<0 stogn -h* · his · his Struct Ant, 30 Scepsprvectora 31 Scepsprvector3 32 33 node: float. L} BALLOONDAT; Post 34 sbuf(3); 35 sente Static BALLOONDAT. 36 static ScePspFVector3 37 static ScePspFVector3 38 balloon; sphere(28); 39 extern. pote[28]; void DrawSphere(ScePspFVector3 *arrey,flest r); 40 extern. void DrawPole(ScePspFVector3 *array, flost r); 41 42 void init_balloon(void) 43 早 { 44 int. 1; 45 balloon.mode=MODE 46 **Operating Systems and C** ٠ balloon.pos.x= 0. 47 balloon.pos.y=-8. balloon.pos.z= 0. 48 balloon.t=0.01; 8. Exceptional Control Flow 49 balloon.sbuf[i].x+RANGERAND(0.01, 0.01, 201) balloon.sbuf[i].y+RANGERAND(0.01, 0.01, 201) balloon.scnt=2; 50 for (1=0; 1<3; 1-51 . 52 53 印. 54 55 void draw_balloon(void) 56 57 E) ScepspFvector3 vec; TEXTUPE); 58 © Ph. Bonnet 2020 59 03.10.2022 · 1 () i and posi; © N. Hedam 2022 60 **F1 4**

Preface: Why am I teaching this lecture?

- a) Willard is travelling.
- b) Part of doing a PhD is learning how to teach.
 - My "teaching course" was during a lockdown, meaning that my first lecture was on Zoom ⁽²⁾
 - Zoom lectures are very different from physical lectures, so I requested to teach a physical course.
 - Since this is my first physical lecture, feedback (both good and bad) is greatly appreciated.
 - You can approach me after the lecture, send me an e-mail or write on slack.



- Interrupt Handling
- Process Management
- Signals

Interpreter Abstraction



Low vs. High Level Interrupts

- Low level Interrupt mechanisms
 - Exceptions: change in control flow in response to a system event (i.e., change in system state)
 - Combination of hardware and OS software
- Higher level Interrupt mechanisms
 - Process context switch
 - Signals
 - Nonlocal jumps: setjmp()/longjmp()
 - Implemented by either:
 - OS software (context switch and signals)
 - C language runtime library (nonlocal jumps)

Reading a Disk Sector (3)



When the DMA transfer

Exceptional Control Flow

Interruption event:

- 1 A 2 Th 3 Th
- A device needs attention
 - The user program did something illegal
 - The user program asks the OS kernel for a service through a system call

In these cases, the flow of control is transferred from the user program to the OS kernel.



Asynchronous Events

Managed in hardware

- Caused by events external to the processor
 - Indicated by setting the processor's interrupt pin
 - Handler returns to "next" instruction
- Examples:

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- I/O interrupts
- hitting Ctrl-C at the keyboard
- arrival of a packet from a network
- arrival of data from a disk
- Hard reset interrupt
- hitting the reset button
- Soft reset interrupt
- hitting Ctrl-Alt-Delete on a PC

 Advanced Programmable Interrupt Controller (APIC) is a more modern interrupt controller than the earlier 82C59 (see below). It supports multiprocessor/multicore interrupt management by allowing interrupts to be directed to a specific processor. The I/O APIC in the PCH can support up to 24 interrupt vectors and works in conjunction with I/O APICs in other devices to help eliminate the need for share interrupts among multiple devices.

