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Performance Evaluation of Computer Systems

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Fall 2022

Performance Modeling and Design of Computer Systems

6- LITTLE'S LAW AND OTHER OPERATIONAL LAWS

Setup for Little's Law for an Open System

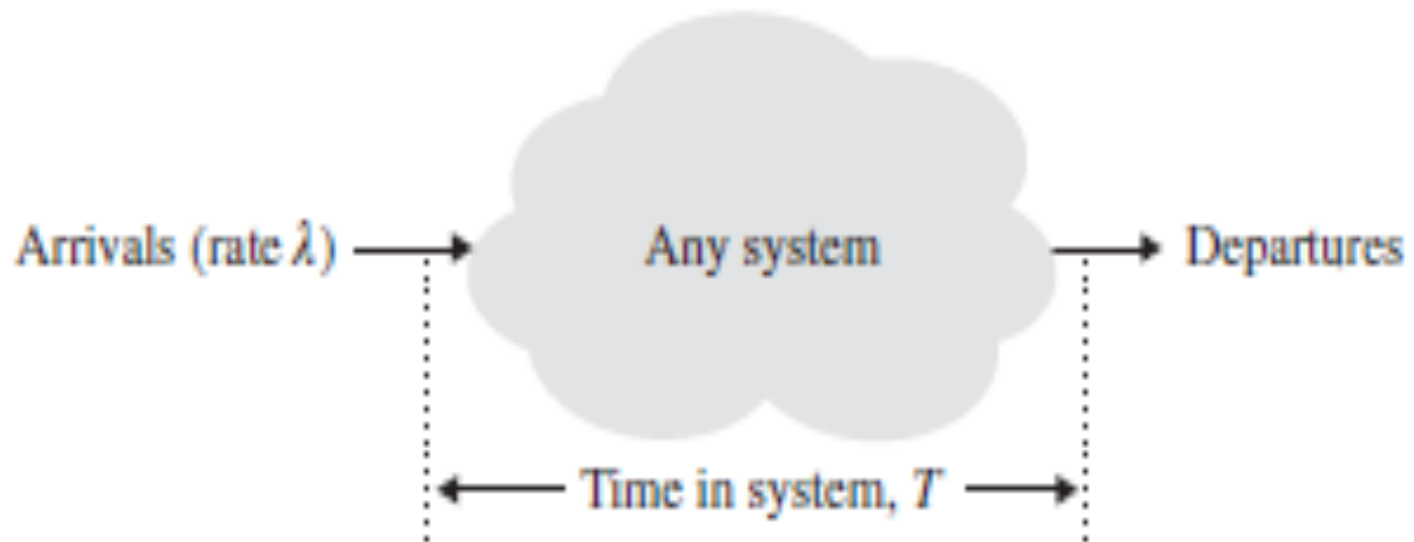


Figure 6.1. Setup for Little's Law.

Theorem 6.1: Little's Law for Open Systems

- For any ergodic open system

$$E[N] = \lambda E[T]$$

- $E[N]$ is the expected number of jobs in the system
- λ is the average arrival rate into the system
- $E[T]$ is the mean time jobs spend in the system

Theorem 6.2: Little's Law for Closed Systems

- Given any ergodic closed system

$$N = X \cdot E[T]$$

- N is a constant equal to the multiprogramming level
- X is the throughput (i.e., the rate of completions for the system)
- $E[T]$ is the mean time jobs spend in the system

Theorem 6.3: Little's Law for Open Systems Restated

- Given any system where

- $\overline{N}^{Time\ Avg}, \overline{T}^{Time\ Avg}, \lambda = X$ and

- $\lambda = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A(t)}{t}$ and $X = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{C(t)}{t},$

