Chapter 19: Real-Time Systems

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- System Characteristics
- Features of Real-Time Systems
- Implementing Real-Time Operating Systems
- Real-Time CPU Scheduling
- VxWorks 5.x

Objectives

- To explain the timing requirements of real-time systems
- To distinguish between hard and soft real-time systems
- To discuss the defining characteristics of real-time systems
- To describe scheduling algorithms for hard real-time systems

Overview of Real-Time Systems

- A **real-time system** requires that results be produced within a specified deadline period.
- An **embedded system** is a computing device that is part of a larger system (I.e. automobile, airliner.)
- A **safety-critical system** is a real-time system with catastrophic results in case of failure.
- A hard real-time system guarantees that real-time tasks be completed within their required deadlines.
- A **soft real-time system** provides priority of real-time tasks over non real-time tasks.

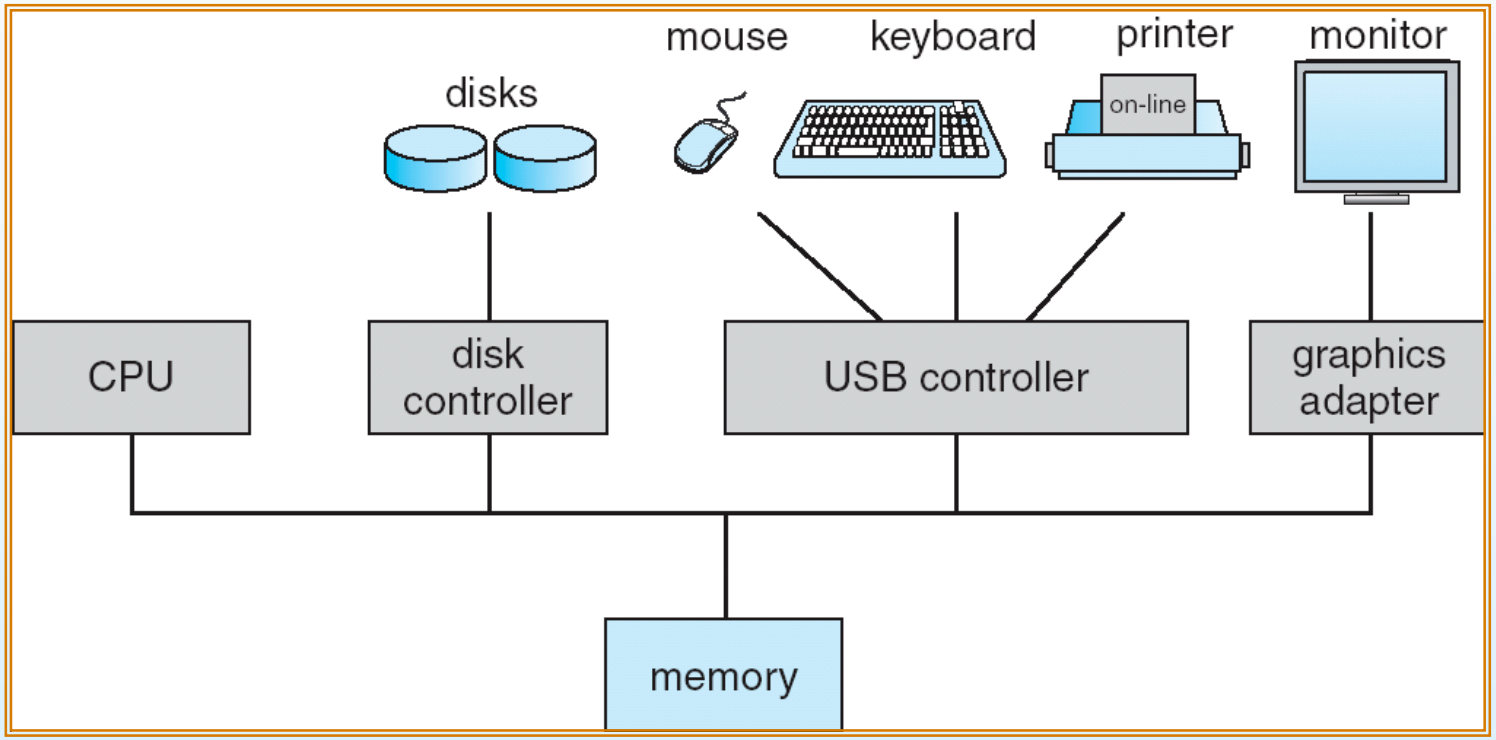
System Characteristics

- Single purpose
- Small size
- Inexpensively mass-produced
- Specific timing requirements

