Linux Scheduling

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Outline

- Fair Share Scheduling
- Traditional UNIX Scheduling

Fair-Share Scheduling

- Scheduling decisions based on the process sets
- Each user is assigned a share of the processor
- Objective is to **monitor usage to give fewer resources to users** who have had more than their fair share and more to those who have had less than their fair share

Fair-Share Scheduler

Time	Process A Priority	Process A Process CPU count	Process A Group CPU count	Process B Priority	Process B Process CPU count	Process B Group CPU count	Process C Priority	Process C Process CPU count	Process C Group CPU count
0	60	0 1 2 • • 60	0 1 2 • • 60	60	0	0	60	0	0
1	90	30	30	60	0 1 2 • • 60	0 1 2 • • 60	60	0	0 1 2 • • 60
2	74	15 16 17 • • 75	15 16 17 • • 75	90	30	30	75	0	30
3	96	37	37	74	15	15 16 17 • • 75	67	0 1 2 • • 60	15 16 17 • • 75
4	78	18 19 20 • • 78	18 19 20 • • 78	81	7	37	93	30	37
5	98	39	39	70	3	18	76	15	18

Group 1 (Process A) — Group 2 (Processes B and C)

Colored rectangle represents executing process

Figure 9.16 Example of Fair Share Scheduler — Three Processes, Two Groups

Traditional UNIX Scheduling

- Used in both SVR3 and 4.3 BSD UNIX
  - these systems are primarily targeted at the time-sharing interactive environment
- Designed to provide good response time for interactive users while ensuring that low-priority background jobs do not starve
- Employs multilevel feedback using round robin within each of the priority queues
- Makes use of one-second preemption
- Priority is based on process type and execution history

Scheduling Formula

$$CPU_j(i) = \frac{CPU_j(i-1)}{2}$$

$$P_j(i) = Base_j + \frac{CPU_j(i)}{2} + nice_j$$

where

$CPU_j(i)$ = measure of processor utilization by process j through interval i

$P_j(i)$ = priority of process j at beginning of interval i; lower values equal higher priorities

$Base_j$ = base priority of process j

$nice_j$ = user-controllable adjustment factor

Bands

- Used to optimize access to block devices and to allow the operating system to respond quickly to system calls
- In decreasing order of priority, the bands are:

Example of Traditional UNIX Process Scheduling

Time	Process A		Process B		Process C	
	Priority	CPU count	Priority	CPU count	Priority	CPU count
0	60	0 1 2 • • 60	60	0	60	0
1	75	30	60	0 1 2 • • 60	60	0
2	67	15	75	30	60	0 1 2 • • 60
3	63	7 8 9 • • 67	67	15	75	30
4	76	33	63	7 8 9 • • 67	67	15
5	68	16	76	33	63	7

Colored rectangle represents executing process

Figure 9.17 Example of Traditional UNIX Process Scheduling

Linux Scheduling Through Version 2.5

- Prior to kernel version 2.5, ran variation of standard UNIX scheduling algorithm
- Version 2.5 moved to constant order *O*(1) scheduling time
  - Preemptive, priority based
  - Two priority ranges: time-sharing and real-time
  - **Real-time** range from 0 to 99 and **nice** value from 100 to 140
  - Map into global priority with numerically lower values indicating higher priority
  - Higher priority gets larger q
  - Task run-able as long as time left in time slice (**active**)
  - If no time left (**expired**), not run-able until all other tasks use their slices
  - All run-able tasks tracked in per-CPU **runqueue** data structure
    - Two priority arrays (active, expired)
    - Tasks indexed by priority
    - When no more active, arrays are exchanged
  - Worked well, but poor response times for interactive processes

