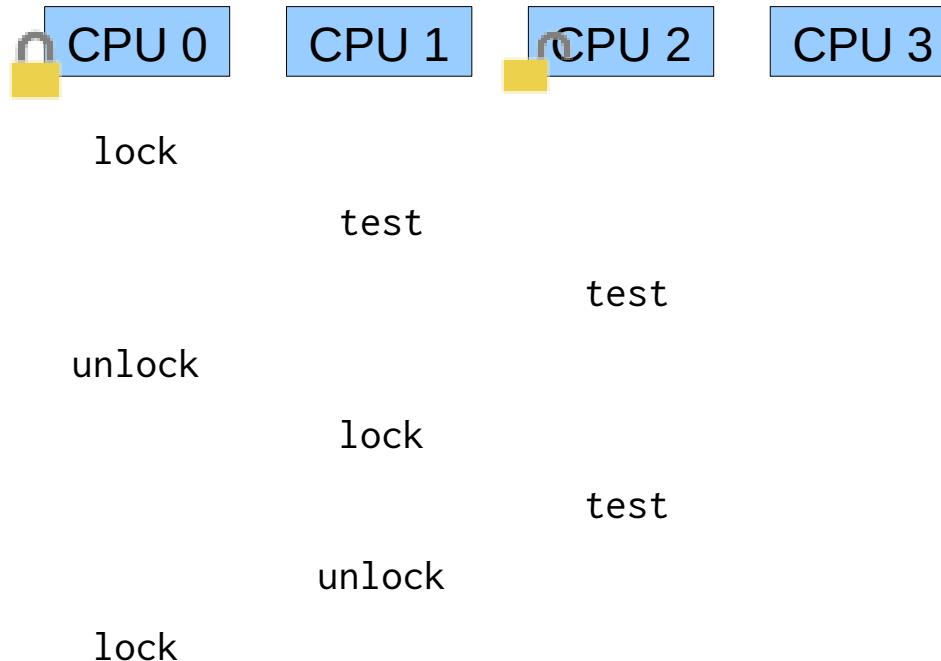
lock

test

unlock

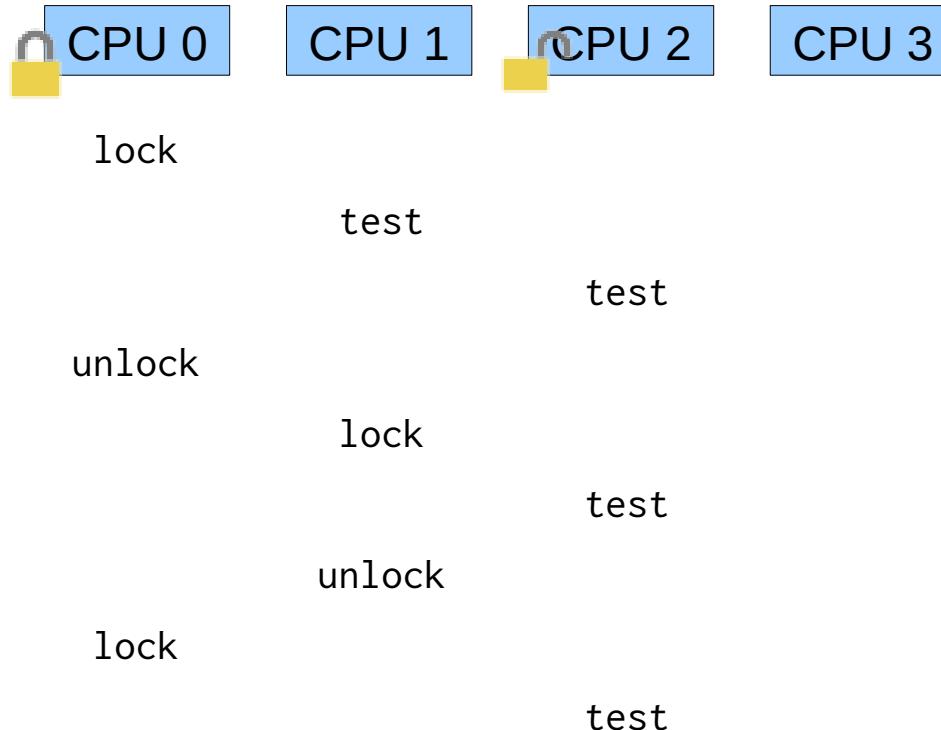
# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fairness – Test & Set Locks



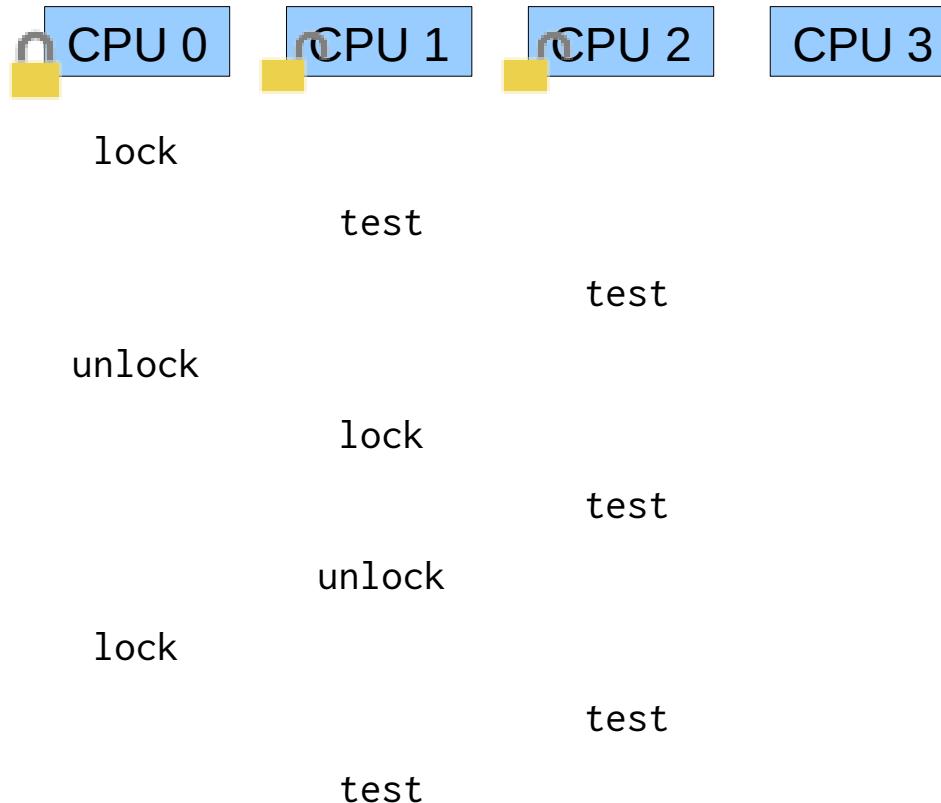
# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fairness – Test & Set Locks



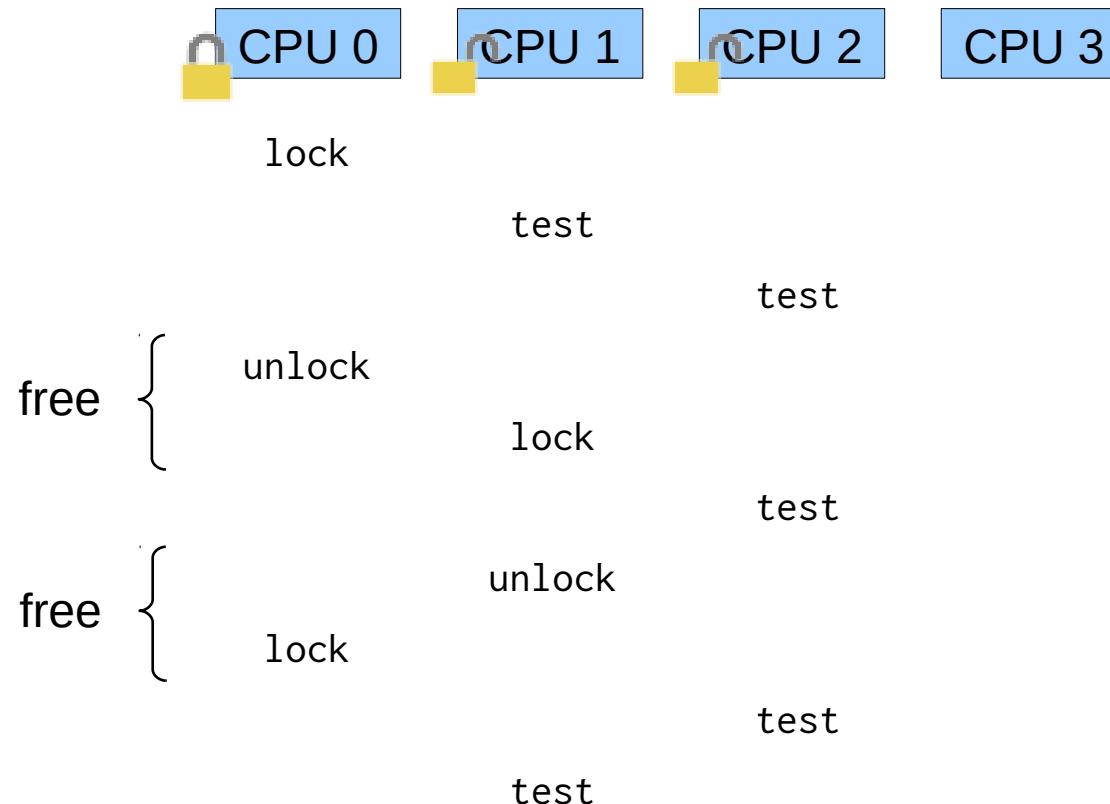
# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fairness – Test & Set Locks



# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fairness – Test & Set Locks



Although the lock was free multiple times CPU2 did not get it.

→ Test & Set Locks are not fair!

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Ticket Locks

```
struct ticket_lock_t {
    int next_ticket;
    volatile int cur_ticket;
};

void lock (ticket_lock_t *l) {
    int my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);
}

void unlock (ticket_lock_t *l) {
    l->cur_ticket++;
}
```

- + similarly cheap as Test & Set Lock
- + ensures fairness between threads

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Ticket Locks

```
struct ticket_lock_t {  
    int next_ticket;  
    volatile int cur_ticket;  
};  
  
void lock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
    int my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);  
}  
  
void unlock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket++;  
}
```

CPU 0

CPU 1

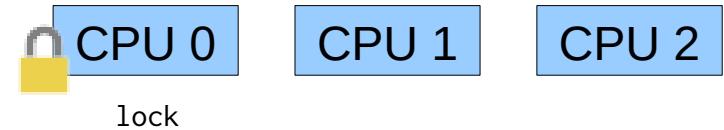
CPU 2

my_ticket	next_ticket	cur_ticket	0
	0		0

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Ticket Locks

```
struct ticket_lock_t {  
    int next_ticket;  
    volatile int cur_ticket;  
};  
  
void lock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
    int my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);  
}  
  
void unlock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket++;  
}
```

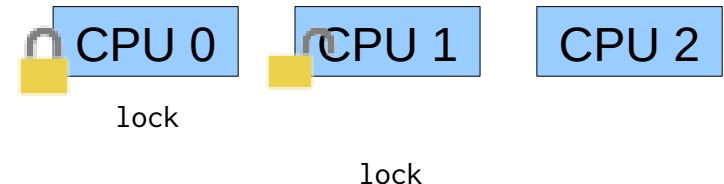


my_ticket	0	cur_ticket	0
next_ticket	1	cur_ticket	0

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Ticket Locks

```
struct ticket_lock_t {  
    int next_ticket;  
    volatile int cur_ticket;  
};  
  
void lock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
    int my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);  
}  
  
void unlock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket++;  
}
```



my_ticket	0	1	
next_ticket	2	cur_ticket	0

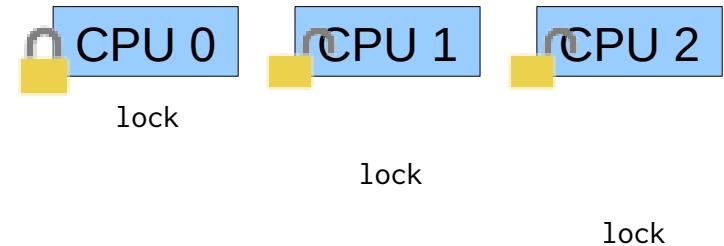
# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Ticket Locks

```
struct ticket_lock_t {
    int next_ticket;
    volatile int cur_ticket;
};

void lock (ticket_lock_t *l) {
    int my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);
}

void unlock (ticket_lock_t *l) {
    l->cur_ticket++;
}
```

