

# Sistemi Operativi I

Corso di Laurea in Informatica  
2024-2025



**SAPIENZA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

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[tolomei@di.uniroma1.it](mailto:tolomei@di.uniroma1.it)

# Useful Information

## Class schedule

- **Tuesday:** 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
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- **website:** <https://github.com/gtolomei/operating-systems>
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## Office hours

- Arranged via email
- **in-person** or **remotely**
- **Room 106**, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Building "E" ([map](#))

# Class Material

- Released on the class website
- Suggested books (though not mandatory!):
  - "*Operating System Concepts*" Ninth Edition – Silberschatz, Galvin, Gagne
  - "*Modern Operating Systems*" Fourth Edition – Tanenbaum, Bos
  - "*Operating Systems: Three Easy Pieces*" – Remzi and Andrea Arpaci-Dusseau [[available online](#)]
- Any additional resource available on the Web!

# Moodle

- Provides native support for:
  - Sharing news and messages (forum)
  - Additional class material (e.g., exercises)
  - Exam simulations (e.g., quizzes)
  - ...

Remember to enroll in the course from the  
[moodle web page](#)!

# Exam

- Moodle Quiz:

- 20 multiple-answer questions (max. 45 minutes)
- Marks: +3 (correct answer), 0 (no answer), -1 (wrong answer)
  - score  $\leq 14/30 \rightarrow \text{FAIL}$
  - $15/30 \leq \text{score} \leq 17/30 \rightarrow \text{ORAL REQUIRED}$
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- Oral Session:

- Questions and exercises on the subjects covered during the whole semester



# Outline of the Course

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- Part VII: Advanced Topics

# Part I: Introduction

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# Language and Naming Conventions

- OS → Operating System
- HW → Hardware
- SW → Software
- VM → Virtual Machine
- ...
- Other shortcuts/acronyms may appear here and there without notice! Please, ask if anything is not clear!

# What is an Operating System?

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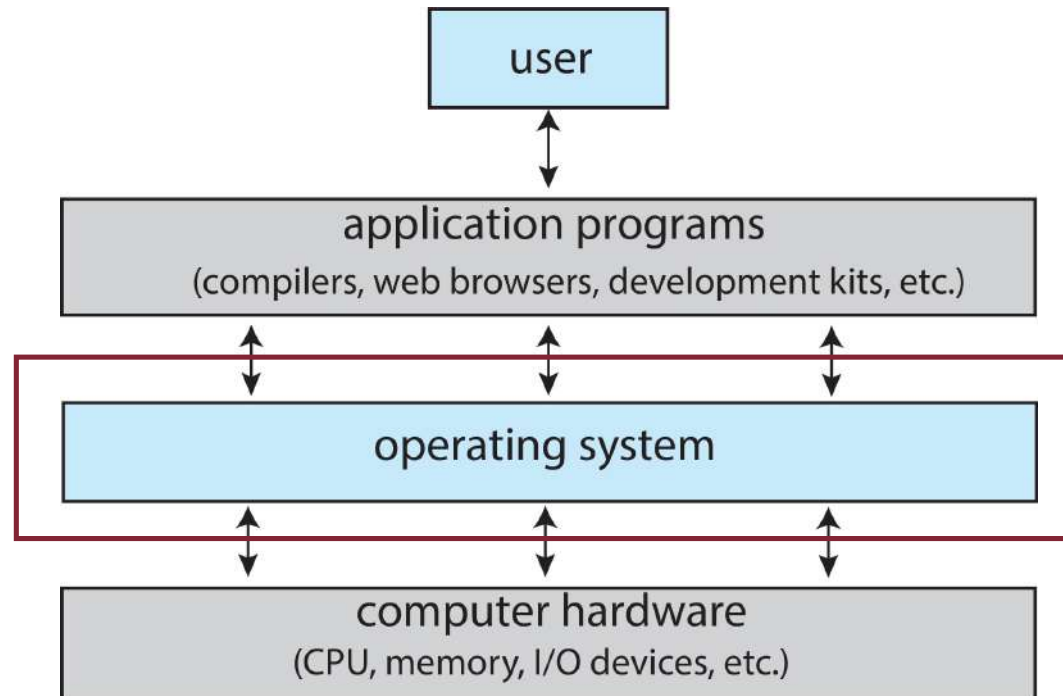
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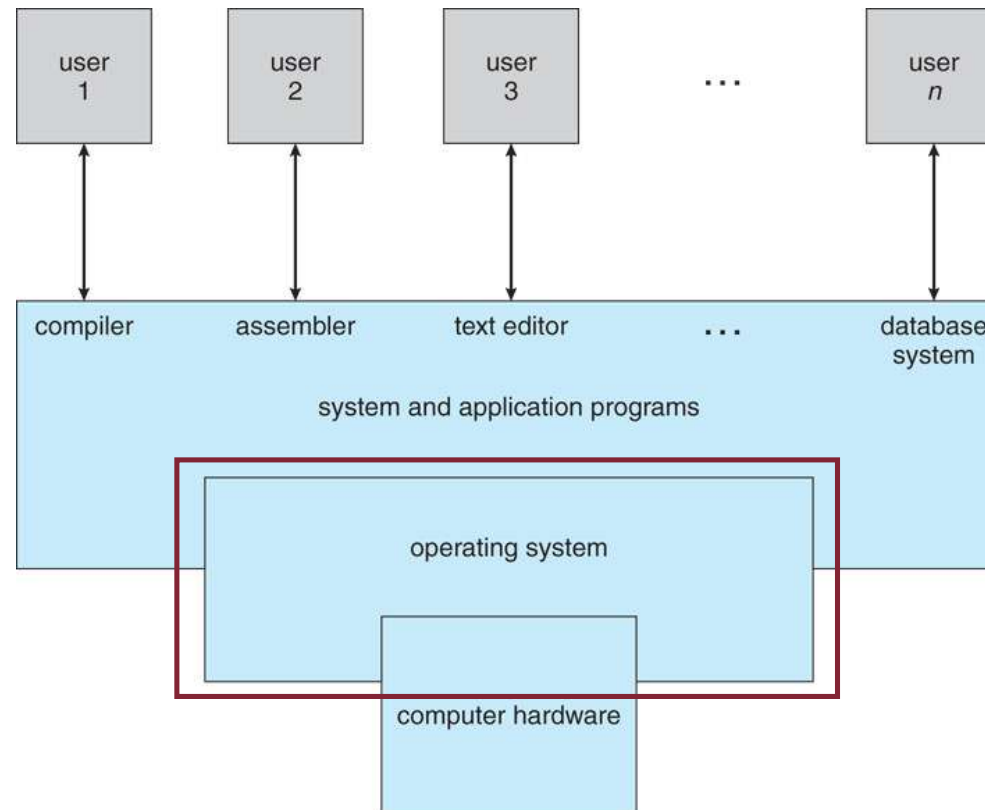
- There exists no universally accepted definition!
- However, the definition below is quite appropriate:

Implementation of a virtual machine that is (hopefully) easier to program than bare hardware

# Computer System Overview



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- Typically, we distinguish between:
  - **kernel** → the "core" of the OS (always up and running)
  - **system programs** → everything else which is still part of the OS

# OS Wears Many Hats

- Referee (Resource Manager)
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  - To achieve **fairness** and **efficiency**



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  - To give applications/users the **illusion of infinite resources** available



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  - Provides a set of **common services** (APIs) to separate HW from SW



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- Glue (HW/SW Interface)
  - Provides a set of **common services** (APIs) to separate HW from SW
  - To allow applications/users to interact with the system **without talking directly to the HW**

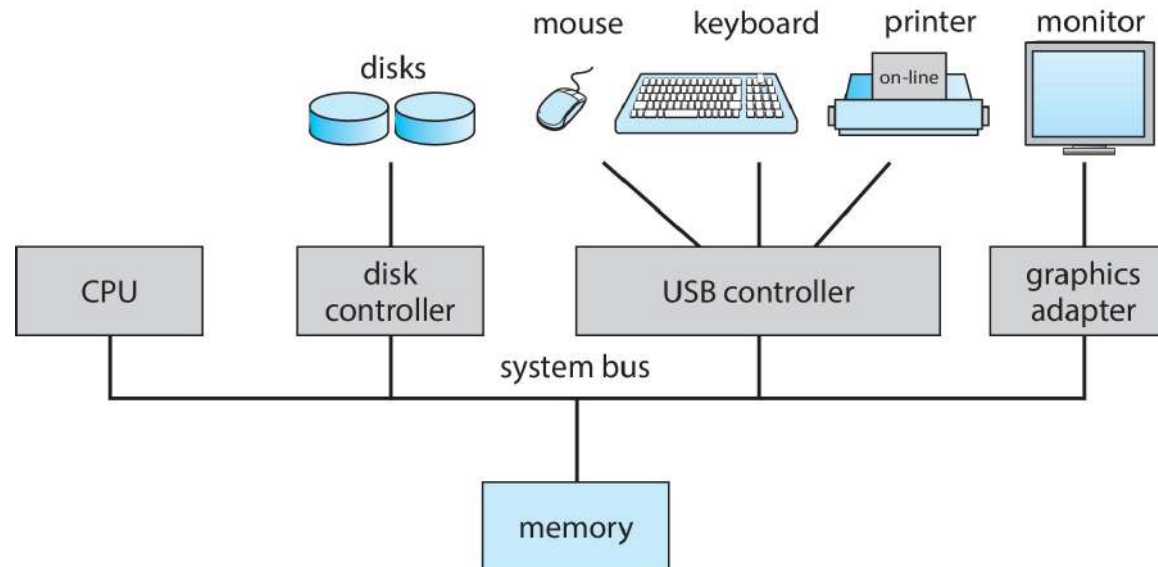




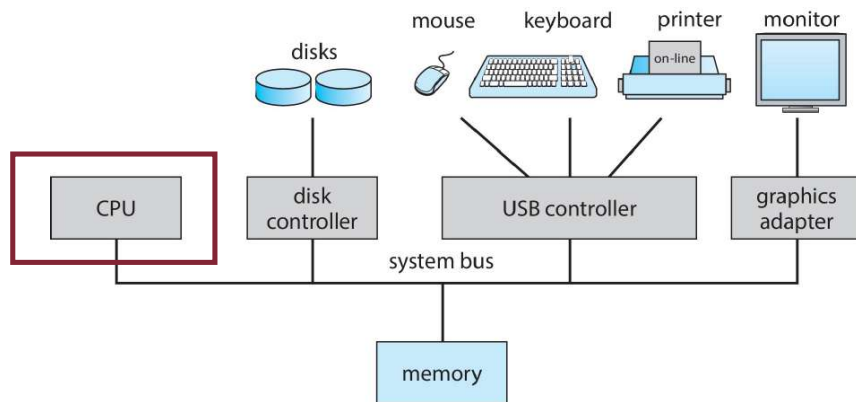
# Computer System Organization

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# High-Level View of a Computer



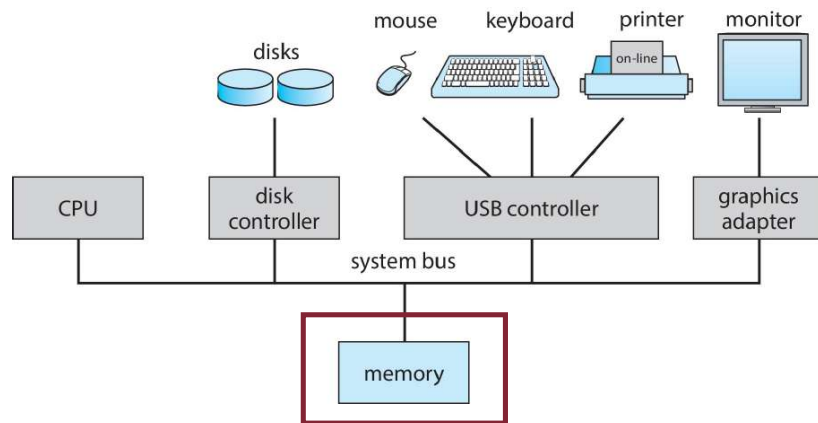
# High-Level View of a Computer



## CPU

- The processor that performs the actual computation
- Multiple cores are now common in modern architectures