PCH: Platform Controller Hub

Hardware hands it out to software

When an interruption event occurs, hardware saves the minimum processor state required to enable software to resolve the event and continue. The state saved by hardware is held in a set of interruption resources, and together with the interruption vector gives software enough information to either resolve the cause of the interruption, or surface the event to a higher level of the operating system. Software has complete control over the structure of the information communicated, and the conventions between the low-level handlers and the high-level code. Such a scheme allows software rather than hardware to dictate how to best optimize performance for each of the interruptions in its environment. The same basic mechanisms are used in all interruptions to support efficient IA-64 low-level fault handlers for events such as a TLB fault, speculation fault, or a key miss fault.

http://refspecs.linux-foundation.org/IA64-softdevman-vol2.pdf

Asynchronous Events: Exceptions

An *exception* is a transfer of control to the OS in response to some *event* (i.e., change in processor state)



Examples:

div by 0, arithmetic overflow, page fault, I/O request completes, Ctrl-C

Exception Handler & Interrupt Vector



Interrupt Vector

arch/x86/include/asm/traps.h

First 32 slots in interrupt vectors reserved (x86). 33-127: OS-defined 128 (0x80): system calls 129-255: OS-defined

/* Interrupts/Exceptions */

```
enum {
```

| $X86_TRAP_DE = 0,$ | /* 0, Divide-by-zero */ |
|---------------------|---|
| X86_TRAP_DB, | /* 1, Debug */ |
| X86_TRAP_NMI, | <pre>/* 2, Non-maskable Interrupt */</pre> |
| X86_TRAP_BP, | /* 3, Breakpoint */ |
| X86_TRAP_OF, | /* 4, Overflow */ |
| X86_TRAP_BR, | /* 5, Bound Range Exceeded */ |
| X86_TRAP_UD, | /* 6, Invalid Opcode */ |
| X86_TRAP_NM, | /* 7, Device Not Available */ |
| X86_TRAP_DF, | /* 8, Double Fault */ |
| X86_TRAP_OLD_MF, | <pre>/* 9, Coprocessor Segment Overrun */</pre> |
| X86_TRAP_TS, | /* 10, Invalid TSS */ |
| X86_TRAP_NP, | /* 11, Segment Not Present */ |
| X86_TRAP_SS, | /* 12, Stack Segment Fault */ |
| X86_TRAP_GP, | /* 13, General Protection Fault */ |
| X86_TRAP_PF, | /* 14, Page Fault */ |
| X86_TRAP_SPURIOUS, | /* 15, Spurious Interrupt */ |
| X86_TRAP_MF, | <pre>/* 16, x87 Floating-Point Exception */</pre> |
| X86_TRAP_AC, | /* 17, Alignment Check */ |
| X86_TRAP_MC, | /* 18, Machine Check */ |
| X86_TRAP_XF, | /* 19, SIMD Floating-Point Exception * |
| X86_TRAP_IRET = 32, | /* 32, IRET Exception */ |
| | |

Synchronous Events

- Caused by events that occur as a result of executing an instruction:
 - Traps
 - Intentional
 - Examples: system calls, breakpoint traps, special instructions
 - Returns control to "next" instruction
 - Faults
 - Unintentional but possibly recoverable
 - Examples: page faults (recoverable), protection faults (unrecoverable), floating point exceptions
 - Either re-executes faulting ("current") instruction or aborts

Aborts

- unintentional and unrecoverable
- Examples: parity error, machine check
- Aborts current program

Trap Example: System call

- User calls: open (filename, options)
- Function open executes system call instruction int

| 0804d070 < | _libc_open>: | | |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 804d082: 804d084: | cd 80 5b | <i>int</i> pop | \$0x80 %ebx |
| • • • | | | |



- OS must find or create file, get it ready for reading or writing
- Returns integer file descriptor

