

Question 1. (20 points) You are implementing a multilevel feedback queue (MLFQ) scheduler and are deciding what values to use for the time slice at each priority level. Your friend suggests simplifying the design by just using the same time slice value for each level. Is this a good or bad suggestion? Explain why. You may find it useful to consider what would happen using a uniform time slice value t if you assume that any given process always spends k time doing computation before releasing the CPU.

Question 2. (20 points) Explain whether user-level or kernel-level threads would be better suited to each of the following applications and why. Assume that you are running on a uniprocessor machine.

1. A weather modeling system in which large numbers of threads perform continuous computation.
2. A file sharing application in which each user is allocated a thread that reads and writes files stored on disk.
3. Suppose that you are running on a multiprocessor machine instead of a uniprocessor machine. Would your answer to parts 1 and/or 2 change? Why or why not?

Question 3. (20 points) In the context of the Too Much Milk synchronization problem, explain how we decided whether possible solutions worked (i.e., what were the general requirements of any solution to the problem)?

Question 4. (20 points) From our final implementation of a test&set-based lock, the final step of a thread attempting to acquire a lock that's already held consists of setting the guard variable to zero and putting the thread to sleep. Explain why it is necessary to have these two operations occur atomically – i.e., what problem could occur if a context switch occurred after setting the guard to zero but before putting the thread to sleep? Be specific.

Question 5. (20 points) In the producer/consumer problem, explain why the call to wait in the remove method must be wrapped in a while loop instead of a regular conditional.