

LITMUS^{RT}: An Overview

(based on a talk given at the Real-Time Linux Workshop 2007)

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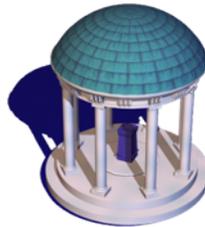
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LITMUS^{RT}

=

Linux **T**estbed for **MU**ltiprocessor
Scheduling
in **R**eal-**T**ime Systems

A new Linux real-time extension developed at UNC.

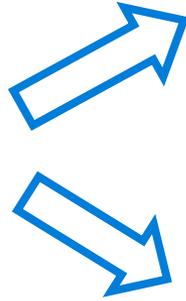


real-time:



What Kind of Real-Time?

real-time:



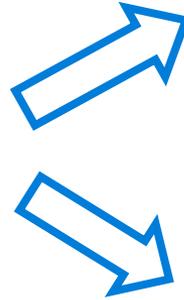
low latency

predictability



What Kind of Real-Time?

real-time:



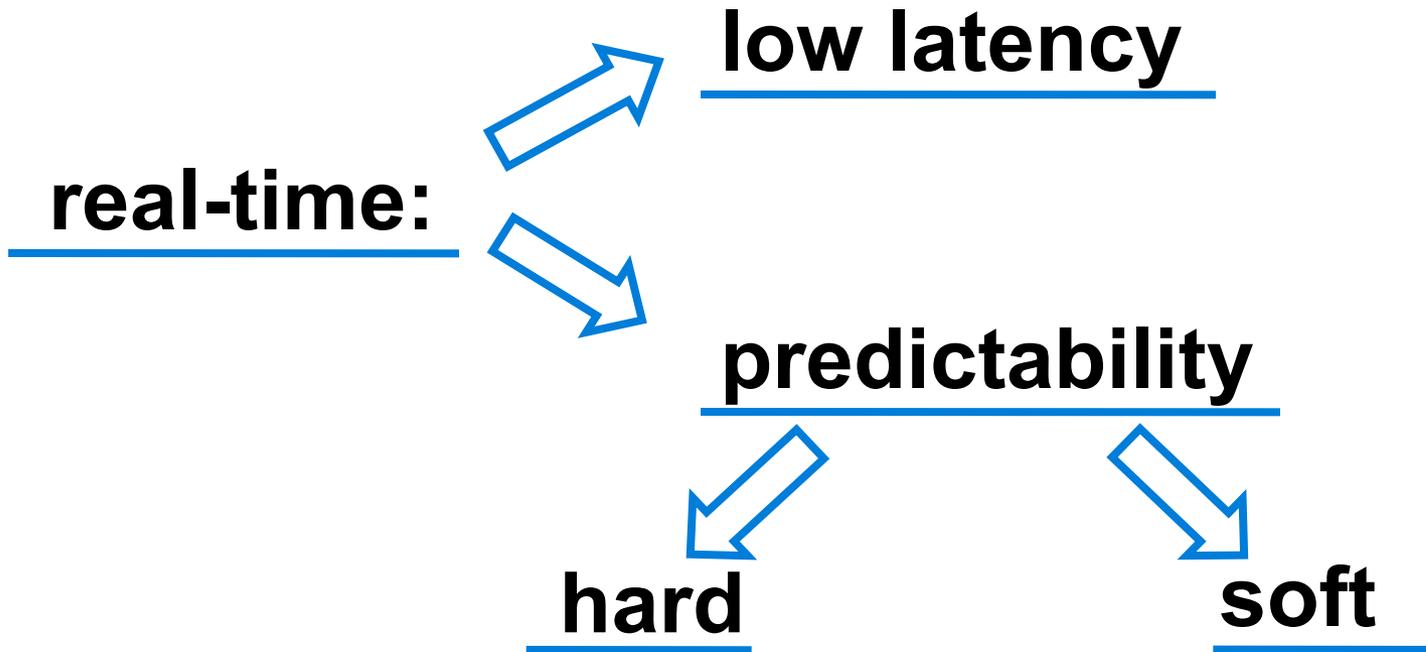
low latency

predictability

PREEMPT_RT
RTLinux
RTAI
L4Linux/DROPS
...
Plenty of other RTOSs

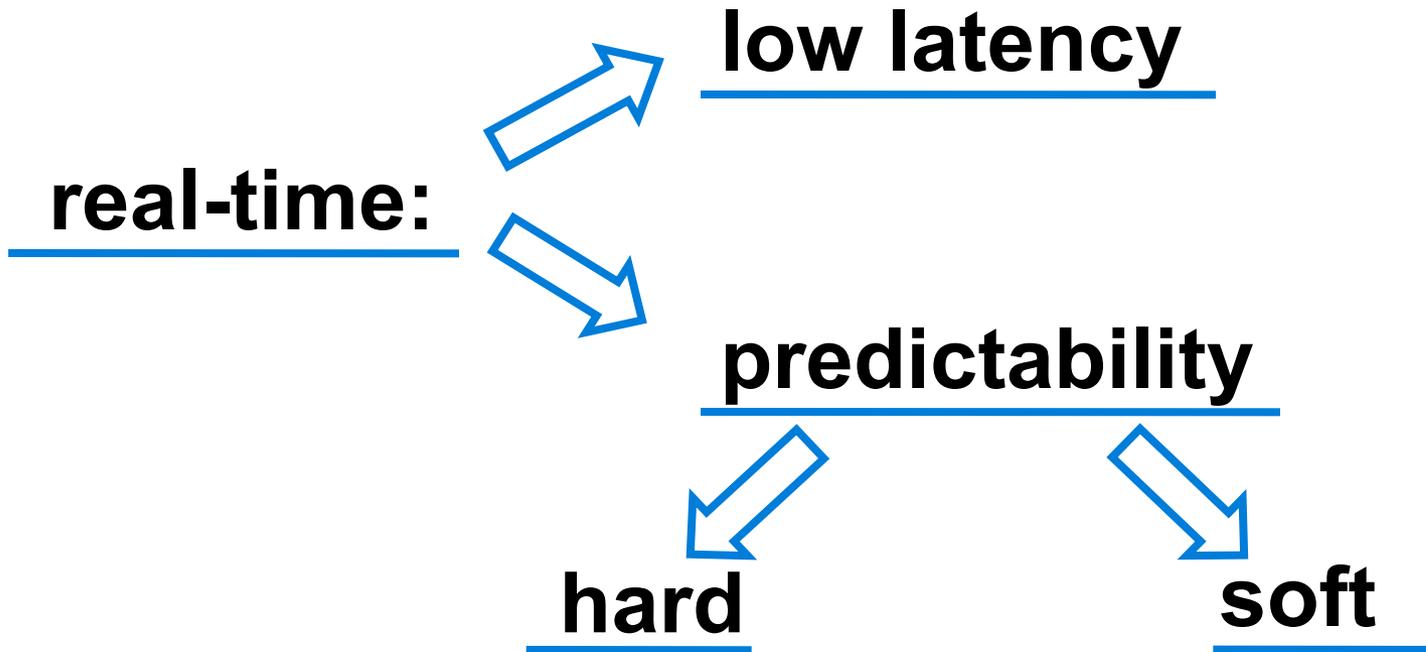


What Kind of Real-Time?





What Kind of Real-Time?



optimal

=

NO deadlines missed

(if system is at most fully utilized)



What Kind of Real-Time?

real-time:

low latency

predictability

hard

soft

optimal

=

NO deadlines missed

optimal

=

deadlines missed
by at most
bounded amount

(if system is at most fully utilized)



Optimality of real-time scheduling algorithms:

	uniproc.	partitioned	global
static priority			
by deadline			
PFAIR			



Optimality of **Algorithm Family** algorithms:

	uniproc.	partitioned	global
static priority			
by deadline			
PFAIR			



Optimality of real-time scheduling algorithms:

	uniproc.	partitioned	global
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(Multi)processor Setting



Optimality of real-time scheduling algorithms:

	uniproc.	partitioned	global
static priority	Hard: NO Soft: YES	Hard: NO Soft: NO	Hard: NO Soft: NO
by deadline	Hard: YES Soft: YES	Hard: NO Soft: NO	Hard: NO Soft: YES
PFAIR	Hard: (YES) Soft: (YES)	Hard: (NO) Soft: (NO)	Hard: YES Soft: YES



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			Theory



Optimality of real-time scheduling algorithms:

	Implemented Systems		global
static priority	Hard: NO Soft: YES	Hard: NO Soft: NO	Hard: NO Soft: NO
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PFAIR	Hard: (YES) Soft: (YES)	Hard: (NO) Soft: (NO)	Hard: YES Soft: YES

The Gap

The gap is the difference between what is implemented in systems and what is possible in theory. It is highlighted by a blue arrow pointing from the 'Theory' column to the 'Implemented Systems' column.



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Real-Time on Multiprocessors?



Multicore is here to stay.



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- COTS will be multiprocessors in many cases.
- Real-Time Linux will be used on multicore platforms.



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Some real-time applications require a lot of computational power.



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Some real-time applications require a lot of computational power.

- HDTV-quality multimedia.
- Real-time business transactions.
- More to come as our capabilities increase.



One example: AZUL Systems, Inc.

Consistent, Fast Response Times

When critical business applications pause, companies lose money. When it comes to fulfilling on-line purchases, executing stock trades at the real time price, acting on price fluctuations or approving loan applications, **completing only 85 percent of the requests in time is a failure.**

[From: http://www.azulsystems.com/products/compute_appliance.htm?p=p]

AZUL's appliances consist of up to **768 cores!**



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Predictability

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Business Real-Time Computing

One example: AZUL Systems, Inc.

Consistent, Fast Response Times

When critical business applications need to be completed, companies need to be able to make money. When

Predictability

Low Latency

fulfilling orders, purchases, executing stock trades, and other time-sensitive transactions, price, acting on price fluctuations or approving loan applications, **completing only 85 percent of the requests in time is a failure.**

[From: http://www.azulsystems.com/products/compute_appliance.htm?p=p]

AZUL's appliances consist of up to **768 cores!**



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Why is it a Testbed?



What is the “best” multiprocessor real-time scheduling algorithm?



What is the “best” multiprocessor real-time scheduling algorithm?

- Most proposed algorithms have **never been implemented** in a real system.
- Real-world performance in face of **overheads** is unclear.
- First implementation = **no proven way**



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Goals of the LITMUS^{RT} Project



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Help to **bridge the gap** between theory and practice.



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Evaluate algorithm choices under real-world conditions.



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Prove that it's **feasible to implement** advanced scheduling algorithms.



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Help to **bridge the gap** between theory and practice.

Evaluate algorithm choices under real-world conditions.

Prove that it's **feasible to implement** advanced scheduling algorithms.

Provide inspiration to industry-grade real-time Linux variants.

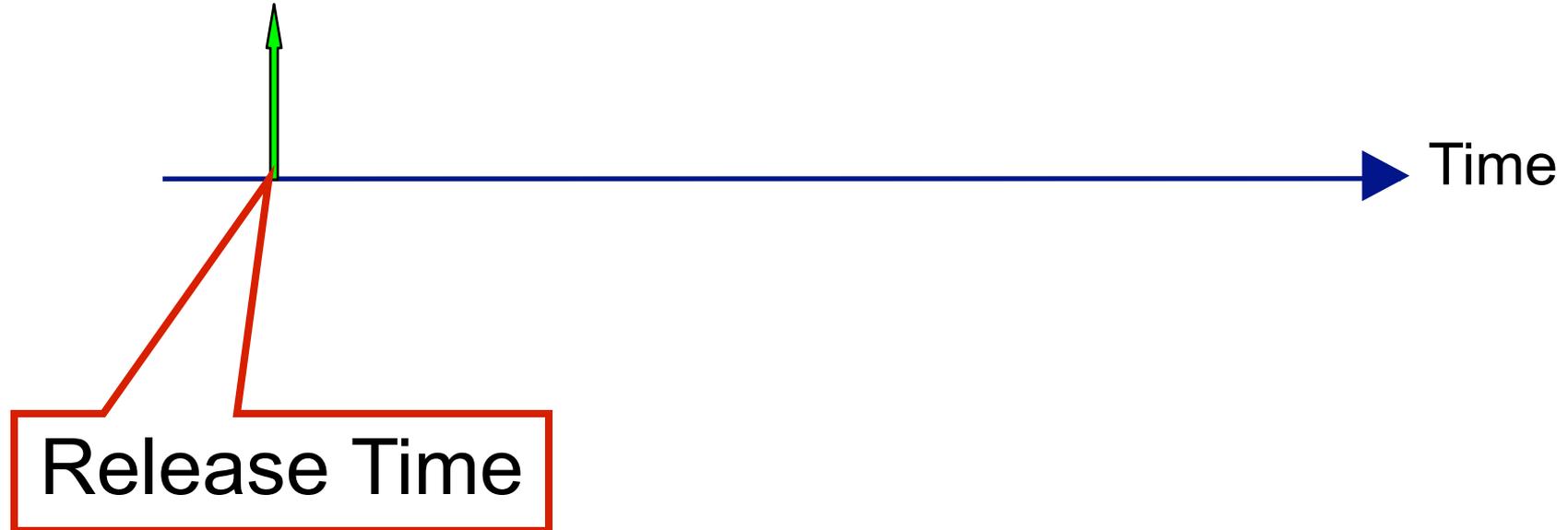


A Job:



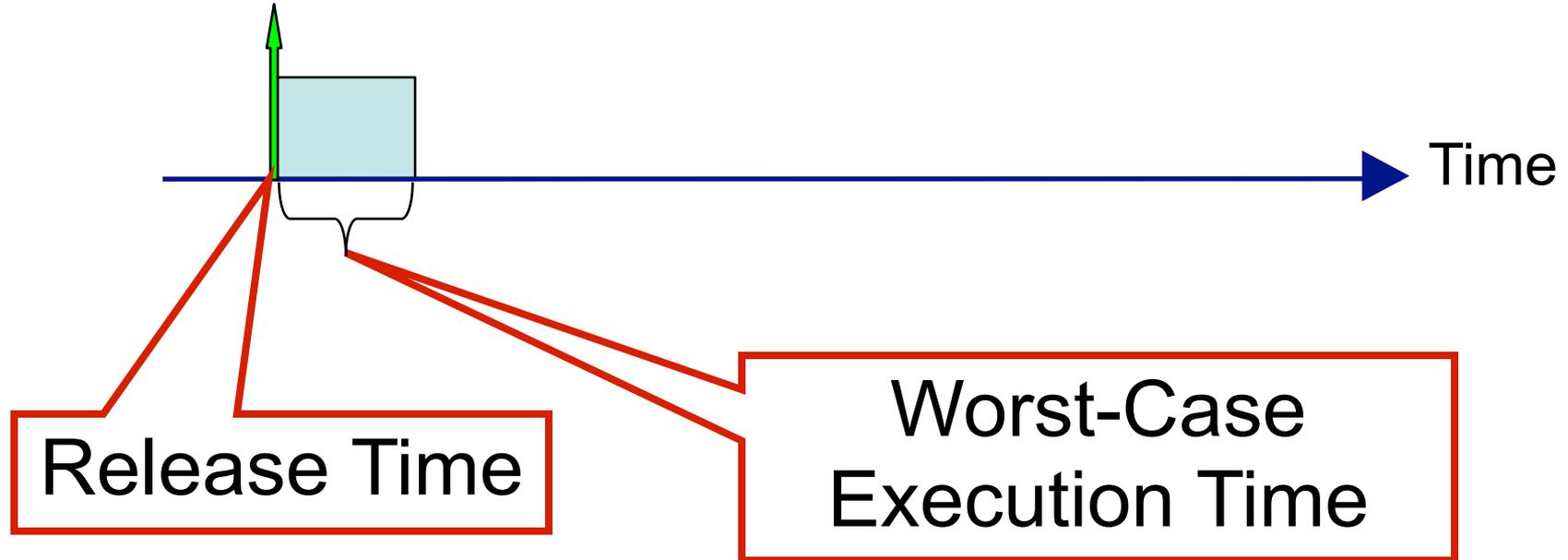


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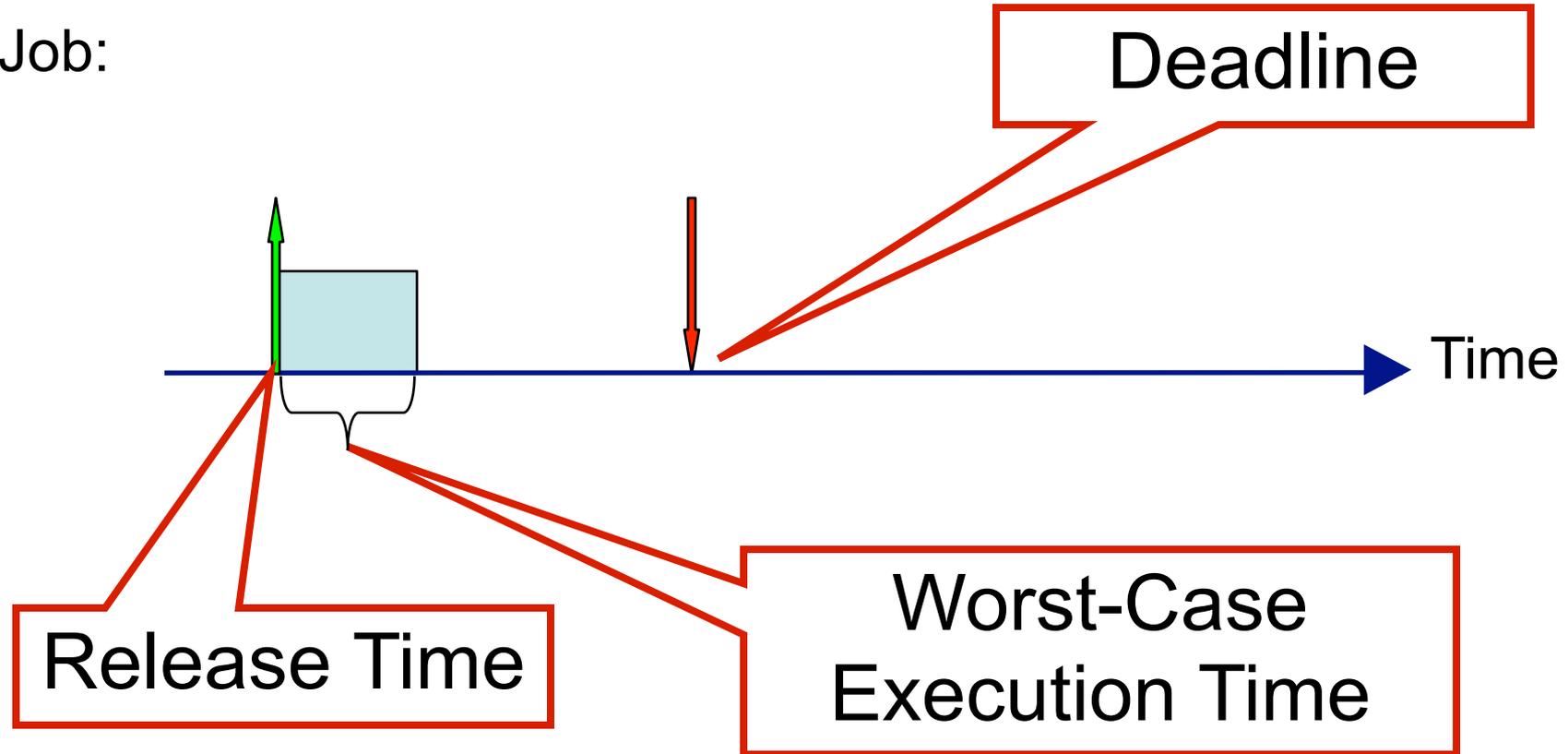


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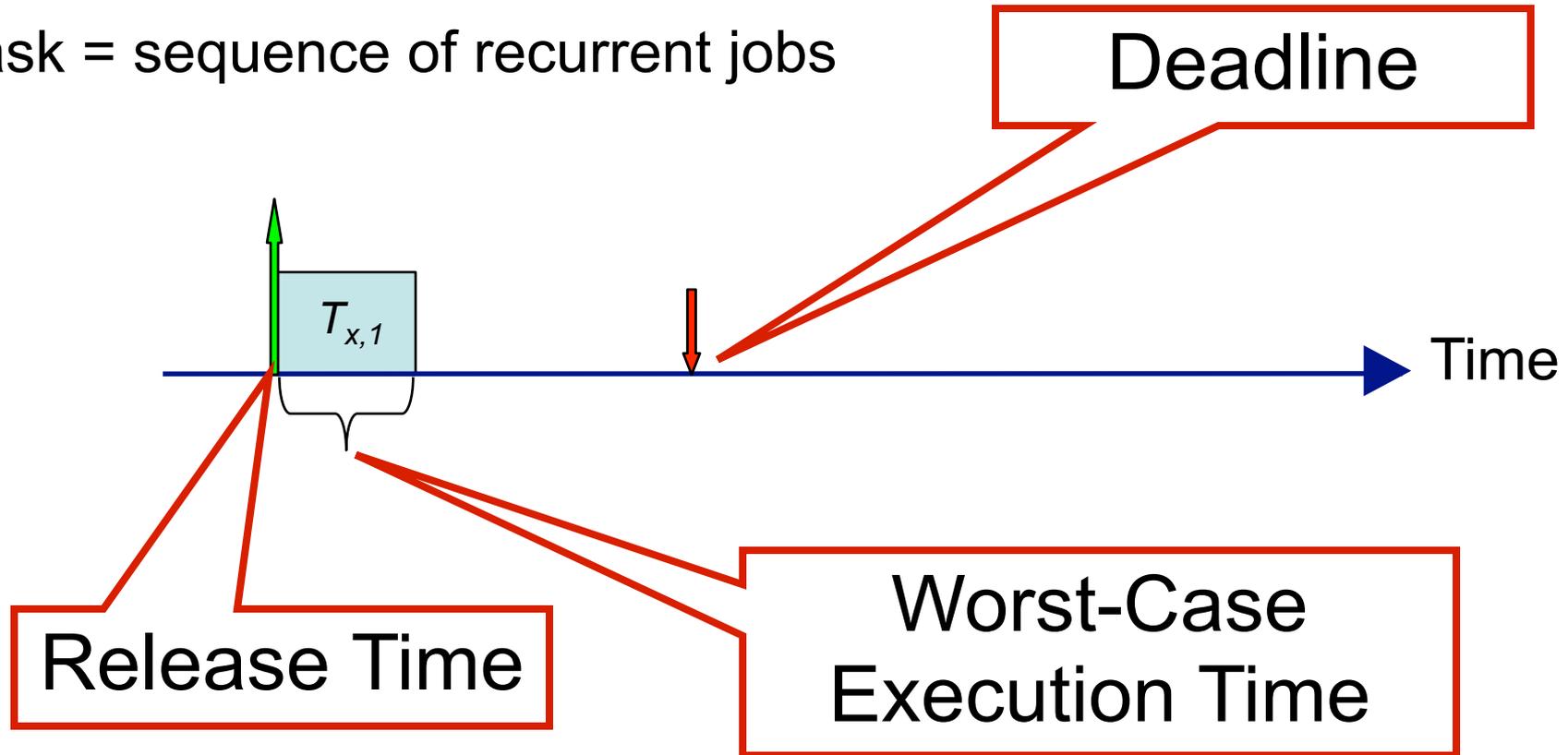


