Scheduling

What is Scheduling?

– On a multi-programmed system
  • We may have more than one Ready process
– On a batch system
  • We may have many jobs waiting to be run
– On a multi-user system
  • We may have many users concurrently using the system
  • The **scheduler** decides who to run next.
  – The process of choosing is called **scheduling**.

Is scheduling important?

• It is not in certain scenarios
  – If you have no choice
    • Early systems
      – Usually batching
      – Scheduling algorithm simple
        » Run next on tape or next on punch tape
  – Only one thing to run
    • Simple PCs
      – Only ran a word processor, etc….
    • Simple Embedded Systems
      – TV remote control, washing machine, etc….

Is scheduling important?

• It is in most realistic scenarios
  – Multitasking/Multi-user System
    • Example
      – Email daemon takes 2 seconds to process an email
      – User clicks button on application.
    • Scenario 1
      – Run daemon, then application
      – System appears really sluggish to the user
    • Scenario 2
      – Run application, then daemon
      – Application appears really responsive, small email delay is unnoticed
  • Scheduling decisions can have a dramatic effect on the perceived performance of the system
  • Can also affect correctness of a system with deadlines

Application Behaviour

• Bursts of CPU usage alternate with periods of I/O wait

Application Behaviour

a) CPU-Bound process
  • Spends most of its computing
  • Time to completion largely determined by received CPU time
Application Behaviour

(b) I/O-Bound process
- Spend most of its time waiting for I/O to complete
  - Small bursts of CPU to process I/O and request next I/O
- Time to completion largely determined by I/O request time

Observations

- Generally, technology is increasing CPU speed much faster than I/O speed
  - CPU bursts becoming shorter, I/O waiting is relatively constant
  - Processes are becoming more I/O bound

Observations

- We need a mix of CPU-bound and I/O-bound processes to keep both CPU and I/O systems busy
- Process can go from CPU- to I/O-bound (or vice versa) in different phases of execution

Observations

- Choosing to run an I/O-bound process delays a CPU-bound process by very little
- Choosing to run a CPU-bound process prior to an I/O-bound process delays the next I/O request significantly
  - No overlap of I/O waiting with computation
  - Results in device (disk) not as busy as possible
- Generally, favour I/O-bound processes over CPU-bound processes

When is scheduling performed?

- A new process
  - Run the parent or the child?
- A process exits
  - Who runs next?
- A process waits for I/O
  - Who runs next?
- A process blocks on a lock
  - Who runs next? The lock holder?
- An I/O interrupt occurs
  - Who do we resume, the interrupted process or the process that was waiting?
  - On a timer interrupt? (See next slide)
- Generally, a scheduling decision is required when a process (or thread) can no longer continue, or when an activity results in more than one ready process.

Preemptive versus Non-preemptive Scheduling

- Non-preemptive
  - Once a thread is in the running state, it continues until it completes, blocks on I/O, or voluntarily yields the CPU
  - A single process can monopolise the entire system
- Preemptive Scheduling
  - Current thread can be interrupted by OS and moved to ready state.
  - Usually after a timer interrupt and process has exceeded its maximum run time
    - Can also be as a result of higher priority process that has become ready (after I/O interrupt)
    - Ensures fairer service as single thread can’t monopolise the system
    - Requires a timer interrupt
Categories of Scheduling Algorithms

- The choice of scheduling algorithm depends on the goals of the application (or the operating system)
  - No one algorithm suits all environments
- We can roughly categorise scheduling algorithms as follows
  - Batch Systems
    - No users directly waiting, can optimise for overall machine performance
  - Interactive Systems
    - Users directly waiting for their results, can optimise for users perceived performance
  - Realtime Systems
    - Jobs have deadlines, must schedule such that all jobs (mostly) meet their deadlines.

Goals of Scheduling Algorithms

- All Algorithms
  - Fairness
    - Give each process a fair share of the CPU
  - Policy Enforcement
    - Whatever policy chosen, the scheduler should ensure it is carried out
  - Balance/Efficiency
    - Try to keep all parts of the system busy

Goals of Scheduling Algorithms

- Batch Algorithms
  - Maximise throughput
    - Throughput is measured in jobs per hour (or similar)
  - Minimise turn-around time
    - Turn-around time (\(T_a\))
      - Difference between time of completion and time of submission
      - Or waiting time (\(T_w\)) + execution time (\(T_e\))
  - Maximise CPU utilisation
    - Keep the CPU busy
    - Not as good a metric as overall throughput

Goals of Scheduling Algorithms

- Interactive Algorithms
  - Minimise response time
    - Response time is the time difference between issuing a command and getting the result
    - E.g. selecting a menu, and getting the result of that selection
    - Response time is important to the user’s perception of the performance of the system.
  - Provide Proportionality
    - Proportionality is the user expectation that short jobs will have a short response time, and long jobs can have a long response time.
    - Generally, favour short jobs

Goals of Scheduling Algorithms

- Real-time Algorithms
  - Must meet deadlines
    - Each job/task has a deadline.
    - A missed deadline can result in data loss or catastrophic failure
    - Aircraft control system missed deadline to apply brakes
  - Provide Predictability
    - For some apps, an occasional missed deadline is okay
      - E.g. DVD decoder
    - Predictable behaviour allows smooth DVD decoding with only rare skips

Scheduling Algorithms

Batch Systems
First-Come First-Served (FCFS)

- Algorithm
  - Each job is placed in single queue, the first job in the queue is selected, and allowed to run as long as it wants.
  - If the job blocks, the next job in the queue is selected to run
  - When a blocked jobs becomes ready, it is placed at the end of the queue

Example

- 5 Jobs
  - Job 1 arrives slightly before job 2, etc...
  - All are immediately runnable
  - Execution times indicated by scale on x-axis

FCFS Schedule

FCFS

- Pros
  - Simple and easy to implement
- Cons
  - I/O-bound jobs wait for CPU-bound jobs

Our Previous Example

- 5 Jobs
  - Job 1 arrives slightly before job 2, etc...
  - All are immediately runnable
  - Execution times indicated by scale on x-axis

Shortest Job First

- If we know (or can estimate) the execution time \textit{a priori}, we choose the shortest job first.
- Another non-preemptive policy
Shortest Job First

- **Con**
  - May starve long jobs
  - Needs to predict job length

- **Pro**
  - Minimises average turnaround time (if, and only if, all jobs are available at the beginning)
  - Example: Assume for processes with execution times of \( a, b, c, d \):
    - \( a \) finishes at time \( a \), \( b \) finishes at \( a + b \), \( c \) at \( a + b + c \), and so on
    - Average turn-around time is \( \frac{4a + 3b + 2c + d}{4} \)
    - Since \( a \) contributes most to average turn-around time, it should be the shortest job.

Shortest Remaining Time First

- A preemptive version of shortest job first
- When ever a new jobs arrive, choose the one with the shortest remaining time first
  - New short jobs get good service

Example

- 5 Jobs
  - Release and execution times as shown

Shortest Remaining Time First
Shortest Remaining Time First

Three level scheduling
Three Level Scheduling

• Admission Scheduler
  – Also called long-term scheduler
  – Determines when jobs are admitted into the system for processing
  – Controls degree of multiprogramming
  – More processes ⇒ less CPU available per process

• CPU scheduler
  – Also called short-term scheduler
  – Invoked when ever a process blocks or is released, clock interrupts (if preemptive scheduling), I/O interrupts.
  – Usually, this scheduler is what we are referring to if we talk about a scheduler.

• Memory Scheduler
  – Also called medium-term scheduler
  – Adjusts the degree of multiprogramming via suspending processes and swapping them out