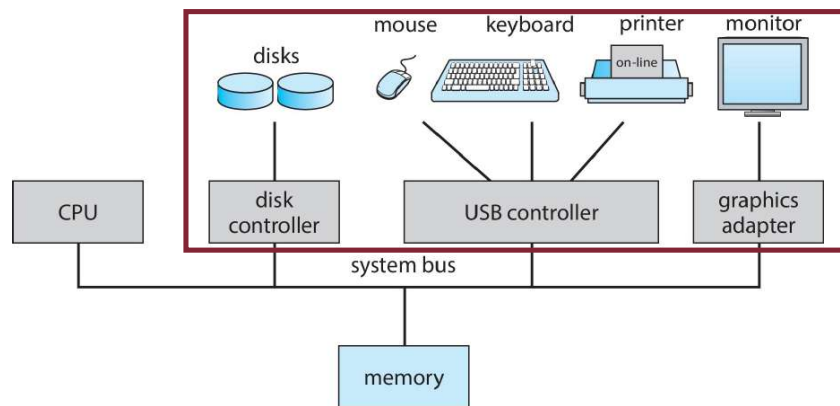
# High-Level View of a Computer



## Main Memory

- Stores data and instructions used by the CPU
- Shared between CPU and I/O

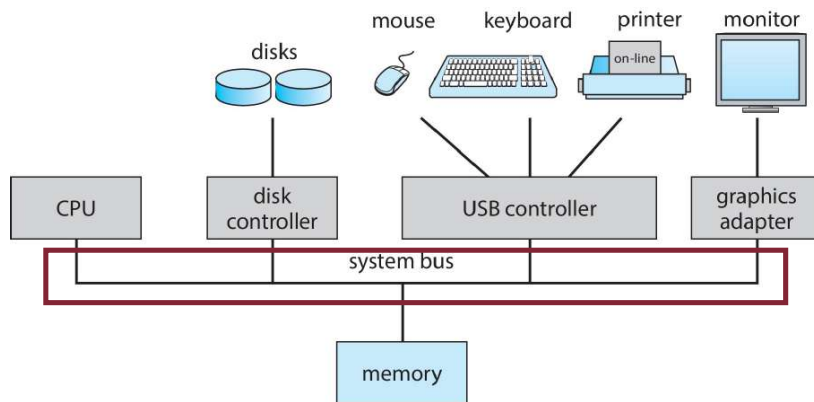
# High-Level View of a Computer



## I/O devices

- terminal, keyboard, disks, etc.
- Associated with specific device controllers

# High-Level View of a Computer



## System Bus

- Communication medium between CPU, memory, and peripherals

# Computer Architecture Model

- Conceptually, the same architectural model for many computing devices:
  - PCs/laptops
  - High-end servers
  - Smartphones/Tablets
  - etc.

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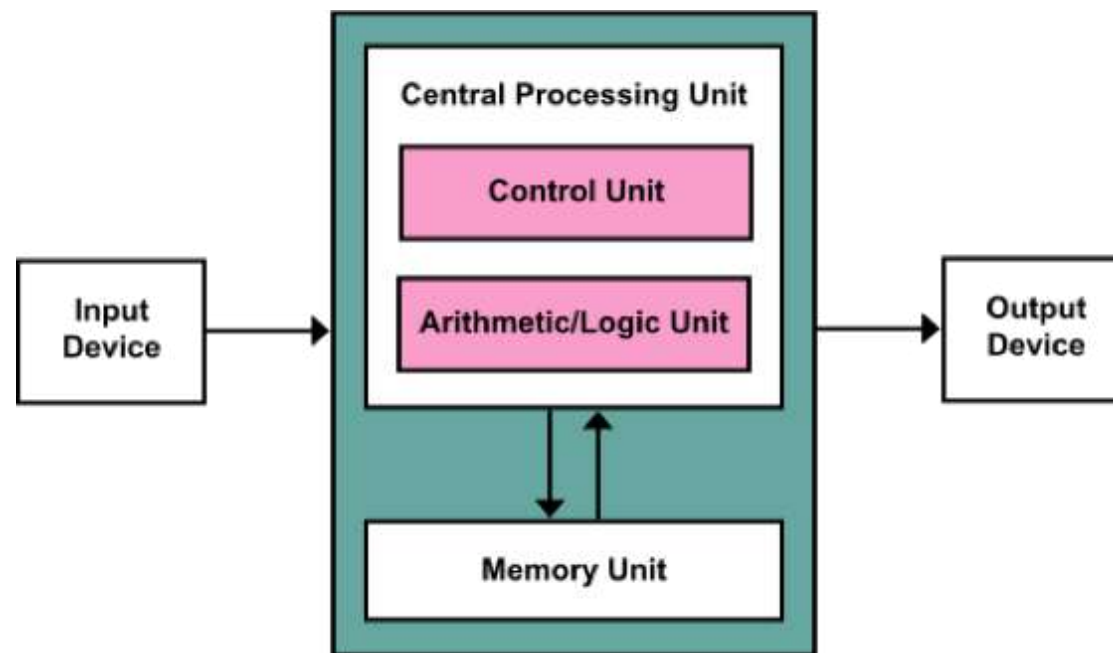
- Conceptually, the same architectural model for many computing devices:
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  - etc.
- Based on **stored-program** concept (as opposed to fixed-program)



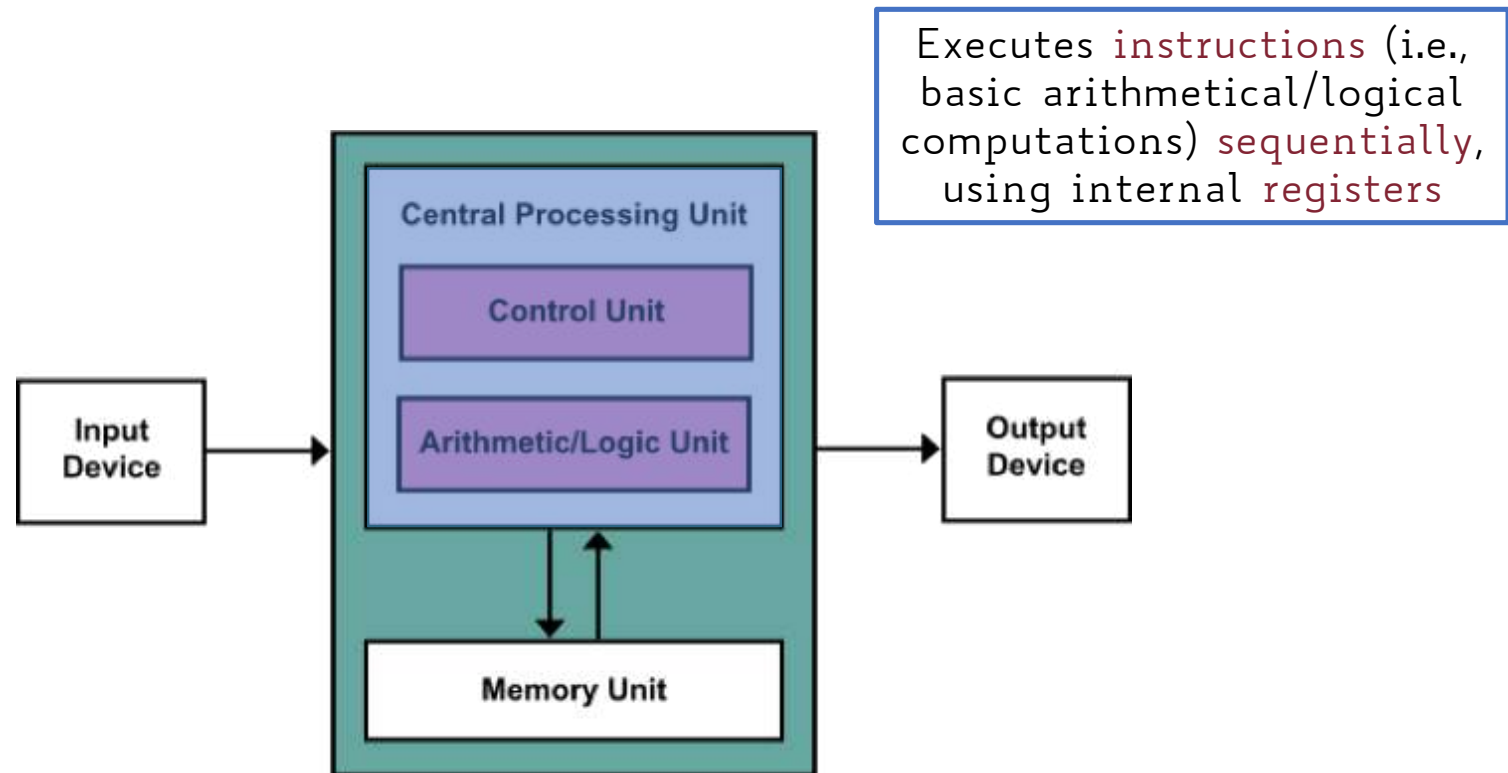
John von Neumann



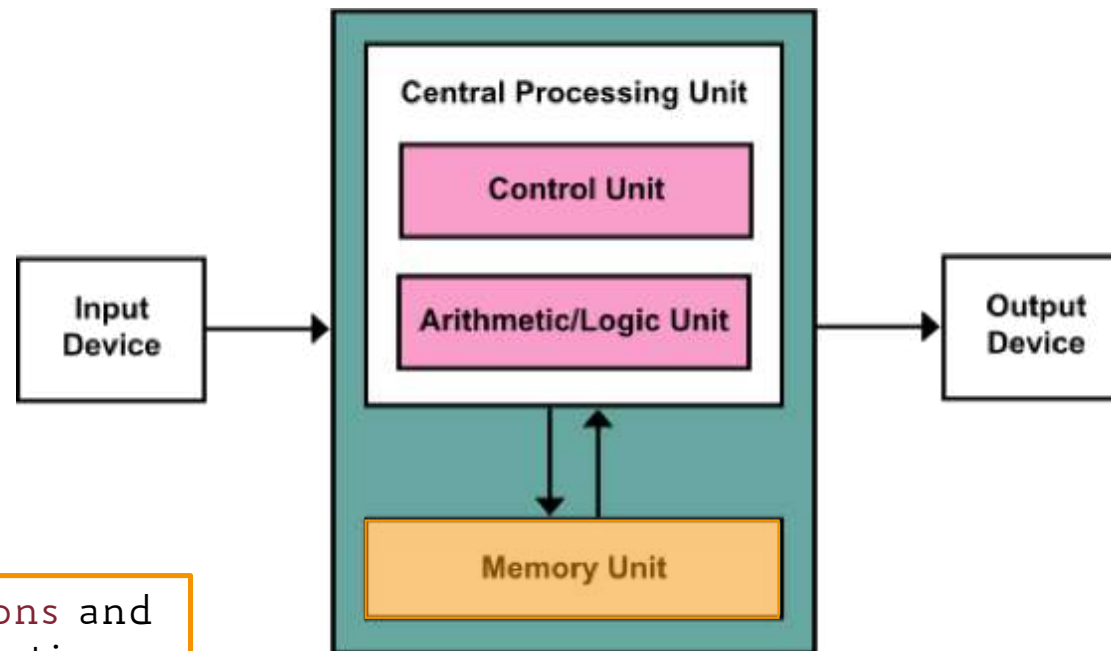
# von Neumann Architecture



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Contains **instructions** and **data** (which instructions operate on)

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# Central Processing Unit (CPU)

# Instruction Cycle: Fetch-Decode-Execute

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  - **Execute:** runs the actual decoded instruction



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- Each instruction is encoded as a **sequence of bits**
  - A single bit is the smallest unit of (digital) information
  - It takes on two possible values: 0 or 1
- A **word** is the unit of data the CPU can directly operate on
  - today ranging from 32 to 64 bits

# A Side Note on Units

Prefixes for multiples of bits (bit) or bytes (B)					
Decimal			Binary		
Value		SI	Value	IEC	JEDEC
1000	$10^3$	k kilo	1024	$2^{10}$ Ki kibi	K kilo
$1000^2$	$10^6$	M mega	$1024^2$	$2^{20}$ Mi mebi	M mega
$1000^3$	$10^9$	G giga	$1024^3$	$2^{30}$ Gi gibi	G giga
$1000^4$	$10^{12}$	T tera	$1024^4$	$2^{40}$ Ti tebi	–
$1000^5$	$10^{15}$	P peta	$1024^5$	$2^{50}$ Pi pebi	–
$1000^6$	$10^{18}$	E exa	$1024^6$	$2^{60}$ Ei exbi	–
$1000^7$	$10^{21}$	Z zetta	$1024^7$	$2^{70}$ Zi zebi	–
$1000^8$	$10^{24}$	Y yotta	$1024^8$	$2^{80}$ Yi yobi	–

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  - An **operator** (op code)
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- An **abstraction** of the underlying physical (hardware) architecture (e.g., x86, ARM, SPARC, MIPS, etc.)



