Exceptional Flow Control Part II

- 2 -

ECF Exists at All Levels of a System

Exceptions

Hardware and operating system kernel software

Process Context Switch

Hardware timer and kernel software

Signals

Kernel software and application software

Nonlocal jumps

Application code

Previous Lecture

This Lecture

Shell Programs

A shell is an application program that runs programs on behalf of the user.

```
int main()
{
    char cmdline[MAXLINE]; /* command line */
    while (1) {
        /* read */
        printf("> ");
        Fgets(cmdline, MAXLINE, stdin);
        if (feof(stdin))
            exit(0);
        /* evaluate */
        eval(cmdline);
    }
}
```

Execution is a sequence of read/evaluate steps

Shell operation

Commands typically run in foreground

Shell waits until command finishes, then reaps it

Can place commands in the background

- Running a web server
 - httpd &
 - Shell creates new process, but continues
 - Can execute subsequent command without prior process returning

Implementation of eval

void eval(char *cmdline)

```
char *argv[MAXARGS]; /* Argument list execve() */
char buf[MAXLINE]; /* Holds modified command line */
int bg; /* Should the job run in bg or fg? */
pid t pid; /* Process id */
strcpy(buf, cmdline);
bg = parseline(buf, argv);
if (argv[0] == NULL)
    return; /* Ignore empty lines */
if (!builtin command(argv)) {
    if ((pid = Fork()) == 0) { /* Child runs user job */
        if (execve(argv[0], argv, environ) < 0) {</pre>
           printf("%s: Command not found.\n", argv[0]);
            exit(0);
    }
    /* Parent waits for foreground job to terminate */
    if (!bq) {
        int status;
        if (waitpid(pid, &status, 0) < 0)</pre>
           unix error("waitfg: waitpid error");
    }
    else
       printf("%d %s", pid, cmdline);
return;
```

Problem with Simple Shell Example

Shell correctly waits for and reaps foreground jobs.

But what about background jobs?

- Will become zombies when they terminate.
- Will never be reaped because shell (typically) will not terminate.
- Creates a memory leak that will eventually crash the kernel when it runs out of memory.

Solution: Reaping background jobs requires an alert mechanism.

- The kernel will interrupt regular processing to alert us when a background process completes
- In Unix, the alert mechanism is called a *signal*

Signals

A signal is a small message that notifies a process that an event of some type has occurred in the system.

- Kernel abstraction for exceptions and interrupts.
- Sent from the kernel (sometimes at the request of another process) to a process.
- Different signals are identified by small integer IDs (1-30)

Signal basics

Sending a signal

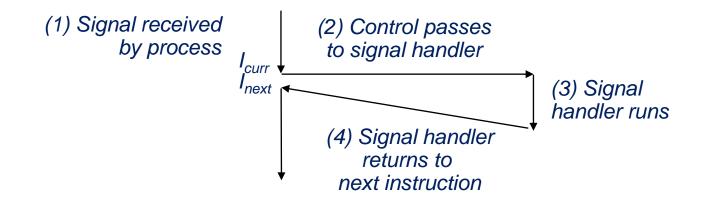
Kernel sends (delivers) a signal to a destination process by updating some state in the context of the destination process.

ID	Name	Default Action	Corresponding Event
2	SIGINT	Terminate	User typed ctrl-c
9	SIGKILL	Terminate	Kill program (cannot override or ignore)
11	SIGSEGV	Terminate & Dump	Segmentation violation
14	SIGALRM	Terminate	Timer signal
17	SIGCHLD	Ignore	Child stopped or terminated

Signal basics

Receiving a signal

- A destination process receives a signal when it is forced by the kernel to react in some way to the delivery of the signal
- Akin to a hardware exception handler being called in response to an asynchronous interrupt.



Signal terminology

A signal is *pending* if it has been sent but not yet received.

- There can be at most one pending signal of any particular type.
- Important: Signals are not queued
 - If a process has a pending signal of type k, then subsequent signals of type k that are sent to that process are discarded.

A pending signal is received at most once!

A process can **block** the receipt of certain signals.

Blocked signals can eventually be delivered, but will not be received until the signal is unblocked.

Signal implementation

Kernel maintains pending and blocked bit vectors in the context of each process.

