



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA  
BARCELONATECH

Facultat d'Informàtica de Barcelona

# Process Management

## COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE AND OPERATING SYSTEMS

### Bioinformatics

### 2025/26 Spring Term

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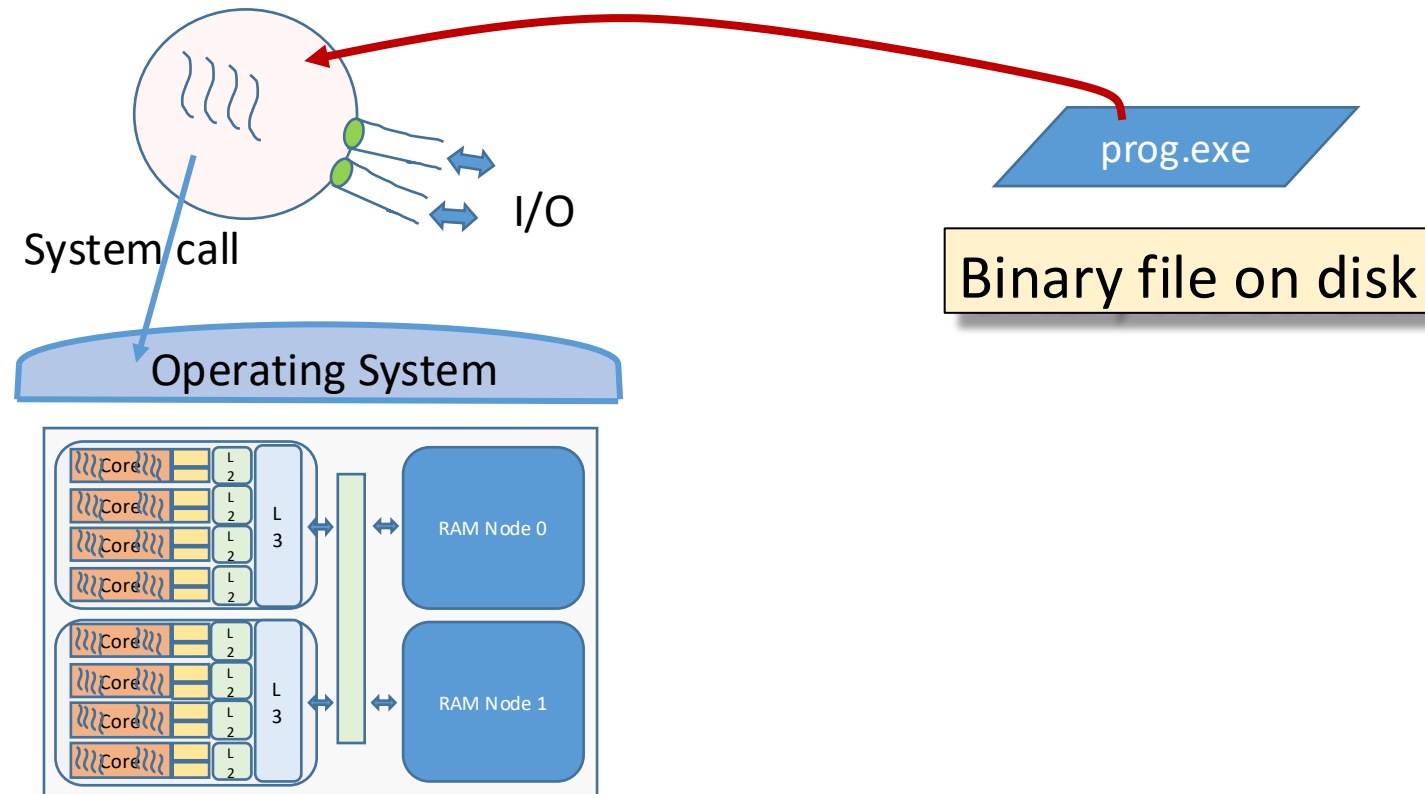


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Departament d'Arquitectura de Computadors

# Program vs Process

- ▶ A process is the OS representation of a program during its execution



# Program vs Process

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- ▶ A process is the OS representation of a program during its execution
- ▶ The user **program** is static: it is just a sequence of bytes stored on a “disk”
- ▶ The user **process** is dynamic, and it consists of...
  - ▶ What regions of physical memory is using
  - ▶ What files is accessing
  - ▶ Which user is executing it (owner, group)
  - ▶ What time it was started
  - ▶ How much CPU time it has consumed
  - ▶ ...

# Processes

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- ▶ Assuming a general purpose system, multi-user
  - ▶ each time a user starts a program, a new (unique) process is created
  - ▶ The kernel assigns resources to it: physical memory, some slot of CPU time and allows file accesses
- ▶ In a general purpose system, we have a multiprogrammed environment
  - ▶ **Multiprogrammed System**: a system with multiple programs running at a time
- ▶ **Process creation**
  - ▶ The kernel reserves and initializes a new process data structure with dynamic information (the number of total processes is limited)
    - ▶ Each OS uses a name for that data structure, in general, we will refer to it as **PCB (Process Control Block)**
    - ▶ Each new process has a unique identifier (in Linux it is a number). It is called **PID (Process Identifier)**

# Process Control Block (PCB)

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- ▶ The PCB holds the information the system needs to manage a process
- ▶ The information stored on the PCB depends on the operating system and on the hardware
  - ▶ Address space
    - ▶ Description of the memory regions of the process: code, data, stack,...
  - ▶ Execution context
    - ▶ SW: PID, scheduling information, information about devices, accounting,...
    - ▶ HW: page table, program counter, ...

# Process Control Block (PCB)

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- ▶ Typical attributes are:
  - ▶ The process identifier (PID) and the parent process identifier (PPID)
  - ▶ Credentials: user and group
  - ▶ Environment variables, input arguments
  - ▶ CPU context (to save cpu registers when entering the kernel)
  - ▶ Process state: running, ready to run, blocked, stopped...
  - ▶ Data for I/O management
  - ▶ Data for memory management
  - ▶ Scheduling information
  - ▶ Resource accounting
  - ▶ ...
- ▶ **We will deal with some of these attributes in the lab**

# Multi-Process environment

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- ▶ Usually there are many processes alive at a given time in a common OS
- ▶ Processes usually alternate using the CPU with other resource usage
  - ▶ In a multi-programmed environment the OS manages how resources are shared among processes
- ▶ In a general purpose system, the kernel alternates processes in the CPU
  - ▶ We have to alternate processes without losing the execution state
    - ▶ We will need a place to save/restore the processes execution state
    - ▶ We will need a mechanism to change from one process to another
  - ▶ We have to alternate processes being as much fair as possible
    - ▶ We will need a scheduling policy
- ▶ If the kernel makes this CPU sharing efficiently, users will have the feeling that a CPU is constantly assigned to the process

# Parallelism vs Concurrency

- ▶ Parallelism: N processes run at a given time in N CPUs

Time(each CPU executes one process)

CPU0	Proc. 0
CPU1	Proc. 1
CPU2	Proc 2

- ▶ Concurrency: N processes could be potentially executed in parallel, but there are not enough resources to do it

- ▶ The OS selects what process can run and what process has to wait

Time (CPU is shared among processes)

CPU0	Proc. 0	Proc. 1	Proc. 2	Proc. 0	Proc. 1	Proc. 2	Proc. 0	Proc. 1	Proc. 2	...
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# Execution Flows (Threads)

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- ▶ Analyzing the concept of Process...

- ▶ the OS representation of a program during its execution

...we can state a **Process** is the resource allocation entity of a executing program (memory, I/O devices, threads)

- ▶ Among other resources, we can find the **execution flow/s (thread/s)** of a process

- ▶ The execution flow is the basic scheduling entity the OS manages (CPU time allocation)

- ▶ Every piece of code that can be independently executed can be bound to a thread

- ▶ Threads have the required context to execute instruction flows

- ▶ Identifier (Thread ID: TID)

