

Sistemi Operativi I

Corso di Laurea in Informatica
2025-2026



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

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Scheduling Algorithms: An Overview

- First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS)
- Round Robin (RR)
- Shortest-Job-First (SJF)
- Priority Scheduling
- Multilevel Queue (MQ)
- Multilevel Feedback-Queue (MFQ)

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TODAY

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NEXT TIME

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- Multilevel Feedback-Queue (MLFQ)

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS)

- Very simple! Just a FIFO queue, like customers waiting in line at the post office
- The scheduler executes jobs to completion in arrival order
- The scheduler takes over only when the currently running job asks for an I/O operation (or finishes its execution)
- A job may keep using the CPU indefinitely (i.e., until it blocks)

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Non-preemptive

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario I

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
3	C	3

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario I

New A B C

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First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario I

New A B C

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
3	C	3

Arrival time = 0 for all*

No I/O burst

* Actually, in this example, A arrives first, then B, and finally C comes: arrival time differences are considered negligible
14/10/2025

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario I

New A B C

Ready A B C

Waiting

Running

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
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First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario I

New A B C
Ready B C
Waiting
Runnin A

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
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First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario I

New A B C
Ready C
Waiting
Running B

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
3	C	3



First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario I

New A B C

Ready

Waiting

Runnin C

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
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Average Waiting Time

N = number of jobs

$T_i^{arrival}$ = arrival time of job i

$T_i^{completion}$ = completion time of job i

T_i^{burst} = burst time of job i

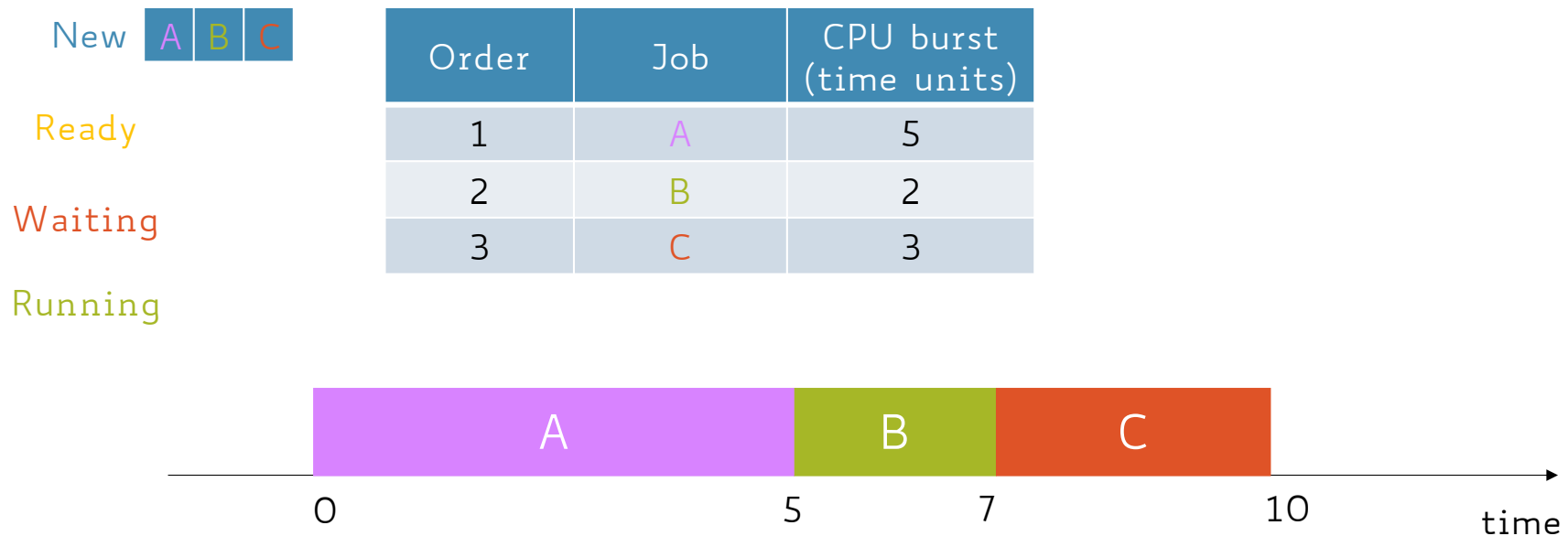
$T_i^{turnaround}$ = turnaround time of job $i = T_i^{completion} - T_i^{arrival}$

$$\overline{T}^{waiting} = \text{avg. waiting time} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (T_i^{turnaround} - T_i^{burst})$$

Unless otherwise specified, we will assume all jobs arrive at the same time, i.e.,

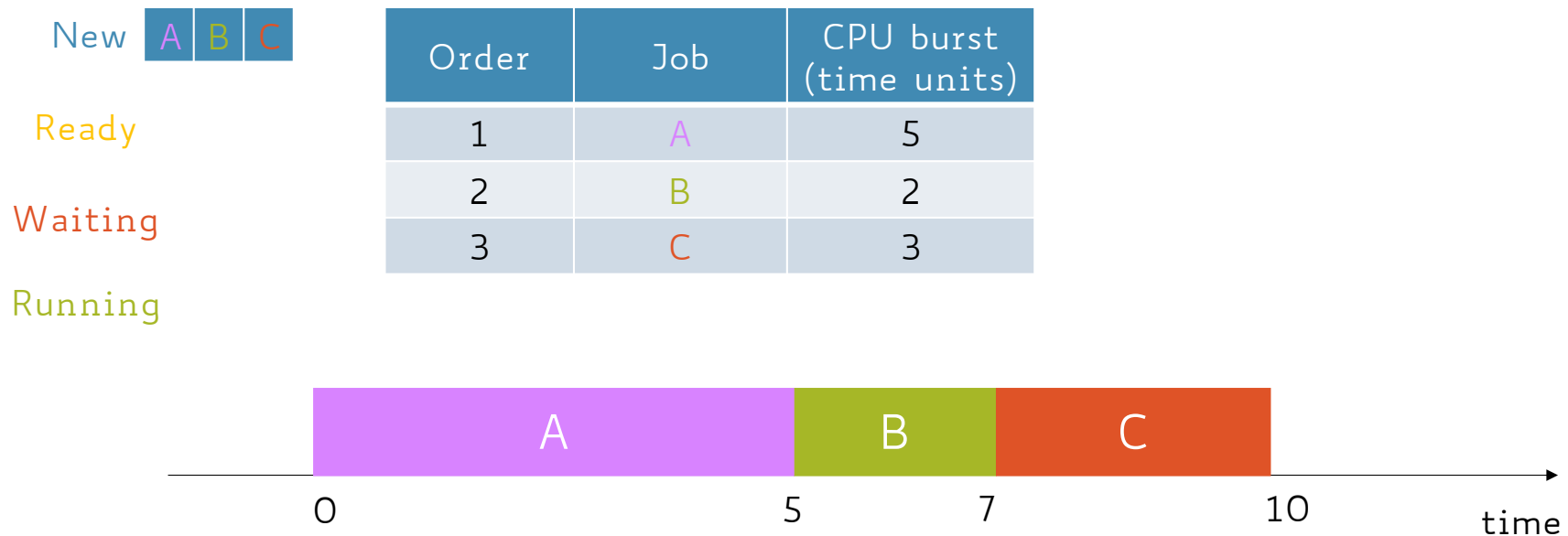
$$T_i^{arrival} = 0 \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$$

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario I



avg. waiting time =

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario I



$$\text{avg. waiting time} = (0 + 5 + 7)/3 = 4$$

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario II

New B C A

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	B	2
2	C	3
3	A	5

Arrival time = 0 for all

No I/O burst

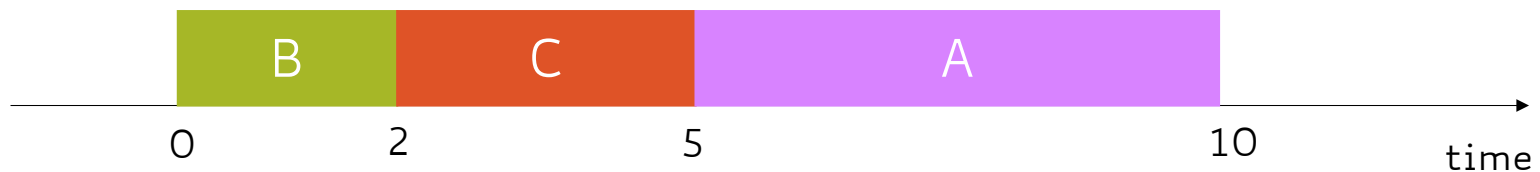


avg. waiting time =

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario II

New B C A

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	B	2
2	C	3
3	A	5



$$\text{avg. waiting time} = (\text{5} + \text{0} + \text{2})/3 \sim 2.3$$

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario III

New A B C

Ready A B C

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
3	C	3

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario III

New A B C
Ready A B C

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
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2	B	2
3	C	3

