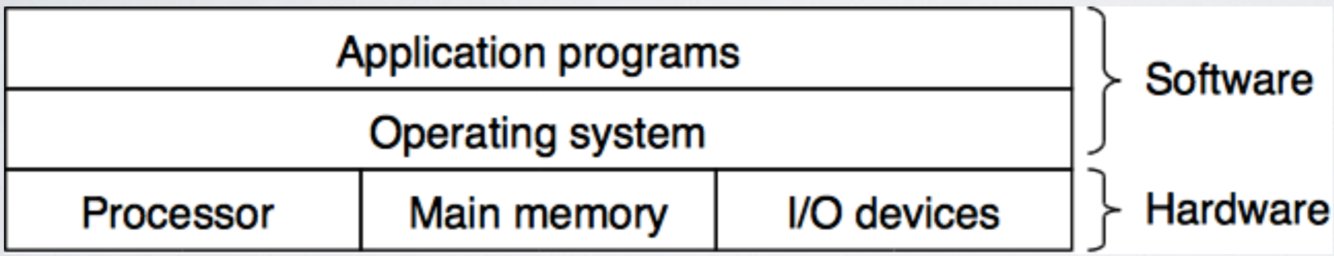
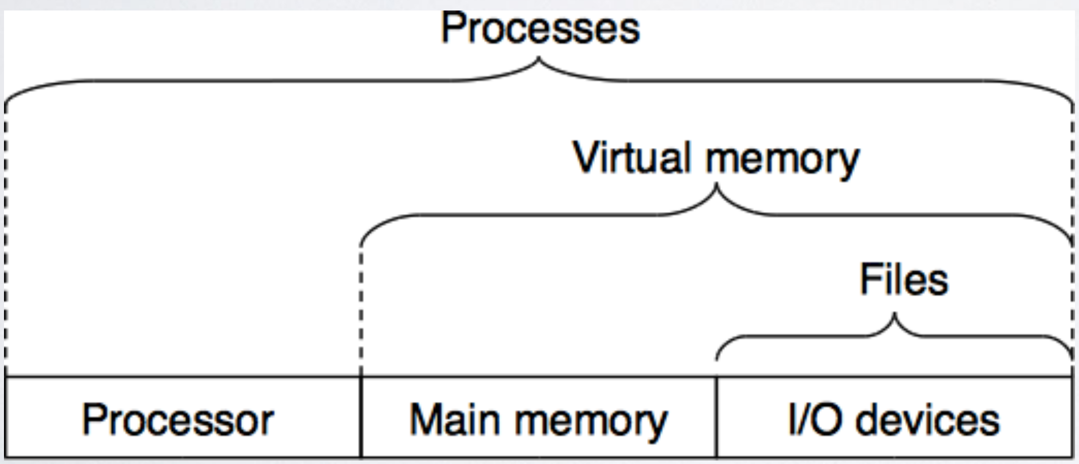
IO/FILE SYSTEMS

CAS CS 210

OPERATING SYSTEMS (SYSTEMS SOFTWARE)

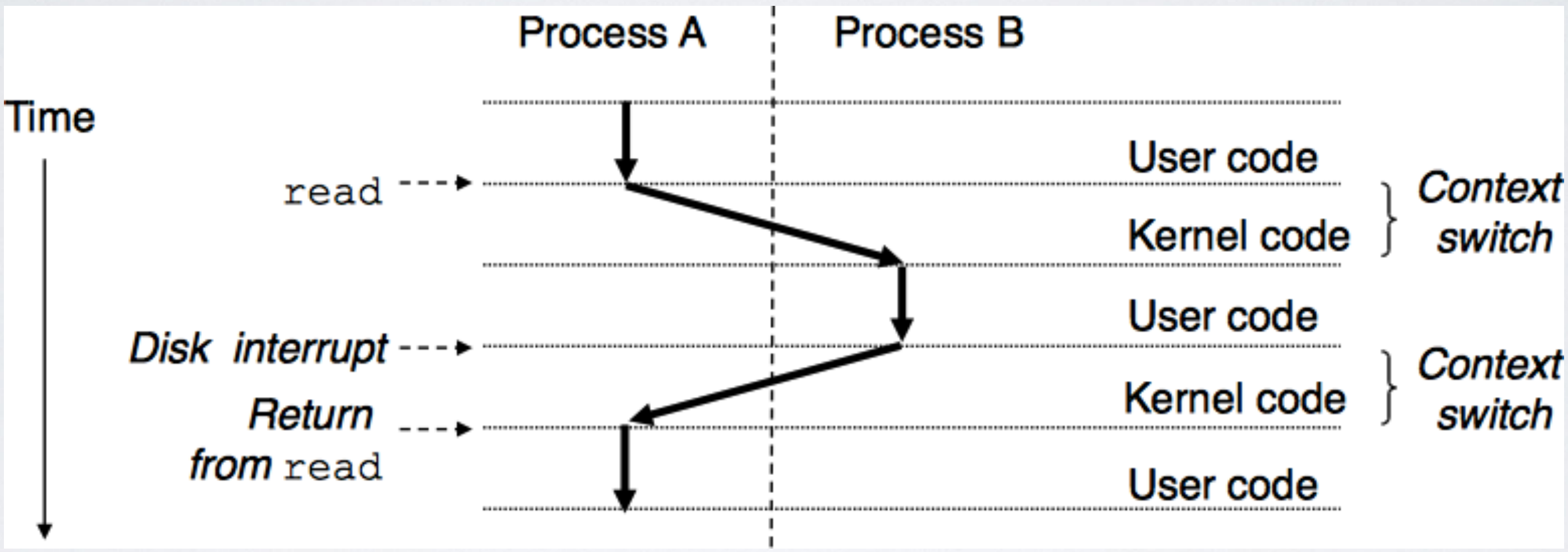


Layered Model

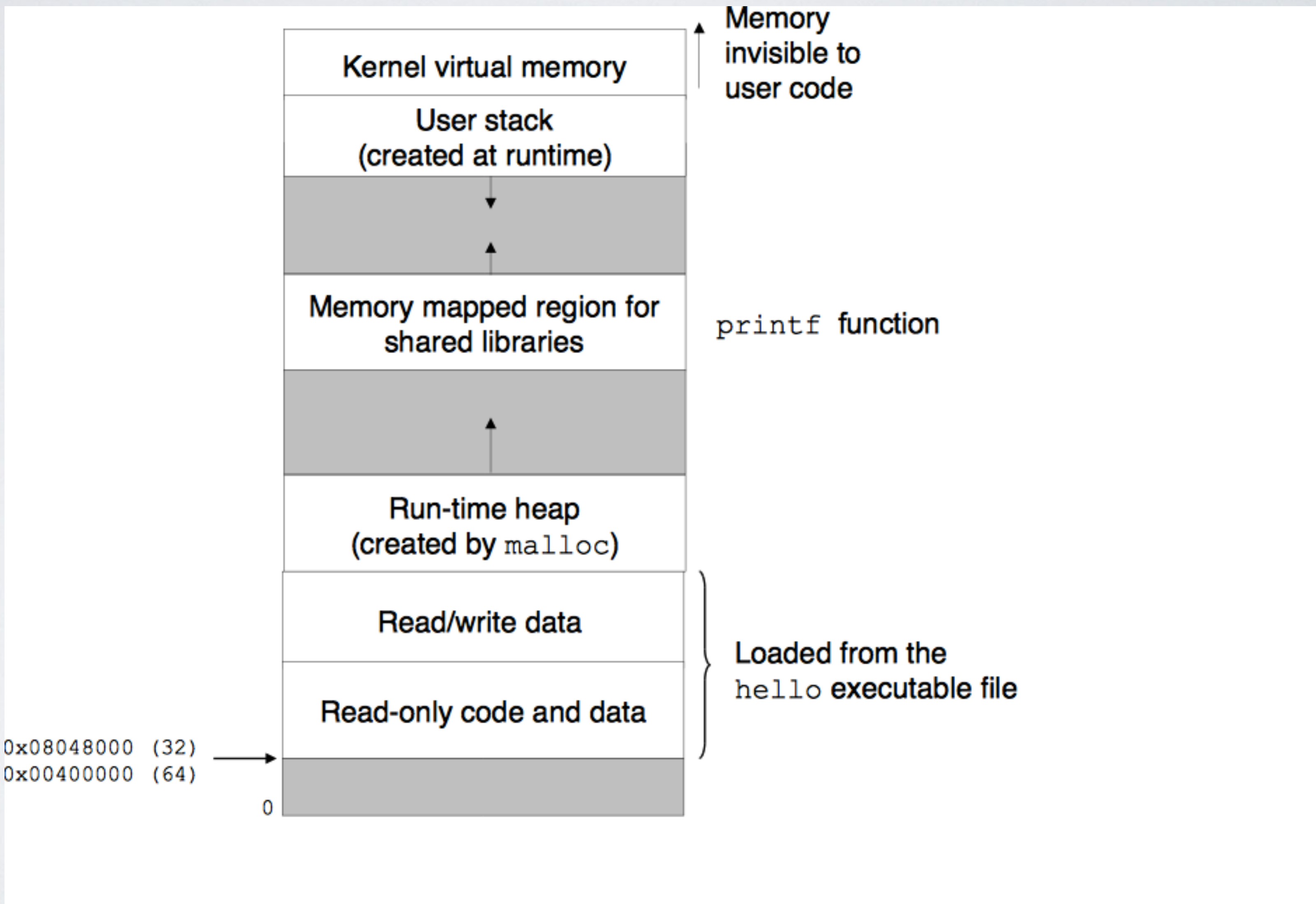


SYSTEM SOFTWARE CREATES ABSTRACTIONS

PROCESSES


Process A
Process B
Time
read
Disk interrupt
Return
from read
User code
Kernel code
User code
Kernel code
User code
Context
switch
Context
switch

