University of Glasgow | School of Computing Science

Real-time Scheduling of Periodic Tasks (1)

Advanced Operating Systems
Lecture 2

Lecture Outline

- Scheduling periodic tasks
- The rate monotonic algorithm
  - Definition
  - Non-optimality
  - Time-demand analysis
  - ...

Scheduling Periodic Tasks

- Simplest real-time system: a set of n periodic tasks characterised by $T_i = (\varphi_i, p_i, e_i, D_i)$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$
  - Simplified model: $T_i = (p_i, e_i)$ when $\varphi_i = 0$ and $D_i = p_i$
  - Tasks are independent, with no resource constraints
  - Assume a single processor system
  - There are no aperiodic or sporadic tasks
- Must schedule system to ensure all deadlines met
  - What type of job scheduler is used?
  - What scheduling algorithm is used?
  - How to prove correctness of the schedule?

Job Schedulers

- Clock driven scheduler
  - Decisions on what job execute made at specific time instants
    - Usually regularly spaced, implemented using a periodic timer interrupt: scheduler awakes after each interrupt, schedules the job to execute for the next period, then sleeps until the next interrupt
    - E.g. the furnace control example, with an interrupt every 100ms
  - Primarily used for static systems, with schedule computed at design time and encoded as a fixed table
  - Behaviour depends on algorithm used to assign jobs to time slots
- Priority driven scheduler
  - Scheduler chooses what to run at job release or completion time, based on some notion of job priority; will always run a job, if one available
  - Flexible, as scheduling decisions made at runtime, but hard to validate
  - Behaviour depends on algorithm used to assign priorities to jobs

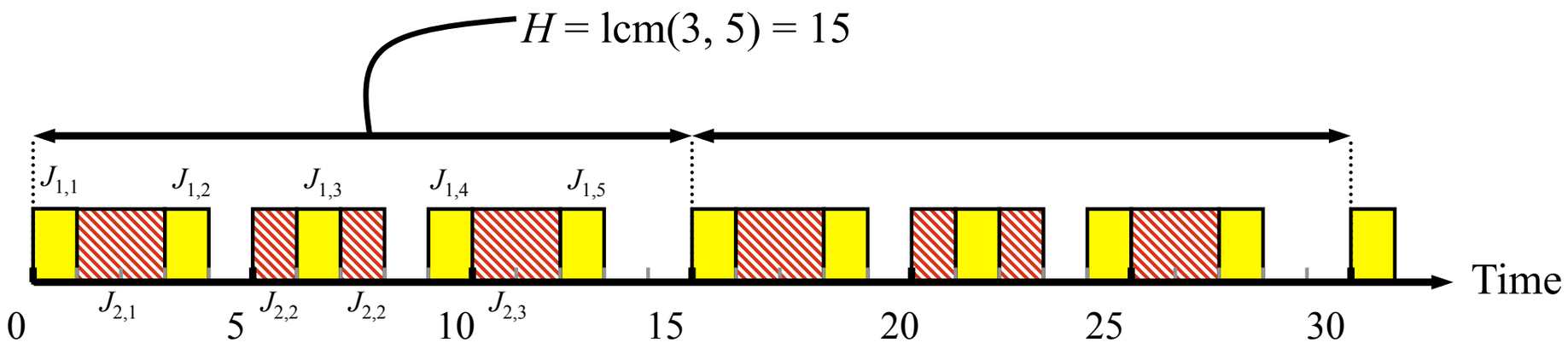
Scheduling Algorithms

- Wide range of scheduling algorithms used:
  - Rate monotonic (RM)
  - Deadline monotonic (DM)
  - Earliest deadline first (EDF)
  - Least slack time (LST)
- Trade-off optimality, stability, and ease of validation

Proving Correctness of a Schedule

- A set of periodic tasks repeats after hyper-period, $H = \text{lcm}(p_i)$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$
- If the system can be scheduled for one hyper-period, it can be scheduled for all, given no aperiodic or sporadic tasks, and no resource constraints
- Can demonstrate correctness of schedule by exhaustive simulation, or using a mathematical proof of correctness

– $T_1 : p_1 = 3, e_1 = 1$
– $T_2 : p_2 = 5, e_2 = 2$



The Rate Monotonic Algorithm

- Assign priorities to jobs in each task based on the period of that task
  - Shorter period → higher priority; rate (of job releases) is the inverse of the period, so jobs with higher rate have higher priority
  - Rationale: schedule jobs with most deadlines first, fit others around them
  - All jobs in a task have the same priority – fixed priority algorithm

