Operating System

Lecture 8: Threads

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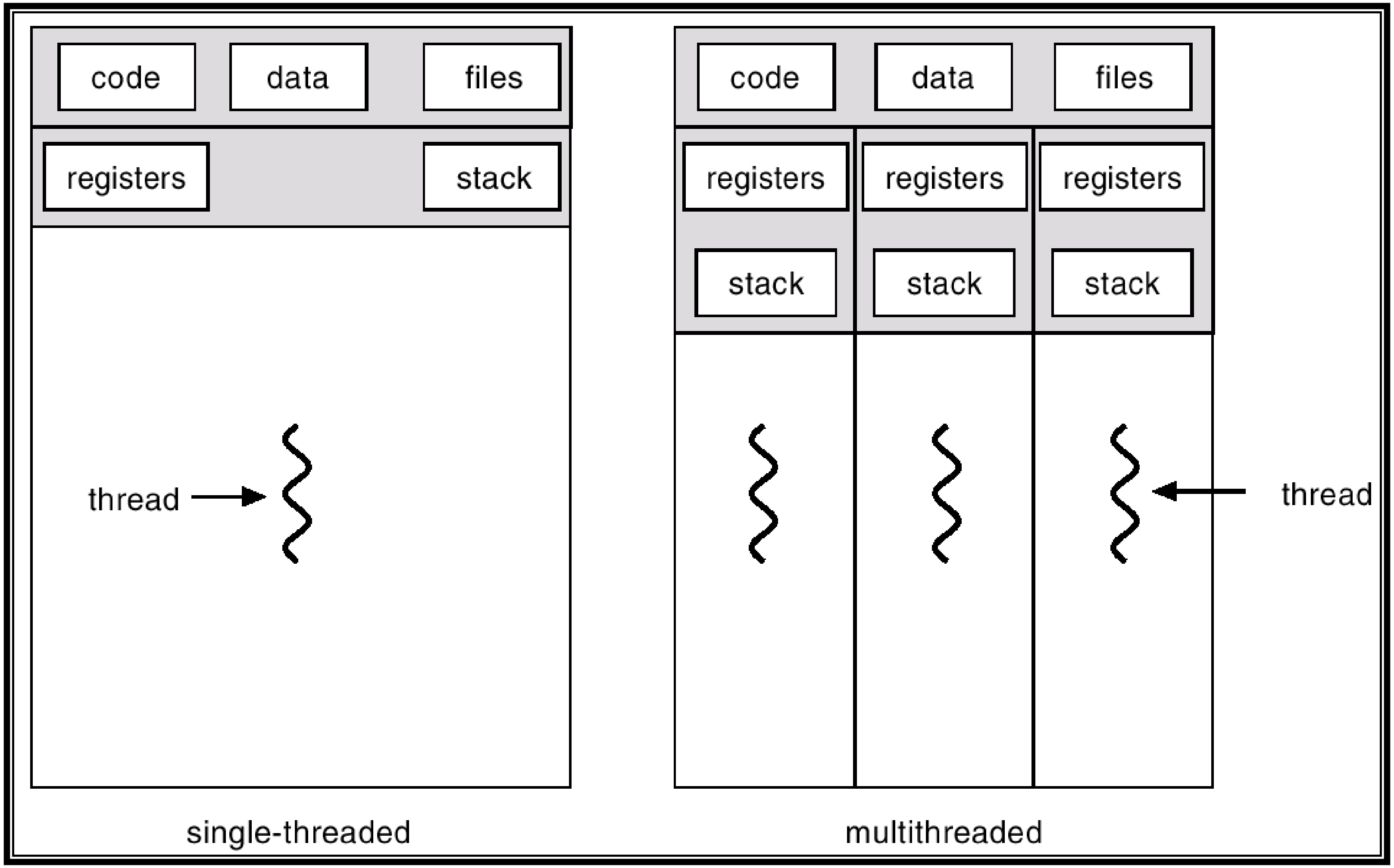
Chapter 5: Threads

- Overview
- Multithreading Models
- Threading Issues
- Pthreads

Threads

- A thread (light weight process LWP) is a basic unit of CPU utilization
- It comprises
  - thread ID
  - program counter
  - register set
  - stack
- It shares with other threads belonging to the same process
- code section
- data section
- other OS resources like open files and signals