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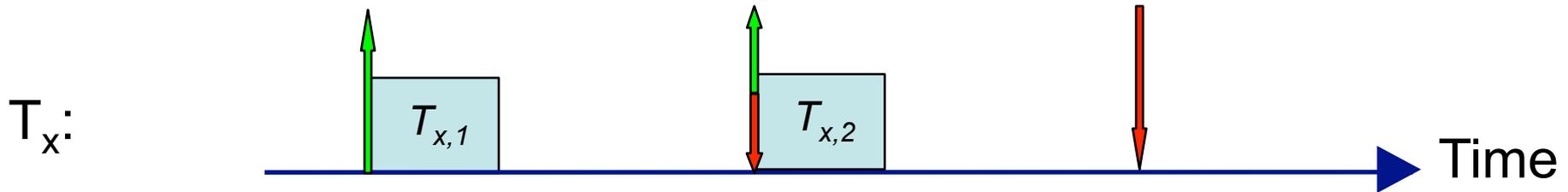


Task = sequence of recurrent jobs





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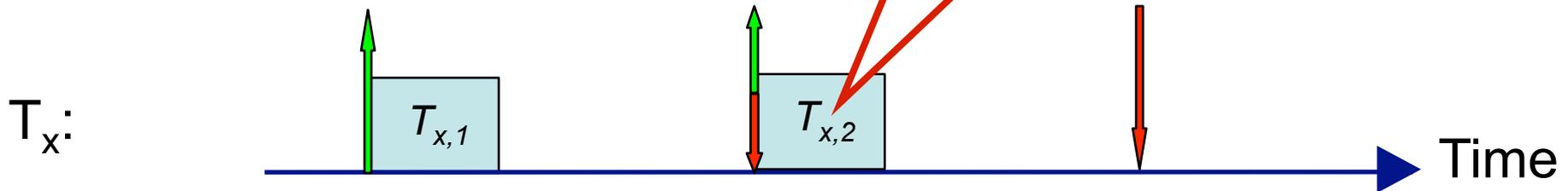




Sporadic Tasks

Job: $T_{\langle \text{task no} \rangle, \langle \text{job no} \rangle}$

Task = sequence of recurrent jobs

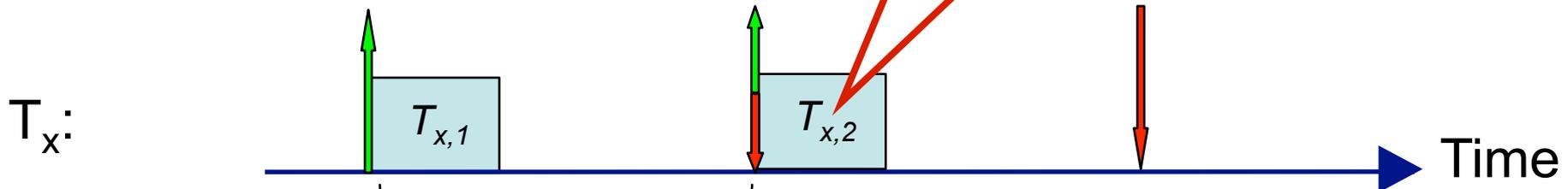




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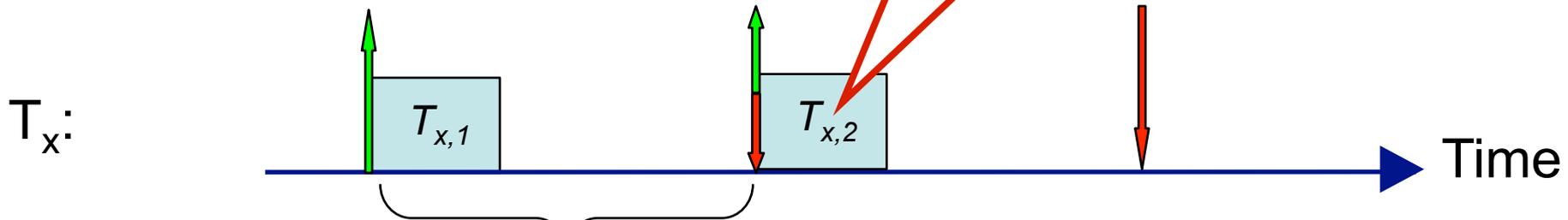
relative deadline =
min. inter-arrival separation / period



Sporadic Tasks

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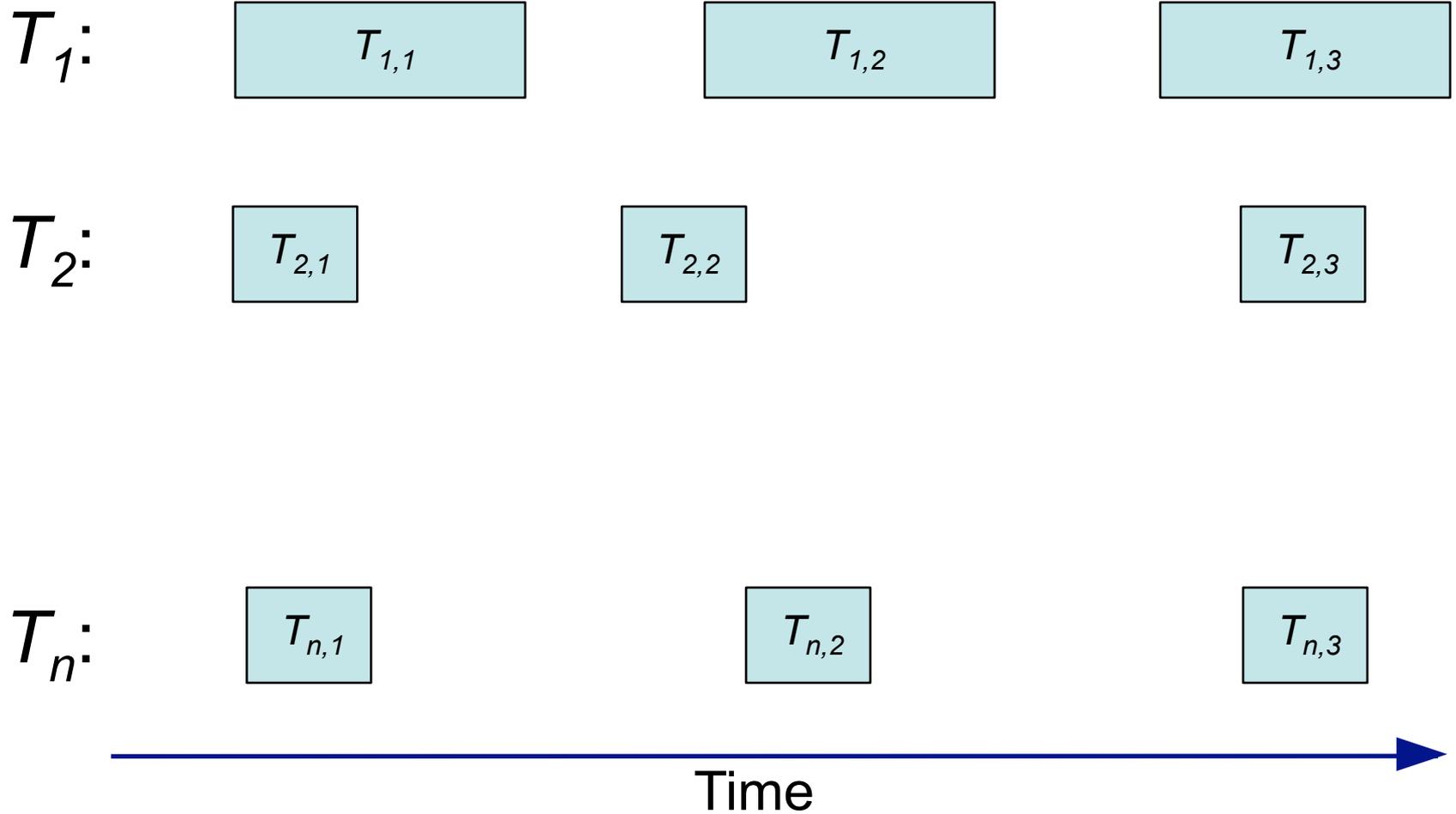


relative deadline =
min. inter-arrival separation / period

Task $T_x = (\text{WCET}, \text{period})$
Utilization $u_x = \text{WCET} / \text{period}$

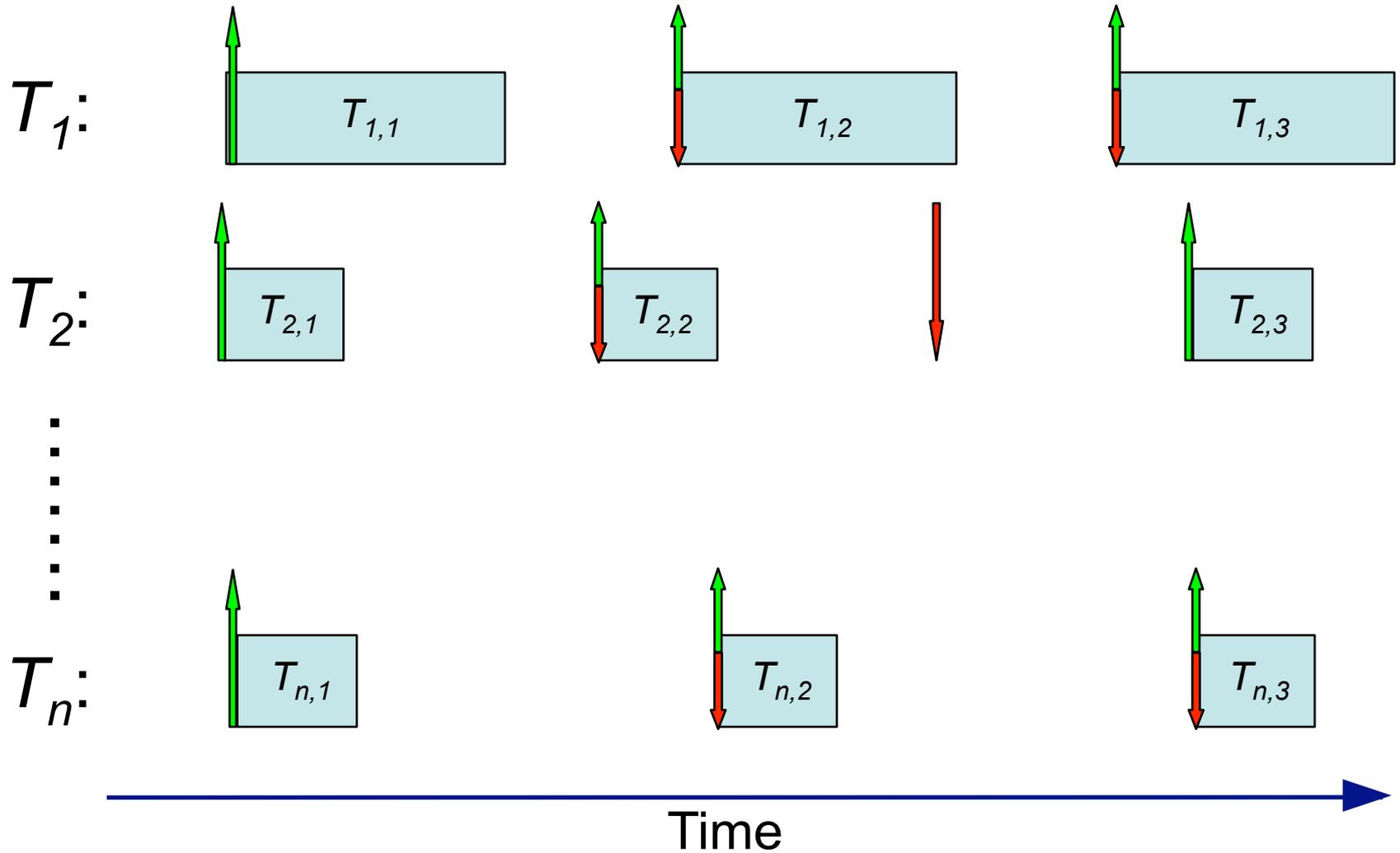


Sporadic Task System



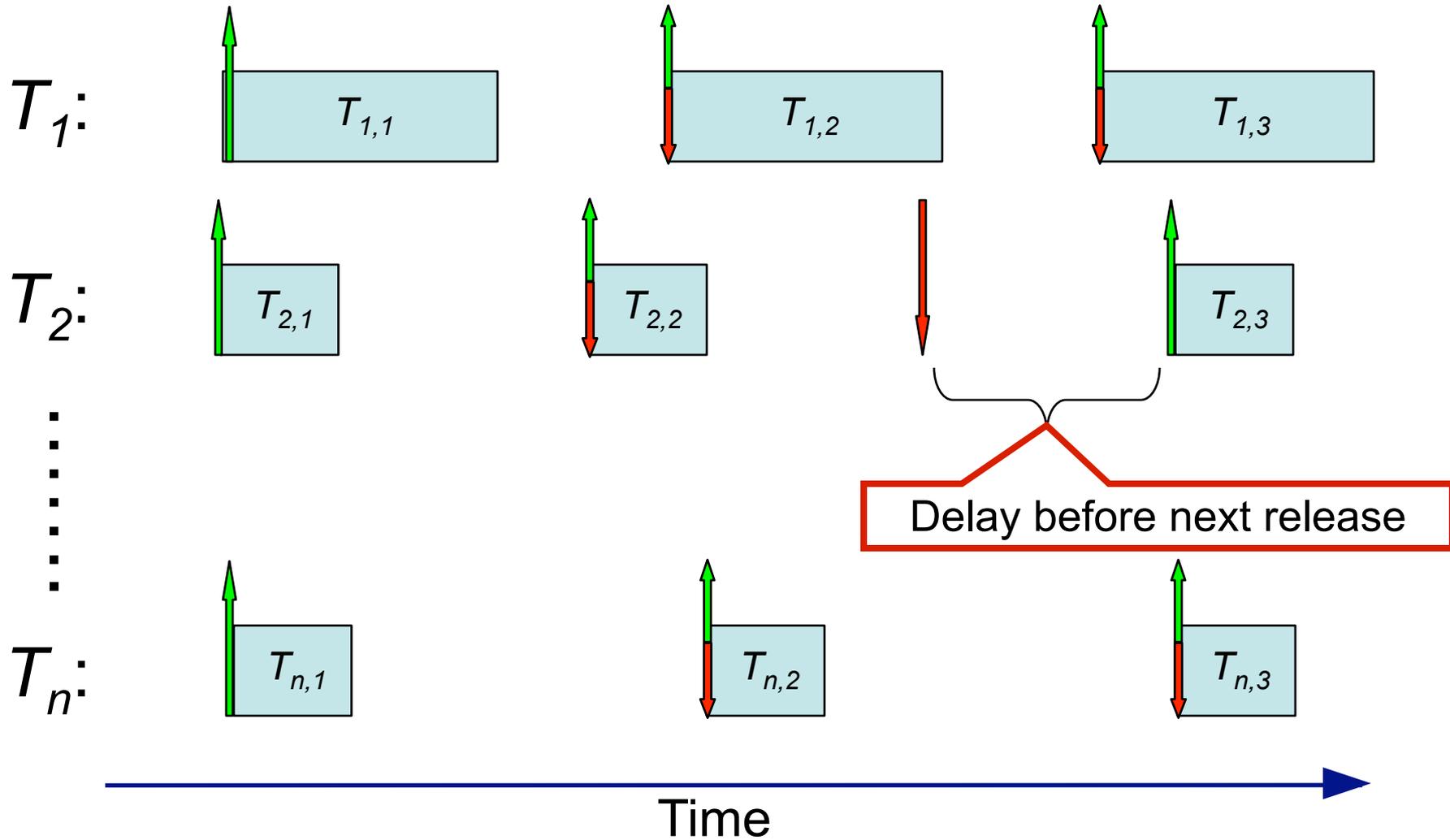


Sporadic Task System





Sporadic Task System





Uniprocessor Real-Time Scheduling

Static

(all jobs have same prio.)

Dynamic

(jobs can differ in prio.)



Uniprocessor Real-Time Scheduling

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(all jobs have same prio.)

Dynamic

(jobs can differ in prio.)

Rate Monotonic (RM)

Prioritize by decreasing period



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(all jobs have same prio.)

Rate Monotonic (RM)

Prioritize by decreasing period

Manual +

Time Demand Analysis

Prioritize somehow and check

Dynamic

(jobs can differ in prio.)



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(all jobs have same prio.)

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(jobs can differ in prio.)

Earliest Deadline First
(EDF)

Prioritize by decreasing deadlines



Static

(all jobs have same prio.)

Rate Monotonic (RM)

Prioritize by decreasing period

**Manual +
Time Demand Analysis**

Prioritize somehow and check

Dynamic

(jobs can differ in prio.)

**Earliest Deadline First
(EDF)**

Prioritize by decreasing deadlines

Least Laxity First (LLF)

Prioritize by decreasing laxity



Uniprocessor Real-Time Scheduling

Static

(all jobs have same prio.)

Rate Monotonic (RM)

Prioritize by decreasing period

Manual +
Time Demand Analysis

Prioritize somehow and check

Dynamic

(jobs can differ in prio.)

Earliest Deadline First
(EDF)

Prioritize by decreasing deadlines

Least Laxity First (LLF)

Prioritize by decreasing laxity

Not further considered in
this talk.



Only dynamic is (hard-)optimal!

(all jobs have same prio.)

(jobs can differ in prio.)

~~Rate Monotonic (RM)~~
Prioritize by decreasing period

Earliest Deadline First (EDF)
Prioritize by decreasing deadlines

~~Manual + Time Demand Analysis~~
Prioritize somehow and check

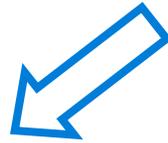
Least Laxity First (LLF)
Prioritize by decreasing laxity



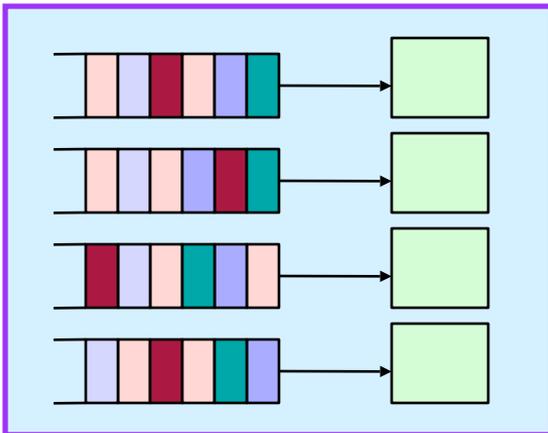
Two Fundamental Approaches



Two Fundamental Approaches



Partitioning



Steps:

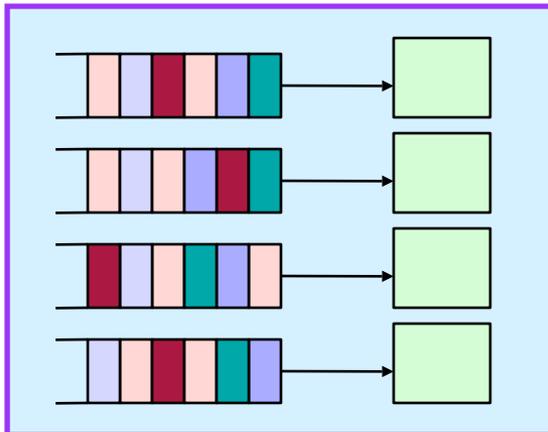
1. Assign tasks to processors (bin packing).
2. Schedule tasks on each processor using *uniprocessor* algorithms.



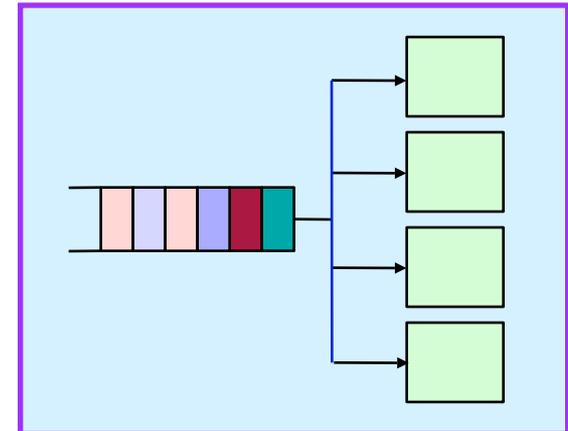
Two Fundamental Approaches



Partitioning



Global Scheduling



Steps:

1. Assign tasks to processors (bin packing).
2. Schedule tasks on each processor using *uniprocessor* algorithms.

Important Differences:

- One task queue.
- Tasks may *migrate* among the processors.



Partitioned

Global



Partitioned

Global

Static Priority
(*e.g.* RMS, POSIX)



Partitioned

Global

Static Priority
(*e.g.* RMS, POSIX)

Earliest Deadline First
(EDF)



Partitioned

Global

Static Priority
(*e.g.* RMS, POSIX)

Earliest Deadline First
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(EDF)



Partitioned

Static Priority
(*e.g.* RMS, POSIX)

Earliest Deadline First
(EDF)

Global

Fair
(*e.g.* Prop. Share, PFAIR)

Earliest Deadline First
(EDF)



Only PFAIR is (hard-)optimal!

Partitioned

Global

~~Static Priority~~
(e.g. ~~RMS~~, ~~POSIX~~)

Fair
(e.g. ~~Prop. Share~~, **PFAIR**)

~~Earliest Deadline First~~
(~~EDF~~)

~~Earliest Deadline First~~
(~~EDF~~)



Partitioning is not Optimal

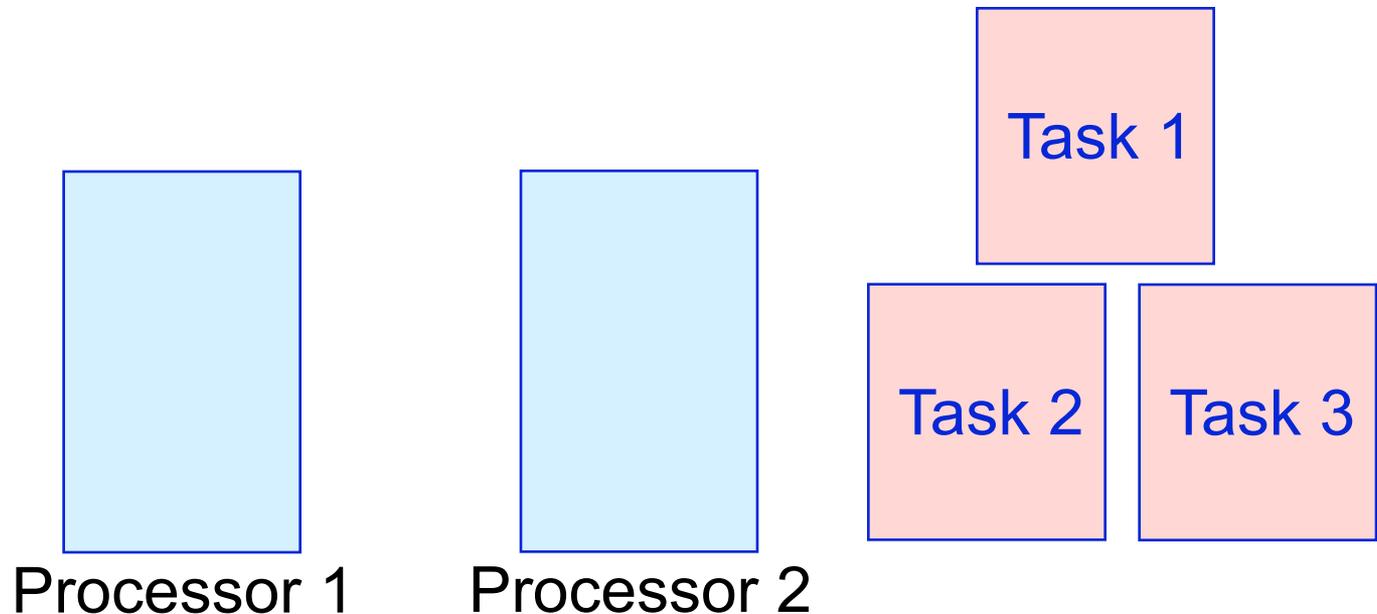
Partitioning suffers from bin-packing limitations.



