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CPU scheduling is a process used by the operating system to decide which task or process gets to use the CPU at a particular time. This is important because a CPU can only handle one task at a time, but there are usually many tasks that need to be processed. The following are different purposes of a CPU scheduling time. Maximize the CPU utilization. Minimize the response time. Minimize the process. What is the Need for CPU Scheduling? CPU scheduling is the process of deciding which process will run next. In a ready-to-use line, the OS has at least selected one of the processes available in the ready-to-use line. In Multiprogramming, the long-term scheduler selects multiple I/O binding processes then most of the time, the CPU remains idle. The function of an effective program is to improve resource utilization. Terminologies Used in CPU Scheduling: Arrival Time: The time which the process arrives in the ready queue. Completion Time: The time at which the process completes its execution. Burst Time: Time required by a process for CPU execution. Turn Around Time: Time Difference between completion time and arrival time. Turn Around Time = Completion Time - Arrival Time. Waiting Time (W.T): Time Difference between turn around time and burst time. Waiting Time = Turn Around Time - Burst Time. Things to Take Care While Designing a CPU Scheduling Algorithm: Different CPU Scheduling algorithms have different structures and the choice of a particular algorithm depends on a variety of factors. CPU Utilization: The main purpose of any CPU algorithm is to keep the CPU as busy as possible. Theoretically, CPU usage can range from 0 to 100 but in a real-time system, it varies from 40 to 90 percent depending on the system load. Throughput: The average CPU performance is the number of processes performed and completed during each unit. This is called throughput. The output may vary depending on the length or duration of the processes. Turn Round Time: For a particular process, the important conditions are how long it takes to perform that process. The time elapsed from the time of process delivery to the time of completion is known as the conversion time. Conversion time is the amount of time spent waiting for memory access, waiting in line, using CPU and waiting for I/O. Waiting Time: The Scheduling algorithm does not affect the time required to complete the process once it has started performing. It only affects the waiting time of the process i.e. the time spent in the waiting process in the ready queue. Response Time: In a collaborative system, turn around time is not the best option. The process may produce something early and continue to compute the new results while the previous results are released to the user. Therefore another method is the time taken in the submission of the application process until the first response is issued. This measure is called response time. Different Types of CPU Scheduling Algorithms: There are mainly two types of scheduling methods: Preemptive Scheduling: Preemptive scheduling is used when a process switches from running state to ready state or from the waiting state to the ready state. Non-Preemptive Scheduling: Non-Preemptive scheduling is used when a process terminates, or when a process switches from running state to waiting state. CPU Scheduling Please refer Preemptive vs Non-Preemptive Scheduling for details. CPU Scheduling Algorithms: Let us now learn about these CPU scheduling algorithms in operating systems one by one. Comparison of CPU Scheduling Algorithms: Here is a brief comparison between different CPU scheduling algorithms. Algorithm Allocation Complexity Average waiting time (AWT) Preemption Starvation Performance FCFS According to the arrival time of the processes, the CPU is allocated. Simple and easy to implement. Large. No No Slow performance SJF Based on the lowest CPU burst time (BT). More complex than FCFS. Smaller than FCFS. No Yes Minimum Average Waiting Time. SJF Same as SJF. The allocation of the CPU is based on the lowest CPU burst time (BT). But it is preemptive. More complex than FCFS. Depending on some measures e.g., arrival