GHC(STG,Cmm,asm) illustrated

for hardware person

exploring some mental models and implementations

Takenobu T.

Rev. 0.00.0
WIP

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

Arthur C. Clarke

NOTE

- This is not official document by ghc development team.
- Please don't forget “semantics”. It's very important.
- This is written for ghc 7.8.

Contents

- Executable binary
- Compile steps
- Runtime System
- Development languages

- Machine layer/models
- STG-machine
- Heap object in STG-machine
- STG-machine evaluation
- Pointer tagging
- Thunk and update
- Allocate and free(GC) heap objects
- STG - C land interface

- Thread
- Heap and Threads
- Thread context switch
- Creating main thread and forkIO

- Spark

- MVar

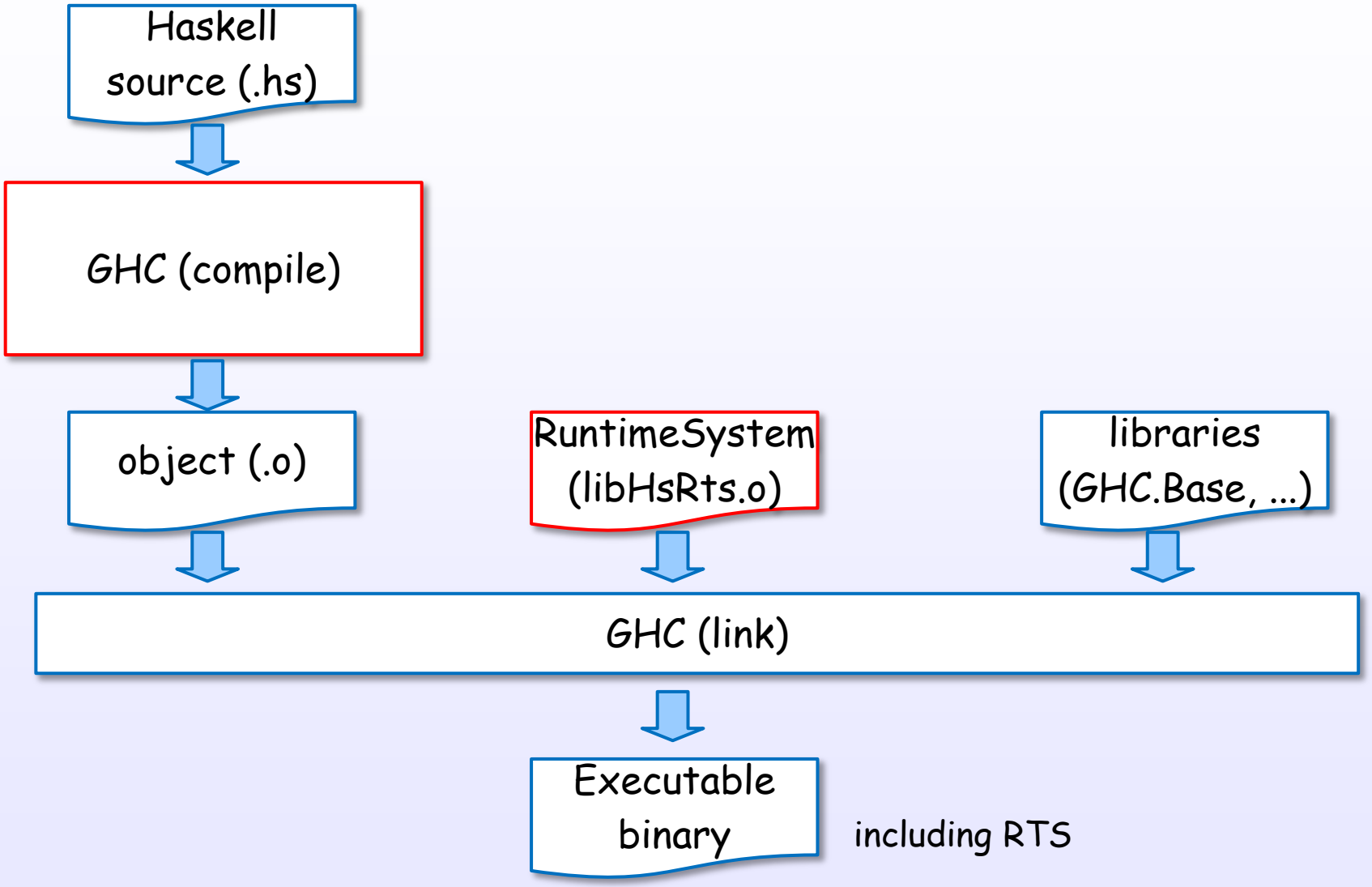
- IO and FFI
- IO manager

- Bootstrap

- References

Executable binary

GHC = Compiler + Runtime System (RTS)

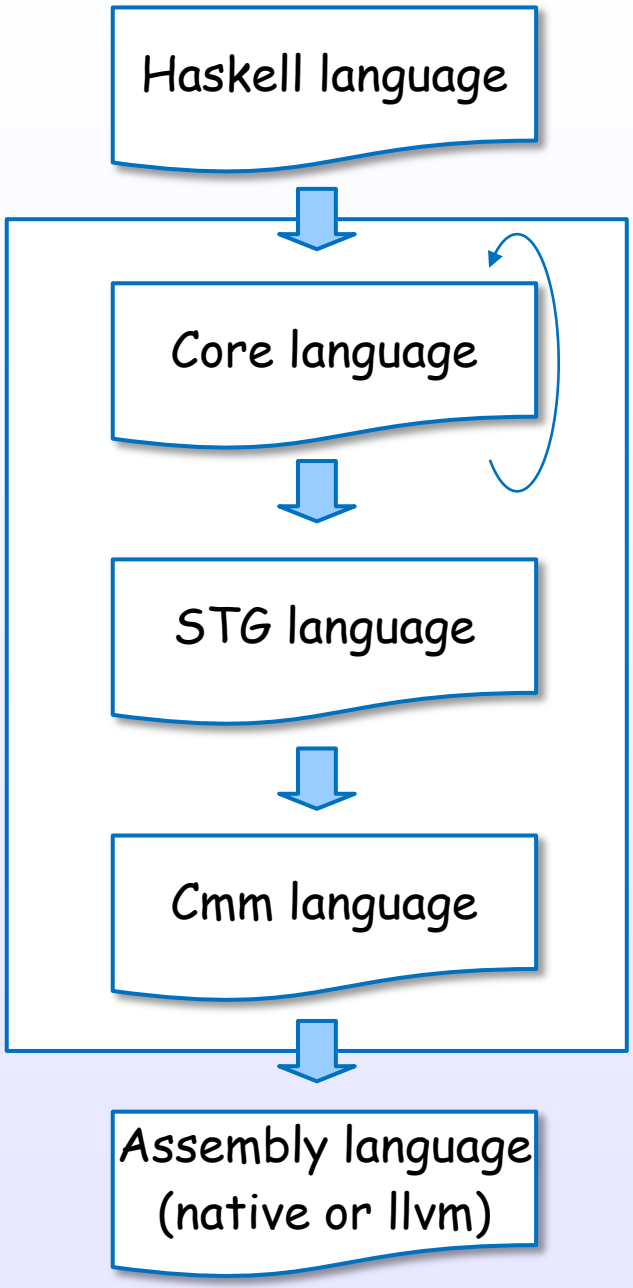


References : [C1], [C3], [C10], [C18], [S7]

Compile steps

GHC transitions between five representations

GHC compile steps



each code dumped by

% ghc -ddump-parsed
% ghc -ddump-rn

% ghc -ddump-ds
% ghc -ddump-simpl
% ghc -ddump-prep

% ghc -ddump-stg

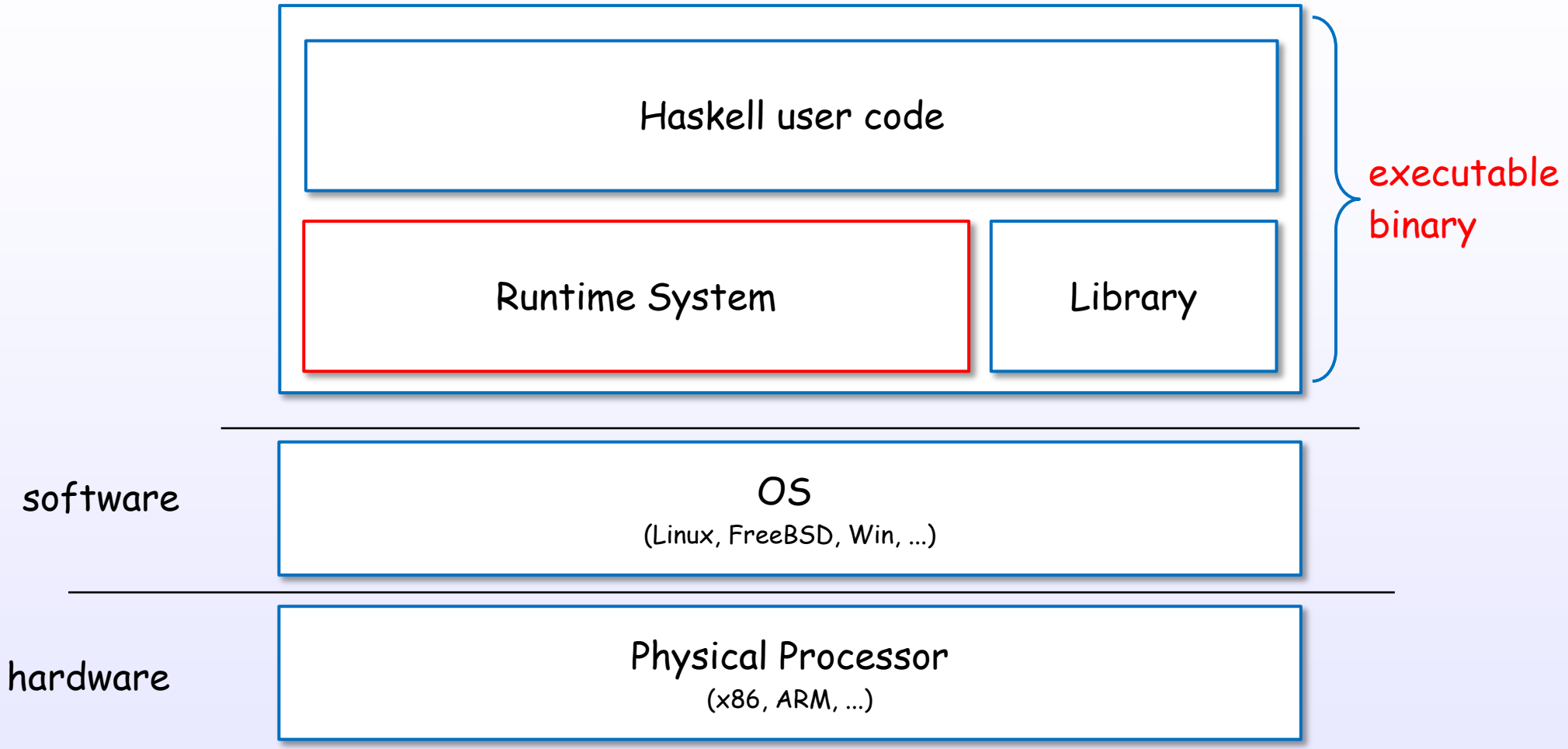
% ghc -ddump-cmm
% ghc -ddump-opt-cmm

% ghc -ddump-llvm
% ghc -ddump-asm

References : [C3], [C4], [8], [C5], [C6], [C7], [C8[], [S7], [S8]

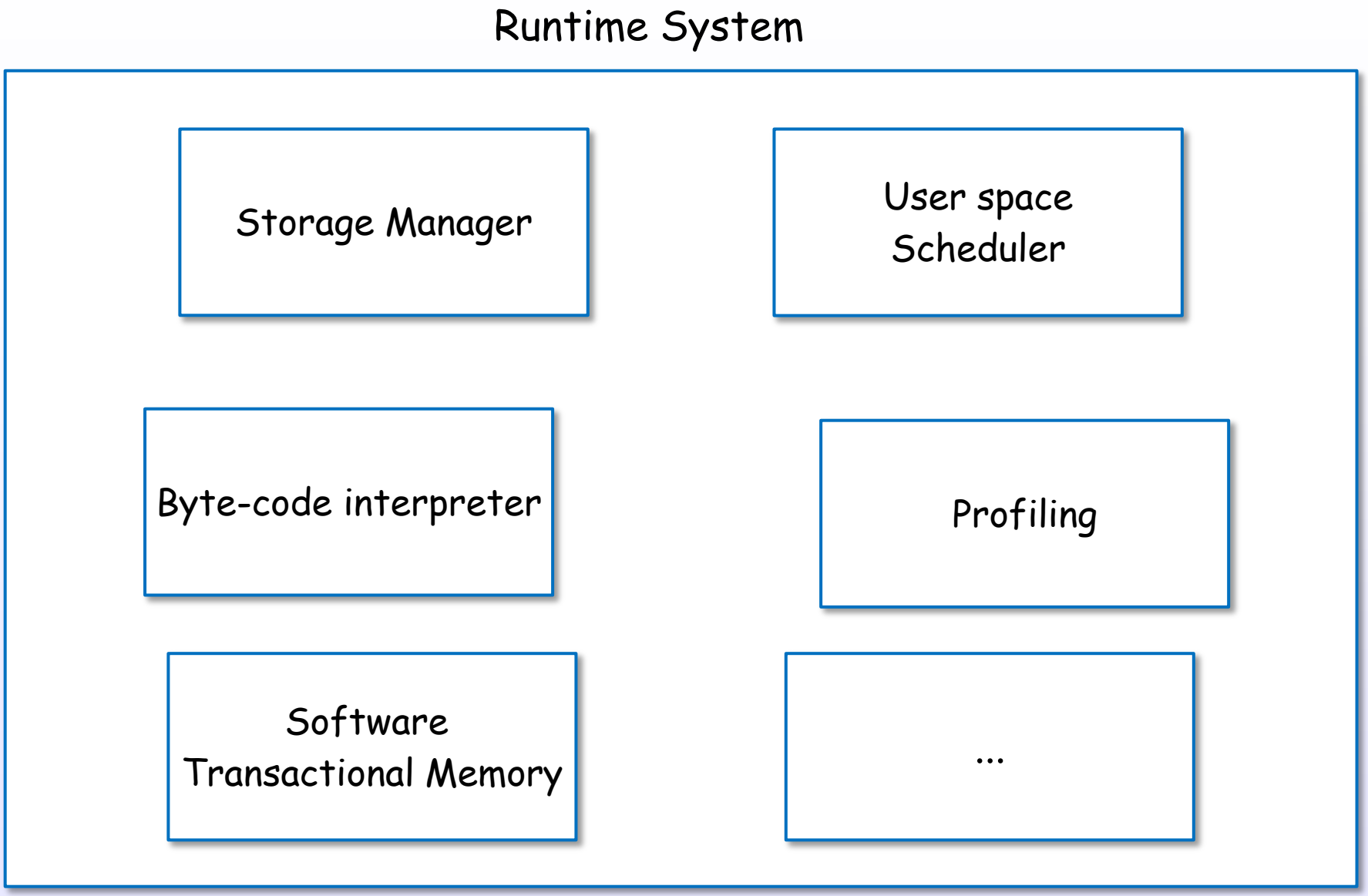
Runtime System

Generated binary includes RTS



References : [C10], [8]

Runtime System includes ...



References : [C10], [7], [8], [4], [16], [S13]

Development languages

GHC developed by some languages

compiler
($(TOP)/compiler/*)

Haskell
+
Alex (lex)
Happy (yacc)
Cmm (C--)
Assembly

runtime system
($(TOP)/rts/*)

C
+
Cmm
Assembly

library
($(TOP)/libraries/*)

Haskell
+
C

References : [C2]

Machine layer/models

Machine layer

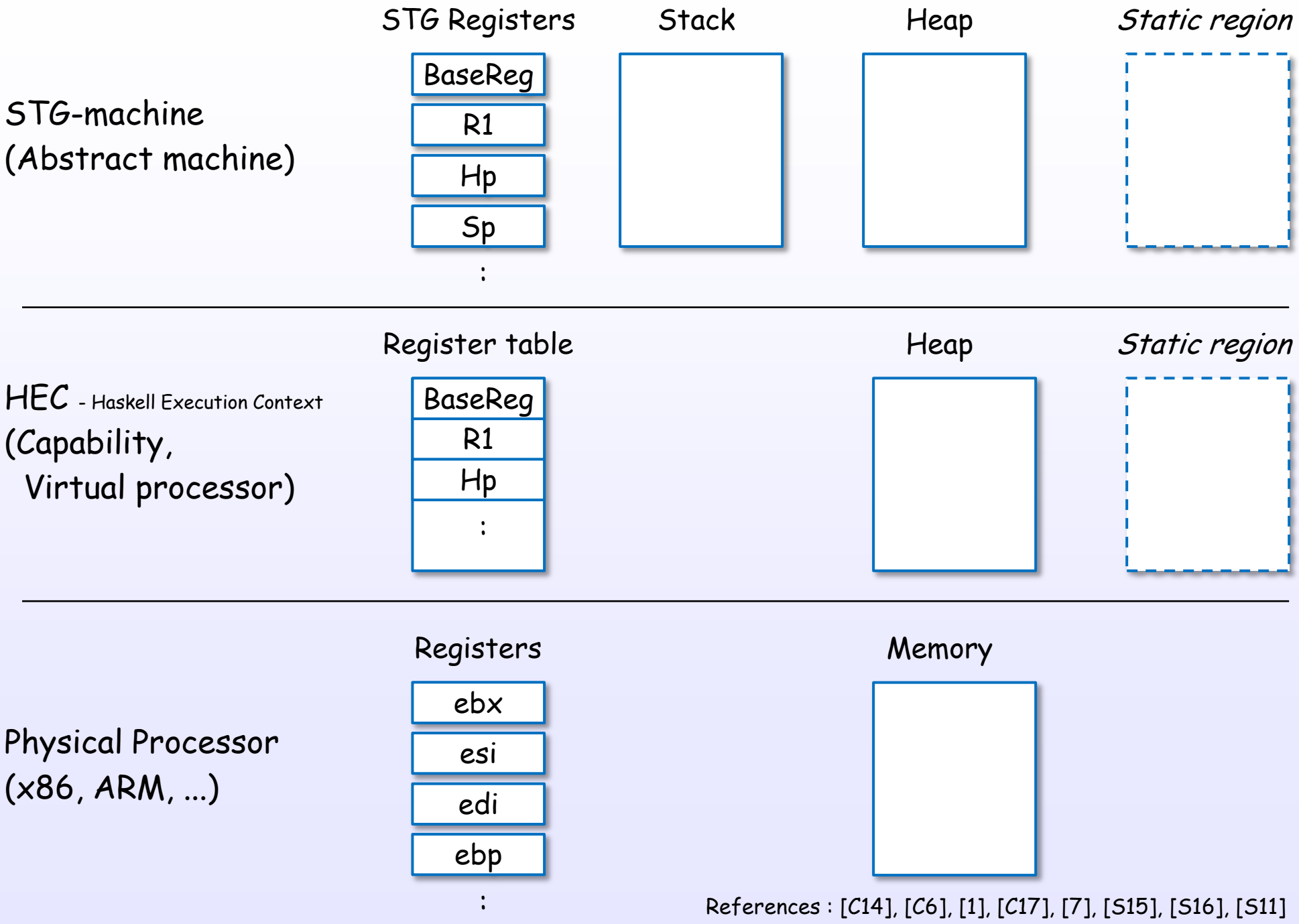
STG-machine
(Abstract machine)

HEC - Haskell Execution Context
(Capability, Virtual processor)

Physical Processor
(x86, ARM, ...)

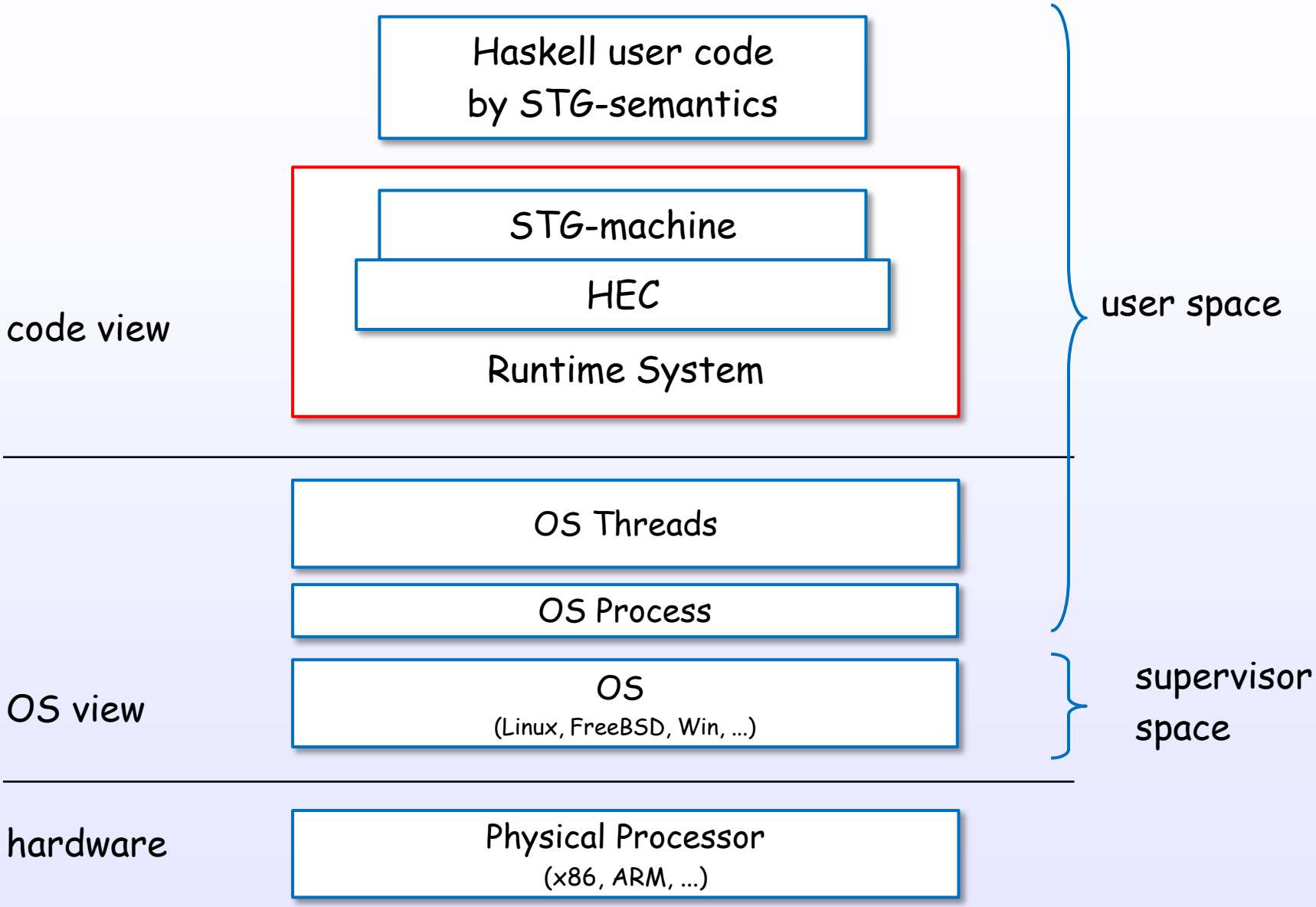
References : [C14], [C6], [1], [C17], [7], [S15], [S16], [S11]

Machine layer



References : [C14], [C6], [1], [C17], [7], [S15], [S16], [S11]

Runtime system and HEC

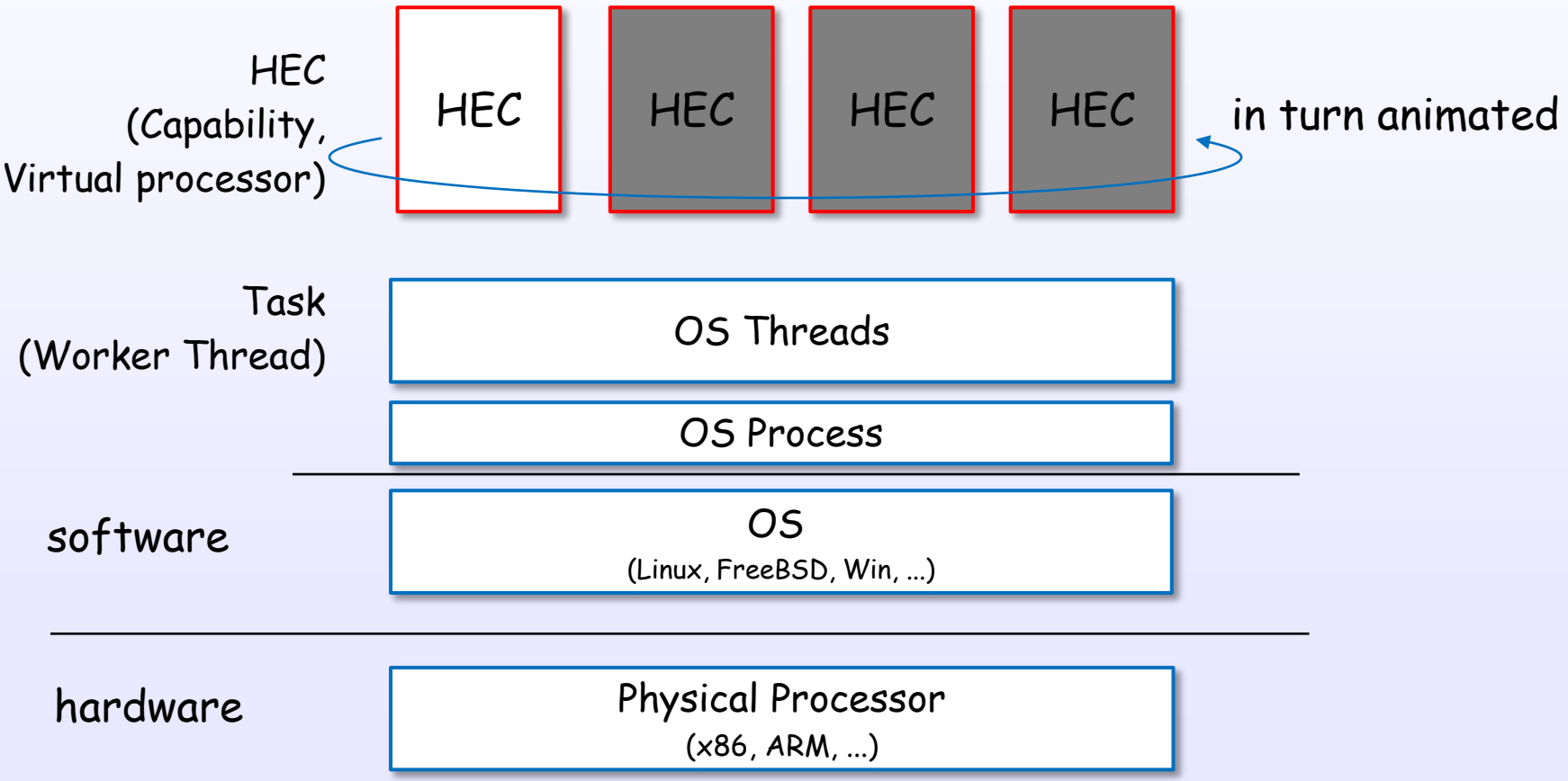


References : [C14], [C6], [1], [C17], [7], [S15], [S16], [S11]

many HECs

multi HEC generated by compile and runtime options :

```
% ghc  -rtsopts  -threaded
% ./xxx  +RTS  -N4
```



