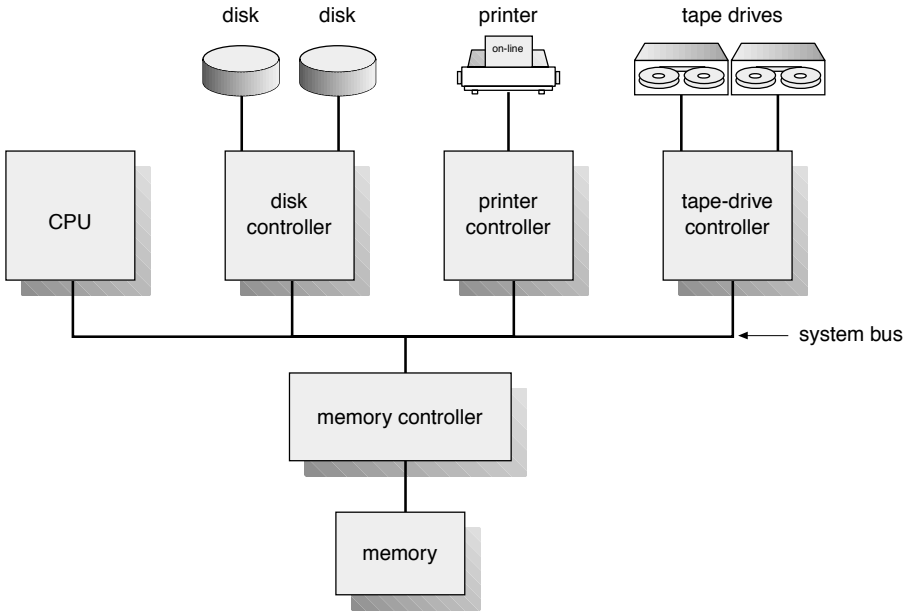
Module 2: Computer-System Structures

- Computer System Operation
- I/O Structure
- Storage Structure
- Storage Hierarchy
- Hardware Protection
- General System Architecture

