

CS420: Operating Systems

Introduction

James Moscola
Department of Physical Sciences
York College of Pennsylvania



Introduction

- **What Operating Systems Do**
- **Computer-System Organization**
- **Computer-System Architecture**
- **Operating-System Structure**
- **Operating-System Operations**
- **Process Management**
- **Memory Management**
- **Storage Management**
- **Protection and Security**
- **Distributed Systems**
- **Special-Purpose Systems**
- **Computing Environments**
- **Open-Source Operating Systems**

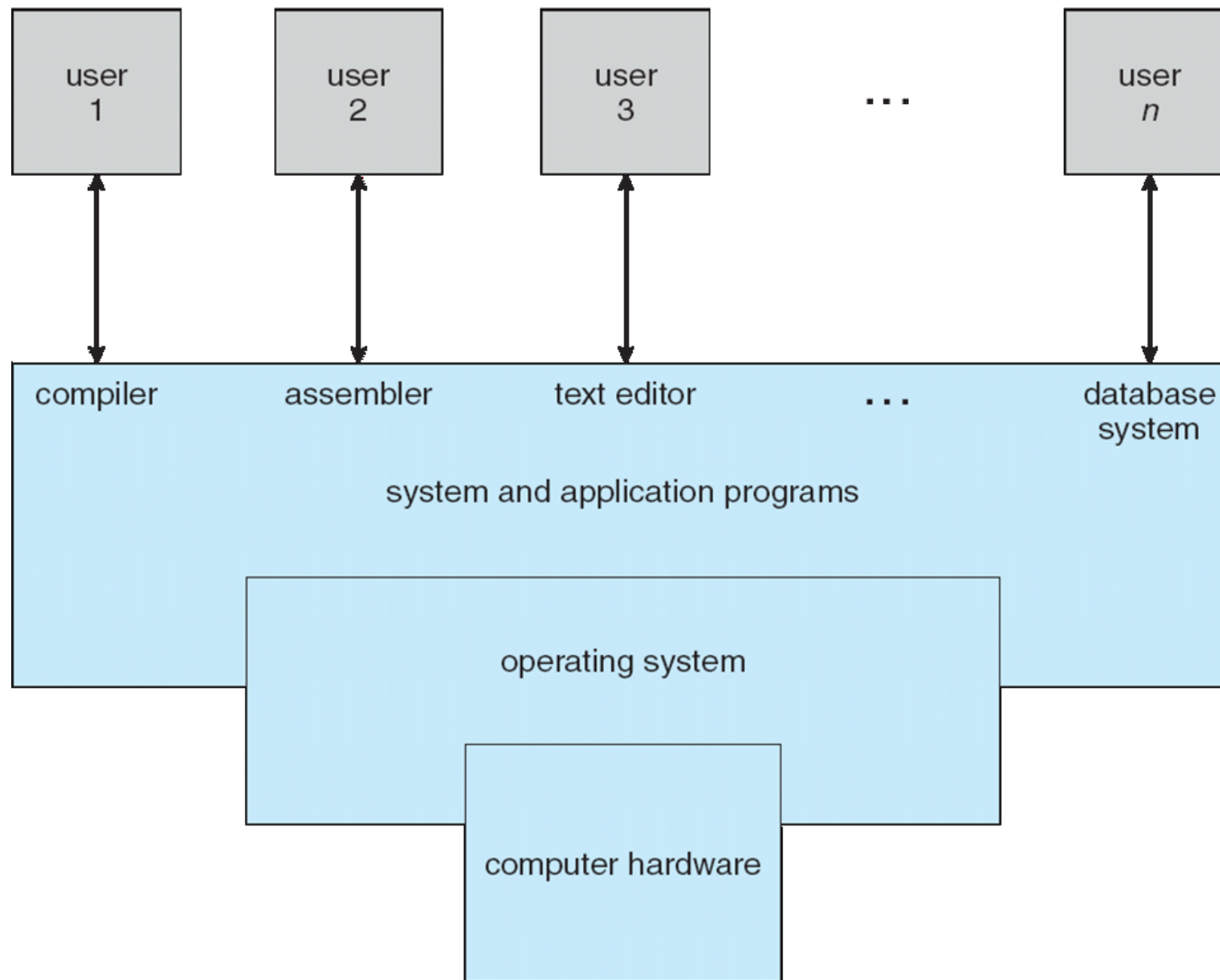
What is an Operating System?