A does also I/O

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario III

New A B C

Ready B C

Waiting

Running A

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
3	C	3

A does also I/O



First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario III

New A B C

Ready C

Waiting A

Running B

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
3	C	3

A does also I/O



First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario III

New A B C

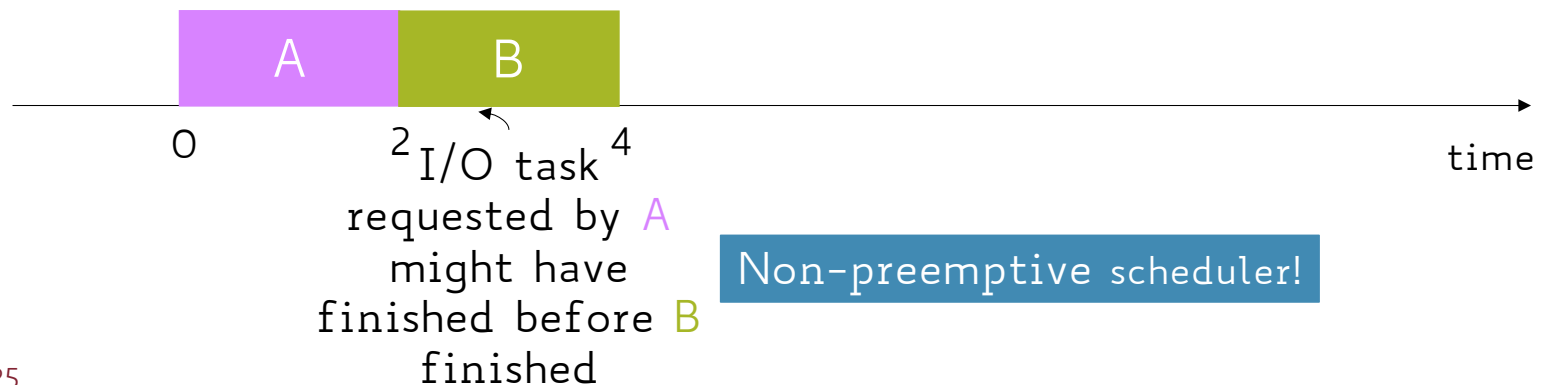
Ready C

Waiting A

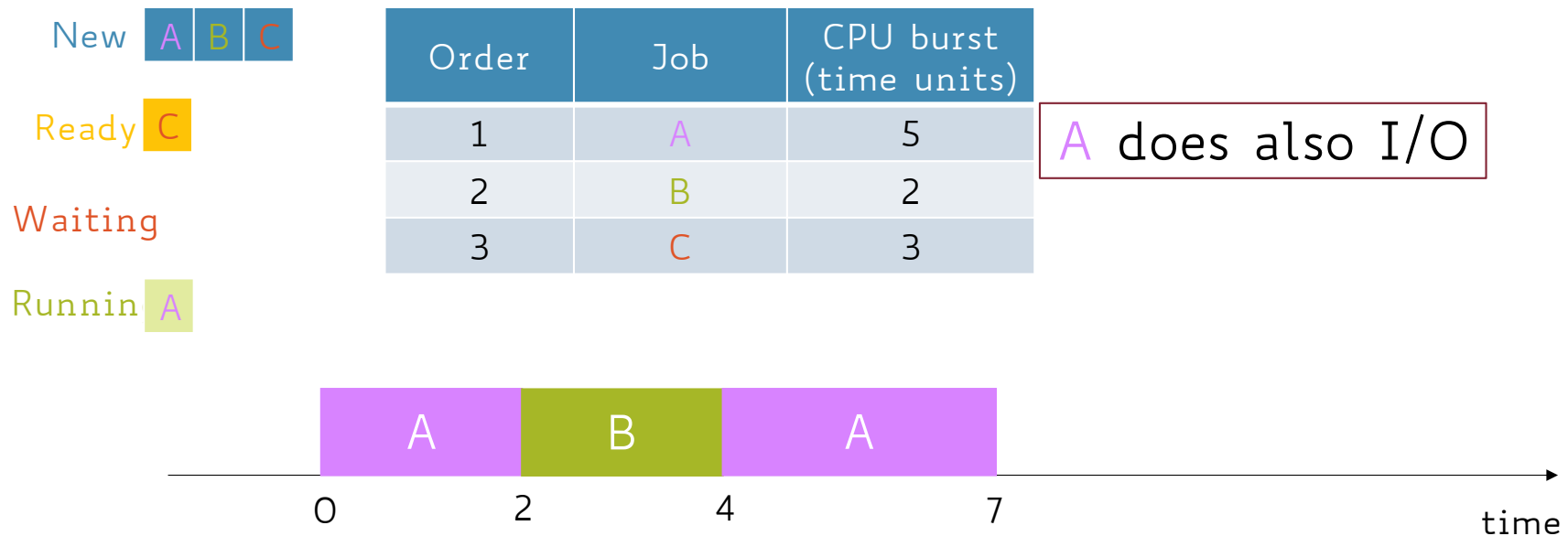
Running B

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
3	C	3

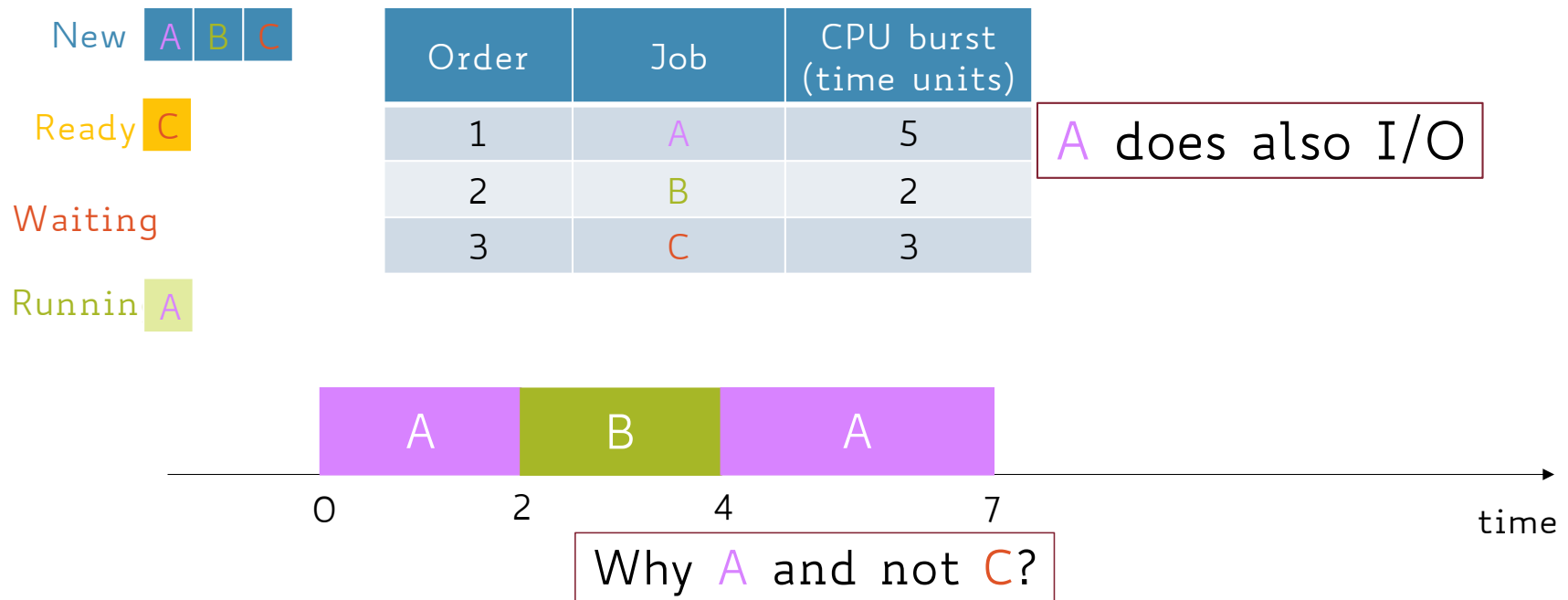
A does also I/O



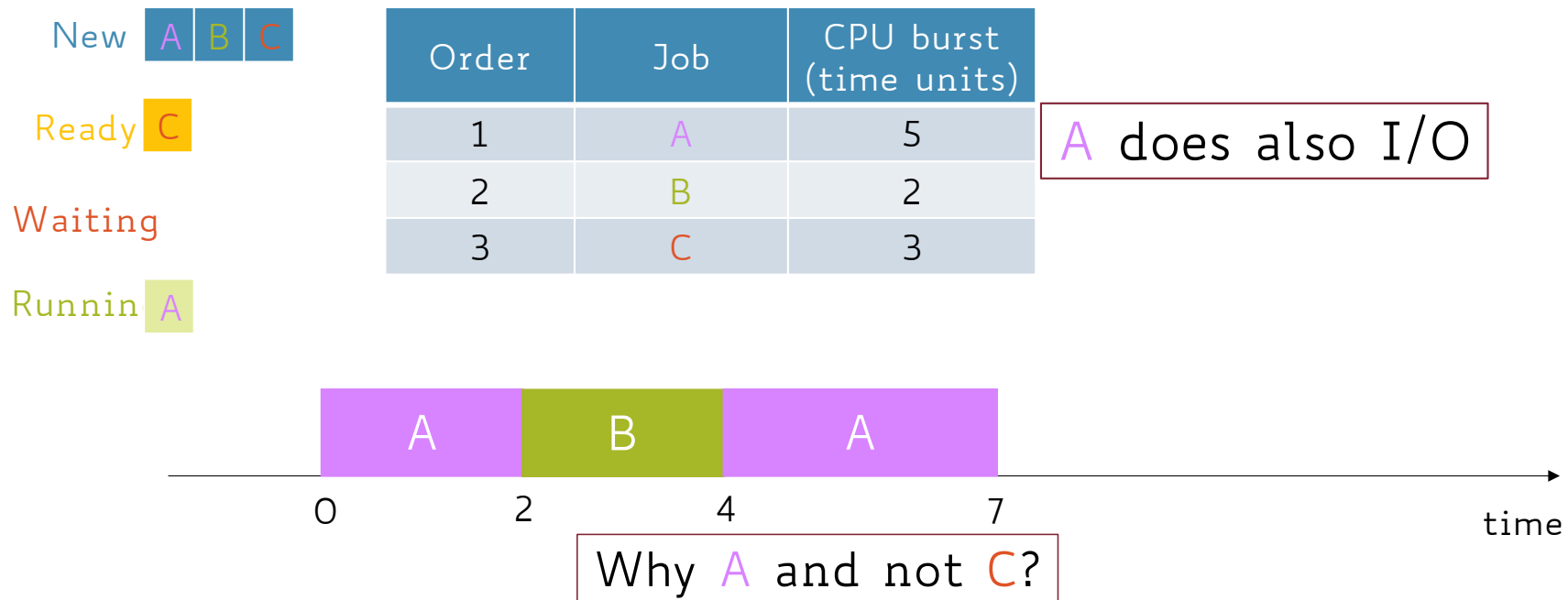
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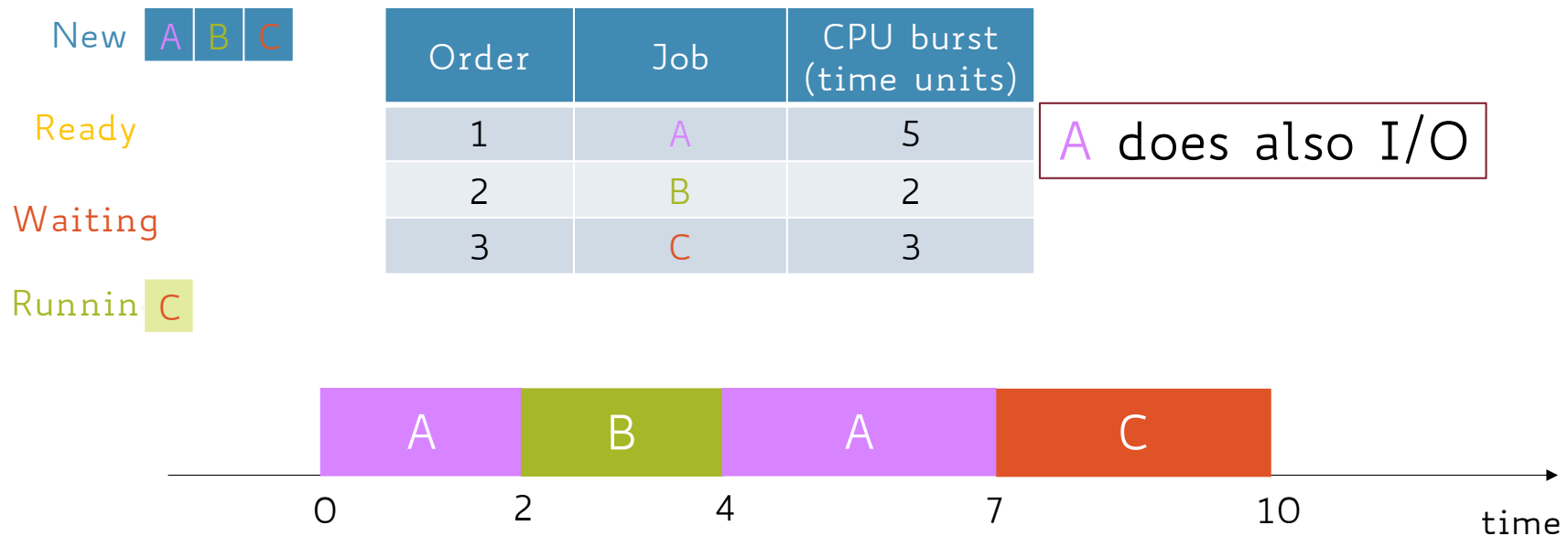