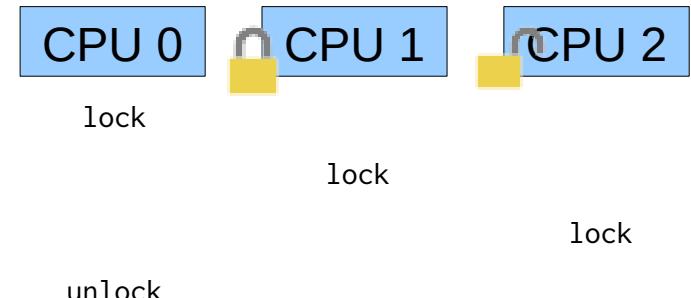


my_ticket	0	1	2	
next_ticket	3		cur_ticket	0

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Ticket Locks

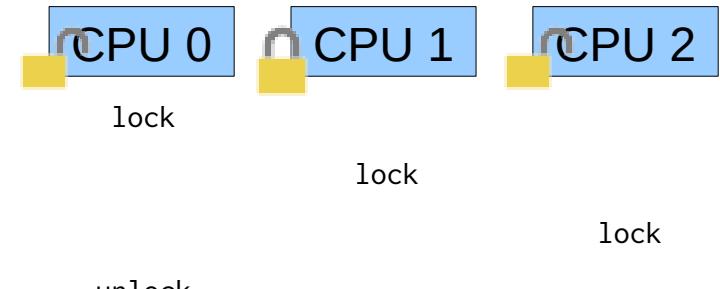
```
struct ticket_lock_t {  
    int next_ticket;  
    volatile int cur_ticket;  
};  
  
void lock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
    int my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);  
}  
  
void unlock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket++;  
}
```



# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Ticket Locks

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struct ticket_lock_t {  
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void lock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
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}  
  
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    l->cur_ticket++;  
}
```

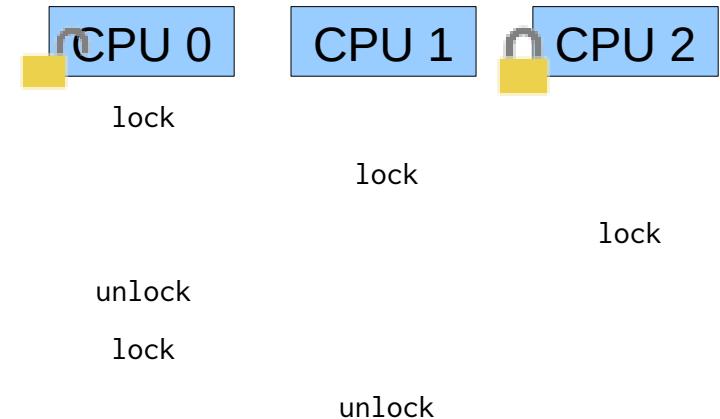


my_ticket	3	1	2
next_ticket	4	cur_ticket	1

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Ticket Locks

```
struct ticket_lock_t {  
    int next_ticket;  
    volatile int cur_ticket;  
};  
  
void lock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
    int my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);  
}  
  
void unlock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket++;  
}
```

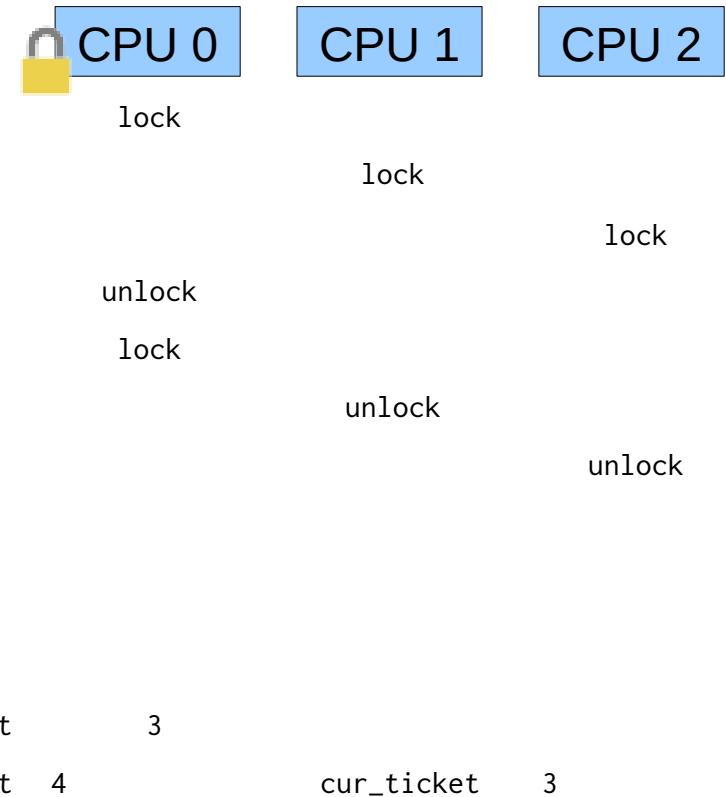


my_ticket	3	2
next_ticket	4	cur_ticket

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Ticket Locks

```
struct ticket_lock_t {  
    int next_ticket;  
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void lock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
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    l->cur_ticket++;  
}
```



# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Ticket Locks

```
struct ticket_lock_t {
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void unlock (ticket_lock_t *l) {
    l->cur_ticket++;
}
```

- unnecessary bus traffic on ticket increase
- abort of lock operation is difficult to implement

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Ticket Locks

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struct ticket_lock_t {  
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}  
  
void unlock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket++;  
}
```



my_ticket	0	1	2
next_ticket	3		
cur_ticket	0		

- unnecessary bus traffic on ticket increase
- abort of lock operation is difficult to implement

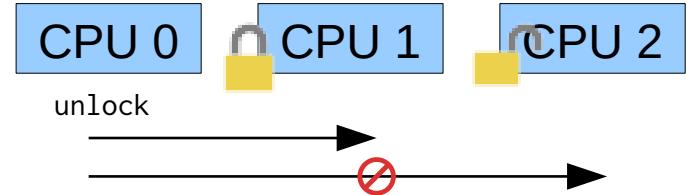
# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Ticket Locks

```
struct ticket_lock_t {  
    int next_ticket;  
    volatile int cur_ticket;  
};
```

```
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    int my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);  
}
```

```
void unlock (ticket_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket++;  
}
```



- unnecessary bus traffic on ticket increase
- abort of lock operation is difficult to implement

# Overview

---

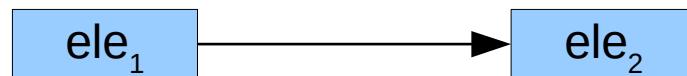
- Introduction
- Hardware Primitives
- Synchronization with Locks (Part I)
  - Properties
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    - Spin Lock (Test & Set Lock)
    - Test & Test & Set Lock
    - Ticket Lock
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- Synchronization with Locks (Part II)
  - MCS Lock
  - Performance
  - Special Issues
    - Timeouts
    - Reader Writer Lock
    - Lockholder Preemption
    - Monitor, Mwait

# Synchronization w/o Locks

## Lock-free Data Structures

- Single-Linked List

```
void insert(ele_t *new_ele, ele_t *prev) {
    do {
        new_ele->next = prev->next;
    } while (!cas(&(prev->next), new_ele->next, new_ele));
}
```

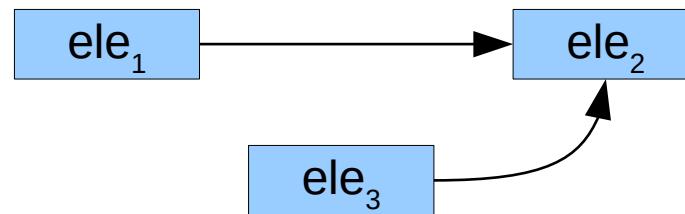


# Synchronization w/o Locks

## Lock-free Data Structures

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void insert(ele_t *new_ele, ele_t *prev) {
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}
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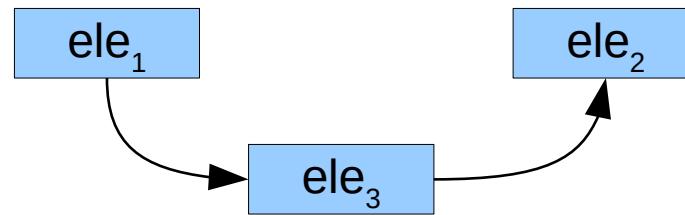


# Synchronization w/o Locks

## Lock-free Data Structures

- Single-Linked List

```
void insert(ele_t *new_ele, ele_t *prev) {
    do {
        new_ele->next = prev->next;
    } while (!cas(&(prev->next), new_ele->next, new_ele));
}
```



# Synchronization w/o Locks

## Lock-free Data Structures

- Single-Linked List

```
void insert(ele_t *new_ele, ele_t *prev) {
    do {
        load_linked(prev->next);
        new_ele->next = prev->next
    } while (!store_conditional(&(prev->next), new_ele);
}
```

# Synchronization w/o Locks

## Lock-free Data Structures

- Single-Linked List
- Double-Linked List

```
void insert(ele_t *new_ele, ele_t *prev) {
    do {
        auto next = prev->next;
        new_ele->next = next;
        new_ele->prev = prev;
    } while (!dcas(&(prev->next), &(next->prev),
                   new_ele->next, new_ele->prev,
                   new_ele, new_ele));
}
```

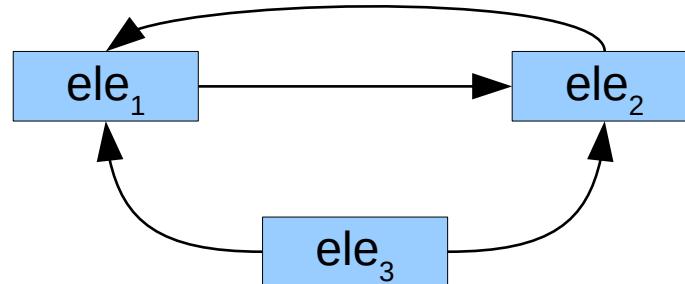


# Synchronization w/o Locks

## Lock-free Data Structures

- Single-Linked List
- Double-Linked List

```
void insert(ele_t *new_ele, ele_t *prev) {
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        auto next = prev->next;
        new_ele->next = next;
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                   new_ele, new_ele));
}
```

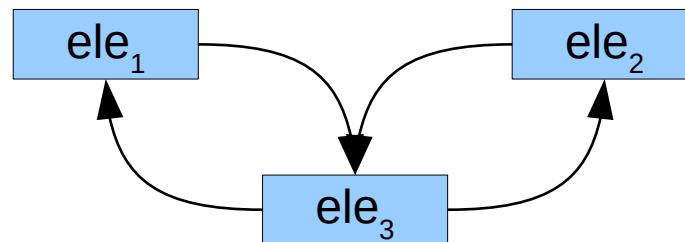


# Synchronization w/o Locks

## Lock-free Data Structures

- Single-Linked List
- Double-Linked List

```
void insert(ele_t *new_ele, ele_t *prev) {
    do {
        auto next = prev->next;
        new_ele->next = next;
        new_ele->prev = prev;
    } while (!dcas(&(prev->next), &(next->prev),
                   new_ele->next, new_ele->prev,
                   new_ele, new_ele));
}
```



# Synchronization w/o Locks

---

## Lock-free Data Structures

- Single-Linked List
- Double-Linked List
- Binary Trees
- ...

