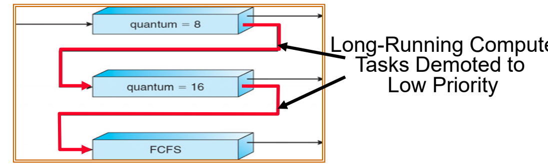
CS162
Operating Systems and Systems Programming
Lecture 12

Scheduling 3: Case Studies (Con't), Realtime, Starvation, Deadlock

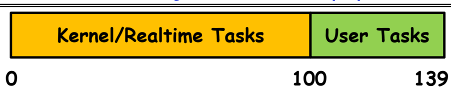
February 28th, 2023
Prof. John Kubiatowicz
http://cs162.eecs.Berkeley.edu

Recall: Multi-Level Feedback Scheduling



- Another method for exploiting past behavior (first use in CTSS)
  - Multiple queues, each with different priority
    - » Higher priority queues often considered "foreground" tasks
  - Each queue has its own scheduling algorithm
    - » e.g. foreground – RR, background – FCFS
    - » Sometimes multiple RR priorities with quantum increasing exponentially (highest:1ms, next: 2ms, next: 4ms, etc)
- Adjust each job's priority as follows (details vary)
  - Job starts in highest priority queue
  - If timeout expires, drop one level
  - If timeout doesn't expire, push up one level (or to top)

Recall: Case Study: Linux O(1) Scheduler



- Priority-based scheduler: 140 priorities
  - 40 for "user tasks" (set by "nice"), 100 for "Realtime/Kernel"
  - Lower priority value ⇒ higher priority (for realtime values)
  - Highest priority value ⇒ Lower priority (for nice values)
  - All algorithms O(1)
    - » Timeslices/priorities/interactivity credits all computed when job finishes time slice
    - » 140-bit bit mask indicates presence or absence of job at given priority level
- Two separate priority queues: "active" and "expired"
  - All tasks in the active queue use up their timeslices and get placed on the expired queue, after which queues swapped
- Timeslice depends on priority – linearly mapped onto timeslice range
  - Like a multi-level queue (one queue per priority) with different timeslice at each level
  - Execution split into "Timeslice Granularity" chunks – round robin through priority

So, Does the OS Schedule Processes or Threads?

- Many textbooks use the "old model"—one thread per process
- Usually it's really: **threads** (e.g., in Linux)
- One point to notice: switching threads vs. switching processes incurs different costs:
  - Switch threads: Save/restore registers
  - Switch processes: Change active address space too!
    - » Expensive
    - » Disrupts caching
- Recall, However: Simultaneous Multithreading (or "Hyperthreading")
  - Different threads interleaved on a cycle-by-cycle basis and can be in different processes (have different address spaces)

Multi-Core Scheduling

- Algorithmically, not a huge difference from single-core scheduling
- Implementation-wise, helpful to have *per-core* scheduling data structures
  - Cache coherence
- *Affinity scheduling*: once a thread is scheduled on a CPU, OS tries to reschedule it on the same CPU
  - Cache reuse

Recall: *Spinlocks for multiprocessing*

- Spinlock implementation:

```
int value = 0; // Free
Acquire() {
   while (test&set(&value)) {}; // spin while busy
}
Release() {
   value = 0;                 // atomic store
}
```

- Spinlock doesn't put the calling thread to sleep—it just busy waits
  - When might this be preferable?
    - » Waiting for limited number of threads at a barrier in a multiprocessing (multicore) program
    - » Wait time at barrier would be greatly increased if threads must be woken inside kernel
- Every `test&set()` is a write, which makes value ping-pong around between core-local caches (using lots of memory!)
  - So – really want to use `test&test&set()` !
- As we discussed in Lecture 8, the extra read eliminates the ping-ponging issues:

```
// Implementation of test&test&set():
Acquire() {
   do {
      while(value);            // wait until might be free
   } while (test&set(&value)); // exit if acquire lock
}
```


