# Project 2 for Operating System Android Race-Averse Scheduler

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### 1 Introduction

A process is an instance of a computer program that is being executed. Each process has its own address space. A thread is also the programmed code in execution, which is the smallest unit that can be managed independently by a kernel scheduler. In modern computer systems, there are many threads waiting to be served at the same time. So the job of the scheduler in the kernel is to decide which thread to run for how long.

Linux systems developed different kinds of scheduling algorithms for different situations of scheduling tasks. For instance, the CFS Scheduler for normal processes and the RT Scheduler for real-time processes. They schedule different tasks on the basis of priorities from their perspective.

In this project, we implement a basic Race-Averse Scheduler in a weighted round robin style and add it to the Linux kernel. We associate the tasks with its tendency to access the virtual memory as well as the likelihood that it may race with one of the currently running tasks. We define race probabilities to decide how many timeslices the scheduler provides. To achieve this, we need to realize per-task page access tracing, which can trace the number of times a page is written by a particular task.

# 2 Basic Analysis

## 2.1 Overview of Process Scheduling

The operating system manage large amounts of processes and it has different scheduling policies to decide which process to run. To achieve this effectively, there is a running queue, in which the scheduler chooses the next task.

There already exist some scheduling policies in the Linux Kernel. The policies cater for different categories of processes: SCHED\_FIFO, SCHED\_RR for real-time processes, and SCHED\_NOR-MAL, SCHED\_IDLE for normal processes.

- SCHED FIFO: First-in-first-out policy: it can run all along until preempted
- SCHED\_RR: round-robin policy: run until its timeslices are used up
- SCHED\_NORMAL: completely-fair-scheduling policy: most of the kernel processes use this
  policy
- SCHED IDLE: for leisure situations

#### 2.2 Scheduling Class

Corresponding to different scheduling policies, there are different scheduling classes. The different scheduling classes are arranged in a fixed order, representing their relative priorities. The schedule function in the core.c would traverse the set of scheduling classes and choose the due class to choose the next process in its running queue. For example, real-time processes enjoy scheduling classes with higher priorities, which will be more likely to chosen compared with fair\_sched\_class.

Then there are some general functions that a scheduling class should contain:

```
struct sched class {
       const struct sched_class *next;
2
       void (*enqueue_task) (struct rq *rq, struct task_struct *p, int flags);
4
       void (*dequeue task) (struct rq *rq, struct task struct *p, int flags);
       void (*yield task)
                             (struct rq *rq);
6
       void (*check_preempt_curr)(struct rq *rq, struct task_struct *p, int flags)
9
       struct task_struct * (*pick_next_task)(struct rq *rq,
10
                               struct task struct *prev,
11
                               struct rq_flags *rf);
12
       void (*put_prev_task)(struct rq *rq, struct task_struct *p);
13
14
       void (*set_curr_task)(struct rq *rq);
       void (*task_tick)(struct rq *rq, struct task_struct *p, int queued);
16
17
       void (*update_curr)(struct rq *rq);
18
   };
```

- next: the pointer, to compose the list of scheduling classes
- enqueue task: to put a runnable process into the running queue
- dequeue task: to remove a current process from the running queue
- yield\_task: the current process gives up the cpu resources
- check\_preempt\_curr: call a newly-waked-up process to preempt the current process
- pick next task: choose the next process to execute
- put prev task: replace the current executing process
- set\_curr\_task: call it if the scheduling policy is changed
- task\_tick: check if the current thread is running for too long and whether need replaced
- update curr: update the information of the running queue

Each scheduling class should be implemented around the functions above, including the RAS policy we implement. In this project, we place ras\_sched\_class between the fair\_sched\_class and the idle\_sched\_class to run normally.

#### 2.3 Core Scheduler

We've shown a basic framework of scheduling work above. But how it is put into work is decided by the core scheduler. It is a huge job, which is mainly defined in the /kernel/sched/core.c.