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- Special-purpose (x86):
  - `esp` → Stack pointer for top address of the stack
  - `ebp` → Stack base pointer for the address of the current stack frame
  - `eip` → Instruction pointer, holds the program counter (i.e., the address of next instruction)

# Single- vs. Multi-Processor

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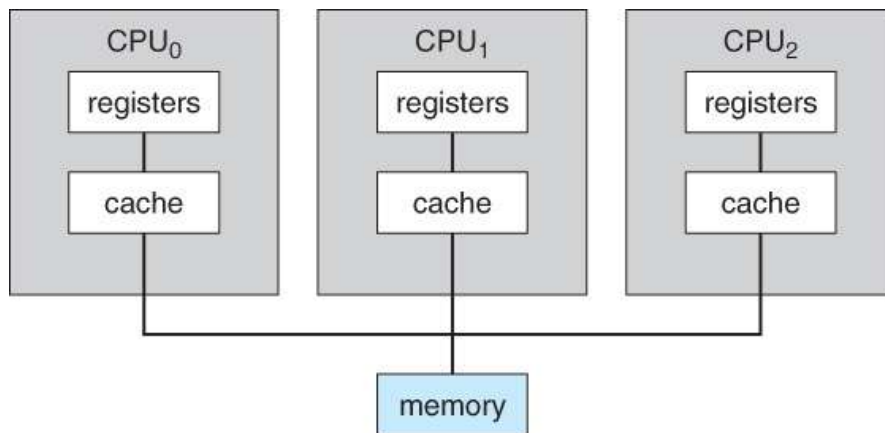
Our main focus!

## Multi-Processor Systems

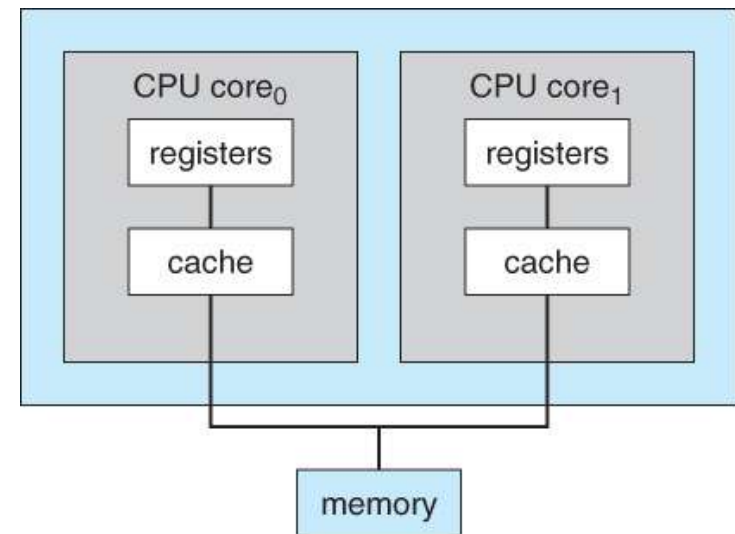
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# Multi-Processor Systems: Examples