- ▶ Stack Pointer

- ▶ Pointer to the next instruction to be executed (Program Counter),

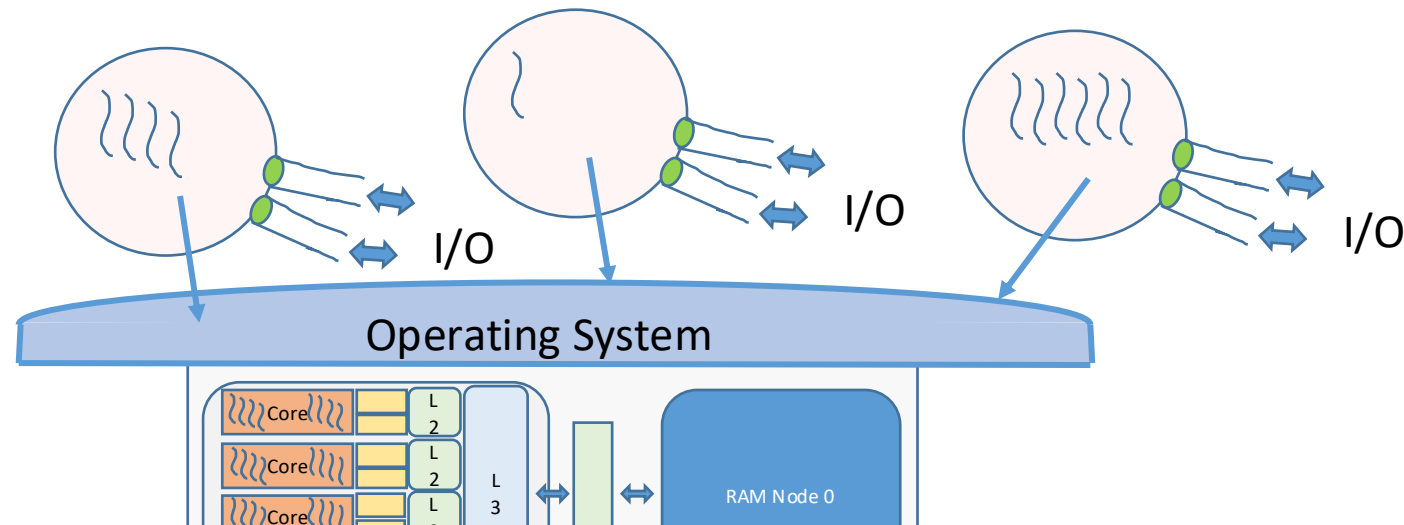
- ▶ Registers (Register File)

- ▶ Errno variable

- ▶ Threads **share** resources of the same process (PCB, memory, I/O devices)

# Multi-threaded processes

- ▶ A process has a single thread when it is launched
- ▶ A process can create a number of additional threads
  - ▶ E.g.: current high-performance videogames comprise >50 threads; Firefox/Chrome show >80 threads
- ▶ The management of multi-threaded processes depends on the OS support
  - ▶ User Level Threads vs Kernel Level Threads



# Execution Flows (Threads)

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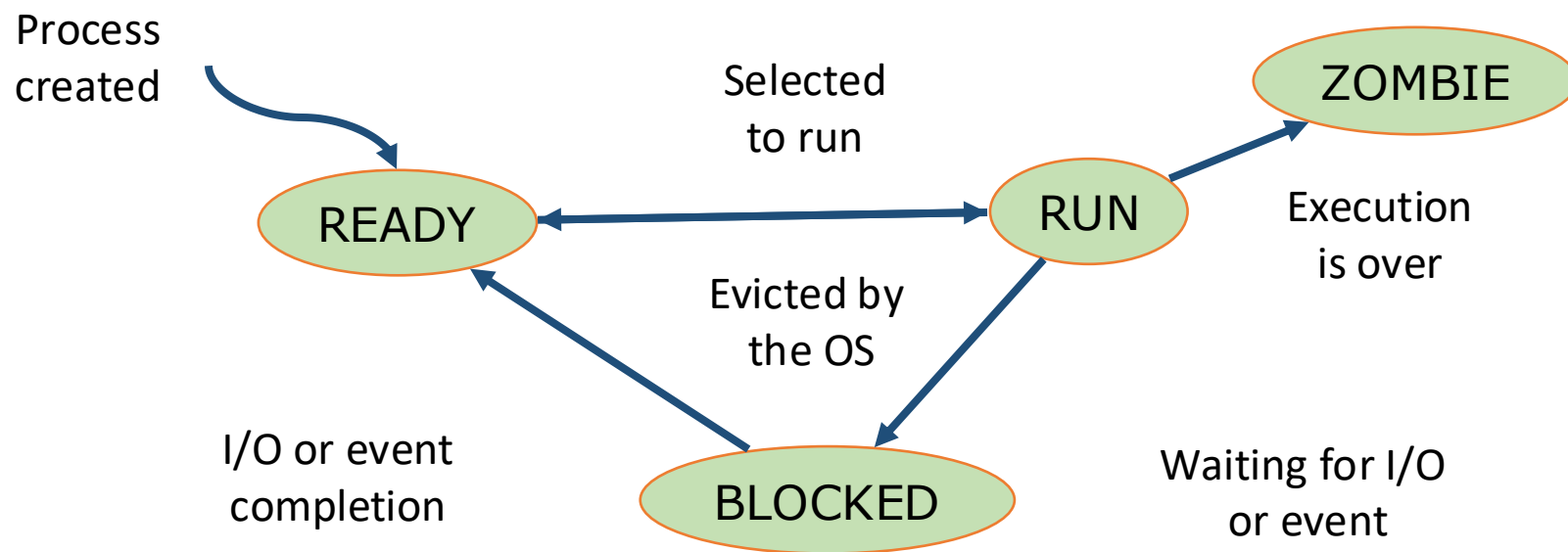
- ▶ When and what are threads used for...
  - ▶ Parallelism exploitation (code and hardware resources)
  - ▶ Task encapsulation (modular programming)
  - ▶ I/O efficiency (specific threads for I/O)
  - ▶ Service request pipelining (keep required QoS)
- ▶ Pros
  - ▶ Threads management (among threads of the same process) has less cost than process management
  - ▶ Threads can exchange data without syscalls, since they share memory
- ▶ Cons
  - ▶ Hard to code and debug due to shared memory

# Process State

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- ▶ The PCB holds the information required to exactly know the current status of the process execution
- ▶ Processes do not always use the CPU
  - ▶ E.g.: Waiting for data coming from a slow device, waiting for an event...
- ▶ The OS classifies processes based on what their are doing, this is called the **process state**
  - ▶ It is internally managed like a PCB attribute or grouping processes in different lists (or queues)

# Process State Graph



- ▶ This is a generic process state graph approach mostly used by kernels, but...
  - ▶ ...every kernel defines its own process state graph with slight modifications

# Kernel Internals for Process Management

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- ▶ Data structures to keep per-process information and resource allocation
- ▶ Data structures to manage PCB's, usually based on their state
  - ▶ In a general purpose system, such as Linux, Data structures are typically queues, multi-level queues, lists, hash tables, etc.
- ▶ Scheduling algorithms to select the next process to run in the CPU

# Schedulers

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- ▶ Schedulers are critical for the proper performance of the system
- ▶ **Short** term: every OS Tick
  - ▶ What is the next process to run in the CPU
- ▶ **Medium** term: when the OS detects it is running out of resources (E.g. Memory)
  - ▶ What processes are candidate to **temporally** release resources to let other processes use them
- ▶ **Long** term (*optional*): every start/end of a process
  - ▶ What is the maximum number of processes suitable to run in the system
    - ▶ It controls the multiprogrammed level of the system



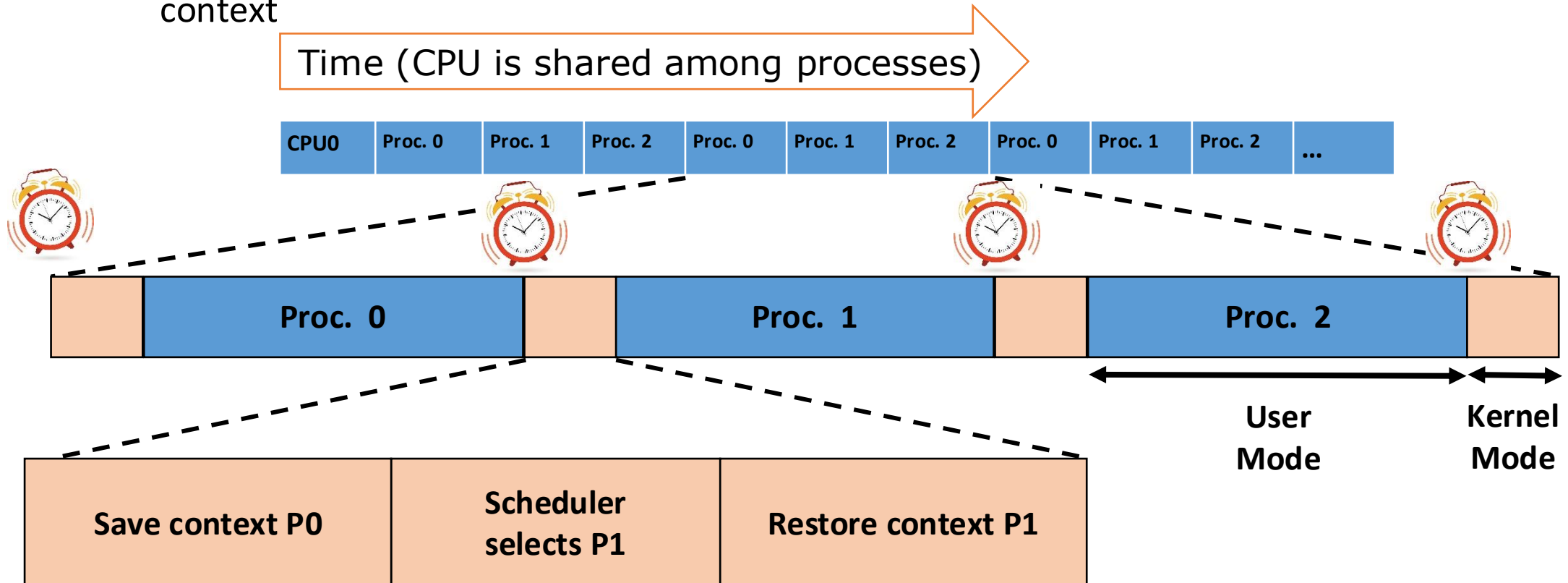
# Short Term Scheduler

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- ▶ Every OS tick the scheduler checks whether another process has to run in the CPU
- ▶ **Non-Preemptive Policies:** the scheduler cannot put a process out of the running state
  - ▶ Only the process itself can decide to release the CPU (e.g. blocking I/O call)
- ▶ **Preemptive Policies:** the scheduler can put a process out of the running state in order to enable another process run instructions in the CPU
  - ▶ **Quantum:** period of time the scheduler grants a process to run in a row in the CPU
  - ▶ Priority/non-priority based policies
    - ▶ E.g. Round-Robin
- ▶ Schedulers of current general purpose OSes are based on complex approaches
  - ▶ Multiple policies using multiple queues