The \_\_\_schedule() is the main body of the core scheduler. What it does includes putting the previously running thread into a run queue, picking a new thread to run next, and lastly switching context between the two threads. Most work in \_\_\_schedule() is delegated to the scheduling classes. If a function is invoked, then actual work is done by the function registered to the function pointer of the scheduling class that the previously running task belongs to.

Another important function is the scheduler\_tick(), which is the heart of the scheduler. The tick function is periodically called by the kernel with frequency HZ defined in the /include/linux/sched.h, which is the tick rate of the system timer defined on system boot. The tick invokes update\_rq\_clock(), reading a clock source and updates the clock of the run queue and check whether a replacement is needed.

# 3 Implementation Details

## 3.1 Page Trace

To realize the trace of the memory access, we define some new variables in the task\_struct. One is wounts to count the write operation of a task according to the page fault handler, which will send a fault signal to the process if it wants to write into protected page. Another variable is trace\_flag, representing whether the task is tracing.

To do this, at first we modify task struct in /include/linux/sched.h:

```
struct task_struct{
   volatile long state;
   ...
unsigned int wcounts;
unsigned int trace_flag;
}
```

And then we need to modify the page fault strategy, to do some changes to the newly added variables in the task\_struct when page fault happens. So corresponding modifications are needed in the /arch/arm/mm/fault.c.

In our project, we only need to cope with page write fault, so we need to modify the do\_page\_-fault function. But the core of the problem is to deal with the access error, because all satisfying page write faults need to go through it. So we directly do some changes in the access\_error function.

```
static inline bool access_error(unsigned int fsr, struct vm_area_struct *vma)

unsigned int mask = VM_READ | VM_WRITE | VM_EXEC;

struct task_struct *tsk;

tsk = current;

if (fsr & FSR_WRITE)

mask = VM_WRITE;

if (tsk->trace_flag && !(vma->vm_flags & VM_WRITE))

tsk->wcounts++;

printk(KERN_INFO "WRITE_FAULT!");
```

So far we've completed our modifications to the kernel files. We also need to implement some system calls to put our job in effect. We need three syscalls, to start, get and stop tracing respectively.

Here we list their functions to realize, only including some trivial changes to the wounts and trace\_flag.

- start trace.c: Set the wounts to 0 and set the trace flag to 1
- stop\_trace.c: Set the wounts to 0 and set the trace\_flag to 0
- get trace.c: Return the wounts

#### 3.2 Define RAS structures

In the previous subsection we've completed the page trace mechanism. Here we need to insert some structures of our RAS scheduler into the scheduling-related files.

Because the Race-Averse Scheduling policy is based on the weighted-round-robin scheduling policy, so we can refer to the real-time scheduling including FIFO and RR and design our RAS based on them. Most of the implementations are similar to that in RR scheduler.

At first, we need to revise the /include/linux/sched.h. We can find that there already exist some scheduling policies defined here. So we define a SCHED RAS to be 6.

The task\_struct is a per process struct used to store the information of the process. In scheduling, we need further information to manage the possible process executions, so scheduling entities are needed and implemented in this file. We can regard it as a node in the corresponding queue. Similar to the sched\_rt\_entity owned by real-time processes, we define sched\_ras\_entity for our RAS scheduling.

```
struct sched_ras_entity {
    struct list_head run_list; //insert into the specific priority queue
    unsigned long timeout;
    unsigned int time_slice; //the timeslice left for the current process
    unsigned int race_prob; //the race probability of the current process

struct sched_ras_entity *back;
    struct sched_ras_entity *parent;
    struct ras_rq *ras_rq;
    struct ras_rq *my_q;
}

struct ras_rq *my_q;
};
```

And we need to do more things to accomplish the job in this file:

- add a sched ras entity into the task struct
- declare a ras rg struct next to struct cfs rg and rt rg

Because our basic implementation does not need some declarations about the priorities, we just move on and see something about the ras rq.

The ras\_rq struct along with the rt\_rq struct is defined in the /kernel/sched/sched.h, where most of the scheduling information exists.