References : [4], [7], [8], [13], [C17], [C11], [18], [S17], [S16], [S23], [S22], [S14]

HEC (Capability) data structure

[rts/Capability.h]

```
struct Capability_ {
    StgFunTable f;
    StgRegTable r;
    nat no;
    Task *running_task;
    rtsBool in_haskell;
    nat idle;
    rtsBool disabled;
    StgTSO *run_queue_hd;
    StgTSO *run_queue_tl;
    InCall *suspended_ccalls;
    bdescr **mut_lists;
    bdescr **saved_mut_lists;
    bdescr *pinned_object_block;
    bdescr *pinned_object_blocks;
    int context_switch;
    int interrupt;

#if defined(THREADED_RTS)
    Task *spare_workers;
    nat n_spare_workers;
    Mutex lock;
    Task *returning_tasks_hd;
    Task *returning_tasks_tl;
    Message *inbox;
    SparkPool *sparks;
    SparkCounters spark_stats;
#endif

    W_ total_allocated;
    StgTVarWatchQueue *free_tvar_watch_queues;
    StgInvariantCheckQueue *free_invariant_check_queues;
    StgTRecChunk *free_trec_chunks;
    StgTRecHeader *free_trec_headers;
    nat transaction_tokens;
}
```

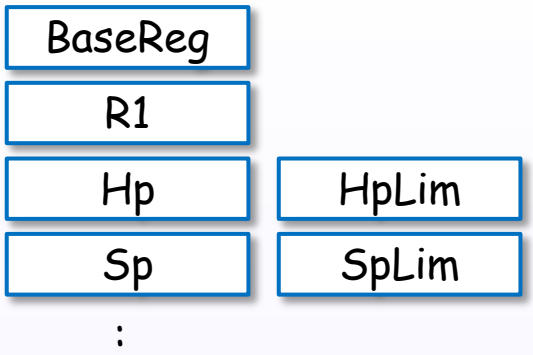
HEC (Capabiilty) has Register table and Run queue and ...
HEC (Capability) is initialized in initCapabilities () [rts/rts/Capability.c]

References : [S15], [S16], [C11], [C17]

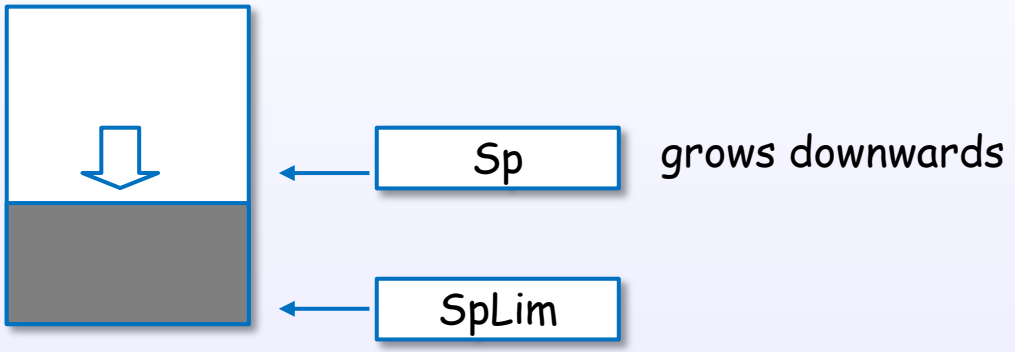
STG-machine

STG-machine

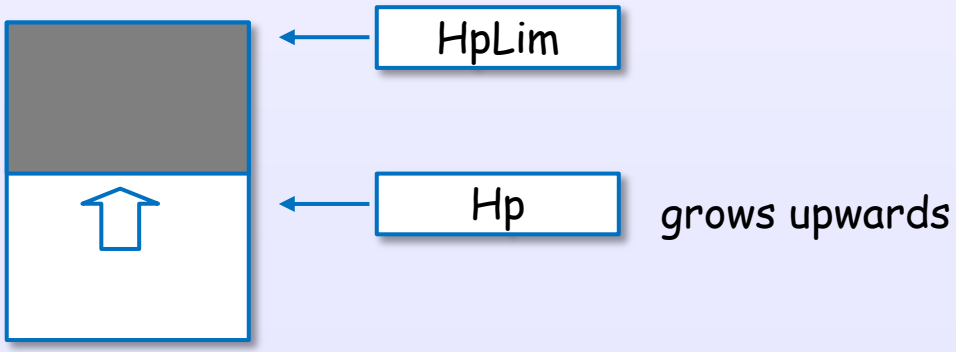
STG Registers



Stack



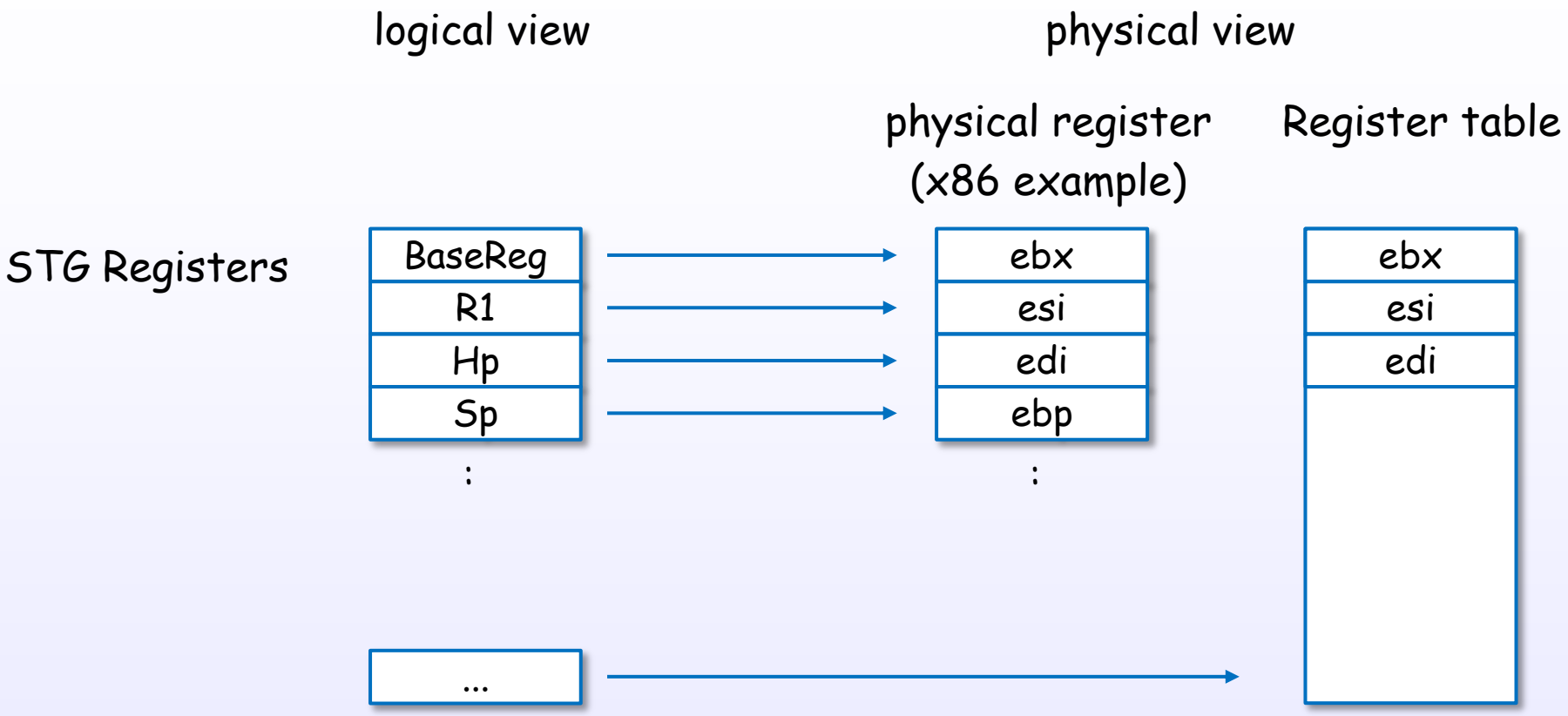
Heap



Real Haskell code executed in STG semantics.

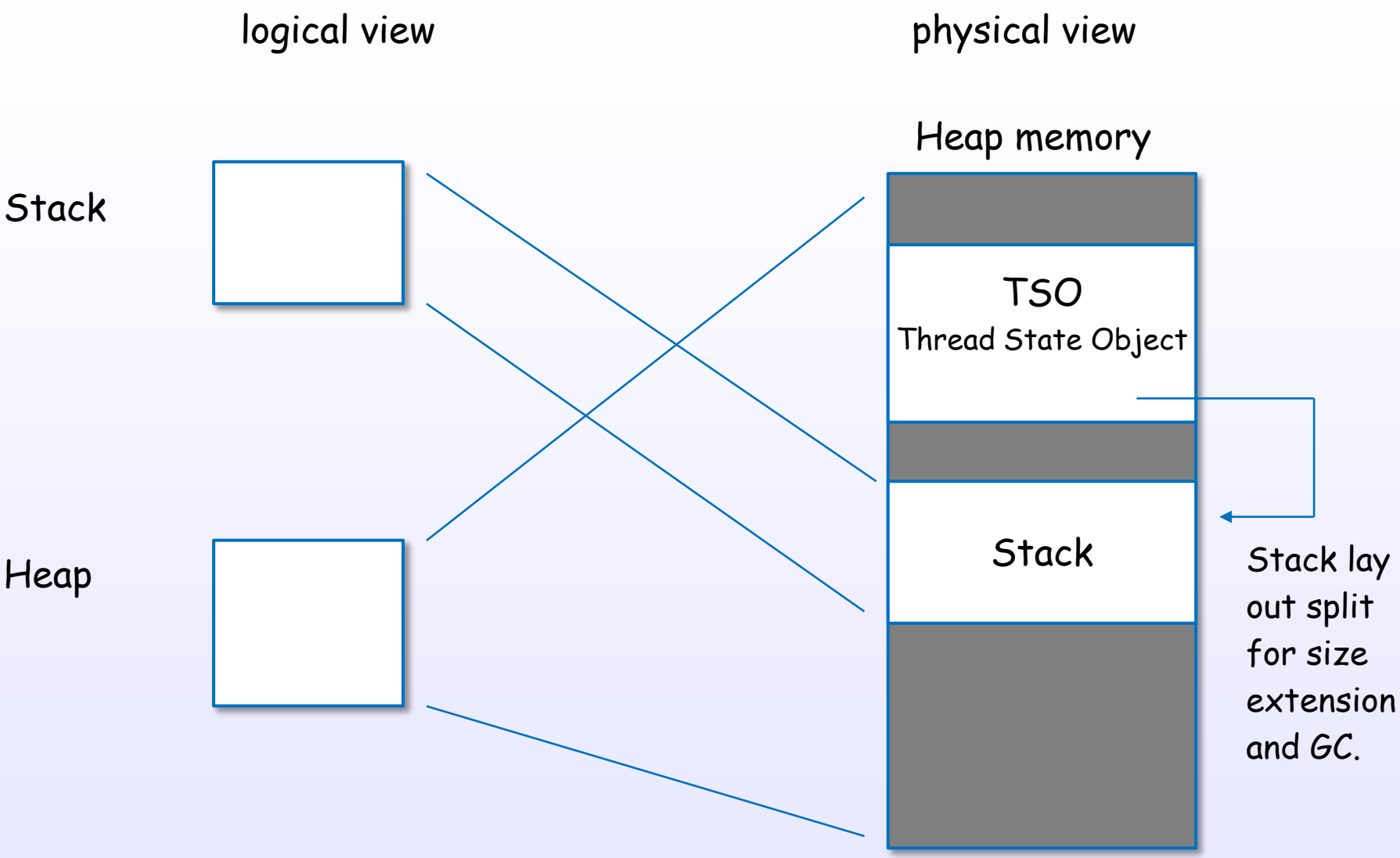
References : [1], [C15], [C11], [C12]

STG-machine mapped to physical processor



References : [C15], [S1], [S2]

STG-machine mapped to physical processor



Stack is in TSO object.
TSO object in heap.

References : [C11], [C12], [S16], [S5]

TSO object

[includes/rts/storage/TSO.h]

```
typedef struct StgTSO_ {
   StgHeader            header;
   struct StgTSO_*      _link;
   struct StgTSO_*      global_link;
   struct StgStack_     *stackobj;
   StgWord16            what_next;
   StgWord16            why_blocked;
   StgWord32            flags;
   StgTSOBlockInfo      block_info;
   StgThreadID          id;
   StgWord32            saved_errno;
   StgWord32            dirty;
   struct InCall_*      bound;
   struct Capability_*  cap;
   struct StgTRecHeader_ * trec;
   struct MessageThrowTo_ * blocked_exceptions;
   struct StgBlockingQueue_ *bq;
   StgWord32  tot_stack_size;
} *StgTSOPtr;
```

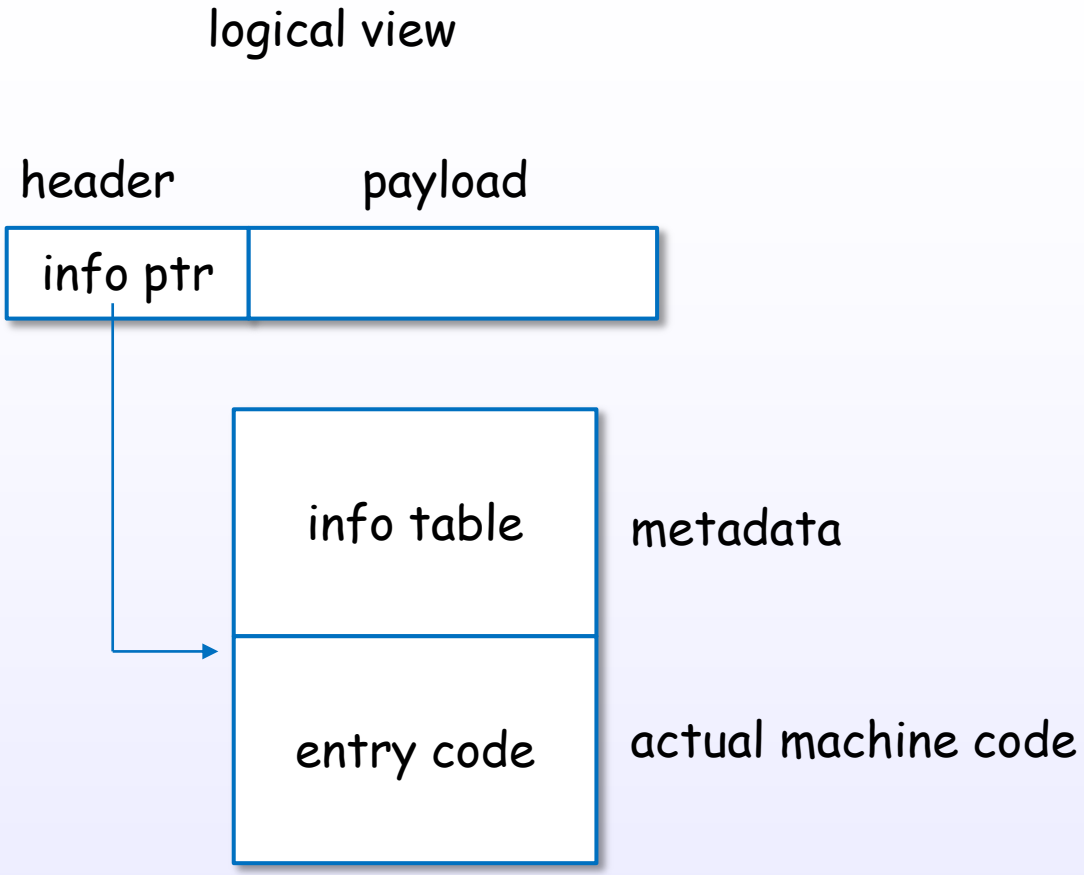
link to stack object

TSO object is only ~17words + stack. Lightweight.

References : [S5]

Heap object in STG-machine

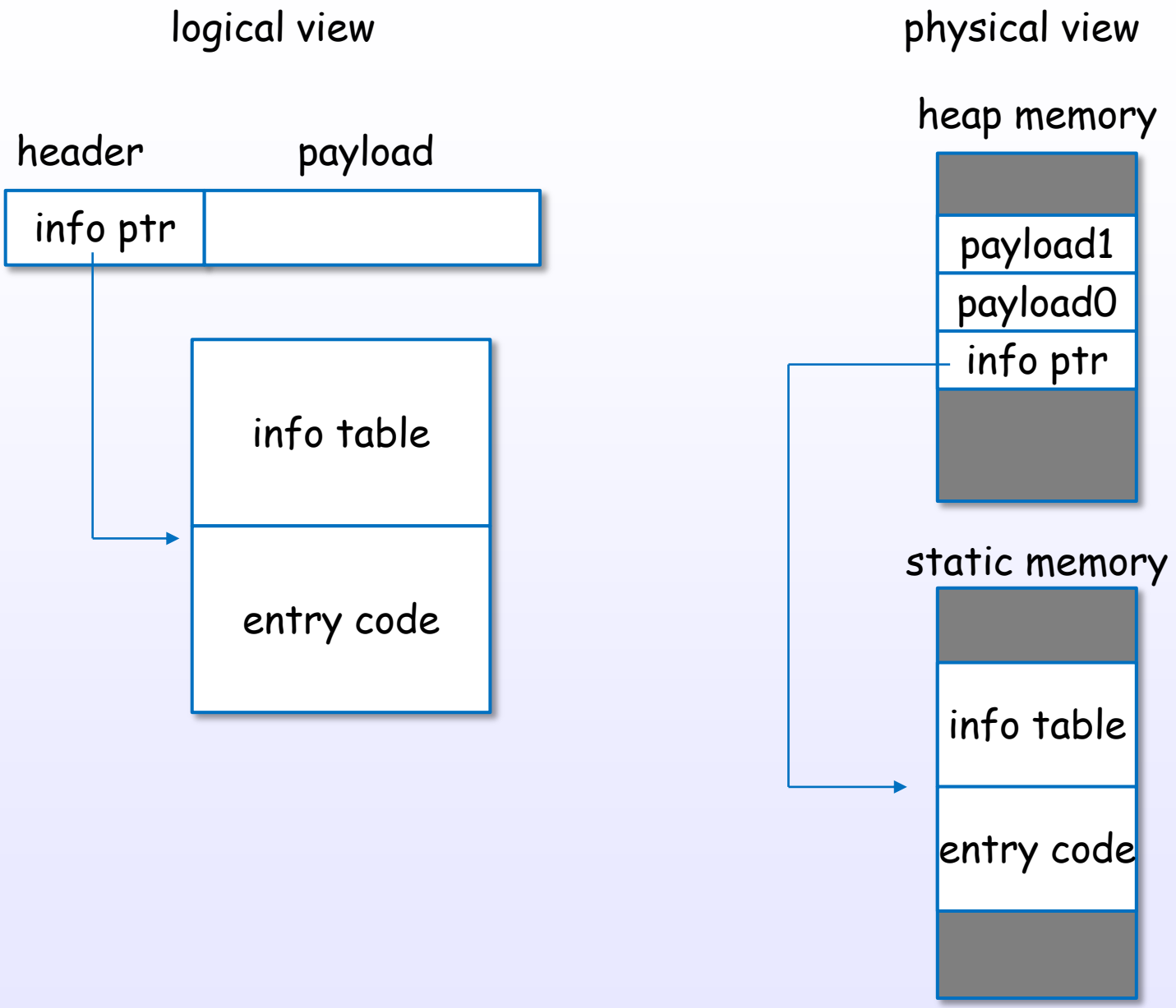
Heap object (closure)



Closure (header + payload) + Info Table + Entry Code

References : [C11], [S3], [S4], [S6], [1]

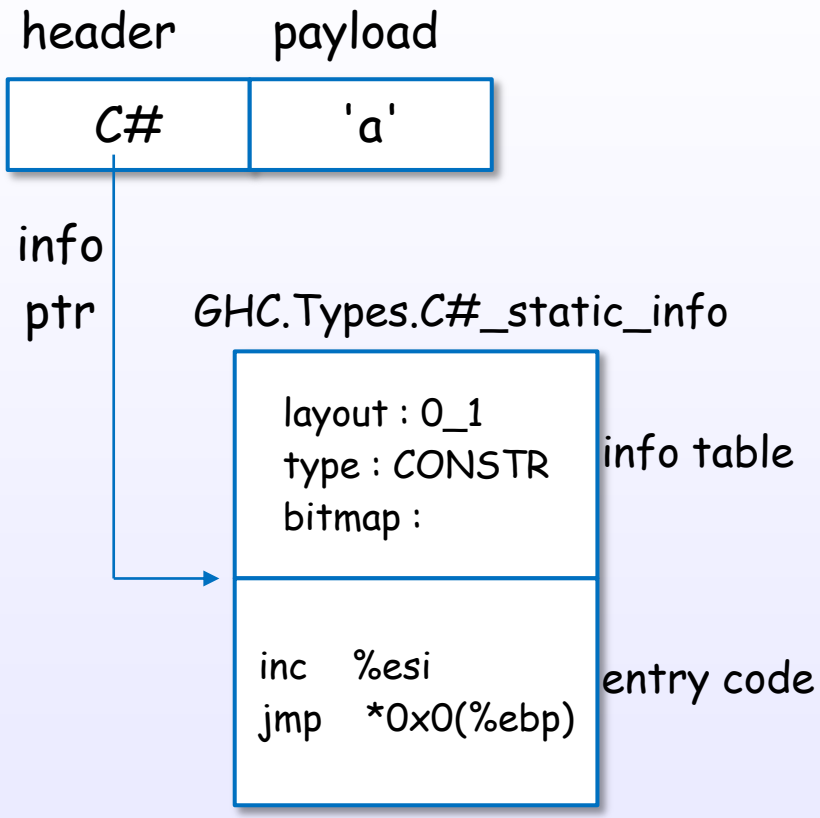
Heap object (closure)



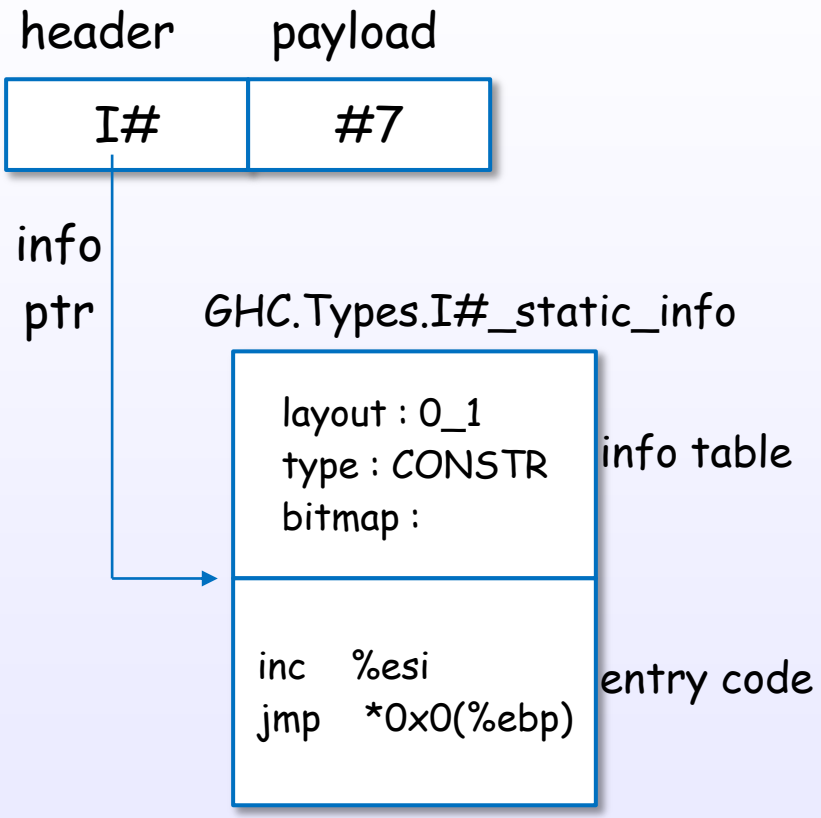
References : [C11], [S3], [C9], [C8], [1]

Closure examples : Char, Int

'a' :: Char



7 :: Int



References : [C11], [S3], [C9], [C8], [1], [S20]

Closure example code

[Example.hs]

```
module Example where
value1 :: Int
value1 = 7
```

STG

[ghc -O -ddump-stg Example.hs]

```
Example.value1 :: GHC.Types.Int
[GblId, Caf=NoCafRefs, Str=DmdType m, Unf=OtherCon []] =
    NO_CCS GHC.Types.I#! [7];
```

Cmm

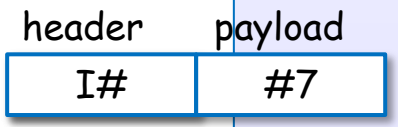
[ghc -O -ddump-opt-cmm Example.hs]

```
section "data" { __stginit_main:Example:
}

section "data" {
    Example.value1_closure:
        const GHC.Types.I#_static_info;
        const 7;
}

section "relreadonly" { SMc_srt:
}
```

asm

[ghc -O -ddump-asm Example.hs]