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| syscall | . 64.tbl 🔪 | | | | |
|--|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| 1 👭 | | | | | |
| 2 # 64-bit system call numbers and entry vectors | | | | | |
| 3 # | | | | | |
| 4 # Th | ne format is | | | | |
| 5 # <number> <abi> <name> <entry point=""></entry></name></abi></number> | | | | | |
| 6 # | | | | | |
| 7 # The abi is "common", "64" or "x32" for this file. | | | | | |
| 8 # | | | | | |
| 90 | common | read | sys_read | | |
| 10 1 | common | write | sys_write | | |
| 11 2 | common | open | sys_open | | |
| 12 3 | common | close | sys_close | | |
| 13 4 | common | stat | sys_newstat | | |
| 14 5 | common | fstat | sys_newfstat | | |
| 15 6 | common | lstat | sys_newlstat | | |
| 16 7 | common | poll | sys_poll | | |
| 1/8 | common | lseek | sys_lseek | | |
| 18 9 | common | mmap | sys_mmap | | |
| 19 10 | common | mprotect | sys_mprotect | | |
| 20 11 | common | munmap | sys_munmap | | |
| 21 12 | common | brk | sys_brk | | |
| 22 13 | 64 | rt_sigaction | sys_rt_sigaction | | |
| 23 14 | common | rt_sigprocmask | sys_rt_sigprocmask | | |
| 24 15 | 64 | rt_sigreturn | sys_rt_sigreturn/ptregs | | |

| sys | call_64. | tbl | | |
|-------|----------|-----|-------------------|---|
| 355 | 520 | x32 | execve | compat_sys_execve/ptregs |
| 356 . | 521 | x32 | ptrace | compat_sys_ptrace |
| 357 . | 522 | x32 | rt_sigpending | compat_sys_rt_sigpending |
| 358 . | 523 | x32 | rt_sigtimedwait | compat_sys_rt_sigtimedwait |
| 359 . | 524 | x32 | rt_sigqueueinfo | compat_sys_rt_sigqueueinfo |
| 360 . | 525 | x32 | sigaltstack | compat_sys_sigaltstack |
| 361 . | 526 | x32 | timer_create | compat_sys_timer_create |
| 362 . | 527 | x32 | mq_notify | compat_sys_mq_notify |
| 363 . | 528 | x32 | kexec_load | compat_sys_kexec_load |
| 364 . | 529 | x32 | waitid | compat_sys_waitid |
| 365 . | 530 | x32 | set_robust_list | compat_sys_set_robust_list |
| 366 . | 531 | x32 | get_robust_list | compat_sys_get_robust_list |
| 367 . | 532 | x32 | vmsplice | compat_sys_vmsplice |
| 368 . | 533 | x32 | move_pages | compat_sys_move_pages |
| 369 . | 534 | x32 | preadv | compat_sys_preadv64 |
| 370 . | 535 | x32 | pwritev | compat_sys_pwritev64 |
| 371 . | 536 | x32 | rt_tgsigqueueinfo | <pre>compat_sys_rt_tgsigqueueinfo</pre> |
| 372 . | 537 | x32 | recvmmsg | compat_sys_recvmmsg |
| 373 . | 538 | x32 | sendmmsg | compat_sys_sendmmsg |
| 374 . | 539 | x32 | process_vm_readv | compat_sys_process_vm_readv |
| 375 . | 540 | x32 | process_vm_writev | compat_sys_process_vm_writev |
| 376 . | 541 | x32 | setsockopt | compat_sys_setsockopt |
| 377 . | 542 | x32 | getsockopt | compat_sys_getsockopt |
| 378 . | 543 | x32 | io_setup | compat_sys_io_setup |
| 379 . | 544 | x32 | io_submit | compat_sys_io_submit |
| 380 | 545 | x32 | execveat | <pre>compat_sys_execveat/ptregs</pre> |
| 381 . | 546 | x32 | preadv2 | compat_sys_preadv64v2 |
| 382 | 547 | x32 | pwritev2 | compat sys pwritev64v2 |

arch/x86/entry/syscalls/syscall_64.tbl

Fault Example: Page Fault

- User writes to memory location
- That portion (page) of user's memory is currently on disk

```
int a[1000];
main ()
{
        a[500] = 13;
}
```

80483b7: c7 05 10 9d 04 08 0d movl \$0xd,0x8049d10



- Page handler must load page into physical memory
- Returns to faulting instruction
- Successful on second try

Abort Example: Invalid Memory Reference

80483b7: c7 05 60 e3 04 08 0d movl \$0xd,0x804e360



Page handler detects invalid address Sends SIGSEGV signal to user process User process exits with "segmentation fault"



- Interrupt Handling
- Process Management
- Signals

Processes

26 Processes

Processes are the primitive units for allocation of system resources. Each process has its own address space and (usually) one thread of control. A process executes a program; you can have multiple processes executing the same program, but each process has its own copy of the program within its own address space and executes it independently of the other copies.