- then

$$\overline{N}^{Time\ Avg} = \lambda \cdot \overline{T}^{Time\ Avg}.$$

Graph of arrivals in an open system

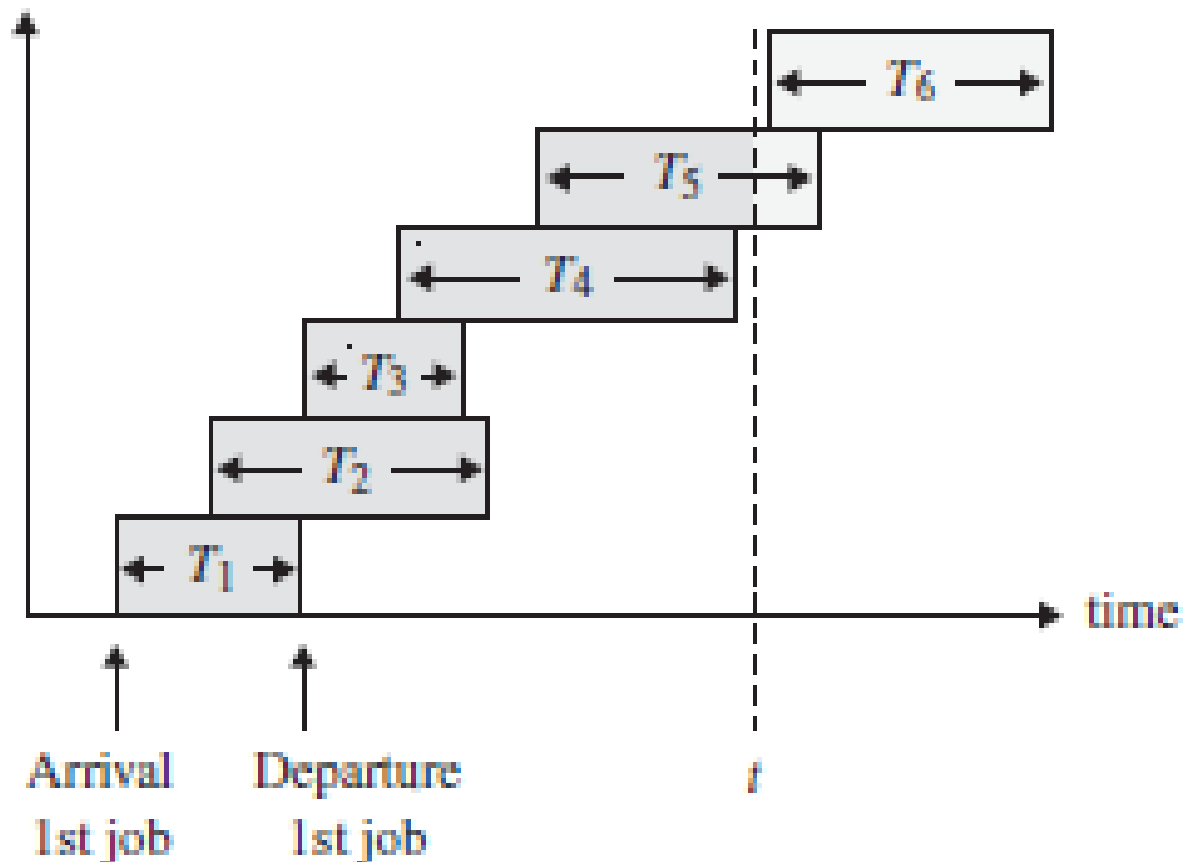


Figure 6.5. Graph of arrivals in an open system.