Not using locks does not solve all problems of locks!

e.g. Fairness → Wait-free Data Structures

# Overview

---

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# Synchronization w/ Locks

MCS-Lock – fair local spinning lock – Mellor-Crummey and Scott

```
struct mcs_node_t {           struct mcs_lock_t {  
    mcs_node_t* next;          mcs_node_t* queue;  
    bool free;                };  
};  
  
void mcs_lock(mcs_lock_t* l, mcs_node_t* cur) {  
    cur->next = NULL;  
    cur->free = false;  
    auto prev = fetch_and_store(&(l->queue), cur);  
    if (prev) {  
        prev->next = cur;  
        do {} while (!cur->free);  
    }  
}  
  
void mcs_unlock(mcs_lock_t* l, mcs_node_t* cur) {  
    if (!cur->next) {  
        if (cas(&(l->queue), cur, NULL)) return;  
        do {} while (!cur->next);  
    }  
    cur->next->free = true;  
}
```



CPU 0

CPU 1

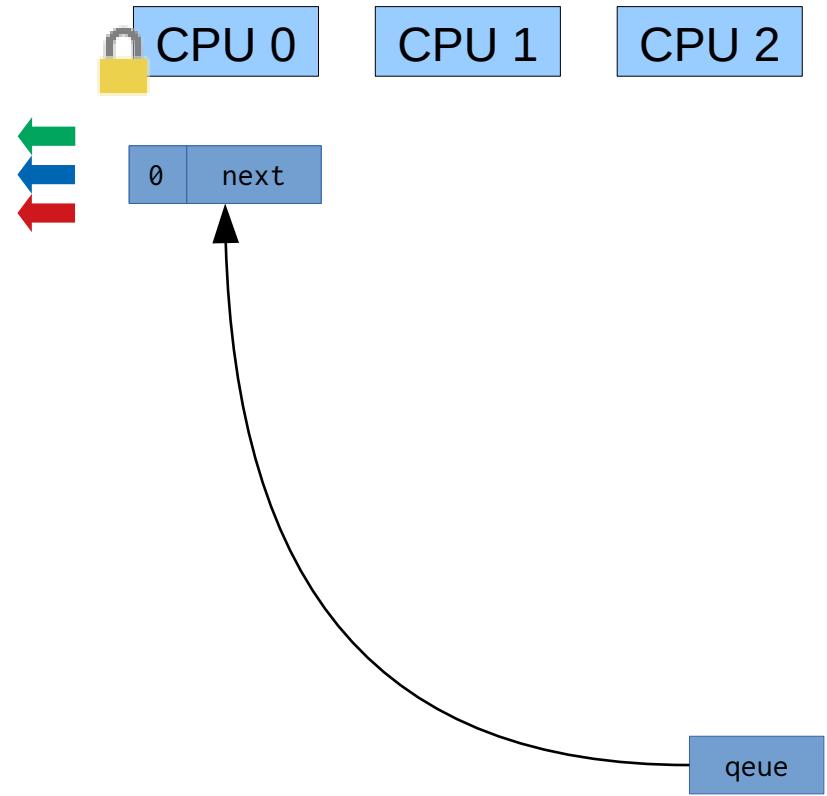
CPU 2

queue

# Synchronization w/ Locks

MCS-Lock – fair local spinning lock – Mellor-Crummey and Scott

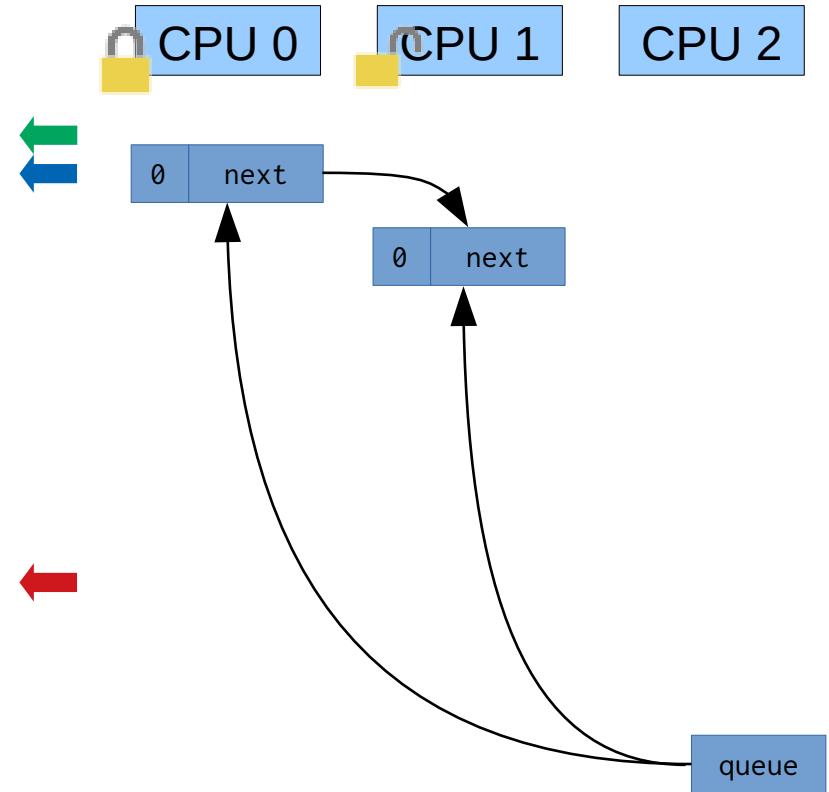
```
struct mcs_node_t {  
    mcs_node_t* next;  
    bool free;  
};  
  
void mcs_lock(mcs_lock_t* l, mcs_node_t* cur) {  
    cur->next = NULL;  
    cur->free = false;  
    auto prev = fetch_and_store(&(l->queue), cur);  
    if (prev) {  
        prev->next = cur;  
        do {} while (!cur->free);  
    }  
}  
  
void mcs_unlock(mcs_lock_t* l, mcs_node_t* cur) {  
    if (!cur->next) {  
        if (cas(&(l->queue), cur, NULL)) return;  
        do {} while (!cur->next);  
    }  
    cur->next->free = true;  
}
```



# Synchronization w/ Locks

MCS-Lock – fair local spinning lock – Mellor-Crummey and Scott

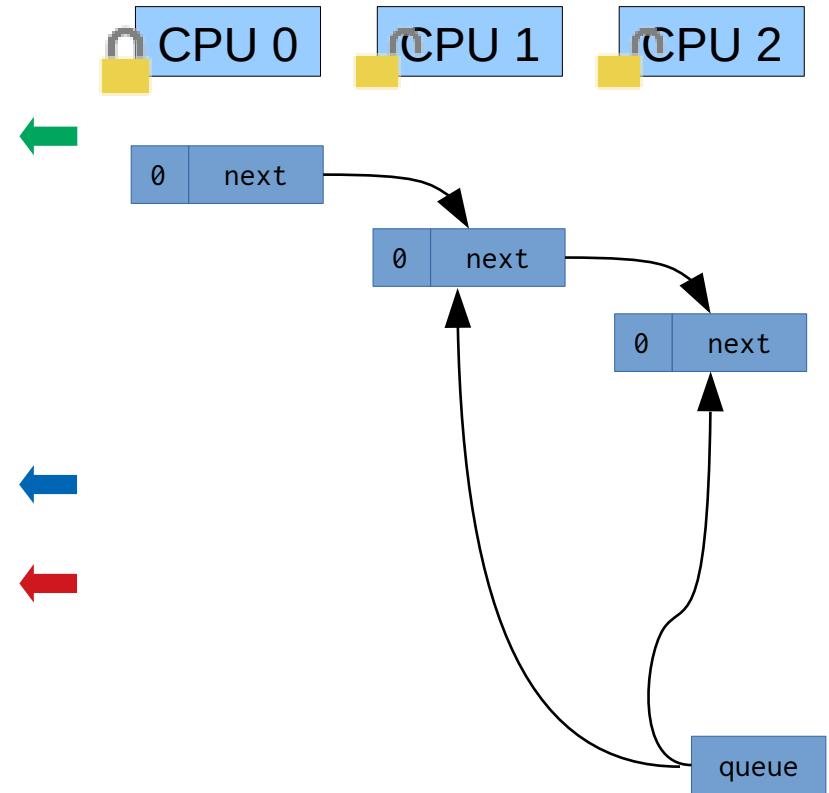
```
struct mcs_node_t {  
    mcs_node_t* next;  
    bool free;  
};  
  
void mcs_lock(mcs_lock_t* l, mcs_node_t* cur) {  
    cur->next = NULL;  
    cur->free = false;  
    auto prev = fetch_and_store(&(l->queue), cur);  
    if (prev) {  
        prev->next = cur;  
        do {} while (!cur->free);  
    }  
}  
  
void mcs_unlock(mcs_lock_t* l, mcs_node_t* cur) {  
    if (!cur->next) {  
        if (cas(&(l->queue), cur, NULL)) return;  
        do {} while (!cur->next);  
    }  
    cur->next->free = true;  
}
```