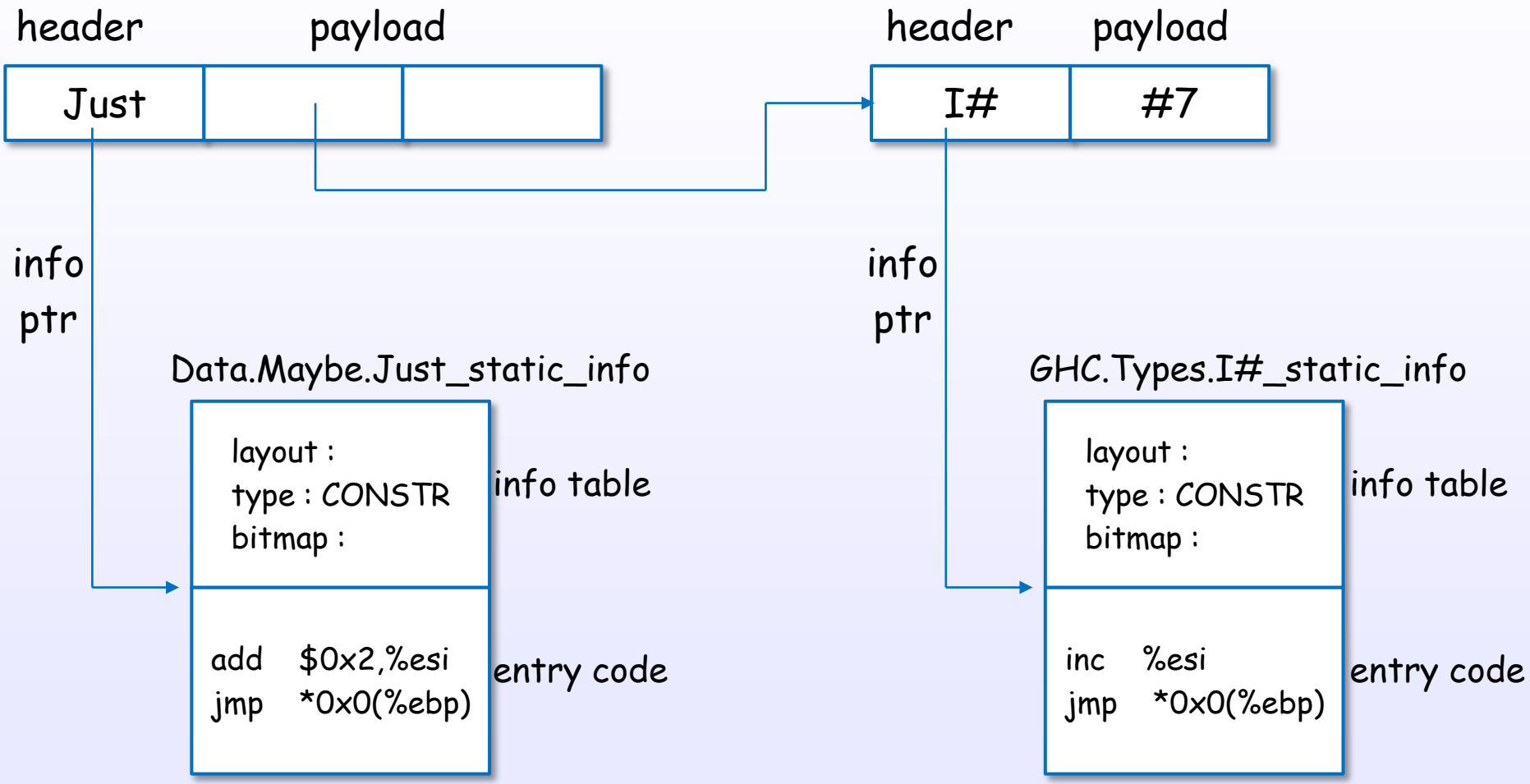
```
.data
        .align 4
.align 1
.globl __stginit_main:Example
__stginit_main:Example:
.data
        .align 4
.align 1
.globl Example.value1_closure
Example.value1_closure:
        .long   GHC.Types.I#_static_info
        .long   7
.section .data
        .align 4
.align 1
SMd_srt:
```



References : [C11], [S3], [C9], [C8], [1], [S20]

Closure examples : Maybe

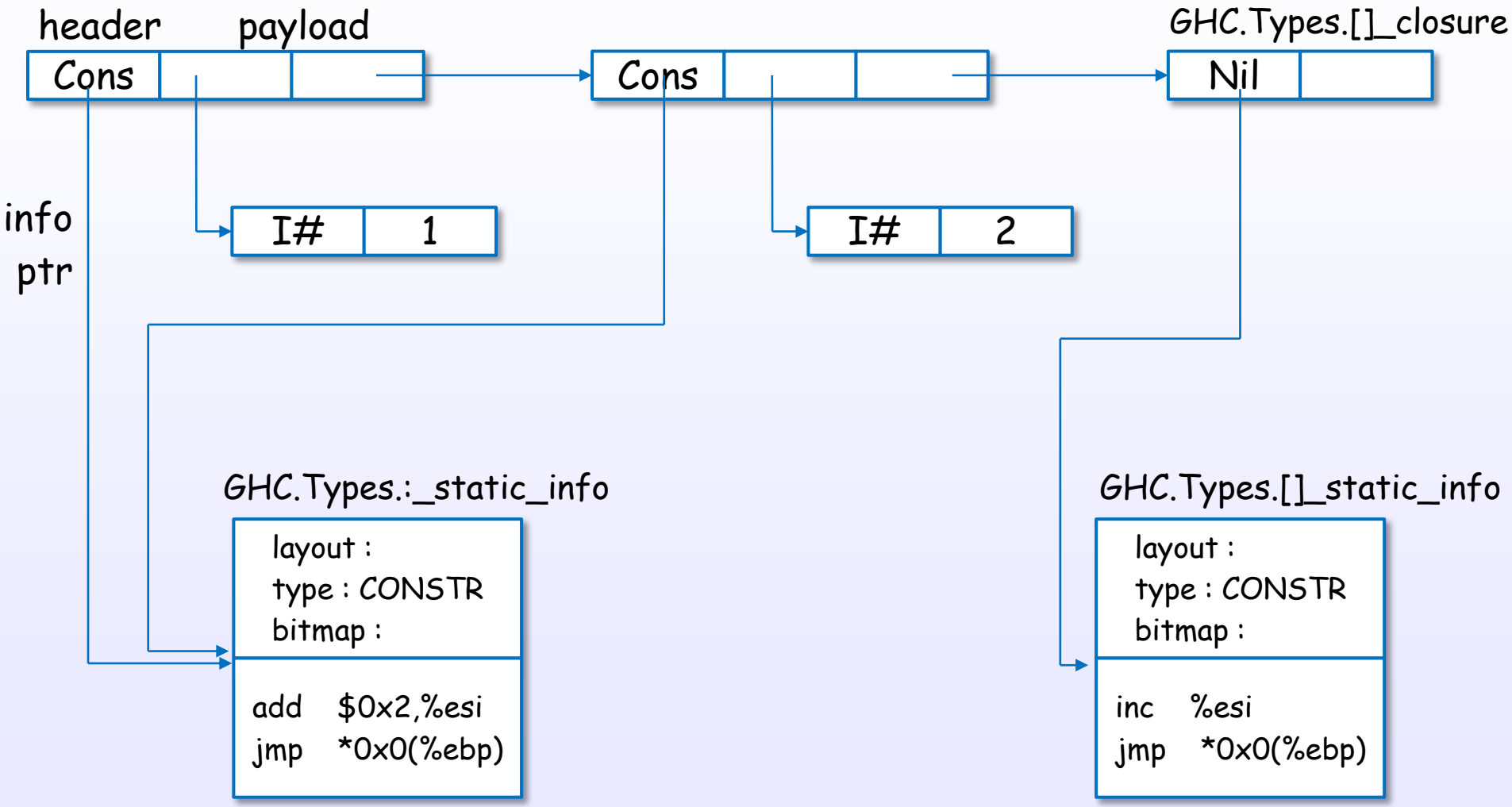
Just 7 :: Maybe Int



References : [C11], [S3], [C9], [C8], [1], [S20]

Closure examples : List

[1, 2] :: [Int]



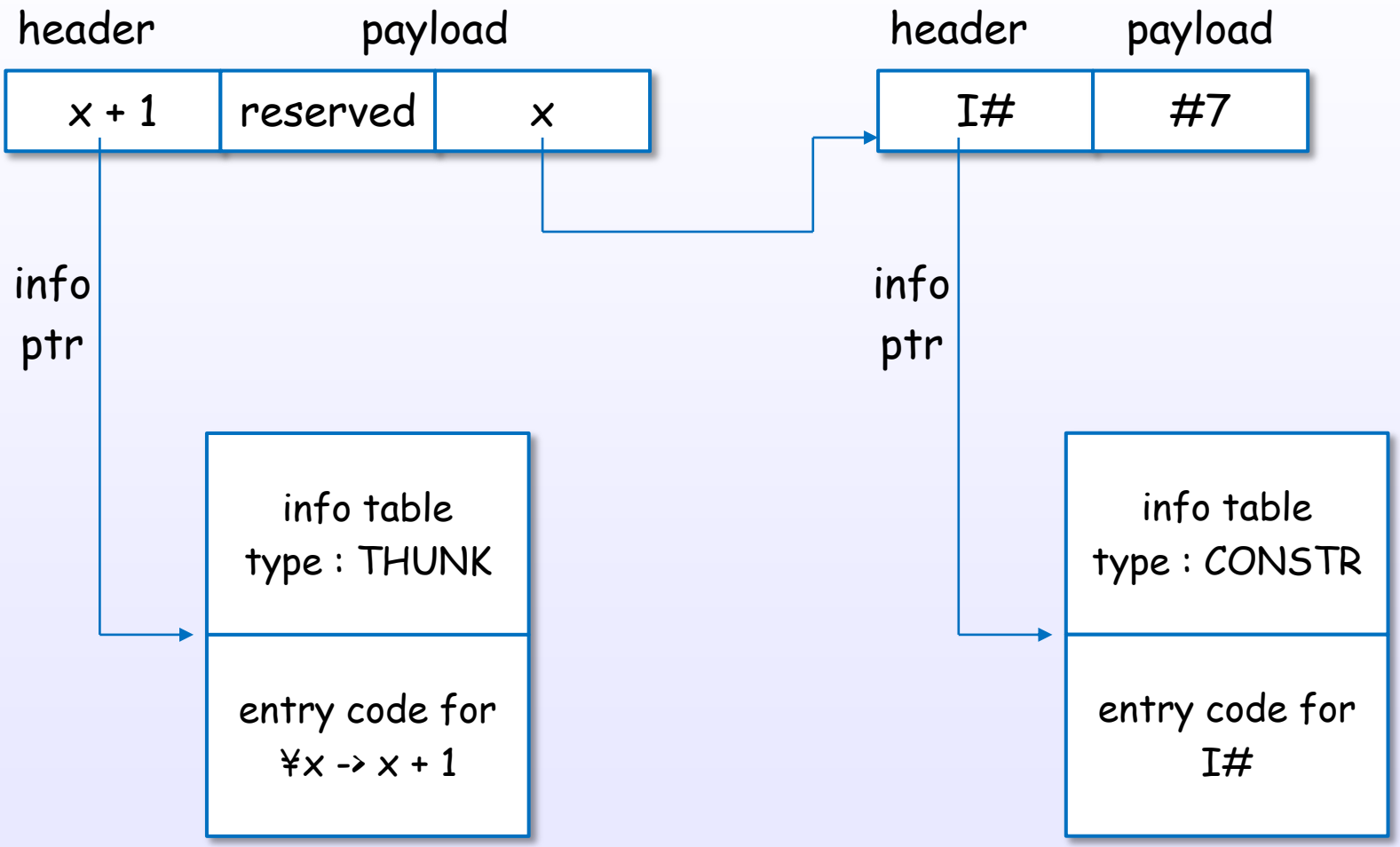
References : [C11], [S3], [C9], [C8], [1], [S20]

Closure examples : Thunk

"thunk"

x + 1 :: Int

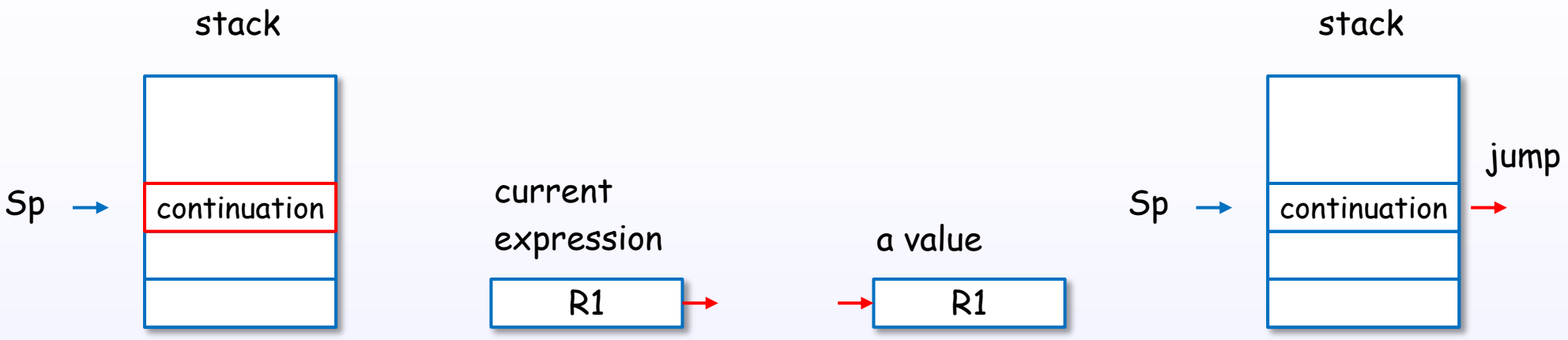
(free variable : x = 7)



References : [C11], [S3], [C9], [C8], [1], [S20]

STG-machine evaluation

STG evaluation flow



(1)
push continuation code
(next code) to stack top

(2)
enter to R1 closure

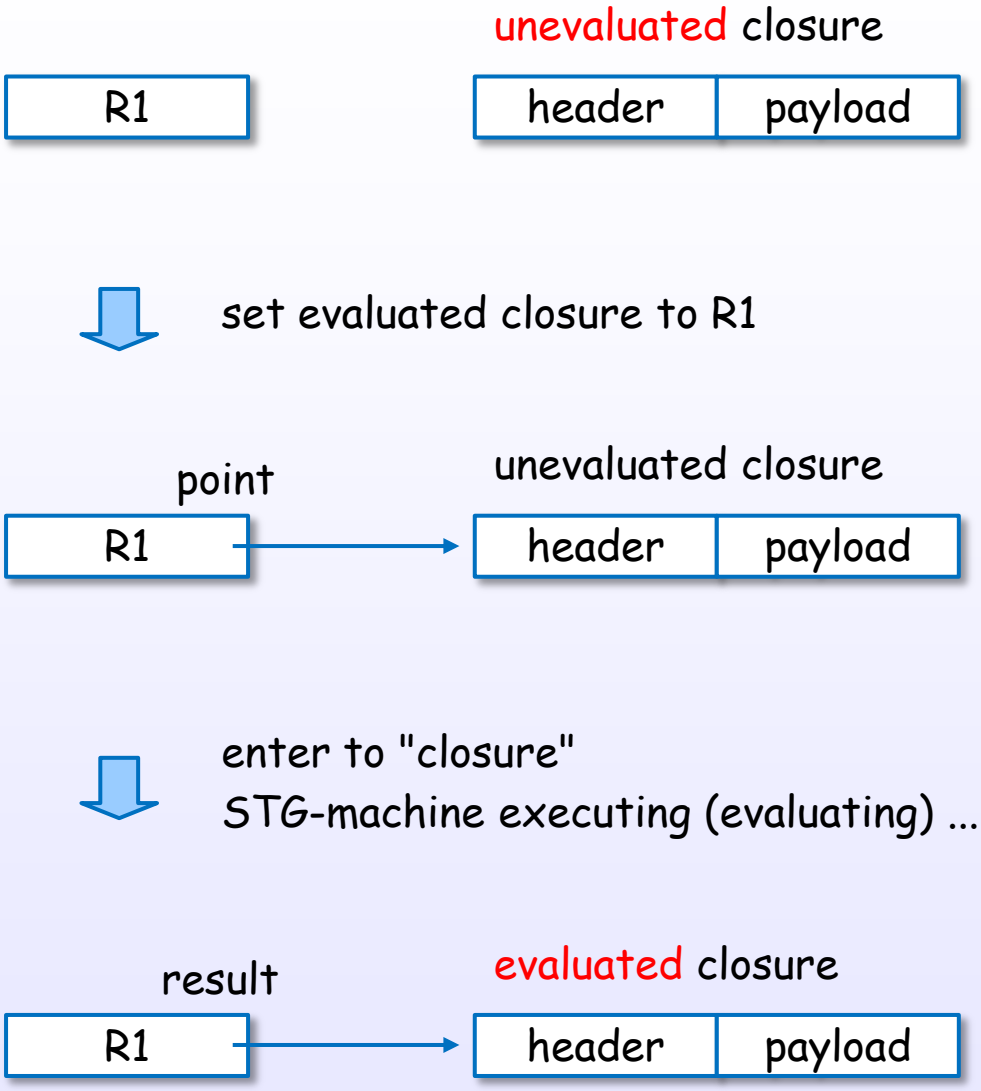
(3)
set result to R1

(4)
jump (return)
to stack top code

(5)
repeat from (1)

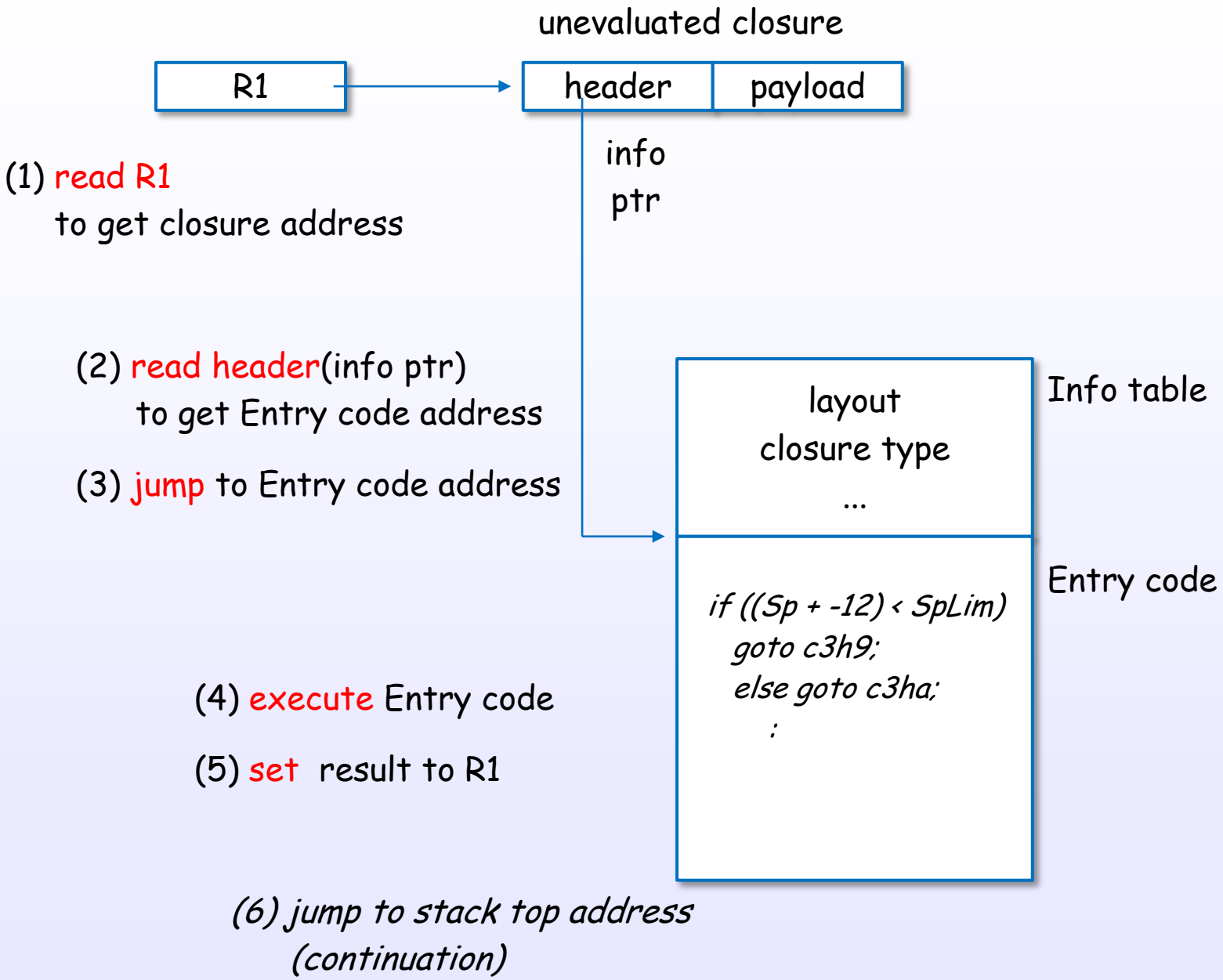
References : [C8], [2]

Evaluation is "enter to closure"



References : [C11], [C9], [C8], [9], [2], [1], [11]

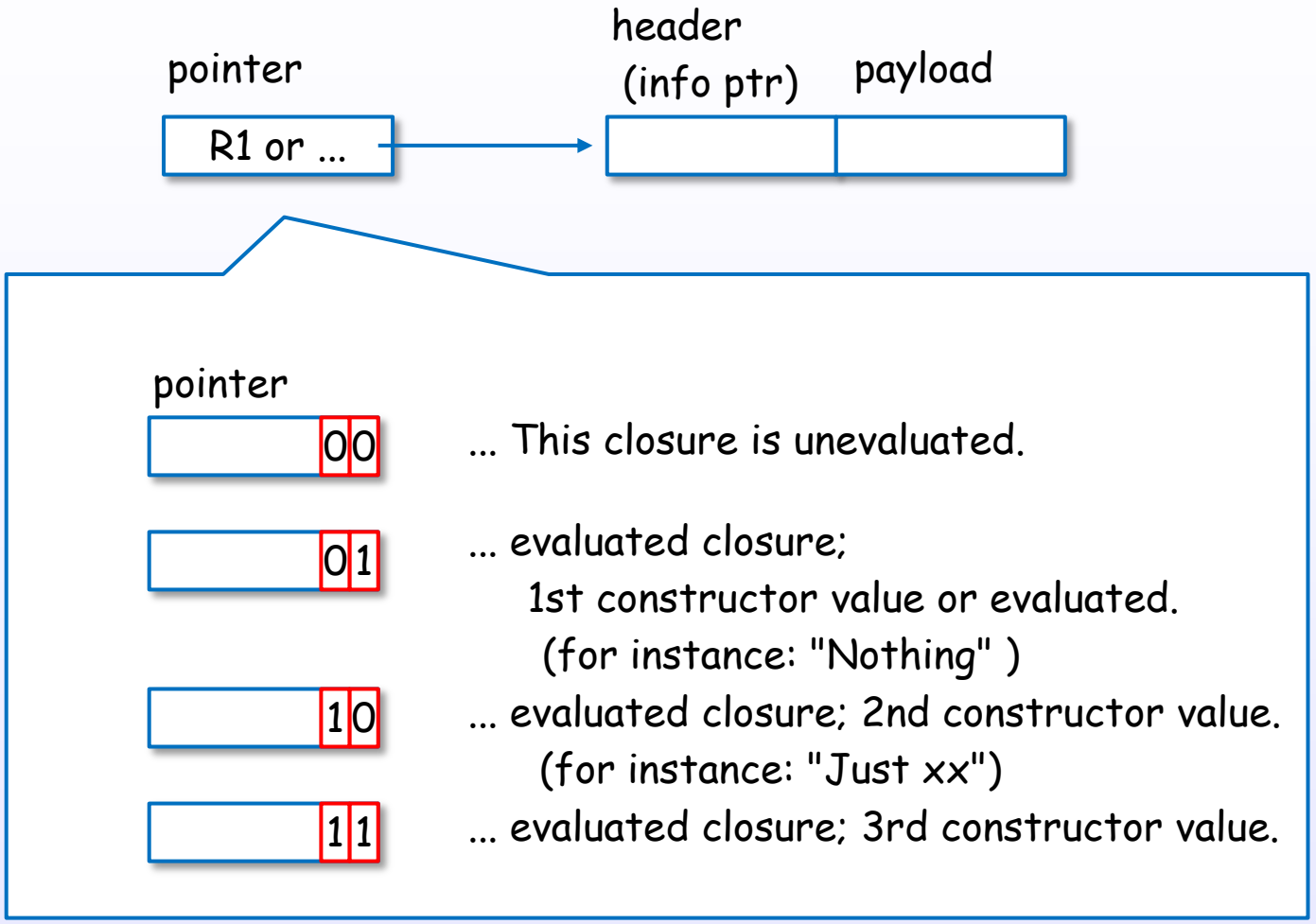
Enter to closure



References : [C11], [C9], [C8], [9], [2], [1], [11]

Pointer tagging

Pointer tagging



* 32bit machine case

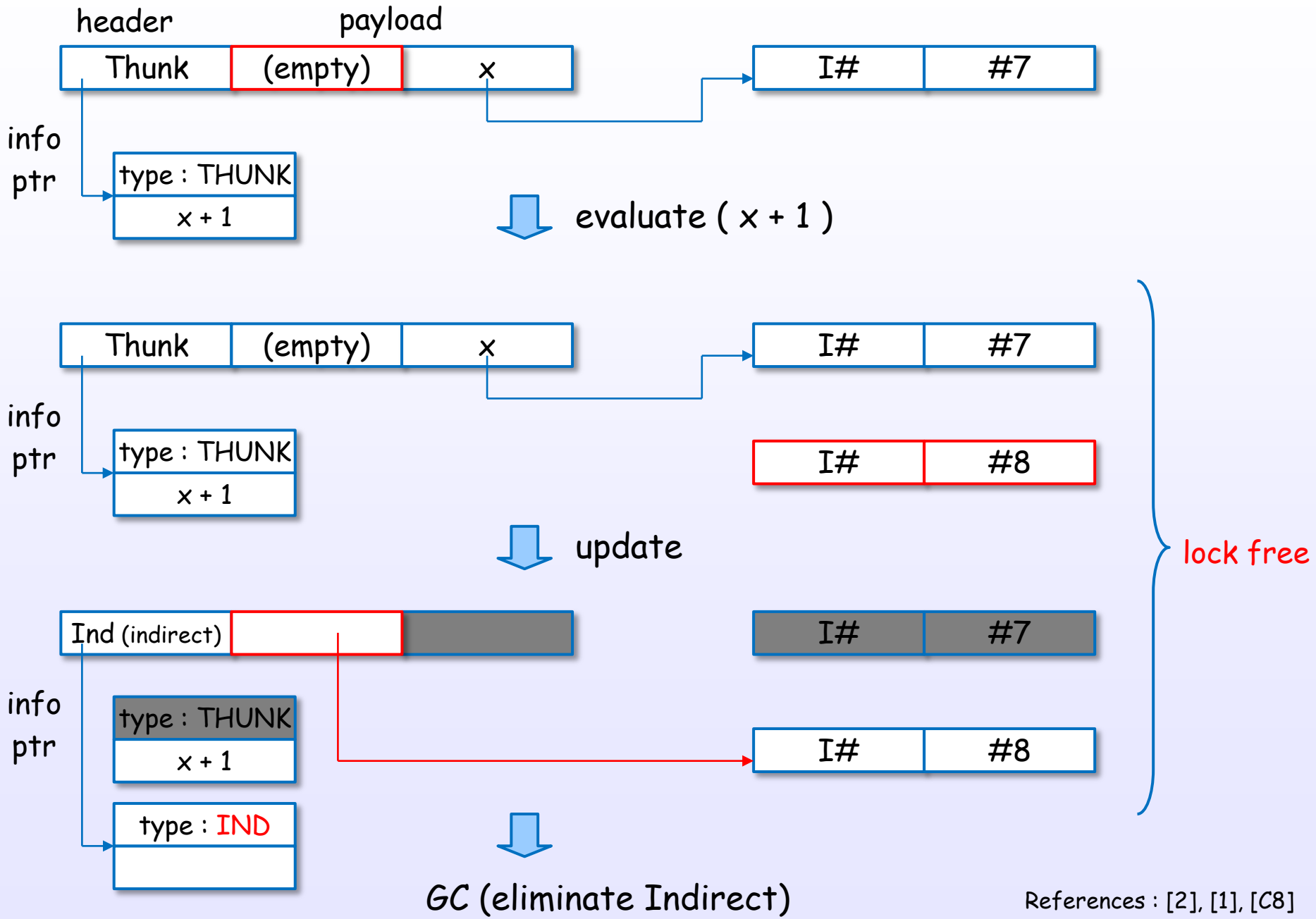
quick judgment!
check only pointer's lower bits without evaluating the closure.