VIRTUAL MEMORY

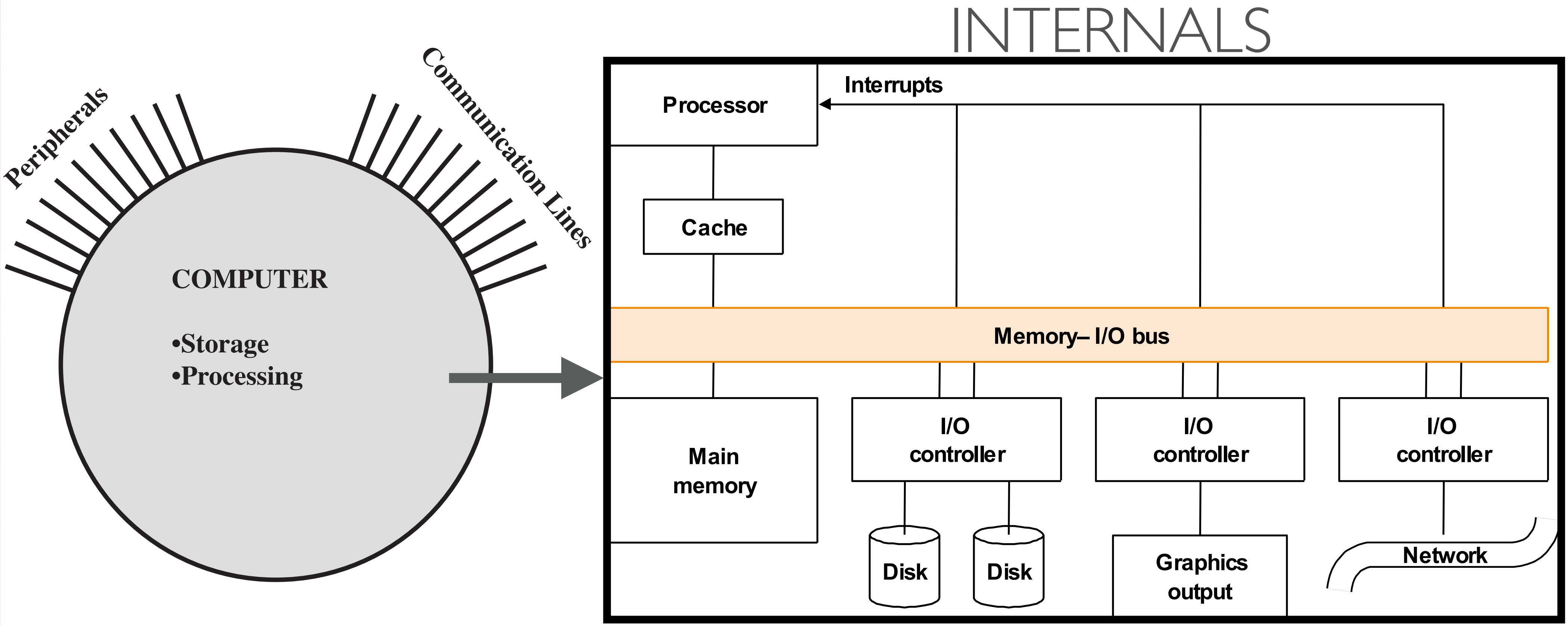


FILES



```
$ ls
hello   hello.c   hello.i  hello.o   hello.s
$ hexdump -C hello.c
00000000  23 69 6e 63 6c 75 64 65  20 3c 73 74 64 69 6f 2e  |#include <stdio.|
00000010  68 3e 0a 0a 69 6e 74 0a  6d 61 69 6e 28 69 6e 74  |h>..int.main(int|
00000020  20 61 72 67 63 2c 20 63  68 61 72 20 2a 2a 61 72  | argc, char **ar|
00000030  67 76 29 0a 7b 0a 20 20  20 70 72 69 6e 74 66 28  |gv).{.   printf(|
00000040  22 48 65 6c 6c 6f 20 57  6f 72 6c 64 21 21 21 5c  |"Hello World!!!\|
00000050  6e 22 29 3b 0a 20 20 20  72 65 74 75 72 6e 20 30  |n");.   return 0|
00000060  3b 0a 7d 0a                                       |;.}.|
00000064
```

THE COMPUTER

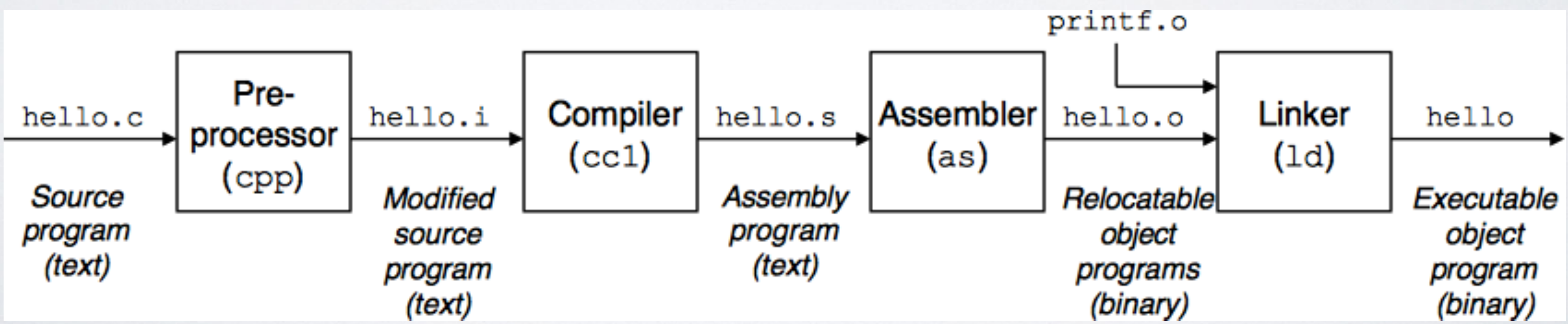


Bus = control lines + data lines
Control lines carry requests, acknowledgements, type of information
Data lines carry data, complex commands, or addresses

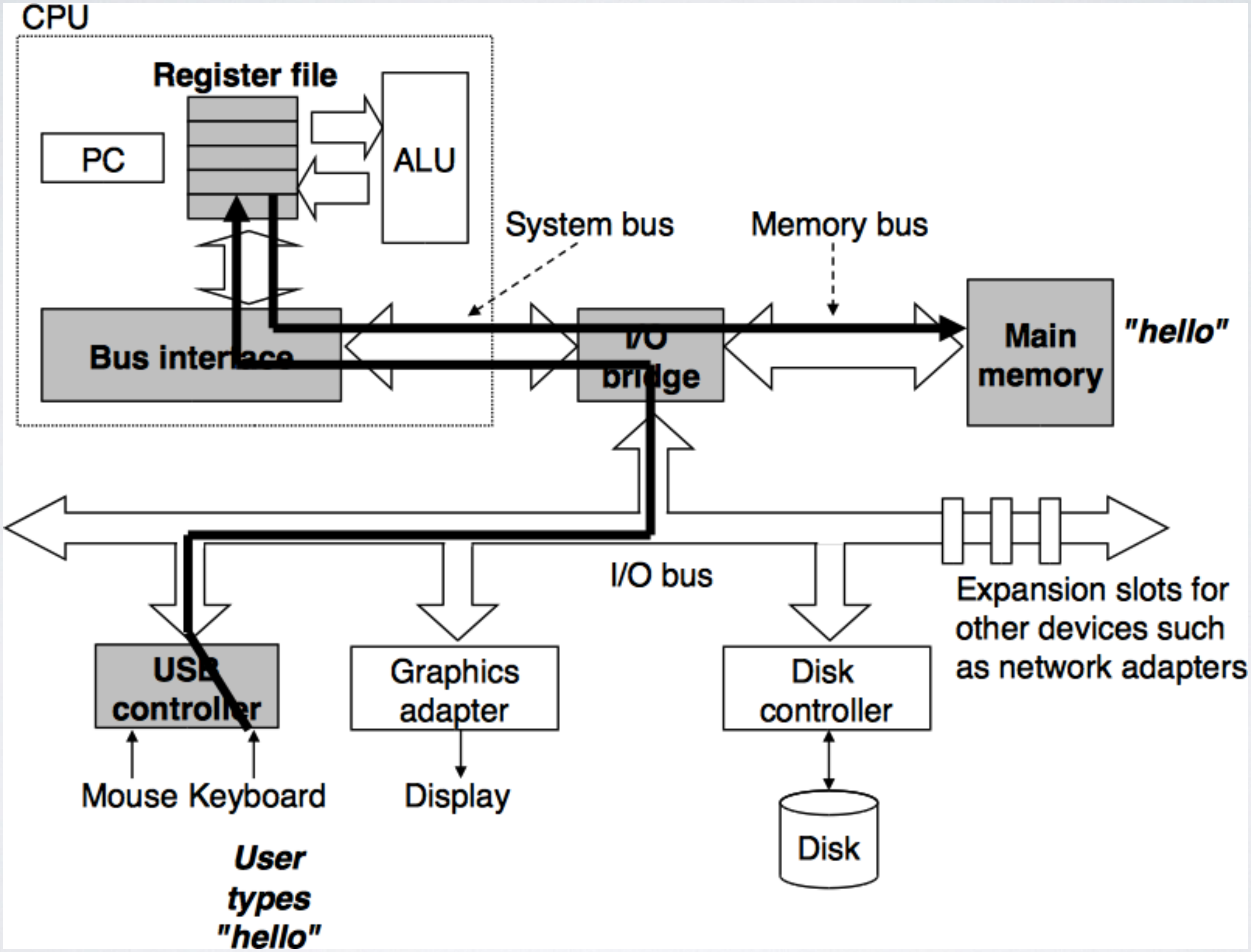
BEHIND THE CURTAINS

- What exactly is a program?
- How are they really constructed?
- With "C" we can more directly explore these things.