# Synchronization w/ Locks

MCS-Lock – fair local spinning lock – Mellor-Crummey and Scott

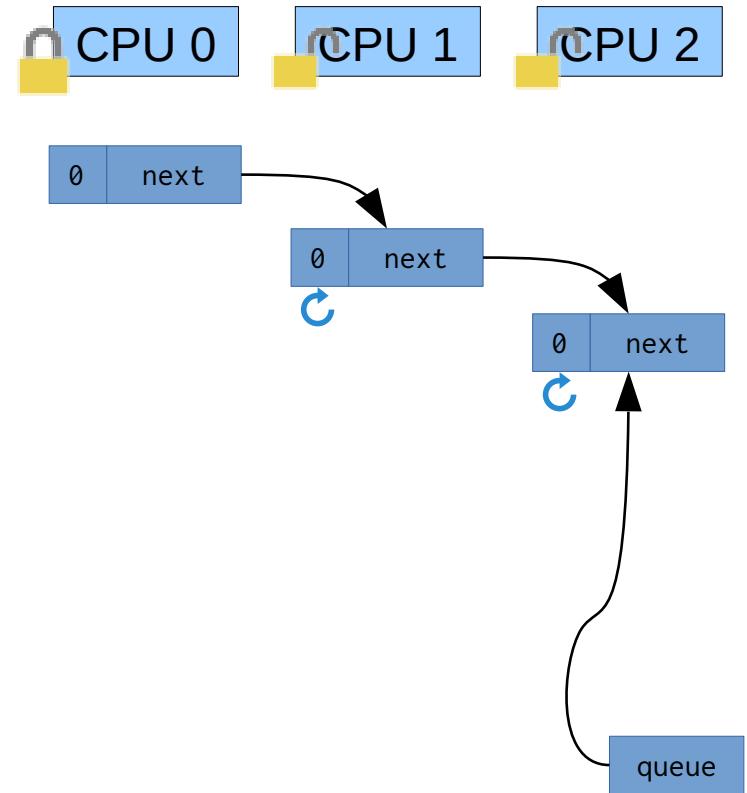
```
struct mcs_node_t {  
    mcs_node_t* next;  
    bool free;  
};  
  
struct mcs_lock_t {  
    mcs_node_t* queue;  
};  
  
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# Synchronization w/ Locks

MCS-Lock – fair local spinning lock – Mellor-Crummey and Scott

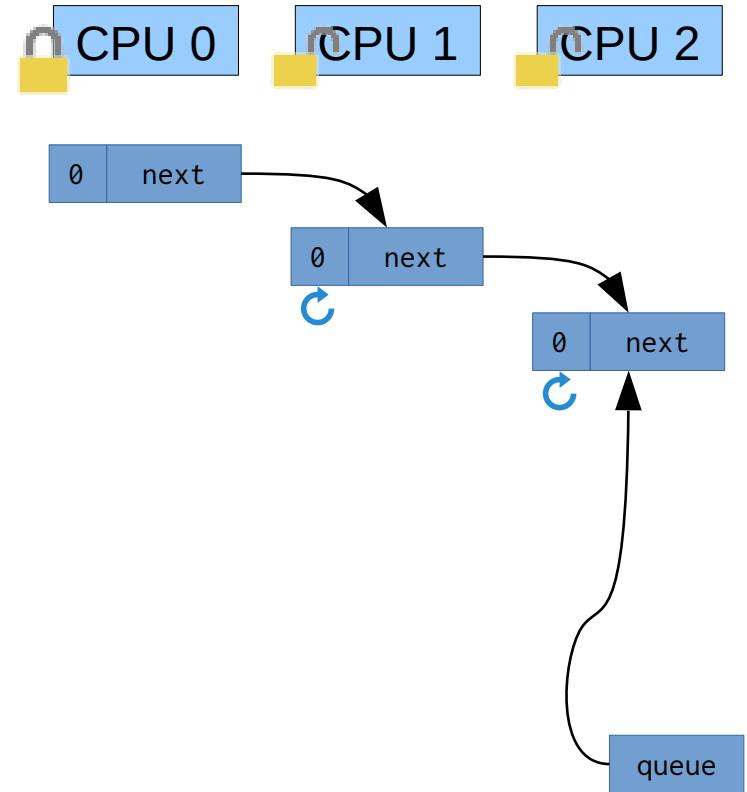
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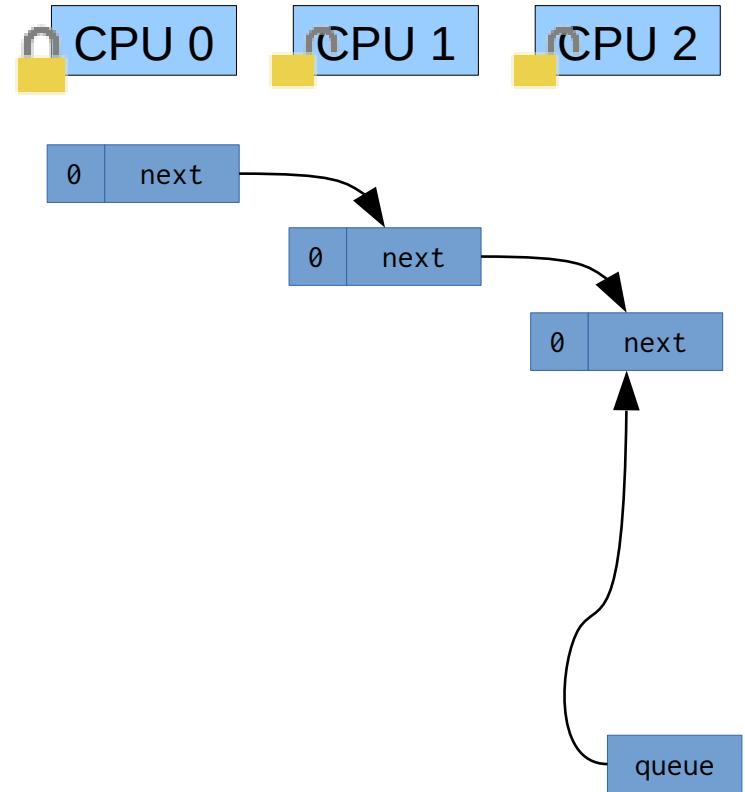
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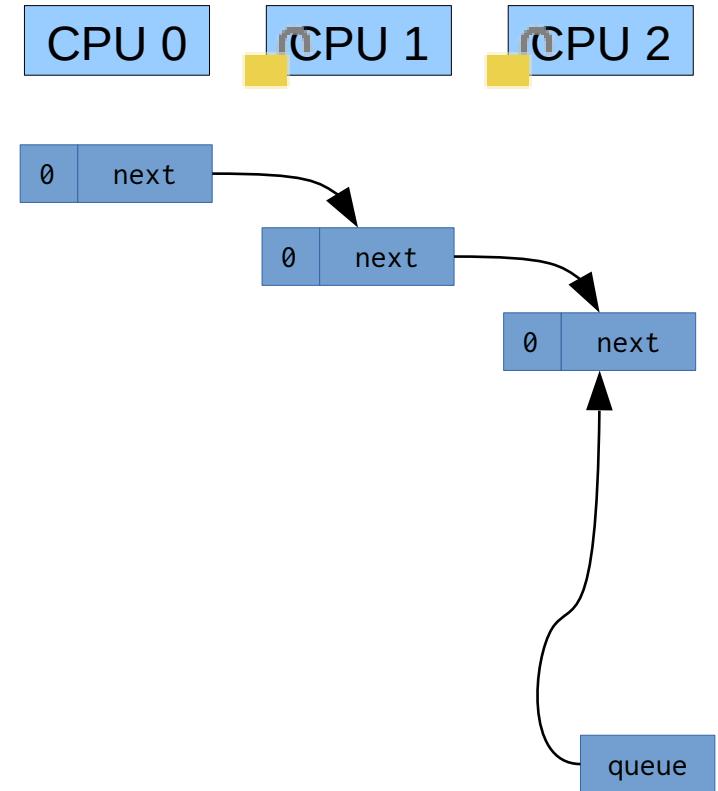
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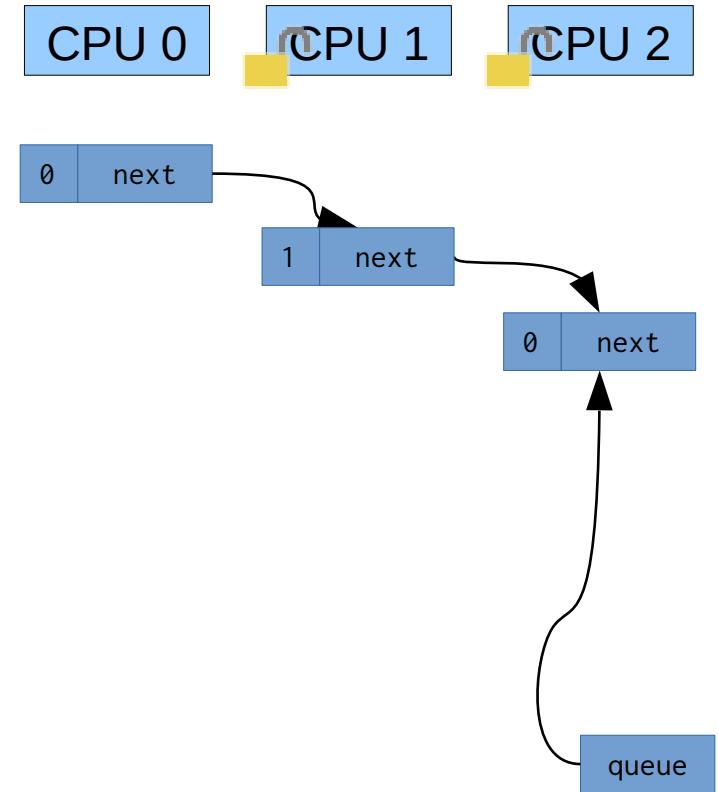
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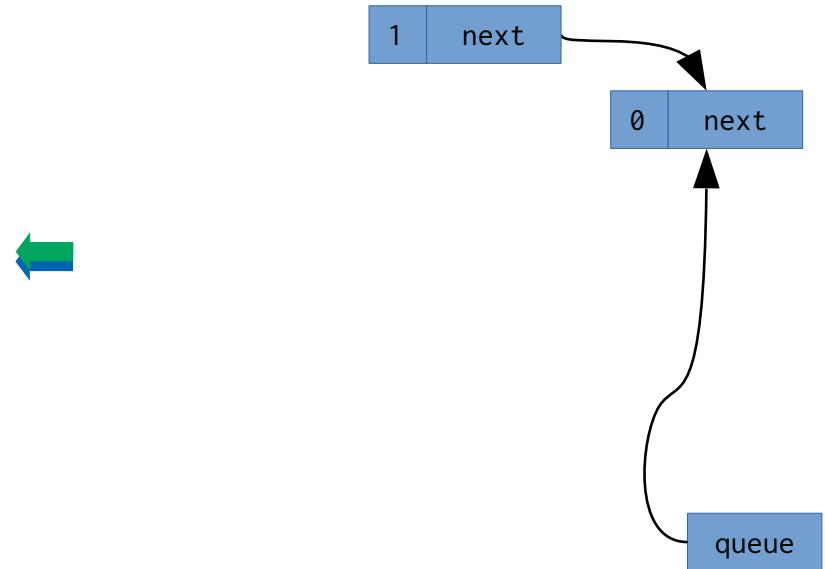
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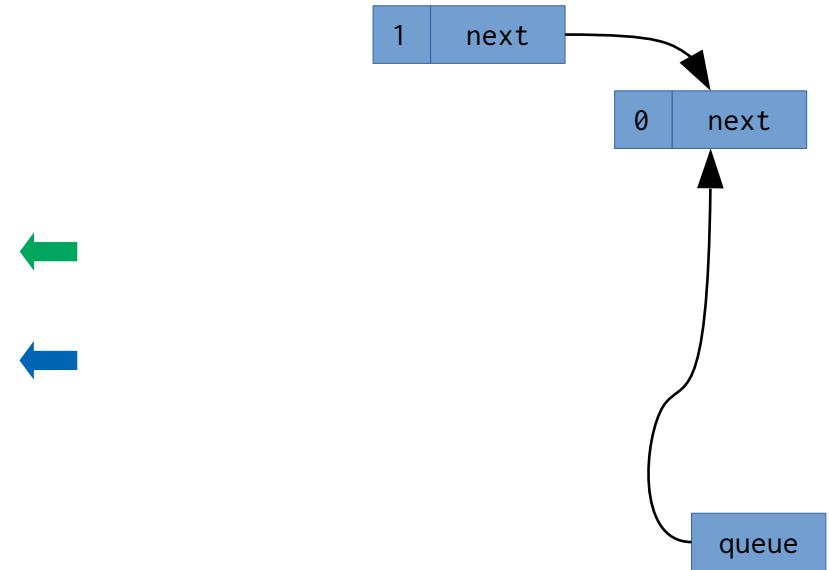
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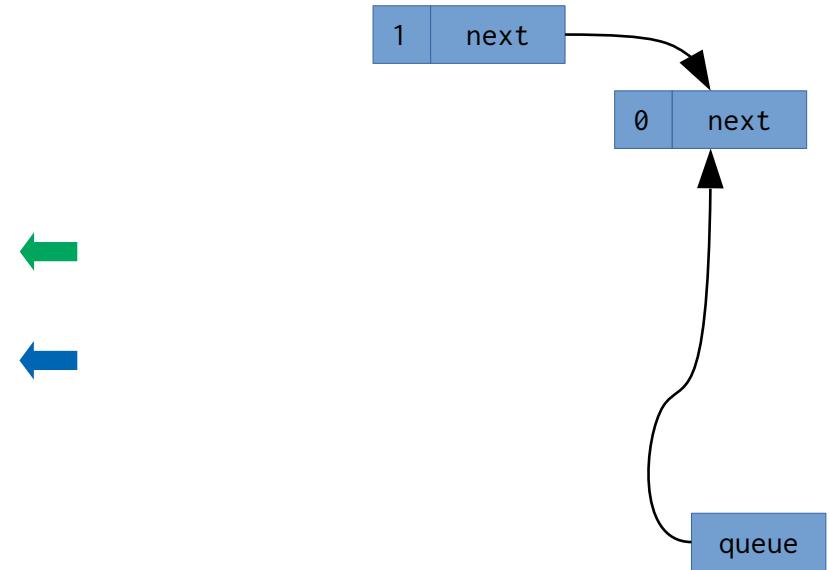
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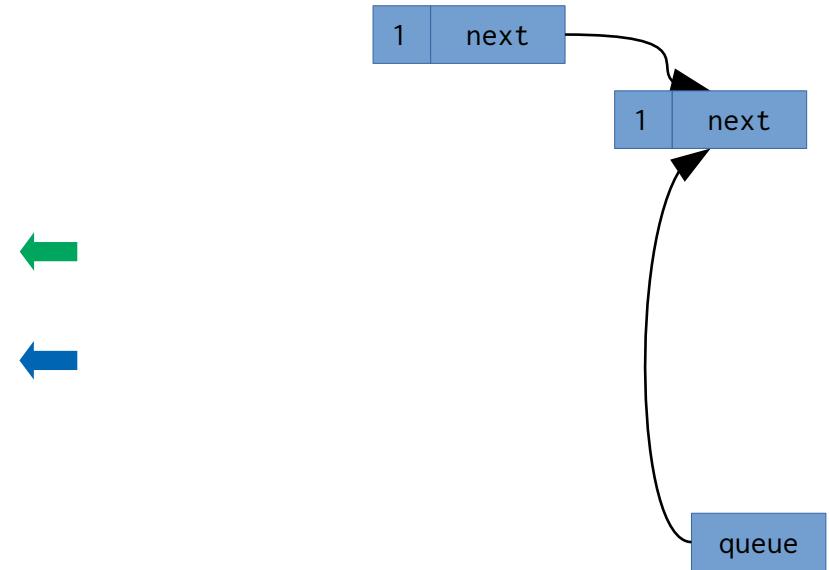
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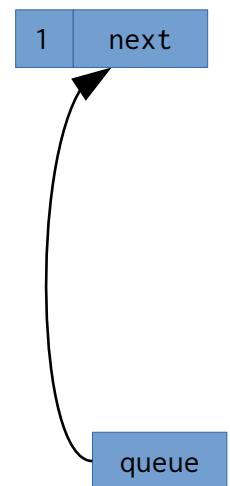
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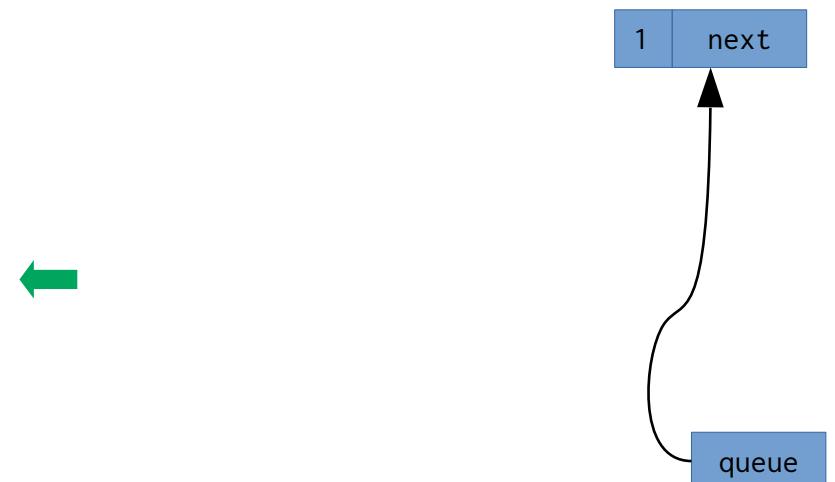