Computer-System Architecture

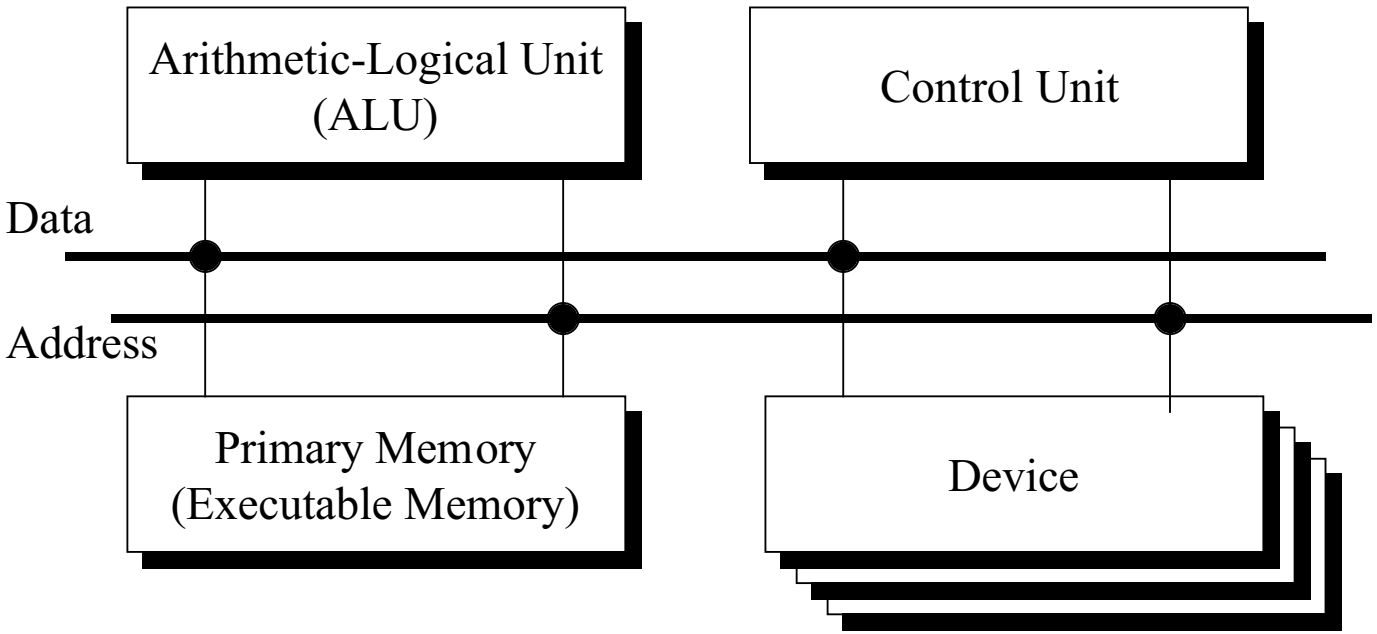


Computer-System Operation

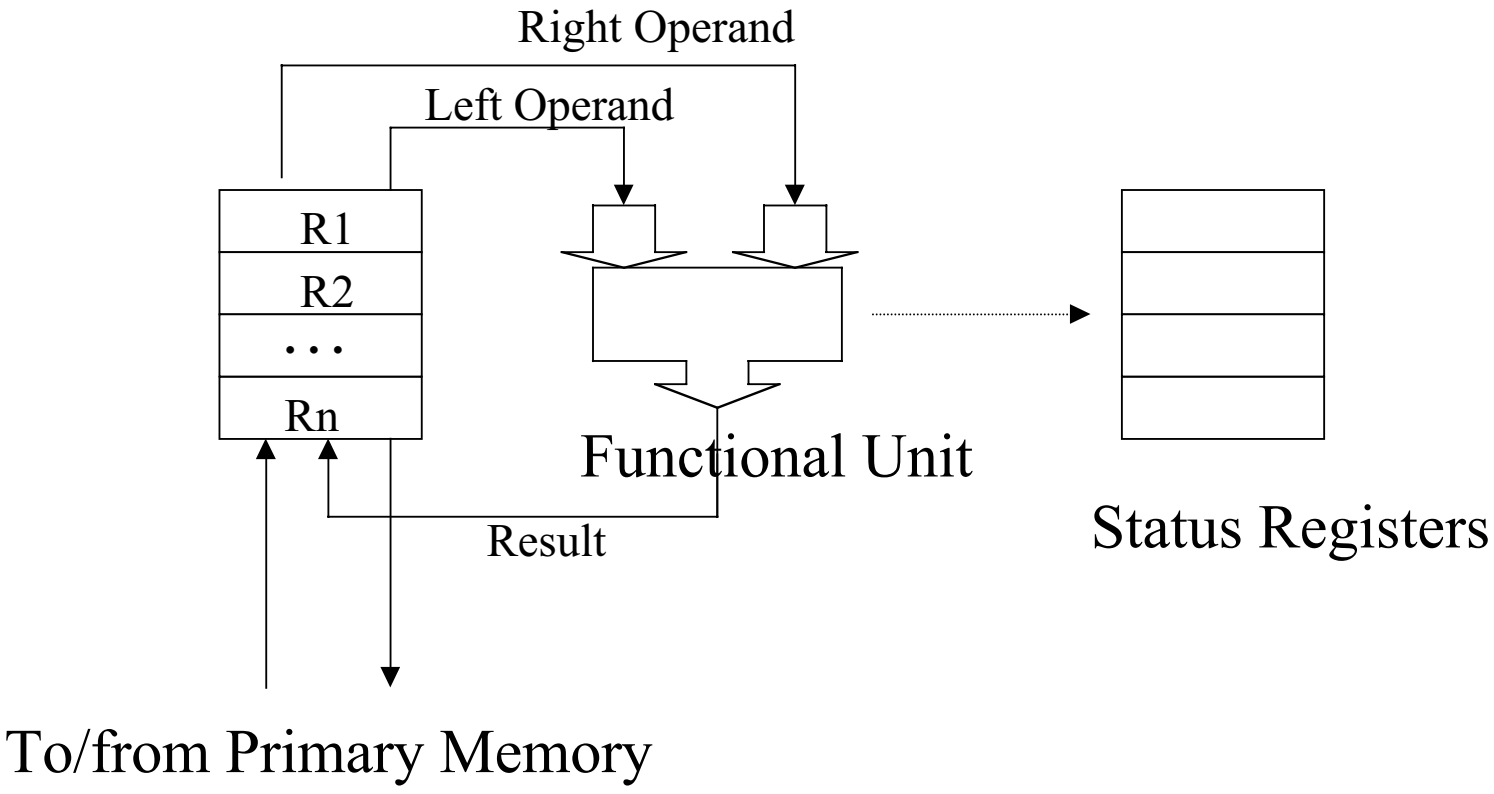
- I/O devices and the CPU can execute concurrently.
- Each device controller is in charge of a particular device type.
- Each device controller has a local buffer.
- CPU moves data from/to main memory to/from local buffers
- I/O is from the device to local buffer of controller.
- Device controller informs CPU that it has finished its operation by causing an *interrupt*.

