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BITS Pilani
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Process File System

Computer Science and Information Systems Department, BITS Pilani

Today's Agenda



- Unix System Calls
 - Process Creation
 - Process Execution

Process

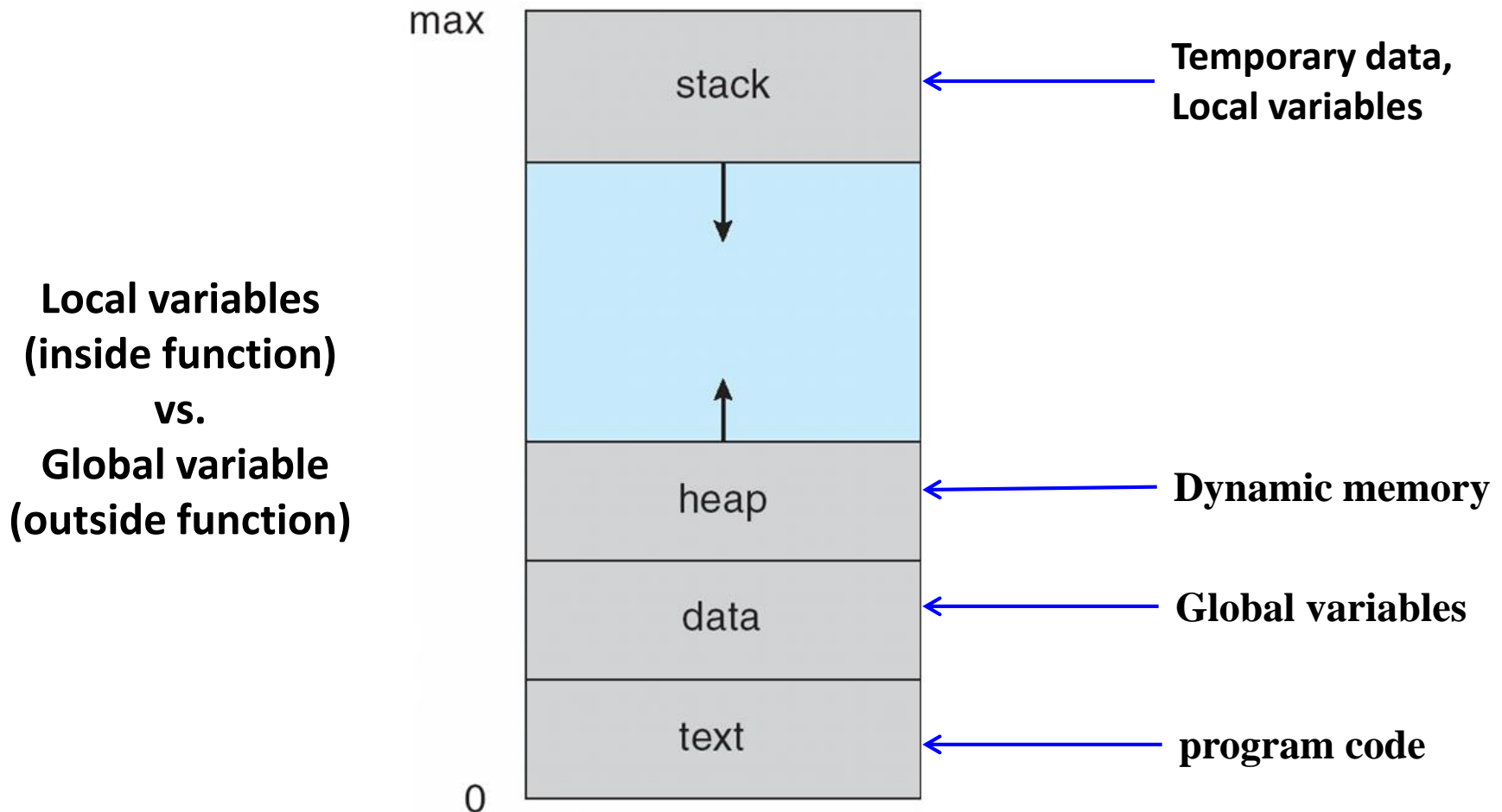
- Process is an instance of executing program
- Main function of process is to *Execute Instructions* residing in main memory
- Process is characterized by
 - Its code, Data, stack and set of register
- During its life time, it can be in different states such as running, not running

The Process



- Includes
 - The program **code**, also called text section
 - Current activity including value of **program counter** and **processor registers**
 - **Stack** containing temporary data
 - Function parameters, return addresses, local variables
 - **Data** section containing global variables
 - **Heap** containing memory dynamically allocated during run time

