

## Virtual Memory 3 / I/O

# last time

working set, Zipf usage models

LRU page replacement

approximating LRU by sampling accessed bits or mark invalid

nit: said Linux marked invalid to test — probably not on x86  
instead periodic scanning of referenced bits set by processor  
(but marking invalid would work/is needed on some platforms)

observation: when LRU fails

## on the paging assignment

“(and pointing to the the original physical page) (pointing to the same physical page) Do those two lines mean the same thing?????”

yes — with copy-on-write, the child uses same pages as parent

differences are in how reference count and read-onlyness is maintained when parent page was already copy-on-write from a previous fork

# anonymous feedback (1)

“hi can u stop changing the assignment description. just get it right the first time because every time you change, it screws with my understanding of what i'm supposed to do and i'm just super confused.”

I could try to add bullets instead of editing bullets if that's better...  
(and I did make more serious edits if you started before the assignment wasn't marked tentative, ...)

“also your instructions suck. they don't make sense.”

okay

## anonymous feedback (2)

“Super unfair how Grimshaw’s class gets 1 more week than we do on FAT homework because they don’t have this paging assignment. While we struggle on this assignment, they get more time to figure out the next one”

- our FAT assignment is due 16 November

- (checkpoint for ours is due 9 November)

- theirs is due 8 November

- should get some testing code with our version

# problems with LRU

question: when does LRU perform poorly?

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only reading things once

repeated scans of large amounts of data

# problems with LRU

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only reading things once

repeated scans of large amounts of data

both common access patterns for files

# CLOCK-Pro: special casing for one-use pages

by default, Linux tries to handle scanning of files

one read of file data — e.g. play a video, load file into memory

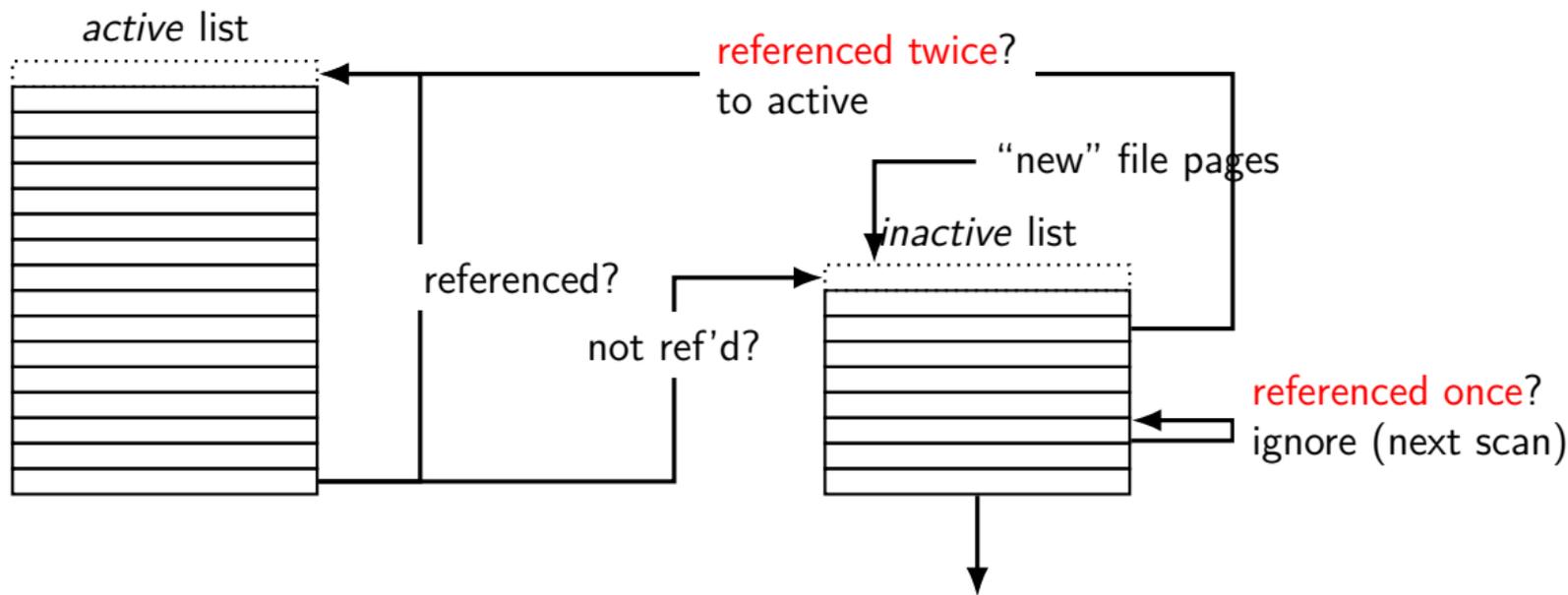
basic idea: don't consider pages active until **the second access**

single scans of file won't "pollute" cache

without this change: reading large files slows down other programs

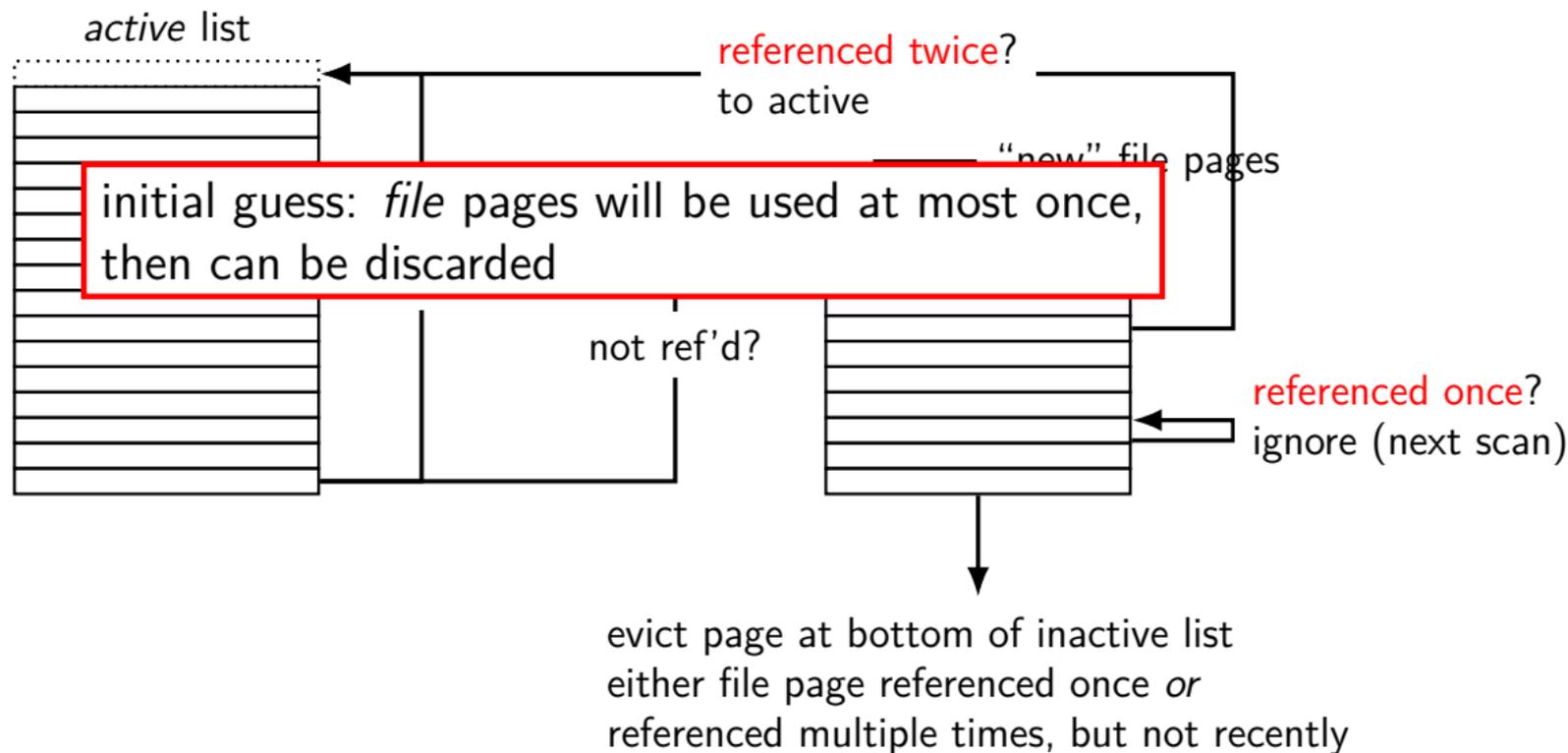
recently read part of large file steals space from active programs

# CLOCK-Pro: special casing for one-use pages

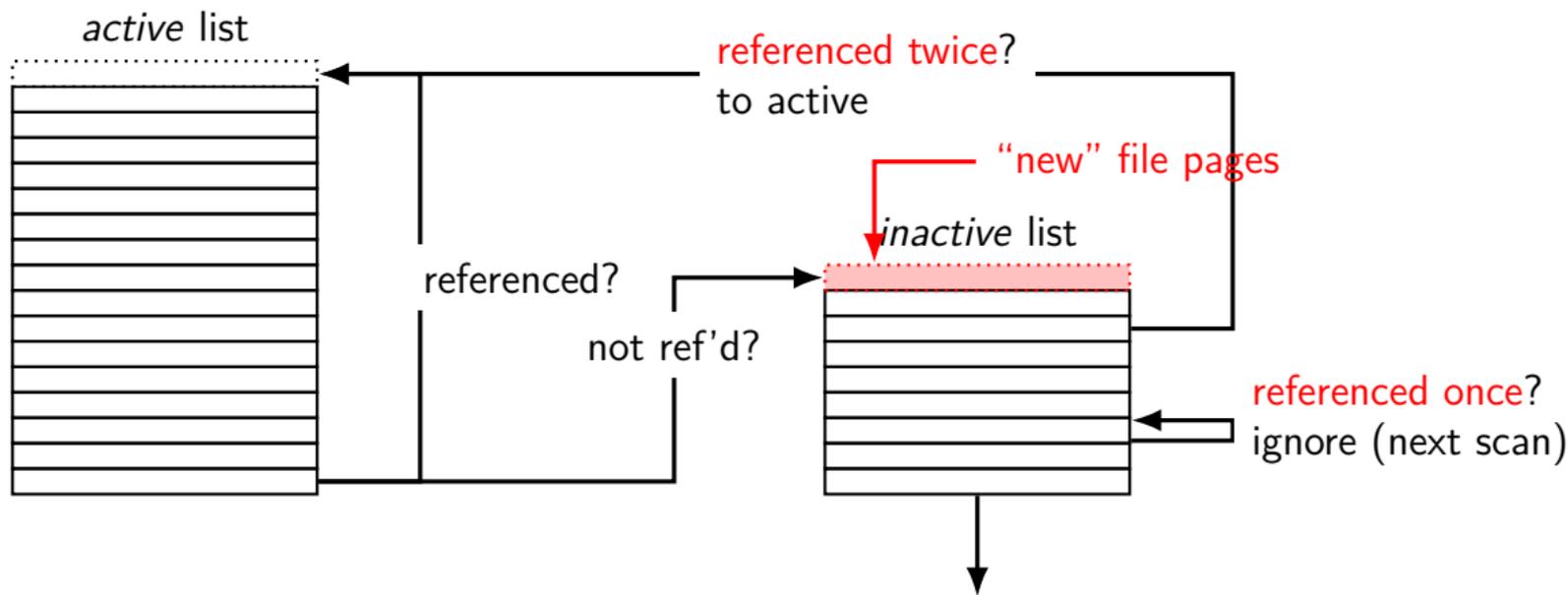


evict page at bottom of inactive list  
either file page referenced once *or*  
referenced multiple times, but not recently

# CLOCK-Pro: special casing for one-use pages

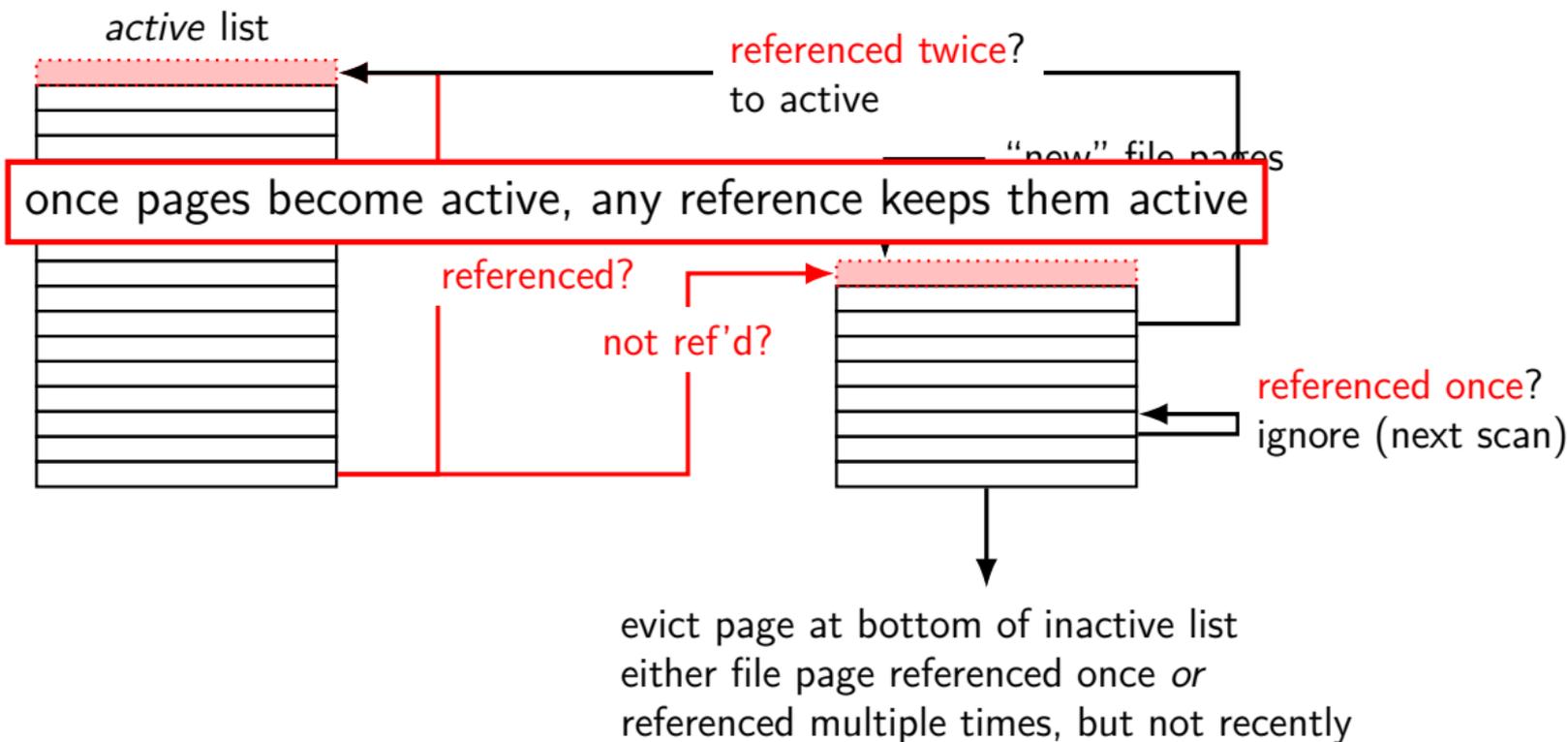


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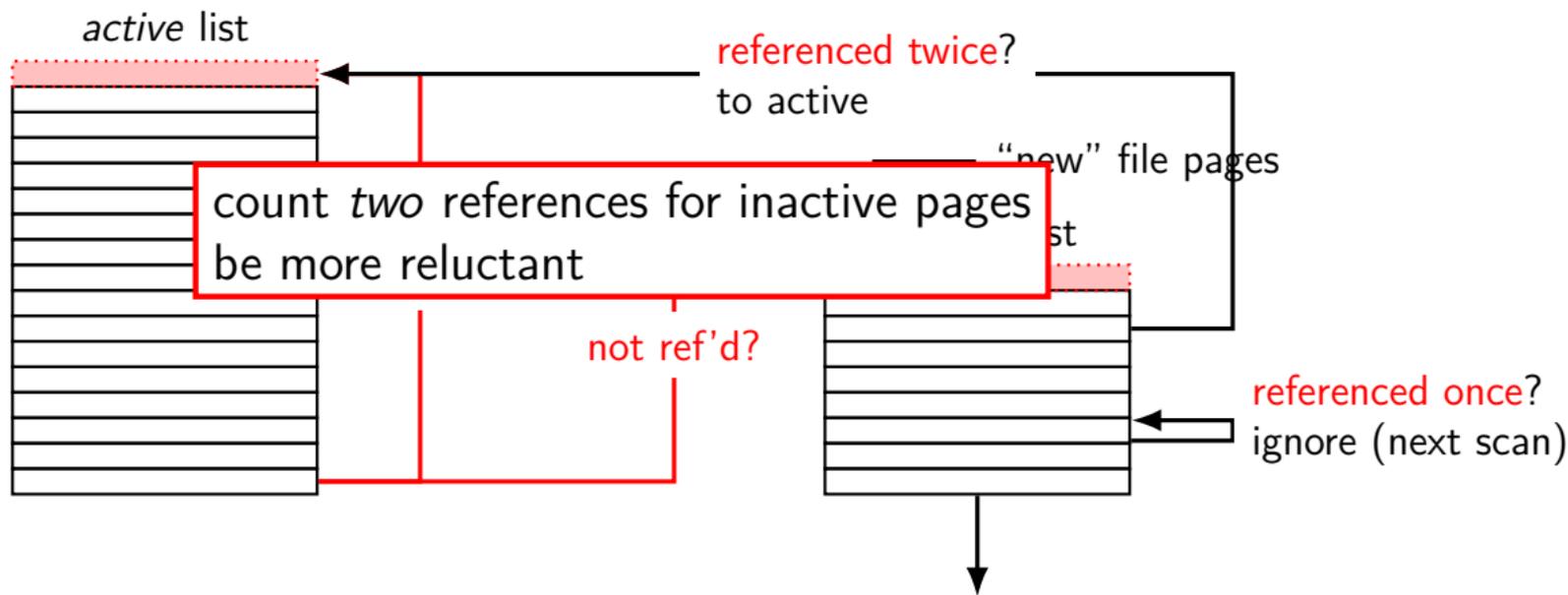


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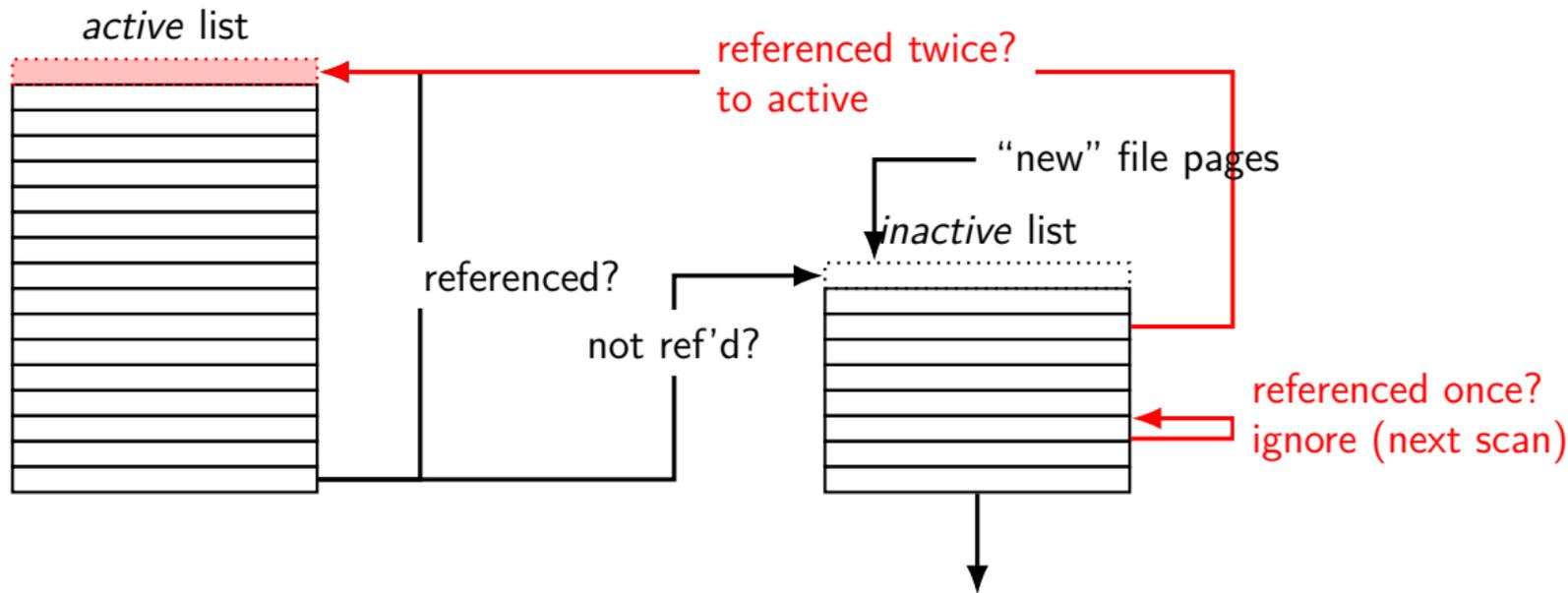


# CLOCK-Pro: special casing for one-use pages



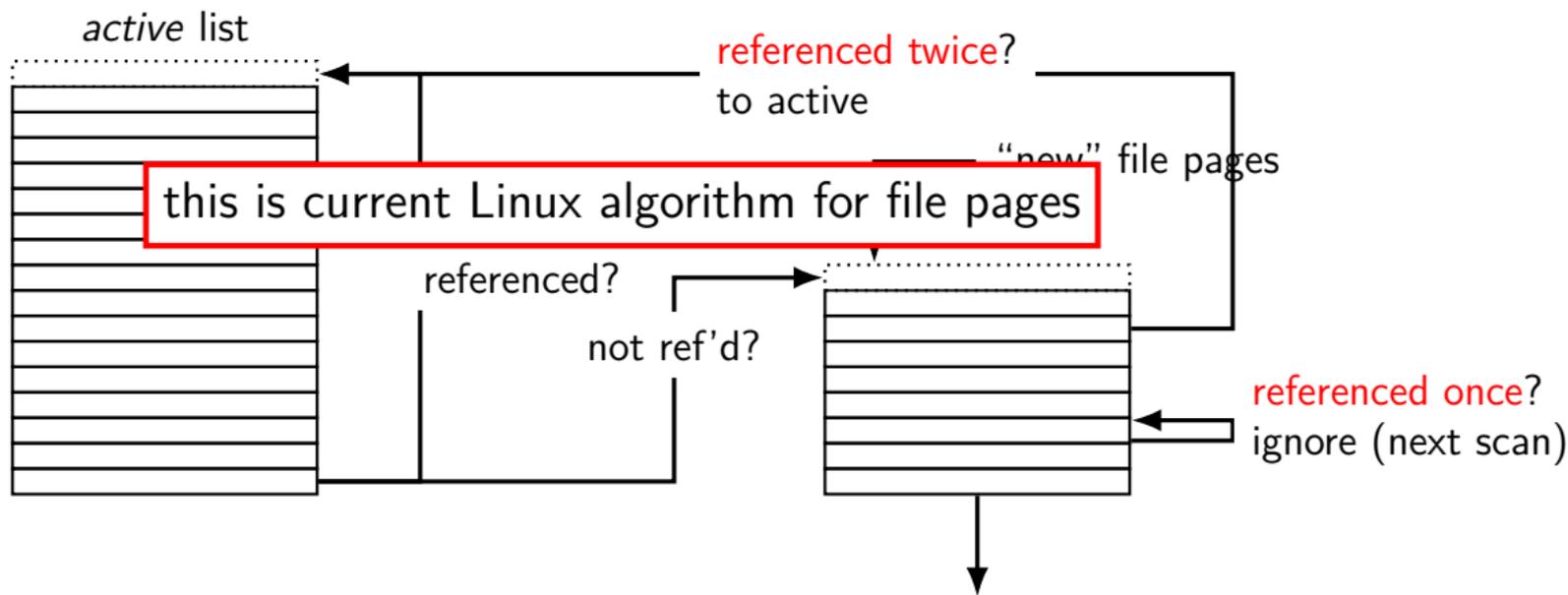
evict page at bottom of inactive list  
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# CLOCK-Pro: special casing for one-use pages