Computer Organization

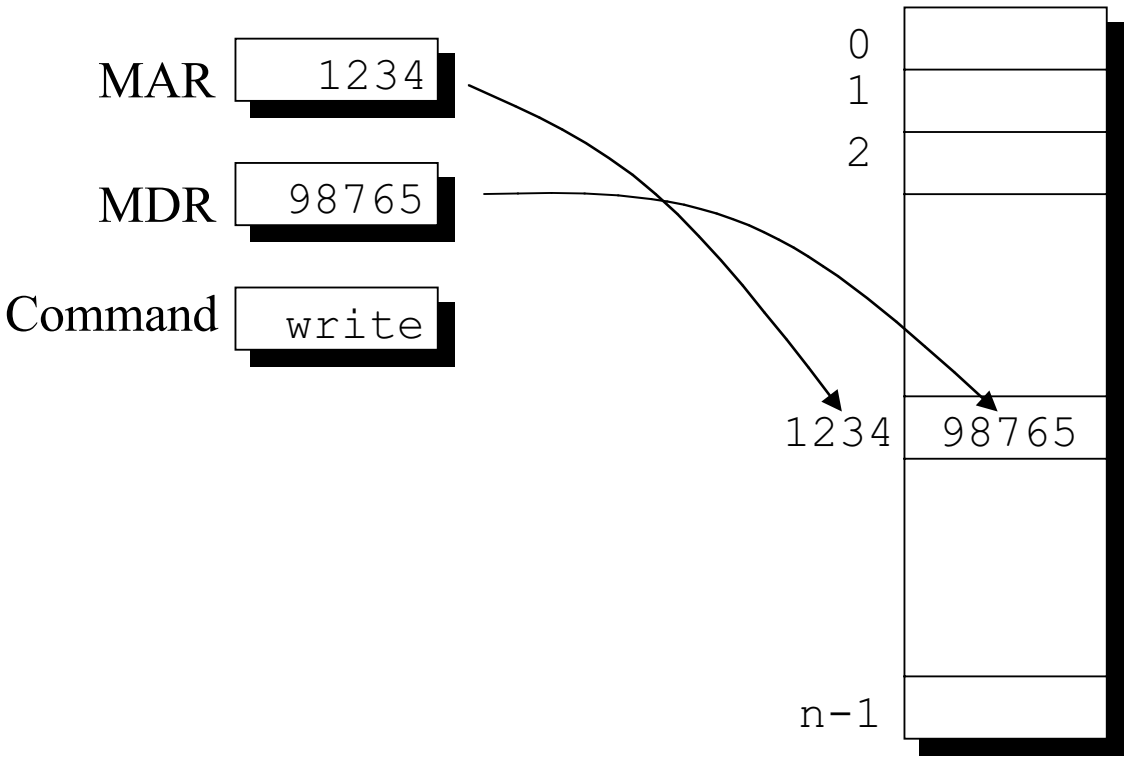
von Neumann Computer



The ALU


Right Operand
Left Operand
R1
R2
. . .
Rn
Functional Unit
Result
Status Registers
To/from Primary Memory