References : [3], [1], [C16]

Thunk and update

Thunk and update

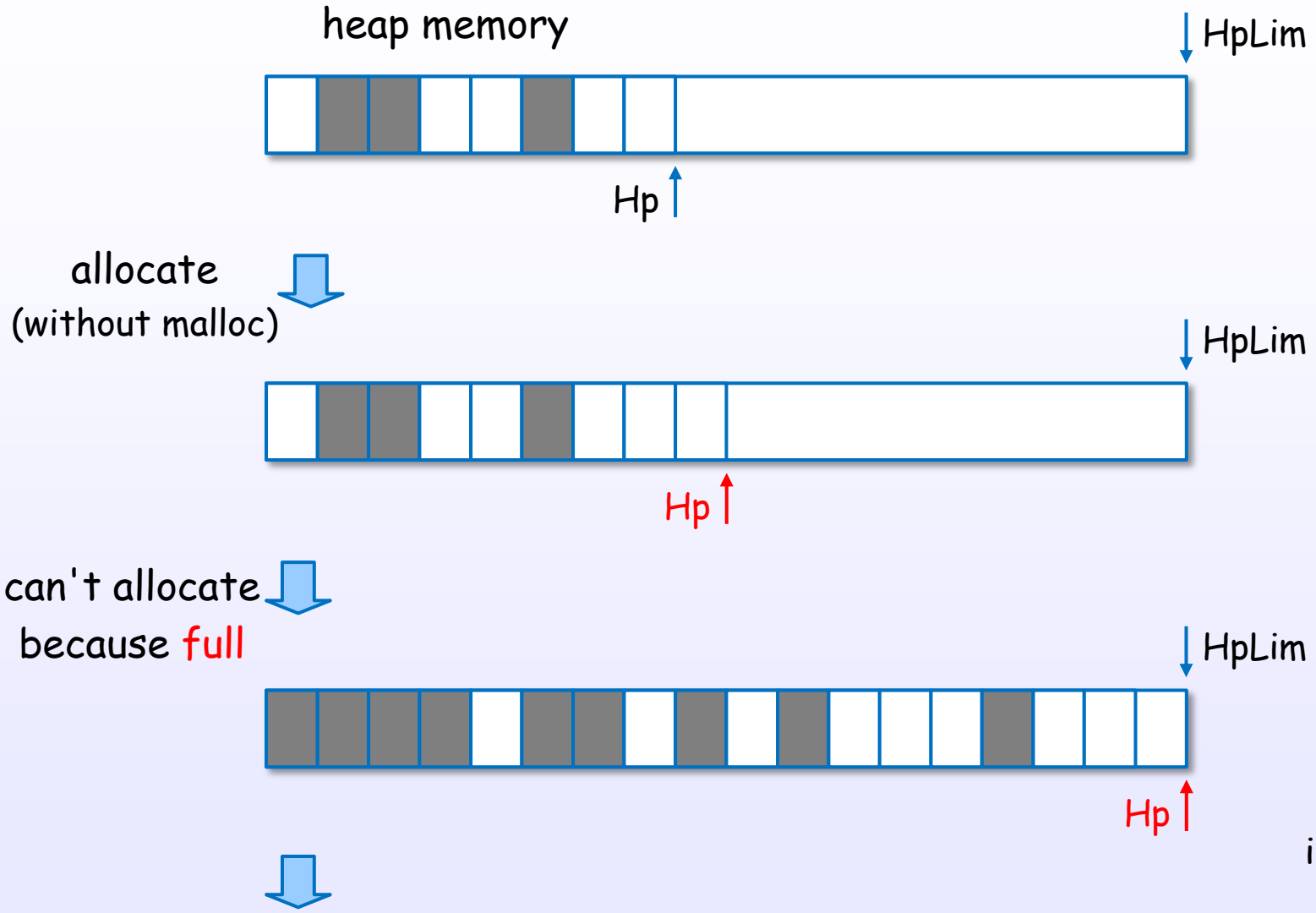
"thunk" x + 1 :: Int (free variable : x = 7)



References : [2], [1], [C8]

Allocate and free(GC) heap objects

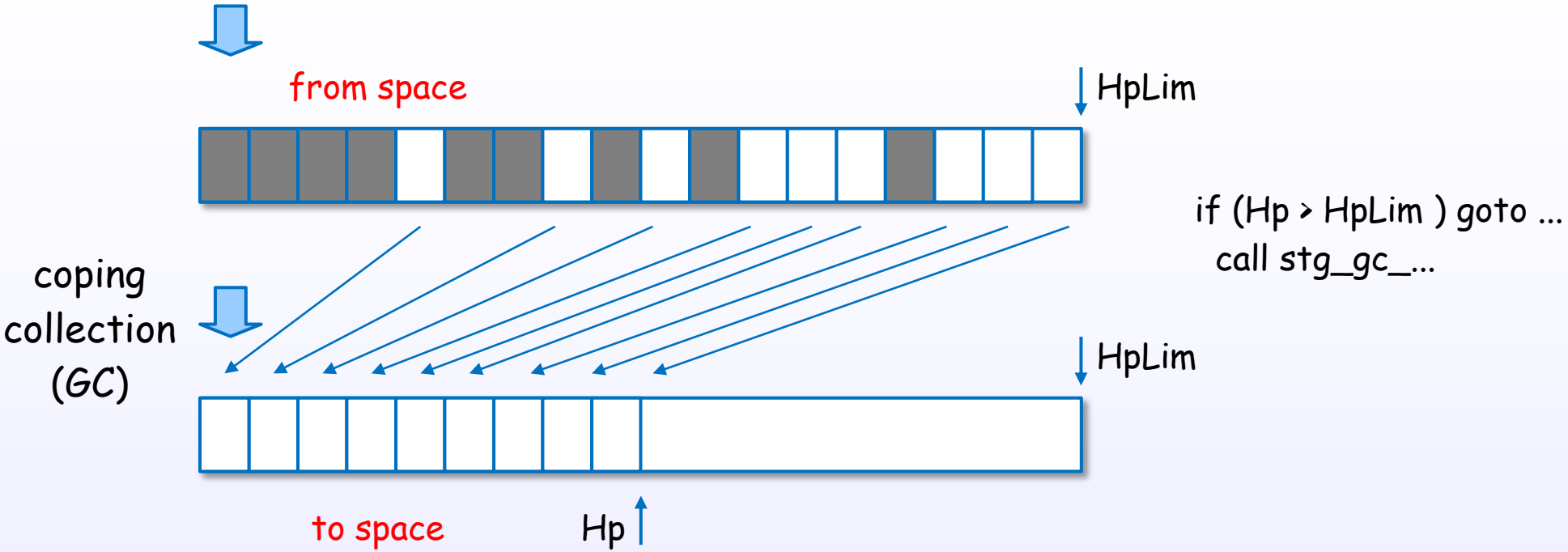
Allocate heap objects



if (Hp > HpLim) goto ...
call stg_gc_...

References : [C11], [C13], [7], [8], [4], [14], [11], [12], [18], [S25]

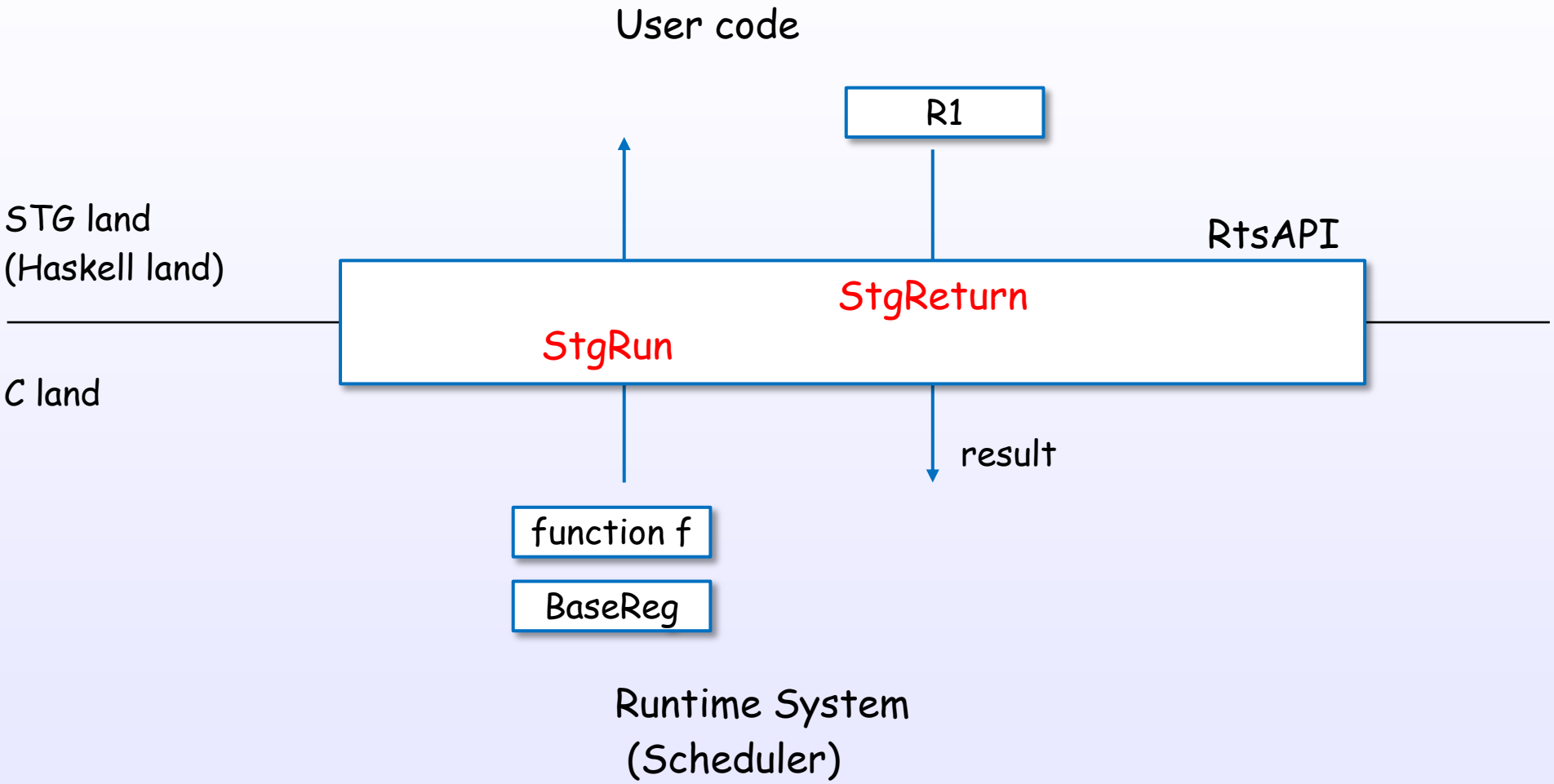
free and collection heap objects



References : [C11], [C13], [7], [8], [4], [14], [11], [12], [18], [S25]

STG - C land interface

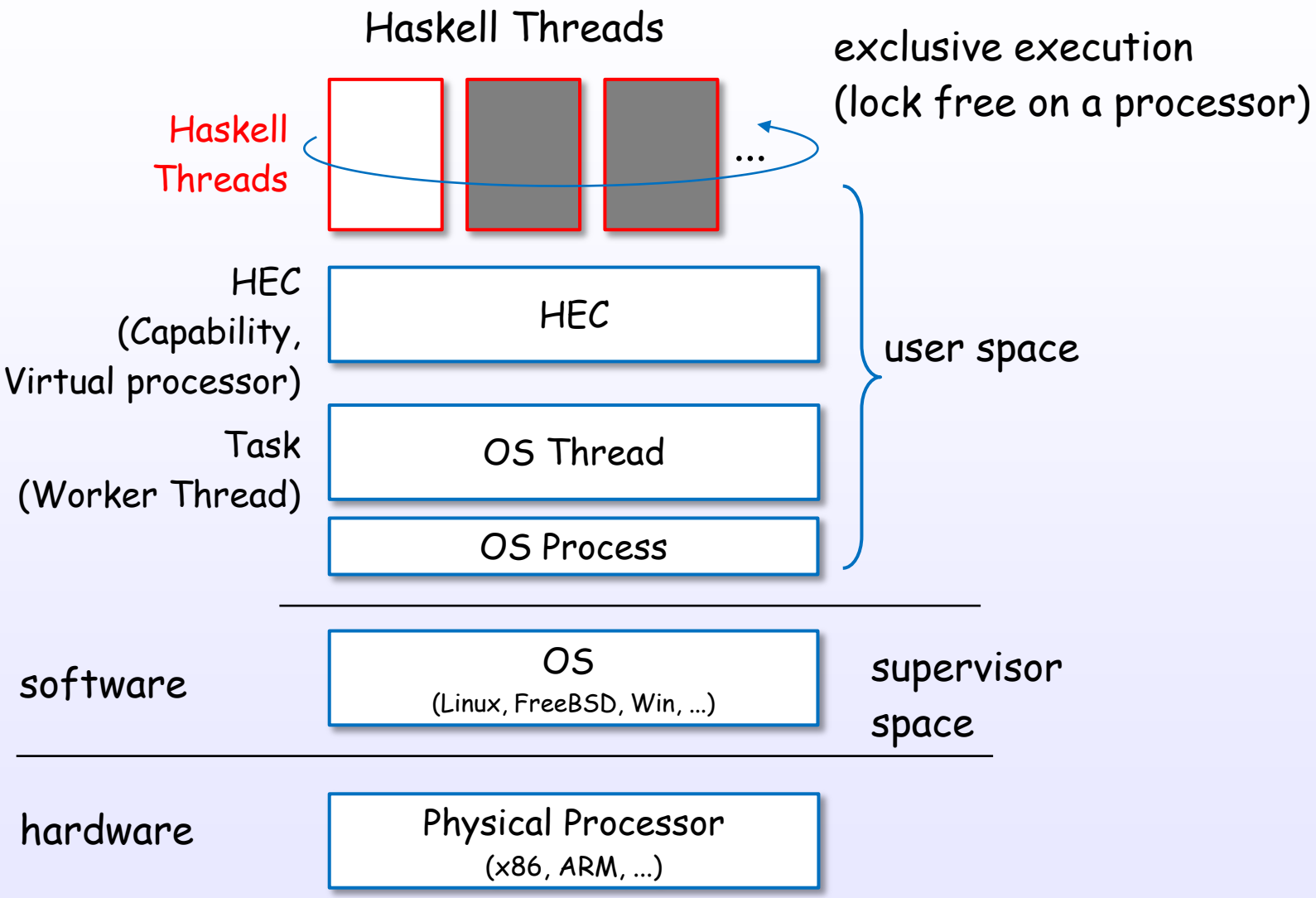
STG (Haskell) land - C land interface



References : [S18], [S17], [S19], [S21]

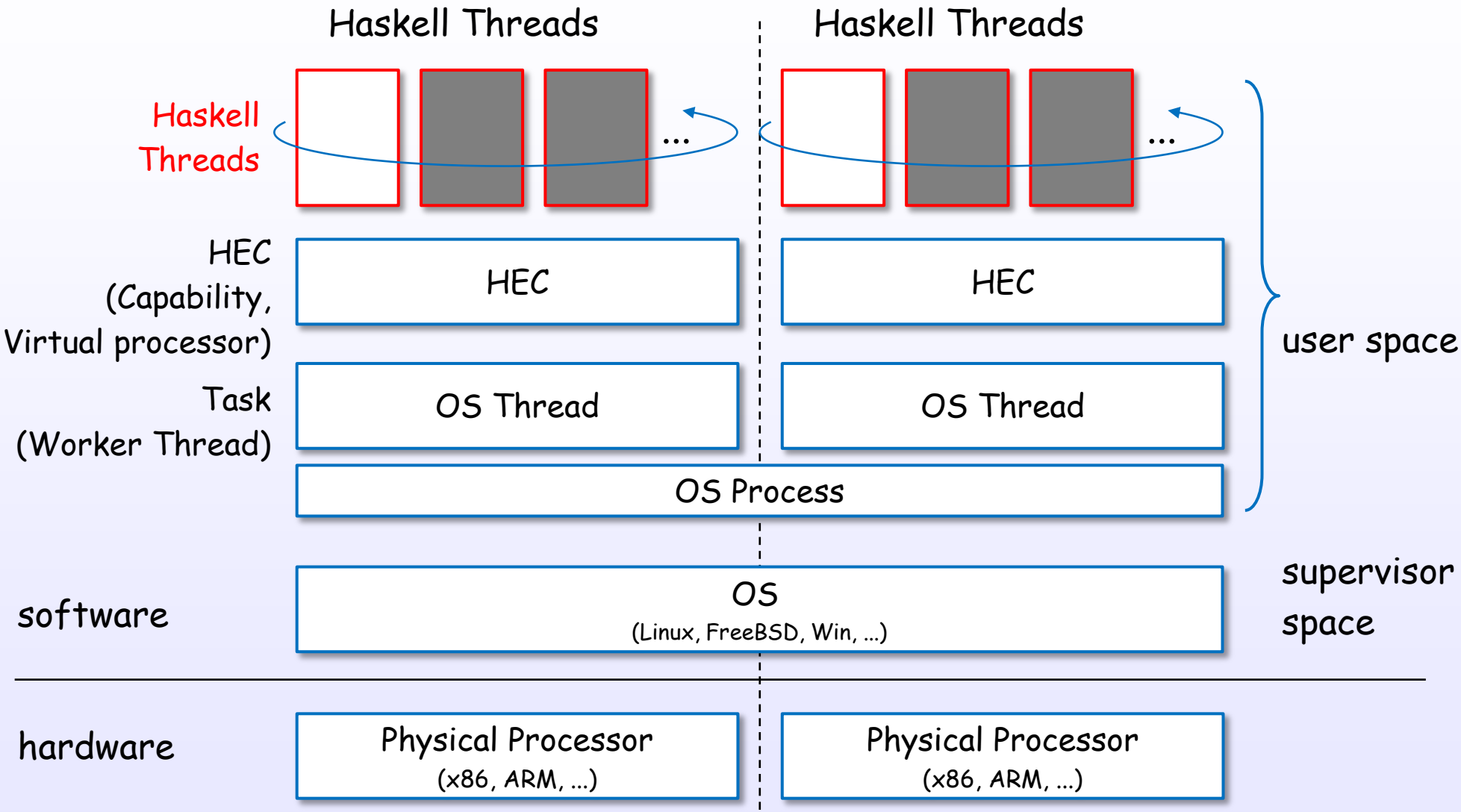
Thread

Thread layer (single core)



References : [4], [7], [8], [13], [C17], [C11], [18], [S17], [S16], [S23], [S22], [S14]

Thread layer (multi core)

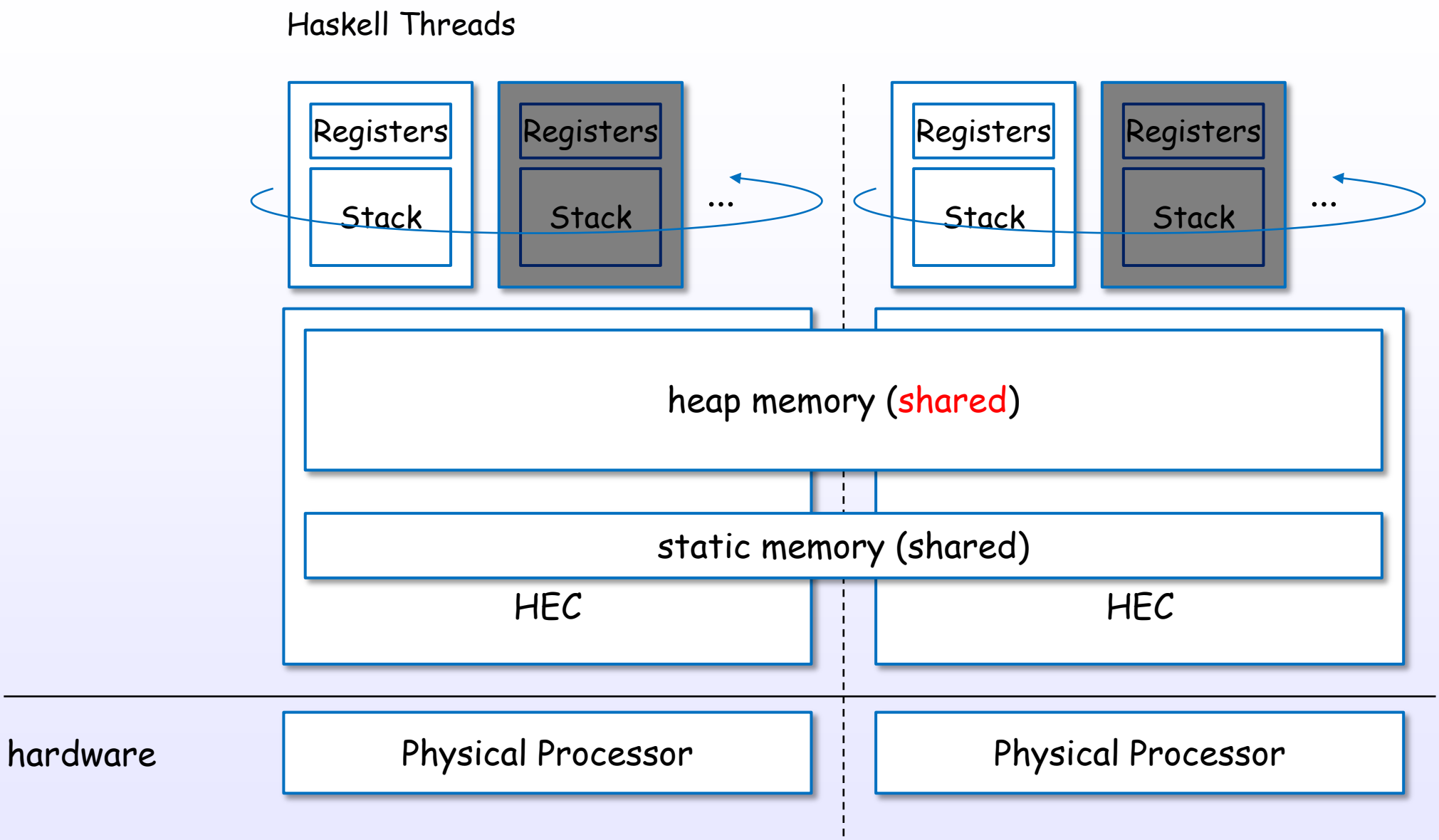


*Threaded option case (ghc -threaded)

References : [4], [7], [8], [13], [C17], [C11], [18], [S17], [S16], [S23], [S22], [S14]

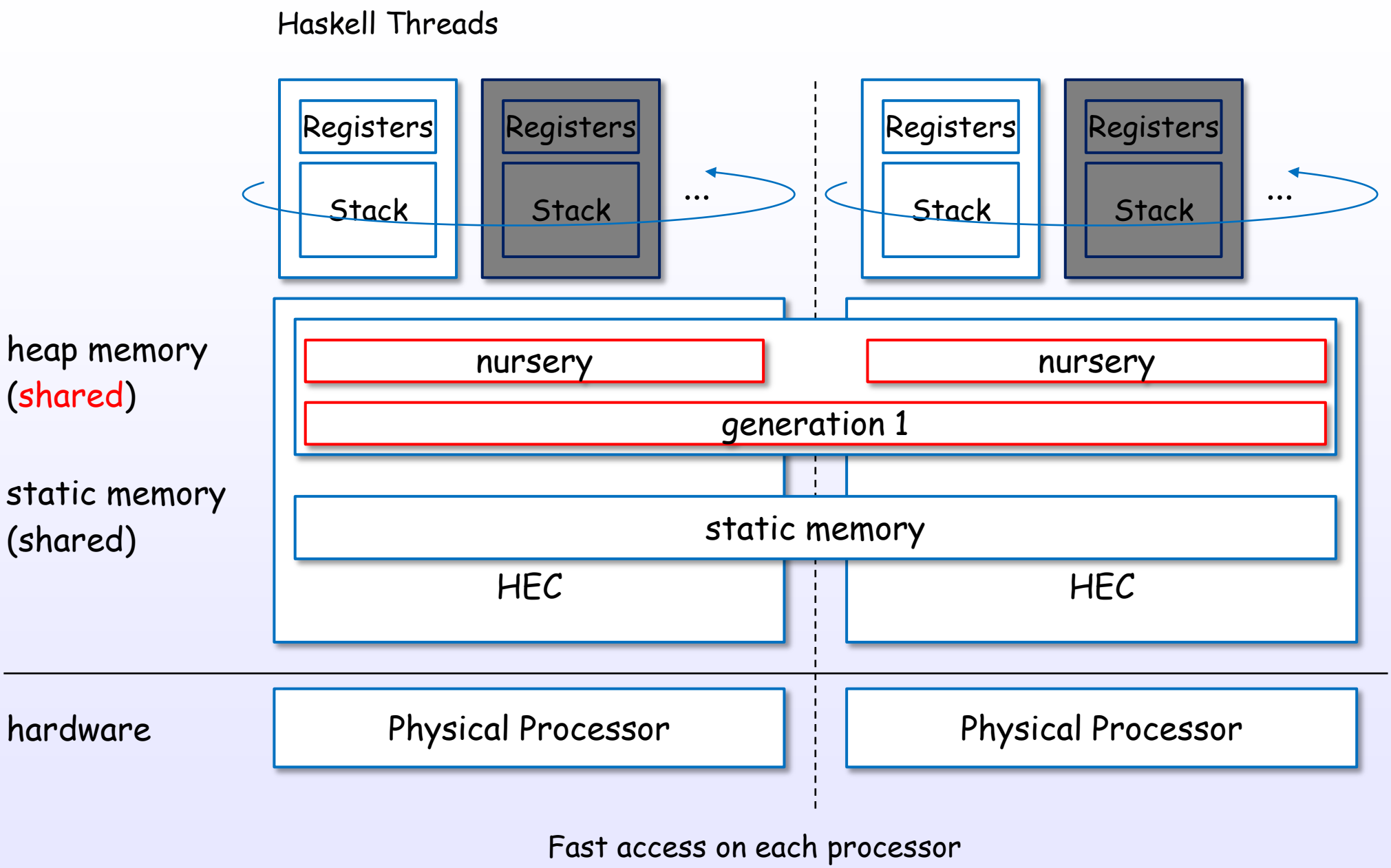
Heap and Threads

Threads and shared heap



References : [4], [7], [8], [13], [C17], [C11], [18], [S17], [S16], [S23], [S22], [S14], [S17], [S16], [S25]