System-on-a-Chip

- Many real-time systems are designed using system-on-a-chip (SOC) strategy.
- SOC allows the CPU, memory, memory-management unit, and attached peripheral ports (I.e. USB) to be contained in a single integrated circuit.

Bus-Oriented System



Features of Real-Time Kernels

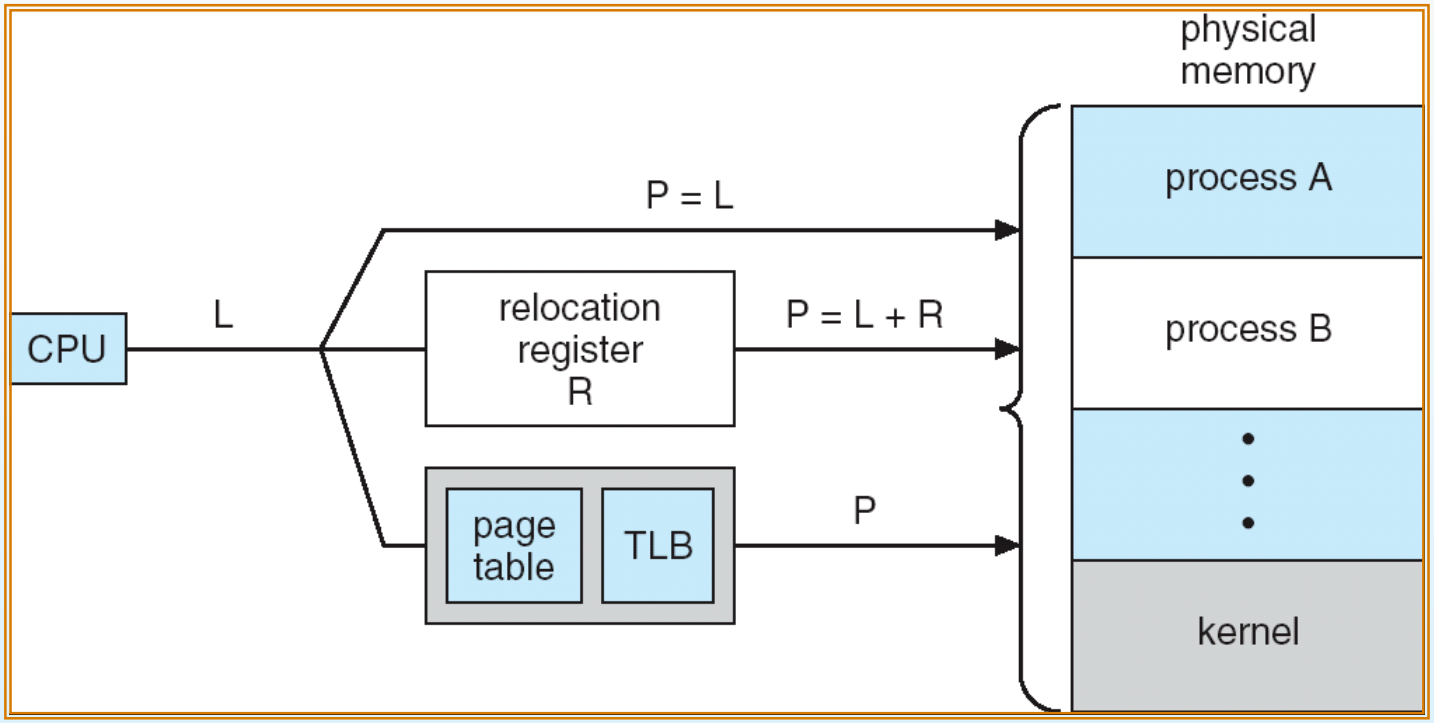
- Most real-time systems do not provide the features found in a standard desktop system.
- Reasons include
  - Real-time systems are typically single-purpose.
  - Real-time systems often do not require interfacing with a user.
  - Features found in a desktop PC require more substantial hardware that what is typically available in a real-time system.