# Impact of context switch on performance

- ▶ **Context Switch:** changing the process that is running in the CPU
  - ▶ It involves an overhead due to kernel code execution and manage the save/restore of a process context



# Performance/Efficiency of a Scheduling Policy

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- ▶ What is the main goal of the system?
  - ▶ Real-time systems versus High Performance Computing
    - ▶ It is not the same the device that manage the ABS of a car than a node in a Supercomputer
- ▶ The definition of “optimal” scheduling policy depends on the purpose of the system
  - ▶ Different metrics to find out whether a scheduling policy is well chosen
    - ▶ E.g. Response time, throughput, efficiency, turnaround time

# Syscalls related to Process Management

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- ▶ Process creation

- ▶ A process creates a new child process

- ▶ End of process execution

- ▶ A process notifies to the kernel that it finishes its execution

- ▶ Wait for a child process to finish

- ▶ And allow the system to release its data structures (PCB, kernel stack...)

- ▶ Get process identifiers

- ▶ Get the Process ID ( `os.getpid()` ) and the Parent Process ID ( `os.getppid()` )

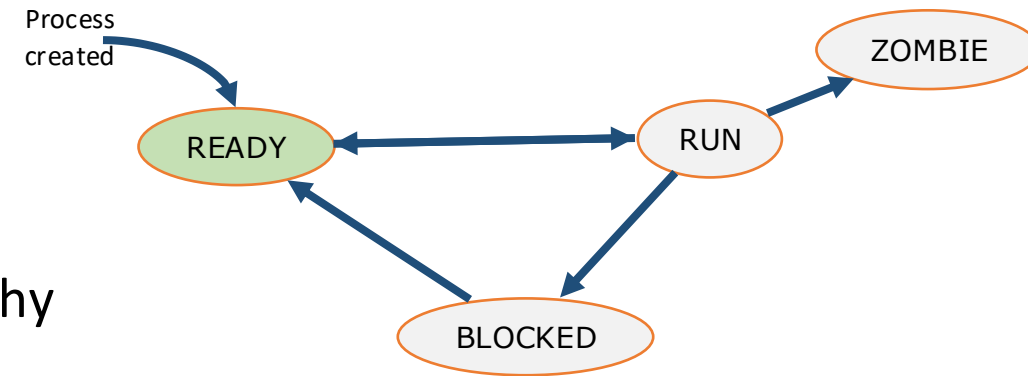
- ▶ Execute a new program

- ▶ The process changes the program that is executing

# Process Creation

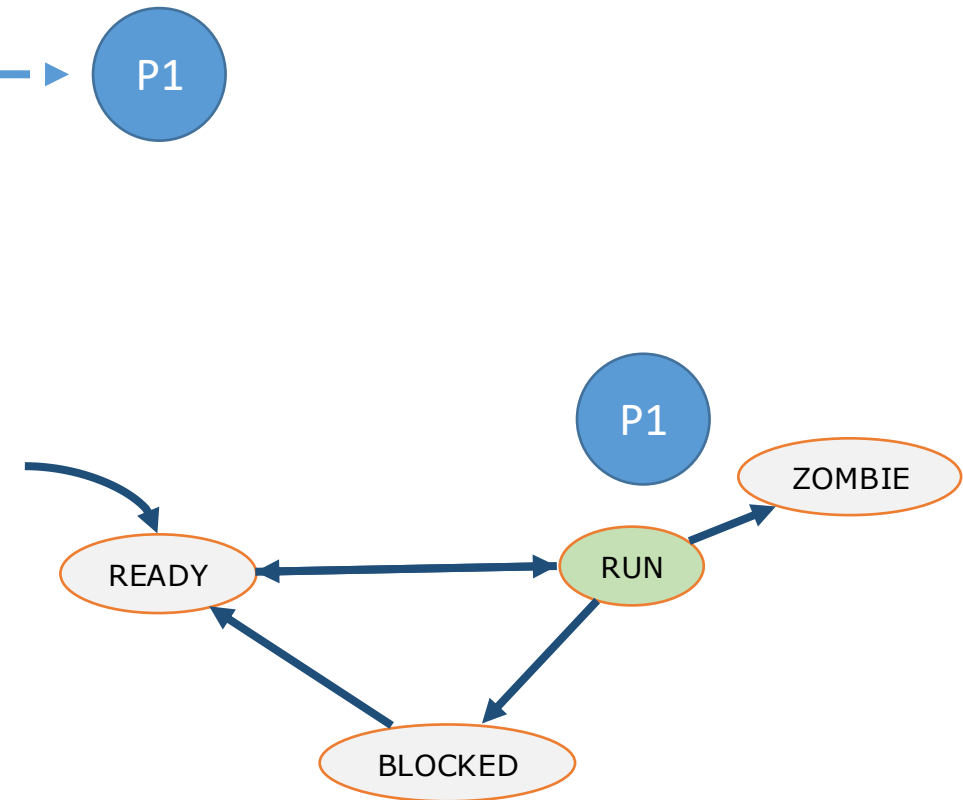
os.fork()

- ▶ The current process creates a child process
  - ▶ It is the base of the whole system process hierarchy
  - ▶ The child process is a clone of its parent
    - ▶ Most of the content is inherited
      - ▶ Such as memory regions, I/O devices, register file values
    - ▶ Some characteristics are not inherited
      - ▶ Such as PID, PPID (Parent's PID), stats (use of CPU...)
- ▶ Both processes keep executing from the very next instruction
- ▶ But both receive different return values
  - ▶ The parent receives the PID of the child process
  - ▶ The child receives 0



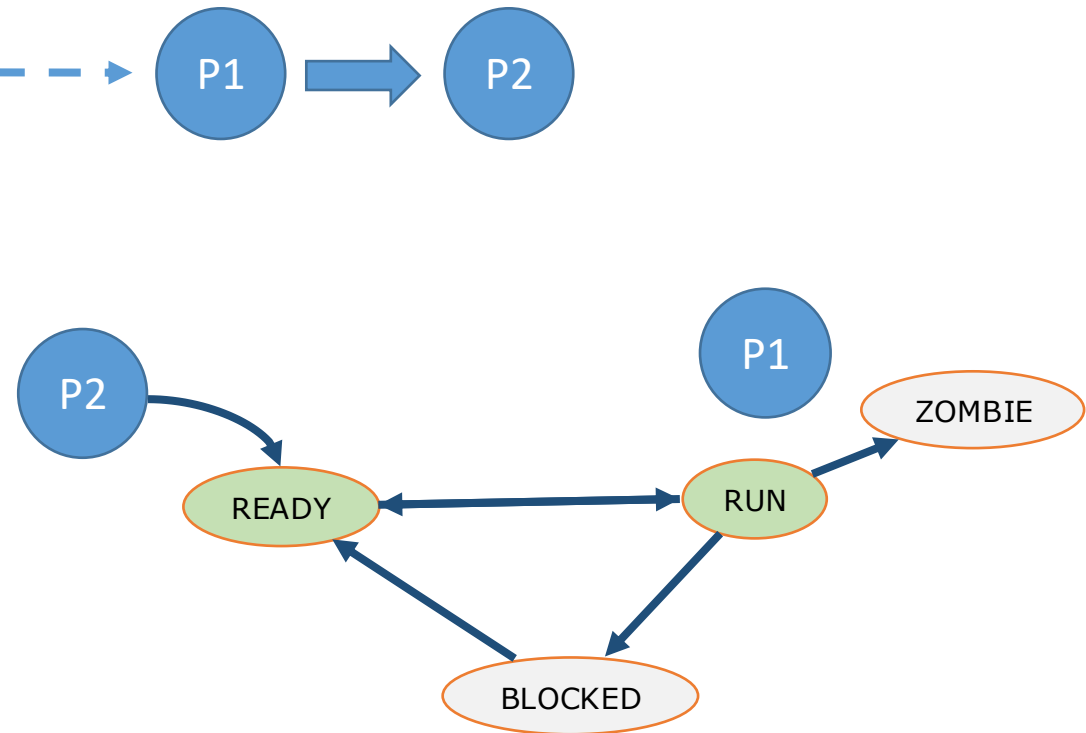
# Example: Fork in Python

```
import os
count = 0
ret = os.fork()
if ret == 0:
    count -= 1
    print("Child with counter = ",count)
else:
    count += 1
    print("Parent with counter = ",count)
```



