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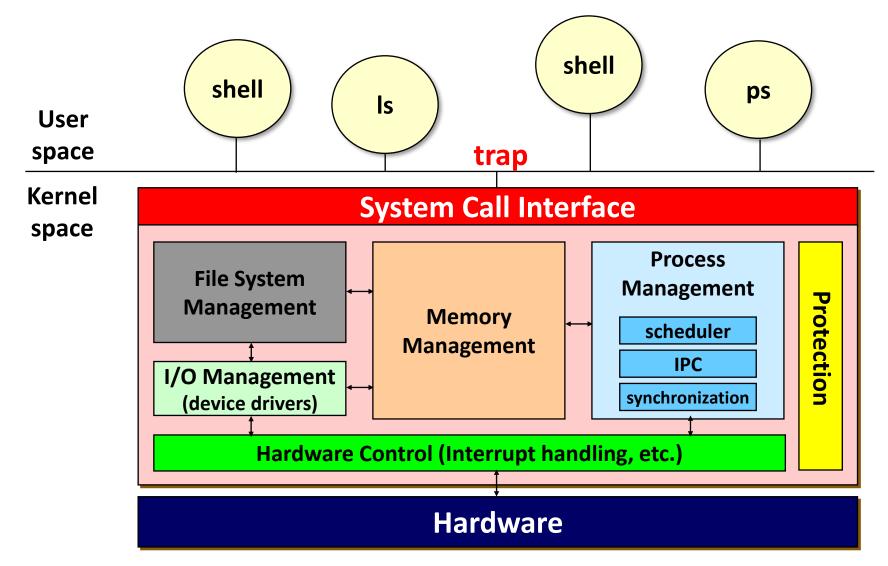
Seoul National University

Fall 2023

Processes



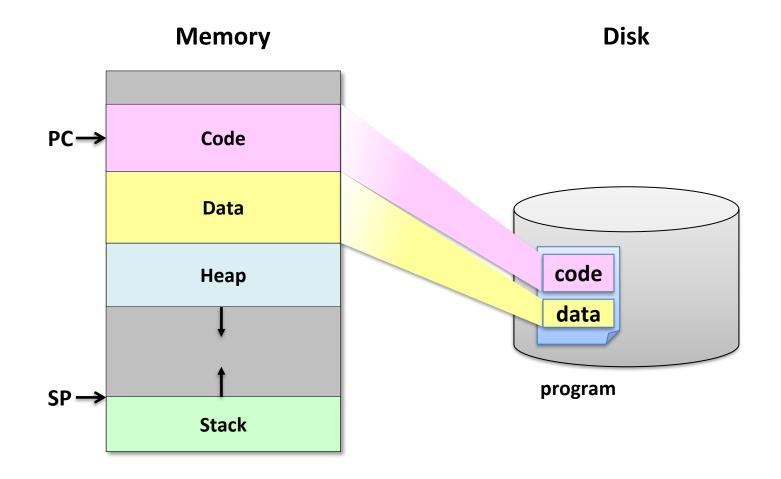
OS Internals



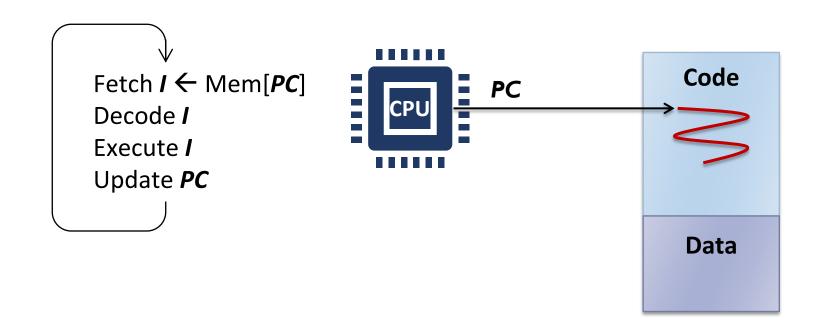
What is a Process?

- A(An) _____ of a program in execution
- Java analogy:
 - Class → "program" (static)
 - Object → "process" (dynamic)
- The basic unit of protection
- A process is identified using its process ID (PID)
- A process includes
 - CPU context (registers)
 - OS resources (address space, open files, etc.)
 - Other information (PID, state, owner, etc.)