## Symmetric Multiprocessing Architecture



## Multicore Architecture

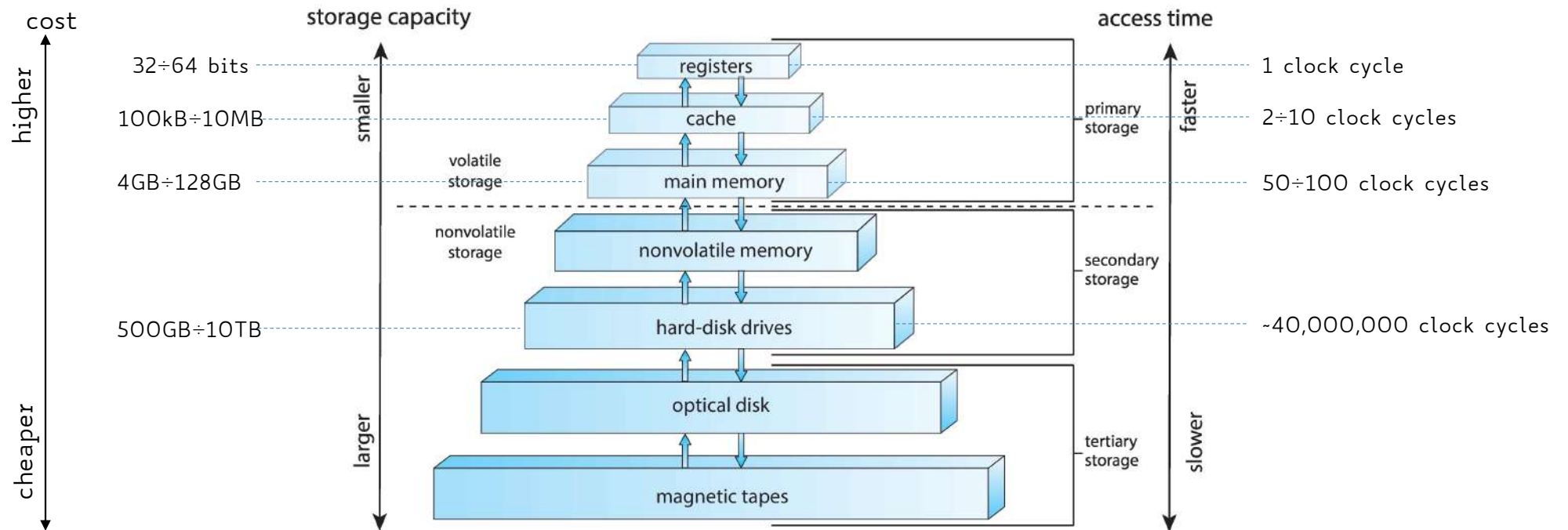


# Memory

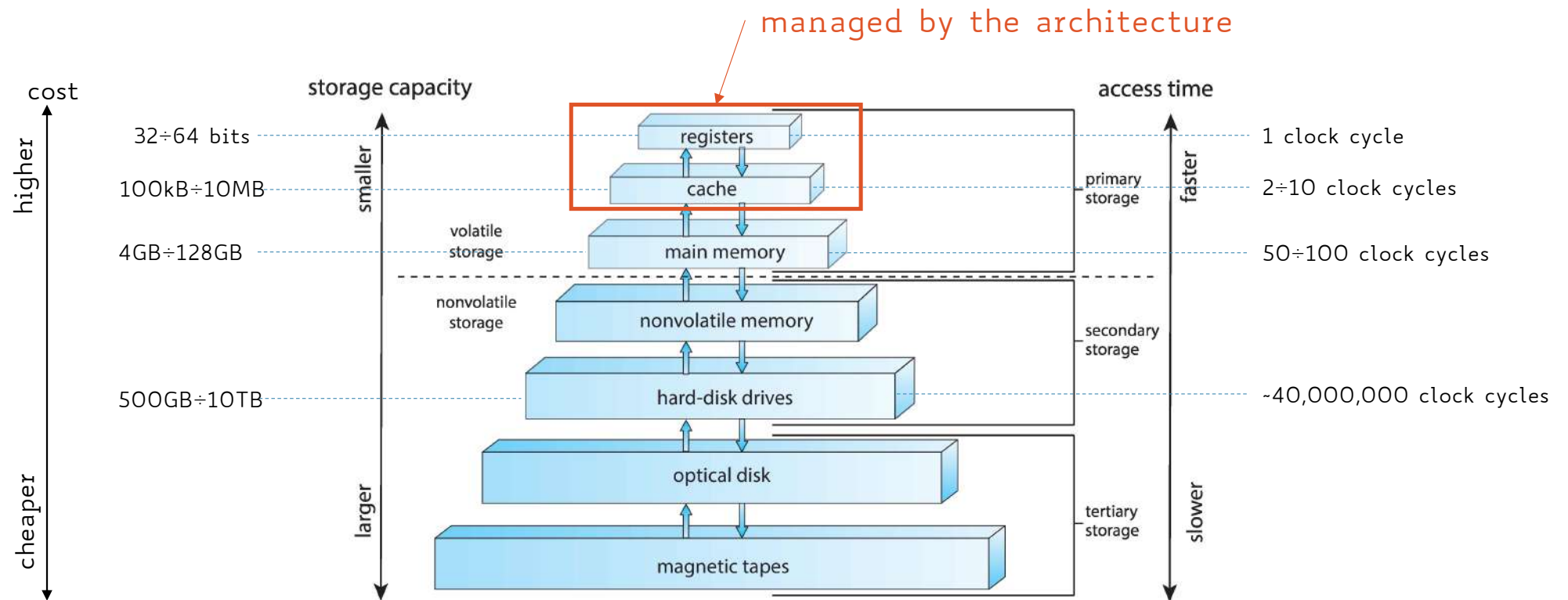
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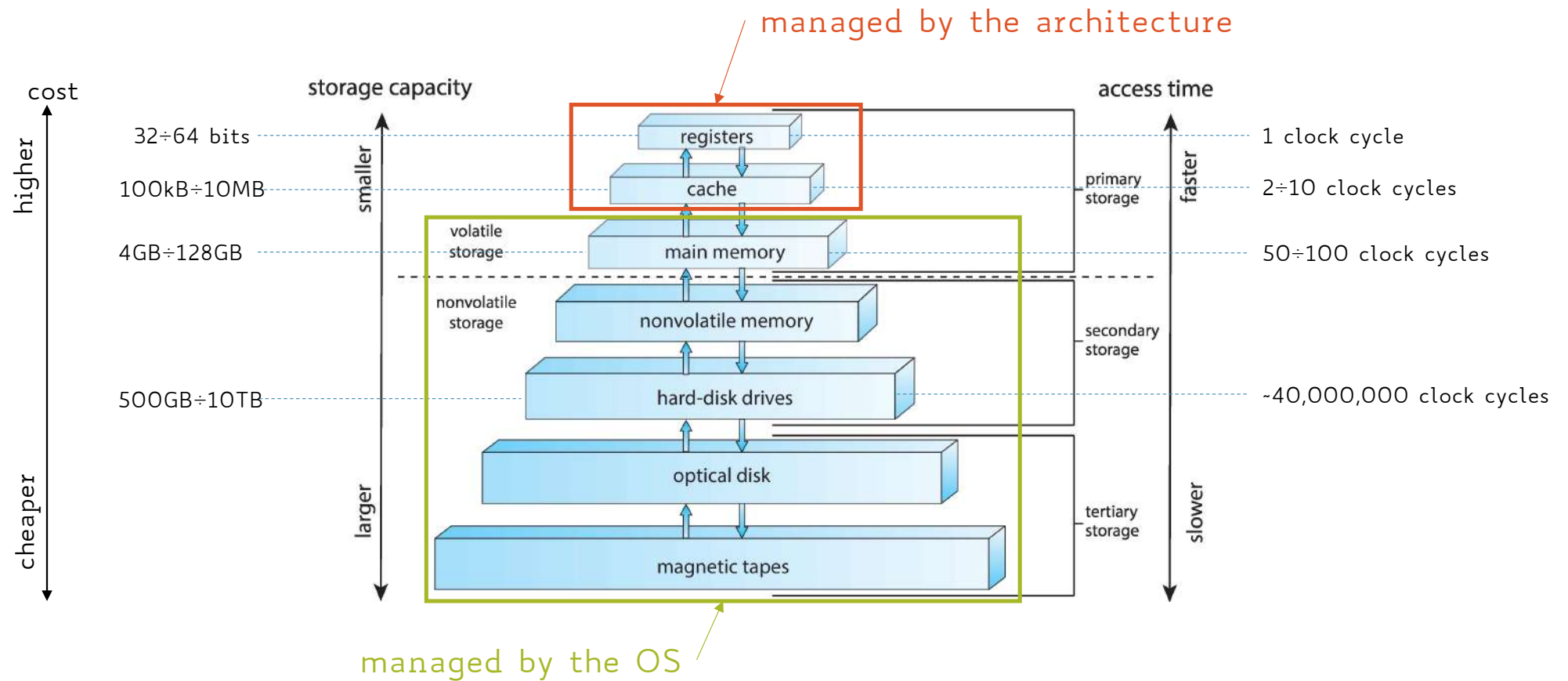
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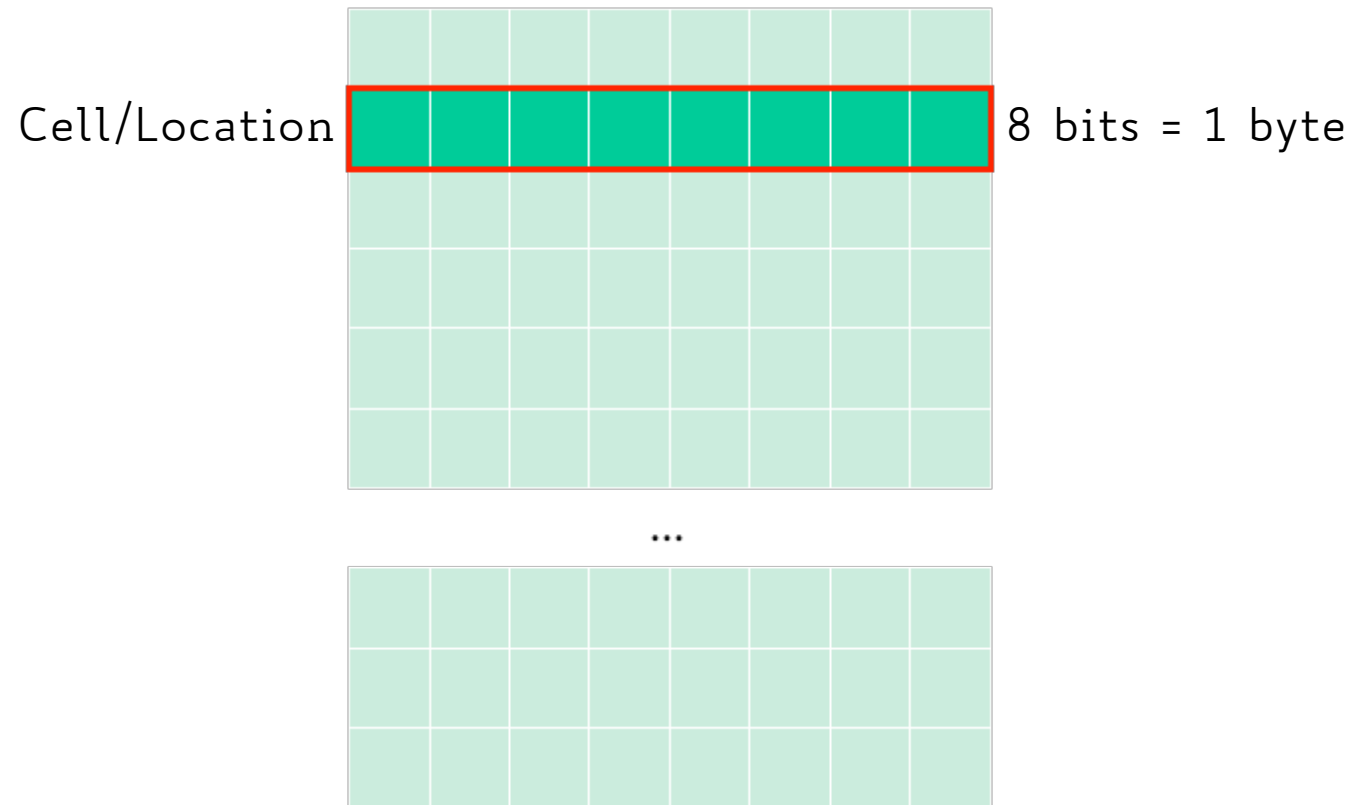
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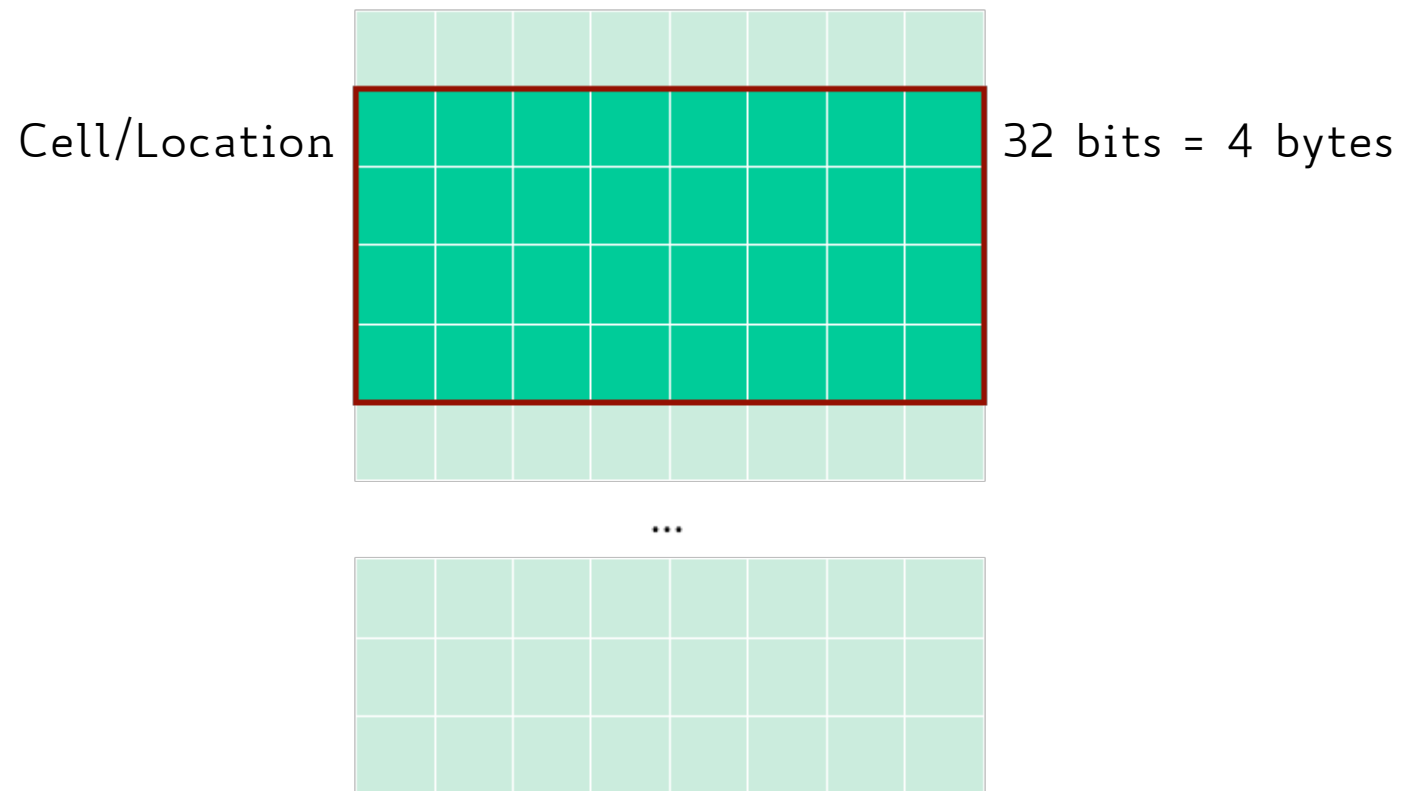
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- The smallest addressable unit is usually 1 byte



# Memory Cell (1)



# Memory Cell (2)



# Memory Address (Single Byte)

00000000							
00000001							
00000010							
00000011							
00000100							
00000101							
...							
00100010							
00100011							
00100100							

# Computer Buses

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# System Bus

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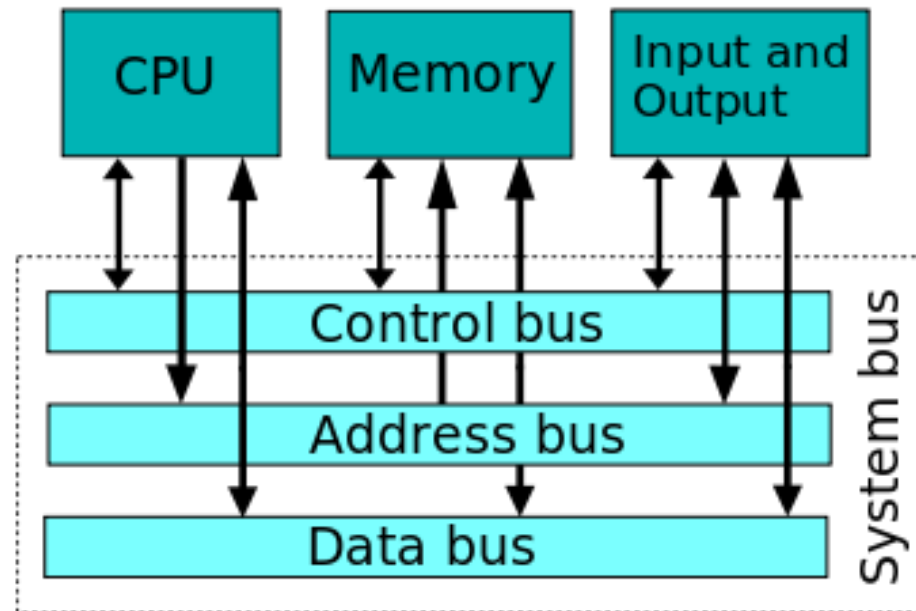
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- More dedicated buses have been added to manage CPU-to-memory and I/O traffic
  - PCI, SATA, USB, etc.

