

# Resource Access Control (1)

Real-Time and Embedded Systems (M)

Lecture 13

UNIVERSITY  
*of*  
GLASGOW



# Lecture Outline

- Definitions of resources
- Resource access control:
  - Non-preemptable critical sections
  - Basic priority inheritance protocol
  - Basic priority ceiling protocol
- Material corresponds to chapter 8 of Liu's book

# Resources

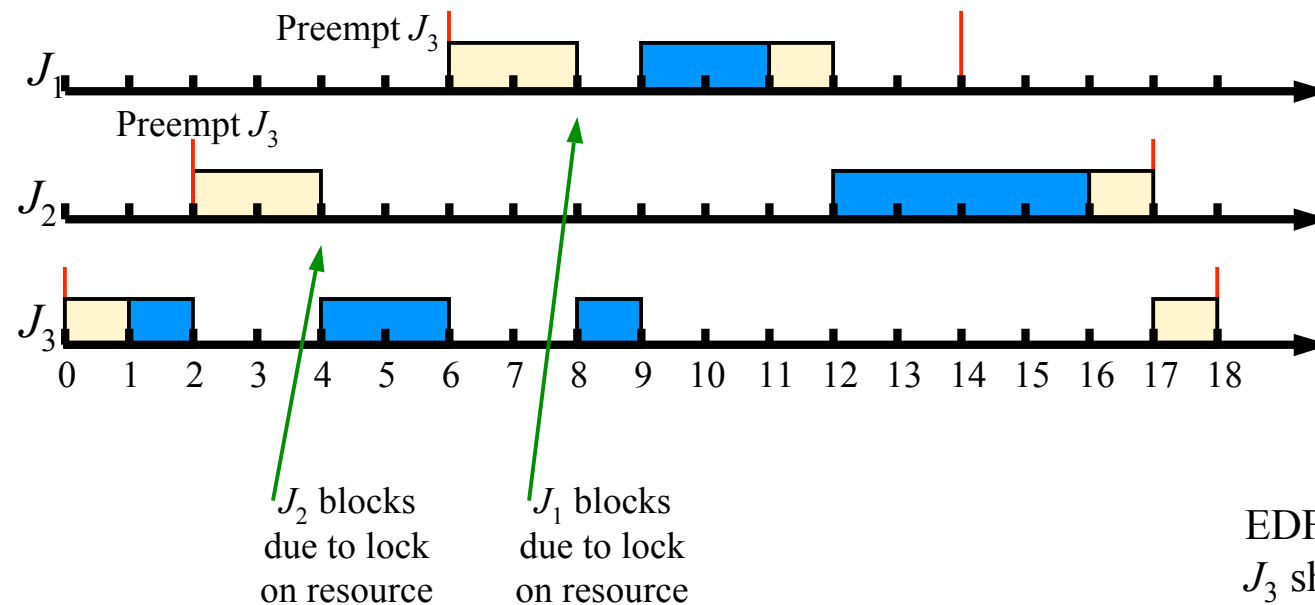
- Resources may represent:
  - Hardware devices such as sensors and actuators
  - Disk or memory capacity, buffer space
  - Software resources: mutexes, locks, queues, etc.
- Assume a system with  $\rho$  types of resource named  $R_1, R_2, \dots, R_\rho$ 
  - Each resource comprises  $n_k$  indistinguishable units
    - Resources with a (practically) infinite number of units have no effect on scheduling; and so are ignored
  - Each unit of resource is used in a non-preemptable and mutually exclusive manner; resources are *serially reusable*
  - If a resource can be used by more than one job at a time, we model that resource as having many units, each used mutually exclusively
- The system must control access to the resources