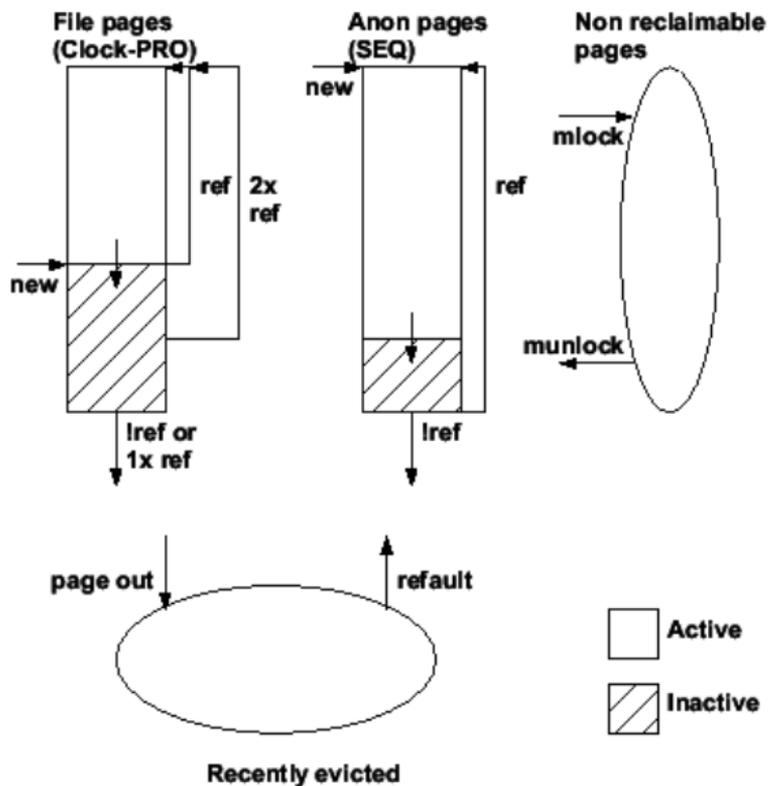
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# CLOCK-Pro: special casing for one-use pages



evict page at bottom of inactive list  
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referenced multiple times, but not recently

# default Linux page replacement summary



# default Linux page replacement summary

identify *inactive* pages — guess: not going to be accessed soon  
file pages which haven't been accessed more than once, or  
any pages which haven't been accessed recently

some minimum threshold of inactive pages

add to inactive list in background

detecting references — scan referenced bits

(I thought Linux marked as invalid — but wrong: not on x86)

detect enough references — move to active

oldest inactive page still not used → evict that one

otherwise: give it a second chance

# being proactive

previous assumption: load on demand

why is something loaded?

- page fault

- maybe because application starts

can we do better?

# readahead

program accesses page 4 of a file, page 5, page 6. What's next?

# readahead

program accesses page 4 of a file, page 5, page 6. What's next?

page 7 — idea: guess this

on page fault, does it look like contiguous accesses?

called **readahead**

# readahead heuristics (1)

exercise: devise an algorithm to detect to do readahead.

when to start reads?

how much to readahead?

want to detect contiguous accesses to mmap'd pages

can mark pages invalid temporarily to detect references to present pages

can add if statement to detect when new pages are brought in

# Linux readahead heuristics — how much

how much to readahead?

Linux heuristic: count number of cached pages before

guess we should read about that many more

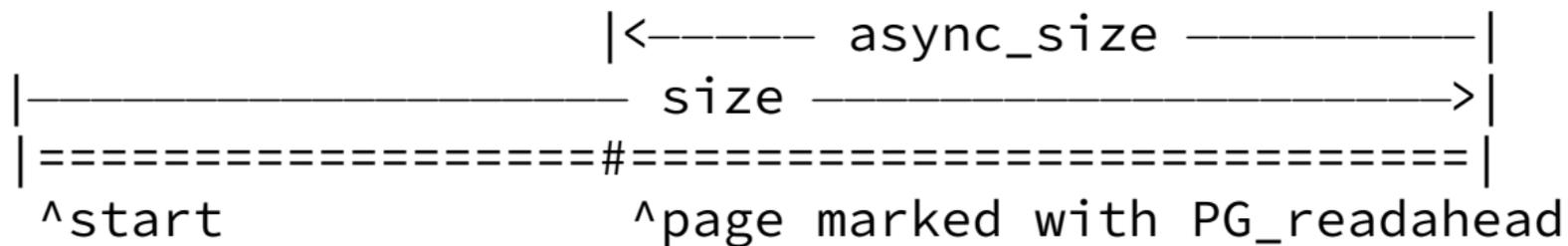
minimum/maximum to avoid extremes

goal: readahead more when applications are using file more

goal: don't readahead as much with low memory

# Linux readahead heuristics — when

track “readahead windows” — pages read because of guess:



when `async_size` pages left, read next chunk

marked page = detect reads to this page

idea: keep up with application, but not too far ahead

# thrashing

what if there's just not enough space?

for program data, files currently being accessed

always reading things from disk

causes performance collapse — disk is really slow

known as **thrashing**

# 'fair' page replacement

so far: page replacement about least recently used

what about sharing fairly between users?

# sharing fairly?

process A

4MB of stack+code, 16MB of heap  
shared cached 16MB file X

process B

4MB of stack+code, 16MB of heap  
shared cached 16MB file X

process C

4MB of stack+code, 4MB of heap  
cached 32MB file Y

process D+E

4MB of stack+code, 64MB of heap  
but all heap is shared copy-on-write

# accounting pages

shared pages make it difficult to count memory usage

Linux *cgroups* accounting: **last touch**

count shared file pages for the process that last 'used' them  
...as detected by page fault for page

# Linux cgroup limits

Linux “control groups” of processes

can set memory limits for group of processes:

low limit: don't ‘steal’ pages when group uses less than this  
always take pages someone is using (unless no choice)

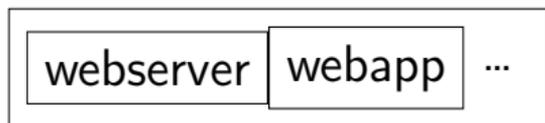
high limit: never let group use more than this  
replace pages from this group before anything else

...

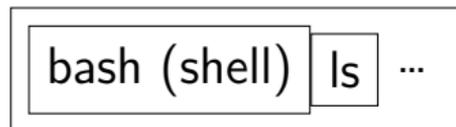
# Linux cgroups

Linux mechanism: separate processes into groups:

*cgroup website*

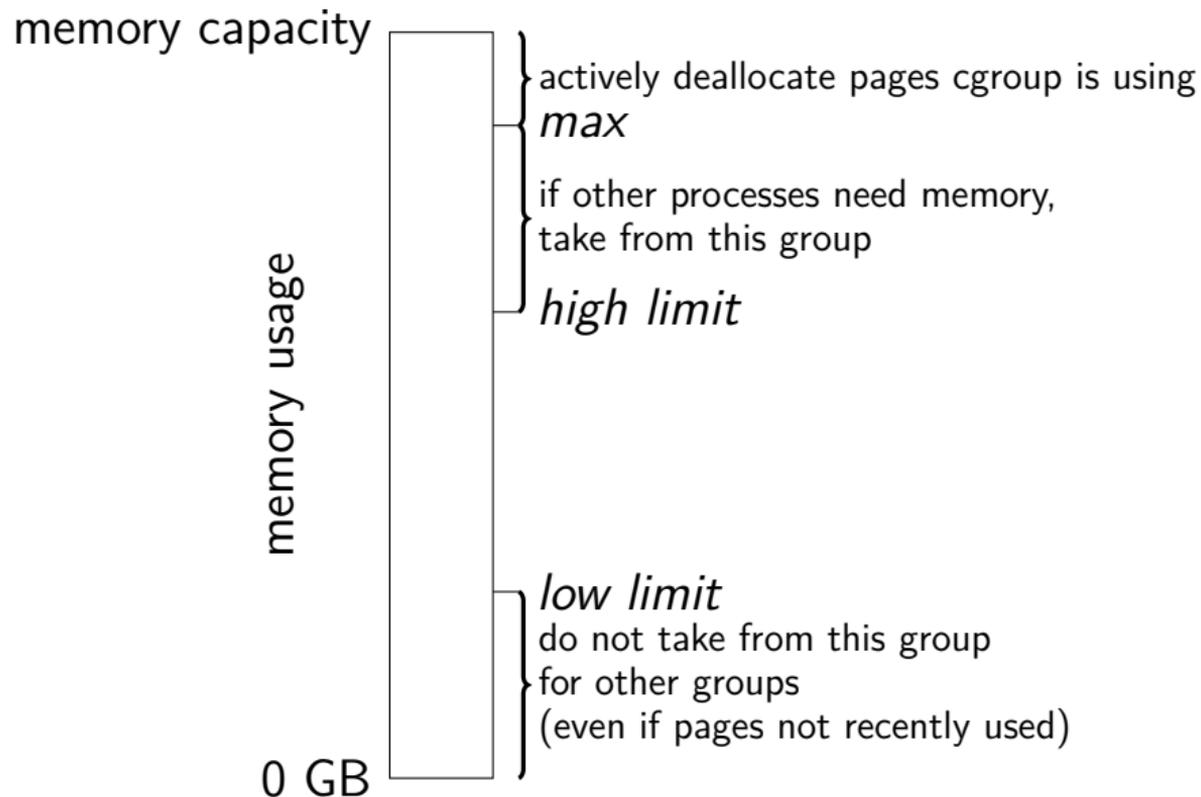


*cgroup login*

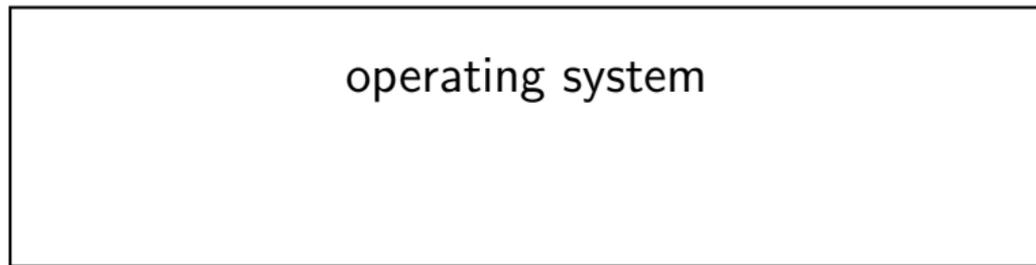
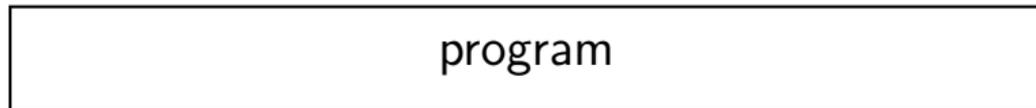


can set memory and CPU and ...shares for each group

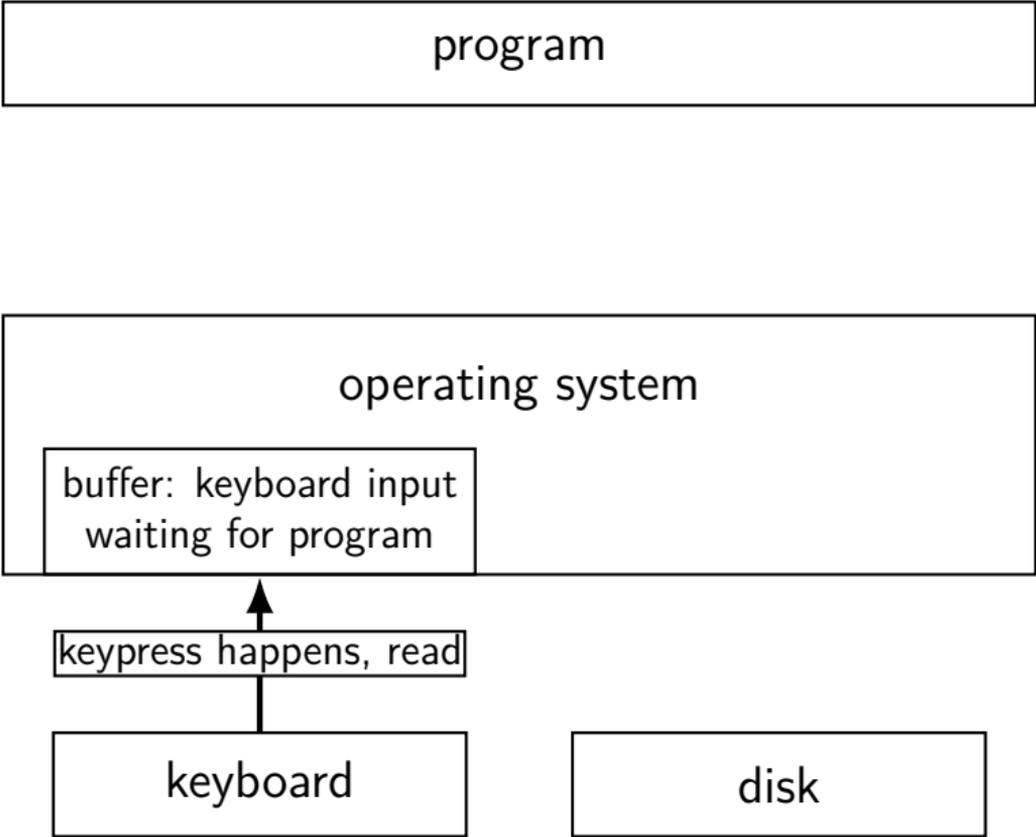
# Linux cgroup memory limits



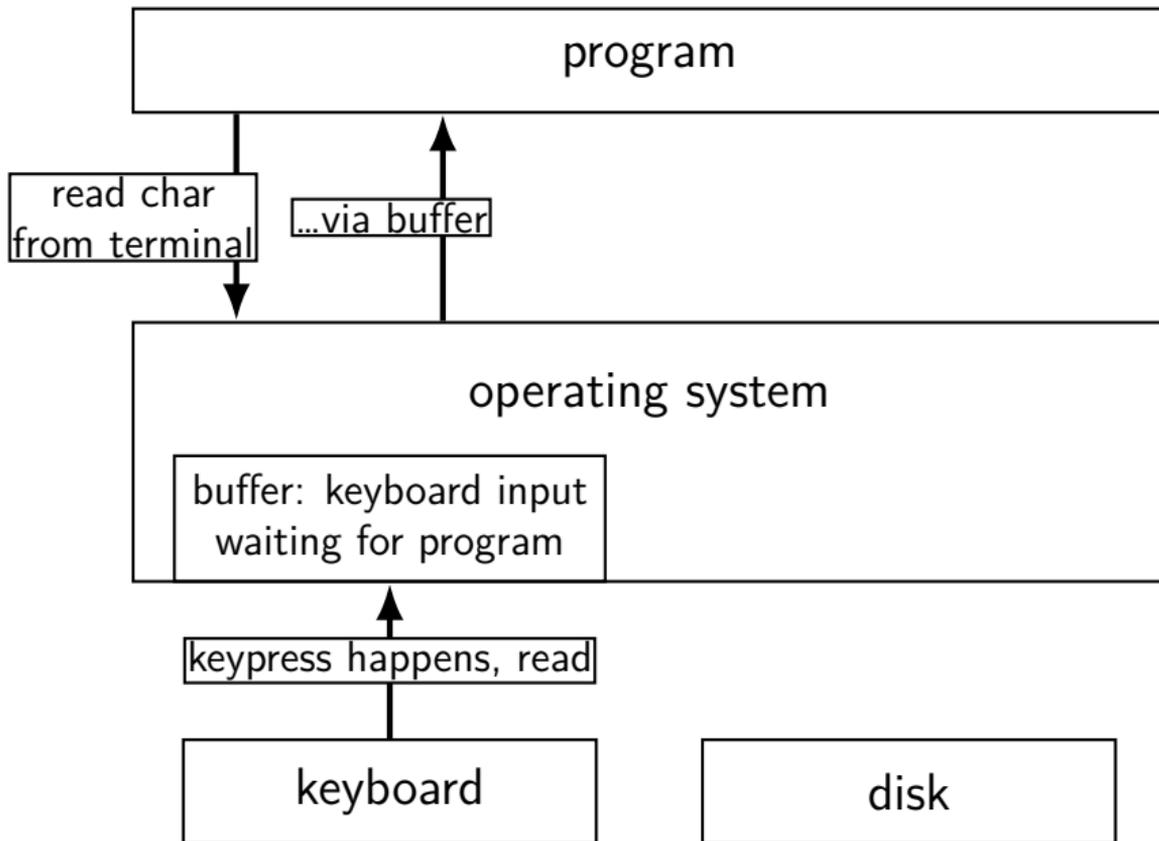
## recall: kernel buffering (reads)



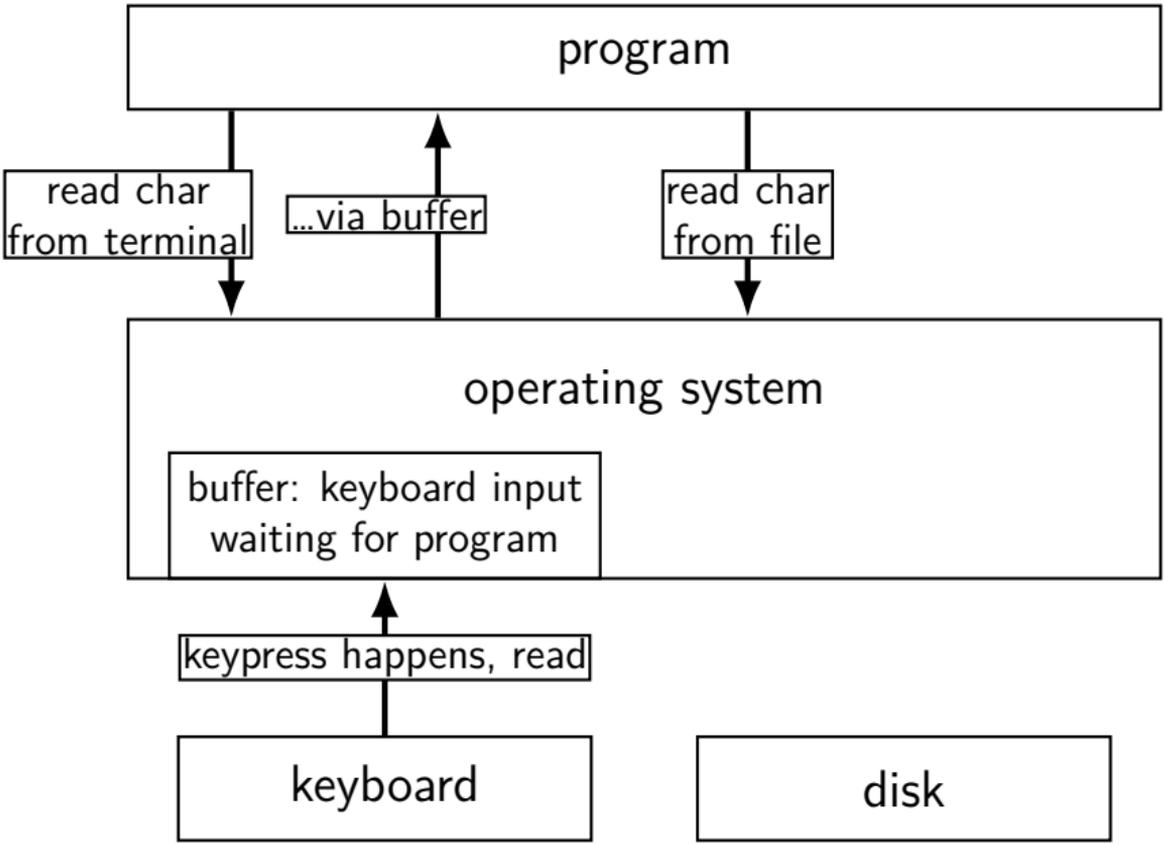
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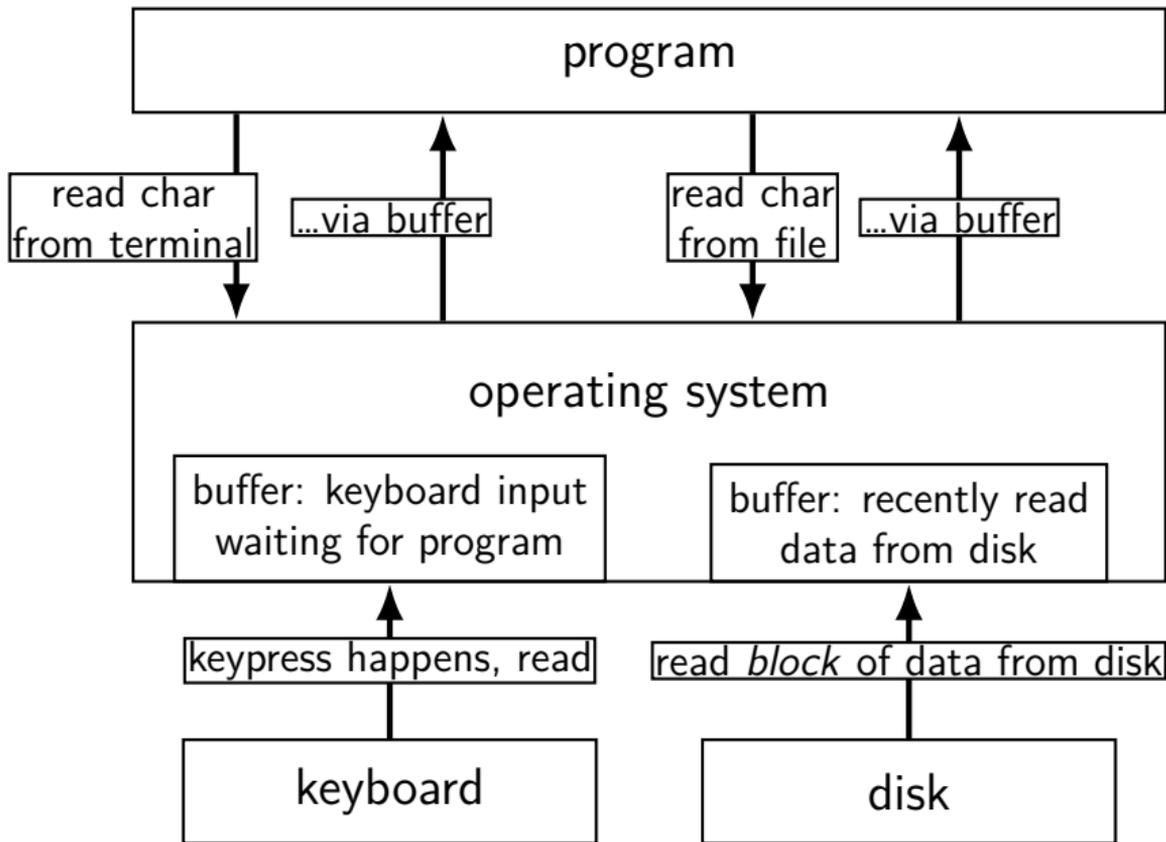
# recall: kernel buffering (reads)