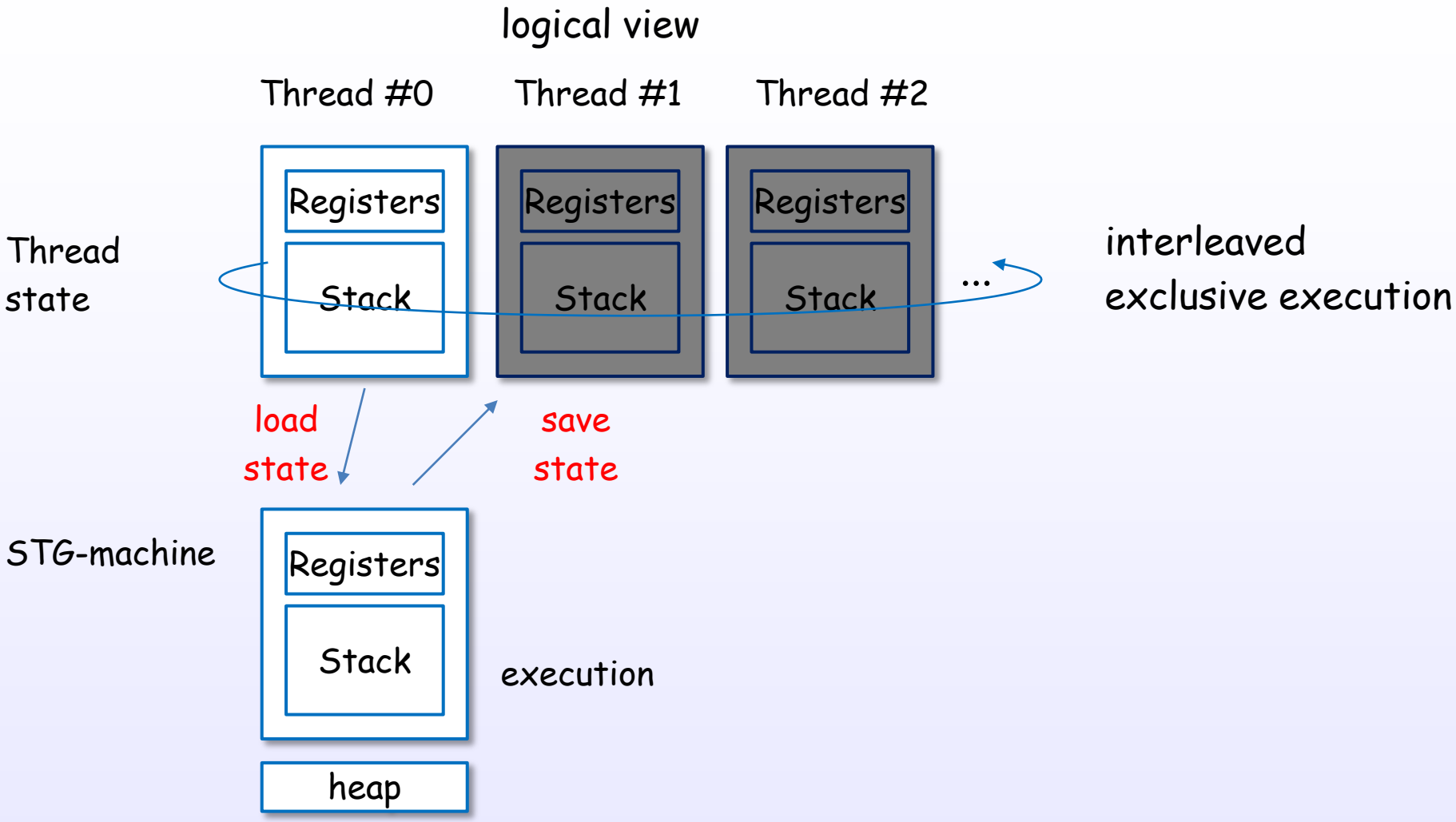
Local heap area



References : [4], [7], [8], [13], [C17], [C11], [18], [S17], [S16], [S23], [S22], [S14], [S17], [S16], [S25]

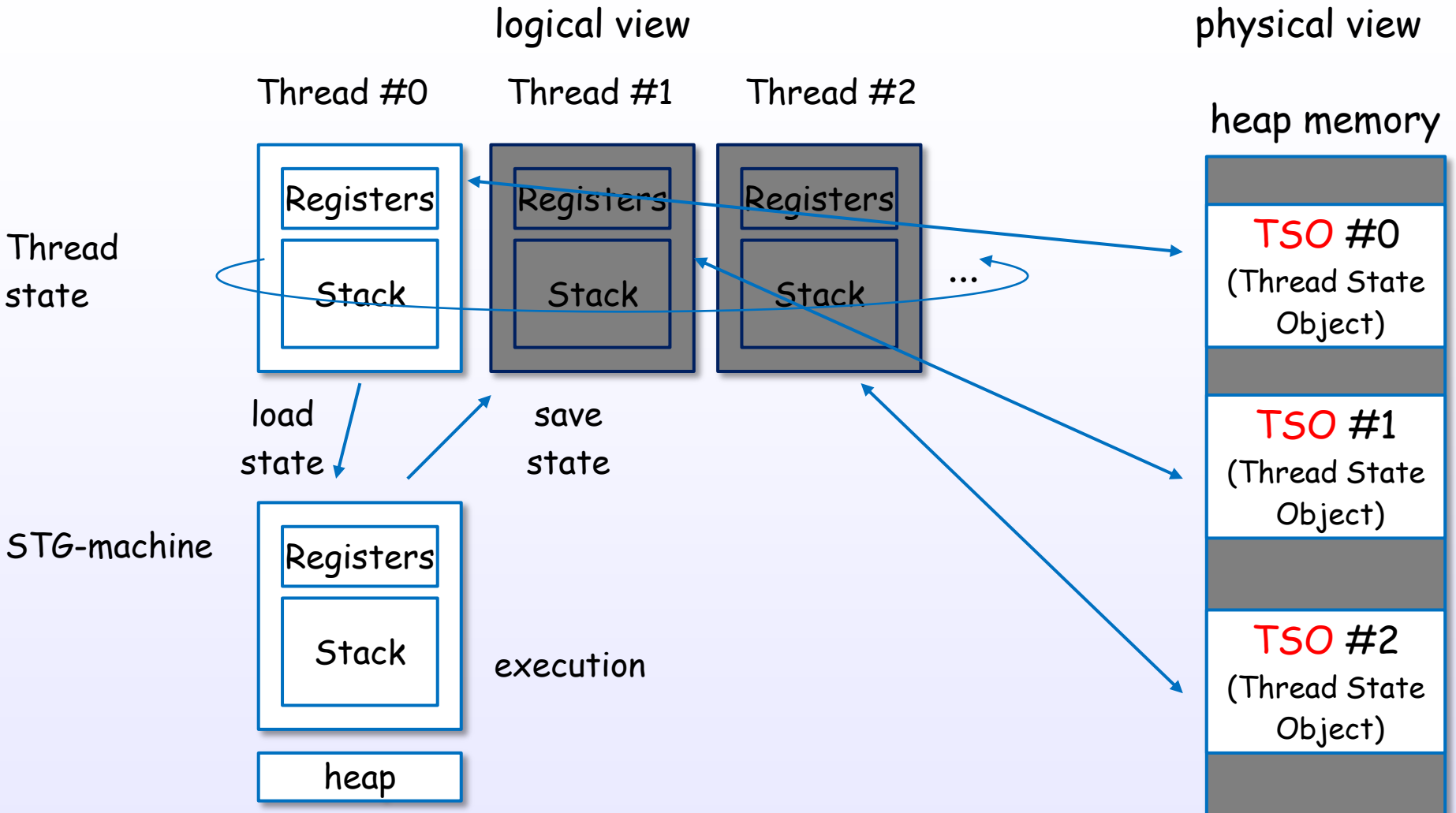
Thread context switch

Threads and context switch



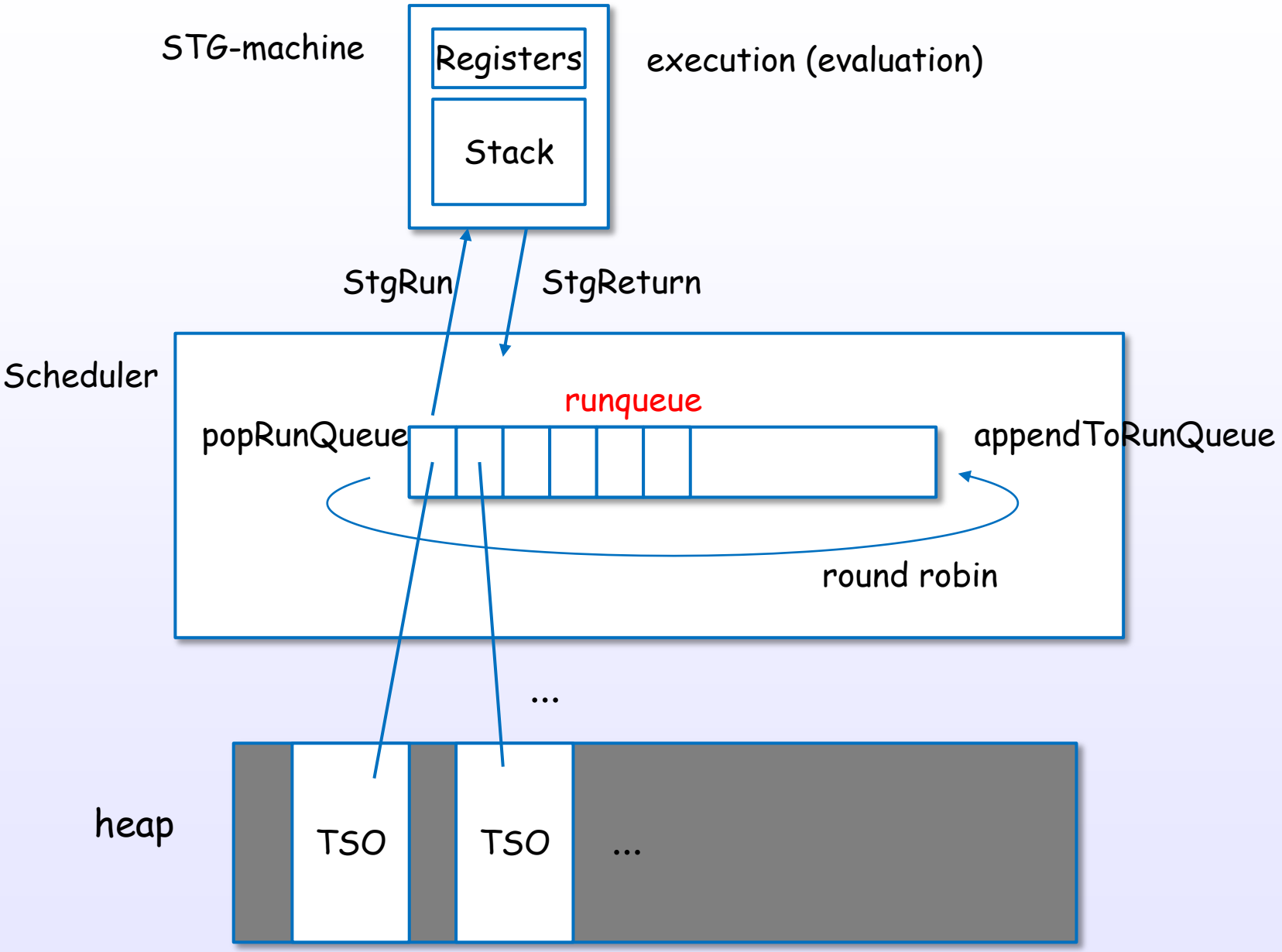
References : [4], [7], [8], [13], [C17], [C11], [18], [S17], [S16], [S23], [S22], [S14]

Threads and TSOs



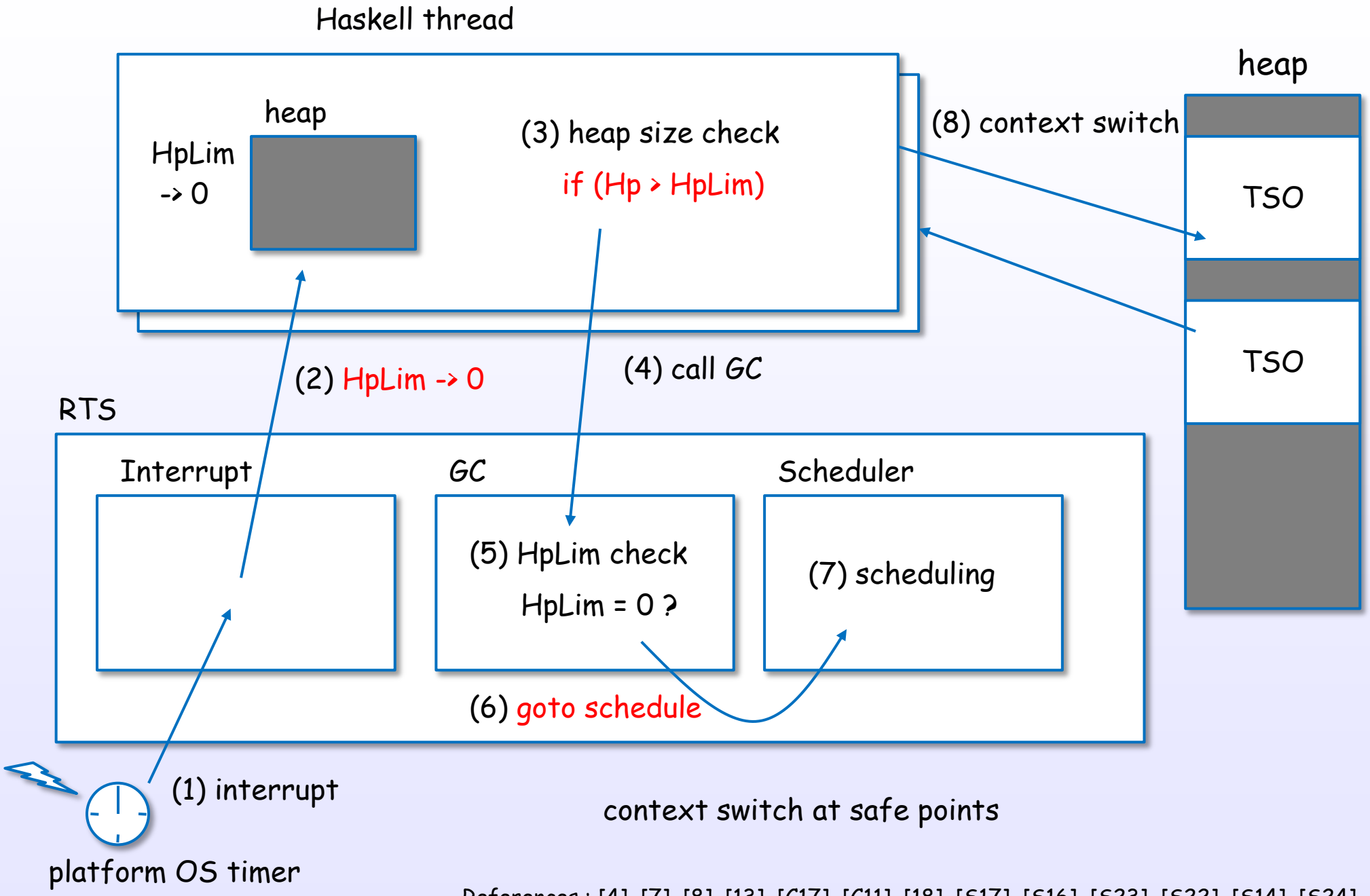
References : [4], [7], [8], [13], [C17], [C11], [18], [S17], [S16], [S23], [S22], [S14]

Scheduling threads



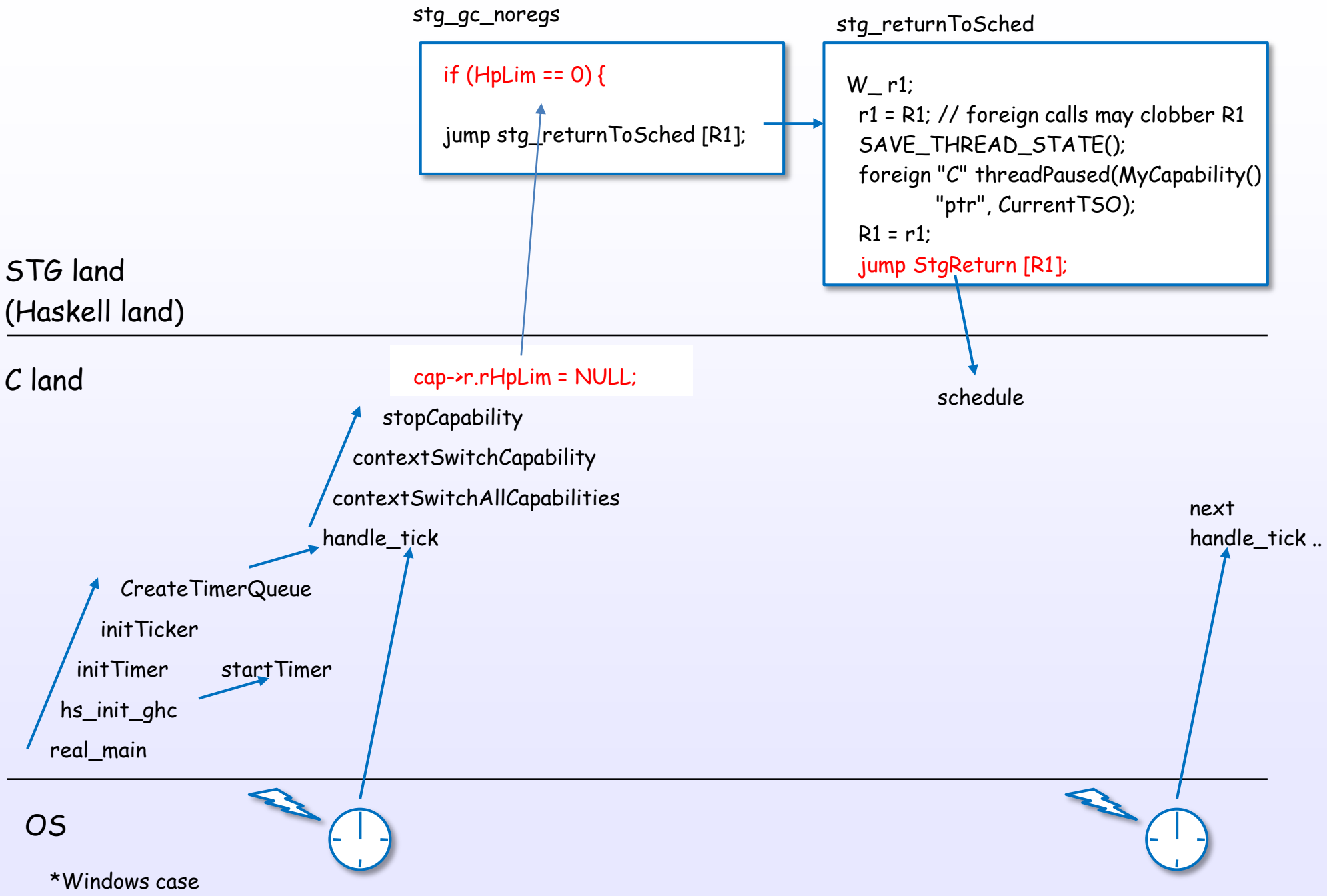
References : [4], [7], [8], [13], [C17], [C11], [18], [S17], [S16], [S23], [S22], [S14]

Context switch flow



References : [4], [7], [8], [13], [C17], [C11], [18], [S17], [S16], [S23], [S22], [S14], [S24]

Context switch flow (code)



References : [4], [7], [8], [13], [C17], [C11], [18], [S17], [S16], [S23], [S22], [S14], [S24]

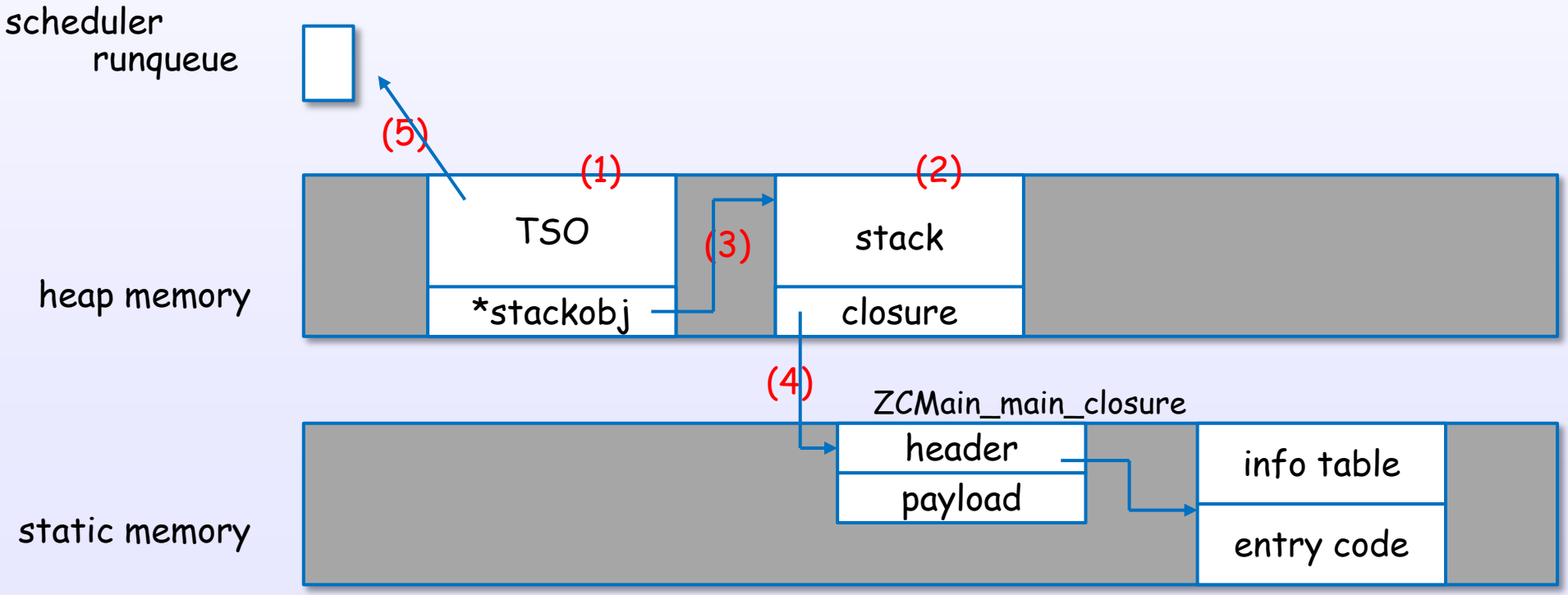
Creating main thread and forkIO

Create main thread

C land

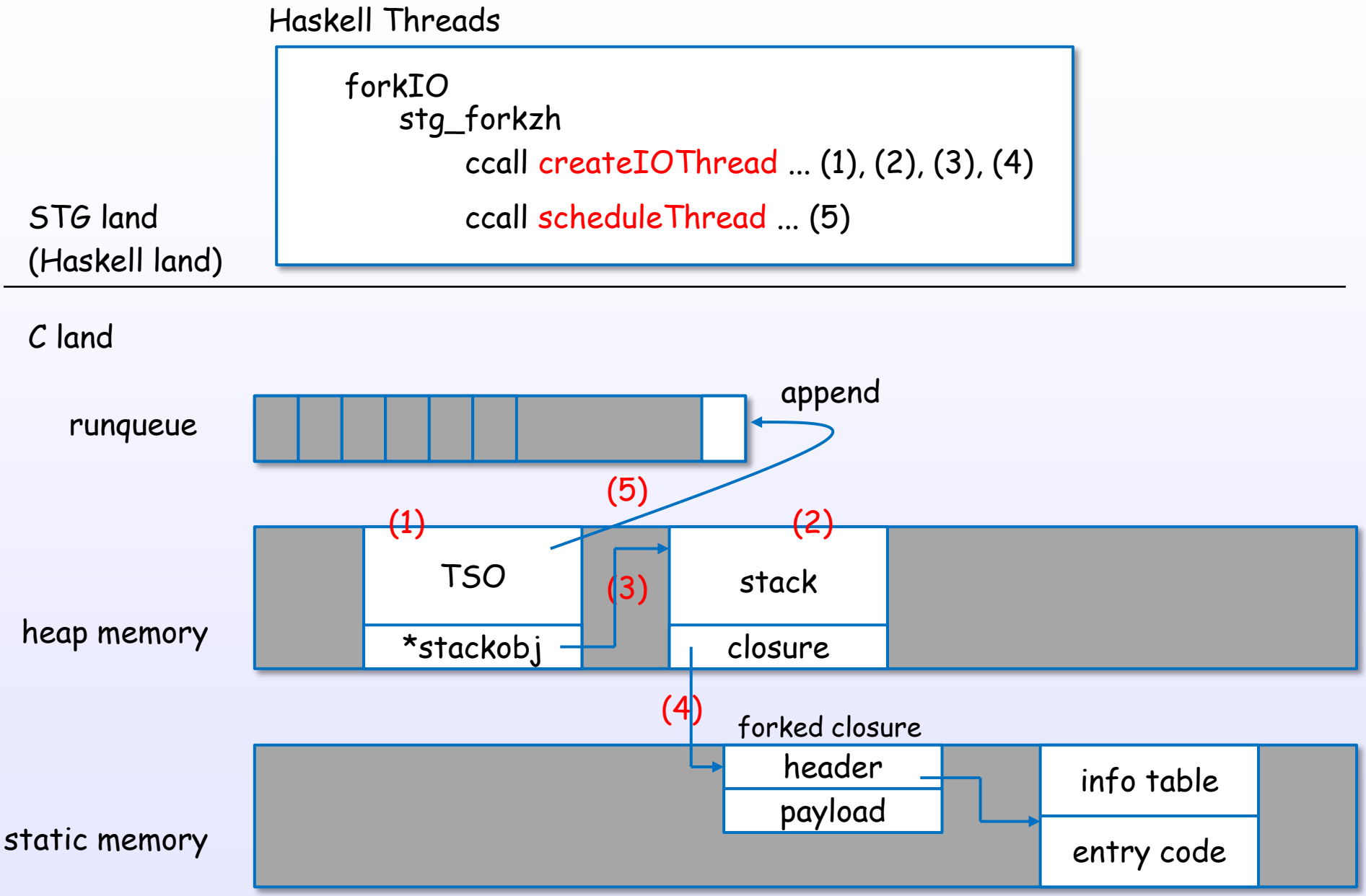
Runtime system bootstrap code [rts/RtsAPI.c]

```
rts_evalLazyIO
    createIOThread
        createThread ... (1), (2), (3)
        pushClosure  ... (4)
    scheduleWaitThread
        appendToRunQueue ... (5)
```