Proof:

The vertical view of \mathcal{A} adds up the number of jobs in system at any moment in time, $N(s)$, where s ranges from 0 to t . Thus,

$$\mathcal{A} = \int_0^t N(s) ds.$$

Combining these two views, we have

$$\sum_{i \in C(t)} T_i \leq \int_0^t N(s) ds \leq \sum_{i \in A(t)} T_i.$$

Dividing by t throughout, we get

$$\frac{\sum_{i \in C(t)} T_i}{t} \leq \frac{\int_0^t N(s) ds}{t} \leq \frac{\sum_{i \in A(t)} T_i}{t}$$

or, equivalently,

$$\frac{\sum_{i \in C(t)} T_i}{C(t)} \cdot \frac{C(t)}{t} \leq \frac{\int_0^t N(s) ds}{t} \leq \frac{\sum_{i \in A(t)} T_i}{A(t)} \cdot \frac{A(t)}{t}.$$

Taking limits as $t \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i \in C(t)} T_i}{C(t)} \cdot \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{C(t)}{t} &\leq \overline{N}^{\text{Time Avg}} \leq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i \in A(t)} T_i}{A(t)} \cdot \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A(t)}{t} \\ &\Rightarrow \overline{T}^{\text{Time Avg}} \cdot X \leq \overline{N}^{\text{Time Avg}} \leq \overline{T}^{\text{Time Avg}} \cdot \lambda. \end{aligned}$$

Yet we are given that X and λ are equal. Therefore,

$$\overline{N}^{\text{Time Avg}} = \lambda \cdot \overline{T}^{\text{Time Avg}}.$$



Corollary 6.4: Little's Law for Time in Queue

- Given any system where

- $\overline{N}_Q^{Time\ Avg}$, $\overline{T}_Q^{Time\ Avg}$, $\lambda = X$ and

- Then
$$\overline{N}_Q^{Time\ Avg} = \lambda \cdot \overline{T}_Q^{Time\ Avg};$$

- N_Q is the number of jobs in queue and T_Q represents the time jobs spend in queues

Corollary 6.5: Utilization Law

- Consider a single device i with average arrival rate λ_i jobs/sec and average service rate μ_i jobs/sec, where $\lambda_i < \mu_i$. Let ρ_i denote the long-run fraction of time that the device is busy. Then

$$\rho_i = \frac{\lambda_i}{\mu_i}.$$

- We refer to ρ_i as the “device utilization” or “device load.”

Utilization Law

- We often express the Utilization Law as

$$\rho_i = \lambda_i \mathbf{E}[S_i] = X_i \mathbf{E}[S_i]$$

- where ρ_i , λ_i , X_i , and $E[S_i]$ are the load, average arrival rate, average throughput, and average service requirement at device i , respectively

Theorem 6.6: Little's Law for close Systems Restated

- Given any closed system (either interactive or batch) with multiprogramming level N and given that

- $\overline{T}^{\text{Time Avg}}$, $\lambda = X$ and

- $\lambda = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A(t)}{t}$ and $X = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{C(t)}{t}$,

