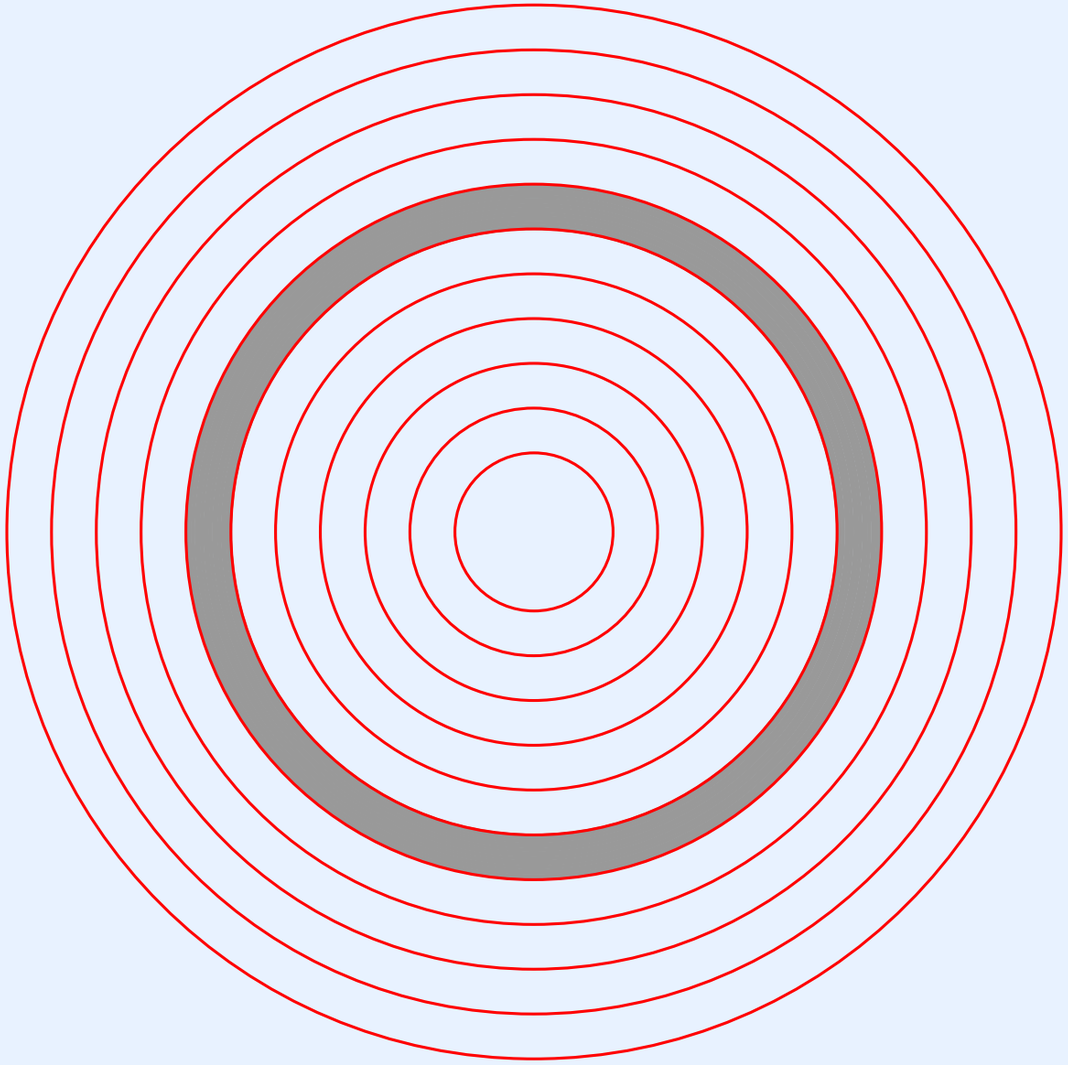
Module VIII

Device Management
Interrupts, Device Drivers,
Clocks. And Clock Management

Location Of Device Management In The Hierarchy



Ancient History

- Each device had a unique hardware interface
- Code to communicate with device was built into applications
- An application polled the device; interrupts were not used
- Disadvantages
  - It was painful to create a program
  - A program could not use arbitrary devices (e.g., specific models of a printer and a disk were part of the program)

The Modern Approach

- A device manager is part of an operating system
- The operating system presents applications with a uniform interface to all devices (as much as possible)
- All I/O is *interrupt-driven*

A Device Manager In An Operating System

- Manages peripheral resources
- Hides low-level hardware details
- Provides an API that applications use
- Synchronizes processes and I / O

A Conceptual Note

One of the most intellectually difficult aspects of operating systems arises from the interaction between processes (an operating system abstraction) and devices (a hardware reality). Specifically, the connection between interrupts and scheduling can be tricky because an interrupt that occurs in one process can enable another.

