

C (cont.) & Intro to Processes

Computer Operating Systems, Spring 2024

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Emily Shen	Julius Snipes	Ryan Boyle	Zhiyan Lu



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❖ How are you?

Administrivia

- ❖ Project 0 penn-parser:
 - out later tonight
 - “due” Tuesday Jan 30
 - Actual due date: submit with penn-shredder, but you need to finish it before penn-shredder will work anyways.
 - Your first C programming assignment

- ❖ Pre-semester survey:
 - out at 7pm
 - “due” wed Jan 31
 - Just a short survey

Lecture Outline

❖ C Refresher

- C Strings
- Dynamic memory (malloc & realloc)
- Structs

❖ Processes

- Overview
- fork()
- exec()

Strings without Objects

- ❖ Strings are central to C, very important for I/O
- ❖ In C, we don't have Objects but we need strings
- ❖ If a string is just a sequence of characters, we can have use array of characters as a string

- ❖ Example:

```
char str_arr[] = "Hello World!";  
char *str_ptr = "Hello World!";
```

Null Termination

DO NOT FORGET THIS. THIS IS THE CAUSE OF MANY BUGS

- ❖ Arrays don't have a length, but we mark the end of a string with the null terminator character.

- The null terminator has value `0x00` or `'\0'`
- Well formed strings ***MUST*** be null terminated

❖ Example: `char str[] = "Hello";`

- Takes up 6 characters, 5 for "Hello" and 1 for the null terminator

address	0x2000	0x2001	0x2002	0x2003	0x2004	0x2005
value	'H'	'e'	'l'	'l'	'o'	'\0'

Demo: `get_input.c`

- ❖ Lets code together a small program that:
 - Reads at max 100 characters from stdin (user input)
 - Truncates the input to only the first word
 - Prints that word out
 - Not allowed to use `scanf`, `FILE*`, `printf`, etc

Poll Everywhere

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- ❖ There are two things wrong with this function
- ❖ What are they? How do we fix this function w/o changing the function signature

```
#define MAX_INPUT_SIZE 100

char* read_stdin() {
    char str[MAX_INPUT_SIZE];

    ssize_t res = read(STDIN_FILENO, str, MAX_INPUT_SIZE);

    // error checking
    if (res <= 0) {
        return NULL;
    }

    return str;
}
```


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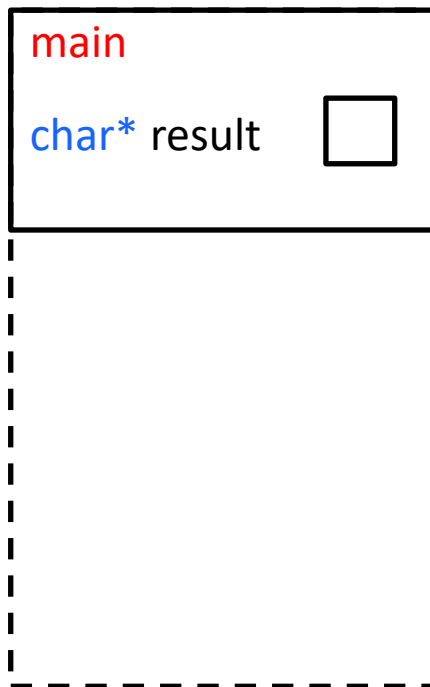
```
// assuming this is how the function is called
char* result = read_stdin();
```

Poll Everywhere

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The Stack



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    }

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}
```

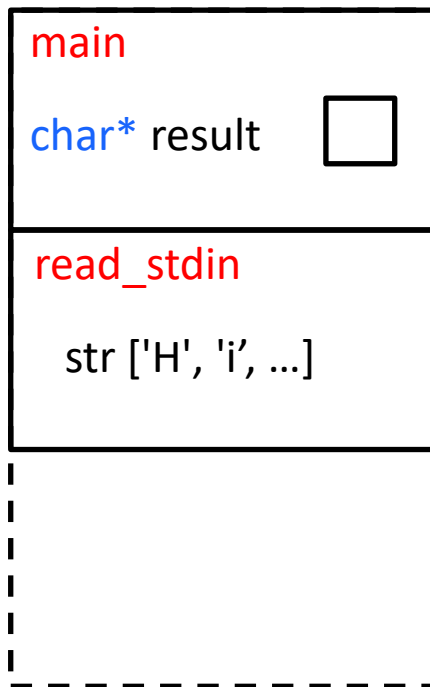
```
// assuming this is how the function is called
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Poll Everywhere

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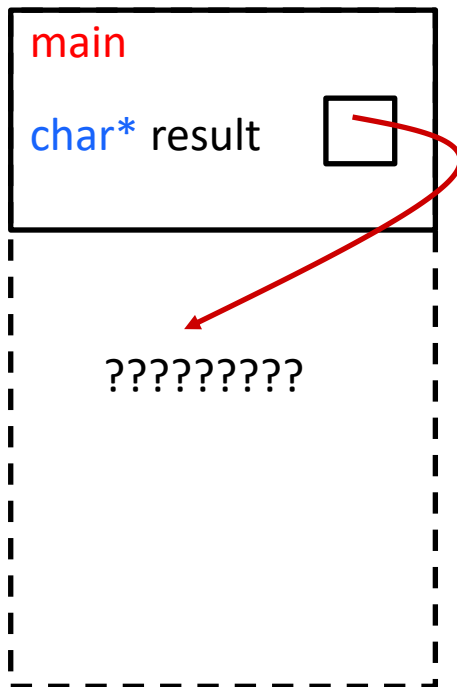
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// assuming this is how the function is called
char* result = read_stdin();
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Poll Everywhere

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The Stack



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char* read_stdin() {
    char str[MAX_INPUT_SIZE];

    ssize_t res = read(STDIN_FILENO,
                      str, MAX_INPUT_SIZE);

    // error checking
    if (res <= 0) {
        return NULL;
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    return str;
}
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```
// assuming this is how the function is called
char* result = read_stdin();
```

Lecture Outline

❖ C Refresher

- C Strings
- **Dynamic memory (malloc & realloc)**
- Structs

❖ Processes

- Overview
- fork()
- exec()

Memory Allocation

❖ So far, we have seen two kinds of memory allocation:

```
int counter = 0;    // global var

int main() {
    counter++;
    printf("count = %d\n", counter);
    return 0;
}
```

- counter is **statically**-allocated
 - Allocated when program is loaded
 - Deallocated when program exits

```
int foo(int a) {
    int x = a + 1;    // local var
    return x;
}

int main() {
    int y = foo(10); // local var
    printf("y = %d\n", y);
    return 0;
}
```

- a, x, y are **automatically**-allocated
 - Allocated when function is called
 - Deallocated when function returns



Aside: `sizeof`

- ❖ `sizeof` operator can be applied to a variable or a type and it evaluates to the size of that type in bytes
- ❖ Examples:
 - `sizeof(int)` – returns the size of an integer
 - `sizeof(double)` – returns the size of a double precision number
 - `struct my_struct s;`
 - `sizeof(s)` – returns the size of the struct `s`
 - `my_type *ptr`
 - `sizeof(*ptr)` – returns the size of the type pointed to by `ptr`
- ❖ Very useful for Dynamic Memory

What is Dynamic Memory Allocation?

- ❖ We want Dynamic Memory Allocation
 - Dynamic means “at run-time”
 - The compiler and the programmer don’t have enough information to make a final decision on how much to allocate
 - Your program explicitly requests more memory at run time
 - The language allocates it at runtime, maybe with help of the OS
- ❖ Dynamically allocated memory persists until either:
 - A garbage collector collects it (automatic memory management)
 - Your code explicitly deallocates it (manual memory management)
- ❖ C requires you to manually manage memory
 - More control, and more headaches

Heap API

- ❖ Dynamic memory is managed in a location in memory called the "Heap"
 - The heap is managed by user-level runtime library (libc)
 - Interface functions found in `<stdlib.h>`
- ❖ Most used functions:
 - `void *malloc(size_t size);`
 - Allocates memory of specified size
 - `void free(void *ptr);`
 - Deallocates memory
- ❖ Note: `void*` is “generic pointer”. It holds an address, but doesn't specify what it is pointing at.
- ❖ Note 2: `size_t` is the integer type of `sizeof()`

malloc()

❖ `void *malloc(size_t size);`

❖ **malloc** allocates a block of memory of the requested size

- Returns a pointer to the first byte of that memory
 - And **returns NULL** if the memory allocation failed!
- You should assume that the memory initially contains garbage
- You'll typically use `sizeof` to calculate the size you need

```
// allocate a 10-float array
float* arr = malloc(10*sizeof(float));
if (arr == NULL) {
    return errcode;
}
... // do stuff with arr
```

ALWAYS CHECK FOR NULL

free ()

- ❖ Usage: `free (pointer) ;`
- ❖ Deallocates the memory pointed-to by the pointer
 - Pointer must point to the first byte of heap-allocated memory (i.e. something previously returned by malloc)
 - Freed memory becomes eligible for future allocation
 - `free (NULL) ;` does nothing.
 - The bits in the pointer are *not changed* by calling free
 - Defensive programming: can set pointer to NULL after freeing it

```
float* arr = malloc(10*sizeof(float));
if (arr == NULL)
    return errcode;
...           // do stuff with arr
free(arr);
arr = NULL;   // OPTIONAL
```

The Heap

- ❖ The Heap is a large pool of available memory to use for Dynamic allocation
- ❖ This pool of memory is kept track of with a small data structure indicating which portions have been allocated, and which portions are currently available.
- ❖ **malloc:**
 - searches for a large enough unused block of memory
 - marks the memory as allocated.
 - Returns a pointer to the beginning of that memory
- ❖ **free:**
 - Takes in a pointer to a previously allocated address
 - Marks the memory as free to use.

Dynamic Memory Example

```

#include <stdlib.h>

int main() {
    char* ptr = malloc(4*sizeof(char));
    if (ptr == NULL)
        return EXIT_FAILURE;
    ...           // do stuff with ptr
    free(ptr);
}
    
```

addr	var	value
0x2001	ptr	--
...	...	--
0x4000	HEAP START	USED
0x4001		USED
0x4002		
0x4003		
0x4004		
0x4005		
0x4006		
0x4007		
0x4008		USED
0x4009		USED

Dynamic Memory Example

```

#include <stdlib.h>

int main() {
    char* ptr = malloc(4*sizeof(char));
    if (ptr == NULL)
        return EXIT_FAILURE;
    ...           // do stuff with ptr
    free(ptr);
}
    