Partitioning is not Optimal

Partitioning suffers from bin-packing limitations.

Example: Partitioning three tasks with parameters (2,3) on two processors will *overload* one processor.

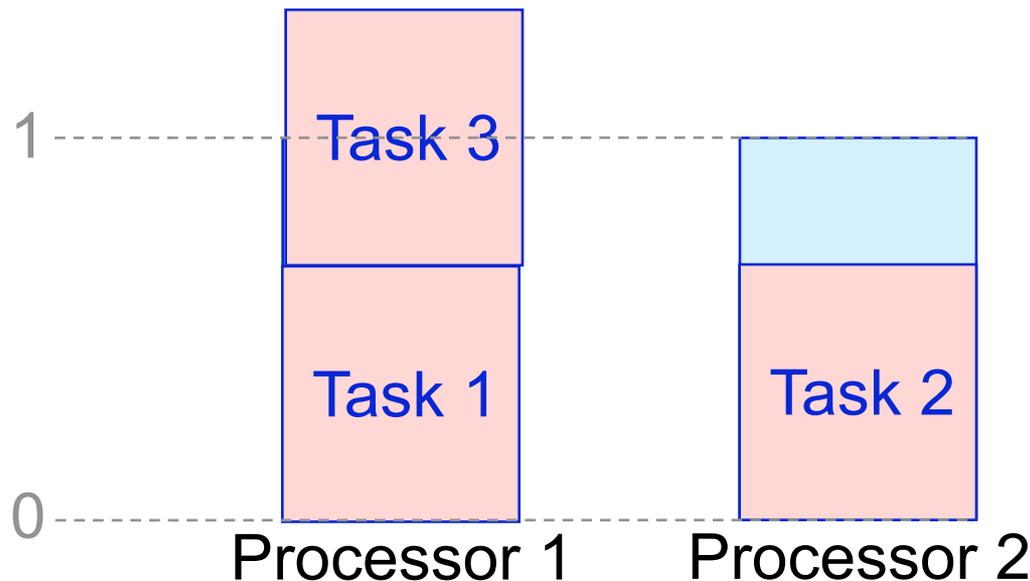




Partitioning is not Optimal

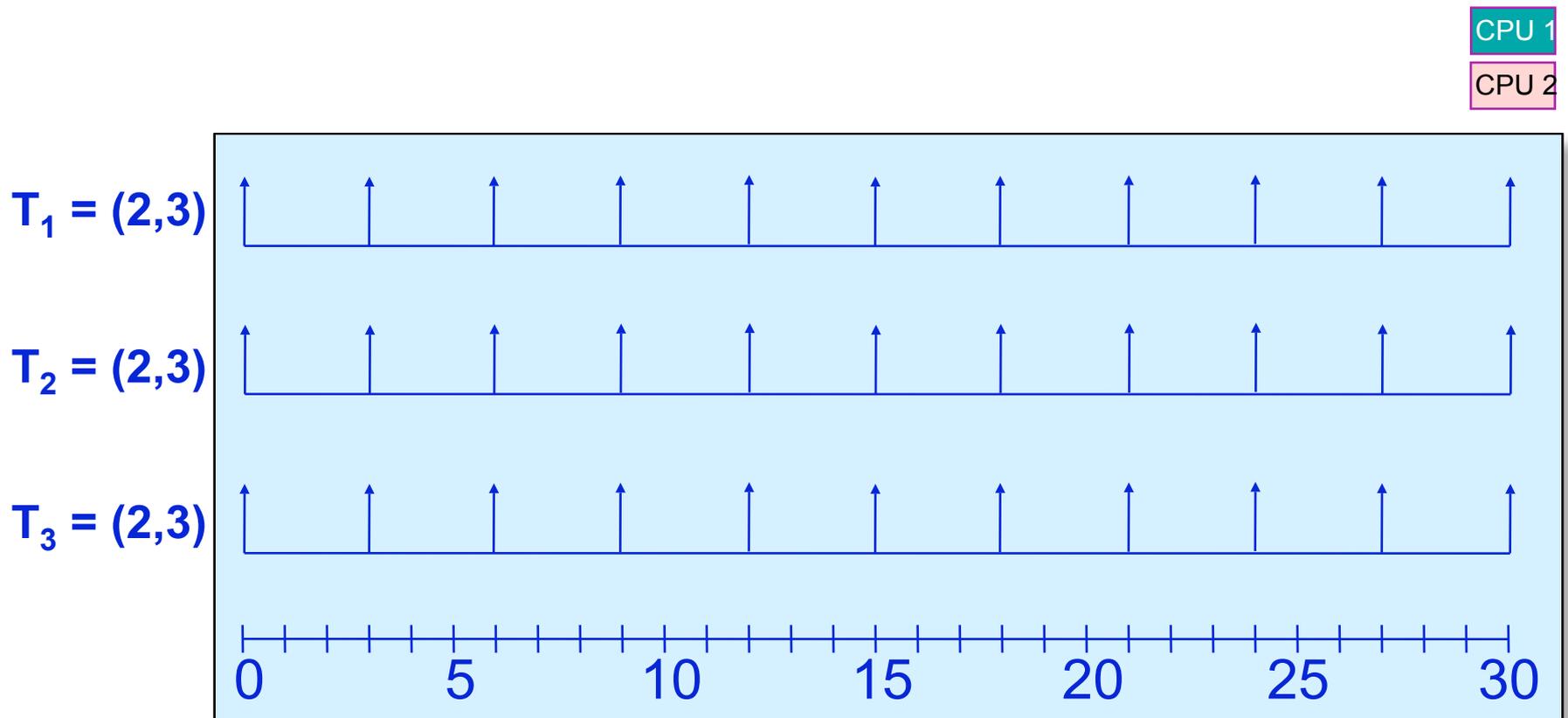
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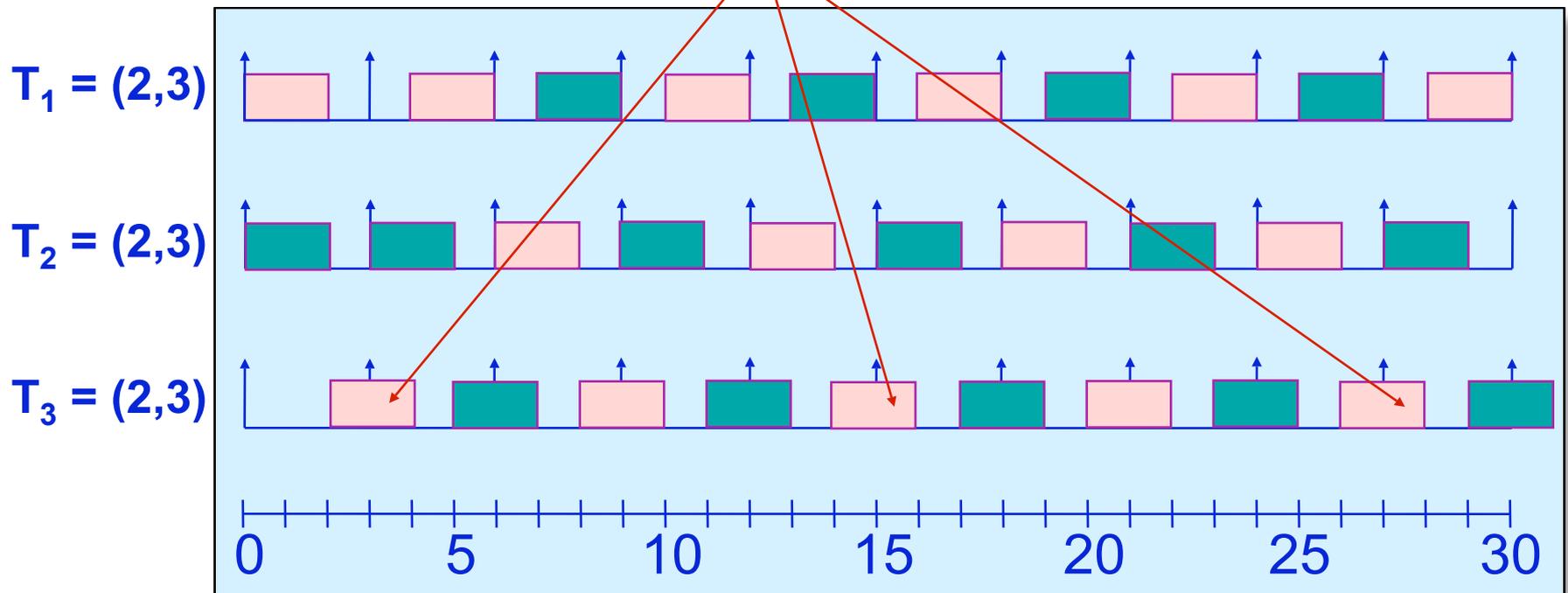
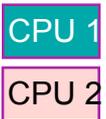
Previous example scheduled under **global EDF**...





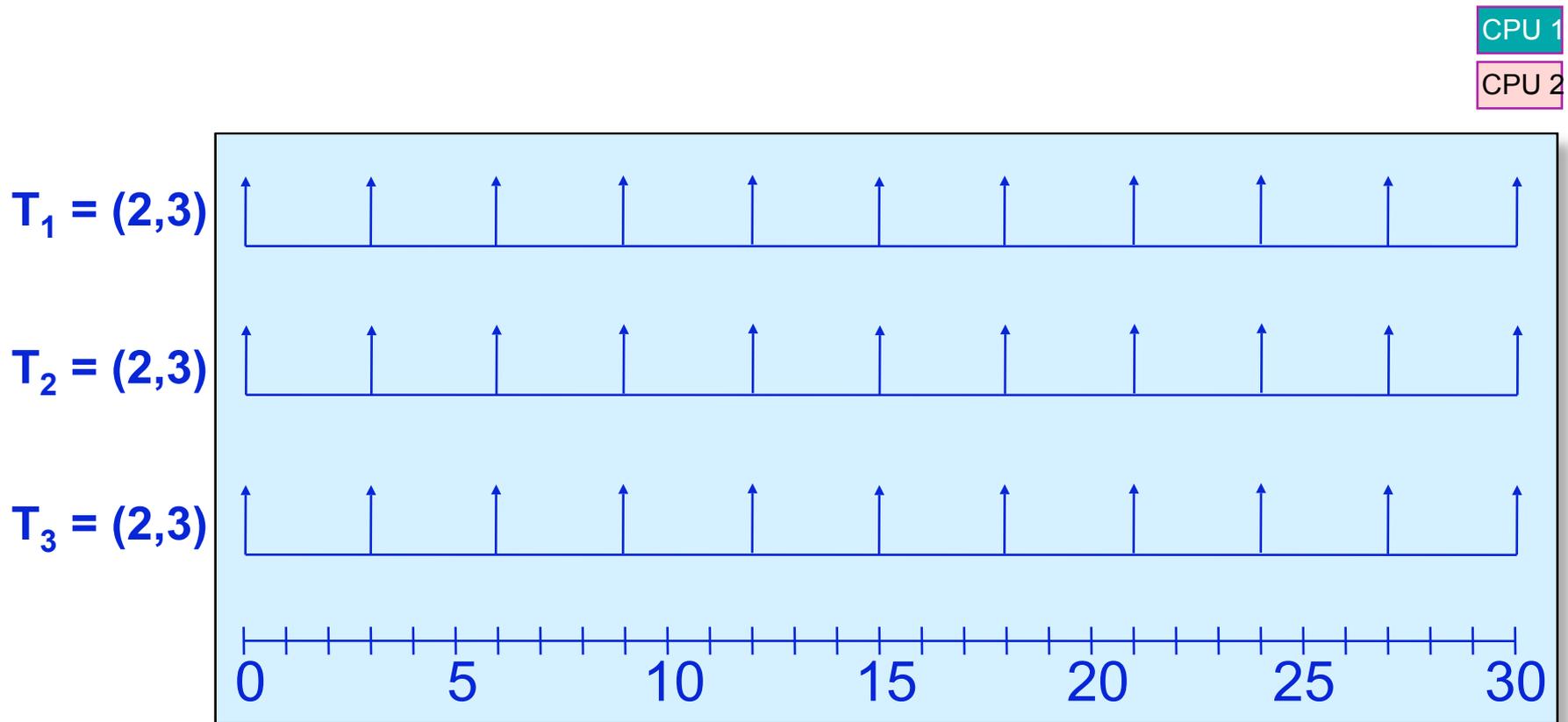
Previous example scheduled under **global EDF**...

Deadline missed (*tardy*) by at most one quatum.



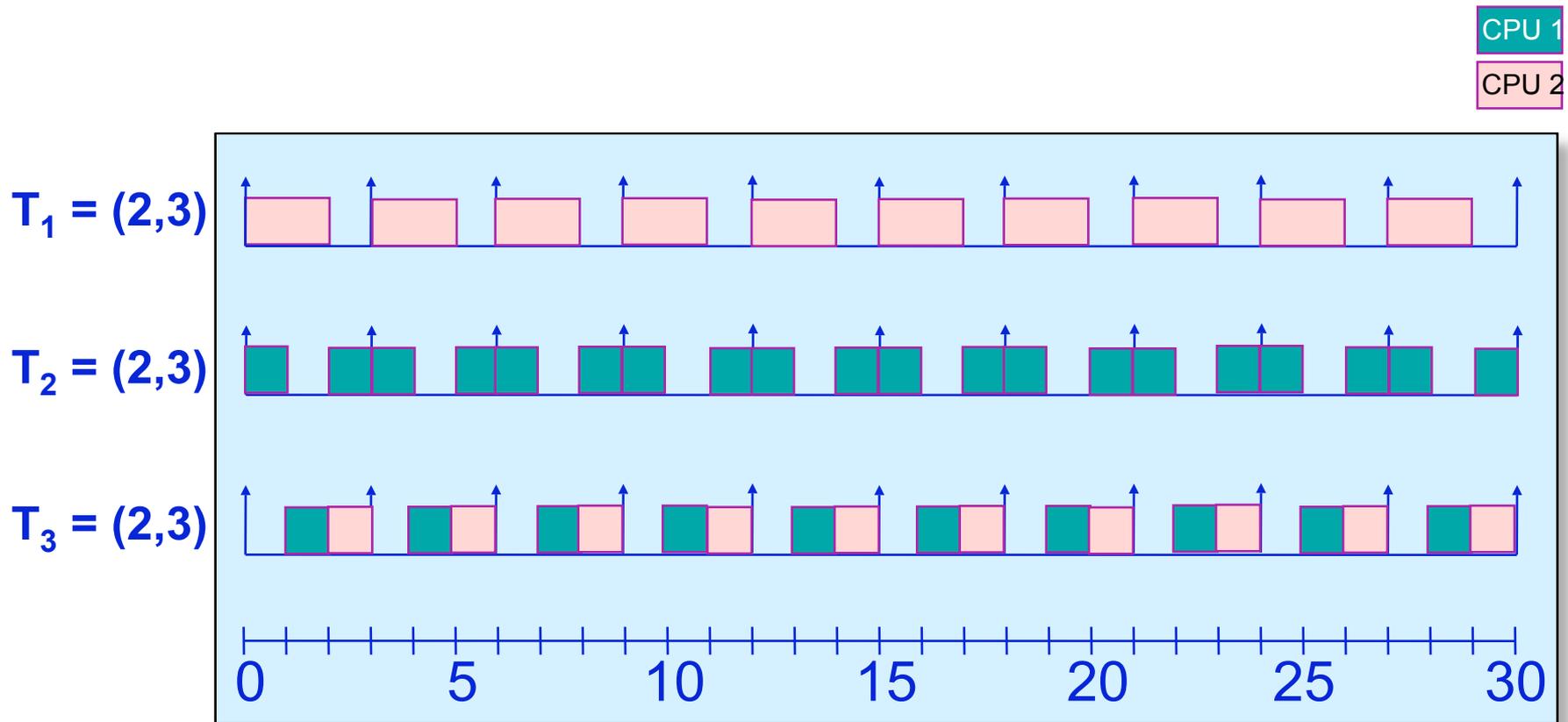


Previous example scheduled under PFAIR...



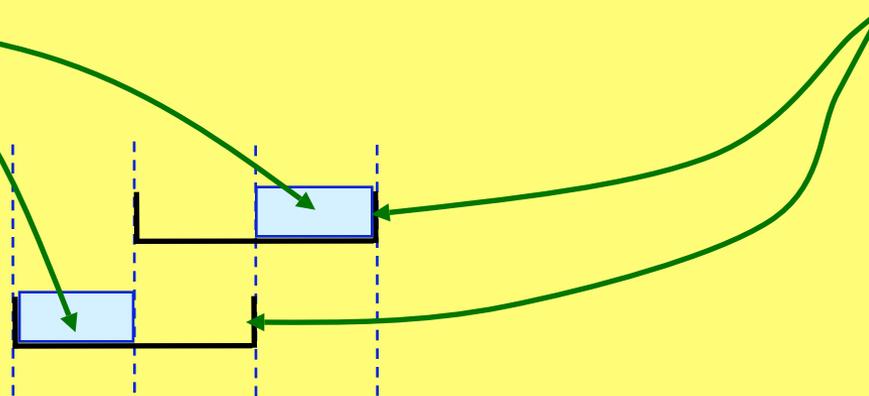


Previous example scheduled under PFAIR...





How does Pfair do it? $T = (2,3)$ is scheduled by breaking each of its jobs into two quantum-length *subtasks* that must be scheduled within a *window* of length two:



Subtasks are prioritized on an **EDF-basis** and using two **tie-breaking** rules.



Real-Time Scheduling Algorithms

Optimality of real-time scheduling algorithms:

	uniproc.	partitioned	global
static priority			
by deadline			
PFAIR			



Real-Time Scheduling Algorithms

Optimality of real-time scheduling algorithms:

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Optimal but high migration overheads.



Real-Time Scheduling Algorithms

Optimality of real-time scheduling algo

	uniproc.	partitioned	multi-processor
static priority	Hard: NO Soft: YES	Hard: NO Soft: NO	Hard: NO Soft: NO
by deadline	Hard: YES Soft: YES	Hard: NO Soft: NO	Hard: NO Soft: YES
PFAIR	Hard: (YES) Soft: (YES)	Hard: (NO) Soft: (NO)	Hard: YES Soft: YES

Less migrations but only soft-optimal!



Real-Time Scheduling Algorithms

Optimality of real-time scheduling algorithms:

		partitioned	global
static priority	Hard: NO Soft: YES	Hard: NO Soft: NO	Hard: NO Soft: NO
by deadline	Hard: YES Soft: YES	Hard: NO Soft: NO	Hard: NO Soft: YES
PFAIR	Hard: (YES) Soft: (YES)	Hard: (NO) Soft: (NO)	Hard: YES Soft: YES

No migrations but
not optimal at all!



Real-Time Scheduling Algorithms

Optimality of real-time scheduling algorithms:

No migrations but

partitioned

global

Question:

Given real **overheads**, what algorithm performs best in a given scenario?

static

NO

NO

by deadline

NO

Soft: YES

Soft: NO

Soft: YES

Hard: (YES)

Hard: (NO)

Hard: YES

PFAIR

Soft: (YES)

Soft: (NO)

Soft: YES



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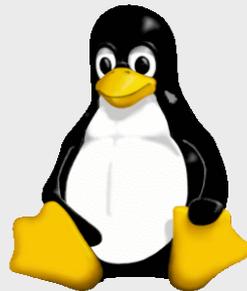
The Design of LITMUS^{RT}