time, process size, etc. Yes. Yes. The preference is given to the short jobs. RR According to the order of the process arrives with fixed time quantum (TQ). The complexity depends on Time Quantum size. Large as compared to SJF and Priority scheduling. Yes. No. Each process has given a fairly fixed time. Priority Pre-emptive According to the priority. The bigger priority task executes first. This type is less complex. Smaller than FCFS. Yes. Yes. Well performance but contain a starvation problem. Priority non-preemptive According to the priority with monitoring the new incoming higher priority jobs. This type is less complex than Priority preemptive. Preemptive Smaller than FCFS. No. Yes. Most beneficial with batch systems. MLQ According to the process that resides in the bigger queue. Priority More complex than the priority scheduling algorithms. Smaller than FCFS. No. Yes. Good performance but contain a starvation problem. MLQ According to the process of a bigger priority queue. It is the most complex but its complexity rate depends on the TQ size. Smaller than all scheduling types in many cases. No. No. Good performance. Questions for Practice: Question: Which of the following is false about SJF? S1: It causes minimum average waiting time. S2: It can cause starvation. (A) Only S1 (B) Only S2 (C) Both S1 and S2 (D) Neither S1 nor S2 Answer: (D) S1 is true SJF will always give minimum average waiting time. S2 is true SJF can cause starvation. Question: Consider the following table of arrival time and burst time for three processes P0, P1 and P2. Process Arrival time Burst Time P0 ms 9 P1 ms 4 P2 ms 5. The pre-emptive shortest job first scheduling algorithm is used. Scheduling is carried out only at arrival or completion of processes. What is the average waiting time for the three processes? (A) 5.0 ms (B) 4.33 ms (C) 6.33 (D) 7.33 Solution: (A) Process P0 is allocated processor at 0 ms as there is no other process in the ready queue. P0 is preempted after 1 ms as P1 arrives at 1 ms and burst time for P1 is less than remaining time of P0. P1 runs for 4ms. P2 arrived at 2 ms but P1 continued as burst time of P2 is longer than P1. After P1 completes, P0 is scheduled again as the remaining time for P0 is less than the burst time of P2. P0 waits for 4 ms, P1 waits for 0 ms and P2 waits for 11 ms. So average waiting time is (0+4+11)/3 = 5. Question: Consider the following set of processes, with the arrival times and the CPU-burst times given in milliseconds. Process Arrival time Burst Time P10 ms 5 P21 ms 5 P32 ms 3 P43 ms 4 P54 ms 3 P65 ms 4 P76 ms 3 P87 ms 4 P98 ms 3 P109 ms 3 P1110 ms 3 P1211 ms 3 P1312 ms 3 P1413 ms 3 P1514 ms 3 P1615 ms 3 P1716 ms 3 P1817 ms 3 P1918 ms 3 P2019 ms 3 P2120 ms 3 P2221 ms 3 P2322 ms 3 P2423 ms 3 P2524 ms 3 P2625 ms 3 P2726 ms 3 P2827 ms 3 P2928 ms 3 P3029 ms 3 P3130 ms 3 P3231 ms 3 P3332 ms 3 P3433 ms 3 P3534 ms 3 P3635 ms 3 P3736 ms 3 P3837 ms 3 P3938 ms 3 P4039 ms 3 P4140 ms 3 P4241 ms 3 P4342 ms 3 P4443 ms 3 P4544 ms 3 P4645 ms 3 P4746 ms 3 P4847 ms 3 P4948 ms 3 P5049 ms 3 P5150 ms 3 P5251 ms 3 P5352 ms 3 P5453 ms 3 P5554 ms 3 P5655 ms 3 P5756 ms 3 P5857 ms 3 P5958 ms 3 P6059 ms 3 P6160 ms 3 P6261 ms 3 P6362 ms 3 P6463 ms 3 P6564 ms 3 P6665 ms 3 P6766 ms 3 P6867 ms 3 P6968 ms 3 P7069 ms 3 P7170 ms 3 P7271 ms 3 P7372 ms 3 P7473 ms 3 P7574 ms 3 P7675 ms 3 P7776 ms 3 P7877 ms 3 P7978 ms 3 P8079 ms 3 P8180 ms 3 P8281 ms 3 P8382 ms 3 P8483 ms 3 P8584 ms 3 P8685 ms 3 P8786 ms 3 P8887 ms 3 P8988 ms 3 P9089 ms 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Answer (B) Solution: At time 0, P1 is the only process, P1 runs for 15 time units. At time 15, P2 arrives, but P1 has the shortest remaining time. So P1 continues for 5 more time units. At time 20, P2 is the only process. So it runs for 10 time units. At time 30, P3 is the shortest remaining time process. So it runs for 10 time units. At time 40, P2 runs as it is the only process. P2 runs for 5 time units. At time 45, P3 arrives, but P2 has the shortest remaining time. So P2 continues for 10 more time units. P2 completes its execution at time 55. Total waiting time for P2 = Completion time - (Arrival time + Execution time) = 55 - (15 + 25) = 15