There is a rq struct defined in it. That is the running queue seen by the core scheduler, and in the struct there are sub running queues. Choose runnable processes in different scheduling classes, and they will be placed in the corresponding sub running queue. And it's not hard to understand that's where the entities flow.

Our basic ras rq is much simpler than the rt rq, we can just take it as a common list.

```
struct ras_rq{
    struct list_head queue;
    struct ras_prio_array active;
    unsigned long ras_nr_running;//the number of running processes
    raw_spinlock_t ras_runtime_lock;

struct rq *rq;//running queue
    struct list_head leaf_ras_rq_list;
};
```

And we should add the ras rq into the rq struct, just like the rt rq.

Then we need to do some modifications in the core scheduler in kernel/sched/core.c.

- \_\_sched\_fork: add INIT\_LIST\_HEAD(p->ras.run\_list)
- \_\_set\_scheduler: add a conditional branch: if (p->policy==SCHED\_RAS)p->sched\_class=ras\_sched\_class
- \_\_set\_scheduler: INVAL returning: if(policy!=SCHED\_RAS)
- sched\_init: add function init\_ras\_rq(rq->ras,rq)

More work needs to be done in our implementation of RAS scheduler.

#### 3.3 RAS Schduling Class Implementation

We should implement the necessary functions in sched\_class to make our RAS Scheduler work normally. Most of the functions are similar to the corresponding functions in rt.c, so we just do some revisions and show some of the details here.

• enqueue\_task\_ras: We enqueue a new process into the running queue by adding it to the runlist of the running entity by list\_add. We also set an initial timeslice for a newly enqueued process.

```
static void enqueue_ras_entity(struct rq *rq, struct sched_ras_entity *ras_se,
                                    bool head) {
2
     struct list head *queue = &(rq->ras.queue);
3
     struct task struct *p;
4
     p = container_of(ras_se, struct task_struct, ras);
5
     p\rightarrow ras.time\_slice = 10;
6
     if (head)
       list_add(&ras_se->run_list, queue);
9
       list_add_tail(&ras_se->run_list , queue);
10
    ++rq->ras.ras_nr_running;
```

As we can see, we first get some pointers according to the parameters and use them in the detailed but simple functions.

• dequeue\_task\_ras: Opposite to the enqueue function above, here we try to dequeue an executed process. We remove one from the current scheduling list, and decline the nr\_running.

```
static void dequeue_ras_entity(struct rq *rq, struct sched_ras_entity *ras_se)
     list_del_init(&ras_se->run_list);
2
     rq->ras.ras_nr_running--;
3
4
5
   static void dequeue task ras(struct rq *rq, struct task struct *p, int flags) {
6
     printk ("Dequeue_{\square}An_{\square}RAS_{\square}Task! \setminus n");
7
     struct sched_ras_entity *ras_se = &p->ras;
8
     update_curr_ras(rq);
9
     dequeue_ras_entity(rq, ras_se);
10
     dec_nr_running(rq);
11
12
```

• pick\_next\_task: The RAS Scheduler try to look for the next process to be executed. Because we do not consider the effects of priorities, we just choose the first one in the run\_list. In fact, we just simplify a little bit to the rt scheduler.

```
static struct task struct *pick next task ras(struct rq *rq) {
     if (unlikely(!rq->ras.ras_nr_running))
2
       return NULL;
3
     struct ras rq *ras rq = &rq->ras;
4
     struct task struct *p;
5
     struct sched_ras_entity *head;
6
     head = list_first_entry(&rq->ras.queue, struct sched_ras_entity, run_list);
     p = container_of(head, struct task_struct, ras);
     if (!p)
10
       return NULL;
11
12
     p->se.exec_start = rq->clock_task;
     return p;
13
14
```

