

# cs5460/6460: Operating Systems: Lecture 01: Introduction

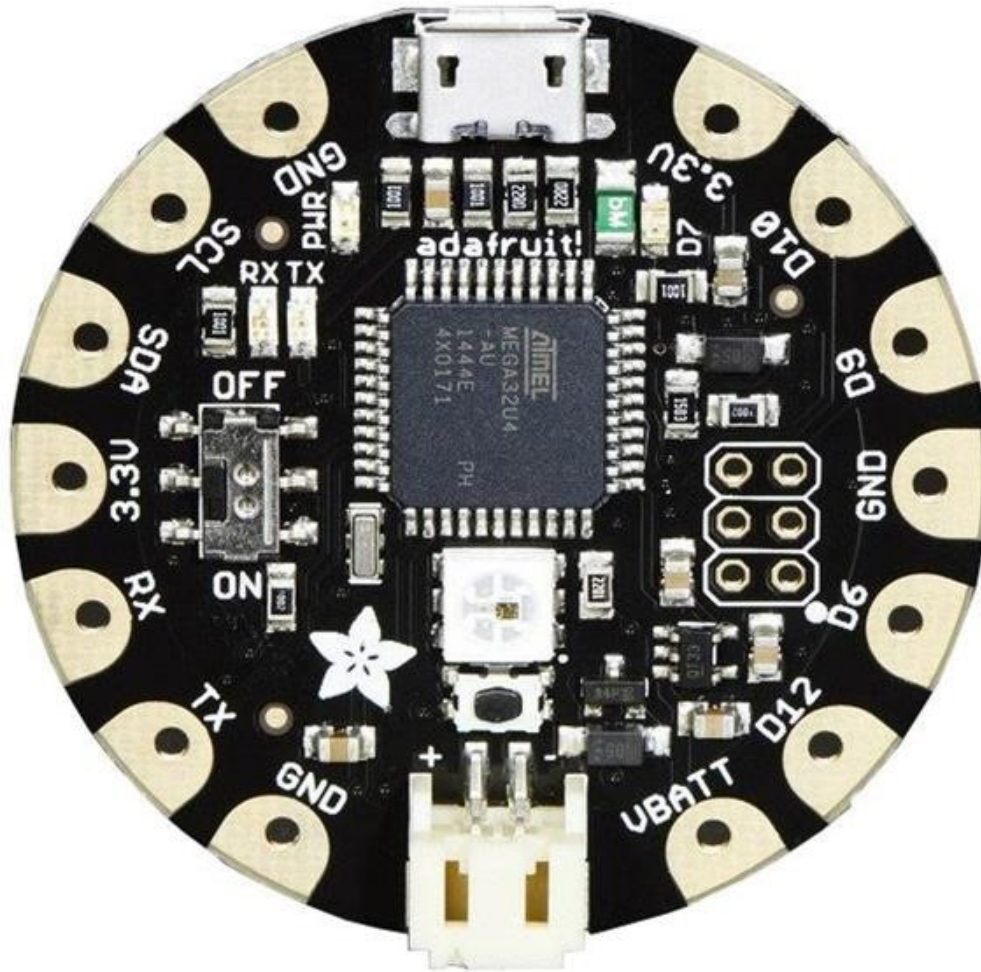
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Spring 2025

What does it mean to build an operating system?

Startup idea: a wearable that measures your UV light exposure

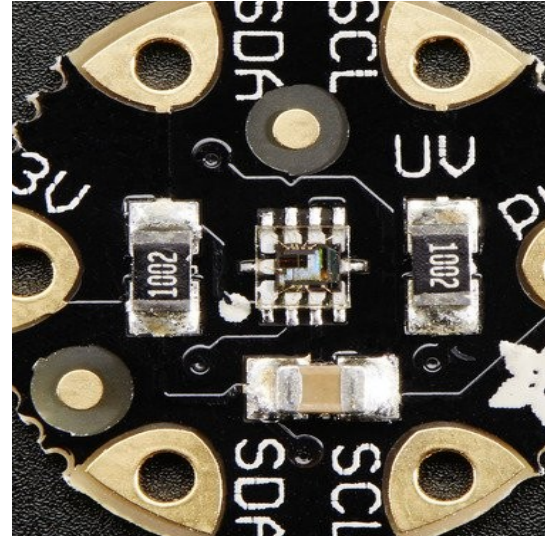


# Flora Arduino Board



# Si1145: UV light sensor

- IR Sensor Spectrum:
  - Wavelength: 550nm-1000nm
- Visible Light Sensor Spectrum:
  - Wavelength: 400nm-800nm
- **UV Index**



# Si7021: Humidity and temperature sensor

- **Humidity:**

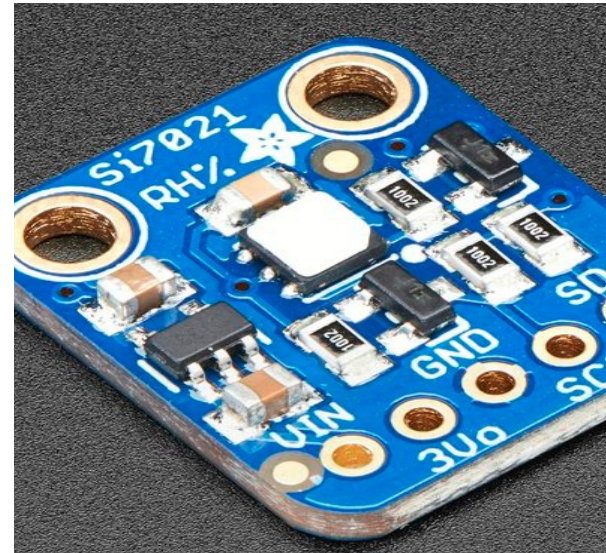
  - ± 3% relative humidity

  - Range of 0–80% RH

- **Temperature:**

  - ±0.4 °C

  - Range of -10 to +85 °C



How can we run anything on this board?

Lets take a brief look at how computers work

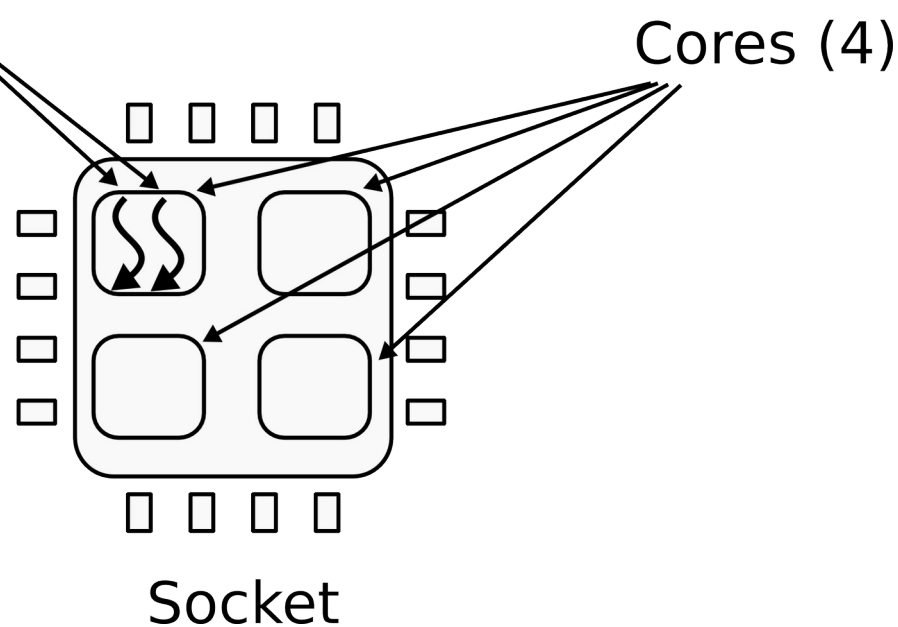


# CPU

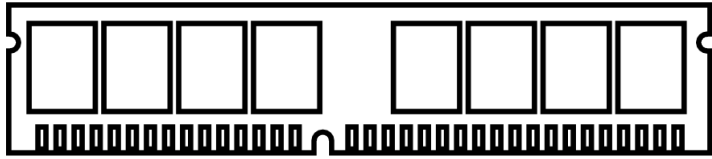
- 1 CPU
  - 4 cores
  - 2 logical (HT) threads each