Process in Memory



Process Creation

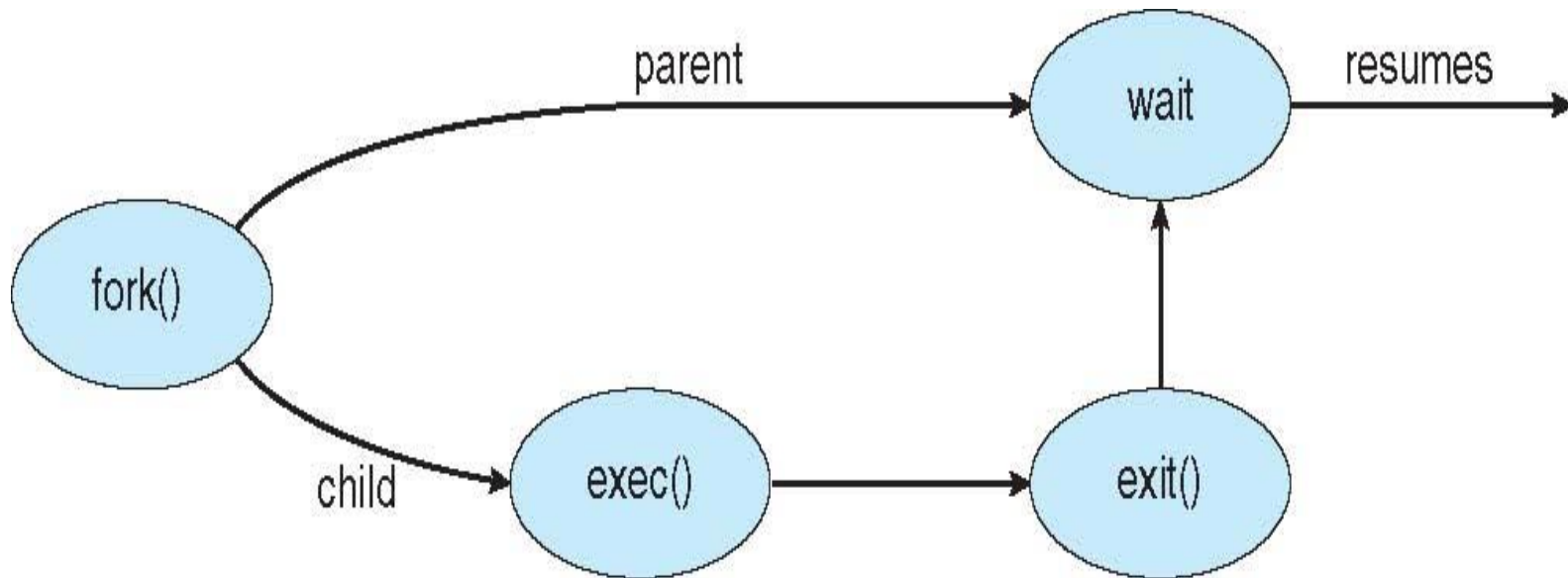


- **Parent** process create **children** processes, which, in turn create other processes, forming a tree of processes
- Generally, process identified and managed via **a process identifier (pid)**
- **Resource sharing**
 - Parent and children share all resources
 - Children share subset of parent's resources
- **Execution**
 - Parent and children execute concurrently
 - Parent waits until children terminate

Process Creation (Cont.)

- Address space
 - Child process is duplicate of parent process
 - Child process has a program loaded into it
- UNIX examples
 - **fork** system call creates new process
 - **exec** system call used after a **fork** to replace the process' memory space with a new program

Process Creation (Cont.)



getpid() & getppid() system calls in Unix



- To obtain current process id, use **getpid()** system call.
- To obtain parent process id, use **getppid()** system call.

Example



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

int main() {
    printf("I am process %ld\n", (long) getpid());
    printf("My Parent is %ld\n", (long) getppid());
}
```

```
output
csis@csis-Latitude-E5450:~$ ./a.out
I am process 3193
My Parent is 2981
```

Fork() and exec() system calls

- **Fork()**
 - It creates a new process which is an identical copy of an existing process.
 - The newly created process will contain all the instructions and data of its parent process.
 - Hence it executes the same parent process.

Fork() and exec() system calls (cont.)



- **Exec()**
 - This on the other hand re-initializes the existing process with some other designated program.
 - It does not create a new process.
 - It merely flushes the current context of a program and loads a new context (new program).
 - exec() call is the only way to execute programs in UNIX. In fact, the kernel boots itself using the exec() call.
 - fork() is the only way to create new processes in UNIX

fork() system call

- fork() call creates a “new” process.
- The child process’ context will be the same as the parent process.
- After a fork() call, two copies of the same context exist, one belonging to the child and another to the parent.
- Contrast this to exec(), where a single context will exist because of child context over-writing the parent.