- then

$$N = X \cdot \overline{T}^{\text{Time Avg}}.$$

Batch and Interactive Systems

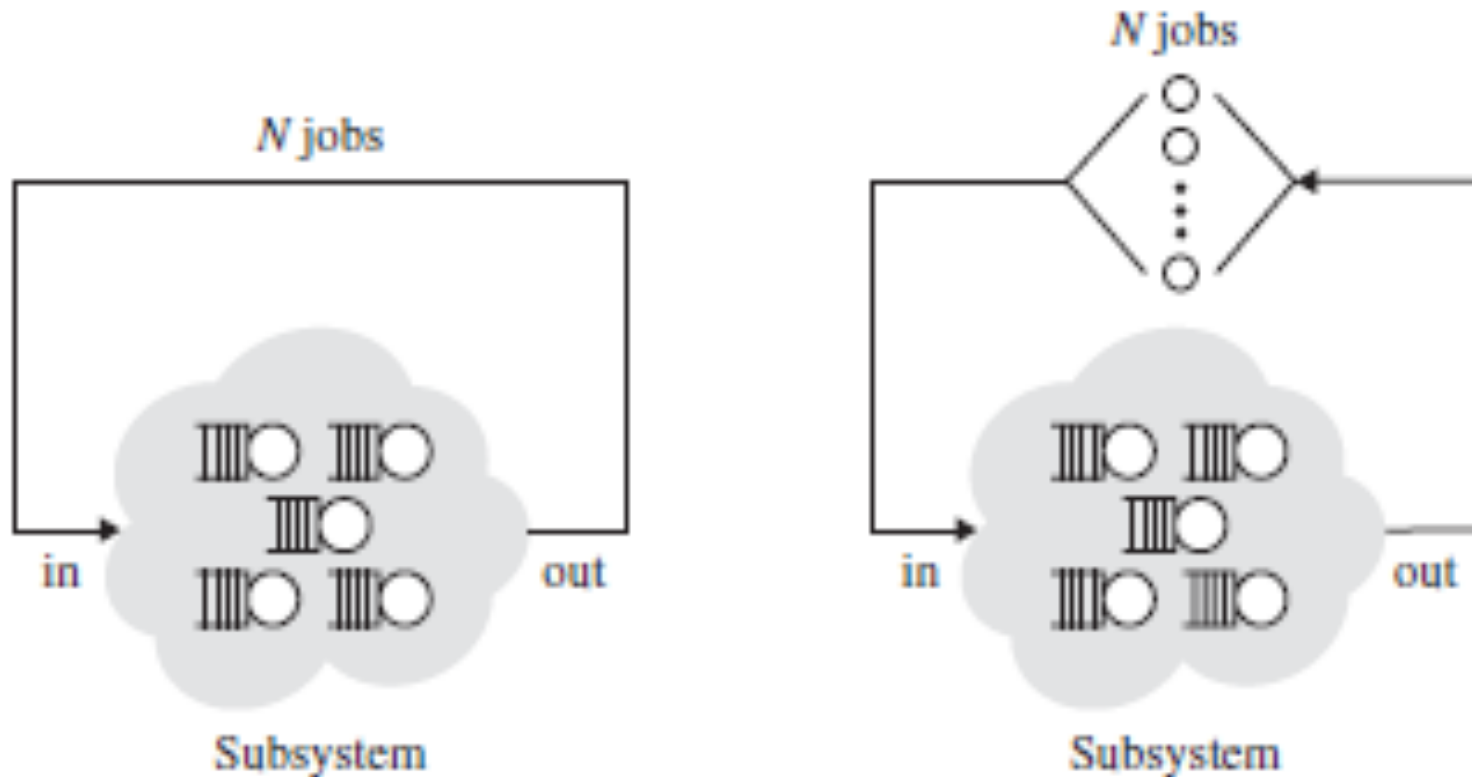


Figure 6.3. Closed systems: A batch system (left) and an interactive system (right).

Closed Interactive Systems

- For closed interactive systems, the time in the system, T , is the time to go from “out” to “out,” whereas response time, R , is the time to go from “in” to “out.”
- More specifically, we define $E[T] = E[R] + E[Z]$, where $E[Z]$ is the average think time, $E[T]$ is the average time in the system, and $E[R]$ is the average response time.