References : [4], [7], [8], [13], [C17], [C11], [18], [S17], [S16], [S23], [S22], [S14], [S24]

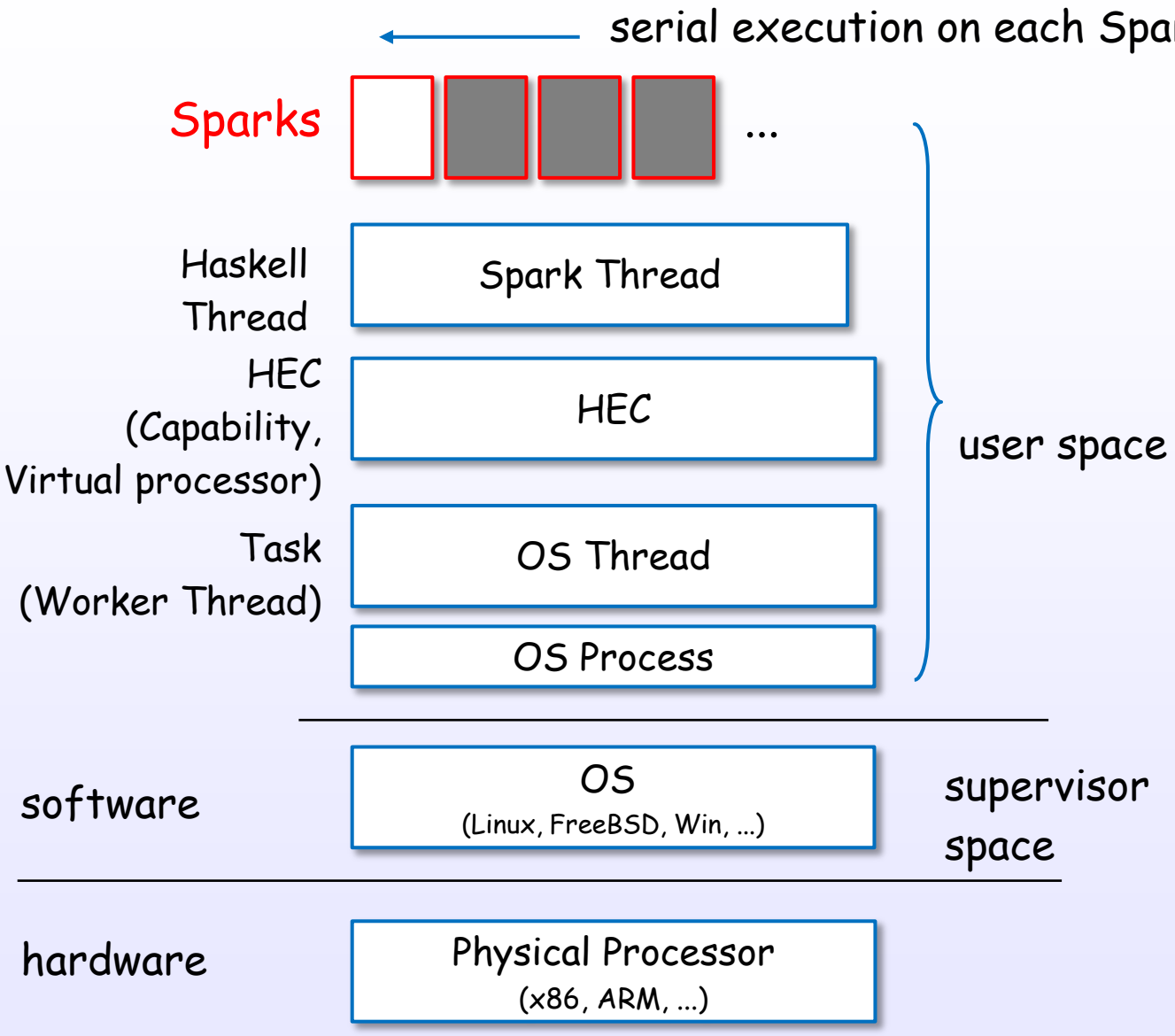
Create sub thread by forkIO



References : [4], [7], [8], [13], [C17], [C11], [18], [S17], [S16], [S23], [S22], [S14], [S24]

Spark

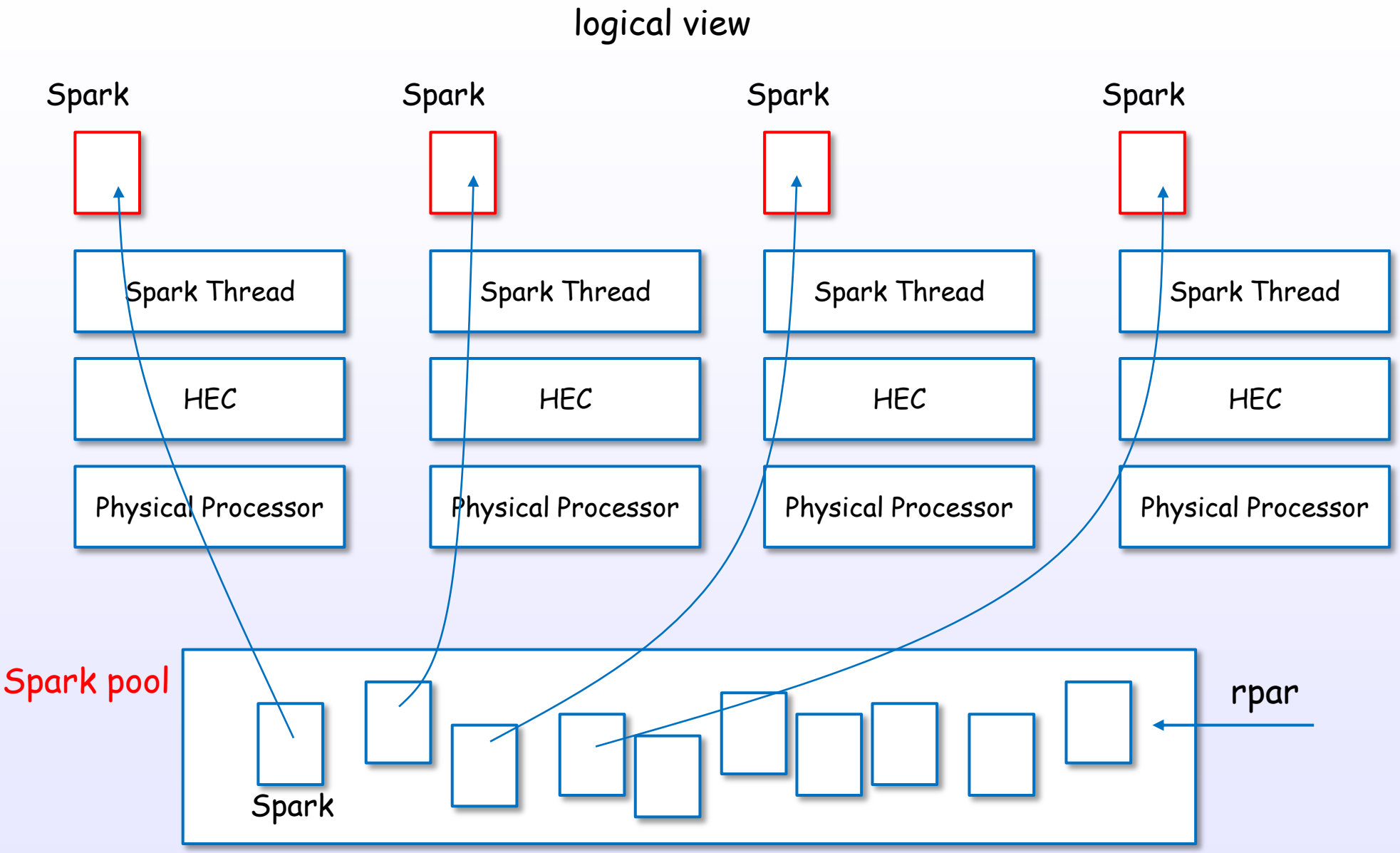
Spark layer



Spark Threads are generated on idle HECs.

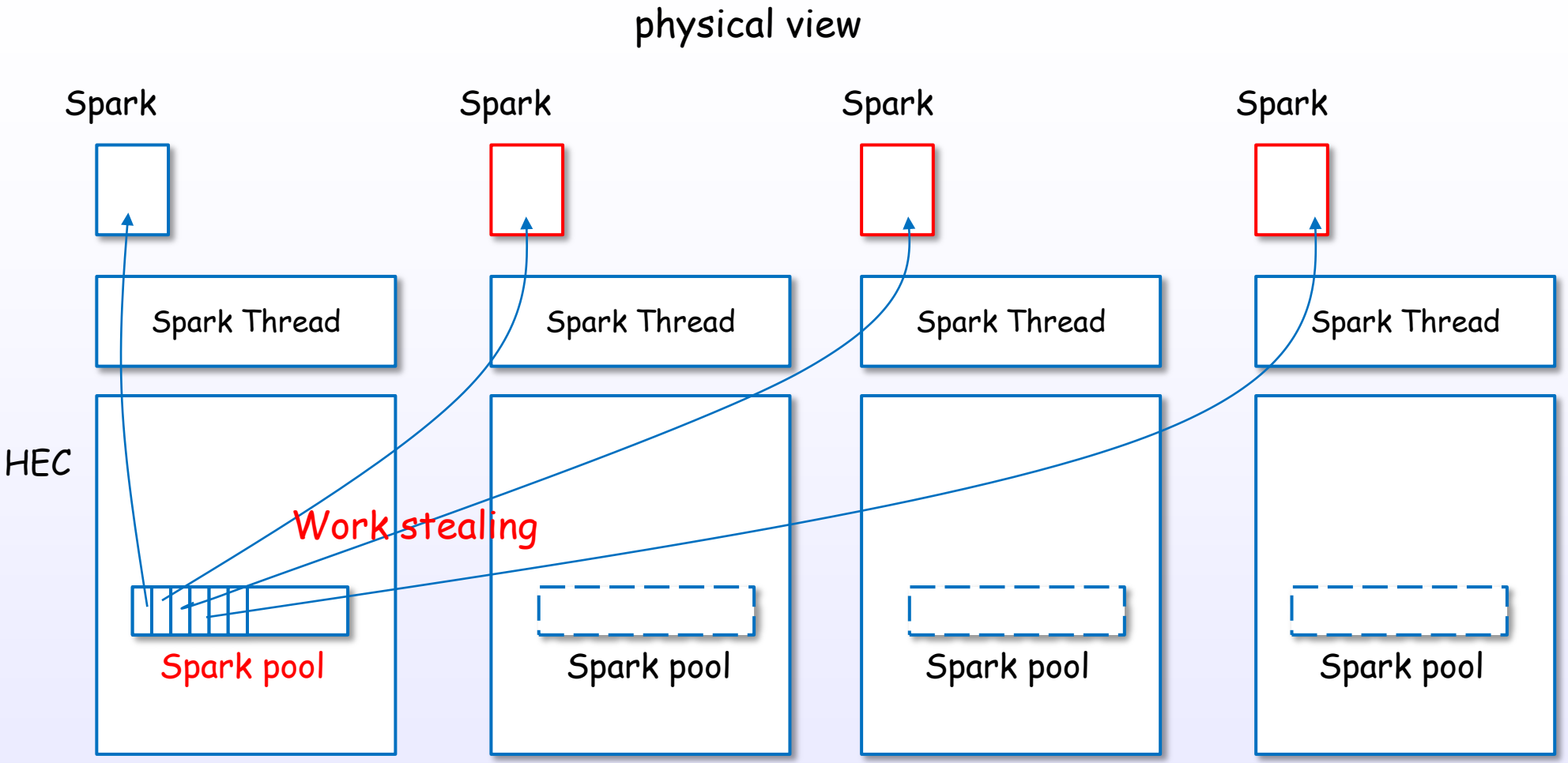
References : [C17], [18], [S17], [S26], [S27], [S32], [S12]

Sparks and Spark pool



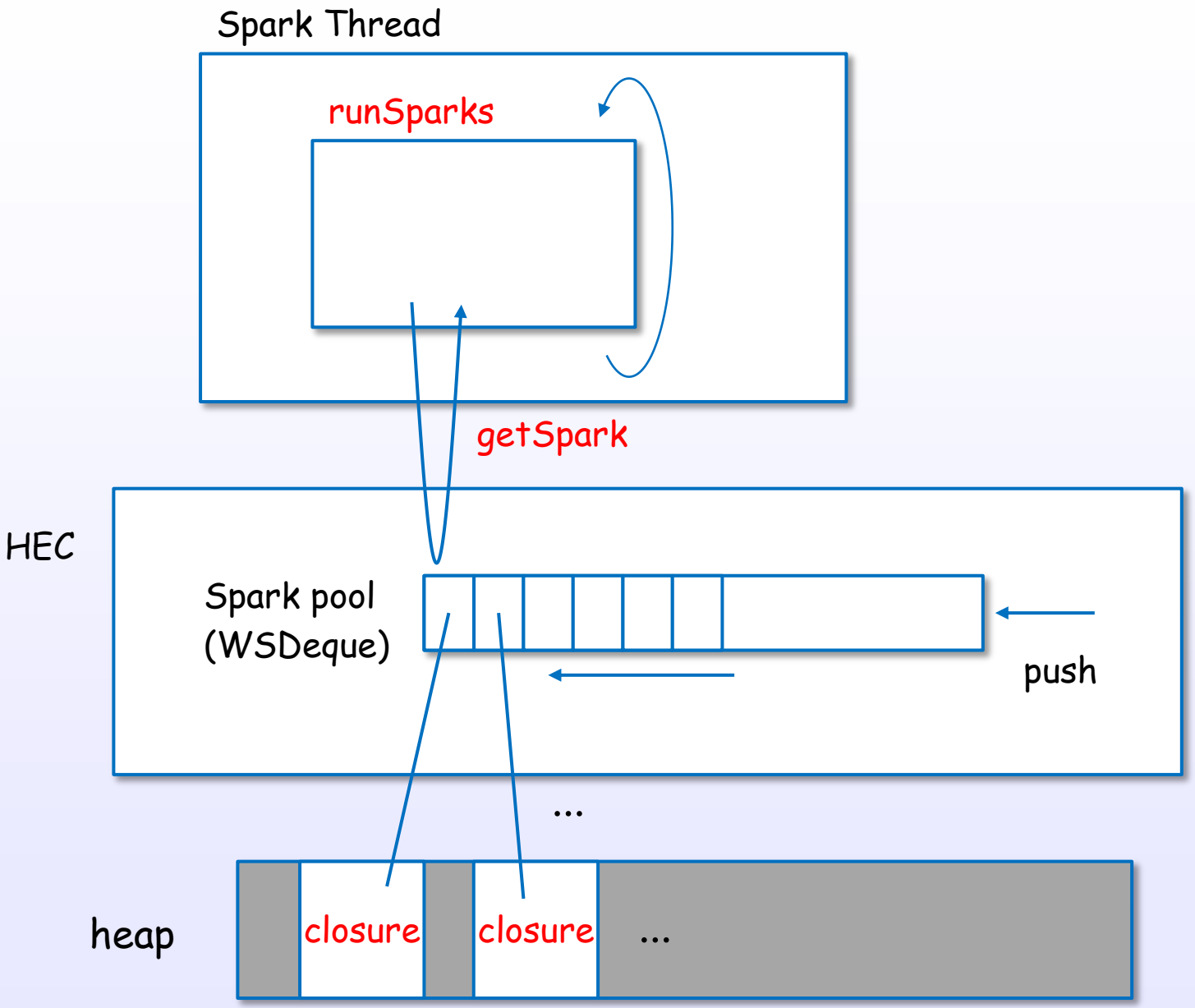
References : [C17], [18], [S17], [S26], [S27], [S32], [S12]

Spark pool and work stealing



References : [C17], [18], [S17], [S26], [S27], [S32], [S12]

Sparks and closures

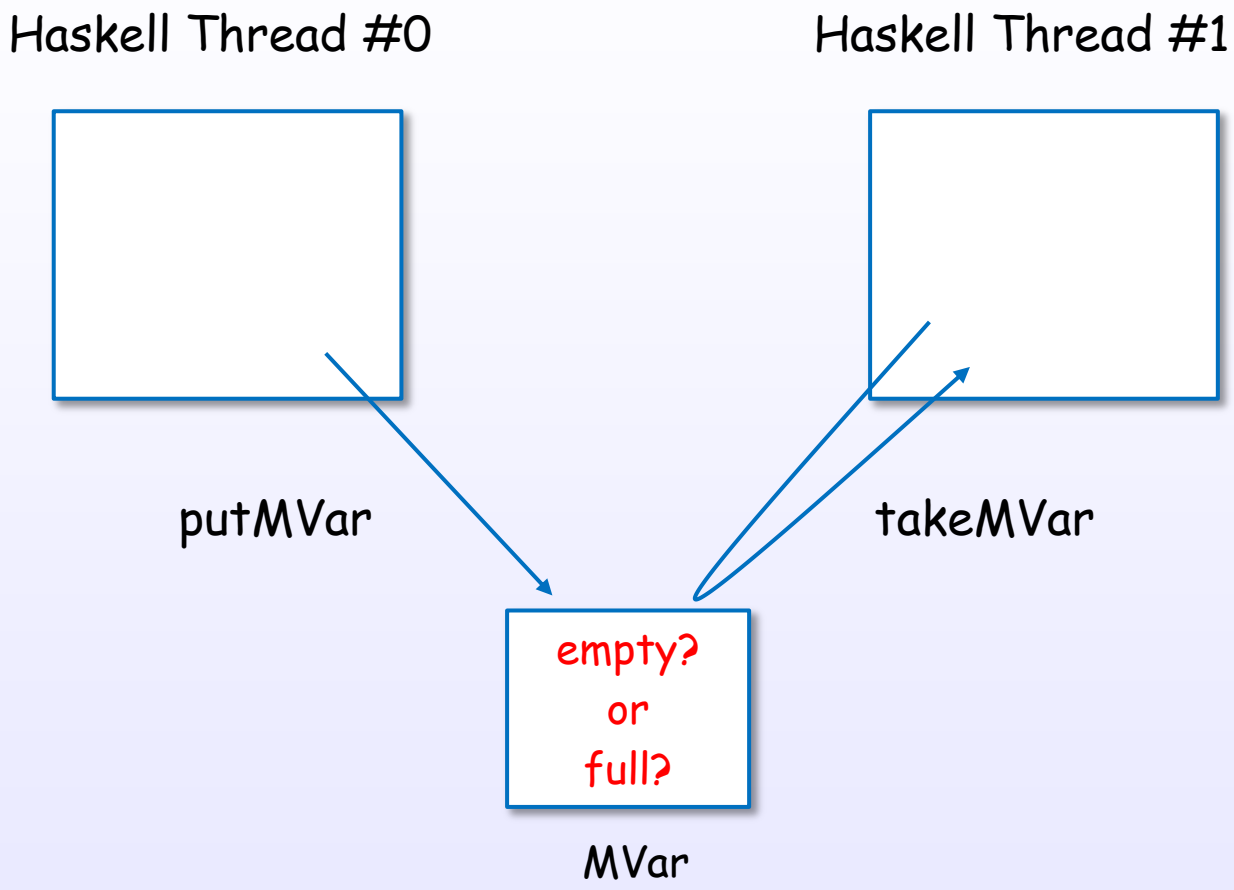


(not TSO objects, but closures. thus lightweight)

References : [C17], [18], [S17], [S26], [S27], [S32], [S12]

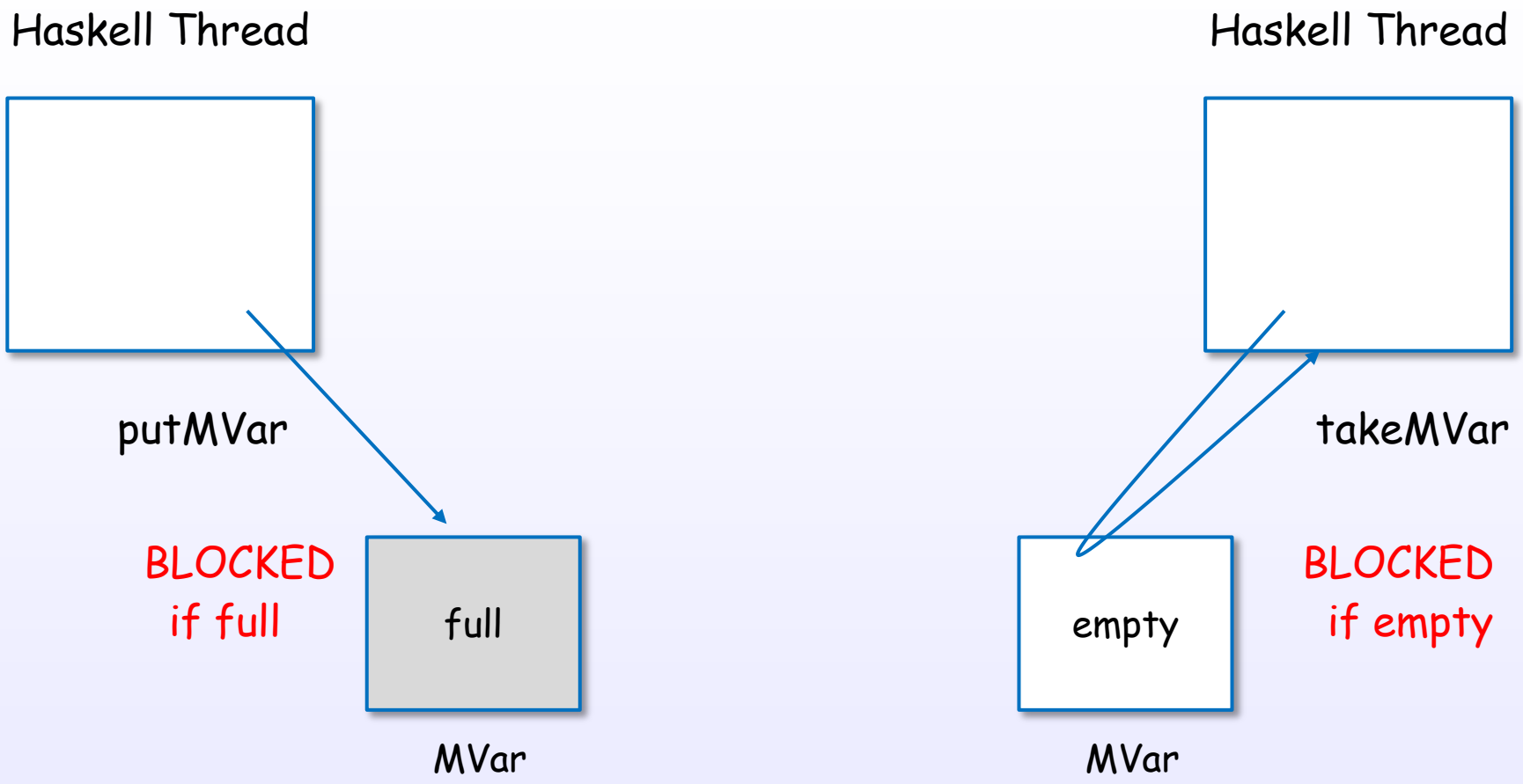
MVar

MVar



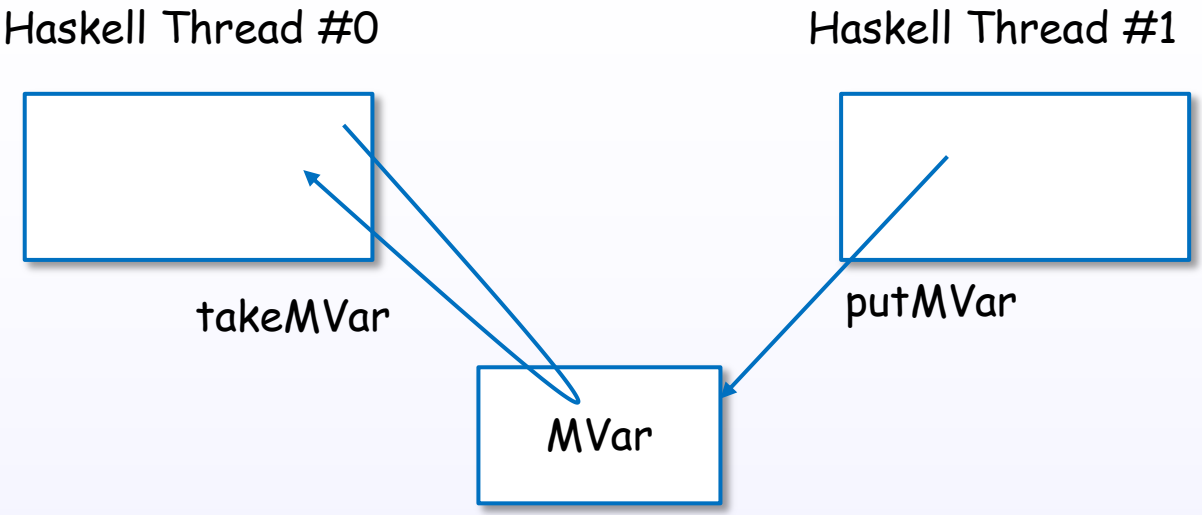
References : [15], [17], [18], [S30], [S12]