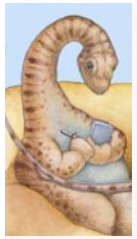
Virtual Memory in Real-Time Systems

- Address translation may occur via:

- (1) **Real-addressing mode** where programs generate actual addresses.
- (2) **Relocation** register mode.
- (3) Implementing full **virtual memory**.

Address Translation





Implementing Real-Time Operating Systems

- In general, real-time operating systems must provide:

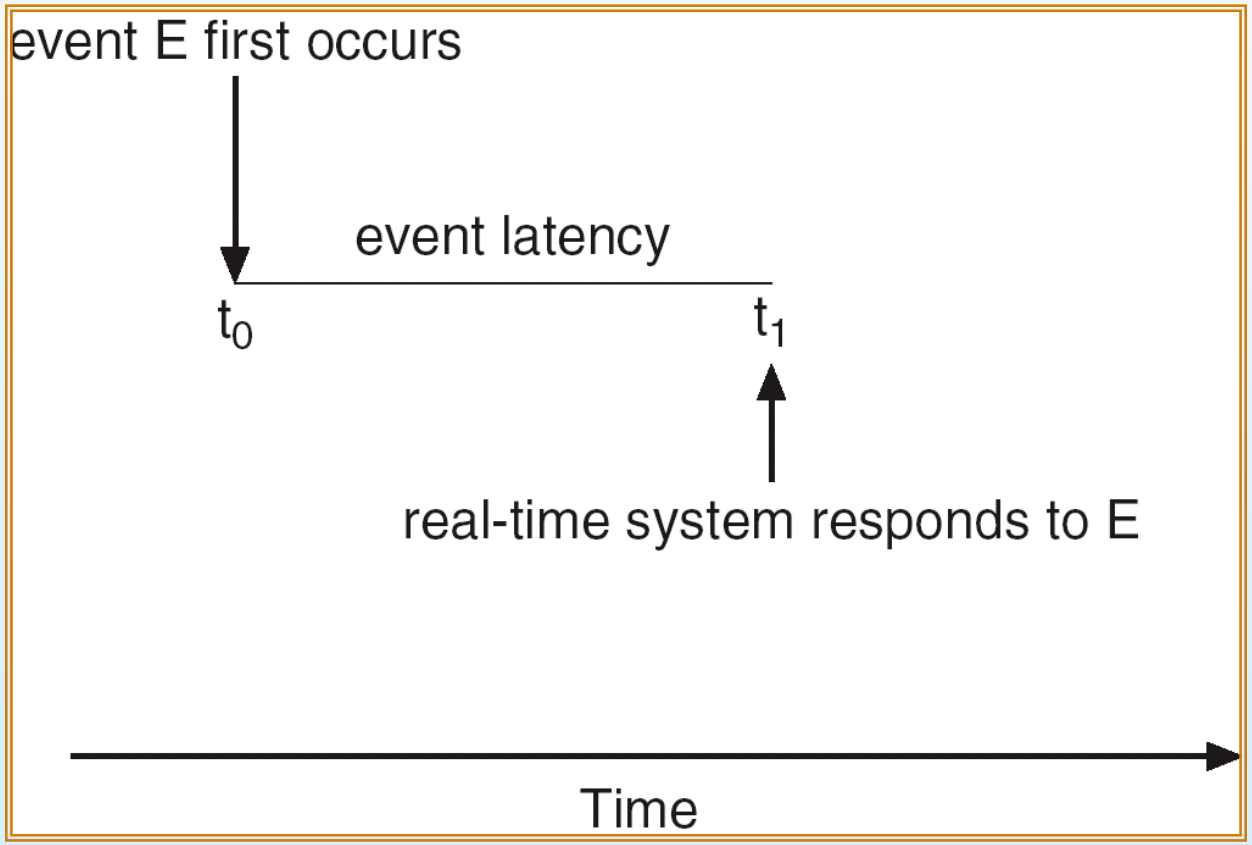
  (1) Preemptive, priority-based scheduling