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The Design of LITMUS^{RT}

Linux 2.6.24



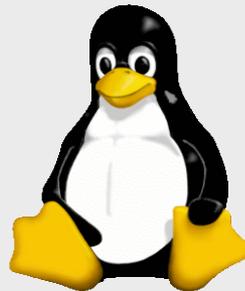


The Design of LITMUS^{RT}

LITMUS^{RT}
Core

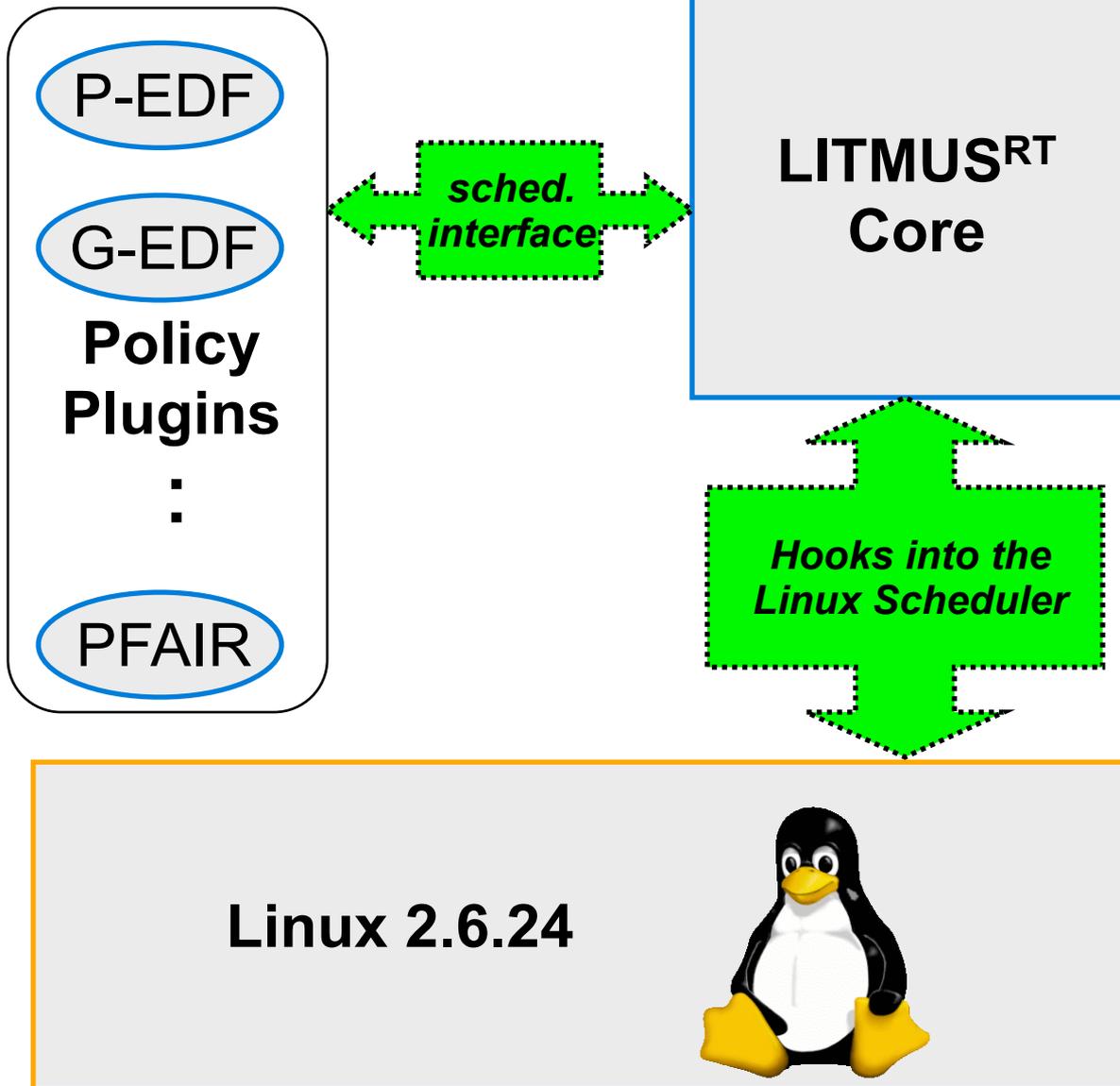
*Hooks into the
Linux Scheduler*

Linux 2.6.24



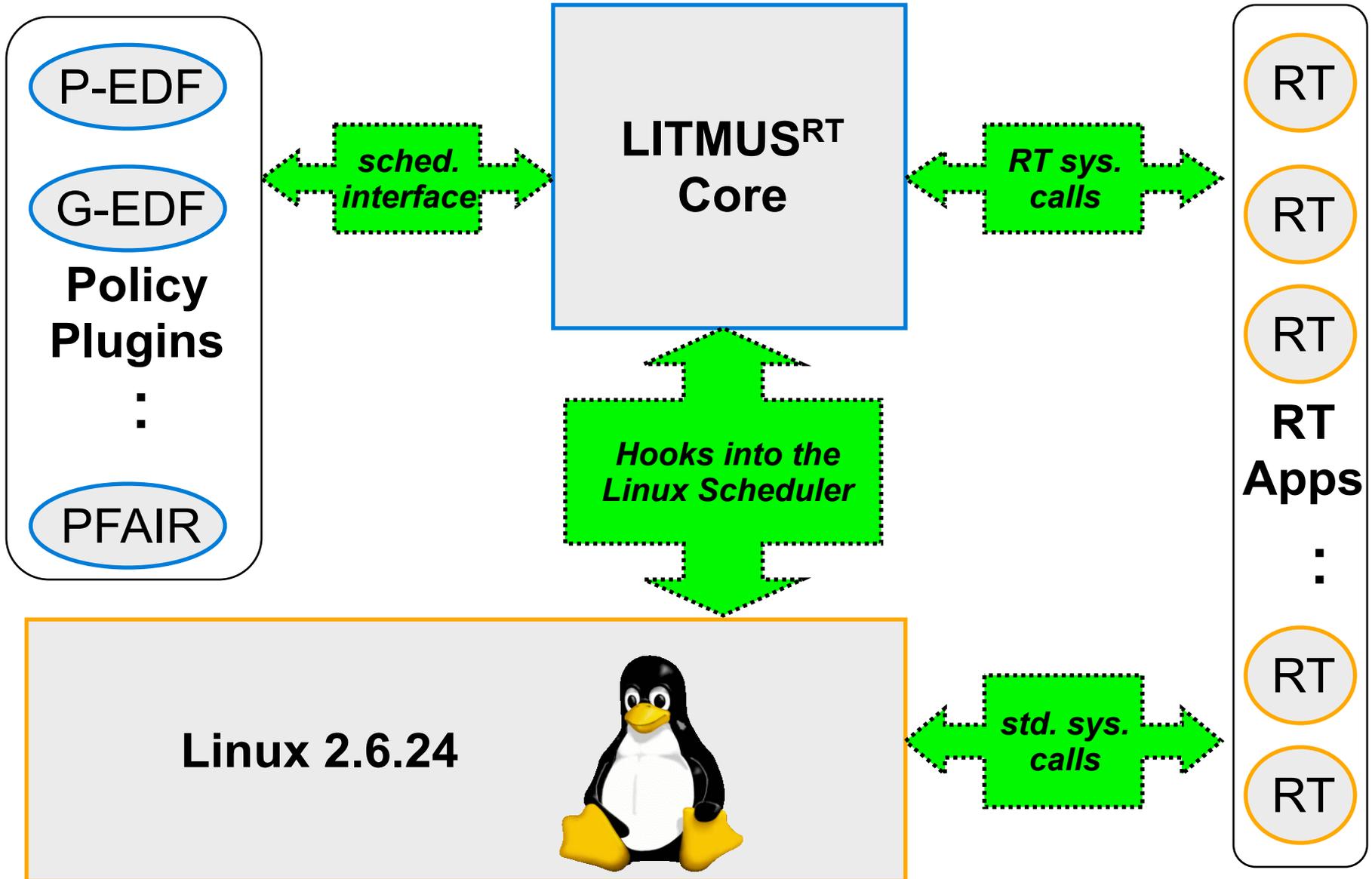


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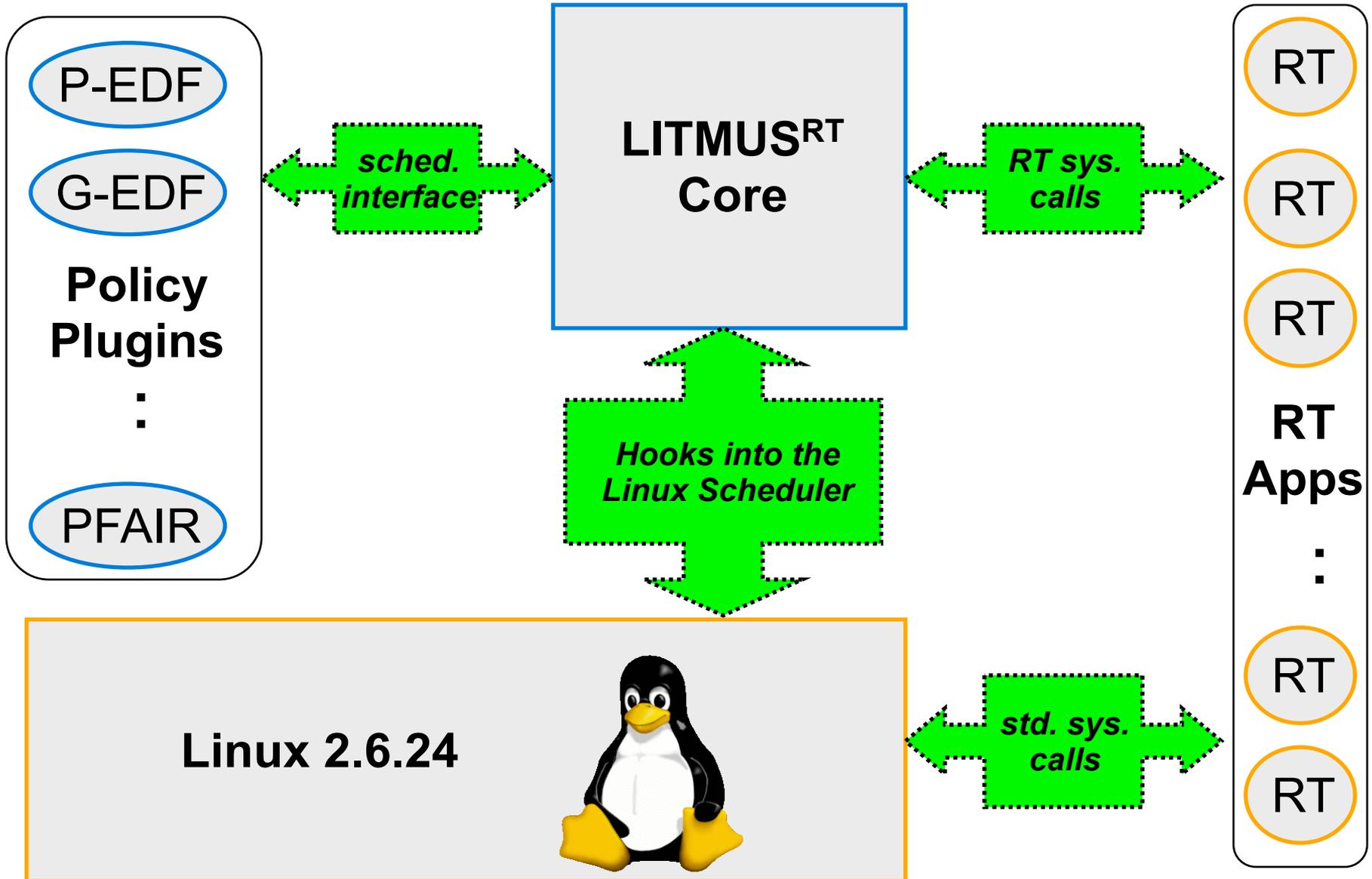


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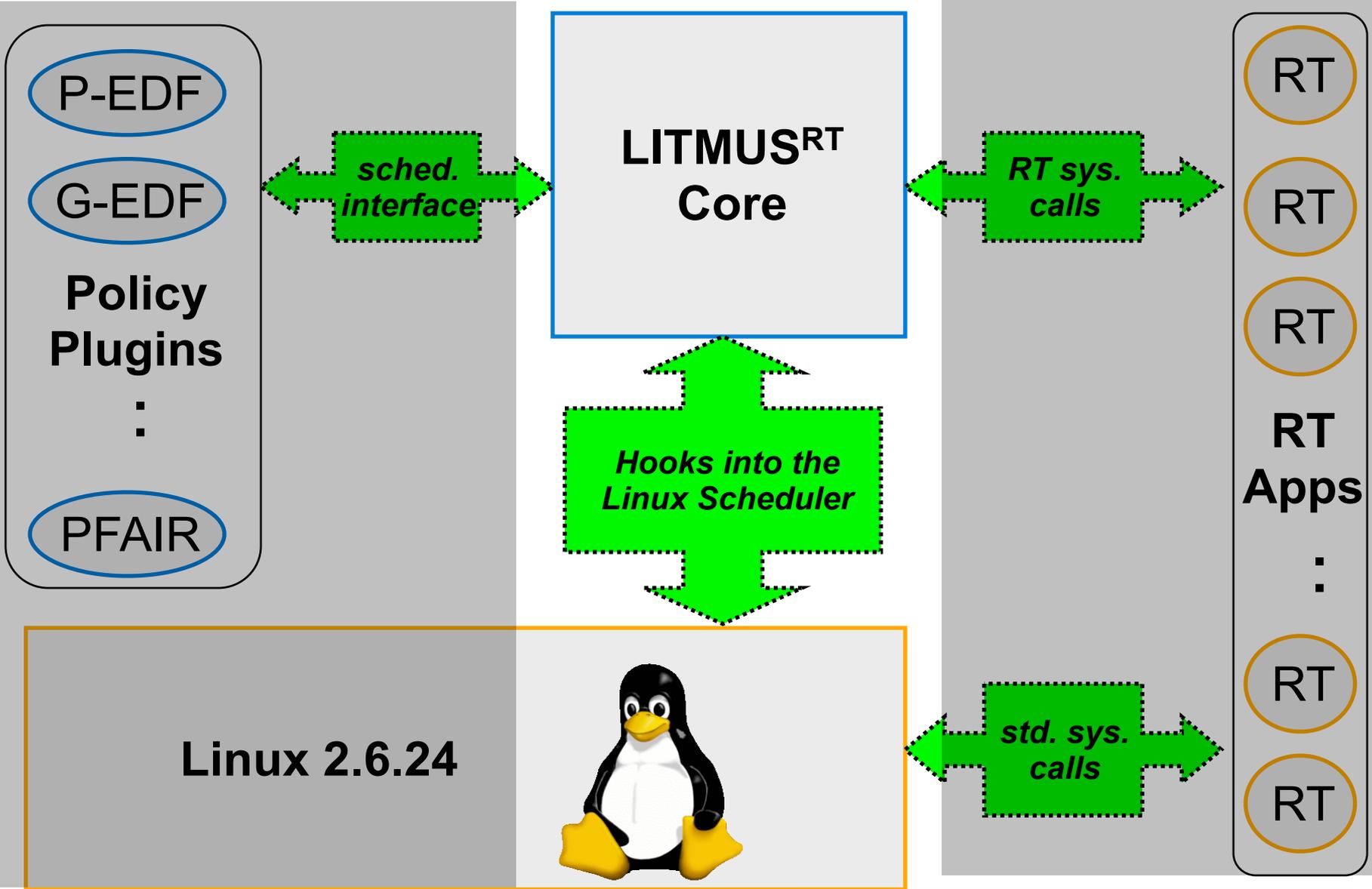


The Design of LITMUS^{RT}





The Design of LITMUS^{RT}





LITMUS^{RT} Core = Infrastructure & Components

Linux 2.6.24



Binomial Heaps

- heap_add()
- heap_union()

= Infrastructure & Components

Linux 2.6.24



Binomial Heaps

- heap_add()
- heap_union()

Orders

- earlier_deadline()
- earlier_release()
- shorter_period()

Components

Linux 2.6.24



Binomial Heaps

- heap_add()
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rt_domain_t

- Ready queue
- Release queue
- add(), take(), etc.

Linux 2.6.24



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Tracing Facilities...

Synchronized Quanta...

Linux 2.6.24



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rt_domain_t

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Tracing Facilities...

Synchronized Quanta...

scheduler_tick()

schedule()

try_to_wake_up()

Linux 2.6.24

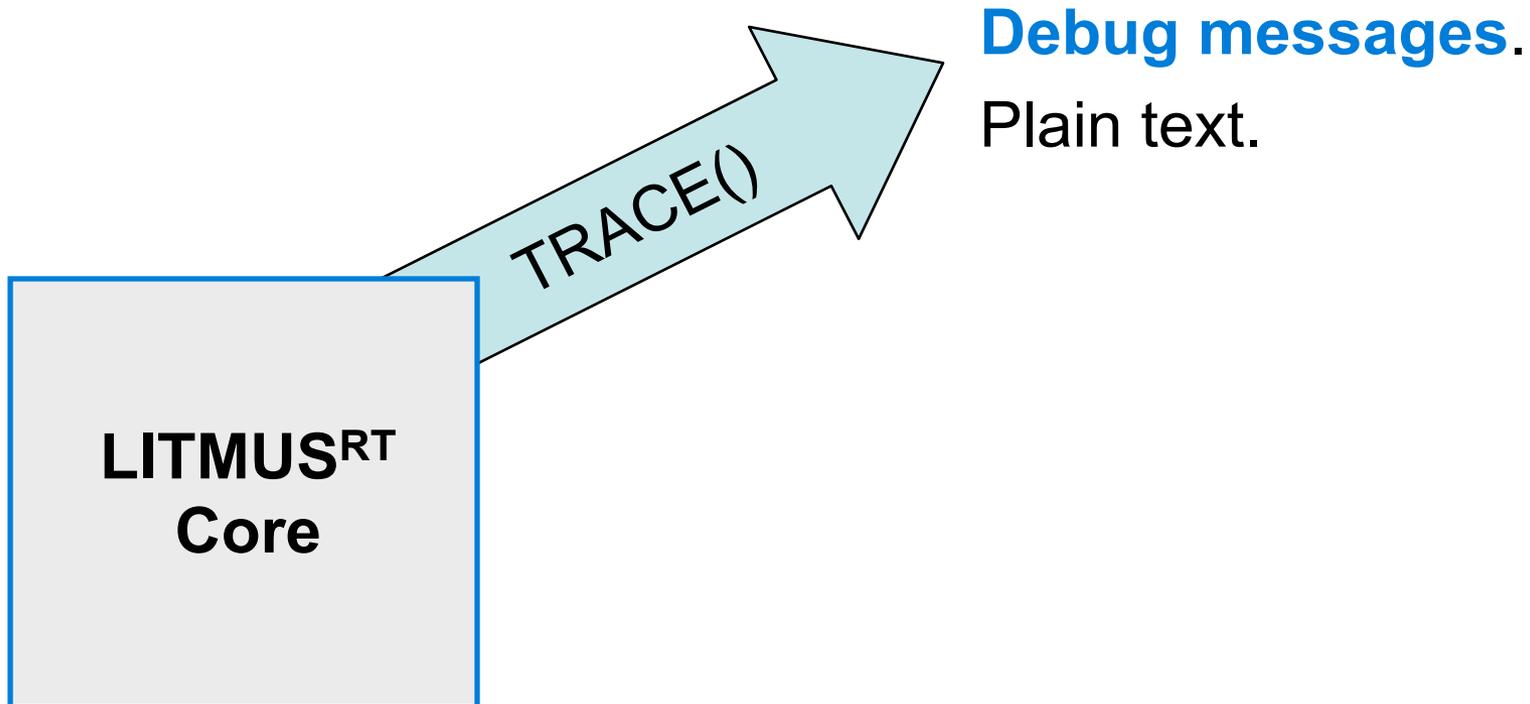


Three Tracing Facilities

LITMUS^{RT}
Core

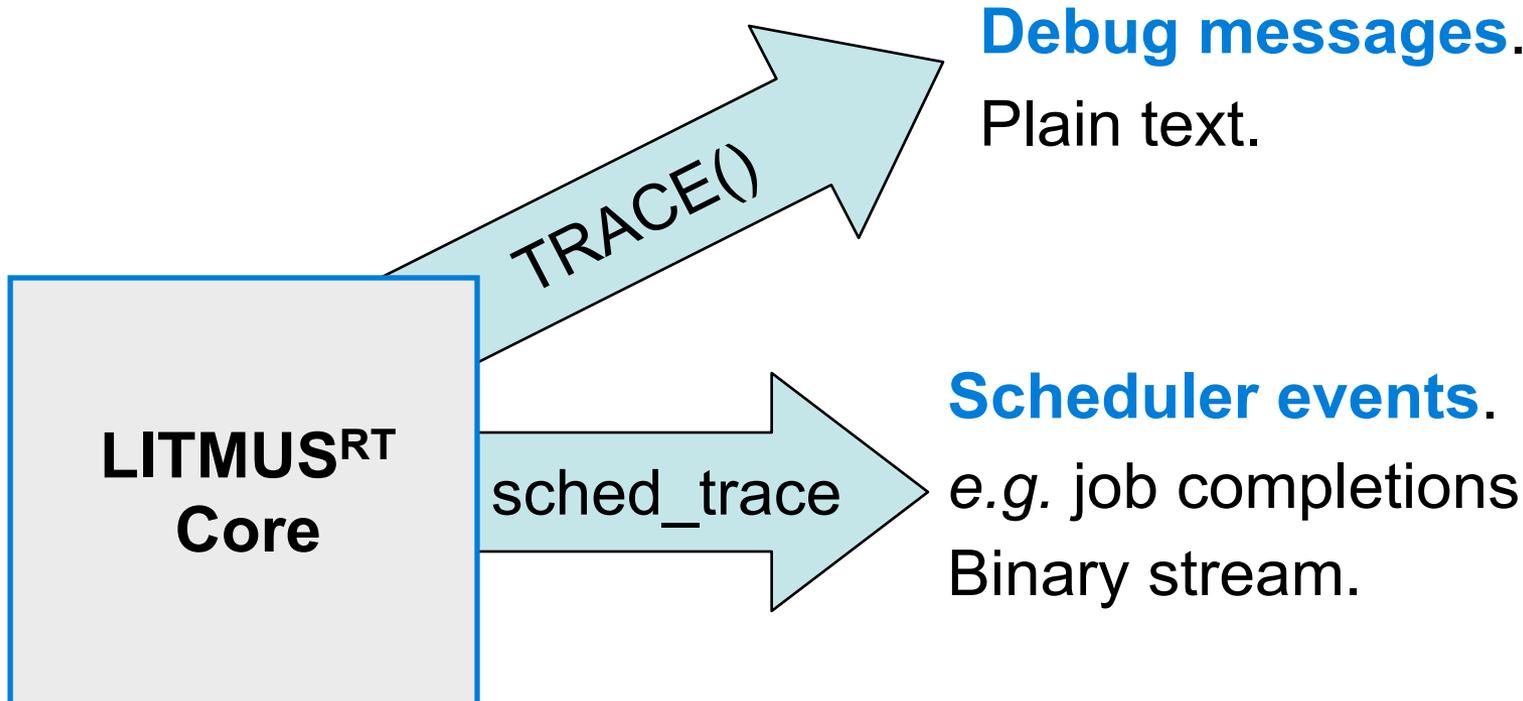


Three Tracing Facilities



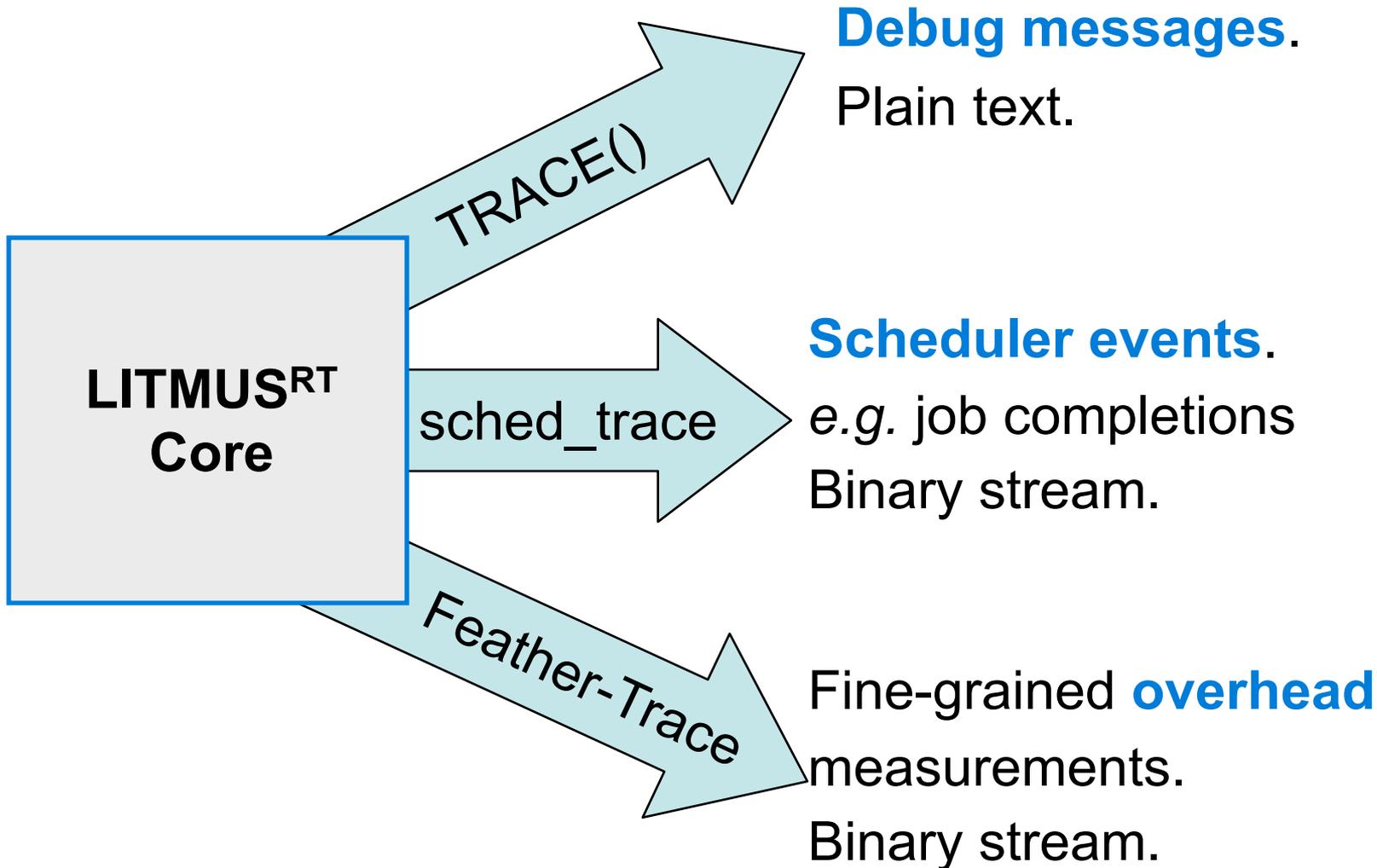


Three Tracing Facilities





Three Tracing Facilities



B. Brandenburg and J. Anderson, " [Feather-Trace: A Light-Weight Event Tracing Toolkit](#) ", *Proc. of the Third International Workshop on Operating Systems Platforms for Embedded Real-Time Applications*, pp. 20-27, July 2007.