Review Of I/O Using Interrupts

- The processor
  - Starts a device
  - Enables interrupts and continues with other computation
- The device
  - Performs the requested operation
  - Raises an interrupt on the bus
- Processor hardware
  - Checks for interrupts after each instruction is executed, and invokes an interrupt function if an interrupt is pending
  - Has a special instruction used to return from interrupt mode and resume normal processing

Processes And Interrupts

- Key ideas
  - Recall that at any time, a process is running
  - We think of an interrupt as a function call that occurs “between” two instructions
  - Processes are an operating system abstraction, not part of the hardware
  - An operating system cannot afford to switch context whenever an interrupt occurs
- Consequence:

The current process executes interrupt code

Historic Interrupt Software

- A separate interrupt function was created for each device
  - Very low-level code
  - Handles many details
    - Saves / restores registers
    - Sets the interrupt mask
  - Finds the interrupting device on the bus
  - Interacts with the device to transfer data
  - Resets the device for the next interrupt
  - Returns from the interrupt to normal processing

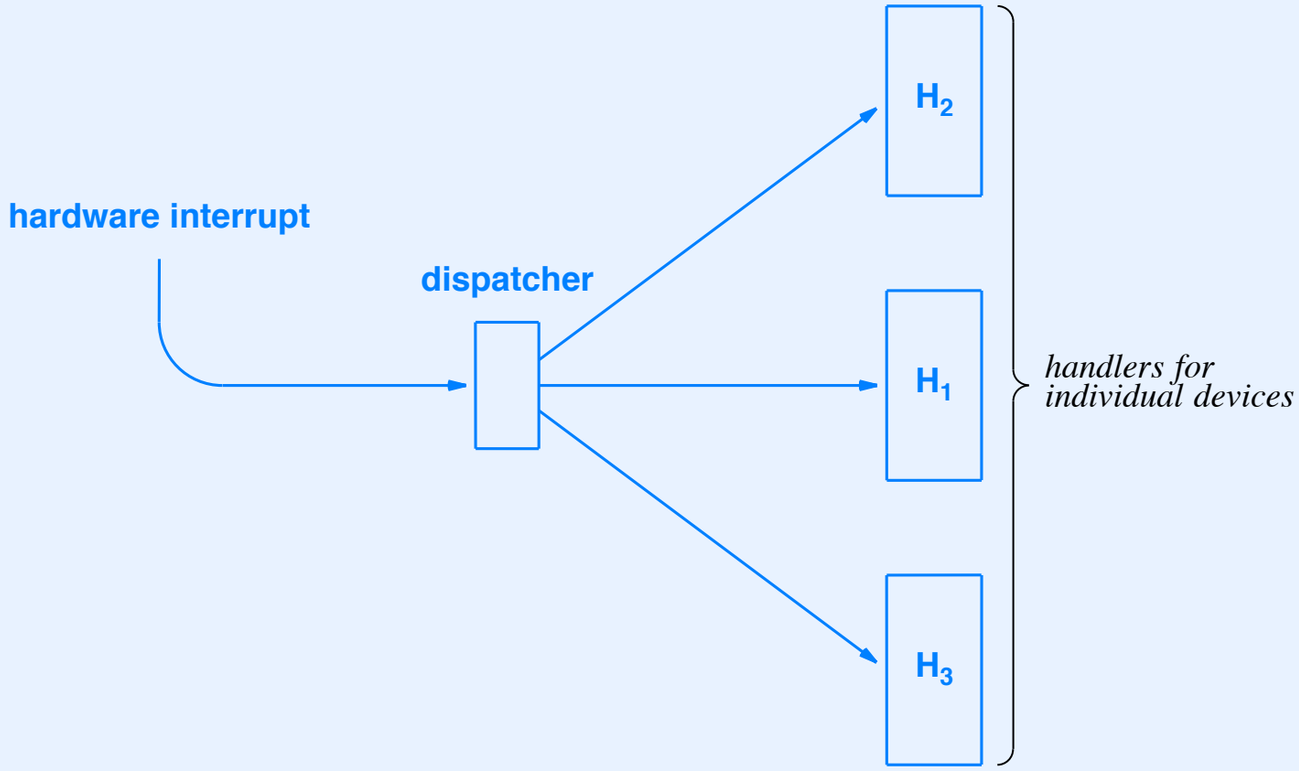
Modern Interrupt Software (Two Pieces)

- An *interrupt dispatcher*
  - Is a single function common to all interrupts
  - It handles low-level details, such as finding the interrupting device on the bus
  - It sets up the environment needed for a function call and calls a device-specific function
  - Some functionality may be incorporated into an *interrupt controller chip*
- An *interrupt handler*
  - One handler for each device
  - Is invoked by the dispatcher
  - Performs all interaction with a specific device

Interrupt Dispatcher

- A low-level piece of code
- Is invoked by the hardware when interrupt occurs
  - Runs in interrupt mode (i.e., with further interrupts disabled)
  - The hardware has saved the instruction pointer for a return
- The dispatcher
  - Saves other machine state as necessary
  - Identifies the interrupting device
  - Establishes the high-level runtime environment needed by a C function
  - Calls a device-specific *interrupt handler*