Processes are organized hierarchically. Each process has a *parent process* which explicitly arranged to create it. The processes created by a given parent are called its *child processes*. A child inherits many of its attributes from the parent process.

https://www.gnu.org/software/libc/manual/html_node/Processes.html

Virtual Memory



Each process has its own address space.

All address spaces are structured in the same way.

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- Process creation/termination/control defined in standard C library (unistd.h)
- Transferring the thread of control from one process to another is called *context switching*. It is managed by the OS kernel.

Control flow passes from one process to another via a *context switch*

Important: the kernel is not a separate process, but rather runs as part of some user process



Processor modes:

- Supervisor vs. user modes: "Supervisor mode may provide access to different peripherals, to memory management hardware or to different memory address spaces. It is also capable of interrupt enabling, disabling, returning and loading of processor status."
- Supervisor mode entered on system call (see slide 11)

When a context switch is made the scheduler marks the task as interruptible, saves the process's task_struct and replaces the current tasks pointer with a pointer to the new process's task_struct, marked as running, restoring its memory access and register context.

Process State (kernel)

Process context:

8KB / process in kernel space to store process descriptor task_struct (<u>/linux/include/linux/sched.h</u>).

State:

#define TASK_RUNNING 0
#define TASK_INTERRUPTIBLE 1
#define TASK_UNINTERRUPTIBLE 2
#define TASK_ZOMBIE 4
#define TASK_STOPPED 8

Process ID

+ virtual memory info, file system info, open files, signal handlers, ...

 The thread of execution thread_struct (<u>/linux/arch/x86/include/asm/processor.h</u>)
 PC, registers, Fault info,







- Break!
- We'll continue in 15 minutes.

Process Management (libc)

- Spawning process: fork()
- Terminating process: exit()
- Waiting for process: wait()
- Executing a program within a process: execve()

On cos: /usr/include/unistd.h

fork: Creating New Processes

int fork(void)

- creates a new process (child process) that is identical to the calling process (parent process)
- returns 0 to the child process
- returns child's **pid** to the parent process

```
pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
    printf("hello from child\n");
} else {
    printf("hello from parent\n");
}
```

Fork is interesting (and often confusing) because it is called *once* but returns *twice*



Understanding fork

Process n

```
pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
    printf("hello from child\n");
} else {
    printf("hello from parent\n");
}
```



pid_t pid = fork(); if (pid == 0) { printf("hello from child\n"); } else { printf("hello from parent\n"); }





hello from parent Which one is first? hello from child No guarantee!

Child Process m

Fork Example #1

Parent and child both run same code

Distinguish parent from child by return value from fork Start with same state, but each has private copy

Including shared output file descriptor

Relative ordering of their print statements undefined

```
void fork1()
{
    int x = 1;
    pid_t pid = fork();
    if (pid == 0) {
        printf("Child has x = %d\n", ++x);
    } else {
        printf("Parent has x = %d\n", --x);
    }
    printf("Bye from process %d with x = %d\n", getpid(), x);
}
```

Fork Example #2

Both parent and child can continue forking





Both parent and child can continue forking



exit: Ending a process

void exit(int status)

exits a process

- Normally return with status 0
 - atexit() registers functions to be executed upon
 exit

```
void cleanup(void) {
    printf("cleaning up\n");
}
void fork6() {
    atexit(cleanup);
    fork();
    exit(0);
}
```