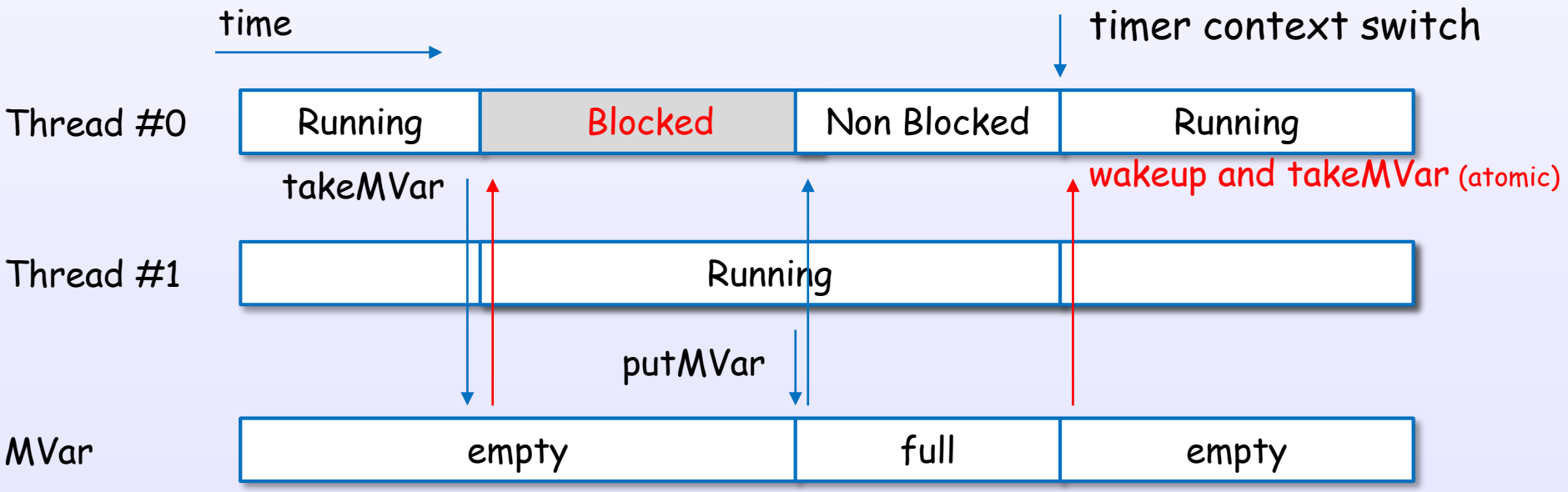
MVar



References : [15], [17], [18], [S30], [S12]

MVar example





References : [15], [17], [18], [S30], [S12]

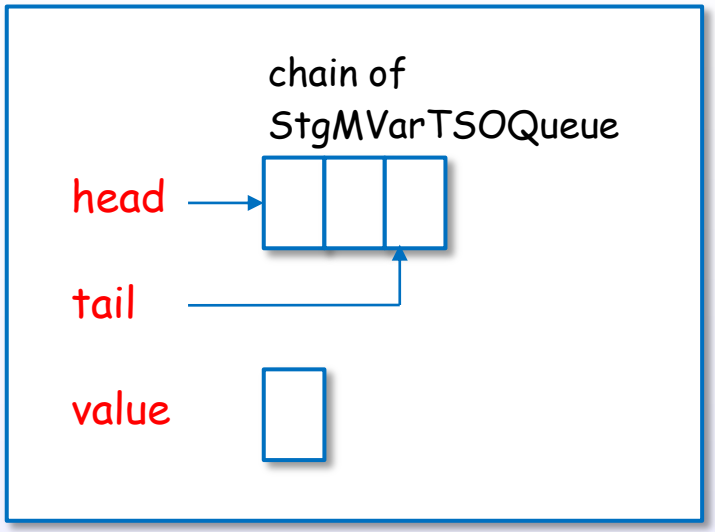
MVar view

User view

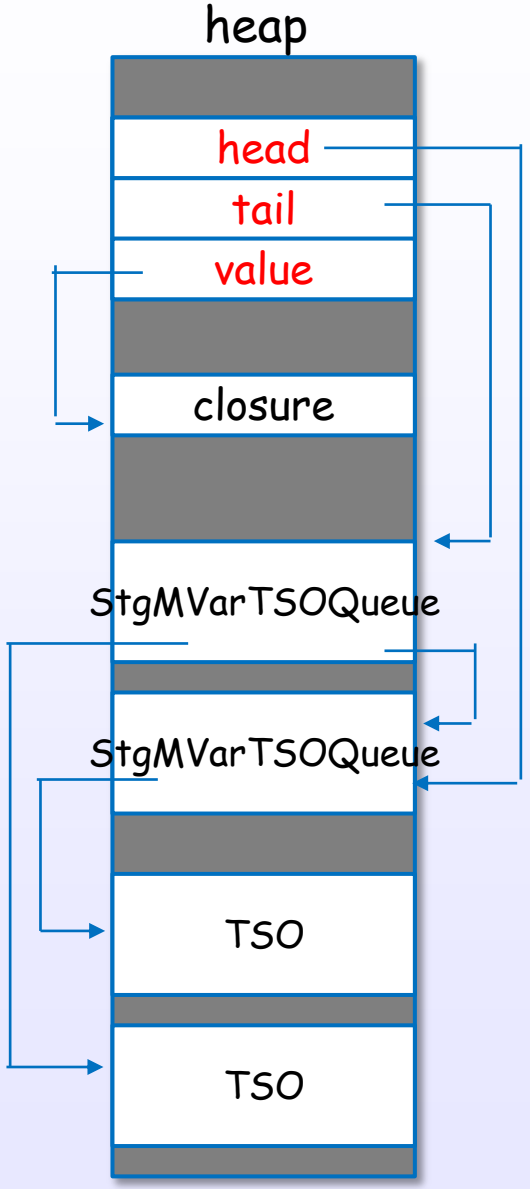
MVar

empty?
or
full?

logical MVar object

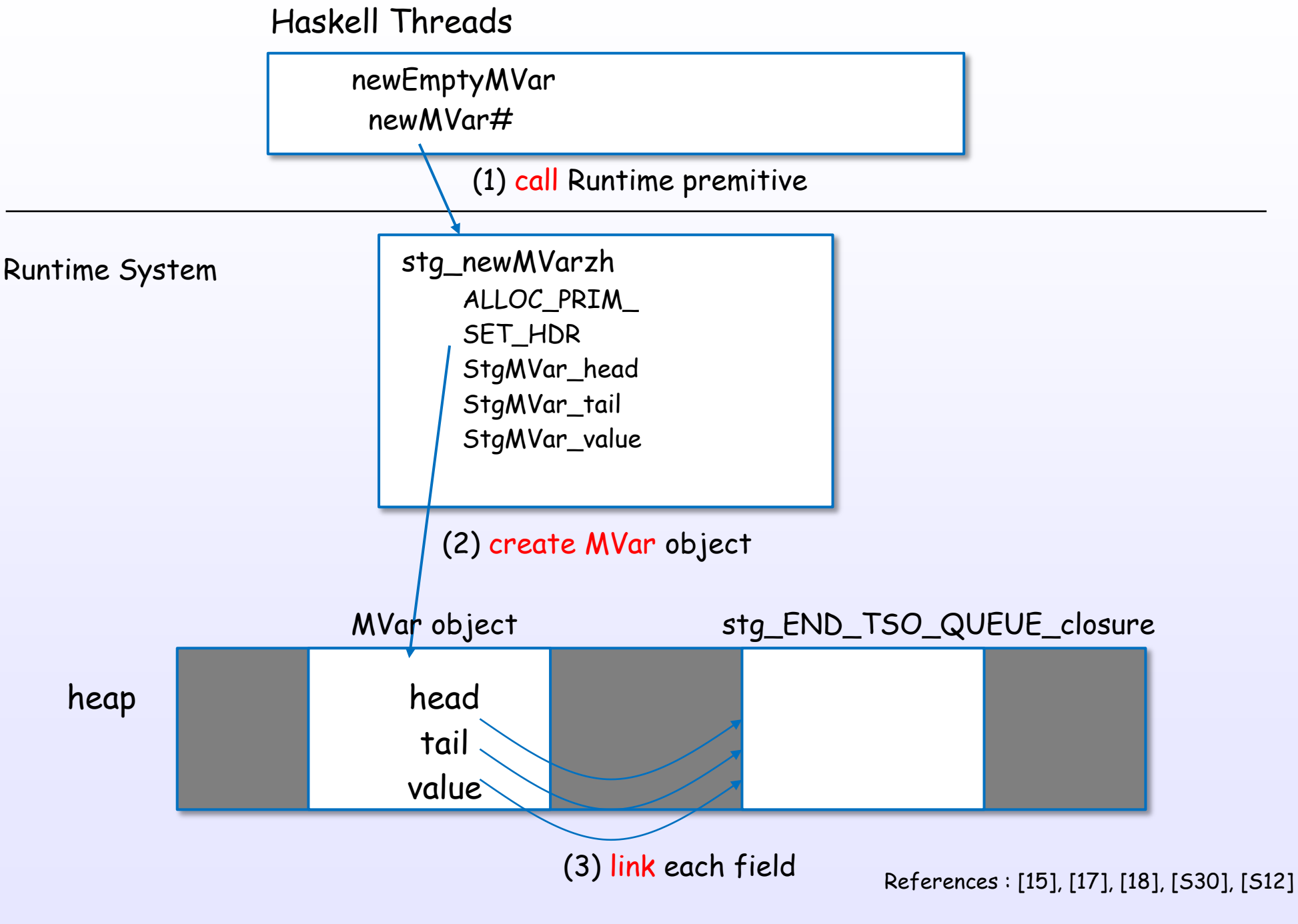


physical MVar object



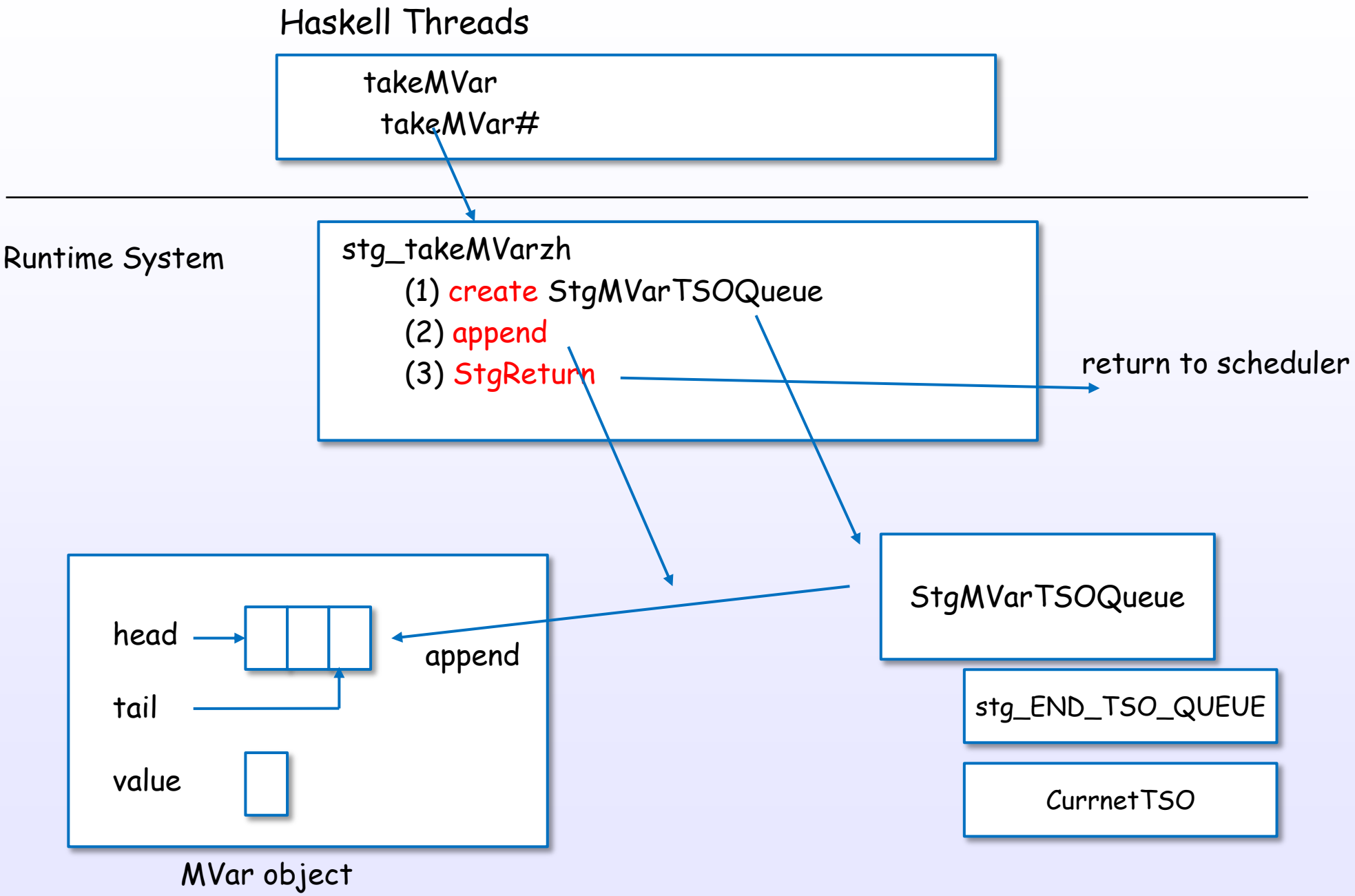
References : [15], [17], [18], [S30], [S12]

newEmptyMVar



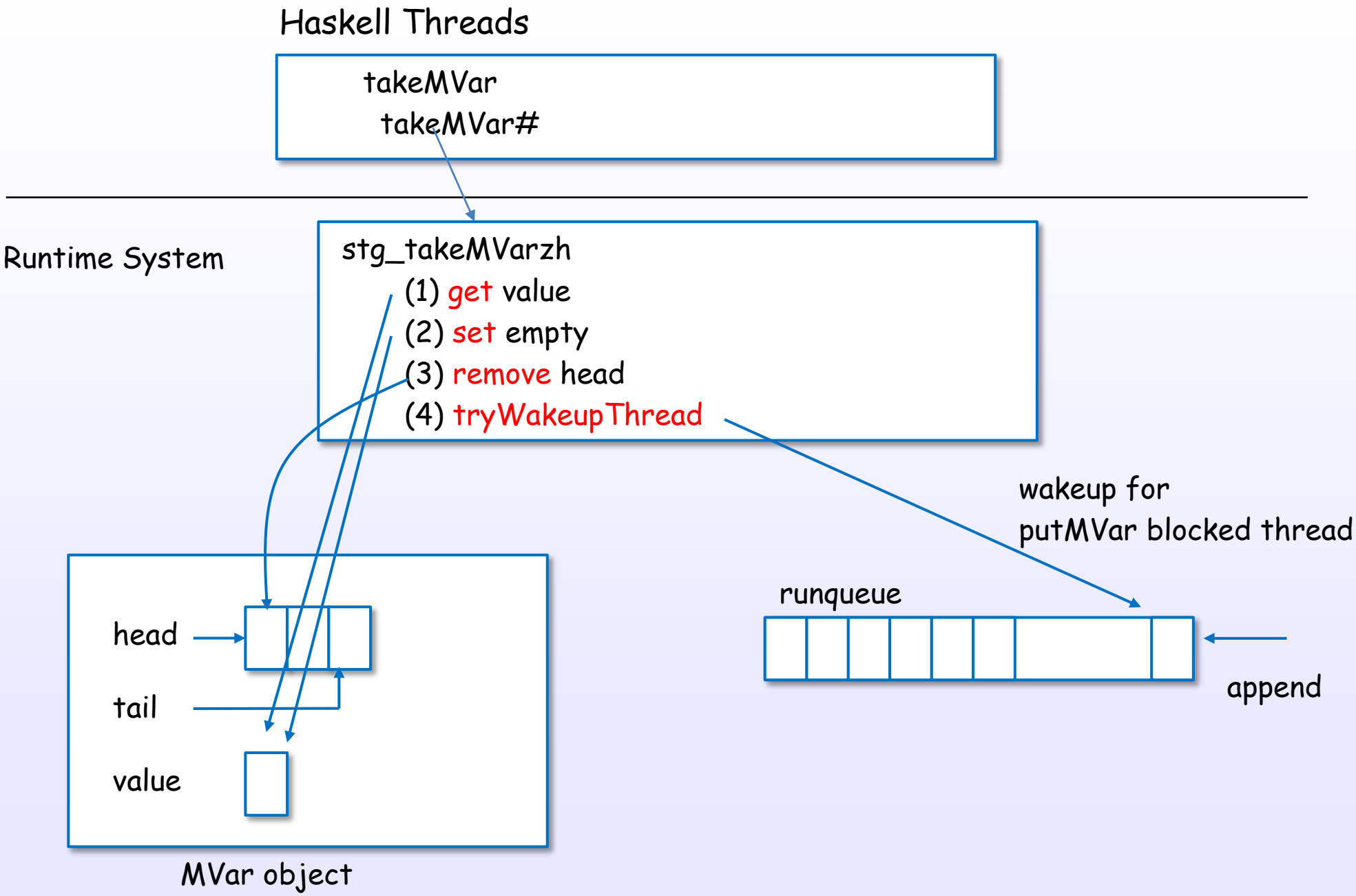
References : [15], [17], [18], [S30], [S12]

takeMVar (empty case)



References : [15], [17], [18], [S30], [S12]

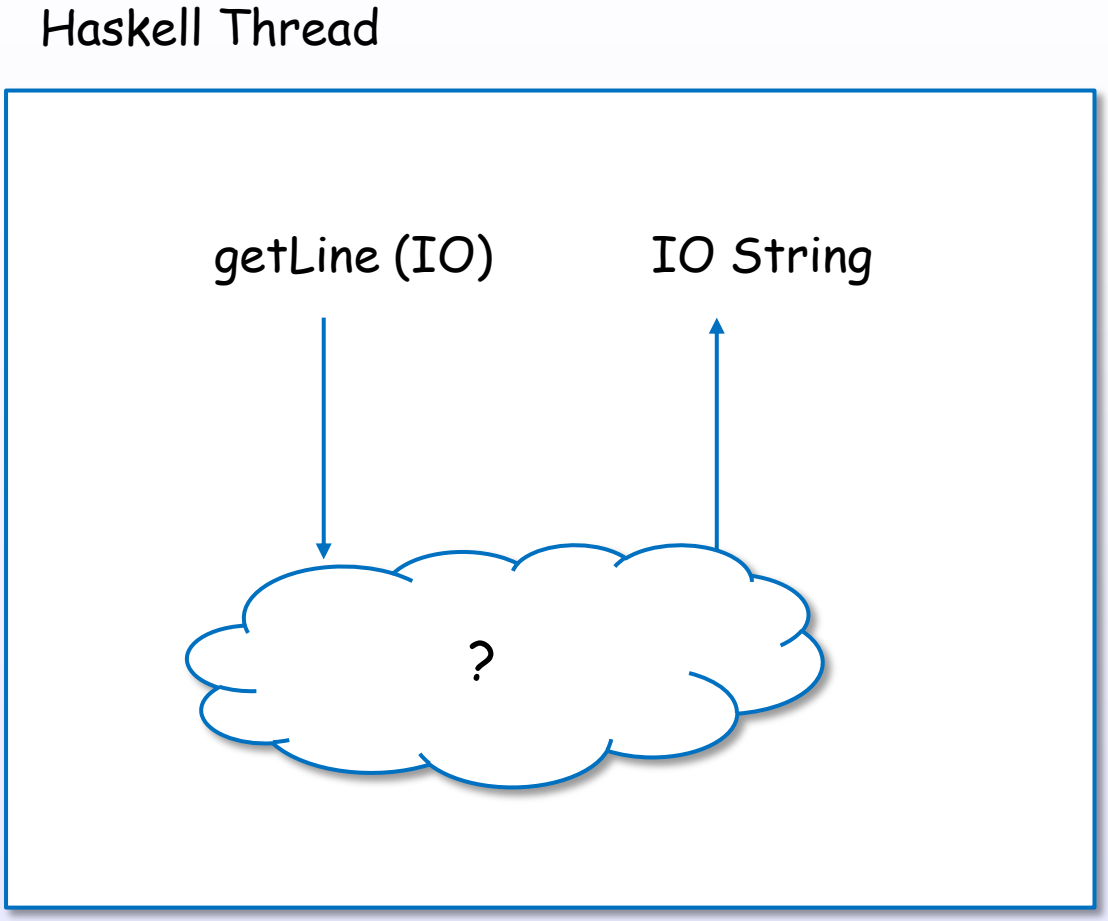
takeMVar (full case)



References : [15], [17], [18], [S30], [S12]

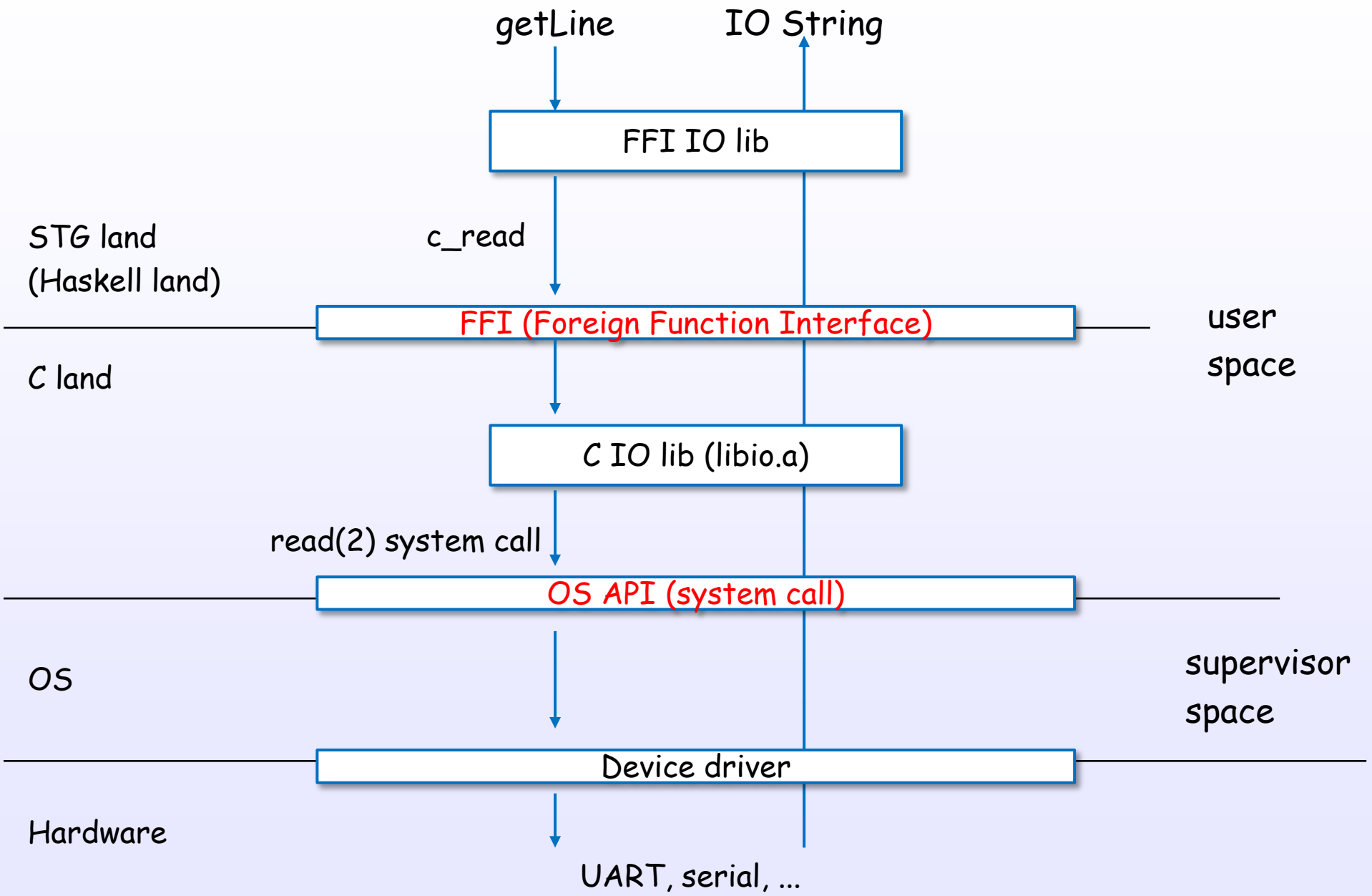
IO and FFI

IO



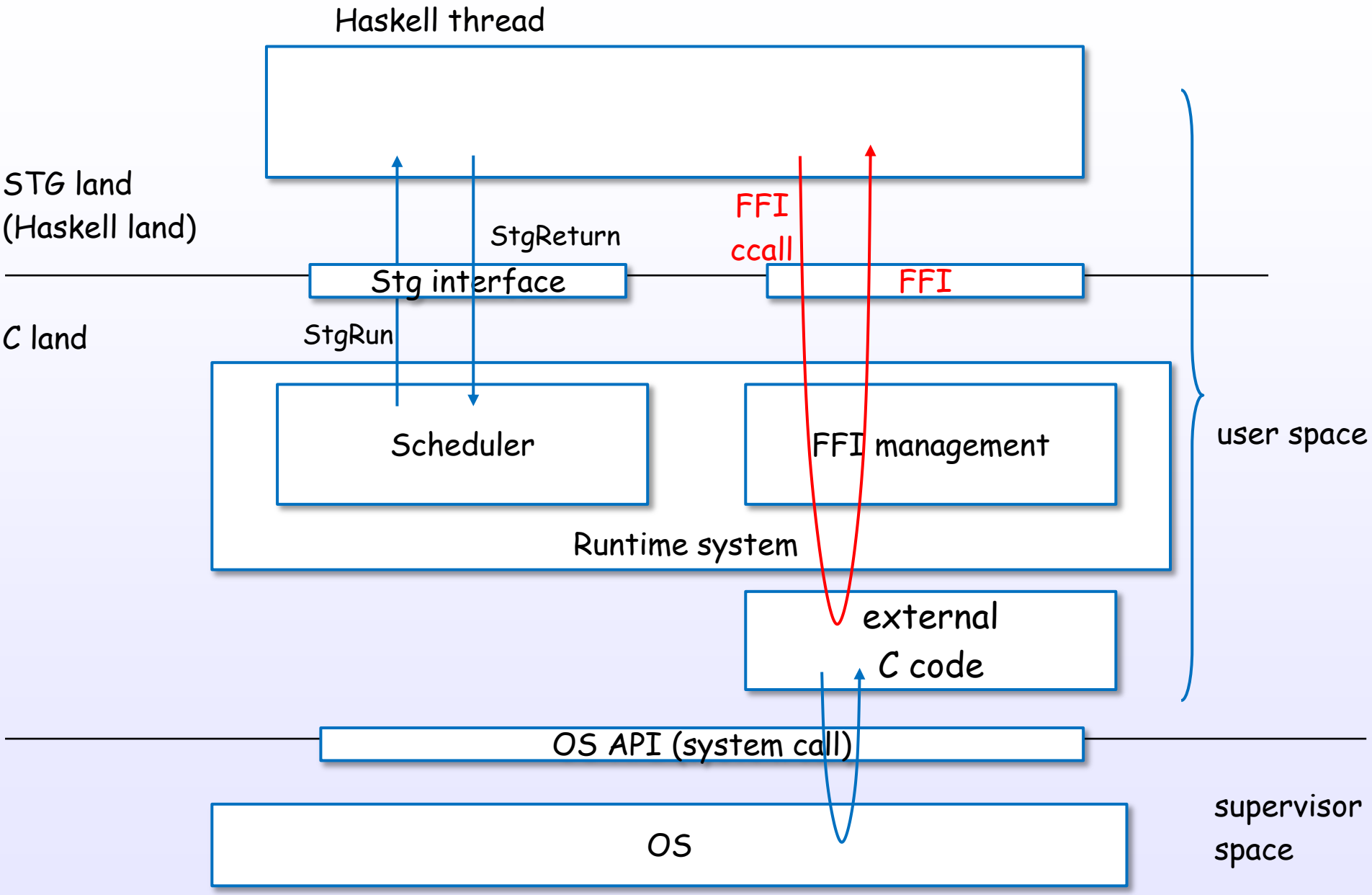
References : [5], [10]