- pending represents the set of pending signals
 - Kernel sets bit k in pending whenever a signal of type k is delivered.
 - Kernel clears bit k in pending whenever a signal of type k is received
- blocked represents the set of blocked signals
 - Can be set and cleared by the application using the sigprocmask function.

C interface

kill()

- Sends signal number sig to process pid if pid is greater than 0
- Sends signal number sig to process group pid if pid is less than 0
- Returns 0 on success, -1 on error

#include <sys/types.h>
#include <signal.h>
int kill(pid_t pid, int sig);

Sending Signals with kill Function

```
linux> ./sigint nocatch
                                                       Killing process 18860
void fork12()
                                                       Killing process 18861
{
                                                       Killing process 18862
    pid t pid[N];
                                                       Killing process 18863
    int i:
                                                       Killing process 18864
    int child status;
                                                       Killing process 18865
                                                       Killing process 18866
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
                                                       Killing process 18867
        if ((pid[i] = fork()) == 0) {
                                                       Killing process 18868
             /* Child: Infinite Loop */
                                                       Killing process 18869
             while(1)
                                                        Child 18862 terminated abnormally
                                                        Child 18863 terminated abnormally
         }
                                                        Child 18860 terminated abnormally
                                                        Child 18866 terminated abnormally
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
                                                       Child 18867 terminated abnormally
        printf("Killing process %d\n", pid[i]);
                                                       Child 18861 terminated abnormally
        kill(pid[i], SIGINT);
                                                       Child 18869 terminated abnormally
                                                        Child 18865 terminated abnormally
    }
                                                        Child 18868 terminated abnormally
                                                       Child 18864 terminated abnormally
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
                                                        linux>
        pid t wpid = wait(&child status);
        if (WIFEXITED(child status))
             printf("Child %d terminated with exit status %d\n",
                     wpid, WEXITSTATUS(child status));
        else
             printf("Child %d terminated abnormally\n", wpid);
    }
```

¹³-http://thefengs.com/wuchang/courses/cs201/class/17/sigint_nocatch

Receiving Signals

Kernel checks signals for a process *p* when it is ready to pass control to it

Kernel computes pnb = pending & ~blocked

The set of pending nonblocked signals for process p

if (pnb == 0)

Pass control to next instruction in the logical flow for p.

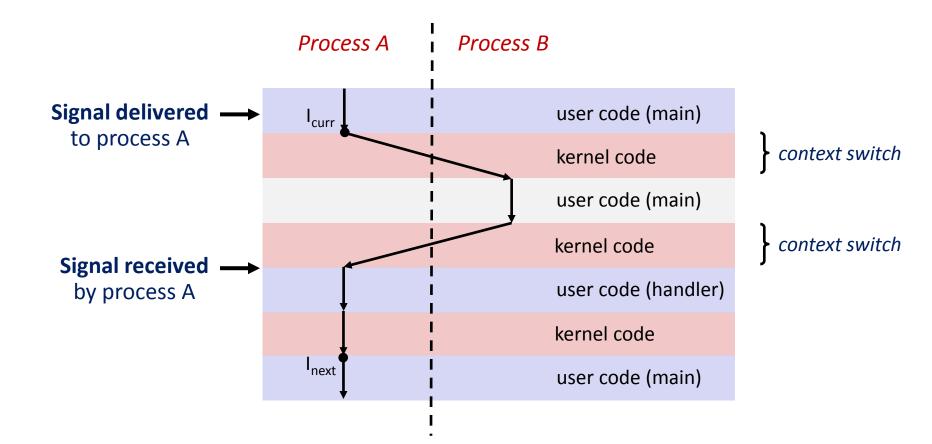
else

- Choose least significant nonzero bit k in pnb and force process p to receive signal k.
- The receipt of the signal triggers some action by p

Repeat for all nonzero k in pnb.

Pass control to next instruction in logical flow for p

Signal handling



Default Actions

Each signal type has a predefined *default action*, which is one of:

- The process terminates
- The process terminates and dumps core.
- The process stops until restarted by a SIGCONT signal.
- The process ignores the signal.

Custom Signal Handlers

The signal function modifies the default action associated with the receipt of signal signum:

- handler_t *signal(int signum, handler_t *handler)
- Handler typically the address of a signal handler
 - Called when process receives signal of type signum
 - Referred to as "installing" the handler.
 - Executing handler is called "*catching*" or "*handling*" the signal.
 - When the handler executes its return statement, control passes back to instruction of the process that was interrupted by receipt of the signal.