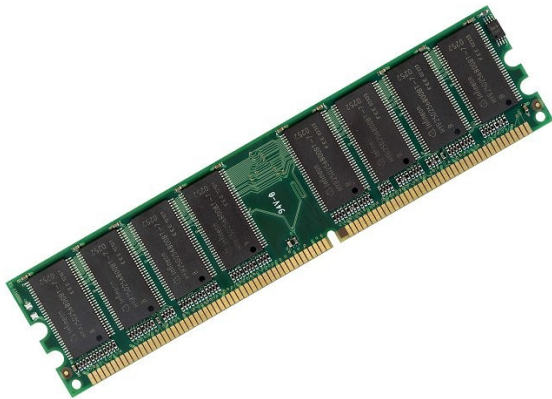
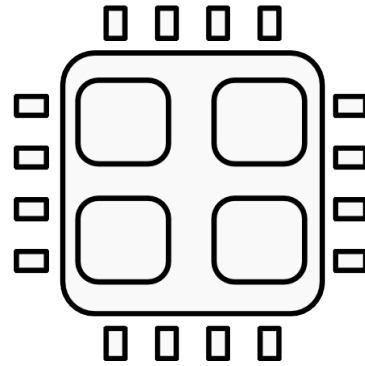
Hyper-Threading  
(logical threads)



# Memory



Memory  
Bus



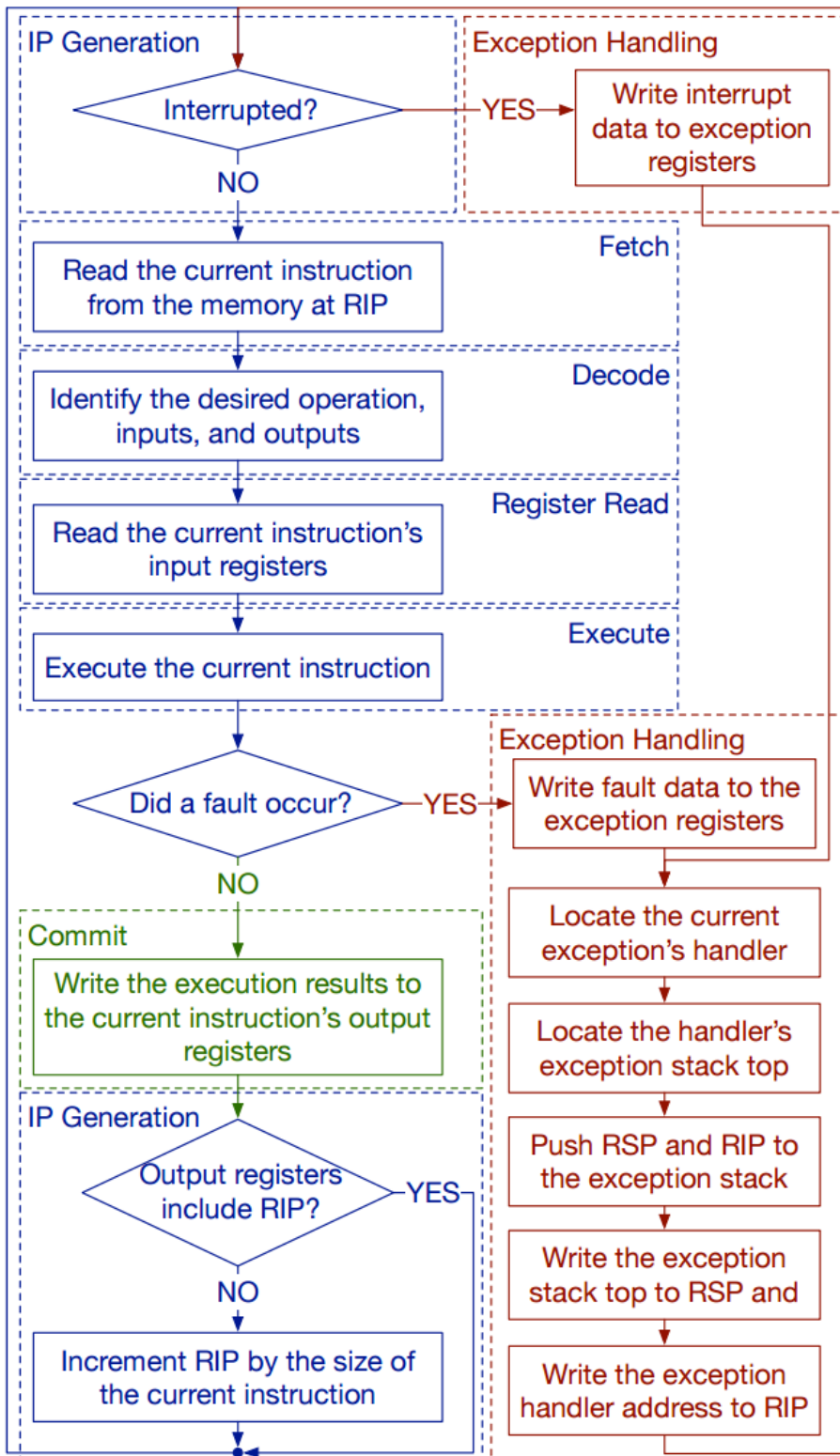
What does CPU do internally?