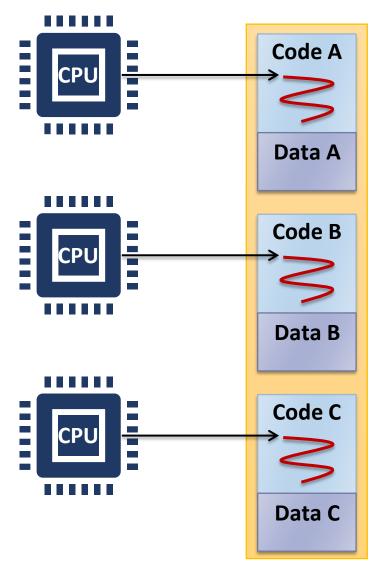
From Program to Process



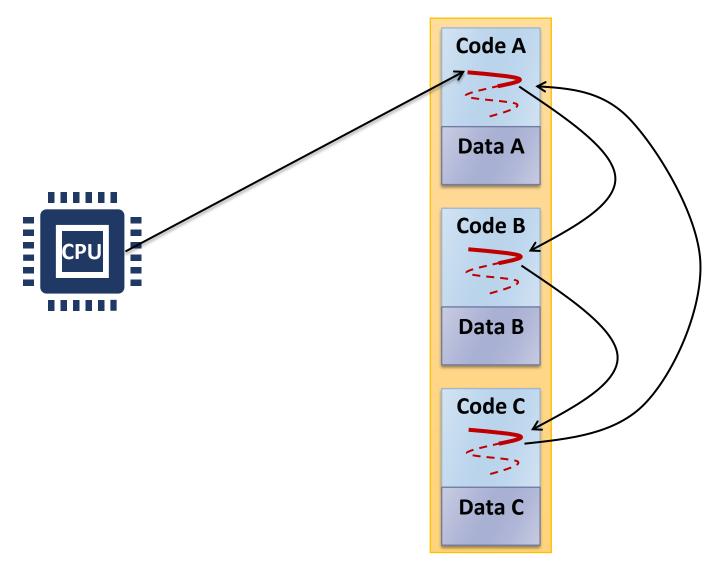
Running a Process



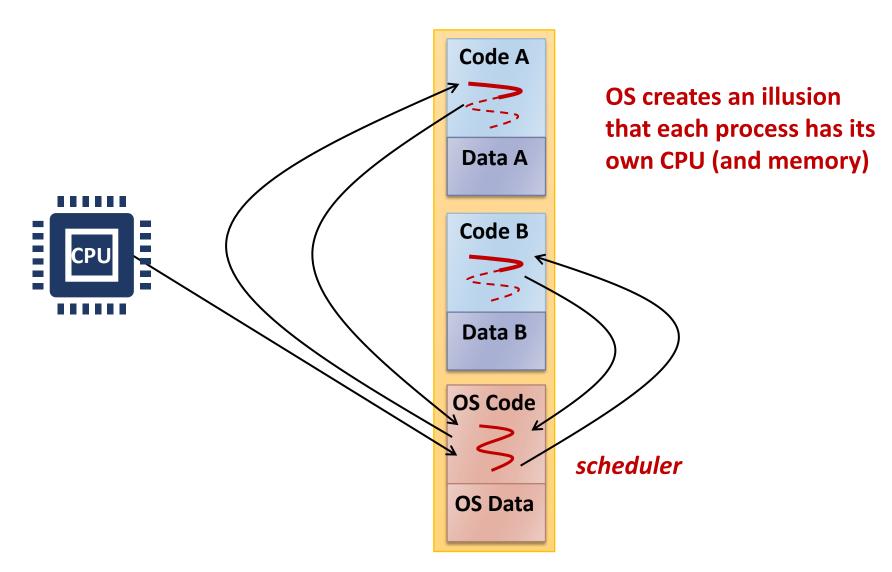
Running Multiple Processes



Interleaving Multiple Processes



Virtualizing the CPU



Example: Creating a Process

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

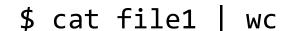
int main() {
    int pid;

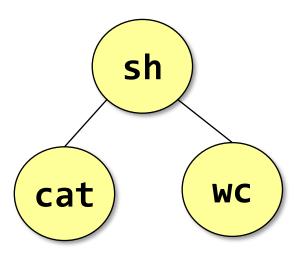
    if ((pid = fork()) == 0)
        printf ("Child of %d is %d\n", getppid(), getpid()); /* child */
    else
        printf ("I am %d. My child is %d\n", getpid(), pid); /* parent */
}
```