- **A program that acts as an intermediary between a user of a computer and the computer hardware**
- **Operating system goals:**
 - Execute user programs and make solving user problems easier
 - Make the computer system convenient to use
 - Use the computer hardware in an efficient manner

Computer System Structure

- **Computer system can be divided into four components:**
 - Hardware – provides basic computing resources
 - CPU, memory, I/O devices
 - Operating system
 - Controls and coordinates use of hardware among various applications and users
 - Application programs – define the ways in which the system resources are used to solve the computing problems of the users
 - Word processors, compilers, web browsers, database systems, video games
 - Users
 - People, machines, other computers

Four Components of a Computer System



What Do Operating Systems Do?

- **Depends on the who is using the OS**

- Users want convenience, ease of use
 - Don't care about resource utilization
- However, a shared computer, such as mainframe or minicomputer, must keep all users happy
- Users of dedicated systems such as workstations have dedicated resources but frequently use shared resources from servers
- Handheld computers are resource poor, optimized for usability and battery life
- Some computers have little or no user interface, such as embedded computers in devices and automobiles

Operating System Definition

- **OS is a resource allocator**

- Manages all system resources
- Decides between conflicting requests for efficient and fair resource use

- **OS is a control program**

- Controls execution of programs to prevent errors and improper use of the computer

Operating System Definition (Cont.)

- **No universally accepted definition**
- **“Everything a vendor ships when you order an operating system” is good approximation**
 - But varies wildly
- **“The one program running at all times on the computer” is the kernel. Everything else is either a system program (ships with the operating system) or an application program.**