Memory Unit



Program Specification

Source

```
int a, b, c, d;
. . .
a = b + c;
d = a - 100;
```

Assembly Language

```
; Code for a = b + c
    load      R3,b
    load      R4,c
    add       R3,R4
    store     R3,a

; Code for d = a - 100
    load      R4,=100
    subtract  R3,R4
    store     R3,d
```

Machine Language

Assembly Language

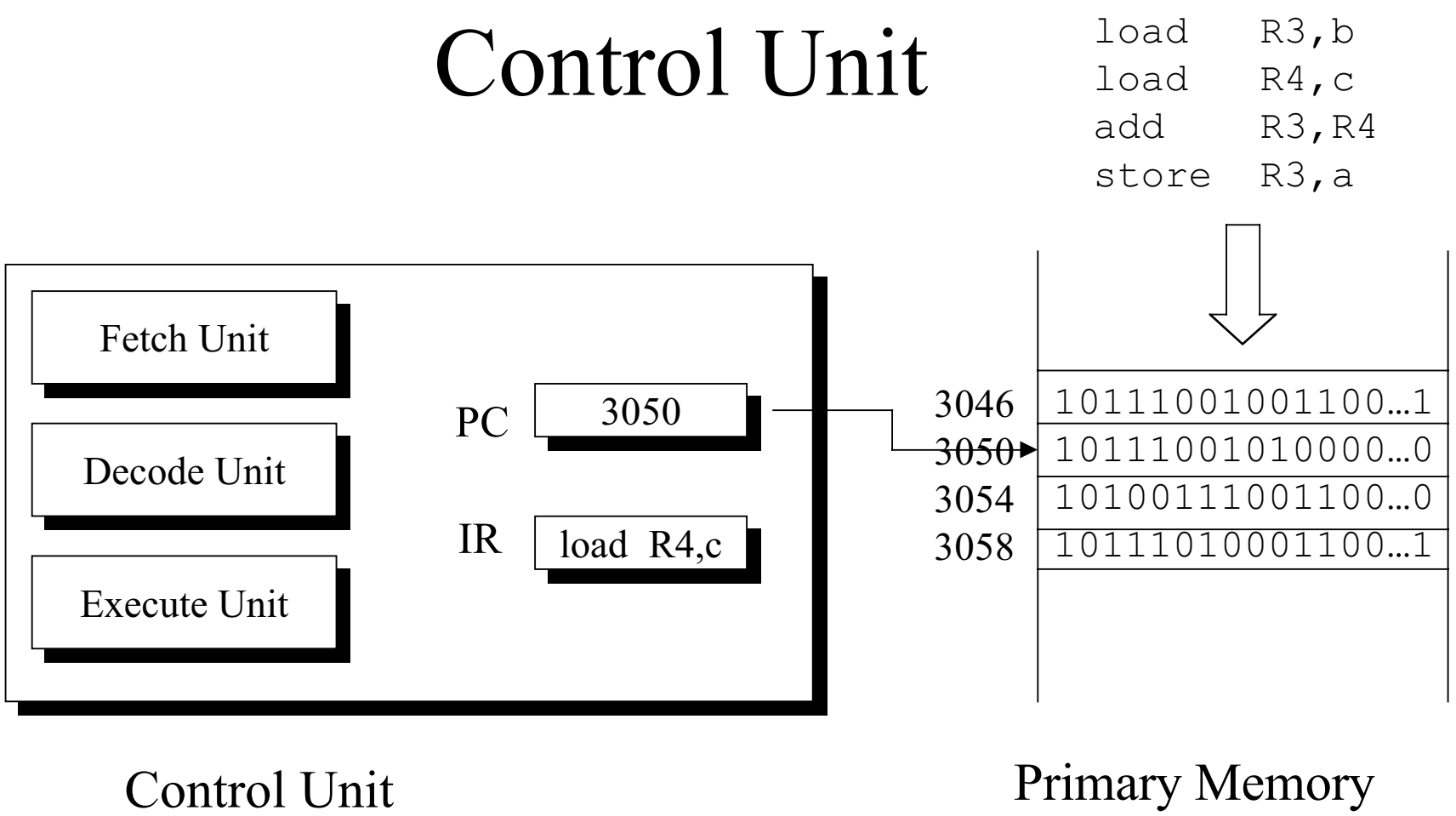
```
; Code for a = b + c
    load      R3,b
    load      R4,c
    add       R3,R4
    store     R3,a

; Code for d = a - 100
    load      R4,=100
    subtract  R3,R4
    store     R3,d
```