Conceptual View Of Interrupt Dispatching



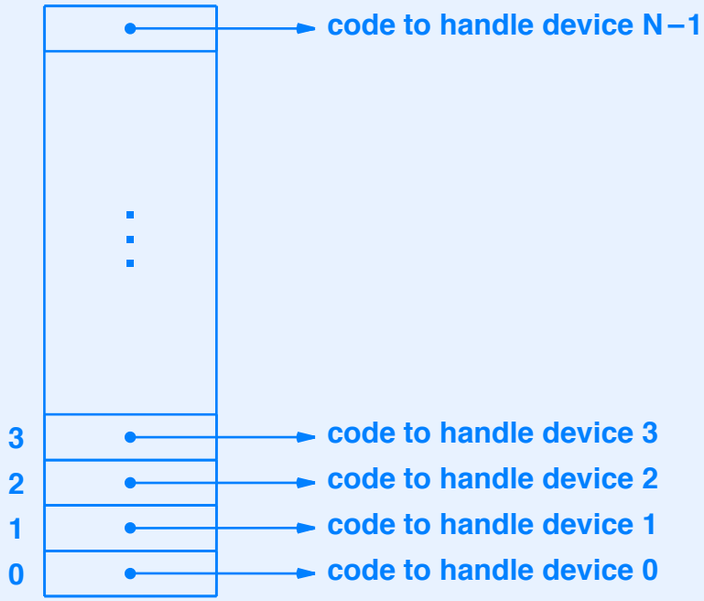
- Note: the dispatcher is typically written in assembly language

Return From Interrupt

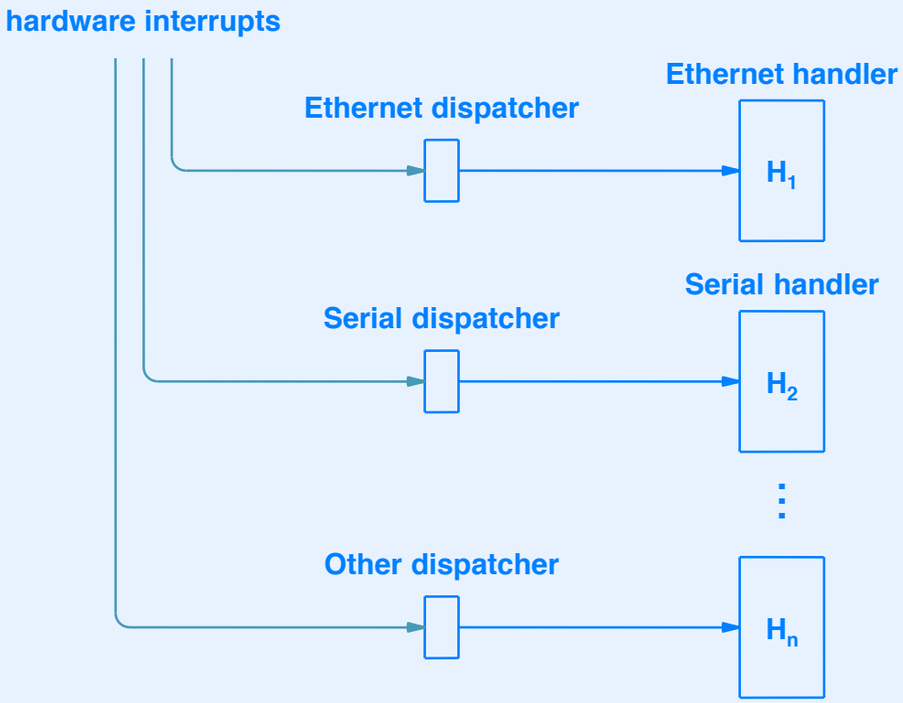
- The interrupt handler
  - Communicates with the device
  - May restart the next operation on the device
  - Eventually returns to the interrupt dispatcher
- The interrupt dispatcher
  - Executes a special hardware instruction known as *return from interrupt*
- The *return from interrupt* instruction atomically
  - Resets the instruction pointer to the saved value
  - Enables interrupts

The Mechanism Used For Interrupts: A Vector

- Each possible interrupt is assigned a unique integer, sometimes called an *IRQ*
- The hardware uses the IRQ as an index into an *interrupt vector* array
- Conceptual organization of an interrupt vector