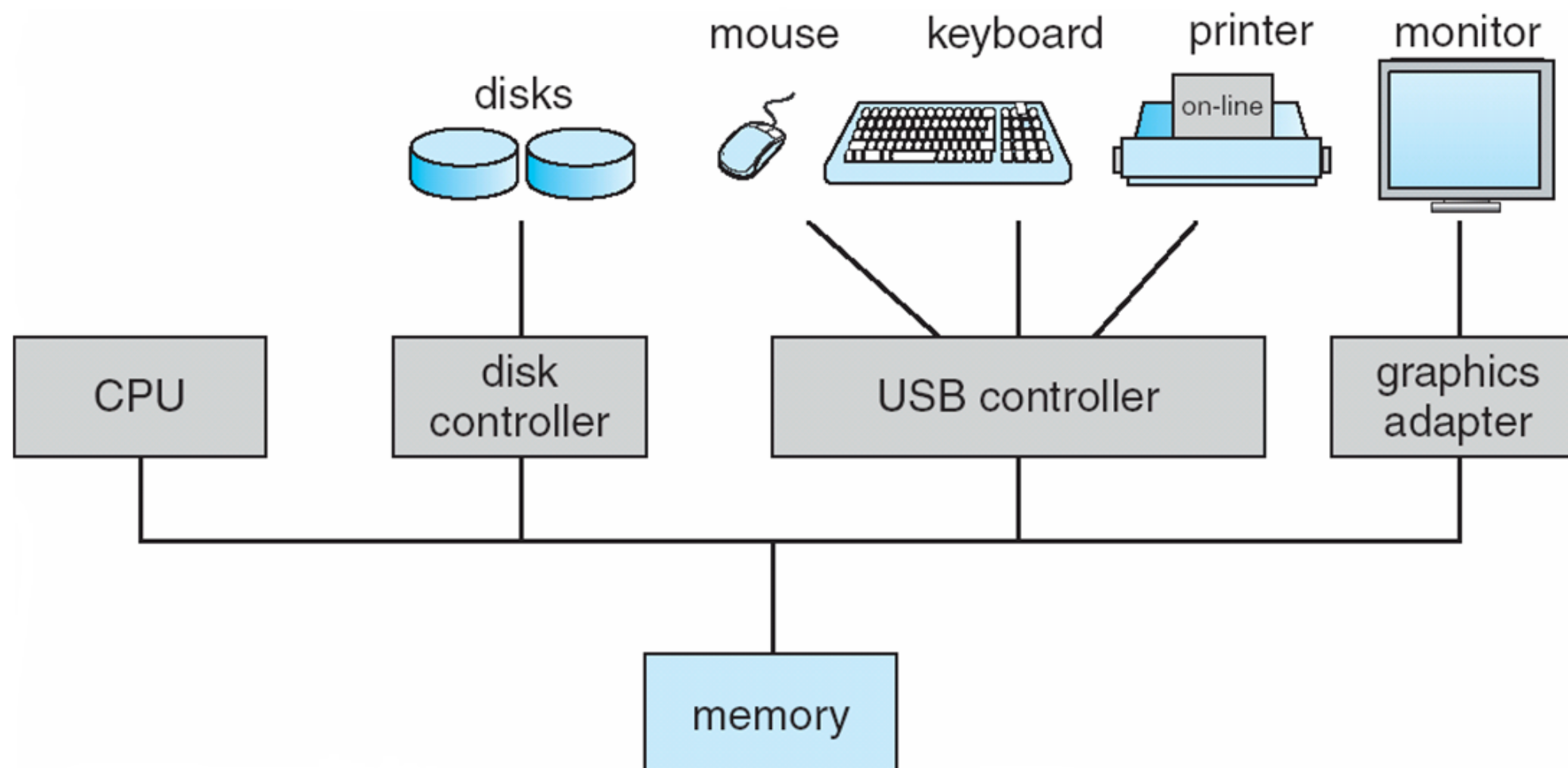
Computer Startup

- **Bootstrap program is loaded at power-up or reboot**
 - Typically stored in ROM or EPROM, generally known as firmware
 - Initializes all aspects of system
 - Loads operating system kernel and starts execution

Computer System Organization

- **Computer-system operation**

- One or more CPUs, device controllers connect through common bus providing access to shared memory
- Concurrent execution of CPUs and devices competing for memory cycles



Computer System Operation

- **I/O devices and the CPU can execute concurrently**
- **Each device controller is in charge of a particular device type**
- **Each device controller has a local buffer**
 - CPU moves data from/to main memory to/from local buffers
 - I/O is from the device to local buffer of controller
- **Device controller informs CPU that it has finished its operation by causing an interrupt**

