

---

# **Real-time Systems**

## **Week 6:**

### **Periodic real time scheduling**

Ngo Lam Trung  
Dept. of Computer Engineering

# Contents

---

- ❑ Notation of periodic real-time tasks
- ❑ Periodic scheduling algorithms
  - Timeline Scheduling
  - Earliest Deadline First
  - Rate Monotonic
  - Deadline Monotonic
  - Earliest Deadline First (modified)

# Example

---

## ❑ 3 tasks:

- ❑ Task 1: period 200 ms, computation time 50 ms
- ❑ Task 2: period 100 ms, computation time 50 ms
- ❑ Task 3: period 400 ms, computation time 50 ms
- ❑ Is it schedulable?

## ❑ If task 4 is added

- ❑ Task 4: period 200 ms, computation time 30 ms
- ❑ Is it schedulable?

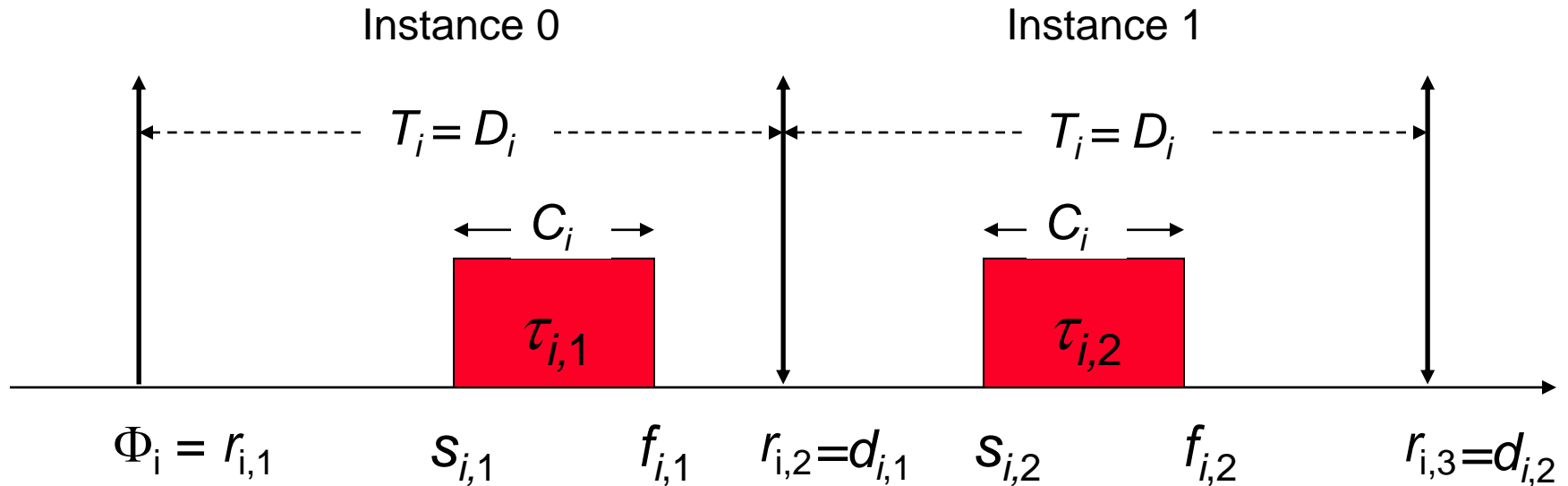
# Notation of periodic task set

---

- ❑  $\Gamma$ : a set of periodic tasks
- ❑  $\tau_i$ : a generic periodic task
- ❑  $\tau_{i,j}$ : the  $j$ -th instance of task  $\tau_i$
- ❑  $r_{i,j}$ : the release time of  $\tau_{i,j}$
- ❑  $\Phi_i = r_{i,1}$ : the phase of  $\tau_i$
- ❑  $D_i$ : the relative deadline of  $\tau_i$
- ❑  $d_{i,j}$ : the absolute deadline of  $\tau_{i,j}$ 
  - $d_{i,j} = \Phi_{i,j} + (j-1)T_i + D_i$
- ❑  $s_{i,j}$ : the start time of  $\tau_{i,j}$
- ❑  $f_{i,j}$ : the finishing time of  $\tau_{i,j}$

# Periodic task notations

- Task  $\tau_i$ 's timing parameters



- Task  $\tau_i$ 's timing parameters is **feasible** if all its instances finish within their absolute deadline
- A set  $\Gamma$  of periodic tasks is **schedulable** if all tasks in  $\Gamma$  are feasible

# Assumptions

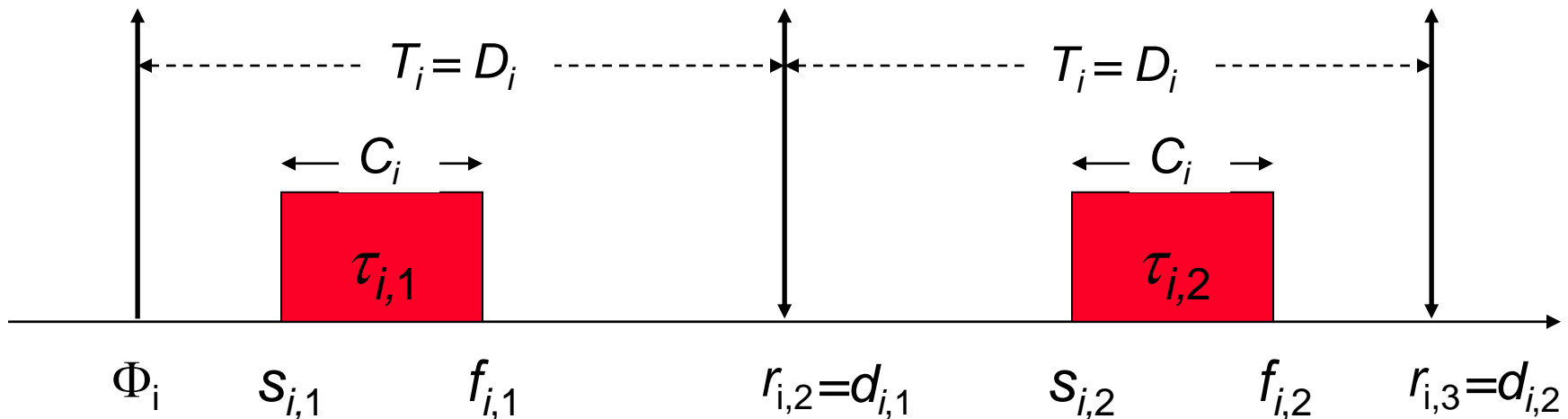
---

- ❑ **A1.** The instance of  $\tau_i$  is regularly activated at a constant rate. (Period  $T_i$ )
- ❑ **A2.** All instances of a task have the same worst-case execution time  $C_i$ .
- ❑ **A3.** All instances of a task have the same relative deadline  $D_i$  and  $D_i = T_i$ .
- ❑ **A4.** All tasks are independent; no precedence & resource constraints
- ❑ **A5.** No task can suspend itself, for example on I/O operations
- ❑ **A6.** All tasks are fully pre-emptible.
- ❑ **A7.** All overheads in the kernel are ignored.

# Simplified task parameters

□ A task under assumptions **A1-A4** can be characterized by 3 parameters.

- Task set:  $\Gamma = \{\tau_i(\Phi_i, T_i, C_i), i=1, \dots, n\}$
- Release time:  $r_{i,k} = \Phi_i + (k-1)T_i$
- Absolute deadline:  $d_{i,k} = \Phi_i + kT_i$



# Periodic task parameters

---

## ❑ Response time:

- Duration from the release time to finishing time
- $R_{i,k} = f_{i,k} - r_{i,k}$

## ❑ Critical instant:

- The time at which the release of a task will produce the largest response time

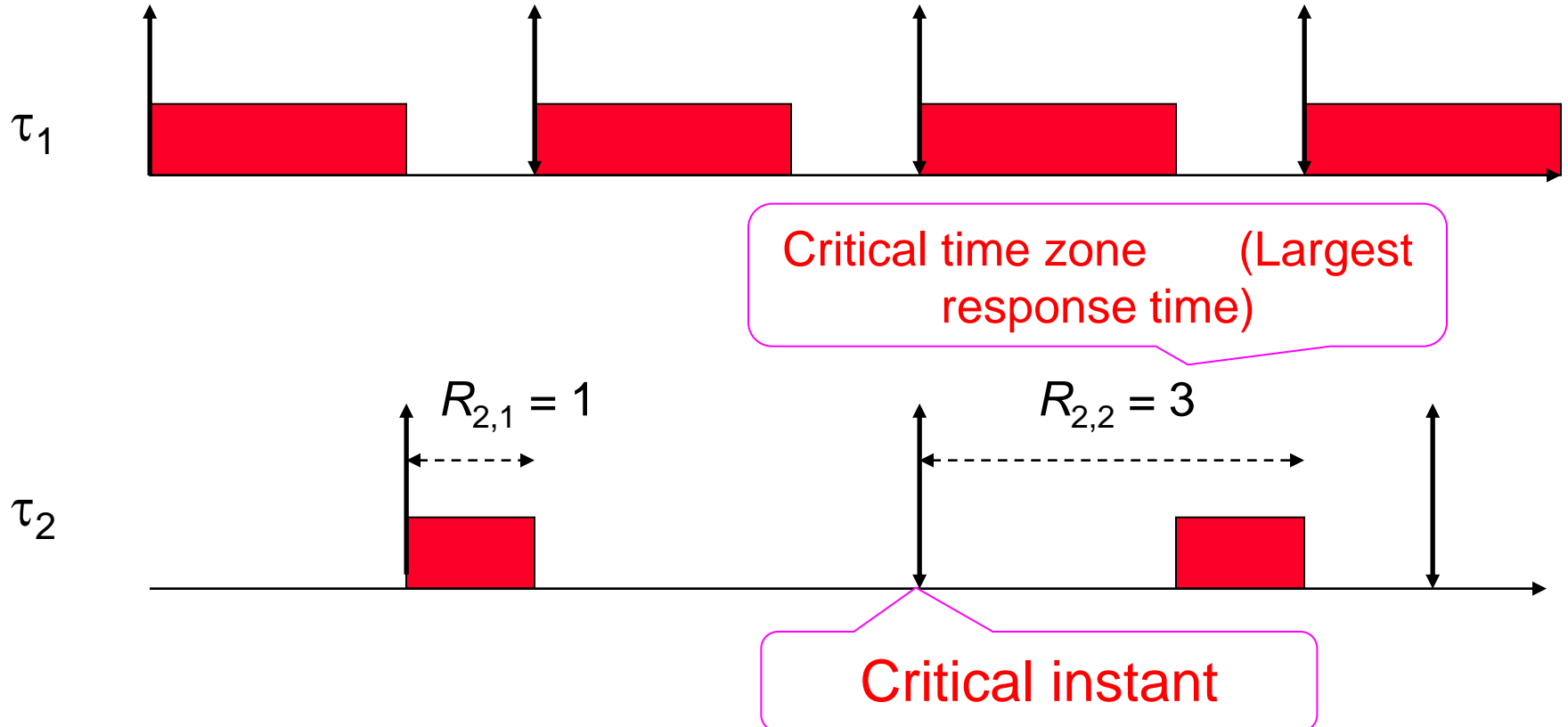
## ❑ Critical time zone:

- Response time with respect to the critical instant



# An example of critical instance

- ❑  $\Gamma = \{ \tau_1(0,3,2), \tau_2(2,4,1) \}$
- ❑ Assume that  $\tau_2$  has lower priority than  $\tau_1$ .
- ❑ When is the critical instant of  $\tau_2$ ?

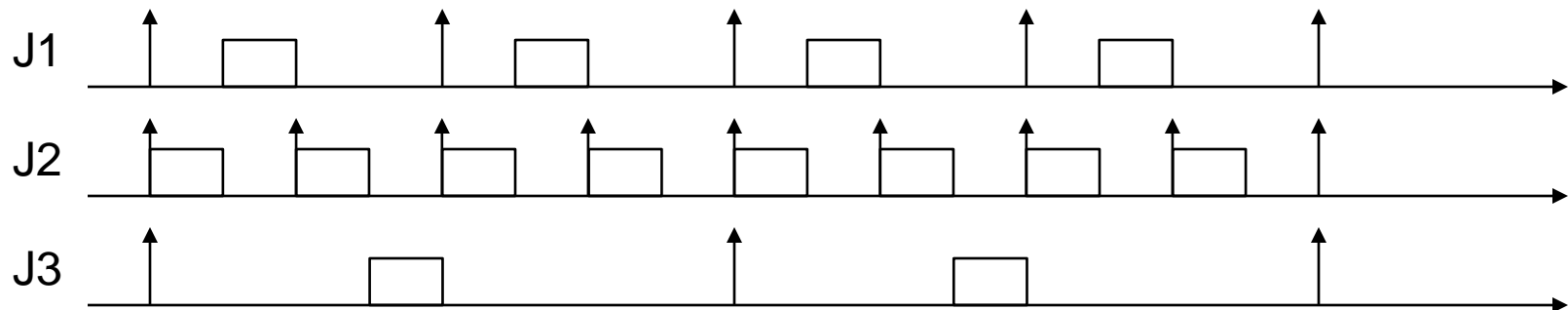


# Hyperperiod

- ❑ Given a set of 3 tasks, all activate at  $t = 0$ :
  - ❑ Task 1: period 200 ms, computation time 50 ms
  - ❑ Task 2: period 100 ms, computation time 50 ms
  - ❑ Task 3: period 400 ms, computation time 50 ms
- ❑ How long will the schedule repeat itself?

$$H = \text{lcm}(T_1, \dots, T_n)$$

lcm: least common multiply

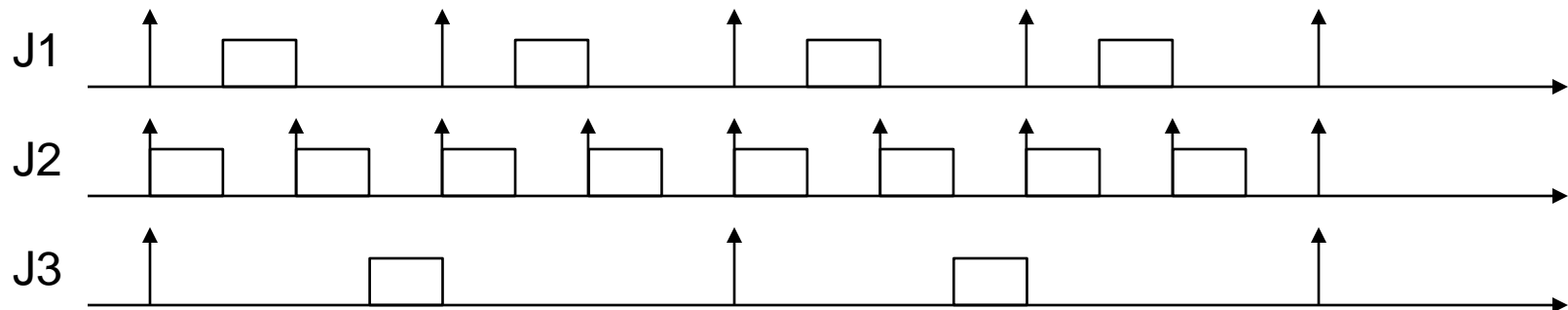


# Hyper period

- Given a set of 3 tasks, all activate at  $t = 0$ :
  - Task 1: period 200 ms, computation time 50 ms
  - Task 2: period 100 ms, computation time 50 ms
  - Task 3: period 400 ms, computation time 50 ms
- How long will the schedule repeat itself?

$$H = lcm(T_1, \dots, T_n)$$

lcm: least common multiply



# Processor utilization factor

---

- ❑ Processor utilization for n tasks

$$U = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{C_i}{T_i}$$

- ❑  $U$  represents how many percent of processor resource is utilized by a given task set.
- ❑ Example 1:
  - ❑  $U_3 = 50/200 + 50/100 + 50/400 = 87.5\%$
  - ❑  $U_4 = 50/200 + 50/100 + 50/400 + 30/200 = 102.5\%$

# Utilization factor vs schedulability?

---

□ If  $U > 1$ :

□ Let  $H$  be the hyperperiod

$$U > 1 \Rightarrow UH > H$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{H}{T_i} C_i > H$$

□  $(H/T_i)C_i$ : total CPU time requested by  $T_i$  during  $H$

➔ total request time during  $[0, H)$  is bigger than  $H$

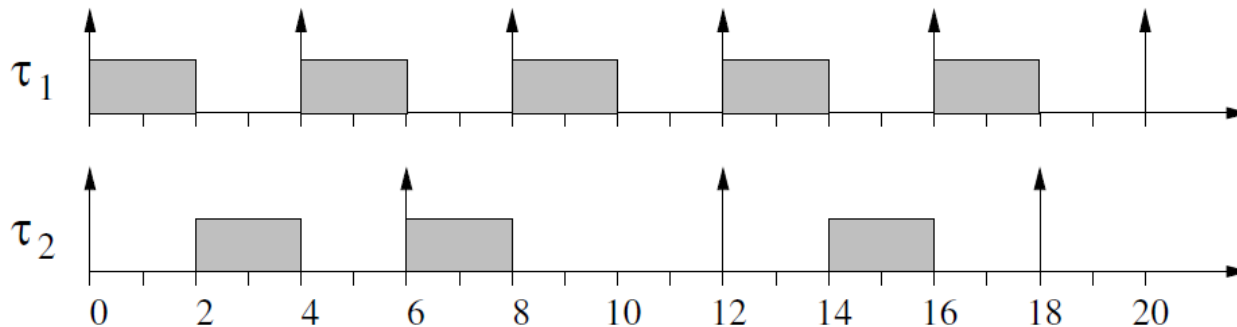
➔ the task set is not schedulable

□ What if  $U < 1$ : the task set is schedulable?

➔ not sure!

# Utilization factor vs schedulability?

- Consider two tasks  $T_1, T_2$  ( $T_1$  has higher priority)



- Schedulable?
- $U = ?$
- What if  $C_1$  or  $C_2$  increase by epsilon?
  - $U < 1$  does not guarantee schedulability
- Given a task set  $\Gamma$ , its schedulability depends on
  - The parameters of the tasks
  - The scheduling algorithm

# Processor utilization factor

---

- Given a scheduling algorithm  $A$  and a task set  $\Gamma$ , there will be a upper bound value of  $U$

$$U_{ub}(\Gamma, A)$$

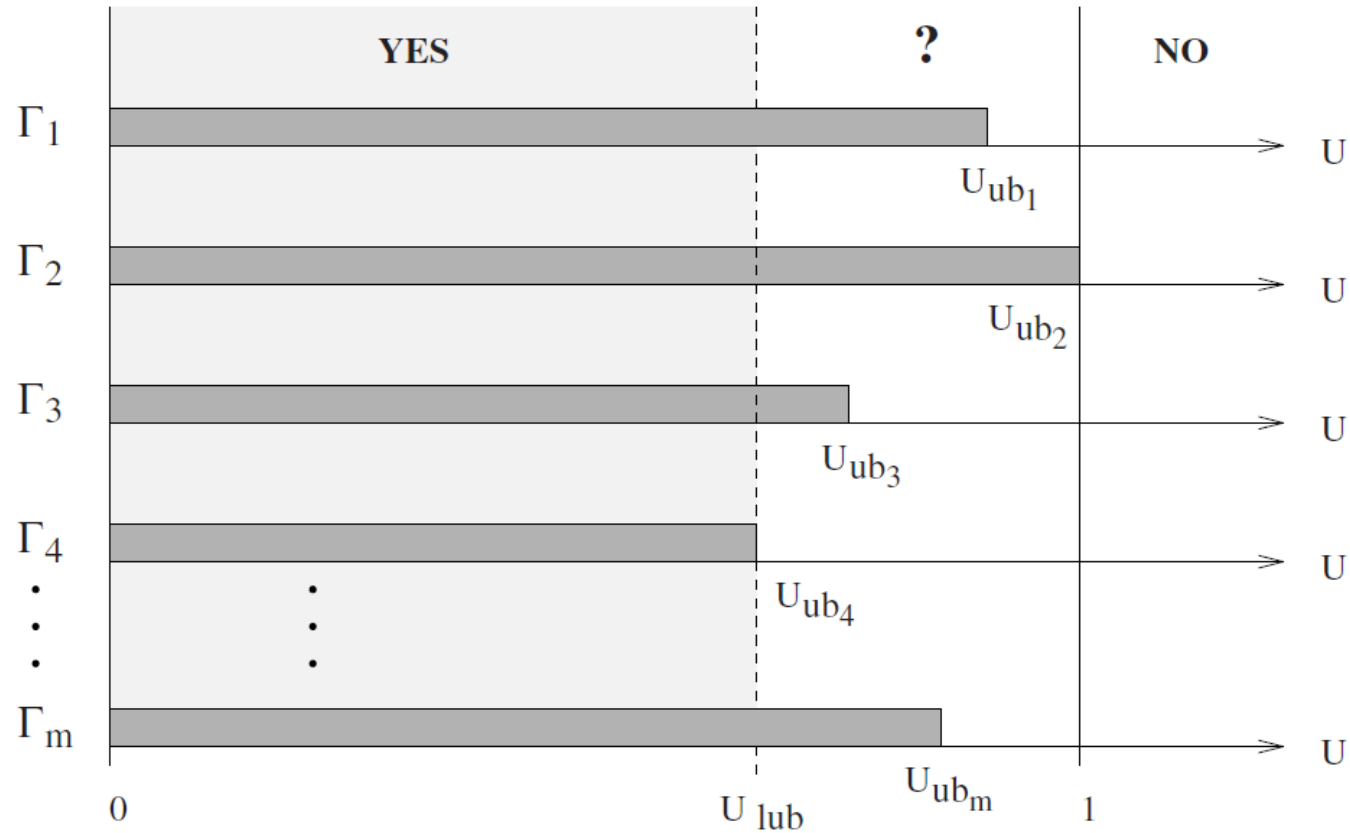
- $U > U_{ub}(\Gamma, A)$ :  $\Gamma$  is not schedulable by  $A$
  - if  $U = U_{ub}(\Gamma, A)$ :  $\Gamma$  fully utilizes the processor

- For a given algorithm  $A$ , let

$$U_{lub}(A) = \min_{\Gamma} U_{ub}(\Gamma, A)$$

- All task set having  $U \leq U_{lub}(A)$  will be schedulable by  $A$
  - if  $1 > U > U_{lub}(A)$ , schedulability depends on actual tasks parameters (activation time, period...)

# Processor utilization factor



Utilization vs schedulability

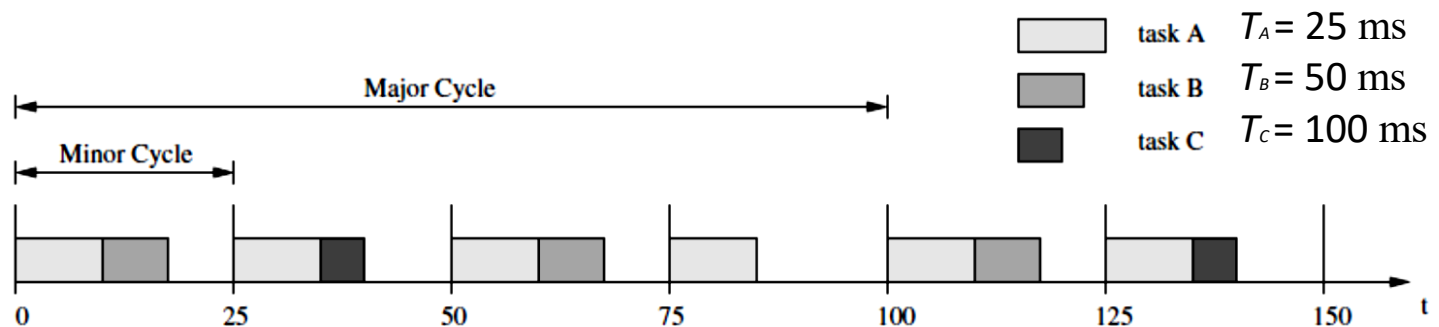


# Algorithms for periodic scheduling

- ❑ Timeline Scheduling ( $D = T$ )
- ❑ Earliest Deadline First ( $D = T$ )
- ❑ Rate Monotonic ( $D = T$ )
- ❑ Deadline Monotonic ( $D \leq T$ )
- ❑ Earliest Deadline First ( $D \leq T$ )

# Algorithm 1: Timeline Scheduling

- ❑ Divide the timeline into Minor Cycles and Major Cycles
  - ❑ Major Cycle =  $lcm(T_i) = H$  (least common multiply)
  - ❑ Minor Cycle =  $gcd(T_i)$  (greatest common divisor)
- ❑ Scheduling and implementation:
  - ❑ Schedule the task execution in each minor cycle of a major cycle
  - ❑ Set up a timer with period equal to minor cycle
  - ❑ The main function synchronize task execution with timer event



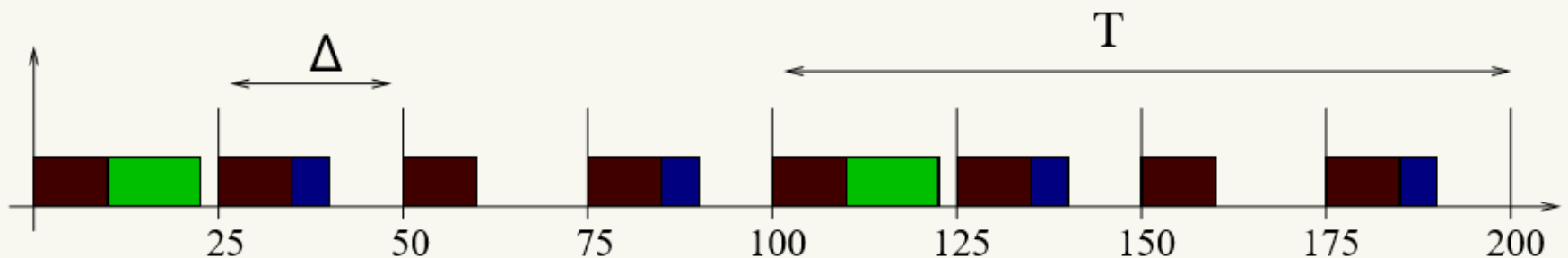
# Example

---

- Consider a taskset  $\Gamma = \{\tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3\}$ 
  - Periodic tasks  $\tau_i = (C_i, D_i, T_i)$ ,  $D_i = T_i$
  - $T_1 = 25ms$ ,  $T_2 = 50ms$ ,  $T_3 = 100ms$
- 1. Minor Cycle  $\Delta = \gcd(25, 50, 100) = 25ms$
- 2. Major Cycle  $T = \text{lcm}(25, 50, 100) = 100ms$
- 3. Compute a schedule that respects the task periods
  - Allocate tasks in slots of size  $\Delta = 25ms$
  - The schedule repeats every  $T = 100ms$
  - $\tau_1$  must be scheduled every  $25ms$ ,  $\tau_2$  must be scheduled every  $50ms$ ,  $\tau_3$  must be scheduled every  $100ms$
  - In every minor cycle, the tasks must execute for less than  $25ms$

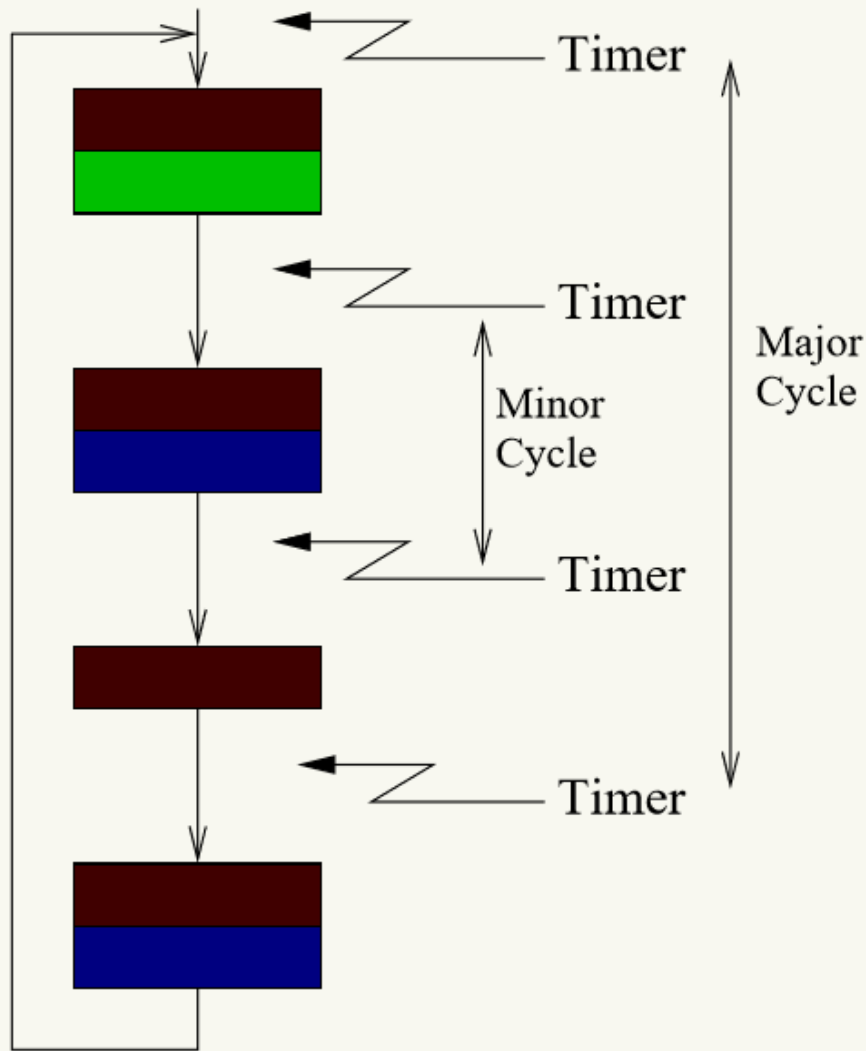
# Example

- The schedule repeats every 4 minor cycles
  - $\tau_1$  must be scheduled every  $25ms \Rightarrow$  scheduled in every minor cycle
  - $\tau_2$  must be scheduled every  $50ms \Rightarrow$  scheduled every 2 minor cycles
  - $\tau_3$  must be scheduled every  $100ms \Rightarrow$  scheduled every 4 minor cycles



- First minor cycle:  $C_1 + C_3 \leq 25ms$
- Second minor cycle:  $C_1 + C_2 \leq 25ms$

# Example



- Periodic timer firing every minor cycle
- Every time the timer fires...
- ...Read the scheduling table and execute the appropriate tasks
- Then, sleep until next minor cycle

# Algorithm 1: Timeline Scheduling

---

## ❑ Advantage:

- ❑ Simple, does not require RTOS
- ❑ No context switching, minimal run-time overhead.