Signal Handling Example

```
void sigint handler(int sig) /* SIGINT handler */
{
    printf("So you think you can stop the bomb with ctrl-c, do you?\n");
    sleep(2);
   printf("Well...");
    fflush(stdout);
    sleep(1);
    printf("OK. :-)\n");
    exit(0);
}
int main()
{
    /* Install the SIGINT handler */
    if (signal(SIGINT, sigint handler) == SIG ERR)
        unix error("signal error");
    /* Wait for the receipt of a signal */
    pause();
    return 0;
}
```

Signal Handling Example

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <signal.h>
#include <unistd.h>
int count = 5;
void handler(int sig) {
    printf("You think hitting ctrl-c works? %d more left!\n", count);
    count--;
    if (count == 0)
        exit(0);
}
int main() {
    signal(SIGINT, handler); /* installs ctrl-c handler */
    while (1) {}
```

```
linux> ./sigint
  ^CYou think hitting ctrl-c works? 5 more left!
  ^CYou think hitting ctrl-c works? 4 more left!
  ^CYou think hitting ctrl-c works? 3 more left!
  ^CYou think hitting ctrl-c works? 2 more left!
  ^CYou think hitting ctrl-c works? 1 more left!
linux>
```

⁻¹⁹⁻ http://thefengs.com/wuchang/courses/cs201/class/17/sigint_count

Signal Handling Example

```
void int handler(int sig) {
    printf("Process %d received signal %d\n",
            getpid(), sig);
    exit(0);
}
int main() {
    pid t pid[N];
    int i, child status;
    signal(SIGINT, int handler);
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
          if ((pid[i] = fork()) == 0)
               while(1); /* Child infinite loop */
    /* Parent terminates the child processes */
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
          printf("Killing process %d\n", pid[i]);
          kill(pid[i], SIGINT);
    }
    /* Parent reaps terminated children */
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
          pid t wpid = wait(&child status);
          if (WIFEXITED(child status))
            printf("Child %d terminated with exit status %d\n",
                  wpid, WEXITSTATUS(child status));
          else
            printf("Child %d terminated abnormally\n", wpid);
    }
```

}

linux> ./forks 13 Killing process 24973 Killing process 24974 Killing process 24975 Killing process 24976 Killing process 24977 Process 24977 received signal 2 Child 24977 terminated with exit status 0 Process 24976 received signal 2 Child 24976 terminated with exit status 0 Process 24975 received signal 2 Child 24975 terminated with exit status 0 Process 24974 received signal 2 Child 24974 terminated with exit status 0 Process 24973 received signal 2 Child 24973 terminated with exit status 0 linux>

⁻²⁰⁻ http://thefengs.com/wuchang/courses/cs201/class/17/sigint_catch

Signal Handler Funkiness

```
int ccount = N;
void child handler(int sig) {
    int child status;
   pid t pid;
   printf("In child handler\n");
    if ((pid = wait(&child status)) > 0) {
        ccount--;
       printf("Received signal %d from process
%d\n", sig, pid);
}
int main() {
   pid t pid[N];
    int i:
    signal(SIGCHLD, child handler);
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
        if ((pid[i] = fork()) == 0) {
            /* Child: Exit */
            exit(0);
    while (ccount > 0)
        pause();/* Suspend until signal occurs */
    exit(0);
}
```

Programmer wants parent to "wait" on each child before exiting

Spot the bug Suggest a fix

⁻²¹ http://thefengs.com/wuchang/courses/cs201/class/17/sigchld_broken

Signal Handler Funkiness

```
int ccount = N:
void child handler(int sig) {
    int child status;
    pid t pid;
    printf("In child handler\n");
    if ((pid = wait(&child status)) > 0) {
        ccount--;
       printf("Received signal %d from process
%d\n", sig, pid);
}
int main() {
    pid t pid[N];
    int i:
    signal(SIGCHLD, child handler);
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
        if ((pid[i] = fork()) == 0) {
            /* Child: Exit */
            exit(0);
    while (ccount > 0)
        pause();/* Suspend until signal occurs */
    exit(0);
}
```

Pending signals are not queued

- Each signal type has a single bit indicating whether or not signal is pending even if multiple processes have sent a signal
- Parent can hang waiting for more signals if two are delivered at the same time (and only one wait is called in handler)
- Must check for all terminated children

Call wait in loop

⁻²² http://thefengs.com/wuchang/courses/cs201/class/17/sigchld_broken

Signal Handler Funkiness