# Locks and Critical Sections

- Assume a lock-based concurrency control mechanism
  - A job wanting to use  $n_k$  units of resource  $R_k$  locks  $L(R_k, n_k)$  the resource
  - When the job is finished with the resources, it unlocks them:  $U(R_k, n_k)$
  - If a lock request fails, the requesting job is blocked and loses the processor; when the requested resource becomes available, it is unblocked
    - A job holding a lock cannot be preempted by a higher priority job needing that lock
- The segment of a job that begins at a lock and ends at a matching unlock is a *critical section*
  - Use the expression  $[R, n; e]$  to represent a critical section regarding  $n$  units of  $R$ , with the critical section requiring  $e$  units of execution time
  - Critical sections may nest if a job needs multiple simultaneous resources
    - E.g. lock  $R_1$ , then lock  $R_2$ , then lock  $R_3$ , ..., unlock  $R_3$ , unlock  $R_2$ , unlock  $R_1$  is represented as  $[R_1, n_1; e_1 [R_2, n_2; e_2 [R_3, n_3; e_3]]]$

# Contention for Resources

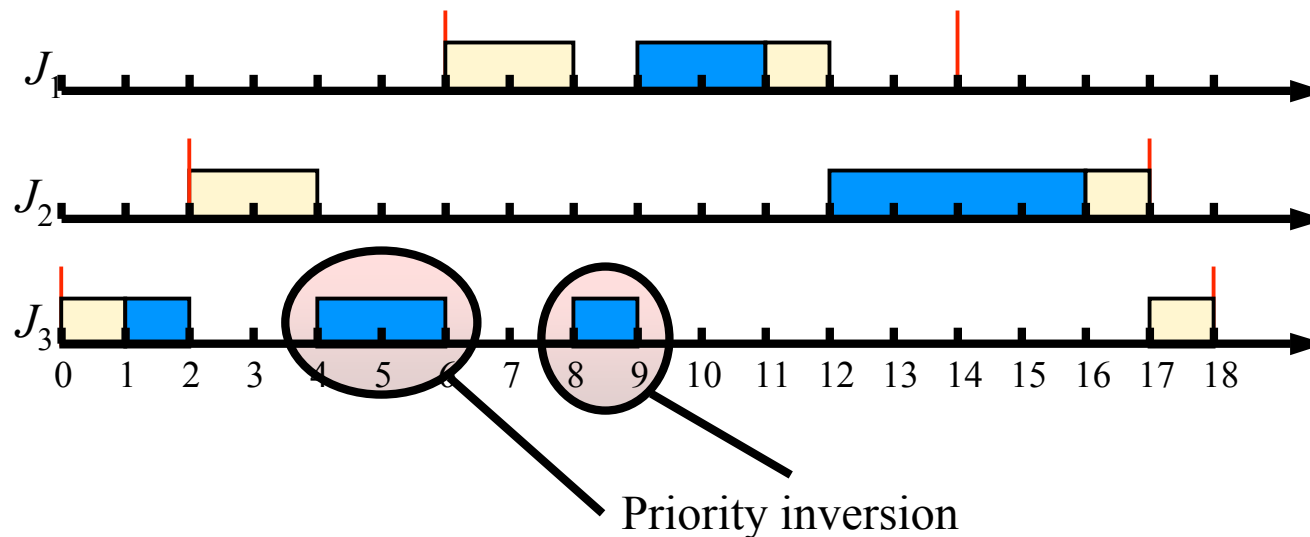
- Two jobs *conflict* with one another if some of the resources they require are of the same type; they *contend* for a resource if one job requests a resource that the other job has already been granted



EDF schedule of  $J_1$ ,  $J_2$  and  $J_3$  sharing a resource  $R$  protected by locks.  Red lines indicate release times and deadlines of jobs. Contention for  $R$  delays the higher priority jobs

# Priority Inversion

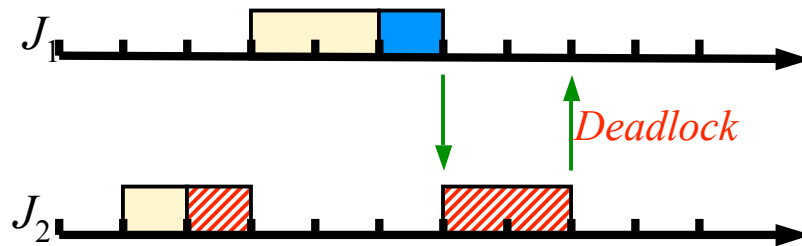
- *Priority inversion* occurs when a low-priority job executes while some ready higher-priority job waits