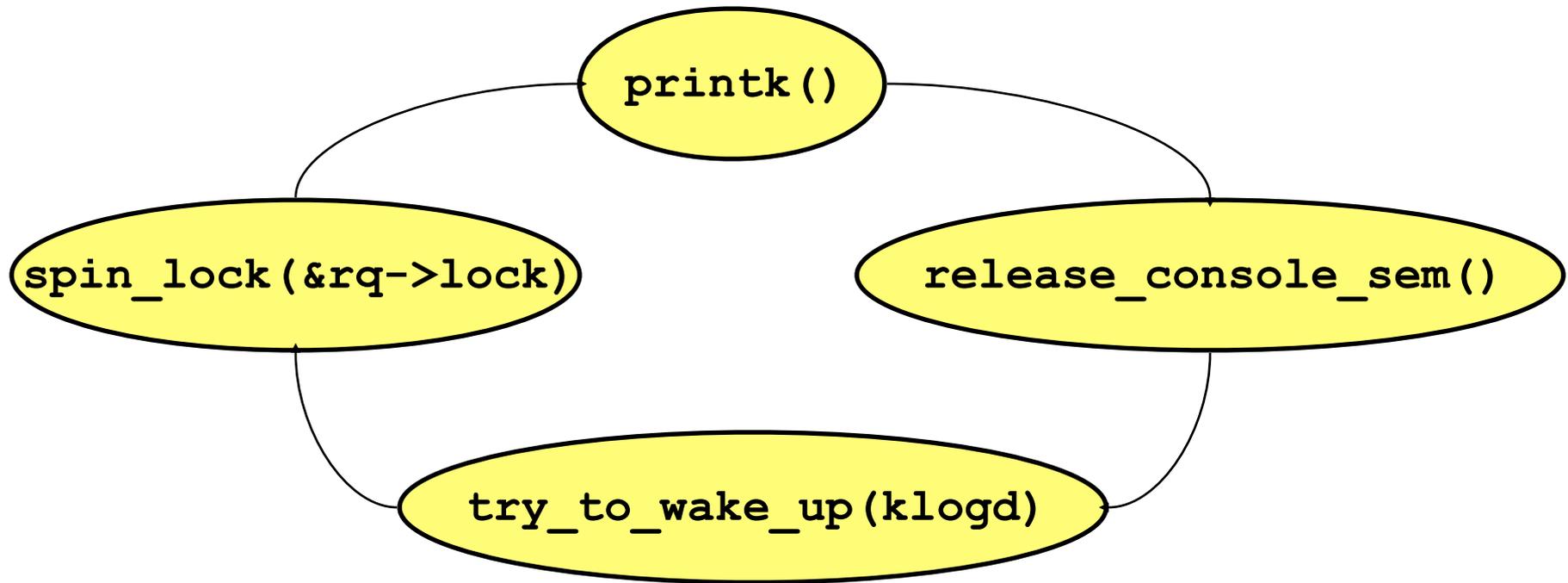


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Why not use `printk()` for debugging?



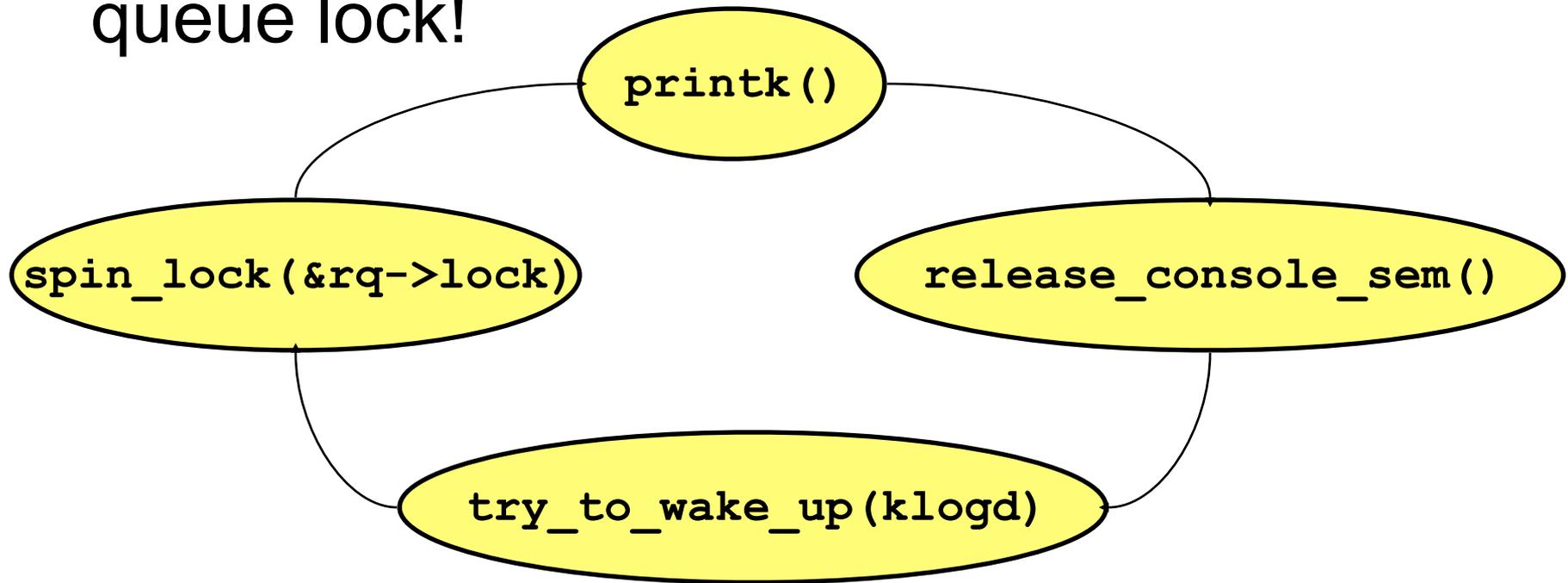
Why not use printk() for debugging?





Why not use `printk()` for debugging?

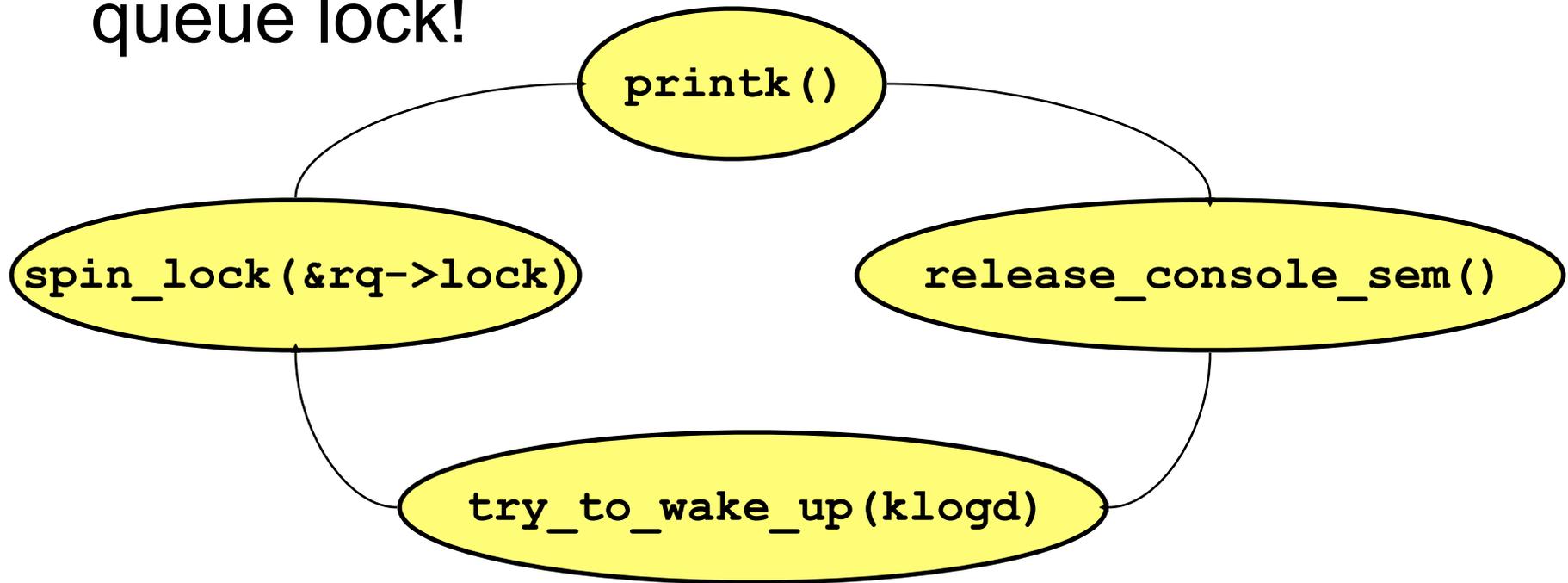
- Can't use `printk()` while holding a run queue lock!





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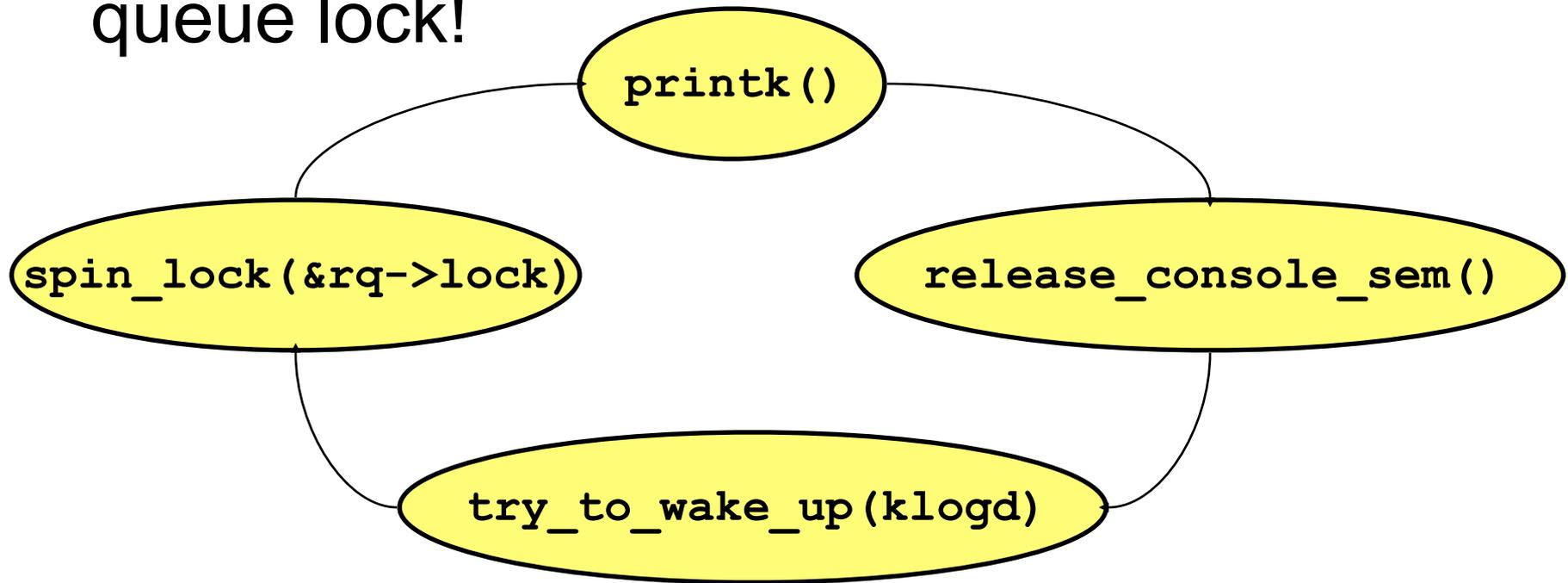
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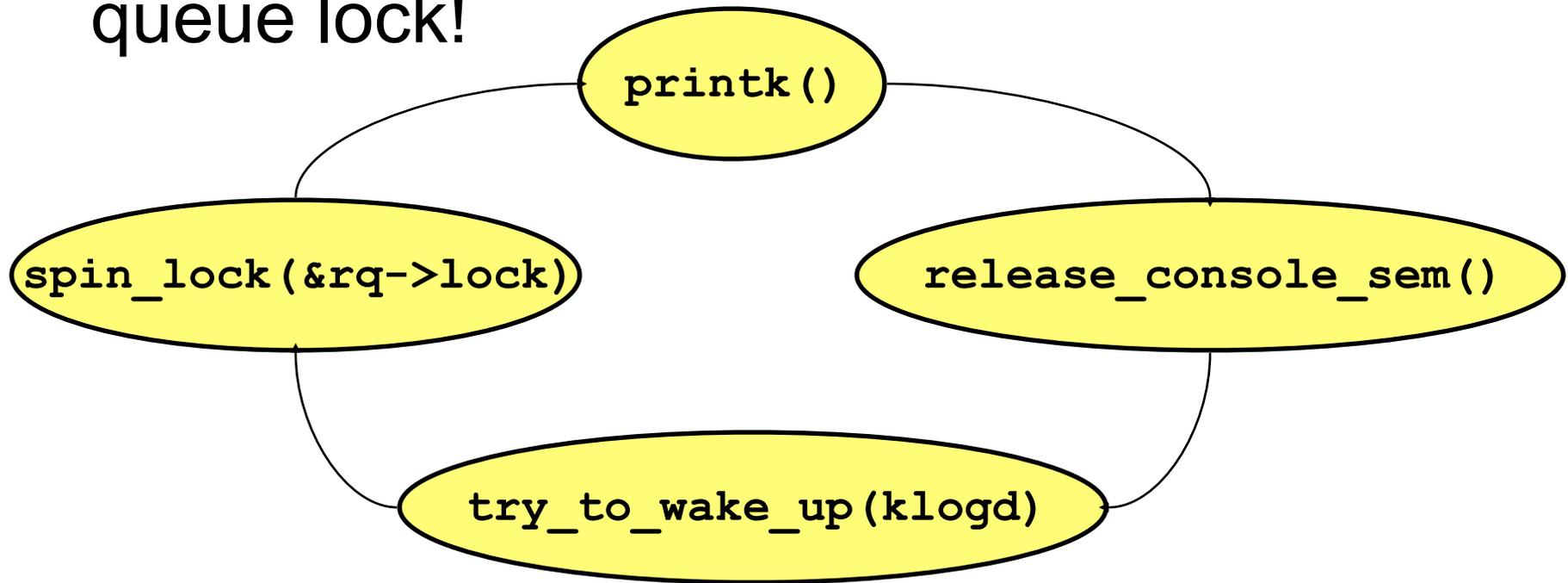
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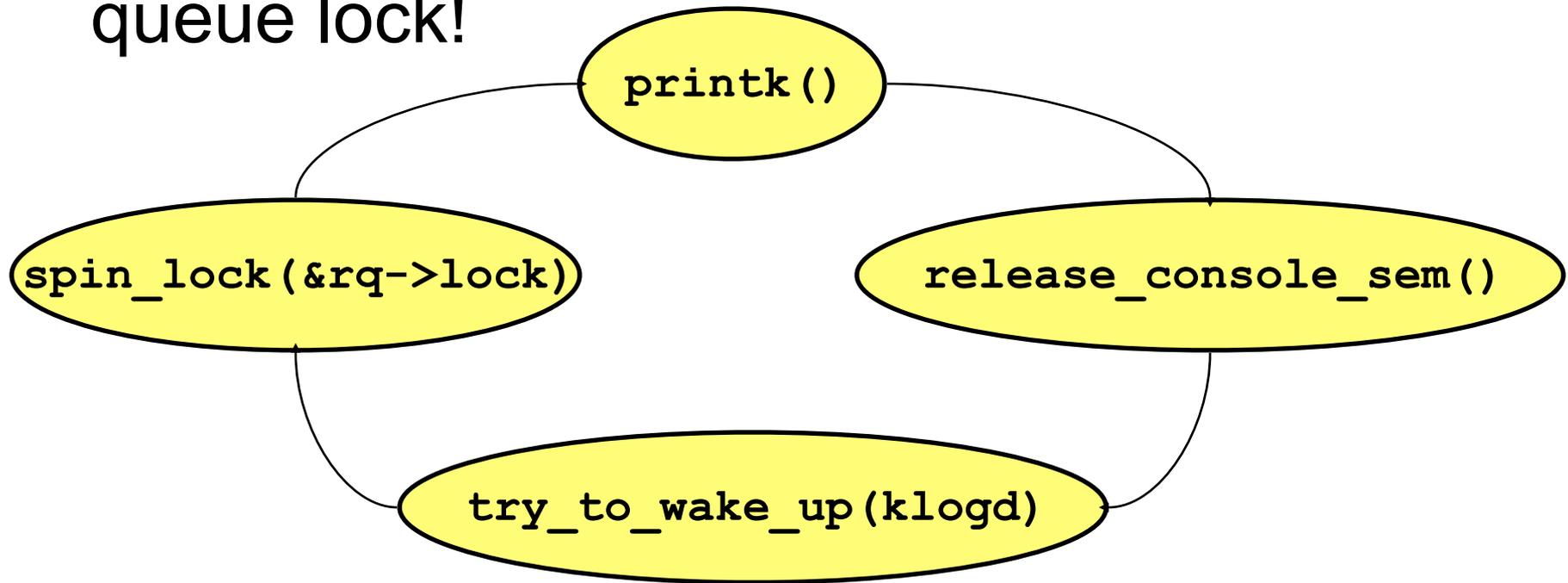
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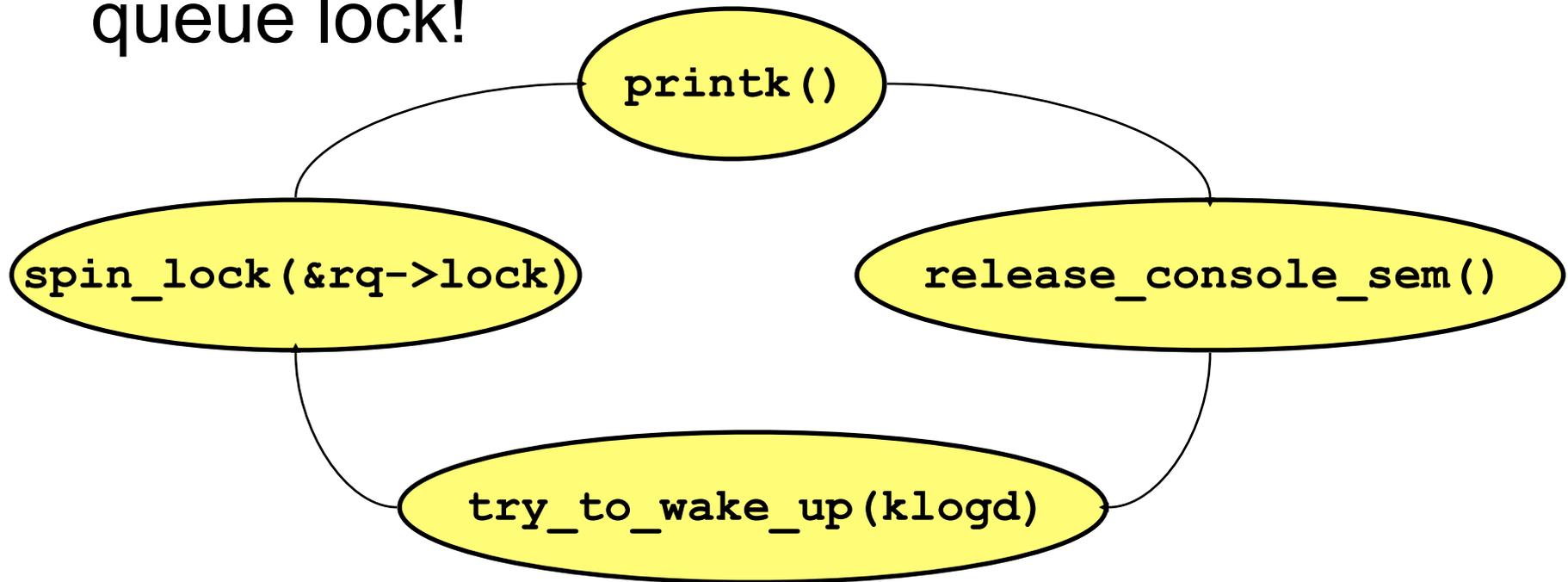
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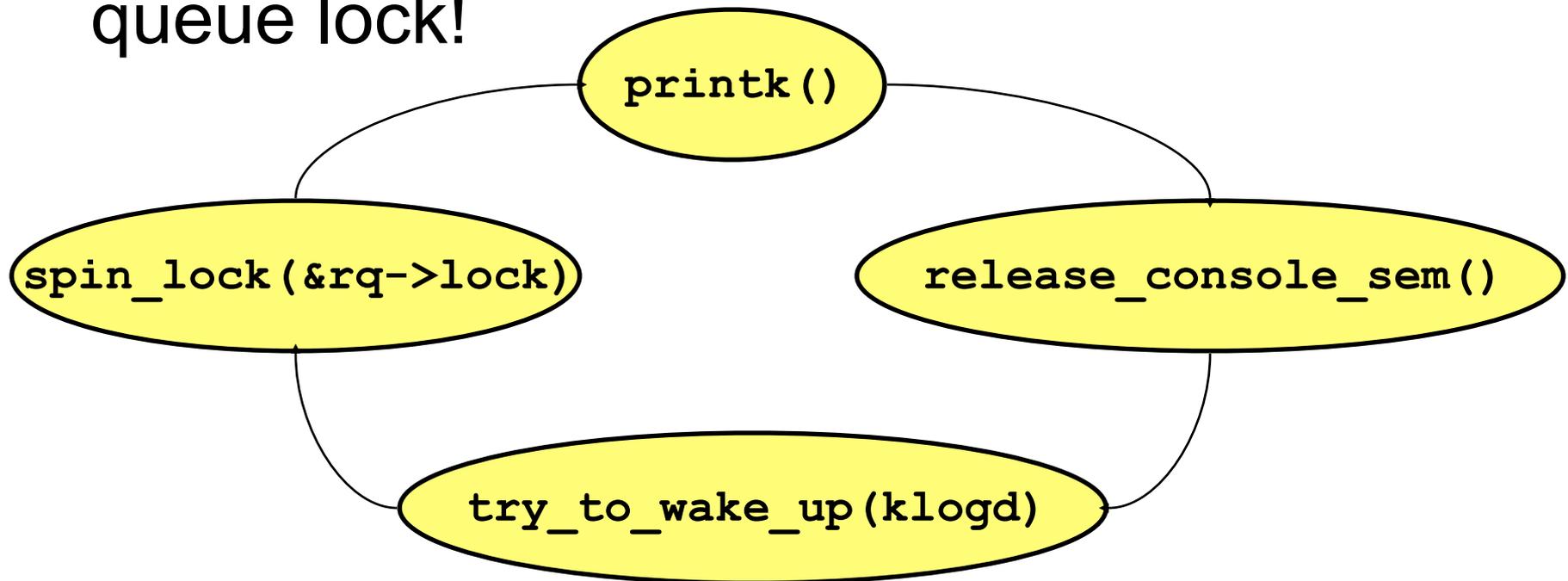


- Our solution: **TRACE()** debugging macros.