```

addr	var	value
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Dynamic Memory Example

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#include <stdlib.h>

int main() {
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}
    
```

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0x4003		
0x4004		
0x4005		
0x4006		
0x4007		
0x4008		USED
0x4009		USED

Fixed read_stdin()

```
#define MAX_INPUT_SIZE 100

char* read_stdin() {
    char str = (char*) malloc(sizeof(char) * MAX_INPUT_SIZE);
    if (str == NULL) {
        return NULL;
    }

    ssize_t res = read(STDIN_FILENO, str, MAX_INPUT_SIZE);

    // error checking
    if (res <= 0) {
        return NULL;
    }

    return str;
}
```


Demo (continued): `get_input.c`

- ❖ Lets code together a small program that:
 - Reads at max 100 characters from stdin (user input)
 - Truncates the input to only the first word
 - Prints that word out
 - Not allowed to use `scanf`, `FILE*`, `printf`, etc

- ❖ What was the other issue? (other than not using `malloc`)

Dynamic Memory Pitfalls

- ❖ Buffer Overflows
 - E.g. ask for 10 bytes, but write 11 bytes
 - Could overwrite information needed to manage the heap
 - Common when forgetting the null-terminator on malloc'd strings
- ❖ Not checking for **NULL**
 - Malloc returns NULL if out of memory
 - Should check this after every call to malloc
- ❖ Giving **free()** a pointer to the middle of an allocated region
 - Free won't recognize the block of memory and probably crash
- ❖ Giving **free()** a pointer that has already been freed
 - Will interfere with the management of the heap and likely crash
- ❖ **malloc** does NOT initialize memory
 - There are other functions like **calloc** that will zero out memory

Memory Leaks

- ❖ The most common Memory Pitfall
- ❖ What happens if we malloc something, but don't free it?
 - That block of memory cannot be reallocated, even if we don't use it anymore, until it is **freed**
 - If this happens enough, we run out of heap space and program may slow down and eventually crash
- ❖ Garbage Collection
 - Automatically “frees” anything once the program has lost all references to it
 - Affects performance, but avoid memory leaks
 - Java has this, C doesn't

static function variables

❖ Functions can declare a variable as static

```
#include <stdio.h> // for printf
#include <stdlib.h> // for EXIT_SUCCESS
```

```
int next_num();
```

This is how some functions
(like one in proj0) can
"remember" things.

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    printf("%d\n", next_num()); // prints 1
    printf("%d\n", next_num()); // then 2
    printf("%d\n", next_num()); // then 3
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

```
int next_num() {
    // marking this variable as static means that
    // the value is preserved between calls to the function
    // this allows the function to "remember" things
    static int counter = 0;
    counter++;
    return counter;
}
```

Can be thought of as a
global variable that is
"private" to a function

Poll Everywhere

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- ❖ Which line below is first to (most likely) cause a crash?
 - Yes, there are a lot of bugs, but not all cause a crash 😊
 - See if you can find all the bugs!

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

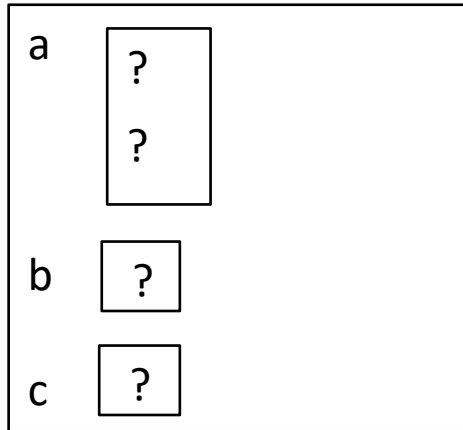
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a[2];
    int* b = malloc(2*sizeof(int));
    int* c;

1    a[2] = 5;
2    b[0] += 2;
3    c = b+3;
4    free (&(a[0]));
5    free (b);
6    free (b);
7    b[0] = 5;

    return 0;
}
```

Memory Corruption - What Happens?

main



heap:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a[2];
    int* b = malloc(2*sizeof(int));
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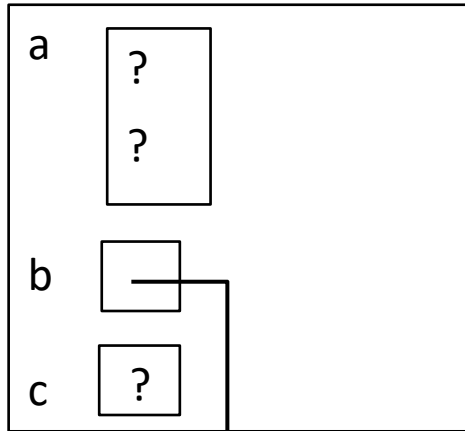
    a[2] = 5;    // assigns past the end of an array
    b[0] += 2;  // assumes malloc zeros out memory
    c = b+3;    // Ok, but if we use c, problem
    free(&(a[0])); // free something not malloc'ed
    free(b);
    free(b);    // double-free the same block
    b[0] = 5;   // use a freed (dangling) pointer

    // any many more!
    return 0;
}
```

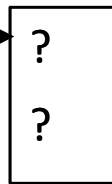
Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

Memory Corruption - What Happens?

main



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    int a[2];
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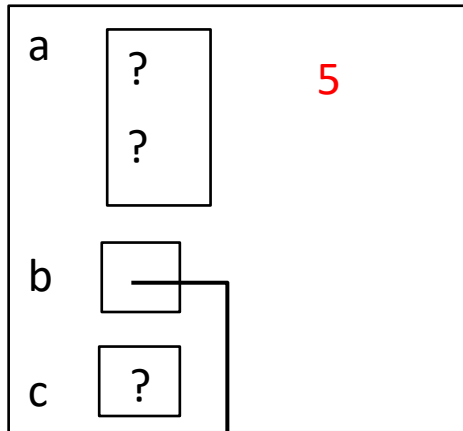
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}
    
```

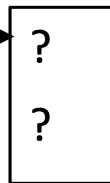
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Memory Corruption - What Happens?

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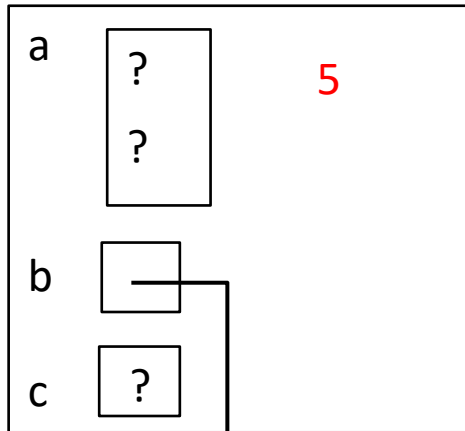
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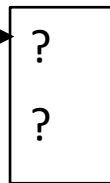
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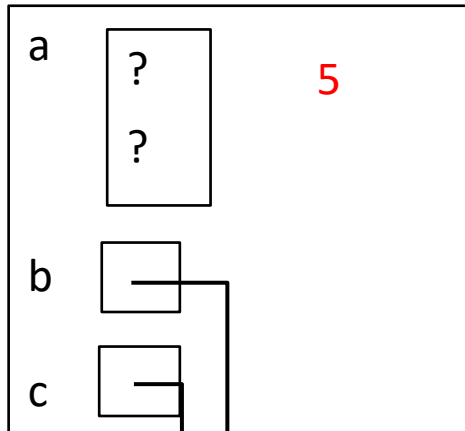
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    // any many more!
    return 0;
}
```

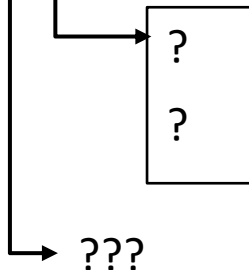
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Memory Corruption - What Happens?

main



heap:



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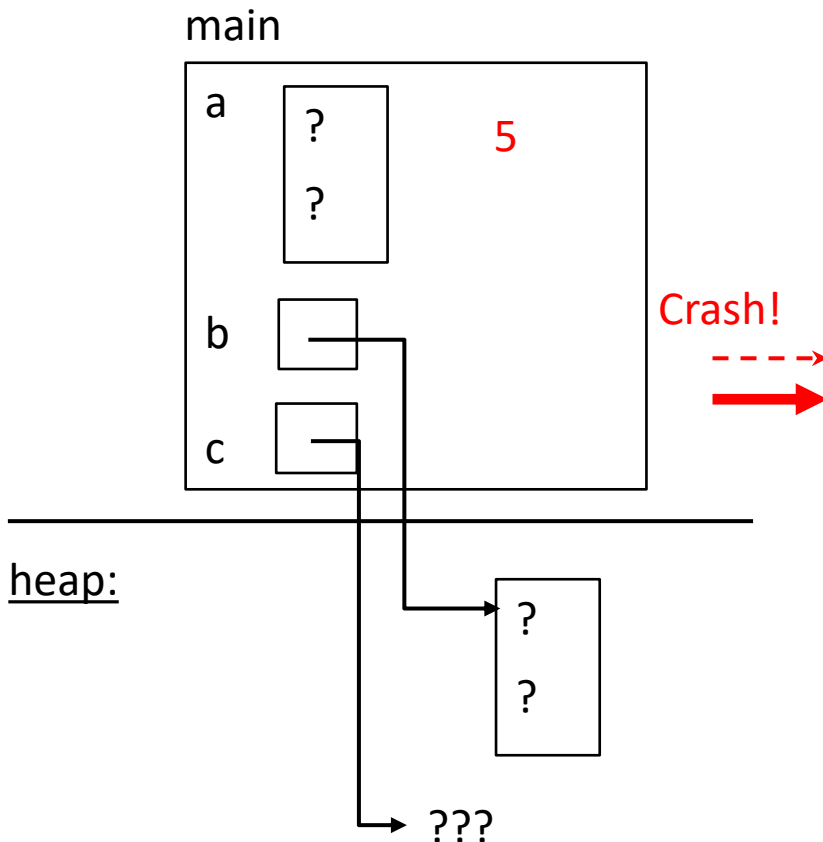
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Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

Memory Corruption - What Happens?