# System Bus





# I/O Devices

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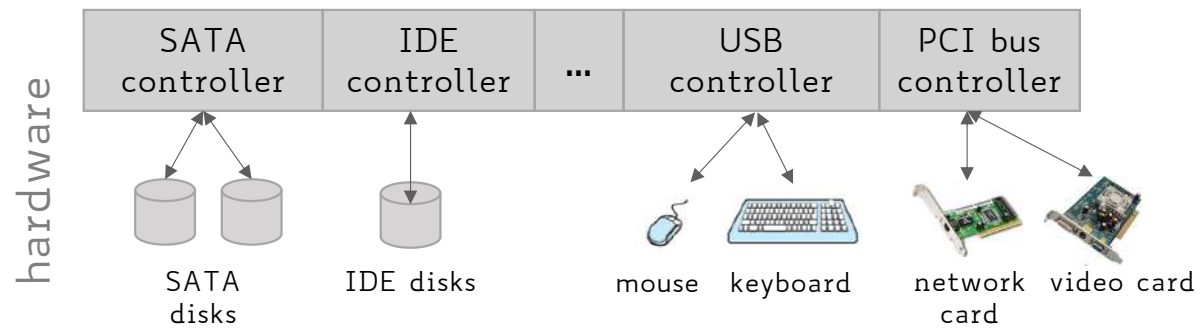
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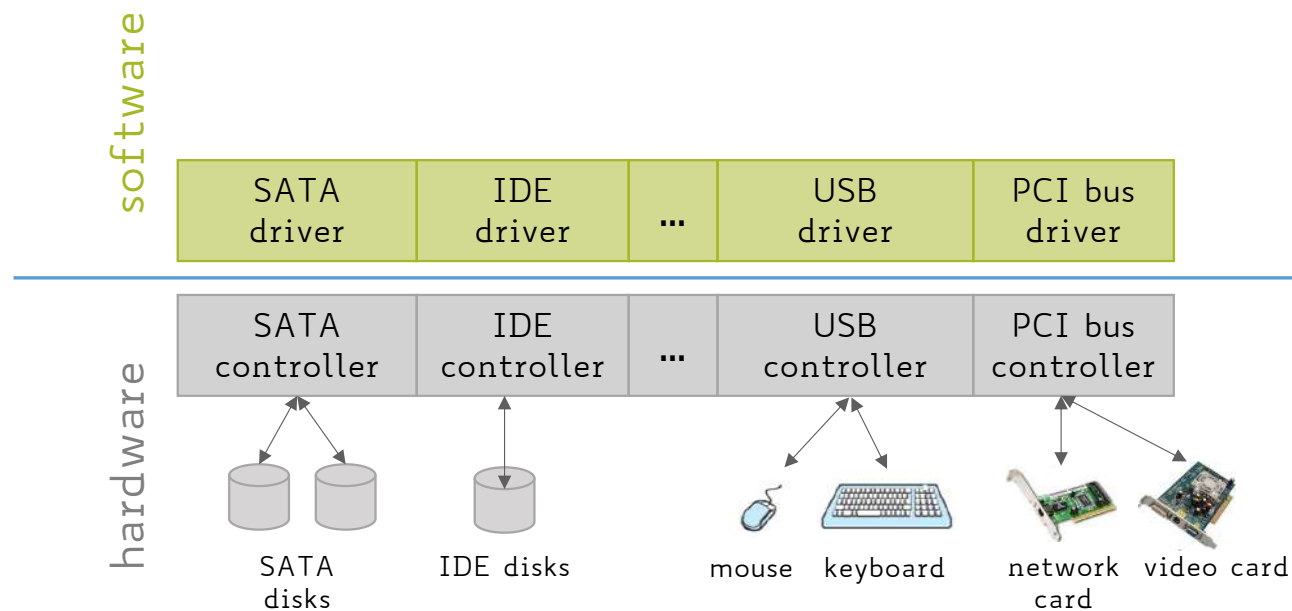
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- OS talks to a device controller using a specific **device driver**

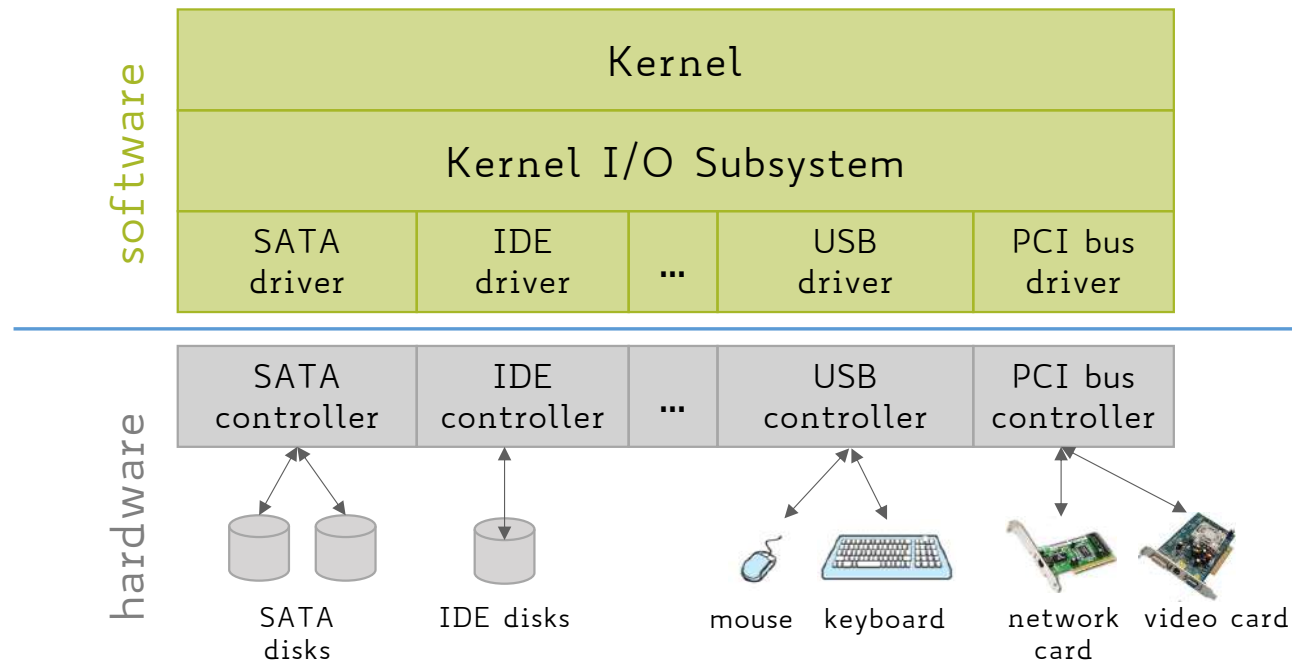
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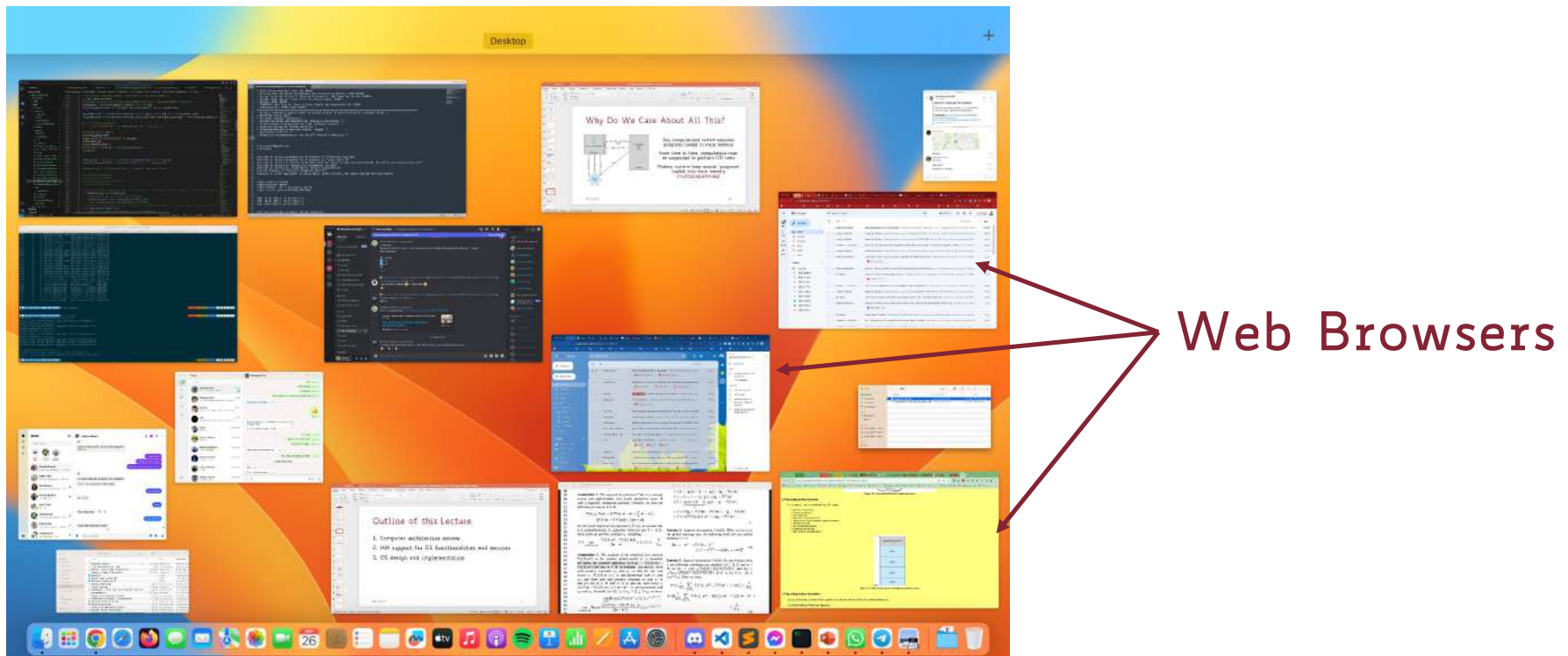
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  - **Data registers** → used to read data from or send data to the I/O device

# Modern Computer Systems

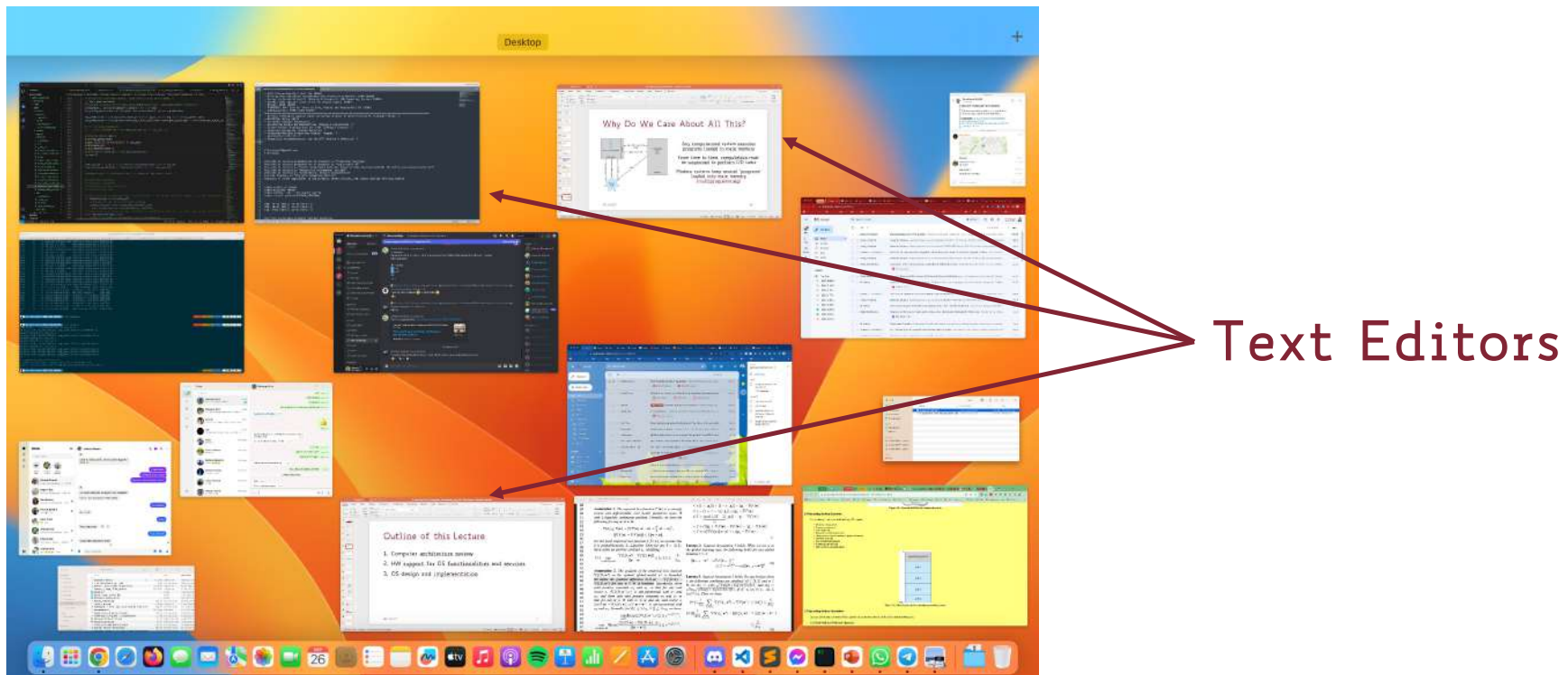
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# Many User Applications Running