Gang Scheduling and Parallel Applications

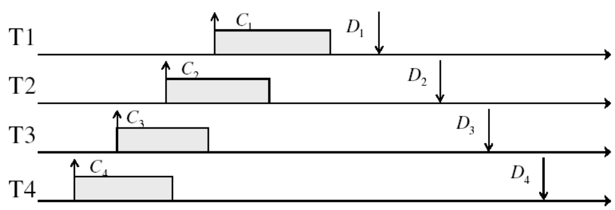
- When multiple threads work together on a multi-core system, try to schedule them together
  - Makes spin-waiting more efficient (inefficient to spin-wait for a thread that's suspended)
- Alternative: OS informs a parallel program how many processors its threads are scheduled on (*Scheduler Activations*)
  - Application adapts to number of cores that it has scheduled
  - "Space sharing" with other parallel programs can be more efficient, because parallel speedup is often sublinear with the number of cores

Real-Time Scheduling

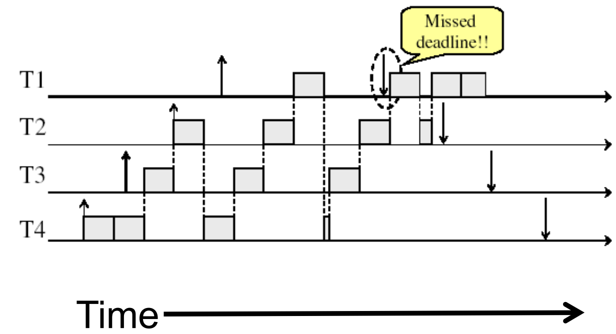
- Goal: Predictability of Performance!
  - We need to predict with confidence worst case response times for systems!
  - In RTS, performance guarantees are:
    - » Task- and/or class centric and often ensured a priori
  - In conventional systems, performance is:
    - » System/throughput oriented with post-processing (… wait and see …)
  - Real-time is about enforcing predictability, and does not equal fast computing!!!
- Hard real-time: for time-critical safety-oriented systems
  - Meet all deadlines (if at all possible)
  - Ideally: determine in advance if this is possible
  - Earliest Deadline First (EDF), Least Laxity First (LLF), Rate-Monitonic Scheduling (RMS), Deadline Monotonic Scheduling (DM)
- Soft real-time: for multimedia
  - Attempt to meet deadlines with high probability
  - Constant Bandwidth Server (CBS)

Example: Workload Characteristics

- Tasks are preemptable, independent with arbitrary arrival (=release) times
- Tasks have deadlines (D) and known computation times (C)
- Example Setup:

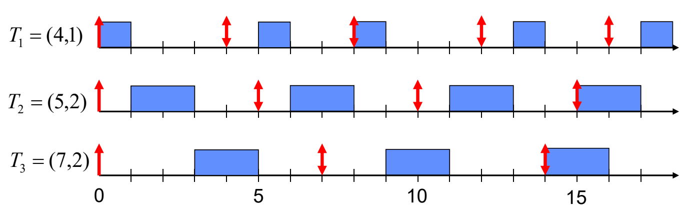


Example: Round-Robin Scheduling Doesn't Work



Earliest Deadline First (EDF)

- Tasks periodic with period P and computation C in each period: (P_i, C_i) for each task i
- Preemptive priority-based dynamic scheduling:
  - Each task is assigned a (current) priority based on how close the absolute deadline is (i.e. $D_i^{t+1} = D_i^t + P_i$for each task!)
  - The scheduler always schedules the active task with the closest absolute deadline