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#include <stdlib.h>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a[2];
    int* b = malloc(2*sizeof(int));
    int* c;

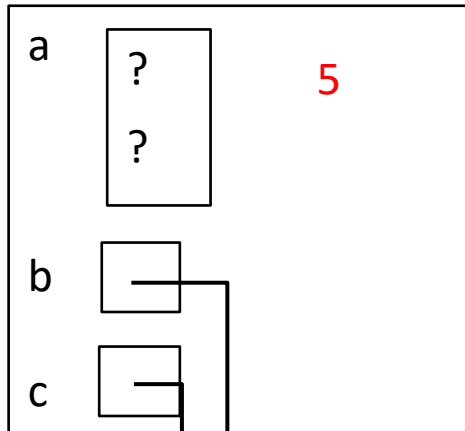
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    // any many more!
    return 0;
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```

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

Memory Corruption - What Happens?

main



heap:



???

```

#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
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    int* b = malloc(2*sizeof(int));
    int* c;

    a[2] = 5;    // assigns past the end of an array
    b[0] += 2;  // assumes malloc zeros out memory
    c = b+3;    // Ok, but if we use c, problem
    free(&(a[0])); // free something not malloc'ed
    free(b);    // double-free the same block
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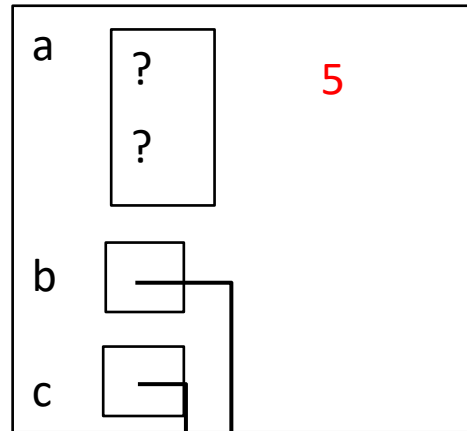
    // any many more!
    return 0;
}
    
```

Note: Arrow points to *next* instruction.

This "double free"
would also cause the
program to crash

Memory Corruption - What Happens?

main



heap:



???

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#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a[2];
    int* b = malloc(2*sizeof(int));
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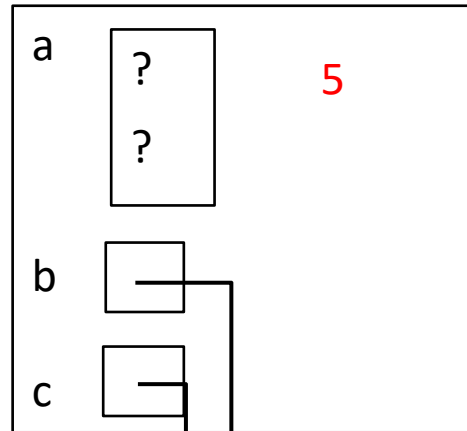
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    return 0;
}
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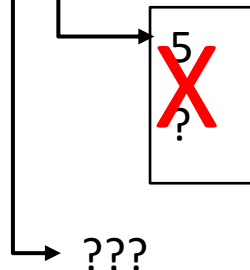
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Memory Corruption - What Happens?

main



heap:



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#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    int a[2];
    int* b = malloc(2*sizeof(int));
    int* c;

    a[2] = 5;    // assigns past the end of an array
    b[0] += 2;  // assumes malloc zeros out memory
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Lecture Outline

❖ C Refresher

- C Strings
- Dynamic memory (malloc & **realloc**)
- **Structs**

❖ Processes

- Overview
- fork()
- exec()

Structured Data

- ❖ A `struct` is a C datatype that contains a set of fields
 - Similar to a Java class, but with no methods or constructors
 - Useful for defining new structured types of data
 - ❖ Acts similarly to primitive variables
- ❖ Generic declaration:

```
// declaring the struct type
struct point {
    float x;
    float y;
};

// declaring a variable
struct point pt;
```

```
// declaring the struct type
typedef struct point_st {
    float x;
    float y;
} point;

// declaring a variable
point pt;
```


Structured Data Initialization

- ❖ A `struct` is a C datatype that contains a set of fields
 - ✳ Acts similarly to primitive variables
- ❖ Generic declaration:

```
typedef struct point_st {  
    float x;  
    float y;  
} point;
```

```
point pt;
```

```
point origin = {0.0f, 0.0f};
```

```
point other = (point) {
```

```
    .x = 3.14f,
```

```
    .y = 3.800f,
```

```
};
```

```
pt = origin; // pt now contains 0.0f, 0.0f
```

Default values are still garbage!

<- Initializer List

<- with designators

^ same as `pt.x = origin.x;`

`pt.y = origin.y;`

Accessing struct Fields

- ❖ Use “.” to refer to a field in a struct
- ❖ Use “->” to refer to a field from a struct pointer
 - Dereferences pointer first, then accesses field

```
typedef struct point_st {
    float x, y;
} Point;

int main(int argc, char** argv) {
    Point p1 = {0.0, 0.0};
    Point* p1_ptr = &p1;

    p1.x = 1.0;
    p1_ptr->y = 2.0; // equivalent to (*p1_ptr).y = 2.0;
    return 0;
}
```

Output parameters (again)

- ❖ One way to handle multiple return values through output parameters
 - This function generates an array of `int` and returns the length (or -1 on error)

```
ssize_t gen_arr(int** output_arr);
```

`ssize_t` is just a signed integer type to represent a size
Signed SIZE Type



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- ❖ How do you think we call this function?
 - It generates an array of `int` and returns the length (or -1 on error)

```
ssize_t gen_arr(int** output_arr);
```

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- ❖ How do you think we call this function?
 - It generates an array of `int` and returns the length (or -1 on error)

```
int* arr;
ssize_t res = gen_arr(&arr);
if (res < 0) {
    // handle error
}
```

Structs vs output parameters

- ❖ The parameter `output_arr` is entirely for output, it messes with our common understanding of a parameters as input


```
ssize_t gen_arr(int** output_arr);
```

- ❖ An alternative way this function could be written is with a struct that contains both values:

- ❖ Which do you think is more readable?

```
typedef struct int_arr_st {
    int* eles
    size_t length;
} int_arr;

int_arr gen_arr();
```

Another example

- ❖ Another common example are functions that produce something but can error.
- ❖ Consider this function that produces some struct (lets call it `struct addrinfo`) but can error.

```
bool addr_info(struct addrinfo* output);
```

```
typedef struct optional_addrinfo_st {  
    bool has_value;  
    struct addr_info value;  
} optional_addrinfo;  
  
optional_addrinfo gen_arr();
```

- ❖ The first is more common in C and the C stdlib, but you can do either in functions you write

Demo: implementing a simple int vector

- ❖ Demo: `vec_int.c` inside of `01-code.zip`
 - Starting from `blank_vec_int.c`
 - Explaining design
 - How do we implement `vec_push()`?
 - Why do we need to pass in a `vec_int*` instead of just `vec_int`?

realloc()

❖ `void *realloc(void* ptr, size_t size);`

`realloc` is used to “re-allocate” a block of memory to be the requested size

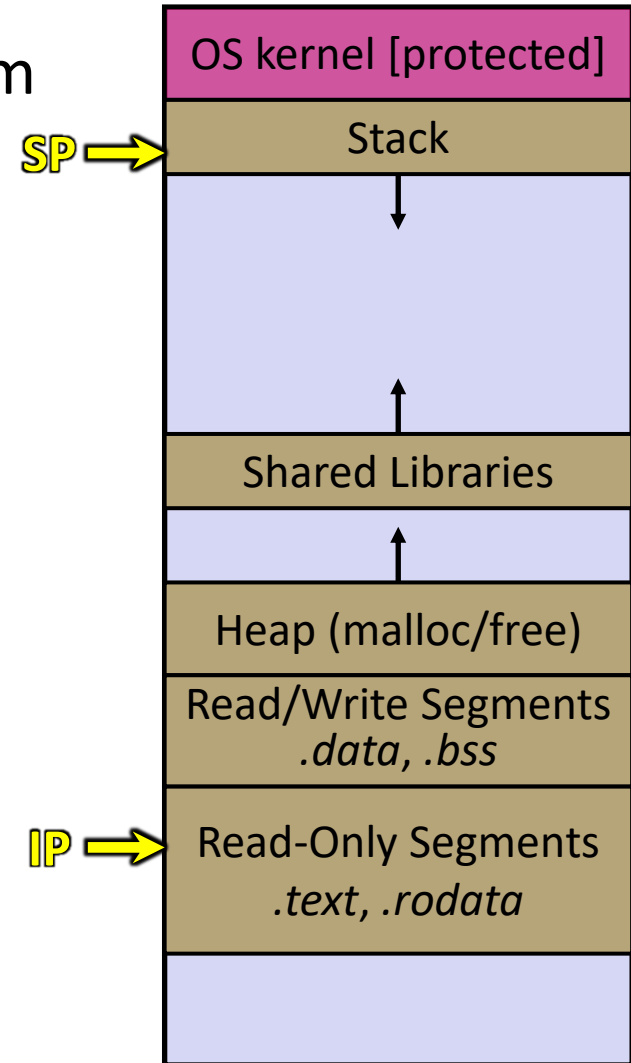
- This means previous values in `ptr` will be in the reallocated memory
- ❖ Returns a pointer to the first byte of that memory
 - And `returns NULL` if the memory allocation failed!
- ❖ `realloc(NULL, size)` is equal to `malloc(size)`
- ❖ See `vec_int.c` for an example of how `realloc` is useful

Lecture Outline

- ❖ C Refresher
 - C Strings
 - Dynamic memory (malloc & realloc)
 - Structs
- ❖ **Processes**
 - **Overview**
 - fork()
 - exec()

Definition: Process

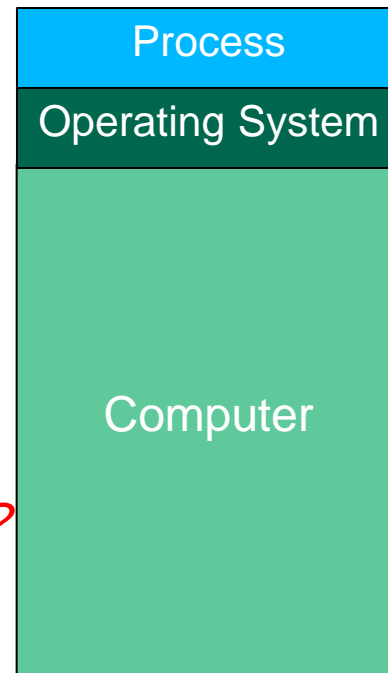
- ❖ Definition: An instance of a program that is being executed (or is ready for execution)
- ❖ Consists of:
 - Memory (code, heap, stack, etc)
 - Registers used to manage execution (stack pointer, program counter, ...)
 - Other resources



* This isn't quite true
more in a future lecture

Computers as we know them now

- ❖ In CIS 2400, you learned about hardware, transistors, CMOS, gates, etc.
- ❖ Once we got to programming, our computer looks something like:

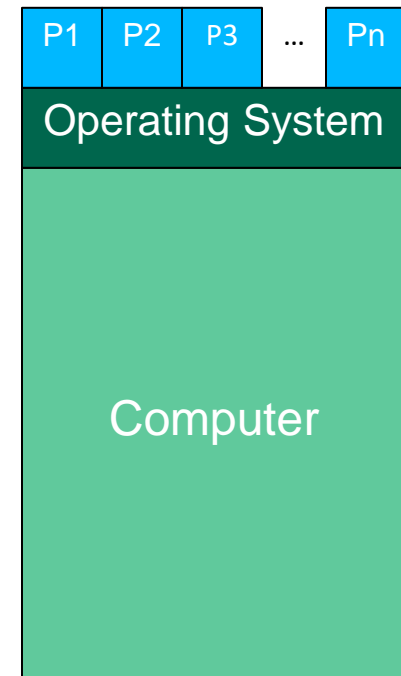


What is missing/wrong with this?