• requeue\_task\_ras: if a process has used its timeslice but not executed completely, we just move it to the tail of the running queue to ensure that it can function normally.

```
static void requeue_task_ras(struct rq *rq, struct task_struct *p, int head) {
1
2
     printk ("Requeue_{\square}The_{\square}Task! \setminus n");
     struct sched ras entity *ras se = &p->ras;
3
     struct ras rq *ras rq = &rq->ras;
4
     struct list_head *queue = &rq->ras.queue;
5
     // move the current running task to the tail of the queue
6
     if (head)
7
       list move(&ras se->run list, queue);
8
9
       list_move_tail(&ras_se->run_list, queue);
10
11
```

• task\_tick\_ras: This function is the core of the scheduler. It is called periodically by the main scheduler to reduce current process's timeslice and trigger rescheduling if needed. The main task of the function is to count the left timeslice and judge whether it needs rescheduling. We alse do the computation of our timeslice according to the task's wounts in this function.

```
static void task_tick_ras(struct rq *rq, struct task_struct *p, int queued) {
1
      // THE MOST IMPORTANT!!
2
      struct sched_ras_entity *ras_se = &p->ras;
3
      struct list_head *queue = &rq->ras.queue;
4
      update_curr_ras(rq);
5
      if (p->policy != SCHED RAS)
6
        return;
7
      printk (
8
           "! task\_tick | / cpu: \sqcup \%d \sqcup pid: \sqcup \%d \sqcup time\_slice: \sqcup \%d \sqcup nr\_running: \sqcup \%d \sqcup wcounts: \sqcup \%d \setminus n"
9
           cpu_of(rq), p->pid, p->ras.time_slice, rq->ras.ras_nr_running,
10
           p->wcounts);
11
12
      if (--p->ras.time slice)
13
        return;
14
      // My strategy: use an inverse function to realize wounts of [0,INF) to race
15
      // probability of [0,10]
16
      p\rightarrow ras.race\_prob = 11 * p\rightarrow wcounts / (p\rightarrow wcounts + 2000);
17
      // And then use a function to get timeslice of [10,100]
18
      p\rightarrow ras.time\_slice = 100 - 9 * p\rightarrow ras.race\_prob;
19
      if (ras se->run list.prev != ras se->run list.next) {
20
        requeue_task_ras(rq, p, 0);
^{21}
        resched task(p);
22
        return;
23
24
```

Here I designed a simple method to assign some timeslices for each process. The RAS Scheduler assign more milliseconds as a time slice for tasks with lower race probabilities, which means with less page writes to the virtual memory. Because the wounts may be very large, so I designed a map from [0,inf) to [0,10].

$$Race\ prob = \frac{11*wcounts}{wcounts + C}.$$

Here C is a constant which depends on the scale of the data, and because the brutal division always get an integer so we use 11.

And because the race probabilities are integers. We just use a linear mapping to get the timeslice.

```
Timeslice = 100 - 9 * race prob
```

So in this way we assign different timeslices for different tasks according to page race. To achieve this, we only need to employ the syscall we've written in the test file.

• get\_rr\_interval\_ras: The function is to assign timeslice for each process. My understanding to this function is very simple: to return the timeslice calculated based on race probabilities.

Here we've completed most of the essential functions of RAS Scheduler. Some small functions are also needed to get the pointer of some variables such as ras\_rq, sched\_ras\_entity, task\_struct and so on. These functions can be referred to in my source code.

Also we need to do some changes to the scheduler's structure to update the scheduling class in a new order: We set the .next in rt.c to be fair\_sched\_entity; the .next in the fair.c to be ras\_sched\_entity; the .next in the ras.c to be the idle\_sched\_entity.

So far almost all work done, with some more details considered, we open the terminal in goldfish and use the command "make -j4", and we can compile the new kernel (maybe it will take a few minutes).

```
SYSMAP System.map
SYSMAP .tmp_System.map
OBJCOPY arch/arm/boot/Image
Building modules, stage 2.
MODPOST 0 modules
Kernel: arch/arm/boot/Image is ready
GZIP arch/arm/boot/compressed/piggy.gzip
AS arch/arm/boot/compressed/piggy.gzip.o
LD arch/arm/boot/compressed/wnlinux
OBJCOPY arch/arm/boot/zImage
Kernel: arch/arm/boot/zImage is ready
yevzwming@yevzwming-VirtualBox:~/code/Android/android-kernel/kernel/goldfish$
```

Figure 1: Make the Android Kernel

#### 4 Test Results

In this section, I will list my test results for each problem in this project.