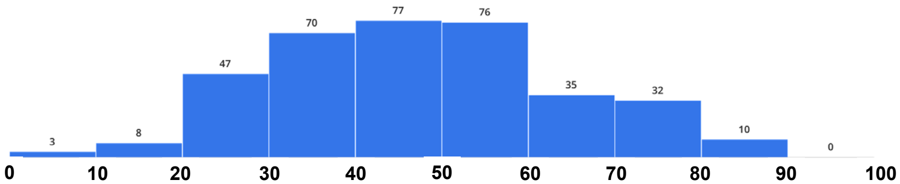


EDF Feasibility Testing

- Even EDF won't work if you have too many tasks
- For n tasks with computation time C and deadline D, a feasible schedule exists if:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(\frac{C_i}{D_i} \right) \leq 1$$

Administrivia



- Midterm I results: Mean: 47.3, StdDev: 16.8, Min: 3.4, Max: 87.7
  - Yes, probably was too long!
  - Sorry about that!
- Project 1 Extension:
  - Wednesday March 1st
- Homework 3:
  - Due Tuesday 3/7
  - Can be done in Rust (if you want)

Ensuring Progress

- Starvation: thread fails to make progress for an indefinite period of time
- Starvation ≠ Deadlock because starvation *could* resolve under right circumstances
  - Deadlocks are unresolvable, cyclic requests for resources
- Causes of starvation:
  - Scheduling policy never runs a particular thread on the CPU
  - Threads wait for each other or are spinning in a way that will never be resolved
- Let's explore what sorts of problems we might encounter and how to avoid them…

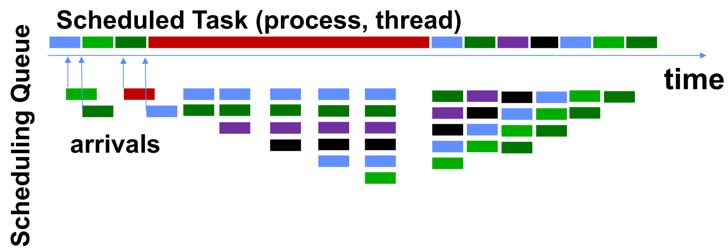
Strawman: Non-Work-Conserving Scheduler

- A *work-conserving* scheduler is one that does not leave the CPU idle when there is work to do
- A non-work-conserving scheduler could trivially lead to starvation
- In this class, we'll assume that the scheduler is work-conserving (unless stated otherwise)

Strawman: Last-Come, First-Served (LCFS)

- Stack (LIFO) as a scheduling data structure
  - Late arrivals get fast service
  - Early ones wait – extremely unfair
  - In the worst case – *starvation*
- When would this occur?
  - When arrival rate (offered load) exceeds service rate (delivered load)
  - Queue builds up faster than it drains
- Queue can build in FIFO too, but "serviced in the order received"…

Is FCFS Prone to Starvation?



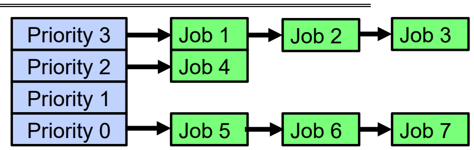
- If a task never yields (e.g., goes into an infinite loop), then other tasks don't get to run
- Problem with all non-preemptive schedulers…
  - And early personal OSes such as original MacOS, Windows 3.1, etc

Is Round Robin (RR) Prone to Starvation?

- Each of *N* processes gets ~1/*N* of CPU (in window)
  - With quantum length *Q* ms, process waits at most *(N-1)*Q* ms to run again
  - So a process can't be kept waiting indefinitely
- So RR is fair in terms of *waiting time*
  - Not necessarily in terms of throughput… (if you give up your time slot early, you don't get the time back!)

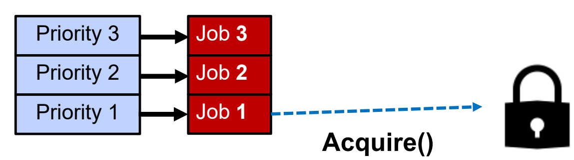
Is Priority Scheduling Prone to Starvation?