- ❖ This model is still useful, and can be used in many settings

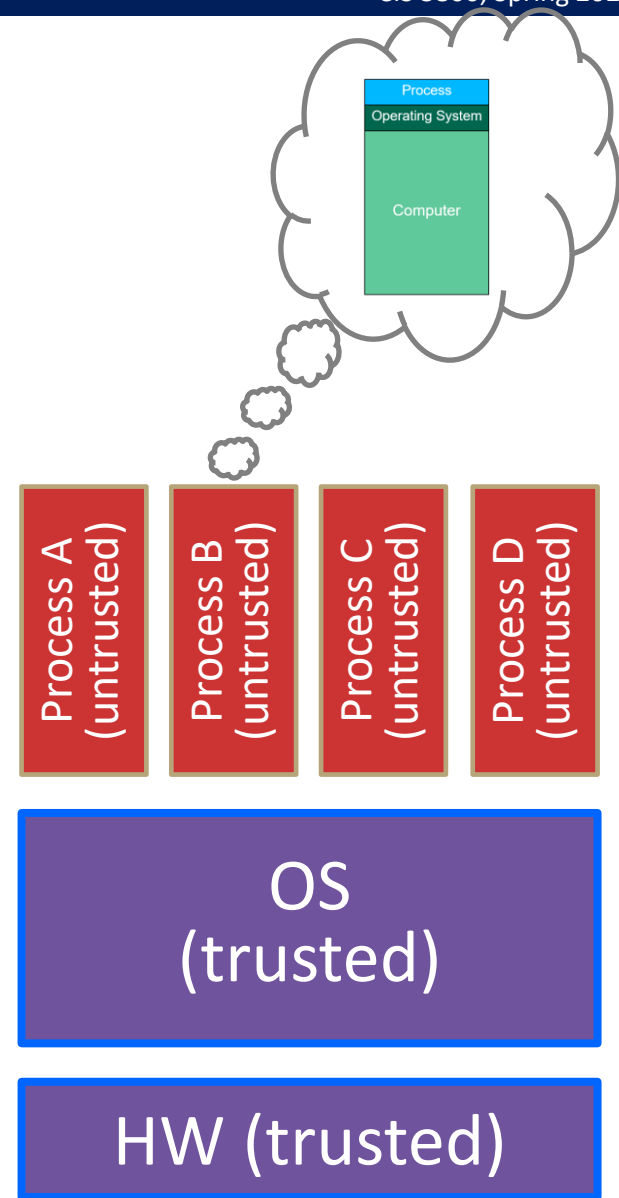
Multiple Processes

- ❖ Computers run multiple processes “at the same time”
- ❖ One or more processes for each of the programs on your computer
- ❖ Each process has its own...
 - Memory space
 - Registers
 - Resources

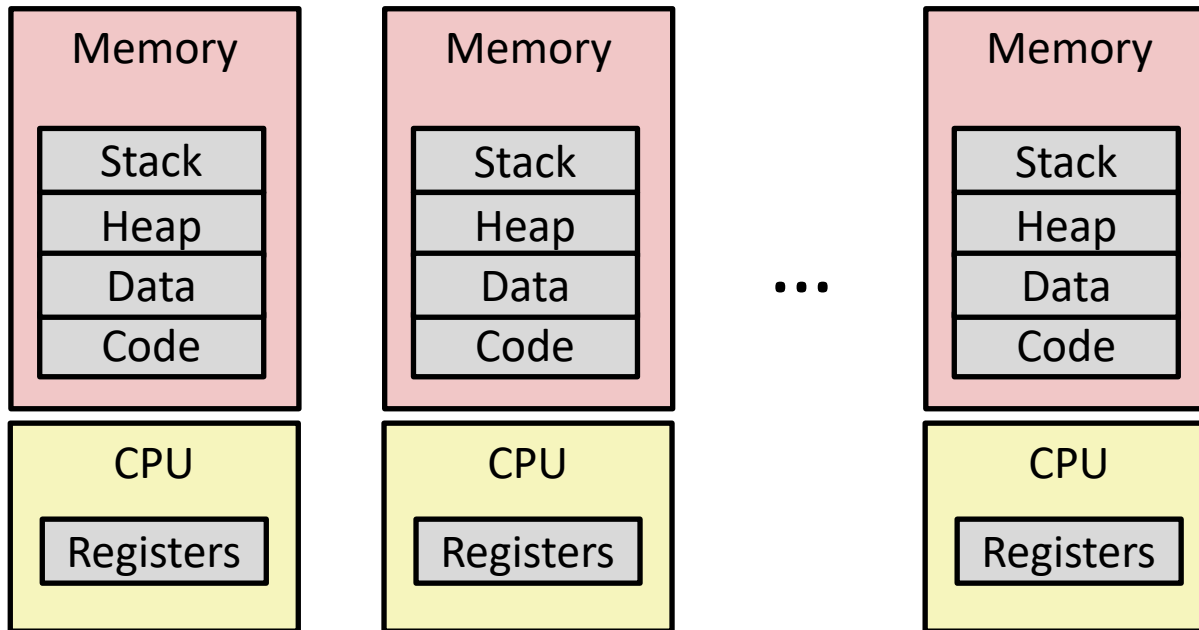


OS: Protection System

- ❖ OS isolates process from each other
 - Each process seems to have exclusive use of memory and the processor.
 - This is an **illusion**
 - More on Memory when we talk about virtual memory later in the course
 - OS permits controlled sharing between processes
 - E.g. through files, the network, etc.
- ❖ OS isolates itself from processes
 - Must prevent processes from accessing the hardware directly