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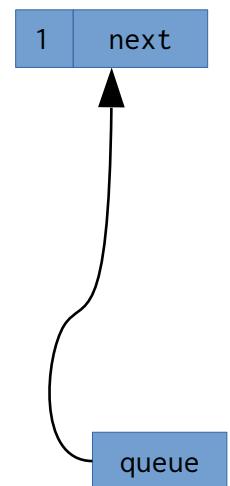
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CPU 0

CPU 1

CPU 2



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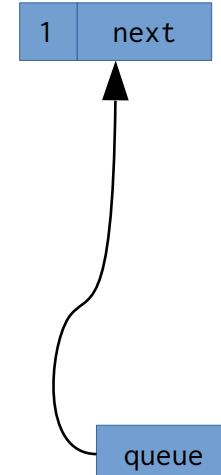
CPU 0

CPU 1

CPU 2



0 next



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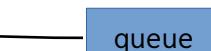
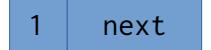
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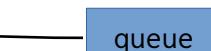
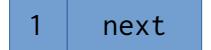
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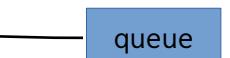
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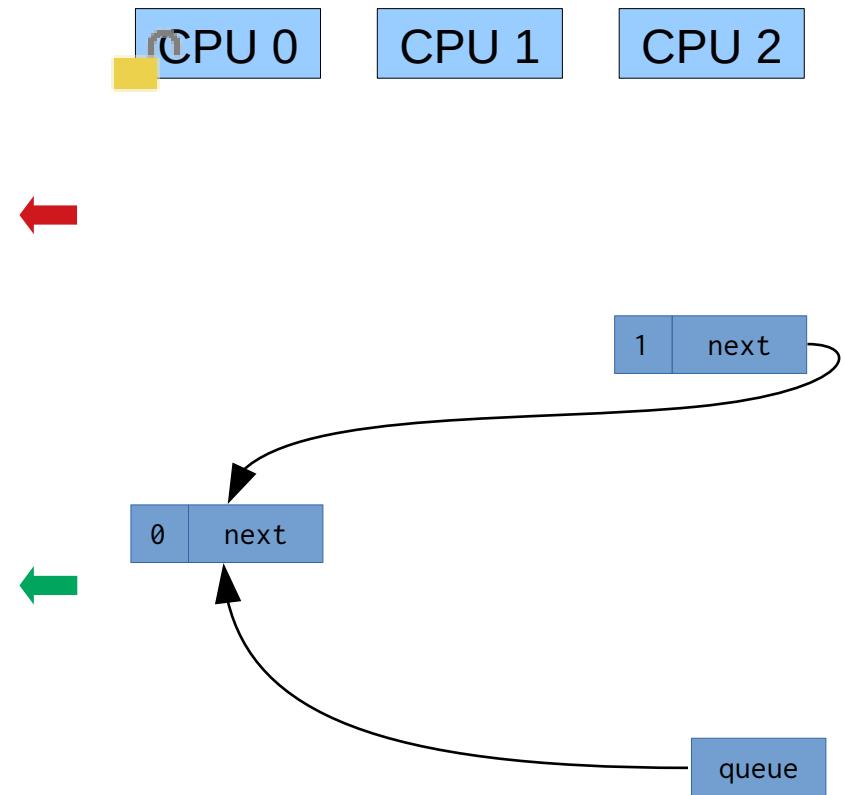
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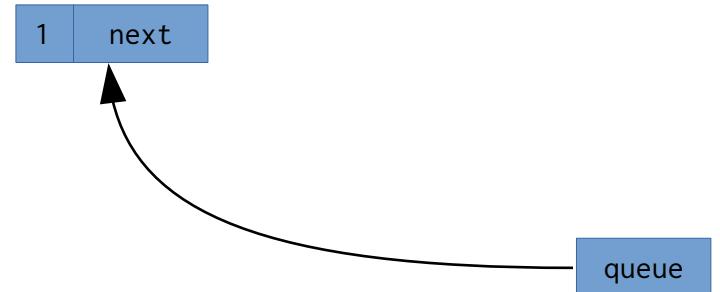
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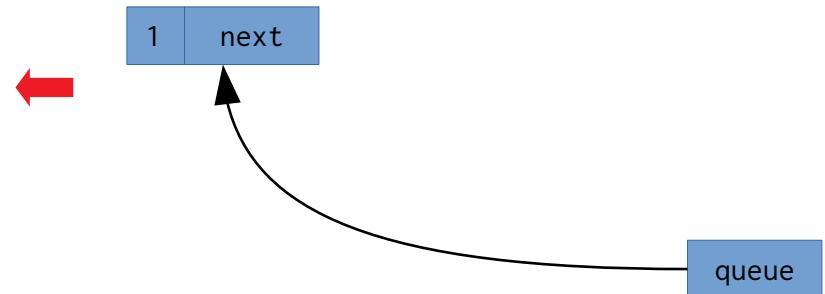
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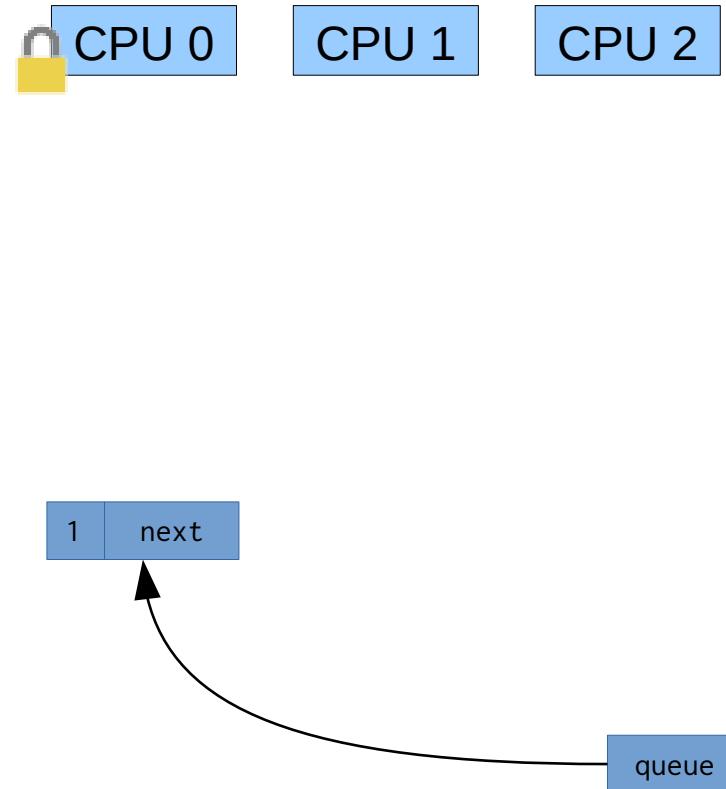
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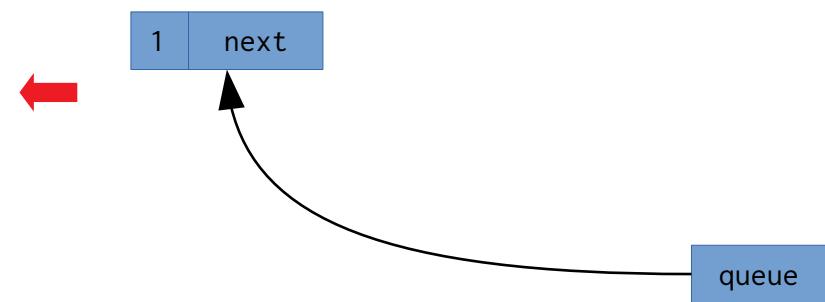
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    if (!cur->next) {  
        if (cas(&(l->queue), cur, NULL)) return;  
        do {} while (!cur->next);  
    }  
    cur->next->free = true;  
}
```