Why not use `printk()` for debugging?

- Can't use `printk()` while holding a run queue lock!



- Our solution: **TRACE()** debugging macros.
- Use custom **polling** char device driver.



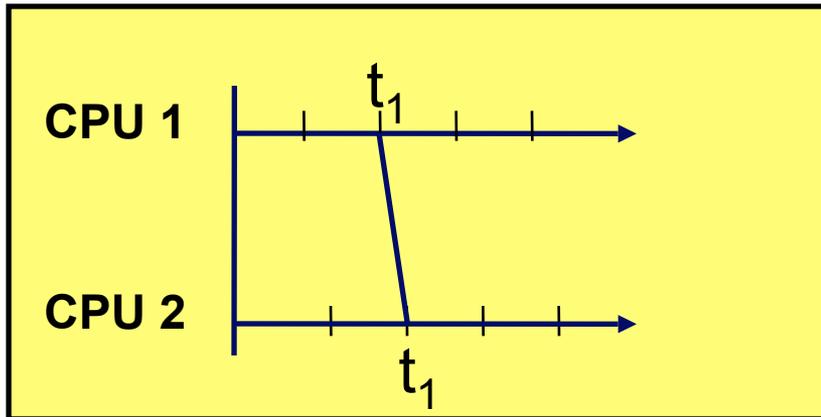
Supporting Scheduling

- Some algorithms (esp. PFAIR) require **synchronized** quanta.



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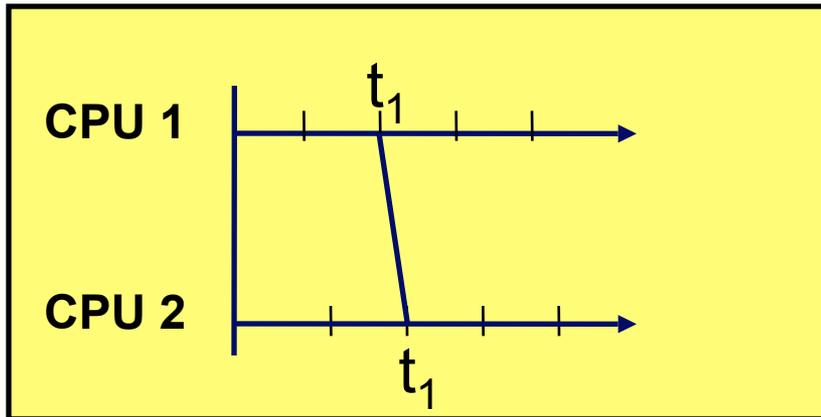
unsynchronized quanta

timer ticks are offset from each other across CPUs



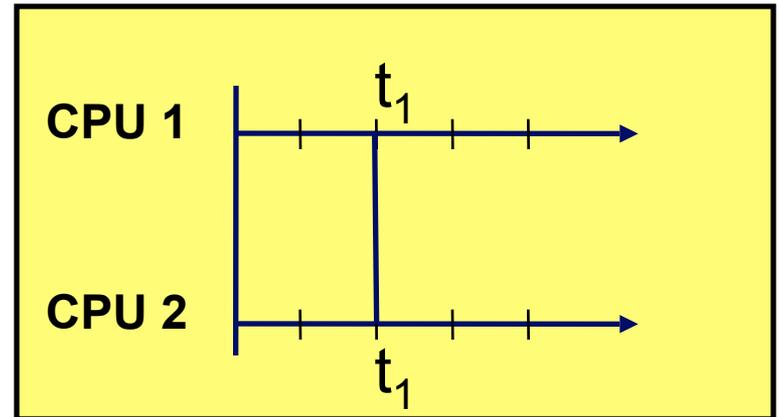
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synchronized quanta

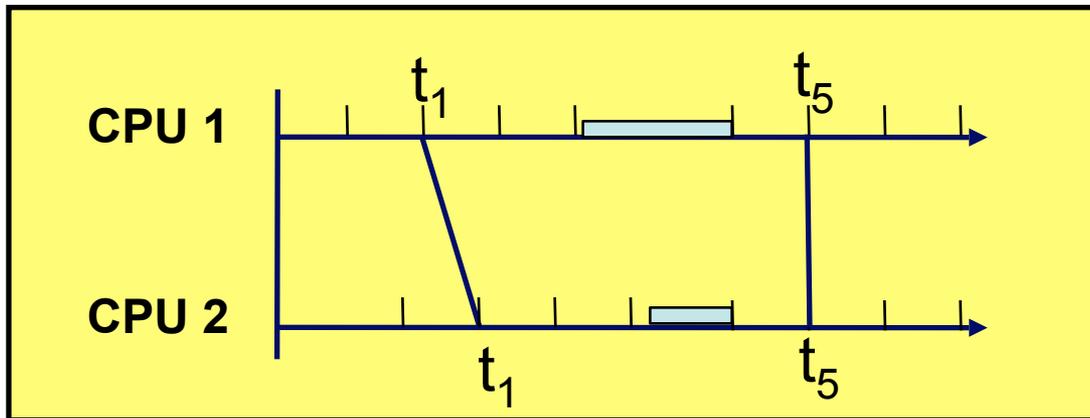
timer ticks occur at same time across CPUs

Vanilla Linux is not **guaranteed** to have synchronized quanta!



Synchronizing Quanta

- We used to use a **barrier** to synchronize quanta at boot time (2007.x series).

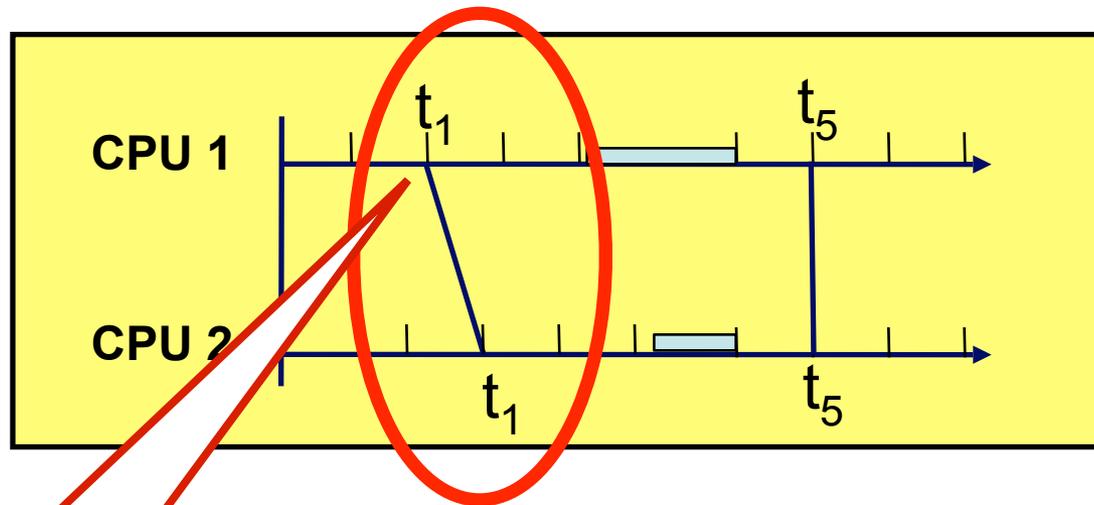


Calandrino and Anderson, "Quantum Support for Multiprocessor Pfair Scheduling in Linux", OSPERT'06



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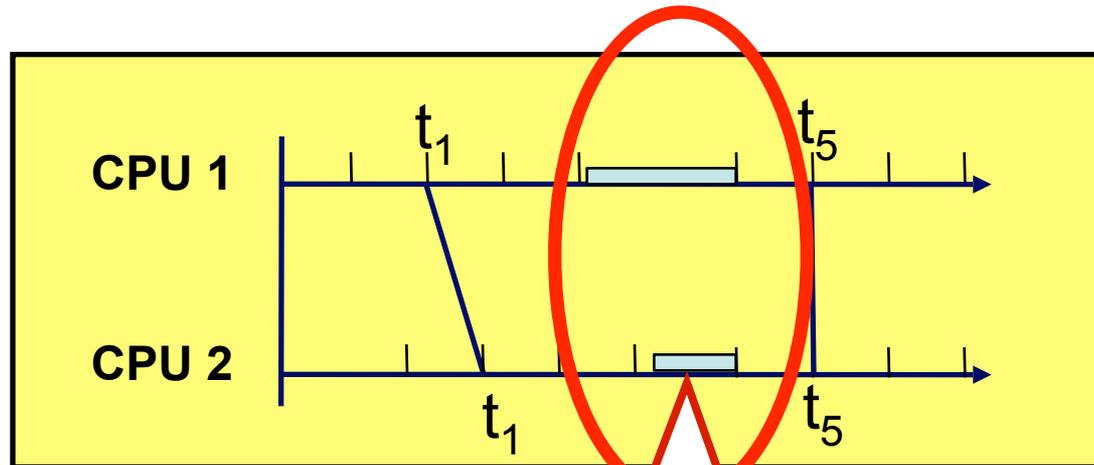
Initially quanta
are
unsynchronized.

Quantum Support for Multiprocessor Pfair Scheduling in Linux“, OSPERT'06



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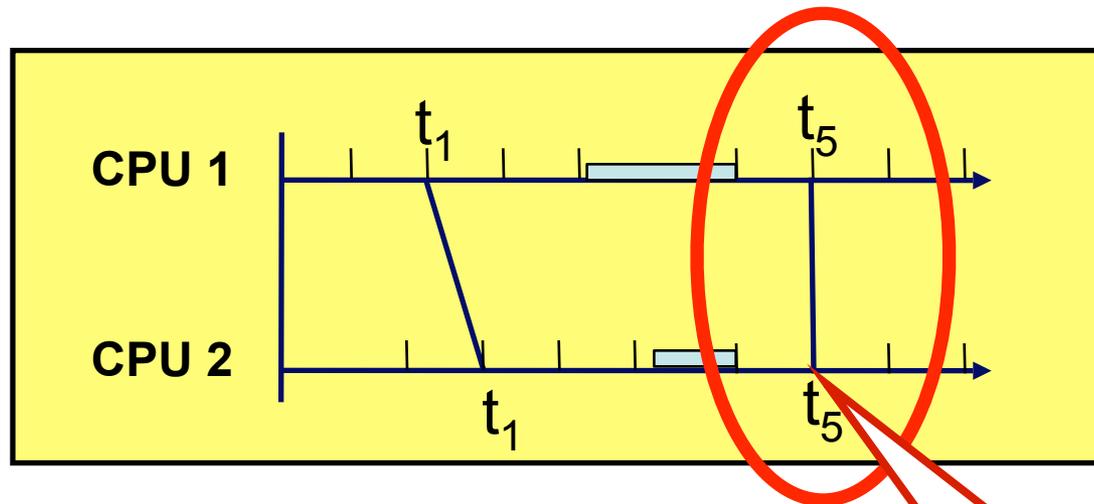


Disable APIC timer,
perform barrier,
re-enable timer.



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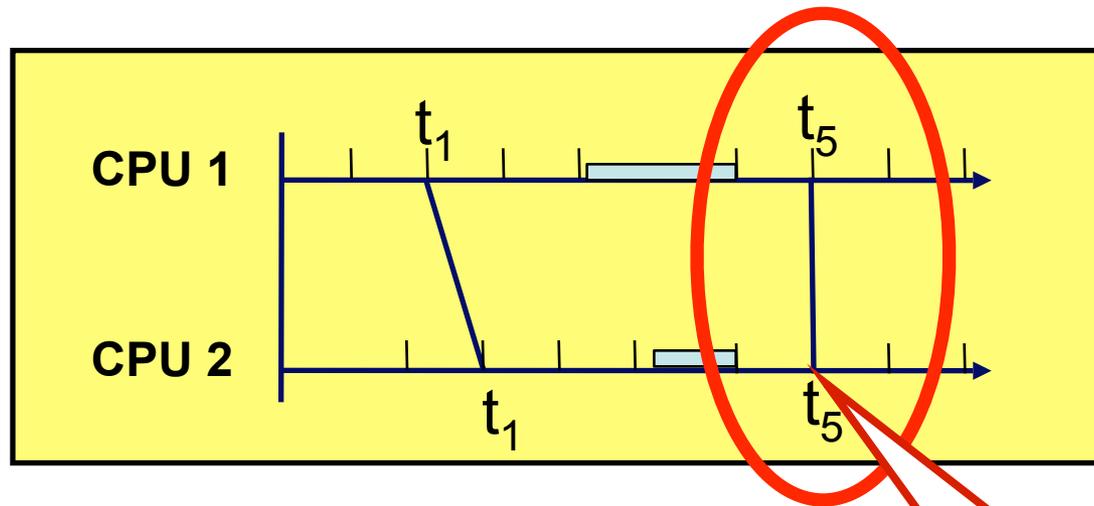


Quanta are synchronized within **10 μ s**.



Synchronizing Quanta

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In the 2008.x series, we only need to recompute timer offsets.

Quanta are synchronized within **10 μ s**.

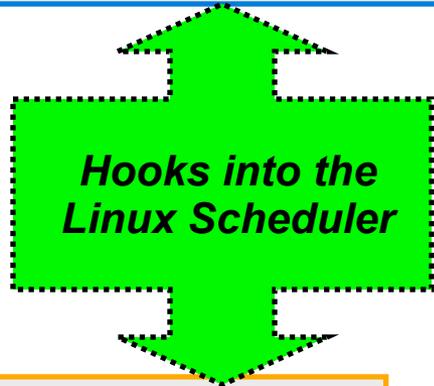


The Design of LITMUS^{RT}

P-EDF
G-EDF
**Policy
Plugins**
:
PFAIR



**LITMUS^{RT}
Core**



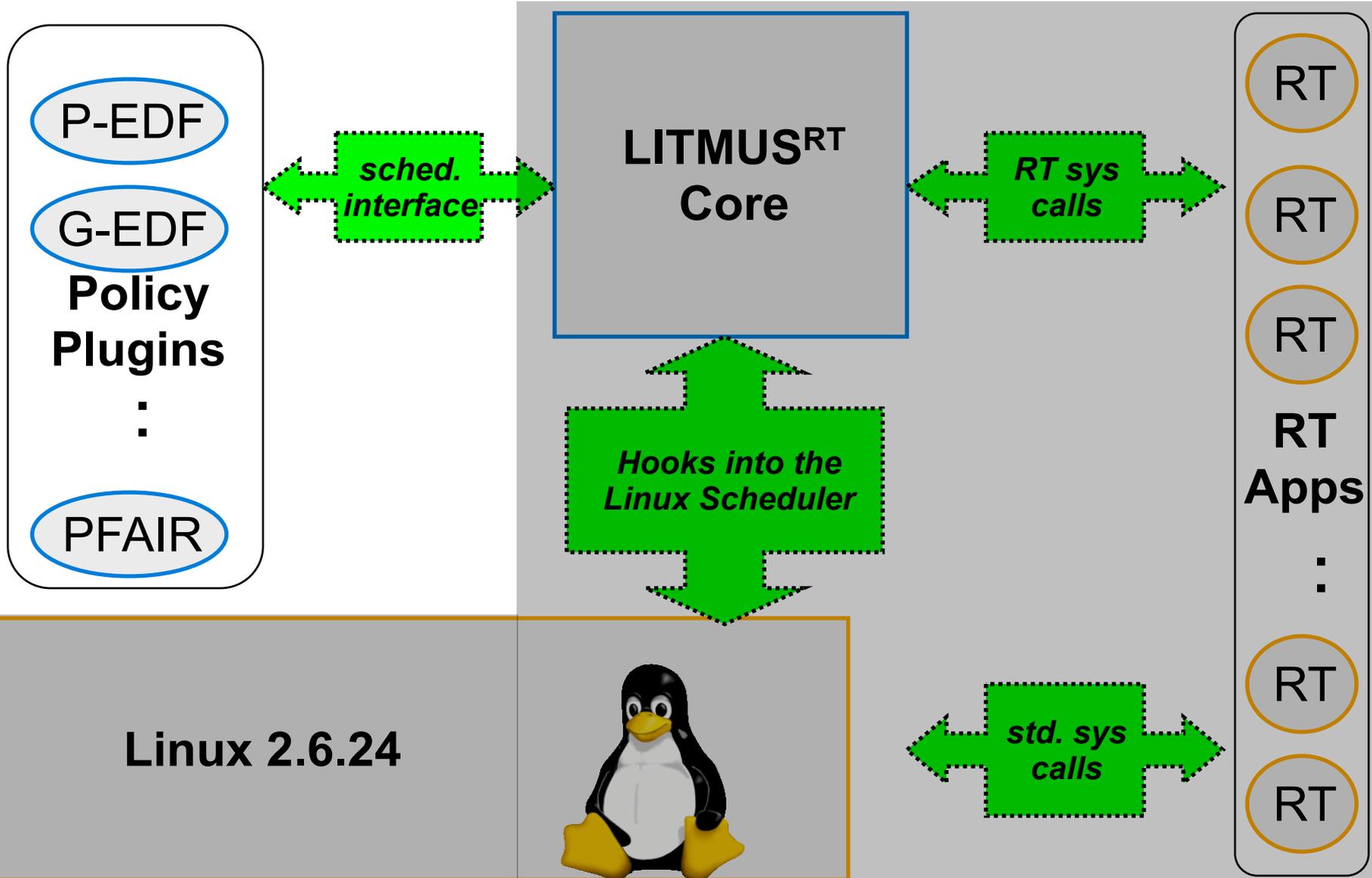
Linux 2.6.24



RT
RT
RT
**RT
Apps**
:
RT
RT



The Design of LITMUS^{RT}





Scheduling Policy Plugins

- LITMUS^{RT} 2007.3 contains eight plugins

Partitioned

Global

Partitioned	Global



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P-EDF



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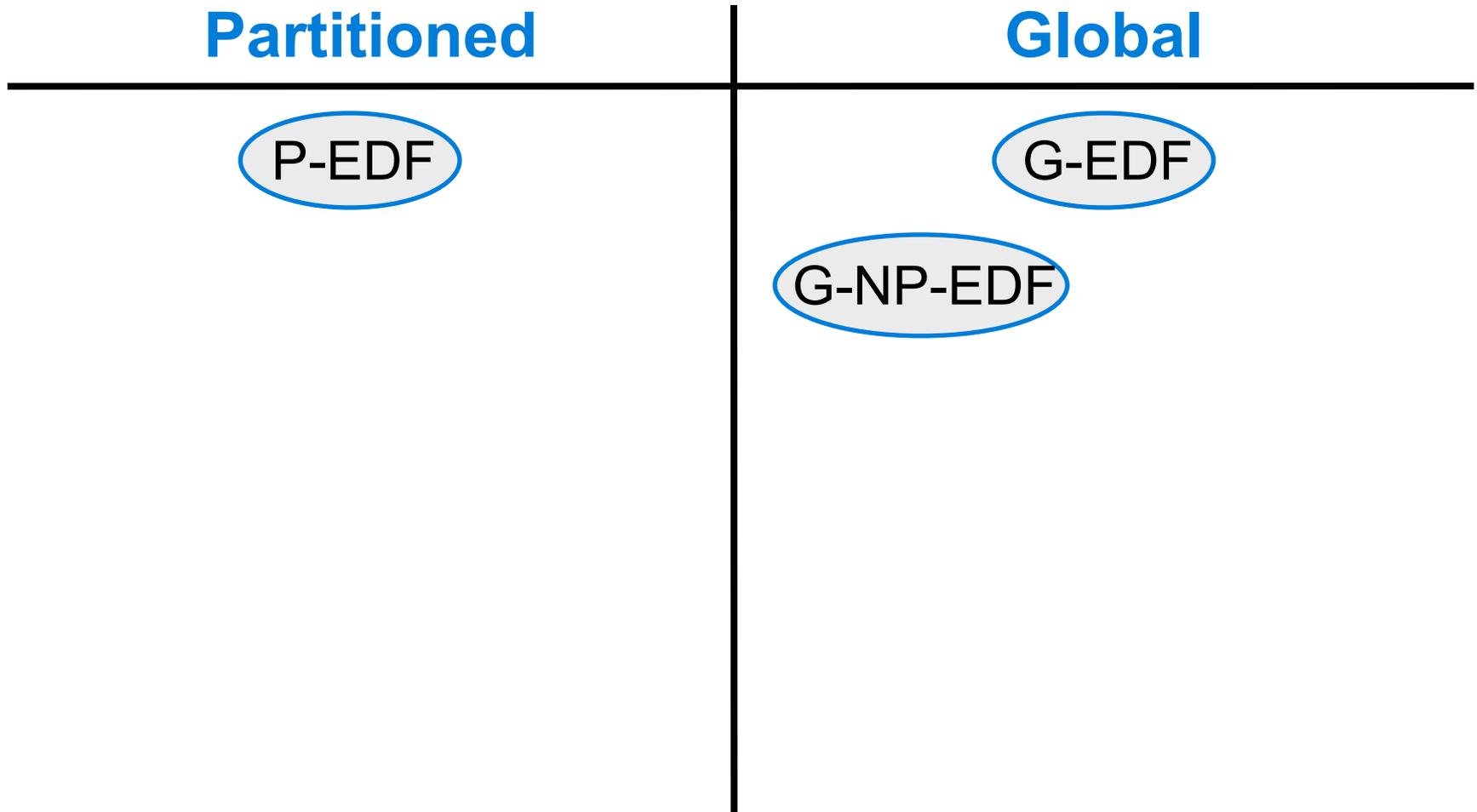
P-EDF