## ❑ Disadvantages:

- ❑ Domino effect if task does not terminate on time
- ❑ May need to divide task in to small pieces
- ❑ Difficult to handle aperiodic and long tasks
- ❑ Sensitive to task parameter changes (period, execution time...)

## Algorithm 2: Earliest Deadline First (EDF)

- ❑ Pre-emptible task set, dynamic priorities
- ❑ All tasks instances are consider aperiodic tasks
- ❑ Priority and scheduling of task is based on the instances' absolute deadline:

$$d_{i,j} = \Phi_i + (j - 1)T_i + Di$$

- ❑ Proof of optimality is the same as with aperiodic tasks
- ❑ How to analyze schedulability/feasibility?

# Schedulability analysis of EDF

---

- Theorem: a set of periodic tasks is schedulable with EDF if and only if

$$U = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{C_i}{T_i} \leq 1$$

- Proof:



# Schedulability analysis of EDF

- Theorem: a set of periodic tasks is schedulable with EDF if and only if

$$U = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{C_i}{T_i} \leq 1$$

- Proof:

- If  $U > 1$ : not enough CPU resource  $\rightarrow$  not schedulable
- If  $U \leq 1$ : show that the task set is schedulable

Contradiction: provided the task set is not schedulable

Let  $t_2$ : time that time-overflow happens

$t_1$ : starting of **continuous utilization**  $[t_1, t_2]$

Total processor computation time demanded in  $[t_1, t_2]$

$$C_p(t_1, t_2) = \sum_{r_k \geq t_1, d_k \leq t_2} C_k = \sum_{i=1}^n \left\lfloor \frac{t_2 - t_1}{T_i} \right\rfloor C_i$$

# Schedulability analysis of EDF

---

- ❑ If the task set is not schedulable

$$C_p(t_1, t_2) > t_2 - t_1$$

- ❑ However

$$C_p(t_1, t_2) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{t_2 - t_1}{T_i} C_i = (t_2 - t_1)U$$

- ❑ Then we have

$$(t_2 - t_1)U > t_2 - t_1$$

$$\rightarrow U > 1$$

$\rightarrow$  *contradiction*

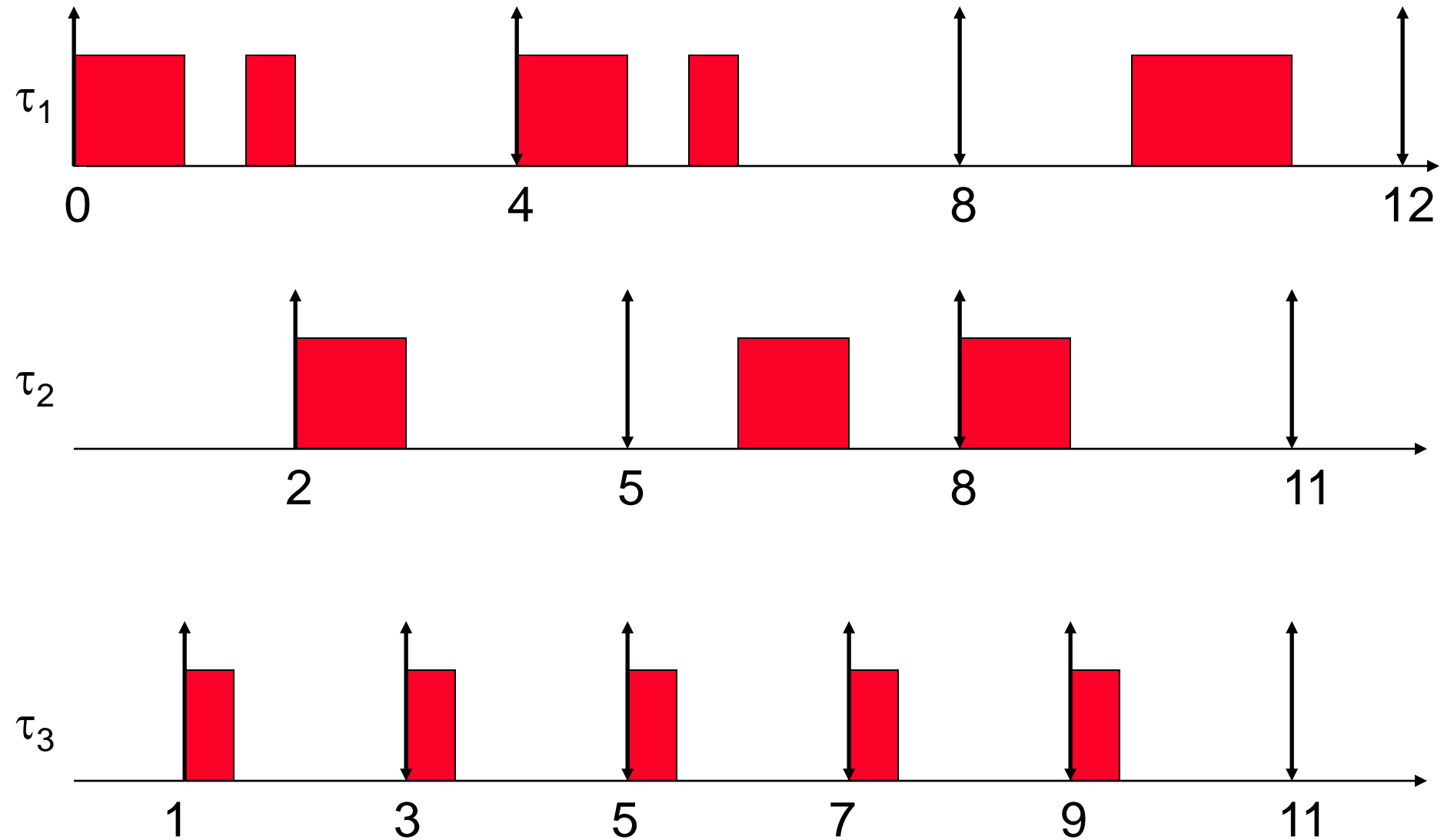
# An example of EDF scheduling

Task	1	2	3
$\phi_i$	0	2	1
$C_i$	1.5	1	0.5
$T_i$	4	3	2

□ Assume that  $T_i = D_i$

□ Preemptive task set

# An example of EDF scheduling



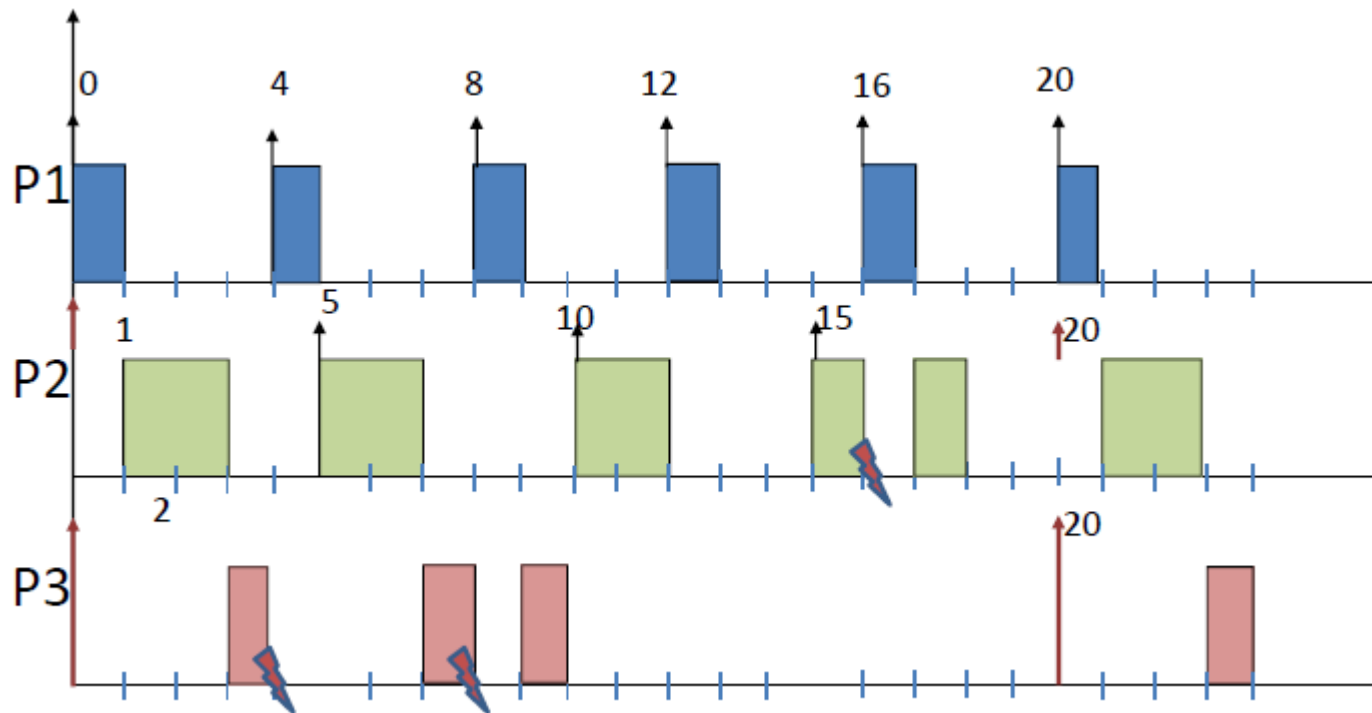
## Algorithm 3: Rate Monotonic (RM)

---

- ❑ Pre-emptible task set, static scheduling with fixed priorities
- ❑ Priority of task is based on the task's request rate: **higher rates (shorter periods) correspond to higher priorities**
- ❑ Optimality: RM is optimal among all fixed-priority algorithms
- ❑ Schedulability/feasibility analysis:  $U_{lub}$

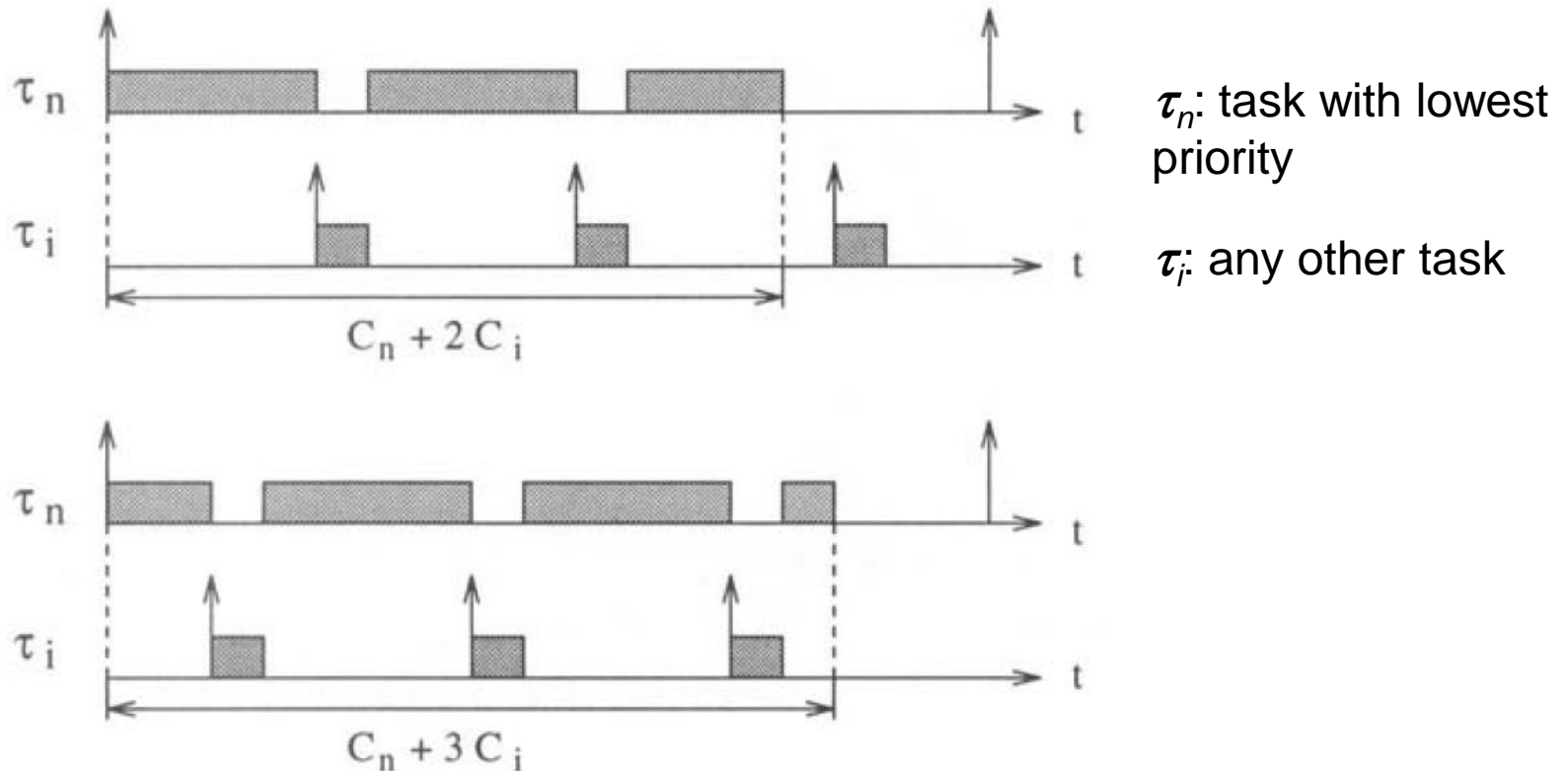
# Example

- ❑ T1:  $c=1$ ,  $p=d=4$
- ❑ T2:  $c=2$ ,  $p=d=5$
- ❑ T3:  $c=3$ ,  $p=d=20$



# Proof of optimality (1)

- For any task  $T$ , the critical instance occurs when it is released simultaneously with all higher-priority tasks

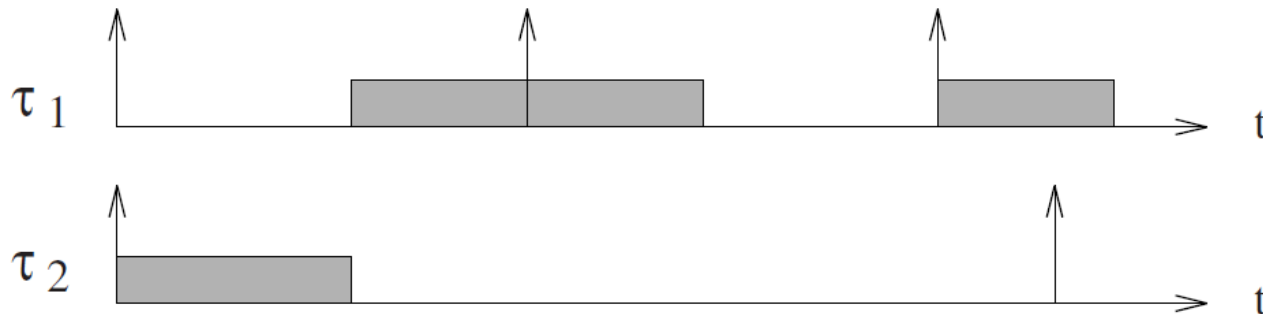


→ Task schedulability can be checked at its critical instance

## Proof of optimality (2)

- If a task set  $\Gamma$  is schedulable by any fixed priority algorithm, it will be schedulable by RM
  - Given two tasks  $\tau_1, \tau_2$  with  $T_1 < T_2$ , in critical instants
  - Provided the scheduled violates RM  $\rightarrow \tau_2$  has higher priority  
 $\rightarrow$  the schedule is feasible if

$$C_1 + C_2 \leq T_1$$

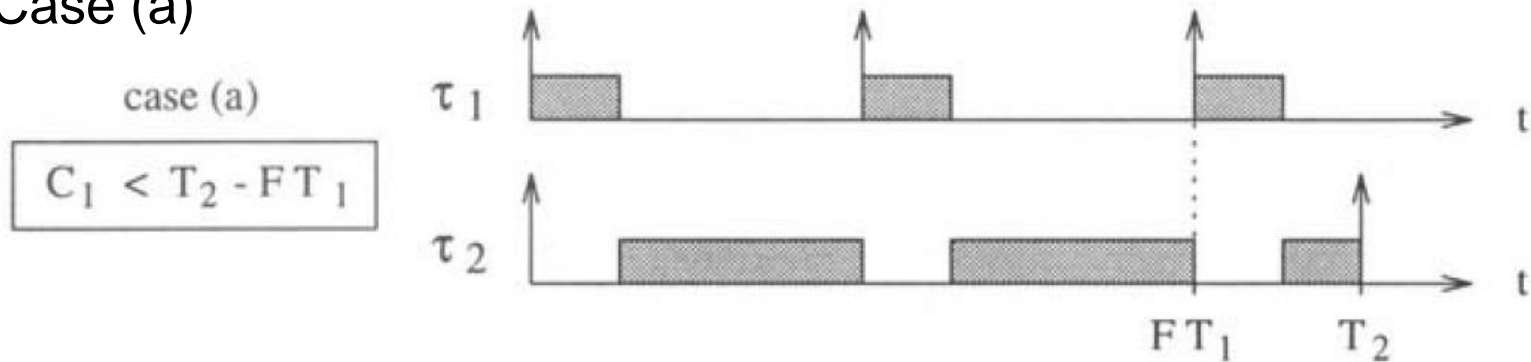


- Show that exchanging priority of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  will result in feasible schedule  
 $\rightarrow$  Homework



## Proof of optimality (3)

- Consider if  $\tau_1, \tau_2$  are scheduled by RM,  $\tau_1$  has higher priority
- Let  $F = \lfloor T_2/T_1 \rfloor$ : the number of  $T_1$  contained entirely in  $T_2$
- Case (a)



As  $C_1 + C_2 \leq T_1 \Rightarrow FC_1 + FC_2 \leq FT_1$

Since  $F \geq 1$   $FC_1 + C_2 \leq FC_1 + FC_2 \leq FT_1$

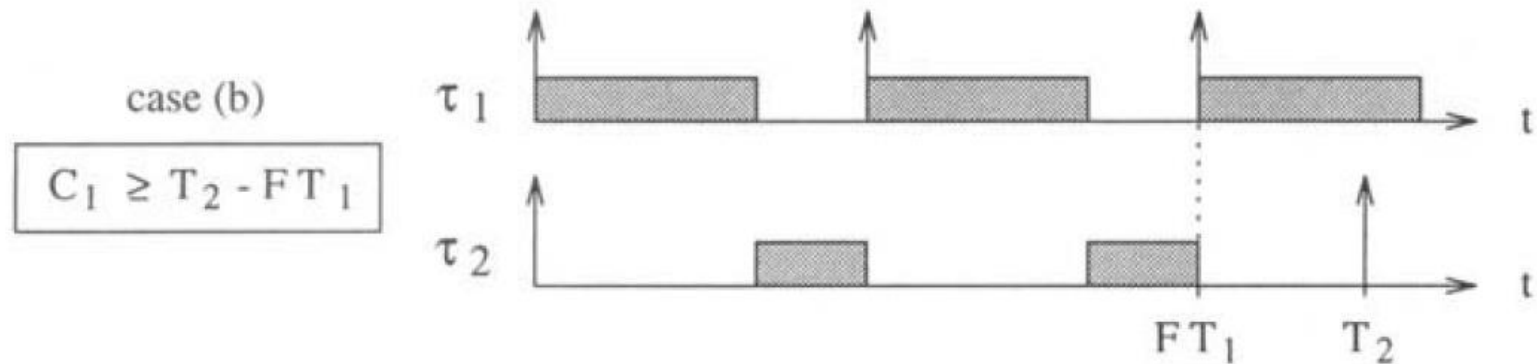
$$(F + 1)C_1 + C_2 \leq FT_1 + C_1$$

$$(F + 1)C_1 + C_2 \leq FT_1 + C_1 \leq T_2$$

→ The schedule by RM is feasible

## Proof of optimality (4)

### □ Case (b)



As  $C_1 + C_2 \leq T_1 \rightarrow FC_1 + FC_2 \leq FT_1$

Since  $F \geq 1$   $FC_1 + C_2 \leq FC_1 + FC_2 \leq FT_1$

→ The schedule by RM is feasible

□ Given  $\tau_1, \tau_2$  if they are scheduled by any fixed priority algorithm, then they are schedulable by RM

→ RM is optimal

# RM schedulability: using U

---

- ❑ Necessary but not sufficient

$$U \leq 1$$

- ❑ Sufficient but not necessary (LL-bound)

$$U \leq n(2^{1/n} - 1)$$

As the number of tasks  $n$  increases to infinite

$$U \rightarrow \ln 2 = 0.69$$

n	$U_{lub}$
1	1.000
2	0.828
3	0.780
4	0.757
5	0.743

n	$U_{lub}$
6	0.735
7	0.729
8	0.724
9	0.721
10	0.718

## Example

---

- ❑  $T1(c=1, p=d=4)$ ,  $T2(c=1, p=d=5)$ ,  $T3(c=1, p=d=10)$
- ❑ Is this tasks set schedulable by RM?

$$U = 1/4 + 1/5 + 1/10 = 0.55$$

$$n(2^{1/n} - 1) = 3(2^{1/3} - 1) \approx 0.78$$

- ❑ We have

$$U \leq n(2^{1/n} - 1)$$

➔ Schedulable tasks set

# Schedulability analysis of RM

---

□ If  $n(2^{1/n} - 1) < U \leq 1$  the tasks set might or might not be schedulable

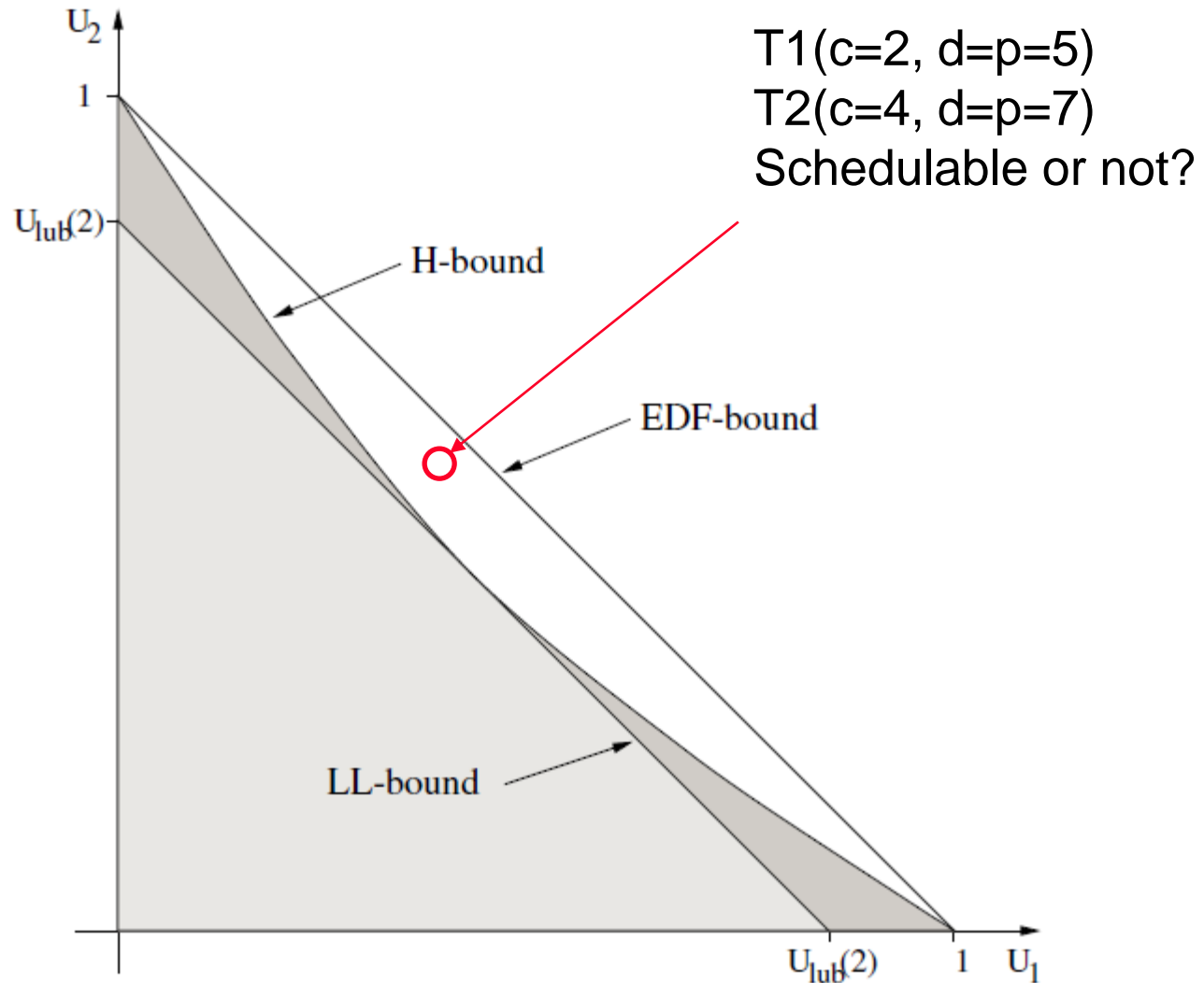
➔ Need to check manually

## RM schedulability: using hyperbolic bound

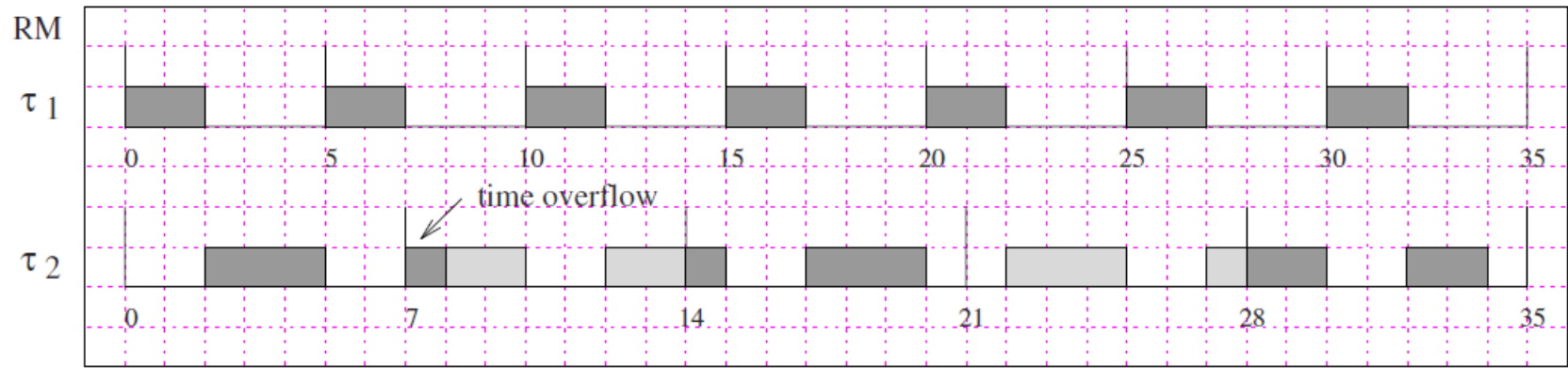
- Given a set of periodic task with utilization factors  $U_i$  the tight bound for schedulability with RM is

$$\prod_{i=1}^n (U_i + 1) \leq 2.$$

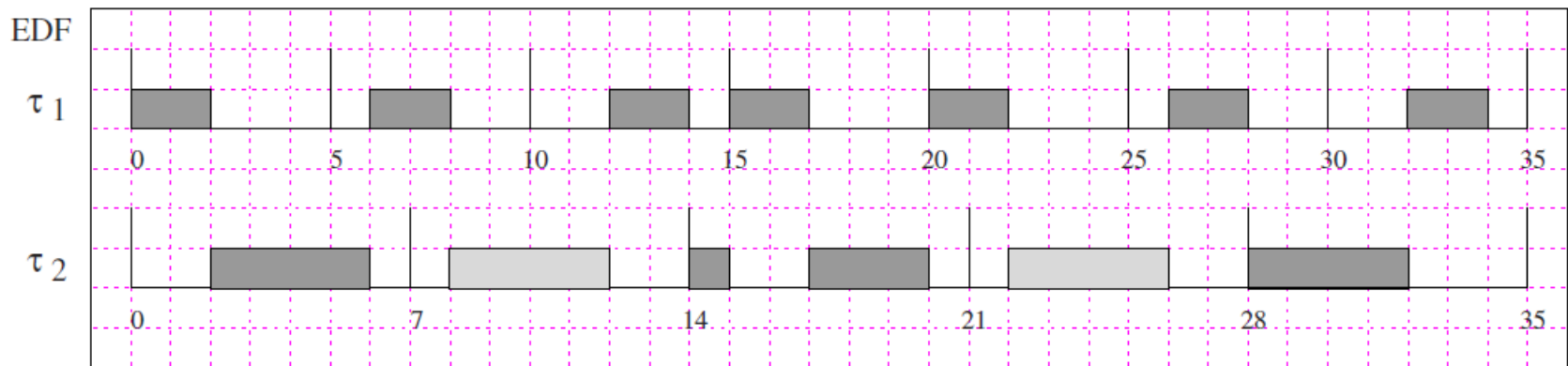
# EDF vs RM



# EDF vs RM



(a)