  (2) Preemptive kernels

  (3) Latency must be minimized

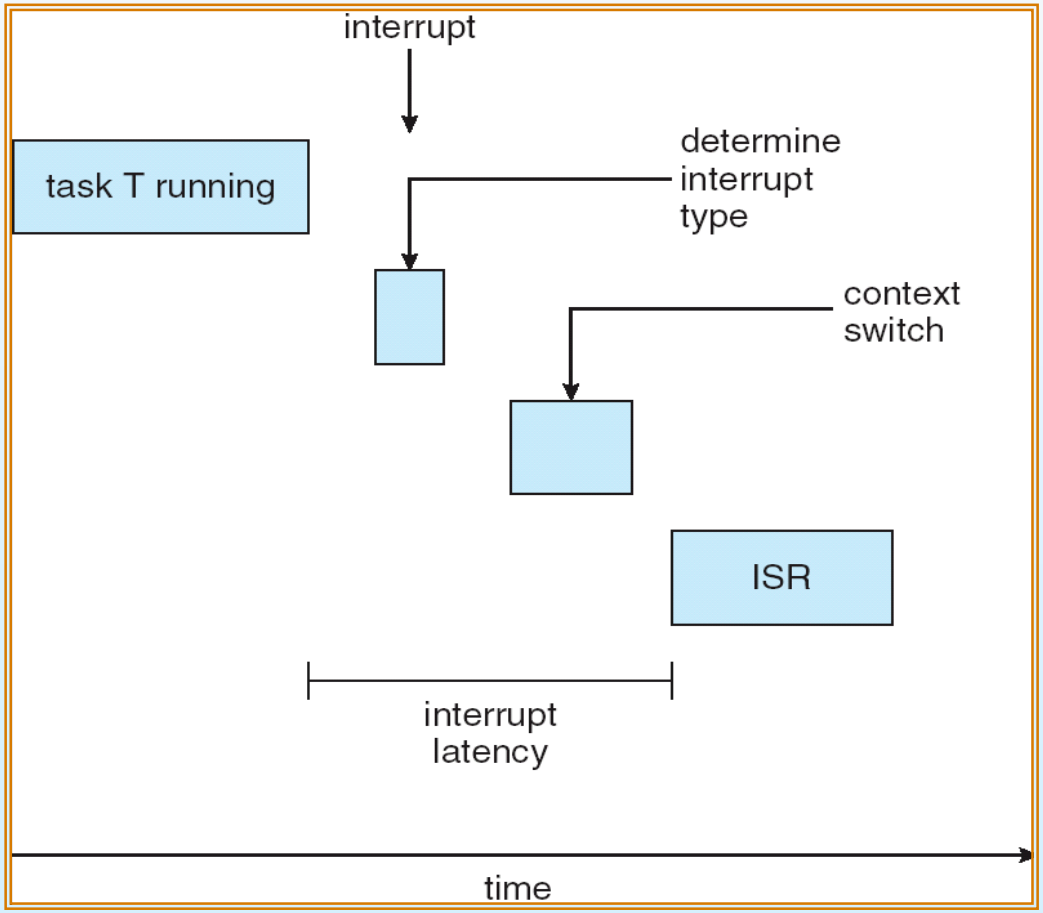
Minimizing Latency

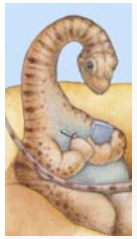
- **Event latency** is the amount of time from when an event occurs to when it is serviced.