# recall: kernel buffering (reads)



# recall: kernel buffering (reads)



# recall: kernel buffering (writes)

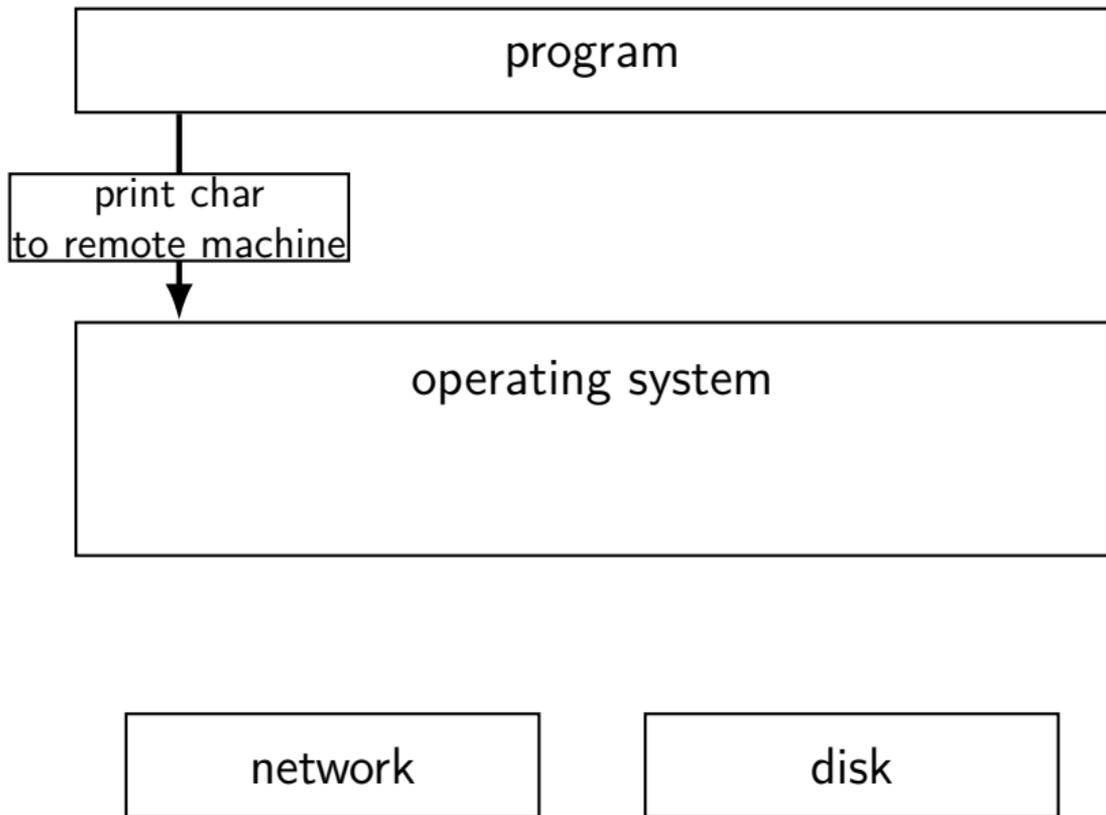
program

operating system

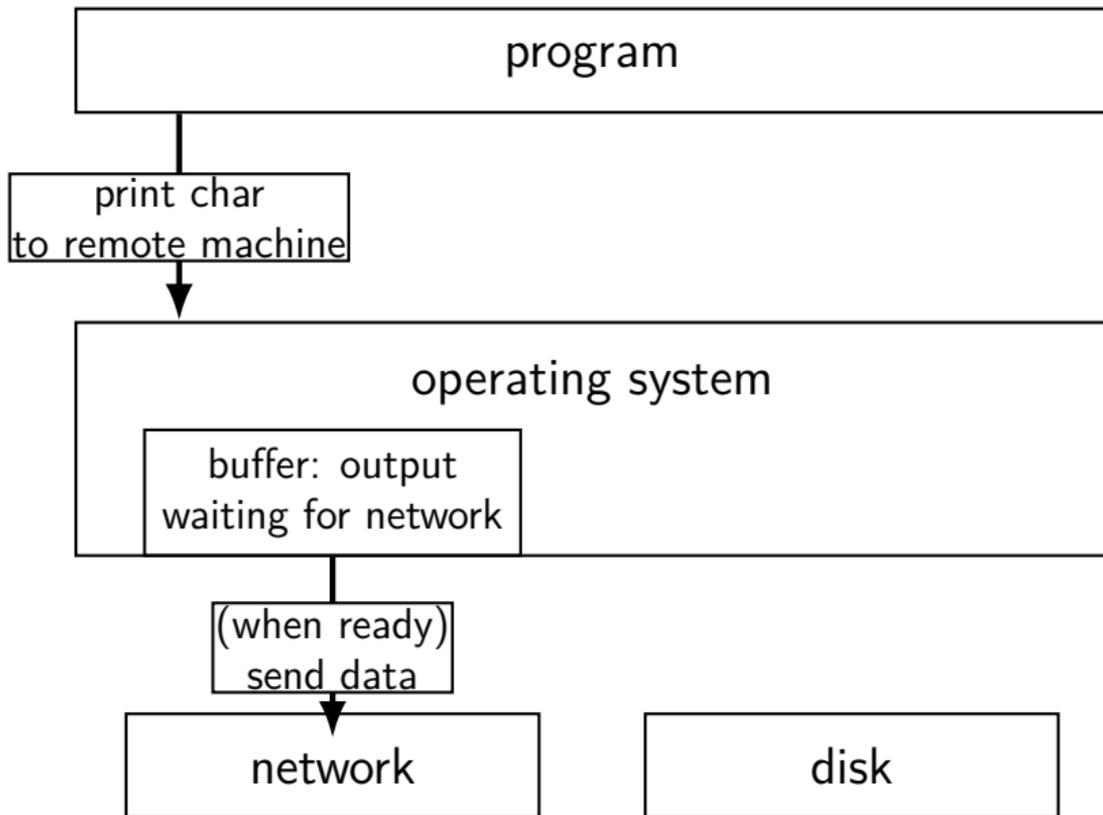
network

disk

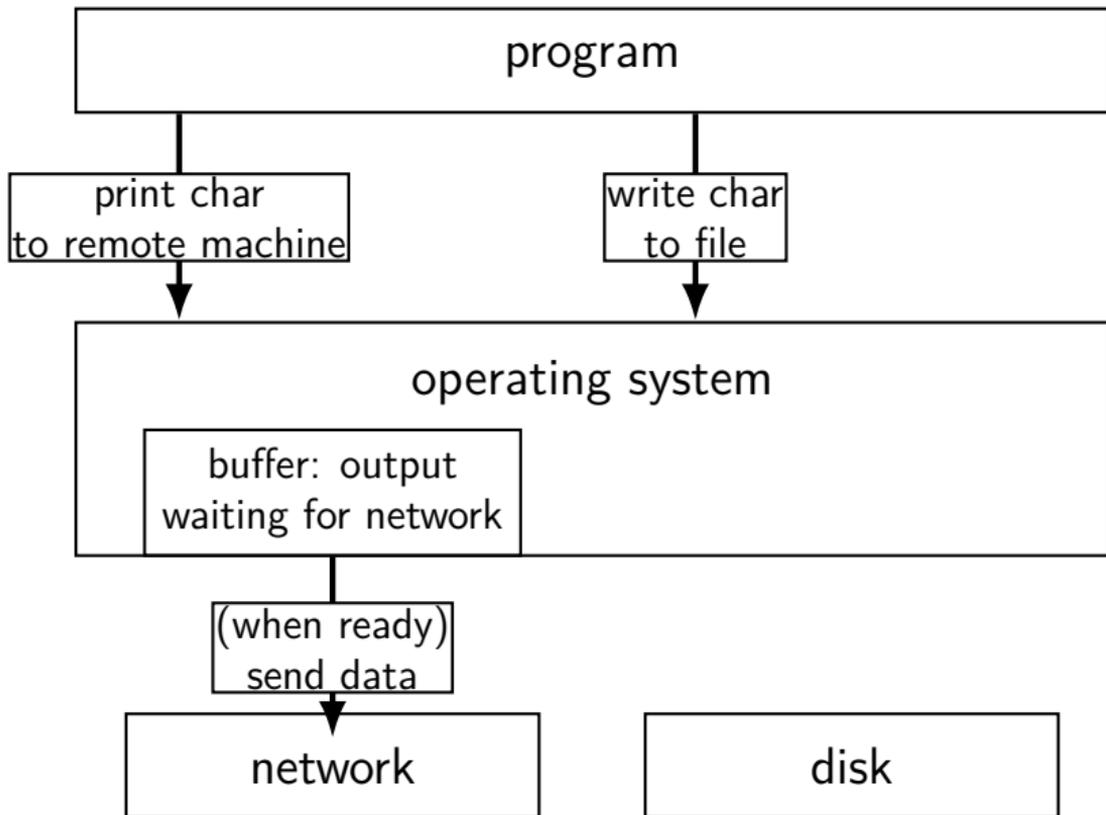
# recall: kernel buffering (writes)



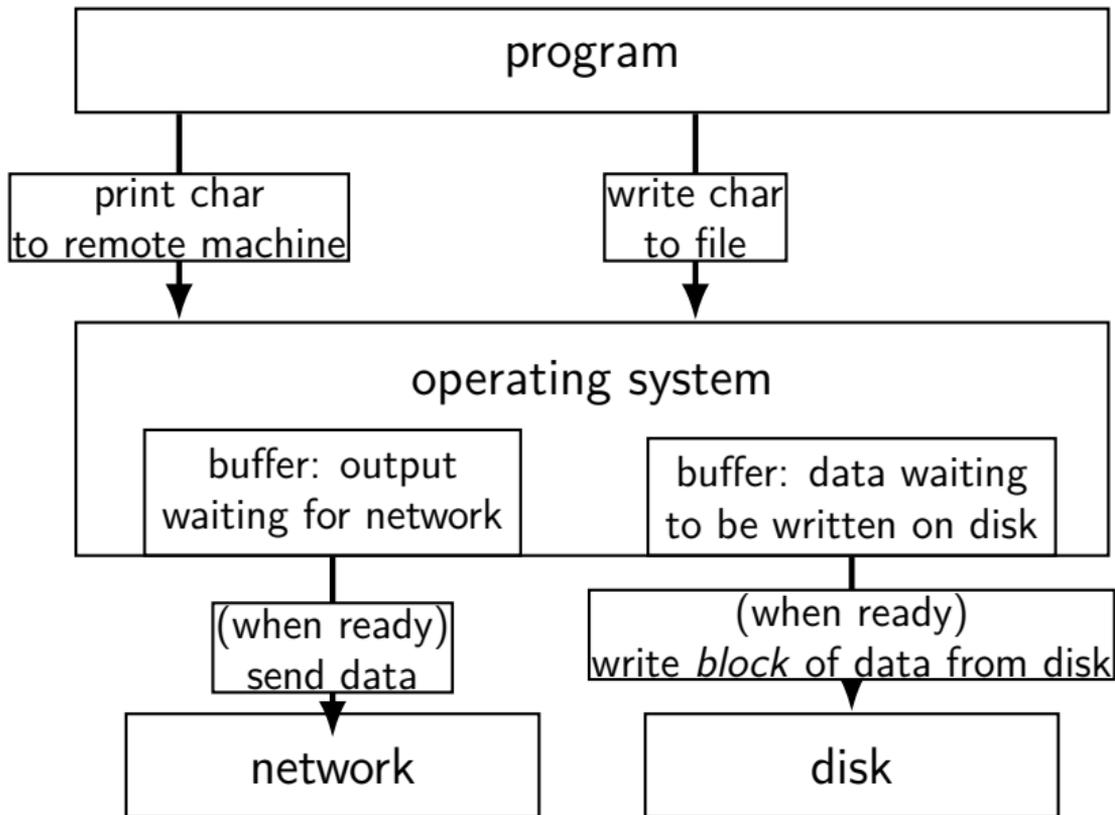
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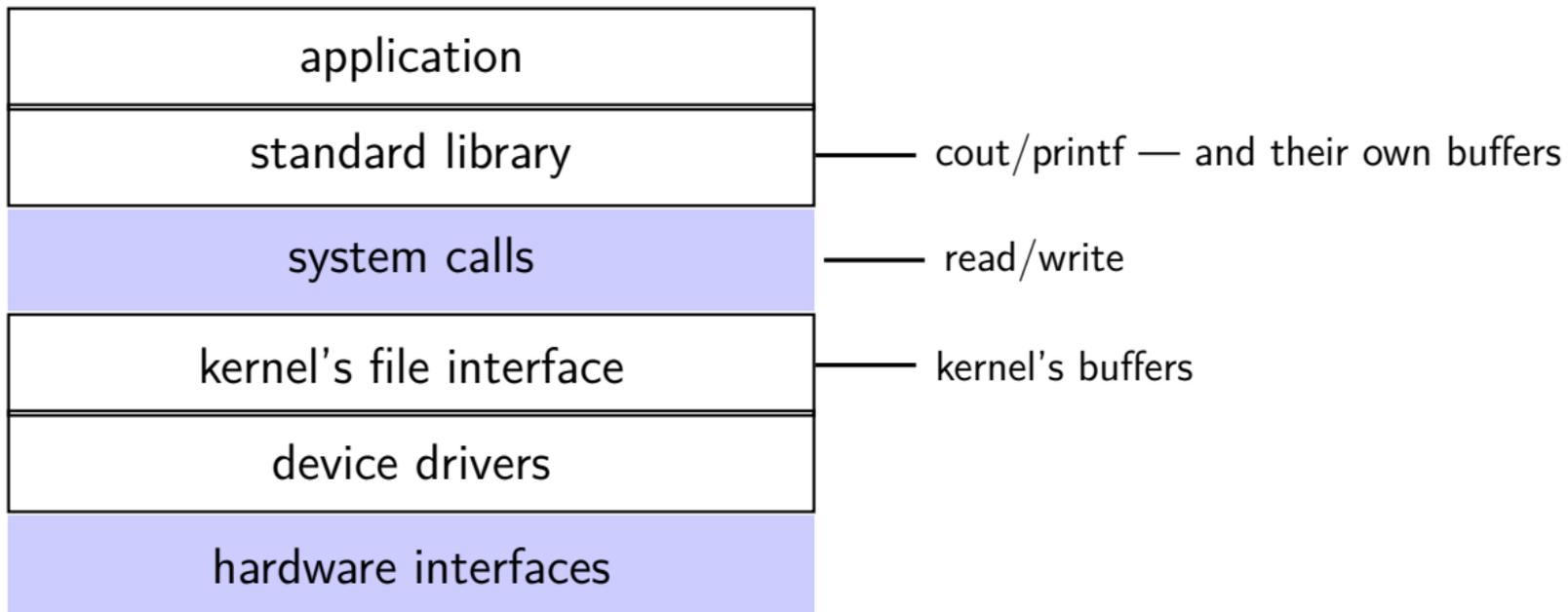
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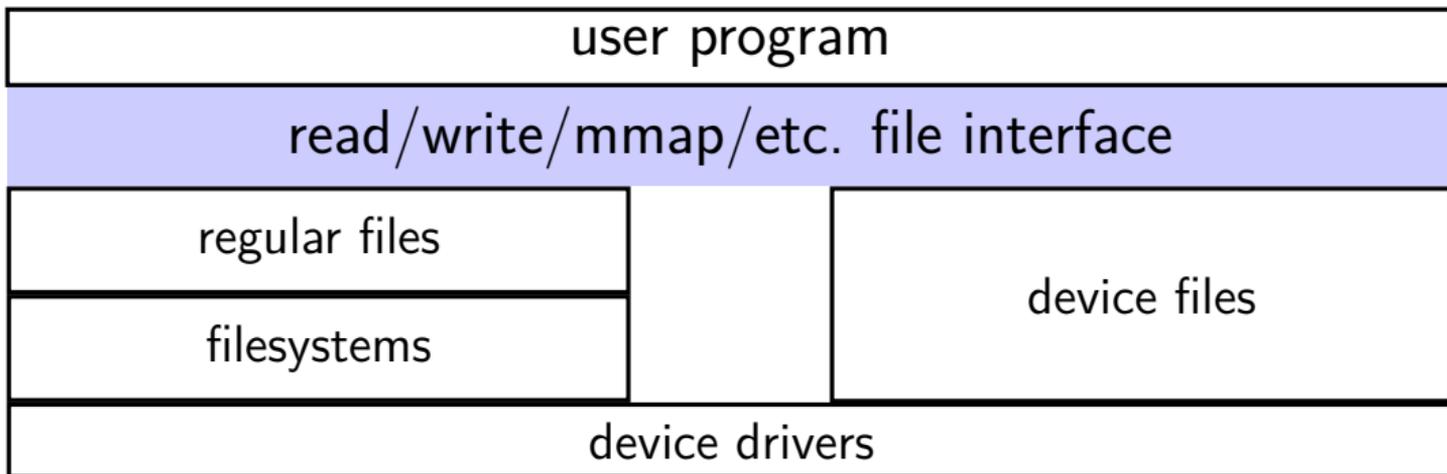
# recall: kernel buffering (writes)



# recall: layering



# ways to talk to I/O devices



# devices as files

talking to device? open/read/write/close

typically similar interface within the kernel

device driver implements the file interface

# example device files from a Linux desktop

`/dev/snd/pcmC0D0p` — audio playback  
configure, then write audio data

`/dev/sda`, `/dev/sdb` — SATA-based SSD and hard drive  
usually access via filesystem, but can mmap/read/write directly

`/dev/input/event3`, `/dev/input/event10` — mouse and keyboard  
can read list of keypress/mouse movement/etc. events

`/dev/dri/renderD128` — builtin graphics  
DRI = direct rendering infrastructure

# devices: extra operations?

read/write/mmap not enough

audio output device — set format of audio?

terminal — whether to echo back what user types?

CD/DVD — open the disk tray? is a disk present?

...

POSIX: ioctl (general I/O control), tcget/setaddr (for terminal settings), ...

# Linux example: file operations

(selected subset — table of pointers to functions)

```
struct file_operations {
    ...
    ssize_t (*read) (struct file *, char __user *, size_t, loff_t *);
    ssize_t (*write) (struct file *, const char __user *,x
                      size_t, loff_t *);
    ...
    long (*unlocked_ioctl) (struct file *, unsigned int, unsigned lo
    ...
    int (*mmap) (struct file *, struct vm_area_struct *);
    unsigned long mmap_supported_flags;
    int (*open) (struct inode *, struct file *);
    ...
    int (*release) (struct inode *, struct file *);
    ...
};
```

# special case: block devices

devices like disks often have a different interface

unlike normal file interface, works **in terms of 'blocks'**  
instead of bytes

used by *filesystems* — store directories on devices  
filesystems are specialized to know disks aren't byte-based

want to work with page cache — bytes not convenient  
read/write page at a time  
implement read/write to use page cache, not direct

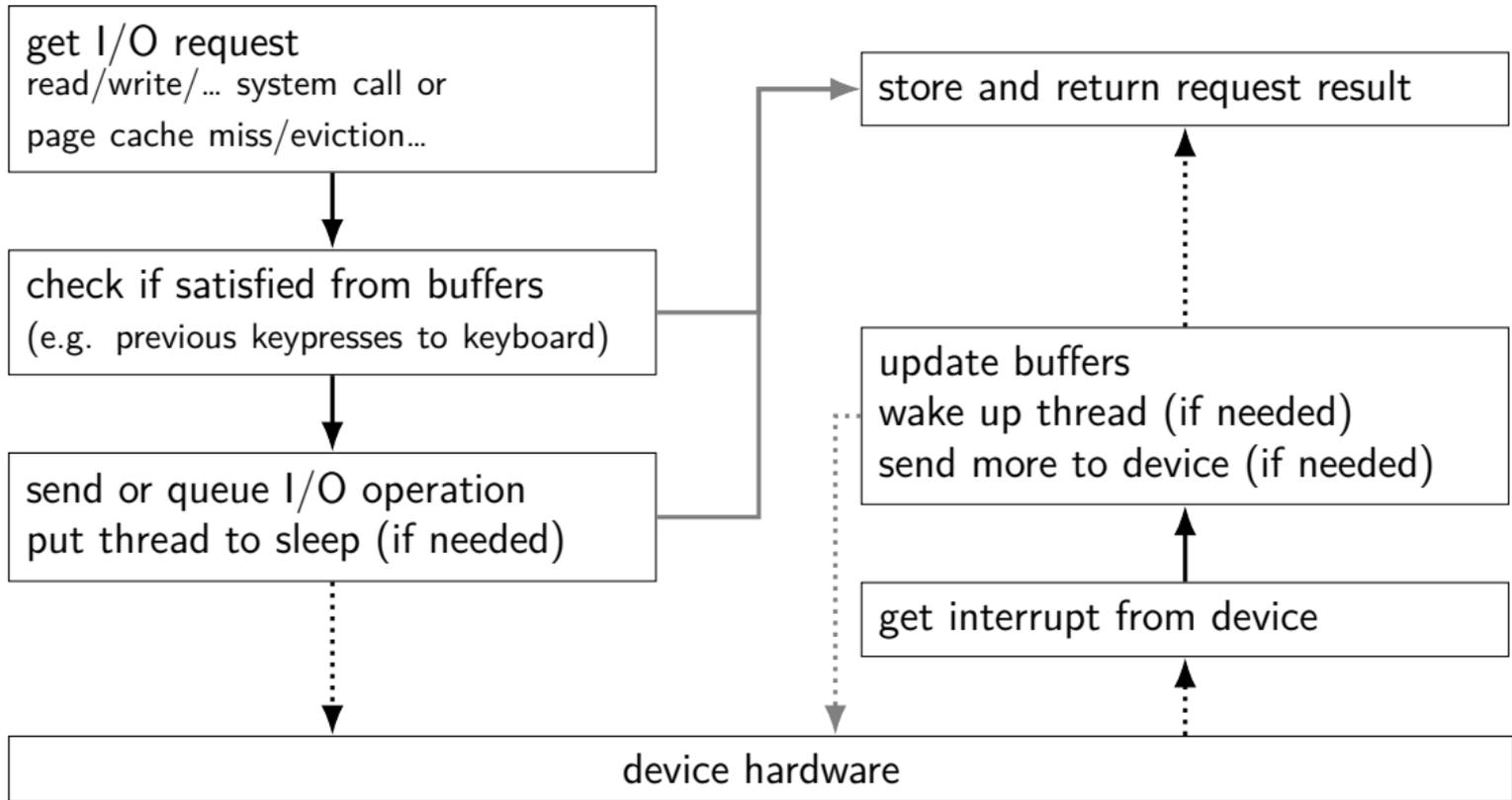
common code to translate from working with bytes to blocks