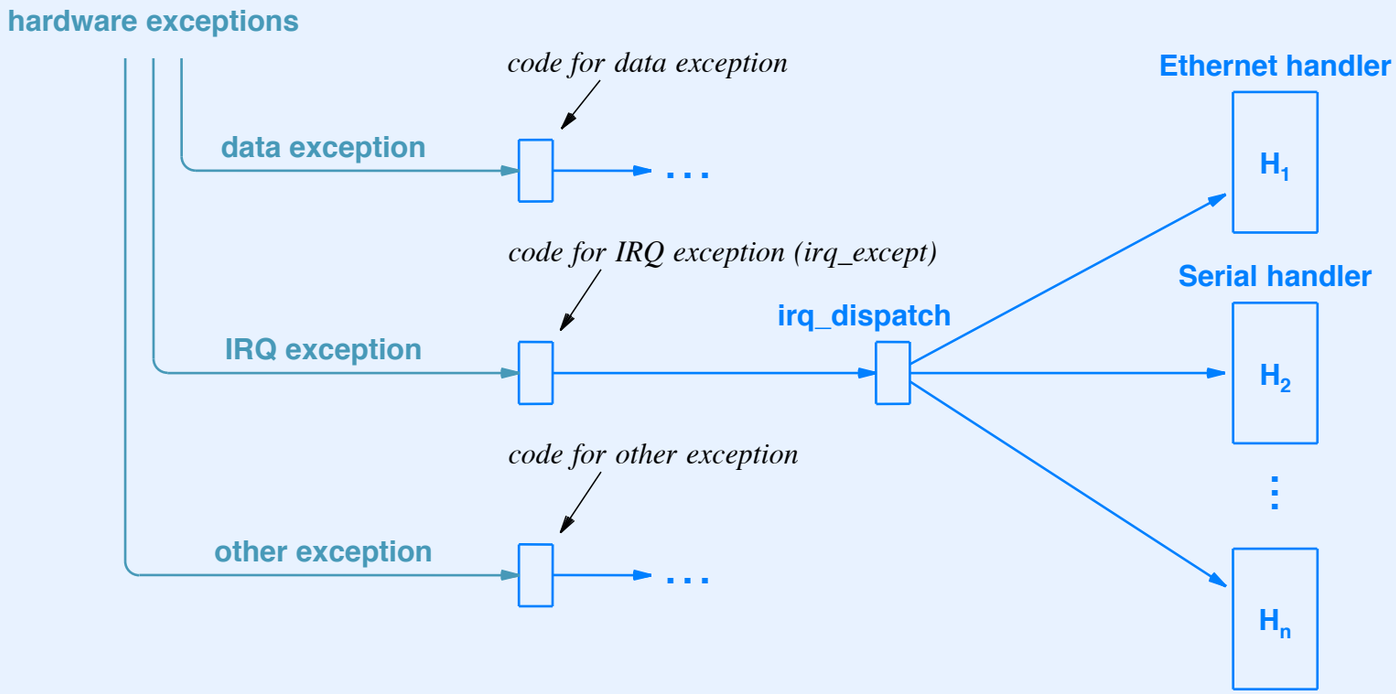


Interrupts On A Galileo (x86)



- The operating system preloads the interrupt controller with the address of a dispatcher for each device
- The controller invokes the correct dispatcher

Interrupts On A BeagleBone Black (ARM)



- Uses a two-level scheme where the controller hardware raises an *IRQ exception* for any device interrupt
- The IRQ exception code invokes the IRQ dispatcher, which calls the correct handler

A Basic Rule For Interrupt Processing

- Facts
  - The processor disables interrupts before invoking the interrupt dispatcher
  - Interrupts remain disabled when the dispatcher calls a device-specific interrupt handler
- Rule
  - To prevent interference, an interrupt handler must keep interrupts disabled until it finishes touching global data structures, ensures all data structures are in a consistent state, and returns
- Note: we will consider a more subtle version of the rule later

Interrupts And Processes

- When an interrupt occurs, I/O has completed
- Either
  - The device has received incoming data
  - Space has become available in an output buffer because the device has finished sending outgoing data
- A process may have been blocked waiting
  - To read the data that arrived
  - To write more outgoing data
- The blocked process may have a higher priority than the currently executing process
- The scheduling invariant *must* be upheld

The Scheduling Invariant

- Suppose process *X* is executing when an interrupt occurs
- We said that process *X* remains executing when the interrupt dispatcher is invoked and when the dispatcher calls a handler
- Suppose data has arrived and a higher-priority process, process *Y*, is waiting for the data
- If the hander merely returns from the interrupt, process *X* will continue to execute
- To maintain the scheduling invariant, the handler must call *resched*

Interrupts And The Null Process

- In the concurrent processing world
  - A process is always running
  - An interrupt can occur at any time
  - The currently executing process executes interrupt code
- An important consequence: the null process may be running when an interrupt occurs, which means the null process will execute the interrupt handler
- We know that the null process must always remain eligible to execute

A Restriction On Interrupt Handlers Imposed By The Null Process

Because an interrupt can occur while the null process is executing, an interrupt hander can only call functions that leave the executing process in the current or ready states. For example: an interrupt handler can call send **or** signal**, but cannot call** wait**.**

A Question About Scheduling And Interrupts

- Recall that
  - The hardware disables further interrupts before invoking a dispatcher
  - Interrupts remain disabled when the dispatcher calls a device-specific interrupt handler
- To remain safe
  - A device-specific interrupt handler must keep further interrupts disabled until it completes changes to global data structures
- What happens if an interrupt calls a function that calls *resched* and the new process has interrupts enabled?

An Example Of Rescheduling During Interrupt Processing

- Suppose
  - An interrupt handler calls *signal*
  - *Signal* calls *resched*
  - *Resched* switches to a new process
  - The new process executes with interrupts enabled
- Will interrupts pile up indefinitely?

An Example

- Let *T* be the current process
- When interrupt occurs, *T* executes an interrupt handler
- The interrupt handler calls *signal*
- *Signal* calls *resched*
- A context switch occurs and process *S* runs
- *S* may run with interrupts enabled

The Answer

Rescheduling during interrupt processing is safe provided that each interrupt handler leaves global data in a valid state before rescheduling and no function enables interrupts unless it previously disabled them (i.e., uses disable/restore **rather than** enable**).**

Device Drivers

Definition Of A Device Driver

- A *device driver* consists of a set of functions that perform I/O operations on a given device
- The code is device-specific
- The set includes
  - An interrupt handler function
  - Functions to control the device
  - Functions to read and write data
- The code is divided into two conceptual parts