Graph of job system times in closed system with $N = 3$

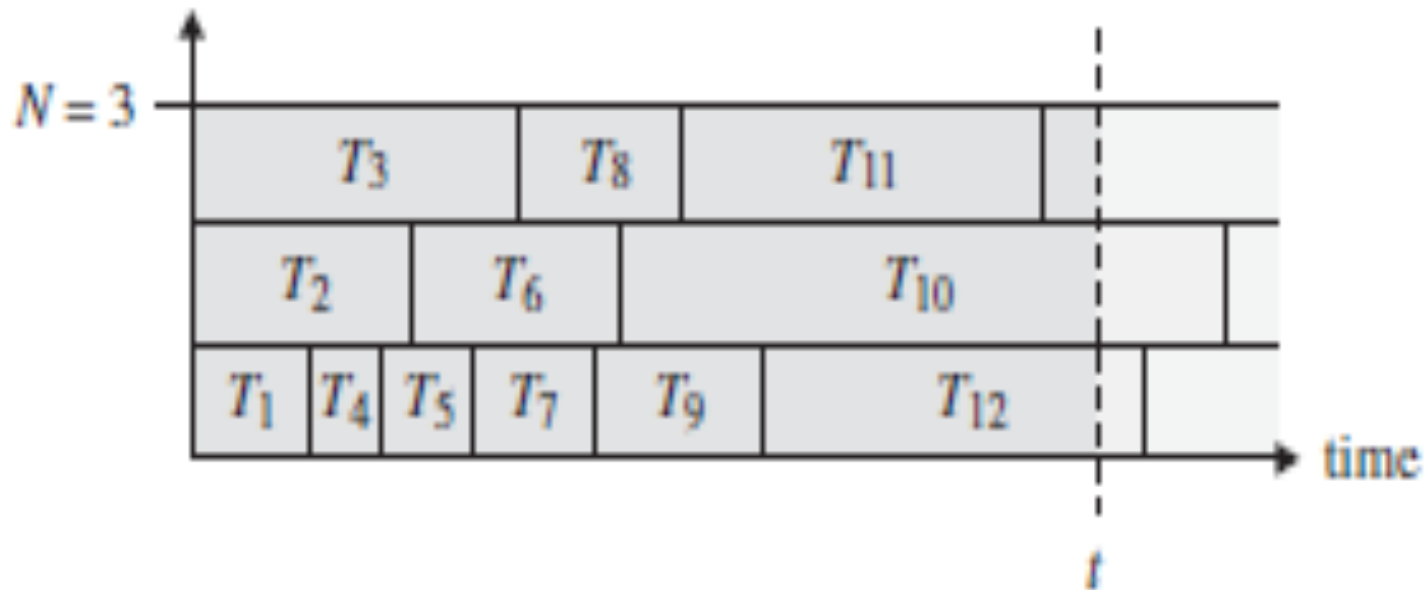


Figure 6.7. Graph of job system times in closed system with $N = 3$.

Proof:

Proof Figure 6.7 shows the time in system for arrivals. Observe that a new job cannot arrive until one departs. Thus there are always N jobs in the system. At any time t , the area made up by all rectangles up to time t is Nt , which can be bounded above and below as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i \in C(t)} T_i &\leq N \cdot t \leq \sum_{i \in A(t)} T_i \\ \Rightarrow \frac{\sum_{i \in C(t)} T_i}{t} &\leq N \leq \frac{\sum_{i \in A(t)} T_i}{t} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{\sum_{i \in C(t)} T_i}{C(t)} \cdot \frac{C(t)}{t} &\leq N \leq \frac{\sum_{i \in A(t)} T_i}{A(t)} \cdot \frac{A(t)}{t}\end{aligned}$$

Taking limits as $t \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i \in C(t)} T_i}{C(t)} \cdot \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{C(t)}{t} &\leq N \leq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i \in A(t)} T_i}{A(t)} \cdot \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A(t)}{t} \\ \Rightarrow \bar{T}^{\text{Time Avg}} \cdot X &\leq N \leq \lambda \cdot \bar{T}^{\text{Time Avg}}.\end{aligned}$$