```
int ccount = N;
void child handler(int sig) {
    int child status;
    pid t pid;
    printf("In child handler\n");
    while ((pid = waitpid(-1, &status, WNOHANG))> 0) {
        ccount--;
        printf("Received signal %d from process %d\n", sig, pid);
    }
}
                                                      linux> ./sigchld nog
                                                      In child handler
int main() {
                                                      Received signal 17 from process 19415
    pid t pid[N];
                                                      In child handler
    int i;
                                                      Received signal 17 from process 19416
                                                      Received signal 17 from process 19417
    signal(SIGCHLD, child handler);
                                                      In child handler
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
                                                      Received signal 17 from process 19418
        if ((pid[i] = fork()) == 0) {
                                                      Received signal 17 from process 19419
             /* Child: Exit */
                                                      In child handler
             exit(0);
                                                      Received signal 17 from process 19420
                                                      Received signal 17 from process 19421
                                                      In child handler
    while (ccount > 0)
                                                      Received signal 17 from process 19422
        pause();/* Suspend until signal occurs */
                                                      Received signal 17 from process 19423
    exit(0);
                                                      In child handler
}
                                                      Received signal 17 from process 19424
                                                      linux>
```

⁻²³⁻ http://thefengs.com/wuchang/courses/cs201/class/17/sigchld_noq

Alarm signal

Similar to sleep, but delivers a signal instead of returning control to program

C interface

- #include <unistd.h>
- unsigned int alarm(unsigned int secs);
- Sends a SIGALRM signal to current process after a specified time interval has elapsed
- Returns remaining secs of previous alarm or 0 if no previous alarm

Example

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <signal.h>
int beeps = 0;
/* SIGALRM handler */
void handler(int sig) {
 printf("BEEP\n");
  fflush(stdout);
  if (++beeps < 5)
    alarm(1);
  else {
    printf("BOOM!\n");
    exit(0);
  }
}
```

```
linux> a.out
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BOOM!
bass>
```

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Chapter summary

Exceptions

Hardware and operating system kernel software

Concurrent processes

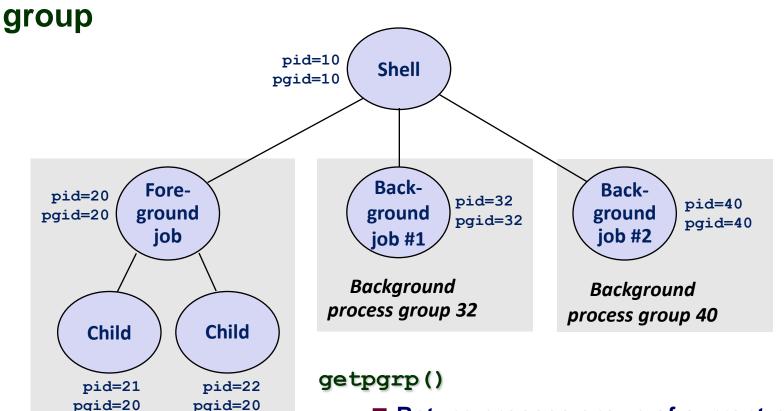
Hardware timer and kernel software

Signals

Kernel software

Extra slides

Sending Signals: Process Groups Every process belongs to exactly one process



Return process group of current process

setpgid()

Change process group of a process (see text for details)

Foreground

process group 20

Sending Signals with /bin/kill

/bin/kill program sends arbitrary signal to a process or process group

Examples

- /bin/kill -9 24818 Send SIGKILL to process 24818
- /bin/kill -9 -24817 Send SIGKILL to every process in process group 24817

linux> ./forks 16				
Child1: pid=24818 pgrp=24817				
Child2: pid=24819 pgrp=24817				
linux> ps				
PID TTY TIME CMD				
24788 pts/2 00:00:00 tcsh				
24818 pts/2 00:00:02 forks				
24819 pts/2 00:00:02 forks				
24820 pts/2 00:00:00 ps				
linux> /bin/kill -9 -24817				
linux> ps				
PID TTY TIME CMD				
24788 pts/2 00:00:00 tcsh				
24823 pts/2 00:00:00 ps				
linux>				