(b)

EDF is dynamic algorithm ➔ able to produce feasible schedule when RM fails



# EDF and RM comparison

---

- ❑ EDF: large overhead
  - ❑ Calculate time to deadline for all ready tasks
  - ❑ Assign priorities
  - ❑ Schedule based on new priorities
- ❑ RM is simpler to implement, requires less overhead

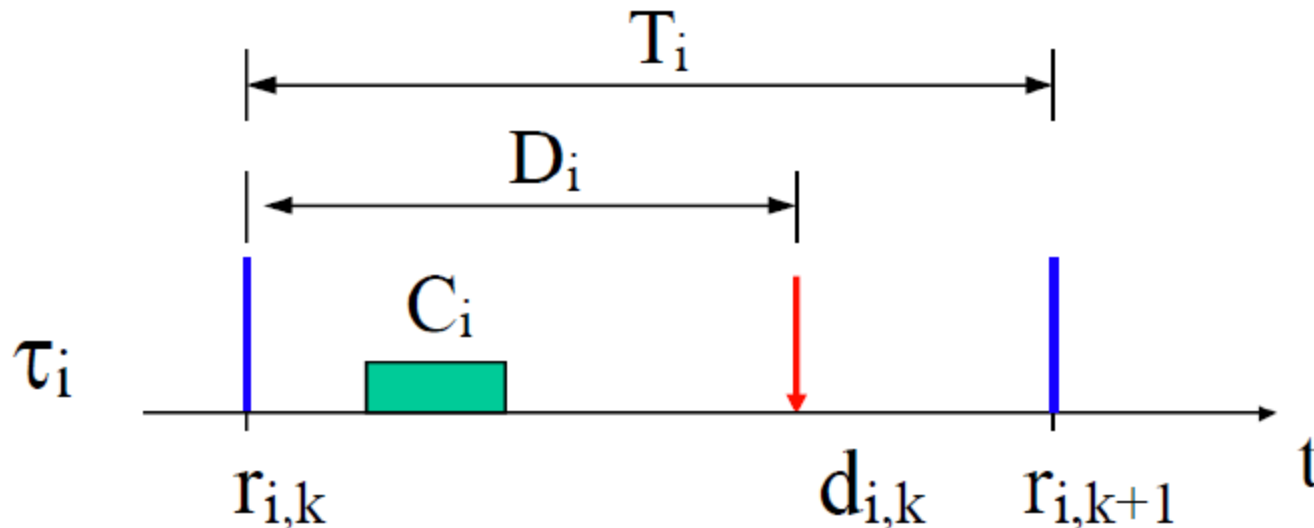
# Assumptions for EDF and RM

- ❑ A3: Relative deadline equals to period

$$D_i = T_i$$

- ❑ Relax the assumption for more practical problems

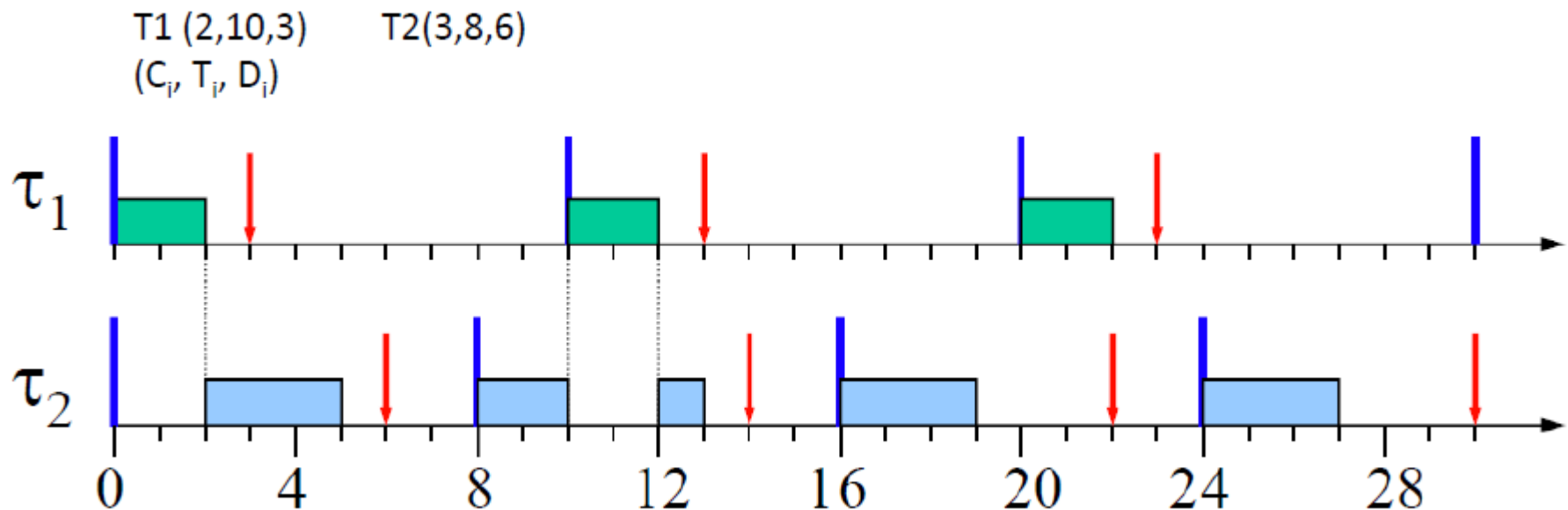
$$D_i < T_i$$



→ modified algorithms

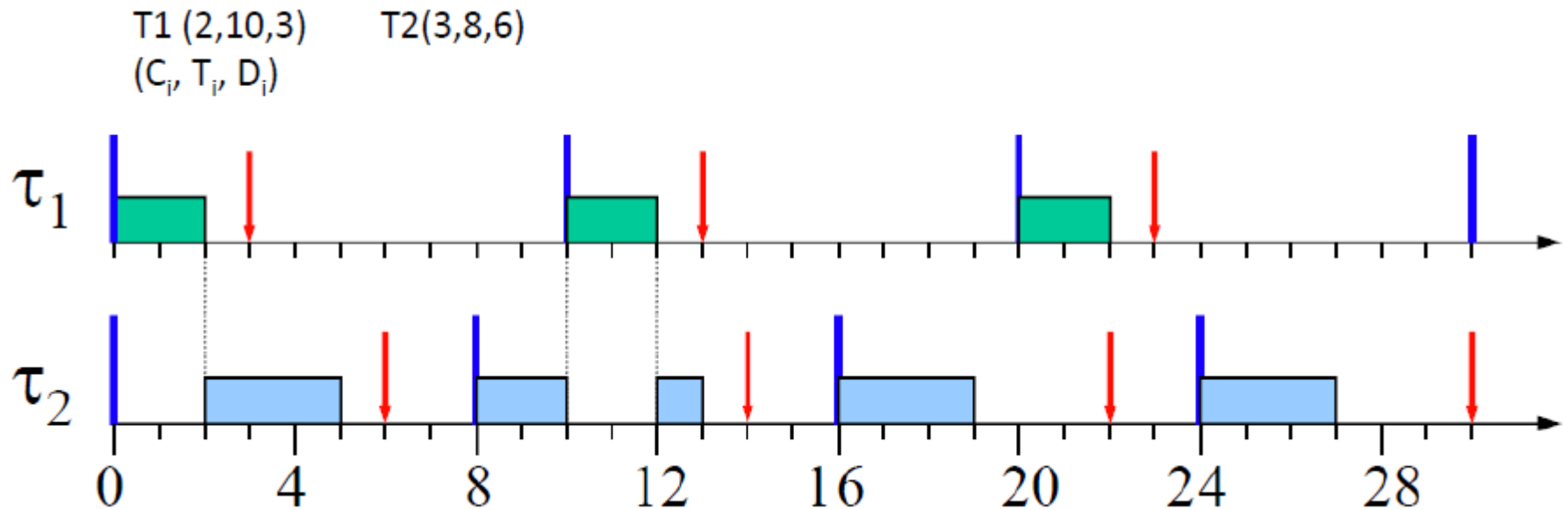
## Algorithm 4: Deadline Monotonic (DM)

- ❑ Each task is assigned a priority inversely proportional to its relative deadline
- ❑ Shorter deadlines imply higher priorities



➔ Feasible schedule

# Schedulability analysis of DM



❑ Processor utilization

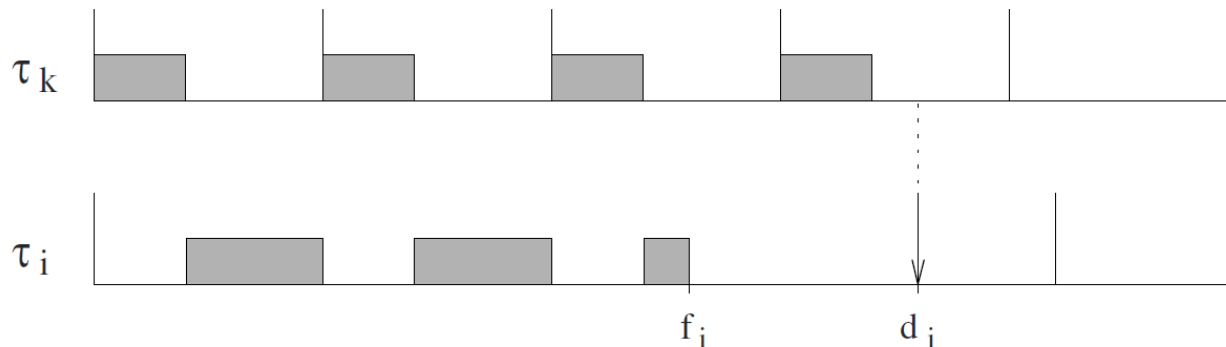
$$U = 2/3 + 3/6 = 1.16 > 1$$

➔ cannot be used for schedulability analysis

# Schedulability analysis of DM

- ❑ The worst-case processor demand (at critical instances) must be met
- ❑ In the worst case: for each task  $\tau$ , the sum of its processing time and the interference (preemption) imposed by higher priority tasks must be less than or equal to its relative deadline

$$\forall i : 1 \leq i \leq n \quad C_i + I_i \leq D_i$$



# Schedulability based on response time

- Response time of task  $i$

$$R_i = C_i + I_i,$$

- Interference by higher priority tasks

$$I_i = \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \left\lceil \frac{R_i}{T_j} \right\rceil C_j.$$

- Then

$$R_i = C_i + \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \left\lceil \frac{R_i}{T_j} \right\rceil C_j.$$

- $R_i$  is calculated recursively until converged

## Example 1

---

- ❑ Test the schedulability of the tasks set, present a feasible schedule if available

	$C_i$	$T_i$	$D_i$
$\tau_1$	1	4	3
$\tau_2$	1	5	4
$\tau_3$	2	6	5
$\tau_4$	1	11	10

## Example 1

---

Step 0:  $R_4^{(0)} = \sum_{i=1}^4 C_i = 5$ , but  $I_4^{(0)} = 5$  and  $I_4^{(0)} + C_4 > R_4^{(0)}$   
hence  $\tau_4$  does not finish at  $R_4^{(0)}$ .

Step 1:  $R_4^{(1)} = I_4^{(0)} + C_4 = 6$ , but  $I_4^{(1)} = 6$  and  $I_4^{(1)} + C_4 > R_4^{(1)}$   
hence  $\tau_4$  does not finish at  $R_4^{(1)}$ .

Step 2:  $R_4^{(2)} = I_4^{(1)} + C_4 = 7$ , but  $I_4^{(2)} = 8$  and  $I_4^{(2)} + C_4 > R_4^{(2)}$   
hence  $\tau_4$  does not finish at  $R_4^{(2)}$ .

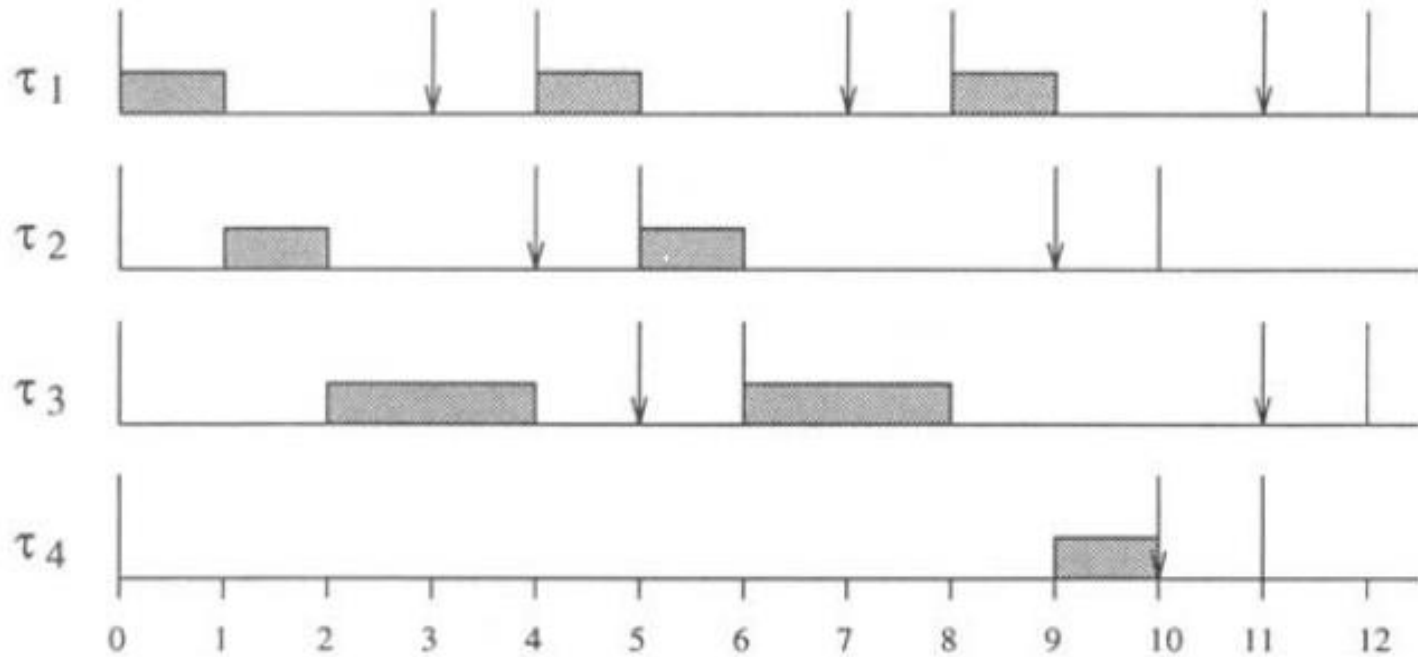
Step 3:  $R_4^{(3)} = I_4^{(2)} + C_4 = 9$ , but  $I_4^{(3)} = 9$  and  $I_4^{(3)} + C_4 > R_4^{(3)}$   
hence  $\tau_4$  does not finish at  $R_4^{(3)}$ .

Step 4:  $R_4^{(4)} = I_4^{(3)} + C_4 = 10$ , but  $I_4^{(4)} = 9$  and  $I_4^{(4)} + C_4 = R_4^{(4)}$   
hence  $\tau_4$  finishes at  $R_4 = R_4^{(4)} = 10$ .



# Example 1

---



## Example 2

---

- ❑ Analyze the schedulability of task T3

Task	T	C	D
1	250	5	10
2	10	2	10
3	330	25	50

## Example 2

---

- ❑ Analyze the schedulability of task T3

Task	T	C	D
1	250	5	10
2	10	2	10
3	330	25	50

Iteration	$R^s$ (for Task T3)	I	$R^{s+1}$
1	25	$5+3 \times 2=11$	36
2	36	$5+4 \times 2=13$	38
3	38	$5+4 \times 2=13$	38

➔ T3 is schedulable

## Algorithm 5: EDF with $D < T$

---

- ❑ Dynamic scheduling
- ❑ Utilization bound does not work!!!

→ The processor demand approach

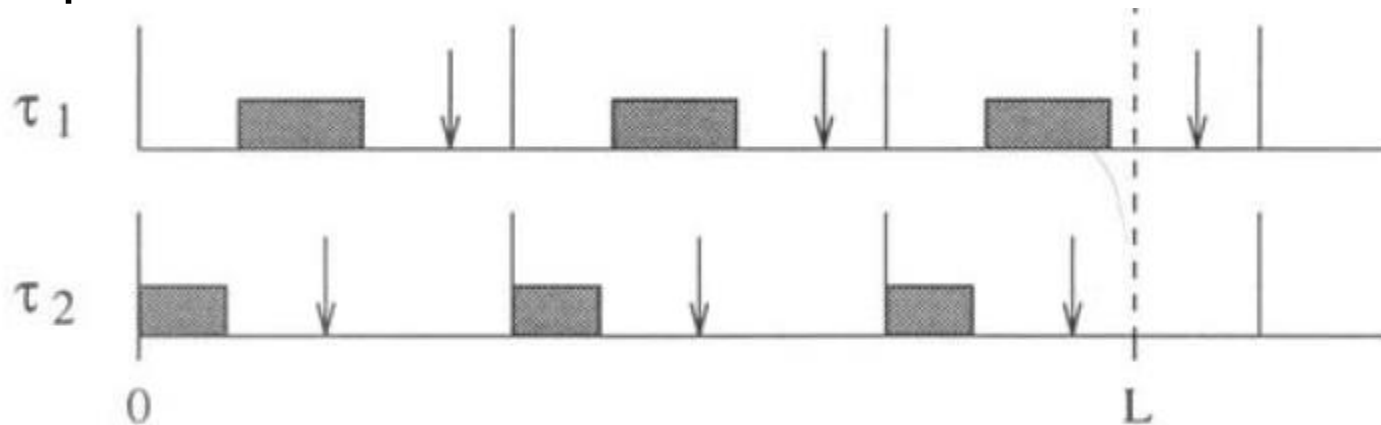
***“During any time interval, the total processor demand of the whole tasks set must be no greater than the available time”***

# Processor demand

- Given time interval  $[0, L]$ , total processor demand for task  $\tau_i$  is

$$C_i(0, L) = \left( \left\lfloor \frac{L - D_i}{T_i} \right\rfloor + 1 \right) C_i$$

- Example



$$C_1(0, L) = \left\lfloor \frac{L}{T_1} \right\rfloor C_1$$
$$C_2(0, L) = \left( \left\lfloor \frac{L}{T_2} \right\rfloor + 1 \right) C_2$$

# Processor demand

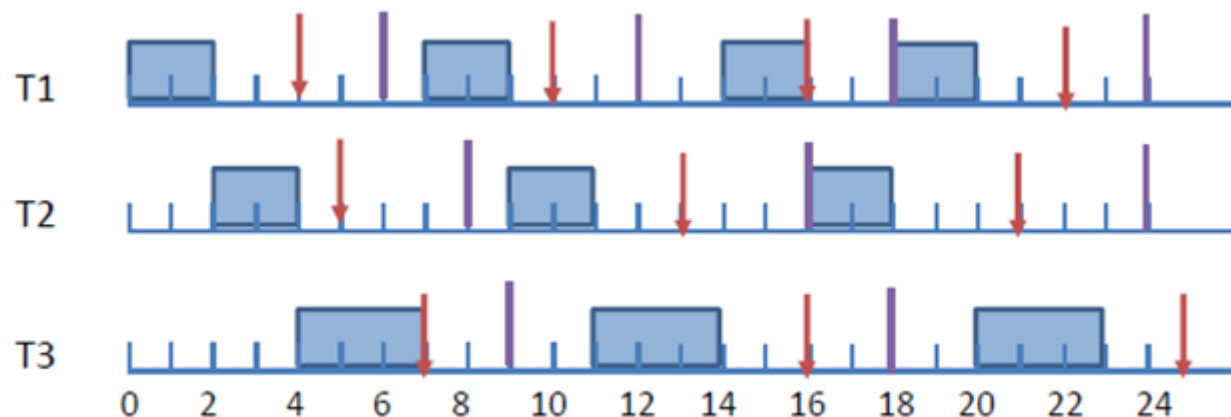
- ❑ Total processor demand for the whole task set

$$C(0, L) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \left\lfloor \frac{L - D_i}{T_i} \right\rfloor + 1 \right) C_i$$

- ❑ Example

	$C_i$	$D_i$	$T_i$
T1	2	4	6
T2	2	5	8
T3	3	7	9

L	$C(0, L)$
4	2
5	4
7	7



# Schedulability analysis

---

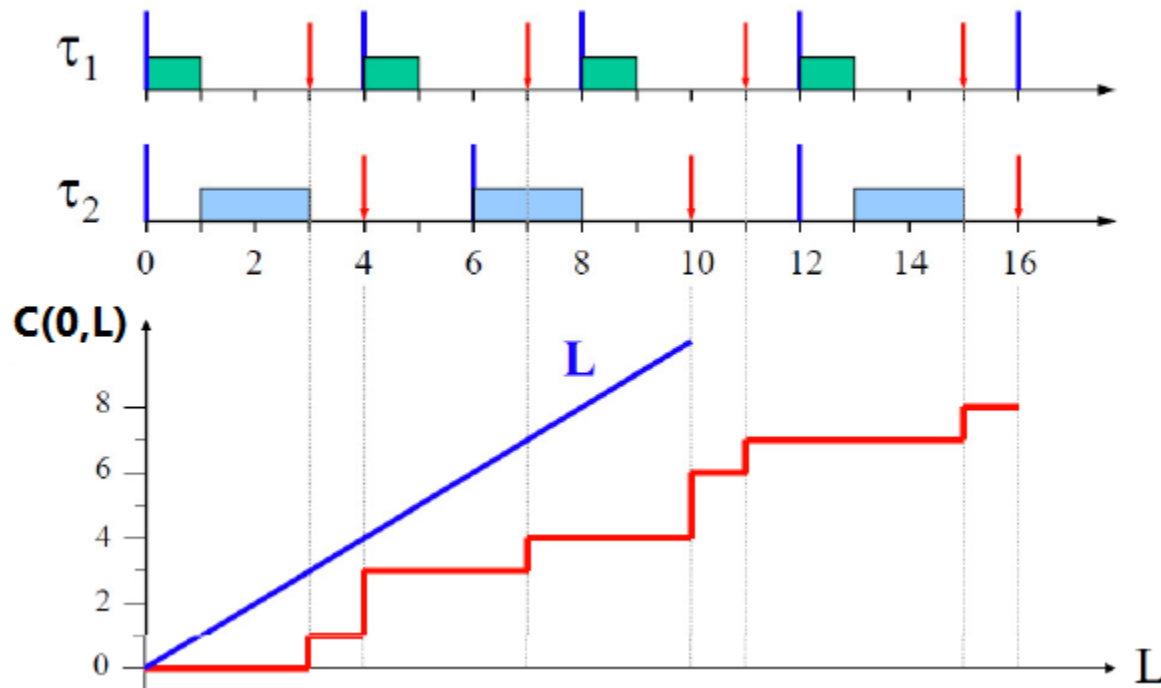
- ❑ Condition on processor demand
- ❑ For all  $L > 0$  task set is schedulable by EDF if and only if

$$L \geq \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \left\lfloor \frac{L - D_i}{T_i} \right\rfloor + 1 \right) C_i$$

- ❑ Problem: how to check this condition?
  - ❑ Too many value of  $L$

# Schedulability analysis: Check at deadlines

- ❑  $C(0, L)$  is a step function so we can check the schedulability condition on deadlines
- ❑ The number of values to check is still large





# Schedulability analysis: Bounding L

---

□ Observe

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \left( \left\lfloor \frac{L+T_i-D_i}{T_i} \right\rfloor \right) \times C_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{L+T_i-D_i}{T_i} \times C_i$$

□ Let

$$G(0, L) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{L+T_i-D_i}{T_i} \times C_i$$

□ We have

$$C(0, L) \leq G(0, L)$$

# Schedulability analysis: Bounding L

---

□ Rewrite

$$\begin{aligned} G(0, L) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{L + T_i - D_i}{T_i} \right) C_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n L \frac{C_i}{T_i} + \sum_{i=1}^n (T_i - D_i) \frac{C_i}{T_i} \\ &= LU + \sum_{i=1}^n (T_i - D_i) U_i \end{aligned}$$