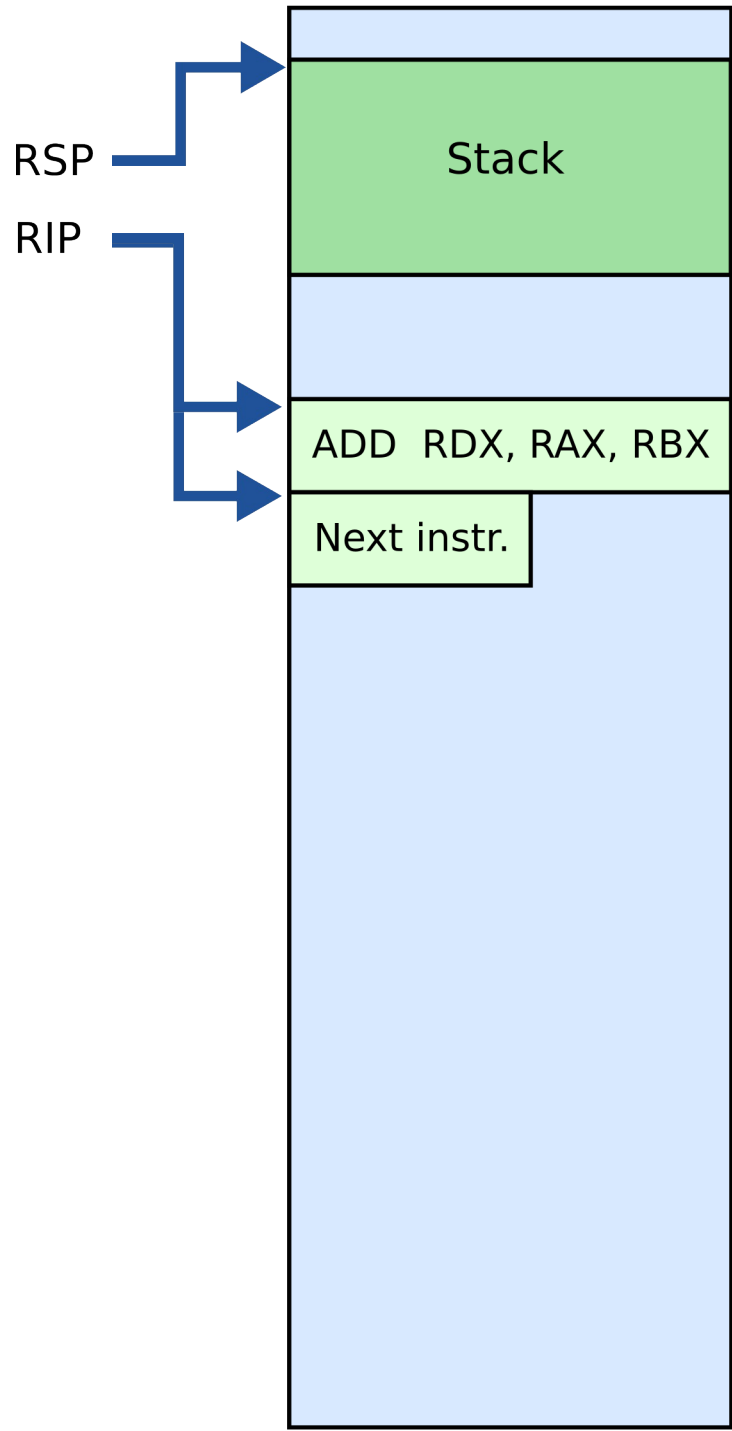
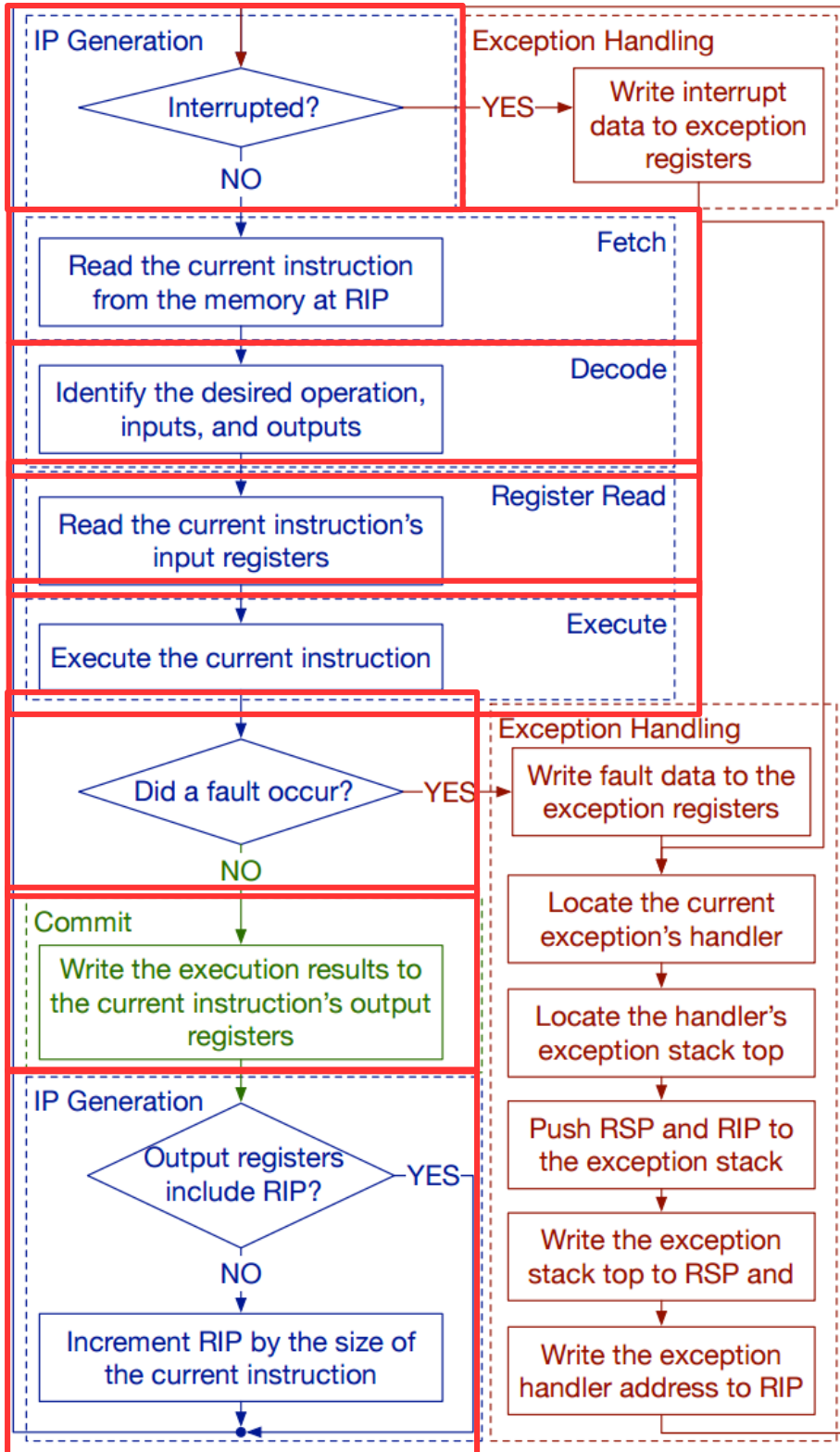
# CPU execution loop

- CPU repeatedly reads instructions from memory
- Executes them
- Example

```
ADD EAX, EBX
```

```
// EAX = EAX + EBX
```



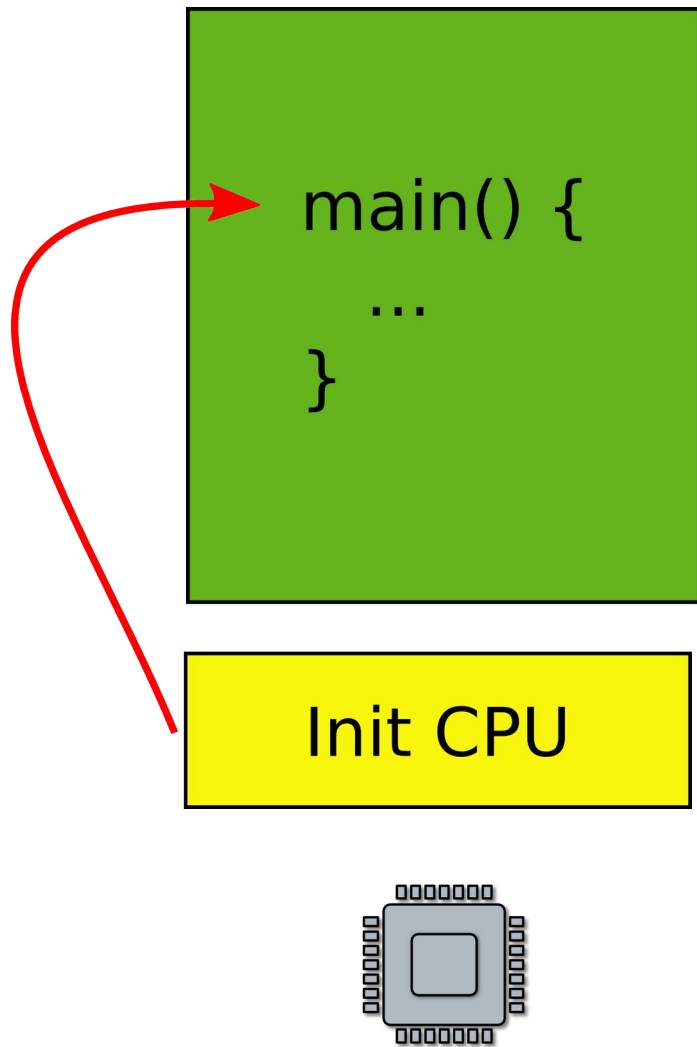


# Simple observation

- Hardware executes instructions one by one

What is an operating system?