# Linux example: block device operations

```
struct block_device_operations {
    int (*open) (struct block_device *, fmode_t);
    void (*release) (struct gendisk *, fmode_t);
    int (*rw_page)(struct block_device *,
                  sector_t, struct page *, bool);
    int (*ioctl) (struct block_device *, fmode_t, unsigned, un
    ...
};
```

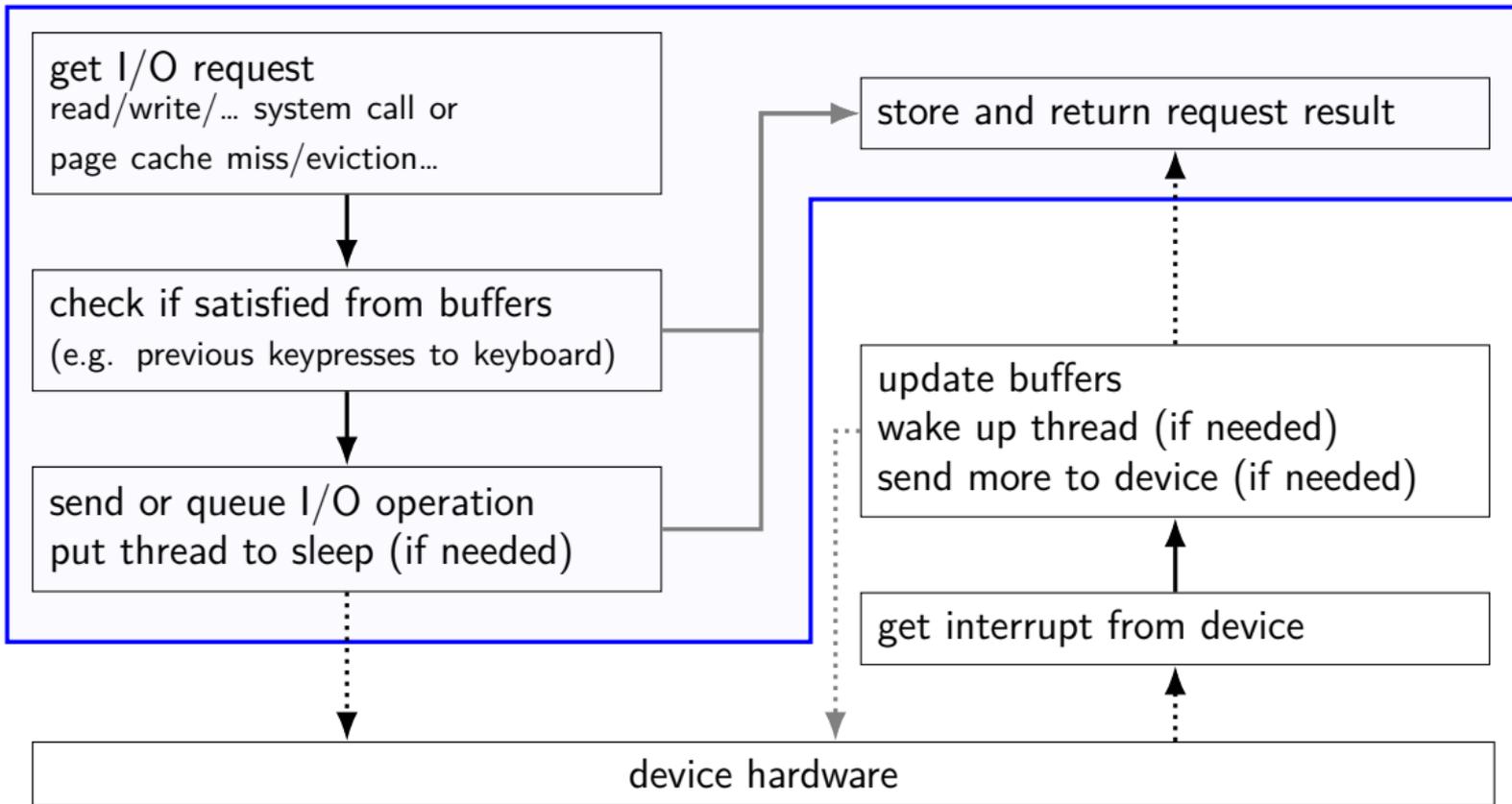
read/write a page for a sector number (= block number)

# device driver flow



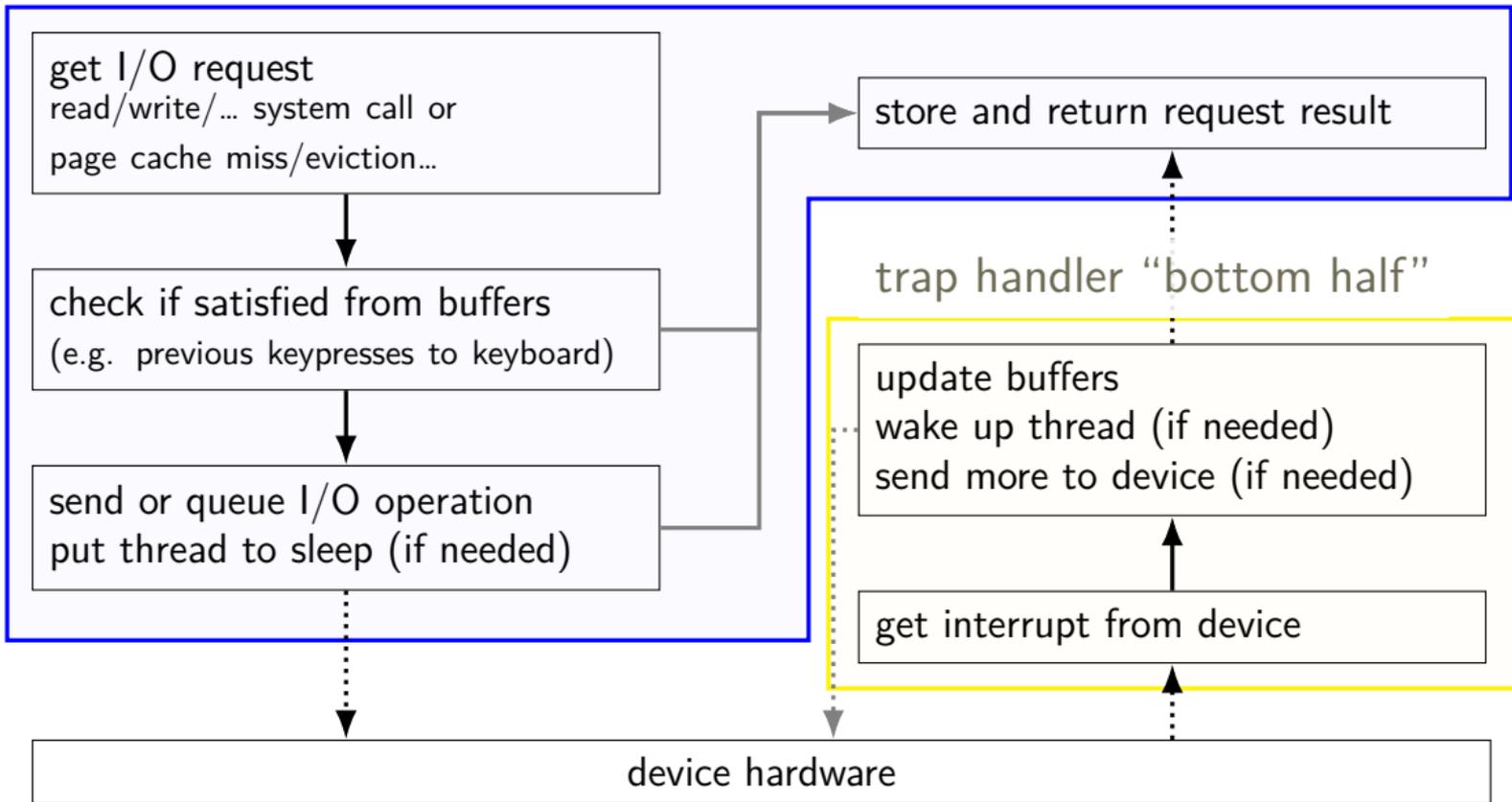
# device driver flow

thread making read/write/etc. "top half"



# device driver flow

thread making read/write/etc. "top half"



## xv6: device files

```
struct devsw {  
    int (*read)(struct inode*, char*, int);  
    int (*write)(struct inode*, char*, int);  
};
```

```
extern struct devsw devsw[];
```

table of devices

device file uses entry in devsw array

filesystem stores name to index lookup

similar scheme used on 'real' Unix/Linux

files referencing major/minor device number

table of device numbers in kernel

## xv6: console devsw

code run at boot:

```
devsw[CONSOLE].write = consolewrite;  
devsw[CONSOLE].read = consoleread;
```

CONSOLE is a constant

## xv6: console devsw

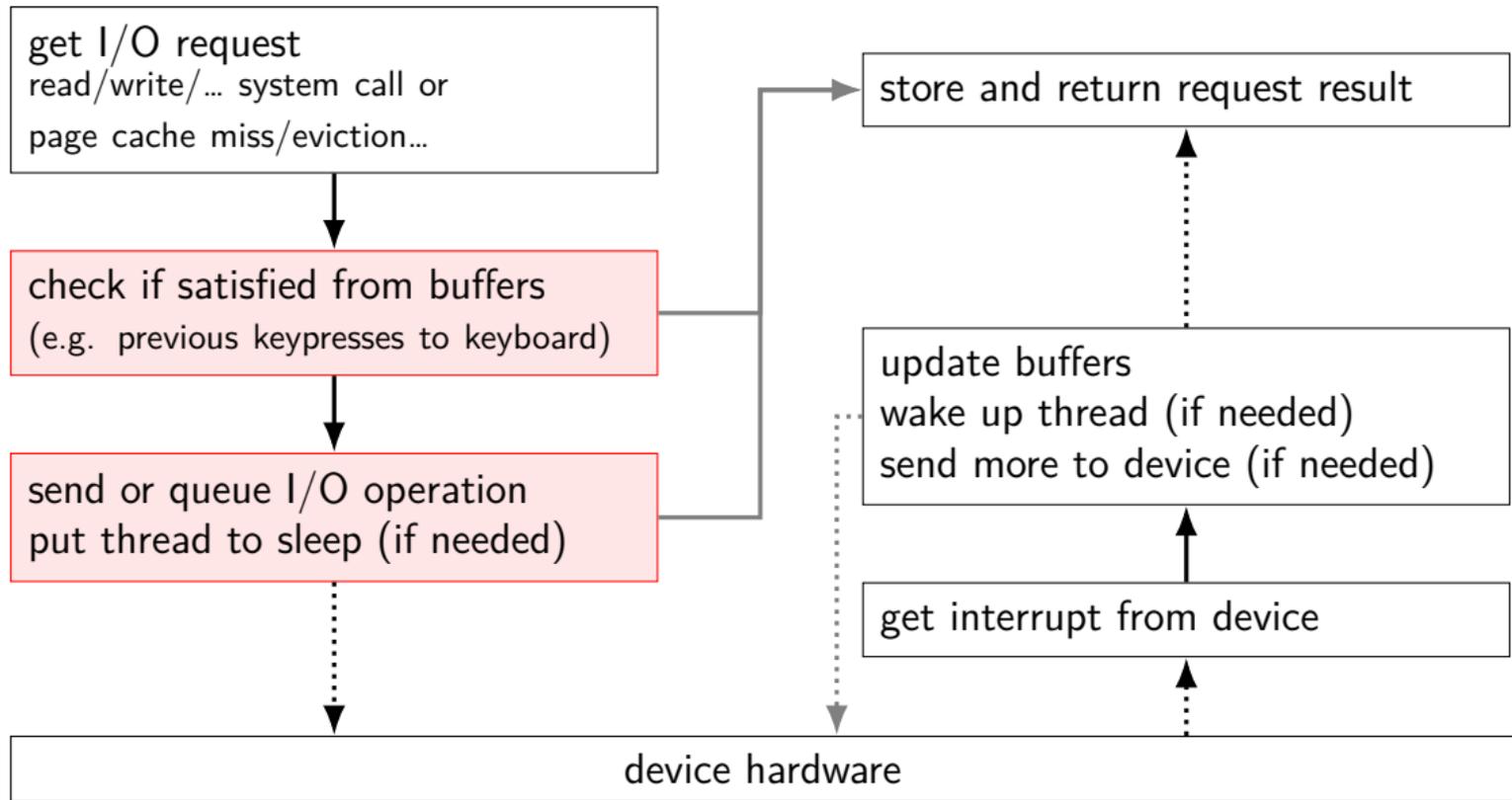
code run at boot:

```
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```

CONSOLE is a constant

consoleread/consolewrite: run when you read/write console

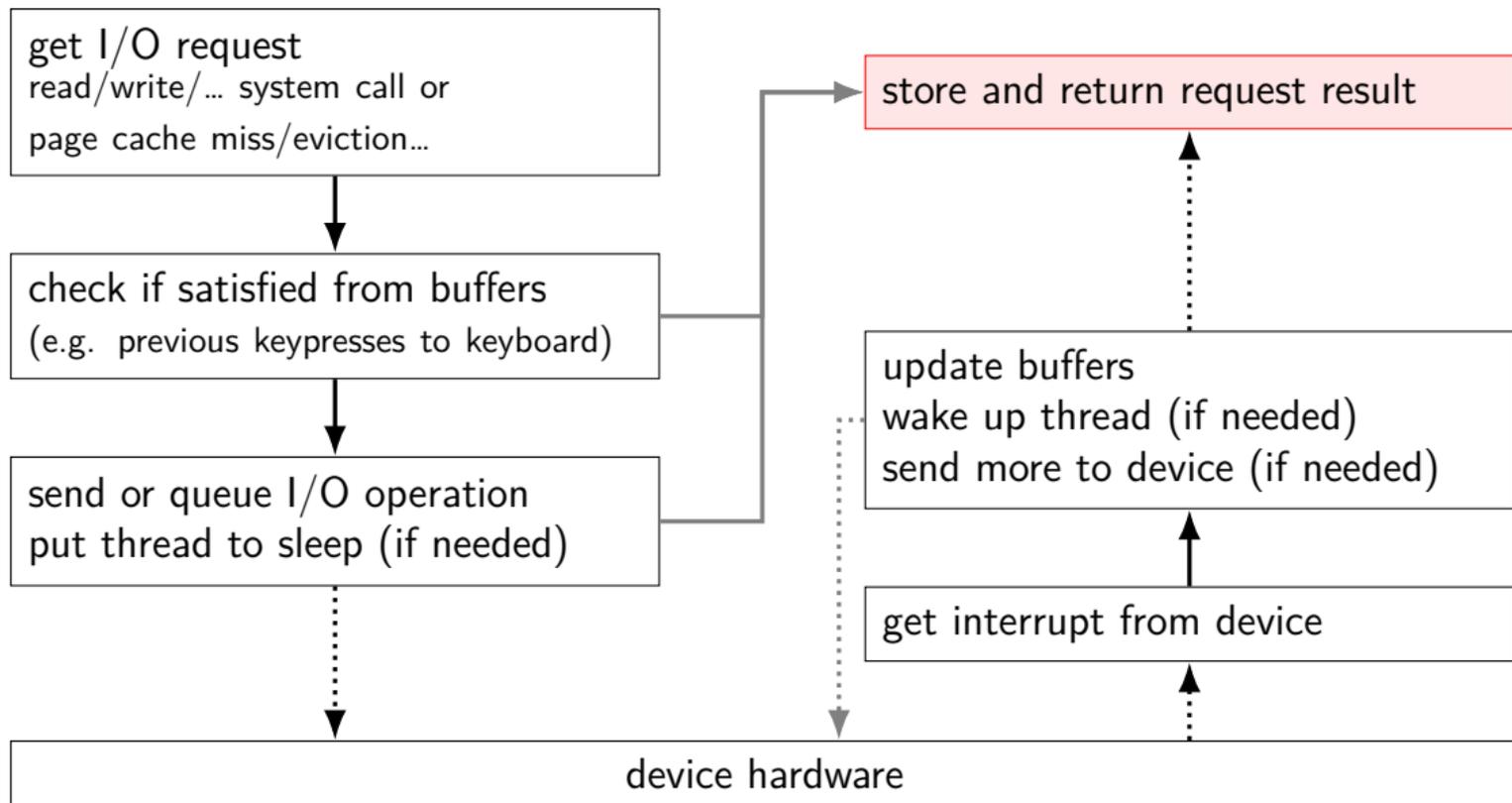
# device driver flow



## xv6: console top half (read)

```
int
consoleread(struct inode *ip, char *dst, int n)
{
    ...
    target = n;
    acquire(&cons.lock);
    while(n > 0){
        while(input.r == input.w){
            if(myproc()->killed){
                ...
                return -1;
            }
            sleep(&input.r, &cons.lock);
        }
        ...
    }
    release(&cons.lock)
    ...
}
```

# device driver flow



## xv6: console top half (read)

```
int
consoleread(struct inode *ip, char *dst, int n)
{
    ...
    target = n;
    acquire(&cons.lock);
    while(n > 0){
        ...
        c = input.buf[input.r++ % INPUT_BUF];
        ...
        *dst++ = c;
        --n;
        if (c == '\n')
            break;
    }
    release(&cons.lock)
    ...
    return target - n;
}
```

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        *dst++ = c;
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        if (c == '\n')
            break;
    }
    release(&cons.lock)
    ...
    return target - n;
}
```

## xv6: console top half

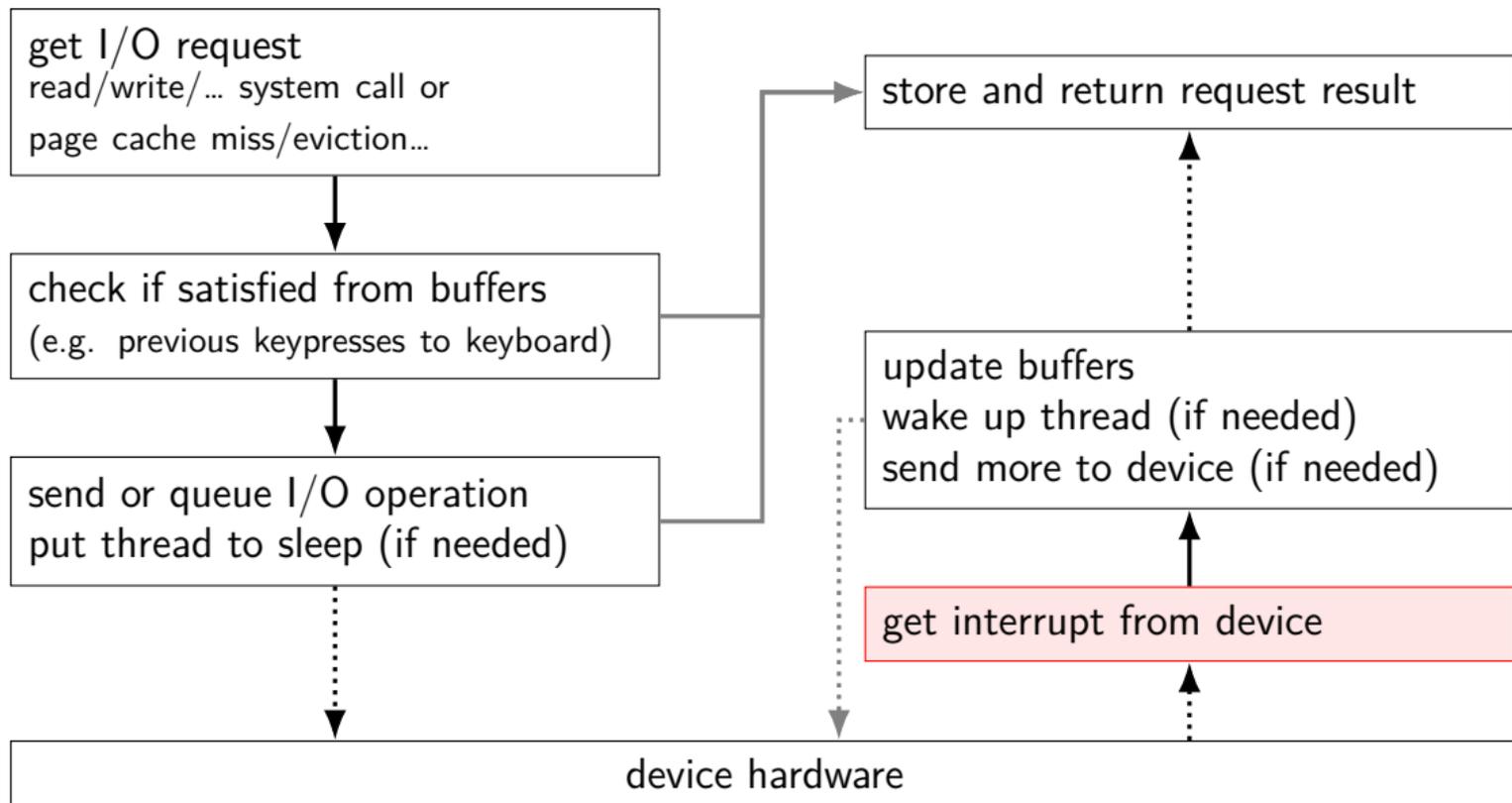
wait for buffer to fill

no special work to request data — keyboard input always sent

copy from buffer

check if done (newline or enough chars), if not repeat

# device driver flow



## xv6: console interrupt (one case)

```
void
trap(struct trapframe *tf) {
    ...
    switch(tf->trapno) {
        ...
        case T_IRQ0 + IRQ_KBD:
            kbdintr();
            lapcieoi();
            break;
        ...
    }
    ...
}
```

kbdintr: actually read from keyboard device

lapcieoi: tell CPU "I'm done with this interrupt"