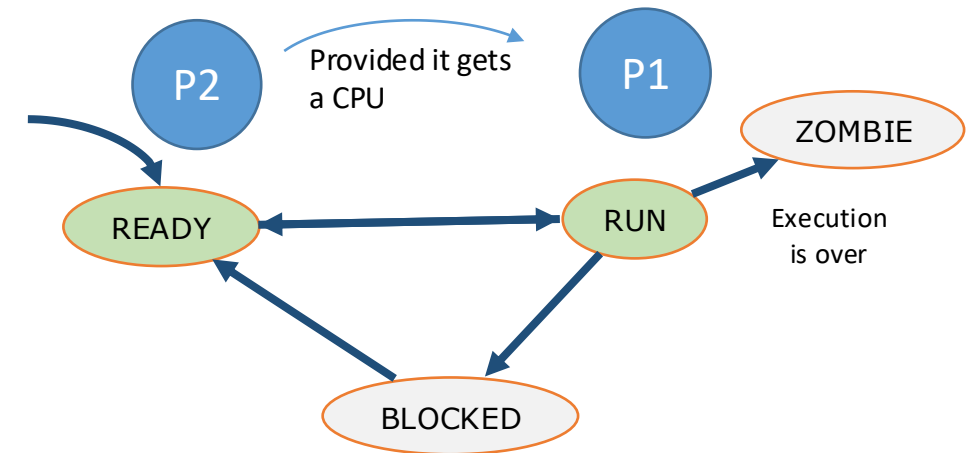
# Example: Fork in Python

```
import os
count = 0
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if ret == 0:
    count -= 1
    print("Child with counter = ",count)
else:
    count += 1
    print("Parent with counter = ",count)
```



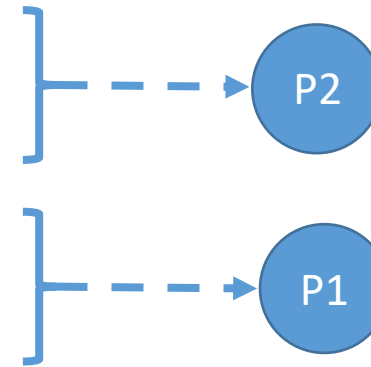
# Example: Fork in Python

```
import os
count = 0
ret = os.fork()
if ret == 0:
    count -= 1
    print("Child with counter = ",count)
else:
    count += 1
    print("Parent with counter = ",count)
```



# Example: Fork in Python

```
import os
count = 0
ret = os.fork()
if ret == 0:
    count -= 1
    print("Child with counter = ",count)
else:
    count += 1
    print("Parent with counter = ",count)
```



**Output**  
*Child with count = -1*  
*Parent with counter = 1*

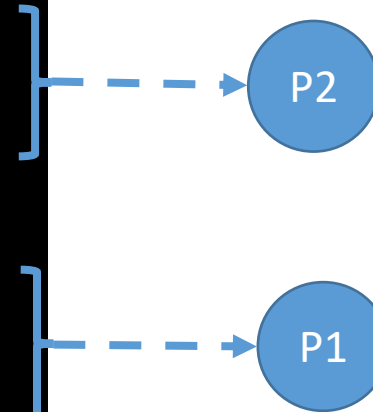
## Notes:

- Memory regions are not shared between the processes
- Concurrent/parallel executions are possible

# Example: Fork in C

```
#include <unistd.h> // fork
#include <stdio.h> // printf
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int pid, status, code, i;
    int count = 0;
    int ret = fork();
    if (ret == 0) {
        count--;
        printf("Child with counter = %d\n", count);
    }
    else {
        count += 1;
        printf("Parent with counter = %d\n", count);
    }
}
```

**Output**  
*Child with count = -1*  
*Parent with counter = 1*



## Notes:

- Memory regions are not shared between the processes
- Concurrent/parallel executions are possible

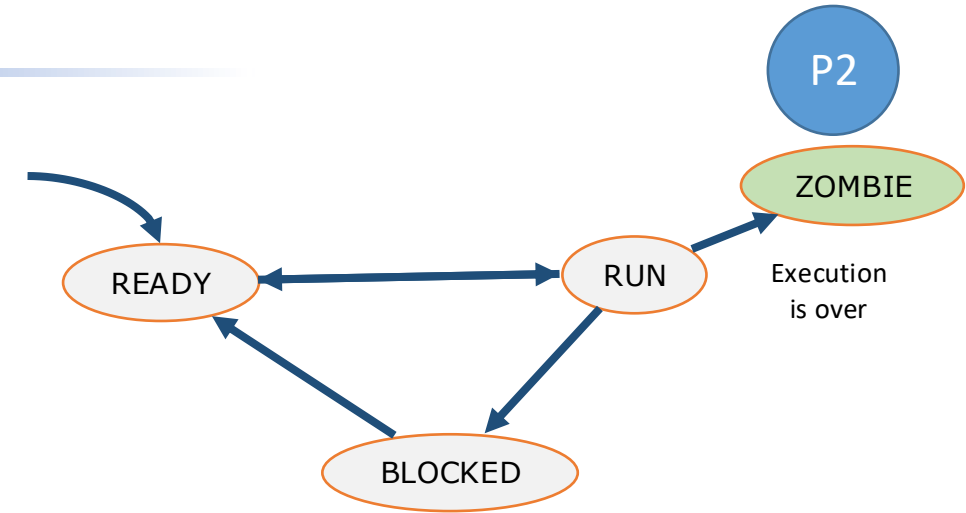
# Concurrent vs Sequential Process Creation

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- ▶ A parent process can create multiple child processes
- ▶ Management of concurrent child process creations
  - ▶ The parent process does not wait to the death of a given child process to create the next one
  - ▶ Multiple child processes are alive at a time
    - ▶ More processes to be handled by the short term scheduler
- ▶ Management of sequential child process creations
  - ▶ The parent process waits to the death of a given child process before creating the next one
  - ▶ Only one child process is alive at a time
    - ▶ Only one additional child process to be handled by the short term scheduler

# End of process execution

```
sys.exit([arg])
```



- ▶ The process ends the execution

- ▶ It turns to Zombie status

- ▶ All resources are released (e.g. memory),
    - ▶ but the PCB (PID and return value) is preserved

- ▶ Parameters:

- ▶ An integer\* value that is the return value of the process execution (it is truncated to 1 Byte)

- ▶ The parent process has to release the *zombie* child process

- ▶ Until that time, the PCB still exists and thus its PID

# Wait for a child process to finish

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```
[pid, status] = os.wait()
```

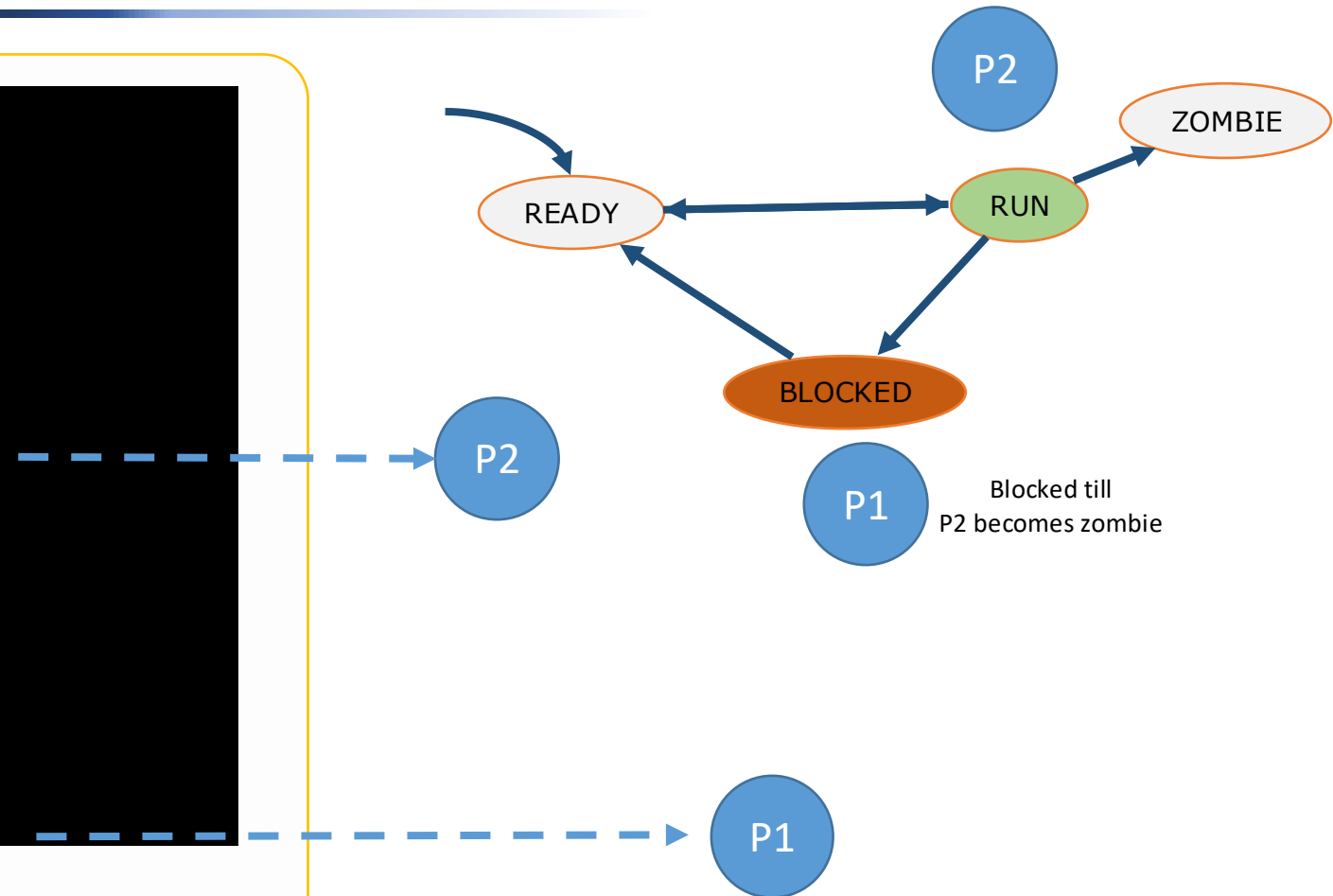
- ▶ The parent process (caller) releases a zombie child process
  - ▶ Returns the PID of the released child process and the exit STATUS
    - ▶ **Status** is updated to hold the return value of the child process (or event that involved its finalization) in the high byte of a 16-bit number
    - ▶ **Release the zombie child process** means to release the PCB, PID and related structures
- ▶ The behavior
  - ▶ If there are child processes
    - ▶ If there is a zombie child process that matches with the “pid” parameter, it is released
    - ▶ Otherwise the parent process (caller) is blocked → this is a **blocking system call**
  - ▶ If there are no child processes, returns “-1”

# Example: exit & wait in Python