Zombies

- Idea
 - When process terminates, still consumes system resources
 - Various tables maintained by OS
 - Called a "zombie"
 - Living corpse, half alive and half dead
- Reaping
 - Performed by parent on terminated child
 - Parent is given exit status information
 - Kernel discards process
- What if parent doesn't reap?
 - If any parent terminates without reaping a child, then child will be reaped by init process
 - So, only need explicit reaping in long-running processes
 - e.g., shells and servers

Zombie Example { linux> ./forks 7 & [1] 6639 Running Parent, PID = 6639Terminating Child, PID = 6640linux> ps } ΡΤΟ ΨΨΥ TIME CMD 6585 ttyp9 00:00:00 tcsh 6639 ttyp9 00:00:03 forks 6640 ttyp9 00:00:00 forks <defunct> 6641 ttyp9 00:00:00 ps linux> kill 6639 [1] Terminated linux> ps PID TTY TIME CMD 6585 ttyp9 00:00:00 tcsh 6642 ttyp9 00:00:00 ps

void fork7()

```
if (fork() == 0) {
/* Child */
printf("Terminating Child, PID = dn'',
        getpid());
exit(0);
} else {
printf("Running Parent, PID = %d\n",
        getpid());
while (1)
     ; /* Infinite loop */
}
```

ps shows child process as "defunct"

Killing parent allows child to be reaped by init

Nonterminating Child Example

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```
linux> ./forks 8
Terminating Parent, PID = 6675
Running Child, PID = 6676
linux> ps
  PID TTY
                  TIME CMD
 6585 ttyp9 00:00:00 tcsh
 6676 ttyp9 00:00:06 forks
 6677 ttyp9 00:00:00 ps
linux> kill 6676
linux> ps
  PID TTY
                  TIME CMD
 6585 ttyp9 00:00:00 tcsh
 6678 ttyp9
              00:00:00 ps
```

void fork8()

{

```
if (fork() == 0) {
    /* Child */
    printf("Running Child, PID = %d\n",
        getpid());
    while (1)
        ; /* Infinite loop */
} else {
    printf("Terminating Parent, PID = %d\n",
        getpid());
    exit(0);
}
```

Child process still active even though parent has terminated

Must kill explicitly, or else will keep running indefinitely

wait: Synchronizing with Children

int wait(int *child_status)

suspends current process until one of its children terminates

return value is the **pid** of the child process that terminated

if child_status != NULL, then the object it points to
 will be set to a status indicating why the child process
 terminated

wait: Synchronizing with Children

```
void fork9() {
    int child_status;

    if (fork() == 0) {
        printf("HC: hello from child\n");
    }
    else {
        printf("HP: hello from parent\n");
        wait(&child_status);
        printf("CT: child has terminated\n");
    }
    printf("Bye\n");
    exit();
}
```



wait() Example

If multiple children completed, will take in arbitrary order Can use macros WIFEXITED and WEXITSTATUS to get information about exit

status

```
void fork10()
   pid t pid[N];
    int i;
    int child status;
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
         if ((pid[i] = fork()) == 0)
             exit(100+i); /* Child */
    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 terminate abnormally\n", wpid);
```

waitpid(): Waiting for a Specific Process

waitpid(pid, &status, options)

suspends current process until specific process terminates

```
void fork11()
   pid t pid[N];
    int i;
    int child status;
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
    if ((pid[i] = fork()) == 0)
        exit(100+i); /* Child */
    for (i = N-1; i \ge 0; i--) {
    pid t wpid = waitpid(pid[i], &child status, 0);
    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);
```

execve: Loading and Running Programs