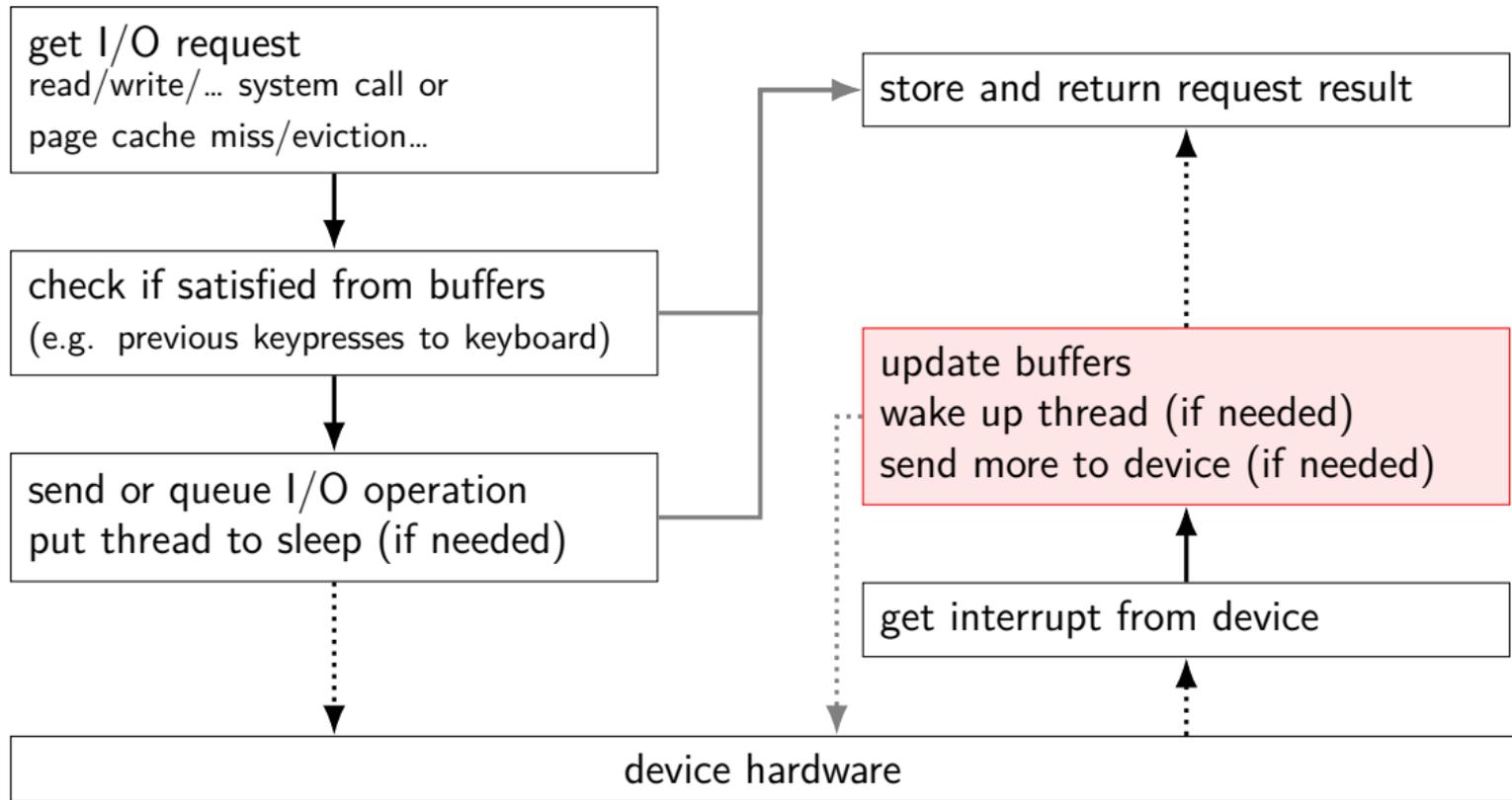
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# device driver flow



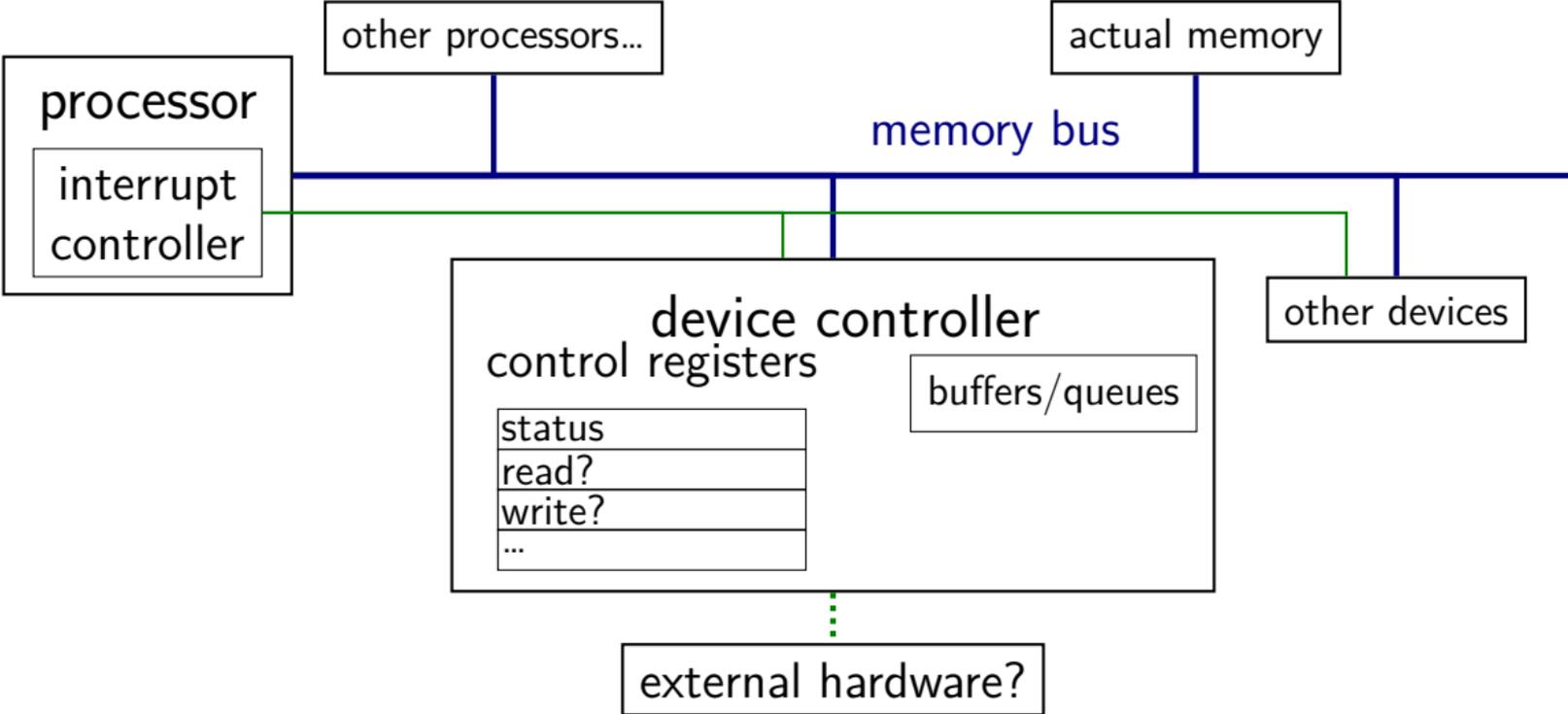
## xv6: console interrupt reading

kbdintr function actually reads from device

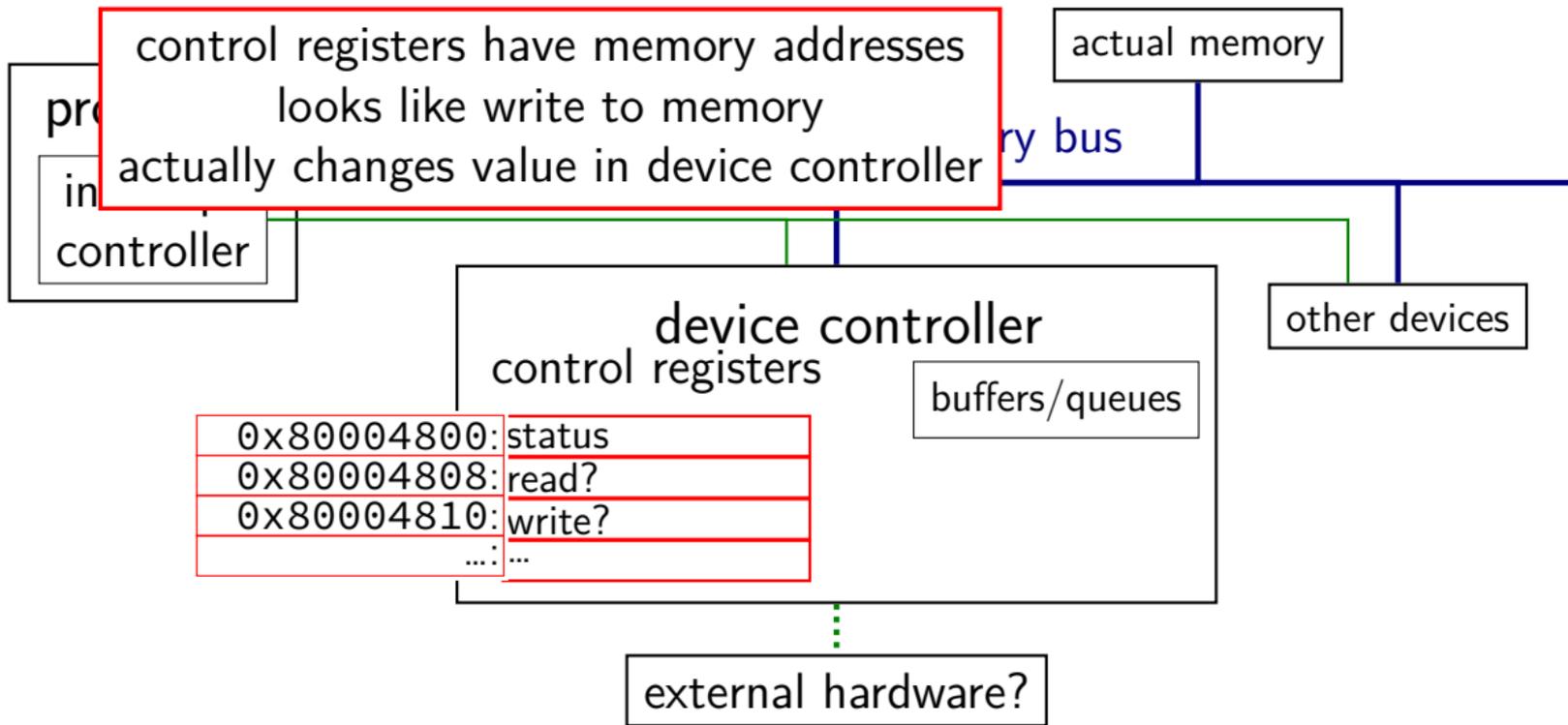
adds data to buffer (if room)

wakes up sleeping thread (if any)

# connecting devices

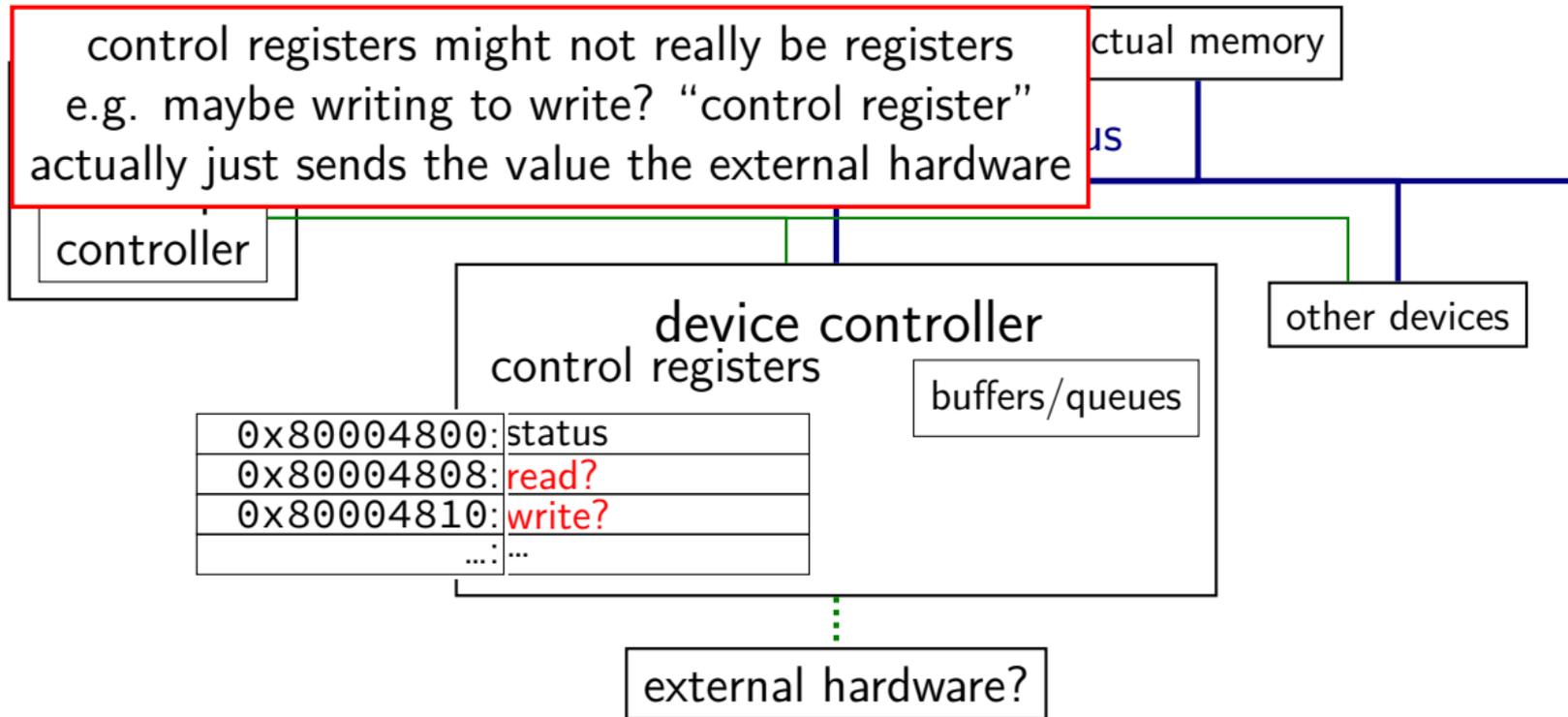


# connecting devices

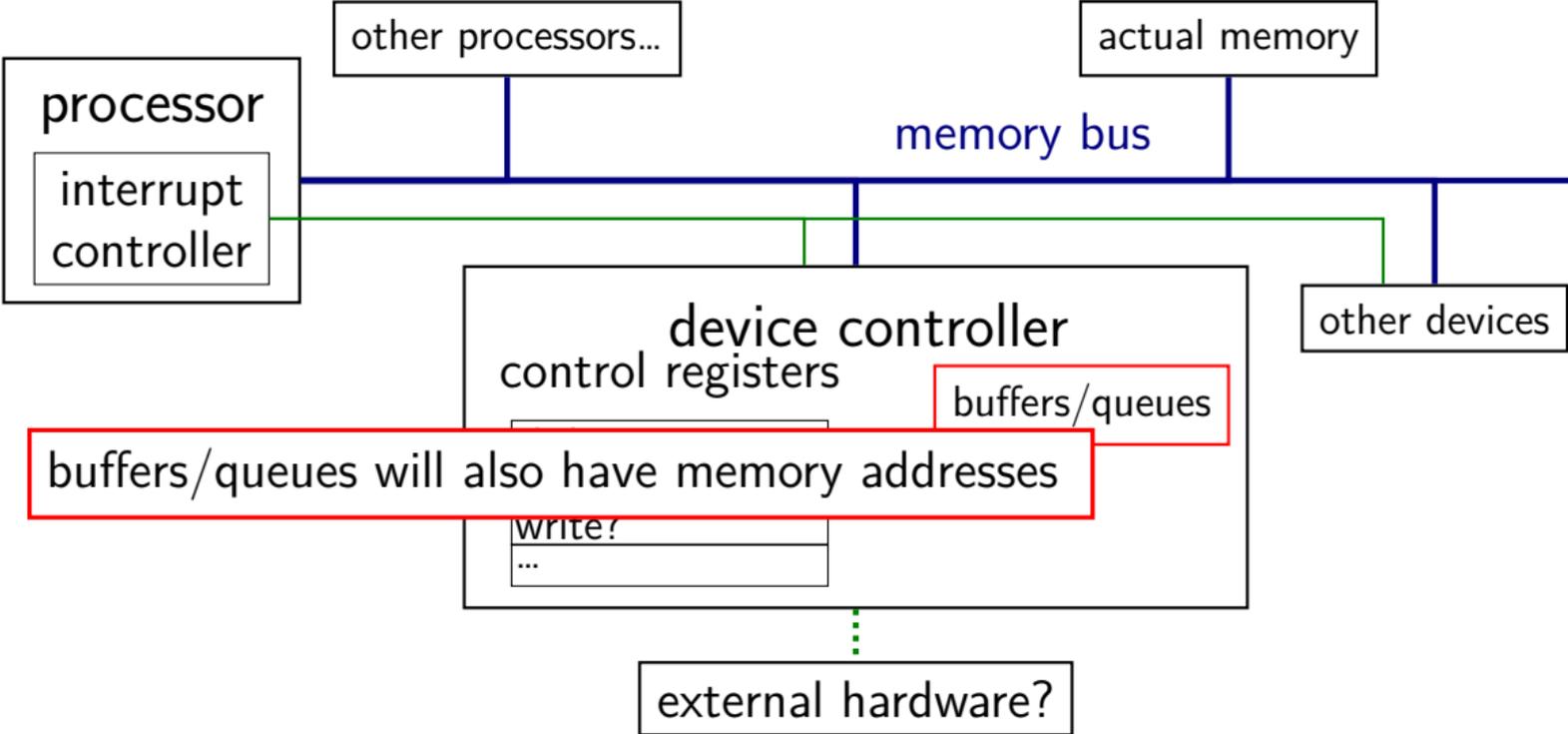


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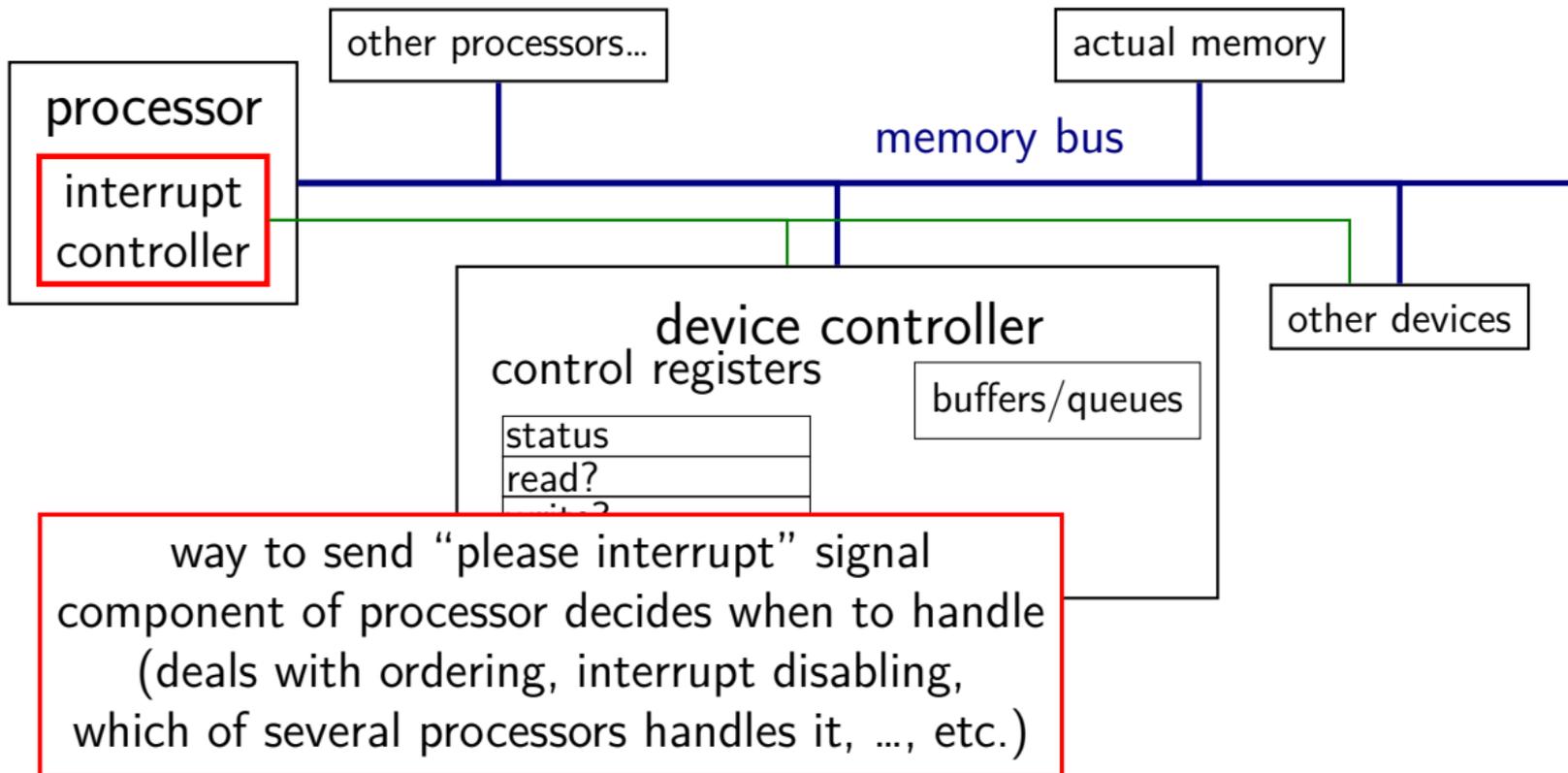
control registers might not really be registers  
e.g. maybe writing to write? "control register"  
actually just sends the value the external hardware



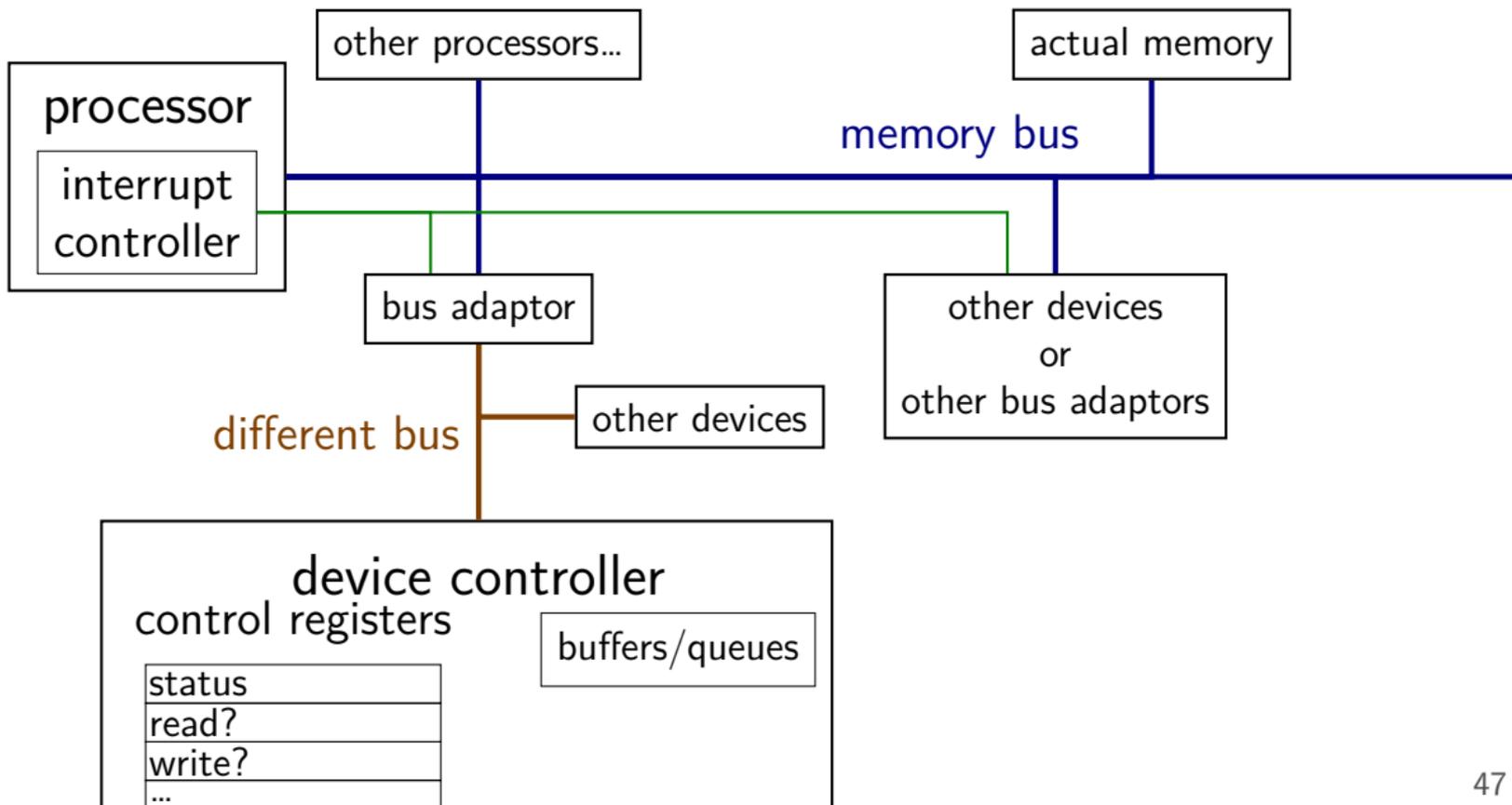
# connecting devices



# connecting devices



# bus adaptors



# devices as magic memory (1)

devices expose memory locations to read/write

use read/write instructions to manipulate device

example: keyboard controller

read from magic memory location — get last keypress/release

reading location clears buffer for next keypress/release

get interrupt whenever new keypress/release you haven't read

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**get interrupt** whenever new keypress/release you haven't read

## device as magic memory (2)

example: display controller

write to pixels to magic memory location — displayed on screen

other memory locations control format/screen size

example: network interface

write to buffers

write “send now” signal to magic memory location — send data

read from “status” location, buffers to receive

# what about caching?

caching “last keypress/release”?