# Task #1: Run your code on a piece of hardware



- Read CPU manual
- A tiny boot layer
  - Initialize CPU
  - Jump to the entry point of your program
    - `main()`
  - **This can be the beginning of your OS!**

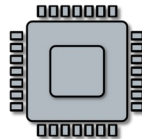


## Task #2: Print something on the screen

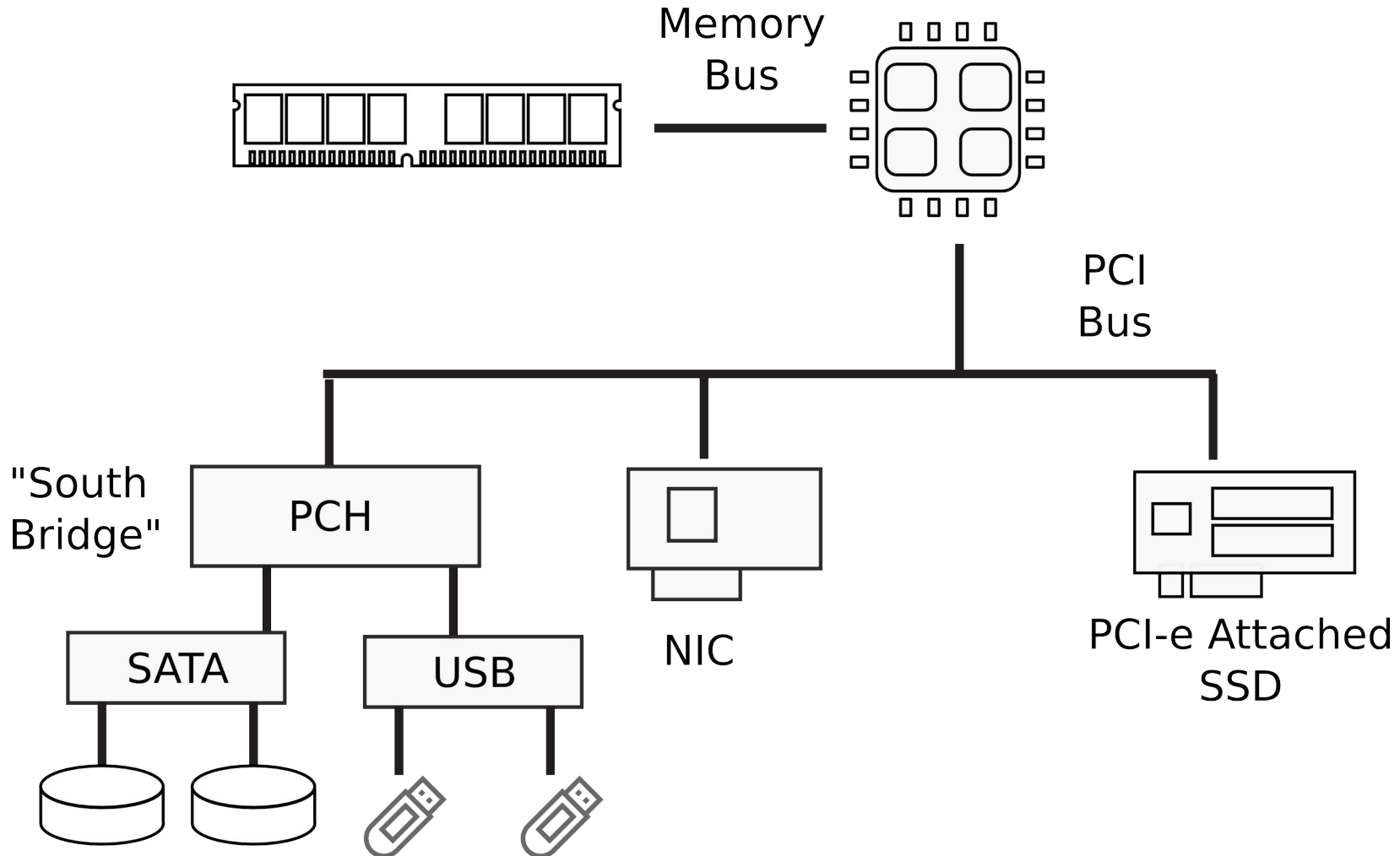
- On the screen or serial line

```
printf() {  
    ...  
    asm("mov [<magic constant>], char");  
    ...  
}
```

OS



# I/O Devices

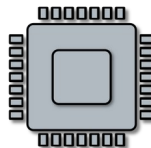


## Task #2: Print something on the screen

- On the screen or serial line

```
printf() {  
    ...  
    if (vga) {  
        asm("mov [<magic constant 1>], char");  
    } else if (serial) {  
        asm("out <magic constant 2>, char");  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

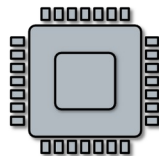
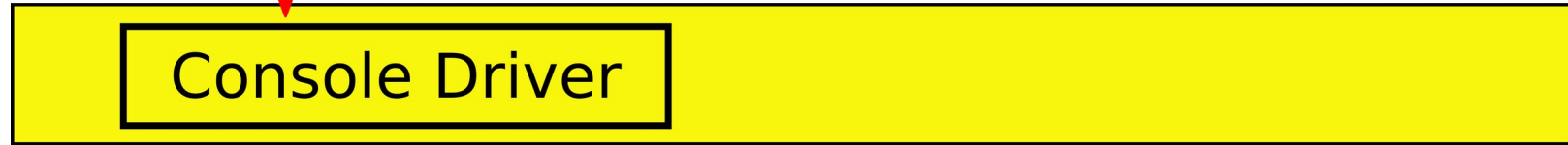
OS



# A more general interface

- First device driver

```
printf() {  
    ...  
    putchar(char);  
    ...  
}
```



# Device drivers

- Abstract hardware
  - Provide high-level interface
  - Hide minor differences
  - Implement some optimizations
    - Batch requests
- Examples
  - Console, disk, network interface
  - ...virtually any piece of hardware you know

OS is like a library that provides a collection of useful functions

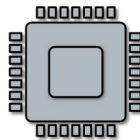
# Task #3: Want to run two programs