## 4.1 Page Trace Test

To test our page trace syscalls, referring to the special mechanism our TA provided, we should implement a segv\_handler function to handle the page fault signal, canceling the protection for pages. And then we need to reset protection and continue our test.

And using the mem\_test file provided by TA, the testing result is as figure 2 depicts:

Figure 2: Page trace test by TA's mem\_test

In my own test file, I use a for loop to write to the memory for n times as n is an input integer. I also use syscall stop\_trace to clear the task's wounts. The result is as figure 3 depicts:

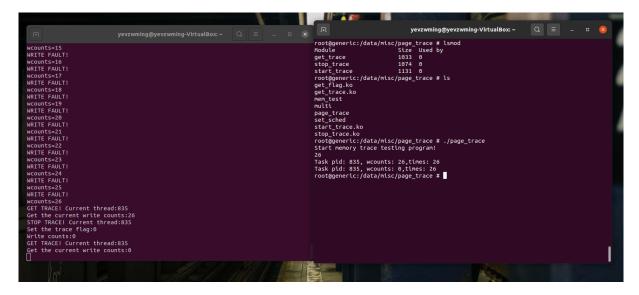


Figure 3: Page trace test by myself

#### 4.2 Change Scheduler Test

The second test is to change the scheduler in our user space. Here we use the syscall sched\_-setscheduler defined in the core.c and use it to change a given pid's scheduling policy by hand.

Here because we didn't introduce the priority schemes so for real-time processes, we need to assign a priority for them; for RAS processes, we skip this stage and take it as 0.

In this section, I also add a new syscall 364 to get the status of the trace\_flag of the current task\_struct. If we set it as RAS as the first time we will print "Start Tracing!". Otherwise we just print the current wounts.

After the Android device works normally, we use ps -P to choose a task to change. The result is as figure 4 depicts:

```
yevzwming@yevzwming-VirtualBox: ~
                                                                                  inotify_re ad6b890c S /system/bin/sdcard
sys_epoll_ b0e4c478 S android.process.acore
0 a7c1890c R ps
                                                               1820
                                                               27800 fg
                                   103
                                                492588
                                                2700
                                                               1048 fg
 oot@generic:/data/misc/page_trace # 650
 /system/bin/sh: 650: not found
127|root@generic:/data/misc/page_trace # ./set_sched
TETH POCKEMENT C::/data/Misc/page_trace # ./set_sched
Please input the schedule policy you want to change (0-NORMAL, 1-FIFO, 2-RR, 6-RAS):6
Current scheduling algorithm is SCHED_RAS
Please input the process id(PID) you want to modify: 650
Start trace for task 650
  et process's priority: 0
        scheduler: SCHED_NORMAL
scheduler: SCHED RAS
  witch finished successfully!
 l0|root@generic:/data/misc/page_trace # ./set_sched
Please input the schedule policy you want to change (0-NORMAL, 1-FIFO, 2-RR, 6-RAS):2
Current scheduling algorithm is SCHED_RR
Please input the process id(PID) you want to modify: 650
Set process's priority: 10
pre scheduler: SCHED_RAS
cur scheduler: SCHED_RR
  witch finished successfully!
Switch finished successfully!

10|root@generic:/data/misc/page_trace # ./set_sched

Please input the schedule policy you want to change (0-NORMAL, 1-FIFO, 2-RR, 6-RAS):6

Current scheduling algorithm is SCHED_RAS

Please input the process id(PID) you want to modify: 650

Tracing! Wcount for this task: 0

Set process's priority: 2

pre scheduler: SCHED_RR

cur scheduler: SCHED_RAS

Switch finished successfully!
 Switch finished successfully!
L0|root@generic:/data/misc/page_trace #
```

Figure 4: Set scheduler

#### 4.3 Multi-Process Racing Test

In this test part I use fork() to create n child tasks to run a large loop where each child task continues to write in a protected memory. In this case we have formed a race relationship, and we can observe how our RAS Scheduler cope with the scheduling issues in a weighted-round-robin way.