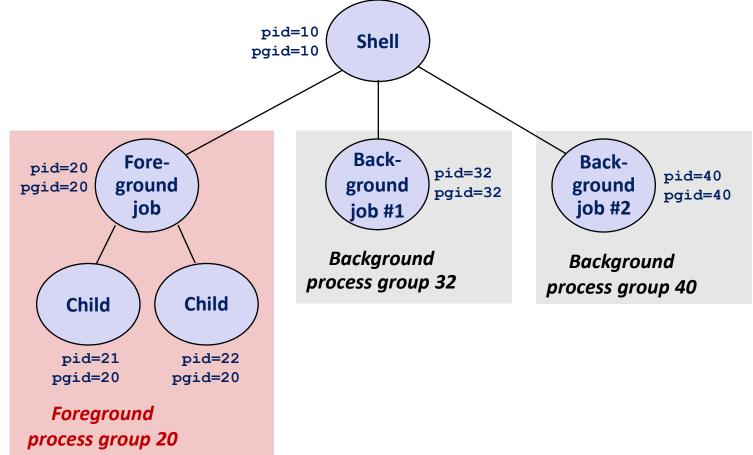
Sending Signals from the Keyboard

Typing ctrl-c (ctrl-z) sends a SIGINT (SIGSTP) to every job in the foreground process group.

SIGTERM – default action is to terminate each process

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SIGSTOP – default action is to stop (suspend) each process



Example of ctrl-c and ctrl-z

```
linux> ./forks 17
Child: pid=24868 pgrp=24867
Parent: pid=24867 pgrp=24867
 <typed ctrl-z>
Suspended
linux> ps a
  PID TTY
              STAT
                     TIME COMMAND
                     0:00 -usr/local/bin/tcsh -i
24788 pts/2 S
                     0:01 ./forks 17
24867 pts/2
           Т
24868 pts/2
           Т
                     0:01 ./forks 17
24869 pts/2
             R
                     0:00 ps a
bass> fg
./forks 17
<typed ctrl-c>
linux> ps a
  PID TTY
              STAT
                     TIME COMMAND
24788 pts/2
                     0:00 -usr/local/bin/tcsh -i
           S
24870 pts/2
             R
                     0:00 ps a
```

STAT (process state) Legend: S: sleeping T: stopped R: running

Blocking and Unblocking Signals

Implicit blocking mechanism

- Kernel blocks any pending signals of type currently being handled.
- E.g., A SIGINT handler can't be interrupted by another SIGINT

Explicit blocking and unblocking mechanism

sigprocmask function

Supporting functions

sigemptyset - Create empty set
sigfillset - Add every signal number to set
sigaddset - Add signal number to set
-32_ sigdelset - Delete signal number from set

Temporarily Blocking Signals

Safe Signal Handling

Handlers are tricky because they are concurrent with main program and share the same global data structures.

Shared data structures can become corrupted.

We'll explore concurrency issues later in the term.

For now here are some guidelines to help you avoid trouble.

Guidelines for Writing Safe Handlers

G0: Keep your handlers as simple as possible e.g., Set a global flag and return

- G1: Call only async-signal-safe functions in your handlers printf, sprintf, malloc, and exit are not safe!
- G2: Save and restore errno on entry and exit So that other handlers don't overwrite your value of errno
- G3: Protect accesses to shared data structures by temporarily blocking all signals. To prevent possible corruption
- G4: Declare global variables as volatile To prevent compiler from storing them in a register

G5: Declare global flags as volatile sig_atomic_t flag: variable that is only read or written (e.g. flag = 1, not flag++) Flag declared this way does not need to be protected like other globals

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Async-Signal-Safety

Function is *async-signal-safe* if either reentrant (e.g., all variables stored on stack frame, CS:APP3e 12.7.2) or non-interruptible by signals.