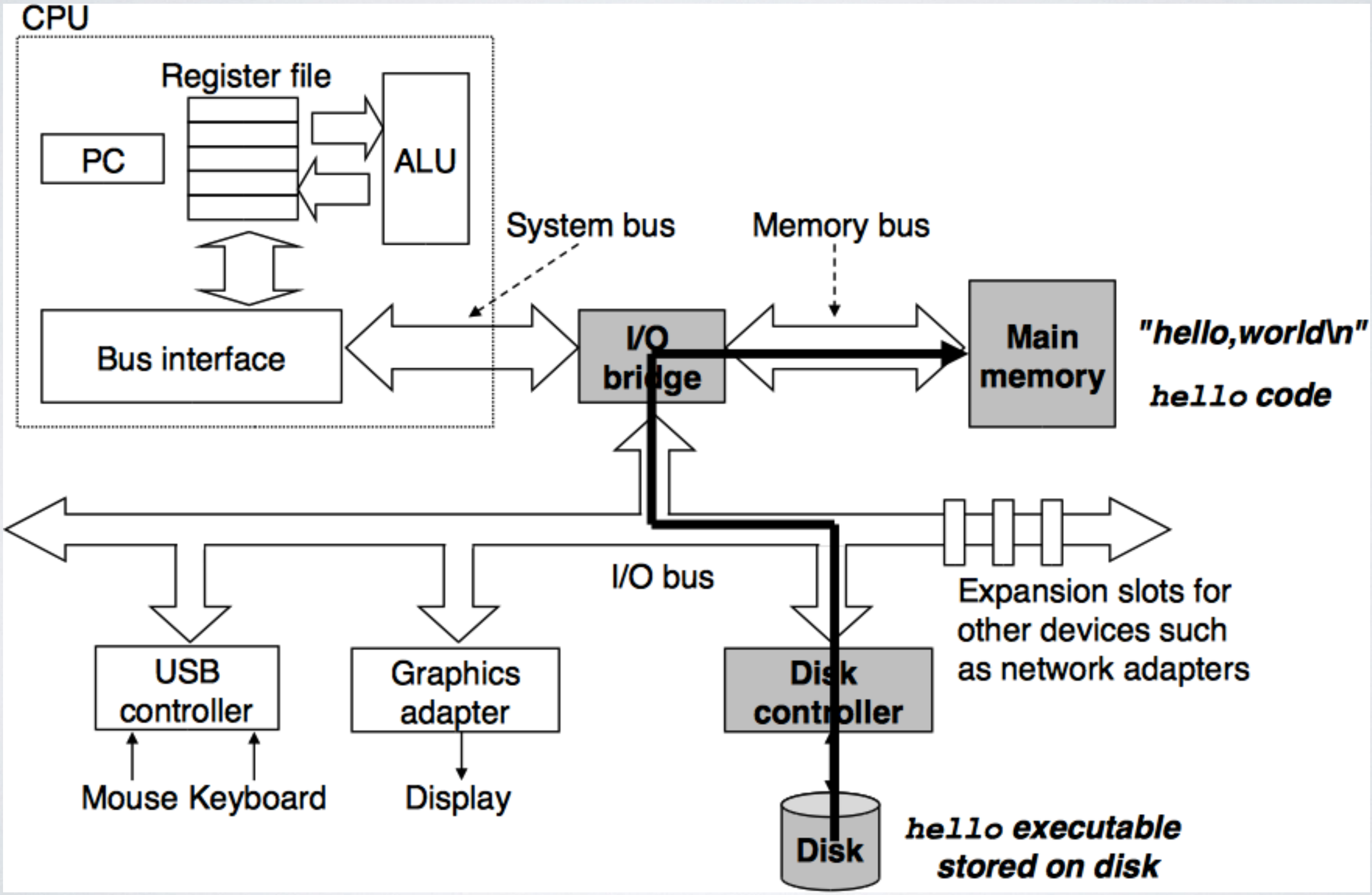
```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
  printf("hello world!!!\n");
  return 1;
}
```



./HELLO: STARTS WITH IO

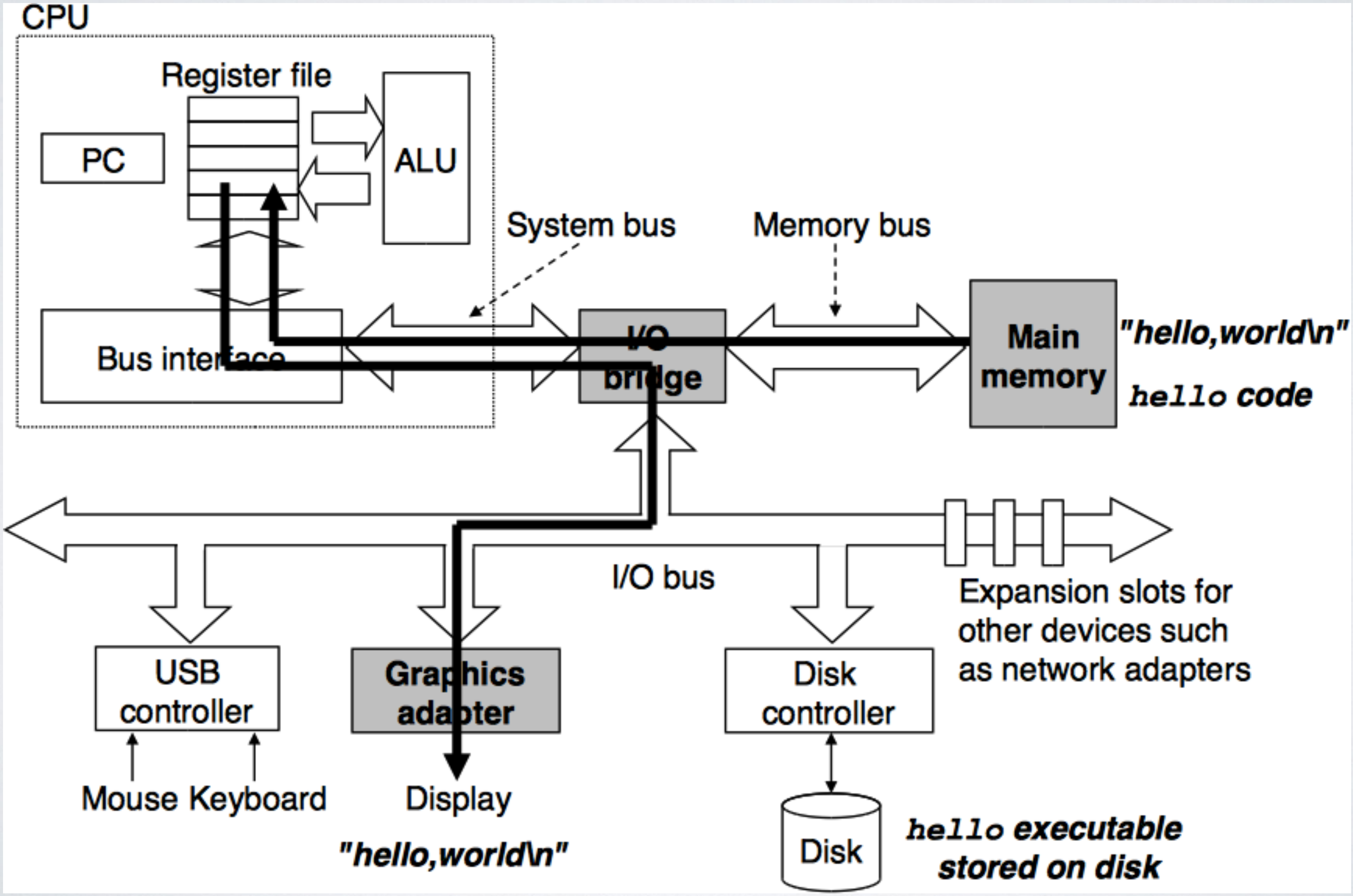


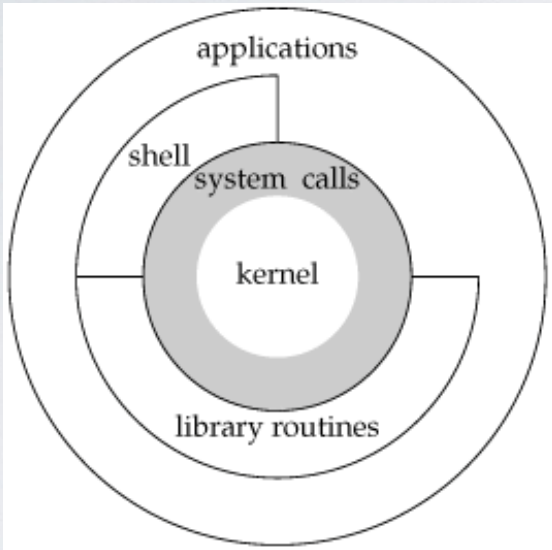
LOAD : MORE IO

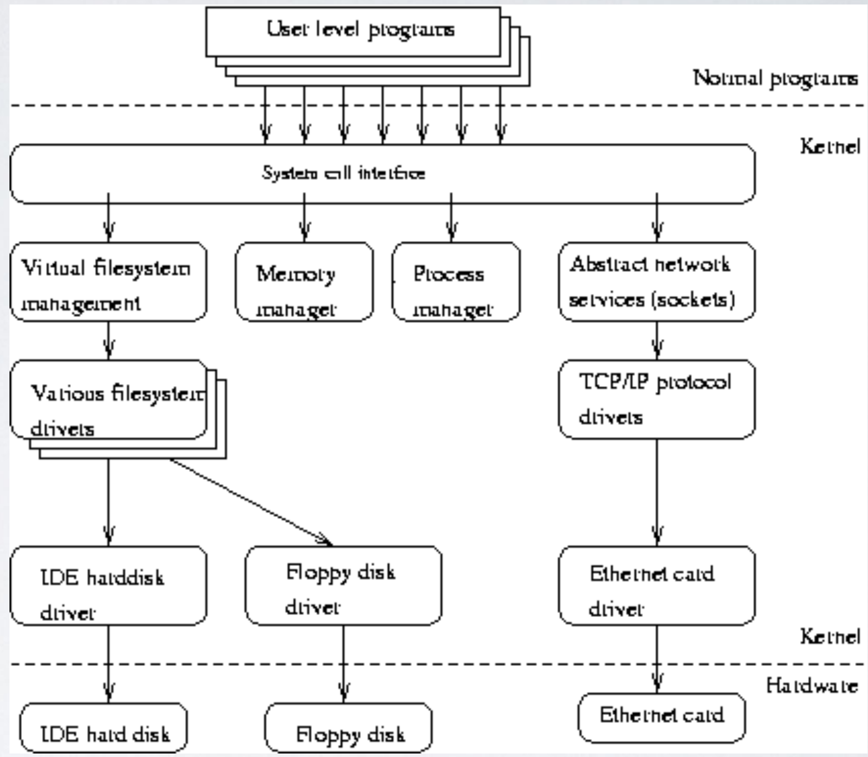


CPU
Register file
PC
ALU
System bus
Memory bus
Bus interface
I/O bridge
Main memory
"hello,world\n"
hello code
I/O bus
Expansion slots for other devices such as network adapters
USB controller
Graphics adapter
Disk controller
Mouse Keyboard
Display
Disk
hello executable stored on disk