First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario III

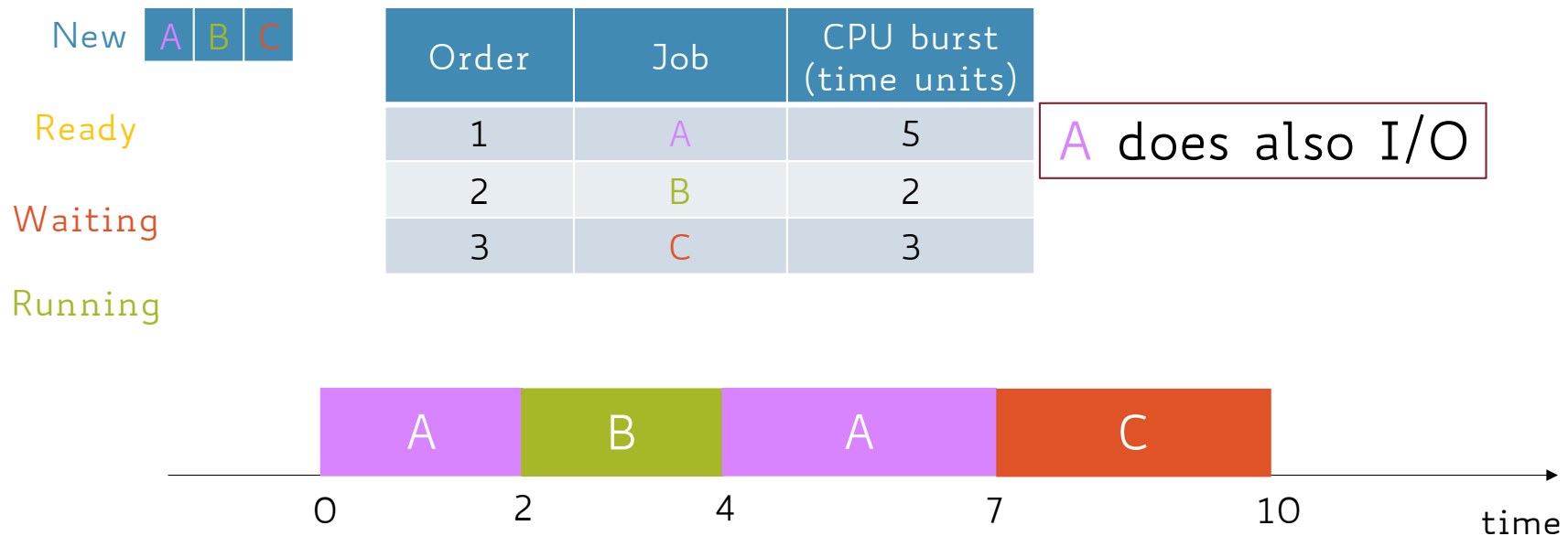


Because the FCFS scheduler cares only about the arrival time on the ready queue

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario III

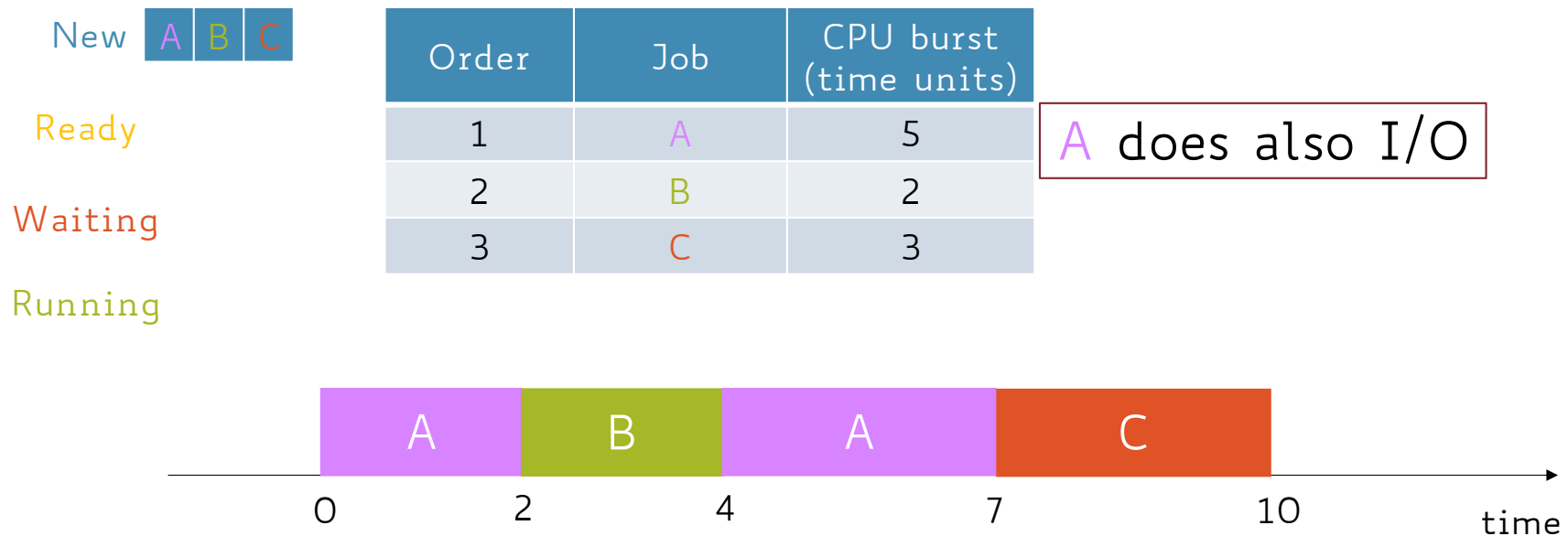


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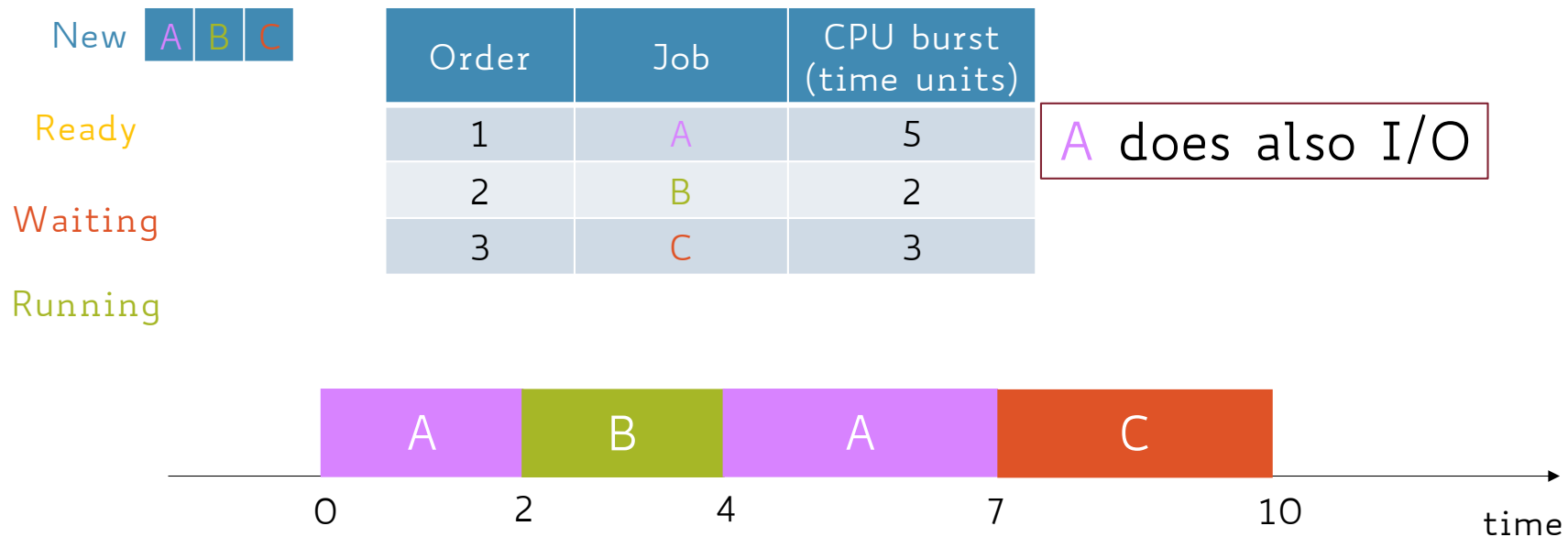
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First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario III



$$\text{avg. waiting time} = (2 + 2 + 7)/3 \sim 3.7$$

First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS): Scenario III



NOTE:

We should remove from A's waiting time the time it spent doing I/O

FCFS: PROs and CONs

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- (average) waiting time is highly variable as short CPU-burst jobs may sit behind very long ones

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- PRO:

- very simple!

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- (average) waiting time is highly variable as short CPU-burst jobs may sit behind very long ones
- **convoy effect** → poor overlap between CPU and I/O since CPU-bound jobs will force I/O bound jobs to wait

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Round Robin (RR)

- Similar to FCFS, except that CPU bursts are assigned with limits called **time quantum** or (**time slice**)
- When a job is given the CPU, a timer is set for a certain value:
 - If the job finishes before the time quantum expires, then it is swapped out of the CPU just like the normal FCFS algorithm
 - If the timer goes off first, then the job is swapped out of the CPU and moved to the back end of the ready queue
- Used in many time-sharing systems in combination with timer interrupts

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Round Robin (RR)

- The **ready** queue is maintained as a **circular queue**
- When all jobs have had a turn, the scheduler gives the first job another turn, and so on...
- RR is fair as it shares the CPU equally among all the jobs
- The average waiting time can be longer than with other scheduling algorithms

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- Too small time quantum implies more context switches, which eventually dominate over the actual CPU utilization (low throughput)

Round Robin (RR): The Time Quantum

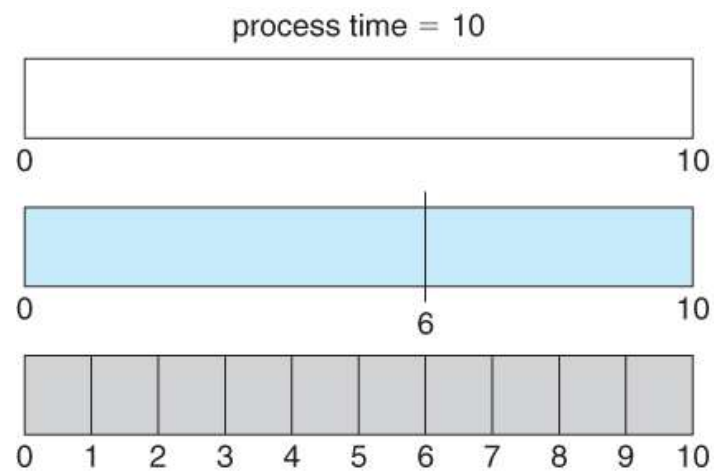
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- Too large time quantum degenerates to FCFS, as jobs are never preempted from the CPU (high average waiting time)
- Too small time quantum implies more context switches, which eventually dominate over the actual CPU utilization (low throughput)

Trade-off:

Overhead for context switching should be **relatively small** compared to time slice

Example: time slice = $10 \div 100$ msec. and context switch = $0.01 \div 0.1$ msec.

Round Robin (RR): The Time Quantum



quantum

12

6

1

context
switches

0

1

9

By decreasing the time quantum the number of context switches increase

Round Robin (RR): The Time Quantum

N = number of jobs

δ = time slice

$$\sup\{T_i^{start}\} = \delta * (i - 1), \forall i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$$

upper-bound on the
time a job is scheduled for the first time

worst-case scenario:
all job in front of the queue will use the
whole time slice

Round Robin (RR): Example

New A B C

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
3	C	3

Round Robin (RR): Example

New A B C

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
3	C	3

No I/O burst

Time quantum = 2

Context switch = 0

Round Robin (RR): Example

New A B C

Ready A B C

Waiting

Running

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
3	C	3

Round Robin (RR): Example

New A B C

Ready B C

Waiting

Running A

Order	Job	CPU burst (time units)
1	A	5
2	B	2
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Round Robin (RR): Example

