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
a) **CPU-Bound process**
   - Spends most of its computing
   - Time to completion largely determined by received CPU time
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
    • What ever 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 \( T_r \)
      – 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
  ⇒ Favours CPU-bound processes

• Example:
  – Assume 1 CPU-bound process that computes for 1 second and blocks on a disk request. It arrives first.
  – Assume an I/O bound process that simply issues a 1000 blocking disk requests (very little CPU time)
  – FCFS, the I/O bound process can only issue a disk request per second
    » the I/O bound process take 1000 seconds to finish
  – Another scheme, that preempts the CPU-bound process when I/O-bound process are ready, could allow I/O-bound process to finish in 1000* average disk access time.
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
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

J1
J2
J3
J4
J5

0  2  4  6  8  10  12  14  16  18  20
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

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20
Shortest Remaining Time First

J1
J2
J3
J4
J5
Shortest Remaining Time First
Shortest Remaining Time First

J1  J2  J3  J4  J5
0   2   4   6   8   10  12  14  16  18  20
Shortest Remaining Time First
Shortest Remaining Time First
Shortest Remaining Time First
Shortest Remaining Time First

J1
J2
J3
J4
J5

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20
Scheduling in Batch Systems

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
Three Level Scheduling

• 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*.
Three Level Scheduling

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