CPU 0

CPU 1

CPU 2



# Synchronization w/ Locks

MCS-Lock – fair local spinning lock – Mellor-Crummey and Scott

```
struct mcs_node_t {  
    mcs_node_t* next;  
    bool free;  
};
```

```
void mcs_lock(mcs_lock_t* l, mcs_node_t* cur) {  
    cur->next = NULL;  
    cur->free = false;  
    auto prev = fetch_and_store(&(l->queue), cur);  
    if (prev) {  
        prev->next = cur;  
        do {} while (!cur->free);  
    }  
}
```

```
void mcs_unlock(mcs_lock_t* l, mcs_node_t* cur) {  
    if (!cur->next) {  
        if (cas(&(l->queue), cur, NULL)) return;  
        do {} while (!cur->next);  
    }  
    cur->next->free = true;  
}
```

CPU 0

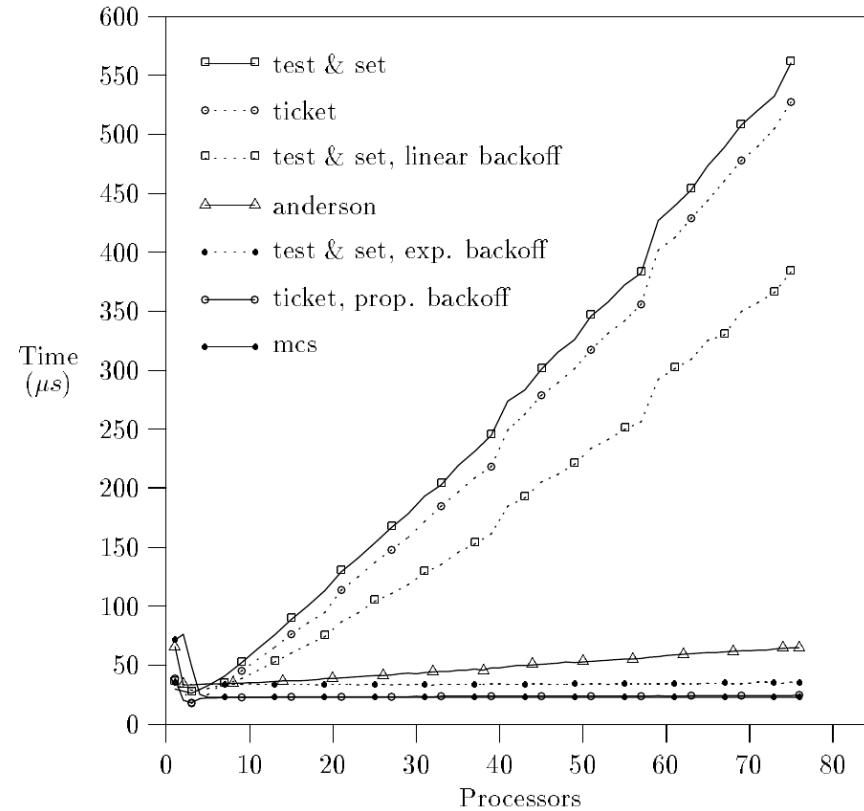
CPU 1

CPU 2

queue

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## MCS-Lock – Performance

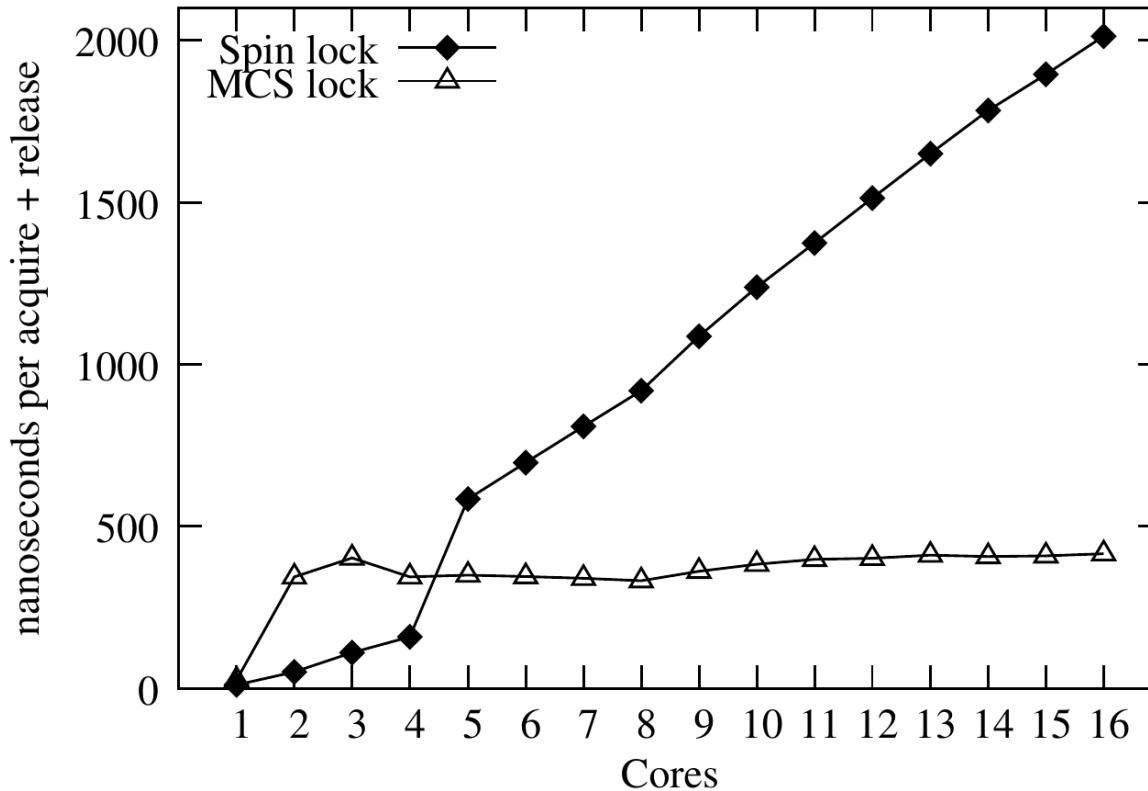


**Figure 1** Comparisson of diffrent lock implementations.

Mellor-Crummey, Scott [1991]: "Algorithms for Scalable Synchronization on Shared Memory Multiprocessors"

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## MCS-Lock – Performance



**Figure 2** Comparison of the overhead of spin-locks and MCS-locks on an 16 core AMD Opteron.  
Boyd-Wickizer et al. [2008]: "Corey: An Operating System for Many Cores"

# Overview

---

- Introduction
- Hardware Primitives
- Synchronization with Locks (Part I)
  - Properties
  - Locks
    - Spin Lock (Test & Set Lock)
    - Test & Test & Set Lock
    - Ticket Lock
- Synchronization without Locks
- Synchronization with Locks (Part II)
  - MCS Lock
  - Performance
  - Special Issues
    - Timeouts
    - Reader Writer Lock
    - Lockholder Preemption
    - Monitor, Mwait

# Synchronization w/ Locks

---

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

- Give up locking after a specified timeout
- Stop threads which are currently waiting for a lock

# Synchronization w/ Locks

---

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

- Give up locking after a specified timeout
- Stop threads which are currently waiting for a lock
  - Test & Set Locks → stop trying to acquire lock

# Synchronization w/ Locks

---

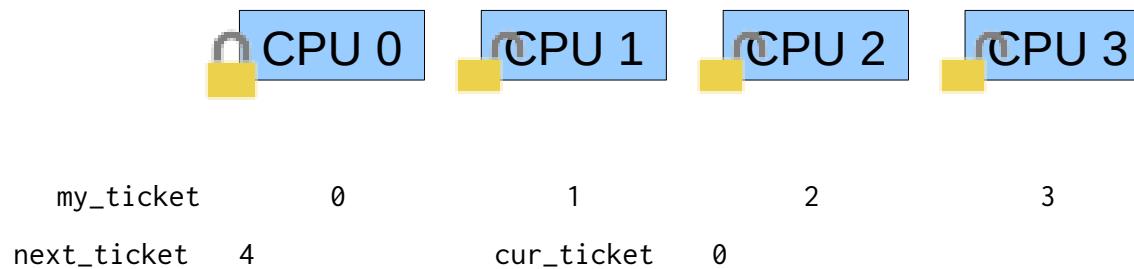
## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

- Give up locking after a specified timeout
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  - Test & Set Locks
  - Ticket Lock

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

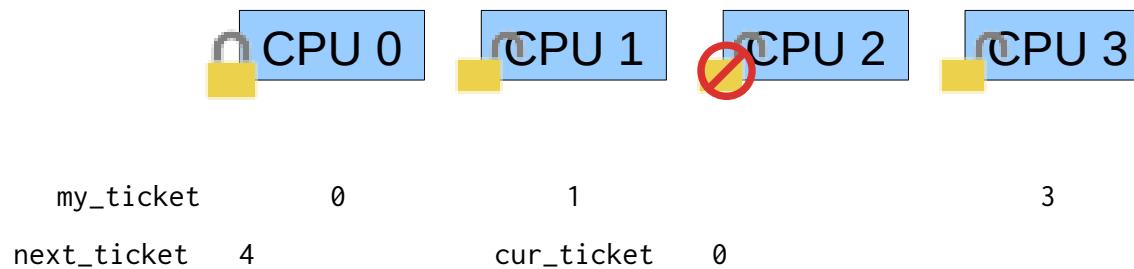
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  - Test & Set Locks
  - Ticket Lock



# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

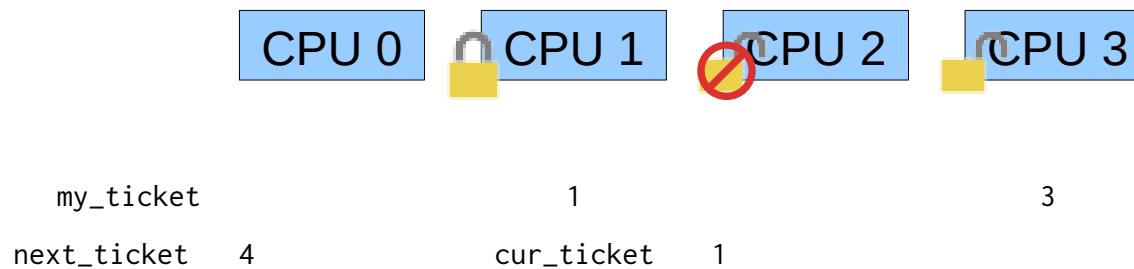
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# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

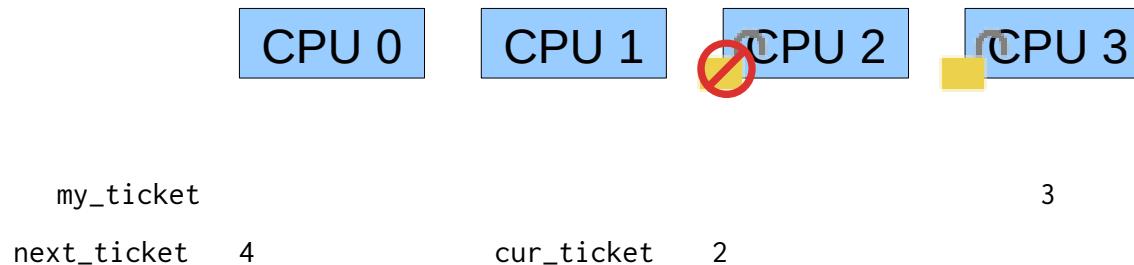
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  - Ticket Lock → stop trying to acquire lock



# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

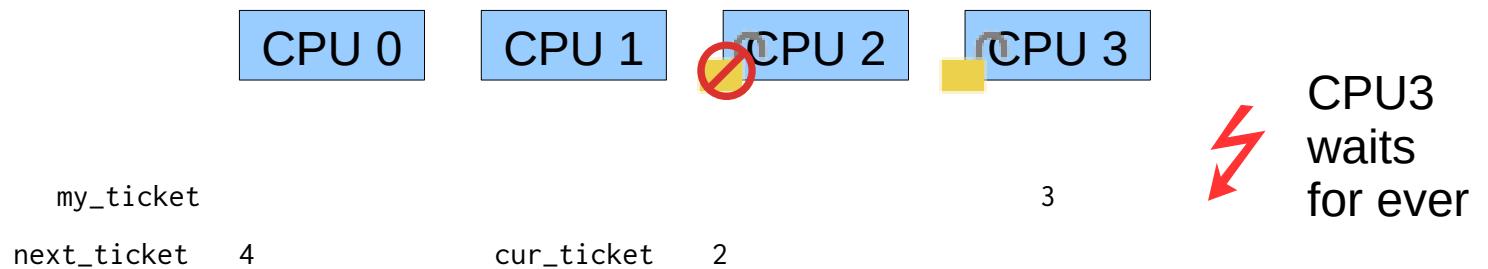
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  - Ticket Lock → stop trying to acquire lock



# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

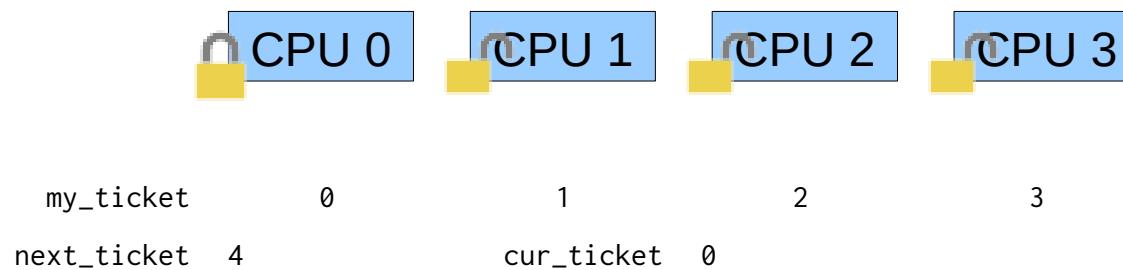
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  - Ticket Lock → stop trying to acquire lock



# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

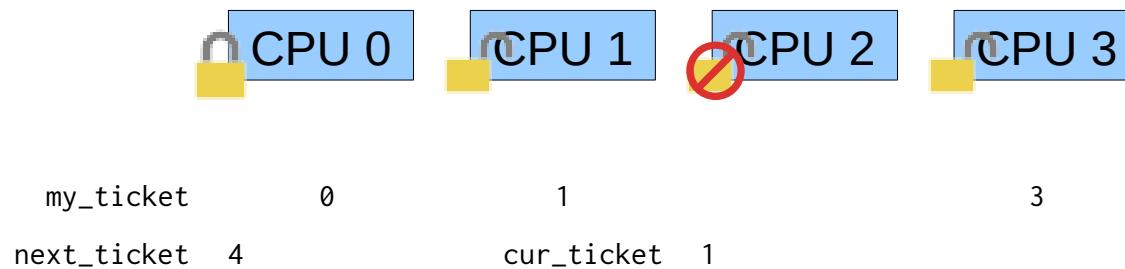
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# Synchronization w/ Locks

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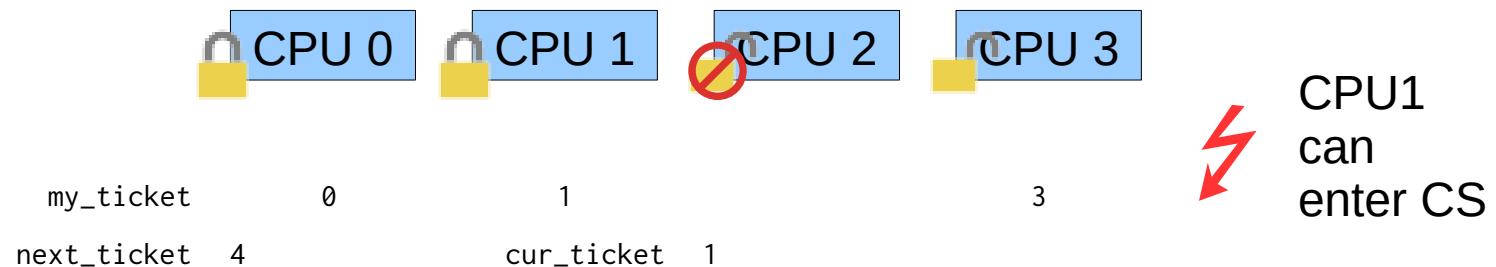
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# Synchronization w/ Locks

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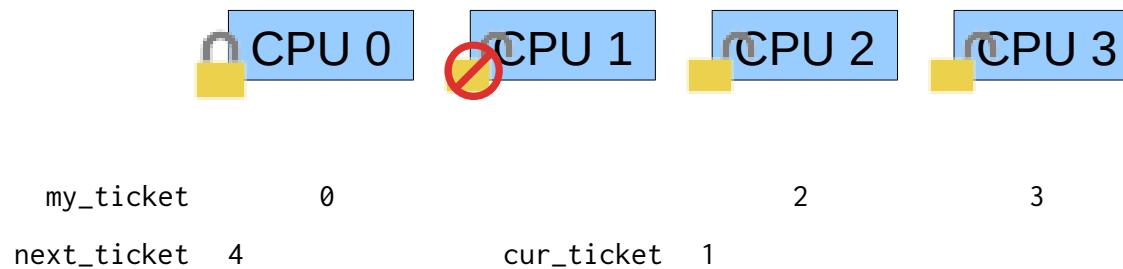
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# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

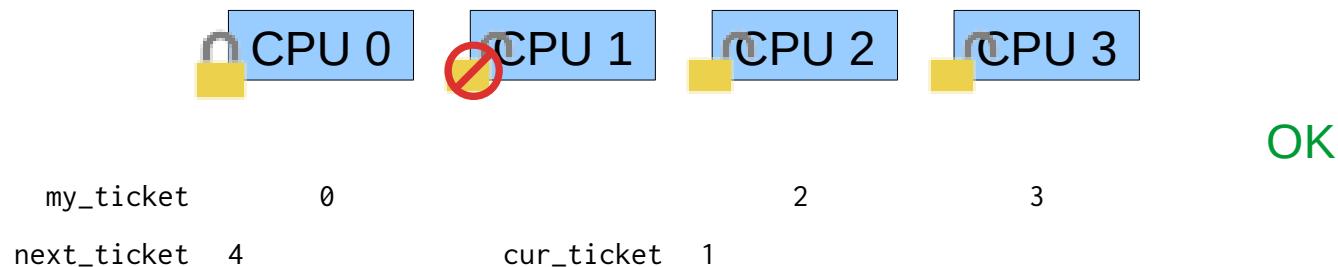
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  - Test & Set Locks
  - Ticket Lock → stop trying to acquire the lock + increase `cur_ticket`



# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

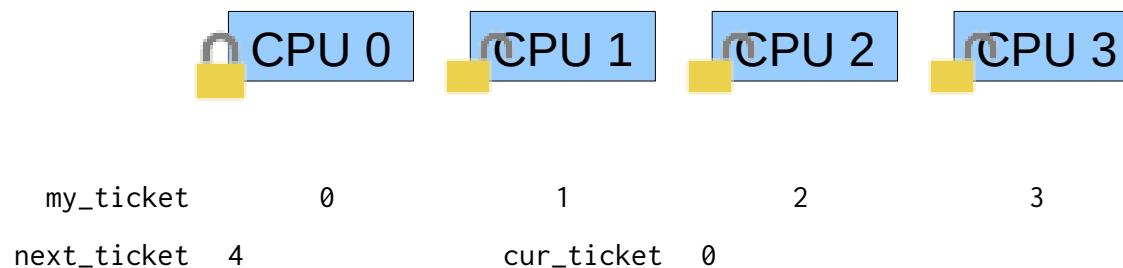
- Give up locking after a specified timeout
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  - Test & Set Locks
  - Ticket Lock → stop trying to acquire the lock + increase `cur_ticket`



# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

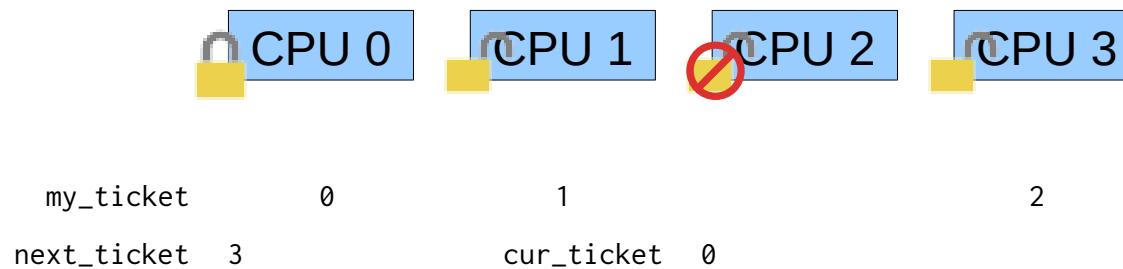
- Give up locking after a specified timeout
- Stop threads which are currently waiting for a lock
  - Test & Set Locks
  - Ticket Lock → stop trying to acquire the lock + alter `next_ticket` and `my_ticket`



# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

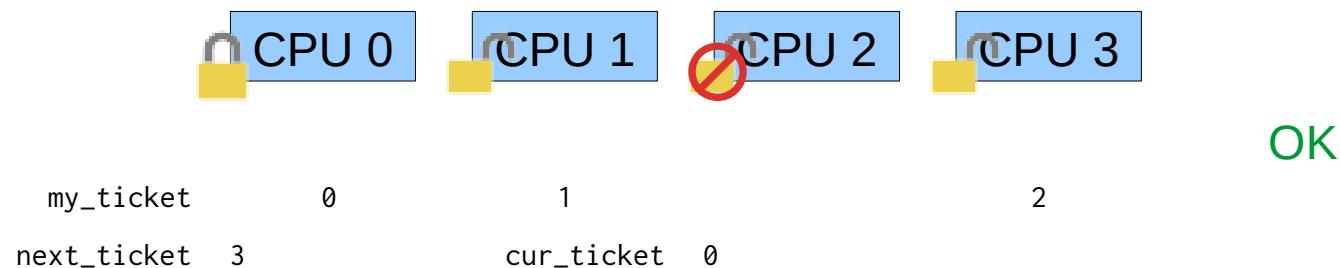
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# Synchronization w/ Locks

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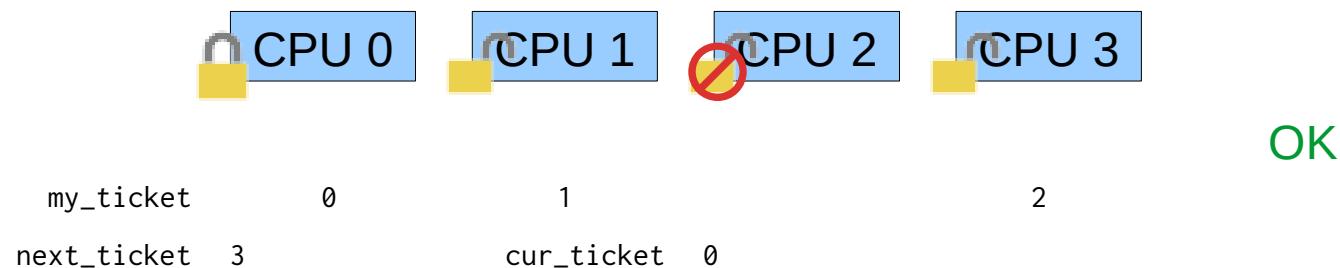
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# Synchronization w/ Locks

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- Give up locking after a specified timeout
- Stop threads which are currently waiting for a lock
  - Test & Set Locks
  - Ticket Lock → stop trying to acquire the lock + alter `next_ticket` and `my_ticket`



Very tricky to implement!

# Synchronization w/ Locks

---

## Timeouts – Abort lock()-Operation

- Give up locking after a specified timeout
- Stop threads which are currently waiting for a lock
  - Test & Set Locks → stop trying to acquire the lock
  - Ticket Lock → stop trying to acquire the lock + alter `next_ticket` and `my_ticket`
  - MCS-Lock → dequeue from the queue of waiters (exercise)

# Synchronization w/ Locks

---

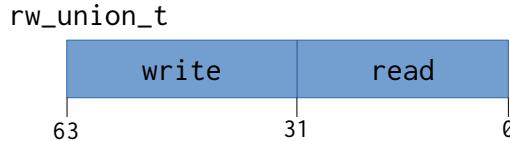
## Reader Writer Locks

- Lock differentiates two types of lock holders:
  - Readers
    - Do not modify the object
    - Multiple can use the object at the same time
  - Writers
    - Modify the object
    - Must have exclusive access to the object (no other readers or writers)
- Locks can have different level of fairness
  - Readers and writers use the object in the order they appear → fair
  - Later readers overtake earlier writers → unfair for writers
  - Later writers overtake earlier readers → unfair for readers

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fair Ticket Reader Writer Lock

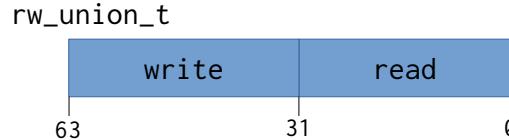
```
struct rw_lock_t {  
    rw_union_t cur_ticket;  
    rw_union_t next_ticket;  
};  
  
void lock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    auto my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket.write != my_ticket.write);  
}  
  
void lock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    auto my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket.write), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);  
}  
  
void unlock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    xadd(&(l->cur_ticket.read), 1);  
}  
  
void unlock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket.write++;  
}
```



# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fair Ticket Reader Writer Lock

```
struct rw_lock_t {  
    rw_union_t cur_ticket;  
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};  
  
void lock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    auto my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket.write != my_ticket.write);  
}  
  
void lock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    auto my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket.write), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);  
}  
  
void unlock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    xadd(&(l->cur_ticket.read), 1);  
}  
  
void unlock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket.write++;  
}
```



CPU 0

CPU 1

CPU 2

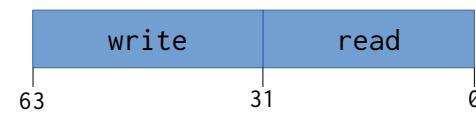
my_ticket	next_ticket	cur_ticket
0 0	0 0	0 0