```
int execve(
      char *filename,
      char *argv[],
      char *envp[]
Loads and runs in current process:
     Executable filename
     With argument list argv
    And environment variable list envp
Does not return (unless error)
Overwrites code, data, and stack
     keeps pid, open files and signal context
Environment variables:
     "name=value" strings
    getenv and putenv
```



execve Example







- Interrupt Handling
- Process Management
- Signals

Signals

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

- akin to exceptions and interrupts
- sent from the kernel (sometimes at the request of another process) to a process
- signal type is identified by small integer ID's (1-30)
- only information in a signal is its ID and the fact that it arrived

| ID | Name | Default Action | Corresponding Event |
|----|---------|------------------|--|
| 2 | SIGINT | Terminate | Interrupt (e.g., ctl-c from keyboard) |
| 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 |

- Kernel sends (delivers) a signal to a destination process by updating some state in the context of the destination process
- Kernel sends a signal for one of the following reasons:
 - Kernel has detected a system event such as divide-by-zero (SIGFPE) or the termination of a child process (SIGCHLD)
 - Another process has invoked the **kill** system call to explicitly request the kernel to send a signal to the destination process

A destination process *receives* a signal. It is forced by the kernel to react in some way to the delivery of the signal

Three possible ways to react:

Ignore the signal (do nothing)

Terminate the process (with optional core dump)

Catch the signal by executing a user-level function called *signal handler*

Akin to a hardware exception handler being called in response to an asynchronous interrupt

Signal Concepts

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** when a signal of type k is delivered
 - Kernel clears bit k in **pending** when a signal of type k is received
- **blocked**: represents the set of blocked signals
- Can be set and cleared by using the sigprocmask function

Sending Signals with /bin/kill Program

/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/ki | 11 -9 -248 | 317 |
| linux> ps | | |
| ΡΤΟ ΨΨΥ | TT 1 | ~ 1 /~ |
| | TIME | CMD |
| 24788 pts/2 | 00:00:00 | CMD tcsh |
| 24788 pts/2 24823 pts/2 | 00:00:00 00:00:00 | CMD tcsh ps |

Receiving Signals

Suppose kernel is returning from an exception handler and is ready to pass control to process *p*

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 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* 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

Installing Signal Handlers

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

```
handler_t *signal(int signum, handler_t *handler)
```

Different values for handler:

SIG_IGN: ignore signals of type **signum**

SIG_DFL: revert to the default action on receipt of signals of type **signum**

Otherwise, **handler** is 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 in the control flow of the process that was interrupted by receipt of the signal

Signal Handling Example

```
void int handler(int sig) {
    safe printf("Process %d received signal %d\n", getpid(), sig);
    exit(0);
void fork13() {
    pid t pid[N];
    int i, child status;
    signal(SIGINT, int handler);
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
        if ((pid[i] = fork() linux> ./forks 13
            while(1); /* chi
                             Killing process 25417
                             Killing process 25418
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
                             Killing process 25419
        printf("Killing proc
                             Killing process 25420
        kill(pid[i], SIGINT)
                             Killing process 25421
                             Process 25417 received signal 2
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
                             Process 25418 received signal 2
        pid t wpid = wait(&c
                             Process 25420 received signal 2
        if (WIFEXITED(child
                             Process 25421 received signal 2
            printf("Child %c
                             Process 25419 received signal 2
                   wpid, WEX
                             Child 25417 terminated with exit status 0
        else
                             Child 25418 terminated with exit status 0
            printf("Child %c
                             Child 25420 terminated with exit status 0
                             Child 25419 terminated with exit status 0
                             Child 25421 terminated with exit status 0
                             linux>
```

Motivation for processes

a) Security

- You may want to isolate execution of parts of the program.
 - If child process crashes, the control process is still running.

b) Performance

- With multiple processes you can split parts of the execution into multiple CPUs.
 - Important if you are working with large amount of data or longrunning processes.

An *exception* is a transfer of control to the OS in response to some *event (asynchronous vs. synchronous (trap, fault, abort))*.

Process has own address space and thread of control. Libs defines primitives for spawning/terminating processes, waiting for processes and executing programs within a process. The kernel takes care of context switching.

Hardware interrupts first handled in hardware then in software (kernel) through interrupt vector. Signals as process-level interrupt handling.