EXECUTE: AND MORE IO

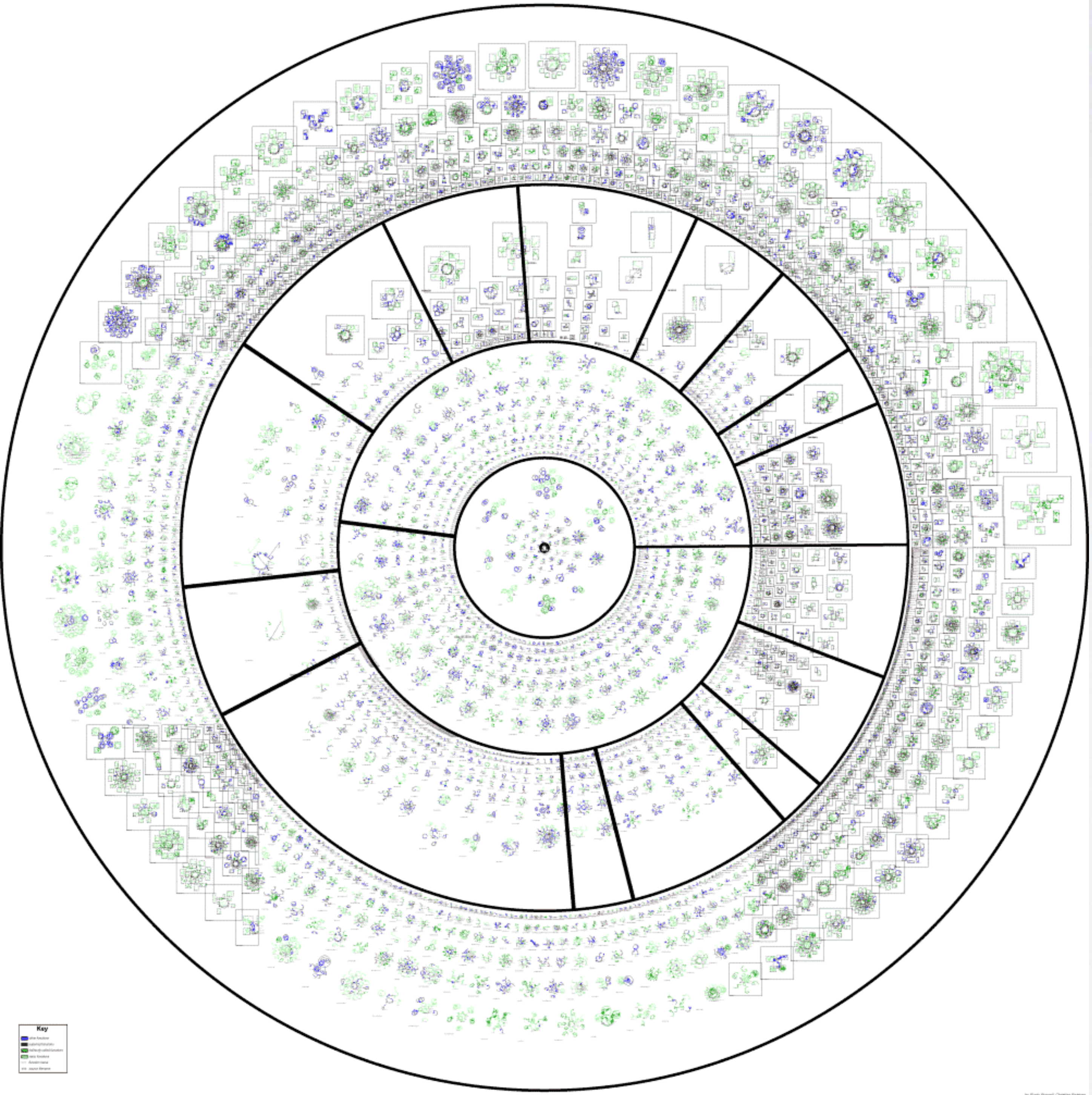






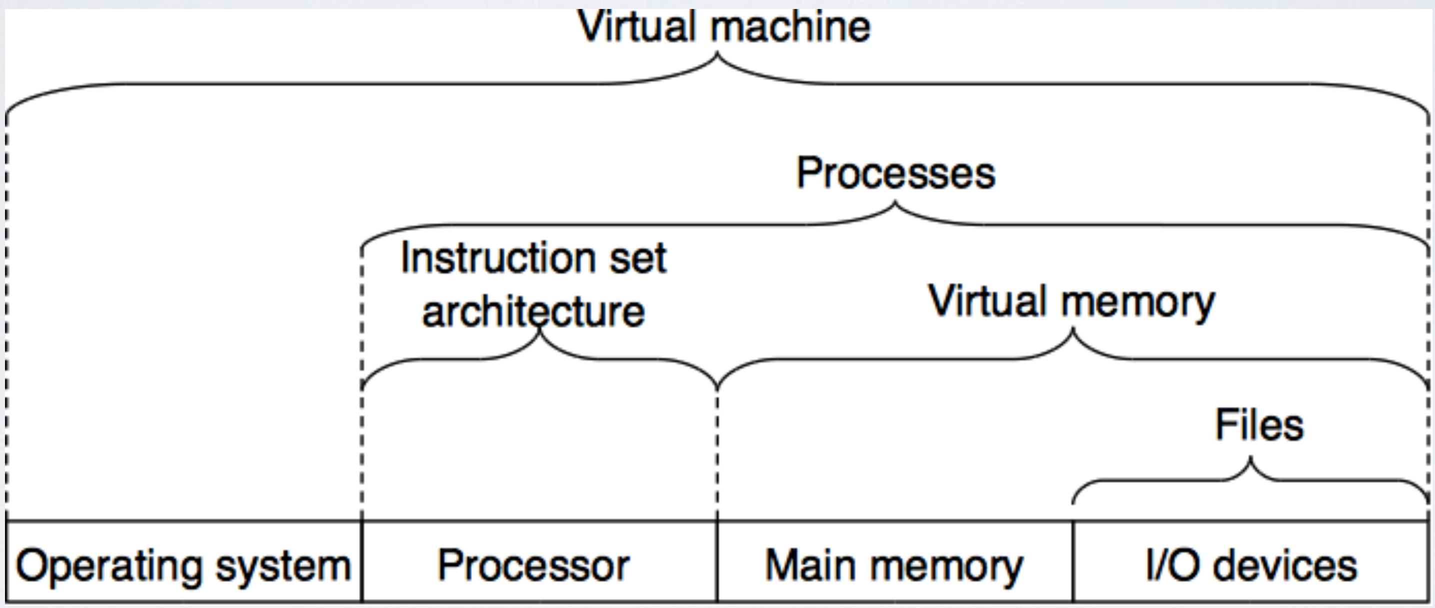
http://www.makelinux.net/kernel_map/

Linux Kernel v2.4.9



http://www.makelinux.net/kernel_map/

ABSTRACTIONS ON TOP OF ABSTRACTIONS



Unix Files

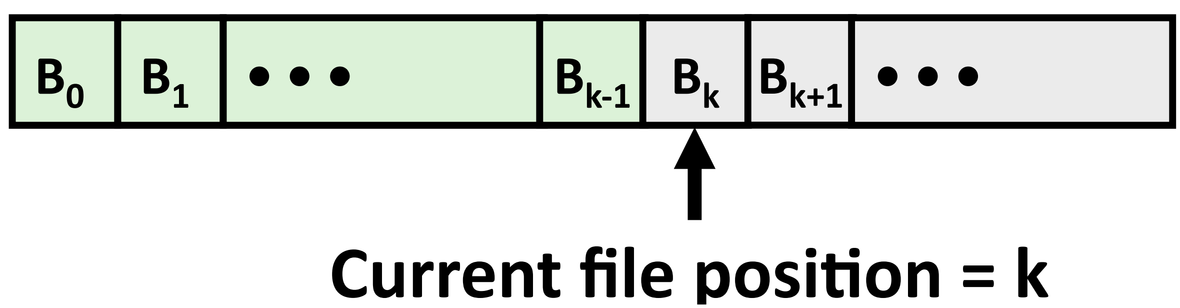
- A Unix ***file*** is a sequence of *m* bytes:
  - $B_0, B_1, \ldots., B_k, \ldots., B_{m-1}$
- **All I/O devices are represented as files:**
  - **`/dev/sda2`** (**`/usr`** disk partition)
  - **`/dev/tty2`** (terminal)
- **Even the kernel is represented as a file:**
  - **`/dev/kmem`** (kernel memory image)
  - **`/proc`** (kernel data structures)