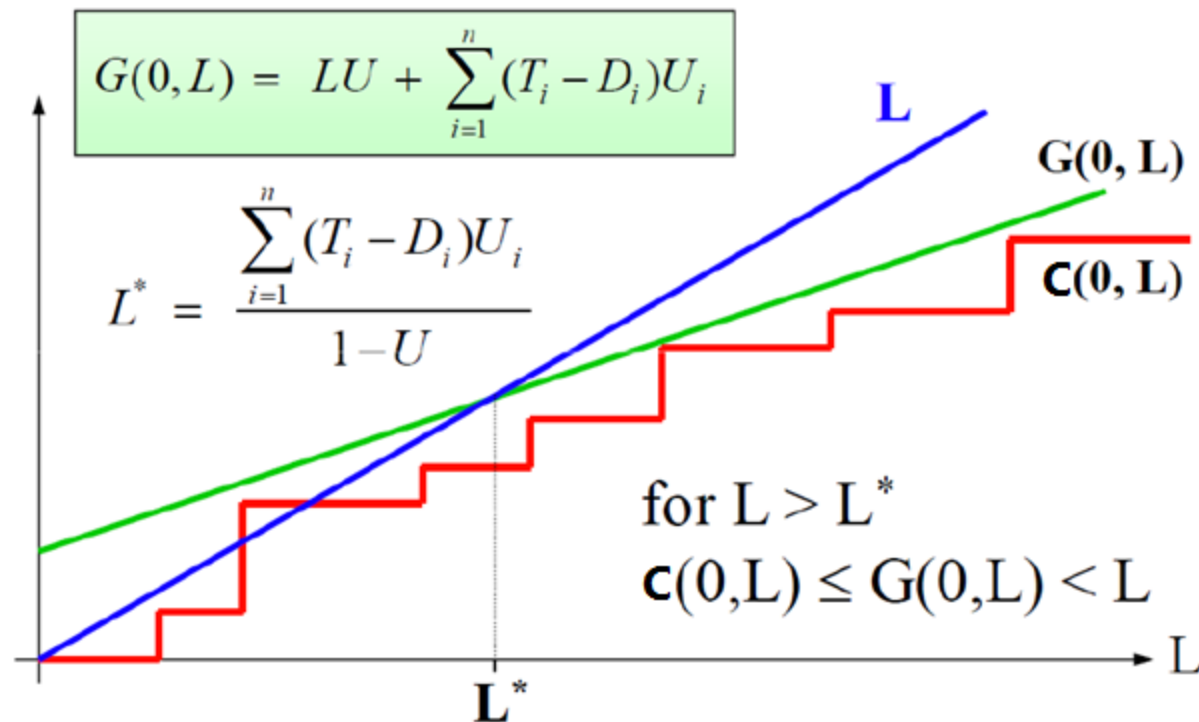
□ then

$$\begin{cases} C(0, L) \leq G(0, L) \\ C(0, L) \leq L \end{cases}$$

# Schedulability analysis: Bounding L

$G(0, L)$  is a straight line with slope  $U$

$L$  represents the line with slope 1. When  $U < 1$ , there exists  $L = L^*$ , where  $G(0, L) = L$



$L^*$ : bounding value of  $L$  to check for schedulability

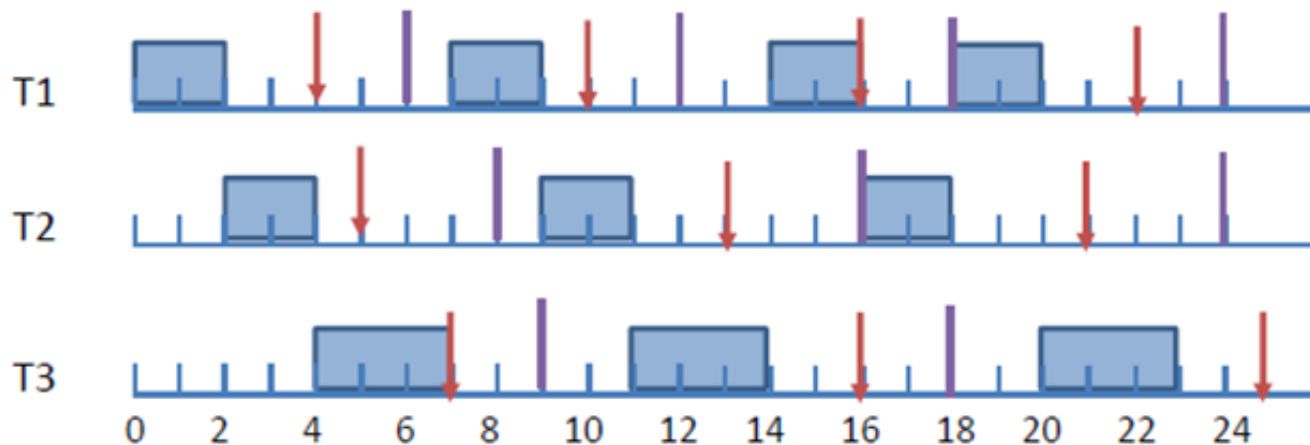
# Example

- Calculate  $L^*$  and verify schedulability

$$L^* = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (T_i - D_i)U_i}{1 - U}$$

	$C_i$	$D_i$	$T_i$
T1	2	4	6
T2	2	5	8
T3	3	7	9

$L$	$C(0,L)$
4	2
5	4
7	7



# Example

	$C_i$	$D_i$	$T_i$
T1	2	4	6
T2	2	5	8
T3	3	7	9

$$U = 2/6 + 2/8 + 3/9$$

$$L^* = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (T_i - D_i) U_i}{1 - U}$$

$$L^* = 25$$

L	C(0,L)	
4	2	OK
5	4	OK
7	7	OK
10	9	OK
13	11	OK
16	16	OK
21	18	OK
22	20	OK

## Exercise

---

- ❑ Construct the schedule for this task set using RM and EDF

	$C_i$	$T_i$
$\tau_1$	1	4
$\tau_2$	2	6
$\tau_3$	3	8

- 
- ❑ Verify the schedulability and construct the schedule for the following task set using DM and EDF

	$C_i$	$D_i$	$T_i$
$\tau_1$	2	5	6
$\tau_2$	2	4	8
$\tau_3$	4	8	12

---

# **Real-time Systems**

## **Chapter 7: Fixed Priority Servers**

Ngo Lam Trung  
Dept. of Computer Engineering



# Contents

---

- ❑ Introduction
- ❑ Background scheduling
- ❑ The basic algorithm: Polling Server
- ❑ Improve response time: Deferrable Server
- ❑ Improve schedulability bound: Priority Exchange
- ❑ DS to equivalent periodic task: Sporadic Server

# Introduction

---

- ❑ Practical systems contain different types of task
  - ❑ Periodic tasks for critical activities: time driven, usually with hard timing constrain
  - ❑ Aperiodic tasks: event driven, may be hard/soft or non-real time.  
➔ Hybrid task set
- ❑ Problem: How to produce a schedule that
  - ❑ Guarrantee the schedulability of critical (periodic) tasks
  - ❑ Provide acceptable response time of soft and non-real time tasks
- ❑ How about critical aperiodic tasks?
  - ❑ Assuming a maximum arrival rate ➔ change to periodic task

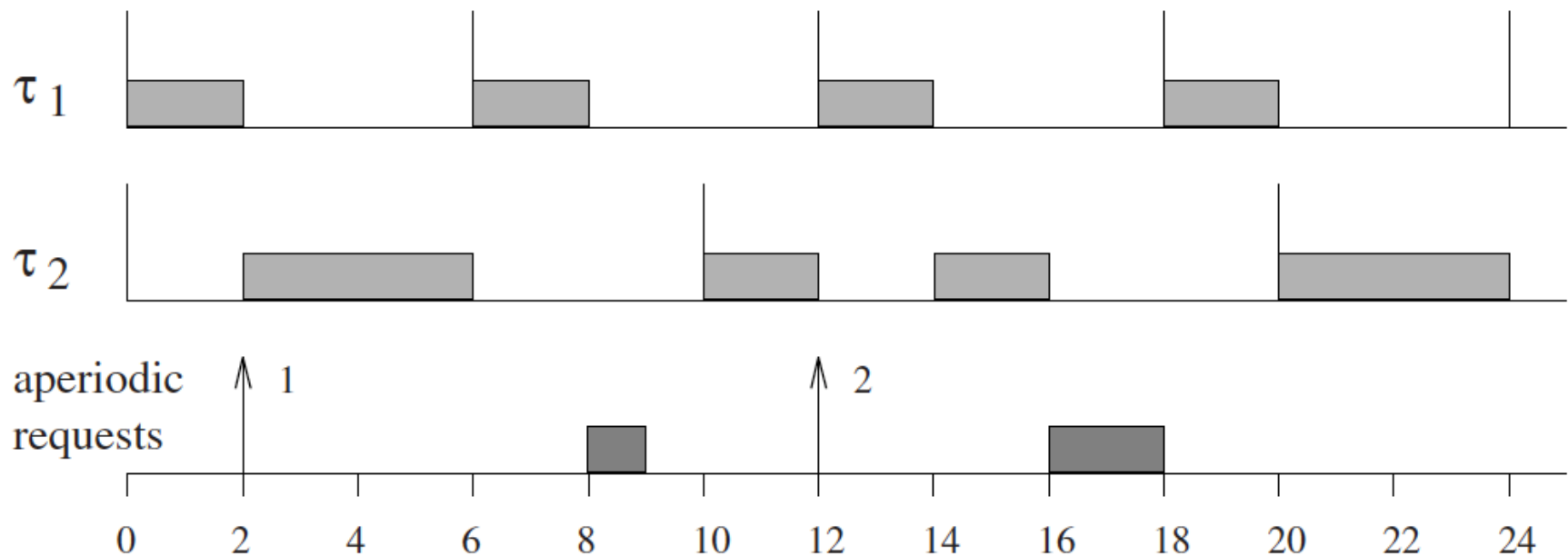
# Assumption

---

- ❑ All periodic task start at  $t = 0$  and their deadline and period are equal.
- ❑ Periodic task are scheduled by RM (fixed priority).
- ❑ Arrival times of aperiodic requests are unknown.
- ❑ The minimum inter-arrival time of a sporadic task is assumed to be equal to its deadline.
- ❑ All tasks are fully preemptible

# The simplest method: Background scheduling

- ❑ Schedule periodic tasks with RM as usual
- ❑ Aperiodic tasks are scheduled at background: run when there is no periodic load.

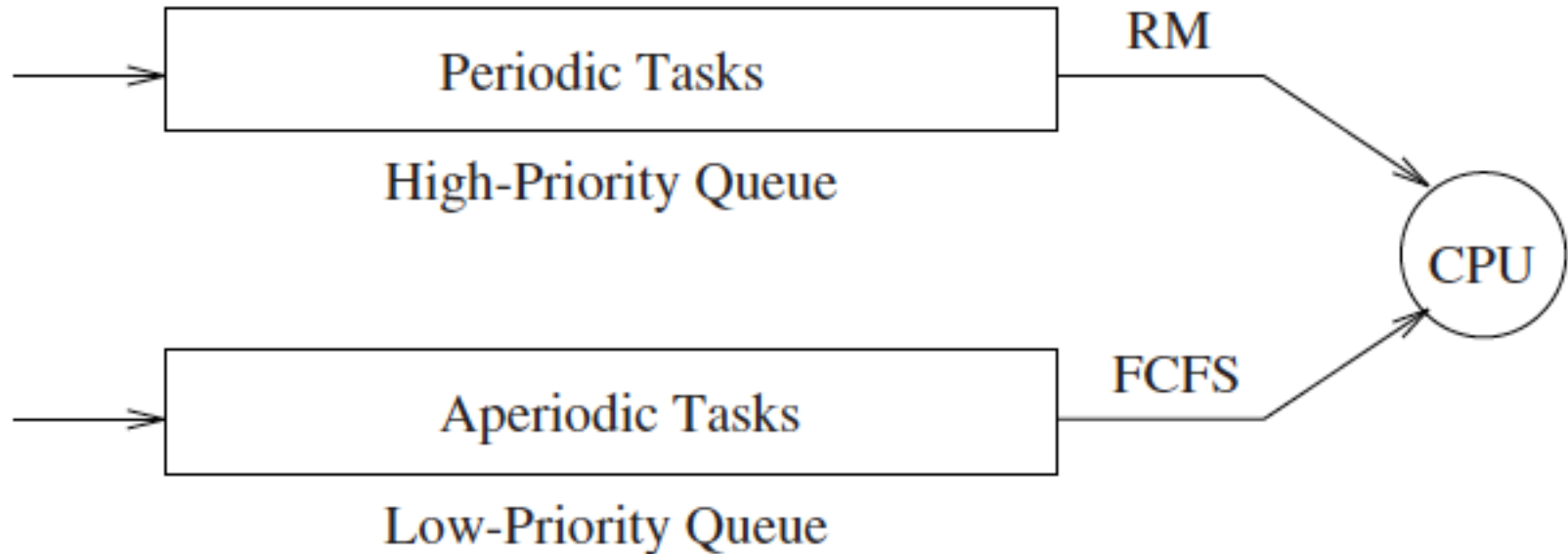


$$U_{\text{periodic}} = ?$$

Schedulability of periodic task will change or not?

# Background scheduling

- ❑ Two task queues in background scheduling



- ❑ Pros: simple method
- ❑ Cons: response time of aperiodic tasks may be low in high periodic load

# Polling Server

---

- ❑ Improve average aperiodic tasks response time
- ❑ Create an additional periodic task
  - ❑ Called Polling Server (PS)
  - ❑ PS serves aperiodic load asap upon request
- ❑ Server task parameter
  - ❑ Period  $T_S$
  - ❑ Computation time  $C_S$ : server capacity
- ❑ PS is scheduled together with other periodic tasks
- ❑ When PS is activated
  - ❑ Select a waiting aperiodic task and execute it with server capacity
  - ❑ If there is no aperiodic task waiting, server suspends itself and gives up its capacity

# Polling Server

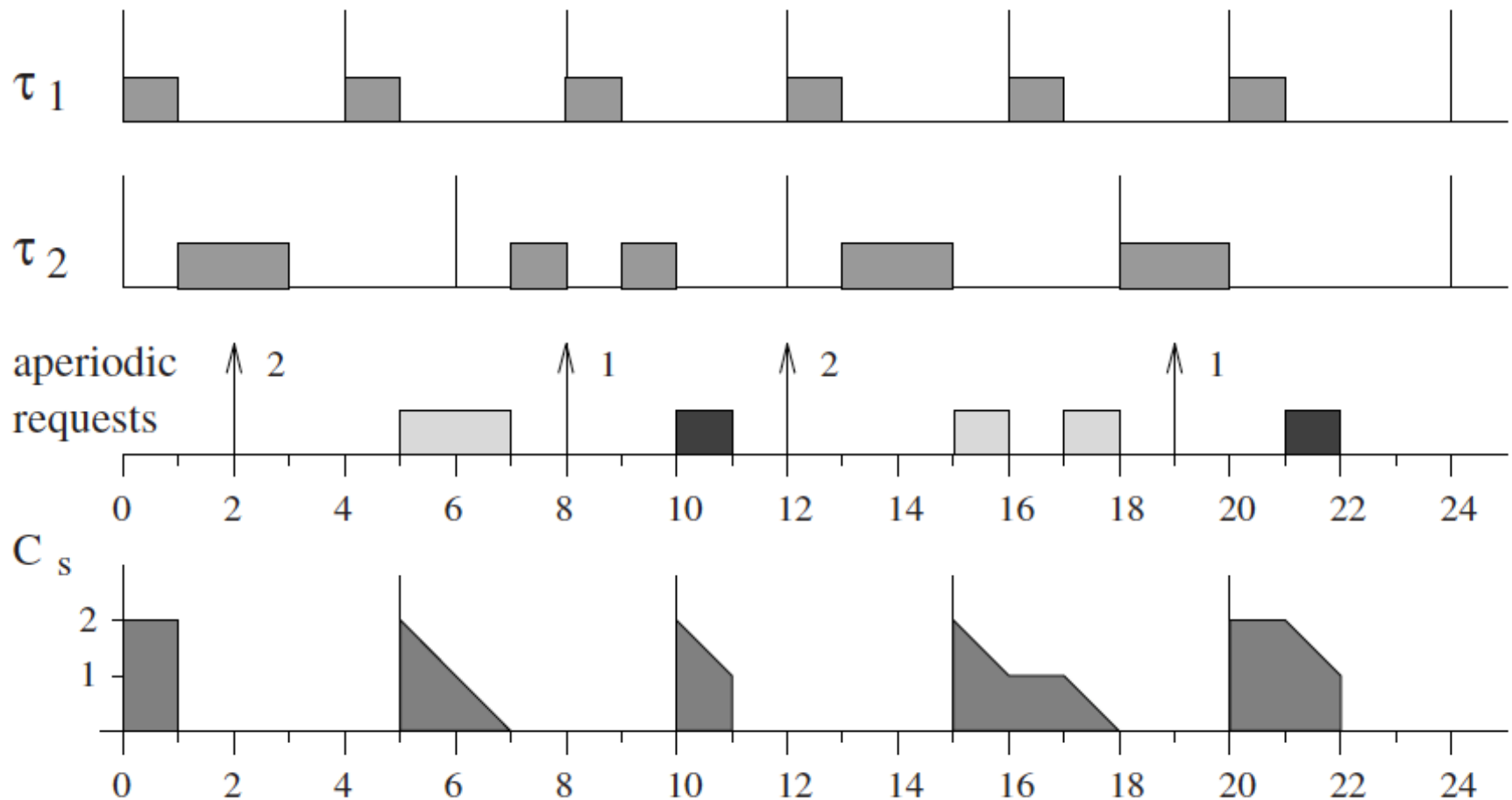
## Example

	$C_i$	$T_i$
$\tau_1$	1	4
$\tau_2$	2	6

Server

$$C_s = 2$$

$$T_s = 5$$



# Polling Server: Schedulability analysis

- ❑ With RM, the task set including the server must be schedulable

$$U_p + U_s \leq U_{lub}(n+1).$$

- ❑ Or

$$U_p \leq n \left[ \left( \frac{2}{U_s + 1} \right)^{1/n} - 1 \right]$$

$U_p$  = total CPU utilization of original periodic tasks

- ❑ Or

$$\prod_{i=1}^n (U_i + 1) \leq \frac{2}{U_s + 1}$$



# Dimensioning the PS

---

- ❑ What are appropriate values of  $T_s$ ,  $P_s$  that guarantee feasible schedule?

- ❑ Define

$$P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{i=1}^n (U_i + 1)$$

- ❑ From schedulability condition

$$P \leq \frac{2}{U_s + 1}$$

- ❑ So we need the server satisfies

$$U_s \leq \frac{2 - P}{P}$$

# Dimensioning the PS

---

□ Let

$$U_s^{max} = \frac{2 - P}{P}$$

□ Server utilization can be selected so  $U_s < U^{max}$

□ Then select the smallest server period as possible

$$T_s = T_1$$

□ Finally

$$C_s = U_s T_s$$

# Polling Server

---

## ❑ Exercise 1

Consider two periodic tasks with computation times  $C_1 = 1$ ,  $C_2 = 2$  and periods  $T_1 = 5$ ,  $T_2 = 8$ , handled by Rate Monotonic. Show the schedule produced by a Polling Server, having maximum utilization and intermediate priority, on the following aperiodic jobs:

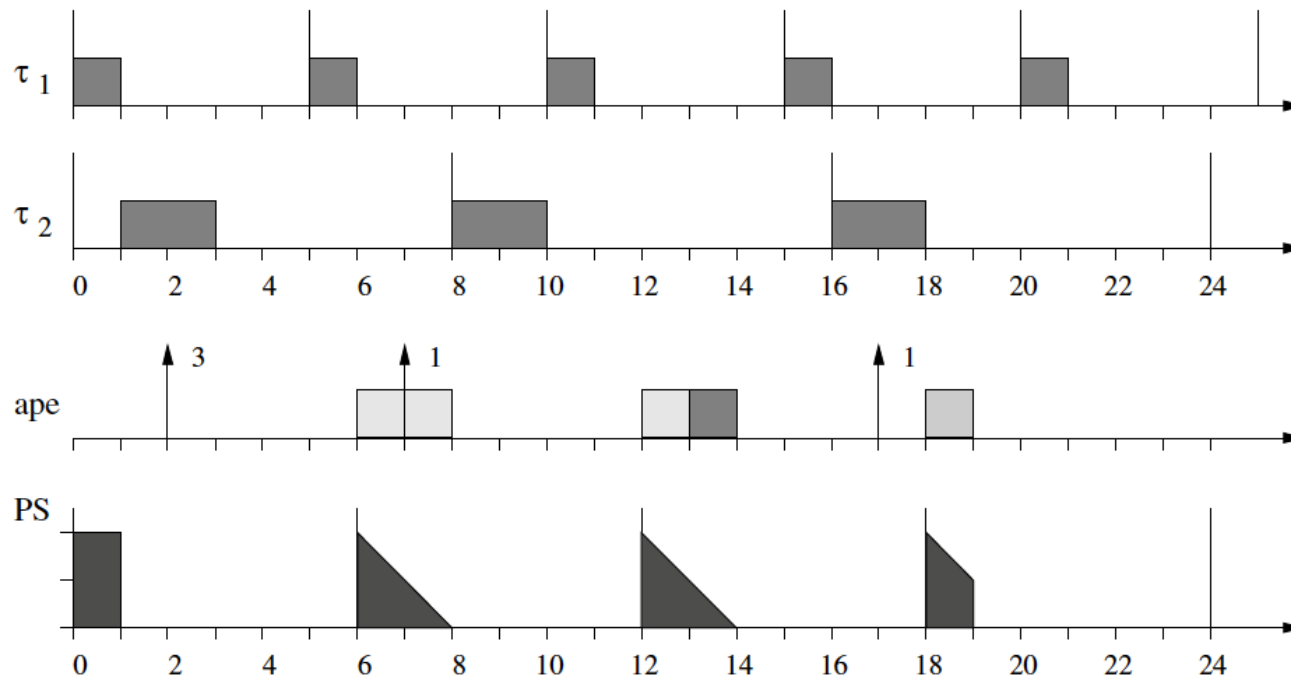
	$a_i$	$C_i$
$J_1$	2	3
$J_2$	7	1
$J_3$	17	1

# Polling Server

## □ Sizing the PS

$$U_{PS}^{max} = \frac{2 - P}{P} = \frac{1}{3}$$

□ So we can set  $T_s = 6$  (intermediate priority) and  $C_s = 2$



# Polling Server

---

- ❑ Problem: if an aperiodic request arrives after the server suspends itself, the request must wait until the next server period

➔ lowering average response time

- ❑ How to improve:
  - ❑ Server will not suspend
  - ❑ ➔ Deferrable Server (DS)

# Deferable Server (DS)

---

- ❑ Improves responsiveness of aperiodic tasks (compare to PS)
- ❑ Algorithm
  - ❑ Create high priority periodic task to serve aperiodic tasks
  - ❑ Server replenishes its capacity at the beginning of each period
  - ❑ If no aperiodic load are pending upon server invocation, the server preserves its capacity
    - aperiodic load can be served at anytime (as opposed to PS)

# Example 1

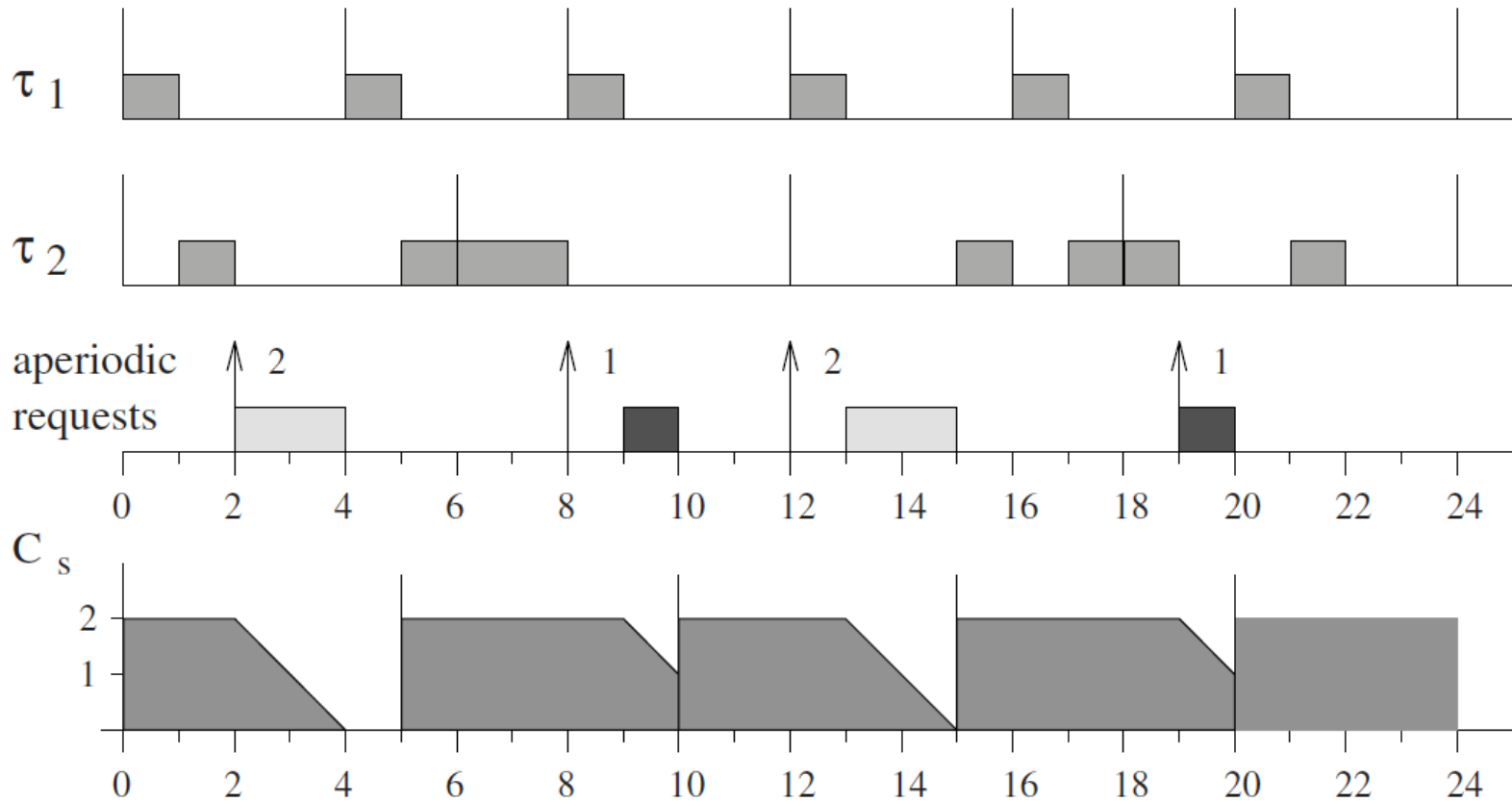
Periodic tasks' priorities are calculated by RM