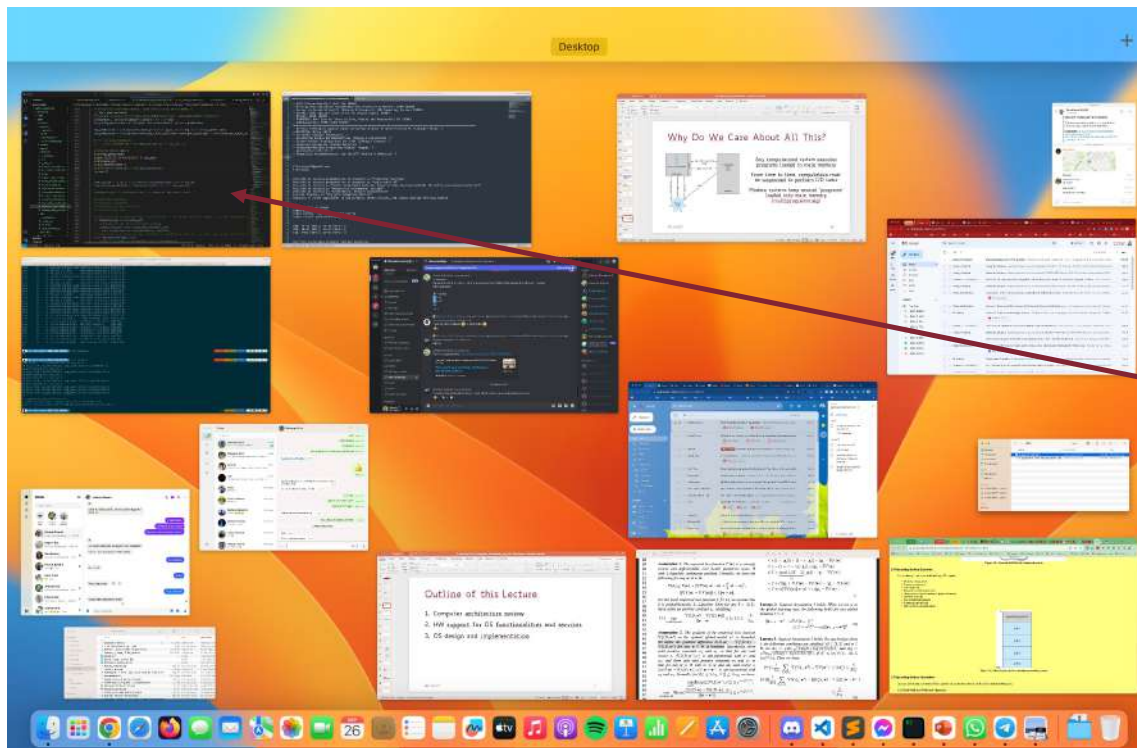
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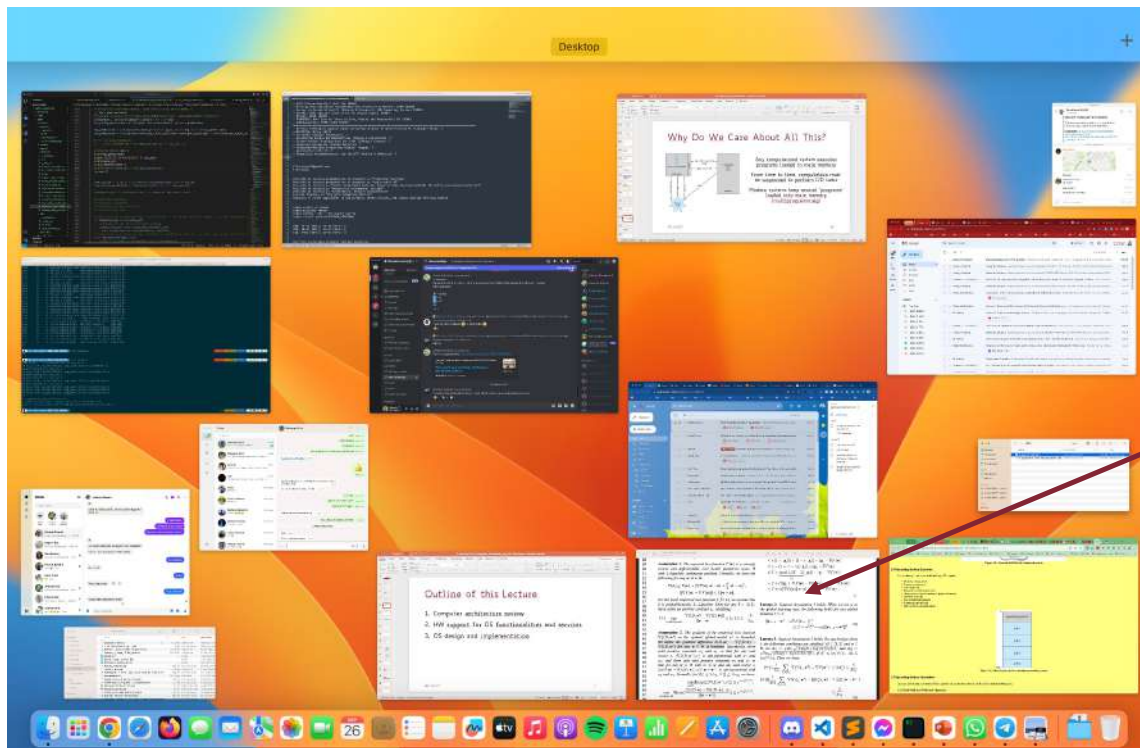
# Many User Applications Running



IDE  
(code development)

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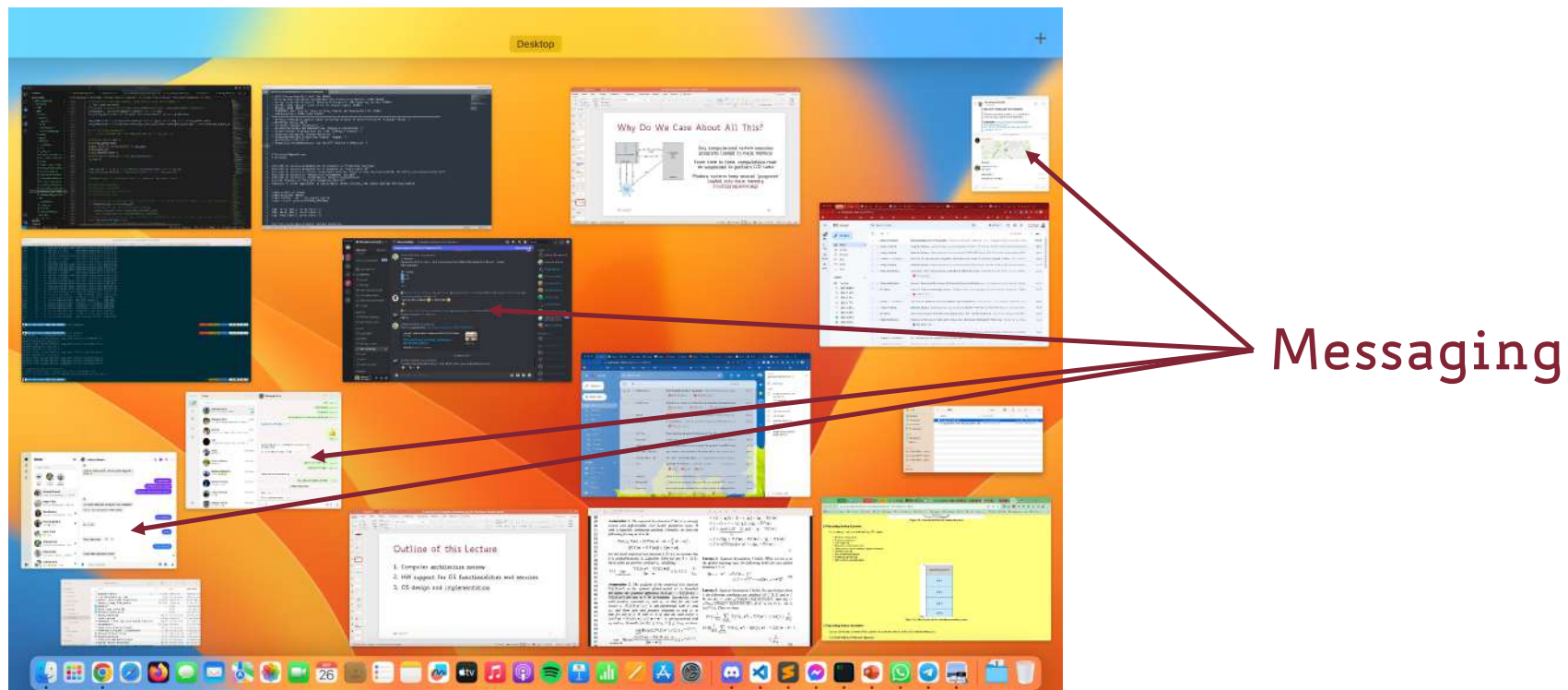


PDF Viewer

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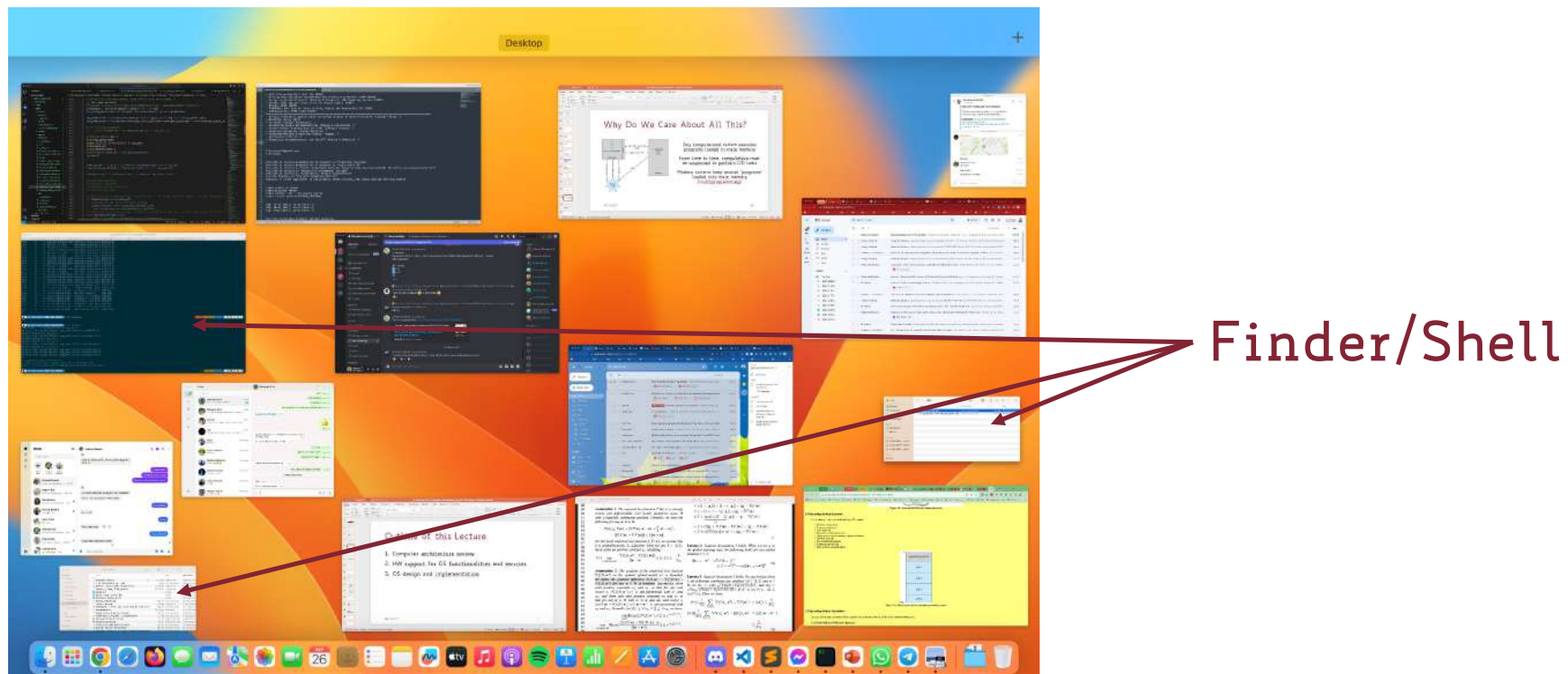