```
import os,sys
count = 0
ret = os.fork()

if ret == 0:
    print("Child with counter = ",count)
    for i in range (count, 255):
        count +=1
    sys.exit(count)

else:
    count += 1
    print("Parent with counter = ",count)
    [pid,status] = os.wait()
```

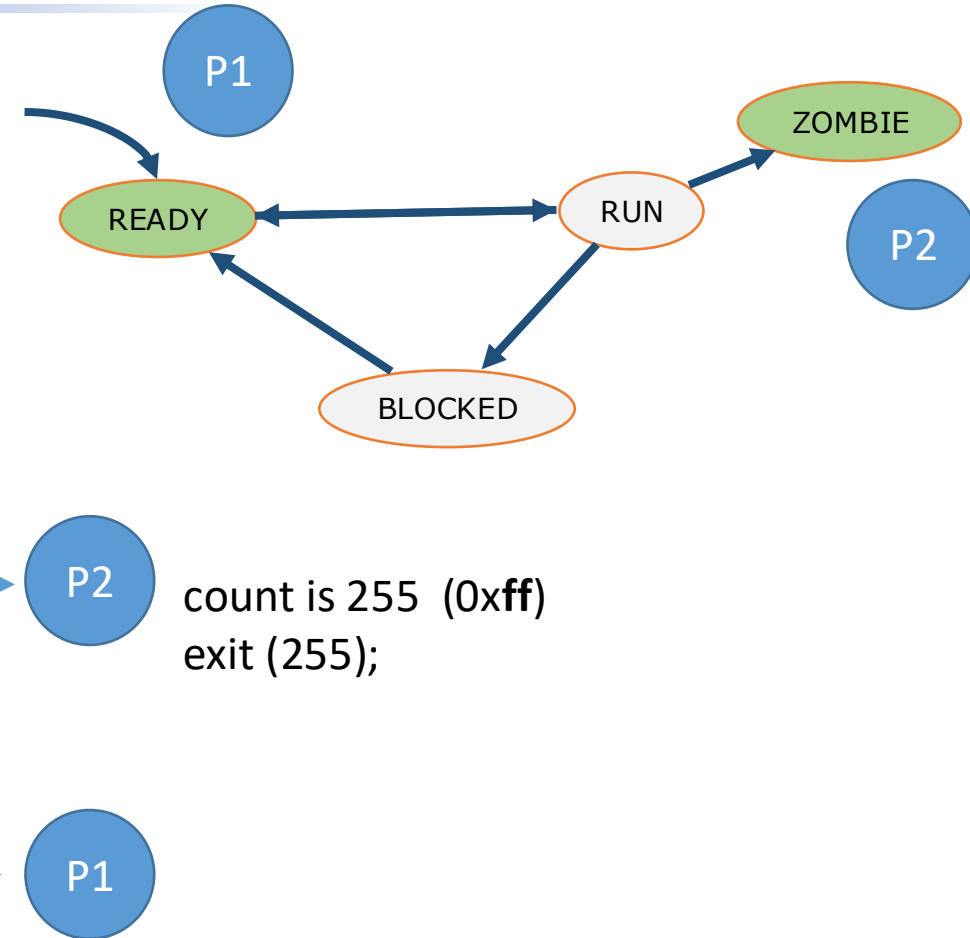


# Example: exit & wait in Python

```
import os,sys
count = 0
ret = os.fork()
```

```
if ret == 0:
    print("Child with counter = ",count)
    for i in range (count, 255):
        count +=1
    sys.exit(count)
```

```
else:
    count += 1
    print("Parent with counter = ",count)
    [pid,status] = os.wait()
```

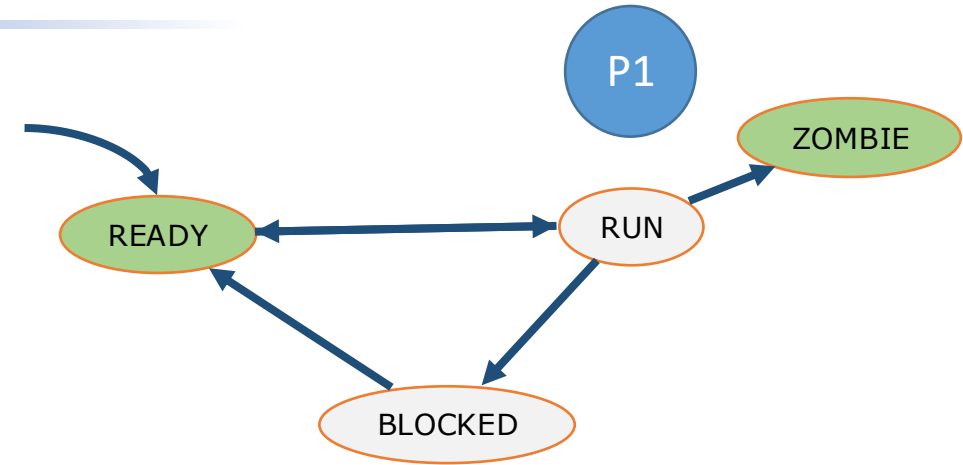


# Example: exit & wait in Python

```
import os,sys
count = 0
ret = os.fork()

if ret == 0:
    print("Child with counter = ",count)
    for i in range (count, 255):
        count +=1
    sys.exit(count)

else:
    count += 1
    print("Parent with counter = ",count)
    [pid,status] = os.wait()
```



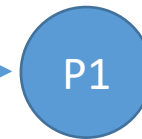
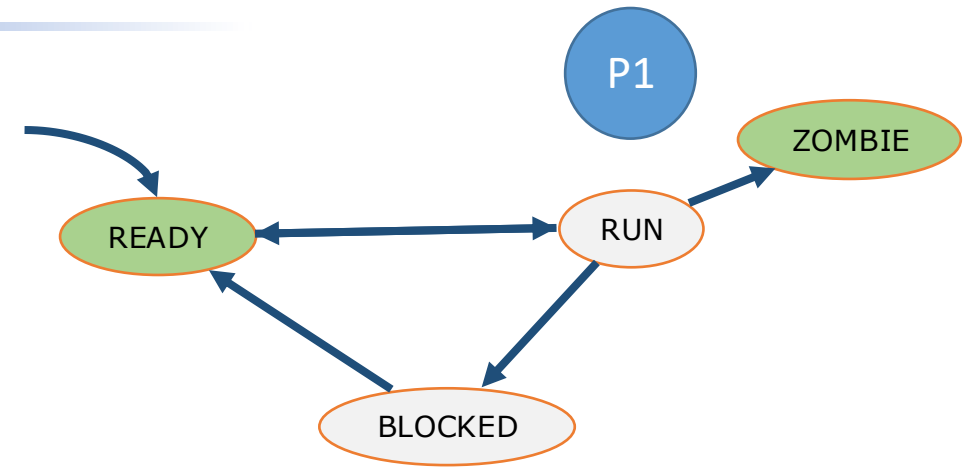
Status is 65280 (0xff00)