	$C_i$	$T_i$
$\tau_1$	1	4
$\tau_2$	2	6

Server

$$C_s = 2$$

$$T_s = 5$$



## Example 2

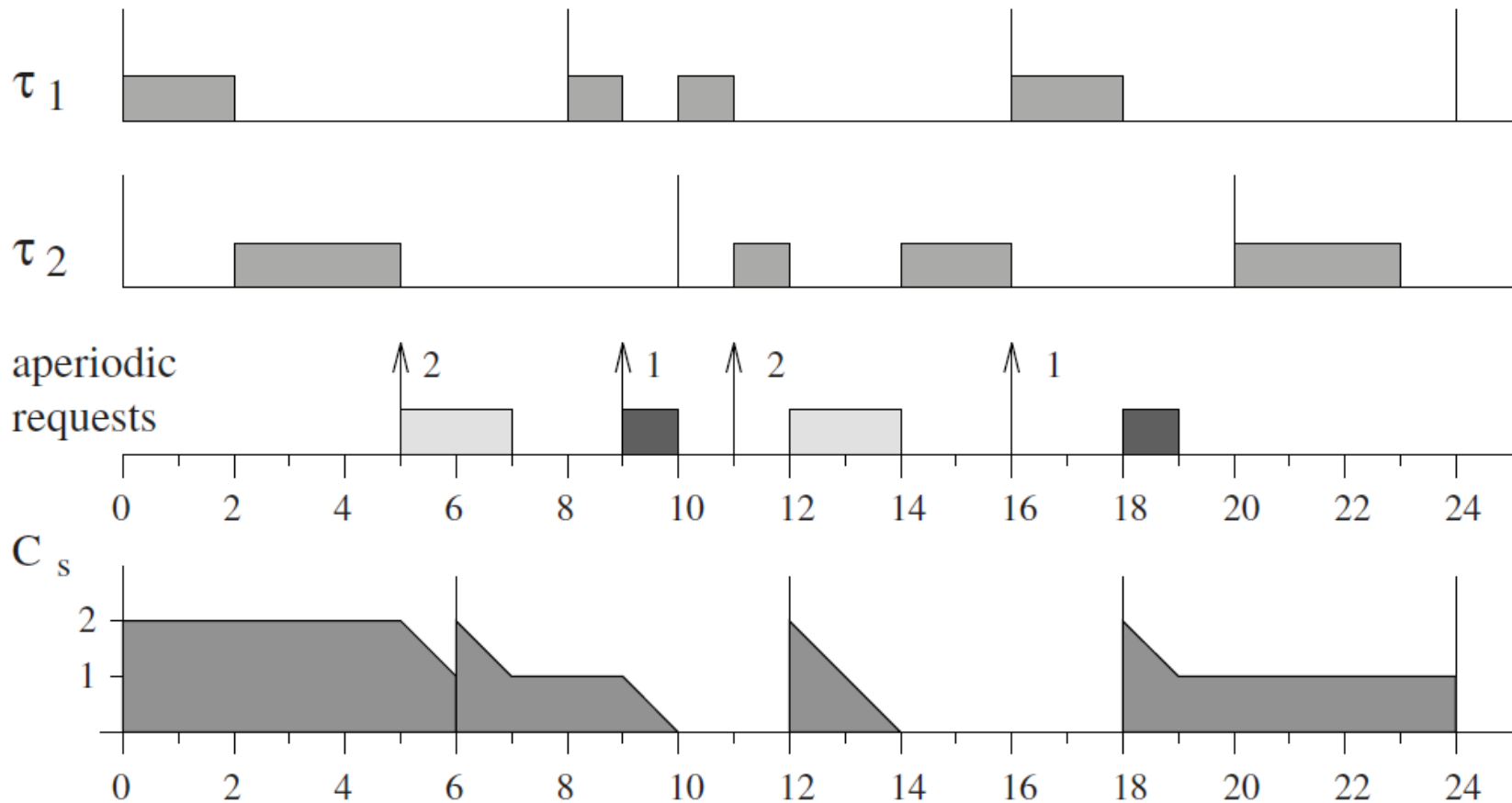
DS is the highest priority task

	$C_i$	$T_i$
$\tau_1$	2	8
$\tau_2$	3	10

Server

$$C_s = 2$$

$$T_s = 6$$

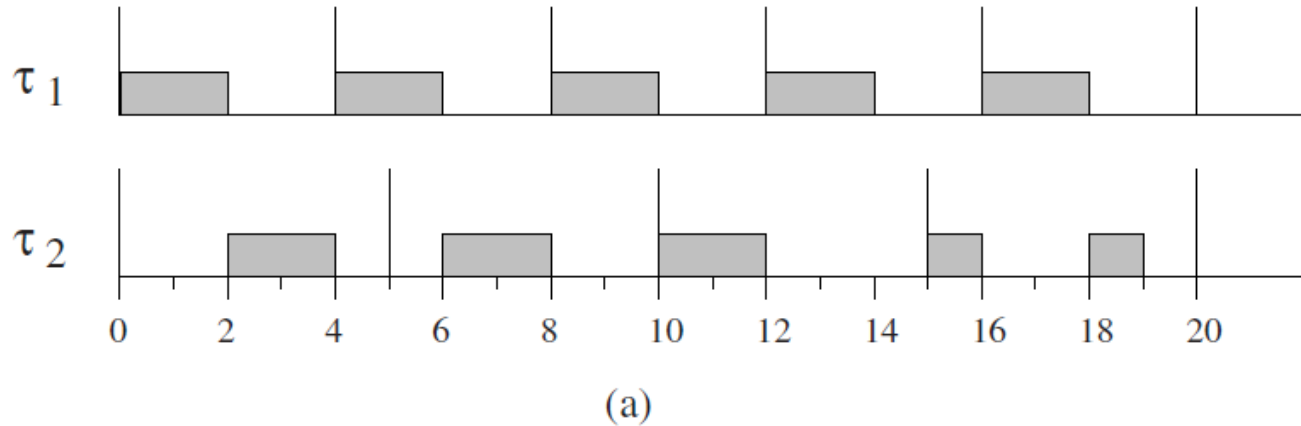




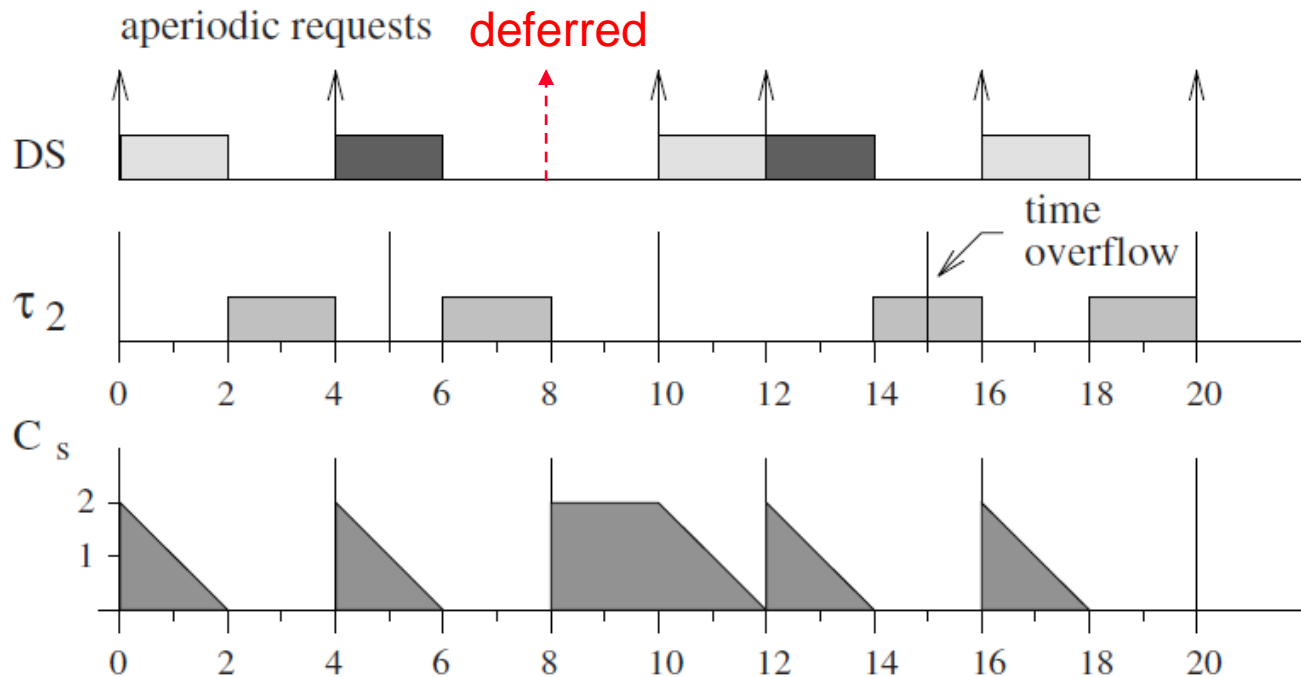
# Example 3

DS is not equivalent to a periodic task in RM  $\rightarrow$  difficult schedulability analysis

Schedulable  
original task  
set



Replace  $\tau_1$   
by DS  
 $\rightarrow$  Not  
schedulable



# DS schedulability analysis

---

- ❑ Given a periodic task set with total utilization  $U_p$  and a DS with utilization  $U_s$

- ❑ The schedulability is guaranteed if

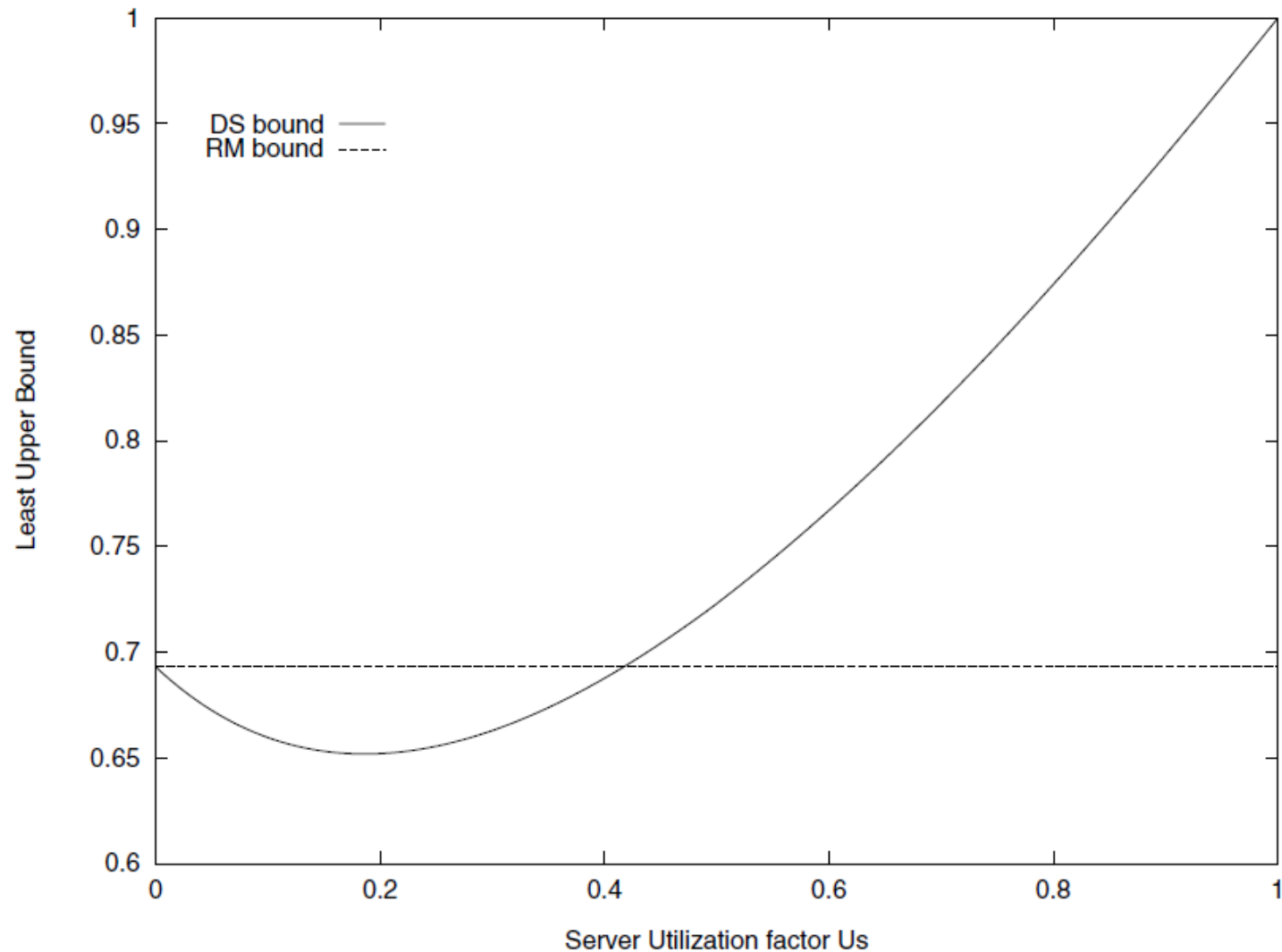
$$U_p \leq n \left[ \left( \frac{U_s + 2}{2U_s + 1} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 \right]$$

- ❑ Therefore the whole system bound is

$$U_{lub} = U_s + n \left[ \left( \frac{U_s + 2}{2U_s + 1} \right)^{1/n} - 1 \right]$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} U_{lub} = U_s + \ln \left( \frac{U_s + 2}{2U_s + 1} \right)$$

# DS schedulability analysis



# DS schedulability analysis

---

- ❑ Given a set of  $n$  periodic tasks with utilization  $U_i$  and a DS with utilization  $U_s$ ,
- ❑ The periodic task set is schedulable under RM if

$$\prod_{i=1}^n (U_i + 1) \leq \frac{U_s + 2}{2U_s + 1}$$

# Dimensioning a DS

---

❑ Find  $U_s$ ,  $T_s$ ,  $C_s$ ?

❑ Similar to PS, let

$$P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{i=1}^n (U_i + 1)$$

❑ Then from guarantee condition we have

$$U_s \leq \frac{2 - P}{2P - 1}$$

❑ So the max utilization for server is

$$U_s^{\max} = \frac{2 - P}{2P - 1}$$

→ choose  $T_s = \min(T_i)$  and  $C_s = U_s * T_s$

## Exercise 2

---

□ From Ex1:

□ Periodic tasks:  $C1 = 1$ ,  $T1=5$ ,  $C2 = 2$ ,  $T2=8$  (scheduled by RM)

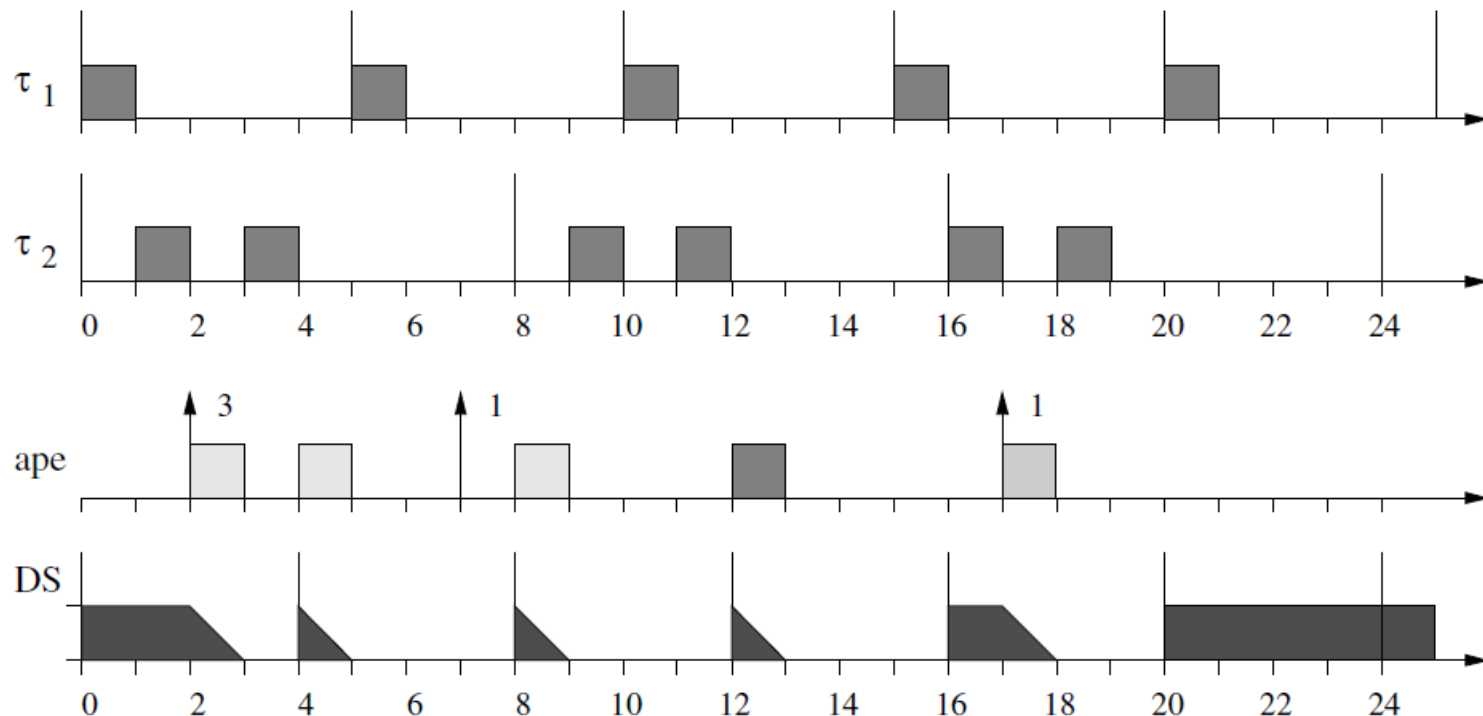
□ Aperiodic tasks:

	$a_i$	$C_i$
$J_1$	2	3
$J_2$	7	1
$J_3$	17	1

□ Solve the scheduling problem based on DS, with highest possible priority and maximum utilization

## Ex 2

- Maximum utilization:  $U_{max} = 1/4$
- Highest priority with RM:  $T_s = 4$
- $\rightarrow C_s = 1$



# Priority Exchange (PE)

---

- ❑ Similar to DS with
  - ❑ Better schedulability bound
  - ❑ Worse aperiodic responsiveness
- ❑ PE algorithm
  - ❑ Create a periodic task (PE) with high priority for aperiodic load
  - ❑ PE preserves capacity by exchanging for lower priority tasks' execution time.
  - ❑ Upon PE activation: if there is no aperiodic load, lower priority tasks can execute and PE accumulates capacity at the corresponding priorities.
  - ❑ If there is no task waiting, PE capacity resolves to 0



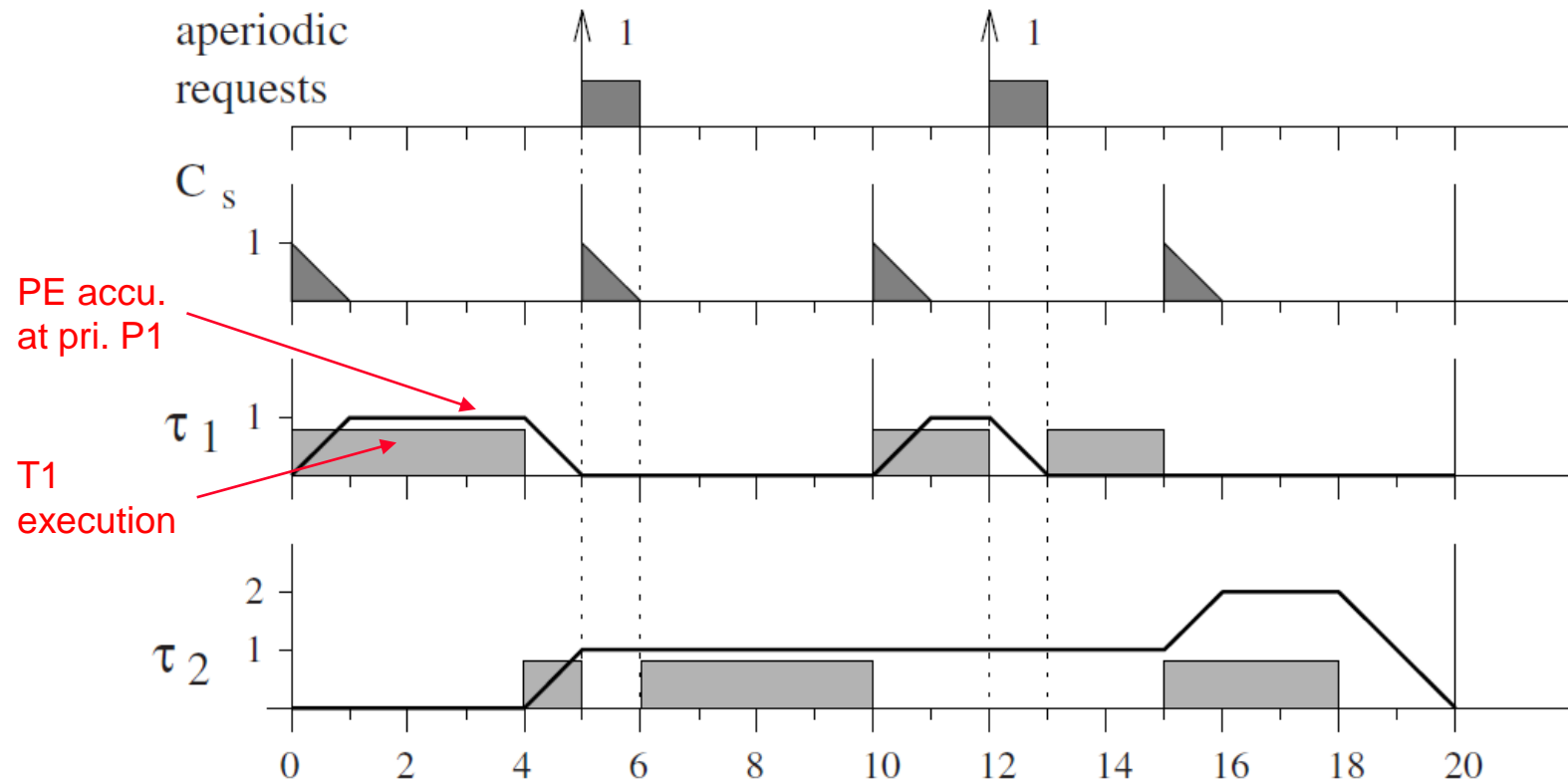
# Example

	$C_i$	$T_i$
$\tau_1$	4	10
$\tau_2$	8	20

Server

$$C_s = 1$$

$$T_s = 5$$

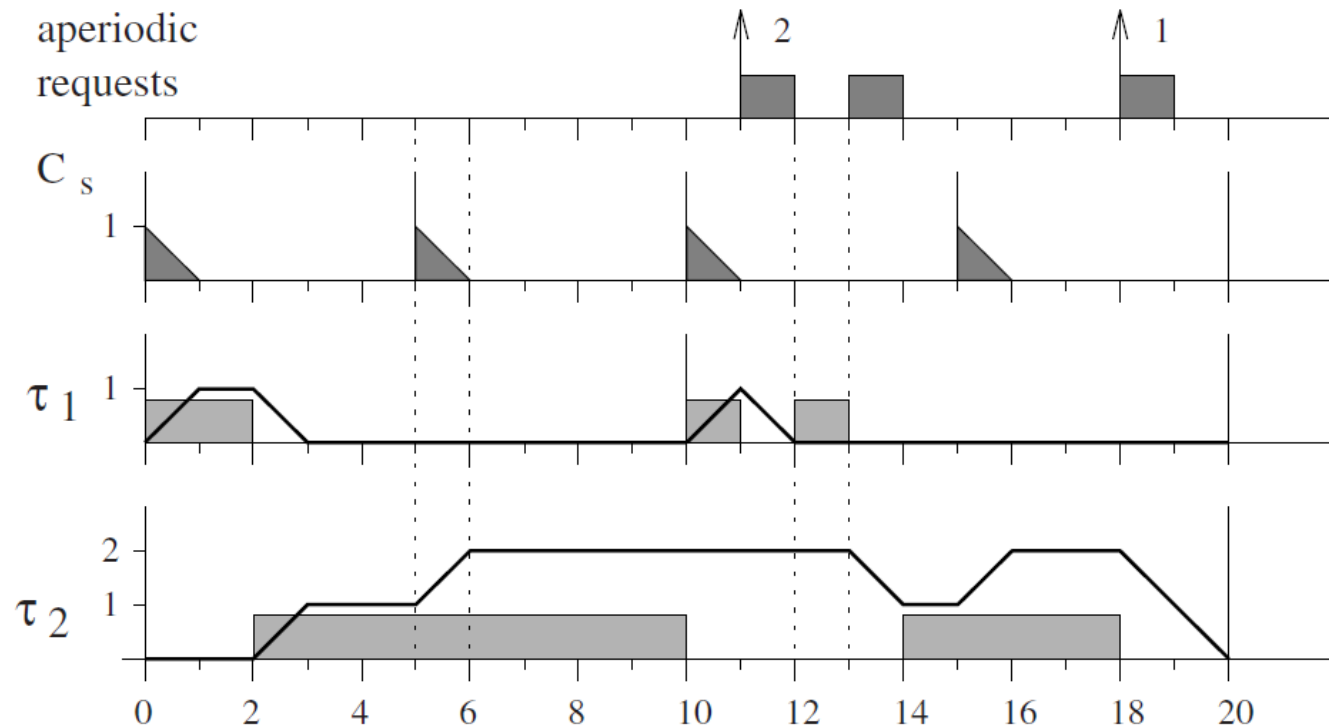


## Exercise 4

□ Why in this case do the PE and T1 preempt each other?

	$C_i$	$T_i$
$\tau_1$	2	10
$\tau_2$	12	20

Server  
 $C_s = 1$   
 $T_s = 5$



# Schedulability bound

---

- ❑ Given a periodic task set with total utilization  $U_p$  and a PE server with utilization  $U_s$
- ❑ The schedulability is guaranteed if

$$U_p \leq n \left[ \left( \frac{2}{U_s + 1} \right)^{1/n} - 1 \right]$$

- ❑ Sizing PE server

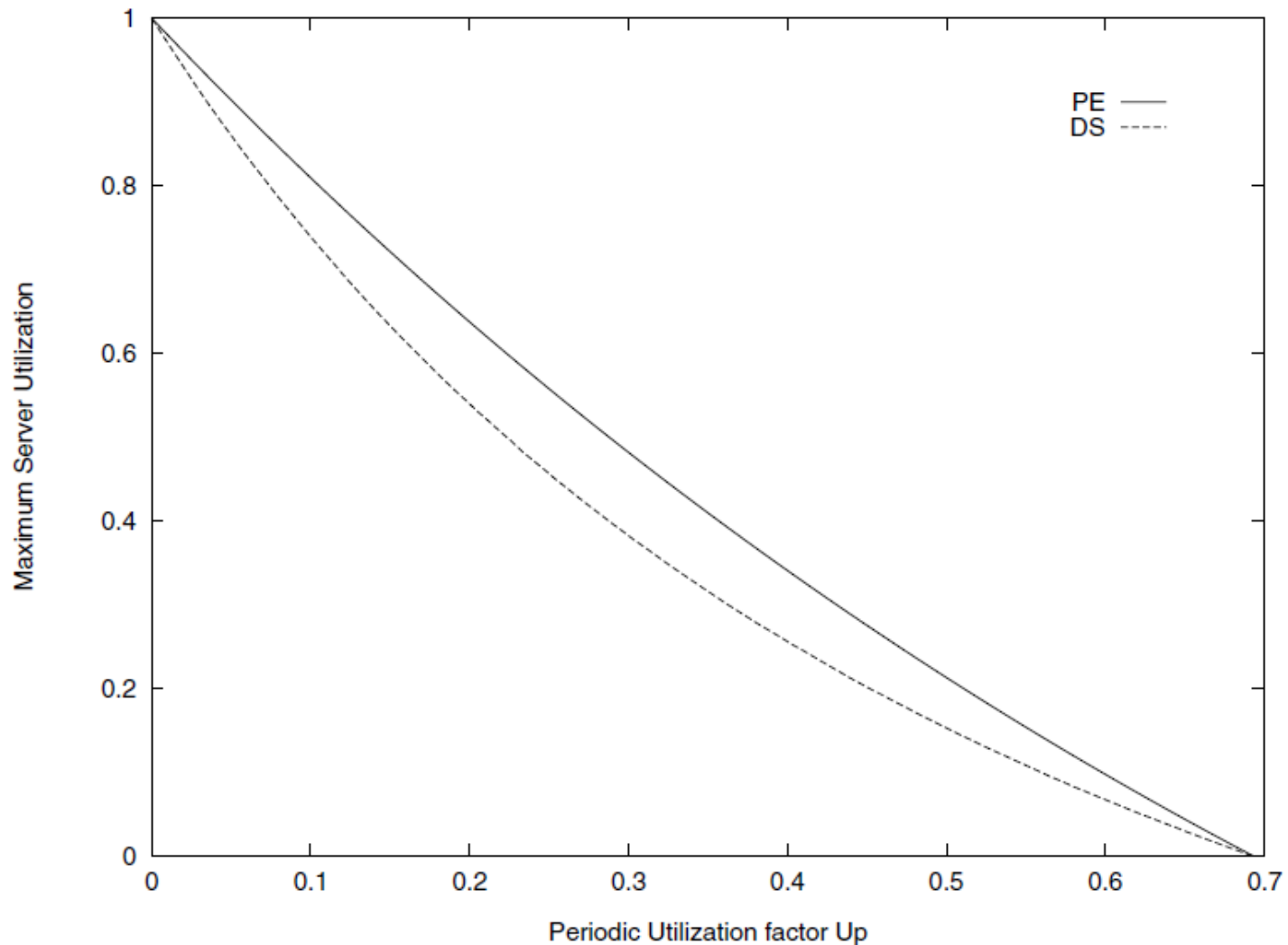
$$U_{PE}^{max} = \frac{2 - P}{P}$$

where

$$P = \prod_{i=1}^n (U_i + 1)$$

# Comparing Up between DS and PE

Which is better in term of periodic utilization?