New A B C

Ready B C

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Round Robin (RR): Example

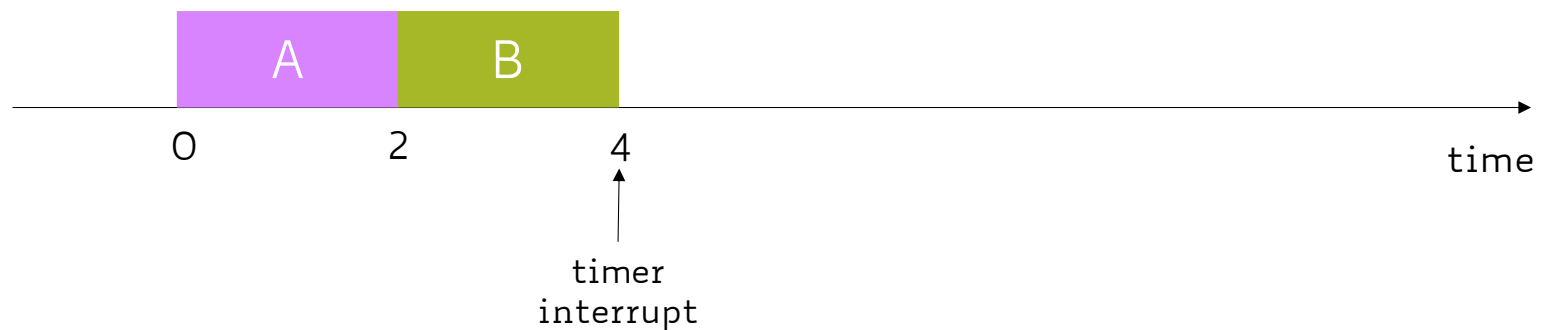
New A B C

Ready C A

Waiting

Running B

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Round Robin (RR): Example

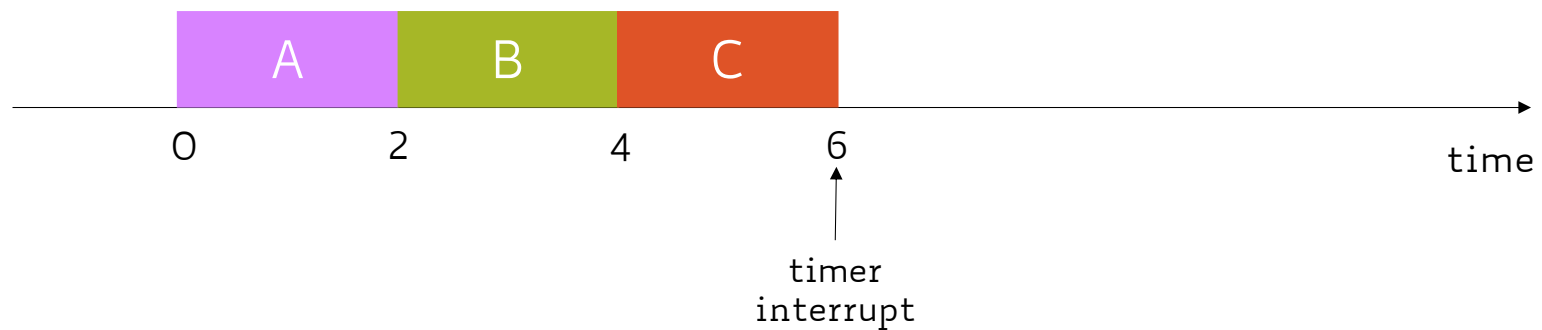
New A B C

Ready A

Waiting

Running C

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Round Robin (RR): Example

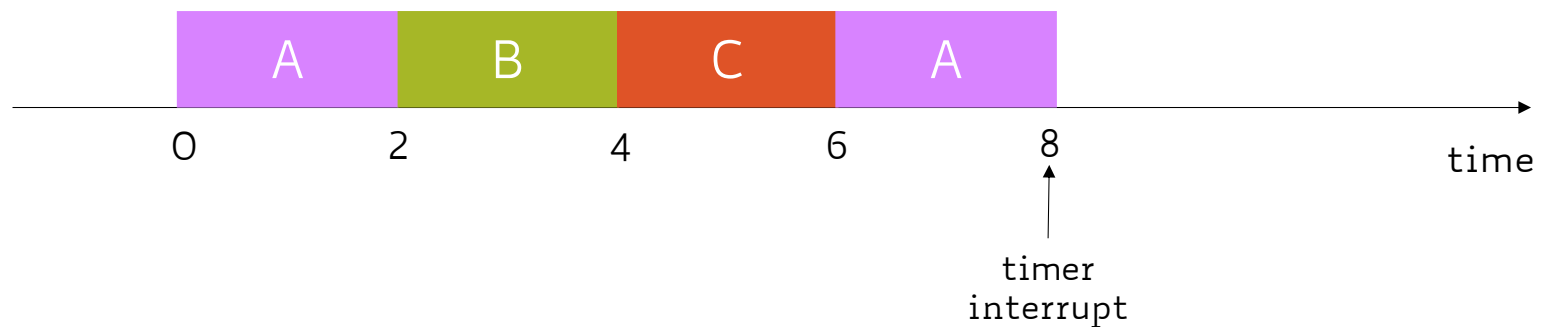
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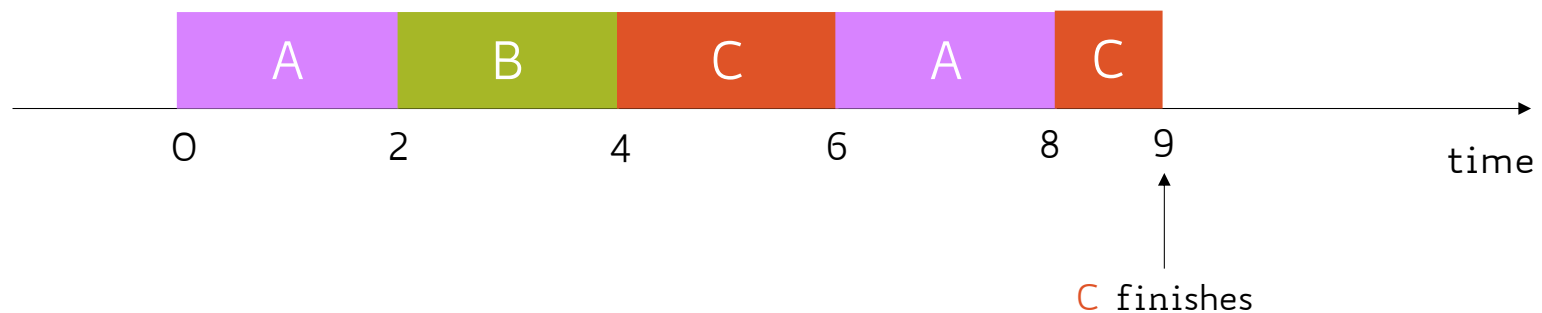
New A B C