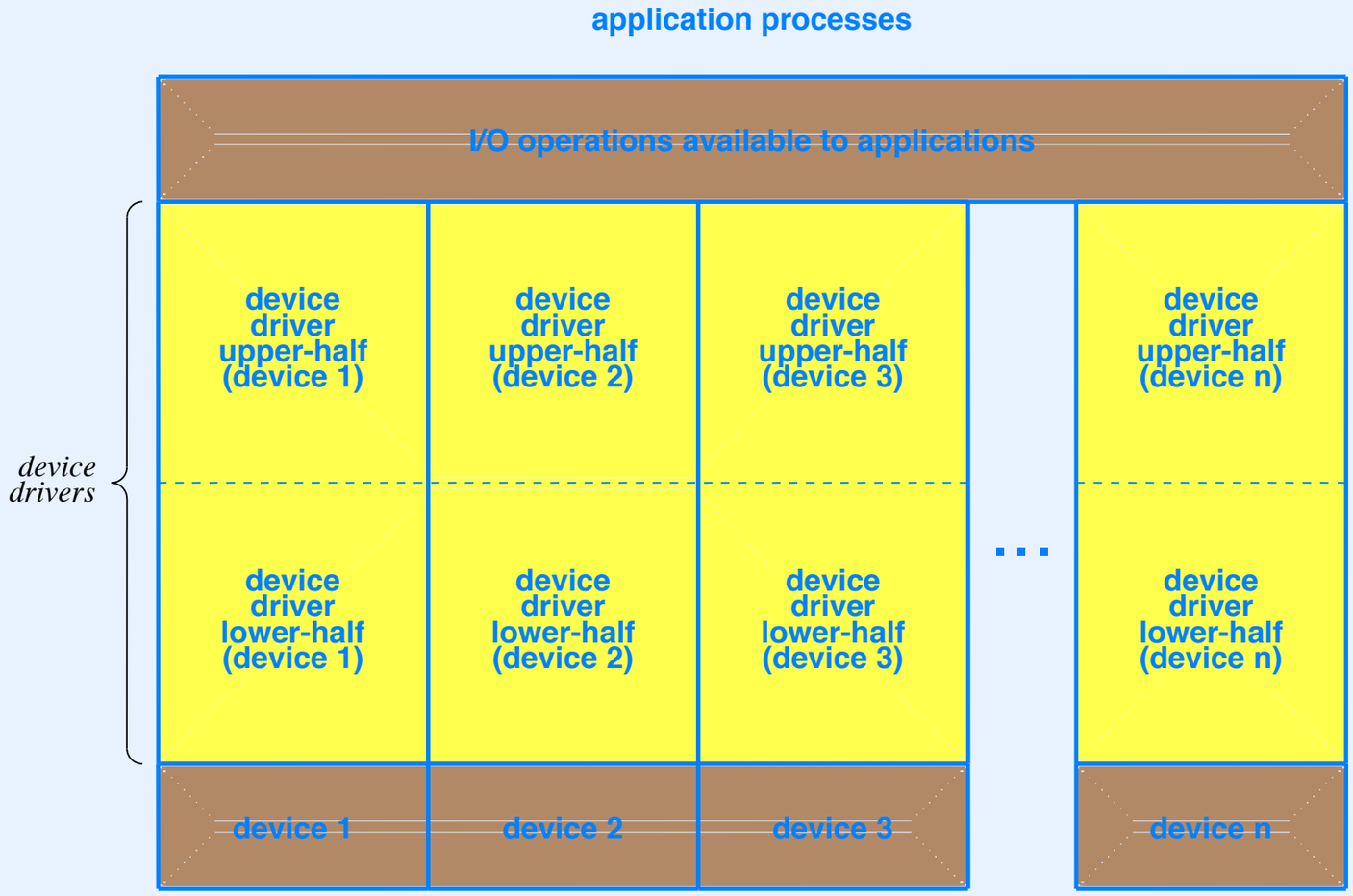
The Two Conceptual Parts Of A Device Driver

- The upper-half
  - Functions that are executed by an application
  - The functions usually perform data transfer (*read* or *write*)
  - The code copies data between the user and kernel address spaces
- The lower-half
  - Is invoked by the hardware when an interrupt occurs
  - Consists of a device-specific interrupt handler
  - May also include dispatcher code, depending on the architecture
  - Executed by whatever process is executing
  - May restart the device for the next operation

Division Of Duties In A Driver

- The upper-half functions
  - Have minimal interaction with device hardware
  - Enqueue a request, and may start the device
- The lower-half functions
  - Have minimal interaction with application
  - Interact with the device to
    * Obtain incoming data
    * Start output
  - Reschedule if a process is waiting for the device

Conceptual Organization Of Device Software



Synchronous Interface I/O

- Most systems provide a *synchronous* I/O interface to applications
- For input, the calling process is blocked until data arrives
- For output, the calling process is blocked until the device driver has buffer space to store the outgoing data

Coordination Of Processes Performing I/O

- A device driver must be able to block and later unblock application processes
- Good news: there is no need to invent new coordination mechanisms because standard process coordination mechanisms suffice
  - Message passing
  - Semaphores
  - Suspend/resume
- We will see examples later