Contention for resources can cause priority inversions to occur, even if the jobs are preemptable, since a lower-priority job holding a lock on a resource will prevent a higher-priority job requiring that resource from executing

# Deadlock

- *Deadlock* can result from piecemeal acquisition of resources; classic example of two jobs needing resources  $R_X$  and  $R_Y$ 
  - If one job acquires locks in the order  $R_X$  then  $R_Y$ , and the other job acquires them in the opposite order, we can end up with a deadlock



$J_1$  wants to access blue after 2 units of execution, then red after a further 1 unit

$J_2$  wants to access red after 1 unit of execution, then blue after a further 3 units

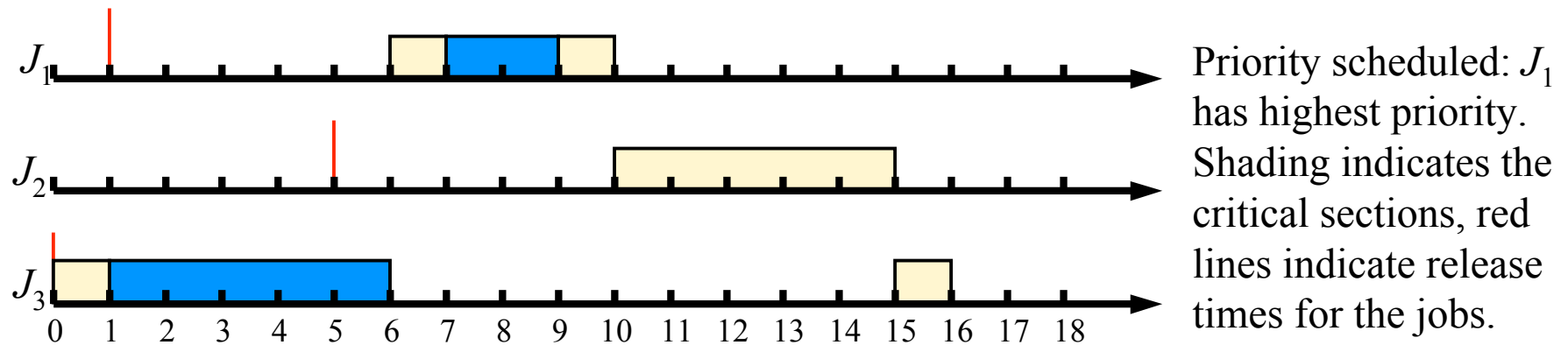
The classic solution is to impose a fixed acquisition order over the set of lockable resources, and all jobs attempt to acquire the resources in that order (typically LIFO order)

# Timing Anomalies

- As seen, contention for resources can cause timing anomalies due to priority inversion and deadlock
- Unless controlled, these anomalies can be arbitrary duration, and can seriously disrupt system timing
- Cannot eliminate these anomalies, but several protocols exist to control them:
  - Non-preemptable Critical Sections
  - Priority inheritance protocol
  - Basic priority ceiling protocol
  - Stack-based priority ceiling protocol

# Non-preemptable Critical Sections

- Simplest resource access control protocol: when a job acquires a resource it is scheduled with highest priority in a non-preemptable manner



$J_3$  locks the resource and significantly delays execution of the other two jobs

Disadvantage: every job can be blocked by every lower-priority job with a critical section, even if there is no resource conflict; very poor timing performance

# Priority-Inheritance Protocol

- Aim: to adjust the scheduling priorities of jobs during resource access, to reduce the duration of timing anomalies
- Constraints:
  - Works with any pre-emptive, priority-driven scheduling algorithm
  - Does not require any prior knowledge of the jobs' resource requirements
  - Does *not* prevent deadlock, but if some other mechanism used to prevent deadlock, ensures that no job can block indefinitely due to uncontrolled priority inversion
- We discuss the *basic* priority-inheritance protocol which assumes there is only 1 unit of resource
  - The book discusses how to generalize this to arbitrary amounts of resources