IO example: getLine



References : [5], [10], [19], [S38], [S37], [S36], [S35], [S39]

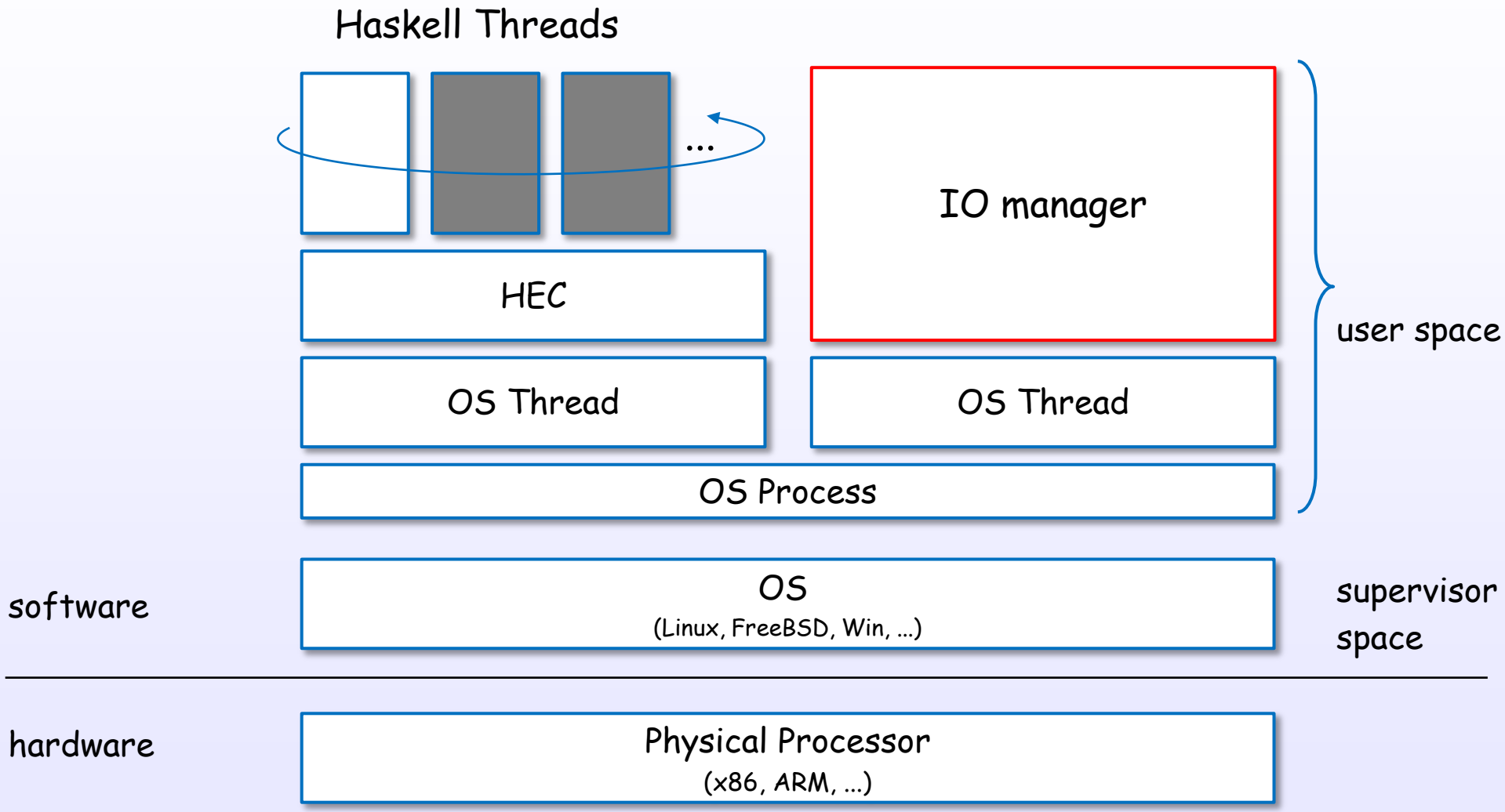
FFI (Foreign Function Interface)



References : [5], [10], [19], [S38], [S37], [S36], [S35], [S39]

IO manager

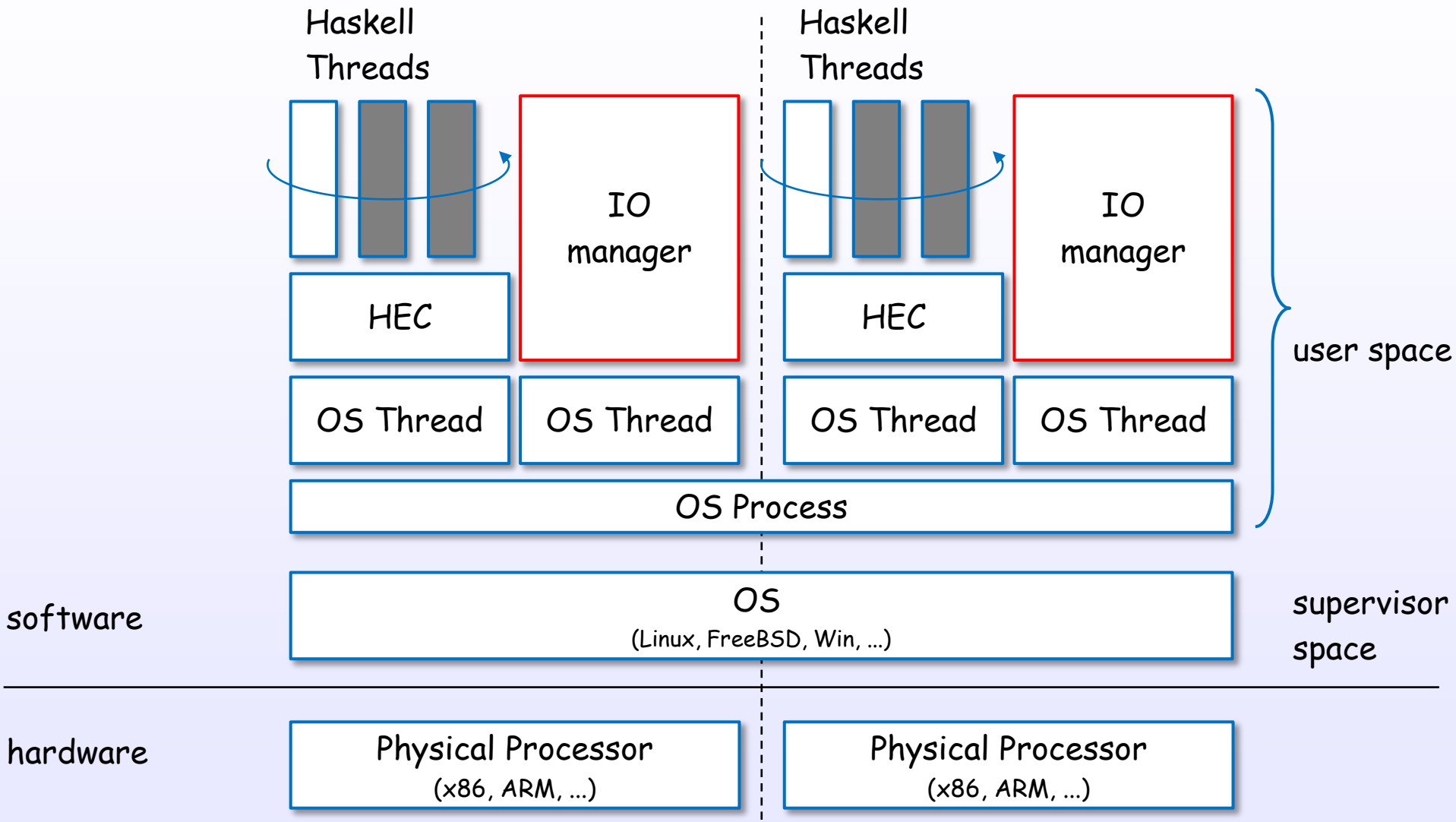
IO manager (single core)



*Threaded option case (ghc -threaded)

References : [6], [4], [7]

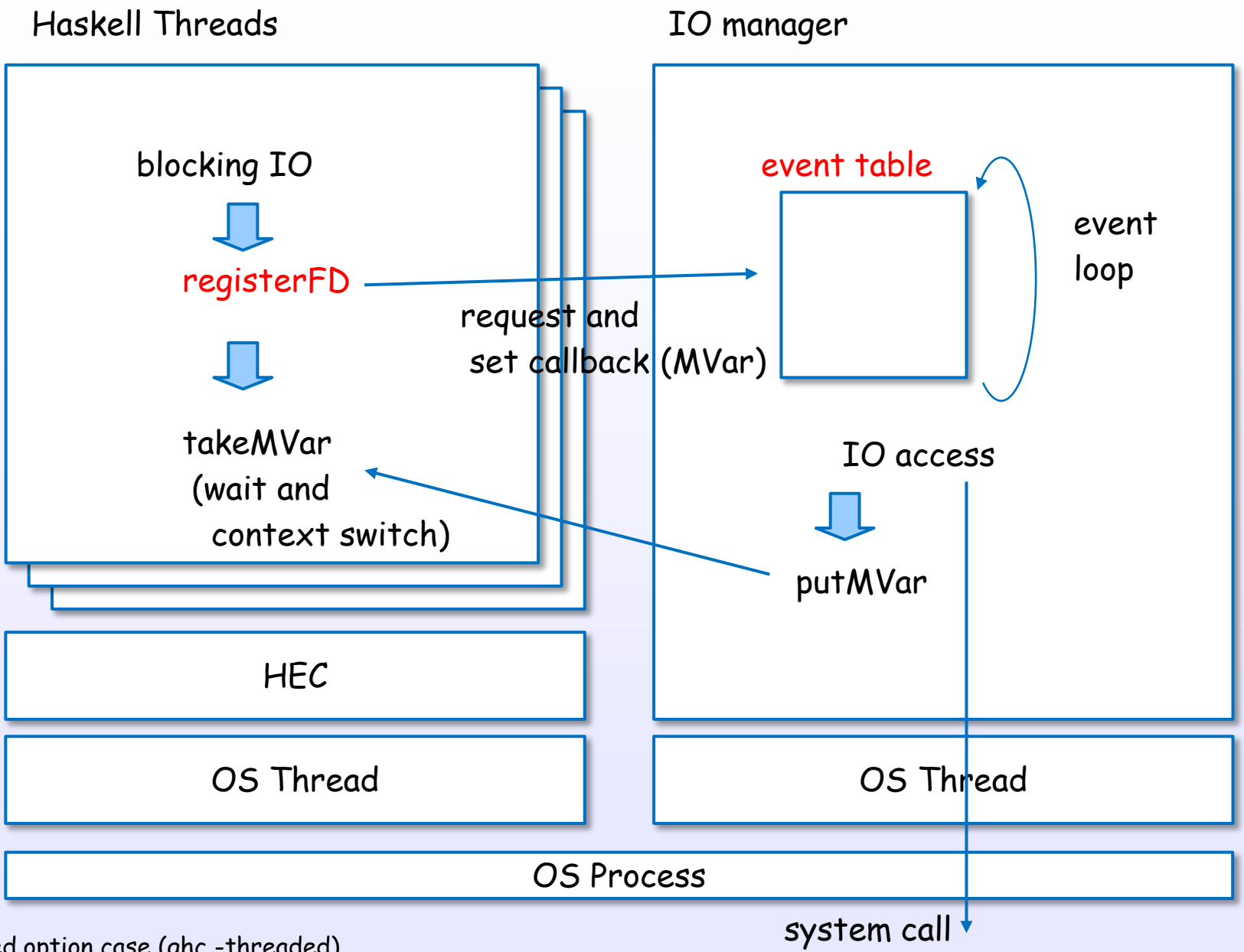
IO manager (multi core)



*Threaded option case (ghc -threaded)

References : [6], [4], [7]

IO manager

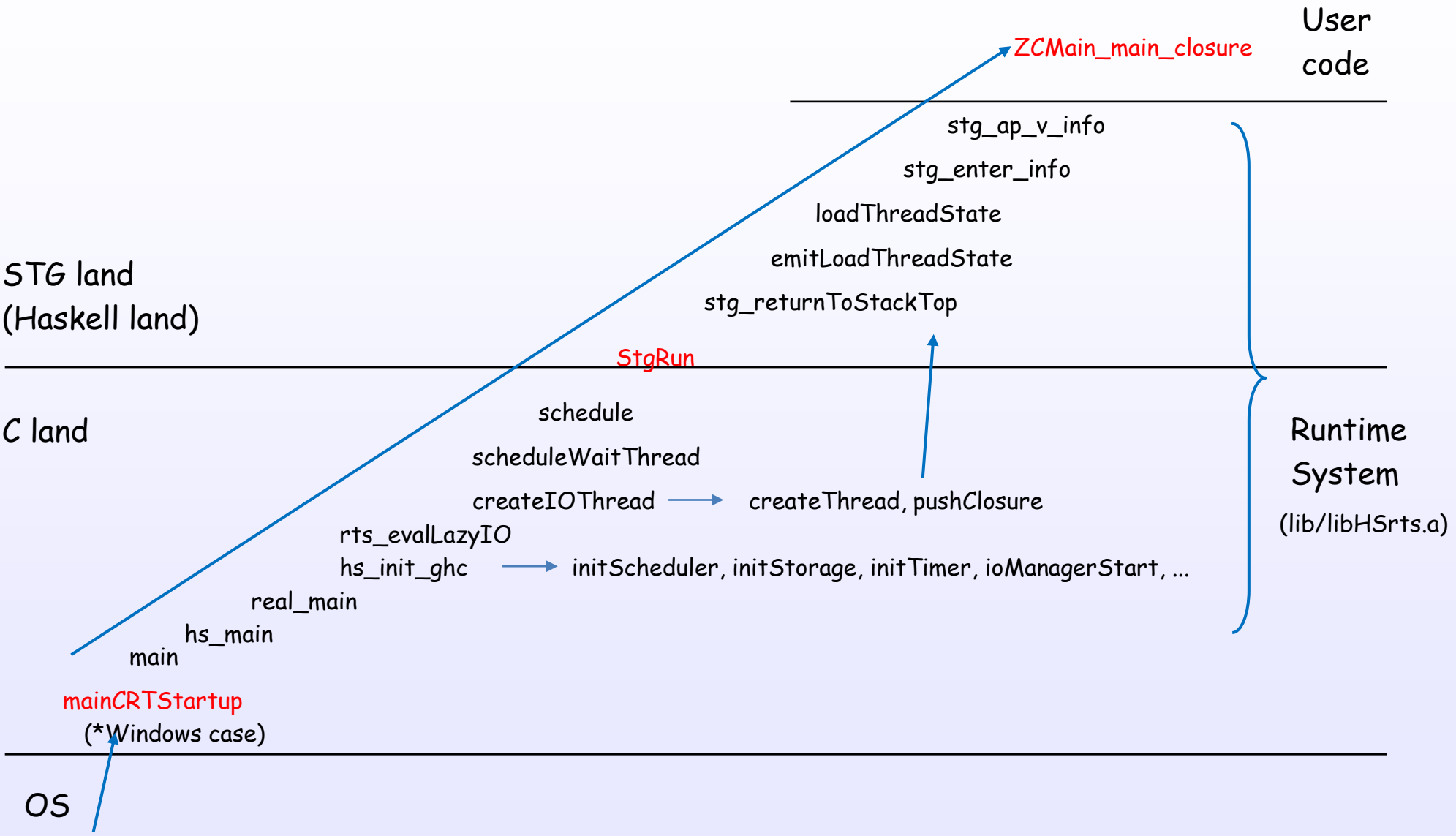


*Threaded option case (ghc -threaded)

References : [6], [4], [7], [S28], [S29], [S31], [S36], [S34], [S3]

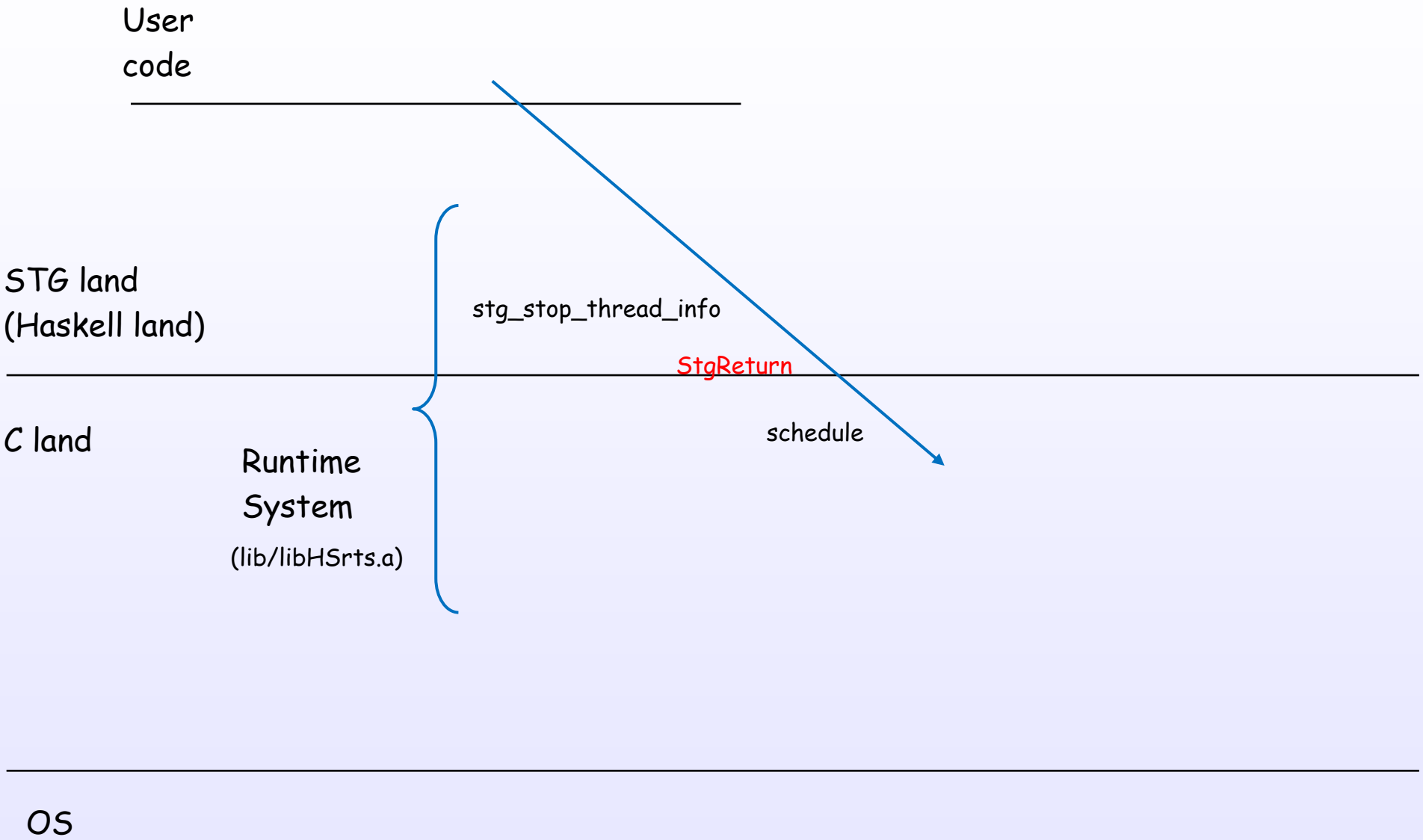
Bootstrap

Bootstrap sequence



References : [S7], [S13], [S14], [S17], [S18], [S19], [S9], [S10], [S21], [S40]

Exit sequence



References : [S19], [S18], [S17]

References

References

[1] Implementing lazy functional languages on stock hardware: the Spineless Tagless G-machine Version 2.5
http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/simonpj/Papers/spineless-tagless-gmachine.ps.gz

[2] Making a Fast Curry Push/Enter vs Eval/Apply for Higher-order Languages
http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/simonpj/papers/eval-apply/

[3] Faster Laziness Using Dynamic Pointer Tagging
http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/simonpj/papers/ptr-tag/ptr-tagging.pdf

[4] Runtime Support for Multicore Haskell
http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/simonpj/papers/parallel/multicore-ghc.pdf

[5] Extending the Haskell Foreign Function Interface with Concurrency
http://community.haskell.org/~simonmar/papers/conc-ffi.pdf

[6] Mio: A High-Performance Multicore IO Manager for GHC
http://haskell.cs.yale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/hask035-voellmy.pdf

[7] The GHC Runtime System
web.mit.edu/~ezyang/Public/jfp-ghc-rts.pdf

[8] The GHC Runtime System
http://www.scs.stanford.edu/14sp-cs240h/slides/ghc-rts.pdf

[9] Evaluation on the Haskell Heap
http://blog.ezyang.com/2011/04/evaluation-on-the-haskell-heap/

[10] IO evaluates the Haskell Heap
http://blog.ezyang.com/2011/04/io-evaluates-the-haskell-heap/

References

[11] Understanding the Stack
http://www.well-typed.com/blog/94/

[12] Understanding the RealWorld
http://www.well-typed.com/blog/95/

[13] The GHC scheduler
http://blog.ezyang.com/2013/01/the-ghc-scheduler/

[14] GHC's Garbage Collector
http://www.mm-net.org.uk/workshop190404/GHC's_Garbage_Collector.ppt

[15] Concurrent Haskell
http://www.haskell.org/ghc/docs/papers/concurrent-haskell.ps.gz

[16] Beautiful Concurrency
https://www.fpcomplete.com/school/advanced-haskell/beautiful-concurrency

[17] Anatomy of an MVar operation
http://blog.ezyang.com/2013/05/anatomy-of-an-mvar-operation/

[18] Parallel and Concurrent Programming in Haskell
http://community.haskell.org/~simonmar/pcph/

[19] Real World Haskell
http://book.realworldhaskell.org/

References

The GHC Commentary

[C1] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary
[C2] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/SourceTree
[C3] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Compiler
[C4] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Compiler/HscMain
[C5] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Compiler/CoreSynType
[C6] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Compiler/StgSynType
[C7] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Compiler/CmmType
[C8] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Compiler/GeneratedCode
[C9] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Compiler/SymbolNames
[C10] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Rts
[C11] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Rts/Storage/HeapObjects
[C12] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Rts/Storage/Stack
[C13] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Rts/Storage/GC
[C14] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Rts/HaskellExecution
[C15] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Rts/HaskellExecution/Registers
[C16] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Rts/HaskellExecution/PointerTagging
[C17] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Rts/Scheduler
[C18] https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Libraries

References

Source code

[S1] includes/stg/Regs.h
[S2] includes/stg/MachRegs.h
[S3] includes/rts/storage/ClosureTypes.h
[S4] includes/rts/storage/Closures.h
[S5] includes/rts/storage/TSO.h
[S6] includes/rts/storage/InfoTables.h
[S7] compiler/main/DriverPipeline.hs
[S8] compiler/main/HscMain.hs
[S9] compiler/cmm/CmmParse.y.source
[S10] compiler/codeGen/StgCmmForeign.hs
[S11] compiler/codeGen/Stg*.hs
[S12] rts/PrimOps.cmm
[S13] rts/RtsMain.c
[S14] rts/RtsAPI.c
[S15] rts/Capability.h
[S16] rts/Capability.c
[S17] rts/Schedule.c
[S18] rts/StgCRun.c
[S19] rts/StgStartup.cmm
[S20] rts/StgMiscClosures.cmm
[S21] rts/HeapStackCheck.cmm
[S22] rts/Threads.c
[S23] rts/Task.c
[S24] rts/Timer.c
[S25] rts/sm/GC.c
[S26] rts/Sparks.c
[S27] rts/WSDeque.c
[S28] rts/posix/Signals.c
[S29] rts/win32/ThrIOManager.c
[S30] libraries/base/GHC/MVar.hs
[S31] libraries/base/GHC/Conc/IO.hs
[S32] libraries/base/GHC/Conc/Sync.lhs
[S33] libraries/base/GHC/Event/Manager.hs
[S34] libraries/base/GHC/Event/Thread.hs
[S35] libraries/base/GHC/IO/BufferedIO.hs
[S36] libraries/base/GHC/IO/FD.hs
[S37] libraries/base/GHC/IO/Handle/Text.hs
[S38] libraries/base/System/IO.hs
[S39] libraries/base/System/Posix/Internals.hs
[S40] AutoApply.o (utils/genapply/GenApply.hs)

Connect the algorithm and transistar