Posix guarantees 117 functions to be async-signal-safe

Source: "man 7 signal"

Popular functions on the list:

_exit, write, wait, waitpid, sleep, kill

Popular functions that are not on the list:

printf, sprintf, malloc, exit

Unfortunate fact: write is the only async-signal-safe output function

```
Safely Generating Formatted
Output
Use the reentrant SIO (Safe I/O library) from csapp.c in
your handlers.
```

ssize_t sio_puts(char s[]) /* Put string */

ssize_t sio_putl(long v) /* Put long */

void sio_error(char s[]) /* Put msg & exit */

```
void sigint_handler(int sig) /* Safe SIGINT handler */
{
    Sio_puts("So you think you can stop the bomb with ctrl-
c, do you?\n");
    sleep(2);
    Sio_puts("Well...");
    sleep(1);
    Sio_puts("OK. :-)\n");
    _exit(0);
}
```

sigintsafe.c

```
int ccount = 0;
void child handler(int sig) {
    int olderrno = errno;
    pid t pid;
    if ((pid = wait(NULL)) < 0)</pre>
        Sio error("wait error");
    ccount--;
    Sio puts("Handler reaped child ");
    Sio putl((long)pid);
    Sio puts (" \n");
    sleep(1);
    errno = olderrno;
}
void fork14() {
    pid t pid[N];
    int i;
    ccount = N;
    Signal(SIGCHLD, child handler);
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
        if ((pid[i] = Fork()) == 0) {
            Sleep(1);
            exit(0); /* Child exits */
        }
    while (ccount > 0) /* Parent spins */
        ;
}
```

Correct Signal Handling

Pending signals are not queued

For each signal type, one bit indicates whether or not signal is pending...

...thus at most one pending signal of any particular type.

You can't use signals to count events, such as children terminating.

whaleshark> ./forks 14
Handler reaped child 23240
Handler reaped child 23241

Correct Signal Handling

Must wait for all terminated child processes

Put wait in a loop to reap all terminated children

```
void child handler2(int sig)
{
    int olderrno = errno;
    pid t pid;
    while ((pid = wait(NULL)) > 0) {
        ccount--;
        Sio puts("Handler reaped child ");
        Sio putl((long)pid);
        Sio puts(" \n");
    if (errno != ECHILD)
        Sio error("wait error");
    errno = olderrno;
                                whaleshark> ./forks 15
}
                                Handler reaped child 23246
                                Handler reaped child 23247
                                Handler reaped child 23248
                                Handler reaped child 23249
                                Handler reaped child 23250
                                whaleshark>
```

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Portable Signal Handling

Ugh! Different versions of Unix can have different signal handling semantics

- Some older systems restore action to default after catching signal
- Some interrupted system calls can return with errno == EINTR
- Some systems don't block signals of the type being handled

```
Solution: signaction
handler_t *Signal(int signum, handler_t *handler)
{
    struct signation action, old_action;
    action.sa_handler = handler;
    sigemptyset(&action.sa_mask); /* Block sigs of type being handled */
    action.sa_flags = SA_RESTART; /* Restart syscalls if possible */
    if (signum, &action, &old_action) < 0)
        unix_error("Signal error");
    return (old_action.sa_handler);
}</pre>
```

Synchronizing Flows to Avoid Races

Simple shell with a subtle synchronization error because it assumes parent runs before child.

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    int pid;
    sigset t mask all, prev all;
    Sigfillset(&mask all);
    Signal(SIGCHLD, handler);
    initjobs(); /* Initialize the job list */
    while (1) {
        if ((pid = Fork()) == 0) { /* Child */
            Execve("/bin/date", argv, NULL);
        Sigprocmask(SIG BLOCK, &mask all, &prev all); /* Parent */
        addjob(pid); /* Add the child to the job list */
        Sigprocmask(SIG SETMASK, &prev all, NULL);
    exit(0);
```

Synchronizing Flows to Avoid Races

SIGCHLD handler for a simple shell