G-EDF



Scheduling Policy Plugins

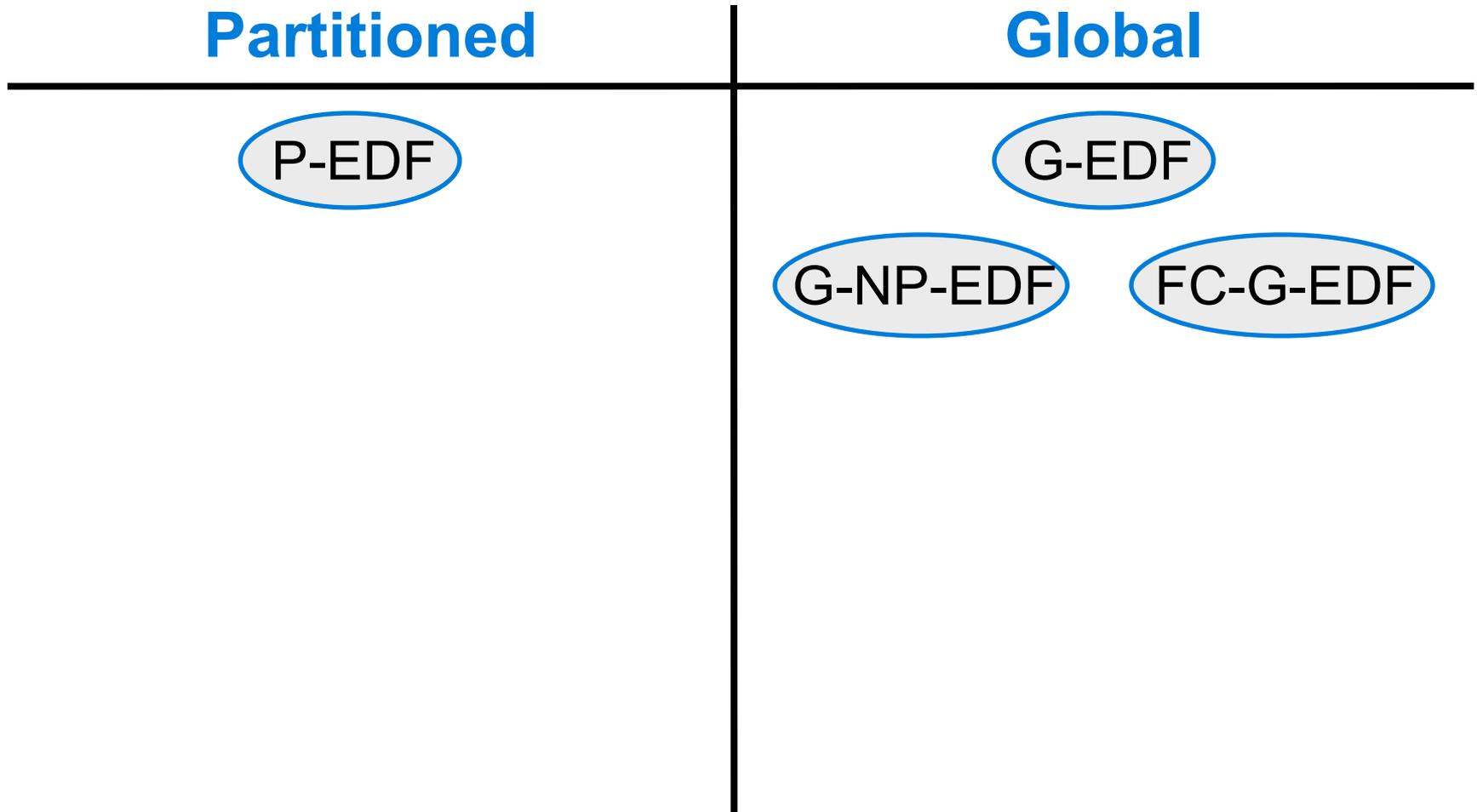
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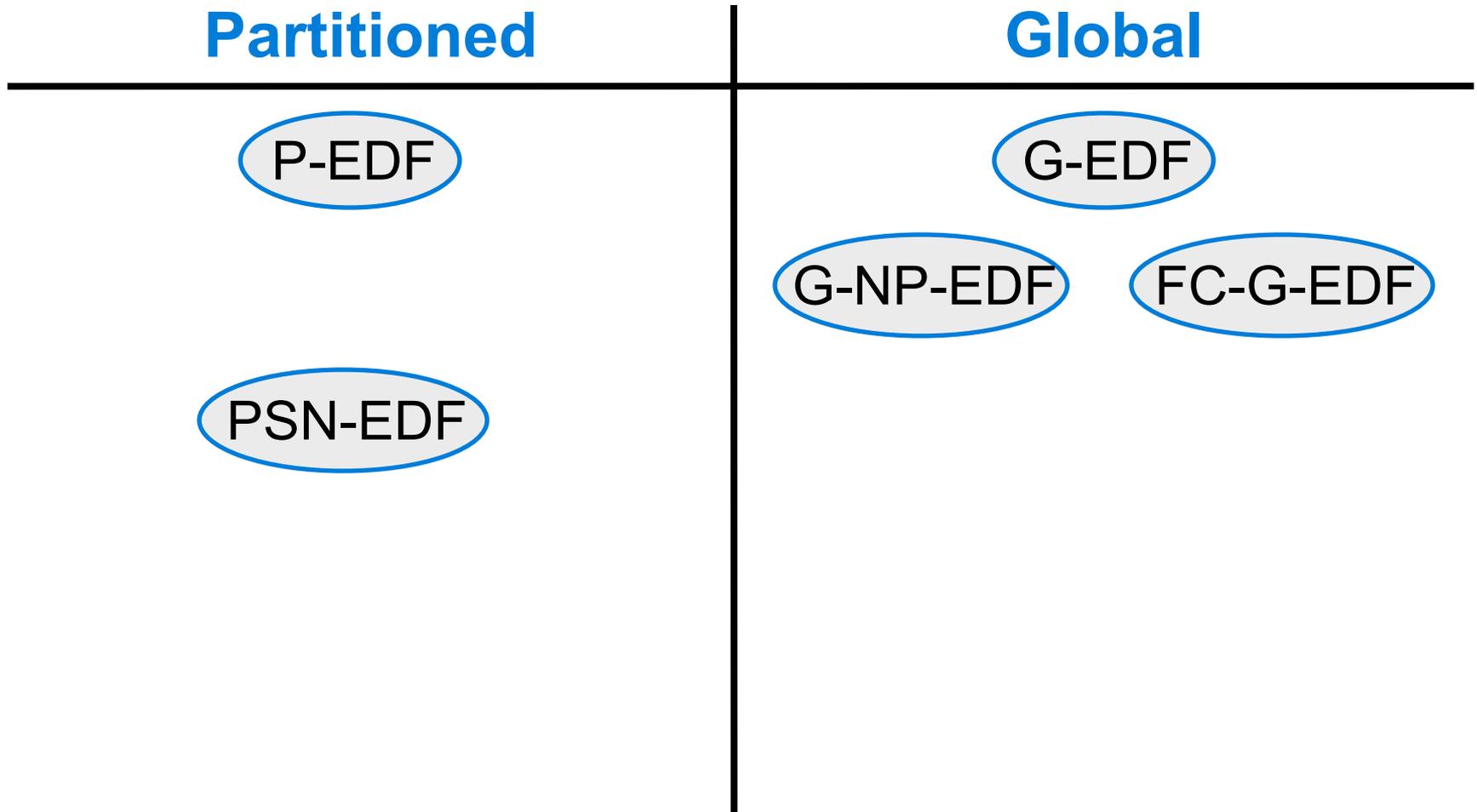
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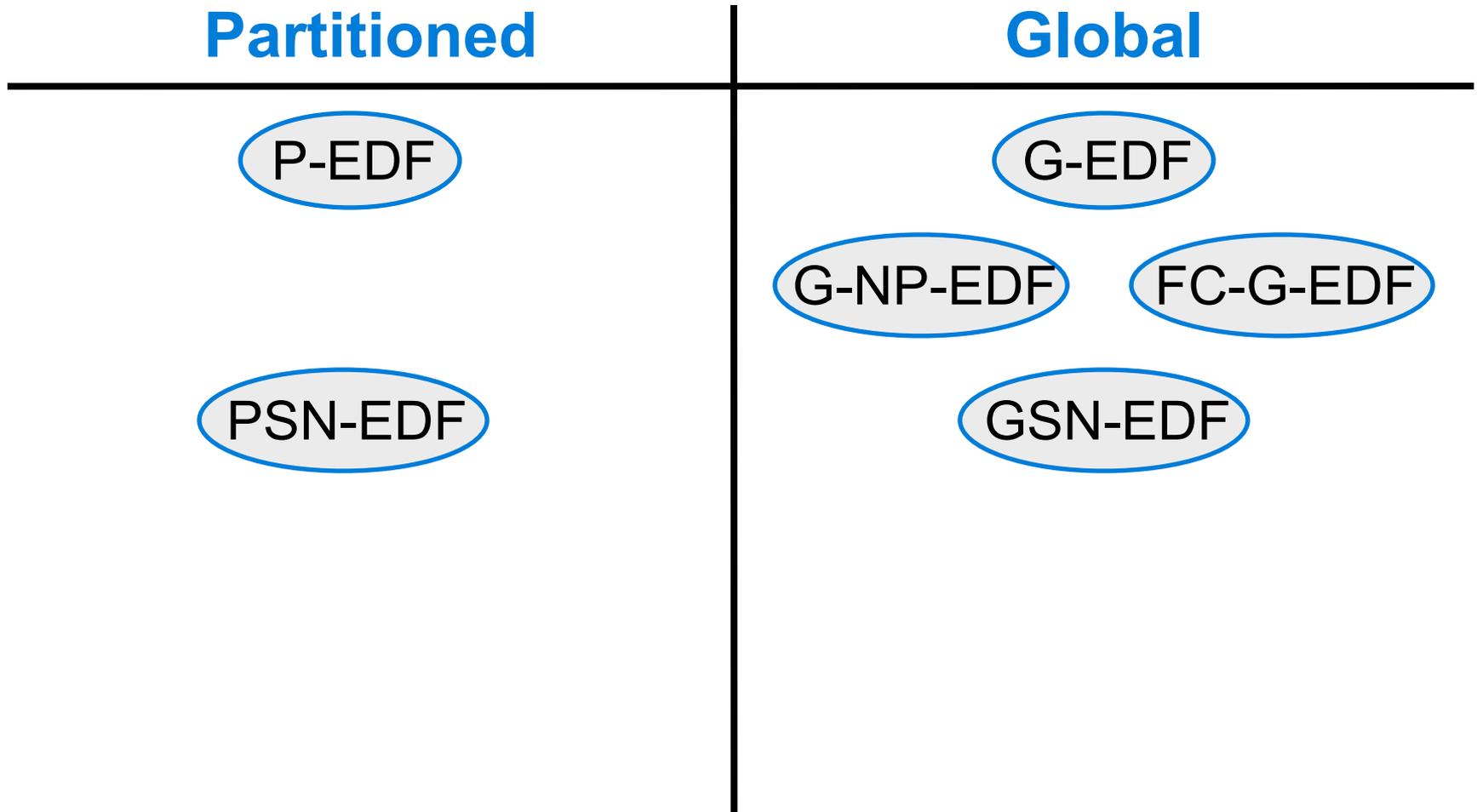
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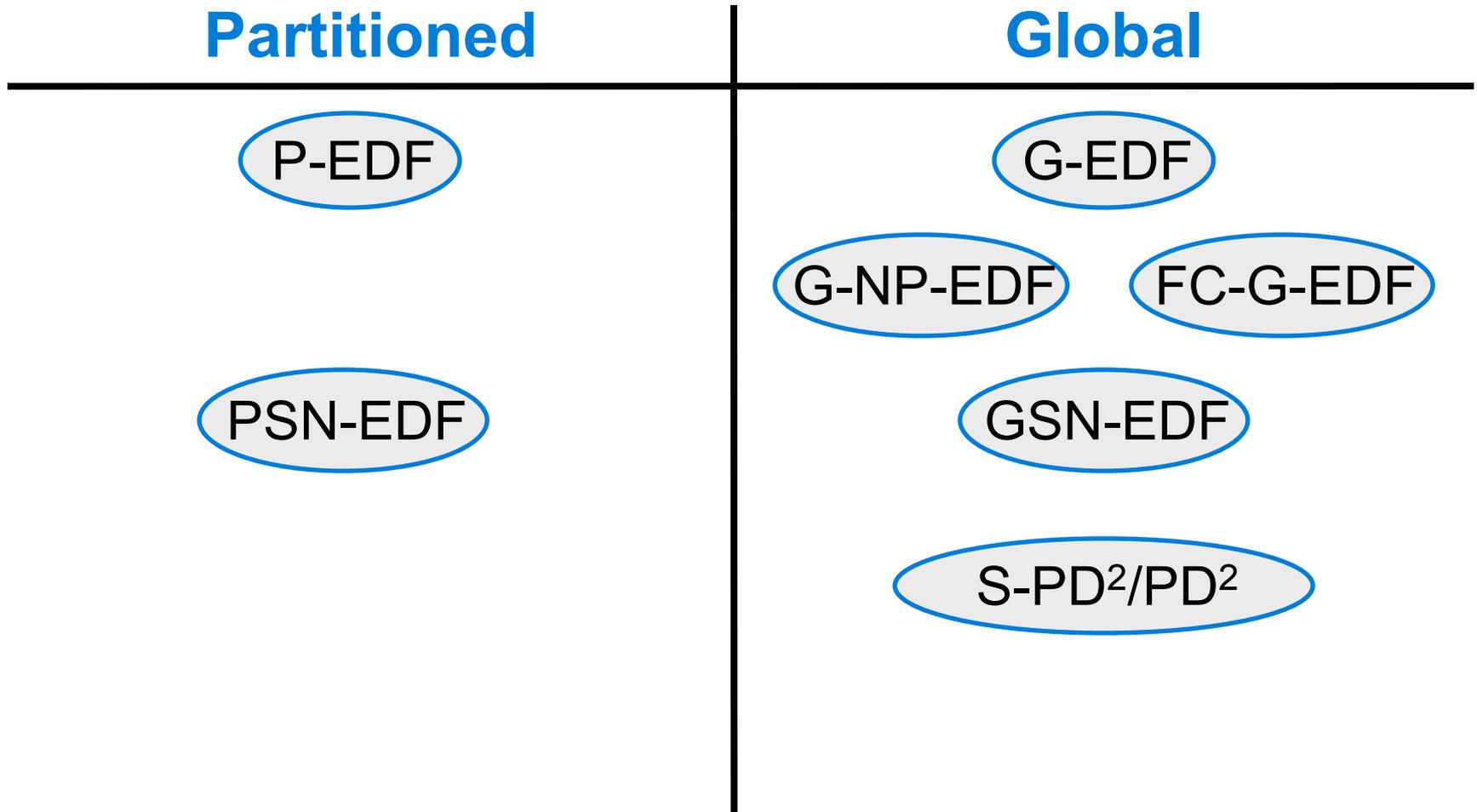
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Scheduling Policy Plugins

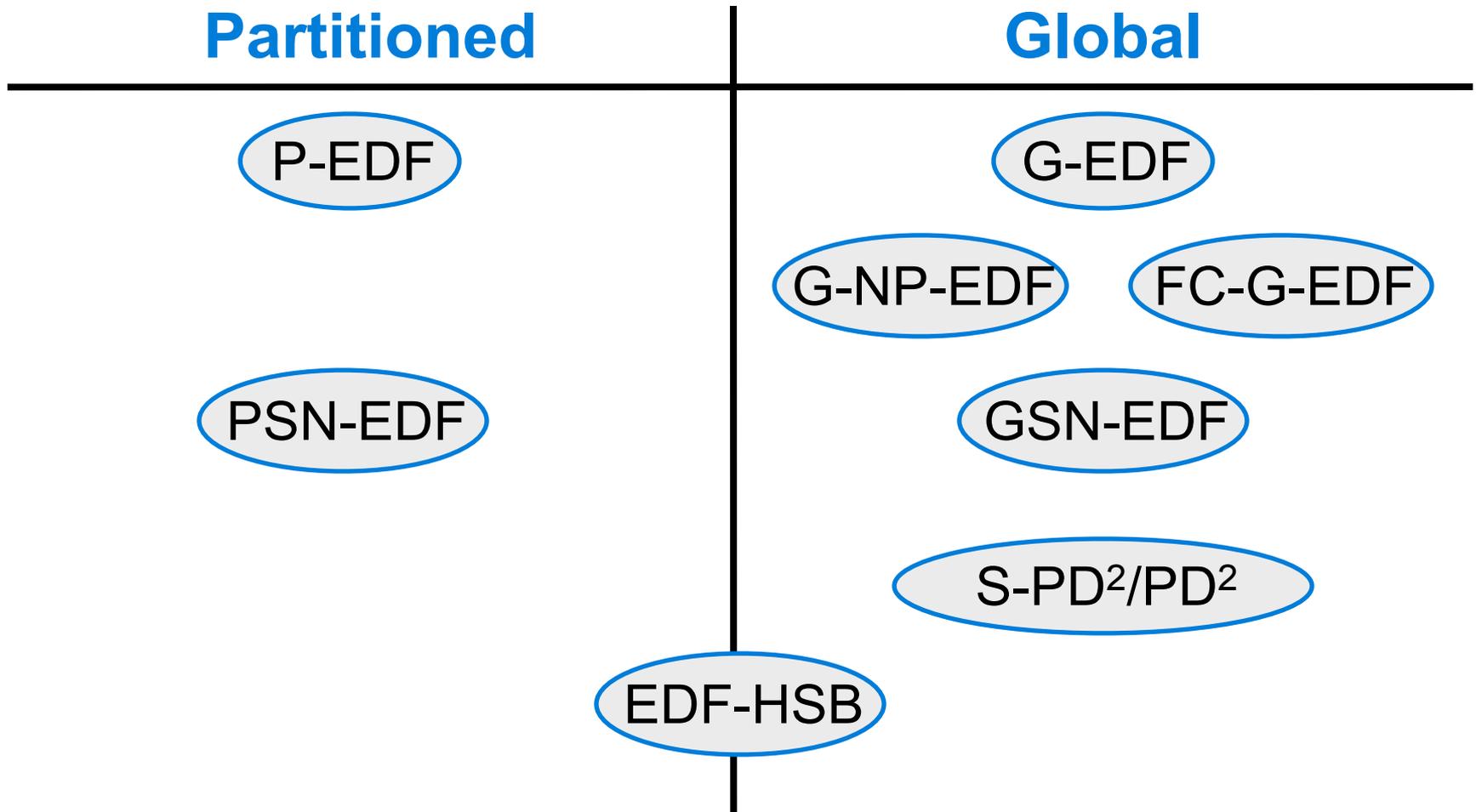
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Scheduling Policy Plugins