# Basic Priority-Inheritance Protocol






- Assumptions (for all of the following protocols):
  - Each resource has only 1 unit
  - The priority assigned to a job according to a standard scheduling algorithm is its *assigned priority*
  - At any time  $t$ , each ready job  $J_k$  is scheduled and executes at its *current priority*,  $\pi_k(t)$ , which may differ from its assigned priority and may vary with time
    - The current priority  $\pi_l(t)$  of a job  $J_l$  may be raised to the higher priority  $\pi_h(t)$  of another job  $J_h$
    - In such a situation, the lower-priority job  $J_l$  is said to *inherit* the priority of the higher-priority job  $J_h$ , and  $J_l$  executes at its inherited priority  $\pi_h(t)$

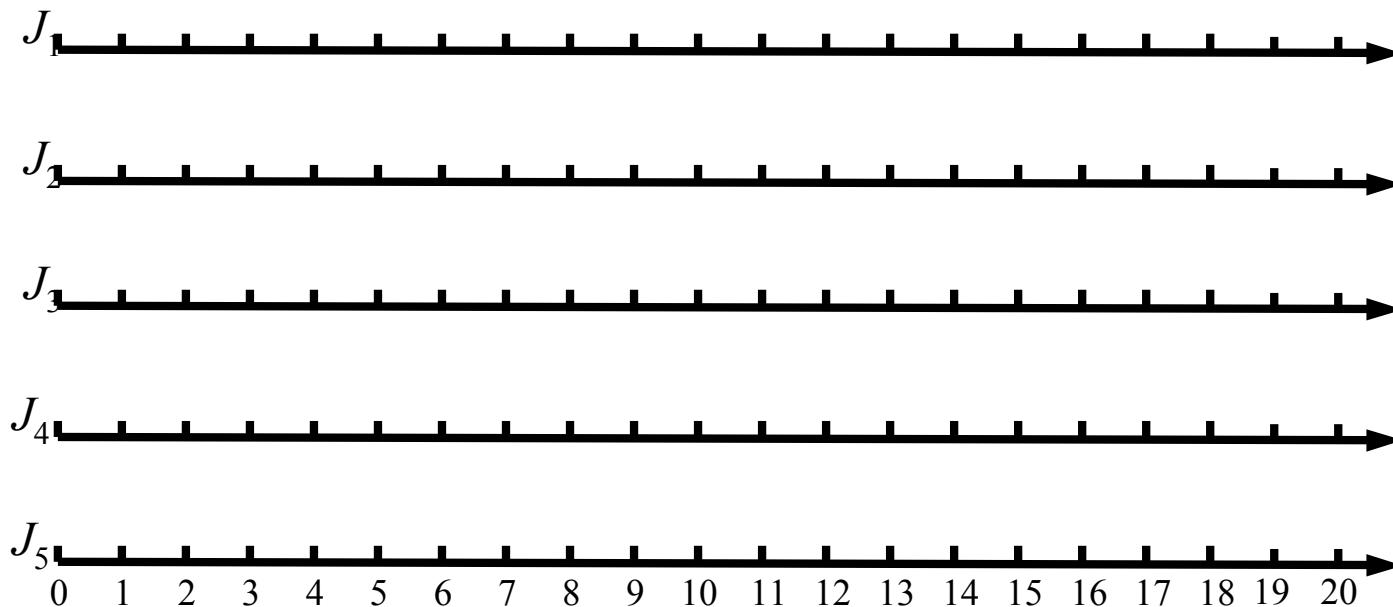
# Basic Priority-Inheritance Protocol

- Jobs are pre-emptively scheduled on the processor in a priority-driven manner according to their current priorities
  - At release time, the current priority of a job is equal to its assigned priority
  - The current priority remains equal to the assigned priority, except when the priority-inheritance rule is invoked
  - Priority-inheritance rule:
    - When the requesting job,  $J$ , becomes blocked, the job  $J_l$  which blocks  $J$  inherits the current priority  $\pi(t)$  of  $J$
    - $J_l$  executes at its inherited priority until it releases  $R$ ; at that time, the priority of  $J_l$  returns to its priority  $\pi_l(t')$  at the time  $t'$  when it acquired the resource  $R$
- Resource allocation: when a job  $J$  requests a resource  $R$  at time  $t$ :
  - If  $R$  is free,  $R$  is allocated to  $J$  until  $J$  releases it
  - If  $R$  is not free, the request is denied and  $J$  is blocked
  - $J$  is only denied  $R$  if the resource is held by another job

# Basic Priority-Inheritance Protocol

- Consider an example system, with parameters are shown on the right →
- Jobs  $J_1$ ,  $J_2$ ,  $J_4$  and  $J_5$  attempt to lock their first resource after one unit of execution;  $J_4$  accesses  after an additional 2 units of execution

| Job   | $r_i$ | $e_i$ | $\pi_i$ | Critical Sections  |
|-------|-------|-------|---------|--|
| $J_1$ | 7     | 3     | 1       | [  ; 1]   |
| $J_2$ | 5     | 3     | 2       | [  ; 1]   |
| $J_3$ | 4     | 2     | 3       |  |
| $J_4$ | 2     | 6     | 4       | [  ; 4 [  ; 1.5]]] |
| $J_5$ | 0     | 6     | 5       | [  ; 4]   |