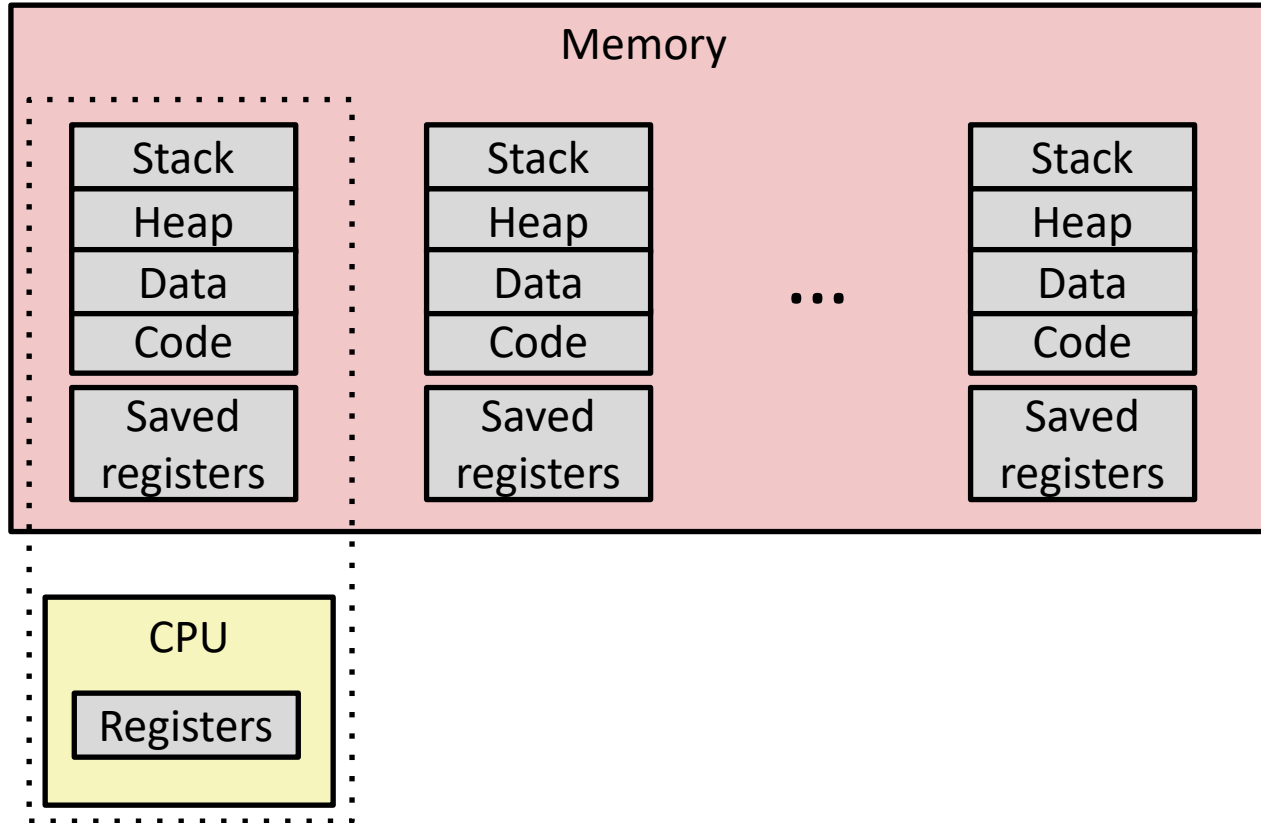


Multiprocessing: The Illusion



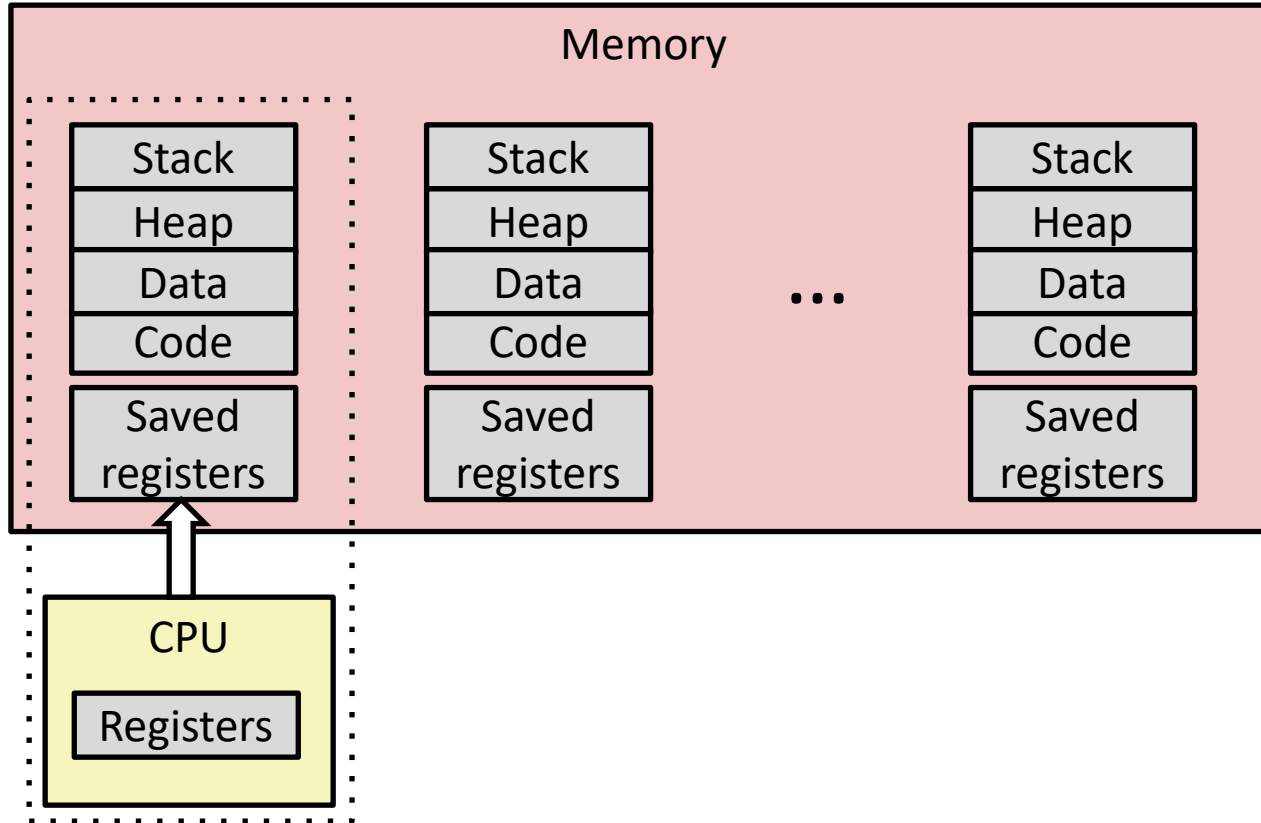
- ❖ Computer runs many processes simultaneously
 - Applications for one or more users
 - Web browsers, email clients, editors, ...
 - Background tasks
 - Monitoring network & I/O devices

Multiprocessing: The (Traditional) Reality



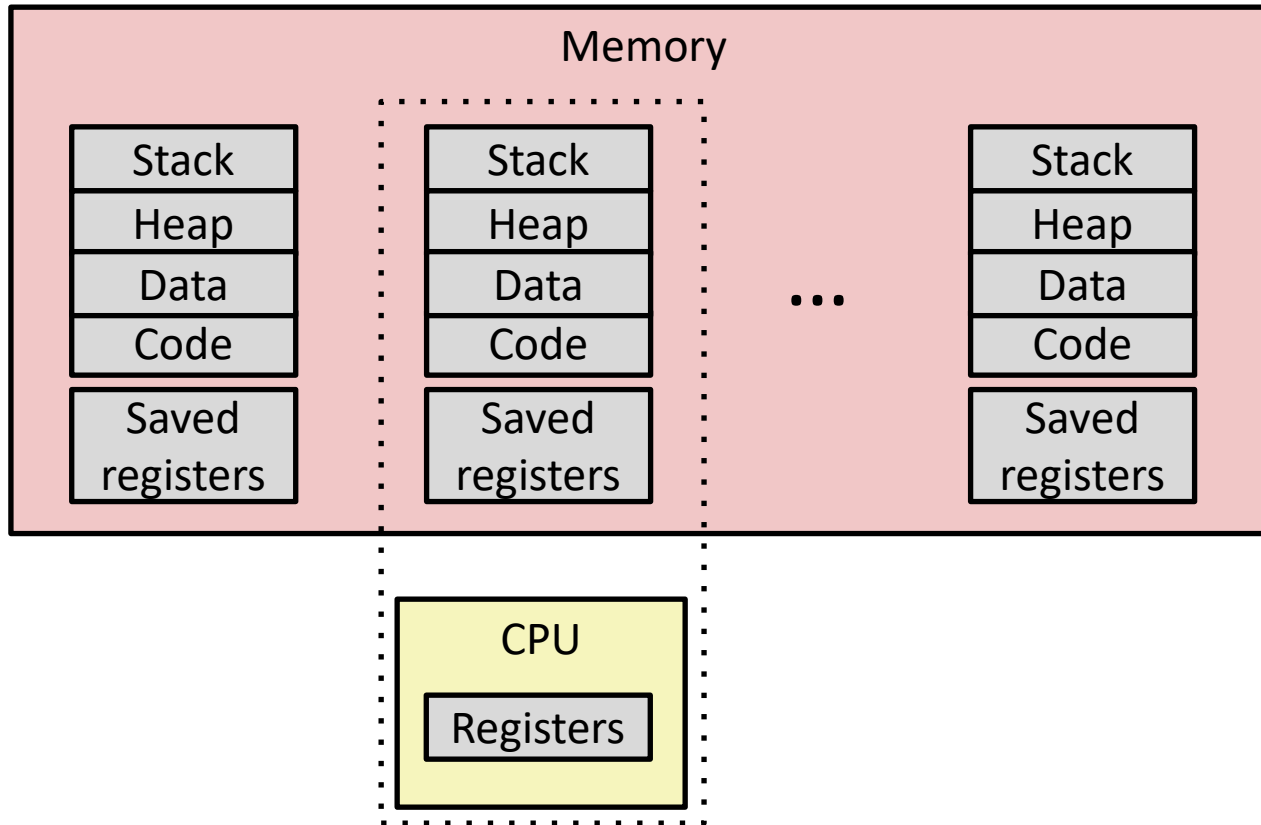
- ❖ Single processor executes multiple processes concurrently
 - Process executions interleaved (multitasking)
 - Address spaces managed by virtual memory system (later in course)
 - Register values for nonexecuting processes saved in memory