Summary Of Interrupts And Device Drivers

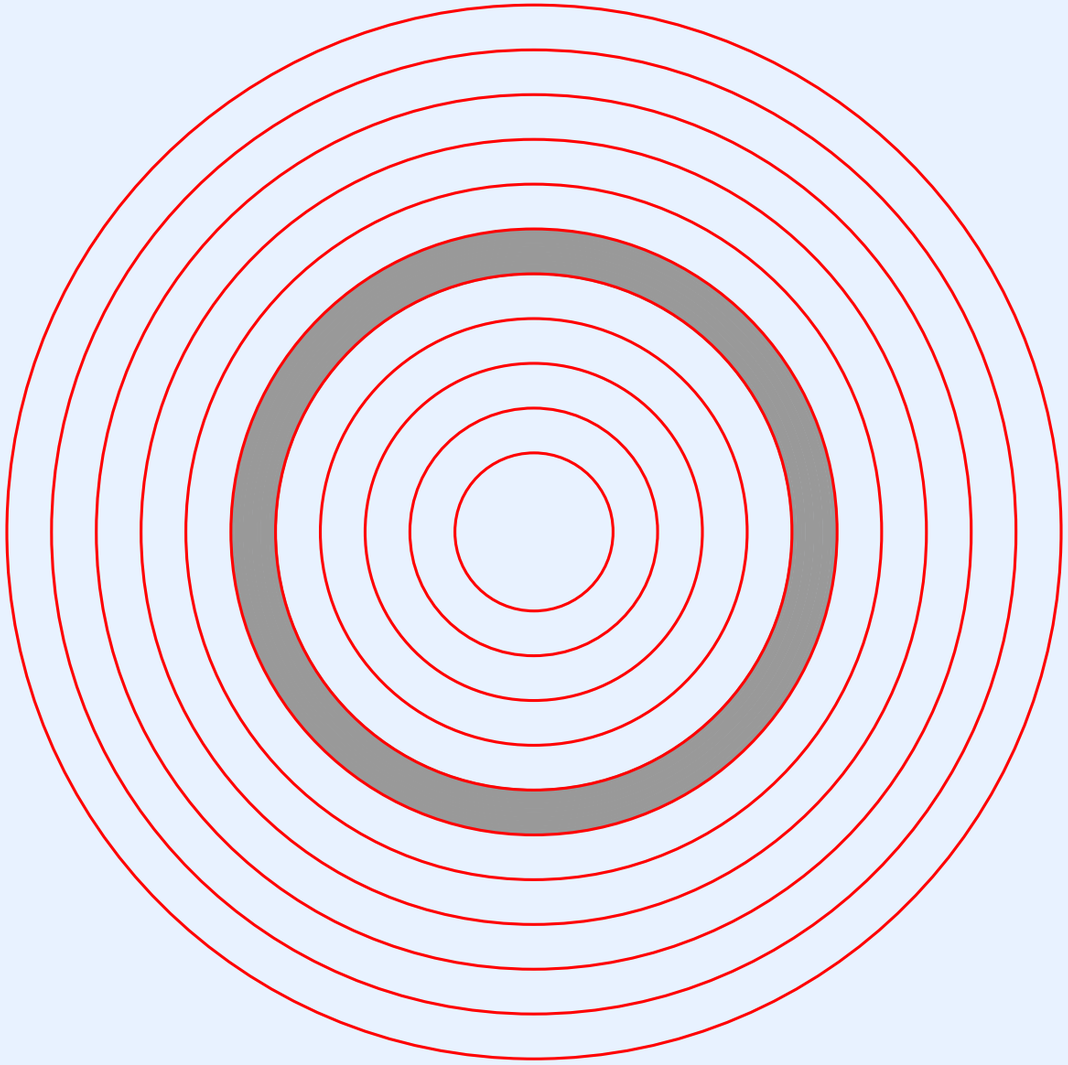
- The *device manager* in an operating system handles I/O
- Device-independent routines
  - Provide uniform interface
  - Define generic operations that must be mapped to device-specific functions
- Interrupt code
  - Consists of single dispatcher and handler for each device
  - Is executed by whatever process was running when interrupt occurred
- To accommodate null process, interrupt handler must leave executing process in *current* or *ready* states

Summary

- Rescheduling during interrupt is safe provided
  - Global data structures valid
  - No process explicitly enables interrupts
- Device driver functions
  - Are divided into upper-half and lower-half
  - Can use existing primitives to block and unblock processes

Clocks And
Clock Management

Location Of Clock Management In The Hierarchy



Various Types Of Clock Hardware Exist

- Processor clock (rate at which instructions execute)
- Real-time clock
  - Pulses regularly
  - Interrupts the processor on each pulse
  - Called *programmable* if rate can be controlled by OS
- Interval timer
  - The processor sets a timeout and the device interrupts after the specified time
  - Can be used to pulse regularly
  - May have an automatic restart mechanism

Timed Events

- Two types of timed events are important to an operating system
- A *preemption event*
  - Known as *timeslicing*
  - Guarantees that a given process cannot run forever
  - Switches the processor to another process
- A *sleep event*
  - Is requested by a process to delay for a specified time
  - The process resumes execution after the time passes

A Note About Timeslicing

Most applications are I/O bound, which means the application is likely to perform an operation that takes the process out of the current state before its timeslice expires.