Ready A

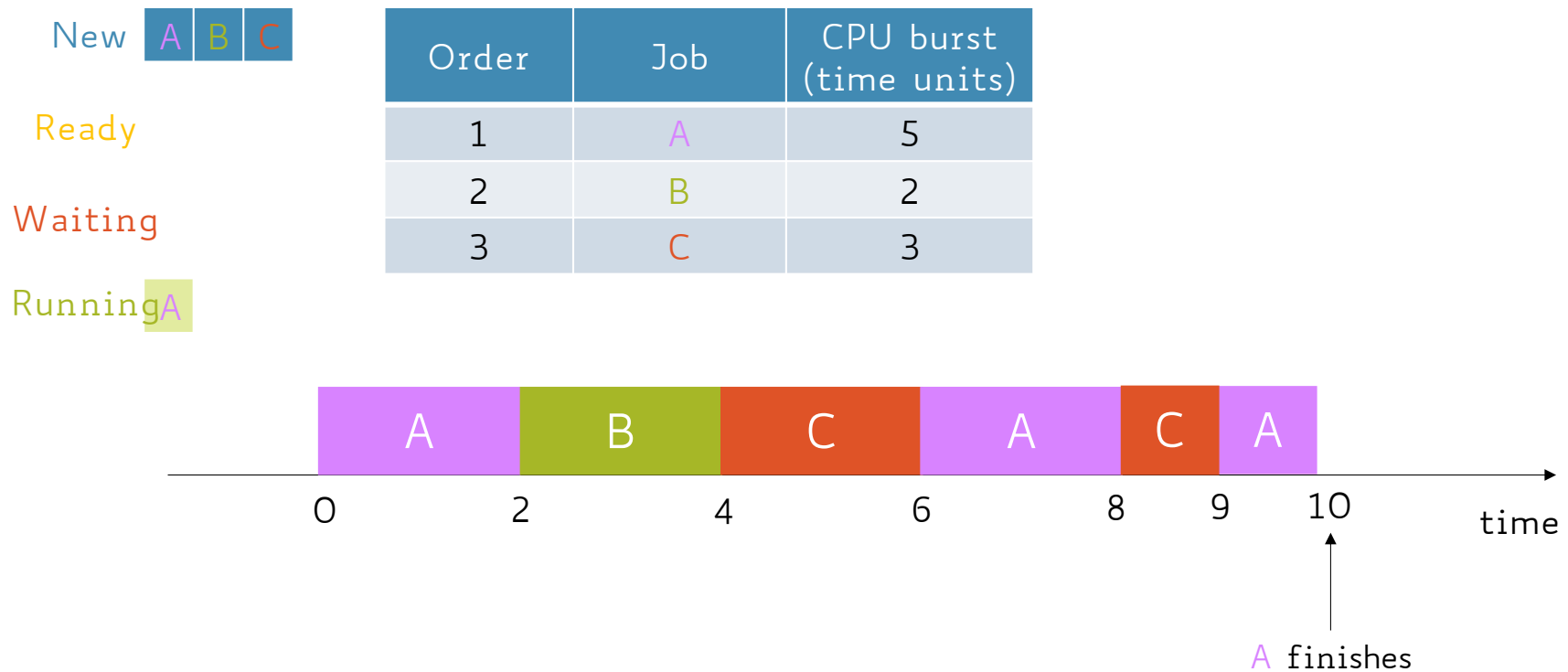
Waiting

Running C

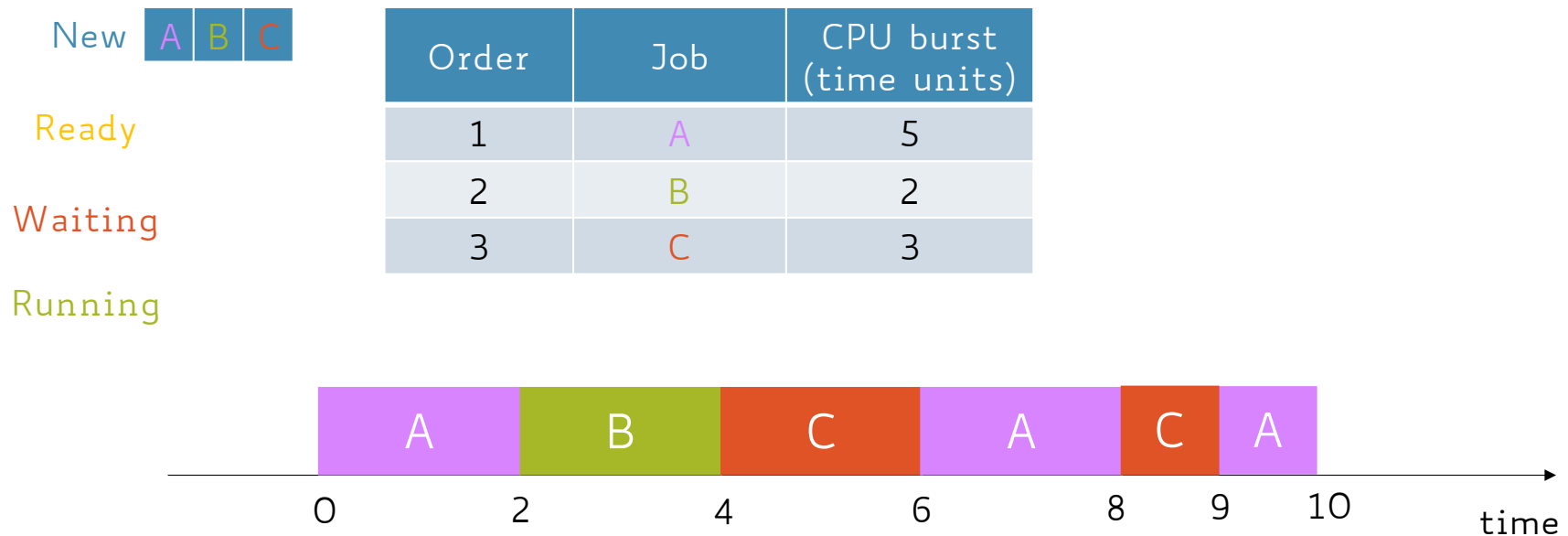
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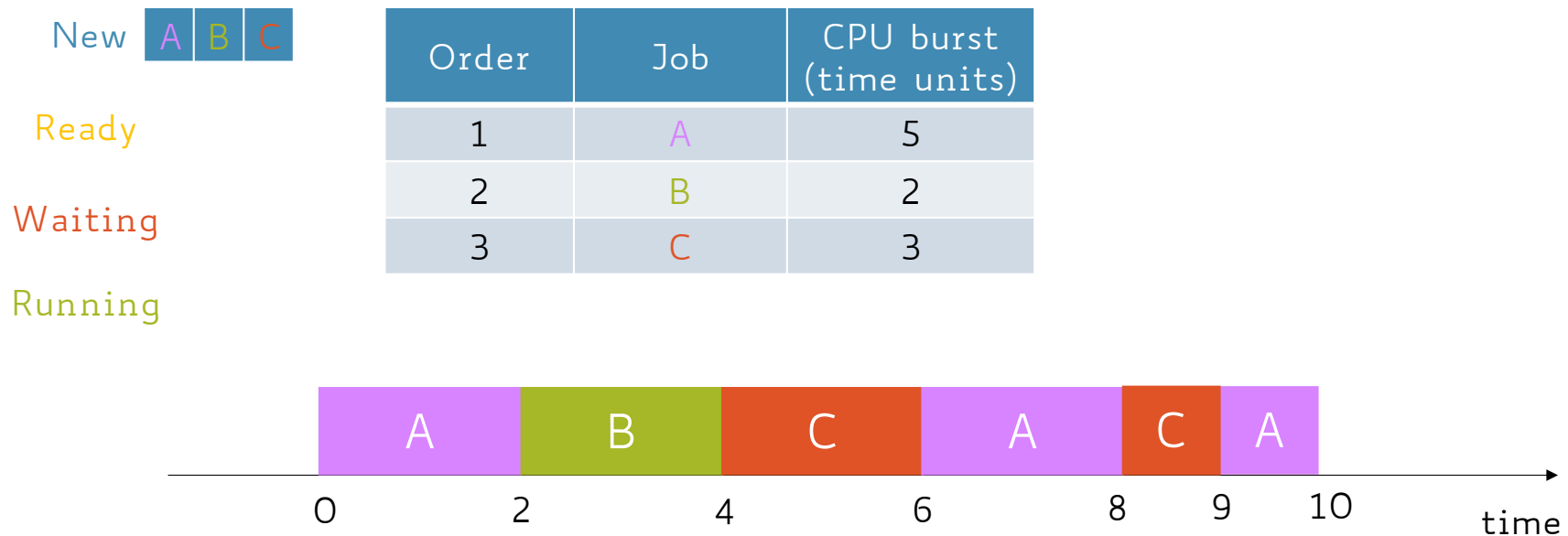


Round Robin (RR): Example



avg. waiting time =

Round Robin (RR): Example



$$\text{avg. waiting time} = (5 + 2 + 6)/3 \sim 4.3$$

FCFS vs. RR

Assumptions:

5 jobs, 100 time units of CPU burst each

Time quantum = 1

Context switch = 0

Arrival time = 0 (for all jobs)

		turnaround time		waiting time	
Job	CPU burst	FCFS	RR	FCFS	RR
A	100				
B	100				
C	100				
D	100				
E	100				
Avg.					

FCFS vs. RR

Assumptions:

5 jobs, 100 time units of CPU burst each

Time quantum = 1

Context switch = 0

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		turnaround time		waiting time	
Job	CPU burst	FCFS	RR	FCFS	RR
A	100	100			
B	100	200			
C	100	300			
D	100	400			
E	100	500			
Avg.		300			

FCFS vs. RR

Assumptions:

5 jobs, 100 time units of CPU burst each

Time quantum = 1

Context switch = 0

Arrival time = 0 (for all jobs)

		turnaround time		waiting time	
Job	CPU burst	FCFS	RR	FCFS	RR
A	100	100	496		
B	100	200	497		
C	100	300	498		
D	100	400	499		
E	100	500	500		
Avg.		300	498		

FCFS vs. RR

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Context switch = 0

Arrival time = 0 (for all jobs)

		turnaround time		waiting time	
Job	CPU burst	FCFS	RR	FCFS	RR
A	100	100	496	0	
B	100	200	497	100	
C	100	300	498	200	
D	100	400	499	300	
E	100	500	500	400	
Avg.		300	498	200	

FCFS vs. RR

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Time quantum = 1

Context switch = 0

Arrival time = 0 (for all jobs)

		turnaround time		waiting time	
Job	CPU burst	FCFS	RR	FCFS	RR
A	100	100	496	0	396
B	100	200	497	100	397
C	100	300	498	200	398
D	100	400	499	300	399
E	100	500	500	400	400
Avg.		300	498	200	398

FCFS vs. RR

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B	100	200	497	100	397
C	100	300	498	200	398
D	100	400	499	300	399
E	100	500	500	400	400
Avg.		300	498	200	398

FCFS seems to outperform RR in both metrics but... is it fair?

Look at the variance rather than the average!

FCFS vs. RR

Assumptions:

5 jobs, different CPU burst

Time quantum = 1

Context switch = 0

Arrival time = 0 (for all jobs)

		turnaround time		waiting time	
Job	CPU burst	FCFS	RR	FCFS	RR
A	50				
B	40				
C	30				
D	20				
E	10				
Avg.					