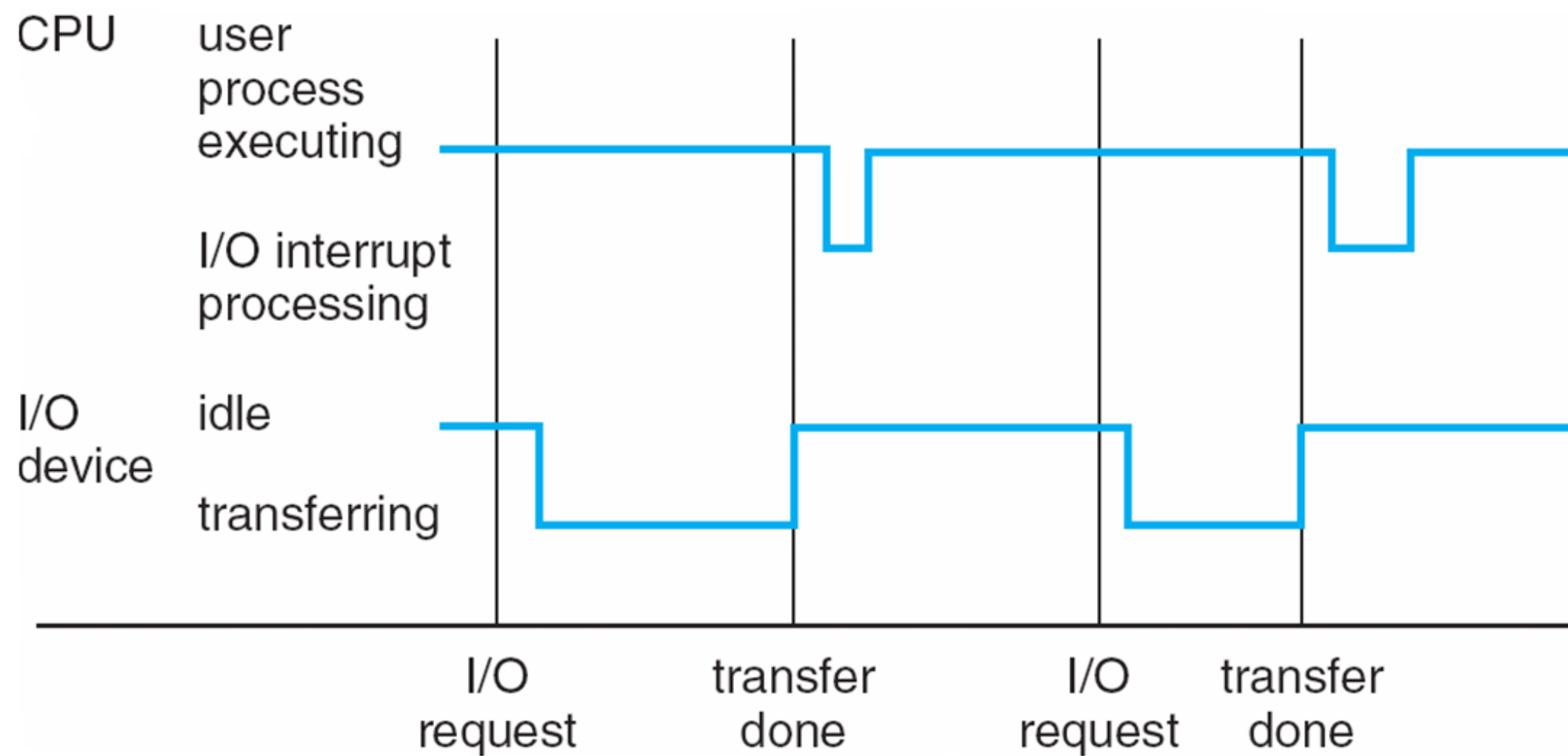
Common Functions of Interrupts

- **Interrupt transfers control to the interrupt service routine generally, through the interrupt vector, which contains the addresses of all the service routines**
- **Interrupt architecture must save the address of the interrupted instruction**
- **Incoming interrupts are disabled while another interrupt is being processed to prevent a lost interrupt**
- **A trap is a software-generated interrupt caused either by an error or a user request**
- **An operating system is interrupt driven**

Interrupt Handling

- **The operating system preserves the state of the CPU by storing registers and the program counter**
- **Separate segments of code determine what action should be taken for each type of interrupt**

Interrupt Timeline



I/O Structure

- **After I/O starts, control returns to user program only upon I/O completion**
 - Wait instruction idles the CPU until the next interrupt
 - Wait loop (contention for memory access)
 - At most one I/O request is outstanding at a time, no simultaneous I/O processing
- **After I/O starts, control returns to user program without waiting for I/O completion**
 - System call – request to the operating system to allow user to wait for I/O completion
 - Device-status table contains entry for each I/O device indicating its type, address, and state
 - Operating system indexes into I/O device table to determine device status and to modify table entry to include interrupt

Direct Memory Access Structure

- **Used for high-speed I/O devices able to transmit information at close to memory speeds**
- **Device controller transfers blocks of data from local storage buffer directly to main memory without CPU intervention**
- **Only one interrupt is generated per block, rather than the one interrupt per byte**