```
void handler(int sig)
{
    int olderrno = errno;
    sigset t mask all, prev all;
    pid t pid;
    Sigfillset(&mask all);
    while ((pid = waitpid(-1, NULL, 0)) > 0) { /* Reap child */
        Sigprocmask(SIG BLOCK, &mask all, &prev all);
        deletejob(pid); /* Delete the child from the job list */
        Sigprocmask(SIG SETMASK, &prev all, NULL);
    if (errno != ECHILD)
        Sio error("waitpid error");
    errno = olderrno;
}
```

procmask1.c

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Corrected Shell Program without Race

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
   int pid;
    sigset t mask all, mask one, prev one;
    Sigfillset(&mask all);
    Sigemptyset(&mask one);
    Sigaddset(&mask one, SIGCHLD);
    Signal(SIGCHLD, handler);
    initjobs(); /* Initialize the job list */
   while (1) {
        Sigprocmask(SIG BLOCK, &mask one, &prev one); /* Block SIGCHLD */
        if ((pid = Fork()) == 0) { /* Child process */
            Sigprocmask(SIG SETMASK, &prev one, NULL); /* Unblock SIGCHLD */
            Execve("/bin/date", argv, NULL);
        Sigprocmask(SIG BLOCK, &mask all, NULL); /* Parent process */
    addjob(pid); /* Add the child to the job list */
        Sigprocmask(SIG SETMASK, &prev one, NULL); /* Unblock SIGCHLD */
   exit(0);
```

Explicitly Waiting for Signals

Handlers for program explicitly waiting for SIGCHLD to arrive.

```
volatile sig_atomic_t pid;
void sigchld_handler(int s)
{
    int olderrno = errno;
    pid = Waitpid(-1, NULL, 0); /* Main is waiting for nonzero pid */
    errno = olderrno;
}
void sigint_handler(int s)
{
}
```

waitforsignal.c

Explicitly Waiting for Signals

```
Similar to a shell waiting
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
                                               for a foreground job to
    sigset t mask, prev;
                                                     terminate.
    Signal(SIGCHLD, sigchld handler);
    Signal(SIGINT, sigint handler);
    Sigemptyset(&mask);
    Sigaddset(&mask, SIGCHLD);
    while (1) {
    Sigprocmask(SIG BLOCK, &mask, &prev); /* Block SIGCHLD */
    if (Fork() == 0) /* Child */
            exit(0);
    /* Parent */
   pid = 0;
    Sigprocmask(SIG SETMASK, &prev, NULL); /* Unblock SIGCHLD */
    /* Wait for SIGCHLD to be received (wasteful!) */
    while (!pid)
    /* Do some work after receiving SIGCHLD */
       printf(".");
    }
    exit(0);
}
```

Explicitly Waiting for Signals

Program is correct, but very wasteful

Other options:

while (!pid) /* Race! */
 pause();

while (!pid) /* Too slow! */
 sleep(1);

Solution: sigsuspend

Waiting for Signals with sigsuspend

int sigsuspend(const sigset_t *mask)

Equivalent to atomic (uninterruptable) version of:

sigprocmask(SIG_BLOCK, &mask, &prev);
pause();
sigprocmask(SIG_SETMASK, &prev, NULL);

Waiting for Signals with

```
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    sigset t mask, prev;
    Signal(SIGCHLD, sigchld handler);
    Signal(SIGINT, sigint handler);
    Sigemptyset(&mask);
    Sigaddset(&mask, SIGCHLD);
   while (1) {
        Sigprocmask(SIG BLOCK, &mask, &prev); /* Block SIGCHLD */
        if (Fork() == 0) /* Child */
            exit(0);
       /* Wait for SIGCHLD to be received */
       pid = 0;
        while (!pid)
            Sigsuspend(&prev);
       /* Optionally unblock SIGCHLD */
        Sigprocmask(SIG SETMASK, &prev, NULL);
    /* Do some work after receiving SIGCHLD */
        printf(".");
   exit(0);
}
```

Nonlocal Jumps: setjmp/longjmp

Powerful (but dangerous) user-level mechanism for transferring control to an arbitrary location.

- Controlled way to break the procedure call/return discipline
- Useful for error recovery and signal handling

int setjmp(jmp_buf j)

- Must be called before longjmp
- Identifies a return site for a subsequent longjmp.
- Called once, returns one or more times

Implementation:

- Remember where you are by storing the current register context, stack pointer, and PC value in jmp_buf.
- Return 0

setjmp/longjmp (cont)

void longjmp(jmp_buf j, int i)

- Meaning:
 - return from the setjmp remembered by jump buffer j again...
 - ...this time returning i instead of 0
- Called after setjmp
- Called once, but never returns

longjmp Implementation:

- Restore register context from jump buffer j
- Set %eax (the return value) to i
- Jump to the location indicated by the PC stored in jump buf j.