FCFS vs. RR

Assumptions:

5 jobs, different CPU burst

Time quantum = 1

Context switch = 0

Arrival time = 0 (for all jobs)

		turnaround time		waiting time	
Job	CPU burst	FCFS	RR	FCFS	RR
A	50	50			
B	40	90			
C	30	120			
D	20	140			
E	10	150			
Avg.		110			

FCFS vs. RR

Assumptions:

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		turnaround time		waiting time	
Job	CPU burst	FCFS	RR	FCFS	RR
A	50	50	150		
B	40	90	140		
C	30	120	120		
D	20	140	90		
E	10	150	50		
Avg.		110	110		

FCFS vs. RR

Assumptions:

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		turnaround time		waiting time	
Job	CPU burst	FCFS	RR	FCFS	RR
A	50	50	150	0	
B	40	90	140	50	
C	30	120	120	90	
D	20	140	90	120	
E	10	150	50	140	
Avg.		110	110	80	

FCFS vs. RR

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5 jobs, different CPU burst

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B	40	90	140	50	100
C	30	120	120	90	90
D	20	140	90	120	70
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Avg.		110	110	80	80

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Job	CPU burst (time units)
A	6
B	8
C	7
D	3

Assuming all jobs arrive at the same time
(arrival time = 0)

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0



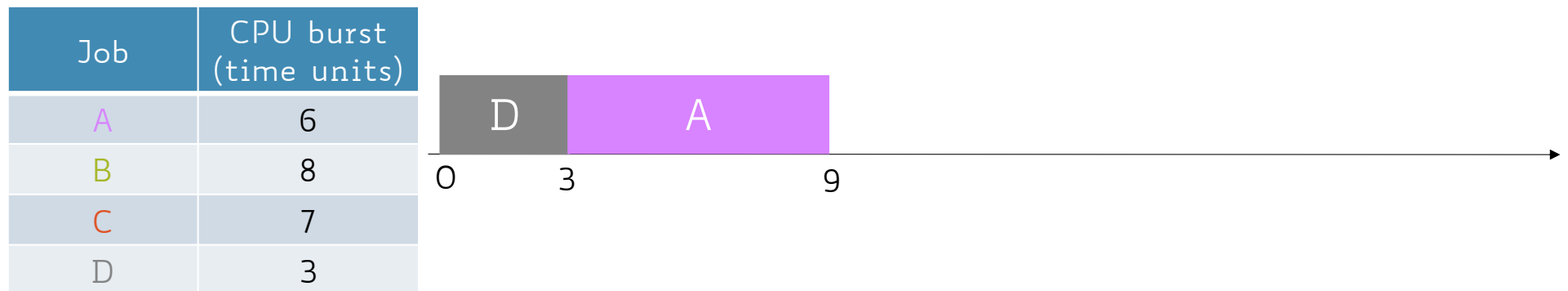
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$$\text{avg. waiting time} = (3 + 16 + 9 + 0)/4 = 7$$

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- PROs:

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- Almost impossible to know the (next) CPU burst time of a job

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(preemptive SJF is called **SRTF** or **S**hortest **R**emaining **T**ime **F**irst)

- CONs:

- Almost impossible to know the (next) CPU burst time of a job
- Long running CPU-bound jobs can *starve* (as I/O-bound ones have implicitly higher priority over them)

SJF: Estimating CPU Time of a Job

- Predict the length of the next CPU burst, based on some historical measurement of recent burst times (for this process)

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$x_t = \text{actual length of the } t\text{-th CPU burst}$

$s_{t+1} = \text{predicted length of the } (t+1)\text{-th CPU burst}$

$\alpha \in \mathbb{R}, 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$

$$s_1 = x_0$$

$$s_{t+1} = \alpha x_t + (1 - \alpha)s_t$$

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- Predict the length of the next CPU burst, based on some historical measurement of recent burst times (for this process)
- One simple, fast, and quite accurate method is the **exponential smoothing**

$x_t = \text{actual length of the } t\text{-th CPU burst}$

$s_{t+1} = \text{predicted length of the } (t+1)\text{-th CPU burst}$

$\alpha \in \mathbb{R}, 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$

$$\begin{array}{l} s_1 = x_0 \\ s_{t+1} = \alpha x_t + (1 - \alpha) s_t \end{array}$$

weighted average
between previous
observation and
previous prediction

Exponential Smoothing

$$s_1 = x_0$$
$$s_{t+1} = \alpha x_t + (1 - \alpha)s_t$$

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Case 1: $\alpha = 0 \Rightarrow s_{t+1} = s_t$

Exponential Smoothing

$$s_1 = x_0$$
$$s_{t+1} = \alpha \cancel{x_t} + (1 - \alpha)s_t$$

Case 1: $\alpha = 0 \Rightarrow s_{t+1} = s_t$

Observed bursts are ignored and constant burst is assumed

Exponential Smoothing

$$s_1 = x_0$$
$$s_{t+1} = \alpha x_t + (1 - \alpha)s_t$$

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Observed bursts are
ignored and constant
burst is assumed

Case 2: $\alpha = 1 \Rightarrow s_{t+1} = x_t$

Exponential Smoothing

$$s_1 = x_0$$
$$s_{t+1} = \boxed{\alpha x_t} + \cancel{(1 - \alpha)s_t}$$

Case 1: $\alpha = 0 \Rightarrow s_{t+1} = s_t$

Observed bursts are ignored and constant burst is assumed

Case 2: $\alpha = 1 \Rightarrow s_{t+1} = x_t$

The next burst is assumed to be the same as the last actual CPU burst observed

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Case 2: $\alpha = 1 \Rightarrow s_{t+1} = x_t$

The next burst is assumed to be the same as the last actual CPU burst observed

Recent history does not count

Exponential Smoothing

t	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...
-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

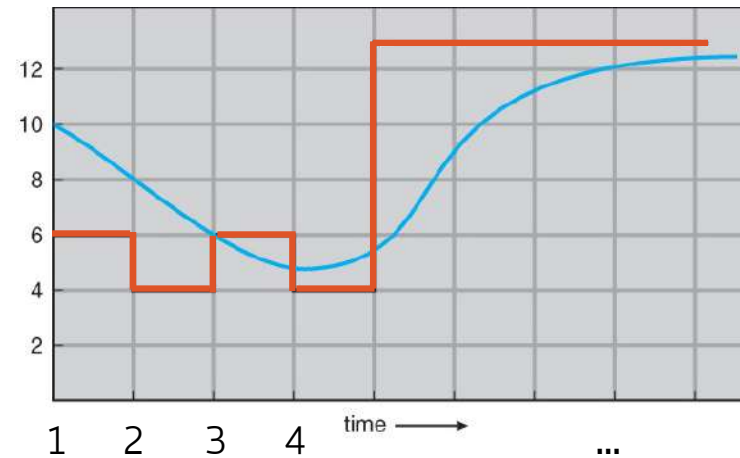
Exponential Smoothing

	t	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...
observations	x_t	10	6	4	6	4	13	13	13	...

Exponential Smoothing

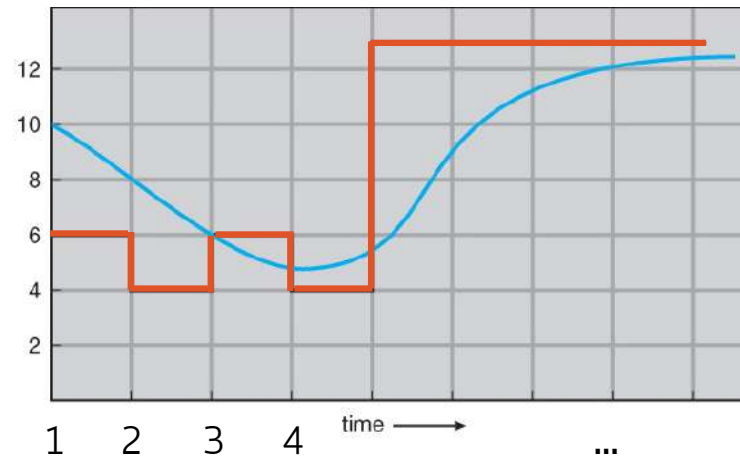
	t	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...
observations	x_t	10	6	4	6	4	13	13	13	...
predictions	s_{t+1}	10	8	6	6	5	9	11	12	...

Exponential Smoothing



	t	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...
observations	x_t	10	6	4	6	4	13	13	13	...
predictions	s_{t+1}	10	8	6	6	5	9	11	12	...

Exponential Smoothing

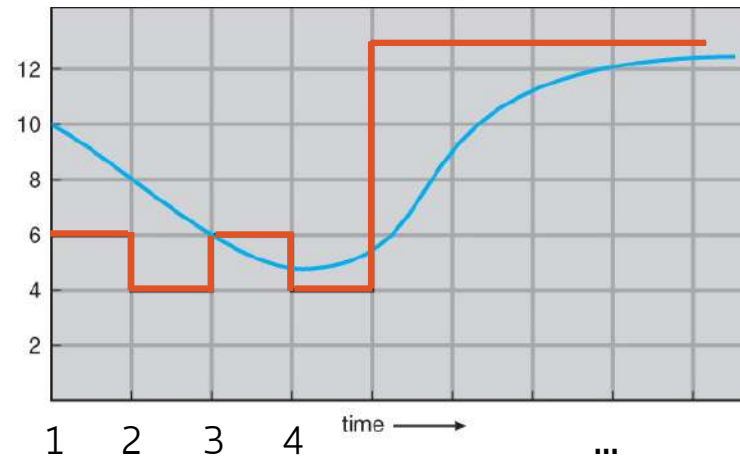


	t	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...
observations	x_t	10	6	4	6	4	13	13	13	...
predictions	s_{t+1}	10	8	6	6	5	9	11	12	...

$$s_1 = x_0$$

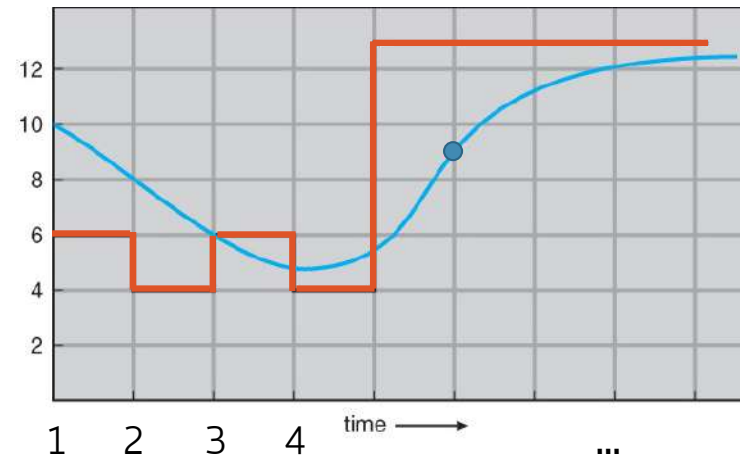
bootstrap

Exponential Smoothing



	t	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...
observations	x_t	10	6	4	6	4	13	13	13	...
predictions	s_{t+1}	10	8	6	6	5	9	11	12	...