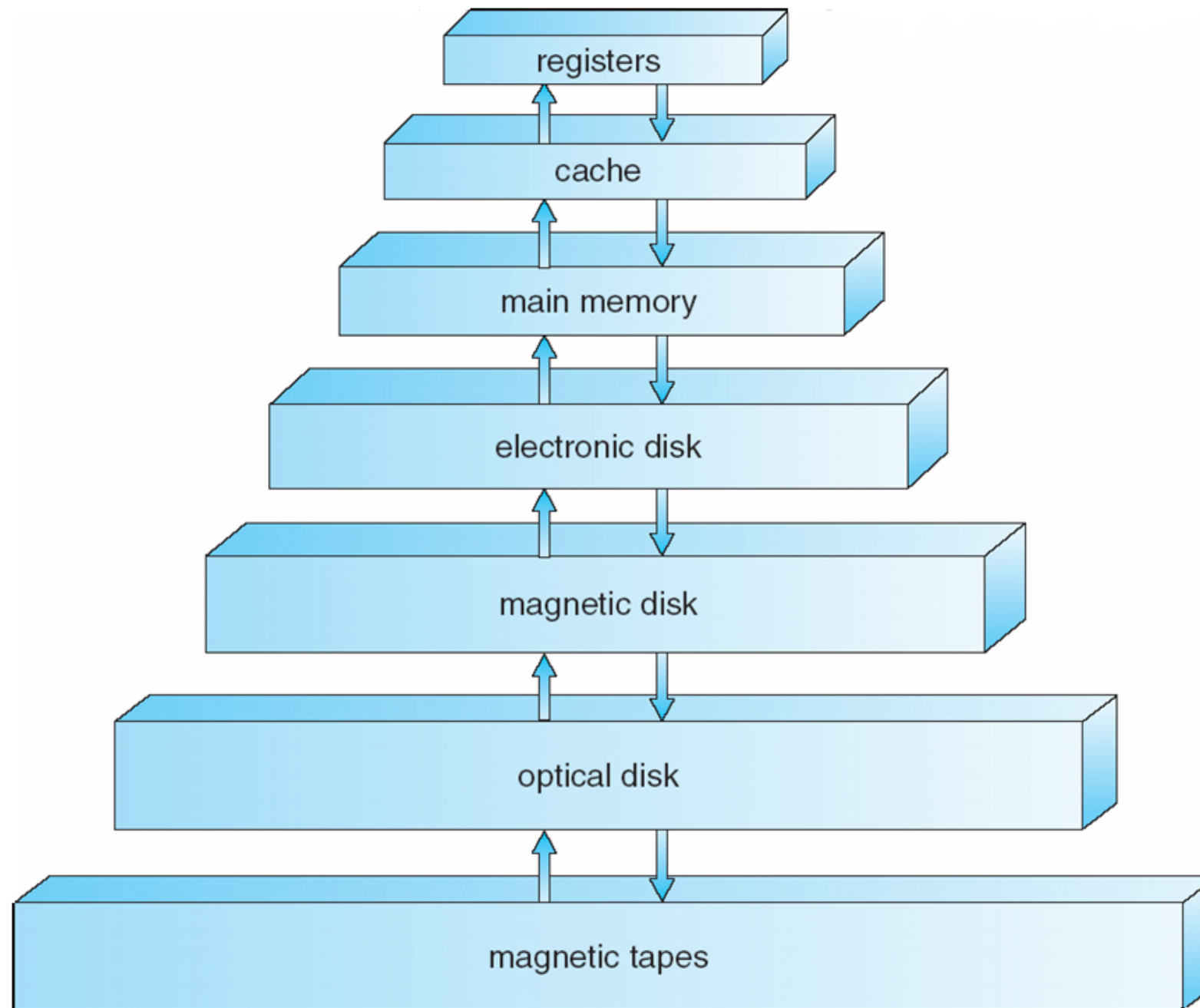
Storage Structure

- **Main memory – only large storage media that the CPU can access directly**
 - Random access
 - Typically volatile
- **Secondary storage – extension of main memory that provides large nonvolatile storage capacity**
 - Typically magnetic disks – rigid metal or glass platters covered with magnetic recording material
 - Disk surface is logically divided into tracks, which are subdivided into sectors
 - The disk controller determines the logical interaction between the device and the computer
 - Solid State Disks (SSDs) are quickly replacing magnetic disks
 - Cost/MB is still higher than magnetic disks

Storage Hierarchy

- **Storage systems organized in hierarchy**
 - Speed
 - Cost
 - Volatility
- **Caching – copying information into faster storage system; main memory can be viewed as a cache for secondary storage**