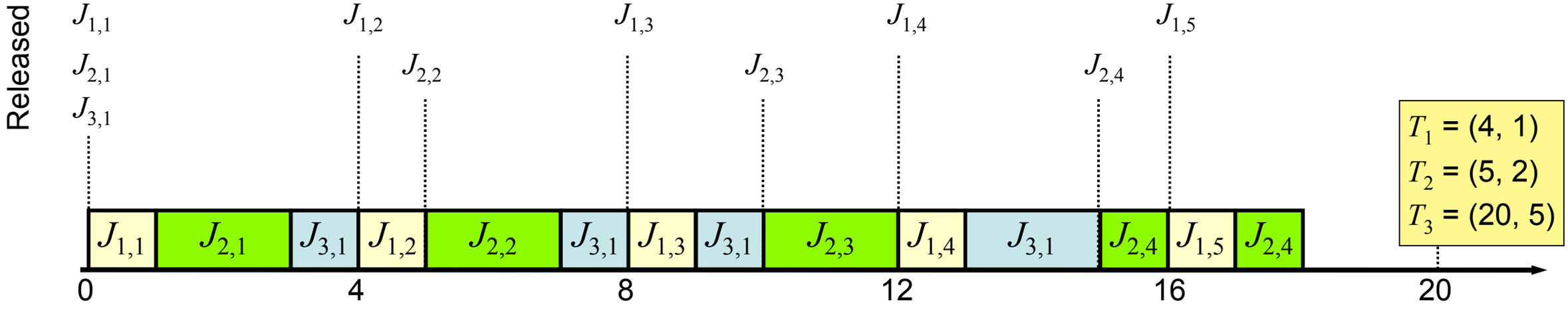
- For example, consider a system of 3 tasks:
  - T_1 = (4, 1) ⇒ rate = 1/4
    T_2 = (5, 2) ⇒ rate = 1/5
    T_3 = (20, 5) ⇒ rate = 1/20
  - Relative priorities: $T_1 > T_2 > T_3$

Rate Monotonic: Example

Time	Ready to run	Running
0	$J_{2,1}$ $J_{3,1}$	$J_{1,1}$
1	$J_{3,1}$	$J_{2,1}$
2	$J_{3,1}$	$J_{2,1}$
3		$J_{3,1}$
4	$J_{3,1}$	$J_{1,2}$
5	$J_{3,1}$	$J_{2,2}$
6	$J_{3,1}$	$J_{2,2}$
7		$J_{3,1}$
8	$J_{3,1}$	$J_{1,3}$
9		$J_{3,1}$

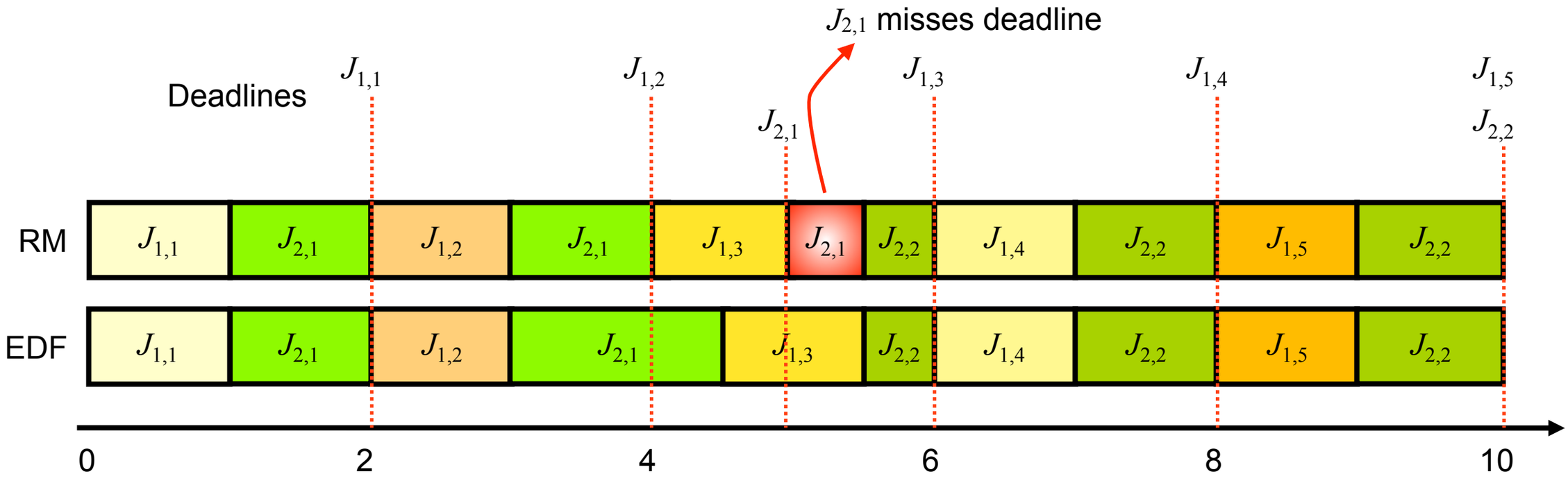
Time	Ready to run	Running
10	$J_{3,1}$	$J_{2,3}$
11	$J_{3,1}$	$J_{2,3}$
12	$J_{3,1}$	$J_{1,4}$
13		$J_{3,1}$
14		$J_{3,1}$
15		$J_{2,4}$
16	$J_{2,4}$	$J_{1,5}$
17		$J_{2,4}$
18		