Linux Scheduling in Version 2.6.23 +

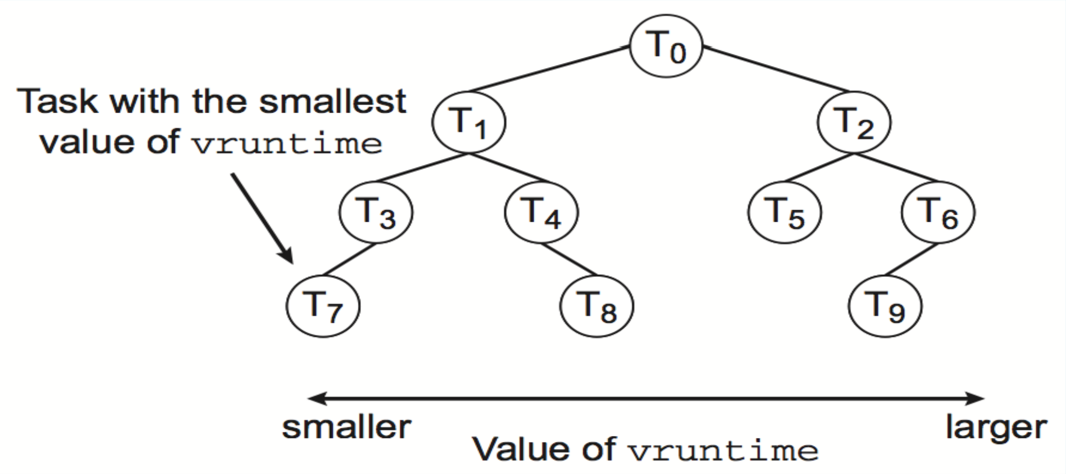
- ***Completely Fair Scheduler*** (CFS)
- **Scheduling classes**
  - Each has specific priority
  - Scheduler picks highest priority task in highest scheduling class
  - Rather than quantum based on fixed time allotments, based on proportion of CPU time
  - 2 scheduling classes included, others can be added
    1. default
    2. real-time

Linux Scheduling in Version 2.6.23 + (cont…)

- Quantum calculated based on **nice value** from -20 to +19
  - Lower value is higher priority
  - Calculates **target latency** – interval of time during which task should run at least once
  - Target latency can increase if say number of active tasks increases
- CFS scheduler maintains per task **virtual run time** in variable **vruntime**
  - Associated with decay factor based on priority of task – lower priority is higher decay rate
  - Normal default priority yields virtual run time = actual run time
- To decide next task to run, scheduler picks task with lowest virtual run time

CFS Performance

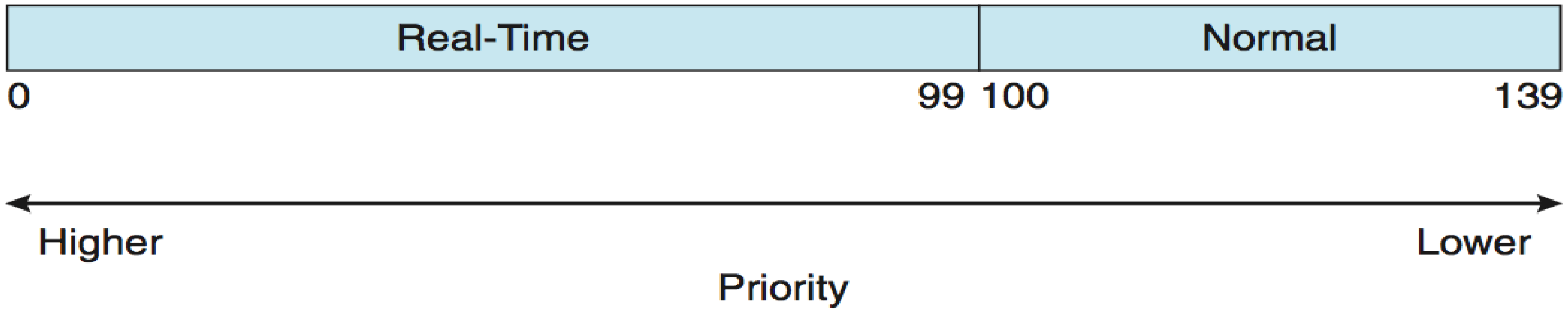
The Linux CFS scheduler provides an efficient algorithm for selecting which task to run next. Each runnable task is placed in a red-black tree—a balanced binary search tree whose key is based on the value of `vruntime`. This tree is shown below:



When a task becomes runnable, it is added to the tree. If a task on the tree is not runnable (for example, if it is blocked while waiting for I/O), it is removed. Generally speaking, tasks that have been given less processing time (smaller values of `vruntime`) are toward the left side of the tree, and tasks that have been given more processing time are on the right side. According to the properties of a binary search tree, the leftmost node has the smallest key value, which for the sake of the CFS scheduler means that it is the task with the highest priority. Because the red-black tree is balanced, navigating it to discover the leftmost node will require $O(lg N)$ operations (where N is the number of nodes in the tree). However, for efficiency reasons, the Linux scheduler caches this value in the variable `rb_leftmost`, and thus determining which task to run next requires only retrieving the cached value.

Linux Scheduling (Cont.)

- Real-time scheduling according to POSIX.1b
  - Real-time tasks have static priorities
- Real-time plus normal map into global priority scheme
- Nice value of -20 maps to global priority 100
- Nice value of +19 maps to priority 139



Question ?