```

#include <unistd.h> // fork
#include <stdio.h> // printf
#include <sys/wait.h> // wait
#include <stdlib.h> // exit
int main(int argc, char * argv[]) {
    int i, pid, status, code;
    int count = 0;
    int ret = fork();
    if (ret == 0) {
        printf("Child with counter = %d\n",count);
        for (i=count;i<255;i++) {
            count ++;
        }
        exit(count);
    }
    else {
        count += 1;
        printf("Parent with counter = %d\n",count);
        pid = wait(&status);
        if WIFEXITED(status) {
            code = WEXITSTATUS(status);
            printf("Child %d is dead: %d\n",pid,status);
        }
    }
}
...
check_status(pid, status)

```

## Example: exit & wait in C



Status is 65280 (0xff00)

# Example: exit conventions

---

- ▶ Error codes in `exit(...)` follow some common conventions
  - ▶ Code 0: program exited successfully
  - ▶ Code 1
    - ▶ Minor issues, e.g., `grep` returns 1 if no matching lines are found in any files
    - ▶ Errors occurred, e.g., `find`
  - ▶ Code 2 and above
    - ▶ Errors occurred, e.g. `grep` could not open at least one of the files provided
- ▶ Usually, no negative numbers are returned

# Execute a new program

```
os.execvp(file, arg0, arg1, ...)
```

```
os.execvp(file, args)
```

- ▶ Current process replaces the program (file) that is executing
  - ▶ A whole new memory contents and register values are loaded from “filename”
  - ▶ It performs dynamic linking, if necessary, and starts the program from its entry point
  - ▶ Parameters:
    - ▶ filename: indicates the name of the program to be loaded and executed (PATH is used to find it)
    - ▶ argX: hold the command line arguments for the program to be executed
    - ▶ args[]: same as argX, but in array format.
- ▶ Behavior
  - ▶ If the new program can be found, loaded and started, it never returns
    - ▶ **Once it is replaced, the previous memory contents (e.g. code, data) are not there any more**
  - ▶ On Unix, the new executable is loaded into the current process, and will have the same process id as the caller. In Python, errors will be reported as [OSError](#) exceptions.
    - ▶ E.g. the “filename” is wrong, the user has no permission to execute the “filename”, etc.

# Example

---

- ▶ Child process replaces its code by the “ls” program
- ▶ Parent process waits until “ls” finishes

```
import os,sys

pid = os.fork()
if pid == 0:
    os.execvp("ls","-l", "-a")
else:
    os.wait()
print("Parent about to finish")
```

- ▶ Relation between fork and exec

# Interprocess communication (IPC)

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# Inter Process Communication (IPC)

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- ▶ A complex problem can be solved with several processes that cooperates among them. Cooperation means **communication**
  - ▶ Data communication: sending/receiving data
  - ▶ Synchronization: sending/waiting for events
- ▶ There are two main models for data communication
  - ▶ Shared memory between processes
    - ▶ Processes share a memory area and access it through variables mapped to this area
      - ▶ This is done through a system call, by default, memory is not shared between processes
  - ▶ Message passing (Unit 4)
    - ▶ Processes uses some special device to send/receive data
- ▶ We can also use regular files, but the kernel doesn't offer any special support for this case

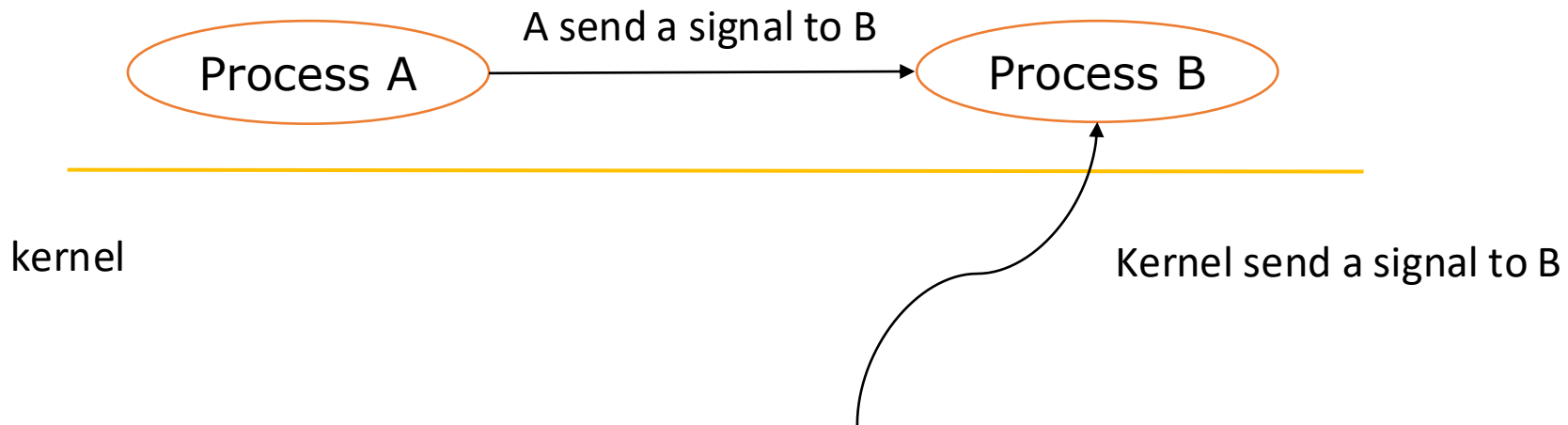
# IPC in Linux

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- ▶ **Signals – Events send by processes belonging to the same user or by the kernel**
- ▶ **Pipes, aka FIFOs: special devices designed for process communication. The kernel offers support for process synchronization (Unit 4)**
- ▶ **Sockets – Similar to pipes but it uses the network**
- ▶ **Shared memory between processes – Special memory area accessible for more than one process**

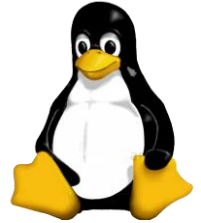
# Signals: idea

- ▶ Signals: notification that an event has occurred
- ▶ Signals received by a process can be sent by the kernel or by other processes of the same user



# Type of signals and management (I)

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- ▶ Each type of event has an associated signal
  - ▶ Type of events and associated signals are defined by the kernel
    - ▶ The type of signal is a number, but there exists constants that can be used inside programs or in the command line
  - ▶ There are two signals that are not associated to any event, so the programmer can assign any meaning to them → SIGUSR1 y SIGUSR2
- ▶ Each process has associated a management to each signal
  - ▶ Default managements
  - ▶ A process can *catch* (change the associated management) to all type of signal except SIGKILL and SIGSTOP

# Type of signals and management (2)



Name	Action	Event
<b>SIGCHLD</b>	IGNORE	Child stopped or terminated
<b>SIGCONT</b>	CONT	Continue if stopped
<b>SIGSTOP</b>	STOP	Stop a process
<b>SIGINT</b>	END	Interrupted from the keyboard (Ctrl-C)
<b>SIGALRM</b>	END	timer programmed by alarm has expired
<b>SIGKILL</b>	END	Finish the process
<b>SIGSEGV</b>	CORE	Invalid memory access
<b>SIGUSR1</b>	END	Defined by the process
<b>SIGUSR2</b>	END	Defined by the process

# Type of signals and management (3)

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- ▶ Reaction of a process to a signal delivering is similar to the reaction to an interrupt:
  - ▶ When a process receives a signal, it stops the code execution, executes the management associated to that signal and then (if it survives) continues with the execution of the code.
- ▶ Processes can block/unblock the delivery of each signal except SIGKILL and SIGSTOP (signals SIGILL, SIGFPE and SIGSEGV cannot be blocked when they are generated by an exception).
  - ▶ When a process blocks a signal, if that signal is sent to the process it will not be delivered until the process unblocks it.
    - ▶ The system marks the signal as pending to be delivered
    - ▶ Each process has bitmap of pending signals: it only can remember one pending delivery for each type of signal
  - ▶ When a process unblocks a signal, it will receive the pending signal and will execute the associated management

# Signals basic interface

---



- ▶ Send a signal

- ▶ `os.kill(pid, sig)`

- ▶ Catch a signal

- ▶ `signal.signal(signalnum, handler)`

- ▶ Timer setting

- ▶ `signal.alarm(time)`

- ▶ To send a `signal.SIGALRM` to the process self

- ▶ Variables defined in the [signal](https://docs.python.org/3/library/signal.html) module:

- ▶ <https://docs.python.org/3/library/signal.html>

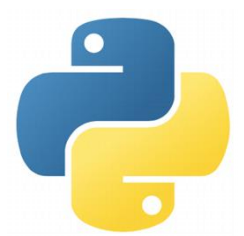
- ▶ Check also `man 7 signal`

# Interface: send a signal



- ▶ `os.kill(pid, sig)`
  - ▶ Send signal *sig* to the process *pid*.
  - ▶ Constants for the specific signals available on the host platform are defined in the [signal](#) module.

