Task 2 "mems: Ze"

Operating Systems 2025 Assignment 1

Questions — not for submission

- 1. How does calling a system call differ from calling a regular function? How does it work?
- 2. How are parameters passed to the system call function? How is the return value returned to userspace?
- 3. What is the purpose of the usys.pl file?
- 4. What is struct proc and where is it defined? Why do we need it? Does a real-world operating system have a similar structure?
- 5. How much memory does our program use before and after the allocation?
- 6. What is the difference between the memory size before and after the release?
- 7. Try to explain the difference before and after release. What could cause this difference? (Advanced: look at the implementation of malloc and free).

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Operating Systems 2025 Assignment 1

5. Modify the shell to print the exit message when a child process of the shell terminates.

For submission: goodbye.c, modified sh.c and any modified OS files.

Questions — not for submission

- 1. What happened as soon as we changed the signatures for exit and wait? Why?
- 2. Why do we need to add a new field to the PCB for the exit message? Why can't the shell just read the message from the exiting process?
- 3. When does the shell get the exit message from the child process? Does it happen immediately after the child process exits?
- 4. What happens if the exit message is *longer* than 32 characters? How do we make sure nothing bad happens?
- 5. What happens if the exit message is *shorter* than 32 characters? How do we make sure nothing bad happens?
- 6. How many times is our exit message copied?
- 7. Where in sh.c does the shell receive the exit message? Explain briefly how this code works.
- 8. What happens if the shell modifies the exit message after it is received?

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Questions — not for submission

- 1. How does fork work? How does it create a new process?
- 2. How does wait work? How does it wait for a child process to finish?
- 3. How does wait decide which child process to wait for? How does it decide whether to sleep or return immediately?
- 4. What is the purpose of wait_lock? Why does it appear in exit and wait?
- 5. What is the difference between our new system calls and the existing fork and wait system calls?
- 6. What is the main advantage of using forkn and waitall over using fork and wait multiple times?
- 7. How come the child processes have access to the same memory as the parent process? What happens if a child process modifies the memory? Can a real-world operating system optimize this?
- 8. Why do the child processes need to return their exit status to the parent process?
- 9. Why does the parent process need to wait for the child processes to finish?
- 10. What is the overall lifecycle of a process in xv6? How is it expressed in the code? How is it reflected in functions such as fork, exit, kill, wait and sleep?
- 11. What do the internal kernel functions sleep and wakeup do? How are they used in the kernel? How are they related to the process lifecycle?
- 12. What makes the sum operation suitable for breaking up and distributing among multiple processes? What are the costs to be paid for this?
- 13. Experiment with different array sizes and number of child processes. What happens if the array size is too small or too large? What happens if the number of child processes is too small or too large? Since we are running inside an emulator on different machines, your results may vary. You might not observe any differences in performance at all.

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