Unix File Types

- **Regular file**
  - File containing user/app data (binary, text, whatever)
  - OS does not know anything about the format
    - other than “sequence of bytes”, akin to main memory
- **Directory file**
  - A file that contains the names and locations of other files
- **Character special and block special files**
  - Terminals (character special) and disks (block special)
- **FIFO (named pipe)**
  - A file type used for inter-process communication
- **Socket**
  - A file type used for network communication between processes

Unix I/O

- **Key Features**
  - Elegant mapping of files to devices allows kernel to export simple interface called Unix I/O
  - Important idea: All input and output is handled in a consistent and uniform way
- **Basic Unix I/O operations (system calls):**
  - Opening and closing files
    - **`open()`** and **`close()`**
  - Reading and writing a file
    - **`read()`** and **`write()`**
  - Changing the ***current file position*** (seek)
    - indicates next offset into file to read or write
    - **`lseek()`**



Opening Files

- **Opening a file informs the kernel that you are getting ready to access that file**

```
int fd;   /* file descriptor */

if ((fd = open("/etc/hosts", O_RDONLY)) < 0) {
   perror("open");
   exit(1);
}
```

- **Returns a small identifying integer *file descriptor***
  - `fd == -1` indicates that an error occurred
- **Each process created by a Unix shell begins life with three open files associated with a terminal:**
  - 0: standard input
  - 1: standard output
  - 2: standard error

Closing Files

- **Closing a file informs the kernel that you are finished accessing that file**

```
int fd;      /* file descriptor */
int retval; /* return value */

if ((retval = close(fd)) < 0) {
   perror("close");
   exit(1);
}
```

- **Closing an already closed file is a recipe for disaster in threaded programs (more on this later)**
- **Moral: Always check return codes, even for seemingly benign functions such as `close()`**

Reading Files

- **Reading a file copies bytes from the current file position to memory, and then updates file position**

```
char buf[512];
int fd;          /* file descriptor */
int nbytes;      /* number of bytes read */

/* Open file fd ...  */
/* Then read up to 512 bytes from file fd */
if ((nbytes = read(fd, buf, sizeof(buf))) < 0) {
   perror("read");
   exit(1);
}
```

- **Returns number of bytes read from file `fd` into `buf`**
  - Return type `ssize_t` is signed integer
  - `nbytes < 0` indicates that an error occurred
  - ***Short counts*** (`nbytes < sizeof(buf)`) are possible and are not errors!

Writing Files

- **Writing a file copies bytes from memory to the current file position, and then updates current file position**

```
char buf[512];
int fd;         /* file descriptor */
int nbytes;     /* number of bytes read */

/* Open the file fd ... */
/* Then write up to 512 bytes from buf to file fd */
if ((nbytes = write(fd, buf, sizeof(buf)) < 0) {
   perror("write");
   exit(1);
}
```

- **Returns number of bytes written from `buf` to file `fd`**
  - `nbytes < 0` indicates that an error occurred
  - As with reads, short counts are possible and are not errors!

Simple Unix I/O example

- **Copying standard in to standard out, one byte at a time**

```
#include "csapp.h"

int main(void)
{
    char c;

    while(Read(STDIN_FILENO, &c, 1) != 0)
        Write(STDOUT_FILENO, &c, 1);
    exit(0);
}                                         cpstdin.c
```

Note the use of error handling wrappers for read and write (Appendix A).

Dealing with Short Counts

- **Short counts can occur in these situations:**
  - Encountering (end-of-file) EOF on reads
  - Reading text lines from a terminal
  - Reading and writing network sockets or Unix pipes

- **Short counts never occur in these situations:**
  - Reading from disk files (except for EOF)
  - Writing to disk files

- **One way to deal with short counts in your code:**
  - Use the RIO (Robust I/O) package from your textbook's `csapp.c` file (Appendix B)

File Metadata

- ***Metadata*** **is data about data, in this case file data**
- **Per-file metadata maintained by kernel**
  - accessed by users with the **`stat`** and **`fstat`** functions

```
/* Metadata returned by the stat and fstat functions */
struct stat {
    dev_t         st_dev;      /* device */
    ino_t         st_ino;      /* inode */
    mode_t        st_mode;     /* protection and file type */
    nlink_t       st_nlink;    /* number of hard links */
    uid_t         st_uid;      /* user ID of owner */
    gid_t         st_gid;      /* group ID of owner */
    dev_t         st_rdev;     /* device type (if inode device) */
    off_t         st_size;     /* total size, in bytes */
    unsigned long st_blksize;  /* blocksize for filesystem I/O */
    unsigned long st_blocks;   /* number of blocks allocated */
    time_t        st_atime;    /* time of last access */
    time_t        st_mtime;    /* time of last modification */
    time_t        st_ctime;    /* time of last change */
};
```

Example of Accessing File Metadata

```
/* statcheck.c - Querying and manipulating a file's meta data */
#include "csapp.h"

int main (int argc, char **argv)
{
    struct stat stat;
    char *type, *readok;

    Stat(argv[1], &stat);
    if (S_ISREG(stat.st_mode))
        type = "regular";
    else if (S_ISDIR(stat.st_mode))
        type = "directory";
    else
        type = "other";
    if ((stat.st_mode & S_IRUSR)) /* OK to read?*/
        readok = "yes";
    else
        readok = "no";

    printf("type: %s, read: %s\n", type, readok);
    exit(0);
}
```

```
unix> ./statcheck statcheck.
type: regular, read: yes
unix> chmod 000 statcheck.c
unix> ./statcheck statcheck.
type: regular, read: no
unix> ./statcheck ..
type: directory, read: yes
unix> ./statcheck /dev/kmem
type: other, read: yes
```

statcheck.c

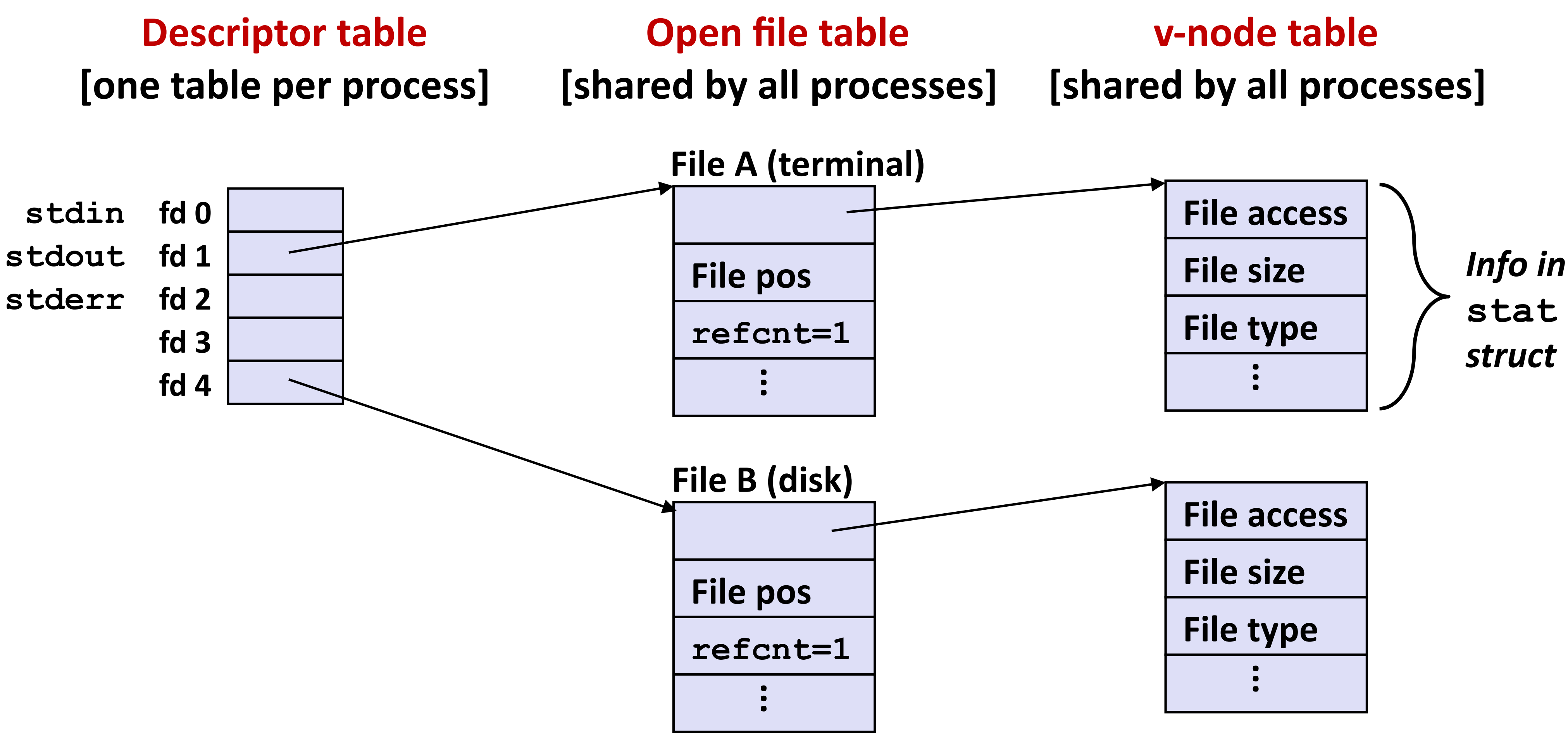
Accessing Directories

- **Only recommended operation on a directory: read its entries**
  - **`dirent`** structure contains information about a directory entry
  - DIR structure contains information about directory while stepping through its entries