Here we define a large integer k(here we take 100000) for while looping to ensure the racing time is long enough.

Referring to the previous testing file, we allocate a size of memory for each of the child process and let them race the memory resources, counting their wounts.

The test result is as figure 5 depicts.

# 5 Obstacles and Inspirations

The core problem of this project is to implement the RAS Scheduler. To achieve this, we need to read a lot of source code in the Linux Kernel and learn about the rt scheduler to accomplish our own scheduler. It takes me almost 2 weeks to fully accomplish this project on my own. So

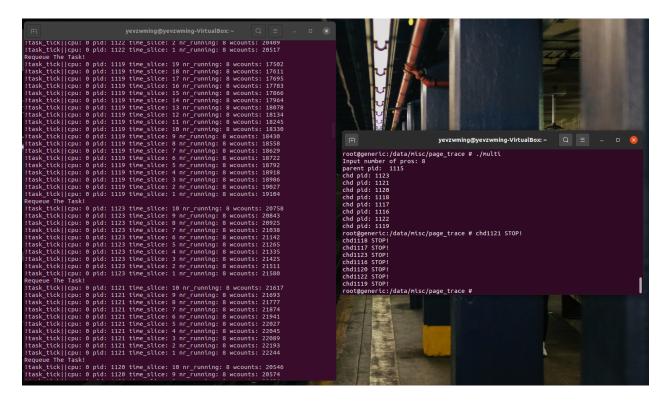


Figure 5: Multi-Process Racing

meanwhile I met a lot of obstacles and dedicate a lot to find inspirations to solve them. Here are some representative ones:

When I implement the page trace mechanism, at first I revised the do\_page\_fault function in kernel/sched/fault.c to match the condition of our expected write fault. At first I added the judging condition: if(tsk->tracing&&(fsr& FSR\_WRITE)). That's not correct and my wounts are larger than normal. So I attempted to revise the access\_error function: judge whether it is a write operation and continue analyzing virtual memory access, according to the vm\_flags. In this way I succeeded getting the right outcome.

And the compilation of the kernel after designing RAS Scheduler is also a tough task. At first I implement most of the necessary functions according to those in rt.c. But rt.c is too complicated for our simple scheduler. Analyzing the error information, I found that most of the errors were associated with the priority. But I read the instructions on the ppt again and found that it could be all right even if we do not use priorities. So I simplified the model, removing the prio\_array, bitmap structures, and so on.

Another obstacle is when I implement the set\_sched test file. And this is also related with the prio problem, because the rt, fair and our ras tasks have different schemes for prios. At first I didn't add any operations concerning the prio. But the kernel always returned EINVAL. By debugging the error information I located the problem in the priority judgement in the \_\_\_sched\_setscheduler function in core.c.

And I add something regulating the priorities in the test file:

```
if (policy!=6)
    param.sched_priority = tmp;
else
    param.sched_priority = 0;
```

And finally I succeeded switching the schedulers for tasks.

The last torturing problem is the multi-task fork. At first I misunderstood the fork() function, and let the child processes continue to fork child processes, spelling chaos. And after searching some useful information of the use of fork, I learnt how to create exactly n child processes. But I still failed to get the tasks running normally as the nr\_running always stayed 1. It seemed as if one process monopolized the scheduler and other child processes could not get enqueued. After discussing with my TA Hang Zeng, I realized that the parent task kept being preempted and could not fork other child processes. That's the key! And I set my list of scheduling classes in a correct order, and my RAS Scheduler worked in a normal state finally.

# 6 Acknowledge

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