```
import os, signal  
  
os.kill(os.getppid(), signal.SIGUSR1)
```



# Interface: catch a signal

---

- ▶ `signal.signal(signalnum, handler)`
  - ▶ Set the handler for signal `signalnum` to the function `handler`.
    - ▶ `handler` can be a callable Python object taking two arguments (signal number and current stack frame)
    - ▶ Or one of the special values [`signal.SIG\_IGN`](#) or [`signal.SIG\_DFL`](#)

```
import os, signal

def f(i):
    print "Caught! Signum: ",i

signal.signal(signal.SIGUSR1, f)
```



# Example: signal , kill

```
#example signal-kill
import signal
def handler(signum, frame):
    print ("hi!")
    return 0
signal.signal(signal.SIGUSR1,handler)
while True:
    pass
```

```
jfornes@tiacos:~/ProcMan$ python3 signal-kill.py &
[1] 15029
jfornes@tiacos:~/ProcMan$ kill -USR1 15029
hi!
jfornes@tiacos:~/ProcMan$ kill -USR1 15029
hi!
```

# Example: signal , kill

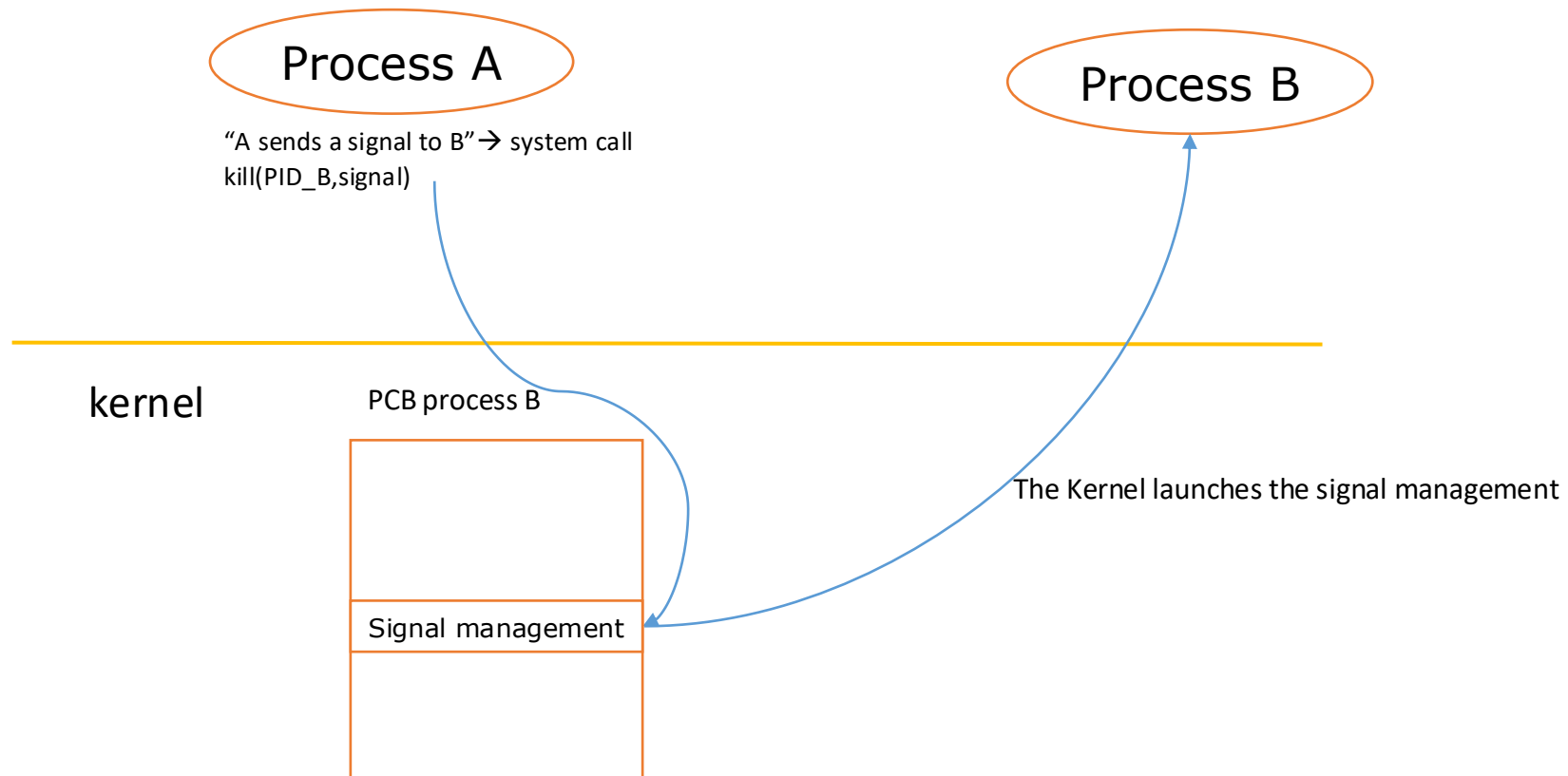


```
/* example signal-kill */
#include <signal.h>
#include <unistd.h>
void handler(int signum) {write(1,"hi!\n",4);}
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    signal(SIGUSR1,handler);
    for(;;);
}
```

```
jfornes@CAOS:~/ProcMan$ cc -o signal-kill example_signal-kill.c
jfornes@CAOS:~/ProcMan$ ./signal-kill
[1] 15029
jfornes@CAOS:~/ProcMan$ kill -USR1 15029
hi!:
jfornes@CAOS:~/ProcMan$ kill -USR1 15029
hi!:
jfornes@CAOS:~/ProcMan$ kill -KILL 15029
[1] + killed ./signal-kill
```

# Signals: Sending and delivering

What really happens?: the kernel offers the service to pass the information.



# Delivering a SIGCHLD signal

---

- ▶ When a child process terminates, the kernel sends a SIGCHLD to the parent
- ▶ Default disposition for SIGCHLD is ignore
- ▶ A child that terminates, but has not been waited for becomes a "zombie".
  - ▶ it will consume a slot in the kernel process table, and if this table fills, it will not be possible to create further processes.
- ▶ A parent call to `os.wait()` will block until all children have terminate
- ▶ Now, parent has a way to obtain information about the child without blocking

# Delivering a SIGCHLD signal



```
5 def check_status(pid, status):
6     if os.WIFEXITED(status):
7         code = os.WEXITSTATUS(status)
8         print("Process ", pid, "ends with exit code ", code)
9     else:
10        signum = os.WTERMSIG(status)
11        print("Process ", pid, "ends signal number ", signum)
12    return 0
13
14 def child_handler(signum, frame):
15     [pid, status] = os.wait()
16     check_status(pid, status)
17     return 0
18
19 signal.signal(signal.SIGCHLD, child_handler)
20 pid = os.fork()
...
```

# Delivering a SIGCHLD signal



```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <sys/wait.h>
#include <signal.h>
#include <stdio.h>

int check_status(int pid, int status) {
    int code, signum;
    if WIFEXITED(status) {
        code = WEXITSTATUS(status);
        printf("Process %d ends because an exit with exit code %d\n", pid, code);
    }
    else {
        signum = WTERMSIG(status);
        printf("Process %d ends because a signal number %d", pid, signum);
    }
    return 0;
}

void child_handler(int signum) {
    int pid, status;
    pid = waitpid(-1, &status, WNOHANG);
    check_status(pid, status);
}

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    int pid;
    signal(SIGCHLD, child_handler);
```

# Relation with fork and exec

## ▶ FORK: **new process**

- ▶ Child inherits from parent
  - ▶ the signal table
  - ▶ the mask of blocked signals
- ▶ Child resets
  - ▶ The bitmap of pending events
  - ▶ Timers
- ▶ Events and timers are associated to a particular pid (the pid of the parent) and children are new processes with new pids.

## ▶ EXECLP: **same process**, new image

- ▶ Process keeps
  - ▶ The bitmap of pending events
  - ▶ The mask of blocked signals
  - ▶ Timers
- ▶ Process resets
  - ▶ The signal table → the code of the process is different so the handle code of the signals is set to SIG\_DFL

# Error control

---

# Error control

---



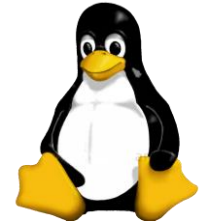
- ▶ It is extremely important to check for errors
  - ▶ On system calls
  - ▶ On library calls
- ▶ Manual pages describe the way system/library routines return errors

RETURN VALUE -- fork

On success, the PID of the child process is returned in the parent, and 0 is returned in the child. On failure, -1 is returned in the parent, no child process is created, and errno is set appropriately.

RETURN VALUE -- exit

These functions do not return.



# Error control

---

- ▶ System calls usually return -1 on error and
  - ▶ Set the errno variable to contain the code of the specific error

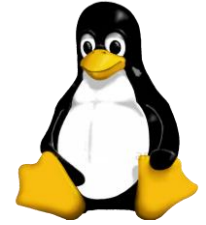
RETURN VALUE -- wait

wait(): on success, returns the process ID of the terminated child; on error, -1 is returned.

## ERRORS

ECHILD The process specified by pid does not exist or is not a child of the calling process.

EINVAL The options argument was invalid.



# Error control

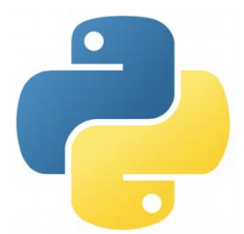
## ► Common UNIX/Linux error codes