Exponential Smoothing

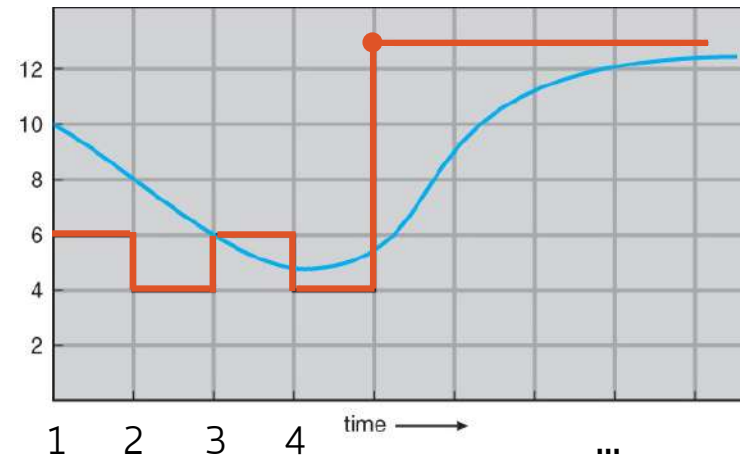


	t	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...
observations	x_t	10	6	4	6	4	13	13	13	...
predictions	s_{t+1}	10	8	6	6	5	9	11	12	...

$$9 =$$

$$s_6 =$$

Exponential Smoothing



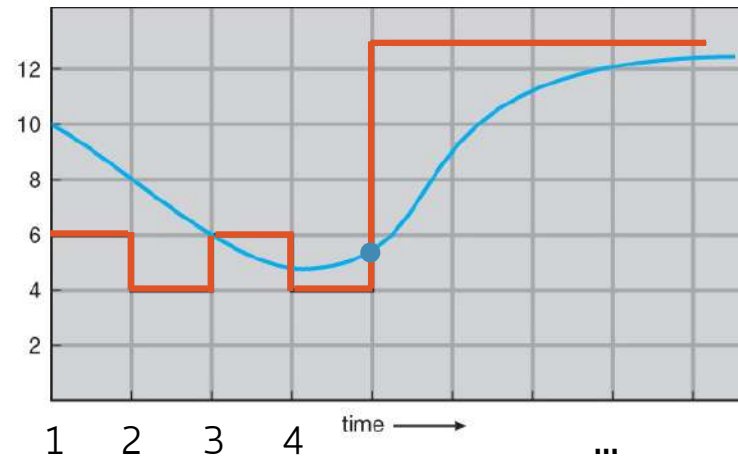
Usually, α is set to 0.5

	t	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...
observations	x_t	10	6	4	6	4	13	13	13	...
predictions	s_{t+1}	10	8	6	6	5	9	11	12	...

$$9 = 0.5 * 13$$

$$s_6 = \alpha x_5$$

Exponential Smoothing



Usually, α is set to 0.5

	t	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...
observations	x_t	10	6	4	6	4	13	13	13	...
predictions	s_{t+1}	10	8	6	6	5	9	11	12	...

$$9 = 0.5 * 13 + 0.5 * 5$$

$$s_6 = \alpha x_5 + (1 - \alpha)s_5$$

SJF vs. SRTF: Non-preemptive vs. Preemptive

- SJF (**non-preemptive**) → Once the CPU is given to a process this will execute until it completes its CPU burst

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- SJF (**non-preemptive**) → Once the CPU is given to a process this will execute until it completes its CPU burst
- SRTF (**preemptive**) → Preemption occurs whenever a new process arrives in the **ready** queue and its predicted CPU burst is shorter than the one remaining of the current executing process

SRTF: Example

Job	Arrival time	CPU burst (time units)
A	0	8
B	1	4
C	2	9
D	3	5

0



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SRTF: Example

Job	Arrival time	CPU burst (time units)
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D	3	5

A

0 1

At time $t=1$ B arrives and its CPU burst (4) is less than the remaining CPU burst of A ($8-1=7$)

SRTF: Example

Job	Arrival time	CPU burst (time units)
A	0	8
B	1	4
C	2	9
D	3	5



B is scheduled and will execute until it finishes its 4 CPU burst units

SRTF: Example

Job	Arrival time	CPU burst (time units)
A	0	8
B	1	4
C	2	9
D	3	5



Both C and D are arrived with 9 and 5 CPU burst units, respectively

A has still 7 CPU burst units left...

SRTF: Example

Job	Arrival time	CPU burst (time units)
A	0	8
B	1	4
C	2	9
D	3	5



D is scheduled and will execute until it finishes its 5 CPU burst units
(no more jobs arrived in the meantime)

SRTF: Example

Job	Arrival time	CPU burst (time units)
A	0	8
B	1	4
C	2	9
D	3	5



A has still 7 CPU burst units left and
C has 9...

SRTF: Example

Job	Arrival time	CPU burst (time units)
A	0	8
B	1	4
C	2	9
D	3	5



A is scheduled again until it finishes

SRTF: Example

Job	Arrival time	CPU burst (time units)
A	0	8
B	1	4
C	2	9
D	3	5



Eventually, C is scheduled as well

SRTF: Example

Job	Arrival time	CPU burst (time units)
A	0	8
B	1	4
C	2	9
D	3	5



avg. waiting time =

SRTF: Example

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$$\text{avg. waiting time} = \left[(17-0-8) + \right]$$

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$$\text{avg. waiting time} = \left[(17-0-8) + (5-1-4) + \right]$$

SRTF: Example

Job	Arrival time	CPU burst (time units)
A	0	8
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$$\text{avg. waiting time} = \left[(\text{purple } 17 - 0 - 8) + (\text{green } 5 - 1 - 4) + (\text{orange } 26 - 2 - 9) + \right]$$

SRTF: Example

Job	Arrival time	CPU burst (time units)
A	0	8
B	1	4
C	2	9
D	3	5



$$\text{avg. waiting time} = \left[(17-0-8) + (5-1-4) + (26-2-9) + (10-3-5) \right] / 4 = 26/4 = 6.5$$

FCFS vs. RR vs. SJF

Assumptions:

5 jobs, different CPU burst

Time quantum = 1

Context switch = 0

Arrival time = 0 (for all jobs)

		turnaround time			waiting time		
Job	CPU burst	FCFS	RR	SJF	FCFS	RR	SJF
A	50	50	150		0	100	
B	40	90	140		50	100	
C	30	120	120		90	90	
D	20	140	90		120	70	
E	10	150	50		140	40	
Avg.		110	110		80	80	

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D	20	140	90	30	120	70	10
E	10	150	50	10	140	40	0
Avg.		110	110	70	80	80	40

Scheduling Algorithms: An Overview

- First-Come-First-Serve (FCFS)
- Round Robin (RR)
- Shortest-Job-First (SJF)
- **Priority Scheduling**
- Multilevel Queue (MLQ)
- Multilevel Feedback-Queue (MLFQ)

Priority Scheduling: Idea

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- More general case of SJF, where each job is assigned a **priority** and the job with the highest priority gets scheduled first
- SJF is a priority scheduling where priority is the predicted next CPU burst time
- In practice, priorities are implemented using integers within a fixed range
 - No convention on whether "high" priorities use large or small numbers
 - Usually, low numbers for high priorities (0 = the highest priority)

Priority Scheduling: Characteristics

- Priorities can be assigned either **internally** or **externally**

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- Priority scheduling can be either **preemptive** or **non-preemptive**

Priority Scheduling: Issues

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- **Indefinite blocking** (or **starvation**): a low-priority task can wait forever because some other jobs have always higher priority
- Stuck jobs may eventually run when the system load is lighter or after a shutdown/crash and a reboot
- **Aging** → solves starvation by increasing the priority of jobs proportionally to the time they wait, until they are eventually scheduled