# Basic Priority-Inheritance Protocol

- Properties of the Priority-inheritance Protocol
  - Simple to implement, does not require prior knowledge of resource requirements
  - Jobs exhibit different types of blocking
    - Direct blocking due to resource locks
    - Priority-inheritance blocking
    - Transitive blocking
  - Deadlock is *not* prevented
    - Although it can be prevented by using additional protocols in parallel
  - Can reduce blocking time compared to non-preemptable critical sections, but does not guarantee to minimize blocking

# Basic Priority-Ceiling Protocol

- Sometimes desirable to further reduce blocking times due to resource contention
- The *basic priority-ceiling protocol* provides a means to do this, provided:
  - The assigned priorities of all jobs are fixed (e.g. RM scheduling, not EDF)
  - The resources required by all jobs are known a priori
- Need two additional terms to define the protocol:
  - The *priority ceiling* of any resource  $R_k$  is the highest priority of all the jobs that require  $R_k$  and is denoted by  $\Pi(R_k)$
  - At any time  $t$ , the current priority ceiling  $\Pi(t)$  of the system is equal to the highest priority ceiling of the resources that are in use at the time
  - If all resources are free,  $\Pi(t)$  is equal to  $\Omega$ , a nonexistent priority level that is lower than the lowest priority level of all jobs


# Basic Priority-Ceiling Protocol






- Scheduling rules:
  - Jobs are scheduled in a preemptable priority-driven manner
  - On release time, the current priority of a job is equal to its assigned priority
  - The current priority remains equal to the assigned priority, except when the priority-inheritance rule is invoked
- Resource allocation rule:
  - When a job  $J$  requests a resource  $R$  held by another job, the request fails and the requesting job blocks
  - When a job  $J$  requests a resource  $R$  at time  $t$ , and that resource is free:
    - If  $J$ 's priority  $\pi(t)$  is higher than current priority ceiling  $\Pi(t)$ ,  $R$  is allocated to  $J$
    - If  $J$ 's priority  $\pi(t)$  is not higher than current priority ceiling  $\Pi(t)$ ,  $R$  is allocated to  $J$  only if  $J$  is the job holding the resource(s) whose priority ceiling is equal to  $\Pi(t)$ ; otherwise, the request is denied, and  $J$  becomes blocked
  - Unlike priority inheritance: *can* deny access to an available resource