Machine Language

```
10111001001100…1
10111001010000…0
10100111001100…0
10111010001100…1
10111001010000…0
10100110001100…0
10111001101100…1
```

Control Unit



Control Unit Operation

- *Fetch phase*: Instruction retrieved from memory
- *Execute phase*: ALU op, memory data reference, I/O, etc.

```
PC = <machine start address>;
IR = memory[PC];
haltFlag = CLEAR;
while(haltFlag not SET) {
    execute(IR);
    PC = PC + sizeof(INSTRUCT);
    IR = memory[PC];
};
```

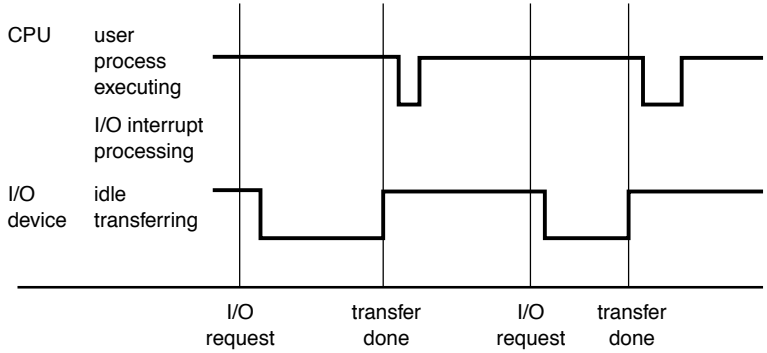
Common Functions of Interrupts

- Interrupts transfers control to the interrupt service routine generally, through the *interrupt vector*, which contains the addresses of all the service routines.
- Interrupt architecture must save the address of the interrupted instruction.
- Incoming interrupts are *disabled* while another interrupt is being processed to prevent a *lost interrupt*.
- A *trap* is a software-generated interrupt caused either by an error or a user request.
- An operating system is *interrupt* driven.

Interrupt Handling

- The operating system preserves the state of the CPU by storing registers and the program counter.
- Determines which type of interrupt has occurred:
  - *polling*
  - vectored interrupt system
- Separate segments of code determine what action should be taken for each type of interrupt

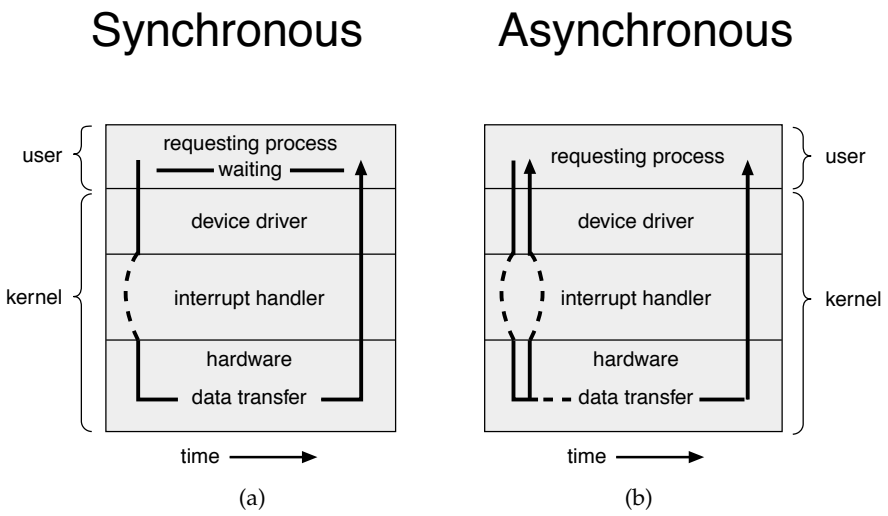
Interrupt Time Line For a Single Process Doing Output



