

Tetris in xv6

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Problem

- Display graphics in 320x200 VGA with xv6
- Use keyboard interrupts to update shared memory
- Combine these features to create Tetris

VGA Display

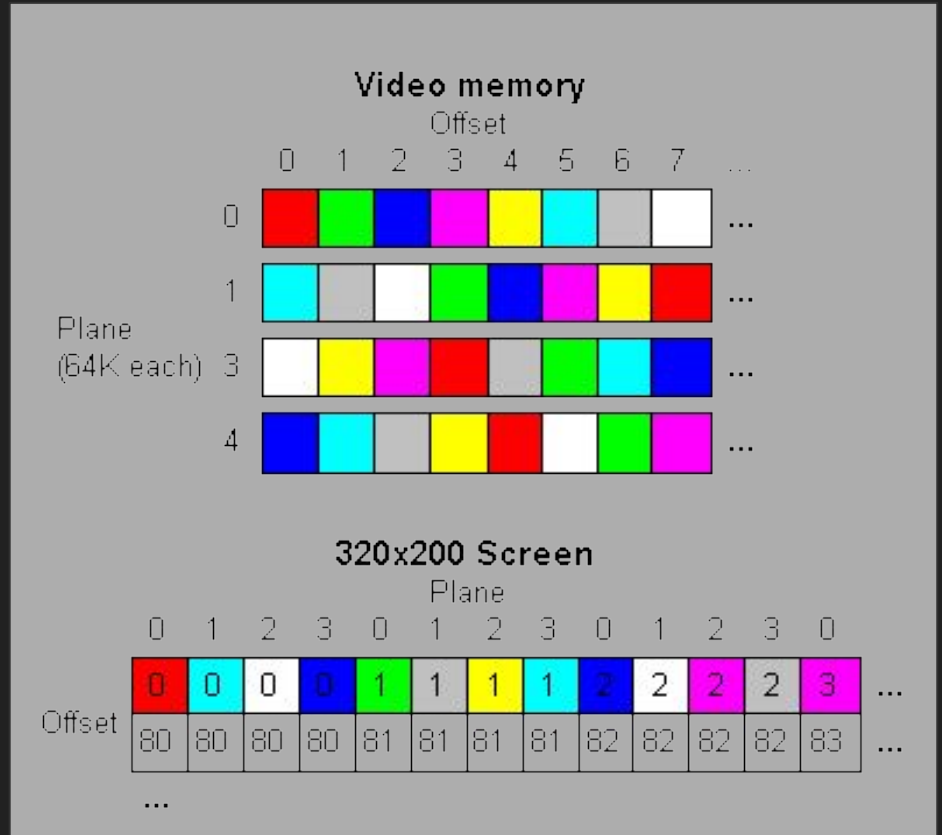
- 320x200 256-color VGA display
- BIOS interrupt 0x10
 - Mode 0x13 displays VGA
 - Mode 0x03 displays text
- Disable interrupts
- Switch to real mode (address anything)



Default Color Palette

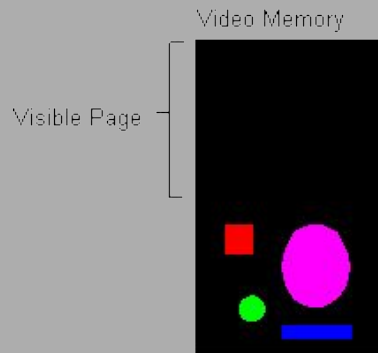
VGA Optimizations

- Double buffering
 - Game updates double buffer
 - memcpy buffer to VGA
- Unchained mode
 - Use all 256k of memory
 - Harder to address pixels

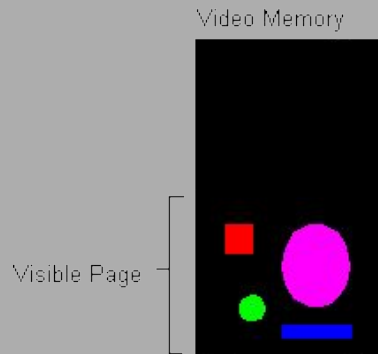


Page Flipping

- Use 2 64k pages
- Write to non-visible page
- Switch the displayed page



(a). For page flipping, at least two "pages" need to exist in video memory. Instead of drawing to the visible page, a non-visible page of video memory is drawn to.



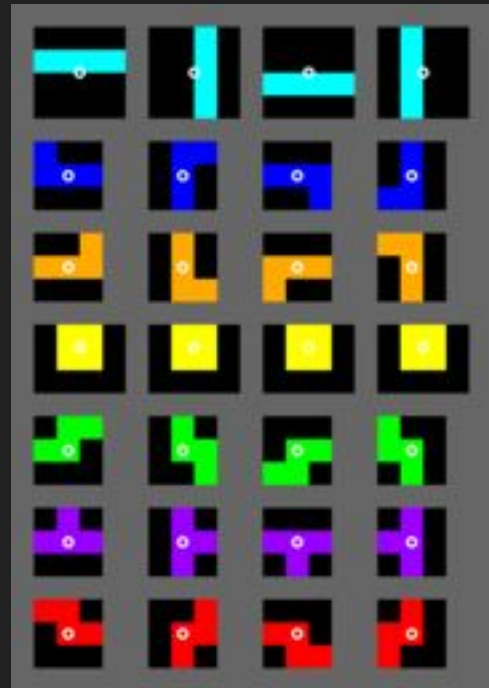
(b). The VGA's visible page pointer is modified to point to the previously drawn page.

Keyboard Interrupts

- Call wakeup in console interrupt
- Shared keystate
 - Dangerous in general, but not for this application
- “Bottom half” handles wakeup

Tetris

- 7 tetrominoes with 4 rotations
- Pieces spawn at top and fall
- Lock once they touch bottom or block
- Full rows are cleared and give points



Implementation

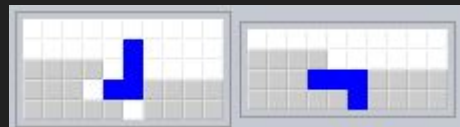
- `tetris.c` contains user space program
- game loop is in `sys_tetris` syscall
- logic code in `systetris.h` and `systetris.c`
- display code in `display.h` `display.c`
- keyhandling in `console.c`, `proc.h`, `proc.c`

Special Rules

- Lock delay (Infinity)
- Wall kicks
- T-spins and teleporting



T-spin



J-twist



Teleport

Summary

- We can draw to VGA in 2 modes
- We can handle keyboard interrupts outside interrupt context
- We can combine these features to make a working game

Demo