- Recall: Priority Scheduler always runs the thread with highest priority
  - Low priority thread might never run!
  - Starvation…



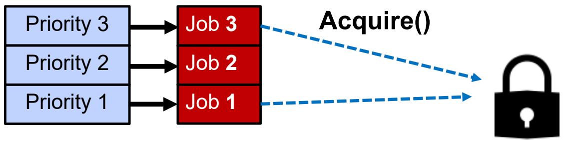
- But there are more serious problems as well…
  - Priority inversion: even high priority threads might become starved

Priority Inversion



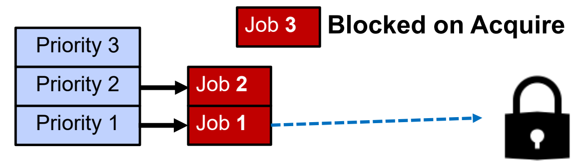
- **At this point, which job does the scheduler choose?**
- Job 3 (Highest priority)

Priority Inversion



- Job 3 attempts to acquire lock held by Job 1

Priority Inversion



- **At this point, which job does the scheduler choose?**
- Job 2 (Medium Priority)
- Priority Inversion

Priority Inversion

- Where high priority task is blocked waiting on low priority task
- Low priority one ***must*** run for high priority to make progress
- Medium priority task can starve a high priority one

- When else might priority lead to starvation or “live lock”?

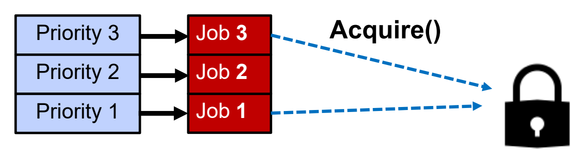
High Priority

```
while (try_lock) {
…
}
```

Low Priority

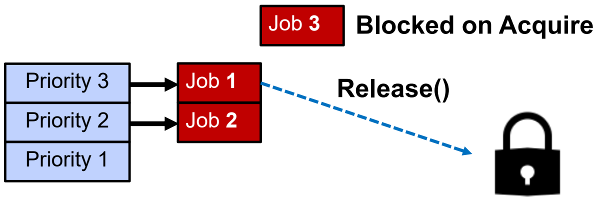
```
lock.acquire(…)
…
lock.release(…)
```


One Solution: Priority Donation/Inheritance



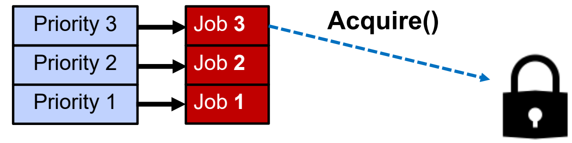
- Job 3 temporarily grants Job 1 its “high priority” to run on its behalf

One Solution: Priority Donation/Inheritance



- Job 3 temporarily grants Job 1 its “high priority” to run on its behalf

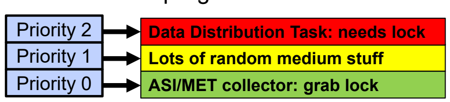
One Solution: Priority Donation/Inheritance



- Job 1 completes critical section and releases lock
- Job 3 acquires lock, runs again
- How does the scheduler know?

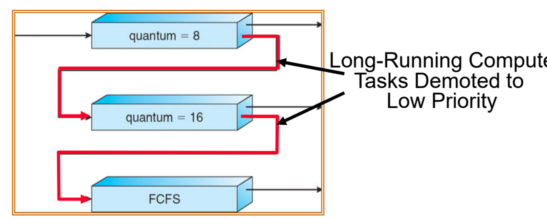
Case Study: Martian Pathfinder Rover

- July 4, 1997 – Pathfinder lands on Mars
  - First US Mars landing since Vikings in 1976; first rover
  - Novel delivery mechanism: inside air-filled balloons bounced to stop on the surface from orbit!
- And then…a few days into mission…:
  - Multiple system resets occur to realtime OS (VxWorks)
  - System would reboot randomly, losing valuable time and progress
- Problem? Priority Inversion!
  - Low priority task grabs mutex trying to communicate with high priority task:



  - Realtime watchdog detected lack of forward progress and invoked reset to safe state
    - » High-priority data distribution task was supposed to complete with regular deadline
- Solution: Turn priority donation back on and upload fixes!
- Original developers turned off priority donation (also called priority inheritance)
  - Worried about performance costs of donating priority!