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <dirent.h>

{
  DIR *directory;
  struct dirent *de;
  ...
  if (!(directory = opendir(dir_name)))
      error("Failed to open directory");
  ...
  while (0 != (de = readdir(directory))) {
      printf("Found file: %s\n", de->d_name);
  }
  ...
  closedir(directory);
}
```

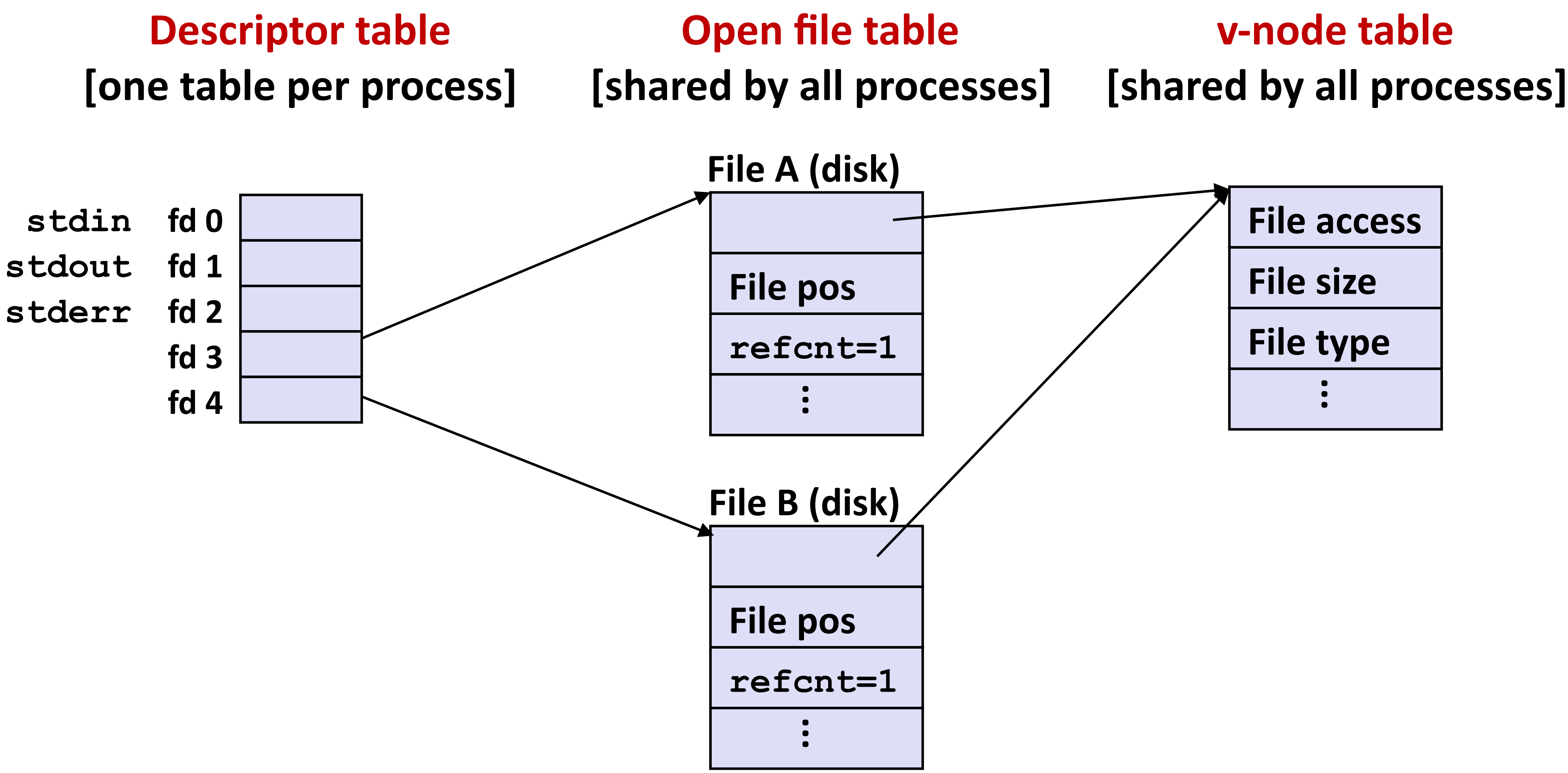
How the Unix Kernel Represents Open Files

- Two descriptors referencing two distinct open disk files. Descriptor 1 (stdout) points to terminal, and descriptor 4 points to open disk file



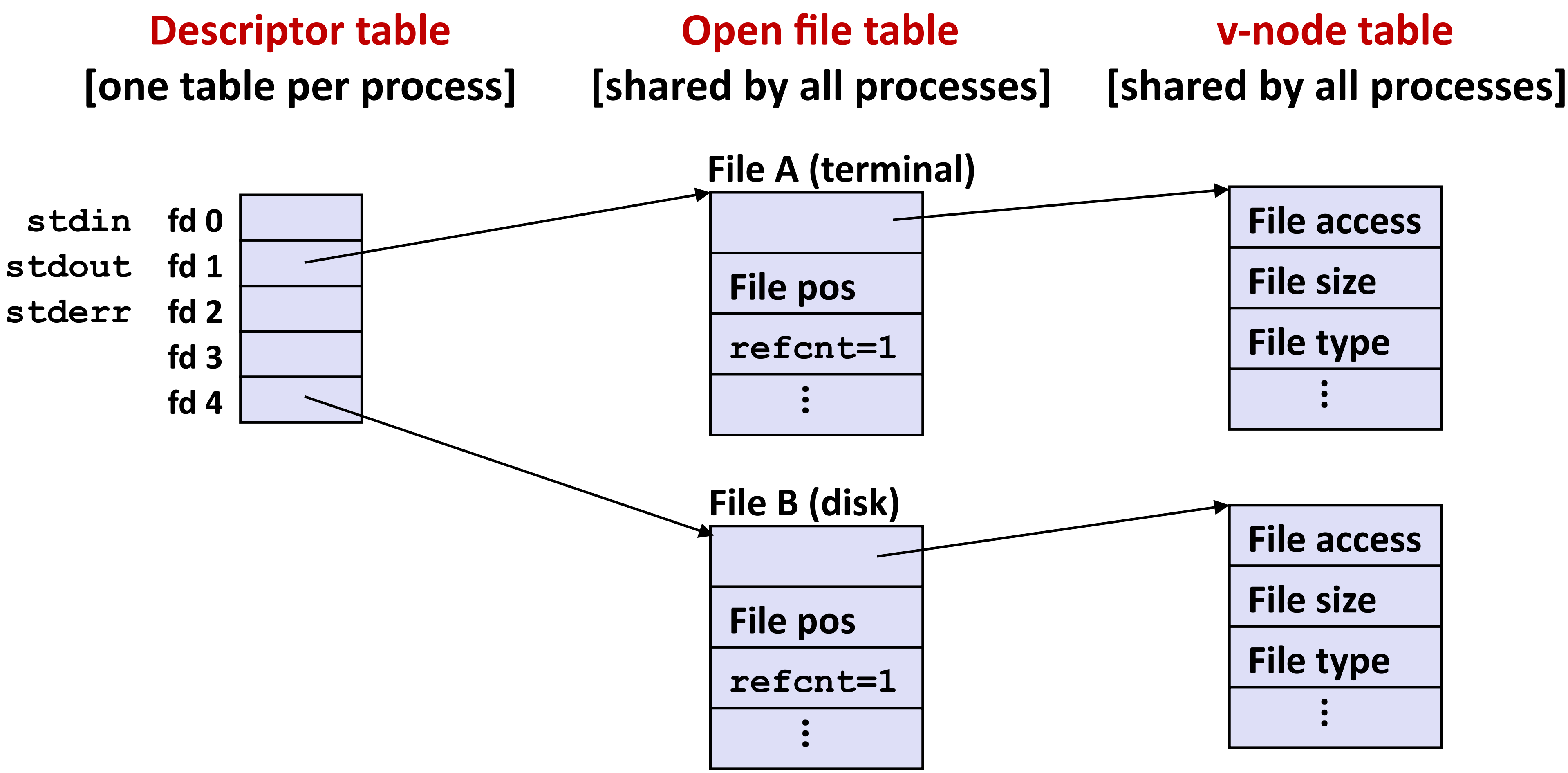
File Sharing

- **Two distinct descriptors sharing the same disk file through two distinct open file table entries**
  - E.g., Calling `open` twice with the same `filename` argument



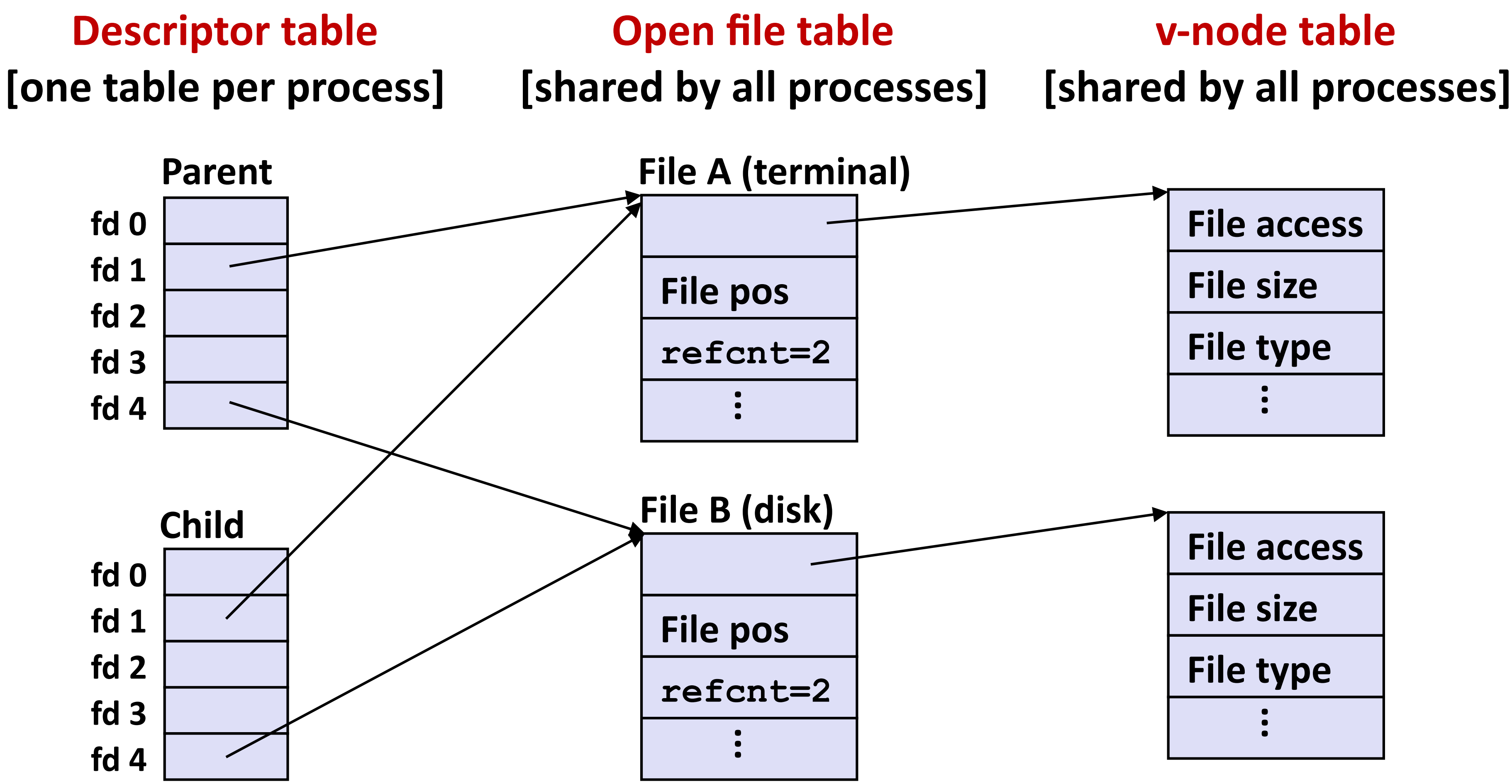
How Processes Share Files: Fork()

- **A child process inherits its parent's open files**
  - Note: situation unchanged by `exec` functions (use `fcntl` to change)
- ***Before* fork() call:**



How Processes Share Files: Fork()

- **A child process inherits its parent's open files**
- ***After* fork():**
  - Child's table same as parent's, and +1 to each refcnt



I/O Redirection

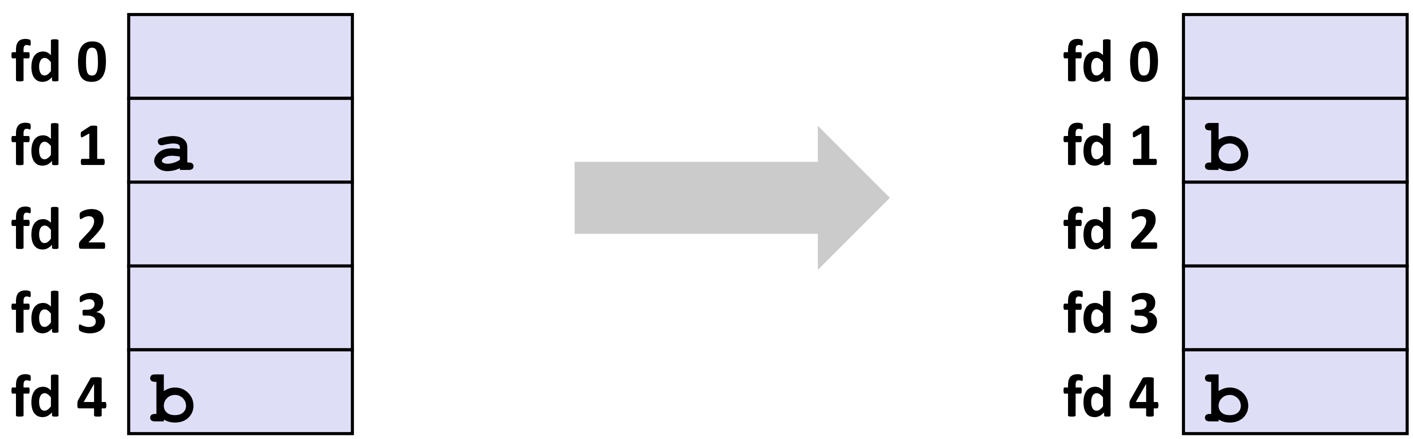
- **Question: How does a shell implement I/O redirection?**