```
$ ./a.out
I am 31098. My child is 31099.
Child of 31098 is 31099.
$ ./a.out
Child of 31100 is 31101.
I am 31100. My child is 31101.
```

Process Hierarchy

- Parent-child relationship
 - One process can create another process
 - Unix calls the hierarchy a "process group"
 - Windows has no concept of process hierarchy
- Browsing a list of processes:
 - ps in Unix
 - Task Manager (taskmgr) in Windows





Process Creation

fork()

- Creates a new process cloning the parent process
 - Parent inherits most of resources and privileges: open files, UID, etc.
 - Child also duplicates the parent's address space
- Parent may either wait for the child to finish (using wait()), or it may continue in parallel
- Shells or GUIs use this system call internally
- Called once, returned twice

exec()

- Replaces the current process image with a new program
- Windows: CreateProcess() = fork() + exec()
- Called once, never returns

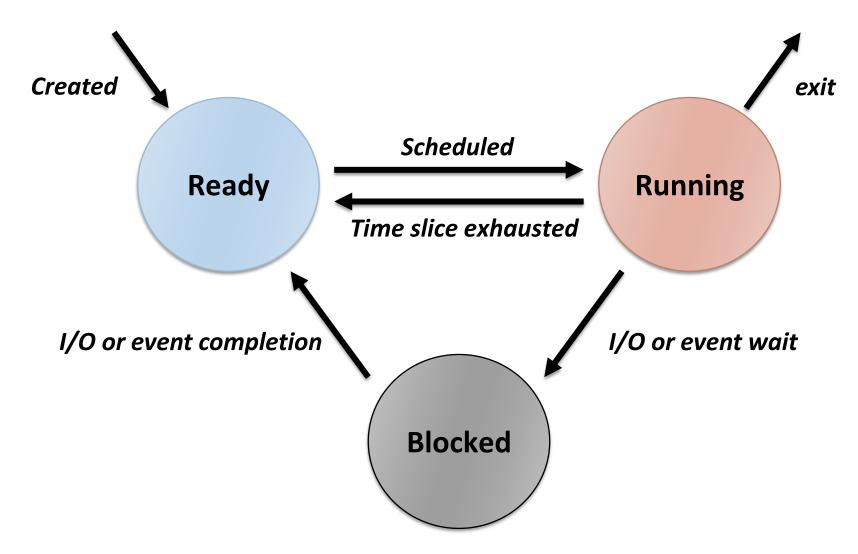
Process Termination

- Normal exit (voluntary)
- Error exit (voluntary)
- Fatal error (involuntary)
 - Segmentation fault illegal memory access
 - Protection fault
 - Exceed allocated resources, etc.
- Killed by another process (involuntary)
 - By receiving a signal
- process: terminated, but not removed

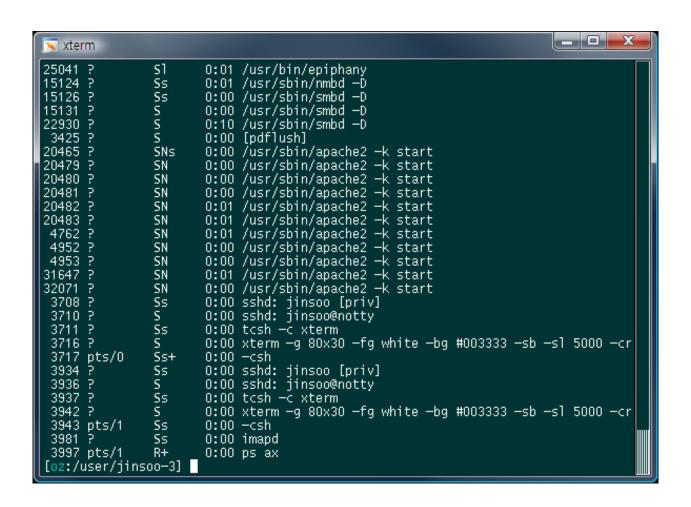
Simplified Shell

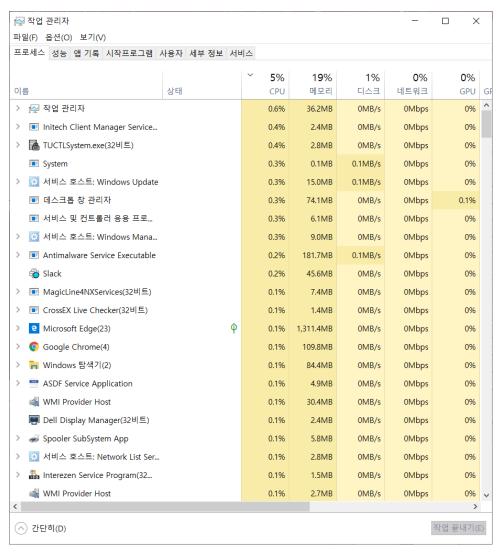
```
int main(void)
    char cmdline[MAXLINE];
    char *argv[MAXARGS];
    pid t pid;
    int status;
    while (getcmd(cmdline, MAXLINE) >= 0) {
        parsecmd(cmdline, argv);
        if (!builtin_command(argv)) {
            if ((pid = fork()) == 0) {
                if (execv(argv[0], argv) < 0) {</pre>
                    printf("%s: command not found\n", argv[0]);
                    exit(0);
            waitpid(pid, &status, 0);
```

Process State Transitions



Processes





Implementing Processes

- PCB (Process Control Block) or Process Descriptor
 - Each PCB represents a process
 - Contains all the information about a process
 - CPU registers
 - PID, PPID, process group, priority, process state, signals
 - CPU scheduling information
 - Memory management information
 - Accounting information
 - File management information
 - I/O status information
 - Credentials
 - struct task_struct in Linux: 6528 bytes as of Linux 6.2.0
 - struct proc in xv6: 360 bytes

Context Switch

- The act of switching CPU from one process to another
- Administrative overhead
 - Saving and restoring registers and memory maps
 - Flushing and reloading the memory cache
 - Updating various tables and lists, etc.
- The overhead depends on hardware support
 - Multiple register sets in UltraSPARC
 - Advanced memory management techniques may require extra data to be switched with each context (e.g., page tables, TLB, etc.)
- 100s or 1000s of switches/sec typically

Example: Context Switches in Linux

- Total uptime: 10,738,129.85 sec (124 days)
- Total 6,770,575,007 context switches
- Average 630.5 context switches / sec
- Roughly I58 context switches / sec / CPU