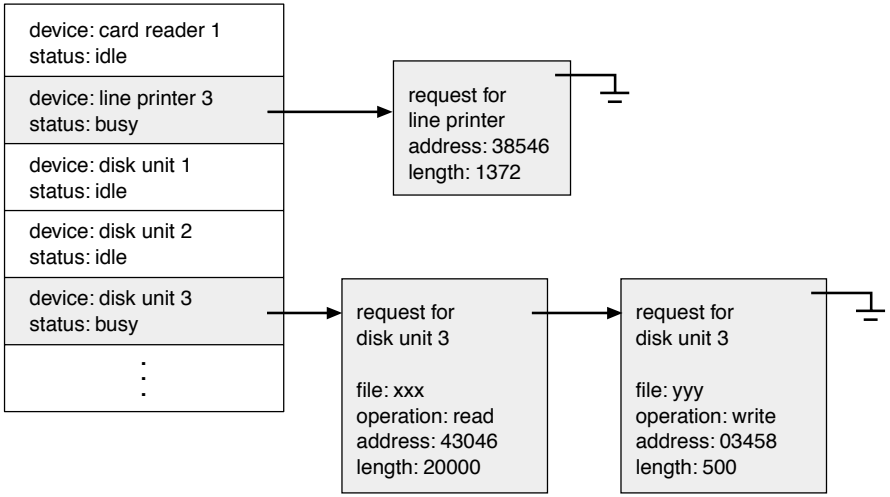
I/O Structure

- After I/O starts, control returns to user program only upon I/O completion.
  - wait instruction idles the CPU until the next interrupt
  - wait loop (contention for memory access).
  - At most one I/O request is outstanding at a time, no simultaneous I/O processing.
- After I/O starts, control returns to user program without waiting for I/O completion.
  - *System call* – request to the operating system to allow user to wait for I/O completion.
  - *Device-status table* contains entry for each I/O device indicating its type, address, and state.
  - Operating system indexes into I/O device table to determine device status and to modify table entry to include interrupt.

Two I/O methods



Device-Status Table



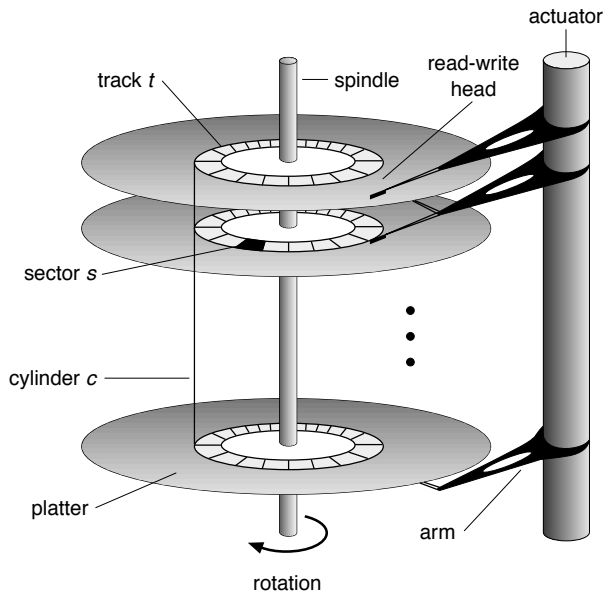
Direct Memory Access (DMA) Structure

- Used for high-speed I/O devices able to transmit information at close to memory speeds.
- Device controller transfers blocks of data from buffer storage directly to main memory without CPU intervention.
- Only one interrupt is generated per block, rather than the one interrupt per byte.