Are SRTF and MLFQ Prone to Starvation?



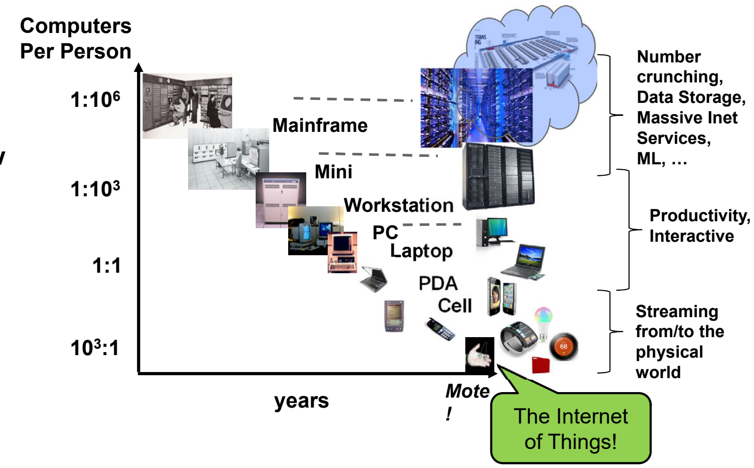
- In SRTF, long jobs are starved in favor of short ones
  - Same fundamental problem as priority scheduling
- MLFQ is an approximation of SRTF, so it suffers from the same problem

Cause for Starvation: Priorities?

- The policies we've studied so far:
  - **Always prefer to give the CPU to a prioritized job**
  - Non-prioritized jobs may never get to run
- But priorities were a means, not an end
- Our end goal was to serve a mix of CPU-bound, I/O bound, and Interactive jobs effectively on common hardware
  - Give the I/O bound ones enough CPU to issue their next file operation and wait (on those slow discs)
  - Give the interactive ones enough CPU to respond to an input and wait (on those slow humans)
  - Let the CPU bound ones grind away without too much disturbance

Recall: Changing Landscape…

Bell's Law: New computer class every 10 years



Changing Landscape of Scheduling

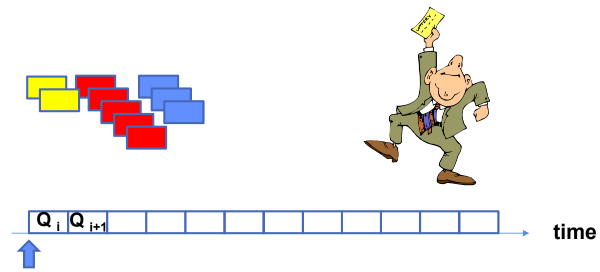
- Priority-based scheduling rooted in "time-sharing"
  - Allocating precious, limited resources across a diverse workload
    - » CPU bound, vs interactive, vs I/O bound
- 80's brought about personal computers, workstations, and servers on networks
  - Different machines of different types for different purposes
  - Shift to fairness and avoiding extremes (starvation)
- 90's emergence of the web, rise of internet-based services, the data-center-is-the-computer
  - Server consolidation, massive clustered services, huge flashcrowds
  - It's about predictability, 95th percentile performance guarantees

DOES PRIORITIZING SOME JOBS *NECESSARILY* STARVE THOSE THAT AREN'T PRIORITIZED?