```
/proc/uptime
/proc/stat
(for all 4 CPUs)
```

```
[sys:~-2016] cat /proc/uptime
10738129.85 42606450.99
[sys:~-2017] grep ctxt /proc/stat
ctxt 6770575007
[sys:~-2018] echo "6770575007 / 10738129.85" | bc -1
630.51714791845248546701
[sys:~-2019] echo "630.51714791845248546701 / 4" | bc -1
157.62928697961312136675
[sys:~-2020]
```

Performing Context Switch in xv6

Process RISC-V Kernel



- Timer interrupt
 ② Set sepc ← pc, scause
 Disable interrupt
 Change to kernel mode
 Jump to trap handler @ stvec
- Save user regs to trapframe(A)
 Change to kernel page table
 Make A's state RUNNABLE
 Save A's context to PCB(A)
 Run scheduler()
 Make B's state RUNNING
 Restore B's context from PCB(B)

Restore user regs from trapframe(B)

4 Change to user page table

return-from-trap

Process B

5 Move back to user mode Enable interrupt Set pc ← sepc

Process State Queues

- The OS maintains a collection of queues that represent the state of all processes in the system
 - Ready queue (or run queue)
 - Wait queue(s): one queue for each type of event (device, timer, message, ...)
- Each PCB is queued onto a state queue according to its current state
 - As a process changes state, its PCB is migrated between the various queues

Implementing fork()

int fork()

- Creates and initializes a new PCB
- Creates and initializes a new address space
- Initializes the address space with a copy of the entire contents of the address space of the parent
- Initializes the kernel resources to point to the resources used by the parent (e.g., open files)
- Places the PCB on the ready queue
- Returns the child's PID to the parent, and zero to the child

Implementing exec()

```
int execv(char *prog, char *argv[])
```

- Stops the current process
- Loads the program "prog" into the process's address space
- Initializes hardware context and "args" for the new program
- Places the PCB on the ready queue

- exec() does not create a new process
- What does it mean for exec() to return?

Policy vs. Mechanism

Policy

- What should be done?
- Policy decisions must be made for all resource allocation and scheduling problems
- e.g., What is the next process to run?

Mechanism

- How to do something?
- The tool for implementing a set of policies
- e.g., How to make multiple processes run at once?

Separating Policy from Mechanism

- A key principle in operating system design
- Policies are likely to change depending on workloads and also across places or over time
- A general mechanism, separated from policy, is more desirable
- Allows to build a more modular OS
- Enables extensible systems User-specific policies?