Storage Structure

- Main memory – only large storage media that the CPU can access directly.
- Secondary storage – extension of main memory that provides large nonvolatile storage capacity.
- Magnetic disks – rigid metal or glass platters covered with magnetic recording material
  - Disk surface is logically divided into *tracks*, which are subdivided into *sectors*.
  - The *disk controller* determines the logical interaction between the device and the computer.

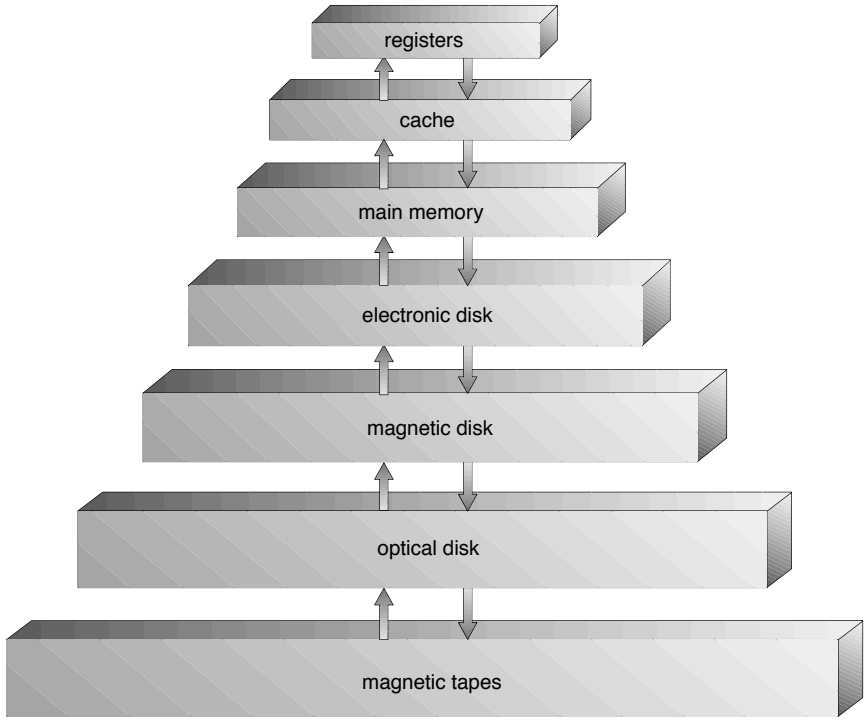
Moving-Head Disk Mechanism



Storage Hierarchy

- Storage systems organized in hierarchy.
  - Speed
  - cost
  - volatility
- *Caching* – copying information into faster storage system; main memory can be viewed as a last *cache* for secondary storage.

Storage-Device Hierarchy



Hardware Protection

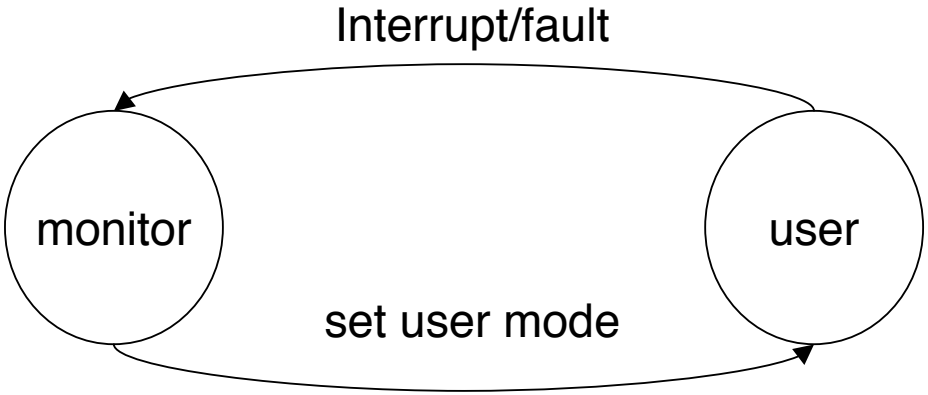
- Dual-Mode Operation
- I/O Protection
- Memory Protection
- CPU Protection

Dual-Mode Operation

- Sharing system resources requires operating system to ensure that an incorrect program cannot cause other programs to execute incorrectly.
- Provide hardware support to differentiate between at least two modes of operations.
  1. *User mode* – execution done on behalf of a user.
  2. *Monitor mode* (also *supervisor mode* or *system mode*) – execution done on behalf of operating system.