But X and λ are equal. Therefore

$$N = X \cdot \bar{T}^{\text{Time Avg}}.$$



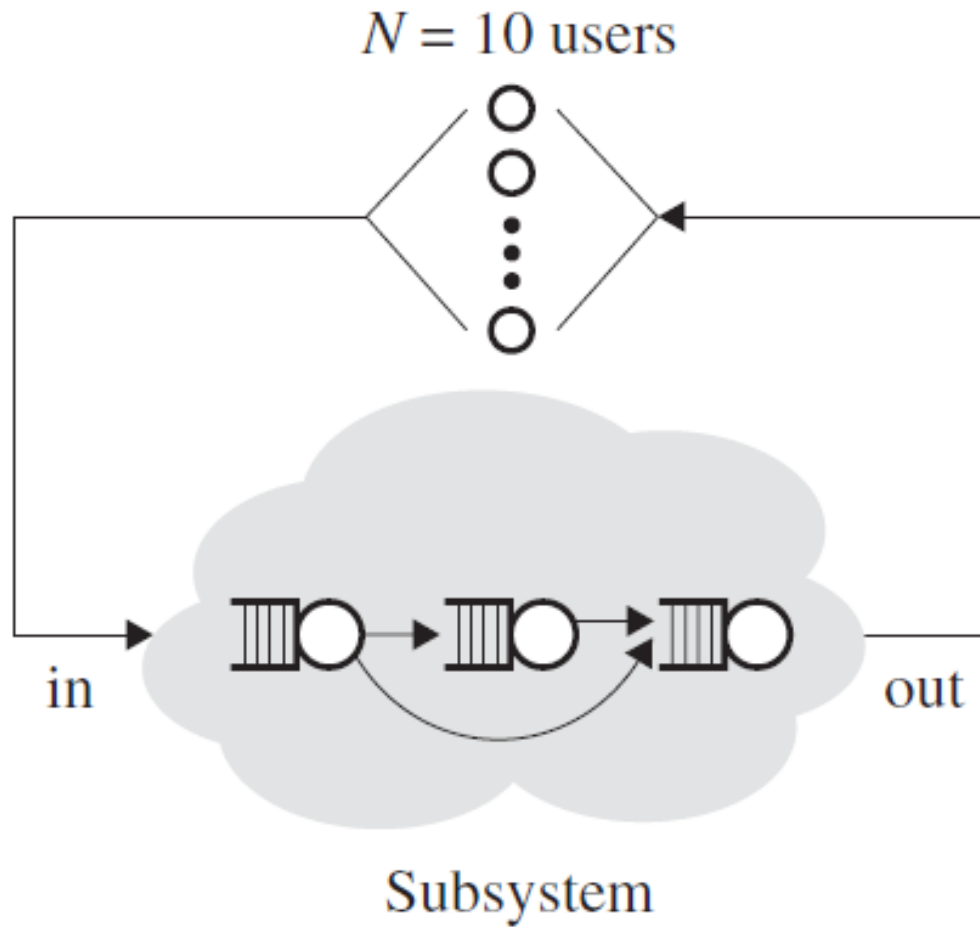
Properties of Little's Law

- Little's Law is distribution independent. This means that it depends only on mean quantities.
- Little's Law applies to any system or piece of a system.

Example

- We have an interactive system with $N = 10$ users, the expected think time is $E[Z] = 5$ seconds and the expected response time is $E[R] = 15$ seconds.
- What is the throughput, X , of the system?

Example



Answer

- Using Little's Law for closed systems, we have

$$N = X \cdot \mathbf{E}[T] = X(\mathbf{E}[Z] + \mathbf{E}[R])$$
$$\Rightarrow X = \frac{N}{\mathbf{E}[R] + \mathbf{E}[Z]} = \frac{10}{5 + 15} = 0.5 \text{ jobs/sec.}$$

- The application of Little's Law to closed systems is often referred to as the **Response Time Law** for Closed Systems:

$$\mathbf{E}[R] = \frac{N}{X} - \mathbf{E}[Z]$$

More Operational Laws: The Forced Flow Law

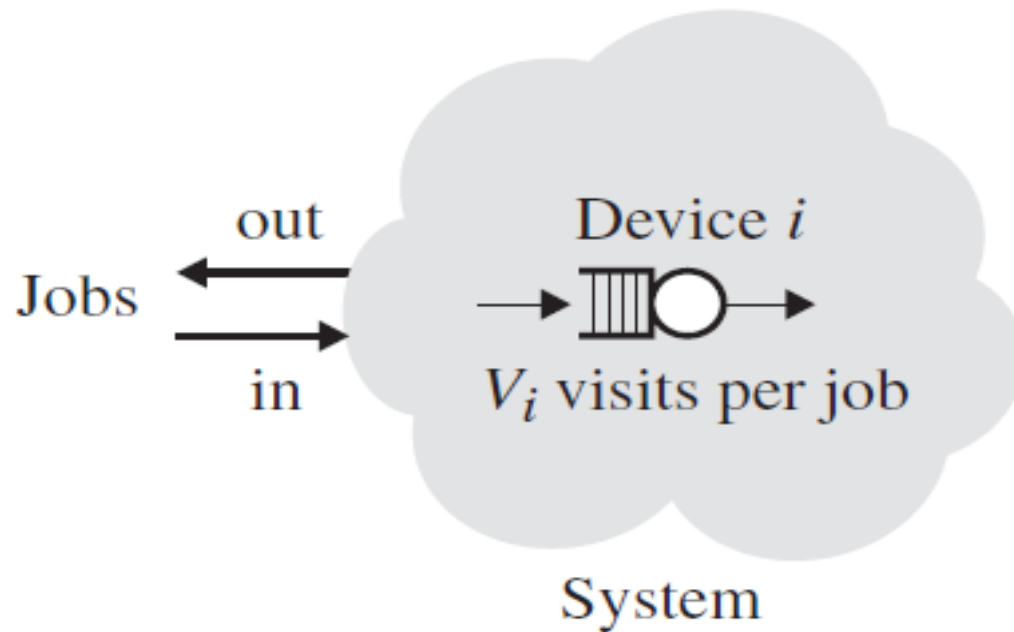
- The **Forced Flow Law** relates system throughput to the throughput of an individual device as follows:

$$X_i = \mathbf{E}[V_i] \cdot X$$

- X denotes the system throughput
- X_i denotes the throughput at device i
- V_i denotes the number of visits to device i per job

The Forced Flow Law

- V_i is often referred to as the **visit ratio** for **device i**



Proof

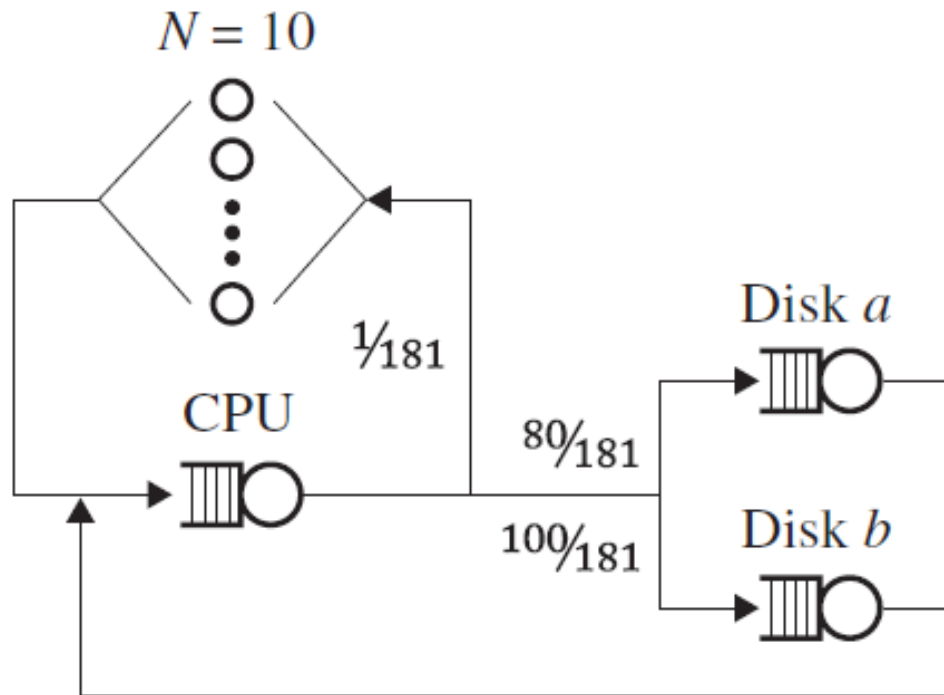
² A more formal argument would go like this: Consider Figure 6.11. Suppose we observe the system for some large observation period t . Let $C(t)$ denote the number of system completions during time t and let $C_i(t)$ denote the number of completions at device i during time t . Let $V_i^{(j)}$ be the number of visits that the j th job entering the system makes to device i . Then,