Key Idea: Proportional-Share Scheduling

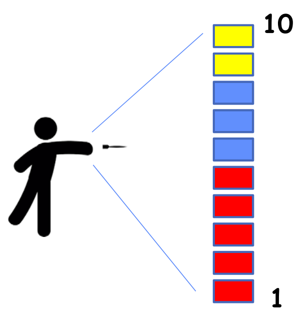
- The policies we've studied so far:
  - **Always prefer to give the CPU to a prioritized job**
  - Non-prioritized jobs may never get to run
- Instead, we can share the CPU *proportionally*
  - Give each job a share of the CPU according to its priority
  - Low-priority jobs get to run less often
  - But all jobs can at least make progress (no starvation)

Recall: Lottery Scheduling



- Given a set of jobs (the mix), provide each with a share of a resource
  - e.g., 50% of the CPU for Job A, 30% for Job B, and 20% for Job C
- Idea: Give out tickets according to the proportion each should receive,
- Every quantum (tick): draw one at random, schedule that job (thread) to run

Lottery Scheduling: Simple Mechanism



- $N_{ticket} = \sum N_i$
- Pick a number d in $1 .. N_{ticket}$ as the random "dart"
- Jobs record their N_i of allocated tickets
- Order them by N_i
- Select the first j such that $\sum N_i$ up to j exceeds *d.*

Unfairness

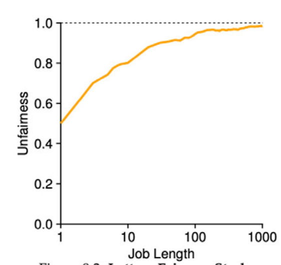


Figure 9.2: **Lottery Fairness Study**

- E.g., Given two jobs A and B of same run time (# Qs) that are each supposed to receive 50%,
  U = finish time of first / finish time of last
- As a function of run time

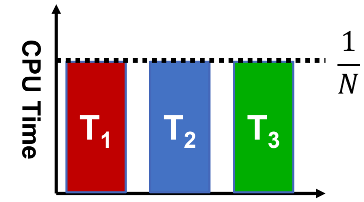
Stride Scheduling

- Achieve proportional share scheduling without resorting to randomness, and overcome the "law of small numbers" problem.
- "Stride" of each job is $\frac{big\#W}{N_i}$
  - The larger your share of tickets, the smaller your stride
  - Ex: W = 10,000, A=100 tickets, B=50, C=250
  - A stride: 100, B: 200, C: 40
- Each job has a "pass" counter
- Scheduler: pick job with lowest *pass*, runs it, add its *stride* to its *pass*
- Low-stride jobs (lots of tickets) run more often
  - Job with twice the tickets gets to run twice as often
- Some messiness of counter wrap-around, new jobs, …

Linux Completely Fair Scheduler (CFS)

- Goal: Each process gets an equal share of CPU
  - *N* threads "simultaneously" execute on $\frac{1}{N}$ of CPU
  - The *model* is somewhat like simultaneous multithreading – each thread gets $\frac{1}{N}$ of the cycles
- In general, can't do this with real hardware
  - OS needs to give out full CPU in time slices
  - Thus, we must use something to keep the threads roughly in sync with one another

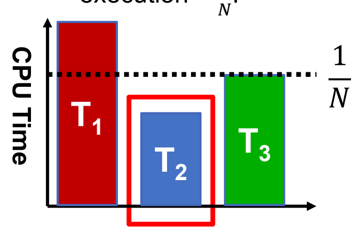
Model: "Perfectly" subdivided CPU:



Linux Completely Fair Scheduler (CFS)

- Basic Idea: track CPU time per thread and schedule threads to match up average rate of execution
- **Scheduling Decision:**
  - "Repair" illusion of complete fairness
  - Choose thread with minimum CPU time
  - Closely related to Fair Queueing
- Use a heap-like scheduling queue for this…
  - O(log N) to add/remove threads, where N is number of threads
- Sleeping threads don't advance their CPU time, so they get a boost when they wake up again…
  - Get interactivity automatically!