# Sporadic Server

---

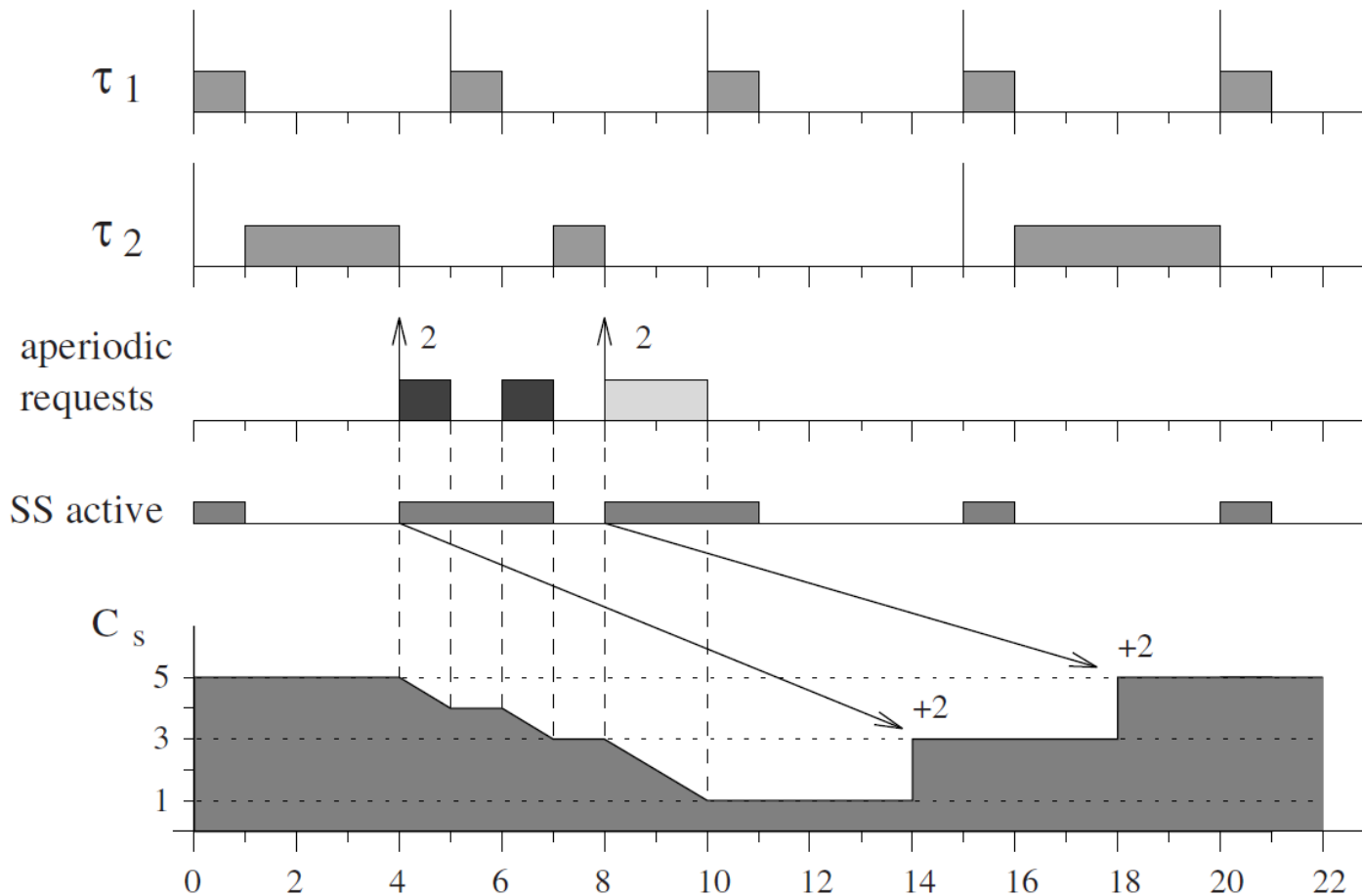
- ❑ Similar to DS
- ❑ Delay the replenishing time of server → server becomes equivalent to a normal periodic task
- ❑ Idea:
  - ❑ Divide the timeline of SS to active and inactive time slices
    - Active: server serves or may serve periodic task
    - Inactive: server does not serve periodic task
  - ❑ Start of active time slice: mark delayed replenishing time
  - ❑ End of active time slice: calculate replenishing amount

# Example: intermediate SS

	$C_i$	$T_i$
$\tau_1$	1	5
$\tau_2$	4	15

Server

$$C_s = 5$$
$$T_s = 10$$



# Sporadic Server

---

$P_{exe}$  It denotes the priority level of the task that is currently executing.

$P_s$  It denotes the priority level associated with SS.

**Active** SS is said to be *active* when  $P_{exe} \geq P_s$ .

**Idle** SS is said to be *idle* when  $P_{exe} < P_s$ .

**RT** It denotes the *replenishment time* at which the SS capacity will be replenished.

**RA** It denotes the *replenishment amount* that will be added to the capacity at time RT.

$$RT = \text{Start\_of\_Active} + Ts$$

$$RA = \text{Consume\_capacity}$$

## Exercise 5:

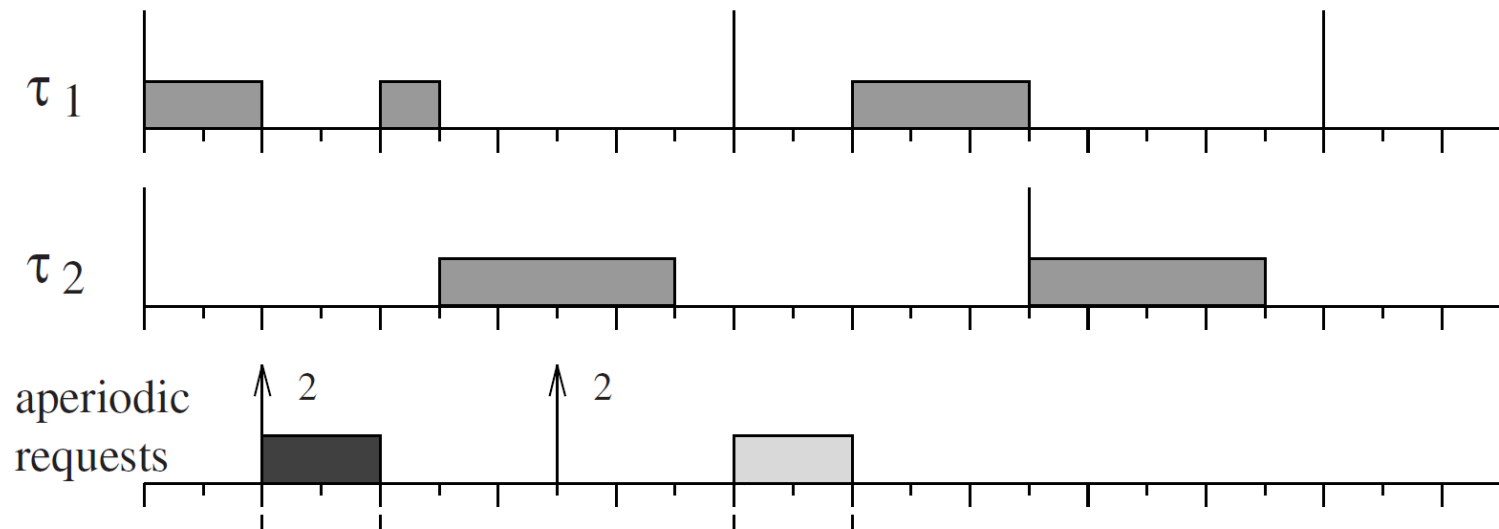
- Find response time of aperiodic tasks

	$C_i$	$T_i$
$\tau_1$	3	10
$\tau_2$	4	15

Server

$$C_s = 2$$

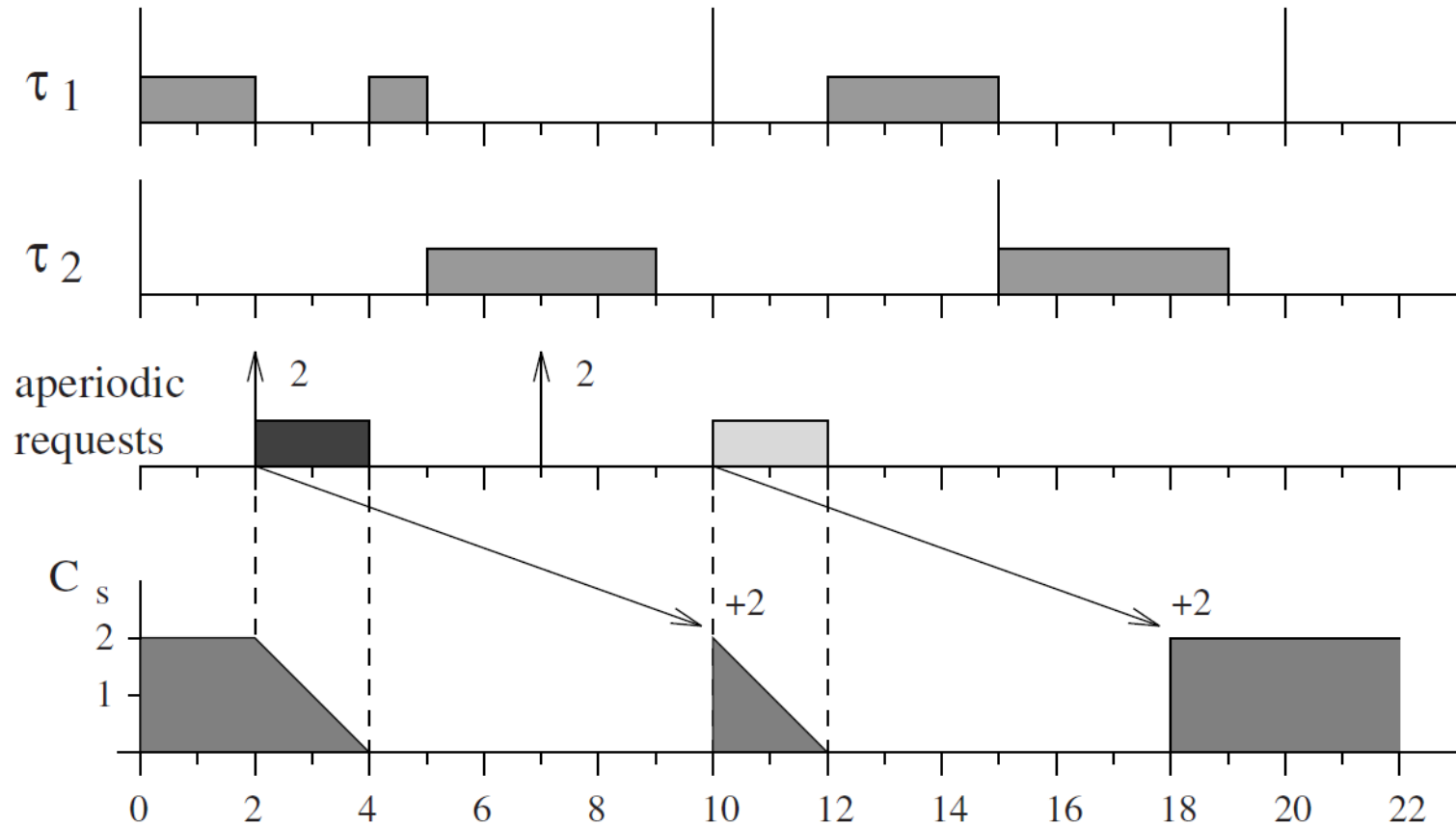
$$T_s = 8$$





## Exercise 5

- ❑ Server is with highest priority



# Periodic task equivalent

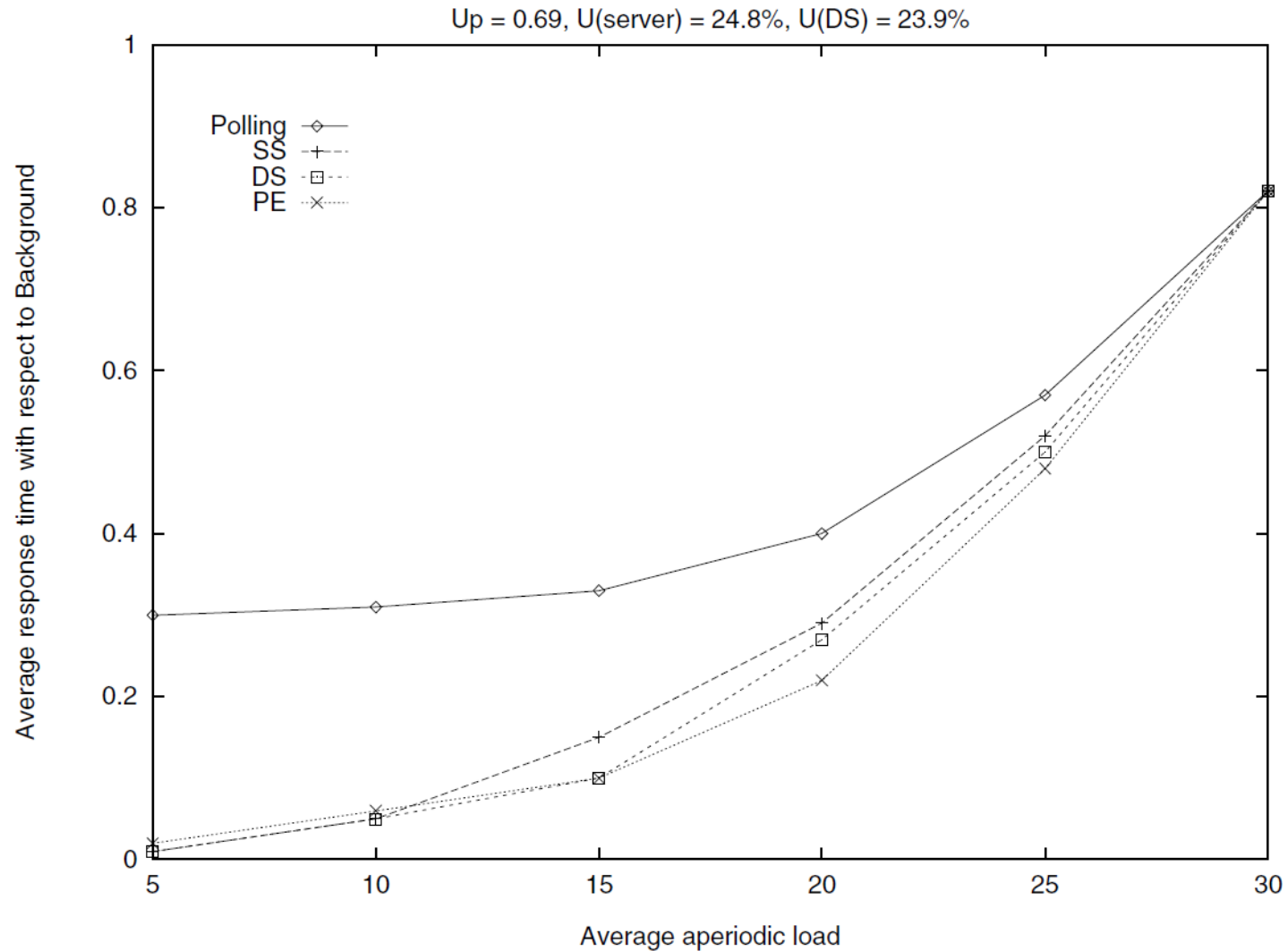
---

- ❑ SS (like DS) violates assumption: task must not suspend itself and reactivate later
- ❑ SS is different from DS: replenishing time is delayed
- ❑ **Theorem 5.1 (Sprunt, Sha, Lehoczky)** *A periodic task set that is schedulable with a task  $\tau_i$  is also schedulable if  $\tau_i$  is replaced by a Sporadic Server with the same period and execution time*
- ❑ Therefore, schedulability analysis of SS is similar to Polling Server with RM

$$U_p \leq n \left[ \left( \frac{2}{U_s + 1} \right)^{1/n} - 1 \right]$$

$$U_{SS}^{max} = \frac{2 - P}{P}.$$

# Performance evaluation



























Performance results of PS, DS, PE, and SS

# Comparison

  
excellent

  
good

  
poor

	performance	computational complexity	memory requirement	implementation complexity
Background Service				
Polling Server				
Deferrable Server				
Priority Exchange				
Sporadic Server				
Slack Stealer				

*Note: Slack Stealer can be read from textbook*

---

# **Real-time Systems**

## **Week 8:**

### **Dynamic Priority Servers**

Ngo Lam Trung  
Dept. of Computer Engineering

# How to further increase $U_{lub}$ ?

---

❑ Fixed priority server uses fixed priority algo.

- ❑ Simple

- ❑ Small  $U_{lub}$

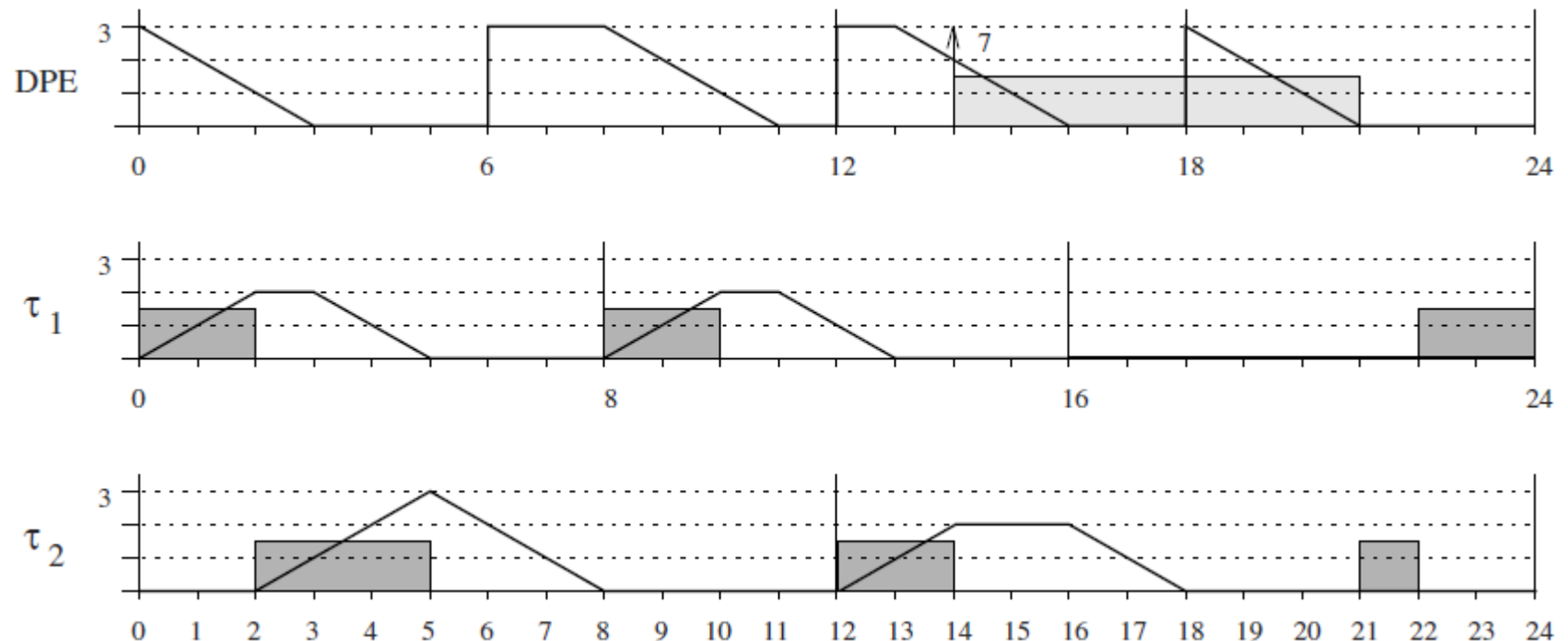
❑ How to increase  $U_{lub}$ ?

→ uses the same approach: create periodic task to serve aperiodic task (the server)

→ apply dynamic priority scheduling algorithm (EDF) to increase utilization bound

# Dynamic Priority Exchange Server

- ❑ Similar to fixed priority exchange server
  - ❑ Server can exchange capacity with other tasks that have longer deadline at the scheduling time
  - ❑ Server accumulate capacity time with the new deadline
  - ❑ Server capacity will be consumed until it is exhausted

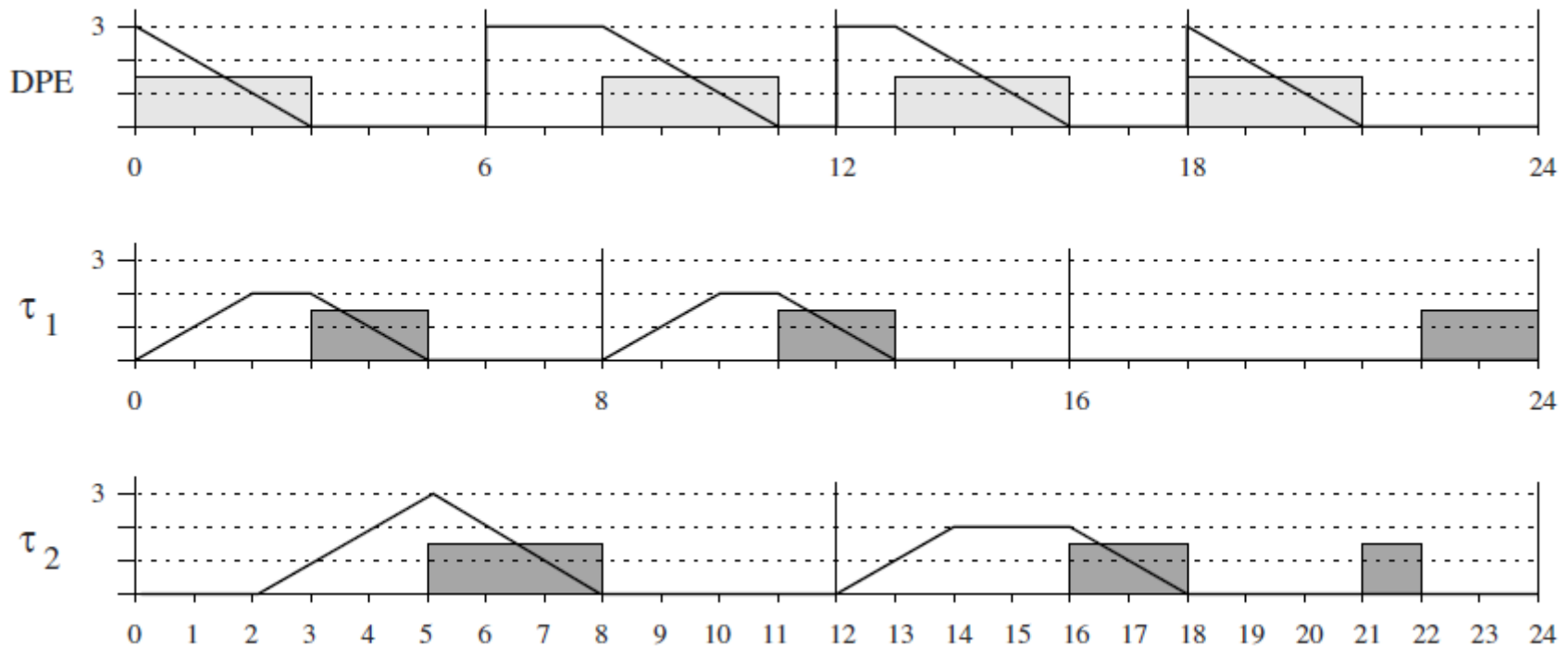


$\tau_1(2, 8), \tau_2(3, 12), \text{DPE}(3, 6)$

# Schedulability analysis

**Theorem 6.1 (Spuri, Buttazzo)** *Given a set of periodic tasks with processor utilization  $U_p$  and a DPE server with processor utilization  $U_s$ , the whole set is schedulable by EDF if and only if*

$$U_p + U_s \leq 1.$$



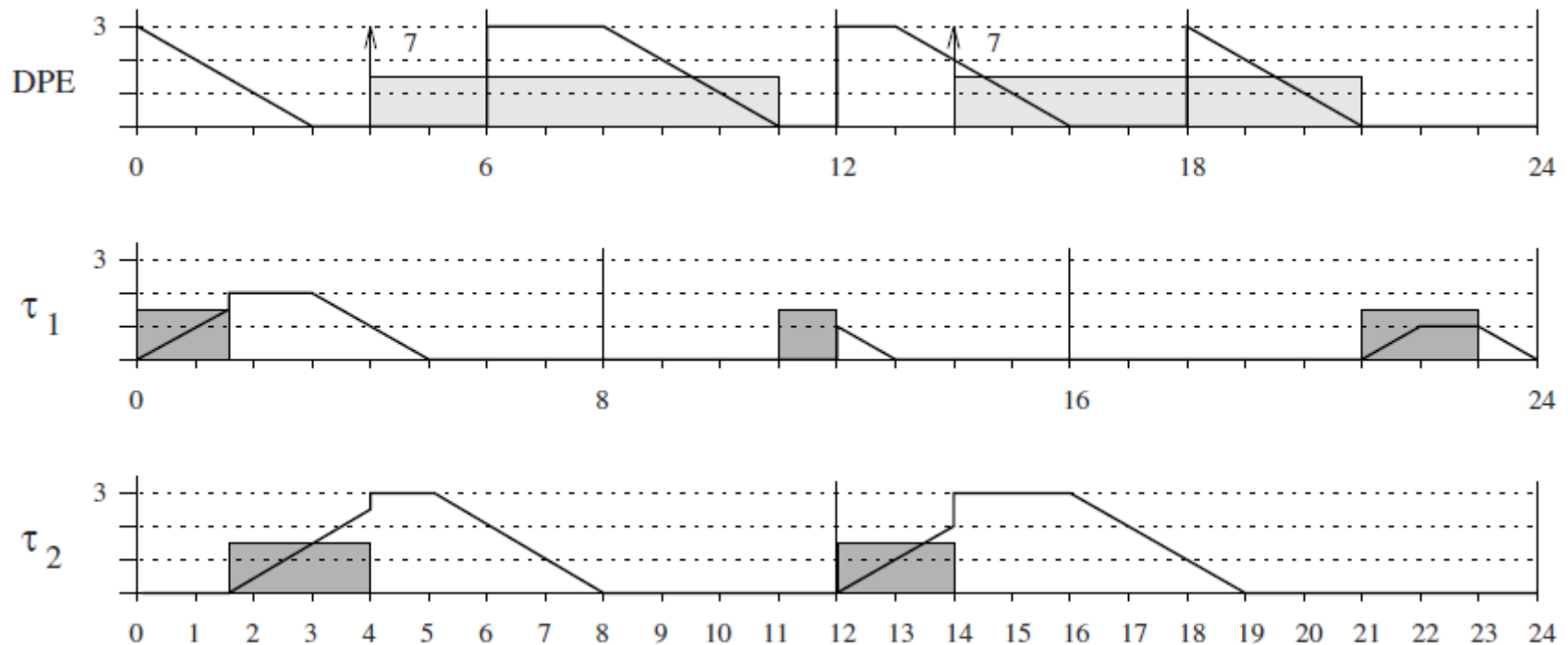
$$U = \frac{3}{6} + \frac{2}{8} + \frac{3}{12} = 1 \rightarrow \text{schedulable task set}$$



# Reclaiming spare capacity

❑ What if the real  $C$  is smaller than worst case  $C$ ?

→ Spare capacity from can be reclaimed and transfer to aperiodic capacity.