```
main() {  
  ...  
  yield()  
}
```

```
main() {  
  ...  
  yield()  
}
```

- What does it mean?
  - Only one CPU
- Run one, then run another one

Save/restore



Very much like car sharing



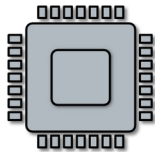
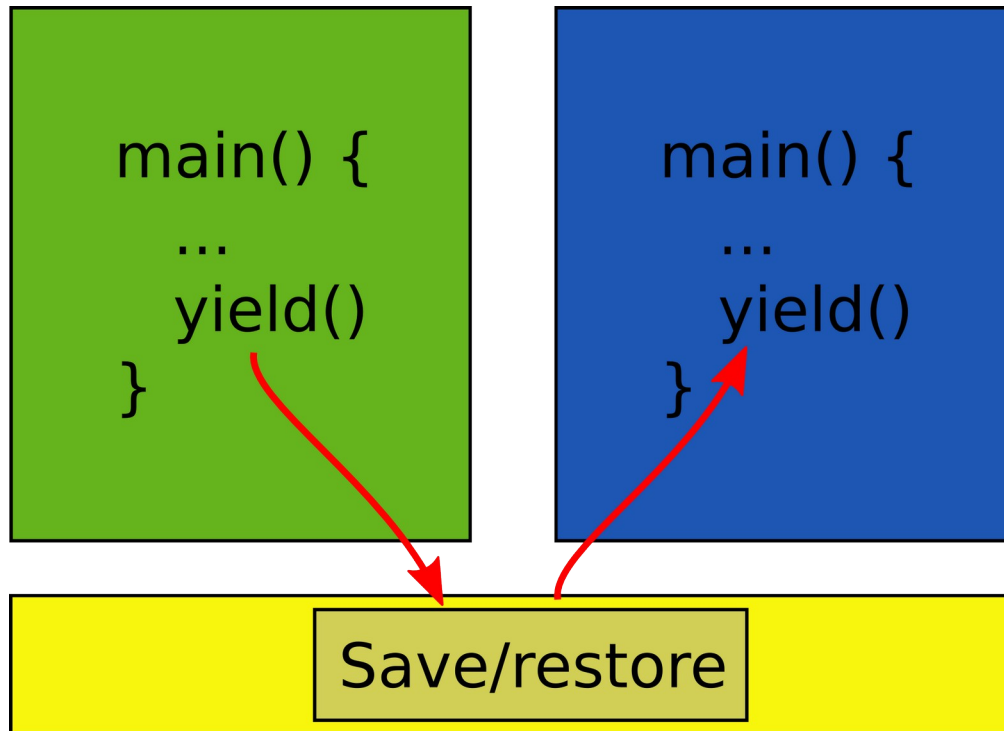
**Car rental**



# Time sharing

- Programs use CPU in turns
  - One program runs
  - Then OS takes control
  - Launches another program
  - Then another program runs
  - OS takes control again
  - ...

# Task #3: Want to run two programs



- Exit into the kernel periodically
- Context switch
  - Save state of one program
  - Restore state of another program

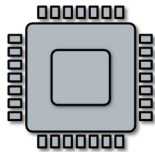
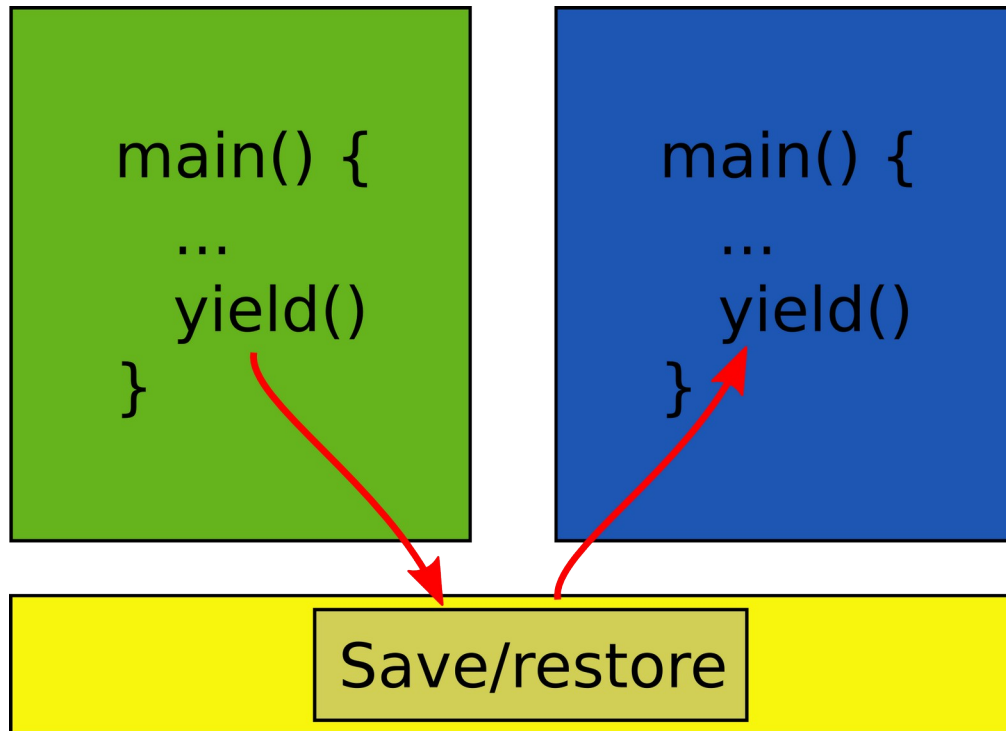
What is this state?

# State of the program

- Roughly it's
  - Registers
  - Memory
- Plus some state (data structures) in the kernel associated with the program
  - Information about files opened by the program, i.e. file descriptors