Storage-Device Hierarchy



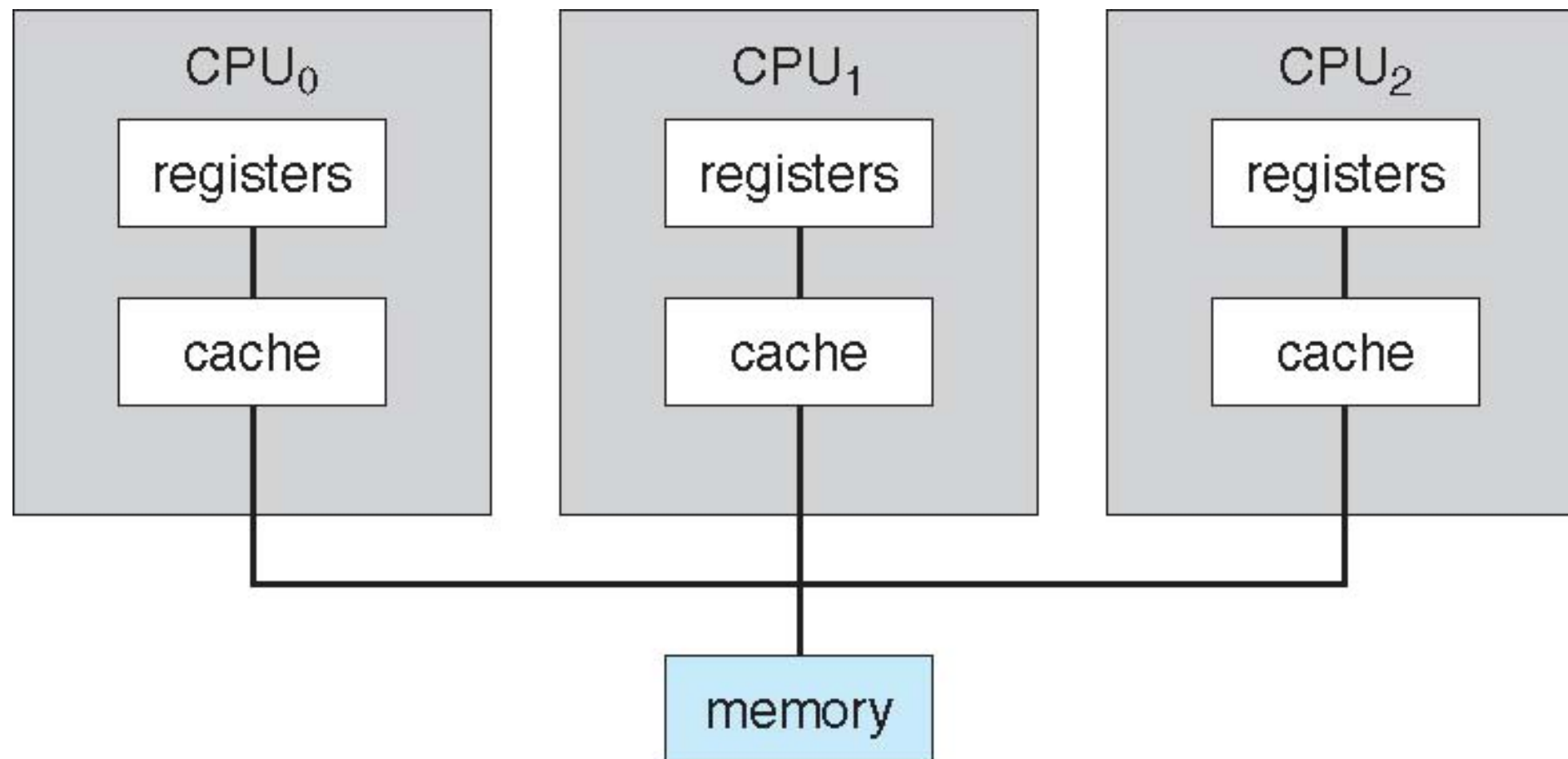
Caching

- **Important principle, performed at many levels in a computer (in hardware, operating system, software)**
- **Information in use copied from slower to faster storage temporarily**
- **Faster storage (cache) checked first to determine if information is there**
 - If it is, information used directly from the cache (fast)
 - If not, data copied to cache and used there
- **Cache smaller than storage being cached**
 - Cache management important design problem
 - Cache size and replacement policy