I press ‘h’, OS reads ‘h’, does that get cached?

# what about caching?

caching “last keypress/release”?

I press ‘h’, OS reads ‘h’, does that get cached?

...I press ‘e’, OS reads what?

# what about caching?

caching “last keypress/release”?

I press ‘h’, OS reads ‘h’, does that get cached?

...I press ‘e’, OS reads what?

solution: OS can **mark memory uncachable**

x86: bit in page table entry can say “no caching”

## aside: I/O space

x86 has a “I/O addresses”

like memory addresses, but accessed with different instruction  
in and out instructions

historically: separate I/O bus

more recent processors/devices would just use memory addresses  
no need for more instructions, buses  
other reasons to have devices and memory close (later)

# xv6 keyboard access

two control registers:

KBSTATP: status register (I/O address 0x64)

KBDATAP: data buffer (I/O address 0x60)

```
st = inb(KBSTATP); // in instruction: read from I/O address
if ((st & KBS_DIB) == 0) // bit KBS_DIB indicates data in b
    return -1;
data = inb(KBDATAP); // read from data --- *clears* buffer

/* interpret data to learn what kind of keypress/release */
```

# programmed I/O

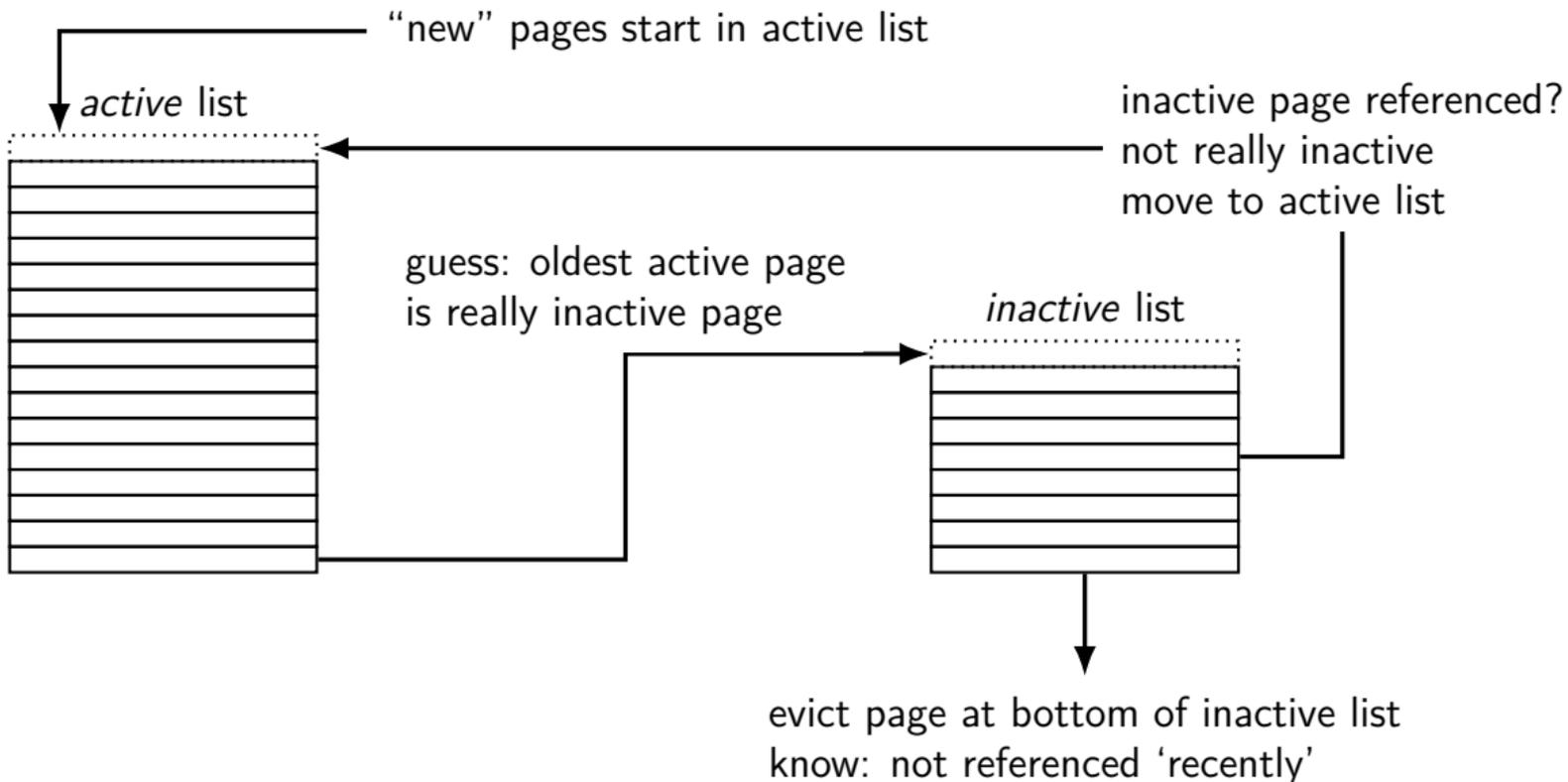
“programmed I/O”: write to or read from device buffers directly

OS runs loop to transfer data to or from device

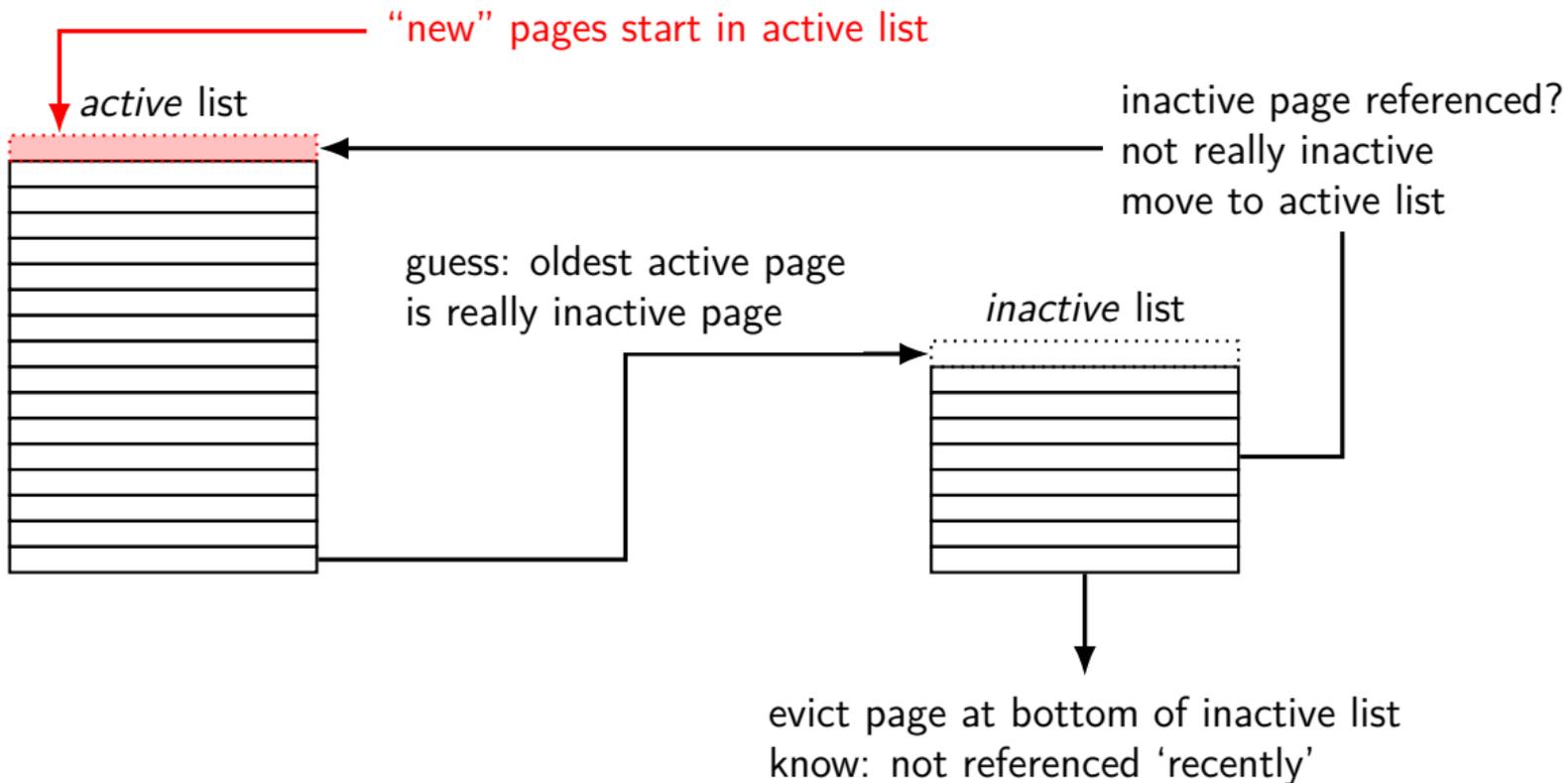
might still be triggered by interrupt

know/what for “is device ready”

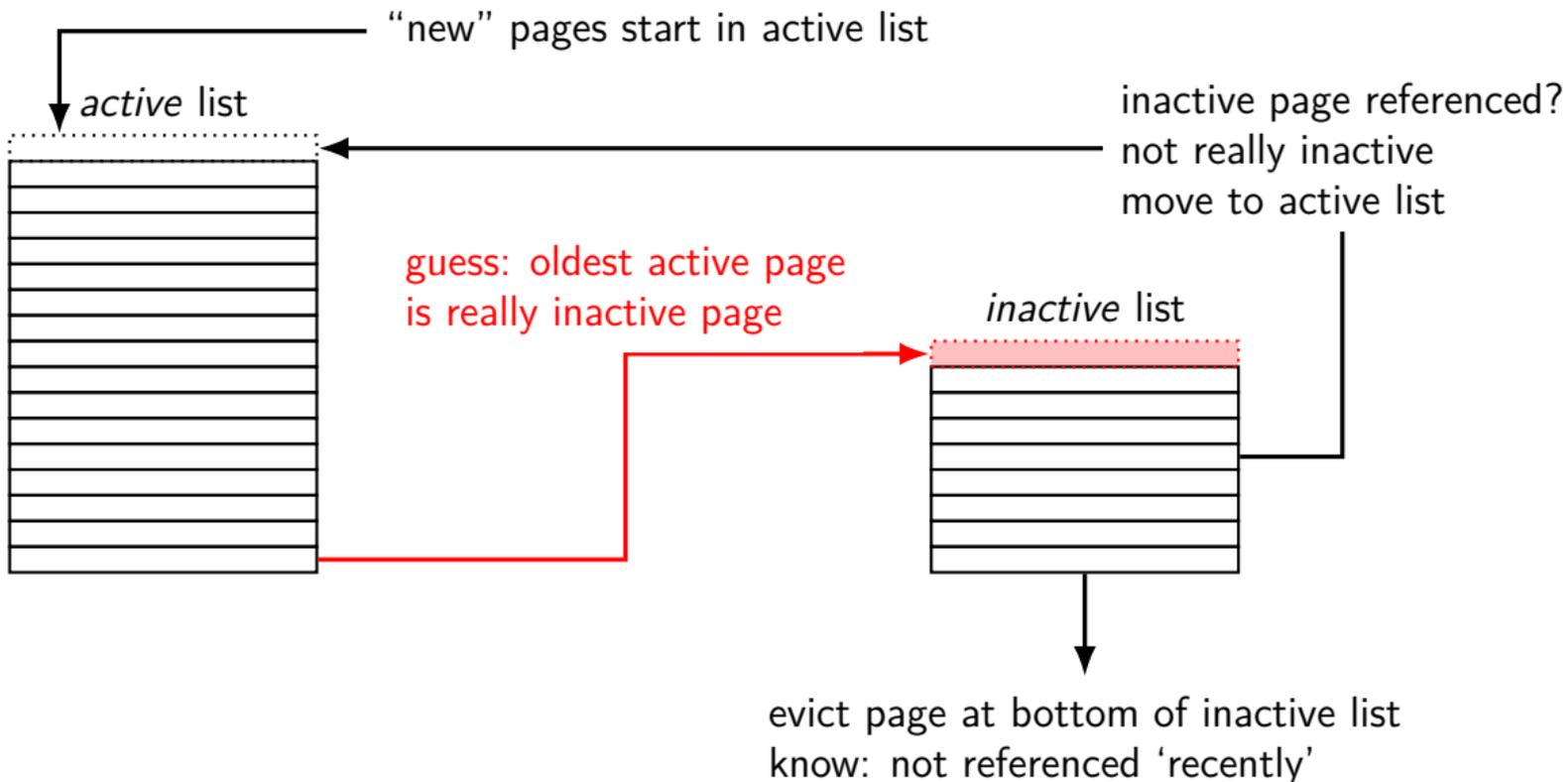
# approximating LRU: SEQ



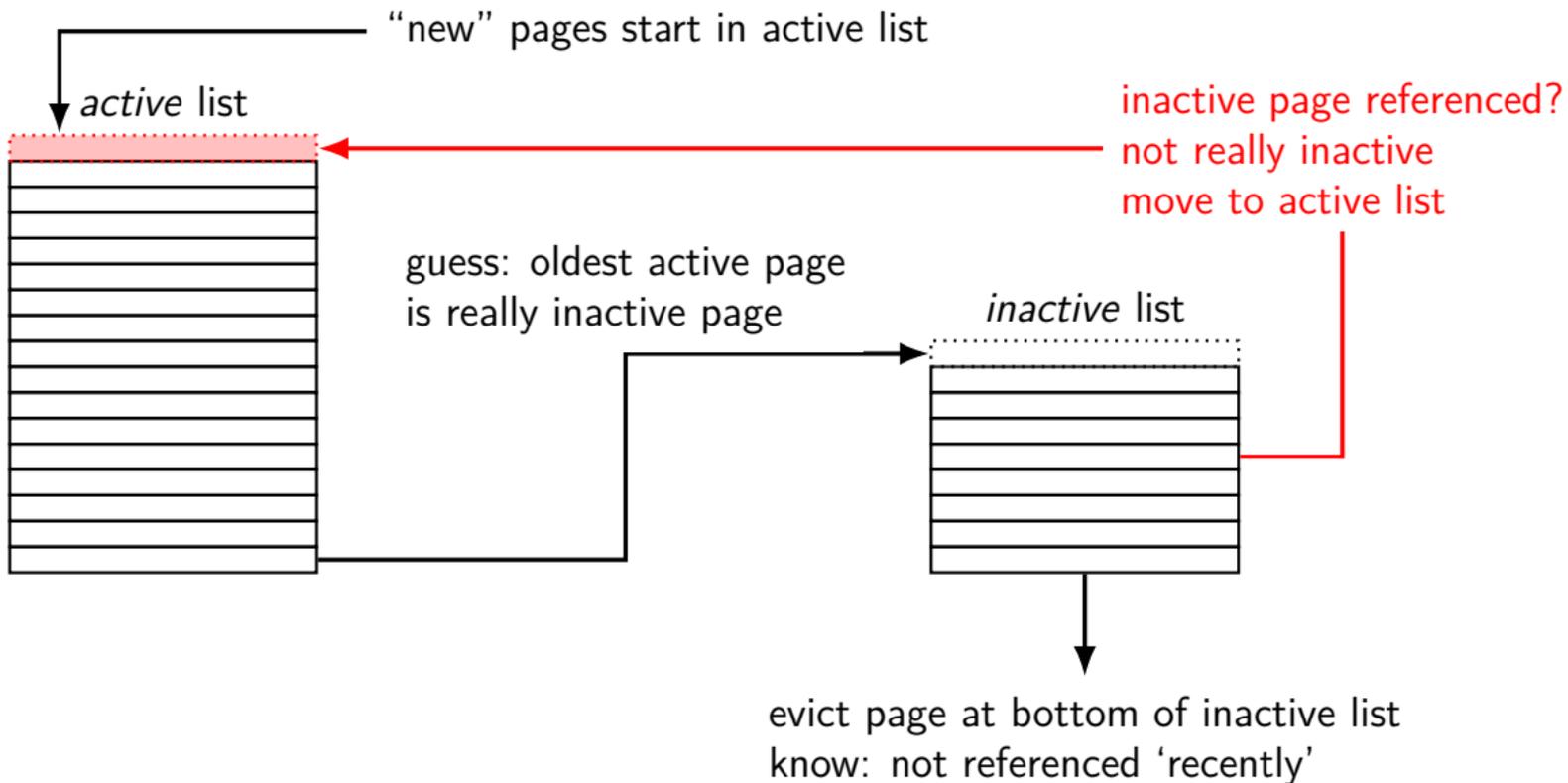
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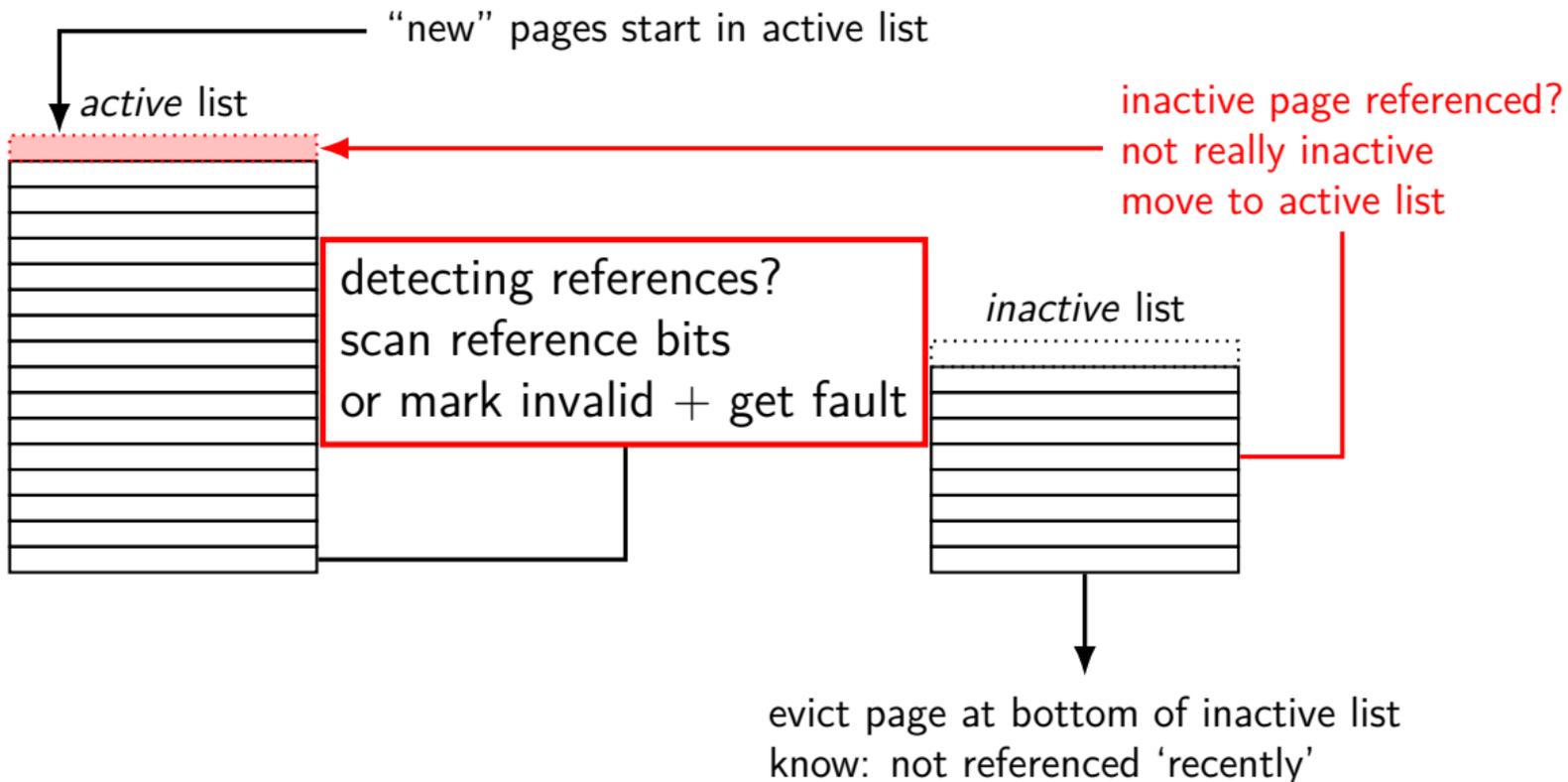
# approximating LRU: SEQ