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fair Ticket Reader Writer Lock

```
struct rw_lock_t {  
    rw_union_t cur_ticket;  
    rw_union_t next_ticket;  
};  
  
void lock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    auto my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket.write != my_ticket.write);  
}  
  
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    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);  
}  
  
void unlock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    xadd(&(l->cur_ticket.read), 1);  
}  
  
void unlock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket.write++;  
}
```

rw\_union\_t



read

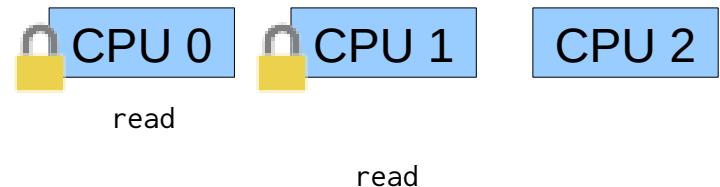
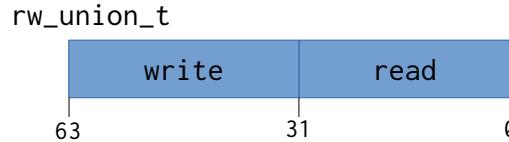
my\_ticket 0|0  
next\_ticket 0|1

cur\_ticket 0|0

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fair Ticket Reader Writer Lock

```
struct rw_lock_t {  
    rw_union_t cur_ticket;  
    rw_union_t next_ticket;  
};  
  
void lock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    auto my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket.write != my_ticket.write);  
}  
  
void lock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    auto my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket.write), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);  
}  
  
void unlock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    xadd(&(l->cur_ticket.read), 1);  
}  
  
void unlock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket.write++;  
}
```

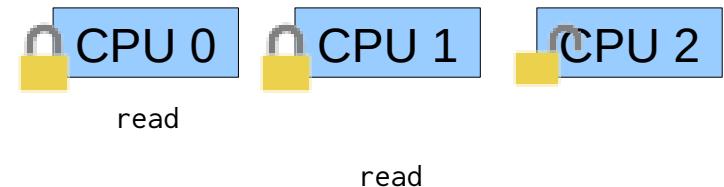
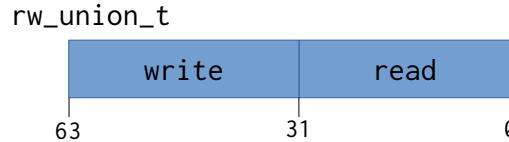


my_ticket	0 0	0 1	
next_ticket	0 2	cur_ticket	0 0

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fair Ticket Reader Writer Lock

```
struct rw_lock_t {  
    rw_union_t cur_ticket;  
    rw_union_t next_ticket;  
};  
  
void lock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
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}  
  
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}
```

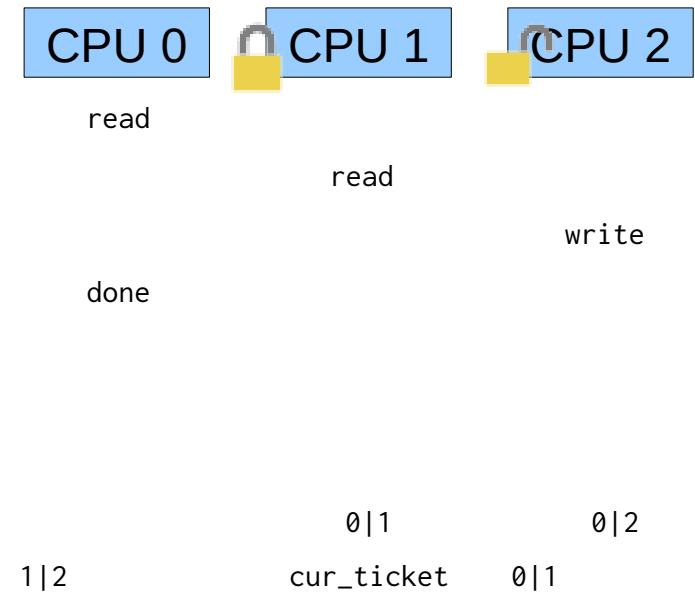


my_ticket	0 0	0 1	0 2
next_ticket	1 2	cur_ticket	0 0

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fair Ticket Reader Writer Lock

```
struct rw_lock_t {  
    rw_union_t cur_ticket;  
    rw_union_t next_ticket;  
};  
  
void lock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    auto my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket.write != my_ticket.write);  
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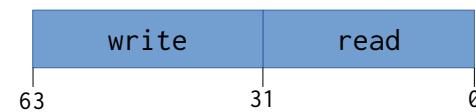


# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fair Ticket Reader Writer Lock

```
struct rw_lock_t {  
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    do {} while (l->cur_ticket.write != my_ticket.write);  
}  
  
void lock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    auto my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket.write), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);  
}  
  
void unlock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    xadd(&(l->cur_ticket.read), 1);  
}  
  
void unlock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket.write++;  
}
```

rw\_union\_t



CPU 0

CPU 1

CPU 2

read

read

write

done

done

my\_ticket

next\_ticket 1|2

cur\_ticket 0|2

0|2

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fair Ticket Reader Writer Lock

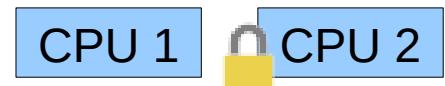
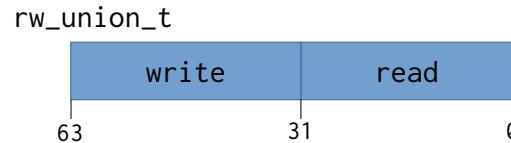
```
struct rw_lock_t {  
    rw_union_t cur_ticket;  
    rw_union_t next_ticket;  
};
```

```
void lock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    auto my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket.write != my_ticket.write);  
}
```

```
void lock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    auto my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket.write), 1);  
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}
```

```
void unlock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    xadd(&(l->cur_ticket.read), 1);  
}
```

```
void unlock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket.write++;  
}
```



read

read

write

done

done

read

my\_ticket 1|2  
next\_ticket 1|3

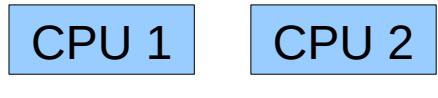
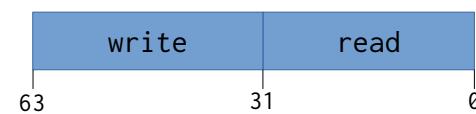
cur\_ticket 0|2

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fair Ticket Reader Writer Lock

```
struct rw_lock_t {  
    rw_union_t cur_ticket;  
    rw_union_t next_ticket;  
};  
  
void lock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    auto my_ticket = xadd(&(l->next_ticket), 1);  
    do {} while (l->cur_ticket.write != my_ticket.write);  
}  
  
void lock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
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    do {} while (l->cur_ticket != my_ticket);  
}  
  
void unlock_read(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    xadd(&(l->cur_ticket.read), 1);  
}  
  
void unlock_write(rw_lock_t *l) {  
    l->cur_ticket.write++;  
}
```

rw\_union\_t



done

done

done

done

my\_ticket 1|2  
next\_ticket 1|3

cur\_ticket 1|2

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Fair Ticket Reader Writer Lock

```
struct rw_lock_t {  
    rw_union_t cur_ticket;  
    rw_union_t next_ticket;  
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```

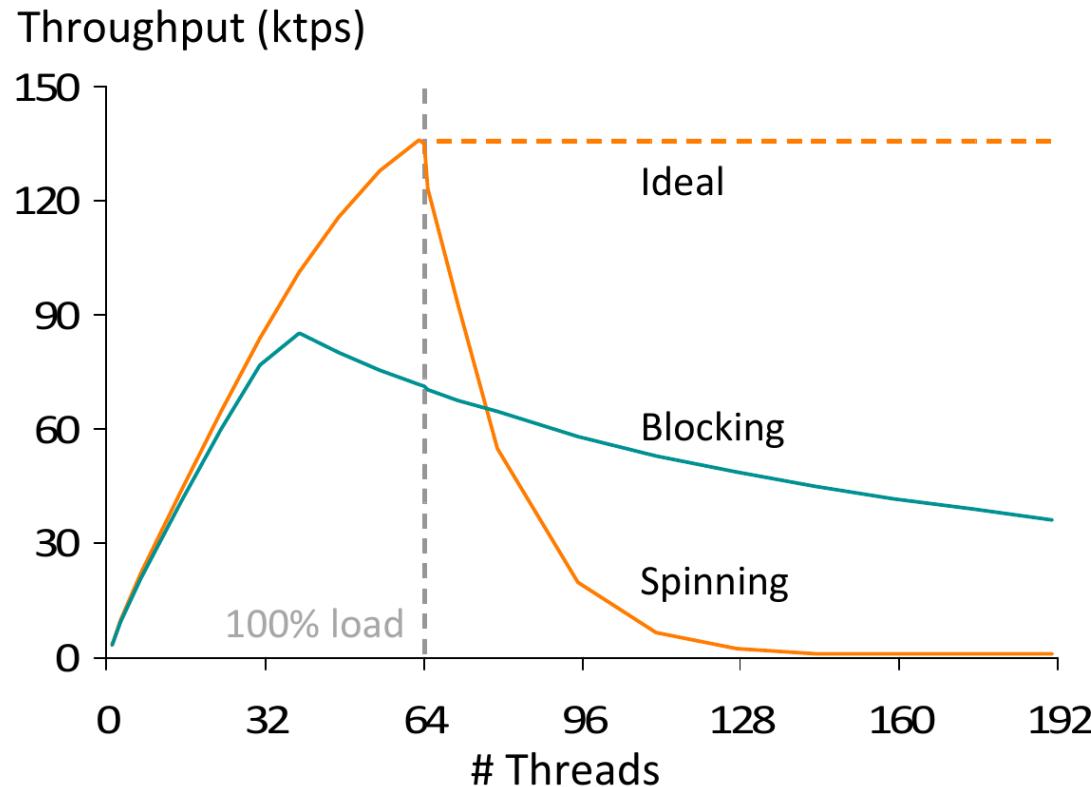


Difficult to get right!

- No overflows within each counter
  - Counters must be large enough so that all threads can be readers or writers
- No overflow from one counter to another
  - Read counter must not overflow into write counter → protection bit

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Lockholder Preemption



**Figure 3** Comparison of the operation throughput using blocking or spinning primitives.  
Johnson et al. [2010]: “Decoupling Contention Management from Scheduling”

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Lockholder Preemption

- Spinning time of a CPU is increased by the time the current lockholder can not execute
  - Lockholder gets preempted by other spinning threads on the same CPU
  - Especially bad for Ticket and MCS-Locks
- Blocking instead of spinning reduces the load on the system and can thereby help preventing lockholder preemption
- Prohibit preemption of the lockholder by disabling interrupts while being in CS
  - cli + sti in combination with pushf + popf

# Synchronization w/ Locks

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- Blocking instead of spinning reduces the load on the system and can thereby help preventing lockholder preemption
- Prohibit preemption of the lockholder by disabling interrupts while being in CS
  - cli + sti in combination with pushf + popf

Only possible in the kernel! Very dangerous!

# Synchronization w/ Locks

## Monitor, Mwait

- Possibility to stop the CPU/HT while waiting for a lock (only x86)
  - Can be used to put a CPU in a sleep state
  - Allows better usage of the remaining resources
- monitor – watches a given cache line
- mwait – stops CPU/HT until write to monitored cache line or interrupt

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while (trigger != 1) {
    monitor(&trigger);
    if (trigger != 1)
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CPU 0

CPU 1

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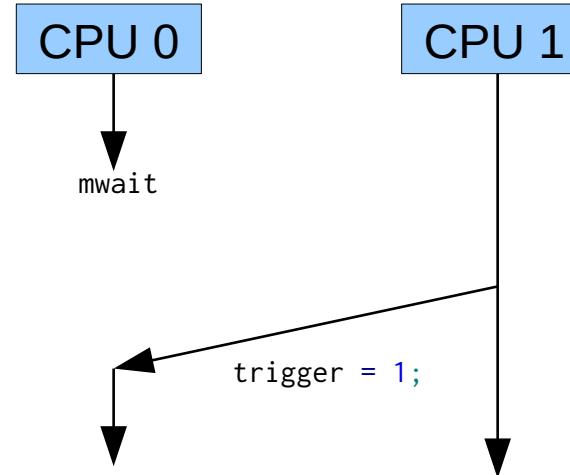


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