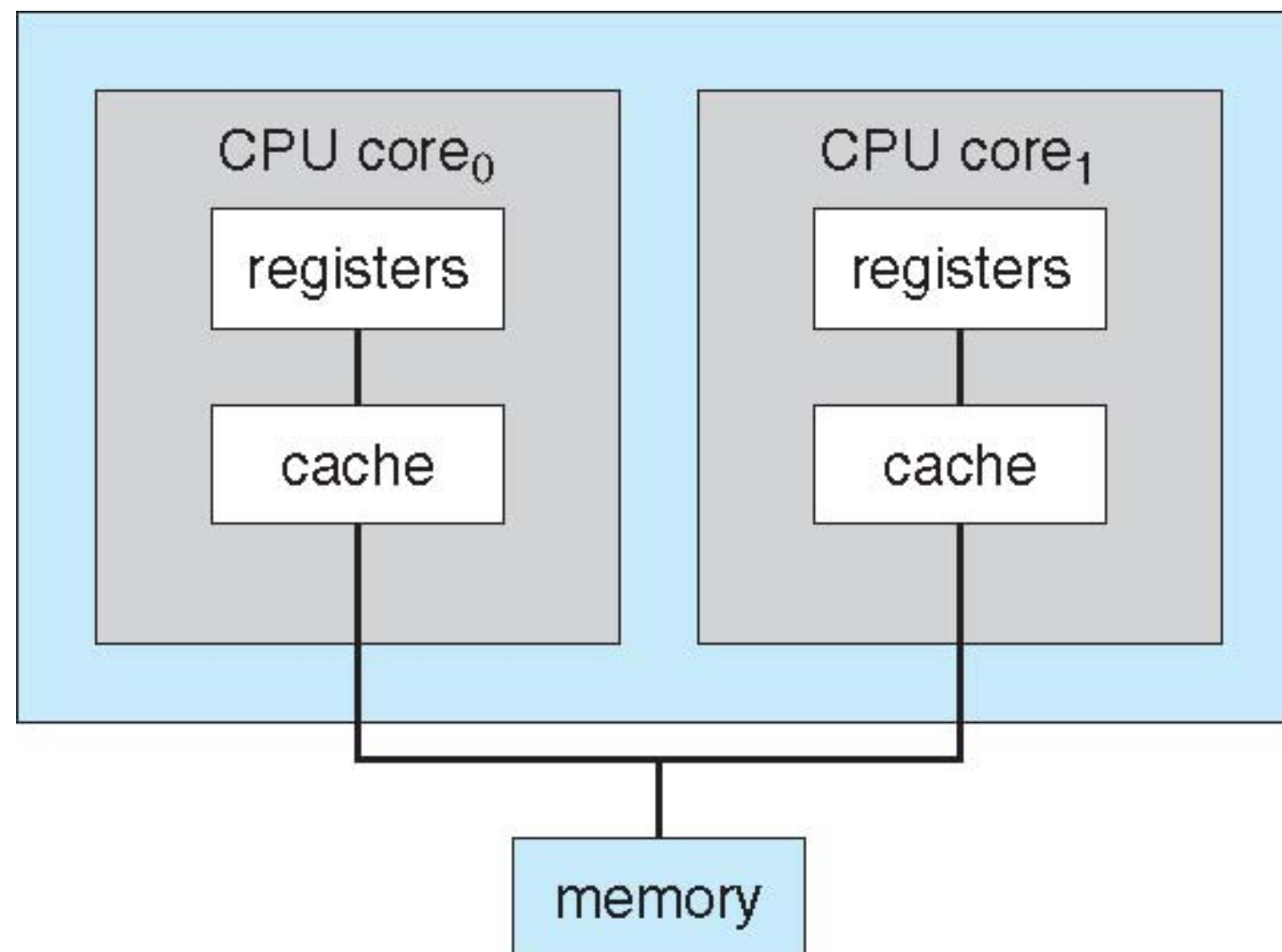
Computer-System Architecture

- **Most systems use a single general-purpose processor (from cell phones to mainframes)**
 - Most systems have special-purpose processors as well
- **Multiprocessors systems growing in use and importance**
 - Also known as parallel systems, tightly-coupled systems
 - Advantages include:
 - Increased throughput
 - Economy of scale
 - Increased reliability – graceful degradation or fault tolerance
 - Two types:
 - Asymmetric Multiprocessing - each processor is assigned a specific task
 - Symmetric Multiprocessing - each processor performs all tasks

Symmetric Multiprocessing Architecture



A Dual-Core Design



Clustered Systems

- **Like multiprocessor systems, but multiple systems working together**
 - Usually sharing storage via a storage-area network (SAN)
 - Provides a high-availability service which survives failures
 - Asymmetric clustering has one machine in hot-standby mode
 - Symmetric clustering has multiple nodes running applications, monitoring each other
 - Some clusters are for high-performance computing (HPC)
 - Applications must be written to use parallelization

Clustered Systems