Multiprocessing: The (Traditional) Reality



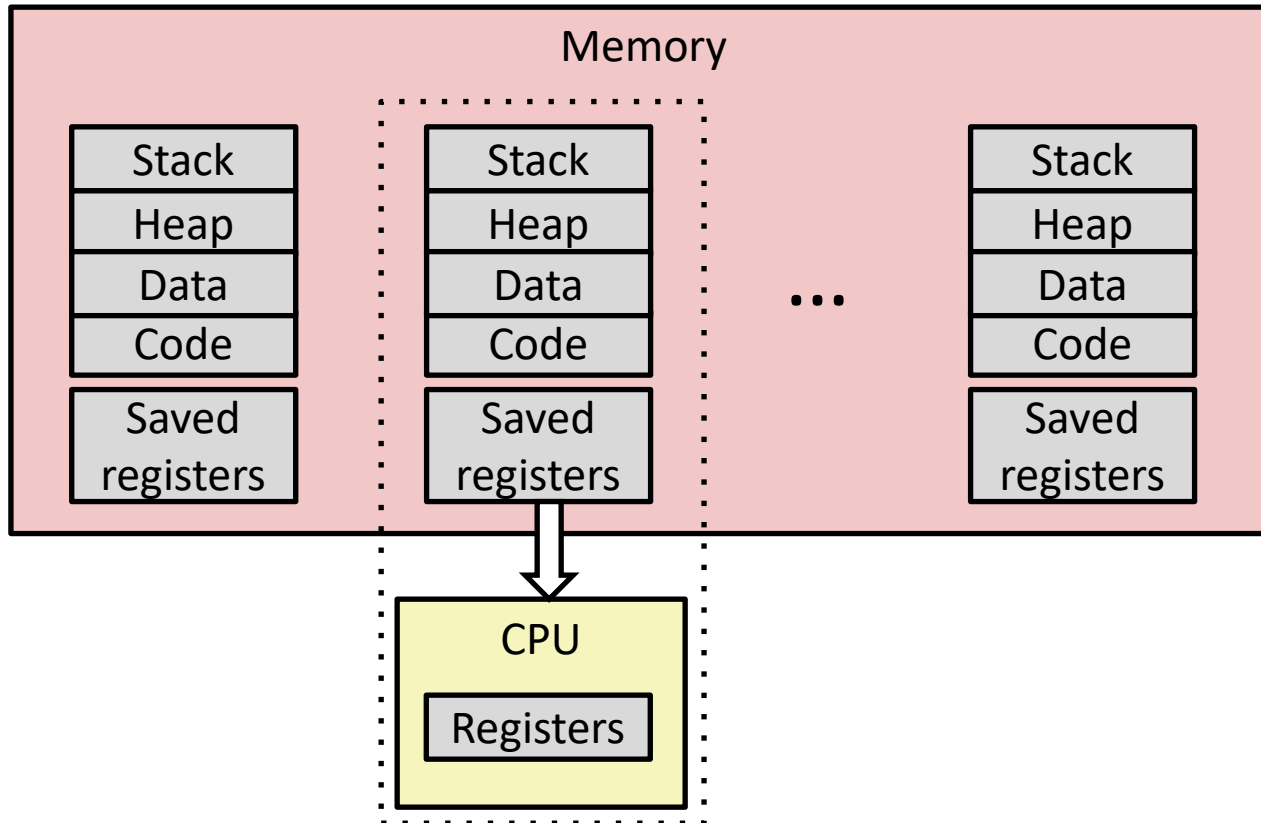
1. Save current registers in memory

Multiprocessing: The (Traditional) Reality



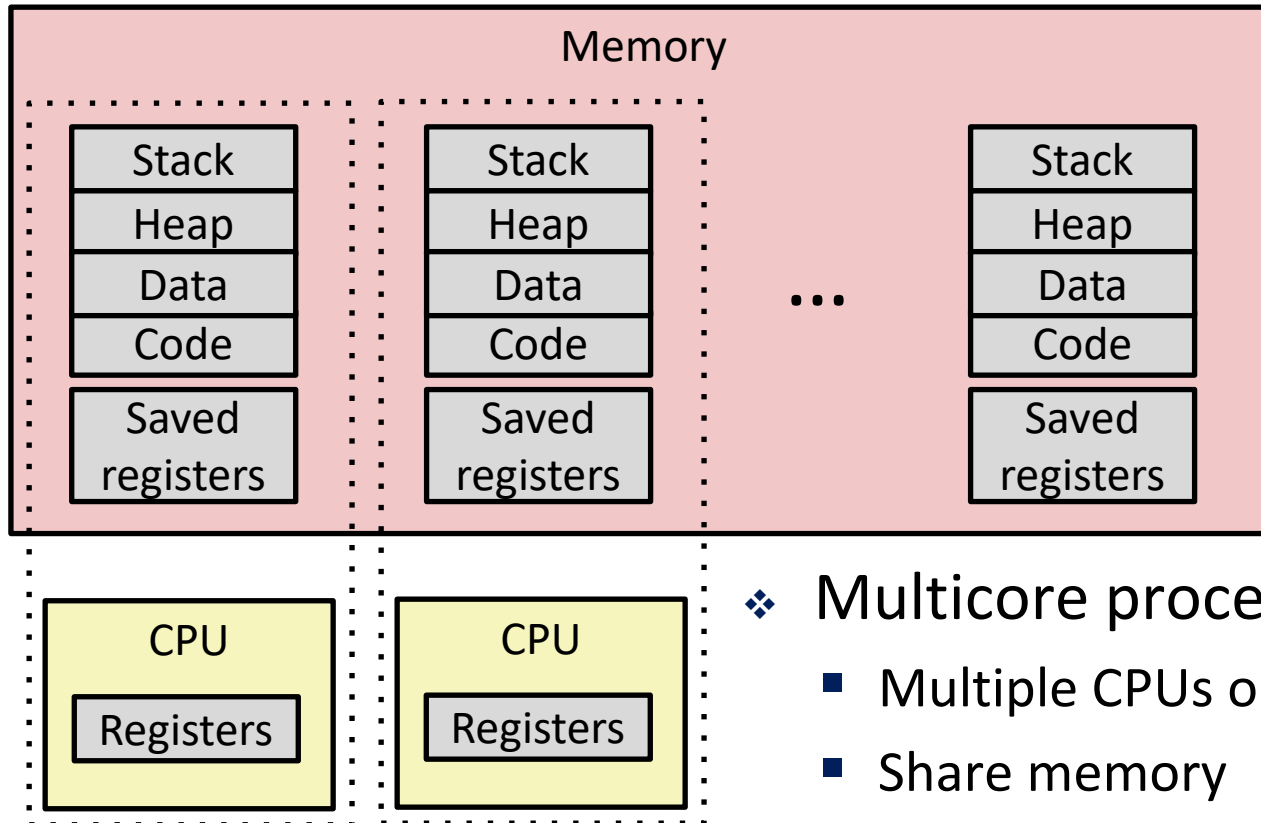
1. Save current registers in memory
2. Schedule next process for execution

Multiprocessing: The (Traditional) Reality



1. Save current registers in memory
2. Schedule next process for execution
3. Load saved registers and switch address space (context switch)

Multiprocessing: The (Modern) Reality



❖ Multicore processors

- Multiple CPUs on single chip
- Share memory
- Each can execute a separate process
 - Scheduling of processors onto cores done by kernel
- This is called “Parallelism”



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- ❖ What I just went through was the big picture of processes. Many details left, some will be gone over in future lectures
- ❖ Any questions, comments or concerns so far?

Process States (incomplete)

FOR NOW, we can think of a process as being in one of three states:

❖ Running

- Process is currently executing

More states in future lectures

❖ Ready

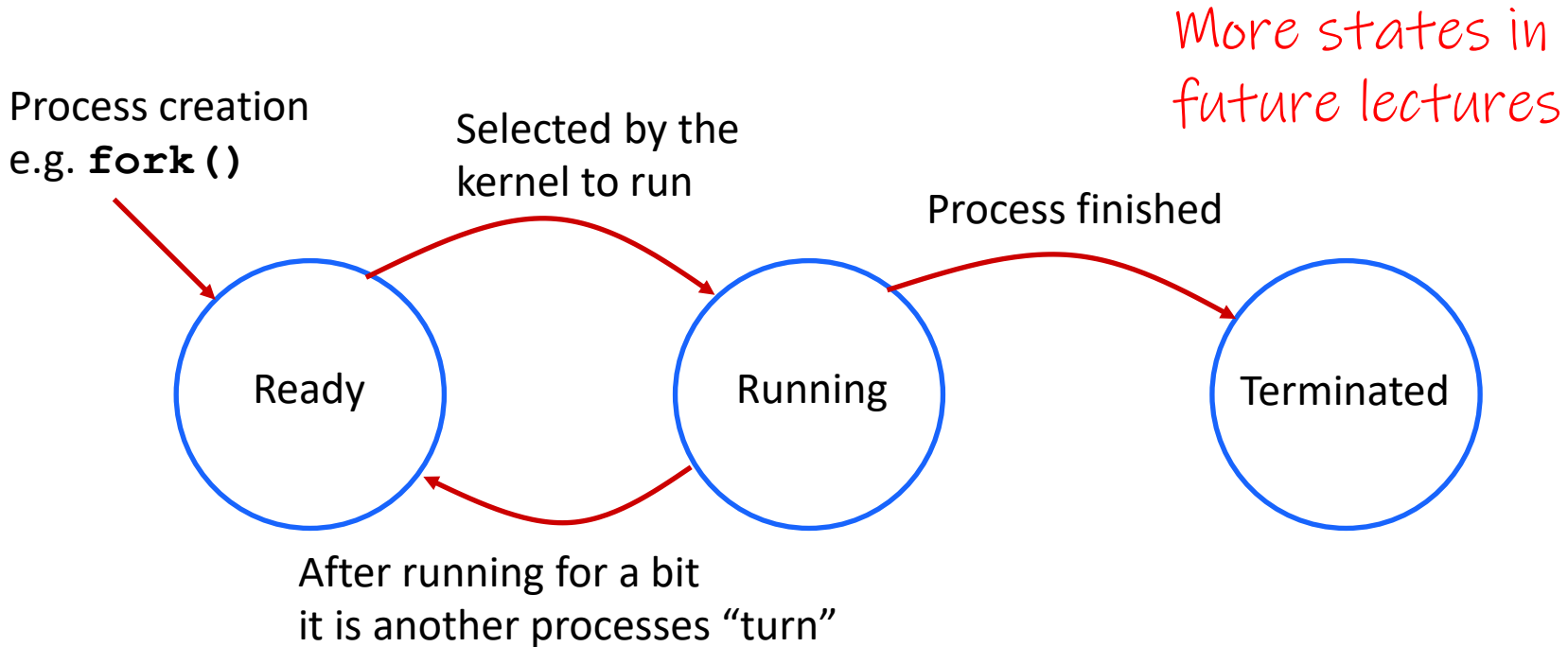
- Process is waiting to be executed and will eventually be *scheduled* (i.e., chosen to execute) by the kernel

Scheduler to be covered in a later lecture

❖ Terminated

- Process is stopped permanently

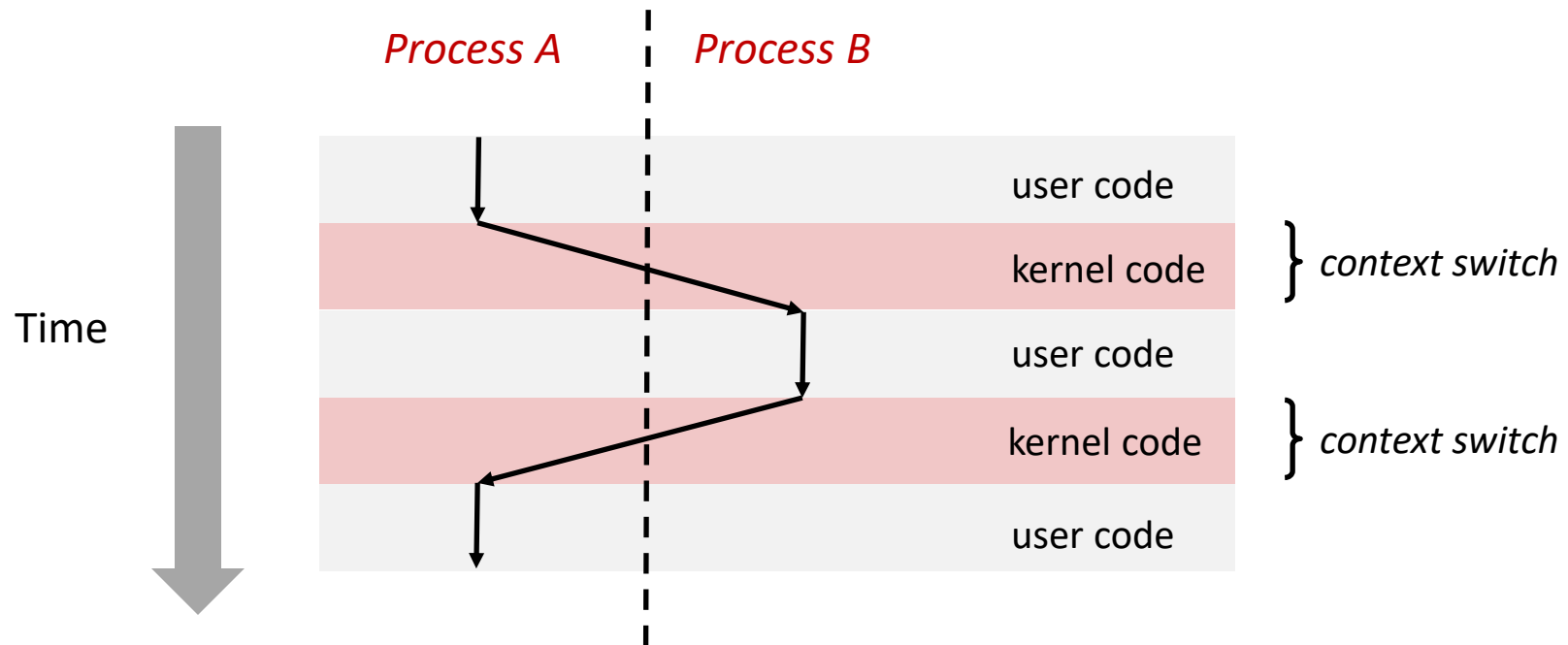
Process State Lifetime (incomplete)