Dual-Mode Operation (Cont.)

- *Mode bit* added to computer hardware to indicate the current mode: monitor (0) or user (1).
- When an interrupt or fault occurs hardware switches to monitor mode.



- *Privileged instructions* can be issued only in monitor mode.

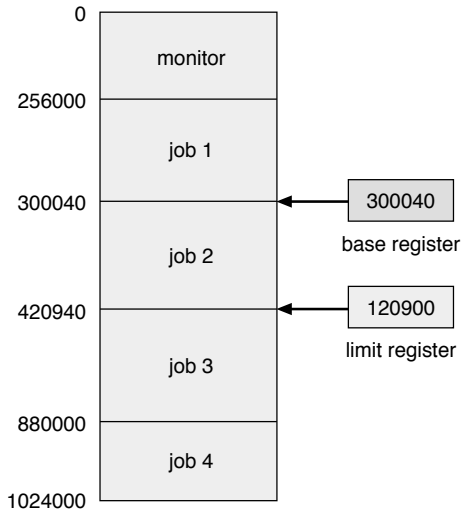
I/O Protection

- All I/O instructions are privileged instructions.
- Must ensure that a user program could never gain control of the computer in monitor mode (I.e., a user program that, as part of its execution, stores a new address in the interrupt vector).

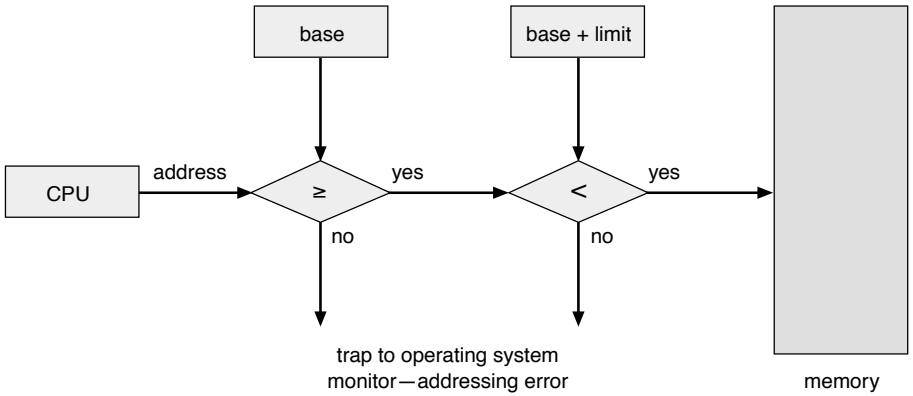
Memory Protection

- Must provide memory protection at least for the interrupt vector and the interrupt service routines.
- In order to have memory protection, add two registers that determine the range of legal addresses a program may access:
  - **base register** – holds the smallest legal physical memory address.
  - **Limit register** – contains the size of the range
- Memory outside the defined range is protected.

A Base And A limit Register Define A Logical Address Space



Protection Hardware



- When executing in monitor mode, the operating system has unrestricted access to both monitor and user's memory.
- The load instructions for the *base* and *limit* registers are privileged instructions.

CPU Protection

- *Timer* – interrupts computer after specified period to ensure operating system maintains control.
  - Timer is decremented every clock tick.
  - When timer reaches the value 0, an interrupt occurs.
- Timer commonly used to implement time sharing.
- Time also used to compute the current time.
- Load-timer is a privileged instruction.

General-System Architecture

- Given the I/O instructions are privileged, how does the user program perform I/O?
- System call – the method used by a process to request action by the operating system.
  - Usually takes the form of a trap to a specific location in the interrupt vector.
  - Control passes through the interrupt vector to a service routine in the OS, and the mode bit is set to monitor mode.
  - The monitor verifies that the parameters are correct and legal, executes the request, and returns control to the instruction following the system call.

Use of A System Call to Perform I/O