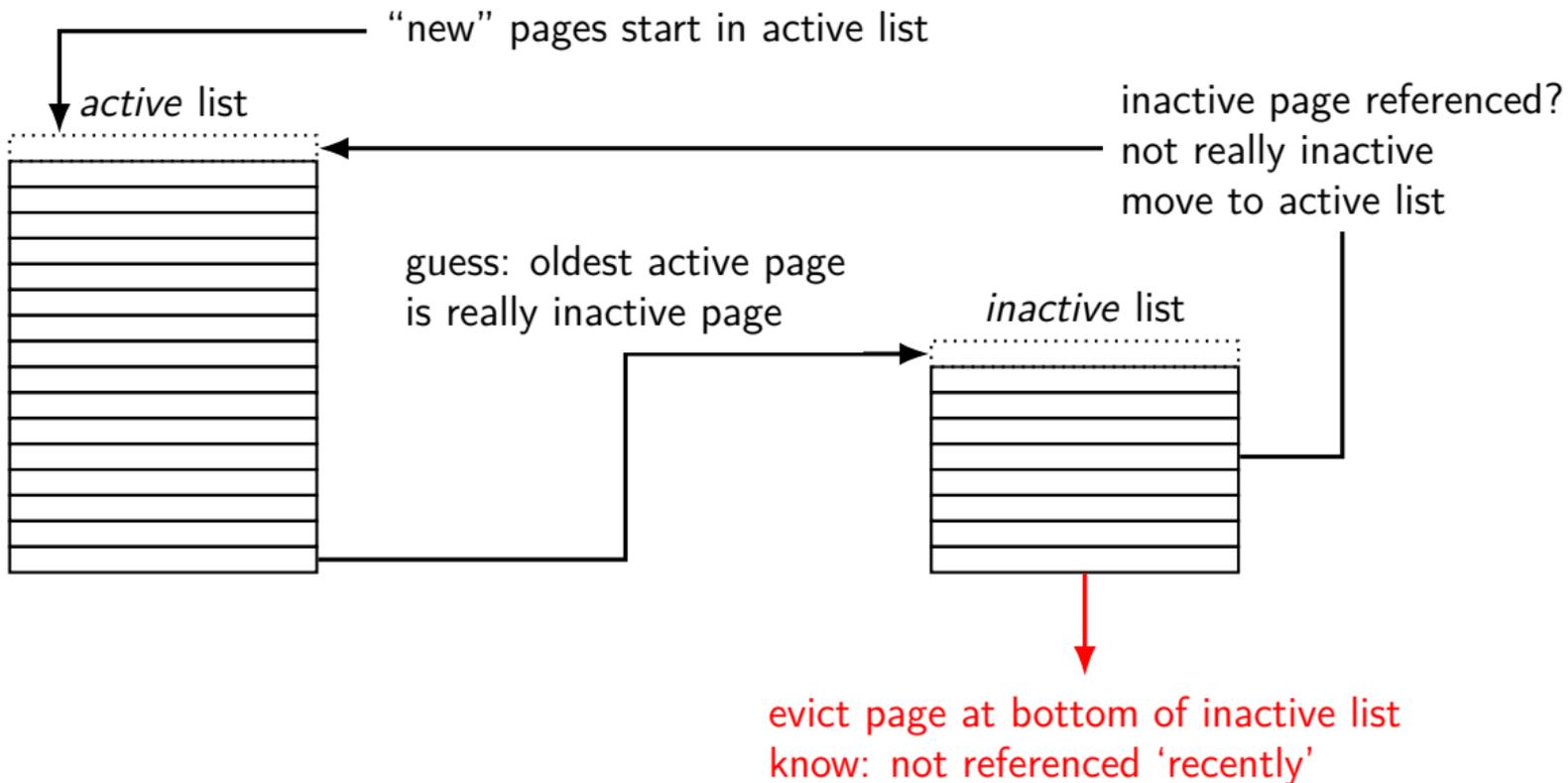
# approximating LRU: SEQ



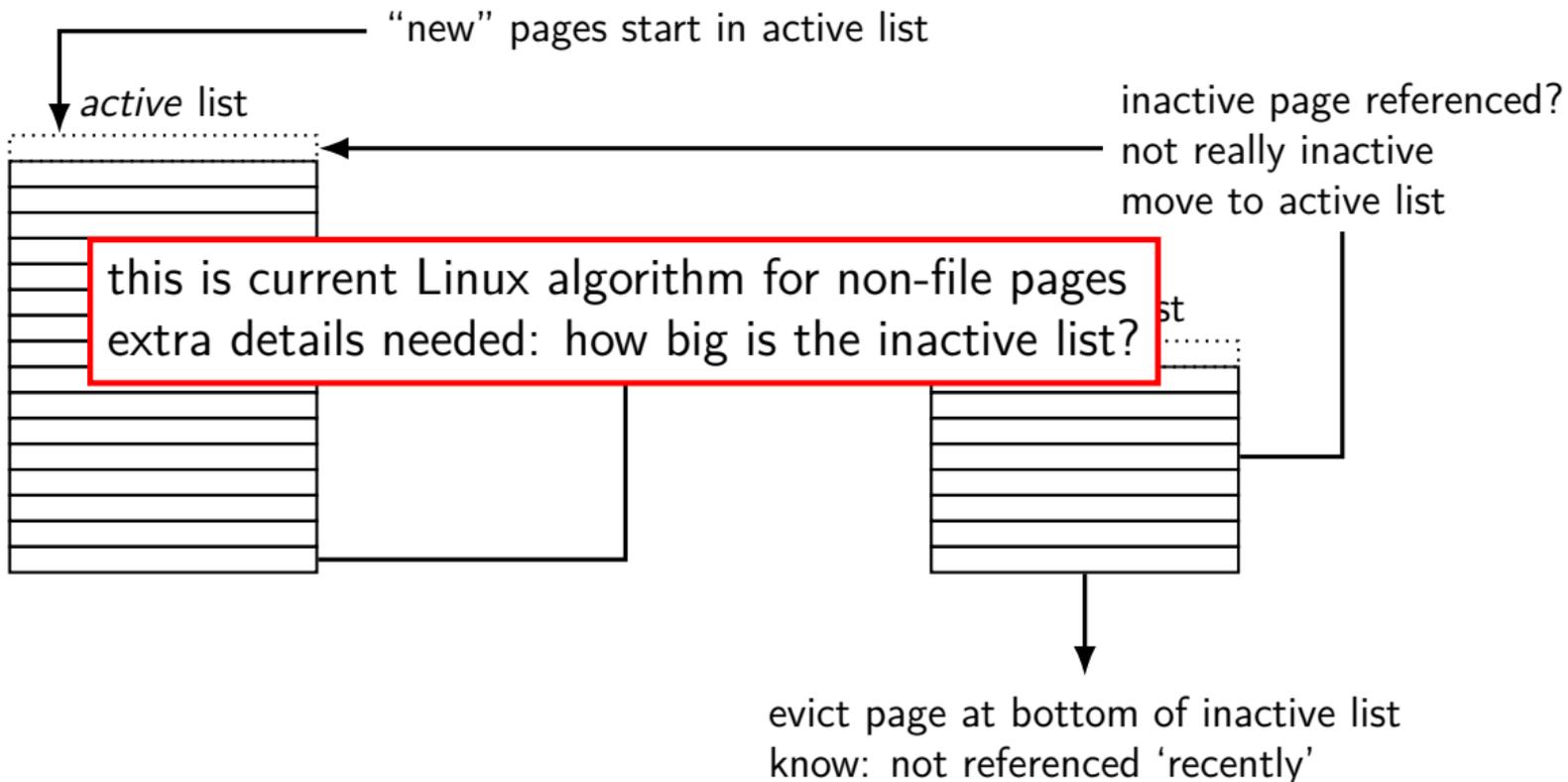
# approximating LRU: SEQ



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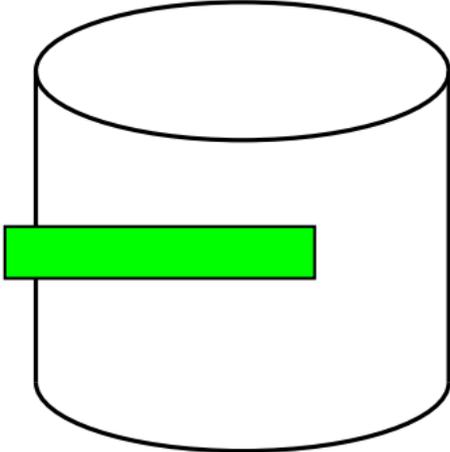


# swapping timeline

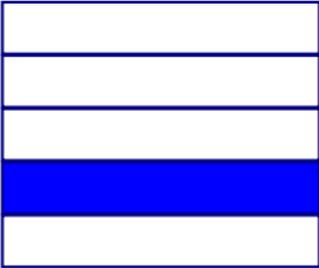
program A pages



...



program B pages

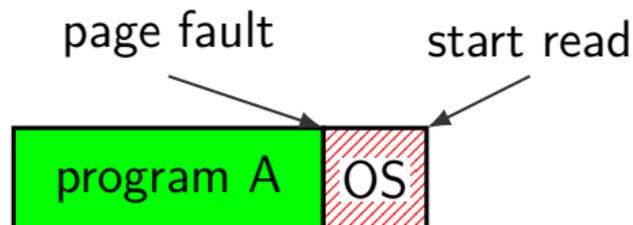
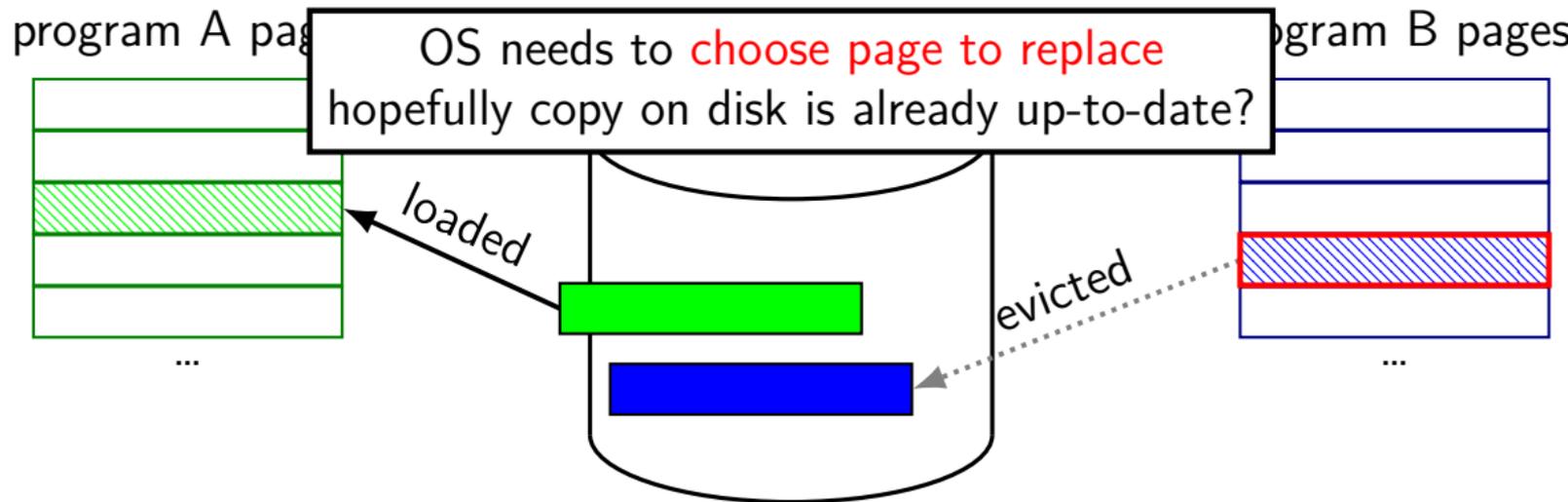


...

page fault



# swapping timeline



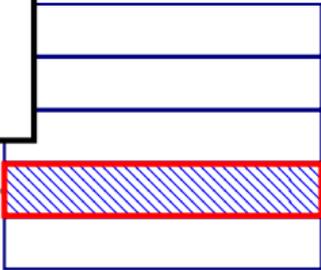
# swapping timeline

first step of replacement:  
mark evicted page invalid in each page table  
this example: only process B  
real case: possibly many page tables

program A pages



program B pages



loaded



evicted

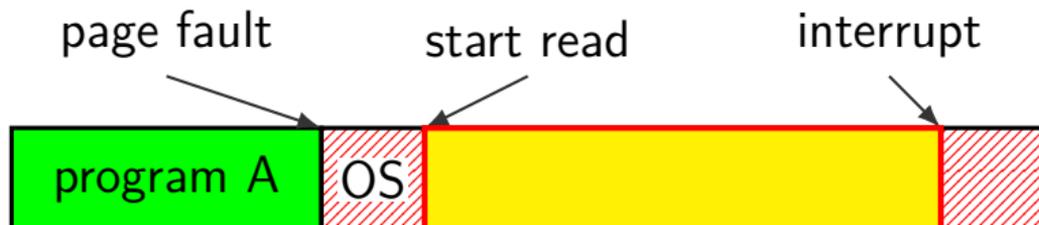
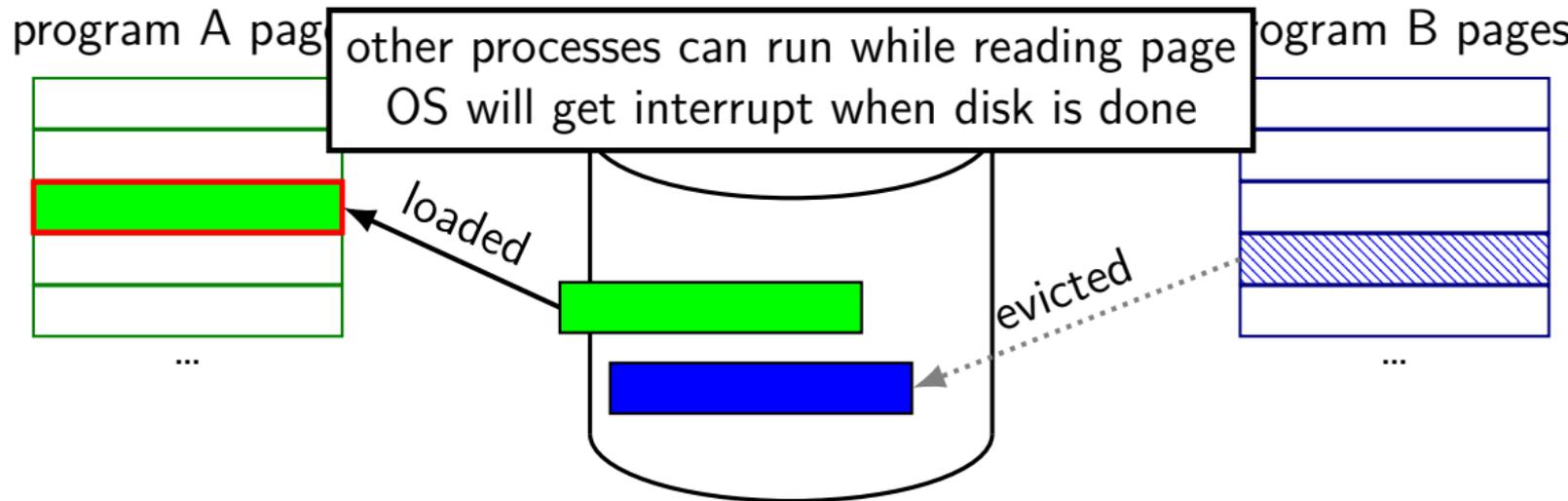


page fault

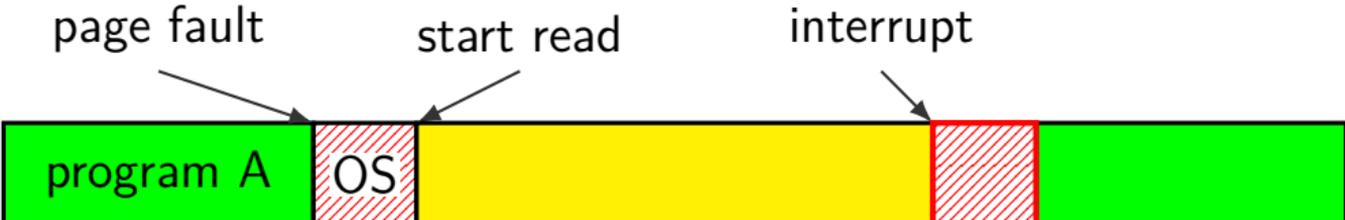
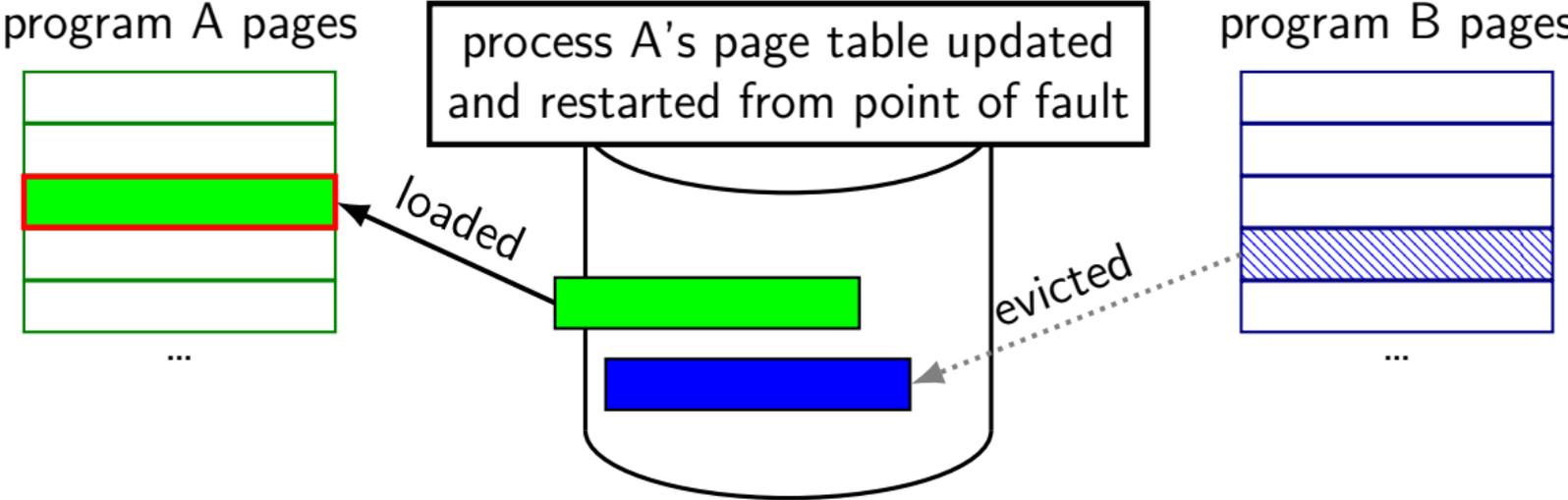
start read



# swapping timeline



# swapping timeline



# POSIX: everything is a file

the file: one interface for

- devices (terminals, printers, ...)