$$\begin{aligned}C_i(t) &\approx \sum_{j \in C(t)} V_i^{(j)} \\ \frac{C_i(t)}{t} &\approx \frac{\sum_{j \in C(t)} V_i^{(j)}}{t} \\ \frac{C_i(t)}{t} &\approx \frac{\sum_{j \in C(t)} V_i^{(j)}}{C(t)} \cdot \frac{C(t)}{t} \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{C_i(t)}{t} &\approx \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j \in C(t)} V_i^{(j)}}{C(t)} \cdot \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{C(t)}{t} \\ X_i &= \mathbf{E}[V_i] \cdot X.\end{aligned}$$

Note that approximation signs are used here because $C(t)$ actually provides a lower bound on the sum, whereas $A(t)$ would provide an upper bound. To be precise, we should use both the upper and lower bounds, but this becomes irrelevant once we take the limit as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

Example of Forced Flow Law

- What are the visit ratios? That is, what are $E[V_a]$, $E[V_b]$, and $E[V_{cpu}]$?



Example of Forced Flow Law

- Looking at the figure, we see

$$C_a = C_{cpu} \cdot 80/181$$

$$C_b = C_{cpu} \cdot 100/181$$

$$C = C_{cpu} \cdot 1/181$$

$$C_{cpu} = C_a + C_b + C.$$

- Dividing through by C (the number of system completions) yields the visit ratios. So we get

$$E[N_a] = E[N_{cpu}] \cdot 80/181$$

$$E[N_b] = E[N_{cpu}] \cdot 100/181$$

$$1 = E[N_{cpu}] \cdot 1/181$$

$$E[N_{cpu}] = E[N_a] + E[N_b] + 1.$$

Example of Forced Flow Law

- Solving this system of simultaneous equations yields

$$\mathbf{E} [V_{\text{cpu}}] = 181$$

$$\mathbf{E} [V_a] = 80$$

$$\mathbf{E} [V_b] = 100.$$

Example of Forced Flow Law

- See more example in the book.

Bottleneck Law

- Define D_i to be the total service demand on device i for all visits of a single job (i.e., a single interaction). That is,

$$D_i = \sum_{j=1}^{V_i} S_i^{(j)},$$

- where $S_i^{(j)}$ is the service time required by the j th visit of the job to server i

Bottleneck Law

- We immediately see that

$$\mathbf{E} [D_i] = \mathbf{E} [V_i] \cdot \mathbf{E} [S_i] ,$$

- **Question:** How would you determine $\mathbf{E}[D_i]$ in practice?

Bottleneck Law

- **Answer:** Consider a long observation period. Observe that

$$\mathbf{E} [D_i] = \frac{B_i}{C},$$

- B_i is the busy time at device i for the duration of our observation period and C is the number of system completions during this observation period

Bottleneck Law

- The importance of $E[D_i]$ lies in the following law, which we call the **Bottleneck Law**

$$\rho_i = X \cdot E[D_i]$$

Proof of the Bottleneck Law

- X is the jobs/sec arriving into the whole system
- Each of these outside arrivals contributes $E[D_i]$ seconds of work for device i
- So device i is busy for $X \cdot E[D_i]$ seconds out of every second
- Thus $X \cdot E[D_i]$ is the utilization of device i