Processes can be "interrupted" to stop running. Through something like a hardware timer interrupt

Context Switching

- ❖ Processes are managed by a shared chunk of memory-resident OS code called the *kernel*
 - Important: the kernel is not a separate process, but rather runs as part of some existing process.
- ❖ Control flow passes from one process to another via a *context switch*



OS: The Scheduler

- ❖ When switching between processes, the OS will run some kernel code called the “Scheduler”
- ❖ The scheduler runs when a process:
 - starts (“arrives to be scheduled”),
 - Finishes
 - Blocks (e.g., waiting on something, usually some form of I/O)
 - Has run for a certain amount of time
- ❖ It is responsible for scheduling processes
 - Choosing which one to run
 - Deciding how long to run it

Scheduler Considerations

- ❖ The scheduler has a scheduling algorithm to decide what runs next.
- ❖ Algorithms are designed to consider many factors:
 - Fairness: Every program gets to run
 - Liveness: That “something” will eventually happen
 - Throughput: Number of “tasks” completed over an interval of time
 - Wait time: Average time a “task” is “alive” but not running
 - A lot more...
- ❖ More on this later. **For now: think of scheduling as non-deterministic**, details handled by the OS.

Lecture Outline

- ❖ C Refresher
 - C Strings
 - Dynamic memory (malloc & realloc)
 - Structs
- ❖ **Processes**
 - Overview
 - **fork()**
 - exec()

Terminating Processes

- ❖ Process becomes terminated for one of three reasons:
 - Receiving a signal whose default action is to terminate (next lecture)
 - Returning from the `main` routine
 - Calling the `exit` function
- ❖ `void exit(int status);`
 - Terminates with an *exit status* of `status`
 - Convention: normal return status is 0, nonzero on error
 - Another way to explicitly set the exit status is to return an integer value from the main routine
- ❖ `exit` is called **once** but **never** returns.

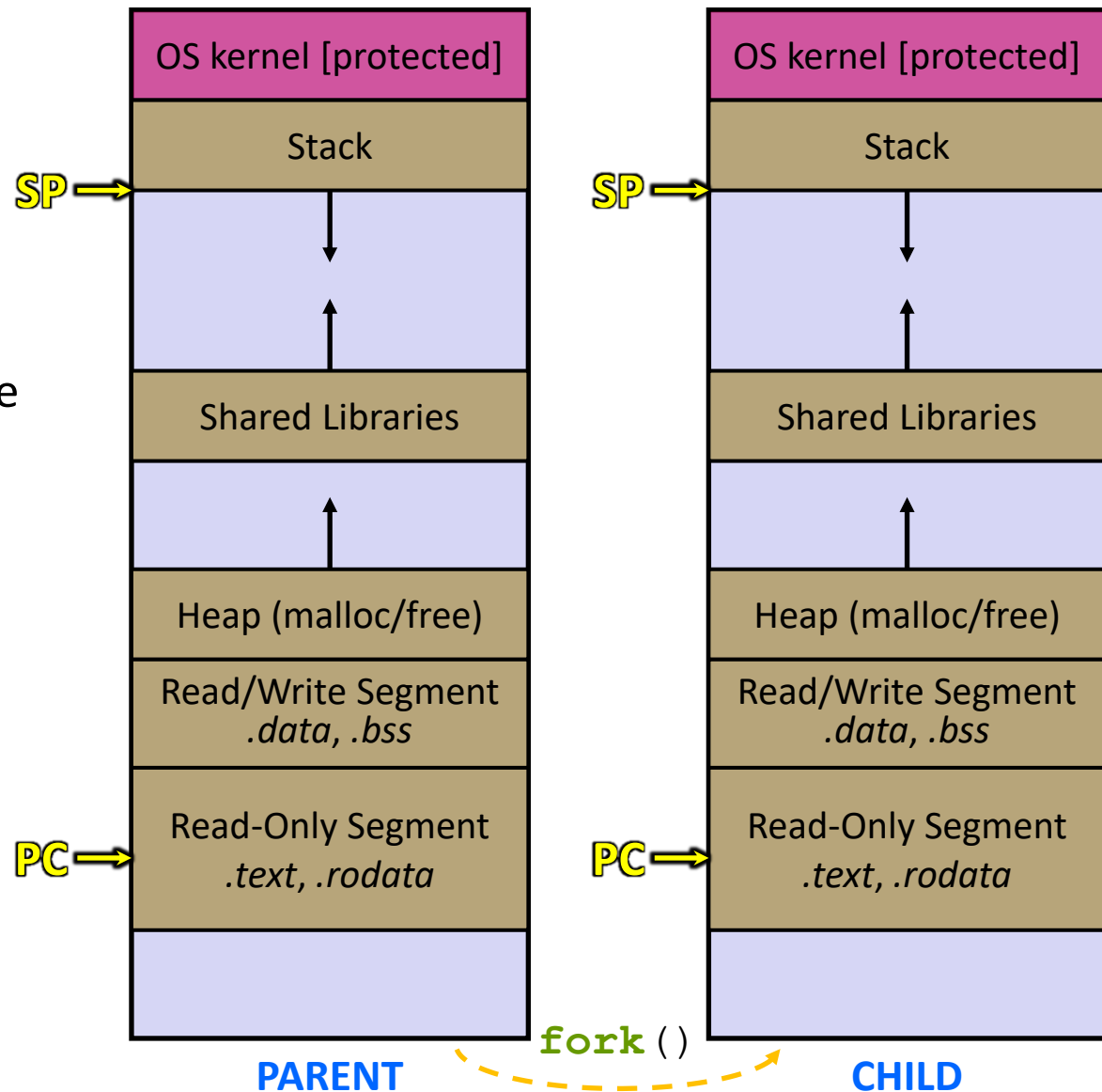
Creating New Processes

❖ `pid_t fork() ;`

- Creates a new process (the “child”) that is an *exact clone** of the current process (the “parent”)
 - *almost everything
- The new process has a separate virtual address space from the parent
- Returns a `pid_t` which is an integer type.

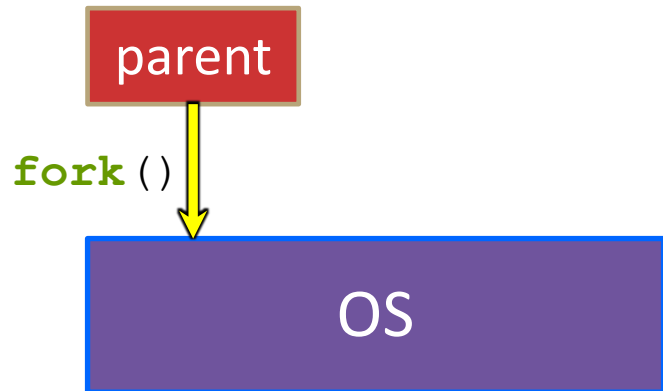
fork () and Address Spaces

- ❖ Fork causes the OS to clone the address space
 - The *copies* of the memory segments are (nearly) identical
 - The new process has *copies* of the parent's data, stack-allocated variables, open file descriptors, etc.



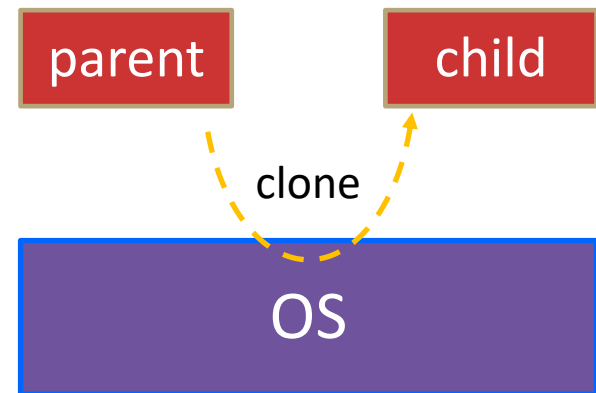
fork ()

- ❖ **fork ()** has peculiar semantics
 - The parent invokes **fork ()**
 - The OS clones the parent
 - *Both* the parent and the child return from fork
 - Parent receives child's pid
 - Child receives a 0



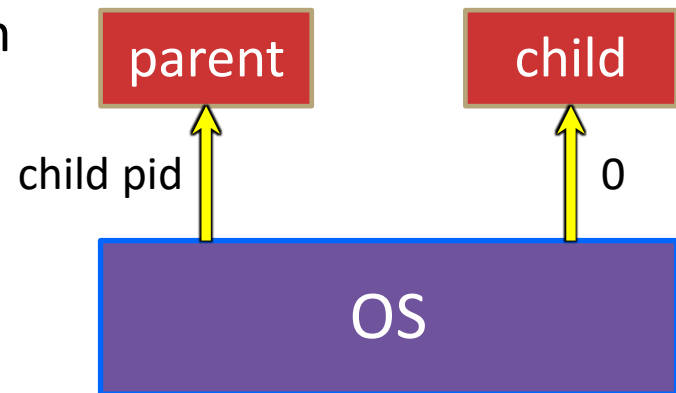
fork ()

- ❖ **fork ()** has peculiar semantics
 - The parent invokes **fork ()**
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 - Child receives a 0



fork ()

- ❖ **fork ()** has peculiar semantics
 - The parent invokes **fork ()**
 - The OS clones the parent
 - *Both* the parent and the child return from fork
 - Parent receives child's pid
 - Child receives a 0



"simple" `fork()` example

```
fork();  
printf("Hello!\n");
```

- ❖ What does this print?