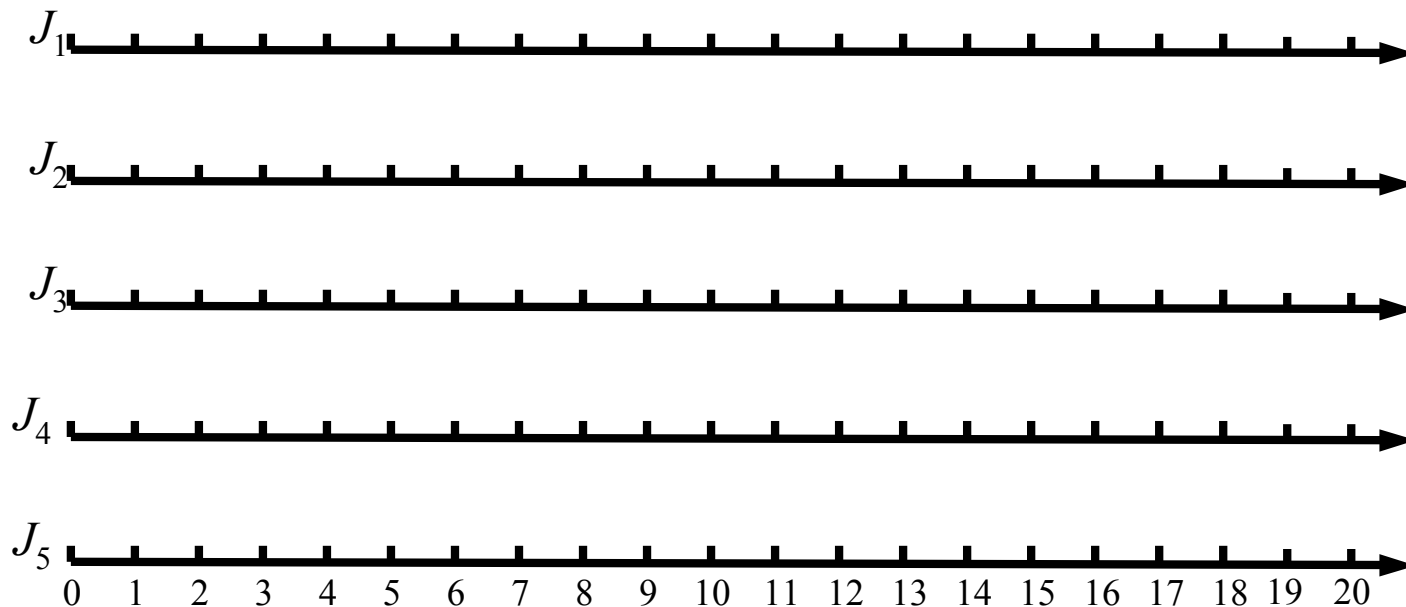
# Basic Priority-Ceiling Protocol

- Priority-inheritance rule:
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  - $J_l$  executes at its inherited priority until the time when it releases every resource whose priority ceiling is equal to or higher than  $\pi(t)$ ; at that time, the priority of  $J_l$  returns to its priority  $\pi_l(t')$  at the time  $t'$  when it was granted the resource(s)

# Basic Priority-Ceiling Protocol

Consider an example system, with parameters are shown on the right →  
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# Basic Priority-Ceiling Protocol

- If resource access in a system of preemptable, fixed priority jobs on one processor is controlled by the priority-ceiling protocol:
  - Deadlock can never occur
  - A job can be blocked for at most the duration of one critical section
    - There is no transitive blocking under the priority-ceiling protocol
- Differences between the priority-inheritance and priority-ceiling protocols:
  - Priority inheritance is greedy, while priority ceiling is not
    - The priority ceiling protocol may withhold access to a free resource, causing a job to be blocked by a lower-priority job which does not hold the requested resource – termed avoidance blocking
  - The priority ceiling protocol forces a fixed order onto resource accesses, thus eliminating deadlock

# Summary

- Defined resources, explaining timing anomalies and the need for resource access control
- Illustrated operation of three resource access control protocols:
  - Non-preemptable critical section
  - Basic priority inheritance protocol
  - Basic priority ceiling protocol

Tomorrow: more resource access protocols; practical aspects