Managing Timed Events

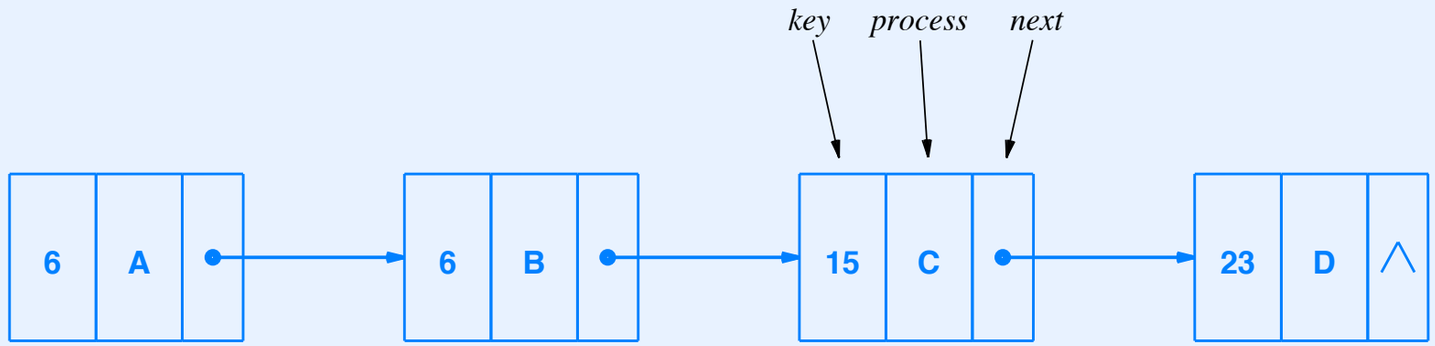
- The code must be efficient because
  - Clock interrupts occur frequently and continuously
  - More than one event may occur at a given time
  - The clock interrupt code should avoid searching a list
- An efficient mechanism
  - All timed events are kept on a list
  - The list is known as an *event queue*

The Delta List

- A data structure used for timed events
- Items on a delta list are ordered by the time they will occur
- Trick to make processing efficient: use *relative* times
- Implementation: the key in an item stores the difference (*delta*) between the time for the event and time for the previous event
- The key in first event stores the delta from "now"

Delta List Example

- Assume events for processes *A* through *D* will occur *6*, *12*, *27*, and *50* ticks from now
- The delta keys are *6*, *6*, *15*, and *23*



Real-time Clock Processing In Xinu

- The clock interrupt handler
  - Decrements the preemption counter and calls *resched* if the timeslice has expired
  - Processes the sleep queue
- The sleep queue
  - Is a delta list
  - Each item on the list is a sleeping process
- Global variable *sleepq* contains the ID of the sleep queue

Keys On The Xinu Sleep Queue

- Processes on *sleepq* are ordered by time at which they will awaken
- Each key tells the number of clock ticks that the process must delay beyond the preceding one on the list
- The relationship must be maintained whenever an item is inserted or deleted

Sleep Timer Resolution

- A process calls *sleep* to delay
- Question: what resolution should be used for sleep?
  - Humans typically think in seconds or minutes
  - Some applications may need millisecond accuracy (or more, if available)
- The tradeoff: using a high resolution, such as microseconds, means long delays will overflow a 32-bit integer