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Partitioned

Global

Partitioned	Global



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PSN-EDF



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PSN-EDF

GSN-EDF



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PSN-EDF

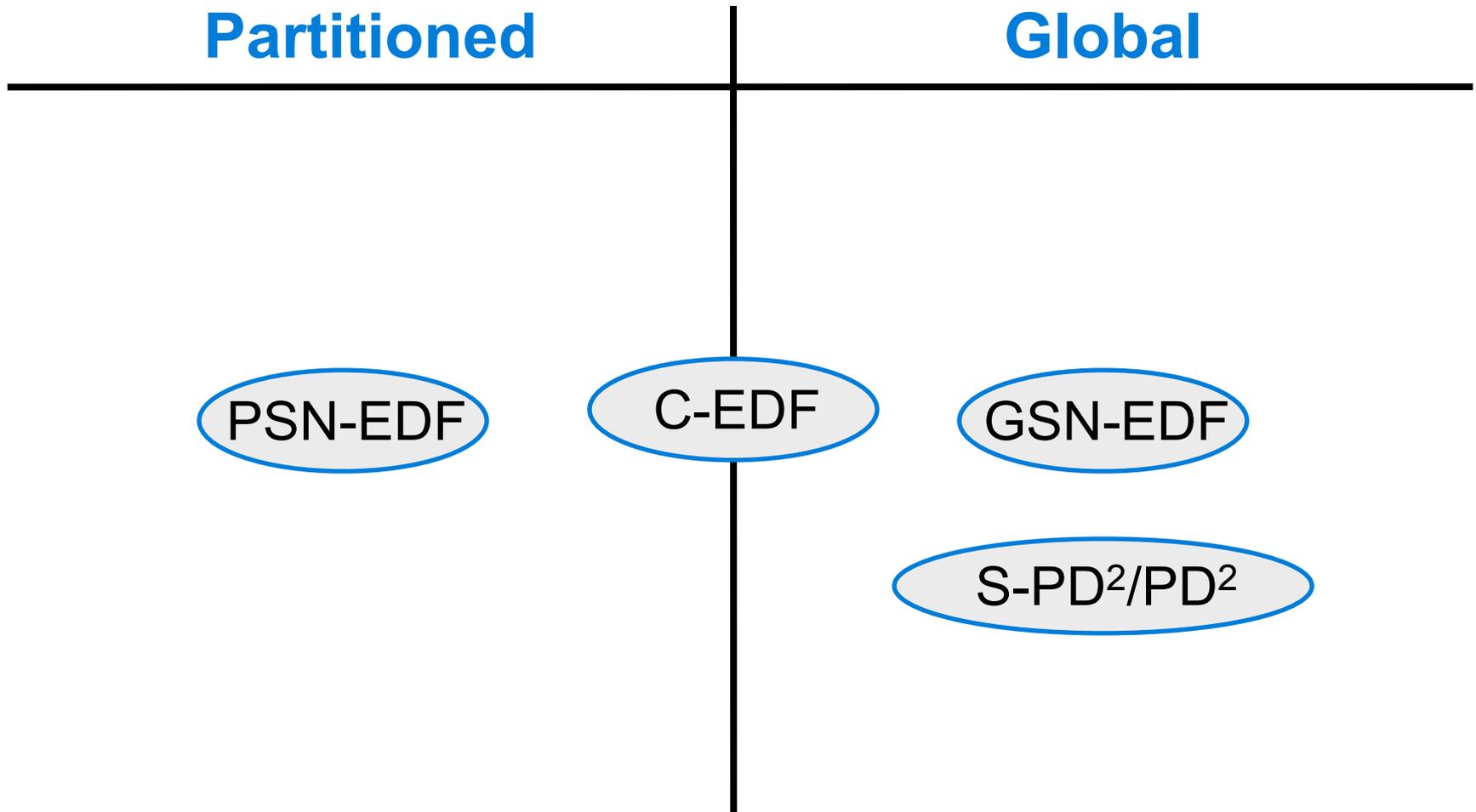
GSN-EDF

S-PD²/PD²



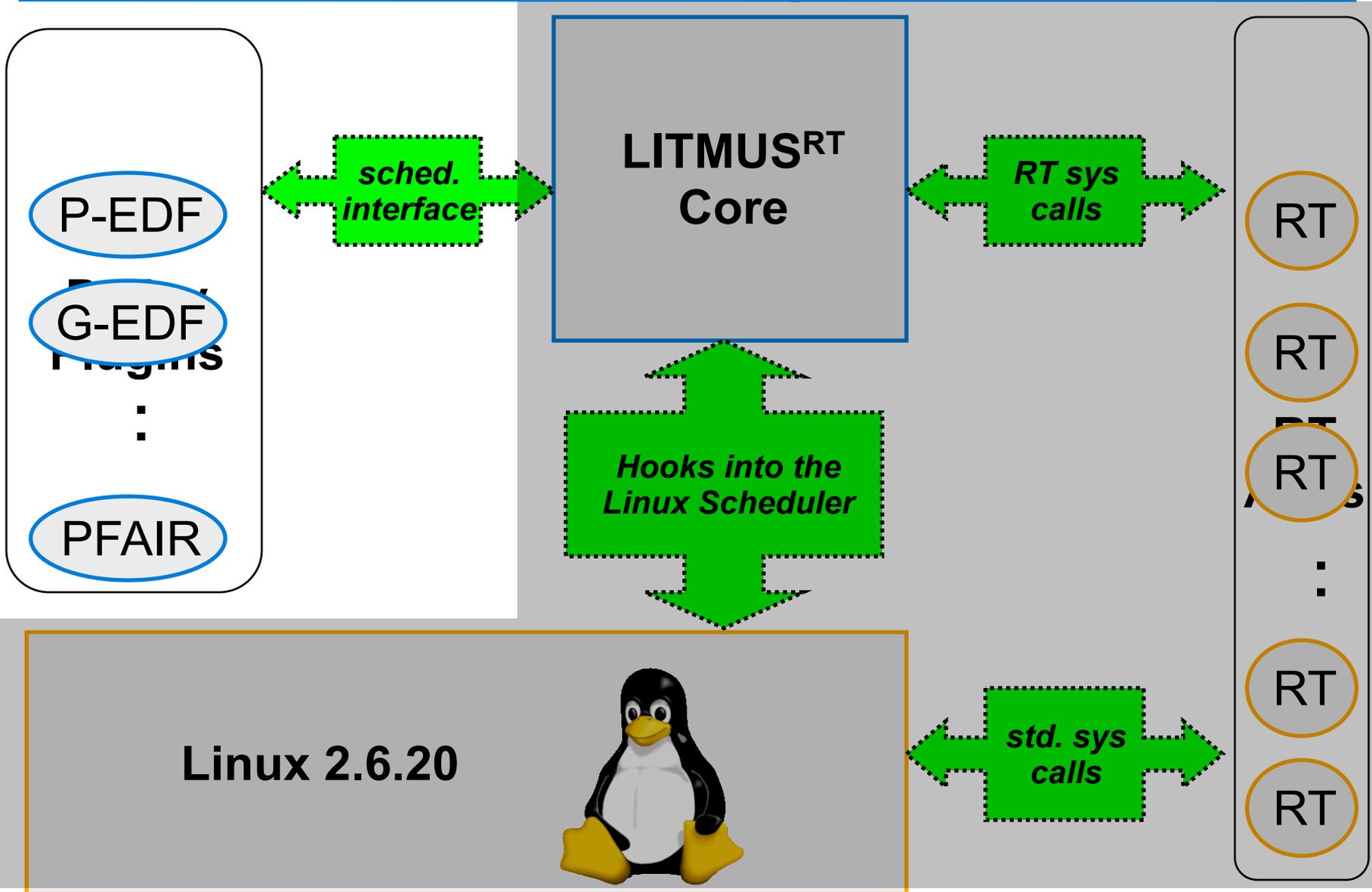
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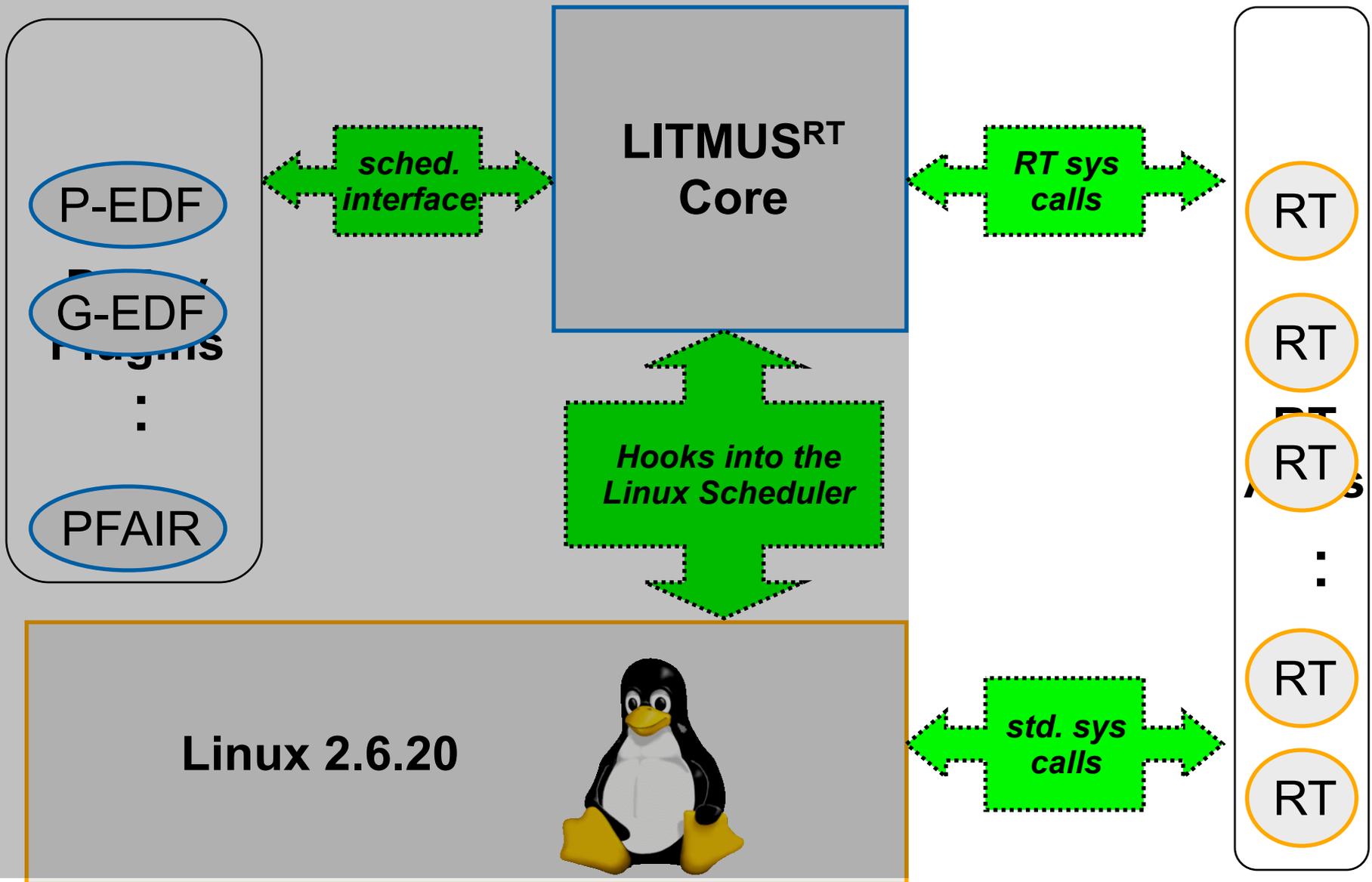


The Design of LITMUS^{RT}





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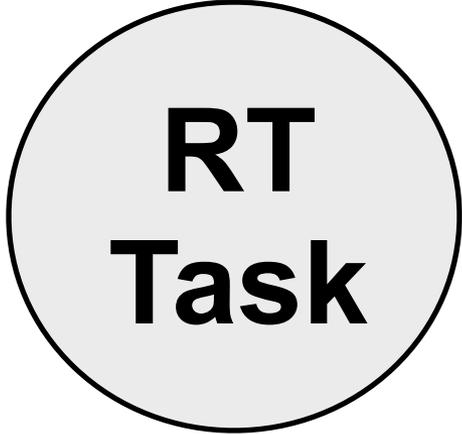




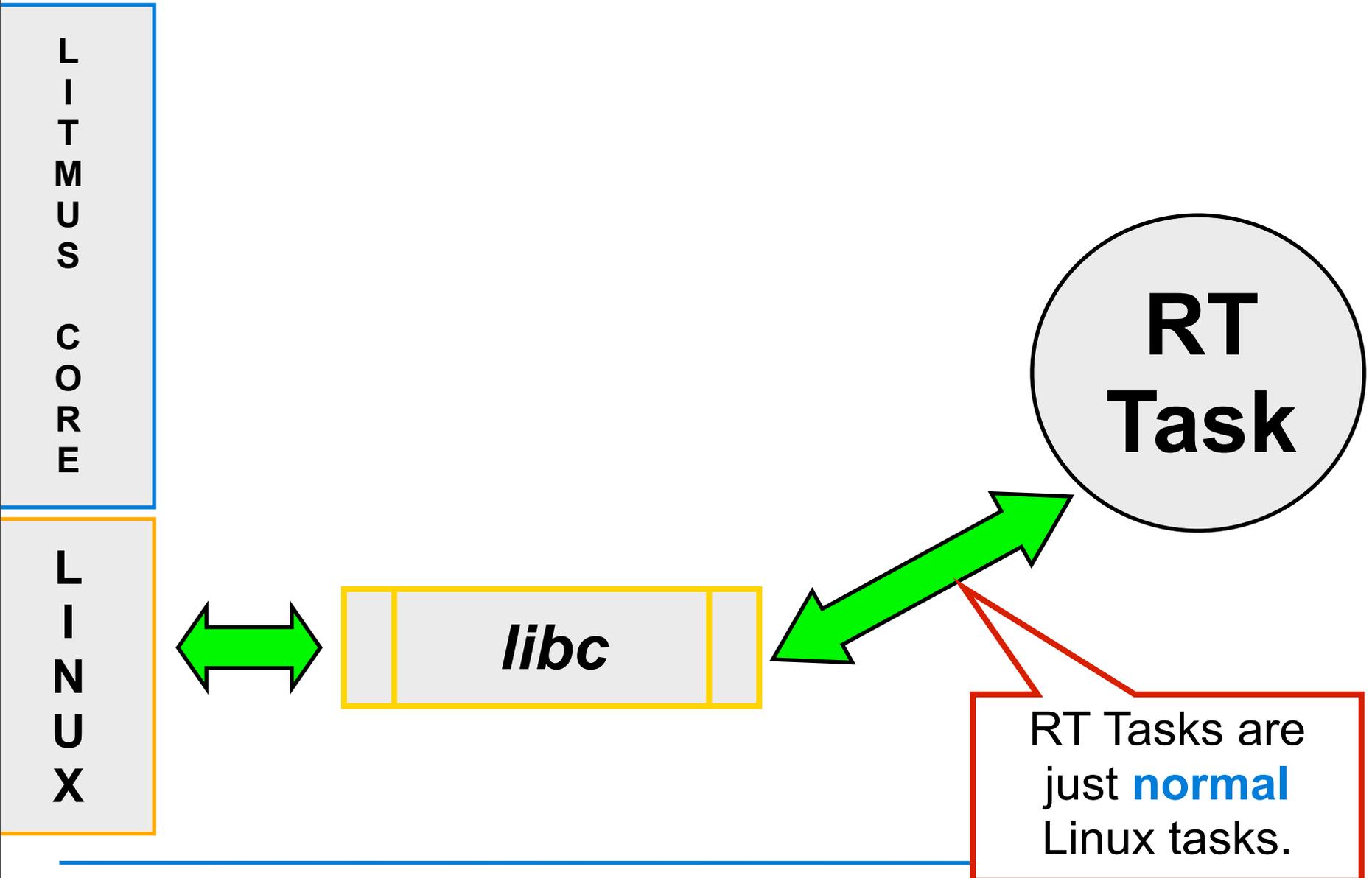
L
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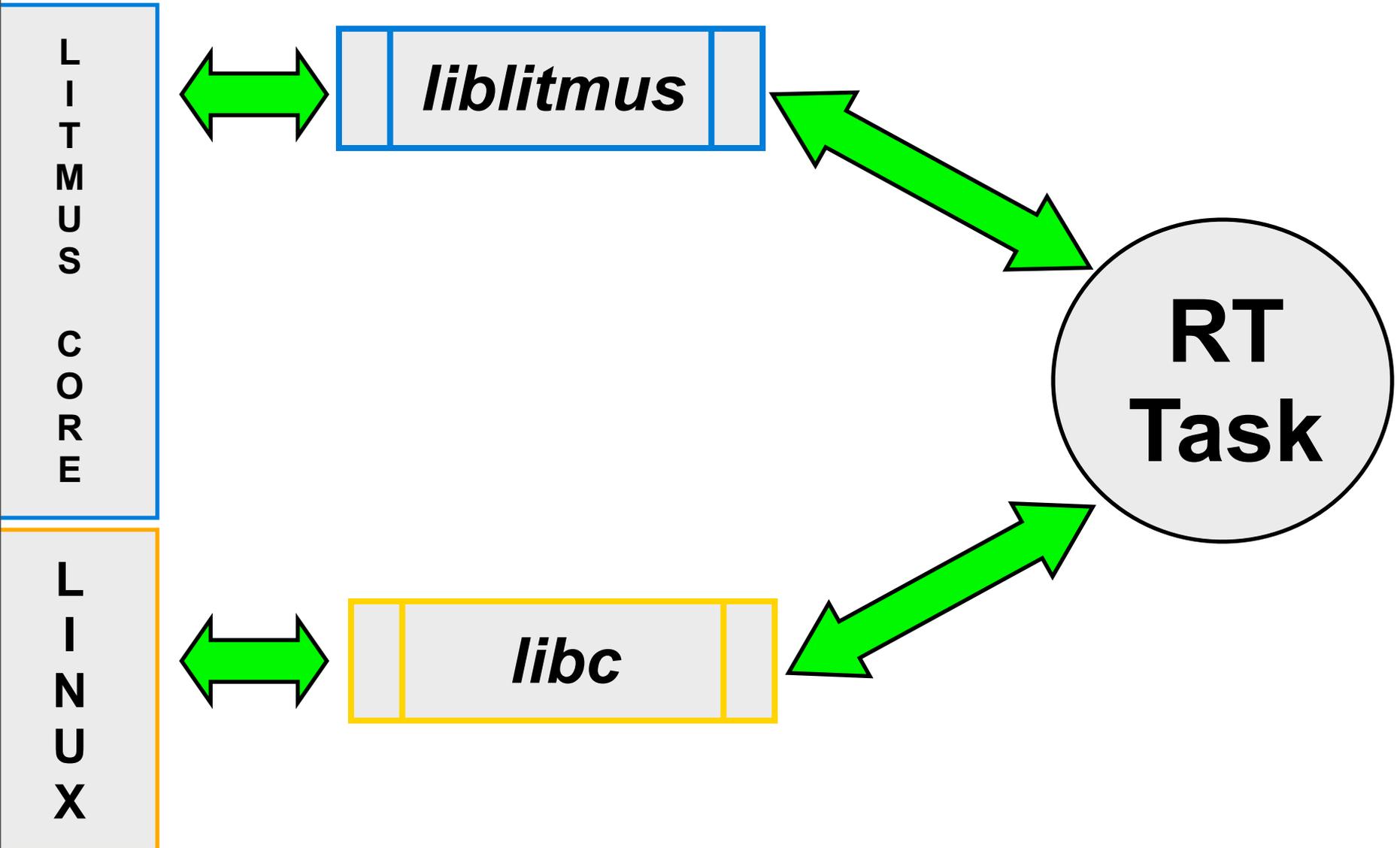
C
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**RT
Task**







Evaluation of Scheduling Algorithms

When (if ever) should you use partitioning (global)?

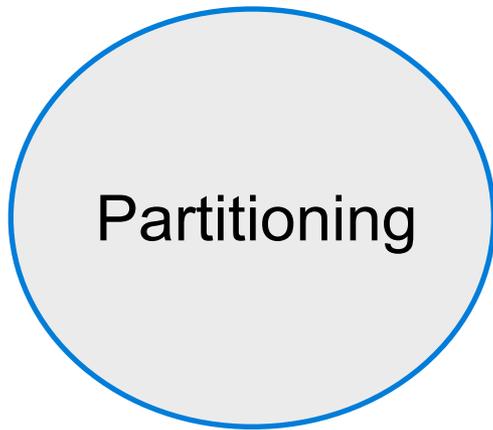
Avg. Utilization
High vs. Low

Hard vs. Soft
Deadlines



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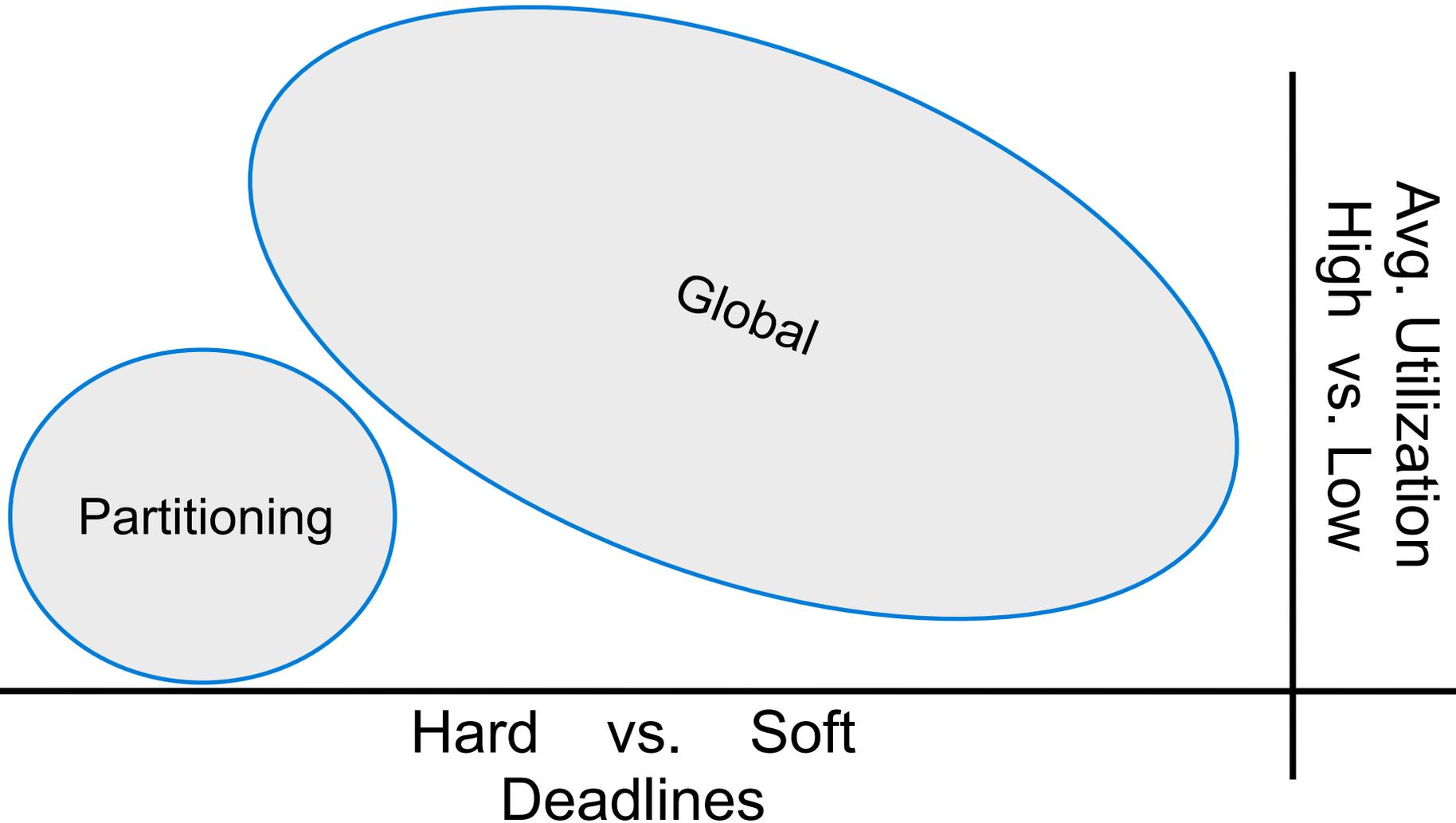
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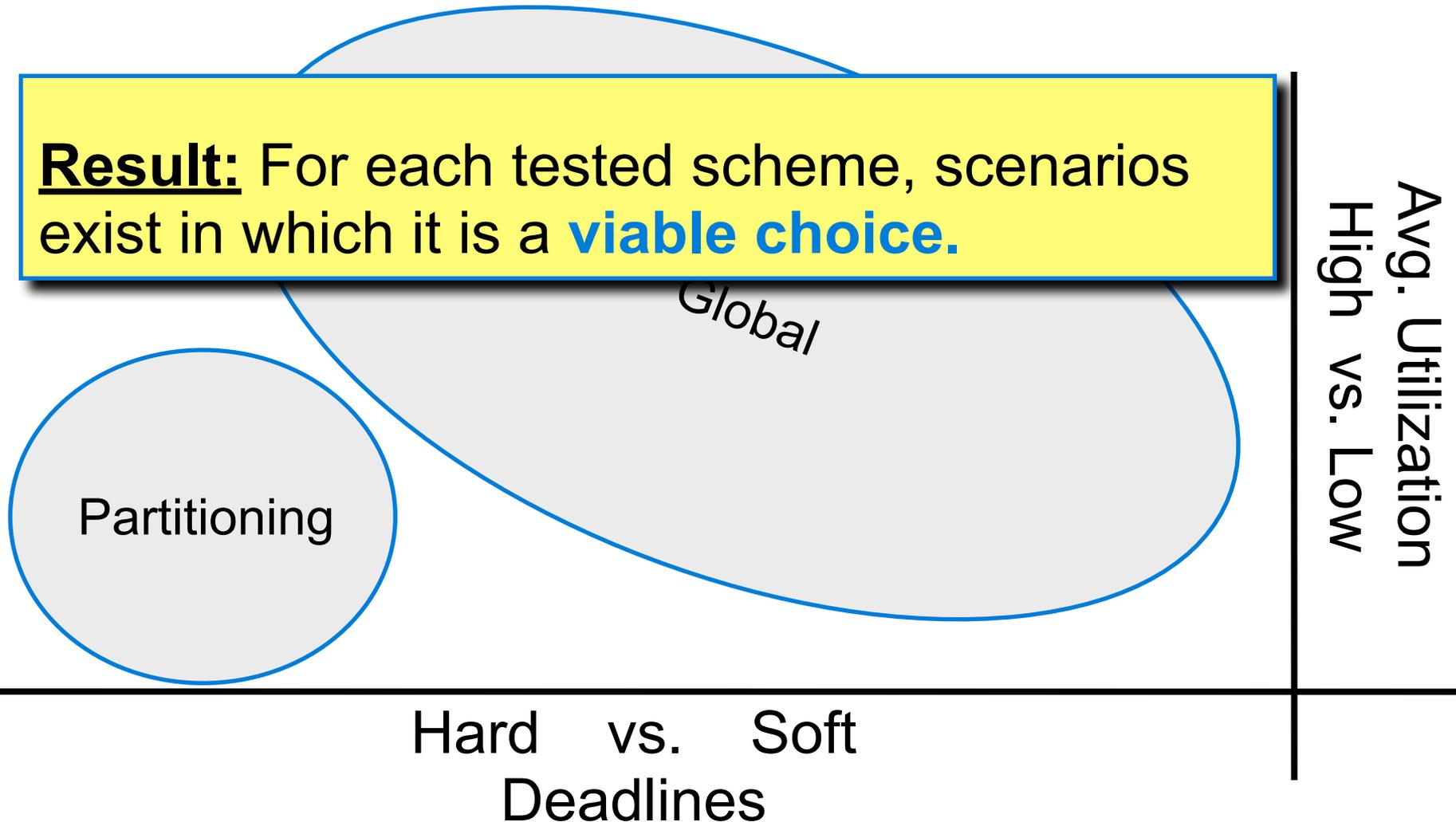




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Global

These results **call into question** the belief that global approaches are not practically viable!

Hard vs. Soft
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Some Results



Slack scheduling can **improve the response time** of best-effort jobs significantly:

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Semaphores considered **harmful**:

B. Brandenburg, J. Calandrino, A. Block, H. Leontyev, and J. Anderson, " **Real-Time Synchronization on Multiprocessors: To Block or Not to Block, to Suspend or Spin?** ", *Proc. of the 14th IEEE Real-Time and Embedded Technology and Applications Symposium*, pp. 342-353, April 2008.



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The Next Steps



Port to Linux 2.6.27.



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Port to ARM11 MPCore.



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Polish, fix bugs, improve performance...

LITMUS^{RT} – Features

***Linux Testbed for Multiprocessor Scheduling
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*(validate experiments, test
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It's just Linux.

*(all your existing scripts still work,
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everything a normal task can do)*