Single and Multithreaded Processes



Benefits

- Responsiveness
- Resource Sharing
- Economy
- Utilization of MP Architectures

User Threads

- Thread management done by user-level threads library

- Examples
  - POSIX *Pthreads*
  - Mach *C-threads*
  - Solaris *threads*

Kernel Threads

- Supported by the Kernel

- Examples
  - Windows 95/98/NT/2000
  - Solaris
  - Tru64 UNIX
  - BeOS
  - Linux

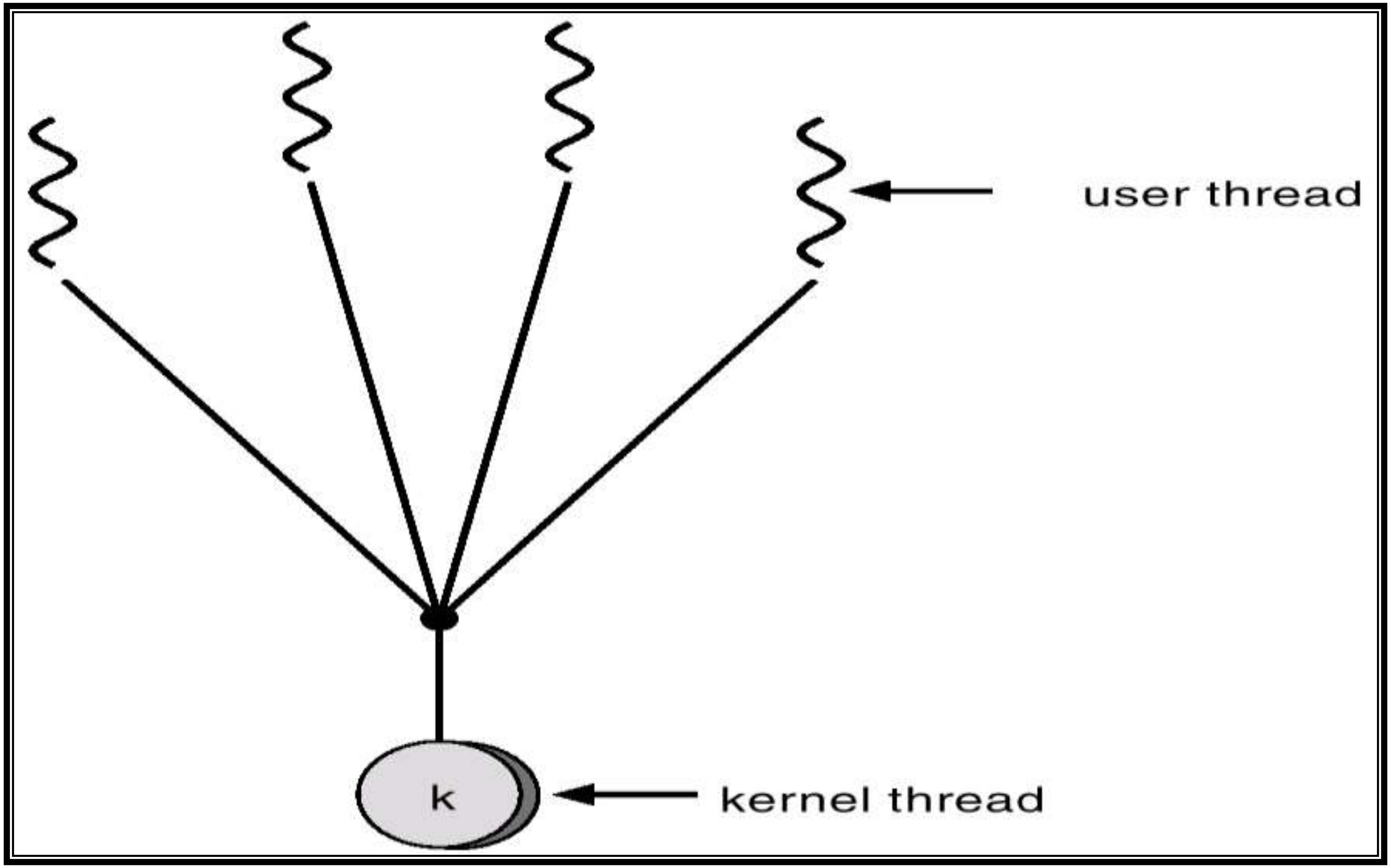
Multithreading Models

- Many-to-One
- One-to-One
- Many-to-Many

Many-to-One

- Many user-level threads mapped to single kernel thread.
- Used on systems that do not support kernel threads.