"simple" `fork()` example

```
int x = 3;
fork();
x++;
printf("%d\n", x);
```

- ❖ What does this print?

fork() example

```
pid_t fork_ret = fork();  
  
if (fork_ret == 0) {  
    printf("Child\n");  
} else {  
    printf("Parent\n");  
}
```

fork() example

Parent Process (PID = X)

```
pid_t fork_ret = fork();  
  
if (fork_ret == 0) {  
    printf("Child\n");  
} else {  
    printf("Parent\n");  
}
```

Child Process (PID = Y)

```
pid_t fork_ret = fork();  
  
if (fork_ret == 0) {  
    printf("Child\n");  
} else {  
    printf("Parent\n");  
}
```

fork()

fork() example

Parent Process (PID = X)

```
pid_t fork_ret = fork();

if (fork_ret == 0) {
    printf("Child\n");
} else {
    printf("Parent\n");
}
```

Child Process (PID = Y)

```
pid_t fork_ret = fork();

if (fork_ret == 0) {
    printf("Child\n");
} else {
    printf("Parent\n");
}
```

fork_ret = Y

```
pid_t fork_ret = fork();

if (fork_ret == 0) {
    printf("Child\n");
} else {
    printf("Parent\n");
}
```

Prints "Parent"

fork_ret = 0

```
pid_t fork_ret = fork();

if (fork_ret == 0) {
    printf("Child\n");
} else {
    printf("Parent\n");
}
```

Prints "Child"

Which prints first?

Non-deterministic

Another fork() example

```
pid_t fork_ret = fork();  
int x;  
  
if (fork_ret == 0) {  
    x = 3800;  
} else {  
    x = 2400;  
}  
printf("%d\n", x);
```

Another fork() example

Parent Process (PID = X)

```
pid_t fork_ret = fork();
int x;

if (fork_ret == 0) {
    x = 3800;
} else {
    x = 2400;
}

printf("%d\n", x);
```

Child Process (PID = Y)

```
pid_t fork_ret = fork();
int x;

if (fork_ret == 0) {
    x = 3800;
} else {
    x = 2400;
}

printf("%d\n", x);
```

fork()

Another fork() example

Parent Process (PID = X)

```
pid_t fork_ret = fork();
int x;

if (fork_ret == 0) {
    x = 3800;
} else {
    x = 2400;
}
printf("%d\n", x);
```

fork_ret = Y

Always prints "2400"

Child Process (PID = Y)

```
pid_t fork_ret = fork();
int x;

if (fork_ret == 0) {
    x = 3800;
} else {
    x = 2400;
}
printf("%d\n", x);
```

fork_ret = 0

Always prints "3800"

fork()

Reminder: Processes have their own address space
(and thus, copies of their own variables)

Order is still nondeterministic!!

Lecture Outline

- ❖ C Refresher
 - C Strings
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 - Overview
 - fork()
 - **exec()**

exec*()

- ❖ Loads in a new program for execution
- ❖ PC, SP, registers, and memory are all reset so that the specified program can run

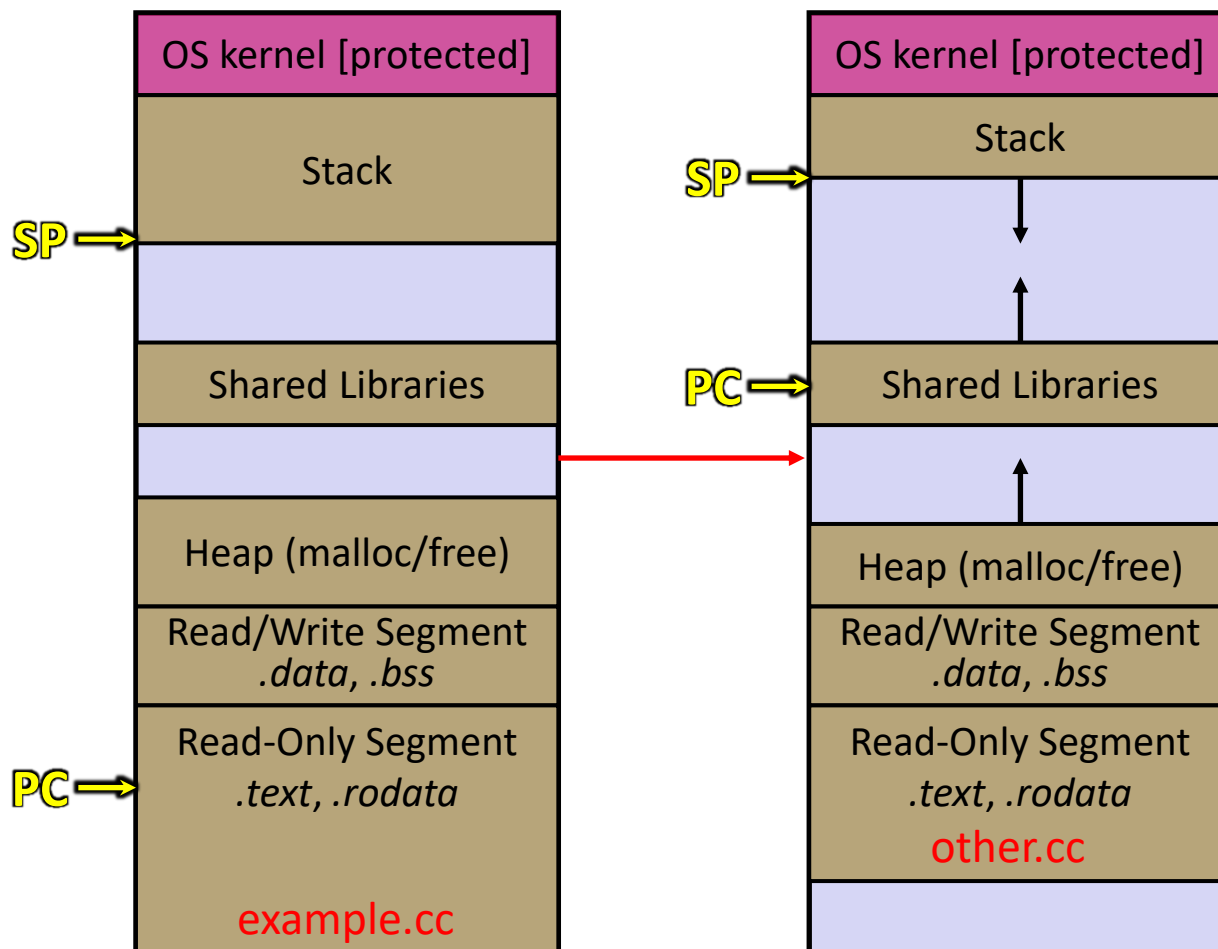
execve()

- ❖

```
int execve(const char *file,  
          char* const argv[],  
          char* const envp[]);
```
- ❖ Duplicates the action of the shell (terminal) in terms of finding the command/program to run
- ❖ Argv is an array of **char***, the same kind of argv that is passed to `main()` in a C program
 - `argv[0]` MUST have the same contents as the file parameter
 - `argv` must have NULL as the last entry of the array
- ❖ Just pass in an array of { `NULL` }; as envp
- ❖ Returns `-1` on error. Does NOT return on success

Exec Visualization

- ❖ Exec takes a process and discards or “resets” most of it



NOTE that the following DO change

- The stack
- The heap
- Globals
- Loaded code
- Registers

NOTE that the following do NOT change

- Process ID
- Open files
- The kernel

Aside: Exiting a Process

- ❖

```
void exit(int status);
```

 - Causes the current process to exit normally
 - Automatically called by **main()** when main returns
 - Exits with a return status (e.g. **EXIT_SUCCESS** or **EXIT_FAILURE**)
 - This is the same int returned by **main()**
 - The exit status is accessible by the parent process with **wait()** or **waitpid()**. (more on these functions next lecture)

Exec Demo

- ❖ See `exec_example.c`
 - Brief code demo to see how exec works
 - What happens when we call exec?
 - What happens to allocated memory when we call exec?

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```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    char* envp[] = { NULL };
    // fork a process to exec clang
    pid_t clang_pid = fork();
    if (clang_pid == 0) {
        // we are the child
        char* clang_argv[] = { "/bin/clang", "-o",
                               "hello", "hello_world.c", NULL };
        execve(clang_argv[0], clang_argv, envp);
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    // fork to run the compiled program
    pid_t hello_pid = fork();
    if (hello_pid == 0) {
        // the process created by fork
        char* hello_argv[] = { "./hello", NULL };
        execve(hello_argv[0], hello_argv, envp);
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

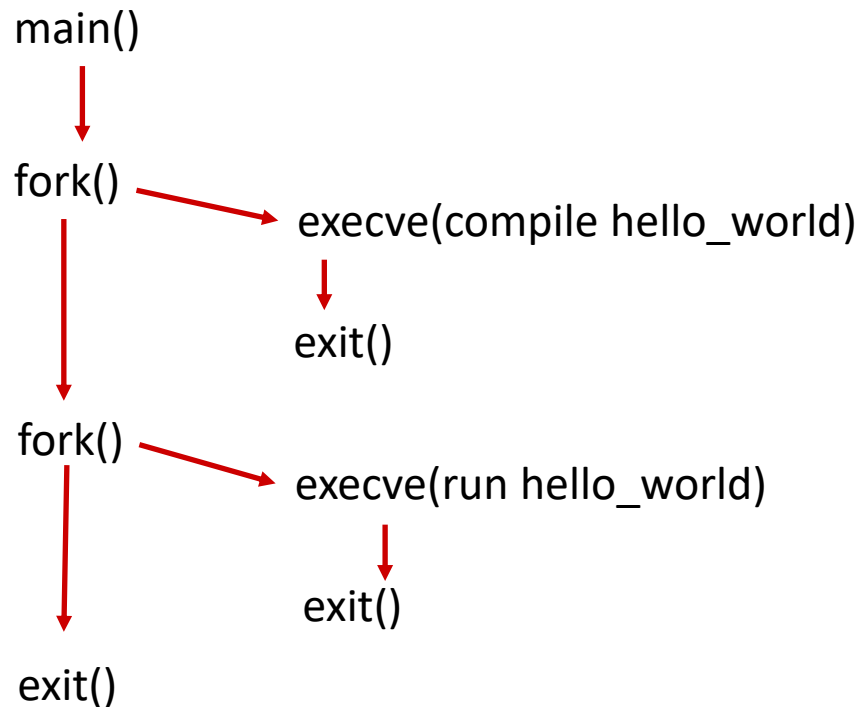
broken_autograder.c

This code is broken. It compiles, but it doesn't do what we want. Why?

- Clang is a C compiler
- Assume it compiles
- Assume I gave the correct args to exec

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This code is broken. It compiles, but it doesn't do what we want. Why?

- Clang is a C compiler
- Assume it compiles
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