Interrupt Latency

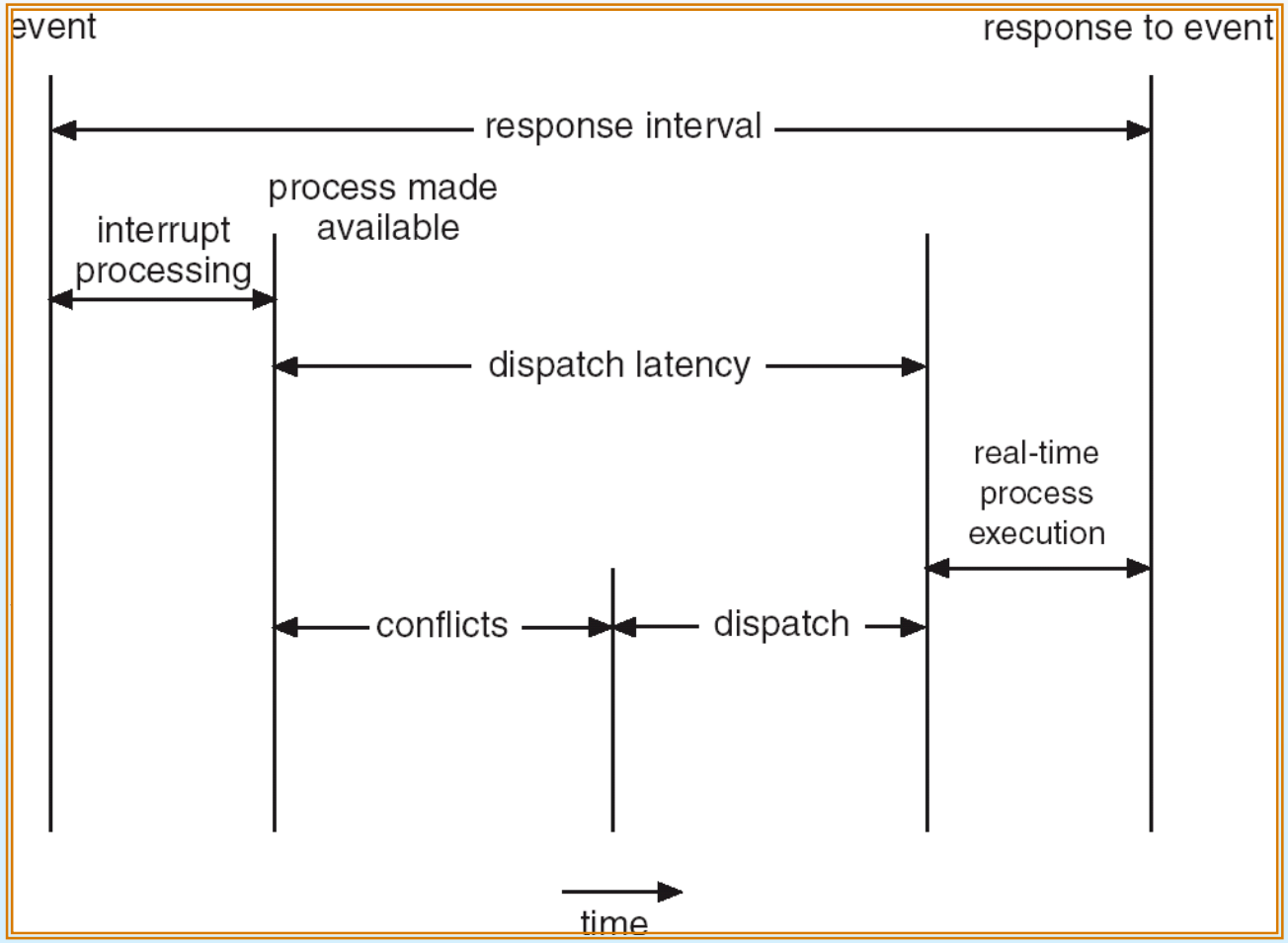
- Interrupt latency is the period of time from when an interrupt arrives at the CPU to when it is serviced.