---

# **Real-time Systems**

## **Chapter 9: Resource Access Protocol**

Ngo Lam Trung  
Dept. of Computer Engineering

# Contents

---

- ❑ Introduction
- ❑ The priority inversion phenomenon
- ❑ Solutions for priority inversion

# Resource constraint

---

## ❑ Resource

- ❑ Any software structure that can be used by the process to advance its execution
- ❑ Ex: data structure, variables, main memory area, a file, a piece of program, a set of registers of a peripheral device

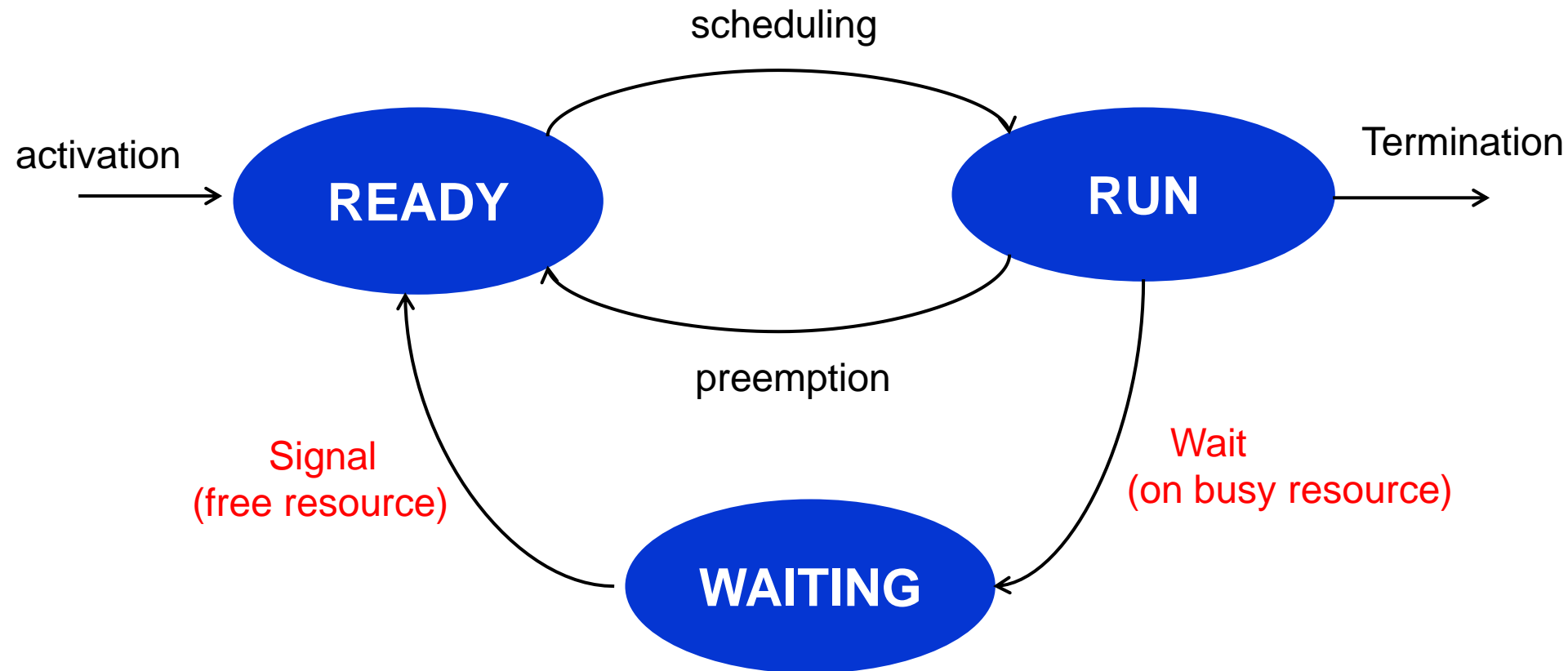
## ❑ Many shared resources do not allow simultaneous access

→ require **mutual exclusion**

## ❑ Critical section

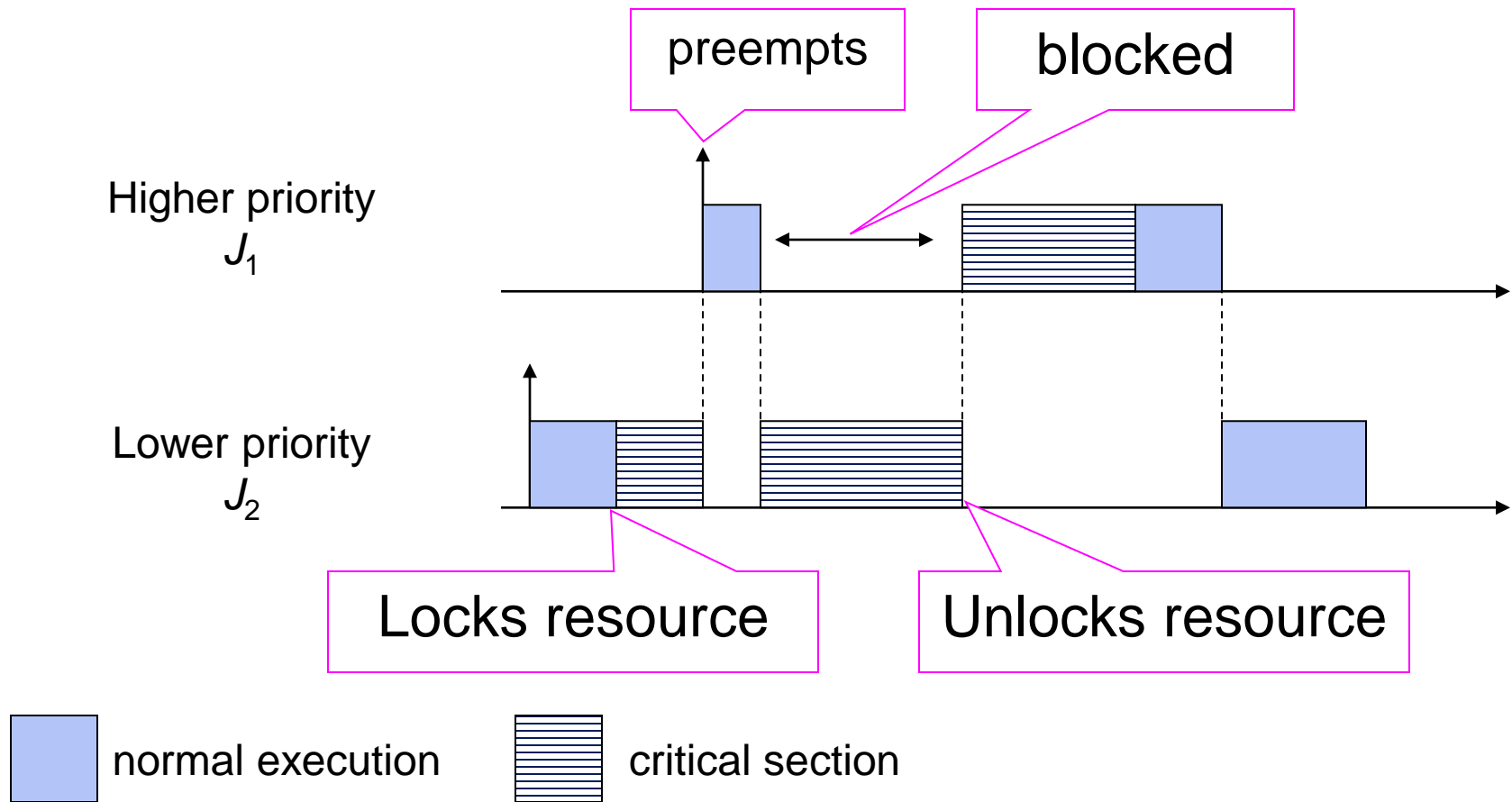
- ❑ A piece of code under mutual exclusion constraints
- ❑ Tasks entering critical section have to wait until no other task is holding the resource

# Waiting state caused by resource constraint



# Example of blocking on exclusive resource

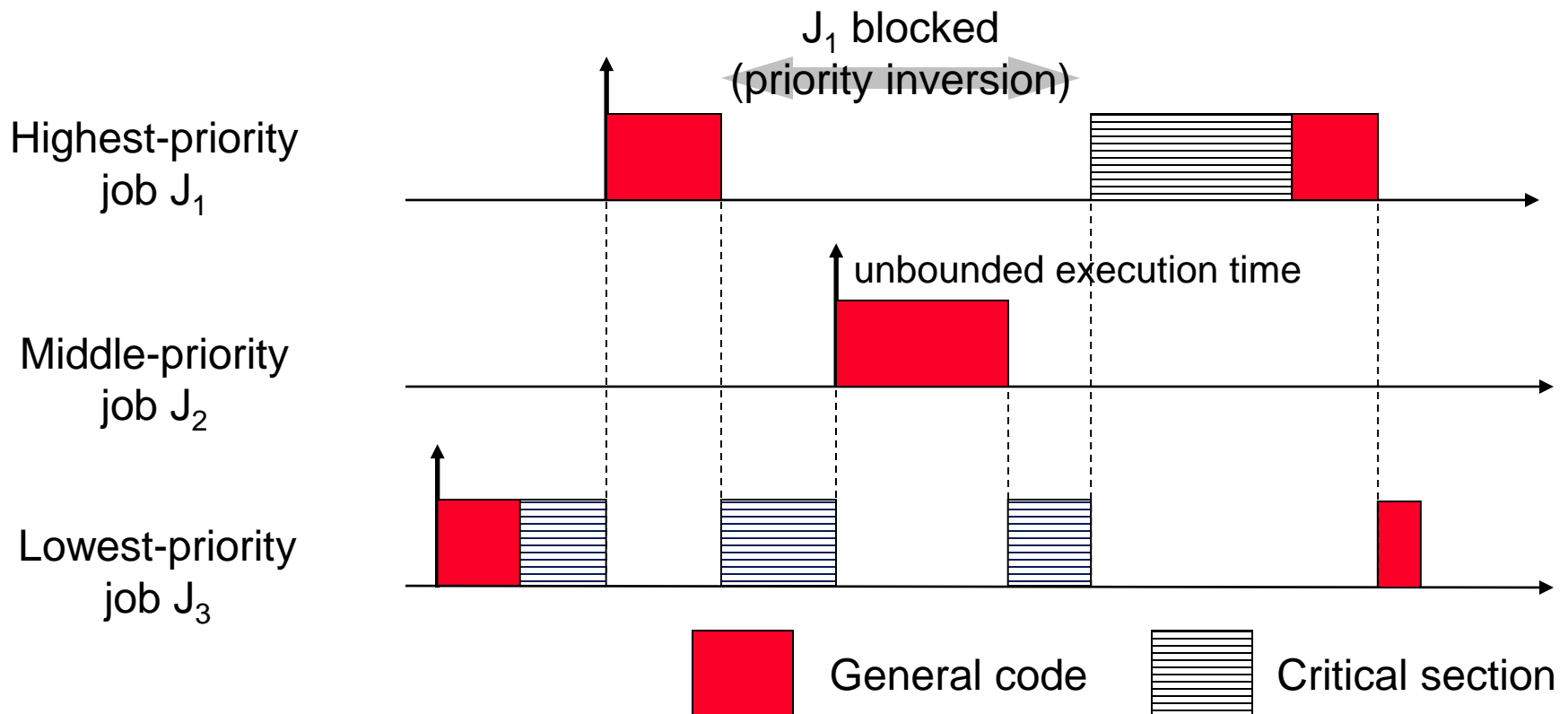
## ❑ Scheduling with preemption



***Problem: the task with higher priority has to wait for the task with lower priority***

# The priority inversion phenomenon

- ❑ J3 enters critical section first
- ❑ J1 is blocked, has to wait until J3 signal the resource
- ❑ J2 preempts J3 → J1 has to wait for J2



# Problems

---

- ❑ The task with higher priority has to wait for the task with lower priority
- ❑ Blocking time is unbounded → the system is not predictable.
- ❑ Example of priority inversion: Mars Pathfinder 1997
  - ❑ CPU: RAD6000 20MHz (\$200K-\$300K)
  - ❑ OS: VxWork
  - ❑ Experienced CPU reset upon touching down on Mars, debugging on Earth detected priority inversion, fixed by new firmware upload.



# Problems

---

## ❑ Solutions

- ❑ Non-preemptive Protocol
- ❑ Highest Locker Priority Protocol
- ❑ Priority Inheritance Protocol
- ❑ Priority Ceiling Protocol
- ❑ Stack Resource Policy

# Terminology & assumptions(1)

---

- ❑ Periodic task set  $\Gamma = \{\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_n\}$ 
  - ❑  $\tau_i = (C_i, T_i)$
  - ❑ Relative deadline  $D_i = T_i$
- ❑ Resources  $R_1, \dots, R_m$ 
  - ❑ Each  $R_k$  is guarded by semaphore  $S_k$
- ❑  $J_i$ : a job of  $\tau_i$
- ❑  $P_i$ : nominal priority of  $\tau_i$
- ❑  $p_i \geq P_i$ : active priority of  $\tau_i$  ( initially set to  $P_i$ )
- ❑  $z_{i,j}$ :  $j$ -th critical section of  $J_i$
- ❑  $d_{i,j}$ : duration of  $z_{i,j}$
- ❑  $S_{i,j}$ : the semaphore guarding  $z_{i,j}$
- ❑  $R_{i,j}$ : the resource used in  $z_{i,j}$
- ❑ Notation  $z_{i,j} \subset z_{i,k}$  means  $z_{i,j}$  is entirely contained in  $z_{i,k}$ .

# Terminology & assumptions (2)

---

## □ Assumptions

- $J_1, \dots, J_n$  are listed in decreasing order of  $P_i$
- Jobs don't suspend themselves.
- The critical sections used by any task are properly nested.

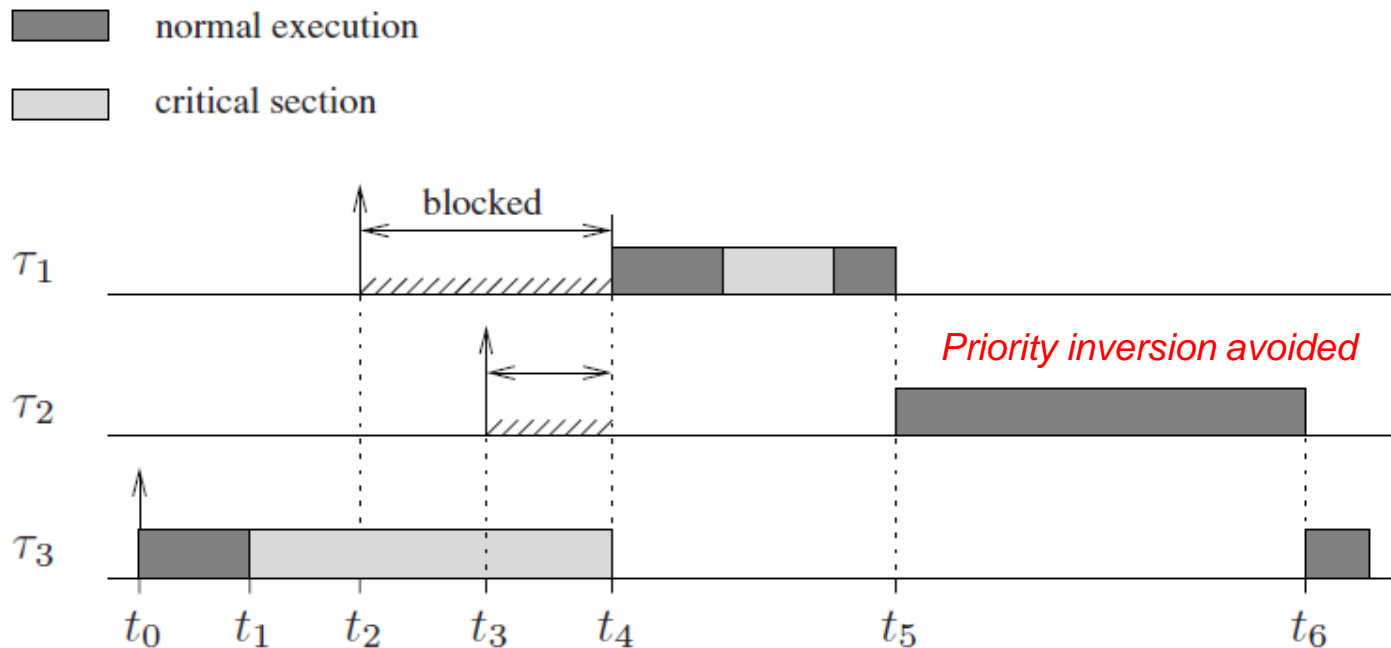
$$Z_{i,j} \subset Z_{i,k} \text{ or } Z_{i,k} \subset Z_{i,j} \text{ or } Z_{i,j} \cap Z_{i,k} = \emptyset$$

- Critical sections are guarded by binary semaphores.

# The simplest: Non-preemptive Protocol

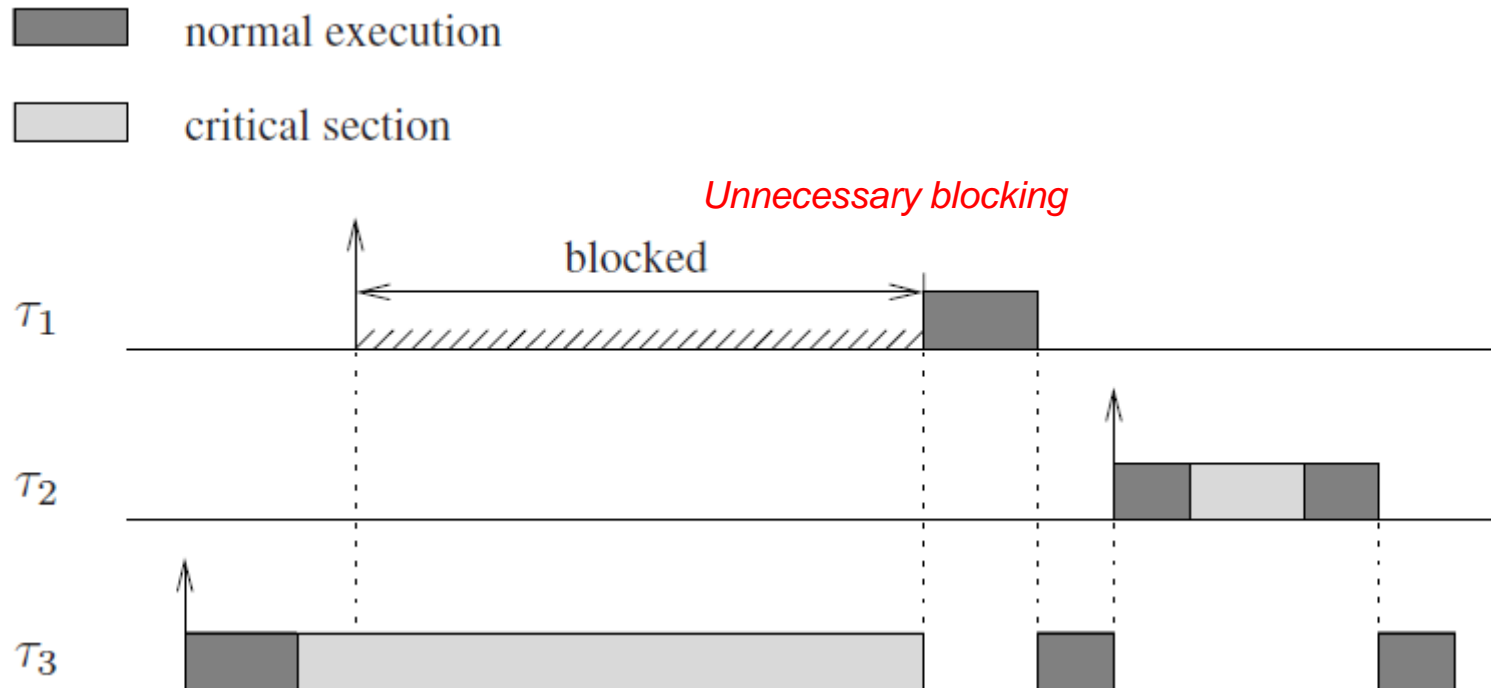
- ❑ Block all other tasks whenever a task enters a critical section
- ❑ The dynamic priority of the running task is raised to the highest level

$$p_i(R_k) = \max_h \{P_h\}$$



# The simplest: Non-preemptive Protocol (NPP)

- ❑ Pros: simple
- ❑ Cons: unnecessary blocking



# Blocking time of Non-preemptive Protocol

- ❑ Given the task  $T_i$ , the set of critical sections that can block  $T_i$

$$\gamma_i = \{Z_{j,k} \mid P_j < P_i, k = 1, \dots, m\}$$

- ❑ The maximum blocking time is

$$B_i = \max\{d_{j,k} - 1 \mid Z_{j,k} \in \gamma_i\}.$$

➔ Duration of the longest critical section that can block  $T_i$

# Highest Locker Priority Protocol (HLP)

- ❑ Improves NPP: raising the priority of the task entering a critical section to the highest priority among the tasks sharing that resource.
- ❑ When a task enters resource  $R_k$ , its dynamic priority is raised to

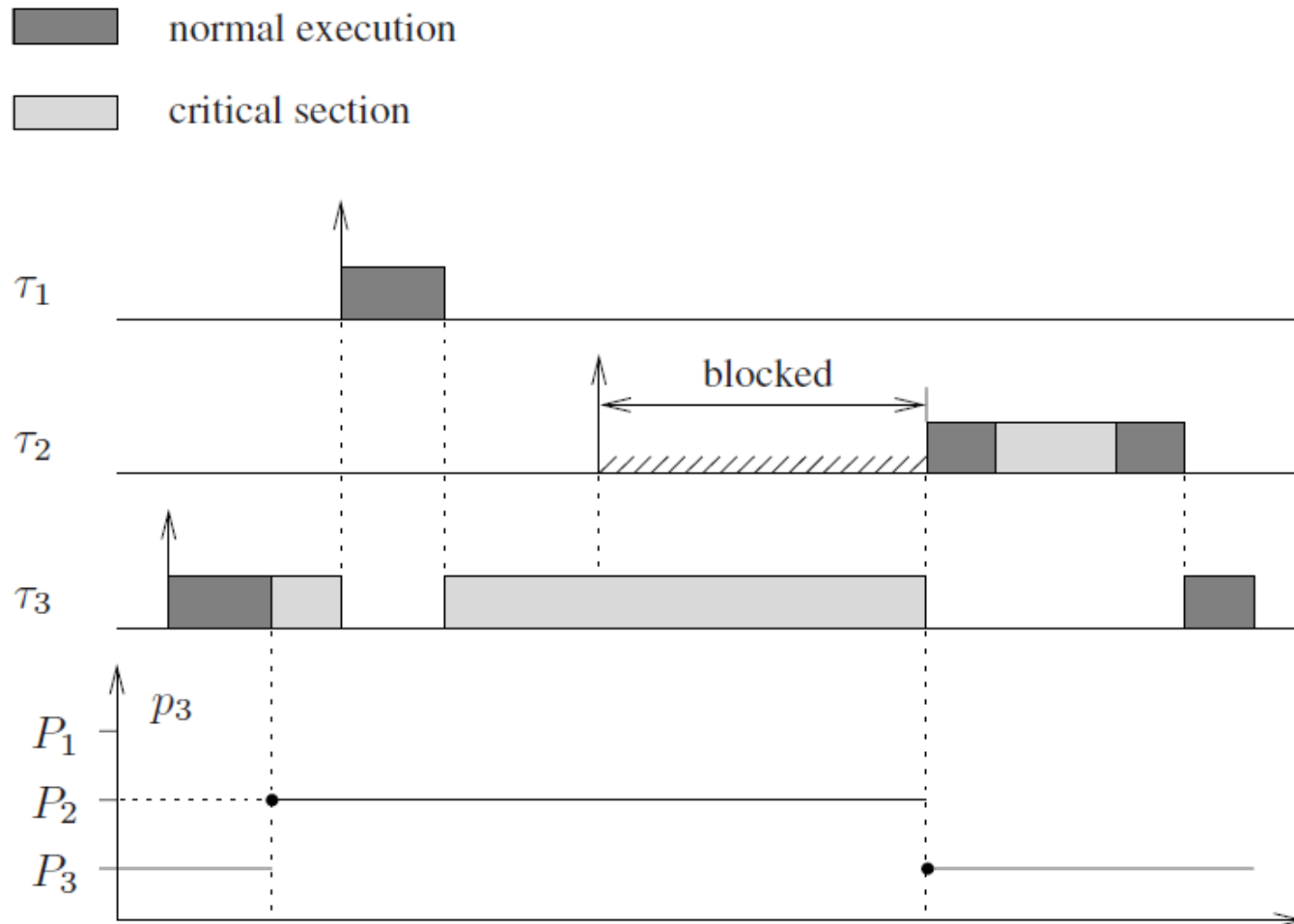
$$p_i(R_k) = \max_h \{P_h \mid \tau_h \text{ uses } R_k\}$$

- ❑ When the task exits the resource, its dynamic priority is reset to the nominal value  $P_i$
- ❑ Priority ceiling can be computed offline

$$C(R_k) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max_h \{P_h \mid \tau_h \text{ uses } R_k\}$$

# Highest Locker Priority Protocol

## Example





# HLP Blocking time

---

- The set of critical instants that can block task  $T_i$

$$\gamma_i = \{Z_{j,k} \mid (P_j < P_i) \text{ and } C(R_k) \geq P_i\}$$

- Hence, maximum blocking time is

$$B_i = \max_{j,k} \{\delta_{j,k} - 1 \mid Z_{j,k} \in \gamma_i\}$$

- Problem: what if critical section is access in only one branch of a conditional statement?