CFS: Average rate of execution = $\frac{1}{N}$:



Linux CFS: Responsiveness/Starvation Freedom

- In addition to fairness, we want **low response time** and starvation freedom
  - Make sure that everyone gets to run at least a bit!
- Constraint 1: *Target Latency*
  - Period of time over which every process gets service
  - Quanta = Target_Latency / n
- Target Latency: 20 ms, 4 Processes
  - Each process gets 5ms time slice
- Target Latency: 20 ms, 200 Processes
  - Each process gets 0.1ms time slice (!!!)
  - Recall Round-Robin: large context switching overhead if slice gets to small

Linux CFS: Throughput

- Goal: Throughput
  - Avoid excessive overhead
- Constraint 2: Minimum Granularity
  - Minimum length of any time slice
- Target Latency 20 ms, Minimum Granularity 1 ms, 200 processes
  - Each process gets 1 ms time slice

Aside: Priority in Unix – Being Nice

- The industrial operating systems of the 60s and 70's provided priority to enforced desired usage policies.
  - When it was being developed at Berkeley, instead it provided ways to "be nice".
- `nice` values range from -20 to 19
  - Negative values are "not nice"
  - If you wanted to let your friends get more time, you would nice up your job
- Scheduler puts higher nice-value tasks (lower priority) to sleep more …
  - In O(1) scheduler, this translated fairly directly to priority (and time slice)
- How does this idea translate to CFS?
  - Change the rate of CPU cycles given to threads to change relative priority

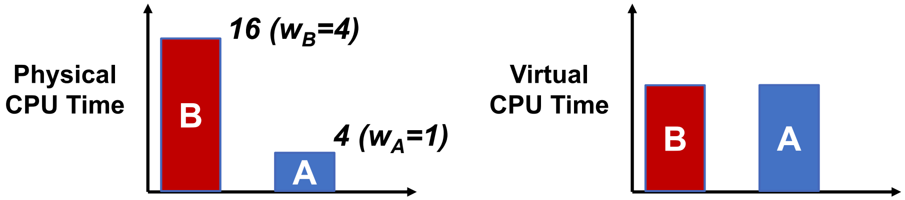
Linux CFS: Proportional Shares

- What if we want to give more CPU to some and less to others in CFS (proportional share) ?
  - Allow different threads to have different *rates* of execution (cycles/time)
- Use weights! Key Idea: Assign a weight w_i to each process *I* to compute the switching quanta Q_i
  - Basic equal share: $Q_i = \text{Target Latency} \cdot \frac{1}{N}$
  - Weighted Share: $Q_i = \left({w_i}/{\sum_p w_p}\right) \cdot \text{Target Latency}$
- Reuse `nice` value to reflect share, rather than priority,
  - Remember that lower nice value ⇒ higher priority
  - CFS uses nice values to scale weights exponentially: Weight=1024/$(1.25)^{nice}$
    - » Two CPU tasks separated by nice value of 5 ⇒ Task with lower nice value has 3 times the weight, since $(1.25)^5 \approx 3$
- So, we use "Virtual Runtime" instead of CPU time

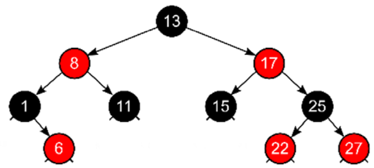
Example: Linux CFS: Proportional Shares

- Target Latency = 20ms
- Minimum Granularity = 1ms
- Example: Two CPU-Bound Threads
  - Thread A has weight 1
  - Thread B has weight 4
- Time slice for A? 4 ms
- Time slice for B? 16 ms

Linux CFS: Proportional Shares



- Track a thread's *virtual* runtime rather than its true physical runtime
  - Higher weight: Virtual runtime increases more slowly
  - Lower weight: Virtual runtime increases more quickly
- Scheduler's Decisions are based on Virtual CPU Time
- Use of Red-Black tree to hold all runnable processes as sorted on vruntime variable
  - O(log N) time to perform insertions/deletions
    - » Cache the item at far left (item with earliest vruntime)
  - When ready to schedule, grab version with smallest vruntime (which will be item at the far left).