```
# include<unistd.h>
```

```
int fork(void);
```

```
/* 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.*/
```

Example:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <unistd.h>
int main(void)
{
    printf("Hello \n");
    fork();
    printf("Bye\n");
    return 0;
}
```

Output:

```
Hello
Bye
Bye
```

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
main() {
    int pid;
    pid = fork();
    if (pid < 0) { // error occurred
        fprintf(stderr, "Fork failed!\n");
        exit(-1); }
    else if (pid == 0) { // child process
        printf("I am the child, return from fork=%d\n", pid);
        execlp("/bin/ps", "ps", NULL); }
    else { // parent process
        printf("I'm the parent, return from fork, child pid=%d\n", pid);
        printf("Parent exiting!\n");
        exit(0); }
}
```

Output:

```
programcreek:~/cdtworkspace/CPractice/src> ./a
```

```
I'm the parent, return from fork, child pid=15053
```

```
Parent exiting!
```

```
I am the child, return from fork=0
```

```
programcreek:~/cdtworkspace/CPractice/src> PID TTY      TIME CMD
```

```
15033 pts/    0 00:00:00 tcsh
```

```
15053 pts/    0 00:00:00 ps
```


Fork() with exec() system call

```
1) int main(int argc, char *argv[]){
2)     int pid;
3)     printf("*****before fork*****\n");
4)     system("ps");
5)     pid = fork();
6)     if(pid == 0)
7)     {
8)         printf("*****after fork*****\n");
9)         printf("child pid = %d\n",pid);
10)    }
11)    else
12)    {
13)        printf("parent pid = %d\n",pid);
14)        wait();
15)    }
16)    return 0;
17) }
```

output

```
[csis@localhost processes]$ ./a.out
```

```
*****before fork*****
```

PID	TTY	TIME	CMD
2806	pts/0	00:00:00	bash
4196	pts/0	00:00:00	a.out
4197	pts/0	00:00:00	ps

```
parent pid = 4198
```

```
*****after fork*****
```

```
child pid = 0
```

Multiple Fork System Call

```
#include <stdio.h>  
#include <sys/types.h>  
int main()  
{  
    fork();  
    fork();  
    fork();  
    printf("hello\n");  
    return 0;  
}
```

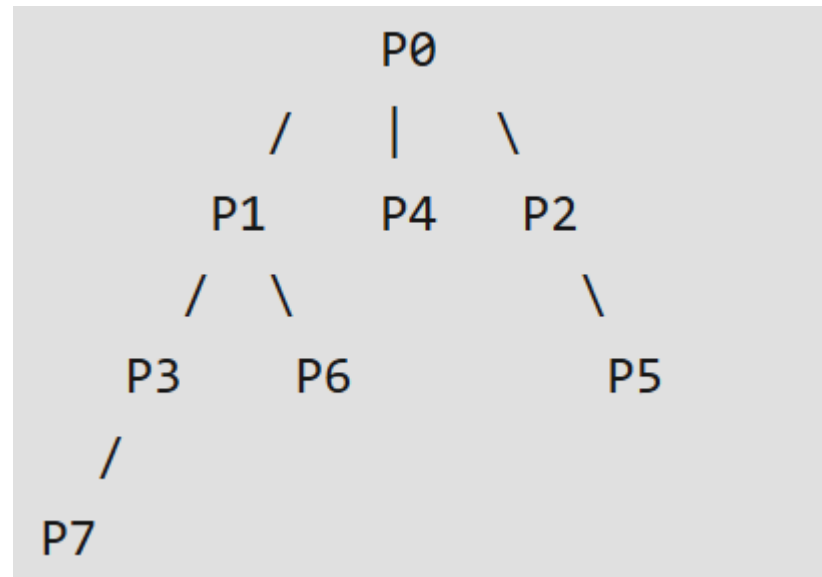
Multiple Fork System Call

```
fork ();    // Line 1
fork ();    // Line 2
fork ();    // Line 3

      L1      // There will be 1 child process
    /      \  // created by line 1.
  L2      L2  // There will be 2 child processes
 /  \    /  \ // created by line 2
L3  L3  L3  L3 // There will be 4 child processes
              // created by line 3
```



Multiple Fork System Call



output



S. no	Fork() system call in program	Print output "Hello"	Parent process	Child Process
1	Fork()	2	1	1
2	Fork() Fork()	4	1	3
3	Fork() Fork() Fork()	8	1	7

Multiple Fork System Call

```
#include <stdio.h>  
#include <unistd.h>  
int main()  
{  
    if (fork() || fork())  
        fork();  
    printf("1 ");  
    return 0;  
}
```

Output:- 1 1 1 1 1

Multiple forks

```
#include <stdio.h>  
#include <unistd.h> /* contains fork prototype */  
main(void)  
{  
    printf("Here I am just before first forking \n");  
    fork();  
    printf("Here I am just after first forking \n");  
    fork();  
    printf("Here I am just after second forking \n");  
    printf("\t\tHello World from process %d!\n", getpid());  
}
```

output

Here I am just before first forking

Here I am just after first forking

Here I am just after first forking

Here I am just after second forking

Hello World from process 1817!

Here I am just after second forking

Here I am just after second forking

Hello World from process 1819!

Here I am just after second forking

Hello World from process 1820!

Hello World from process 1822!

Any Queries?