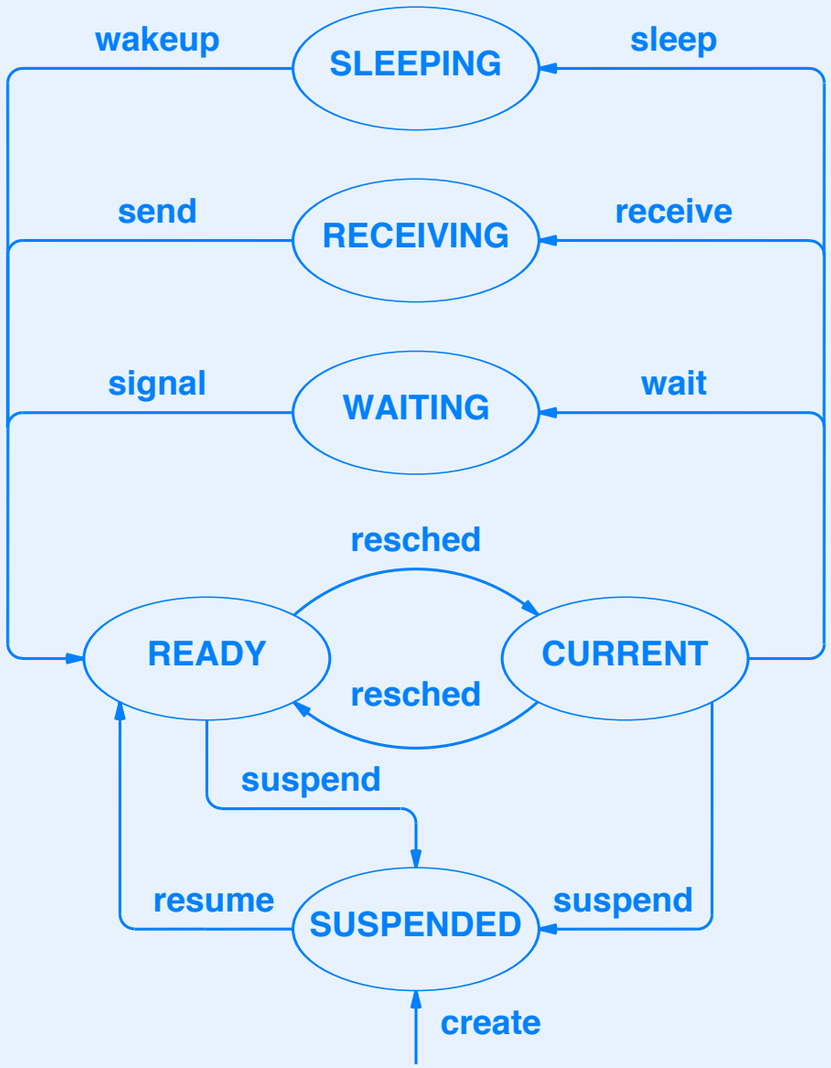
Xinu Sleep Primitives

- Xinu offers a set of functions to accommodate a range of possible resolutions

sleep	– the delay is given in seconds
sleep10	– the delay is given in tenths of seconds
sleep100	– the delay is given in hundredths of seconds
sleepms	– the delay is given in milliseconds

- The smallest resolution is milliseconds because the clock operates at a rate of one millisecond per tick

A New Process State For Sleeping Processes



Xinu Sleep Function (Part 1)

```
/* sleep.c - sleep sleepms */

#include <xinu.h>

#define MAXSECONDS      2147483         /* Max seconds per 32-bit msec  */

/*------------------------------------------------------------------------
 *  sleep  -  Delay the calling process n seconds
 *------------------------------------------------------------------------
 */
syscall sleep(
          int32 delay           /* Time to delay in seconds     */
        )
{
        if ( (delay < 0) || (delay > MAXSECONDS) ) {
                return SYSERR;
        }
        sleepms(1000*delay);
        return OK;
}
```

Xinu Sleep Function (Part 2)

```
/*------------------------------------------------------------------------
 *  sleepms  -  Delay the calling process n milliseconds
 *------------------------------------------------------------------------
 */
syscall sleepms(
          int32 delay                   /* Time to delay in msec.       */
        )
{
        intmask mask;                   /* Saved interrupt mask         */

        if (delay < 0) {
                return SYSERR;
        }

        if (delay == 0) {
                yield();
                return OK;
        }
```

Xinu Sleep Function (Part 3)

```
        /* Delay calling process */

        mask = disable();
        if (insertd(currpid, sleepq, delay) == SYSERR) {
                restore(mask);
                return SYSERR;
        }

        proctab[currpid].prstate = PR_SLEEP;
        resched();
        restore(mask);
        return OK;
}
```

Inserting An Item On Sleepq

- The current process calls *sleepms* or *sleep* to request a delay
- *Sleepms*
  - The underlying function that takes action
  - Inserts current process on *sleepq*
  - Calls *resched* to allow other processes to execute
- Method
  - Walk through *sleepq* (with interrupts disabled)
  - Find the place to insert the process
  - Adjust remaining keys as necessary

Xinu Insertd (Part 1)

```
/* insertd.c - insertd */

#include <xinu.h>

/*------------------------------------------------------------------------
 *  insertd  -  Insert a process in delta list using delay as the key
 *------------------------------------------------------------------------
 */
status  insertd(                        /* Assumes interrupts disabled  */
          pid32         pid,            /* ID of process to insert      */
          qid16         q,              /* ID of queue to use           */
          int32         key             /* Delay from "now" (in ms.)    */
        )
{
        int32   next;                   /* Runs through the delta list  */
        int32   prev;                   /* Follows next through the list*/

        if (isbadqid(q) || isbadpid(pid)) {
                return SYSERR;
        }
```

Xinu Insertd (Part 2)

```
        prev = queuehead(q);
        next = queuetab[queuehead(q)].qnext;
        while ((next != queuetail(q)) && (queuetab[next].qkey <= key)) {
                key -= queuetab[next].qkey;
                prev = next;
                next = queuetab[next].qnext;
        }

        /* Insert new node between prev and next nodes */

        queuetab[pid].qnext = next;
        queuetab[pid].qprev = prev;
        queuetab[pid].qkey = key;
        queuetab[prev].qnext = pid;
        queuetab[next].qprev = pid;
        if (next != queuetail(q)) {
                queuetab[next].qkey -= key;
        }

        return OK;
}
```

The Invariant Used During Sleepq Insertion

At any time during the search, both key **and** queuetab[next].qkey **specify a delay relative to the time at which the predecessor of the "next" process awakens.**

A Clock Interrupt Handler

- Updates the time-of-day (which counts seconds)
- Handles sleeping processes
  - Decrements the key of the first process on the sleep queue
  - Calls *wakeup* if the counter reaches zero
- Handles preemption
  - Decrements the preemption counter
  - Calls *resched* if the counter reaches zero

A Clock Interrupt Handler
(continued)

- When sleeping processes awaken
  - More than one process may awaken at a given time
  - The processes may not have the same priority
  - If the clock interrupt handler starts a process running immediately, a higher priority process may remain on the sleep queue, even if its time has expired
- Solution: *wakeup* awakens *all* processes that have zero time remaining before allowing any of them to run

Summary

- Two types of timed events are especially important in an operating system
  - Preemption
  - Process delay (sleep)
- A delta list provides an elegant and efficient data structure to store a set of sleeping processes
- If multiple processes awaken at the same time, rescheduling must be deferred until all have been made ready
- *Recvtime* allows a process to wait a specified time for a message to arrive


Questions?