# Priority Inheritance Protocol

---

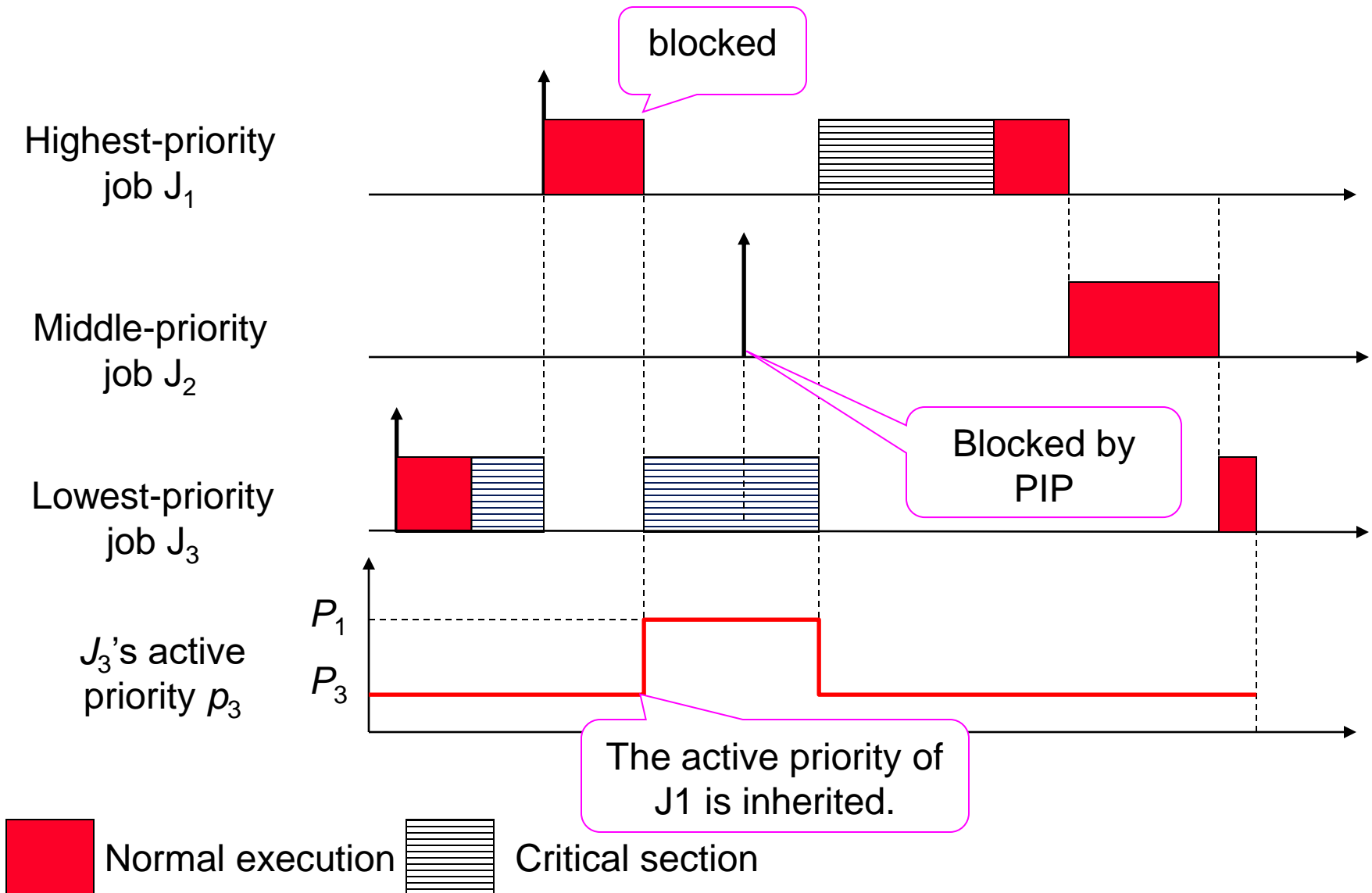
- ❑ Modify the priority of tasks in critical sections
- ❑ When a task blocks higher-priority tasks, it temporarily ***inherits*** the highest priority of the blocked tasks.
  - ❑ Prevents preemption of medium-priority tasks

# Protocol definition

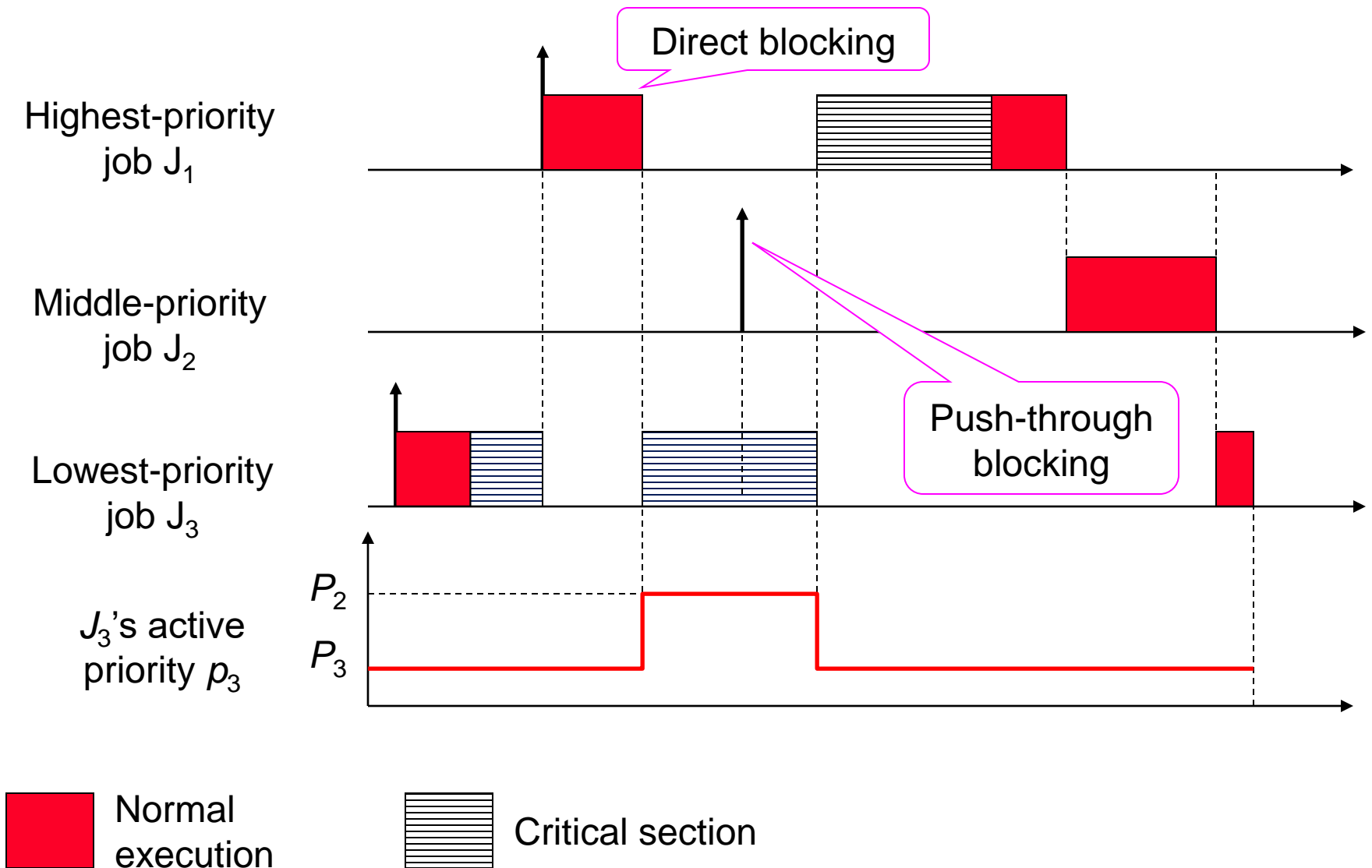
---

- ❑ Jobs are scheduled based on their active priorities
- ❑ When the higher-priority job  $J_{\text{high}}$  is blocked on a semaphore because the lower-priority job  $J_{\text{low}}$  is in execution of its critical section, **the active priority  $p_{\text{high}}$  of  $J_{\text{high}}$  is inherited** to that of  $J_{\text{low}}$ .
- ❑ The rest of the critical section of  $J_{\text{low}}$  is executed with the active priority  $p_{\text{high}}$ .
- ❑ In case the medium-priority job  $J_{\text{medium}}$  activates, it cannot preempt the execution of  $J_{\text{low}}$  → Unbounded priority inversion is avoided.
- ❑ Priority inheritance is transitive; if a job  $J_3$  blocks a job  $J_2$ , and  $J_2$  blocks a job  $J_1$ , then  $J_3$  inherits the priority of  $J_1$  via  $J_2$ .

# Example

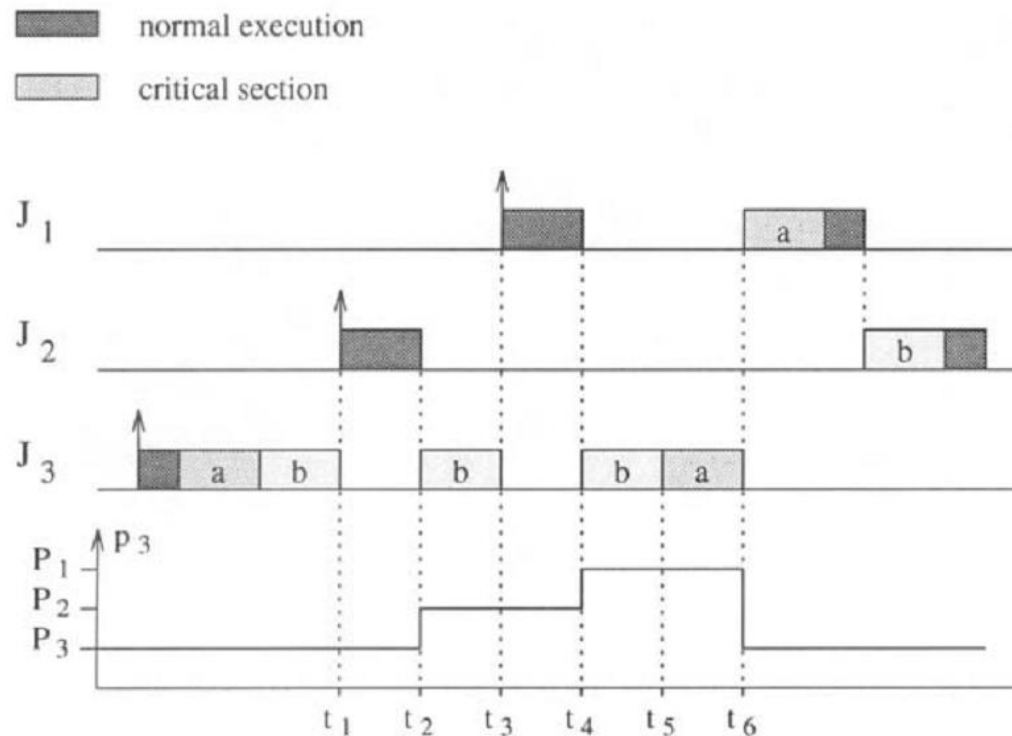


# Direct blocking & Push-through blocking



# PIP with nested critical sections

- ❑ When the blocking job  $J_k$  exits the critical section, the blocked job with the highest priority is awakened.
- ❑  $J_k$  replaces its active priority  $p_k$  by nominal priority  $P_k$  if no other jobs are blocked by  $J_k$ , or by the highest priority of the tasks blocked by  $J_k$



Transitive  
priority  
inheritance

# Properties

---

- ❑ Push-through blocking to job  $J_i$  occurs only if the semaphore is accessed by a job  $J_{\text{low}}$  with  $p_{\text{low}} < p_i$  and by a job  $J_{\text{high}}$  with  $p_{\text{high}}$  that can be equal or higher than  $p_i$
- ❑ Transitive priority inheritance can occur only in the presence of nested critical sections.
- ❑ If there are  $n$  lower-priority jobs that can block a job  $J_i$ , then  $J_i$  can be blocked at most the duration of  $n$  critical sections.
- ❑ If there are  $m$  distinct semaphores that can block a job  $J_i$ , then  $J_i$  can be blocked for at most the duration of  $m$  critical sections.

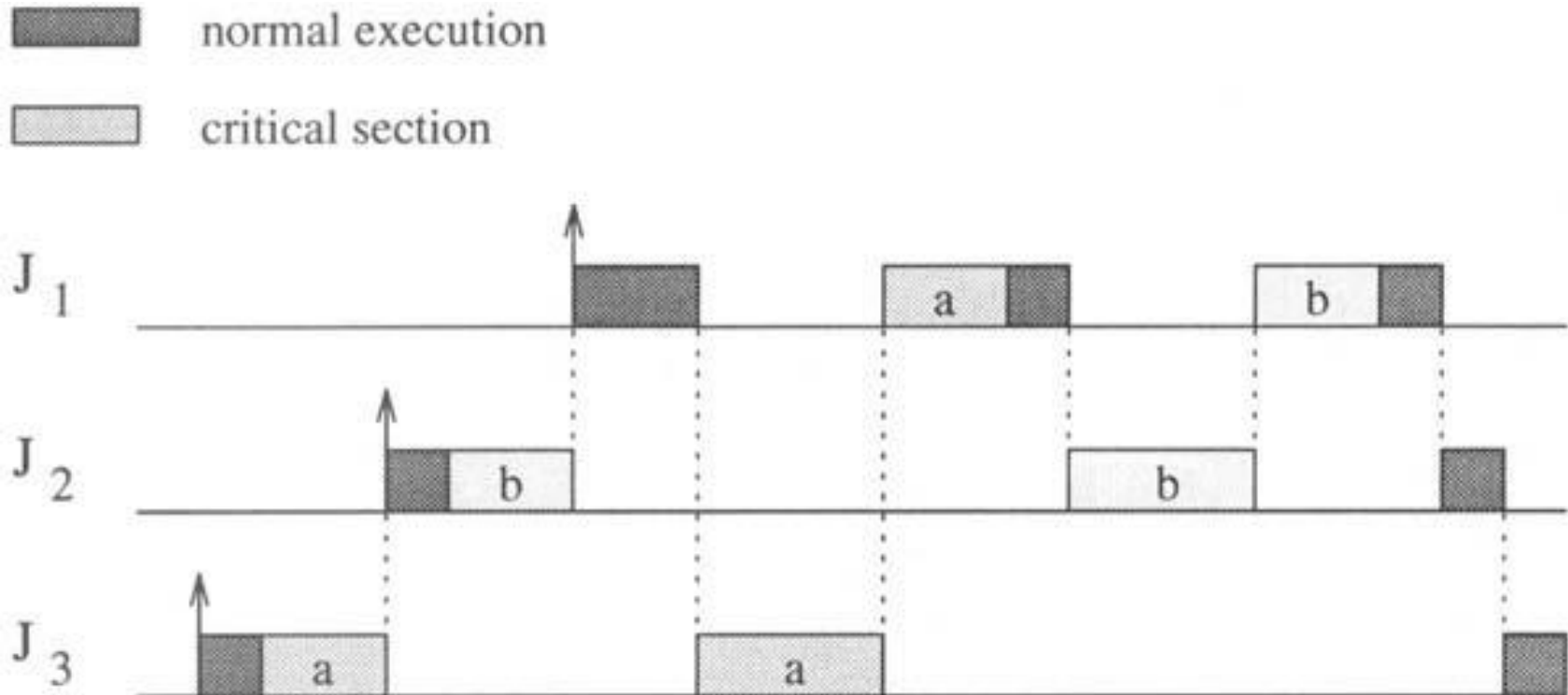
# Properties

---

- Under the priority inheritance protocol, a job  $J$  can be blocked for at most the duration of  $\min(n, m)$  critical sections.
    - $n$  is the number of lower-priority jobs that could block  $J$
    - $m$  is the number of distinct semaphores that can be used to block  $J$
- ➔ *The maximum blocking time for any task  $J$  is bounded*



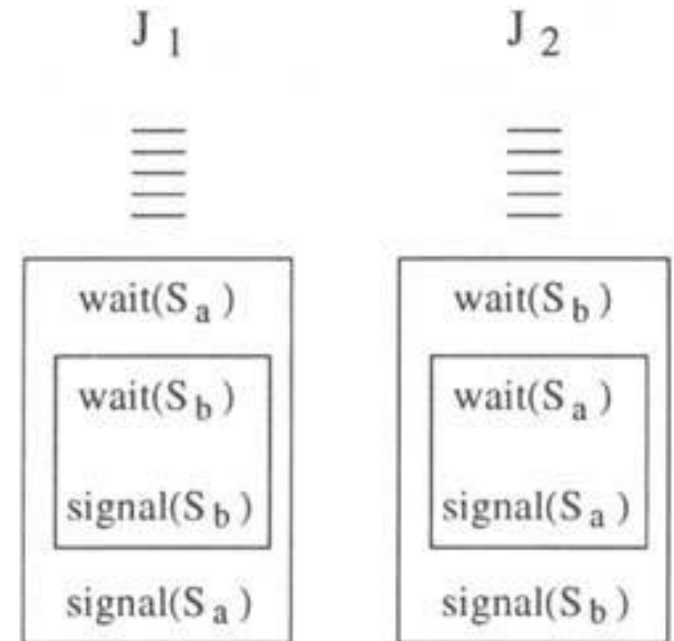
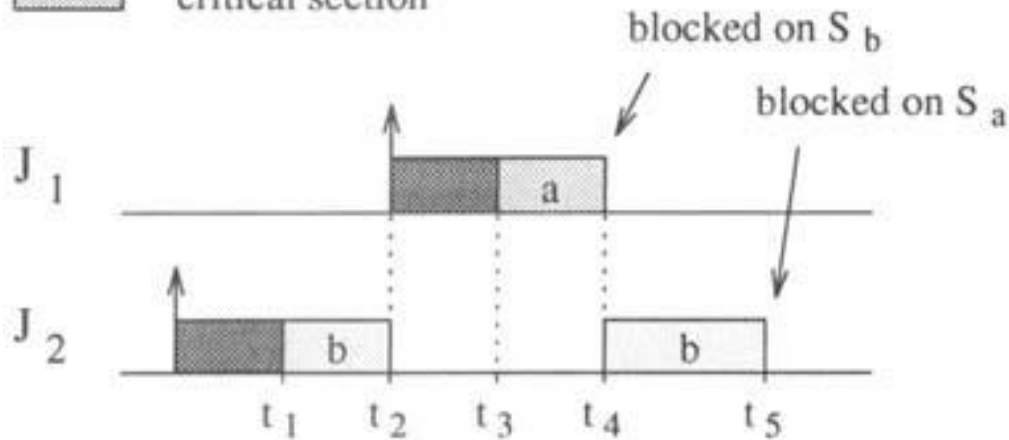
# Remaining problem 1: Chained blocking



→ J<sub>1</sub> can be blocked several times

## Remaining problem (2): Deadlock

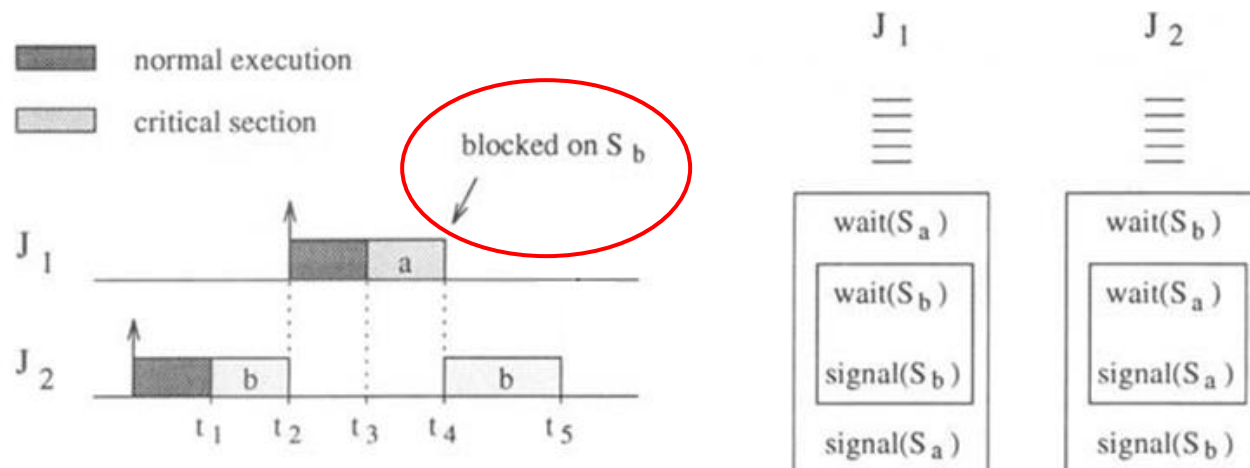
■ normal execution  
■ critical section



➔ Deadlock caused as  $J_2$  enters the nested critical session

# Priority Ceiling Protocol

- ❑ Extends the Priority Inheritance Protocol
- ❑ Assign each semaphore a ceiling priority, equal to the priority of the highest-priority task that can lock it.
- ❑ Provided a critical section contains several semaphores, a job  $J$  can enter the critical section only when its priority is higher than all priority ceilings of the semaphores already locked by other jobs.



# Protocol definition (1)

---

- ❑  $S_k$ : an arbitrary semaphore
- ❑  $C(S_k)$ : priority ceiling of  $S_k$

$$C(S_k) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max_i \{P_i \mid S_k \in \sigma_i\}.$$

This value can be computed offline

- ❑  $J_i$ : the job with the highest priority in ready queue
- ❑  $P_i$ : the priority of  $J_i$
- ❑  $S^*$ : semaphore with the highest priority ceiling among all the semaphores currently locked by jobs other than  $J_i$

## Protocol definition (2)

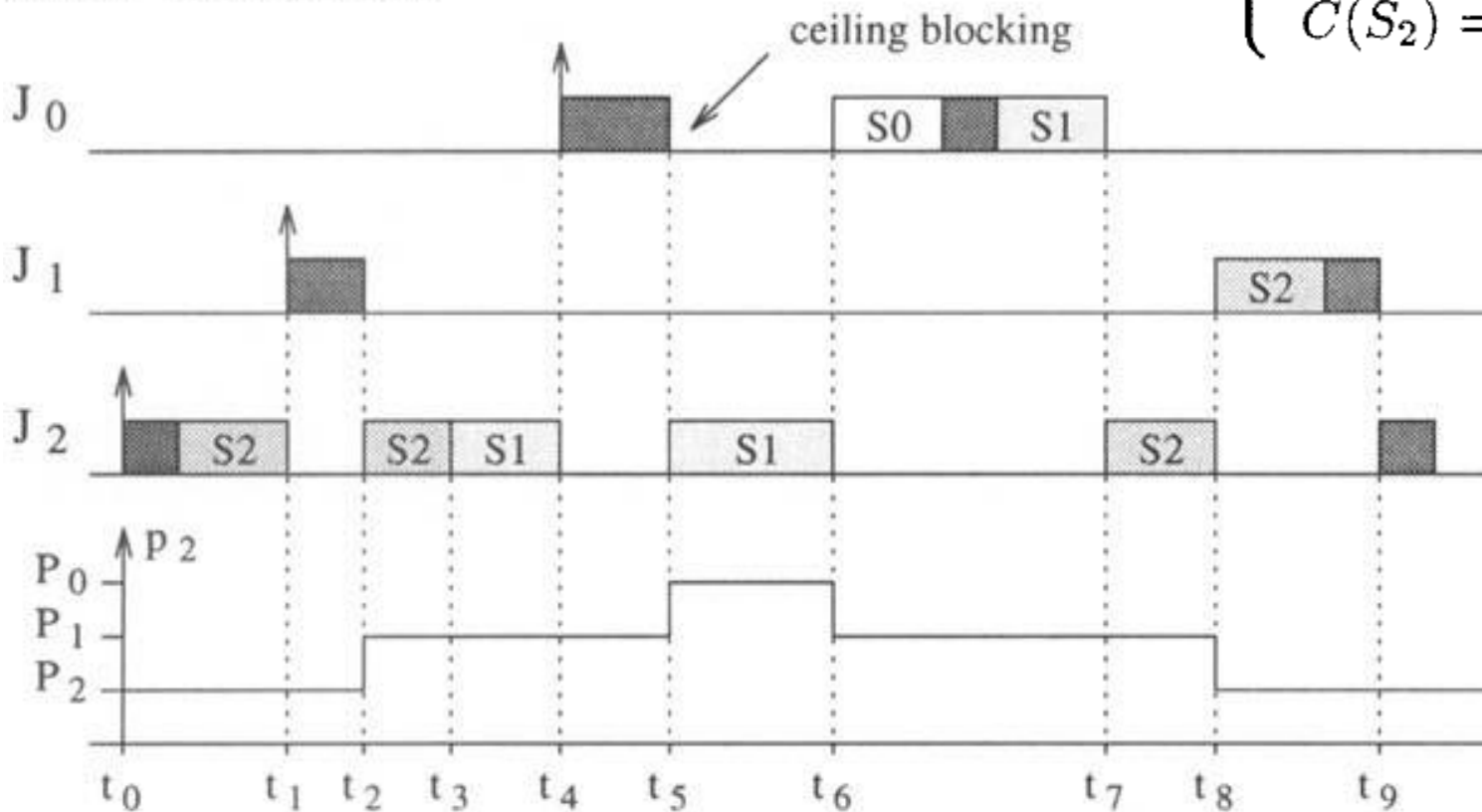
---

- ❑ When  $J_i$  is about to enter a critical section guarded by semaphore  $S_k$ ,
  - ❑ If  $P_i \leq C(S^*)$ 
    - locking on  $S_k$  is denied, &
    - $J_i$  is blocked on semaphore  $S^*$  by the job holding the lock on  $S^*$ .
  - ❑ If  $P_i > C(S^*)$ 
    - $J_i$  locks on  $S_k$  and continue execution
- ❑ When  $J_i$  is blocked on a semaphore  $S$ ,
  - ❑ The job  $J_k$  locking on  $S$  inherits the priority  $p_i$
  - ❑ Generally, a task inherits the highest priority of the jobs blocked by it.
- ❑ When  $J_k$  exits a critical section & unlocks the semaphore,
  - ❑ If there are blocked jobs, then  $p_k$  is the highest active priority of the jobs blocked by  $J_k$
  - ❑ Otherwise,  $p_k$  is restored to  $P_k$

# Example

## ❑ Ceiling blocking

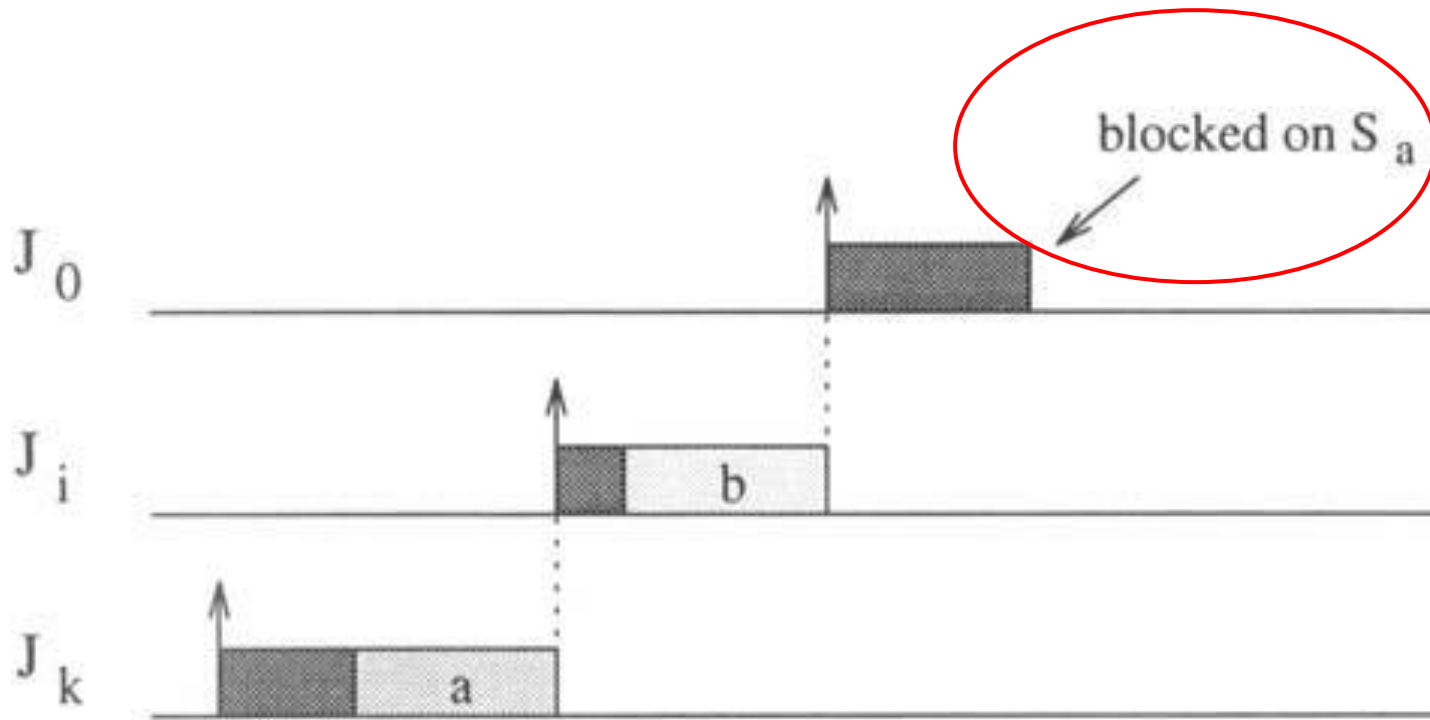
■ normal execution  
■ critical section



$$\begin{cases} C(S_0) = P_0 \\ C(S_1) = P_0 \\ C(S_2) = P_1 \end{cases}$$

# Ceiling blocking

- ❑ A task is blocked by the protocol because of the priority ceiling condition
- ❑ Necessary to avoid chained blocking and deadlock



This will never happen with PCP

## Properties of the protocol (2)

- ❑ The Priority Ceiling Protocol prevents deadlocks.
- ❑ Under the Priority Ceiling Protocol, a job  $J_i$  can be blocked for at most the duration of one critical section.

- ➔ Reduce blocking time
- ➔ Avoid unnecessary high-priority tasks blocking
- ➔ Avoid deadlock



# Comparison

---

	priority	Num. of blocking	pessimism	blocking instant	transparency	deadlock prevention	implementation
NPP	any	1	high	on arrival	YES	YES	easy
HLP	fixed	1	medium	on arrival	NO	YES	easy
PIP	fixed	$\alpha_i$	low	on access	YES	NO	hard
PCP	fixed	1	medium	on access	NO	YES	medium
SRP	any	1	medium	on arrival	NO	YES	easy

SRP (Stack Resource Protocol): for student's further reading