```
unix> ls > foo.txt
```

- **Answer: By calling the `dup2(oldfd, newfd)` function**
  - Copies (per-process) descriptor table entry **`oldfd`** to entry **`newfd`**

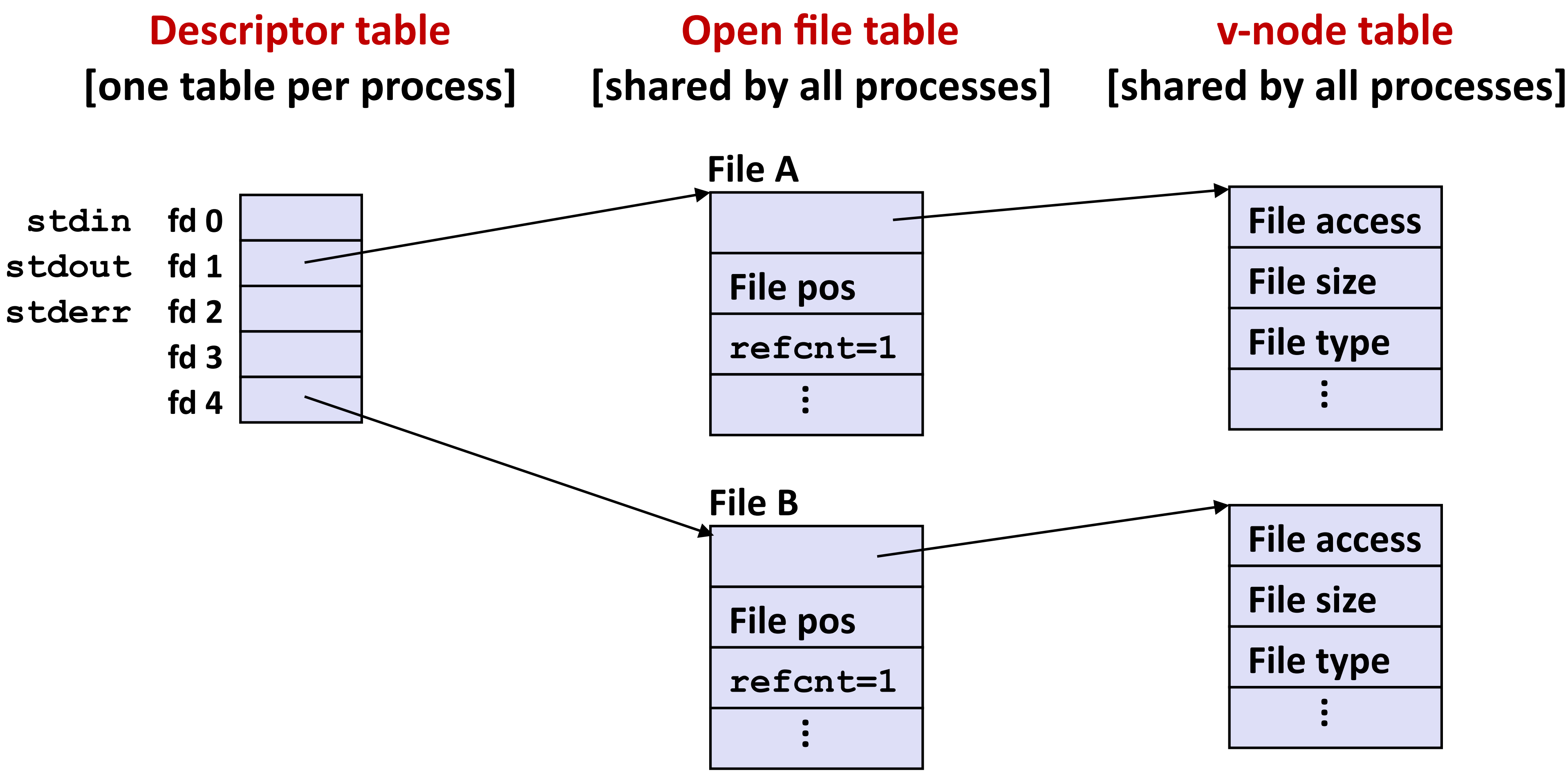
Descriptor table
before **`dup2(4,1)`**

Descriptor table
after **`dup2(4,1)`**



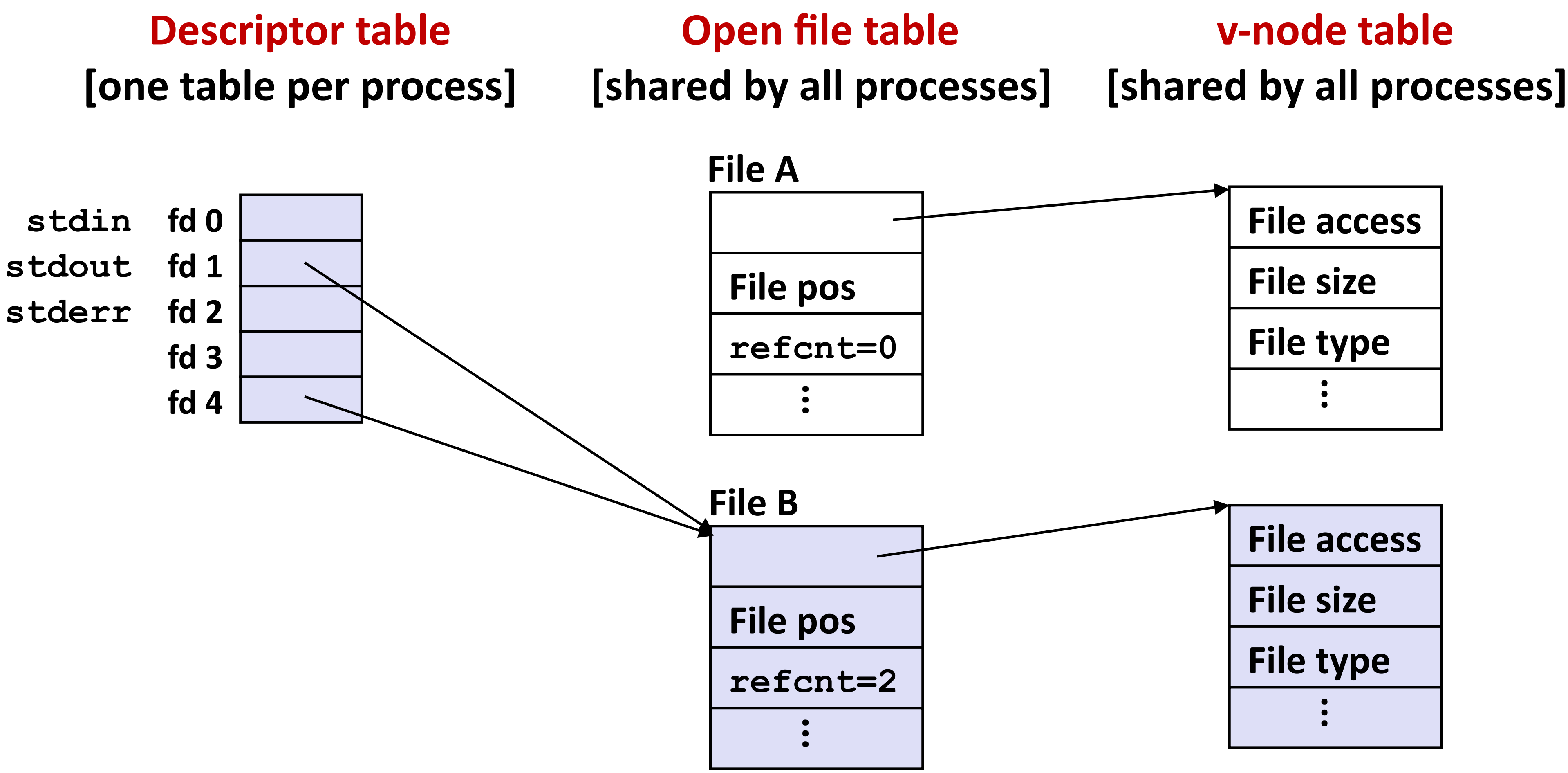
I/O Redirection Example

- **Step #1: open file to which stdout should be redirected**
  - Happens in child executing shell code, before **`exec`**



I/O Redirection Example (cont.)

- **Step #2: call `dup2(4,1)`**
  - cause fd=1 (stdout) to refer to disk file pointed at by fd=4



Fun with File Descriptors (1)