  - Information about network flows
  - Information about address space, loaded libraries, communication channels to other programs, etc.

What about memory?

- Two programs, one memory?



# Time-share memory

- Well you can copy in and out the state of the program into a region of memory where it can run
  - Similar to time-sharing the CPU

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- What do you think is wrong with this approach?



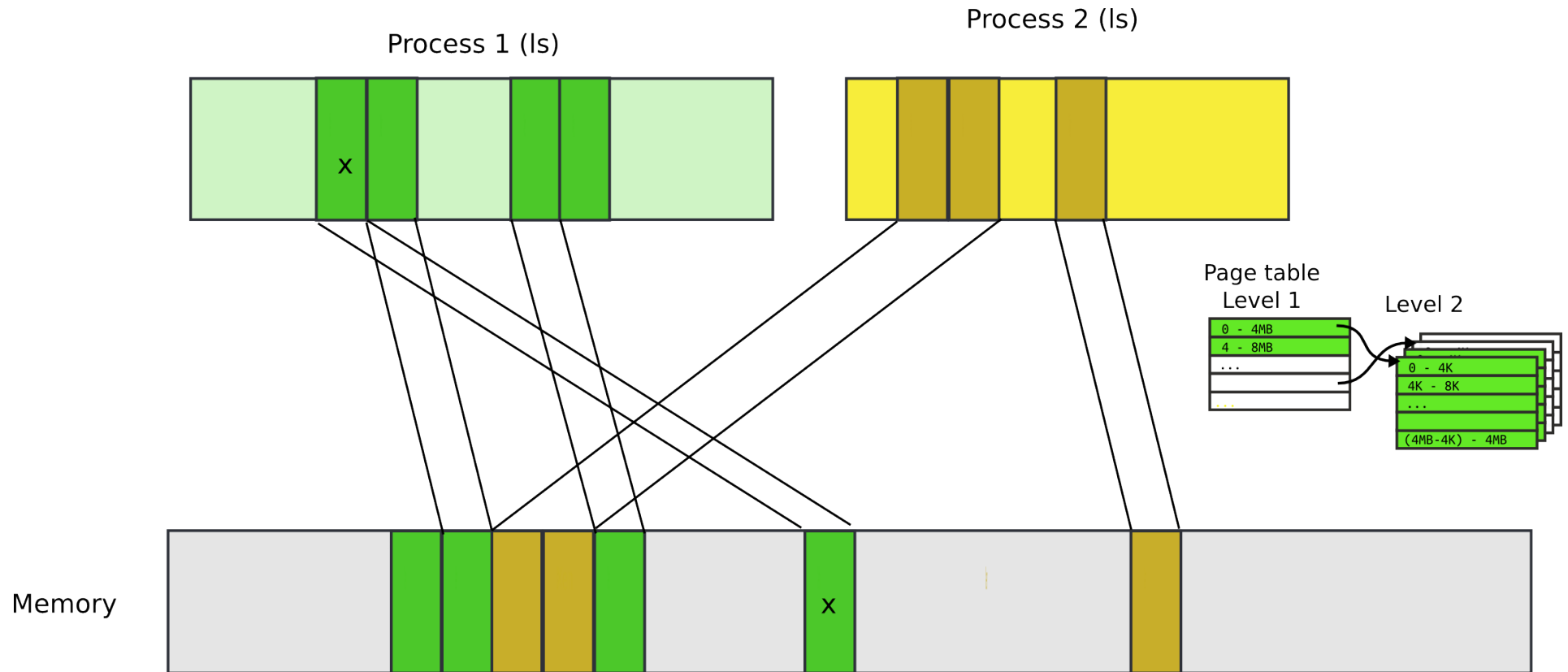
# Time-share memory

- Well you can copy in and out the state of the program into a region of memory where it can run
  - Similar to time-sharing the CPU
- What do you think is wrong with this approach?
  - Unlike registers the state of the program in memory can be large
  - Takes time to copy it in and out

# Virtual address spaces

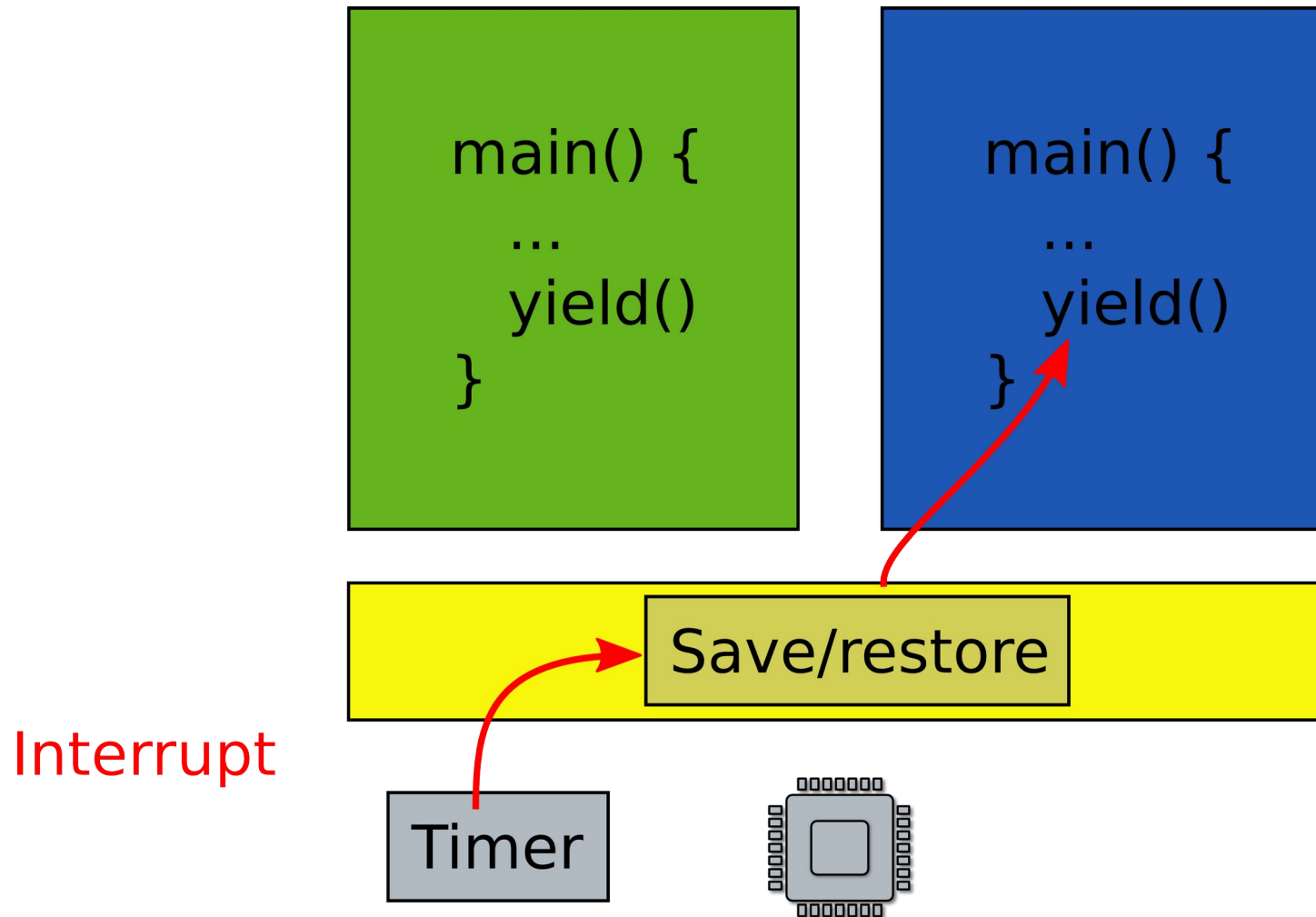
- Illusion of a private memory for each application
  - Keep a description of an address space