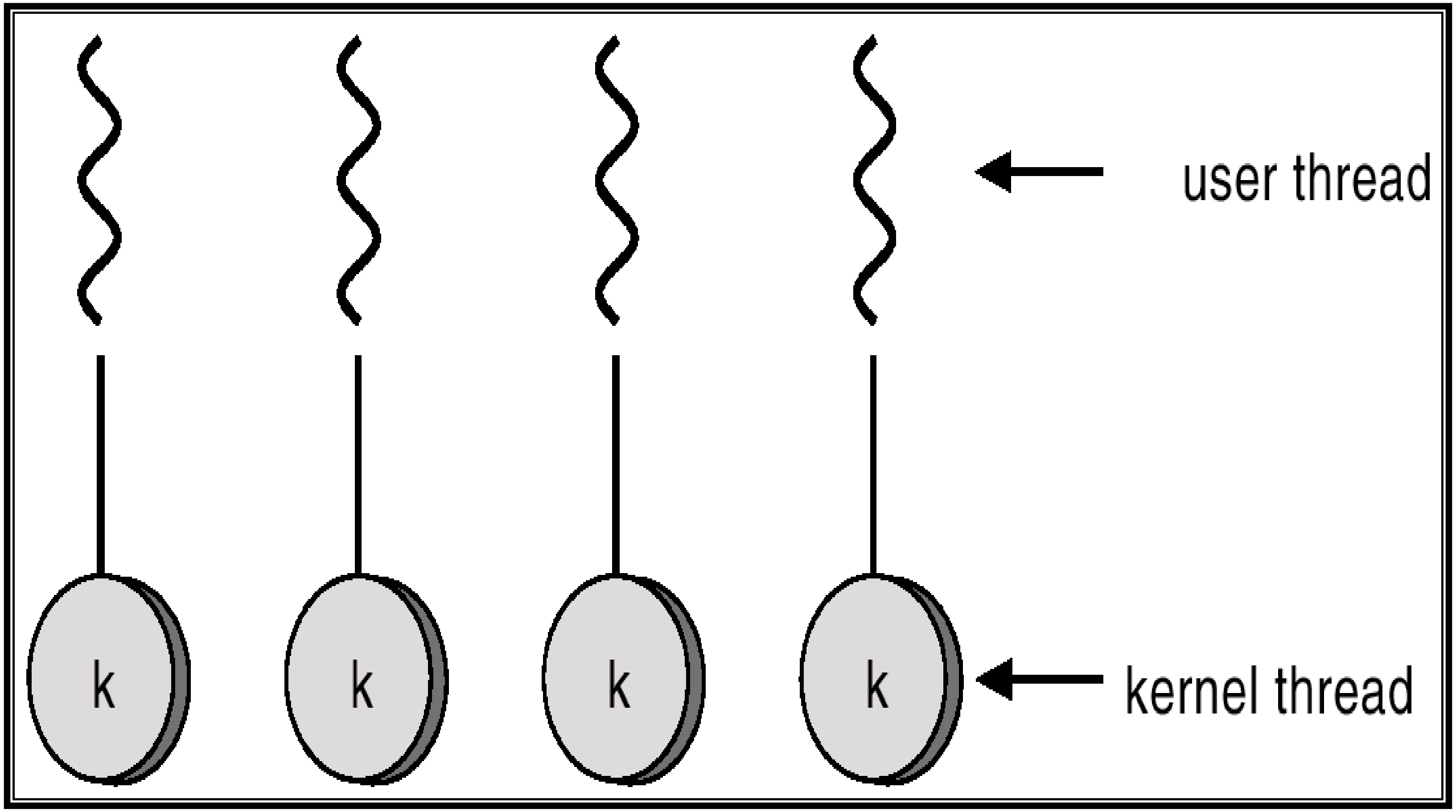
Many-to-One Model



One-to-One

- Each user-level thread maps to kernel thread.
- Examples
  - Windows 95/98/NT/2000
  - OS/2