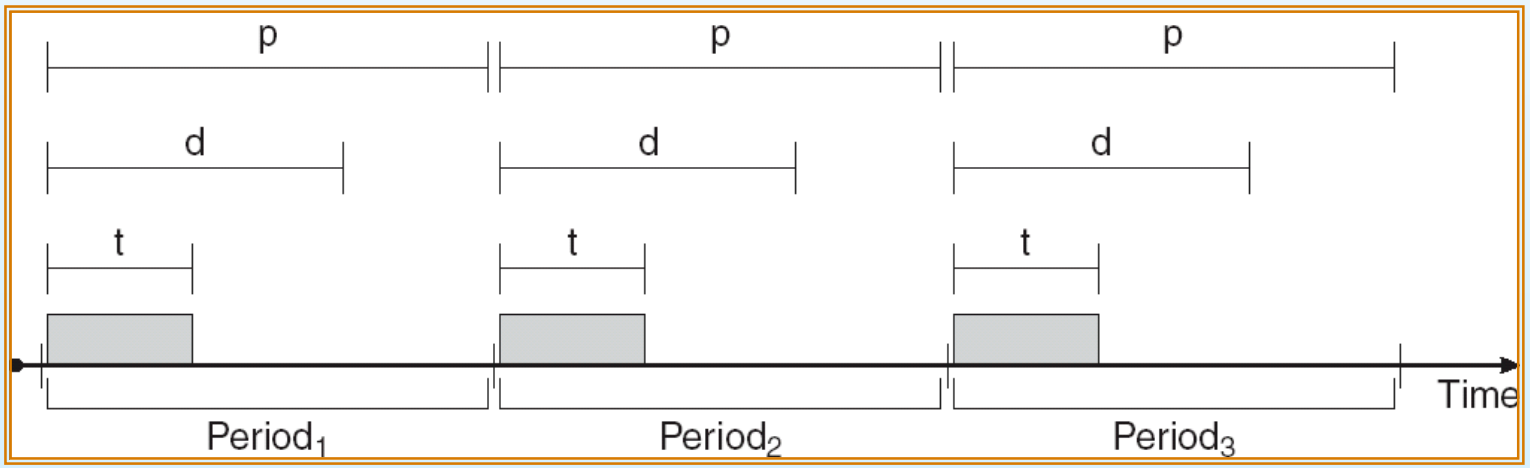
Dispatch Latency

- **Dispatch latency** is the amount of time required for the scheduler to stop one process and start another.

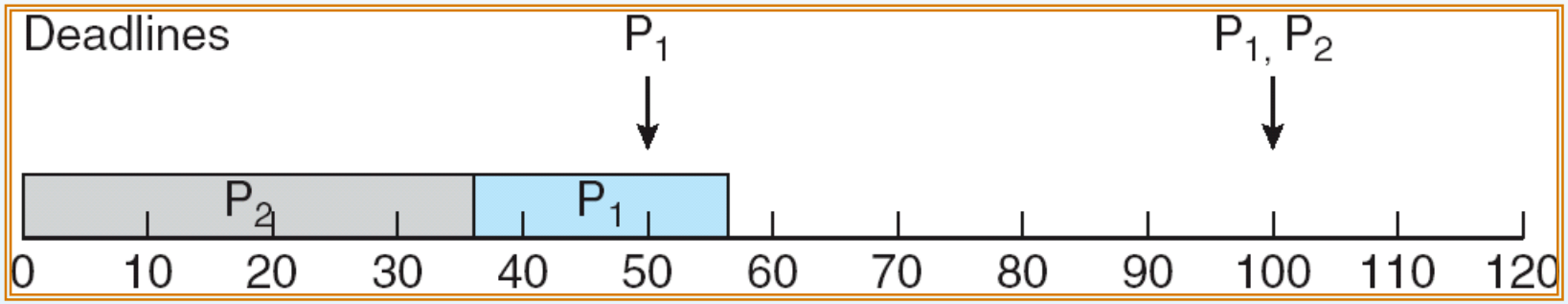


Real-Time CPU Scheduling

- Periodic processes require the CPU at specified intervals (periods)
- ***p*** is the duration of the period
- ***d*** is the deadline by when the process must be serviced
- ***t*** is the processing time