  - In one of the registers
- OS maintains description of address spaces
  - Switches between them

# Address spaces with page tables



**Staying in control**

- What if one program fails to release the CPU?
- It will run forever. Need a way to preempt it. How?

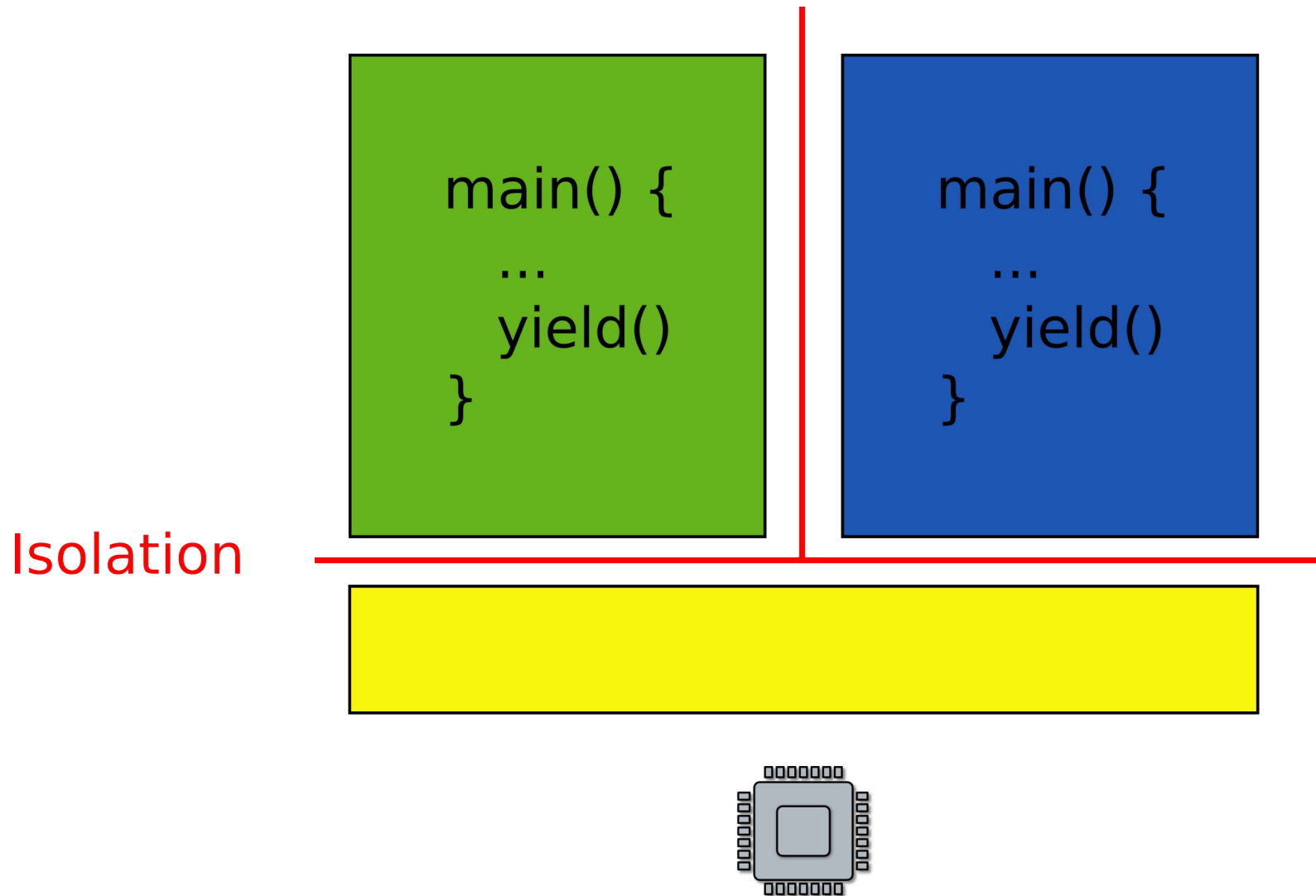


# Scheduling

- Pick which application to run next
  - And for how long
- Illusion of a private CPU for each task
  - Frequent context switching

Isolation

- What if one faulty program corrupts the kernel?
- Or other programs?





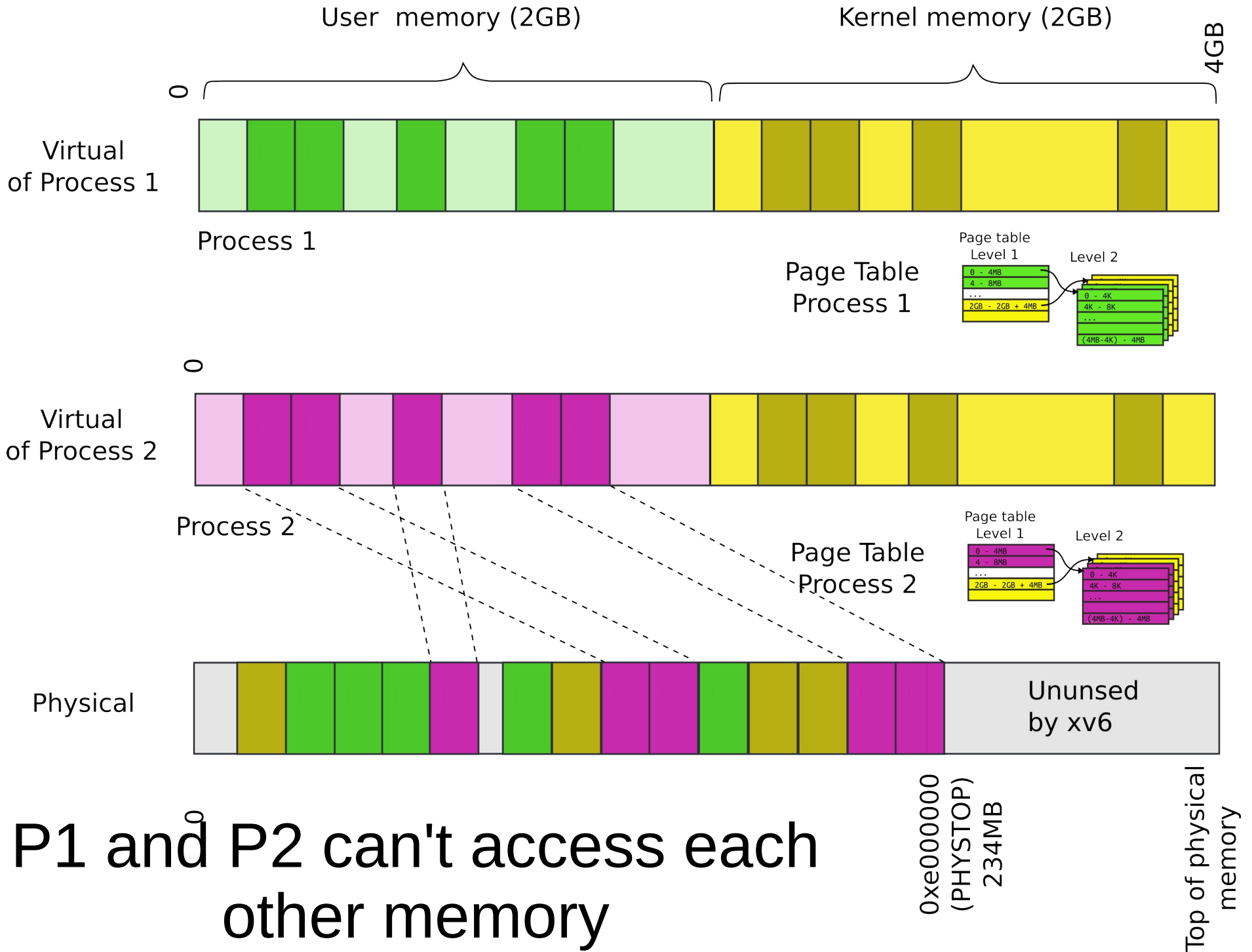
# No isolation: open space office



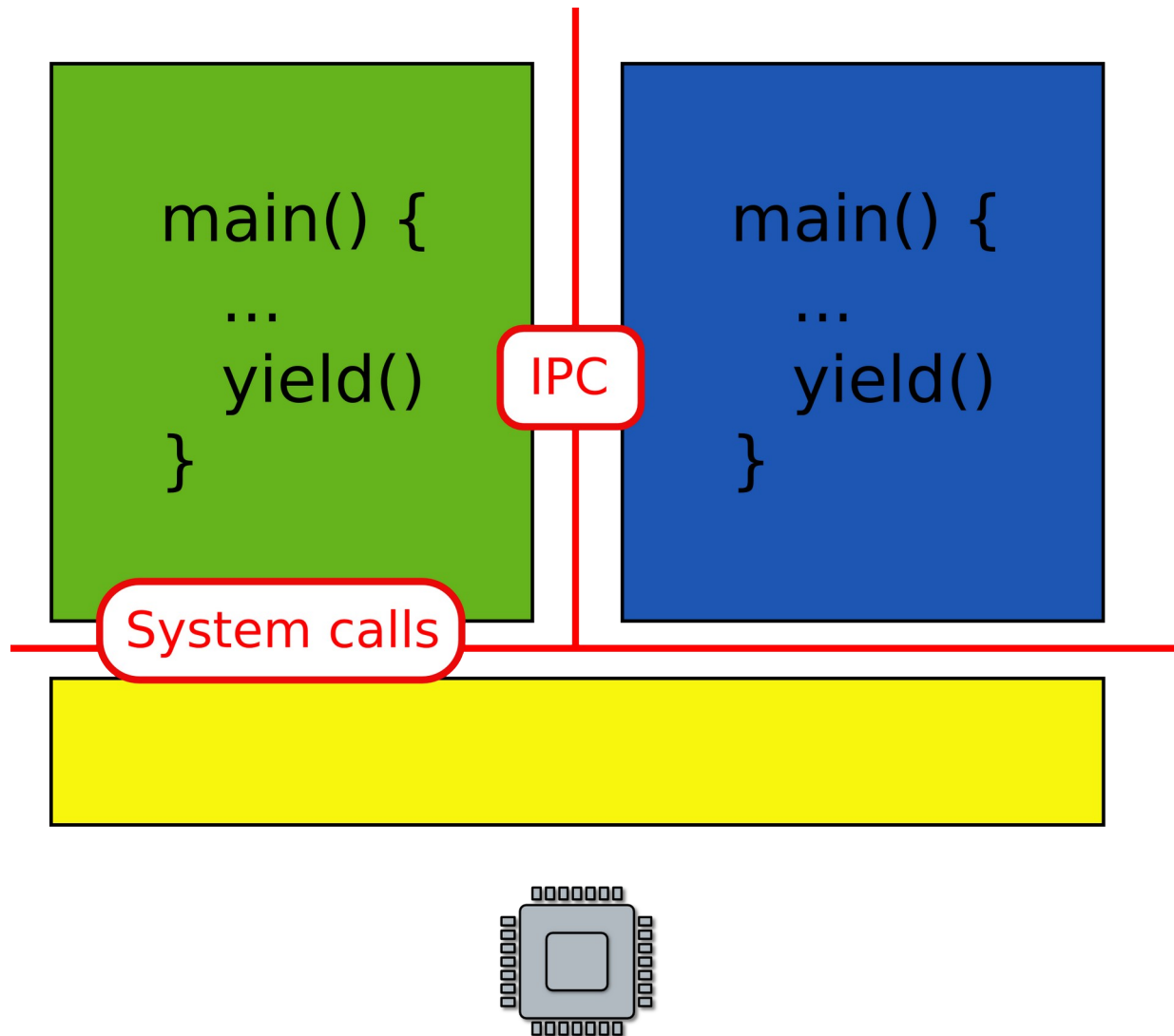
# Isolated rooms



Each process has a private address space



- What about communication?
- Can we invoke a function in a kernel?



# Files and network

- Want to save some data to a file?

- Want to save some data to a file?
- Permanent storage
  - E.g., disks
- Disks are just arrays of blocks
  - `write(block_number, block_data)`