setjmp/longjmp Example

```
#include <setjmp.h>
jmp buf buf;
main() {
   if (setjmp(buf) != 0) {
      printf("back in main due to an error\n");
   else
      printf("first time through\n");
   p1(); /* p1 calls p2, which calls p3 */
}
• • •
p3() {
   <error checking code>
   if (error)
      longjmp(buf, 1)
}
```

Putting It All Together: A Program That Restarts Itself When ctrl-c'd

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <signal.h>
#include <setjmp.h>
```

```
sigjmp buf buf;
```

```
void handler(int sig) {
   longjmp(buf, 1);
}
```

```
main() {
    signal(SIGINT, handler);
```

```
if (setjmp(buf)==0)
    printf("starting\n");
else
    printf("restarting\n");
```

```
while(1) {
    sleep(1);
    printf("processing...\n");
  }
}
```

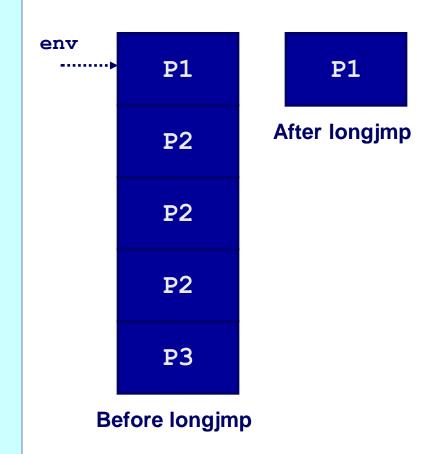
```
bass> a.out
starting
processing...
processing...
                      -Ctrl-c
restarting
processing...
processing...
processing...
                      ·Ctrl-c
restarting
processing...
                      -Ctrl-c
restarting
processing...
processing...
```

Limitations of Nonlocal Jumps

Works within stack discipline

- Can only long jump to environment of function that has been called but not yet completed
- Good: P1's stack frame still valid

```
jmp buf env;
P1()
{
  if (setjmp(env)) {
    /* Long Jump to here */
  } else {
    P2();
  }
}
P2()
{ . . . P2(); . . . P3(); }
P3()
{
  longjmp(env, 1);
}
```

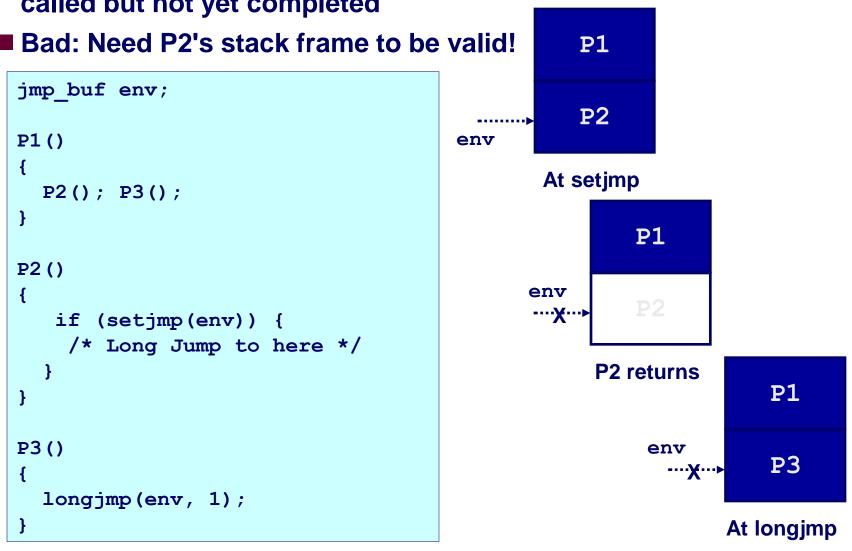


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Limitations of Long Jumps (cont.) Works within stack discipline

Can only long jump to environment of function that has been called but not yet completed

```
jmp buf env;
P1()
{
  P2(); P3();
}
P2()
{
   if (setjmp(env)) {
    /* Long Jump to here */
  }
}
P3()
{
  longjmp(env, 1);
}
```



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Summary

Signals provide process-level exception handling

- Can generate from user programs
- Can define effect by declaring signal handler

Some caveats

- Very high overhead
 - >10,000 clock cycles
 - Only use for exceptional conditions
- Don't have queues
 - Just one bit for each pending signal type

Nonlocal jumps provide exceptional control flow within process

Within constraints of stack discipline