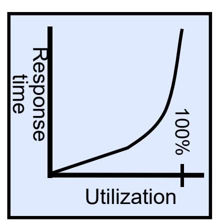


Choosing the Right Scheduler

I Care About:	Then Choose:
CPU Throughput	FCFS
Avg. Response Time	SRTF Approximation
I/O Throughput	SRTF Approximation
Fairness (CPU Time)	Linux CFS
Fairness – Wait Time to Get CPU	Round Robin
Meeting Deadlines	EDF
Favoring Important Tasks	Priority

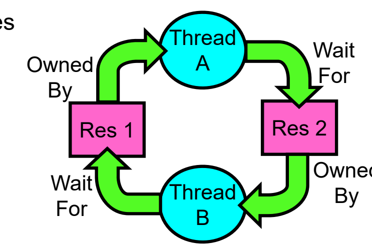
A Final Word On Scheduling

- When do the details of the scheduling policy and fairness really matter?
  - When there aren't enough resources to go around
- When should you simply buy a faster computer?
  - (Or network link, or expanded highway, or …)
  - One approach: Buy it when it will pay for itself in improved response time
    - » Perhaps you're paying for worse response time in reduced productivity, customer angst, etc…
    - » Might think that you should buy a faster X when X is utilized 100%, but usually, response time goes to infinity as utilization⇒100%
- An interesting implication of this curve:
  - Most scheduling algorithms work fine in the "linear" portion of the load curve, fail otherwise
  - Argues for buying a faster X when hit "knee" of curve



Deadlock: A Deadly type of Starvation

- Starvation: thread waits indefinitely
  - Example, low-priority thread waiting for resources constantly in use by high-priority threads
- Deadlock: circular waiting for resources
  - Thread A owns Res 1 and is waiting for Res 2
    Thread B owns Res 2 and is waiting for Res 1
- Deadlock ⇒ Starvation but not vice versa
  - Starvation can end (but doesn't have to)
  - Deadlock can't end without external intervention

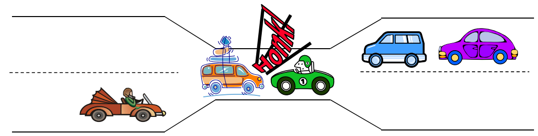


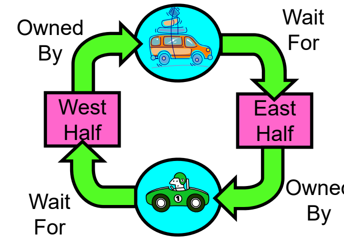
Example: Single-Lane Bridge Crossing

CA 140 to Yosemite National Park

Bridge Crossing Example

- Each segment of road can be viewed as a resource
  - Car must own the segment under them
  - Must acquire segment that they are moving into
- For bridge: must acquire both halves
  - Traffic only in one direction at a time





- Deadlock: Shown above when two cars in opposite directions meet in middle
  - Each acquires one segment and needs next
  - Deadlock resolved if one car backs up (preempt resources and rollback)
    - » Several cars may have to be backed up
- Starvation (not Deadlock):
  - East-going traffic really fast ⇒ no one gets to go west

Conclusion

- Multi-Level Feedback Scheduling:
  - Multiple queues of different priorities and scheduling algorithms
  - Automatic promotion/demotion of process priority in order to approximate SJF/SRTF
- Realtime Schedulers such as EDF
  - Guaranteed behavior by meeting deadlines
  - Realtime tasks defined by tuple of compute time and period
  - Schedulability test: is it possible to meet deadlines with proposed set of processes?
- Lottery Scheduling:
  - Give each thread a priority-dependent number of tokens (short tasks⇒more tokens)
- Linux CFS Scheduler: Fair fraction of CPU
  - Approximates an “ideal” multitasking processor
  - Practical example of “Fair Queueing”
- Deadlock: circular waiting for resources
  - A form of starvation (indefinite stalling) that will never resolve