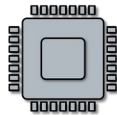
- File system and block device provide similar abstractions
- Permanent storage
  - E.g., disks
- Disks are just arrays of blocks
  - `write(block_number, block_data)`
- Files
  - High level abstraction for saving data
  - `fd = open("contacts.txt");`
  - `fprintf(fd, "Name:%s\n", name);`

# File system

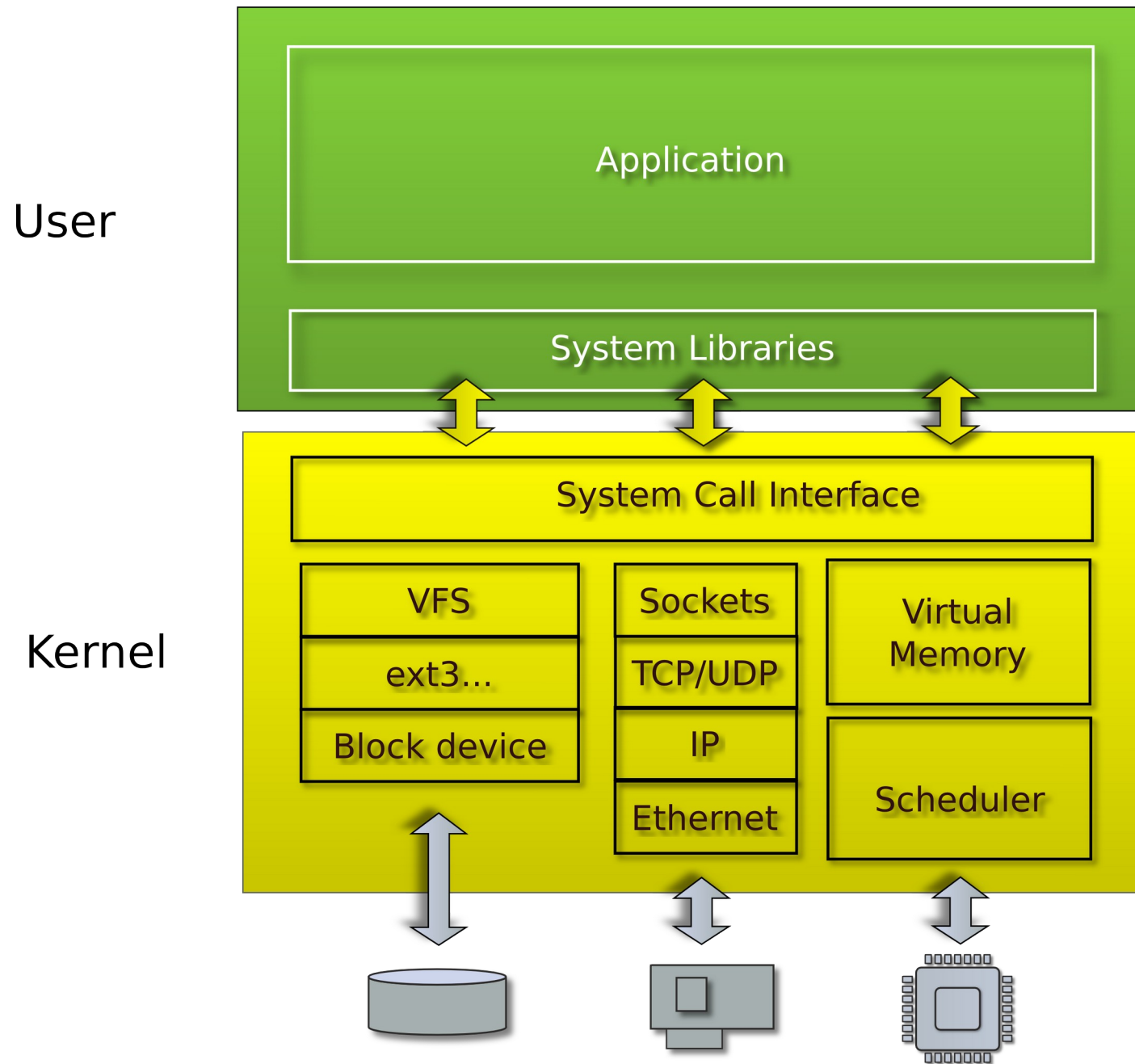
```
main() {  
  ...  
  open("contacts.txt");  
  ...  
}
```



File system



- Linux/Windows/Mac



# Recap

- Run multiple programs
  - Each has illusion of a private memory and CPU
    - Context switching
    - Isolation and protection
  - Management of resources
    - Scheduling (management of CPU)
    - Memory management (management of physical memory)
- High-level abstractions for I/O
  - File systems
    - Multiple files, concurrent I/O requests
    - Consistency, caching
  - Network protocols
    - Multiple virtual network connections

Questions?