

Process Control Block

Each process is represented in the OS by a process control block(PCB).

It contains many piece of information:

- Process state: new/ready/running/.....
- Program counter information: Address of the next instruction to be execute.
- CPU registers: Registers may be very in numbers.
- CPU scheduling information: Process priority.
- Memory management information: This may include the value of the base and limit address and other informations: page table, segment table etc.
- Account information: This includes the amount of CPU and real time used, process number etc..
- I/O status information: This includes the list of I/O devices allocated to this process.

Operating system

Process Pn+1

Process Pn

executing

Interrupt or system call

Save state into PCBn

Reload state from PCB n+1

Interrupt or system call

Save state into PCB n+1

Reload state from PCB n

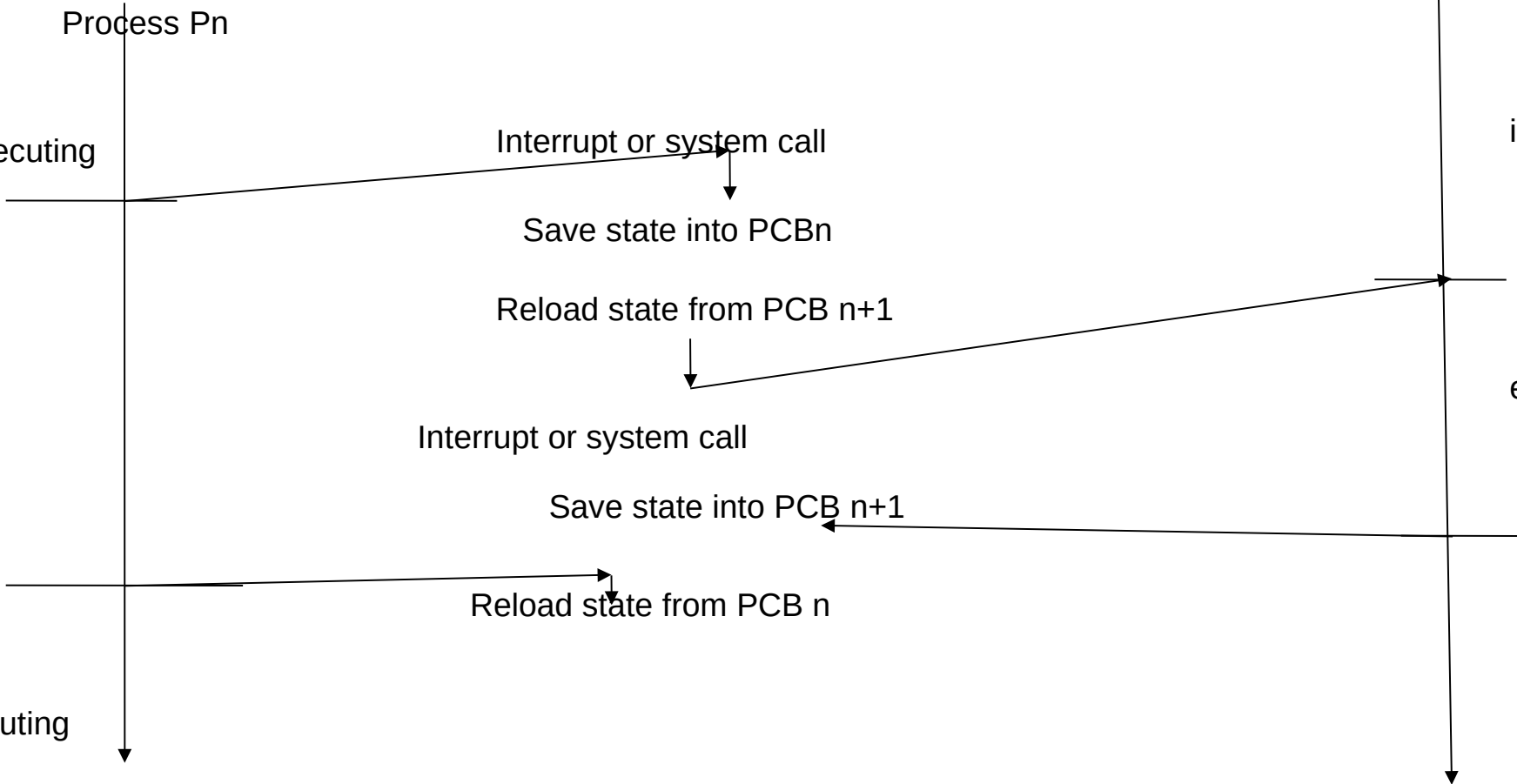
idle

executing

idle

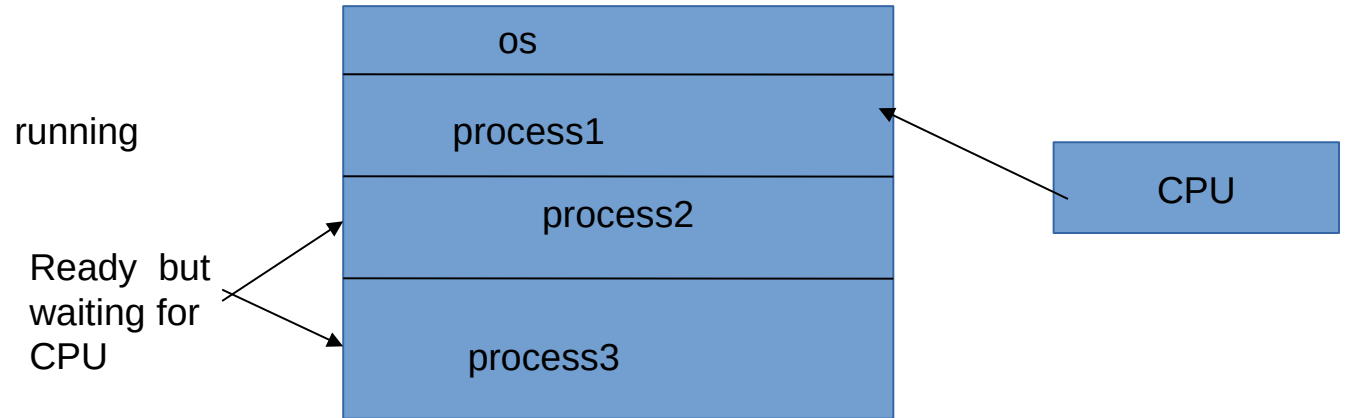
idle

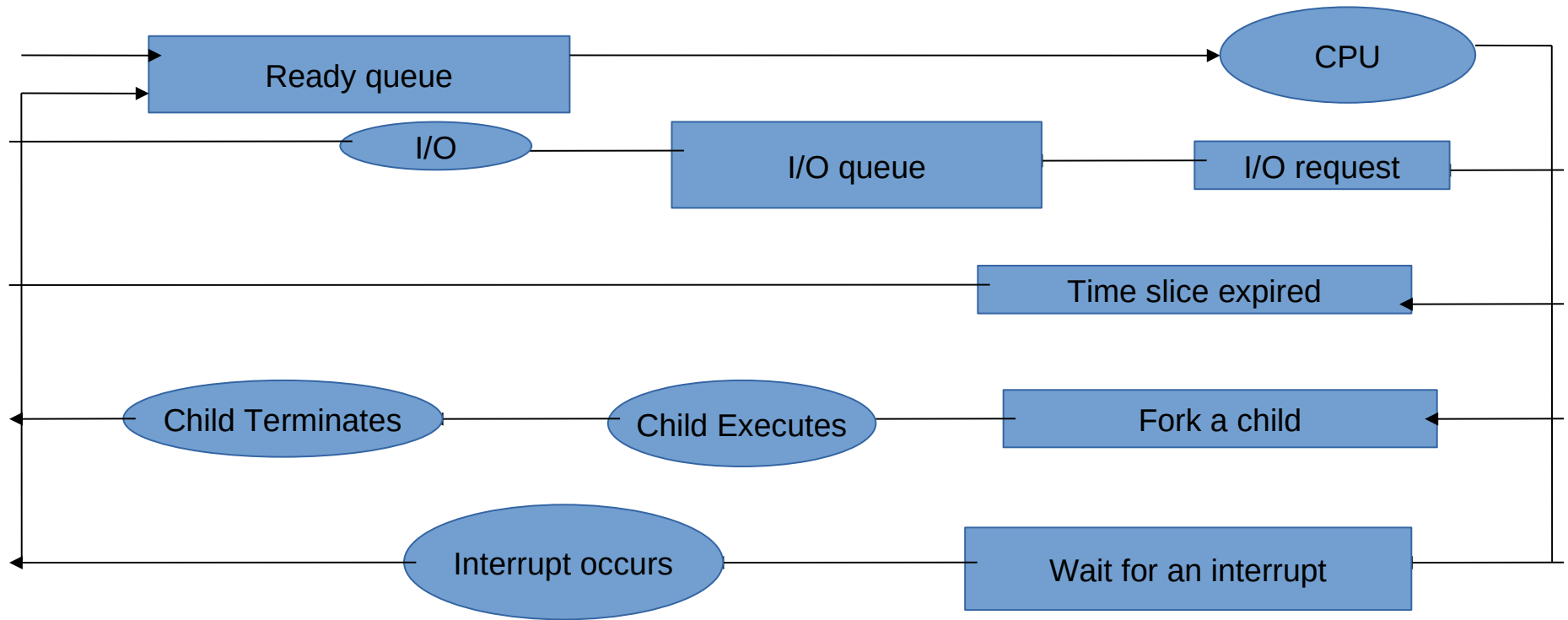
executing



Process Scheduling

- For a uniprocessor system there will never be more than one running process.
- If there are more processes, the rest have to wait until the CPU is free and can be rescheduled.





Job queue: As processes enter into the system, they are kept in this queue.

Ready queue: This queue consists of all processes that are ready and waiting to be executed.

Device queue: This queue consist of all processes waiting for the particular I/O device. Thus there is a device queue for each device.