- regular files on disk

- networking (sockets)

- local interprocess communication (pipes, sockets)

basic operations: `open()`, `read()`, `write()`, `close()`

# the file interface

open before use

setup, access control happens here

byte-oriented

real device isn't? operating system needs to hide that

explicit close

# the file interface

open before use

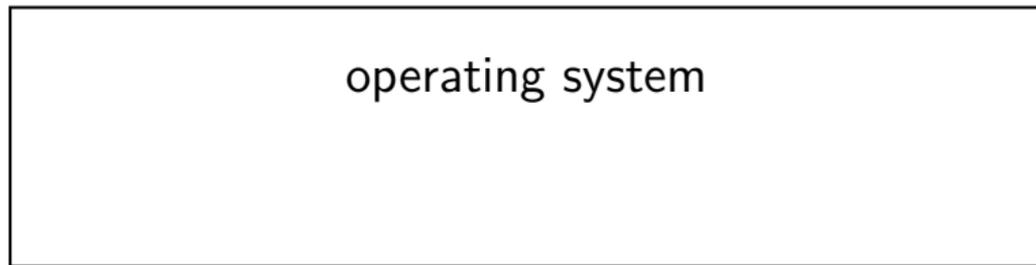
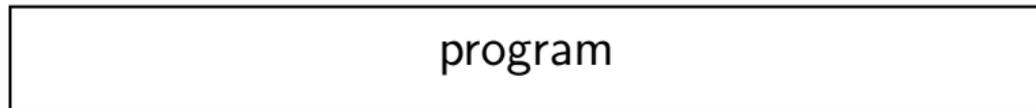
setup, access control happens here

byte-oriented

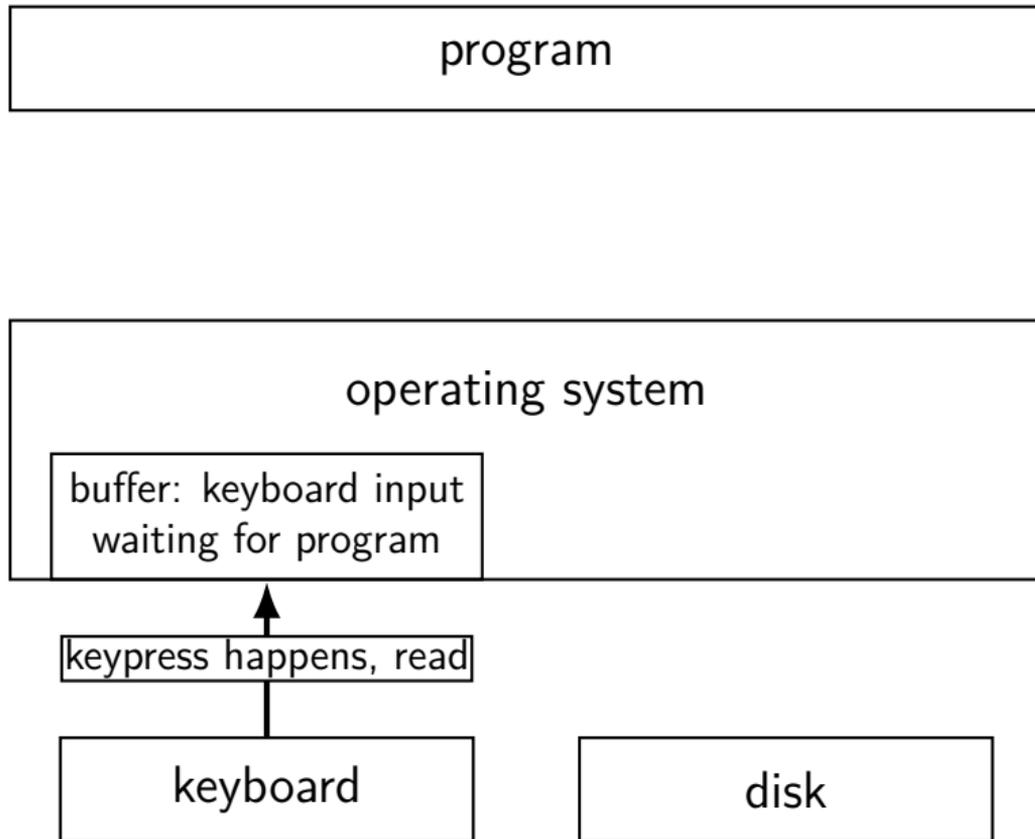
real device isn't? operating system needs to **hide** that

explicit close

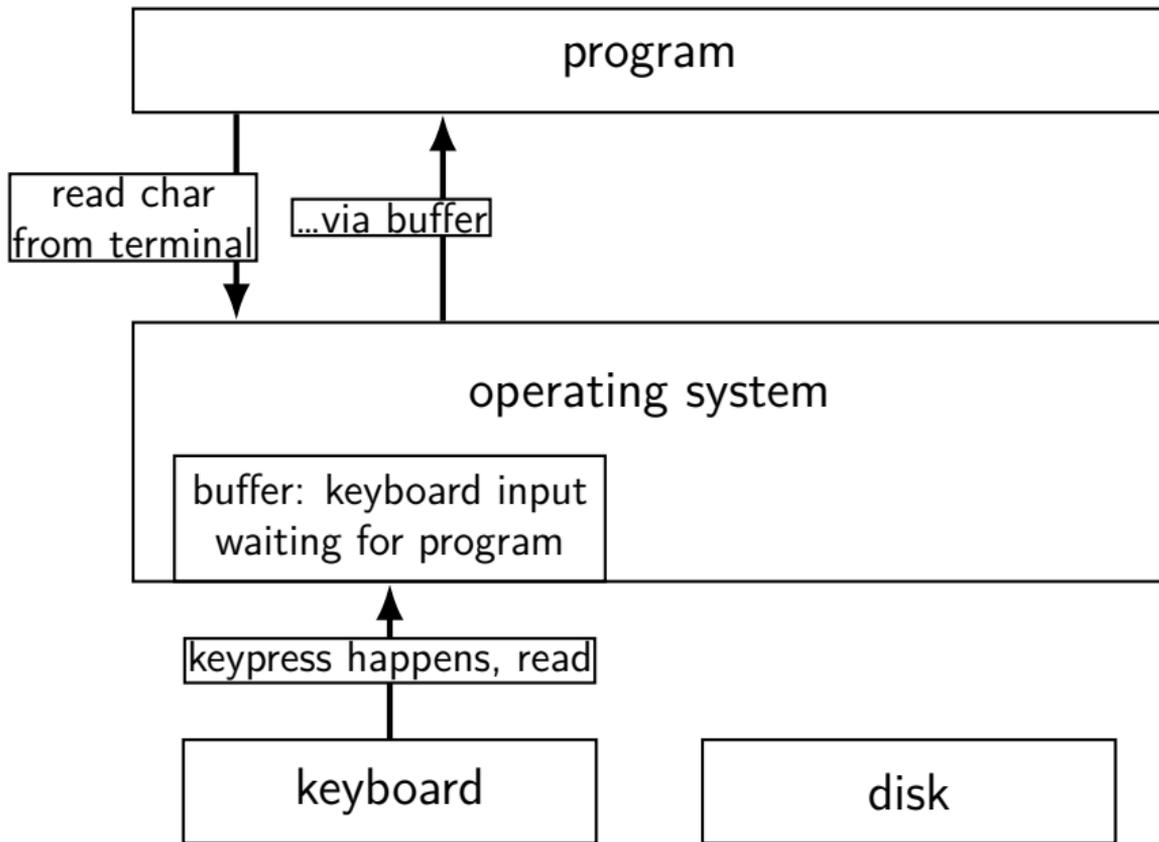
# kernel buffering (reads)



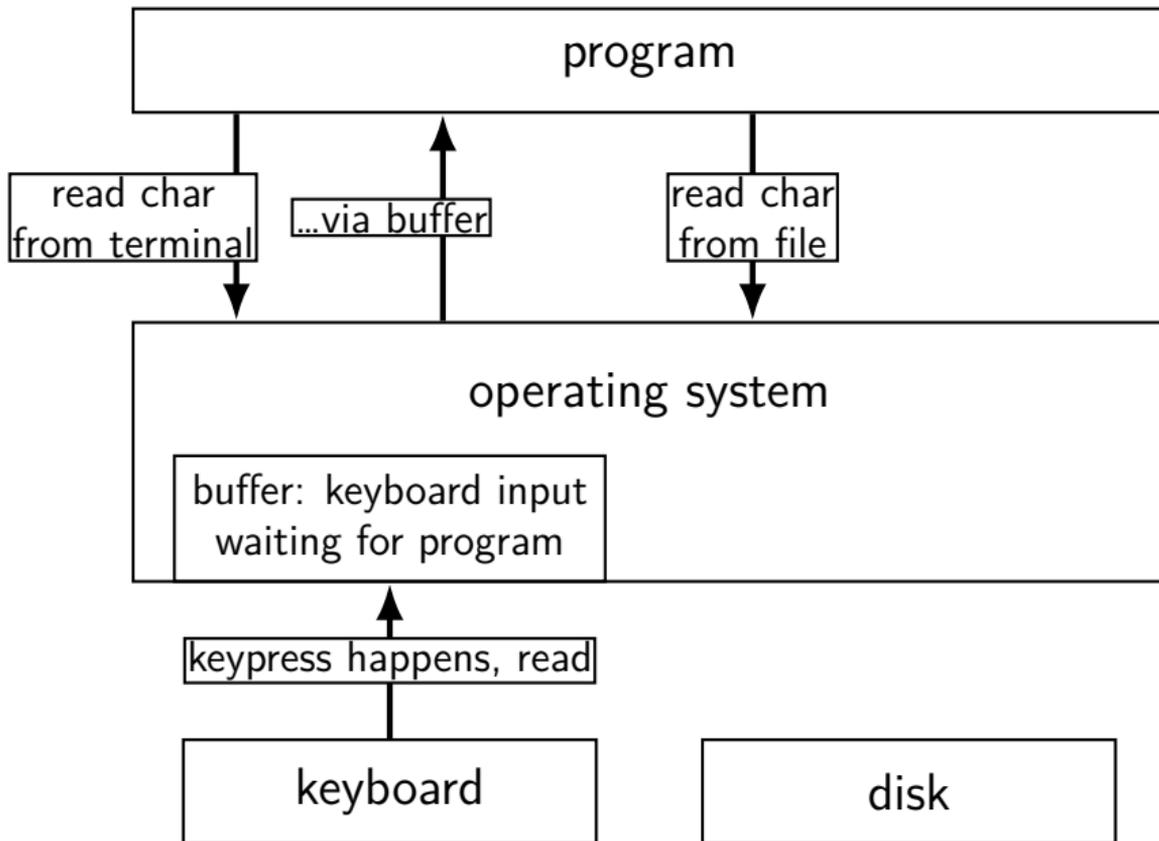
# kernel buffering (reads)



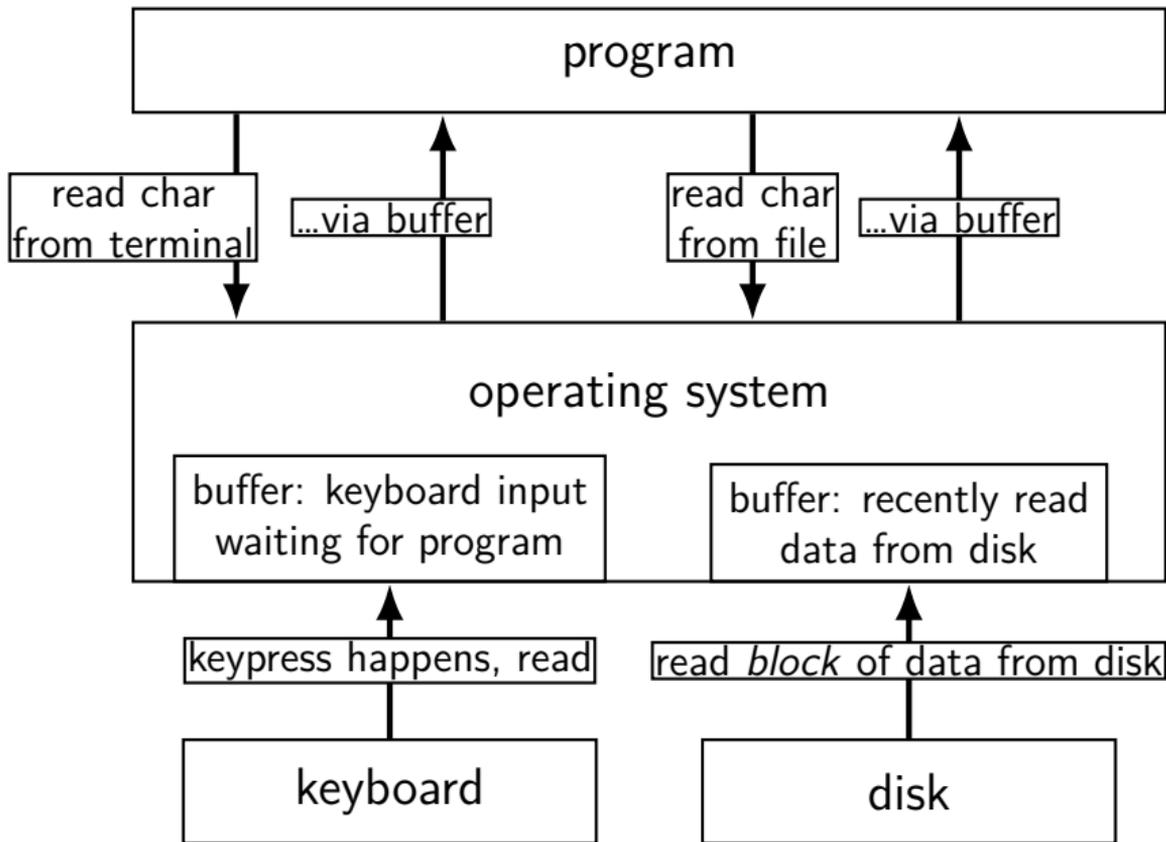
# kernel buffering (reads)



# kernel buffering (reads)



# kernel buffering (reads)



# kernel buffering (writes)

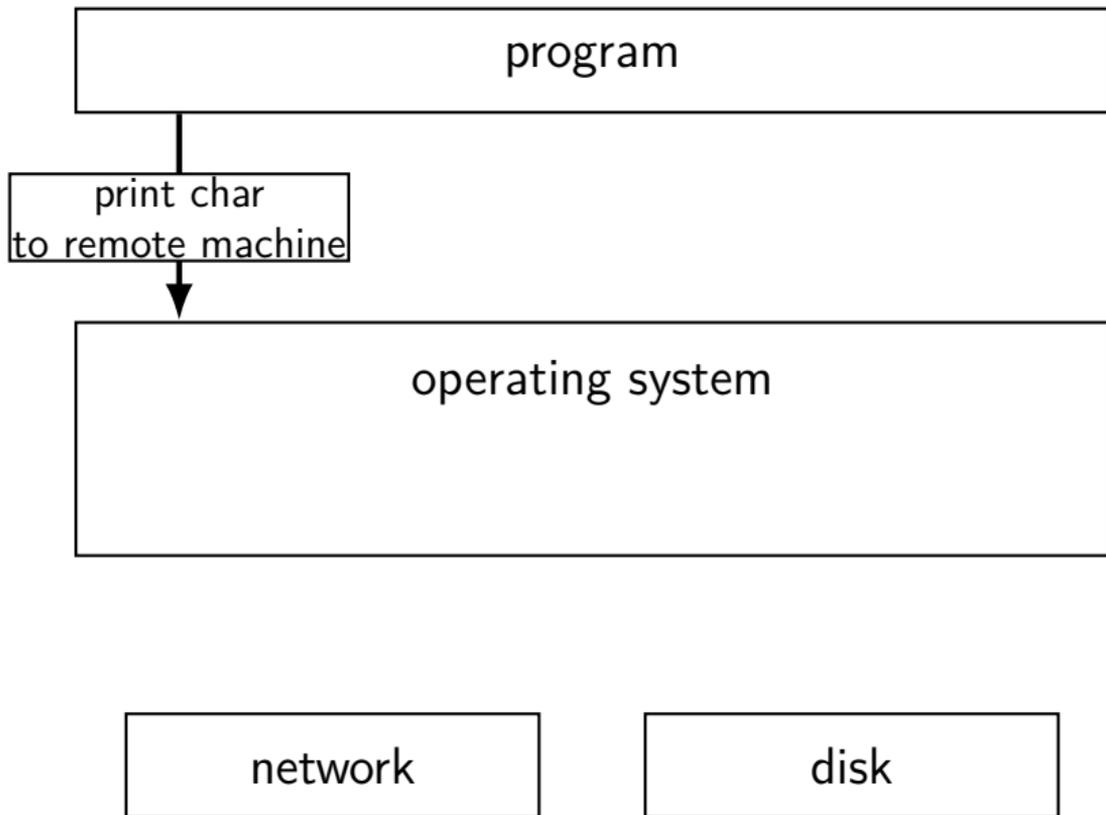
program

operating system

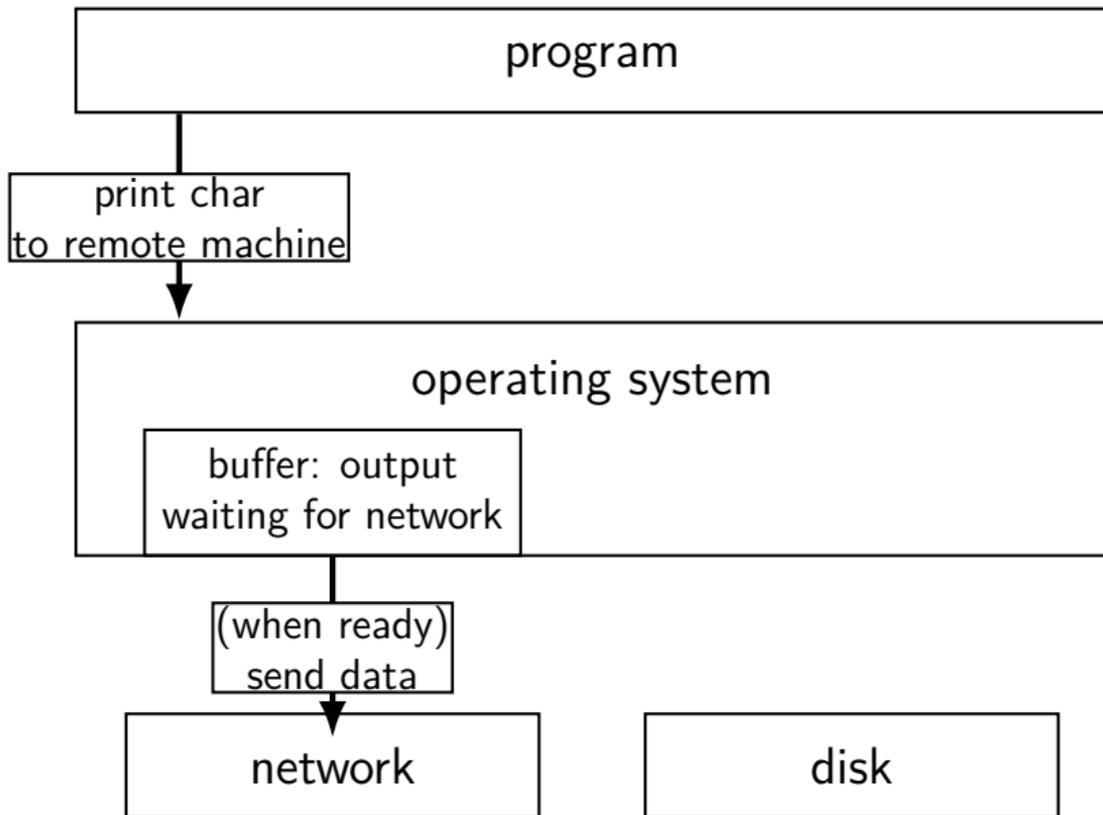
network

disk

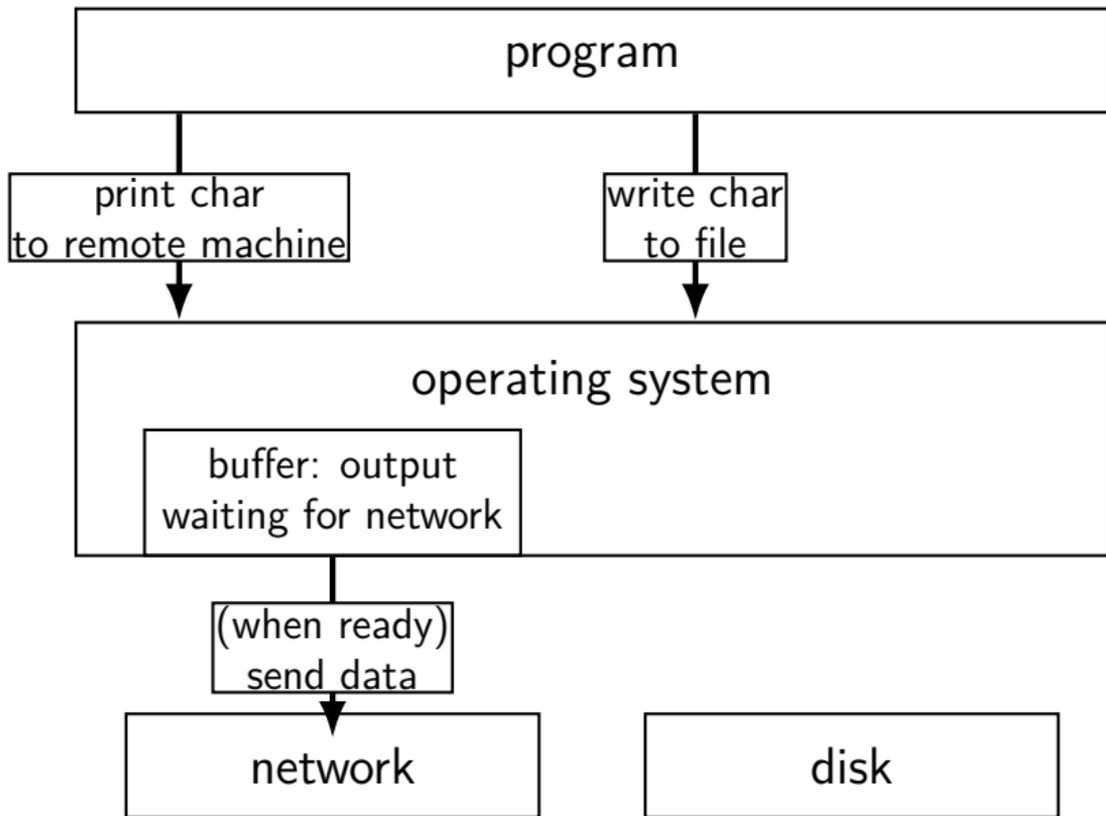
# kernel buffering (writes)



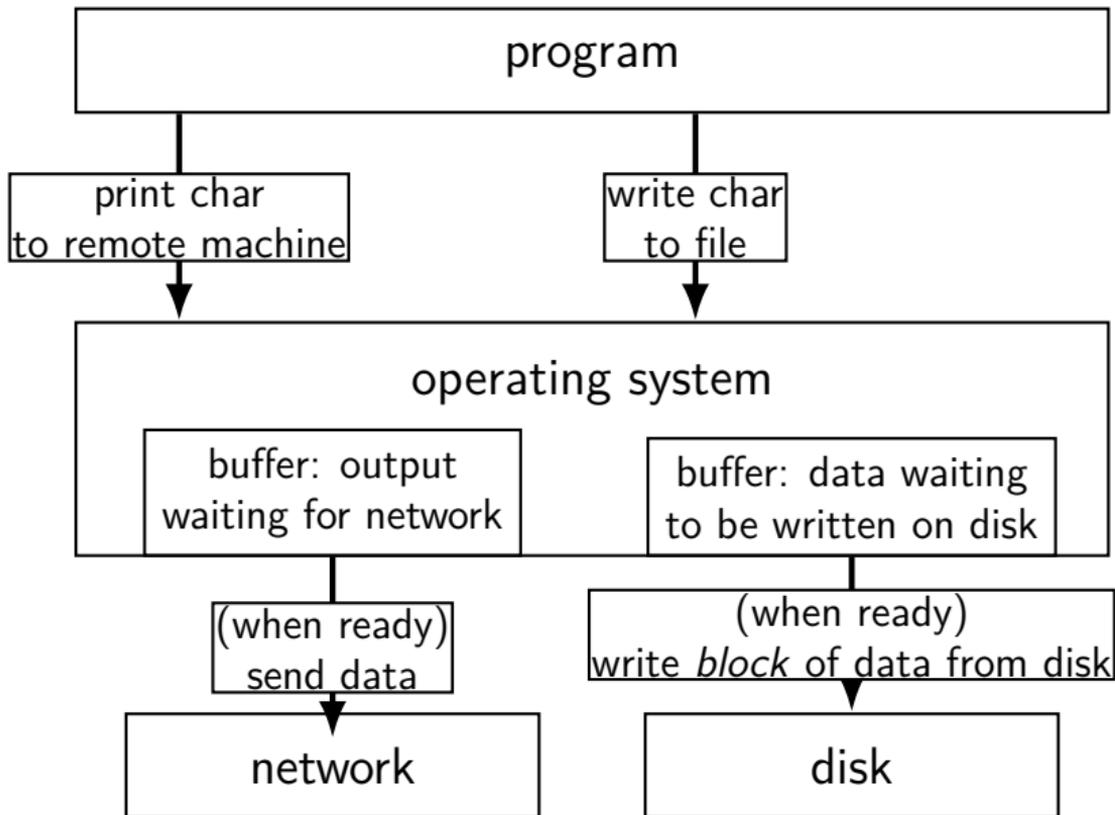
# kernel buffering (writes)



# kernel buffering (writes)



# kernel buffering (writes)



# read/write operations

read/write: move data into/out of buffer

block (make process wait) if buffer is empty (read)/full (write)  
(default behavior, possibly changeable)

actual I/O operations — wait for device to be ready  
trigger process to stop waiting if needed

# layering