```
#ifndef _ASM_GENERIC_ERRNO_BASE_H
#define _ASM_GENERIC_ERRNO_BASE_H

#define EPERM          1    /* Operation not permitted */
#define ENOENT          2    /* No such file or directory */
#define ESRCH          3    /* No such process */
#define EINTR          4    /* Interrupted system call */
#define EIO             5    /* I/O error */
#define ENXIO          6    /* No such device or address */
#define E2BIG          7    /* Argument list too long */
#define ENOEXEC        8    /* Exec format error */
#define EBADF          9    /* Bad file number */
#define ECHILD         10   /* No child processes */
#define EAGAIN         11   /* Try again */
#define ENOMEM         12   /* Out of memory */
#define EACCES         13   /* Permission denied */
#define EFAULT         14   /* Bad address */
#define ENOTBLK        15   /* Block device required */
#define EBUSY          16   /* Device or resource busy */
#define EEXIST         17   /* File exists */
...
#define EHWPOISON      133   /* Memory page has hardware error */
```

# Error control

---



- ▶ Although in Python we could use the negative return value to handle low level errors, it is much better to use exceptions.
- ▶ Errors detected during execution are called *exceptions* and are not unconditionally fatal.
- ▶ If the exception is not handled by the program, it results in error messages:

```
>>> 10 * (1/0)
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
```

```
File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
```

```
ZeroDivisionError: division by zero
```

# Handling exceptions



- ▶ Each module defines its own exceptions
- ▶ In this unit we have to deal with [OSError](#)
  - ▶ *exception* `OSError(errno, strerror[, filename[, winerror[, filename2]]])`
  - ▶ This exception is raised when a system function returns a system-related error
  - ▶ *errno*, a numeric error code from the C variable `errno`.
- ▶ General case:

```
try:  
    # syscall  
except OSError:  
    # manage error  
else:  
    # after syscall works  
finally:  
    # anyway
```

# Handling exceptions



## ► Exemple:

- A parent process creates a child and just after that waits for it
- Is this code ok?

```
try:  
    pid = os.fork()  
    os.wait()  
except OSError as err:  
    print("OS error: {0}".format(err))
```

# Handling exceptions



## ► Exemple:

- A parent process creates a child and just after that waits for it
- Is this code ok?

```
try:  
    pid = os.fork()  
    os.wait()  
except OSError as err:  
    print("OS error: {0}".format(err))
```

```
jfornes@tiacos:~/ProcMan$ python3 error_control.py  
OS error: [Errno 10] No child processes
```

# Handling exceptions

---



## ▶ Raising Exceptions

- ▶ With the statement `raise` we can
  - ▶ force a specified exception to occur
  - ▶ Caught the exception, but not handle it

## ▶ Model-View-Controller pattern

- ▶ Who tries?
  - ▶ The controller
- ▶ Who raises the exception?
  - ▶ The model
- ▶ Who prints the error message?
  - ▶ The view

# Handling exceptions



- ▶ A `try` statement may have more than one `except` clause, to specify handlers for different exceptions.

```
try:
    pid = os.fork()
except OSError as err:
    print("OS error: {0}".format(err))
except:
    print ("Unknown error",sys.exc_info()[0])
    raise
else:
    if pid == 0:
        print ("Child ", os.getpid())
        sys.exit(0)
```

~



# Error control

## ► Sample code to manage errors

```
1 #include <sys/wait.h>
2 #include <errno.h>
3 #include <stdlib.h>
4 #include <stdio.h>
5 int main() {
6     int status;
7     pid_t pid, mychild;
8
9     ... mychild = ...
10
11     pid = waitpid(mychild, &status, 0);
12     if (pid < 0) {
13         perror("waitpid");
14         exit(1); // optional?
15     }
16 ...
```

If the pid returned is -1 ...

perror formats the error message:

waitpid: No child processes

- If the application cannot continue, issue the exit(...)
- If the application can continue, the user will just get the error message



# Exercises

---



# Exercises

---

## ► Analyse this code

```
try:  
    pid = os.fork()  
    print("Hello")  
  
except OSError:  
    print("Error")
```

- Output if fork success?
- Output if fork fails?
- Try it!!



# Exercises

## ► Analyse this code

```
pid = fork();  
printf("Hello");  
  
if (pid == -1)  
    printf("Error");
```

- Output if fork success?
- Output if fork fails?
- Try it!!

# Exercises



- ▶ How many processes are created by this code?

```
os.fork()  
os.fork()  
os.fork()
```

- ▶ And by this one?

```
for _ in range(0,8):  
    os.fork()
```



# Exercises

- ▶ How many processes are created by this code?

```
fork();  
fork();  
fork();
```

- ▶ And by this one?

```
for (int i=0;i<8;i++)  
    fork();
```

# Exercises (exam)

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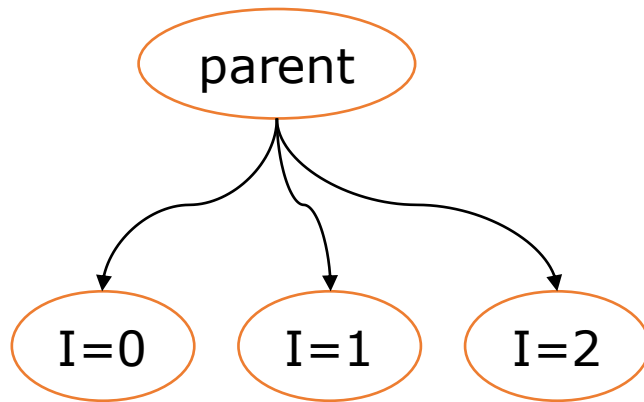
- ▶ Draw the processes hierarchy
  - ▶ with `sys.exit(0)`
  - ▶ without `sys.exit(0)`

```
import os, sys
def work():
    print("My pid is ", os.getpid())
    sys.exit(0)

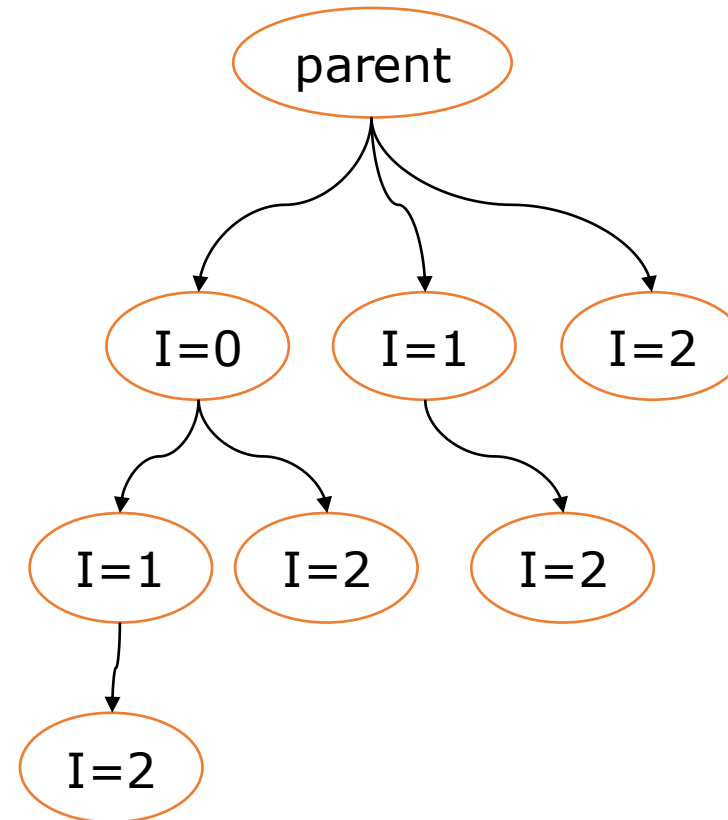
for _ in range(0,3):
    pid = os.fork()
    if pid == 0:
        work()
while True:
    pass
```

# Process hierarchy

With exit system call



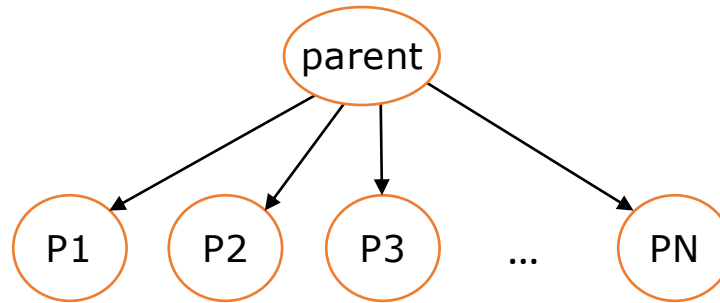
Without exit



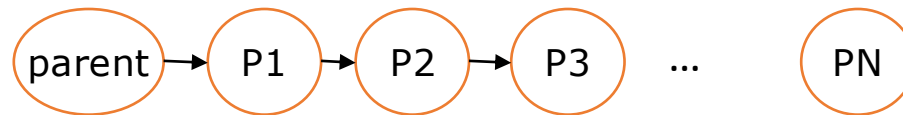
# homeworks

---

- ▶ Write a Python program that creates this process scheme:



- ▶ Modify the code to generate this new one :



# Bibliography

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  - ▶ A. Silberschatz, P. B. Galvin, and G. Gagne
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  - ▶ Linux man pages