# Many User Applications Running



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# Many System Programs Running



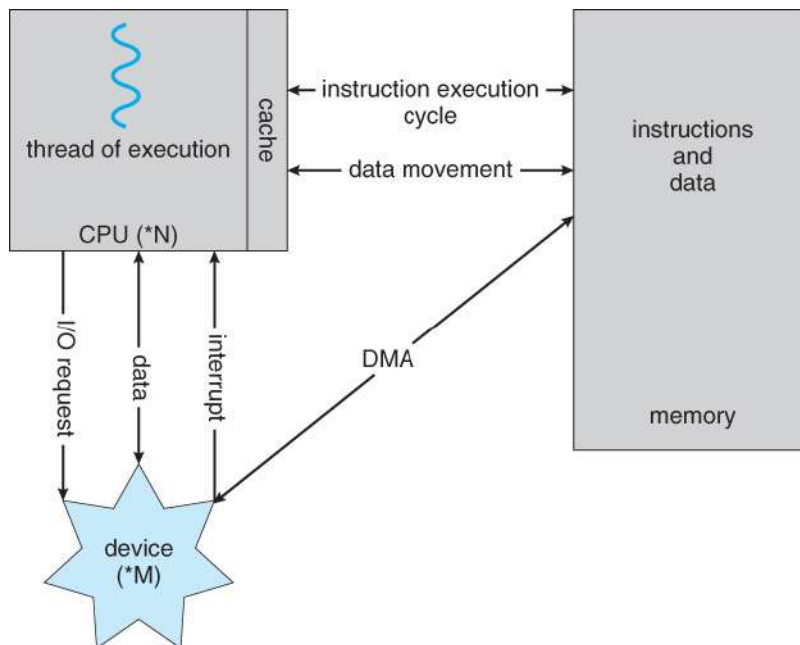
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# Not Just Laptops/PCs...



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# Why Do We Care About All This?

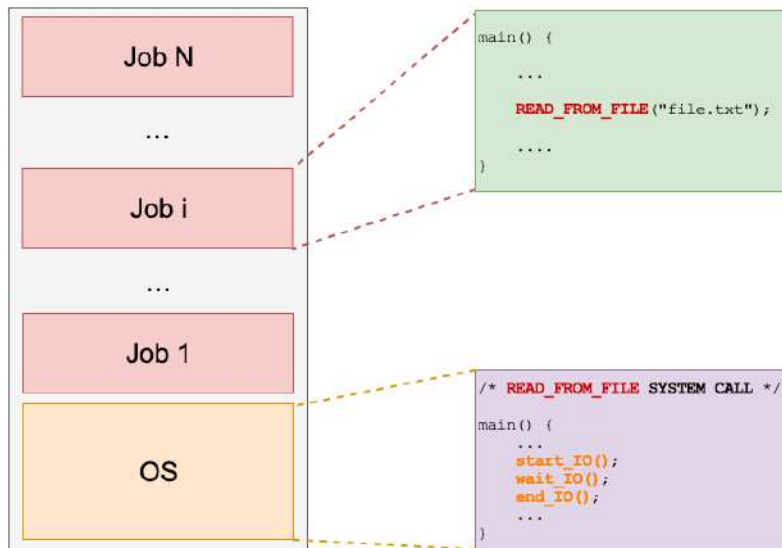


Any computerized system executes programs loaded in main memory

From time to time, computation must be suspended to perform I/O tasks

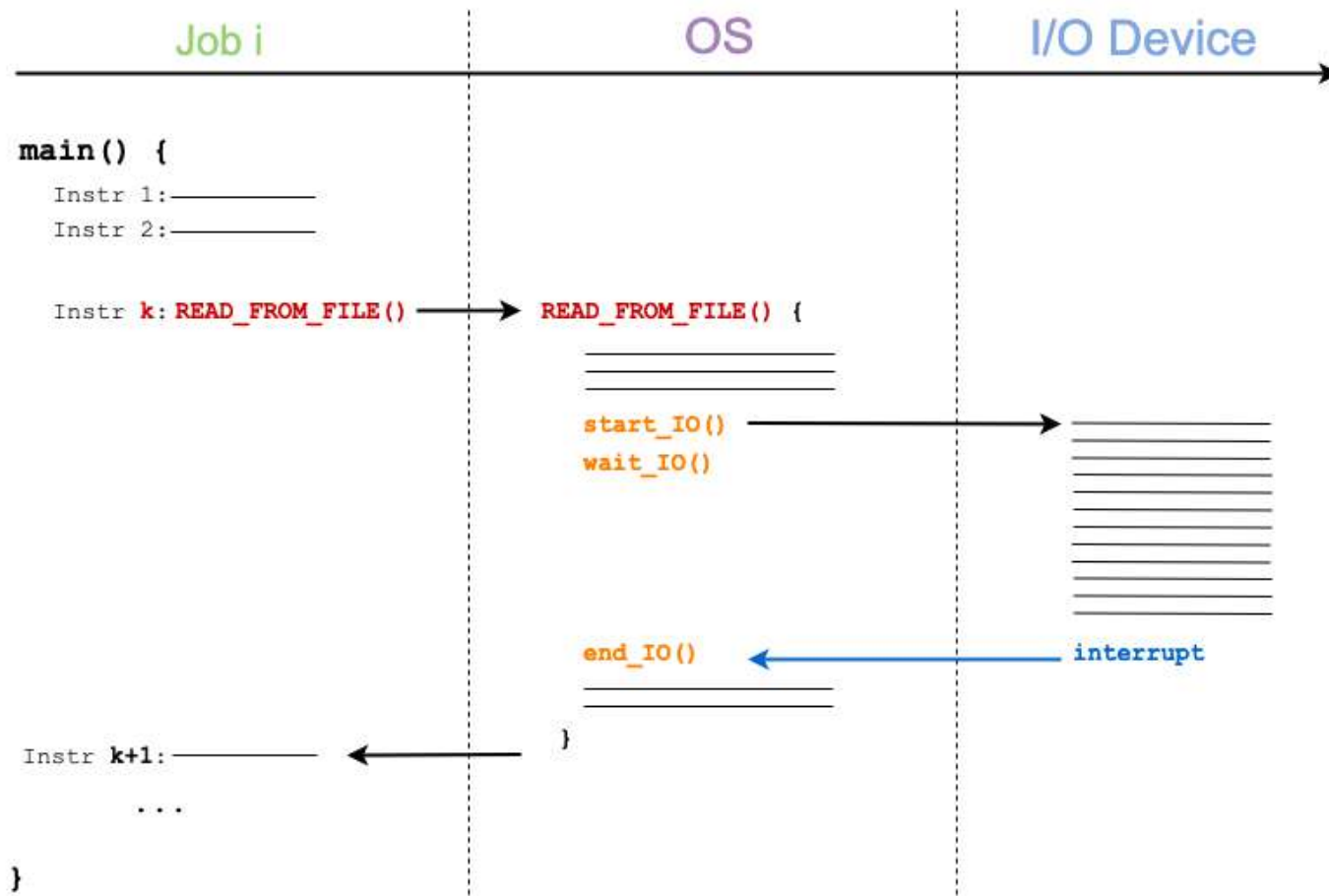
Modern systems keep several "programs" loaded into main memory  
(**multiprogramming**)

# Multiprogramming Systems (1960s)

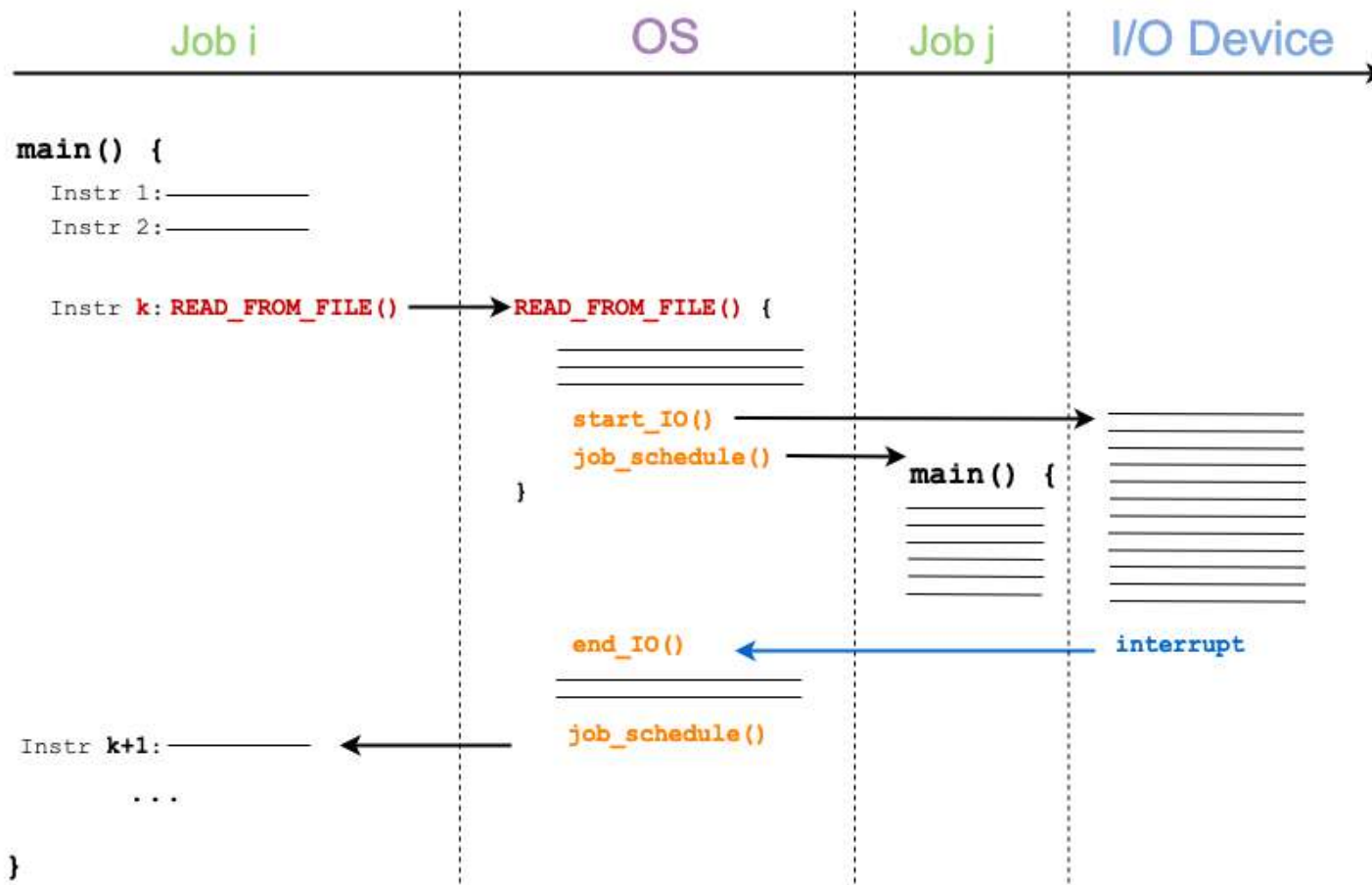


- Keep several jobs loaded in memory
- Multiplex CPU between jobs
- OS responsibilities:
  - job scheduling
  - memory protection
  - I/O operations
- **Problem:** CPU is left **idle** while **blocking** I/O operations take place