```
#include "csapp.h"
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    int fd1, fd2, fd3;
    char c1, c2, c3;
    char *fname = argv[1];
    fd1 = Open(fname, O_RDONLY, 0);
    fd2 = Open(fname, O_RDONLY, 0);
    fd3 = Open(fname, O_RDONLY, 0);
    Dup2(fd2, fd3);
    Read(fd1, &c1, 1);
    Read(fd2, &c2, 1);
    Read(fd3, &c3, 1);
    printf("c1 = %c, c2 = %c, c3 = %c\n", c1, c2, c3);
    return 0;
}                                                    ffiles1.c
```

- What would this program print for file containing “abcde”?

Fun with File Descriptors (2)

```
#include "csapp.h"
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    int fd1;
    int s = getpid() & 0x1;
    char c1, c2;
    char *fname = argv[1];
    fd1 = Open(fname, O_RDONLY, 0);
    Read(fd1, &c1, 1);
    if (fork()) { /* Parent */
        sleep(s);
        Read(fd1, &c2, 1);
        printf("Parent: c1 = %c, c2 = %c\n", c1, c2);
    } else { /* Child */
        sleep(1-s);
        Read(fd1, &c2, 1);
        printf("Child: c1 = %c, c2 = %c\n", c1, c2);
    }
    return 0;
}
```

ffiles2.c

- What would this program print for file containing “abcde”?

Fun with File Descriptors (3)

```
#include "csapp.h"
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    int fd1, fd2, fd3;
    char *fname = argv[1];
    fd1 = Open(fname, O_CREAT|O_TRUNC|O_RDWR, S_IRUSR|S_IWUSR);
    Write(fd1, "pqrs", 4);
    fd3 = Open(fname, O_APPEND|O_WRONLY, 0);
    Write(fd3, "jklmn", 5);
    fd2 = dup(fd1);  /* Allocates descriptor */
    Write(fd2, "wxyz", 4);
    Write(fd3, "ef", 2);
    return 0;
}
```
ffiles3.c

- **What would be the contents of the resulting file?**

Standard I/O Functions

- **The C standard library (`libc.so`) contains a collection of higher-level *standard I/O* functions**
  - Documented in Appendix B of K&R.

- **Examples of standard I/O functions:**
  - Opening and closing files (**`fopen`** and **`fclose`**)
  - Reading and writing bytes (**`fread`** and **`fwrite`**)
  - Reading and writing text lines (**`fgets`** and **`fputs`**)
  - Formatted reading and writing (**`fscanf`** and **`fprintf`**)

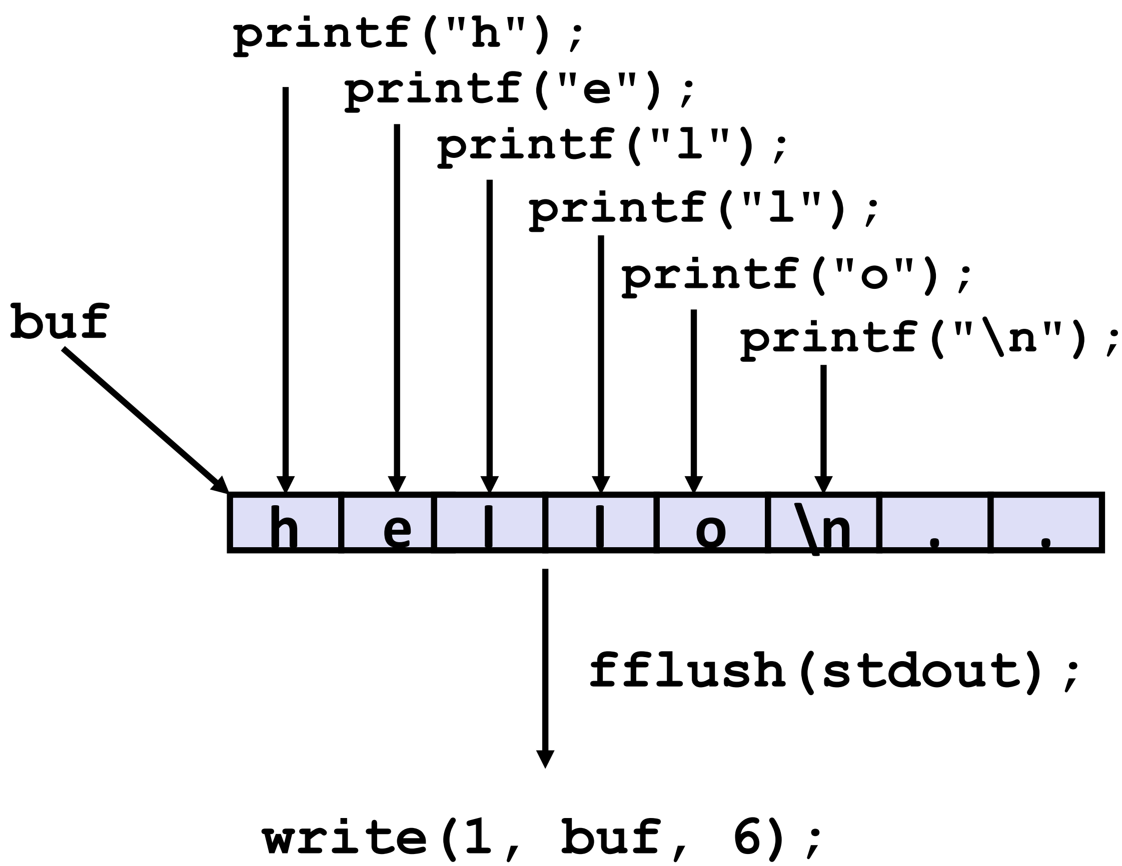
Standard I/O Streams

- **Standard I/O models open files as *streams***
  - Abstraction for a file descriptor and a buffer in memory.
  - Similar to buffered RIO
- **C programs begin life with three open streams (defined in `stdio.h`)**
  - `stdin` (standard input)
  - `stdout` (standard output)
  - `stderr` (standard error)

```
#include <stdio.h>
extern FILE *stdin;  /* standard input  (descriptor 0) */
extern FILE *stdout; /* standard output (descriptor 1) */
extern FILE *stderr; /* standard error  (descriptor 2) */

int main() {
    fprintf(stdout, "Hello, world\n");
}
```

Buffering in Standard I/O

- Standard I/O functions use buffered I/O



- Buffer flushed to output fd on "\n" or `fflush()` call

Standard I/O Buffering in Action

- You can see this buffering in action for yourself, using the always fascinating Unix `strace` program:

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main()
{
    printf("h");
    printf("e");
    printf("l");
    printf("l");
    printf("o");
    printf("\n");
    fflush(stdout);
    exit(0);
}
```

```
linux> strace ./hello
execve("./hello", ["hello"], [/* ... */]).
...
write(1, "hello\n", 6)                    = 6
...
exit_group(0)                             = ?
```

For Further Information

- **The Unix bible:**
  - W. Richard Stevens & Stephen A. Rago, ***Advanced Programming in the Unix Environment***, 2nd Edition, Addison Wesley, 2005
    - Updated from Stevens's 1993 classic text.

- **Stevens is arguably the best technical writer ever.**
  - Produced authoritative works in:
    - Unix programming
    - TCP/IP (the protocol that makes the Internet work)
    - Unix network programming
    - Unix IPC programming

- **Tragically, Stevens died Sept. 1, 1999**
  - But others have taken up his legacy

NETWORKS AS IO DEVICE