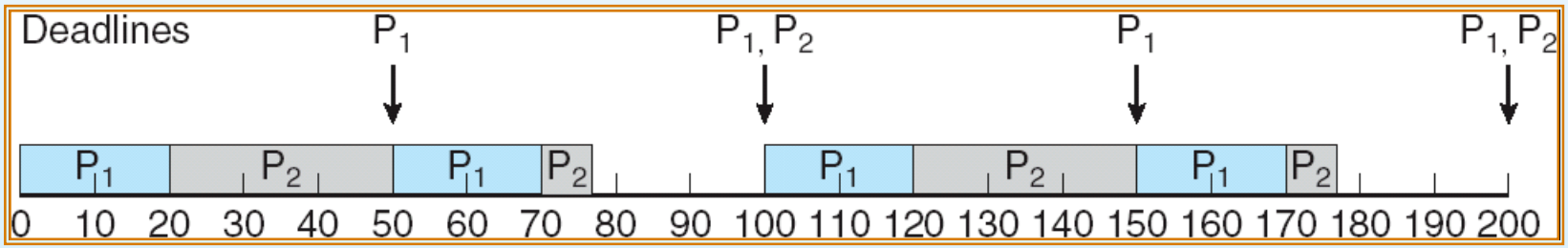
Scheduling of tasks when P_2 has a higher priority than P_1



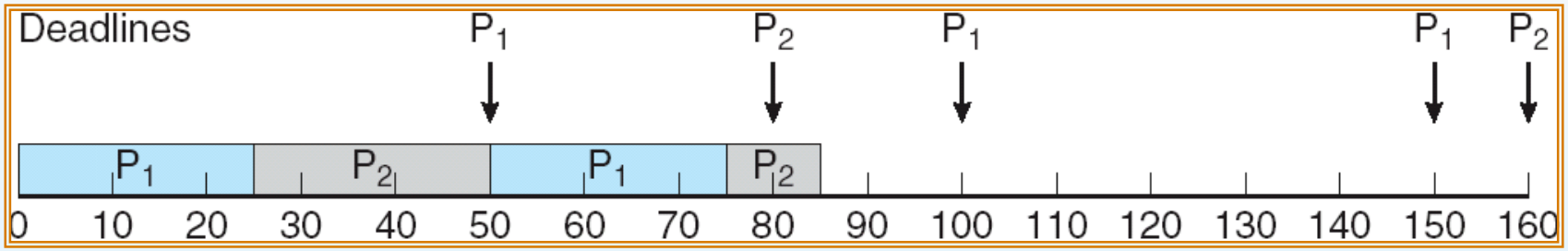
Rate Montonic Scheduling

- A priority is assigned based on the inverse of its period
- Shorter periods = higher priority;
- Longer periods = lower priority

- P_1 is assigned a higher priority than P_2.



Missed Deadlines with Rate Monotonic Scheduling

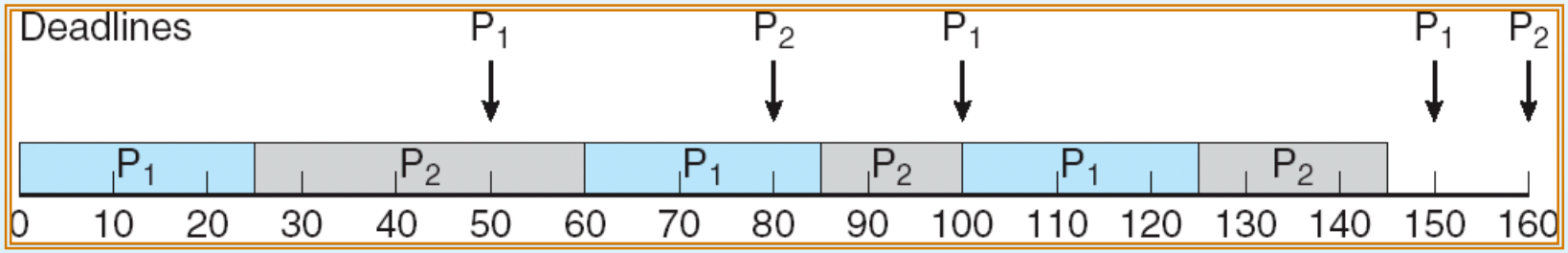


Earliest Deadline First Scheduling

- Priorities are assigned according to deadlines:

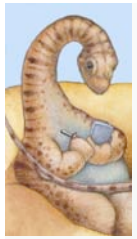
  the earlier the deadline, the higher the priority;

  the later the deadline, the lower the priority.