# Blocking System I/O



# Non-Blocking System I/O





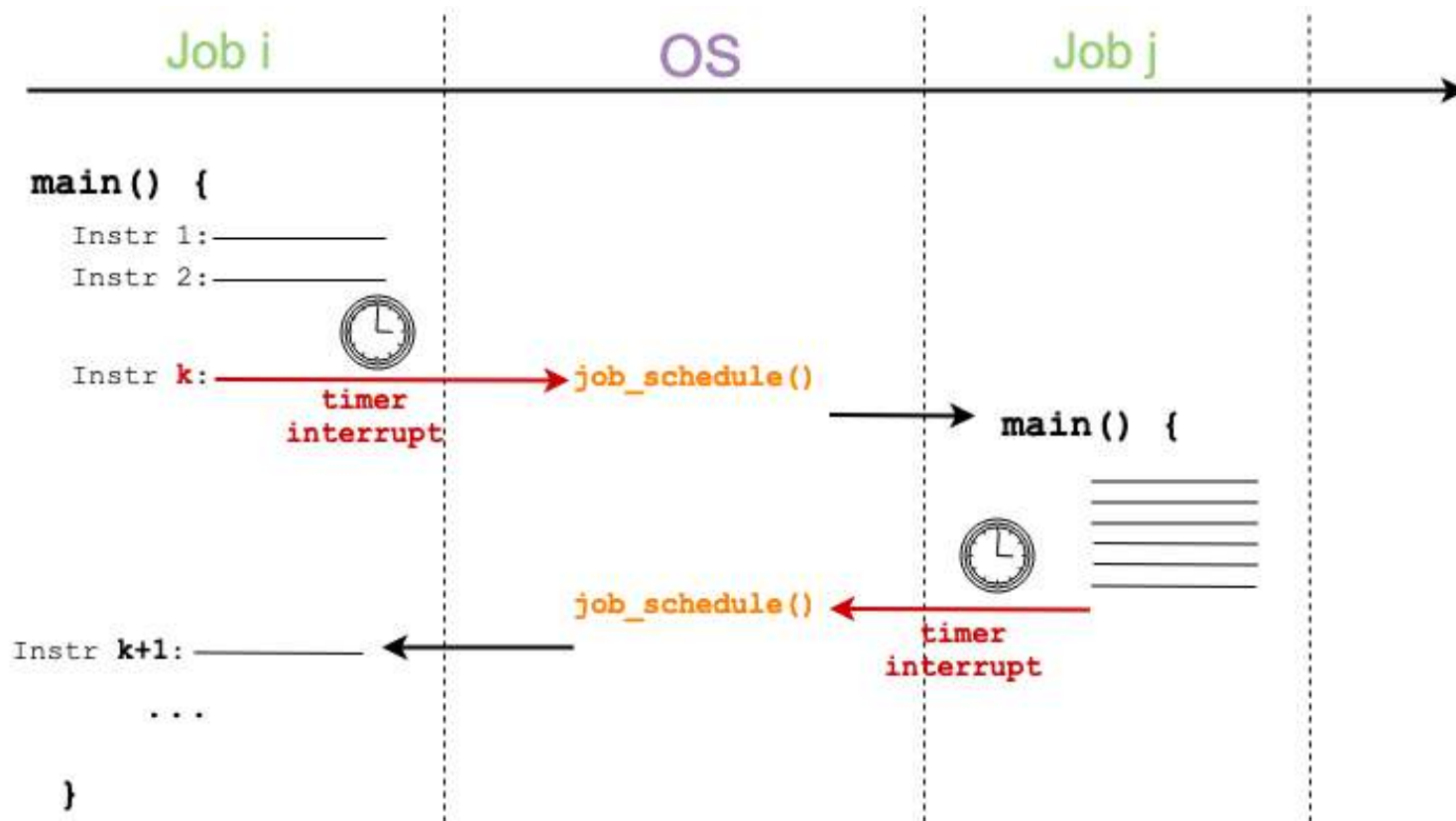
# Time-sharing Systems (1970s)



- Many users connected to the same CPU via cheap consoles
- Timer interrupt used to multiplex CPU between jobs
- Illusion of parallelism (pseudo-parallelism)
- Ken Thompson & Dennis Ritchie → **UNIX OS**



# Pseudo-parallelism



# New Trends in OS Design

- Active field of research
  - OS demand is growing (many computing devices are available)
  - New application settings (Web, Cloud, mobile, cars, etc.)
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  - Hardware is rapidly changing (new CPUs coming out)
- Open-source OS (Linux)
  - Allows developers to contribute to OS development
  - Excellent research platform to experiment with

# Why Study OSs?

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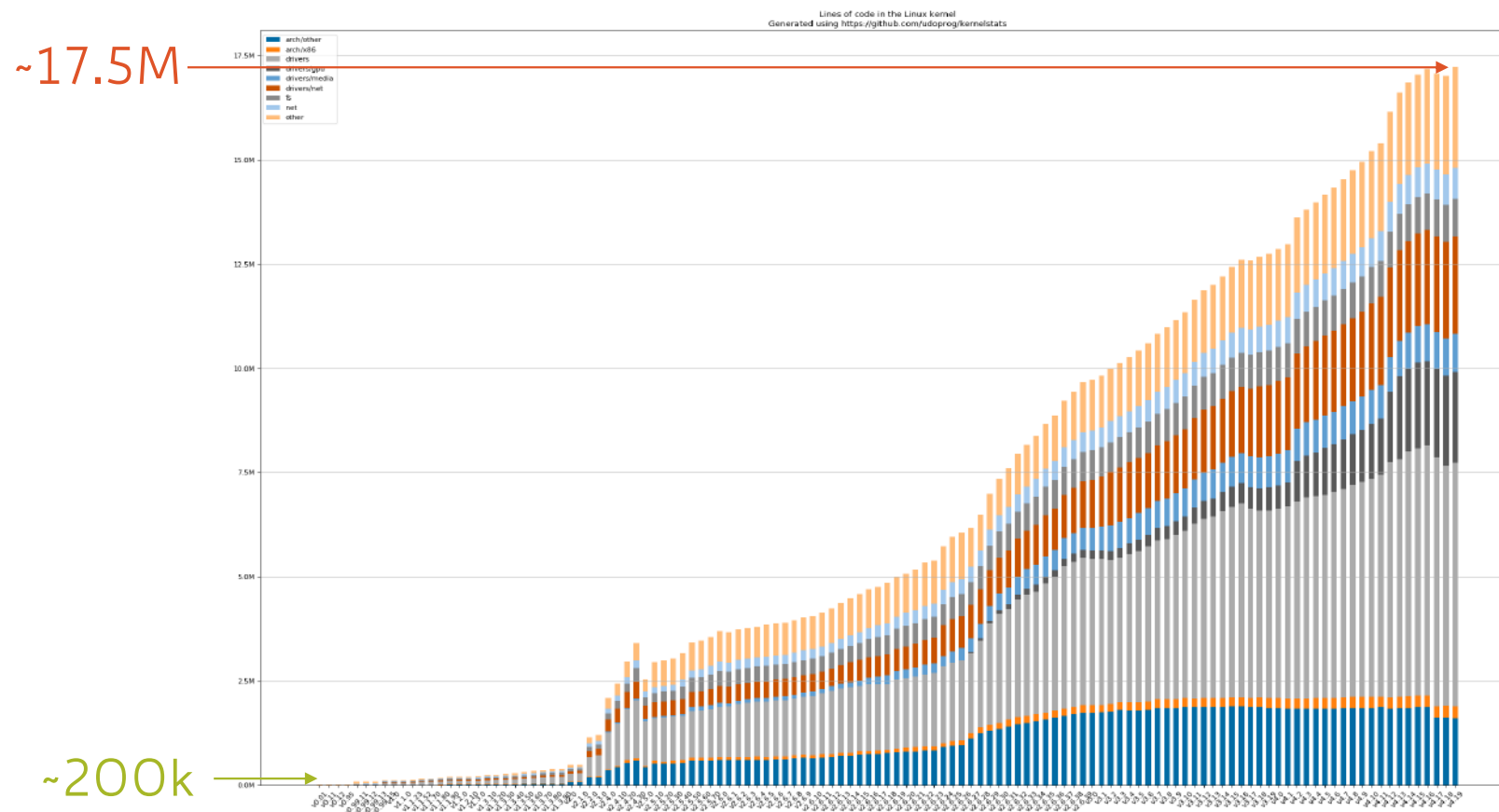


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OS is a great example of a large computer system

# Linux Kernel Size (Lines of Code)



24/09/2024

# OS as Large Computer System

- Designing large computer systems requires you to know
  - **Each computer:**
    - Architectural details
    - High-level programming language (mostly, C/C++)
    - Memory management
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    - File system and I/O
  - **Across clusters of computers:**
    - Server architectures
    - Distributed file systems and computing frameworks

# OS Design Issues (1)

- **Structure** → How the whole system is organized
- **Concurrency** → How parallel tasks are managed
- **Sharing** → How resources are shared
- **Naming** → How resources are identified by users
- **Protection** → How critical tasks are protected from each other
- **Security** → How to authenticate, authorize, and ensure privacy
- **Performance** → How to make it more efficient (quick, compact)

# OS Design Issues (2)

- **Reliability** → How to deal with failures
- **Portability** → How to write once and run anywhere
- **Extensibility** → How to add new features/capabilities
- **Communication** → How to exchange information
- **Scalability** → How to scale up as demand increases
- **Persistency** → How to save task's status
- **Accounting** → How to claim on control resource usage

# Architectural Trends: CPU

\*Million Instructions Per Second

\*\*1 MHz = 1,000,000 clock cycles per second

	1971 (Intel 4004)	Today (Intel Core i9)	$\Delta$ (orders of magnitude)
MIPS*	~0.09	~400,000+	+7
Instructions (fetch, decode, execute) per clock cycle	~0.12	~100+	+3
Clock frequency (MHz)**	0.74	~5,000	+4
Cheap size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	10	0.014	-3

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Moore's law: the number of transistors in a dense integrated circuit doubles about every two years



# Architectural Trends: Main Memory

	1973 (DEC PDP-8)	Today (Samsung DDR4)	$\Delta$ (orders of magnitude)
Capacity (kB)	12	128,000,000	+7
Cost (\$/MB)	~400,000	~0.005	-8

# Architectural Trends: Disk

	1956 (IBM RAMAC 305)	Today (Western Digital)	$\Delta$ (orders of magnitude)
Capacity (MB)	5	15,000,000	+7
Size (inch)	24 (x50)	3.5	-3
Cost (\$/MB)	640 (per month)	~0.000018	-9

# What's Next?

- Moore's law has hit its limit(?)
  - chip size has physical constraints
  - power vs. heat tradeoff
  - alternatives have already pushed forward the end of it:
    - multicore-manycore processors
  - other approaches are subject of research:
    - molecular/DNA transistors
    - quantum computing

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- Operating Systems as large and complex computer systems
- New architectural trends open up novel opportunities and challenges in Operating System design