All tasks meet deadlines: proof by exhaustive simulation
Low priority tasks (e.g., T_3) frequently preempted



Rate Monotonic is Not Optimal

- Proof by counter-example:
  - A system of two independent periodic tasks, T_1 = (2, 1) and T_2 = (5, 2.5), scheduled preemptively on a single processor:
  - H = 10, U = 1.0 → there is no slack time
  - Rate monotonic fails to meet deadlines, EDF (discussed later) succeeds



Time Demand Analysis

- Exhaustive simulation error prone and tedious – an alternative is *time demand analysis*
  - Fixed priority algorithms predictable; do not suffer *scheduling anomalies*
    - The worst case execution time of the system occurs with the worst case execution time of the jobs, unlike dynamic priority algorithms which can exhibit anomalous behaviour
  - Basis of general proof that system can be scheduled to meet all deadlines
    - Find *critical instants* when system is most loaded, and has its worst response time
    - Use time demand analysis to check if system can be scheduled at those instants
    - In absence of scheduling anomalies, system will meet all deadlines if it can be scheduled at critical instants

Finding Critical Instants

- Critical instant of a job is the worst-case release time for that job, taking into account all jobs that have higher priority
  - i.e., job is released at the same instant as all jobs with higher priority are released, and must wait for all those jobs to complete before it executes
  - Response time, $w_{i,k}$, of a job released at a critical instant is the maximum possible response time of that job
  - Definition of a critical instant:

if $w_{i,k} \leq D_{i,k}$ for every $J_{i,k}$ in T_i then

The job released at that instant has maximum response time of all jobs in T_i and $W_i = w_{i,k}$

else if $\exists\, J_{i,k} : w_{i,k} > D_{i,k}$ then

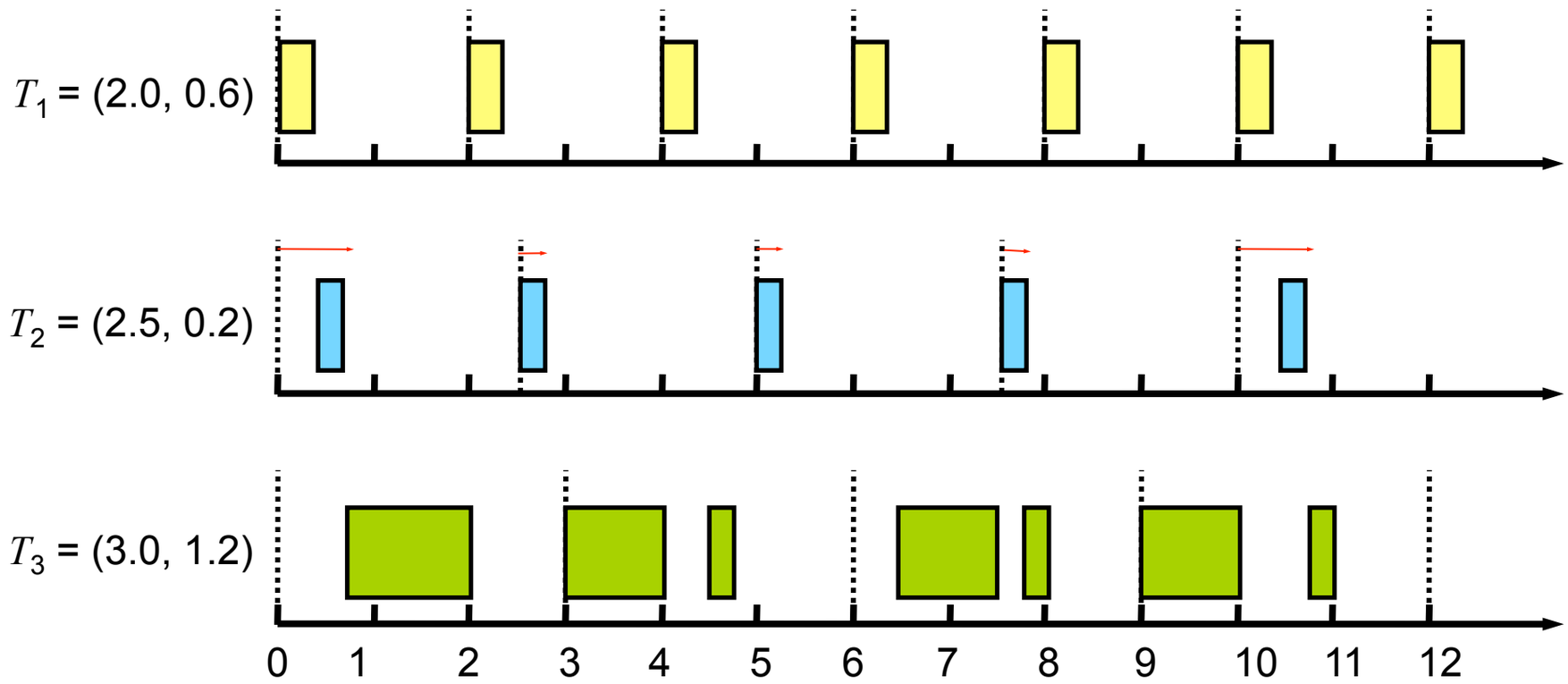
The job released at that instant has response time $> D$