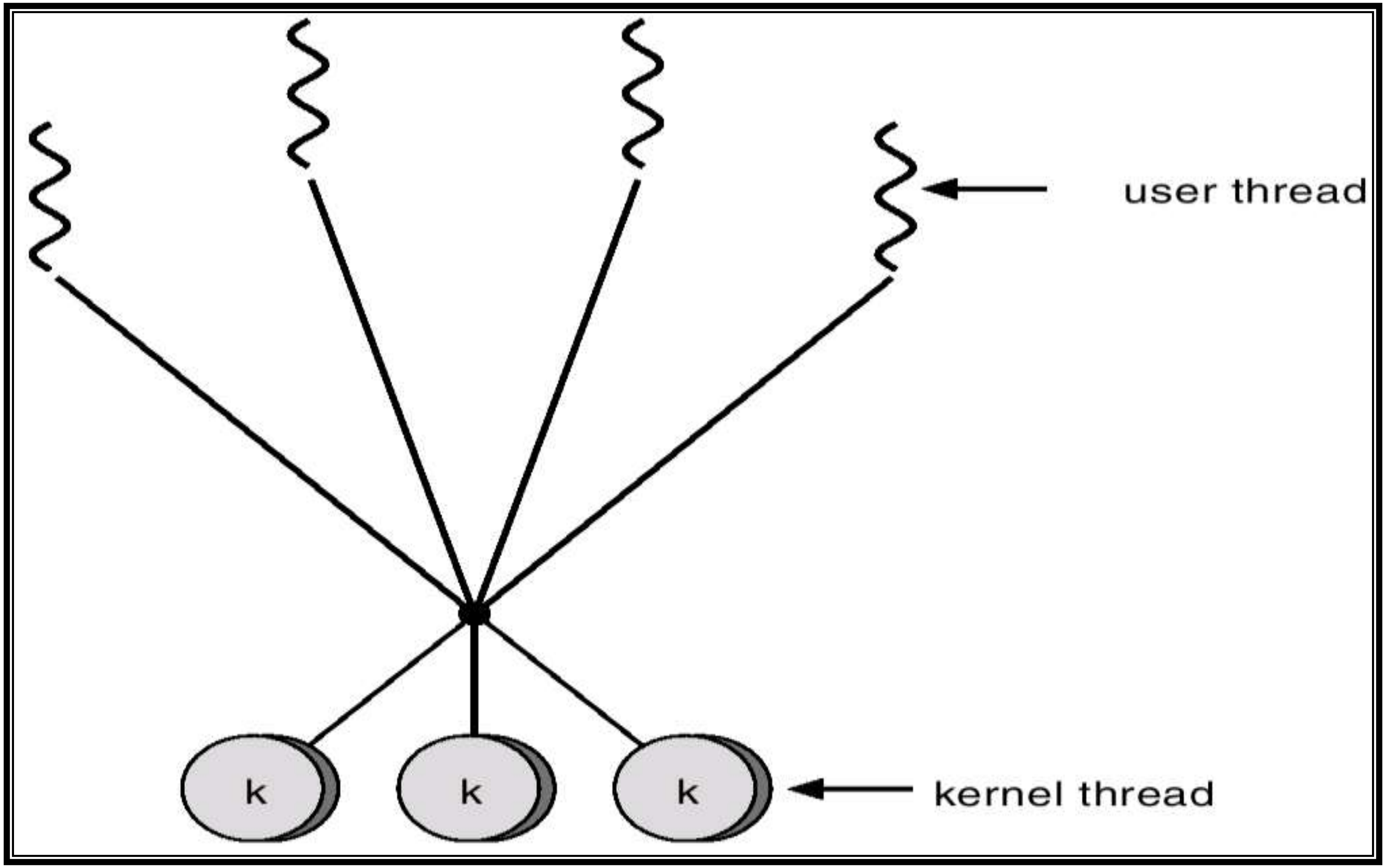
One-to-one Model



Many-to-Many Model

- Allows many user level threads to be mapped to many kernel threads.
- Allows the operating system to create a sufficient number of kernel threads.
- Solaris 2
- Windows NT/2000 with the *ThreadFiber* package

Many-to-Many Model



Threading Issues

- Semantics of fork() and exec() system calls.
- Thread cancellation.
- Signal handling
- Thread pools
- Thread specific data

Pthreads

- a POSIX standard (IEEE 1003.1c) API for thread creation and synchronization.
- API specifies behavior of the thread library, implementation is up to development of the library.
- Common in UNIX operating systems.

Thanks