Proportional Share Scheduling

- ***T*** shares are allocated among all processes in the system.
- An application receives ***N*** shares where ***N < T***.
- This ensures each application will receive ***N / T*** of the total processor time.



Pthread Scheduling

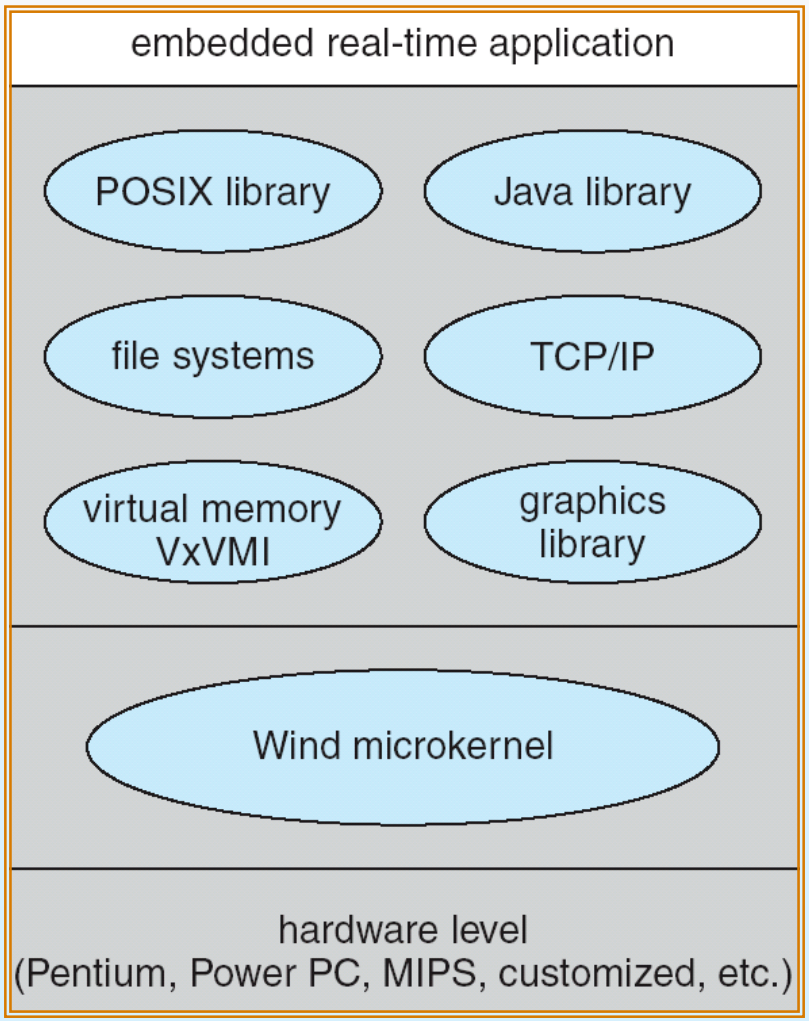
- The Pthread API provides functions for managing real-time threads.

- Pthreads defines two scheduling classes for real-time threads:

  (1) SCHED_FIFO - threads are scheduled using a FCFS strategy with a FIFO queue. There is no time-slicing for threads of equal priority.

  (2) SCHED_RR - similar to SCHED_FIFO except time-slicing occurs for threads of equal priority.

VxWorks 5.0


embedded real-time application
POSIX library
Java library
file systems
TCP/IP
virtual memory
VxVMI
graphics
library
Wind microkernel
hardware level
(Pentium, Power PC, MIPS, customized, etc.)

Wind Microkernel

- The Wind microkernel provides support for the following:

  (1) Processes and threads;

  (2) preemptive and non-preemptive round-robin scheduling;

  (3) manages interrupts (with bounded interrupt and dispatch latency times);

  (4) shared memory and message passing interprocess communication facilities.

End of Chapter 19