where $w_{i,k}$ is the response time of the job

All jobs meet deadlines, but this is when job with the slowest response is started

If some jobs don't meet deadlines, this is one of those jobs

Finding Critical Instants: Example



- 3 tasks scheduled using the rate-monotonic algorithm
- Response times of jobs in T_2 are: $r_{2,1} = 0.8$, $r_{2,2} = 0.2$, $r_{2,3} = 0.2$, $r_{2,4} = 0.2$, $r_{2,5} = 0.8$, …
- Therefore critical instants of T_2 are $t = 0$ and $t = 10$

Time-demand Analysis

- Simulate system behaviour at the critical instants
  - For each job $J_{i,c}$ released at a critical instant, if $J_{i,c}$ and all higher priority tasks complete executing before their relative deadlines the system can be scheduled
  - Compute the total demand for processor time by a job released at a critical instant of a task, and by all the higher-priority tasks, as a function of time from the critical instant; check if this demand can be met before the deadline of the job:
    - Consider one task, T_i, at a time, starting highest priority and working down to lowest priority
    - Focus on a job, J_i, in T_i, where the release time, t_0, of that job is a critical instant of T_i
    - At time $t_0 + t$ for $t \geq 0$, the processor time demand $w_i(t)$ for this job and all higher-priority jobs released in $[t_0, t]$ is: $w_i(t) = e_i + \sum_{k=1}^{i-1} \left\lceil \frac{t}{p_k} \right\rceil e_k$

      $w_i(t)$ is the time-demand function

      Execution time of job J_i

      Execution time of higher priority jobs started during this interval

Using the Time-demand Function

- Compare time-demand function, $w_i(t)$, and available time, t:
  - If $w_i(t) \leq t$ at some $t \leq D_i$, the job, J_i, meets its deadline, $t_0 + D_i$
  - If $w_i(t) > t$ for all $0 < t \leq D_i$ then the task probably cannot complete by its deadline; and the system likely cannot be scheduled using a fixed priority algorithm
    - Note that this is a sufficient condition, but not a necessary condition. Simulation may show that the critical instant never occurs in practice, so the system could be feasible…

- Use this method to check that all tasks are can be scheduled if released at their critical instants; if so conclude the entire system can be scheduled

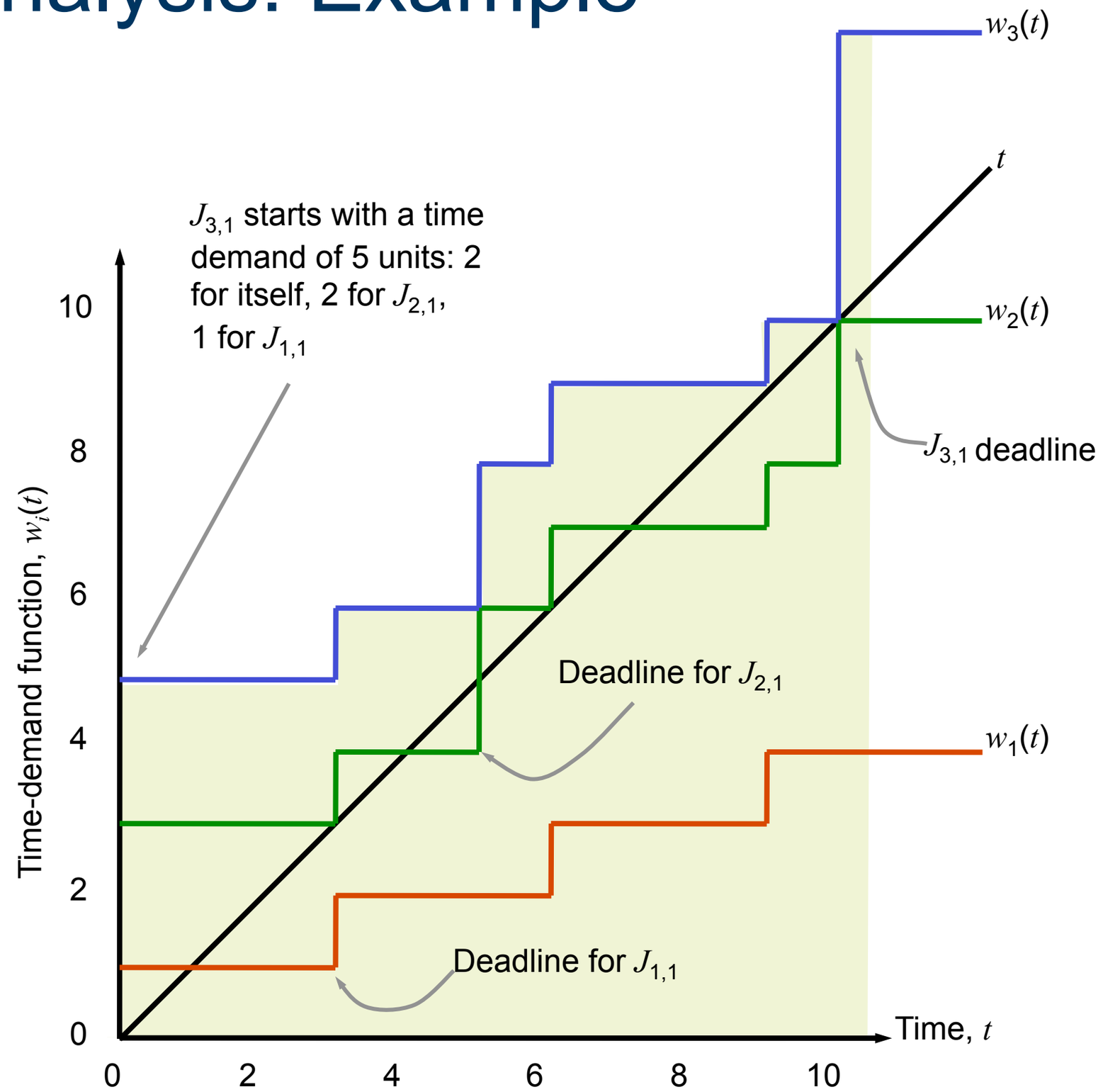
Time-demand Analysis: Example

The time-demand, $w_i(t)$, is a staircase function with steps at multiples of higher priority task periods

Plot the time-demand versus available time graphically, to get intuition into approach

Example: a rate monotonic system
T_1 = (3, 1), T_2 = (5, 2), T_3 = (10, 2)
U = 0.933

Time-demand functions $w_1(t)$, $w_2(t)$ and $w_3(t)$ are below t at deadlines, so the system can be scheduled – simulate the system to check this!



Time-demand Analysis

- Works for any fixed-priority scheduling algorithm with periodic tasks where $D_i < p_i$ for all tasks

- Only a sufficient test:
  - System can be scheduled if time demand less than time available before critical instants
  - But, might be possible to schedule if time demand exceeds available time – further validation (i.e., exhaustive simulation) needed in this case

Summary

- The real-time scheduling problem for periodic tasks
- The rate monotonic algorithm
  - Simple, fixed-priority, algorithm
  - Non-optimal
  - Proofs of correctness of a schedule using exhaustive simulation and time-demand analysis

- Next lecture:
  - Alternative proofs of correctness for rate monotonic schedules
  - Other algorithms: deadline monotonic, earliest deadline first, least slack time